

Contents

Preface	13
Introduction	15
1. Investigations of flow processes – Experiments in silos	21
1.1. Experimental analysis of flow in the plane model by the DPIV (Digital Particle Image Velocimetry) technique.....	21
1.1.1. Introduction	21
1.1.2. Basic assumptions in granular material flow	24
1.1.3. Theory and experiments in plane flow	25
1.1.4. Experimental setup	27
1.1.5. Results of the experiments	28
1.1.5.1. Stagnant zone boundaries	28
1.1.5.2. Velocity distributions of the flowing grains	29
1.1.5.3. Streamlines	31
1.1.5.4. Velocity profiles	31
1.1.5.5. Evolution of velocities and plug flow zone	34
1.1.5.6. Wall stresses	36
1.1.5.6.1. Filling and storing pressures	37
1.1.5.6.2. Discharge pressures	40
1.1.6. Theoretical analysis of vertical velocity	40
1.1.6.1. Analysis of the experimental results	41
1.1.6.2. Statistical analysis of experimental results	42
1.1.6.3. Empirical description of vertical velocity V_y by the parabolic function	43
1.1.6.3.1. Relation between velocities in the model	48
1.1.6.3.2. Theoretical investigations of flow rate	48
1.1.6.4. Empirical description of the width of the funnel flow $2a$	50
1.1.6.5. Theoretical description of the plug flow zone	52
1.1.6.6. Kinematic model	53

1.1.6.7. Empirical description of velocities by the Gaussian function.....	54
1.1.6.7.1. Analysis of velocities.....	54
1.1.6.7.2. Modification of kinematic model	58
1.1.6.7.3. Evaluation of kinematic parameter b	59
1.1.6.8. Theoretical description of the flow rate	61
1.1.6.9. Verification of accuracy of the applied models.....	62
1.1.7. Conclusions	62
1.2. Experimental analysis of granular flow in the converging model using the DPIV technique	63
1.2.1. Introduction	63
1.2.2. Literature review	64
1.2.3. Experimental procedure	67
1.2.4. Mechanics of the flow	68
1.2.4.1. Velocity fields	69
1.2.4.2. Streamlines in the flowing material	72
1.2.4.3. Velocity profiles	72
1.2.4.4. Discharge flow rate	79
1.2.5. Empirical description of vertical velocity of moving particles.....	80
1.2.5.1. Experimental readings taken from velocity profiles	80
1.2.5.2. Statistical analysis of the experimental results	80
1.2.5.3. Statistical verification of dependence of velocity on height H	81
1.2.5.4. Empirical description of velocities by the parabolic function	81
1.2.5.5. Theoretical investigation of the flow rate	85
1.2.5.6. Empirical description of velocities by the Gaussian function.....	86
1.2.5.6.1. Analysis of velocities given in [128] and [141]	86
1.2.5.6.2. Evaluation of kinematic parameter b	89
1.2.5.6.3. Comparison of flow rate value Q by the parabolic and Gaussian solution	90
1.2.5.7. Radial Flow Departure	91
1.2.5.7.1. Verification of the Radial Flow Assumption	91
1.2.5.7.2. Verification of accuracy of the applied methods	94
1.2.6. Conclusions	95
1.3. Experimental analysis of eccentric flow in the plane model by the DPIV technique ...	96
1.3.1. Introduction	96
1.3.2. Literature review	96
1.3.3. Experimental procedure	99
1.3.4. Experimental results	99
1.3.4.1. Velocities of the flowing amaranth seeds. The model with rough walls	100
1.3.4.2. Velocities of the flowing amaranth seeds. The model with smooth walls.....	102
1.3.4.3. The flow of the flax-seeds in the model with medium-rough walls	103
1.3.4.4. The flow of the flax-seeds in the model with rough walls	105

1.3.4.5. Empirical analysis of the flow of the flax seeds in the model with smooth walls. Discharge from the right.....	106
1.3.4.5.1. Description of velocities by the exponential function (modified, the Gaussian type).....	109
1.3.4.5.2. Description of velocities by the multiple regression.....	111
1.3.4.5.3. Description of velocities by <i>ch</i> function.....	114
1.3.4.5.4. Verification of accuracy of the applied descriptions	117
1.3.4.5.5. Flow rate	117
1.3.4.6. Empirical description of the flax seed flow in the model with smooth walls. Discharge from the left.....	121
1.3.4.6.1. Description of velocities by the exponential function (modified, the Gaussian type).....	123
1.3.4.6.2. Description of velocities by <i>ch</i> function.....	127
1.3.4.6.3. Verification of accuracy of the applied descriptions	129
1.3.4.6.4. Flow rate	131
1.3.4.6.5. Empirical description of velocities using “the joined functions”	133
1.3.4.6.6. Verification of accuracy of the solution by “the joined functions”	136
1.3.4.6.7. Flow rate calculated by “the joined functions”	136
1.3.4.6.8. Conclusions	138
1.3.4.7. Eccentric filling. Discharge in the centre of the bottom	138
1.3.4.8. Stagnant zone boundary measurements in the model with smooth walls. Deformations in the material	141
1.3.5. Final conclusions.....	147
2. Simulations of granular material flow by the Discrete Element Method	149
2.1. Discrete element method: a tool for investigation of the granular material flow processes in silos	149
2.1.1. Introduction	149
2.1.2. Theoretical approaches to granular material simulations	150
2.1.3. Review of Discrete Element Method in modelling the silo systems	151
2.1.4. A discrete concept	154
2.1.5. A modelling technique	155
2.2. Qualitative predictions of granular material flow in silos, hoppers of different shapes	172
2.2.1. Introduction	172
2.2.2. Microscopic and macroscopic analysis of granular material behaviour in 3D flat bottomed hopper	173
2.2.2.1. Computational model	173
2.2.2.2. A microscopic analysis	175
2.2.2.3. A macroscopic analysis	184
2.2.2.4. Concluding remarks.....	189

2.2.3. Microscopic and macroscopic analysis of granular material behaviour in 3D wedge-shaped hopper.....	191
2.2.3.1. Mathematical model	191
2.2.3.2. Mathematical modelling of the filling process	191
2.2.3.3. Mathematical modelling of the discharge process.....	203
2.2.3.4. Concluding remarks.....	209
2.2.4. A comparative analysis on granular material flow through a space-wedged, plane-wedged and flat-bottomed hopper.....	211
2.2.4.1. Mathematical model. Basic assumptions.....	211
2.2.4.2. Computational results	214
2.2.4.3. Concluding remarks.....	222
2.3. Quantitative predictions of granular material flow in a bin: a comparison of the computational results to the experimental data	223
2.3.1. Introduction	223
2.3.2. Experimental investigation.....	224
2.3.2.1. Setup and measurements	224
2.3.2.2. Material properties.....	227
2.3.3. Computational investigations	231
2.3.3.1. The input data and assumptions.....	231
2.3.3.2. Presentation of computational analysis.....	232
2.3.3.3. Results of the stress analysis	236
2.3.3.4. Results of the wall pressure analysis	241
2.3.3.5. Particle velocity distributions within the bin	245
2.3.3.6. Results of the outflow analysis	251
2.3.3.7. Concluding remarks.....	253
2.3.4. Discussion on the scale effects	254
Bibliography	261
Appendix 1	283
Appendix 2	289
Appendix 3	297
Appendix 4	307