## Coalescence & Breakup in emulsions and bubbly flows



Bubble column





Liquid-liquid pipe flow



"Fluides, Energétique & Procédés"

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#### **Evolution of interfacial area**



Equation of **balance on the <u>number density</u>** *n* **of particles** *v* in a perfectly mixed zone (i.e. *with homogeneous hydrodynamics*), without mass transfer (i.e. *without growing/dissolution of the particles*):



NB: Case of <u>heterogeneous flows</u>: coupling of CFD (Two fluid approach) & PBE
 → Birth/death terms are introduced in a transport equation for n(v, t)
 examples in Marchisio et al., AIChE 2003 - Amokrane et al., Can J Chem Eng, 2013

#### **Engineering approach**

<u>*Time evolution of the size distribution*</u>: depends on the *local hydrodynamics* and the *physico-chemical properties* of the two phases and the interface.

- 1) Existing phenomena in the device: *breakup* or/and *coalescence*?
- 2) Determine the cause of deformation/collision.
   → physics at the particle scale



- 3) Select the accurate *kernel* for the Population Balance Equation (PBE)
   → model for frequency and size distribution
- 4) Solve the PBE to simulate the time evolution of the population



### The interfacial tension: a mechanical property of the interface

Interfacial tension  $\rightarrow$  resisting force to surface deformation

Its importance on interfacial phenomena

Influence of surfactants



#### Interfacial tension $\sigma$ : energy *or* force of the interface



A molecule in the bulk is surrounded by neighbors in all directions (equilibrium of energy of attraction and repulsion), while a molecule at the interface has a reduced number of neighbors => it is in an *energetically unfavorable state*: creation of new surface is energetically costly, and a fluid system will act to minimize surface of the interface.

→ Interfacial tension: work (energy) that must be provided to increase the surface of an interface, in isothermal, isobaric and reversible conditions, because interactions are different at the interface:

$$dG = \sigma dA$$

G is the Gibbs free energy (or free enthalpy)

 $\rightarrow$ Interfacial tension: Force per unit length parallel to the interface (i.e. in the tangent plane), exerted perpendicular to any line drawn in the surface:

$$dF = \sigma dl$$

Why is surface tension a force parallel to the interface? Marchand et al., American Journal of Physics (2011)

#### Interfacial tension $\boldsymbol{\sigma}$

- $\sigma :$  Energy [J/m<sup>2</sup>] or force [N/m] of the interface
- → Explains why free bubbles are spherical (when no deformed by gravity *i.e.* at low Bond number Bo):

spherical shape = surface that minimizes the surface area for a given volume

 $\rightarrow$  A droplet on a solid substrate:



Without gravity (Bo << 1) With gravity (Bo  $\ge$  1) http://phyexpdoc.script.univ-paris-diderot.fr/projets\_/sites\_01\_02\_2/goutte/Approchetheorique.html

→ Some values of surface tension for clean interfaces: Water/air:  $\sigma = 72 \text{ mN/m}$ Water/hexane:  $\sigma = 50 \text{ mN/m}$ Water/butanol:  $\sigma = 2.1 \text{ mN/m}$ 

 $\sigma = 0$ : when the phases are totally miscible



*Tintin (Hergé)* – "Explorers on the Moon" (1976)  $\rightarrow$  A whisky drop at Bo = 0

Interface G-L: *superficial tension* 

Interface L-L: *interfacial tension* 

#### Laplace-Young equation for a bubble or droplet

**Pressure jump** across a static interface (without flow)

Across a sphere

Volume increase  $dG_1 = \sigma d(4\pi r^2) = 8\pi r \sigma dr$  $\Rightarrow$  Variation of free enthalpy  $dG_2 = -(P - P_{ext})4\pi r^2 dr$ 

At equilibrium: 
$$dG_1 + dG_2 = 0 = P - P_{ext} = 2\frac{\sigma}{r}$$



General case – Across a surface of two radii of curvature R1 and R2

$$\Delta P = P - P_{ext} = \sigma(\frac{1}{R_1} + \frac{1}{R_2})$$

Laplace law

- *F* : resultant of surface tension forces
- $\rightarrow$  resultant is in the normal direction
- $\rightarrow$  balances  $\Delta P$



http://www.msc.univ-paris-diderot.fr/%7Ecgay/documents/2016-05-formation-physique-lycee/cours-rio-poulard-adhesion-2017-04.pdf

#### **Interfacial tension: examples**

#### Surface tension force: pulling on the surface (tangent to the interface)

*Examples*:

#### Capillary rise of a liquid



Vertical component of surface tension force:  $F_s = \sigma \cos(\theta) 2\pi r$ 

Balanced by the buoyancy force on the raised water:  $P = \Delta \rho \ g \pi r^2 h$ 

# Fs Fs

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Gerris\_ssp.\_fm1.JPG

http://national.udppc.asso.fr/attachments/Memoires\_OdPF/Mmoire\_Marcher\_sur\_l-eau\_final.pdf

Flottation of a sphere

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/6/6a/Surface\_Tension\_Diagram.svg/350px-Surface\_Tension\_Diagram.svg.png

#### a Gerris walking on the water surface





#### **Interfacial tension: examples**

A measurement method of surface tension: pendant drop test. Simple method, commonly used.

A drop of liquid is suspended at a capillary tube by surface tension.

 $\alpha$ : contact angle with the tube

Write the force balance on the droplet, giving the value of  $\sigma$ .



#### Interfacial tension: examples

Another measurement method of surface tension: Wilhelmy plate. For air-liquid F: Capi or liquid-liquid interfaces ZOOMOON triple contact Plate perpendicular to the interface Measure of the capillary force **F** exerted on the plate Force balance on the solid plate Forces the contact Young's law: 8 Lu con O = 8 SV - 8 SL air F = V coo wetted perimeter l = 2 w + 2 d liquid https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wilhelmy\_plate Adapted from Marchand et al., 11 (2011)

#### Importance of surface tension in interface phenomena

Surface tension resists to surface deformation, and acts to minimize the area of the interface.

Breakup of a stretched droplet (Stone, 1994)



Coalescence of two droplets approaching at constant velocity (Klaseboer, 1998)





Wetting of a droplet on a substrate (Pétrissans, 1996) Non-ideal surfaces





=> contact angle hysteresis effects (advancing and receding angles)

#### Surfactants: variation of interfacial tension

The Gibbs equation describes the *lowering* of surface tension due to surfactant adsorption (generally a decrease)

Variation of free enthalpy dG due to a variation of chemical potential (at constant area)

Surface concentration of adsorbed species

$$=> d\sigma = -\sum_{i} \frac{n_{i}^{S}}{A} d\mu_{i}^{L} = -\sum_{i} \prod_{i} d\mu_{i}^{L}$$

 $dG = Ad\sigma = -\sum n_i^S d\mu_i^S$ 







*Surfactant*: hydrophilic head, hydrophobic tail. At the interface, it decreases the interactions between molecules of the bulk fluids.

=> It becomes *energetically less defavorable* for the system to increase the interface area.

Danov (2010), Thin Liquid Films: Drainage and Stability; Role of Surfactant. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Langmuir%E2%80%93Blodgett\_film

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Bulk concentration

#### Gradients of interfacial tension: Marangoni effect $\rightarrow$ <u>change of hydrodynamics at interface</u>



#### Presence of surfactants at an interface, consequencies on fragmentation and coalescence

In **emulsions**, surfactants are present (naturally or introduced) in the fluid system. *They are widely used in the industry (generally at large coverage rate of the interfaces)* to **prevent drop coalescence** and **ensure emulsion stability**.



Bremond & Bibette, Soft Matter (2012)

Surfactants

- change the interfacial tension
- modify the hydrodynamics at the interface
   (Marangoni stresses and/or surface viscosity → interface immobilization)
   and give <u>elasticity</u> and <u>viscosity</u> to the interface

 $\rightarrow$  <u>complex surface rheology</u> not only described by  $\sigma$ 

- can modify the molecule surface charges
- $\rightarrow$ <u>Strong changes of the coalescence and breakup rates</u> in the presence of surfactants.
- lower  $\sigma =>$  lower resistance to interface deformation
- drop coalescence considerably reduced.



Danov (2010), Thin Liquid Films: Drainage and Stability; Role of Surfactant.

### Breakup: physics and modelling

Causes of drop or bubble deformation Physical parameters describing breakup (rupture) *Breakup kernels*: how to model breakup frequency & daughter drop size distribution



Example of applications Chemical reactors with bubbly flows, extraction columns: High rate of breakup desired to increase interfacial area (then mass transfer)



Atomization, sprays(diesel engines, aerosols...)High surface area desired for efficient evaporation/combustion

#### **Objective: modelling drop breakup mechanisms – Focus on "secondary breakup"**

*Problem:* Modelling breakup and selecting accurate kernels:

- Breakup frequency:  $\Gamma(v)$
- Daughter drop size distribution after breakup:  $\beta(v,v')$

as a function of

- all physico-chemical properties of the fluid system
- local properties of the hydrodynamics field.



Secondary breakup = Breakup of already formed droplets

Question: important time scales, forces scales, velocity scales?



#### Methodology:

- $\rightarrow$  analysis of breakup phenomena at local scale in controlled hydrodynamics conditions
- $\rightarrow$  derivation of statistical models

#### Stresses that resist to deformation: surface tension & drop internal viscosity



• Surface tension and viscous stresses are compared in the Ohnesorge number of the drop:

• *Provided droplet viscosity is not too high (Oh*<<1), stress that resists to deformation is **due to** <u>surface tension</u> =  $\sigma$  / d [Pa]

• In <u>case of high viscosity of the deforming interface</u> (large Oh): stress that controls deformation is due to viscosity.

Ex: deformation of an interface honey – air
→ the relaxation process (after deformation) is controlled by viscosity, surface tension effects can be ignored.



case *mainly* studied

in the following

#### Cause responsible for drop or bubble breakup

Breakup: process that converts one drop/bubble into two or more fragments.

- deformation with surface increase
- eventually: growing of instabilities
- fragmentation in daughter droplets.

Condition of appearing of a **critical deformation**, given by:



Deformation not critical here!

(Hinze, 1955)

Stress that deforms the droplet > Stress that resists to deformation

depends on the type of flow when dominated by  $\sigma$  (= at Oh << 1)

 $\sigma/d$ 

 $\rightarrow$  Breakup if the ratio  $T_{\sigma/d}$  is larger than a critical value

 $\rightarrow$  Breakup kernels are related to this critical number





#### 1) Breakup in the viscous regime



Breakup condition: critical capillary number Ca<sub>crit</sub>

Hydrodynamic stress responsible for breakup:

$$\underbrace{G_{c}}_{\rightarrow} \longrightarrow Ca_{c} = \frac{\mu_{c} G_{c} R}{\sigma} \qquad \text{responsible for breakup} \\ \lambda = \frac{\mu_{d}}{\mu_{c}} \longrightarrow Ca_{crit}(\lambda) \qquad T = \mu_{c} G_{c} \\ \text{Velocity gradient} \\ \text{seen by the droplet (shear rate)} \\ 20 \\ \end{bmatrix}$$

#### 1) Breakup in the viscous regime

Experiment on the « four roll mills » device, in steady flow -  $Re_p < 1$ 



#### 1) Breakup in the viscous regime



#### 1) Breakup in the viscous regime – Unsteady conditions



#### 1) Breakup in the viscous regime – Case of an emulsion

 $\rightarrow$  Influence of the volume fraction  $\phi$  of droplets

For suspensions or concentrated emulsions: At low particulate Reynods number  $Re_p$ , assumption of equivalent media: effective density and viscosity, depending on  $\phi$ .

$$\frac{\mu_e}{\mu_c} = (1 - a\emptyset)^{-n}$$

→ Emulsion = non-Newtonian fluid: shear thinning effects at high  $\phi$ 

Experiments of breakup in a *pure shearing flow* show:

same results as for a dilute emulsion, by using an equivalent capillary number:

$$\mu_{c} \rightarrow \mu_{e}$$

$$Ca_{crit} = \frac{\mu_{e}G_{crit}R}{\sigma} = f(\lambda_{e} = \frac{\mu_{d}}{\mu_{e}})$$



Jansen et al., (2001)

A colloidal mill is a rotor stator device, widely used in food processing or pharmaceutical manufacturing to produce emulsions with desired size.

The shear rate  $\dot{\gamma}$  in the thin gap can be adjusted by varying the rotation speed.

- (a) With the target to produce an emulsion with droplets of diameter inferior to d=100  $\mu$ m, with a continuous phase of density  $\rho_c = 1000 \text{ kg/m}^3$  and *effective* viscosity  $\mu_c = 0.006 \text{ Pa.s}$ , what minimal value of  $\dot{\gamma}$  has to be produced in the gap?
- (b) Verify that the continuous flow regime is laminar in the gap of thickness h=0.3 mm (the transition Reynolds number for such a flow in a Couette device with smooth surfaces is superior to 10000).
- (c) Is breakup due to viscous forces or to inertial forces in this system? Comment.

#### Data available for the fluid system:

- The interfacial tension is found to be  $\sigma = 5$  mN/m.

- Schuch et al. (2013) report a critical capillary number close to 3 - *based on the biggest droplet diameter of the emulsion* - for an emulsion with a viscosity ratio  $\lambda = 16.7$  (inner phase viscosity  $\mu_d = 0.1$  Pa.s).



rotor and stator: smooth or toothed teeth: various design

Karbstein and Schubert (1995)

#### 2) Breakup in the inertial regime (determinist flows)

#### Drop/bubble deformed by inertial forces

Resisting stress to deformation is due to *surface tension*. → Breakup criterion: based on a critical Weber number

*We consider determinist flows here:* 

deformation in extensional, oscillatory, rotating flows, due to impulsive accelerations,

Inertial stress:  $T = \rho_c U^2$ 

$$We = \frac{\rho_c U^2 d}{\sigma} = Ca. \operatorname{Re}_p$$

$$U = \operatorname{drop \ relative \ velocity}_{or \ the \ velocity \ based \ on \ a}$$

characteristic velocity gradient due to the fall or rise of a bubble/drop with strong relative velocity...

t(ms)



#### 2) Breakup in the inertial regime: examples

$$\frac{Extensional flow:}{\Rightarrow} \text{ Velocity gradient } G_c \text{ in the flow direction}} \Rightarrow \text{ Inertial stress at the drop scale based on } U = G_c R$$

$$For a \ bubble: \left(\frac{1}{We_{crit}}\right)^{10/9} = \left(\frac{1}{2.76}\right)^{10/9} + \left(\frac{1}{0.247Re_p^{3/4}}\right)^{10/9} \qquad We = \frac{\rho_c (G_c R)^2 d}{\sigma}$$

$$Ex: \text{ convective acceleration } G_c \sim \frac{\partial u}{\partial x}$$

$$Ex: \text{ convective acceleration } G_c \sim \frac{\partial u}{\partial x}$$

$$Re_p = \frac{\rho_c U_R d}{\mu_c} \qquad We = \frac{\rho_c U_R^2 d}{\sigma} \qquad Bo = \frac{\Delta \rho g d^2}{\sigma} \qquad Mo = \frac{\Delta \rho g \mu_c^4}{\rho_c^2 \sigma^3} \qquad \bigcup_{U_R}$$

$$Falling \ drops \ in \ quiescent \ air$$

$$Bo_{crit} = 12.4 \qquad We_{crit} = 12 \qquad \text{see Pilch & Erdman (1987), Jain et al. (2015)}$$

$$We_{crit} = 0.5Bo_{crit}$$

$$\rho^* = \frac{\rho_a \sqrt{2}}{\rho_c} \sqrt{2}$$

Bubbles rising in a quiescent liquid

$$Bo_{crit} = 733(1 + Mo^{1/4})^{1.66}$$
  $We_{crit} = 0.5Bo_{crit}$ 

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#### Exercise: breakup due to inertia

Based on the critical breakup condition, estimate (i) the highest possible diameter of a raindrop and (ii) its terminal velocity.



#### **Drop/bubble deformed by turbulent fluctuations**

Breakup of droplets in the turbulent zone downstream of an orifice



#### In the same device: breakup of an emulsion



Existence of two regimes, depending on the drop size compared to the flow length scales:



#### Theory proposed by Hinze (1955):

#### **Turbulent inertial regime**: $\eta < d < L$

*Main assumption*: only the turbulent vortices of size comparable to the (initial) droplet diameter *d* are efficient for breakup. u'(x+d)

#### **Ex** : *Breakup of bubbles in a stirred tank*

*Assumption*: the velocity field created by the agitator in the tank is supposed to be a homogeneous isotropic turbulent flow (HIT).

Dissipation rate by the agitation device:

$$\varepsilon \propto P/\rho_c V_{cuve} \propto N^3 D^2$$

 $d_{
m max} \propto N^{-1.2} \ d_{
m max} \propto N^{-1.5}$ 



Power consumption:

 $P \propto \rho_c V_{cuve} N^3 D^2$ 

inertial regime: theory predicts  $d_{max} \sim \varepsilon^{-0.4}$ viscous regime: theory predicts  $d_{max} \sim \varepsilon^{-0.5}$ 



#### Drop breakup in turbulent pipe flow



Breakup probability of a droplet of diameter d is the highest in the near-wall region. We consider a droplet larger than the Kolmogorov scale.

The mean flow, of velocity U, induces an average wall shear rate of about  $\dot{\gamma} \approx k \frac{U}{D}$ , it is considered here that k = 4.

The turbulent field is characterized by a dissipation rate  $\varepsilon = 2 f \frac{U^3}{D}$ , with *f* the friction factor (or pressure drop coefficient) given by the Blasius law: f=0.079 Re<sup>-1/4</sup>.

Give the condition where droplet deformation(a) is induced by viscous shearing due to the mean flow;(b) is induced by the turbulent fluctuations at the drop scale;

When will the risk of breakup due to turbulent fluctuations be higher than that due to viscous shearing at the wall? Write the condition as a criterion on d/D.

**Ex** : *Emulsification process – Transition between the two breakup regimes.* 

Production of an emulsion of micrometer size droplets in a narrow-gap homogeneizer

Study of Vankova et al. (2007)

Use of high surfactant concentration  $\Rightarrow$  no coalescence, only breakup *due to turbulence* 

An example of <u>experimental observation</u>: Breakup of a dilute emulsion of silicon oil in water: average drop size divided by 3 when  $\mu_c$  is multiplied by 20.





<u>Comparison with theories</u> for the maximal stable diameter in inertial and viscous regimes:

→ the regime of breakup changes from turbulent inertial (at low  $\mu_c$ ) to turbulent viscous (at higher  $\mu_c$ ).

→ Maximal stable diameter in viscous regime:  $d_{max} \sim cste \cdot \sigma \cdot (\rho_c \mu_c \epsilon)^{-1/2}$ 

#### **Breakup kernels: (A) frequency and (B) daugher drop size distribution**

#### • (A) *Breakup frequency*:

Modelled by a *frequency of collisions* with vortices, times a *probability* that collisions lead to breakup:

$$\Gamma(v) = f_{coll}(v).P_{rupt}(v)$$

Several kernels available in the review of Liao and Lucas (2009)



Constants  $C_1$  et  $C_2$  are not universal and are generally determined from experiments.

*Effect of emulsion concentration*: taken into account as a modulation of turbulence intensity  $\varepsilon$ . 35

#### Breakup kernels: (A) frequency and (B) daugher drop size distribution

• (B) Daughter drop size distribution:

A model that gives the number  $N_f$  of fragments after breakup

and the daughter size distribution function (or daughter drop volumes)

$$\checkmark \rightarrow \bigcirc + \bigcirc + \bigcirc + \bigcirc \qquad \int_0^{\nu'} \beta(\nu, \nu') \, d\nu = N_f$$

A distribution is assumed, depending generally on experimental observations: binary breakup,  $N_f$  fragments of same size, a Gaussian distribution for the fragments, ...

*Ex: Gaussian distribution* for  $N_f$  fragments; the daughter drops of volume v follow

$$\beta(\nu,\nu') = \frac{N_f}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp\left(-\frac{(\nu-m)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right) \qquad \text{Average volume } m = \frac{\nu'}{N_f} \text{ \& standard deviation } \sigma$$

Ex: Multimodal distribution with 2 characteristic sizes



#### Open questions on breakup modelling

A lot of existing models for breakup... predicting different breakup frequencies
 → physical reliability of the models to be improved

• Generally: *unsteady* conditions for breakup Stress is applied during a finite time

→ Importance of *time of residence* 

 → Importance of *response time* of drops or bubbles to an instantaneous deformation
 Risso and Fabre (1998) – Lalanne, Masbernat and Risso (2019)







High pressure homogenizer (widely used in food industry for example) Picture from: https://korpro.com/product/high-pressure-homogenizer-applications/648/



#### Coalescence: physics and modelling

Physical description of coalescence

Hydrodynamics of film drainage process

*Coalescence kernels*: how to model collision frequency, coalescence probability

Milk = natural emulsion of fat globules in an aqueous phase

Garcia et al. (2014)

Example of applications Stability of food or beverage emulsions (milk, soda...): Coalescence has to be prevented to avoid ringing, creaming.



Time evolution of a foam



https://sensientfoodcolors.com/en-eu/emulsion\_stability\_in\_rtd\_sparkling\_beverages/

Separation of emulsions in chemical processes, crude oil recovery: Coalescence has to be fastened to enhance phase separation.



#### **Objective: modelling coalescence process**

**Problem:** Modelling coalescence and selecting accurate kernels for term Q(v,v') of the PBE. Coalescence rate:  $Q(v,v') = C(v,v') P_{coal}(v,v') \rightarrow same as for breakup rate$ 

- Collision frequency: C
- Coalescence efficiency or Probability of Coalescence:  $P_{coal}$

which are functions of

- all physico-chemical properties of the fluid system
- local properties of the hydrodynamics field.



*Note* : <u>Coalescence</u>: only for drops / bubbles

<u>Aggregation, flocculation, coagulation</u>: only for solid particles, not mentioned hereafter.



#### Physical description of the problem

*Coalescence*: process that merges two droplets or bubbles ( $\rightarrow$  a way for the system to minimize the surface per unit volume).

#### Steps: (each of these steps can limit the coalescence rate.)

- 1. Collisions: approach of two droplets
- 2. Drainage of the film between the droplets
- 3. Hole opening: an hole bridge is established between the drops
- 4. Hole growth: the bridge grows and eventually the droplets merge
- 5. Shape relaxation of the new droplet



Collision and film drainage



Hole opening and growth

Pictures from Chireux et al. (2017)



Shape relaxation

#### *This course:* case of coalescence limited by film drainage (step 2)

 $\rightarrow$  Generally a relevant case in bubble columns or emulsification processes with moderate surfactant concentrations (so that they do not induce molecular forces that retard hole opening).

#### **During a collision: coalescence or bouncing?**



An hydrodynamic stress causes collisions.

- Droplets interact during a characteristic time  $t_i$  (time of interaction or contact)
- Liquid film drainage requires a characteristic time  $t_d$
- Coalescence if  $t_d \leq t_i$ ; otherwise bouncing.



① drainage time ② contact time



#### 1) Hydrodynamics of film drainage

Kinetics of **film drainage** of the liquid film between two bubbles or droplets:

• Decrease of the film thickness *h* in time

Order of magnitude:

 $d = 100 \ \mu m$ ,

 $h_c = 10 \text{ nm for a droplet of}$ 

with a decreasing  $h_c$  with d.

• Until a critical thickness is reached, where the attractive van der Waals forces (short-range forces) become dominant and lead to hole opening *in the absence of repulsive forces to coalescence due to surfactants*.

h

h<sub>c</sub>



*Methodology*: Estimation of drainage time  $t_d$  required to reach  $h_c$  by modelling the hydrodynamics in the liquid film.  $\rightarrow$  Theoretical expressions in the following

#### 1) Hydrodynamics of film drainage

#### Assumptions:

- *h/a* <<1 (*a* is the film radius, *h* its thickness)
- axial symmetry
- $Re_{film} << 1$

Navier-Stokes equations in the film:

Film between bubbles

 $\frac{\partial P}{\partial z} \cong 0$ 

 $\rho_{c}(u_{r})$ 

h/2

 $\frac{1}{r}\frac{\partial}{\partial r}(ru_r) + \frac{\partial}{\partial z}(u_z) = 0$ 

film

 $\frac{\partial u_r}{\partial r} = \mu_C \frac{\partial^2 u_r}{\partial r^2} - \frac{\partial P}{\partial r} + \mu_C$ 

Liquid film between droplets

 $\partial^2 u_r$ 

U

u<sub>r</sub>(z,r)

Ζ

а

P = P(r)

**Different boundary conditions for**  $u_I$ **:** 



#### 1) Hydrodynamics of film drainage – Reynolds equation



1) Hydrodynamics of film drainage – Droplets with immobile interface

**Case of liquid film bewteen droplets – case of immobile interfaces:**  $u_I = 0$ 



Expression of the normal force F exerted on the liquid film during drainage:

$$F = -2\pi \int_{0}^{r} (P(r') - P_{c})r' dr' = -\frac{3\pi \mu_{c} V r^{2}}{2h^{3}}$$

 $\rightarrow$  Relationship between the exerted force and the drainage velocity

#### 1) Hydrodynamics of film drainage – Deformable droplets with immobile interface



#### 1) Hydrodynamics of film drainage – Summary of characteristic times of drainage



Deformable => the higher is F, the higher the drainage time because of interface deformation. Spherical => the higher is F, the lower the drainage time.

**Fully mobile interfaces (clean bubbles) - constant approach velocity V** 

Viscous regime<br/>(Re << 1 in the film)</th> $t_d = \frac{3\mu_c R}{2\sigma} \ln(h_0/h_{cr})$ Chesters, 1975Inertial regime<br/>High Re $t_d = \frac{\rho_c V R^2}{8\sigma} \ln(h_0/h_{cr})$ Summary of the different expressions<br/>in Chesters (1991)

Case of an <u>emulsion with very small droplets</u>. Surfactants have been used as emulsion stabilizer.

Bo << 1 => spherical droplets

 $\text{Re}_{\text{p}} \ll 1 \Longrightarrow$  sedimentation or creaming negligible

Such an emulsion is stable over a long period of time.

<u>Centrifugation</u> ("increased gravity") is used to accelerate the emulsion destabilization (= to observe if creaming/sedimentation/drop coalescence can occur).
→ Thus it is an experimental <u>test to simulate aging</u>.

*Question*: what is the effect of centrifugation on:

- $\circ$  the drop sedimentation (or creaming) velocity?
- the drainage time?



#### 1) Hydrodynamics of film drainage

Previous expressions are valid for droplets/bubbles of same radius, in the limit of small deformation h << a << R.

#### Case of droplets/bubbles of different sizes:

Chesters & Hofman (1982) have shown that these expressions remain valid provided an equivalent radius  $R_{eq}$  is used:

$$\frac{1}{R_{eq}} \cong \frac{1}{2} (\frac{1}{R_1} + \frac{1}{R_2})$$

Examples: 1) 
$$R_2 = \frac{R_1}{2}$$
  $R_{eq} \cong \left[\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{1}{R_2} + \frac{1}{2R_2}\right)\right]^{-1} = \frac{4}{3}R_2$   $\bigcirc R_1$ 

2) Drainage between a droplet and a planar interface:

$$R_2 \ll R_1$$
  $R_{eq} \cong \left[\frac{1}{2R_2}\right]^{-1} = 2R_2$   $O_{R_2}$ 

 $\Rightarrow$  *Conclusion*: the radius of the smaller droplet drives the drainage kinetics.

#### 2) Time of interaction (or contact time)

Time of interaction  $t_i$  (or contact time): time spent by the fluid particles in close proximity

Expressions given in Chesters (1991)

 $\eta < d < L$ 

Viscous collisions: droplets/bubbles are brought together by the flow

#### Shear flow



Inertial collisions: moderate and large Weber number

#### In a turbulent inertial regime (HIT)

Time for 2 droplets/bubbles to pass one another:  $d/\dot{u_d} \sim d^{2/3} \varepsilon^{-1/3}$  in HIT

But the time of interaction is typically smaller: *because of inertia*, droplets/bubbles need time to deform, and coalescence can only occur during this time... *see next slide*.

#### 2) Time of interaction (or contact time) – Inertial case

In the presence of inertia:

Colliding drops/bubbles have *kinetic energy* 

→ Converted into *surface energy*: drops deform and film is created

 $\rightarrow$  If no coalescence, converted again in *kinetic energy* (bouncing).

Actual time of interaction = time required for drop deformation.



*V/2* 

d

а

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Coalescence kernels: (A) coalescence probability and (B) collision frequency

• (A) *Probability of coalescence (or coalescence efficiency)* 

Several kernels available in the review of Liao and Lucas (2010)

$$P_{coal} = \exp\left(-\frac{t_d}{t_i}\right)$$

*t<sub>i</sub>*: interaction (or contact) time *t<sub>d</sub>*: drainage time  $\rightarrow$  Based on the expressions shown in the previous slides



*General rules: High contact time* between droplets (as for concentrated media with low agitation) => high P<sub>coal</sub>

Short contact time as in turbulent flows:

= low P<sub>coal</sub> - especially in case of high drainage time of film (case with surfactants).

#### **Coalescence kernels: (A) coalescence probability and (B) collision frequency**

• (A) *Probability of coalescence* 

Several kernels available in the review of Liao and Lucas (2010)

Drops in viscous simple shear

Partially mobile and deformable interfaces

$$t_{d} = \frac{\mu_{d}}{\sqrt{32\pi}} \left(\frac{FR^{3}}{\sigma^{3}}\right)^{1/2} \frac{1}{h_{c}} \qquad P_{coal} = \exp(-t_{d}/t_{i}) \sim \exp(-k_{0}\lambda Ca_{c}^{3/2}(8\pi\sigma R^{2}/A)^{1/3})$$

$$k_{0}, k_{1} \sim 1 \qquad Ca_{c} = \frac{\mu_{c}G_{c}R}{\sigma}$$

$$t_{d} \approx \left(\frac{3\mu_{c}R^{2}F}{16\pi\sigma^{2}h_{c}^{2}}\right) \qquad P_{coal} = \exp(-t_{d}/t_{i}) \sim \exp(-k_{1}Ca_{c}^{2}(8\pi\sigma R^{2}/A)^{2/3})$$

$$+ other expressions of t, on slide 47$$

+ other expressions of  $t_d$  on slide 47

**Bubbles in turbulent flow** 

$$t_{d} \sim \frac{\rho_{c} V R^{2}}{8\sigma} \qquad \qquad t_{d} / t_{i} = \left(2k\rho_{c} R^{3} / 3\sigma\right)^{1/2}$$

$$P_{coal} = \exp(-t_{d} / t_{i}) \sim \exp(-\frac{1}{16}(3W e / k)^{1/2})$$

Probability of coalescence is higher at low Ca or We

=> coalescence is not expected in zones where intense breakup occurs. 53

#### Exercise: shearing of an emulsion and drop size evolution

A dilute emulsion of castor oil ( $\rho_d = 961 \text{ kg/m}^3$ ,  $\mu_d = 0.742 \text{ Pa.s}$ ) dispersed in silicone oil ( $\rho_c = 963 \text{ kg/m}^3$ ,  $\mu_c = 0.048 \text{ Pa.s}$ ) was produced, having drops of average size  $d = 8.1 \mu m$  and an interfacial tension  $\sigma = 0.0043$  N/m. As surfactants were employed as emulsifiers (at low concentration) and  $\mu_d \gg \mu_c$ , interfaces are immobile.

To study its evolution, the emulsion is sheared in a cone-and-plate device, at an average shear rate of 11 s<sup>-1</sup>.

The drops are spherical, not deformed by gravity (Bo << 1), sedimentation or the imposed shear flow (Ca  $\ll$  1).

- (a) Estimate the <u>critical film rupture thickness</u>  $h_c$  by balancing:
- the contact force exerted by the shear flow (drag in Stokes regime);
- the Van der Waals attraction force between equal spheres: AR

Hamaker constant A ~  $10^{-20}$  J.



(c) How does the coalescence probability changes: (i) if the shear is increased? (ii) when the drop average diameter increases?



Cone and plate rheometer Hemingway et al. (2017)



Fresh emulsion  $d = 8.1 \mu m$ 



After 10mn of shearing:  $d = 12.9 \mu m$ 

Data from Al-Mulla (2000), Al-Mulla and Gupta (2000)

#### Coalescence kernels: (A) coalescence probability and (B) collision frequency

#### • (B) Collision frequency between droplets/bubbles in the flow

It is defined based on the relative velocity  $u_d$  of the fluid particles of diameter d and d', times the section area of collision.

For droplets/bubbles of same size:

For droplets/bubbles of different sizes:

$$C(d,d) = -ku_d d^2 n^2 \qquad C(d,d') = ku_d (d_{eq}) \cdot d_{eq}^2 n(d)n(d')$$
  
sion frequency 
$$d^2 n^2 = ku_d (d_{eq}) \cdot d_{eq}^2 n(d)n(d')$$

Collision frequency [m<sup>3</sup>/s]

$$d_{eq}^{-1} = \frac{d+d'}{2dd'}$$

 $u_d$  depends on the local properties of the carrier flow.

In a turbulent flow: high  $u_d =>$  high frequency of collisions. but low probability of coalescence.



Picture from Garg and Basaran Coalescence kernels: (A) coalescence probability and (B) collision frequency

• (B) Collision frequency between droplets/bubbles

For dilute media

- Expressions for fluid particles of same size

 $C(d,d) = -ku_d d^2 n^2$ 

Viscous shearing

*Turbulent inertial collision*  $\eta < d < L$ 

 $u_d \sim G_c d$  et k = 2/3 $u_d \sim (ad)^{1/3}$  et  $k = (8\pi/3)^{1/2}$ 

*Turbulent viscous collision*  $d < \eta$ 

 $u_d \sim (\rho_c \varepsilon / \mu_c)^{1/2} d \text{ et } k = (2\pi/15)^{1/2}$ 

 $V_{T1}$ 

 $O^{V_{T2}}$ 

- Case of *inertial collision due to a difference in rising velocity* 

$$u_d \sim V_{T1} - V_{T2} \qquad V_{T1} > V_{T2}$$
  
for  $d_1 > d_2$ 

For concentrated media

*Concept of effective media:* use of an effective density and viscosity for equivalent properties of the continuous phase

#### **Open questions on coalescence**

• Expressions for drainage time (and contact time) depend on theoretical assumptions: interface (im)mobility, drop and film shape, symmetry of film drainage, ...

 $\rightarrow$  need for experimental validations enabling a better understanding of coalecence

 $\rightarrow$  effect of mass transfer of a solute on drainage?

An instability in the gap can change the film topology from convex to concave shape Danov et al. (2010)





#### • Presence of <u>surfactants</u> at high concentrations (generally the case in *emulsions*):

coalescence becomes limited by the formation of a hole:
 <u>barrier to coalescence</u> due to molecular repulsive forces.
 → coalescence times become much larger than those of drainage, and experiments show that coalescence becomes 'stochastic'...

No predictive model of the coalescence time in this case!

#### Brief summary [including slides numbers for references]



#### The main dimensionless numbers used to characterize interfacial phenomena

Particulate Reynolds number	$\operatorname{Re}_{p} = \frac{\rho_{c} V d}{\mu_{c}}$	<b>Inertial force / viscous force</b> <i>V</i> = relative velocity between drop and bulk fluid
Capillary number	$Ca_{c} = \frac{\mu_{c}V}{\sigma} \text{ or } Ca_{c} = \frac{\mu_{C}G_{C}F}{\sigma}$ in a veloci see slide [31] for Ca in the cas	<b>Viscous force</b> / interfacial tension ty gradient $G_c$ experienced by the drop – <i>see slide</i> [20] e of a <u>turbulent</u> flow
Weber number	$We = \frac{\rho_c V^2 d}{\sigma}  or  We = \frac{\rho(G_c R)}{\sigma}$ in a velocities see slide [31] for We in the case	$\frac{Q}{d}$ Inertial force / interfacial tension $We = Ca_c . Re_p$ ty gradient $G_c$ experienced by the drop – see slide [27] e of a <u>turbulent</u> flow
Bond (or Eötvö number	Bo or $E\ddot{o} = \frac{\Delta \rho g d^2}{\sigma}$	<b>Buoyancy force / interfacial tension</b> Characterizes the (static) drop deformation due to gravity forces
Ohnesorge number	$Oh = \frac{\mu_d}{\sqrt{\sigma d \rho_d}}$	Internal viscous force / (interfacial tension . inertial force) Characterizes the intensity of internal viscous forces, useful for highly viscous drops 59

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- The interfacial tension: definition, examples and consequences
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#### III- Breakup: physics and modelling

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- Breakup due to inertial forces (laminar flow)
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#### **IV- Coalescence: physics and modelling**

- Physical description of the coalescence process Coalescence or bouncing?
- Drainage flow and time scale
- Time of interaction
- Models for coalescence probability + collision frequency

#### V- Brief summary and main non-dimensional numbers



