

Modelling of an Oscillating Water Column in DualSPHysics

Nicolas Quartier¹, Vasiliki Stratigaki¹, Peter Troch¹, Alejandro J. C. Crespo²

¹ Civil Engineering, Ghent University, Technologiepark 60, 9052, Ghent, Belgium

² EPhysLab Environmental Physics Laboratory, Universidade de Vigo, As Lagoas, 32004, Ourense, Spain

E-mails: Nicolas.Quartier@UGent.be, Vicky.Stratigaki@UGent.be, Peter.Troch@UGent.be, alexbexe@uvigo.es

The topic of this research is the numerical modelling of the Oscillating Water Column (OWC) of Ocean Energy Systems (OES) in DualSPHysics [1,2]. OES aims to verify and validate numerical models for Wave Energy Converters (WECs) (<http://www.oceanenergysystems.org/oes-projects/wave-energy-converters-modelling-verification-and-validation/>). One of these studied WECs is the OWC experimentally tested by the Korea Research Institute of Ship & Ocean Engineering (KRISO).

In a first phase a DualSPHysics model for the OWC was simulated without any damping caused by the orifice. Since the inside chamber of the OWC has a rectangular shape, this simulation was carried out in 2D. Good agreement was achieved between numerical and experimental results.

In a second phase the cases with Power Take-Off (PTO) system, or with orifice, were considered by applying a force on the free water surface inside the OWC chamber. This force was applied on a thin rectangular plate, floating on the free water surface inside the OWC chamber (Fig. 1). The PTO force is introduced by using the coupling of DualSPHysics with Chrono-Engine [3]. In order to get an estimate for the PTO force the method developed by Harry Bingham and Kim Nielsen was applied [4].

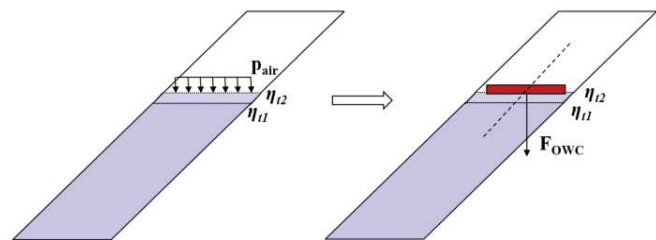


Figure 1: The pressure originating from compressed air is replaced by a force acting on a floating plate

In a third step, the accuracy of the water surface elevation, air flow and air pressure obtained from the DualSPHysics simulations was improved by adding the effect of air compressibility and by conducting 3D simulations.

References

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COST is supported by the EU Framework Programme Horizon 2020. COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) is a funding agency for research and innovation networks. COST Actions help connect research initiatives across Europe and enable scientists to grow their ideas by sharing them with their peers.

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Acknowledgements

The first author is Ph.D. fellow of the Research Foundation – Flanders (FWO), Belgium (Ph.D. fellowship 1SC5419N). The first author would also like to acknowledge the support through a WECANet Training grant for a workshop on ‘OES Task 10’ that took place in Amsterdam, 14-15 November 2019 (<https://www.wecanet.eu/oes-task-10-workshop>). This workshop was funded by WECANet and OES and was organized by dr. Kim Nielsen (Ramboll, Denmark). Also the Korea Research Institute of Ship & Ocean Engineering (KRISO) is acknowledged for providing experimental data which has been used in the present study for numerical validation purposes. In addition, Vasiliki Stratigaki is a postdoctoral researcher (fellowship 1267321N) of the FWO (Fonds Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek - Research Foundation Flanders), Belgium.



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