Non-isothermal bubble rise dynamics in a self-rewetting fluid: three-dimensional effects

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The dynamics of a gas bubble in a square channel with a linearly increasing temperature at the walls in the vertical direction is investigated via three-dimensional (3D) numerical simulations. The channel contains a so-called "self-rewetting" fluid whose surface tension exhibits a parabolic dependence on temperature with a well-defined minimum. The main objectives of the present study are to investigate the effect of Marangoni stresses on bubble rise in a "self-rewetting" fluid using a consistent model fully accounting for the tangential surface tension forces, and to highlight the effects of three-dimensionality on the bubble rise dynamics. In case of isothermal and non-isothermal systems filled with a "linear" fluid, the bubble moves in the upward direction in an almost vertical path. In the contrary, strikingly different behaviours are observed when the channel is filled with a "self-rewetting" fluid. In this case, as the bubble crosses the location of minimum surface tension, the buoyancy-induced upward motion of the bubble is retarded by a thermocapillary-driven flow acting in the opposite direction, which in some situations, when thermocapillarity outweighs buoyancy, results in the migration of the bubble in the downward direction. In the later stages of this downward motion, as the bubble reaches the position of arrest, its vertical motion decelerates and the bubble encounters regions of horizontal temperature gradients, which ultimately lead to the bubble migration towards one of the channel walls. These phenomena are observed at sufficiently small Bond numbers (high surface tension). For stronger influence self-rewetting nature, the bubble undergoes spiralling motion. The mechanisms underlying these three-dimensional effects are elucidated by considering how the surface tension dependence on temperature affects the thermocapillary stresses in the flow. The effects of other dimensionless numbers, such as Reynolds and Froude numbers are also investigated.

1. Introduction

Marangoni stresses due to the variation in surface tension at the interface separating two immiscible fluids play a vital role in many technological applications. The surface tension gradient at the interface can occur either due to the variation in temperature or concentration of surfactants. A characteristic problem of this nature is the thermocapillary migration of a drop/bubble. An extensive review on this subject can be found in Subramanian (1992) and Subramanian *et al.* (2002). In the present work, we numerically

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investigate the thermocapillary migration of a bubble inside a three-dimensional channel filled with a so-called "self-rewetting" fluid that exhibits a non-monotonic dependence of the surface tension on temperature. This behaviour is in contrast with that of common fluids (hereafter termed as "linear" fluid), such as water and various oils, whose interfacial tension with air typically decreases almost linearly with increasing temperature. A typical example of "self-rewetting" fluids are non-azeotropic, high carbon alcohol solutions, which have quasi parabolic surface tension-temperature curves with well-defined minima; increasing alcohol concentration increases the parabolicity of these curves (Vochten & Petre 1973; Petre & Azouni 1984; Limbourgfontaine *et al.* 1986; Villers & Platten 1988; Savino *et al.* 2009, 2013). This unusual surface tension dependence on temperature was first observed by Vochten & Petre (1973), and such fluids were later termed "self-rewetting" by Abe *et al.* (2004). It has been shown that the properties of these fluids can be exploited to accomplish substantially higher critical heat fluxes in heat pipes compared to water (Suzuki *et al.* 2005; Mcgillis & Carey 1996; Ahmed & Carey 1999) or may even give rise to some very interesting phenomena, such as thermally induced 'superspreading' behaviour of a droplet on a surface (Karapetsas *et al.* 2014).

The thermal migration of bubbles in a "linear" viscous fluid heated from below was first reported in the pioneering work of Young *et al.* (1959), who experimentally demonstrated that due to the Marangoni stresses, induced by the temperature gradient, small bubbles move in the downward direction, whereas larger bubbles move in the upward direction. In the latter case, the buoyancy overcomes the effect of thermocapillarity. Assuming a spherical-shaped bubble and creeping flow conditions, they also derived an analytical expression for the terminal velocity of the bubble. Later, in the context of microgravity applications, Balasubramaniam & Chai (1987) neglected buoyancy and extended the analytical solution to bubbles with small deformation from a spherical shape. By conducting an asymptotic analysis in the limit of large Reynolds and Marangoni numbers, Balasubramaniam (1998) reported that the steady migration velocity is a linear combination of the velocity for purely thermocapillary motion and the buoyancy-driven rising velocity. Later, Zhang *et al.* (2001) performed a theoretical analysis and showed that for small Marangoni numbers the inclusion of inertia is crucial in the development of an asymptotic solution for the temperature field. Recently, by conducting numerical simulations of a droplet inside a rectangular box, Brady *et al.* (2011) showed that for low Marangoni numbers a drop rapidly reached to a quasi steady state, but for high Marangoni numbers the initial conditions affect the behaviour of the droplet significantly. The thermocapillary migration of a bubble for high Marangoni numbers was also investigated by Liu *et al.* (2012). They showed that the terminal velocity of the bubble decreases with increasing the value of the Marangoni number.

Merritt *et al.* (1993) studied the migration of bubbles in the presence of buoyancy and thermocapillarity via direct numerical simulations. Since then, several kinds of numerical methods ranging from boundary-fitted grids (Chen & Lee 1992; Welch 1998), to the level-set method (Haj-Hariri *et al.* 1997; Zhao *et al.* 2010), the volume of fluid (VoF) method (Ma & Bothe 2011; Tripathi *et al.* 2015*b*), diffuse-interface methods (Borcia & Bestehorn 2007) and hybrid schemes of the Lattice-Boltzmann and the finite difference method (Liu *et al.* 2013) have been proposed in order to obtain the surface deformation accurately. Some of the main findings from these studies are highlighted below. Chen & Lee (1992) and Haj-Hariri *et al.* (1997) showed that the deformation considerably reduces the terminal velocity of both gas bubbles and liquid drops. Welch (1998) demonstrated that for higher capillary numbers bubble deformation becomes important and the bubble continues to deform at later times, failing to reach a steady state. Herrmann *et al.* (2008*a*) and Wu & Hu (2012, 2013) also reached to the same conclusion for the case of large

Marangoni numbers. Keh *et al.* (2002) numerically studied the motion of a spherical drop between two parallel plane walls and found that the droplet migration speed can be controlled by varying the thermal conductivity of the droplet and changing the imposed boundary conditions at the wall. Chen *et al.* (1991) found that inside an insulated tube with an imposed axial temperature gradient, which in turn develops the hydrodynamic retarding forces, the thermocapillary migration velocity of a spherical drop is always less than that in an infinite medium. This work was extended by Mahesri *et al.* (2014) to take into account the effect of interfacial deformation. All these studies considered the migration of bubbles and drops in "linear" fluids.

Tripathi *et al.* (2015*c*) conducted axisymmetric simulations by considering a quadratic dependence of surface tension on temperature, and investigated the buoyancy-driven rise of a bubble inside a tube imposing a constant temperature gradient along the wall using the VoF method. They found that for "self-rewetting" fluids, the bubble motion becomes complex as the bubble crosses the position of minimum surface tension. It has been shown that for sufficiently small Bond and large Galileo numbers, the bubble motion could be reversed and eventually arrested near the position of minimum surface tension. Even though in their numerical simulations, Tripathi *et al.* (2015*c*) have neglected the contribution of the surface tension gradient term ($\nabla_s\sigma$) in the interfacial stress balance, the predicted position of bubble entrapment was found to be in very good agreement with an analytical expression that has been derived in the Stokes flow limit by these authors, fully accounting for this term. Here, ∇_s represents the surface gradient operator and σ the surface tension. Nevertheless, the missing Marangoni term from the numerical model is actually quite significant for the correct representation of the physics of the present problem since it is expected to have a significant impact in the nonlinear dynamics of the bubble motion. It should be noted that the calculation of this term in the VoF formulation is very challenging. An efficient way to accurately calculate the surface tension gradient has been proposed by Seric *et al.* (2018) very recently. Using a similar approach, Tripathi & Sahu (2018) developed a robust numerical solver to handle Marangoni stresses for "linear" fluids, and implemented the module to calculate the Marangoni term in an open source code, *Basilisk*, developed by Popinet and co-workers (Popinet 2003, 2009, 2018). Extensive validation exercises were performed by comparing with the previous experimental, theoretical and computational studies (see Tripathi & Sahu (2018)). This solver has been used in the present study.

The objectives of the present study are twofold: (i) to investigate the effect of Marangoni stresses on bubble rise in a "self-rewetting" fluid using a consistent model fully accounting for the tangential surface tension forces. It is to be noted that there are only few previous studies (e.g. Ma & Bothe (2011); Seric *et al.* (2018)) involving Marangoni stresses in the VoF framework. (ii) To study the effects of three-dimensionality, which has been shown to be very important even in isothermal systems (Tripathi *et al.* 2015*a*). To the best of our knowledge, three-dimensional dynamics of an air bubble rising in a "self-rewetting" fluid has not been investigated so far. To this end, we examine the motion of a gas bubble in a square channel with linearly increasing temperature in the vertical direction via 3D numerical simulations. Our results indicate that in the case of "self-rewetting" fluids, as the bubble crosses the location of minimum surface tension, the buoyancy-induced upward motion of the bubble is retarded by a thermocapillary-driven flow acting in the opposite direction, which may even result in the migration of the bubble in the downward direction when thermocapillarity outweighs buoyancy. In the later stages of this downward motion, as the bubble reaches the position of arrest, its vertical motion decelerates and the bubble encounters region of horizontal temperature gradients, appearing due to instability, which makes the Marangoni convection along the

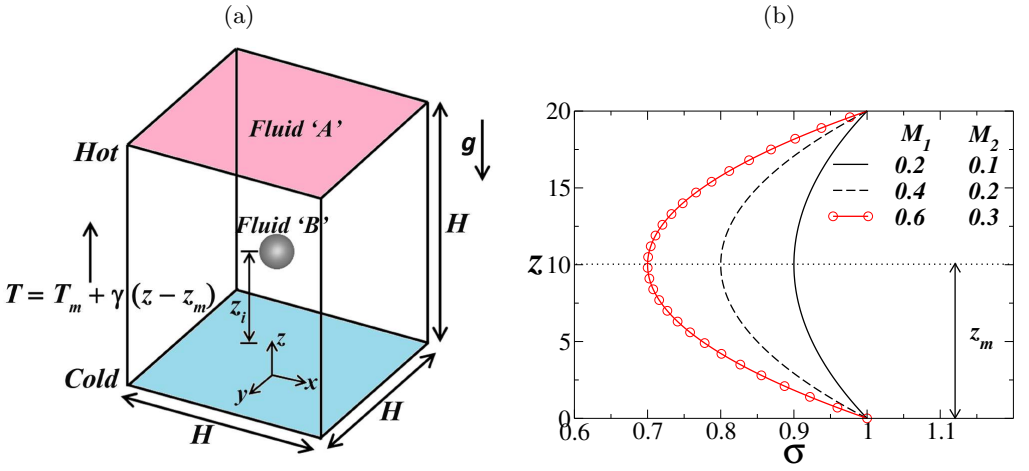


FIGURE 1. (a) Schematic diagram showing the initial configuration of a gas bubble (fluid 'B') rising inside a liquid medium (fluid 'A'). Initially, the bubble is placed at $z = z_i$ inside the cubic computational domain. The acceleration due to gravity, g acts in the negative z direction. A linear temperature variation is imposed at the walls in the vertical direction with a constant gradient, γ. (b) Typical variations of surface tension, σ of a self-rewetting fluid along the vertical direction for different values of M_1 and M_2.

interface asymmetrical. This ultimately leads to the bubble migration towards one of the channel walls. These phenomena are observed at sufficiently small Bond numbers and have no analogue for "linear" fluids. The mechanisms underlying these three-dimensional effects are elucidated by considering how the surface tension dependence on temperature affects the thermocapillary stresses in the flow.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. The problem is formulated in Section 2 and the equations governing the flow dynamics are discussed. The present numerical method and the validation of the solver are also presented section 3. The numerical results and the underlying physics are discussed in Section 4. Finally, concluding remarks are given in Section 5.

2. Formulation

2.1. *Set-up*

We investigate the motion of a gas bubble (fluid 'B') of initial radius R inside a cubic channel (with $H = 20R$, as shown in Fig. 1a) filled with an incompressible, Newtonian liquid 'A' via 3D numerical simulations. The dynamics is due to the simultaneous action of buoyancy and surface tension variation resulting due to an imposed temperature gradient via the viscous force. The surrounding fluid 'A' is a "self-rewetting" fluid whose surface tension exhibits a parabolic dependence on temperature with a well-defined minimum at z_m (see Fig. 1b). A Cartesian coordinate system (x, y, z) is used to describe the bubble dynamics. Initially, the bubble is located at $z = z_i$. The rigid and impermeable walls are located at $x = \pm H/2$ and $y = \pm H/2$. The acceleration due to gravity, g acts in the negative z direction, as shown in Fig. 1a. A linear temperature variation with a constant gradient, γ is imposed at the walls in the vertical direction, given by $T = T_m + \gamma(z - z_m)$, such that T_m is the temperature at the location where the surface tension is minimum, i.e, $z = z_m$.

In order to determine the flow characteristics, we solve the equations of conservation

of mass, momentum and energy, which are given by

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0, \tag{2.1}$$

$$\rho \left[\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} \right] = -\nabla p + \nabla \cdot \left[\mu (\nabla \mathbf{u} + \nabla \mathbf{u}^T) \right] + \mathbf{F}, \tag{2.2}$$

$$\frac{\partial T}{\partial t} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla T = \nabla \cdot (\alpha \nabla T), \tag{2.3}$$

where ρ, μ and α denote the density, viscosity and thermal diffusivity, respectively; $\mathbf{u}$, p and T denote the velocity, pressure, and temperature fields of the fluid, respectively; t represents time. The continuum surface force formulation (Brackbill *et al.* 1992) is used to include the surface tension force in the Navier-Stokes equations. $\mathbf{F}$ is the combination of gravitational force per unit volume ($-\rho g \vec{e}_z$) and surface tension force per unit volume ($\delta(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_f)\sigma\kappa\mathbf{n} + \delta(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_f)\nabla_s\sigma$). Here, $\delta(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_f)$ is a delta distribution (denoted by δ hereafter) that is zero everywhere except at the interface, where $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x}_f$ is the position vector of a point at the interface; $\kappa = \nabla \cdot \mathbf{n}$ is the curvature, $\mathbf{n}$ is the unit normal to the interface pointing towards fluid 'A'; $\vec{e}_z$ represents the unit vector in the vertically upward direction; $\nabla_s (\equiv \nabla - (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{n})\mathbf{n})$ represents the surface gradient operator; σ represents the interfacial tension coefficient of the liquid-gas interface. The following functional dependence of the surface tension on temperature is used to model the behaviour of a "self-rewetting" fluid:

$$\sigma = \sigma_0 - \beta_1 (T - T_1) + \beta_2 (T - T_1)^2, \tag{2.4}$$

where $\beta_1 \equiv -\frac{d\sigma}{dT}\,|_{T_1}$ and $\beta_2 \equiv \frac{1}{2}\frac{d^2\sigma}{dT^2}\,|_{T_1}$, $T_1 = T_m - \gamma z_m$ denotes the temperature at the bottom of the physical domain ($z = 0$) and σ_0 denotes the surface tension at that temperature. This parabolic dependency of the surface tension on temperature is expected to alter the type of Marangoni flow observed in case of simple "linear" fluids that exhibit a linear variation of σ with T.

The following advection equation of the volume fraction of the liquid phase, c, which takes on values between 0 and 1 for the gas and liquid phases, respectively, is solved using a VoF framework in order to track the interface separating the liquid and gaseous phases:

$$\frac{\partial c}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\mathbf{u} c) = 0. \tag{2.5}$$

As shown by Popinet (2009), this equation is equivalent to the advection equation for the density. The viscosity dependence on the temperature and the volume fraction of the liquid phase is given by (Nahme 1940; Tripathi *et al.* 2015*c*):

$$\mu = c\mu_A e^{-\left(\frac{T - T_1}{T_m - T_1}\right)} + (1 - c)\mu_B \left\{ 1 + \left(\frac{T - T_1}{T_m - T_1} \right)^{3/2} \right\}, \tag{2.6}$$

where μ_A and μ_B are the viscosity of the liquid and gaseous phases at the reference temperature, T_1.

The density and thermal diffusivity are assumed to be constants for each phase, which are given by

$$\rho = \rho_A c + \rho_B (1 - c), \tag{2.7}$$

$$\alpha = \alpha_A c + \alpha_B (1 - c), \tag{2.8}$$

respectively. Here, ρ_A and ρ_B denote the density, and α_A and α_B represent the thermal diffusivity of the liquid and gaseous phases, respectively.

2.2. *Scaling*

We employ the following scaling in order to render the governing equations dimensionless:

$$(x, y, z, z_i, z_m) = R\,(\widetilde{x}, \widetilde{y}, \widetilde{z}, \widetilde{z}_i, \widetilde{z}_m)\,,\ t = t_s\widetilde{t},\ \mathbf{u} = V\widetilde{\mathbf{u}},\ p = \rho_A V^2\widetilde{p},$$

$$\mu = \mu_A\widetilde{\mu},\ \rho = \rho_A\widetilde{\rho},\ \alpha = \alpha_A\widetilde{\alpha},\ T = \widetilde{T}(T_m - T_1) + T_1,$$

$$\sigma = \sigma_0\widetilde{\sigma},\ \beta_1 = \frac{\sigma_0}{T_m - T_1}M_1,\ \beta_2 = \frac{\sigma_0}{(T_m - T_1)^2}M_2,\ \gamma = \frac{\Gamma(T_m - T_1)}{R}, \tag{2.9}$$

where tildes designate dimensionless quantities. The velocity scale, V is $\beta_1\gamma R/\mu_A$ and the time scale, t_s is $\mu_A/\beta_1\gamma$. Here, M_1, M_2 and Γ represent the dimensionless β_1, β_2 and imposed temperature gradient at the side walls in the z direction (γ), respectively. We drop the tilde notations from all the dimensionless quantities, given in Eq. (2.9). Therefore, the variables presented hereafter in the manuscript are all dimensionless.

The governing dimensionless equations are given by

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0, \tag{2.10}$$

$$\rho\left[\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + \mathbf{u}\cdot\nabla\mathbf{u}\right] = -\nabla p + \frac{1}{Re}\nabla\cdot\left[\mu(\nabla\mathbf{u} + \nabla\mathbf{u}^T)\right] + \frac{1}{Fr}\mathbf{F}, \tag{2.11}$$

$$\frac{\partial T}{\partial t} + \mathbf{u}\cdot\nabla T = \frac{1}{Ma}\nabla\cdot(\alpha\nabla T), \tag{2.12}$$

where $Re \equiv \rho_A V R/\mu_A$ denotes the Reynolds number, $Fr \equiv V^2/gR$ is the Froude number, $Ma \equiv VR/\alpha_A (\equiv RePr)$ is the Marangoni number and $Pr\,(\equiv \mu_A/\rho_A\alpha_A)$ is the Prandtl number.

The dimensionless $\mathbf{F}$ in Eq. (2.11) is given by

$$\mathbf{F} = \frac{\delta}{Bo}\left[\sigma\kappa\mathbf{n} + \nabla_s\sigma\right] - \rho\vec{e}_z, \tag{2.13}$$

where $\sigma = 1 - M_1T + M_2T^2$ and $Bo = \rho_A g R^2/\sigma_0 (\equiv ReCa/Fr)$; $Ca \equiv V\mu_A/\sigma_0$ denotes the capillary number. The first and second terms on the right-hand-side of Eq. (2.13) correspond to the capillary and gravitational contributions, respectively.

The dimensionless viscosity, μ is given by:

$$\mu = ce^{-T} + (1-c)\mu_r\left(1 + T^{3/2}\right), \tag{2.14}$$

where $\mu_r \equiv \mu_B/\mu_A$ is the viscosity ratio. The dimensionless density (ρ) and thermal diffusivity (α) are given by (Haj-Hariri *et al.* 1997):

$$\rho = c + \rho_r(1-c), \tag{2.15}$$

$$\alpha = c + \alpha_r(1-c), \tag{2.16}$$

respectively, where $\rho_r \equiv \rho_B/\rho_A$ and $\alpha_r \equiv \alpha_B/\alpha_A$.

3. Numerical method

For the purposes of the present work, we have used, as a starting point, an open source finite-volume VoF based multiphase flow solver, *Basilisk* (Popinet 2003, 2009). As already pointed identifying the exact values of the surface tension coefficient and evaluating its gradient along the interface is quite challenging for interface capturing techniques and was not included in the original *Basilisk* solver. Following a similar methodology to Tripathi

& Sahu (2018), we have fully taken into account the tangential gradient of surface tension force (Marangoni force) in our calculations. The reader is referred to Tripathi & Sahu (2018) for detailed description of the numerical method used in the present study.

The VoF advection algorithm employed is non-diffusive and conservative in nature (Weymouth & Yue 2010). The calculation of surface tension force is balanced by pressure gradient with a height-function based interface curvature estimation. An adaptive refinement of the mesh near the interfacial and regions with vortical flow is used in the present study.

The following boundary conditions (in the dimensionless form) are used in our numerical simulations. The no-slip and no penetration boundary conditions are imposed at all the side walls and the Neumann boundary conditions for temperature and for the velocity components are used at the top and bottom of the computational domain. A constant temperature ($T = 1 + \Gamma(z - z_m)$) is imposed at all the side walls. However, the boundary conditions used in section 3.1 only are different. They are prescribed in the same way as considered by the previous studies, which are explicitly discussed below.

3.1. *Validations*

In order to validate the present solver, first we compare the terminal velocity of a bubble migrating in a 'linear' fluid ($M_2 = 0$) due to an imposed temperature gradient in the creeping flow regime and zero Marangoni number with the corresponding theoretical prediction of Young *et al.* (1959). This test case is performed in the zero gravity condition, as Young *et al.* (1959) theoretically derived the terminal velocity of a neutrally buoyant spherical bubble inside another infinitely unbounded fluid at rest.

The dimensionless theoretical terminal velocity of the bubble is (Young *et al.* 1959):

$$w_{YGB} = \frac{2}{(2 + \alpha_r) + (2 + 3\mu_r/\rho_r)}. \tag{3.1}$$

Herrmann *et al.* (2008*b*) also performed numerical simulations to validate their result against the theoretical prediction of Young *et al.* (1959). Based on the configuration used by Herrmann *et al.* (2008*b*), in our simulation, a time-invariant linear temperature field ($T = 1 + \Gamma(z - 15)$) is imposed, which drives a bubble from the low temperature to the high temperature region, and the case of a linear fluid is also considered. Initially, the bubble is kept at the center of a computational domain of size $15 \times 15 \times 15$. The values of dimensionless parameters are $\Gamma = Ca = Re = 1/15$. The rest of the parameters considered in the numerical simulation are $\alpha_r = 1$, $\rho_r = 1$, $\mu_r = 1$. For this set of parameters, $w_{YGB} \approx 0.133$. In our 3D numerical simulation, we found that the terminal velocity of the bubble (w_{rise}) is 0.131. Thus, the percentage of error, $(1 - w_{rise}/w_{YGB}) \times 100$ is less than 1.7 %.

Next, we compare the rise velocity of a neutrally buoyant spherical bubble obtained from our numerical simulation with that reported by the previous studies in Fig. 2. The parameter values considered for this test case are $Re = Ma = 0.72$ and $Ca = 0.0576$. The ratio of the fluid properties of the ambient fluid with those of the drop is fixed at 2. This test case was originally taken by Nas & Tryggvason (2003) and subsequently used by other researchers (see e.g. Ma & Bothe (2011); Seric *et al.* (2018)) to validate their numerical solvers. A square computational domain of size 4×4 is considered. As considered by the previous studies, two dimensional simulation is performed for this exercise. No-slip and no-penetration boundary conditions are used at the top and bottom walls, whereas Neumann boundary conditions for the velocity components and temperature are used at the size boundaries. A grid convergence test is performed and converged solution is obtained using a grid size (dimensionless), $\Delta = 0.0312$. It can be seen in Fig. 2 that

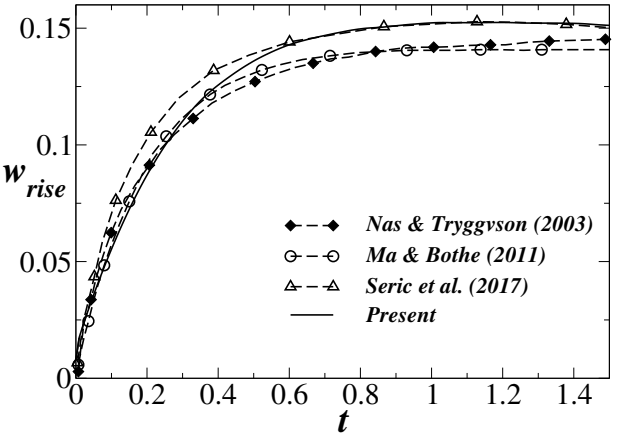


FIGURE 2. Drop migration velocity for $Re = Ma = 0.72$ and $Ca = 0.0576$ in the absence of gravitational effects.

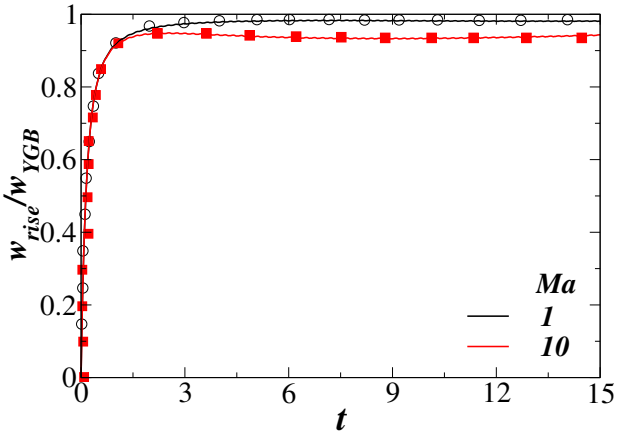


FIGURE 3. The temporal variations of the normalised velocity of the bubble, w_{rise}/w_{YGB} for $Ma = 1$ and 10. The rest of the parameters are $Re = 1$, $Ca = 0.1$ and $\Gamma \approx 0.133$. The symbols are the results of Liu *et al.* (2012) and the solid lines represent our results.

the terminal rise velocity obtained from our simulation agrees well that of Seric *et al.* (2018). However, in the accelerating regime ($t < 0.4$), our result is closer to that of Nas & Tryggvason (2003) and Ma & Bothe (2011).

We have also performed a validation exercise by comparing the thermocapillary migration of a bubble obtained from the present simulation with that of Liu *et al.* (2012). They conducted lattice Boltzmann method based simulations for the thermocapillary migration of a bubble placed at the centre of a computational domain of size $15R \times 15R \times 15R$ with the top and bottom walls maintained at temperatures 0 and 24 (lattice unit), respectively. They used $R = 16$, $\rho_A = \rho_B = 1.0$, $\mu_A = \mu_B = 0.2$, $\sigma_0 = 0.025$ and $T_{ref} = 12$; all the variables are in the lattice units. This gives $Re = 1$, $Ca = 0.1$ and $\Gamma = 0.13333$. The thermal conductivity of the fluids, $\kappa_A = \kappa_B = 0.2$ and 0.02 are used to obtain $Ma = 1$ and 10. We performed numerical simulations for these sets of dimensionless numbers using $\Delta = 0.06$ (as also used in their study). The no-slip and no-penetration boundary conditions are used at the top and bottom walls, and periodic boundary conditions for the velocity components and temperature are used at the size boundaries. The bubble

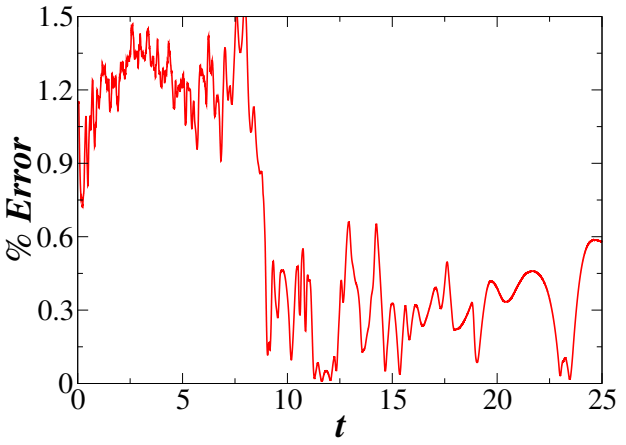


FIGURE 4. The temporal variation of the difference (in percentage) between the pressure force + force due to normal viscous stress difference and surface tension force integrated over the entire bubble surface. $M_1 = 0.4$ and $M_2 = 0.2$, and the rest of the parameters are $Re = 10$, $Bo = 10^{-3}$, $Fr = 50$, $Pr = 0.7$, $\mu_r = 10^{-2}$, $\rho_r = 10^{-3}$, $\alpha_r = 0.04$, $z_i = 9.5$ and $\Gamma = 0.1$ ('base' parameters).

rise velocity normalised with the theoretical result of Young *et al.* (1959) versus time for $Ma = 1$ and 10 are plotted in Fig. 3. For these parameters, $w_{YGB} = 1.667 \times 10^{-4}$. It can be seen that the agreement is quite good.

To generate the results presented in the following section a three-dimensional computation domain of size $20 \times 20 \times 20$ is used. Initially the gas bubble is placed at $z_i = z_{CG}(t = 0) = 9.5$. A wavelet error based dynamic adaptive grid refinement feature of *Basilisk* has been employed to refine the grid at the interface and in the regions of the domain where the gradients in velocity are large. The refinement level used in our simulations is 6, which corresponds to 64 computational cells per unit domain width, and the finest level being 9 near the interface, which amounts to 512 computational cells per unit domain width. An intermediate refinement of 256 cells per unit domain width is used in regions with higher velocity gradients. As mentioned in Popinet (2018), the balanced force method for the calculation of surface tension term in the Navier-Stokes equations may generate parasitic currents for surface tension dominant flows. Thus, in Fig. 4, we have performed another test to check whether the capillary pressure balances the pressure jump across the interface for $Re = 10$, $Bo = 10^{-3}$, $Fr = 50$, $Pr = 0.7$, $\mu_r = 10^{-2}$, $\rho_r = 10^{-3}$, $\alpha_r = 0.04$, $z_i = 9.5$ and $\Gamma = 0.1$ (hereafter, termed the 'base' parameters). Here, the temporal variation of the percentage difference between the integral pressure jump across the interface and integral value of the capillary pressure over the bubble surface is plotted for $M_1 = 0.4$ and $M_2 = 0.2$. This is defined as (pressure force + force due to normal viscous stress difference - surface tension force) / surface tension force $\times 100$. Note that the surface tension force includes its normal and Marangoni contributions. It can be seen that it is about 1.5%, which reduces to about 0.5% at later times.

4. Results and discussion

4.1. *Axisymmetric bubble*

We begin the discussion of our results by examining the case of an axisymmetric gas bubble. Tripathi *et al.* (2015*c*) have shown that as the bubble crosses the position of

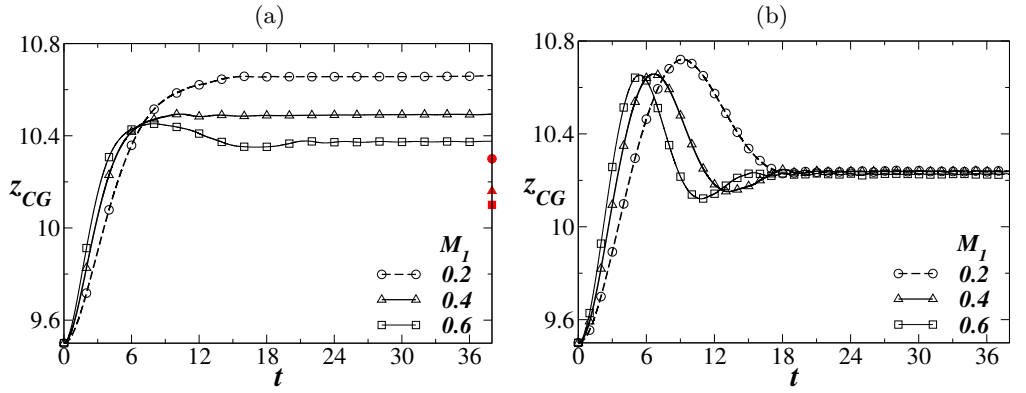


FIGURE 5. Temporal variation of the center of gravity of the bubble, z_{CG} rising in an axisymmetric domain. (a) With Marangoni term ($\delta\nabla_s\sigma$), and (b) without Marangoni term ($\delta\nabla_s\sigma$). The parameter values are $Re = 10$, $Bo = 10^{-3}$, $Fr = 50$, $Pr = 0.7$, $\mu_r = 10^{-2}$, $\rho_r = 10^{-3}$, $\alpha_r = 0.04$, $z_i = 9.5$ and $\Gamma = 0.1$ ('base' parameters). The positions of bubble arrest for $M_1 = 0.2$, 0.4 and 0.6 obtained from the analytical solution are shown in panel (a) by red filled circle, triangle and square, respectively.

minimum surface tension the bubble motion could be reversed, for sufficiently small Bond number and significant inertia, and eventually becomes arrested near the position of minimum surface tension. It is important to note though that in their numerical simulations the contribution of the surface tension gradient term in the interfacial stress balance was neglected, and therefore one of the goals of the present study is to investigate the impact of this missing term on the nonlinear dynamics of the bubble motion. As it has been mentioned above, our numerical scheme is able to fully account for the contributions of the Marangoni force.

Fig. 5(a) and (b) present a comparison between the results obtained from the present study and the ones predicted by Tripathi *et al.* (2015*c*), respectively. In Fig. 5(a) and (b), we depict the temporal variation of the centre of gravity, z_{CG}, of a bubble rising in a self-rewetting fluid inside a channel with walls that are heated according to a linear temperature profile of constant gradient $\Gamma > 0$. The evolutions of z_{CG} are shown for three different values of the parameter M_1, while $M_2 = M_1/2$; the latter restriction is imposed to keep the position where the minimum surface tension occurs constant. The remaining parameters are the same as the 'base' parameters). The comparison between the two sets of simulations reveals that the Marangoni stresses affects significantly the dynamics of the bubble motion. In Fig. 5b, as described in Tripathi *et al.* (2015*c*), the bubble reaches a maximum height ($z \approx 10.7$) before it reverses its motion and equilibrates at $z \approx 10.24$, for all values of M_1. On the other hand, in Fig. 5a, where we have included the Marangoni term in the interfacial stress balance, a significantly different behavior is observed. For all values of M_1 considered, the bubble rises with a constant velocity till $t \approx 6$, after a short accelerating phase initially. At later times (for $t > 10$ (approximately)), the bubble attains a terminal location and becomes stationary. It can be seen in Fig. 5(a) that increasing the value of M_1 decreases the location of bubble arrest. We also observe that the reversal of bubble motion takes place only for the highest value of M_1 ($M_1 = 0.6$) for which the effect of Marangoni stresses act in the downward direction become maximized and overcome the effect of buoyancy before the bubble reaches its terminal position.

Tripathi *et al.* (2015*c*) derived an analytical expression for the position of bubble entrapment based on the assumption of Stokes flow (see their Eq. (4.1)) which in our case gives $z = 10.09$. Besides the fact that the analytical solution, takes fully into

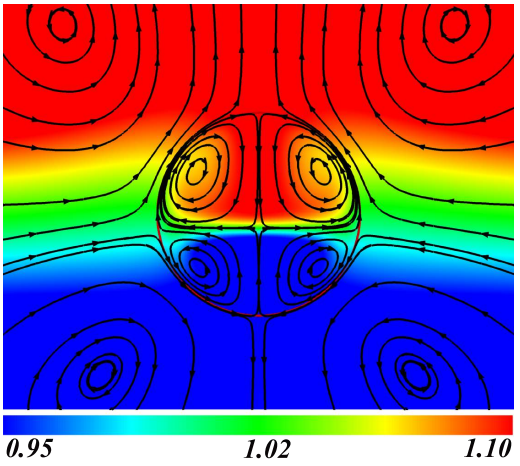


FIGURE 6. Streamlines at $t = 20$ for $M_1 = 0.6$ fully accounting for the Marangoni term ($\delta \nabla_s \sigma$). The background color shows the temperature field. The rest of the parameters are the same as those used to generate Fig. 5a.

account the presence of Marangoni contribution, the predicted value appears to be much closer to the predictions of the numerical simulation shown in Fig. 5b. This seemingly puzzling situation can be explained by looking more carefully at the flow field of the liquid that surrounds the bubble in both cases. According to the Stokes limit solution, in the case of a motionless bubble there is no flow of the surrounding liquid (see Eq. (3.13) in Tripathi *et al.* (2015*c*)). In the numerical simulations of Fig. 5b, when the bubble reaches a motionless state, we find (not shown) that the velocity field is indeed very close to zero which explains the good agreement with the Stokes limit solution. However, when the Marangoni term is taken into account and for finite values of Re, the liquid is never entirely motionless since thermocapillarity drives a steady recirculation around the bubble. This is shown very clearly in Fig. 6 where we depict the streamlines associated with the bubble for $M_1 = 0.6$ at $t = 20$; similar streamlines patterns are observed for other values of M_1 as well. The presence of liquid motion, even at times that the bubble has reached its equilibrium position, clearly renders the analytical solution invalid.

4.2. *Effects of three-dimensional flow*

We now turn our attention to the three-dimensional flow which is the main focus the present work. In Fig. 7, we present the temporal variation of the centre of gravity, z_{CG}, of a rising bubble inside a rectangular channel for three different cases: the case of a bubble rising in an isothermal liquid, and the cases where the channel is filled with either a linear ($M_1 = 0.4$ & $M_2 = 0$) or a self-rewetting fluid ($M_1 = 0.4$ & $M_2 = 0.2$). The remaining parameters are the same as the 'base' parameters. It can be seen that the bubble undergoes a relatively short acceleration phase, after which the bubble attains a constant terminal speed for both the isothermal and the linear fluid (non-isothermal) cases. For the linear fluid, the terminal speed is higher due to the presence of Marangoni stresses, which drive liquid towards the cold region of the channel, i.e, Marangoni stresses acts in the same direction as that of buoyancy, thereby enhancing the upward motion of the bubble. For the self-rewetting fluid case, the surface tension decreases and then increases (see Eq. (2.4) and Fig. 1b) with a minimum at $z_m = 10$. Thus in region $z > z_m$, the bubble experiences a pull in the downward direction due to Marangoni stresses, but buoyancy tries to push the bubble in the upward direction. Due to this competition

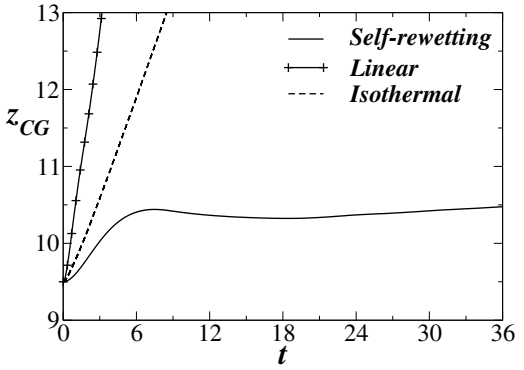


FIGURE 7. Temporal variation of the center of gravity of the bubble for an isothermal system ($M_1 = 0$ and $M_2 = 0$), a self-rewetting fluid ($M_1 = 0.4$ & $M_2 = 0.2$) and a linear fluid ($M_1 = 0.4$ & $M_2 = 0$) and $z_i = 9.5$. The remaining parameter values are the same as the 'base' parameters.

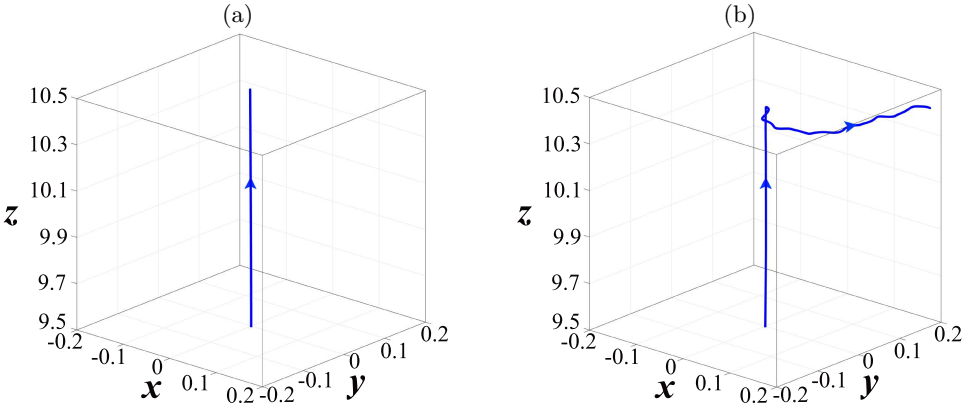


FIGURE 8. Trajectories of the bubble moving in channel containing the (a) linear fluid ($M_1 = 0.4$ & $M_2 = 0$) and (b) self-rewetting fluid ($M_1 = 0.4$ & $M_2 = 0.2$). The remaining parameter values are the same as the 'base' parameters.

between Marangoni stresses and buoyancy, the bubble moves with a considerably lower speed until at later times ($t > 8$), these forces counter-balance each other and the bubble at $t \approx 18$ has become entrapped at $z \approx 10.33$ for this set of parameters.

It is well known that in isothermal systems, the three-dimensionality of the flow can be expressed under conditions through a zig-zag motion of the bubble (Tripathi *et al.* 2015*a*). However, the mechanism of the zig-zagging motion of a bubble in an isothermal system is different from that in the present case. In case of an isothermal system, the three-dimensional motion is associated with a symmetric pair of rotating vortices in the wake of the bubble (Magnaudet & Mougin 2007). As expected for the specific parameter values used in Fig. 7, the bubble in the isothermal liquid rises in a perfectly straight path (Tripathi *et al.* 2015*a*). In Fig. 8a, we plot the trajectory of a bubble rising in a linear fluid (non-isothermal case). Like in the isothermal case, the bubble in a linear fluid also moves in the upward direction in almost vertical path. On the other hand, a striking difference is observed in the case of the self-rewetting fluid (see Fig. 8b) where the bubble initially moves vertically but after its upward motion decelerates and reaches at $z \approx 10.33$, the bubble migrates away from the axis of symmetry. This can be explained as follows. In the returning path (after the bubble has reached its maximum height) and when the bubble

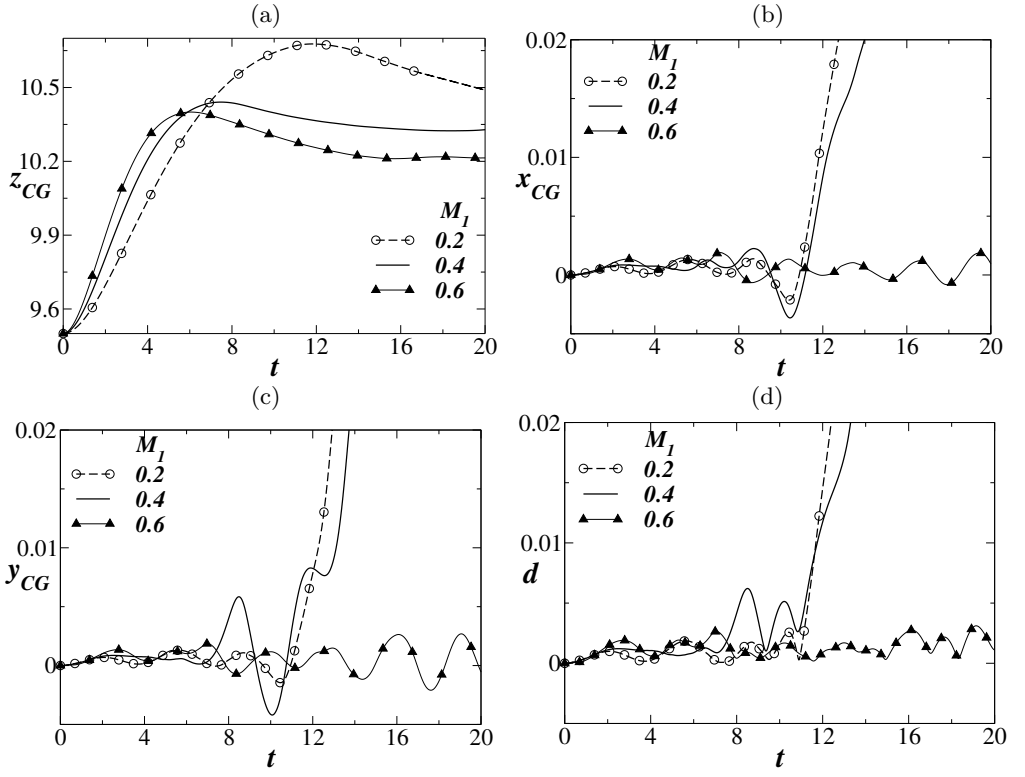


FIGURE 9. Temporal variation of (a) z_{CG}, (b) x_{CG}, (c) y_{CG} and (d) the distance of the center of gravity of the bubble from the axis, $d = \sqrt{x_{CG}^2 + y_{CG}^2}$, for different values of M_1. The parameter values are the same as those used in Fig. 7 while $M_2 = M_1/2$.

reaches to a stationary position, any perturbation in the position of the bubble will lead to interfacial thermal gradients. The bubble has a relatively low/high temperature fluid in its wake due to the Marangoni convection when the bubble is rising/on the return path. This builds up a radial gradient of temperature in the vicinity of the bubble. Any perturbation in the flow may cause the bubble to experience asymmetrical temperature distribution, which leads to an unbalanced force in the horizontal direction due to the asymmetrical Marangoni stresses. The onset of this horizontal migration may be studied in detail with the help of a linear stability analysis, which is out of the scope of the present study.

The lateral migration of the bubble is quantified in Fig. 9, where we plot the evolution of the z, x and y components of the position of the bubble center of gravity along with its distance from the axis, $d = \sqrt{x_{CG}^2 + y_{CG}^2}$, for three different values of M_1 and $M_2 = M_1/2$. It can be seen that at early times, the bubble rises approximately vertically, i.e along $(x, y) = (0, 0)$ and continues to do so even after the bubble has crossed the location where the surface tension is minimum, i.e, $z = z_m$; in this region the thermocapillary stresses act to decelerate its upward motion (see Fig. 9a). Increasing the value of M_1, and thus M_2 as well, the rise velocity of the bubble decreases due to the fact that the self-rewetting character of the fluid becomes more pronounced and the bubble retardation due to the induced thermocapillary stresses increases. Thus, as it is shown in Fig. 9a, the bubble is eventually arrested at lower heights. Interestingly, the first signs of bubble migration away from the axis of the channel appear when its

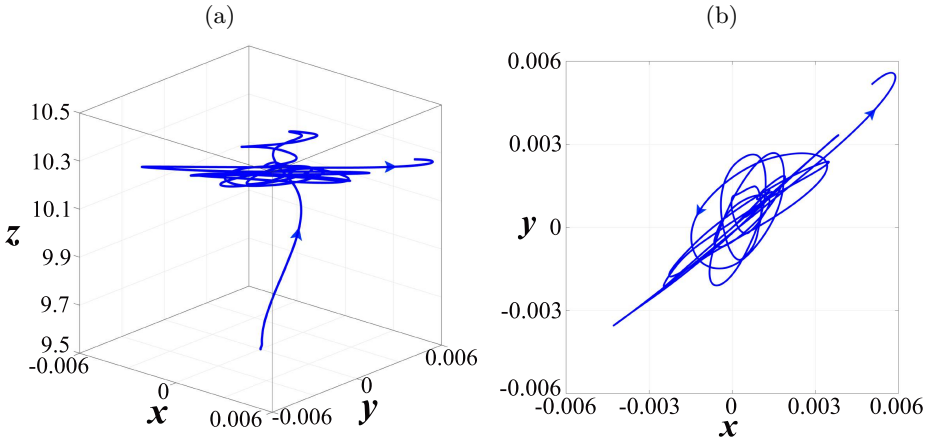


FIGURE 10. Trajectory of the bubble. (a) Three-dimensional view, and (b) top view (projection on the x-y plane) for $M_1 = 0.6$. The remaining parameter values are the same as the 'base' parameters.

motion in the vertical direction decelerates. In particular, for $M_1 = 0.2$ we find that the bubble begins its lateral motion at $t \approx 11$ which coincides with the time that the bubble has reached its maximum elevation (see Fig. 9a and 9d). Similarly, for $M_1 = 0.4$ the bubble initiates its lateral motion at $t \approx 7$, although in this case the bubble temporarily revolves around the axis of the channel, as it moves downwards. Eventually, though, as the bubble decelerates its vertical motion it sets off moving in the lateral direction (for $t > 12$). Another strikingly different behaviour is observed in the trajectory of the bubble for $M_1 = 0.6$ (see Fig. 10a,b) from the cases with lower values of M_1. For $M_1 = 0.6$, the bubble undergoes spiralling motion (albeit of small amplitude), in contrast to the bubble for lower values of M_1, which migrates away from the axis of symmetry in the lateral direction after rising in the vertical path in the early times (see Fig. 8b).

The lateral migration of buoyant drops and bubbles has also been observed in the case of isothermal systems (e.g. see Tripathi *et al.* (2015*a*) and references therein). In these systems, it has been established that the migration and non-axisymmetric motion typically take place due to the combined effect of inertia and interfacial deformation. In our case, however, interfacial deformation cannot be held responsible since it is negligible at all times for the parameter values that are examined in the present work (for instance, see the bubble shapes at different times in Fig. 11).

In order to rationalise this behaviour and gain further insight into the bubble dynamics, we analyse the velocity and temperature fields at various stages of the flow development for the surface tension-dominated case, characterised by $Bo = 10^{-3}$. In Fig. 11a-d, we show contour plots of u, v, w and T, respectively, in the x-y plane corresponding to $z = z_{CG}$ and for $t = 3, 7.8, 11$ and 20, which span the vertical rise and lateral migration stages (see Fig. 9). It can be clearly seen that during the early stages of the flow ($t = 3$), motion in the vertical direction dominates the dynamics as evidenced by the magnitude of the vertical velocity component, w, which greatly exceeds that of u and v; the corresponding temperature field also appears to be axisymmetric. In Fig. 12, we also depict the flow field in the x-z plane. The variation of σ on the bubble surface and temperature contours in the x-z plane at z_{CG} of the bubble are shown in Fig. 13(a) and (b), respectively. As shown in Fig. 13(a), at $t = 3$ the bubble has just crossed $z = z_m$ with a symmetric profile of surface tension exhibiting a maximum at the bottom part of the bubble and a minimum in the middle. With increasing time (at $t = 7.8$), the value of w has decreased

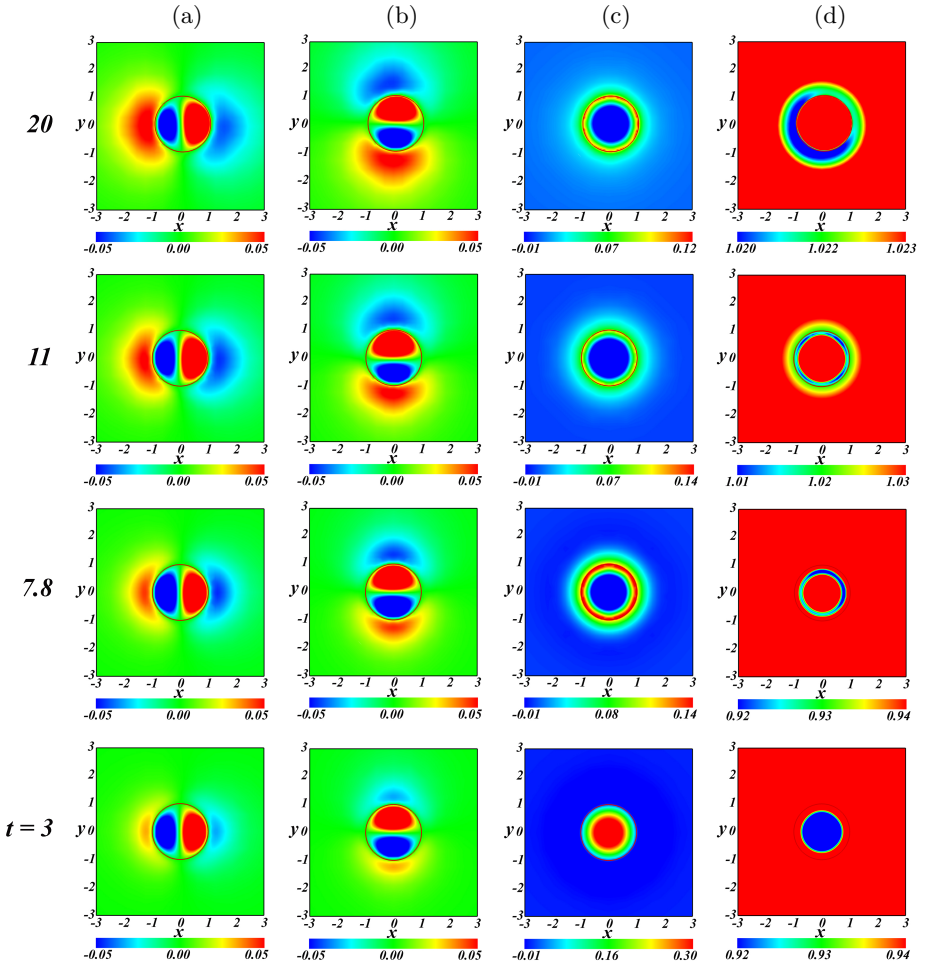


FIGURE 11. Spatio-temporal variation (bottom to top: t =3, 7.8, 11 and 20 of u, v, w and T contours (a)-(d) on the x-y plane at z_{CG} for the "self-rewetting" fluid for $M_1 = 0.4$. The remaining parameter values are the same as the 'base' parameters.

considerably due to the Marangoni convection in the opposite direction of bubble motion as can be clearly deduced by Fig. 12. This is in agreement with the results illustrated in Fig. 9c, which indicate that the onset of bubble departure takes places at $t \approx 7.8$. Because of instability the axisymmetry of the flow field about z direction breaks at later times (see Figs. 11 and 12). Since the position of the bubble at $t = 11$ is above z_m, the surface tension increases with temperature and Marangoni stresses drive fluid surrounding the bubble towards the hotter regions (where surface tension is higher) pushing the bubble towards the opposite direction (see Fig. 13). This eventually results in driving the bubble closer to the axis of the channel which is also reflected in Fig. 9; as shown in this figure, the distance from the axis decreases for $t > 10$. At $t = 20$, as it is shown in Fig. 11d, a markedly non-axisymmetric profile of T arises with the largest temperatures being in the top-right quadrant of the bubble projection on the x-y plane. At this point an asymmetry of the surface tension profile in the vertical direction becomes evident in Fig. 13a. The variation of surface tension about the z direction on the bubble surface is very small, and therefore can not be noticed in Fig. 13a at $t = 20$. Thus, we plot the variation of

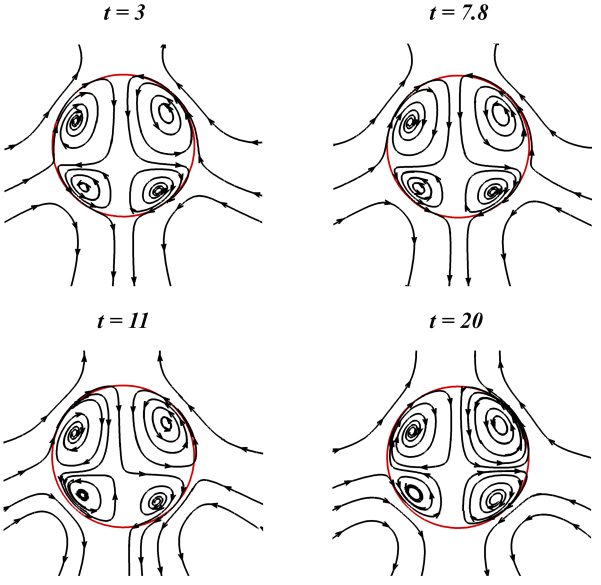


FIGURE 12. Temporal variations of streamlines in the x-z plane at z_{CG} of the bubble for $M_1 = 0.4$ & $M_2 = 0.2$. The bubble shape is shown in red. The remaining parameter values are the same as the 'base' parameters.

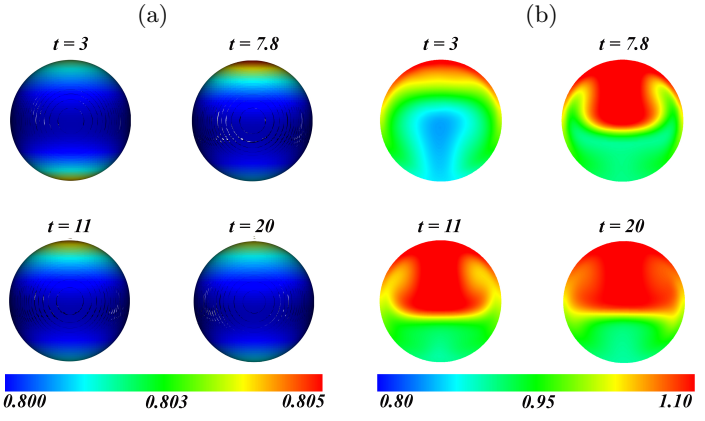


FIGURE 13. (a) The surface tension (σ) variation on the bubble surface (the view is in the x-z plane at z_{CG} of the bubble). (b) The temperature (T) contours on the x-z plane passing through center-of-gravity of the bubble. $M_1 = 0.4$, $M_2 = 0.2$ and the remaining parameter values are the same as the 'base' parameters.

$(\sigma - \sigma_m)/Bo$ and $T - T_m$ versus θ along the equator of the bubble in Fig. 14(a) and (b) at $t = 20$. Here, θ is defined in the x-y plane and measured from the positive x axis, and σ_m is the minimum surface tension. The asymmetry in variations of σ and T can be clearly seen in this figure; however, the onset of departure of the bubble from the axisymmetry can be understood by performing a stability analysis.

Having established the mechanism underlying the lateral migration phenomenon, we investigate next the effect of the initial location of the bubble. In Fig. 15, we show the evolution of the vertical position of the bubble centre of gravity as a parametric function of z_i, with the remaining parameters fixed at their 'base values'. In cases where the initial

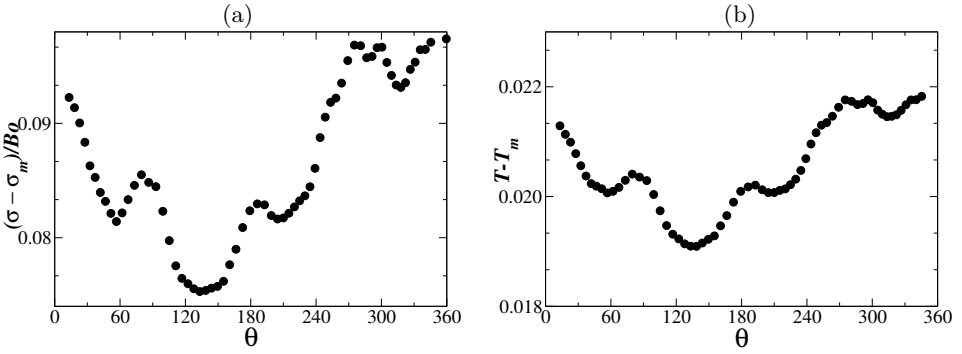


FIGURE 14. (a) $(\sigma - \sigma_m)/Bo$ versus θ and (b) $T - T_m$ versus θ along the equator of the bubble at $t = 20$ for $M_1 = 0.4$ & $M_2 = 0.2$. The remaining parameter values are the same as the 'base' parameters.

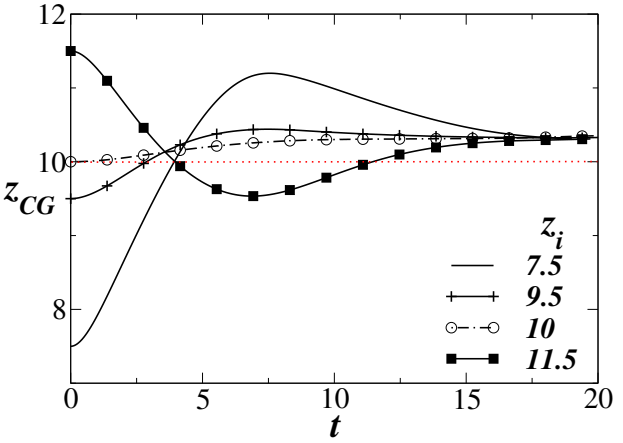


FIGURE 15. Temporal variation of the center of gravity of the bubble for a self-rewetting fluid ($M_1 = 0.4$ & $M_2 = 0.2$) starting from different initial locations, z_i; the location of minimum surface tension (i.e $z = 10$) is shown by red dotted line. The remaining parameter values are the same as the 'base' parameters.

location of the bubble is lower than that associated with surface tension minimum, z_m, the surface tension gradient reinforces the buoyancy driven bubble rise. As soon as the bubble reaches elevations such that $z > z_m$, the surface tension gradient is reversed and the bubble becomes retarded by the induced Marangoni flow. However, with increasing distance that the bubble has to cover before it reaches $z = z_m$, it is allowed to gain its momentum and thus may reach higher elevations before it eventually gets arrested. For sufficiently large values of z_i, i.e. $z_i > z_m$, the bubble moves in the negative z-direction under the action of Marangoni stresses whose magnitude exceeds that of the buoyancy force. In all cases, however, the terminal value of z_{CG} is identical for all z_i values. Moreover, the bubble even though it reaches a terminal vertical position it does not remain motionless but moves sideways as shown in Fig. 16.

In Fig. 17, the temporal variation of z_{CG} and distance from the axis, d are depicted for different values of the Bo number. Moreover, in Fig. 18, the trajectories of the bubble for two limiting values of Bo are depicted in two different projections. As it is shown in these figures that the three-dimensional effects on the flow become less pronounced with increasing the value of Bo, while the onset of lateral migration takes place at later

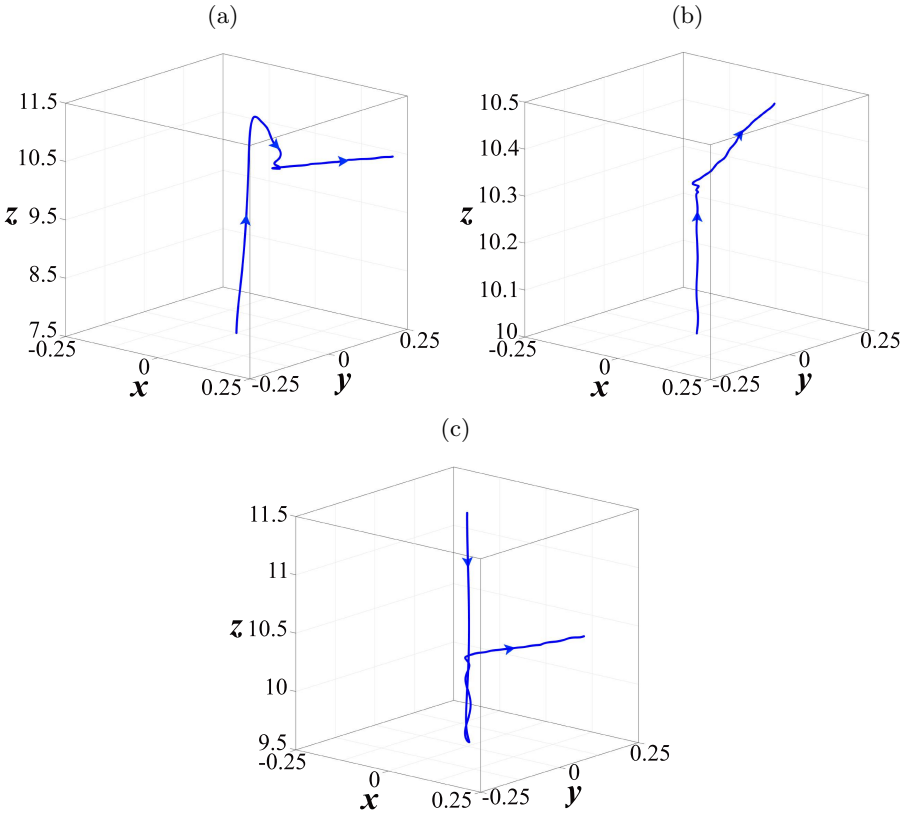


FIGURE 16. Trajectories of the bubbles started from different initial locations. (a) $z_i = 7.5$, (b) $z_i = 10$ and (c) $z_i = 11.5$. The rest of the parameter values are the same as those used to generate Fig. 15.

times, e.g. see Fig. 18c. This is indeed a striking difference with the case of a bubble rising under isothermal conditions for which it is believed that asymmetrical deformation of the bubble is associated with path instability (Tripathi *et al.* 2015*a*; Sharaf *et al.* 2017). This is clearly not the case for the present system where the path instability is actually due to the interplay of inertia and thermocapillarity, and appears to be favoured by bubbles that retain their spherical shape. The aspect ratio of the bubble (ratio of the dimeters of the bubble along any two axes) for the parameters considered is approximately one all the times, i.e. the bubbles remain mostly spherical. In addition to the mechanism of the lateral migration discussed above (see Fig. 11), a stability analysis similar to the ones performed by Magnaudet & Mougin (2007); Zenit & Magnaudet (2008); Yang & Prosperetti (2007); Cano-Lozano *et al.* (2016) for isothermal systems may also provide further insight to this phenomenon.

The temporal variations of z_{CG} for different values of Reynolds number and Froude number are plotted in Fig. 19a and 19b, respectively. It can be seen in Fig. 19a that with the increase in the value of Reynolds number and keeping the Froude number fixed at $Fr = 50$, the bubble reaches higher maximum elevations due to the increased effect of inertia. The latter also has an important implication on the level of thermocapillary stresses that the bubble experiences. Due to our assumption of quadratic dependence of surface tension on temperature, the induced Marangoni stresses become stronger as we move further away from the location associated with surface tension minimum, z_m; this

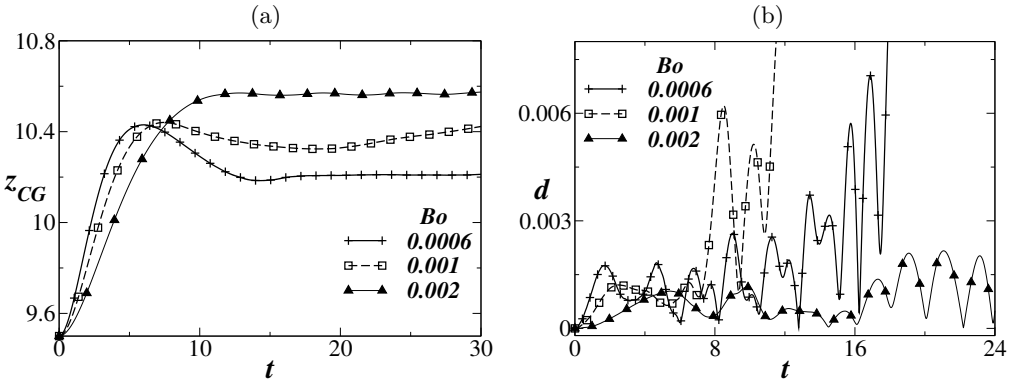


FIGURE 17. Temporal variation of (a) the center of gravity of the bubble, and (b) the distance of the center of gravity of the bubble from the axis ($d = (x_{CG}^2 + y_{CG}^2)^{1/2}$) for different values of Bo. The remaining parameter values are the same as the 'base' parameters.

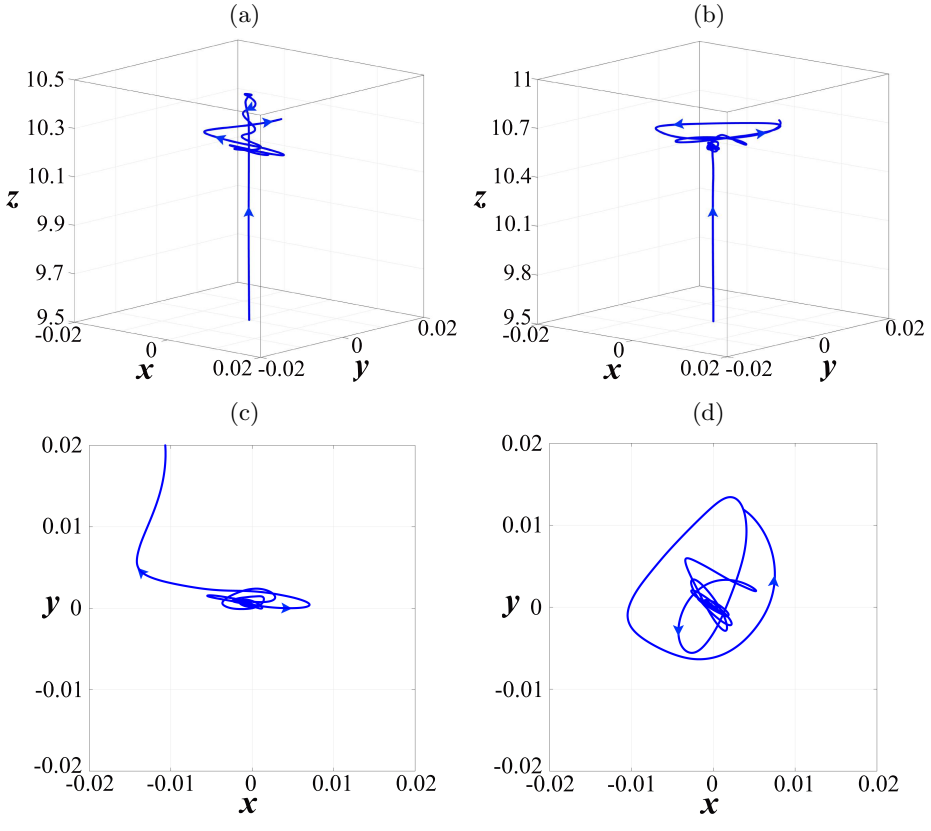


FIGURE 18. Trajectories of the bubble. (a,b) Three-dimensional view, and (c,d) top view (projection on the x-y plane) for (a) $Bo = 6 \times 10^{-4}$ and (b) $Bo = 2 \times 10^{-3}$. The rest of the parameter values are the same as those used to generate Fig. 17.

can be clearly seen in Fig. 1b. According to the previous discussion, since Marangoni stresses can be held responsible for the break of symmetry, it is reasonable to expect that if the bubble is allowed to reach higher elevations then it should be more susceptible to three-dimensional effects. Our simulations indicate that this is indeed the case and

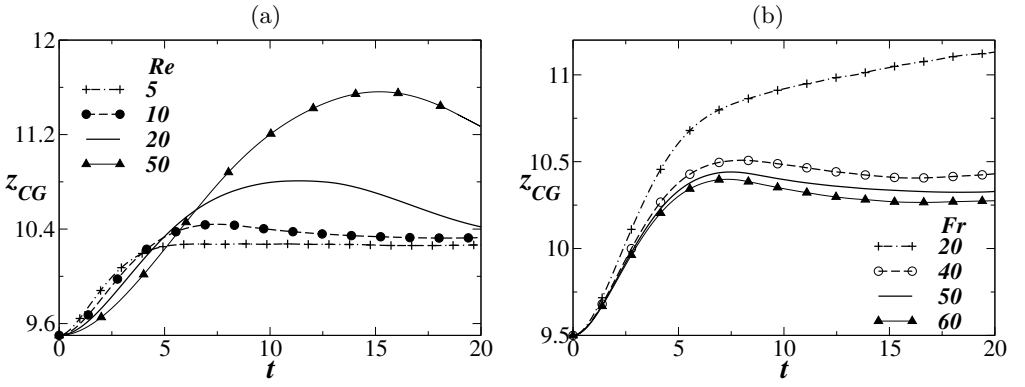


FIGURE 19. Effect of (a) Reynolds number for $Fr = 50$ and (b) Froude number for $Re = 10$ on the temporal variation of the center of gravity of the bubble. The remaining parameter values are the same as the 'base' parameters.

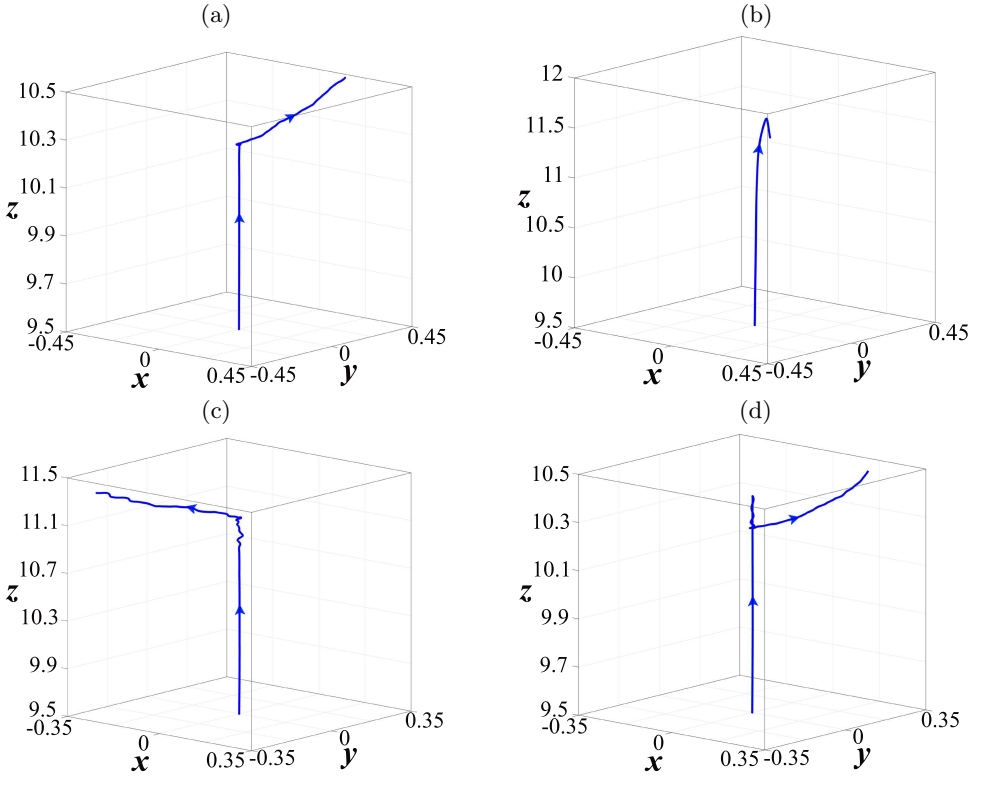


FIGURE 20. Trajectories of the bubble for (a) $Re = 5$ and (b) $Re = 50$ for $Fr = 50$; (c) $Fr = 20$ and (d) $Fr = 60$ for $Re = 10$. The rest of the parameter values are the same as those used to generate Fig. 19.

inspection of Figs. 20a and b reveals that increasing Re for a fixed Fr leads to enhanced lateral migration. On the other hand, increasing Froude number by keeping the Reynolds number fixed at $Re = 10$, thereby reducing the of effect of buoyancy as compared to Marangoni stresses, decreases the rise speed of the bubble and brings down the location of the bubble arrest. For low values of Fr the bubble has not reached a terminal vertical position even at late times, due to the stronger effect of buoyancy, and exhibits a low

amplitude zig-zag motion as it rises slowly (see Fig. 20c). For higher values of Fr, correspond to effect of Marangoni stresses becomes more important (the characteristic velocity is based on Marangoni scaling) and lateral migration of the bubble is enhanced (see Fig. 20d).

5. Concluding remarks

The rise dynamics of a gas bubble in a square channel filled with a "self-rewetting" fluid whose surface tension exhibits a parabolic dependence on temperature with a well-defined minimum is investigated numerically. A linearly increasing temperature in the vertical direction is imposed at the side walls of the channel. A modified open source finite-volume VoF based multiphase flow solver, *Basilisk* (originally developed by Popinet and co-workers), wherein we include the tangential gradient of surface tension force (known as Marangoni or thermocapillary force) has been used in the present study. It is very challenging to accurately calculate the tangential force term operating at the interface in the VoF framework. Thus, extensive validation exercises were performed by comparing the results obtained using the present solver with the previous experimental, theoretical and computational studies.

The main objectives of the present study are as follows: (i) to investigate the effect of Marangoni stresses on bubble rise dynamics in a "self-rewetting" fluid using a consistent model fully accounting for the the tangential surface tension forces, and (ii) to highlight the effects of three-dimensionality on the bubble rise dynamics. In case of isothermal and non-isothermal systems with "linear" fluid (whose surface tension decreases linearly with increasing temperature), the bubble moves in the upward direction in an almost vertical path as shown in Fig. 8a. On the other hand, the behaviour observed in the case of the "self-rewetting" fluid is strikingly different. Our results indicate that in a "self-rewetting" fluid, as the bubble crosses the location of minimum surface tension, the buoyancy-induced upward motion of the bubble is retarded by a thermocapillary-driven flow acting in the opposite direction, which in some situations outweighs buoyancy, which in turn leads to the migration of the bubble in the downward direction. In the later stages of this downward motion, as the bubble reaches its position of arrest, the vertical motion decelerates. In the presence of small disturbances, which in our simulations can be simply be introduced due to the presence of small numerical errors, the flow becomes unstable and the bubble experiences an asymmetrical temperature distribution as it moves away from the axis of symmetry, which ultimately leads to the bubble migration towards one of the channel walls as shown in Fig. 8b. These phenomena are observed at sufficiently small Bond numbers. In case of stronger self-rewetting behaviour ($M_1 = 0.6$; see Fig. 10), the bubble undergoes spiralling motion. The mechanisms underlying these three-dimensional effects are elucidated by considering how the surface tension dependence on temperature affects the thermocapillary stresses in the flow. It is shown that the Marangoni stresses can be held responsible for the break of symmetry, and it is reasonable to expect that if the bubble is allowed to reach higher elevations then it should be more susceptible to three-dimensional effects. This is indeed a striking difference with the case of a bubble rising under an isothermal condition, for which it is known that bubble deformability is actually a necessary condition for path instability (Tripathi *et al.* 2015*a*). This is clearly not the case for the present system where the path instability is actually due to the interplay of inertia and thermocapillarity, and appears to be favoured by bubbles that retain their spherical shape.

Our study on the effect of the initial location of the bubble rising in a "self-rewetting" for low inertia also shows that irrespective of the different starting vertical positions

(i.e., above or below the location of minimum surface tension), for the same set of the rest of the dimensionless parameters, the bubble gets arrested at a particular z location, which almost coincides with the prediction from the theoretical analysis in the Stokes flow regime. The effects of other dimensionless numbers, such as Reynolds and Froude numbers are also investigated. It is observed that increasing Reynolds number or decreasing Froude number, keeping the other parameters fixed, has a similar effect.

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