Direct numerical simulations of turbulent jets: vortex–interface–surfactant interactions

C.R. Constante-Amores\textsuperscript{1,2}, T. Abadie\textsuperscript{1}, L. Kahouadjji\textsuperscript{1}, S. Shin\textsuperscript{3}, J. Chergui\textsuperscript{4}, D. Juric\textsuperscript{4,5}, A.A. Castrejón-Pita\textsuperscript{2} and O.K. Matar\textsuperscript{1,†}

\textsuperscript{1}Department of Chemical Engineering, Imperial College London, London SW7 2AZ, UK
\textsuperscript{2}Department of Engineering Science, University of Oxford, Oxford OX1 3PJ, UK
\textsuperscript{3}Department of Mechanical and System Design Engineering, Hongik University, Seoul, South Korea
\textsuperscript{4}Université Paris Saclay, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), Laboratoire Interdisciplinaire des Sciences du Numérique (LISN), 91400 Orsay, France
\textsuperscript{5}Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics, University of Cambridge, Cambridge CB3 0WA, UK

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We study the effect of insoluble surfactants on the spatio-temporal evolution of turbulent jets. We use three-dimensional numerical simulations and employ an interface-tracking/level-set method that accounts for surfactant-induced Marangoni stresses. The present study builds on our previous work (Constante-Amores \textit{et al.}, \textit{J. Fluid Mech.}, vol. 922, 2021, A6) in which we examined in detail the vortex–surface interaction in the absence of surfactants. Numerical solutions are obtained for a wide range of Weber and elasticity numbers in which vorticity production is generated by surface deformation and surfactant-induced Marangoni stresses. The present work demonstrates, for the first time, the crucial role of Marangoni stresses, brought about by surfactant concentration gradients, in the formation of coherent, hairpin-like vortex structures. These structures have a profound influence on the development of the three-dimensional interfacial dynamics. We also present theoretical expressions for the mechanisms that influence the rate of production of circulation in the presence of surfactants for a general, three-dimensional, two-phase flow, and highlight the dominant contribution of surfactant-induced Marangoni stresses.

\textbf{Key words:} jets, vortex interactions, multiphase flow

\textsuperscript{†} Email address for correspondence: o.matar@imperial.ac.uk

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1. Introduction

The atomisation of a liquid jet has driven interest in the fluid mechanics community because of its occurrence in both natural and industrial applications (e.g. propellant combustion, pharmaceutical sprays). The process results in a ‘cascade mechanism’ for fluid fragmentation (Plateau 1873; Eggers 1997; Marmottant & Villermaux 2004; Constante-Amores et al. 2020a): from the growth of linear modes through a Kelvin–Helmholtz instability to the development of nonlinearities leading to capillary breakup events via long-filament pinch-off that can be modulated by a Rayleigh–Plateau instability or controlled by an ‘end-pinching’ mechanism. Understanding the interfacial dynamics relies on the characterisation of the vortex–interface interactions. For instance, Jarrahbashi et al. (2016), Zandian, Sirignano & Hussain (2018, 2019) and Constante-Amores et al. (2021b) reported that their interplay determines the interfacial dynamics for turbulent jets; Hoepffner & Paré (2013) showed that vorticity production results in a change in the capillary retraction of a liquid thread. Theoretically, Longuet-Higgins (1992), Wu (1995) and Lundgren & Koumoutsakos (1999) demonstrated that vorticity production depends on the velocity field and the interfacial curvature for the condition of zero shear stress at a free surface. Additionally, Brøns et al. (2014) and Terrington, Hourigan & Thompson (2020, 2021) extended the previous results to show that interfacial curvature effects, viscosity and density difference across the interface are the only mechanisms driving vorticity production. Recently, Fuster & Rossi (2021) also demonstrated the role of interfacial curvature and density differences across the interface with identical dynamical viscosity via two-dimensional, non-axisymmetric numerical studies.

We note that the studies mentioned in the foregoing involve a constant surface tension and therefore do not support the formation of Marangoni gradients. Liquid streams, however, are invariably contaminated with surface-active agents (surfactants), deliberately placed or naturally occurring, which give rise to surface tension gradients, and subsequently Marangoni-induced flow (Manikantan & Squires 2020). While the atomisation of uncontaminated liquid jets has received significant attention in the literature (Desjardins & Pitsch 2010; Herrmann 2010; Jarrahbashi & Sirignano 2014; Jarrahbashi et al. 2016; Zandian et al. 2018, 2019; Constante-Amores et al. 2020b, 2021b), the effect of surfactant on their dynamics remains far less studied. The multi-scale nature of the flow, and the complex coupling between the surfactant concentration fields and interfacial topology, complicate its experimental scrutiny. This can be alleviated via the use of high-fidelity simulations that can unravel the delicate interplay among the different physical mechanisms across the relevant scales.

Through the use of state-of-the-art imaging techniques, Kooij et al. (2018), Sijs, Kooij & Bonn (2021) and Sijs et al. (2021) showed that the presence of surfactants influences the interfacial fragmentation during atomisation and decreases the mean droplet size in agreement with Butler Ellis, Tuck & Miller (2001) and Ariyapadi, Balachandar & Berruti (2004). All the previous studies, however, have not reported the role of Marangoni stresses, which the present paper will address for the case of an insoluble surfactant. Although the presence of surfactants can also induce both shear and dilatational surface rheological effects (discussed below), these effects will not be considered in this study. Nonetheless, we will use transient numerical simulations to demonstrate that the Marangoni stresses influence the production of vorticity near the interface, and modify the interface–vortex interactions and the three-dimensional destabilisation of the jet. In order to focus on the role of Marangoni stresses in the jet dynamics, we will study the case of a jet of one fluid issuing into another characterised by equal densities and viscosities.
There has been significant scientific interest in studying the role of surfactants in the destabilisation and fragmentation of non-turbulent liquid jets of pure Newtonian fluids; see, for example, Eggers (1993), Lister & Stone (1998), Craster, Matar & Papageorgiou (2002); Craster, Matar & Papageoriou (2009) and Liao et al. (2004). Those authors have shown the existence of multiple intermediate or transient scaling regimes that are not altered by the presence of surfactants as they are convected away from the pinch-off region. However, McGough & Basaran (2006) and Kamat et al. (2018) showed the formation of micro-threads, which connect drops during the surfactant-induced thinning. Additionally, the presence of surfactants not only gives rise to gradients in surface tension and hence tangential interfacial stresses, but also induces both shear and dilatational surface rheological effects. Recently, works by Wee et al. (2021) and Martínez-Calvo & Sevilla (2020) have analysed theoretically the influence of surface viscosities on the pinch-off dynamics of a jet of an incompressible Newtonian liquid that is surrounded by a passive gas.

The rest of this paper is structured as follows. In § 2, the problem formulation, governing dimensionless parameters and numerical method are introduced. Section 3 provides a discussion of the results, and concluding remarks are given in § 4.

2. Problem formulation and theoretical considerations

Since the aim here is to shed light on the different mechanisms that influence the production of vorticity near the interface in the presence of surfactants, we present a general theoretical description of vorticity and circulation in a three-dimensional (3-D) control volume enclosing an interface using Lighthill’s and Lyman’s flux definitions (Terrington et al. 2021). We also provide a brief description of the numerical technique that is used to carry out the computations. Finally, we provide motivation for the choice of physical and physico-chemical parameters made in the present work.

2.1. Formulation and numerical method

Figure 1 shows a representation of the flow configuration considered in this study in a 3-D Cartesian domain \( x = (x, y, z) \): a liquid segment is initialised as a cylinder of diameter \( D \), with a finite length, i.e. \( 5D \), in the positive \( x \) (streamwise) direction. Such an approach has been used by Desjardins & Pitsch (2010), Jarrahbashi et al. (2016) and Zandian et al. (2018) for planar and cylindrical jets. Appendix A shows the effect of varying the domain size. We will focus on the case of insoluble surfactants, which enables us to isolate the surfactant-induced Marangoni dynamics during the atomisation of the jet. We acknowledge, however, that experimental studies feature soluble surfactants that are dissolved in the liquid that issues from a nozzle to form the jet, and that the sorption kinetics controls the surfactant interfacial concentration, adding extra layers of complexity.

The dimensional governing equations, which can be found in the work of Shin et al. (2018), are rendered dimensionless using the following scalings:

\[
\begin{align*}
\tilde{x} &= \frac{x}{D}, & \tilde{t} &= \frac{t}{t_r}, & \tilde{u} &= \frac{u}{U}, & \tilde{p} &= \frac{p}{\rho U^2}, & \tilde{\sigma} &= \frac{\sigma}{\sigma_s}, & \tilde{\Gamma} &= \frac{\Gamma}{\Gamma_\infty},
\end{align*}
\]

where \( t, u \) and \( p \) stand for time, velocity and pressure, respectively; here, the dimensionless variables are designated for tildes. The physical parameters correspond to the liquid density \( \rho \), viscosity \( \mu \), surface tension \( \sigma \), surfactant-free surface tension \( \sigma_s \), initial jet diameter \( D \), and injection velocity \( U \). Hence the characteristic time scale based on the
injection velocity is $t_r = D/U$. The interfacial surfactant concentration $\Gamma$ is scaled with the saturation interfacial concentration $\Gamma_\infty$.

Using the relations in (2.1a–f), the dimensionless forms of the continuity and momentum equations are respectively expressed as

$$\nabla \cdot \tilde{\mathbf{u}} = 0, \quad (2.2)$$

$$\tilde{\rho} \left( \frac{\partial \tilde{\mathbf{u}}}{\partial \tilde{t}} + \tilde{\mathbf{u}} \cdot \nabla \tilde{\mathbf{u}} \right) = -\nabla \tilde{\rho} + \frac{1}{Re} \nabla \cdot \left[ \tilde{\mu}(\nabla \tilde{\mathbf{u}} + \nabla \tilde{\mathbf{u}}^T) \right] + \frac{1}{We} \int_{\tilde{A}(\tilde{t})} \left( \tilde{\sigma} \tilde{\kappa} \hat{s} + \nabla_s \tilde{\sigma} \right) \delta(\tilde{x} - \tilde{x}_f) d\tilde{A}, \quad (2.3)$$

where $\tilde{\kappa}$ represents the interface curvature, $\nabla_s$ is the surface gradient operator, and $\hat{s}$ is the outward-pointing unit normal to the interface. Here, $\tilde{x}_f$ is the parametrization of the time-dependent interface area $\tilde{A}(\tilde{t})$, where $\delta(\tilde{x} - \tilde{x}_f)$ is the 3-D Dirac delta function. The density $\tilde{\rho}$ and viscosity $\tilde{\mu}$ are given by the expressions

$$\tilde{\rho}(\tilde{x}, \tilde{t}) = \frac{\rho_l}{\rho_l} + \left( 1 - \frac{\rho_g}{\rho_l} \right) H(\tilde{x}, \tilde{t}), \quad \tilde{\mu}(\tilde{x}, \tilde{t}) = \frac{\mu_l}{\mu_l} + \left( 1 - \frac{\mu_g}{\mu_l} \right) H(\tilde{x}, \tilde{t}), \quad (2.4a,b)$$

where $H(\tilde{x}, \tilde{t})$ represents a smoothed Heaviside function, which is zero in the gas phase and unity in the liquid phase, while the subscripts $l$ and $g$ designate the individual liquid and gas phases, respectively.

The dimensionless surfactant transport is given by

$$\frac{\partial \tilde{\Gamma}}{\partial \tilde{t}} + \nabla_s \cdot \left( \tilde{\mathrm{Pe}_s} \tilde{\mathbf{u}}_s \right) = \nabla^2 \tilde{\Gamma},$$

where $\tilde{\mathbf{u}}_s = (\tilde{\mathbf{u}}_s \cdot \tilde{\mathbf{t}}) \tilde{\mathbf{t}}$ is the tangential velocity vector in which $\tilde{\mathbf{u}}_s$ is the surface velocity and $\tilde{\mathbf{t}}$ is the unit tangent to the interface. The scaling results in the following dimensionless
Turbulent surfactant-laden jets

groups:

\[ Re = \frac{\rho UD}{\mu}, \quad We = \frac{\rho U^2 D}{\sigma_s}, \quad Pe_s = \frac{UD}{D_s}, \quad \beta_s = \frac{\Re \Gamma_\infty}{\sigma_s}, \]  

(2.6a–d)

where \( Re \), \( We \) and \( Pe_s \) denote the Reynolds, Weber and (interfacial) Péclet numbers, respectively, while \( \beta_s \) is a surfactant elasticity number that represents a measure of the sensitivity of \( \sigma \) to \( \Gamma \); here, \( \Re \) is the ideal gas constant value 8.314 J K\(^{-1}\) mol\(^{-1}\), \( T \) denotes temperature, and \( D_s \) refers to the diffusion coefficient.

To describe the relation between \( \tilde{\sigma} \) and \( \tilde{\Gamma} \), we use the nonlinear Langmuir equation:

\[ \tilde{\sigma} = 1 + \beta_s \ln(1 - \tilde{\Gamma}). \]  

(2.7)

Surface tension gradients are expressed as a function of \( \tilde{\Gamma} \) as

\[ \nabla_s \tilde{\sigma} / We = -Ma/(1 - \tilde{\Gamma}) \nabla_s \tilde{\Gamma}, \]  

(2.8)

where \( Ma = \beta_s / We = \Re \Gamma_\infty / \rho U^2 D \) is a Marangoni parameter.

The 3-D numerical simulations were performed by solving the two-phase Navier–Stokes equations in the Cartesian domain \( x = (x, y, z) \). A hybrid front-tracking/level-set method was used to treat the interface where surfactant transport was resolved in the plane of the interface (Shin et al. 2018). The simulations are initialised with a turbulent velocity profile in the liquid jet segment (i.e. \( u(r) = 15/14U(1 - (r/(D/2))^{28}) \) (Constante-Amores et al. 2021b). Solutions are sought subject to Neumann boundary conditions on all variables at the lateral boundaries, and periodic boundary conditions in the \( x \) (streamwise) direction. The computational domain is a cube with dimensions \((5D)^3\) resolved globally by a uniform grid of \((786)^3\) cells; see appendix of Constante-Amores et al. (2021b) for details of mesh-refinement studies and validation of the numerical method. This method has also been widely tested for surfactant-laden flows (Shin et al. 2018; Constante-Amores et al. 2020a, 2021a, 2022; Batchvarov et al. 2021), and the numerical simulations in this study conserve fluid volume and surfactant mass with a relative error of less than \(10^{-3}\) of.

Next, we motivate the values of material properties by looking into the sources for vorticity production at an interface in a 3-D framework. These sources are due to differences in density (i.e. baroclinic effect) and viscosity, surface tension forces (due to gradients of curvature along the interface) and Marangoni stresses. Thus to unravel the importance of the surfactant-induced Marangoni stresses on the vortex–surface–surfactant interactions, we focus on situations in which surface tension forces and Marangoni stresses are the only physical mechanisms responsible for vorticity production at the interface, i.e. the jump in material properties across the interface is zero (Fuster & Rossi 2021). This is a realistic assumption for immiscible liquid–liquid systems exemplified by the silicone oil–water pairing used by Ibarra (2017) and Ibarra, Shaffer & Savaş (2020) in their two-phase, stratified pipe flow experiments.

The values of the dimensionless quantities are consistent with experimentally realisable systems and are chosen to ensure a full coupling between surfactant-induced Marangoni stresses and interfacial diffusion, and inertia. We set \( Re = 5000 \) to ensure a rich dynamics (Constante-Amores et al. 2021b), and focus on the range \( 50 < We < 1000 \) to account for realistic values of \( \sigma_s \), i.e. \( O(10^{-3}) < \sigma_s < O(10^{-1}) \) \( \text{Nm}^{-1} \). The parameter \( \beta_s \) is related to \( \Gamma_\infty \) and therefore to the critical micelle concentration (CMC), i.e. \( \Gamma_\infty \sim O(10^{-6}) \) \( \text{mol m}^{-2} \) for NBD-PC (1-palmitoyl-2-12-[(7-nitro-2-1,3-benzoxadiazol-4-yl)amino]dodecanoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphocholine)
C.R. Constante-Amores and others

(Strickland, Shearer & Daniels 2015); thus we have explored the range $0.1 < \beta_s < 0.9$, which corresponds to CMC in the range $O(10^{-7}) < \text{CMC} < O(10^{-6}) \text{ mol m}^{-2}$, for typical values of $\sigma_s$. We have set $Pe_s = 10^2$ following Batchvarov et al. (2020) and Constante-Amores et al. (2020a), who showed that the interfacial dynamics are weakly dependent on $Pe_s$ beyond this value.

2.2. Vorticity and circulation

This subsection aims to present a general description of vorticity generation in a 3-D framework. We present a theoretical formulation that builds upon the inviscid theory presented by Morton (1984) for near-interface vorticity generation in three dimensions. For inviscid fluids, the rate of generation of vorticity is a result of the relative tangential acceleration of fluid on each side of the interface, which is caused by tangential pressure gradients or body forces. The present theoretical formulation is expressed as a conservation law for circulation in a control volume that includes a general surface. The total circulation is expressed as the vorticity from the fluids from both sides of the interface as well as circulation contained in the interface.

It is well known that curvature induces the generation of vorticity as the normal viscous stress at an interface is balanced by the capillary pressure. However, the presence of surfactant leads to a reduction in surface tension, which influences this mechanism. Furthermore, surfactant interfacial concentration variations induce surface tension gradients, and, as we will show, lead to a new route for vorticity generation near the interface. Once we have presented our theoretical expressions for a general 3-D surface, we will simplify them for the limiting case in which the jumps in the tangential and normal components of the velocity across the interface vanish; this is the case for identical material properties such as density and viscosity. This assumption will help to shed some light on the crucial role of the Marangoni-induced vorticity generation mentioned above. Future studies should extend our work to situations featuring density and viscosity contrasts.

In order to examine the effect of the surfactant on the vorticity near the interface, we consider a fixed 3-D control volume $V$ bounded by a closed surface of area $\partial V$ with an outward-pointing unit normal $\hat{n}$ (see figure 2). This volume encloses regions of the incompressible fluids 1 and 2, of volumes $V_1$ and $V_2$, separated by an interfacial surface $I$ whose intersection with $V$ defines the curve $\partial I$. The vector $\hat{s}$ is the outward-pointing unit normal to the surface $I$, while $\hat{t}$ and $\hat{b}$ are two orthogonal unit tangent vectors to the interface. We proceed below using dimensional variables and then apply the scalings in (2.1a–f) to render the final equations dimensionless.

For fluid $i$, it is possible to write down expressions for $\omega_{b,i}$ and $\omega_{t,i}$, which represent the components of the vorticity $\omega_i$ in the $\hat{b}$ and $\hat{t}$ directions, respectively:

$$\omega_{b,i} = (\hat{s} \times \hat{t}) \cdot (\nabla \times u_i),$$

(2.9)

$$\omega_{t,i} = (\hat{s} \times \hat{b}) \cdot (\nabla \times u_i),$$

(2.10)

where $u_i$ denotes the velocity fields. These expressions may be recast as

$$\omega_{b,i} = \hat{s} \cdot \nabla u_i \cdot \hat{t} - \hat{t} \cdot \nabla u_i \cdot \hat{s},$$

(2.11)

$$\omega_{t,i} = \hat{s} \cdot \nabla u_i \cdot \hat{b} - \hat{b} \cdot \nabla u_i \cdot \hat{s}$$

(2.12)

(using $(a \times b) \cdot (c \times d) = (a \cdot c)(b \cdot d) - (a \cdot d)(b \cdot c)$, valid for any vector $a$, $b$, $c$ and $d$).
In the presence of interfacial stresses arising from gradients of surface tension \( \sigma \) due to surfactant concentration gradients, the interfacial shear stress conditions are given by

\[
[[\hat{t} \cdot \mathbf{T} \cdot \hat{s}]] = -\hat{t} \cdot \nabla \sigma, \tag{2.13}
\]

\[
[[\hat{b} \cdot \mathbf{T} \cdot \hat{s}]] = -\hat{b} \cdot \nabla \sigma, \tag{2.14}
\]

where \( [[q]] = q_2 - q_1 \) represents the jump across the interface of a quantity \( q \), \( \mathbf{T}_i = -p_i + \mu_i \mathbf{D}_i \) is the total stress in fluid \( i \) in which \( p_i \) is the pressure, \( \mathbf{D}_i = (\nabla \mathbf{u}_i + \nabla \mathbf{u}_i^T)/2 \) is the rate of deformation tensor, and \( \mu_i \) denote the viscosities, whence

\[
[[\mu (\hat{t} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} \cdot \hat{s} + \hat{s} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} \cdot \hat{t})]] = -2\hat{t} \cdot \nabla \sigma, \tag{2.15}
\]

\[
[[\mu (\hat{b} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} \cdot \hat{s} + \hat{s} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} \cdot \hat{b})]] = -2\hat{b} \cdot \nabla \sigma. \tag{2.16}
\]

Substitution of these results into (2.11) and (2.12) yields

\[
[[\mu (\omega_b + 2\hat{t} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} \cdot \hat{s})]] = -2\hat{t} \cdot \nabla \sigma, \tag{2.17}
\]

\[
[[\mu (\omega_t + 2\hat{b} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} \cdot \hat{s})]] = -2\hat{b} \cdot \nabla \sigma. \tag{2.18}
\]

For the case \( [\mu] = 0 \), which is the focus of this paper, we obtain

\[
[[w_b]] = -\frac{2}{\mu} \nabla \sigma \cdot \hat{t} - 2 [[\hat{t} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} \cdot \hat{s}]], \tag{2.19}
\]

\[
[[w_t]] = -\frac{2}{\mu} \nabla \sigma \cdot \hat{b} - 2 [[\hat{b} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} \cdot \hat{s}]], \tag{2.20}
\]

where \( \mu_2 = \mu_1 = \mu \). Noting that \( \hat{t} \cdot \nabla = \partial/\partial s \) and \( \hat{b} \cdot \nabla = \partial/\partial b \), it can be shown that

\[
[[\omega_b]] = -\frac{2}{\mu} \frac{\partial \sigma}{\partial s} - 2 \left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial s} [[\mathbf{u} \cdot \hat{s}]] - \kappa_1 [[\mathbf{u} \cdot \hat{t}]] \right], \tag{2.21}
\]

\[
[[\omega_t]] = -\frac{2}{\mu} \frac{\partial \sigma}{\partial b} - 2 \left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial b} [[\mathbf{u} \cdot \hat{s}]] - \kappa_2 [[\mathbf{u} \cdot \hat{b}]] \right], \tag{2.22}
\]

Figure 2. Schematic showing a volume \( V \) with a surface \( \partial V \) that encloses two fluids separated by an interface surface \( I \). Here, the two smaller control volumes \( V_1 \) and \( V_2 \) refer to the control volume of each fluid. Local unit vectors to the interface are \( \hat{b}, \hat{s} \) and \( \hat{t} \); \( \hat{n} \) corresponds to the unit normal vector to the control volume \( \partial V \); \( \hat{b} \) is a vector tangent to \( I \), but orthogonal to \( \partial I \); and \( \hat{t} \) is the unit tangent vector to the boundary curve \( \partial I \).
where the curvatures \( \kappa_1 \) and \( \kappa_2 \) are defined as
\[
\kappa_1 = \hat{t} \cdot \frac{\partial \hat{s}}{\partial s}, \quad \kappa_2 = \hat{b} \cdot \frac{\partial \hat{s}}{\partial b}.
\]

(2.23a,b)

From continuity of the normal and tangential components of the velocity at the interface, i.e. \([\mathbf{u} \cdot \hat{s}] = 0\) and \([\mathbf{u} \cdot \hat{b}] = 0\), respectively, it is seen that the interfacial jumps in the vorticity components are directly related to the Marangoni stresses:
\[
[[\omega_b]] = -\frac{2}{\mu} \frac{\partial \sigma}{\partial s},
\]
\[
[[\omega_t]] = -\frac{2}{\mu} \frac{\partial \sigma}{\partial b}.
\]

(2.24)

(2.25)

We now consider the circulation vector \( \Omega \) for 3-D flows given by
\[
\Omega = \int_V \omega \, dV,
\]

(2.26)

for the fixed 3-D control volume \( V \) shown in figure 2. The 3-D vorticity equation is given by
\[
\frac{\partial \omega}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\mathbf{u} \omega) = \nabla \cdot (\omega \mathbf{u}) + v \nabla^2 \omega,
\]

(2.27)

and the total rate of change of \( \Omega \) is then expressed by
\[
\frac{D \Omega}{Dt} = \int_V \frac{D\omega}{Dt} \, dV = \frac{D}{Dt} \int_V \omega \, dV = \int_V \nabla \cdot (\omega \mathbf{u} + v \nabla \omega) \, dV
\]
\[
= \int_{\partial V} \hat{n} \cdot (\omega \mathbf{u}) \, dS + \int_{\partial V} \hat{n} \cdot (v \nabla \omega) \, dS.
\]

(2.28)

The first term on the right-hand side of (2.28) corresponds to vortex stretching/tilting and is present only in three dimensions. We now write
\[
\frac{D}{Dt} \int_{V_1 \cup V_2} \omega \, dV = \int_{\partial V_1} \hat{n} \cdot (\omega \mathbf{u} + v \nabla \omega) \, dS + \int_{\partial V_2} \hat{n} \cdot (\omega \mathbf{u} + v \nabla \omega) \, dS
\]
\[
+ \int_{\partial V_1'} \hat{n} \cdot (\omega_1 \mathbf{u}_1 + v_1 \nabla \omega_1) \, dS + \int_{\partial V_2'} \hat{n} \cdot (\omega_2 \mathbf{u}_2 + v_2 \nabla \omega_2) \, dS,
\]

(2.29)

and let \( V_1 \cup V_2 \rightarrow V, \hat{n} \rightarrow \hat{s} \) from fluid 1, \( \hat{n} \rightarrow -\hat{s} \) from fluid 2, and \( (\partial V_1, \partial V_2) \rightarrow I \). It follows that
\[
\frac{D}{Dt} \int_V \omega \, dV = \int_{\partial V} \hat{n} \cdot (\omega \mathbf{u} + v \nabla \omega) \, dS - \left[ \int_I [[\hat{s} \cdot (\omega \mathbf{u})]] \, dS + \int_I [[v \hat{s} \cdot \nabla \omega]] \, dS \right].
\]

(2.30)

It is important to establish a connection between \( \int_I [[v \hat{s} \cdot \nabla \omega]] \, dS \), which represents the jump across the plane of the interface of the vorticity flux, and the momentum conservation
Turbulent surfactant-laden jets

The equation given by

$$\frac{Du}{Dt} = -\frac{\nabla p}{\rho} - \nu \nabla \times \omega. \quad (2.31)$$

In order to relate this term to the $\nu \nabla \times \omega$ term in (2.31), we first write down the general result

$$-\oint_{\partial V} \hat{s} \cdot \nabla \omega \, dS = -\int_{V} \nabla^2 \omega \, dV = -\int_{V} (\nabla (\nabla \cdot \omega) - \nabla \times \nabla \times \omega) \, dV$$

$$= \int_{V} \nabla \times \nabla \times \omega \, dV = -\oint_{\partial V} (\nabla \times \omega) \times \hat{s} \, dS. \quad (2.32)$$

(We have used the vector identity $\int_{V} \nabla \times A \, dV = -\oint_{\partial V} A \times dS = -\oint_{\partial V} A \times n \, dS = \oint_{\partial V} n \times A \, dS$, for any vector $A$ and volume $V$ enclosed by a surface $\partial V$ with a unit normal $n$.) Note that this relation links Lighthill’s vorticity flux to Lyman’s flux, the latter being another form of the former (see Terrington et al. (2021) and references therein).

Inspired by the form of Lyman’s flux, the natural way to proceed is to take the cross-product of $\hat{s} = \hat{i} \times \hat{b}$ with the left-hand side of (2.31) and its pressure gradient term (where we have exploited the fact that $\hat{i} \times \hat{b} \times c = \hat{b}(\hat{i} \cdot c) - c(\hat{i} \cdot \hat{b}) = \hat{b}(\hat{i} \cdot c)$ since $\hat{i} \cdot \hat{b} = 0$) and a cross-product of $\hat{s}$ with its $\nu \nabla \times \omega$ term to arrive at

$$-\nu \hat{s} \times \nabla \times \omega = \hat{b} \cdot \frac{Du}{Dt} - \hat{b} \cdot \nabla \left( \frac{p}{\rho} \right)$$

$$= \hat{b} \left[ \left( \frac{D}{Dt}(u \cdot \hat{i}) - u \cdot \frac{D\hat{i}}{Dt} \right) + \hat{i} \cdot \nabla \left( \frac{p}{\rho} \right) \right]$$

$$= \nu \hat{s} \cdot \nabla \omega; \quad (2.33)$$

here, we note that the sources of vorticity are due to acceleration in the plane of the interface, which we can think of as a vortex sheet, and interfacial pressure gradients. Making use of this relation in (2.30), we arrive at

$$\frac{D}{Dt} \left[ \int_{V} \omega \, dV + \hat{b} \oint_{I} [[u \cdot \hat{i}]] \, dS \right] = \oint_{\partial V} \hat{n} \cdot (\omega u + \nu \nabla \omega) \, dS$$

$$- \oint_{I} [[\hat{s} \cdot (\omega u)]] \, dS + \oint_{I} \hat{b} \left[ u \cdot \frac{D\hat{i}}{Dt} \right] \, dS - \oint_{I} \hat{b} \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial s} \left[ \left( \frac{p}{\rho} \right) \right] \, dS, \quad (2.34)$$

where we have set $\hat{i} \cdot \nabla (p/\rho) = \partial (p/\rho)/\partial s$. An expression for $u \cdot (D\hat{i}/Dt)$ can be developed (the details are in Appendix B), given by

$$u \cdot \frac{D\hat{i}}{Dt} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial}{\partial s} \left[ (u \cdot \hat{s})^2 + (u \cdot \hat{b})^2 \right] + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial}{\partial b} \left[ (u \cdot \hat{s})^2 + (u \cdot \hat{b})^2 \right] - \kappa_1(u \cdot \hat{i})(u \cdot \hat{s}). \quad (2.35)$$

Furthermore, for $[[\rho]] = 0$, the remaining term required to close (2.34) is one for $[[p]]$ (the details are in Appendix C):

$$[[p]] = -\sigma(\kappa_1 + \kappa_2) - 2 \left[ \mu \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial s} [[u \cdot \hat{i} + (u \cdot \hat{b})] + (\kappa_1 + \kappa_2)(u \cdot \hat{s})] \right) \right]. \quad (2.36)$$

To collapse these equations to their two-dimensional (2-D) equivalents, we first note that $\hat{s} \cdot \omega = \hat{n} \cdot \omega = u \cdot \hat{b} = 0$ in two dimensions, and set $\partial/\partial b = 0$; the latter leads to $\kappa_2 = 0$. 

955 A42-9
We then take a dot product of (2.34) with \( \hat{b} \) (and convert the volume and area integrals to area and line integrals, respectively) to arrive at a 2-D analogue involving the vorticity scalar \( \omega \). Moreover, in the case studied here, characterised by \([\mu] = 0, [\mu \cdot \hat{s}] = 0, [\mu \cdot \hat{i}] = 0 \) and \([\mu \cdot \hat{b}] = 0 \), (2.34) reduces to

\[
\frac{D}{Dt} \left[ \int_V \omega \, dV \right] = \oint_{\partial V} \hat{n} \cdot (\omega u + v \nabla \omega) \, dS - \oint_b [\hat{s} \cdot (\omega u)] \, dS + \frac{1}{\rho} \oint_b \hat{b} \frac{\partial}{\partial s} (\sigma [\kappa_1 + \kappa_2]) \, dS.
\]  

(2.37)

We note that the term involving \([\hat{s} \cdot (\omega u)]\) on the right-hand-side of this equation is zero. To see this, we first note that \([\hat{s} \cdot \omega u]\) can be re-expressed as

\[
[\hat{s} \cdot \omega u] = (\hat{s} \cdot \omega_2) u_2 - (\hat{s} \cdot \omega_1) u_1
\]

\[
= (\hat{s} \cdot \omega_2 - \hat{s} \cdot \omega_1) u_1
\]

\[
= (\hat{s} \cdot \omega_2 - \hat{s} \cdot \omega_1) u_2
\]

\[
= [\hat{s} \cdot \omega] u_1 = [\hat{s} \cdot \omega] u_2,
\]  

(2.38)

since \([u] = 0\). We also note that \( \hat{s} \cdot \omega = (\hat{b} \times \hat{i}) \cdot (\nabla \times u) \), which can be rewritten as

\[
\hat{s} \cdot \omega = \hat{b} \cdot \nabla u \cdot \hat{i} - \hat{i} \cdot \nabla u \cdot \hat{b}
\]

\[
= \hat{b} \cdot \frac{\partial u}{\partial s} - \hat{i} \cdot \frac{\partial u}{\partial b}
\]

\[
= \frac{\partial}{\partial s} (\hat{b} \cdot u) - \frac{\partial}{\partial b} (\hat{i} \cdot u),
\]

(2.39)

since \( \hat{b} \neq \hat{b}(s) \) and \( \hat{i} \neq \hat{i}(b) \). Thus we can write

\[
[\hat{s} \cdot \omega] = \left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial s} (\hat{b} \cdot u) \right] - \left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial b} (\hat{i} \cdot u) \right]
\]

\[
= \frac{\partial}{\partial s} [\hat{b} \cdot u] - \frac{\partial}{\partial b} [\hat{i} \cdot u] = 0,
\]  

(2.40)

since \([\hat{b} \cdot u] = 0\) and \([\hat{i} \cdot u] = 0\), whence \([\hat{s} \cdot \omega u] = 0\). Inspection of the terms remaining in (2.37) suggests that circulation is influenced by vorticity diffusion, vortex tilting/stretching, and gradients of curvature and interfacial tension.

The dimensionless versions of (2.25) and (2.24) are then expressed by

\[
[\tilde{\omega}_h] = -2 \text{Re} Ma \frac{1}{1 - \tilde{R}} \frac{\partial \tilde{R}}{\partial b},
\]  

(2.41)

\[
[\tilde{\omega}_b] = -2 \text{Re} Ma \frac{1}{1 - \tilde{R}} \frac{\partial \tilde{R}}{\partial s},
\]  

(2.42)

and the dimensionless equation (2.37) reads

\[
\frac{D}{Dt} \left[ \int_{\tilde{V}} \tilde{\omega} \, d\tilde{V} \right] = \oint_{\partial \tilde{V}} \hat{n} \cdot (\tilde{\omega}u + \frac{1}{\text{Re}} \nabla \tilde{\omega}) \, d\tilde{S} + \frac{1}{\text{We}} \oint_b \hat{b} \frac{\partial}{\partial s} (\tilde{s} [\tilde{\kappa}_1 + \tilde{\kappa}_2]) \, d\tilde{S},
\]  

(2.43)

and the tildes are dropped henceforth.
Turbulent surfactant-laden jets

Note that in the case of non-isothermal systems, $\tilde{\sigma}$ has a linear dependence on the local temperature $T$, and a linear equation of state describes $\tilde{\sigma}(\tilde{T})$ (see, for example, Williams et al. 2021). It is possible to relate the present, surfactant-laden case to that involving thermal gradients by linearising our equation of state, $\sigma = 1 + \beta_s \ln(1 - \Gamma)$, for $\Gamma \ll 1$ such that it reads $\sigma = 1 - \beta_s \Gamma$. Although this analogy is useful, it is, however, incomplete since the non-isothermal case does not involve a surface species whose concentration evolves spatio-temporally for which a transport equation must be solved.

3. Results
Figure 3 shows a flow regime map for $Re = 5000$ that depicts the interfacial morphology associated with various regions of the $\beta_s$-$We$ parameter space generated by over 100 transient simulations performed in the ranges $100 < We < 1000$ and $0.1 < \beta_s < 0.9$. We have divided the map into two distinct regions depending on the morphology: for small $We$, capillary forces control the interfacial dynamics preventing the development of lobes that could result in the formation of large droplets; for large $We$, inertial forces dominate the dynamics, triggering the formation of interfacial lobes whose thinning eventually results in the generation of holes and eventually droplets. The resulting non-uniform surfactant distribution generates gradients in surface tension affecting the local dynamics. Surfactant accumulation takes places in high-curvature regions, giving rise to Marangoni stresses that drive surfactant redistribution from high- to low-concentration regions. Marangoni stresses, therefore, oppose the shear stresses produced by the flow field, the former exerting a restoring effect and the latter a perturbing effect in the local surfactant concentration field. The dimensionless Marangoni velocities induced by surface tension differences $\Delta \sigma$ are of $O(Re We^{-1}(\Delta \sigma/\sigma_s))$. Similarly, the dimensionless Marangoni stresses $\tau$ are of $O(We^{-1} \tilde{\nabla} \tilde{\sigma})$, or, equivalently, $O(\beta_s We^{-1} \tilde{\nabla} \tilde{\Gamma})$, namely (2.8), while capillary forces and shear stresses are of $O(We^{-1})$ and $O(RE^{-1})$, respectively. Furthermore, from (2.41) and (2.42), it is clear that the Marangoni-induced vorticity jumps across the interface are of $O(RE \beta_s We^{-1})$. Inspection of figure 3, which was generated for a fixed $Re$ value, reveals that the presence of Marangoni stresses counteracts the transition from the low- to high-$We$ regimes as the critical $We$ value increases with $\beta_s$ with a quasi-linear dependence. The latter is consistent with the scaling highlighted above, $\tau \sim \beta_s We^{-1}$, which demonstrates that increasing $\beta_s$ and decreasing $We$ serves to enhance the restoring influence of the Marangoni stresses. The boundary demarcated in figure 3 was generated by examining the temporal evolution of the interfacial area normalised by its initial value over a range of $We$ values and with $\beta_s$ varying parametrically and $Re = 5000$; this shows that the normalised area is maximised for an intermediate value of $We$, for fixed $\beta_s$ (and $Re$), which heralds the transition towards an inertia-dominated regime.

To assess the effect of Marangoni-induced flow, we have analysed the flow physics of the surfactant-free and surfactant-laden flows characterised by $Re = 5000$ and $We = 500$. We start with the surfactant-free case depicted in figure 4, which shows the spatio-temporal interfacial dynamics for the surfactant-free case through the $Q$-criterion (e.g. a measure of the dominance of vorticity $\omega$ over strain $s$, i.e. $Q = (\|\omega\|^2 - \|s\|^2)/2$ (Hunt, Wray & Moin 1988). At early times, we observe the formation of a periodic array of quasi-symmetric Kelvin–Helmholtz (KH) driven vortex rings as a result of the difference in velocity in the shear layer located under the interface (see figure 4a). With increasing time, the 3-D instability starts with the deformation of the vortex rings, leading to a mutual induction between two consecutive vortex rings, resulting in their ‘knitting’ (see figure 4b); similar
vortex pairing has been reported by Broze & Hussain (1996) and da Silva & Métais (2002). With increasing time, we observe the formation of inner and outer hairpin vortices whose pairing brings about a region where both overlap. The cascade mechanism resulting in the formation of hairpin vortices from KH rings is triggered by the magnitude of the streamwise vorticity $\omega_x$, which becomes comparable to its azimuthal counterpart $\omega_y$, in agreement with Jarrahbashi et al. (2016) and Constante-Amores et al. (2021b), as shown in figure 4(b).

To provide more conclusive evidence of the existence of inner/outer hairpin vortices in the jet dynamics, a careful study of the distribution of vortex signs shows the assembling into counter-rotating vortex pairs (see $\omega_y$ in the $y$–$z$ plane for each sampled location in figure 4). By analysing the distribution of streamwise vorticity between the ring and braid regions of the jet core (see figure 4a), we observe that their distribution is $\pi$-out-of-phase. The arrangement of the vorticity comes from vortex induction arguments, similar to those explained by Jarrahbashi et al. (2016), Zandian et al. (2018) and Constante-Amores et al. (2021b), i.e. the upstream hairpin vortex from the ring overtakes the upstream hairpin vortex from the braid as the mutual induction takes place. Finally, the vortex–surface interaction triggers the formation of the interfacial structure as the interface adopts the shape of the vortex that is in its vicinity (see figures 4b–d)). The mutual induction between outer and inner hairpin vortices eventually leads to the thinning of the lobes to ultimately form inertia-induced holes whose capillary-driven expansion gives rise to the formation of droplets (Jarrahbashi et al. 2016; Zandian et al. 2018; Constante-Amores et al. 2021b).

Next, we turn our attention to the effect of surfactants on the flow dynamics. Figure 5 shows the early interfacial surfactant concentration together with the 3-D coherent vortical structures via the $Q$-criterion. Similarly to the surfactant-free case, we observe the formation of a periodic array of quasi-axisymmetric KH vortex rings. These rings induce the formation of interfacial waves that are characterised by regions of radially converging and diverging motion that lead to higher and lower interfacial areas, and subsequently to lower and higher surfactant concentration regions, respectively; accumulation of $\Gamma$ is observed in the vicinity of the KH rings (see figure 5a). Figure 5(c) presents the interfacial concentration $\Gamma$ and Marangoni stresses $\tau$ along an arc length $s$, corresponding to

![Figure 3. Regime map of the interfacial morphology in the $\beta_s$–$We$ space for $Re = 5000$, $Pe_s = 100$ and $\Gamma_o = \Gamma_\infty/2$. The capillary-dominated and inertia-dominated regimes, and their boundaries, are clearly demarcated; the symbols represent simulations carried out at the transition lines separating these regimes. Three-dimensional representations of the interface for both regimes are also shown.](image-url)
t = 32.03. We observe that the non-uniform distribution of $\Gamma$ gives rise to Marangoni-induced flow, which drives fluid motion from ring 1, ‘VR1’ ($\tau > 0$), to ring 2, ‘VR2’, and vice versa (i.e. flow from VR2 to VR1, $\tau < 0$). This flow is therefore accompanied by the retardation of the development of the interfacial waves and a subsequent delay of the onset of the 3-D instability of the jet observed in the surfactant-free case in figure 4.

Additionally, these Marangoni stresses promote jumps in the vorticity across the interface that we can calculate using (2.24) and (2.25) in the location that coincides with the formation of vortices SV1 and SV2 from figure 6 at $t = 32.81$. Figure 5(d) shows a 3-D representation of the interface together with an $x$–$z$ plane at $y = 2.875$ coloured by the magnitude of vorticity $|\omega|$. Figures 5(e,f) show respectively the variation of the interface location and the $\Gamma$ profiles, and of the distribution of $[|\omega_b|]$ and $[|\omega_t|]$, along the arc length $s$ (not to be confused with $\hat{s}$, the unit vector in figure 2), in the plane cutting the interface shown in figure 5(d). From figure 5(e), it is seen that the surfactant accumulates in the down-sloping region immediately downstream of an interfacial wave.
Figure 5. Effect of surfactants on the early interfacial dynamics for $Re = 5000$, $We = 500$, $\beta_1 = 0.5$, $Pe_s = 100$ and $\Gamma_o = \Gamma_\infty/2$ at (a) $t = 32.03$, and (b) $t = 32.81$. (a (i), b (i)) Interface coloured by $\Gamma$, and (a (ii), b (ii)) coherent vortical structures visualised via the $Q$-criterion with $Q = 10$. (c) A 2-D representation of $\Gamma$ and $\tau$ with respect to the arc length $s$ (see inset) at $t = 32.03$. (d) A 2-D representation of the magnitude of vorticity $|\omega|$ in the $x$–$z$ plane ($y = 2.875$) at $t = 32.81$. (e) Interface location and $\Gamma$, and (f) $[|\omega_b|]$ and $[|\omega_t|]$, versus the arc length $s$ (e.g. $s$ corresponds to the $x$–$z$ plane, $y = 2.875$, intersecting the interface). The centre of the jet core corresponds to $z = 2.5$. We denote a vortex ring by ‘VR’. 

Turbulent surfactant-laden jets

Figure 6. Surfactant-driven hairpin-vortical structures: temporal development of the HV1 and HV2 hairpin-like vortical structures via the $Q$-criterion with $Q = 200$ together with the interfacial location coloured by $\Gamma$ at times (a) $t = 32.81$, (b) $t = 33.59$, (c) $t = 34.37$, (d) $t = 36.71$, (e) $t = 39.06$. Panel (e) shows the two transversal slices displayed in (f,g), which depict the streamwise vorticity $\omega_x$ through the legs and head of HV1, respectively; arrows of in-plane velocity vectors have been added; the white lines represent the interface location. The parameter values are the same as in figure 5.

peak; here, the gradients in $\Gamma$, and therefore in $\sigma$, are smallest, corresponding to the weakest vorticity jumps, while the largest such jumps are in the wave peak and trough regions where the $\Gamma$ (and $\sigma$) gradients are highest, as shown in figure 5(f). Inspection of figure 5(f) also shows that $[\omega_b] \gg [\omega_t]$, that is, near-interface vorticity production in the azimuthal direction is dominant. This acts to disrupt the dynamics of vortex pairing relative to the surfactant-free case as the ‘knitting process’ is promoted by streamwise rather than azimuthal vorticity production and the vortex ring deformation is replaced by vortex reconnection and merging in the azimuthal direction in the surfactant-laden case.

For increasing time, figure 6 shows the formation of surfactant-induced inner hairpin-like vortical structures. The shear stress, which is generated to balance the gradients in $\sigma$, gives rise to counter-rotating streamwise vortices of similar magnitude to the KH rings (labelled ‘SV1’ and ‘SV2’ in figure 6b). These structures grow in the $x$-direction into a combination of streamwise vortices close to the interface, i.e. legs, and a hairpin-like head close to the centre-plane of the jet (see figure 6d). The hairpin legs extend from the regions of high to low values of $\Gamma$ on the surface, while the hairpin head points down in the positive $x$-direction (labelled ‘HV1’ and ‘HV2’ in figure 6e). To complete the presentation of these hairpin-like vortical structures, figures 6(f, g) show the directions of flow rotation of the legs and head for HV1. For comparison, we have added arrows to show velocity direction and to prove that this coherent vortical structure exhibits
the same qualitative behaviour as the hairpin vortices proposed by Theodorsen (1952) for near-wall turbulence. To the best of our knowledge, the formation of hairpin-like vortical structures induced by surfactant effects has not been reported yet. We have also observed surfactant-driven outer hairpin-like vortical structures (not shown) whose heads are in the negative $x$-direction (in the frame of reference of the legs).

At later times, figures 7(a–d) show the variation with arc length of the interfacial location $\Gamma$, and $[[\omega_t]]$ and $[[\omega_b]]$ at $t = 36.51$ and $t = 44.68$; corresponding 3-D representations of the interface are also shown in figures 7(e,f) for $t = 44.68$, coloured by the magnitude of $\Gamma$ and the $Q$-criterion, respectively. The flow is accompanied by radially converging and diverging motion due to vortex–surface interaction; interfacial convection drives surfactant towards the inner lobes (interfacial contraction), and away from the outer lobes (interfacial expansion). Vorticity jumps are highest in the interfacial regions with the largest gradients in $\Gamma$. As time evolves, the ratio of these Marangoni-driven $[[\omega_t]]$ to $[[\omega_b]]$ reduces, and this results in large coherent structures that merge to form counter-rotating streamwise vortical rings that eventually ‘knit’ with the adjacent vortex ring located in the $x$-direction (labelled VR1–VR4 in figure 7f); this pairing is similar to the surfactant-free case (in agreement with Urbin & Métais 1997; da Silva & Métais 2002).
Turbulent surfactant-laden jets

Figure 8. Total rate of change of circulation, $\Omega$, according to (2.43): (a,b) $D\Omega/Dt$, (c,d) vortex diffusion ($I_{\text{diff}}$), (e,f) vortex tilting ($I_{\text{tilt}}$), and (g,h) surface tension ($I_{\text{curv}}$); see (3.2a–c) for the definitions of $I_{\text{tilt}}$, $I_{\text{diff}}$ and $I_{\text{curv}}$. (a,c,e,g) Surfactant-laden cases, and (b,d,f,h) surfactant-free cases. For (g), we represent the contributions that arise from the gradients of curvature (solid lines) and the gradients of surface tension (dashed lines) to underscore the relative importance of the Marangoni stresses. Red, blue and black coloured lines represent components $x$, $y$ and $z$ of $D\Omega/ Dt$, $I_{\text{tilt}}$, $I_{\text{diff}}$ and $I_{\text{curv}}$. The parameters are $Re = 5000$, $We = 500$, and for the surfactant-laden case, $\beta_s = 0.5$, $Pe_s = 100$ and $\Gamma_o = \Gamma_\infty/2$.

We now examine the dynamics of the circulation $\Omega$ by considering (2.43), which we express as

$$\frac{D\Omega}{Dt} = I_{\text{tilt}} + I_{\text{diff}} + I_{\text{curv}},$$

(3.1)
Figure 9. Spatio-temporal evolution of the control volume $V$ with a surface $\partial V$ that encloses an interface plane $I$ used to calculate the rate of change of the circulation in Figure 8. (a–d) Surfactant-laden cases, at $t = 25.20, 35.50, 40.37, 43.75$, and (e–h) surfactant-free cases, at $t = 27.12, 30.43, 34.37, 40.55$. The parameter values are the same as in Figure 8.

where $I_{\text{tilt}}$, $I_{\text{diff}}$ and $I_{\text{curv}}$ are defined as

$$I_{\text{tilt}} \equiv \oint_{\partial V} \mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{u} \, dS, \quad I_{\text{diff}} \equiv \frac{1}{Re} \oint_{\partial V} \mathbf{n} \cdot \nabla \omega \, dS, \quad I_{\text{curv}} \equiv \frac{1}{We} \oint_I \mathbf{b} \frac{\partial}{\partial s} (\sigma [\kappa_1 + \kappa_2]) \, dS,$$

which correspond to vortex tilting/stretching, diffusion of vorticity, and circulation variation due to gradients in curvature and interfacial tension (in the case of surfactant-laden systems). Figure 8 shows the temporal evolution of $D\Omega /Dt$, $I_{\text{tilt}}$, $I_{\text{diff}}$ and $I_{\text{curv}}$, which allows us to identify the dominant physical mechanisms that contribute to the creation and dissipation of circulation. In Figure 9, we also show snapshots of the 3-D representation of the interface corresponding to the volume used to carry out the computations necessary to calculate $D\Omega /Dt$ and its constituent terms for the surfactant-laden and surfactant-free cases; this allows one to pinpoint the mechanisms primarily responsible for the interfacial structures observed. It is seen clearly from Figure 8 that during the early stages of the flow, $\Omega$ remains approximately constant. Inspection of Figures 8(c–h) shows clearly that the rate of change of circulation is dominated by the mechanisms related to vortex diffusion $I_{\text{diff}}$ and curvature $I_{\text{curv}}$, with vortex tilting/shielding playing a relatively minor role. It is also clear that in the surfactant-laden jet case, the Marangoni contribution to $I_{\text{curv}}$ dominates that associated with curvature derivatives. This observation further bolsters the claim that Marangoni stresses drive vorticity generation in the jet dynamics.

The snapshots for the surfactant-laden (Figures 9a–d) and surfactant-free (Figures 9e–h) cases have been chosen carefully so as to link the various stages of jet destabilisation to the prominent changes in the temporal variation of $I_{\text{diff}}$, $I_{\text{tilt}}$, $I_{\text{curv}}$ and $D\Omega /Dt$. Given the dominance of $I_{\text{curv}}$ over the time range considered ($0 \leq t \leq 40$), we focus on the variations in this quantity and its signature effects on the interfacial shape. Inspection of Figures 8(g) and 9(a) reveals that the relatively gentle interfacial undulations are linked to
variations of the Marangoni contribution to $I_{\text{curv}}$ in the $x$–$y$ plane. The development of the more complex interfacial shapes, on the other hand, is accompanied by a concomitant rise in three-dimensionality of $I_{\text{curv}}$ (in addition to significant contributions from the $x$-component of $I_{\text{curv}}$). In the surfactant-free case, inspection of figures 8(d,h) and 9(e–h) shows that the interfacial jet evolution is accompanied by large variations in the $x$-component of $I_{\text{curv}}$, and vorticity diffusion characterised by $I_{\text{diff}}$.

Finally, we plot in figure 10 the effect of surfactants on the interfacial area, kinetic energy (defined as $E_k = \rho \int_V (u^2/2) \, dV$) and enstrophy ($\varepsilon = \int_V \omega^2 \, dV$), normalised by their initial values $A_0$, $E_{k0}$ and $\varepsilon_0$, respectively. After the onset of destabilisation (defined when the interfacial surface has reached $A = 1.025$), we observe that the surfactant-induced effects discussed above – which include the interfacial vorticity jumps brought about by Marangoni stresses, and their effect on the production of circulation, and jet destabilisation mechanisms associated with vortex formation and spanwise reconnection – promote the delay in increase and subsequent reduction in interfacial area; these effects also lead to a delay in the decay of the jet kinetic energy as well as its enstrophy.

4. Concluding remarks

Three-dimensional numerical simulations of jet destabilisation and atomisation in the presence of a monolayer of insoluble surfactants have been carried out for the first time. A phase diagram in the space of dimensionless surfactant elasticity and Weber number in the inertia-dominated region is presented in the limiting case where there is no vorticity production associated with jumps in material properties such as fluid density and viscosity; in the present work, surface tension forces and Marangoni stress give rise
to variations in vorticity and circulation in addition to the vortex tilting/shielding and diffusion mechanisms. We have also derived formulae for the vorticity jumps across the interface due to Marangoni stresses, and equations that provide a breakdown of the rate of production of circulation within the jet into constituent terms that we associate with vortex tilting/shielding, diffusion, and gradients in interfacial curvature and surface tension. The present theoretical formulation is expressed as a conservation law for circulation. We have focused on the limiting case where there is no vorticity production associated with jumps in material properties. Future studies should examine situations characterised by fluids with different material properties.

Then we have analysed in detail the vortex–interface–surfactant interactions in the flow dynamics. At early times, the presence of surfactants induces spanwise vortex reconnections brought about by Marangoni-induced flow resulting in the delay of the onset of destabilisation to the three-dimensional interfacial instabilities. We also show that surfactant-induced Marangoni stresses trigger the formation of hairpin-like structures whose head and legs extend in the streamwise direction. Finally, we have attempted to link the changes in interfacial topology to the mechanisms that influence the production of vorticity and circulation, demonstrating a balance between curvature gradients and diffusion for surfactant-free jets, and the dominance of Marangoni stresses in the surfactant-laden cases.

The present results have been obtained for insoluble surfactants, and we acknowledge that experimental and numerical studies feature soluble surfactants that are dissolved in the liquid that issues from a nozzle to form the jet (Constante-Amores 2021b; Sijs et al. 2021). It is well known that the addition of surfactant solubility will lead to additional richness and complexity. Although surfactant solubility does not affect the governing equations that describe the bulk fluid, it will change the boundary conditions resulting in a change in the flow dynamics. We can anticipate that a change of flow in the vicinity of the interface will have a detrimental effect on the coherent structures that emerge, subsequently affecting the close interplay between interface, vorticity and surfactant. These challenges will be the subject of future work.

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Appendix A. Effect of domain size
To provide conclusive evidence that the lateral size of the domain is sufficiently large to avoid finite-size effects, we have performed additional simulations accounting for different domain sizes, and measured the wavelength between the emergent crests. The selected wavelength for panels for domain sizes $(4D)^3$, $(5D)^3$ and $(6D)^3$ correspond to $\lambda \sim 1.52D$, $1.55D$ and $1.60D$, respectively. Thus the wavelength values are very weakly dependent on the domain size, indicating the absence of finite-size effects. We also note that the size of the computational domain is in agreement with previous studies (see, for example, Jarrahbashi & Sirignano 2014; Jarrahbashi et al. 2016; Zandian, Sirignano & Hussain 2016; Desjardins & Pitsch 2010), which have also used periodic boundary conditions for all three components of velocity in the streamwise direction.

Appendix B. Kinematics
We first develop an expression for $D\hat{t}/Dt$. We consider the motion of an infinitesimal fluid parcel in the plane of the interface, which is treated as a material surface. The position vector is $x = x(s, b, t)$, where $s$ and $b$ represent arc length distances along the $\hat{i}$ and $\hat{b}$ directions, respectively. At time $t + \delta t$, to leading order in $\delta t$, we can write the following expression for the tangent to the interface at the fluid parcel that at time $t$ was located at $x(0, 0, t)$:

$$\begin{align*}
\hat{t}(t + \delta t) &= \frac{\partial x}{\partial s}(0, 0, t) + \nabla u \cdot \left( \frac{\partial x}{\partial s} + \frac{\partial x}{\partial b} \right) \delta t. \quad (B1)
\end{align*}$$

Noting that $\hat{i} = \partial x/\partial s$, $b = \partial x/\partial b$, $\hat{i} \cdot \nabla u = \partial u/\partial s$ and $\hat{b} \cdot \nabla u = \partial u/\partial b$, this equation can be re-expressed as

$$\hat{t}(t + \delta t) = \hat{i} + \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial s} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial b} \right) \delta t. \quad (B2)$$

The magnitude of $\hat{t}(t + \delta t)$ is given by

$$|\hat{t}| = 1 + \hat{i} \cdot \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial s} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial b} \right) \delta t + O(\delta t)^2, \quad (B3)$$

and normalisation of $\hat{t}(t + \delta t)$ by this magnitude gives the following tangent unit vector $\hat{i}(t + \delta t)$:

$$\begin{align*}
\hat{i}(t + \delta t) &= \frac{\hat{i} \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial s} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial b} \right) \delta t}{|\hat{t}(t + \delta t)|} = \frac{\hat{i} \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial s} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial b} \right) \delta t}{1 + \hat{i} \cdot \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial s} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial b} \right) \delta t} \\
&= \left( \hat{i} \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial s} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial b} \right) \delta t \right) \left( 1 - \hat{i} \cdot \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial s} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial b} \right) \delta t + O(\delta t)^2 \right) \\
&= \hat{i} + \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial s} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial b} \right) - \hat{i} \left( \hat{i} \cdot \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial s} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial b} \right) \right) \delta t + O(\delta t)^2. \quad (B4)
\end{align*}$$

From this expression, we can arrive at an approximate formula for $D\hat{t}/Dt$:

$$\begin{align*}
\frac{D\hat{t}}{Dt} \sim \frac{\hat{t}(t + \delta t) - \hat{t}(t)}{\delta t} &= \frac{\partial u}{\partial s} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial b} - \hat{i} \left( \hat{i} \cdot \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial s} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial b} \right) \right) \delta t + O(\delta t). \quad (B5)
\end{align*}$$
We now insert the expression

\[ u = (u \cdot \hat{s}) \hat{s} + (u \cdot \hat{t}) \hat{t} + (u \cdot \hat{b}) \hat{b} \]  

(B6)

into \( u \cdot \frac{D\hat{t}}{Dt} \), which yields

\[ u \cdot \frac{D\hat{t}}{Dt} = (u \cdot \hat{s}) \hat{s} \cdot \frac{D\hat{t}}{Dt} + (u \cdot \hat{b}) \hat{b} \cdot \frac{D\hat{t}}{Dt}. \]  

(B7)

Substitution of (B5) into \( \hat{s} \cdot \frac{D\hat{t}}{Dt} \) and \( \hat{b} \cdot \frac{D\hat{t}}{Dt} \) gives

\[ \hat{s} \cdot \frac{D\hat{t}}{Dt} = \hat{s} \cdot \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial s} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial b} \right), \]  

(B8)

\[ \hat{b} \cdot \frac{D\hat{t}}{Dt} = \hat{b} \cdot \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial s} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial b} \right), \]  

(B9)

where we have made use of \( \hat{s} \cdot \hat{t} = 0 \) and \( \hat{b} \cdot \hat{t} = 0 \). We can re-express the right-hand sides of (B8) and (B9) as follows

\[ \hat{s} \cdot \frac{\partial u}{\partial s} = \frac{\partial}{\partial s} (\hat{s} \cdot u) - u \cdot \frac{\partial \hat{s}}{\partial s}, \]  

(B10)

\[ \hat{s} \cdot \frac{\partial u}{\partial b} = \frac{\partial}{\partial b} (\hat{s} \cdot u) - u \cdot \frac{\partial \hat{s}}{\partial b}, \]  

(B11)

\[ \hat{b} \cdot \frac{\partial u}{\partial s} = \frac{\partial}{\partial s} (\hat{b} \cdot u) - u \cdot \frac{\partial \hat{b}}{\partial s}, \]  

(B12)

\[ \hat{b} \cdot \frac{\partial u}{\partial b} = \frac{\partial}{\partial b} (\hat{b} \cdot u) - u \cdot \frac{\partial \hat{b}}{\partial b}. \]  

(B13)

Inserting (B6) into the second term on the right-hand sides of (B10)–(B13), we obtain

\[ u \cdot \frac{\partial \hat{s}}{\partial s} = \kappa_1 (u \cdot \hat{t}), \]  

(B14)

\[ u \cdot \frac{\partial \hat{s}}{\partial b} = \kappa_2 (u \cdot \hat{b}), \]  

(B15)

\[ u \cdot \frac{\partial \hat{b}}{\partial s} = 0, \]  

(B16)

\[ u \cdot \frac{\partial \hat{b}}{\partial b} = -\kappa_2 (u \cdot \hat{s}), \]  

(B17)

where the curvatures \( \kappa_1 \) and \( \kappa_2 \) are defined as

\[ \kappa_1 = \hat{t} \cdot \frac{\partial \hat{s}}{\partial s}, \quad \kappa_2 = \hat{b} \cdot \frac{\partial \hat{s}}{\partial b}. \]  

(B18a,b)

In deriving (B14)–(B17), we have noted that \( \hat{t} \neq \hat{t}(b) \) and \( \hat{b} \neq \hat{b}(s) \). Substitution of (B14)–(B17) into (B10)–(B13), and the resultant relations into (B8) and (B9), respectively,
yields the expressions

\[
\dot{\hat{s}} \cdot \frac{D\hat{s}}{Dt} = \frac{\partial}{\partial s} (u \cdot \hat{s}) + \frac{\partial}{\partial b} (u \cdot \hat{s}) - \kappa_1 (u \cdot \hat{t}) - \kappa_2 (u \cdot \hat{b}), \tag{B19}
\]

\[
\hat{b} \cdot \frac{D\hat{b}}{Dt} = \frac{\partial}{\partial s} (u \cdot \hat{b}) + \frac{\partial}{\partial b} (u \cdot \hat{b}) + \kappa_2 (u \cdot \hat{s}). \tag{B20}
\]

Substitution of (B19) and (B20) into (B7), and rearranging, yields

\[
u \cdot \frac{D\hat{t}}{Dt} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial}{\partial s} [(u \cdot \hat{s})^2 + (u \cdot \hat{b})^2] + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial}{\partial b} [(u \cdot \hat{s})^2 + (u \cdot \hat{b})^2] - \kappa_1 (u \cdot \hat{t})(u \cdot \hat{s}). \tag{B21}
\]

Appendix C. Near-interface normal stress jump

In order to generate a 3-D version of the pressure gradient term in (2.34), we first consider the jump in the normal stress across the plane of the interface:

\[
p_2 - p_1 = -\sigma (\kappa_1 + \kappa_2) + [[\mu \hat{s} \cdot D \cdot \hat{s}]], \tag{C1}
\]

where \(\kappa_1\) and \(\kappa_2\) are given by (B18a,b). Substitution of (B6) into \(\nabla \cdot u = 0\) yields

\[
\hat{s} \cdot \nabla u \cdot \hat{s} = -\hat{\iota} \cdot \nabla u \cdot \hat{\iota} - \hat{b} \cdot \nabla u \cdot \hat{b}
\]

\[
= -\hat{\iota} \cdot \frac{\partial u}{\partial s} - \hat{b} \cdot \frac{\partial u}{\partial b}, \tag{C2}
\]

where we have set \(\hat{\iota} \cdot \nabla u = \partial u / \partial s\) and \(\hat{b} \cdot \nabla u = \partial u / \partial b\). We can re-express \(\hat{\iota} \cdot (\partial u / \partial s)\) and \(\hat{b} \cdot (\partial u / \partial b)\) as

\[
\hat{\iota} \cdot \frac{\partial u}{\partial s} = \frac{\partial}{\partial s} (u \cdot \hat{t}) - u \cdot \frac{\partial \hat{\iota}}{\partial s}, \tag{C3}
\]

\[
\hat{b} \cdot \frac{\partial u}{\partial b} = \frac{\partial}{\partial b} (u \cdot \hat{b}) - u \cdot \frac{\partial \hat{b}}{\partial b}. \tag{C4}
\]

Substitution of (B6) into \(u \cdot (\partial \hat{t} / \partial s)\) and \(u \cdot (\partial \hat{b} / \partial b)\) leads to

\[
u \cdot \frac{\partial \hat{\iota}}{\partial s} = -\kappa_1 (u \cdot \hat{s}), \tag{C5}
\]

\[
u \cdot \frac{\partial \hat{b}}{\partial b} = -\kappa_2 (u \cdot \hat{s}), \tag{C6}
\]

where, again, we have made use of the fact that \(\hat{\iota} \neq \hat{\iota}(b)\) and \(\hat{b} \neq \hat{b}(s)\). Substitution of (C5) and (C6) into (C3) and (C4), and the resultant relations into (C2), gives

\[
\hat{s} \cdot \nabla u \cdot \hat{s} = -\frac{\partial}{\partial s} [(u \cdot \hat{t}) + (u \cdot \hat{b}) - (\kappa_1 + \kappa_2)(u \cdot \hat{s})]. \tag{C7}
\]

Since \(\hat{s} \cdot D \cdot \hat{s} = 2\hat{s} \cdot \nabla u \cdot \hat{s}\), it follows that

\[
\hat{s} \cdot D \cdot \hat{s} = -2 \frac{\partial}{\partial s} [(u \cdot \hat{t}) + (u \cdot \hat{b}) - 2(\kappa_1 + \kappa_2)(u \cdot \hat{s})]. \tag{C8}
\]
Substitution of this equation into (C1) yields the following expression for the pressure jump:

\[
[p] = -\sigma (\kappa_1 + \kappa_2) - 2 \left[ \mu \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial s} \left( (\mathbf{u} \cdot \hat{i}) + (\mathbf{u} \cdot \hat{b}) \right) + (\kappa_1 + \kappa_2)(\mathbf{u} \cdot \hat{s}) \right) \right]. \quad (C9)
\]

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