





Quantifying the Potential of Covid-19 Transmission Across Scales: Using SEM based Navier-Stokes solver to the CEAT

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GOAL: Accurate Prediction of Virus Loading in Indoor Environments

- Currently it is motivated by COVID-19, but the methodology can be used for other respiratory viruses in the future
- Understand the process involved in virus-laden aerosol mixing and transport

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 Predict the most probable regions of virus-laden aerosol accumulation and deposition, which will help us to plan
 Infectious virus in exhaled breath of symptomatic seasonal influenza cases from a college community
 Mitigation Strategies & Compute Risk of Transmission



Modes of Airborne Virus Spreading in the Indoor Environment

- Pre-pandemic, we thought the main mode of airborne transmission of viruses is through coughing and sneezing
- "Asymptomatic" or "Pre-symptomatic" transmission of Covid-19 has made us question our existing understanding of airborne transmission, especially in the indoor environment

Evidence of Long-Distance Droplet Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 by Direct Air Flow in a Restaurant in Korea

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If the virus-laden aerosols are helping spread SARS-CoV-2, then it is extremely important understand the spatio-temporal evolution of the aerosols especially in the size range of 0.5 – 20 microns







If we are using Computational Fluid Dynamics, what level of fidelity is required to accurately capture the aerosol transport ?



While each turbulence model has good accuracy in certain flow categories, each flow type favors different turbulence models. Therefore, we summarize both the performance of each partcular model in different flows and the best suited turbulence models for each flow category in the conclusions and recommendations.

So we decided to do Direct Numerical Simulation (DNS) or highlyresolution LES, which resolves almost all the relevant scales of turbulence

First problem we targeted is: DNS of a small cough



$$w_{0}(t) = \begin{cases} \frac{w_{m}}{t_{m}}t, & 0 \leq t < t_{m} \\ w_{m} - \frac{w_{m}}{t_{c} - t_{m}}(t - t_{m}), & t_{m} \leq t \leq t_{c} \\ 0. & t > t_{c} \end{cases}$$

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$$\begin{split} \frac{\partial \tilde{u}_i}{\partial \tilde{x}_i} &= 0, \\ \frac{\partial \tilde{u}_i}{\partial \tilde{t}} + \tilde{u}_j \frac{\partial \tilde{u}_i}{\partial \tilde{x}_j} &= -\frac{\partial \tilde{p}}{\partial \tilde{x}_i} + \frac{1}{Re} \frac{\partial^2 \tilde{u}_i}{\partial \tilde{x}_j \partial \tilde{x}_j} + Ri \, \tilde{\theta} \, \delta_{i2}, \\ \frac{\partial \tilde{\theta}}{\partial \tilde{t}} + \tilde{u}_j \frac{\partial \tilde{\theta}}{\partial \tilde{x}_j} &= \frac{1}{Pe} \frac{\partial^2 \tilde{\theta}}{\partial \tilde{x}_j \partial \tilde{x}_j}, \end{split}$$

 $Re = w_m d/\nu_a = 6000, Ri = g\beta_a \Delta T d/w_m^2 = 5.61 \times 10^{-4} \text{ and } Pe = w_m d/\alpha_a = 4200$

First problem we targeted is: DNS of a small cough



- Spatial discretization using high-order Spectral Element Methods (SEM) [Nek5000]
- 3rd-order semi-implicit timestepping, *EXT-BDF*
- Current simulation has around 300 million computational points, needing 5.2x10⁵ CPU hours
- 4, 8, 16, 32, 64, 128 and 256 micron aerosols
- Evaporative and non-Evaporative
- 200 batches of 69 aerosols
- ~ 200,000 particles

DNS of a small cough (iso-surface of temperature)



DNS of a small cough

(velocity magnitude [m/s] and temperature [C] of the cough in space and time)



DNS of a small cough (Puff front evolution and Centroid Location)

Puff front temperature and vertical velocity

Puff centroid location and time

The Dispersed Phase

Non-Evaporating

Evaporating

Dashed – Evaporation

Solid – non-Evaporation

High-Resolution LES of flow and particle transport in a room

- High-Resolution Large Eddy Simulations (LES) coupled with Lagrangian particle tracking for the aerosols.
- Using high-order Spectral Element Methods for spatial discretization
- Reynolds number: 8000 -15,000 ~ (4-6-8 ACH)
- Current simulation has 100 million computational points
- 500,000 aerosols
 (0.5 4 -32 microns)
- More expensive, as simulation has to be run longer

Even in a "simple" Empty room the Mixing Process is Complicated

Difference in Dispersion of Aerosols in the Room Based on Location

- Need substantial time to reach a statistical steady state, before aerosols can be injected
- 1.5 mins of real time takes 768 node hours on Frontera (~ 50,000 cpu hours)
- We need to run for at least 30 60 mins = 31,000 node hours
- Though it takes about 50,000 node hours to reach a statistically steady state, so each simulation of this size is costing about 100,000 node hours

Fast & Accurate Prediction of Virus Loading in Heterogenous Indoor Environments : CEAT

CEAT's ability in predicting Super Spreader Events

Can we Improve the Computational Performance using GPUs ? (NekRS)

- Tests run on 10 nodes of Summit (60 GPUs)
- With a uniform distribution of particles
- **Migration** (Yes/No): Exchanges particle ownership so that each process owns the particles that are present in its elements. (using a fast all-to-all data exchange using *crystal router*)

Findpts implementation	GPU						CPU			
Migration	Yes			No			Yes		No	
particle count	100^{3}	150^{3}	200^{3}	100^{3}	150^{3}	200^{3}	100^{3}	$ 150^3$	100^{3}	150^{3}
Fluid Solve	98.2	98.1	98.5	99.2	98.2	107.5	97.9	98.7	101.2	100.1
Particle Creation	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Particle Update	3.6	8.5	19.1	18.6	60.8	146.1	277.0	910.2	288.3	953.9
- Copy fluid vel. to host	-	-	-	-	-	-	15.7	13.9	16.4	15.5
- findpts	2.7	6.4	14.3	8.9	29.0	69.1	225.3	746.5	234.1	775.9
Memcpy	0.4	0.7	1.2	0.8	1.8	4.2	-	-	-	-
Kernel	1.8	4.9	11.3	1.9	6.4	14.6	219.7	735.7	220.4	734.7
- migration	0.1	0.1	0.3	-	-	-	0.1	0.2	_	_
- $findpts_eval$	0.6	1.3	3.1	9.4	31.0	74.9	49.7	158.5	54.0	177.1
Memcpy	0.2	0.4	0.9	0.3	1.0	2.0	-	-	-	-
Kernel	0.5	0.9	2.2	0.3	0.8	1.4	49.6	158.5	43.2	141.9
- Advance position	0.2	0.5	1.2	0.2	0.5	1.3	0.2	0.5	0.1	0.5
- Barrier	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.8	1.8	4.4	0.1	0.3

Conclusions and Future Directions from Room-scale Simulations

- We are conducting some of the first high-fidelity turbulence resolved simulations of aerosol transport in indoor environment.
- These simulations will be used as benchmark results to compare/improve lower-fidelity models (e.g. RANS based)
- Improved understanding of effect of aerosol size, release location, air-flow rates and evaporation on residence time and deposition pattern of virus-laden aerosols
- The high-resolution model results are being used to analyze and understand the large and small scale turbulent structure of the flow

Basic Measurement Setup

Temporal states: Development and Stationary

Final Objective: Development of a robust Covid-19 Exposure Assessment Tool (CEAT)

Potential Viral Load (based on particle size and concentration) from the Cough

Room scale flow structure at 6 ACH

