Abstract Submitted for the DFD16 Meeting of The American Physical Society

Volumetric microscale particle tracking velocimetry (PTV) in porous media. TIANQI GUO, SOROUSH ARAMIDEH, AREZOO M. ARDEKANI, PAVLOS P. VLACHOS, Purdue University — The steady-state flow through refractive-index-matched glass bead microchannels is measured using microscopic particle tracking velocimetry (μPTV). A novel technique is developed to volumetrically reconstruct particles from oversampled two-dimensional microscopic images of fluorescent particles. Fast oversampling of the quasi-steady-state flow field in the lateral direction is realized by a nano-positioning piezo stage synchronized with a fast CMOS camera. Experiments at different Reynolds numbers are carried out for flows through a series of both monodispersed and bidispersed glass bead microchannels with various porosities. The obtained velocity fields at porescale (on the order of 10 μ m) are compared with direct numerical simulations (DNS) conducted in the exact same geometries reconstructed from micro-CT scans of the glass bead microchannels. The developed experimental method would serve as a new approach for exploring the flow physics at pore-scale in porous media, and also provide benchmark measurements for validation of numerical simulations.

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Date submitted: 02 Aug 2016

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