

# Numerical Simulations of Compliant Material Response to Turbulent Flow

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Homogeneous and internally structured material coatings are studied numerically as candidates for drag- and turbulence-generated noise reduction on submersible hulls. Dynamic motions of compliant surfaces may conceptually interrupt random turbulent motions, reducing the turbulent interface stresses and absorbing turbulent energy, and consequently reducing the turbulence at the flow/coating interface. Time-dependent, two- and three-dimensional Monte-Carlo turbulent pressure field models and interactive Navier-Stokes pseudospectral methods are used to represent the unsteady flow, while finite element methods are applied to represent a variety of homogeneous, layered, and internally structured material coatings. The influence of added mass and in-depth overburden on the material response in ocean water is discussed. Promising compliant material coatings include sandwiches of soft, homogeneous layers between thin, stiffer elastic materials and internally structured coatings combining streamwise ribs and spanwise voids separated by stiff elastic supporters imbedded in soft yielding viscoelastic layers.

## I. Introduction

**A**FTER World War II interest in the possibilities of reducing drag through the use of compliant coatings was stimulated by the study of the summary efficiency of mammals, particularly porpoises. Simulated skin coatings were developed and tested in the United States by Kramer in the 1950's and 1960's.<sup>1,2</sup> More recently, experimental results from the USSR indicate that significant reductions in turbulent skin-friction drag are obtained through use of thin, elastically deforming surface coatings.<sup>3</sup> Unfortunately, the promising experimental results have not been independently and substantially reproduced. The issue remains open.

Our present investigations focus on compliant coatings exhibiting favorable dynamic response to both laminar and turbulent boundary-layer motions. Favorable response is that associated with the reduction of skin-friction drag in our discussion. Identification of the fundamental fluid/solid dynamic coupling mechanisms having a potential for reducing skin-friction drag is a primary goal. We emphasize materials and coatings whose characteristics can be altered by passive changes to internal structure or composite material stiffness, or dynamic variations in internal stress, or by wall heating. Such coatings should be effective over a useful range of flow conditions, rather than being inherently specific to a single flow condition.

We also emphasize the effects of the added mass associated with submerged coating response. In addition, we have extended our previous analyses in order to consider three-dimensional flow distributions actively forcing three-dimensional coating surfaces, and we have initiated the study of direct, interactive dynamic coupling between the responding surface and a surface-altered flowfield. All of the calculations described herein were processed on CRAY 1 computers.

Initial simulations of material response are noninteractive between fluid and solid regimes. Instead, the surface excita-

tions are independently forced by modeled random space/time turbulent pressure distributions to obtain information on material response characteristics. These surface excitation simulations mimic a turbulent pressure field on a noncompliant flat plate. These are generated by application of the Ash-Khorrami Monte-Carlo turbulent pressure field model.<sup>4,5</sup> These computations, albeit noninteractive, are useful for screening the relative response influence of materials, material properties, composites, and internally structured coating candidates. We thereby reduce the number of candidate coatings and flow conditions that need to be considered in subsequent fully interactive fluid-solid coupling simulations. The utility of noninteractive procedures in this screening process is particularly evident in the analyses of isolated influences of overburden in ocean depth studies, virtual mass-surface displacement modulation, and three-dimensional influences relative to the theoretically more familiar two-dimensional plane strain influences.

For direct fluid/solid interactions, Navier-Stokes flow simulations are used. We apply a pseudospectral method based on Refs. 6 and 7, later extended to include small displacement rate influences of linearized surface response.<sup>8</sup> Flow instabilities of the Tollmein-Schlichting form are impressed on otherwise stable viscous profiles. The influence of detailed solid coating dynamic compliance is traced in the subsequent growth or reduction of the viscous instabilities.

## II. Simulations and Conditions

### Finite Element Procedures

For the compliant coating materials response simulations we apply a discretized procedure to simulate the response of composite materials and internally structured coatings. To follow high-frequency and relatively large deformation motions, we adapt both implicit and explicit two- and three-dimensional versions of the Hallquist finite element codes.<sup>9,10</sup> In some of our computations, explicit-in-time finite element computations are applied since the Courant stable time interval for elemental response is of the same order as (or larger than) the virtual, implicit time interval sampling rate required for the response frequency range of interest. Having established the explicit fluid/solid time data base associated with the dynamic response of representative coatings, we are able to develop interpolation and time-sequencing (subcycling) rules and algorithms for automatic fluid/solid coupling procedures in subsequent, efficient implicit code applications.

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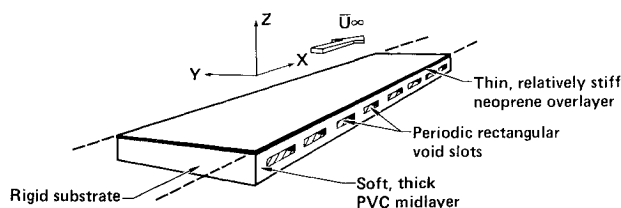


Fig. 1 Geometry of compliant surfaces, flow and coordinate orientation for finite element transient response simulations.

Discussion of the finite element procedure is based on the implicit, interactive formulation, for generality. The unsteady dynamical problem is represented as an incremental ( $\Delta$ ) perturbation to the equilibrium state. A lumped or consistent mass matrix relationship describes the instantaneous perturbation at an incremental time epoch  $N+1$ , based on a solution (or initial conditions) at a previous time epoch  $N$

$$\begin{aligned} M\ddot{d}^{(N+1)} + D(\dot{d}^{(N)} + \alpha\Delta d^{*(N)})\dot{d}^{(N+1)} + K_t(X^{(N)})\Delta d_0 \\ = P(X^{(N)})^{(N+1)} - F(X^{(N)}) \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

where  $M$  is the lumped mass matrix,  $d$  the nodal displacement vector relative to coordinate vector  $d = (X^{(N+1)} - X^{(N)})$ ,  $K_t$  the material property dependent tangent stiffness matrix,  $\Delta d^{*(N)}$  the iteratively estimated displacement increment for this load step, and  $\Delta d_0$  the prescribed displacement increment for the implicit time increment  $\Delta t = t^{N+1} - t^N$ .  $P$  is the external loads vector based on the applied loading at epoch  $N+1$  but on the geometry at epoch  $N$ . The stress divergence vector  $F$  is based on the displaced state and stresses at load step  $N$ . Time rates of change and accelerations of the displacement vector are symbolized by the single and double dot superscripts, respectively.

The Rayleigh damping matrix is iteratively evaluated as the linear combination of mass and stiffness matrices.

$$D = \alpha M + \beta K_t \quad (2)$$

where  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are user-prescribed constant scale factors with  $\alpha$  typically less than or equal to  $1/2$  and  $\beta$  typically equal to  $1/4$ . Time equal evolution of Eq. (1) involves use of an unconditionally stable, one step, Newmark- $\beta$  time integration scheme in conjunction with a choice between one of three (2 quasi-Newton and 1 modified Newton-Raphson) interactive matrix reduction procedures, based on the Green-Nagdhi stress rate formulation. The method is stable for a broad range of nonlinear problems involving finite strains and (arbitrarily) large rotations. A line search is used with the iterative step that is combined with automatic matrix stiffness reformation to avoid nonconvergence.

Initial and boundary condition prescriptions are flexible. Virtual mass, inertial influences, localized nodal loading, exterior pressure distributions and time histories, surface and internal shear boundary conditions, internal temperature sources, distributions, and conduction and thermal material property changes are all provided together with a self-consistent Jaumann stress rate formulation and a variety of constitutive relations, for generality. In addition, slide line logic (or slide surface logic in the three-dimensional studies) permits treatment of discontinuous internal material layers and imbedded material discontinuities in these simulations.

Concentrated displacement inertial nodal mass loading permits automatic evaluation of added mass effects but with some penalty in computing efficiency, since the consistent mass matrix formulation requires incremental re-evaluation at every stage of elemental displacement. Since we are also interested in studying the effects of submergence influences (overburden and temperature) on material response, we choose a simpler, less time-consuming, but equally valid ap-

proach. We simply apply a "thin" layer of water over the coating surface to generate shallow, depth added mass inertial influence on surface deflection response. "Thin" here refers to the relative fractional depth of this water overlayer with respect to the underlying depth of coating material (typically  $1/5$  or less). This provides adequate "coverage" to model coating surface deflection added mass inertial influences without incremental re-evaluation of the mass matrix. Of course in our depth of submergence studies, discussed later, the layer of ocean water covering the coating was deepened appropriately for imposition of consistent, static overburden as well as added mass influences.

#### Material Models and Flow Condition

Of the six general classes of material models available in the finite element codes,<sup>9-11</sup> our analyses here are all based on the use of only two—elastic and linear viscoelastic. Figure 1 illustrates the general flow and material model geometry. While we have examined<sup>12</sup> single- and multilayered combination compliant coatings consisting of natural rubber, foams, RTV silicone rubber, polyurethane, and other materials, we are presently concentrating on promising combinations of basically two materials. The softest, most yielding of these is polyvinylchloride (PVC). This is a time-cured, gelatinous, viscoelastic material whose shear modulus may vary by one or more orders of magnitude with small changes (a few percent) in the ratio of the polymer to its binder and filler. The other, stiffer material is the more nearly elastic Neoprene, which is conceptually used as an overlayer and for supporting internal structures in the compliant coating candidates discussed here.

Figure 1 represents a modeled planar panel of coating material flush mounted in a semi-infinite flat plate (symbolized by the dashed lines extending indefinitely streamwise). The Cartesian coordinate orientation of two-dimensional ( $x, z$ ) and three-dimensional ( $x, y, z$ ) computations are sketched at the top of the figure together with the mean potential flow  $U_\infty$  orientation. Streamwise coating lengths ranging from 12 to 60 cm and spanwise widths from 5 to 12 cm (for three-dimensional computations) have been considered. Total coating depths of 2 to 8 cm have been studied. Panel locations for the application of uncoupled (surface excitation) or fully fluid/solid interactively coupled pressures establish the finite element streamwise and spanwise nodal spatial distribution. From 10 to 64 streamwise elements and from 3 to 5 spanwise elements have been used while the in-depth distribution of elemental spacing varies from 3 to 12 elemental segments in our computations. The two-dimensional plane-strain computations simulate a vertical cut in a semi-infinite span of coating materials, whereas the three-dimensional computations incorporate finite span and spanwise edge influences. Streamwise and spanwise edge boundary conditions tested included periodic, fixed (adherent), or vertically free (end roller) designations. The base of the coating panel was modeled with a rigid constraint when it was found that the modeled results were identical using either this simple designation or an actual nearly rigid metal surface (steel) elemental substrate layer.

We have computed results for mean flows of 1.0, 1.52, 3.0, 10.0, and 30.0 m/s at depths from "ocean surface" (submerged to a depth of about  $1/5$  : 1 coating depth thickness) down to 200 m, with static depth overburden and temperature variations included as initial/boundary conditions.

Two classes of compliant coatings, each combining both Neoprene and PVC, are studied here. One consists of a thin, homogeneous overlayer of the stiffer Neoprene (shown darkened in Fig. 1) over the softer PVC underlayer. The Neoprene overlayer thickness in our calculations varied from  $1/5$  to  $1/10$  the thickness of the underlying PVC. The second class of compliant coatings also uses the thin Neoprene overlayer but includes internal structure consisting of span-

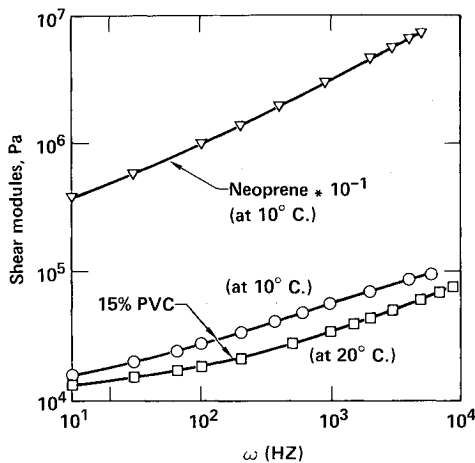


Fig. 2 Shear modulus of two critical materials as a function of frequency for compliant coating response models.

wise rectangular slots with a slot depth (or height) about one-third the PVC layer thickness and breadth or width varying over range varying from  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 4 times the slot depth. Neoprene sidewalls conceptually separated and supported the imbedded slots. Computations included considerations of slots filled with water, with PVC gel, or empty slots (voids).

The viscoelastic shear modulus of the Neoprene and PVC are modeled by a standard linear time ( $t$ ) relaxation procedure for linear solids<sup>11</sup> represented by

$$G(t) = G_{\infty} + (G_0 - G_{\infty})e^{-Bt} \quad (3)$$

where  $G(t)$  is the composite shear modulus, while  $G_{\infty}$  and  $G_0$  are long and short interval shear moduli, respectively, and  $B$  is the relaxation frequency parameter.

Figure 2 illustrates the experimentally based (and analytically fit) dependence of the shear modulus on frequency for the relatively stiff Neoprene at a temperature of 10°C, and for the much more compliant PVC at 10°C and softer yet at 20°C. The dependence shown closely correlates the experimental values reported by Hunston,<sup>13</sup> Rathson<sup>14</sup> and Gad-El-Hak.<sup>15,16</sup> The density of the PVC varied in our model from 500 to 1025 kg/m<sup>3</sup>, depending on the polymeric percentage in the composition mix. The Neoprene mass density was assumed constant at 1250 kg/m<sup>3</sup>. Both Neoprene and PVC are essentially incompressible with a Poisson ratio,  $\nu = 1/2$ . The bulk moduli of the PVC and Neoprene were set at 620 and 5270 MPa, respectively, in the model.

#### Screening Noninteractive "Monte-Carlo" Pressure Excitation

Material, composites, and internally structured coatings need to be screened and reduced in number in order that more exacting coupled computer simulations and experiments can be limited to a practical number. Our screening procedure makes use of an existing Monte-Carlo turbulent pressure excitation computer model that can be "patched" for boundary conditions to detailed finite element representations of the coating. Ash and co-workers<sup>4,5</sup> have developed a Monte-Carlo procedure for modeling turbulence pressure excitations on a flat plate. Statistical turbulent functions are simulated that are consistent and convergent to within arbitrarily close representation of experimental measurements.<sup>17</sup>

To initiate a calculation of the turbulent pressure, we consider the flow geometry over a flat plate with zero pressure gradient, immersed immediately below the surface in sea water. We examine conditions over a range of specified steady-state freestream velocities. The turbulent field development is completed following transition over a specified model transitional length. Also specified is the minimum turbulent structure wavelength of interest. The

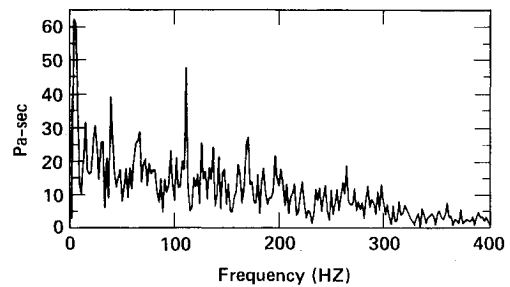


Fig. 3 Driving pressure excitation spectral distribution from the Ash Monte-Carlo model<sup>4,5</sup> for  $a = 10$  m/s ocean water flow at a position 25% from the leading edge of a 0.32 m flat plate compliant surface.

Ash code generates only a random space and time varying pressure. Convection and convection-dominated burst-streak growth and upthrust vorticity boundary-layer features are separately imposed as model parameters.

Figure 3 shows the Ash model results on Fourier transformed pressure frequency spectra, for a modeled 10 m/s ocean water flow at a spatial position 25% from the leading edge of flat plate which is 0.32 m long. The calculation used a specified transition length, upstream of the model compliant panel leading edge, of 0.50 m.

Time and space scales to be resolved with the pressure model calculations are dictated by the desired structural frequency response range we wish to examine. This range is controlled by finite elemental model spacing, material properties of the coating, the presence or absence of voids, and the overall panel dimensions.

Once the pressure patch statistics, particularly the power spectra and decay functions, are checked and found to be reasonable representations of experimental pressure distribution histories, these statistics are saved on disk. The same excitation model is used to stimulate the response of many selected coating panel candidates using identical space and time scales.

#### Interactive Fluid/Coating Coupling with the Full Navier-Stokes Equations

In this phase of our analysis, the solid material response calculations are simulated using the Hallquist two- and three-dimensional finite element computer code methods.<sup>9-11</sup> Initially we are concentrating our efforts on examining material coatings that may delay transition to turbulence by reducing the effects of laminar instabilities at subtransitional Reynolds numbers.

Our current studies impose single-wave Tollmein-Schlichting instabilities on a Blasius flow profile, extending from a level coating surface to a midplane region that is outside the significant viscous boundary-layer influences.

Our primary consideration here is to develop and apply a method for efficiently and interactively coupling a pseudo-spectral Navier-Stokes simulation of the unsteady, transitional boundary-layer flow past a compliant surface represented by finite element description. Our fluid dynamic procedure uses a modification of the FLOGUN code,<sup>8</sup> which is based on the channel flow procedures by Orszag and his colleagues.<sup>6,7</sup> Surface displacement rate is imposed as a boundary condition for the velocity of the fluid at the wall. These displacement rates are passed to the fluid case incrementally from the finite-element code. The fluid code computation, in turn, is used to determine the cyclic variations in pressure distribution that drive the wall. The interactive coupling proceeds indefinitely using either direct or implicit time-step increments. The equations describing the flowfield are the incompressible Navier-Stokes equations

$$\frac{\partial v(x,t)}{\partial t} + v(x,t) \cdot \nabla v(x,t) = -\nabla p(x,t) + \nu \nabla^2 v(x,t) \quad (4)$$

and the incompressibility condition

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}(\mathbf{x}, t) = 0 \quad (5)$$

where  $\mathbf{v}$  is the velocity and  $\mathbf{x}$  the position in two-dimensional space. We have also introduced the pressure  $p$  (divided by the density), and kinematic viscosity  $\nu$ . The domain of integration is given by

$$0 \leq x \leq X \quad 0 \leq z \leq \infty \quad (6)$$

with periodic boundary conditions in the  $x$  (horizontal) direction and freestream inviscid, potential flow boundary conditions at  $z = \infty$ . We impose the freestream boundary conditions at a normal distance from the wall approximately five times the local boundary-layer thickness. At the wall, the tangential velocity is zero, while the normal velocity is equal to the displacement rates given by the finite element results for the wall motion. For simplicity, this boundary condition is imposed at  $z = 0$ . The velocity is considered a smoothly varying function and is represented by a truncated series expansion in spectral space.

$$\mathbf{v}(\mathbf{x}, t) = \sum_{|m| < M} \sum_{p=0}^P \mathbf{u}(m, p, t) \exp\left[\frac{2\pi i m x}{X}\right] T_p(z) \quad (7)$$

where  $T_p(z) = \cos(p \cos^{-1} z)$ , the Chebyshev polynomial of degree  $p$ . Using Chebyshev polynomials in the direction normal to the wall results in good resolution in the boundary layer, with about one-third of the collocation points being clustered there. Efficiency is gained by evaluating spatial derivatives in spectral space, then transforming back to physical space for evaluation of the nonlinear advective products. Since the Chebyshev expansion is equivalent to Fourier expansion on a distorted space, fast Fourier transforms can be applied either to the normal-to-the-wall transformation between Chebyshev space and physical space or the parallel-to-the-wall transformation between Fourier space and physical space.

Time evolution is accomplished in three steps with, for example, the vorticity evaluated in spectral space, then transformed to physical space. The  $\mathbf{v} \times \boldsymbol{\omega}$  contribution is evaluated in physical space. This step is performed explicitly in time with an Adams-Bashforth method.

Development of specialized velocity/pressure boundary conditions and algorithms for the coupled fluid/solid interface flow are described separately<sup>18</sup>; therefore, we will not dwell on them here. Results of these coupled studies indicate that a substantial amount of the disturbance wave energy is transferred, in-phase, to the solid where it is absorbed in resonant, displacement-convection process, in-phase with the advected flow disturbance. This flow-solid boundary interaction event is in contrast to coincident fluid/solid dispersion processes that are justifiably receiving considerable attention.<sup>8,13,14</sup> The coupled simulations, of course, involve generally both convective and dispersive (as well as static) influences. It remains an important part of our task to unravel and identify these separate effects in our present and continuing analysis.

### III. Discussion of Results

This discussion emphasizes new and different results and suggestions about compliant coating candidates in comparison to our previous summary.<sup>12</sup> In particular, we address here the special influences of fully three-dimensional geometries vs two-dimensional plane strain results, the significant influences of added mass and depth overburden in comparison to our previous in vacuo results, multicomponent layered coatings including the ordered sequence of materials and layer thickness, and internally structured coatings including considerations on aspect ratio of the cavities and the influence of cavity fillers.

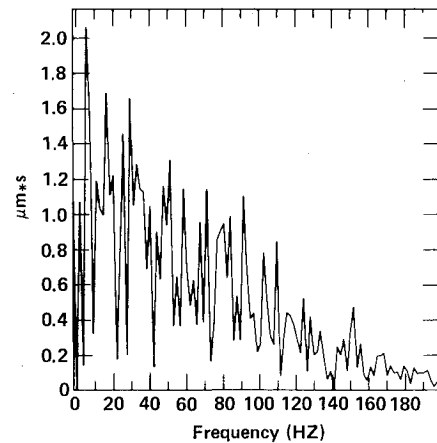


Fig. 4 Fourier transformed displacement vs frequency distribution for the response at the midpanel position of a 3 cm thick PVC panel in two-dimensional flow at 10 m/s.

#### Three- vs Two-Dimensional Results

The spanwise edges of the compliant surface panel may be considered partially or fully constrained within a flat plate cavity in analogy with a physical flow experiment. The constraint, or lack of it, alters the character of the disturbance waves that are reflected from these boundaries, and significantly alters the response time histories of the coating candidates from the values developed using a strictly two-dimensional, plane strain analysis. In addition, the boundary layer flow itself possesses substantial spanwise inhomogeneities in flow structure.

Using the noninteractive Ash-Khorrami<sup>4,5</sup> Monte-Carlo turbulent pressure model, a one-dimensional streamwise space/time varying pressure "strip" is generated for exciting the two-dimensional (finite length and finite depth, infinite span) plane strain results. For our three-dimensional panel, parallel "strips" are applied along adjacent rows of elements. The adjacent strips are considered to be statistically independent; that is, spanwise uncorrelated. This is physically analogous to assuming that each row of elements is populated with surface microphones along its length (the pressure sensitive surface "nodes" of the individual finite elements), yet laterally separated at a modest but finite distance from each other that is greater than the spanwise correlation length scale of the turbulent pressure field represented.

To illustrate the general influences of the three-dimensional panel results, we first present two-dimensional surface deformation response spectra in Fig. 4 for a 10 m/s ocean water flow in zero mean pressure gradient over a 3-cm thick panel of polyvinylchloride (PVC).

Three-dimensional results for this flow condition and coating, using spanwise unconstrained (free surface edge) panel edge conditions, is shown in Fig. 5. Volumetric propagation and reflection of the disturbance waves from finite span extent together with three-dimensional material deformations are seen to modulate and interactively reduce the deformation amplitude and response frequency content at the higher frequencies (much as a low pass filter applied to a partially damped inertial system).

In practice, the two-dimensional plane strain simulations are used for the primary part of the material model and structural screening. The three-dimensional results continue to be reserved for estimates on three-dimensional geometrical and flow structure influences on a limited number of the more promising candidates because of their much greater cost and analytical complexity.

#### Overburden and Added Mass

We tested and isolated the influence of added mass (water inertia) on our surface response computations and evaluated

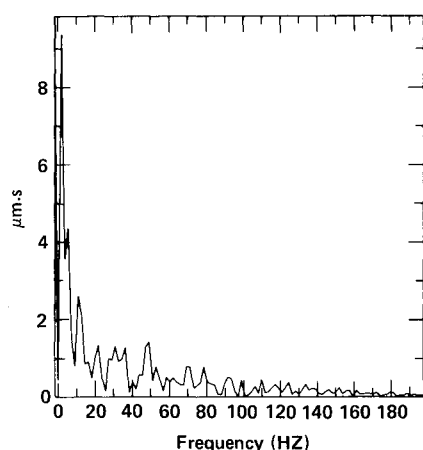


Fig. 5 Fourier transformed displacement vs frequency distribution for the response at the midpanel position of a 3 cm thick PVC panel in three-dimensional flow at 10 m/s.

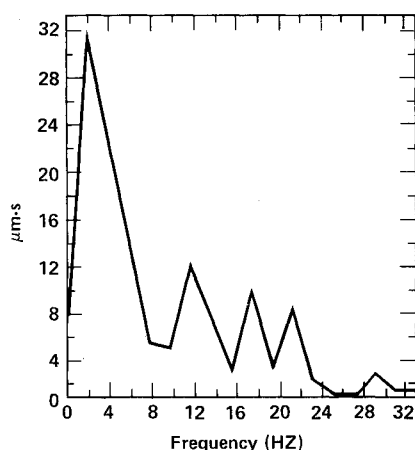


Fig. 6 Fourier transformed displacement vs frequency distribution for the response at the midpanel position of a 1 cm thick PVC panel in a two-dimensional flow at 10 m/s.

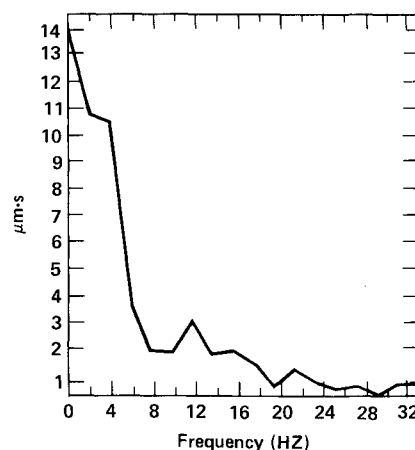


Fig. 7 Fourier transformed displacement vs frequency distribution for the response at the midpanel position of a 1 cm thick PVC panel including added mass in a two-dimensional flow at 10 m/s.

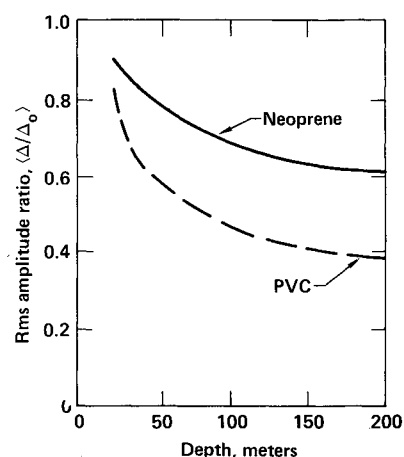


Fig. 8 Ratio of root-mean-square surface displacements at depth to displacements at sea level as a function of depth for 3 cm thickness Neoprene and PVC coating panels at the midchannel position.

the results in comparison to in-vacuo response results for a 10 m/s ocean water flow. We compare in-vacuo displacement spectra, Fig. 6, with added mass results in Fig. 7. These plane strain, two-dimensional tests were computed for the midplane position on a test panel of PVC assumed to be 1 cm thick. The added mass effects reduce the response to negligible levels in the intermediate range, 60-100 Hz, and somewhat modulate the results at even lower frequencies. At higher frequencies yet, the influence of virtual mass is not influential and at about 1 kHz is undetectable, as linear resonance analysis suggests. However, since our attention here is specifically on the frequency band from 1 Hz to about 200 Hz surface response, we include added mass influences in all of our current and future simulations on the surface coating response.

Another important influence that must be considered in analysis of compliant coatings for submersible applications is the effect of ocean depth. Unlike the added mass inertial correction, submergence to great depth with a compliant coating over a rigid substrate effectively prestresses the material to a level necessary to equilibrate the hydrostatic overburden of the water. In effect, the same hydrostatic overburden that applies a crushing force to submersible hulls, stiffens the softer compliant coatings with prestress loadings that approach or exceed their elastic moduli. The test calculations here were initiated at an internal material stress state equivalent to the overburden (depth) condition of interest. Amplitude, wavelength, and frequency shifts were computed as a function of overburden. The influence of

temperature (cooling) at ocean depth on material properties was also tested but found to be negligible with respect to the overburden influences.

The overburden stiffening with depth was found to result in a monotone decreasing value of the root-mean-square amplitude of coating normal deflection ratio ( $\Delta/\Delta_0$ ) for both Neoprene and softer PVC coatings. As anticipated, the effect of depth is greater for the softer, lower elastic modulus material, PVC, than for the stiffer coating, Neoprene, as seen in Fig. 8. The influence of depth on the bandwidth of a significant portion of the frequency response of PVC coating is shown in Fig. 9. The bandwidth here is that frequency range of the deformation spectrum in which 90% of the significant deformation occurs. The corresponding influences on the much stiffer material, Neoprene, were so insignificant that they were not plotted here.

#### Layered Homogeneous Coatings

The thickness of the compliant coating is a significant factor in response amplitude, whether it appears as a single layer or part of a multiply-layered coating over a stiff substrate. However, increasing thickness is not, by itself, a positive influence on desirable compliant coating response, since a too-thick depth of coating can be a factor leading to the onset of static divergence.<sup>14-16</sup> The resulting larger amplitude surface deformations generally occur at very low frequency, which, as in the static divergence case, may offset drag reduction, and may, in fact, increase the drag.

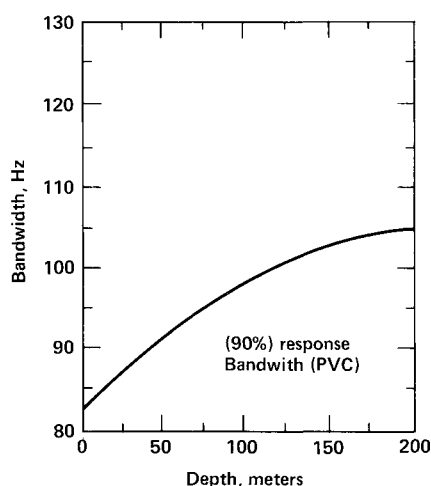


Fig. 9 Bandwidth of midpanel PVC 90% displacement response as a function of ocean depth for a 3 cm thick PVC panel in 10 m/s flow.

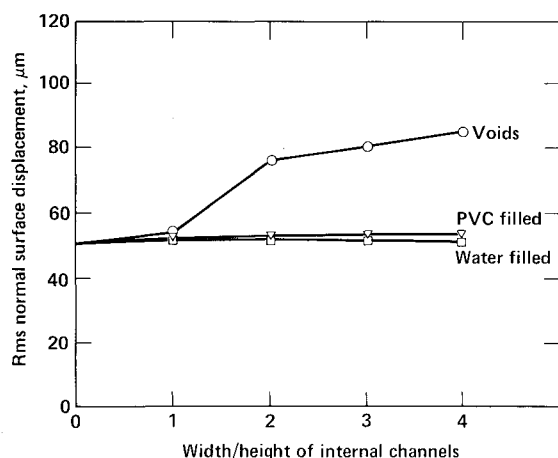


Fig. 10 Root-mean-square surface displacements at the midpanel position of 3 cm thick internally channeled panel in 10 m/s flow as a function of width/height aspect ratio and channel filler.

Our results, however, show that use of ordered multilayer coatings may produce the sought-for results on controlled small amplitude deformation at substantial frequencies. This is particularly true with a thick (1-2 cm) layer of soft material (PVC) over which is placed a much thinner (2 mm) coating of a stiffer material (Neoprene). The results at a mean flow speed of about 10 m/s appear encouraging using such composite multilayer coatings in our simulations.

#### Internally Structured Coatings

To date, our analysis on internally structured coatings has been restricted to coatings with internal reinforcing stiffeners and channeled openings that are oriented transverse (spanwise) to the mean flow direction in the coating. We have examined both liquid filled and empty (void) channels using a viscous liquid (PVC) and an incompressible liquid (water) as a filler in comparison to open, coating-imbedded, channels (voids). The voids yield the most promising results in terms of rms and peak response amplitudes to surface pressure excitation.

Shallow but wide channels, particularly for voided (no filler) cases, with channel width to height of 3 or more show the most promise for coating response amplitude enhancement as seen in Fig. 10. Our simulations incorporate the thin outer stiffened layer of firmer material as an upper layer to the stub-supported channels within a thick layer of the low modulus PVC material. Excitation-induced frequency

response of the structured coatings is also much more satisfactorily reproduced over a broad range of excitation frequencies when voids rather than liquid filler are used.

#### IV. Summary

Some preliminary indications apparent from our numerical studies at this time are as follows:

1) Added mass and depth of submergence (overburden) considerations must be included in the analysis of compliant coating performance, particularly for the softest, lowest moduli materials, which dynamically respond as if they were much stiffer materials when those influences are included in our computations.

2) Composite multilayered coatings show promise for drag reduction, particularly when thickened soft inner coating layers are sandwiched between a stiffer thin outer coating layer and a rigid substrate.

3) Shallow flat channels imbedded in the material and oriented transversely (spanwise) to the mean flow direction may favorably modulate amplitude, frequency, and wavelength of the response, particularly if the channel is left open, free of filler material.

4) Three-dimensional influences of both the flow patterns and the compliant surface geometry should be evaluated and corrected for, prior to recommending promising coating candidates for further experimental verification.

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