LAMINAR FLOW PAST AN OSCILLATING CIRCULAR CYLINDER IN CROSS FLOW

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Key words: oscillating cylinder, vortex shedding, wake structure, drag, lift.

ABSTRACT

The present study numerically investigates the two-dimensional laminar flow past a circular cylinder forced to oscillate transverse to the free-stream. The numerical simulations are performed at a various range of cylinder oscillation frequency ranged between 0.8 and 1.2 of the natural vortex shedding frequency, and the oscillation amplitude extended up to 50% of the cylinder diameter at one Reynolds number of 185 showing the typical two-dimensional vortex shedding. The immersed boundary method is used to handle the oscillating cylinder in a rectangular grid system using the finite volume method. The primary vortex shedding frequency has the same value with the exciting frequency. When the exciting frequency exceeds the natural vortex shedding frequency, the secondary vortex shedding frequency appeared with the value less than the natural shedding frequency. The time sequence of the wake structures near the cylinder at the extreme upper position reveals that a single vortex or a pair of vortices appears according to the time. A pair of vortices is composed of two saddle points and two centers of vortices, showing the occurrence of vortex switching phenomenon. The quantitative information about the flow variables such as the distribution of wall vorticity on the cylinder surface, drag and lift coefficients is highlighted.

I. INTRODUCTION

There are extensive literatures on the flow over a cylinder

as it is an important problem for academic and engineering purposes. Building on our understanding of a single stationary cylinder, many researchers have focused on multiple stationary or oscillating cylinders. The tube bundle for heat exchangers is an example of multiple cylinders and some of them experience flow-induced vibrations. Also, oscillating cylinders in cross or stationary flow are frequently observed in offshore structures and power cables that are accompanied with fluid-structure interactions.

Flow past a single oscillating cylinder has been researched by plenty of previous investigators. Toebe [11], Ongoren & Rockwell [10], Williamson & Roshko [12] and Gu *et al.* [4] studied experimentally, and Meneghini & Bearman [9], Lu & Dalton [8], Blackburn & Henderson [3], Anagnostopoulos [1, 2] and Guilmineau & Queutey [5] investigated numerically. Consequently, these researches have greatly contributed to providing a better understanding of the flow characteristics governed by the amplitude and frequency of the oscillation.

Ongoren and Rockwell [10] experimentally showed that the switch of vortex formation position occurs according to the oscillation frequency. Namely, for frequencies of oscillation above the natural shedding frequency, the vortex formed on one side of the cylinder was shed on the opposite side when the cylinder reaches the maximum amplitude of oscillation. As the oscillation frequency is smaller than the natural shedding frequency, the vortex is shed when the cylinder reaches the maximum amplitude on the same side.

Williamson and Roshko [12] experimentally analyzed the wake patterns behind an oscillating cylinder at low Reynolds number. They described vortices' formation and shedding in detail along with the moving cylinder. In the fundamental lock-in region oscillating cylinder sheds four vortices each cycle. They classified the wake patterns with sign 'P' for a vortex pair and 'S' for a single vortex. Below a critical trajectory wave length, cylinder creates 2S mode of the Karman street type. If the wave length is increased over a critical value, the cylinder sheds two like-signed vortices pairs (2P mode).

Gu *et al.* [4] experimentally investigated the flow over an oscillating cylinder for two Reynolds numbers of 185 and 5,000. The frequency ratios, which are defined as an oscillating frequency over a natural vortex shedding frequency of the fixed cylinder, range from 0.8 to 1.2. As the frequency

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ratio increases, the vortex formation length decreases and if the frequency ratio goes over 1.12, the switch of vortex formation position occurs and persists up to frequency ratio of 1.2.

Lu & Dalton [8] and Guilmineau & Queutey [5] numerically simulated the flow over an oscillating cylinder at $Re = 185$ to reproduce the experimental results of Gu *et al.* [4]. They also observed the vortex switching phenomenon and explained it with detailed numerical data such as the distribution of vorticity along the cylinder and the drag and lift coefficients.

Anagnostopoulos [1, 2] conducted a numerical study of flow past a cylinder forced to oscillate transversely to the incident stream at $Re = 106$. Their numerical results also confirmed the switch in timing of vortex shedding observed in experimental studies. When the switch in timing of vortex shedding occurs, the flow is aperiodic at subsequent cycles. This aperiodicity is initiated by an instability in the near-wake, due to the coexistence of two saddle points in the streamline pattern, in the instant when the cylinder displacement becomes maximum.

As reviewed above, each effect of the amplitude and frequency of the oscillation on the flow has been quite well established by numerous researches, resulting in greatly improving the understanding of the flow characteristics.

Thus, this study aims at providing the detail quantitative information about the flow variables such as the drag and lift coefficients, shedding frequency, and wall vorticity distributions on the cylinder in the wide range of the amplitude and frequency of the oscillation.

II. NUMERICAL APPROACH

The immersed boundary method is used to simulate two-dimensional flow past an oscillating circular cylinder. Therefore, the governing equations describing unsteady incompressible viscous flow field in the present study are the momentum and continuity equations:

$$\frac{\partial u_i}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial u_i u_j}{\partial x_j} = -\frac{\partial p}{\partial x_i} + \frac{1}{Re} \frac{\partial^2 u_i}{\partial x_j^2} + f_i \quad (1)$$

$$\frac{\partial u_i}{\partial x_i} - q = 0 \quad (2)$$

where x_i are Cartesian coordinates, u_i are the corresponding velocity components, t is the time, and p is the pressure. The momentum forcing f_i and mass source/sink q are applied on the body surface or inside the body to satisfy the no-slip condition and mass conservation in the cell containing the immersed boundary.

All the variables are nondimensionalized by the cylinder diameter D and free stream velocity U_∞ . The above nondimensionalization results in a dimensionless parameter of

Fig. 1. (a) Schematic diagram of computational domain and coordinate system along with boundary conditions, and (b) mesh near a cylinder.

$Re = U_\infty D / \nu$. The Reynolds number of $Re = 185$ is considered in this study.

A finite volume method is used in the present study where the second-order two-step fractional step method is employed for time advancement. The scheme was used previously by Kim and Moin [7] and Zang *et al.* [15]. The nonlinear terms are treated explicitly using second-order Adams-Bashforth scheme and diffusion terms are treated implicitly using Crank-Nicolson scheme. The central difference scheme with the second-order accuracy based on the finite volume method is used for the spatial discretization. Additionally, a second-order linear or bilinear interpolation scheme is applied to satisfy the no-slip condition on the immersed boundary. Further details of the immersed-boundary method are given in Kim *et al.* [6].

Figure 1 shows the computational domain, coordinates system and grid distribution near the cylinder. The size of computational domain is $-40 \leq x \leq 50$ and $-40 \leq y \leq 40$ for the streamwise and transverse directions, respectively. At the inflow and far-field boundaries, the Dirichlet boundary conditions, $u = 1$ and $v = 0$, are enforced. The convective bound-

ary condition, $\partial u_i / \partial t + c \partial u_i / \partial x = 0$, is applied at the outflow boundary, where c is the space-averaged exit velocity.

As shown in Fig. 1, the trajectory of cylinder center along y direction is imposed as $y_{cyl}(t) = -A_e \sin(2\pi f_e t)$ based on Guilmineau & Queutey [5]'s study, where A_e is oscillating amplitude and f_e is the exciting frequency. The oscillation amplitude normalized by the cylinder diameter has changed in four cases having the values 0.2, 0.3, 0.4 and 0.5. The frequency ratio, $f_r = f_e / f_o$, where f_o is the natural shedding frequency of a fixed cylinder at $Re = 185$, ranges from 0.8 to 1.2.

The number of total grid points used is $483(x) \times 451(y)$. The grids are nonuniformly distributed near the cylinder, especially the wake region to accurately capture the separating shear layers around the cylinder and in order to account for the high gradients near the surfaces. 80×80 grid points are uniformly distributed inside the cylinder while a hyperbolic tangent distribution is in the outer regions. Figure 1(b) shows the typical grid distribution near the cylinder. In order to consider the variation of the amplitude of oscillation, the number of grid points used in the y direction is tuned to maintain the dense resolution near the cylinder. Consequently, grid independence of the solution has been confirmed with additional simulations on the finer grids ($683(x) \times 621(y)$) changing the body forces by less than 0.1%. The condition of $CFL < 0.15$ is chosen to determine the nondimensional time step used in the present calculations.

The computations were advanced in time until it was observed that the drag and lift coefficients have reached a statistically stationary state. The effect of calculation time on the fully developed state has been examined using the different initial conditions. Although the simulations start with the different initial conditions, the fully developed steady or periodic flows are reached after about 100 time units. Every computation is extended to $t \geq 200$ to minimize the effect of calculation time on the final flow state.

The present numerical method has been adopted to simulate flows past a rotating circular cylinder and around two stationary circular cylinders of the same diameter in a side-by-side arrangement by Yoon *et al.* [14] & [13]. Consequently, the results obtained by the present method gave a good agreement with those of previous researches (Yoon *et al.* [14] & [13]), which confirms the reliability of the present numerical method. Also, the present results for the oscillating cylinder are in good agreement with those of previous studies, which will be appeared in the part of results and discussion.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The time histories of drag and lift coefficients (C_D and C_L) at the different oscillating amplitudes for f_r of 0.8 and 1 are plotted in the left and right column of Fig. 2, respectively. Even if A_e/D changes in the range from 0.2 to 0.5, the dependence of the time histories of C_D and C_L on the f_r within the limits considered in this study is generally the same as follows.

Fig. 2. Time histories of drag and lift coefficients at $f_r = 0.8$ (left column) and $f_r = 1.0$ (right column) for different A_e/D s: (a) $A_e/D = 0.2$, (b) $A_e/D = 0.3$, (c) $A_e/D = 0.4$, (d) $A_e/D = 0.5$.

When $f_r \leq 1$, C_D and C_L are time-dependent and regularly repeated in a periodic fashion regardless of A_e/D . However, the amplitude of the time histories of C_D and C_L has the dependence on f_r and also A_e/D at the fixed f_r .

To clarify the frequency of the vortex shedding, the power spectra of the time histories of C_L at different A_e/D s for different f_r s are displayed in Fig. 4. In the cases of $f_r = 0.8$ and 1, the power spectra of the time histories of C_L show clearly that a single frequency is the same as that of the cylinder oscillating frequency as shown in Figs. 4(a) and 4(b), respectively.

The time histories of C_D and C_L at the different oscillating amplitudes for f_r s of 1.1 and 1.2 are plotted in the left and right columns of Fig. 3, respectively. Here, only the cases of $f_r = 1.1$ and 1.2 among $f_r > 1$ are presented to show clearly the effect of exciting frequency on the evolution of the drag and lift forces at the different A_e/D s. When $f_r > 1$, the time traces of C_D and C_L become modulated but shows beats for all oscillating amplitudes.

The power spectra of C_L at different A_e/D s for $f_r = 1.1$ and 1.2 are shown in Figs. 4(c) and 4(d), respectively. These power spectra show the dominant nondimensional primary frequency of 1 with harmonics and indicate a lot of vortices activities with the presence of low frequency oscillations in the C_L signal as shown in Fig. 3.

Fig. 3. Time histories of drag and lift coefficients at $f_r = 1.1$ (left column) and $f_r = 1.2$ (right column) for different A_e/D s: (a) $A_e/D = 0.2$, (b) $A_e/D = 0.3$, (c) $A_e/D = 0.4$, (d) $A_e/D = 0.5$.

The dependence of the time traces of C_D and C_L on A_e/D and f_r obtained from the present study is consistent with the findings of previous studies ([1, 2, 5, 8]) even with the different Reynolds numbers.

In order to clarify the dependence of the shedding frequency (f_s) defined by the frequency of C_L shown in Fig. 4 on the A_e/D and f_r , the normalized f_s by the natural shedding frequency is plotted together as a function of the f_r for different A_e/D s in Fig. 5, where $f_{s,P}$ and $f_{s,S}$ are the primary and secondary frequencies of f_s , respectively. For all the A_e/D s, the primary frequency has the same value with the exciting frequency (f_e). In other word, $f_{s,P}$ is the linear relation with f_r , regardless of A_e/D . When f_r exceeds 1, the secondary frequency for all the A_e/D s appears with the value less than the natural shedding frequency. For $A_e/D = 0.2$, in the range of $1 \leq f_r \leq 1.2$, $f_{s,S}$ has almost the same value with about 5% less than that of f_o . In the cases of $A_e/D = 0.3, 0.4$ and 0.5 , the value of $f_{s,S}$ rapidly decreases and distributes in the narrow range of 85%~87% of f_o .

Figure 6 shows the instantaneous vorticity contours at different A_e/D s for $f_r = 0.8$ and 1.0 when the oscillating cylinder is at the uppermost position. When the frequency ratio is fixed, the formation of vortices in the wake region for the different A_e/D s is generally identical. Also the spacing of vortices with different signs almost keeps in both the longitu-

Fig. 4. Power spectra as a function of the frequency ratio (f_s/f_e) for different A_e/D s: (a) $f_r = 0.8$, (b) $f_r = 1.0$, (c) $f_r = 1.1$, (d) $f_r = 1.2$.

Fig. 5. Normalized vortex shedding frequency f_s by the natural shedding frequency f_0 as a function of f_r for different A_e/D s, where $f_{s,p}$ and $f_{s,s}$ are the primary and secondary frequencies of f_s , respectively.

Fig. 6. Instantaneous vorticity contours at the extreme upper position for $f_r = 0.8$ (left column) and $f_r = 1.0$ (right column) for different A_e/D s: (a) $A_e/D = 0.2$, (b) $A_e/D = 0.3$, (c) $A_e/D = 0.4$, (d) $A_e/D = 0.5$.

dinal and lateral directions regardless of the variation of A_e/D . However, as A_e/D increases, the vortices more incline and elongate along the lateral direction.

When A_e/D is fixed, the longitudinal distance of vortices becomes shorter and consequently the vorticities are much concentrated near the rear of cylinder with increasing f_r . Contrary to the longitudinal spacing of vortices, the lateral

Fig. 7. Time sequence of eight streamlines at the extreme upper position during one period of lift coefficient for $f_r = 1.1$ at $A_e/D = 0.2$. Here, the corresponding instant is marked in the plot of time history of lift coefficient and the trajectory of cylinder center (C_L and y_{cyl}).

spacing of vortices with different signs becomes wider with increasing f_r .

Representatively, for $f_r = 1.1$ at $A_e/D = 0.2$, the time sequence of eight instantaneous streamlines at the upper position during eight oscillating period of cylinder are plotted in Fig. 7. As expected from Fig. 3 showing that the time histories of C_D and C_L lost the regular periodicity but showed beats for all oscillating amplitudes, it can be clearly identified that the vortex formation in the wake depends on the time even though the cylinder locates at the same position.

When the cylinder locates at the extreme upper position during the eight oscillating period of cylinder, the wake structures near the rear of cylinder are composed of a single vortex

Fig. 8. Instantaneous vorticity contours at the extreme upper position at $f_r = 1.1$ (left column) and $f_r = 1.2$ (right column) for different A_e/D s: (a) $A_e/D = 0.2$, (b) $A_e/D = 0.3$, (c) $A_e/D = 0.4$, (d) $A_e/D = 0.5$.

or a pair of vortices. Especially, Figs. 7(f) and 7(g) show clearly two saddle points and two centers of vortices, which is the one of the criterions for the occurrence of vortex switching phenomenon ([5, 8]). These coexistence of two saddle points and two centers of vortices result in the instability in the wake or aperiodicity.

Figure 8 shows the instantaneous vorticity contours for $f_r = 1.1$ and 1.2 at different A_e/D s when the oscillating cylinder is at the extreme upper position. When f_r exceeds the natural shedding frequency of 1, the vertical shear layers induced by the cylinder oscillating reduce the strength of upper and lower vorticities and limit the vorticity evolution in the free stream direction. Consequently, the upper vorticity becomes smaller in the longitudinal direction. The longitudinal spacing between the vorticities in the wake region decreases. Successively, near the wake, the series of vorticities with different signs more concentrate than the cases of lower f_r .

As A_e/D increases at the fixed f_r , the negative vorticity shed from the upper surface elongates more along the cylinder surface. Although A_e/D increases, the longitudinal spacing between the vorticities in the wake region keeps about the same. Also, the upper negative vorticity increases in strength and concentration. The effect of the frequency ratio on this flow pattern is in full agreement with the experimental results by Ongoren & Rockwell [10] and Gu *et al.* [4] who showed that an increase in the longitudinal spacing of the vortices in the near-wake is observed with decreasing frequency ratio.

Figure 9 shows the distribution of time-averaged wall vor-

Fig. 9. Time-averaged wall vorticity along the cylinder surface at the extreme upper position for different A_e/D s: (a) $f_r = 0.8$, (b) $f_r = 1.0$, (c) $f_r = 1.1$, (d) $f_r = 1.2$.

ticity ($\overline{\omega_w}$) around the cylinder surface for different oscillating amplitude at four different frequency ratios. As f_r corresponding to the cylinder oscillatory velocity increases, the base vorticity increases significantly in strength and size, which has been observed in between the cylinder surface and the upper negative vorticity as early shown in Figs. 6 and 8. Especially, for $f_r = 1.2$, this base vorticity covers the wide range of $0 \leq \theta < 60$ and $290 < \theta \leq 360$ as shown in Fig. 9(d).

Owing to this base vorticity, the upper vorticity diminishes in the longitudinal evolution or length and strength with increasing f_r . Also, this upper negative vorticity depends on the oscillatory amplitude, leading to the augment of the magnitude and size with increasing A_e/D at the fixed f_r .

The time-averaged drag coefficient ($\overline{C_D}$) and root-mean-square (RMS) values of drag and lift coefficients (C_{Drms} and C_{Lrms}) as a function of frequency ratio for four different oscillating amplitudes are plotted in Figs. 10(a), 10(b) and 10(c), respectively.

For $A_e/D = 0.2$, present results of $\overline{C_D}$, C_{Drms} and C_{Lrms} agree well with those of Guilmineau & Queutey [10]. The value of $\overline{C_D}$ increases with increasing f_r up to 1 where $\overline{C_D}$ has a maximum. When f_r reaches to 1.1, $\overline{C_D}$ decreases quickly and further increasing f_r , it slightly decreases.

In the cases of $A_e/D = 0.3, 0.4$ and 0.5 , the variation of $\overline{C_D}$ depending on the frequency ratio is about the same pattern as follows. The increasing behavior of $\overline{C_D}$ in the $0.8 \leq f_r \leq 1$ is the same pattern with case of $A_e/D = 0.2$. Also, the peak of $\overline{C_D}$ for these A_e/D s appears at $f_r = f_o = 1$. When f_r reaches to 1.1, $\overline{C_D}$ diminishes rapidly. In contrast to $A_e/D = 0.2$, when f_r exceeds 1.1, $\overline{C_D}$ increases again as shown in Fig. 10(a).

For $A_e/D = 0.2$, C_{Drms} increases until f_r reaches 1.1 where it has a maximum, further increasing f_r , it slightly decreases. In the cases of $A_e/D = 0.3, 0.4$ and 0.5 , the dependence of C_{Drms} on f_r is the same with the case of $\overline{C_D}$, which can be identified by comparing between Fig. 10(a) and Fig. 10(b).

The C_{Lrms} shows the different behavior along the f_r with that of $\overline{C_D}$ and C_{Drms} , which can be proved by comparing between Figs. 10(a-b) and Fig. 10(c). For $A_e/D = 0.2$, C_{Lrms} increases with increasing f_r . When f_r reaches 1.1, C_{Lrms} rapidly increases, resulting in the steep slope. As f_r increases continuously, C_{Lrms} slightly augments. When A_e/D increases, the dependence of C_{Lrms} on the range of f_r is significant. In the range of $0.8 \leq f_r \leq 1$, as A_e/D increases, C_{Lrms} profile changes from the linear to the parabolic pattern. Eventually, for $A_e/D = 0.5$, the minimum of C_{Lrms} appears at $f_r = 0.95$.

In the range of $0.8 \leq f_r \leq 1$, the value of C_{Lrms} diminishes with increasing A_e/D at fixed f_r . In contrast, when f_r is larger than 1, C_{Lrms} increases with increasing A_e/D at fixed f_r .

Fig. 10. Time-averaged drag coefficient ($\overline{C_D}$) and root-mean-square (RMS) values of drag and lift coefficients (C_{Drms} , C_{Lrms}) as a function of frequency ratio for four different oscillating amplitudes: (a) $\overline{C_D}$, (b) C_{Drms} , (c) C_{Lrms} . For $A_e/D = 0.2$, present results are compared with those of Guilmineau & Queutey (2002).

IV. CONCLUSION

The present study has numerically investigated the char-

acteristics of two-dimensional laminar flow past a circular cylinder forced to oscillate transverse to the free-stream. In a second-order accurate finite volume method, an immersed boundary method is adopted to handle the cylinder oscillating in the Cartesian coordinates.

The flow has been computed for four different oscillation amplitudes (A_e/D) of 0.2, 0.3, 0.4 and 0.5 normalized by the cylinder diameter and the frequency ratio, $f_r = f_e/f_o$, where f_e is the excitation frequency of cylinder and f_o is the natural shedding frequency of a fixed cylinder at $Re = 185$, ranges from 0.8 to 1.2.

When f_r is less than 1, the drag and lift coefficients are time-dependent and regularly repeated in a periodic fashion regardless of A_e/D . However, when f_r exceeds 1, the time histories of C_D and C_L become modulated and shows beats for all oscillating amplitudes.

The primary vortex shedding frequency has the same value with the exciting frequency, showing the linear relation with f_r , regardless of A_e/D . When f_r exceeds 1, the secondary frequency for all the A_e/D s appears with the value less than the natural shedding frequency.

When the cylinder is at the extreme upper position, for $f_r \leq 1$, the spacing of vortices with different signs almost keeps in both the longitudinal and lateral directions regardless of A_e/D . For $f_r > 1$, the vertical shear layers induced by the cylinder oscillating reduce the longitudinal spacing between the vorticities in the wake region.

For $f_r \geq 1.1$, the instantaneous wake structures at the extreme upper position revealed a pair of vortices composed of two saddle points and two centers of vortices, showing the occurrence of vortex switching phenomenon and leading to the instability in the wake.

The distribution of time-averaged wall vorticity around the cylinder surface showed that the base vorticity increases significantly in strength and size with increasing f_r . Owing to this base vorticity, the upper vorticity diminishes in the longitudinal evolution, length and strength with increasing f_r .

For $A_e/D = 0.2$, the value of $\overline{C_D}$ increases with increasing f_r up to 1 where $\overline{C_D}$ has a maximum. When f_r reaches to 1.1, $\overline{C_D}$ decreases quickly and further increasing f_r , it slightly decreases. However, C_{Drms} increases until f_r reaches 1.1 where it has a maximum.

In the cases of $A_e/D = 0.3, 0.4$ and 0.5 , $\overline{C_D}$ and C_{Drms} showed the same dependence on f_r . Namely, the increasing behavior of $\overline{C_D}$ and C_{Drms} in the $0.8 \leq f_r \leq 1$ was observed. When f_r reaches to 1.1, those values diminishes rapidly and further increasing f_r , they increases again.

The dependence of C_{Lrms} on the range of f_r is considerable with increasing A_e/D . As A_e/D increases in the range of $0.8 \leq f_r \leq 1$, the profile of C_{Lrms} changes from the linear to the parabolic pattern. Especially, in the case of $A_e/D = 0.5$, the minimum of C_{Lrms} appears at $f_r = 0.95$. In the range of

$0.8 < f_r \leq 1$, the value of C_{Lrms} diminishes with increasing A_e/D at fixed f_r . In contrast, when f_r exceeds 1, C_{Lrms} increases with increasing A_e/D at fixed f_r .

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