



# Article The Linear Stability of Liquid Film with Oscillatory Gas Velocity

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Abstract: The present study theoretically investigated the linear instability of a liquid film sheared by gas flow under acoustic oscillations. In this work, the velocity oscillations of the gas are used to approximately characterize the acoustic oscillations, and the ratio of the conduction heat flux to the evaporation heat flux is used to characterize the heat and mass transfer. Considering the much stronger impact of the heat convection than the heat conduction in practical cases, a correction factor is introduced to satisfy the heat flux ratio within a reasonable range. Because of the oscillatory velocity of gas, several unstable regions, involving the KHI region and the parametric instability (PI) region, appear. The impact of the velocity oscillations on the KHI is related to the forcing frequency. Increasing the oscillatory velocity amplitude promotes the KHI when the forcing frequency is large, while the KHI is restrained with the increase in the oscillatory velocity amplitude when the forcing frequency is small. Since the viscous dissipation is enhanced when the forcing oscillations frequency increases, the PI is suppressed. In addition, when the surface tension decreases, the interfacial instability is also promoted. Increasing the gas-liquid density ratio can destabilize the surface. However, the impact of the heat and mass transfer on the interfacial instability is neglectable as the gas-liquid density ratio is large. Furthermore, the heat and mass transfer have a promoting impact on the PI and KHI, while their destabilizing effect on the indentation between unstable regions is greater. It is significant to note that the location of the maximum growth rate would be in the most unstable region.

Keywords: liquid film; acoustic oscillations; heat and mass transfer; Kelvin-Helmholtz instability

## 1. Introduction

Liquid film cooling is an effective cooling method, which can prevent the wall of the combustor from overheating, oxidation, and destruction. Experimental results have predicted that the detachment of droplets from the liquid layer of the liquid film cooling cannot be neglected [1]. The entrainment is a significant reason for the mass loss of the liquid film, which can result in a decrease in the liquid film cooling efficiency. This entrainment phenomenon is related to the Kelvin-Helmholtz instability (KHI) [2,3], and it can be regarded as the process of droplets being peeled from liquid film, similar to the atomization process, as the liquid film is sheared by the gas stream. As the liquid is surrounded by the gas stream, the velocity of which is higher than that of the liquid, the momentum transfer from the high-speed gas to the liquid dominates the breakup process. Various theoretical and experimental studies [4–9] of the atomization process have been carried out. The typical examples of Lasheras and Hopfinger [10] showed that the interfacial instability was the main factor of the atomization process, and the instability was suppressed by the surface tension. The KHI plays a significant role in the atomization mechanism [11–17]. Rayana et al. [18] extended the theoretical method of Varga et al. [11] to study the process of the droplet peeling from liquid film. It should be noted that there



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**Copyright:** © 2023 by the authors. Licensee MDPI, Basel, Switzerland. This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (https:// creativecommons.org/licenses/by/ 4.0/). was only gas on the upper side of the liquid film, the lower side of the liquid film was limited by the wall rather than the free liquid film on both sides, and the results obtained by the linear stability theory agreed well with those of the experiments.

In summary, the generation of droplets can still be attributed to the general growth of the perturbation wave, and the KHI has an important impact on the process of airassisted or air-blast atomization. The process of droplet production under the acoustic oscillations can result in combustion instability. For example, in an F-1 liquid rocket engine, the pulse combustion of liquid fuel peeled from the liquid layer of film cooling under acoustic oscillation was considered to be a main factor of the combustion instability [19]. Baillot et al. [20] considered that the pressure oscillations may reach 10% or even higher, as the combustion instability appears in the combustion chamber, which inevitably affects the atomization process. Even though the fuel injection systems are extremely insensitive to pressure oscillations in the combustion chamber, combustion instability with acoustic oscillations can also occur [21]. The pressure oscillations in the combustion chamber were mainly reflected in oscillations of the gas velocity [22]. Jia et al. [23–26] investigated the instability of coaxial jets and sheets, and the oscillatory gas velocity was used to characterize the acoustic fluctuations. Due to the oscillatory gas velocity, parametric instability (PI) appeared, and the surface waves were also oscillatory [27]. Because the viscous damping effect is enhanced when the frequency of oscillatory gas velocity increases, the PI is restrained. However, the KHI is enhanced when the frequency of oscillatory gas velocity increases. The KHI of the liquid jet is more impressionable to the rotating velocity of gas than the PI [28].

The present study focuses on the K-H instability of viscous liquid film with a coflowing gas stream under acoustic oscillations. The acoustic oscillations are expressed as the oscillations of gas velocity. In addition, considering that the phase change caused by the temperature difference may affect the growth of the disturbance amplitude [29–31], the heat and mass transfer are also taken into account based on the simplified model of Hsieh [32,33]. The ratio of the conduction heat flux to the evaporation heat flux is used to characterize the heat and mass transfer. Considering that the heat convection is much stronger than the heat conduction in practical cases, a correction factor is introduced to satisfy the heat flux ratio within a reasonable range. The viscous potential flow theory is used to obtain a dispersion relation, which has been used to investigate the KHI in previous studies [34–40]. The dispersion relation between the temporal growth rate and the disturbance wave number is obtained. Furthermore, the effects of the acoustic oscillations, Weber number, heat and mass transfer, as well as other key parameters on the interfacial instability are discussed.

#### 2. Program Formulation

Figure 1 shows that a two-dimensional channel is set horizontally, and the gas is over the liquid. The density, viscosity coefficients, surface tension coefficient, and the thickness of the liquid film are  $\rho_l$ ,  $\mu_l$ ,  $\sigma$ , and  $h_l$ , respectively. The density, viscosity coefficient, and thickness of the gas stream are  $\rho_g$ ,  $\mu_g$ , and  $h_g$ , respectively. As the gas velocity is higher than that of the liquid, the KHI appears due to the velocity discontinuity. Hence, a coordinate system that moves with the liquid film is considered in this work. The basic velocities of gas and liquid in the *x* and *y* directions are  $(U_g, 0)$  and (0, 0), respectively. The temperatures at the upper and lower walls are  $T_1$  and  $T_2$ , respectively, and  $T_i$  represents the temperature at the surface. When the acoustic oscillations are taken into account, the expression of the gas velocity in the *x* direction is

$$U_g = \left(\overline{U}_g - \overline{U}_l\right) + \Delta \overline{U}_g \cos \omega_s t,\tag{1}$$

where  $\overline{U}_g$  is the basic axial velocity,  $\Delta \overline{U}_g$  represents the forcing oscillations amplitude,  $\omega_s$  denotes the forcing oscillations frequency, and *t* is the time.



Figure 1. Schematic of the model.

The temperature difference can lead to Marangoni effects [41], and it significantly affects the interfacial instability. Various articles have examined the Marangoni effects on the instability of liquid jets, sheets, and droplets [42–51]. It should be noted that the previous work has focused on the instability behavior dominated by the surface tension, which is named capillary instability or Rayleigh–Plateau instability, and the aerodynamic effect was neglectable. In this case, the Marangoni effects are obvious. However, as the liquid film is sheared by co-flowing gas stream, the instability behavior is driven by the aerodynamic force. In this case, the surface tension restrains the instability. The results of a recent study [52] predicted that the impact of the Marangoni effects would be weak, as the aerodynamic force dominates the instability behavior. In this work, the surface tension coefficient is a constant. Therefore, the Marangoni effects are not taken into account.

The expression of the interfacial displacement as the surface is disturbed in the present study is

$$\eta = D(t)\exp(ikx),\tag{2}$$

where *k* is the wavenumber.

As  $\mathbf{v}_j = \nabla \varphi_j$ , and the continuity equation  $\mathbf{v}_j = 0$ , the perturbation potentials  $\varphi_j$  satisfy the Laplace equation, which is

$$\nabla^2 \varphi_j = 0, \tag{3}$$

where the right subscripts j = g, l represent the gas and liquid phases, respectively. The Laplace operator is  $\nabla^2 = \partial^2 / \partial x^2 + \partial^2 / \partial y^2$ .

The pressure disturbance can be calculated by the Lagrange integral, which is given by

$$p_l = -\rho_l \frac{\partial \varphi_l}{\partial t},\tag{4}$$

$$p_g = -\rho_g \left( \frac{\partial \varphi_g}{\partial t} + U_g \frac{\partial \varphi_g}{\partial t} \right). \tag{5}$$

The boundary condition when  $y = h_g$  is

$$\frac{\partial \varphi_g}{\partial y} = 0, \ y = h_g. \tag{6}$$

The expressions of the conditions involving heat and mass transfer as y = 0, as shown in Appendix A, are

$$\frac{\partial \varphi_l}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial t} + \frac{\Lambda}{\rho_l} \eta, \ y = 0, \tag{7}$$

$$\frac{\partial \varphi_g}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial t} + U_g \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial x} + \frac{\overline{\Lambda}}{\rho_g} \eta, \ y = 0.$$
(8)

The boundary condition when  $y = -h_l$  is

$$\frac{\partial \varphi_l}{\partial y} = 0, \ y = -h_l. \tag{9}$$

The normal stress must be balanced at y = 0, and the boundary condition is given by

$$-p_g + 2\mu_g \frac{\partial^2 \varphi_g}{\partial y^2} - \left(-p_l + 2\mu_l \frac{\partial^2 \varphi_g}{\partial y^2}\right) = -\sigma \frac{\partial^2 \eta}{\partial x^2}, \ y = 0.$$
(10)

The solutions to Equation (3) are

$$\varphi_l = A_1 \sinh(ky) + A_2 \cosh(ky), \tag{11}$$

$$\varphi_g = B_1 \sinh(ky) + B_2 \cosh(ky), \tag{12}$$

where  $A_1$ ,  $A_2$ ,  $B_1$ , and  $B_2$  are coefficients, which are determined by the boundary conditions. Substituting Equations (11) and (12) into Equations (6)–(9) yields

$$\varphi_l = \frac{1}{k} \left[ \sinh(ky) + \frac{\cosh(kh_l)}{\sinh(kh_l)} \cosh(ky) \right] \left[ D'(t) + \frac{\overline{\Lambda}}{\rho_l} D(t) \right] \exp(ikx), \tag{13}$$

$$\varphi_g = \frac{1}{k} \left[ \sinh(ky) - \frac{\cosh(kh_g)}{\sinh(kh_g)} \cosh(ky) \right] \left[ D'(t) + ikU_g D(t) + \frac{\overline{\Lambda}}{\rho_g} D(t) \right] \exp(ikx).$$
(14)

Utilizing Equations (4) and (5), the normal stress balance boundary condition (i.e., Equation (10)) is

$$\rho_g \left( \frac{\partial \varphi_g}{\partial t} + U_g \frac{\partial \varphi_g}{\partial y} \right) + 2\mu_g \frac{\partial^2 \varphi_g}{\partial y^2} - \left( \rho_l \frac{\partial \varphi_l}{\partial t} + 2\mu_l \frac{\partial^2 \varphi_g}{\partial y^2} \right) + \sigma \frac{\partial^2 \eta}{\partial x^2} = 0.$$
(15)

Substituting the expressions of the perturbation potentials into the normal stress balance boundary condition yields

$$D''(t) + \frac{m}{f}D'(t) + \frac{n}{f}D(t) = 0,$$
(16)

where

$$f = \rho_l \coth(kh_l) + \rho_g \coth(kh_g), \tag{17}$$

$$m = 2\mu_l k^2 \coth(kh_g) + 2ik\rho_g U_g \coth(kh_g) + 2\mu_g k^2 \coth(kh_g) + \overline{\Lambda} \coth(kh_l) + \overline{\Lambda} \coth(kh_g),$$
(18)

$$n = 2\mu_{g}ik^{3}U_{g}\operatorname{coth}(kh_{g}) + 2\mu_{g}k^{2}\frac{\overline{\Lambda}}{\rho_{g}}\operatorname{coth}(kh_{g}) - \rho_{g}k^{2}U_{g}^{2}\operatorname{coth}(kh_{g}) + ikU_{g}\overline{\Lambda}\operatorname{coth}(kh_{g}) + 2\mu_{l}k^{2}\frac{\overline{\Lambda}}{\rho_{l}}\operatorname{coth}(kh_{l}) + ik\rho_{g}U_{g}'\operatorname{coth}(kh_{g}) + \sigma k^{3}$$

$$(19)$$

The Hill's equation can be obtained using the following transformation [23,25]:

$$D(t) = F(\tau) \exp\left(-\int \frac{m}{2f} dt\right),$$
(20)

$$\tau = 0.5\omega_s t,\tag{21}$$

$$U_g = \left(\overline{U}_g - \overline{U}_l\right) + \Delta \overline{U}_g \cos 2\tau.$$
<sup>(22)</sup>

Taking Equations (20)–(22) into Equation (16) (as shown in Appendix B), the result is

$$\frac{d^2 F(\tau)}{d\tau^2} + [\theta_0 + 2\theta_2 \cos(2\tau) + 2\theta_4 \cos(4\tau)]F(\tau) = 0,$$
(23)

where

$$\theta_{0} = \frac{4}{\omega_{s}^{2}} \left\{ \begin{array}{c} -\frac{G^{2}}{4f^{2}} + \frac{H + 2\mu_{g}ik^{3}(\overline{U}_{g} - \overline{U}_{l})\operatorname{coth}(kh_{g}) + ik(\overline{U}_{g} - \overline{U}_{l})\overline{\Lambda}\operatorname{coth}(kh_{g})}{f} \\ -\frac{ik\rho_{g}G(\overline{U}_{g} - \overline{U}_{l})\operatorname{coth}(kh_{g}) + k^{2}\rho_{g}\rho_{l}\left[(\overline{U}_{g} - \overline{U}_{l})^{2} + \frac{1}{2}\Delta\overline{U}_{g}^{2}\right]\operatorname{coth}(kh_{g})\operatorname{coth}(kh_{l})}{f^{2}} \end{array} \right\}.$$
(24)

$$2\theta_{2} = \frac{4}{\omega_{s}^{2}} \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{ik\rho_{g}G\Delta\overline{U}_{g}\coth(kh_{g}) + 2k^{2}\rho_{g}\rho_{l}(\overline{U}_{g}-\overline{U}_{l})\Delta\overline{U}_{g}\coth(kh_{l})\coth(kh_{g})}{f^{2}} \\ +\frac{ik\Delta\overline{U}_{g}\overline{\Lambda}\coth(kh_{g}) + 2\mu_{g}ik^{3}\Delta\overline{U}_{g}\coth(kh_{g})}{f} \end{bmatrix},$$
(25)

$$2\theta_4 = -\frac{2}{\omega_s^2} \frac{k^2 \rho_g \rho_l \Delta \overline{U}_g^2 \coth(kh_g) \coth(kh_l)}{f^2},$$
(26)

$$G = 2\mu_g k^2 \coth(kh_l) + 2\mu_l k^2 \coth(kh_g) + \left[\coth(kh_l) + \coth(kh_g)\right]\overline{\Lambda},$$
(27)

$$H = 2\mu_g k^2 \frac{\overline{\Lambda}}{\rho_g} \coth(kh_g) + 2\mu_l k^2 \frac{\overline{\Lambda}}{\rho_l} \coth(kh_l) + \sigma k^3.$$
<sup>(28)</sup>

Considering Equation (20), the expression of the growth rate can be written as

$$\omega_r = 0.5\beta_r\omega_s - \frac{\mu_l k^2 \coth(kh_l) + \mu_g k^2 \coth(kh_g)}{f} - \frac{\coth(kh_g) + \coth(kh_l)}{2f}\overline{\Lambda}, \qquad (29)$$

where  $\beta_r$  is a characteristic exponent, which is introduced to obtain the dispersion relation (i.e., Equation (29)), and the equation to obtain  $\beta_r$  is

$$\cosh(\pi\beta) = 1 - 2\sin^2\left(\frac{\pi\theta_0^{1/2}}{2}\right) - \frac{\pi}{4\theta_0^{1/2}}\left(\frac{\theta_2^2}{1 - \theta_0} + \frac{\theta_4^2}{2^2 - \theta_0}\right)\sin\left(\pi\theta_0^{1/2}\right).$$
(30)

The nondimensionalized dispersion relation is

$$\Omega_r = 0.5\overline{\beta}_r \Omega_s - \frac{K^2 \coth(K) + \xi K^2 \coth(\alpha K)}{\overline{f}Re} - \frac{\coth(\alpha K) + \coth(K)}{2\overline{f}}\Lambda, \quad (31)$$

$$\cosh(\pi\overline{\beta}) = 1 - 2\sin^2\left(\frac{\pi\overline{\theta}_0^{1/2}}{2}\right) - \frac{\pi}{4\overline{\theta}_0^{1/2}}\left(\frac{\overline{\theta}_2^2}{1 - \overline{\theta}_0} + \frac{\overline{\theta}_4^2}{2^2 - \overline{\theta}_0}\right)\sin\left(\pi\overline{\theta}_0^{1/2}\right), \quad (32)$$

where

$$\overline{\theta}_{0} = \frac{4}{\Omega_{s}^{2}} \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{\overline{G}^{2}}{4\overline{f}^{2}} + \frac{\overline{H} + \frac{2}{Re} \xi i K^{3} \operatorname{coth}(\alpha K) + i K \operatorname{Acoth}(\alpha K)}{\overline{f}} \\ -\frac{i K \rho \overline{G} \operatorname{coth}(\alpha K) + K^{2} \rho (1 + \frac{1}{2} \Delta \gamma^{2}) \operatorname{coth}(\alpha K) \operatorname{coth}(K)}{\overline{f}^{2}} \end{bmatrix},$$
(33)

$$2\overline{\theta}_{2} = \frac{4}{\Omega_{s}^{2}} \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{iK\rho G\Delta\gamma \coth(\alpha K) + 2K^{2}\rho\Delta\gamma \coth(\kappa) \coth(\alpha K)}{\overline{f}^{2}} \\ +\frac{\frac{2}{Re}\overline{\xi}iK^{3}\Delta\gamma \coth(\alpha K) + iK\Delta\gamma\Lambda \coth(\alpha K)}{\overline{f}} \end{bmatrix},$$
(34)

$$2\overline{\theta}_4 = -\frac{2}{\Omega_s^2} \frac{K^2 \rho \Delta \gamma^2 \coth(\alpha K) \coth(K)}{\overline{f}^2},$$
(35)

$$\overline{f} = \operatorname{coth}(K) + \rho \operatorname{coth}(\alpha K), \tag{36}$$

$$\overline{G} = \frac{2}{Re} \xi K^2 \operatorname{coth}(\alpha K) + \frac{2}{Re} K^2 \operatorname{coth}(K) + [\operatorname{coth}(K) + \operatorname{coth}(\alpha K)]\Lambda,$$
(37)

$$\overline{H} = \frac{2}{\rho R e} \xi K^2 \Lambda \coth(\alpha K) + \frac{2}{R e} K^2 \Lambda \coth(K) + \frac{K^3}{W e'},$$
(38)

where  $K = kh_l$  is a nondimensional wavenumber,  $\alpha = h_g/h_l$  is the thickness ratio,  $\rho = \rho_g/\rho_l$  denotes the density ratio,  $\Omega_r = \omega_r h_l / (\overline{U}_g - \overline{U}_l)$  represents the nondimensional temporal growth rate,  $\xi = \mu_g/\mu_l$  is the viscosity ratio between the gas and liquid phases,  $\Omega_s = \omega_s h_l / (\overline{U}_g - \overline{U}_l)$  is the nondimensional forcing frequency,  $\Delta \gamma = \Delta \overline{U}_g / (\overline{U}_g - \overline{U}_l)$  is the nondimensional oscillations amplitude,  $We = \rho_l (\overline{U}_g - \overline{U}_l)^2 h_l / \sigma$  is the Weber number, and  $Re = \rho_l (\overline{U}_g - \overline{U}_l) h_l / \mu_l$  denotes the Reynolds number.  $\Lambda = C(1 + \alpha) / [\rho_l (\overline{U}_g - \overline{U}_l) L]$ is the heat flux ratio between the conduction heat flux from the wall to the interface and the evaporation heat flux at the gas–liquid interface.

### 3. Results and Discussion

Funada et al. [53] studied the KHI of a liquid film in a channel, and the dispersion relation without gravitational acceleration is

$$\left[ \rho_g \left( \omega + ik\overline{U}_g \right)^2 + 2\mu_g k^2 \left( \omega + ik\overline{U}_g \right) \right] \operatorname{coth}(kh_g) + \left( \rho_l - \rho_g \right) ak + \left[ \rho_l \left( \omega + ik\overline{U}_l \right)^2 + 2\mu_l k^2 \left( \omega + ik\overline{U}_l \right) \right] \operatorname{coth}(kh_l) + \sigma k^3 = 0$$

$$(39)$$

Equation (39) is obtained in a fixed coordinate system. Under the coordinate system of the present study, it is written as

$$\left\{ \rho_g \left[ \omega + ik (\overline{U}_g - \overline{U}_l) \right]^2 + 2\mu_g k^2 \left[ \omega + ik (\overline{U}_g - \overline{U}_l) \right] \right\} \operatorname{coth}(kh_g) \\ + \left( \rho_l \omega^2 + 2\mu_l k^2 \omega \right) \operatorname{coth}(kh_l) + \sigma k^3 = 0$$

$$(40)$$

The nondimensionalized Equation (40) is

$$\left[\rho(\Omega+iK)^2 + \frac{2}{Re}\xi K^2(\Omega+iK)\right] \coth(\alpha K) + \left(\Omega^2 + \frac{2}{Re}K^2\Omega\right) \coth(K) + \frac{K^3}{We} = 0, \quad (41)$$

where  $\Omega = \Omega_r + i\Omega_I$  represents the nondimensional complex growth rate, the imaginary part  $\Omega_I$  predicts the nondimensional disturbance frequency, and the real part  $\Omega_r$  denotes the nondimensional growth rate. k is the wavenumber, and the wavelength  $w = 2\pi/k$ .  $i = \sqrt{-1}$  is the imaginary unit.

As the phase change and acoustic oscillations are ignored, the liquid layer is sheared by the high-speed gas stream, and this simplified model is similar to that of Funada et al. [53]. Figure 2 shows the results obtained by Equation (41) and the dispersion relation of the present study without the phase change and acoustic oscillations (i.e.,  $\Delta \gamma = 0$  and  $\Lambda = 0$ ). The curves shown in Figure 2 are normal. Before a maximum value was reached, the curves increased firstly with the wavenumber. After the maximum value, the curves decreased due to the impact of the viscosity of the liquid and the surface tension, and an abscissa-crossing point was reached. The dominant wavenumber is the wavenumber corresponding to the maximum growth rate. In addition, the range of the wavenumber from 0 to the abscissacrossing point is known the unstable range. It can also be observed that the interfacial instability was promoted as the surface tension decreased. Figure 3 displays the results of this work compared with that of Asthana and Agrawal [34] when the heat and mass transfer were considered. In addition, the results of the simplified model in this work were in good agreement with previous studies, and the correctness of the dispersion relation obtained in this work was verified to a certain degree.



**Figure 2.** The results compared with Funada et al. [53] when the Weber number varies (Re = 3000,  $\xi = 0.001$ ,  $\rho = 0.001$ ,  $\alpha = 2$ ).



**Figure 3.** The results compared with Asthana and Agrawal [34] by varying the Reynolds number (*We* = 3000,  $\xi$  = 0.001,  $\Lambda$  = 0.0001,  $\rho$  = 0.001,  $\alpha$  = 2).

According to previous studies [1,54], the values of the typical physical parameters are shown in the following: the liquid density is  $\rho_l = 800 \text{ kg/m}^3$ , the gas density is  $\rho_g = 1 \text{ kg/m}^3$ ,  $T_1 - T_i = 1000 \text{ K}$ ,  $T_i - T_2 = 200 \text{ K}$ , the thermal conductivity coefficient of the liquid is  $\kappa_l = 0.08 \text{ W}/(\text{m} \cdot \text{K})$ , the thermal conductivity coefficient of the gas  $\kappa_g = 0.1 \text{ W}/(\text{m} \cdot \text{K})$ , the latent heat is L = 250 kJ/kg, the velocity difference between the gas and the liquid is  $\overline{U}_g - \overline{U}_l = 5 \text{ m/s}$ , the viscosity of the liquid is  $\mu_l = 0.008 \text{ Pa} \cdot \text{s}$ , the surface tension coefficient is  $\sigma = 0.02$  N/m, the viscosity of the gas is  $\mu_g = 0.000008$  Pa · s, the thickness of the liquid film is  $h_l = 0.001$  m, the thickness of the gas stream is  $h_g = 0.00625$  m, and the frequency of the acoustic oscillations is 1000 Hz. The values of the typical nondimensional parameters are calculated as the reference state in the following: We = 10,000,  $Re = 5000, \rho = 0.00125, \alpha = 6.25, \Omega_{\rm s} = 0.2, \xi = 0.001$ , and the heat flux ratio is  $\Lambda = 0.0001856$ . In fact, the heat flux on the combustor wall of a liquid rocket can reach  $10^{6}$  W/m<sup>2</sup> or higher, and the heat convection is much stronger than heat conduction. In this case, the heat flux ratio  $\Lambda \ge 0.001$ . Therefore, setting  $\Lambda = 0.0001856$  is not reasonable, and a correction factor  $\psi$  should be introduced to satisfy  $\Lambda$  within a reasonable range, i.e.,  $\Lambda = \psi C(1+\alpha) / [\rho_l (\overline{U}_g - \overline{U}_l) L]$ . The heat flux ratio  $\Lambda$  was set to 0.002 in the following.

Figure 4 shows the effect of the nondimensional oscillations amplitude of the gas velocity on the interfacial instability. As shown in Figure 4, only one unstable region

occurred as the acoustic oscillations were ignored (i.e.,  $\Delta \gamma = 0$ ), without a phase transition. This unstable region is inherent, driven by aerodynamic force, and it is named the KHI region. As the oscillations of the gas velocity were neglected, the expression of the growth rate is  $\Omega_r = 0.5\Omega_s\sqrt{\theta_0}$ . This means that this unstable region is dominated by  $\overline{\theta_0}$ . However, several unstable regions appeared without a phase transition when the oscillation amplitude of the gas velocity  $\Delta \gamma \neq 0$ . According to Equations (30) and (31), these unstable regions after the first unstable region, which are named the parametric instability (PI) region, are governed by  $\overline{\theta}_2$  and  $\overline{\theta}_4$ . The full wavelength assumption of Mayer [13] indicted that the unstable disturbed waves in unstable regions can grow generally and break up into droplets. Therefore, the appearance of the PI is beneficial for the formation of smaller droplets. More importantly, Figure 4 shows the most unstable PI region was the second unstable region. Hence, the first and second unstable region only are discussed in the following. Furthermore, the location of the dominant wavenumber would be in the first unstable region as the oscillation amplitude  $\Delta \gamma$  is larger than a critical value  $\Delta \gamma_{cr}$ , and it would be in the second unstable region as  $\Delta \gamma > \Delta \gamma_{cr}$ . Because the growth rate increases faster in the PI region than in the KHI region, as observed in Figure 4, the PI was more impressionable to the oscillations of the gas velocity than the KHI. Moreover, the results in Figure 4b show that the KHI was enhanced when the oscillatory velocity amplitude increased in the case of  $\Omega_s = 0.5$ . However, the KHI was restrained with the increase in the oscillatory velocity amplitude when  $\Omega_s = 0.2$ , as observed in Figure 4a. It can be concluded that the impact of the velocity oscillations on KHI is related to the forcing frequency. The KHI is enhanced with an increasing oscillatory velocity amplitude when the forcing frequency is large, while the KHI is restrained as the oscillatory velocity amplitude increases in the case when the forcing frequency is small.



**Figure 4.** The dispersion curves with varied oscillations amplitude (*We* = 10,000, *Re* = 5000,  $\rho = 0.00125$ ,  $\alpha = 6.25$ ,  $\xi = 0.001$ ,  $\Lambda = 0.002$ ). (a)  $\Omega s = 0.2$ . (b)  $\Omega s = 0.5$ .

The inherent frequency can be calculated by Equation (20), the expression of which can be written as

$$\Omega_I = 0.5\Omega_s \sqrt{\overline{\theta}_0}.\tag{42}$$

The results of a previous study [55] predicted that the waves at half or harmonic frequencies were stimulated by the velocity oscillations, and the resonant wavenumber around the parametric instability regions is  $\Omega_I = e\Omega_s/2$ , where  $e = 1, 2 \cdots$ . In the present study, the resonant wavenumbers should be 13.26, 14.53, . . . , ·as the forcing frequency is 0.2. When the forcing frequency is 0.5, the resonant wavenumbers should be 15.30, 19.34, . . . , and these wavenumbers have been marked in Figure 4. However, because the variation in the inherent frequency of the system is limited, the parametric instability region would not be located at these resonant wavenumbers [55]. Furthermore, the wavenumbers around which the parametric instability appears are related to the forcing frequency, as can be seen in Figure 5 and Equation (40).



**Figure 5.** The dispersion curves with varied forcing oscillations frequencies (*We* = 10,000, *Re* = 5000,  $\Delta \gamma = 0.3$ ,  $\rho = 0.00125$ ,  $\alpha = 6.25$ ,  $\xi = 0.001$ ).

Figure 5 exhibits the influence of the forcing oscillations frequency. Obviously, as the forcing oscillations frequency increased, the instability of the surface was enhanced with an increasing forcing oscillations frequency, while the parametric instability was prevented. Meanwhile, the stabilizing effect of the increasing forcing oscillations in the parametric instability region was greater than the stabilizing effect in the KHI region, as observed in Figure 5. According to the dispersion relation equation of the present study (i.e., Equation (30)), the contribution of the viscous dissipation is

$$\Omega_v = -\frac{K^2 \coth(K)}{\overline{f}Re} - \frac{\xi K^2 \coth(\alpha K)}{\overline{f}Re}.$$
(43)

The term  $K^2 \operatorname{coth}(K)/\overline{f}Re$  in Equation (41) denotes the damping effect of the liquid viscosity on the interfacial instability, and the term  $\xi K^2 \operatorname{coth}(\alpha K)/\overline{f}Re$  represents the contribution of the gas viscosity. As the wavenumber  $K \gg 1$ ,  $\operatorname{coth}(K) \to 1$ , the viscous dissipation of the liquid phase can be proportional approximately to  $K^2/Re$ , as  $\xi \ll 1$ . In this case, the viscous dissipation was enhanced with an increasing wavenumber. According to Equation (42), the resonant wavenumber of the PI region increased because of the increase in the forcing oscillations frequency. Therefore, the PI was restrained because of the strongly viscous dissipation, and the regions of the PI moved to the right, as shown in Figure 5. In addition, it can be observed obviously that there was a critical forcing oscillations frequency  $\Omega_{cr}$ ; the location of dominant wavenumber would be in the second unstable region when  $\Omega_s < \Omega_{cr}$ , and it would be in the first unstable region when  $\Omega_s > \Omega_{cr}$ .

As can be observed in Figure 6, the KHI as well as the PI were enhanced when the gas–liquid density increased. Meanwhile, the unstable regions expanded when the gas–liquid density ratio increased. Even though the heat and mass transfer were neglected, the gaps between unstable regions disappeared when the gas–liquid density ratio may large enough. This suggests that the increases in the gas–liquid density ratio may have accelerated the breakup process of the liquid film. Due to the increase in the gas–liquid density ratio, the aerodynamic force effect was enhanced. Therefore, the interface between the gas and liquid phases tended to be more unstable with an increasing gas–liquid density ratio. In addition, it is worth noting that the growth rate in the PI region increased faster than that in the KHI region when the gas–liquid density than the KHI. Furthermore, the inherent frequency of the system increased because of the increase in the gas–liquid density ratio, and it led the parametric unstable regions to move to the right, as shown in Figure 6a. Moreover, the dispersion curves with and without the heat and mass transfer were very

approximate as the gas-liquid density ratio was large, as observed in Figure 6b. In this case, the effect of the heat and mass transfer could be neglected.





(b)

**Figure 6.** The dispersion curves with varied gas–liquid density ratios (*We* = 10,000, *Re* = 5000,  $\Delta \gamma = 0.3$ ,  $\Omega_s = 0.2$ ,  $\alpha = 6.25$ ,  $\xi = 0.001$ ).

Figure 7 exhibits the influence of the surface tension on the interfacial instability of the viscous liquid film. As observed in Figure 7, with the increase in the Weber number, the maximum growth rate as well as the dominant wavenumber increased. The KHI was dominated by the aerodynamic effect, and it was suppressed by the surface tension. Hence, increasing the Weber number made the gas–liquid interface tend to be more unstable. According to the study of Varga et al. [11,12,14–16], the droplets after the breakup process may become smaller in this condition. In addition, the results in Figure 7 show that the growth rate in the PI region increased faster than that in the KHI region. This predicted that the impact of the oscillatory velocity on the KHI would be weaker than that on the parametric instability. One can also observe, in Equation (32), the term  $K^3/We$ , which denotes the effect of surface tension on the interfacial instability. The damping effect of the surface tension would become stronger with an increasing wavenumber *K*.



**Figure 7.** The dispersion curves with varied Weber numbers (Re = 5000,  $\Delta \gamma = 0.3$ ,  $\Omega_s = 0.2$ ,  $\rho = 0.00125$ ,  $\alpha = 6.25$ ,  $\xi = 0.001$ ).

Then, the effect of the viscosity of the liquid film on the surface instability was examined. It is obvious in Figure 8 that the both the inherent and PI regions increased when the Reynolds number increased. This predicted that the viscosity of the liquid would play a stabilizing role. Jia et al. [23] examined a two-dimensional liquid jet exposed to gas, as the longitudinal acoustic oscillations were considered, and the authors reported that the liquid viscous dissipation was proportional to  $K^2/Re$ . According to Equation (40) in this work, the damping effect of the viscosity of the liquid film was proportional approximately to  $K^2/Re$ , similar to the study of Kumar [56]. Moreover, it can also be concluded that there is a critical Reynolds number  $Re_{cr}$ , the location of the maximum growth rate is in the KHI region as  $Re < Re_{cr}$ , and it shifts to the second unstable region when  $Re > Re_{cr}$ , as shown in Figure 8. A larger wavenumber corresponds to a shorter wavelength because of  $\lambda = 2\pi/K$ . According to recent studies [11,12,14–16], the atomization quality may be improved in the breakup process when the Reynolds number increases.

Figure 9 shows the influence of the viscosity of the gas medium on the interfacial instability of the liquid film. It is clear that the growth rate of the inherent and parametric regions increased as the gas–liquid viscosity increased. The results predicted that increasing the viscosity of the gas would promote the KHI and PI. This conclusion is consistent with that reported by Funada et al. [57], who examined the linear stability of a viscous liquid jet exposed to a viscous gas phase. However, its destabilizing effect is neglectable because the gas–liquid viscosity ratio  $\xi \ll 1$ .



**Figure 8.** The dispersion curves with varied Reynolds numbers ( $We = 10,000, \Delta \gamma = 0.3, \Omega_s = 0.2, \rho = 0.00125, \alpha = 6.25, \xi = 0.001$ ).



**Figure 9.** The dispersion curves when the gas–liquid viscosity ratio varies ( $We = 10,000, Re = 5000, \Delta \gamma = 0.3, \Omega_s = 0.2, \rho = 0.00125, \alpha = 6.25, \Lambda = 0.002$ ).

Figure 10 shows the variation in the growth rate by varying  $\Lambda$  from 0 to 0.003 as the acoustic oscillations are taken into account. In this work,  $\Lambda$  represents the ratio between the conduction heat flux and the evaporation heat flux, and it is employed to characterize the heat and mass transfer. As displayed in Figure 10, the interfacial instability was promoted as the heat and mass transfer were enhanced. It can be concluded that the heat and mass transfer had a destabilizing effect. Furthermore, the unstable regions expanded obviously as the phase transition appeared. Zeng et al. [58] investigated the primary breakup process numerically with the evaporation effect. The results suggested that the phase change could promote the KHI. Chan et al. [59] examined the mass transfer on the KHI at the gas–liquid interface. The authors concluded that the evaporation enhanced the wave instability. Although the physical model of the present study was somewhat different from those of Zeng et al. [58] and Chan et al. [59], the qualitative tendency was consistent.



**Figure 10.** The effect of the heat and mass transfer (*We* = 10,000, *Re* = 5000,  $\Delta \gamma = 0.3$ ,  $\Omega_s = 0.2$ ,  $\rho = 0.00125$ ,  $\alpha = 6.25$ ,  $\xi = 0.001$ ).

### 4. Conclusions

This study investigated the instability of a planner liquid film theoretically when the phase change and acoustic oscillations were taken into consideration. The gas velocity oscillations were employed to characterize the acoustic oscillations. The results showed that the parametric instability (PI) appeared when the acoustic oscillations were taken into account. The impact of the velocity oscillations on the Kelvin-Helmholtz instability (KHI) was related to the forcing frequency. The results suggest that the KHI was enhanced with an increasing oscillatory velocity amplitude when the forcing frequency was large, while the KHI was restrained as the oscillatory velocity amplitude increased in the case of the small forcing frequency. In addition, the PI was more susceptible to the oscillations of the gas velocity than the KHI. Due to the enhancement of the viscous damping effect, the PI was prevented when the forcing oscillations frequency increased. Furthermore, the resonant wavenumber and frequency varied with the forcing oscillations frequency. Both the KHI and PI were promoted with the enhancement of the heat and mass transfer. More importantly, the inherent frequency of the system increased with an increase in the gas-liquid density ratio, and it led to an increase in the wavenumber of the PI. As the gas-liquid density ratio was large enough, the influence of the heat and mass transfer could be neglected. Moreover, the dominant wavenumber could be transferred from the KHI region to the PI region when the Weber number increased. The liquid viscosity restrained the interfacial instability. Although the gas viscosity destabilized the surface of the liquid film, its destabilizing impact was neglectable because of the low viscosity. Considering Mayer's full wavelength assumption [13], which indicates that the unstable disturbed waves in unstable regions can grow generally and break up into droplets, the acoustic oscillations are beneficial for obtaining smaller droplets. In addition, increasing the Weber number, Reynolds number, and gas-liquid density ratio not only accelerates the breakup process of the liquid film but also improves the atomization quality.

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# Nomenclature

- A<sub>1</sub> undetermined coefficients
- A<sub>2</sub> undetermined coefficient
- $B_1$  undetermined coefficient
- *B*<sub>2</sub> undetermined coefficient
- C undetermined coefficient
- *D* a function of time
- $h_g$  thickness of gas
- $h_l$  thickness of liquid
- k wavenumber
- *K* nondimensional wavenumber
- *p* pressure disturbance
- $p_g$  disturbed pressure of gas
- $p_l$  disturbed pressure of liquid
- Re Reynolds number
- t time
- $U_g$  axial gas velocity in coordinate system moving with liquid jet
- $U_{g,0}$  axial gas velocity in fixed coordinate system
- $U_l$  axial velocity of liquid
- $U_g$  axial velocity of gas
- $\overline{U_l}$  axial basic velocity of liquid
- $\overline{U}_g$  axial basic velocity of gas
- $\Delta \overline{\overline{U}}_g$  oscillations amplitude of gas velocity
- v velocity vector
- w wavelength
- We Weber number
- $\alpha$  thickness ratio between gas and liquid
- $\varphi_g$  perturbation potential of gas
- $\varphi_l$  perturbation potential of liquid
- $\Delta \gamma$  nondimensional oscillations amplitude
- $\eta$  disturbed amplitude
- $\mu_g$  gas viscosity
- $\mu_l$  liquid viscosity
- $\rho$  gas–liquid density ratio
- $\rho_g$  gas density
- $\rho_l$  liquid density
- $\sigma$  surface tension coefficient
- $\Lambda$  heat flux ratio
- $\Omega$  nondimensional complex growth rate
- $\Omega_I$  nondimensional inherent frequency
- $\Omega_i$  nondimensional disturbance frequency
- $\Omega_r$  nondimensional temporal growth rate
- $\Omega_s$  nondimensional forcing oscillation frequency
- $\Omega_v$  contribution of viscosity to the instability
- $\omega$  complex growth rate
- $\omega_i$  complex disturbance frequency
- $\omega_r$  temporal growth rate
- $\omega_s$  forcing oscillations frequency
- $\xi$  gas–liquid viscosity ratio

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## Appendix A

The mass transfer, which occurs with the heat transfer, changes the amplitude of the disturbance at the interface through the phase change between gas and liquid. To obtain the kinematic boundary conditions of the disturbance wave including the effect of the mass transfer, Heish [32,33] built the mass transfer balance and heat transfer balance conditions. The mass transfer is approximated by the ratio of the conduction heat flux and the evaporation heat flux in kinematic boundary conditions. As in the studies of Hsieh [32,33], the mass transfer flux balance is

$$\rho_l \left( \frac{\partial \varphi_l}{\partial r} - \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial t} \right) = \rho_g \left( \frac{\partial \varphi_g}{\partial r} - \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial t} - U_g \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial x} \right). \tag{A1}$$

When the phase transition appears, the heat absorbed by the phase transition [32,33] is

$$L\rho_l\left(\frac{\partial\varphi_l}{\partial r} - \frac{\partial\eta}{\partial t}\right) = S(\eta),\tag{A2}$$

where *L* in Equation (A2) is the latent heat released by evaporation, and  $S(\eta)$  represents the heat flux. In the simplified physical model of Hsieh et al. [32,33], *T*<sub>1</sub> represents the temperature of the upper wall, *T*<sub>2</sub> denotes the temperature of the lower wall, *T*<sub>i</sub> represents the temperature of the surface, and *T*<sub>i</sub> should be the saturation temperature when the phase transition appears. We assume that the heat transfer from the upper wall to the surface is by heat conduction, and the heat transfer from the surface to the lower wall is by heat conduction. Thus, the heat flux  $S(\eta)$  at the disturbed interface is

$$S(\eta) = \frac{\kappa_g(T_i - T_1)}{h_g - \eta} + \frac{\kappa_l(T_i - T_2)}{h_l + \eta},$$
(A3)

where  $\kappa_l$  and  $\kappa_g$  are the thermal conductivity coefficients of liquid and gas, respectively. Obviously, Equation (A3) is not a linear expression of the disturbed amplitude  $\eta$ . Therefore, Equation (A3) should be linearized by the Taylor series. Expanding the  $S(\eta)$  in the Taylor series at  $\eta = 0$ , the following equation can be obtained:

$$S(\eta) = S(0) + S'(0)\eta + \frac{1}{2}S''(0)\eta^2 + \cdots$$
 (A4)

To represent  $S(\eta)$  as a function of the disturbed amplitude  $\eta$ , the case of  $\eta = 0$  was assumed as an equilibrium state in previous work [32,33], and the heat flux should be zero.

$$S(0) = \frac{\kappa_g(T_i - T_1)}{h_g} + \frac{\kappa_l(T_i - T_2)}{h_l} = 0.$$
 (A5)

It can be obtained from Equation (A5) as follows

$$\frac{\kappa_g(T_i - T_1)}{h_g} = -\frac{\kappa_l(T_i - T_2)}{h_l} = C,$$
 (A6)

where *C* is a constant. Taking Equations (A3)–(A5) into Equation (A6), the linearized expression is

$$S(\eta) = \frac{\kappa_g(T_i - T_1)}{h_g^2} - \frac{\kappa_l(T_i - T_2)}{h_l^2} = C\left(\frac{1}{h_g} + \frac{1}{h_l}\right)\eta.$$
 (A7)

Utilizing the Equations (A1), (A2), and (A7), the result is

$$\frac{\partial \varphi_l}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial t} + \frac{\overline{\Lambda}}{\rho_l} \eta, \tag{A8}$$

$$\frac{\partial \varphi_g}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial t} + U_g \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial x} + \frac{\overline{\Lambda}}{\rho_g} \eta, \tag{A9}$$

where  $\overline{\Lambda} = C(1/h_g + 1/h_l)/L$ , and the Equations (A8) and (A9) are the boundary conditions at the disturbed surface.

# Appendix B

Taking Equations (20) and (21) into Equation (16) yields

$$\frac{\partial^2 F(\tau)}{\partial \tau^2} + \frac{4}{\omega_s^2} \left( -\frac{m'}{2f} - \frac{m^2}{4f^2} + \frac{n}{f} \right) F(\tau) = 0.$$
 (A10)

Considering that

$$G = 2\mu_g k^2 \coth(kh_l) + 2\mu_l k^2 \coth(kh_g) + \left[\coth(kh_l) + \coth(kh_g)\right]\overline{\Lambda}$$
(A11)

$$H = 2\mu_g k^2 \frac{\overline{\Lambda}}{\rho_g} \coth(kh_g) + 2\mu_l k^2 \frac{\overline{\Lambda}}{\rho_l} \coth(kh_l) + \sigma k^3, \qquad (A12)$$

the expressions of m',  $m^2$ , and n are

$$m' = 2ik\rho_g U'_g \coth(kh_g), \tag{A13}$$

$$m^{2} = \left[G + 2ik\rho_{g}U_{g}\coth(kh_{g})\right]^{2} = G^{2} + 4Gik\rho_{g}U_{g}\coth(kh_{g}) - 4k^{2}\rho_{g}^{2}U_{g}^{2}\coth^{2}(kh_{g})$$

$$= G^{2} + 4Gik\rho_{g}\coth(kh_{g})\left[\left(\overline{U}_{g} - \overline{U}_{l}\right) + \Delta\overline{U}_{g}\cos 2\tau\right] , \qquad (A14)$$

$$-4k^{2}\rho_{g}^{2}\coth^{2}(kh_{g})\left[\left(\overline{U}_{g} - \overline{U}_{l}\right) + \Delta\overline{U}_{g}\cos 2\tau\right]^{2}$$

$$n = 2\mu_{g}ik^{3}U_{g}\coth(kh_{g}) - \rho_{g}k^{2}U_{g}^{2}\coth(kh_{g}) + ikU_{g}\overline{\Lambda}\coth(kh_{g}) + H$$
  

$$= H + 2\mu_{g}ik^{3}[(\overline{U}_{g} - \overline{U}_{l}) + \Delta\overline{U}_{g}\cos 2\tau]\coth(kh_{g}) + ik\rho_{g}U_{g}'\coth(kh_{g}) \qquad .$$
(A15)  

$$-\rho_{g}k^{2}[(\overline{U}_{g} - \overline{U}_{l}) + \Delta\overline{U}_{g}\cos 2\tau]^{2}\coth(kh_{g}) + ik[(\overline{U}_{g} - \overline{U}_{l}) + \Delta\overline{U}_{g}\cos 2\tau]\overline{\Lambda}\coth(kh_{g})$$

For the cosine function, there is

$$\cos 4\tau = \cos^2 2\tau - \sin^2 2\tau = 2\cos^2 2\tau - 1,$$
 (A16)

Taking Equations (A13)-(A16) into Equation (A10), the results are

$$\frac{d^2 F(\tau)}{d\tau^2} + [\theta_0 + 2\theta_2 \cos(2\tau) + 2\theta_4 \cos(4\tau)]F(\tau) = 0,$$
(A17)

where

$$\theta_{0} = \frac{4}{\omega_{s}^{2}} \left\{ \begin{array}{c} -\frac{G^{2}}{4f^{2}} + \frac{H + 2\mu_{g}ik^{3}(\overline{U}_{g} - \overline{U}_{l})\operatorname{coth}(kh_{g}) + ik(\overline{U}_{g} - \overline{U}_{l})\overline{\Lambda}\operatorname{coth}(kh_{g})}{f} \\ -\frac{ik\rho_{g}G(\overline{U}_{g} - \overline{U}_{l})\operatorname{coth}(kh_{g}) + k^{2}\rho_{g}\rho_{l}\left[(\overline{U}_{g} - \overline{U}_{l})^{2} + \frac{1}{2}\Delta\overline{U}_{g}^{2}\right]\operatorname{coth}(kh_{g})\operatorname{coth}(kh_{l})}{f^{2}} \end{array} \right\}, \quad (A18)$$

$$2\theta_{2} = \frac{4}{\omega_{s}^{2}} \left[ \begin{array}{c} -\frac{ik\rho_{g}G\Delta\overline{U}_{g}\operatorname{coth}(kh_{g}) + 2k^{2}\rho_{g}\rho_{l}(\overline{U}_{g} - \overline{U}_{l})\Delta\overline{U}_{g}\operatorname{coth}(kh_{l})\operatorname{coth}(kh_{g})}{f^{2}} \\ + \frac{ik\Delta\overline{U}_{g}\overline{\Lambda}\operatorname{coth}(kh_{g}) + 2\mu_{g}ik^{3}\Delta\overline{U}_{g}\operatorname{coth}(kh_{g})}{f} \end{array} \right], \quad (A19)$$

$$2\theta_4 = -\frac{2}{\omega_s^2} \frac{k^2 \rho_g \rho_l \Delta \overline{U}_g^2 \coth(kh_g) \coth(kh_l)}{f^2}.$$
 (A20)

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