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### Supergen ORE Hub: ECR Forum 5<sup>th</sup> November 2019

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### Control Design for Floating Offshore Wind Turbines

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UNIVERSITY OF HULL



## Mustafa Abdelrahman and James Gilbert

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#### **EPSRC** UNIVERSITY Engineering and Physical Sciences PRIFYSGOL SUPERGEN PRIMaRE 2019 Strathclyde Research Council **KCMER AERDY** CFD surface effects on flow conditions and tidal stream turbine

### performance

Catherine Lloyd\*, Matthew Allmark, Robert Ellis, Stephanie Ordonez, Allan Mason-Jones, Cameron Johnstone, Tim O'Doherty, Gregory Germain and Benoit Gaurier \*Cardiff Marine Energy Research Group (CMERG), School of Engineering, Cardiff University, Cardiff, Wales, UK

### NUMERICAL MODELLING

A 'free surface' and a 'free slip' numerical model were created, to assess the differences between their surface boundary conditions and how this causes changes in the generated flow conditions and turbine performance under uniform current flow conditions. The 'free slip' model was a single-phase, incompressible flow model with the 'top' boundary at the still water level using

the 'free slip' boundary condition. The 'free surface' model was a homogenous multiphase model with a distinct free surface interface between the water and air phases. The 'top' boundary was in the air region of the model and specified as an 'opening' allowing bidirectional flow across the boundary. Development of the model was split into 3 mains sections: Geometry, Mesh & Physics setup.

CARDIFF

### GEOMETRY

NUMERICAL

MODEL COMPARISON

The non-dimensional coefficient of power ( $C_p$ ) and

quicker than the equivalent experimental values.

As the angular velocity increases, the flow

conditions become more complex and it is

possible that flow separation is occurring in a

less refined part of the mesh. This suggests

the need for different meshes depending on

the TSR being investigated and therefore this

These TSRs were of interest as it is the region

around peak power and this region gave the

study investigates models at a TSR of 3-5.

best agreement with experimental data.

coefficient of thrust ( $C_t$ ) were compared between data

sets. Figure 4 shows that the numerical results for  $\mathcal{C}_p$  and

 $C_t$  have good agreement with the experimental data for

TSR  $\leq$  5, after which the numerical results drop off a lot

The model geometry and mesh generation were developed using ANSYS CFX 18.0. Figure 1 shows the dimensions of the geometry for each model type. The height of the domain in the 'free surface' model was 2.86m as space was required for both water and air, so an air space of 0.86m was added above the 2m water depth. The 'free slip' model was single fluid flow only and therefore the height of the domain was the same as the depth of the water (2m).



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### MESH



The mesh was generated using a mixture of 'hexa' and 'tetra' meshing, as described by [1], with the final mesh for the 'free surface' model shown in Figure 2. The 'free slip' mesh was identical but with the mesh for the 'air' region removed.

**Boundary condition** 

 $\cdot (h - y)$ 

'free slip' mode

Velocity-inlet

 $\bar{W} = 1.01 \, m/s$ 

Pressure-outlet

 $P_{ref} = 0 P a$ 

Free-slip wall

No-slip wall

'free surface' model

 $P_{ref} = (\rho_{water} - \rho_{air}) \cdot g$ 

Velocity-inlet

 $\bar{W} = 1.01 \, m/s$ 

Pressure-outlet

Pressure-opening

No-slip wall

Entrainment with opening

pressure:  $P_{rel} = 0 Pa$ 

Figure 2. Final mesh for the 'free surface' model, viewed from the: (a) front and; (b) side.

PHYSICS SETUP The simulations were set up as a transient analysis using a uniform current flow of 1.01 m/s. The rotating part of the turbine was enclosed in a cylindrical subdomain to allow the Multiple Frames of Reference (MFR) technique to be used. This method allows the subdomain to rotate around a given axis at a specified angular velocity, simulating the turbine rotation. The angular velocity of the turbine was set to test Tip Speed Ratios (TSR) between 0-7. The SST turbulence model was used to close the Reynolds Averaged Navier Stokes (RANS) equations in order to resolve the flow conditions. The boundary conditions used in both models were set as shown in Figure 1 and are detailed in Table 1. Table 1. A summary of the boundary conditions used in the numerical models

Boundary

inlet

outlet

top

base

### **EXPERIMENTAL TESTING**

experimental data obtained at IFREMER, Boulogne-Sur-Mer, France [2]. The new turbine is a development of a previous Cardiff University design [3]. It is a 3 bladed horizontal axis tidal turbine of approximately 1:20 scale and has a diameter of 0.9m.

Blade profile: Wortmann FX63-137 - Blade length = 0.<u>383m</u> - Blade twist = 19 °

- Pitch angle = 8 °

Diameter = 0.9m

- Blade length = 0.383m

little difference between the numerical models. Therefore, the transient dynamic loadings were investigated (Figure 3). The main findings were: There was little difference in average

The average performance characteristics show

OLD

NEW

individual blade torque and thrust between the models.

The 'free surface' model estimated the average thrust on the hub to be over double that of the 'free slip' model, giving 20.1 N and 8.2 N respectively. This is due to the addition of hydrostatic forces in the 'free surface' model which affect the hub significantly.

The fluctuation of the individual blade thrust results show good agreement between the 2 model types.





re 3. 'Free surface' and 'free slip' model results, for (a) thrust and (b) torque ( ting to: (i) blade 1, (ii) the hub and; (iii) the turbine total (all blades and hub) The fluctuation of the individual blade torque results for the 'free surface' and 'free slip' models are 0.77 Nm and 0.06 Nm respectively. Buoyancy forces present in the 'free surface' model contribute to the blade torque when they are horizontal in the water column but not when they are vertical. This results in the oscillations seen in the torque results for each blade. The total turbine torque fluctuation is the same for the 2 model types. Each turbine blade is 120° out of phase and so each blade cancels the others out and reduces the amplitude of the overall frequency. Therefore, if only the total turbine torque was investigated, these substantial fluctuations in the blade torque would be overlooked and potential design considerations for the turbine blades ignored. This could be crucial in fatigue analysis and survivability of the tidal device.

Renewable Energy, vol. 59, pp. 1-12, 2013. rrical Model using Stokes 2nd Order Theory. *Proceedings of the 4<sup>th</sup> AWTEC* Taipei, Taiwan; 9th -1 3th Sept 2018 of the 15th Austr Proceeding extracting energy from the tide. ent turbine blade behaviour under current and wave loading. dynamics for the use of a turbine for 2004 2] Gaurier et al. 2013. Flume tank i et al. 2004. Fensi 1] Lloyd et al. 2018. [ **REFERENCES:** 

## The 2 different numerical models were compared to

# **MORPHING BLADES FOR LOAD ALLEVIATION OF TIDAL TURBINES**

### Dr Abel Arredondo-Galeana<sup>a</sup>, Dr Anna Young<sup>b</sup>, Dr Ignazio Maria Viola<sup>a</sup>

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### **Motivation**

### Passive morphing mechanism

The use of passive unsteady load mitigation technology for wind and tidal turbines, such as bendtwist coupling, is typically limited to low frequency fluctuations and is not suitable to large blades, due to structural rigidity requirements.

Active control systems, such as actuated flaps, can respond to higher frequencies than whole-blade passive devices due to their smaller size. However, active systems may reduce turbine reliability. Hence there is a need to develop a high-frequency passive technology if turbines are to survive in the harsh marine environment.

We have shown analytically and with CFD that the unsteady loads on a turbine can be completely cancelled with a chordwise flexible blade. Additionally, the model shows that when the blade is rigid apart from a portion near the trailing edge, the unsteady load mitigation is proportional to the length of the flexible portion compared to the blade chord.

The effectiveness of the morphing blade concept was demonstrated by testing a foil equipped with a flap where a constant pitch moment is applied. When the flow is stationary, the buoyancy force causes the flap to deflect upwards, but when the flow is moving, the buoyancy is balanced by the hydrodynamic force and the flap is aligned with



Figure1- a) Morphing blade in a water flume with stationary flow, and b) with moving flow



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THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH





# **Developing a Coupled CFD Model for Evaluating Floating Tidal Stream Concepts**



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### Introduction

Floating devices have the potential to unlock unobtainable parts of the tidal stream energy resource, however; the proximity of the free surface raises concerns over both the power delivery and the survivability of these systems. Therefore, the aim of this study is to develop an open-source, efficient and sustainable, numerical tool for assessing the complete floating tidal stream system in real conditions. The present work describes the development process for the model, and focuses on ongoing validation against physical data for the Modular Tide Generators (MTG) floating tidal stream concept, which is a catamaran-style platform with a submerged, horizontal-axis tidal turbine (HATT) and a four-point catenary mooring system (Figure 1).



Figure 2: Visualisation of the numerical output for a generic platform in wave-current conditions

### Numerical Model

The numerical model uses a fully-nonlinear, coupled approach, based on the opensource CFD libraries of OpenFOAM and consists of five key components:

- The hydrodynamic model [1] solves the Reynolds-Averaged Navier-Stokes (RANS) equations for two, incompressible, isothermal and immiscible fluids, with the interface tracked via an algebraic volume of fluid (VoF) advection scheme.
- Wave generation/absorption is achieved via expression-based boundary conditions assisted by the relaxation zone technique provided by the waves2Foam toolbox [2].
- The turbine model [3] is based on a weighted body force implementation. In short, the model identifies the instantaneous position of the turbine region; estimates the thrust on the turbine using actuator theory based on the local flow velocity; applies this force in the equation of motion; and adds an additional, equal and opposite force to the hydrodynamic model to achieve two-way coupling (Figure 2).
- The moorings are expressed as an additional force in the equation of motion of the body. At each time step, the force from each mooring line, is calculated using the static catenary formulation [4].
- The rigid body solver uses a deforming mesh technique to track the instantaneous position of the floating platform in six degrees of freedom. This solver takes into account any effects caused by the additional forces from the turbine and mooring by including additional accelerations in the equation of motion.

### **Turbine Model Verification and Validation**

An incremental approach has been utilised to validate the numerical model, where each component of the system has been isolated and systematically tested to ensure it is both accurate and robust. In particular, the turbine model has been verified against theoretical solutions based on actuator theory, and has been evaluated for sensitivity to key parameters such as flow speed; thrust coefficient; mesh resolution; mesh alignment; and accuracy under prescribed motion (a crucial consideration when coupled with the rigid body solver) [3]. Furthermore, the effect on the hydrodynamics has been validated (Figure 4 [3]) against experimental data for a porous disc in a steady current [5]. The results showed that the velocity deficit profile was predicted accurately [3], but further work is required to better capture the turbulent kinetic energy profile.









Figure 1: The MTG platform concept: a) Render of the 3-hull platform: b) Numerical simulation of the 2-hull platform including the moorings; turbine region; and turbine effect on the fluid.

b)

#### **Full System Validation**

Physical Modelling: To provide validation data for an entire floating tidal stream system, physical experiments were conducted in the COAST Laboratory at the University of Plymouth, UK. A 1:12 scale model of the MTG concept was constructed with the submerged HATT being approximated using a porous disc (Figure 3). The program consisted of a series of fixed tests, where the model was fixed to the gantry above the basin via a 6-axis load cell, and moored tests, where the model was floating and restrained by catenary mooring chains. A wide range of regular and irregular wave tests were conducted, for both set-ups, in combination with a range of current conditions and both with and without the turbine loaded, allowing for an incremental comparison

Preliminary Observations: The numerical model captures the motion of the platform; non-linearities in heave; the offsets in surge caused by the presence of the turbine; and increase in the mean total mooring load. It also captures an increase in maximum turbine load when the device is moored rather than fixed, as seen in the physical data. This is a key observation for floating tidal platforms due to the implications on both turbine fatigue and power delivery, and could influence future design of the moorings.

Ongoing Work: The thrust amplitude response is consistently under-estimated in waveonly conditions, likely due to actuator theory not being ideally suited for non-uniform reversing flow conditions. Therefore, the turbine model will be modified to incorporate an improved dynamic response formulation, as well as improved physics such as: radial weighting; rotational effects; and tip corrections. The mooring load response also differs substantially from the physical data, and hence, to improve reproduction, future work will focus on including a dynamic catenary formulation and drag on the mooring lines



Figure 3: Photographs from the COAST Laboratory experiments: a) Underwater view of the full 1:12 scale model in the Ocean Basin: b) Calibrating a porous disc using PIV in a wave flume.

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### MODULAR TIDE GENERATORS LIMITED







Innovate UK

Technology Strategy Board





### Wind Energy O&M Research

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#### Wind Turbine Component Failure and Remaining Useful Life Prediction





### Turbine Reliability and O&M cost Modelling



Generator failure prediction. PhD Student: Alan Turnbull Generator Failure and RUL Prediction (Temperature and



- From Offshore 8 Wind Farms located throughout Europe
- Split into Minor Repair, Major Repair and Major Replacement
- Pitch system has the higest toal failure rate. Gearbox has the highest major replacement failure rate.



### Comparison of failure rates between turbine types

- Over 1800 DFIGs over 5 years (3391 Turbine Years of Data)
- 400 PMG FRCs over 3 years (511 Turbine Years of Data) Same turbine type different (Mk version so same turbine except for drivetrain)



% difference between generator and convertors onshore applied to offshore data on

X-Rotor Development and X-Rotor O&M cost Modelling

3 stage Gearbox and "Rest of Turbine" Failure Rate assumed the same

#### O&M Costs for Different Wind Turbine Types

O&M costs at 50km ~45% lost production, 45% transport costs, 5% staff and 5% repair





Reducing downtime and Improving availability/O&M costs

- 3 stage DFIG PRC: Decrease failure rate in DFIG
- DD and 2 stage PMG FRC focus on the converter
- 3 stage PMG, focus on gearbox up to 50km and converter at 100km



- mary rotor rotates on the vertical axis
- No power take off on vertical axis
- High speed horizontal axis secondary rotor
- pole generator - X-Shape reduces overturning moments

No requirement for gearbox or multi-

Reduced requirement for Jack up vessel and reduced failure rates

#### X-Rotor Benefits

- 1. Cost of energy reduction (Lower capital costs and lower O&M costs)
- 2. Floating platform potential (lower centre of gravity compared to traditional HAWT)
- 3. Up-scaling potential (Additional blades and secondary rotor)



#### X-Rotor O&M Cost Investigation

- X-Rotor O&M costs compared to 4 different turbine types
- Strathclyde O&M cost model used
- Model and model inputs adjusted to represent the X-Rotor
- O&M costs from existing turbines come from a published paper
- Same methodology and hypothetical site used for like for like comparison with results



- X-Rotor O&M costs 43% lower than the average O&M cost for four existing turbine types
- No gearbox or multipole generator failures.
- Greatly reduced requirement for Jack-up vessel.



### Multi-Scale Offshore Wind Farm Modelling

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

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### Wind Turbine Wake Effects in Large Wind Farms

### **Evidence from the Field**

- Field data shows conditions experienced by a turbine in a large farm are dependent on the incident flow direction and arrangement of upstream and neighbouring turbines.
- Downstream turbine performance affected by wakes and turbulence of upstream turbines. 2
- Limitations of turbine farm models are due in part to overly simplified single wake models and non-physical wake interaction modelling.
- Poor lifetime yield prediction, and poor unsteady loading and fatigue damage rate prediction as a result of low fidelity wake evolution and interaction modelling.



### Wake Evolution and Combination



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  - d Energy. authors would like to thank the SUPERGEN ORE Hub and EPSRC for their support.

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### Micromechanical modelling of jacked piles in sands

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### Introduction

A three-dimensional discrete element model is used to investigate the effect of grain crushing on the tip resistance measured by instrumented piles in a calibration chamber. The particles of the discrete model have a size-dependent crushing resistance whose material parameters were calibrated against an oedometer test and single grain crushing experiments, with additional validation by element tests. The numerical pile penetration tests agree encouragingly well with the instrumented pile experiments.

### **DEM crushing model**

The pile simulations used the DEM crushable soil model proposed by Ciantia *et al.* (2015). The limiting crushing criterion considers the particle contact forces and the elastic stress induced within the spherical particles. Once this limit is reached, the particles split into smaller spheres (Figure 1). Ciantia *et al.* (2015) showed that crushing to a 14-sphere final configuration gives a good match to macroscopic behaviour. This model is framed to be scalable and the same macroscopic response is obtained when the particle dimension is scaled by a factor, N, reducing the number of particles and hence computational costs.



Figure 1. Particle limit contact force as a function of particle diameter, where  $F_{lim} = \sigma_{lim,0} (d/\mathrm{Nd}_0)^{-3/m} A$ . Also shown are single grain crushing experiments by Yashima et al. (1987), Nakata et al. (2001) and McDowell (2002) after Ciantia et al. (2019).

# Reproducing NE34 sand behaviour with DEM

The frictional and stiffness contact law parameters were calibrated by simulating drained triaxial compression of dense and loose specimens of NE34 sand (Figure 2a). The particle failure criterion parameters were calibrated simulating single particle crushing tests. Model validation was done simulating high pressure 1D compression tests (Figure 2b,c).



Figure 2. Contact model calibration: a) DEM simulation of drained triaxial compression test (cell pressure 100 kPa; experimental data from Seif El Dine et al., 2010). Crushing model validation by DEM simulation of oedometer tests in terms of b) effective vertical stress vs void ratio and c) PSD evolution.

### **Pile driving**



The DEM procedures described by Ciantia et al. (2016) were applied to represent the conditions employed by Yang et al. (2010), in their Calibration Chamber (CC) model pile experiments. To make the simulations tractable, the particle dimensions were scaled by a factor of 39 and a reduced diameter chamber was adopted that contained  $\approx$  400,000 particles. Figure 3 shows good agreement between the CC pile tip resistance-penetration curves and the DEM (crushable) predictions for both the monotonic and cyclic jacking case.



Figure 3. a) End-bearing capacity  $q_c$  versus penetration: Comparison between FEM (Zhang et al., 2014) (steady state  $q_c = 21$  MPa) and experimental results (Yang et al., 2010) and a) monotonic DEM and b) cyclic pile jacking DEM model.

### **Stress distributions**

As detailed in Ciantia *et al.* (2019) particle DEM data at the end of each push and pause (unload) period can be used to determine the stresses within any portion of the model domain. The DEM model gave information on the sand stress regime generated by pile penetration, which match the experimental and FEM results (Figure 5). Figure 6 considers the decay of the radial stresses with increasing r/R during the push phases of penetration. These values are established at h/R=0.5 at three penetration stages and compared with experimental and FEM results.



Figure 5. DEM, FEM (Zhang et al., 2014) and experimental (Jardine et al., 2013) comparison of stresses developed as pile tip advances. The radial circumferential and vertical stresses are normalized by  $q_c$  and refer to lines having at a distance r/R=3, 5 and 8 from the pile axis as sketched in the legend and on the image on the left.



Figure 6. DEM, FEM (Zhang et al., 2014) and experimental (Jardine et al., 2013) comparison of normalized radial effective stress evolutions along the radial axis at h=0.5R above the tip.



The spatial variations of radial stresses around the shaft for the 'push' (penetrating) and 'pause' (unloaded) conditions are presented in Figure 7. The numerical predictions are in broadly good agreement with the experimental contour plots given by Jardine et al. (2013).



Figure 7. DEM radial stresses acting above pile tip during: (left) steady penetration and (right) (un-loaded) pause conditions. Where possible FEM and experimental results are also shown.

### **Discussion**

Comparisons between DEM simulations performed with and without particle breakage highlights the impact of grain crushing on the stress relaxation experienced around the shaft. Parts (a), (b) and (c) of Figure 8 compare the stress profiles from analyses with crushable and unbreakable grains at h/R=7.5 above the tip, considering a zero-load pause period jacking stage of a cycle. Crushing accentuates the unloading close to the shaft and promotes the arching action. The arching developed around the shaft is clearly visible in parts (d) and (e) of Figure 8 where the contact force network and particles stress data are also represented.



Figure 8. Radial profiles of (a) radial, (b) circumferential and (c) vertical stresses acting at h/R=7.5, comparing crushable and uncrushable simulations of the (unloaded) pause phases and demonstrating arching around the pile shaft: d) Uncrushable e) Crushable. Only particles with circumferential, radial and vertical stress>0.7MPa are shown: blue > 1MPa and red<1MPa.

Circumferentially arching force networks (more clearly developed around the shaft in the crushable case) shield the pile shaft surface (at r/R=1) from the higher radial stresses developed at greater r/R. This circumferential arching leads to more weekly developed radial force networks close to the shaft.

It is shown that the DEM is a numerical tool that can offer new insights into the stress conditions developed around piles penetrating in sand. The good match between the DEM and both experimental and FEM results support the reliability of the proposed micromechanical modelling approach.

### References





Policy and Innovation Group



# Investigating the value to the UK economy of ocean energy: Scenarios to 2050

To develop a clear motivation and benchmark against which research can be measured, the Hub will establish three technical scenarios - 'Aspirational ORE Systems' (AOS) which will act as beacons for intended growth in Offshore Wind, Wave and Tidal technology. Each of the defined AOSs will be explored to enable the evaluation of technology innovation needs; potential effect on the UK economy; benefit to fragile regions; ecological impacts of the scenarios. These AOSs are:

A large scale floating future: A multi-GW floating ORE farm, pushing devices into deeper water than those currently targeted, and creating a significant improvement in farm scale via innovative new engineering systems

A scaled-up and safe exploitation of tidal stream: A leap forward in scale for tidal stream systems, progressing the industry from prototype TRL to systems designed for operation in commercial arrays with high confidence in prediction of performance and ecological acceptability

A farm-scale wave energy sector in which the scaling benefits from single to multiple devices are realised, creating the breakthrough in the viability of this technology that is required to achieve commercialisation.

UK Electricity Generation Supply Energy Mix



The Integrated MARKAL-EFOM System (TIMES), 201





Policy and Innovation Group, 2019

### Sector contribution to CO<sub>2</sub> reduction (baseline vs 2°C scenario)



### **Deployment Scenarios**

- · Definition of characteristics of deployment scenarios using energy systems models ESME and TIMES
- · Development of additional energy system models to increase sophistication in the ORE mix estimates
- Determination of optimum energy mixes that, accounting for different levels of system storage, balance
  offshore wind, wave and tidal technology deployments to produce maximum energy while minimising cost
  and negative consequences of fluctuating inputs to the grid
- · Optimisation of deployment capacity and location of each technology

### **Technology Innovation**

- · Identification of technology innovation required to achieve the scenarios
- Activity to inform technology pathways and complement corresponding design and modelling research, more widely in the UK, and beyond.
- Investigation of the practicalities of expanding the range of deployment locations to achieve higher capacity targets
- Examination and presentation of the implications of moving from shallow and intermediate depth operation to deep-water sites, through investigating how technology needs to change and innovate
- · Activities here will feed back into deployment scenarios model

### **Economic Benefit**

- Evaluation of the economic prize offered by each scenario, quantified in terms of GVA to the UK economy and number of job-years created, among other metrics
- Identification of the potential benefit to be gained through offshore wind O&M activity and whole supply chain for wave and tidal.
- Investigation of how ORE activity will engage with, reinvigorate, and ultimately benefit marginalised coastal communities

### **Ecological Assessment**

- Ecological impact assessment, Life-Cycle Cost Assessment (LCA) of Global Warming Potential (GWP), Energy Return on Investment (EROI) and Energy Payback Time (EPBT) of devices and deployed arrays of each scenario
- Employment of the Ecological Trade Offs tool-kit to assess the range of economic options examined the previous task within a natural capital approach
- Identification and use of approaches for evaluating how devices, array design, and O&M activities affect the environment

References ETI, ESME, 2018; IEA, Energy Technology Perspectives 2017, 2018; Policy and Innovation Group, Wave and Tidal Energy: The Polential Economic Value, 2019





IEA. 2018





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### Machine learning for power system impedance estimation Kamyab Givaki Edinburgh Napier University

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### INTRODUCTION

- > The high amount of converter interfaced sources (e.g Wind) impacts the stability of the system, especially in a weak grid with high inductive impedance.
- The knowledge of the grid impedance at the connection point of the converter to the grid (PCC) is essential for improving the control strategy and overall grid stability by either changing the control action or re-tuning the controller.
- > In micro-grids, a variation of impedance is an indication for islanding or grid connection mode operations.
- > Furthermore, the knowledge of grid impedance will be useful to improve the power quality, detection of the fault location, ground faults and grim unbalanced operation.
- > Methods to estimate impedance of power network can be classified into passive and active methods or combination of these two.
- > The passive methods are known to be 'non-invasive' and active methods are 'invasive'.
- > The active methods are invasive as a disturbance signal is injected to the grid. Then the signal processing techniques are used to estimate the impedance of the grid.
- Passive methods do not need any disturbance injection, and the available information of the non-characteristic current and voltage at the PCC is used to estimate the grid impedance. Hence, performance of the power system is not degraded using passive methods.
- > The use of data-driven models have been successfully demonstrated in applications demanding for real-time estimation of the targets values.
- Both the passive and active impedance estimation methods have shortcomings for power system applications. The passive methods can become inaccurate, and the active methods impact power quality.

### Methodology

- The first step of estimation process is to select a set of features for representing the system.
- A Random Forest (RF) model is chosen due to its capability in the prediction of multiple output values simultaneously.
- > RF requires several numbers of hyper-parameters to be set.
- These parameters are tuned for the simulated data to achieve the highest possible accuracy.
- The model optimisation is performed using an evolutionary multi-objective NSGA-II algorithm to tune the RF model for accurate estimation of both R and X.
- In each genome (a selection of hyper-parameters), the configured model is trained and tested using 10-fold cross-validation.









Fig. 5. Histogram of error for a) resistance and b) inductive reactance

- Root mean square error (RMSE) and R2 are 0.0015 and 0.99 for resistance and 0.0054 and 0.98 for inductive reactance.
- The mean time spent for prediction of one record is calculated as 0.3ms which makes it an ideal model to be used for real-time impedance estimation

Fig. 2. General schematic diagram of supervised learning

### CONCLUSIONS

- > The random forest model used for estimation of the two components of the impedance, namely, resistance and inductive reactance.
- > Current and voltage in the stationary reference frame (dq- axis), active power, DC link current and the frequency at PCC are used as the inputs for the random forest model.
- > The model optimisation is performed using an evolutionary multi-objective NSGA-II algorithm to tune the RF model for accurate estimation of both R and X.
- The proposed method does not require any external signal injection; thus, the power quality is not compromised. Furthermore, the model results show that the estimation accuracy is very high.

# Numerical Models of a Floating Hinged RaftWave Energy ConverterSupergen



Siya Jin, Deborah Greaves, Martyn Hann University of Plymouth

This research aims at building proper numerical models for a floating hinged raft wave energy converter (WEC) to estimate its dynamic responses. Two methods are used: (1) a fully non-linear CFD model based on ANSYS/LS-DYNA; (2) a linear/ partial non-linear time-domain model based on WEC-Sim. The CFD model is firstly validated by comparing with the experimental data for a fixed raft. The numerical results fit well with the experimental data. A floating hinged WEC is then built in the CFD tank. The performance of the WEC is well predicted by CFD method and the pitch resonance is well captured. The results are also compared with the linear results derived by engineers from MaRINET2. As expected, the WEC response is over-predicted by linear method. This concludes the importance in future work to carefully take consideration of the non-linear terms in models by WEC-Sim.

### **CFD VALIDATION BY FIXED RAFT**

A fixed raft designed by Mocean Energy ltd is used to validate the capability of CFD model.



Wave elevation, on-hull loads and water splashing are compared between CFD and experiment data.



CFD MODEL-FLOATING HINGED WEC

A full scale floating hinged WEC is built in the numerical wave tank. The mesh solution is designated with large density in the structure-fluid interaction zone and coarse elements near the boundaries. Below shows the half model. The hinge point is on the bow of the yellow raft.



 Regular wave series are tested with wave height H = 1.8 m and wave period T = 6 to 10 s. The aim is to investigate the dynamic responses against varying waves and to capture the resonance. The pitch resonance is captured at T = 7 s where the hinged WEC rides almost on a full wave length.
 Below shows the dynamic response under resonance.



- trough one wave length
- The hinged WEC synchronously follows the wave motions leading to smaller relative pitch responses under long waves. Below is an example at T = 10 s.

The pitch RAO at hinge is extracted based on CFD and is compared with the linear results from MaRINET2 using InWave.



### **CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK**

Validated by physical tests, the CFD approach shows its feasibility in simulating the structure responses induced by waves. Compared with the CFD results, the dynamic responses of the hinged WEC can be over-predicted by the linear model, especially under resonance. Hence, the non-linear terms should be carefully considered while developing the time domain models based on WEC-Sim. The figures show the models built in WEC-Sim.



### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Thanks are expressed to the technicians by MaRINET2 project for designing the hinged WEC and sharing the data with us.



1. Wake velocity profile comparison

-The wake profile from CFD agrees well with the experiment for the tip shear and wake recovery velocity near the tip

-Disparity near wake tip shear becomes significant as flow is propagating downstream due to the dissipation



Fig 1 Wake velocity profile comparison between CFD and EXP

#### 2. Near-wake turbulence characteristics analysis

Experimental velocity data is used to analyze near wake turbulence characteristics. Herein the turbulence is characterized by ambient turbulence, development from ambient turbulence and turbulence induced by coherent structure(e.g., periodic vortex from tip).



Fig 3 Near-wake turbulence characteristics from experimental data

3. Near-wake turbulence kinetic energy comparison between CFD and experiment





X=0.5D, vertical profile X=1D, vertical profile Fig 4 Near-wake turbulence kinetic energy comparison

Exp TKE:  $\frac{1}{2}\langle u^{\prime 2}\rangle + 2 \cdot \frac{1}{2}\langle v^{\prime 2}\rangle$ where  $u^\prime$  and  $v^\prime$  is the measured velocity in streamwise and transverse direction

AL TKE: modelled k in k-epsilon RANS model



Airfoil database (from Bahai,

IFREMER flume with the LDV [2] radius distribution is not the

Rotor diameter D=1200mm

Tower axis to rotor plane: 0.4D

Nacelle total length: 0.853D

Tower height: 0.83D

Tower diameter: 0.085D

\_

#### Conclusions

- AL-URANS model for a single tidal turbine is evaluated for wake prediction with the experimental data.
- The velocity profile near wake agrees well with the experimental results. However, the wake deficit with CFD method shows slightly wider downstream.
- The turbulence can be characterized by ambient turbulence, development from ambient turbulence and turbulence induced by coherent structure(e.g., periodic vortex from tip)
- There exists great disparity in near wake region for turbulent kinetic energy comparison. It indicates that URANS-AL model can only capture the ambient turbulence development but fail to describe the tip vortex structure in turbulent mixing.

On-going work will focus on the tip vortex correction for turbulence prediction in AL model.

#### Acknowledgements & references

#### Acknowledgements:

The authors would like to acknowledge the support of the EPSRC Supergen Offshore Renewable Energy Hub.

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[3]. Payne, G. S., T. Stallard, R. Martinez and T. Bruce (2018). "Variation of loads on a threebladed horizontal axis tidal turbine with frequency and blade position." Journal of Fluids and Structures 83: 156-170.

### Plate anchors for offshore floating facilities - Southampton Soil - anchor - floating system interactions

### Dr Katherine Kwa & Prof David White

### Background

A variety of anchoring and mooring systems hold offshore floating renewable energy structures in place

These embedded foundation systems withstand large numbers of variable cyclic loads due to the wave and wind forces acting on the renewable energy structure

Research has shown that the soil around these foundations can strengthen from the sustained and cyclic loading and this can add capacity to the foundations



Normalised load vs settlement response to failure following preloading and consolidation. (Gourvenec et al., 2014)



Gains in anchor resistance due to increases in soil strength during cyclic loading (Zhou et al. 2019)

If these gains in capacity are harnessed, then more efficient and cost effective anchoring and mooring can be designed and used



igineering and Physical Sciences

Potential rise in capacity of anchor system



To improve the foundation design for anchoring and mooring systems of offshore floating renewable energy structures.

Gain a better understanding of the soil behaviour around embedded plate anchors when they are cyclically loaded



Embedded plate anchors holding wave energy devices and floating wind turbines in place

Add the interaction of the soil and plate anchor mooring system into existing models currently used to capture the behaviour of floating systems, to better model the behaviour of floating offshore renewable energy structures



Addition of soil behaviour (in red) to the anchoring system of a simple WEC model (Aquilina, 2019)

### **Current Work**

Using finite element analysis, in PLAXIS 2D, to investigate the soil behaviour around embedded plate anchors

### References

Aquilina, J. P. (2019). MSc Thesis, Mooring- seabed coupling of wave energy converters, Univ. Southampton. Gourvenec, S. M., Vulpe, C., & Murthy, T. G. (2014). A method for predicting the consolidated undrained bearing capacity of shallow foundations. Géotechnique, 64(3), 215-225.

Zhou Z., O'Loughlin C.D. White D.J. & S.A. Stanier 2019. Changes in plate anchor capacity under maintained and cyclic loading due to consolidation effects. Géotechnique, Ahead of Print.

### Benchmarking

Checked PLAXIS 2D solutions with analytical solutions for ultimate bearing capacity of surface footings: Nc =  $2+\pi$ and embedded footings: Nc =  $3\pi + 2$ 



Typical embedded footing failure mechanism obtained in Plaxis 2D

### Results

Proceeded to investigate the behaviour of the soil above and below the plate during a set of preload, wait, fail (LWF) cases



Stresses above and below the plate during the LWF case in PLAXIS 2D

Observed relative increases in soil strength above the plate and decrease in soil strength below the plate

The net effect is the difference between the gain in strength above and loss of strength below the plate

The relative gains in soil strength above the plate increased with larger preloads



Changes in soil strength above and below the embedded plate anchor

### **Future Work**

Centrifuge modelling experiments

Integration of the interaction between soil and plate anchor mooring system using soil-like elements in WEC-Sim

Email: k.a.kwa@soton.ac.uk Supergen ORE Hub Early Career Researcher Forum 5-7th November 2019

# Real-time wave energy control based on machine learning

Liang Li

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### Abstract

A predictive real-time latching control strategy is developed and implemented to a heaving point-absorber to increase its power extraction. An artificial neural network, which is trained with the machine learning algorithm, is used to predict future wave force. The smart control increases the power extraction by locking and realizing the WEC according to the control command. The control efficiency and its sensitivity to the prediction error are investigated.

### Introduction

Compared with other offshore renewable energy resources, wave energy has the advantage of high power density and all-day availability. Owing to these advantages, wave energy is regarded as a prospective solution to the sustainable generation of clean energy.

In order to maximise the power extraction of WECs, the wave energy control is commonly used to regulate the WECs. Henriques et al. [1] applied real-time latching control to an oscillating-water-column WEC. Son and Yeoung [2] used the model predictive control to enhance the absorption efficiency. Nevertheless, these control schemes are not applicable in the natural world, since they assumed that the wave forces in the near future were already known. Therefore, a predictive real-time controller must be developed for application in real practice

### **Model description**

This work considers a heaving point-absorber. A state-space model is developed to simulate dynamics of the point-absorber.

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \boldsymbol{\gamma} \cdot \mathbf{x} + \boldsymbol{\eta}$$

$$\boldsymbol{\gamma} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & \mathbf{0} \\ -\frac{K}{M+m} & -\frac{D+\beta c}{M+m} & -\frac{C}{M+m} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{B} & \mathbf{A} \end{bmatrix}, \boldsymbol{\eta} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \frac{F_{wave}}{M+m} \\ \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix}$$

The energy absorption is given by

$$P = \frac{1}{T} \int_{0}^{T} D \cdot \dot{z}(t,\beta)^{2} dt$$

#### **Predictive real-time control**

The Hamiltonian H is introduced to maximise the power extraction

$$H = D\dot{z}^2 + \boldsymbol{\lambda} \cdot (\boldsymbol{\gamma} \cdot \boldsymbol{x} + \boldsymbol{\eta})$$

According to the Pontryagin maximum principle, the optimal control command  $\beta$  is the one maximising the Hamiltonian at every time step. The Hamiltonian reaches the maximum value on condition that

$$\beta = \begin{cases} 1 & \lambda_2 c \dot{z} < 0 \\ 0 & otherwise \end{cases}$$

The state vector  $\lambda$  follows the following relationship

$$\dot{\lambda}_i = -\frac{\partial H}{\partial x_i}(t, x, \beta), i = 1, 2, ..., n$$
$$\lambda(T) = \mathbf{0}$$

A feedforward neural network is developed for the wave force prediction. The network is trained with the machine learning to predict wave force through the real-time measurement of wave elevations. Please refer to [3] for more details



Fig.2 summaries the work flow. The first step is to teach the neural network how to predict future wave force based on the wave elevations. The trained neural network is thus able to forecast future wave force, which will be inputted to the control to give the control command. The WEC then operates under the regulation of the controller.





#### Simulation results

Table 1 shows the power extraction of the WEC. It is good to see the power extraction is increased substantially with the predictive control algorithm.

Table 1. Power extraction in random waves

	Hs=2m,Tp=6s	Hs=2.5m,Tp=8s	Hs=3m,Tp=10s
Without control	10 kW	15 kW	18 kW
With control	12 kW	30 kW	50 kW

Since the prediction is not perfect, the prediction error will have an influence on the control efficiency. It is shown the wave force amplitude error is nearly negligible, whereas the wave force phase error dominates the control efficiency.



Fig 3. Phase error effect

Fig 4. Amplitude error effect

### Conclusions

A predictive real-time latching control with consideration of wave force prediction is developed. It is manifested that the controller can enhance the power extraction of a heaving point-absorber significantly, even without the knowledge of wave forces in the future. Therefore, the developed real-time controller is applicable to a realistic industrial WEC product.

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Fig 1. Artificial neural network





Yibo Liang University of Strathclyde

### Background

To date, all the demonstrated concepts for offshore floating wind development are still based on a simple "one turbine one platform" system, where each turbine will be mounted on a single floating platform. However, this system will cause lots of waste on manufacturing the floating platform, and increase the cost of transportations as well as onsite installations. Therefore, a question has been raised: "Could two or more turbines seat on one platform?" By doing so, the usage of one platform could serve for multi turbines which significantly decreases the cost of transportation and installation for a wind farm. Additionally, this could have a better performance on space utilization.

For future offshore wind developments, very large floating structure (VLFS) can be potentially considered as a promising alternative for their potential to maximize the power generating capacity and to drastically reduce some dangerous and costly offshore operations.



Figure 1. Artist's impression of the hybrid 50MW platform. (Energy Island Ltd. 50MW Platform. 2009)

### Challenges

When head waves passing a barge type VLFS, a strong hydrodynamic bending moment could be observed.



Figure 2. Strong bending moment could be observesed at hogging and sagging

# Solution to reduce the maximum bending moment - Hinge

Bending moment



Figure 3(a) Trade off between bending moment and displacement.

For a VLFS, one of the possible solution to reduce the maximum bending moment on the structure is to introduce interconnected hinges onto the structure. Thus, a single-module VLFS is changed to a hinged multi-module VLFS. At the hinge joint, no internal bending moment is generated. This could potentially reduce the maximum bending moment acting on the whole VLFS.

Motion displacement



### Applying wind turbines on the VLFS



Figure 4. Sketch of two 5 MW wind turbines built on the VLFS.



### **Preliminary observations**

A multi hinged VLFS design will be benefited by adding the wind turbines onto the structure, especially in reducing the bending moment. By reducing the bending moment, more the selections of material for building the VLFS can be applied. Unlike the traditional steel VLFS built for the airport (continuous VLFS), the offshore wind VLFS with multi-hinges has more flexibilities on the structure design and the selections of material.

### **Development of novel low-cost methods to understand** environmental processes in highly energetic ORE sites



UNIVERSITY OF PLYMOUTH

Flow





Prev



With a rapid expansion in offshore renewable energy (ORE), a broader perspective on their ecological implications is timely to predict environmental change.

Fish, sediment dynamics & flow velocities

In combination, our research highlights the ecological importance of fine-scale hydrodynamic structures & localized physical forcing around man-made structures placed in unsteady flows.

stewardship role through environmental research activities to help accelerate renewable energy.

[1] Lieber L, Nimmo-Smith WAM, Waggitt JJ & Kregting L (2019) Localised anthropogenic wake generates a predictable foraging hotspot for top predators. Commun. Biol. 2, 123

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Overall distribution patterns from drone transects FLOOD Vantage Point **Flow direction** 

Melissa's PhD aims to optimize vantage point surveys for seabird monitoring around tidal energy sites.

#### Can a simulated approach help us model underwater collision risk? Which ecologically important parameters are needed as input?



Nick's PhD aims to build models in the game engine Blender to simulate underwater collision risk of marine fauna (e.g. seals) with moving components of tidal energy structures.

# HOME-Offshore WP 1.2 - Offshore Wind Turbine Multi-physics Modelling

Zi Lin, Debora Cevasco and Maurizio Collu (work package leader)

Department of Naval Architecture, Ocean & Marine Engineering, University of Strathclyde

### **Background & Motivation**

Ambient Wind

- Operation and maintenance (O&M) account for a substantial part in wind turbine cost
- Advanced machine learning technologies will assist fault detection & identification, but having difficulties in understanding the cause of these faults

### 5 MW & 10 MW HOME-Offshore Wind Turbine



A Single Wind Turbine AHSE-PMSG Coupled Model of Dynamics



### **Research Aim**

- To develop a holistic advanced AHSE-PMSG model of dynamics for offshore wind turbines
- For better supporting wind turbine condition monitoring and robotic inspection, to understand how the mechanical failure and electrical failure will have an influence on each other



- The figure on the right shows a comparison of the statistical values of the power distribution between steady wind (Simplified AHSE-PMSG) and turbulent wind (Advanced AHSE-PMSG).
- Generally speaking, using a simplified AHSE-PMSG model with steady winds fails to address the substantial range of instantaneous power outputs experienced by the wind turbine for a given average wind speed



The work presented is supported by the UK Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) HOME-Offshore project (EPSRC Reference: EP/P009743/1). The second author is also supported by grant EP/L016303/1 for Cranfield University, the University of Strathclyde and the University of Oxford, Centre for Doctoral Training in Renewable Energy Marine Structures - REMS (http://www.rems-cdt.ac.uk/) from the UK Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC). REFERENCES







ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



### Individual Pitch Actuator Monitoring of Offshore Wind Turbines

### Dr. Yanhua Liu & Prof. Ron J. Patton

© EPSRC Prosperity Partnership EP/R004900/1 University of Hull, Y.Liu@hull.ac.uk, R.J.Patton@hull.ac.uk





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UNIVERSITY





### Programmable Flexible Materials for Mooring and Station Keeping

Dr. Saeid Lotfian Mr. Iman Ramzanpoor (MEng.) Prof. Margaret Stack Prof. Feargal Brennan





### Background

Renewable marine energy has emerged as a centrepiece of the new energy economy, because of its abundance, regularity and to be environmentally - friendly. Floating offshore platforms could solve the problem of using high depth water to extract energy by using mooring systems. The moorings of wave devices, floating tidal turbines and ultimately floating offshore wind turbines will be subjected to the combined excitations of hydrostatic, hydrodynamic, aero-dynamic and electromechanical forces driven by a combination of wave, tidal, wind and network interactions. The performance and structural responses of the energy converters are influenced by the behaviour of the moorings.

### Research Aim and Objectives

- Investigate the potential of programmable flexible materials to provide adaptive behaviour and improved, sympathetic mooring response.
- Study the dynamic mooring systems to create a definition of adaptive strain/stiffness.
- A combination of smart materials and structure solutions would be investigated in tandem with mooring design analysis.
- Define the elements and capabilities required for a larger collaborative initiative to fully explore the potential for programmable flexible materials for mooring and station keeping.

### Results

Mooring hardware components are included:

Chain, Wire or Rope or their combination;

- Anchors or Piles;
- Connectors.

In this study, different mooring line diameters were considered and the maximum RAO (Response Amplitude Operator) motion amplitude achieved when the waves have an incident angle of 0 degrees (head sea).



Site-specific spectral densities of the sea elevation process can be determined from available wave data. It could be represented by the JONSWAP spectrum which is an empirical relationship that defines the distribution of energy with frequency within the sea. The following figures demonstrate the JONSWAP spectrum superimposed to the pitch and surge RAOs related to moored TLB floating structure when the mooring lines diameter alter.



### Materials and Structures

The main method to manage the stress in mooring system is to control the stiffness in mooring line



We would like to acknowledge the financial support from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) through Centre for Advanced Materials for Renewable Energy Generation (CAMREG) project.



### Stiffness of Tension Leg System

- The restoring force and moments exerted by the mooring system are nonlinear in translational and rotational displacements of the floating structure.
- The mooring loads exerted on the platform will depend on the mooring system geometry, configuration, and cable properties.
- The stiffness matrix of a mooring system composed of multiple lines is evaluated by summing the stiffness matrices of the individual lines.







### **Further Steps**

### > Erosion:

Design of erosion experiments to evaluate the degradation of the structure; > Fatigue:

The mooring system is subject to highly cyclic, non-linear load conditions;

Creep: Wire, fibres and ropes show an irreversible deformation (creep) behaviour that is strongly dependent upon load and temperature;

Hysteresis and heat build up: The energy induced by cyclic loading is dissipated (hysteresis) in the form of heat.

### Relevant References

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# Motion damping of floating offshore wind turbines using porous materials

### Dr. Ed Mackay, Prof. Lars Johanning

Renewable Energy Group, College of Engineering, Mathematics and Physical Sciences, University of Exeter

VNIVERSITY OF UK&CHN CORE

### Introduction

- A key challenge for developing costcompetitive floating offshore wind is design of stable platforms
- Increased platform motions lead to reduced energy yield and increased fatigue loads on the turbine
- Adding a porous outer layer to a floating platform can reduce platform motions without significant increase in size and cost.
- This work describes model tests with a TLP wind turbine with a porous outer laver.



Credit: NREL

### TLP model design

- · Simplified 1:50 scale TLP model, based on NREL OC4 design, with rotor-nacelle represented as lumped mass
- Comprises solid inner column and porous outer column
- Tested in 7 configurations:
  - Base case: no outer cylinder
  - 6 outer cylinders: 2 diameters x 3 porosities (0%, 15%, 30%)
- Total mass and COG constant in all configurations
  - Outer cylinder weight compensated by variable inner mass
  - · Pitch and roll motions negligible so change in moments of inertia not important
- · Main objective is to validate numerical predictions and demonstrate proof of concept - model is not intended to be realistic design.
  - Freeboard of central column and outer cylinder increased to improve linearity
  - Base cylinder diameter increased to accommodate changeable outer cylinders



### Tank test results

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OFFSHORE RENEWABLE ENERGY

- Two sets of tank tests were conducted at Dalian University of Technology (China) and the FloWave tank at University of Edinburgh
- · Measurements were made of
  - •6-DOF platform motions
  - Mooring line tensions
  - •Tower bending moments.
- Tests comprised regular and random waves and focused groups
- Adding solid outer cylinder moves resonant response to lower frequency and increases peak response
- Damping from wave radiation and vortex shedding is small at low frequencies
- Increasing porosity of outer cylinder increases damping and reduces peak response









v 10<sup>6</sup>



Exceedance statistics in a sea state with Hs=8m, Tp=14s. Left: surge motion. Right: Front line mooring tension



### Conclusions and further work

· Results from tank tests indicate that adding a porous outer layer to a floating platform can reduce motion RAOs, leading to reduced loading and potentially increased energy capture

- Tank test results will be compared to numerical predictions from an iterative boundary element method (BEM) model [1, 2]
- · The BEM model will be used to investigate more practical designs and quantify impact on motion response and structural loads

### References

[1] Mackay EBL, Feichtner A, Smith RE, Thies PR, Johanning L. Verification of a Boundary Element Model for Wave Forces on Structures with Porous Elements. Proc. 3rd Int. Conf. on Renewable Energies Offshore (RENEW 2018), Lisbon, Portugal [2] Mackay EBL, Johanning L, Qiao D, Ning D. Numerical and experimental modelling of wave loads on thin porous sheets. Proc. 38th Int. Conf. Ocean, Offshore, Arctic Eng. (OMAE2019), Glasgow, S





### Acknowledgements:

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### Flow control for wind turbine airfoils



**Dr Marinos Manolesos** 

Swansea University marinos.manolesos@swansea.ac.uk



### **Motivation**

Passive flow control is the definite choice for wind turbine manufacturers due to its simplicity, robustness, ease of application and effectiveness.

### **Vortex Generators**

Vortex Generators are flow separation control devices that generate streamwise vortices, which energize the flow locally. Their small size, at the order of the local boundary layer height, renders the study of the resulting flow challenging both experimentally and numerically.

Wind turbine blade O(10<sup>2</sup>)m

VG height = O(10<sup>-2</sup>)m

The most detailed experimental database on Vortex Generator flows has been created through extensive Wind Tunnel testing. It has Stereo PIV proved Vortex Generator efficiency and has

measurement planes been widely used for CFD benchmarking.

### Vortex Generator efficiency



Airfoil with VGs: Aerodynamic performance

Experimental database for CFD validation



 $\overline{w'w'}$  – Normal Re Stress in the wake of the VGs

**Flatback Airfoil Flow Control** 



### Active camber morphing wings

Morphing trailing edge devices can generate large, smooth and continuous changes in camber distribution. Simultaneous PIV and DIC measurements reveal the fluid - structure interaction for such flows



### Conclusions

Results are indicative of the Wind Turbine expertise available at Swansea University and the possibilities of our new Wind Tunnel.

### References

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- **Commissioned in 2016**
- Re number 3.1M per m
- Maximum speed 50m/s
- 1.5m x 1.0m
- Measurements
  - 1 Pressure
  - Velocity
  - Fluid Structure Interaction
  - Force Torque Vibrations
  - **Flow Visualization**  $\checkmark$
  - **Pitching model motion**



Swansea University Prifysgol Abertawe

Supergen ORE Hub ECR Forum – University of Strathclyde, November 2019





# Wake structure of tidal stream turbine arrays under increasing flow depth



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### **Motivation**

At every tidal site the local environmental conditions related to water depth or bathymetry are different. These can notably change the flow dynamics, e.g. velocity profile distribution or turbulence production, impacting on the energy generation capabilities of tidal stream turbine arrays. Hence, there is a need to individually investigate the layout that maximises the energy generation of the array at any site.

Relatively low submergences, i.e. turbines occupy a great proportion of the water column, can have an immediate effect in the tidal turbine wake dynamics, restricting the wake expansion and thus diminishing wake velocity recovery rate. Consequently, energy generation capabilities from secondary rows can be greatly reduced. Due to this obvious implication, it is necessary to identify and quantify the changes in wake recovery mechanisms depending on the relative water depth, so we can modify the location of the turbines within the array to maximise energy generation.



**Digital Offshore Farms Simulator** 

DOFAS (Digital Offshore FArms Simulator) is a state-of-the-art in-house code that adopts the method of Large-Eddy Simulation (LES) [1,2,4] to resolve the large-scale flow structures, highly present in tidal turbines hydrodynamics, while the small scales are modelled with the WALE sub-grid scale model.

DOFAS adopts the fractional-step method with a Runge-Kutta predictor is to approximate convection and diffusion terms, and the fluid domain is discretised with a Cartesian mesh using fourth-order central differences to compute velocity fluxes. DOFAS is fully parallelised with MPI and features an immersed boundary method to represent solid bodies, an actuator line model to simulate turbine rotors, a synthetic eddy method to generate artificial turbulence, and local mesh refinement method to refine the grid in the regions of interest.

The validation of DOFAS to predict the hydrodynamics and structural loads in the prototype tidal farms from Stallard et al. [3] can be found in Ouro et al. [4].

Figure 1. Left: Array of seven tidal turbines simulated using DOFAS [4]. Right: impact of irregular bathymetry on a tidal turbine [1].

### Why does water depth play a role in the wake recovery dynamics?



conditions. The operation of tidal turbines differs from wind turbines because of the proximity of vertical bounding layers, i.e. bottom bed and free-surface. Identifying the physical mechanisms involved in the wake and energy recovery, and their evolution under different environmental conditions, in particular at different water depths, is key to design efficient arrays.

Tidal stream turbine array layouts have to be designed to produce energy under various operating

Similarly to what has been done in wind farms [5], the terms of the transport equation for mean kinetic energy (MKE) can be analysed (Eq.1). Of special interest is to understand the mechanisms involved in the MKE recovery of MKE focus in which different transport terms are involved. Figure 2 depicts the flow dynamics involved in the recovery of tidal turbine wakes, outlining the turbulent transport of MKE both horizontally and vertically. The latter has proven to be responsible for the energy generation in large wind farms [5] but it is unsure its relevance in tidal farms.



Figure 2. Schematics of (a) the wake recovery behind a tidal turbine for different submergences and key phenomena involved in the vertical transport of mean kinetic energy. and (b) the wake recovery behind a row of tidal turbines and key phenomena involved in the horizontal transport of mean kinetic energy.

### Turbulent transport of mean kinetic energy

Figure 3 presents the profiles of turbulence-induced MKE fluxes averaged over *10D* behind the turbine. In Fig. 3a, positive values indicate downwards flux, and vice-versa, while in Fig.3b, positive values mean MKE transfer towards negative *y*-direction, and vice-versa. Therefore, the fluxes of MKE are oriented towards the centre of the wake behind the turbine, leading to an enhanced wake recovery. Larger the water depths increase the amount of MKE available above the turbine and changes turbulent distribution leading to greater vertical transport of MKE (Fig. 3a) whilst weaker horizontal transport of MKE (Fig. 3b).

These results evidence that under relatively shallow conditions, the vertical expansion of the wake is constrained by the proximity to free-surface changing the turbulence distribution. The spread of turbulent momentum exchange across the water depth is limited by the free-surface, as observed from vertical Reynolds shear stresses u'w'. The intensity of these stresses decreases at a faster rate for the shallower conditions. Conversely, levels of horizontal Reynolds shear stresses u'v' are greater for shallower flows.

This research shows that arrays performance vary for different environmental conditions, suggesting turbine rows can be clustered more closely for ratios of water depth to turbine diameter approximately over 2.



Figure 3. Vertical (a) and horizontal (b) fluxes of mean kinetic energy averaged over the streamwise direction behind the middle turbine in a three in-line array.

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### DCS4COP

**E**≡DataBee

### DATACUBE SERVICES FOR THE OFFSHORE RENEWABLE ENERGY INDUSTRY IN THE UK

### Dr. Alberto S. Rabaneda and Dr. Rodney Forster

### University of Hull, Faculty of Science and Engineering





quantities of earth-observing data arising from the Sentinels and other satellites requires new methodologies to merge all the different environmental parameters. A solution in development by different teams for different locations is the Datacube. This new technique will allow time-series analysis and at the same time help find correlations between parameters which will lead to a better understanding of physical processes and the human impact on the environment. The database structure is based in the NetCDF format.

Making the best use of the vast

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DATA PROCESSING



Satellite data is available through the different datahubs from ESA, NASA and other space agencies. This data needs to be processed in order to retrieve physical and environmental parameters. The data processing as well as datacube creation is undertaken by EO experts. Then, the data is made available accompanied by a software for visualization and exportation named EOdatabee.

This is an early example of the visualization software, Eodatabee, still under development. The datacube here is named "OLCI Cube with irregular time coverage for the North Sea". The chlorophyll concentration variable was selected and plotted on a map. Four different points for comparison were selected. A timeanalysis comparison can also be made with Eodatabee.

### **API GRAPHICAL USER INTERFACE**



### The Collaborative Computational Project in Wave Structure Interaction (CCP-WSI)



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#### Introduction

The UK has an outstanding record of research in Wave Structure Interaction (WSI) and good reason to maintain this status, particularly in the light of its leading position in the development of modern offshore renewable energy (ORE) technologies. However, the challenges facing the WSI community in developing the necessary complex, multi-physics, multi-component suit of Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) software are significant and represent a goal that can only be achieved through a collaborative code development environment.

In response, a Collaborative Computing Project (CCP) has been established to serve the UK research community in the area of WSI. The project, which began in October 2015, brings together computational scientists, CFD specialists and experimentalists with the shared objective of developing a Numerical Wave Tank (NWT) facility that complements existing and future UK experimental laboratory facilities and supports leading-edge research in marine, coastal and offshore engineering.

#### Aims and objectives

The CCP-WSI aims to:

- Develop a robust and efficient computational WSI modelling tool
- Build the community of researchers and developers around WSI
- · Provide a focus for software development and code rationalisation

#### Strategy setting

The combined CCP-WSI and SIG-WSI network is a growing international group of over 115 researchers, spanning academia and industry in 5 continents. The group has identified a number of key WSI challenges/priorities and has co-created a roadmap for WSI code development through industry focus group workshops with 75 attendees.

#### Contributions to knowledge

The CCP-WSI has advanced understanding of the applicability and reliability of WSI through a set of internationally recognised Blind Test series' involving 50 participants. The CCP-WSI Blind Test activities have been presented in dedicated sessions at 3 international conferences with 25 papers published in 3 special issue journals (Figure 3). Over 80 journal publications have been generated by the CCP-WSI team and over 20 presentations have been given at national and international conferences. A number of pilot projects with industry, outreach activities with school children and public audiences have also been delivered.



Figure 1: Images from the 'Introduction to CCP-WSI Code Developments' training event (in collaboration with Queen's University Belfast), Belfast, N. Ireland, 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019. Clockwise from top left - Attendees enjoying the 'hands-on' training; screenshot from the first tutorial - solitaryWaveMaker; screenshot from the third code development – sixDoFRigidBodyMotion bodyForces; attendees enjoying a tour of the Queen's University facilities.



Figure 2: Images from the 1<sup>st</sup> CCP-WSI Hackathon (in collaboration with Queen's University Belfast), Portaferry, N. Ireland, 16-20th September 2019. Clockwise from top left – Participants of the 1<sup>st</sup> CCP-WSI Hackathon; participants getting to know each other; advanced training delivered; tour of Queen's University Marine Laboratory; sunset over Strangford Lough; one code development worked on at the event – dynamic load-balancing; boat tour of Strangford Lough; attendees enjoying a spot of axe-throwing and archery towards the end of a productive week.



Figure 3: Some results from the CCP-WSI Blind Test Series 1 – focused wave impact with a fixed FPSO (Ransley et al. 2019) (left); snapshots from a contribution to the CCP-WSI Blind Test Series 3 – focused wave interactions with floating structures (Brown et al. 2020) (right).

#### Strategic software development and support

Training has been provided to the community with 76 attendees, including training in software engineering, specific code development, the use of the CCP-WSI Code Repository and specific WSI developments (Figure 1) and a week-long Hackathon for intense collaborative code development (Figure 2). The CCP-WSI Code Repository and clearing house provides a platform for co-creation and sharing of open-source WSI code for community use, and is maintained by the CCP-WSI Organisation on Github with over 45 users and more than 300 commits. The CCP-WSI Data Repository supports a growing database of benchmarking test cases for community use and validation practices.

#### Acknowledgements and references

The CCP-WSI is funded by EPSRC (EP/M022382/1) [website - www.ccp-wsi.ac.uk] References:

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### Assessing Free Surface Effects in Tidal Turbine Simulations

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#### Free Surface Effects

Turbines like the ORPC RivGen cross-flow turbine, but also conventional horizontal axis turbines deployed in surface proximity, will be affected by the deformation of the free surface. For industrial design and development, those effects must be taken into account. Fully non-linear volume of fluid methods increase the computational burden significantly compared to single phase solvers, typically used with a slip wall condition at the surface patch.

#### Computional model – potentialFreeSurfaceDyMFoamUsrc

potentialFreeSurfaceDyMFoamUsrc is a single phase solver based on pimpleFoam. A special boundary condition based on the linear hydrostatic relationship is used to track surface elevation  $\zeta = p/(pg)$ . We enhance the original solver with wave and current generation abilities by adding terms to the impulse equation.

$$\frac{\partial(\rho \mathbf{U})}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{U}\mathbf{U}) = -\nabla \rho + \nabla \cdot \mathbf{T} + \rho \mathbf{F}_{b}$$
$$+ r_{w}\rho \mathbf{a}_{wm} + r_{c}\rho \frac{\mathbf{U}_{t} - \mathbf{U}}{\Delta t} + s\vec{n}_{z}\rho \mathbf{U}$$

with

- $r_w \rho \mathbf{a}_{wm}$  : wave generation
- $r_c \rho \frac{\mathbf{U}_t \mathbf{U}}{\Delta t}$ : current generation. Each cell centre within  $r_c = 1$ acceleration input corrects the velocity field U to target velocity U.
- $\textit{s}\vec{n}_{z\rho}\textbf{U}$  : numerical beach allowing for a steady current flow in x-direction.



Figure: Computational domain used for the present simulations. The turbine is placed in the middle of the test section. Upstream and downstream a beach dampens waves, but the current imposed by the current generator passes undisturbed.

Simulations are run for a 2D section of the four bladed RivGen turbine, including transverse members of the chassis. Turbine diameter is 1.5m. Computational burden of potentialFreeSurfaceDyMFoamUsrc compared to pimpleFoam with slip wall conditions is negligible.

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Figure: ORPC RivGen turbine stationed on Kvichak river, Igiugig Alaska, 2014

Surface deformation and wake



Surface deformation is hardly noticeable for 22.5m water depth, but for 5.5m a bore develops above the turbine.



While the bore above the turbine is quasi static, disturbances and instabilities can be observed in the wake downstream of the turbine.



Simulations also allow to investigate the interaction of the wake with the free surface. Close to the turbine, structures with a diameter in the order of magnitude of the blades dominate the flow field. Several diameters downstream the flow is defined by vortices of the scale of the turbine and interacting with the free surface.

Coefficient of power - slip wall bounded vs free surface



With decreasing water depth, differences between wall bounded and free surface become significant. Though lower than predicted by wall bounded simulations, coefficients of power still reach the Betz limit.

Coefficient of drag - slip wall bounded vs free surface



The influence of the water-level on turbine drag is much less than on power capture, but still significant at typical operating conditions.

#### Conclusions

- Free surface effects must be considered
- Efficiency above the Betz limit is realistic for typical cross flow turbine deployments
- High quality validation data missing for correct Re Number, velocity-depth profile, solidity ...
- potentialFreeSurfaceDyMFoamUsrc might be an efficient option for further hydrodynamic problems, evaluation ongoing...





### Learning-Based Robust Control for **Offshore Wave Energy Converters**

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### B. Robust Data-driven Estimation of Wave Excitation Force

### Method Description

Data-driven approach to estimate wave excitation force (WEF), using robust Bayesian filter described by nonparametric Gaussian process (GP) models. A first principle model in a probabilistic framework is more robust than calculating estimates of a parametric function representation. the means and covariances of joint probabilities can be directly computed based on analytic moment matching.



### > WECCCOMP Description \*

Wave Energy Control Competition is organized by COER at Maynooth University in cooperation with Sandia National Laboratories. NREL in USA. Centre for Marine and Renewable Energy (MaREI), and Aalborg University. Our data-efficient learning approach ranks top 3.



Block diagram of the Bayesian learning reactive control

### **Control Strategy**

Bayesian Optimization algorithm is adopted to learn the optimal coefficients of the causal controller subject to physical constraints.

Results



### **Future Work**

Our entry in WECCCOMP competition is being extended to a WEC array problem using parallel **Bayesian Optimization.** 

Gaussian Process Model-based Predictive Control (GP-MPC) will be developed for WECs. By exploiting Pontryagin's Maximum Principle our algorithm can deal with state and control constraints in a robust way.

















### One-fluid formulation for floating offshore renewable energy devices

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- One-fluid framework for multiphase fluid, rigid structure, large deformable structure, articulated structure interaction
- Equal computational costs as high fidelity multiphase fluid solver
- Applications: Floating ORE Platforms
- Extension to 3D is our on-going work

### High Fidelity Fluid Solver: Arbitrary phases with Level Sets



Fig. 1 Level Set representation of an interface.



Fig. 2 Rising bubble with different surface tension.



Fig. 3 Liquid dropping on a thin layer, Three phases.

### High Fidelity Fluid-Structure Solver: Arbitrary deformable solids with contacts



Fig. 4 Time evolution of a incompressible flexible membrane under pulsatile flow.

Fig. 5 Time evolution of the interaction between a wave hitting an elastic wall.

### High Fidelity Fluid-Structure Solver: Arbitrary articulated rigid structure



Fig. 5 Pressure distribution and free surface for a water impact problem.

### **Numerical Wave Tank**



Fig. 8 Regular wave generation and absorption.



Fig. 9 Solitary wave generation.

 Fig. 6 Fluttering plate in a
 Fig. 7

 viscous fluid.
 motion

Fig. 7 Double pendulum motion in viscous fluid.





Fig.11 Dynamic response of attenuator type of wave energy converters.



### **Bayesian Ecosystem and Natural Capital Models to** Understand the Effect of Offshore **Renewables on the Marine System**



Neda Trifonova (Research fellow, UoA) and Beth Scott (Professor, UoA)

### 1. Introduction

- The UK is at the forefront of the development, adoption and export of offshore renewable energy (ORE) technologies.
- Climate change is a major concern, leading to predictions of a global temperature rise of 3-5 °C within 50 years. •
- Understanding how usage of spatial habitat of highly mobile marine species may change with climate change and large-scale energy extraction devices is essential for sustainable management of their populations.
- Computational ecosystem models to provide indications of how the ecosystem is likely to change.
- Model parameterization to explore a range of scenarios to investigate optimal locations and design of ORE technologies.
- Natural capital models need to be developed to forecast the ecological and socio-economic benefits and trade-offs that will occur with • the operation of ORE technologies and future climate change, which is vital for the sustainable management of all uses of our marine ecosystems.

- Bayesian networks (BNs) are models that graphically and probabilistically represent relationships among variables.
- BNs can capture nonlinear, dynamic and arbitrary combinatorial relationships.
- BNs efficiently integrate variables presented at different scales.
- Empirical data can be combined with existing knowledge.
- BNs integrate the uncertainty associated with species dynamics due to the action of multiple driving factors and can be used for environmental decision making.
- BNs can use different 'currencies': ecological, economic (natural) and social capital.

Area 2



Area 3







#### 3. Bayesian Ecosystem and Natural Capital Models and ORE Supergen

- Develop and validate Bayesian ecosystem models to support the confident prediction of the environmental impact of ORE technologies.
- Opportunities to work with government establishments to design coastal management plans that facilitate sustainable use of the environment, benefiting locals and the global community.



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### A Risk Assessment Framework for Offshore Wind Turbines

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### 1) Motivation

Ultimate limit state

The design and assessment of offshore wind turbines (OWTs) is currently based on **deterministic**, **prescriptive approaches**. However, there are uncertainties associated with structural assessment through

- Stochastic environmental loading as a result of wind and waves.
- Structural capacity: materials, geometry and models.

Neglecting these uncertainties may lead to over-conservative design or unsafe designs that can fail catastrophically. This project **proposes a risk-based approach for the assessment of offshore wind farms** (OWFs).

### 2) Assessment cases

OWT structures are currently assessed against three performance objectives (or limit states) – however **not all drive failure of the structure** [1] and do not need included within a risk assessment. The design cases considered in this work include:



### 4) Fatigue limit state



### 5) Loss

Loss is evaluated for the OWT structure, also considering the most expensive 9 pieces of electrical / mechanical equipment.



### 6) Conclusion

- Largest annual losses are from FLS, because failure has a higher likelihood and involves the sub-structure, as well as the tower indicated below where losses from ULS and FLS are compared.
- Failure in ULS are larger if severe hurricane conditions expected, such as at proposed wind farms on the East coast of the United States [2].





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