

The logo for Oregon Tech, featuring the word "Oregon" in white on a dark blue background and "TECH" in dark blue on a yellow background.

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Development of a Mathematical  
Model for Particle-Droplet  
Interaction for Dust Control

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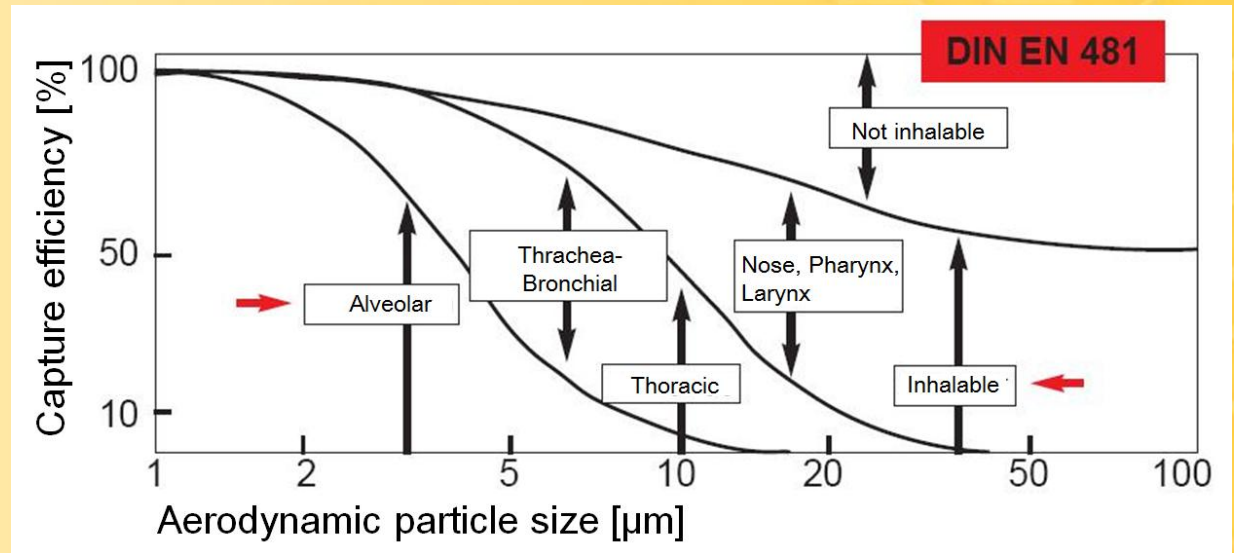
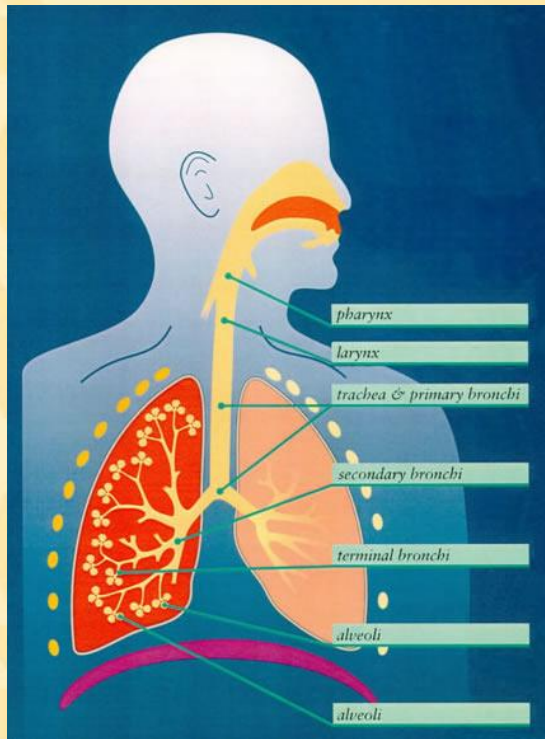
# Development of a Mathematical Model for Particle-Droplet Interaction for Dust Control

- Introduction
- Problem description
- Mathematical basis for model
- Development of model
- Discussion of preliminary results
- Conclusions / Future Work

# Introduction

- Significance of dust control for sustainable development
  - The health dangers with respect to air quality have been known for over 500 years.
  - Protecting health of mine workers
  - Protecting health/quality of life of surrounding community
  - Improving reputation of mining company

# Dust Fractions



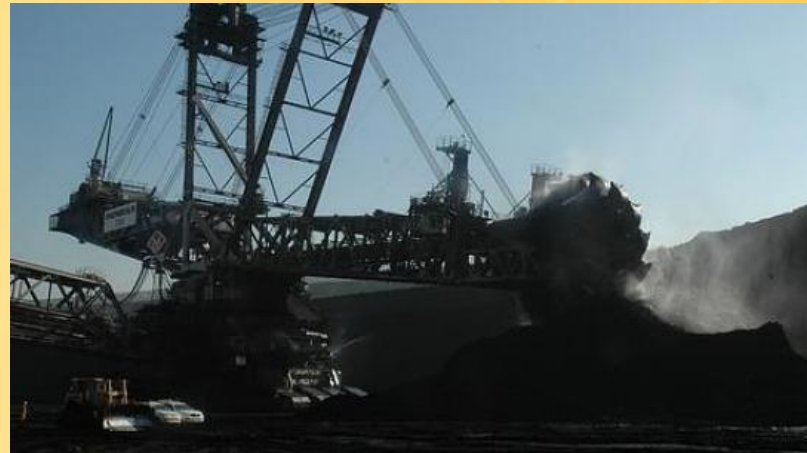
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# Dust – Mining

- The major health concerns with regards to respirable dust in mining are:
  - Coal workers' pneumoconiosis
  - Silicosis
- Dust originates from:
  - Development
  - Extraction
  - Conveying and Hauling

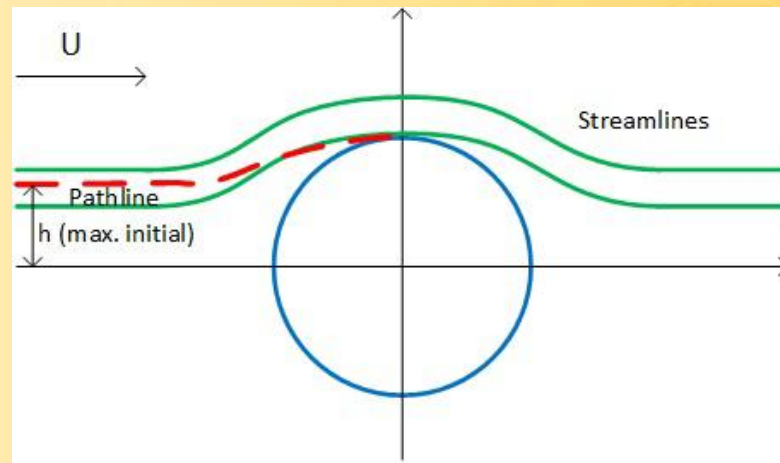


# Water Sprays Systems for Dust Control



# Basics of Particle-Droplet Interaction

- Dust particles
  - Particle size distribution
  - Concentration
- Water droplets
  - Droplet size distribution
  - Flow rate
- Interaction
  - Relative velocity
- Assumptions
  - Dust particles entrained in uniform air flow
  - Water droplet stationary
  - Low Reynolds Number / Stokes Flow
  - Drag Force is critical



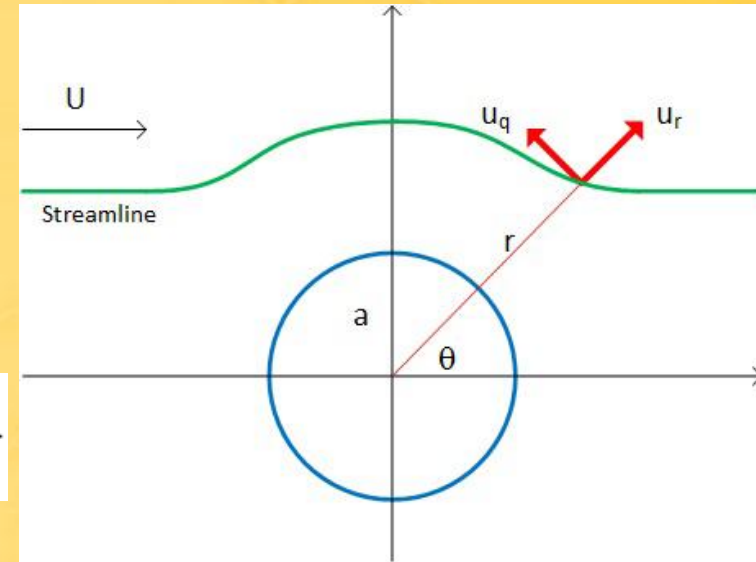
# Mathematical Basis for Model

- Streamlines

$$\psi = Ur^2 \sin^2 \theta \left\{ \frac{1}{2} - \frac{3a}{4r} + \frac{a^3}{4r^3} \right\}$$

$$u_r = \frac{1}{r^2 \sin \theta} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial \theta} = U \cos \theta \left\{ 1 - \frac{3a}{2r} + \frac{a^3}{2r^3} \right\}$$

$$u_\theta = -\frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial r} = -U \sin \theta \left\{ 1 - \frac{3a}{4r} - \frac{a^3}{4r^3} \right\}$$



- Drag Force

$$F_D = C_D A \frac{\rho u^2}{2} \quad C_D = \frac{24}{Re} \quad Re = \frac{\rho u D}{\mu} \quad \longrightarrow \quad F_D = 6\pi\mu R_p u$$



# Development of Model: Parameters

Factor	Variable	Range
Dust Particle Size	$R_p$ (radius)	0.25 – 5 $\mu\text{m}$
Dust particle density	$D_p$	1 – 3 $\text{t}/\text{m}^3$
Water droplet size	$R_d$ (radius)	5 – 50 $\mu\text{m}$
Uniform of fluid	$U$	1 – 6 $\text{m}/\text{s}$
Mass of particle	$m$	$D_p * (4\pi R_p^3/3)$
Velocity of fluid at point	$\mathbf{u}_f$	vector
Starting distance of particle	$h$	0.1 m
Time	$t$	0 – 0.02 s
Velocity of particle	$\mathbf{u}$	vector
Density of fluid	$d_f$	1.184 $\text{kg}/\text{m}^3$
Kinematic viscosity of fluid	$\text{Nu}$	$1.562 \times 10^{-3} \text{ m}^2/\text{s}$

# Development of Model: Physics

- Newton's second law for the particle gives

*the sum of forces acting on the particle equals  
the mass of the particle times its acceleration*

or

$$F_D = ma$$

# Development of Model: Initial Value Problem

- Initial value problem (IVP) for the velocity of the dust particle  $\mathbf{u}(t)$ :

$$m\mathbf{u}' = 6\pi R_p (\mathbf{u}_f - \mathbf{u}) , \text{ with } \mathbf{u} \text{ as time dependent velocity of particle;}$$

$$\mathbf{u}(0) = \mathbf{u}_f$$

# Dependencies in the IVP

- Note that the fluid velocity vector  $\mathbf{u}_f = \langle u_r, u_\theta \rangle$  changes implicitly and *nonlinearly* with respect to *time* through its dependencies on  $r = r(t)$  and  $\theta = \theta(t)$ :

$$u_r = \frac{1}{r^2 \sin \theta} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial \theta} = U \cos \theta \left\{ 1 - \frac{3a}{2r} + \frac{a^3}{2r^3} \right\}$$

$$u_\theta = -\frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial r} = -U \sin \theta \left\{ 1 - \frac{3a}{4r} - \frac{a^3}{4r^3} \right\}$$

# Approach to Solving the IVP

- The IVP reduces to a differential equation for the velocity of the particle,

$$m\mathbf{u}' = 6\pi R_p (\mathbf{u}_f (r(t), \theta(t)) - \mathbf{u})$$

together with the initial condition,

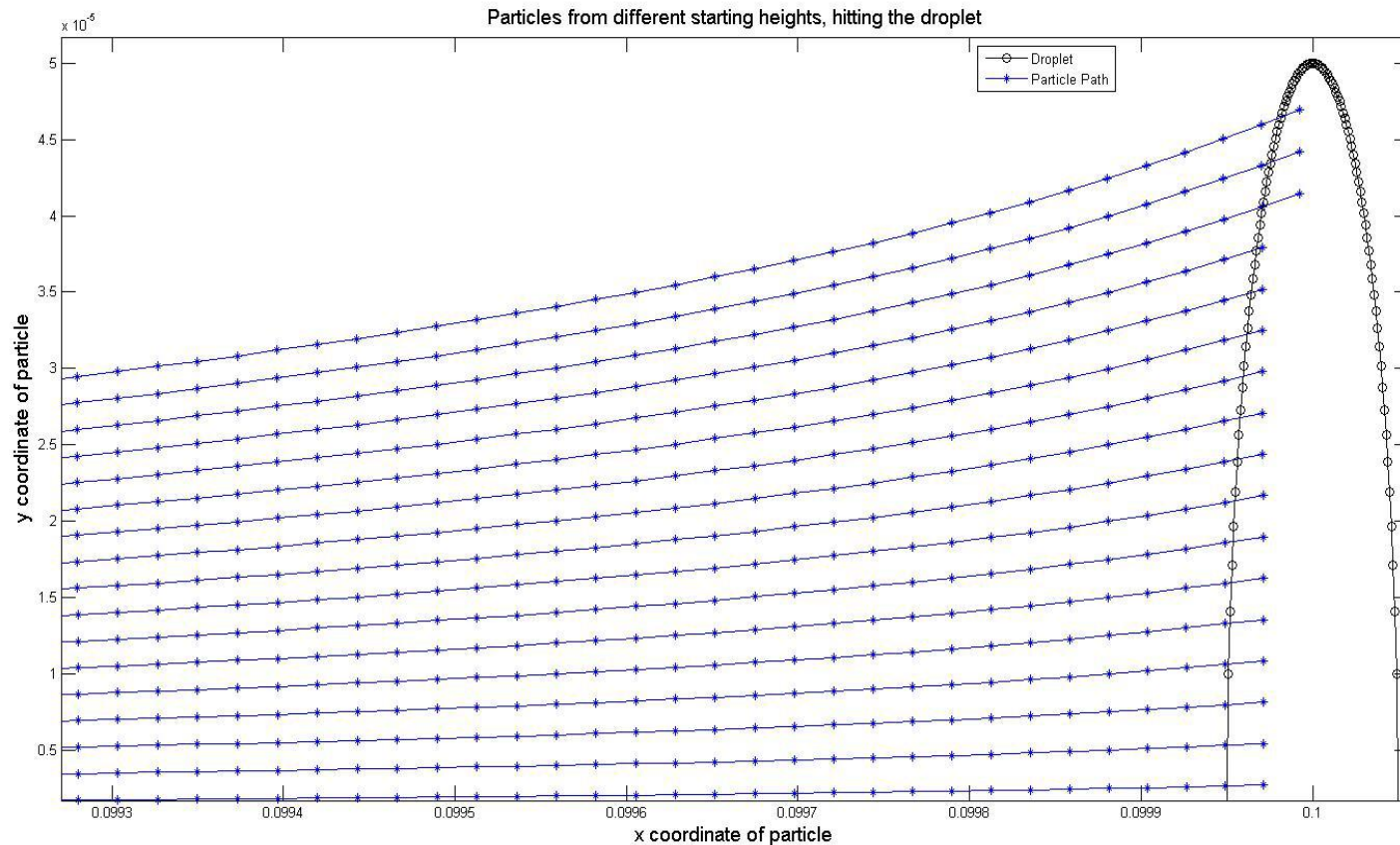
$$\mathbf{u}(0) = \mathbf{u}_f$$

- The implicit dependence on time of the differential equation requires numerical computation of  $\mathbf{u}$ ...

# Algorithm for Solving the IVP

- Numerical Method for the solution to the IVP: Runge Kutta of order 2 (RK2)
- Algorithm (implemented in Matlab):
  - a. *Given initial  $r$  and  $\theta$ , compute fluid velocity  $\mathbf{u}_f(r, \theta)$ ;*
  - b. *Compute new particle velocity  $\mathbf{u}$  from IVP using RK2;*
  - c. *Compute new position of particle based on new velocity  $\mathbf{u}$ ;*
  - d. *Compute new  $(r, \theta)$  based on the new position;*
  - e. *Repeat steps (a-d) until particle collides with the droplet.*

# Particles Colliding with Droplet

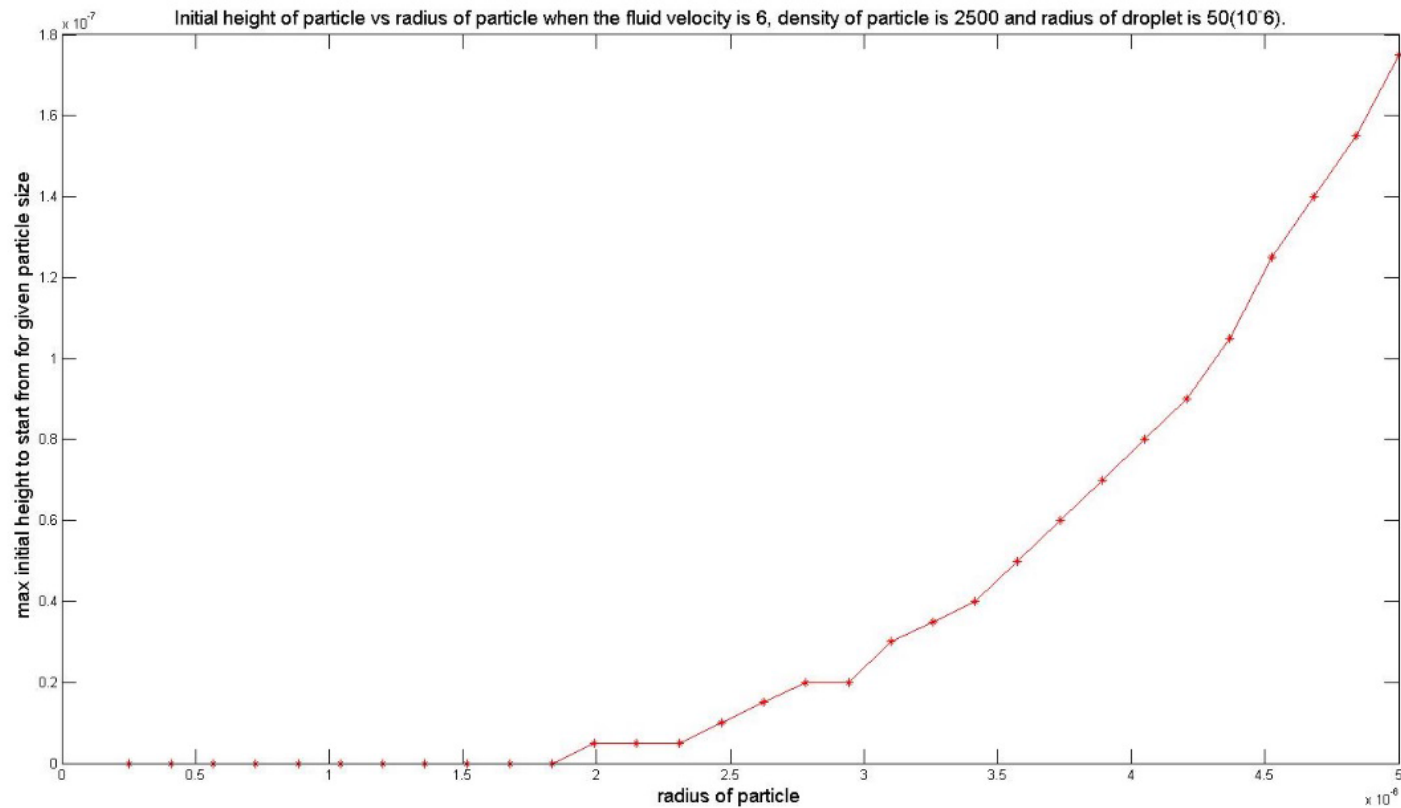


# Discussion of preliminary results

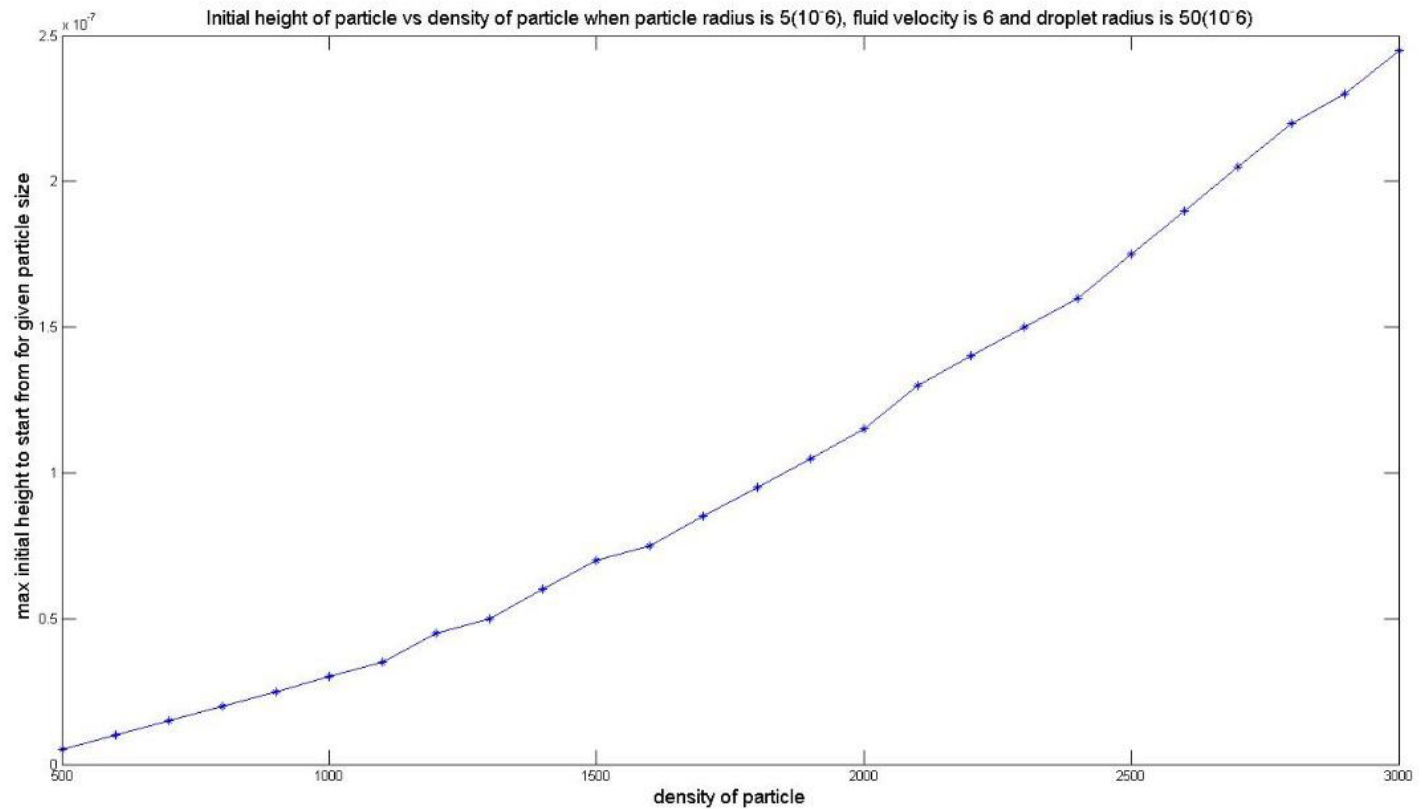
- Variation of 4 primary variables
- Calculation of maximum initial height to ensure collision
- Plot of maximum initial height vs. variable
- Determine dependencies



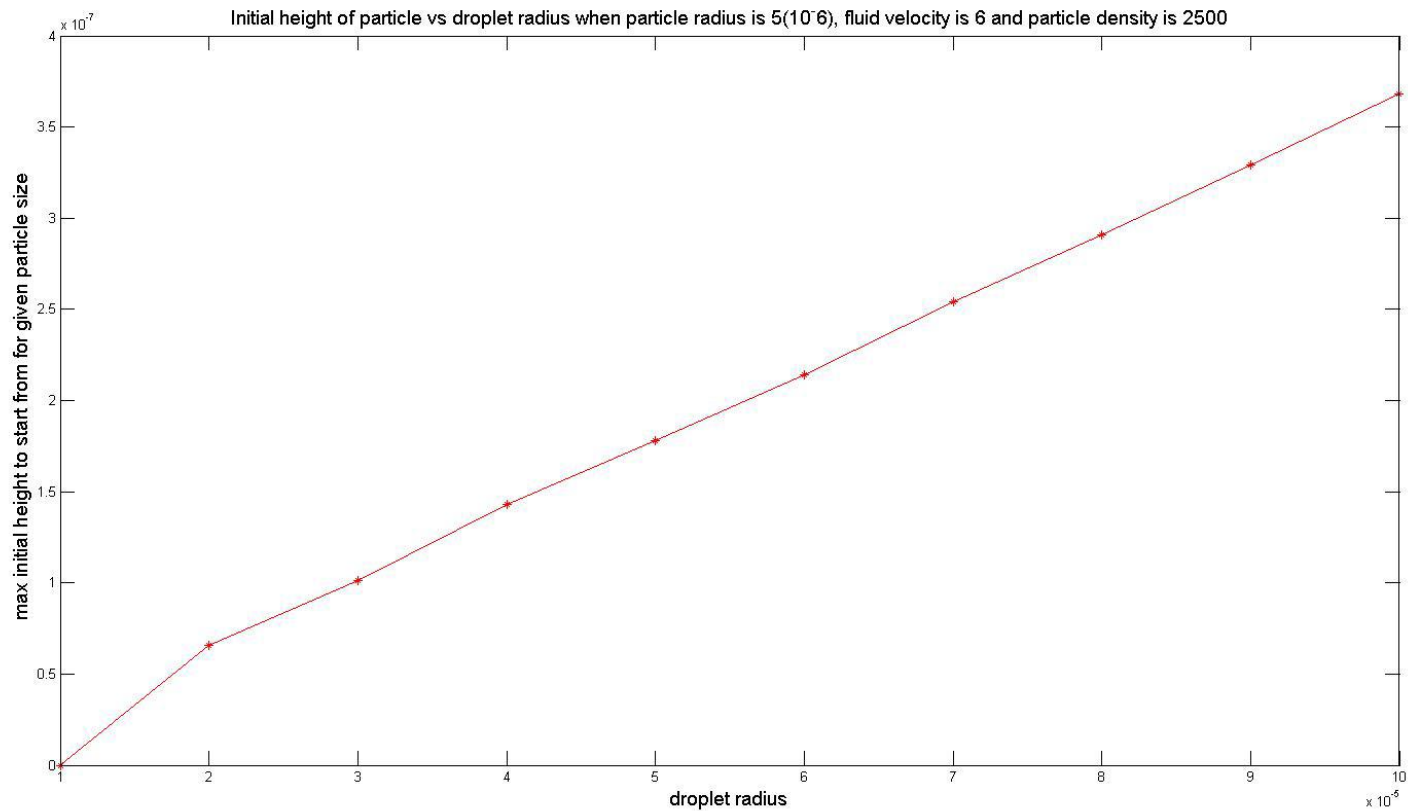
# Max. initial height with respect to particle size



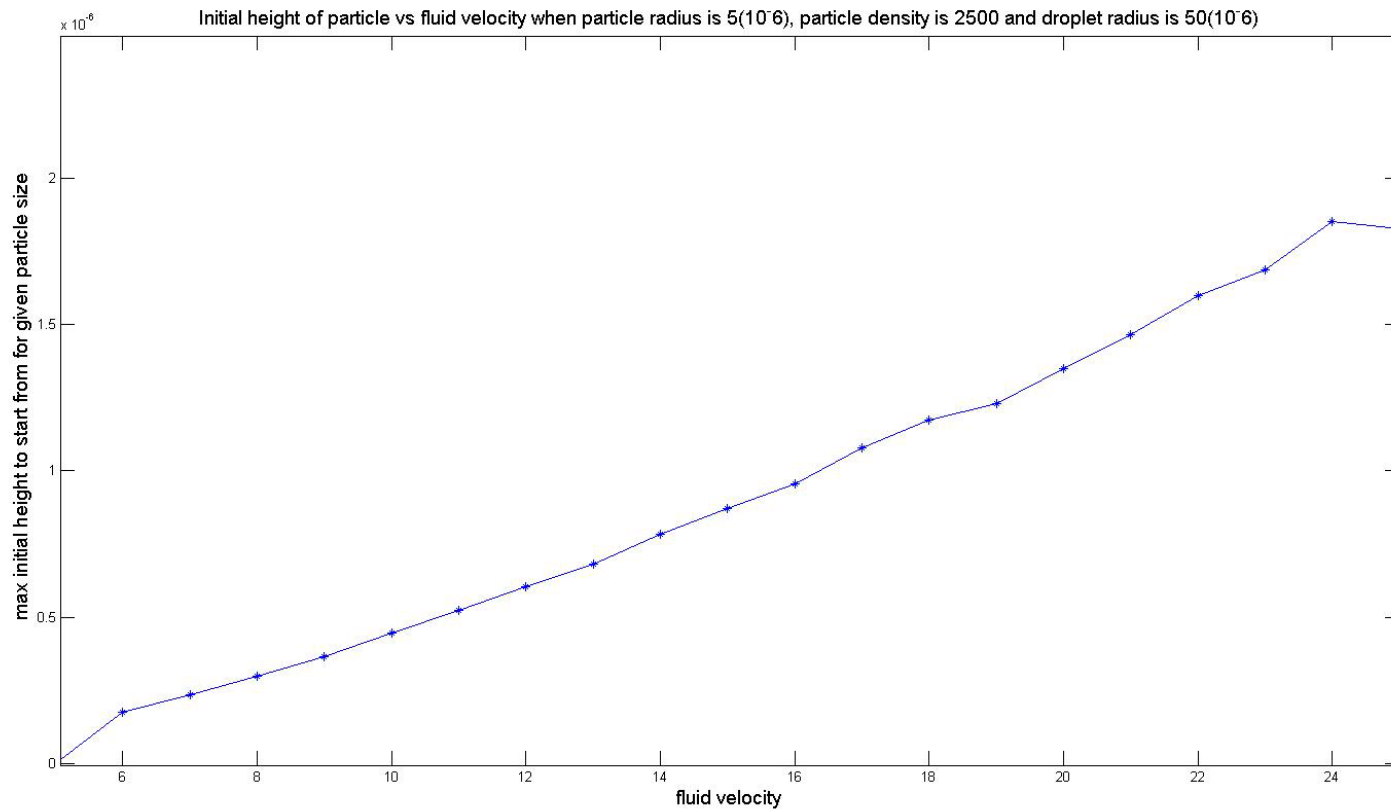
# Max. initial height with respect to density



# Max. initial height with respect to droplet size



# Max. initial height with respect to fluid velocity



# Future Work

- Use of higher order Runge-Kutta method to improve accuracy
- Improve accuracy of drag force calculation with Oseen's approximation
- Find a mathematical description of all parameters with respect to particle-droplet collisions
- Use information regarding dust concentration and water flow rates to determine the dust capture efficiency of a water spray system.
- Make a user friendly interface

# Conclusion

- Successfully completed first step in modeling dust particle and water droplet interaction for dust control
- Model behaves as logically expected
- Next steps can be implemented

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