



Figure 2— Comparison of growth rates α from simulations and the bubble model of [1]. Open circles represent the bubble merger cases that are insensitive to initial amplitudes.

from experiments and numerical simulations; experiments have reported α values that are higher by 100% than the values obtained from numerical simulations. This is because numerical simulations are initialized with a narrow-band annular spectrum, and consequently evolve according to (a), while experiments have a broadband distribution of modes, imposed due to laboratory conditions, and evolve through (b). These ideas may be used in devising effective control strategies for the turbulent RT flow.

[1] Guy Dimonte, *Phys. Rev. E* **69**, 056305 (2004).

[2] Guy Dimonte et al., *Phys. Fluids* **16**, 1668 (2004).

[3] P. Ramaprabhu, Guy Dimonte, and M.J. Andrews (submitted to *J. Fluid Mech.*).

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