

Farhan Manegar

Aero-acoustic noise reduction measures for wind turbine blade sections - a comparative numerical and experimental study

Aero-acoustic noise reduction measures for wind turbine blade sections - a comparative numerical and experimental study

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M.Sc. Farhan Manegar

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Farhan Manegar

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Kurzfassung

Für den Schall von Windkraftanlagen sind verschiedene Mechanismen verantwortlich. Der wichtigste Mechanismus für den aerodynamisch erzeugten Schall ist die Interaktion zwischen der turbulenten Grenzschicht auf der Blattoberfläche im Bereich der Hinterkante und der Hinterkante des Blattes. Das übergeordnete Ziel dieser Arbeit ist daher die Untersuchung und Bewertung von drei verschiedenen Maßnahmen zur Minderung des Hinterkantenschalls an einem unverwundenen Tragflügelement: a) Ausblasen von Sekundärluft nahe der Hinterkante auf der Saugseite, b) Hinzufügen von Hinterkantenzacken sowie c) eine poröse Ausführung des Flügelbereichs nahe der Hinterkante. Primäres Untersuchungswerkzeug ist das numerische Lattice-BOLTZMANN-Verfahren. Die Ergebnisse werden aber so weit wie möglich durch gemessene Stromfeld- und Akustikdaten validiert. Für die Fälle ‚Hinterkantenausblasen‘ und ‚Hinterkantenzacken‘ werden Strömungs- und vor allem Geometrieparameter aus experimentellen und numerischen Vorstudien gewählt, die nahezu optimal sein dürften. Für die poröse Ausführung des Flügelbereichs nahe der Hinterkante wird hingegen eine erste Konfiguration untersucht, die noch nicht notwendig optimal ist.

Alle drei Maßnahmen zur Schallreduzierung zeigen einen ähnlichen Effekt: Im Vergleich zum unbehandelten Tragflügelement weist das Fernfeldschalldruckspektrum geringere Pegel im niedrigen bis mittleren, aber immer eine Pegelzunahme im höheren Frequenzbereich auf. Im Falle des Hinterkantenausblasens ist aus den numerisch erzeugten Daten erkennbar, dass der Ausblasstrahl die größeren turbulenten Strukturen in der turbulenten Grenzschicht von der unmittelbaren Hinterkante wegbläst und dabei schallreduzierend wirkt. Dazu wurden aus dem numerisch berechneten Stromfeld u.a. LAGRANGE'SCHE kohärente Strukturen extrahiert. Eine neue dünnere Grenzschicht, die hinter dem Ausblasschlitz entsteht, induziert an der Hinterkante eine KÁRMÁNSCHE Wirbelstraße, die die Schallerhöhung bei höherer Frequenz erklärt. Hinterkantenzacken lassen dagegen die Grenzschicht stromaufwärts von der Hinterkante unberührt. Sie sind akustisch dann besonders effektiv, wenn sich kohärente Strukturen entlang der oberen und unteren Kante der Zacken gut mischen. Der Wirkmechanismus der porösen Hinterkante ist völlig anders. Verantwortlich für den numerisch und experimentell beobachtete Schallreduktion ist der Druckausgleich (die ‚Kommunikation‘) zwischen der Saug- und Druckseite im porösen Bereich des Tragflügelements. Die Amplitude der strömungsinduzierten Druckfluktuationen ist sogar größer als beim unbehandelten Flügelement, und die Korrelationslänge der turbulenten Strukturen in Spannweitenrichtung bleibt gleich. Die Simulation zeigte allerdings nicht die experimentell beobachtete Schallzunahme im höheren Frequenzbereich - der Druckverlust im porösen Material wurde mit dem HAZEN-DUPUIT-DARCY-Gesetz modelliert, die Rauigkeit der Oberflächen jedoch nicht berücksichtigt.

Abstract

The noise emitted by wind turbines are caused due to different mechanisms. The dominant mechanism behind the aerodynamic noise emitted is the interaction between the turbulent boundary layer developing over the blade surface near the trailing edge and the trailing edge itself. The overall objective of this thesis is to investigate and assess three different trailing edge noise reduction measures on an undistorted airfoil section: a) trailing edge blowing (TEB) on the suction side using secondary air unit, b) attachment of trailing edge serrations (TES) and c) porous trailing edge (PTE). The main investigation tool used is the numerical Lattice BOLTZMANN method. The simulation results are extensively validated with numerous experimentally measured flow-field and acoustic results. The flow parameters and mainly the geometrical design parameters of TEB and TES are driven towards their close-to-optimal using experimental and numerical results from pre-studies. For the PTE configuration, unlike the other two measures, a first but not necessarily optimal configuration is investigated.

The three noise reduction measures show a similar effect: In comparison to the untreated airfoil, the far-field noise spectrum shows noise reduction in the low to mid frequency range, but also an increase in noise at higher frequencies. On numerical analysis of TEB, it is revealed that the blowing jet blows away the larger turbulent structures in the turbulent boundary layer, thereby reducing the noise. As an additional analysis, the LAGRANGIAN coherent structures are extracted from the flow-field. A resulting smaller boundary layer, which develops after the blowing slot, induces KÁRMÁN type vortex shedding, which explains the increase of high frequency noise. In TES, on the contrary, the boundary layer upstream of the trailing edge remains unaffected. TES are acoustically very effective, when the coherent structures along the top and bottom edges of TES mix well with each other. The noise reduction mechanism of PTE is completely different. The noise reduction observed in the simulation and experiment is attributed to the flow-field communication between the suction and pressure sides of the porous regions of the airfoil. The amplitude of the flow induced surface pressure fluctuations is even larger compared to the untreated airfoil, and the span-wise correlation length of pressure fluctuations close to the trailing edge remains unchanged. The simulations, however, do not show the noise increase in the high frequency range – as the pressure drop within the porous region are modeled using the HAZEN-DUPUIT-DARCY law, where the surface roughness is not considered.

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*To my parents,
Shahida and Ashraf,
and to my life partner,
Kathi,
and our daughter,
Lina-Sofia*

Contents

Nomenclature	IX
1 Introduction	1
1.1 Background	1
1.2 Motivation	4
1.3 Objectives	7
1.4 Organization of this thesis	7
2 Trailing edge noise reduction	9
2.1 Trailing edge blowing (TEB)	9
2.2 Trailing edge serrations (TES)	12
2.3 Porous trailing edge (PTE)	16
2.4 Critical assessment	17
3 Simulation Methodology	19
3.1 The numerical Lattice BOLTZMANN Method (LBM)	19
3.2 Porous media formulation in LBM	22
3.3 Acoustic prediction in LBM	23
3.4 LAGRANGIAN Coherent Structures	24
3.5 Further quantities for evaluation	25
4 Trailing edge blowing (TEB)	29
4.1 Basic airfoil and TEB configuration	29
4.2 LBM-simulation case set-up	30
4.3 Experimental set-up	33
4.3.1 The AWB wind tunnel	33
4.3.2 Airfoil section and instrumentation	34
4.3.3 Far-field noise measurement	37
4.4 Results	37
4.4.1 Validation of LBM results	37
4.4.2 Sound mitigation due to TEB	40
4.4.3 In-depth analysis of TEB sound mitigation mechanism	41
4.5 Intermediate conclusions	46
5 Trailing edge serrations (TES)	49

5.1 Basic airfoil and TES configuration.....	49
5.2 LBM-simulation case set-up	50
5.3 Experimental set-up	51
5.4 Results	52
5.4.1 Flow-field	52
5.4.2 Acoustic results	54
5.4.3 Flap angle study	55
5.4.4 In-depth analysis of TES sound mitigation mechanism.....	59
5.5 Intermediate conclusions.....	62
6 Porous trailing edge (PTE)	65
6.1 Basic airfoil and PTE configuration.....	65
6.2 LBM-simulation case set-up	66
6.3 Experimental set-up	69
6.4 Results	69
6.4.1 Boundary layer statistics	69
6.4.2 Mean and turbulence quantities	69
6.4.3 Velocity fluctuation spectrum.....	71
6.4.4 Acoustic results	73
6.4.5 In-depth analysis of PTE sound mitigation mechanism.....	74
6.5 Intermediate conclusions.....	76
7 Summary and overall conclusions	79
Appendix	85
References	95