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2017 American Nuclear Society International Conference on Mathematics & Computational MethodsApplied to Nuclear Science & Engineering Multiphase Turbulence Mechanisms Identification from Consistent Analysis of Direct Numerical Simulation Data

Direct Numerical Simulation (DNS) serves as an irreplaceable tool to probe the complexities of multiphase flow and identify turbulent mechanisms that elude conventional experimental measurement techniques. The insights unlocked via its careful analysis can be used to guide the formulation and development of turbulence models used in multiphase computational fluid dynamics (M-CFD) simulations of nuclear reactor applications. Here, we perform statistical analyses of DNS bubbly flow data generated by Bolotnov (Re_t=400) and Lu & Tryggvason (Re_t=150), examining single-point statistics of mean and turbulent liquid properties, turbulent kinetic energy budgets, and two-point correlations in space and time. Deformability of the bubble interface is shown to have a dramatic impact on the liquid turbulent stresses and energy budgets. A reduction in temporal and spatial correlations for the streamwise turbulent stress (uu) is also observed at wall-normal distances of y⁺=15, y/ δ =0.5, and y/ δ =1.0. These observations motivate the need for adaptation of length- and time-scales for bubble-induced turbulence models and serve as guidelines for future analyses of DNS bubbly flow data.