The objective of this monograph is to provide a concise introduction to the dynamics of systems comprised of charged small-scale particles. Flowing, small-scale, particles (“particulates”) are ubiquitous in industrial processes and in the natural sciences. Applications include electrostatic copiers, inkjet printers, powder coating.

Fig. 1 Spray processing of a surface with a charged particulate spray. Applications can vary from (1) epitaxy (building particulate layers), (2) particulate implantation/infiltration and (3) surface ablation (Zohdi [1])
machines, etc., and a variety of manufacturing processes. Due to their small-scale size, external electromagnetic fields can be utilized to manipulate and control charged particulates in industrial processes in order to achieve results that are not possible by purely mechanical means alone. A unique feature of small-scale particulate flows is that they exhibit a strong sensitivity to interparticle near-field forces, leading to nonstandard particulate dynamics, agglomeration and cluster formation, which can strongly affect manufactured product quality. This monograph also provides an introduction to the mathematically-related topic of the dynamics of swarms of interacting objects, which has gained the attention of a number of scientific communities. In summary, the following topics are discussed in detail:

1. Dynamics of an individual charged particle,
2. Dynamics of rigid clusters of charged particles,
3. Dynamics of flowing charged particles,
4. Dynamics of charged particle impact with electrified surfaces and
5. An introduction to mechanistic modeling of swarms.

The text can be viewed as a research monograph suitable for use in an upper division undergraduate or first year graduate course geared towards students in the applied sciences, mechanics and mathematics that have an interest in the analysis of particulate materials.


Berkeley, January 2012

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Dynamics of Charged Particulate Systems
Modeling, Theory and Computation
Zohdi, T.I.
2012, XI, 115 p. 47 illus., 9 illus. in color., Softcover
ISBN: 978-3-642-28518-9