

A Simplified Physico-Mathematical Model toward Tumor Ablation Therapy by Microbubble Enhanced HIFU

気泡増強集束超音波による腫瘍焼灼治療のための簡易予測モデルの提案

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1. Introduction

Cancer treatment by High-Intensity Focused Ultrasound (HIFU) [1] is a low invasive method utilizing a thermal coagulation of tumor tissues. A Khokhlov-Zabolotskaya-Kuznetsov (KZK) equation [2] describing weakly nonlinear (i.e., finite but small amplitude) propagation of focused ultrasound in a single-phase liquid has been used as a physico-mathematical model for HIFU treatment.

Recently, it is reported that the utilization of microbubbles as an enhancer drastically improves the heating effects of HIFU [3]. Kanagawa et al. [2] has extended the KZK equation for single-phase liquid into that for bubbly liquid. In our previous work [4], thermal conduction at gas-liquid interface is introduced by utilizing the energy equation [5] for gas inside bubble and we then found that the thermal conduction strongly contributes the dissipation effect. However, the phase difference between the temperature gradient at gas-liquid interface and the average temperature of gas inside bubble [6] is neglected. Since temperature of the tumor may rise over 80 degrees in HIFU treatment [1], detailed description of these thermal effects is strongly desired for such an application.

In this study, a KZK equation is re-derived by incorporating the phase difference between the temperature gradient at gas-liquid interface and the average temperature [6].

2. Problem statement

Long-range propagation of ultrasound radiated from circular sound source placed in an initially quiescent liquid non-uniformly containing many spherical microbubbles is theoretically investigated (**Fig. 1**). The main assumptions are summarized as follows: (i) Incident frequency of ultrasound is quite lower than eigenfrequency of bubble oscillations; (ii) Wavelength is quite longer than the bubble radius; (iii) Diameter of circular

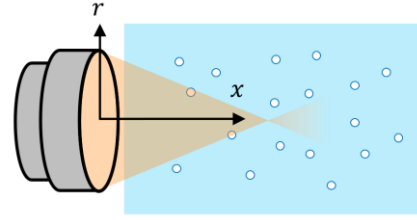


Fig. 1 Schematic of the model.

sound source is sufficiently longer than the wavelength, and this leads to the assumption that wavefront is quasi-planar [2, 4]; (iv) Gas inside bubbles is only composed of non-condensable gas, hence the phase change across gas-liquid interface does not occur.

3. Basic equations

The energy equation for single-bubble describing thermal conduction at the bubble-liquid interface is used [5]:

$$\frac{D_G p_G^*}{Dt^*} = \frac{3}{R^*} \left[(\kappa - 1) \lambda^* \frac{\partial T_G^*}{\partial r_G^*} \Big|_{r_G^*=R^*} - \kappa p_G^* \frac{D_G R^*}{Dt^*} \right], \quad (1)$$

where t^* is the time, p^* pressure, R^* bubble radius, κ ratio of specific heats of gas, λ^* thermal conductivity of gas, T^* temperature; the subscript G denotes volume-averaged variables in gas phases, subscript 0 does the quantities in the initial uniform state at rest, and superscript * does a dimensional quantity. Temperature gradient $\partial T_G^* / \partial r_G^* |_{r_G^*=R^*}$ in Eq. (1) is rewritten by the following model considering the phase difference between the temperature gradient at gas-liquid interface and the average temperature of gas inside bubble [6]:

$$\frac{\partial T_G^*}{\partial r_G^*} \Big|_{r_G^*=R^*} = \frac{\text{Re}(\tilde{L}_P^*)}{|\tilde{L}_P^*|^2} (T_0^* - T_G^*) + \frac{\text{Im}(\tilde{L}_P^*)}{\omega_B^* |\tilde{L}_P^*|^2} \frac{D_G T_G^*}{Dt^*}, \quad (2)$$

where \tilde{L}_P^* is the complex number having the dimension of length [6] and ω_B^* eigenfrequency of bubble oscillation. Furthermore, the conservation laws of mass and momentum for bubbly liquids based

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of two fluid-model [7], the momentum conservation for a spherical symmetric oscillating bubble in a compressible liquid, Tait equation of state for liquid, equation of state for ideal gas inside bubble, conservation equation of mass inside bubble, and balance of normal stresses at the bubble-liquid interface are also introduced (see the explicit forms in Refs. [2, 4]).

4. Results

All the dependent variables are expanded in power series, e.g., the expansion of T_G^* is

$$\frac{T_G^*}{T_{G0}^*} = 1 + \epsilon T_{G1} + \epsilon^2 T_{G2} + \dots, \quad (3)$$

where ϵ ($\ll 1$) is a typical nondimensional (finite but small) amplitude of the ultrasound. As in the same manners of Refs. [2, 4], we can derive the KZK equation in terms of temperature T_{G1} :

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} \left(\frac{\partial T_{G1}}{\partial \xi} + \Pi_1 T_{G1} \frac{\partial T_{G1}}{\partial \tau} + \Pi_{21} \frac{\partial^2 T_{G1}}{\partial \tau^2} \right. \\ \left. + \Pi_{22} T_{G1} + \Pi_3 \frac{\partial^3 T_{G1}}{\partial \tau^3} \right) = \frac{\Gamma^2}{2\zeta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \zeta} \left(\zeta \frac{\partial T_{G1}}{\partial \zeta} \right), \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

via a variables transform as retarded time expression,

$$\tau = t - (1 + \Pi_0)x, \quad \xi = \epsilon x, \quad \zeta = \sqrt{\epsilon} \Gamma r, \quad (5)$$

where Γ is the quantity of $O(1)$ representing the size of focusing of ultrasound. The right-hand side of Eq. (4) represents the focusing along the radial direction. The term with coefficient Π_0 , Π_1 and Π_3 represent the advection, nonlinearity and dispersion effects, respectively, both Π_{21} and Π_{22} the dissipation effects. Advection coefficient Π_0 and dissipation coefficient Π_{22} are

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi_0 = \frac{(1 - \alpha_0)U^{*2} \left[\frac{\omega_B^{*2} R_0^{*2}}{6\alpha_0 c_{L0}^{*2}} - \frac{3(\gamma_e - \kappa)p_{G0}^*}{\rho_{L0}^* U^{*2}} \right]}{\frac{2L^{*2}}{3\alpha_0 R_0^{*2}} \left(\frac{\mu_{e0}^*}{\rho_{L0}^* U^* L^*} \right)^2} \\ - \frac{3(\kappa - 1)^2 [\alpha_0(1 - \alpha_0) + \beta_1] \lambda^* \text{Im}(\tilde{L}_p^*) T_0^*}{2\beta_1 \alpha_0 (1 - \alpha_0) \rho_{L0}^* U^{*2} R_0^* \epsilon} \frac{\omega_B^* |\tilde{L}_p^*|^2}{\omega_B^* |\tilde{L}_p^*|^2} \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

$$\Pi_{22} = \frac{3(\kappa - 1)^2 [\alpha_0(1 - \alpha_0) + \beta_1] \lambda^* \text{Re}(\tilde{L}_p^*) T_0^*}{2\beta_1 \alpha_0 (1 - \alpha_0) \rho_{L0}^* U^{*2} \omega^* R_0^* \epsilon} \frac{\omega_B^* |\tilde{L}_p^*|^2}{|\tilde{L}_p^*|^2}, \quad (7)$$

where L^* , U^* , ω^* are typical wavelength, wave speed, incident frequency of the ultrasound, α void fraction, c_{L0}^* wave speed in pure water, γ_e and μ_e^* are effective polytropic exponent and viscosity [6]. The last term of advection coefficient Π_0 (Eq. (6)) arises from the imaginary part of Eq. (2), hence the phase difference between the temperature gradient and the average temperature affects the advection

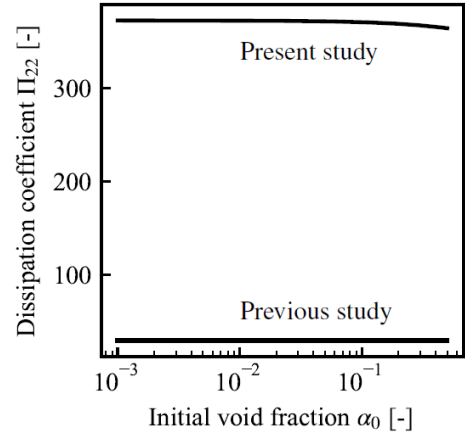


Fig. 2 Dissipation coefficient Π_{22} versus the initial void fraction α_0 for the normal condition of air–water system in our previous study [4] and present study.

effect.

Dissipation coefficient Π_{22} arises from the thermal conduction at gas-liquid interface (the real part of Eq. (2)). **Fig. 2** shows the dependence of Π_{22} on α_0 in our previous study [4] and present study, and then we found that thermal conduction more strongly affects the dissipation effect in this study.

5. Summary

We have derived a KZK equation for a nonlinear propagation of focused ultrasound in bubbly liquids incorporating the thermal conduction at the gas-liquid interface by Eq. (1). Temperature gradient term in Eq. (1) is rewritten by Eq. (2) considering the phase difference between the temperature gradient at gas-liquid interface and the average temperature of gas inside bubble. As a result, the phase difference affects the advection effect and the thermal conduction more strongly affects the dissipation effect than in our previous work [3].

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