



Mechanical Engineering Seminar Series

Computational Methods for Multi-Component Flows: From the Microcirculation to Feeding Humpback Whales

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Abstract

Multi-component flows play a central role in engineering problems ranging from the design of biomedical devices for therapy to naval and aircraft development. I will consider cellular, cavitating, and droplet flows as canonical examples of such flows. Each case is treated using novel computational techniques for simulation. This includes a sub-grid disperse flow model that is based upon particle population moments and improved via recurrent neural networks. The high-fidelity spectral and discretely-conservative interface-capturing methods used to solve for the flow will be discussed, including a presentation of our new open-source solver, MFC, that implements them. These large-scale simulations are complemented by novel analyses based-upon non-modal stability theory, chaotic dynamical systems, and stochastic and data-driven techniques. These are interpreted as they apply to microfluidics, rheometry, and even feeding humpback whales.

Bio

Dr. Spencer Bryngelson is a Senior Postdoctoral Scholar at the California Institute of Technology, working with Professor Tim Colonius. Previously, he was a Postdoctoral Researcher at the Center for Exascale Simulation of Plasma-Coupled Combustion (XPACC), a PSAAP II center. He received his PhD and MS in Theoretical and Applied Mechanics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2017 and 2015, respectively, working with Professor Jonathan Freund. In 2013, he obtained BS degrees in both Mechanical Engineering and Engineering Mathematics from the University of Michigan-Dearborn. His research lives at the intersection of fluid dynamics and computational physics, with a focus on biomedical, defense, and environmental applications. In pursuit of this, he develops high-performance software, physical models, numerical methods, and techniques for physics-based and data-driven analysis.