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Ring-Waves Generated by Water Drops Impacting on Water Surfaces at Rest

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Abstract—Radar observations of the ocean surface can be affected by impacting raindrops. Ring-wave measurements are presented for drops of 2.2 and 2.8 mm in diameter impacting on fresh and salt water surfaces initially at rest. They are based on the observation of the mirror image of a sharp edge on the perturbed surface. The retrieved wave profiles show a rather stable characteristic wavenumber ($0.2 \text{ mm}^{-1}$) and very small wave amplitudes: the fraction of the incident kinetic energy converted into ring-waves is of the order of 1%.

Index Terms—Circular surface waves, rain, wave energy.

I. INTRODUCTION

T HE IMPACT of drops on solid and liquid surfaces has been largely studied in the past. A broad review of the related phenomena is presented by Rein [1]. However, in the case of liquid target surfaces, the ring-waves generated by the impacts have been subject to rather sparse studies [2]–[6]. All those studies, except for that of Le Méhauté [3], are based on photographic and video observations, from which it is almost impossible to obtain an estimate of the height profile of the waves.

This topic becomes of special interest because of the significant effect that ring-waves produced by raindrop impacts may have on radar observations of the ocean surface [4], [7]–[10]. Indeed, at some frequencies, they can come into resonance with the incident electromagnetic waves (at centimetric wavelengths, i.e., for frequencies of the order of 10 GHz). In this context, it is important to study the characteristic frequencies and energy contents of the surface waves.

In view of their possible effect on the ring-waves, we recall the earliest phenomena that appear following a drop impact: when a raindrop hits a water surface, it generates a crater with a crown, which collapses to form a vertical stalk of water, which eventually subsides to spawn rings of gravity-capillary waves that propagate outward [11], [12]. Photographs of those successive events are presented in [5] and a study of the size and duration of the corresponding features is reported in [6]. A large fraction of the drop energy is certainly transformed into vortex rings propagating vertically through the water [13], while the energy fraction transferred horizontally by the ring-waves is probably smaller, but has never been quantified [14].

II. MEASUREMENT TECHNIQUE

Surface waves are often measured with capacitive wire probes that present the advantage of measuring directly the surface height. However, they give only one-point observations and present generally a sensitivity of a few tenths of millimeters, which is insufficient to observe the phenomenon with which we are dealing. To overcome those difficulties, we adopted an optical technique: the ring-waves have been observed indirectly through their effect on the mirror image of a vertical line on the water surface. The experimental setup is presented in Fig. 1: the vertical line corresponds to the left edge of a white page placed on a dark background, and...
the scene is observed with a video camera. The center circle represents the impact point of the drop.

The positions of the page and of the camera were measured accurately, and four reference points of known position were drawn on the page (crosses on the figure). We considered the image as a central projection of the scene, whose parameters were estimated through the knowledge of the position of the reference points. From there, a correspondence could be established between each pixel of the mirror image and the horizontal position of every point observed on the water surface. This was done neglecting, at this stage, the vertical position of the points, because of the very small vertical displacements of the water surface (verified later on in Section III-D).

This allows the determination of the horizontal coordinates of the impact point and of the distorted image of the edge. For each point of the edge image, the local normal can be estimated using two pieces of information:

- As seen from the camera, the observed point corresponds to the image of a point of the vertical edge.
- Due to the cylindrical symmetry of the wave, the local normal is in the vertical plane containing the impact point.

From this, a slope profile is calculated along the ring radius. Details of this technique are given in Appendix I.

The horizontal dimensions of the tank were 1.1 × 1.1 m and the water depth was 20 cm. The experiments were carried out with tap water (measured surface tension: 70 dynes-cm⁻¹) and with salt water, whose salinity was 34 parts per thousand (measured surface tension: 60 dynes-cm⁻¹), which corresponds to the mean salinity of sea water. The water surface was cleaned every 30 min on average.

The drops were made of tap water and were produced by two different hypodermic needles, corresponding to drop diameters of 2.2 and 2.8 mm (assuming an equivolumetric spherical shape). They fell from three different heights (1, 3, and 5.5 m), which correspond to approximately 55%, 81%, and 93% of terminal velocity [15].

The camera used was an analog SONY camera, with a frame rate of 25 images per second. With this kind of video device, the blurring of the images may have two origins: the fast motion of the wave and a defocusing effect related to the slight curvature of the observed surface. Those effects were made negligible by selecting a high shutter speed (1/150 s) and a small diaphragm aperture, along with a strong illumination (1 kW).

III. Data Processing

A. Slope Profiles

For each particular experiment, the edge image was observed at three successive moments, separated by 3/25 s (every 3 frames). Each image was digitized in a 784 × 576 pixels frame, where the edge of the page was detected. From there, using the methodology mentioned above, a slope profile was determined. Fig. 2 gives an example of such a slope profile for a 2.8-mm drop falling from 5.5 m into fresh water.

The accuracy of the measurements is essentially limited by the pixel resolution of the camera and by the accuracy of the determination of horizontal coordinates. The effect of limited resolution was observed in the case of a flat surface, for which the detected slope presented a zero mean and a standard deviation of 0.5×10⁻³ mm/mm. This corresponds, for the slope profiles, to a signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) of the order of 20 dB for the 2.2-mm drops and 26 dB for the 2.8-mm drops. The errors in horizontal coordinates stem essentially from the nonlinear aberrations of the camera and were smaller than 2%. The consequences of these uncertainties will be discussed below.

B. Wave Propagation

Basic relationships for the propagation of circular gravity-capillary surface waves are presented in Appendix III. They are needed to check the dispersion and dissipation of the waves and they also provide a simple method to estimate the height profiles and wave energy.

Let \( \eta(r, t_p) \) be the height profile of the circular wave versus the ring radius \( r \) at a time \( t_p \) for which the perturbed ring is already far from the source. We may denote \( A_0(k) \) as the complex Hankel transform of \( \eta(r, t_p) \), which we defined (see Appendix II) as

\[
A_0(k) = \mathcal{H}\{\eta(r, t_p)\}
= \frac{1}{2} \int_0^\infty \eta(r, t_p)[J_0(kr) - jY_0(kr)]r dr
\]

(1)

where \( J_0 \) and \( Y_0 \) are the first kind Bessel and Neumann functions of zeroth order.

If we neglect the dissipation, it is possible to show (see Appendix III) that the wave shape at another instant \( t \) can be modeled in very good approximation by

\[
\eta(r, t) = \Re\left\{ \int_0^\infty A_0(k)e^{-j\omega(t-t_p)}[J_0(kr) + jY_0(kr)]k dk \right\},
\]

(2)

i.e., the wave shape is represented by a superposition of progressive wave components characterized by a wavenumber \( k \).

The link between the time pulsation \( \omega \) and the wavenumber \( k \) is given by the dispersion relationship for gravity-capillary
waves
\[ \omega^2 = gk + \frac{\tau}{\rho k^3} \]  
(3)

where \( g \) is the acceleration of gravity, \( \tau \) is the surface tension, and \( \rho \) is the density of water.

Approximation (2) is very good provided that the \( kr \) product is large, i.e., the ring-wave radius must be large compared to its characteristic wavelengths. This condition is fulfilled in the case of our observations. Indeed, as explained below, typical values of the distance from the origin and of the wavelength are 110 and 30 mm, respectively, which gives a \( kr \) product of 23.

C. Dissipation and Dispersion

In view of the rather low dissipation rate, the wave damping coefficients may be simply superimposed to the solution described above, i.e., we apply a perturbation model, also used by Le Méhauté [3]. Following Van Dorn [16], we consider two sources of dissipation: 1) the viscous dissipation and 2) the wave suppression by the surface film that appears because of the practically unavoidable surface contaminants. Both of those dissipation sources are characterized by an exponential damping coefficient, \( D(k) = e^{-\gamma k^2} \), where \( \gamma = 2k^2 \) for the viscous dissipation and \( \gamma = k\sqrt{\omega(k)^2}/\nu \) for the effect of the surface film in case of full contamination, where \( \nu \) is the molecular viscosity of water (1 \( \text{mm}^2\text{s}^{-1} \) both for fresh and salt water).

In the—rather narrow—wavenumber range that we will consider here, we may approximate both \( \gamma \) exponents by a quadratic law versus wavenumber. Therefore, we modeled the dissipation by one single exponent: \( D(k) = e^{-2\nu_{equ}k^2t} \), where \( \nu_{equ} \) is an equivalent viscosity. If we consider a central wavenumber of \( k = 0.2 \text{ mm}^{-1} \) (see below), we find \( \nu_{equ} = 7.28 \text{ mm}^2\text{s}^{-1} \).

From (3), we may also predict a strong dispersion and, hence, a rapid change of the shape of the elevation wave. This is effectively observed.

In order to check the quality of the measurements, we compared the surface slope profile at a given moment \( t \) with that predicted using the one observed at a previous time \( t_1 \) (3/25 s earlier).

Developments of Sections II-B and II-C showed that, from time \( t_1 \) to time \( t \), the complex Hankel transform \( A_0(k) \) of the wave profile is multiplied by the phase factor related to the propagation, and by the exponential factor standing for the dissipation.

If we approximate \( H\{dz(r)/dr\} \) by \( jkH\{z(r)\} \) (see Appendix II), the same transformations may be applied to the complex Hankel transform \( B_0(k) \) of the slope profile.

Hence, an estimate of \( dh(t)/dt \) at time \( t \) is given by
\[ dh(t, t)/dt = \Re \left\{ \int_0^\infty B_0(k)e^{-jk(t-t_1)}e^{-2\nu_{equ}k^2(t-t_1)} \right. \]
\[ \cdot \left[ J_0(kr) + Y_0(kr) \right] k dk \]  
(4)
and it can be compared with the experimental profile at that moment.

D. Wave Characteristics

The adopted measurement technique does not allow us to observe the ring-waves at very early instants of development. Since the best observation instant is around 800 ms after

Two examples of such comparisons are shown in Figs. 3 and 4, where we observe a good agreement between (b) predicted and (c) measured profiles, both for fresh and salt water. This shows that the shape evolution is satisfactorily modeled by using the dispersion relationship (3) and the measured values of the surface tension. For example, according to a least-squares error criterium, the differences between the shapes in Fig. 3(b) and (c) in terms of amplitude and horizontal position are only 2% and 3 mm, respectively. The corresponding least-squares error is less than half that obtained when the shapes in Fig. 3(a) and (c) are compared. The agreement is even better for the salt water case shown in Fig. 4. This supports the good quality of the measuring system.
impact, we characterized each observed ring-wave at that particular time. Estimates of the wave profile at other instants can easily be obtained using the propagation law described above [see (2)]. However, two important comments need to be made.

First, the video frames were not synchronized with the instant of impact, and the frame rate was rather low (25 images/s). This leads to an uncertainty of 40 ms on the absolute timing of the selected image. This is an important source of difference between repeated measurements of the same kind.

Second, the integration of the slope profiles must be performed with caution because of the possible propagation of errors that can lead to a drift of the mean level of the height profiles. The adopted solution consisted of a filtering based on the elimination of high-frequency components related to quantization effects (due to the finite pixel size of the images) and of low-frequency components that can be strongly enhanced through the integration process. Therefore, the complex Hankel transform of the slope profile was limited to a band located between deep local minima of the slope spectrum (modulus of $H\{d\eta/dr\}$) in the vicinity of 0.05 mm$^{-1}$ and 0.5 mm$^{-1}$, as shown in Fig. 5. From the knowledge of the noise level, obtained for a surface at rest, we estimated that the maximum drift of the mean level after filtering yields an error of about 0.02 mm.

The height profile was obtained by considering that $H\{d\eta/dr\} \simeq jkH\{\eta(r)\}$, where $H$ denotes the complex Hankel transform. This is verified as a good approximation if the $kr$ product is large (see Appendix II), which is the case for the distances from source and the wavenumbers considered here.

So, in the wavenumber band selected by the filtering, an estimate of $H\{\eta(r)\}$ was obtained by dividing the complex Hankel transform of the slope profile by $jk$ and by keeping it to zero elsewhere. The height profile was then obtained through (see Appendix II)

$$\eta(r) \simeq 3\Re \left\{ \int_0^\infty H\{\eta(r)\}[J_0(kr) + jY_0(kr)]dk \right\}$$

(5)

Note also that $H\{\eta(r)\} = 0$ for $k = 0$, which guarantees volume conservation around the zero-level

$$\int_S \eta dS = 2\pi \int_0^\infty \eta(r) \rho dr = 4\pi \Re \{ H\{\eta(r)\}k=0 \} = 0.$$  

(6)

Several examples are presented in Figs. 6 and 7 for 2.2- and 2.8-mm drops, where two height profiles are given for each set of experimental conditions (depending on fall height and water salinity). We observe the very small amplitudes of the waves, especially for the 2.2-mm drops. The drift related to

Fig. 5. Modulus of the (normalized) Hankel transform of the slope profile measured for a 2.8-mm drop falling from a 5.5-m height into fresh water. The vertical lines represent the filtering limits.

Fig. 6. Height profiles obtained for 2.8-mm drops falling from different heights into fresh and salt water. For each type of conditions, the results of two observations are represented (one in each column). The profiles are shifted vertically by 0.3 mm one to each other.

Fig. 7. Height profiles obtained for 2.2-mm drops falling from different heights into fresh and salt water. For each type of conditions, the results of two observations are represented (one in each column). The profiles are shifted vertically by 0.15 mm one to each other.
the integration of noise is visible on the plots but is limited to an acceptable value.

The total potential energy of the wave is equal to

$$E_p = \frac{pg}{2} \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^\infty \eta(r)^2 r \, dr \, d\phi \approx \frac{2}{c_0^2} \int_0^\infty S(k) \, dk$$

with $S(k) = |\mathcal{H}(\eta(k))|^2 k$ (second property of the complex Hankel transform, see Appendix II).

We also define the characteristic wavenumber $k_m$ as the following spectral mean:

$$k_m = \frac{\int_0^\infty S(k) \, dk}{\int_0^\infty S(k) \, dk}.$$  (8)

Figs. 8 and 9 show $E_p$ and $k_m$ for the 2.8- and 2.2-mm drops; stars indicate the salt water experiments and circles indicate the fresh water cases. These quantities are displayed as functions of the kinetic energy of the impacting drops, which is proportional to $E_k$ (second property of the complex Hankel transform, see Appendix II).

In Fig. 9, we observe a rather stable value of the characteristic wavenumber, around 0.2 mm$^{-1}$, while the spread of the energy values (Fig. 8) is larger. The effect of the fall height on this latter parameter is not very clear, while a strong difference is visible between the two drop sizes. For similar conditions, there is at least a factor 4 between the potential energy of ring-waves related to 2.8-mm drops and that related to 2.2-mm drops, while there is almost a factor 2 between corresponding incident kinetic energies.

**IV. DISCUSSION**

For each type of experiment, the observation was repeated twice: the height profiles, presented in Figs. 6 and 7, show more or less similar results for repeated experiments. Note, however, that the exact shapes of successive events cannot be compared. A first reason for this is the combination of the limited timing accuracy (40 ms) and the strong dispersion of the waves. A second reason is related to the small fraction of the drop energy contained in the ring-waves (see below), which explains the natural variability of the ring-wave shapes.

The experimental results can be summarized as follows.

- There is no significant difference between fresh water and salt water experiments.
- The characteristic wavenumber ($k_m$) always lies near 0.2 mm$^{-1}$, which corresponds to a wavelength of almost 3 cm, i.e., slightly larger than what can be seen on the height profiles. The difference is due to the particular definition of $k_m$ and to the rather asymmetric shape of the height spectra.
- For a given time, the wavelength of the ring-waves decreases with the ring radius. This can sometimes be observed on the height profiles and was particularly visible on the video images at earlier instants: a high-frequency wave precedes the main rings, but its fine structure could not be measured because of its very rapidly decreasing amplitude.
- The amplitudes are very small: 800 ms after impact, the maximum height appears around 13 cm from the point of impact and is of the order of 0.1 mm for the 2.8-mm drop and 0.05 mm for the 2.2-mm drop. The fall height—and thus the impacting velocity—did not show a strong effect on the ring-wave amplitude.
- The width of the perturbed ring is near 6 cm.

From the present study, it is impossible to give, as it was proposed in [4], a model for the shape of the wave packet because of the strong dispersion. However, the evolution of the potential energy of the wave can be approximated by considering the $e^{-2\sigma_\eta k l^2}$ factor described in Section II, where $k$ is taken near the characteristic wavenumber: $k_m \approx 0.2$ mm$^{-1}$.

It is interesting to compare our experimental results with the theoretical study presented by Le Méhauté [3]. This
author models the drop impact as an additional pressure on the surface, represented by a Dirac function in time and extending over an area limited by the drop size. From there, he finds that the multiplicity of rings observed at a distance are solely the results of linear dispersion from the initial nonoscillatory movement. He also finds that these waves have a narrow range of wavenumbers around \( k_b \), the wavenumber that corresponds to the minimum group velocity of the surface waves, i.e., the wavenumber range is only dictated by the fluid characteristics. \( k_b \) is equal to 0.143 mm\(^{-1} \) for a surface tension \( \tau = 74 \) dynes cm\(^{-1} \) and is proportional to \( \tau^{-1/2} \).

Our experiments show a sensibly higher (0.2 mm\(^{-1} \)) characteristic wavenumber and complex phenomena at the point of impact: generation of a crown, a crater, and a single or multiple stalk [5]. Video observations show that the collapse of those successive events is also an important source of ring-waves [6]. This means that the timing of the outgoing ring-waves can be strongly influenced by the timing of the movements at the point of impact. For example, the time separating the collapse of the crown and that of the stalk is of the order of 100 ms, which, combined with a phase velocity of 250 mm s\(^{-1} \) gives rise to a wavelength of 25 mm, while the main wavelength predicted by Le Méhauté is equal to \( \lambda_b = 2\pi / k_b = 43 \) mm.

Finally, we can compare the total energy of the ring-waves to the kinetic energy \( E_k \) of the impacting drop. Let us make this comparison for the case of the 2.8-mm drop and for a fall height of 5.5 m. In this case, \( E_k = 3 \cdot 10^{-3} \) J and the ring-wave energy can be grossly estimated assuming that:

- the kinetic energy of the wave at a given moment is equal to the sum of the potential energy and that related to the surface tension;
- the ratio between the energy related to the surface tension and the potential energy is equal to \( (\tau/\rho g)k_m^2 \), where \( k_m \) is the characteristic wavenumber (these two first assumptions are exact for linear monochromatic waves [2]);
- the fraction of energy dissipated since the instant of impact is given by \( 1 - e^{-2v_{eq}k^2T} \), where \( T \) is the time of observation (\( T = 0.8 \) s here).

Using those assumptions and the results given in Fig. 8 for \( T = 0.8 \) s, the total generated ring-wave energy is estimated to be \( E_{r,w} = 5.9 \times 10^{-6} \) J, which is only 2% of the incident kinetic energy \( E_k \).

For 2.2-mm drops falling from a 5.5-m height, the fraction of kinetic energy transferred into ring-waves is even smaller: it is less than 1%. In other terms, the energy transfer ratio seems to depend strongly on the drop size. This could be related to the impulsive interaction between the drop and the target surface. Indeed, when the two drop sizes are compared, the ratio of the ring-wave amplitudes (average value: 2.56) is close to the ratio of the drop momentums (average value: 2.26), which is coherent with the amplitude behavior of the solution obtained theoretically by Le Méhauté, assuming a very idealized interaction.

The very small fractions of energy involved in the ring-waves indicate that nearly all of the incident energy is dissipated in the bulk of the liquid, near the point of impact, most probably after transformation in vorticity, which can be either coherent or turbulent, depending on the entry Reynolds number of the drop [13]. The generation mechanisms of vortices and their different regimes are not yet quite well identified and they are out of the scope of this paper. For further information on this topic, we invite the interested reader to refer to a review paper by Rein [1]. Finally, we should also mention that the damping of sea waves by heavy rain is often attributed to the generation of vortex rings by the impacting drops [17], [18]. Besides the effect of ring-waves, the damping of the sea surface by heavy rain may also explain several anomalous radar returns obtained from space [9], [19].

V. CONCLUSION

A measurement technique based on slope determination has enabled us to obtain good estimates of the characteristic amplitudes, frequencies, and durations of ring-waves produced by drop impacts on water surfaces. Three different fall heights have been considered, the highest one corresponding to a near-terminal fall velocity. Both fresh and salt target surfaces were used; however, no systematic effect of the salinity could be delineated. The experiments showed ring-waves whose characteristic wavenumber was around 0.2 mm\(^{-1} \) and very small amplitudes near 0.8 s after impact (of the order of 0.1 mm). What makes these waves visible to the human eye is probably the strong modulation that very small slopes induce on light reflection. This effect was exploited here to characterize the ring-waves.

A major conclusion of this study is that only a very small fraction of the incident kinetic energy is converted into ring-waves, the rest being most probably transformed into vorticity, propagating vertically through the liquid. Finally, we also observed that the ring-wave energy presents a very strong dependence on the drop size; in other words, it cannot be considered as simply proportional to the incident kinetic energy.

APPENDIX I

SLOPE ESTIMATION TECHNIQUE

The slope profile of a ring-wave is determined by observing the mirror image on the water surface of a vertical edge. Let us define an orthonormal coordinate system where the edge corresponds to the vertical axis.

1. \( \eta(x, y) \) is the surface height at a point of horizontal coordinates \( x \) and \( y \).
2. \( \bar{x} = (x, y, 0) \) is a point of the image of the edge, for which the height has been neglected.
3. \( \bar{z}_1 = (x_1, y_1, 0) \) is the impact point.
4. \( \bar{w} = (0, 0, h) \) is a point on the vertical edge, i.e., the edge corresponds to the vertical axis of the coordinate system.
5. \( \bar{w} = (x_\alpha, y_\alpha, z_\alpha) \) is the focal center of the camera lens. At a point \( \bar{x} \) of the reflected edge, the local slopes can be estimated as follows.

- As seen from the camera, \( \bar{x} \) is the image of a source point \( \bar{w} \) on the edge. Snell’s law stipulates that the angles \( \alpha \) and
\( \beta \) (Fig. 10) are equal, from which the following property holds:
\[
\frac{\mathbf{n} - \mathbf{x}}{||\mathbf{n} - \mathbf{x}||} + \frac{\mathbf{m} - \mathbf{x}}{||\mathbf{m} - \mathbf{x}||} = \mathbf{n}
\]
where \( \mathbf{n} \) is normal to the surface (but does not have a unit length). In the following, we will also denote it by its rectangular coordinates \((a, b, c)\). This vector cannot be immediately estimated because the position \( \mathbf{m} \) (i.e., the height \( h \)) of the source point is unknown.

This problem can be solved using another fact:

- Given the circular symmetry of the waves, the surface gradient is oriented toward the impact point, i.e., it is parallel to the vector \((x_1 - x, y_1 - y)\). Hence
\[
\frac{\partial n_x}{\partial y} = -\frac{a}{c}, \quad \frac{\partial n_y}{\partial x} = -\frac{b}{c}, \quad x_1 - x, \quad y_1 - y.
\]

Using (9) and (10), some algebra yields the height \( h \) of the source point as
\[
h = \sqrt{D^2 - x^2 - y^2}
\]
with
\[
D = \frac{(xy_1 - x_1y_1)\sqrt{(x_0 - x)^2 + (y_0 - y)^2 + z_0^2}}{(x_1 - x)(y_1 - y) - (x_0 - x)(y_0 - y)}.
\]

Then, the local normal is obtained using (9), hence \( \partial n_x/\partial x \) and \( \partial n_y/\partial y \) are found. The derivative along the ring radius \( r = ||\mathbf{n} - \mathbf{x}|| \) is
\[
\frac{\partial n_x}{\partial r} = \frac{\partial n_x/\partial x(x - x_1) + \partial n_x/\partial y(y - y_1)}{r}.
\]

So, for every point of the edge image, \( r \) and \( \partial n_x/\partial r \) can be calculated and, hence, the slope profile of the ring-wave along its radius.

### Appendix II

**Complex Hankel Transform**

Given a real function \( z(r) \), its real Hankel transform \( H_k\{z(r)\}(k) \) associated to the Bessel function of first kind and order \( i \) is defined by
\[
H_k\{z(r)\}(k) = \int_0^\infty z(r)J_i(kr)r \, dr.
\]

Two properties of this transform are [20]:

**Inverse transform:**
\[
z(r) = \int_0^\infty H_k\{z(r)\}(k) J_i(kr) \, dk.
\]

**Parseval theorem:**
\[
\int_0^\infty f(r)g(r)r \, dr = \int_0^\infty H_k\{f(r)\}H_k\{g(r)\}k \, dk.
\]

Let us now define the zeroth-order complex Hankel transform \( H\{z(r)\} = A(k) \) of a real function \( z(r) \) as
\[
H\{z(r)\} = A(k) = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^\infty (z(r)J_0(kr) - jY_0(kr))r \, dr.
\]

Henceforth, we will assume that the real functions \( z(r) \) that are considered present significant values only for \( r \) large compared to their characteristic wavelengths.

This means that the integrand of (16) has a significant contribution only when \( kr \gg 1 \). Under this condition, the properties following hereafter are valid. They will be proved with the help of the following approximation, valid for large arguments \( x \):
\[
Y_0(x) \approx J_1(x) \approx \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi x}} \sin(x - \pi/4).
\]

**Property 1:**
\[
f(r) = A\left(\int_0^\infty A(k)\{J_0(kr) + jY_0(kr)\}k \, dk\right) = z(r).
\]

Indeed, if we replace \( A(k) \) by its expression, we have
\[
f(r) \approx \int_0^\infty \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \int_0^\infty (z'(r)J_0(kr')r' \, dr' + \int_0^\infty z'(r)J_1(kr')r' \, dr' \right\} J_k(kr)k \, dk.
\]

On the other hand, the right term of (19) equals
\[
2 \int_0^\infty \left( \frac{1}{2} \int_0^\infty (f(r))^{2} \, dr \right)^2 \, dk.
\]

which corresponds to the left term of (19) if we replace \( Y_0 \) with \( J_1 \).
Property 3: Let us assume, in addition to the above cited condition, that \( \lim_{r \to 0} z(r)Y_0(kr) = 0 \) and \( \lim_{r \to \infty} z(r)r^r = 0 \). This gives a sufficient set of conditions to obtain the following property:

\[
\mathbf{H}\{dz(r)/dr\} \simeq jk\mathbf{H}\{z(r)\},
\]

Indeed, through integration by parts, we obtain

\[
2\mathbf{H}\{dz(r)/dr\} = \left[ z(r)[J_0(kr) - jY_0(kr)]\right]_{0}^{\infty} - \int_{0}^{\infty} z(r)\frac{d}{dr}\left[J_0(kr) - jY_0(kr)\right] dr \\
\simeq -\int_{0}^{\infty} z(r)\frac{d}{dr}\left[J_0(kr) - jJ_1(kr)\right] \left[\frac{J_0(kr) - jJ_1(kr)}{J_0(kr)}\right] dr \\
= -\int_{0}^{\infty} z(r)\left[-J_1(kr) - jJ_0(kr)\right] dr + J_0(kr) dr \\
\simeq 2jk\mathbf{H}\{z(r)\}.
\]

In the latter proof, the bracket in the first line is equal to zero because of the additional conditions that we imposed, and the transition from the third to the fourth line is obtained with the help of

\[
dJ_0(x)/dx = -J_1(x) \\
d(J_1(x)x)/dx = J_0(x)x.
\]

The quality of those approximations is illustrated in Fig. 11. Fig. 11(a) represents the following function of the radius \( r \):

\[
z(r) = \sin(2\pi r/30)e^{-(1/2)(r-100/20)^2}.
\]

It presents a behavior similar to the observed ring-wave profiles. Fig. 11(b) shows its derivative. Following property (20), \( jk\mathbf{H}\{z(r)\} \) is a good approximation of the complex Hankel transform of \( dz(r)/dr \). From there, an estimate of \( dz(r)/dr \) is found using property (18). It is represented in Fig. 11(c). Fig. 11(d) shows the—very small—difference between \( dz(r)/dr \) and its estimate (with a vertical axis extended by a factor of 10). This example supports the use of the above approximations in the conditions of the experiments described in this paper.

Appendix III

Propagation of Circular Gravity-Capillary Waves

Following Lamb [21] and Le Méhauté [3], we assume that the motion is irrotational, allowing the definition of a potential function \( \Phi(r, z, t) \), and a free surface elevation \( \eta(r, t) \), where \( r, z, \) and \( t \) are, respectively, the ring radius, the vertical (upward positive) coordinate, and the time from impact.

Let us recall the basic equations for circular surface waves on an incompressible irrotational fluid:

Mass conservation:

\[
\nabla^2 \Phi = 0.
\]

Linearized kinematic boundary condition:

\[
\frac{\partial \eta}{\partial t} = -\frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial z}{|z=0}.
\]

Linearized dynamic boundary condition:

\[
\frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial t} = \eta g - \frac{\tau}{\rho} \left( \frac{\partial^2 \eta}{\partial r^2} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial r} \right),
\]

where \( \tau \) is the surface tension, \( \rho \) is the density of water, and \( g \) is the acceleration of gravity.

If the water depth is very large compared to the wave amplitude and wavelength, a class of solutions of (21)–(23) is

\[
\Phi(r, z, t) = \{A\sin(\omega t + \alpha_1)J_0(kr) + B\sin(\omega t + \alpha_2)Y_0(kr)\}ekz
\]

\[
\eta(r, t) = \{A\cos(\omega t + \alpha_1)J_0(kr) + B\cos(\omega t + \alpha_2)Y_0(kr)\}\}k/\omega
\]

where the parameter \( k \) is related to \( \omega \) by the equation \( \omega^2 = gk + \tau/k^2 \). \( \alpha_1 \) and \( \alpha_2 \) are arbitrary constants and \( J_0 \) and \( Y_0 \) are the first kind Bessel and Neumann functions of zeroth order.

It is important to note that the phenomena that appear just after impact are very complex [14] and certainly cannot be described by the linearized boundary conditions (22) and (23).

Those conditions are only valid at a distance from the source, where the wave height becomes small enough. They are fulfilled everywhere if we wait until the surface near the point of impact is again at rest (the observations show that this happens a few hundreds of milliseconds after impact).

From there, for the description of the waves far from the source (\( r \gg 1 \)), we kept the term containing the \( Y_0 \) function, even if this function presents a singularity at the origin (\( r = 0 \)).
From these solutions, we wish to hold only those corresponding to outgoing progressive waves; hence, for $r \to \infty$, the solution for a given wavenumber $k_z$ must be of the form

$$F = \frac{1}{\sqrt{r}} \cos(\omega t - k r + \alpha)$$

(26)

where $F$ and $\alpha$ are constants.

Considering the cosine and sine asymptotic approximations of $J_0$ and $Y_0$, it is possible to show that this condition is fulfilled if $\alpha \approx -\pi/2$ and $B = A$.

If we represent the general solution by a continuous linear superposition of wave components characterized by a wavenumber $k$, it gives, with complex notations

$$\Phi(r, z, t) = \mathcal{R} \left\{ \int_0^\infty A_1(k) e^{-i \omega t} \left[ J_0(k r) + j Y_0(k r) \right] e^{k_z z} k dk \right\}$$

(27)

and

$$\eta(r, t) = \mathcal{R} \left\{ \int_0^\infty A_0(k) e^{-i \omega t} \left[ J_0(k r) + j Y_0(k r) \right] k dk \right\}$$

(28)

where $\omega^2 = g k + \tau / \rho k^3$. $A_0$ and $A_1$ are complex quantities, and $A_0(k) = -j A_1(k) k / \omega$. An estimate of $A_0(k)$ can be obtained from the height profile at time $t_1$ by solving (28) for $t = t_1$

$$\eta(r, t_1) = \mathcal{R} \left\{ \int_0^\infty A_0(k) [J_0(k r) + j Y_0(k r)] k dk \right\}.$$  

(29)

We show in Appendix II that an approximate solution for $A_0(k)$ is given by

$$A_0(k) \approx 1/2 \int_0^\infty \eta(r, t_1) [J_0(k r) - j Y_0(k r)] r dr,$$

(30)

which corresponds to $\mathcal{H}\{\eta(r, t_1)\}$, the complex Hankel transform of $\eta(r, t_1)$, as we defined it in Appendix II.

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REFERENCES


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