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DOI:
10.1063/5.0077091

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Document Version
Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Citation for published version (Harvard):

Link to publication on Research at Birmingham portal

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Cite as: Phys. Fluids 34, 012105 (2022); https://doi.org/10.1063/5.0077091
Submitted: 30 October 2021 • Accepted: 15 December 2021 • Published Online: 04 January 2022

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Microbubble dynamics in a viscous compressible liquid subject to ultrasound

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ABSTRACT

When a microbubble is subject to ultrasound, non-spherical oscillation or surface modes can be generated after many acoustic cycles. This phenomenon has wide applications, including ultrasonic cleaning, sonochemistry, and biomedical ultrasonics. Yet, the nonlinear development of the bubble shape modes over dozens of cycles is not well understood. Here, we describe a grid-free and robust model to simulate the phenomenon. A viscous pressure correction is introduced to compensate the non-zero tangential stress at the free surface in the potential flow model, based on conservation of energy. Consequently, the phenomenon is modeled using the boundary integral method, in which the compressible and viscous effects are incorporated into the model through the boundary conditions. The computations have been carried out for axisymmetric cases; however, the numerical model can be extended for three-dimensional cases in a straightforward manner. The numerical results are shown to be in good agreement for many cycles with some independent viscous and compressible theories for axisymmetric bubbles and experiments for microbubbles undergoing shape oscillation subject to ultrasound. The development of the shape oscillation of a bubble after a dozen cycles, the formation of a reentry jet and its penetration through the bubble, and the topological transformation of the bubble are simulated and analyzed in terms of the amplitude and frequency of the ultrasound. The computations and physical analysis are carried out for the development of shape modes due to a resonant volume oscillation, strong pressure wave, or the matching of the acoustic wave frequency with the shape mode frequency.

I. INTRODUCTION

Bubble dynamics has remained a central research topic for many decades, due to its properties of high energy concentration, which can damage pumps, turbines, and propellers (Blake and Gibson, 1987; Lauterborn and Kurz, 2010). Microbubble dynamics subject to an acoustic wave are associated with applications in biomedical ultrasonics (Coussios and Roy 2008; Curtiss et al., 2013; Vyas et al., 2016, 2017, 2019), sonochemistry (Suslick, 1990; Blake, 1999) and cavitation cleaning (Ohl et al., 2006; Reuter et al., 2017).

It is observed in experiments that bubbles may be activated into repeated stable shape oscillations in an acoustic field (Asaki and Marston, 1995; Versluis et al., 2010). The experimental results are limited by the resolution in space and time, especially for microbubbles whose size and period are at O(10^{-5}) m at O(10^{-6}) s. Theoretical studies were carried on shape oscillations of bubbles at small amplitude using perturbation methods via spherical harmonics, predicting the natural frequency of shape modes and the stability threshold (Plesset, 1954; Prosperetti, 1977; Shaw, 2009, 2017; Domíkov, 2004; Guedra et al., 2017; Guedra and Inserra, 2018). We aim to implement a numerical model to simulate and analyze the development of shape modes of bubbles at large amplitude.

Viscous effects are important for microbubbles, since the associated Reynolds numbers can be O(10) (Lauterborn and Kurz, 2010). The radical oscillation and shape modes of microbubbles and the jetting velocity are damped by viscous effects (Boulton-Stone and Blake, 1993; Smith and Wang, 2017). The compressible effects of liquid are essential, which are associated with the acoustic radiation at the minimum volumes of bubbles (Prosperetti and Zerzi, 1986; Lezzi and Prosperetti, 1987; Smith and Wang, 2018), when significant energy is radiated to the far field (Wang, 2016). This phenomenon is associated with three length scales: the thickness of the viscous boundary layer at the bubble surface, the bubble radius, and the wavelength of acoustic waves. The boundary layer thickness is smaller than the bubble radius.

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both changing by an order of magnitude with time, and the wavelength is in turn much larger than the bubble radius.

Bubble dynamics in a viscous liquid was simulated based on the Navier–Stokes equations using the finite volume method (FVM) (Popinet and Zaleski, 2002; Minser et al., 2009; Hua and Lou, 2007) or finite element method (Chen et al., 2016). The compressible effects were modeled by Tiwari et al. (2013) using a diffuse interface model, and Han et al. (2015) and Lechner et al. (2017) using the FVM. However, domain numerical simulations of the three-scaled problem for dozens of cycles of oscillation or more have proven to be computationally demanding even if feasible on supercomputers in the future. Cleve et al. (2018) evidenced the possibility of inducing steady-state shape oscillations over hundreds or thousands of oscillation cycles. Consequently, any theoretical development that can reduce the computational complexity is desirable and this creates the opportunity for a relatively simple computational analysis of a wide range of models. Our objective is to describe a new model for non-spherical micro-bubble dynamics in a compressible viscous flow.

Free surface flows at high Reynolds numbers are often approximated by potential flow theory. Mikkis et al. (1982) included the normal viscous force at the surface of a rising bubble. Landgren and Mansour (1988) developed the boundary layer theory for a pulsating drop. The method was later developed for bubble dynamics, by Boulton-Stone and Blake (1993) for bursting bubbles near an interface, and by Tsiglifis and Pelekasis (2005, 2007) for bubbles that deform subject to an initial elongation, overpressure or acoustic disturbance, where highly deformed shapes and the details of the final stages of jet formation were captured with viscous dissipation. This rational theory is only for axisymmetric cases and tedious to be implemented.

Alternatively, Joseph and Wang (2004) introduced an auxiliary function, the viscous correction to the pressure due to potential flows, to address the shear stress not vanishing at a gas–liquid interface. We will derive a formula for the pressure correction in terms of the velocity and the shear stress of the potential flow at the interface based on conservation of energy. This model can be readily developed for three-dimensional cases.

The liquid flow associated with bubbles is irrotational in the bulk volume of the liquid (Boulton-Stone and Blake, 1993). The compressible effects associated with the acoustic radiation are modeled using weakly compressible theory of Wang and Blake (2010, 2011). In the theory, the flow far away from the bubble is shown to satisfy the linear wave equation to second order in terms of the Mach number and it is obtained analytically. The flow near the bubble is shown to satisfy Laplace’s equation to second order too. Wang (2013, 2014) showed the computational results based on the weakly compressible theory agreed well with the experiments for underwater explosion bubbles (Hung and Hwangfu, 2010) and laser generated bubbles near a rigid boundary (Philipp and Lauterborn, 1998).

The remainder of the paper is organized as follows. The physical and mathematical model is described in Sec. II based on the weakly compressible theory, the viscous potential flow theory and the boundary integral method (BIM). In Sec. III, the formula for the viscous correction pressure is derived using conservation of energy at the interface between the liquid and gas. In Sec. IV, our numerical model is validated by comparing with Shaw’s nonlinear asymptotic theory for oscillation of a bubble in a compressible and viscous liquid, Tsiglifis and Pelekasis’s modeling (2005, 2007) based on the viscous boundary layer and boundary integral method, and the experiments (Versluis et al., 2010) for shape oscillation of a bubble subject to ultrasound. In Sec. V, we perform a parametric analysis for microbubble dynamics in a compressible viscous liquid in terms of the amplitude and frequency of acoustic waves. The summary and conclusions are presented in Sec. VI.

II. PHYSICAL AND MATHEMATICAL MODEL

A. Physical model

Consider a gas bubble suspended in a compressible and slightly viscous fluid of infinite extent, subject to an acoustic wave. The reference length, density, and pressure are chosen as the equilibrium bubble radius \( R_0 \) the density of the undisturbed liquid \( \rho_\infty \), and \( \Delta \rho = \rho_\infty - \rho_0 \), respectively. Here, \( \rho_\infty \) is the hydrostatic pressure and \( \rho_0 \) the vapor pressure. The reference velocity is thus obtained as \( U = \sqrt{\Delta \rho / \rho_\infty} \), and the Reynolds number \( Re \) for the liquid flow is \( Re = R_0 \sqrt{\rho_\infty \Delta \rho / \rho_L} \). The Reynolds number is often \( O(10) \) or larger, the flow is potential in the bulk volume of the liquid except for a thin viscous boundary layer at the bubble surface, which can thus be described approximately by the viscous potential flow theory.

With the above considerations, we describe the flow in the bulk volume of the liquid as inviscid and compressible. A Cartesian-coordinate system is chosen, with the origin at the center of the initial spherical bubble, and the z-axis is along the direction of the acoustic wave, as shown in Fig. 1. The flow in the bulk volume of the liquid is governed by the continuity equation,

\[
\frac{\partial \rho_L}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho_L \mathbf{u}) = 0,
\]

and the Euler equation,

\[
\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} = \mathbf{g} - \frac{1}{\rho_L} \nabla p_L,
\]

where \( t \) is the time, \( \mathbf{u} \) the velocity of the flow, \( \rho_L \) the liquid pressure, and \( \mathbf{g} \) the gravity.

The highest speed of the liquid flow induced by bubble dynamics is usually associated with the velocity of the bubble jet, which is often lower than 200 m s\(^{-1}\) at normal ambient pressure, as observed in experiments (Philipp and Lauterborn, 1998; Lindau and Lauterborn, 2003; Brujan and Matsumoto, 2012; Yang et al., 2013; Zhang et al., 2015). As the speed \( c \) of sound in water is about 1500 m s\(^{-1}\), the flow induced by the bubble dynamics is assumed to be associated with a low Mach number, \( e \sim \frac{U}{c} \ll 1 \).

The wavelength \( \lambda \) of incident waves or acoustic radiation is usually large compared to the bubble scale and the wavelength of ultrasound is usually much larger than the size of microbubbles. The wavelength \( \lambda \) of acoustic radiation is also much larger than the bubble size, since

\[
\lambda = O(cR_0/U) = O(R_0/e) \gg R_0.
\]

B. Weakly compressible theory

As the bulk volume of the liquid has two length scales, the wavelength \( \lambda \) and the bubble radius \( R_0 \), it is divided into two asymptotic
regions: the inner region near the bubble where \((x, y, z) = O(R_b)\), and the outer region far away from the bubble where \((x, y, z) = O(\lambda)\), are illustrated in Fig. 1.

Using the method of matched asymptotic expansions to the governing Eqs. (1) and (2), the outer solution was shown to satisfy the linear wave equation to second order in terms of the Mach number \(\varepsilon\),

\[
\frac{\partial^2 \varphi}{\partial t^2} - c^2 \nabla^2 \varphi + O(\varepsilon^2),
\]

where \(\varphi\) is the velocity potential, \(u = \nabla \varphi\). Strictly speaking the order of the errors in (5) is \(O(\varepsilon^2)\) and this holds for the subsequent equations.

An analytical solution for the outer region was obtained as follows (Wang and Blake, 2010, 2011):

\[
\varphi = b \cos (kz - \omega t) - \frac{V(t - r/c)}{4\pi r} + O(\varepsilon^2),
\]

where \(V(t)\) is the transient bubble volume at time \(t\), \(r = |r|\), \(r = (x, y, z)\), and \(b, k, \omega\) are the amplitude, wave number, and angular frequency of the acoustic wave, respectively. The first term of the solution (6) is the incident acoustic wave and the second term is associated with the acoustic radiation due to the volume oscillation of the bubble. The solution (6) satisfies the wave Eq. (5), the matching conditions with the inner expansion, and the boundary condition of an incident acoustic wave at infinity,

\[
\varphi|_{r=\infty} = b \cos (kz - \omega t).
\]

The corresponding boundary condition at infinity in terms of the pressure is

\[
\rho|_{r=\infty} = \rho_\infty + p_s \sin (kz - \omega t),
\]

where \(p_s\) is the pressure amplitude of the wave.

The inner solution to the second order for Eqs. (1) and (2) satisfies Laplace’s equation and the kinematic boundary condition on the bubble surface, \(S\), as follows (Wang and Blake, 2010, 2011):

\[
\nabla^2 \varphi = O(\varepsilon^2)
\]

The normal viscous stress and \(p_0\) is the pressure of the bubble contents. We

To the second order, the inner flow is incompressible, which can be interpreted as follows. The wavelength \(\lambda\), of the incident wave or acoustic radiation, is much larger than the scale \(R_0\) of the inner region, as such the variation of physical quantities associated with the acoustic wave over the inner region is small. The time period for an acoustic wave traveling across the inner region is of \(O(R_0/c)\), which is much smaller than the period of bubble oscillation of \(O(R_b/U)\).

The far-field boundary condition of the inner solution is obtained by matching with the outer solution as follows (Wang and Blake, 2010; Wang, 2016):

\[
\varphi \sim f(z, t) = b \cos (\omega t) + \frac{b_0}{c} \sin (\omega t)z + \frac{\bar{V}(t)}{4\pi c} + O(\varepsilon^2) \text{ as } r \to \infty,
\]

where the first two terms are associated with the incident wave and the last term is associated with the acoustic radiation due to volume oscillation of the bubble.

The initial condition on the boundary is given as

\[
\varphi|_{z=0} = -R_0 \text{ on } r = R_0,
\]

where \(n\) is the unit normal at the bubble surface pointing to the gas side and \(R_0\) is the initial rate of change of the bubble radius.

C. Viscous potential flow model

Boulton-Blake and Blake (1993) noticed that a thin viscous boundary layer exists at the bubble surface if the associated Reynolds number \(Re\) is large, whose thickness is of \(O(R_b/\sqrt{Re})\). We will approximate the viscous effects using the viscous potential flow theory.

In the viscous potential flow theory, the normal stress balance at the bubble surface \(S\) is given as follows:

\[
\rho_L + \rho_{vc} + \sigma \nabla \cdot n - v_{*n}^2 = p_0 \text{ on } S,
\]

where \(\rho_{vc}\) is the viscous pressure correction to be discussed later, \(v_{*n}\) the normal viscous stress, and \(p_0\) the pressure of the bubble contents.
assume here that the viscous stress of the bubble gas is negligible and the
pressure is uniform inside the bubble, since the density and viscosity
of gases are two to three orders of magnitude smaller than liquids.

The normal viscous stress $\tau_n^s$ at the bubble surface due to the
potential flow is (e.g., Miksis et al., 1982)

$$\tau_n^s = 2\mu u_n \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial n^2} \text{ on } S.$$  \hspace{1cm} (11)

We assume that the expansion and compression of the bubble
gas is adiabatic and thus the partial pressure of the bubble gas follows
the adiabatic law. According to Dalton’s law, the internal pressure of
the bubble is

$$p_0 = p_s + p_{\text{gas}} \left( \frac{V_0}{V} \right)^\kappa,$$  \hspace{1cm} (12)

where $V_0$ is the initial volume of the bubble, and $p_{\text{gas}}$ is the initial pres-
sure of the non-condensable bubble gas. We do not consider the ther-
mal effects associated with this phenomenon (Szeri et al., 2003; Fuster
and Montel, 2015). The effects of viscoelasticity were included in
potential flow theory of microbubbles by Lind and Phillips (2010,

The tangential stress of the liquid flow at the bubble surface
should approximately vanish as a result of the relatively low viscosity
of the gas inside the bubble. However, the shear stress of a potential
liquid flow is non-zero at the bubble surface. As shown in Sec. III, the
viscous pressure correction $p_{\text{visc}}$ to the pressure due to potential flows
can be introduced to address this discrepancy based on conservation of
energy. It is given in terms of the normal velocity $u_n$, tangential velocity $u_t$, and shear stress $\tau_t$ due to the potential flow at the bubble
surface as follows:

$$p_{\text{visc}} = -u_t \cdot \frac{\tau_t^s}{u_n} \text{ on } S.$$  \hspace{1cm} (13)

Using the Bernoulli equation, the dynamic boundary condition
(10) at the bubble surface can be written as

$$\rho L \frac{D\phi}{Dt} = p_{\infty} - \rho L \frac{d}{dt} \rho - p_s + \frac{1}{2} \rho L \left| \nabla \phi \right|^2 + \sigma \nabla \phi \cdot \mathbf{n}$$
$$- \rho_L g z - \tau_n^s + p_{\text{visc}} + O(e^2) \text{ on } S,$$  \hspace{1cm} (14)

where $g$ is the acceleration of gravity.

For the axisymmetric case, $p_{\text{visc}} = -u_t \tau_t^s / u_n$. As the above equation
is invalid for $u_n = 0$, $p_{\text{visc}}$ is thus set to be zero as $|u_n/U| \leq 0.01$ in
our calculations. Noticing $\tau_t^s = \mu \left( \partial u_t / \partial s - \partial u_t / \partial n \right)$ and the flow is
irrotational, i.e., $\partial u_t / \partial s - \partial u_t / \partial n = 0$, the shear stress $\tau_t^s$ is
(Boulton-Stone and Blake, 1993)

$$\tau_t^s = 2\mu \mathbf{n} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{\tau} = 2\mu \left( \frac{\partial u_t}{\partial s} + \kappa_1 u_t \right),$$  \hspace{1cm} (15)

where $\kappa_1$ is the curvature of the intersection curve of the bubble sur-
face with the azimuthal plane, and $s$ is the arc length parameter of the
curve. Denoting the intersection curve as: $r(s)$ and $z(s)$, we have

$$\kappa_1 = \frac{r \frac{dz}{ds} - z \frac{dr}{ds}}{(r^2 + z^2)^{3/2}},$$  \hspace{1cm} (16)

where the overdot denotes a derivative with respect to $s$.

Substituting (12)--(15) into (16) yields

$$\rho L \frac{D\phi}{Dt} = p_{\infty} - \rho L \frac{d}{dt} \rho - p_s + p_{\text{gas}} \left( \frac{V_0}{V} \right)^\kappa$$
$$+ \frac{1}{2} \rho_L \left| \nabla \phi \right|^2 + \sigma \nabla \phi \cdot \mathbf{n} - \rho_L g z$$
$$- 2\mu \frac{d^2 \phi}{d^2 s^2} - 2\mu \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial s \partial n} + \left( \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial s^2} + \kappa_1 \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial n} \right) + O(e^2) \text{ on } S.$$  \hspace{1cm} (17)

Examining the initial and boundary value problem of (9), one

| An example of a complex scientific text within the context of fluid dynamics, illustrating the use of mathematical equations and physical concepts. | A comprehensive explanation of the physics of fluid dynamics, including the derivation and application of key equations, with a focus on the behavior of bubbles and viscous effects. |
A key issue is that the shear stress due to the irrotational flow does not vanish at the interface, which contradicts the physical boundary condition. This results in the violation of the conservation of energy, as to be shown later on. A viscous pressure correction to the irrotational pressure was introduced to resolve this discrepancy, initially regarding the drag on a rising spherical bubble at a constant velocity by Moore (1959, 1963), Kang and Leal (1988a, 1988b) showed that the viscous pressure correction at the surface of a rising spherical bubble can be expressed in terms of the spherical harmonic series. The viscous potential flow theory has been applied for many cases, including a rising spherical cap bubble (Davies and Taylor, 1950; Joseph, 2003), the decay and stability of free surface waves (Wang and Joseph, 2006; Wang et al., 2005), and the Kelvin–Helmholtz instability (Joseph, 2006; Padrino et al., 2011).

A. Conservation of energy at a free surface

Consider a two-phase Newtonian flow of liquid and gas. The mechanical energy of a compressible Newtonian flow of the liquid side follows:

\[ \rho \frac{D}{Dt} \left( \frac{1}{2} |\mathbf{u}|^2 \right) = \rho \mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{u} + \nabla \cdot (\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{\sigma}_L) - \mathbf{e} \cdot \mathbf{\sigma}_L, \tag{20} \]

where \( \rho \) and \( \mathbf{u} \) are the fluid density and velocity, respectively, \( \mathbf{f} \) is the body force per unit mass, \( \mathbf{e} \) is the rate of the strain tensor, and \( \mathbf{\sigma}_L \) is the stress tensor,

\[ \mathbf{\sigma}_L = -\left( p + \frac{2}{3} \mu \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} \right) \mathbf{I} + 2\mu \mathbf{e}, \tag{21} \]

where \( \mathbf{I} \) is the unit tensor, \( p \) the pressure, and \( \mu \) the viscosity of the flow. Equation (20) can be obtained from the Navier–Stokes equations and continuity equation for a compressible flow.

An arbitrary material control region \( \Omega \) around an area \( S_L \) on the interface and slightly into the liquid side is prescribed, as shown in Fig. 2. The boundary \( \mathcal{S} \) of the region \( \Omega \) consists of \( S_L \), \( S_J \), and a narrow surface \( S_t \) joining \( S_J \) and \( S_t \).

We apply the integral form of the energy Eq. (20) to the material control region \( \Omega \),

\[ \frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{1}{2} \rho |\mathbf{u}|^2 \Omega \right) = \int_{\Omega} \left( \rho \mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{u} dV + \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{T} dS - \mathbf{e} \cdot \mathbf{\sigma}_L dV \right), \tag{22} \]

where \( \mathbf{T} = \mathbf{\sigma}_L \cdot \mathbf{n} = -(p + \frac{2}{3} \mu \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}) \mathbf{n} + 2\mu \mathbf{e} \cdot \mathbf{n} \).

We replace the volume integrals in (22) by an average value times the volume of integration region as follows, based on the continuum assumption:

\[ \frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{1}{2} \rho |\mathbf{u}|^2 \Omega \right) = \rho_L \mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{u} \Omega + \sum_{\mathcal{S}} \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{T} dS + p_L \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{e} - \mathbf{\sigma}_L \cdot \mathbf{\Omega}. \tag{23} \]

We limit the region toward the interface so that the volume (23) becomes

\[ \int_{\mathcal{S}} \left( \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{T}_L - \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{T}_J \right) d\mathbf{S} = 0, \tag{24} \]

where \( \mathbf{T}_L \) is the stress at \( S_L \) due to the liquid flow, and \( \mathbf{T}_J \) is the stress at the interface due to the gas flow. Since the integration surface \( S_t \) is arbitrary, the integrand must be zero,

\[ \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{T}_L - \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{T}_J = 0. \tag{25} \]

We make the following approximations:

\[ \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{T}_L = \mathbf{u}_a \left( -p_L + \frac{\mathbf{u}_L \cdot \mathbf{u}_L}{\mathbf{u}_a} \right) + \mathbf{u}_L \cdot \mathbf{t}_L \tag{26a} \]

\[ \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{T}_J = \mathbf{u}_a \left( -p_G + \frac{\mathbf{u}_G \cdot \mathbf{u}_G}{\mathbf{u}_a} \right) + \mathbf{u}_G \cdot \mathbf{t}_J \approx -u_a p_G, \tag{26b} \]

where \( p_L, \mathbf{t}_L, \) and \( \mathbf{t}_J, p_G, \mathbf{t}_G \), and \( \mathbf{t}_L \) are the pressure, normal viscous stress, and shear stress of the liquid and gas at the interface, respectively. As the viscosity of gases is much smaller than liquids, the normal viscous stress and shear stresses \( \mathbf{t}_G, \) and \( \mathbf{t}_L \) are negligible.

Substituting (26) into (25) yields

\[ \mathbf{u}_a \left( -p_L + \frac{\mathbf{u}_L \cdot \mathbf{u}_L}{\mathbf{u}_a} \right) + \mathbf{u}_L \cdot \mathbf{t}_L = 0. \tag{27} \]

This equation is satisfied at the free surface in the viscous modeling with the balance of the normal stress and vanishing of the shear stress, but it is not satisfied in the potential flow theory, where \( -p_L + \frac{\mathbf{u}_L \cdot \mathbf{u}_L}{\mathbf{u}_a} = -p_G \) holds but \( \mathbf{u}_L \cdot \mathbf{t}_L \) at the interface is usually non-zero. Accordingly, the energy is not conserved at the interface in potential flow theory.

B. Viscous pressure correction

Now we introduce the viscous potential flow theory. It is assumed that the flow is irrotational in the flow domain. It satisfies Eq. (27) at the gas–liquid free surface to satisfy the conservation of energy. Equation (27) can be rewritten as

\[ u_a \left( -p_L + \frac{\mathbf{u}_L \cdot \mathbf{u}_L}{u_a} + \frac{\mathbf{t}_L}{u_a} \right) - \left( -p_G \right) = 0. \tag{28} \]

Introducing a viscous correction pressure \( p_{vc} \) as follows:

\[ p_{vc} = -\frac{\mathbf{u}_L \cdot \mathbf{t}_L}{u_a}. \tag{29} \]

Equation (28) becomes

\[ u_a \left( -p_L - p_{vc} + \frac{\mathbf{t}_L}{u_a} \right) - \left( -p_G \right) = 0, \tag{30} \]

or
The results in terms of the mesh size.

dynamics of non-spherical bubbles. We also check the convergence of the viscous boundary layer and to conserve the energy at the interface. With the inclusion of surface tension, \( (31) \) becomes

\[-p_L - p_{nc} + \tau^L_v = -p_G. \tag{31} \]

Adding a viscous correction pressure \( p_{nc} \) of \( (29) \) in the balance of normal stress \( (31) \) at the interface leads to the satisfaction of \( (28) \) as well as \( (27) \) and \( (22) \), the energy conservation at the interface. The normal stress \( -p_L + \tau^L_v \) due to the liquid potential flow outside the viscous boundary layer is corrected by adding \( p_{nc} \) to include the viscous effects of the boundary layer and to conserve the energy at the interface. The integral form of \( (29) \) on the interface \( I \) can be written as

\[ u_n(-p_{nc}) \, dS = \int u_k \cdot \tau^L_k \, dS. \tag{33} \]

This relation was introduced by Joseph and Wang (2004). Relation \( (33) \) is a foundation for and widely used in the viscous potential flow theory (c.f. Joseph and Wang, 2004; Wang and Joseph, 2006; Wang et al., 2005; Joseph, 2006; Padrino et al., 2011). It has led to improvements to the potential flow theory for many problems, including the rising of a spherical bubble/drop, the decay of free gravity waves on water and the Kelvin–Helmholtz instability. Motivated by these great successes, we have developed their hypothesis locally for potential flow theory. The viscous pressure correction \( (29) \) can be used for three-dimensional free surface flows, but it does not apply when the viscous boundary layer separates into the liquid bulk.

A remarkable example of the viscous pressure correction is for a spherical gas bubble of radius \( R \) rising in a viscous liquid at high Reynolds number. Levich (1949) obtained the drag on the bubble at \( 12\pi R \mu U \), where \( U \) is the rising velocity of the bubble, by calculating the dissipation of the irrotational flow around the bubble. Moore (1959) calculated the drag directly by integrating the pressure and viscous normal stress of the potential flow and neglecting the viscous shear stress, obtaining the value \( 8\pi R \mu U \). This approach results in one third of the relative error, because the energy of the flow is not conserved at the free surface in potential flow theory. The total energy is conserved as well, since the energy is conserved in the inner flow domain via Bernoulli’s equation. Joseph and Wang (2004) obtained the correct value for the drag, \( 12\pi R \mu U \), using the potential flow theory with the viscous pressure correction. The viscous pressure correction guarantees the conservation of the energy at the free surface as well as globally.

IV. VALIDATIONS

In this section, comprehensive validations will be carried out for the viscous compressible potential flow theory, because it is new. It will first be compared with the Keller–Miksis equation for the oscillation of spherical bubbles. It will be then compared with Shaw’s nonlinear asymptotic mode (2017) for non-spherical bubbles in a compressible and viscous liquid as well as Tsighis and Pelekasis’s model (2005) based on the viscous boundary layer and boundary integral method. It will be further compared with experiments for the dynamics of non-spherical bubbles. We also check the convergence of the results in terms of the mesh size.

We first compare the results obtained from the viscous compressible BIM (VCBIM) and the Keller–Miksis equation (KME). The case considered is a bubble having an equilibrium radius of \( 26 \mu m \) suspended in water subject to an acoustic wave with the pressure amplitude of \( 20 kPa \) and frequency of \( 130 kHz \). Figure 3 compares the time histories of the bubble radius obtained from the VCBIM and KME, respectively. The two results have excellent agreement for the first nine cycles of oscillation.

Next, the VCBIM is compared with other numerical results. Shaw (2017) developed a nonlinear asymptotic model to study the shape mode oscillation of parametrically forced bubbles including viscous and compressible effects, which accounts for nonlinear shape mode interactions to third order. Many cycles of oscillation were considered, showing the importance of the inclusion of viscous and compressible effects. The case chosen for comparison considers a microbubble with an equilibrium radius of \( 144 \mu m \) subject to an acoustic wave with a pressure amplitude of \( 13 kPa \) and a frequency of \( 10 kHz \). The remaining parameters are the same as in Fig. 3. As is seen in Fig. 4, the VCBIM obtains excellent agreement with the results of the asymptotic model. Non-spherical oscillation is accurately predicted at each time, despite the numerous cycles of oscillation leading up to this time. The bubble displays mixed shape modes, with mode 3 being predominant at \( t = 10.07 \) [Fig. 4(a)] and \( t = 10.17 \) [Fig. 4(c)] and mode 6 predominant being at \( t = 10.11 \) [Fig. 4(b)] and \( t = 10.22 \) [Fig. 4(d)]. This demonstrates the accuracy and robustness of the VCBIM to model bubble dynamics for dozens of cycles of oscillation with important viscous and compressible effects. This also shows that Shaw’s nonlinear asymptotic model is accurate for non-spherical oscillations of bubbles at large amplitude.

Additionally, Tsighis and Pelekasis (2005) examined the weak viscous oscillation of elongated bubbles using the viscous boundary layer theory coupled with the boundary integral method. They revealed that small initial elongations would return to a spherical shape for any Ohnesorge number, \( Oh = \mu/(\rho Re) \), while for larger elongations there is a threshold value of \( Oh \) above which the bubble breaks up. The case chosen for comparison considers a microbubble with an equilibrium radius of \( 5.8 \mu m \) and an initial elongation parameter of \( R = 0.6 \). The elongation is defined as \( S = ar/R_{eq} \) with \( a \) and \( R_{eq} \)
denoting the length of the smaller semi-axis and the radius of a bubble with the same initial volume, $V_0$, as the elongated bubble. The inverse Ohnesorge number is given by $Oh^{-1}/C_01 = 1000$, with the rest of the parameters as in Fig. 3. Figure 5 shows the comparison of the bubble shapes using the experimental images and the computational results, at successive maximum and minimum bubble volumes. The wave propagates from the left to the right side for this case as well as the subsequent cases.

Figure 6(a) shows the bubble shapes during the first 5 cycles of oscillation. The bubble is in equilibrium before the arrival of the acoustic wave ($t = 0 \mu s$). It starts to collapse as the acoustic wave defined by (8) is initially positive at the bubble location. During the first 5 cycles, the bubble oscillates in a spherical shape with the amplitude increasing with each cycle. Figure 6(b) shows the bubble shape from the sixth to ninth cycles of oscillations. At the sixth maximum volume ($t = 48.25 \mu s$), the bubble is approximately spherical, with its right side slightly protruding. However, the bubble quickly becomes non-spherical during the following collapse, when its cross section takes a square shape at the sixth minimum volume, with rounded corners and a weak jet forming on the right side. The jet further develops as the bubble expands to the seventh maximum volume. The surface mode $n = 4$ becomes obvious at and after the seventh minimum volume. The right jet remains as the bubble oscillates during the eighth cycle. At the end of the eighth minimum volume, a left jet starts to develop and becomes obvious at the ninth maximum volume, when two opposing jets occur along the axis of symmetry.

The computational results agree well with the experimental images for all nine cycles of oscillation, in terms of the bubble shapes and the time sequence. All the above features were reproduced by the computation. However, the jet is not visible in the experimental images due to the opaqueness of the bubble.

Figure 7 illustrates the convergence of the numerical results for the time history of the equivalent bubble radius $R_{eq} = \sqrt[3]{\frac{3}{4\pi}} V_*$, in terms of the element number $m = 51, 61$ and 71 used for meshing the intersection curve of the bubble surface in the azimuthal plane, for the shape oscillation of a microbubble driven by an ultrasonic wave. They revealed shape oscillations for various mode numbers $n = 2–6$ of microbubbles, with the ultrahigh-speed imaging. They found that the mode number $n$ is dependent on the bubble radius but is independent of the pressure amplitude. The experimental case chosen for the comparison is for an amplitude of 120 kPa and frequency of 130 kHz. Figure 6 shows the comparison of the bubble shapes using the experimental images and the computational results, at successive maximum and minimum bubble volumes. The wave propagates from the left to the right side for this case as well as the subsequent cases.

FIG. 6. Comparison between the computations using the VCBIM and the experimental images (Versluis et al., 2010) for the shapes of a microbubble having an equilibrium radius of 36 μm subject to an acoustic wave with the pressure amplitude $p_a = 120$ kPa and frequency $f = 130$ kHz: (a) spherical oscillation for the first five cycles of oscillation and (b) the development of a surface mode $n = 4$ from the sixth–ninth cycles. The computational results are added separately for the last collapse phase. The dimensionless times of the experiment and computation are shown on the upper right and lower right corners in each frame, respectively. The frame width is 56 μm. The other parameters are $\kappa = 1.4$, $\sigma = 0.073$ N m$^{-1}$, $p_w = 100$ kPa, $p_v = 3$ kPa, and $\rho_L = 1000$ kg m$^{-3}$.
For the larger pressure amplitude $p_a = 50$ kPa the bubble is approximately spherical for the first 8 cycles of oscillation. Its left side is flattened and the right side elongated at the ninth minimum and ninth maximum volumes. The jet forms at the right side at the tenth minimum volume and at the left side at the 11th minimum volume. Subsequently, the jet alternates between the left and right sides. The surface mode $n = 3$ of the bubble becomes obvious in cycle 12, and continues developing. During cycles 13 and 14, jets occur both at the minimum and maximum values.

The bubble initially oscillates in a purely spherical mode and surface modes can be generated after several acoustic cycles if the acoustic pressure is above a critical threshold. When the pressure amplitude is slightly higher than the threshold, the shape mode develops gradually for many cycles of oscillation. The parametric instability for a bubble due to an acoustic wave is a cumulative effect, requiring many oscillation cycles to build up. As the pressure amplitude increases, the development of shape modes starts earlier and grows faster, and the subsequent shape mode has larger amplitude. This is because the Bjerknes force $F_B$ acting on the bubble due to the pressure wave $p_a(r, t)$ is proportional to the pressure amplitude. The Bjerknes force $F_B$ is given by

$$F_B(t) = -V(t) \nabla p(r, t) = -V(t) k p_a \cos(kz_c - \omega t) R_0^{-1/2},$$

where $r_c$ is the geometrical center of the bubble and $z_c$ is its $z$-coordinate. Here, we used the pressure wave given in (8).

### B. Effects of the frequency of ultrasound

To consider the effects of the driving frequency of ultrasound, we repeat the case shown in Fig. 8(b) for the acoustic pressure amplitude $p_a = 47$ kPa and the equilibrium radius $R_0 = 30 \mu$m with different frequencies, the remaining parameters being kept the same. The natural frequency for spherical oscillation for a bubble is given as (Brennen, 1995)

$$f_0 = \frac{1}{2\pi p_0 R_0^3} \sqrt{\frac{p_0 \left(3\kappa(p_\infty - p_v) + \frac{2(3\kappa - 1)\sigma}{R_0}\right)}{\rho_0}}$$

Using $R_0 = 30 \mu$m, $\kappa = 1.4$, $\sigma = 0.073$ N m$^{-1}$, $p_\infty = 100$ kPa, $p_v = 3$ kPa, and $\rho_0 = 1000$ kg m$^{-3}$, we have $f_0 = 110$ kHz. We want to compare the three cases for $f = 85$ kHz $< f_0$, $f = 110$ kHz $= f_0$, and $f = 130$ kHz $> f_0$. The last case for the driving frequency being larger than the natural frequency was considered in Fig. 8(b).

For $f = 85$ kHz, the driving frequency is smaller than the natural frequency $f_0$ of the bubble. The bubble remains a spherical shape till the 24th cycle, as shown in Fig. 9(a).

For $f = 110$ kHz, the wave frequency is equal to the natural frequency $f_0$ of the bubble, the bubble undergoes resonant oscillation. As shown in Fig. 9(b), the bubble reaches a much larger maximum volume during the first and second cycles as compared to $f = 85$ or $130$ kHz [shown in Figs. 9(a) and 8(b), respectively]. Consequently, a much larger Bjerknes force acts on the bubble, since it is proportional to the bubble volume as shown in (34). During the third cycle of oscillation, a reentry liquid jet forms at the bubble side facing the acoustic wave at the minimum volume and it retakes a spherical shape at the subsequent maximum volume. This repeats during the fourth cycle of oscillation, when the jet develops further. Subsequently, the non-spherical oscillation develops quickly. The bubble shape at the fifth
FIG. 8. Dynamics of a bubble with an equilibrium radius $R_0 = 30 \mu\text{m}$ driven by an acoustic wave having the frequency $f = 130$ kHz and the various pressure amplitudes: (a) $p_a = 40$, (b) $p_a = 47$, and (c) $p_a = 50$ kPa, respectively. The dimensionless time is shown on the upper right corner in each frame. The remaining parameters are the same as in Fig. 6.
maximum volume \( t_6 = 15.73 \) is elongated along the wave direction. Two opposing jets develop and impact each other at the sixth minimum volume. The bubble then rejoins before reaching the sixth maximum volume. In subsequent time, the singly connected bubble continues to oscillate.

The bubble remains spherical as \( f = 85 \text{ kHz} < f_0 \) [Fig. 9(a)], becomes non-spherical after 15 cycles of oscillation for \( f = 130 \text{ kHz} > f_0 \) [Fig. 8(b)], but undergoes obvious non-spherical oscillation even from the third cycle if the driving frequency is equal to the natural frequency of the bubble for \( f = 110 \text{ kHz} = f_0 \) when the bubble undergoes resonant oscillation.

**C. Driving frequency equal to resonance frequency of shape mode**

The natural frequency \( f_n \) of shape modes \( n \) of bubbles is given as (Lamb, 1932)

\[
f_n = \frac{1}{2\pi R_0} \sqrt{\frac{(n-1)(n+1)(n+2)}{\rho R_0}} \frac{\sigma}{\rho R_0}.
\]

where \( n > 2 \). For \( R_0 = 39 \mu \text{m}, \sigma = 0.073 \text{ N m}^{-1} \) and \( \kappa = 1.4 \), the natural frequencies for shape modes of the bubble for \( n = 3, 4 \), and 6 are \( f_3 = 70.6 \text{ kHz}, f_4 = 145 \text{ kHz}, \) and \( f_6 = 193 \text{ kHz}, \) respectively. We are now considering the bubble suspended in a liquid subject to an acoustic wave at the natural frequencies of shape modes, when the shape instability of the bubble is prone to appear.

We first consider the case for the driving frequency being set at the natural frequency of mode 3: \( f = f_3 = 70.6 \text{ kHz} \) and the amplitude \( p_a = 40 \text{ kPa}. \) As shown in Fig. 10, the bubble oscillates for nine cycles in a spherical volumetric mode. The bubble starts developing surface mode 3 during the tenth cycle of oscillation, the right part of the bubble is flattened at the tenth minimum volume and the left part becomes flattened at the tenth maximum volume \( t^* = 36.97 \). This is...
reversed during the subsequent period, when the left side becomes flattened at the 11th minimum volume, where a jet forms, and the right part becomes flattened at the 11th maximum volume. Subsequently, the above features repeat and mode 3 develops and becomes obvious in the 19th cycle of oscillation.

Figure 11 shows the development of shape mode 4 of the bubble as the driving frequency is equal to the corresponding natural frequency $f_4 = 145$ kHz and the pressure amplitude $p_a = 75$ kPa. The bubble becomes non-spherical at the third minimum volume, when both left and right sides become flattened with weak jets, but is approximately spherical at the third maximum volume. During the fourth cycle of oscillation, the bubble is elongated along the wave direction at both minimum and maximum volumes. At the fifth minimum and maximum volumes, shape mode 4 becomes obvious, when the bubble cross section takes a square shape with rounded corners and its sides parallel or perpendicular to the wave direction. At the sixth minimum volume, the bubble has a square cross section, with its diagonals now being parallel or perpendicular to the wave direction. A larger expansion of the bubble takes place in this cycle and the bubble regains a spherical shape at the sixth maximum volume. From seventh to eighth cycle of oscillation, the surface mode grows in magnitude. During the ninth cycle, two opposing jets develop along the wave direction and impact each other at the ninth minimum volume. The bubble becomes toroidal but it still displays the character of mode 4.

D. Viscous and compressible effects

To analyze the viscous and compressible effects, we compare the computational results with and without these effects. The importance of viscous effects is demonstrated in Fig. 13, where the bubble shapes of the viscous and inviscid models are compared during bubble collapse. This is the case considered in Fig. 5 for the oscillation of an elongated bubble. Including viscous effects leads to the formation of a wider jet, at both the opening of the jet and the tip. This is as expected when considering viscous effects and agrees with the results of Tsigliefs and Pelekasis (2005).

Four variations of the case described in Fig. 6 are considered, including (a) both viscous and compressible effects, (b) only viscous effects, (c) only compressible effects, and (d) neither viscous nor compressible effects. The corresponding bubble shapes are shown in Fig. 14 at the ninth minimum bubble volume, where the jet is clearly weakened due to the viscous effects. However, there are no significant dissipative compressible effects for this case, since there is no significant collapse here. This is consistent with the observation of Calvisi et al. (2007).

The ninth minimum occurs at different times in Fig. 14 depending on whether or not viscous effects are included. Compressible effects do not modify the time for the ninth minimum. The frequency
and the phase shift for the bubble oscillations are modified by viscosity (Smith and Wang, 2017) but not by compressibility (Smith and Wang, 2018).

VI. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

In potential flow theory for free surface flows with large Reynolds number, the key issue is that the shear stress should approximately vanish at a gas–liquid interface, but it does not. This results in the violation of the conservation of energy. We have derived a formula for the viscous pressure correction in terms of the velocity and the shear stress of the potential flow at a free surface, to enforce the conservation of energy. The formula approximates directly the local viscous effects at an interface and is applicable for three-dimensional free surface flows. We have developed an accurate, grid free in the flow domain and robust numerical model for a bubble oscillation over many cycles involving topological transformation, with the viscous pressure correction as well as the weakly compressible theory and vortex ring model.

The numerical results are shown to be in good agreement with Shaw’s nonlinear asymptotic theory (2017) for bubbles in viscous and compressible liquids, the Tsiglifis and Pelekasis model (2005) based on the viscous boundary layer theory and boundary integral method for the oscillation of elongated bubbles, as well as experiments for microbubbles undergoing shape oscillation when subject to ultrasound.

The computations have been carried out for axisymmetric cases however the numerical model can be developed for three dimensional straightforwardly. We observed the following features for microbubble dynamics subject to a pressure wave.

A bubble subject to an acoustic wave first oscillates in a spherical shape due to surface tension. Shape modes develop gradually if the wave amplitude is beyond a critical threshold, this being a supercritical bifurcation. The parametric instability for a bubble due to an acoustic wave is a cumulative effect, requiring many oscillation cycles to build up. As the wave amplitude increases, the shape modes start earlier and develop faster, because the Bjerknes force is proportional to the wave amplitude.

If the wave frequency is near to the natural frequency of spherical oscillation, the bubble undergoes resonant spherical oscillation at large amplitude and shape mode 3 develops quickly. The large Bjerknes
force along the direction of acoustic wave propagation, which is proportional to the bubble volume, is responsible for the growth of shape mode 3.

If the driving frequency is equal to the natural frequencies of different shape modes of a bubble, the bubble is excited into the corresponding shape modes. The orientation of the shape mode and the jetting are determined by the direction of propagation of the driving acoustic wave. For shape mode 3, the bubble takes a triangular shape with the sides facing and backing onto the wave direction being flattened in turn during each successive cycle of oscillation, where reentry liquid jets often form parallel to the wave direction. For shape mode 4, the bubble takes a square shape with its sides and diagonals being parallel to the wave direction during each successive cycle of oscillation. If the driving frequency is equal to the natural frequency of shape mode 6, the bubble alternates between shape modes 4 and 6. This is associated with the exchange of energy between even shape modes, it being due to the nonlinearities in the kinematic and normal stress conditions at the free surface.

The standard inviscid model and BIM capture the essential shape of the bubble, but prediction of the amplitude of the bubble oscillation requires the conservation of energy including viscosity. Viscous effects
result in a reduction of the amplitude and a modification of the phase shift for strongly nonlinear non-spherical bubble oscillations in comparison with the inviscid fluid flow. The reduction in the amplitude also results in changes to the oscillation frequency which is dependent on amplitude in the finite-amplitude case. Furthermore, during the collapse, viscosity dampens the jet formation, which leads to flatter bubble jets.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This work was funded partially by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) Grant No. EP/P015743/1.

AUTHOR DECLARATIONS

Conflict of Interest

The authors report no conflict of interest.

DATA AVAILABILITY

The data that support the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.

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FIG. 14. Comparison of bubble shapes at the ninth minimum volume for the case described in Fig. 6. From left to right, the case includes both viscous and compressible effects, only viscous effects, only compressible effects, and neither viscous nor compressible effects. Both (a) and (b) are pictured at $t = 74.71 \mu s$.