



Transport of Currents

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Overview

- Many *conserved quantities* in physics can be represented mathematically as *currents*
- Currents move and *evolve in time* due to a competition between *energetics, kinetics and inertia*
- Challenge: Bring tools of *geometric measure theory* and *calculus of variations* to bear on the problem:
 - *Physics*: Developing a mathematical understanding of behavior of classes of energies and kinetic laws
 - *Approximation*: Spatial and time discretization
 - Provably convergent particle methods
 - Time-discrete (Wasserstein) gradient flows
 - *Analysis*: Existence of solutions, relaxation (multiscale analysis), long-term behavior...





Transport

Current affairs

- Many *conserved quantities* in physics can be represented mathematically as *currents*

- Recall: Vector-valued *smooth p-forms*,

$$\mathcal{D}^p(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m) = \{ \sum_{|\alpha|=p} \omega_\alpha dx^\alpha : \omega_\alpha \in C_c^\infty(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m) \}$$

- *Exterior derivative*: For every $\omega \in \mathcal{D}^p(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)$,

$$d\omega = \sum_{|\alpha|=p} d\omega_\alpha \wedge dx^\alpha \in \mathcal{D}^{p+1}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)$$

- A *p-current* is a continuous linear functional on *p-forms*. The space of *p-currents* is $\mathcal{D}_p(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)$
- *Boundary operator*: $(\partial T)(\omega) = T(d\omega)$.



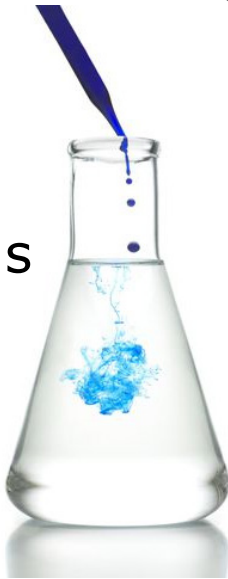
Current transport

- *Domain* $\Omega \in \mathbb{R}^d$, open
- *Time-dependent* p -current $T : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathcal{D}_p(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^m)$
- *Smooth velocity field*: $v : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathcal{D}_1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^n)$
- *Mass* contained in p -form ω : $T(\omega)$
- *Inward mass flux* into ω : $T(d(i_v\omega)) := \partial(T \wedge v)(\omega)$
- *Mass conservation*:
$$\frac{\partial T}{\partial t} - \partial(T \wedge v) = 0$$
- *NB: The coordinate form of the transport equation depends on the dimension of the current!*



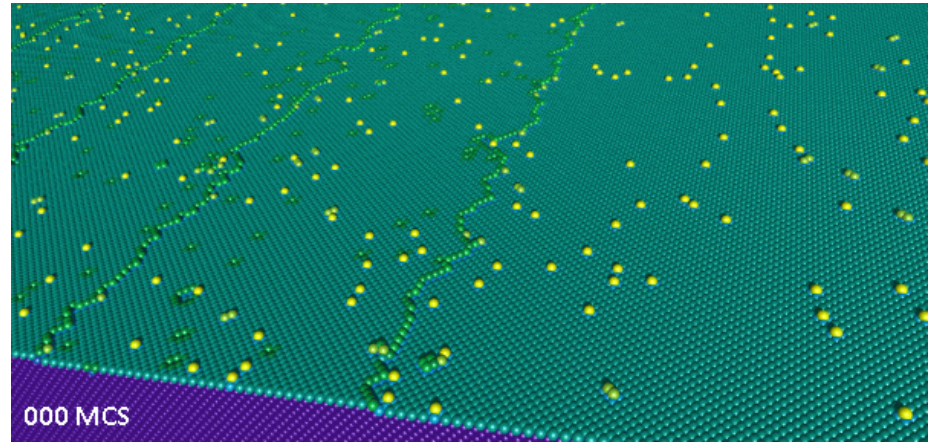
$\mathcal{D}_0(\Omega)$: Mass transport

Continuous
diffusion



$$T = \rho \mathcal{L}^d$$

Discrete diffusion (© L. Röntzsch)



$$T = \sum_{i=1}^N m_i \delta_{x_i}$$

- **Mass current:** $T = \rho \mathcal{H}^n \llcorner M$, rectifiable, scalar, flat,

$$T(\omega) = \int_M \rho \omega \, d\mathcal{H}^n, \quad (T \wedge v)(\omega) = \int_M \rho v^i \omega_i \, d\mathcal{H}^n,$$

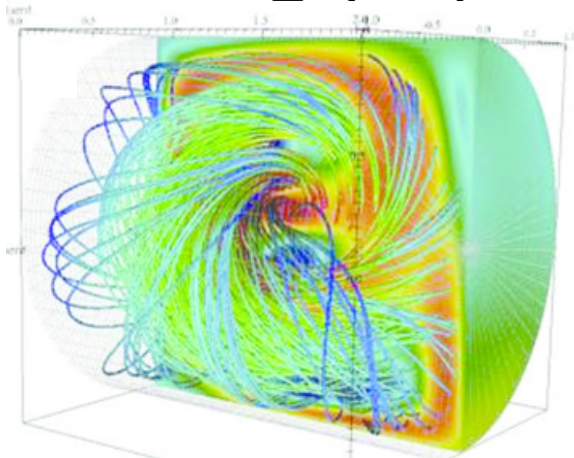


Transport equation:
(distributionally)

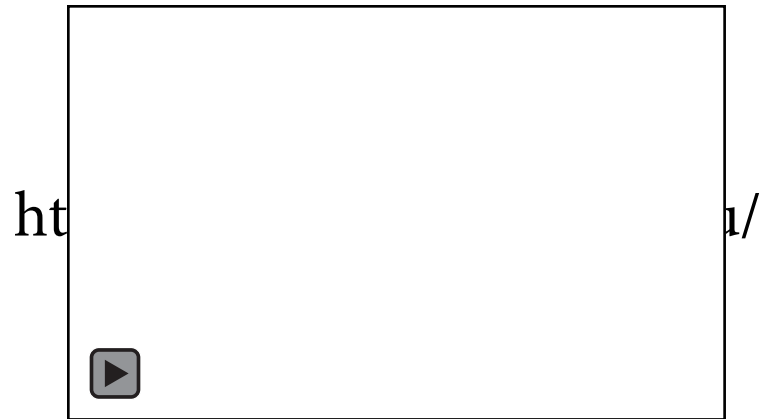
$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \operatorname{div}(\rho v) = 0$$



$\mathcal{D}_1(\Omega)$: Line transport



Magnetic field lines in a plasma (Glasser *et al* 2009)



TEM imaging of dislocations in α -Ti (Kacher *et al* 2019)

$$T = B\mathcal{L}^d$$

$$T = b \otimes t \mathcal{H}^1 \llcorner \gamma$$

- **Line current:** $T = B\mathcal{H}^n \llcorner M$, rectifiable, vector, flat,

$$T(\omega) = \int_M B(\omega) d\mathcal{H}^n, \quad (T \wedge v)(\omega) = \int_M (B \wedge v)(\omega) d\mathcal{H}^n,$$

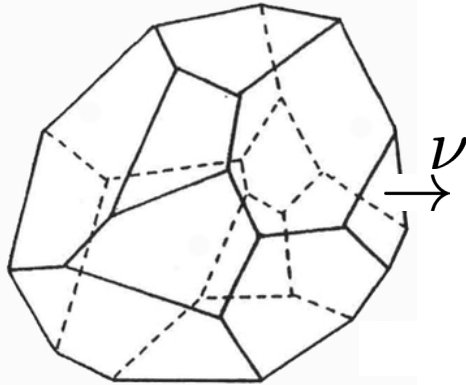


Transport equation:
(distributionally)

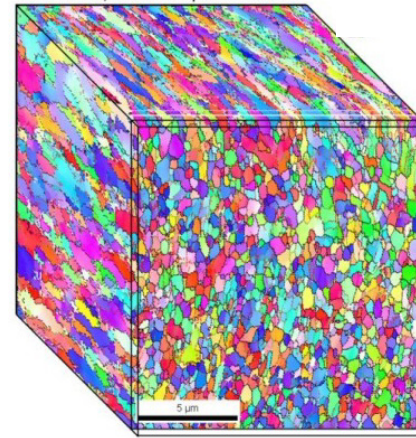
$$\frac{\partial B}{\partial t} + \text{curl}(B \times v) = 0$$



$\mathcal{D}_2(\Omega)$: Surface transport



Sharp-interface model
of grain (Smith *etal* 2015)



3D EBSD reconstruction of
ECAP CuZr (Raabe *etal* 2011)

$$T = b \otimes * \nu \mathcal{H}^2 \llcorner \sigma$$

- **Surface current:** $T = B \mathcal{H}^n \llcorner M$, rectifiable, vector,

$$T(\omega) = \int_M B(\omega) d\mathcal{H}^n, \quad (T \wedge \nu)(\omega) = \int_M (B \wedge \nu)(\omega) d\mathcal{H}^n,$$



Transport equation:
(distributionally)

$$\frac{\partial(*B)}{\partial t} + \text{curl}((B) \times \nu) = 0$$

Kinetics and energetics

- Currents move and *evolve in time* due to a competition between *energetics, kinetics and inertia*
- Assume current is *integral* and *rectifiable*,

$$T = \theta \mathcal{H}^n \llcorner M \wedge \vec{T}, \quad \|T\| = \theta \mathcal{H}^n \llcorner M$$

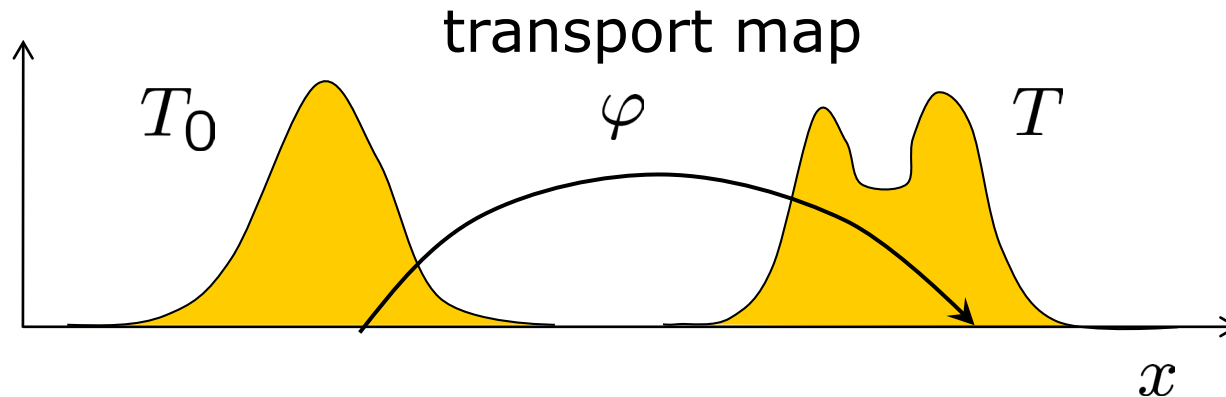
- The *kinetics* of current motion (mobility law) is encoded into the *dissipation potential*

$$\Psi(v, T) = \int_M \psi(v(x); \theta(x), \vec{T}(x)) d\mathcal{H}^n$$

- *Energy function:* $E(T)$, not necessarily local:
 - *Entropy of mixing*
 - *Line/surface tension (local)*
 - *Elastic interaction (long range)*



The rate problem



- **Transport map:** $\varphi : \Omega \rightarrow \Omega$, sufficiently regular
- **Suppose:** $T = \varphi_{\#} T_0$. Then, there is v such that

$$\frac{\partial T}{\partial t} - \partial(T \wedge v) = 0, \quad \frac{d}{dt} E(T) = DE(T)v$$

- **Rate problem:** At all times, for given T ,

$$F(v) = \Psi(v, T) + DE(T)v \rightarrow \min!$$

Non-cooperative **game** with players $v(t)$!



Weighted Energy-Dissipation functionals

- **WED functionals:** For $\epsilon > 0$, $\varphi(a) = \text{id}$,

$$F_\epsilon(\varphi) = \int_a^b \left(\Psi(v, T) + DE(T)v \right) w_\epsilon(t) dt \rightarrow \min!$$

- **Weighting function** w_ϵ positive, decreasing and

$$\lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{w_\epsilon(t)}{w_\epsilon(s)} = 0, \quad \forall s, t \in [a, b], \quad s < t$$

- Expected properties of WED functionals:
 - **Causal limit:** (Approximate) minimizers φ_ϵ of F_ϵ converge to solutions of the (relaxed) problem¹
 - **Approximation:** Convergence stable with respect to Gamma convergence¹ $\Psi_h \rightarrow \Psi$, $E_h \rightarrow E$



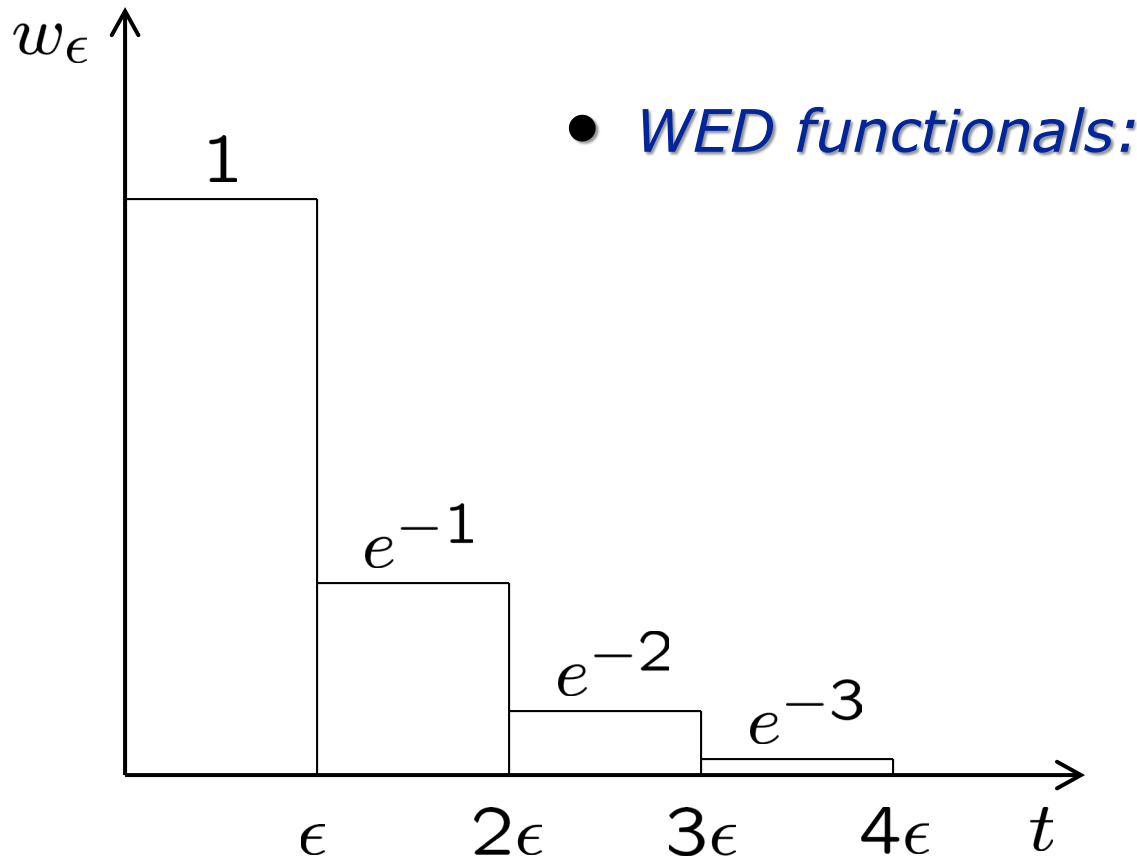
¹A. Mielke and M. Ortiz, ESAIM: COCV 14 (2008) 494–516. Michael Ortiz
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Numerics



Variational time discretization



- *Stepwise weighting function:* For $k = 0, 1, \dots$,

$$w_\epsilon = e^{-k}, \quad k\epsilon \leq t - a < (k + 1)\epsilon$$



Variational space–time discretization

- *Stepwise WED functionals:* For $\epsilon > 0$, $\varphi_0 = \text{id}$,

$$F_\epsilon(\varphi) = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \left(D_\epsilon(\varphi_k, \varphi_{k+1}) + E(\varphi_{k+1}) - E(\varphi_k) \right) e^{-k}$$

- *Dissipation cost* (a la Wasserstein):

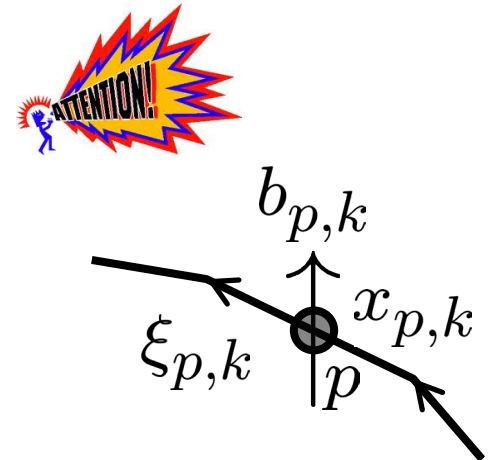
$$D_\epsilon(\varphi_k, \varphi_{k+1}) = \inf_{\text{paths } \varphi_k \rightarrow \varphi_{k+1}} \int_0^\epsilon \Psi(v(s), T(s)) ds$$

- *Geometrically exact update:*

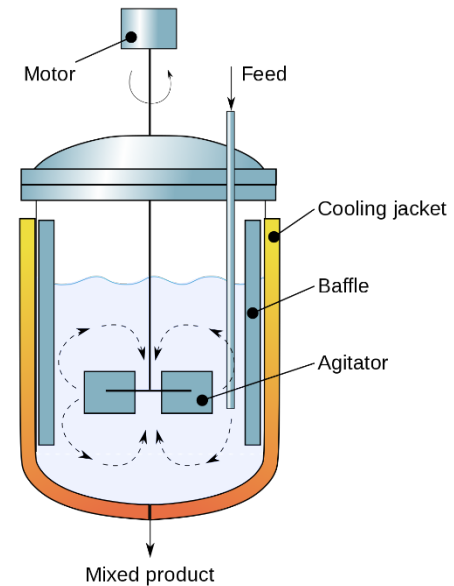
$$T_{k+1} = (\varphi_{k \rightarrow k+1})_\# T_k$$

- *Particle discretization* (Dirac masses):

$$T_k = \sum_{p=1}^N b_{p,k} \otimes \xi_{p,k} \delta_{x_{p,k}}$$



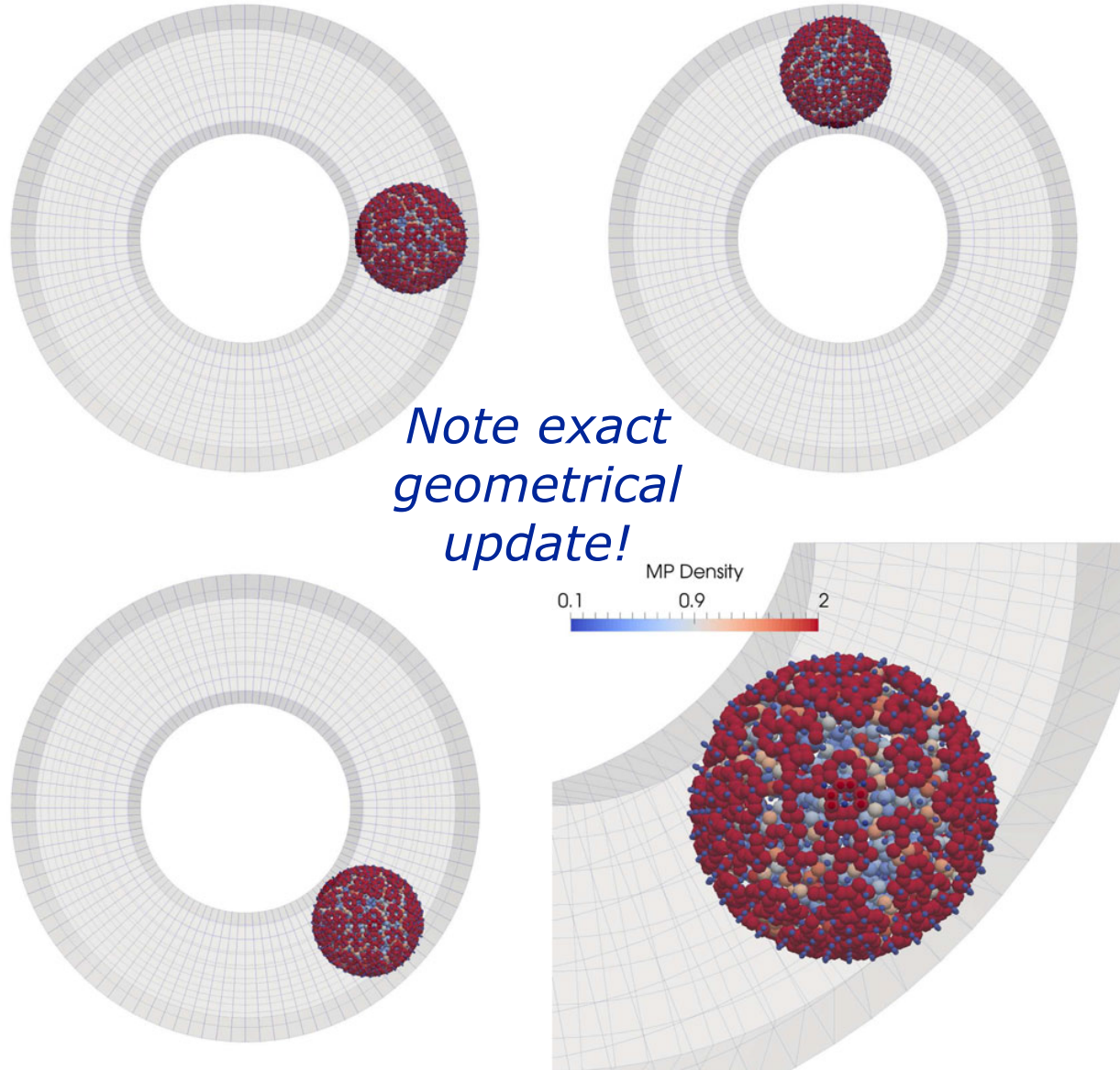
Mass transport – Advection/diffusion



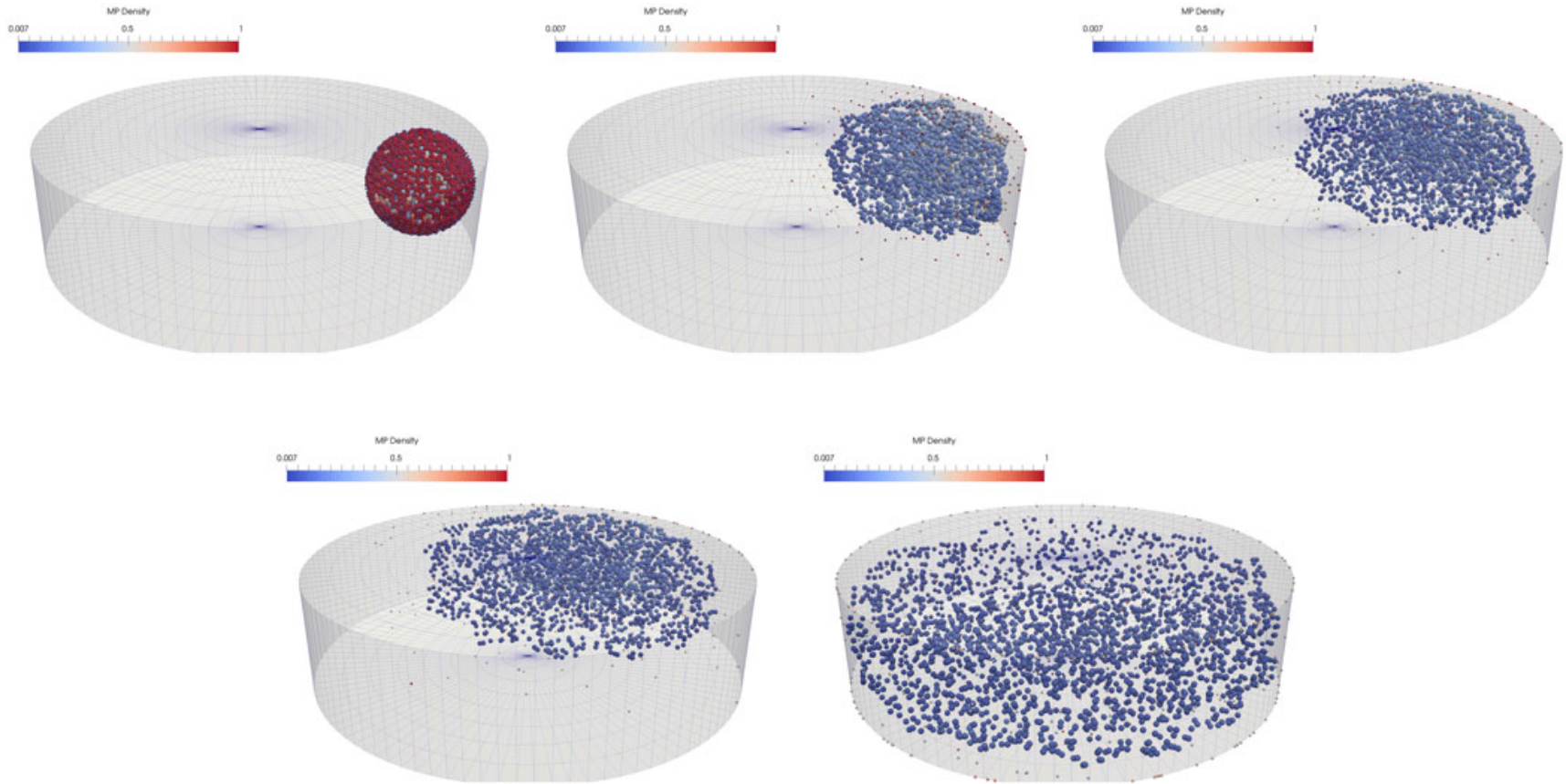
- Transport equation: $\partial_t \rho + \nabla \cdot (\rho v) = 0$
- Dissipation functional: $\Psi(v, \rho) = \int_{\Omega} \frac{1}{2} \rho |v|^2 dx$
- Energy functional: $E(\rho) = \int_{\Omega} \kappa \rho \log \rho dx$



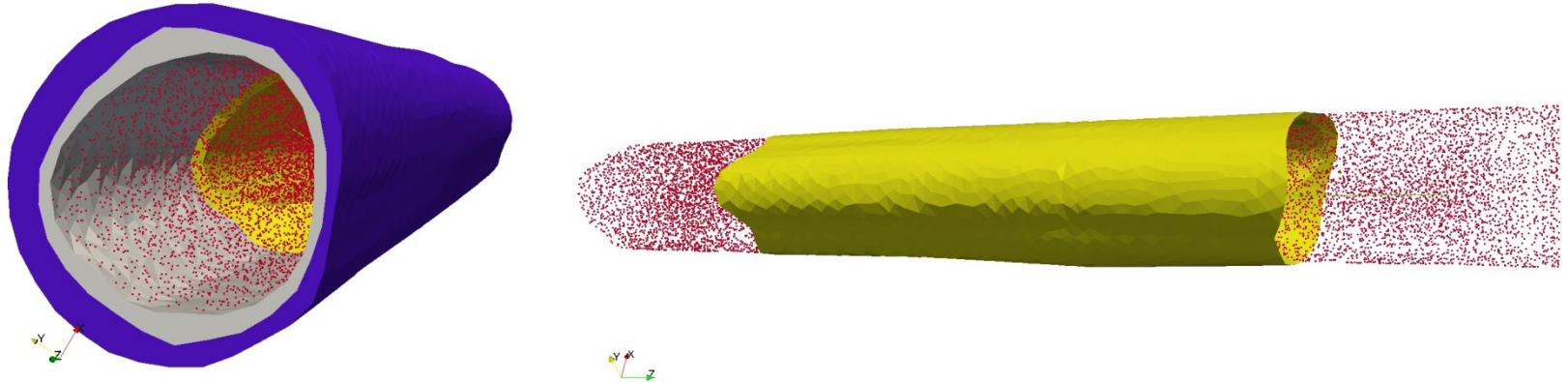
Pure advection in cylindrical channel



Advection-diffusion in rotating flow cell



Flow problems



- Mass + linear-momentum transport:

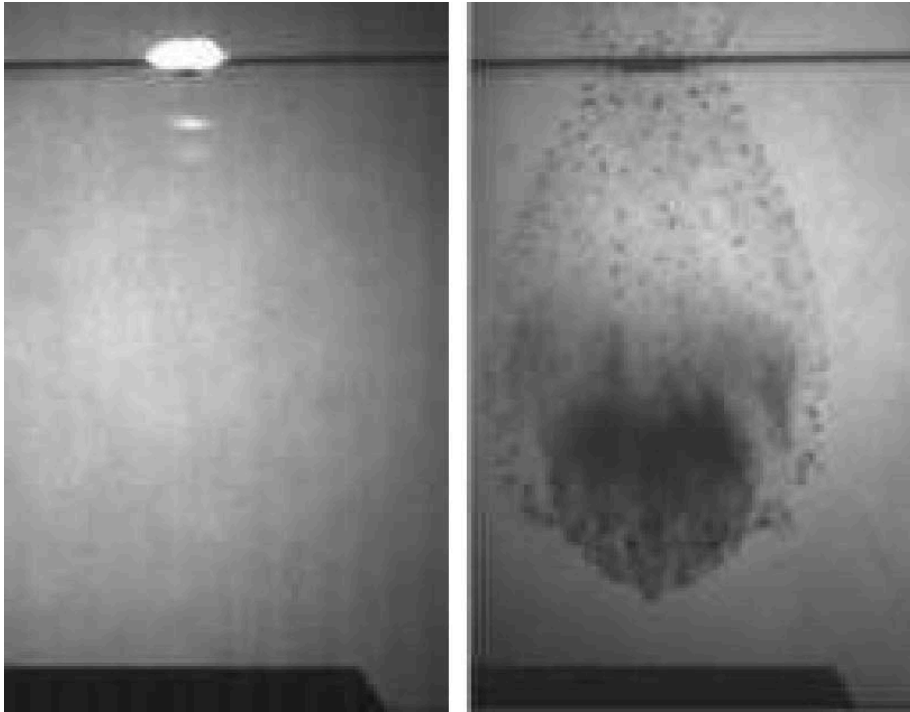
$$\partial_t \rho + \nabla \cdot (\rho v) = 0,$$

$$\partial_t (\rho v) + \nabla \cdot (\rho v \otimes v) = \nabla \cdot \sigma,$$

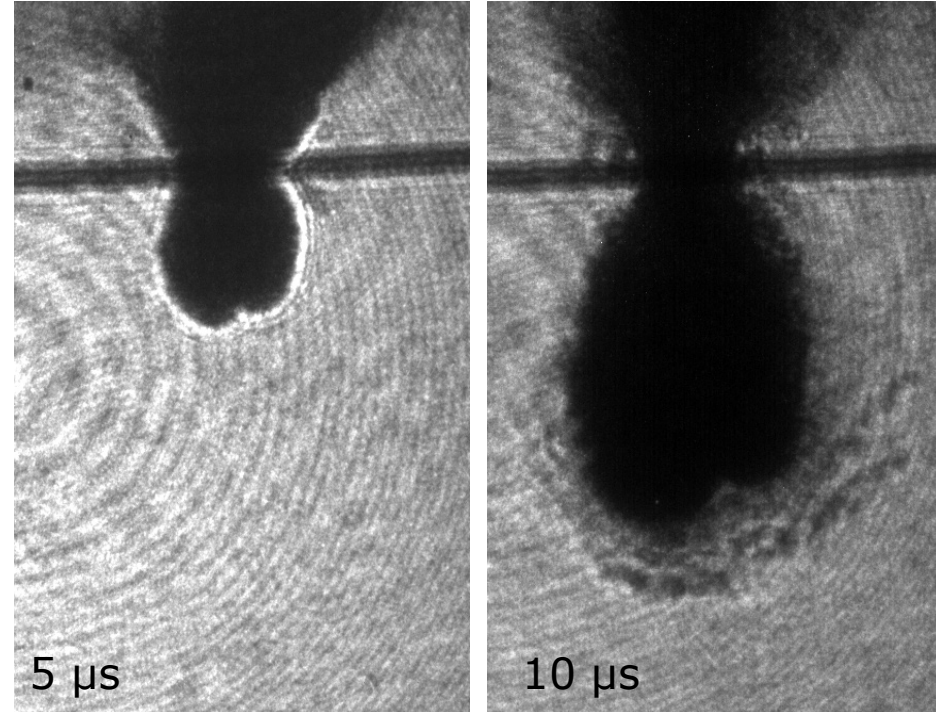
$$\sigma = \sigma(D\varphi, Dv, \text{history})$$



Flow problems — HV impact



Hypervelocity impact of bumper shield.
a) Initial impact flash. b) Debris cloud
(Ernst-Mach Inst., Freiburg, Germany).



Hypervelocity impact (5.7 Km/s) of
0.96 mm thick aluminum plates by 5.5
mg nylon 6/6 cylinders (Caltech)



Li, B., Habbal, F. and Ortiz, M. , *IJNME*, **83** (2010) 1541.

Li, B. et al., *Procedia Engineering*, **58** (2013) 320.

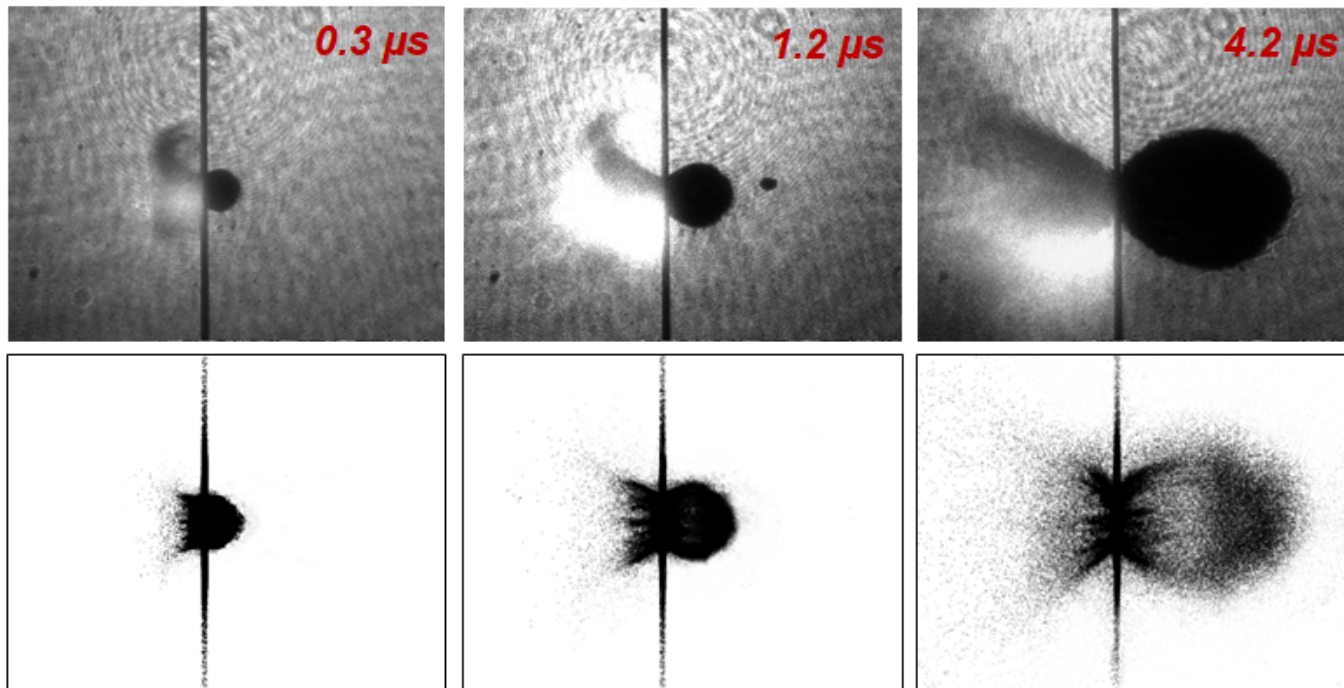
Li, B., Stalzer, M. and Ortiz, M., *IJNME*, **100** (2014) 40.

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Flow problems — HV impact

Nylon 6/6, L/D=1 Cylinder
6061-T6 Al. Target

$v_{\text{impact}} = 5.84 \text{ km/s}$
 $h = 0.5 \text{ mm (20 mil) at } 0^\circ$



Experiment (top) vs simulation (bottom)



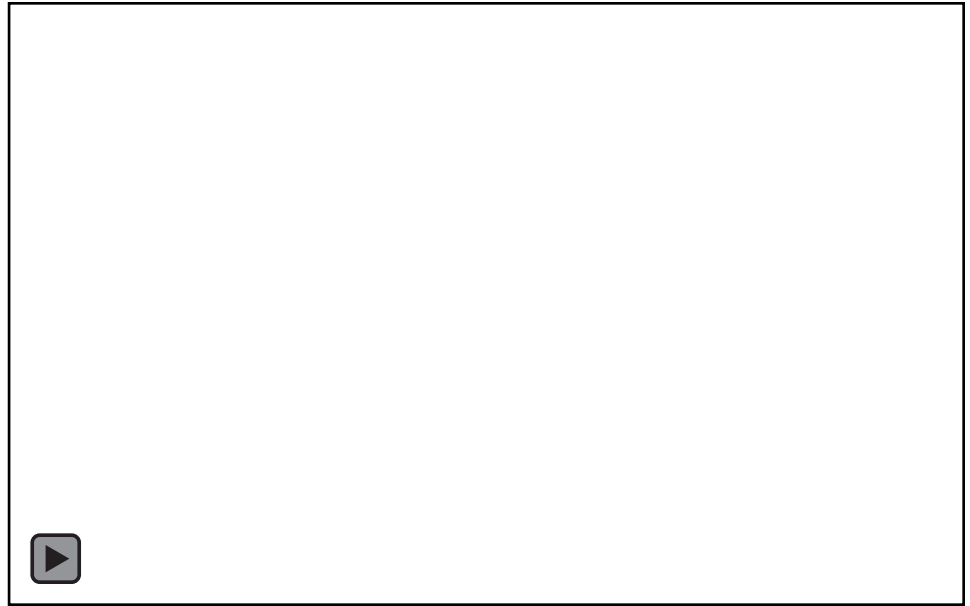
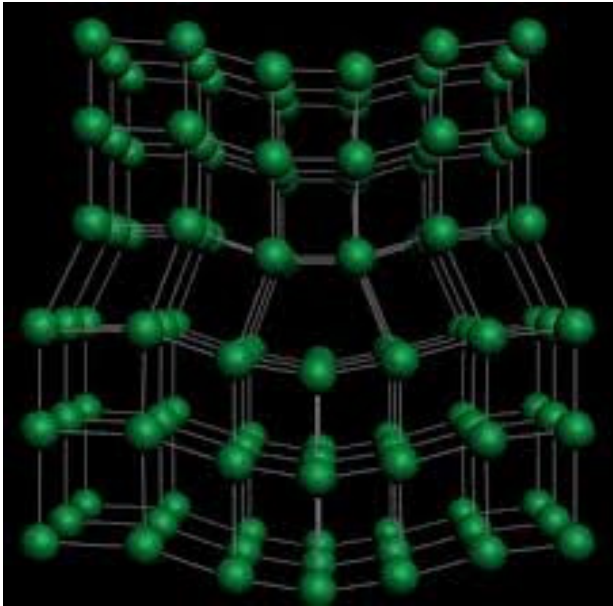
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Dislocation transport



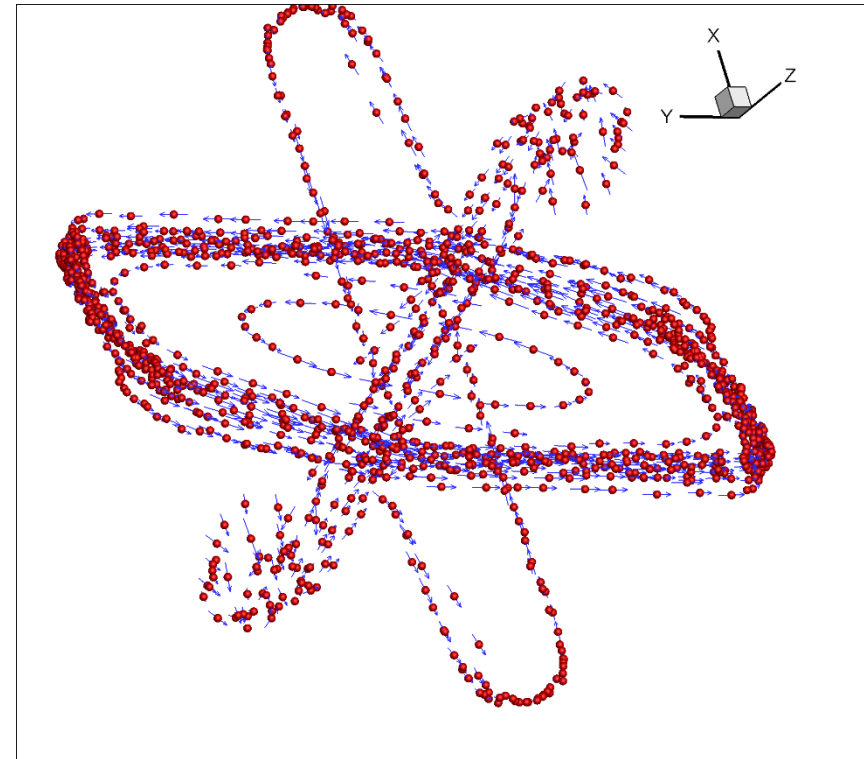
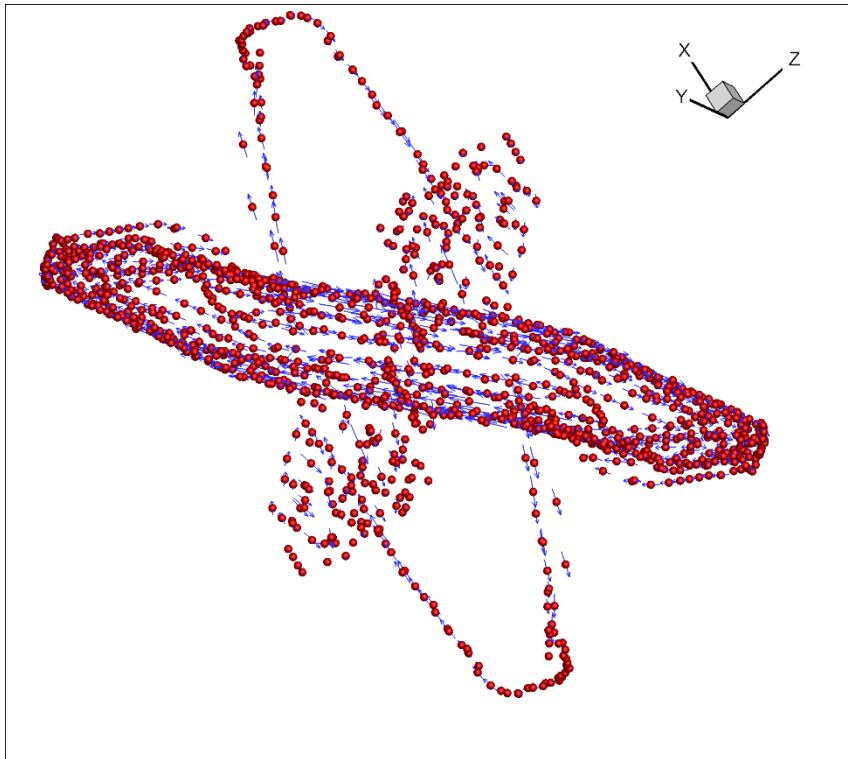
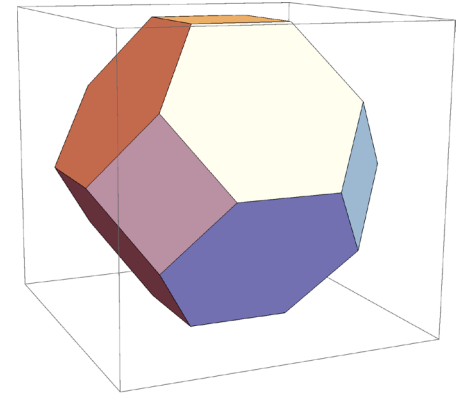
- Dislocation current: $\alpha = b \otimes t \mathcal{H}^1 \llcorner \gamma$
- Transport equation: $\dot{\alpha} + \text{curl}(\alpha \times v) = 0$
- Dislocation mobility + elastic interaction



Dislocation transport – BCC grain

- Slip systems:

$$\begin{array}{lll} m_{A2} = (0 \ -1 \ 1) & m_{A3} = (1 \ 0 \ 1) & m_{A6} = (1 \ 1 \ 0) \\ b_{A2} = [-1 \ 1 \ 1] & b_{A3} = [-1 \ 1 \ 1] & b_{A6} = [-1 \ 1 \ 1] \end{array}$$





Analysis



Variational Navier-Stokes

- **WED functional** for NS, Lagrangian: For $\det(D\varphi(x)) = 1$,

$$F^\epsilon(\varphi) = \int_0^\infty e^{-t/\epsilon} \int_\Omega \left\{ \frac{\rho}{2} |\ddot{\varphi}|^2 + \frac{\mu}{\epsilon} |\text{sym}(D\dot{\varphi}D\varphi^{-1})|^2 \right\} dx dt.$$

- **WED functional** for NS, Eulerian: For $\text{div } v(x) = 0$,

$$F^\epsilon(v) = \int_0^\infty e^{-t/\epsilon} \int_\Omega \left\{ \frac{\rho}{2} |\partial_t v + v \cdot \nabla v|^2 + \frac{\mu}{\epsilon} |\text{sym} \nabla v|^2 \right\} dx dt.$$

- Euler-Lagrange equations: Assuming regularity,

$$0 = \rho(\partial_t v + v \cdot \nabla v) - \mu \Delta v + \nabla p + O(\epsilon).$$

- WED: **Elliptic regularization** of NS!
- WED: **Minimum principle**! CoV-style existence theory?



Weak (Leray-Hopf) solutions

- Functional framework:
 - $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^3$ bounded, open, Lipschitz.
 - $\mathcal{V} = \{v \in C_c^\infty(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^3) : \operatorname{div} v = 0\}$.
 - $V_s =$ closure of \mathcal{V} in $H^s(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^3) \cap H_0^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^3)$, $s \geq 1$.
 - $H =$ closure of \mathcal{V} in $L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^3)$.

Definition (Leray-Hopf solutions)

$u \in L^2(0, \infty; V_1)$ is a *Leray-Hopf solution* of NS if $\partial_t u \in L^1(0, \infty; V_1')$,
$$\rho(\partial_t v + v \cdot \nabla v) - \mu \Delta v + \nabla p = 0 \quad \text{in } V_1', \text{ a. e. in } (0, T),$$
$$u(0) = u_0 \quad \text{in } H.$$

- Existence in $L_{\text{loc}}^{8/3}(0, \infty; L^4(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^3))$, weak continuity in time.
- If $u \in L_{\text{loc}}^8(0, \infty; L^4(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^3)) \Rightarrow$ unique, strongly continuous.
- Main result: **WED solns converge (weakly) to Leray-Hopf solns!**



Variational existence theory

- **Regularized** WED functionals for NS: For $\operatorname{div} u = 0$, $F^\epsilon(u) = \int_0^\infty e^{-t/\epsilon} \int_\Omega \left\{ \frac{1}{2} |\partial_t u + u \cdot \nabla u|^2 + \frac{\sigma}{2} |u \cdot \nabla u|^2 + \frac{\nu}{2\epsilon} |\nabla u|^2 \right\} dx dt$.
- Admissible set of trajectories:

$$U^\epsilon = \{u \in L^2_{\text{loc}}(0, T; V_1) : F^\epsilon(u) < +\infty, \quad u(0) = u_0^\epsilon\}$$

Theorem (Existence of minimizers)

Let $\sigma \geq 0$, $u_0 \in H$. Let $u_0^\epsilon \in V_1$ be s. t.

$$u_0^\epsilon \rightarrow u_0 \text{ in } H \quad \text{and} \quad \|\nabla u_0^\epsilon\|^2 + \epsilon \|u_0^\epsilon \cdot \nabla u_0^\epsilon\|^2 \leq C\epsilon^{-1}.$$

Then, for every $\epsilon > 0$ there exists a minimizer u^ϵ of F^ϵ in U^ϵ and $\inf F^\epsilon \leq C\epsilon^{-1}$.



- Remark: If $u_0 \in V_1$ and $u_0 \cdot \nabla u_0 \in H$, then can take constant sequence $u_0^\epsilon = u_0$ (no approximation required).

Variational existence theory

- **Regularized** WED functionals for NS: For $\operatorname{div} u = 0$, $F^\epsilon(u) =$

$$\int_0^\infty e^{-t/\epsilon} \int_\Omega \left\{ \frac{1}{2} |\partial_t u + u \cdot \nabla u|^2 + \frac{\sigma}{2} |u \cdot \nabla u|^2 + \frac{\nu}{2\epsilon} |\nabla u|^2 \right\} dx dt.$$

Theorem (Variational approach to Navier-Stokes)

Let $\sigma > 1/8$ and let $u^\epsilon \in U^\epsilon$ be a minimizer of F^ϵ . Then, there exists a subsequence (not relabeled) such that

$$u^\epsilon \rightharpoonup u \quad \text{in } L^2(0, \infty; V_1), \quad \partial_t u^\epsilon \rightharpoonup \partial_t u \quad \text{in } L^2(0, \infty; V'_s),$$

$s > 5/2$, and $u \in L^2(0, \infty; V_1) \cap L^\infty(0, \infty; H)$ is a Leray-Hopf solution with $\partial_t u \in L^2(0, \infty; V'_s)$ and $u(0) = u_0$. Moreover, for a. e. $T > 0$,

$$\|u(T)\|^2 + 2\nu \int_0^T \|\nabla u(t)\|^2 dt \leq \|u_0\|^2.$$



Sketch of proof.

- Let u^ϵ be **minimizer** of F^ϵ , $\epsilon \downarrow 0$.
- **A priori estimates** (from minimality, EL equations): For $\sigma > 1/8$,

$$\|u^\epsilon(T)\|^2 + 2\nu \int_0^T (1 - e^{-t/\epsilon}) \|\nabla u^\epsilon(t)\|^2 dt \leq \|u_0^\epsilon\|^2, \quad T > 0.$$

$$\|\partial_t u^\epsilon\|_{L^2(0,\infty;V'_s)} + \|u^\epsilon \cdot \nabla u^\epsilon\|_{L^2(0,\infty;V'_s)} \leq C, \quad s > 5/2.$$

- **Compactness**, $s > 5/2$, $\exists u \in L^2(0,\infty;V) \cap L^\infty(0,\infty;H)$ s. t.

$$u^\epsilon \rightharpoonup u \quad \text{in } L^2(0,\infty;V), \quad u^\epsilon \overset{*}{\rightharpoonup} u \quad \text{in } L^\infty(0,\infty;H),$$

$$\partial_t u^\epsilon \rightharpoonup \partial_t u \quad \text{in } L^2(0,\infty;V'_s), \quad \Delta u^\epsilon \rightharpoonup \Delta u \quad \text{in } L^2(0,\infty;V'_s)$$

- **Aubin-Lions**: $u^\epsilon \rightarrow u$ in $L^2_{\text{loc}}(0,\infty;H) \Rightarrow u^\epsilon \cdot \nabla u^\epsilon \rightharpoonup u \cdot \nabla u$ in $L^2(0,\infty;V'_s)$.

- Passing to the **causal limit** $\epsilon \downarrow 0$, for all $\varphi \in C_c^\infty((0,\infty);V_s)$,

$$\int_0^\infty \int_\Omega \left(\partial_t u + u \cdot \nabla u - \nu \Delta u \right) \varphi dx dt = 0 \quad (\text{QED})$$



Dismount

Concluding Remarks

- *Transport problems* are formulated naturally in the framework of *geometric measure theory*
- *Weighted Energy-Dissipation (WED)* functionals (both kinetics and dynamics) supply a *minimum principle for the entire trajectory* of the system
- WED functionals bring *Calculus of Variations* to bear on time-dependent evolution problems
- Approximation by restriction (à la *Galerkin*):
 - *Wasserstein*-type metrics (action, dissipation...)
 - *Push-forward operations* (*exact geometrical updates*)
 - *Transport maps* (updated Lagrangian formulation)
- Powerful tools of analysis (*weak convergence*, compactness, lower-semicontinuity...)



Adopt a measure

