Simulation of shock-waves in water induced by nanosecond-laser pulse

M. Kubečka¹, A. Obrusník¹, Z. Bonaventura¹

¹ Department of Physical Electronics, Faculty of Science, Masaryk University, Kotlůrská 2, 611 37 Brno, Czech Republic

Introduction

This contribution presents a numerical model which describes the propagation of shock-wave in liquid (water) induced by nanosecond-laser pulse. This 2D numerical model will be compared with Schlieren images obtained by experiment and it should lead to deeper insight into propagation and behavior of laser induced shock-waves in liquid. This phenomenon was first observed and described in the 1970s. The main mechanism of generating shock-waves in liquid by laser pulse were found to be: linear optical absorption with subsequent bulk thermal expansion, explosive evaporation and dielectric breakdown and ionization [1, 2].

Model description

One of the best simulation software for modeling fluid dynamics using finite volume method is without doubt OpenFoam [4]. This open source software offers few basic compressible flow solvers, which are able to capture the propagation of shock-waves in fluid. The first in mind would be sonicLiquidFoam. This solver describe a liquid, where the equation of state is assumed to be a simple baratropic function known as Tait equation [3]. It does not use an equation for energy, which leads to the impossibility of using this solver in case of shock-wave formation in water by laser pulse. Another solver within OpenFoam environment would be rhoCentralFoam, which is density-based compressible flow solver based on central-upwind scheme of Kurganov and Tadmor. The main governing fluid equations in an Eulerian frame of reference are equation of mass conservation:

\[ \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \vec{u}) = 0 \] (1)
equation for conservation of momentum:

$$\frac{\partial (\rho \vec{u})}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot [\vec{u}(\rho \vec{u})] + \nabla p + \nabla \cdot \hat{T} = 0$$  \hspace{1cm} (2)

and conservation of energy:

$$\frac{\partial (\rho E)}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot [\vec{u}(\rho E)] + \nabla \cdot (\vec{u} p) + \nabla \cdot (\hat{T} \cdot \vec{u}) + \nabla \cdot \vec{j} = 0$$  \hspace{1cm} (3)

where $\rho$ is the mass density, $p$ is the pressure, $\vec{u}$ is the fluid velocity, $\hat{T}$ is the viscous stress tensor, $\vec{j}$ is the diffusive flux of heat and $E$ is total energy density.

Since the shock-wave is generated by a laser pulse we have to include a new term $Q$ in the eq. 3. The power term $Q$ was applied to the circle area (with radius 1 mm) in the middle of our geometry using another OpenFoam utility called `funkySetFields`, which set the value for the scalar field $Q$ using function prescription. Since the `rhoCentralFoam` was developed mainly for gas dynamics, it use primarily equation for perfect gas as an equation of state. We had to implement a different equation of state from the thermophysical modelling library, equation for perfect fluid:

$$\rho = \frac{1}{RT} p + \rho_0$$  \hspace{1cm} (4)

where $\rho_0$ is density of liquid in equilibrium.

**Results**

With regard to the usual experimental condition we set in our simulation the background temperature to 300 K and the background pressure to 1 bar. The laser single shot power pulse lasted for 4.9 ns with energy of 1.3 J. The formation and time evolution of a shock-wave can be seen in the figure 1, which show the pressure field, since the Schlieren imaging visualize temporal variation in the pressure field. This pulse yields to shock-wave which propagates with velocity around 1500 m.s$^{-1}$. This value is in good agreement with the experimental data from paper [1], even though they used different laser pulse properties (35 fs with energy 2.25 mJ). The shock front velocity in both cases had similar value in our simulations.
Figure 1: Time evolution of shock-wave in water induced by 4.9 nanosecond-laser pulse with energy of 1.3 J.

Conclusion

The numerical model describing propagation of shock-wave induced by nanosecond-laser pulse was presented, where the `rhoCentralFoam` density-based solver was manu-
ally modified for proper description of the fluid dynamics under our special conditions. Validation of this model was performed by comparing data obtained by simulation and experimentally acquired data.

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References