



Nieto, F. and Hargreaves, David Michael and Owen, John S. and Hernández, S. (2015) On the applicability of 2D URANS and SST k- $\omega$  turbulence model to the fluid-structure interaction of rectangular cylinders. *Engineering Applications of Computational Fluid Mechanics*, 9 (1). pp. 157-173. ISSN 1994-2060

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To cite this article: F. Nieto, D.M. Hargreaves, J.S. Owen & S. Hernández (2015) On the applicability of 2D URANS and SST  $k - \omega$  turbulence model to the fluid-structure interaction of rectangular cylinders, Engineering Applications of Computational Fluid Mechanics, 9:1, 157-173, DOI: [10.1080/19942060.2015.1004817](https://doi.org/10.1080/19942060.2015.1004817)

To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/19942060.2015.1004817>



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Published online: 25 Feb 2015.



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## On the applicability of 2D URANS and SST $k - \omega$ turbulence model to the fluid-structure interaction of rectangular cylinders

F. Nieto<sup>a\*</sup>, D.M. Hargreaves<sup>b</sup>, J.S. Owen<sup>b</sup> and S. Hernández<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>*School of Civil Engineering, University of A Coruña, Spain;* <sup>b</sup>*Faculty of Engineering, University of Nottingham, UK*

(Received 17 March 2014; final version received 11 December 2014)

In this work the practical applicability of a 2D URANS approach adopting a block structured mesh and Menter's SST  $k - \omega$  turbulence model in fluid-structure interaction (FSI) problems is studied using as a test case a ratio  $B/H = 4$  rectangular cylinder. The vortex-induced vibration (VIV) and torsional flutter phenomena are analyzed based on the computation of the out-of-phase and in-phase components of the forced frequency component of lift and moment coefficients when the section is forced to periodically oscillate both in heave and pitch degrees of freedom. Also the flutter derivatives are evaluated numerically from the same forced oscillation simulations. A good general agreement has been found with both experimental and numerical data reported in the literature. This highlights the benefits of this relatively simple and straightforward approach. These methods, once their feasibility has been checked, are ready to use in parametric design of bridge deck sections and, at a later stage, in the shape optimization of deck girders considering aeroelastic constraints.

**Keywords:** computational fluid dynamics; URANS; bluff body aerodynamics; vortex-induced vibration; torsional flutter; flutter derivatives;  $B/H = 4$  rectangular cylinder

### 1. Introduction

The rectangular cylinder is a classic example of a bluff body and has been extensively studied for decades by the scientific community. There are several reasons for this interest: their aerodynamic response is governed by the separation of the shear layers from the wind-ward edges and the flow patterns are dramatically different depending on the  $B/H$  ratio ( $B$  is the cross-section width while  $H$  is the section depth). Thus rectangular prisms are prone to vortex-induced vibration (VIV), torsional flutter, galloping and coupled flutter (Takeuchi & Matsumoto, 1992) and they are also often found in the built environment, for instance as the main structural members in arch bridges. Besides this, rectangular cylinders can be regarded as simplified geometry cases for studying the aerodynamic and aeroelastic response of bridge decks and buildings, which makes them particularly appealing as test cases for the validation of new methods of analysis.

From an experimental perspective, the number of published works on the aerodynamic and aeroelastic response of rectangular prisms is enormous, and covers all the different aerodynamic phenomena. It is not possible to make a comprehensive summary here, therefore just as a small and nonsystematic sample, the following are mentioned: Nakaguchi, Hashimoto, and Muto (1968), Ogawa, Sakai, and Sakai (1988), Norberg (1993), Matsumoto (1996) or Le, Tamura, and Matsumoto (2011).

Rectangular cylinders have also been extensively studied by means of numerical simulations. Due to the intrinsic complexity of the CFD problem and the associated computer power demand, the first applications were confined to the analysis of the aerodynamics of static rectangular cylinders. A detailed summary of the main contributions in the 1990s can be found in Shimada and Ishihara (2002). Some more recent references on static rectangular cylinders are Sohankar (2006), Kuroda, Tamura, and Suzuki (2007) and Sohankar (2012), along with the research carried out in the frame of the BARC (Benchmark on the Aerodynamics of a Rectangular 5:1 Cylinder) initiative such as Mannini, Soda, and Schewe (2011) and Bruno, Coste, and Fransos (2012). The current state of the art, shows that 3D LES (Large Eddy Simulation) or DES (Detached Eddy Simulation) are generally used in order to study the complex three-dimensional flow around static rectangular cross-sections both in isolation and in combination with other bluff bodies. It must be pointed out that in these models, the spanwise length of the body influences the length scales of turbulence in the spanwise direction.

However, the number of references in the literature dealing with the numerical simulation of FSI (Fluid–Structure Interaction) problems for rectangular cross-section cylinders is more sparse, and in some cases the research has been carried out as a preliminary study prior to a further application in bridge deck aerodynamics

\*Corresponding author. Email: [felix.nieto@udc.es](mailto:felix.nieto@udc.es)

problems. An early application is Murakami, Mochida, and Sakamoto (1997), where the results of forced oscillations and wind-induced free oscillation of a square cylinder using a 3D LES approach are reported. Piperno (1988), obtained with reasonable accuracy the in-phase and out-of-phase components of a ratio 4:1 rectangular cylinder under forced oscillation without considering a turbulence model. The works by Tamura and Itoh (1999); Tamura (1999), Tamura and Ono (2003) on the oscillations of rectangular cylinders and turbulence effects must also be highlighted. Also, in Mendes and Branco (1999), the computed values for the  $H_1^*$  and  $A_2^*$  flutter derivatives of the  $B/H = 4$  rectangular cylinder are reported employing a 2D approach with no turbulence model. Braun and Awruch (2003), computed the response of a  $B/H = 5$  rectangular cylinder displaying wind-induced free oscillation in heave and pitch degrees of freedom. A more recent application can be found in Sarwar, Ishihara, Shimada, Yamasaki, and Ikeda (2008), where the flutter derivatives of rectangular cylinders with aspect ratios 10:1 and 20:1 were computed as part of a numerical study for obtaining the flutter derivatives of a box girder deck. In Sun, Owen, Wright, and Liaw (2008), the numerical results for the  $A_2^*$  flutter derivative of the  $B/H = 4$  rectangular cylinder using a 3D LES approach are reported. Later, Sun and co-workers (Sun, Owen, & Wright, 2009) published the complete set of 18 flutter derivatives for the  $B/H = 4$  rectangular cylinder employing a 2D URANS (Unsteady Reynolds Averaged Navier-Stokes) modeling and a  $k-\omega$  turbulence model; also the effect of the incoming level of turbulence was studied. Finally, in Shimada and Ishihara (2012), the responses of 2:1 and 4:1 ratio rectangular prisms subject to forced and free wind-induced oscillations were computed and compared with experimental tests and other numerical results available in the literature finding a good agreement. The authors in the last reference adopted a 2D URANS approach and a modified  $k-\varepsilon$  turbulence model (Shimada & Ishihara, 2002) to study the aerodynamic instabilities of interest avoiding the burdensome 3D numerical simulations.

In this work a  $B/H = 4$  rectangular cylinder has been selected as a study case since it belongs to the category of permanent reattached flow (Bruno, Salvetti, & Ricciardelli, 2014) and therefore it can be considered as a basic bridge deck geometry. Furthermore, rectangular cylinders, as bridge decks, present fixed separation points instead of moving ones, characteristic of circular cylinders (Wu & Kareem, 2012). From the existing literature on CFD applications, two references cited above dealing specifically with the FSI response of the  $B/H = 4$  rectangular cylinder must be highlighted. In Sun et al. (2009) the flutter derivatives of the 4:1 rectangular prism were computed. However, the VIV and torsional flutter problems were not addressed and therefore, the reduced velocities ( $U_R = U/(fB)$ ) considered were in the range (3, 6), outside the VIV zone close to  $U_R = 1.7$ . On the other hand,

in Shimada and Ishihara (2012) the focus was put on the VIV, galloping and torsional flutter of rectangular prisms. The range of reduced velocities studied for the  $B/H = 4$  case was ample (approximately between 0.75 and 7.5); nevertheless no attempt was made to compute the flutter derivatives. Consequently, to the authors' knowledge the fundamental FSI phenomena in bridges, VIV response and computation of flutter derivatives required for the identification of the critical flutter wind speed, have not been simultaneously addressed in the literature.

Furthermore, in Sun et al. (2009) it is stated that the most feasible turbulence model depends on the type of aeroelastic phenomena being modeled. Since both flutter and VIV are narrow band processes, it is argued that the same basic requirement holds for the two phenomena. That is the correct simulation of the average shear layer aerodynamics induced by the deck motion. The motivation of the current piece of research is to explore the applicability of a 2D URANS approach in combination with a low Reynolds strategy in the proximity of the bluff body, in order to obtain the VIV, the torsional flutter response and the flutter derivatives for the 4:1 rectangular cylinder. A key point, which is discussed in the next section, is the selection of a turbulence model which must be suitable for modeling the aforementioned aeroelastic phenomena.

Furthermore, in this investigation a block structured mesh has been employed since it is particularly suited to the automatic grid generation in the context of parametric and optimum design problems. In addition, the time required for solving unstructured meshes in CFD problems is often higher than for the structured ones (Zhang, Jia, Wang, & Altinakar, 2013). The solver of choice has been OpenFOAM, which is a free, open source CFD software package based on the finite volume method.

The success of the described strategy would allow the application of this methodology in the parametric design of bridge box decks. Its implementation in the frame of the numerical shape optimization of bridge deck sections considering aeroelastic responses has already been proposed by some of the authors of this work (Hernández, Nieto, Jurado, & Pérez, 2012).

In the first part of the paper the available numerical approaches and turbulence models are discussed and the choice of the SST  $k-\omega$  is explained. Then the basic numerical formulation is introduced and the formulation for computing the in-phase and out-of-phase components of lift and moment coefficients for bluff bodies under forced oscillation is briefly described, along with the extraction of the flutter derivatives. In the next section the flow modeling and computational approach adopted in the  $B/H = 4$  rectangular cylinder case study is explained and the results of the verification analyses and validation for the static  $0^\circ$  angle of incidence case are described. Concerning the FSI problems, the results for the VIV and torsional flutter simulations are presented and compared with experimental and numerical data in the literature. Furthermore, the flutter

derivatives are extracted and also the current results are compared with computer simulations and wind tunnel test data. Finally, the main conclusions from this piece of research are summarized.

## 2. The choice of turbulence model

It is well known that turbulence is a time-dependent three-dimensional process whose simulation by means of computational techniques is particularly challenging. Several turbulence models, comprising modified versions have been proposed, which differ on their physical foundations, their degree of complexity and computer power demands.

A lot of effort has been devoted to the development of reliable general-use turbulence models for solving the closure problem in the Reynolds-averaged Navier-Stokes (RANS) and Large Eddy Simulation (LES) approaches. In the following some of the available models are mentioned and their expected behavior on the type of problems considered in the present piece of research is commented.

Amongst the one-equation models, the Spalart-Allmaras turbulence model (Spalart & Allmaras, 1992) must be highlighted. This model applies the Boussinesq approximation and it is based on the proposal of a transport equation for the eddy viscosity (Wilcox, 2006). This turbulence model has proved to be effective in airfoil and wing applications, as well as free shear flows. However, the model does not provide good results for massively separated flows (Mannini, Soda, & Schewe, 2010a) but it is of interest in the frame of Detached Eddy Simulation (SADES). Focusing on its performance in the aerodynamics of 2D rectangular cylinders, Mannini and co-workers found that for a static  $B/H = 5$  rectangular cylinder at  $0^\circ$  angle of attack and  $Re_H = 2 \times 10^4$ , the model predicted an almost steady solution, which is in disagreement with experimental evidence. In the same manner, the recirculation region at the leeward side of the prism was overestimated and the mean values of the pressure coefficient were not particularly accurate.

Perhaps the most commonly used turbulence models in RANS applications are the two-equation type based on the Boussinesq assumption. They are the  $k-\varepsilon$  and the  $k-\omega$  models with their different versions. The  $k-\varepsilon$  turbulence model has enjoyed great popularity, particularly in industrial applications. However, according to Wilcox (2006), it has proved to be inaccurate for separated flows, it is extremely difficult to integrate through the viscous sublayer and very often requires a certain degree of tuning to suit each particular application. Consequently, the  $k-\omega$  turbulence model has gained popularity since it appears to be more accurate for modelling 2D boundary layers with both adverse and favorable pressure gradients and it can be integrated through the viscous sublayer without any special viscous correction. In this respect, some of the authors of this work (Nieto, Kusano, Hernández, & Jurado, 2010) have found poor performance of the  $k-\varepsilon$  model simulating

the vortex shedding from a twin box deck. In contrast, the  $k-\omega$  model provided better results for the same problem. Menter (2009) remarked on the sensitivity of the  $k-\omega$  model with the free stream turbulent characteristics. As an alternative that avoids this problem, the SST version of the  $k-\omega$  turbulence model was proposed by Menter (1994), and a number of modifications and improvements have been later published by Menter and co-workers. Following Menter (2009), the basic idea consists in using the  $k-\omega$  model in the near wall regions and the  $k-\varepsilon$  model in the remaining flow domain, introducing blending functions that join the two models in a single formulation along with the JK model. The eddy viscosity is limited to improve the model's behavior for adverse pressure gradients and in the wake region. Also, a limiter is introduced in the production term of the kinetic energy (Blazek, 2005; Mannini et al., 2010a).

A more sophisticated approach consists in providing alternatives to the Boussinesq eddy-viscosity assumption, introducing the anisotropy tensor for modeling the components of the Reynolds stress tensor. These models, known as Explicit Algebraic Reynolds Stress Models are a subclass of the algebraic stress models (Wilcox, 2006). Mannini and co-workers (Mannini et al., 2010a; Mannini, Soda, Voß, & Schewe, 2010b) have applied the linearized explicit algebraic version of the model, coupled with Wilcox's standard  $k-\omega$  model. This model has shown accurate results in 2D simulations of a static  $B/H = 5$  rectangular cylinder, as well as qualitatively capturing the Reynolds number dependency of the response for a  $4^\circ$  angle of attack. These kinds of models are particular useful for flows over curved surfaces, since the Boussinesq eddy-viscosity approximation generally fails. The potential of the model for bluff bodies with curved edges has been exploited in Mannini et al. (2010b) studying the effect of corner sharpness of the cross-section of a bridge deck.

When unsteady RANS models are applied considering a three-dimensional flow domain, they typically produce single-mode large-scale unsteady structures without resolving any of the details of the turbulence (Menter, 2009) and the integral results are practically identical to those obtained from two-dimensional simulations (Sun et al., 2009). On the other hand, the application of Reynolds Stress models in three-dimensional flow domains allows for the capture of three-dimensional features in the flow. In the application reported in Mannini et al. (2010a) it was found that for the static 5:1 rectangular cylinder studied, the three-dimensionality of the flow was weak. There were no remarkable differences from the two-dimensional simulation, apart from a 50% increment in the standard deviation of the drag coefficient. In fact, the authors elaborate on the difficulties in setting an adequate span-wise dimension of the domain and in triggering the three-dimensionality of the flow.

Nowadays the most accurate, but also the most computationally burdensome, model is the Large Eddy



Simulation (LES) approach applied in a 3D domain. In fact, the high cost of LES in wall boundary layers has restricted its application in industrial applications (Menter, 2009). A less computationally onerous alternative is the so-called Detached Eddy Simulation (DES), where different versions of RANS models, such as Spalart-Allmaras, are applied in boundary layers. Focusing on LES, the basic idea consists in computing the large eddies in the flow, while the smallest eddies are modeled. These small scales of the turbulence are solved by means of the subgrid-scale model, which simulates the energy transfer between the large eddies and the subgrid scales. General references describing this model are, for instance, Blazek (2005) or Sagaut (2001) who focuses on incompressible flows. Concerning the high computer cost associated with the method, some computer times are provided in Bruno et al. (2012) for a static 5:1 rectangular cylinder when different space discretization is considered in the span-wise direction.

Taking into account that the primary goal of this piece of research is the CFD-based computation of vortex-induced response and flutter derivatives of a ratio  $B/H = 4$  rectangular cylinder by means of forced oscillations, 3D simulations have been discarded. Since several reduced velocities must be considered for two different degrees of freedom and the simulations must be extended for tens of nondimensional time steps, the computer cost linked with DES or LES approaches could not be afforded by the authors. In fact, Shimada and Ishihara (2012) make a similar reflection in order to justify their  $k-\varepsilon$  approach. Furthermore, the application of URANS models, or even the Explicit Algebraic Reynolds Stress model, in three-dimensional flows, while being computationally expensive, does not provide significantly better results than a 2D simulation, as it has been noted above.

Focusing on 2D URANS, the drawbacks of the Spalart-Allmaras model for massively separated flows have already been noted. Reynolds Stress models, while providing good results for 2D simulations of rectangular cylinders, offer better results in problems dealing with bluff bodies with curved surfaces. Since the case considered herein has sharp edges, it is was not clear a priori that the more sophisticated Reynolds Stress model would provide better results while being robust in the forced oscillation simulations to be conducted. Amongst the remaining alternatives, the general SST version of the  $k-\omega$  model seemed to offer the right balance between computer cost, robustness and expected accuracy. Therefore, it has been chosen by the authors for this study.

### 3. Numerical formulation

The time averaging of the equations for conservation of mass and momentum gives the Reynolds averaged equations of motion in conservation form (Wilcox, 2006).

$$\frac{\partial U_i}{\partial x_i} = 0 \quad (1.a)$$

$$\rho \frac{\partial U_i}{\partial t} + \rho U_j \frac{\partial U_i}{\partial x_j} = -\frac{\partial P}{\partial x_i} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} (2\mu S_{ij} - \rho \overline{u'_i u'_j}) \quad (1.b)$$

where  $U_i$  is the mean velocity vector,  $x_i$  is the position vector,  $t$  is the time,  $\rho$  is the fluid density,  $u'_i$  is the fluctuating velocity vector and the over-bar represents the time average,  $P$  is the mean pressure,  $\mu$  is the fluid viscosity,  $S_{ij}$  is the mean strain-rate tensor. From Equation 1b, the specific Reynolds stress tensor is defined as:

$$\tau_{ij} = -\overline{u'_i u'_j} \quad (2)$$

which is an additional unknown to be modeled based on the Boussinesq assumption for one and two equation turbulence models (Wilcox, 2006).

$$\tau_{ij} = 2\nu_T S_{ij} - \frac{2}{3} k \delta_{ij} \quad (3)$$

where  $\nu_T$  is the kinematic eddy viscosity and  $k$  is the kinetic energy per unit mass of the turbulent fluctuations.

In this work the closure problem is solved applying Menter's  $k-\omega$  SST model for incompressible flows (Menter & Esch, 2001).

For the simulations where oscillations of the bluff body have been imposed, the Arbitrary Lagrangian Eulerian (ALE) formulation has been applied. The conservation of mass and momentum equations are written as follows (Bai, Sun, & Lin, 2010; Sarkic, Fisch, Hoffer, & Bletzinger, 2012):

$$\frac{\partial (U_i - U_{gi})}{\partial x_i} = 0 \quad (4.a)$$

$$\rho \frac{\partial U_i}{\partial t} + \rho U_j \frac{\partial (U_i - U_{gi})}{\partial x_j} = -\frac{\partial P}{\partial x_i} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} (2\mu S_{ij} - \rho \overline{u'_i u'_j}) \quad (4.b)$$

where  $U_{gi}$  is the grid velocity in the  $i$ -th direction.

The forced displacement is imposed at the bluff-body boundary and the mesh control is achieved computing the motion of the grid points solving the Laplace equation with variable diffusivity using a quadratic distance-based method.

### 4. Forced vibration

Forced oscillation of a bluff body allows its vortex-induced response to be analyzed as well as torsional flutter. Next, a brief summary of the fundamental formulation is going to be presented. More comprehensive explanations can be found in Washizu, Ohya, Otsuki, and Fujii (1978), or more recently, in Shimada and Ishihara (2012).

Forced displacement is imposed on a bluff body, in a single degree of freedom, according to the following

expression for heave:

$$h(t) = h_0 \sin(\omega_m t) \tag{5}$$

where  $h(t)$ , positive upwards, represents the forced oscillation in heave,  $h_0$  is the displacement amplitude,  $\omega_m$  is the forced vibration angular frequency and  $t$  is the time.

For the pitch oscillation, the equivalent expression for the forced motion is:

$$\alpha(t) = \alpha_0 \sin(\omega_m t) \tag{6}$$

with  $\alpha(t)$  being the pitch rotation, positive in the clock-wise direction, and  $\alpha_0$  is the amplitude of the forced vibration.

The main components of the unsteady wind force acting on the oscillating bluff-body are the vortex-shedding frequency component and the forced frequency component. In the results that are going to be presented below, the initial transient region in the simulations has been excluded and the data analyses have been conducted for time histories that can be considered steady and stationary. In Figure 1 the simulated time history of the lift coefficient is presented along with its frequency decomposition for a reduced velocity  $U_R = U/(fB) = 4.0$  for

the 4:1 rectangular cylinder (where  $f = \omega_m/2\pi$  the frequency of oscillation in Hz). The first peak, at 2.5 Hz, corresponds to the frequency of oscillation while the second one, at 5.7 Hz, identifies the vortex shedding frequency. The component of the unsteady lift force (or moment) at the frequency of the forced oscillation can be written as:

$$L_m(t) = L_0 \sin(\omega_m t + \beta) \tag{7}$$

Where  $L_0$  is the amplitude of the unsteady lift at the excitation frequency, and  $\beta$  is the phase shift with respect to the forced oscillation.

Applying the Fourier decomposition of the unsteady lift force per unit of span length,  $L_0$  and  $\beta$  can be obtained:

$$[a_m, b_m] = \frac{1}{T} \int_{-T}^T L(t) [\cos \omega_m t, \sin \omega_m t] dt \tag{8.a}$$

$$L_0 = \sqrt{a_m^2 + b_m^2} \tag{8.b}$$

$$\beta = \tan^{-1}(b_m/a_m) \tag{8.c}$$

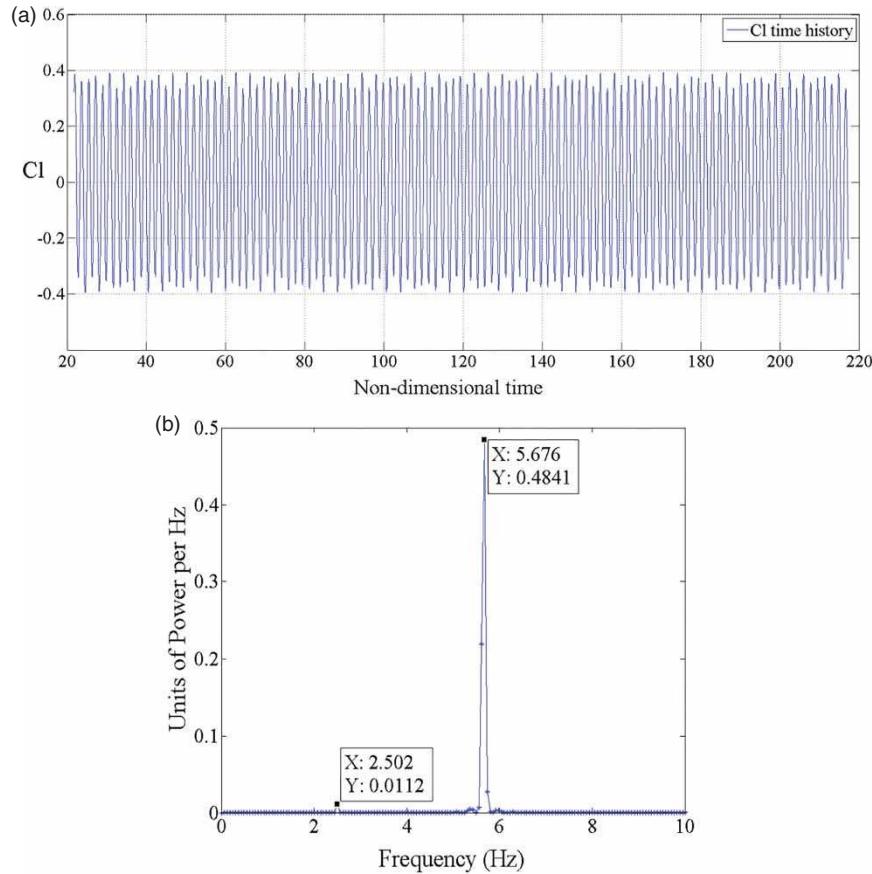


Figure 1. Ratio 4:1 rectangular cylinder (a) time history and (b) spectral content of the lift coefficient at forced oscillation in the heave degree of freedom.

And the forced frequency component of the unsteady lift force acting on the bluff-body is:

$$L_m(t) = L_0 \cos \beta \sin(\omega_m t) + L_0 \sin \beta \cos(\omega_m t) \quad (9)$$

Where  $L_{mR} = L_0 \cos \beta$  is the in-phase component and  $L_{mI} = L_0 \sin \beta$  is the out-of-phase component of the forced frequency term of the unsteady lift force. The out-of-phase component is of great importance since it plays the role of the aerodynamic damping, while the in-phase component plays the role of the aerodynamic stiffness. When the out-of-phase component is positive, it acts as negative aerodynamic damping indicating that self-excited oscillation may take place (see Shimada and Ishihara (2012) and Sarwar and Ishihara (2010), for a more detailed explanation).

The in-phase and out-of-phase components of the forced frequency component of the unsteady lift force can be expressed as nondimensional coefficients:

$$C_{LR} = \frac{L_{mR}}{\frac{1}{2}\rho U^2 B} \quad (10.a)$$

$$C_{LI} = \frac{L_{mI}}{\frac{1}{2}\rho U^2 B} \quad (10.b)$$

The same principles can be applied to the forced frequency component of the unsteady moment for the pitch degree of freedom. In this case, the nondimensional coefficients are written as follows:

$$C_{MR} = \frac{M_{mR}}{\frac{1}{2}\rho U^2 B^2} \quad (11.a)$$

$$C_{MI} = \frac{M_{mI}}{\frac{1}{2}\rho U^2 B^2} \quad (11.b)$$

where  $M_{mR}$  is the in-phase component and  $M_{mI}$  is the out-of-phase terms of the forced frequency component of the unsteady moment.

## 5. Flutter derivatives computation by means of forced oscillation simulations

Flutter derivatives are nonanalytical parameters which relate motion-induced forces and the velocities and movements of the structure. As a consequence, these parameters have been traditionally identified using wind tunnel tests, and more recently from numerical-based simulations.

According to Sarkar, Caracoglia, Haan, Sato, and Murakoshi (2009) and Simiu and Scanlan (1996), the aeroelastic forces on a bridge deck, considering two degrees of freedom (heave and pitch) can be written as

follows, using Scanlan's formulation: [

$$L_{ae}^S(t) = \frac{1}{2}\rho U^2 B \left[ KH_1^* \frac{\dot{h}(t)}{U} + KH_2^* \frac{B\dot{\alpha}(t)}{U} + K^2 H_3^* \alpha(t) + K^2 H_4^* \frac{h(t)}{B} \right] \quad (12.a)$$

$$M_{ae}^S(t) = \frac{1}{2}\rho U^2 B^2 \left[ KA_1^* \frac{\dot{h}(t)}{U} + KA_2^* \frac{B\dot{\alpha}(t)}{U} + K^2 A_3^* \alpha(t) + K^2 A_4^* \frac{h(t)}{B} \right] \quad (12.b)$$

Where  $L_{ae}^S(t)$  is the aeroelastic lift force per unit of span length,  $M_{ae}^S(t)$  is the aeroelastic moment per unit of span length,  $K = (B\omega)/U$  is the reduced frequency,  $h(t)$  is the heave oscillation and  $\dot{h}(t)$  is its time derivative,  $\alpha(t)$  is the torsional rotation and  $\dot{\alpha}(t)$  its time derivative,  $H_i^*$  and  $A_i^*$  ( $i = 1, \dots, 4$ ) are the flutter derivatives.

Assuming prescribed harmonic forced oscillations  $h = h_0 \sin(\omega_h t)$  and  $\alpha = \alpha_0 \sin(\omega_\alpha t)$ , where  $h_0$  and  $\alpha_0$  are the amplitudes of the oscillations, and also that motion-induced forces are linear functions of the movement; after some manipulation, the following expressions are obtained for the identification of the flutter derivatives:

$$H_1^* = \frac{-L_0 \sin \phi_L}{qK^2 h_0} \quad (13.a)$$

$$H_2^* = \frac{-L_0 \sin \phi_L}{qBK^2 \alpha_0} \quad (13.b)$$

$$H_3^* = \frac{L_0 \cos \phi_L}{qBK^2 \alpha_0} \quad (13.c)$$

$$H_4^* = \frac{L_0 \cos \phi_L}{qK^2 h_0} \quad (13.d)$$

$$A_1^* = \frac{-M_0 \sin \phi_M}{qBK^2 h_0} \quad (13.e)$$

$$A_2^* = \frac{-M_0 \sin \phi_M}{qB^2 K^2 \alpha_0} \quad (13.f)$$

$$A_3^* = \frac{M_0 \cos \phi_M}{qB^2 K^2 \alpha_0} \quad (13.g)$$

$$A_4^* = \frac{M_0 \cos \phi_M}{qBK^2 h_0} \quad (13.h)$$

Where  $L_0$  and  $M_0$  are the amplitudes of the fluctuating lift and moment acting on the bluff-body,  $\phi_L$  and  $\phi_M$  are the phase lags of the aeroelastic lift or moment with respect to the prescribed oscillation and  $q$  is the dynamic pressure.

The adopted sign criterion has been the one reported in Sarkar et al. (2009) that is aeroelastic lift force and heave displacement positive downwards, moment and pitch rotation positive in the clock-wise direction, for a flow coming from the left side.

The aerodynamic force representation employed by Washizu and co-workers (Washizu, Ohya, Otsuki, & Fujii,



1978; 1980) is equivalent to the flutter derivatives formulation proposed by Scanlan. In this respect, in Sarkar et al. (2009), the expressions relating the out-of-phase and in-phase components of the lift and moment coefficients with the direct flutter derivatives  $H_1^*$ ,  $H_4^*$ ,  $A_2^*$  and  $A_3^*$  are derived.

## 6. Geometry and computer modeling

As it has been previously noted, a rectangular section with a width to depth ratio  $B/H = 4$  and sharp edges has been chosen as the case study for computing its forced oscillation response.

In the FSI simulations the rectangular cylinder, which is considered as rigid, is forced to oscillate at a prescribed frequency in heave or pitch degrees of freedom. In the adopted approach no structural solver is involved and the mesh movement is handled by the solver using the ALE method.

### 6.1. Boundary conditions

The flow domain size adopted in all the simulation reported herein is  $41B$  by  $30.25B$ , similar to the size employed in successful simulations by other researchers (Bruno, Fransos, Coste, & Bosco, 2010; Fransos & Bruno, 2010) and bigger than flow domains in Sun et al. (2008), Sarwar and Ishihara (2010) or Arslan, Pettersen, and Andersson (2011). The flow domain size has been chosen in order to guarantee that flow conditions near the bluff body are not influenced by the distance to the boundaries.

As boundary conditions, a constant velocity inlet has been set at the left side (see Figure 2) while a pressure outlet at atmospheric pressure has been imposed at the right side. The upper and lower boundaries have been defined as slip walls, that is, neglecting viscous effects caused by the wall surface. Taking into account that in the region close to these boundaries the flow is practically undisturbed, given the distance of the upper and lower boundaries from the

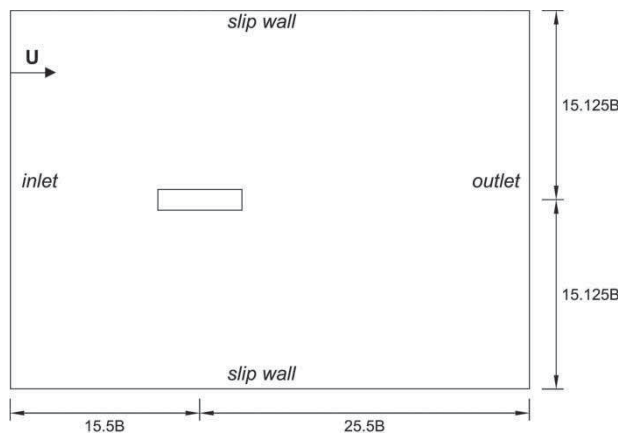


Figure 2. Flow domain definition and boundary conditions (rectangular cylinder out of scale).

bluff body, this is similar to imposing the uniform value of the inlet velocity along these boundaries as in Fransos and Bruno (2010) or Sarwar and Ishihara (2010). The walls of the rectangular cylinder surface are modeled as no-slip, taking into account that in the forced oscillation simulations the kinematic requirement that no flow can cross the wall is enforced (Donea, Huerta, Ponthot, & Rodríguez-Ferrán, 2004). In the solver, the resultant velocity field around the rectangular cylinder wall is corrected, imposing that the velocity at the boundary is equal to the mesh velocity and therefore no flux across the wall takes place.

A turbulence intensity of 1% has been chosen along with a  $0.1B$  turbulent length scale for the incoming flow, as in Ribeiro (2011). This has the same order of magnitude as the 3% turbulence intensity and  $0.082B$  turbulent length scale values in Sarkic et al. (2012).

A 2D block structured regular mesh has been generated taking special care in the definition of the refined grid around the deck cross-section in order to obtain target values for the nondimensional first grid height ( $y^+ = (\delta_1 u_*)/\nu$ , where  $\delta_1$  is the height of the first prismatic grid layer around the deck and  $u_*$  is the friction velocity) close to 1. In this manner, no wall functions are required.

The forced oscillation simulations have been conducted using a transient solver for incompressible flow of Newtonian fluids on a moving mesh by means of the PIMPLE (merged PISO-SIMPLE) algorithm distributed with OpenFOAM (2014a). The interpolation of values from the cell centers to face centers is done using a linear scheme and the gradient terms are discretized using the cell limited version of the Gauss discretization scheme. In the same manner, the divergence terms are discretized by means of the Gauss schemes. For the Laplacian terms, the Gauss scheme with a linear interpolation scheme for the diffusion coefficient and a limited surface normal gradient scheme has been chosen. The first-order time derivative is discretized using the Euler implicit scheme. Concerning the temporal discretization, the PISO scheme discretizes the momentum equations in an implicit manner, while the pressure gradient is explicit (OpenFOAM, 2014b, 2014c). The segregated operator splitting in PISO results in a solution that is highly sensitive to Courant number, although certain aspects of the discretization are implicit. Thus, Courant numbers below 1 are generally required to maintain stability.

### 6.2. Mesh control

The computer implementation of the ALE formulation requires a mesh-update method that assigns mesh-node velocities or displacements at each calculation time step (Donea et al., 2004). The computational grid must be kept as regular as possible, avoiding distortions and the squeezing of mesh elements, and therefore decreasing numerical errors.

In the fluid structure interaction simulations conducted in this piece of research the boundary motion is defined by the prescribed forced oscillations of the rectangular cylinder, which follows a sinusoidal law with given frequency and amplitude. On the other hand, the exterior boundaries of the fluid domain are fixed along the simulations.

Amongst the available mesh movement algorithms a Laplacian smoothing technique for each component of the node-mesh position has been chosen (Oliver, 2009). According to Jasak and Rusche (2009), the Laplace equation can be expressed as:

$$\nabla \cdot k \nabla \mathbf{u} = 0 \quad (14)$$

where  $\mathbf{u}$  is the node-mesh displacement vector and  $k$  is the diffusion coefficient.

In this work the diffusivity of the field is computed based on the quadratic inverse distance from the oscillating boundary. This prevents the distortion of the smallest elements around the rectangular cylinder (Löhner, 2008).

### 6.3. Verification studies

A grid independence study has been conducted for three different grids, namely Coarse, Medium and Fine grids, for the static rectangular cylinder with  $0^\circ$  angle of incidence. The thickness of the high-density layer attached to the rectangular cylinder is  $B/8$ . The mesh comprises 80 rows of elements in this zone and the height of the first element around the cross-section is the same for the three meshes considered in the verification study, and is defined as  $\delta_1/B = 2.44 \times 10^{-4}$ . Besides this, the expansion factor (ratio between the dimension of the furthest and the closest elements to the wall) is 20. As a consequence, the mean value of  $y^+$  around the rectangular cylinder is about 0.9–0.95 and a maximum value, limited to the windward corners, is approximately 5.25, well below the maximum value of 8 reported in Sarkic et al. (2012) for a streamlined deck cross-section (see Figure 3 for images of the Medium grid). The Reynolds number of the simulations reported herein is  $Re = (UB)/\nu = 1.06 \times 10^5$ . In Table 1 the data

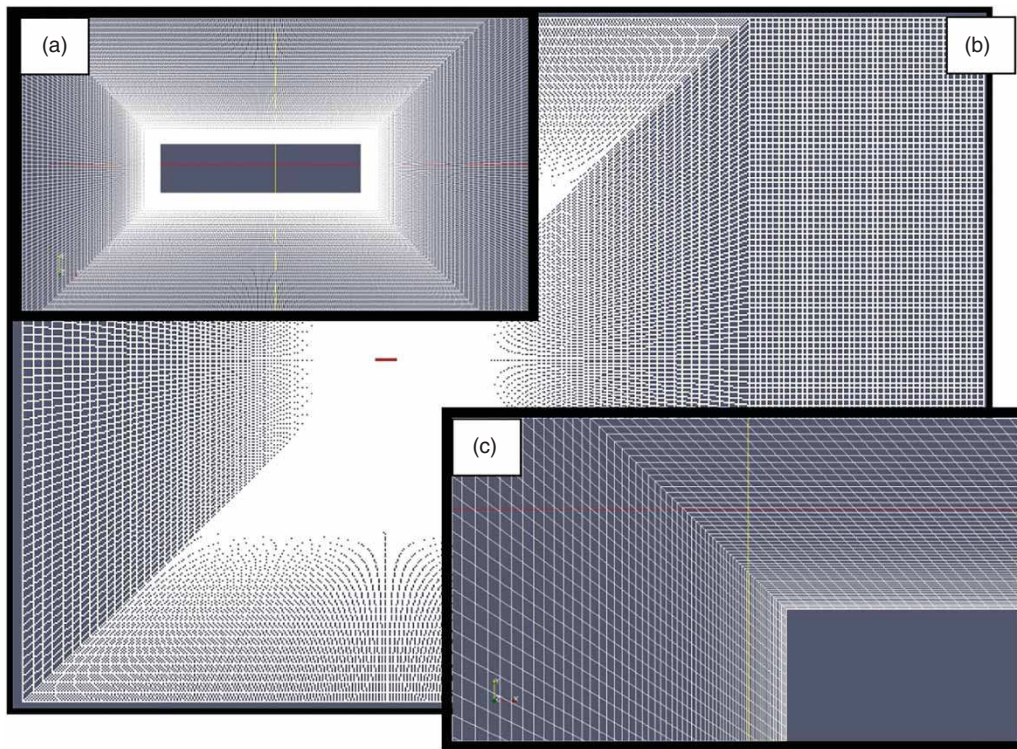


Figure 3. Block-structured grid: (a) close-up of the rectangular cylinder; (b) a larger region around the cylinder and (c) detail around the corner.

Table 1. Properties and results of the grid-refinement study.

Grid	Total cells	Cells around body	$S_t$	$C_D$	$C'_D$	$C'_L$	$C'_M$
Coarse	104000	560	0.145	0.31	0.009	0.27	0.046
Medium	147600	680	0.145	0.31	0.012	0.28	0.046
Fine	235200	880	0.145	0.31	0.011	0.29	0.045

Table 2. Results of the time-refinement study.

Max. Co. numb.	$\overline{\Delta s}$	$S_t$	$C_D$	$C'_D$	$C'_L$	$C'_M$
1	3.e-4	0.145	0.31	0.012	0.28	0.046
0.5	1.5e-4	0.143	0.31	0.013	0.28	0.047

of these three grids, along with the Strouhal number and the mean values and standard deviations of the force coefficients are reported. All the computations have been carried out imposing a maximum Courant number of 1.

The definition of the force coefficients in this work is the following:

$$C_D = \frac{D}{\frac{1}{2}\rho U^2 B} \quad C_L = \frac{L}{\frac{1}{2}\rho U^2 B} \quad C_M = \frac{M}{\frac{1}{2}\rho U^2 B^2} \quad (15)$$

In the former expressions,  $D$  is the drag force per span length, positive windward,  $L$  is the lift force per span length, positive upwards, and  $M$  is the twist moment per unit of span length, positive in the clock-wise direction. The reference dimension for the three coefficients is  $B$ . The standard deviation of the force coefficients is identified with the prime symbol in the following.

Table 1 shows very similar results for the three grids considered, which highlights the level of independence of the solution from the mesh density. For the simulations hereafter the Medium grid has been retained since it offers similar accuracy to the Fine mesh with lower computational cost and its extra spatial resolution with respect to the Coarse mesh offers additional guaranties for the more demanding fluid-structure interaction simulations to be addressed in the present research.

Two different maximum Courant numbers have been considered for studying the stability of the numerical simulation depending on the time step discretization: 1 and 0.5. The corresponding mean nondimensional time-steps, have been:  $\Delta s = (\Delta t U)/B \approx 3.0 \times 10^{-4}$  and  $1.5 \times 10^{-4}$ . In Table 2 the results obtained for the Medium mesh are reported. It has been found that both maximum Courant numbers offer very similar results, thus the higher has been retained hereafter.

Table 3.  $B/H = 4$  rectangular cylinder: results and validation.

	$S_t$	$C_D$	$C'_D$	$C'_L$	$C'_M$
Present simulation	0.145	0.31	0.012	0.28	0.046
Sun et al. (2009) - 2D URANS	0.15	0.33	0.024	0.351	0.053
Vairo (2003) - 2D URANS	0.149	0.356	0.065	0.25	0.071
Okajima (1982); Nakaguchi et al. (1968) - EXP.	0.135	0.30			
Vairo (2003) - EXP. by CSTB	0.159	0.348	0.081	0.289	0.054

In the simulations which are going to be presented next, the nondimensional time steps are roughly between  $3.0 \times 10^{-4}$  and  $2.5 \times 10^{-4}$ .

The FSI problems have been solved in a High Performance Computer Cluster which mainly comprises nodes with 2 AMD 8 cores processors. The forced oscillations in pitch simulations have been computed in parallel using 8 cores for each simulation. The heave-related problems, which demanded lower computational power, were solved using 4 cores in parallel. The execution time per time step has been about 4.5 seconds, depending obviously on the specific node load during the simulation.

## 7. Results and discussion

### 7.1. Flow simulation around the static rectangular cylinder

In Figure 4 the time history of the force coefficients for the static ratio 4:1 rectangular cylinder can be seen.

As a first step in the validation of the computational results reported in this work, the main aerodynamic integral parameters are presented and compared with available experimental and numerical results in the literature. The Strouhal number is computed from the dominant frequency in the spectrum of the lift coefficient. In Table 3 the aforementioned results are summarized along with the standard deviation of the force coefficients and compared

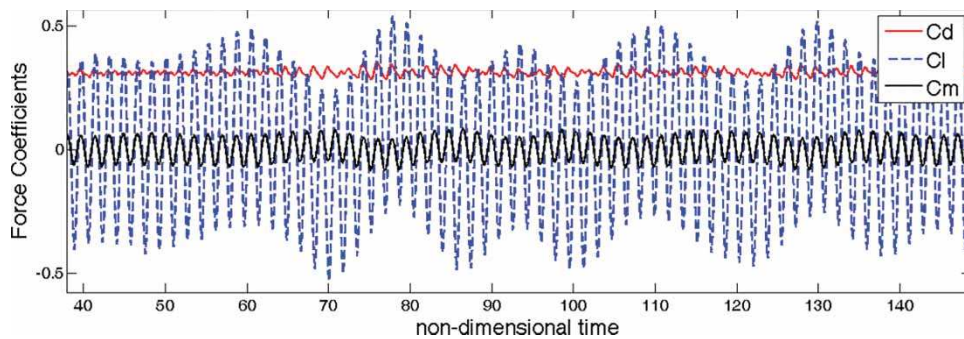


Figure 4. Time history of force coefficients for the  $B/H = 4$  static rectangular cylinder.



with numerical and experimental results reported in the literature.

It has been found that both mean drag force coefficient and the Strouhal number predicted in this study fall inside the range of the experimental data available in the literature. Also the results are similar to other numerical simulations carried out using a 2D URANS approach (Sun et al., 2009; Vairo, 2003). Some differences have been found in the standard deviation of the force coefficients with respect to both experimental and numerical publications; in fact, Bruno and co-workers, have pointed out the existing scattering in the literature for standard deviation of the lift coefficient for rectangular cylinders with high aspect ratios (Bruno et al., 2010). It has been found that the results obtained in this work for the standard deviation of the lift and moment coefficients are very close to the experimental values reported in Vairo (2003), while the standard deviation of the drag coefficient is lower, although all the available results collected agree in pointing towards a low value for the standard deviation of the drag coefficient, well below 0.1.

## 7.2. One degree of freedom heave forced oscillation

With the aim of exploring the feasibility of the 2D URANS approach using Menter's SST  $k-\omega$  turbulence model in fluid-structure interaction problems, the forced oscillation response of the  $B/H = 4$  rectangular cylinder has been computed. The amplitude of the oscillation is  $h_0/D = 0.02$  as in the experimental tests conducted by Washizu et al. (1978). These forced oscillation simulations with constant flow speed and at different frequencies allow the identification of the reduced velocity regions where vortex-induced vibration can take place (Sarwar & Ishihara, 2010). The change in the out-of-phase component of the unsteady lift force from negative to positive values indicates that vortex-induced vibrations will occur due to the negative aerodynamic damping introduced in the system for positive values of  $C_{LI}$ .

The current numerical results are compared with the experimental ones in the former reference by Washizu and co-workers, along with the computational results reported in Sarwar and Ishihara (2010) and Shimada and Ishihara (2012). In the first reference concerning CFD, a 3D approach with a LES turbulence model is employed; while in the latter one, the authors successfully applied a 2D URANS approach using a two-layer  $k-\varepsilon$  turbulence model modified in the production term. In Figures 5(a) and 5(b) the out-of-phase and in-phase components of the lift coefficient are reported. Also, in Figures 6(a) and 6(b) the amplitude of the unsteady lift coefficient at the frequency of oscillation and the phase difference between the forced displacement in the heave degree of freedom and the forced oscillation component of the lift force are shown. It must be noted that in Sarwar and Ishihara (2010) and Shimada and Ishihara (2012) the values of  $C_{LR}$  and  $C_{L0}$  are

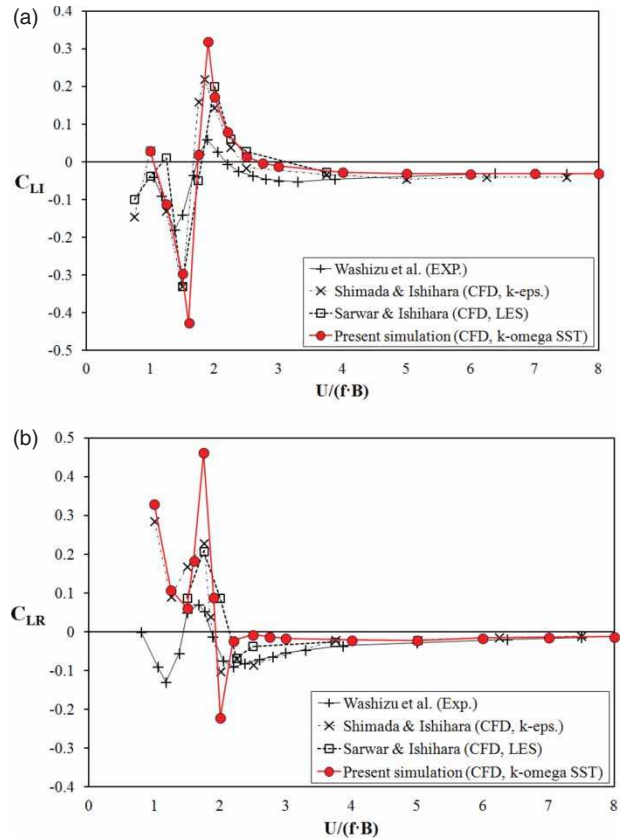


Figure 5.  $B/H = 4$  rectangular cylinder lift coefficient (a) Out-of-phase component; (b) In-phase component.

not reported, however they have been computed for this study from the available  $C_{LI}$  and  $\beta$  data in order to provide the complete picture in Figures 5(b) and 6(a). From a qualitative perspective, the CFD results obtained in the frame of the current study agree well with the experimental data reported by Washizu et al. (1978): a region showing positive values of the out-of-phase component ( $C_{LI}$ ) has been identified and the phase difference between the forced displacement and the forced oscillation component of the lift coefficient, for different reduced velocities, has also been obtained. However, a closer look at these results allows a further understanding of the turbulence model performance. As it has already been mentioned, the out-of-phase component of the lift coefficient is of utmost importance since it allows the identification of reduced velocity regions prone to VIV. From Figure 5(a), the V-shaped branch in the range of reduced velocities (1.0, 1.7) has been captured as well as the inverted V-shaped branch between reduced velocities (1.7, 2.5). In the same manner, a curved branch in the interval (2.5, 4.0) and the nearly horizontal branch in the range (4.0, 8.0) have been correctly identified. Nevertheless, differences between the numerical values in the CFD simulations and the experimental tests are apparent. In fact the numerical simulations reported herein overestimate the magnitude of the peak of the V-shaped branch at  $U_R = 1.6$ . Also the peak in the inverted

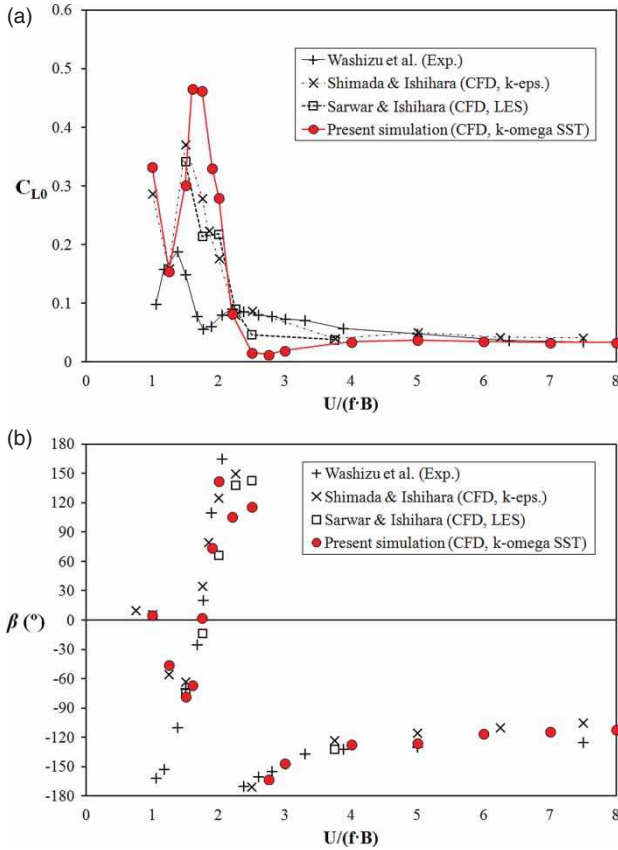


Figure 6.  $B/H = 4$  rectangular cylinder lift coefficient (a) Amplitude of the forced frequency component of the lift coefficient; (b) Phase angle.

V-shaped branch for  $U_R = 1.9$  is significantly higher than the experimental value in Washizu et al. (1978) (see Table 4).

These discrepancies can be explained as follows: The simulations have been obtained by means of 2D URANS simulations, therefore the predicted force coefficients show unrealistic smooth and periodic oscillations (Mannini et al., 2010b) since complex turbulence phenomena are not resolved. Furthermore, in Brusiani, de Miranda, Patruno,

Ubertini, and Vaona (2013) it is noted that for RANS models based on the Boussinesq hypothesis, 2D simulations are equivalent to 3D simulations showing perfect correlation in the span-wise direction. As a consequence, the aerodynamic forces are generally overestimated. Consequently, in this simulation, the forced frequency component of the lift force is expected to be higher than in the physical experiments. At reduced velocities equal to 1.6 and 1.9 the frequency of vortex shedding is locked-in with the frequency of oscillation, therefore the out-of-phase component of the lift coefficient is strongly over-predicted. The same phenomenon takes place at reduced velocities of 1.75 and 2.0, which are the peaks in the in-phase component of the lift coefficient chart (see Figure 5(b)). In the same manner, Figure 6(a) shows high values for the amplitude of the forced frequency component of the lift coefficient in the range of reduced velocities (1.5, 2.0), and these values are higher than in the other CFD-based references used for comparison.

Also a region of reduced velocities between 2.2 and 3.0 can be identified which corresponds to the range of frequencies of oscillation below the frequency of vortex shedding and therefore this is the region where the lock-in must be surpassed. It has been found that the SST  $k-\omega$  model has not been able to properly simulate this complex FSI region. This problem manifests itself in the underestimation of the in-phase component of the lift coefficient in that range of reduced frequencies, and the extension of the range of reduced velocities showing positive values for the out-of-phase component. Similar behavior can be identified in the amplitude  $C_{L0}$  (see Figure 6a).

Furthermore, the phase difference between the forced oscillation lift force component and the heave forced displacements has not been correctly obtained for  $U_R = 2.2$  and  $U_R = 2.5$  (see Figure 6b) which corresponds to phase angles close to 180° according to Washizu et al. (1978).

On the other hand, the turbulence model has offered results very close to the experimental ones in the range of reduced velocities (4.0, 8.0), which corresponds to the region where the complex VIV aerodynamic response has

Table 4. Discrepancies in the definition of the out-of-phase component of the forced frequency component of the lift coefficient using different turbulence models.

	EXP. (Washizu et al., 1978)	$k-\epsilon$ (Shimada & Ishihara, 2012)	LES (Sarwar & Ishihara, 2010)	SST $k-\omega$
$C_{LI}^{max}$	0.06	0.22	0.2	0.3183
$C_{LI}^{min}$	-0.18	-0.33	-0.33	-0.4274
Range positive $C_{LI}$	1.765, 2.05	1.75, 2.25	2, 2.5	1.75, 2.5
$\Delta U_R^+$	0.285	0.5	0.5	0.75
$e(C_{LI}^{max})$		2.67	2.33	4.30
$e(C_{LI}^{min})$		0.83	0.83	1.37
$e(\Delta U_R^+)$		0.75	0.75	1.63



been overcome. Similar issues can be identified, with lower severity, in Shimada and Ishihara (2012) and Sarwar and Ishihara (2010).

With the purpose of assessing the level of accuracy offered by the SST  $k-\omega$  turbulence model and the  $k-\varepsilon$  and LES models, the main features in the definition of the outline of the  $C_{LI}$  component are compared with the wind tunnel data in Table 4. The following magnitudes have been considered: the maximum and minimum values of the out-of-phase component of the forced frequency term of the lift coefficient  $C_{LI}^{max}$  and  $C_{LI}^{min}$ ; the range of reduced velocities with positive values of  $C_{LI}$  and the length of the corresponding interval  $\Delta U_R^+$ . The discrepancies are estimated as:

$$e = \frac{|exp.value - num.value|}{|exp.value|} \quad (16)$$

It must be borne in mind that the number of reduced frequencies considered in the numerical simulations and the experimental tests are different, as they are also different the concrete values of the reduced velocities adopted in each work. Therefore the values reported in Table 4 must be considered as an approximation for the purpose of assessing the accuracy of the different models.

According to the data reported in Table 4, it can be concluded that in spite of the qualitative agreement of the SST  $k-\omega$  turbulence model with the experimental data, its accuracy is lower than the  $k-\varepsilon$  and LES models, since it predicts higher peaks in the  $C_{LI}$  and the range of reduced frequencies showing positive values in  $C_{LI}$  is also overestimated (for practical applications this is in the safe side). It is remarkable the performance of the 2D  $k-\varepsilon$  model which at least matches the 3D LES results. In this respect, the lower overestimation of the peak values when compared with the SST  $k-\omega$  model can be related with the behavior of the modified  $k-\varepsilon$  model, since in Shimada and Ishihara (2002) it is noted that the fluctuations in the lift force were considerably underestimated in some cases, as the 4:1 ratio rectangular cylinder.

In the above discussion the range of reduced velocities (4.0, 8.0) has not been considered since it is outside the VIV prone region, no significant discrepancies have been observed and that range will be specifically considered in the latter discussion on the flutter derivatives estimation.

### 7.3. One degree of freedom pitch forced oscillation

The engineering interest in analyzing the response of a bluff-body undergoing harmonic torsional oscillation under wind flow lies in identifying the possibility of torsional flutter taking place at a certain range of reduced velocities, when the out-of-phase component of the moment coefficient changes from negative to positive values.

For the  $B/H = 4$  rectangular cylinder, the amplitude of the pitch oscillation in the current simulations has been

$\alpha_0 = 3.82^\circ$ , as in the experiments reported in Washizu et al. (1980) and the numerical simulation in Shimada and Ishihara (2012). In Figure 7.a and 7.b the out-of-phase and in-phase components of the unsteady moment ( $C_{MI}$  and  $C_{MR}$ ) are reported along with equivalent experimental and numerical results for validation.

The plot of the out-of-phase component of the moment coefficient as a function of the reduced velocity is qualitatively similar to the experimental values. The positive values of the out-of-phase component allow identifying the range of reduced velocities for which the cross-section is prone to torsional flutter. In the CFD simulation the reduced velocity for which  $C_{MI}$  is null is lower than in the wind tunnel tests, which is in the safe side for design applications. When the current simulation is compared with the one reported by Shimada and Ishihara, it can be concluded that the overall behavior is similar: both of them are shifted upwards in the vertical axis from  $U_R = 3.0$ , but without great differences with respect to the wind tunnel experiments.

For the sake of completeness, the amplitude of the forced frequency component of the moment coefficient and the phase angle with the forced oscillation in pitch degree

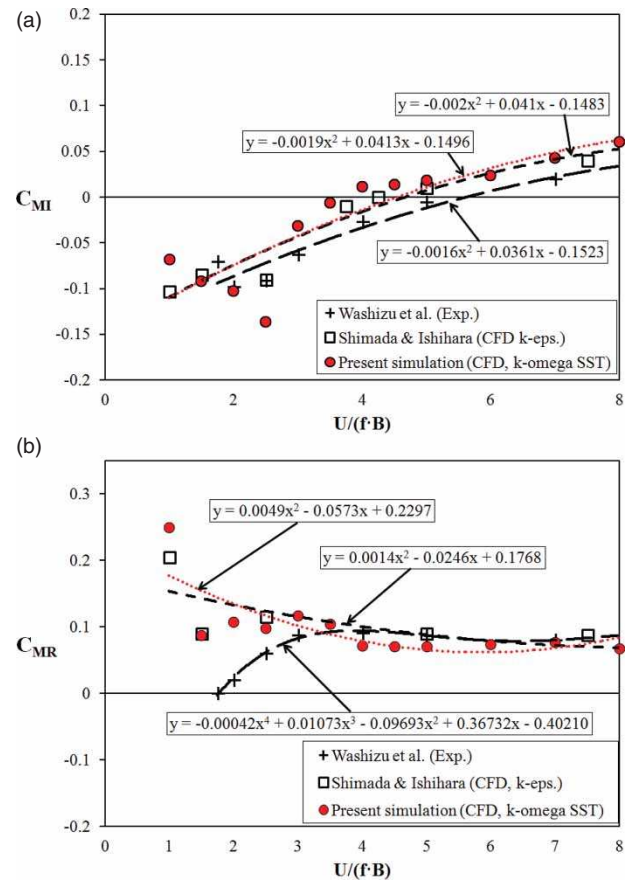


Figure 7.  $B/H = 4$  rectangular cylinder moment coefficient (a) Out-of-phase component; (b) In-phase component.

of freedom are reported in Figures 8(a) and 8(b). The data labeled as Shimada and Ishihara (CFD, k-eps.) have been computed from the  $C_{MR}$  and  $C_{MI}$  data reported in Shimada and Ishihara (2012).

In this case, since the changes in the out-of-phase component of the forced frequency moment coefficient  $C_{MI}$  with the reduced velocity are smooth, an order two polynomial can be approximated (see Figure 7a) for the experimental values as well as the numerical values reported in the present work and in Shimada and Ishihara (2012). This allows the level of accuracy in the 2D URANS simulations to be judged when compared with the wind tunnel data. In order to provide a global assessment for the range of reduced velocities studied, the error is estimated

from the following expression:

$$e = \frac{\int_{U_R^0}^{U_R^f} |exp. approx. - num. approx. | dU_R}{\int_{U_R^0}^{U_R^f} |exp. approx. | dU_R} \quad (17)$$

Where *exp. approx.* and *num. approx.* are the order two polynomial approximations for the experimental and numerical data; and  $U_R^0$  and  $U_R^f$  are the bounds of the considered interval.

In Table 5 the reported results for the out-of-phase component correspond to the interval of reduced velocities (1.75, 8.0), which is the one for which the results are available for the experimental test and the CFD simulations. It can be concluded that the SST  $k-\omega$  offers slightly poorer accuracy when compared with the modified  $k-\epsilon$  model in Shimada and Ishihara (2012).

Furthermore, the results for the in-phase component  $C_{MR}$  show a similar trend as in Shimada and Ishihara's paper, with overestimated values at  $U_R < 3.5$ , but particularly for reduced velocities in the interval (1.0, 2.0). In the former reference it is argued that this phenomenon, which was found also for rectangular cylinders of ratio 2:1 and 5:1, could be linked with the lack of turbulence diffusion in 2D models.

On the other hand, for reduced velocities above 3.5, both turbulence models offer results very close to the experimental ones. In this case a polynomial of order 4 has been approximated for the experimental data since it offers a very close match with the available points. The accuracy of the different numerical approaches is assessed using the expression in Equation (17) and the results are also presented in Table 5. The range of reduced velocities has been  $U_R^0 = 1.75$  and  $U_R^f = 8.0$ . In this case also, the modified  $\epsilon$  turbulence model has provided slightly better results than the SST  $k-\omega$  model.

#### 7.4. Flutter derivatives computation

The flutter derivatives of the  $B/H = 4$  rectangular cylinder have been computed from the same forced oscillation simulations in heave and pitch degrees of freedom that have been employed to obtain the VIV and torsional flutter response presented in previous sections. In this way, always costly simulations have been avoided, which enhances the feasibility and industrial applicability of the computational-based approach proposed.

A VIV prone region around  $U_R = 2$  was identified in section 6.2. Therefore for the heave-related flutter derivatives  $H_1^*$ ,  $H_4^*$ ,  $A_1^*$  and  $A_4^*$  the range of reduced velocities considered is (2.5, 8.0), while for the pitch-related  $H_2^*$ ,  $H_3^*$ ,  $A_2^*$  and  $A_3^*$  flutter derivatives the range of reduced velocities is (2.0, 8.0).

In Figure 9 the numerical results are presented along with the experimental data in Matsumoto, Yagi, Tamaki,

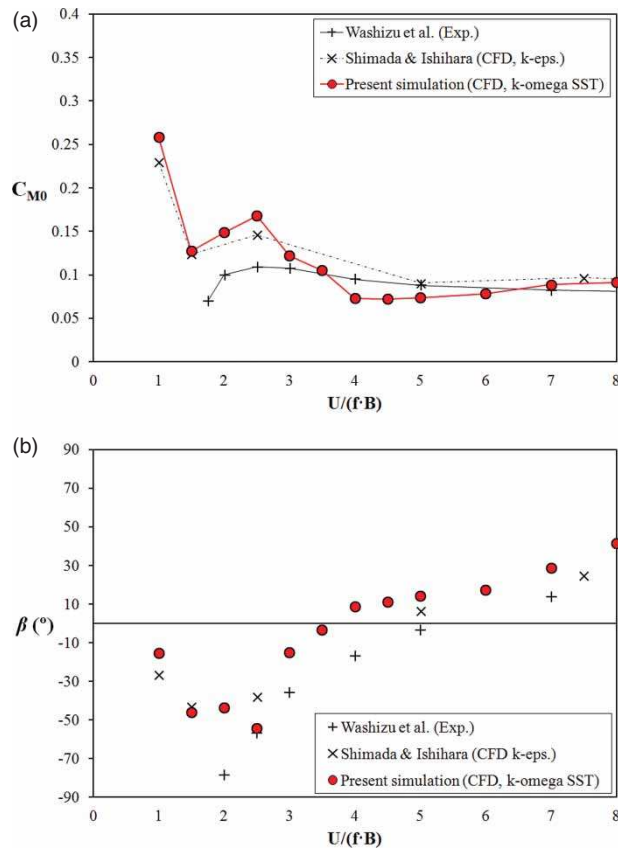


Figure 8.  $B/H = 4$  rectangular cylinder moment coefficient (a) Amplitude of the forced frequency component of the moment coefficient; (b) Phase angle.

Table 5. Discrepancies in the definition of the out-of-phase and in-phase components of the forced frequency component of the moment coefficient using different turbulence models.

	$k-\epsilon$ (Shimada & Ishihara, 2012)	SST $k-\omega$
$e(C_{MI})$	0.51	0.59
$e(C_{MR})$	0.27	0.33

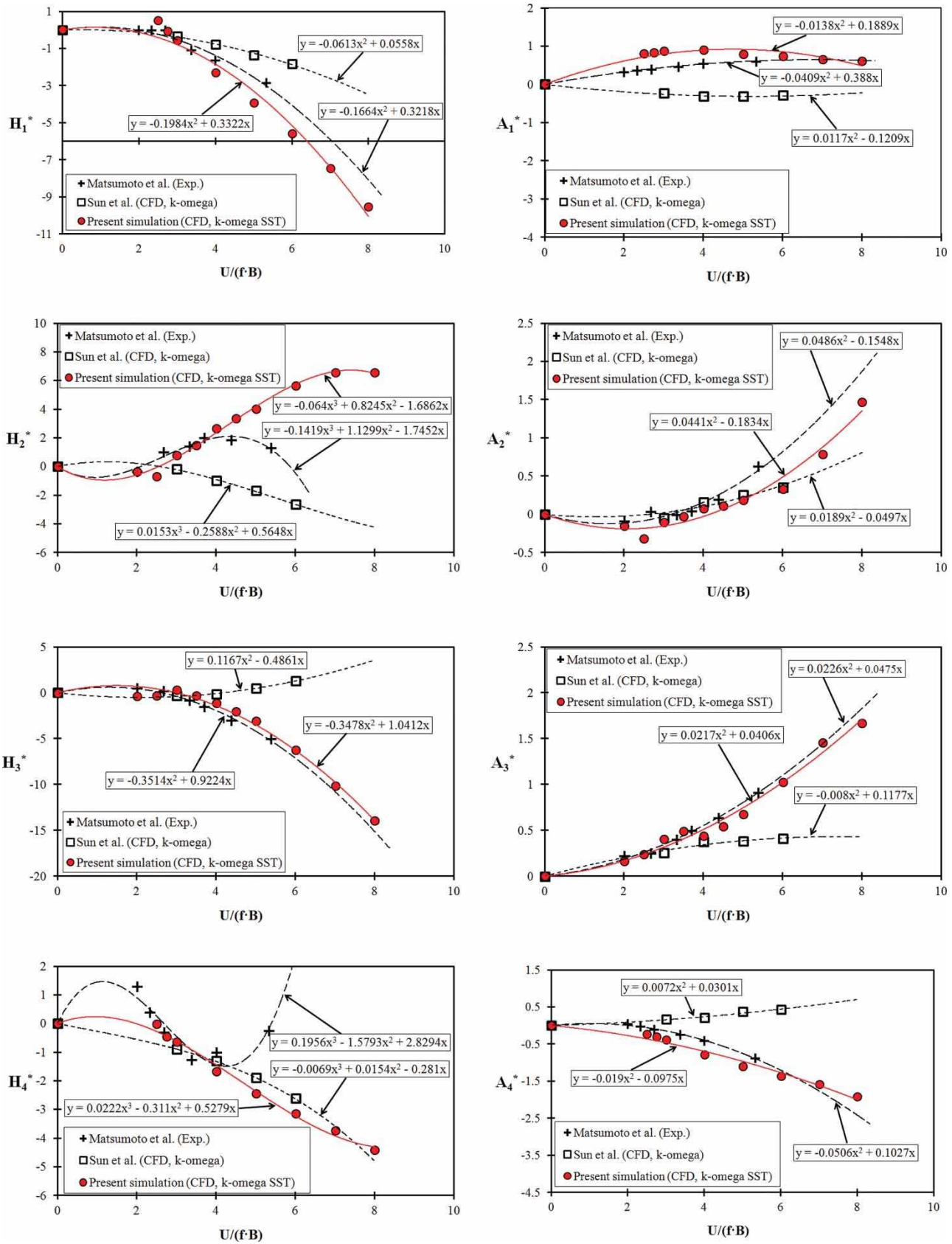


Figure 9. Flutter derivatives of the  $B/H = 4$  rectangular cylinder: numerical results and comparison with experimental and numerical data.

Table 6. Discrepancies in the flutter derivatives for the 4:1 rectangular cylinder computed from the standard and the SST versions of the  $k$ - $\omega$  model.

	Standard $k$ - $\omega$ (Sun et al., 2009)	SST $k$ - $\omega$
$e(H_1^*)$	0.54	0.28
$e(H_2^*)$	1.74	1.07
$e(H_3^*)$	1.20	0.14
$e(H_4^*)$	1.19	1.09
$e(A_1^*)$	1.34	0.34
$\varepsilon(A_2^*)$	0.55	0.57
$\varepsilon(A_3^*)$	0.58	0.07
$\varepsilon(A_4^*)$	1.38	0.30

and Tsubota (2008) and the computational ones reported in Sun et al. (2009). Second-order polynomial approximations are also included, which allow judging the general agreement between numerical simulations and wind tunnel tests, and assessing the accuracy of the numerical approach.

The comparison of the reported results with the wind tunnel test data show, in general terms, that they are very similar. In fact the only remarkable differences take place for the  $H_2^*$  and  $H_4^*$  flutter derivatives at reduced velocities above 4. On the other hand flutter derivatives  $H_3^*$  or  $A_3^*$  are extremely close to the experimental data.

A better general agreement for the current computations has been found than the numerical simulations in smooth flow in Sun et al. (2009). This is arguably due to the higher size of the flow domain which prevents blockage effects and the higher mesh density adopted in the current work. Also the block structured mesh must play a role in the improved results since unstructured meshes are more diffusive, as it has been noted in Mannini et al. (2010a). Furthermore, Menter's SST  $k$ - $\omega$  turbulence model seems to offer better performance than the standard  $k$ - $\omega$  employed by Sun and co-workers.

In Table 6 the accuracy of the numerical simulations with respect to the experimental data in Matsumoto et al. (2008) is assessed base on the second-order polynomial approximations. The error is estimated (Equation 17) in the range of reduced velocities (0, 8.0), except for the flutter derivatives  $H_2^*$  and  $H_4^*$ , where the reduced velocities considered are between 0 and 6.0 since the discrepancies are important above the latest value, and the maximum reduced velocity considered in Matsumoto et al. (2008) is 5.30. It can be remarked that in this case the SST  $k$ - $\omega$  model offers a remarkable agreement with the experimental data. In fact it has offered a better approximation for all the flutter derivatives considered in this work, with the exception of  $A_2^*$ , when compared with the standard  $k$ - $\omega$  turbulence model employed by Sun and co-workers.

## 8. Concluding remarks

In this work a 2D URANS approach using a block-structured mesh and Menter's SST  $k$ - $\omega$  turbulence model has been applied to the study of the fluid-structure interaction of a  $B/H = 4$  rectangular cylinder. The aeroelastic phenomena of interest have been VIV, torsional flutter and the computation of flutter derivatives. A single set of heave and pitch forced oscillations has been considered for computing the responses of interest.

A study considering different mesh densities and time steps has been carried out, which has allowed guaranteeing the stability of the solution in terms of grid and time step refinement as well as identifying the most convenient mesh and time step in terms of better accuracy at lower computational cost. The results obtained for the fixed rectangular cylinder have been similar to the experimental ones available in the literature.

The SST  $k$ - $\omega$  turbulence model has been capable of identifying the region with positive values of the out-of-phase term of the forced frequency component of the lift coefficient as well as the phase difference between the forced heave displacement and the force frequency component of the lift force. As a consequence, the possibilities of the current approach, in the frame of industrial applications where the preliminary identification of VIV prone regions is the main goal, have been demonstrated. When the obtained results are compared with the ones computed by Shimada and Ishihara by means of a modified  $k$ - $\varepsilon$  model, it is found that the SST  $k$ - $\omega$  models offers lower accuracy in the evaluation of the magnitude of the peak values or the extend of the region with positive values of  $C_{LI}$ .

In a similar fashion, the SST  $k$ - $\omega$  model has correctly predicted the torsional flutter prone region for the 4:1 rectangular cylinder. However, when the results are compared with the modified  $k$ - $\varepsilon$  model in Shimada and Ishihara (2012), again the SST  $k$ - $\omega$  model has offered slightly lower accuracy.

Where the SST  $k$ - $\omega$  model offers a better performance is in the computation of the flutter derivatives. The agreement with the wind tunnel tests reported in Matsumoto et al. (2008) is remarkable. In this respect, the SST version offers higher accuracy than the standard  $k$ - $\omega$  turbulence model.

The current approach has proved its feasibility for identifying fluid-structure interaction responses, avoiding burdensome 3D LES simulations or the development of in-house sophisticated software. Therefore it is ready for being applied in the frame of parametric studies of bridge deck sections and, in the future, in the shape optimization of bridge deck considering aeroelastic constraints.

## Acknowledgements

This work has been funded by the Spanish Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport under the Human Resources National Mobility Program of the R-D + i National Program 2008–2011, extended



by agreement of the Cabinet Council on October 7th 2011. It has also been partially financed by the Galician Government (including FEDER funding) with reference GRC2013-056 and by the Spanish Minister of Economy and Competitiveness (MINECO) with reference BIA2013-41965-P. The authors fully acknowledge the received support.

The authors are grateful for access to the University of Nottingham High Performance Computing Facility and the Breogán Cluster at the University of La Coruña.

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