

Modeling Acoustic Propagation in Fluids

CS 419

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1 Introduction

Sound surrounds us every day. It is important to our everyday lives; we use hearing and sound for survival, productivity, and enjoyment. Sound is one of the most important aspects of living. Because of this, the understanding of sound and modeling its various properties today is important. Researchers use various models of sound to understand more finely its characteristics. How sound propagates in fluids, specifically water and air in most cases, can provide insight into a number of different systems. For example, modeling acoustics in a concert hall or similar musical venue can show engineers how best to build the room to optimize the musical or otherwise acoustic result of the performance. Another very important example in medicine is ultrasounds. Modeling how sound can propagate through fluids (and other mediums) enable doctors and software engineers to accurately represent and interpret the results of an ultrasound procedure. A third example is being able to locate objects underwater. The military uses models of sound propagation in water to locate submarines in the ocean while on patrol. Similarly, researchers use models of sound propagation to locate and identify whale pods. Each pod uses a unique frequency and patterns to communicate, a kind of pseudo-language. Understanding how various frequencies move in different ways through water help researchers track migration patterns, proximity of pods, and various other information vital to their research. These are only a few examples of sound modeling. There are many various fields these methods can be applied to. These examples show the importance of sound modeling, as well as the wide range of applications it can have.

2 Previous Work

Due to the wide array of applications, there are many methods to modeling sound, and each has certain aspects it focuses on. For example, some models focus on the density of the fluid, while others factor in temperature. There are also different methods for modeling one-dimensional, two-dimensional and three-dimensional propagations. Also, some models only look at sound traveling through fluids, but others look at how sound results from fluid moving. All of these various models make it difficult to find exact one needed for a given situation. The variability in application also means a variability in complexity. This means that overall, it is hard to find and compute the precise solution one wants. Particular for this problem, the main methods involve either the wave equation, or the Euler identity. Two-dimensional methods use a linear Euler, while three-dimensional use a Non-linear Euler identity, and the equation used measures how sound propagates through water. The model used here is two-dimensional, linear Euler equation, focusing on the sound pressure and velocity. Only focusing on these two aspects make the model a fast way to find a solution. However, this does not factor temperature, or a number of other important factors. This means that while the solution may be quick, it is more of a rough estimate for an actual system, and may not be suitable for measurements that need high degrees of accuracy. However, for this analysis, it is more than adequate.

3 Contribution

In particular, this project is exploring the relationship between velocity and sound pressure. Specifically, to explore the relationship between sound pressure and how velocity affects the propagation of various values of pressure. While the research paper (Othman) has already given a solution for the equation, it is a general solution and the results it graphs revolve around pressure. Instead, this project aims to graph how the initial velocity affects the distance traveled. A matlab script will be written and ran, using initial values given by the paper, and taking the initial value of velocity, will graph the distance against velocity for a number of given pressures. Once all of these data points are found, then an analysis of how the velocity affects distance will be graphed. This way we can see how velocity and pressure are related. This information can help in analysis and understanding of sound in fluids. If time permits, testing the same set of pressures and velocities in various fluids will be done. The first fluid will be water, and the secondary fluids will be air, and possibly some very viscous fluid as the third.

4 Prediction

Given the wide variability of this model, the outcome is uncertain. In comparing fluids, it is known that acoustics propagate faster/more easily in water than in air. That outcome is expected. However, for the more viscous fluid, given that there is time to test it, I would expect it to propagate slower than water. The reason that sound moves through water specifically faster is that it doesn't compress, as air does when sound travels through it. However, with a viscous fluid, sound should move slower since it takes more energy to move through a fluid as it gets more viscous. The model should reflect this with the alpha variable, which is the attenuation or loss of intensity in a fluid. The larger this is, the larger the velocity must be to overcome it. The density, rho, is the main variable that represents viscosity as well, and will also influence the outcome significantly. Perhaps the density will allow the sound to travel faster similar to traveling through a solid. For the relationship between velocity and pressure, the outcome of this is also uncertain. It will be interesting to analyze and interpret the data. Based on the current knowledge and progression of this project, it seems as if the velocity will carry the sound further the higher it is. As well, it seems as if the pressure will push the sound further, as it has more energy. However, the deceleration in certain fluids may be too high for the velocity to overcome and there could exist some terminal velocity where only changing the pressure can increase the distance traveled, but this model may not be complex enough to simulate that. Due to the fact that the model uses a linear Euler method, the velocity and pressure are expected to have roughly a linear relationship, with their ratio dependent on the density, speed of sound and gradient of the pressure. The linear relationship should therefore get steeper as the viscosity increases. Given enough tests with various viscosities, there should be a point at which increasing the viscosity should no longer affect the linear relationship much because it will approach an asymptote. This fluid may not exist in real life. There should also be a fluid, most likely water, in which the relationship is 1-to-1, or where the graph is the same as $f(x) = x$. Air should have a flatter slope, as velocity should be more important than pressure since the density of air is much lower relatively. Overall, the linear relationship between velocity and pressure should become steeper as the density increases, and flatter as the density decreases. It is also expected that at some point, the velocity will stop having an effect on the distance as the viscosity of the fluid increases.

5 Sources

Numerical Method for Modeling of Acoustic Waves Propagation - Dykas, Wroblewski, Rulik, Chmielniak, 2010

Governing Equations for Wave Propagation, K. N. van Dalem 2013

Analytical Solution for Acoustic Waves Propagation in Fluids - Othman, Sayed Ali, Farouk, 2011

Wikipedia - Wave Equation

