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Study of the resuspension phenomenon during airflow acceleration using Eulerian and Lagrangian approaches

C. Cazes^{1,2}, F. Theron¹, L. Fiabane², D. Heitz² and L. Le Coq²

¹IMT Atlantique, CNRS, GEPEA, Nantes, 44300, France ²INRAE, OPAALE, Rennes, 35000, France

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Presenting author email: corentin.cazes@imt-atlantique.fr

Particle detachment from a surface and its subsequent entrainment within the flow describes the resuspension process. Understanding the phenomenon is essential in industrial applications: predicting airborne particulate contamination in HVAC systems (D'Alicandro et al., 2021). This study involves monolayer deposits of isolated microparticles on a surface in a ventilation duct. It aims at studying the influence of the airflow pattern (an acceleration stage followed by a short steady-state period) properties on microparticle behaviour. For that purpose, the mean velocity and acceleration roles are investigated, and the evolution of the particle fraction remaining on the duct wall $F_{\rm rem}(t) = N_{\rm p}(t)/N_p(t_0)$ (with N_p the particle number) is analysed as a function of time. The experimental procedure involves filming microparticle deposits and monitoring airflow characteristics using constant temperature anemometry (Theron et al., 2022). Centre and near-wall velocities and wall shear stress are monitored using hot-wire and glueon hot-film probes, respectively.

Bronze particles were used for their spherical morphology. Two particle fractions with narrow size distributions characterised by d_{50} of 23.3 and 31.3 μm were tested to investigate the influence of the particle size on resuspension. The open return wind tunnel was 200 cm long with a rectangular section (w x h = 20×4 cm²). The test area, located 130 cm downstream of the entrance to ensure fully developed flow, was made of glass of low mean roughness. A CCD camera coupled with an x12 zoom lens composed the optical set-up. The window length was 2.0 x 1.5 mm², corresponding to a 0.86 µm/pixel resolution. The airflow properties were the final velocity $\overline{u_{0,eq}}$ = 7.6-11.0 m.s⁻¹ and the acceleration α = 0.3-2.1 m.s⁻², representing ventilation systems operating conditions. The deposit frames were processed using an *in-house* particle detection algorithm (Cazes et al., 2022), which gave deposit properties and particle numbers. Thus, one can compute the remaining particle fraction Frem over time.

Another experimental rig was used, resembling the one described hereinabove to ensure flow similarity, to perform Particle Tracking Velocimetry (PTV), *i.e.*, measure particle trajectories and their velocity and acceleration. It used a Phantom VEO 440L camera and a 10 mm lens (Laowa) with a 2.8 opening. The frequency rate was 1.1 kHz with a 2560 x 1600 pixels² resolution.

Results showed that most particles resuspended during the acceleration regime for all temporal airflow patterns. It emphasises that the phenomenon must be studied through time-resolved approaches. Based on a model fitting (Theron *et al.*, 2022), one can define a virtual start velocity $U_{0,s}$ which is the instantaneous mean centre velocity at the virtual start of the resuspension. Figure 1 shows the influence of $\overline{u}_{0,eq}$ and α on F_{rem} (t). The particle fraction remaining and the virtual start velocity appear independent of the final velocity but increased with the acceleration parameters. The same tendency was seen for friction and near-wall velocities.

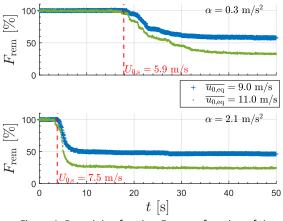


Figure 1. Remaining fraction F_{rem} as a function of time.

Finally, we investigated the particle trajectories at the resuspension start and their velocities using PTV. As a result, we propose to link the physical phenomena responsible for the resuspension with the appearance of turbulence in the near-wall region.

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