

## Karlsruher Vortragsreihe

Forschung und Praxis in Wasserbau und Wasserwirtschaft

Federführung und Koordination SoSe 2017  
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### Einladung

zu einem Vortrag von

#### Dr. Thomas Pähtz

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#### Unified Theory of Non-Suspended Sediment Transport Mediated by a Newtonian Fluid

I present a unified theory of steady, homogeneous, non-suspended transport of nearly uniform spheres mediated by an arbitrary Newtonian fluid. The theory consists of elements that are rigorously derived from Newton's axioms and of semi-empirical elements that well describe simulation data, obtained using a coupled DEM/RANS numerical model of sediment transport in a Newtonian fluid (Duran et al., POF 103306, 2012), for the entire simulated range of the particle-fluid-density ratio  $s$ , Galileo number  $Ga$ , and Shields number  $S$ . Despite not being fitted to experimental data, theory and simulations simultaneously reproduce measurements in air ( $s \sim 2000$ ) and viscous and turbulent liquids ( $s \sim 1$ ) of the transport cessation threshold  $T_{ex}$ , obtained from extrapolation to vanishing transport, and the sediment transport rate  $Q$ .

From theory and simulations, we learn that considering added-mass, lubrication, fluid lift, and/or history forces is not required to quantitatively reproduce measurements. However, collisions between transported particles cannot be neglected as they strongly influence the scaling of  $Q$  with  $S$ . For instance, we find such collisions are responsible for a transition from a linear to a non-linear scaling of  $Q$  with  $S$  in turbulent bedload and saltation transport, which we find occurs when the bed surface becomes fully mobile ('stage-3 bedload') at  $S \sim 0.1$ .

The probably most controversial conclusion we draw from theory and simulations is that  $T_{ex}$  is usually unrelated to entrainment of bed sediment, which challenges a widely-accepted paradigm. In contrast,  $T_{ex}$  is rather a virtual quantity that solely reflects mechanical equilibrium in the limit of vanishing transport. However, we also find that the cessation threshold  $T$  of continuous sediment transport, which is usually larger than  $T_{ex}$ , does depend on sediment entrainment, usually triggered by particle-bed impacts. Transport with Shields numbers  $T_{ex} < S < T$  is metastable and follows a non-random 'collective-entrainment' pattern. This pattern, which is characterized by periods of rest separated by intense burst, was evidenced in laboratory and field measurements.

**Ort:** Theodor-Rehbock-Hörsaal, Altes Bauingenieurgebäude  
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**Zeit:** Donnerstag, 04.05.2017, 17.30 Uhr

