

Numerical simulations of the full ink-jet printing processes: From jetting to evaporation

Citation for published version (APA):

Diddens, C., Li, Y., Segers, T. J., Reinten, H., de Loore, Y., Wijshoff, H. M. A., & Lohse, D. (2019). Numerical simulations of the full ink-jet printing processes: From jetting to evaporation. In *Proceedings of the 72nd Annual Meeting of the APS Division of Fluid Dynamics*

Document status and date:

Published: 01/01/2019

Document Version:

Accepted manuscript including changes made at the peer-review stage

Please check the document version of this publication:

- A submitted manuscript is the version of the article upon submission and before peer-review. There can be important differences between the submitted version and the official published version of record. People interested in the research are advised to contact the author for the final version of the publication, or visit the DOI to the publisher's website.
- The final author version and the galley proof are versions of the publication after peer review.
- The final published version features the final layout of the paper including the volume, issue and page numbers.

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NUMERICAL SIMULATIONS OF INKJET PRINTING PROCESSES

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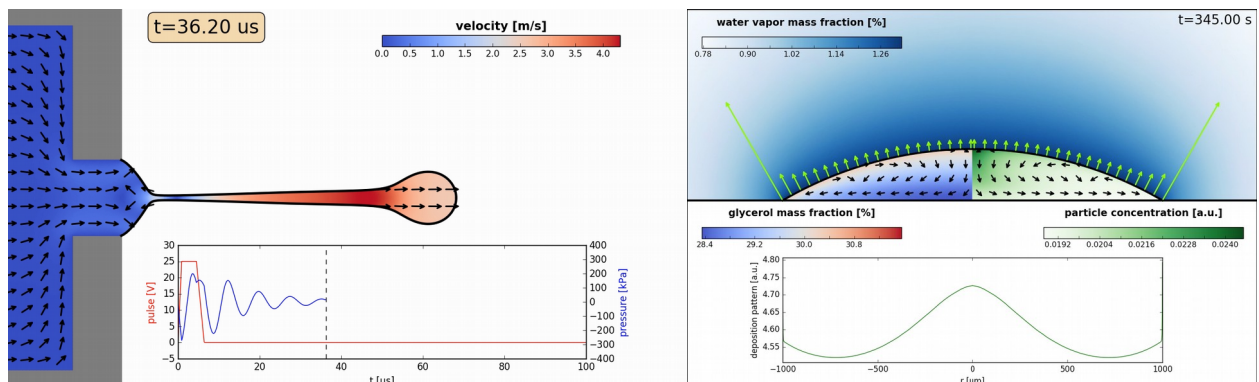
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Nowadays, when you can easily order any kind of book or even customized photo books with a few clicks online, print-on-demand solutions become more and more important, for which ink-jet printing is an ideal candidate. This process, however, demands controlling the relevant processes, i.e. the jetting of droplets and the subsequent evaporation and absorption dynamics, which is even more complex due to the fact that ink is constituted of a mixture of different liquids, surfactants and pigments.

Using a sharp-interface ALE finite element method, we numerically investigate all the aspect relevant in ink-jet printing. We show how a short pause in jetting can result in clogged nozzles due to solvent evaporation and how mixture droplets evaporate and coalesce on the paper. Furthermore, the relevance of surfactants is addressed, helping to control the Marangoni flow to avoid undesired effects and leading to a perfect final printout.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: This work is part of an Industrial Partnership Programme of the Foundation for Fundamental Research on Matter (FOM), which is financially supported by the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO). This research program is co-financed by Océ-Technologies B.V., University of Twente, and Eindhoven University of Technology.

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