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# Characterization of fuel segregation in a fluidized bed by magnetic particle tracking

David Pallarès

*Dept. of Energy and Environment, Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden, david.pallares@chalmers.se*

Anna Köhler

*Dept. of Energy and Environment, Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden*

Alexander Rasch

*Dept. of Energy and Environment, Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden*

Filip Johnsson

*Dept. of Energy and Environment, Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden*

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# Experimental characterization of axial fuel mixing in fluidized beds by magnetic particle tracking

Anna Köhler, Alexander Rasch, David Pallarès and Filip Johnsson



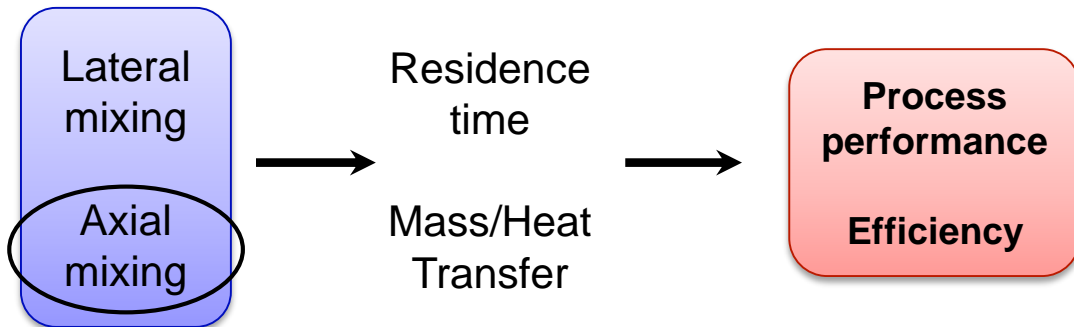
Department of Energy and Environment  
Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden

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Quebec, Canada

# Background

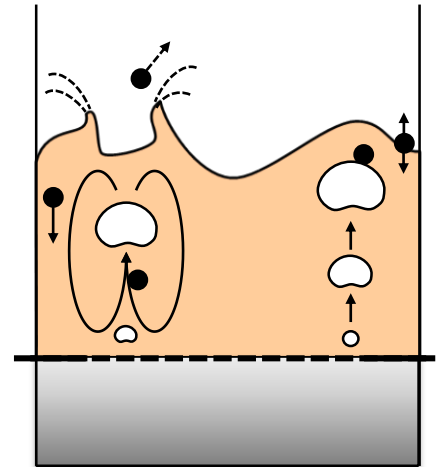
- Mixing of large particles in FB



- Combustion (incl. CLC, OCAC), gasification
- Industry (chemical, petrol, metal, pharma)

# Background

- Mixing of large particles in FB
- Axial mixing
  - Bubbles in dense bed
  - Particle properties
  - Operational conditions



## Aim

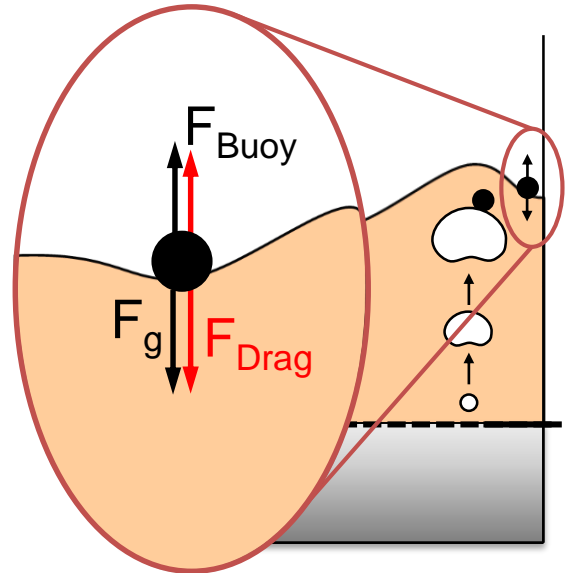
- Investigate axial mixing of single large tracer
  - Operational conditions ( $H_0$ ,  $u_0 - u_{mf}$ ,  $\Delta P_{\text{Distributor}}$ )
  - 3 tracer densities

## Method

- Magnetic particle tracking
  - 3-dimensional tracking
- Fluid-dynamical scaling
  - Relevant for industrial scale
  - Resembling hot conditions

# Theory

- Axial mixing induced by bubbles
- Segregation
- Biomass fuel
  - Light particles
  - Large particles



# Experimental setup

- Fluid-dynamic scaling

$$\frac{U_0^2}{gD} \frac{\rho_p}{\rho_f} \frac{\rho_p U_0 d_p}{\mu_f} \frac{\rho_f U_0 D}{\mu_f} \frac{L}{D}$$



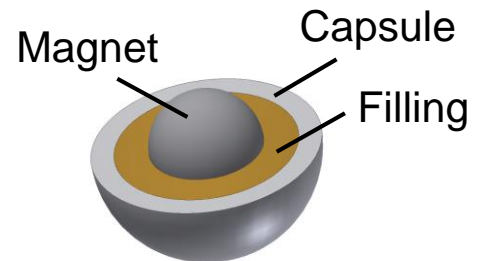
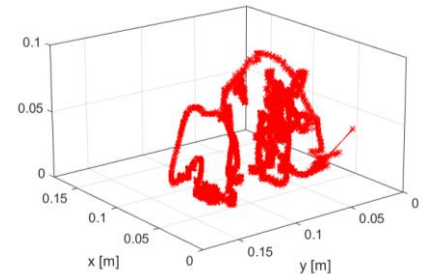
Length  
Mass  
Time



Parameter	Unit	Hot model	Cold model
Temperature	°C	800	20
Bed dimensions	m x m	0.74 x 0.74	0.17 x 0.17
Bed height	m	0.18 / 0.305	0.04 / 0.07
Superficial velocity	m/s	0.01 – 0.5	0.006 – 0.236
Bed material density	kg/m <sup>3</sup>	2 600	8 900
Bed material size	µm	250	60
Tracer size	mm	44	10
Biochar density	kg/m <sup>3</sup>	350	1 470
Biomass density	kg/m <sup>3</sup>	800	2 980
Emulsion density	kg/m <sup>3</sup>	1 230	4 320

# Experimental setup

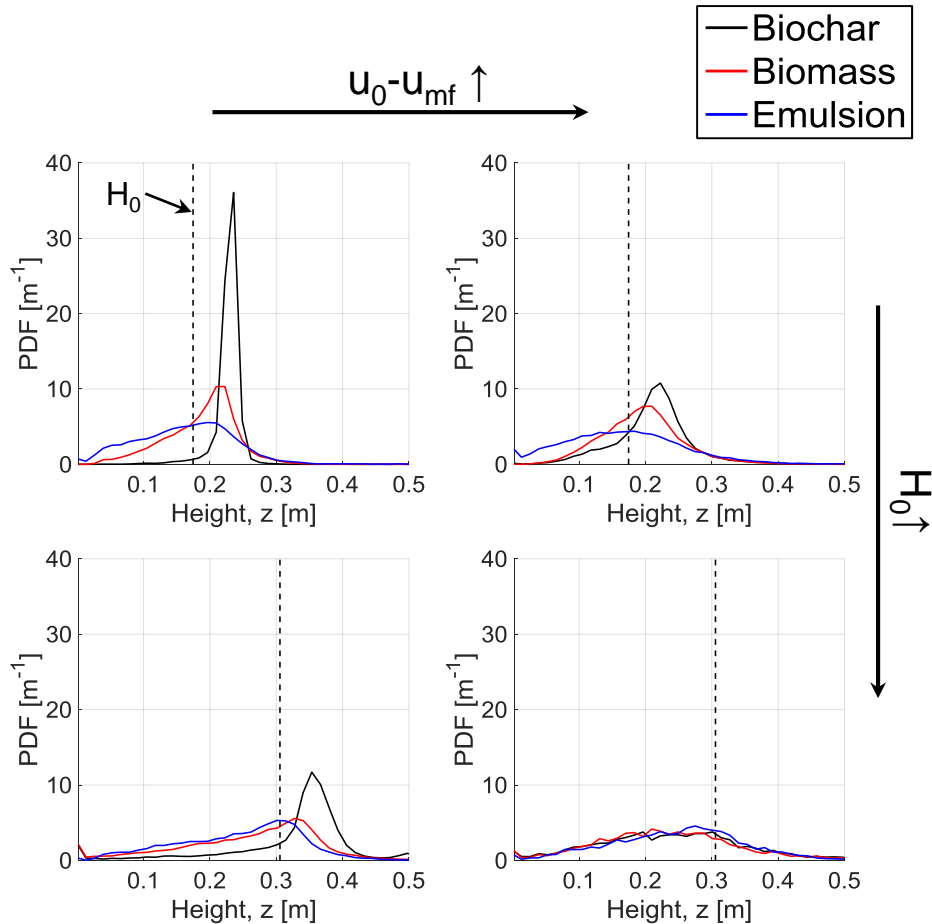
- 3D magnetic particle tracking
  - Spatial resolution:  $\sim 1$  mm
  - Temporal accuracy:  $\sim 30$  Hz
  
- Tracer
  - Permanent magnet
  - Spherical, const. diameter





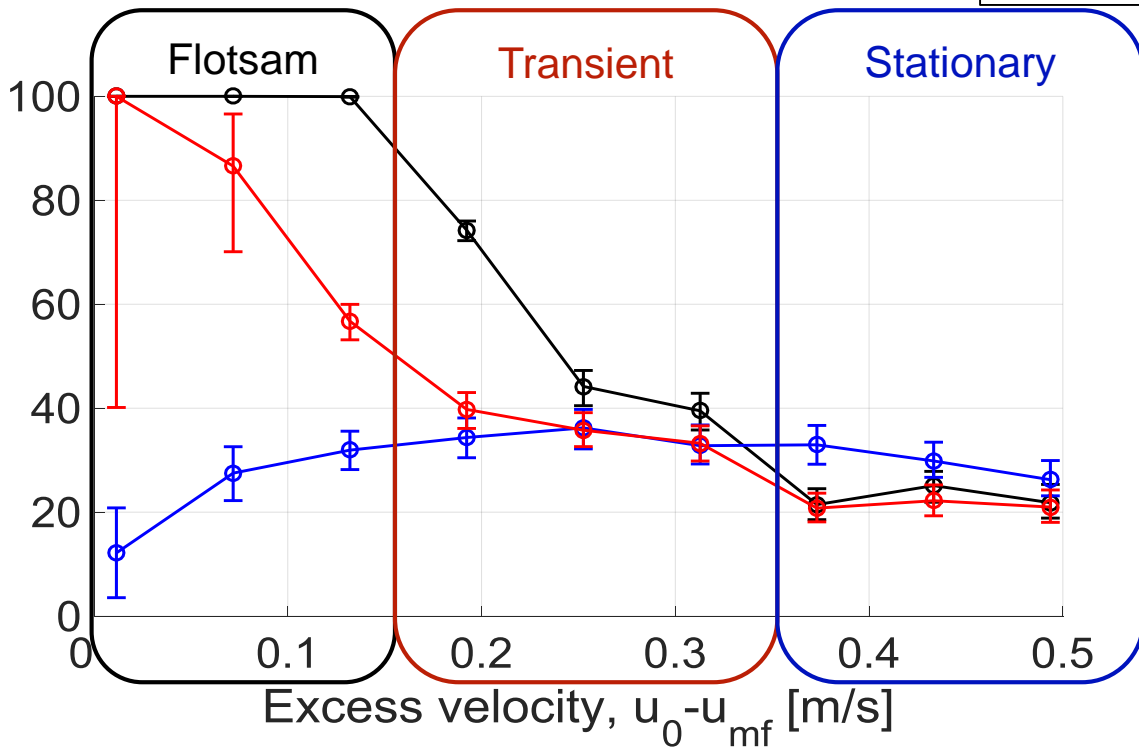
# Results

- Axial tracer location



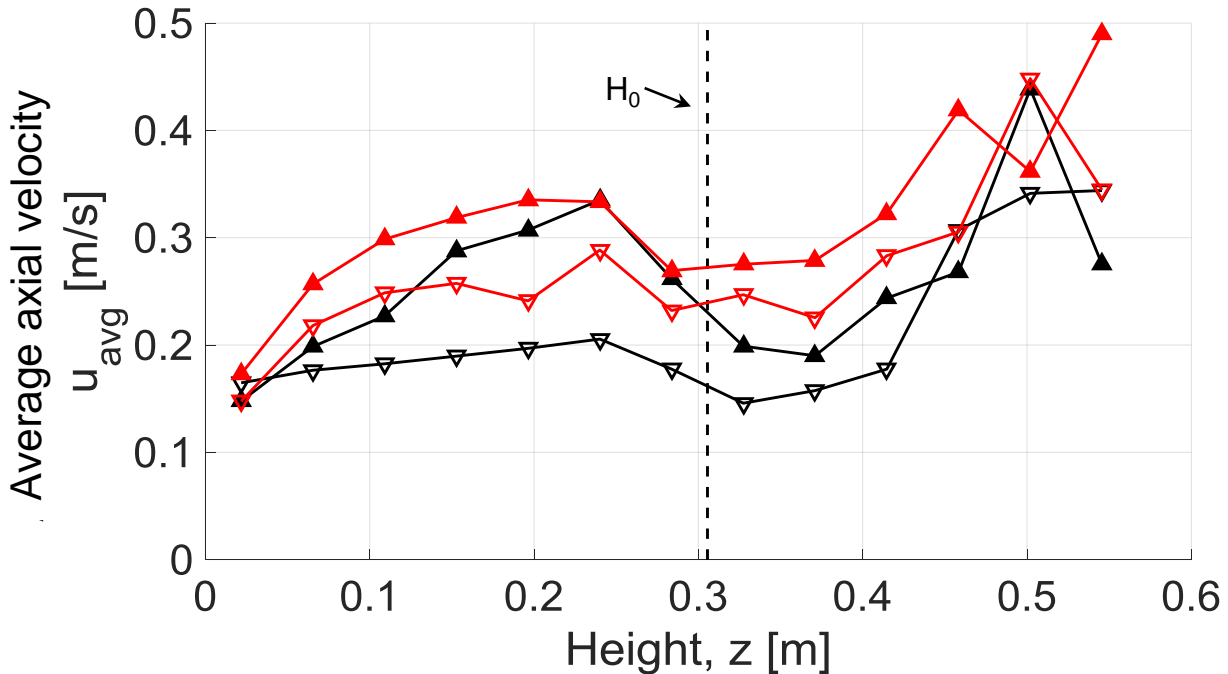
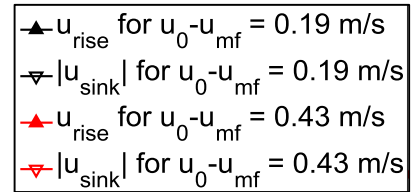
# Results

Time spent on and above dense bed surface  
 $F_{fb}$  [%]



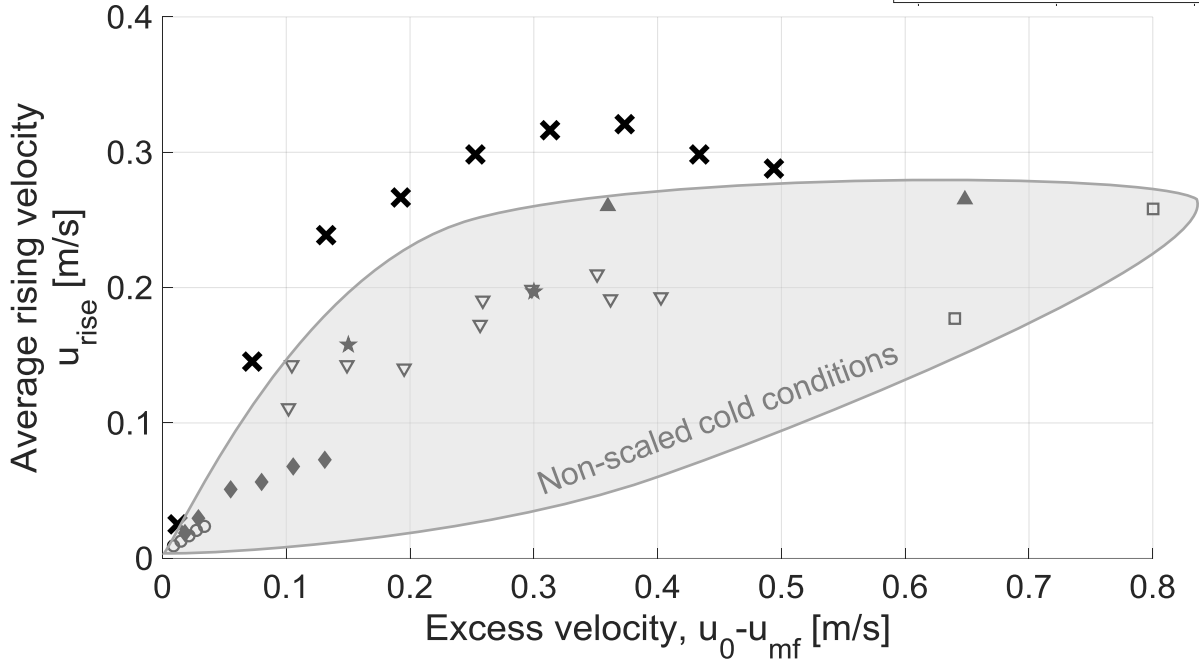
- Biochar
- Biomass
- Emulsion

# Results



# Results

- ✕ This work (upscaled)
- Rees et al. (3D labscale)
- ◆ Nienow et al. (3D labscale)
- Soria-Verdugo et al. (2D labscale)
- ▽ Lim et al. (2D labscale)
- ▲ Fotovat et al. (3D labscale)
- ★ Stein et al. (3D labscale)



# Conclusions

- Enhanced axial mixing
  - Bed height  $\uparrow$
  - Fluidization velocity  $\uparrow$
  - Tracer density  $\uparrow$
  - $\Delta P_{\text{Distributor}} -$
- 3 mixing regimes with  $u_0 - u_{mf} \uparrow$   
 1) *Flotsam*. 2) *Transient*. 3) *Stationary*.
- Tracers up-/downward velocities
  - Cold lab-scale  $\leftrightarrow$  fluid-dynamically down-scaled

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