Coupling Simulations of Growth and Motion of Dendrite by Phase-field Lattice Boltzmann Method

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ABSTRACT

Typical solidification microstructures consist of equiaxed and columnar structures. During solidification, convection of liquid plays a crucial role on both solidification structures. Here, the growth direction of columnar structures is changed by the convection [1], and free dendrites flowing within the melt form the equiaxed structures [2].

Due to some computational advantages over other numerical techniques, the phase-field method (PFM) has emerged as the most powerful numerical tool to simulate dendritic solidification [3]. The PFM has been also applied to dendritic growth in fluid flow [4]. However, almost all simulations have been carried out for fixed dendrites in fluid flow, and only few phase-field studies have been done for moving dendrites [5]. Recently, we have developed a phase-field lattice Boltzmann method (PFLBM) which can simultaneously simulate dendritic growth, and translation and rotation of the solid phase in fluid flow [6].

In this study, by using the PFLBM, we simulate dendritic growth with motion induced by fluid flow at various conditions, such as in forced flow, rising and sinking due to gravity, multiple dendrites, and so on. To accelerate those simulations, we perform parallel computing using multiple graphics processing units (GPUs) [7].

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