

Motion of a porous sphere in a spherical container

D. Srinivasacharya

Department of Mathematics, National Institute of Technology, Warangal – 506004, India

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Presented by Évariste Sanchez-Palencia

Abstract

The creeping motion of a porous sphere at the instant it passes the center of a spherical container has been investigated. The Brinkman's model for the flow inside the porous sphere and the Stokes equation for the flow in the spherical container were used to study the motion. The stream function (and thus the velocity) and pressure (both for the flow inside the porous sphere and inside the spherical container) are calculated. The drag force experienced by the porous spherical particle and wall correction factor is determined. **To cite this article:** *D. Srinivasacharya, C. R. Mecanique 333 (2005).*

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Résumé

Mouvement d'une sphère poreuse à l'intérieur d'un récipient sphérique. Nous considérons le mouvement rampant d'une sphère poreuse à l'instant où elle traverse le centre d'un récipient sphérique. L'étude du mouvement a été faite en utilisant le modèle de Brinkman d'un écoulement à l'intérieur d'une sphère poreuse et l'équation de Stokes décrivant l'écoulement dans un récipient sphérique. La fonction de courant (et ainsi la vitesse) et la pression (pour l'écoulement à l'intérieur de la sphère poreuse et à l'intérieur du récipient sphérique) ont été calculées. La force de résistance au mouvement éprouvée par une particule poreuse sphérique et le facteur de correction dû à l'effet de la paroi sont aussi déterminés. **Pour citer cet article :** *D. Srinivasacharya, C. R. Mecanique 333 (2005).*

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Keywords: Porous media; Porous sphere; Spherical container; Brinkman model; Drag; Wall correction factor

Mots-clés : Milieux poreux ; Sphère poreuse ; Récipient sphérique ; Modèle de Brinkman ; Traînée ; Facteur de correction d'une paroi

1. Introduction

The problems of the motion of a particle at the instant it passes the centre of the spherical container serves as a model of interaction in multi-particle systems. This class of problems is important because it provides some

E-mail address: dsc@nitw.ernet.in (D. Srinivasacharya).

information on wall effects. A number of researchers have considered the creeping motion of rigid or fluid sphere in a spherical or spheroidal container. Cunningham [1] and Williams [2], independently, considered the motion of a solid sphere in a spherical container. Haberman and Sayre [3] have made an analogous study for the motion of an inner Newtonian fluid sphere. Ramkissoon and Rahaman investigated the motion of inner non-Newtonian (Reiner–Rivlin) fluid sphere in a spherical container [4] and a solid spherical particle in a spheroidal container [5].

It is well known that problems of fluid flow around porous particles are encountered in many important engineering applications such as flows of fluids through porous beds (fixed or fluidized), sedimentation of fine particulate suspensions, modeling of polymer macromolecule coils in solvent, catalytic reactions where porous pellets are used, follicle settling process etc. A survey of literature regarding the fluid flows past and within porous bodies indicates that while abundant information is available for flows in an infinite expanse of fluid, very little information is available for flows in enclosures.

In this Note, we consider the creeping motion of a porous sphere in a spherical container. We have used the Brinkman's model for the flow inside the porous particle and Stokes model for the flow within the spherical container. The stream function and the pressure for both the flows inside porous particle and within the spherical container are calculated. The drag experienced by the porous particle is calculated and its variation is studied numerically.

2. Formulation of the problem

Consider a porous spherical particle of radius a passing the center of a spherical vessel of radius b containing an incompressible Newtonian viscous fluid. This is equivalent to the inner particle at rest while the outer spherical container moves with a constant velocity U in the negative Z direction. We assume that the flow within the spherical container is Stokesian, and Brinkman's law [6] governs the flow inside the porous spherical particle.

The equations of motion for the region within the spherical container are

$$\operatorname{div} \vec{q}^{(1)} = 0 \quad (1)$$

$$\operatorname{grad} p^{(1)} + \mu \operatorname{curl} \operatorname{curl} \vec{q}^{(1)} = 0 \quad (2)$$

where $\vec{q}^{(1)}$ is the velocity, μ is the coefficient of viscosity and $p^{(1)}$ is the pressure.

For the region inside the porous sphere, the equations of motion are:

$$\operatorname{div} \vec{q}^{(2)} = 0 \quad (3)$$

$$\operatorname{grad} p^{(2)} + \frac{\mu}{k} \vec{q}^{(2)} + \mu \operatorname{curl} \operatorname{curl} \vec{q}^{(2)} = 0 \quad (4)$$

where $\vec{q}^{(2)}$ is the velocity, $p^{(2)}$ is the pressure, μ is viscosity and k is the permeability of the porous medium.

Let (r, θ, ϕ) denote a spherical polar co-ordinate system with the origin at the centre of the sphere of radius a and diameter coinciding with the line of motion of the inner sphere as the initial line. Since the flow of the fluid is in the meridian plane and the flow is axially symmetric, all the physical quantities are independent of ϕ . Hence, we assume that

$$\vec{q}^{(i)} = [u^{(i)}(r, \theta) \vec{e}_r + v^{(i)}(r, \theta) \vec{e}_\theta], \quad i = 1, 2 \quad (5)$$

where $(\vec{e}_r, \vec{e}_\theta, \vec{e}_\phi)$ are unit base vectors and $h_1 = 1$, $h_2 = r$ and $h_3 = r \sin \theta$ are the corresponding scale factors in the spherical polar coordinate system.

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