Multiple-fluid SPH Simulation Using a Mixture Model

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This paper presents a versatile and robust SPH simulation approach for multiple-fluid flows. The spatial distribution of different phases or components is modeled using the volume fraction representation, the dynamics of multiple-fluid flows is captured by using an improved mixture model, and a stable and accurate SPH formulation is rigorously derived to resolve the complex transport and transformation processes encountered in multiple-fluid flows. The new approach can capture a wide range of real-world multiple-fluid phenomena, including mixing/unmixing of miscible and immiscible fluids, diffusion effect and chemical reaction etc. Moreover, the new multiple-fluid SPH scheme can be readily integrated into existing state-of-the-art SPH simulators, and the multiple-fluid simulation is easy to set up. Various examples are presented to demonstrate the effectiveness of our approach.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Over the past decade, multiple-fluid simulation has received considerable attention in the graphics community. Much of these works focused on interfacial flows (e.g. [Losasso et al. 2006; Hong et al. 2008; Boyd and Bridson 2012; Misztal et al. 2012]), a special class of multiple-fluid systems where the fluids are immiscible with each other and clear interfaces exist between different phases or components. Another category of multiple-fluid flows involve miscible or dispersed fluid mixtures where interfaces can be difficult to track continuously or even do not exist. Like interfacial flows, modeling miscible or dispersed fluids is also important for the visual plausibility of graphic applications, such as water spray dynamics ([Nielsen and Osterby 2013]) used in modeling of waterfall-s, water jets and stormy seas. Miscible flows are more flexible to achieve polytropic appearances featuring continuously varying color details, as in colloidal dispersions or dissolving mixtures, which is largely different in visual effect from the surface-rich interfacial flow. However, very little work has involved in this aspect. Meanwhile, the majority of the researches on multiple-fluid simulation use Eulerian methods, and simulating multiple-fluid flows

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with Lagrangian methods remains a challenging task. We propose a robust Smoothed Particle Hydrodynamics (SPH) approach to simulate multiple-fluid flows. A special focus is placed on multiple-fluid flows that do not necessarily have (or are difficult to track) clear and persistent interfaces.

Interfacial flows can be solved in a similar way as the single-phase flow, with the main modeling challenge arising from continuous tracking of fluids’ interfaces. However, when different phases or components can mix with each other, i.e. miscible with each other, whether in a continuous manner (such as water solution) or dispersed manner (such as slurry flows), the motion and distribution of different phases or components cannot be captured by the single-phase fluid simulation. Different phases or components in a multiple-fluid flow have different fluid properties (e.g. density, viscosity etc.), and as a result they move at different velocities, causing relative motions between phases or components. The various visually-interesting mixing/unmixing processes are the combined result of the advection driven by the fluid’s bulk motion, the turbulence caused by fluids’ instability, the diffusion driven by concentration difference, and most dominantly the relative motion determined by the interactions between phases or components. The major challenge in modeling multiple-fluid flow is to resolve the above dynamic interactions between phases or components [Yeoh and Tu 2009; Crowe et al. 2011].

We introduce a mixture model for simulating multiple-fluid flows, in which the distribution of different phases or components is represented by their volume fractions and does not rely on continuous tracking of fluids’ interfaces. Also, we compute analytically the drift velocities defined as the phase (or component) velocities relative to the mixture average. As a result, the governing equations of multiple-fluid flow are retained similar to the single-phase flow, even for mixtures consisting of arbitrary number of phases or components. This SPH multiple-fluid simulation method has the following properties:

Versatile Mathematical Model The mathematical model is aimed to simultaneously capture a whole range of multiple-fluid phenomena including mixing and unmixing effects between miscible and immiscible phases or components, diffusion effects and chemical reaction etc. The model should also enable flexible inclusion/exclusion of different mixing/unmixing phenomena and multi-physics interactions.

Robust Numerical Scheme The numerical simulation scheme is aimed to be robust and stable under widely-varying parameter settings for animators and game designers without requiring them to understand computational fluid dynamics (CFD).

Practical Implementation The new method is designed to be easy to implement as an extension to existing single-phase fluid simulators, without adding high computational cost. The simulation of multiple-fluid flow should be simple and intuitive to set up, and should not require excessive parameter tuning.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. The related work is reviewed in §2, where we also further discuss the relation and difference between our work and previous research. In §3, we introduce the mixture model of multiple-fluid flow, and how we improve it to better suit for graphics applications. Based on the mixture model, a novel SPH simulation scheme is presented in §4, after which implementation details are given in §5. A number of multiple-fluid flow examples are illustrated in §6, which include mixing of miscible and immiscible liquids, unmixing due to centrifugal force, chemical reaction and phase transition etc.

2. PREVIOUS WORK

In computer graphics, multiple-fluid simulation has received increasing attention in the past decade. Most notably, interfacial flows have been extensively studied. Following the Lagrangian approach, [Premoze et al. 2003] presented the Moving-Particle Semi-Implicit (MPS) method to simulate immiscible fluids, and [Solenthaler and Pajarola 2008] employed an improved SPH scheme to deal with high-density contrast between immiscible fluids. Much more work has been done using grid-based fluid solvers, including gas bubbles in liquid [Kim et al. 2007; Hong et al. 2008; Busaryev et al. 2012] and interacting fluids [Hong and Kim 2005; Losasso et al. 2006; Kim 2010; Boyd and Bridson 2012; Misztal et al. 2012]. Continuously tracking the interfaces between different phases or components is essential for interfacial flow simulations. Many of these interface tracking techniques are related to the level-set method and the volume-of-fluid method (see e.g. [Hong and Kim 2005; Mihalef et al. 2006; Losasso et al. 2006; Kim 2010; Boyd and Bridson 2012]), while the finite element method has also been used recently to directly capture the interface with a moving mesh [Misztal et al. 2012].

For multiple-fluid systems involving miscible fluids, the concept of volume fraction was first introduced into the graphics community by [Müller et al. 2005] to represent the spatial distribution of different phases or components. Both grid-based solvers [Kang et al. 2010; Bao et al. 2010] and the SPH solver [Liu et al. 2011] have been coupled with the volume fraction representation to simulate multiple-fluid flows. All of these works assumed different phases or components move at the same bulk velocity as the mixture and mixing is only caused by the diffusion effect due to concentration difference. Doing so completely ignores the mixing and unmixing effects in multiple-fluid that are primarily driven by flow motions and force distributions. At the cost of increased memory requirements, the Lattice Boltzmann Method (LBM) has also been adapted to deal with multiple-fluid flows without clear interfaces [Zhu et al. 2006; Park et al. 2008]. Recently, [Nielsen and Osterby 2013] adapted a two-phase flow model to simulate water spray. In contrast to earlier works, our volume-fraction based SPH formulation, while easy to implement, can faithfully capture complex mixing and unmixing phenomena due to relative motions, turbulent interactions, and varying force distribution among multiple fluids.

The following is also relevant to this work in the general context of multiple-fluid phenomena: [Mullen et al. 2007] presented a Eulerian geometry processing technique that can mimic certain effects of miscible fluids. [Cleary et al. 2007] presented a particle based method to generate realistic visual effects of bubbles. [Kim et al. 2010] modeled the dispersed bubble flow using a continuous fraction field. [Ihm et al. 2004; Kang et al. 2007] considered flow phenomena coupled with chemical reactions using molar concentration description to simulate gaseous chemical kinetic effects. [Kesser et al. 2005; Solenthaler and Pajarola 2007] addressed the visual effects of melting and solidification. [Ando and Tsuruno 2010] described the simulation of 2D multi-phase flows using vector graphs. [Kim et al. 2012] used SPH particles in grid-based liquid simulation to control bubble shapes. [Ihm et al. 2012] proposed a post-processing method to add spray, foam and air bubbles to particle-based fluids. Other than simulation, [Gregson et al. 2012] introduced a 3D-imaging method based on stochastic tomography to capture real-world liquid mixing and dye immersion. Their results captured from real-world fluids can have much higher resolutions than graphics simulation, but application of such methods may be limited by its inflexibility in scene construction and tuning.
Multiple-fluid flows have been extensively studied in the context of computational fluid dynamics (CFD) for several decades, primarily driven by oil & gas, chemical engineering and nuclear power industries. Most commercial CFD packages for multiphase or multicomponent flows are based on grid-based fluid solvers, while more recently the SPH approach has been applied to simulate interfacial flows [Colagrossi and Landrini 2003; Hu and Adams 2006; Monaghan and Rafiee 2013]. Various mathematical models have been developed to quantitatively describe multiple-fluid flows [Kolev 2005; Yeoh and Tu 2009; Crowe et al. 2011], mainly including the homogeneous model, the mixture model and the full multiphase model. We introduce the concept of “drift velocity” from the grid-based mixture model and adapt it for SPH formulations by incorporating appropriate pressure relationship and modifications, thereby achieving stable and efficient SPH multiple-fluid simulations.

3. THE MIXTURE MODEL OF MULTIPLE-FLUID FLOW

In this section we briefly recap the mixture model [Manninen et al. 1996; Yeoh and Tu 2009], the most widely used mathematical model in engineering for grid-based multiple-fluid flows. §3.1 summarizes the governing equations of the mixture model, and §3.2 describes the drift velocity required in the model. Later in §4, we describe how we extend this mixture model using SPH formulations to more efficiently support visual applications. For simplicity, individual phases or components in a multiple-fluid flow are uniformly referred to as phases for the rest of the paper.

3.1 Governing Equations

In the mathematical theory of multiple-fluid flow, the presence of a phase $k$ is represented by its own volume fraction $\alpha_k$ (the relative fraction of an infinitesimal volume it occupies) and velocity $\mathbf{u}_k$, and the continuity and momentum equations for each phase $k$ are:

\[
\frac{\partial}{\partial t} (\alpha_k \rho_k) + \nabla \cdot (\alpha_k \rho_k \mathbf{u}_k) = 0
\]  

\[
\frac{\partial}{\partial t} (\alpha_k \rho_k \mathbf{u}_k) + \nabla \cdot (\alpha_k \rho_k \mathbf{u}_k \mathbf{u}_k) = \alpha_k \rho_k \mathbf{g} - \alpha_k \rho_k \mathbf{g} + \nabla \cdot (\alpha_k \mathbf{T}_k) + \mathbf{F}_k
\]

where $\rho_k$ is the rest density of phase $k$ (assumed as constant), $p_k$ the pressure, $\mathbf{g}$ the external body forces such as gravity, $\mathbf{T}_k$ the viscous stress tensor, and $\mathbf{F}_k$ the interfacial momentum source. The above equations are similar to that of the single-phase flow, except for the last term in Eqn.(2). The term $\mathbf{F}_k$ accounts for the interactions between phases, such as drag and frictional forces. In the graphics community, the multiple-fluid flow model defined in Eqns.(1,2) was recently adopted by [Nielsen and Osterby 2013] in the case of a two-phase flow to simulate water spray. The volume fractions $\alpha_k$ are bounded between 0 and 1, and they must add up to 1:

\[
\sum_k \alpha_k = 1, \alpha_k \geq 0.
\]

The continuity and momentum equations for the mixture follow from Eqns.(1,2) by summing over the phases:

\[
\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \rho_m + \nabla \cdot (\rho_m \mathbf{u}_m) = 0
\]

\[
\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \rho_m \mathbf{u}_m + \nabla \cdot (\rho_m \mathbf{u}_m \mathbf{u}_m) = -\nabla p_m + \rho_m \mathbf{g} + \nabla \cdot \mathbf{T}_m + \nabla \cdot \mathbf{T}_{Dm}
\]

where $\rho_m = \sum_k \alpha_k \rho_k$ is the mixture density, $\mathbf{u}_m = \frac{1}{\rho_m} \sum_k \alpha_k \rho_k \mathbf{u}_k$ is the mixture velocity (i.e. the velocity at the mass center), the mixture’s pressure $p_m$ is defined by the relation $\nabla p_m = \sum_k \alpha_k \nabla p_k$, the mixture’s viscous stress tensor $\mathbf{T}_m$ is defined to satisfy $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{T}_m = \sum_k \nabla \cdot (\alpha_k \mathbf{T}_k)$, and the term $\mathbf{T}_{Dm} = -\sum_k \alpha_k \rho_k \mathbf{u}_k \mathbf{u}_m$ is derived from the left hand side of the momentum equation, representing the convective momentum transfer between phases. Here, the drift velocity $\mathbf{u}_{mk}$ is defined as

\[
\mathbf{u}_{mk} = \mathbf{u}_k - \mathbf{u}_m.
\]

The drift velocity $\mathbf{u}_{mk}$ denotes the velocity of phase $k$ relative to the centre of the mixture mass. The interaction forces $\mathbf{F}_k$ do not appear explicitly in the momentum equation (5) because they are canceled when summing over all phases. Using a simple case with 3 phases of unit density (i.e. $\rho_k = 1$ for all three phases), Fig.1 illustrates the concepts and relationships of the multiple-fluid variables.

Substituting Eqn.(6) into Eqn.(1), the phase velocity $\mathbf{u}_k$ can be eliminated from the continuity equation of phase $k$:

\[
\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \alpha_k + (\mathbf{u}_m \cdot \nabla) \alpha_k = -\alpha_k \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}_m - \nabla \cdot (\alpha_k \mathbf{u}_{mk}).
\]

Substituting Eqn.(4) into Eqn.(5), the momentum equation of mixture can be reorganized as:

\[
\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \rho_m \mathbf{u}_m + (\mathbf{u}_m \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{u}_m = -\frac{\nabla p_m}{\rho_m} + \mathbf{g} + \frac{\nabla \cdot \mathbf{T}_m}{\rho_m} + \nabla \cdot \mathbf{T}_{Dm}.
\]

Defined in Eqns.(7,8) are the governing equations of the mixture model for multiple-fluid flows. Here, the spatial distribution of each phase $k$ is fully represented by its volume fraction $\alpha_k$, hence it is not necessary to track the interfaces between different phases.

3.2 Drift Velocity

It is clear from Eqn.(7) that the nonuniform distribution of velocity fields will lead to changes in the volume fraction of each phase. In a multiple-fluid flow, this motion-induced mixing effect is quite intuitive: different phases move at different velocities in the mixture, and their discrepant motions will naturally result in relative mass migration. The drift velocities $\mathbf{u}_{mk}$ play a key role in this interaction mechanism responsible for various miscible and immiscible phenomena.
Based on the assumption of local equilibrium and appropriate drag force approximations, the drift velocities \( u_{mk} \) defined in Eqn.(6) can be solved analytically, for which the rigorous mathematical derivation can be found in [Manninen et al. 1996]. For simplicity, the analytical expression of drift velocities is directly given below:

\[
\mathbf{u}_{mk} = \tau (\mathbf{p}_k - \sum_k c_k \rho_k \mathbf{u}_k) \mathbf{a} - \sigma (\nabla \mathbf{p}_k - \sum_k c_k \nabla \rho_k) \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u}_m - \sum_k c_k \frac{\partial u_{mk}}{\partial t}
\]

(9)

where \( \tau \) and \( \sigma \) are user-defined constant coefficients to be discussed later. \( c_k = \frac{\rho_k \rho_m}{\rho_m} \) is the mass fraction of the \( k \)-th component. The acceleration \( \mathbf{a} \) is

\[
\mathbf{a} = \mathbf{g} - (\mathbf{u}_m \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{u}_m - \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}_m}{\partial t},
\]

(10)

which denotes the difference between the gravity acceleration and the substantial derivative of the mixture velocity.

To compute the drift velocities following Eqn.(9), the relation between the phase pressure \( p_k \) and the mixture pressure \( p_m \) must also be provided. The standard mixture model mainly deals with immiscible fluids and the following pressure relation has been widely adopted:

\[
p_k = p_m
\]

(11)

For immiscible fluids, the phase pressure \( p_k \) is identical to the mixture pressure \( p_m \) such that the second term in Eqn.(9) vanishes. The intuitive explanation of it is for immiscible fluids where pressure equilibrium is established between phases, the uniform pressure shared with the mixture does not cause the immiscible phases to move into each other. To cope with totally miscible fluids in graphics applications, we extend the standard mixture model by incorporating the following pressure relation [Kolev 2005]:

\[
p_k = \alpha_k p_m.
\]

(12)

For miscible fluids, phase pressures \( p_k \) differ from each other dependent on their volume fractions, thus miscible phases are accelerated within the mixture mass to move into each other.

Determined in Eqn.(9), the drift velocity \( u_{mk} \) contains three terms. The first term accounts for the inertia effect, and in particular the velocity differences caused by body forces are modeled by this term. The second term accounts for the pressure effect, i.e. within the mixture mass a phase accelerates in the direction from high pressure to low pressure. The third term accounts for the diffusion effect, i.e. a phase tends to move from more concentrated regions to less concentrated regions. The constant coefficients \( \tau \) and \( \sigma \) are essentially the strength factors of these fluid-dynamics effects. Specifically, higher \( \tau \) values will cause stronger inertia and pressure effects (thus faster unmixing and mixing speeds due to these two effects), higher \( \sigma \) values will cause stronger diffusion effect (thus faster mixing speed due to the diffusive effect), and vice versa. In our work \( \tau \) varies between \( 10^{-8} \) and \( 10^{-6} \), and \( \sigma \) is around \( 10^{-4} \) to \( 10^{-3} \). Further discussions of these three multiphase transportation effects are provided in §5.3.

Once the drift velocities \( u_{mk} \) are determined following Eqn.(9), the solution of the governing Eqsns.(7,8) is reduced to solving for the mixture velocity \( \mathbf{u}_m \) (instead of all phase velocities \( \mathbf{u}_k \)) and phase volume fractions \( \alpha_k \). This significantly reduces the computational cost of solving multiple-fluid flows. Owing to the high efficiency and versatility of the mixture model, it is widely adopted in commercial CFD packages for multiple-fluid flows, including Eulerian fluid solvers ANSYS CFX and FLUENT.

4. SPH FORMULATION

In contrast to grid-based formulations presented in [Manninen et al. 1996], we use SPH particles to discretize the multiple-fluid system such that the SPH particles carry the mixture mass and move at the mixture velocity \( \mathbf{u}_m \). These mixture particles also carry all the physical quantities associated with individual phases.

In the governing equations of the mixture model Eqn.(7,8), the left-hand-side of Eqn.(8) denotes the substantial derivative of the mixture velocity \( \mathbf{u}_m \), while the left-hand-side of Eqn.(7) represents the substantial derivative of the volume fraction of phase \( k \), also with respect to the mixture velocity \( \mathbf{u}_m \). In addition, it is noted that after the drift velocities \( u_{mk} \) are computed following the analytical solution in Eqn.(9), the solutions to Eqn.(7) and Eqn.(8) can be decoupled if an explicit time-integration scheme is adopted. These favorable Lagrangian properties of the mixture model fit nicely to the SPH approach.

In this section we provide the SPH formulation of the governing solution Eqsns.(7,8), for which we start from the drift velocity solution in Eqn.(9). For each mixture particle \( i \):

\[
(\nabla p_k)_i = \sum_j m_j (p_{kj} - p_k) \nabla W_{ij}
\]

(13)

\[
(\nabla \alpha_k)_i = \sum_j m_j (\alpha_{kj} - \alpha_k) \nabla W_{ij}
\]

(14)

where the summation is performed over all neighborhood particles \( j \), \( \nabla W_{ij} = \nabla_i W(\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j, h) \) is the gradient of the smoothing kernel function with support \( h \). Adopting the formulation in [Müller et al. 2003], we use the poly6 kernel for density interpolation, and the spiky kernel for all other calculations involving derivative of the smoothing kernel function. In Eqsns.(13,14) and all equations thereafter, \( m_j \) and \( \rho_j \) in the summation over particles \( j \) represent the mass and interpolated density of the mixture particle \( j \), respectively. Eqsns.(13,14) are standard symmetric SPH formulations for gradient terms of scalars. Using the \( \nabla p_k \) and \( \nabla \alpha_k \) expressions, the drift velocity \( u_{mk} \) can be computed from Eqn.(9).

Then we examine Eqsns.(7,8). Firstly, for Eqn.(7), it should be noted that we cannot assume \( \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}_m = 0 \) here. For multiple-fluid flows, volume fractions \( \alpha_k \) change both over time and over space, and phase velocities \( \mathbf{u}_k \) also differ from each other. Therefore, nei-

Fig. 1. Suppose a mixture has three phases with unit density, the multiple-fluid variables are illustrated above. (a) Volume fraction \( \alpha_k \), and relationship between the phase velocities \( \mathbf{u}_k \) and the mixture velocity \( \mathbf{u}_m \). (b) Obtaining drift velocities \( u_{mk} \) from \( \mathbf{u}_k \) and \( \mathbf{u}_m \). (c) Drift velocities \( u_{mk} \).
ther the divergence of the mixture velocity nor that of the phase velocity is zero, even when all phases are incompressible. To describe the continuity of multiple-fluid flows we must refer to the fundamental mass conservation law in Eqn.(1).

For each mixture particle $i$, directly applying the SPH approximation rule to the right-hand-side terms in Eqn.(7) yields:

$$\alpha_k \nabla \cdot u_{mk} = \alpha_k \sum_j \frac{m_j}{\rho_j} \left( u_{mj} \cdot \nabla W_{ij} \right) \tag{15}$$

$$\nabla \cdot (\alpha_k u_{mk}) = \sum_j \frac{m_j}{\rho_j} \left( \alpha_{kj} u_{mjk} + \alpha_{ki} u_{mkj} \right) \cdot \nabla W_{ij} \tag{16}$$

However, the above SPH approximations are not symmetric and do not lead to stable simulation. Based on previous SPH stabilization techniques, we modify them and propose to use the following symmetric formulations (See Appendix A for derivation):

$$\alpha_k \nabla \cdot u_{mk} = \sum_j \frac{m_j}{\rho_j} \left( \alpha_{kj} \nabla W_{ij} \right) \tag{17}$$

$$\nabla \cdot (\alpha_k u_{mk}) = \sum_j \frac{m_j}{\rho_j} \left( \alpha_{kj} u_{mjk} + \alpha_{ki} u_{mkj} \right) \cdot \nabla W_{ij} \tag{18}$$

Intuitively, Eqn.(17) reflects the change of volume fraction due to the aggregate motion of the mixture, i.e. relative motion of the mixture particles, and Eqn.(18) reflects the change of volume fraction due to the discrepancy between phase velocities, i.e. the difference of drift fluxes $\alpha_u u_{mk}$ between particles.

Secondly we examine the last term in Eqn.(8). It represents the convective momentum change due to the drift velocities. We directly list below its symmetric formulation, and provide the detailed derivation in Appendix A:

$$\nabla \cdot T_{Dm} = - \sum_j \frac{m_j}{\rho_j} \sum_k \left[ \rho_k (\alpha_k u_{mkj} (u_{mkj} \cdot \nabla W_{ij}) + \alpha_{ki} u_{mkj} (u_{mkj} \cdot \nabla W_{ij})) \right] \tag{19}$$

Finally, we deal with the rest terms in Eqn.(8). These terms are similar to those of the single-phase flow, and hence their treatments are essentially no different to the single-phase SPH formulation. The pressure gradient in Eqn.(8) can be expressed by

$$\nabla \cdot p_{m} = \sum_j \frac{m_j}{\rho_j} \left( \alpha_{kj} \nabla W_{ij} \right) \tag{20}$$

The formulation proposed in [Cleary 1996; González et al. 2009] is adopted to compute the divergence of viscosity tensor:

$$\nabla \cdot \gamma \gamma = \sum_j \frac{m_j}{\rho_j} \left( \mu_j + \mu_j \right) \left( u_{mj} - u_{mi} \right) \left( \nabla W_{ij} \right) \tag{21}$$

where $\mu_j = \sum_k \alpha_{kj} \mu_k$ is the aggregate viscosity of particle $j$. This formulation is obtained from the integral representation of second order derivatives of the viscosity term.

Defined in Eqns.(7,8), the governing equations of the mixture model share a similar format as the single-phase flow, with the inclusion of the drift velocity term. This similarity allows us to easily apply the state-of-the-art techniques developed for single-phase flow. For the calculation $\tilde{\rho}_i$, the interpolated density of the mixture particles, the standard SPH formulation is:

$$\tilde{\rho}_i = \sum_j m_j \nabla W_{ij} \tag{22}$$

Recently, [Solenthaler and Pajarola 2008] proposed to use a modified density calculation method for immiscible multiple-fluid simulations with high density ratio. Their method changes the density interpolation equation to

$$\tilde{\rho}_i = \sum_j m_j \nabla W_{ij} \tag{23}$$

and then substitutes it into the standard formulation to achieve desired simulation results. Both Eqn.(22) and Eqn.(23) can be used in our SPH framework. In our experiments, for miscible fluid simulations featuring smooth changes of particle rest densities and without interfaces, the standard approach produces better results, especially in cases with relatively low density contrast ratios.

In SPH simulations, the pressure value of each particle is related to the interpolated particle density through the equation of state. In the standard SPH scheme, the following linear relation is adopted:

$$p_{mi} = \frac{\gamma}{\gamma - 1} \left( \rho_i - \rho_{mi} \right) \tag{24}$$

where $\gamma$ is the gas constant. In more recent simulation methods, such as the Weakly Compressible SPH (WCSPH) [Becker and Teschner 2007], the Taft equation is usually adopted to enhance incompressibility of the fluid appearance:

$$p_{mi} = \frac{\gamma}{\gamma - 1} \left( \frac{\tilde{\rho}_i}{\rho_{mi}} \right)^\gamma - 1 \tag{25}$$

where $\gamma = 7$. Compared to the standard approach, the Taft equation effectively results in much higher pressure changes with the same amount of density variation. Again both state equations can be used in our approach, to remain compatible with the standard simulation method and the WCSPH scheme.

5. IMPLEMENTATION

This section further explains the implementation issues for the SPH formulation of multiple-fluid flows, after which the algorithm framework is summarized.

5.1 Volume Fraction Correction

The bound of $\alpha_k$ described in Eqn.(3) is not automatically satisfied when solving Eqn.(7). It is necessary to introduce a correction step after advancing the volume fraction:

1. If $\alpha_k < 0$, set $\alpha_k = 0$.
2. Re-scale $\alpha_k$ values for all components such that $\sum_k \alpha_k = 1$.

In order to ensure equilibrium after correcting the volume fraction, it is also necessary to perform a pressure adjustment for all phases. Intuitively, the occupancy of a volume fraction exceeding one (i.e. $\alpha_k > 1$) means that in the current time step, the flux of the $k$-th phase entering the mixture particle is larger than allowed and the fluid is over-compressed. However, if the time step is set sufficiently small, the pressure computed from the particle density as Eqn.(24) or Eqn.(25) will raise and sequentially stop the $k$-th phase from entering the mixture particle, so that the $\alpha_k$ value remains below one. Hence, the adjustment of $\alpha_k$ value at the next time step should relate to a pressure-adjustment for the current time step as well.

For a quantitative formulation, we should calculate the derivative of pressure with respect to volume fraction. Eqn.(24) can be rewritten as:

$$p_{mi} = \kappa \left( \sum_j m_j W_{ij} - \sum_k \alpha_k \rho_k \right) \tag{26}$$

The derivative of pressure with respect to volume fraction is

$$\frac{\partial p_{mi}}{\partial \alpha_k} = -\kappa \rho_k \tag{27}$$
and this leads to the following relation that links the change of volume fraction to the change of pressure
\[ \Delta p_{\text{mi}} = \sum_k -\kappa p_k \Delta \alpha_{ki}. \] (28)

Similarly, for the Tait equation in WCSPH approach, taking the partial derivative of Eqn.(25) over \( \alpha_{ki} \) yields
\[ \frac{\partial p_{\text{mi}}}{\partial \alpha_{ki}} = -\frac{\kappa p_k}{\gamma} ((\gamma - 1)\left(\frac{\bar{p}}{p_{\text{mi}}}\right)^\gamma + 1), \] (29)

which gives a different form of pressure adjustment:
\[ \Delta p_{\text{mi}} = \sum_k \frac{\kappa p_k}{\gamma} ((\gamma - 1)\left(\frac{\bar{p}}{p_{\text{mi}}}\right)^\gamma + 1) \Delta \alpha_{ki}. \] (30)

The minus sign in Eqn.(28,30) assures correct direction of adjustment. The adjusted pressure is then given by
\[ \bar{p}_{\text{mi}} = p_{\text{mi}} + \Delta p_{\text{mi}}. \] (31)

We then use the adjusted pressure \( \bar{p}_{\text{mi}} \) for gradient calculation in Eqn.(20).

The purpose of the above correction step is to ensure Eqn.(3) holds in line with the underlying physics. There may be other more sophisticated correction approaches, however in practice we found simulations with the proposed correction steps give good results while keeping physical meaningfulness required by Eqn.(3).

5.2 Chemical Reaction

One advantage of combining the volume fraction representation with the SPH representation is the convenience of being able to deal with chemical reactions between phases by simply adding an in-particle re-balance step at the end of each simulation loop. For illustration, a simple case of reactants A and B reacting to produce resultant C is considered here. For all particles carrying both phases A and B, the mass of A and B are decreased by a controlled amount at the end of each simulation loop, and at the same time the mass of C is accordingly re-balanced. That is:
\[ \Delta(m_C) = -\Delta(m_A) - \Delta(m_B) = -\Delta(\alpha_A)p_A V - \Delta(\alpha_B)p_B V, \] (32)

where \( V \) is the volume of the mixture particle before reaction. At each time step, the amount of reactants \( \Delta \alpha_A \) and \( \Delta \alpha_B \) is set proportionally to the volume fractions of both source phases. Specifically, for the reaction \( \alpha A + \beta B \rightarrow \gamma C \), the reactants are set as \( \Delta \alpha_A = \alpha A \alpha A \alpha B \) and \( \Delta \alpha_B = \gamma C \alpha A \alpha B \), where \( C \) is a coefficient controlling the reaction speed. We also ensure that the reacted amount of reactants does not exceed the current volume fraction value of each phase. This chemical re-balance procedure can also involve total rest volume change to the mixture particle. Since the new phase masses are known, the new volume fraction value of each phase within the mixture particle is recalculated after the re-balancing, as well as the aggregate rest density of the mixture particle.

The momentum is automatically preserved, since both particle mass and aggregate velocity of the mixture particle are not affected.

5.3 Mixing and Unmixing of Immiscible and Miscible Fluids

Uniform Particle Description Various mixing and unmixing effects are captured by the drift velocity solved in Eqn.(9). For immiscible fluids, the second term in Eqn.(9) automatically vanishes by setting \( p_k = p_{\text{mi}} \), and the inertia effect modeled by the first term will separate different phases as the mixture flows. Note that this does not mean immiscible fluids will always have a sharp interface between phases, since in reality even immiscible phases can get temporarilly mixed in a vibrantly flowing mixture, e.g. in the form of dispersed phases in a suspension. Such temporary mixing of vibrant immiscible fluids is not an artificial smoothing and it is the natural reflection of the real world, where sharp interfaces will begin to appear once the flow motion is no longer violent. The inertia term provides an unmixing mechanism for the multiple-fluid flow. For miscible fluids, the second term in Eqn.(9) is nonzero, and the pressure effect will work against the unmixing trend caused by the inertia effect and keep the phases mixed. This pressure-driven mixing mechanism should not be confused with diffusion, which is modeled separately by the third term in Eqn.(9).

The diffusion effect is purely driven by concentration difference, and it will monotonously eliminate any volume fraction difference across the space. The mixing caused by the pressure effect is, however, related to the flow motion. In particular, when the flow motion stops, the inertia term and the pressure term cancel to each other, which sequentially terminates the pressure-driven mixing. Under this framework, purely immiscible fluids are simulated by setting the pressure relation \( p_k = p_{\text{mi}} \), and purely miscible fluids are simulated by setting \( p_k = \alpha_k p_{\text{mi}} \).

Particle Labeling Approach Our approach can also treat the miscible/immiscible behaviors in a slightly different manner, when dealing with a simulation which contains groups of phases that are miscible within the same group but are immiscible between different groups, or when it is desired to forbid volume fraction transfer between different groups that are immiscible to each other. In such cases, the traditional assumption that immiscible phases cannot exist together within a mixture particle is used, and the particles are labeled into different “miscible groups”. The calculation of related terms will then be limited to particles within the same group. That is, in the calculation of Eqns.(17,18), the summation should only be performed for the set of particles \( j \) that are in the same miscible group as the current particle \( i \), eliminating the volume fraction transition between different groups; and in the calculation of Eqn.(19), the summation should also be limited to the set of particles \( j \) that are in the same miscible group as the current particle \( i \), eliminating the momentum transition due to volume fraction transition between different groups. If desired, one can also use Eqn.(22) within the same miscible group and use Eqn.(23) between particles in different groups.

5.4 Algorithm Framework

The multiple-fluid system is represented by a set of mixture particles, and each mixture particle \( i \) carries aggregate values \((m_i, \rho_{\text{mi}}, \eta_i, \mu_i)\) and component-wise values \((\alpha_{ki})\). During each simulation loop, the SPH simulator sequentially performs the following tasks:

1. Compute the drift velocity of each phase according to Eqn.(9) using \( p_k \) calculated from Eqn.(11) or Eqn.(12). The SPH formulation of the gradient terms are given in Eqns.(13,14). The diffusion effect can be switched on by assigning a positive value to the constant \( \sigma \), and off by setting \( \sigma \) to zero.

2. Advect volume fraction values according to Eqn.(7), where the relevant SPH formulations are given in Eqns.(17,18).

3. Check the bound of volume fraction according to Eqn.(3), and if the bound is invalidated, correct the volume fraction within the particle and calculate the pressure adjustment accordingly as described in §5.1. For particles with corrected volume frac-
tion, update into the pressure term the pressure adjustment as Eqn.(31).

(4) Calculate acceleration of the mixture particle according to Eqn.(8). SPH formulations of the related terms are provided in Eqns.(19,20,21).

(5) Advect mixture particles using their accelerations and velocities.

(6) In the event of chemical reaction, re-balance the phase mass within each involved particle as in Eqn.(32), and recalculate the volume faction value of each phase, as well as the aggregate rest density.

Essentially, this algorithm framework is very similar to that of the single-phase fluid simulation. The main difference is that multiple-fluid simulation involves volume fraction advance/correction, and a new term on the right-hand-side of the governing equations requires the drift velocities to be calculated in advance, which is given in an analytical form. The runtime of each step depends on the number of particles and the number of phases, which we’ll discuss in detail in §6.1.

5.5 Time Stepping

The Courant-Friedrichs-Lewy (CFL) condition is adopted for determining the time step. Similar to [Monaghan 1992; Desbrun and paule Gascuel 1996; Becker and Teschner 2007], the time step is controlled by:

\[
\Delta t = \frac{0.25h_{1} \left| f_{i} \right|}{c_{e} + 0.6(c_{s} + 2 \cdot \max \mu_{i})} \quad (33)
\]

where \(f_{i}\) denotes external forces acting on the mixture particle, and \(c_{e}\) is the sound speed denoting the maximum possible particle speed in the fluid motion, which is related to the gas constant \(c\) in the equations of state and has \(c_{s} \propto \sqrt{\kappa}\). Simply speaking, the CFL condition requires that a particle should not travel more than a certain fraction of its smoothing radius in one time step, and in [Desbrun and paule Gascuel 1996; Dagenais et al. 2012] the time step can be bounded using \(\Delta t = \frac{0.4h_{1}}{\max \mu_{(m)}}\), which is a simpler form of the second term in Eqn.(33).

In multiple-fluid simulation, the drift velocity also add a constraint to the time step following the CFL condition:

\[
\Delta t = \frac{0.3h_{1}}{\max \mu_{(m)} \max u_{m}} \quad (34)
\]

Then we choose the smaller \(\Delta t\) computed from Eqns.(33-34) as the upper bound of time steps. The examples in §6 typically run at time steps around \(10^{-3}\) second. The viscous armadillo example runs at time steps around \(10^{-4}\) second because its large viscosity dominates the calculation of time step.

6. PERFORMANCE AND RESULTS

6.1 Performance Analysis

GPU parallelization of standard SPH simulators is quite straightforward. A simple scheme uses a uniform grid structure to simplify and accelerate the neighbor search in GPU. At the start of each time step, SPH particles are assigned into the grid structure and sorted based on their positions, and the neighbor search only needs to consider particles in adjacent grids afterwards, which can be continuously traversed in the sorted order. Then all computational tasks can be parallelly executed over the particles. The GPU implementation of the mixture model follows exactly the same procedure.

The proposed SPH multiple-fluid simulator has been implemented using CUDA 5, each step described in §5.4 is executed by a CUDA kernel function which parallels the computing task over each fluid particle. All the variables including property values (e.g. aggregate velocity) and intermediate values (e.g. drift velocity of each phase) related to each particle are stored and updated in the graphical memory during the simulation loops in order to minimize CPU-GPU communication.

The computational efficiency is mainly determined by the number of mixture particles and the number of phases adopted in the simulation. Typically, for a three-phase flow simulated by using 344,000 mixture particles, the simulation runs at 0.477 second per time-step on a NVIDIA GeForce GTX 680 4GB GPU. We analyze runtime under different particle numbers and phase numbers, and the performance is shown in Fig.2. The runtime of each step is linear to the total particle number, and given fixed particle number, the runtime is sublinear to the number of phases, i.e. each extra phase will increase the runtime by approximately 50% of the single-phase runtime. The performance data of examples in the paper are provided in Table II.

\begin{table}[h]
\centering
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|}
\hline
Example Name & Phase Number & Particle Number & average time(second/step) \\
\hline
Dam-breaking & 3 & 344,000 & 0.477 \\
Armadillo & 2 & 313,000 & 0.339 \\
Reacting Swirl & 4 & 198,000-418,000 & 0.247-0.579 \\
Unmixing & 4 & 231,000 & 0.376 \\
Vaporization & 4 & 402,000 & 0.382 \\
Rainbow Wave & 8 & 756,000 & 1.889 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
\caption{Performance}
\end{table}

Fig. 2. Performance under different particle numbers and phase numbers. Results are separated into two sub-diagrams to avoid over-compression in the vertical axis. The runtime of each step is linear to the total particle number, and given fixed particle number, the runtime is sublinear to the number of phases. (a) blue: 48,000 particles; red: 239,000 particles; (b) blue: 476,000 particles; red: 2,368,000 particles.

6.2 Results

Using a triple dam-breaking set up, Example 1 (Fig.3) demonstrates the new method’s capacity in capturing realistic phase-interacting effects with different combinations of miscible and immiscible fluids. The density ratio between the three phases is set as \(\text{Red:Green:Blue} = 1:2:3\). In Fig.3(a), all three phases are immiscible with each other; in Fig.3(b), all three phases are miscible with each other and the diffusion effect is disabled; in Fig.3(c), all three phases are miscible with each other and the diffusion effect is enabled; in Fig.3(d), the red and green phases are miscible with each other, but they are immiscible with the blue phase. Our approach successfully simulates mixing and unmixing effects in all these circumstances. As shown in Fig.3(a), the immiscible phases are clearly separated into three layers. At the end of the simulation the immiscible phases are fully separated, and the volume fraction pen-
trations in mixture particles near either side of the sharp color interfaces are negligible. For the miscible fluids shown in Figs.3(b,c), the mixing effects look smooth and natural and due to the inclusion of the diffusion effect, the final result in Fig.3(c) is mixed more uniformly than that in Fig.3(b). The simulations in Figs.3(a,b,c) adopt the uniform particle description as explained in §5.3, while the simulation in Fig.3(d) adopts the particle labeling approach to simulate miscible and immiscible phases interacting with each other simultaneously. For all other examples in this paper we have used the uniform particle description in the simulation.

Example 2 (Fig.4) simulates a two-phase flow with high viscosity contrast. The red armadillo formed by a highly viscous phase (1000x viscosity and 2x density) drops into a container filled by a transparent phase (1x viscosity, 1x density and immiscible with the red phase); the red armadillo deforms in a highly viscous manner and does not get diluted. Shown in the bottom row, after the red armadillo’s settlement at the bottom of the container, the red phase is reset to 1x viscosity, 0.5x density and miscible to the transparent phase, which then undergoes volume expansion and rises up rapidly and a vibrant mixing is observed during the two-phase interaction.

Example 3 (Fig.5) shows our method can cope with very high viscosity contrast and still achieve realistic and stable multiple-fluid simulations. Then, after the red armadillo has settled at the bottom of the container, the red phase is reset to 1x viscosity, 0.5x density and miscible with the transparent phase. The mixture flow is shown in the bottom row of Fig.4, where the now lighter red phase undergoes volume expansion and rises up rapidly and it soon gets diluted into the transparent phase. In both stages, the diffusion effect has been disabled.

In Example 3 (Fig.5), red and green liquids are injected into a cylindrical container filled with transparent liquid solvent. As the red and green liquids are injected from opposite sides of the container, they drive the liquid mixture to swirl. During mixing, red and green phases react to produce a blue liquid. All four phases (red, green, transparent and blue) are miscible with each other. In the top row is the simulation result using our approach with the diffusion effect disabled. The center of the container largely remains occupied by the transparent solvent during the swirling motion, resulting in a rotating and dynamically-evolving S-shape, while the whole scene containing vigorous mixing and chemical reaction simultaneously. The previous multi-fluid approach (e.g. [Kang et al. 2010; Bao et al. 2010; Liu et al. 2011]) considers Brownian diffusion only. In such approaches the mixing between different phases and thus the chemical reaction purely relies on the existence of Brownian diffusion. Due to the physical nature of Brownian diffusion, it will gradually eliminate the polytropic color variations in multiple-fluid flows, leading to an undesired homogeneous appearance. In the bottom row we show the simulation result of previous multifluid approach, where the polytropic color variations gradually turn into a homogeneous appearance. It is clear in this example that our approach is able to avoid the undesired variation-eliminating effect and the homogeneous appearance due to Brownian diffusion, while simultaneously keeping vigorous mixing and reaction featuring polytropic colors throughout the whole simulation.

Example 4 (Fig.6) demonstrates an unmixing process taking place in a disk-shape container, which has a spinning turbine installed at its centre. The container is filled with four immiscible phases, with the density ratio Red:Yellow:Green:Blue = 1:1.5:2.5:3, and the mixture occupies about 3/4 of the volume. Initially, the four phases are set at a “fully mixed” state resulting in a greyish color, and they are unmixed due to the centrifugal effect during spin-
Fig. 5. Reacting swirl. Red and green liquids are injected from opposite sides into the container filled with transparent solvent, causing the mixture to swirl. Upon meeting, the red and green liquids react to produce a blue liquid. All four phases are miscible with each other. Top row: Our method, with the diffusion effect disabled, forms a rotating and dynamically-evolving S-symbol at the centre of the container, while the whole scene containing vigorous mixing and chemical reaction simultaneously. Bottom row: Using only Brownian diffusion to simulate mixing ([Kang et al. 2010; Bao et al. 2010; Liu et al. 2011]) results in a homogeneous appearance.

Fig. 6. Unmixing. Four immiscible liquids (red, yellow, green and blue) are artificially set to a “fully mixed” state in a circular container with a rotating turbine at the centre, and during spinning they get “fully separated” due to the centrifugal effect. Top: perspective view. Bottom: top view.

Fig. 7. Vaporization. The dome is filled with transparent air, and from two magic sources red and green liquids are injected into the dome. The two liquids meet at the centre of the floor and react to produce a vapor phase, which rises towards the ceiling. The density ratio is \textit{Red liquid:Green liquid:Transparent air:Vapor phase} = 1000:1000:2:1. Under high density contrast, the vaporization process is successfully simulated.

7. CONCLUSION AND DISCUSSION

By combining the mixture model in computational fluid dynamics and the SPH method, we have developed a novel simulation approach for multiple-fluid flows. Verified in various numerical experiments, the new approach is versatile and can simultaneously capture a wide range of multiple-fluid phenomena, including mixing/unmixing of miscible and immiscible fluids, diffusion and chemical reaction etc. The new method is robust, and can achieve stable and realistic simulation under widely-varying parameter set-
This appendix shows the detailed derivations of Eqns.(17-19). The SPH formulation to the right hand side of the following identity

\[ \sum_j A_j \nabla \cdot \mathbf{W}_{ij} = \sum_j A_j (\mathbf{u}_{mj} - \mathbf{u}_{mi}) \cdot \nabla W_{ij} \]

is zero, even when all phases are incompressible. At the cost of smaller time steps, this limitation can be partially overcome by increasing the gas constant in the equations of state to a higher value, and in cases of vaporization this can lead to dramatic increases of the effective volume of particles due to large density drop, which sequentially degrades the simulation resolution. To maintain the simulation resolution, one possible extension to this work would be to introduce an efficient, adaptive refinement strategy to split the SPH particles. Another possible future work is to incorporate the energy equation in the current theoretical framework to simulate relatively less commonly observed energy-related effects, such as extraction in chemistry.

Previous numerical strategies that enforce the incompressibility by based on the divergence-free property of the flow field cannot be directly applied to the multiple-fluid simulation, since neither the divergence of the mixture velocity nor that of the phase velocity is zero, even when all phases are incompressible. At the cost of smaller time steps, this limitation can be partially overcome by increasing the gas constant in the equations of state to a higher value, but it will be beneficial to investigate new pressure-correction methods enforcing incompressibility of the multiple-fluid simulation at larger time steps, where component-wise incompressibility relations should be taken into account. Another challenge is that incorporating the mixture model with the Predictive-Corrective Incompressible SPH (PCISPH) is not straightforward. PCISPH presumes uniform particle mass and rest density between particles, however these properties usually vary between particles in the mixture model. This makes the precomputation in the pressure correction of PCISPH impossible, resulting in erroneous values where there is particle deficiency.

APPENDIX

Appendix A. DERIVATION OF EQNS.(17-19)

This appendix shows the detailed derivations of Eqns.(17-19). The SPH approximation for the divergence operator can be expressed as [Colagrossi and Landrini 2003]:

\[ \langle \nabla \cdot \mathbf{A} \rangle_i = \sum_j dV_j A_j \nabla W_{ij} = \sum_j dV_j (\mathbf{A}_j \pm \mathbf{A}_i) \nabla W_{ij}. \]  

Eqn.(18) and Eqn.(19) are direct results following Eqn.(35).

The derivation of Eqn.(17) is more involved. Applying standard SPH formulation to the right hand side of the following identity

\[ (\alpha_k \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}_m)_i = (\nabla \cdot (\alpha_k \mathbf{u}_m))_i - (\mathbf{u}_m \cdot \nabla \alpha_k)_i \]

leads to

\[ (\alpha_k \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}_m)_i = \sum_j dV_j \alpha_k (\mathbf{u}_{mj} - \mathbf{u}_{mi}) \cdot \nabla W_{ij}. \]

However applying Eqn.(35) to the left hand side of Eqn.(36) yields:

\[ (\alpha_k \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}_m)_i = \sum_j dV_j \alpha_k (\mathbf{u}_{mj} - \mathbf{u}_{mi}) \cdot \nabla W_{ij}. \]

The two equations above are almost the same, and directly averaging the right hand side yields Eqn.(17).

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