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Application of Two-Color LIF Thermometry to Nucleate Boiling

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Abstract: The laser-induced fluorescence (LIF) thermometry is applied to measure the temperature field surrounding a single vapor bubble growing at an artificial nucleation site. In order to correct measurement errors due to the non-uniformity of the incident laser intensity, the two-color LIF thermometry technique is used in this nucleate boiling experiment. This technique is based on the use of two fluorescent dyes: the temperature sensitive dye Rhodamine B and the temperature insensitive dye Sulforhodamine-101. The concentration of the dyes is optimized by analyzing the behavior of fluorescence intensities. The mapping between the two images is determined through a geometrical calibration procedure. This technique presents a success in correcting the non uniformities due to the reflection of the light at the bubble surface and to the temperature gradient. The obtained temperature fields show that the two-color LIF is a promising technique in the investigation of nucleate boiling.

Key words: Two-color LIF thermometry, stereoscopic camera calibration, nucleate boiling.

Nomenclature

V_{α} :	Pixel values of camera α
V_{β} :	Pixel values of camera β
$c_{dye,1}$ and $c_{dye,2}$:	Concentrations of the first and second dye
$V_{\alpha,0}$, $V_{\beta,0}$:	Sensor offset values
I_0 :	Incident laser intensity
$u = (v, w)$:	Pixel intensity measured at pixel coordinates
f :	Dimensionless focal length
$[R_{ij}]$:	Rotation matrix
$[T_i]$:	Translation vector
(\tilde{V}, \tilde{W}) :	Pinhole projection
U :	Coordinate transformation
M :	Mapping from u_{β} to u_{α}

Greek letters

θ :	Temperature
θ_e :	Temperature of ethanol
θ_w :	Temperature of the wall
θ_{sat} :	The saturation temperature
λ :	Wavelength

1. Introduction

Comprehension of the vapor bubble behavior on a heated surface is primordial to understand the heat transfer during the boiling near the surface. The behavior of a growing bubble has been studied by different numerical methods [1-4]. To validate and improve these simulations, experimental data on both flow and thermal field around the bubble are

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required [4, 5].

The laser-induced fluorescence (LIF) thermometry has been applied to several engineering problems, such as combustion studies [6] and heating and cooling system [7, 8]. This technique consists in temperature dependence of emission intensity of fluorescent dye molecules. These molecules are excited by a narrow spectrum of light and emit another spectrum of light with longer wavelengths due to the Stokes shift. The emission of the light source is separated by optical filters; the emission intensity distribution is imaged over an interest area by a digital camera. The sensor pixel values V reflects the temperature field.

First experimental LIF protocols used one single dye [9]. But during the recent years, different LIF techniques have been developed. Lavieille [10] presented a method where one single sensitive dye (Rhodamine B) is used with two or three separated color bands. When using one single dye with three spectral color bands, the advantage of this method is that the ratios of the emission of each band determine the temperature while correcting the effects of fluorescent re-absorption [11]; however this method is not suitable for evaporating problem [12]. Sakakibara [13] and Kim [14] described another LIF method, known as two-dyes LIF where two fluorescent dyes (temperature sensitive and temperature insensitive) are used with two synchronized cameras (camera α and camera β). When using this technique, the measurement errors due to the non-uniformity of the incident laser intensity are eliminated.

During boiling, a steep temperature gradient exists near the heating wall. This thermal gradient is accompanied by an optical index variation. The incident laser light is then nonuniform near the wall. Furthermore, the reflection of the light at vapor bubble surface also contributes to non-uniformity. Therefore, the use of two dyes is essential to avoid the measurement errors due to these non-uniformities and to get an accurate measurement of the temperature field in nucleate boiling problem. The two-color LIF

thermometry technique has been applied to the thermal transport at microscale [15], to the thermal plume [16] and to the plane impinging jet [17] but not to the nucleate boiling problem.

In the present work, a methodology to measure the temperature field around a vapor bubble by the two-color LIF thermometry is performed. This optical technique offers a non-intrusive temperature measurement with high spatial resolution, different from the pointwise measurement of thermocouples [18]. A brief review of the principle of two-color LIF thermometry is presented in Section 2. In Section 3, the experimental apparatus is introduced. It includes a heating system, a thermal control system and an optical system. The camera calibration procedure and the image mapping are then presented in Sections 4 and 5, respectively. After explaining the choice of the dyes' concentration and the temperature calibration in section 6, a measurement of temperature field surrounding a vapor bubble is presented and discussed. Conclusions with perspectives are given in the last section.

2. Principle of Two Color LIF Thermometry

The two color LIF technique consists in using two dyes, one temperature sensitive and the other insensitive. Two cameras are used, α and β , equipped with optical filters with different ranges of wavelength. The pixel values V_α and V_β corresponding to a physical point (x, y) of cameras α and β , respectively, are given by:

$$V_\alpha = (a_1(\theta)c_{dye,1} + a_2(\theta)c_{dye,2})I_0(x, y) + V_{\alpha,0} \quad (1)$$

$$V_\beta = (b_1(\theta)c_{dye,1} + b_2(\theta)c_{dye,2})I_0(x, y) + V_{\beta,0} \quad (2)$$

where, $c_{dye,1}$ and $c_{dye,2}$ are the concentrations of the first and second dyes, respectively. The constants $V_{\alpha,0}$ and $V_{\beta,0}$ are the sensor offset values. The coefficients a_1 , a_2 , b_1 and b_2 are functions of the temperature θ and of the optical configuration of the experimental setup. They are independent from the incident laser intensity I_0 . Taking the ratio of V_α and V_β after subtracting the offsets, an I_0 -independent function $F = F(\theta)$ is

obtained:

$$F(\theta) = \frac{V_\alpha - V_{\alpha,0}}{V_\beta - V_{\beta,0}} = \frac{a_1(\theta)c_{dye,1} + a_2(\theta)c_{dye,2}}{b_1(\theta)c_{dye,1} + b_2(\theta)c_{dye,2}} \quad (3)$$

Once this F -function is known, the temperature field can be given by:

$$\theta = F^{-1}\left(\frac{V_\alpha - V_{\alpha,0}}{V_\beta - V_{\beta,0}}\right) \quad (4)$$

A wide library of dyes exists in the literature. Natrajan & Christensen [15] reported success in combining Rhodamine B as a temperature sensitive dye with Sulforhodamine-101 as a temperature insensitive dye. In the present work, the same dyes are selected, Rhodamine B (RhB, Dye content 99%; VWR-France) and Sulforhodamine-101 (SR101, Dye content 95%; Sigma-Aldrich-USA), to measure the temperature in nucleate boiling problem. Since these experimental investigations are performed at a relatively high temperature (60-80 °C), the application of the two-color LIF thermometry technique is quite challenging because the dye fluorescence intensity must be visible at these temperatures.

3. Setup

A heating system similar to those developed by Siedel, et al. [19] and Kowaleski, et al. [20] was especially designed to generate isolated vapor bubbles. The designs of the optical cell, the longitudinal section of the heating element and the general view of the device are presented in Figs. 1a and 1b. Heat generated by a cartridge heater (6 mm in diameter and 48 mm in length) is transmitted to a horizontal circular copper disk through a copper stem. The copper disk is 20 mm in diameter and 0.2 mm in thickness. The temperature is monitored with four K-type thermocouples (chromel-alumel, Tc Direct-France) at distances, 17 mm, 12 mm, 7 mm and 2 mm from the disk (Fig. 1a). The temperature of the heater is controlled with the use of a PID. The bubbles are nucleated at an artificial cavity made at the center of the copper disk. The cavity has a mouth diameter of 0.2 mm.

The whole heating system is integrated to a vertically installed cylindrical glass container with the copper disk facing up. The container has an inner diameter of 50 mm and is filled partially by a test liquid (Fig. 1b). Ethanol (96% Vol; VWR-France) is chosen as the test liquid because of its low boiling temperature ($\theta = 78.4$ °C) at atmospheric pressure. Typical ethanol volume of 100 mL is considered. The container is immersed in an outer square tank $170 \times 170 \times 210$ mm³ which is filled by water circulating from and to a thermostatic bath. This tank serves to condition the ambient temperature and correct optical distortion due to the curvature of the cylindrical container. The temperature of ethanol, θ_e , and the temperature of water, θ_w , are monitored by K-type thermocouples. Fluctuation in these temperatures during an experiment is typically 0.1 °C. The difference $\theta_e - \theta_w$ is typically -0.3 °C without heating the copper disk and is around 1 °C when heating it.

The illumination source is a double cavity Nd:YAG laser from Litron Laser with a pulse energy about 100 mJ per pulse during 8 ns and a wavelength of 532 nm. The dyes are excited by a 0.5 mm-thick vertical laser sheet that passes exactly over the artificial cavity (Fig. 1b). In the current paper, the mean thermal field is obtained over a small area near the bubble. The fluorescence of each dye is separated by a dichroic filter with a transition wavelength $\lambda = 600$ nm, size $(50 \times 50 \times 2)$ mm³. The fluorescence signal of each dye is captured by two identical CCD cameras (Image Pro X from Lavision) recording images at 14 Hz. These cameras, camera α and camera β , are both equipped with filters (size of 50 mm diameter). A band-pass filter of $550 \text{ nm} < \lambda < 580 \text{ nm}$ is fixed on camera α to observe the emission of RhB and a long-pass filter of $\lambda > 665 \text{ nm}$ is fixed on camera β to observe the emission of SR101. All filters are provided by Chroma Technology Corp, USA. The focal length of the lens is 200 mm, a shorter focal length can not be used because of the equipment size.

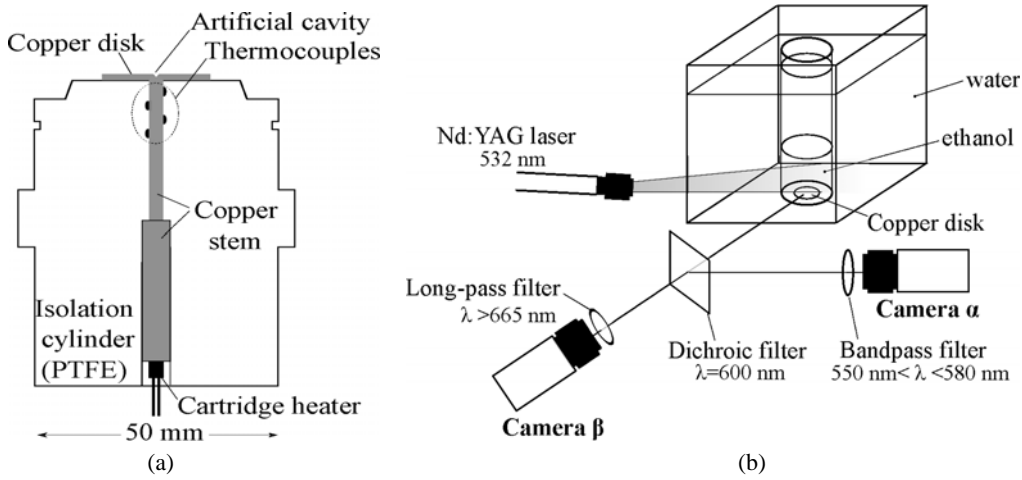


Fig. 1 Details of the developed experimental setup. (a) Longitudinal section of the heating element and (b) device configuration.

4. Camera Calibration

In the two-color LIF thermometry, the pixel intensity measured at pixel coordinates $u_\alpha = (v_\alpha, w_\alpha)$ on a camera α 's image is divided by the pixel intensity at $u_\beta = (v_\beta, w_\beta)$ on a camera β 's image (Eq. (3)). This division is performed for all pairs of u_α and u_β that point to the same physical point. The mapping from u_β to u_α (or, inverse) should be known accurately. This mapping is determined through a geometrical camera calibration procedure, which gives intrinsic and extrinsic parameters of both cameras.

The calibration is performed with the camera Calibration Toolbox for Matlab [21], which does not require a full 3D calibration object but a 2D planar checkerboard, moved on several locations. The adopted estimations for planar homographies and for maximum likelihood are those in Ref. [22]. The closed-form estimation of camera intrinsic parameters uses explicitly the orthogonality of vanishing points. Tangential distortion coefficients are also taken into account by following the camera model in Ref. [23]. The outputs of the calibration include: dimensionless focal lengths f_1 and f_2 measured in the horizontal and vertical sizes of a sensor element, respectively; the skew coefficients k_1 , k_2 and k_5 represent the image radial distortion and k_3 , k_4 represent the tangential one; the rotation matrix $|R_{ij}|$ and translation vector $[T_i]$

give the transformation from a real world coordinate system to a 3D camera's coordinate system. In our application, the plane $Z = 0$ is considered coincident with the plane of the laser sheet. The calibration target is a checkerboard patterns with squares of 2 mm.

The spatial resolution is 0.026 mm/pix for camera α 's image and 0.024 mm/pix for camera β 's image. By comparing the image of camera α to the mapped image of camera β , the accuracy of the mapping is estimated to 0.05 mm.

5. Image Mapping

For a given real world coordinates $(X, Y, 0)$ on the laser sheet, the coordinates (x, y, z) in a camera's reference frame [23] are:

$$\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} R_{11} & R_{12} & R_{13} \\ R_{21} & R_{22} & R_{23} \\ R_{31} & R_{32} & R_{33} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} X \\ Y \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} T_1 \\ T_2 \\ T_3 \end{bmatrix} \quad (5)$$

The pinhole projection (\tilde{v}, \tilde{w}) of this point on the camera's image plane reads:

$$\tilde{v} = \frac{x}{z} = \frac{R_{11}X + R_{12}Y + T_1}{R_{31}X + R_{32}Y + T_3} \quad (6)$$

$$\tilde{w} = \frac{y}{z} = \frac{R_{21}X + R_{22}Y + T_2}{R_{31}X + R_{32}Y + T_3} \quad (7)$$

where Eq. (5) has been substituted. The distorted

coordinates, which are expected to be the pixel coordinates of (v, w) on a captured image, are then given by:

$$v = f_1 \left[\tilde{v} \left(1 + k_1 \tilde{r}^2 + k_2 \tilde{r}^4 + k_5 \tilde{r}^6 \right) + 2k_3 \tilde{v} \tilde{w} + k_4 \left(\tilde{r}^2 + 2\tilde{v}^2 \right) \right] + v_0 \quad (8)$$

$$w = f_2 \left[\tilde{w} \left(1 + k_1 \tilde{r}^2 + k_2 \tilde{r}^4 + k_5 \tilde{r}^6 \right) + k_3 \left(\tilde{r}^2 + 2\tilde{w}^2 \right) + 2k_4 \tilde{v} \tilde{w} \right] + w_0 \quad (9)$$

where, (v_0, w_0) are the coordinates of the principal point and $\tilde{r} = \sqrt{\tilde{v}^2 + \tilde{w}^2}$.

For each camera, applications of Eqs. (5)-(9) define a coordinate transformation U : $u = U(X, Y)$ from real world coordinates to pixel coordinates. The mapping M from u_β to u_α is determined by combining U and its inverse U^{-1} . The inverse transformation U^{-1} is found as follows:

(1) The coordinates $\tilde{v}(u)$ and $\tilde{w}(u)$ are obtained by inverting Eqs. (8)-(9);

(2) The real world coordinates are obtained by substituting \tilde{v} and \tilde{w} in Eqs. (6)-(7).

Applying the obtained U^{-1} to camera β , the real world coordinates corresponds to $(X, Y)U^{-1}(U_\beta)$. The pixel coordinates u_α viewing the same point is given by $u_\alpha = U(X, Y)$. Hence, u_α and u_β are related by the relationship $u_\alpha = U(U^{-1}(u_\beta))$. The mapping M is obtained by computing u_α for all the pixel points u_β belonging to the image region of interest.

6. Concentration Optimization and Temperature Calibration

The coefficients of the concentrations in Eq. (3) depend on the parameters of the optical system. In order to decide an optimal combination of the two concentrations c_{RhB} and c_{SR101} , respectively, an analyze of the cameras output voltages responses as a function of the dyes' concentrations is achieved.

Fig. 2 presents averaged intensities V_α and V_β for different values of c_{RhB} . The solution does not contain SR101. The averaging is performed over an area of (230×630) pix² above the copper disk. The intensity V_α increases linearly with the concentration until $c_{RhB} =$

0.5 mg/L. A decrease seen for $c_{RhB} > 1$ mg/L might be explained by the absorption of the emitted light over the optical path in the solution. The intensity V_β is much lower than V_α , as expected (Fig. 2).

Fig. 3 presents results of a similar experiment obtained by varying c_{SR101} and without adding any RhB to the solution. At low concentrations, both intensities are of the same order of magnitude and behave linearly until $c_{SR101} = 0.5$ mg/L. Distinction of these intensities becomes significant for $c_{SR101} > 1$ mg/L.

A simple application of the two-color LIF thermometry requires linear behavior to V_α and V_β . Therefore, both concentrations should be lower than 0.4 mg/L. Moreover to get accurate results, the measured intensities should be larger than the level of the noise produced by the cameras' sensors. Our

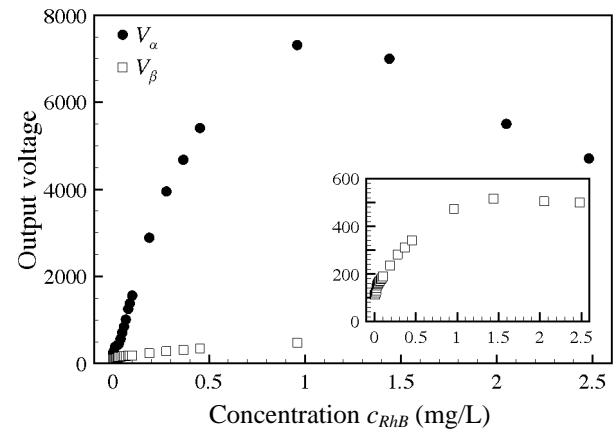


Fig. 2 camera pixel intensities V_α and V_β for different concentrations of RhB in ethanol at $\theta_e = 40^\circ\text{C}$.

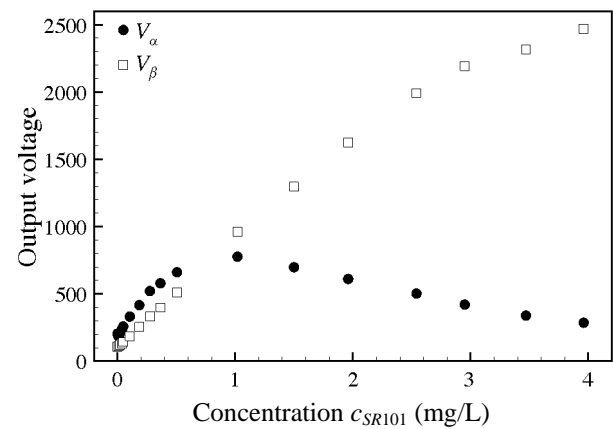


Fig. 3 Camera pixel intensities V_α and V_β for different concentrations of SR101 in ethanol at $\theta_e = 40^\circ\text{C}$.

cameras' sensors have the same offset $V_\alpha = V_\beta = 101$ with a Gaussian noise centered around 30. In the purpose to maximize the sensitivity of the F -function to the temperature ($\partial F/\partial\theta$) and to respect the above requirements, these concentrations $c_{RhB} = 0.1$ mg/L and $c_{SR101} = 0.1$ mg/L have been considered in the following work.

The intensities V_α and V_β observed for these concentrations are shown in Fig. 4 for a temperature range $30^\circ\text{C} < \theta < 74^\circ\text{C}$, in intervals of 5°C . The values of the intensities are normalized by their values at 40°C (1,415 and 423 for cameras α and β , respectively). It can be noted that both dyes remain visible at the ethanol boiling temperature ($\theta_{sat} = 78.4^\circ\text{C}$). Thus both dyes are well suited to be used in nucleate boiling investigation. The intensity V_α decreases by $0.7\%/^\circ\text{C}$, while V_β decreases with a smaller rate $0.2\%/^\circ\text{C}$. By comparing Figs. 2 and 3, one can notice that the observed fluorescence of RhB is higher than that of SR101. As it can be observed in Fig. 2, the RhB emission is not effectively blocked by the filters of camera β . For these reasons the output voltage V_β is significantly influenced by the RhB emission and the decrease in the intensity of camera β , presented in Fig. 4, is then due to the contribution of the RhB fluorescence to V_β . Measurement error due to the sensor noise, associated to camera β and camera α at $\theta_e = 40^\circ\text{C}$, are estimated as $30/423$ and $30/1415$, i.e., 7% and 2%, respectively.

Fig. 5 shows the result of the temperature calibration for this solution, where $V_{\alpha,0}$ and $V_{\beta,0}$ represent the offsets values (Eq. (3)). For computing θ from a given value of F , this linear relation is adopted:

$$\theta = -59.5F + 265.0 \text{ (}^\circ\text{C)} \quad (10)$$

The sensitivity of the F -function to the temperature is $-0.5\%/^\circ\text{C}$. The standard deviation of the temperature data from the calibration (Eq. (10)) is 1.4°C . Once this calibration is made the re-absorption of the RhB emissions along the imaging path will be taken into account by the system itself.

7. Results and Discussion

Fig. 6 shows images of a vapor bubble. The view of camera β has already been mapped onto the image plane of camera α . The bubble has a diameter of around 1 mm and grows at the artificial nucleation site in ethanol of $\theta_e = 40^\circ\text{C}$ (i.e., the subcooling $\Delta\theta_{sub} = \theta_e - \theta_{sat} = 17.2^\circ\text{C}$). In Fig. 6a, hot plumes rising from the disk surface and from the bubble are seen as darker zones, while these hot plumes are not distinguished in Fig. 6b. In both images, a dark band at the right of the bubble (bubble's shadow) and a luminous contour above the bubble can be noticed as presented in Fig. 7. Since the laser sheet enters the

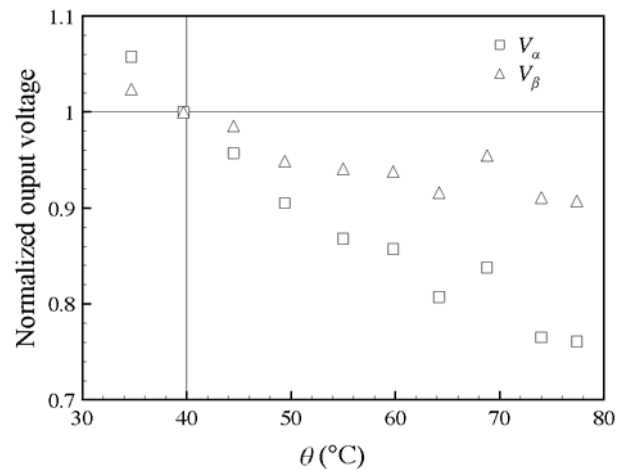


Fig. 4 Normalized pixel intensities for a RhB-SR101/ethanol solution of $c_{RhB} = 0.1$ mg/L and $c_{SR101} = 0.4$ mg/L.

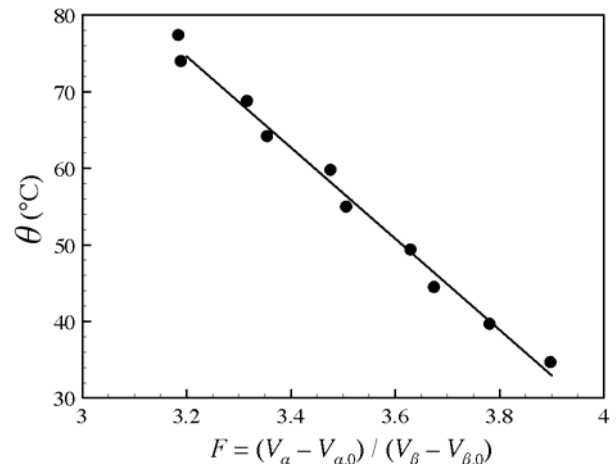


Fig. 5 Temperature calibration for a RhB-SR/ethanol solution of $c_{RhB} = 0.1$ mg/L and $c_{SR101} = 0.4$ mg/L. The temperature varies linearly as a function of F (Eq. (10)).

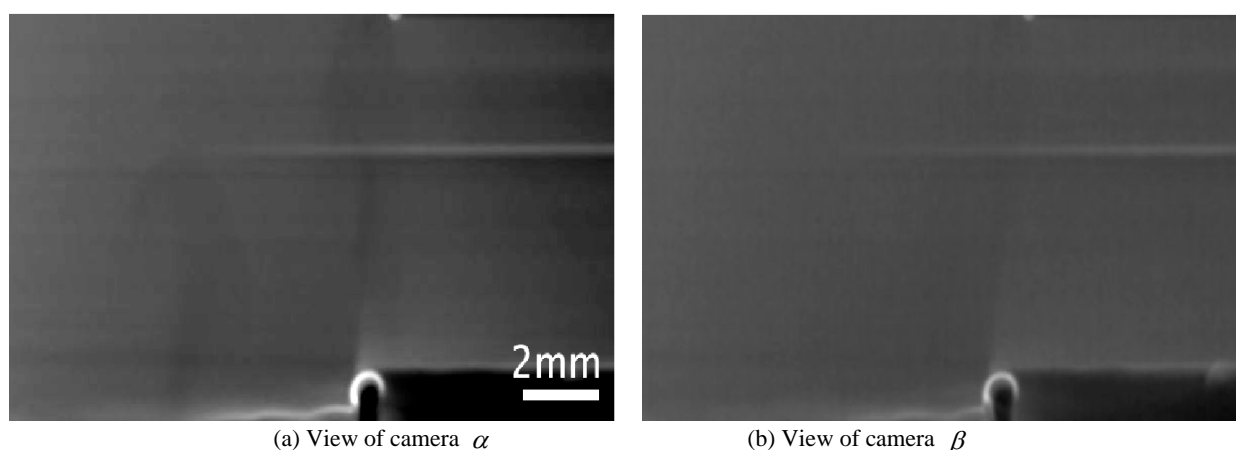
(a) View of camera α (b) View of camera β

Fig. 6 A vapor bubble growing on an artificial nucleation site in ethanol at $\theta_e = 61.2$ °C.

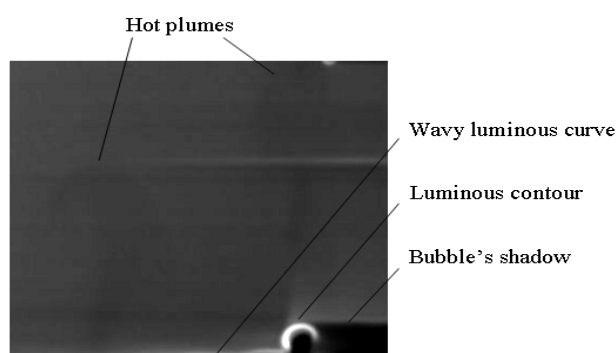


Fig. 7 Close up on the bubble vicinity of Fig. 6a.

measurement area from the left to the right (Fig. 1b), then the bubble's shadow appears in both Figs. 6a and 6b. The luminous contour above the bubble is due to the laser reflection at the bubble surface.

Furthermore, horizontal luminous and dark lines, results of optical imperfection of the setup are also seen in both images. Roughness on the inner and outer tanks' lateral walls can produce such inhomogeneity.

Local fluctuation of θ_e and θ_w could also lead to non-uniform lighting. These non-uniformities are inevitable or difficult to remove in boiling experiments.

The use of a single-color LIF thermometry may give erroneous thermal field and the use of the two color LIF thermometry technique is recommended.

Fig. 8 shows a temperature field at different time steps, it was determined by calculating and converting the F-function. The conversion was achieved by the temperature calibration (Eq. (10)). The ethanol

spinodal limit is 164 °C [24], to better illustrate the temperature field the zones with unphysical temperatures (either lower than 50 °C or higher than 100 °C) are uncolored. At the right of the bubble (shadow zone), the temperature is not determined due to the low intensities of the dyes. Other uncolored zones are found above the copper disk along the wavy luminous curve seen in Fig. 7. These uncolored zones can be due to the insufficient accuracy of the mapping. In fact, the error of our mapping (0.05 mm) is equivalent to half the thickness of the wavy curve. In order to eliminate lighting non-uniformity of such a meso scale, more accuracy mapping would be required.

Except those small zones, the temperature field is successfully obtained over the whole interest area. The bulk liquid temperature is around 60 °C and it is in good agreement with the thermocouples' measurements. The hot plumes are seen as higher temperature zones of 70-73 °C. The luminous contour above the bubble due to the reflection of the light at the bubble surface is successfully corrected. The success in correcting these non-uniformities and in measuring the temperature underlines the significance of the two-color LIF thermometry in boiling experiments.

8. Summary and Perspectives

A novel application method of the two-color LIF

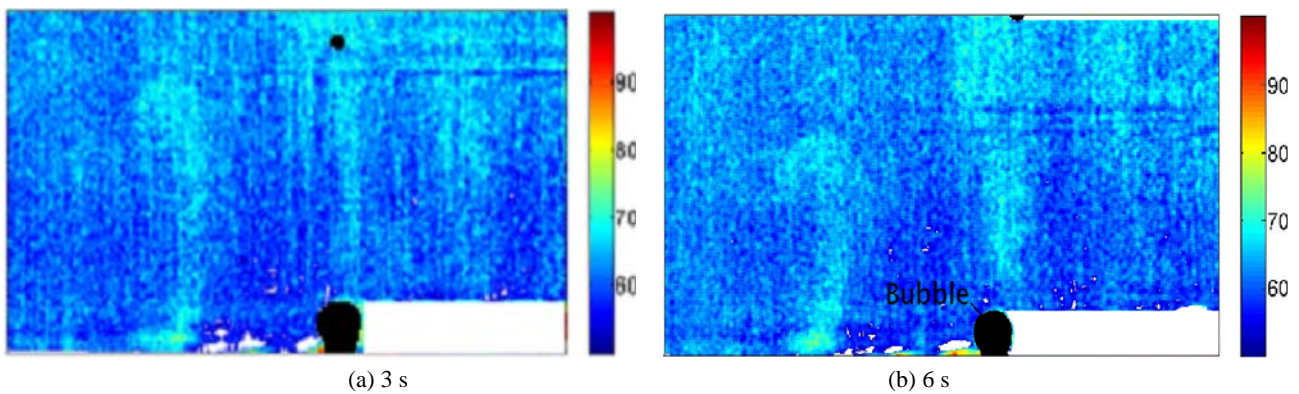


Fig. 8 Temperature field in the vicinity of a vapour bubble growing on an artificial nucleation site in ethanol of $\theta_e = 6.12$ °C, (a) 3 s and (b) 6 s.

thermometry to nucleate boiling investigation is presented. The camera calibration procedure with an accurate image mapping between the two cameras is required for calculating the F -function (Eq. (3)). Two dyes are used, the Rhodamine B and the Sulforhodamine-101, respectively. The optimization of both dyes' concentrations is discussed by observing the fluorescence intensity in ethanol at $\theta_e = 40$ °C within a wide range of concentration up to 4 mg/L (Figs. 2 and 3). The temperature calibration (Eq. (10)) for a solution of 0.1 mg/L of Rhodamine B and 0.4 mg/L of Sulforhodamine-101 shows a sensitivity of $-0.5\%/^{\circ}\text{C}$ for the F -function. This sensitivity is comparable with the sensitivity obtained by Natrajan & Christensen [15] over the temperature range 10 °C $< \theta < 44$ °C ($-1.5\%/^{\circ}\text{C}$).

The temperature field around a vapor bubble in nucleate boiling is successfully obtained with corrections to inevitable inhomogeneous lighting associated with the temperature gradient and the reflection at the bubble surface. This result suggests that the two color LIF thermometry is a promising method for measuring the thermal field in boiling.

To improve the temperature correction, an accurate two-camera image mapping is necessary. This improvement can be performed by increasing the optical magnification. The temperature sensitivity of the F -function can be also improved by optimizing the configuration of optical elements and the dyes'

concentrations. The thickness of the laser sheet is of the same order as the bubble radius, therefore on going work consists in increasing the bubble size.

At the current stage, the application of two color LIF technique should not be limited to the case studied herein. In an additional future work, this new experimental investigation should be used to validate the numerical approach, based on finite element method (FEM) and computational fluid dynamic (CFD) [25, 26]. This new experimentation would be also used to optimize the heat transfer due to boiling in industrial quenching process [4]. A great advantage should be realized by synchronizing the two-color laser-induced fluorescent thermometry (LIF) with the particle image velocimetry (PIV) [27, 28], to acquire a two-dimensional map of both the temperature and the velocity fields during nucleate boiling.

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