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Lu Lin
Sichuan University

Ran Li
Sichuan University

Jingjie Feng (✉ fengjingjie@scu.edu.cn)
Sichuan University

Qin Zou
Sichuan University

Xiaolong Cheng
Sichuan University

Honghui Lin
Sichuan University

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Experimental investigations on the wall-attached bubble growth process in water with supersaturated total dissolved gas

Lu Lin¹; Ran Li²; Jingjie Feng³*; Qin Zou⁴; Xiaolong Cheng⁵; and Honghui Lin⁶

Abstract: Due to dam discharge, waterfalls, sudden increases in water temperature and oxygen production by photosynthesis, the total dissolved gas (TDG) in water is often supersaturated, which may have serious effects on aquatic ecology. When the atmospheric pressure is lower than the TDG pressure in water, the supersaturated dissolved gas in water will slowly release into air. Wall-attached bubbles were formed during the TDG release process. The generation and departure of wall-attached bubbles influence the release process of TDG in water. To simulate the growth period of the wall-attached bubbles under different pressures, a decompression experimental device was designed to record the supersaturated TDG release process. Based on experimental data and mathematical calculations, the quantitative relationship...
between the bubble growth rate and environmental pressure was obtained. The
supersaturated TDG dissipation rate increases monotonically with increasing relative
vacuum degree. Based on the wall-attached bubble growth rate calculation method
applied in this paper, a formula of the supersaturated TDG adsorption flux based on
wall-attached bubbles was proposed, and a prediction method of the TDG release
coefficient was established. The simulation results show that with increasing relative
vacuum degree, the TDG coefficient increases correspondingly, and the adsorption
mechanism of vegetation surface area can be obviously promoted under lower
environmental pressure. This study provides an important theoretical basis for the
accurate calculation of the TDG release process and provides a scientific basis for the
accurate prediction of the spatial and temporal distribution of supersaturated TDG
under different environmental conditions.

Keywords: Total dissolved gas; Supersaturation; Wall-attached bubble; Pressure;
Release coefficient

1. Introduction

In the natural environment, dam discharge, waterfall, sudden rise of water
temperature and oxygen production by photosynthesis may lead to total dissolved gas
(TDG) supersaturation in water. Due to the pressure difference between water and
atmosphere, supersaturated TDG in water will slowly release to air. Supersaturation
TDG exists for a long time in water, which may lead to fish bubble disease or even
death and cause serious adverse effects on aquatic ecology (Weitkamp, 2000; Li et al.,
The release rate of TDG supersaturation is directly related to the extent of the TDG level in water and the TDG pressure difference between water and air (Lu, 2019). For example, the environment under low atmospheric pressure in the plateau may promote the release process because of the large difference in the pressure inside and outside the TDG supersaturated water.

In practical engineering applications, there are many solid walls in rivers, such as vegetation and suspended solids, which can easily adsorb bubble nuclei. The rougher the wall is, the larger the area it provides, and the release process of supersaturated TDG is accelerated (Ou et al., 2016). Feng et al. (2012) reported that the release coefficient of TDG is positively correlated with the sediment concentration in supersaturated sediment-laden water. Niu observed that the release rate of supersaturated TDG increased with an increasing amount of activated carbon in water (Niu et al., 2015). The process of the gas phase fraction separating out from water can be the form of bubbles, and the characteristic parameters affecting the bubble shape play a key role in the study of mass transfer. Yuan proposed a supersaturated TDG dissipation model to describe the function of vegetation wall adsorption of TDG, and the equation for the adsorption flux of supersaturated TDG over a unit time was achieved from a macroscopic perspective (Yuan, 2018). Based on experiments focusing on the adsorption effect of solid walls, the quantitative relationship between the adsorption coefficient and contact angle of solid surfaces was obtained (Yuan, 2020). Li experimented on a superheated superhydrophobic surface to study the formation and escape of single bubbles on the vessel wall, revised Zuber's prediction equation of the bubble escape diameter and
frequency (Zuber, 1963), and obtained the relationship between gas-liquid interface surface tension, liquid density, and equilibrium bubble diameter (Li et al., 2016). Grinin considered that the factors affecting bubble growth include temperature, pressure and dissolved gas concentration in gas-liquid mixture systems (Grinin et al., 2009).

Previous studies have shown that solid walls in water can effectively promote the release of supersaturated TDG. To clarify the quantitative relationship between pressure and bubble growth rate on solid walls, a decompression experiment was designed in this paper to investigate the influence of solid wall media on TDG release under different decompression conditions.

2. Experimental study on the effect of pressure on bubble growth

2.1 Measurement instruments and method

The experiment was conducted in the State Key Laboratory of Hydraulics and Mountain River Development and Protection (Sichuan University). The experimental device includes rectangular Plexiglas sheet (PMMA) tanks with dimensions of 220 mm*160 mm*210 mm. The air pressure in the water tank was adjusted by a 180 W vacuum pump and a pressure gauge. The water depth in the tank was kept at 120 mm, and the back of the water tank was arranged against a black background to ensure clear wall-attached bubble images during the experiment. The light source is an LED lamp with a uniform distribution to the left of the water tank, and the camera is fixed in front of the water tank. A sketch of the experimental device is shown in Fig. 1.
In this experiment, wall-attached bubbles in TDG supersaturated water were observed under vacuum. Bubbles generated in TDG supersaturated water can be adsorbed on the wall and continue to grow. When the size of bubbles reached a certain volume, the bubbles escaped from the wall. According to the observation of the experiment, the growth rate of bubbles can be significantly improved under the condition of reduced pressure.

TDG supersaturated water was provided by the supersaturated TDG generation system, which was developed by Sichuan University, China (Li et al., 2010). The pressure in the experimental water tank was adjusted to a constant vacuum degree, and the temperature was kept at 20 centigrade during the whole experimental process. A digital camera was used to record the precipitation, growth and escape process of wall-attached bubbles. The photographic equipment consisted of a Canon 600D digital camera with 17-85 lenses (Taiwan, China), a polarizer and XPRO. The TDG saturation is measured with a total dissolved gas pressure (TGP) detector composed of Pentair Point Four TGP portable trackers (California, U.S.), the TGP measuring range is 0–200%, and the accuracy is 2%. The TDG concentration in the experimental water tank...
was analyzed by membrane injection mass spectrometry (MIMS 2000). The concentration of TDG dissolved in water can be converted into TDG saturation according to actual needs.

2.2 Experimental conditions

Five pressure conditions were set in the experiment: 0 kPa, 20.265 kPa, 40.53 kPa, 60.795 kPa and 81.06 kPa. To express the pressure condition clearly, the relative vacuum degree $\Phi$ is introduced as Eq. (1). The pressure conditions in this experiment represent the pressure conditions with relative vacuum degrees of 0, 0.2, 0.4, 0.6 and 0.8. For each group of pressure conditions, six TDG initial saturation conditions were set as 110%, 120%, 130%, 140%, 150% and 160%. The TDG concentration can be calculated according to the measured value of TDG saturation and the solubility of air in water.

The relative vacuum degree $\Phi$ is introduced as follows:

$$\Phi = \frac{P}{P_B}$$

where $\Phi$ is the relative vacuum degree (RVD), $P$ is the vacuum degree, and $P_B$ denotes the standard atmospheric pressure.

The variation in the TDG solubility at different relative vacuum degrees was expressed as:

$$C^*_\Phi = C^*_{\Phi=0}(1 - \Phi)$$

where $C^*_{\Phi=0}$ represents the TDG solubility at 1 atm (mg·L$^{-1}$) and $C^*_\Phi$ represents the equilibrium TDG concentration at the relative vacuum degree $\Phi$ (mg·L$^{-1}$).
The conversion of TDG saturation to TDG concentration is shown in the following.

\[ C = C^* G \]  

where \( C \) is the TDG concentration (mg·L\(^{-1}\)), \( C^* \) is the equilibrium TDG concentration (mg·L\(^{-1}\)), and \( G \) is the saturation of TDG (%).

Table 1 shows the pressure conditions, and Table 2 shows the TDG initial saturation conditions at a temperature of 20 °C. There were 30 combined working conditions. The water temperature in the experimental tanks was controlled at 20 °C during the whole experimental process.

Table 1. The experimental case of different pressure conditions

| Pressure group number | Pressure (kPa) | Vacuum degree (kPa) | Relative vacuum degree (\( \emptyset \)) |
|-----------------------|---------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1                     | 101.325       | 0                   | 0                                     |
| 2                     | 81.06         | 20.265              | 0.2                                   |
| 3                     | 60.795        | 40.53               | 0.4                                   |
| 4                     | 40.53         | 60.795              | 0.6                                   |
| 5                     | 20.265        | 81.06               | 0.8                                   |

Table 2. The experimental case of different initial TDG level

| TDG group number | Initial TDG supersaturation level (%) | TDG concentration \( C_0 \) (mg/L) |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| a                | 110                                    | 26.35                             |
| b                | 120                                    | 28.74                             |
| c                | 130                                    | 31.14                             |
| d                | 140                                    | 33.53                             |
| e                | 150                                    | 35.93                             |
| f                | 160                                    | 38.33                             |
2.3 Experimental results of TDG concentration

USACE (2000) proposed that the dissipation process of supersaturated TDG involves a first-order kinetic reaction. The first-order kinetic reaction is shown as follows.

\[
\frac{d(C_t - C^*)}{dt} = -k_T(C_0 - C^*)
\]  

(4)

where \( t \) represents the dissipation time (min), \( C_t \) represents the TDG solubility of \( t \), (mg ∙ L\(^{-1}\)); \( C_0 \) represents the initial TDG solubility, (mg ∙ L\(^{-1}\)); \( C^* \) represents the equilibrium TDG concentration, (mg ∙ L\(^{-1}\)); and \( k_T \) represents the dissipation coefficient of supersaturated TDG, (min\(^{-1}\)).

The TDG saturation level at the initial and end times was measured for each case. The dissipation coefficients under different experimental cases were estimated according to the first-order kinetic equation. Fig. 2 shows that the dissipation coefficients under different pressure conditions were linearly enhanced with increasing relative vacuum degree.

Fig. 2 Relationship between the TDG release coefficient and relative vacuum degree
According to the experimental results under various conditions, the relationship between the dissipation coefficient and the relative vacuum degree by the fitting method is obtained as follows:

$$k_{T,\emptyset} = k_{T,\emptyset=0}e^{1.3987\emptyset}$$  

(5)

where $k_{T,\emptyset}$ represents the dissipation coefficient under relative vacuum degree $\emptyset$ (min$^{-1}$) and $k_{T,\emptyset=0}$ represents the dissipation coefficient under relative vacuum degree 0 (min$^{-1}$).

The coefficient of determination, $R^2$, is 0.978.

2.4 Image source of wall-attached bubbles

The wall-attached bubble images under different pressure cases were taken for each group of experiments. Taking the group with an initial concentration of TDG of 160% as an example, the wall-attached bubble images at different pressure cases were recorded by the camera, as shown in Fig. 3. It was clear that the relative vacuum degree has an obvious promotional effect on the wall-attached bubble growth rate.

Fig. 3 Bubble images of different pressure cases

By using the image processing method, the wall-attached bubbles in each image were numbered in MATLAB (Lin, 2021). Otsu proposed by Gonzalez (2010) was used...
to process the image binarization. The equivalent diameter of bubbles was calculated as follows:

\[
D = \sqrt{\frac{4a_B}{\pi}}
\]  

(6)

where \(D\) represents the equivalent diameter of bubbles (mm) and \(a_B\) represents the projected bubble area (mm\(^2\)).

The statistics of the bubbles’ equivalent diameter distribution under different pressure conditions are shown in Fig. 4.

Fig. 4 Statistics of bubbles’ equivalent diameter distribution

According to the statistics of the equivalent diameter of wall-attached bubbles in Fig. 4, the equivalent diameter of wall-attached bubbles exhibits a single peak distribution when the value of the vacuum degree is below 0.4 and presents a double
peak distribution when the value of the vacuum degree is above 0.4.

3. Analysis of the TDG release process based on wall-attached bubbles

3.1 The role of wall-attached bubbles in the supersaturated TDG release coefficient

Based on a previous study on the wall adsorption effect on the TDG release process, the calculation method of the supersaturated TDG coefficient based on wall-attached bubbles can be used to predict the TDG release process. The dissipation process of supersaturated TDG in water consists of three parts (Yuan 2018). However, in static water, there are almost no free bubbles in water, so the TDG dissipation process can be simplified into two parts: air-water mass transfer and wall adsorption, as shown in Fig. 5.

The amount of supersaturated TDG released in static water can be expressed as:

$$F_G = F_s + F_w$$  \hspace{1cm} (7)

where $F_G$ represents the release rate of supersaturated TDG, (mg·L$^{-1}$·min$^{-1}$); $F_s$ represents the release rate of supersaturated TDG from air-water mass transfer, (mg·L$^{-1}$·min$^{-1}$); $F_w$ represents the release rate of supersaturated TDG from wall adsorption, (mg·L$^{-1}$·min$^{-1}$).
$F_w$ represents the release rate of supersaturated TDG from wall adsorption, $(mg \cdot L^{-1} \cdot min^{-1})$.

(1) The release rate of supersaturated TDG from air-water mass transfer is:

$$F_G = k_T(C - C_0^*)$$  \hspace{1cm} (8)

where $k_T$ represents the TDG release coefficient (min$^{-1}$); $C$ represents the concentration of supersaturated TDG (mg·L$^{-1}$); and $C_0^*$ represents the equilibrium concentration of supersaturated TDG (mg·L$^{-1}$).

(2) The release rate of supersaturated TDG from wall adsorption:

$$F_s = K_s a_s (C - C_0^*)$$  \hspace{1cm} (9)

where $K_s$ represents the mass transfer coefficient of the air-water interface (m·min$^{-1}$) and $a_s$ represents the specific surface area of supersaturated water (m$^{-1}$). The quantitative relationship between the mass transfer coefficient of the air-water interface and the surface turbulent kinetic energy was proposed by Li (2000):

$$K_s = 0.085T_s^{1/2} + 0.0014$$  \hspace{1cm} (10)

where $T_s$ represents the surface turbulent kinetic energy (m$^2$·s$^{-2}$).

(3) The formula for calculating the adsorption rate of TDG by solid walls in supersaturated water is as follows:

$$F_w = \frac{dM_w}{dt} a_d$$  \hspace{1cm} (11)

where $a_d$ represents the specific solid wall area of supersaturated water (m$^{-1}$).

$M_w$ represents the TDG adsorption flux, (mg·m$^{-2}$), which can be expressed as the sum of the amount of TDG contained in the wall-attached bubbles and the amount of TDG released from the escaped bubbles.
The release process of supersaturated TDG in static water includes mass transfer at the water-air interface, internal release of TDG in water and mass transfer at the wall-attached bubble interface. The formula of TDG adsorption flux can be expressed as follows:

\[ M_w = M_B + M_d \]  

(12)

where \( M_B \) represents the amount of TDG contained in the wall-attached bubbles (mg·m\(^{-2}\)) and \( M_d \) represents the amount of TDG released from the escaped bubbles (mg·m\(^{-2}\)).

The amount of TDG contained in the wall-attached bubbles \( M_B \) was defined as the wall-attached bubble adsorption flux, and the calculation formula is as follows:

\[ M_B = \rho_B V_B N \times 10^{-2} \]  

(13)

where \( \rho_B \) represents the air density in wall-attached bubbles, (mg·L\(^{-1}\)); \( V_B \) represents the wall-attached bubble volume, (mm\(^3\)); and \( N \) represents the wall-attached bubble number density, (cell·cm\(^{-2}\)).

The amount of TDG released from the escaped bubbles \( M_d \) was defined as the bubble escapable adsorption flux, and the calculation formula is as follows:

\[ M_d = \rho_B V_d N \times 10^{-2} \]  

(14)

where \( V_d \) represents the wall-attached bubble departure volume, (mm\(^3\)); \( N \) represents the wall-attached bubble number density, (cell·cm\(^{-2}\)), which changes with the TDG concentration in water.

The TDG release coefficient under the influence of a solid wall was simplified as follows:
\[ k_T = \frac{dM_w}{dt} a_d + (C - C^*)K_s a_s \]

Where \( k_T \) represents the TDG dissipation coefficient, (min\(^{-1}\)); \( M_w \) represents the TDG adsorption flux, (mg\cdot m\(^{-2}\)); \( t \) represents time, (min); \( a_d \) represents the specific solid wall area of supersaturated water (m\(^{-1}\)); \( C \) represents the concentration of supersaturated TDG (mg\cdot L\(^{-1}\)); \( C^* \) represents the equilibrium concentration of supersaturated TDG (mg\cdot L\(^{-1}\)); \( K_s \) represents the mass transfer coefficient of the air-water interface (m\cdot min\(^{-1}\)) and \( a_s \) represents the specific surface area of supersaturated water (m\(^{-1}\)).

3.2 Analysis of the growth rate of the wall-attached bubble

Due to the release process of supersaturated TDG in water, the wall-attached bubble diameter increases gradually. The mass transfer process of TDG on the surface of wall-attached bubbles is shown in Fig. 6.

Fig. 6 Mass transfer process of TDG on the surface of wall-attached bubbles

The air mass transfer flux from the liquid to bubbles can be expressed as follows:

\[ J = K_B (C_t - C^*_b) \]

where \( J \) represents the air mass transfer flux from the liquid to bubbles (mg\cdot mm\(^{-2}\cdot \)min\(^{-1}\)); \( K_B \) represents the mass transfer coefficient at the bubble surface (mm\cdot min\(^{-1}\)).
$C_t$ represents the TDG concentration (mg·L$^{-1}$); and $C_\emptyset^*$ represents the equilibrium TDG concentration under relative vacuum degree $\emptyset$ (mg·L$^{-1}$).

By substituting Eq. (4) into Eq. (8), the mass transfer flux of supersaturated TDG on the bubble surface can be expressed as:

$$J = K_B [(C_{t=0} - C_\emptyset^*)e^{-k_Tt}]$$ (17)

According to mass conservation, the relationship between the TDG dissipation process and wall-attached bubble volume growth rate can be expressed as:

$$\frac{dV_B}{dt} = K_B A_B \frac{1}{\rho_B} [(C_{t=0} - C_\emptyset^*)e^{-k_Tt}]$$ (18)

where $V_B$ represents the wall-attached bubble volume, (mm$^3$); $A_B$ represents the wall-attached bubble surface area, (mm$^2$); and $\rho_B$ represents the air density in wall-attached bubbles, (mg·L$^{-1}$).

By applying the boundary condition that $V_{Bt=0} = 0$, the differential Eq. (10) can be solved as:

$$V_B = \frac{K_B A_B (C_{t=0} - C_\emptyset^*)}{\rho_B k_T} (1 - e^{-k_Tt})$$ (19)

Due to the contact angle between water, gas and solids, the shape of wall-attached bubbles is not a complete sphere (Adamson, 1990). The volume of the wall-attached bubbles was calculated accurately from the images accounting for the contact angle effect, as described by Lin (2021). Thereafter, the mass transfer coefficient at bubble surface $K_B$ in Eq. (11) under different relative vacuum degrees $\emptyset$ can be calculated. The relationship between $K_B$ and $\emptyset$ is shown in Fig. 7.
According to the experimental results under various conditions, the quantitative relationship between $K_B$ and $\phi$ by the fitting method was obtained as follows:

$$K_{B,\phi} = K_{B,\phi=0}e^{2.1755\phi}$$  \hspace{1cm} (20)

where $K_{B,\phi}$ represents the mass transfer coefficient at the bubble surface under a relative vacuum degree of $\phi$ (mm $\cdot$ min$^{-1}$) and $K_{B,0}$ represents the mass transfer coefficient at the bubble surface under a relative vacuum degree of 0 (mm $\cdot$ min$^{-1}$).

The coefficient of determination, $R^2$, is 0.985.

### 3.3 Analysis of the number density of wall-attached bubbles

The number density (cell $\cdot$ cm$^{-2}$) of wall-attached bubbles for each experimental case can be obtained by program calculation in MATLAB, and the statistical results are shown in Fig. 8.
According to the experimental results, the supersaturation level of TDG is the key factor that influences the wall-attached bubble number density. The quantitative relationship of the wall-attached bubble number density increasing with TDG supersaturation by the fitting method is obtained as follows:

$$N = 0.017(G - 100)^{1.74}$$

(21)

where $N$ represents the wall-attached bubble number density (cell·cm$^{-2}$). $G$ represents the supersaturation of TDG, (%).

The coefficient of determination, $R^2$, is 0.997.

3.4 Analysis of wall-attached bubble departure in static water

According to observations during experiments, wall-attached bubbles depart from the wall to the water surface when they grow to a certain diameter (Chen, 2015). According to the statistical results regarding the relative vacuum degree of 0.8 in the experiment, the departure diameter of wall-attached bubbles ranged from 1.5 mm to 2.3 mm, and the average bubble departure diameter in static TDG supersaturated water was 1.94 mm. The statistical results were consistent with Brennen's (Brennen, 1995)
conclusion that all bubble nuclei would grow to the same maximum radius.

The volume of the departure bubbles comprises the important part of the release of TDG in water. The departure time of wall-attached bubbles was defined as $X$, which represents the retention time from the formation to the departure. According to the quantitative relationship between the TDG dissipation process and the wall-attached bubble volume growth rate, the value of $X$ can be calculated as follows.

$$X = -\frac{1}{k_T} \exp\left(1 - \frac{V_d \rho_B k_T}{K_B A_B (C_0 - C_0^*)}\right)$$  \hspace{1cm} (22)

where $V_d$ represents the wall-attached bubble volume of departure time (mm$^3$) and $A_B$ represents the wall-attached bubble surface area (mm$^2$).

The departure frequency of wall-attached bubbles was defined as follows:

$$f = \frac{N}{X}$$  \hspace{1cm} (23)

where $f$ represents the departure frequency of wall-attached bubbles, (min$^{-1}$·cm$^{-2}$) and $N$ represents the wall-attached bubble number density, (cell·cm$^{-2}$).

The supersaturated TDG decay process can be described by a first-order kinetic equation (USACE, 2000). The departure frequency of wall-attached bubbles can be simulated as shown in Fig. 9. In the simulation results, the departure frequency of wall-attached bubbles decreased obviously with decreasing TDG concentration.
3.5 Calculation of the adsorption flux through the wall-attached bubbles

Under environmental conditions of a relative vacuum degree $\varnothing = 0$, the bubble growth rate was slow, and it was difficult for wall-attached bubbles to escape. By considering the TDG release process, the TDG adsorption flux under this condition can be simulated, as shown in Fig. 10. With decreasing TDG concentration, the growth rate of wall-attached bubbles gradually slowed down, and the wall adsorption rate of supersaturated TDG decreased over time.
The growth period was defined to describe the time of a group of wall-attached bubbles from appearance to departure. In the following simulations, the statistical value of a group of wall-attached bubbles’ average departure time was used to represent the value of the growth period. At a high value of the relative vacuum degree ($\emptyset = 0.8$), due to the promotion effect of pressure on the bubble growth rate, the growth period of wall-attached bubbles was significantly shortened. Considering the influence of bubble growth and escape on supersaturated TDG release, the total amount of TDG adsorption flux under this condition can be simulated, as shown in Fig. 11.

![Fig. 10 The simulation of TDG adsorption flux ($\emptyset = 0$)](image)

**Fig. 11** Simulation of the supersaturated TDG adsorption flux ($\emptyset = 0.8$)

4. Discussion

In practical engineering applications, there are many solid walls in lakes and rivers, such as vegetation and suspended solids, which easily adsorb bubbles and promote
wall-attached bubble growth. To discuss the effect of solid wall adsorption on the TDG release coefficient, a prediction of the TDG release coefficient accounting for the wall adsorption effect was proposed. The simulation is based on a water tank that has different amounts of plants, and the air pressure over the water tank depends on the local altitude. The volume of water was assumed to be 1 m$^3$, and the initial supersaturated TDG was assumed to be 150% for the modeling calculation. The diagram of the simulated water tank is shown in Fig. 12.

![Fig. 12 The simulated water tank](image)

The simulation cases of the pressure condition are shown in Table. 3.

| Pressure group number | Pressure (kPa) | Vacuum degree (kPa) | Relative vacuum degree $\phi$ |
|-----------------------|----------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1*                    | 101.33         | 0                   | 0                             |
| 2*                    | 91.20          | 10.13               | 0.1                           |
| 3*                    | 81.07          | 20.26               | 0.2                           |
| 4*                    | 70.93          | 30.40               | 0.3                           |
| 5*                    | 60.80          | 40.53               | 0.4                           |

As the calculation result of Eq. (10), the mass transfer coefficient of the air-water interface in the case of static water was 0.0014 min$^{-1}$. According to the leaf surface
contact angle of the vegetation in natural water, a contact angle of 90° was chosen for simulation. The departure diameter of wall-attached bubbles can be calculated as 3.01 mm (Lin, 2021). The initial TDG release coefficient in the case of different pressures was calculated according to Eq. (5), and the simulated TDG release time was 120 min. The TDG release coefficients under different vegetation superficial areas and different pressure conditions were calculated, as shown in Fig. 13.

Fig. 13 Calculation results of the TDG release coefficient

The results show that both pressure and vegetation surface area can promote the release process of supersaturated TDG. Under lower pressure, the effect of vegetation surface area on the TDG release coefficient is more obvious.

5. Conclusions

An experimental water tank with controllable pressure was designed in this paper to study the release process of supersaturated TDG under different environmental pressures. The quantitative relationship between the relative vacuum and the TDG adsorption flux on the wall was obtained. Based on the experimental research
conclusions, the effects of the vegetation surface area and pressure on the TDG release process were simulated. The simulation results show that with increasing relative vacuum degree, the TDG coefficient increases correspondingly, and the adsorption mechanism of vegetation surface area can be obviously promoted under lower environmental pressure.

The analysis of the wall-attached bubble growth rate in this paper provides a statistical basis for the study of the supersaturated TDG release process under different environmental pressures and different solid wall areas. The calculation model of the supersaturated TDG release coefficient established in this paper provides an important theoretical basis for accurately evaluating the effect of environmental pressure on the supersaturated TDG release process. This paper also provides a technical path to explore the measures of using wall media to promote the supersaturated TDG release process in practical engineering applications.

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Notation

The following symbols are used in this paper:

- $a_B$ = projected bubble area (mm²)
- $a_s$ = specific solid wall area of supersaturated water (m⁻¹)
- $a_\ell$ = specific surface area of supersaturated water (m⁻¹)
- $A_B$ = wall-attached bubble surface area (mm²)
\( C^* \) = equilibrium TDG concentration (mg·L\(^{-1}\))

\( C \) = TDG concentration (mg·L\(^{-1}\))

\( D \) = equivalent diameter of bubbles (mm)

\( D_e \) = wall-attached bubble’s departure volume (mm\(^3\))

\( f \) = departure frequency of wall-attached bubbles (min\(^{-1}\)·cm\(^{-2}\))

\( F_G \) = release rate of supersaturated TDG (mg·L\(^{-1}\)·min\(^{-1}\))

\( F_b \) = release rate of supersaturated TDG from air-water mass transfer (mg·L\(^{-1}\)·min\(^{-1}\))

\( F_w \) = release rate of supersaturated TDG from wall adsorption (mg·L\(^{-1}\)·min\(^{-1}\))

\( G \) = saturation of TDG (%)

\( J \) = air mass transfer flux from the liquid to bubbles (mg·mm\(^{-2}\)·min\(^{-1}\))

\( k_t \) = TDG dissipation coefficient (min\(^{-1}\))

\( K_b \) = mass transfer coefficient at bubble surface (mm·min\(^{-1}\))

\( K_s \) = mass transfer coefficient of air-water interface (m·min\(^{-1}\))

\( M_s \) = TDG adsorption flux (mg·m\(^{-2}\))

\( M_b \) = wall-attached bubble adsorption flux (mg·m\(^{-2}\))

\( M_d \) = departure bubble adsorption flux (mg·m\(^{-2}\))

\( N \) = wall-attached bubble number density (cell·cm\(^{-2}\))

\( P \) = pressure (kPa)

\( P_b \) = standard atmospheric pressure (kPa)

\( t \) = time (min)

\( T_s \) = surface turbulent kinetic energy (m\(^2\)·s\(^{-2}\))

\( V_b \) = wall-attached bubble volume, (mm\(^3\))

\( V_d \) = departure bubble volume (mm\(^3\))

\( X \) = bubble retention time from the formation to the departure (min)

\( \Phi \) = relative vacuum degree

\( \rho_b \) = air density in wall-attached bubbles (mg·L\(^{-1}\))

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