

Gravity–capillary jet-like surface waves generated by an underwater bubble

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Jet-like surface waves generated by an electric-spark-generated underwater bubble are experimentally studied. Three different motions of jet-like surface waves are observed depending on the inception position of the bubble (d : 0.28–7 mm) below the free surface and the maximum radius of the bubble (R_m : 1.5–3.6 mm). When $d/R_m > 1.3$, the surface wave shows a simple smooth hump (case 1). When $0.82 < d/R_m < 1.3$, a single droplet or multiple droplets are pinched off sequentially or simultaneously at the tip or from some points of the jet-like surface wave (case 2). Finally, when $d/R_m < 0.82$, a series of squirting and jetting phenomena are observed at the top of the jet-like surface wave (case 3). For case 1, a proportional relationship is found between $\rho gh/\Delta p$ and $(d/R_m)^{-4.4}$, where ρ is the density of the fluid, g is the gravitational acceleration and Δp is the difference between the reference atmospheric pressure and the vapour pressure inside a bubble. This proportional relationship is explained semi-analytically using a scaling argument and conservation of momentum and energy, with the help of the Kelvin impulse theory. In addition, we solve the relevant axisymmetric Cauchy–Poisson problem where the initial condition is a jet-like surface wave near its maximum height. By comparing the analytical wave solution with the observed surface wave pattern, it is found that the resultant surface waves are indeed gravity–capillary waves where both the gravity and the surface tension are equally important.

Key words: waves, free-surface flows

1. Introduction

When an underwater bubble is generated close to a free surface, the resultant surface wave shows an overall rising jet-like behaviour. During this event, the initial spherical bubble expands, collapses and evolves into a non-spherical bubble (a dented sphere, a hemisphere, a spherical frustum or a toroid), migrating downwards away from the free surface; some parts of the bubble are disintegrated and are left behind. The overall behaviour of the bubble and the surface wave altogether can be understood in the context of the action–reaction momentum principle. These phenomena have potential application areas such as jet printing (Dadvand, Khoo & Shervani-Tabar 2009), droplet separation (Xiong *et al.* 2015), micro-surface cleaning (Ohl *et al.* 2006; Reuter & Mettin 2016), laser-based printing techniques (Tomita, Kodama & Shima

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1991; Duocastella *et al.* 2009, 2010; Brown, Kattamis & Arnold 2011; Patrascioiu *et al.* 2014) and underwater explosions (Geers & Hunter 2002; Klaseboer *et al.* 2005; Gong *et al.* 2010). Early works focused on concurrent motions of the bubble and unbounded or bounded free surface (Benjamin & Ellis 1966; Chahine 1977; Blake & Gibson 1981; Best & Kucera 1992; Zhang, Duncan & Chahine 1993; Wang *et al.* 1996*a,b*; Khoo, Klaseboer & Hung 2005; Lew, Klaseboer & Khoo 2007; Dadvand *et al.* 2009; Shervani-Tabar *et al.* 2009; Dadvand, Shervani-Tabar & Khoo 2011). In particular, Chahine (1977) analytically and experimentally studied the bubble-induced surface jet phenomena on the unbounded free surface according to the dimensionless parameter d/R_m , where d is the inception position of the bubble below the free surface and R_m is the maximum radius of the bubble. The overall length scales of R_m and d are of the order of a few hundreds of millimetres and the surface tension is neglected in the perturbation analysis. Blake & Gibson (1981) numerically and experimentally studied the bubble-induced surface jet phenomena on the unbounded free surface according to the dimensionless parameter d/R_m . The overall length scales of R_m and d are of the order of a few tens of millimetres and the surface tension is neglected in their numerical simulations. Dadvand *et al.* (2009) experimentally studied mainly on the bubble-induced surface jet phenomena through a hole of a rigid plate overlaid on the free surface according to the dimensionless parameters d/R_m and $D/2R_m$, where D is the hole diameter of a rigid plate. In their work, there are also two exemplary experimental results regarding the bubble-induced surface jet phenomena on the unbounded free surface according to the dimensionless parameter d/R_m . The overall length scales of R_m , d and D are of the order of a few millimetres. Dadvand *et al.* (2011) numerically and experimentally studied bubble-induced surface jet phenomena through a hole in a rigid plate overlaid on the free surface and surface jet phenomena on the free surface confined by a cylindrical wall, according to the dimensionless parameters d/R_m and $D/2R_m$, where D is the hole diameter of a rigid surface or the diameter of the cylindrical wall. The overall length scales of R_m , d and D are of the order of a few millimetres and the surface tension is not neglected in the numerical simulation. In the above works, when d/R_m is relatively large, the free surface rises and falls with the expansion and collapse of the bubble, i.e. in-phase motion. The shape of the free surface looks like a wide small hump. When d/R_m is relatively small, the free surface rises during the expansion of the bubble (in phase) and continues to rise during and after the collapse of the bubble (out of phase). The shape of the free surface looks like a narrow tall jet. At the tip of the jet-like surface wave, droplets are generated when R_m is a few millimetres (Dadvand *et al.* 2009, 2011) and no droplets are generated when R_m is a few tens (Chahine 1977) or hundreds of millimetres (Blake & Gibson 1981).

From the above literature review, we see that the motion of the unbounded free surface induced by a millimetre-size underwater bubble has not been fully studied. As mentioned, in Dadvand *et al.* (2009), whose main interest is in the motion of the bounded free surface induced by a millimetre-size underwater bubble, this unbounded-free-surface case was briefly mentioned by showing only two different sets of snapshots of the surface-jet behaviours for two different values of d/R_m . One example is the free-surface spike composed of a single main jet inside and splash-like side jets outside. The other example is the free-surface jet with sequential or simultaneous formation of multiple pinched-off droplets at the tip or from some points of the jet column with a certain height. No further attempt is made, however, to observe the various wave phenomena on the unbounded free surface induced by a millimetre-size underwater bubble according to other values of d/R_m . Therefore,

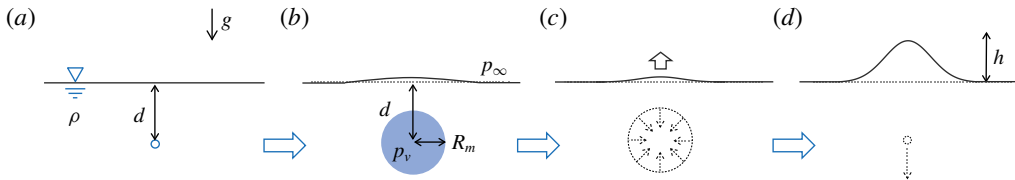


FIGURE 1. (Colour online) Schematics for the simplified motion of a 3-D axisymmetric jet-like surface wave induced by the motion of an underwater bubble for case 1. (a) Inception of a bubble. (b) Bubble expansion. (c) Growth of the 3-D axisymmetric jet-like surface wave during the bubble collapse. (d) 3-D axisymmetric jet-like surface wave at its maximum height after the bubble collapse.

this is one subject of the present paper. To summarize in advance, when $d/R_m > 1.3$, the surface wave shows a simple smooth hump (case 1). When $0.82 < d/R_m < 1.3$, a single droplet or multiple droplets are pinched off sequentially or simultaneously at the tip or from some points of the jet-like surface wave (case 2). Finally, when $d/R_m < 0.82$, a series of squirting and jetting phenomena are observed at the top of the jet-like surface wave (case 3).

Next, in particular for case 1 (a simple smooth hump with no droplets, figure 1), based on behavioural observations, we can experimentally find that there exists the relationship

$$\frac{\rho gh}{\Delta p} = \text{function} \left(\frac{d}{R_m} \right), \quad (1.1)$$

where h is the maximum height of the jet-like surface wave, ρ is the density of the fluid, g is gravitational acceleration and $\Delta p = p_\infty - p_v$ is the difference between the reference atmospheric pressure (p_∞) and the vapour pressure inside a bubble (p_v); in the present experimental work, an underwater bubble is made by an electric spark (§ 2). The use of the parameter $\Delta p = p_\infty - p_v$ can be found in many previous numerical and experimental works (Blake & Gibson 1981, 1987; Wang *et al.* 1996*a,b*; Robinson *et al.* 2001; Pearson *et al.* 2004; Dadvand *et al.* 2011; Pain *et al.* 2012). A lot of heat is generated and the pressure inside the bubble is very high at the beginning. Very soon after the bubble expands, the saturated vapour pressure (p_v) will be achieved, which is found to be about 20 kPa (vapour pressure at 60°C), or $\Delta p = p_\infty - p_v = 80$ kPa (§ 3.4). Other values of vapour pressures were used in previous works, for example, $p_v = 50$ kPa (Buogo & Cannelli 2002; Dadvand *et al.* 2011) and $p_v = 30$ kPa (Turangan *et al.* 2006). To the present authors' knowledge, the functional relationship (1.1) has not been reported for the unbounded free-surface wave induced by a millimetre-size underwater bubble. Therefore, this is another subject of the present paper.

Although the gravity and the surface tension can be neglected in terms of the bubble dynamics, those may be important in the motion of a jet-like surface wave after a bubble collapses and migrates far away from the free surface. The third subject of the present paper is the verification of whether this jet-like surface wave observed in the experiment is a gravity wave, a gravity–capillary wave or a capillary wave. For this purpose, we solve the relevant Cauchy–Poisson problem. The original Cauchy–Poisson problem is a two-dimensional initial-value problem for the resultant gravity waves on deep water for a given locally confined initial wave elevation (Miles 1968; Lamb 1993; Debnath 1994; Stoker 2011). In the present case, the relevant Cauchy–Poisson

problem to be solved is a three-dimensional one where the initial condition is a 3-D axisymmetric jet-like surface wave at its maximum height generated by an underwater bubble. The comparison between the analytical wave solution to the Cauchy–Poisson problem and the experimental result is new.

In § 2 the experimental set-up will be described for the study on the jet-like wave motion of a free surface caused by the motion of an electric-spark-generated millimetre-sized underwater bubble near the free surface. In the experiment, the overall length scales of the inception position of the bubble (d) below the free surface and the maximum radius of the bubble (R_m) are of the order of a few millimetres. The maximum height of the resultant after-collapse jet-like surface wave is a few times larger than the lengths scales of d and R_m . In § 3 we will present three different jet-like surface-wave phenomena according to d/R_m during the whole time from the inception of a bubble to the after-collapse of the bubble. In addition to these behavioural observations, we will present a proportional relationship between $\rho gh/\Delta p$ and $(d/R_m)^{-4.4}$. In § 4 the experimentally found relationship is explained semi-analytically using a scaling argument and conservation of momentum and energy, with the help of the Kelvin impulse theory. In § 5 we solve the relevant axisymmetric Cauchy–Poisson problem where the initial condition is a jet-like surface wave near its maximum height. By comparing the analytical wave solution with the observed surface wave pattern, it is found that the resultant surface waves are indeed gravity–capillary waves where both the gravity and the surface tension are equally important. Finally, § 6 provides a summary.

2. Experimental set-up

We experimentally observe the various motions of jet-like surface waves according to various values of d/R_m , where d is the vertical position of the spark point or the inception position of the bubble below the free surface and R_m is the maximum radius of the bubble generated. Figure 2(a) shows the schematic of the experimental set-up. Experiments were carried out in a transparent acrylic water tank whose length, width and height are all 20 cm and whose wall thickness is 1 cm. The tank was filled with distilled water (0.073 N m^{-1} at 20°C by a Du Noüy ring-type tensiometer (Du Noüy 1925)) and the water depth was 16 cm. An electric circuit was prepared to create an underwater bubble between two electrodes where the electric energy was discharged in the form of a spark. Similar kinds of experimental set-up were used in previous works (Lew *et al.* 2007; Dadvand *et al.* 2009, 2011; Shervani-Tabar *et al.* 2009; Pain *et al.* 2012). The circuit has two loops: an energy-charging loop and a energy-discharging loop. The energy-charging loop consists of a DC power supply ($V_1 = 55 \text{ V}$), a capacitor ($C = 5000 \mu\text{F}$), a resistor ($R = 1 \text{ k}\Omega$) and a switch. The energy-discharging loop consists of the same capacitor, two electrodes and the switch. The submerged part of the energy-discharging loop including two copper-alloy electrodes (0.05, 0.08, 0.102, 0.127 and 0.16 mm in diameter) is firmly held using a custom-made structure. When the switch is connected to node 1, the energy-charging loop is closed in series and the capacitor is charged with the electric potential $V_1 = 55 \text{ V}$. Then the switch is disconnected from node 1 and is connected to node 2. Then the energy-charging loop is open and the energy-discharging loop is closed in series, making the electric potential between the capacitor the value of $V_2 = 47.5\text{--}53.7 \text{ V}$. As a result, the electric energy $E = C(V_1^2 - V_2^2)/2 = 0.35\text{--}1.92 \text{ J}$ is discharged instantly between the two electrodes, generating a bubble with a certain size (1.5–3.6 mm) (figure 2b). This is much larger than the diameter of the electrode

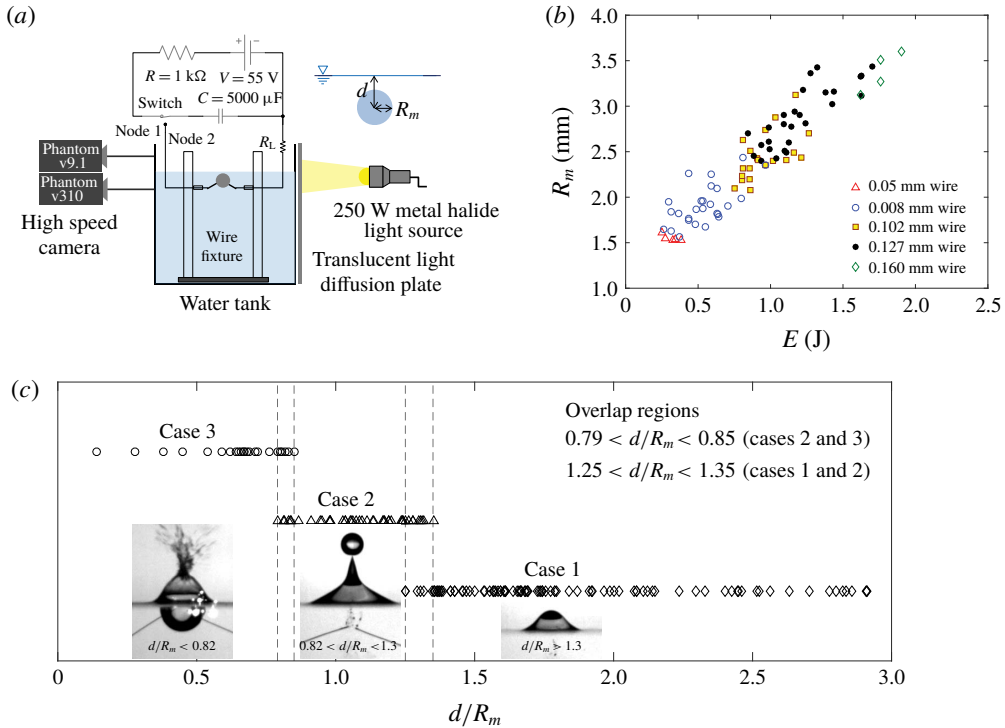


FIGURE 2. (Colour online) (a) Schematic of the experimental set-up, (b) discharged electric energy between the two electrodes (E) and the maximum radius of the bubble (R_m), (c) three different behavioural cases.

(0.05, 0.08, 0.102, 0.127 and 0.16 mm), thus its influence on the bubble can be assumed to be negligible, and it really is so from observation. We found that, when the two electrodes slightly touch each other at an angle of about 140° , a single intact bubble is best generated at the spark point. For other touching angles, a mis-spark or unintended sequential bubbles are generated. In the experiment, the vertical position (d) of the spark point below the free surface is varied (0.28–7 mm) and its horizontal position from the wall is fixed at 4 cm, which is confirmed to be far enough for both motions of an underwater bubble and the induced jet-like surface wave not to be influenced from the existence of the wall. For the shadow images of those motions, the adopted overall configuration is ‘camera’, ‘objects (bubble and the free surface above it)’ and ‘light source’ in spatial order. For a better shadow image, a translucent light diffusion plate is placed before the light source (MME-250, Moritex). For the real-time recording, two high-speed cameras (Phantom v310, Phantom v9.1, Vision Research) with zoom lenses (AF Micro Nikkor 105 mm) are used, each focusing on the bubble and the free surface, respectively. The focused motion of the bubble is recorded using Phantom v310 (100 000 fps, each pixel: $0.05 \text{ mm} \times 0.05 \text{ mm}$ or $0.04 \text{ mm} \times 0.04 \text{ mm}$) and the focused motion of the free surface is recorded using Phantom v9.1 (10 000 fps, each pixel: $0.1 \text{ mm} \times 0.1 \text{ mm}$ or $0.08 \text{ mm} \times 0.08 \text{ mm}$). To summarize in advance (figure 2c), when $d/R_m > 1.3$, the surface wave shows a simple smooth hump (case 1). When $0.82 < d/R_m < 1.3$, a single droplet or multiple droplets are pinched off sequentially or simultaneously at the tip or from some points

of the jet-like surface wave (case 2). Finally, when $d/R_m < 0.82$, a series of squirting and jetting phenomena are observed at the top of the jet-like surface wave (case 3). The boundary values 1.3 and 0.82 between each case are taken as the average of two extreme values of d/R_m in the overlap regions of cases 1, 2, and 3. The overlap regions are $1.25 < d/R_m < 1.35$ (cases 1 and 2) and $0.79 < d/R_m < 0.85$ (cases 2 and 3).

3. Experimental results

3.1. Case 1 ($d/R_m > 1.3$)

When the spark point (d) is far from the free surface and/or the maximum radius of the bubble (R_m) is small enough not to touch the free surface, jet-like surface waves featuring a simple smooth hump (maximum height, h) are observed. Figure 3 shows a set of snapshots of motions of the bubble and the free surface together when the spark point $d = 4.1$ mm at $t = 0$ s and $R_m = 2.44$ mm at $t = 0.38$ ms ($d/R_m = 1.68$ and $h/R_m = 1.23$). The height of the jet-like surface wave has its maximum $h = 3$ mm at $t = 11.3$ ms. Associated with figure 3, the detailed repeated expansion–collapse motions of the bubble are shown in figure 4; expansion ($t = 0–0.38$ ms), collapse ($t = 0.38–0.78$ ms), expansion ($t = 0.78–0.96$ ms), collapse ($t = 0.96–1.04$ ms), expansion ($t = 1.04–1.2$ ms). During the first expansion phase of the bubble ($t = 0–0.38$ ms), the bubble maintains a spherical shape while expanding and the free surface slightly rises in phase with the expanding motion of the bubble. In the ensuing collapse phase of the bubble ($t = 0.38–0.78$ ms), the free surface still shows a rising motion instead of a falling-down motion. Until the end of the first collapse phase, the position of the bubble changes little, and, as a reaction to the rising motion of the free surface, the fluid motion below develops a downward jet (Bjerknes jet) impacting on the top of the bubble (Wang *et al.* 1996a,b; Pearson *et al.* 2004). As a result, the shape of the bubble becomes a top-flat hemisphere (at $t = 0.78$ ms); admittedly, since the image is two-dimensional, the downward jet may impact from top to the bottom of the bubble. Then the real shape of the bubble may be top-concave hemispherical. Afterwards, while migrating away from the free surface, still repeatedly expanding and collapsing, the bottom of the bubble also becomes flat, and, finally, the overall shape looks like a spherical frustum. During this event, after $t = 0.96$ ms in particular, the disintegrated bubbly vestige is left behind the downwardly migrating bubble. Meanwhile, the height of the jet-like surface wave progressively increases with maximum $h = 3$ mm at $t = 11.3$ ms, after which the jet-like surface wave falls down while being flattened, featuring a spherical cap ($t = 18$ ms), a plateau ($t = 27$ ms) and returning to the still water surface ($t = 60$ ms). The snapshot images of rising and falling motions are not mirror images of each other. The above-mentioned behaviour is observed when $d/R_m > 1.3$ and we refer to this behaviour as case 1. In case 1, we found that the width of the jet-like surface wave (w : horizontal width of the surface wave on the free surface in figure 1d) is linearly proportional to the maximum radius of the bubble (R_m), where the proportional constant is about 3.85 (figure 5). We also found that the rising time of the jet-like surface wave (t_r from (c) to (d) in figure 1) is linearly proportional to the quantity $(h/g)^{1/2}$, where the proportional constant is about 0.7 (figure 6).

3.2. Case 2 ($0.82 < d/R_m < 1.3$)

Compared to case 1, when the spark point (d) is closer to the free surface and/or the maximum radius of the bubble (R_m) is bigger, but still small enough not to

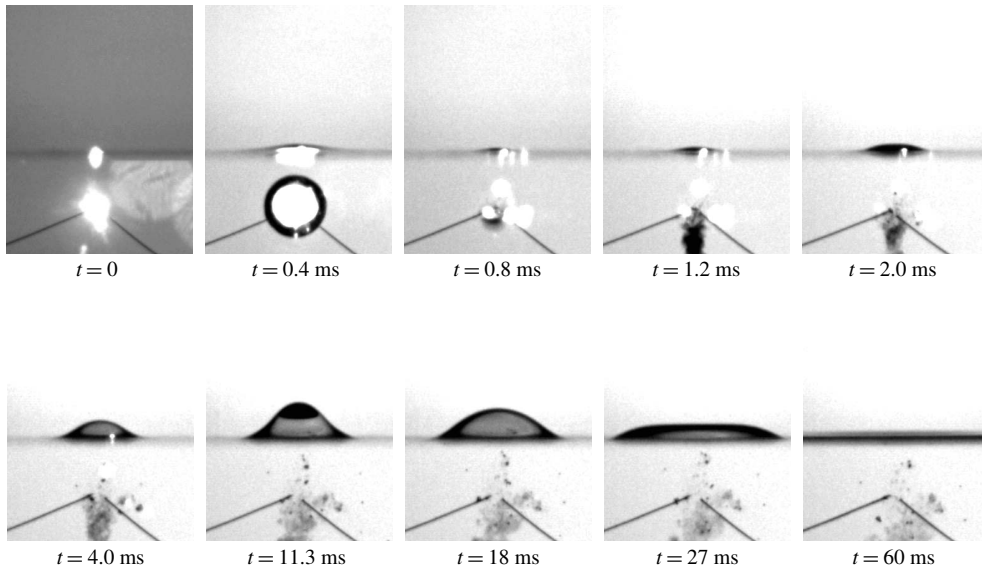


FIGURE 3. Case 1 ($d/R_m > 1.3$): snapshots of motions of the bubble and the free surface when $d/R_m = 1.68$ and $h/R_m = 1.23$ ($d = 4.1$ mm at $t = 0$ s, $R_m = 2.44$ mm at $t = 0.38$ ms, $h = 3$ mm at $t = 11.3$ ms). The physical dimension of each picture is 20 mm (height) by 15 mm (width).

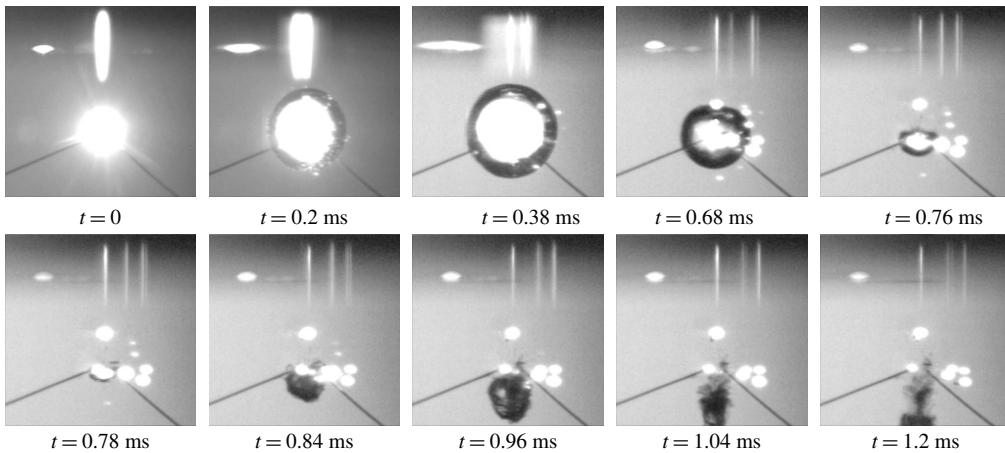


FIGURE 4. Case 1 ($d/R_m > 1.3$): snapshots of detailed motion of the bubble in figure 3. The physical dimension of each picture is 10 mm (height) by 10 mm (width).

touch ($1 < d/R_m < 1.3$) or slightly touch ($0.82 < d/R_m < 1$) the free surface, jet-like surface waves are observed making a single droplet or multiple droplets, pinched off sequentially or simultaneously at the tip or from some points of the surface jet. Figure 7 shows a set of motion snapshots of the bubble and the free surface when the spark point $d = 3$ mm at $t = 0$ s and $R_m = 2.35$ mm at $t = 0.32$ ms ($d/R_m = 1.28$ and $h/R_m = 4.55$). On the verge of pinching off a single droplet, the height of the jet-like surface wave has its maximum $h = 10.7$ mm at $t = 32.5$ ms. Associated with

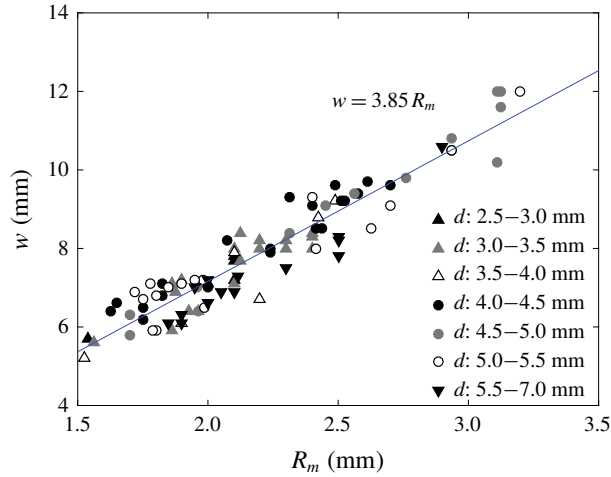


FIGURE 5. Proportional relationship between the width of the jet-like surface wave (w) and the maximum radius of the bubble (R_m) in case 1 ($d/R_m > 1.3$).

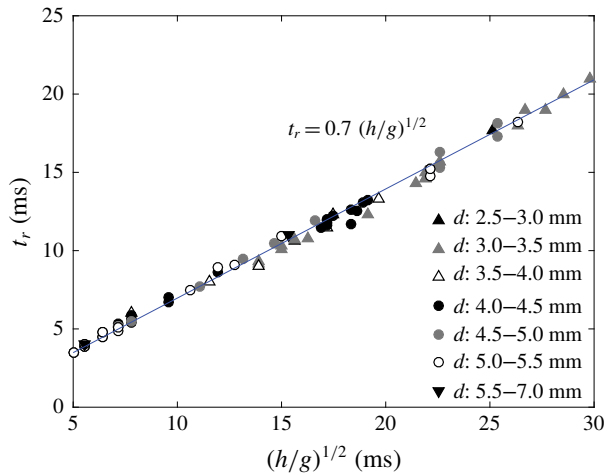


FIGURE 6. Proportional relationship between the rising time of the jet-like surface wave (t_r) and $(h/g)^{1/2}$ in case 1 ($d/R_m > 1.3$).

figure 7, the detailed motion of the bubble is shown in figure 8. At $t = 0.70$ ms, due to the simultaneous development of the jet-like surface wave and the downward underwater jet below it, the top side of the bubble becomes flattened. In this case, due to the bubble's proximity to the free surface compared to case 1, the strength of the downward underwater jet is strong enough to make a prominent involution of the bubble clearly visible as shown from the snapshots at $t = 0.70, 0.84$ ms, i.e. the upper part of the bubble, on which the downward underwater jet makes an impact, pushes down and almost penetrates through the lower part of the bubble. At the final stage of the involution or pushing down ($t = 0.84$ ms), the bubble's shape looks like a toroid with an attached overhanging cylinder. Afterwards, during $t = 0.90\text{--}0.94$ ms, the bubble's shape evolves into a figure of eight, maintaining its overall position. At

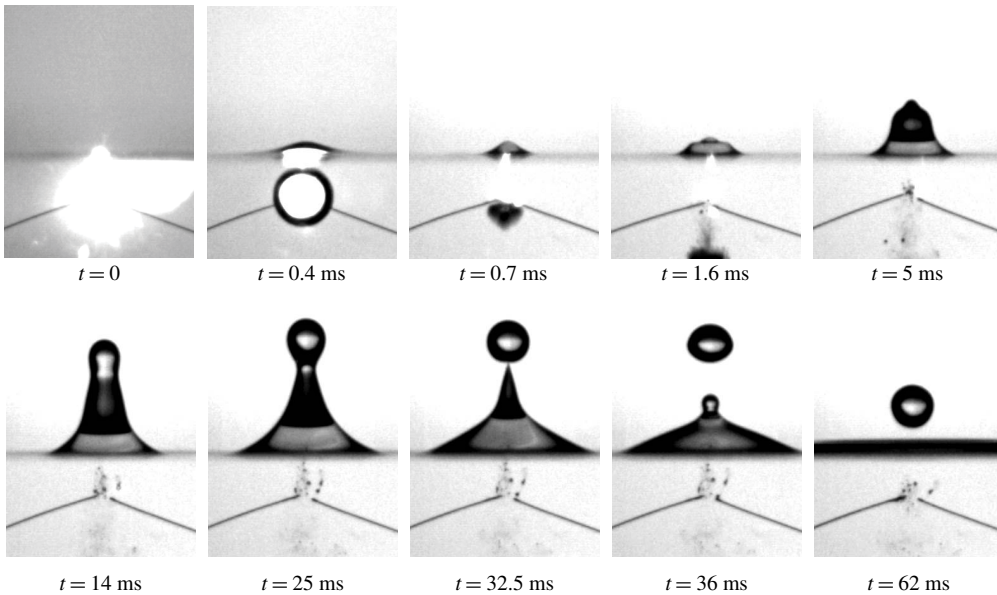


FIGURE 7. Case 2 ($0.82 < d/R_m < 1.3$): snapshots of motions of the bubble and the free surface when $d/R_m = 1.28$ and $h/R_m = 4.55$ ($d = 3$ mm at $t = 0$ s, $R_m = 2.35$ mm at $t = 0.32$ ms, $h = 10.7$ mm at $t = 32.5$ ms). The physical dimension of each picture is 20 mm (height) by 15 mm (width).

$t = 1.00$ ms and thereafter, the bubble begins migrating away from the free surface while the upper part of the bubble is being disintegrated into tiny bubbles. Meanwhile, the free-surface jet keeps growing and, at an instance $t = 14$ ms, the shape looks like the well-known Worthington jet, which is sometimes called a ‘back jet’, as witnessed in the case of a falling droplet impacting on a liquid. After a while, at $t = 32.5$ ms, a necking phenomenon happens near the head of the jet and a single droplet is about to be pinched off at the tip of the jet. The droplet diameter is comparable to the diameter of the jet column. Thereafter, the pinched-off droplet falls freely down onto the free surface. Meanwhile, the remaining body of the jet-like surface wave gently collapses and returns to the still water surface. Similar phenomena occur in cases for two, three, and multiple (more than four) droplet generations and are shown in the [Appendix](#). All the above-mentioned behaviours are observed when $0.82 < d/R_m < 1.3$ and we refer to this behaviour as case 2. Similar bubble-surface behaviours were also observed for the case of a laser-induced bubble whose maximum radius is of the order of a few hundreds of micrometers with a condition of $d/R_m < 1$ (Duocastella *et al.* 2010; Patrascioiu *et al.* 2014).

3.3. Case 3 ($d/R_m < 0.82$)

Compared to cases 1 and 2, when the spark point (d) is very close to the free surface and/or the maximum radius of the bubble (R_m) is large enough for the growing bubble to touch the free surface, a series of sprinkling/squirting and jetting phenomena are observed on the free surface. Figure 9 shows a set of motion snapshots of the bubble and the free surface when the spark point $d = 1$ mm at $t = 0$ s and $R_m = 3.6$ mm at $t = 2.1$ ms ($d/R_m = 0.28$). Associated with figure 9, the detailed motion of the bubble

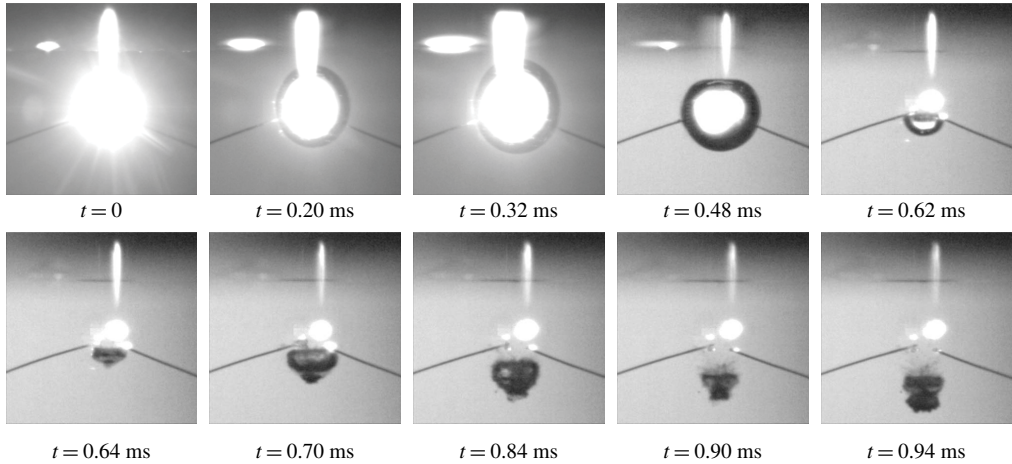


FIGURE 8. Case 2 ($0.82 < d/R_m < 1.3$): snapshots of detailed motion of the bubble in figure 7. The physical dimension of each picture is 10 mm (height) by 10 mm (width).

is shown in figure 10. During the early stage ($t = 0\text{--}0.8$ ms), a crater is formed on the free surface, around which a cylindrical rising water sheet can be seen. During the next stage ($t = 0.8\text{--}1.0$ ms), the upper rim of the water sheet converges to a point, from which dispersed water begins to be sprinkled. The overall shape looks like a water bell, in which the air (from the bubble) is trying to escape through the sprinkle point. Next ($t = 1.5\text{--}5$ ms), the overall bell size continuously diminishes as the inside air escapes through the sprinkle point, manifesting as a violent fountain with random scattering motions of tiny water droplets. Afterwards ($t = 6\text{--}15$ ms), the upper fountain region develops a jet column in the air and the lower water-bell region develops into a hump jet on the free surface. During this event, the jet column shows multiple-droplet generation. The overall jet height and hump height both increase with time. These free-surface jetting phenomena are probably due to the reaction of the developing underwater jet which is evidenced from the evolving shapes of the underwater bubble. From $t = 19.6$ ms onwards, the free-surface hump falls down and finally returns to the still water surface (after $t = 42$ ms). Compared to the above case ($d/R_m = 0.28$), rather different squirting and jetting phenomena for the case $d/R_m = 0.67$ are shown in the Appendix. All the above-mentioned behaviours are observed when $d/R_m < 0.82$ and we refer to these behaviours as case 3. For readers' information, similar kinds of phenomena can be found in figure 8 in Pain *et al.* (2012), where $R_m = 3.64$ mm and $d = 1.17$ mm, i.e. $d/R_m = 0.32$.

3.4. Relationship between $\rho gh/\Delta p$ and d/R_m in case 1

In addition to the behavioural observations in the previous subsections, for case 1, we present the quantitative relationship between $\rho gh/\Delta p$ and d/R_m in (1.1). For given ρ , g and Δp , one may intuitively expect that h increases (decreases) as d decreases (increases). In addition, h increases (decreases) as R_m increases (decreases). As a first step towards finding the functional relationship between $\rho gh/\Delta p$ and d/R_m , we need to estimate the value of Δp . For this purpose, in terms of the collapse speed of a bubble, the present experimental results and some theoretical results (Rayleigh 1917; Plesset & Chapman 1971; Lamb 1993) are compared with each other (figure 11). In

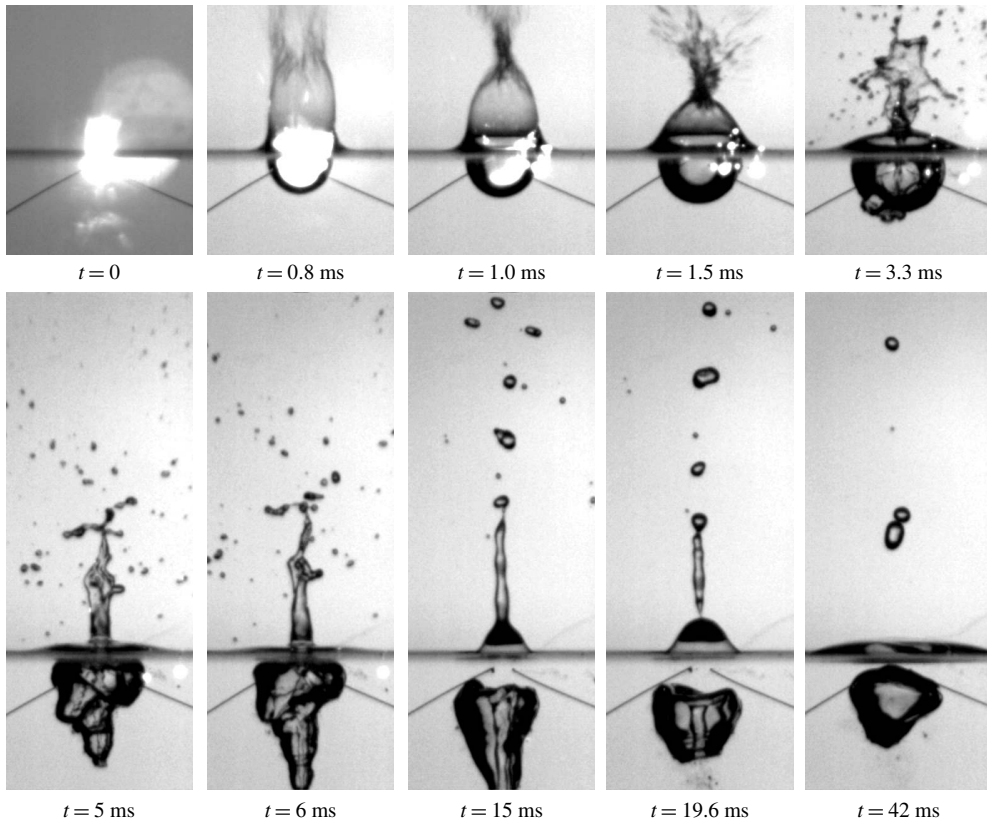


FIGURE 9. Case 3 ($d/R_m < 0.82$): snapshots of motions of the bubble and the free surface when $d/R_m = 0.28$ ($d = 1$ mm at $t = 0$ s, $R_m = 3.6$ mm at $t = 2.1$ ms). The physical dimension of each picture is 20 mm (height) by 15 mm (width), or 40 mm (height) by 15 mm (width).

figure 11, based on snapshots, the instantaneous collapse speed of the bubble (V) is measured as

$$V(t) = \frac{R(t) - R(t + \Delta t)}{\Delta t}, \tag{3.1}$$

where $R(t)$ is the instantaneous radius of the bubble. The shape of a bubble is a spheroid (major radius, $R_{major}(t)$; minor radius, $R_{minor}(t)$) and $R(t)$ is defined as the average of the two. On the other hand, the theoretical speed in an unbounded fluid is given by the formula (Rayleigh 1917; Plesset & Chapman 1971)

$$V(t) = \sqrt{\frac{2}{3} \frac{\Delta p}{\rho} \left(\frac{R_m^3}{R^3} - 1 \right) + \frac{2\sigma}{\rho R} \left(\frac{R_m^2}{R^2} - 1 \right)}. \tag{3.2}$$

It is found that for $\Delta p = p_\infty - p_v = 80$ kPa, the surface-tension-related term in (3.2) is negligible and (3.1) and (3.2) show reasonable agreement with each other, as seen in figure 11. Using this $\Delta p = 80$ kPa, for case 1, a proportional relationship is found

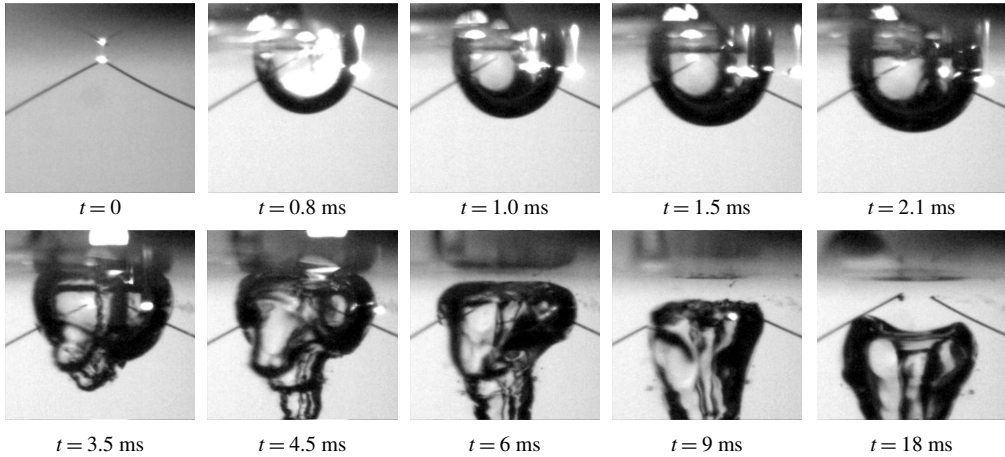


FIGURE 10. Case 3 ($d/R_m < 0.82$): snapshots of detailed motion of the bubble in figure 9. The physical dimension of each picture is 10 mm (height) by 10 mm (width).

as shown in figures 12(a) and 12(b):

$$\frac{\rho gh}{\Delta p} \sim \left(\frac{d}{R_m} \right)^{-4.4}. \quad (3.3)$$

The straight line with a slope of -4.4 is the linear regression line of the experimental data with a minimum root-mean-squared error of 0.08 (figure 12b). The dashed straight line with a slope of -4 is the line from the scaling analysis (§4), with a minimum root-mean-squared error of 0.07. We add this theoretical line to compare how different those two lines are. Dimensionally speaking,

$$h \sim \frac{R_m^{4.4}}{\rho g d^{4.4}} \Delta p, \quad (3.4)$$

which agrees with one's intuition.

4. Scaling analysis

To understand the proportional relationship (3.3) or (3.4), let us consider the schematics in figure 13, showing the simplified motion of a 3-D axisymmetric jet-like surface wave induced by the motion of an underwater bubble for case 1. Initially, the inception of the bubble occurs at a point whose distance is d below the free surface (figure 13a). Next, the bubble slightly expands with its maximum radius R_m . The free surface above the bubble rises in response to the bubble's motion (figure 13b). Next, the bubble collapses while migrating away from the free surface. During this event, the 3-D axisymmetric jet-like surface wave grows with an initial upward velocity U and the corresponding downward counter-jet in the fluid makes an impact on the bubble (figure 13c). Finally, the 3-D axisymmetric jet-like surface wave reaches its maximum height (h) before the pinch-off of droplets, if any (figure 13d). Snapshots corresponding to figure 13 for case 1 are shown in figure 14. These snapshots come from figure 3. The concurrent motions of the jet-like surface wave

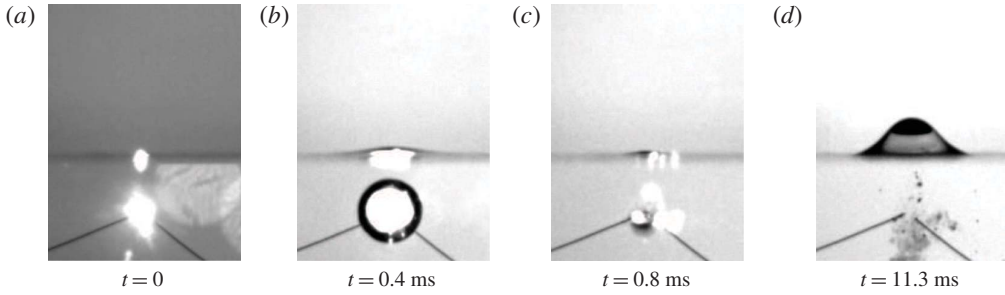


FIGURE 14. Experimental snapshots corresponding to figure 13 for case 1 (from figure 3). Each snapshot (from left to right) represents the inception of a bubble (figure 13*a*), bubble expansion (figure 13*b*), the growth of the 3-D axisymmetric jet-like surface wave (figure 13*c*) during the bubble collapse, and the 3-D axisymmetric jet-like surface wave at its maximum height (figure 13*d*).

and the underwater bubble with opposite moving directions (and the downward counter-jet in water) can be explained using the conservation of momentum or the action–reaction principle. To begin with, let us consider the exemplary snapshots of case 1 (figures 3, 4, and 14). The characteristic speed during the expansion is $V = R_m/\Delta t = 2.44 \text{ mm}/0.38 \text{ ms} = 6.42 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ (figure 4). Then the relevant Reynolds number based on the mean radius ($L = R_m/2$) of the bubble during the expansion is

$$Re = \frac{VL}{\nu} = \frac{6.42 \cdot (2.44 \times 10^{-3}/2)}{10^{-6}} = 7832 \gg 1, \quad (4.1)$$

where $\nu = 10^{-6} \text{ m}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$ is the kinematic viscosity of water. From figure 3, during the bubble collapse, since the collapse time ($0.78 \text{ ms} - 0.38 \text{ ms} = 0.40 \text{ ms}$) is similar to the expansion time, the relevant Reynolds number is also similar to (4.1). Since the medium is water (incompressible) and $Re \gg 1$ (inviscid), one may model this flow as irrotational, or a potential flow. During the expansion phase of the bubble, the bubble does not move (no downward force) and the free surface above rises only slightly, with its maximum elevation (h_r) being much less than the distance between the inception point and the still free surface (d), i.e. $h_r/d \ll 1$. The concurrent motions of the bubble and the free surface during the bubble's expansion (figures 13*a* and 13*b*) are of little concern. Rather, the main interest here is the rising jet-like surface wave which is observed while and after the bubble collapses and migrates downwards (figures 13*c* and 13*d*). The rising jet-like wave is observed on a local circular region of the free surface which is just above the collapsing bubble, and the rest of the free surface shows a negligible motion (figure 14). Apart from the rising jet-like surface wave, the downward motion of the bubble (and the downward counter-jet in water) can be explained by the Kelvin impulse theory of a potential flow (Blake & Cerone 1982; Cerone & Blake 1984; Blake & Gibson 1987; Blake, Leppinen & Wang 2015). During the collapse phase of the bubble, one possible configuration of the potential flow is the combination of a 3-D collapsing sink (bubble) and an imaginary 3-D source with the same intensity $|q(t)|$ (unit: volume flow rate, $q(t) < 0$) separated by a distance $2d$. Between the sink and the source, there exists a free surface. Following Blake & Cerone (1982), the relevant velocity potential φ can be written as

$$\varphi = -\frac{q(t)}{4\pi} \left[\frac{1}{\sqrt{(z+d)^2 + r^2}} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{(z-d)^2 + r^2}} \right], \quad r = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}, \quad (4.2)$$

where $q(t) < 0$, x and y are horizontal Cartesian coordinates on the free-surface plane, z is the vertical coordinate (positive upward from the free surface) and r is the horizontal cylindrical coordinate (figure 13). From (4.2), the velocity components on the free surface ($z = 0$) are found to be

$$u_z|_{z=0} = \frac{\partial\varphi}{\partial z}\bigg|_{z=0} = \frac{q(t)d}{2\pi(d^2 + r^2)^{3/2}} < 0, \quad u_r|_{z=0} = \frac{\partial\varphi}{\partial r}\bigg|_{z=0} = 0. \tag{4.3a,b}$$

Then the downward force F_z exerted on the bubble can be obtained from the Kelvin impulse theory (Blake & Cerone 1982):

$$F_z = -\mathbf{e}_z \cdot \rho \int_{S_f} \left[\frac{1}{2} |\nabla\varphi|^2 \mathbf{n} - \frac{\partial\varphi}{\partial n} \nabla\varphi \right] dS, \tag{4.4}$$

where \mathbf{e}_z is the unit normal vector in the z direction, \mathbf{n} is the unit outward normal vector on the free surface ($\mathbf{n} = \mathbf{e}_z$), S_f represents the free surface and ρ is the density of the liquid surrounding the bubble. By substituting (4.3) into (4.4),

$$F_z = \rho\pi \int_{r=0}^{\infty} r(u_r^2 - u_z^2) dr = -\frac{\rho q^2(t)}{16\pi d^2} < 0 \text{ (downward)}. \tag{4.5}$$

Then, the associated momentum of the bubble can be obtained as

$$M_{bubble} = \int_0^{t_c} F_z dt = -\frac{\rho}{16\pi d^2} \int_0^{t_c} q^2(t') dt' < 0 \text{ (downward)}, \tag{4.6}$$

where t_c is the time during the collapse of the bubble while the jet-like free surface rises. As already mentioned, the expansion time (t_e) and the collapse time (t_c) are comparable to each other:

$$t_c \sim R_m \sqrt{\frac{\rho}{\Delta p}}, \tag{4.7}$$

where (4.7) comes from the well-known Rayleigh–Plesset equation neglecting the surface tension in an unbounded fluid and is also valid in the present free-surface-bounded experiment (see § 3.4). The order of magnitude of the intensity $q(t)$ is

$$q \sim \frac{R_m^3}{t_c}. \tag{4.8}$$

Then, from (4.6)–(4.8), the order of magnitude of the downward momentum of the bubble is

$$M_{bubble} \sim \frac{\rho}{d^2} q^2 t_c \sim \frac{\rho}{d^2} \frac{R_m^6}{t_c^2} t_c \sim \frac{\rho}{d^2} \frac{R_m^6}{R_m \rho^{1/2}} (\Delta p)^{1/2} \sim \frac{\rho^{1/2}}{d^2} R_m^5 (\Delta p)^{1/2}. \tag{4.9}$$

On the other hand, the upward momentum of the surface jet is estimated as follows. At the end of the bubble’s expansion, the shape of the free surface above is a simple hump (figures 13*b* and 14*b*). During the collapse of the bubble, the height of this hump-like free surface increases and shows a jet-like surface wave (figures 13*c* and 14*c*), before reaching its maximum height (figures 13*d* and 14*d*). According to numerical work by Cerone & Blake (1984), at each instant of the growth of the surface jet, there exists a stagnation point which is located at about a middle

point between the top of the surface jet and the still water level. Only above the stagnation point does the streamline represent an upward motion, i.e. the growth of the surface jet. By adopting their numerical findings, we assume that the effective mass (m_{jet}) with an upward motion is the mass of the surface jet above the half-line at its maximum height (figures 13*d* and 14*d*). We also assume that this effective mass has an initial rising speed U . Therefore, the upward momentum of the surface jet is approximately

$$M_{jet} \sim m_{jet}U = \rho(\text{Vol}_{jet})U, \quad (4.10)$$

where Vol_{jet} is the volume of the effective mass (m_{jet}). Figure 15 shows the measurement of Vol_{jet} in terms of R_m for different inception positions (d). As shown, the relationship is approximately

$$\text{Vol}_{jet} \sim R_m^3. \quad (4.11)$$

The above relationship can also be semi-qualitatively explained by considering the counter-jet migrating away from the free surface towards the bubble. While the counter-jet penetrates through the bubble, the surface jet continues to move upwards, reaching a height at the instance of the counter-jet impact equal to R_m (Robinson *et al.* 2001). Since the width of the surface jet is proportional to R_m (§ 3.1), the volume of the effective mass will be proportional to the cube of R_m .

Also, an approximation of the initial rising speed of the jet U can be obtained from the conservation of kinetic and potential energies as

$$U \sim (gh)^{1/2}. \quad (4.12)$$

Therefore, from (4.10)–(4.12),

$$M_{jet} \sim m_{jet}U \sim (\rho R_m^3)(gh)^{1/2} \sim \rho R_m^3 g^{0.5} h^{0.5}. \quad (4.13)$$

From the conservation of momentum principle, the surface jet will have the same magnitude of momentum M_{jet} in (4.13) as M_{bubble} in (4.9):

$$\frac{\rho^{1/2}}{d^2} R_m^5 (\Delta p)^{1/2} \sim \rho R_m^3 g^{0.5} h^{0.5}. \quad (4.14)$$

Rearranging (4.14),

$$\frac{\rho gh}{\Delta p} \sim \left(\frac{d}{R_m} \right)^{-4}, \quad (4.15)$$

which is very close to (3.3) observed in the experiment. Although a definitive relationship like (4.15) is not given, the evolution of the height of the surface jet is numerically investigated based on the boundary integral method with consideration of the Kelvin impulse theory by Robinson *et al.* (2001) and Pearson *et al.* (2004). Although streamlines are not shown, high-pressure regions are numerically observed between the free surface and the bubble during the bubble collapse, making the surface jet. In these works, however, for the parameter $d/R_m < 1.3$, no droplet generation is shown (they neglect both the viscosity and the surface tension), whereas droplet generations are observed for our present case 2 where $0.82 < d/R_m < 1.3$.

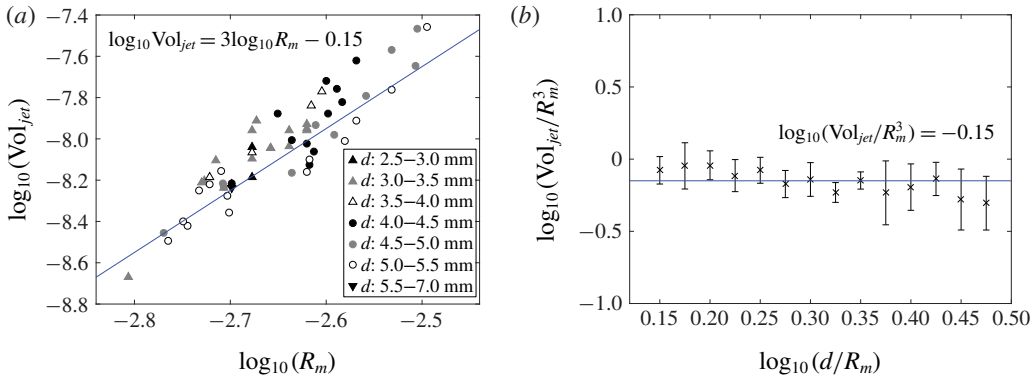


FIGURE 15. (Colour online) The volume of the effective mass of the surface jet (Vol_{jet}) according to R_m . (a) Dimensional. (b) Dimensionless.

5. Cauchy–Poisson problem

Although the gravity and the surface tension can be neglected in terms of the bubble dynamics, they may not be neglected in the motion of a jet-like surface wave after a bubble collapses and migrates far away from the surface. Recall that, in the experiment, the height of the jet-like surface wave is of the order of a few millimetres, where both the gravity and the surface tension are potentially equally important. To see whether the resultant 3-D axisymmetric jet-like surface wave is a gravity, gravity–capillary or capillary wave, we consider the so-called Cauchy–Poisson problem, where the governing equation in terms of the velocity potential, the associated linearized boundary conditions at the free surface (including both gravity and surface tension), the deep-water bottom boundary condition and the initial conditions are as follows:

$$\nabla^2\varphi = \frac{\partial^2\varphi}{\partial r^2} + \frac{1}{r}\frac{\partial\varphi}{\partial r} + \frac{\partial^2\varphi}{\partial z^2} = 0, \quad 0 < r < \infty, \quad -h \leq z \leq 0, \quad t > 0, \quad (5.1)$$

$$\frac{\partial\eta}{\partial t} - \frac{\partial\varphi}{\partial z} = 0 \quad \text{at } z = 0, \quad t > 0, \quad (5.2)$$

$$\frac{\partial\varphi}{\partial t} + g\eta - \frac{\sigma}{\rho} \left(\frac{\partial^2\eta}{\partial r^2} + \frac{1}{r}\frac{\partial\eta}{\partial r} \right) = 0 \quad \text{at } z = 0, \quad t > 0, \quad (5.3)$$

$$\frac{\partial\varphi}{\partial z} = 0 \quad \text{at } z = -h, \quad h \rightarrow \infty, \quad (5.4)$$

$$\eta(r, t = 0) = \eta_0(r), \quad (5.5)$$

$$\varphi(r, z, t = 0) = \varphi_0(r, z) = 0, \quad (5.6)$$

where $\eta(r, t)$ is the wave elevation. The present theoretical Cauchy–Poisson problem is the one in the unbounded fluid domain both in the horizontal ($0 < r < \infty$, (5.1)) and in the vertical ($-h \leq z \leq 0$, $h \rightarrow \infty$, (5.4)) directions. These conditions are consistent with experimental conditions where the water depth (from the free surface to the bottom wall) is 16 cm and the widths of the tank side walls are 20 cm, which are much larger than the wavelengths of the resulting gravity–capillary waves (of the order of a few millimetres) whose positions are near the centre of the free surface. If one takes the

joint Hankel–Laplace transform on (5.1)–(5.6), the following equations hold:

$$-k^2\tilde{\varphi} + \frac{d^2\tilde{\eta}}{dz^2} = 0, \quad 0 < r < \infty, \quad -h \leq z \leq 0, \quad t > 0, \tag{5.7}$$

$$s\tilde{\eta} - \tilde{\eta}_0(k) - \frac{d\tilde{\varphi}}{dz} = 0 \quad \text{at } z = 0, \quad t > 0, \tag{5.8}$$

$$s\tilde{\varphi} + g\tilde{\eta} + \frac{\sigma}{\rho}k^2\tilde{\eta} = 0 \quad \text{at } z = 0, \quad t > 0, \tag{5.9}$$

$$\frac{d\tilde{\varphi}}{dz} = 0 \quad \text{at } z = -h, \quad h \rightarrow \infty, \tag{5.10}$$

where the joint Hankel–Laplace transform on φ and η and the Laplace transform on η_0 are defined as follows:

$$\tilde{\eta} = L\{\tilde{\eta}\} = \int_0^\infty \tilde{\eta}e^{-st} dt, \quad \tilde{\eta} = H\{\eta\} = \int_0^\infty \eta r J_0(kr) dr, \tag{5.11a,b}$$

$$\tilde{\varphi} = L\{\tilde{\varphi}\} = \int_0^\infty \tilde{\varphi}e^{-st} dt, \quad \tilde{\varphi} = H\{\varphi\} = \int_0^\infty \varphi r J_0(kr) dr, \tag{5.12a,b}$$

$$\tilde{\eta}_0 = H\{\eta_0\} = \int_0^\infty \eta_0 r J_0(kr) dr, \tag{5.13}$$

where $J_0(kr)$ is the zeroth-order Bessel function and k is the wavenumber of the resultant surface wave. Then solving (5.7)–(5.10) yields

$$\tilde{\eta} = \frac{s}{s^2 + \omega^2} \tilde{\eta}_0. \tag{5.14}$$

Finally, from the relevant inverse Hankel and Laplace transforms, the wave elevation is obtained:

$$\eta(r, t) = H^{-1} \left[L^{-1} \left\{ \frac{s}{s^2 + \omega^2} \tilde{\eta}_0 \right\} \right] = H^{-1} [\tilde{\eta}_0 \cos \omega t] = \int_0^\infty k J_0(kr) \tilde{\eta}_0(k) \cos \omega t dk, \tag{5.15}$$

where $\omega = \omega(k)$ is the dispersion relation as follows.

$$\omega^2 = gk \quad (\text{gravity waves}), \tag{5.16a}$$

$$\omega^2 = gk + \frac{\sigma}{\rho}k^3 \quad (\text{gravity–capillary waves}), \tag{5.16b}$$

$$\omega^2 = \frac{\sigma}{\rho}k^3 \quad (\text{capillary waves}). \tag{5.16c}$$

For the exemplary case 1 in figure 2, if we take the wave elevation at specific time as the initial condition (snapshot at $t = 18$ ms in figure 3), then it can be expressed as the following Gaussian function:

$$\eta_0(r) = \eta(r, t = 0) = c_1 \exp(-r^2/c_2^2), \tag{5.17}$$

where $c_1 = 2.59$ mm and $c_2 = 3.56$ mm. Then, from (5.15)–(5.17), the wave elevations ($t > 0$) are computed as shown in figure 16(a) (gravity waves), figure 16(b) (gravity–capillary waves) and figure 16(c) (capillary waves) which show different wave-propagation characteristics. Direct comparison between these figures with experimental snapshots reveals that the resultant waves are indeed gravity–capillary waves as shown in figure 17, where the dashed curves are those in figure 16(b).

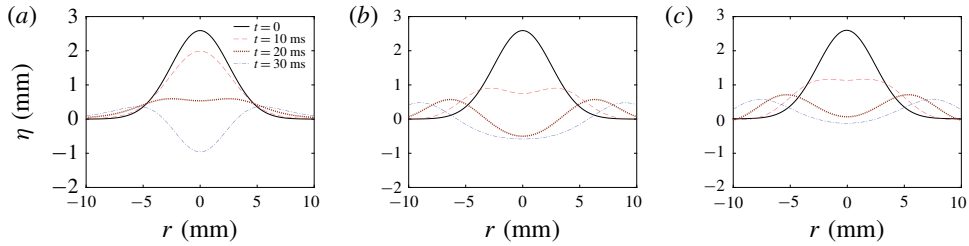


FIGURE 16. (Colour online) Computation of the wave elevation with time (5.15), depending on the dispersion relation for (a) gravity waves (5.16a), (b) gravity–capillary waves (5.16b), (c) capillary waves (5.16c).

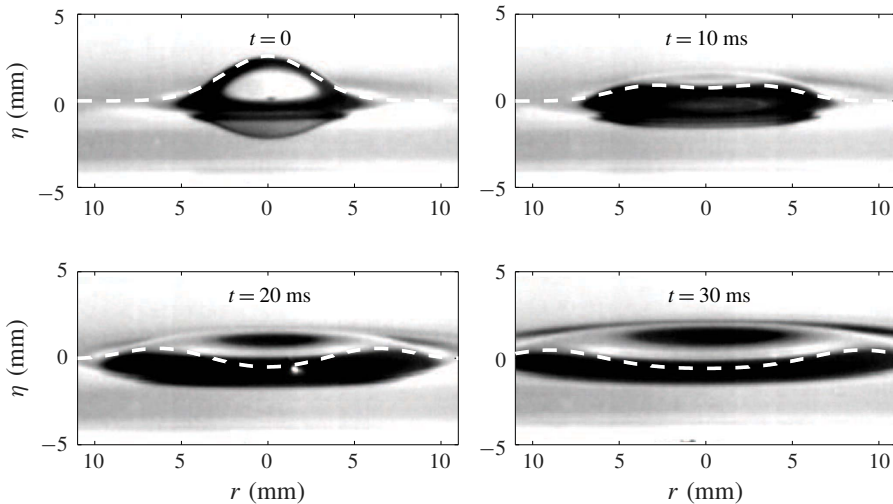


FIGURE 17. Direct comparison between analytical results (dashed curves: gravity–capillary waves from figure 16b) with experimental snapshots for case 1.

6. Summary

Jet-like surface waves generated by an electric-spark-generated underwater bubble are experimentally studied. Three different motions of jet-like surface waves are observed depending on the inception position of the bubble (d : 0.28–7 mm) below the free surface and the maximum radius of the bubble (R_m : 1.4–3.6 mm). When $d/R_m > 1.3$, the surface wave shows a simple smooth hump (case 1). When $0.82 < d/R_m < 1.3$, a single droplet or multiple droplets are pinched off sequentially or simultaneously at the tip or from some points of the jet-like surface wave (case 2). Finally, when $d/R_m < 0.82$, a series of squirting and jetting phenomena are observed at the top of the jet-like surface wave (case 3). For case 1, a proportional relationship is found between $\rho gh/\Delta p$ and $(d/R_m)^{-4.4}$. This proportional relationship is explained semi-analytically using a scaling argument, conservation of momentum and energy with the help of the Kelvin impulse theory. In addition, we solve the relevant axisymmetric Cauchy–Poisson problem where the initial condition is a jet-like surface wave near its maximum height. By comparing the analytical wave solution with the observed surface wave pattern, it is found that the resultant surface waves are indeed gravity–capillary waves where both the gravity and the surface tension are equally important. New findings in the present work can be useful in validating

the relevant numerical simulation for jet-like waves on the unbounded free surface generated by the motion of a millimetre-sized underwater bubble.

As a final remark, in the present work, we focused on the formation of a single jet in case 1 which is caused by the downward jet in water while and after a bubble collapses and migrates downwards (figures 13*c* and 13*d*). Comparatively, in cases 2 and 3, we observed the formation of double jets while and after a bubble collapses and migrates downwards, such as frame 4 in figure 7, frame 6 in figure 18, frame 5 in figure 20, frame 5 in figure 22 and frame 5 in figure 24. These are interesting unexplained new phenomena. We conjecture that there will be two sequential pressure build-ups which are associated with the downward jet in water while a bubble collapses. An axisymmetric gravity–capillary boundary element method (BEM) numerical simulation may be useful to confirm this conjecture, and we leave this for future work.

Acknowledgements

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Appendix A. Case 2: generation of two, three and multiple (more than four) droplets

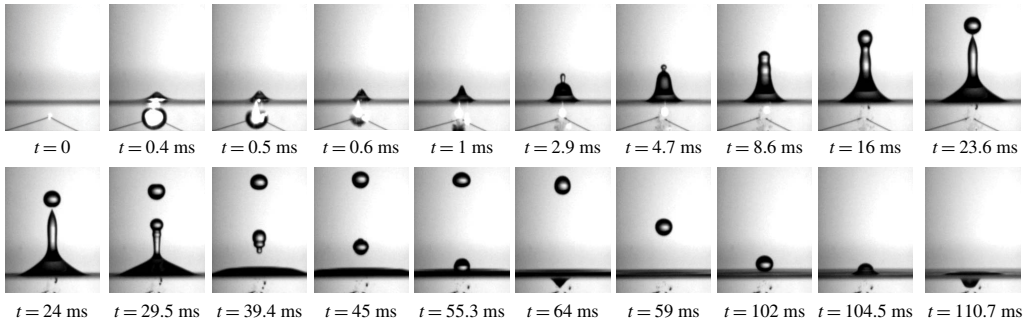


FIGURE 18. Case 2 ($0.82 < d/R_m < 1.3$): generation of two droplets when $d/R_m = 1.18$ and $h/R_m = 6.31$ ($d = 2.5$ mm at $t = 0$ s, $R_m = 2.13$ mm at $t = 0.29$ ms, $h = 13.4$ mm at $t = 23.6$ ms). The physical dimension of each picture is 20 mm (height) by 15 mm (width).

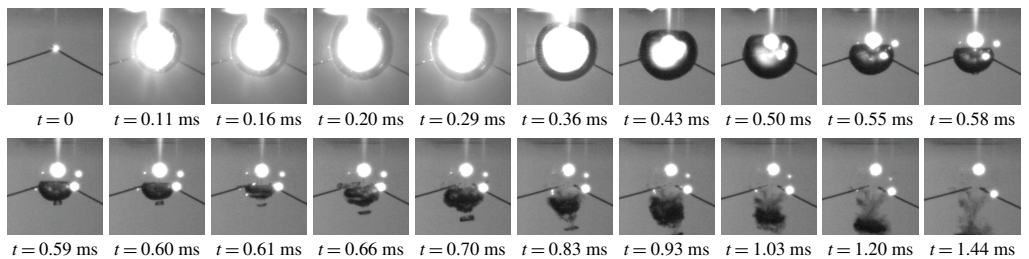


FIGURE 19. Case 2 ($0.82 < d/R_m < 1.3$): snapshots of detailed motion of the bubble in figure 18. The physical dimension of each picture is 10 mm (height) by 10 mm (width).

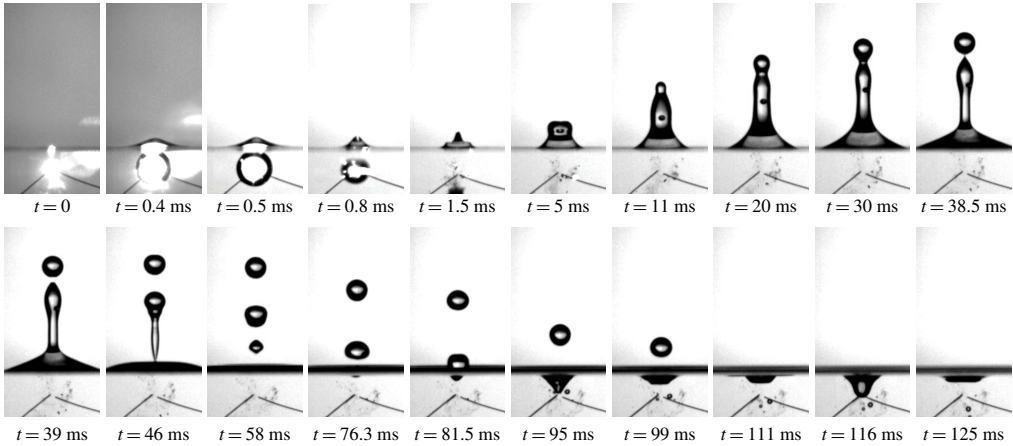


FIGURE 20. Case 2 ($0.82 < d/R_m < 1.3$): generation of three droplets when $d/R_m = 1.06$ and $h/R_m = 6.56$ ($d = 2.95$ mm at $t = 0$ s, $R_m = 2.78$ mm at $t = 0.42$ ms, $h = 18.2$ mm at $t = 38.5$ ms). The physical dimension of each picture is 30 mm (height) by 15 mm (width).

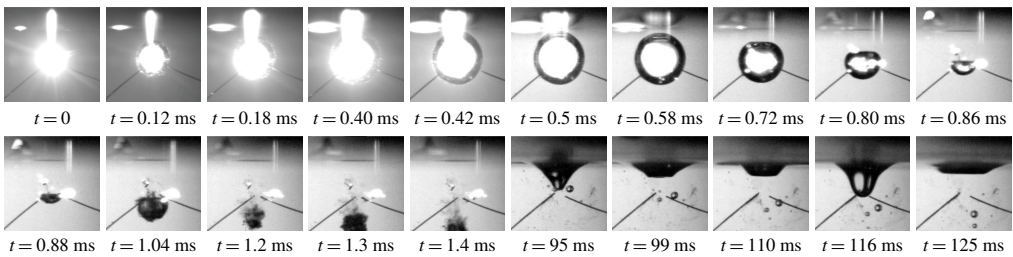


FIGURE 21. Case 2 ($0.82 < d/R_m < 1.3$): snapshots of detailed motion of the bubble in figure 20. The physical dimension of each picture is 10 mm (height) by 10 mm (width).

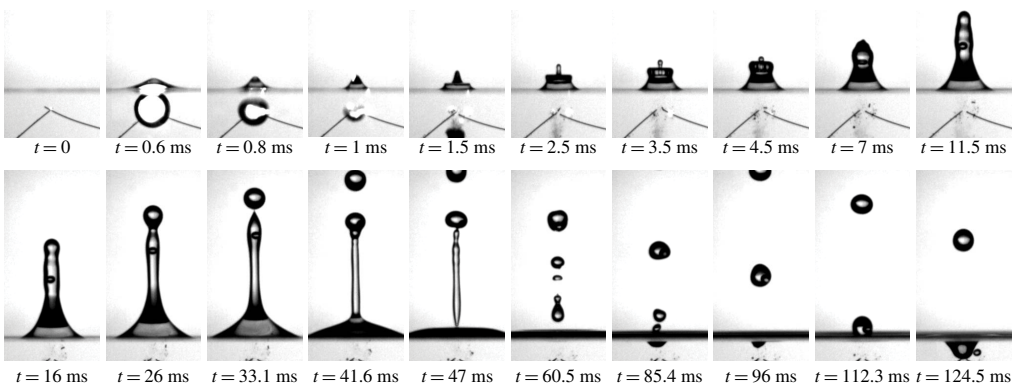


FIGURE 22. Case 2 ($0.82 < d/R_m < 1.3$): generation of multiple droplets when $d/R_m = 1.04$ and $h/R_m = 8.43$ ($d = 2.9$ mm at $t = 0$ s, $R_m = 2.8$ mm at $t = 0.46$ ms, $h = 23.6$ mm at $t = 33.1$ ms). The physical dimension of each picture is 20 mm (height) by 15 mm (width) or 30 mm (height) by 15 mm (width).

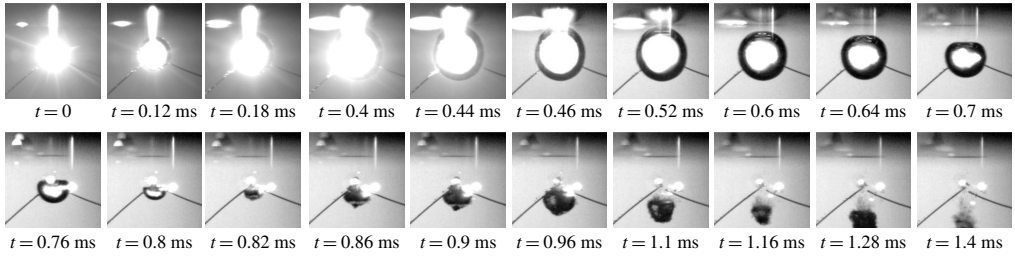


FIGURE 23. Case 2 ($0.82 < d/R_m < 1.3$): snapshots of detailed motion of the bubble in figure 22. The physical dimension of each picture is 10 mm (height) by 10 mm (width).

Appendix B. Case 3: different squirting and jetting phenomena

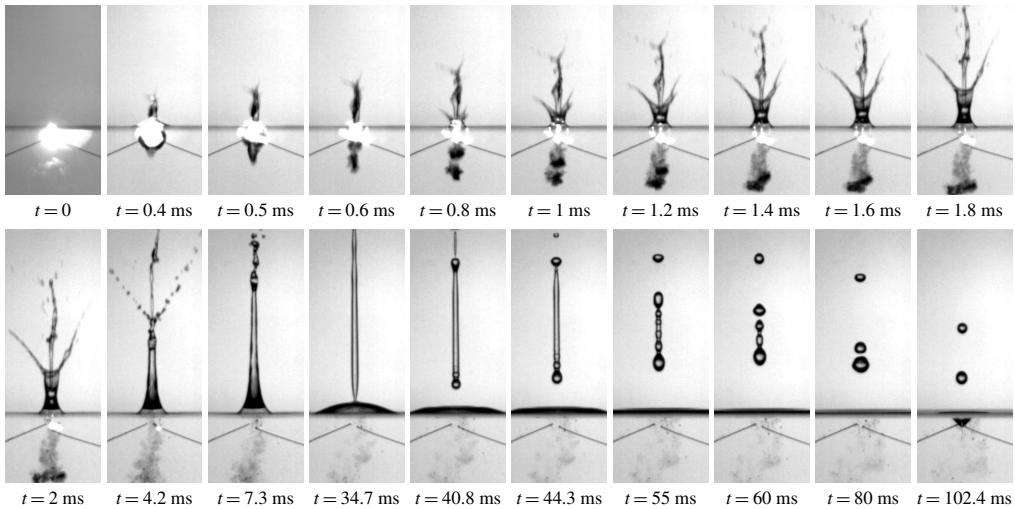


FIGURE 24. Case 3 ($d/R_m < 0.82$): squirting and jetting phenomena when $d/R_m = 0.67$ ($d = 1.4$ mm at $t = 0$ s, $R_m = 2.1$ mm at $t = 0.38$ ms). The physical dimension of each picture is 30 mm (height) by 15 mm (width) or 40 mm (height) by 15 mm (width).

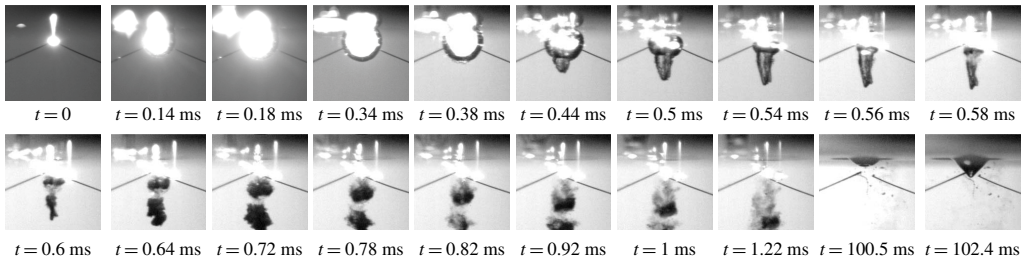


FIGURE 25. Case 3 ($d/R_m < 0.82$): snapshots of detailed motion of the bubble in figure 24. The physical dimension of each picture is 10 mm (height) by 10 mm (width).

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