

# Benchmark Study of KP505 Propeller on the Performances of Indonesian Traditional Fishing Vessel Propulsion by using OpenFOAM

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
<b>Article history:</b> Received 20 April 2024 Received in revised form 23 July 2024 Accepted 5 August 2024 Available online 30 August 2024	The strategy of design engineering is very important to produce the modernization of technology. The propeller is one of crucial part in the marine design especially for the marine transportation especially for traditional fishing vessel. In this paper, presents a study for analysis of the propeller performance by using numerical simulation in the computational fluid dynamics (CFD). Since the development of CFD simulation, still facing several problems to solve the CFD analysis. The OpenFOAM is open source CFD tool used in this study in order to investigate the propeller performances. OpenFOAM is implemented for open water performances of KCS propeller (KP505). Reynold-averaged Navier Stokes equations (RANS) was applied to estimate the turbulence of K- $\omega$ SST model. Unstructured mesh in this simulation was employing a hexahedral mesh as mesh generation. The multiple rotating frame (MRF) was produced as method to analysis of propeller performances. The velocity inlet and pressure outlet were put for inflow and outflow boundaries. The wall was set to a far-field boundary. The current study compared to the experimental result for the thrust and torque coefficient to validate the
Keywords:	propeller with a relative error less than 2%. Thus, The MRF technique can be used for the
Benchmark; CFD; ship propulsion;	practical technique to simulate the ship propeller model especially for the moving
periormances; OpenFOAM	multiple zones.

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## 1. Introduction

Nowadays, research of propeller is being increase trend by using the numerical approach to solve the experiment problem, especially in the ship propulsion design. The experiment is having risk and also the cost of the production on the marine industry. The numerical simulation is being famous and also as a good option to predict the performances in engineering sectors. In the numerical simulation, there are several tools and methods to investigate and analysis of marine propulsion design. The Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) contributes in the design processes. The CFD method is commonly as the potential flow theory which is applied the Navier-Stokes equations. Since it was complicated to complete, and it can be done by implementation of Reynold-Averaged Navier-Stokes equation (RANS) to finish the numerical simulation [1,2]. Some of researchers conducted for the numerical approach using CFD as a method to simulate the propeller thrust [3-7].

At this the current study, the OpenFOAM is applied to investigate the KCS (KP505) propeller performance. The OpenFOAM is open-source packages of CFD libraries and tool which could analysis the numerical simulation. The OpenFOAM is being potential CFD tool which has been conducted by several researchers [8,9]. In the marine propulsion trend, the design analysis is considered the future research such as the optimization of the propeller design which has been done by using genetic algorithm was conducted by Bahatmaka *et al.*, [10]. The use of kort nozzle or duct of propeller influence the propeller thrust and the efficiency of the performance [11-13]. The RANS code application for the ducted in propeller open water test has been produced the measurements of the simulation compared to the experiments as the validation [14,15].

On the other analysis of the propeller for the hydrodynamic characteristics are also needed as the contribution for solving the marine design and simulation [16-19].

Thus, the OpenFOAM is a powerful CFD Open Source tool in order to complete the numerical simulation of a propeller in an open water test, it can be evidenced by using the benchmark or validation of experimental results. The proposed research calculates the coefficient of the trust and the torque of the propeller by comparing the mesh generation and also compared to the experimental result for the KP505 propeller.

#### 2. Methodology

#### 2.1 Model and Governing Equations

The simulation used KCS propeller (KP505). KP505 is five-blade propeller with skew angle which has been designed for the ship. The technical drawing of propeller shown in Figure 1. The database and the main particulars are applied for the simulation. The sections of propellers are according to NACA66. The list of principal dimensions of propeller can be seen in Table 1 and the offset table of KP505 propeller is listed in Table 2.



Fig. 1. Technical drawing of KP505 propeller

#### Table 1

Principal dimension of KP505 propeller

Туре	Unit	Value
Diameter (D)	mm	250.00
Ratio of blade expanded area (Ae/Ao)	-	0.80
Ratio of the propeller hub (H)	-	0.18
Number of the blades (Z)	-	5.00

Table 2				
Offset table of KP505 propeller				
r/R	P/Dp	heta (deg)	C/Dp	
0.18	0.8347	-4.72	0.2313	
0.25	0.8912	-6.98	0.2618	
0.3	0.9269	-7.82	0.2809	
0.4	0.9783	-7.74	0.3138	
0.5	1.0079	-5.56	0.3403	
0.6	1.013	-1.5	0.3573	
0.7	0.9967	4.11	0.3590	
0.8	0.9566	10.48	0.3376	
0.9	0.9006	17.17	0.2797	
0.95	0.8683	20.63	0.2225	
1.0	0.8331	24.18	0.0001	

By using the equation of the Reynold-Average Navier Stokes (RANS), open water test is used as a large number of problems. The velocity for the thrust and torque is the main objective which depend on the mean flow characteristics. It can be described as below

$$u = \overline{u} + u' \tag{1}$$

$$p = \overline{p} + p' \tag{2}$$

where  $\overline{u}$  denotes as velocity,  $\overline{p}$  denotes as pressure. And u'denotes as fluctuating of velocity an p' as fluctuating pressure. The detail of term written in Eq. (1) and Eq. (2). The Navier-Stokes equation as the time-average continuity as a replacement of velocity and pressure. It can be described as

$$\frac{\partial \bar{u}}{\partial t} + \nabla . \left( \bar{u} . \bar{u} \right) - \nabla . \left( v \nabla \bar{u} \right) = -\nabla \bar{p} + \nabla . \left( \bar{u}' \bar{u}' \right)$$
(3)

where the Reynold stress tensor is denoted for  $\bar{u}\bar{u}$  in Eq. (3) which relate to turbulence flow as the fluctuating variable. The coefficient of the thrust and the torque for propeller characteristics conventionally was explained by Willemsen [20] and written as below

$$K_T = \frac{T}{\rho n^2 D^5} \tag{4}$$

$$K_Q = \frac{Q}{\rho n^2 D^5} \tag{5}$$

$$J = \frac{V}{nD} \tag{6}$$

The propeller efficiency is described as

$$\eta_0 = \frac{K_T}{K_Q} \frac{J}{2\pi} \tag{7}$$

where  $\eta 0$  denotes the efficiency and  $\pi$  denotes as the motion in circle which shown in Eq. (7).

## 2.1 Model and Governing Equations

In this present study, Moving Rotation Frame (MRF) strategy is implemented to compute the simulation and boundaries. The zone is divided to be two zones. The rotational zone is the zone around the propeller, and the other is the stationary zone. the velocity inlet and pressure outlet are obtained as the inflow and outflow boundaries. The wall was set to the far field boundary. The detail boundaries can be seen in Figure 2. The MRF conditions in the OpenFOAM employed an outer and a small cylinder. The small cylinder is the rotating domain and outer is stationary. For the set up boundaries in the OpenFOAM is listed in Table 3.



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Table 3

The boundary setting in OpenFOAM				
The boundary	Р	U	k	epsilon
Wall	symmtryPlane	symmtryPlane	symmtryPlane	symmtryPlane
Blade/Hub	wallFunction	fixedValues	wallFunction	wallFunction
Inlet	zeroGradient	fixedValues	fixedValues	fixedValues
Outlet	fixedValues	inletOutlet	inletOutlet	inletOutlet

The domain consists of an internal rotating cylinder enclosing the propeller and an external stationary cylinder with a radius of 10D. In addition, the inlet uniform boundary condition is located at 10D upstream of the propeller plane, and the outlet that is a constant pressure condition was located at 27D downstream of the propeller. The MRF method is implemented as the condition of steady state pressure-based solver. The k- $\omega$  SST model is used in this simulation and analysis. The advance coefficient (J), the thrust coefficient (KT), the torque coefficient (KQ), and the open water efficiency ( $\eta$ ) as parameters of calculation on hydrodynamic performances of a propeller. The steady-state solver employing the SimpleFoam as solver of the flow follows the blade rotation according to the Moving Reference Frame (MRF) method.

#### 3. Results

## 3.1 Benchmarking Study

The present study compared results from numerical simulation and experimental result [21]. OpenFOAM is implemented in order to fix the ship propeller simulation in open water condition. The mesh strategy is divided several conditions such as coarse, medium, fine, and the finest mesh. The grid mesh of the model is compared to the experiments. According to the previous studies, the advance of velocity in range  $0.7 \le J \le 0.9$ , and the result mostly closer to the experimental result [22-24]. For this study, the simulation performed at J value of 0.5. It is the state of art for this current research and to calculate the phenomenon with the possibility of this configuration. The comparison against experiments for all grids are shown in Figure 3.



Fig. 3. Benchmark study to experimental data

The unstructured mesh was selected in the meshing process which are implemented to the numerical simulation with hexahedral mesh. The four different time steps were used from the coarse to the finest mesh. The grid meshes are calculated the coefficient of the thrust and the torque. The detail of grid meshes validation can be seen in Table 4.

Table 4					
Grid mesh validation					
Results	Coarse	Medium	Fine Mesh	The Finest	Exp. [21]
	(0.3M)	(1.5M)	(5M)	Mesh (8M)	
KT	0.430	0.345	0.320	0.318	0.310
KQ	0.0522	0.0480	0.0472	0.0470	0.0466

The biggest fluctuation flow occurs on the coarse mesh compared with the others. The simulation result is only slightly different from the experimental result for the KT and KQ. It means the validation reach shows acceptable achievement. The initial mesh created consisted of coarse mesh 0.3M (Million elements), medium mesh 1.5M, fine mesh 5M, and the finest mesh 8M. At the present study, the ducted propeller was investigated with Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) by using MRF method. The MRF method is used for this simulation and the result shows a similar value to the experimental. The MRF method relative error of the thrust under 2% has a good in agreements. This research is in accordance with the theory in previous related research of MRF [25].

# 3.2 Post-processing Result

Figure 4 and Figure 5 show the flow motion appears near the propeller tip and a large velocity gradient occurs in the wake sheet and by using the MRF approach, it can be seen that the propeller has stronger flow from the simulation also has a minimum pressure in the same advance velocity. It means the MRF has a good result and could performed the best rotational velocity. Therefore, the MRF is useful for modelling of interaction around propeller blade with a relative error of the thrust below 2% and the MRF is considered the practical way to model moving multiple zones and it fits on the theory.



Fig. 4. Iso-surface conditions during acceleration for the advance coefficient 0.5



Fig. 5. Body force distribution for the advance coefficient 0.5

#### 4. Conclusions

This research has employed the RANS equations for using the OpenFOAM. This current research investigates hydrodynamics performance of the KCS propeller (KP505) and conducted in the open water test. The simulation is produced a comparison of numerical simulation in several meshing strategies to experiments.

Observing the results, the MRF technique having a good agreement results to experimental result. MRF was applied in order to fix the propeller calculation for both the coefficient of the thrust and the torque in an open water test. Thus, the MRF is good technique for simulation of interaction of the propeller with a relative error less than 2%. The MRF can be used for the practical technique to simulate the ship propeller model especially for the moving multiple zones.

For the propeller simulation in Open-Water test, the cavitation analysis and the self-propulsion simulation and analysis should be conducted around the rudder and propeller. In order to achieve better accuracy, another work that should be considered is about meshing quality using the panel method to get the best interface on the post-processing of the simulations. Further works can include investigation of grid dependency in detail. More refinement of the mesh around the edge of the models is needed.

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