Mass transport at the microfluidic scale

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Whitesides et al.





Chen et al. 2004

Basics

convection/diffusion, conservation equation

Co-flow

slow mixing, reaction-diffusion

Shear dispersions

Leveque and Taylor-Aris dispersions, role of gravity, application to sensors

Mixing

small size, chaotic mixers, droplets

Membranes

pervaporation











Back to the basics

(see P. Joseph's lecture)





microfluidic scale



from simple geometry.... to complex "lab on chip"



Protron MicroTeknik



Physics of microfluidics

(see M.C. Jullien's lecture)



Competion viscous vs. and pressure forces

$$\nabla p = \eta \Delta v$$

+ incompressibility

 $\nabla .v = 0$

 \sub

analogy with an "electric" circuit





 $k/\eta \approx$ "hydrodynamic conductance" k only depends on geometry (ex. $k \sim h^2$ for $h \ll w$)

ex. crystallization of proteins



ex. "soft matter"



Microfluidics tools are rarely used with pure solvents only

ex. chemistry in droplets



How solutes are transported?

Leng et al.



cells, bacteria, ... (1-10 µm)



20 nm fluorescent beads in water



diffusion coefficient

Brownian motion: (small) solutes move



Brown (1827)

random motion due
to thermal agitation



Perrin (1909)

Different values for D



A simple estimate for D



Stokes-Einstein law:

 $D = \frac{k_B T}{6\pi\eta R} \checkmark \text{"motor" of diffusion}$ friction forces

Microfluidics: solutes also flow...





Péclet number
$$Pe = \frac{vL}{D}$$

Pe = diffusion time / convective time L^2/D L/v

From "dots" to concentration fields and fluxes



c(x)concentration = quantity / volume

Browian motion \Rightarrow Fick's law





 $j(x) = -D\frac{\partial c(x)}{\partial x}$ flux = quantity / time & surface

$\mathsf{Flow} \Rightarrow \mathsf{convection} \ \mathsf{flux}$





j(x) = c(x)v(x)flux = quantity / time & surface

Conservation equation



 \Rightarrow







(i) Some "classical" cases: spreading through diffusion $\frac{\partial c}{\partial t} = D\Delta c$ $c(x,t=0) = c_0\delta(x)$ $c(x,t) = \frac{c_0}{\sqrt{4\pi Dt}} \exp\left(-\frac{x^2}{4Dt}\right)$

 $w \sim \sqrt{Dt}$





...and with a uniform flow

$$\frac{\partial c}{\partial t} + v \cdot \nabla c = D\Delta c$$

$$c(x, t = 0) = c_0 \delta(x)$$

$$c(x, t) = \frac{c_0}{\sqrt{4\pi Dt}} \exp\left(-\frac{(x - vt)^2}{4Dt}\right)$$



\Rightarrow no coupling:

- diffusion & convection along x
- diffusion along y

(ii) Some "classical" cases: connecting two reservoirs



 $\frac{\partial c}{\partial t} = D\Delta c$ $c(x,t=0) = c_0 H(x)$ $c(x,t) = 1 + \operatorname{erf}\left(\frac{x}{2\sqrt{Dt}}\right)$



Parenthesis: an analogy



An analogy with the Navier Stokes equation ? $\rho(\partial_t + v.\nabla)v = \eta\Delta v - \nabla p$ $\operatorname{Re} = \frac{\rho L v}{n} = \frac{vL}{\nu}$ inertial/viscous effects

 $\Rightarrow \nu = \eta/\rho \text{ is the "diffusion" coefficient of the impulsion}$ $\Rightarrow \text{hydrodynamics = transport of "impulsion""}$ $\Rightarrow \text{Re} \ll 1 \text{ "diffusion" of impulsion is immediate}$

Example: start-up of a flow



Navier-Stokes

 $\rho \partial_t v = \eta \partial_u^2 v$

 \Leftrightarrow diffusion equation with $\nu = \eta / \rho$

 \Rightarrow « diffusion from a reservoir » $~\delta^2\sim\nu t$ developed profile for $~\tau\sim L^2/\nu$

Note: microfluidics ? water, $L = 10 \ \mu m$, $\tau = 0.1 \ ms$



multimedia fluid mechanics

The same is true for energy...

$$\partial_t c + v \cdot \nabla c = D\Delta c$$

$$\rho(\partial_t + v \cdot \nabla)v = \eta\Delta v - \nabla p$$

$$\rho C_p(\partial_t + v \cdot \nabla)T = \lambda\Delta T + S$$

mass transport hydrodynamics thermal transfers

(...)

+ coupling terms Some books:







General remarks on mass transport



 \Rightarrow studies often concern very dilute solutions

Real life is more complex...



solvants & concentrated solutions



complex fluids

\Rightarrow concentrated systems ? complex fluids ? etc...



Ex .1: concentrated liquid solutions





Ex. 1: concentrated solutions the case of a binary system Mass-averaged velocity $\rho v = \rho_1 v_1 + \rho_2 v_2$ mass fraction — Solute mass conservation $\rho_i = \rho w_i$ $\partial_t \rho_i + \nabla(\rho_i v_i) = 0$ Global mass conservation $\partial_t \rho + \nabla(\rho v) = 0$

General definition of diffusion

$$\rho_i v_i = \rho_i v - D\rho \nabla w_i$$

 \rightarrow importance of the reference frame (mass/ volume/molar- averaged velocity)



Ex. 2: the case of multicomponent systems

binary system: one diffusion coefficient (interdiffusion)



$$w_1 + w_2 = 1$$

 $-\rho D_i \nabla w_i = -\rho_i (v_i - v) \qquad D_1 = D_2$

ternary systems: 4 diffusion coefficients

$$\Sigma w_i = 1$$

$$J_1 = (v_1 - v^0)c_1 = -D_{11}\nabla c_1 - D_{12}\nabla c_2$$

$$J_2 = (v_2 - v^0)c_2 = -D_{21}\nabla c_1 - D_{22}\nabla c_2$$
reference frame possible cross-terms

Ex. 3: more insights into D

Back to thermodynamics:

flux driven by a difference of a chemical potential

$$\begin{array}{cccc} T, p, \mu & J_N \\ \end{array} \xrightarrow{} & T, p, \mu' \end{array}$$

Linear response of irreversible processes

$$J_{N} = -L_{NN} \nabla \frac{\mu}{T}$$

$$J_{N} = -\frac{L_{NN}}{T} \frac{\partial \mu}{\partial c} \nabla c \qquad \text{Fick's law}$$

$$D = \frac{L_{NN}}{T} \frac{\partial \mu}{\partial c}$$
remember for colloids
kinetics
$$D = \frac{k_{B}T}{6\pi\eta R}$$

e.g. Pottier, 1997

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Co-flow slow mixing, reaction-diffusion

Shear dispersions Leveque and Taylor-Aris dispersions, role of gravity, application to sensors

Mixing small size, chaotic mixers, droplets

Membranes pervaporation









Back to microfluidics: mixing in a coflow (a simple view)



Complete mixing for $\tau \sim w^2/D$

(through diffusion)

Convection during

$$au \sim w^2/D$$

 $\Rightarrow L \sim vw^2/D = \text{Pe}w$

large Péclet \Rightarrow long channels for efficient mixing

Mixing in a coflow: concentration fields



 $\Leftrightarrow \quad \partial_t c = D \partial_y^2 c \quad ext{ with change of variable } x = v t$

⇒ co-flow is a good tool to investigate steady kinetics







Mixing is slow: some opportunities

small width of diffusion at high velocities ex: $D = 10^{-10} \text{ m}^2/\text{s}$, v = 10 cm/s, $\delta < \mu \text{m}$

\Rightarrow possibility to control complex patterns



Mixing is slow: generating microstructures





Kenis et al., 1999

Mixing with a co-flow ?

- 1/ molecular dyes $D \approx 10^3 \,\mu\text{m}^2/\text{s}$, $w \approx 100 \,\mu\text{m}$, $v \approx 1 \,\text{cm/s}$
- \Rightarrow Pe = 1000, mixing after 10 cm

- 2/ colloidal species, $D \approx 1 \ \mu m^2/s$
- \Rightarrow Pe = 10⁶, mixing after 100 m...

 \Rightarrow need for strategies...



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Life is more complex: hydrodynamic dispersion





 \Rightarrow what about the previous results?



Larger diffuse "width" close to the walls

\Rightarrow a problem to obtain very thin electrodes



Kenis et al., 1999

Ismagilov et al., 2000



From 3d to 2d

for $t > h^2/D$ i.e. $x > vh^2/D$

 \Rightarrow homogeneous concentration gradients (no 3d effects)

ex: $h = 10 \ \mu m$, $v = 1 \ cm/s$, $D = 10^{-9} \ m^2/s$

 $vh^2/D = 1 \text{ mm}$ $h^2/D = 100 \text{ ms}$



 \Rightarrow need to take care of 3d effects for rapid kinetics

3d problem: transverse hydrodynamic dispersion


A problem for chemistry? Α yeg: 2nd order chemical reaction $A+B \Leftrightarrow C$ -0.5 -0.5 A o Ζ D 0.5 0.5 0 1 2 3 4 -0.5 D 0.5 хO x 10⁻³ -0.5 -0.5 В 0.8 0 Ζ D 0.5 0.6 3 2 0 1 4 0.5 -0.5 0 0.5 $\times 10^{-3}$ 0.4 -0.5 -0.5 0.2 С 0 Ζ 0 0.5 О 10 0 10 0 1 2 3 Δ 0.5 x 10⁻³ -0.5 X 0.5 0

but averaged profiles are not so different from the 2d case...

V



long residence times: bigger & bigger particles (due to a smaller & smaller diffusivity...)

\Rightarrow clogging & leakages \Rightarrow need for 3d microfluidics (no walls) or droplets

Another hydrodynamic dispersion: dispersion of residence times



 $h \underbrace{1}_{v} = 0$ $h \underbrace{v}_{D} = \frac{vh}{D}$ $h \underbrace{v}_{T} = 0$ t > 0 $Y = \frac{vh}{D}$

⇒ Taylor-Aris dispersion (convection & diffusion)

An old problem...

Dispersion of soluble matter in solvent flowing slowly through a tube

BY SIR GEOFFREY TAYLOR, F.R.S.

(Received 31 March 1953)

When a soluble substance is introduced into a fluid flowing slowly through a small-bore tube it spreads out under the combined action of molecular diffusion and the variation of velocity over the cross-section. It is shown analytically that the distribution of concentration produced in this way is centred on a point which moves with the mean speed of flow and is symmetrical about it in spite of the asymmetry of the flow. The dispersion along the tube is governed by a virtual coefficient of diffusivity which can be calculated from observed distributions of concentration. Since the analysis relates the longitudinal diffusivity to the coefficient of molecular diffusion, observations of concentration along a tube provide a new method for measuring diffusion coefficients. The coefficient so obtained was found, with potassium permanganate, to agree with that measured in other ways.

The results may be useful to physiologists who may wish to know how a soluble salt is dispersed in blood streams.

On the dispersion of a solute in a fluid flowing through a tube

By R. Aris

Department of Chemical Engineering, University of Minnesota

(Communicated by Sir Geoffrey Taylor, F.R.S.-Received 23 September 1955)

Sir Geoffrey Taylor has recently discussed the dispersion of a solute under the simultaneous action of molecular diffusion and variation of the velocity of the solvent. A new basis for his analysis is presented here which removes the restrictions imposed on some of the parameters at the expense of describing the distribution of solute in terms of its moments in the direction of flow. It is shown that the rate of growth of the variance is proportional to the sum of the molecular diffusion coefficient, D, and the Taylor diffusion coefficient $\kappa a^2 U^2/D$, where U is the mean velocity and a is a dimension characteristic of the cross-section of the tube. An expression for κ is given in the most general case, and it is shown that a finite distribution of solute tends to become normally distributed.



 $D_{\text{eff}} = D\left(1 + \frac{\text{Pe}^2}{192}\right)$ Taylor 1953
Aris 1956

in the reference frame of the flow

Taylor dispersion: a simple view



Squires et al. 2005

Taylor-Aris dispersion: a simple view



Beyond the scaling, β ?

 $Pe = \frac{vh}{D}$



 $\frac{\partial_t c + v(z)\partial_x c = D\Delta c}{c_0(x,t) = \frac{1}{h} \int_0^h c(x,z,t) dz} \right] \partial_t c_0 + \langle v(z)\partial_x c \rangle = D\partial_x^2 c_0$

perturbative approach $c(x,t) = c_0(x,t) + c_1(x,z,t)$

$$\rightarrow D\partial_z^2 c_1 \simeq (v(z) - \bar{v})\partial_x c_0 \\ \rightarrow c_1 \propto \frac{\bar{v}h^2 \partial_x c_0}{D}$$

 $\rightarrow \partial_t c_0 + \bar{v} \partial_x c_0 = D(1 + \beta \mathrm{Pe}^2) \partial_x^2 c_0$

A question of geometry

$$\partial_t c_0 + \bar{v} \partial_x c_0 + \langle v(y, z) \partial_x c_1 \rangle = D \partial_x^2 c_0$$
$$(v(y, z) - \bar{v}) \partial_x c_0 = D \Delta_s^2 c_1$$

$$\rightarrow \partial_t c_0 + \bar{v} \partial_x c_0 = D_{\text{eff}} \partial_x^2 c_0 \qquad D_{\text{eff}} = D(1 + \beta \text{Pe}^2)$$







The striking case of rectangular channels



$$D_{\text{eff}} = D(1 + \beta \text{Pe}^2) \qquad \text{Pe} = \frac{vh}{D}$$



wide channel $h \ll w$ $\beta \simeq 8/210$



Doshi *et al.* Chem Eng Science 1978 Chatwin *et al.* J Fluid Mech 1982

The case of shallow channels



$$h_0 \ll w$$

$$D_{\text{eff}} = D(1 + \beta \text{Pe}_w^2)$$

$$Pe_w = vw/D$$

the height *h* does not matter \rightarrow dispersion due to the dispersion of velocities along *y*



$$\beta\left(\frac{\lambda}{w}\right) = \frac{\lambda^2}{w^2} f\left(\frac{\lambda}{w}\right) \simeq \frac{\lambda^2}{w^2} f$$
$$\rightarrow D_{\text{eff}} \simeq D(1 + \beta' \text{Pe}_{\lambda}^2)$$

Ajdari *et al.* Anal Chem 2006 Bontoux *et al.* Lab Chip 2006

Solute diffusion in a box e.g.: crystallization of proteins (c) (b) M S P Macromolecule Concentration 1 mm 1 mm (c) Current Opinion in Structural Biol (see P. Joseph's lecture) III 1 mm Solvent Concentration Current Opinion in Structural Biology Quake et al. 2002 h $t = 0^{-}$ $t = 0^{+}$ diffusion $t \gg h^2/D$ role of buoyancy?

Buoyancy-driven convection: convection due to density differences







 $abla
ho \rightarrow \text{temperature }
abla T \text{ and/or }$ concentration gradients abla C

 \rightarrow very common at large scale

images: web

At small scales? competition with viscous dissipation



gradient of hydrostatic pressure $\nabla p = \nabla \rho g h$

 \rightarrow lubrication flow $v \sim \frac{h^2}{\eta} \nabla p = \frac{gh^3}{\eta} \nabla \rho \sim h^3$

 \rightarrow note: these flows always exist for $\nabla \rho \perp g$

Impact on mass transfer for solutal convection?

 $\rho = \rho_0 (1 + \beta c)$

solutal expansion coefficient -



 \rightarrow no impact for $Pe = \frac{vh}{D} \sim \frac{g\beta h^4}{\nu D} \nabla c \ll 1$

 \rightarrow note: it can have an impact on less mobile species

Squires et al. Rev. Mod. Phys. 2005

Beyond the scaling? (i) velocity field



 \rightarrow Iubrication approximation

$$\nu \frac{\partial v_x}{\partial z} = \frac{1}{\rho_0} \partial_x P$$

$$\frac{\partial P}{\partial z} = -\rho_0 (1 + \beta c) g$$

$$\rightarrow v_x(x, z, t) = \tilde{z} (1 - \tilde{z}) (2\tilde{z} - 1) \frac{g\beta h^3}{12\nu} \frac{\partial c}{\partial x}$$

and for mass transport?

Birikh, J. Appl. Mech. Phys. 1966

(ii) « Taylor-Aris like » perturbative approach

$$c(x,t) = c_0(x,t) + c_1(x,z,t) \quad \partial_t c + v \cdot \nabla c = D\Delta c$$

$$c_0(x,t) = \frac{1}{h} \int_0^h c(x,z,t) dz \qquad \partial_t c_0 + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} < v_x(z) c_1 > = D \frac{\partial^2 c_0}{\partial x^2}$$

 \rightarrow for parallel plates $\alpha = 362880$

Erdogan & Chatwin J Fluid Mech 1967 Young & Jones Phys. Fluids A 1991

Back to diffusion in a box



Dispersion due to gravity negligible for

$$\left(\frac{g\beta h^4}{\nu D}\partial_x c_0\right)^2 \ll \alpha = 362880$$

(parallel plates)

Remember the scaling

$$Pe = \frac{vh}{D} \sim \frac{g\beta h^4}{\nu D} \nabla c \ll 1$$

Making it stick: convection, reaction and diffusion in surface-based biosensors

Todd M Squires¹, Robert J Messinger¹ & Scott R Manalis²

biotechnology

Sensors: "making it stick"



How to improve the efficiency of detection?

 \Rightarrow a priori a very complex problem (10 parameters !)

 $(c_0; U; D; k_{on}; k_{off}; H; W_c; W_s; L; b_m)$

\Rightarrow scaling arguments for extreme regimes



 $j_d = -Dc_0/\delta$

 $J_d = j_d \times \text{Area}$

 $\Rightarrow \text{ diffusive flux (\#/s/m^2)} \\\Rightarrow \text{ collection rate (\#/s)}$

(i) unitless "diagram"



(ii) "slow" flow (and still a perfect sensor)



steady depletion layer $J_c \sim J_d \implies \delta_s = DHW_c/Q$

\Rightarrow full collection rate in this regime

only valid for $\delta_s \gg H$, i.e. $\operatorname{Pe}_H = Q/(DW_c) \ll 1$

(iii) "fast" flow (and still a perfect sensor)



$$\Rightarrow$$
 depletion layer $\delta_s = (DL/\dot{\gamma})^{1/3}$
 $\dot{\gamma} \sim \mathrm{Pe}_H$

 $L/(\dot{\gamma}z)$

 \Rightarrow collection rate

 $J_c \sim Qc_0$

$$J_d \sim Dc_0 / \delta_s L W_s$$

 $J_d \sim \operatorname{Pe}_{\scriptscriptstyle H}^{1/3}$



(iv) reaction vs. transport



$$\frac{db}{dt} = k_{\rm on} c_s (b_m - b) - k_{\rm off} b$$

solute concentration close to the sensor

concentration of bounded receptors

for non-saturated sensors $b \ll b_m$

K_{off}

k_{on}

 $W_{\rm c}$

 $(Dt)^{1/2}$

Q

|H|

 c_0

 $U \downarrow$

reactive flux $J_r = k_{on}c_s b_m (LW_s)$



(iv) ex: "fast" flow & reaction

reactive flux $J_r = k_{on}c_s b_m(LW_s)$ diffusive flux $J_d \sim D(c_0 - c_s)/\delta_s(LW_s)$

steady regime: $J_r \sim J_d \implies$

$$c_s = \frac{c_0}{1 + \text{Da}}$$

 $\text{Da} = k_{\text{on}} b_m \delta / D$

Da (Damkohler) compares reaction rates to transport rate

 \Rightarrow Da<1 : reaction limited $c_s \sim c_0$ \Rightarrow Da>1 : mass transport limited $c_s \sim 0$ Basics

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Back to microfluidics: mixing is slow...

length for efficient mixing

 $L \approx v w^2 / D = \mathrm{Pe} w$



\Rightarrow some strategies for efficient mixing ?

ex. hydrodynamic focusing Q_s (water) Side



(1) Diminishing the size for a finite velocity)

$$w_f pprox$$
 100 nm - 1 μ m $au \sim w_f^2/D~pprox$ 10 μ s - 1 ms

Knight et al., 1998

application fo kinetics of folding of bio-molecules (first data point at 5 ms !)





Russel et al., 2002





Inlet —

An easy way for hydrodynamic focusing without walls ?







(2) Multilaminating the flow

$$?$$

$$L \approx v(w/N)^2/D = \text{Pe}w/N^2$$





Manz et al. 1999

(2) Multilaminating along the flow



Chen et al. 2004

 \Rightarrow need for 3d structures

(3) "Grooving" flows: chaotic mixing



grooves

J = fluid flux that that tends to align along the « easy axis »



in a confined channel: helical stream lines !

Stroock et al. 2002

(3) "Grooving" flows: chaotic mixing



length for efficient mixing $L \sim w \log({ m Pe})$

 \Rightarrow "chaotic mixing" (note: $\operatorname{Re} \sim 0$)

Stroock et al. 2002

Chaotic mixers help to make compact devices





Whitesides et al. 2002



Quake et al. 2000

Ex: a complete platform for protein crystallization




(4) Active mixing: the "rotary" mixer

Several regimes of mixing

t=0 $h \downarrow$ $\leftarrow R \longrightarrow$ $h_{eff} \sim h/(2 N - 1) \qquad t \ll \tau_{con}$ $N \sim U_0 t /R$ $t \sim \tau_{con} \sim h_{eff}^2 /D$

diffusion limited ${
m Pe}=rac{vh}{D}\ll 1$ $au_1\sim (2\pi R)^2/D$

Taylor Aris regime $au_d \ll 2\pi R/v$ $au_2 \sim (2\pi R)^2/D_{\mathrm{TA}} \sim au_1/\mathrm{Pe}^2$

convective stirring regime $\tau_d \gg 2\pi R/v$

 $au_3 \sim au_1 / \mathrm{Pe}^{2/3}$



Squires et al. 2005





coflow

droplets

mixing is difficult hydrodynamic dispersion $L_n \sim \text{Pe}w$ and $\text{Pe} \gg 1$ dispersion of the residence times



Song et al. 2003

Droplets are very well-suited for fast chemical reactions mixing $\approx 5 \text{ ms}$ NaOH CdCl₂ / MPA Na₂S mixing 200 Lim 75 ms I[†]QUENCH reaction 1 \Rightarrow multistep synthesis of CdS nanoparticles R3 reaction 2 mixing Reactants/ODF

Shestopalov et al. 2004

the same at high temperature:







Chan et al. 2005

Streamlines in windings

chaotic mixing

again $\operatorname{Re} \sim 0$

Mixing within droplets ?



 $L \sim w \log(\text{Pe})$

Song et al. 2003

Evidence for a fast mixing



Song et al. 2003





\Rightarrow take care of scale, flow rates, geometry, etc.

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Mixing small size, chaotic mixers, droplets

Membranes pervaporation











Controlling transport using "membranes'

Ultra-filtration

- nanoporous membrane (1-10 nm)
- only solutes below the pore size cross the membrane
- driven by a pressure difference



Pervaporation

- dense membrane
- only solvents cross the membrane
- driven by a difference of

chemical activity



PDMS microfluidics:

Water pervaporation through the chip's matrix



Enhanced pervaporation using multilayer soft lithography



Leng et al., Phys. Rev. Lett., 2006

Enhanced pervaporation using multilayer soft lithography



Leng et al., Phys. Rev. Lett., 2006

Wheeler et al., 2008

Application 1: Making micromaterials



pictures: J. Leng

From colloids & nano (~ 10-100 nm)...







\rightarrow optical metamaterials, SERS, ...

Merlin *et al.*, Soft Matter, 2012 Angly *et al.*, ACS Nano, 2013 Massé *et al.*, Langmuir, 2013 Baron *et al.*, Opt. Mat. Express, 2013 Gomez-Grana *et al.*, Chem. Mater. 2015 Gomez-Grana *et al.*, Mater. Horizon 2016

...to polymers & composites



 \rightarrow organic MEMS, electrodes, ...

Yao *et al.* Macromolecules 2015 Laval *et al.* Soft Matter 2016

Application 2: Screening phase diagrams \rightarrow e.g. crystallization



Application 2: Screening phase diagrams

\rightarrow e.g. surfactants

si anterio de la compañía de la comp



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