Contents

List of Figures xi

List of Tables xix

List of Symbols xxi

1 Introduction 1
- 1.1 Research Framework: advantages of slush . . . 2
- 1.2 Slush production, characterization and transport: state of the art and open questions . . . 7
  - 1.2.1 Slush production . . . 7
  - 1.2.2 Slush characterization: particles size and shape . . . 8
  - 1.2.3 Slush characterization: density and solid volume fraction . . . 11
  - 1.2.4 Slush transport features: pressure drop and heat transfer . . . 14
- 1.3 Aims of the thesis and methodology . . . 16

2 State of the art 19
- 2.1 Definition of slurry flow properties . . . 20
- 2.2 Isothermal slurry and pressure drop . . . 21
  - 2.2.1 Horizontal pipe flows . . . 21
  - 2.2.2 90 ° bend flows . . . 25
  - 2.2.3 Vertical pipe flow . . . 27
- 2.3 Non-isothermal slurry: heat transfer coefficient . . . 28
- 2.4 Modeling of fluid-particles interaction . . . 32
  - 2.4.1 Euler-Lagrangian approach: particles tracking . . . 34
  - 2.4.2 Euler-Euler approach: two-fluids model . . . 37
- 2.5 Dimensionless analysis . . . 40
  - 2.5.1 Energy equation . . . 42
- 2.6 Conclusive remarks . . . 46

3 Experimental methods 49
- 3.1 Mixtures selection . . . 50
  - 3.1.1 Isothermal case . . . 50
  - 3.1.2 Non-Isothermal case, without phase change . . . 52

3.2 Experimental facilities . . . 53
3.2.1 The PREDICT facility . . . 53
3.2.2 The heated section . . . 55
3.3 Non-conventional measurement techniques: capacitance sensor . . . 59
3.3.1 Working principle . . . 60
3.3.2 Design of the sensor . . . 60
3.3.3 Numerical calibration of the sensor . . . 64
3.3.4 Experimental validation of the capacitance sensor . . . 66
3.4 Flow visualization . . . 70
3.4.1 Image post-processing for solid volume fraction measurement . . . 70
3.4.2 Image post-processing for particles velocity measurement . . . 73
3.5 Traditional measurement techniques . . . 76
3.5.1 Coriolis flow meter . . . 76
3.5.2 Pressure transducers . . . 77
3.5.3 Temperature measurement . . . 78
3.6 Experimental uncertainty calculation . . . 80
3.6.1 Pressure drop . . . 80
3.6.2 Heat transfer coefficient . . . 80
3.7 Summary . . . 82

4 Numerical modeling **83**
4.1 Governing equations . . . 84
4.2 Closure and modeling strategies . . . 85
4.2.1 Turbulence modeling . . . 85
4.2.2 Granular kinetic theory . . . 86
4.2.3 Interphase momentum exchange . . . 90
4.2.4 Interphase energy exchange . . . 92
4.3 Geometrical domain . . . 94
4.4 Boundary conditions . . . 96
4.4.1 Inlet and outlet sections . . . 96
4.4.2 Wall boundaries . . . 97
4.5 Numerical settings . . . 100
4.6 Summary . . . 101

5 Isothermal Slurry: Flow pressure drop **103**
5.1 Horizontal section . . . 104
5.1.1 Experimental results: pressure drop and flow regimes . . . 104
5.1.2 Validation of the Euler-Euler solver . . . 110
5.2 90 ° vertical bend section . . . 115
5.2.1 Discussion of the experimental results . . . 115
5.2.2 Numerical simulations with the Euler-Euler model . . . 118
5.3 Vertical section . . . 122
5.3.1 Results of the experimental campaign . . . 122
5.3.2 Numerical study with the Euler-Euler model . . . 125
5.4 Conclusions on the isothermal flow of slurry in pipes . . . 129

6 Non-isothermal slurry: flow heat transfer coefficient **131**
6.1 Preliminary fully liquid flow analysis 132
6.1.1 Experimental results 132
6.1.2 Assessment of the CFD model in fully liquid conditions . . . 136
6.2 Slurry in non-isothermal conditions: experimental results 139
6.2.1 Flow regimes characterization 139
6.2.2 Temperature profiles modification 143
6.2.3 Heat transfer coefficient modification 144
6.3 Euler-Euler solver in non-isothermal conditions: challenges and capabilities 151
6.4 Conclusions on the non-isothermal flow of slurry in pipes 157

7 Conclusions and future perspectives **161**
7.1 Summary and main contributions 162
7.2 Future perspectives 165

A Debugging tests on the PREDICT heated section **169**
A.1 Analysis of the current supplied to the heated test section 169
A.2 On the uniformity of the heat flux provided to the heated section. . 170

Bibliography **173**