Bubble dynamics in a viscoelastic medium with nonlinear elasticity

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In a variety of recently developed medical procedures, bubbles are formed directly in soft tissue and may cause damage. While cavitation in Newtonian liquids has received significant attention, bubble dynamics in tissue, a viscoelastic medium, remains poorly understood. To model tissue, most previous studies have focused on Maxwell-based viscoelastic fluids. However, soft tissue generally possesses an original configuration to which it relaxes after deformation. Thus, a Kelvin-Voigt-based viscoelastic model is expected to be a more appropriate representation. Furthermore, large oscillations may occur, thus violating the infinitesimal strain assumption and requiring a nonlinear/finite-strain elasticity description. In this article, we develop a theoretical framework to simulate spherical bubble dynamics in a viscoelastic medium with nonlinear elasticity. Following modern continuum mechanics formalism, we derive the form of the elastic forces acting on a bubble for common strain-energy functions (e.g. neo-Hookean, Mooney-Rivlin) and incorporate them into Rayleigh-Plesset-like equations. The main effects of nonlinear elasticity are to reduce the violence of the collapse and rebound for large departures from the equilibrium radius, and increase the oscillation frequency. The present approach can readily be extended to other strain-energy functions and used to compute the stress/deformation fields in the surrounding medium.

Key words: bubble dynamics, cavitation, drops and bubbles

1. Introduction

Motivated by negative outcomes such as vibrations, noise and erosion (Hammitt 1980; Brennen 1995), cavitation research originally focused on hydrodynamically produced vapour bubbles in water in the context of naval engineering and turbomachinery, starting with the work of Rayleigh (1917). Plesset (1949) generalized this approach by incorporating a time-varying pressure, viscosity and surface tension into the celebrated Rayleigh–Plesset equation, which describes the dynamics of a single spherical bubble. Subsequent refinements to the theory include heat transfer (Hickling & Plesset 1964; Stricker, Prosperetti & Lohse 2011), compressibility (Herring 1941; Gilmore 1952; Keller & Miksis 1980; Prosperetti & Lezzi 1986) and other effects summarized in Plesset & Prosperetti (1977). More recently, advances in high-speed imaging and pressure transducers (reviewed in Lauterborn & Kurz 2010) and numerical simulations, incompressible (e.g. Blake & Gibson 1987) and

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compressible (e.g. Johnsen & Colonius 2009), have expanded our understanding of cavitation in Newtonian liquids.

Interest in hydrodynamic cavitation in non-Newtonian liquids started when it was demonstrated that even a small amount of macromolecular additive inhibits cavitation inception (Ellis & Hoyt 1958). Theoretical studies of cavitation in viscoelastic fluids based on Maxwell models have further shown that viscoelasticity retards and damps the bubble collapse (Fogler & Goddard 1970, 1971; Shima & Tsujino 1976), introduces memory effects that are dominant at early times (Papanastasiou, Scriven & Macosko 1984) and reduces the growth of non-spherical perturbations by increasing viscosity or amplifies it by increasing relaxation (Hara & Schowalter 1984). Experimental investigations have shown that polymer additives decrease the speed of the re-entrant jet in non-spherical collapse (Brujan et al. 1996). Bubbles in shear-thinning non-Newtonian media like blood have been investigated in the context of intravascular gas embolism as well (Mukundakrishnan, Eckmann & Ayyaswamy 2009). While some direct simulations of the equations of motion have been performed (Foteinopoulou & Laso 2010; Lind & Phillips 2010), none have accounted for compressibility of the surrounding medium, which is expected to play an important role in inertial collapse.

More recently, acoustic cavitation in soft tissue has received interest, following progress in diagnostic and therapeutic ultrasound (Goldberg, Liu & Forsberg 1994; Lingeman 1997; Roberts *et al.* 2006). In these non-invasive procedures, cavitation generated by incoming pressure waves may occur directly in tissue (Coussios & Roy 2008), an inherently viscoelastic medium with complex constitutive relations (Fung 1993), and cause damage to the surroundings. In particular, histotripsy (Parsons *et al.* 2006; Roberts *et al.* 2006) is a recently developed tissue ablation procedure that has been shown to be capable of treating, in animal models, benign prostatic hyperplasia, prostate cancer, renal masses and renal stones (Roberts 2014). Histotripsy is thought to be a non-thermal cavitation-based procedure, in contrast to high-intensity focused ultrasound in which boiling plays an important role (ter Haar, Sinnett & Rivens 1989); however, isolation of mechanical effects from thermal ones is challenging.

In the context of mechanical tissue fractionation, experiments on cavitation in hydrogels indicate that elasticity inhibits cavitation activity (Maxwell *et al.* 2013; Vlaisavljevich *et al.* 2014). Due to challenges with experiments, e.g. space/time resolution and optical access, numerical modelling shows promise towards understanding the basic mechanics. Originally, cavitation in tissue was modelled as occurring in a Maxwell-based viscoelastic fluid, e.g. with linear Maxwell (Allen & Roy 2000*a*) and nonlinear Oldroyd (Allen & Roy 2000*b*; Jimenez-Fernandez & Crespo 2006; Naude & Mendez 2008) models. Given that soft tissue typically relaxes to an original configuration after deformation, Kelvin–Voigt-based models have been explored more recently, e.g. linear Kelvin–Voigt (Yang & Church 2005) and Zener (Hua & Johnsen 2013) models. Other studies have focused on the dynamics of bubbles encapsulated in a thin viscoelastic shell: Khismatullin & Nadim (2002) considered a linear Kelvin–Voigt shell in an Oldroyd fluid, while Liu *et al.* (2012) investigated a neo-Hookean shell in water.

In biomedical applications, large and rapid bubble oscillations may be observed due to the small bubble sizes and high driving-pressure amplitudes, thus leading to large strains and high strain rates. As a result, two important effects absent in most previous studies may be important: compressibility of the surroundings and nonlinear (visco)elasticity. The former is addressed in Yang & Church (2005) and Hua & Johnsen (2013), but the latter remains mostly unexplored. While Oldroyd-based models include nonlinearity of the viscoelasticity in the stress relaxation, they do not account for the presence of an original configuration and the finite-strain elasticity associated with large deformations (for the present purpose, hyperelasticity, finite-strain elasticity and nonlinear elasticity are synonymous). For inertial cavitation, characterized by large strains and high strain rates, linear elasticity is expected to fail.

The present work investigates the dynamics of a single spherical bubble in a homogeneous viscoelastic medium with nonlinear elasticity, ranging from smallamplitude oscillations to violent inertial collapse. An accurate description of elasticity is crucial because of its strong impact on bubble collapse (Fogler & Goddard 1970), which is expected to be responsible for damage caused to the surroundings. To derive the equations of motion, we follow modern continuum mechanics finite-strain formalism (e.g. Mooney 1940; Ogden 1972; Holzapfel 2000). To the best of our knowledge, only one other study has accounted for nonlinear elasticity in the context of bubble dynamics (Liu et al. 2012), albeit to describe the infinitesimally thin shell encapsulating a bubble in water. In contrast, our work focuses on the more general problem of a bubble located directly in a viscoelastic medium whose elasticity is nonlinear. We consider several common models: linear elasticity, (one-parameter) neo-Hookean strain-energy function and (two-parameter) Mooney-Rivlin strain-energy function. Our approach can readily be generalized to other models. The focus of this article lies in purely mechanical effects; thermal effects are beyond the present scope but could be included. The present article is organized as follows. The governing equations for bubble dynamics in a neo-Hookean medium are first derived. Then, we analytically assess the role of (nonlinear) elasticity under various limits for different models. Next, we provide numerical results to illustrate the effect of (nonlinear) elasticity. Finally, the article summarizes the results and provides an outlook for future work.

2. Governing equations

The dynamics of a single spherical bubble in an infinite homogeneous isotropic medium is described following modern continuum mechanics formalism (e.g. Holzapfel 2000). Figure 1 shows the problem set-up. The bubble, whose centre lies at the origin, starts from an initial strain-free configuration with radius R_o . In the 'current' configuration at time t, its radius is denoted R(t). Similarly, any other material point initially at $\mathbf{x}_o = r_o \mathbf{e}_r$ is denoted $\mathbf{x} = r(r_o, t)\mathbf{e}_r$ in the current configuration. The deformation tensor is defined as

$$\boldsymbol{F} = \frac{\partial \boldsymbol{x}}{\partial \boldsymbol{x}_o} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial r}{\partial r_o} & 0 & 0\\ 0 & \frac{r}{r_o} & 0\\ 0 & 0 & \frac{r}{r_o} \end{bmatrix}, \qquad (2.1)$$

based on the gradient of a rank-two tensor in spherical coordinates (see, for example, Arfken, Weber & Harris 2013). The near field is assumed incompressible, with $det(\mathbf{F}) = 1$. Thus,

$$\frac{\partial r}{\partial r_o} = \left(\frac{r_o}{r}\right)^2 \Rightarrow r(r_o, t) = [r_o^3 + C_1(t)]^{1/3}, \tag{2.2}$$



FIGURE 1. Problem setting using typical continuum mechanics convention.



FIGURE 2. Schematic of the present Kelvin–Voigt viscoelastic model consisting of a spring η and a dashpot μ in parallel.

where $C_1(t)$ is an integration factor. Compressibility of the surrounding medium is included later by allowing for far-field wave propagation to provide a mechanism for energy dissipation by acoustic radiation (Herring 1941; Gilmore 1952).

The surrounding medium is assumed to behave in a viscoelastic fashion. Given that soft tissue generally relaxes to an original configuration after loading, a Kelvin–Voigt viscoelastic medium with a spring and dashpot in parallel (Figure 2) is used, with the stress tensor given by

$$\boldsymbol{T} = \boldsymbol{T}_f + \boldsymbol{T}_e. \tag{2.3}$$

The parallel spring allows for the medium to eventually recover its original configuration after deformation. In this formulation, a linear or nonlinear spring can readily be considered, corresponding to linear or nonlinear elasticity. Pressure is included in the elastic term, as explained later. The fluid component of the stress is purely deviatoric, given by Newton's law of viscosity,

$$\boldsymbol{T}_f = 2\mu \boldsymbol{S} = \mu (\boldsymbol{\nabla} \boldsymbol{u} + \boldsymbol{\nabla} \boldsymbol{u}^{\mathrm{T}}), \qquad (2.4)$$

where μ is the viscosity, S_{ij} is the strain-rate tensor and u_i is the velocity. The elastic component is the Cauchy stress tensor, which in its most general form is written

$$\boldsymbol{T}_{\boldsymbol{e}} = 2\left[\left(\frac{\partial \hat{W}}{\partial I_1} + I_1 \frac{\partial \hat{W}}{\partial I_2}\right) \boldsymbol{B} - \frac{\partial \hat{W}}{\partial I_2} \boldsymbol{B}^2\right] - \mathscr{P}\boldsymbol{\delta},\tag{2.5}$$

where $\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{F}\mathbf{F}^{\mathrm{T}}$ is the left Cauchy–Green tensor, \hat{W} the strain-energy function describing the surrounding medium, $\boldsymbol{\delta}$ is the identity tensor, $\mathscr{P}(r, t)$ is a pseudo-pressure to be discussed later and I_i are the strain invariants, with i = 1, 2, 3. For a

prescribed strain-energy function, the dynamics is given by the momentum balance equation,

$$\rho \boldsymbol{a} = \operatorname{div}(\boldsymbol{T}), \tag{2.6}$$

where ρ is the constant density of the surroundings and *a* is the acceleration of any material point. By symmetry, only the radial component is retained in this equation, with an Eulerian acceleration in the current configuration given by

$$a_r = \left[\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + u\frac{\partial u}{\partial r}\right],\tag{2.7}$$

where the divergence-free velocity field is $u(r, t) = \dot{R}R^2/r^2$.

Without loss of generality, the bubble dynamics equations are derived for a neo-Hookean model, the simplest one-parameter nonlinear elastic model. The corresponding strain-energy function is $\hat{W} = \eta (I_1 - 3)/2$ (Treloar 1943*a*,*b*; Ogden 1972), where η is the shear modulus from linear theory and $I_1 = tr(\boldsymbol{B})$ is the first strain invariant. Thus, the Cauchy stress tensor can be written

$$\boldsymbol{T}_{\boldsymbol{e}} = \eta \boldsymbol{B} - \mathscr{P} \boldsymbol{I} = \begin{bmatrix} \eta \left(\frac{r_o}{r}\right)^4 - \mathscr{P} & 0 & 0\\ 0 & \eta \left(\frac{r}{r_o}\right)^2 - \mathscr{P} & 0\\ 0 & 0 & \eta \left(\frac{r}{r_o}\right)^2 - \mathscr{P} \end{bmatrix}.$$
(2.8)

Since **B** is not purely deviatoric, $\mathscr{P}(r, t)$ is not the hydrodynamic pressure, p(r, t). The latter is obtained by writing the left Cauchy–Green tensor in terms of a deviatoric term, dev(**B**), and an isotropic component (pressure),

$$\boldsymbol{T}_{\boldsymbol{e}} = \eta \operatorname{dev}(\boldsymbol{B}) - \left[\mathscr{P} - \frac{\eta}{3} \operatorname{tr}(\boldsymbol{B})\right] \boldsymbol{\delta} = \eta \operatorname{dev}(\boldsymbol{B}) - p\boldsymbol{\delta}.$$
(2.9)

For the neo-Hookean model, $p = \mathscr{P} - \eta[(r_o/r)^4 + 2(r/r_o)^2]/3$. While not absolutely necessary, definition of \mathscr{P} leads to less complicated derivations and provides a clear connection to traditional continuum mechanics notation; the final results are written in terms of p. In light of these definitions, the Cauchy stress tensor can be rewritten:

$$\mathbf{T}_{e} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{2\eta}{3} \left[\left(\frac{r_{o}}{r}\right)^{4} - \left(\frac{r}{r_{o}}\right)^{2} \right] - p & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{\eta}{3} \left[\left(\frac{r}{r_{o}}\right)^{2} - \left(\frac{r_{o}}{r}\right)^{4} \right] - p & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{\eta}{3} \left[\left(\frac{r}{r_{o}}\right)^{2} - \left(\frac{r_{o}}{r}\right)^{4} \right] - p \end{bmatrix}.$$
(2.10)

Acknowledging that a point at infinity remains unperturbed, i.e. $r_o/r \to 1$ at infinity, the pressure at infinity, which drives the bubble dynamics, is $p_{\infty}(t) = \mathscr{P}_{\infty}(t) - \eta$. Now that **T** is fully defined (2.6) can be integrated from **P** to ∞ to yield

Now that **7** is fully defined, (2.6) can be integrated from R to ∞ to yield

$$R\ddot{R} + \frac{3}{2}\dot{R}^2 = \mathscr{E}(t) + \frac{\mathscr{P}(R, t) - \mathscr{P}_{\infty}}{\rho} - \frac{4\nu_L R}{R},$$
(2.11)

where v_L is the liquid viscosity and the elastic contribution is

$$\mathscr{E}(t) \equiv \frac{2\eta}{\rho} \int_{R(t)}^{\infty} \left[-\frac{r_o^4}{r^5} - \frac{r}{r_o^2} + \frac{2r_o}{r^2} \right] \mathrm{d}r, \qquad (2.12)$$

where $r_o = r_o(r, t)$. For $\eta = 0$, (2.11) reduces to the Rayleigh–Plesset equation.

The bubble is constituted of vapour and contaminant gas, and its pressure is assumed to be homogeneous (Brennen 1995). Thus, the bubble pressure is

$$p_B(t) = p_v(T_\infty) + p_{Go} \left(\frac{R_o}{R}\right)^{3k}, \qquad (2.13)$$

where p_v is the vapour pressure, T_{∞} is the ambient temperature, p_{Go} is the initial partial pressure of the contaminant gas and k is the polytropic index. For simplicity, heat and mass transfer are neglected; these effects could readily be incorporated into the model. The dynamic boundary condition at the bubble surface yields $-p_B = T_{rr}|_{r=R} - 2S/R$, where S is surface tension. Thus,

$$\mathscr{P}(R,t) = p_v + p_{Go} \left(\frac{R_o}{R}\right)^{3k} + \eta \left(\frac{R_o}{R}\right)^4 - \frac{2S}{R}.$$
(2.14)

An expression for $r_o(r, t)$ can be obtained by evaluating (2.2) at the bubble wall:

$$r_o(r, t) = (r^3 - R^3 + R_o^3)^{1/3}.$$
(2.15)

Using integration by parts and rearranging, the elastic term yields

$$\mathscr{E} = -\frac{\eta}{2\rho} \left[3 + \left(\frac{R_o}{R}\right)^4 - 4\left(\frac{R_o}{R}\right) \right], \qquad (2.16)$$

thus leading to the equation governing spherical bubble dynamics in an incompressible and viscoelastic medium whose elasticity is described by a neo-Hookean model:

$$R\ddot{R} + \frac{3}{2}\dot{R}^2 = \frac{p_B - p_\infty(t)}{\rho} - \frac{4\nu_L\dot{R}}{R} - \frac{2S}{\rho R} - \frac{E}{\rho},$$
(2.17)

where the elastic stress for a neo-Hookean medium is given by

$$E_{NH} = \frac{\eta}{2} \left[5 - 4 \left(\frac{R_o}{R} \right) - \left(\frac{R_o}{R} \right)^4 \right].$$
(2.18)

Equation (2.18) is consistent with previous results for nucleation of voids in elastic solids (Gent & Tompkins 1969; Horgan & Polignone 1995), although those studies neglected inertia and viscosity and focused primarily on quasi-static behaviour, i.e. $\dot{R} = 0$ and $\ddot{R} = 0$ in (2.17).

Compressible effects are crucial during violent bubble collapse (Prosperetti & Lezzi 1986; Fuster, Dopazo & Hauke 2011). The approach of Keller & Miksis (1980)



FIGURE 3. (Colour online) Absolute value of the dimensionless elastic force acting on the bubble (*a*, log–log) with a zoomed in view near $R/R_o = 1$ (*b*, linear–linear). For $R/R_o < 1$, the force is negative.

incorporating acoustic radiation through liquid compressibility is implemented here, following Yang & Church (2005) where it is assumed that, for the stress integral calculation, the divergence-free velocity is not modified by first-order compressible effects. The compressible extension to (2.17) yields

$$\left(1 - \frac{\dot{R}}{c}\right)R\ddot{R} + \frac{3}{2}\left(1 - \frac{\dot{R}}{3c}\right)\dot{R}^{2} = \left(1 + \frac{\dot{R}}{c}\right)\left[\frac{p_{B} - p_{\infty}(t)}{\rho} - \frac{4\nu_{L}\dot{R}}{R} - \frac{2S}{\rho R} - E\right] + \frac{R}{\rho c}\frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}t}(p_{a} - p_{\infty}), \qquad (2.19)$$

where c is the constant sound speed of the undisturbed surrounding medium and

$$p_a(t) = p_B - \frac{2S}{R} - \frac{4\nu_L \dot{R}}{R} - E.$$
 (2.20)

While the focus in this section is on a neo-Hookean medium, similar expressions can be derived for other constitutive relations (cf. appendix A for elastic terms corresponding to a Mooney–Rivlin strain-energy function and 'linear' elastic models).

3. The role of nonlinear elasticity

3.1. The elastic force

The role of elasticity is investigated by determining the corresponding force under various limiting circumstances and for different constitutive models, to understand its main effects on the dynamics. The elastic terms correspond to a restoring force or 'spring'; at any point along the interface, an infinitesimal force element goes as $\sim R^2 E(R)$. Table 1 summarizes the findings for the neo-Hookean, Yang & Church (2005) and linear models, and Figure 3 provides a visual representation of the absolute

Model	Elastic term (E)	Non-dimensional force	$R \ll R_O$	$R \gg R_o$
Neo-Hookean	$\frac{\eta}{2} \left[5 - 4 \left(\frac{R_o}{R} \right) - \left(\frac{R_o}{R} \right)^4 \right]$	$\frac{1}{2}\left[5\left(\frac{R}{R_o}\right)^2 - 4\left(\frac{R}{R_o}\right) - \left(\frac{R_o}{R}\right)^2\right]$	$-rac{1}{2}\left(rac{R_o}{R} ight)^2$	$rac{5}{2}\left(rac{R}{R_o} ight)^2$
Yang & Church	$rac{4\eta}{3}\left[1-\left(rac{R_o}{R} ight)^3 ight]$	$rac{4}{3}\left[\left(rac{R}{R_o} ight)^2-\left(rac{R_o}{R} ight) ight]$	$-rac{4}{3}\left(rac{R_o}{R} ight)$	$rac{4}{3}\left(rac{R}{R_o} ight)^2$
Linear elastic	$2\eta \left[1-\left(rac{R_o}{R} ight)^2 ight]$	$2\left[\left(rac{R}{R_o} ight)^2-1 ight]$	-2	$2\left(rac{R}{R_o} ight)^2$
LE 1. Summary of the	elastic terms in the Rayleigh-	-Plesset/Keller-Miksis equations for 1	the one-parar	neter constitutive models.

4 5 TABI

value of the normalized elastic force. Since the force is dimensionless, the plots are valid for any η . All the models reduce to zero for $\eta = 0$ or zero strains, as expected. Unlike surface tension, the elastic terms can be positive ($R < R_o$, i.e. during collapse) or negative ($R > R_o$, i.e. for growth).

In general, the models with the largest elastic effects are the models that include a stronger nonlinearity, a behaviour that is most clear during collapse ($R \ll R_o$). By its sign and dependence on $(R_o/R)^n$, with n > 0, the elastic force acts to reduce the acceleration of the bubble wall during the last stages of collapse; in other words, the elastic force (spring) is 'pulling' the bubble wall back towards the equilibrium condition, and increases as the bubble radius decreases for the nonlinear models. Given the asymptotic behaviour as $R \ll R_o$, this force is smallest in the linear elastic case, which in fact tends to a constant value as the radius decreases, with a slope given by the exponent of R_o/R in the fourth column in table 1. For other models, nonlinearity leads to an increase in this restoring force as the bubble size decreases. The neo-Hookean model exhibits the largest force. The rate at which the force of the nonlinear models increases depends on the exponent of R_o/R .

For small departures from the initial radius, $R \approx R_o + \epsilon(t)$ with $\epsilon \ll R_o$, perturbation analysis shows that the elastic terms reduce to $-4\eta\epsilon$ to first order for all models, i.e. small-amplitude oscillations in a linear elastic medium. For larger departures from R_o , the behaviour depends on the model, though all are close. For $R \leq R_o$, the Yang & Church (2005) model exhibits the largest force, followed by the neo-Hookean model. The behaviour for $R \geq R_o$ shows that the force is largest for the linear case, followed by the neo-Hookean model. In the limit $R \gg R_o$, elasticity hinders growth at the same rate for all models, although the coefficients are slightly different, with the neo-Hookean model being the largest.

As a comparison, the elastic term for the Mooney–Rivlin model goes as $\eta_1[5 - 4(R_o/R) - (R_o/R)^4]/2 - \eta_2[2(R/R_o) - (R_o/R)^2 - 1]$, with $\eta = \eta_1 + \eta_2$ (see appendix A). Since $\eta_2 > 0$, the total force is less. The behaviour as $R \ll R_o$ is similar to that of the neo-Hookean model; for large growth however, the behaviour is governed by the term multiplied by η_2 . The Mooney–Rivlin model is not included in the comparison, because of the need to define a second parameter. For the viscoelastic shell of Liu *et al.* (2012), the elastic term goes as $2\eta[1 - (R_o/R)^6]$. For this case, the force at collapse is large ($\sim 1/R^4$); for large growth, the behaviour is similar to the linear case.

3.2. Natural and peak frequencies of the bubble

The frequency response of the bubble is of particular interest for ultrasound applications. To investigate this aspect, a bubble initially at equilibrium is subjected to a pressure waveform of frequency ω :

$$p_{\infty}(t) = p_{\infty}[1 + g(t)], \qquad (3.1)$$

where $0 < |g| \ll 1$. For simplicity, all forms of damping (viscous and compressible) are included in an effective viscosity. For this small-amplitude perturbation analysis, the same result is obtained with all models. The bubble is expected to oscillate about an equilibrium radius, with

$$R(t) = R_{eq}[1 + f(t)], \qquad (3.2)$$

where $0 < |f| \ll 1$ and R_{eq} is not necessarily R_o . Substitution into (2.17) yields, to first order,

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$$\ddot{f} + \frac{4\nu_L}{R_{eq}^2} \dot{f} + \frac{1}{R_{eq}^2} \left\{ 3k \frac{p_{Go}}{\rho} \left(\frac{R_o}{R_{eq}} \right)^{3k} - \frac{2S}{\rho R_{eq}} + \frac{2\eta}{\rho} \left(\frac{R_o}{R_{eq}} \right) \left[1 + \left(\frac{R_o}{R_{eq}} \right)^3 \right] \right\} f + \frac{p_\infty}{\rho R_{eq}^2} g$$
$$= \frac{1}{\rho R_{eq}^2} \left\{ -(p_\infty - p_v) + p_{Go} \left(\frac{R_o}{R_{eq}} \right)^{3k} - \frac{2S}{R_{eq}} + \frac{\eta}{2} \left[-5 + 4\frac{R_o}{R_{eq}} + \left(\frac{R_o}{R_{eq}} \right)^4 \right] \right\}.(3.3)$$

The left-hand side of the equation contains all the perturbation terms, i.e. all terms that are time dependent and O(f, g). The entire right-hand side is O(1) and corresponds to equilibrium conditions. Two main cases are of interest: finite g > 0 where $R_{eq} \neq R_o$, which corresponds to Rayleigh collapse, and $R_{eq} = R_o$. The former was investigated using perturbation methods by Hua & Johnsen (2013) and is thus not pursued further here. The latter simplifies greatly:

$$\ddot{f} + \frac{4\nu_L}{R_{eq}^2}\dot{f} + \frac{1}{R_{eq}^2}\left(3k\frac{p_{Go}}{\rho} - \frac{2S}{\rho R_{eq}} + \frac{4\eta}{\rho}\right)f = -\frac{p_{\infty}}{\rho R_{eq}^2}g.$$
(3.4)

To first order, the damping is not affected by elasticity, but the oscillation frequency is. The peak frequency is given by

$$\omega_p = \sqrt{\frac{1}{\rho R_o^2} \left[3k(p_\infty - p_v) + (3k - 1)\frac{2S}{R_o} \right] - \frac{8v_L^2}{R_o^4} + \frac{4\eta}{\rho R_o^2}}$$
(3.5)

and the natural frequency is obtained by setting $v_L = 0$. The frequency increases with increasing elasticity, and on setting $\eta = 0$ reduces to the Minnaert frequency, consistent with Hua & Johnsen (2013).

Frequency response curves can be obtained following Lauterborn (1976). The curves have the form

$$\frac{R_{max} - R_{eq}}{R_{eq}} = f\left(\frac{\omega}{\omega_n}\right),\tag{3.6}$$

where ω_n is the natural frequency of the bubble with no elasticity, $R_{eq} = R_o$ and R_{max} is the maximum radius of the bubble during its steady-state oscillations.

Figure 4 shows the frequency response contour map of a bubble in a neo-Hookean medium (with viscosity 1 cP) as the shear modulus and driving frequency are varied. A 100×100 point parameter space was used, and the amplitude was defined as the average amplitude in the latter half of fifteen acoustic cycles to remove the effect of the initial transient, with the bubble starting from rest. For low shear modulus, one main resonant peak is observed close to the bubble natural frequency, with many subharmonics occurring at lower frequencies. The spacing between these subharmonics decreases with decreasing frequency; at high frequencies, the amplitude of the oscillations is small. The resonance map does not significantly change until the shear modulus reaches ~ 1 kPa. At this point, the effect of elasticity is to shift the resonance peak and dominant subharmonics to the right to higher frequencies.

In Figure 5, the resonance curve is shown for $\eta = 100$ kPa, for the Newtonian, neo-Hookean, Yang & Church (2005) and linear elastic media. For the neo-Hookean case, this plot corresponds to a horizontal cross-section of Figure 4. For elastic media, the frequency response curves are shifted to the right since ω_n is larger when $\eta \neq 0$, as predicted by (3.5). Moreover, the resonance peaks are weakened because of elasticity. Since the peaks occur for radii $R \gtrsim R_o$, the elastic force is largest for the linear model, followed by the neo-Hookean model. The Yang & Church (2005)



FIGURE 4. (Colour online) Frequency response contour map: dimensionless amplitude of a bubble in a neo-Hookean medium. The driving-pressure amplitude is 0.8 bar.



FIGURE 5. (Colour online) Frequency response curves for $\eta = 100$ kPa and a pressurewave amplitude of 0.8 bar.

model exhibits the weakest force in that regime and thus predicts larger resonance amplitudes, and at lower resonance frequencies, than the other models. Conversely, the linear elastic model predicts the lowest amplitude resonance responses, and at the highest frequencies. The Newtonian curve qualitatively corresponds to that obtained in Lauterborn (1976). The present results are consistent with § 3.1.

This analysis can also be used to assess the presence of stable nuclei in an elastic medium. Elasticity modifies the Blake radius (Blake 1949), e.g.

$$p_v - p_\infty > \frac{4\frac{S}{R_{eq}} + \eta}{3} \tag{3.7}$$



FIGURE 6. (Colour online) Peak frequency ω_p as a function of R_{eq} .

for the isothermal case. The additional elastic term in this stability condition is always positive. Unsurprisingly, elasticity stabilizes the bubble equilibrium since the natural frequency exists in a broader range of values for $p_v - p_\infty$. Figure 6 shows the peak frequency as a function of R_{eq} for $\eta = 0$, 10^5 and 10^6 Pa under isothermal conditions (k=1) and with a tension $p_v - \bar{p}_\infty = 1$ bar. The area under each curve corresponds to the stability region. As expected, the larger the shear modulus, the larger the stability region, such that smaller nuclei may exist. With a shear modulus of 1 MPa, the smallest equilibrium radius possible is approximately 50 nm, compared with 500 nm for zero shear modulus.

3.3. Minimum radius

The minimum radius and the maximum velocity during collapse are important quantities related to potential damage incurred to the surroundings. To estimate the role of elasticity on these quantities, analysis is performed for Rayleigh collapse following Brennen (1995), in which viscous and compressible effects are neglected. Here, we include elasticity using the neo-Hookean model under isothermal conditions. From (2.13) and (2.17), the Rayleigh–Plesset equation can be rewritten

$$\dot{R}^{2} = \frac{2[p_{v} - p_{\infty} - \Delta p]}{3\rho_{L}} \left[1 - \left(\frac{R_{o}}{R}\right)^{3} \right] + \frac{2p_{Go}}{\rho_{L}} \left(\frac{R_{o}}{R}\right)^{3} \log\left(\frac{R}{R_{o}}\right) - \frac{2S}{\rho R} \left[1 - \left(\frac{R_{o}}{R}\right)^{2} \right] + \frac{\eta}{3\rho} \left[-5 + 6\left(\frac{R_{o}}{R}\right) + 2\left(\frac{R_{o}}{R}\right)^{3} - 3\left(\frac{R_{o}}{R}\right)^{4} \right],$$
(3.8)

where Δp is the instantaneous pressure increase. At collapse, $R \ll R_o$, such that

$$\dot{R} \to -\left(\frac{R_o}{R}\right)^{3/2} \sqrt{\frac{2[p_\infty + \Delta p - p_v]}{3\rho_L} + \frac{2S}{\rho R_o} + \frac{2p_{Go}}{\rho_L} \log\left(\frac{R}{R_o}\right) + \frac{\eta}{\rho} \left(\frac{2}{3} - \frac{R_o}{R}\right)}.$$
 (3.9)

Since $R < R_o$ for this problem, elasticity always reduces the velocity during collapse.

By defining $A = 2p_{Go}/\rho_L$, $B = -\eta/\rho$ and $C = (2[p_{\infty} + \Delta p - p_v]/3\rho_L) + (2S/\rho R_o) + (2\eta/3\rho)$, the minimum radius can be written in terms of the Wright function W(x):

$$\frac{R_{min}}{R_o} = \frac{\exp[W(\log(-B/A) + (C/A))]}{\exp(C/A)}.$$
(3.10)

It should be noted that if $\eta = 0$, $R_{min} = R_o \exp(A/C)$, which corresponds to the minimum radius in a Newtonian medium. The adiabatic case can be solved following the same approach given k.

4. Bubble response to various driving pressures

Comparisons between the different models are presented to illustrate the effect of elasticity on the bubble dynamics and verify the analysis in the previous section using three problems in which the driving pressures and initial/equilibrium radii are different, with relevance to biomedical applications. For all runs, $c = 1500 \text{ m s}^{-1}$, $p_v = 2300 \text{ Pa}$, $S = 0.05 \text{ N m}^{-1}$, $v_L = 10^{-6} \text{ m}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$ and $\rho = 1000 \text{ kg m}^{-3}$. The ambient pressure is $p_{\infty}(0) = 1$ bar. The linear shear modulus is $\eta = 100 \text{ kPa}$, representative of soft tissue (Madsen, Sathoff & Zagzebski 1983; Wells & Liang 2011). The Newtonian, neo-Hookean, Yang & Church (2005) and linear models are considered. The initial radius $R_o = 10 \mu \text{m}$ is the radius at time t = 0, while the equilibrium radius R_{eq} is the radius achieved as $t \to \infty$, which need not be R_o . These initial-value problems are solved using a fifth-order accurate Runge–Kutta–Verner scheme (Verner 1978).

4.1. Step increase in pressure (Rayleigh collapse)

First, the traditional Rayleigh collapse problem (Rayleigh 1917) is considered, in which the surrounding pressure $p_{\infty}(0)$ is instantaneously increased to $p_{\infty}(0) + \Delta p$ for $t > 0^+$, with $\Delta p = 100$ bar. This problem can be considered as an idealization of shock-induced bubble collapse in which the sound speed in the surroundings is infinite. In this problem, $R_o = R_{eq}$. The initial velocity is $\dot{R}_o = (p_v - p_{\infty}(0))/\rho c_{\infty}$ following Plesset & Prosperetti (1977).

Figures 7 and 8 show histories of the bubble radius and wall velocity. The equilibrium radius is different for each model since the pressure increase Δp changes the final elastic stress state (Hua & Johnsen 2013). Considering the neo-Hookean model, the initial conditions prescribe $p_{Go} = (p_{\infty} - p_v) + 2S/R_o$. The equilibrium radius R_{eq} is given implicitly by

$$-(p_{\infty} + \Delta p - p_{v}) + p_{Go} \left(\frac{R_{o}}{R_{eq}}\right)^{3k} - \frac{2S}{R_{eq}} + \frac{\eta}{2} \left[4\frac{R_{o}}{R_{eq}} + \left(\frac{R_{o}}{R_{eq}}\right)^{4} - 5\right] = 0.$$
(4.1)

Since the elastic term is different for each model, different equilibrium radii are achieved. As expected, the linear elastic model produces the smallest deviation from the Newtonian case, followed by the Yang & Church (2005) and neo-Hookean models respectively.

The minimum radius and maximum velocity are important because the shocks emitted upon collapse, and thus the potential damage inflicted by cavitation, directly depend on these quantities. The smallest minimum radius, highest velocity and shortest collapse time are achieved in the Newtonian medium, followed in order by the linear elastic, Yang & Church (2005) and neo-Hookean media, consistent with



FIGURE 7. (Colour online) History of the bubble radius following a step increase in pressure for different constitutive models ($\Delta p = 100$ bar). Time is non-dimensionalized by the Rayleigh collapse time t_{RC} .



FIGURE 8. (Colour online) Detailed view of the history of the bubble radius (a) and velocity (b) following a step increase in pressure at the first collapse. Time is non-dimensionalized by the Rayleigh collapse time t_{RC} .

§ 3.1. For the more nonlinear elastic models, the violence of the collapse is reduced, as exhibited by the increase in minimum radius and collapse time, and decrease in velocity. At this specific value of Δp , the velocity at collapse is more than five times smaller in the neo-Hookean medium than in a Newtonian liquid, thus reducing potential damage due to shocks.

After the first collapse, the largest relative rebound is achieved in the neo-Hookean material, followed by Yang & Church (2005), linear elastic and Newtonian. This behaviour is inversely related to the minimum radius, as a collapse to a smaller radius dissipates more energy by acoustic radiation (Johnsen & Colonius 2009). Thus, the following rebounds are smaller and the oscillation period is shorter, consistent with § 3.2. This observation has important implications for the biomedical field, since larger oscillations lead to larger strains and higher strain rates.

4.2. Bubble out of equilibrium

Next, the growth and collapse of a bubble whose initial radius is set out of equilibrium keeping p_{∞} constant are considered (Flynn 1975). This problem is a simpler case of cavitation-bubble growth/collapse and collapse/growth due to the passage of a transient tension/compression, set up in such a way that the transient does not affect the dynamics; the growth problem can be considered to model laser-induced cavitation (Lauterborn & Kurz 2010). The initial state out of equilibrium corresponds to an initial internal bubble pressure that is lower or higher than the ambient pressure, i.e. $R_o \neq R_{eq}$, depending on the selected initial radius. For a prescribed equilibrium radius and in the absence of elasticity, the partial pressure (or number of moles) of non-condensible gas is given by $p_{Geq} = (p_{\infty} - p_v) + 2S/R_{eq}$. In practice, this problem is started by increasing or decreasing p_{Go} corresponding to a change in the initial radius R_o . Thus, collapse or growth follows.

Figures 9 and 10 show the history of the bubble radius for different ratios of the initial radius to the equilibrium radius, corresponding to $R_o > R_{eq}^N$ (initial collapse) and $R_o < R_{eq}^N$ (initial growth) respectively, where R_{eq}^N stands for the equilibrium radius obtained in the Newtonian case; Δp is the initial pressure difference between the bubble and the surroundings.

For $R_o > R_{eq}^N$ (initial collapse), elasticity significantly inhibits collapse, more so than in the Rayleigh collapse of § 4.1. The linear model exhibits the highest force in this regime, such that the oscillation amplitude is smallest; the amplitude in the neo-Hookean medium is very close. For $R_o < R_{eq}^N$ (initial growth), elasticity inhibits growth, with the Yang & Church (2005) model exhibiting the strongest effect. The oscillations amplitude in the neo-Hookean medium are very close. These results are consistent with the analysis in § 3.1. Based on the inertial cavitation threshold criterion by Flynn (1975), it is evident that, despite satisfying $R_o/R_{eq} \gtrsim 2$, the oscillations in viscoelastic media are not highly nonlinear.

4.3. Harmonic forcing

The response of a bubble to a sinusoidally varying pressure waveform is relevant to acoustic cavitation in biomedical applications. For this problem, $R_o = R_{eq}$. Figure 11 shows the response of a bubble to pressure waveforms of different driving frequencies f. The driving frequencies are in the range f = 0.1-3 MHz with an amplitude of 1 MPa, for clinical relevance and comparisons with Yang & Church (2005). Overall, as the frequency is increased, smaller maximum radii are achieved, consistent with figure 4. The results strongly depend on the frequency.

- (i) For f < 200 kHz, the bubble oscillates with the waveform at high amplitude. Elasticity restrains the bubble oscillations (e.g. maximum radius), and subharmonics are observed in the neo-Hookean medium.
- (ii) For 200 kHz $\leq f \leq 1000$ kHz, different behaviours are observed depending on the model, particularly with increasing frequency. As explained in § 3.2, elasticity modifies the bubble natural frequency. For instance, the natural frequency with no elasticity is $f_n = 282$ kHz, compared with $f_n = 425$ kHz for a shear modulus of 100 kPa. Thus, a bubble subjected to harmonic forcing of the order of these frequencies may undergo large oscillations, with a behaviour different for each constitutive model.
- (iii) For f > 1000 kHz, all models exhibit the same behaviour over the course of the first collapse, at which point the Newtonian solution departs from the elastic



FIGURE 9. (Colour online) History of the bubble radius for the bubble initially out of equilibrium for different constitutive models ($R_o/R_{eq}^N = 2$ corresponds to $\Delta p = -0.83$ bar). Time is non-dimensionalized by the Rayleigh collapse time t_{RC} .



FIGURE 10. (Colour online) History of the bubble radius for the bubble initially out of equilibrium for different constitutive models $(R_o/R_{eq}^N = 0.5 \text{ corresponds to } \Delta p = 7.24 \text{ bar})$. Time is non-dimensionalized by the Rayleigh collapse time t_{RC} .

solutions due to the action of the elastic force. All elastic models reduce to the same solution, as oscillations about the time-varying steady state are small. This behaviour is expected, since the strains achieved remain small.

5. Conclusions

A theoretical framework to simulate spherical bubble dynamics in a viscoelastic medium with nonlinear elasticity (e.g. soft tissue) is presented. To account for the fact that tissue usually relaxes to an original configuration after loading, a Kelvin–Voigt viscoelastic model is chosen, with a nonlinear spring. Based on modern continuum mechanics formalism, different strain-energy functions are included to describe the nonlinear elastic component, which can then be inserted appropriately into a Rayleigh–Plesset/Keller–Miksis equation. One of the main contributions of this article lies in



FIGURE 11. (Colour online) History of the bubble radius under harmonic forcing with f = 100, 282, 425, 1000 and 3000 kHz (*a–e*) and $\eta = 100$ kPa.

the derivation of these terms for several models: nonlinear neo-Hookean and Mooney-Rivlin, and linear elasticity. The model used previously by Yang & Church (2005) was recovered using this approach. The response of each model is different for the problems of interest; these differences can be explained analytically by examining the elastic force. The following observations are made concerning the physics.

- (i) In agreement with previous work on cavitation in viscoelastic media, elasticity overall acts to reduce the violence of collapse and growth, compared with the behaviour in a Newtonian medium. The elastic terms depend on the departure from the original configuration, with different coefficients and exponents depending on the constitutive model. These terms represent an elastic restoring force, i.e. a spring, as expected.
- (ii) The bubble response may vary significantly depending on the constitutive model.
- (iii) For large departures from the original configuration, models with stronger nonlinearity produce stronger forces, particularly at collapse. This force increases with decreasing radius. As a result, larger minimum radii and lower velocities are obtained at collapse. These quantities are important with regard to potential damage inflicted to the surrounding medium.
- (iv) For small departures from the original configuration, all models reduce to the same response, as expected. For such cases, elasticity modifies the oscillation properties: the peak and natural frequencies increase, thus shifting the frequency response, and the amplitude is reduced, especially for the more nonlinear models. Furthermore, smaller stable nuclei are expected to be found in such media.

The proposed approach can readily be extended to other strain-energy functions. The findings of the present work have potentially important implications for cavitation research in biomedical applications, as several experimentally measurable quantities (frequency response, minimum radius) are reported. Overall, elasticity is expected to reduce typical cavitation damage due to shocks produced during violent collapse. Furthermore, the resulting bubble dynamics equation could be used for characterization of viscoelastic media (rheometry), e.g. determination of an appropriate model through fits, and measurement of viscoelastic properties, e.g. viscosity and shear modulus, even for complex constitutive models and high frequencies. At this time, several factors limit direct application of the model, e.g. constitutive modelling of tissue, inhomogeneities, compressibility, thermal and mass transport. To address these issues, development of numerical methods and models for cavitation and shock waves in tissue-like media, and single-bubble experiments in tissue phantoms are currently underway.

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Appendix A. Different constitutive models

The same approach as that used for the neo-Hookean model can be followed to derive the elastic terms for other constitutive models relevant for cavitation in tissue. Here, we show how to obtain the elastic term E in (2.17) and (2.19) for the Mooney–Rivlin strain-energy function and linear elastic models.

A.1. Nonlinear elasticity: Mooney-Rivlin model

The Mooney–Rivlin model (Mooney 1940; Rivlin 1948), the simplest two-parameter nonlinear elastic model, is considered. The corresponding strain-energy function is

$$\hat{W} = \frac{\eta_1}{2}(I_1 - 3) + \frac{\eta_2}{2}(I_2 - 3), \quad \eta = \eta_1 + \eta_2, \quad \eta_1, \eta_2 > 0,$$
(A 1*a*,*b*)

where η is the linear shear modulus and I_2 is the second strain invariant. The Cauchy stress tensor is then given by

$$\boldsymbol{\tau}_{\boldsymbol{e}} = \begin{bmatrix} \eta_1 \left(\frac{r_o}{r}\right)^4 - 2\eta_2 \left(\frac{r_o}{r}\right)^2 - \mathscr{P} & 0 & 0\\ 0 & \eta_1 \left(\frac{r}{r_o}\right)^2 - \eta_2 \left[\left(\frac{r}{r_o}\right)^4 - \left(\frac{r_o}{r}\right)^2 \right] - \mathscr{P} & 0\\ 0 & 0 & \eta_1 \left(\frac{r}{r_o}\right)^2 - \eta_2 \left[\left(\frac{r}{r_o}\right)^4 - \left(\frac{r_o}{r}\right)^2 \right] - \mathscr{P} \end{bmatrix},$$
(A 2)

and the relation between the actual pressure and the pseudo-pressure is

$$\mathscr{P} = p + \frac{\eta_1}{3} \left[\left(\frac{r_o}{r}\right)^4 + 2\left(\frac{r}{r_o}\right)^2 \right] - \frac{2\eta_2}{3} \left[\left(\frac{r}{r_o}\right)^4 + 2\left(\frac{r_o}{r}\right)^2 \right].$$
(A3)

The elastic terms for a Mooney-Rivlin strain-energy function are given by

$$E_{MR}(t) = \frac{\eta_1}{2} \left[5 - 4 \left(\frac{R_o}{R} \right) - \left(\frac{R_o}{R} \right)^4 \right] - \eta_2 \left[2 \left(\frac{R}{R_o} \right) - \left(\frac{R_o}{R} \right)^2 - 1 \right].$$
(A4)

If $\eta_2 = 0$, the neo-Hookean model is recovered, thus verifying that the Mooney–Rivlin model is a refinement of the neo-Hookean model.

A.2. Linear elasticity: generalized Hooke's law

The large strains expected in the problems of interest motivate the use of nonlinear elastic models. However, it is useful to consider the limiting case of infinitesimal strains, i.e. linear elasticity. The same assumptions as those made until now hold, except that the generalized Hooke's law (Hoger & Johnson 1995) is used for the elastic stress:

$$\boldsymbol{T}_{\boldsymbol{e}} = 2\eta \boldsymbol{E} - \mathscr{P} \boldsymbol{I},\tag{A5}$$

where **E** is the linear strain tensor, η is the shear modulus and $\mathscr{P}(r, t)$ is a pseudopressure. The linear strain can be expressed in terms of the displacement gradient $H = (H + H^T)/2 = E$, since *H* is diagonal. Since F = I + H, the Cauchy stress tensor for a linear elastic medium is given by

$$\mathbf{T} = \begin{bmatrix} 2\eta \left[\left(\frac{r_o}{r}\right)^2 - 1 \right] - \mathscr{P} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2\eta \left[\left(\frac{r}{r_o}\right) - 1 \right] - \mathscr{P} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2\eta \left[\left(\frac{r}{r_o}\right) - 1 \right] - \mathscr{P} \end{bmatrix}, \quad (A 6)$$

and the relation between the actual pressure and the pseudo-pressure is

$$\mathscr{P} = p + \frac{2\eta}{3} \operatorname{tr}(\boldsymbol{E}) = p + \frac{2\eta}{3} \left[\left(\frac{r_o}{r}\right)^2 + 2\left(\frac{r}{r_o}\right) - 3 \right].$$
(A7)

The elastic terms for the generalized Hooke's law are given by

$$E_L = 2\eta \left[1 - \left(\frac{R_o}{R}\right)^2 \right]. \tag{A8}$$

A.3. Linear elasticity: infinitesimal strains (Yang & Church 2005)

In Yang & Church (2005), an equation similar to that obtained in § A.2 is derived, but with different coefficients and powers. We show here how to recover this result. By retaining the first-order terms in the Taylor series expansions of $(r/r_o)^n$ from (2.15), and assuming small strains (i.e. $|(R^3 - R_o^3)/r^3| \ll 1$), the *rr* component of the Cauchy stress is given by

$$-\frac{4\eta}{3}\frac{R^3-R_o^3}{r^3}-\mathscr{P}.$$
 (A9)

The elastic contribution is then obtained by evaluating

$$E_{YC} = -3 \int_{R}^{\infty} \frac{\tau_{rr}}{r} \mathrm{d}r = \frac{4\eta}{3} \left[1 - \left(\frac{R_o}{R}\right)^3 \right].$$
(A 10)

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