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# EFFECTS OF SURFACTANT ON LIFT COEFFICIENT OF ELLIPSOIDAL BUBBLES IN THE VISCOUS-FORCE DOMINANT REGIME

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## Abstract

Effects of surfactants on lift coefficients,  $C_L$ , of single ellipsoidal bubbles rising through linear shear flows were investigated. Two types of surface-active agents, i.e. Triton X-100 and 1-octanol, were used. The liquid properties except for the surface tension were identical to those in a clean system of  $\log M = -5.5$ , where *M* is the Morton number. The range of the bubble Reynolds number was 0.1 < Re < 70. Bubble shapes were either spherical or ellipsoidal. Comparing with clean bubbles, less deformation of contaminated bubbles was confirmed. A shape correlation without taking the dimensionless shear rate into account gave good evaluations of the bubble aspect ratio, which means that the shear rate is not a dominant factor causing the change of shape deformation. However, drag coefficients were affected by the shear rate. A new correlation of drag coefficients was deduced, which agreed well with the experimental data. Both clean and contaminated  $C_L$  data showed similar tendency, i.e., after a drastic decrease in  $C_L$ ,  $C_L$  slightly increases and then decreases to negative value with increasing the bubble Reynolds number, Re. A difference in concentration of Trion X-100 resulted in only a slight change in  $C_L$  at high Re regime. Different types of surfactant resulted in noticeably different values of  $C_L$  especially at low Re. The  $C_L$  of small bubbles in contaminated systems could be reproduced by a correlation for solid particles, supporting that fully-contaminated spherical bubbles behave like solid spheres. For deformed bubbles,  $C_L$  can be expressed by relating the negative lift force due to shape deformation with the drag force.

Keywords: Bubble, Aspect ratio, Surfactant, Lift coefficient

# 1. Introduction

Two-phase flow is a ubiquitous phenomenon in both industrial processes and nature such as bubbly flows in a bubble column. Bubbles are subject to several forces causing transverse migration and non-uniform bubble distribution. Among several transverse forces, the shear-induced lift force is of great importance in modeling bubbly flows.

The lift coefficient,  $C_L$ , is used to quantify the shear-induced lift acting on a bubble (Žun, 1980). In a co-current upward bubbly flow, a positive sign of  $C_L$  makes a bubble migrate to the place where the axial component of the liquid velocity is lower while a negative sign moves a bubble in the opposite direction. Many studies have focused on a single bubble rising in liquid shear flows. Auton (1987) derived  $C_L = 0.5$ for spherical bubbles at high bubble Reynolds numbers, *Re*. Žun (1980) reported that  $C_L$  of small bubbles in an air-water duct flow are positive. Legendre and Magnaudet (1997) derived  $C_L$  of spherical bubbles in linear shear flows at low *Re*, which is a function of *Re* and *Sr*, where *Sr* is the dimensionless shear rate. They also numerically found that  $C_L$  of spherical bubbles is also positive at intermediate and high *Re* and becomes almost independent of *Sr* for Re > 10 (Legendre and Magnaudet, 1998). As *Re* increases,  $C_L$  converges on  $C_L = 0.5$ , which is the theoretical value derived by Auton (1987).

Reversal migration occurs, i.e.  $C_L$  takes negative values, when the bubble shape largely departs from spherical. Tomiyama et al. (1993) predicted reversal migration for two-dimensional deformed bubbles by using an interface tracking method. Their experimental studies also showed negative values of  $C_L$  due to deformation of bubbles (Tomiyama, 1998; Tomiyama et al., 2002b). Adoua et al. (2009) pointed out that the reversal of the transverse force acting on an ellipsoidal bubble is caused by the interaction between the incident shear flow and vorticity generated at the bubble interface.

It is well-known that surface active agents, referred to as surfactant, affect bubble shape and bubble motion (Clift et al., 1978; Tomiyama et al., 2002a; Aoyama et al.,

2018). The surfactant decreases the surface tension and a non-uniform distribution of the surface tension at the bubble interface causes a tangential force to the interface, i.e. the Marangoni force, which weakens interfacial velocity and shape deformation of the bubble. The presence of surfactant also affects  $C_L$  of bubbles in linear shear flows. Fukuta et al. (2008) carried out numerical simulations using the boundary-fitted coordinate method for contaminated spherical bubbles of 0.5 mm at Re = 100 and showed dependence of  $C_L$  on the Langmuir number, La, which is the ratio of the adsorption rate to the desorption rate. Although  $C_L$  at low La agrees with the  $C_L$  value obtained by Legendre and Magnaudet (1998), C<sub>L</sub> decreases with increasing La and changes its sign at La = 0.0448. Hayashi and Tomiyama (2018) considered surfactant effects on  $C_L$  of spherical and ellipsoidal bubbles for ranges of 2 < Re < 70 and Sr < 1using the level set method. Being similar to Fukuta's numerical results,  $C_L$  of a bubble decreases with increasing La. In association with the decrease in  $C_L$ , a sign reversal of CL occurs at lower Re and the Eötvös number, Eo, compared with clean bubbles. They also pointed out that the Hatta number, Ha, which is the ratio of the adsorption rate to the bubble rise velocity, is an important factor to consider  $C_L$  of contaminated bubbles:  $C_L$  of high Ha bubbles can be correlated in terms of a modified Eötvös number with surface tension reduced by surfactant, whereas the Marangoni force has to be taken into account for  $C_L$  of low Ha bubbles. The influence of surfactants on the lift force in water was investigated by Hessenkemper et al. (2021). For small concentrations, an increase in the lift-force coefficient was initially observed, but it decreased again with increasing concentration and thus a decreasing aspect ratio. This effect was more pronounced for small bubbles than for larger ones. In the fully contaminated case, small  $C_L$  values were observed. Hayashi et al. (2020; 2021) proposed lift correlations applicable to bubbles in clean systems. However, no correlation, to our best knowledge, is available for contaminated systems.

For understanding the lift force acting on bubbles in contaminated systems, experimental data of  $C_L$  are still insufficient. Hence we carried out experiments on single contaminated bubbles in linear shear flows in this study. We focused on fullycontaminated bubbles, the drag coefficients of which agree with those of solid particles, to consider a limiting case opposite to clean bubbles. The applicability of available correlations of the drag coefficient,  $C_D$ , and the aspect ratio, E, which is the ratio of the bubble minor axis to the major axis, to the present systems were examined, and a way of modelling  $C_L$  was also discussed.

## 2. Experimental method

**Fig. 1** shows the experimental setup which consists of an acrylic tank, a stainless seamless belt with a guide, a power system for the belt rotation, a syringe and a nozzle for bubble generation, and an observation system. The width, depth and height of the tank were 200, 110, and 2100 mm, respectively, in which bubbles were rising without wall effect even with their largest size of around 4.8 mm. The stainless seamless belt of 100 mm width was tightened by two vertical parallel pulleys and was rotated by a servomotor, generating a steady linear shear flow in the 30 mm gap between the belt and the wall of the acrylic tank. The configuration was the same as in our previous study for clean bubbles (Aoyama et al., 2017), but the equipment was rebuilt for the present experiment. The velocity gradient,  $\omega$ , of the linear shear flow was set at 0.0, 3.2, 4.6, 6.0 and 7.4 s<sup>-1</sup>. The observation system was composed by two high-speed video cameras (Integrated Design Tools, M5; exposure time: 1/10,000s, framerate: 30-170 flames/s) mounted at *z* = 150 and 350 mm, respectively, to record bubble displacement for a long-time duration. The spatial resolution was in the range from 0.007 to 0.017 mm/pixel.

The sphere-volume-equivalent bubble diameter d, the bubble velocity  $V_B$ , and the vertical component of the liquid velocity  $w_L$  were measured (Ogawa et al., 2007; Tomiyama, 2004; Aoyama et al., 2017). Successive bubble images were taken by using two high-speed video cameras, and d and  $V_B$  were obtained by using an image processing method (Aoyama et al., 2017). The uncertainties in d and  $V_B$  were less than 3% even for the smallest bubble. The spatiotemporal filter velocimetry (Hosokawa and Tomiyama, 2012) was employed to obtain  $w_L$  in linear shear prior to the experiments of single bubbles. We confirmed that the measured velocity gradient maintained the same level of accuracy as that in our previous study (Aoyama et al., 2017). The  $C_L$  was

calculated from the measured bubble and liquid velocities,  $\omega$  and the gas and liquid densities. See Aoyama et al. (2017) for the details.



Fig. 1 Experimental setup

The experiments were conducted at room temperature and atmospheric pressure. The liquid temperature was kept at 25±0.5 °C. Contaminated glycerol-water solutions and air were used as the liquid and gas phases, respectively. A clean glycerol-water solution was prepared by mixing water purified by a Millipore system (Merk, Elix 3) and pure glycerol (Kishida-Kagaku). Surfactant was then added to the solution and the solution was re-mixed. Triton X-100 (Wako Pure Chemical Industries, 168-11805) or 1-octanol (Wako Pure Chemical Industries, 156-00136) was used for surfactant. The liquid density and viscosity were measured using a densimeter (Ando keiki Co., Ltd., JIS B7525) and a viscometer (A&D, SV-10), respectively. The surface tension was measured using the pendant bubble method (Lin et al., 1990). The uncertainties in the density, viscosity and surface tension estimated at 95% confidence were 0.01, 1.3 and 2.0%, respectively.

The Morton number is defined by

$$M = \frac{\mu_L^4(\rho_L - \rho_G)g}{\rho_L^2 \sigma^3} \tag{1}$$

where  $\rho$  is the density,  $\mu$  the viscosity, g the acceleration of gravity,  $\sigma$  the surface tension, and the subscripts L and G denote the liquid and gas phases, respectively. **Table 1** shows the liquid properties, where  $\sigma_0$  is the surface tension in clean systems,  $\sigma_{eq}$  the surface tension in adsorption-desorption equilibrium,  $C_T$  the concentration of Triton X-100, and  $C_O$  the concentration of 1-octanol. The concentration of the glycerol-water solution was 70 wt%, for which  $\log M(\sigma_0)$  was -5.5. Given a further increase in surfactant concentration, no change of bubble terminal velocity suggests that the bubble is fully contaminated (Aoyama et al, 2018). We also experimented on contaminated bubbles rising through stagnant liquids for validation of fully-contaminated systems, the results of which are shown in Appendix A. The Morton number of the system contaminated with Triton X-100 was  $\log M(\sigma_{eq}) \sim -5.0$ , and the value of  $C_O$  was determined to realize the same Morton number  $M(\sigma_{eq})$ .

	$log M(\sigma_{eq})$	$\sigma_{eq}$ [N/m]
Clean	-5.5	0.067
$C_T = 0.10 \text{ mol/m}^3$	-5.0	0.046
$C_T = 0.20 \text{ mol/m}^3$	-4.9	0.042
$C_O = 3.25 \text{ mol/m}^3$	-5.0	0.047
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**Table 1** Fluid properties at 25 °C (Glycerol concentration of 70 wt.% ( $\log M(\sigma_0) = -5.5$ ))

\* $\rho_L = 1178 \text{ kg/m}^3$ ,  $\rho_G = 1.2 \text{ kg/m}^3$  and  $\mu_L = 0.018 \text{ Pa}\cdot\text{s}$ 

# 3. Results and discussion

#### 3.1 Bubble shape

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Examples of bubble shapes in the linear shear flows are shown in **Fig. 2**, where *Sr* and *Re* are defined by

$$Sr = \frac{\omega d}{|V_R|} \tag{2}$$

$$Re = \frac{\rho_L |V_R|d}{\mu_L} \tag{3}$$

where  $V_R$  is the bubble velocity relative to the liquid velocity. Clean bubbles measured by Aoyama et al. (2017) are also shown in the figure. The shape deformation of all contaminated bubbles is smaller than that of clean bubbles. The bubbles in the upper rows are 2.5-3.0 mm. The presence of surfactant clearly decreases  $C_L$  from 0.33 in the clean case to around zero and, in some contaminated cases  $C_L$  are negative. It should be noted that Re is also reduced by the presence of surfactant while the increase in Srdoes not substantially affect  $C_L$  for these bubbles. The reduction in  $C_L$  by surfactant is also clearly observed for the larger bubbles, i.e., the decrease in  $C_L$  from the clean case is about 0.2. Negligible effects of Sr on  $C_L$  are again confirmed.





Fig. 2 Bubble shapes

#### 3.2 Bubble aspect ratio and relative velocity

The aspect ratios are plotted against d in **Fig. 3**, in which the data of clean bubbles obtained by Aoyama et al. (2017) are also plotted. The E of contaminated bubbles decrease with increasing d and are larger than those of clean bubbles. The deviation from the clean bubble data increases with increasing d. The bubbles in the Triton X-100 cases show slightly weaker deformation than those in the 1-octanol case. In contrast to E, the relative velocities do not depend on the concentration and type of surfactant as shown in **Fig. 4**, i.e. the systems are fully-contaminated from the point of view of bubble velocity. The difference in E may therefore ascribe to unique absorptiondesorption characteristics corresponding to a type of surfactants (Hayashi and Tomiyama, 2018). Dependence of E on Sr is not remarkable as in clean bubbles (Aoyama et al. 2017), which implies that a correlation of E for bubbles in stagnant liquids is applicable to bubbles in the linear shear flows.

Aoyama et al. (2018) proposed the following correlation of *E* for contaminated bubbles in stagnant liquid adopting  $\sigma_{eq}$  as one of its indispensable factors responsible for the shape deformation:

$$E = \frac{1}{[1+0.024Eo(\sigma_{eq})^{1.17}Re^{0.44}]^{0.57}}$$
(4)

**Table 2** shows the mean absolute error (MAE) and root mean squared error (RMSE) ofthe aspect ratios calculated using Eq. (4). The correlation gives good results.

	MAE	RMSE
$C_T = 0.10 \text{ mol/m}^3$	0.00471	0.00691
$C_T = 0.20 \text{ mol/m}^3$	0.00751	0.01050
$C_O = 3.25 \text{ mol/m}^3$	0.01340	0.01740
Average	0.00854	0.01160

 Table 2 Mean absolute error and root mean squared error in calculated aspect ratios



Fig. 3 Bubble aspect ratio



Fig. 4 Bubble relative velocity

The dotted line in **Fig. 4** represents  $|V_R|$  calculated with the following drag correlation for fully-contaminated bubbles in infinite stagnant liquids (Chen et al., 2019):

$$C_D = \frac{24}{Re} \left( 1 + \frac{0.15Re^{0.687}}{E^{0.48}} \right) \tag{5}$$

where *E* was calculated using Eq. (4). Although the correlation gives reasonable values, the data are somewhat smaller than the curve at large *d*. Legendre and Magnaudet (1998) reported that  $C_D$  of spherical bubbles in shear flows increases with *Sr* at high *Re*, and developed a  $C_D$  correlation that is represented by a combination of  $C_D$  in a uniform flow and a multiplier  $[1 + \alpha Sr^{\beta}]$ , where  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are constants. Aoyama et al. (2017) also recognized a slight *Sr* effect for clean ellipsoidal bubbles at small and intermediate *Re*. We obtained the following  $C_D$  correlation for contaminated bubbles with the *Sr* effect by adopting the multiplier with the coefficients tuned for the present data:

$$C_D = \frac{24}{Re} \left[ 1 + \frac{0.15Re^{0.687}}{E^{0.48}} \left( 1 + 222Sr^{4.25} \right) \right]$$
(6)

Fig. 5 shows the comparison between the  $|V_R|$  predicted by using Eq. (6) and data. By accounting for the *Sr* effect Eq. (6) well describes the velocity data, and MAE for Eq. (6) is 5.65 x 10<sup>-6</sup> m/s, which is smaller than 1.90 x 10<sup>-5</sup> m/s for Eq. (5).



Fig. 5 Comparison between predicted and measured  $|V_R|$ 

#### 3.3 Lift coefficient

**Fig. 6** shows  $C_L$  of  $C_T = 0.10 \text{ mol/m}^3$  and 0.20 mol/m<sup>3</sup>. The clean bubble data (Aoyama et al., 2017) are also plotted for comparison. Both clean and contaminated data show a similar tendency, i.e. after a steep decrease to a local minimum, further increase in *Re* causes slight increase in  $C_L$  and then decrease to the negative values. The  $C_L$  of fully-contaminated bubbles are however much lower than those of clean bubbles and the reversal of the sign of  $C_L$  due to bubble deformation occurs at smaller *Re*. The surfactant concentration shows only a small influence on  $C_L$ .



Fig. 6 Lift coefficients in clean and cases of  $C_T = 0.10$  and 0.20 mol/m<sup>3</sup>

It is well known that  $C_D$  of fully-contaminated spherical bubbles agree well with those of solid spheres due to the Marangoni stress. Kurose and Komori (1999) conducted numerical simulations of solid spheres in linear shear flows. Their numerical data at Sr = 0.2 and 0.4 are plotted in **Fig. 6**. The  $C_L$  of solid spheres depends on Sr for  $Re \sim 5$  and becomes almost zero for  $Re \ge 10$ . The  $C_L$  of contaminated bubbles are close to those of solid spheres for Re < 10, though it is difficult to recognize clear dependence on Sr in the bubble case. As Re increases,  $C_L$  of contaminated bubbles deviate from those of solid spheres due to bubble deformation, which is similar to the relationship between clean spherical bubbles and ellipsoidal bubbles as mentioned in the introduction (Legendre and Magnaudet, 1998; Aoyama et al., 2017; Hayashi et al., 2020; 2021).



Fig. 7  $C_L$  in Triton X-100 case at low *Re* range

The Triton X-100 data show some scattering in the range of *Re* from 2 to 20 and converges afterward. A possible explanation to this is that bubbles adopt different shapes even at the same *Re* due to different degree of surfactant accumulation at the interface. **Fig. 7** shows Triton X-100 data selected according to different *Re* ranges as indicated by the legends. It can be readily noticed that bubble shapes show a relatively

large variation even within the narrow *Re* range, which explains the reason of the scatter of  $C_L$ . The different surfactant distributions at bubble interface can be ascribed to a long time constant of surfactant adsorption/desorption, which may add uncertainties in reaching the steady state as pointed out by Zhang and Finch (2001). It is interesting that the scatter is pronounced only in the narrow *Re* range (5 ~20) and mitigates at larger *Re* where the negative lift is dominant in  $C_L$ .



Fig. 8 Comparison between  $C_L$  of bubbles contaminated with Triton X-100 and those with 1-octanol

Fig. 8 shows  $C_L$  for two kinds of surfactants. The difference in  $\sigma_{eq}$  is negligibly small as shown in Table 1, enabling us to focus on the difference in the type of surfactants. The  $C_L$  with 1-octanol decreases to the local minimum at smaller *Re* than that with Triton X-100 and the two sets of data slightly increase and then decrease with increasing *Re*. The tendency that the deviation of these two sets of data become reduced as the increase of *Re* suggests that small bubbles are particularly subject to the addesorption kinetics of surfactant, in other words the surfactant distribution at the interface, whereas shape deformation plays a dominant role in  $C_L$  as bubbles become larger. In addition, the difference between these sets of results can only be ascribed to an effect of different types of surfactants and deserves further research. The small scatter for 5 < Re < 20 in the 1-octanol case can be described by the larger Langmuir number than in the Triton X-100 case (Hayashi and Tomiyama, 2018).

# 3.4 Lift correlating

Hayashi et al. (2020) pointed out that the drag and the negative lift of clean bubbles of Re >> 1 are related as

$$C_L = C_L^{S\infty} - G(\chi, Re)C_D \tag{7}$$

where  $C_L^{S\infty} = 1/2$  (Auton, 1987), and  $G(\chi, Re)$  is a function of  $\chi$  (=  $E^{-1}$ ) and Re. For the lift reversal in the viscous force dominant regime, they obtained the following expression of  $C_L$ , which explicitly includes the vorticity produced at the bubble interface:

$$C_L = C_L^{S\infty} - \gamma \frac{16}{Re} \phi(\chi, Re) \omega_{max}^{*\infty}(\chi)$$
(8)

where  $\gamma = 0.078$ ,  $\omega_{\text{max}}^{*\infty}$  is the dimensionless maximum vorticity in the infinite Reynolds number limit given by (Magnaudet and Mougin, 2007)

$$\omega_{max}^{*\infty}(\chi) = \frac{2\chi^{5/3}(\chi^2 - 1)^{3/2}}{\chi^2 \sec^{-1}\chi - (\chi^2 - 1)^{1/2}}$$
(9)

and  $\phi(\chi, Re)$  is the deformation-inertia factor in the drag correlation proposed by Chen et al (2019):

$$C_D = \frac{16}{Re} [1 + \phi(\chi, Re)] \tag{10}$$

where

$$\phi(\chi, Re) = 0.25\chi^{1.9}Re^{0.32} \tag{11}$$

By assuming that the negative lift of fully-contaminated bubbles has a relation similar to Eq. (7) and employing Eq. (6) for the drag, we may write

$$C_L = C_L^B - \gamma' \frac{^{16}}{^{Re}} \phi_c(\chi, Re) \alpha' \chi^{\beta'}$$
(12)

where  $\phi_c(\chi, Re) = 0.15\chi^{0.48}Re^{0.68}(1 + 222Sr^{4.25})$  and  $\alpha'\chi^{\beta'}$  epitomizes  $\omega_{max}^{*\infty}$ , whose analytical expression for rigid ellipsoids has not been obtained. The constant 16 is adopted for the factor of  $Re^{-1}$  rather than 24 since the multiplier 3/2 due to the difference in the boundary condition at the interface should be involved in  $\omega_{max}^{*\infty}$ (Legendre, 2007). The  $C_L$  of a clean spherical bubble approaches 0.5 as  $Re \rightarrow \infty$  and that of spherical solid particle becomes very close to zero in that limit (Kurose and Komori, 1999). In the Triton X-100 data,  $C_L$  seems to follow  $C_L = 0.1$  if no deformation was assumed even at intermediate Re. On the other hand, the 1-octanol data show that  $C_L$ steeply decreases and enters to the negative lift regime at small Re. Therefore, the baseline,  $C_L^B$ , for the spherical part may be different for those cases.

The coefficients,  $\gamma'$ ,  $\alpha'$ ,  $\beta'$  and  $C_L^B$ , were fitted to the data as shown in **Table 3**. As shown in **Fig. 9**, the  $C_L$  data in the negative lift regime can be well reproduced. For the clean bubbles,  $\omega_{max}^{*\infty} \propto \chi^{8/3}$  where  $\chi$  becomes large (Adoua et al. 2009).  $\beta'=6$  is much larger than this limiting value for clean bubbles, implying that the contaminated interfaces with no-slip boundary condition produce larger vorticity with increasing shape deformation compared with the slip condition. The  $\beta'$  takes the same value in both cases, which is consistent with the fact that bubbles in both cases are fully-contaminated.



Fig. 9 Correlation of negative lift

Table 3 Coefficients in Eq. (12)			
	$C_T = 0.20 \text{ mol/m}^3$	$Co = 3.25 \text{ mol/m}^3$	
$C_L^B$	0.11	-0.01	
$\gamma' \overline{\alpha}'$	0.06	0.046	
β'	6	6	

# 4. Conclusion

Single bubbles rising in a linear shear flow of a glycerol-water solution contaminated with different types of surfactants were measured to obtain  $C_L$  data. Triton

X-100 and 1-octanol were used as surfactants. Two high-speed cameras recorded bubble lateral migration, from which bubble shapes, relative velocities and lift coefficients were obtained. The bubble Reynolds number *Re* ranged from 0.87 to 70. The dimensionless shear rate ranged from 0 to 0.25. The effect of types and concentration of surfactants on the lift coefficient were also discussed. As a result, the following conclusions were obtained:

- (1) The dimensionless shear rate is not a dominant factor causing the change in shape deformation, so that an available shape correlation for bubbles in stagnant liquid can be used to estimate the bubble aspect ratio.
- (2)Both clean and contaminated  $C_L$  data have similar tendency that after a drastic decrease to a local minimum,  $C_L$  value slightly increases and then gradually falls to negative lift regime.
- (3) A difference in the concentration of identical surfactant results in a slight change of  $C_L$  of fully-contaminated bubbles persisting to high *Re* regime.
- (4) Different types of surfactants result in different values of  $C_L$  even under the fully-contaminated condition.
- (5) A negative lift component related with the drag force describes well the lift reversal for contaminated bubbles as well as for clean bubbles.

# Appendix A. Rise velocities of contaminated bubbles in stagnant liquids

Figure A1 shows a comparison of relative velocities of contaminated bubbles in stagnant liquids, i.e. the terminal velocities, between measured data and Eq. (5). The measured data agree well with Eq. (5), which confirms that the present concentrations of the surfactants correspond to fully-contaminated conditions.



Fig. A1 Relative velocity of contaminated bubbles in stagnant liquids

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