

## UvA-DARE (Digital Academic Repository)

A numerical study on the enhancement and suppression of crystal nucleation
--

van Meel, J.A.

Publication date 2009

Link to publication

Citation for published version (APA):

van Meel, J. A. (2009). A numerical study on the enhancement and suppression of crystal nucleation. [Thesis, externally prepared, Universiteit van Amsterdam].

## General rights

It is not permitted to download or to forward/distribute the text or part of it without the consent of the author(s) and/or copyright holder(s), other than for strictly personal, individual use, unless the work is under an open content license (like Creative Commons).

Disclaimer/Complaints regulations

If you believe that digital publication of certain material infringes any of your rights or (privacy) interests, please let the Library know, stating your reasons. In case of a legitimate complaint, the Library will make the material inaccessible and/or remove it from the website. Please Ask the Library: https://uba.uva.nl/en/contact, or a letter to: Library of the University of Amsterdam, Secretariat, Singel 425, 1012 WP Amsterdam, The Netherlands. You will be contacted as soon as possible.

## Acknowledgements

Over the last four years there were many people who contributed directly or indirectly to this work. Some provided scientific input, some spiritual support, and others made Amolf such an enjoyable working place for me. And although I know I can never thank everyone, in what follows I try to pay some tribute to these people.

First of all my gratitude goes to my supervisor Daan. He managed the keep this fragile balance between guidance and freedom. This allowed me to make mistakes, discover many aspects of science, and to explore a variety of different topics. But at the same time, whenever I got lost in the dark jungle of options, he provided the light that got me back on track. He posesses the invaluable ability to provide - within a flick of an eye - excellent feedback on a scientific problem, and re-establish both confidence and motivation.

During my interview at Amolf I was foretold that much scientific guidance comes from discussions with other "group" members, a statement I am happy to confirm. In this regard I like to mention Ana, Axel, Bela, Bianca, Chantal, Kostya, Live, Patrick, Pieter Rein, Sanne, and Simon. They were always willing to explain a C++ algorithm, a simulation technique, a mathematical derivation, to discuss any problem at hand, or to listen to my wildest theories. But I also like to include my collaborators from outside Amolf: Amanda, Benoit, Richard, Robert, and Simon. They broadened my perspective in our plenty discussions by challenging my point of view, be it on the nucleation rate units, the implementation of higher-dimensional third-order invariants, or the advantages of CUDA over CG. And when it came to finally writing down all parts for this booklet, I gratefully acknowledge Ana, David, Dorit, Filipe, Laurens, Nienke, Patrick, Pieter Rein, and Wiet for a careful reading, Rutger for his thesis template, and Kostya for his Latex support.

But scientific input is not the only ingredient. It is the warm, open, cheerful atmosphere that made working here very special to me, achieved by the fun I had with all the "overloop" people. Whether there was cake during coffee, a discussion at lunch, an "occasional" afternoon espresso, a chat in the sun on the grass, one of the countless parties, or a "PV uitje", I always felt happy and surrounded by friends. And a special thanks goes to Nienke, my room mate over the past four years. Her

joyful spirit never failed to make me see things in a positive way, and I shed quite some tears with her rolling on the floor laughing.

And still more is needed to successfully accomplish a thesis: it lies with the people in the support facilities. Here, I like to mention Jan and Lars, who helped me in my countless attemps to use the clusters, and Wouter, how made all the legal issues of moving to Amsterdam look like a piece of cake. But there are many others that deserve my thanks, like the reception, the storage, the accounting, the catering, and many more, who make everything at Amolf run smoothly.

So far I only mentioned people I met during my time at Amolf. But work means nothing without a chance to relax from its strains, both mentally and physically. Nothing tastes better than a beer after an exhausting hour of squash with Chris, Evert-Jan, Fedor, Gabriel, Jeroen, and Tom, or during the victorious WoW sessions with Christof, Florian, and Matthias. Or in a bar in Vienna with Ahmed, Alex, Artur, Boris, Cornelia, Florian, Iris, Karin, Lukas, May, Philip, Patricia, Sonja, and Teresa, who rearranged their schedules on short notice to make time for "a beer" with me when I was around. And last but not least I want to thank my family, who offered their support and encouragement whenever needed, and of course Dorit, who always stood by my side as my pillar of strength.

In the end, I apologize to all those people I did not name here explicitely. If you feel you should have been mentioned, consider yourself placed on these pages, and accept my sincere gratitude.