

Agglomeration and Granulation processes

Transport Rates of Adhering Liquid Films in Sheared Particle Beds

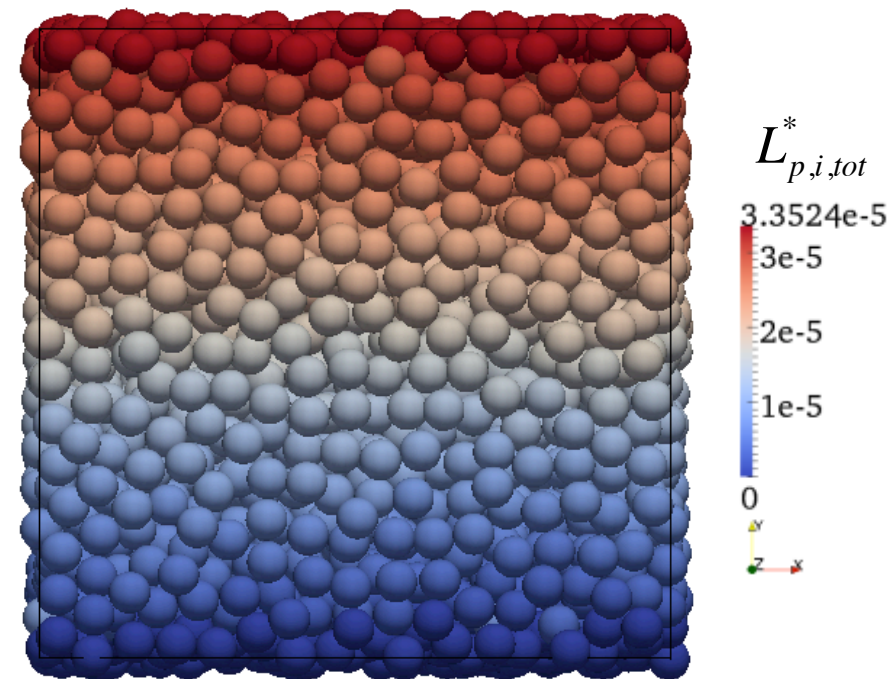
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San Francisco

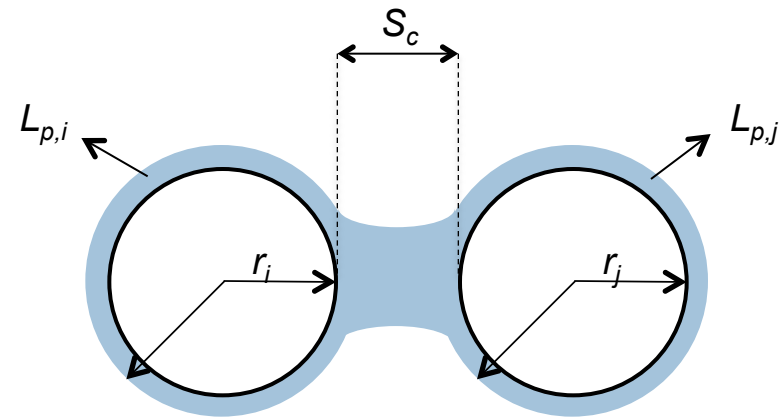
(14+4 mins)



- **Introduction**
- **Proposed models**
- **Single particle-particle collision**
- **Sheared particle beds**
- **Perspective – Rotating drum**
- **Conclusions**

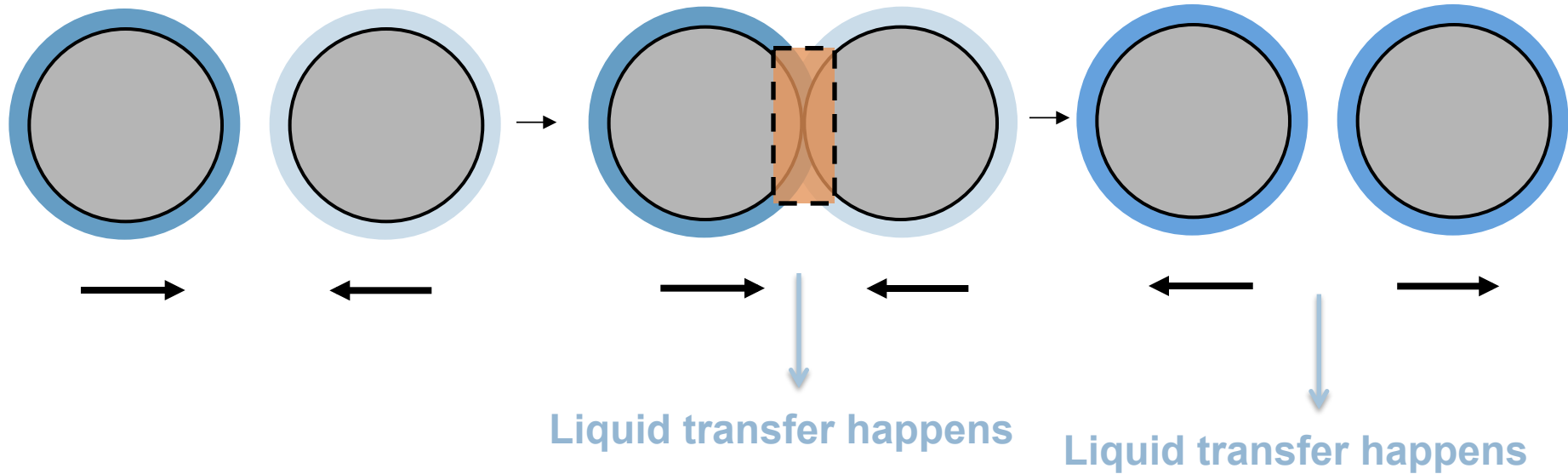
- Granular materials show extremely complex flow features.
- Prediction of wet granular flow difficult due to difficulties in describing liquid exchange during particle-particle collisions.
- A more rigorous model that is valid for all regimes would be of paramount industrial importance, e.g., to predict the distribution of liquid between particles more reliably in a
 - **granulation**,
 - **mixing**,
 - **drying or coating** applications
- Four liquid transfer models to predict the formation and rupture of liquid bridges and model for the conductive liquid flux for different flow regimes.

- **Model – A**
 - Conduction based simple liquid transfer rate model^[1]
- **Model – B1**
 - Instantaneous liquid transfer model based on surface contact of particles^[2]
- **Model – B2**
 - Instantaneous liquid bridge formation and rupture
- **Model – C**
 - Filling rate based model for drainage of liquid into the bridge



[1] Tomassone et al, Powder Technology 2012

[2] Shi and McCarthy, Powder Technology 2008



Model A

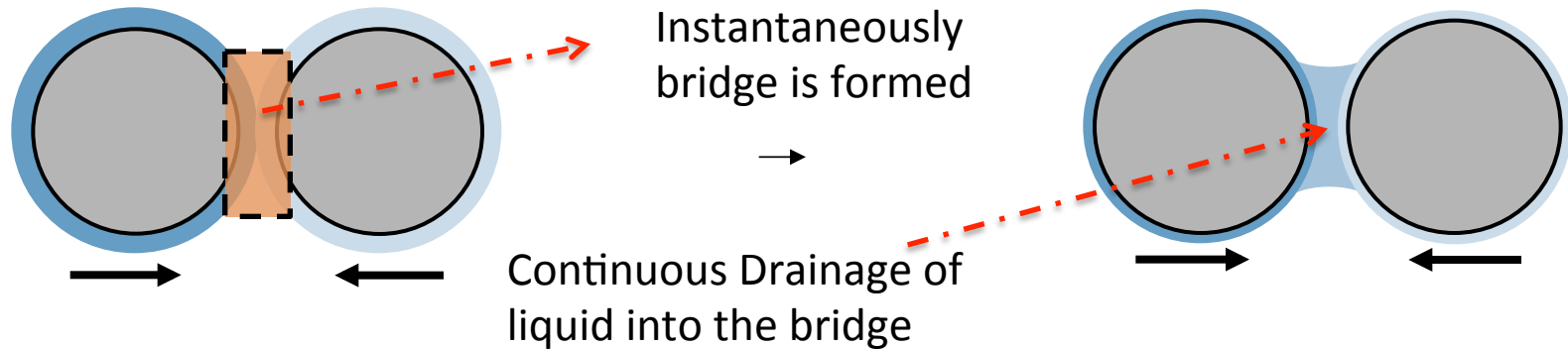
Transfer rate
based on Γ

Model B1

Calculation of bridge volume^[2]

Transfer of liquid between particles
instantaneously

Formation of liquid bridge



Model B2

Explicit Calculation of bridge volume^[2]

Instantaneous transfer of liquid into the bridge

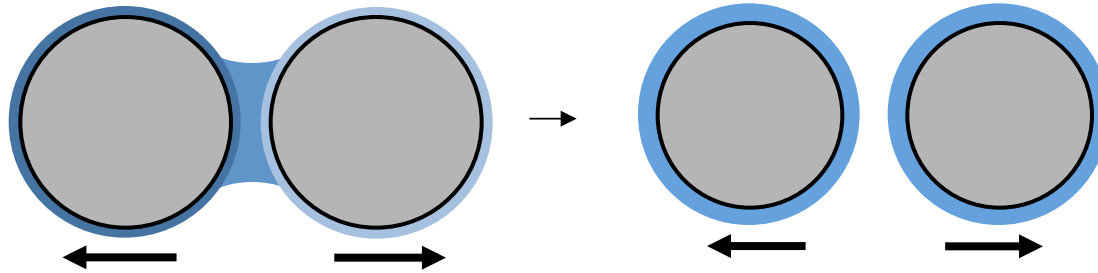
Model C

Drainage of liquid from the film into the bridge based on t_{ref}

$$t_{ref} = r_{eff} \cdot \frac{\mu_l}{\sigma_l}$$

Backflow of liquid from the bridge to liquid film is possible

Rupture of liquid bridges



Calculation of rupture distance

$$s_c = \|\delta\| - r_i - r_j$$

$$s_r = (1 + 0.5\theta) V_b^{1/3} \quad [3]$$

$$s_c \geq s_r$$

On rupture of liquid bridges

$$Q_i = \frac{V_b \cdot n}{\Delta t}$$

$$Q_j = \frac{V_b \cdot (1 - n)}{\Delta t}$$

Proposed Models

Key differences	Model A	Model B1	Model B2	Model C
Account of liquid Film thickness	No	No	Yes	Yes
Explicit calculation of Bridge volume	No	Not really (just at the end of collision)	Yes	Yes
Rupture distance	No	No	Yes	Yes
Effect of liquid viscosity and surface tension	Yes	No	No	Yes

$$\gamma^* = \gamma \cdot d_p / \sqrt{k_n / (\rho_p \cdot d_p)}$$

Dimensionless shear rate
Range^[4] : **10^{-4} to 1**

Based on dimensional analysis of main influencing parameters, we get two dimensionless numbers

$$\Gamma = t_{ref} / t_{shear} = \gamma \cdot r_{eff} \cdot \mu_l / \sigma_l$$

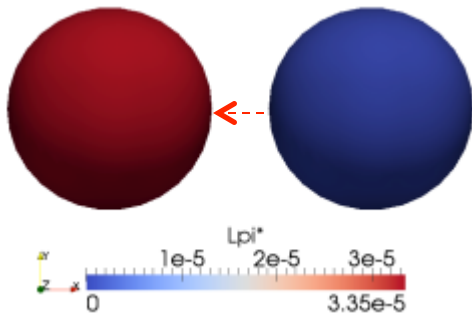
$$\varepsilon = h_o / r_{eff}$$

Range : **10^{-3} to 1**

Dimensionless liquid film thickness : **0.02**

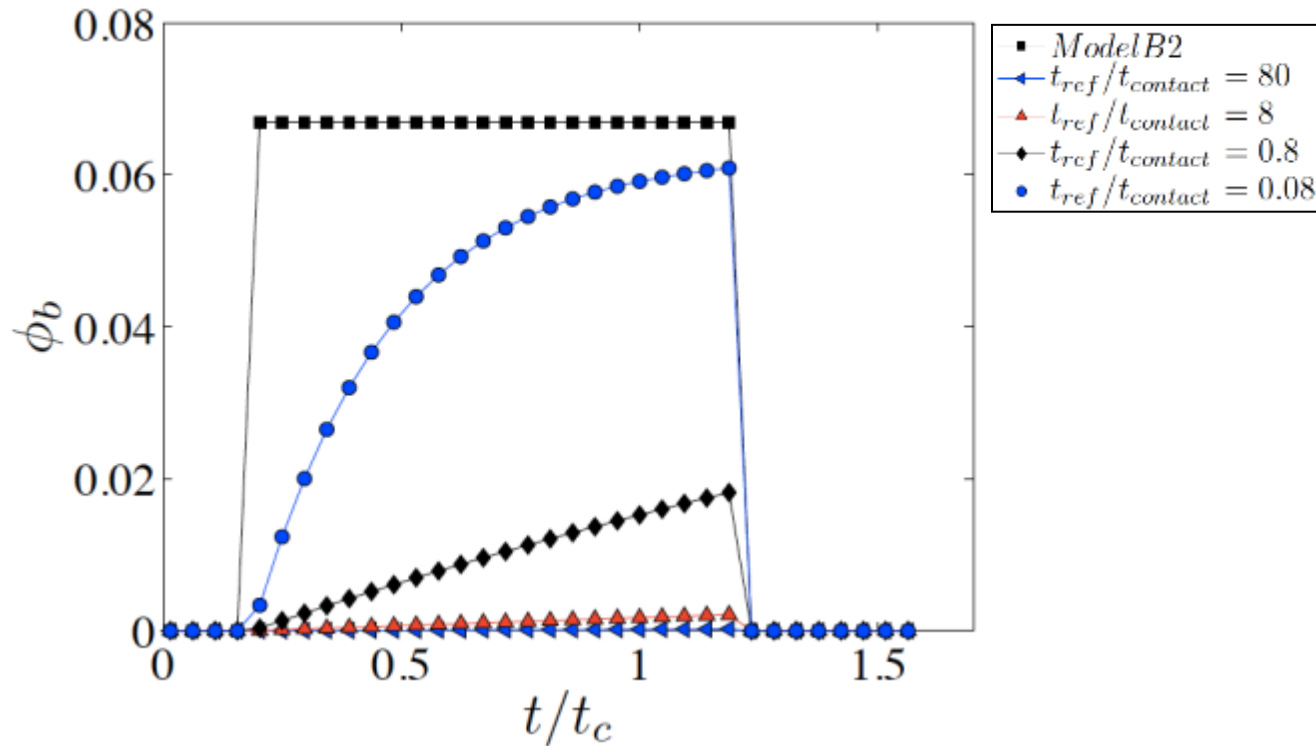
^[4] Chialvo et al, Physical Review E. 85 (2012).

Single particle-particle collision setup



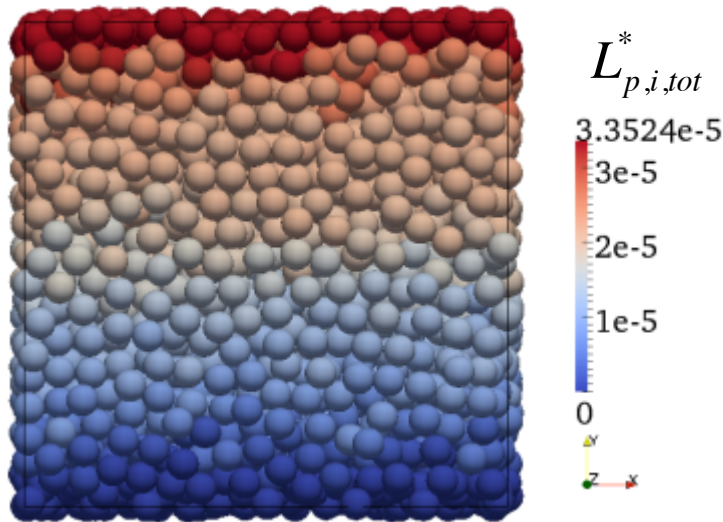
$$t_{ref} = r_{eff} \cdot \frac{\mu_l}{\sigma_l}$$

$$\phi_b = \frac{\text{Liquid in the bridge}}{\text{Total liquid on the particles}}$$



- Smooth
- Equal sized particles
- No force models

Simulation Setup



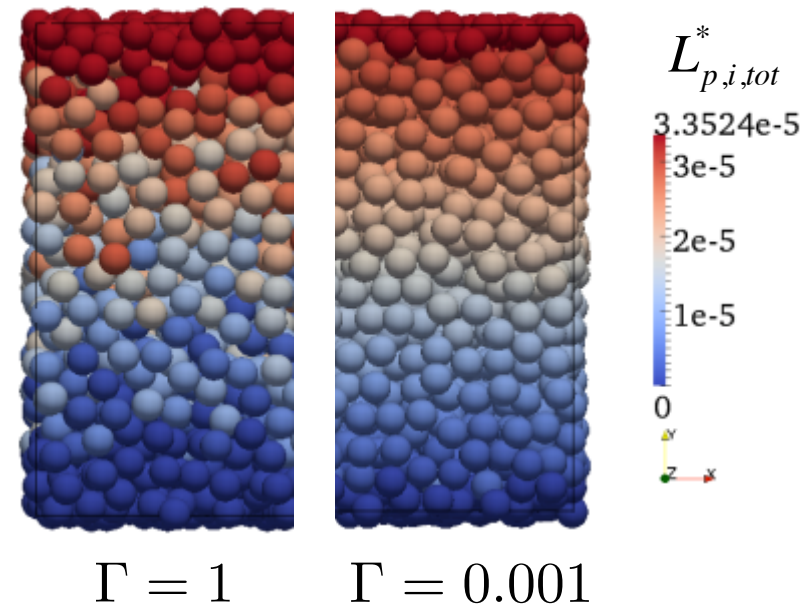
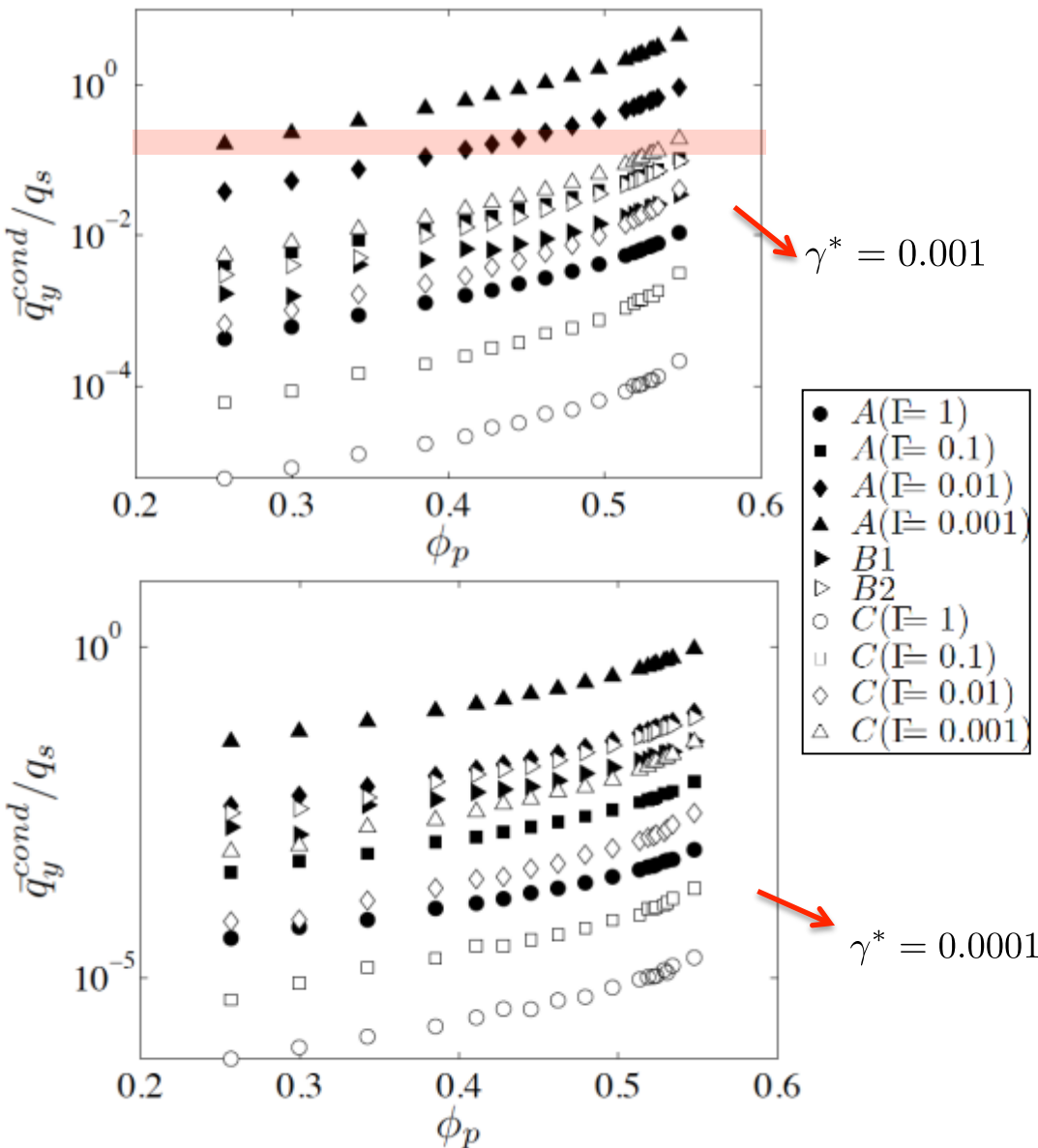
$$L_{p,i,tot}^* = L_{p,i,tot} / (r_{eff})^3$$

$$\mathbf{q}^{cond} = \frac{1}{V} \sum_c \mathbf{Q} \cdot \mathbf{r}_{ij}$$

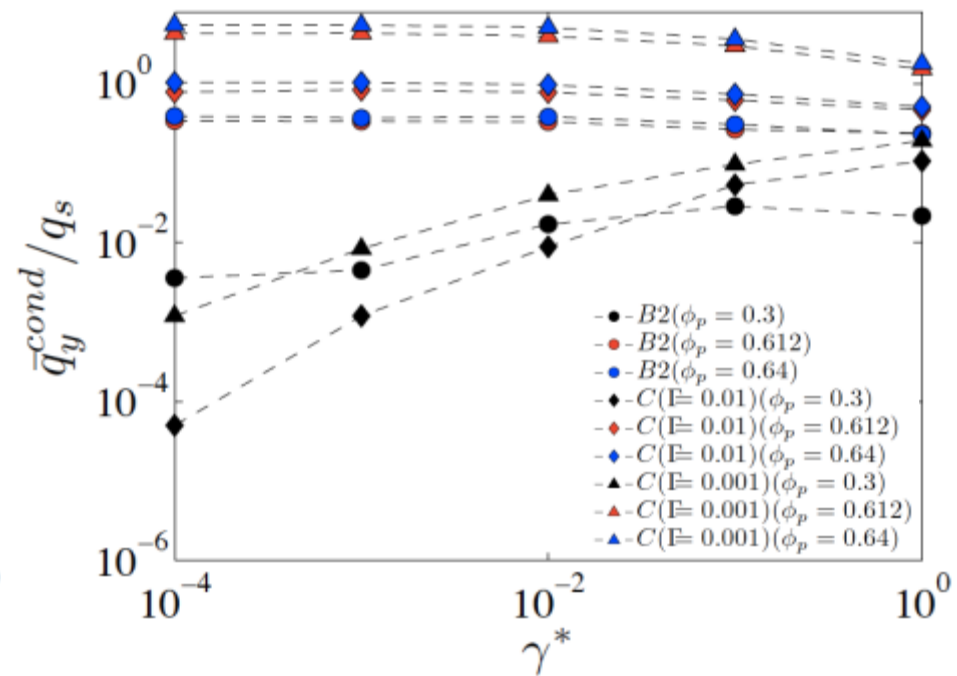
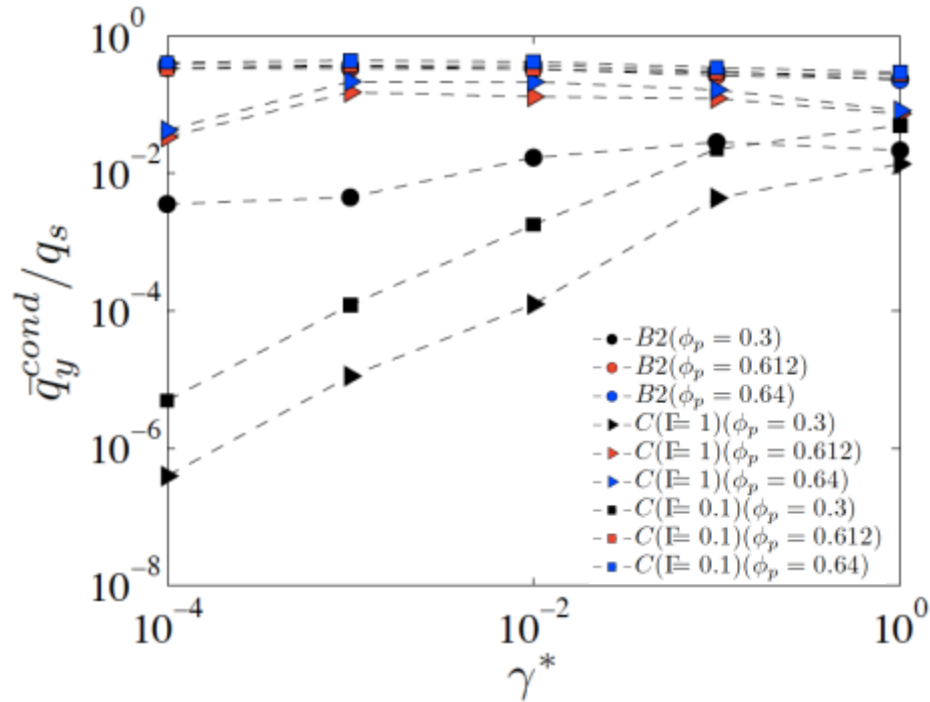
$$q_s = -\gamma \cdot \nabla_y L_{p,i} / d_p$$

- Particles placed in a **periodic box** ($H/d_p=15$).
- Particles stiffness based on dimensionless shear rate
- Dimensionless liquid film thickness is 0.02
- Particles near the **top boundary were fixed to be wet** ($L_{p,i,tot}^* = 3.35e-5$) and near the **bottom boundary were fixed to be dry** ($L_{p,i,tot}^* = 0$).
- Lees-Edwards boundary conditions^[5] used.
- Conductive liquid flux (q_y^{cond}) made dimensionless using q_s as the reference conductive liquid flux in the solid material the particles are made of.

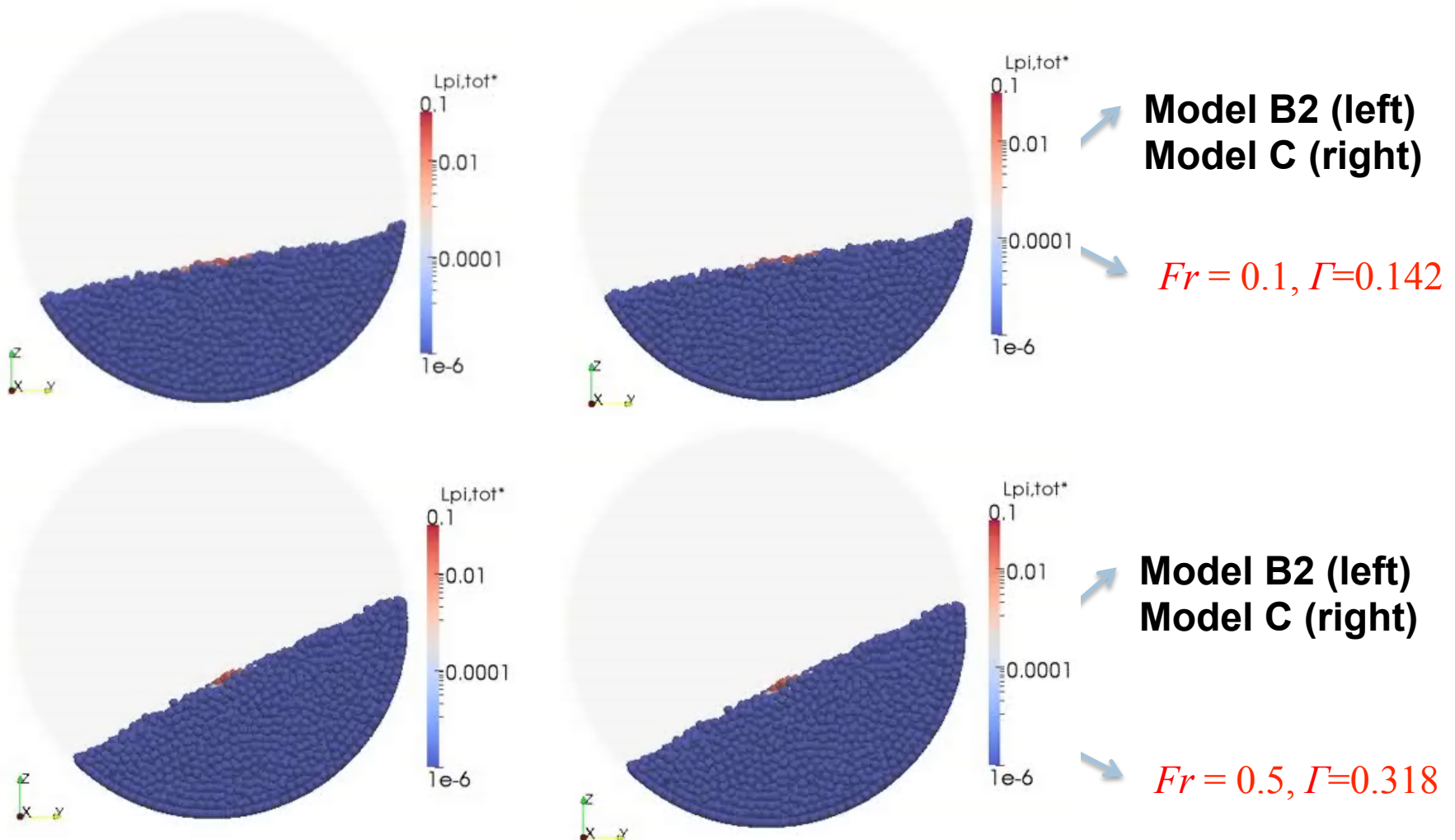
Results



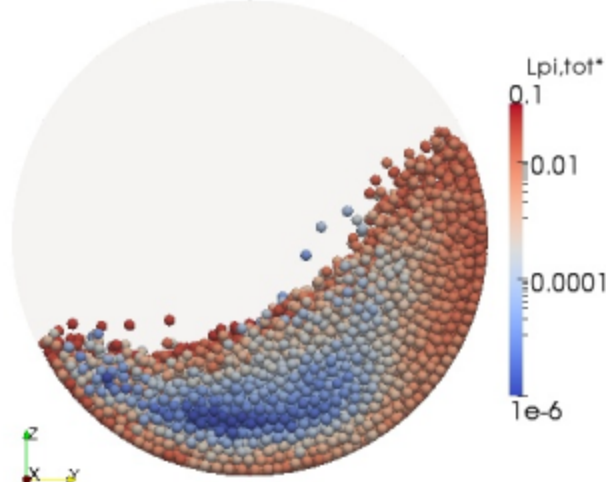
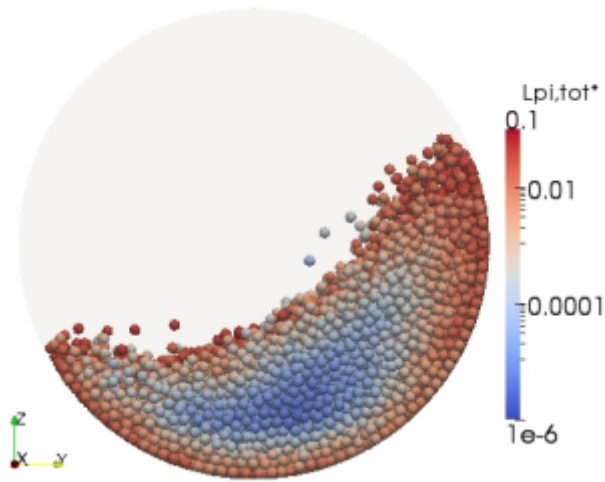
Summary of conductive liquid flux vs dimensionless shear rate



Animations of Liquid injection in rotating drums - Model B2 and C

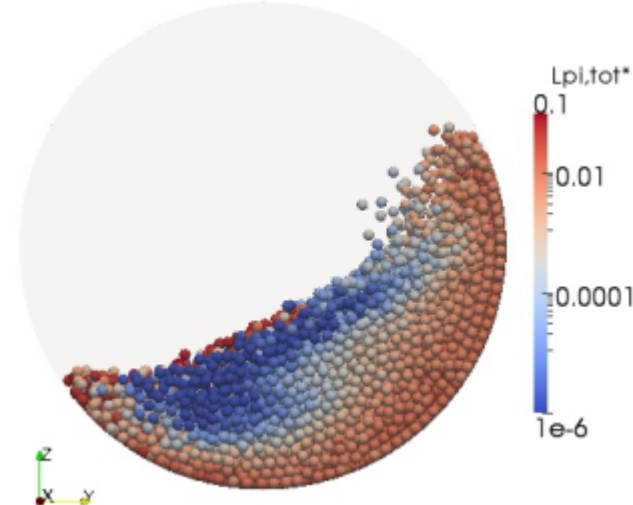
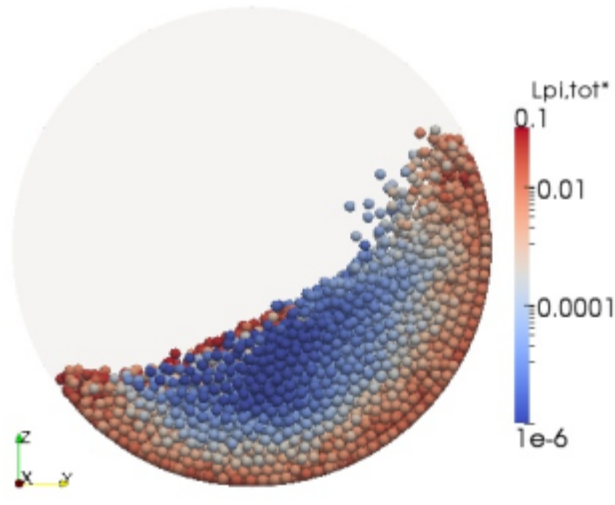


Snapshots of Liquid injection in rotating drums - Model B2 and C



Model B2 (left)
Model C (right)

$Fr = 0.1, \Gamma = 0.142$



Model B2 (left)
Model C (right)

$Fr = 0.5, \Gamma = 0.318$

- Simplified models for liquid transfer based on different definitions of liquid transfer rates that predicts the liquid bridge formation and rupture.
- Use this model for conductive liquid fluxes to plug in later to a continuum model.
- Filling rate based model for drainage of liquid into the bridge, with explicit calculation of individual liquid bridge volumes, formation and rupture.
- Reference time scale for the liquid bridge filling process

$$t_{ref} = r_{eff} \cdot \frac{\mu_l}{\sigma_l}$$

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