Faraday waves over a permeable rough substrate

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(Received 4 June 2018; revised manuscript received 14 December 2018; published 15 May 2019)

We report on an experimental study of the Faraday instability in a vibrated fluid layer situated over a permeable and rough substrate, consisting either of a flat solid plate or of woven meshes having different openings and wire diameters, open or closed (by a sealing paint). We measure the critical acceleration and the wavelength (on the images from top) at the onset of the instability for vibration frequencies between 28 and 42 Hz. We observe that, in comparison with the flat plate, a mesh leads to an increase of the critical acceleration, whereas the wavelength is not significantly altered in none of the explored cases. In order to rationalize the observations, we use the linear theory written for the case of a flat bottom and a viscous fluid to define an effective thickness of the fluid layer. For the closed meshes the effective thickness is simply a linear function of the distance between wires constituting the mesh, whereas it exhibits a more complex behavior for the open meshes. We propose a qualitative understanding for the observed features.

DOI: 10.1103/PhysRevE.99.053110

I. INTRODUCTION

The instability of a fluid layer in a vertically vibrated vessel was first studied by Faraday [1] and became one of the most referenced examples of pattern formation in out-ofequilibrium, nonlinear, systems [2]. Above a critical acceleration a_c , under certain conditions, a subharmonic instability develops in the form of standing waves at half the driving frequency [3,4], leading to a pattern of nonlinear standing waves [5]. For inviscid fluids, the phenomenon relies in a competition between the destabilizing vibration and restoring gravity and surface tension forces [6]. In the late 1990s, the theory was extended to weak viscous fluids by using a linear analysis [7,8] and then to more dissipative systems [9]: The dissipation introduces a damping coefficient that depends explicitly on the layer thickness as opposed to the inviscid case. The damping of these waves has its origin in the viscous dissipation in the free surface, bulk, bottom, and side boundaries and in the hysteresis associated with the meniscus surrounding the free surface [10]. The selection of the wave pattern at the free surface of the vibrated fluid motivated numerous experimental [11–13] and theoretical studies [14–18], including compound excitation [12,19]. Specific studies of the effects of surface tension [20] and fluid rheology [21,22], of the interaction between boundary layer and bulk [23], of the streaming flows arising from dissipation [24–26], and of the effects of the side walls [27] are available in the literature.

The critical acceleration, a_c , was shown to be extremely sensitive to the thickness h of the fluid layer [28]. For thin layers, as h decreases, a_c increases drastically due to the dissipation in the bottom boundary (substrate). This strong dependence promoted analytical [29] and experimental studies [30–32], including the case of corrugated substrates. It was shown that strong interaction may exist between the corrugation and the waves, up to the existence of a forbidden band for the wavelengths that are close to the typical horizontal scale of the corrugation.

In Ref. [32], the substrate consists of a square lattice of grooves and the variation in a_c , compared with a flat substrate, is interpreted in terms of the effective thickness of the fluid layer, which depends on the groove depth. In the present work, we report on the Faraday instability in a fluid layer situated over woven meshes having different openings and wire diameters. The meshes present both roughness and permeability, which complements previous experimental works.

We first describe the experimental device and protocols (Sec. II) and then report the experimental results (Sec. III). The experimental findings are then thoroughly discussed in terms of an effective thickness of the fluid layer (Sec. IV) before we draw conclusions (Sec. V).

II. EXPERIMENTAL SETUP AND PROTOCOLS

The principle of the experiment is to vertically vibrate a thin layer of fluid situated over a mesh that is either used as is (open) or coated with a sealing paint (closed).

The main part of the experimental setup consists of a vessel made of poly-methyl methacrylate (PMMA), with inner dimensions 62 mm (l) \times 25 mm (w) \times 30 mm (h) (Fig. 1). At the top, a mesh is firmly clamped by means of a set of iron screws between the upper edge of the vessel and a rectangular frame (PMMA, thickness 3 mm), with an inner aperture 60 mm (l) \times 16 mm (w). We use woven meshes composed of interlaced iron wires, characterized by their diameter, d, and the distance between their centerlines, L. In Table I, we report the geometrical characteristics of the various meshes used in the experiment and, as an additional piece of information, the solidity factor $s \equiv 1 - (\frac{L-d}{L})^2$, which is often used in the literature to account for the permeability [33]. Depending on the experiment, the mesh is used open or closed in order to

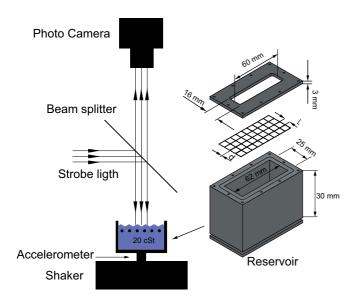


FIG. 1. Sketch of the experimental setup.

address the effects of the roughness and of the permeability; the permeability is suppressed when the mesh is closed. In addition, we report, for comparison, data obtained for a flat solid substrate (a PMMA plate of thickness 4 mm) situated in such a way that its upper surface would coincide with the horizontal plane intersecting all the upper mesh points. In other words, in all cases, replacing the PMMA plate by a mesh increases the average depth of the fluid.

The vessel is filled with silicon oil (Sigma Aldrich) with kinematic viscosity $\nu=20$ cSt, density $\rho=0.95$ g/cm³, and surface tension $\gamma=20.6$ dyn/cm. A digital camera (NIKON D90), with its optical axis is aligned with the vertical, takes images of the free surface (above the mesh). A homogeneous illumination of the field of view is obtained by casting light from the source [rectangular array of white LEDs (SMD-5050) fed by a power amplifier, Luxell Pro Line, LXP-400)] along the vertical using a beam splitter (Fig. 1). In such configuration, the horizontal regions of the free surface appear bright, whereas the intensity of light associated to tilted regions decreases with the tilt.

The imaging system is first used to control precisely the fluid level above the mesh. We use the fact that, as the contact line is pinned to the upper edge of the frame at top, the free surface of the fluid can be either concave or convex. When the vessel is filled, a maximum in the average intensity of the light reflected by the free surface (and captured by the camera) corresponds to a flat and horizontal free surface, aligned with the upper surface of the frame. In practice, at the

TABLE I. Characteristics of the meshes used in the experiments: L is the distance between wire centerlines, d the wire diameter, and s the solidity factor.

Mesh	L (mm)	d (mm)	S
No. 1	1.77	0.35	0.35
No. 2	1.06	0.35	0.55
No. 3	0.31	0.20	0.87



FIG. 2. Topview of the free surface of the fluid. Top: Fluid at rest. The texture of the mesh underneath is visible (bright points). Middle: Surface waves for $a < a_c$, below the onset of the instability (42 Hz, $a < a_c$). Bottom: Faraday waves (42 Hz, $a = a_c$). The black bar indicates the measure of the wavelength λ_c

start of all experiments, we thus adjust the fluid volume with a micropipette (by steps of 0.2 μ l) in order to get that maximum of reflected light. From this reference situation, we remove 0.85 μ l in order to avoid any overflowing during the experiments. This procedure achieves a repeatable average thickness $h_0 = (2.10 \pm 0.02)$ mm of the supernatant fluid layer over the mesh.

The vessel is attached to the vertical axis of an electromagnetic shaker (Brüel and Kjaer, V406). The shaker is fed by a sinusoidal current from a power generator (SKP Pro Audio, MAXD-4210) driven by a function generator (GW-INSTEK, 8219A). The resulting acceleration a is measured with an accelerometer (Analog Devices, ADXL325) attached to the body of the vessel and monitored with an oscilloscope (Gratten, GA1102CAL). The vibration frequency f_d ranges from 28 to 42 Hz for an acceleration a up to 2 g, where g is the acceleration of gravity. The wavelength λ_c is measured with the imaging system, having previously performed a spatial calibration.

We measure the critical acceleration a_c for which the subharmonic instability appears and the corresponding wavelength λ_c (Fig. 2). By using a strobe light [the array of LEDs is illuminated at half the frequency of the vertical motion (Texas Instruments, CD4040BE)], we verified that the instability frequency matches half the value of the vibration frequency [28]. The experimental device and protocols were designed after the work of Douady [3] that sought to optimize the detection of a_c . In order to check their reliability, we reproduced these experiments to an accuracy of about 2%. The results are reported in Appendix.

III. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

In this section we report our results in terms of the reduced critical acceleration $\Gamma_c \equiv a_c/g$, and of the wavelength λ_c , both

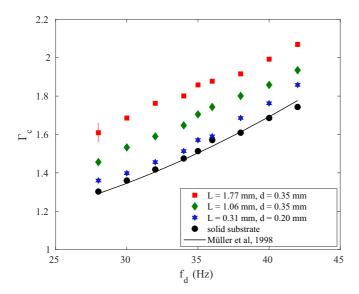


FIG. 3. Critical acceleration Γ_c as a function of f_d for the closed meshes. For the clarity of the figure, the typical error is indicated for one point only. We observe a monotonic increase of Γ_c with f_d for any given mesh, while, at fixed f_d , Γ_c increases as L increases. For all meshes, Γ_c is greater than for the PMMA plate. The line is the theoretical predition from Ref. [28] for a flat substrate, using $h_0 = 2.1$ mm, $\nu = 20$ cSt, $\gamma = 20.6$ dyn/cm, and $\rho = 0.95$ g/cm³.

characterizing the onset of the Faraday instability (Here g denotes the acceleration of gravity).

We first consider the case of closed meshes. Figure 3 shows the variation of Γ_c as a function of vibration frequency f_d for the closed meshes. Each data point represents an average over three independent measurements. On the one hand, we observe that the variation of Γ_c with f_d for the PMMA plate is in agreement with the prediction of Müller and valid for a flat substrate and weak dissipation due to the fluid viscosity [28]. This is consistent with the estimate of the relative influence of dissipation from the dissipation parameter $\epsilon = \nu k_c^2/(\pi f_d) \sim$ 0.15 in our experiments, indicating that dissipative effects are weak but non-negligible. On the other hand, we observe that replacing the PMMA plate by a closed mesh leads to an increase in Γ_c for any of the considered meshes. We rnote that the top surface of the PMMA plate is at the same level as the horizontal plane intersecting the upper mesh points and, thus, that the average thickness of the fluid layer is increased when the PMMA plate is replaced by a mesh. If a simple geometrical effect was at play, then one would rather expect a decrease in Γ_c . In addition, we observe that the increase in Γ_c is larger for larger distance between the wires, L, even at constant wire diameter, d. The effect of the mesh cannot be simply accounted by the change in the average depth of fluid [here $h_0 + d(1 - s)$ where s is the solidity factor].

To complement the experimental results, we report measurements of the wavelength λ_c in Fig. 4. To within the experimental accuracy (of about 1 mm), we do not observe any significant dependence of the wavelength λ_c on the characteristics of the mesh. Notably, the dependence of λ_c on the frequency f_d is well described by the dispersion relation of free surface waves in the inviscid case [Eq. (1), with h_0 = 2.1 mm, ν = 20 cSt, γ = 20.6 dyn/cm, and ρ = 0.95 g/cm³]

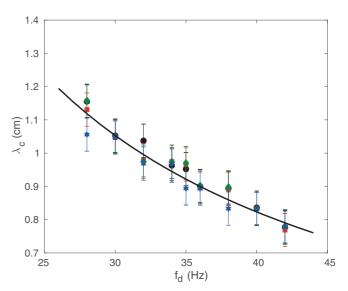


FIG. 4. Wavelength λ_c at the instability onset as a function of f_d for the closed meshes [the symbols are the same as in Fig. 3; the solid line is the dispersion relation of Eq. (1) with $h_0=2.1$ mm, $\nu=20~{\rm cSt}, \gamma=20.6~{\rm dyn/cm},$ and $\rho=0.95~{\rm g/cm}^3$].

as suggested in Ref. [28],

$$(\pi f_d)^2 = k_c \left(g + \frac{\gamma}{\rho} k_c^2 \right) \tanh(k_c h_0), \tag{1}$$

where $k_c \equiv 2\pi/\lambda_c$. Taking the dissipation into account would lead to a shorter wavelength of less than 10^{-5} in relative value.

We now consider the case of the open meshes. We again observe in Fig. 5 that Γ_c is smaller for the PMMA plate than for any mesh. However, in contrast with what was observed for the closed meshes, the critical acceleration Γ_c decreases as L is increased, even if the wire diameter d remains constant.

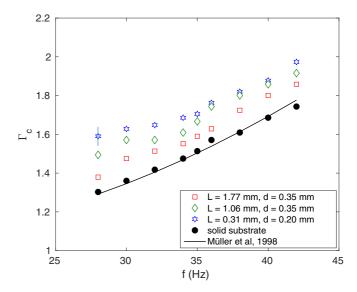


FIG. 5. Critical acceleration Γ_c as a function of f_d for the open meshes. For all meshes, Γ_c is greater than for the PMMA plate. The same monotonic increase of Γ_c with f_d for any mesh is observed, while for fixed f_d , Γ_c increases as L decreases (the error bar and the solid line are as in Fig. 3).

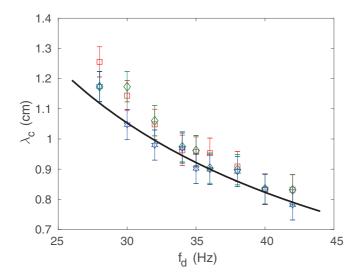


FIG. 6. Wavelength λ_c as a function of f_d for the open meshes (the symbols are the same than in Fig. 5; the solid line is as in Fig. 4).

Considering the wavelength, we observe that the change in the bottom properties has little effect even if slight increase of λ_c (less than 1 mm in average) with respect to the PMMA plate is observed in Fig. 6. However, the experimental accuracy does not make it possible to discriminate separately the effects of L and d on λ_c in this case.

IV. ANALYSIS

To initiate the discussion, let us first summarize the experimental observations. In short, we observe in our experimental conditions that the critical acceleration Γ_c for a mesh at the bottom is always larger than the one measured for a solid substrate. The conclusion holds whether the mesh is permeable (open) or not (closed) (Figs. 3 and 5). The effect is significant, although the critical wavelength λ_c is not or weakly altered by the change in the conditions at bottom (Figs. 4 and 6).

In order to help the discussion, we propose to first rationalize our experimental results by defining a effective thickness of the fluid layer $h_{\rm eff}$. Following the idea by Feng et al. [32], we analyze our results in the light of an effective depth of liquid that contributes to the instability. However, whereas in Ref. [32] the effective depth is estimated from the geometrical characteristics of the solid bottom, we estimate $h_{\rm eff}$ as the actual depth of the fluid layer that would lead, for the same experimental parameters and a flat bottom, to the measured critical accelation Γ_c . To do so, we use the theoretical analysis of the Faraday instability developed by Kumar [8], which is adapted to shallow layers of low viscosity fluids. In this model, the three components of fluid velocity are assumed to vanish at the lower boundary (no slip condition). We compute the critical acceleration Γ_c as function of the fluid depth h_0 for the values of our experimental parameters (fluid density ρ , viscosity ν , and surface tension γ). By interpolation of the experimental data in Figs. 3 and 5, we get an effective fluid depth $h_{\rm eff}$ that is reported in Fig. 7 as function of the distance L between the wires for both the open and closed meshes. As already suggested in Sec. II, $h_{\rm eff}$ seems to be a function of

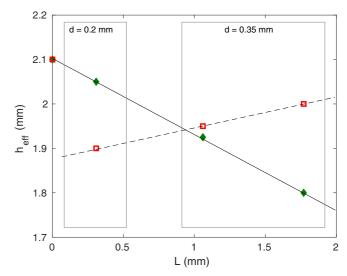


FIG. 7. Effective thickness $h_{\rm eff}$ vs distance L between the wires; full diamonds: closed mesh; open squares: open mesh. The point at L=0 corresponds to the flat impermeable substrate. We observe that, for the closed mesh, $h_{\rm eff}$ decreases linearly with L, independently of d. Solid and dashed lines are linear regressions over closed and open meshes values, respectively. Note that, for the closed meshes, $h_{\rm eff}$ tends to h_0 in the limit $L \to 0$.

L only, as the points align in this graph for the open and the closed mesh even when d is different. We shall come back later to this viewpoint in our results discussion.

At this point, it is important to discuss in which regime we produce the Faraday instability and, in particular, how far the system is from the forbidden band described by Osipov and García [29]. The corrugation of the substrate is expected to have strong effect when its wavelength is comparable to the one of the developing instability, λ_c , and if the corrugation has a significant vertical amplitude. In our experimental configuration, the ratio d/h_0 quantifies the vertical amplitude of the corrugation, yielding typically 0.1 to 0.15. With these experimental parameters, we expect the forbidden band to be limited to a narrow region around $\lambda_c \sim L$. Considering now the horizontal length scales, we observe experimentally that the wavelength λ_c ranges typically from 0.8 to 1.2 cm, whereas L ranges from 0.31 to 1.77 mm. The ratio λ_c/L is thus of the order of 10. Thus, in our experimental conditions, the Faraday instability develops in a regime far from the forbidden bands.

In addition, it is worth estimating the typical length associated to viscosity. In our experimental conditions, the viscous length $\sqrt{\nu/[\pi(f_d/2)]}$ ranges from 0.5 to 0.7 mm in the frequency range. We remark that, while smaller than the fluid depth h_0 , it remains of the order of the distance L between the wires, when meshes are used.

Replacing the solid substrate by a mesh (open or closed) drastically changes the boundary conditions at the bottom of the fluid. Before discussing the permeable case (open mesh), we focus on the closed meshes. We note here that the meshes are systematically placed below the level of the flat substrate such that the fluid volume is increased: We estimate that the average depth of fluid below the free surface is indeed about $h_0 + d(1 - s)$ and thus larger than h_0 . The question that arises

here is if the corrugation of the bottom increases or decreases the volume of liquid involved in the instability and thus the effective depth $h_{\rm eff}$. The experimental results reported in Fig. 7 clearly indicate that the corrugation of the bottom leads to a decrease in $h_{\rm eff}$. This conclusion is in apparent contradiction with the results obtained by Feng et al. [32] who observed that the corrugation leads to a decrease of the effective liquid mass that actually "participates" in the convective instability. Note, however, that the authors use only one spacing L (1 mm) and focus on the influence of the corrugation amplitude in the range 54 to 270 μ m for a liquid depth of about 1 mm. Their data suggest that the appropriate effective depth would be, using our notations, $h_0 + d/2$, but the authors note that the collapse is modest and we can remark that their data do not collapse for the largest amplitude of the corrugation. Our experimental data rather suggest that $h_{\rm eff} = h_0 - \alpha L$ with $\alpha \simeq$ 0.17 (Fig. 7). Both results must be compared with caution, and we conclude that they are not incompatible. Indeed, our experiments take place in slightly different experimental conditions because the ratio d/L ranges between 0.05 and 0.25 in Ref. [32], whereas d/L ranges between 0.15 and 0.33 in the present work. Our results are obtained in the limit in which the effective depth proposed by Feng et al. seems to work less. There is no doubt that h_{eff} should be a function of both d and L but, limiting the discussion to the experimental results of the present study, we can conclude that $h_{\text{eff}} = h_0 - \alpha L$ in our experimental conditions (d/L in the range from 0.15 to 0.33).

We can thus wonder how to explain the linear dependence of the effective fluid depth on the horizontal scale of the mesh. Several studies treated the slip boundary condition at the interface between a fluid and a rough solid surface composed of a periodical arrangement of grooves. Hocking concluded that the nature of this condition depends much more on the distance between grooves than on their depth [34], which is in agreement with the fact that $h_{\rm eff}$, and thus Γ_c , mainly depends on L. Moreover, Niavarani et al. showed that inertial effects promote the formation of recirculation zones that, in turn, lead to an effective negative slip length. The size of the vortices scaling with the horizontal size of the grooves, the recirculation is again consistent with the linear decrease of the effective thickness h_{eff} when L is increased [35]. This mechanism, however, certainly necessitates that amplitude of the corrugation be large enough, which probably explains that the conclusion does not hold when d/L is too small.

In conclusion, for the closed meshes, the corrugation leads to a decrease of the effective depth of the fluid layer (thus, of the volume of fluid that participates to the instability). This effect might be associated to enhanced dissipation in the fluid layer at the boundary, which may contribute to the increase of the critical acceleration Γ_c due to the additional energy required to trigger the instability. Several authors [28,36] showed that a dissipation term related to the viscous damping in the bottom boundary layer exists and becomes more important as h_0 and f_d are decreased. However, our experimental device does not make it possible to observe the increase of Γ_c at low frequencies and to isolate the contribution of dissipation alone.

We know focus on the open meshes. We observe in Fig. 5 that the critical accelation is systematically larger for the mesh than for the flat bottom. This effect could be due to either

(a) a decrease of the volume of fluid that contributes to the instability

or (b) the existence of enhanced dissipation at the bottom.

In contrast to what was observed for the closed meshes, the effective fluid depth $h_{\rm eff}$ increases (linearly) with L and $h_{\rm eff}$ does not tend to h_0 for $L \to 0$ (Fig. 7). Having in mind that the viscous length is of the order of 0.5 to 0.7 mm, close to the distance L, the fact that $h_{\rm eff}$ does not tend to h_0 for $L \to 0$ rules out that (a) is the only responsible for the observed trend. In the limit $L \to 0$, the shift of the critical acceleration to larger values is necessarily due to (b). The flow through a permeable medium (the mesh) involves energy dissipation [37], and thus an increase of Γ_c , provided that the fluid can effectively flow through the mesh. We expect this to occur in our experiments, since the viscous length is of the order of the distance L.

The increase of $h_{\rm eff}$ with L can be explained by the combination of two effects: (a) If recirculation is at play, then the size of the vortices scales like L but their center can be located deeper in the fluid layer (for a closed mesh they are necessarily located above the mesh), at a distance from the free surface that scales like L; (b) the dissipation due to the flow through the grid decreases when L is increased.

The above arguments provide a coherent picture of the mechanisms that could explain our observations of a systematic increase of the critical acceleration Γ_c when a flat solid plate is replaced by a mesh, open or closed.

V. CONCLUSIONS

We have studied the effects of a permeable rough substrate on the critical acceleration Γ_c and on the wavelength λ_c that characterizes the onset of the Faraday instability. We observed that, in all cases, the presence of a mesh leads to larger Γ_c compared with the flat solid plate. Regarding the influence of the mesh coarseness, taken into account through the distance between wires L, the acceleration Γ_c increases with L for the closed meshes (as the mesh becomes coarser), while it decreases for the open meshes. Considering viscous dissipation, a suitable interpretation can be found under the hypothesis that geometrical effects of recirculations prevail for the closed

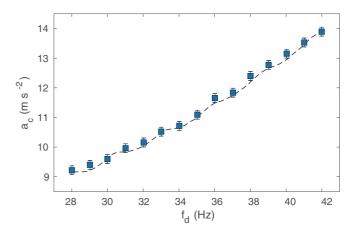


FIG. 8. Critical acceleration a_c as a function of the driving frequency f_d . Dashed line: Results from Douady [3]. Squares: This work (error bars: ± 2 %) [$h_0 = 2.25$ mm, $\nu = 20$ cSt, $\gamma = 20.6$ dyn/cm and $\rho = 0.95$ g/cm³].

meshes, while friction due to flow through the mesh dominates for the open meshes. A complete understanding of the observations would require a proper account of the flow structure around (or through) the mesh and/or to introduce the adequate stress and velocity continuity conditions at the mesh [38] in the numerical or analytical models [8,28].

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The authors acknowledge the support from the Bilateral Cooperation Programme Level II MINCYT-CONICET-CNRS of France and Scholarships for university teachers awarded by SENESCYT-ECUADOR. We thank M. Rosen for her support, and G. Bongiovanni for his help in the electronic settings used to measure Γ_c .

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APPENDIX: SETUP VALIDATION

In order to check the reliability of the experimental device and protocols, we reproduced the experiments reported by Douady [3] by measuring the critical acceleration a_c for a flat solid bottom in the same experimental conditions than the ones employed by that author, in particular, the same fluid and the same thickness $h_0 = 2.25$ mm of the fluid layer.

The onset of the instability was detected by using a check-point protocol. To avoid hysteresis effects, the measurements were always performed for increasing acceleration a and repeatability was carefully verified. The agreement observed in Fig. 8 validates our experimental device and protocols. We estimate the error in a_c to be about 2% at maximum.

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