**Analysis of turbulence on cylinder with additional fairing with free surface**

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Abstract

In this study, two dimensional unsteady flow of cylinder and cylinder with additional fairing close to a free surface was numerically investigated. The governing momentum equations were solved by using the Semi Implicit Method for Pressure Linked Equations(SIMPLE). The Volume of Fluid(VOF) method applied to simulate a free surface. Non- uniform grid structures were used in the simulation with denser grids near the cylinder. Under the conditions of Reynolds number 150624, 210874, 210874 and 331373, the cylinders were simulated with different depths of invasion. It was shown that the flow characteristics were influenced by submergence depth and Reynolds numbers. When the cylinder close to the free surface, the drag coefficient, lift coefficient and Strouhal numbers will increase due to the effect of free liquid surface on vortex shedding. With additional fairing, can effectively reduce the influence of the free surface on the drag coefficient. Fairing will reduce lift coefficient at high Reynolds numbers, but increase lift coefficient when Reynolds numbers is small. Fairing can effectively reduce Strouhal numbers, thus can well suppress the vortex induced vibration.

Key words: Numerical simulation; computational fluid dynamics (CFD); volume of fluid; free surface of liquid

1.Introduction

In many ocean engineering, shipbuilding engineering, etc., the phenomenon of fluid pressure and atmosphere communication is widespread. In actual engineering, deep-sea drilling, underwater oil and gas pipelines will all affect the surrounding flow field under the action of free liquid surface. Due to the effect of wind load in the entire field, the phenomenon of air inhalation and bubble collapse of the cylinder in the flow field, the study of the hydrodynamic characteristics of the free surface structure has become one of the research problems. Among them, the flow around a cylinder is one of the classic problems in hydrodynamics.

Researchers have achieved effective results on the problem of flow around a cylinder that ignores the phenomenon of free surface motion under the condition of low Reynolds number, and the related problems of high Reynolds number are still being discussed and studied. In 1961, A. Roshko [1] conducted a flow experiment around a cylinder under a high Reynolds number (106<Re<107) in a wind tunnel, and found that when Re>3.5×106, the drag coefficient tends to a constant 0.7 and St is stable at 0.27 In 1964, Hseh obtained the relationship curve of the total resistance coefficient with the Fr number, that is, the resistance value reached the maximum when Fr was approximately equal to 1. In 1969, Bearman[2] conducted experiments on the vortex shedding phenomenon with Reynolds number in the range of 2×105<Re<5.5×105 in the circulating water tank, and measured the resistance, pulsating lift, St and other hydrodynamic parameters under different Reynolds numbers. In 1983, G. Schewe [3] conducted a wind tunnel experiment on the flow around a cylinder in the range of 2.3×104<Re<7.1×106 for the Reynolds number, and obtained a steep drop in the drag coefficient and an increase in the Steroha number. and other changes.

In 2003, Chaplin and Teigen found that the local resistance near the free surface is reduced. Yu [4], Suh [5], Graf [6], Kawamura [7] and others have carried out related numerical simulation studies, and also proved that when the Re number is less than 1.4×105, the drag coefficient at the liquid surface is less than 1.2.

In 2004, Chui-Jie Wu [8] used the dynamic boundary control technology to study the flow around a cylinder and found that the moving wave wall can effectively suppress the separation of the flow vortex around the cylinder and eliminate the oscillation wake. In 2005, Choi [9] found that the distribution of sinusoidal pressure with a specific phase angle in the span direction can significantly reduce the fluctuation of average drag and lift. In 2013, Wu Yucheng [10] studied the influence of the fairing on the flow field. Experimental results show that the fairing can improve the flow field and reduce the fluid resistance of the structure by more than 50%.

2.The numerical theory

2.1 The governing equations

The basic governing equations of fluid dynamics include continuity equation, momentum equation and energy conservation equation. In this paper, considering water medium as an incompressible fluid, while air medium had less effect on the results, and it can also be simplified as an ideal gas. Continuity equation and momentum conservation equation should be considered when setting parameters. Continuity equation and momentum conservation equation are given in Eq.1 and Eq.2.

 (1)

 ** (2)

***u***, *ρ, P* and *g* represent the velocity vector, fluid density, pressure and gravitational acceleration.

2.2 Turbulence model

*k*-*ε* model with two equations is the most widely used model for viscous flow. This model is further divided into standard k-ε model, RNG k-ε model and Realizable *k*-*ε* model.

Standard *k*-*ε* model is formed by new equation of turbulence dissipation rate on the basis of the original single equation model. This model requires the flow field is assumed to be complete turbulence field. In this study, standard *k-ε* model was chosen. Turbulent kinetic energy equation and turbulent dissipation equation are given in Eq. (2) and Eq. (3).

 (3)

 (4)

$G\_{k}$, $G\_{b}$ represent turbulent kinetic energy due to mean velocity gradient, turbulent kinetic energy due to buoyancy. $σ\_{k}$ and $σ\_{ε}$ represent the turbulence Prandtl number corresponding to *k* and *ε*, $S\_{k}$ and $S\_{ε}$ are defined by user, $C\_{1ε}$, $C\_{2ε}$ and $C\_{3ε}$ are empirical constant.

2.3 Flow parameters

Drag coefficient is a dimensionless number of the effect of momentum transfer to the ground. Lift coefficient is a dimensionless coefficient that relates the lift force generated by a lift to the density of the nearby fluid, the fluid velocity, and the associated reference area. Those are important parameters in fluid flow analysis.

Calculations of the drag and lift coefficients on the cylinder surfaces are given in Eqs, (5), (6). Drag and lift forces are calculated by the viscous and pressure forces on the surfaces of the cylinders. The formulas are given in Eqs, (7), (8). The Strouhal number is given in Eq.(9).

(5)

 (6)

 (7)

 (8)

 (9)

In Eqs.(7),(8), fr, r, t and b represent the front. back, upper and lower surfaces of cylinders respectively, D represents characteristic length of the structure. In Eq.(9), f represents the vortex shedding frequency.

2.3 Numerical details

In order to compare the results with actual test results, the parameters we choice in this study all refer to the parameters used in the actual test.

The cylinder and the computational domain are shown in Fig1. The diameter of the cylinder(D) was 0.3048m, the distance between free surface and the center of the cylinder(H) was 1D; 2D; 3D; 4D and 5.5D. Cylinder with additional fairing and the computational domain are shown in Fig2, expect for changing the structure, other conditions are all same as the cylinder model does.



Fig.1. Computational domain for cylinder Fig.2. Computational domain for cylinder with additional

close to a free surface fairing close to a free surface

A non-uniform grid structure was used, grids around the cylinder and the fairing are presented in Fig.3 and Fig.4.

 

Fig.3.Grid around the cylinder Fig.4. Grid around the cylinder with addition fairing

Simulations were performed at the Reynolds numbers(Re) 150624, 210874, 271123, 331373. Inlet was set as velocity inlet, out let was set as outflow, all boundaries about air were set as symmetry, the structure and the lower boundary were set as wall. Multiphase model chose VOF model and viscous model chose standard *k*-*ε* model. SIMPLE algorithm is adopted for pressure velocity coupling, Least-Squares Cell Based interpolation algorithm was adopted, transient format was adopted Second order Implicit, pressure difference algorithm was adopted second order format, and momentum difference algorithm was adopted Second order format. All residual accuracy controls were set as 10-4.

1. Results and discussions
	1. Results of cylinder

3.1.1 Effect of submergence depth

Fig.5 presents the vorticity magnitude at various submergence depth for Re=331373, when H≥2D, the more cylinder close to the free surface, the more vortex shedding becomes intense. One the one hand, because of the influence of free surface, some vortices fall off before they develop into larger size vortices. When H=1D, free surface will affect the formation of vortices, as Fig.6(e) presenting, there are no vortices formed under this condition. On the other hand, it’s easy to generate waves when the cylinder close to the free surface and wave will affect vortex shedding.

   

1. (b) (c)

 

(d) (e)

Fig.5. Vorticity magnitude of the cylinder for (a) H/D=5, (b) H/D=4, (c) H/D=3, (d) H/D=3, (e) H/D=1

3.1.2 Effect of Reynolds number

Fig.6 presents the vorticity magnitude at different Reynolds number for H=4D, to clarify the effect of Reynolds number on the vorticity magnitude. As the value of Reynolds number increasing, the size of vortices become more big and the number of vortices increase.

 

(a) (b)

 

(c) (d)

Fig.6. Vorticity magnitude of the cylinder for (a) Re=150624 (b) Re= 210874 (c) Re= 210874, (d) Re=331373

3.1.3 Results of flow parameters on the cylinder

3.1.3.1 Drag coefficients

The variation of the mean drag coefficient on the cylinder with submergence depth is present in Fig.7 for different Reynolds number.

 

Fig.7 Variation of Cd of cylinder in different Reynolds number

As the H/D increases, the mean drag coefficient on the cylinder becomes smaller at all the Reynolds number. The value of Cd decrease more intense with higher Reynolds number, especially when H/D<3. Because when the cylinder close to the free surface, fluctuation and deformation of free surface will disturb the flow field around the cylinder, thus affect the drag force on the cylinder. When H/D≥3, as submergence depth increases, the influence of free surface become smaller.

The mean value of Cd increases as Reynolds number increases at all the submergence depth. Cd will increase sharply if the cylinder is very close to the free surface. As the H/D increase, the growth trend for Cd has slowed.

3.1.3.2 Lift coefficients

The variation of the root square(RMS) value of lift coefficient on the cylinder with submergence depth is present in Fig.8 for different Reynolds number.



Fig.8 Variation of Clrms of cylinder in different Reynolds number

The RMS value of lift coefficient will decrease as H/D increase at all the Reynolds number. When H/D<2, Clrms will decline acutely as H/D become bigger, when H/D≥2, the decline has moderated. Fig.9 clarify the dynamic pressure with different submergence depth for Re=331373. As Fig.9(e) clarify, the free surface will have a remarkable influence on the formation of upper cylinder pressure field, thus affect the lift coefficient, even the position of the maximum pressure has changed due to the effect of free surface. Another reason why the free surface will influence lift coefficient, lift force is caused by the pressure increases on the surface of the cylinder when the vortex shed from one side of the cylinder, resulting in the pressure difference in the transverse direction of the cylinder. So lift coefficient will affect by H/D because the free surface will influence vortex shedding.

As Reynolds number increases, the RMS value of Cl increases at all the submergence depth,. Clrms will increase sharply if the cylinder is very close to the free surface. As the H/D increase, the growth trend become slow.

  

1. (b) (c)

  

(d) (e)

Fig.9. Pressure contour of the cylinder for (a)H/D=5 (b) H/D=4 (c) H/D=3 (d) H/D=2 (e)H/D=1

3.1.3.3 Strouhal number

The variation of St number on the cylinder with submergence depth is present in Fig.10 for different Reynolds number.



Fig.10 Variation of St of cylinder in different Reynolds number

Strouhal number will not change with submergence depth at Re=150624 and Re=210874. With Re=271123 and Re=331373, Strouhal number will increase first and flatten out when H/D≥2. Between H/D=1 and H/D=2, the higher  Reynolds number is, the more drastic the change in Strouhal number. When H/D<2, as the submergence depth increase, the boundary layer thickness on the upper surface of the cylinder increases, the negative and positive vortices shedding become more smoothly. Due to this reason, Strouhal number increases. As the submergence depth increases when H/D≥2, the thickness of the boundaries on the upper and down surface of the cylinder becomes approximately the same, so the Strouhal number will no longer affect by submergence depth. This effect is obvious when the Reynolds number is large

3.2 Results of cylinder with addition fairing

3.1.1 Effect of submergence depth

Fig.11 presents the vorticity magnitude at various submergence depth for Re=331373. With additional fairing, there is no vortex shedding in the wake, so when H/D≥2, the free surface will have little effect on wake. But wake will also damage by waves when the fairing is too close to the free surface.

  

1. (b) (c)

 

 (d) (e)

Fig.11. Vorticity magnitude of the cylinder with additional fairing for (a) H/D=5, (b) H/D=4, (c) H/D=3, (d) H/D=3, (e) H/D=1

3.1.2 Effect of Reynolds number

Fig.12 presents the vorticity magnitude at different Reynolds number for H=4D, to clarify the effect of Reynolds number on the vorticity magnitude. When the Reynolds number is small, some small vortices can be observed in the wake. As the Reynolds number increases, the vortices gradually disappear.

 

1. (b)

 

(c) (d)

Fig.12. Vorticity magnitude of the cylinder for (a) Re=150624 (b) Re= 210874 (c) Re= 210874, (d) Re=331373

3.2.3 Results of flow parameters on the cylinder

3.2.3.1 Drag coefficients

The variation of the mean drag coefficient on the cylinder with additional fairing with submergence depth is present in Fig.13 for different Reynolds number.



Fig.13 Variation of Cd of cylinder with additional fairing in different Reynolds number

When H/D<2, as value of H/D increases, the Cd will decrease, when H/D≥2, Cd is hardly affected by the H/D value at all Reynolds number. Similar to the situation in the cylinder, the Cd will increase with the increase of the Reynolds number, but compare with Fig.7, the growth trend is obviously slower.

3.2.3.2 Lift coefficients

The variation of the RMS value of lift coefficient on the cylinder with additional fairing with submergence depth is present in Fig.14 for different Reynolds number.



Fig.14 Variation of Clrms of cylinder in different Reynolds number

When H/D<2, Clrms will decrease with H/D increases at all Reynolds number.When H/D≥2，Cl has a slight decrease when Re=150624 and Re=21087, remains stable at Re=271123 and Re=331373. At low Reynolds number, the free surface will promote the formation and shedding of vortices, so the Clrms will decline when submergence depth increase. With big Reynolds numbers, since there are no vortex shedding in the wake, the submergence depth will have limit effect on Clrms. As Fig.15 clarify, although there is no effect of vortex shedding, the free surface still has a great influence on the pressure field above the fairing, which in turn affects the lift coefficient.

  

1. (b) (c)

 

 (d) (e)

Fig.15. Pressure contour of the cylinder with additional fairing for (a)H/D=5 (b) H/D=4 (c) H/D=3 (d) H/D=2 (e)H/D=1

3.1.3.3 Strouhal number

The variation of St number on the cylinder with additional fairing with submergence depth is present in Fig.16 for different Reynolds number.



Fig.16 Variation of St of cylinder in different Reynolds number

When the fairing is close to the water surface, at low Reynolds number, the free surface will promote the formation and shedding of vortices, making Stouhal numbers increase. Therefore, for the low Reynolds number, H/D has a greater impact on Strouhal numbers. When H/D<2, the
Stouhal numbers will increase as H/D increase. When H/D≥2, as the submergence depth increases, the influence of the free surface decreases and the Strouhal numbers tends to stabilize. At a high Reynolds number, since there are no vortices, it has almost no effect on Strouhal numbers.

3.3 Comparison of the results of the two structures

3.3.1 Drag coefficient

The variation of the drag coefficient with submergence depth is present in Fig.17 for different structures.



1. (b)



(c) (d)

Fig.17 Variation of Cd of two different structure in (a) Re=150624 (b) Re= 210874 (c) Re= 210874, (d) Re=331373

The use of fairing can effectively reduce Cd, and the larger the Reynolds number, the more obvious the effect.The structure has little effect on Cd when it’s too close to the free surface, which is caused by the destruction of the free surface.

3.3.2 Lift coefficient

The variation of the RMS lift coefficient with submergence depth is present in Fig.18 for different structures.



1. (b)



(c) (d)

Fig.18 Variation of Clrms of two different structure in (a) Re=150624 (b) Re= 210874 (c) Re= 210874, (d) Re=331373

At low Reynolds number, the Clrms of the cylinder is smaller than that of the fairing. When the Reynolds number is low, there is still vortex shedding in the wake of the fairing, and the vortices in the wake are more big and further away from the center line compare with those in cylinder’s wake, which cause bigger Clrms. As the Reynolds number increases, there is no vortex shedding in the wake of the fairing, Clrms will become smaller than the cylinder at all value of H/D.

3.3.3 Strouhal number

The variation of the Strouhal number with submergence depth is present in Fig.19 for different structures.



1. (b)



1. (d)

Fig.19 Variation of St of two different structure in (a) Re=150624 (b) Re= 210874 (c) Re= 210874, (d) Re=331373

The St value is smaller for cylinder with additional fairing, it indicates that the frequency of vortex shedding is lower under this condition when the Reynolds number and characteristic length are the same. This is because the fairing suppresses the interaction of the shear layers on both sides to a certain extent, thereby suppressing the vortices that alternately shed off. It can be seen that the additional fairing can well suppress the vortex induced vibration.

1. Conclusion

In this study, the flow around cylinder and cylinder with additional fairing placed in a free surface channel was investigated numerically. When the cylinder close to the free surface, the drag coefficient will increase, and the larger the Reynolds number, the more obvious this trend. After attaching the fairing, when H/D≥2, the free surface has a relatively small effect on the drag coefficient, and when the Reynolds number is high, the fairing has a significant effect on reducing the drag coefficient of the cylinder. The lift coefficient will also increase as the cylinder close to the free surface. In the case of high Reynolds number, the additional fairing can reduce the lift coefficient, but in the case of low Reynolds number, it will increase the lift coefficient conversely. When the Reynolds number is low, H/D has no obvious effect on the Strouhal number of the cylinder, but under high Reynolds number, when H/D<2, Strouhal number will increase as the increase of H/D, and the larger the Reynolds number , the increasing trend is more obvious. With the addition of the fairing, H/D has a small effect on Strouhal number under high Reynolds number, and has a greater effect under low Reynolds number. The fairing can reduce Strouhal number at all Reynolds number, which can effectively suppress vortex induced vibration. The main reason for these phenomena is that free surface breaks the vortex shedding, with additional fairing, there’s less vortex shedding in wake, so the free surface will have influence on drag coefficient and Strouhal number. At low Reynolds number, due to the vortex in the wake, the lift coefficient of the fairing is larger than that of the cylinder. As the Reynolds number increases, the vortex disappears, and the lift coefficient of the fairing is gradually smaller than that of the cylinder.

Data Availability

The data that support the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.

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