

# **NUMERICAL SIMULATION FOR GAS-LIQUID TWO-PHASE FREE TURBULENT FLOW BASED ON VORTEX IN CELL METHOD**

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This paper proposes a two-dimensional vortex method, based on Vortex in Cell method, for gas-liquid two-phase free turbulent flow. The behavior of vortex element and the bubble motion are calculated through the Lagrangian approach, while the change in the vorticity due to the bubble is analyzed in the computational grids resolving the flow field. Therefore, the numerical procedure corresponds to the Lagrangian-Eulerian method. The present method is applied to simulate the air-water bubbly flow around a square-section cylinder. The simulation demonstrates that the bubble entrainment into the Karman vortex and the resultant reduction for the strength of vortex are successfully captured by the method. It is also confirmed that the vortex shedding frequency and the pressure distribution on the cylinder are favorably compared with the measured results.

Key Words: Multiphase Flow, Numerical Analysis, Vortex Method, Bubbly Flow, Wake

## **1. Introduction**

Free turbulent flows loaded with small bubbles are observed in various engineering applications including chemical reactors, heat exchangers and waste treatment systems. For the fundamental flows, such as plane mixing layers(1), (2), jet(3) and wake flows behind an obtuse body(4) – (6), the turbulence modulation of the liquid-phase due to the bubble and the relation between the large-scale vortical structure and the bubble motion have been experimentally investigated. Some numerical analyses have also been carried out. Sun and Faeth(7) simulated the jet, issuing from a round nozzle, by using a  $k-\epsilon$  turbulence model based on the steady and axisymmetrical assumptions. They reported that the velocity and the gas volumetric fraction are favorably predicted by the model. Sugiyama et al.(8) developed a finite difference method employing a number

density model for bubble, and they analyzed the bubbly flow around a circular cylinder to investigate the phase distribution and the behavior of the Karman vortex. To make clear the flow field in detail, direct numerical simulations on mixing layers have been performed. Ruetsch and Meiburg(9) reported that the accumulation of bubble on the higher vorticity region, called the preferential concentration of bubble, reduces the vorticity and the pressure gradient. Druzhinin and Elghobashi(10) clarified the bubble accumulation caused by the merging of the large-scale eddies.

Recently, vortex methods have been usefully applied to analyze single-phase free turbulent flows. This is because the methods can simulate directly the development of vortical structure, such as the formation and deformation of vortices, through the Lagrangian calculation for the

behavior of the vortex elements discretizing the vorticity field. To extend the applicability of vortex methods, one of the authors(11), (12) has proposed the vortex methods for gas-particle two-phase free turbulent flow. The methods were applied to simulate various free turbulent flows(13) – (17). Uchiyama and Naruse(18) proposed another two-dimensional vortex method for gas-particle free turbulent flow. The method is based on the Vortex in Cell method, abbreviated to VIC method, presented for the single-phase flow analysis. It can calculate the convection velocity of vortex element with less CPU time than the former vortex method.

Since the free turbulent flow entraining small bubbles is chiefly governed by the large-scale eddies of the liquid-phase, the vortex method promises to be applicable to simulate the flow. Such two-phase vortex method has been rarely presented except for few studies, in which the flow of liquid-phase is simulated by vortex methods and the bubble motion is computed by the Lagrangian approach. Sene et al.(19) conducted the two-dimensional simulation of the air bubble motion in a plane mixing layer by assuming that the water flow is not affected by the bubbles. By using such one-way scheme, Uchiyama(20) performed the three-dimensional simulation of a bubbly jet to search for the possibility to control the bubble dispersion. Yang et al.(21) proposed a two-dimensional two-way vortex method, which can take account for the interaction between the two phases, to simulate a plane mixing layer loaded with bubbles. But the volumetric fraction is not

considered in the conservation equations for the liquid-phase. Thus, the method seems to be unreasonable.

This study proposes a two-dimensional two-way vortex method, based on the VIC method, for gas-liquid two-phase free turbulent flow. In the method, the bubble motion and the behavior of vortex element are traced, while the change in the vorticity due to the bubble is computed in the computational grids resolving the flow field. Therefore, the numerical procedure corresponds to the Lagrangian-Eulerian method. This study also applies the vortex method to simulate the air-water bubbly flow around a square-section cylinder. It is confirmed that the simulated flow fields are favorably compared with the corresponding experiments and the existing numerical results on bubble-laden free turbulent flows

## **2.Basic Equations**

### **2.1 Assumptions**

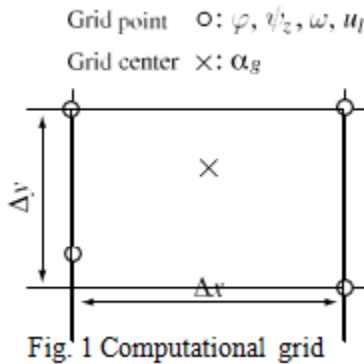
The following assumptions are employed for the simulation.

- ( 1 ) The mixture is a bubbly flow entraining small bubbles.
- ( 2 ) Both phases are incompressible and no phase changes occur.
- ( 3 ) The mass and momentum of the gas-phase are very small and negligible compared with those of the liquid-phase.
- ( 4 ) The bubbles maintain their spherical shape, and neither fragmentation nor coalescence occurs.

### **2.2 Conservation equations for bubbly flow**

The conservation equations for the mass and momentum of the bubbly flow are

expressed by the following equations under the assumptions (1) – (3).



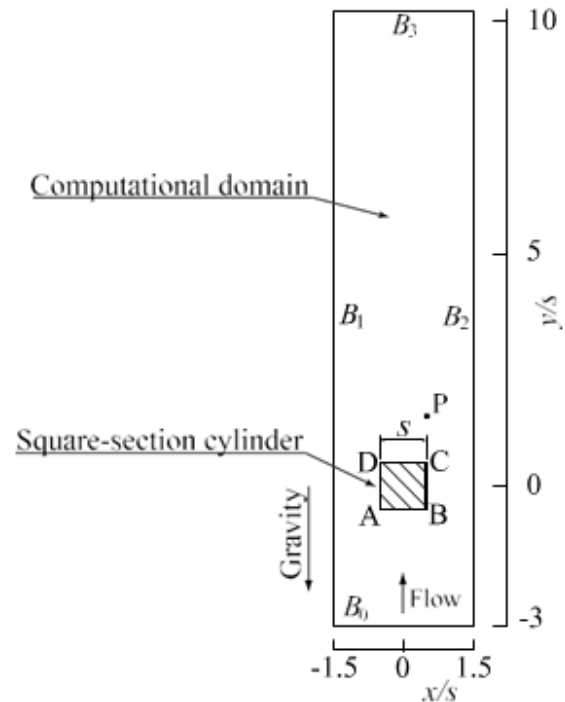
### 3. Application to Bubbly Flow Analysis around a Cylinder

#### 3. 1 Simulation conditions

The present method is applied to simulate the air- water bubbly flow around a square-section cylinder. The flow was experimentally investigated by Shakouchi et al.(5), (6). The square-section cylinder, of which side length  $s$  is 30 mm, is mounted in a channel with 90 mm 45 mm cross-sectional area. The flow direction is vertically up- ward. The Reynolds number  $Re$ , based on  $s$  and the water velocity  $u_0$  upstream of the cylinder, is 15 000.

Figure 2 shows the computational domain. The inlet and outlet boundaries,  $B_0$  and  $B_3$ , are located  $3s$  upstream and  $10.3s$  downstream of the cylinder, respectively. The domain is resolved into 18 80 square grids.

The vorticity field is generated by the bubble motion and the velocity shear layer originating from the cylin- der surface. The vorticity field due to the velocity shear layer is simulated by a method presented by Kamemoto and Miyasaka(25) for single-phase flow analysis.



is released from each segment into the flow field at a time interval  $\Delta t$ . In this simulation, the number of segments is 96, and the height of vorticity layer  $h$  is set at  $5/Re^{1/2}$  with reference to the single-phase flow analysis(25). When releasing the vortex element, the strength is equivalent to the vorticity in the segment and the core radius  $\sigma_0$  is de- termined from the relation  $\pi\sigma_0^2 = lh$ . The  $\sigma_0$  value for the vortex element used to represent the vorticity field caused by the bubble motion is the grid size  $\Delta x$  in the  $x$ -direction. The vortex element leaving the outlet boundary  $B_3$  is ex- cluded from the calculation. To consider the exclusion, a region with a length  $3s$  is added downstream of  $B_3$  and the vortex elements are made to convect in the region with their velocity kept constant. The vorticity layer on the channel wall can also be represented through the

same method applied on the cylinder surface. Assuming that the vorticity layer scarcely affects the wake of the cylinder, it is ignored and the slip condition for velocity is imposed on the channel wall.

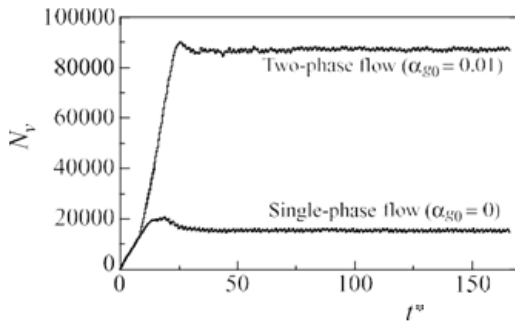


Fig. 3 Time variation for number of vortex elements

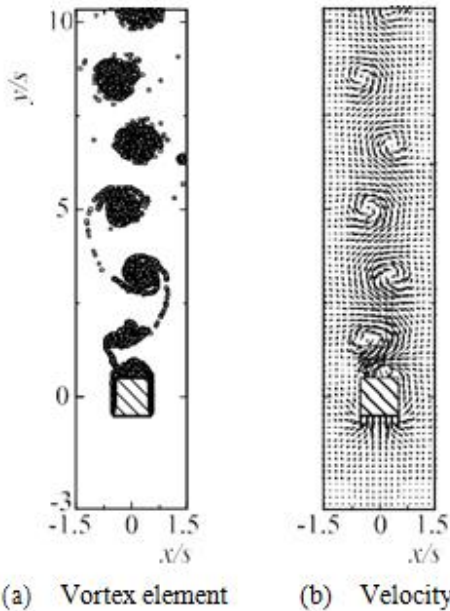


Fig. 4 Water single-phase flow field at  $t^* = 100$

**Results for bubbly flow**

The time variation for the number of vortex elements  $N_v$  for the bubbly flow is superimposed in Fig. 3. The air volumetric fraction  $\alpha_{g0}$  at the inlet boundary is 0.01. The bubbles are released when  $t^* \geq 7.5$ .  $N_v$  varies periodically around 86 500 at  $t^* \geq 40$ , demonstrating the appearance of a fully

developed bubbly flow. The  $N_v$  value for the bubbly flow is about 5.6 times larger than that for the water single-phase flow. This is because a number of vortex elements are introduced to represent the vorticity field induced by

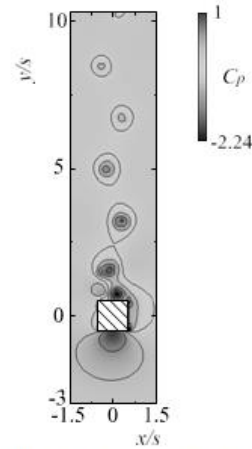


Fig. 5 Pressure distribution for water single-phase flow at  $t^* = 100$

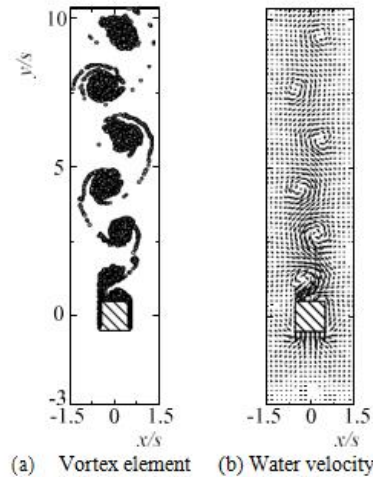


Fig. 6 Two-phase flow field at  $t^* = 84$  in case of  $\alpha_{g0} = 0.01$

The pressure distribution at the same instant as Figs. 6 and 7 is shown in Fig. 8. The distribution in the region upstream of the cylinder is nearly the same as that for the single-phase flow presented in Fig. 5. But the minimum pressure at the center of Karman vortex is higher. The reduction for the strength of Karman vortex found in Fig.

6 is also confirmed from the pressure distribution. Such relaxation of pressure gradient and reduction for strength of large-scale eddies due to the bubble entrainment were also reported by Ruetsch and Meiburg(9) performing the DNS of a plane mixing layer

#### **4.Conclusions**

A two-dimensional vortex method for gas-liquid two-phase free turbulent flow is proposed. It is based on the Vortex in Cell method, in which the scalar potential and the vector potential are solved to calculate the liquid velocity. The behavior of vortex element and the bubble motion are calculated through the Lagrangian approach, while the change in the vorticity due to the bubble is analyzed in the computational grids resolving the flow field. The vortex method is also applied to simulate the air-water bubbly flow around a square-section cylinder. The flow direction is vertically upward, and the air volumetric fraction  $\alpha_0$  upstream of the cylinder ranges from 0 to 1. The simulated flow features, such as the preferential concentration of bubble in the Karman vortex, the resultant reduction for the strength of vortex and the relaxation for the pressure gradient, are favorably compared with the existing numerical results on the bubble-laden free turbulent flows. It is also confirmed that the shedding frequency for Karman vortex and the pressure distribution on the cylinder agree well with the measurement. These indicate the validity of the present method.

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