Abstract Submitted for the DFD12 Meeting of The American Physical Society

Numerical analysis of radiation- and streaming-induced microparticle acoustophoresis¹ RUNE BARNKOB, PETER BARKHOLT MULLER, HENRIK BRUUS, Technical University of Denmark, MADS JAKOB HERRING JENSEN, COMSOL A/S — We present a numerical analysis of the acoustophoretic motion of microparticles suspended in a liquid-filled microchannel excited with an ultrasound field tuned to resonance. The imposed first-order ultrasound field generates second-order fields leading to two particle forces with a non-zero time-average: the acoustic radiation force from sound-wave scattering off the particles and the Stokes drag force from the induced acoustic streaming flow. We consider a viscous heat-conducting liquid and non-interacting spherical particles. The model is based on the thermoviscous acoustic equations and takes into account the micrometer-thin but crucial viscous boundary layers at rigid walls. Using a numerical tracking scheme, we quantify the acoustophoretic particle velocities for experimentally relevant parameters. We characterize the transition from radiationto streaming-dominated acoustophoretic motion as function of particle size, channel geometry, and material properties. See also Muller et al., Lab Chip 12, in press (2012).

¹This research was supported by the Danish Council for Independent Research, Technology and Production Sciences, Grants No. 274-09-0342 and No. 11-107021.

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Date submitted: 02 Aug 2012

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