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MECHANICS OF UNDERWATER NOISE

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Acoustical engineering
Vibration
Noise
Ships
Underwater sound

Dedication

To my present and former colleagues, especially the many officers and men of the U.S. Navy with whom I've been fortunate to have spent time at sea.

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CONTENTS

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Preface | .xiii |
| Acknowledgments | .xiv |
| I. INTRODUCTION | 1 |
| 1.1 Noise: Unwanted Sound | 1 |
| Underwater noise; noise is unavoidable; acoustic conversion efficiency; noise control; types of underwater noise. | |
| 1.2 Decibels and Levels | 4 |
| Decibels; transmission loss; levels; reference pressures; source level; power level; spectrum level; decibel arithmetic. | |
| 1.3 Significance of Spectra | 9 |
| 1.4 Passive Sonar Equation | 9 |
| 1.5 Some Mathematics | 11 |
| Scalars, vectors and tensors; tensor notation; vector operations; vector operators; scalar potentials; spherical symmetry; line, surface and volume integrals; complex quantities; Fourier series; Fourier integrals and transforms. | |
| References | 18 |
| 2. SOUND WAVES IN LIQUIDS | 19 |
| 2.1 Description of Waves | 19 |
| Plane waves; retarded time; harmonic representation of waves; Helmholtz equation; wave vectors. | |
| 2.2 Wave Equation for Sound in Fluids | 23 |
| Assumptions; equation of state; equation of continuity; equation of motion; acoustic wave equation; velocity potential; harmonic solutions. | |
| 2.3 Plane Sound Waves | 31 |
| Acoustic potential; particle velocity; specific acoustic impedance; acoustic intensity. | |
| 2.4 Spherical Waves | 33 |
| Acoustic potential; particle velocity; specific acoustic impedance; acoustic intensity; ideal transmission loss; acoustic power; damped sound waves; spherical waves from plane waves. | |
| 2.5 Transmission at Media Interfaces | 38 |
| Snell's law; reflection from a plane boundary; transmission through a plane boundary; transmission from air to water; transmission from water into air; reflection of underwater sound by ocean surfaces. | |
| 2.6 Finite-Amplitude Effects | 43 |
| References | 44 |

| | |
|---|-------------|
| 3. ACOUSTIC RADIATION FUNDAMENTALS | . 45 |
| 3.1 General Characterization of Noise Sources | . 45 |
| Monopoles, dipoles and quadrupoles; radiation impedance; radiation efficiency. | |
| 3.2 General Equation for Sound Generation | . 47 |
| Derivation; interpretation. | |
| 3.3 General Spherical Sources | . 50 |
| 3.4 Hydrodynamic Sources | . 51 |
| Radiation efficiencies; fluctuating-volume acoustic sources; fluctuating-force sources; turbulence noise; noise from wake turbulence; flow noise. | |
| 3.5 Sources in Motion | . 55 |
| Doppler shift; effect of steady motion on level; periodic motions. | |
| References | . 56 |
| | |
| 4. RADIATION BY FLUCTUATING-VOLUME (MONOPOLE) SOURCES | . 57 |
| 4.1 Uniformly Pulsating Spherical Source | . 57 |
| Intensity and power; radiation impedance; radiation efficiency; entrained mass. | |
| 4.2 Monopole Radiation | . 61 |
| 4.3 Sounds from Gas Bubbles in Liquids | . 62 |
| Linear bubble pulsations; frequency of bubble oscillation; damping mechanisms; sound radiation. | |
| 4.4 Sounds from Splashes | . 68 |
| Franz's measurements; wind-generated ambient sea noise; rain noise. | |
| 4.5 Radiation by Two Equal Monopoles | . 72 |
| General equation for pressure field; far-field pressure pattern; directivity function; electrical steering; two equal in-phase sources; out-of-phase sources; dipoles. | |
| 4.6 Near-Surface Sources | . 78 |
| Surface image; interference patterns; effects on noise measurements. | |
| 4.7 Linear Arrays | . 81 |
| Arrays of equally-spaced monopoles; continuous line radiators; directivity factor; directivity index; arrays of directional sources; arrays as spatial filters. | |
| 4.8 Radiation from Rigid Pistons | . 89 |
| Elementary piston radiator; circular piston in a baffle; near field of a piston radiator; radiation impedance and efficiency; directivity factor and index; pistons of other shapes; planar arrays; pistons in non-rigid baffles; unbaffled and partially baffled pistons; pistons on non-planar baffles; effect of flow on piston radiation. | |
| 4.9 Radiation from Hull Openings | . 95 |
| Radiation from pipe ends; radiation from tank resonances; radiation from exhaust pipes. | |
| 4.10 Radiation from Arbitrary Bodies | . 97 |
| Integral equation methods; spheroidal wave functions; slender body theory; radiation from cylinders; finite-element methods. | |
| 4.11 Radiation from Hulls | 100 |
| Definition of frequency regimes; low frequencies; medium frequencies; high frequencies. | |
| References | 102 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| 5. STRUCTURAL VIBRATIONS | 106 |
| 5.1 Structure-Borne Sound | 106 |
| 5.2 Wave Motions in Solids | 106 |
| Longitudinal waves in bars; shear waves; compressional waves in bulk solids; Poisson's ratio; longitudinal waves in plates; surface waves; flexural (bending) waves. | |
| 5.3 Beam Bending Equations | 110 |
| Forces and moments; transverse acceleration; rotational acceleration; considerations of shear; differential equation for bending; equation for uniform beams; Euler- Bernoulli (E-B) equation. | |
| 5.4 Speed of Flexural Waves | 116 |
| Harmonic solutions of the Timoshenko equation; low-frequency approximation; high-frequency limit; intermediate-frequency approximation; solid rectangular bars. | |
| 5.5 Flexural Resonances | 123 |
| Uniform thin beams; correction for shear and rotatory inertia; wave approach. | |
| 5.6 Non-Uniform Beams | 130 |
| Finite-element methods; wave method; tapered cantilever beams. | |
| 5.7 Forced Vibrations of Non-Resonant Structures | 135 |
| Mechanical impedances; semi-infinite beams; infinite beams; role of damping. | |
| 5.8 Forced Vibrations of Resonant Structures | 140 |
| Role of resonances; modal responses; broadband excitation. | |
| 5.9 Attenuation of Structural Vibrations | 143 |
| Isolation mounts; applied damping; impedance mismatches; vibration absorbers and suppressors. | |
| 5.10 Fluid Loading | 150 |
| Entrained mass; hydrodynamic damping; sound radiation. | |
| 5.11 Flexural Resonances of Ship Hulls | 152 |
| References | 153 |
| | |
| 6. RADIATION BY PLATE FLEXURAL VIBRATIONS | 158 |
| 6.1 Plate Flexural Vibrations | 158 |
| Bending rigidity of plates; thick plate bending equations; flexural wave speed; plate vibrations; input impedance. | |
| 6.2 Fluid Loading | 162 |
| Boundary conditions; coincidence; entrained mass; radiation. | |
| 6.3 Point-Excited Infinite Plates | 169 |
| Radiation below coincidence; directional radiation at high frequencies. | |
| 6.4 Radiation from Finite Plates | 173 |
| Radiation resistance; modal approach; effect of damping; orthotropic plates; beam on a plate; periodic structures; cylindrical shells; radiation from hull sections. | |
| 6.5 Transmission through Structures | 180 |
| Response of structures to sound waves; low-frequency transmission through walls; use of impedance concepts; role of flexural vibrations; sound isolation by walls. | |
| 6.6 Boundary-Layer Flow Noise | 184 |
| Turbulent boundary layers; boundary-layer friction; boundary-layer turbulence; intermittency effects; wall pressure fluctuations; self-noise of flush-mounted hydrophones; arrays of flush-mounted hydrophones; radiated flow noise; domed sonar self-noise. | |
| References | 196 |

| | |
|--|-----|
| 7. CAVITATION | 202 |
| 7.1 Introduction | 202 |
| 7.2 Tensile Strength of Liquids | 203 |
| Static tensile strength; cavitation nuclei; dynamic tensile strengths. | |
| 7.3 Single Bubble Growth and Collapse | 205 |
| Classical theory; pressure inside a bubble; effects of compressibility; effects of permanent gases; asymmetrical bubble collapse; summary and conclusions. | |
| 7.4 Single Bubble Cavitation Noise | 215 |
| Expression for radiated energy; growth phase; collapse phase; acoustic pressures; spectrum; experimental results. | |
| 7.5 Broadband Cavitation Noise | 220 |
| 7.6 Other Effects of Cavitation | 222 |
| Sonoluminescence; chemical reactions; erosion damage. | |
| 7.7 Hydrodynamically-Produced Cavitation | 223 |
| Cavitation parameter; body cavitation; scale effects; effects of surface roughness; vortex cavitation; wakes and jets. | |
| 7.8 Hydrofoil Cavitation | 231 |
| Symmetric struts; lifting hydrofoils; effects of cavitation on section performance; scale effects; wing-tip vortex cavitation; supercavitating hydrofoils. | |
| 7.9 Hydraulic Cavitation | 240 |
| Pipe constrictions; valves; pipe bends; hydraulic machinery. | |
| 7.10 Underwater Explosions | 242 |
| References | 246 |
| | |
| 8. PROPELLER CAVITATION NOISE | 253 |
| 8.1 Types of Propeller Cavitation | 253 |
| 8.2 Blade-Surface Cavitation Noise | 253 |
| Rotating blade experiments; scaling relationships; dependence of noise on depth; effect of gas content. | |
| 8.3 Propellers in Uniform Inflows | 260 |
| Blade-element analysis; momentum theory analysis; cavitation in uniform inflows. | |
| 8.4 Wake-Operating Propellers | 265 |
| Wake diagrams; effect of radially varying inflow; effects of circumferential variations; effect on cavitation; low-frequency cavitation tonals | |
| 8.5 Submarine Propeller Cavitation | 270 |
| 8.6 Surface Ship Radiated Noise | 272 |
| Importance of propeller cavitation; World War II noise data; dependence on speed; estimation formulas; acoustic efficiencies of surface ships; modulation effects; tonal spectra; merchant ship trends. | |
| 8.7 Ship-Generated Ambient Noise | 280 |
| Recognition of ships as sources of ambient noise; reverberant room theory of ambient noise; geographical variations; importance of coastal shipping; directional characteristics; temporal fluctuations; long-term trends. | |
| References | 285 |

| | |
|--|------------|
| 9. RADIATION BY FLUCTUATING-FORCE (DIPOLE) SOURCES | 288 |
| 9.1 Dipole Sound Sources | 288 |
| Acoustic field of a concentrated force; oscillating rigid sphere; spheres pulsating out of phase; dipole fields from monopole fields. | |
| 9.2 Propeller Blade Tonals | 293 |
| General oscillating hydrodynamic force; noise from oscillating thrust; factors affecting oscillating thrust; propeller-induced hull forces; blade-vortex interaction noise; shaft-rate components; rotor-stator interactions; blade-turbulence interactions. | |
| 9.3 Vortex Shedding Sounds | 299 |
| Aeolian tones; vortex wakes of bluff bodies; oscillating forces associated with vortex wakes; three-dimensional character of vortex wakes; effects of vibration; effects of sound fields; vortex sounds from cylinders; sounds from rotating rods; vortex wakes of airfoils; vortex sounds from rotating blades. | |
| 9.4 Noise from Fans and Blowers | 313 |
| Noise mechanisms; spectra; noise levels; positive displacement blowers. | |
| 9.5 Propeller Singing | 316 |
| 9.6 Flow-Excited Cavity Resonances | 318 |
| References | 319 |
| | |
| 10. MECHANICAL NOISE SOURCES | 326 |
| 10.1 Mechanical Unbalances | 326 |
| Rotational unbalances; reciprocating unbalances. | |
| 10.2 Electromagnetic Force Fluctuations | 328 |
| Magnetostriction; magnetic force variations. | |
| 10.3 Impact Sounds | 329 |
| Impact vibratory relations; gear noise. | |
| 10.4 Piston-Slap Noise in Reciprocating Machinery | 332 |
| Piston slap; significance of piston slap; piston impact velocity; cylinder wall vibrations; experimental verification; empirical noise formulas; underwater noise implications. | |
| 10.5 Bearing Noise | 345 |
| References | 346 |
| | |
| Appendix A NOMENCLATURE | 349 |
| General; nomenclature by chapter; nomenclature used in references | |
| | |
| Appendix B DECIBEL ARITHMETIC | 360 |
| | |
| AUTHOR INDEX | 363 |
| | |
| SUBJECT INDEX | 370 |

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Preface

Like so many of my fellow workers in underwater acoustics, I entered the field with a background in physics and engineering but without any formal education in this specific subject. Following the theory that a good way to learn about any subject is to teach it, I have participated as much as possible in formal courses and professional meetings. Over the past sixteen years I have organized and taught graduate-level courses on underwater acoustics at M.I.T., Catholic University, American University and the University of California at San Diego in addition to industry-sponsored commercial courses.

While there now are a number of books covering various aspects of underwater sound, none covers the area of underwater noise in depth. Aware of this, and knowing that this aspect of underwater sound has been my particular interest, Marvin Lasky, then Head of the Acoustics Branch of the Office of Naval Research (O.N.R.), proposed that I write a book on this subject to be used as a self-education text and as a reference for workers in the field.

This is the book. It represents the culmination of thirty years of research and teaching and has been written over a period of three years with contractual support from O.N.R.

My approach has been to stress physical explanations of the basic mechanisms by which noise is generated, transmitted by structures and radiated into the sea. Despite the complexity of many of these phenomena, most can be explained in straightforward ways which emphasize dominant mechanisms and which have considerable practical application.

Chapter organization is by basic source mechanisms. Descriptions of practical manifestations follow discussions of the pertinent fundamental phenomena. Thus, the topic of wind-generated ocean ambient noise is treated in Chapter 4 following a discussion of splash noise, which in turn has been related to noise produced by oscillating gas bubbles. Similarly, ship-generated ambient noise is found in Chapter 8 on propeller cavitation noise which is its main source. The engineering topics of vibration isolation and structural damping are covered in Chapter 5 on structural vibrations. Flow noise, which often involves the excitation of plates by turbulence and their subsequent radiation, is treated in Chapter 6 on radiation by plate flexural vibrations. I have attempted to cover the field completely, and have at the same time placed particular emphasis on topics with which I am personally most familiar.

Much of the work done in underwater acoustics is classified and such areas have, of course, been omitted. Most of the topics discussed in the book have been the subject of articles in the open literature to which I have referred extensively.

In addition to acoustics, I have drawn from the disciplines of fluid mechanics, aerodynamics, thermodynamics, electrical, mechanical and marine engineering, and naval architecture. This breadth of material has led to occasional difficulty in selecting symbols to represent the more than

450 different quantities included in equations. Care has been taken to avoid confusion, but some problems may still exist for readers who are more familiar with these other fields than with acoustics. In this case, use of the lists of symbols and abbreviations in Appendix A will be of assistance.

To the extent that this book is more readable than my usual writings, full credit goes to the editing done by Nancy I. Ross.

San Diego, California
July 1976

Donald Ross

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I also wish to express my gratitude to Dr. Lloyd F. Bell, head of Tetra Tech's San Diego Office, and to Dr. Harry A. Schenck of the Naval Undersea Center, who made possible completion of this volume on a timely basis.