

Microfluidic flow in single-layer dusty plasmas

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Wigner 121 Scientific Symposium



Motivation: dusty plasma experiments – open territories

Gas discharge



Dust (small solid particles)



Dusty plasma



Since the early years of research on strongly coupled dusty plasmas, hydrodynamics (among other branches) has always appeared to be one of the topics that might be impacted by dusty plasma research, allowing rapid progress in the understanding of various phenomena.



Dusty plasma analogues: (a) nonlinear waves and (b), (c) shocks (Merlino et al., 2012), (d) dust grid pattern in external magnetic field (Thomas et al., 2015), (e) 2D honeycomb monolayer (Max Planck Institute), f) electrorheological dusty plasma (PK-4 lab), (g) folding of filamentary structures (Hyde et al., 2013). [https://sites.baylor.edu/eva_ko stadinova/2019/05/]

Motivation: dusty plasma experiments – particle transport



Boundary layer



G. E. Morfill et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 92 (2004) 175004.

Motivation: dusty plasma experiments – particle transport



Inter-penetration



V. I. Molotkov et.al., Int. J. Microgravity Sci. Appl. 35(3) (2015) 320302.

Motivation: dusty plasma experiments – particle transport



M. Schwabe, M. Rubin-Zuzic, S. Zhdanov, A. V. Ivlev, H. M. Thomas, and G. E. Morfill, Phys. Rev. Lett. **102** (2009) 255005.

Complete madness

Motivation: dusty plasma experiments – particle confinement



G. E. Morfill & A. V. Ivlev, *Rev. Mod. Phys.* **81** (2009) 1353.

Wei-Yen Woon et al 2003 J. Phys. A: Math. Gen. 36 6103

More recent experiments: PK-4 @ ISS

PHYSICAL REVIEW RESEARCH 2, 033404 (2020)

Shear flow in a three-dimensional complex plasma in microgravity conditions

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However, the interdisciplinary breakthrough in this research branch is still waiting to come: the main difficulties are in the interpretation of the measured data, as it is problematic to distill the manifold of forces acting simultaneously on the dust particles.

[E.g., Lorentz force, gravity, radiation pressure, drag forces, thermophoretic force, ...]

In recent years **microfluidics** became a hot topic; the flow in narrow channels is of interest for high-tech applications in the fields of biology, chemistry, physics and environmental science. The flow in straight channels are usually assumed to be laminar and the dynamics is over-damped. So far the behavior of tracer particles (regular or irregular in shape) were used to analyze flow properties. Dusty plasmas provide new possibilities to understand microfluidic flows.

Microfluid research



By Shelly Fan - Feb 19, 2017 @ 12,729



Lab-on-a-chip delivers critical immunity data for vulnerable populations

By Marit Mitchell APRIL 25, 2018

Microfluid research



ISSN 1473-0197



PAPER Charactization of size-dependent mechanical properties of tip-growing cells using a lab-on-a-chip device Novel micro- and nano-technologies and fundamental principles

- Micro- and nano-fabrication (including 3D printing, thin films)
- Micro- and nano-fluidics (in continuous and segmented multiphase flow, droplet microfluidics, new liquids)
- Micro- and nano-systems (sensor, actuator, reaction)
- Micro- and nano-separation technologies (molecular and cellular sorting)
- Micro- and nano-total analysis system (µTAS, nTAS)
- Digital microfluidics
- Sample preparation
- Imaging and detection

Significant biological, chemical, medical, environmental and energy applications

- Nucleic acid biotechnology and analysis (DNA and RNA sequencing, genotyping, gene manipulation)
- Protein analysis (proteomics and metabolomics for targeted and global analysis)
- Medical diagnostics (for example point of care and molecular)
- Medical devices and treatments (including implantable and wireless)
- Drug development (screening and delivery)
- Cells, tissues, organs on chip and integrated tissue engineering
- 3D cell culture
- Single cell analysis
- Cell and organism motility and interactions
- Systems and synthetic biology and medicine
- Energy, biofuels, fuel extraction
- Environmental and food monitoring for health and security

Microfluid research

Lab-on-chip (LOC)

Transport of fluids can be active (e.g., by peristaltic pumping) or passive (enabling simple design)



Narayanamurthy at.al., RSC Adv., 2020, 10, 11652, DOI: 10.1039/d0ra00263a

This experiment was carried out in the new "large area discharge cell" of the CASPER laboratory at Baylor University.

The experiment uses a 16-inch flat horizontal electrode powered with 13.56 MHz RF electrical signal. The vacuum chamber and the upper horizontal mesh with adjustable height serve as grounded electrode for the argon gas discharge.





A single layer dusty plasma in the strongly coupled liquid phase was formed. To induce particle flow through a narrow channel, two metal disks were placed symmetrically on the powered electrode and indirect laser manipulation was applied to prevent the introduction of another unknown force onto the particles transiting through the channel. Depending on the discharge conditions, the flow pattern can be adjusted from single lane to multilane (up to 4) channel width.

The pushing laser is focused off-centered into the particle plane and is set to 5.5 W @ 532 nm.



Superposition of 7 subsequent frames

Single lane channel: Argon pressure: 8.0 Pa RF power: 65 W frame rate: 60 fps



Double lane channel: Argon pressure: 9.3 Pa RF power: 65 W frame rate: 60 fps



Superposition of 7 subsequent frames

Triple lane channel: Argon pressure: 10.2 Pa RF power: 65 W frame rate: 60 fps

Quadruple lane channel: Argon pressure: 10.7 Pa RF power: 65 W frame rate: 60 fps



Time-averaged distributions: particle density

For every case, 8,000 video frames @ 60 fps with a resolution of 512 x 2048 pixels were recorded. The spatial resolution was 62.8 pixel/mm. Coarse and high-resolution distributions of particle densities, velocities and accelerations were determined.



[90x23]

[720x180]

The driving force is the difference in density (pressure) between the two sides.



Time-averaged distributions: velocity (1 lane)



x [mm]

Time-averaged distributions: acceleration (1 lane)



Time-averaged distributions: velocity (3 lanes)



Time-averaged distributions: velocity (3 lanes)



x [mm]

Using the "classical" plasma crystal experimental arrangement (low power, plane-parallel RF discharge in some inert gas + monodisperse solid particles), and forming a stable single layer ensemble the system can be well approximated by a onecomponent plasma model.

Introducing indirect laser manipulation, the force balance remains simple (electrostatic + friction) and the microscopic insights can be useful to derive universal conclusions.

This work was supported by the Hungarian grant NKFIH-K134462 and NASA Grant number 1571701 and NSF Grant number 1740203 and the US Department of Energy, Office of Science, Office of Fusion Energy Sciences under award number DE-SC-0021334.



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