

EXPERIMENTAL AND NUMERICAL INVESTIGATIONS OF MICRO-SCOPIC GAS-LIQUID FLOWS

by

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Submitted in fulfillment of

the requirements of the degree of

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

to the



INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY DELHI

February, 2011

Certificate

This is to certify that the thesis entitled '**EXPERIMENTAL AND NUMERICAL INVESTIGATIONS OF MICRO-SCOPIC GAS-LIQUID FLOWS**' being submitted by **Ms. Swapna Singha Rabha** to the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi for award of Doctor of Philosophy is a record of bonafide research work carried out by her under my guidance and supervision in conformity with the rules and regulations of Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi.

The research report and results presented in this thesis have not been submitted, in part or full, to any other University or Institute for the award of any degree or diploma.

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Acknowledgements

During the past four and half years stay at the Department of chemical Engineering of the Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi, I have received a lot of support from my supervisor, colleagues, family and friends. Here, I would like to express all my sincere thanks to all of you for your support, discussions and friendship.

First of all, I would like to thank my supervisor Dr. Vivek V. Buwa for his constant guidance and encouragement during all the research work reported in this document and during the writing of this thesis. He has been a constant source of inspiration and motivation for me. I have learned quite a lot from his knowledge in chemical engineering and also other aspects of life. I hope that this work would partly satisfy his expectations.

Special thanks to Prof. Ashok Kumar Gupta for his help during my admission and hostel accommodation at IITD. I would like to thank all my SRC members Prof. K. D. P. Nigam, Prof. Sanjeev Sanghi and particularly Dr. Shatanu Roy for his constructive criticism and valuable suggestions which motivated me to work harder and gave better shape to this research work. I am deeply thankful to all the faculty members of the Chemical Engineering Department at IIT Delhi, and in particular to the former and current heads of the Departments Prof. S. K. Gupta and Prof. A. N. Bhaskarwar, for providing me with all the necessary facilities during my stay here.

During my stay at IIT Delhi, I have made many good friends who helped me a lot at different stages of my PhD life. The list is indefinite but to name a

few: Rajesh Upadhyay, Vimlesh Bind, Akhansha Mathur, Prashant Nikure, Deepak Goal, Richa Raj, Parul Tyagi, Lakshay, Rajesh, Taru Kapoor, Siddharth Lunkud, Dr. Vaishali, Navdeep, Santosh, Varun, Gurav and many more. I also like to thank Anil Kumar for his help and co-operation in the laboratory.

Warm thanks also goes to my hostel mates poonam, Ambika, Ankita, Nidhi, Puja and Sangita, they made my stay at Himadri Hostel comfortable and cheerful.

I owe many thanks to my family. I am grateful to my parents for giving me their love, encouragement and support during my years of education. I want to thank my elder sister Mrs. Purnima Rabha and my Brother Amar Rabha, for their constant support and for taking care of our parents. I thank them for always being there with me in any situation.

Finally I would like to acknowledge the Ministry of Human Resource Department (MHRD), for the financial support.

Swapna Singha Rabha
February 2011

Abstract

Many engineering applications involve gas–liquid flows. In past, continuum and discrete particle models were developed to simulate large-scale dispersed gas-liquid flows. The predictive capabilities of these model are jeopardized by the lack of adequate closure models that can account for the effects of bubble shape/ size on different forces acting on a bubble (drag, lift and virtual mass) and more importantly the influence of neighboring bubbles (or gas hold-up) on the magnitude of the aforementioned forces. The research presented in this thesis was carried out with the objective of improving the understanding of effects of bubble size/shape and neighboring bubbles on the drag and lift forces.

Experimental investigations of rise behavior of mono-dispersed and poly-dispersed bubbles in the quiescent and sheared liquids were performed to investigate the effects of bubble diameters ($1.2 \leq d_B \leq 11.2$ mm), gas volume fractions ($0.01 < \alpha_G < 0.2$) and liquid viscosity on the bubble rise velocity and the drag and the lift coefficients. The drag and lift forces acting on a single isolated bubble, bubbles in a single chain and bubbles in multiple chains were investigated. The bubble size and the liquid properties considered in the present work correspond to the spherical, ellipsoidal and wobbling bubble regimes.

Numerical simulations of rise behavior of single and multiple bubbles were performed using the Volume of Fluid (VOF) method. The numerical simulations of rise of single isolated bubbles, bubbles rising in a single chain

and mono-dispersed (homogeneous) bubbles in quiescent liquids were performed and predictions were validated using the measured bubble rise velocities. The effects of bubble diameter ($3.3 \leq d_B \leq 5.5$ mm) and gas volume fractions ($0.054 \leq \alpha_G \leq 0.16$) on the rise behaviour of homogeneous bubble swarms rising air-water and air-glycerol systems was investigated. Finally, the numerical investigations of the lift force acting on a single isolated bubble and multiple bubbles in a linear shear flow of liquids with different properties were performed. In particular, the effects of bubble diameter ($2.84 \leq d_B \leq 8$ mm), gas volume fraction ($0.03 \leq \alpha_G \leq 0.14$) and liquid viscosity ($\mu_L = 0.001$ and $0.019 \text{ kg m}^{-1}\text{s}^{-1}$) on the rise behavior of mono-dispersed (homogeneous) and poly-dispersed (heterogeneous) bubbles in the ellipsoidal and wobbling shape regimes ($1.1 \leq Eo \leq 11.65$; $-5.4 \leq \log Mo \leq -10.5$) were investigated.

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