

Viscosity measurement by the “Oscillating Drop” method: Limits of the linear model

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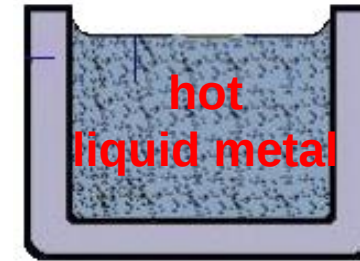
IWSSTP14, Lorient, 24.06. – 26.06.2025



Problems of liquid metal processing

High temperatures of liquid metal

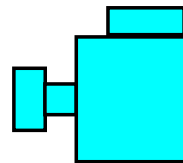
- Chemical reactions
 - Mechanical interaction
- with crucible



Solution

Contactless

Handling + Measurement

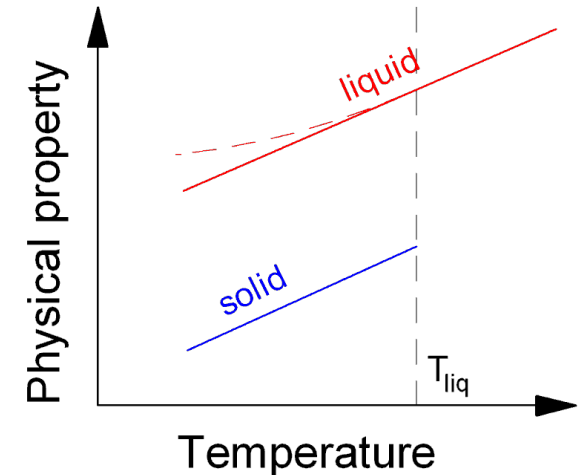


Benefit

Undercooled

temperature range accessible

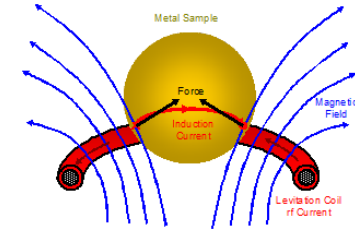
- ⇒ Enlargement of Temp.-range
- ⇒ Structure formation in liquids



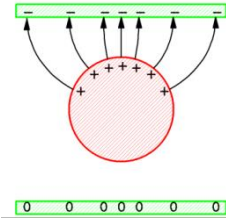
The “Oscillating Drop” method:

Contactless measurement of viscosity η

1. Containerless handling (levitation)



rf-electromagnetic



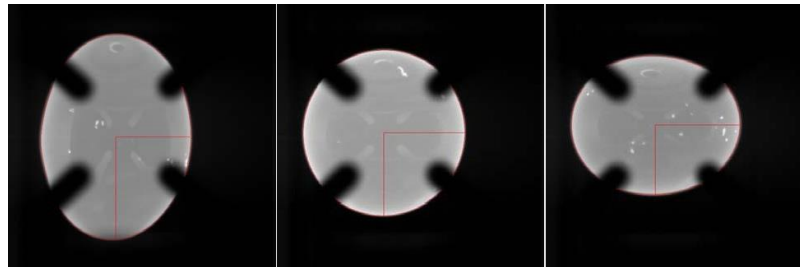
electrostatic

2. Contactless melting (induct., laser)



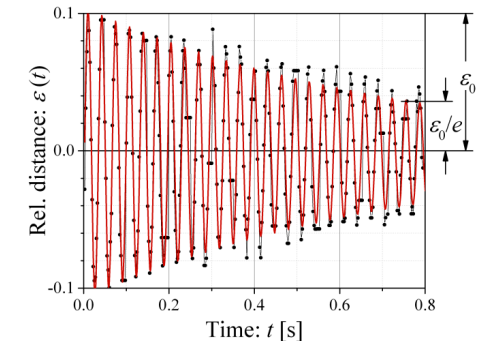
⇒ Liquid droplet

3. Excitation of oscillations



4. Contactless detection of (optical, inductive)

- damping time: τ
- frequency: ω



5. Evaluation: Lamb formula

$$\frac{1}{\tau} = \frac{20\pi}{3} \frac{R}{M} \eta$$

damping time viscosity

Conditions

- **Spherical** droplet
 - **Negligible** fluid flow
(levitation induced)
- ⇒ {
- **Low gravity**
(TEMPUS)
 - **Electrostatic levitation**



➤ **Narrative:** $\Delta R/R \ll 1 \Rightarrow$ Everything all right !!

Expt. finding: **Lamb** formula **fails** for **low viscous** liquids !

⇒ **Revision** of the basic theory

Theoretical description

Navier-Stokes eq.
for oscillating fluid flow
(Newton's law of motion)

$$\rho \frac{d}{dt} \mathbf{v} = \underbrace{\eta \nabla^2 \mathbf{v}}_{\text{Viscous shear force}} - \underbrace{\nabla p(\gamma)}_{\text{Surface tension driving force}}$$

Simplified model
of
Chandrasekhar,
Lamb, Rayleigh

Linearization

$$\rho \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \mathbf{v} = \underbrace{\eta \nabla^2 \mathbf{v}}_{\text{Viscous shear force}} - \underbrace{\nabla p(\gamma)}_{\text{Surface tension driving force}}$$

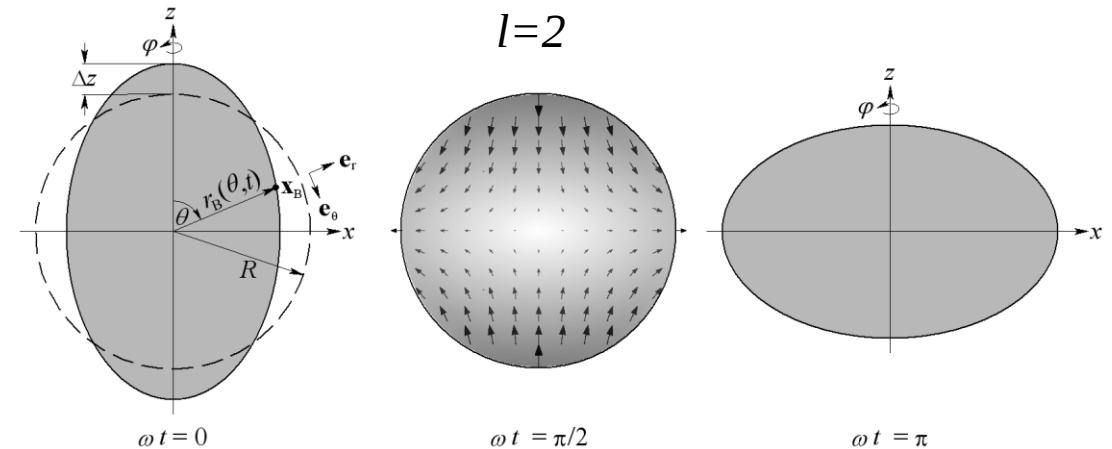
Results: (axially symmetric)

$$\mathbf{v}(\mathbf{x}, t) = \sum_{l \geq 2} \frac{\Delta z_l}{R} \text{Re}[\tilde{\mathbf{w}}_l(\mathbf{x}) e^{i\omega_l t}] e^{-t/\tau_l}$$

$$\omega_l^2 = l(l+2)(l-1) \frac{\gamma}{\rho R^3} \quad \text{:Ray.}$$

$$\frac{1}{\tau_l} := (2l+1)(l-1) \frac{\eta}{\rho R^2} \quad \text{:Lamb}$$

Condition: $\Delta z_l / R \ll 1$



Question: How well approximates the **linear Nav.-Stokes eq.** the **experimental** findings ?

Genuine Navier-Stokes eq.

$$\rho \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \mathbf{v} + \underbrace{\rho \mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{v}}_{\substack{\text{Non-linearity} \\ \text{Trouble maker}}} = \underbrace{\eta \nabla^2 \mathbf{v}}_{\substack{\text{Viscous} \\ \text{shear force}}} - \underbrace{\nabla p(\gamma)}_{\substack{\text{Surface tension} \\ \text{driving force}}}$$

Linear Navier-Stokes eq.

$$\approx \rho \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \mathbf{v}_{lin} = \underbrace{\eta \nabla^2 \mathbf{v}_{lin}}_{\substack{\text{Viscous} \\ \text{shear force}}} - \underbrace{\nabla p_{lin}(\gamma)}_{\substack{\text{Surface tension} \\ \text{driving force}}}$$

Linear model

Lamb formula (viscosity η) **applicable** if:

$$\frac{O(\text{Non - linearity})}{O(\text{Visc. shear force})} = \frac{O(\rho \mathbf{v}_{lin} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{v}_{lin})}{O(\eta \nabla^2 \mathbf{v}_{lin})} \ll 1$$

!!!

Rayleigh formula (surf. tens. γ) **applicable** if:

$$\frac{O(\text{Non - linearity})}{O(\text{Surf. tension})} = \frac{O(\rho \mathbf{v}_{lin} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{v}_{lin})}{O(\nabla p_{lin}(\gamma))} \ll 1$$

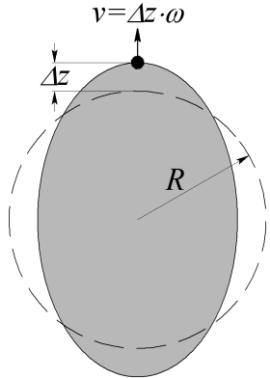


Question: How to define the **order of magnitude** of a vector field ?

Order of magnitude: First try

Rough estimate:

$$\frac{O(\text{Non-linear})}{O(\text{Visc. shear force})} = \frac{O(\rho \mathbf{v}_{lin} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{v}_{lin})}{O(\eta \nabla^2 \mathbf{v}_{lin})} \approx \frac{\rho R}{\eta} v_{ch} = Re \ll 1 \quad (\text{Reynolds No.})$$



with

$$1.) \quad \eta = \rho R^2 / 5\tau \quad (\text{Lamb})$$

$$2.) \quad v_{ch} \approx \frac{\partial}{\partial t} (R + \Delta z \sin(\omega t)) \approx \Delta z \omega$$

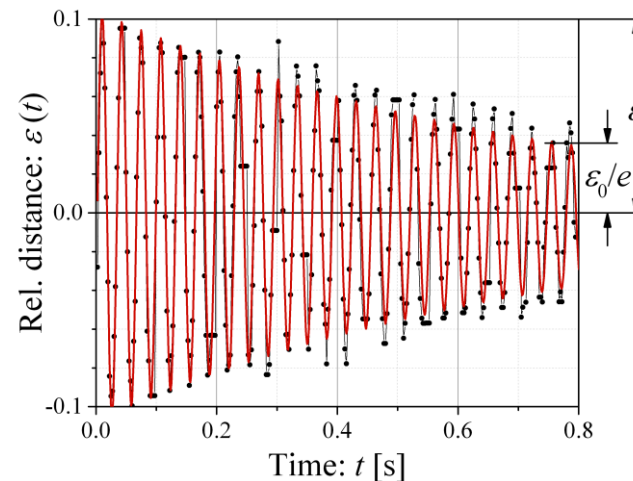
$$\Rightarrow Re \approx 5 \frac{\Delta z}{R} \omega \tau = 10\pi \frac{\Delta z}{R} Ne \ll 1$$

$\omega \tau / 2\pi = Ne$: Number of oscillations until the amplitude dropped down to $1/e$

2 Relevant parameters !

$\Delta z/R$: Amplitude (normal.)

Ne : Oscillation number



Expt. result:

$$\Delta z/R \approx 0.1$$

$$Ne \approx 23$$

$$\Rightarrow Re \approx 70 \gg 1 !!!$$

Order of magnitude: Use of analytical results

Order of magnitude
defined by quadratic mean

$$O(\mathbf{A}) := \sqrt{\langle \|\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{x}, t)\|^2 \rangle} := \sqrt{\frac{1}{V(S)} \int_S \left(\frac{1}{\tau} \int_0^\tau \|\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{x}, t)\|^2 dt \right) d^3x}$$

Results from linear model:

$$\frac{O(\text{non - linearity})}{O(\text{Visc. shear force})} = \sqrt{\langle \|\rho \mathbf{v}_{lin} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{v}_{lin}\|^2 \rangle} / \sqrt{\langle \|\eta \nabla^2 \mathbf{v}_{lin}\|^2 \rangle} \sim 2.4 \frac{\Delta z_2}{R} \sqrt{Ne_2} \approx \begin{cases} 1 & \text{for } \Delta z_2/R \approx 0.1, Ne \approx 23 \\ 0.5 & \text{for } \Delta z_2/R \approx 0.1, Ne \approx 5 \end{cases}$$

⇒ Lamb formula **applicable** only for **small** values of oscillation number Ne !

Results from linear model:

$$\frac{O(\text{non - linearity})}{O(\text{Surf. ten. force})} = \sqrt{\langle \|\rho \mathbf{v}_{lin} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{v}_{lin}\|^2 \rangle} / \sqrt{\langle \|\nabla p_{lin}(\gamma)\|^2 \rangle} \sim \frac{1}{2} \frac{\Delta z_2}{R}$$

⇒ Rayleigh formula **applicable** for **small** values of norm. amplitude $\Delta z/R$!

Significance of the viscous shear force

Linear Navier-Stokes eq.

$$\rho \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \mathbf{v}_{lin} = \underbrace{\eta \nabla^2 \mathbf{v}_{lin}}_{\text{Viscous shear force}} - \underbrace{\nabla p_{lin}(\gamma)}_{\text{Surface tension driving force}}$$

Results from the linear model:

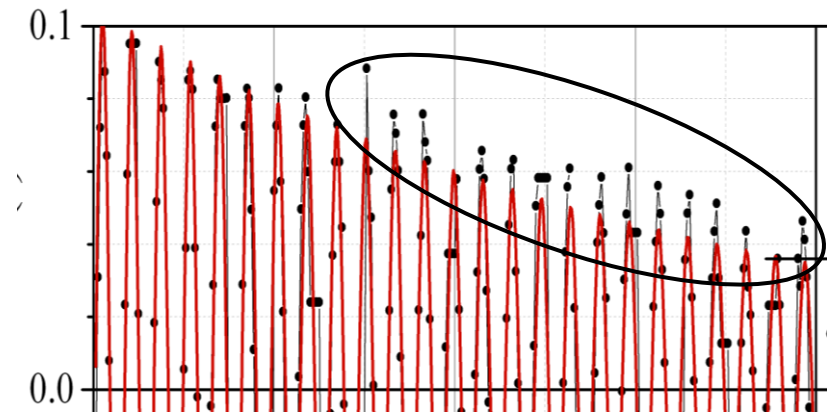
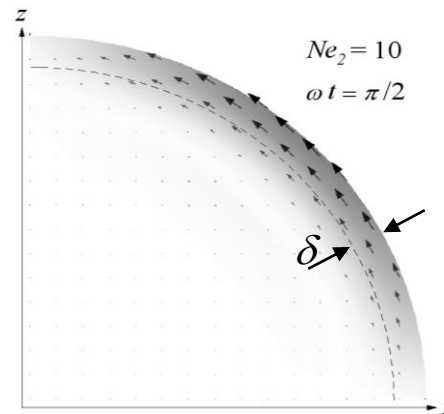
$$\frac{O(\text{Visc. shear force})}{O(\text{Driving force})} = \sqrt{\langle \|\eta \nabla^2 \mathbf{v}_{lin}\|^2 \rangle} / \sqrt{\langle \|\nabla p_{lin}(\gamma)\|^2 \rangle} \sim \frac{0.2}{Ne^{3/4}} < \begin{cases} 0.12 & \text{for } Ne \geq 2 \\ 0.02 & \text{for } Ne = 23 \end{cases}$$

$\Rightarrow$ Visc. shear force $\ll$ γ -induced driving force

Shear force field

restricted to small boundary layer
(exp. decrease)

$$\delta / R = \frac{1}{\sqrt{5\pi Ne_2}} \approx \begin{cases} 0.2 & \text{for } Ne = 2 \\ 0.04 & \text{for } Ne = 23 \end{cases}$$

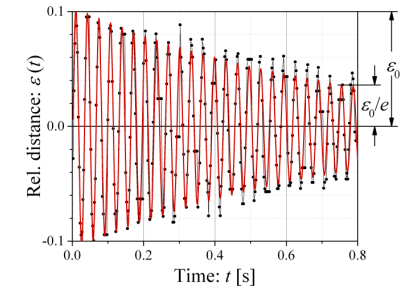
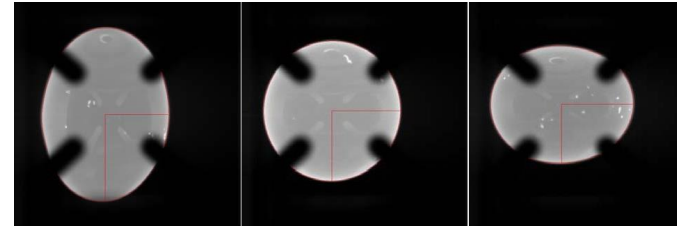


Small **external distortions** result in significant **deviations** from exp. damping behavior !

Summary

➤ Oscillating drop method

Excitation of free floating liquid droplet oscillations



➤ Simplified theoretical **basis**

Linear Navier-Stokes eq.

$$\rho \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \mathbf{v} + \mathbf{0} = \underbrace{\eta \nabla^2 \mathbf{v}}_{\text{Viscous shear force}} - \underbrace{\nabla p(\gamma)}_{\text{Surface tension driving force}}$$

⇒ Requirements

Lamb formula (viscosity η) **applicable** if: $2.4 \Delta z / R \sqrt{Ne} \ll 1 \Rightarrow$ **few** oscillations only

Rayleigh formula (surf. tens. γ) **applicable** if: $0.5 \Delta z / R \ll 1$

➤ Shear force

Minor significance
in oscillating fluid flow

$$\frac{O(\text{Visc. shear force})}{O(\text{Driving force})} \sim \frac{0.2}{Ne^{3/4}} < 0.12$$

Accurate viscosity measurement by ODM needs **particular** care !!!

