

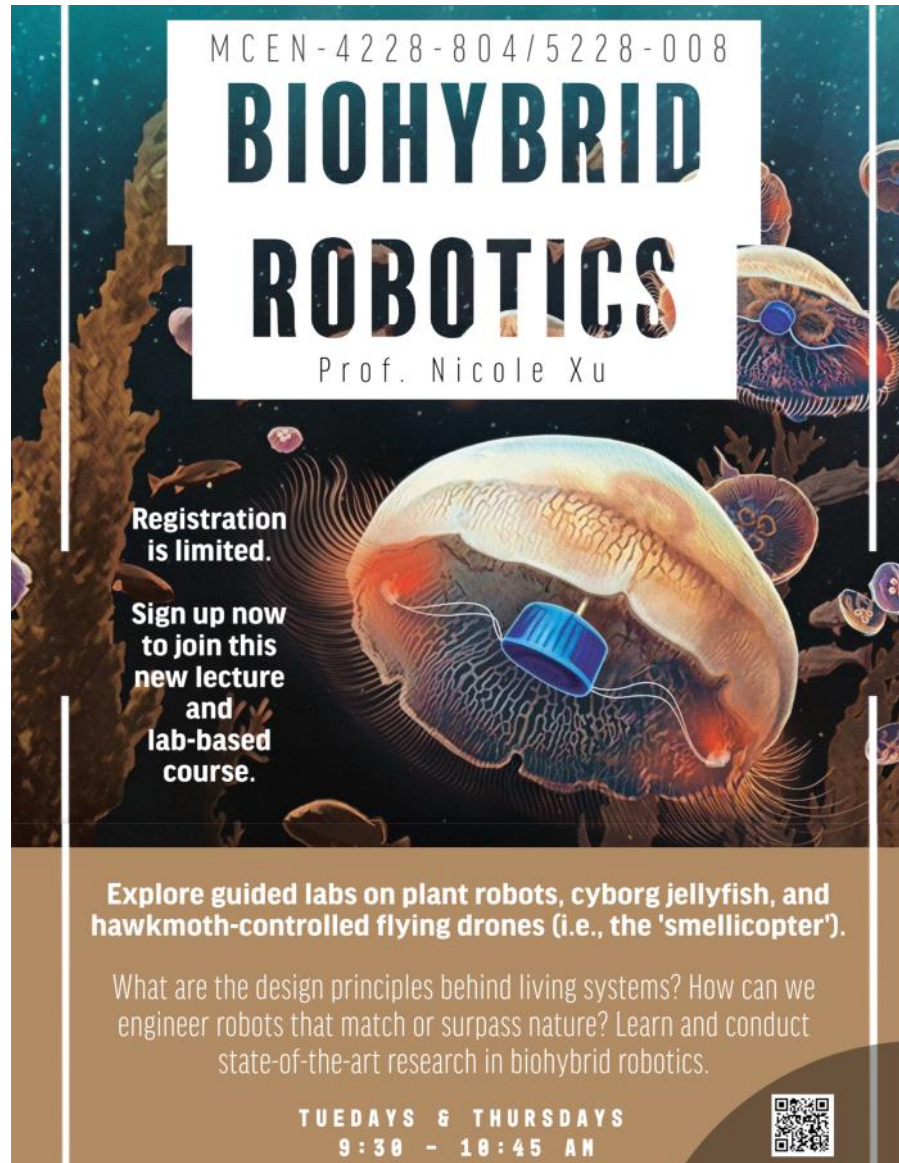
## 26. Particles 4 Water

Friday, November 15, 2024

### Today:

Particles - Hydrogen Bubble technique

Refractive Index = Index of Refraction techniques



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# BIOHYBRID ROBOTICS


Prof. Nicole Xu

**Registration is limited.**  
**Sign up now to join this new lecture and lab-based course.**

**Explore guided labs on plant robots, cyborg jellyfish, and hawkmoth-controlled flying drones (i.e., the 'smellicopter').**

What are the design principles behind living systems? How can we engineer robots that match or surpass nature? Learn and conduct state-of-the-art research in biohybrid robotics.

**TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS**  
**9:30 - 10:45 AM**



Yes, conflicts with Sr Design.

### Solid Particle Sources

*Neutral buoyancy*

- Corn starch (diluted)
- Glass or polystyrene microspheres. Specific size and density. \$\$
- Latex bubbles
- Rust (filtered)
- Mica powder for makeup
- Alumina, sold as polishing powder. Available in 1 to 100 micron size ranges
- Wax beads (Pine Sol)
- Pine pollen (floats on surface)

Lycopodium powder (also used as flash powder)  
<http://vimeo.com/89491724> Cymatics by Susie Sie

## Hydrogen Bubbles

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nuQyKGuXJOs&t>

NCFMF film 'Flow Visualization'

National Committee on Fluid Mechanics Films

Hydrogen bubble technique, but also discusses streamline vs streakline vs pathline

Streamline: tangent to the velocity field

Pathline: path one particle takes

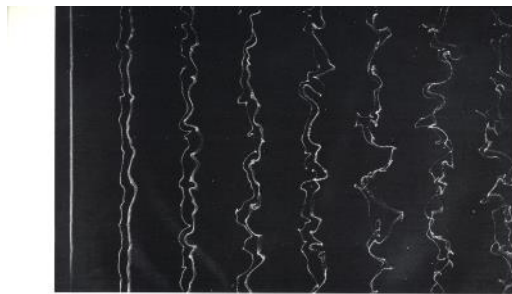
Streakline: path of all particles starting at a single location

In steady flow, all three of these are the same.

Clicker: What does motion blur in a flow vis image show?

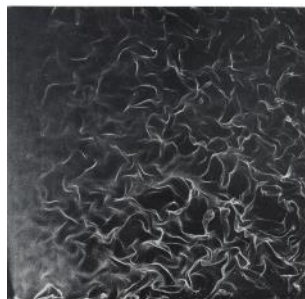
- A) Streamline
- B) Pathline
- C) Streakline

Want neutral buoyancy, but for very small particles viscous forces are high. Can use up to 100  $\mu\text{m}$  bubbles. Good scatterers.



154. Growth of material lines in isotropic turbulence. A fine platinum wire at the left is stretched across a water tunnel 18 mesh lengths behind a turbulence-generating grid. The Reynolds number is 1300 based on grid-mesh diameter.

155. Wrinkling of a fluid surface in isotropic turbulence. Here the platinum wire generates a continuous sheet of hydrogen bubbles. It is deformed by the nearly isotropic turbulence behind the grid. The bright streaks are believed to be places where the wrinkled sheet is viewed edge-on. Photograph by M. J. Karweit, M. S. E. thesis, Johns Hopkins Univ., 1968

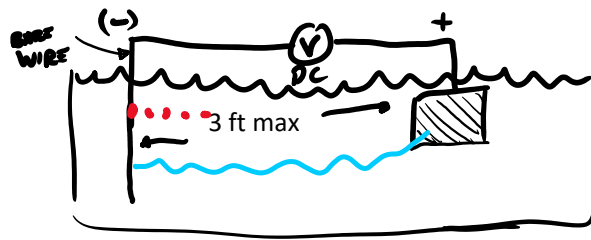


155. Wrinkling of a fluid surface in isotropic turbulence. Here the platinum wire generates a continuous sheet of hydrogen bubbles. It is deformed by the nearly isotropic turbulence behind the grid. The bright streaks are believed to be places where the wrinkled sheet is viewed edge-on. Photograph by M. J. Karweit, M. S. E. thesis, Johns Hopkins Univ., 1968

Van Dyke's Album of Fluid Motion

## Hydrogen Bubbles



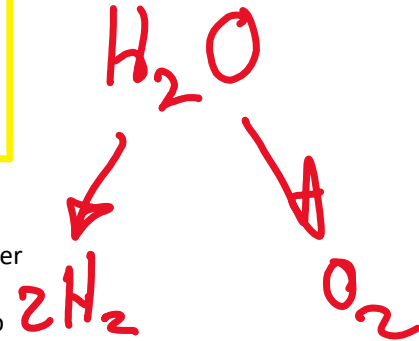


H<sub>2</sub> bubbles  
anode

O<sub>2</sub> & Cl<sub>2</sub> bubbles  
cathode

large plate or  
pipe

Cl<sub>2</sub> = Chlorine gas. Used as sterilizer in 'salt pools' and hot tubs.  
NaCl = table salt. Small device electrolyzes water. Chlorine gas kills organic compounds, then returns to Cl ions. Nice to not have to add chlorine or bromine tablets.



Smallest H<sub>2</sub> bubbles if wire is very thin. Bubbles = 1/2 to 1 wire diameter = 25 to 50 μm

Want small enough bubbles to track flow, and have a slow rise time, so < 100 μm needed.

Best if wire is platinum. Other wires oxidize, and don't provide a clean sheet of bubbles.

Minute paper: Why not use O<sub>2</sub>?



- For same current, get half as much O<sub>2</sub>
- diffusivity
- relative solubility
- surface tension
- Would oxidize thin wire

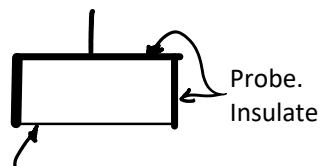
Depending on salt concentration, for a large rake, need 50 - 70 VDC, 1 amp minimum.  
For long wires (200 mm) need 250 V, 2 amps  
Expensive power supply.

The water must conduct well.

Add salt. Some refs say sodium sulfate is better than sodium chloride, table salt.

Weak acid or base would also conduct, but may eat wire.

Too much salt = bigger bubbles, Cl gas?





Pt wire, tight and smooth. Big bubbles form at kinks.

Any ions in the water are attracted to the electrodes, so material plates onto the electrodes, fouls the wire.

"Cleaning" = Reverse polarity briefly now and then for a few seconds

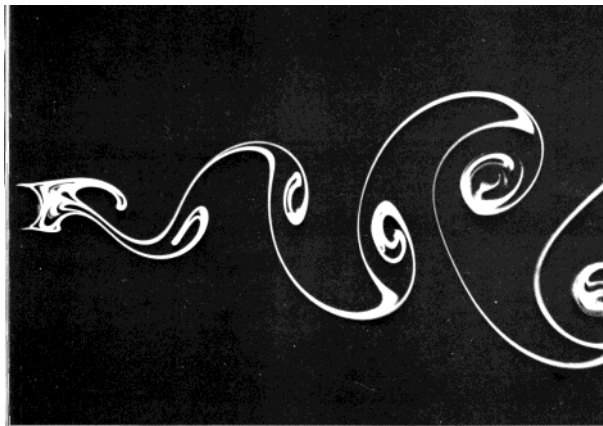
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## Electrolytic Precipitation Technique

Same circuitry as H<sub>2</sub> bubbles, but 10VDC, 10 mA. Much more reasonable requirements but....

Tracer is electrolytically precipitated oxide at anode, of anode material.

Metal often used = solder = tin+lead. Two heavy metals you don't want to put down the drain; needs 5 um filter.



94. Kármán vortex street behind a circular cylinder at  $R=140$ . Water is flowing at 1.4 cm/s past a cylinder of diameter 1 cm. Integrated streaklines are shown by electrolytic precipitation of a white colloidal smoke, illuminated

by a sheet of light. The vortex sheet is seen to grow in width downstream for some diameters. Photograph by Sasa-zofu Tanaka



95. Kármán vortex street behind a circular cylinder at  $R=200$ . This photograph, made using a different fluid (and in another country) happens to have been timed so as to resemble remarkably the flow pattern in the upper picture. A thin sheet of tobacco smoke is introduced upstream in a low-turbulence wind tunnel. Photograph by Gary Koopmann

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Van Dyke's  
Album of Fluid Motion