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Evidence for Nuclear Emissions During Acoustic Cavitation

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Science **295**, 1868 (2002);
DOI: 10.1126/science.1067589

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the lack of a solvent connection. Instead, a proton is taken up from His^{Y169} to O₁ and then menaquinol is released to the membrane. (iv) The deprotonated His^{Y169} is very unstable, and this is immediately protonated through an extended water channel to His^{Y169} after the release of menaquinol.

Proton motive force generation mechanism in the Fdh-N/Nar system. The Fdh-N structure, in combination of the Nar topology information, demonstrates that Fdh-N and Nar can form a redox loop where p.m.f. generation is best described as the sum of the following two effects (Fig. 1). (i) Two protons, which are taken up from the cytoplasm at the Fdh-N menaquinone reduction site, are translocated across the membrane and released to the periplasm from the menaquinol oxidation site in Nar. (ii) Two electrons are transferred from the formate oxidation site in periplasm to the NO₃⁻ reduction site in cytoplasm. This is not accompanied by an actual proton translocation across the membrane but generates a membrane potential, which is equivalent to 2H⁺ translocation across the membrane. The result is consistent with the measured ratio of proton translocation to electron transfer in this system (6).

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- The research was supported by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council of the UK and the Structural Biology Network of Sweden. We thank E. Mitchell and A. Thompson at the European Synchrotron Radiation Facility, Grenoble, for technical assistance J. Barber, B. C. Berks, R.C. Lancaster, F. Sargent, J. Butt, J. Simon, C. Page, and P. L. Dutton for critical assessment of this manuscript. The coordinates for the native Fdh-N and the HQNO complex are deposited with the PDB (entries 1KQF and 1KQG, respectively).

19 November 2001; accepted 14 January 2002

Evidence for Nuclear Emissions During Acoustic Cavitation

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In cavitation experiments with deuterated acetone, tritium decay activity above background levels was detected. In addition, evidence for neutron emission near 2.5 million electron volts was also observed, as would be expected for deuterium-deuterium fusion. Control experiments with normal acetone did not result in tritium activity or neutron emissions. Hydrodynamic shock code simulations supported the observed data and indicated highly compressed, hot (10⁶ to 10⁷ kelvin) bubble implosion conditions, as required for nuclear fusion reactions.

The intense implosive collapse of gas or vapor bubbles, including acoustically forced cavitation bubbles, can lead to ultrahigh compressions and temperatures and to the generation of light flashes attributed to sonoluminescence (SL) (1–21). Our aim was to study ultrahigh compression and temperatures in bubbles nucleated by means of fast neutrons, whereby bubble nucleation centers with an initial radius R_0 of ~10 to 100 nm are created, and the bubbles grow in an acoustic field to a maximum radius (R_m) of ~1 mm (19) before an implosive collapse. This approach builds on the observations that (17) increasing R_m modestly (for example, by ~50%), or increasing the rate of collapse (16), can result in very large increases in peak gas temperatures and produce light emission during implosions. In contrast to single-bubble SL experiments, in which the initial bubble radius R_0 typically increases to R_m by a factor of only ~10 (for example, from ~10 μm to ~100 μm), our neutron-induced nucleation technique results in R_m/R_0 of ~10⁵. For a spherical bubble, the increase of R_m/R_0 by a factor of 10⁴ implies a related volumetric ratio increase of 10¹² over that produced by conventional techniques. Our expectation was that such an approach, with its vastly increased energy concentration potential during implosions, should give rise to significant

increases in the peak temperatures within the imploding bubbles, possibly leading to fusion and detectable levels of nuclear particle emissions in suitable fluids.

To minimize the effect of gas cushioning by promoting rapid condensation during implosive collapse, we elected to work with highly degassed organic liquids. An organic liquid was chosen [normal acetone (C₃H₆O) as the control fluid and deuterated acetone (C₃D₆O) as the test fluid] because it permitted the attainment of large tensile states without premature cavitation, and thus a lot of liquid superheat would be present before nucleation. Organic liquids also have relatively large phase change coefficients, which is important, as described later. Unless otherwise noted, the liquid in the chamber was maintained at ~0°C (which was the lowest value obtainable with the equipment we used). The test liquid was degassed and subjected to an acoustic pressure field that oscillated in resonance with the liquid sample and its container. The nucleation of vapor bubbles was initiated with fast neutrons from an isotopic source (Pu-Be) or from a pulsed neutron generator (PNG) that produces 14-MeV neutrons on demand at a predefined phase of the acoustic pressure field.

Experimental system. In the experimental apparatus (Fig. 1), the test liquid was placed in an approximately cylindrical glass flask and driven acoustically with a lead-zirconate-titanate (PZT) piezoelectric driver ring attached to the outer surface. Either a plastic or a liquid scintillation detector was used for detection of neutron and gamma signals (22). The light was detected and amplified in a photomultiplier tube (PMT). A

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RESEARCH ARTICLES

liquid scintillator (LS) detector-based system was set up for pulse-shape discrimination (PSD) (23, 24) [see Web Supplement 1 (25)]. The PSD circuit separates neutrons from gamma rays on the basis of differences in the PSD scintillator signal decay time between neutrons and gamma rays. The system could be operated to permit blocking of gamma rays (hereafter, a mode of operation referred to as “with PSD”). The net efficiency for fast neutron detection was estimated to be $\sim 5 \times 10^{-3}$ (26).

In the experimental sequence of events (Fig. 2), neutrons from the PNG nucleated vapor bubbles in the tensioned liquid when the cavitation threshold was exceeded at the time of the neutron burst. The nuclear radiation detector typically detected a pulse when the PNG was fired. Thereafter, the vapor bubbles grew until increasing pressure in the liquid during the second half of the acoustic cycle caused them to begin to collapse. If the implosion was robust enough, the bubble emitted a SL light flash, which could be detected by the PMT. In theory, if the liquid is composed of deuterium (D) and/or tritium (T) atoms, and the conditions are appropriate for D-D (or D-T) fusion, nuclear particles (neutrons and gamma rays) would be emitted and seen in the response from either the plastic scintillator (PS) or LS detector. Moreover, in cavitation experiments, when a bubble implodes, a pressure wave that travels at about the speed of sound in the test liquid is also generated and can be detected at the chamber walls by microphones. Significantly, our experiments were characterized by bubble dynamics within clouds of many bubbles.

Timing of key parameters. With our configuration of the PNG and electronic timing systems, we found, by analyzing the time spectrum of neutrons (25), that neutrons were emitted over a time span of $\sim 12 \mu\text{s}$ [~ 4 to $6 \mu\text{s}$ at full width at half maximum (FWHM)], after which neutron counts were reduced considerably by 15 to 20 μs after the PNG fired (25). We initiated the PNG burst when the fluid tension state was greatest. For multiple-bubble implosions, several bubbles can implode and emit closely spaced SL flashes during any given cycle.

The time between a SL flash and the signals received at two microphones set up on diametrically opposite sides of our chamber was found to be $\sim 27 \mu\text{s}$, which is in agreement with the time for a shock wave to travel from the center of the chamber to the glass wall (about 32 mm away). This result indicates that the bubbles generally nucleated and imploded in or around the central axis of the test chamber (27). The efficiency of SL flash detection was dependent on the PMT bias voltage (which determines the gain) and the chosen discriminator settings (29).

Our data were obtained with a PZT drive amplitude much greater than that required for threshold nucleation. Because of this, and because the PNG pulse width was about 4 to 6 μs (FWHM), nucleation could occur a few microseconds before or after the minimum liquid pressure was reached. The timing of

the SL flash relative to the PS pulse was analyzed with a multichannel analyzer (MCA). The PZT drive frequency was about 19.3 kHz, which corresponds to a full cycle time of about 52 μs . The time spectrum of events (25) confirmed that the PS flash corresponding to the PNG activation (lasting

Fig. 1. Schematic of the experimental setup. The distance from the scintillator head to the PNG is ~ 15 cm; from the scintillator head to the chamber surface, ~ 0 to 2 cm; from the chamber center to the PNG, ~ 20 cm; and from the PMT to the chamber surface, ~ 5 cm. The system (the chamber, PNG, and PMT) is ~ 1.5 m above the floor.

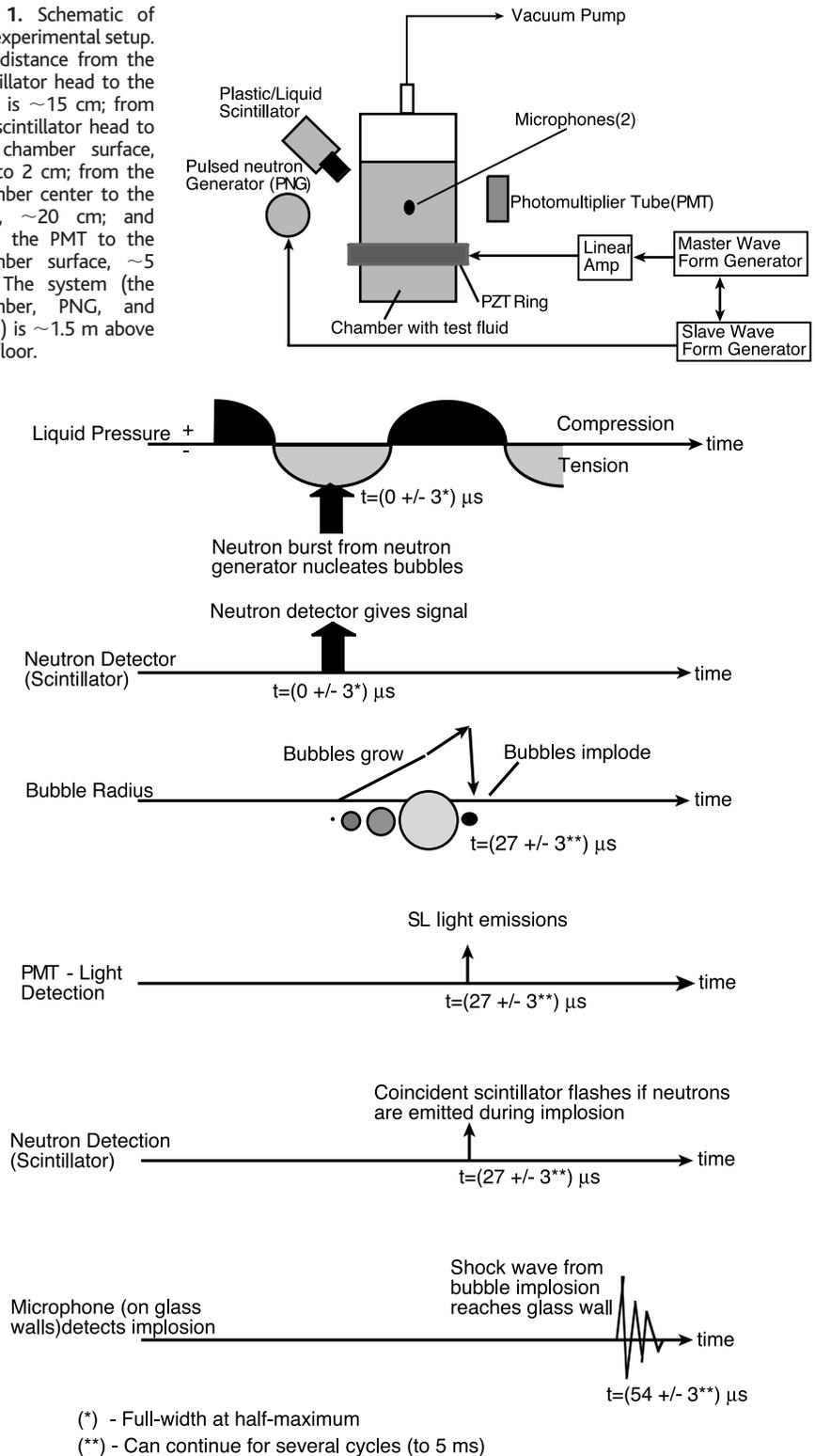


Fig. 2. Experimental sequence of events.

about 12 μ s, with 4 to 6 μ s FWHM) was followed by a SL flash (lasting about 4 to 6 μ s FWHM) about 27 to 30 μ s later.

Experimental observations for C₃H₆O and C₃D₆O. We conducted experiments with C₃H₆O (100% nominally pure) and C₃D₆O (certified 99.92 atom % D-acetone), filtered before use through 1- μ m filters. Degassing was performed by applying a low pressure of about 10 kPa and acoustically cavitating the liquid for about 2 hours. To ensure continued robust nucleation growth and implosive collapse, the drive voltage to the PZT was set to be about double that needed for occasional cavitation (defined here as the occurrence of nucleation and collapse within a 10-s observation period). The negative pressure threshold for bubble nucleation by neutrons and alpha particles in acetone is -7 to -8 bar (20, 21). A pressure map of the chamber was obtained by means of a calibrated hydrophone. Using the scale factor for induced pressures in our chambers versus drive voltage to the PZTs, and gradually increasing the drive amplitude, we determined that the cavitation began at about -7 bar, which is consistent with the known value (20, 21). The pressure amplitude in our chamber was $\sim \pm 15$ bar (± 220 pounds per square inch).

T detection, monitoring, and estimation. The D-D fusion reaction can have one of two outcomes that occur with almost equal probability. The first leads to the production of helium (He) and 2.5-MeV neutrons; the second to the production of T and protons. Therefore, in addition to the evidence collected for neutron or gamma ray activity, the formation of T would provide compelling evidence of D-D fusion.

To measure T activity, we sampled the experimental fluid directly with a scintillation counter calibrated for detecting T (28). Unless otherwise noted, experiments were conducted at $\sim 0^\circ\text{C}$ using 14-MeV neutrons generated at a rate of $\sim 10^6$ neutrons/s from the PNG spread over the specified time duration. When testing either C₃H₆O or C₃D₆O without cavitation (that is, with irradiation alone), we also used the same experimental configuration, including placing the chamber under standard vacuum conditions. In this way, we systematically conducted experiments, changing only one parameter at a time. The chamber was initially filled with C₃H₆O and irradiated for 7 hours without cavitation. A 1-cm³ liquid sample was withdrawn from fluid in the top region in the acoustic chamber and mixed with Ecolite and tested for T activity. Thereafter, cavitation experiments were performed for 7 hours. A 1-cm³ sample of C₃H₆O was again withdrawn and tested for T activity. This same process was later repeated for 12 hours.

After verifying the absence of T activity from the control tests with C₃H₆O, we repeated the experiments with C₃D₆O. The irradiation and cavitation experiments of 7 hours duration with C₃H₆O and C₃D₆O were repeated several times at $\sim 0^\circ\text{C}$. A separate test was conducted over 5 hours, using a Pu-Be neutron source producing $\sim 10^6$ neutrons/s, to assess the influence of randomly produced neutrons.

Tests were also conducted to assess the impact of liquid temperature on T activity buildup by testing with C₃D₆O at $\sim 22^\circ\text{C}$ (room temperature). Finally, to assess the impact of the time of irradiation and cavitation on T buildup in C₃D₆O, testing was also conducted for 12 hours with PNG ir-

radiation of $\sim 10^6$ neutrons/s at $\sim 0^\circ\text{C}$.

Results of these experiments are summarized in Fig. 3, which includes values of standard deviation as well as background count rates. The data reveal no significant change in T activity for C₃H₆O with or without cavitation and irradiation. Under the same experimental conditions, irradiation alone of C₃D₆O samples with 14-MeV neutrons, or with neutrons from a Pu-Be source, did not result in any statistically significant change in T content. In contrast, in three separate 7-hour cavitation experiments with C₃D₆O at $\sim 0^\circ\text{C}$ and $\sim 10^6$ neutrons/s irradiation with the PNG, an average increase of 7.1 counts per minute (cpm) resulted. Similarly, two separate 12-hour

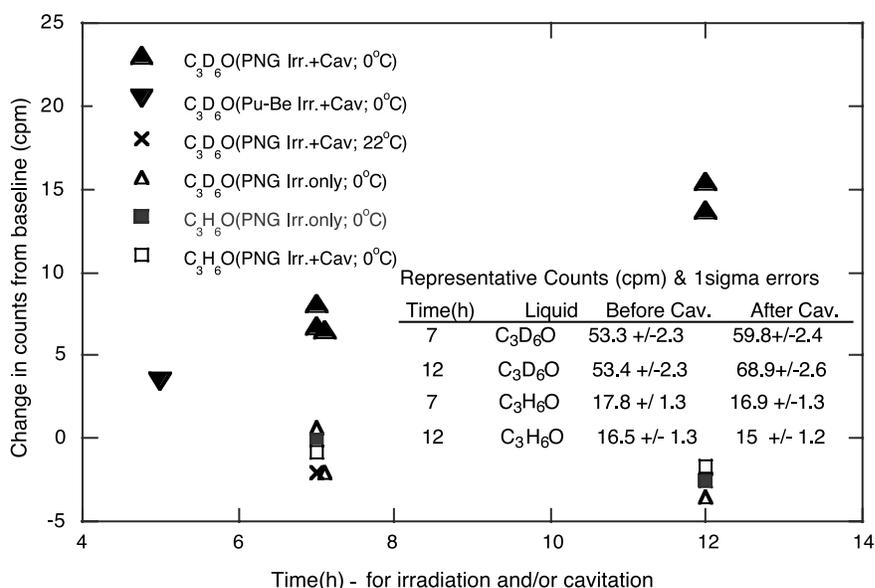


Fig. 3. T activity changes for C₃D₆O and C₃H₆O with irradiation (Irr.) and with irradiation plus cavitation (at 0°C). For C₃D₆O and C₃H₆O, 1 SD = ~ 3.5 cpm and ~ 2 cpm. PNG irradiation was at $\sim 10^6$ neutrons/s for specified time durations. All testing was conducted under the same configuration, placing the test cell under a vacuum of ~ 10 kPa.

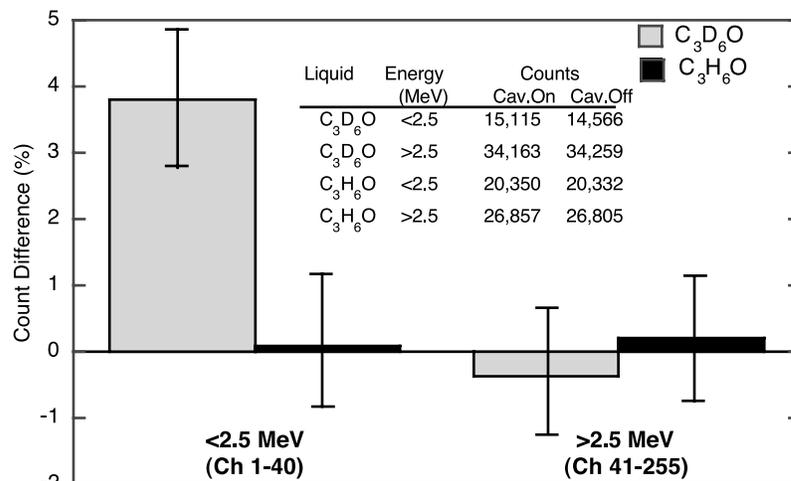


Fig. 4. Changes in counts for C₃D₆O and C₃H₆O with and without cavitation (Cav.). Error bars are 1 SD; data were taken over 100 s; and the percentage change in the <2.5 -MeV range was found to be similar in magnitude for 300-s data acquisition times.

RESEARCH ARTICLES

experiments produced an average increase of 14.6 cpm, the increase being directly proportional, within statistical counting errors, to the increase in duration of the test. Overall, cavitation of C_3D_6O (at $\sim 0^\circ C$ with $\sim 10^6$ neutrons/s PNG irradiation) over 7 hours resulted in increases of up to ~ 8.1 cpm [representing an individual difference of ~ 2.5 standard deviations (SD) and a

collective change of ~ 4 SD], whereas cavitation and irradiation over 12 hours resulted in an average increase of ~ 14 cpm (representing an individual difference of more than 4.5 SD). Finally, cavitation of C_3D_6O (at $\sim 22^\circ C$ with $\sim 10^6$ neutrons/s PNG irradiation) over 7 hours did not result in any significant change in T activity. As will be described later, this agrees with the

lack of SL activity at this higher temperature and is also consistent with the hydrodynamic shock code simulations to be discussed subsequently.

If none of the T produced reacted with D atoms, an inverse calculation based on the observed T activity indicates that the D-D neutron production rate was $\sim 7 \times 10^5$ neutrons/s.

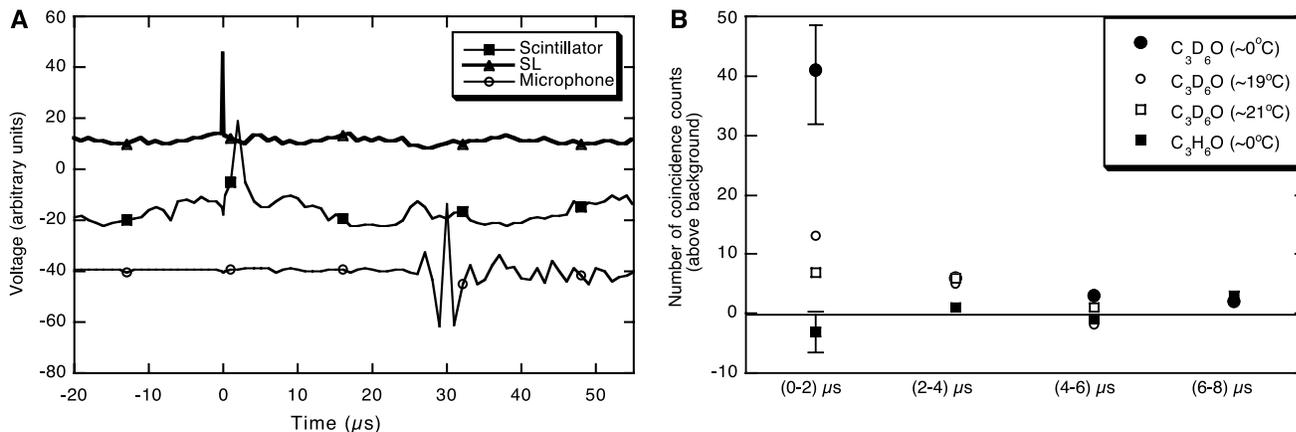
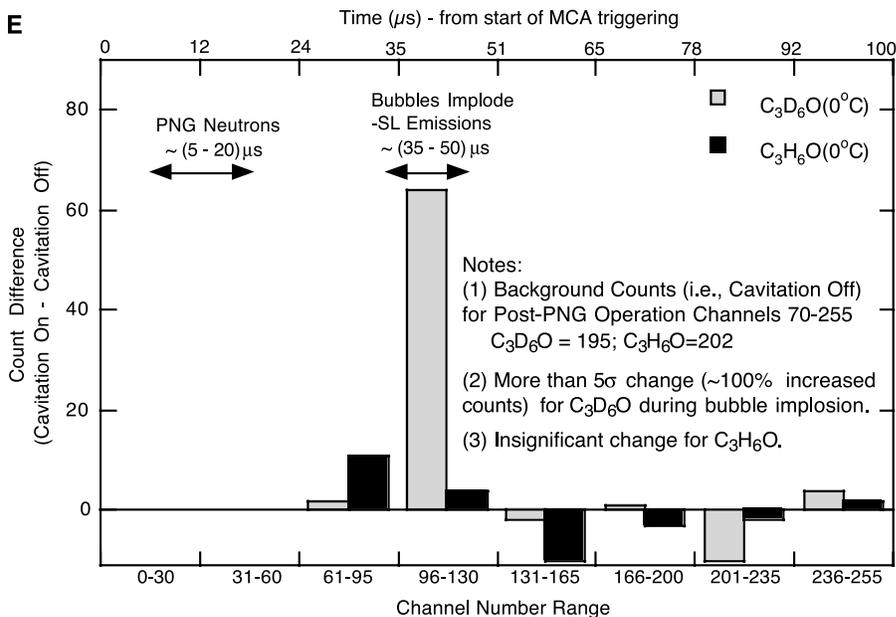
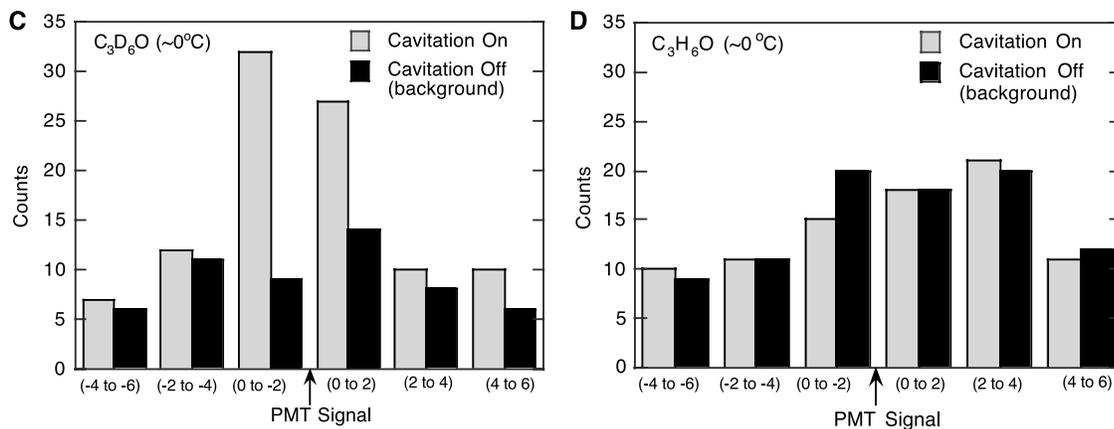


Fig. 5. (A) Representative time variation of PMT (SL) flashes, the scintillator nuclear signal, and microphone shock trace signals (C_3D_6O cavitation experiments at $0^\circ C$). (B) Coincidence data for C_3D_6O and C_3H_6O (mode 2 operation; PNG operation at $\sim 10^6$ neutrons/s at 200 Hz). (C) Coincidence spectrum data for C_3D_6O (mode 2 operation; PNG operation at $\sim 10^6$ neutrons/s at 200 Hz). (D) Coincidence spectrum data for C_3H_6O (mode 2 operation; PNG operation at $\sim 10^6$ neutrons/s at 200 Hz). (E) Time spectrum of nuclear emissions for deuterated and natural acetone [see Web Supplement 1 (25) for further details].



Notes:
 (1) Background Counts (i.e., Cavitation Off) for Post-PNG Operation Channels 70-255 $C_3D_6O = 195$; $C_3H_6O = 202$
 (2) More than 5σ change ($\sim 100\%$ increased counts) for C_3D_6O during bubble implosion.
 (3) Insignificant change for C_3H_6O .

Neutron energy spectra data acquisition with PSD.

We used PSD in experiments with and without cavitation to check for neutron production and to decipher the energy range in which significant increases in neutron counts occurred. Tests were conducted with the PSD system so that only neutron counts were accepted by the data acquisition system. For identical settings, it was verified that the PNG neutron output varied by $\sim \pm 0.2\%$ from measurement to measurement. Tests, with a PNG neutron output of $\sim 10^6$ neutrons/s, were conducted with C_3H_6O (as the control fluid) and with C_3D_6O for data acquisition times from 100 to 300 s, during which neutron counts were accumulated at the rate of ~ 500 counts/s. Changes in counts from the case without cavitation were evaluated in two energy ranges. The first covered the range between the lowest energy detectable and 2.5 MeV. The second was from 2.5 MeV upward (26). Representative results for the sample with C_3D_6O (that is, the increase in counts and the background counts) are shown in Fig. 4 for observations over 100 s in the two energy ranges. As shown, we observed a 4% increase in 2.5-MeV neutrons in these samples after the onset of cavitation. The variation in counts for the control liquid (C_3H_6O) was within $\sim 0.2\%$ in both energy ranges. These data were repeatable for 300-s acquisition times.

Assuming Poisson statistics, 1 SD from a total population count varying from 50,000 to 150,000 ranges from ~ 0.4 to 0.25%. Therefore, a $\sim 4\%$ change in counts for a case with cavitation is a significant increase of ~ 4 SD above background. Because the data were repeatable, when taken as an aggregate, the average $\sim 4\%$ increase in counts represents a statistically significant change of >10 SD above background. For a $\sim 4\%$ increase in the case of C_3D_6O with cavitation (in the 2.5-MeV range), and using a distance-corrected detector efficiency (26), we estimate that the D-D neutron emission rate associated with cavitation was $\sim 4 \times 10^4$ to 8×10^4 neutrons/s. This value is somewhat smaller than the estimated rate of neutron generation from the T measurements ($\sim 7 \times 10^5$ neutrons/s). At least part of this difference can be attrib-

uted to uncertainties in detector efficiency, such as neutron energy losses by scattering in the test chamber or reduced detection efficiency for large-angle knock-ons from 2.5-MeV neutrons (25). There could also have been a nonuniform T distribution in the chamber after the cavitation experiments.

Coincidence data acquisition. We also looked at the coincidence between the SL and PS/LS pulses. Coincidence spectra were obtained by direct visual observations and manual recording of the individual coincidence signals on a digital storage oscilloscope triggered by the SL signal. Two different data acquisition modes (29) were tested. For mode 1 operation, at a low bias voltage for the PMT, it was conclusively determined that no false SL activity occurred during PNG operation, and that coincidence between SL and scintillator signals repeatedly took place for cavitated C_3D_6O at $\sim 0^\circ C$ but not for the control liquid. An example of data traces for tests with C_3D_6O showing coincidence between the SL flash and the scintillator pulse, and the subsequent microphone response, is shown in Fig. 5A. No such coincidence, followed by microphone traces, was seen for tests with the control liquid C_3H_6O . However, data acquisition with this mode of operation was slow, because many genuine SL signals were rejected as well. In the second mode of operation (mode 2), the bias voltage to the PMT was increased, resulting in some spurious SL signals generated during PNG operation (25, 29). However, this effect was easily accommodated by taking data with and without cavitation, leaving all other parameters the same, and then subtracting the coincidence data taken without cavitation from those taken with cavitation. Figure 5B displays typical coincidence data spectra taken in mode 2 of operation with C_3D_6O and C_3H_6O (30). Figure 5, C and D, display the actual counts with cavitation and background counts with PNG operation only. Data gathered in this mode were binned in 2- μs bins before and after the PMT signal. The experiments were repeated several times, with sim-

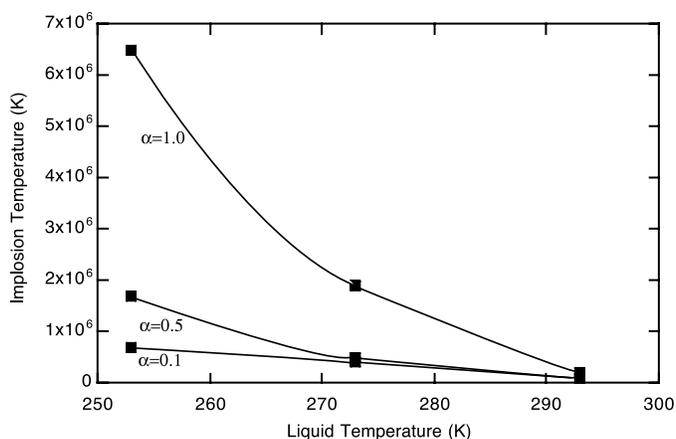
ilar results. Coincidence data taken for each time bin were obtained with and without cavitation (keeping the PNG on in both cases). Counts taken without cavitation (that is, those that occurred during PNG operation, which were all random or false) were subtracted from counts taken with cavitation over the same recording interval. Only for tests with C_3D_6O at $\sim 0^\circ C$, a sharp peak in net coincidences occurred in the 0- to 2- μs interval on either side of the PMT (SL) signal, after which the coincidence events tapered off to within 1 SD (29). No such peaking of coincidences was seen for the control fluid (C_3H_6O). Similar data for C_3D_6O were obtained at $\sim 19^\circ$ and $\sim 21^\circ C$. At these temperatures, there was more evaporation and less condensation; as a result, the bubble collapse was less intense, and the number of coincidences was sharply reduced, as seen in Fig. 5B. The influence of random coincidences between SL and scintillator flash signals in the region of bubble collapse was estimated to be insignificant (30).

Results obtained with C_3D_6O , using MCA time spectrum data (Fig. 5E) and two different modes of data acquisition, show that PS or LS signals detecting penetrating nuclear radiation were coincident with the PMT signals detecting SL light emission during bubble implosion. Such data were not seen in the control tests with C_3H_6O .

Measurement of 2.5-MeV neutrons in this environment is difficult because of the background of 14-MeV pulsed neutrons and associated gamma rays from the PNG. Independent attempts to reproduce the neutron data using a different detection system and electronics yielded smaller neutron emission and no evidence for real coincidences between SL and neutron events (31). Indeed, in this independent experiment, the analysis of the singles count rates indicated that the coincidences observed may be random in nature. Additional analysis was done (32), but further measurements are required to understand the difference between these two sets of observations.

The analysis of bubble implosion. To obtain an estimate of the implosive collapse conditions and to help understand the observed experimental data trends, we developed a one-dimensional hydrodynamic shock (HYDRO) code [see Web Supplement 2 (25)] to numerically evaluate the conservation equations of each phase during bubble growth and collapse. This code includes the Mie-Grüneisen equations of state (33) and Born-Mayer potential functions (33), which are known to be valid for highly compressed fluids (34). In particular, for acetone these equations of state are based on the shock wave adiabat data of Trunin *et al.* (35), and they implicitly specify the effect of the induced radiation field and the dissociation and

Fig. 6. Predicted variation of implosion gas temperatures with liquid pool temperature and phase change coefficient. Implosion gas temperatures are quoted for radial locations close to, but not at, the center of the bubble and correspond to the location where neutron production is a maximum [Web supplement 2 (25)]. The gas temperatures at the centerline can be much higher.



ionization processes that take place during plasma formation within imploding bubbles. Moreover, relevant energy losses and the effect of both molecular and electron/ion conductivity were taken into account, and the resultant HYDRO code [see Web Supplement 2 (25)] allowed for the evaluation of shock wave interaction using the well-established Godunov numerical technique.

Bubble dynamics were studied in C_3D_6O for conditions typical of those in our experiments. It was found that highly compressed conditions suitable for thermonuclear fusion were predicted, and, as can be seen in Fig. 6, the results were sensitive to the values of the phase change (that is, accommodation) coefficient, α , and the liquid pool temperature T_o . The reason why there is a strong sensitivity to T_o is that at low temperatures there is less evaporation and more condensation of the vapor during bubble expansion and compression, respectively, which in turn reduces the cushioning effect of the compressed vapor during implosions. Similarly, larger values of α yield more condensation and thus more intense vapor compression. Interestingly, it is difficult to expose water (as opposed to organic fluids such as acetone) to large underpressures without having premature cavitation. Moreover, D_2O has a relatively low value (36–38) of α (~ 0.075) as compared to C_3D_6O , for which $\alpha \sim 1.0$ (39). Thus, C_3D_6O appears to be a better test fluid than heavy water.

To obtain an estimate of the D-D fusion neutron production rate, we may evaluate the fusion neutron kinetics equations and fusion cross sections (40, 41) over a range of uncertain parameters to arrive at reasonable estimates for the neutron production rate, varying from $\sim 10^{-2}$ to 10 neutrons per implosion [see Web supplement 2 (25)]. Direct photographic evidence of the bubble clusters suggests that there were about 1000 bubbles in each bubble cluster in our experiments. Since up to 50 implosions/s were observed during our experiments, the HYDRO code (25, 42) predictions yielded neutron production rates ranging from about 10^3 to 10^6 neutrons/s, which is qualitatively consistent with the estimates from the T production rate, and the fusion neutrons measured in our experiments.

Many modeling assumptions were necessarily made in the HYDRO code, such as the equations of state, the use of an effective temperature to approximate the behavior of the electrons and ions in the plasma [Web supplement 2 (25)], the relevant energy losses, and various mechanisms for shock wave intensification (43, 44). In particular, a roughly 10-fold increase in the external driving pressure was used in the calculations (25, 42) to appropriately account for the effect of pressure intensification within the imploding bubble clusters. More realistic plasma phys-

ics, nuclear physics, and thermal-hydraulic models can and should be developed for future applications. Nevertheless, the predicted trends and basic physical phenomena that have been modeled agree with our experimental observations.

The observation of statistically significant T activity increases only in chilled ($\sim 0^\circ C$) cavitated C_3D_6O , coupled with evidence for neutron emissions in chilled cavitated C_3D_6O , and the absence of neutron emissions and T production in irradiated control tests with C_3H_6O , complemented by confirmatory modeling and HYDRO code simulations, suggest the possibility of D-D fusion during acoustic cavitation experiments with C_3D_6O (45).

References and Notes

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- The Bicon BC404 PS has dimensions of 5 cm by 2.5 cm; the Elscint LS has dimensions of 5 cm by 5 cm. The test cell (a Pyrex flask ~ 65 mm in diameter and ~ 200 cm high, with a PZT driver) was designed, fabricated, and set up at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) for the experiments.
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- Web supplements 1 and 2 are available on Science Online at www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/295/5561/1868/DC1.
- The 2.5-MeV proton recoil edge was determined by using cobalt-60 and cesium-137 monoenergetic gamma ray sources (24). For a 255-channel energy scale, the 2.5-MeV threshold was found to lie around channel 40, and the 14-MeV shoulder around channel 110. The efficiency of detection was determined to be $\sim 5 \times 10^{-3}$ for a 2×10^6 neutron/s Pu-Be isotope source positioned near the face of the LS detector. This efficiency, corrected for the actual distance (~ 5 to 7 cm) of the LS detector from the cavitation region, gives an estimated efficiency of ~ 1 to 2×10^{-4} .
- Microphones were attached to the outside of the flask on diametrically opposite sides. The frequency of bubble-burst generation varied from ~ 15 to 35 or more bursts/s, depending on the state of tuning. Shock traces from individual bubble bursts lasted for ~ 5 ms.
- A Beckman LS6500 scintillation counter, calibrated to detect 5- to 18-keV beta ray decays from T, was used.
- SL detection with the PMT (a Hamamatsu R212 with 2-ns rise time) varied strongly with the bias voltage. At ~ 300 V, about one SL flash every 10 s was detected, whereas about one to five SL flashes/s were detected at a ~ 450 -V bias. The PNG operation caused pseudo SL flashes to occur during the time of neutron production only with ~ 450 -V bias voltage; the time spectrum (25) of SL flashes indicated that about 30% of the recorded SL flashes occurred during PNG operation.
- The acoustic chamber was a high-Q system and as such required continuous tuning for optimal performance and bubble implosion occurrence. Time to obtain 100 coincidence data points as shown in Fig. 5B averaged about 30 min. Standard deviation was computed by taking the square root of the sum of the counts in each time bin. From the MCA time spectrum, we calculate an instantaneous rate of ~ 1 to 50 neutrons and gamma rays per second during the time of bubble implosion and SL light emission. For a 20- μ s time window, and a rate of about one SL flash/s for a coincidence gathering time of ~ 1600 s, the number of random coincidences was calculated to be negligible [$(20 \times 10^{-6}) \times (1$ to $50) \times 1 \times 1600 \sim (0.03$ to $1.6)$]. In mode 2 operation, data were obtained on a two-channel 500-MHz scope. Simultaneous time spectra data were not possible to obtain for SL and scintillator signals. These were obtained separately with an MCA (25) under identical mode 2 coincidence experimental conditions and revealed insignificant deviation from run to run. These data were then used to estimate random coincidences. It was determined that coincidences occurring during the time of PNG operation would all be random. However, as discussed earlier in this note, the random coincidences during bubble implosion appear to be insignificant.
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- Sponsorship of this research by the U.S. Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency is gratefully acknowledged. We thank D. Steiner of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and D. Shapira of ORNL for critical reviews and valuable feedback with constructive comments. We also wish to acknowledge the efforts made by the staff of the Baskortostan Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences regarding the HYDRO code simulations; in particular, I. Akhatov, R. Bolotnova, N. Vakhitova, A. Topolnikov, and K. Zakirov.

31 October 2001; accepted 30 January 2002