

Experimental investigation of bubble and drop formation at submerged orifices

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EXPERIMENTAL INVESTIGATION OF BUBBLE AND DROP FORMATION AT SUBMERGED ORIFICES N. DIETRICH*,1,2, N. MAYOUFI¹, S. PONCIN¹ and Huai Z. LI¹ 1. Laboratory of Reactions and Process Engineering, Nancy-Université, CNRS, 1 rue Grandville, 54000 Nancy, France. 2. Université de Toulouse, INSA, Laboratoire d'Ingénierie des Systèmes Biologiques et des Procédés, INRA-CNRS, 135 avenue de Rangueil, 31077 Toulouse, France. * To whom correspondence should be addressed. Tel.: +33(0)5 61 55 97 81, Fax: +33 (0)5 61 55 97 60, E-mail: dietrich@insa-toulouse.fr **Keywords**: bubble, drop, formation, PIV measurements **Abstract** The aim of this study is to investigate bubble/drop formation at a single submerged orifice in stagnant Newtonian fluids and to gain a qualitative understanding of the formation mechanism. The effects of various governing parameters were studied. The formation behaviours of bubble and drop in Newtonian aqueous solutions were investigated experimentally under different operating conditions with various orifices. The results show that the volume of detached dispersed phase increases with viscosity, surface tension, orifice diameter and dispersed phase flow rate. A PIV system was employed to measure quantitatively the velocity flow field during the bubble/drop formation, giving interesting information useful for the elucidation of the fundamental formation process at the orifice. It was revealed that the orifice shape has a strong influence on formed bubble size. Furthermore, based on a simple mass balance, a global correlation was proposed to predict both bubble and

drop size with good agreement.

1. Introduction

hydrodynamics.

The formation of gas bubbles or liquid drops is an important fundamental phenomenon that conditions significantly the hydrodynamics in gas-liquid and liquid-liquid reactors commonly used in chemical and petrochemical processes, cosmetics, mineral processing, etc. The contact between phases is generally achieved either by bubbling gas into the liquid or by making droplets in another liquid in various applications such as absorption, distillation, emulsification, froth flotation, etc.

In most of the multiphase equipment, the knowledge of the transport and transfer processes across a gas-liquid or liquid-liquid interface is useful for the estimation of interfacial area, mass transfer coefficient and dispersed holdup. Furthermore, the physicochemical properties of the liquid phase (viscosity, surface tension, density, etc.) as well as the characteristics of the dispersed phase (bubble/drop size, bubble/drop rise velocity, etc.) govern the hydrodynamics and flow pattern in the system. The formation mechanism determines the primitive bubble or drop size in the system and has logically important consequences on the

The earliest reports on the formation of single bubbles and drops were published by Tate (1864) and Bashforth & Adams (1883). Bashforth and Adams computed the shape of liquid menisci for equilibrium conditions and published their results in the form of tables. From their data, the evolution of the bubble or drop volume can be calculated in the quasi-steady regime. Different models of varying complexity have been proposed including viscous and inertial forces. Davidson and Schüler (1960a and 1960b) presented models for dynamical bubble formation at submerged orifices for the case of viscous and inviscid liquids. A significant amount of works on the bubble formation at submerged orifices over a wide range of

operating parameters have been published in the literature in the last few decades. Ouz and Prosperetti (1993) investigated the dynamic bubble growth at a needle. The importance of the chamber volume under a submerged orifice was pointed out by Marmur and Rubin (1976). Kumar and Kuloor (1970) published an exhaustive report on bubble formation under a wide range of operating conditions. Tsuge (1986) reviewed the hydrodynamics of bubble formation from submerged orifices and discussed various models for the bubble formation mechanism. Rabiger and Vogelpohl (1986) briefly discussed the various parameters that affect the bubble formation. Since then, bubble formation receives continuous attention in the literature, for example, Jamialahmadi et al., 2001; Li et al., 2002; Kulkarni and Joshi, 2005; Buwa et al., 2007. Most of these studies can be classified on the basis of the operating conditions for the gas phase, such as constant flow rate or constant pressure. However, the observations of many investigators are not concordant because of variation induced by the physical properties of the gas-liquid systems, the type of nozzles and the operating parameters (gas velocity, system pressure, etc.). Hence, more observations are required to clarify the bubble formation process. Bubble and drop formation from a nozzle or an orifice have been extensively studied from theoretical and experimental perspectives as mentioned before. Many studies were devoted to drop formation in a continuous fluid (Null and Johnson, 1958; Narasinga et al.; 1966; Schele and Bernard, 1968; Chazal and Ryan, 1971; Hamad et al. 2001) and correlations were proposed based on the properties of the fluids studied (density, viscosity, surface tension) and on the operating conditions (diameter of the opening, flow of the dispersed phase) in order to predict the drop volume. The theoretical analysis has been primarily based on macroscopic force balances assuming that drop formation occurs in two stages. The first stage is the static growth of the drop, which ends when the forces are no longer in equilibrium. The second stage corresponds to the necking and breaking of the drop from the nozzle (Scheele and

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Meister, 1968; Heertjes et al., 1971). From these studies, it can be concluded that the volume

of the drops depends not only on the nozzle size and liquid properties, but also on the liquid

flow rate through the nozzle (unlike the pendant drop case (Michael, 1981).

These studies mainly differ in how the authors approach the second formation stage. The

simplified model gives a good approximation for the drop size when the flow rate is small but

deviations from the experimental measurements occur when the flow rate becomes greater

(Clift et al. 1978; Kumar and Kuloor, 1970). Although the previously cited studies of drop

formation provide some interesting features of the phenomenon, there is still few information

on the fundamental formation process.

To improve our understanding of the bubble and drop formation mechanism, significant information could be obtained from Particle Image Velocimetry (PIV) measurements. While a great deal of research has focused on rising bubbles in Newtonian and non-Newtonian fluids using PIV measurements (Funfschilling and Li, 2001), few experimental studies concern such measurements for the bubble formation. Scarano (1997) studied bubble formation in a Newtonian fluid with a large bubble wake masking the flow circulation, Li *et al.* (2001) studied bubble formation in non-Newtonian fluids during the expansion stage at an orifice. To our best knowledge, complete velocity flow field measurements for the bubble or drop formation have never been reported in the literature yet. A thorough knowledge of bubble and drop size evolution and break-up is necessary for complete prediction and design of practical

processes that involve interfacial phenomena and flows between two phases. In this study, a

PIV system was used to obtain this original information and gain new light into this subject.

2. Experimental set-up and operating conditions

The experimental setup used to investigate bubble and drop formation under constant flow conditions is shown in Fig. 1. The experiments were conducted in a square PMMA column (inner dimensions: 0.1 m wide, 0.5 m high) filled with aqueous phases. The gas bubbles and the organic liquid drops were generated through a submerged orifice located at the bottom of the central section of the column. Two types of orifices were used (a plate orifice of 0.01 m and a thin needle). Various orifice diameters $(0.5 \text{ to } 4 \times 10^{-3} \text{ m})$ were investigated in this study.

A capillary edge of 0.2 mm was used to avoid the wetting problem at the orifice. All experiments were carried out at a constant ambient temperature of 293K. A Rheometric Fluid Spectrometer RFS II (Rheometric Scientific, USA) was employed to measure the rheological properties. The surface and interfacial tensions of the solutions were measured using a Tracker tensiometer (I.T. Concept, France) for gas-liquid and liquid-liquid systems. The physical properties of these systems used are reported in Tables 1 and 2.

Table 1. Fluid properties

Fluid	density kg.m ⁻³	viscosity Pa.s	Tension force \times 10 ⁻³ N.m ⁻¹	
Air	1.15	1.8×10^{-5}	-	
Water	998	1×10^{-3}	72.5	
HV45 50% wt	1030	0.205	37.5	
HV45 65% wt	1050	0.515	38.5	
Silicon oil 5	950	6×10^{-3}	18.5	
Silicon oil 10	953	11×10^{-3}	20.2	
Silicon oil 50	955	55×10^{-3}	20.3	
Silicon oil 100	960	0.11	20.4	

Table 2. Interface properties (Surface or interfacial tension \times 10⁻³ N.m⁻¹)

	Fluid	Silicon oil 5	Silicon oil 10	Silicon oil 50	Silicon oil 100
	Water	24.2	22.1	20.2	18.5
	HV45 50% wt	18.8	15.2	13.4	11.8
,	HV45 65% wt	18.2	14.9	13.1	11.2

Dimensionless numbers, such as Bond (buoyancy and tension force), Reynolds (inertia and viscous forces), and Weber (inertia and tension forces) numbers were used to characterize the gas and liquid flow:

$$Bo = \frac{d_{\text{int}}^2 (\rho_l - \rho_g)g}{\sigma}$$
 (1)

 $\operatorname{Re} = \frac{\rho_d \left(\frac{4Q}{\pi d_{\text{int}}^2}\right) d_{ext}}{ud} \tag{2}$

$$We = \frac{\rho d \left(\frac{4Q}{\pi d_{\text{int}}^2}\right)^2 d_{ext}}{\sigma}$$
(3)

The phenomenon was recorded with a high-speed digital video camera (CAMRECORD 600, Germany) at a rate of 1000 images per second. Images contained 1280×1024 pixels displaying grey levels. The lighting was provided by a 800 W halogen lamp which illuminated the column in an indirect way on a white screen placed behind the column. The image sequences obtained were then analysed in order to calculate the position, velocity and shape of the dispersed phase. Instantaneous velocity fields around a forming bubble or a drop were measured by means of a Particle Image Velocimetry technique (PIV, Dantec Dynamics, Denmark) (Fig. 1). Illumination sheets were generated with two pulsed Nd-YAG LASERS (SOLO-I-15 PIV New Wave Research, USA) arranged side-by-side and crossed the vertical symmetry axis of the dispersed phase. The energy produced by this source was 2×15 mJ. These lasers emitted green light with a wavelength of 532 nm for a duration of 8 to 10 ns. The

time between the flashes varied from less than one microsecond to a few milliseconds. The Nd-Yag lasers were also designed to ensure a sequence of illuminations at a frequency of 15 Hz. The laser beams first crossed a cylindrical lens which gave a laser sheet of strong light intensity and small thickness (2.5 mm maximum). They were focused and superimposed on one zone of measurement. The size of the seeding particles was chosen so that the particles followed the flow correctly and produced sufficient light to make the recording possible and minimize the errors on measurements. In general, seeding particles with diameters of 10 to 50 micrometers were used for liquid phases. In this study, they were composed of silvered glass microspheres of sizes ranging from 10 to 30 micrometres (average diameter of 15 micrometres) and of a density of 1400 kg.m⁻³. The size was determined to minimize both Brownian movement and seeding particle sedimentation. The camera, placed perpendicular to the laser sheets, took two successive images at the maximum intensity of the laser pulse. These images were divided into a few thousand small interrogation areas of 16×16 pixels. A cross-correlation was then performed between the corresponding interrogation areas. When the flow was correctly inseminated, the measurement errors on the velocities were less than 5%. From these experiments, the liquid velocity flow field around a forming bubble or drop were obtained at an orifice.

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3. Experimental results

The experiments were chosen in the aim of obtaining quantitative information on the dynamics of bubble and drop formation.

3.1 Bubble formation

The shape evolution of bubbles with time during the process of bubble growth and detachment in aqueous solutions is shown in Fig. 2. It can be clearly seen that, in all the cases studied of bubble formation in water or HV45 solutions, bubbles expanded spherically at the beginning, then evolved from a spherical shape to an inverse teardrop shape symmetrically, with the vertical axis passing through the orifice centre. The first shape was due to the importance of surface tension at the beginning of bubble formation. Subsequently, the influence of bubble buoyancy gradually became important as the bubble grew: the interface moved upwards and the bubble was elongated to an obvious teardrop shape. Changing viscosities or physical properties modified the shape but not the global formation mechanism.

Further information about the formation mechanism could be obtained from the measurement of flow fields. The major difficulty in applying the PIV technique arose due to the light reflection at the interface. The light reflected at the bubble interface is usually much more intense than the light scattered by the tracer particles, which prevents the registration of their images on the recording media near the interface. For a big orifice, light reflection and obscurity near the bubble, due to its shadow, lead to a lack of information on the right side of the flow field. Thus only orifices of diameter smaller than 4×10^{-3} m were used so as to avoid this problem. The experimental flow fields obtained during the formation of a 180×10^{-9} m³ bubble in water are shown in Fig. 3. The time between two successive frames was 5×10^{-3} s. The choice of this time depends on the rapidity of the physical phenomena. The time between

two successive recordings was about 66×10^{-3} s and the final formation time was about 0.3 s. At $t/t_f = 0.03$ (Fig. 3a) and $t/t_f = 0.3$ (Fig. 3b), the expansion phase of the bubble formation can be observed. At the start of bubble expansion, an upward flow was firstly observed at the front of the bubble, which pushes the liquid (Fig 3a). As the bubble grew, the upward flow increased until the amount of liquid moved reached a critical value and the liquid fell on the sides of the bubble front (Figs. 3b and 3c). The downward flow thus created resulted in conservation of mass and caused the circulation region at the side of the bubble. In water or viscous solutions, bubble and velocity profiles were perfectly axis-symmetric, and displayed neither shape nor trajectory oscillations within the range of bubble sizes studied before detachment. Fig. 3d shows the velocity profile a few milliseconds before the gas film rupture and bubble detachment ($t/t_f = 0.99$). The combination of the upward and downward flow led to the formation of axis-symmetric circulation loops. The space corresponding to the recirculation region expanded while the bubble volume increased. The recirculation was due to the elongation phase of the bubble and created a shear exerted at the neck of the elongated bubble, leading to its final rupture. At $t/t_f = 1.15$ (Fig. 4e), the formation cycle ended with the break-up of the neck of the bubble and its release into the column. Velocity field magnitude increased with the bubble velocity, and an upward flow appeared in the wake of the bubble due to mass conservation and recirculation. The final flow field was in agreement with that reported by previous studies and PIV measurement of bubble motion in fluids (Li et al. 2001; Frank et al. 2006; Dietrich et al. ;2008; and Dietrich et al. 2010).

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The detached bubble volumes were correlated as a function of flow rate for capillaries of different diameters and different systems. The effect of the gas flow rate on the bubble growth is shown in Fig.4. Obviously, the bubble volume increases gradually with the gas flow rate. The effect of the orifice diameter on the bubble volume at detachment from the orifice is plotted in Fig. 4a. It can be observed that the bubble volume changes sharply with the diameter of the orifice due to the increase of both drag and surface tension with the orifice diameter, as both forces effectively prevent quick bubble detachment from the orifice. As a result, the bubble growth time becomes longer and the bubble volume increases accordingly.

Figure 4b shows the relationship between the volume of the bubble at detachment from the orifice and the gas flow rate in solutions with different viscosities and surface tension. It is well known that the surface tension acting on the bubble tends to restrain the growth of the bubble. The increase of HV45concentration in water led to an increment of viscosity which resulted in the increase of the viscous drag. Hence the bubble experimented more difficulty in detaching from the orifice. Consequently, bubble formation was prolonged and the volume of the bubble increased. The bubble broke finally away from the orifice because of the continuous gas input in the bubble.

Concerning the orifice shape, two configurations were tested as shown on Fig 1. Contrary to what is reported in the literature, orifice shape has a non-negligible influence. The effect of the shape of the orifice on the bubble volume at detachment is plotted in Fig. 5.

For all the diameters studied, the bubble volume was greater for bubbles formed on a thin orifice rather than a plate orifice. It can be observed that this effect was particularly stronger for small orifice diameter. Firstly, the wetting on the orifice was thought to be responsible.

But if this were true, the bubble should would be bigger in the case of the plate orifice.

Because this was not so, wettability was discarded and local hydrodynamic effects should be envisaged.

The use of the PIV system to measure the velocity field around the two different orifice

The use of the PIV system to measure the velocity field around the two different orifice shapes could give further information to elucidate this phenomenon. The liquid velocity field around a growing bubble in stagnant water can be observed in Fig. 6 for the two injection systems. Two flow rates used were exactly the same. Clearly, the bubble was bigger in the case of the thin orifice (Fig. 6a) rather than the plate orifice (Fig 6b), confirming then the volume evolution shown in Fig 5.

The two velocity flow fields showed similar global tendency but, for the plate orifice, recirculation regions caused a supplementary breakup mechanism at the neck of the bubble. The circulation loops seemed to be stopped on the orifice. In contrast, , the recirculation caused mainly the bubble elongation with the thin orifice. This effect could be less marked for bigger orifices.

Many parameters such as flow conditions, orifice size and shape, and physical properties were tested. The results show that the bubble volume increased with the liquid viscosity, surface tension, orifice diameter and gas flow rate.

3.2 Drop formation

The setup used to form drops was the same as for bubble formation. But it consisted essentially of a fine capillary tube through which the oil phase was delivered at a constant volumetric flow rate. The plate orifice was not used because of serious wetting problems occurring during drop formation. A liquid drop was formed directly from the tip of the tube.

The capillary tubes were made of stainless steel and had tips that were polished and machined flat to allow the drop to wet the front surface completely.

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In order to avoid any wetting problems with the oil phase, the drop formation was studied only at several sizes of thin orifice: 0.5, 1, 2, 3 and 4×10⁻³ m respectively. When a viscous oil was injected continuously through an orifice into quiescent, immiscible aqueous phase under low flow rates, oil phase broke up as discrete drops directly from the tip of the nozzle under buoyancy as shown in Fig. 7. It shows a temporary picture sequence obtained by the highspeed camera during the experiments for a drop forming in quiescent water from a tube of 4×10⁻³ m, at a constant liquid flow rate of 10⁻⁹ m³ s⁻¹. As the drop volume increased with the continuous oil alimentation, the drop rose on the edge of the orifice. The drop shape gradually changed from quasi-spherical to teardrop during the growth as shown by Zhang (1999). When the size of the drop became sufficiently large, the buoyancy force exceeded the surface tension force (at $t/t_f = 0.75$), the drop necked quickly and an important part started to detach from the orifice. During this sequence (necking), the drop elongated quickly and contracted in the middle to create a liquid thread that connected the drop and the liquid on the orifice (Zhang 1999). This thread was stretched with the fast rise of the drop and broke at its downer end, resulting in a free primary drop. After the thread breakup, the cone-shaped liquid remaining on the orifice tended to retrieve its apex and became spherical because of the capillary force. Typically this rupture at both ends of the thead lead to the creation of a satellite small droplet, having a volume less than 1% of that of the main drop.

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The velocity field measured by PIV is shown in Fig. 8. Due to the lower speed of the expansion phase of the growing drop, it was very difficult to measure a velocity profile with precision at these velocities. However, it can be supposed that velocity profiles in the

expansion phase were the same as for bubble formation. The drop expansion should firstly create an upward flow at its front as a result of the drop pushing the liquid. As in the case of bubbles, the upward flow increased until the quantity of liquid moved reached a critical value and the liquid descended along the sides of the drop. The combination of the upward and downward flows led to the formation of axis-symmetric circulation loops as shown in Fig. 8a. As seen in Fig. 8b, the recirculation region expanded as the drop volume increased. This recirculation region was a consequence of the drop elongation leading to its rupture (Fig 8c). At the moment of rupture, a thin thread of liquid linked the drop and the orifice. The formation cycle ended with the breakup of the drop neck and its release into the contineous phase. The magnitude of the liquid velocity field increased with the drop velocity, and an upward flow appeared in the wake of the drop due to mass conservation and recirculation. This final flow field is quite comparable to the bubble formation.

Fig. 9 focuses on the velocity profile when the thread broke, leading to the formation of a secondary drop. The velocity flow fields before and after the detachment of a drop are represented for a 250×10^{-9} m³.s⁻¹ drop of HS100 silicone oil in water (orifice size 3×10^{-3} m).

Before the rupture, the flow fields around the thread displayed complex features: partly upward flow behind the drop and partly directed downward. Fig. 9 illustrates the stretching effects before and after the rupture of the liquid thread behind the neck of the drop. The downward and upward flows stretched the thread in opposed directions, leading to subsequent rupture, which explains why the rupture occurs in the middle of the fluid thread and creates satellite droplets due to interfacial instability. The velocity flow fields before and after the rupture shown in Fig. 9 corroborate the shape evolution of the drop.

Fig. 10 represents the volume evolution of formed drops for several systems used. Firstly, the influence of the orifice size was investigated for a silicone oil drop in water. The results for different orifice sizes tested are reported in Fig. 10a. As for bubble formation, the bigger the orifice, the greater was the drop volume. However, the volume evolution with the flow rate of dispersed phase differed from that for the bubble. For drop formation with a small orifice, the volume increased with the flow rate until a maximum value. Thereafter, the volume decreased. This maximum was observed in other systems using different silicone oil (HS50 or HS10) as shown in Fig. 10b. The tendency was the same for these three systems. This maximum volume was observed by Narasinga (1964). The analysis by means of the high-speed camera could explain this phenomenon. In Fig. 10b, three formation sequences were plotted with the increase of the flow rate. The higher the flow rate, the longer was the neck behind the drop. The formation time was thus shorter at high flow rate than at low flow rate. PIV measurements provided quantitative information about this phenomenon. The velocity fields around a forming drop were quite different according to a low or a high flow rate (Fig. 11).

The wake created by the preceding drop exerts a strong suction effect on the early stages of the forming drop at orifice (Fig. 11b), and cannot be neglected as in many theoretical models developed previosuly. This effect becomes smaller for the lower flow rate (Fig. 11a). The wake effect leads to a shorter drop formation time and, indeed, a smaller volume of the drop at detachment.

3.3 Global correlation

Even if the shape evolution is not exactly the same for drop and bubble formation, the formation mechanism is quite similar for the systems studied. This study was carried out

under large ranges of experimental conditions wit a total of 250 data points: bubble formation in water and viscous fluids with several orifice sizes (0.5 to 4×10^{-3} m) and several flow rates; drop formation for several silicon oils (HS100, HS50 and HS10) in water and viscous fluids, with several orifice sizes (0.5 to 4×10^{-3} m) and several flow rates. To establish a comparison, it is interesting to propose a correlation for the dispersed phase volume at detachment. If inertia and viscous force are neglected (static model hypothesis) in the formation process, the only two forces acting on forming bubbles or drops at orifice are the buoyancy $P_A = (\rho_I - \rho_g) g V$ and the capillary force $F_c = \sigma . \pi . d_{int.} . \cos \theta$. The global force balance leads to Equation (4):

$$\frac{d}{d_{\text{int}}} = \left(\frac{6\sigma}{d_{\text{int}}^2 \left(\rho_l - \rho_g\right)g}\right)^{1/3} \tag{4}$$

The number of bubbles or drops N_{b,d} is defined on the basis of the Bond number, equivalent diameter of dispersed phase and orifice internal diameter as follows:

$$N_{b,d} = \frac{d}{d_{\text{int}}} B o^{\frac{1}{3}}$$
 (5)

As shown in Eq. 4, this number is equal to $N_0 = 6^{1/3} \approx 1.81$ under static conditions. But this value is obtained for a system where inertia and viscous drag are neglected, which is not really the case for some of our experimental systems, e.g. formation in HV45 50% or viscous silicone oil. In order to take into account these forces, a correction factor could be added, using Reynolds and Weber numbers and viscosity ratio between two phases, and interpreting the deviation between the static model and experimental data. The obtained correlation in Equ. 6 gives a good prediction of the bubble and drop volume.

$$\frac{N_{b,d}}{N_0} = 1 + \frac{We^{0.4}}{Re^{0.43}} \left(\frac{\mu_c}{\mu_d}\right)^{0.38}$$
 (6)

Fig. 12 represents the experimental $N_{b,d}$ versus the correlated one. The average error between experiment data and the correlation is less than 11%. Thus, the correlation can be used for the

prediction of the formed volume of a dispersed phase under various conditions: Reynolds number ranging from 10⁻³ to 10³, orifice sizes between 0.5 to 4 ×10⁻³ m, stagnant phase viscosity from 1 to 500 mPa.s, and dispersed phase viscosity from 1.8×10⁻⁵ to 10⁻¹ Pa.s. Nevertheless, this correlation is only valid for the thin orifice when no wetting phenomenon is observed on the edge of the orifice. When wetting and spreading are observed, especially for drop formation, the formation process and measured volume are not reproducible. The influence of the orifice material and shape could lead to large errors in volume estimation and require still more investigation.

4. Conclusion

The present work allows a better understanding of the formation mechanism of bubble or drop. Flow field measurements obtained by PIV contribute to the flow quantification of the different steps in continuous phase encountered during the formation and provide new light into the interactions between successive drops or the influence of the orifice shape on the flow pattern around a forming bubble or drop. The visualisation of the bubble/drop shape and volume by the high-speed camera along with the flow fields by PIV would be useful for modelling the formation mechanism and validating numerical approaches of the formation process, in particular the thread rupture in the presence of interfacial instability. Finally, a global correlation for bubble and drop formation was proposed to estimate the volume at detachment from an orifice. However, this correlation is only valid in the absence of wetting problems at orifice.

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398 Notation 399 400 $N_{b,d}$ bubble/drop number 401 Re Reynolds number Bond number 402 Bo 403 Weber number We bubble/drop volume, m³ 404 V bubble/drop equivalent diameter, m 405 d fluid viscosity, Pa.s 406 μ gravity, m.s⁻² 407 g surface or interfacial tension, N.m⁻¹ 408 409 410 Subscripts

continuous phase

dispersed phase

inlet diameter

equilibrium

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