

The method of reflections and its applications to mean field models for sedimenting suspensions

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Outline

1. Introduction to the method of reflections
 - Historical comments
 - Different variants of the method
 - Convergence results
2. Applications to homogenization for particle suspensions
 - Derivation of Brinkman equations
 - Derivation of effective viscosity of suspensions
3. Application to mean field limits
 - Coupled transport-Stokes system and first order correction due to effective viscosity
 - Comments about Vlasov-Stokes(Brinkman) equations and models for non-spherical particles

First appearance of the method of reflections

Murphy 1833: describes a

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He also gives the following explicit example: $A := B_1(x)$, $B := B_1(y)$, $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^3$, $|x - y| = 100$. Compute u (around A), where u solves

$$\begin{aligned} -\Delta u &= 0 && \text{in } \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \overline{A \cup B}, \\ u &= \text{const} && \text{in } \overline{A \cup B}, \\ 1 &= \int_{\partial A} \nabla u \cdot n = \int_{\partial B} \nabla u \cdot n. \end{aligned}$$

Murphy's example

- Zero order approximation: $u_0 := \psi_0$,

$$-\Delta\psi_0 = 0 \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \bar{A},$$

$$\psi_0 = \text{const} \quad \text{in } \bar{A},$$

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- First correction: $u_1 := u_0 + \psi_1$,

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- Second correction: $u_2 := u_1 + \psi_2$,

$$-\Delta\psi_2 = 0 \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \bar{A},$$

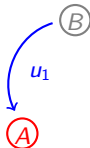
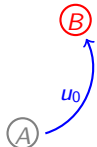
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Further development of the method

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Formulation in terms of orthogonal projections

Let I finite or countable, $B_i := B_R(X_i)$. Let $f \in \dot{H}^{-1}(\mathbb{R}^3)$ and let $u \in \dot{H}^1(\mathbb{R}^3)$ solve

$$-\Delta u + \nabla p = f \quad \operatorname{div} u = 0 \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \bigcup_{i \in I} \overline{B_i}$$

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Consider the spaces

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Let $v = St_{\mathbb{R}^3}^{-1} f$. Then

$$u = Pv, \quad P: \dot{H}_\sigma^1(\mathbb{R}^3) \rightarrow V \quad \text{orthogonal projection.}$$

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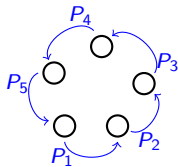
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If $|I| = 2$, the method of reflections as described by Murphy is just expressed by

$$u_k := (P_2 P_1)^k v$$

The sequential, the parallel and the averaged parallel version

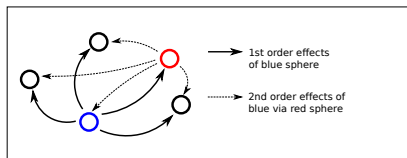
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sequential: $u_k^{(s)} := (P_N P_{N-1} \dots P_1)^k v$

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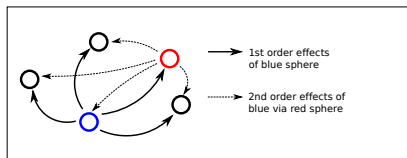


$$\left(1 - \sum_l Q_l\right)^k = 1 - \sum_{l_1} Q_{l_1} + \sum_{l_1} \sum_{l_2 \neq l_1} Q_{l_1} Q_{l_2} - \dots + (-1)^k \sum_{l_1} \dots \sum_{l_k \neq l_{k-1}} Q_{l_1} \dots Q_{l_k}$$

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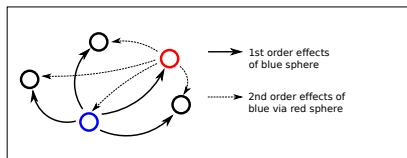
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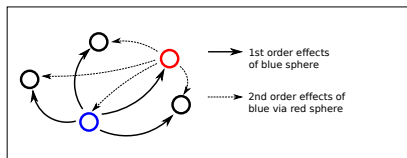
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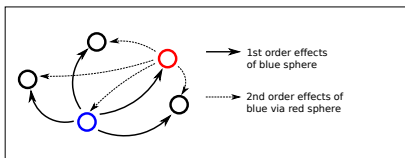
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- The parallel method is converging iff $L := \sum_l Q_l$ satisfies $\|L\| < 2$.
- If $L \geq c > 0$ on $V^\perp = \ker L$, then for $\delta > 0$

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- If $N = |I| < \infty$, the **averaged parallel** version with $\delta = \frac{1}{N}$ is always converging.

Convergence results for Dirichlet boundary conditions

Recall: $\varphi := Q_i\psi$ solves

$$\begin{aligned} -\Delta\varphi + \nabla p &= 0 & \operatorname{div}\varphi &= 0 & \text{in } \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \overline{B_i} \\ \varphi &= \psi & \text{in } \overline{B_i}. \end{aligned}$$

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- Ozawa '83: Convergence of an approximate version in a random setting.

Convergence results for sedimentation boundary conditions

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$$-\Delta u + \nabla p = f \quad \operatorname{div} u = 0 \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \bigcup_{i \in I} \overline{B}_i,$$

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$$\int_{\partial B_i} \sigma[u, p]n = \int_{B_i} f, \quad \int_{\partial B_i} \sigma[u, p]n \times (x - X_i) = \int_{B_i} f \times (x - X_i).$$

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In this case

$$V := \{w \in \dot{H}^1(\mathbb{R}^3) : Dw = 0 \text{ in } \bigcup_{i \in I} \overline{B}_i\}$$

and $\varphi = Q_i \psi$ solves

$$-\Delta \varphi + \nabla q = 0 \quad \operatorname{div} u = 0 \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \bigcup_{i \in I} \overline{B}_i,$$

$$D\varphi = D\psi \quad \text{in } \bigcup_{i \in I} \overline{B}_i,$$

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This leads to

$$(Q_i \psi)(x) = 5|B_1|R^3 D\psi(x_i) \nabla \Phi(x - X_i) + O\left(\frac{R^4}{|x^3|}\right).$$

Better convergence properties due to dipoles

Since

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we have in B_j

$$|D(1 - L)\psi| = \left| \sum_{i \neq j} DQ_i\psi \right| \leq \sum_{i \neq j} \frac{R^3 \psi(X_i)}{|X_i - X_j|^3}$$

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- [H. '19]: Convergence of the method in all $\dot{W}^{1,p}$, $1 < p < \infty$ with rate ϕ .

Part II

Application of the method of reflections to homogenization

The Brinkman equations - formal considerations

For $R > 0$, let $X_i \in \mathbb{R}^3$, $i \in I$ and assume

$$\lim_{R \rightarrow 0} R \sum_{i \in I} \delta_{X_i} = \mu,$$

and let u_R be the solution to

$$\begin{aligned} -\Delta u_R + \nabla p &= f & \operatorname{div} u &= 0 & \text{in } \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \cup_{i \in I} \overline{B_i} \\ u_R &= 0 & \text{in } \cup_{i \in I} \overline{B_i}. \end{aligned}$$

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Formally, with δ_x^R the uniform measure on $B_R(x)$,

$$\begin{aligned} u_R &= \operatorname{St}_{\mathbb{R}^3}^{-1} f - \sum_{i_1} Q_{i_1} \operatorname{St}_{\mathbb{R}^3}^{-1} f + \sum_{i_1} \sum_{i_2 \neq i_1} Q_{i_1} Q_{i_2} \operatorname{St}_{\mathbb{R}^3}^{-1} f - \dots \\ &\approx \operatorname{St}_{\mathbb{R}^3}^{-1} f - \sum_{i_1} \operatorname{St}_{\mathbb{R}^3}^{-1} (6\pi R \delta_{X_{i_1}}^R \operatorname{St}_{\mathbb{R}^3}^{-1} f) + \sum_{i_1} \sum_{i_2 \neq i_1} \operatorname{St}_{\mathbb{R}^3}^{-1} (6\pi R \delta_{X_{i_1}}^R \operatorname{St}_{\mathbb{R}^3}^{-1} (6\pi R \delta_{X_{i_2}}^R \operatorname{St}_{\mathbb{R}^3}^{-1} f)) - \dots \\ &\rightarrow \operatorname{St}_{\mathbb{R}^3}^{-1} f - \operatorname{St}_{\mathbb{R}^3}^{-1} (6\pi \mu \operatorname{St}_{\mathbb{R}^3}^{-1} f) + \operatorname{St}_{\mathbb{R}^3}^{-1} (6\pi \mu \operatorname{St}_{\mathbb{R}^3}^{-1} (6\pi \mu \operatorname{St}_{\mathbb{R}^3}^{-1} f)) - \dots \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (-1)^k (\operatorname{St}_{\mathbb{R}^3}^{-1} 6\pi \mu)^k \operatorname{St}_{\mathbb{R}^3}^{-1} f \\ &= (\operatorname{St}_{\mathbb{R}^3} + 6\pi \mu)^{-1} f, \end{aligned}$$

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where $u = (\operatorname{St}_{\mathbb{R}^3} + 6\pi \mu)^{-1} f$ has to be understood as

$$-\Delta u + \nabla p + 6\pi \mu u = 0, \quad \operatorname{div} u = 0 \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^3.$$

The Brinkman equations - rigorous results

- Ozawa '83, Orlandi–Figari–Teta '85, Rubinstein '86: N i.i.d. particles with radius $1/N$, starting from the equations

$$-\Delta u_N + \nabla p_N + \lambda u = 0 \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \bigcup_i B_i$$

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- H.-Velázquez '18: Well separated-particles in the whole of \mathbb{R}^3 without the massive term λu .

We use a relaxed version of the method of reflections:

$$u_k := \left(1 - \gamma \sum_i e^{-|x_i|} Q_i \right)^k \text{St}_{\mathbb{R}^3}^{-1} f.$$

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- Further results (without using the method of reflections):
Allaire '90, Desvillettes-Golse-Ricci '09, Feireisl-Namlyyeva-Nečasová '16,
Hillairet-Moussa-Sueur '19, Giunti-H. '19, Carrapatoso-Hillairet '20,
H.-Jansen '20, ...

Einstein's formula for the effective viscosity

Recall that (formally) the solution $u \in \dot{H}^1(\mathbb{R}^3)$ to

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is given by

$$u = u_1 + O(\phi^2) = \operatorname{St}_{\mathbb{R}^3}^{-1} f - \sum_i Q_i \operatorname{St}_{\mathbb{R}^3}^{-1} f + O(\phi^2).$$

Einstein's formula for the effective viscosity

Assume $\rho_N = \frac{1}{N} \sum_i \delta_{X_i} \rightarrow \rho$. Then with $v = \text{St}_{\mathbb{R}^3}^{-1} f$,

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} u_1 = v - 5\phi \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \sum_i Dv(X_i) \nabla \Phi(\cdot - X_i) = v - 5\phi \text{St}_{\mathbb{R}^3}^{-1}(\text{div } \rho Dv) =: w$$

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The function w solves

$$-\text{div}(2Dw + 5\phi\rho Dv) + \nabla p = f, \quad \text{div } w = 0.$$

Since $w - v = O(\phi)$, we have $u_* - w = O(\phi^2)$, where

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- Rigorous results: [Niethammer–Schubert '19](#), [Hillairet–Wu '20](#)
- Further results: [Gérard-Varet–Hillairet '20](#), [Gérard-Varet–Mecherbet '20](#), [H.–Schubert '20](#), [Gérard-Varet–H. '20](#), [Gloria–Duerinckx '20](#), [Gérard-Varet '20](#), [Duerinckx '20](#)

Part III

Application to mean field limits

Microscopic dynamics of inertialess particles in a Stokes flow

$$-\Delta u_N + \nabla p_N = 0, \quad \operatorname{div} u_N = 0 \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \bigcup_{i=1}^N B_i,$$

$$u_N = V_i + (x - X_i) \times \Omega_i \quad \text{in } B_i, \quad 1 \leq i \leq N$$

$$\int_{\partial B_i} \sigma[u_N, p_N] n \, d\mathcal{H}^2 = \frac{g}{N}, \quad \int_{\partial B_i} \sigma[u_N, p_N] n \times (x - X_i) \, d\mathcal{H}^2 = 0,$$

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To fit into the previous framework, choose

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Recall: by Stokes law, the sedimentation velocity of a single particle is

$$V_{\text{St}} = \frac{g}{6\pi NR} =: \frac{g}{6\pi\gamma}.$$

Thus, γ is the [interaction strength](#).

Rigorous derivation of the transport-Stokes system

Jabin-Otto '04: If $\Lambda(0) := \frac{RN^{2/3}}{d_{\min}(0)} \leq \varepsilon_0$, then

$$|V_i - V_{\text{St}}| \leq C\Lambda(0)|V_{\text{St}}| \text{ for all } 1 \leq i \leq N.$$

Note that $d_{\min} \leq CN^{-1/3}$, thus $\Lambda(0) \geq \gamma = NR$.

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H. '18: Assume $\rho_N(0) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_i \delta_{X_i(0)} \rightarrow \rho_0$ and

$$d_{\min} \geq cN^{-1/3}, \tag{A1}$$

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$$NR \rightarrow \gamma \in (0, \infty]. \tag{A3}$$

Then $\rho_N(t) \rightarrow \rho(t)$ which solves the transport-Stokes system.

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_t \rho + (u + (6\pi\gamma)^{-1}g) \cdot \nabla_x \rho &= 0, & \rho(0) &= \rho_0 \\ -\Delta u + \nabla p &= \rho g, & \operatorname{div} u &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

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Mecherbet '19: Relaxation of (A1) in the case $\gamma \leq \varepsilon_0$, quantitative convergence in Wasserstein distance, particle rotations included.

First order correction in the volume fraction ϕ_N due to an effective viscosity

Theorem (H. & Schubert '20)

Assume

$$\begin{aligned}d_{\min} &\geq cN^{-\frac{1}{3}}, \\ \phi_N \log N &\rightarrow 0, \\ \mathcal{W}_\infty(\rho_N(0), \rho_0) &= o(\phi_N) \quad \text{for some } \rho_0 \in W^{1,\infty}(\mathbb{R}^3).\end{aligned}$$

where \mathcal{W}_p , $1 \leq p \leq \infty$ denotes the Wasserstein distance.

Let ρ be the unique solution to

$$\begin{aligned}\partial_t \rho + (u_{\text{eff}} + (6\pi NR)^{-1}g) \cdot \nabla \rho &= 0, \quad \rho(0, \cdot) = \rho_0, \\ \operatorname{div} \left(2 \left(1 + \frac{5}{2} \phi_N \rho \right) Du_{\text{eff}} \right) + \nabla p &= \rho g, \quad \operatorname{div} u_{\text{eff}} = 0.\end{aligned}$$

Then, for all $1 \leq p < \infty$ and all $T > 0$, for all N sufficiently large and all $t \leq T$

$$\mathcal{W}_p(\rho_N(t), \rho(t)) \leq C (\phi_N^2 |\log \phi_N| + \mathcal{W}_p(\rho_N(0), \rho(0))) e^{Ct}.$$

Moreover, for $q < 3$ and $p > \max\{1, \frac{3q}{3+q}\}$

$$\|u_N(t) - u_{\text{eff}}\|_{L^q_{\text{loc}}} \leq C (\phi_N^2 |\log \phi_N| + \mathcal{W}_p(\rho_N(0), \rho(0))) e^{Ct}$$

First step: explicit approximation of the particle velocities

- Using the [method of reflections](#),

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d}{dt}X_i(t) &= u_N(X_i) \\ &\approx \frac{g}{6\pi RN} + \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i \neq j} \Phi(X_i - X_j)g - 5\phi_N \frac{1}{N^2} \sum_{j \neq i} \sum_{k \neq j} D\Phi(X_i - X_j)D\Phi(X_j - X_k)g\end{aligned}$$

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- Need estimates for $u_N(X_i) - u_N(X_j)$ to control particle distances.

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- Need estimates for $u_N(X_i) - u_N(X_j)$ to control particle distances.
- Thus, we still need $\phi_N \log N \ll 1$.

Second step: adaptation of a result by Hauray

Let K satisfies $\operatorname{div} K = 0$, $|K| + |x| |\nabla K| \leq C|x|^{-\alpha}$ for some $\alpha < d - 1$.

Theorem (Hauray '09)

Let

$$\frac{d}{dt} X_i(t) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j \neq i} K(X_i - X_j).$$

Let ρ be the solution to $\partial_t \rho + (K * \rho) \cdot \nabla \rho = 0$ with initial datum $\rho_0 \in L^\infty \cap \mathcal{P}$. Denote $W_\infty(t) = W_\infty(\rho_N(t), \rho(t))$. Then,

$$\frac{(W_\infty(0))^d}{(d_{\min}(0))^{1+\alpha}} \rightarrow 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \forall T > 0 \exists N_0 \in \mathbb{N} \forall N > N_0 \forall t \leq T \quad W_\infty(t) \leq W_\infty(0) e^{Ct}.$$

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Let ρ be the solution to $\partial_t \rho + (K * \rho) \cdot \nabla \rho = 0$ with initial datum $\rho_0 \in L^\infty \cap \mathcal{P}$. Denote $W_\infty(t) = W_\infty(\rho_N(t), \rho(t))$. Then,

$$\frac{(W_\infty(0))^d}{(d_{\min}(0))^{1+\alpha}} \rightarrow 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \forall T > 0 \exists N_0 \in \mathbb{N} \forall N > N_0 \forall t \leq T \quad W_\infty(t) \leq W_\infty(0)e^{Ct}.$$

Theorem (H.-Schubert '20 (rough statement))

Let

$$\frac{d}{dt} X_i(t) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j \neq i} K(X_i - X_j) + \phi_N(X_i) + E_i(t).$$

Assume $\operatorname{div} \phi_N = 0$ and let ρ be the solution to $\partial_t \rho + (K * \rho + \phi_N) \cdot \nabla \rho = 0$ with initial datum $\rho_0 \in L^\infty \cap \mathcal{P}$. Assume there exists a monotone function $e_N(t)$ such that

$$\forall \lambda > 0 \exists N_0 \in \mathbb{N} \forall N > N_0 \quad \frac{d_{\min}(0)}{d_{\min}(t)} + \frac{W_\infty(t)}{W_\infty(0) + e_N(t)} \leq \lambda \quad \Rightarrow \quad E_i(t) \leq e_N(t).$$

Then,

$$\forall t > 0 \frac{(W_\infty(0) + e_N(t))^{d-(1+\alpha)}}{(d_{\min}(0))^{1+\alpha} N^{(1+\alpha)/d}} \rightarrow 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \forall T > 0 \dots \quad W_\infty(t) \leq C(W_\infty(0) + e_N(t))e^{Ct}.$$

First application of the abstract theorem

Recall

$$\frac{d}{dt} X_i(t) \approx \frac{g}{6\pi RN} + \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i \neq j} \Phi(X_i - X_j) g - 5\phi_N \frac{1}{N^2} \sum_{j \neq i} \sum_{k \neq j} D\Phi(X_i - X_j) D\Phi(X_j - X_k) g$$

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Treat last term as error to deduce

$$\mathcal{W}_\infty(\rho_N(t), \tau(t)) \leq C(\phi_N + W_\infty(\rho_N(0), \rho_0)) e^{Ct}.$$

where τ is the solution to

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_t \tau + (v + (6\pi NR)^{-1} g) \cdot \nabla \tau &= 0, & \tau(0, \cdot) &= \rho_0, \\ -\Delta v + \nabla p &= \tau g, & \operatorname{div} v &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

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Using this,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt}X_i(t) &\approx \frac{g}{6\pi RN} + \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i \neq j} \Phi(X_i - X_j)g - 5\phi_N D\Phi * (\tau(D\Phi g * \tau))(X_i) \\ &= \frac{g}{6\pi RN} + \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i \neq j} \Phi(X_i - X_j)g - 5\phi_N D\Phi * (\tau Dv)(X_i) \end{aligned}$$

Conclusion of the argument

We apply again the abstract theorem, this time to

$$\frac{d}{dt}X_i(t) \approx \frac{g}{6\pi RN} + \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i \neq j} \Phi(X_i - X_j)g - 5\phi_N D\Phi * (\tau Dv)(X_i)$$

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Thus we obtain as the mean field limit

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_t \tilde{\rho} + (\tilde{u} + (6\pi NR)^{-1}g) \cdot \nabla \tilde{\rho} &= 0, & \tilde{\rho}(0, \cdot) &= \rho_0, \\ \operatorname{div}(2D\tilde{u} + 5\phi_N \tau Dv) + \nabla p &= \tilde{\rho}g, & \operatorname{div} \tilde{u} &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

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Finally, we compare this to the desired limit system

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_t \rho + (u_{\text{eff}} + (6\pi Nr)^{-1}g) \cdot \nabla \rho &= 0, & \rho(0, \cdot) &= \rho_0, \\ \operatorname{div}(2Du_{\text{eff}} + 5\phi_N \rho Du_{\text{eff}}) + \nabla p &= \rho g, & \operatorname{div} u_{\text{eff}} &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

and show that $\|\tilde{u} - u_{\text{eff}}\| + W_p(\tilde{\rho}, \rho) \leq C\phi^2$.

Sedimentation of inertial particles – Vlasov-Stokes equations

For inertial particles, i.e.

$$\begin{aligned} -\Delta u_N + \nabla p_N &= 0, \quad \operatorname{div} u_N = 0 \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \bigcup_{i=1}^N B_i, \\ u_N &= V_i + (x - X_i) \times \Omega_i \quad \text{in } B_i, \quad 1 \leq i \leq N, \\ \frac{d}{dt} V_i &= g - \frac{\gamma}{R} \int_{\partial B_i} \sigma[u_N, p_N] n \, d\mathcal{H}^2, \\ \frac{d}{dt} \Omega_i &= -\frac{\gamma}{R^3} \int_{\partial B_i} \sigma[u_N, p_N] n \times (x - X_i) \, d\mathcal{H}^2. \end{aligned}$$

one formally obtains in the limit $N \rightarrow \infty$, $NR \rightarrow \gamma$ the Vlasov-Stokes system

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_t f + v \cdot \nabla_x f + \operatorname{div}_v (gf + 6\pi\gamma(u - v)f) &= 0, \\ -\Delta u + \nabla p &= 6\pi\gamma \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} (v - u)f \, dv, \quad \operatorname{div} u = 0, \end{aligned}$$

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[Bernard–Desvillettes–Golse–Ricci '18](#); [Flandoli–Leocata–Ricci '19](#)

Inertialess rodlike particles

For inertialess rodlike Brownian particles (omitting gravity), [Doi '81](#) proposed

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_t f + u \cdot \nabla_x f + \operatorname{div}_\xi (P_{\xi^\perp}(\xi \cdot \nabla u) f) &= D_t \Delta_x f + D_r \Delta_\xi f, \\ -\Delta u + \nabla p = \operatorname{div} \sigma &:= \operatorname{div} \int_{S^2} (3\xi \otimes \xi - \operatorname{Id}) f \, d\xi, \quad \operatorname{div} u = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Analyzed by [Helzel](#), [Tzavaras](#) and [Otto](#).

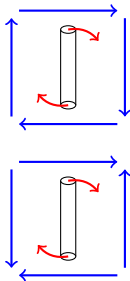
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Derive the onset of the stress σ from a microscopic model.



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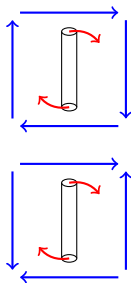
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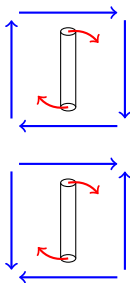
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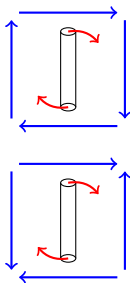
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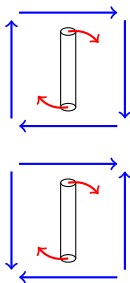
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Thank you!