The Impact of Bogie Sections on the Wake Dynamics of a High-Speed Train

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Abstract

The impact of bogie sections on the wake dynamics of a high-speed train (HST) is numerically explored using the improved delayed detached eddy simulation (IDDES). Time-averaged and instantaneous wake flow topology are compared for two underbody configurations: the complex train model (CTM) with bogie sections and the simplified train (STM) with a flat underbody. For both underbody configurations, a pair of counter-rotating half-loop vortices dominates the unsteady wake. Each member of the vortex pair is shed alternately in the wake of the CTM, which is attributed to vortex shedding from the bogie sections. While for the STM, the members of this vortex pair couple and appear simultaneously. The dynamic characteristics of the wake are clarified by using proper orthogonal decomposition (POD) analysis for the IDDES results. The first four POD modes, corresponding to the dominant vortex structures, are analysed in detail, which confirms the significant impact of bogie sections on the wake dynamics of a HST.

Keywords Train aerodynamics · Wake dynamics · IDDES · POD

1 Introduction

The wake of a modern high-speed train (HST) is highly three-dimensional and unsteady [\[1](#page-22-0), [2](#page-22-0)]. It is generally recognized that a pair of counter-rotating symmetric streamwise vortices dominates the wake of a HST from the time-averaged point of view. This streamwise vortex pair moves downwards and outwards as it progresses away from the tail train due to mutual induction and interaction with the image pair [\[2\]](#page-22-0). The slipstream velocity peak in the near

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wake of a HST has been found to be related to the periodic unsteadiness and oscillation behaviour of this vortex pair [\[3](#page-22-0)–[5\]](#page-22-0). The safety of passengers waiting on platforms, platform furniture, trackside workers, and loadings on nearby structures can be deteriorated by the high slipstream velocity $[6–10]$ $[6–10]$ $[6–10]$ $[6–10]$ $[6–10]$. Furthermore, the fluctuant pressure on the tail train caused by this periodic unsteadiness in the wake has effects on the drag and stability of a HST [[4](#page-22-0)]. Hence, comprehensive understanding of the unsteady wake behind a HST is of great significance.

Weise et al. [\[11\]](#page-22-0) found two typical flow patterns via a wind tunnel test: separation bubble and vortex shedding. These occur alternately in the near wake of a train depending on the train rear shape. Werning et al. [[12\]](#page-22-0) numerically identified lateral oscillation of the streamwise vortex pair $(St = f D/U = 0.14, D)$ is the hydraulic diameter) using an unsteady Reynoldsaveraged Navier-Stokes (URANS) approach, which conformed to the characteristic frequency of the side force. Two typical dominant flow patterns, i.e., vortex shedding and the bending of the counter-rotating streamwise vortices, were recognized by a delayed detached eddy simulation (DDES) combined with decomposition methods (Proper Orthogonal Decomposition, POD and Dynamic Mode Decomposition, DMD) in the wake of a HST by Muld et al. [\[13](#page-22-0)]. Utilizing the Lattice Boltzmann Method, Pii et al. [\[14](#page-22-0)] detected vortex shedding $St = fW/U =$ $0.15~0.18$, *W* is the train width), which developed from the bogie section due to interaction with the bogies. The transient pressure and velocity in the near wake show lateral fluctuations. However, their inherent connection to the wake dynamics has not yet been fully understood. Östh et al. [[15\]](#page-23-0) performed cluster-based reduced-order modelling analysis of the wake of a simplified HST, and two groups of clusters were associated with streamwise vortices and vortex shedding. Bell et al. [[3](#page-22-0)] proposed that the wake dynamics of a HST is characterized by sinusoidal, antisymmetric motion of the counter-rotating streamwise vortex pair, which could be triggered by periodic vortex shedding from the side of the train. Wang et al. [[16\]](#page-23-0) investigated the effect of bogies on slipstream and wake. They found stronger spanwise oscillation in the presence of bogies and attribute this oscillation to the amplification of a natural instability of the pair of counter-rotating streamwise vortices rather than alternating vortex shedding from the bogie section. Xia et al. [[5](#page-22-0), [17](#page-23-0)] studied ground effects on the unsteady wake and slipstream of a HST with the improved delayed detached eddy simulation (IDDES). They elucidated the inherent connection between the instantaneous streamwise vortex pair and the slipstream peak and suggested that the wake oscillates more violently under the stationary ground conditions compared with moving ground conditions.

Recently, based on wind tunnel experiments, Xia et al. [[18](#page-23-0)] deduced that the unsteady wake topology of a HST is dominated by an alternating half-loop vortex shedding, which is akin to the flow topology behind the finite wall-mounted rectangular cylinder proposed by Bourgeois et al. [[19\]](#page-23-0). This vortex structure is inherently distinct from the sinusoidal, synchronous and antisymmetric motion of the pair of counter-rotating streamwise vortices in the wake of a HST depicted by Bell et al. [[3](#page-22-0)] and Wang et al. [[16\]](#page-23-0). However, the origin of the vortex shedding has not yet been confirmed due to the complexity of the underbody configuration (the support pillars, the bogies and the rail) in the wind tunnel test. The impact of bogie sections on the halfloop vortex shedding of a HST has not been properly investigated in the present literature. This effect is expected to explain the origin of the vortex shedding and its influence on the wake dynamics of a HST. Moreover, the instantaneous and spatial evolution of the unsteady halfloop vortex structures have not been clearly depicted in previous studies.

In general, CFD can overcome some limitations of practical wind tunnel tests. For instance, wind tunnel interference (blockage, support pillars and ground boundary layer, etc.) can be easily removed. Moreover, it is more convenient to change the configuration of the physical model utilizing CFD. Additionally, CFD offers much more 3D flow information, which contributes to the understanding of the mechanisms of the issues concerned [\[20\]](#page-23-0). Timedependent numerical simulations such as PANS, DES and LES have been viable tools for investigating HST unsteady aerodynamics due to their increasing availability and accuracy $[21–23]$ $[21–23]$ $[21–23]$ $[21–23]$. The main intention of the present work is to further confirm the origin of the vortex shedding and its interaction with the dynamics of the streamwise vortex pair by numerically studying the impact of underbody configurations, e.g., with and without the bogie sections, on the wake dynamics of a HST using IDDES. The focus is placed on the spatio-temporal evolution of the unsteady wake. The POD technique was utilized to extract the dominant coherent structure and reveal the wake dynamics.

2 Method

2.1 Physical model

A 1/50th scale train model (China Railway High-Speed 3, CRH3) is chosen to carry out this research with L/W (slenderness ratio) of 15.7 where L and W (W is 0.065 m) denote the length and width of the train model, respectively. The three-dimensional size of the CRH3 model is 1.0 W (Width) \times 1.1 W (Height) \times 15.7 W (Length). Two different underbody configurations were considered in this paper: One is a simplified train model (STM) with a flat underbody, as shown in Fig. $1(a)$. The other is a complex train model (CTM) with two coaches, two cowcatchers and four sets of bogies, as shown in Fig. 1(b).

Fig. 1 1/50th scale HST model with two coaches: (a) STM, (b) CTM

2.2 Computational domain and boundary conditions

As shown in Fig. 2, the computational domain is 5.2 W (width) \times 5 W (height) \times 54 W (length). The distance between the inlet and the nose tip of the head train is 6.0 W, while the distance from the tail nose tip to the outlet is 32 W. These dimensions give a blockage ratio of 2.3%. The definition of the coordinate system (x, y, z) is shown in Fig. 2 with the origin lying in the spanwise middle of the ground below the tip end of the tail train. The boundary conditions of the domain are specified as follows: velocity inlet for inlet, pressure outlet for outlet, moving wall condition with the inlet velocity for the floor, non-slip wall condition for the train body and symmetry for the rest of the boundaries. The Reynolds number (Re), based on $U_{\infty} = 30$ m/s and H, is 1.3×10^5 . All the above mentioned setups are the same for the two underbody configurations.

It should be acknowledged that some limitations exist in the present simulation, e.g., the reduced slenderness ratio L/W and the reduced Re of the train model (the L/W and Re of a fullscale train with 8 coaches travelling at 300 km/h are 62.8 and 1.7×10^7 , respectively). Investigations of the quantitative effects of these factors on the wake dynamics are still on going. However, our experimental results at the same L/W and $Re [18]$ $Re [18]$ have proved to be in reasonably agreement with previous investigations that use different train lengths and higher Re [[3](#page-22-0), [5,](#page-22-0) [14,](#page-22-0) [17\]](#page-23-0). This suggests that the results of this work are representative of the wake dynamics of a HST, as shown in § 3.

2.3 Numerical setup

The time-dependent IDDES (based on an SST $k-\omega$ model) used in this paper is a hybrid RANS-LES model, which combines the advantages of the DDES and the wall-modelled large eddy simulation (WMLES) [[24\]](#page-23-0). The DDES provides shielding against grid-induced separation (GIS) caused by grid refinement beyond the limit of the modelled stress depletion (MSD) [[25\]](#page-23-0). The WMLES model is designed to reduce the Reynolds number dependency and to allow the LES simulation of wall boundary layers at much higher Reynolds numbers than in standard LES models [\[24,](#page-23-0) [26](#page-23-0)]. In the present IDDES, a new sub-grid length-scale is defined in Eq. (1) including explicit wall-distance dependence, which is different from the traditional LES and DES involving only the grid spacing. The primary effect of Eq. (1) is to reduce Δ and to give it a fairly steep variation leading to a similar trend in the eddy viscosity, which is likely to de-stabilize the flow [[24](#page-23-0)].

$$
\Delta = \min\{\max[C_w d_w, C_w h_{max}, h_{wn}], h_{max}\}\
$$
 (1)

In Eq. (1), d_w is the distance to the wall, h_{wn} is the grid step in the wall-normal direction, and C_w is an empirical constant that is equal to 0.15 based on a wall-resolved LES of channel flow [[24\]](#page-23-0). h_{max} in Eq. (1) is defined as the largest local grid spacing, as shown in Eq. ([2](#page-4-0)). The

Fig. 2 Computational domain and boundary conditions

complete formulations for the IDDES are not shown here for simplicity. Readers may refer to Shur et al. [[24](#page-23-0)] for further details.

$$
h_{max} = \max\{h_x, h_y, h_z\} \tag{2}
$$

A segregated incompressible finite-volume solver was employed in STAR-CCM + 11.06.010. The convective terms of the momentum equations were discretized by a hybrid numerical scheme [[27\]](#page-23-0) that switches between a Bounded Central Differencing Scheme (BCDS) where LES is active and a second order upwind scheme where the RANS mode is active. The scheme for the turbulent quantities was a second order upwind. The second order accuracy was used for temporal discretization. The simulation was initialized by a steady RANS (based on the SST $k-\omega$ model) result to save computational time and then transformed to IDDES. The sampling was commenced after 208 t^* ($t^* = H/U_\infty$) when no significant differences of the mean and rms values of the aerodynamic forces were found for two consequent time sequences. The averaging time was 416 t*, which corresponds to the time for 30 passages of the train at free stream velocity.

The topology of the computational grid is trimmer, which contains prism layers at the wall boundaries and a perfect hexahedral grid in the rest of the domain. The prism layers are connected to the hexahedral grids by trimming. A sensitivity study is performed on four different grids with different numbers of cells for the complex model: coarse, medium, fine and very fine grids consisting of 5.7 million, 9.7 million, 13.6 million and 18.4 million cells, respectively. The fine grids section distribution is shown in Fig. 3. Table [1](#page-5-0) presents the maximum spatial resolutions of the model surface-cells expressed in the wall units where n is the distance between the first node and the train surface in the wall normal direction, Δs is the cell width in the spanwise direction, Δl is the cell width in the streamwise direction, and u^* is the friction velocity. The time steps were 0.008 t^* and 0.004 t^* for the first three sets of grids and very fine grids, respectively. Thus, only in approximately 1% of the grids did the Courant number (Co) exceeded 1, and several studies [\[16,](#page-23-0) [28,](#page-23-0) [29\]](#page-23-0) have shown that this minor infringement on the Co requirement has little effect on the flow field.

2.4 Numerical validation

The numerical simulations in this work were validated by an experiment conducted in a closed-loop low-speed wind tunnel including aerodynamic forces, pressure measurement and PIV. The dimension of the test section is 2 m (L) \times 0.555 m (W) \times 0.333 m (H). The

Fig. 3 Fine grid distribution around a HST

Grids	v^+ = nu^*/v	$z^+ = \Delta s u^* / v$	$x^+ = \Delta l u^* / v$	Total number
Coarse	30	70	70	5.7 million
Medium		70	70	9.7 million
Fine		70	70	13.6 million
Very Fine		50	50	18.4 million

Table 1 Spatial resolutions for coarse, medium, fine and very fine grids

longitudinal turbulent intensity at the exit of the contraction section was less than 0.5%. The floor is stationary, i.e., no relative motion between the train model and the floor during the wind tunnel test. Hence, the IDDES case used for numerical validation also adopts a stationary floor. The tested train model has the same scale, L/W , as well as other detailed features as the numerical model (including four cylindrical struts for comparison with the wind tunnel test). The other experimental details can be found in [[18\]](#page-23-0).

2.4.1 Aerodynamic Forces

The time-averaged drag force comparison between wind tunnel test and numerical simulation is shown in Table 2. The force coefficient is defined as follows:

$$
C_D = \frac{F_x}{\frac{1}{2}\rho U_{\infty}^2 A_x}
$$
\n⁽³⁾

where F_x is the drag force, ρ is the density of air, U_∞ is the inlet velocity, and A_x is the projected area in the x direction. The C_D results show minor differences among all sets of grids. Compared to experimental results, the deviation of C_D is 10.1%, 8.9%, 3.9% and 2.5% for coarse, medium, fine and very fine grids, respectively. Overall, the deviation of C_D results in IDDES for the four sets of grids deviates by less than 10.1% from the experimental results.

2.4.2 Pressure distribution

Figure [4](#page-6-0) presents the pressure coefficient (C_P) distribution along the longitudinal centreline of the head and tail train over the upper and lower surface for both IDDES and the wind tunnel test. C_P is defined in Eq. (4) where P is the time-averaged surface pressure and P_{∞} is the static pressure of the freestream.

$$
C_P = \frac{P - P_{\infty}}{\frac{1}{2}\rho U_{\infty}^2}
$$
\n⁽⁴⁾

Force coefficients	IDDES				
	Coarse	Medium	Fine	Very Fine	
C_D	0.421	0.416	0.397	0.392	0.382

Table 2 Time-averaged C_D comparison between IDDES and experiments

Fig. 4 Comparison of time-averaged C_P of the longitudinal centreline between IDDES and experiment: (a) the upper surface, (b) the lower surface

As shown in Fig. 4, the IDDES results using the medium, fine and very fine grids correspond well with each other for both upper and lower surfaces. However, the C_p distribution using coarse grids has obvious deviations from the other three sets of grids. This is especially true in the lower surface and near wake. In general, the IDDES with fine grids is in good agreement with the experimental results except at the positions behind the bogie sections and near the wake. The grid sensitivity test indicates that the resolution of the fine grids is adequate for this work. Thus, the following discussions are all based on the results using fine grids.

2.4.3 Velocity distribution

Figure 5 compares the velocity and velocity fluctuation distribution between IDDES and PIV data in the (x, y) plane at $z/W = 0.54$ for different x-direction positions $(x/W = 0.8, x/W = 1.5, x/W = 1.5, z/W = 0.54$

Fig. 5 Comparison of IDDES and PIV data in the (x, y) plane at $z/W = 0.54$ for different x-direction positions (x) $W = 0.8$, $x/W = 1.5$, $x/W = 2.3$, $x/W = 3.0$ and $x/W = 4.6$): (a) time-averaged x-direction velocity U_{mean} , (b) timeaveraged y-direction velocity V_{mean} , (c) x-direction velocity fluctuation U_{RMS} , (d) y-direction velocity fluctuation V_{RMS}

 $W = 2.3$, $x/W = 3.0$ and $x/W = 4.6$). As shown in Fig. [5a and b](#page-6-0), the time-averaged velocity profiles obtained from IDDES using the fine grid are in good agreement with the PIV data except for the minor difference near the wake, which could be attributed to the different boundary layer thickness between IDDES and PIV data. Similarly, the overall velocity fluctuation profile of IDDES corresponds well with the PIV results apart from some obvious deviations in the peak near the wake, as shown in Fig. [5c and d.](#page-6-0) This deviation is not unexpected in view of the intensive unsteadiness in the near wake.

In conclusion, the overall agreement in the drag force, pressure distributions and velocity profiles indicates that IDDES using the fine grid can be used to study the wake dynamics of a HST.

2.5 Proper orthogonal decomposition

To investigate the spatial-temporal evolution of the unsteady wake, we use proper orthogonal decomposition (POD) to extract the most energetic coherent structures in the wake of a HST due to its significant reduction in the required computation and memory resources. The snapshot POD method proposed by Sirovich [[30](#page-23-0)] has been widely used to extract POD modes from high-dimensional fluid flow data [\[31](#page-23-0)–[33\]](#page-23-0) and is presently employed for decomposing the velocity data obtained from IDDES. Briefly, the first step is to calculate the mean velocity field, $U(\xi)$, of the given flow field, $U(\xi, t)$, which is then removed from each of the instantaneous snapshots. The rest of the analysis works on the fluctuating components of the velocity:

$$
x(t) = U(\xi, t) - U(\xi) \in R^n, \ t = t_1, t_2, \dots, t_m.
$$
 (5)

Here, $x(t)$ is taken to be the fluctuating component of the velocity vector with the timeaveraged value $U(\xi)$ removed. The objective of the POD analysis is to find the optimal basis vectors that can best represent the given data. The solution to this problem is to find the eigenvectors ψ_i and eigenvalues λ_i from

$$
\mathbf{R}\psi_j = \lambda_j \psi_j, \ \ \phi_j \in \mathbb{R}^n, \ \ \lambda_1 \geq \cdots \geq \lambda_n \geq 0,
$$
\n⁽⁶⁾

where \bf{R} is the correlation matrix of the vector $x(t)$

$$
\boldsymbol{R} = \sum_{i=1}^{m} x^{T}(t_{i}) x(t_{i}) = \boldsymbol{X}^{T} \boldsymbol{X} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times m}, \qquad (7)
$$

where the matrix X represents the m snapshots of data being stacked into the matrix form given by

$$
X = [x(t_1) x(t_2) \cdots x(t_m)] \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}.
$$
\n(8)

With the eigenvectors ψ_i of the above smaller eigenvalue problem determined, the POD modes can be recovered through

$$
\phi_j = X \psi_j \frac{1}{\sqrt{\lambda_j}} \in \mathbb{R}^n, j = 1, 2, \cdots, m.
$$
\n(9)

When the velocity vector is used for $x(t)$, the eigenvalues λ_i correspond to the turbulence kinetic energy captured by the respective POD modes. We can use the eigenvalues to

determine the number of modes needed to represent the fluctuations in the flow field data. Generally, we retain only r number of modes to express the flow such that

$$
\sum_{i=1}^{r} \lambda_j / \sum_{i=1}^{m} \lambda_j \approx 1. \tag{10}
$$

With the determination of the important POD modes, we can represent the flow field solely in terms of a finite or truncated series,

$$
U(\xi, t) \approx U(\xi) + \sum_{j=1}^{r} a_j(t) \phi_j(\xi)
$$
\n(11)

in an optimal manner effectively reducing the high-dimensional (n) flow field to a representation with only r modes. The temporal coefficients are determined by

$$
a_j(t) = \langle U(\xi, t) - U(\xi), \phi_j(\xi) \rangle = \langle x(t), \phi_j \rangle.
$$
 (12)

The current POD code has been successfully applied in our previous studies and fully verified [[18,](#page-23-0) [34\]](#page-23-0). The sampling rate in this work was 2000 Hz. A total of 1000 snapshots were sampled for the POD analysis in each plane section, which was considered to be adequate for the present analysis.

3 Results

3.1 Time-averaged wake flow

The time-averaged streamwise vorticity contours, ω_x^* , and velocity vectors, (v, w) , in the (y, z) plane at $x/W = 1, 3, 5$ and 7 in the wake of the STM and the CTM are shown in Fig. [6a and b,](#page-9-0) respectively. A superscript "*" denotes normalization by maximum ω_x , ω_z or U_{∞} in this paper. It should be noted that a dominating pair of counter-rotating streamwise vortices exist for both underbody configurations and are well established in the previous literature [[1](#page-22-0)–[5](#page-22-0), [17](#page-23-0), [35,](#page-23-0) [36](#page-23-0)]. The vortex pair moves outwards as it is advected downstream. The vortex pair is induced by itself and by interaction with the image pair, to initially move towards the ground and then away from each other $[2, 4]$ $[2, 4]$ $[2, 4]$. Some level of flattening of the cores can be noted when the pair approaches the ground [[5,](#page-22-0) [17](#page-23-0)]. However, the difference in the time-averaged streamwise vortex pair between the two underbody configurations (STM and CTM) can be easily observed in Fig. [6.](#page-9-0) The size of the streamwise vortices and the space between the two vortex cores are both larger for the CTM relative to those for the STM, which can be attributed to the interaction between the streamwise vortices and vortex shedding originating from the side of the bogie sections. On the other side, the streamwise vortex in the CTM case presents more rapid vorticity diffusion when moving downstream due to the severe swing of the streamwise vortices compared to the STM case, as shown at $x/W = 3$, 5 and 7. In addition, the higher cores of the streamwise vortices for the CTM case can be noted at $x/W = 5$ and 7. In conclusion, in terms of the time-averaged flow, the wake is closely related to the underbody configurations.

3.2 Instantaneous wake flow

3.2.1 Spanwise wake dynamics

Figure [7a and b](#page-10-0) present three typical instantaneous flow structures in the (y, z) plane at $x/W = 3$ for the STM and the CTM, respectively. Both the streamwise vorticity contour, ω_x^* , and velocity vector, (v, w) , are shown. For both underbody configurations, the two vortices characterized by the most highly concentrated vorticity are exactly the wellknown pair of streamwise vortices [[17,](#page-23-0) [18\]](#page-23-0). In addition, near each streamwise vortex, some relatively strong vorticity concentrations are observed, the sign of which is opposite to that of the streamwise vortices. The streamwise vortex pair swings in the spanwise and vertical direction for both underbody configurations. However, the differences in the spanwise wake dynamics between the two underbody configurations are evident. Compared to the STM, a more intensive swing of the vortex pair can be noted for the CTM, as shown in Fig. [7,](#page-10-0) which leads to a wider near wake. Moreover, for the STM, each of the

Fig. 6 Time-averaged vorticity contours, ω_x^* , and velocity vectors, (v, w) , in the (v, z) plane: (a) STM, (b) CTM

Fig. 7 Instantaneous streamwise vorticity contour, ω_x^* , and velocity vector, (v, w) , (three random snapshots) in the (y, z) plane at $x/W = 3$: (a) STM, (b) CTM

vortices in the vortex pair are coupled with each other and appear simultaneously, as shown in Fig. 7a. On the contrary, the large-scale streamwise vortices with the opposite sense of rotation appear alternately in the wake of the CTM implying that the vortex structures are shed alternately from the left or right side of the tail, which can be explicitly observed in the 3D flow structures, as shown in Fig. [9b](#page-12-0). This instantaneous feature coincides with the full-scale numerical results performed by [[36\]](#page-23-0) and our previous numerical results at $1/8$ th scale [\[5](#page-22-0), [17](#page-23-0)].

3.2.2 Streamwise wake dynamics

Three typical instantaneous snapshots in the (x, y) plane at $z/W = 0.12$ are shown in Fig. [8](#page-11-0) to illustrate the streamwise wake dynamics. Both the vertical vorticity contour, ω_z^* , and velocity vector, (u, v) are shown.

For the STM, the vortex pairs are well aligned suggesting their simultaneous appearance and transformation, as shown in Fig. [8a](#page-11-0). However, the arrangement of vortices in the CTM appears to be different and complex. The spanwise range of the wake for the CTM is larger than that of the STM due to the more intense oscillation of the vortices. By comparing the three snapshots of the CTM (Fig. [8b](#page-11-0)), it can be clearly noted that the distribution of positive and negative vorticity is staggered, i.e., large-scale vortices are shed from the left or right side of the tail alternately, which is similar to the classical Von Karman vortex shedding behind a twodimensional circular or square cylinder.

Fig. 8 Instantaneous vertical vorticity contour, ω_z^* , and velocity vector, (u, v) , (three random snapshots) in the (x, v) y) plane at $z/W = 0.12$: (a) STM, (b) CTM

3.2.3 Three-dimensional flow structures

In this part, the three-dimensional wake topology is identified by means of the Q-criterion [[37\]](#page-23-0). The *Q-criterion* is positive at a vortex core since this indicates that the anti-symmetric part is larger than the symmetric part, i.e., the rotation is larger than the strain. In general, vortex cores can be identified in the wake flow where the Q-criterion is large.

Figure [9a and b](#page-12-0) show the typical snapshots of the iso-surface defined by *Q-criterion* = 10000 for the STM and the CTM, respectively, which are coloured with the streamwise velocity, U^* . For both underbody configurations, large-scale streamwise vortex shedding dominates the wake with the vortex leg attached to the ground, as shown in Fig. [9.](#page-12-0) Moreover, the topology of each vortex, as shown in Fig. [9c](#page-12-0), is similar to the half-loop structure observed in the wake of a finite-square cylinder [[19,](#page-23-0) [38](#page-24-0)–[40](#page-24-0)], as sketched in Fig. [9d.](#page-12-0) The half-loop vortex structure has a streamwise connector strand which is the underlying cause of the streamwise vorticity in the (y, z) plane (Figs. [6](#page-9-0) and [7\)](#page-10-0) and a leading principal core which is nearly vertical at the ground plate contributing to the vertical vorticity in the (x, y) plane (Fig. 8). The streamwise connector strand and principal core can keep their geometrical shape and orientation during the vortex shedding period (not shown here). This half-loop structure corresponds well with our previous conjecture based on the flow visualization and PIV results [[18\]](#page-23-0). In addition, small-scale vortices are generated alongside the large-scale vortices due to the instability of high shearing among large-scale vortices and the ground caused by vortex stretching, tilting and cutting [\[17\]](#page-23-0).

The difference between the two underbody configurations in the wake topology can be noted in Fig. [9a and b;](#page-12-0) however, the wake flow is quite complex. For the STM, shown in Fig. [9a](#page-12-0), each of the half-loop structures shed simultaneously, and the size of the vortices is smaller than that of the CTM, which is consistent with the simultaneous vortex couple in the plane section of the STM's wake, as shown in Figs. [7a](#page-10-0) and 8a. This simultaneous vortex shedding can also be observed in the numerical study performed by [\[41](#page-24-0)] with a 1/8th scale simplified train model (without bogies). However, for the CTM, the staggered arranged half-loop

Fig. 9 (a) Iso-surface of *Q-criterion* = 10000 (three random snapshots) coloured by the streamwise velocity, U^* , of the STM, (b) iso-surface of Q-criterion = 10000 (three random snapshots) coloured by the streamwise velocity, U, of the CTM, (c) the enlarged view of a typical vortex in the wake, (d) schematic of the half-loop structure

structures are shed alternately from both sides of the tail train and have gotten larger as they move downstream. This is also confirmed by the phase shift near π , i.e., out of phase, at $St_w =$ 0.16 for the streamwise velocity, u_x , signals at $v/W = \pm 0.5$, and $z/W = 0.12$ (Fig. [11b](#page-13-0)). These staggered arranged half-loop structures can also be detected in the numerical results at higher Reynolds numbers with the complex train models [\[17](#page-23-0), [26](#page-23-0), [35,](#page-23-0) [42\]](#page-24-0), which indicates that the present Reynolds number has little effect on the unsteady wake topology of a HST.

Figure [10a and b](#page-13-0) present the power spectrum density (PSD) of the instantaneous streamwise velocity, u_x , measured at different positions for the STM and the CTM. The positions distribute at $x/W = 1$, 3, 5 and 7, $z/W = 0.12$, 0.31 and 0.50, and $y/W = \pm 0.25$ for the STM but at $y/W = \pm 0.5$ for the CTM, since the oscillation region in the wake of the STM is narrower. This shows that the dominating PSD value peak is at the frequency $Stw = 0.16$ at

Fig. 10 PSD of the streamwise velocity, u_x , in the wake at $x/W = 1, 3, 5$ and 7, $z/W = 0.12, 0.31$ and 0.50: (a) STM $(y/W = \pm 0.25)$, (b) CTM $(y/W = \pm 0.5)$

most monitor points in the CTM case. The PSD value is higher at $z/W = 0.31$ than for the other two horizontal planes, and the PSD value decreases further into the wake due to the energy dissipation of the vortex structures. The presently observed dominant frequency is in agreement with the LBM results for a full-scale train with 11 cars that was performed by

Fig. 11 Cross spectrum (phase shift) of the streamwise velocity, u_x , at $y/W = \pm 0.25$ ($x/W = 1$ and 3, $z/W = 0.12$): (a) STM, (b) CTM $(y/W = \pm 0.5)$

[[14\]](#page-22-0), who identified vortex shedding at $S_t_w = 0.15$ ~0.18 for a Re of 2.3 × 10⁷. However, the PSD result presents differently in the STM case compared with the CTM case. The PSD value is smaller than that of the CTM, and there is not a single dominating peak but multiple peaks $(Stw = 0.12 \sim 0.16$ and 0.39).

Figure [11a and b](#page-13-0) show the phase shift between the streamwise velocities, u_x , signals monitored simultaneously at $v/W = \pm 0.25$ ($x/W = 1$ and 3, $z/W = 0.12$) for the STM and for the CTM ($v/W = \pm 0.5$), respectively. An approximate π phase shift at $Stw = 0.16$ can be detected for the CTM, as shown in Fig. [11b,](#page-13-0) which confirms the periodic and alternating vortex structures in the wake of the CTM. However, for the STM, as shown in Fig. [11a](#page-13-0), the phase shift is approximately zero (around the range $[-1.5, 1.5]$) at $Stw = 0.12$ ~0.16 and 0.39, indicating the periodic and synchronous vortex structures behind the STM.

3.3 Proper orthogonal decomposition (POD) analysis

To further understand the differences in the wake dynamics between the two underbody configurations, the snapshot POD method, as described in section [2.5,](#page-7-0) was used to extract the coherent structures of the wake flow field. Then, the flow reconstruction based on the mean flow and POD modes was applied to investigate which flow structure is associated with which mode.

Figure 12 shows the turbulence Kinetic Energy (TKE) contribution of the first hundred POD modes for both underbody configurations in the (y, z) plane at $x/W = 3$ and (x, y) planes at $z/W = 0.12$. The TKE contribution of each mode, and the accumulation of the first hundred modes, are presented in Fig. 12a and b, respectively.

3.3.1 Spanwise wake dynamics

Figure [13a and b](#page-15-0) visualize the first four POD modes in the (y, z) plane at $x/W = 3$ for the STM and the CTM, respectively, represented by the streamwise vorticity contours ω_x^* , and the velocity vectors, (v, w) . The thresholds are chosen to give a good visual representation of the mode, and the thresholds are the same for the different modes in both cases. The POD modes data are calculated by Eq. [\(6\)](#page-7-0) and [\(9](#page-7-0)), which are the optimal basis vectors that can best represent the given flow field data.

As shown in Fig. 12 for the STM, the first four modes contribute 50.4% of the total TKE energy in the (y, z) plane at $x/W = 3$ and are of relatively higher significance in the described

Fig. 12 Turbulence Kinetic Energy contribution: (a) each mode, (b) accumulation of the first hundred modes

Fig. 13 The first four modes in the (y, z) plane at $x/W = 3$: (a) STM, (b) CTM

wake. Particularly, the first mode is clearly dominant, with a significant contribution to the TKE of up to 18.2%. Its magnitude decreases to 14.9%, 9.6% and 7.6% corresponding to mode 2, mode 3 and mode 4, respectively. It is evident from the contour of the streamwise vorticity, ω_x , that mode 1 contains two counter-rotating vortices, as shown in Fig. 13a. Mode 2 describes an oscillating swing of the two counter-rotating vortices along the spanwise direction. Mode 3 and mode 4 seem to be connected with the horizontal and vertical motion of the vortex pair.

For the CTM, the first four modes contribute 50.7% of the total TKE energy in the (y, z) plane at $x/W = 3$, which also shows relatively higher significance in the near wake described in Fig. [12.](#page-14-0) Mode 1 occupies 22.4% of the total TKE, which is 4.2% higher than that of the STM. Mode 2, mode 3 and mode 4 show a significant contribution with 13.8%, 8.6% and 6%, respectively. Higher modes have lower and lower contributions.

As shown in Fig. 13b, the modes of the CTM in the (y, z) plane at $x/W = 3$ exhibit distinct characteristics from those for the STM. Mode 1 is characterized by two large-scale streamwise vortices with a small-scale streamwise vortex between them. This feature is similar to mode 2

of the STM. Mode 2 of the CTM presents a dominant streamwise vortex with a strong induced sweep flow across the centre line. Mode 3 presents a couple of symmetrical small-scale streamwise vortices located in the low part of the wake. Mode 4 seems to be connected with the vortex oscillation in the diagonal direction.

The differences between the two underbody configurations are also studied for the temporal coefficients of the modes. This is done by looking at the Fourier transform of the POD mode coefficients, $a_i(t)$, in Eq. ([12](#page-8-0)). The frequency characteristics of POD modes $1 \sim 4$ in the (y, z) plane at $x/W = 3$ are compared for both the STM and the CTM in Fig. 14a and b. As shown in Fig. 14a, multiple dispersive peaks exist for the first four modes of the STM in the (y, z) plane at $x/W = 3$. However, for the CTM, as shown in Fig. 14b, mode 1 and mode 2 exhibit the same dominant frequency of $Stw = 0.16$ ($Stw = fW/U$, W is the train width), which is the same as the frequency obtained from the instantaneous streamwise velocity, as shown in Fig. [10b.](#page-13-0) This implies that the first two modes may present different phases of one particular periodic motion.

In order to fully understand which coherent structure is associated with a certain mode, it might be difficult to only analyze a particular mode. As indicated by Eq. ([11\)](#page-8-0), the wake flow structures can be reconstructed by combining the mean velocity field and several lower POD modes representing reduced-order dynamics of the wake. Figure [15](#page-17-0) a~d shows three typical sequential snapshots of the reconstructed flow field in the (y, z) plane at $x/W = 3$ for each of the first four modes of the STM. According to the sequential snapshots, we can confirm the coherence of the first four modes as the following: Mode 1 represents simultaneous increase/ decrease in size of the streamwise vortex pair. This corresponds to the streamwise connector strand in the half loop structure (see Fig. [9d](#page-12-0)). Mode 2 represents the simultaneous/ homodromous spanwise motion of the streamwise vortex pair implying that the half-loop vortex has a spanwise oscillation. Mode 3 illustrates the simultaneous/symmetrical spanwise motion of the streamwise vortex pair. This corresponds to the passage of the half-loop vortex shown in Fig. [9.](#page-12-0) For example, as in Fig. [15c,](#page-17-0) at time T2, the vortex represents the section close to the centre line of the half-loop structure. At T3, it represents the section of the outside part of the streamwise connector strand. Mode 4 exhibits the simultaneous vertical motion of the streamwise vortex pair. This corresponds to the curved segment of the half-loop structure.

Three typical sequential snapshots of the reconstructed flow field for each of the first four modes in the (y, z) plane at $x/W = 3$ for the CTM are shown in Fig. [16a~d.](#page-18-0) Comparing Fig. [15](#page-17-0) and [16](#page-18-0) the difference between the two underbody configurations in the mode pattern can be clearly noted. Based on the sequential snapshots, we can confirm the corresponding flow

Fig. 14 Power spectral density of the first four modes in the (y, z) plane at $x/W = 3$: (a) STM, (b) CTM

Fig. 15 Reconstructed flow field in the (v, z) plane at $x/W = 3$ of the STM with velocity vector, (v, w) , and streamwise vorticity contour, ω_x^* : (a) mode 1, (b) mode 2, (c) mode 3, (d) mode 4

structures of the first four modes in the CTM case as the following: Mode 1 represents an alternating out-of-phase increase/decrease in size and vorticity of the streamwise vortex pair and the induced secondary vortex structure. Mode 2 is similar to mode 1 except for the small difference in the shape and location of the vortices. Mode 1 and mode 2 correspond to the alternating half-loop vortex pair in different phases. Mode 3 illustrates the simultaneous appearance of the induced secondary vortex pair at the lower part of the wake. Mode 4 exhibits the simultaneous oscillation in the diagonal direction of the vortex pair.

3.3.2 Streamwise wake dynamics

Figure [17a and b](#page-18-0) show the first four POD modes in the (x, y) plane at $z/W = 0.12$ for the STM and the CTM, respectively, which are represented by the vertical vorticity contours, ω_z^* , and velocity vectors, (u, v) .

For the STM, the first four modes only occupy 8.6% of the total TKE (see Fig. [12\)](#page-14-0). Mode 1 \sim 4 contain 2.8%, 2.3%, 1.7% and 1.7%, respectively, of the total TKE implying that they have approximately the equivalent contribution to the wake in the plane at $z/W = 0.12$. As shown in Fig. [17a](#page-18-0), mode 1 and 2 look the same with an offset in the streamwise direction. The spectra for these two modes are very similar to each other with the same strong peak around $Stw = 0.12$ and 0.15 (see Fig. [18a\)](#page-19-0), confirming the link between these two modes. Moreover, the crosscorrelation results indicate that modes 1 and 2 are correlated and a phase shift of $\pi/2$ from each other at $Stw = 0.12$ and 0.15, as shown in Fig. [19a.](#page-19-0) This implies that the two modes correspond to a flow structure. A connection also exists between modes 3 and 4. They have similar spatial structures and the same dominant frequency at $Stw = 0.39$ (see Figs. [17a,](#page-18-0) [18a](#page-19-0) and [19a\)](#page-19-0). It can

Fig. 16 Reconstructed flow field in the (y, z) plane at $x/W = 3$ of the CTM with velocity vector, (y, w) , and streamwise vorticity contour, ω_x^* : (a) mode 1, (b) mode 2, (c) mode 3, (d) mode 4

Fig. 17 The first four modes in the (x, y) plane at $z/W = 0.12$: (a) STM, (b) CTM

Fig. 18 PSD of the first four modes in the (x, y) plane at $z/W = 0.12$: (a) STM, (b) CTM

also be found that peaks exist around the frequencies of $Stw = 0.12$, 0.15 and 0.39 in the PSD of the instantaneous velocity (see Fig. [10a\)](#page-13-0), and the phase shift is approximately zero around these frequencies (see Fig. [11a\)](#page-13-0).

For the CTM, the first four modes contribute 27.6% of the total TKE energy. Meanwhile, the first two modes with a significant total contribution up to 21.8% (see Fig. [12](#page-14-0)) are clearly dominant with similar energy fractions (12.3% and 9.5%), which is 16.7% higher than that of the STM. However, mode 3 and mode 4 only contribute 3% and 2.8% , respectively, as illustrated in Fig. [12](#page-14-0). Moreover, the flow patterns of the first two modes are quite similar except for a $\pi/2$ phase shift, as shown in Fig. 19b. In addition, the temporal coefficients of the first two modes also share the same dominant Strouhal number of $Stw = 0.16$, as shown in Fig. 18b. The phase shift between the two temporal coefficients is approximately $\pi/2$ (see Fig. 19b) indicating that the first two modes correspond to the different phases of a periodic flow structure. This feature is the same as the famous Von Karman vortex shedding behind a two-dimensional cylinder. Nevertheless, the absolute energy content of the first two modes is much lower due to the highly three-dimensionally characteristics behind a HST compared to the corresponding value in a 2D cylinder wake. In addition, the forms of the second pair of modes (mode 3 and mode 4) are also quite similar, as illustrated in Fig. 19b.

Figure [20a and b](#page-20-0) present three typical sequential snapshots of the reconstructed flow field for the first pair of modes (mode 1 and mode 2) and the second pair of modes (mode 3 and mode 4) in

Fig. 19 Cross spectrum (phase shift) of the first four modes in the (x, y) plane at $z/W = 0.12$: (a) STM, (b) CTM

Fig. 20 Reconstructed flow field in the (x, y) plane at $z/W = 0.12$ of the STM with velocity vector, (u, y) , and vertical vorticity contours, ω_z^* : (a) the first pair of modes (mode 1 and 2), (b) the second pair of modes (mode 3 and 4)

the (x, y) plane at $z/W = 0.12$ for the STM, respectively, presented by the vertical vorticity, ω_z^* , and velocity vectors, (u, v) . The first pair of modes represent the simultaneous/symmetrical spanwise oscillation of the shear layer with sinusoidal motion occurring at $Stw = 0.12$ in the wake, as shown in Fig. 20a. The second pair represents simultaneous/symmetrical vortex shedding from both sides of the shear layers at $Stw = 0.39$, as illustrated in Fig. 20b. The dominant vortex shedding corresponds to the principal core of the half-loop vortex shown in Fig. [9](#page-12-0).

Fig. 21 Reconstructed flow field with velocity vector (u, v) , and vertical vorticity contour, ω_z^* , in the (x, y) plane at $z/W = 0.12$ of the CTM: (a) the first pair of modes (mode 1 and 2), (b) the second pair of modes (mode 3 and 4)

The reconstructed flow fields (three typical snapshots) for two pairs of modes (mode 1 and 2 & mode 3 and 4) in the (x, y) plane at $z/W = 0.12$ for the CTM are shown in Fig. [21a and b,](#page-20-0) respectively, demonstrating distinct wake dynamics from that of the STM shown in Fig. [20](#page-20-0). As illustrated in Fig. [21a,](#page-20-0) the first pair of modes (mode 1 and 2) represent an alternating slender vortex shedding generated from the left or right side shear layers. This is the dominant vortex structures in the wake of the CTM occurring at $Stw = 0.16$ (Fig. [19b](#page-19-0) and [21b\)](#page-20-0), which is consistent with the spectrum of instantaneous streamwise velocity signals (see Fig. [10](#page-13-0)) and the spectrum of the first pair of modes in the $x/W = 3$ plane of the CTM (see Fig. [14b](#page-16-0)). The second pair of modes (mode 3 and 4) exhibits bi-stable behaviour, i.e., transforming between alternating vortex shedding and a sinusoidal spanwise swing, which has also been observed in one of our previous experiments [[18](#page-23-0)].

4 Conclusions

The wake dynamics of a 1/50th scale CRH3 HST with two underbody configurations, i.e., the complex train model (CTM) with bogie sections and the simplified train (STM) with a flat underbody, are numerically compared using IDDES. Focus is placed on the spatial-temporal evolution of the unsteady wake. POD is successfully utilized in the description of the unsteady wake dynamics of the HSTs, which provides clearer observations on the differences between the unsteady wake topology behind the CTM and the STM. Based on the above analysis, the following conclusions can be drawn:

- 1. A pair of symmetric counter-rotating streamwise vortices in the wake are exhibited for both the CTM and the STM in view of the time-averaged flow field. However, the streamwise vortices of the CTM have larger sizes and have a larger distance between the two vortex cores relative to that of the STM. In addition, the streamwise vortex in the CTM case presents a more rapid vorticity diffusion when moving downstream compared to the STM case.
- 2. A pair of counter-rotating half-loop vortices dominates the unsteady wake for both underbody configurations. Each member of the vortex pair sheds alternately in the wake of the CTM, which is attributed to vortex shedding originating from the bogie section of the tail. However, for the STM, this vortex pair is coupled and the two vortices in the pair appear simultaneously.
- 3. Utilizing POD analysis, the spatial-temporal evolution of the wake is clarified. Based on the spectrum of the mode coefficients and reconstructed wake flow, the first four POD modes corresponding to the dominant vortex structures are described in detail, confirming the significant impact of bogie sections on the wake dynamics of a HST.

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Compliance with Ethical Standards

Conflict of Interests The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

Abbreviations $S_{t_{1}}$, Strouhal number; f, The frequency; D, The hydraulic diameter; U^* , The streamwise velocity; W, The train width; U_{∞} . The oncoming flow velocity; u^* , The friction velocity; n, The distance between the first node and the train surface in the wall normal direction; Δl , The cell width in the streamwise direction; Δs , The cell width in the spanwise direction; h_{wp} . The grid step in the wall-normal direction; C_w An empirical constant; h_{max} . The largest local grid spacing; h_y . Local streamwise cell size; h_y . Local wall-normal cell size; h_z Local lateral cell size; t^* , $t^* = H/U_{\infty}$; C_D , The drag force coefficient; F_{∞} The drag force; ρ , The density of the air; A_x , The projected area in the x direction; C_p , The pressure coefficient; P, The time-averaged surface pressure; P_{∞} The static pressure; u , The velocity in the X direction; v , The velocity in the Y direction; w , The velocity in the Z direction; U_{mean} , Time-averaged x-direction velocity; V_{mean} , Time-averaged y-direction velocity; U_{RMS} , x-direction velocity fluctuation; V_{RMS} , y-direction velocity fluctuation V_{RMS} ; ω_x^* , x-direction vorticity; ω_z^* , z-direction vorticity; a_i , The temporal coefficients of the POD modes

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