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Multi-Domain 2.5D Method for Multiple Water Level Hydrodynamics

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Abstract: The mean water surface (interface) under the air cushion of a surface effect ship (SES) or an air cushion supported platform (ACSP) is generally lower than the outside water surface due to the overpressure of the air cushion. To precisely analyze the hydrodynamics under the air cushion, multiple water levels should be considered in numerical models. However, when using free surface Green's functions as numerical methods, the water level difference cannot be taken into account, because free surface Green's functions normally require users to set in the whole water domain a unique datum water surface that completely separates the air domain and the water domain. To overcome this difficulty, a multi-domain approach is incorporated into a 2.5D method that is based on a time domain free surface Green's function with viscous dissipation effects in this paper. In the novel multi-domain 2.5D method, the water domain is partitioned into inner and outer domains, and the interface is located in the inner domain while the outside water surface is placed in the outer domain. In each domain there exists only one unique water level, while water levels in different domains are allowed to be different. Benefited from this characteristic, the multi-domain 2.5D method is able to precisely consider the water level difference and its influence on hydrodynamics. The newly proposed multi-domain 2.5D method is employed to predict the hydrodynamics of an SES, and it is confirmed that the multi-domain 2.5D method can give better numerical results than the single-domain one for the given case.

Keywords: multi-domain; Green's function; 2.5D method; hydrodynamics; water level

1. Introduction

In water-related engineering, there might exist multiple water surfaces with different levels, such as water separated by a dam or seawall, water flows passing through the channels of a M-craft, water under the air cushion of a surface effect ship (SES) or air cushion supported platform (ACSP), and so on. The water level difference could have an influence on the hydrodynamics of fixed or floating bodies in the water. For example, the pressurized air under an SES could reduce about 25% of the draught inside the cushion, whose impact should not be ignored.

There exist various numerical methods for solving the multiple water level hydrodynamics of an SES, e.g., Rankine source methods [1], finite element methods [2], unsteady Reynolds-averaged Navier-Stokes equation (URANS) methods [3], or even free surface Green's functions [4–6]. Among these methods, the free surface Green's functions are considered to be the most efficient due to the fact that source points are only distributed on the wetted surface rather than all water boundaries. In free surface Green's functions, however, only a unique datum water surface can be defined in the flow field, and the water domain and air domain must be completely beneath and above this surface, respectively. The free surface condition for any water surface should be satisfied on the datum water

surface. To meet this requirement, the datum surface is generally set on the highest water surface, i.e., water surface outside of the SES [6]. Obviously, this will cause the actual interface to be lower than the datum surface, which inevitably causes an adverse impact on predicting the hydrodynamics of the SES.

To overcome the abovementioned difficulties, a multi-domain concept, which divides the water domain into several domains and respectively solves the problem on each domain, is introduced into this paper. The multi-domain concept is used in fluid dynamics for several purposes. One is to realize the parallel computation technique [7–9], which decomposes the fluid domain into multiple regions, thus allowing calculations to be simultaneously performed in each region. Another purpose is to construct boundary conditions for shielded domains, which may be unknown in their original boundary value problems. To investigate waves passing through two vertical thin plates on the free surface, Shin and Cho [10] partitioned the fluid domain into three pieces using the two plates and their extension to the bottom, and respectively built up three boundary value problems (BVP) for three domains. Moreover, it was demonstrated that the multi-domain methods have better performance in predicting hydrodynamics. Chen and Duan [11] found that the multi-domain boundary element method (MD-BEM) is faster and more accurate in solving the hydrodynamics of a moonpool in comparison to the conventional BEM. Nonetheless, as far as we know, none of the existing multi-domain methods has been employed in tackling multiple water level problems.

In this paper, the multi-domain concept is first incorporated into the 2.5D (two and a half dimensional) method [12,13] based on the time domain free surface Green's function with viscous dissipation effects [14] to form a multi-domain 2.5D method. The 2.5D method is a high-speed slender body method that could be able to predict the hydrodynamics of high-speed ships such as SES. The newly proposed method partitions the water domain into an inner domain and an outer domain, which contain, respectively, the interface and outside free surface. Thus, the interface could remain at its original position and the multi-domain 2.5D method would be able to precisely consider the multiple water levels and the influence of water level difference on hydrodynamics. The newly proposed multi-domain 2.5D method is validated by solving the hydrodynamics of an SES and comparing the numerical results with experimental ones.

2. Mathematical Models of the Multi-Domain 2.5D Method

2.1. Partition of Water Domain and Boundary Value Problem

It is assumed that the water domain of an SES, Ω is enclosed by free surface S_F , wetted surface S_B , interface S_P , and the boundary at infinite S_∞ . The fluctuating air cushion pressure on the interface of an SES can be expressed as:

$$\tilde{p}(x, y, t) = \hat{p}(x, y)e^{i\omega t} = -\rho_w g e^{i\omega t} \sum_{j=7}^{6+N_P} \eta_j n_j(x, y) \quad (1)$$

where ρ_w is the density of water, g is the gravity, ω is the pulsating frequency, η_j is the equivalent waterhead of the fluctuating air pressure in the j -th mode, N_P is the number of modes, and $n_j(x, y)$ a complete set of orthogonal Fourier modes expanded on the interface defined as [15]:

$$n_j(x, y) = \begin{pmatrix} \cos(\alpha\pi(x - x_m)/l) \\ \sin(\alpha\pi(x - x_m)/l) \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \cos(\beta\pi y/b) \\ \sin(\beta\pi y/b) \end{pmatrix} \quad (2)$$

where α, β are 0 and even for the modes corresponding to the cosine or odd for the sine; and l, b, x_m are the length, breadth, and longitudinal center of the air cushion, respectively.

Within the framework of a linear high speed slender body assumption, the unsteady disturbance potential of water around the SES can be written as:

$$\phi_T = \left\{ \eta_0 \phi_0 + \sum_{j=2}^6 \eta_j \phi_j + \sum_{j=7}^{6+N_P} \eta_j \phi_j \right\} e^{i\omega t} \tag{3}$$

where η_0 is the amplitude of the incident wave, η_j ($j = 2, \dots, 6$) the amplitude of the j -th motion mode, ϕ_0 the diffraction potential, ϕ_j ($j = 2, \dots, 6$) the radiation potential in the j -th motion mode, and ϕ_j ($j = 7, \dots, 6 + N_P$) the radiation potential in the j -th pressure mode.

The hydrodynamic BVP for the SES in water domain could be formulated as:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \frac{\partial^2 \phi_j}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \phi_j}{\partial z^2} = 0, & \text{in } \Omega \\ \left[\left(i\omega - U \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \right)^2 + g \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \right] \phi_j = \begin{cases} g \left(i\omega - U \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \right) n_j(x, y), & \text{on } S_P, j = 7, \dots, 6 + N_P \\ 0, & \text{on } S_F \cup (S_P, j = 0, 2, \dots, 6) \end{cases} \\ \frac{\partial \phi_j}{\partial n} = \begin{cases} -\frac{\partial \phi_1}{\partial n}, & j = 0 \\ i\omega n_j + U m_j, & j = 2, \dots, 6 \\ 0, & j = 7, \dots, 6 + N_P \end{cases}, & \text{on } S_B \\ \phi_j = \nabla \phi_j = 0, & \text{on } S_\infty \\ \phi_j = \frac{\partial \phi_j}{\partial x} = 0, & \text{at } x > x_b \end{array} \right. \tag{4}$$

where ϕ_1 is the incident wave with unit amplitude; U the advancing speed of the SES; x_b the x -axis of the bow; n_j ($j = 1, \dots, 6$) the generalized normal vector; m_j is defined as $(m_1, m_2, m_3) = (0, 0, 0)$ and $(m_4, m_5, m_6) = (0, n_3, -n_2)$.

Normally, the interface S_P is lower than the free surface S_F . To consider the water level difference between S_P and S_F using the 2.5D method, the water domain Ω is partitioned by the splitter S_C into the outer domain Ω^e and the inner domain Ω^i ($\Omega = \Omega^i \cup \Omega^e$) (see Figure 1). As a result, the wetted surface S_B is divided into an outer wetted surface S_B^e and an inner one S_B^i ($S_B = S_B^e \cup S_B^i$). The free surface S_F and interface S_P are located in the outer domain Ω^e and inner domain Ω^i , respectively. The splitter S_C could have any shape and is not limited to the one shown in Figure 1.

Let ϕ_j^e and ϕ_j^i be the water velocity potential in the outer domain Ω^e and inner domain Ω^i , respectively. It is not difficult to obtain the BVP in the outer domain Ω^e :

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \frac{\partial^2 \phi_j^e}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \phi_j^e}{\partial z^2} = 0, & \text{in } \Omega^e \\ \left[\left(i\omega - U \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \right)^2 + g \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \right] \phi_j^e = 0, & \text{on } S_F \\ \frac{\partial \phi_j^e}{\partial n} = \begin{cases} -\frac{\partial \phi_1^e}{\partial n}, & j = 0 \\ i\omega n_j + U m_j, & j = 2, \dots, 6 \\ 0, & j = 7, \dots, 6 + N_P \end{cases}, & \text{on } S_B^e \\ \phi_j^e = \nabla \phi_j^e = 0, & \text{on } S_\infty \\ \phi_j^e = \frac{\partial \phi_j^e}{\partial x} = 0, & \text{at } x > x_b \end{array} \right. \tag{5}$$

where ϕ_1^e is the incident wave in the outer domain.

Analogously, the BVP in the inner domain Ω^i can be written as:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \frac{\partial^2 \phi_j^i}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \phi_j^i}{\partial z^2} = 0, & \text{in } \Omega^i \\ \left[\left(i\omega - U \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \right)^2 + g \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \right] \phi_j^i = \begin{cases} g \left(i\omega - U \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \right) n_j(x, y), & \text{on } S_P, j = 7, \dots, 6 + N_P \\ 0, & \text{on } S_P, j = 0, 2, \dots, 6 \end{cases} \\ \frac{\partial \phi_j^i}{\partial n} = \begin{cases} -\frac{\partial \phi_j^i}{\partial n}, & j = 0 \\ i\omega n_j + Um_j, & j = 2, \dots, 6 \\ 0, & j = 7, \dots, 6 + N_P \end{cases}, & \text{on } S_B^i \\ \phi_j^i = \frac{\partial \phi_j^i}{\partial x} = 0, & \text{at } x > x_b \end{array} \right. \quad (6)$$

where ϕ_j^i is the incident wave in the inner domain.

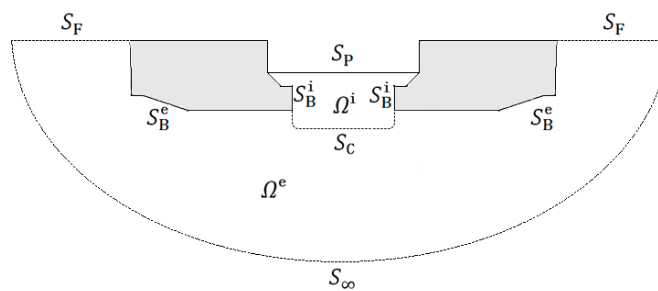


Figure 1. Water flow domains Ω^i, Ω^e and their boundaries around the transverse section of an SES. The outer domain Ω^e is surrounded by free surface S_F , outer wetted surface S_B^e , splitter S_C , and boundary at infinity S_∞ . The inner domain Ω^i is enclosed by interface S_P , inner wetted surface S_B^i , and splitter S_C .

In addition, the velocity potentials ϕ_j^e, ϕ_j^i and their derivatives should be the same on the splitter S_C :

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \phi_j^e = \phi_j^i, \\ \frac{\partial \phi_j^e}{\partial n} = \frac{\partial \phi_j^i}{\partial n}, \end{array} \right. \quad \text{on } S_C \quad (7)$$

One can easily verify that the combination of BVPs from Equations (5)–(7) yields the BVP given by Equation (4), i.e., the original BVP for the SES in the water domain Ω with multiple water levels is equivalent to a BVP in the outer domain Ω^e and another one in the inner domain Ω^i , and each domain from Ω^e and Ω^i only contains a unique water level. Thereby, one can employ the free surface Green’s function method (2.5D method) to solve these two BVPs.

2.2. Multi-Domain 2.5D Method

If the 2.5D method is based on the source and dipole mixed distribution model, one only needs to formulate the boundary integral equations along boundaries of the domain Ω^e or Ω^i . However, the pure source distribution model is preferred in the 2.5D method. Thus, the pure source distribution model is employed in this paper. To this end, the outer domain Ω^e is artificially extended to the interior domain (denoted by Ω_i^e) enclosed by the outer wetted surface S_B^e , splitter S_C , and artificial free surface S_{Fi} (Figure 2a), while the inner domain Ω^i is artificially extended to the exterior domain (denoted by Ω_e^i) surrounded by the inner wetted surface S_B^i , splitter S_C , artificial free surface S_{Fe} , and boundary at infinity S_∞ (Figure 2b). It is worth noting that artificial free surfaces S_{Fi} and S_{Fe} have the same water level as S_F and S_P , respectively. This is a novel multi-domain approach, which is different from the multi-domain approaches without domain extension adopted in the literature, such as in Reference [11].

Since the free surface conditions are only satisfied on the datum water level $z = 0$, one has to define two local coordinate systems for two domains. As shown in Figure 2a, an SES-accompanied inertial coordinate system $o^e - x^e y^e z^e$ is defined in the outer domain Ω^e , which moves with speed U . When the SES is located at its mean position, the x^e -axis points upstream and the z^e -axis points vertically upward through the center of gravity (COG) of the SES. The origin o^e is placed in the plan of the mean outside free surface S_F . Analogously, in Figure 2b another SES-accompanied inertial coordinate system $o^i - x^i y^i z^i$ is defined in the inner domain Ω^i , which is almost the same as $o^e - x^e y^e z^e$, except that the origin o^i is located on the interface S_P . For simplicity, the notations “e,i” on the top right of coordinates are ignored in following texts if no ambiguity occurs. However, one should note that the variables in each domain are always defined in their own coordinate systems.

The main difference between the current multi-domain method and those used in the literature for other purposes is that, in the current method, multiple local coordinate systems should be respectively defined for each domain and quantities in each domain must be defined in their own coordinate system, while in other multi-domain methods, generally only one global coordinate system is defined and quantities in different domains are defined in the same coordinate system.

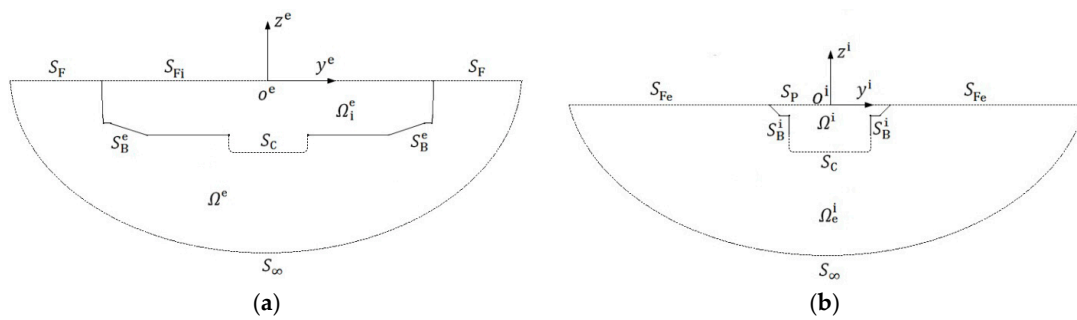


Figure 2. Outer and inner domains and their extended domains. The coordinate system $o^e - x^e y^e z^e$ and $o^i - x^i y^i z^i$ are defined in the outer domain and inner domain, respectively. The origins o^e and o^i are located on the mean outside free surface S_F and interface S_P , respectively. (a) Outer domain Ω^e and its extension Ω_i^e ; (b) Inner domain Ω^i and its extension Ω_e^i .

Before employing 2.5D methods to solve the potentials, variable substitutions should be performed:

$$\begin{cases} x(t) = x_b - Ut \\ \psi_j(t, y, z) = e^{i\omega t} \phi_j(x(t), y, z) \\ \Pi_j(t, y) = e^{i\omega t} n_j(x(t), y) \end{cases} \quad (8)$$

Let ψ_j^e, σ_j^e be the time-domain potential and source density in the outer domain, and ψ_j^i, σ_j^i be those in the inner domain. All outer domain potentials $\psi_j^e (j = 0, 2, 3, \dots, 6 + N_p)$ and sidehulls related inner domain potentials $\psi_j^i (j = 0, 2, 3, \dots, 6)$ can be solved using the traditional time-domain Green’s function method [13], while fluctuating air cushion pressure-related inner domain potentials $\psi_j^i (j = 7, \dots, 6 + N_p)$ are associated with the mixed BVP and should be solved using the method presented in Appendix A.

The boundary integral equations and source density equations ($j = 0, 2, 3, \dots, 6 + N_p$) in the outer domain are given as:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 2\pi\psi_j^e(t, \mathbf{p}) + \int_{S_B^e + S_C} \bar{G}\sigma_j^e(t, \mathbf{q})ds_q = \int_0^t d\tau \int_{S_B^e + S_C} \tilde{G}\sigma_j^e(\tau, \mathbf{q})ds_q, \quad \mathbf{p} \in S_B^e \cup S_C \\ \int_{S_B^e + S_C} \sigma_j^e(t, \mathbf{q}) \frac{\partial \bar{G}}{\partial n_p^e} ds_q - \pi\sigma_j^e(t, \mathbf{p}) = -2\pi \frac{\partial \psi_j^e(t, \mathbf{p})}{\partial n_p^e} + \\ \int_0^t d\tau \int_{S_B^e + S_C} \frac{\partial \tilde{G}}{\partial n_p^e} \sigma_j^e(\tau, \mathbf{q})ds_q, \quad \mathbf{p} \in S_B^e \\ 2\pi \frac{\partial \psi_j^e(t, \mathbf{p})}{\partial n_p^e} + \int_{S_B^e + S_C} \sigma_j^e(t, \mathbf{q}) \frac{\partial \bar{G}}{\partial n_p^e} ds_q - \pi\sigma_j^e(t, \mathbf{p}) = \\ \int_0^t d\tau \int_{S_B^e + S_C} \frac{\partial \tilde{G}}{\partial n_p^e} \sigma_j^e(\tau, \mathbf{q})ds_q, \quad \mathbf{p} \in S_C \end{array} \right. \quad (9)$$

where \mathbf{p} , \mathbf{q} , $\bar{\mathbf{q}}$ are the field point, source point, and mirror of the source point on the mean free surface, respectively; r_{pq} , $r_{p\bar{q}}$ are the distance between \mathbf{p} and \mathbf{q} , \mathbf{p} and $\bar{\mathbf{q}}$, respectively.

On the other hand, the equations in the inner domain are given as:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 2\pi\psi_j^i(t, \mathbf{p}) + \int_{S_B^i + S_C} \bar{G}\sigma_j^i(t, \mathbf{q})ds_q = \int_0^t d\tau \int_{S_B^i + S_C} \tilde{G}\sigma_j^i(\tau, \mathbf{q})ds_q - \\ \int_0^t d\tau \int_{S_P} \Pi_j(\tau, \eta) \frac{\partial \bar{G}}{\partial \tau} ds_q, \quad \mathbf{p} \in S_B^i \cup S_C \cup S_P \\ \int_{S_B^i + S_C} \sigma_j^i(t, \mathbf{q}) \frac{\partial \bar{G}}{\partial n_p^i} ds_q - \pi\sigma_j^i(t, \mathbf{p}) = \int_0^t d\tau \int_{S_B^i + S_C} \frac{\partial \tilde{G}}{\partial n_p^i} \sigma_j^i(\tau, \mathbf{q})ds_q - \\ 2\pi \frac{\partial \psi_j^i(t, \mathbf{p})}{\partial n_p^i} - \int_0^t d\tau \int_{S_P} \Pi_j(\tau, \eta) \frac{\partial^2 \tilde{G}}{\partial z \partial \tau} ds_q, \quad \mathbf{p} \in S_B^i \\ 2\pi \frac{\partial \psi_j^i(t, \mathbf{p})}{\partial n_p^i} + \int_{S_B^i + S_C} \sigma_j^i(t, \mathbf{q}) \frac{\partial \bar{G}}{\partial n_p^i} ds_q - \pi\sigma_j^i(t, \mathbf{p}) = \\ \int_0^t d\tau \int_{S_B^i + S_C} \frac{\partial \tilde{G}}{\partial n_p^i} \sigma_j^i(\tau, \mathbf{q})ds_q - \int_0^t d\tau \int_{S_P} \Pi_j(\tau, \eta) \frac{\partial^2 \tilde{G}}{\partial z \partial \tau} ds_q, \quad \mathbf{p} \in S_C \end{array} \right. \quad (10)$$

In addition, the potentials and their normal derivative from two domains should be equal to each other:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \psi_j^e(t, \mathbf{p}) - \psi_j^i(t, \mathbf{p}) = 0, \\ \frac{\partial \psi_j^e(t, \mathbf{p})}{\partial n_p^e} + \frac{\partial \psi_j^i(t, \mathbf{p})}{\partial n_p^i} = 0, \quad \mathbf{p} \in S_C \end{array} \right. \quad (11)$$

In Equations (9) and (10), \tilde{G} and \bar{G} are the free surface memory term and instantaneous term of the free surface Green's function with viscous dissipation effects, respectively. \tilde{G} is defined as [14]:

$$\tilde{G}(\mathbf{p}, t; \mathbf{q}, \tau) = 2 \int_0^\infty \sqrt{\frac{g}{k}} e^{(k + \frac{\nu^2}{g})(y + \eta)} e^{-\nu(t - \tau)} e^{k(z + \zeta)} \cos\left(\left(k + \frac{\nu^2}{g}\right)(y - \eta)\right) \sin(\sqrt{gk}(t - \tau)) dk \quad (12)$$

where ν is the viscosity dissipation coefficient. \bar{G} is expressed as [14]:

$$\bar{G}(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) = \text{Re} \left\{ E_1 \left(-\frac{\nu^2}{g} \mathbf{R}_{p\bar{q}} \right) - E_1 \left(-\frac{\nu^2}{g} \mathbf{R}_{pq} \right) \right\} \quad (13)$$

with

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \mathbf{R}_{p\bar{q}} = z + \zeta + i(y - \eta) \\ \mathbf{R}_{pq} = -|z - \zeta| + i(y - \eta) \end{array} \right. \quad (14)$$

$$E_1(z) = \int_z^\infty \frac{e^{-r}}{r} dr, \quad z \neq 0 \quad (15)$$

Equations (9)–(11) are essential equations for the multi-domain 2.5D method. Each variable in these equations is exactly defined in its own coordinate system. They are different from those given by the conventional single-domain 2.5D method, in which the variables on the interface and inner side of the wetted surface are not properly defined due to the water level difference.

At any time $t > 0$, the potentials and source densities at the left hand side of Equations (9)–(11) are unknown, while those at the right hand side are already known. Combining Equations (9)–(11),

one could solve all unknown potentials $\psi_j^e(t, \mathbf{p})$, $\mathbf{p} \in S_B^e$ and $\psi_j^i(t, \mathbf{p})$, $\mathbf{p} \in S_B^i \cup S_P$. To avoid confusion, $\psi_j^e(t, \mathbf{p})$ and $\psi_j^i(t, \mathbf{p})$ are denoted by $\psi_j(t, \mathbf{p}) = \psi_j(t, y, z)$. Applying the inverse transformation to $\psi_j(t, y, z)$, one obtains:

$$\phi_j(x, y, z) = \psi_j(t(x), y, z)e^{-i\omega t(x)} \tag{16}$$

Once potentials $\phi_j(x, y, z)$ on the wetted surface and interface are obtained, the fluctuating air cushion pressure response could be solved using the equations given in Appendix B. It is worth noting that Bernoulli’s equation on the free surface or interface is:

$$\begin{cases} \left(i\omega + 2\nu - U \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \right) \phi_j + g\zeta_j = 0, & j = 0, 2, \dots, 6 \\ \left(i\omega + 2\nu - U \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \right) \phi_j + g(\zeta_j - n_j) = 0, & j = 7, \dots, 6 + N_P \end{cases} \tag{17}$$

which contain the additional term 2ν that does not exist in inviscid Green’s function methods.

3. Application of the Multi-Domain 2.5D Method for Multi Water Level Hydrodynamics

In this section, the multi-domain 2.5D method is validated and employed for evaluating the hydrodynamics of an SES. A single-domain 2.5D method is proposed for comparison. The single-domain 2.5D method could be directly obtained from Equation (10) by deleting the splitter S_C and replacing the inner wetted surface S_B^i with the whole wetted surface S_B .

3.1. Validation of the Multi-Domain 2.5D Method

Before applying the multi-domain 2.5D method to an SES, the catamaran Delft 372 [16–18] is employed to validate this method. The Delft 372 [18] was firstly proposed by the Delft University of Technology as one of the “Standard Series” models for academic research. The principal parameters of the Delft 372 are listed in Table 1.

Table 1. Main characteristics of the Delft 372 catamaran [16,17].

| Parameters (Symbol) | Value | Parameters (Symbol) | Value |
|--|--------|--|--------------------------|
| Length between perpendiculars (L) | 3.0 m | Longitudinal center of gravity (x_g) | 1.41 m |
| Beam overall (B) | 0.94 m | Vertical center of gravity (z_g) | 0.34 m |
| Beam demihull (b) | 0.24 m | Pitch radius of gyration (k_{yy}) | 0.782 m |
| Distance between center of demihulls (d) | 0.70 m | Displacement (Δ) | 87.07 kg |
| Draft (T) | 0.15 m | Moment of inertia for pitch (I_{55}) | 53.245 kg·m ² |

As it is known, the level of the water surface between the demihulls of the Delft 372 catamaran is the same as that of the outside free surface. Thereby, the numerical results from the multi-domain 2.5D method with a splitter of an arbitrary shape should theoretically be the same as those obtained using the conventional single-domain 2.5D method, though numerical errors in calculations may occur.

As shown in Figure 3, four splitter shapes: (a) straight, (b) triangle, (c) rectangle, and (d) semicircle, are selected for the study. The splitters connect the lowest points of the demihulls. In Figure 3b, the vertical distance between the vertex of the triangle and the lowest point of the demihull is equal to d . In Figure 3c, the height of the rectangle is $d/2$.

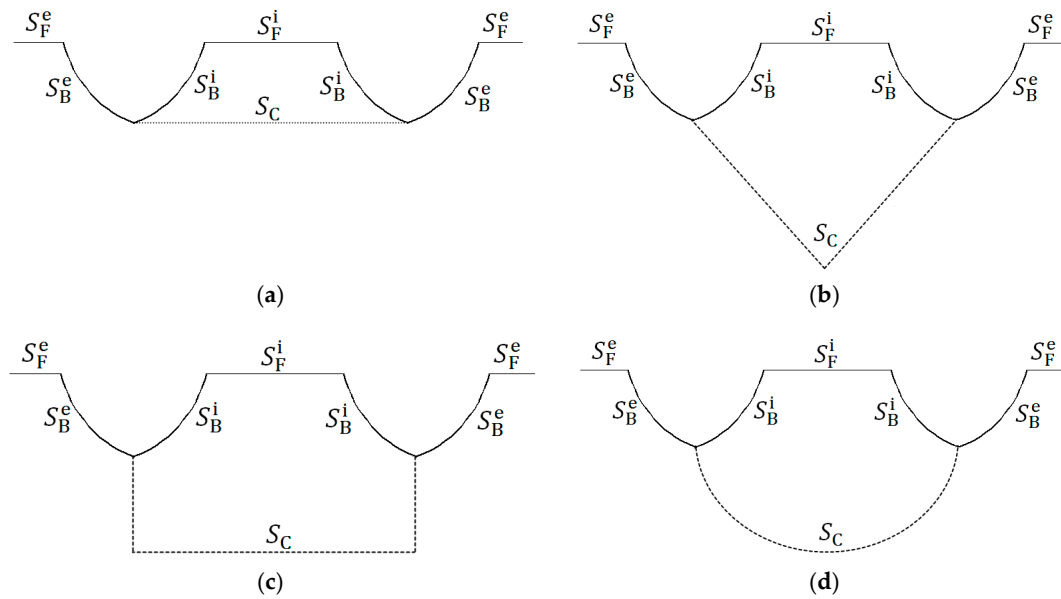


Figure 3. Various splitters for partitioning water domain around a transverse section of the Delft 372. (a) Straight splitter; (b) Triangular splitter; (c) Rectangular splitter; (d) Semicircular splitter.

The viscosity dissipation coefficient is set as $\nu = 0$, since no viscous dissipation effects need to be considered in this case. Figure 4 depicts the heave and pitch RAO (response amplitude operator) of the Delft 372 advancing under Frouder number $Fr = 0.60$ in regular head waves of wavelength λ . The lines labeled with “MD: Straight”, “MD: Triangle”, “MD: Rectangle”, and “MD: Semicircle” are numerical results from the multi-domain (MD) 2.5D method with straight, triangular, rectangular, and a semicircular splitters, respectively. The lines labeled with “SD” and “EFD” are numerical results from the single-domain (SD) 2.5D method and results from experimental fluid dynamics (EFD) [16], respectively. Generally, it is desirable that all numerical results agree with the experimental ones. Nonetheless, one can observe that the numerical results from “MD: Straight” agree best with those from the single-domain 2.5D method. On the other hand, there exist notable discrepancies between the numerical results from “MD: Triangle”, “MD: Rectangle”, “MD: Semicircle” and the single-domain 2.5D method, which indicates that the multi-domain 2.5D method with triangular, rectangular, and semicircular splitters could induce slight numerical errors. It can be deduced that the numerical errors are positively associated with the length of the splitter.

The numerical results from this case suggest that the multi-domain 2.5D method developed in this paper is numerically stable, and that the straight design is the most suitable shape for the splitter.

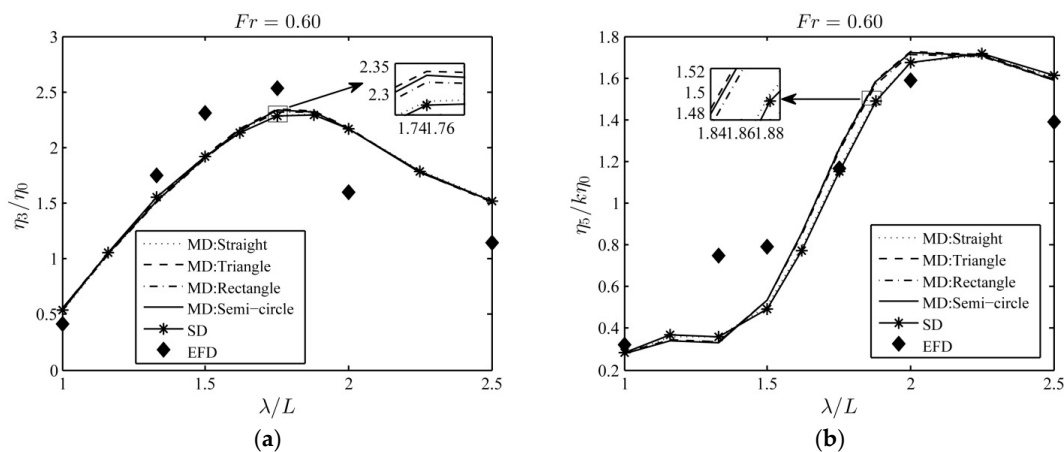


Figure 4. Comparison of motion response of the Delft 372 catamaran using the multi-domain 2.5D method with various splitters (straight, triangle, rectangle, semicircle) with results from single-domain 2.5D methods and experiments. λ is the wavelength. (a) Heave response amplitude operator (RAO); (b) Pitch RAO.

3.2. Multi-Domain 2.5D Method for the Hydrodynamics of an SES

The multi-domain 2.5D method with a straight splitter is employed to study an SES–partial air cushion supported catamaran (PACSCAT) [6]. The principal parameters of the PACSCAT are given in Table 2. More details and the body plan for the PACSCAT can be found in Guo et al. [6]. Since the PACSCAT only runs in head waves, the variation of the fluctuating air pressure along the transverse direction can be ignored. Thereby, two orthogonal Fourier modes from Equation (2): $n_7(x, y) = 1$, $n_8(x, y) = \sin(\pi x/l)$ ($x_m \cong 0$ for the PACSCAT) are sufficient for capturing the feature of the fluctuating air pressure. In addition, when the PACSCAT runs in waves, there exist averaged sinkage and trim for the hull, which are obtained from the experimental data [6] and given in Table 2. The plane of the interface in the multi-domain 2.5D method is approximately acquired by connecting the outer water surface at the bow and the averaged draft of air cushion at the center of gravity of the PACSCAT.

Table 2. Main characteristics of the PACSCAT [6].

| Parameters (Symbol) | Value | Parameters (Symbol) | Value |
|------------------------------|---------|---|--|
| Length overall (L) | 3.0 m | Averaged trim (ξ_5) | 3.42° |
| Beam overall (B) | 0.7 m | Moment of inertia for pitch (M_{55}) | 77.4 kg·m ² |
| Cushion length (l) | 2.5 m | Static cushion overpressure (p_0) | 760 Pa ($Fr_l = 0.73$) |
| Cushion breadth (b) | 0.24 m | Air inflow rate (Q_0) | 150 m ³ /s |
| Displacement (M) | 145 kg | Fan characteristic value ($\partial Q_{in}/\partial p$) | -7.2×10^{-5} m ³ /(s·Pa) |
| Averaged sinkage (ξ_3) | 0.73 cm | | |

The strip panels of the PACSCAT for the single-domain and multi-domain 2.5D method are portrayed in Figure 5a,b, respectively. It can be observed that in Figure 5b the water level of the interface is lower than that of the outside free surface. One of most intuitive approaches to investigating the hydrodynamic effects of the water level difference is observing the radiation wave on the interface caused by fluctuating air pressure. If the water level difference has an impact on the hydrodynamics of the PACSCAT, the radiation wave obtained by the multi-domain 2.5D method should be different from that obtained by the single-domain 2.5D method. It is worth mentioning that the sidehulls of the PACSCAT have an “L” shape (see Figure 5), which could generate viscous effects when heaving or pitching in waves. Thereby, the viscosity dissipation coefficient is approximately set as $\nu = 1$ (rad/s)

for the single-domain and multi-domain 2.5D methods to compensate the viscous dissipation effects of the “L” shape sidehulls.

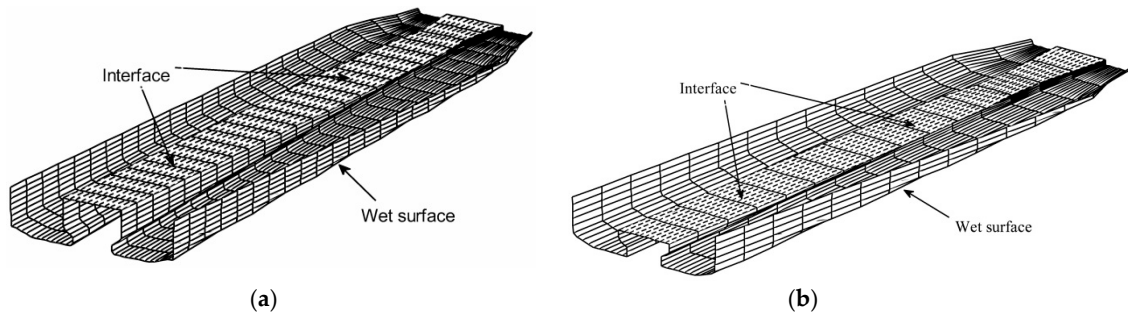


Figure 5. Strip panels of the PACSCAT for the single-domain and multi-domain 2.5D method. (a) The strip panels for the single-domain 2.5D method, in which the interface and outside free surface are at the same water level; (b) The strip panels for the multi-domain 2.5D method, in which the interface is lower than the outside free surface.

Figure 6 portrays the radiation wave profiles ζ_7, ζ_8 at the central longitudinal section $y = 0$ of the interface due to the fluctuating air pressure of the PACSCAT advancing in waves of length λ ($\lambda/l = 3.2$) under Froude number $F_{rl} = 1.0$. The waves ζ_7, ζ_8 can be calculated through Equation (15). The results “SD” and “MD” are obtained using the single-domain and multi-domain 2.5D methods, respectively.

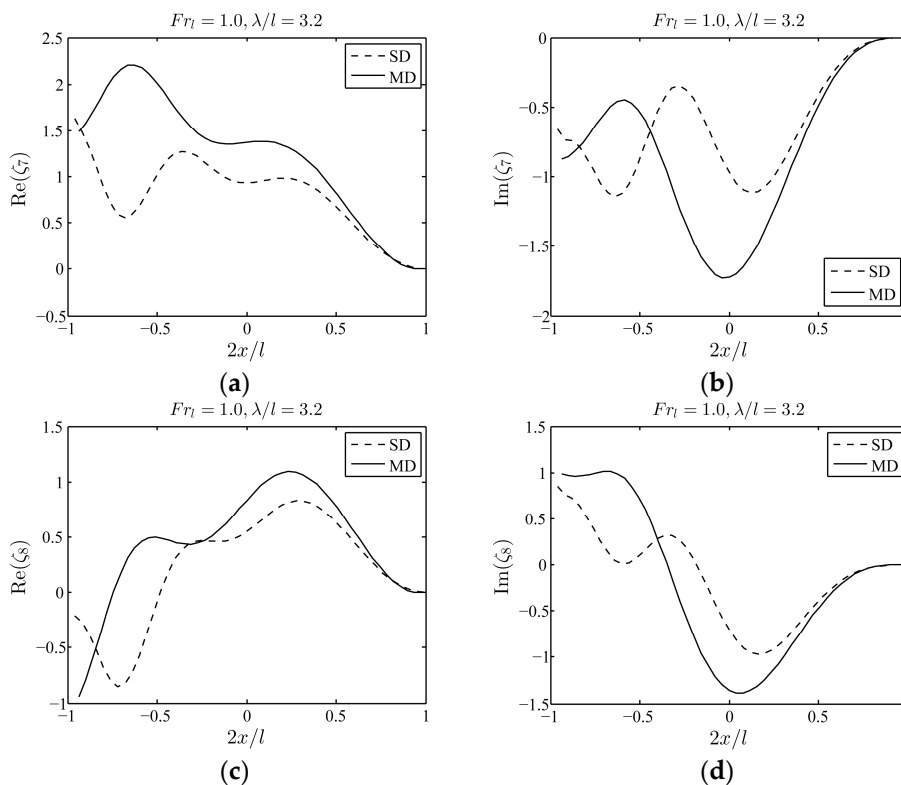


Figure 6. The comparison of profiles of radiation waves ζ_7, ζ_8 on the interface due to fluctuating air pressure at $y = 0$. The Froude number of the air cushion in the PACSCAT is $F_{rl} = 1.0$, and the wave length to air cushion length ratio is $\lambda/l = 3.2$. (a) Real part of ζ_7 ; (b) Imaginary part of ζ_7 ; (c) Real part of ζ_8 ; (d) Imaginary part of ζ_8 .

From Figure 6, one can observe that the radiation wave obtained by the multi-domain 2.5D method is very different from that obtained using the single-domain 2.5D method, which suggests that the water level difference between the outside free surface and interface has a significant influence on the radiation wave on the interface, and the omission of the water level difference could bring inevitable errors to calculation of the hydrodynamics of the PACSCAT. The numerical results also confirm the importance and necessity of applying the multi-domain 2.5D method to accurately predict the hydrodynamics of an SES.

In Figure 7, the numerical results on the fluctuating air pressure RAO of the PACSCAT are compared with the experimental ones “EFD” under $Fr_l = 1.0$. The results “SD” and “MD” are obtained using the single-domain and multi-domain 2.5D methods, respectively. From Figure 7, one can find that the fluctuating air pressure RAO from “MD” agrees better with “EFD” than “SD”. Moreover, “MD” varies more smoothly with wave length, while “SD” significantly oscillates in the vicinity of resonance waves.

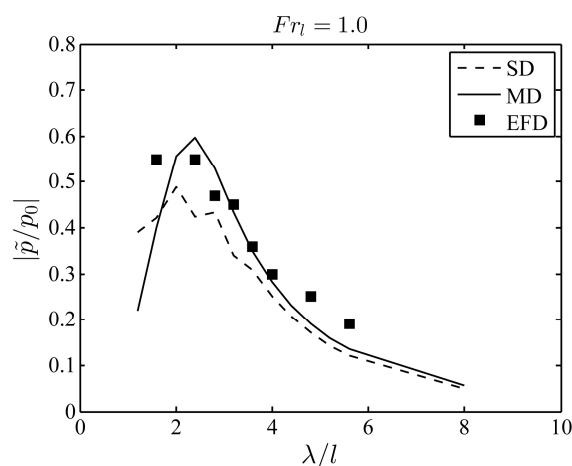


Figure 7. Comparison of fluctuating air pressure RAO of the PACSCAT using the multi-domain and single-domain 2.5D methods with experimental results.

The numerical results in this case suggest that the multi-domain 2.5D method can take water level difference into account and significantly improve the numerical results on the fluctuating air pressure.

4. Conclusions

This paper first presents a multi-domain 2.5D method for solving the hydrodynamics of an SES, whose water level of the interface is lower than that of the outside free surface. The novel multi-domain 2.5D method partitions the water domain into an outer domain and an inner domain, and keeps the potential and its derivative continuous on the adjacent boundaries of the two domains. The outer domain contains the outside free surface, while the inner domain includes the interface. The interface and the outside free surface are allowed to be at different water levels. Therefore, the multi-domain 2.5D method is able to precisely consider the water level difference in the SES.

The multi-domain 2.5D method is validated by predicting the motion response of a high-speed catamaran Delft 372 running in head waves, and the straight design is demonstrated to be an excellent splitter shape. Then, the multi-domain 2.5D method is employed to investigate the radiation wave on the interface of an SES (PACSCAT) caused by the fluctuating air pressure, and the numerical results suggest that the water level difference has a significant influence on the radiation wave. The multi-domain 2.5D method is also applied to solve the fluctuating air pressure RAO of the PACSCAT advancing in head waves, and the numerical results confirm that the multi-domain 2.5D method can improve the fluctuating air pressure of the PACSCAT.

The multi-domain concept proposed in this paper can be also applied to other free surface Green’s function methods to solve other hydrodynamic problems associated with multiple water levels.

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Author Contributions: Zhiqun Guo developed the multi-domain 2.5D method; Qingwei Ma prepared the two study cases and proofed the paper; Hongde Qin performed the numerical calculation and analysis; and Zhiqun Guo wrote the paper.

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Appendix A

Substituting Equation (8) into Equation (6), the frequency domain fluctuating air cushion pressure-related potential ϕ_j^i is transformed to the time domain potential ψ_j^i , which satisfies the following definite conditions:

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial^2 \psi_j^i}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \psi_j^i}{\partial z^2} = 0, & \text{in } \Omega^i \\ \left(\frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} + g \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \right) \psi_j^i = g \frac{\partial \Pi_j}{\partial t}, & \text{on } S_P \\ \frac{\partial \psi_j^i}{\partial n} = 0, & \text{on } S_B^i \\ \frac{\partial \psi_j^i}{\partial t} = g \Pi_j(0, y), & \text{on } S_P, \text{ at } t = 0 \end{cases} \quad (A1)$$

Let $\tilde{G}(p, t; q, \tau)$ and $\bar{G}(p, q)$ be the free surface memory term and instantaneous term of the free surface Green’s function with viscous dissipation effects, respectively. Applying Green’s theorem to $\psi_j^i(\tau, q)$ and $\tilde{G}(p, t; q, \tau)$ yields:

$$\int_{S_B^i + S_P + S_C} \left(\psi_j^i(\tau, q) \frac{\partial \tilde{G}}{\partial n_q} - \tilde{G} \frac{\partial \psi_j^i(\tau, q)}{\partial n_q} \right) ds_q = 0 \quad (A2)$$

Since the Equation (A2) holds at $\tau \in [0, t]$, integrating (A2) results in:

$$\int_0^t d\tau \int_{S_B^i + S_P + S_C} \left(\psi_j^i(\tau, q) \frac{\partial \tilde{G}}{\partial n_q} - \tilde{G} \frac{\partial \psi_j^i(\tau, q)}{\partial n_q} \right) ds_q = 0 \quad (A3)$$

Taking the interface condition into account, the integral on S_P in Equation (A3) could be transformed to:

$$\int_0^t d\tau \int_{S_P} \left(\psi_j^i(\tau, q) \frac{\partial \tilde{G}}{\partial n_q} - \tilde{G} \frac{\partial \psi_j^i(\tau, q)}{\partial n_q} \right) ds_q = \int_{S_P} \psi_j^i(t, q) \frac{\partial \bar{G}}{\partial \zeta} ds_q + \int_0^t d\tau \int_{S_P} \Pi_j(\tau, \eta) \frac{\partial \tilde{G}}{\partial \tau} ds_q \quad (A4)$$

On the other hand, applying Green’s theorem to $\psi_j^i(\tau, q)$ and $\bar{G}(p, q)$ comes to:

$$2\pi \psi_j^i(t, p) - \int_{S_B^i + S_C} \left(\psi_j^i(t, q) \frac{\partial \bar{G}}{\partial n_q} - \bar{G} \frac{\partial \psi_j^i(t, q)}{\partial n_q} \right) ds_q = \int_{S_P} \psi_j^i(t, q) \frac{\partial \bar{G}}{\partial \zeta} ds_q \quad (A5)$$

Combining Equations (A1)–(A5) yields the boundary intergral equation (BIE):

$$2\pi \psi_j^i(t, p) + \int_{S_B^i + S_C} \left(\bar{G} \frac{\partial \psi_j^i(t, q)}{\partial n_q} - \psi_j^i(t, q) \frac{\partial \bar{G}}{\partial n_q} \right) ds_q = \int_0^t d\tau \int_{S_B^i + S_C} \left(\tilde{G} \frac{\partial \psi_j^i(\tau, q)}{\partial n_q} - \psi_j^i(\tau, q) \frac{\partial \tilde{G}}{\partial n_q} \right) ds_q - \int_0^t d\tau \int_{S_P} \Pi_j(\tau, \eta) \frac{\partial \tilde{G}}{\partial \tau} ds_q \quad (A6)$$

The BIE (A6) is based on the source and dipole mixed distribution model. In this paper, the pure source distribution model is adopted, based on which the BIE can be written as:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & 2\pi\psi_j^i(t, \mathbf{p}) + \int_{S_B^i + S_C} \overline{G}\sigma_j^i(t, \mathbf{q}) ds_q \\
 & = \int_0^t d\tau \int_{S_B^i + S_C} \overline{G}\sigma_j^i(t, \mathbf{q}) ds_q - \int_0^t d\tau \int_{S_P} \Pi_j(\tau, \eta) \frac{\partial \tilde{G}}{\partial \tau} ds_q
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{A7}$$

where σ_j^i is the source density.

Appendix B

According to Sørensen and Egeland [4], the fluctuating air cushion pressure $\hat{p}(x, y)$ satisfies the wave equation:

$$\left(\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} + k_a^2 \right) \hat{p}(x, y) = -\frac{1}{h} \frac{\partial p}{\partial z} \Bigg|_{z=0}
 \tag{A8}$$

where $k_a = \omega/c$ and c is the sound speed. Substituting Equation (1) into (A8) and using the momentum equation for the air, one obtains:

$$\sum_{j=7}^{6+N_P} \eta_j \left(\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} + k_a^2 \right) n_j(x, y) = -\frac{i\omega\rho_a}{\rho_w g h} w \Bigg|_{z=0}^{z=h}
 \tag{A9}$$

where ρ_a is the density of air cushion, and w is the vertical velocity of air flow.

Multiplying Equation (A9) by $n_i(x, y), i = 7, \dots, 6 + N_P$, and integrating the resulting equation with respect to x, y yields the equations for fluctuating air pressure:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \eta_i \left(k_a^2 - 4\pi^2 \left(\left(\frac{a}{l} \right)^2 + \left(\frac{b}{b} \right)^2 \right) \right) \iint_{S_P} n_i^2(x, y) dx dy \\
 & = \frac{\omega^2 \rho_a}{\rho_w g h} \left(\iint_{S_D} n_i(x, y) (\eta_3 - x\eta_5 + y\eta_4) dx dy - \iint_{S_P} n_i(x, y) \zeta(x, y) dx dy + \sum_{j=1}^{N_{out}} n_i(x_j, y_j) q_j^{out} - \sum_{j=1}^{N_{in}} n_i(x_j, y_j) q_j^{in} \right)
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{A10}$$

where N_{out}, N_{in} are the number of air leakage holes and/or gaps and the number of air charge inflow holes, respectively; q_j^{out}, q_j^{in} are air leakage and inflow rate through the j -th hole (gap), respectively; (x_j, y_j) is the centroid of the j -th hole (gap); and $\zeta(x, y)$ are the unsteady waves on the interface, which can be decomposed into:

$$\left\{ \begin{aligned}
 & \zeta(x, y) = \zeta_I(x, y) + \zeta_D(x, y) + \zeta_R(x, y) + \zeta_P(x, y) = \zeta_I(x, y) + \sum_{j=0}^{6+N_P} \eta_j \zeta_j(x, y) \\
 & \zeta_I(x, y) = \eta_0 e^{-ik_0(x \cos \theta + y \sin \theta)} \\
 & \zeta_D(x, y) = \eta_0 \zeta_0(x, y) = -\frac{\eta_0}{g} \left(i\omega - U \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \right) \phi_0(x, y, 0) \\
 & \zeta_R(x, y) = \sum_{j=2}^6 \eta_j \zeta_j(x, y) - \frac{1}{g} \sum_{j=2}^6 \eta_j \left(i\omega - U \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \right) \phi_j(x, y, 0) \\
 & \zeta_P(x, y) = \sum_{j=7}^{6+N_P} \eta_j \zeta_j(x, y) = \sum_{j=7}^{6+N_P} \eta_j \left(n_j(x, y) - \frac{1}{g} \left(i\omega - U \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \right) \phi_j(x, y, 0) \right)
 \end{aligned} \right.
 \tag{A11}$$

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