# Experiments on the lift of a spinning sphere in a range of intermediate Reynolds numbers

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**Abstract** The lift force experienced by a spinning sphere moving in a viscous fluid, with constant linear and angular velocities, is measured by means of a trajectographic technique. Measurements are performed in the range of dimensionless angular velocities  $\gamma = a\omega/V$  lying between 1 and 6, and in the range of Reynolds numbers  $Re = 2aV/v$  lying between 10 and 140 ( $a$  sphere radius,  $\omega$  angular velocity,  $V$  relative velocity of the sphere centre,  $\nu$  fluid kinematic viscosity). A notable departure from the theoretical relationship at low Reynolds number,  $C_L = 2\gamma$ , is obtained, the ratio  $C_L/\gamma$  being found to significantly decrease with increasing  $\gamma$  and increasing  $Re.$  The following correlation is finally proposed to estimate the lift coefficient in the range  $10 < Re < 140$ :

 $C_L \cong 0.45 + (2\gamma - 0.45) \exp{(-0.075\gamma^{0.4}Re^{0.7})}$ 

#### **1**

#### **Introduction**

The prediction of the force exerted by a fluid on a suspended particle is of great interest for the study of suspension flows, which concerns many industrial fields, such as pneumatic transport, chemical engineering or environmental mechanics. In the case of solid particles conveyed in a confined fluid flow, significant spinning motion may be induced by particle*—*wall collisions or particle*—*particle collisions. It is therefore necessary to know the influence of the spinning motion on the force and on the torque undergone by a particle. In particular, the lift force arising from particle spin must generally be taken into account in order to perform trajectory calculations in Lagrangian modelling, or to express the fluid*—*particle interaction terms when using Eulerian formulations. In the present paper, we are interested in the lift force exerted on a spinning spherical particle in a finite range of moderate Reynolds numbers, which are frequently encountered in suspension flows.

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The hydrodynamical force on a moving body is usually resolved into the drag force  $F_D$ , in the direction of the relative motion, and the lift force  $F_L$ , which is orthogonal to the direction of the relative motion. These force components are characterized by the dimensionless coefficients  $C_D$  and  $C_L$ , defined by

$$
C_D = \frac{F_D}{\frac{1}{2}\rho V^2 A} \tag{1}
$$

$$
C_L = \frac{F_L}{\frac{1}{2}\rho V^2 A} \tag{2}
$$

where  $\rho$  is the fluid density, *V* is the magnitude of the relative velocity, and *A* is the frontal area of the body. In a similar manner, the dimensionless torque coefficient can be defined by

$$
C_T = \frac{T}{\frac{1}{2}\rho V^2 A a}
$$
\n<sup>(3)</sup>

where *T* is the torque and *a* denotes a reference length.

Under steady conditions, and in a fluid with constant density and constant kinematic viscosity  $v$ , it can be shown by dimensional analysis that these coefficients depend on the Reynolds number  $Re = 2aV/v$  and on the dimensionless rotational velocity  $\gamma = a\omega/V$ , where  $\omega$  stands for the angular velocity, which is assumed to be normal to the relative translation velocity. Unfortunately, even in the case of the simpler shape, which is the spherical one, very few results are known, especially at intermediate Reynolds numbers. The range of very small Reynolds numbers was theoretically investigated by Rubinow and Keller (1961), by means of matched asymptotic expansions. In this case,  $C_D$  is independent of  $\gamma$ , whereas the lift and torque coefficients are found to be

$$
C_L = 2\gamma (1 + O(Re))
$$
 (4)

$$
C_T = \frac{32 \gamma}{Re} \left( 1 + o(Re) \right) \tag{5}
$$

where the symbol *O* means that the ratio *O*(*Re*)/*Re* remains bounded as  $Re \rightarrow 0$ , and the symbol  $o$  means instead that the ratio  $\rho(Re)/Re$  tends to zero as  $Re\rightarrow 0$ . In Eqs. (4) and (5), the reference length *a* is the sphere radius, and the reference area *A* is  $\pi a^2$ . Note that Eq. (5) means that the torque does not depend on the linear velocity *V* when  $Re \rightarrow 0$ . Dennis et al. (1980) calculated the torque on a rotating sphere in a fluid

at rest. Since  $C_T$  cannot be defined as above when  $V=0$ , a modified dimensionless torque coefficient was computed in terms of the rotation Reynolds number (or Taylor number)  $Re_{\omega} = \frac{1}{2} \gamma Re$ . The corresponding prediction agrees very well  $\alpha_{\omega}$  =  $_2$  /k. The corresponding prediction agrees very with the measurements of Sawatzki (1970). Appreciable deviation from Eq. (5) can be observed when  $Re_{\omega} > 10$ .<br>On the other hand a number of experimental results

On the other hand, a number of experimental results concerning the lift force on a spinning sphere were obtained at high Reynolds numbers  $(Re > 10<sup>4</sup>)$ , especially by Maccoll (1928), Davies (1949) and Tani (1950): in that range, the lift coefficient is almost independent of the Reynolds number, and much lower than predicted by Eq. (4). At low spinning rate, a negative lift may occur, as first pointed out by Maccoll (1928). Such an effect was confirmed by Tanaka et al. (1990) in the Reynolds number range from  $6 \times 10^4$  to  $1.5 \times 10^5$ . However, such large Reynolds numbers do not belong to the range we are dealing with in the present paper.

In the range of moderate Reynolds numbers, lying between 1 and 104, much less information is available. The only known works concerning the lift on a spinning sphere at such Reynolds numbers are the experimental studies of Barkla and Auchterlonie (1971) and Tsuji et al. (1985), and the numerical investigation by Chegroun and Oesterlé (1993). Using a conical pendulum technique, Barkla and Auchterlonie (1971) estimated the lift and drag coefficient of a rotating sphere in the range 1500<Re<3000. The lift coefficient was found to be roughly proportional to  $\gamma$  for  $\gamma > 5$ , the coefficient of proportionality being  $0.09 \pm 0.02$ . At lower values of  $\gamma$ , the ratio  $C_L/\gamma$ was increasing with decreasing  $\gamma$ ( $C_L/\gamma \approx 0.16 \pm 0.04$  in the range 2 $<$  $\gamma$   $<$  4). Another technique has been used by Tsuji et al. (1985), who studied the trajectories of spheres bouncing on an inclined plate. The relation between lift and spin was determined by measuring the angular velocity from stroboscopic photographs, and comparing the recorded trajectories with calculated trajectories which were computed assuming proportionality between  $C_L$  and  $\gamma$ . For Reynolds numbers between 550 and 1600, and dimensionless angular velocities less than 0.7, they proposed the following relationship

$$
C_L = (0.40 \pm 0.10)\gamma \tag{6}
$$

A numerical investigation in the range  $0 < Re \leq 40$ , performed by Chegroun and Oesterlé (1993), showed that the lift coefficient decreases with increasing  $Re$  at fixed  $\gamma$ . At low Reynolds numbers ( $Re \le 5$ ), the predicted values of  $C_L$  were approximately proportional to  $\gamma$ , however the ratio  $C_L/\gamma$  was found to significantly decrease with increasing *Re* for *Re* > 5. Nevertheless, such results need still to be confirmed and to be extended at higher Reynolds numbers.

This brief review shows that there is still a lack of information in the range  $1 < Re < 500$ , which corresponds, for instance, to the frequently encountered case of particles having a diameter between 0.1 and 1 mm, suspended in a gas or a liquid flow. That is the reason why we aimed at performing lift measurements at Reynolds numbers belonging to this intermediate range.

In this paper, we will first describe the original experimental technique we developed for such measurements. Complete results concerning the lift coefficient will then be given and discussed. The present results are compared with the abovementioned previous works, and an empirical correlation for predicting the lift coefficient is finally proposed.

#### **2**

#### **Experimental arrangement and method**

As pointed out by Tsuji et al. (1985), direct measurement of the force acting on a spinning sphere is very difficult in the range of Reynolds numbers lower than  $10<sup>3</sup>$ , since it would need the use of a very small sphere, placed in a uniform liquid flow, and the transverse force would be too small to be measured. Moreover, such a direct method would involve a supporting device, including for instance an electric motor, which might lead to significant flow disturbance. The present experimental technique lies therefore on an indirect method, which consists in examining the trajectory of a sphere moving upwards in a liquid at rest. As can be seen in Fig. 1, the sphere is equipped with two very thin cylindrical axles, which are symmetrically fixed along a diametrical direction. A sketch of the experimental apparatus is given by Fig. 2. The motion is induced by means of a counterweight (*M*) and two suspension threads, which are coiled on the axles, yielding a rotational velocity which can be deduced from the measurements of the velocities of the sphere and of the counterweight (the latter being measured by means of the laser device shown on Fig. 2). Note that the lateral deviation of the sphere is exaggerated for the sake of clearness of the figure.

In order to allow the angular velocity of the sphere to be controlled and measured, sphere diameters of at least 1 cm were chosen. Moreover, the relative velocity of the sphere



**Fig. 1.** Illustration of the sphere arrangement



**Fig. 2.** Sketch of the experimental apparatus

centre with respect to the fluid should be high enough so that any possible free convection motion may be neglected. Under such conditions, Reynolds numbers ranging between 10 and 140 could be obtained by using a sufficiently viscous liquid, and the transverse force acting on the sphere could be detected and measured by analysing its trajectory, as will be shown hereafter.

### **2.1**

#### **Description of the motion of the sphere**

The momentum conservation of the sphere yields the following general equation of motion, written under vectorial form:

$$
(m+m_a)\frac{dV}{dt} = m'\mathbf{g} + \mathbf{F}_L + \mathbf{F}_D + \mathbf{F}_T
$$
\n(7)

where *m* and  $m_a$  are the mass and the added mass, respectively, of the sphere and the axles, and  $m'$  is the apparent mass of the sphere (including the axles), obtained by subtracting the mass of the liquid displaced from the total mass *m*, in order to account for the buoyancy force. **V** is the sphere velocity, **g** is the gravity acceleration,  $\mathbf{F}_L$  and  $\mathbf{F}_D$  are the lift and drag force vectors, and  $\mathbf{F}_T$  denotes the tension of the suspension threads. Note that the lift and drag forces in Eq. (7) include the contribution of the cylindrical axles.

The conservation of angular momentum leads to

$$
J\frac{\mathrm{d}\omega}{\mathrm{d}t} = -T + a_1 F_T \tag{8}
$$

where *J* is the moment of inertia of the moving body (sphere and axles),  $\omega$  its angular velocity,  $F_T$  the magnitude of the tension of the threads, and  $a_1$  denotes the coiling radius, which is the sum of the radii of the axle and of the thread.

Due to the presence of the fixed pulley A, the sphere reaches, after an acceleration phase giving rise to a lateral deviation, a steady rectilinear motion with constant linear and angular velocities, as illustrated in Fig. 3. During this steady-state phase, the equations of motion lead to the following simplified expressions of the lift, drag and torque, where  $\varphi$  denotes the angle between the straight trajectory and the vertical direction:

$$
F_L = m'g \sin \varphi \tag{9}
$$



**Fig. 3.** Upward motion of the sphere in the straight part of the trajectory

$$
F_D = F_T - m'g\cos\varphi\tag{10}
$$

$$
T = a_1 F_T \tag{11}
$$

Because of the friction at the pulleys, the force  $F_T$  is not accurately known, so that the drag force and the torque unfortunately cannot be measured by the present technique. On the contrary. Eq. (9) shows that the lift force can be directly derived from the measurement of the angle  $\varphi$ , keeping in mind that the result must be corrected to take into account the lift due to the axles (as described farther).

The main advantage of this experimental procedure lies in the fact that the linear and angular velocities of the sphere can be controlled by the choice of sphere diameter and density, axle diameter and counterweight mass. Furthermore, the behaviour of the sphere during the steady rectilinear phase of the trajectory does not depend on the initial conditions. This technique makes it possible to provide new results under steady-state conditions, unlike the previous experiments performed at  $Re<10^4$ , referred to in the Introduction to this paper. It must be pointed out, however, that the proposed method is restricted to the range of moderate Reynolds numbers investigated herein. Experiments at higher Reynolds numbers (10<sup>3</sup>–10<sup>4</sup>) were unfortunately not possible, since such measurements would require a very large tank in order that the steady rectilinear motion could be reached, due to the sphere inertia increase involved by larger diameter or higher velocity.

## **2.2**

#### **Experimental data and procedure**

Results presented hereafter were obtained in a tank of  $1 \times 1$  m side and 1.2 m depth, filled with a vegetable oil of density 901 kg/m<sup>3</sup>, and whose viscosity, lying between 0.07 and 0.09 Pa s, was carefully measured in terms of temperature. The motion of the sphere could be observed through a plexiglass window which is the front wall of the tank. The sphere trajectories were photographically recorded under stroboscopic illumination, supplied by a Xenon flash tube (flash duration about 80  $\mu s$ ). The frequency of the strobe light was set at 10 flashes/s.

Five lathe-turned, polished spheres were used, the characteristics of which are shown in Table 1. Cylindrical steel axles have

**Table 1.** Summary of test conditions and run references

Sphere material	Sphere diameter  mm	Axle diameter  mm	Mass [g]	Thread diameter  mm	Run reference
Brass	17.0	1.00	24.150	0.08 0.12	Ba Bb
		1.00 1.50	24.302 27.020	0.12 0.12	Bc Вd
Duralumin	30.2	1.50	42.192	0.08 0.12	Da Db
	55.1	2.00 1.50 2.00	49.374 251.26 252.10	0.12 0.12 0.12	Dc Dd De
Titanium	25.0	1.50	39.170	0.12 0.18	Ta Тb
	38.8	1.50	138.544	0.18	Тc

been symmetrically fixed on each side of the sphere, the length of each part lying between 72 and 92 mm. The ratio of the axle diameter to the sphere diameter ranged from 0.038 to 0.088. The diameters of the suspension filaments (nylon threads) were 0.08, 0.12 or 0.18 mm, depending on the mass of the sphere.

Before each experiment, the sphere is placed on the bottom of the tank (starting point S) by means of a moving supporting device (electric motor and endless screw), and the position of the pulley is adjusted in such a manner that the line AS is perfectly vertical (A being the point of contact between the thread and the pulley). After waiting for the liquid to be perfectly still, the sphere is released with zero initial linear and angular velocity, and its trajectory is recorded. The counterweight velocity  $V_c$  is simultaneously measured by a laser<br>darion which may be restigally displaced in ander to inc device, which may be vertically displaced in order to insure that the measurement is performed during the straight part of the sphere trajectory. The sphere velocity *V*, as well as the angle  $\varphi$  between the rectilinear trajectory and the vertical direction, are obtained directly from the trajectory analysis using a digitizing table. For the sake of preciseness in photograph readings, each trajectory is first recorded without spinning of the sphere, so that any uncertainty due to the scale of the picture and to the stroboscope frequency can be eliminated using the known data concerning the drag coefficient of a non-spinning sphere (as given by the expression proposed by Morsi and Alexander, 1972). The angular velocity of the sphere is then calculated by

$$
\omega = \frac{V_c - V}{a_1} \tag{12}
$$



**Fig. 4.** Example of trajectory photograph (*Re*\22.42, run reference Ba6, see Table 1)

A typical example of trajectory photograph, showing the lateral deviation due to the sphere rotation, is given in Fig. 4. It must be emphasized that the light-spots on the photograph represent only a small part of the sphere, since they are due to the reflection of the flashes by the polished spherical surface. As can be seen on the reference scale on the right of the figure, which gives also the actual size of the sphere, the field of view of the photograph covers about the half of the depth of the tank. Measurements of *V* and  $\varphi$ , which were generally performed between  $\frac{1}{3}$  and  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the full height of the tank, are deduced from coordinate readings of two points **P** , **P** , detected from coordinate readings of two points  $\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2,$ <br>belonging to the rectilinear part of the trajectory. The assumption of steady rectilinear motion of the sphere is checked by comparing the distances between two successive spots in the lower and higher part of the path **P P** : if the discrepancy Exceeds 5%, the measurement is rejected. The accuracy of the measurements will be discussed below.

#### **2.3**

### **Lift correction and uncertainty assessment**

In order to account for the presence of the axles, the measured lift force *F <sup>L</sup>*<sup>m</sup> is corrected by subtracting the lift force due to the axles, that is:

$$
F_L = F_{Lm} - F_{La} \tag{13}
$$

where  $F_L$  is the lift of the sphere and  $F_{La}$  is the lift of the spin direction of the lift cylindrical axles. The corresponding correction for the lift coefficient is written:

$$
C_L = C_{Lm} - C_{L,\text{cyl}} \frac{2a_{\text{cyl}}}{\pi a^2} \tag{14}
$$

where  $a_{\text{cyl}}$  and *l* are the radius and the total length of the axles, respectively.  $C_{L, \text{cyl}}$  is the lift coefficient of the axles, which can be estimated from the work of Ingham and Tang (1990), who numerically calculated the lift of a rotating circular cylinder at Reynolds numbers  $Re_{\text{cyl}}=5$  and  $Re_{\text{cyl}}=20$  (based on cylinder diameter). The predicted lift coefficients were  $C_{L, \text{cyl}} =$ 2.77 $\gamma_{\text{cyl}}$  at  $Re_{\text{cyl}} = 5$ , and  $C_{L,\text{cyl}} = 2.54\gamma_{\text{cyl}}$  at  $Re_{\text{cyl}} = 20$ , where  $\gamma_{\text{cyl}} = a_{\text{cyl}} \omega / V$  is the dimensionless angular velocity of the cylinder, in the range of  $0 \le \gamma_{cyl} \le 3$ .

In our experiments,  $\gamma_{\text{cyl}}$  lies between 0 and 0.5, and the cylinder Reynolds number is in the range  $0.5 \leq Re_{\text{cyl}} \leq 5$ . Therefore, we decided to adopt the result obtained by Ingham and Tang (1990) at  $Re_{\text{cyl}} = 5$ , namely  $C_{L,\text{cyl}} = 2.77\gamma_{\text{cyl}}$ . Numerical calculations of the lift correction using such an estimate show that the lift due to the axles is 6*—*14% of the total measured lift, so that a 10% error in the cylinder lift leads to an uncertainty of about 1% in the sphere lift estimate.

Our uncertainties that must be taken into account are mainly due to the inaccuracies in the measurements of the angle  $\varphi$  and of the sphere velocity *V*. Considering that the lift coefficient is inversely proportional to  $V^2$ , and proportional to  $\sin \varphi$  (with  $\varphi \ll 1$ ), the relative error in  $C_{Lm}$  is given as follows:

$$
\frac{\Delta C_{Lm}}{C_{Lm}} \cong \frac{\Delta \varphi}{\varphi} + 2 \frac{\Delta V}{V}
$$
\n(15)

where  $\Delta\varphi/\varphi$  and  $\Delta V/V$  are about 10% and 5%, respectively, according to repeated digitizing tests intended to assess the preciseness of coordinate readings. As a consequence, it can be considered that the measured values for the lift coefficient are accurate to about 20%.

According to Eq. (12), the angular velocity uncertainty can be expressed as

$$
\frac{\Delta\omega}{\omega} = \frac{\Delta V_c + \Delta V}{|V_c - V|} + \frac{\Delta a_1}{a_1}
$$
\n(16)

where  $\Delta V_c/V_c$  and  $\Delta a_1/a_1$  are approximately 2%. Due to the where  $\Delta V_e V_e$  and  $\Delta u_1 u_1$  are approximately  $270$ . Due to the <br>denominator  $|V_c - V|$ , the first term of the r.h.s. in Eq. (16), which may reach about 15%, is a major source of error.

Therefore, taking into account  $\Delta\gamma/\gamma = \Delta\omega/\omega + \Delta V/V$ , the uncertainty in determining the dimensionless angular velocity  $\gamma$  can be roughly estimated to 20%.

Such a large uncertainty could conceivably have been avoided in using some device allowing the angular velocity to be directly obtained from the photographs, like segments marked on the sphere surface, as was used by Tsuji et al. (1985). So far, such a method was not possible in the present experiments, due to lighting problems which could not be suppressed completely: in particular, as shown by Fig. 4, the stroboscopic illumination produces only a small light-spot on the spherical surface, which is not broad enough to detect any rotational motion of the sphere.

#### **3**

#### **Results and discussion**

All test conditions are summarized in Table 1, and detailed experimental results, which cover the ranges  $10 < Re < 140$  and  $1\lt\gamma\lt 6$ , are listed in the Appendix. In order to compare the dependence of the lift coefficient upon the dimensionless angular velocity with the theoretical result of Rubinow and Keller (1961), and to study the influence of the Reynolds number, it was decided to split the range  $10\leq Re\leq140$  into six subranges, and to plot  $C_L$  as a function of  $\gamma$  in each Reynolds number subrange.

Corresponding results are displayed in Fig. 5a*—*c, where the solid lines illustrate the Rubinow and Keller's relationship,  $C_L = 2\gamma$ , valid at small Reynolds numbers. In spite of some scatter in the experimental results, the present measurements reveal the tendency to obtain lower lift coefficients at higher values of the Reynolds number. At the lower Reynolds numbers investigated here (Fig. 5a), the lift coefficient can be seen to be approximately proportional to the dimensionless angular velocity. However, such a linear variation of *CL* with  $\gamma$  does not exist at higher Reynolds numbers, as shown by Fig. 5c. The dispersion of the results, which is particularly high in the range  $40 < Re < 80$ , may exceed the estimated uncertainty since it is not only due to the above-quantified inaccuracy on measured lift coefficients and angular velocities (which are illustrated by error bars for the outermost points), but also to some inescapable irregularities in the sphere trajectories, or to possible influence of the suspension threads. Unfortunately, no attempt could be made to evaluate such effects.

As can be seen in Fig. 6, which is a plot of the lift coefficient as a function of the Reynolds number, the present data compare favourably with the numerical predictions by Chegroun and Oesterlé (1993), which are restricted to  $Re \leq 40$ . In particular, the numerically predicted influence of the spinning rate, as well as the effect of the Reynolds number, are



**Fig. 5a–c.** Measured lift coefficient as a function of the dimensionless angular velocity  $\gamma$  (solid lines refer to Rubinow and Keller's theoretical result). **a**  $10 < Re < 40$ ; **b**  $40 < Re < 80$ ;  $c \ 80 \leq Re \leq 140$ 

qualitatively confirmed by the present experiments: *CL* can be seen to decrease with decreasing  $\gamma$  or increasing  $Re$ . Moreover, the experimental results seem to indicate that the influence of  $\gamma$  vanishes for Reynolds numbers exceeding about 100. At such values of *Re*, the lift coefficient is very slightly decreasing with increasing *Re*. Regarding the flow structure, the numerical predictions show that the recirculation region, due to the separation which is known to take place for *Re* $>$ 20 for the non rotating sphere (Taneda 1956; Dennis and Walker 1971),

20

disappears as soon as the sphere is rotating, owing to the no-slip condition at the sphere surface. For the same reason, the location of the stagnation point is displaced at a distance from the sphere, and a rotating layer exists close to the boundary. Although no information about the flow structure can be provided by the present experiments, this phenomenon may explain the significant dependency of the lift upon *Re* in



**Fig. 6.** A plot of the lift coefficient as a function of the Reynolds number. Symbols refer to the present experiments, and solid lines refer to the numerical results of Chegroun and Oesterlé (1993)

the range investigated here, due to the crucial changes in the pressure field and shear stress distribution at the rear side of the sphere which occur at such intermediate Reynolds numbers. Further numerical calculations are needed in order to clarify this point.

In spite of the noisy character of the experimental data, it is possible to propose an approximate relationship expressing the lift coefficient in terms of  $\gamma$  and *Re*, provided that the suggested correlation matches the theoretical expression given by Eq. (4) at low Reynolds numbers, as well as the experimental results obtained by Barkla and Auchterlonie (1971) and by Tsuji et al. (1985) at higher Reynolds numbers. The best fit is given by the following correlation:

$$
C_L \cong 0.45 + (2\gamma - 0.45) \exp(-0.075)^{0.4} Re^{0.7})
$$
 (17)

In Fig. 7, Eq. (17) is plotted for  $\gamma = 1$ ; 2; 3 and 4, together with the experimental values of the ratio  $C_L/\gamma$ . The figure shows that the complete range of Reynolds numbers up to about 2000 can be described using the suggested correlation, which has the proper limiting behaviour for both small and high Reynolds numbers. Notwithstanding the scatter in the data, the unambiguous decrease of the ratio  $C_L/\gamma$  with increasing  $\gamma$  and increasing *Re* is satisfactorily described by Eq. (17), which may therefore be expected to provide some improvements in the prediction of the lift of spinning particles in suspension flows. However, considering the lack of data for  $Re \ge 140$ , it is suggested to restrict the use of Eq. (17) in the range  $10\!<\!Re\!<\!140$ .



**Fig. 7.** A plot of the ratio  $C_L/\gamma$  as a function of the sphere Reynolds number *Re*. Present results (symbols) are compared to the experimental results by Tsuji et al. (1985) and Barkla and Auchterlonie (1971), depicted by shaded areas, and to the proposed correlation, given by Eq. (17), for  $\gamma=1$ ; 2; 3 and 4 (lines)

## **4**

#### **Conclusion**

Results concerning the lift experienced by a spinning sphere moving in a viscous fluid have been obtained by means of a trajectographic technique, which was shown to be able to provide new interesting information which is necessary, for instance, for the computation of particle trajectories in suspension flows. The lift coefficient has been measured under steady-state conditions, in the range of sphere Reynolds numbers  $10 < Re < 140$  and for dimensionless angular velocities  $\gamma$  ranging from 1 to 6.

 $2.2.$ 

Despite of the difficulty to get very accurate measurements, the influence of the Reynolds number and of the dimensionless angular velocity has been pointed out, and a new empirical correlation has been proposed for the lift coefficient in the range  $10 < Re < 140$ . It is suggested that this original correlation should be used in order to supplement the previously existing results of Rubinow and Keller (1961), Tsuji et al. (1985) or Barkla and Auchterlonie (1971).

Any explanation of the behaviour of the lift coefficient in terms of both  $\gamma$  and *Re* would require further information concerning the flow structure around the sphere. That is the reason why additional investigation is currently being carried out by means of numerical calculations, in order to discuss the observed results with relevance to the changes which take place in the velocity and pressure fields.

#### **Appendix**





<sup>1</sup>See Table 1 for run references

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