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Antoine Riaud, Michael Baudoin, Olivier Bou Matar, Jean-Louis Thomas, Philippe Brunet. Influence of viscosity on acoustic streaming in sessile droplets: an experimental and a numerical study with a Streaming Source Spatial Filtering (SSSF) method. *Journal of Fluid Mechanics*, 2017, 821, pp.384-420. 10.1017/jfm.2017.178 . hal-02332796

HAL Id: hal-02332796

<https://hal.science/hal-02332796>

Submitted on 25 Oct 2019

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Influence of viscosity on acoustic streaming in sessile droplets: an experimental and a numerical study with a Streaming Source Spatial Filtering (SSSF) method.

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(Received XX revised XX accepted XX - To be entered by editorial office)

When an acoustic wave travels in a lossy medium such as a liquid, it progressively transfers its pseudo-momentum to the fluid, which results in a steady acoustic streaming. Remarkably, the phenomenon involves a balance between sound attenuation and shear, such that viscosity vanishes in the final expression of the flow forcing. For this reason, the effect of viscosity has long been ignored in acoustic streaming experiments. Here, we show experimentally that the viscosity plays a major role in cavities such as the streaming induced by surface acoustic waves in sessile droplets. We develop a numerical model based on the spatial filtering of the streaming source term to compute the induced flow motion with dramatically reduced computational requirements. Our results show that acoustic fields in droplets are a superposition of a chaotic field and a few powerful caustics. It appears that the caustics drive the flow, which allows a qualitative prediction of the flow structure. Finally, we reduce the problem to two non-dimensional numbers related to the surface and bulk waves attenuation and simulated hemispherical sessile droplets resting on a lithium niobate substrate for a range of parameters. Even in such a baseline configuration, we observe at least four flow distinct regimes. For each of them, we establish a correlation of the average streaming speed in the droplet, which is increasingly dependent on the bulk wave attenuation as the viscosity increases. These correlations extend our results to a wide range of fluids and actuation frequencies.

Key words: Authors should not enter keywords on the manuscript, as these must be chosen by the author during the online submission process and will then be added during the typesetting process (see <http://journals.cambridge.org/data/relatedlink/jfm-keywords.pdf> for the full list)

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1. Introduction

Two incommensurable time scales are involved when sound waves propagate in a fluid: the frequency of the sound and the characteristic time of the flow evolution. This distinction defines the boundary between acoustics and hydrodynamics. It happens in practice that some physical phenomena overlap this frontier and challenge researchers from both fields, like shock waves and supersonic hydrodynamics, but also noisy powerful hydrodynamic turbulence and steady flow induced by intense sound beams: namely the acoustic streaming.

Thanks to Lord Rayleigh (1884) and Eckart (1948) pioneering works, it is now well established that acoustic streaming betrays the momentum transfer from the wave to the fluid by sound attenuation. Most authors (Lighthill (1978); Mitome (1998); Westervelt (1953); Riley (2001, 1998); Nyborg (1953); Wiklund (2012)) distinguish two types of streaming depending if the damping arises from shear stress on the walls (inner streaming) or from viscous dissipation in the bulk (outer streaming). Rednikov & Sadhal (2011) have proved that the former acts as an efficient slip velocity outside a thin Stokes boundary layer, while Lighthill (1978) has provided a convenient body force expression to account for the latter. In the remaining of the paper, we will treat exclusively the case of outer (bulk) streaming, which is relevant for geometries much larger than the acoustic wavelength (Vanneste & Bühler (2011)). Quickly following Eckart theoretical work (Eckart (1948)), Liebermann (1949) experimentally proved that the attenuation of free-propagating sound waves was almost entirely due to the bulk viscosity, a frequency-dependent parameter combining hard sphere collision integral and chemical reactions kinetics. As emphasized by Eckart (1948), the hydrodynamic forcing term is proportional to the sound attenuation, which itself varies linearly with the viscosity.

Here appears one of the greater paradox of acoustic streaming: although the momentum source for the fluid is proportional to the viscosity, it mostly dissipates this momentum through shear stress, such that streaming velocity is expected to be independent of viscosity. Experimentally, it has been confirmed that acoustic streaming occurs for a wide range of fluids from superfluid Helium (Rooney *et al.* (1982)) to very viscous polymers (Mitome (1998)). Nevertheless, this assertion must be mitigated for two reasons: (i) at large sound intensity or low viscosity (Lighthill (1978)), hydrodynamic momentum convection becomes the main dissipation mechanism resulting in a velocity slope break marking the transition between slow and fast acoustic streaming (Liebermann (1949); Kamakura *et al.* (1995)) (ii) at high viscosity or high frequency, the sound wave attenuates quickly confining the forcing term to a smaller region of space (Nyborg (1953)). Although the first effect has been studied experimentally and numerically by Kamakura *et al.* (1995) and Matsuda *et al.* (1996), the second one has received little attention and leads to many misunderstandings.

High frequency sound waves and large viscosity liquids are routinely used in microfluidics (see e.g. Friend & Yeo (2011); Wiklund (2012)). Indeed, contactless robust fluid actuation for a wide range of liquids is a primary requirement for this emergent discipline, and miniaturized acoustical sources such as interdigitated transducers are already widely available. Herein, a problem of considerable interest is the acoustic streaming induced by surface acoustic waves (SAW) in sessile droplets, as illustrated on figure 1. An oscillating voltage applied on an interdigitated transducer generates a SAW at the surface of a piezoelectric medium. This wave propagates almost unattenuated until it meets a liquid droplet. As it moves below the liquid, the surface oscillations are damped by the inertial stress of the fluid, and the surface wave gradually leaks in the liquid, generating bulk acoustic waves. For increasing SAW power, one can achieve droplet mixing (Sritharan

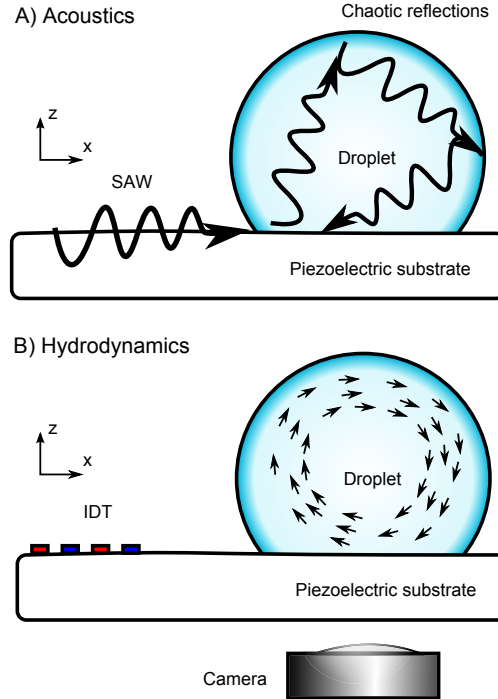


FIGURE 1. A sessile droplet rests on a piezoelectric substrate. **A) Acoustics.** A SAW propagating at the surface of the solid radiates in the liquid. It is reflected a great number of times at the liquid-solid and liquid-air interfaces, resulting in a complex standing wave pattern. **B) Hydrodynamics** As the wave propagates in the liquid, it dissipates some momentum which surprisingly generates a steady flow with large-scale eddies.

et al. (2006); Frommelt *et al.* (2008) or centrifugation Bourquin *et al.* (2010)), displacement (Wixforth *et al.* (2004); Renaudin *et al.* (2006); Brunet *et al.* (2010); Alzuaga *et al.* (2005); Baudoin *et al.* (2012); Fukaya & Kondoh (2015)), division (Zhang *et al.* (2013); Collignon *et al.* (2015); Riaud *et al.* (2015)), heating (Kondoh *et al.* (2005); Beyssen *et al.* (2006); Ito *et al.* (2007); Kondoh *et al.* (2009); Roux-Marchand *et al.* (2012); Reboud *et al.* (2012); Roux-Marchand *et al.* (2015); Shilton *et al.* (2015)) jetting (Shiokawa *et al.* (1990); Tan *et al.* (2009)) and finally atomization (Qi *et al.* (2008)). These phenomena are still only partially understood and the physics behind them sometimes subject to some controversy. For instance, most authors agree that the wave momentum is transferred to the fluid, but some argue that the momentum transfer happens in the bulk by acoustic streaming (Tan *et al.* (2009); Alghane *et al.* (2012); Schindler *et al.* (2006)), while others point out that sound reflections on a fluid interface also generates a measurable surface stress (Hertz & Mende (1939)) called acoustic radiation pressure (Mitome (1998); Sato & Fujii (2001); Stanzial *et al.* (2003)) which could contribute to the aforementioned effects (Alzuaga *et al.* (2005); Brunet *et al.* (2010)). Even though, there is a general consensus on the droplet mixing which can happen without significant droplet deformation and is therefore widely attributed to acoustic streaming.

Acoustic streaming in sessile droplets represents a significant overlap between acoustics and hydrodynamics, and researchers from both fields used their own approach to develop a better understanding of the phenomenon. In the hydrodynamic viewpoint, acoustic streaming is of considerable interest since it allows contactless vorticity creation and fluid mixing. On the opposite, the acoustic community dedicated little work to this

specific phenomenon. Consequently, although the propagation of surface acoustic waves is extremely well understood (see e.g. Royer & Dieulesaint (1996, 1999)), the intermediate step between the SAW radiation and the hydrodynamic flow remains unclear, and the droplet appears essentially as an acoustical blackbox.

Hydrodynamic studies on droplet acoustic streaming at megahertz frequencies started in 1990 with Shiokawa *et al.* (1990) seminal paper. They performed several experiments of droplet displacement, jetting and atomization using surface acoustic waves at 50 MHz. In the same paper, Shiokawa and coworkers lay down several important theoretical foundations for subsequent studies. The authors observed the formation of jets when exposing water droplets to 50 MHz large intensity SAW. In their experiment, the liquid is ejected in the same direction as if the droplet was an unbounded medium. According to this observation, Shiokawa *et al.* assumed that the acoustic field in water droplets could be reduced to the incident field and proposed to neglect the internal reflections of the wave. This postulate allowed him to use Nyborg's expression of the acoustic streaming force in order to compute the order of magnitude of the acoustic streaming in sessile droplets. Finally, Shiokawa emphasized that the gigantic attenuation of the leaky SAW beneath the droplet exceeds by far the viscous attenuation of the same sound wave in the droplet bulk. Thus, his calculations were performed in the inviscid approximation for sound waves. Most subsequent works followed the guidelines of Shiokawa, neglecting the internal reflections of the acoustic wave on the droplet surface and using Nyborg's force expression.

Experimental and theoretical works in the continuity of Shiokawa include Du *et al.* (2009) who observed droplet acoustic streaming at 62.4 and 128 MHz and Alghane *et al.* (2011, 2012) work (experiments performed at 60 MHz). In these studies, the magnitude of the SAW was unknown and set by least square curve fitting. In another work, Raghavan *et al.* (2010) observed the flow induced by surface acoustic waves in sessile droplets at frequencies of 20 MHz. Their study deviates significantly from Shiokawa guidelines by including a two-dimensional ab-initio numerical simulation where they solve the stationary compressible Navier-Stokes equation, including the acoustic field. Contrasting with earlier studies, the magnitude of the SAW displacement was known, leaving no room for adjusting parameters. Although he recovered the correct flow pattern, Raghavan reported fluid velocities an order of magnitude below what was measured experimentally.

In 2010, Vanneste & Bühler (2011) pointed out that most numerical studies based on Nyborg's expression as in Shiokawa's work relied on inviscid formulations of the sound wave equation, which could not generate vorticity. Since incompressible flows are inherently vortical flows, earlier numerical studies were put at stake by Vanneste's assertion. In order to remedy to the situation, he exposed a rigorous analytical computation of the streaming generated by surface acoustic waves in a square cavity based on vorticity conservation. In his analysis, the box was transparent to acoustic waves, which is similar to Shiokawa's analysis of neglecting internal reflections. Another important contribution of Vanneste was to single out the slow outer streaming (Eckart streaming) against inner streaming as the flow motor in the case of cavities much larger than the wavelength, which is the case for millimetric droplets exposed to SAW of frequency larger than 10 MHz.

The same year, Brunet *et al.* (2010) challenged Shiokawa's postulate of reflection-free droplet. In this work, the authors simulated the acoustic field in a two dimensional droplet. They found out that the field in water droplets exposed to 20 MHz SAW was extremely complicated and showed little coherent structure. Nevertheless, for attenuations about 100 times larger than water, the incident wave accounted for most of the acoustic field. Another study performed by Quintero & Simonetti (2013) at 3.5 MHz revealed

the acoustic field in three dimensions in the low frequency range where the wavelength is comparable to the droplet size. Again, no clear structure was present. In these two studies, the knowledge of the acoustic field was not employed to proceed to the next step and compute the streaming forcing term.

At present, our understanding of the acoustic streaming in sessile droplets faces the three following issues: What is the acoustic field in the droplet ? Since we infer the field to be quite complicated, how does it generates some coherent flow pattern ? How to compute this flow while ensuring vorticity conservation ? In the continuity of Brunet *et al.* (2010), we tune the liquid viscosity to explore the gap between Shiokawa hypothesis of reflection-free droplets and actual droplet experiments. In section 2, we present an experimental study of acoustic streaming in droplets of different viscosities, and show a transition of flow pattern from four to two eddies for increasing viscosity. This contradiction with the inviscid viscosity appeals for an in-depth review of the acoustic streaming theoretical foundations, exposed in section 3. We single out the dominant inviscid term that does not contribute to vorticity creation and extract Lighthill's acoustic streaming driving force (Lighthill (1978)). We use this expression in section 4, where we detail a numerical algorithm to compute the acoustic field in the droplet, deduce the streaming forcing term and then reproduce the 3D flow pattern observed experimentally based on Large Eddy Simulation. Section 5 opens a discussion by comparing numerical and experimental results. We show that simple arguments of geometrical acoustics and sound attenuation can provide a qualitative prediction of the flow topology. Finally, we reduce the droplet outer streaming to a two-parameters non-dimensional problem and provide a correlation to extend our results to many fluids and actuation frequency. Provided the wavelength is much shorter than the droplet size, our approach (not restricted to plane waves) allows simulating droplet streaming at low SAW actuation frequency and then extrapolate the results to higher frequencies. This considerably alleviates memory requirements to simulate acoustic streaming.

2. Experiments

2.1. Experimental Setup

Surface acoustic waves were synthesized at the surface of a X-cut lithium niobate piezoelectric substrate in the Z-direction by interdigitated electrodes, with a spatial period of $175 \mu\text{m}$ corresponding to a resonant frequency of 19.9 MHz (the sound speed in this direction is 3484 ms^{-1} , see Campbell & Jones (1970)). In practice, the best actuation efficiency was obtained at 20.37 MHz which was used as the driving frequency for all experiments. A water-glycerol droplet of $12,5 \mu\text{L}$ was placed on the substrate initially treated with OTS Self Assembled Monolayer (SAM) to obtain hydrophobic wetting properties (see figure 1). The water-glycerol mixture was used to tune the shear and bulk viscosities with relatively weak variations of the other relevant driving parameters (physical data are shown in table 1). Beads of $10 \mu\text{m}$ latex particles (ThermoScientific) were dispersed in the droplet prior to experiments to visualize its inner-flow. We minimized the droplet evaporation by deporting the light source with an optical fiber, using the cold part of the optical spectrum and restraining the experiment duration below 2 minutes. The images were acquired via an Hamamatsu high resolution camera and quantitative velocity magnitude was measured using the PIV module of ImageJ. We restrained the power of the SAW to a few tens of picometers to minimize the droplet deformation, which are observed at much higher amplitude (Brunet *et al.* (2010); Schindler *et al.* (2006); Alghane *et al.* (2012); Baudoin *et al.* (2012)). The substrate vertical amplitude of vibration on

$w_{\text{glyc.}}$	$x_{\text{glyc.}}$	μ (mPa.s)	c_0 (m/s)	ρ_0 (kg/m ³)	$b = 4/3 + \xi/\mu$	θ_c (°)	$\Lambda = \frac{D\omega^2\nu b}{c^3}$	$Re_{ac} = \frac{\rho_0 c^2}{\omega \mu b}$
0.00	0.00	0.892	1510	1000	4.53	88	0.067	4490
0.10	0.02	1.15	1540	1020	4.45	87	0.077	3716
0.20	0.05	1.52	1580	1050	4.34	86	0.091	3162
0.30	0.08	2.12	1630	1070	4.22	85	8.7	2528
0.40	0.11	3.13	1680	1100	4.04	84	0.11	1953
0.50	0.16	5.00	1720	1130	3.75	83	0.20	1418
0.60	0.23	8.85	1780	1150	3.49	82	0.29	938
0.70	0.31	18.1	1830	1180	3.34	81	0.53	520
0.80	0.44	45.4	1880	1210	3.03	80	1.0	247
0.90	0.64	156	1910	1230	2.50	78	2.80	91

$$c_s = 3484 \text{ m/s}, \rho_s = 4650 \text{ kg/m}^3, 1.7 < \alpha D = 3.7 \times 10^{-9} \omega \rho_0 D < 2.3$$

TABLE 1. Physical properties of lithium niobate and water-glycerol mixtures at 25°C for different mass fraction w_{glyc} and thus volume fraction x_{glyc} of glycerol. Data for the viscosity μ of the water-glycerol mixture are extracted from Cheng (2008) paper, while the sound speed c_0 , the density ρ_0 , the bulk viscosity ξ (and thus the coefficient b) are extracted from Slie *et al.* (1966) paper. The sound speed c_s of Rayleigh waves in X-cut niobate lithium in the Z-direction is extracted from Campbell & Jones (1970) and the density ρ_s is a well known property. Finally Λ is a dimensionless parameter characterizing the transmission efficiency of the Rayleigh wave to the liquid.

the central finger of the IDT was calibrated for the range of actuation power used in the present experiments with a laser Doppler vibrometer (SH130, B.M. Industries).

Finally, the droplets inner flow was visualized from below (to avoid spurious diffraction by the drop surface) with a Hamamatsu high resolution camera mounted on an inverted microscope (Olympus LX71). The depth of field is estimated to be 16 μm for objects of the size of a pixel when using the 4 \times magnification objective with this inverted microscope, allowing the visualisation of a droplet cross-section. The vertical position of the cut was adjusted by eye as close as possible to half of the drop height, although this condition is achieved within a few percent accuracy. After turning on the SAW generator, we waited for the droplet flow pattern to reach a steady state. This duration varied widely with viscosity, from seconds for water droplets up to minute for the most viscous mixtures (as expected from theoretical analysis). Figure 2 reproduces a few examples of such views from below, obtained at increasing viscosities from (A) to (F). The particles trajectories are obtained by a simple superposition of successive images.

The velocity field in the representative cut was extracted from the pictures of the flow streams presented above by using particle image velocimetry (PIV) ImageJ plugin (see figure 3). The analysis was further refined by discarding the 5% less reliable velocity vectors †. We made sure that the system had reached steady state by waiting until the space-averaged magnitude of the velocity field did not vary by more than 10% between two different time intervals. *In fine*, each couple of images provides a flow map, and each plot in figure 3 is the average of three different flow maps obtained with the same droplet at steady state. Then the average velocity was quantified by averaging spatially the velocity field in the drop. The flow structure being inhomogeneous in space, this space-averaged flow velocity over one cross-section only gives an order of magnitude of the volume-averaged velocity. The resulting trend is presented in the discussion section together with numerical simulation (see fig. 12).

† The reliability criteria was the magnitude of the Laplacian of the velocity field.

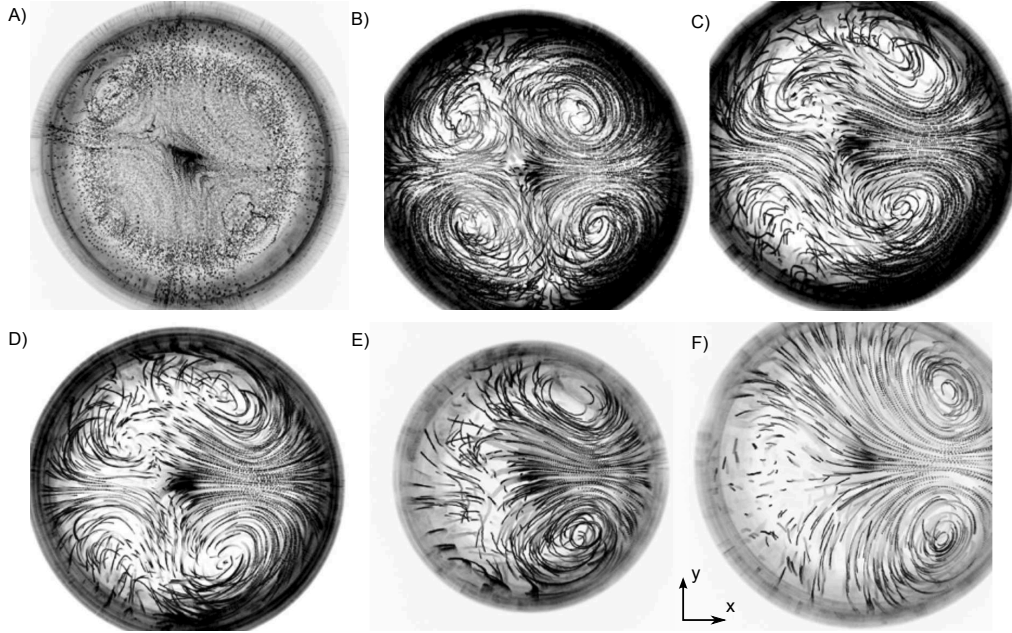


FIGURE 2. Flow visualization from below, at various glycerol concentration. The SAW propagates from left to right. $V_{droplet} = 12.5 \mu\text{l}$ and the magnitude of the acoustic perturbation velocity $u_0 \simeq 62 \mu\text{m}$. As the viscosity increases, one remarks the progressive transition from a four-vortex to a two-vortex flow structure. (A) Pure water (B) 30 w% glyc. (C) 40 w% glyc. (D) 60 w% glyc. (E) 80 w% glyc. (F) 90 w% glyc.

2.2. Results

These experimental results (see figure 2) show unambiguously that the streaming flow pattern in a droplet excited by SAWs depends on the fluid viscosity. Fluids of increasing viscosity lead to progressive loss of left/right symmetry (hence along the direction of propagation of the SAW). The situation at low viscosity (up to 30 w% glycerol - figure 2-(A) and (B)) shows 2 pairs of vortices, both at the rear and the front of the drop (with respect to the direction of wave propagation). As the viscosity increases beyond a few times that of water (figure 2-(C) and (D)) the front vortices start shrinking, while at even higher viscosity (above 80 w% glycerol, figure 2-(E) and (F)) the front vortices have completely disappeared. Counterintuitively, complex eddies are observed at the opposite side of the excitation at the highest viscosity (corresponding to very low Reynolds numbers) (figure 2 E-F).

Then PIV measurements (figure 3) show that larger viscosities (from 1.15 mPa.s to 156 mPa.s) are associated with a decreasing velocity magnitude (from 180 $\mu\text{m/s}$ to 10 $\mu\text{m/s}$). This is in contradiction with the widespread assumption of a viscosity-independent streaming velocity.

In order to unveil the underlying physics, we performed a systematic comparison between models, simulations and experiments of the flow pattern and average speed in the drop for different viscosities. In the next sections, we therefore describe the relevant associated theory, introduce a numerical method allowing the computation of the 3D streaming flow in the drop with dramatically reduced numerical cost and perform a comparison with experiments to achieve a comprehensive understanding of the whole process behind the acoustic streaming in sessile droplets.

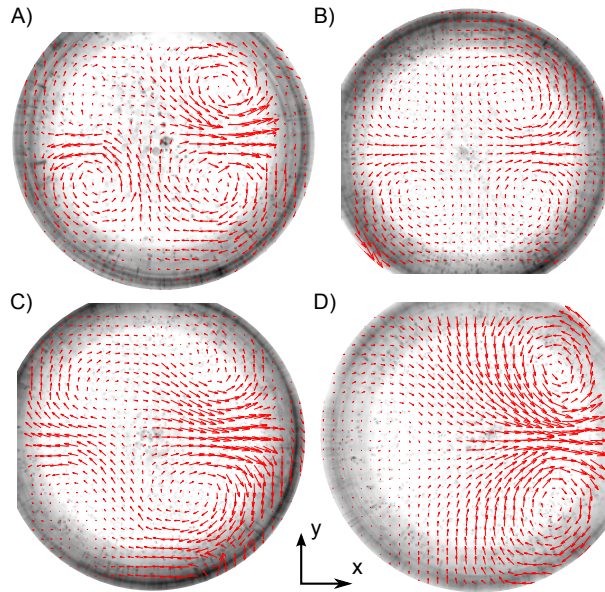


FIGURE 3. Experimental velocity field from below, at various viscosities. The SAWs propagate from left to right. $V_{droplet} = 12.5 \mu\text{l}$ and the magnitude of the acoustic perturbation velocity $u_0 \simeq 62 \mu\text{m/s}$. As the viscosity increases, one remarks the progressive transition from a four-vortex to a two-vortex flow structure. (A) 10 w% glycerol ($v_{max} \simeq 180 \mu\text{m/s}$) (B) 30 w% glycerol ($v_{max} \simeq 100 \mu\text{m/s}$) (C) 40 w% glycerol ($v_{max} \simeq 70 \mu\text{m/s}$) (D) 90 w% glycerol ($v_{max} \simeq 10 \mu\text{m/s}$). The arrow length is indicative of the velocity magnitude for each experiment.

3. Theory

In this section, we re-establish acoustic streaming constitutive equations. At first we introduce a relevant field decomposition into periodic fluctuations (corresponding to the acoustic wave) and time averaged terms (corresponding to the acoustic streaming). Then, we derive from Navier-Stokes compressible equations, a constitutive nonlinear equation for each of these contributions. In the latter appears a force under the form of a nonlinear combination of acoustic terms, which drives the acoustic streaming and the acoustic radiation pressure (Gusev & Rudenko (1979); Mitome (1998)). This driving force is recast in the last section as a convenient expression based on the sum of a conservative force plus a quantity proportional to the Poynting vector.

3.1. Field decomposition

As stated in the introduction, we can resolve each physical quantity f into three contributions: hydrostatics f_0 , acoustics \tilde{f}_1 and hydrodynamics \bar{f}_2 . They represent respectively the system at rest (without acoustic field), the oscillating part of the perturbation induced by sound waves and the time averaged part of the perturbation. In our experiments, acoustic and hydrodynamic Mach numbers are small. Moreover, solid displacements hardly exceed 0.5 nm, which restricts acoustic perturbation velocity magnitude below 10 mm/s and consequently streaming velocities below 1 mm/s. Accordingly, the fluid density ρ the pressure p and the Eulerian velocity v , can be expressed as follows:

$$\rho = \rho_0 + \tilde{\rho}_1 + \bar{\rho}_2, \quad (3.1)$$

$$p = p_0 + \tilde{p}_1 + \bar{p}_2, \quad (3.2)$$

$$v_i = \tilde{v}_{1,i} + \bar{v}_{2,i}. \quad (3.3)$$

with $\bar{f}_2 = \langle f - f_o \rangle$, $\langle \rangle$ the time average, $\tilde{f}_1 = f - f_o - \bar{f}_2$, $\langle \tilde{f}_1 \rangle = 0$, and $\bar{f}_2 \ll \tilde{f}_1 \ll f_o$. The low Mach numbers assumption gives $\tilde{v}_1, \tilde{v}_2 \ll c_o$, with c_o the sound speed in the fluid at hand. To simplify the notations, the indices 1 and 2 will be omitted in the following.

3.2. Fundamental Equations

The starting point of the derivation is the Navier-Stokes compressible isentropic equations. Such equations can be used to compute acoustic streaming in liquids since, in this case, thermal effects (wave thermal damping, fluid heating) can be neglected compared to their viscous counterpart (viscous damping, acoustic streaming). Indeed, thermal effects are proportional to $(\gamma - 1)$, with γ the adiabatic index and thus are very weak in liquids (see e.g. Coulouvrat (1992)).

In this case, the mass conservation equation for a fluid reads:

$$\partial_t \rho + \partial_i \rho v_i = 0, \quad (3.4)$$

and the momentum conservation equation:

$$\partial_t \rho v_i + \partial_j (\rho v_i v_j) = -\partial_i p + \mu \partial_{jj}^2 v_i + \left(\frac{\mu}{3} + \xi \right) \partial_{ij}^2 v_j. \quad (3.5)$$

In these equations, μ stands for the dynamic viscosity, ξ for the bulk viscosity, t for the time and the indices i and j follow Einstein summation convention. The second-order isotropic Taylor-expansion of the equation of state reads:

$$dp = c_o^2 d\rho + \frac{1}{2} \Gamma d\rho^2, \quad (3.6)$$

with $\Gamma = \left. \frac{\partial^2 p}{\partial \rho^2} \right|_s = \frac{B c_o^2}{A \rho_o}$. A and B are two nonlinear coefficients classically introduced in nonlinear acoustics.

3.3. Time averaged equations at second order: acoustic steady streaming

If we take the time average of the mass and momentum conservation equations (3.4) and (3.5) up to second order, and introduce the Poynting vector (also called intensity vector in the field of acoustics) $\Pi_i = \tilde{p} \tilde{v}_i$, we get:

$$\partial_t \bar{\rho} + \rho_o \partial_i \bar{v}_i + \frac{1}{c_o^2} \partial_i \langle \Pi_i \rangle = 0, \quad (3.7)$$

and :

$$\partial_t (\rho_o \bar{v}_i + 1/c_o^2 \langle \Pi_i \rangle) + \rho_o \partial_j (\tilde{v}_i \tilde{v}_j) = -\partial_i \bar{p} + \mu \partial_{jj}^2 \bar{v}_i + \left(\frac{\mu}{3} + \xi \right) \partial_{ij}^2 \bar{v}_j, \quad (3.8)$$

since $\Pi_i = c_o^2 \tilde{\rho} \tilde{v}_i$ at leading order.

These two equations can be simplified to some extent with weakly restrictive hypotheses. First, if we consider the acoustics streaming produced by bulk acoustic wave (away from boundaries), the third term of the mass conservation equation (3.7) is proportional at leading order to the bulk viscous dissipation of the wave energy, which remains weak in most media. This is quantified by the acoustical Reynolds number Re_{ac} which compares the viscous dissipation to inertia or equivalently the wave attenuation length $L_a = \rho c_o^3 / \omega^2 \mu \left(4/3 + \frac{\xi}{\mu} \right)$ to the wavelength λ :

$$Re_{ac} = \frac{L_a}{\lambda} = \frac{\rho_o c_o^2}{\omega \mu \left(4/3 + \frac{\xi}{\mu} \right)}$$

Except at very high frequency (> 1 GHz) or for extremely viscous fluids and high driving

frequencies, the acoustical Reynolds number is generally high ($Re_{ac} \gg 1$). The acoustical Reynolds number is estimated for the frequency and liquids used in the present experiments and simulations in table 1.

Moreover if we consider only steady streaming (stationary flow produced by acoustic waves), the time derivatives in equations (3.7) and (3.8) can be simplified. We obtain in this case:

$$\partial_i \bar{v}_i = 0 \quad (3.9)$$

which amounts to saying that the steady streaming flow is incompressible. Then the time average momentum conservation equation becomes:

$$-\partial_i \bar{p} + \mu \partial_{jj}^2 \bar{v}_i + F_i = 0 \quad (3.10)$$

with F_i the Reynolds stress imbalance of the sound wave:

$$F_i = -\langle \rho_0 \partial_j (\tilde{v}_i \tilde{v}_j) \rangle = -\rho_0 \langle \tilde{v}_j \partial_j \tilde{v}_i + \tilde{v}_i \partial_j \tilde{v}_j \rangle. \quad (3.11)$$

This equation is simply the Stokes steady equation driven by a forcing term F_i resulting from average nonlinear interactions of the acoustic field.

It is worth noting that the derivation of acoustic streaming constitutive equations follows a similar procedure as the one used for the derivation of the Reynolds averaged Navier-Stokes equation in the field of turbulence. It describes how some strong fluctuating nonlinear terms influence the steady flow (Vanneste & Bühler (2011); Bühler (2009)). Nevertheless, the fundamental differences between the derivation of the constitutive equations of acoustic streaming and turbulence are (i) that owing to the weak amplitude of the acoustic field, a perturbation analysis is possible, and (ii) that the source term in the average equations emanate in the former case from the first order compressible field, namely the acoustic wave.

3.4. Periodic fluctuations up to second order : nonlinear acoustics

The mass and momentum equations for the periodic fluctuations \tilde{f} up to second order can be obtained by subtracting the average equations (3.7) and (3.8) from the initial Navier-Stokes isentropic equations (3.4) and (3.5):

$$\partial_t \tilde{\rho} + \rho_0 \partial_i \tilde{v}_i = -\partial_i \ll \tilde{\rho} \tilde{v}_i \gg, \quad (3.12)$$

and:

$$\rho_0 \partial_t \tilde{v}_i + \partial_i \tilde{p} - \mu \partial_{jj}^2 \tilde{v}_i - \left(\frac{\mu}{3} + \xi \right) \partial_{ij}^2 \tilde{v}_j = -\partial_t \ll \tilde{\rho} \tilde{v}_i \gg - \rho_0 \partial_j \ll \tilde{v}_i \tilde{v}_j \gg, \quad (3.13)$$

with $\ll \tilde{f} \tilde{g} \gg = \tilde{f} \tilde{g} - \langle \tilde{f} \tilde{g} \rangle$.

The left hand side of equations (3.12) and (3.13), along with the equation of state (3.6) at first order, constitute the linear equations of damped acoustic waves. The right hand side of these equations correspond to nonlinear terms, which modify the propagation of acoustic waves through energy transfers to harmonic frequencies ($2\omega, 3\omega, \dots$).

If we assume (see previous section) that the acoustical Reynolds and Mach numbers are small, these equations become at leading order:

$$\partial_t \tilde{\rho} + \rho_0 \partial_i \tilde{v}_i = 0, \quad (3.14)$$

$$\rho_0 \partial_t \tilde{v}_i + \partial_i \tilde{p} = 0, \quad (3.15)$$

$$\text{with } \tilde{p} = c_o^2 \tilde{\rho}, \quad (3.16)$$

which amounts to discard all nonlinear and dissipative effect. From equation (3.15), we

can infer that the oscillating flow is potential at leading order ($\tilde{v}_i = -\partial_i(\tilde{\phi})$, with $\tilde{\phi}$ the velocity potential). A simple combination of equations (3.14) and (3.16): [$c_o^2 \partial_i(3.14) - \partial_t(3.15)$] with (3.16) yields the celebrated d'Alembert equation:

$$\partial_{tt}^2 \tilde{\phi} - c_o^2 \partial_{ii}^2 \tilde{\phi} = 0 \quad (3.17)$$

with $\tilde{p} = \rho_o \partial_t \tilde{\phi}$ and $\tilde{\rho} = \rho_o / c_o^2 \partial_t \tilde{\phi}$.

Now, if we do the same combination of equations (3.12), (3.13) and (3.6) but up to next order in M and $1/Re_{ac}$, we obtain (see e.g. Coulouvrat (1992) for a detailed demonstration with asymptotic analysis):

$$\partial_{tt}^2 \tilde{\phi} - c_o^2 \partial_{ii}^2 \tilde{\phi} - \frac{\mu b}{\rho_o} \partial_t \partial_{jj}^2 \tilde{\phi} = \partial_t \left(\frac{B}{2Ac_o^2} \ll (\partial_t \tilde{\phi})^2 \gg + \ll (\partial_i \tilde{\phi})^2 \gg \right) \quad (3.18)$$

with $b = \frac{4}{3} + \frac{\xi}{\mu}$. Finally in the paraxial approximation (weak diffraction of the beam), we have $(\partial_i \tilde{\phi})^2 = \frac{1}{c_o^2} (\partial_t \tilde{\phi})^2$, leading to the Kuznetsov equation (Kuznetsov (1970)):

$$\partial_{tt}^2 \tilde{\phi} - c_o^2 \partial_{ii}^2 \tilde{\phi} - \frac{\mu b}{\rho_o} \partial_t \partial_{jj}^2 \tilde{\phi} = \frac{\beta}{c_o^2} \partial_t \ll (\partial_t \tilde{\phi})^2 \gg \quad (3.19)$$

with $\beta = 1 + \frac{B}{2A}$ the so-called nonlinear parameter. This equation allows to compute the damped nonlinear propagation of acoustic waves.

The question then arises as to whether the nonlinear propagation of the acoustic wave must be considered to compute the acoustic streaming sources in equation (3.10)? An elementary analysis solely based on the order of the nonlinear terms might lead to the misleading premature conclusion that since acoustic nonlinear terms are of second order, their quadratic combination is of fourth order and thus can be safely neglected when computing the acoustic streaming. In fact these nonlinear terms are weak but nevertheless cumulative. So they can play a significant role over a distance called the "shock distance" $L_s = \frac{c_o^2}{\omega \beta U_{ac}}$, which depends on the acoustic perturbation velocity magnitude U_{ac} . To answer correctly to this question, it must thus be remembered that acoustic streaming is a consequence of the attenuation of the acoustic wave. This attenuation is proportional to the square of the acoustic wave frequency ω^2 . Since nonlinear terms in equation (3.19) induce energy transfers from the driving frequency to higher harmonics, they promote the dissipation and thus the acoustic streaming. In an unbounded medium, the streaming enhancement by harmonics generation can be quantified by the ratio of the wave attenuation length $L_a = \frac{\rho_o c_o^3}{\omega^2 \mu b}$ to the shock distance L_s :

$$\frac{L_a}{L_s} = \frac{\rho_o c_o \beta U_{ac}}{\omega \mu b}$$

Nonlinear terms in equation (3.19) can thus be neglected when $L_a/L_s \ll 1$. In the present experiments since $U_{ac} < 10 \text{ mm s}^{-1}$, the maximum value of this ratio is 10^{-1} for water and goes down to 10^{-3} for water-glycerol mixtures. Moreover, in cavities with water/air interfaces such as drops, the shock distance must also be compared to the size of the cavity L_c . Indeed, nonlinear effects are only significant when they are cumulative. Since it was shown by Tanter *et al.* (2001) that each wave reflection at an air-water interface result in the deconstruction of nonlinear effects, these latter can only be significant if the characteristic size of the cavity L_c is larger than the shock distance. Here $L_c \sim 1 \text{ mm}$ while $L_s \sim 1 \text{ m}$. As a consequence nonlinear terms can be safely discarded in equation (3.19) for the analysis and simulation of the present experiments, leading to the equation

of damped acoustic waves:

$$\partial_{tt}^2 \tilde{\phi} - c_o^2 \partial_{ii}^2 \tilde{\phi} - \frac{\mu b}{\rho_o} \partial_t \partial_{jj}^2 \tilde{\phi} = 0 \quad (3.20)$$

3.5. Streaming source term: the hydrodynamic Reynolds stress tensor

In this section we will analyse the different contributions of the streaming source (3.11) and discard all the terms that do not actually produce acoustic streaming. This simplification is essential since the magnitude of the neglected terms is much larger than the one of the relevant terms and can lead to spurious significant numerical error when calculating the flow produced by the acoustic wave.

Since the wave perturbation is irrotational, the first term of the force in equation (3.11) is easily integrated and recognized as the kinetic energy $\mathcal{K} = \frac{1}{2} \rho_0 \tilde{v}^2$:

$$\rho_0 \langle \tilde{v}_j \partial_j \tilde{v}_i \rangle = \partial_i \langle \mathcal{K} \rangle. \quad (3.21)$$

The second term is computed from the mass conservation equation (3.12) at leading order:

$$\langle \rho_0 \tilde{v}_i \partial_j \tilde{v}_j \rangle = - \langle \tilde{v}_i \partial_t \tilde{\rho} \rangle = \langle \tilde{\rho} \partial_t \tilde{v}_i \rangle, \quad (3.22)$$

where we used integration by part to move from the second expression to the third one. Then, if we use the classic vector identity $\nabla \nabla \cdot \tilde{\mathbf{u}} = \nabla^2 \tilde{\mathbf{u}} + \nabla \times \nabla \times \tilde{\mathbf{u}}$, the wave momentum equation (3.13) yields:

$$\langle \rho_0 \tilde{v}_i \partial_j \tilde{v}_j \rangle = - \left\langle \frac{\tilde{\rho}}{\rho_0} \partial_i \tilde{p} \right\rangle + \left\langle \frac{\tilde{\rho}}{\rho_0} \left(\frac{4}{3} \mu + \xi \right) \partial_{jj}^2 \tilde{v}_i \right\rangle. \quad (3.23)$$

Finally the equation of state (3.6) yields: $\langle \frac{\tilde{p}}{\rho_0} \partial_i \tilde{p} \rangle = \langle \frac{c^2}{2\rho_0} \partial_i \tilde{p}^2 \rangle$. Consequently, this term is the gradient of the potential energy of the wave in a linear medium:

$$\left\langle \frac{\tilde{p}}{\rho_0} \partial_i \tilde{p} \right\rangle = \partial_i \langle \mathcal{V} \rangle. \quad (3.24)$$

If we combine equations (3.21), (3.23) and (3.24), we obtain the following expression of the force \mathcal{F}_i (see e.g. Gusev & Rudenko (1979)):

$$\mathcal{F}_i = -\partial_i \langle \mathcal{L} \rangle - \left\langle \frac{\tilde{p}}{\rho_0} \left(\frac{4}{3} \mu + \xi \right) \partial_{jj}^2 \tilde{v}_i \right\rangle, \quad (3.25)$$

with the acoustic Lagrangian $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{K} - \mathcal{V}$. We can work out a more practical equation by substituting the linear lossless wave equation in the viscous term, and assuming an harmonic wave motion:

$$\mathcal{F}_i = -\partial_i \langle \mathcal{L} \rangle + \frac{\omega^2 \nu b}{c^4} \langle \Pi_i \rangle, \quad (3.26)$$

with $\nu = \mu/\rho_0$ and $b = 4/3 + \xi/\mu$. The first term is potential and independent of the bulk and shear viscosities, and thus the wave attenuation. Since acoustic streaming relies on the pseudo-momentum transfer from the wave mode (irrotational, compressible) to the viscous mode (solenoidal), through the wave attenuation, this term does not contribute to the steady flow. It is thus simply balanced by an hydrostatic pressure gradient. It can be easily seen if we recast equation (3.10) under the form:

$$-\partial_i \bar{p}^* + \mu \partial_{jj}^2 \bar{v}_i + \mathcal{F}_i^* = 0 \quad (3.27)$$

with $\bar{p}^* = \bar{p} + \langle \mathcal{L} \rangle$ and $\mathcal{F}_i^* = \frac{\omega^2 \nu b}{c^4} \langle \Pi_i \rangle$. The second term of equation (3.26), related to the wave dissipation has a much smaller magnitude than its counterpart. Nevertheless,

it is not potential and hence the source term of acoustic outer streaming as emphasized in Lighthill (1978) and Eckart (1948) reports.

3.6. Final simplified system of equations

In this section, we derived the constitutive equations of acoustic streaming and optimized the expressions for the simulation of the experimentally observed acoustic streaming in droplets:

$$\text{Acoustic wave: } \partial_{tt}^2 \tilde{\phi} - c_o^2 \partial_{ii}^2 \tilde{\phi} - \frac{\mu b}{\rho_o} \partial_t \partial_{jj}^2 \tilde{\phi} = 0 \quad (3.28)$$

$$\text{Streaming Stokes flow: } \begin{cases} \partial_i \bar{v}_i = 0 \\ -\partial_i \bar{p}^* + \mu \partial_{jj}^2 \bar{v}_i + \mathcal{F}_i^* = 0 \end{cases} \quad (3.29)$$

$$\text{Acoustic streaming source term: } \mathcal{F}_i^* = \frac{\omega^2 \nu b}{c^4} \langle \Pi_i \rangle. \quad (3.30)$$

We also highlighted some similitudes between the derivation of the constitutive equations of acoustic streaming and turbulence. Indeed, acoustic streaming arises from the imbalance of Reynolds stress like turbulence, but acoustics allows an exact computation of the forcing term. This analogy will be used in the next section to develop the equivalent of the Large Eddy Simulation numerical method in the field of acoustic that will be referred in the following as the Streaming Sources Spatial Filtering (SSSF) method.

4. Numerical model

As stated in the experimental section, when a highly viscous droplet is exposed to megahertz surface acoustic wave excitation, the hydrodynamic flow may take up to tens of seconds to reach steady state. This colossal difference of time scales between acoustics and hydrodynamics prevents any attempt to compute dynamically the acoustic streaming in complex 3D geometries. Instead, we first simulate the acoustic field and then the hydrodynamic flow, as shown in figure 4. The computation is not as straightforward as we might expect at first sight. Indeed, the large discrepancy between the droplet size and the acoustic wavelength is a major complication factor. The acoustic problem is solved in cylindrical geometry to minimize memory usage, the incident field being resolved as a sum of cylindrical functions by Fourier transform. Then, the hydrodynamic flow is computed with a simplified forcing term reminiscent of the Large Eddy Simulation (LES) which mimics the effect of viscosity to minimize complex momentum source terms.

4.1. Computation of the acoustic field

The acoustic field is computed in the frequency domain. In this case, equation (3.28) becomes:

$$\partial_{ii}^2 \tilde{\phi} + k^2 \tilde{\phi} = 0 \quad (4.1)$$

with:

$$k^2 = \frac{k_0^2}{1 + i/Re_{ac}}. \quad (4.2)$$

Here, $k_0 = \omega/c_o$ is the wavenumber of the unattenuated wave and Re_{ac} is the acoustical Reynolds number ($Re_{ac} \gg 1$).

The large discrepancy between the droplet size and the acoustic wavelength yields very large and intensive simulations. For instance, direct 3D simulation of the acoustic field on a 32 GB RAM computer with the finite element method only allows to simulate

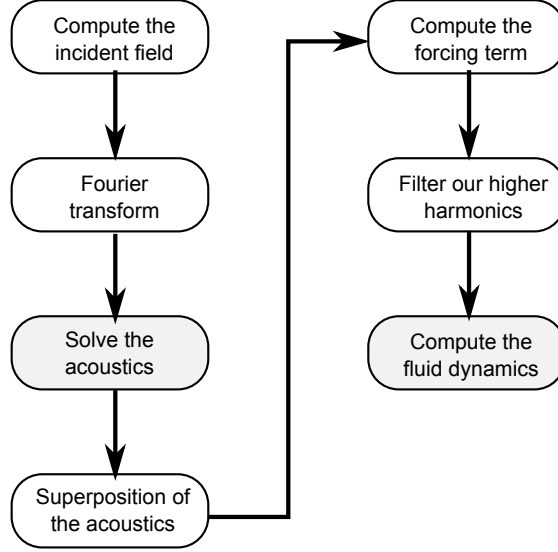


FIGURE 4. Computational method flowchart. White steps were performed with Matlab and grey steps with Comsol.

2 mm diameter droplets up to 8 MHz. As shown in figure 15 in the appendix, RAM requirements sharply increase with increasing frequency, and extrapolation to 20 MHz culminates at 1.0 TB preventing any direct computation of the acoustic field.

To minimize memory requirements, we took advantage of the droplet rotational symmetry to reduce the problem to dimension 2. The protocol described in the following uses Fourier transform to resolve the incident field as a sum of circular harmonics, solve each of them separately and then reconstruct the field thanks to the superposition principle. In this way, the complete problem is decomposed into sub-problems with low memory requirements which can be computed in parallel. This method thus ensures an optimal matching to the capacity of the computer (number of cores, memory).

4.1.1. Method: Spatial Fourier Transform

Working in cylindrical coordinates, Fourier transform allows resolving any function into a convenient weighted sum of complex exponentials:

$$f(r, \theta) = \sum_{l=-\infty}^{+\infty} f_l(r) e^{il\theta}, \quad (4.3)$$

with

$$f_l(r) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{+\pi} f(r, \theta) e^{-il\theta} d\theta. \quad (4.4)$$

Here, the only non-axisymmetric boundary condition is the normal displacement \tilde{u} of the substrate due to the incident SAW. It is projected into Fourier harmonics:

$$\tilde{u}_l(r) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{+\pi} \tilde{u}(r, \theta) e^{-il\theta} d\theta. \quad (4.5)$$

In practice, the value of l can be restricted. Indeed, $l_{\max} \simeq \pi D / \lambda_s$ corresponds to the maximum number of wavelength λ_s the input wave can travel along the perimeter of the droplet, where D is the droplet diameter. We computed this integral for $l \in \{0..2l_{\max}\}$

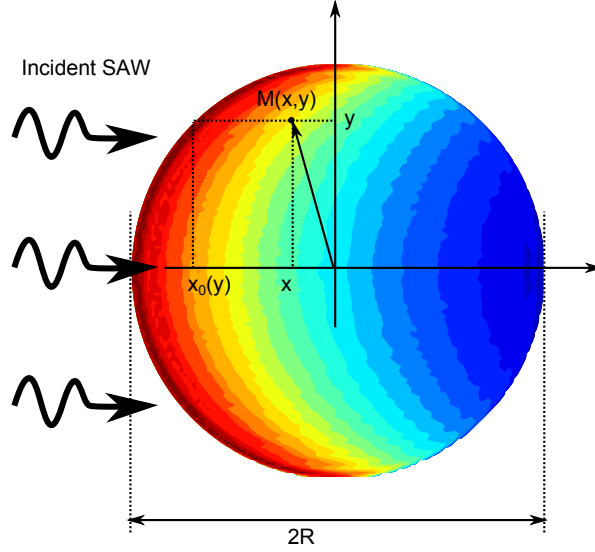


FIGURE 5. Model of the incident leaky SAW. Color are indicative of the SAW magnitude. At 20 MHz and for a $12.5 \mu\text{L}$ water droplet ($2R = 2.90 \text{ mm}$), the incident SAW vertical displacement \tilde{u} drops by 90% as it propagates beneath the droplet.

The value of \tilde{u} depends on the incident wave. Neglecting diffraction, the SAW magnitude decreases exponentially as soon as it meets the droplet interface at a given point x_0 . The attenuation rate α is provided for instance by Campbell & Jones (1970). For a given point $M(x, y)$, the propagation length beneath the droplet is given by $x - x_0(y)$ (see figure 5). The vertical displacement field \tilde{u} at the droplet base is then given by Shiokawa *et al.* (1990):

$$\tilde{u} = u_0 \exp(-ik_s x) \exp(-\alpha(x - x_0(y))) \quad (4.6)$$

$$x_0(y) = -\sqrt{R^2 - y^2} \quad (4.7)$$

$$\alpha = \alpha_0 \ln(10) F / 20, \quad (4.8)$$

where F is the SAW frequency in Hz and $\alpha_0 \simeq 2.0 \cdot 10^{-7} \times \rho_0$ and u_0 is the magnitude of the acoustic perturbation velocity

We then solve all variables in the form: $\tilde{p}(r, \theta, z) = \tilde{p}_l(r, z)e^{i\theta}$, $\tilde{v}_j(r, \theta, z) = \tilde{v}_{j,l}(r, z)e^{i\theta}$ with j either r, θ, z . Equation (4.1) becomes:

$$k^2 \tilde{p} = -\frac{1}{r} \partial_r (r \partial_r \tilde{p}) - \frac{1}{r^2} \partial_{\theta\theta}^2 \tilde{p} - \partial_{zz}^2 \tilde{p}, \quad (4.9)$$

which can be re-casted using the axisymmetric variables:

$$\left(k^2 - \frac{l^2}{r^2}\right) \tilde{p}_l = -\partial_{rr}^2 \tilde{p}_l - \partial_{zz}^2 \tilde{p}_l - \frac{1}{r} \partial_r \tilde{p}_l. \quad (4.10)$$

This equation is solved with a finite element method by the commercial solver COMSOL 4.3b. †. The boundary condition at the liquid air interface reads:

$$\tilde{p}_l = 0. \quad (4.11)$$

† The default PDE interface for axisymmetric systems does not include the last right hand term of equation (4.10)

At the solid liquid interface, we enforce an impedance boundary condition with source term:

$$\partial_z \tilde{p}_l = \rho_0 \omega^2 \tilde{u}_l - i \frac{\omega \rho_0}{Z_s} \tilde{p}_l, \quad (4.12)$$

where $Z_s = \rho_s c_s$ is the acoustic impedance of the solid. The solution \tilde{p} can then be reconstructed thanks to the linearity of the equations:

$$\tilde{p}(r, \theta, z) = \sum_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \tilde{p}_l e^{il\theta}. \quad (4.13)$$

The velocity field can be reconstructed in a similar fashion:

$$\tilde{v}_r(r, \theta, z) = \frac{1}{\rho_0 i \omega} \partial_r \tilde{p} = \sum_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \tilde{v}_{r,l} e^{il\theta}, \quad (4.14)$$

$$\tilde{v}_\theta(r, \theta, z) = \frac{1}{\rho_0 i r \omega} \partial_\theta \tilde{p} = \sum_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \tilde{v}_{\theta,l} e^{il\theta}, \quad (4.15)$$

$$\tilde{v}_z(r, \theta, z) = \frac{1}{\rho_0 i \omega} \partial_z \tilde{p} = \sum_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \tilde{v}_{z,l} e^{il\theta}, \quad (4.16)$$

with:

$$\tilde{v}_{r,l} = \frac{1}{\rho_0 i \omega} \partial_r \tilde{p}_l, \quad (4.17)$$

$$\tilde{v}_{\theta,l} = \frac{l}{\rho_0 \omega} \tilde{p}_l, \quad (4.18)$$

$$\tilde{v}_{z,l} = \frac{1}{\rho_0 i \omega} \partial_z \tilde{p}_l. \quad (4.19)$$

If the incident field is symmetric along the x-axis, we have:

$$f(r, \theta, z) = f_0 + 2 \sum_1^{+\infty} f_l \cos(l\theta), \quad (4.20)$$

where f stands for either \tilde{p} , \tilde{v}_r or \tilde{v}_z . $\tilde{v}_{\theta,l}$ is odd due to the factor l :

$$\tilde{v}_\theta(r, \theta, z) = 2i \sum_1^{+\infty} \tilde{v}_{\theta,l} \sin(l\theta) \quad (4.21)$$

Thus, the acoustic field calculation can be summed up as follows: we start by computing the incident wave using equation (4.6-4.8), then its Fourier transform as given by equation (4.5). We combine these data and boundary conditions (4.11, 4.12) with the wave equation (4.10) to obtain the acoustic field for each individual harmonic. Finally, the total field is reconstructed using equations (4.20, 4.21). The algorithms ensuring the azimuthal Fourier transform were checked carefully by comparing the acoustic field in droplets exposed to 6 MHz as computed by a direct finite element model and by the Fourier method (figures available in supplemental material).

4.1.2. Resulting acoustical field in the droplet

To the best of our knowledge, the current computation of the acoustic field in a 3D sessile droplet involves frequencies an order of magnitude above the only other work

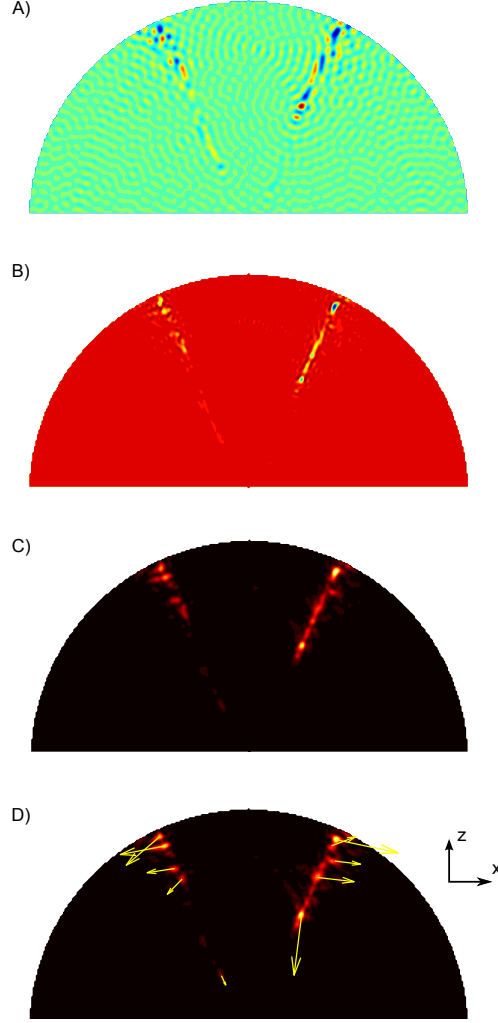


FIGURE 6. Meridian cross-section of the acoustic field in a water droplet excited by a 20 MHz acoustic field. A) Acoustic pressure \tilde{p} . $\tilde{p}_{max} = 40$ kPa B) Average Lagrangian density $\langle \mathcal{L} \rangle$. $-0.27 \text{ J} < \langle \mathcal{L} \rangle < 0.020 \text{ J}$. C) Average energy density $\langle \mathcal{E} \rangle = \langle \mathcal{K} + \mathcal{V} \rangle$. $\langle \mathcal{E} \rangle_{max} = 0.31 \text{ J}$. D) Poynting vector. $\|\langle \mathbf{II} \rangle\|_{max} = 300 \text{ W/m}^2$. Droplet volume is $12.5 \mu\text{L}$, base diameter is 3.7 mm . The incident wave comes from the left.

published so far by Quintero & Simonetti (2013). As a result, it is significantly different and we will dedicate a few lines to detail the key features of this field.

In figure 6, we show the acoustic field in a sessile water droplet excited by a 20 MHz SAW. The acoustic pressure (6.A) appears with two caustics superimposed on a quasi-random background field. The incident wave is overwhelmed by the numerous reflections on the droplet surface. The two caustics are much more pronounced than what is found in the two-dimensional analog Brunet *et al.* (2010), probably due to the increased ray convergence in 3D. The Lagrangian of the acoustic field (6.B) is mostly focused along the two caustics. It is the gradient of this quantity that models based on Nyborg's force in the continuity of Shioikawa used as the driving force of acoustic streaming. Since its expression derives from a gradient, it is similar to a potential energy and we infer some internal circulation will happen until the hydrostatic pressure balances this Lagrangian.

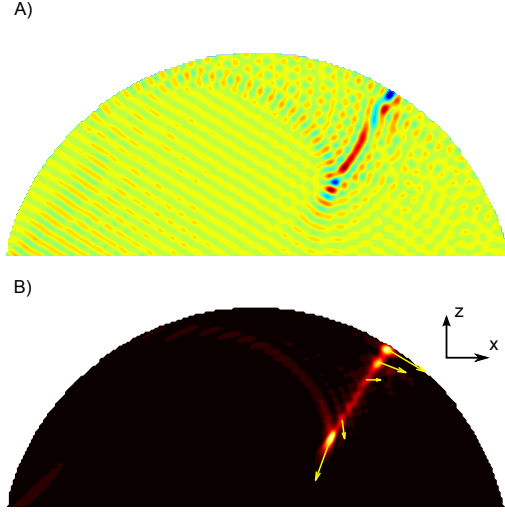


FIGURE 7. Meridian cross-section of the acoustic field in a 90 $w\%$ glycerol droplet excited by a 20 MHz acoustic field. A) Acoustic pressure $\tilde{p}_{max} = 16.5$ kPa. B) Poynting vector. $\|\langle \mathbf{\Pi} \rangle\|_{max} = 25$ W/m² Droplet volume is 12.5 μL , base diameter is 4.0 mm. The incident wave comes from the left.

The energy of the acoustic field (6.C) clearly shows the predominance of the caustics. The angle of this concentration of energy matches the Rayleigh refraction angle, and the symmetry shows the stability of this particular acoustic ray. Importantly, the energy 3D distribution is concentrated in the meridian plane up to the diffraction limit. Finally, the Poynting vector (6.D) is similar to the energy density and the Lagrangian, except that it is almost divergenceless in weakly attenuating media, and it gives some directions for the flow forcing that are consistent with the experiment.

In figure 7, we display the radiation patterns obtained in 90 $w\%$ glycerol droplets. At higher viscosity, the pressure field becomes less symmetrical. Indeed, the incident wave is attenuated faster and hence undergoes less reflections at the droplet surface. The Rayleigh radiation angle appears more clearly at higher dissipation, and the wave pattern loses symmetry. Remarkably, the Poynting vector becomes completely asymmetrical and forces the flow on a single side of the droplet. We will detail the consequences of this change on the resulting flow pattern in the next section.

Since the caustics play a major role in driving the droplet internal flow, we traced back their origin in figure 8. We distinguish between a primary focus (8.A) formed by the direct reflection of incident beams on the concave droplet interface and a secondary one (8.B) formed by third degree reflections on the droplet interface. For some reason, secondary reflections do not form focal points. The first focus shows a strong asymmetry along the z direction while the second focus is not symmetrical along the x direction. Since the arrows represent rays, which are related to the Poynting vector, and since the Poynting vector is the forcing term of acoustic streaming, the asymmetry indicates some net momentum influx.

4.2. Computation of the resulting flow

4.2.1. Direct numerical simulation (DNS)

The flow is computed with equations (3.29) and (3.30). These equations are combined with the no-slip boundary conditions at the solid-liquid interface and shear-free boundary condition at the air-liquid interface to perform the direct numerical simulation (DNS)

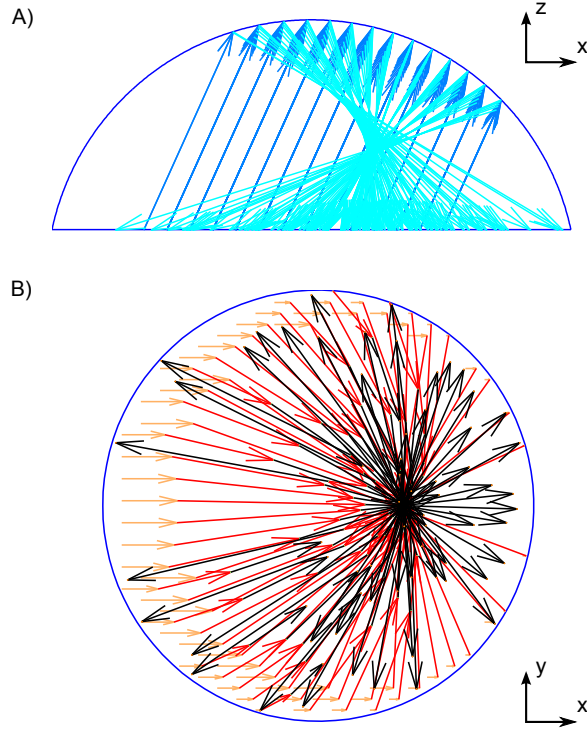


FIGURE 8. Geometrical acoustics interpretation of the caustics. A) Side view of the primary focus formed by the direct reflection of the incident beam. B) Top view of the secondary focus formed by 3rd degree reflections on the droplet interface and showing a significant momentum imbalance.

of droplet acoustic streaming. DNS is a simulation from first principles and easy to implement.

The major shortcoming of DNS is the extensive use of memory. Indeed, the Poynting vector is a second-order quantity and has a typical variation length-scale of $\lambda/2$. Consequently, DNS becomes computationally prohibitive for frequencies above 6 MHz. In the appendix, we report the memory required to simulate droplets exposed to SAW radiations with frequencies up to 8 MHz. Extrapolation to 20 MHz indicates that up to 580 GB of RAM would be necessary to perform the DNS simulation of our experiments.

4.2.2. Streaming Source Spatial Filtering (SSSF)

In the world of turbulence, the drastic difference of length-scale between the main flow patterns and the smallest eddies resulting from the break up of large flow structure is a major issue. A well-established method called Large Eddy Simulation (LES) allows computation of turbulence on relatively rough grids that account for Sub-Grid Scale (SGS) dynamics through an SGS model (see e.g. Deardorff (1970); Pope (2004); Bou-Zeid (2015)). The case of acoustic streaming appears as a reverse situation wherein a large scale flow (the acoustic streaming) emerge from small scale fluctuations (the acoustic wave). The Streaming Source Spatial Filtering (SSSF) method presented in this section relies on the fact that the small scales variations of the streaming source term \mathcal{F}^* do not contribute to the flow since they are filtered by the fluid viscosity. Indeed, the acoustic streaming under investigation is slow and laminar, yielding a linear equation

with a momentum source term. It is then interesting to consider the velocity field in the reciprocal space in terms of spatial harmonics. We can match each wavenumber of the velocity field with a (possibly null) forcing term in order to solve each equation independently. It is then straightforward to notice that higher wavenumbers are filtered out by the Laplacian operator of the viscosity (decrease in $1/k^2$). In this regard, this SSSF model differs significantly from LES: in the former, smaller scales are *sources* of momentum, and dissipation happens at larger scales, whereas in the latter smaller scales acts a momentum *sinks* because large-scale flows dissipate little energy.

Such filtering enables to use grid cell sizes for the flow computation larger than the acoustic wavelength and thus considerably reduce the computational requirements for the resolution of the flow problem. It is important to note that since we work in the small Reynolds number regime, the characteristic length scale of the flow is entirely dictated by the streaming source term and the boundary conditions (no additional scale emerge from the flow itself like in the case of turbulent flows). The filtered source term $\underline{\mathcal{F}}^*$ is obtained in the real space from the convolution product with the filtering function $\mathcal{H}(x, y, z)$:

$$\underline{\mathcal{F}}^* = f * \mathcal{H}, \quad (4.22)$$

where the filtering function $\mathcal{H}(x, y, z)$ is defined from the filter transfer function $H(k_x, k_y, k_z)$ according to the formula:

$$\mathcal{H}(x, y, z) = \int_{\mathcal{S}} H(k_x, k_y, k_z) e^{ik_x x + ik_y y + ik_z z} d\mathcal{S}, \quad (4.23)$$

with \mathcal{S} the reciprocal space, $H(k_x, k_y, k_z) = 1$ when $k_x^2 + k_y^2 + k_z^2 < k_c^2$ and zero otherwise, and k_c is the critical wavenumber of the filtered flow structures. We choose the critical wavenumber k_c as half the acoustical wavenumber in the fluid at working frequency. Indeed, the acoustic forcing term is the product of two acoustic quantities, which halves the spatial period. The exact choice of $k_c = k/2$ is somewhat arbitrary provided k_c is below $2k$ and larger than $2\pi/L$, where L is the typical scale of the feature to be observed. An investigation on the impact of this parameter on spatial convergence is under progress.

So the equations solved with the SSSF method are simply:

$$\partial_i \bar{v}_i = 0, \quad (4.24)$$

$$-\partial_i \bar{p}^* + \mu \partial_{jj}^2 \bar{v}_i + \underline{\mathcal{F}}_i^* = 0. \quad (4.25)$$

In the next section, we will show that the flow patterns computed from the DNS and the SSSF method agree qualitatively and quantitatively. Hence, in the remaining part of the paper all the simulations at 20 MHz will be performed with the SSSF method to overcome hardware limitations.

4.3. Results

The results of the simulation are exposed from the most technical aspects to the most physical ones. First we compare the flow pattern as given by the Direct Numerical Simulations and the Large Eddies Simulations, and then we show the physical results relevant to the experimental study. This section is supplemented by appendix A where we expose the memory requirements of direct methods versus the numerical recipes introduced previously.

4.3.1. Comparison of DNS and SSSF

For an unclear reason, the SSSF convergence is slow but gives qualitatively correct results even for very coarse grids. In this section, we provide some insights on how and

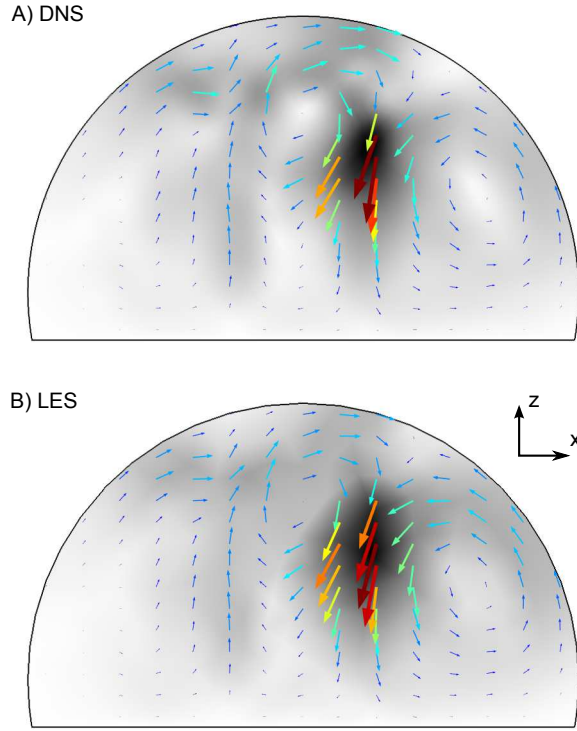


FIGURE 9. Meridian cross-section of the hydrodynamic flow pattern in a water droplet excited by a 6 MHz acoustic field. A) Direct Numerical Simulation (DNS) B) Simulation with the SSSF method. The velocity magnitude is indicated in grayscale, darker grays represent larger velocities. Droplet contact angle θ_c is 100° , and its base radius is 0.98 mm ($\alpha D = 0.27$, $\Lambda = 0.004$). The incident wave comes from the left.

how fast the SSSF converges. First, we compare the results of a 2 mm diameter water sessile droplet exposed to 6 MHz SAW radiations with an amplitude of 10 nm.

In figure 9, we display the flow field computed by DNS and SSSF in the meridian plane of the droplet. The flow patterns are highly similar, despite the large difference of memory consumption (2 GB for the SSSF, 10 GB for the DNS). Nevertheless, the average velocity magnitude in the DNS is 2.86 mm/s whereas for the SSSF it is 1.92 mm/s, about 33% lower. This is symptomatic of the slow convergence of the SSSF, shown in figure 10. The error, defined as the difference between converged DNS **Converge jusqu a quelle precision ???** computation and SSSF is plotted for various grid refinements. This graph shows that SSSF method provides a way to get good qualitative pictures of the flow with little memory requirements but that nevertheless the gain of memory is weak if high precision is required. This limitation is mitigated by the uncertainties related to practical experiments. Indeed, the SAW amplitude is not evenly distributed in space due to near field diffraction that always occurs for limited-aperture interdigitated transducers. These uncertainties of the incident field are magnified by the streaming phenomenon that depends quadratically on the acoustic field.

4.3.2. Comparison with experiments

In the previous sections, we have developed and characterized a numerical algorithm to compute the acoustic streaming in large cavities compared to the wavelength. We now

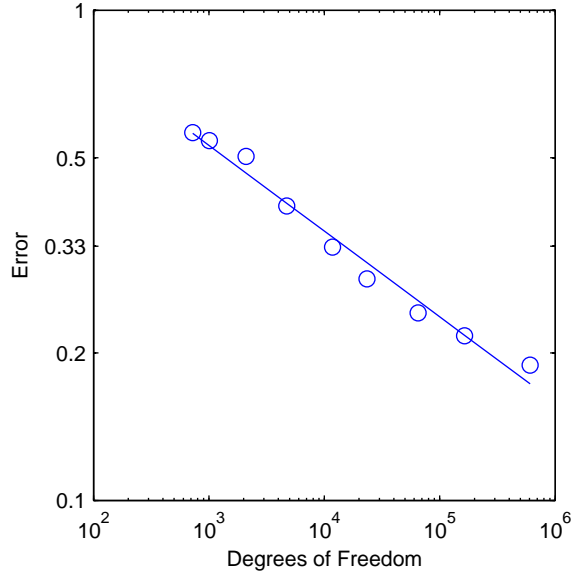


FIGURE 10. SSSF convergence versus degrees of freedom (DOF). 100,000 DOF need about 3 GB of RAM. $\text{Error} = \frac{\langle U_{DNS} \rangle - \langle U_{SSSF} \rangle}{\langle U_{DNS} \rangle}$. The best fit is $\text{Error} \propto \text{DOF}^{-0.175}$.

apply it to sessile droplets of various viscosities exposed to 20 MHz SAW radiations and compare it to experiments presented in section 2. Results are shown in figure 11.

Similarly to figure 2, the droplet flow pattern progressively switches from four eddies to two eddies. The agreement is not only qualitative but also quantitative as shown in figure 12 where we plot the average flow speed in the droplet versus the liquid viscosity. In this curve, the adjustable parameter was the solid displacement magnitude. Linear regression gives 44 pm which compares well to the 62 pm measured with a Doppler-shift interferometer (SH130, B.M. Industries). In order to segregate viscosity as the dominant factor for the change of velocity, we compare the experiment to two scenarios. In the first one, the numerical model mimics water-glycerol systems (table 1) whereas the second one keeps the physical properties of water (contact-angle, density, sound speed) except the viscosity which is set similar to water-glycerol system, yielding to an idealized experiment where only the viscosity varies. The excellent agreement between the experiment and the realistic simulation supports our numerical model. More importantly, the good agreement between the idealized model and the experiments evidence unambiguously the strong dependence of outer acoustic streaming on the fluid viscosity.

5. Discussion

In the previous sections, we have presented the outer streaming as the motile force of the flow observed in sessile droplets exposed to SAW radiations. We have developed a numerical model based on first principles to compute the acoustic streaming in three dimensions, and the results agree remarkably well with experimental data. In both cases, the flow pattern in the droplet shows a gradual transition from four to two eddies which has not been reported nor explained so far in the literature. In this section, we discuss these results based on our numerical model. Indeed, it unveils the acoustic field which generates the forcing term of the flow. This allows a qualitative and quantitative analysis

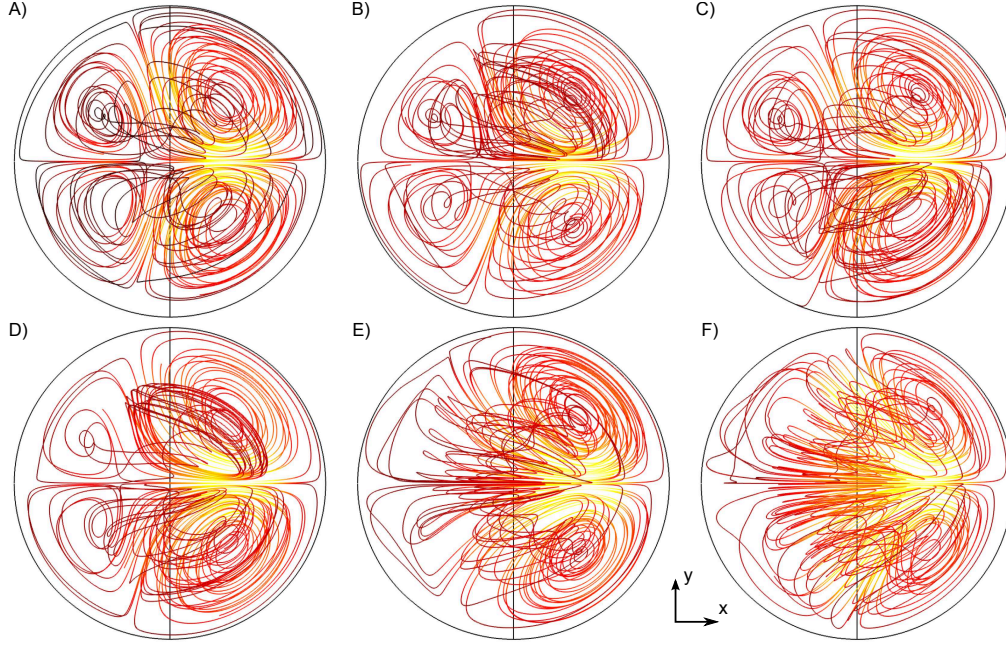


FIGURE 11. Streamlines from SSSF computations mimicking various glycerol concentration. The visualization is from below. The SAW propagates from left to right. The droplet volume is $V_{droplet} = 12.5 \mu\text{l}$ and the magnitude of the acoustic perturbation velocity $u_0 = 44 \mu\text{m/s}$. As the viscosity increases, one remarks the progressive transition from a four-vortex to a two-vortex flow structure. (A) Pure Water (B) 30 w% Glyc. (C) 40 w% Glyc. (D) 60 w% Glyc. (E) 80 w% Glyc. (F) 90 w% Glyc.

of the flow development and helps us to single out the most influential parameters, which are the caustics and the surface wave attenuation.

5.1. Acoustic Forcing term and Flow pattern

The acoustic forcing term, given by equation (3.30) is proportional to the Poynting vector. This means that the knowledge of the acoustic power flow is tantamount to the knowledge of the forcing term. The Poynting vector in water and glycerol droplet is shown in figures 6 and 7. As stated in section 4.1.2, it is focused on small regions of the droplets corresponding to the caustics, represented on figure 8. As we compare the resulting flow pattern, in figure 11 to the forcing term, we notice that these caustics act as momentum source-points to generate the flow. For instance, in the glycerol droplet, the forcing terms act on only one side of the droplet and push the flow towards the rear of the droplet. In the case of water, the momentum source terms are more symmetrical and push the fluid in the two opposite directions. Each individual momentum source term results in two eddies, forming the four-swirls pattern. This is particularly visible in figure 3.

Interestingly, these caustics can be easily constructed from geometrical acoustics. This means that the flow can at least be qualitatively predicted from simple geometrical arguments. This assertion must be mitigated by the important role played by the viscosity and the attenuation of sound in the system.

5.2. The four-to-two eddies transition

Since the flow patterns heavily rely on the caustics formation, a key parameter influencing the flow pattern in the drop is the ratio between the droplet diameter and the acoustic

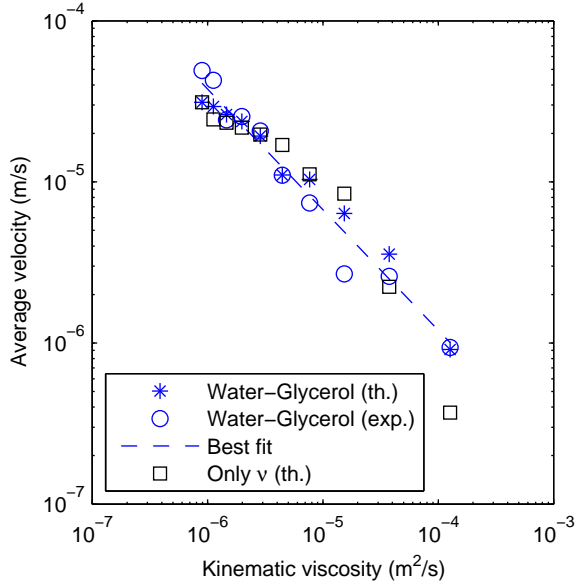


FIGURE 12. Droplet internal flow volume averaged speed versus viscosity. The *stars* correspond to numerical simulations performed with water-glycerol physical properties summarized in table 1, the *circles* to experimental data, the *squares* to numerical simulations performed by varying only the viscosity of the water-glycerol mixture and keeping all other parameters with the same properties as water, and (4) the best fit with a power law ($\langle V \rangle \propto \nu^{-3/4}$). The only fitting parameter is the SAW amplitude, which is estimated to be 44 pm according to the simulations compared to 62 pm given by our measurements with the laser interferometer.

wave attenuation length in the fluid:

$$\Lambda = \frac{D}{L_a} = \frac{D\omega^2\nu b}{c_o^3} \quad (5.1)$$

Water sessile droplets with a 3 mm diameter have $\Lambda \simeq 0.07$ while 90% glycerol droplets have $\Lambda \simeq 2.80$. According to the numerical and experimental results, the transition from two to four eddies is located at $0.29 < \Lambda < 1.0$. In this regard, we understand why a transition of flow pattern happens for this range of viscosity. In glycerol droplets, the sound wave undergoes little reflections before fading whereas in water it should bounce at least sixteen times at the droplet interface. Finally, this leaves us with three regimes: $\Lambda \ll 1$, $\Lambda \simeq 1$ and $\Lambda \gg 1$. In the first one, four eddies are formed as it was observed with water. The intermediate regime happens for large glycerol concentrations and results in two vortices. Decreasing further Λ was achieved previously by Beyssen *et al.* (2006) who work at 40 MHz frequency with 90 w% glycerol mixtures. The resulting flow pattern turns into a single vortex with an horizontal vorticity axis.

5.3. Dimensional analysis

The previous analysis can be transposed to other frequencies and viscosities by using the Buckingham π -theorem. At moderate actuation power (low hydrodynamic Reynolds number), equation (3.29) yields the following scaling for the velocity:

$$\langle V \rangle = f_1 \frac{\mathcal{F}D^2}{\mu}. \quad (5.2)$$

with θ_c the contact angle, \mathcal{F} the magnitude of the force and D the droplet diameter and f_1 a constant. At low Reynolds number, the proportionality constant f_1 depends solely on the droplet geometry, which is a function of the contact angle θ_c only: $f_1 = f_1(\theta_c)$. The force magnitude \mathcal{F} depends on the acoustic field with input parameters \tilde{p} and \tilde{v} , whose magnitude is proportional to u_0 (the magnitude of the acoustic perturbation velocity) by linearity and whose topology is determined by the shape of the droplet (θ_c), the non-dimensional wavenumber kD , the wave radiation angle θ_R from the substrate to the liquid given by Snell-Descartes law $\sin(\theta_R) = c_l/c_s$, the characteristic parameter of the wave attenuation in the bulk Λ , and the characteristic parameter for the surface wave attenuation due to its absorption by the liquid $D\alpha$, with α the attenuation rate introduced in paragraph 4.1.1. In practice, θ_c is often chosen near 90° and $kD \ll 1$ to optimize streaming efficiency. Consequently, the wave propagation mainly depends on Λ , θ_R and $D\alpha$. Most liquid sound speed ranges between 1200 m/s (organic compounds) and 1500 m/s, and SAW are mostly generated on lithium niobate with phase velocity close to 3650 m/s. This narrows considerably the range of possible Rayleigh angles ($19^\circ < \theta_R < 24^\circ$). Hence, the sound propagation in sessile droplets on lithium niobate chiefly depends on αD and Λ . The force magnitude is then given by:

$$\mathcal{F} = f_2(\Lambda, \alpha D) \frac{\rho_0 \omega^2 u_0^2 \Lambda}{D} = f_2(\Lambda, \alpha D) \frac{\rho_0 \omega^4 \nu b u_0^2}{c^3}, \quad (5.3)$$

where $f_2(\Lambda, \alpha D)$ accounts for the geometrical distribution of the acoustic field. Combining equations (5.2) and (5.3), and neglecting the influence of the contact angle for the practical reasons detailed previously, we get:

$$\langle V \rangle = V_0 f(\Lambda, \alpha D), \quad (5.4)$$

$$\text{with } V_0 = \frac{\omega^4 u_0^2 b D^2}{c^3} \text{ and } f(\Lambda, \alpha D) = f_1(\theta_c = 90^\circ) f_2(\Lambda, \alpha D) \quad (5.5)$$

We notice that although V_0 is independent of the viscosity, Λ plays an important role in the non-dimensional factor combining the acoustic field and the droplet geometry.

In order to get a broader picture of the streaming induced by a progressive surface acoustic wave in a sessile droplet, we performed 100 simulations with αD and Λ ranging from 0.1 to 10, spanning two orders of magnitude. Depending on the value of these parameters, we observed four distinct streaming flow regimes (see figure 13). At low SAW attenuation and high Bulk Acoustic Wave (BAW) dissipation (small viscous droplet - A), the flow is driven by two eddies at the front of the droplet. Keeping constant the BAW dissipation but increasing the SAW attenuation (large viscous droplet - B), the eddies migrate to the droplet rear. At low SAW attenuation and BAW dissipation (small fluid droplet - C), the flow pattern becomes toroidal, whereas higher SAW dissipation (large fluid droplet - D) yields a four-eddies flow field. We related the transition to a domination relationship between the incident wave, the primary and the secondary focus. At low SAW attenuation and high BAW absorption (A), the force is mainly exerted by the primary focus. Increasing the SAW attenuation, the primary focus vanishes and the flow is solely driven by the incident SAW (B) which is stronger at the droplet edge. Decreasing the BAW absorption, the secondary focus overruns the primary one and a whispering gallery mode appears on the droplet surface, resulting in the symmetrization of the secondary focus and yielding a quadripolar flow (D). Finally, decreasing the SAW attenuation, the primary focus dominates again, forming a toroidal flow.

With the help of the simulations, we looked for a simple expression of f under the form of a power law: $f(\alpha D, \Lambda) = k(\alpha D)^a \Lambda^b$. Regression coefficients obtained from the simulations for the four regimes identified previously are summarized in table 2. Given

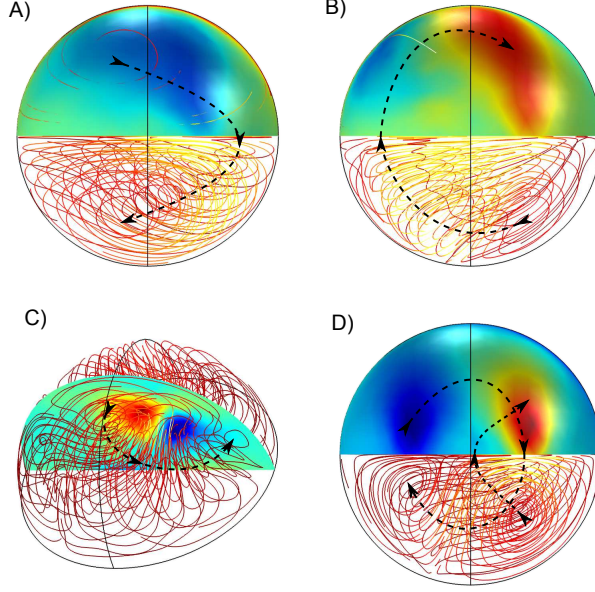


FIGURE 13. Typical flow patterns simulated. A) $\alpha D = 0.17$, $\Lambda = 5.0$ (Δ), B) $\alpha D = 6.0$, $\Lambda = 5.0$ (\circ), C) $\alpha D = 0.17$, $\Lambda = 0.27$ (∇), D) $\alpha D = 6.0$, $\Lambda = 0.27$ (\square). Dotted lines are guides for eyes to visualize the vorticity flux.

Region	$k \times 10^3$	a	b
$\circ(\alpha D > 1, \Lambda > 1)$	1.53	-0.55	-1.55
$\square(\alpha D > 1, \Lambda < 1)$	1.41	-0.59	-0.20
$\Delta(\alpha D < 1, \Lambda > 1)$	0.65	-0.27	-0.93
$\nabla(\alpha D < 1, \Lambda < 1)$	1.18	+0.14	-0.13

TABLE 2. Regression coefficients for the average streaming velocity in equation (5.5):

$$f(\Lambda, \alpha D) = k(\alpha D)^a \Lambda^b$$

the major variations of flow pattern depending on the values of αD and Λ , we divided the simulations in the four regions related to the magnitude of these parameters. Paragraphe a revoir. On ne comprend pas du tout ce que tu veux dire par diviser les simulation? The regression coefficients (table 2) yield fairly accurate correlations Comment mesure tu la correlation ? Pas clair non plus, revoir tout ce paragraphe as shown in figure 14. The value of the coefficients a and b indicates the relative importance of the SAW attenuation and the BAW absorption respectively. Interestingly, the average velocity of the flow patterns depicted in figure 13 C and D shows little dependence on the magnitude of Λ ($b \simeq 0.1$) whereas the average flow velocity at higher BAW attenuation is adversely affected by Λ and thus by the viscosity. This is in good agreement with Eckart's and Nyborg's view on acoustic streaming. In the former, the wave is assumed to be weakly attenuated over the reservoir extent so the flow velocity is independent of the viscosity. In the latter, the BAW is strongly attenuated within the reservoir length, so the wave momentum is integrally transferred to the fluid. This bounded amount of momentum is in turn dissipated by viscous shear such that increasing viscosity yields lower average velocity with a nearly-linear relationship.

We also provide a comparison with experimental data in table 3. These correlations are

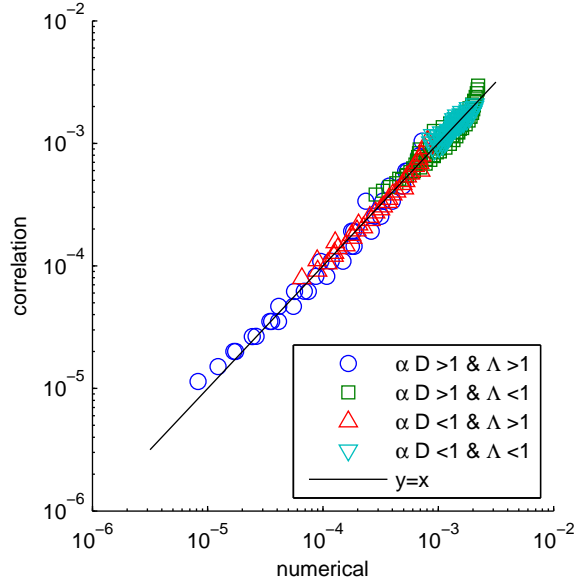


FIGURE 14. Comparison correlation-CFD. Il faut écrire une légende auto-suffisante qui peut être comprise sans avoir lu le texte. Il faut aussi que tu y expliques ce que sont les variables "numerical" "correlation".

$w_{g1yc.}$	Λ $\frac{D\omega^2\nu b}{c^3}$	αD $3.7 \frac{\omega\rho_0 D}{10^9}$	V_0 (mm/s) $\frac{\omega^4 u_0^2 b D^2}{c^3}$	$\langle V \rangle_{exp}$ ($\mu\text{m/s}$)	$\langle V \rangle_{corr}$ ($\mu\text{m/s}$)
0.00	0.068	1.7	17	49	30
0.10	0.080	1.8	16	43	27
0.20	0.095	1.8	15	24	23
0.30	0.11	1.9	13	25	20
0.40	0.15	1.9	12	20	17
0.50	0.20	2.0	10	11	13
0.60	0.29	2.1	9.0	7.4	10
0.70	0.52	2.1	8.0	2.7	8.2
0.80	1.0	2.2	6.8	2.6	6.1
0.90	2.80	2.3	5.4	0.94	1.0

TABLE 3. Non-dimensional experimental parameters extracted from table 1 Revoir la légende, il faut que tu définisses V_{exp} et V_{corr} . De plus ce ne sont pas que les paramètres expérimentaux car il y a V_{corr}

not limited to 20 MHz. For instance, in the 6 MHz simulation of section 4.2, $\alpha D = 0.27$, $\Lambda = 0.004$ and $V_0 = 1.0$ m/s, yielding $\langle V \rangle = 2.0$ mm/s compared to 2.86 and 1.92 mm/s obtained numerically depending on the model. This indicates that full similitude requirements (especially the non-dimensional acoustic wavelength kD) are not mandatory to obtain quantitative results of acoustic streaming. Instead, our analysis provides some guidelines for the study of more complex acoustic fields: the most relevant parameters for a partial similitude computation of sessile droplet streaming are the BAW and SAW attenuation Λ and αD . Consequently, high frequency acoustic SAW induced streaming can be conveniently simulated at a few megahertz with a direct numerical simulation

method, and then extrapolated to other cases with identical αD and Λ while at higher frequencies or droplet sizes.

6. Conclusion

In this paper, we investigated thoroughly the phenomenon of outer acoustic streaming in spherical cavities much larger than the acoustic wavelength. This study is especially relevant for the MHz actuation of sessile drop with SAW, which served as cased study and experimental check.

The main issues associated with such a study are the measurement of the acoustic and hydrodynamic fields in the drop and the simulation of systems with large characteristic size compared to the wavelength, which may lead to prohibitive computation time. In this paper, a numerical method was introduced to reduce considerably the computational costs and enable in this way such complex simulations on a desktop computer. From a physical perspective, we have shown that contrarily to a widespread belief, the viscosity plays a major role on the acoustic streaming in cavities. This effect is demonstrated both numerically and experimentally in sessile droplets excited by surface acoustic waves. The experiments were also used to validate our numerical scheme, which was then used to visualize the acoustic field in the drop and unveil the spatial distribution of the forcing term. It turns out that the streaming force is mainly concentrated in some caustics whose position can be obtained easily from geometrical acoustics. This knowledge supports the possibility to predict qualitatively the flow pattern in large objects from geometrical acoustics.

A possible continuation of this work would then be to implement a fast ray-acoustic model and use the tremendous progress recently accomplished in the field of caustics to get explicitly the force terms acting on the fluid. This would preserve much time to perform ambitious multiphase simulations including droplet deformation, displacement, mixing, heating and atomization. Aside from these fundamental studies, we reduced the computation of acoustic streaming in sessile droplets to two non-dimensional parameters. This allows to study high frequency SAW droplet actuation (not restricted to plane waves) based on a partial similitude approach, simply by extrapolating the quantitative flow pattern obtained at lower SAW frequency simulations. Such an approach allows using DNS strategies for convenient code development while keeping lower memory requirements.

We gratefully acknowledge Tiesse Diarra for his important contribution in writing the azimuthal Fourier transform algorithm essential to this simulation. We also thanks Bernard Bonello for his support in providing the workstation to perform the simulations. This work is supported by ANR Project No. ANR-12-BS09-0021-01, ANR-12-BS09-0021-02, and Région Nord Pas de Calais.

Appendix A. Computational cost

Computing the acoustic streaming might seem to be an easy task with appropriate softwares. Indeed, many codes are readily available to compute acoustic fields and fluid mechanics. The nonlinear hydrodynamic forcing term can be deduced from the acoustics and computed in a straightforward fashion. Nevertheless, in high frequency regimes (with wavelength much smaller than the characteristic length scale of the flow structured produced), the computation time can become prohibitive. In figure 15, we compare the memory requirements of the direct numerical simulations as already implemented in the

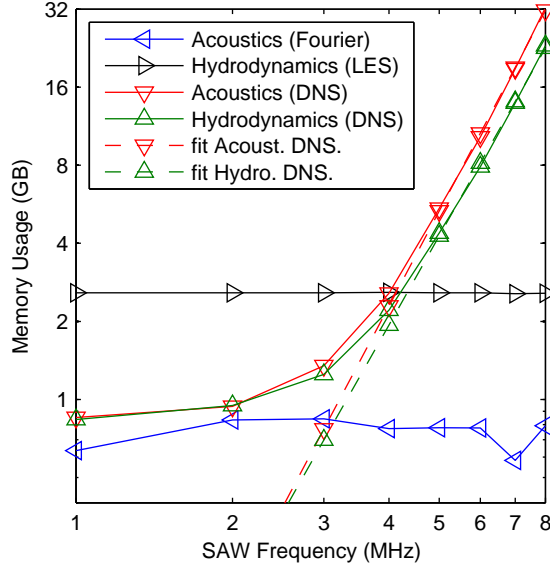


FIGURE 15. Memory usage versus SAW frequency for the various parts and methods of the computation. Regression coefficients are $M_{\text{AcoustDNS}} = 0.012 \times F^{3.79}$ and $M_{\text{HydroDNS}} = 0.014 \times F^{3.54}$ where F is the SAW frequency in MHz and M the memory in GB. Projections at 20 MHz indicate 1.0 TB of RAM of acoustics (DNS) and 580 GB of RAM for the fluidics (DNS).

commercial software Comsol 4.3b to our more customized implementations. The benchmark test is a 2 mm diameter sessile droplet (water, contact angle 100°) exposed to an incident SAW radiation for a range of megahertz frequencies.

We first notice that there is some background noise on the memory requirements, which magnitude is about 700 MB, probably related to the OS (Windows 7) and the software. The direct numerical simulations of acoustics and hydrodynamics start consuming a lot of memory after a 4 MHz threshold. This corresponds to a wavelength of $375 \mu\text{m}$, which is a third of the droplet radius. After this threshold, the memory requirements grow quickly and extrapolation to 20 MHz excitation estimate the need to 1 TB for the acoustics, and 580 GB for the fluidics. Access to such middle range cluster capabilities being difficult, we used alternative numerical recipes.

The Fourier transform resolves the incident field into azimuthal harmonics to reduce the computation of acoustics to a 2D problem. The memory requirements at these excitation frequency are so low that they are overwhelmed by the background noise.

The Large Eddy Simulation method with filtered source term is always computed with the same grid resolution, which is fixed by the explicit filtering step. The memory needed to compute the force is not shown since it is implementation-dependent. With Matlab, we reconstructed the 3D acoustic variables in multidimensional arrays \tilde{p} , \tilde{v}_r , \tilde{v}_θ and \tilde{v}_z , each of which weighs about 190 MB for computations of 20 MHz acoustic fields. We used the multidimensional Fourier transform in Matlab to maximize the speed when filtering the forces and memory requirements always kept below 32 GB even at 20 MHz. If required, the filtering can be achieved in the real space with low memory consumption by using cross correlation algorithm to smooth directly the force field.

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