

# 固気流動層内での物体浮沈挙動の 離散粒子シミュレーション

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「乾式分離精製のための粉体工学研究の最前線」

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# Difficulty of granular problems and discrete particle numerical simulation

- Co-existence of fluid-like & solid-like state
- High particle concentration ✖invisible
- High degree of freedom: Large number of particles
- Multi-scale: micro → macro
- Multi-physics: Various physics exist  
(✖hydrodynamics effects by surrounding fluid)



“粉は魔物”

= A world still highly depending on experience and intuition

Prediction and physical elucidation  
by discrete particle numerical simulation

# Dense gas-solid flows

Dense gas-solid flows  
= gas + highly-concentrated  
solid particles

e.g.) Fluidized bed, spouted bed,  
pneumatic conveyer

Gas-Solid hydrodynamic interactions  
+  
Solid-solid contact interactions



- Very complex flows
- **Emergence (創発) of mesoscopic structures dominating the flows** (e.g., Bubbles, clusters)

Gas-solid bubbling  
fluidized bed

## Fluid(CFD)

### Spatially-averaged equations

- Equation of continuity

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \varepsilon + \nabla \cdot (\varepsilon \mathbf{u}) = 0$$

- Equation of motion

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} (\varepsilon \mathbf{u}) + \nabla \cdot (\varepsilon \mathbf{u} \mathbf{u}) = -\frac{\varepsilon}{\rho_f} \nabla p + \mathbf{f}_{p \rightarrow f}$$

( Anderson & Jackson, 1967)

$\varepsilon$  : void fraction  
 $\mathbf{u}$  : fluid velocity  
 $\mathbf{f}_{p \rightarrow f}$  : fluid-particle force  
 $p$  : pressure

## Particle(DEM)

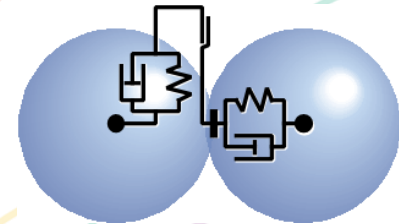
- Translational equation of motion

$$m_i \dot{\mathbf{v}}_i = \sum_j \mathbf{f}_{cij} + \mathbf{f}_{f \rightarrow p_i} + m_i \mathbf{g}$$

- Rotational equation of motion

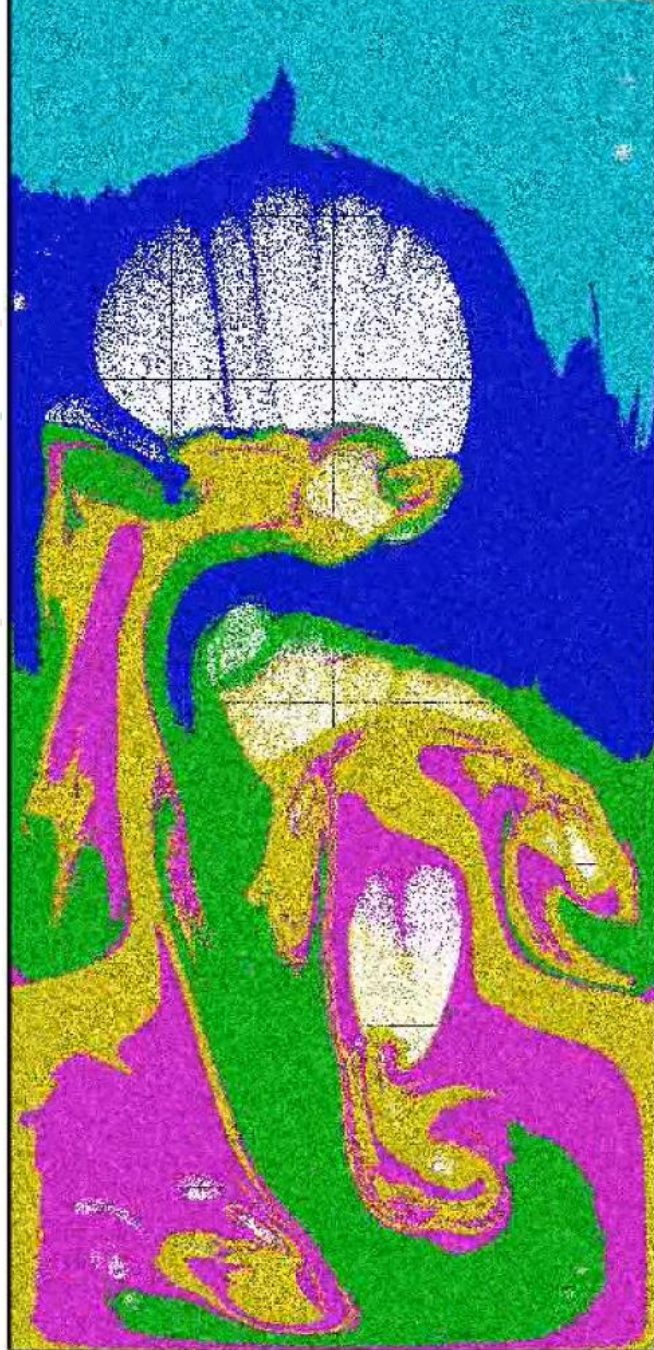
$$I_i \dot{\boldsymbol{\omega}}_i = \sum_j \mathbf{M}_{ij}$$

$\mathbf{v}_i$  : particle velocity  
 $\mathbf{f}_{cij}$  : contact force  
 $\mathbf{f}_{f \rightarrow p_i}$  : fluid-particle force  
 $I_i$  : moment of inertia  
 $\boldsymbol{\omega}_i$  : angular velocity  
 $\mathbf{M}_{ij}$  : torque

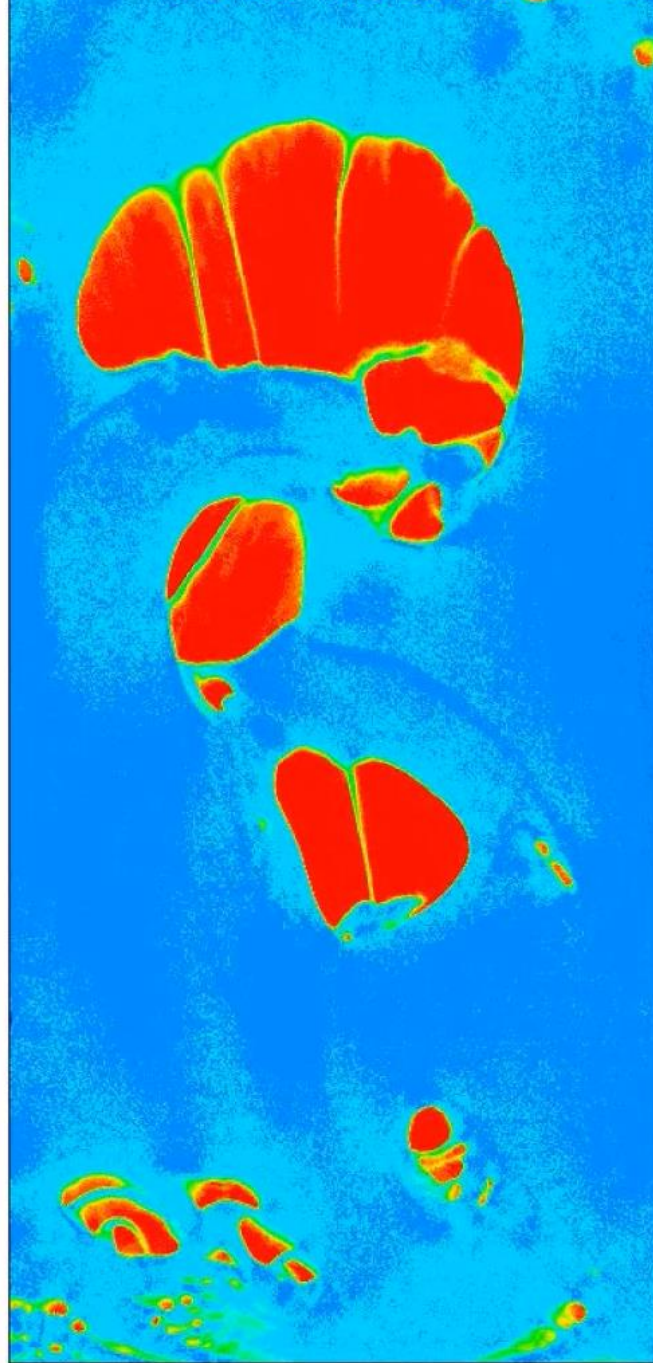


Particle motion is considered individually

# Particle motion



# Void fraction



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DEM-CFD of  
bubbling  
fluidized bed

$N_p = 20$  million  
 $d_p = 2\text{mm}$

$\Delta x / d_p = 2.5$

$L / d_p = 10^3$

# Large solid objects in FBs

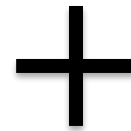
In a number of fluidized bed applications, **large solids are coexisting with small emulsion particles**

Gasification, Combustion, **Separation**, Granulation

$O(10\mu\text{m} - 1\text{mm})$



Sand



$O(1 - 10\text{mm})$



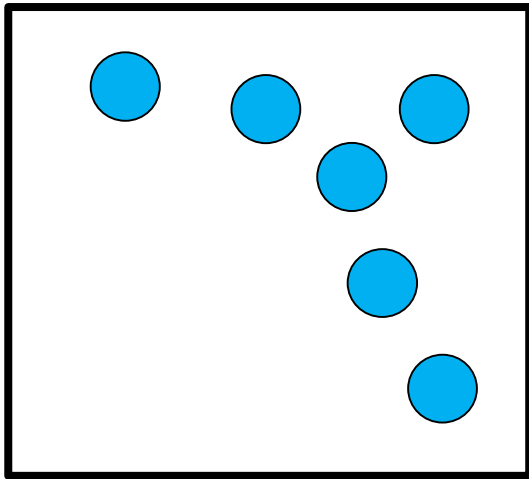
Large solid objects

(Wooden biomass, incombustibles)

$$\frac{\text{Large object}}{\text{sand}} = \frac{O(1 \sim 10\text{mm})}{O(10\mu\text{m} \sim 1\text{mm})} = O(1 \sim 1000)$$

# Momentum exchange between solids and fluid

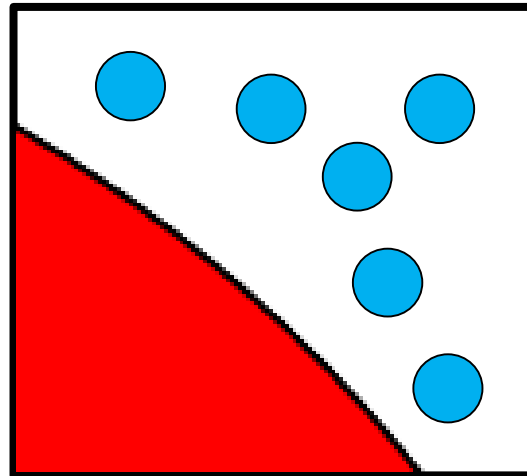
$$d_{\text{particle}} < \Delta x$$



$\Delta x$

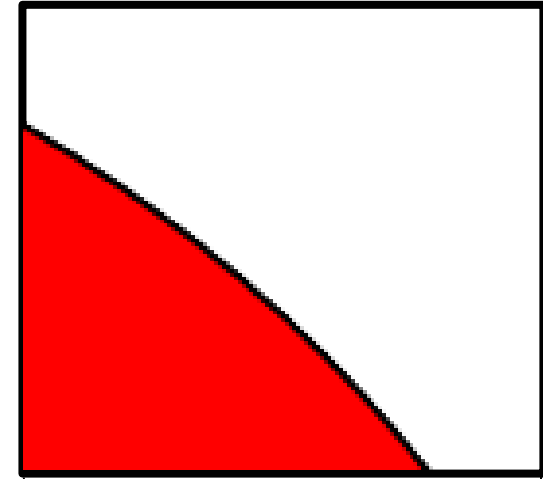
DEM-CFD

$$d_{\text{particle}} < \Delta x < d_{\text{sphere}}$$



$\Delta x$

$$\Delta x < d_{\text{sphere}}$$



$\Delta x$

DNS

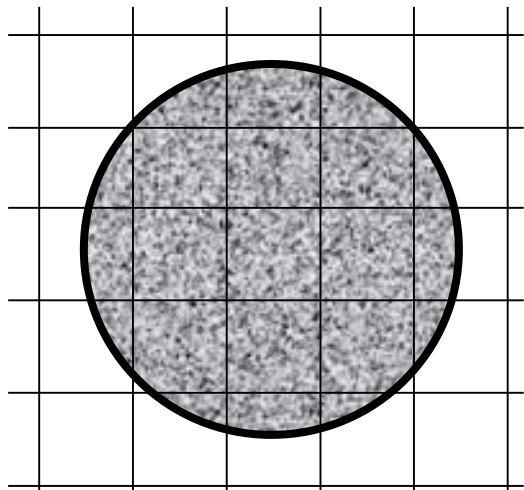
How to treat the momentum exchange especially for cells including both small and large solids?

# Volume penalization method

Kolomenskiy & Schneider (J. Comput. Phys., 2009)

- A resolved DNS method for solid-fluid interactions
- Solid is assumed to be a porous media, fictitiously. When the permeability  $\eta$  goes to zero, the object will be a solid
- Penalization term which expresses the resistance due to the existence of porous media is added to N-S eq.

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\mathbf{u}\mathbf{u}) = -\frac{\nabla p}{\rho_f} + \nu \nabla^2 \mathbf{u} + \frac{\chi(\mathbf{x})}{\eta} (\mathbf{U}_{\text{solid}} - \mathbf{u})$$



$\eta$ : permeability

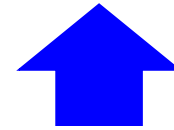
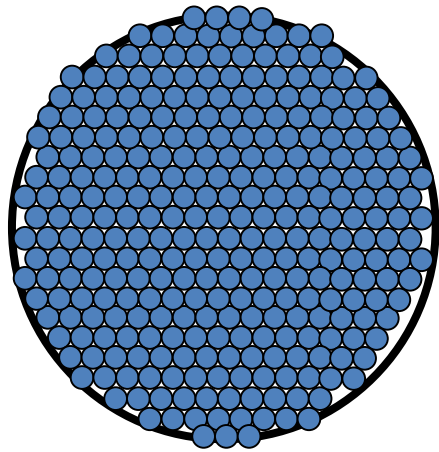
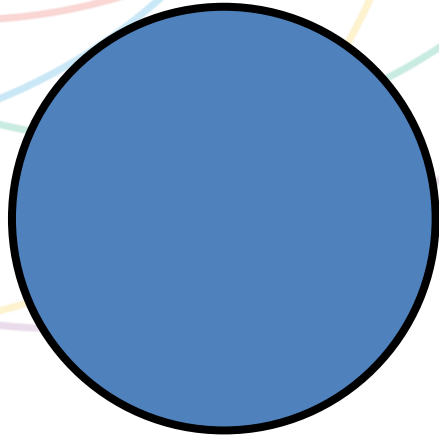
$$\chi(\mathbf{x}) = \begin{cases} 1 & \mathbf{x} \in \bar{\Omega}_{\text{solid}} \\ 0 & \mathbf{x} \in \Omega_{\text{fluid}} \end{cases} \quad \text{:mask function}$$



# Fictitious particle method(FPM)

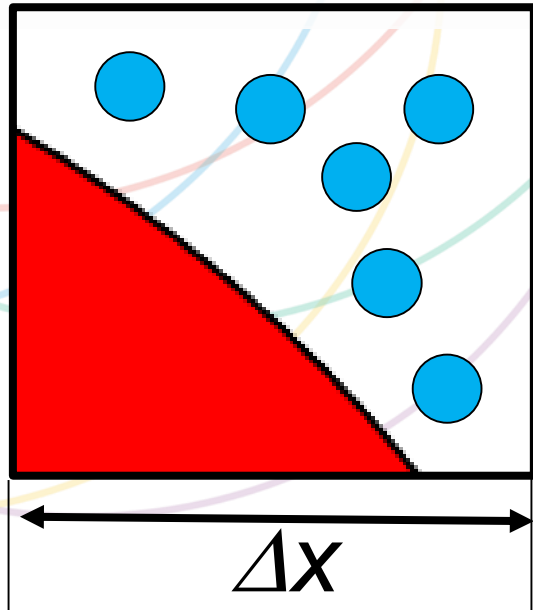
Tsuji et al. (AIChE J., 2014)

Only when the momentum exchange between solids and gas is considered, sphere is assumed to be an agglomerate of small particles, FICTITIOUSLY

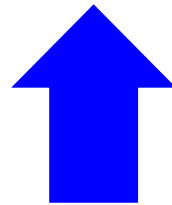


Sphere would be a solid when the fictitious particles are **small enough and highly packed**

# Fictitious particle method (cont.)

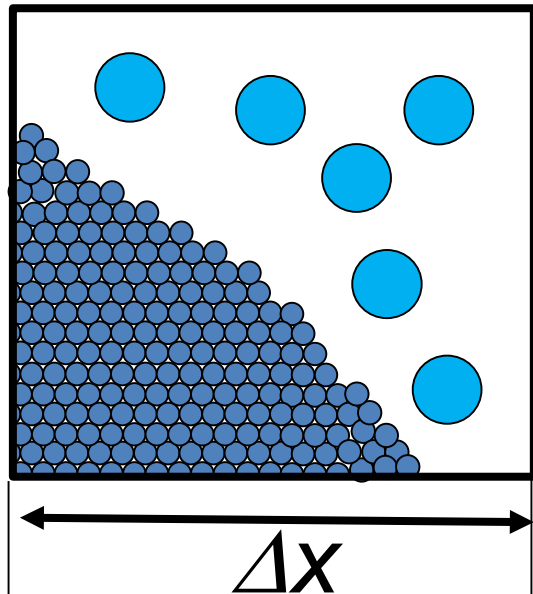


cells including both particles & small fictitious particles



Local homogeneity

use **conventional drag correlations as a binary system** (particle & small fictitious particle)



$$\beta = \begin{cases} \frac{\mu(1-\varepsilon)}{\langle d \rangle^2 \varepsilon} [150(1-\varepsilon) + 1.75 Re] & (\varepsilon \leq 0.8) & \text{Ergun} \\ \frac{3}{4} C_D \frac{\mu(1-\varepsilon)}{\langle d \rangle^2} \varepsilon^{-2.7} Re & (\varepsilon > 0.8) & \text{Wen \& Yu} \end{cases}$$

$\langle d \rangle$  : Sauter mean diameter

# Governing equations of fluid

- Eq. continuity

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \varepsilon + \nabla \cdot (\varepsilon \mathbf{u}) = 0$$

- Eq. momentum

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} (\varepsilon \mathbf{u}) + \nabla \cdot (\varepsilon \mathbf{u} \mathbf{u}) = -\frac{\varepsilon}{\rho_f} \nabla p + \varepsilon \nu \nabla^2 \mathbf{u} + \frac{\beta}{\rho_f} (\bar{\mathbf{U}} - \mathbf{u})$$

same term with conventional  
DEM-CFD model

$\rho_f / \beta$  corresponds to permeability  $\eta$  in VP method

VP method:

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\mathbf{u} \mathbf{u}) = -\frac{\nabla p}{\rho_f} + \nu \nabla^2 \mathbf{u} + \frac{\chi(\mathbf{x})}{\eta} (\mathbf{U}_{\text{solid}} - \mathbf{u})$$

# Governing eq. of particle & sphere

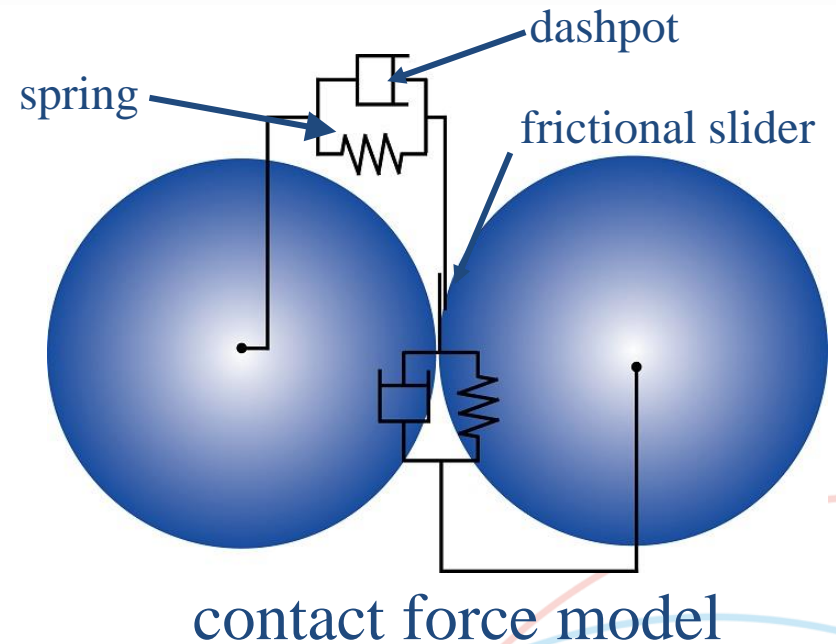
- Translational motion:

$$m\dot{\mathbf{v}}_i = \sum_j \mathbf{f}_{Cij} + \mathbf{f}_{Di} + m\mathbf{g}$$

contact force
fluid force
gravity

- Rotational motion:

$$I\dot{\omega}_i = \sum_j \mathbf{M}_{ij}$$

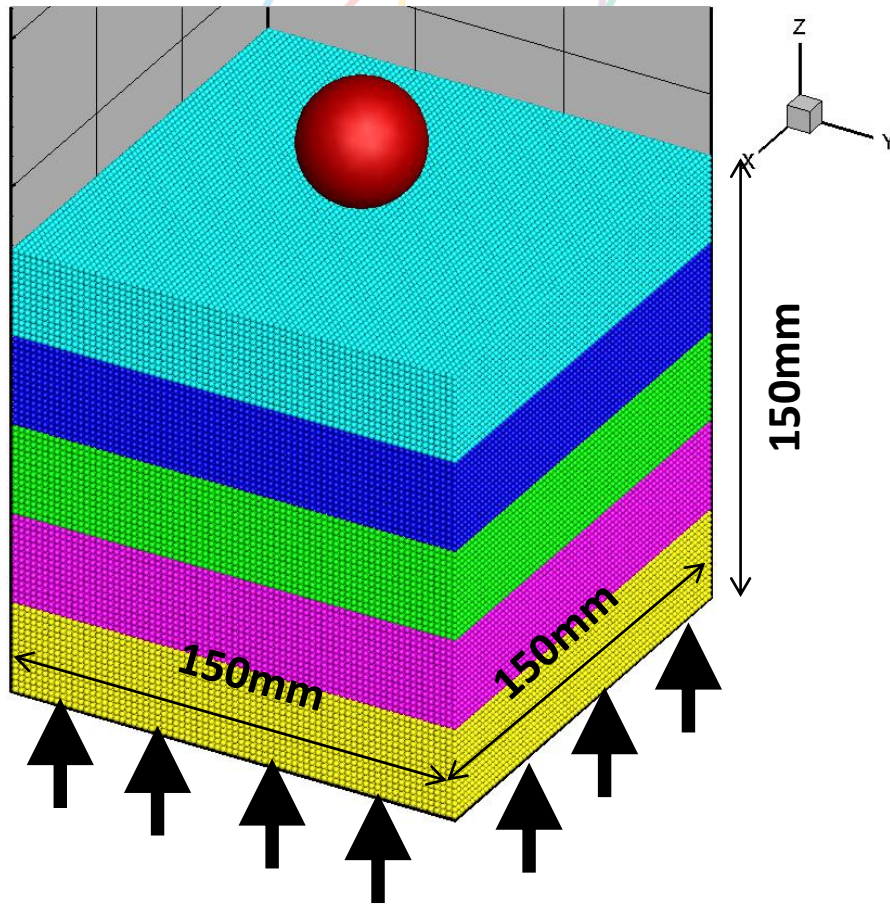


fluid force working on particle:

$$\mathbf{f}_{Dpi} = \left\{ \frac{\beta}{1-\varepsilon} (\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{U}_{pi}) - \nabla p \right\} V_p$$

fluid force working on sphere:  $\mathbf{f}_{Dsi} = \int_{sphere} \left\{ \beta (\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{U}_{si}) - (1-\varepsilon_s) \nabla p \right\} dV$

# Single sphere in bubbling FB



Uniform air inflow

(superficial velocity 1.4 m/s  $> u_{mf}$ )

particle:

$d_{\text{particle}} = 2.3\text{mm}$  glass particle

$\rho_{\text{particle}} = 2430\text{ kg/m}^3$

sphere:

$d_{\text{sphere}} = 40\text{mm}$

$\rho_{\text{sphere}}/\rho_{\text{bulk}} = 0.75, 1.01, 1.61$

(apparent density of particle bed is  $\rho_{\text{bulk}} = 1530\text{kg/m}^3$ )

$$d_{\text{particle}} : d_{\text{sphere}} = 1 : 17.2$$

model parameters

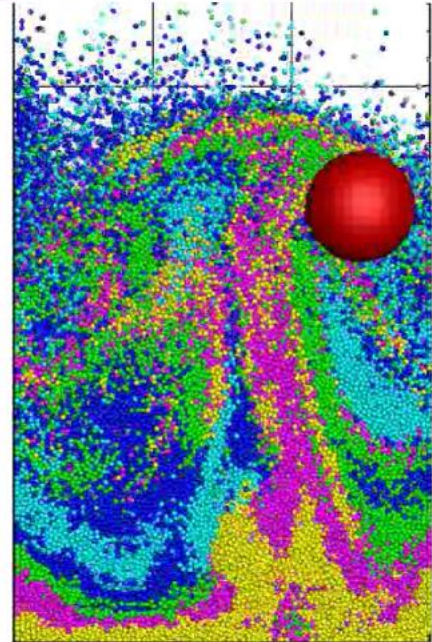
$$d_{\text{fic}} = d_{\text{particle}}/2, \alpha_{\text{fic}} = 0.74$$

# Motion of solids

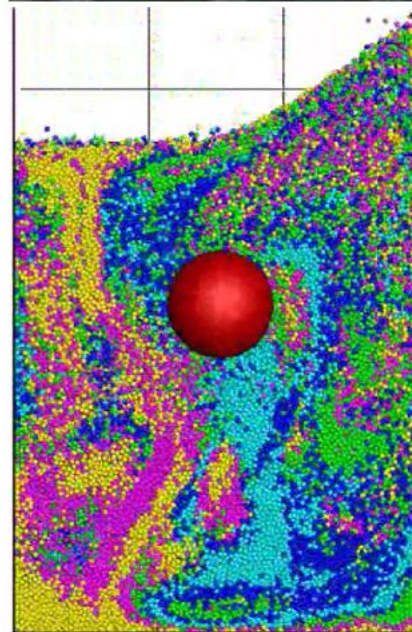


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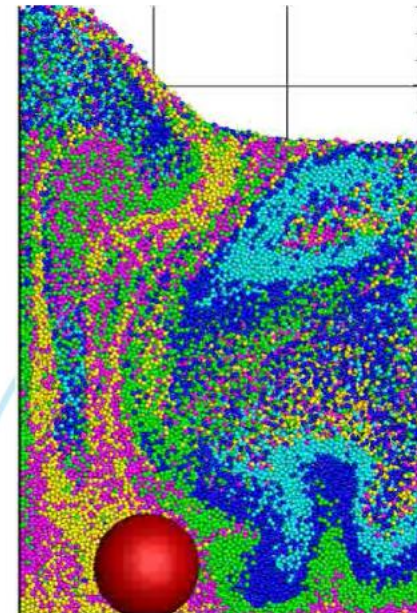
$$\rho_{\text{sphere}}/\rho_{\text{bulk}}=0.75$$



$$\rho_{\text{sphere}}/\rho_{\text{bulk}}=1.00$$

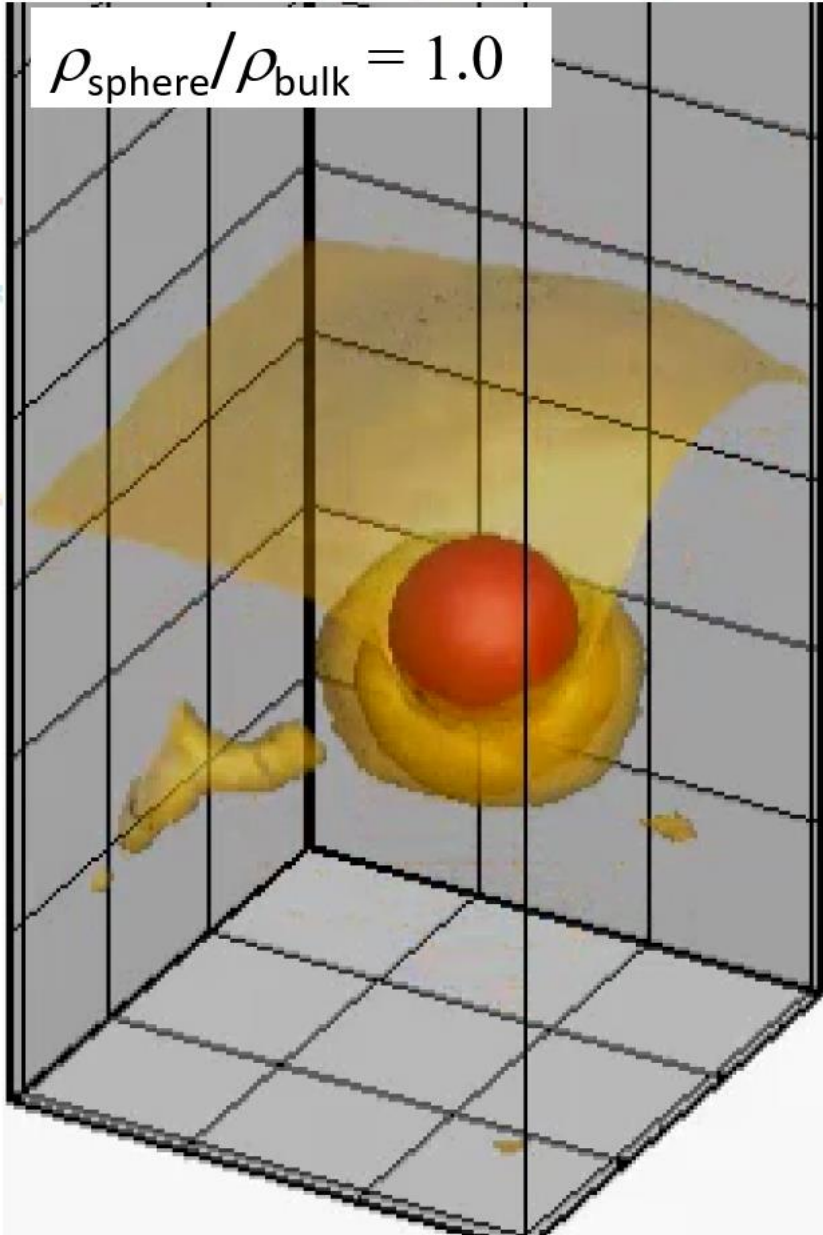


$$\rho_{\text{sphere}}/\rho_{\text{bulk}}=1.61$$

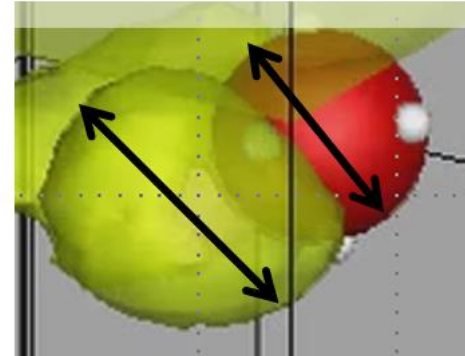


# Bubble observation ( $\varepsilon = 0.8$ iso-surface)

$$\rho_{\text{sphere}} / \rho_{\text{bulk}} = 1.0$$



$$d_{\text{bubble}} \approx d_{\text{sphere}}$$

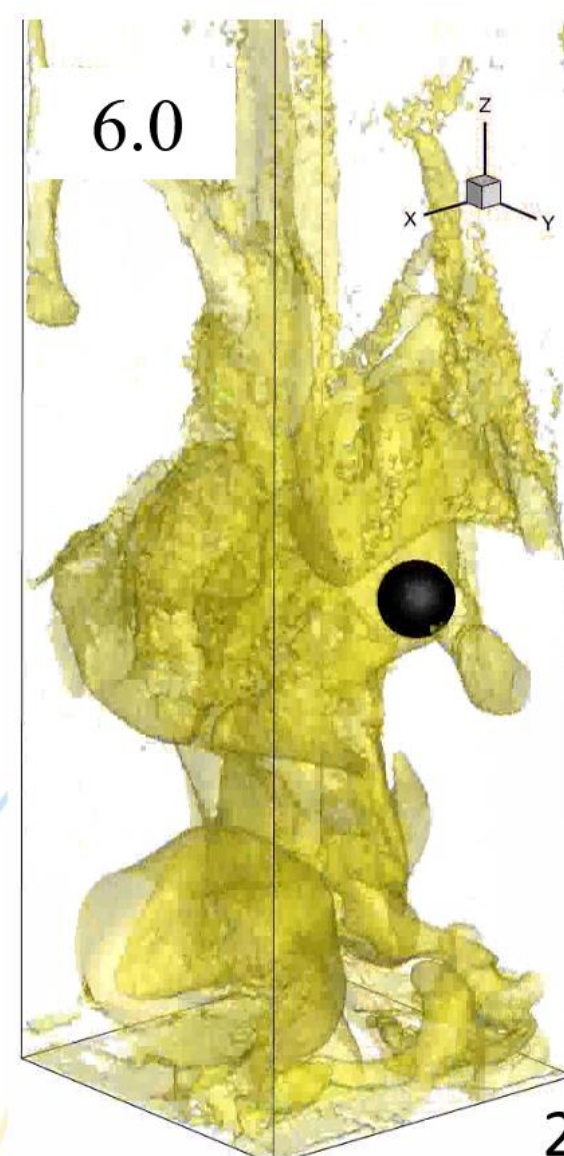
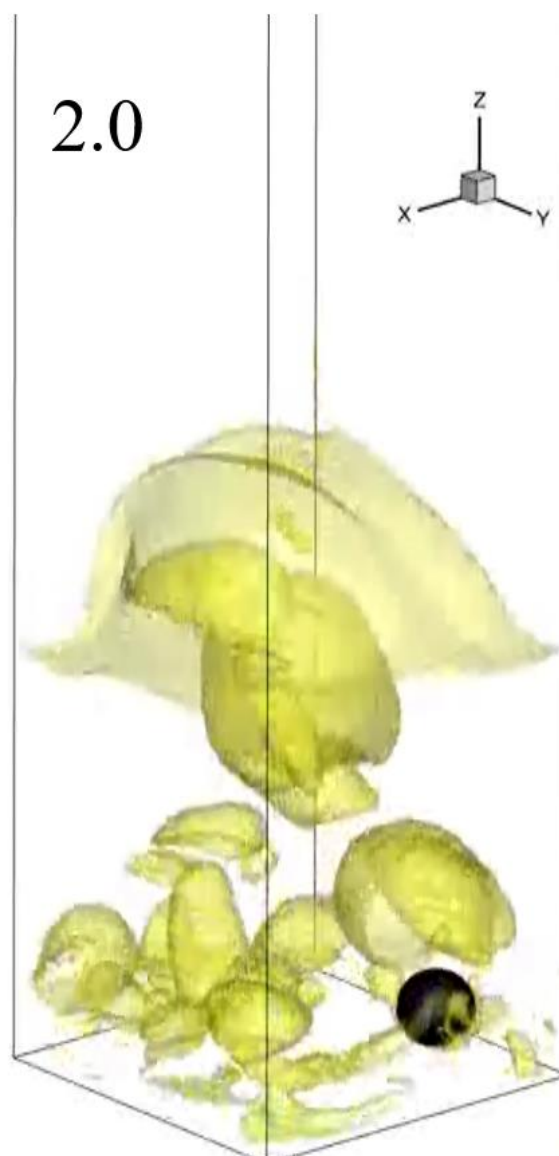
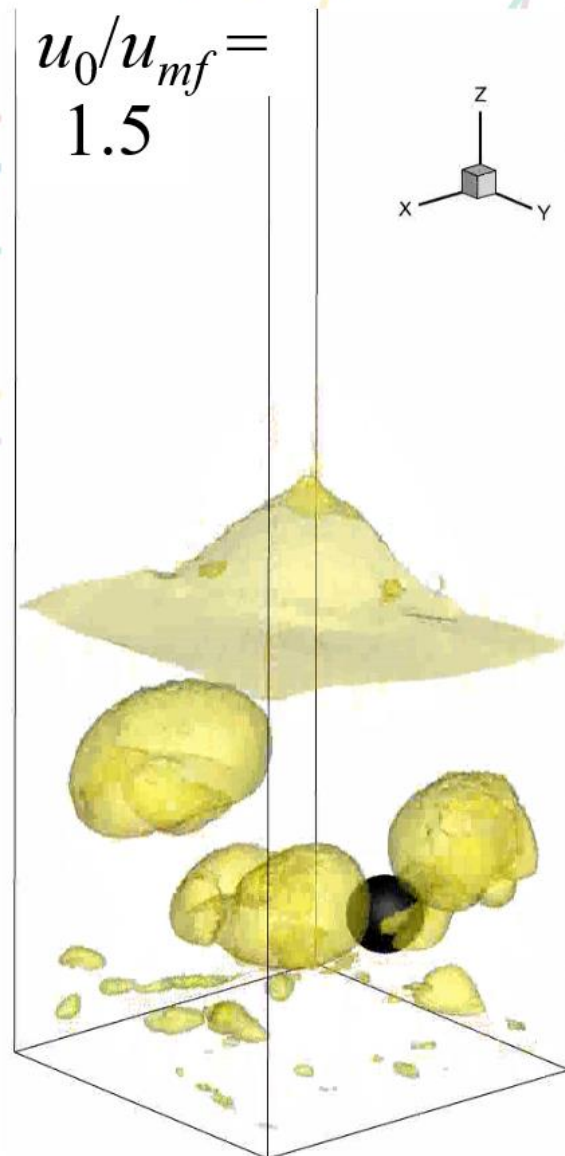


Sphere motions are largely influenced by bubbles

Sphere is NOT small comparing to bubbles. It is impossible with conventional DEM-CFD

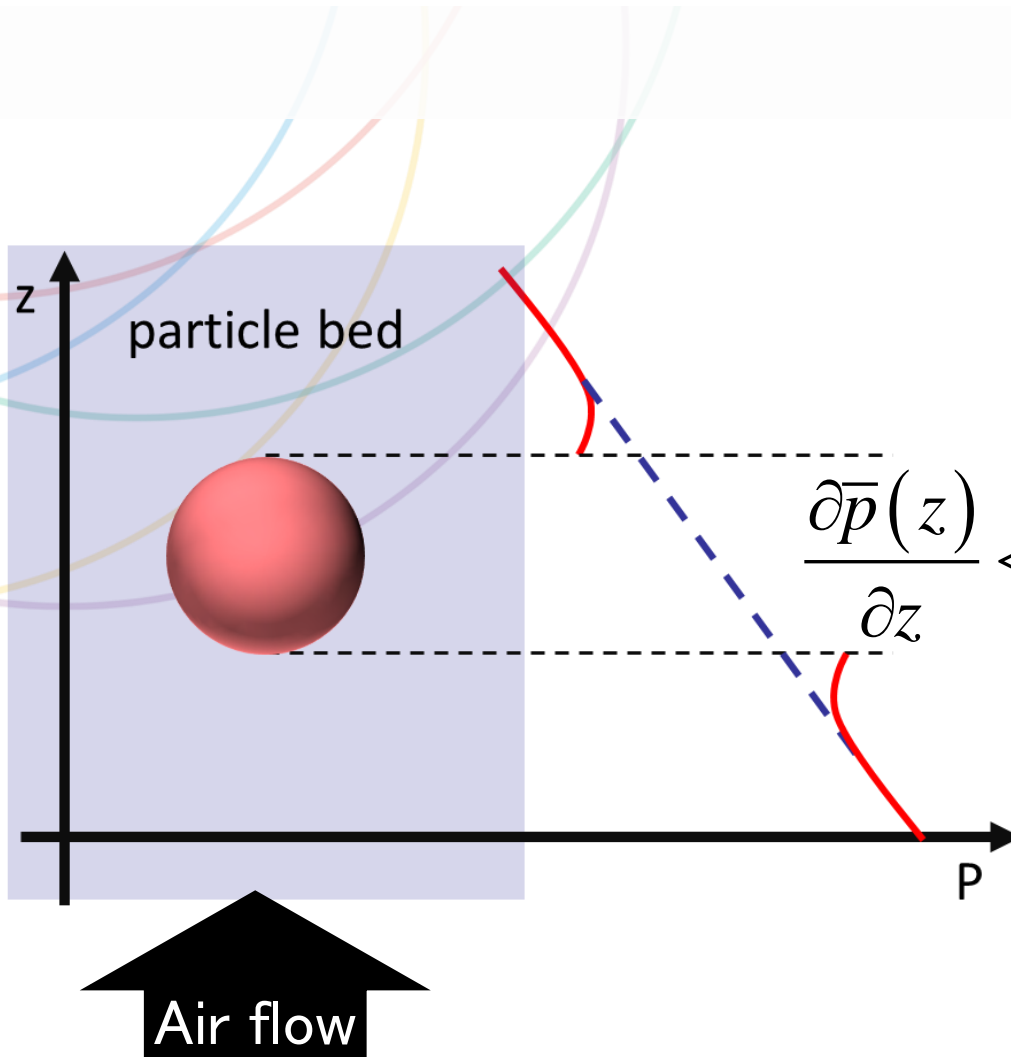
# Bubble structure

$\varepsilon=0.8$  iso-surface  
Playspeed x1/10





# Upward force due to gas pressure gradient



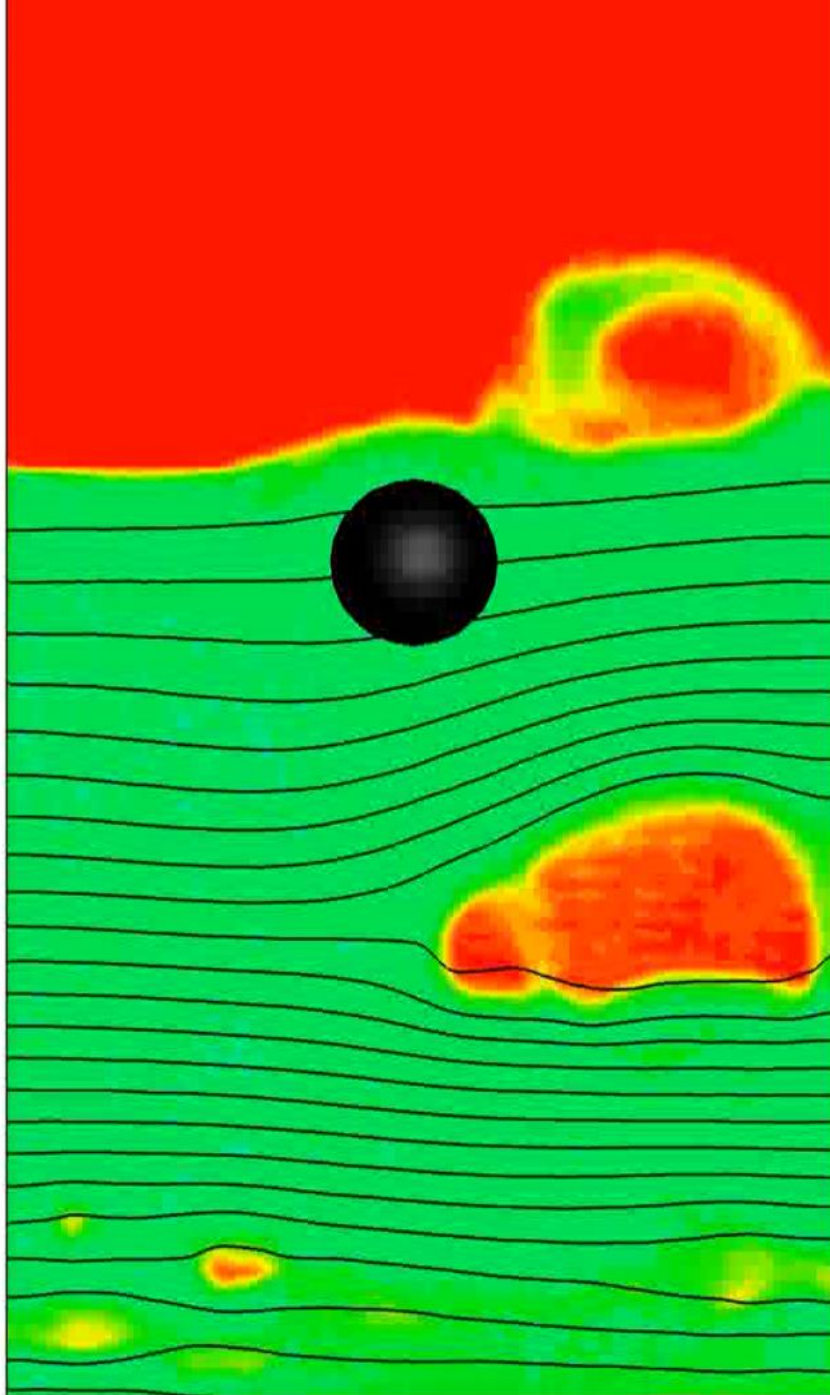
$$\begin{aligned} F_{fluid} &= F_{viscous} + F_{pressure} \\ &\approx F_{drag\_pressure} + F_{buoyancy} \\ &= -\int \nabla p dV \end{aligned}$$



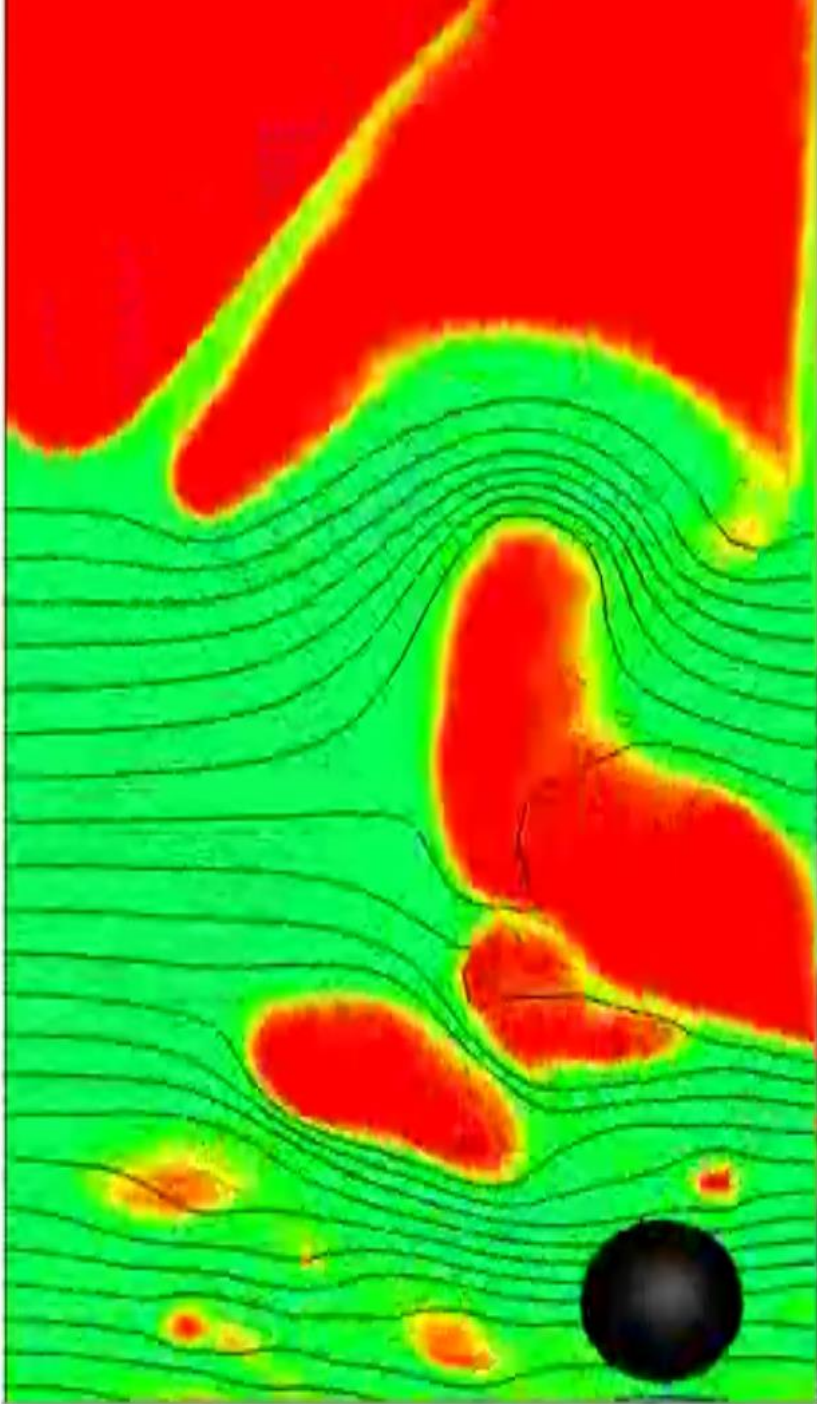
$$u_0/u_{mf} = 1.5$$

$\Delta p = 100$  Pa for successive iso-lines

- Moderate bubbling fluidization
- Pressure gradient is almost uniform in the bed excepting the vicinity of bubbles



$$u_0/u_{mf}=2.0$$

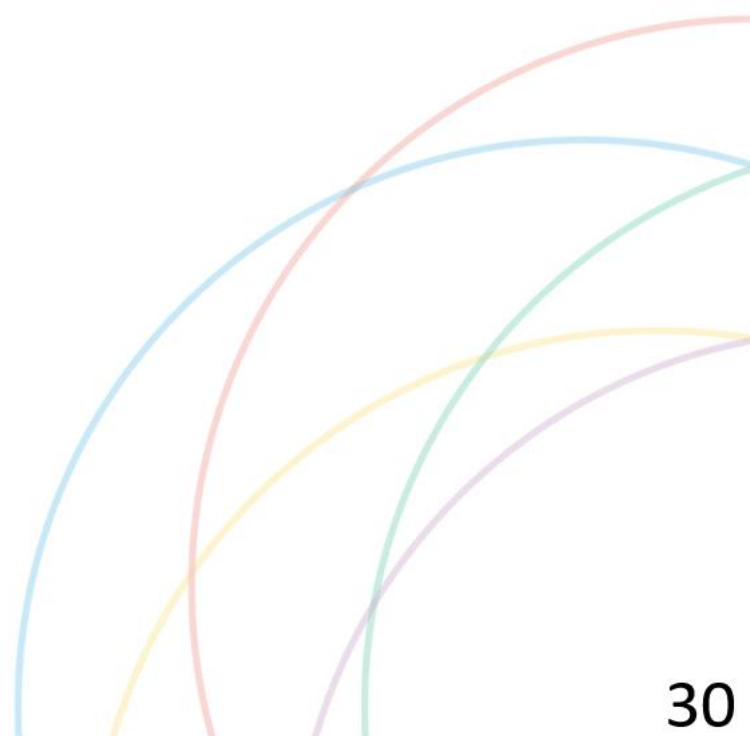
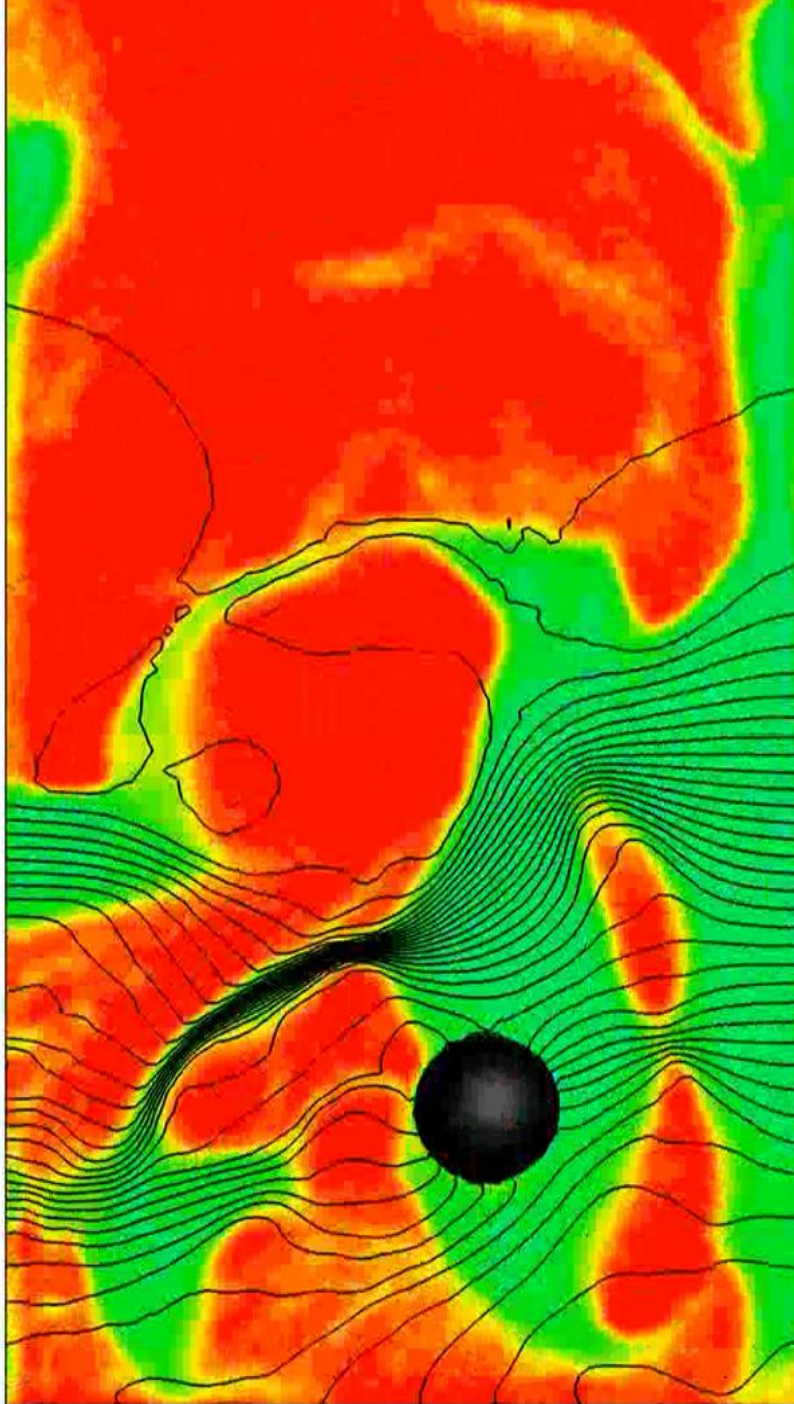


$\Delta p=100$  Pa for successive iso-lines

- Inhomogeneity is enhanced
- Large bubble nucleation just above the distributor

$$u_0/u_{mf}=6.0$$

$\Delta p=100$  Pa for successive iso-lines



1. Gas pressure gradient force is dominant for the floating of large objects in FBs
2. Sphere is at rest in higher gas velocity ( $U_0/U_{mf} = 6.0$ ). Floating is due to occasional formation of dense phase and sudden large gas pressure gradient.
3. Floating at higher gas velocity cannot be explained by an AVERAGED PICTURE (e.g., apparent density of the bed)

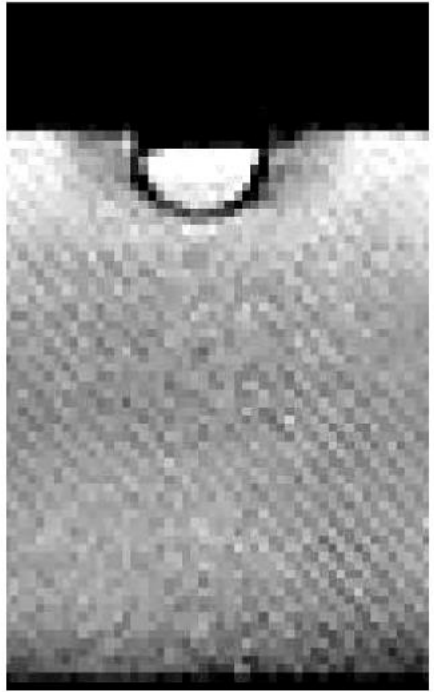
# Real-time MRI measurement (center slice)

$$U_0/U_{mf} = 0.95$$

Temporal resolution: 45 msec

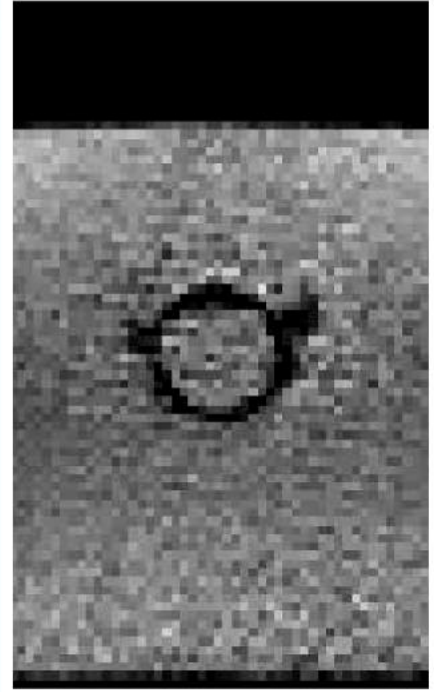
Spatial resolution: 2.5x2.5x10 mm

$$\rho_{\text{sphere}}/\rho_{\text{bulk}} = 0.65$$



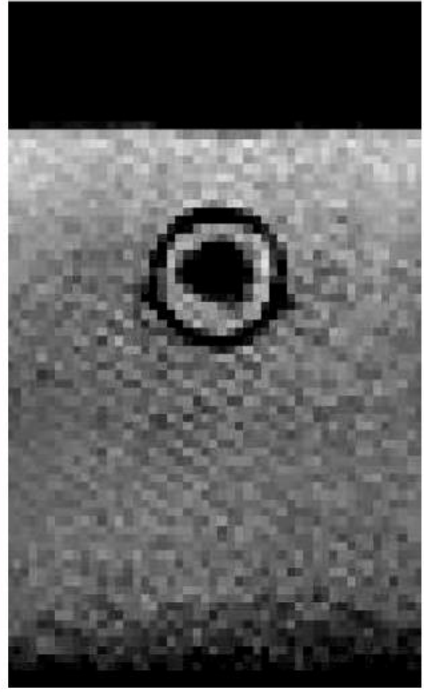
- Local bubbling
- Half-immersed & Floating

$$1.00$$



- Local bubbling and detachments
- Slow sinking
- Stopped at a deep depth

$$1.20$$



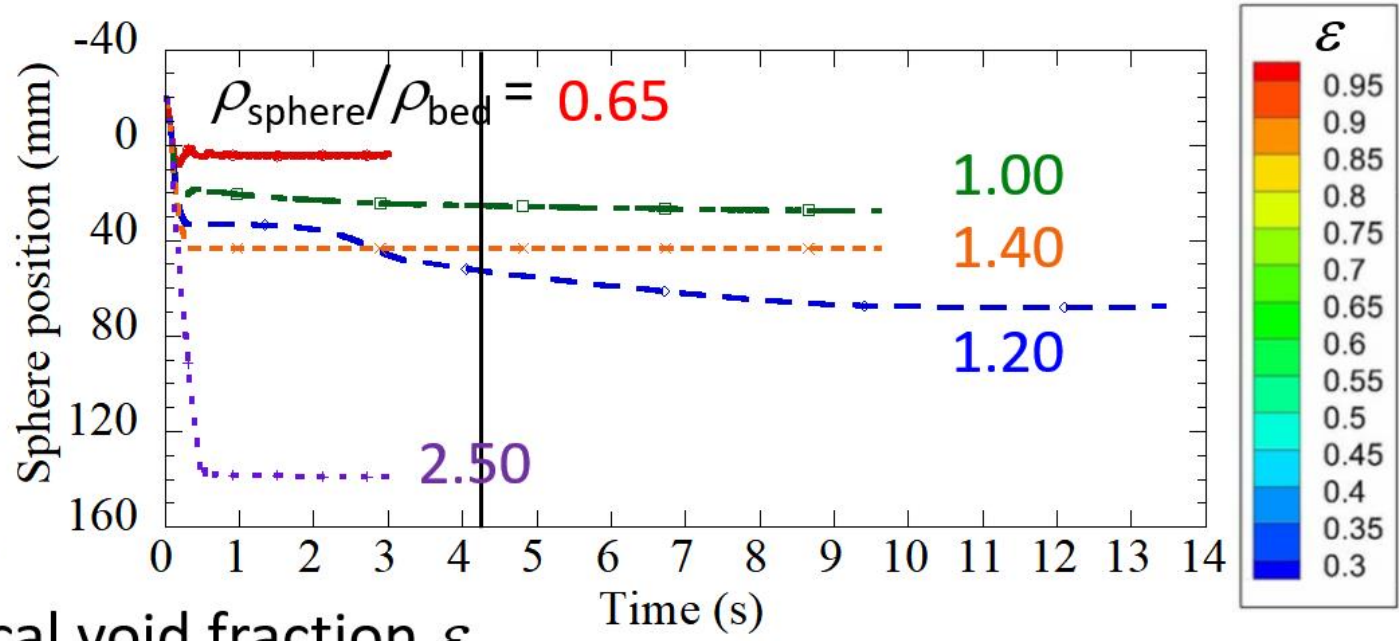
- No bubble detachments
- Fast sinking
- Stopped at a certain depth

$$2.50$$

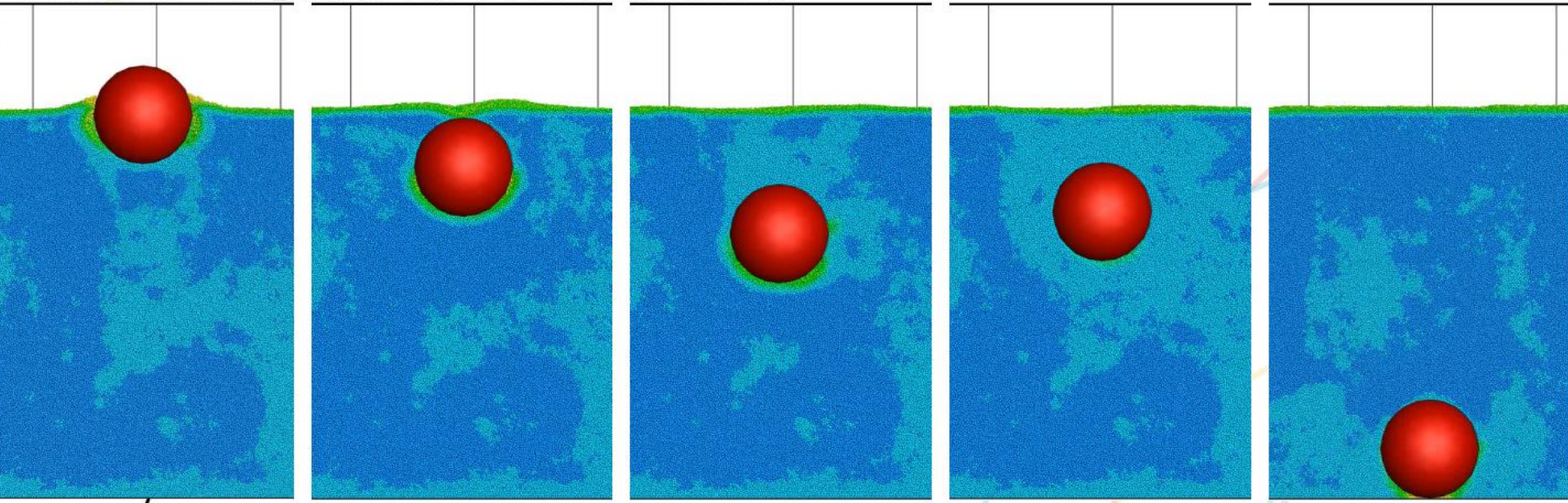


# Numerical results

$$U_0/U_{mf} = 0.95$$



Contour shows local void fraction  $\varepsilon$



$\rho_{\text{sphere}}/\rho_{\text{bed}} = 0.65$

1.00

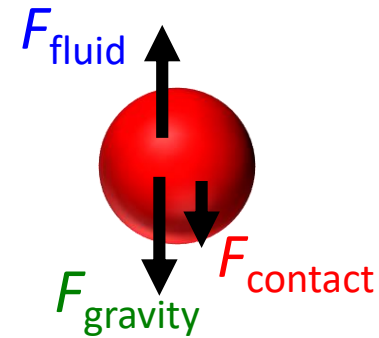
1.20

1.40

2.50

1. Anomalous sinking at  $\rho_{\text{sphere}}/\rho_{\text{bulk}} \approx 1.0$  is due to the attenuation of pressure gradient force caused by bubble detachments from the surface of large object

2. It cannot be explained by an AVERAGED PICTURE (e.g., the bed is at a solid-like state under  $U_0/U_{\text{mf}} \approx 0.95$ )





# Influence of non-sphericity



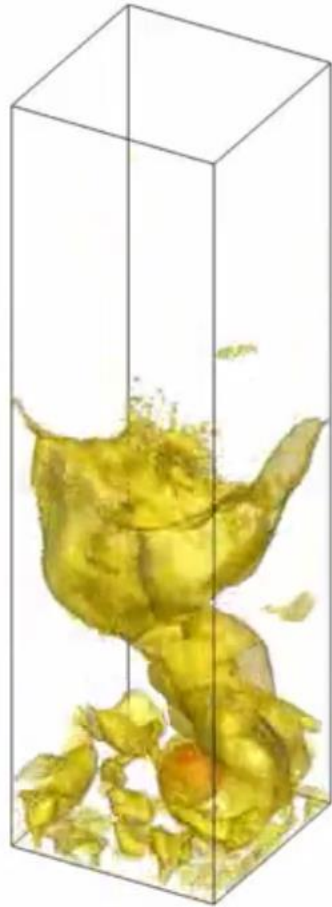
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All shapes keep the same volume and mass

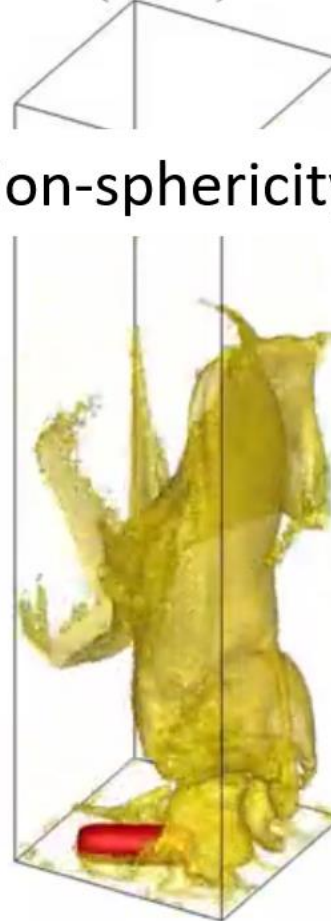
Sphere



Cylinder  
(AR1:2)



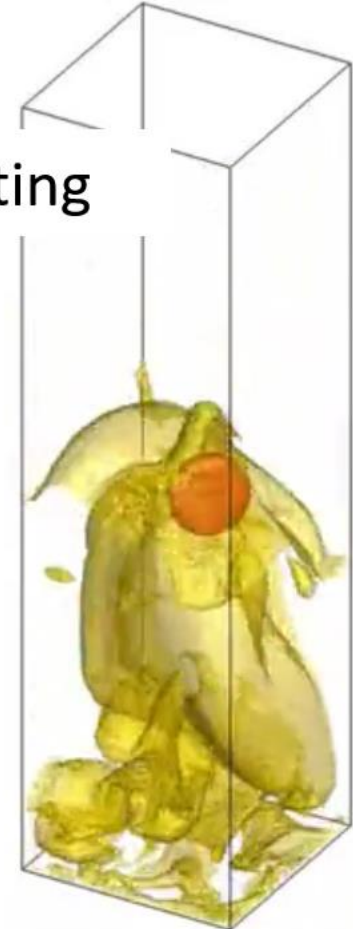
Cylinder  
(AR1:3)



Disk  
(AR1:2)



Disk  
(AR1:3)



Non-sphericity enhances floating

iso-surface  $\varepsilon=0.8$

It is not explainable by the buoyancy effect only

(Tsuji et al., *Chem. Eng. Sci.*, 2022)

# Summary

1. DEM-CFD simulation based on cutting-edge models with modern computers is a **powerful tool to explore complex granular flows**
2. Fictitious particle model (FPM) is good for large particle size difference:
  - **reproduced counterintuitive sinking/floating behaviors**
  - **enhanced essential understanding of flow physics**
3. Floating/sinking of large objects in FBs **cannot be described only by an averaged picture**
4. A lot of unknowns still remain for granular problems

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全ての粉粒体プロセスをサイエンスベースで最適化



# DENSE Ltd.

Discrete Element Numerical Simulation for Every industry

DENSE



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