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Development of a 6-DOF Dynamic Velocity Prediction Program for offshore racing yachts

Paul Kerdraon^{a,b,*}, Boris Horel^b, Patrick Bot^c, Adrien Letourneur^a, David Le Touzé^b

^a VPLP Design, 18 Allée Loïc Caradec, 56000 Vannes, France

^b Ecole Centrale Nantes, LHEEA Lab. (ECN and CNRS), 1 Rue de la Noë, 44300 Nantes, France

^c Naval Academy Research Institute - IRENAV CC600, 29240 Brest Cedex 9, France

ABSTRACT

Keywords:

Dynamic Velocity Prediction Program (DVPP)
Sailing yacht
Offshore trimaran
System-based modeling
Time-domain simulation
Hydrofoil

Thanks to high lift-to-drag ratios, hydrofoils are of great interest for high-speed vessels. Modern sailing yachts fitted with foils have thus reached impressively high speeds on the water. But this hydrodynamic efficiency is achieved at the expense of stability. Accurate tradeoffs are therefore needed to ensure both performance and safety. While usual Velocity Prediction Programs (VPPs) are inadequate to assess dynamic stability, the varying nature of the offshore racing environment further complicates the task.

Dynamic simulation in the time-domain is thus necessary to help architects assess their designs. This paper presents a system-based numerical tool which aims at predicting the dynamic behavior of offshore sailing yachts. A 6 degrees of freedom (DOF) algorithm is used, calculating loads as a superposition of several components (hull, appendage, sails). Part of them are computed at runtime while the others use pre-computed dataset, allowing a good compromise between efficiency and flexibility.

Three 6DOF simulations of an existing offshore trimaran (a maneuver, unsteady wind conditions and quartering seas) are presented. They underline the interest of dynamic studies, demonstrating how important the yacht state history is to the understanding of her instantaneous behavior and showing that dynamic simulations open a different field of optimization than VPPs.

1. Introduction

The need for dynamic simulation is growing in many fields of engineering, as it allows to test and compare prototypes and processes at much lower costs than actual full-scale tests. Naval architecture is no exception. Nowadays, it widely relies on Velocity Prediction Programs (VPPs) to help architects and engineers in the design process of sailing yachts. However VPPs have proved inadequate to optimize all of the design parameters. Originally introduced by Kerwin (1978), VPPs are constrained non-linear steady state optimizers which, based on experimental, numerical or empirical data, enable boat settings optimization to derive the reachable speeds in given steady conditions.

Unlike inshore yachts such as the AC45 or the AC75 where class rules limit the acceptable wind and waves conditions, offshore vessels may encounter rough sea and wind conditions with short characteristic time of evolution. In such unsteady environments, racing yachts may be compelled to sail at much lower speed than the steady state optimized values. Assessing the boat real performance and her ability to safely maintain high average speeds in varying conditions is therefore a key

measure of her racing efficiency and should be included in the design trade-offs.

In addition, recent years have seen a substantial growth of foiling technologies, leading to fully flying yachts and introducing specific stability issues with direct impact on average speed. A better knowledge of the dynamic response of flying yachts is paramount for safe and sustained offshore flight. Non-linear couplings between the different degrees of freedom further complicate the study and traditional VPPs have proven inadequate to handle these matters with the accuracy required for high performance sailing.

In this context, numerical tools enabling time-domain analysis and including unsteady environment – often called Dynamic Velocity Prediction Programs (DVPPs) – have become a major research topic. This paper is interested in such a simulation tool, handling variable wind and waves as well as mode transition between Archimedean and fully flying conditions. Section 2 presents a literature review on yacht dynamic simulation. The mathematical modeling is given in Section 3.

* Corresponding author at: VPLP Design, 18 Allée Loïc Caradec, 56000 Vannes, France.

E-mail addresses: kerdraon@vannes.vplp.fr (P. Kerdraon), boris_horel@hotmail.fr (B. Horel), patrick.bot@ecole-navale.fr (P. Bot), letourneur@vannes.vplp.fr (A. Letourneur), david.letouze@ec-nantes.fr (D. Le Touzé).

Notations	
A	Wave amplitude [m]
\mathbf{A}	Added mass coefficients matrix [kg, kg m, kg m ²]
\mathbf{A}_∞	Infinite frequency added mass matrix [kg, kg m, kg m ²]
\mathbf{B}	Damping coefficients matrix [kg/s, kg m/s, kg m ² /s]
\mathbf{B}_∞	Infinite frequency damping matrix [kg/s, kg m/s, kg m ² /s]
B	Yacht breadth [m]
C	Yacht center of effort
c	Appendage characteristic chord length [m]
C_d	Sail drag coefficient [-]
C_l	Sail lift coefficient [-]
C_m	Midship section coefficient [-]
d	Yacht draft [m]
Fn	Froude number [-], $Fn = \bar{U} / \sqrt{gL_{WL}}$
\mathbf{F}	External linear forces vector [N]
\mathbf{F}_i	Force component i [N, Nm]
$ \mathbf{F}_d $	Diffraction force modulus [N/m, N]
f_R	Reduced frequency [-], $f_R = c/VT$
\mathbf{G}	Ship center of gravity
g	Acceleration of gravity [m/s ²]
\mathbf{I}	Yacht inertia matrix [kg, kg m, kg m ²]
K_P	Controller proportional coefficient [°/°]
k	Wave number [m ⁻¹], $k = 2\pi/\lambda$
k_i	Unsteady wind intensity factor for component i [-]
\mathbf{K}	Impulse response function matrix [kg/s ² , kg m/s ² , kg m ² /s ²]
k_{yy}	Yacht pitch radius of inertia [m]
L_{WL}	Waterline length [m]
m	Yacht mass [kg]
\mathbf{M}	External moments vector [Nm]
\mathbf{n}	Outgoing body's normal unit vector
\mathbf{O}	Origin of the ship reference frame R_b
p_i	Pressure of incoming waves [N/m ²]
$R_0 = (X_0, Y_0, Z_0)$	Earth-fixed reference frame
$R_b = (X_b, Y_b, Z_b)$	Ship-fixed reference frame
S_{Sails}	Total sail area [m ²]
S_w	Yacht wetted area [m ²]
T	Appendage characteristic period of oscillations [s]
T_D	Controller derivative coefficient [s]
T_i	Unsteady wind period for component i [s]
\bar{U}	Yacht mean speed [m/s]

\mathbf{V}	Yacht linear velocity vector [m/s]
$\mathbf{V}_{X/flow}$	Apparent flow velocity vector at \mathbf{X} [m/s]
\mathbf{V}_{wave}	Wave orbital velocity [m/s]
β	Leeway angle [°]
δ_R	Rudder angle [°]
θ	Pitch angle [°]
λ	Wave length [m]
μ	Ship-waves relative heading [°]
ξ	Ship perturbation vector [m, rad]
Φ_i	Potential of incoming waves [m ² /s]
φ	Heel angle [°]
Φ_d	Diffraction force phase [rad]
ρ	Water density [kg/m ³]
ρ_{air}	Air density [kg/m ³]
Ψ	Yaw angle [°]
Ψ_T	Autopilot target heading [°]
ω	Frequency-domain variable [s ⁻¹]
	Wave frequency [s ⁻¹]
ω_e	Frequency of encounter [s ⁻¹]
$\boldsymbol{\omega}$	Yacht angular velocity vector [s ⁻¹]
∇	Displacement [m ³]
AWA	Apparent Wind Angle
AWS	Apparent Wind Speed
CFD	Computational Fluid Dynamics
DOF	Degree(s) of Freedom
DSYHS	Delft Systematic Yacht Hull Series
DVPP	Dynamic Velocity Prediction Program
IMS	International Measurement System
QST	Quasi-Steady Theory
RANS	Reynolds-averaged Navier–Stokes
RAO	Response Amplitude Operator
TWA	True Wind Angle
TWD	True Wind Direction (relative to North)
TWS	True Wind Speed
VPP	Velocity Prediction Program

Section 4 presents and analyzes three examples of dynamic simulation performed with the developed numerical tool.

2. Sailing yacht dynamic simulation

The ability to simulate maneuvers and especially tacking has long been the main subject of sailing dynamic studies (Masuyama et al., 1995; Keuning et al., 2005; Gerhardt et al., 2009). In match racing, maneuvers are critical and simulations provide an efficient way for designers as well as crew to improve the on-water results (Binns et al.,

2008). As match racing competitions are generally run inshore, sheltered from the deep-water waves, and due to the complexity of waves effect, the first numerical tools considered flat water conditions. Most of these works are based on the usual maneuvering approach (Abkowitz, 1964) in which loads are described using hydrodynamic derivatives: a Taylor-series expansion of the forces with respect to all the involved parameters (attitudes, sinkage, speed components). Such models allowed the study of the three or four degrees of freedom (DOFs) boat motion (surge, sway, yaw and sometimes roll). Nevertheless foiling greatly enhances the need to factor in the two other degrees of freedom as heave (flight height) and trim (appendages angles of attack) are now at the core of boat stability (Heppel, 2015). Full 6 degrees of freedom modeling is therefore needed.

Introduction of time-domain studies in the design of racing yachts occurred for the victorious 26th America's Cup challenger *Stars and Stripes* (see Oliver et al., 1987) using a quasi-steady approach. Velocity Prediction Program results were combined with wind statistics and game theory to simulate match races between several candidates and isolate the best performing design. Based on the widely used steady state models of the IMS VPP (Claughton, 1999), the four degrees of freedom program of Larsson (1990) included a first account of wave effects by computing added resistance through strip theory. Masuyama et al. (1993, 1995) developed a numerical tool based on hydrodynamic derivatives computed from tank tests and aerodynamic coefficients

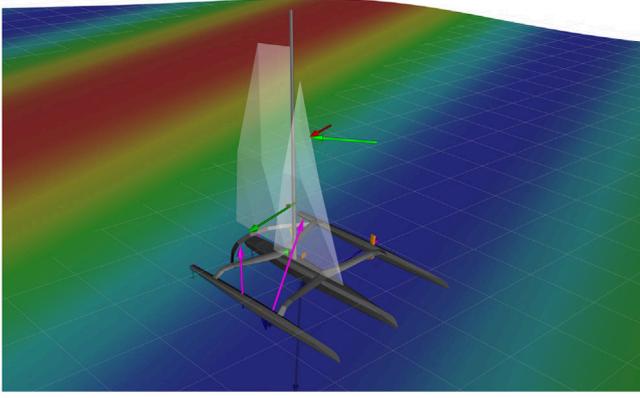


Fig. 1. Developed simulation tool visualization window.

derived from wind tunnel measurements. Comparison of their 4 degrees of freedom results with full-scale measurements proved successful. In the second paper, Masuyama et al. (1995) reported on the substantial role of sails in roll damping and proposed a strip theory model ignoring three dimensional effects. Keuning et al. (2005) enlarged the possibilities and modularity of such tools by introducing the use of Delft Systematic Yacht Hull Series (DSYHS) to compute the hydrodynamic coefficients. While comparison with full-scale tests showed good agreement, the weaknesses of the aerodynamic model (based on the IMS VPP) is nevertheless underlined by the authors.

To the author's knowledge, Day et al. (2002) were the first to report on a 6 degrees of freedom time-domain simulation tool. The program used the Delft Systematic Yacht Hull Series for the hydrodynamic loads and the IMS VPP quasi-steady approach for sail forces. Comparison with full-scale data showed good trends although the author underlined some discrepancies. A few years later, Harris (2005) proposed another numerical tool to simulate the upwind behavior of sailing yachts. Maneuvering loads were computed through a panel code, while radiation and diffraction loads were expressed from strip theory. A strip theory approach was also used for the aerodynamic loads.

On the other hand, constant improvements of computational power have opened the possibility to use CFD for time-domain simulation by directly coupling the RANS (Reynolds Averaged Navier–Stokes) flow solvers with rigid body dynamic solvers (Jacquin et al., 2005; Roux et al., 2008; Lindstrand Levin and Larsson, 2017). Such approaches enable great accuracy while eliminating the need for empirical data or numerical pre-computations. The use of CFD as numerical VPP was achieved and work is now undertaken to add unsteady environment. Nevertheless, the computational time and costs of such techniques make them currently unavailable for naval architects when the comparison of several designs and configurations is needed.

System-based approaches, on the contrary, use empirical and theoretical models, experimental results or pre-computed numerical data to derive the hydrodynamic and aerodynamic loads and model the boat global behavior (Horel, 2016, 2019) with a computational efficiency that enables systematic studies, of appendages shapes and configurations for instance.

This paper presents therefore a system-based approach to the time-domain simulation of sailing yachts (see Fig. 1). Due to the importance of the sea state on offshore yachts performance, the model was built to account for wave loads and thus enables the improvement of the yacht response. Besides, to allow an accurate optimization of foiling yachts, the numerical tool handles motion in the six degrees of freedom. Unlike most of the cited papers, it has been chosen to handle maneuvering loads not by Taylor expansions or semi-empirical formula but using interpolated Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) data to increase accuracy. The numerical models are presented in the following section.

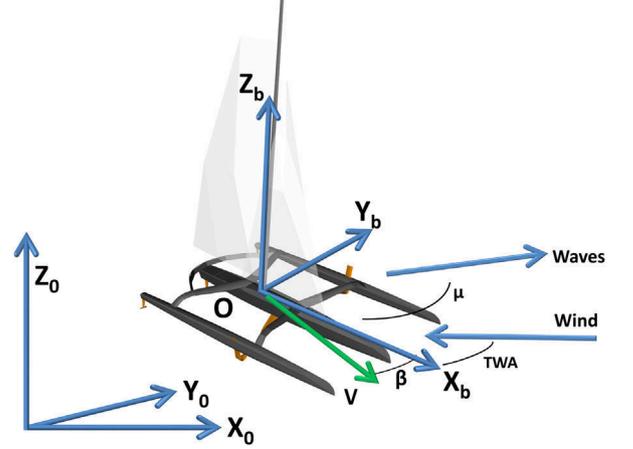


Fig. 2. Coordinate systems definition. β is the leeway angle.

3. Mathematical modeling

This section presents the models implemented in the simulation tool to compute the loads of each yacht component and derive the ship motion.

3.1. Dynamics

The developed numerical tool is based on the time-domain integration of the 6 degrees of freedom rigid body motion equations, derived from the conservation of linear and angular momentum in the non inertial ship-fixed reference frame:

$$\begin{cases} m [\dot{\mathbf{V}} + \boldsymbol{\omega} \times \mathbf{OG} + \boldsymbol{\omega} \times (\mathbf{V} + \boldsymbol{\omega} \times \mathbf{OG})] = \mathbf{F} \\ \mathbf{I} \dot{\boldsymbol{\omega}} + m \mathbf{OG} \times \dot{\mathbf{V}} + \boldsymbol{\omega} \times \mathbf{I} \boldsymbol{\omega} + m \mathbf{OG} \times (\boldsymbol{\omega} \times \mathbf{V}) = \mathbf{M} \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

where \mathbf{V} and $\boldsymbol{\omega}$ are the ship linear and angular velocity vectors, and $\dot{\mathbf{V}}$, $\dot{\boldsymbol{\omega}}$ their time derivatives. \mathbf{F} , \mathbf{M} are the external forces and moments acting on the yacht, and m , \mathbf{I} her mass and inertia at the origin O of the ship reference frame. G is the body's center of gravity.

Unlike conventional boats, sailing yachts loading conditions are generally asymmetric to increase the righting moment (water ballast, canting keel, equipment windward stacking). Therefore no assumption is made hereafter on the values of the products of inertia of \mathbf{I} or on the transverse coordinate of \mathbf{OG} .

The ship-fixed reference frame $R_b = (X_b, Y_b, Z_b)$ is defined with X_b positive direction forwards, Y_b to port and Z_b upwards (see Fig. 2). Its orientation with respect to the earth-fixed inertial reference frame $R_0 = (X_0, Y_0, Z_0)$ is expressed using the usual gimbal angles φ , θ , ψ (roll, pitch and yaw).

The rotation matrix from the ship-fixed reference frame R_b to the earth-fixed one R_0 is given by:

$$\mathcal{R}_{R_b \rightarrow R_0} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \psi \cos \theta & \cos \psi \sin \theta \sin \varphi - \sin \psi \cos \varphi & \cos \psi \sin \theta \cos \varphi + \sin \psi \sin \varphi \\ \sin \psi \cos \theta & \sin \psi \sin \theta \sin \varphi + \cos \psi \cos \varphi & \sin \psi \sin \theta \cos \varphi - \cos \psi \sin \varphi \\ -\sin \theta & \cos \theta \sin \varphi & \cos \theta \cos \varphi \end{bmatrix} \quad (2)$$

Thus vectors \mathbf{X}_b expressed in the body reference frame are transformed into the Earth fixed frame using $\mathbf{X}_0 = \mathcal{R}_{R_b \rightarrow R_0} \mathbf{X}_b$. The angular velocity vector $\boldsymbol{\omega}$ in R_b are linked to the derivatives of the gimbal angles by the following expression:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & \sin \varphi \tan \theta & \cos \varphi \tan \theta \\ 0 & \cos \varphi & -\sin \varphi \\ 0 & \sin \varphi / \cos \theta & \cos \varphi / \cos \theta \end{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{\omega} = \begin{bmatrix} \dot{\varphi} \\ \dot{\theta} \\ \dot{\psi} \end{bmatrix} \quad (3)$$

which presents a singularity for $\theta = \pm\pi/2$. This is however not an issue in normal sailing conditions.

Several explicit numerical integration schemes with various orders are available as well as adaptive time-stepping methods, which enable computational time optimization. In practice, with a small enough time-step, we experienced that the choice of integration scheme had no – or very limited – impact on the result.

External loads are expressed as a superposition of all boat loaded components and can be divided in three main groups: hull loads (H), appendage loads (AP) and aerodynamic loads (AE):

$$\mathbf{F} = \mathbf{F}_H + \mathbf{F}_{AP} + \mathbf{F}_{AE} + \sum_{i,j \in \{H, AP, AE\}} \mathbf{F}_{i/j} + \mathcal{R}_{R_0 \rightarrow R_b} \mathbf{m} \mathbf{g} \quad (4)$$

with \mathbf{g} the gravity vector. The three main components are detailed in the following sections. $\mathbf{F}_{i/j}$ is the interaction term of component i over component j . As in the majority of system-based models most of those interactions are neglected. However, depending on the setups chosen by the user in the pre-computation steps, some of them may be accounted for, such as the interaction between hull and appendages' forces $\mathbf{F}_{AP/H}$ for instance.

3.2. Hull loads

Hydrodynamic loads on the hull can be split in low frequency (maneuvering) and high frequency (seakeeping: radiation and waves) loads.

3.2.1. Maneuvering loads

Instead of the usual hydrodynamic derivatives approach (Abkowitz, 1964) for the maneuvering forces, the dynamic simulation tool uses polynomial response surfaces based on numerical viscous computations (RANS) which allow to decrease the computation burden. The response surfaces are built on steady-state calculations over an appropriate range of hull attitude, sinkage, leeway angle and speed, which are then the input variables to the polynomial fit. The computations are carried out in flat-water conditions, and the hydrostatic components of the loads are removed so that they are only accounted once, when integrating over the wetted surface due to the incoming wave field.

It enables a full modeling of the six components of the hydrodynamic loads on each hull, including dependency to the boat possible changes of attitude and displacement due to the effect of appendages.

3.2.2. Radiation force

The higher frequency loads are based on the classical distinction between radiation, diffraction and Froude–Krylov forces. The former considers damping and added mass effects due to radiated waves generated by ship oscillations at the free surface. They are computed in the frequency-domain using the Boundary Element Method (BEM) code Aquaplus (Delhommeau, 1987) developed at the Ecole Centrale de Nantes. Transformation of these frequency-domain coefficients to the time-domain is carried out through Cummins equation (Cummins, 1962) convolving the impulse response function \mathbf{K} with the hull velocity:

$$\mathbf{F}_{RD} = -\mathbf{A}(\infty, \bar{U}) \ddot{\xi} - \mathbf{B}(\infty, \bar{U}) \dot{\xi} - \int_0^t \mathbf{K}(t - \tau, \bar{U}) \dot{\xi}(\tau) d\tau \quad (5)$$

where \mathbf{F}_{RD} is the radiation force, $\mathbf{A}(\infty, \bar{U})$ and $\mathbf{B}(\infty, \bar{U})$ the added mass and damping at infinite frequency and mean speed \bar{U} and ξ the ship perturbation vector. \mathbf{K} is given by the inverse Fourier transform of the frequency dependent damping component:

$$\mathbf{K}(t, \bar{U}) = \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^\infty [\mathbf{B}(\omega, \bar{U}) - \mathbf{B}_\infty(\bar{U})] \cos(\omega t) d\omega \quad (6)$$

with ω the frequency-domain variable.

3.2.3. Wave loads

As this simulation model is concerned with offshore yachts, only deep water waves are considered. Diffraction loads are the first wave excitation force component. They originate in the reflection of the incident waves on the ship surface. Similarly, they are linearly modeled through the seakeeping code outputs, but directly using the frequency-domain expression :

$$\mathbf{F}_{DF} = A |\mathbf{F}_d|(\omega_e) \cos(kX - \omega t + \varphi_d(\omega_e)) \quad (7)$$

where \mathbf{F}_{DF} is the diffraction force, $|\mathbf{F}_d|$ and φ_d its modulus and phase, X the ship abscissa along the wave propagation axis, k the wave number and A its amplitude. ω_e is the frequency of encounter, which for linear waves is given by:

$$\omega_e = \omega - \frac{\omega^2}{g} U \cos \mu \quad (8)$$

with μ the angle between the ship track and the wave propagation and U the yacht speed.

Finally, Froude–Krylov force \mathbf{F}_{FK} gathers the loads of the incident wave pressure field p_i on the instantaneous ship wetted surface S_w :

$$\mathbf{F}_{FK} = - \iint_{S_w} p_i \mathbf{n} ds \quad (9)$$

where \mathbf{n} is the outward unit normal vector to the body surface. p_i is expressed through potential flow theory of gravity waves:

$$p_i = -\rho \left[\frac{\partial \Phi_i}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{2} (\nabla \Phi_i)^2 \right] \quad (10)$$

with ρ the fluid density and Φ_i the incident waves potential.

While computing Froude–Krylov force, a correction of the hydrostatic loads is also performed to account for the deformation of the free surface.

3.3. Appendage loads

Appendage loads are in a first approach modeled using a Vortex Lattice Method (VLM, see for instance Katz and Plotkin, 2001) with correction for viscous effects. This provides a numerically efficient way to compute the spanwise distribution of lift for lifting surfaces of any aspect ratio, dihedral and sweep. Assuming that the appendages are not located in the wake of one another, their interaction is currently neglected. Velocity induced by the yacht angular motion, wave velocity field and appendage trimming angles are accounted for by computing effective angles between the appendage and the incoming flow following the Quasi-Steady Theory (QST) approach to compute the apparent flow velocity vector:

$$\mathbf{V}_{X/\text{flow}} = \mathbf{V} + \boldsymbol{\omega} \times \mathbf{X} - \mathbf{V}_{wave} \quad (11)$$

where \mathbf{X} is the coordinate vector of the considered location and \mathbf{V}_{wave} is the wave orbital velocity vector. The Vortex Lattice Method provides the full 6 components load tensor of each appendages, also the forces and moments generated by the appendages are accounted for. Loads are computed for each appendage without assuming any symmetry in the setup, so that asymmetric attitudes are reflected in the computed forces and moments and that windward and leeward appendages can be tuned differently.

The reduced frequency f_R provides an interesting measure of the importance of dynamic effects on a hydrofoil. It may be expressed as:

$$f_R = \frac{c}{\mathbf{V}_{X/\text{flow}} T} \quad (12)$$

where c is the foil characteristic chord length and T the characteristic period of the oscillations. In waves, it is typically the period of encounter. According to Fossati and Muggiasca (2011) who cite previous references, the unsteadiness of the flow must be accounted for when reduced frequencies are larger than 0.05. In such cases, the temporal variations of the generated vortices and the added mass effects become

non negligible, specific behaviors such as hysteresis loops are observed. In the considered situation, the reduced frequency encountered by the appendages are expected to be smaller, especially because of their relatively small chord length.

3.4. Aerodynamic loads

Similarly, the aerodynamic models are based on the usual Quasi-Steady Theory assumption (see [Richardt et al., 2005](#); [Keuning et al., 2005](#)). Specifically, steady state sail polars (RANSE calculations) including the three dimensional position of the center of effort are used while the apparent wind calculation accounts for the heel angle (effective angle theory, see e.g. [Kerwin, 1978](#)) and the induced velocity due to the yacht angular motion. Sail forces are assumed to lie in a plane perpendicular to the mast, at the height and longitudinal position given by the position of the center of effort C . Thus in the boat reference frame, the sails force vector is given by:

$$\mathbf{F}_{\text{Sails}} = \frac{1}{2} \rho_{\text{air}} S_{\text{Sails}} \text{AWS}^2 \begin{bmatrix} -C_d \cos \text{AWA} + C_l \sin \text{AWA} \\ -C_l \cos \text{AWA} - C_d \sin \text{AWA} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (13)$$

where C_l and C_d are the three dimensional lift and drag coefficients of the sails given by the polar, ρ_{air} the air density and S_{Sails} the sails total area. AWS and AWA are respectively the apparent wind speed and angle. The force vector is then displaced to the yacht center of gravity G to express the aerodynamic moments:

$$\mathbf{M}_{\text{Sails}}^G = \mathbf{GC} \times \mathbf{F}_{\text{Sails}} \quad (14)$$

The sail polars are built by finding the optimum sail parameters that maximize the driving force, possibly under heeling moment or side force constraints. The de-powering of this optimally trimmed sail plan is modeled through the IMS VPP approach ([Claughton, 1999](#); [Jackson, 2001](#)) using the *Flat* (sail lift reduction) and *Twist* (center of effort lowering) parameters. There is no need for a *Reef* parameter as different polars are used when the sail configuration is altered (change of head sail or reef).

Seakeeping studies of sailing yachts have shown that the transverse aerodynamic inertia provided by the sailplan has a substantial impact on the yacht response especially in roll. In order to account for this phenomenon the method described in [Gerhardt et al. \(2009\)](#) is implemented. The sails added mass is approximated using a strip theory approach and integrating the potential flow expression of the added

mass of a flat plate along the sail surface. The work of [Tuckerman \(1926\)](#) is used to derive a three-dimensional effect factor that proved rather consistent when compared to experimental measurements on a model sail by [Gerhardt et al. \(2009\)](#).

As was shown by [Fossati and Muggiasca \(2011\)](#), [Gerhardt et al. \(2011\)](#) and [Augier et al. \(2014\)](#), such simple models do not fully reproduce the unsteady aerodynamic behavior of sails, and especially hysteresis phenomena. Further work still needs to be carried out to integrate such aspects in DVPPs if higher relative frequencies are to be considered.

Finally, windage is modeled using reference drag areas in a similar manner as the IMS VPP.

3.5. Control systems

Class rules on yacht control systems are a key issue in the future of high-performance sailing, especially offshore. Sportsmanship, human safety, energy consumption, financial costs are intimately linked to the decision to authorize them on board or not. For the time being, the Ultim Class 32/23 does not allow control system other than the helm autopilot. As this paper is concerned with the simulation of an offshore trimaran complying with these class rules, no control system of foils or centerboard is enabled and therefore no control of heel, pitch or ride-height. Unlike dinghies, Moths or America's Cup catamarans, Ultim trimarans take advantage of their substantial inertia which enables them to go through (limited) changes of the environmental conditions, wind gusts for instance, without immediate capsize.

The autopilot is an usual proportional-derivative controller:

$$\delta_R = K_P (\psi - \psi_T) + K_D T_D \dot{\psi} \quad (15)$$

where

- δ_R rudder angle,
- ψ_T targeted heading,
- $\psi, \dot{\psi}$ yacht heading and its first order derivative,
- K_P controller proportional coefficient,
- T_D controller derivative coefficient.

In addition, the controlled parameter, here the rudder angle, is bounded by saturation values to ensure that it remains in a realistic range.

The coefficients used in this paper have been manually tuned on a one degree of freedom (yaw) test simulation. To this end, T_D is first set



(a) First appendage configuration: small foils and rudders. (b) Second appendage configuration: larger foils and rudders, elevator on centerboard.

Fig. 3. Comparison of considered yacht appendage configurations.

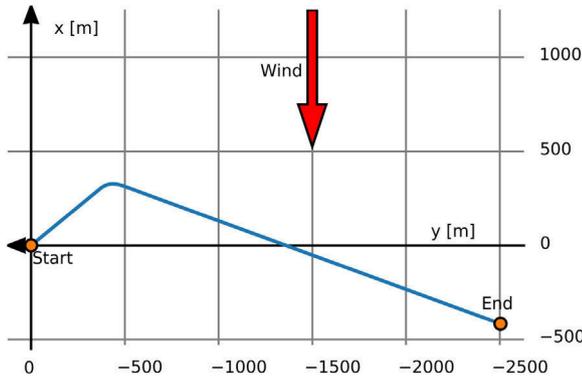
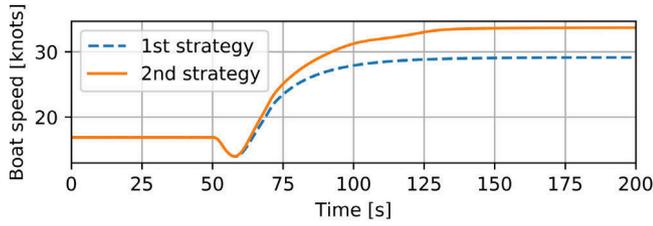
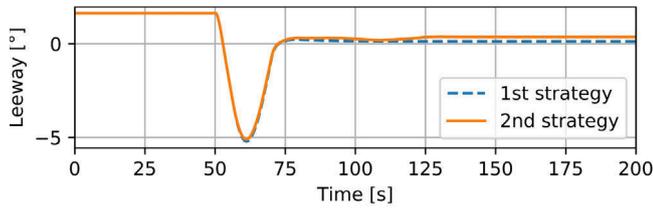


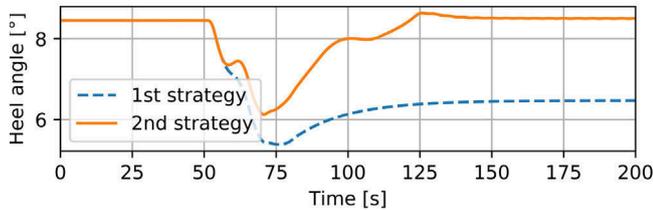
Fig. 4. Yacht trajectory during the maneuver.



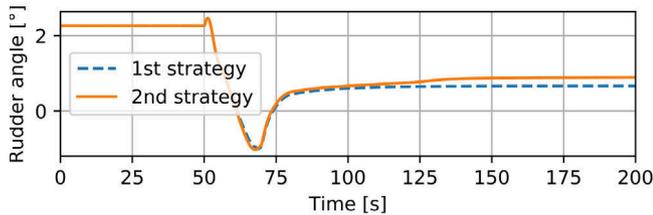
(a) Boat speed.



(b) Leeway angle.



(c) Heel angle.



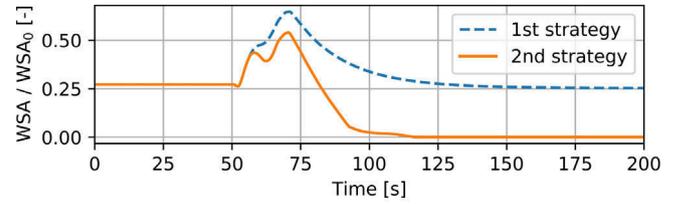
(d) Rudder angle.

Fig. 5. Comparison of the two trimming strategies (Design 1).

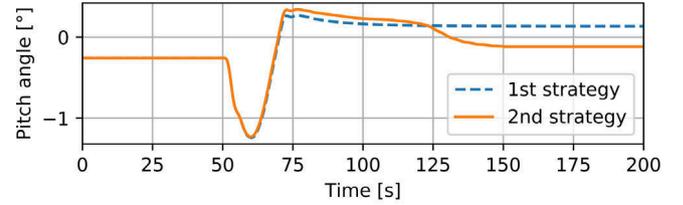
to zero and K_P adjusted by finding a compromise between the system's stability and settling time. Second, T_D is increased to reduce oscillations while avoiding excessive overshoots and instability.

4. Offshore trimaran simulations

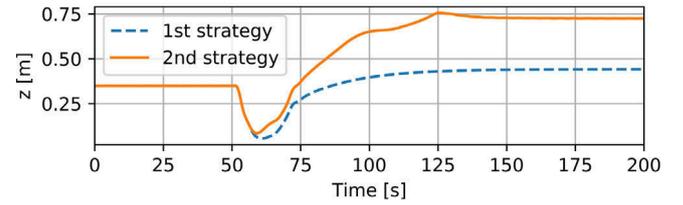
This section presents three application cases of dynamic simulations: a maneuver, a case with unsteady wind on flat water and one in waves.



(e) Relative value of main hull wetted surface area.



(f) Pitch angle (positive bow down).



(g) Main hull altitude.

Fig. 5. (continued).

Table 1
Macif 100 characteristics from (from Macif Course au Large, 2018).

Length L	30.0 m
Breadth B	21.0 m
Max. draft d	4.5 m
Air draft H	35.0 m
Yacht mass m	14,500 kg
Upwind sail area S_{SU}	430 m ²
Downwind sail area S_{SD}	650 m ²
Launched	2015
Architect	VPLP
Shipyard	CDK technologies

Table 2
First appendage configuration characteristics.

	Foil	Board	Main rudder	Float rudder
Max. depth (m)	1.9	3.6	1.8	1.6
Total span (m)	3.2	4.2	3.0	2.7
Mean chord (m)	0.9	1.1	0.5	0.4

4.1. Considered yacht

This section presents three simulation examples which underline specificities and interests of dynamic studies compared to steady ones. The simulated yacht is *Macif 100*, an offshore trimaran of the Ultim class. Skipped by François Gabart, she has been the holder of the single-handed sailing around-the-world record since 2017 (in 42 days 16 h 40 min 35 s). Her main particulars are given in Tables 1 and 2. The first two simulations consider the appendage package that was used for the circumnavigation (Fig. 3a): two small L-foils, one centerboard and three T-rudders (one on each hull), in the last simulation a second set of appendages is used (Fig. 3b), with a larger foil and an elevator on the centerboard. The windward foil is raised to the upper position in all examples.

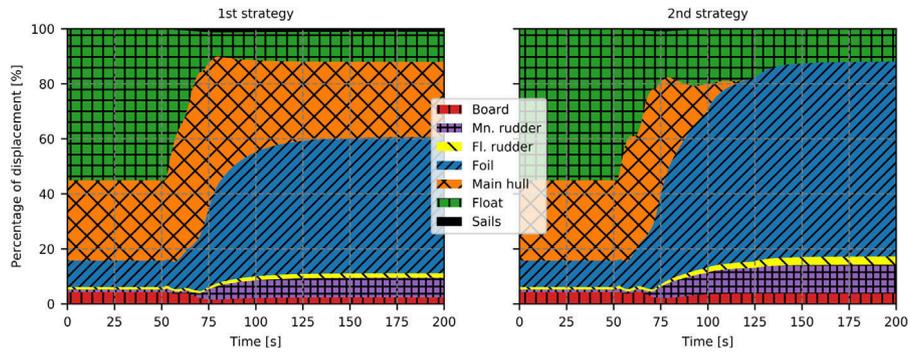


Fig. 6. Distribution of vertical forces (in Earth fixed frame) as a percentage of yacht displacement (Design 1).

4.2. Simple maneuver

As known by VPP engineers, a given configuration (the parameters of the VPP: appendage tunings, ballast, sail trim, etc.) may lead to different equilibrium states (and thus different boat speeds), especially when the yacht has the ability to sail in different modes (Archimedean, fully flying, hybrid). The aim of this first simulation is to illustrate this specificity by comparing two sail trimming strategies, while adapting to new sailing conditions, and showing that even though the final configuration is the same in both cases, the final state largely differs, with a substantial speed delta.

Flat water conditions are considered. The yacht initially sails upwind in 19 knots of wind at 50° True Wind Angle on port tack. The simulation is carried out in six degrees of freedom, with no active control system other than an autopilot for the rudder angle. At $t = 50$ s, the target heading is increased by sixty degrees so that the yacht bears away (see Fig. 4). No change of sail is allowed.

As explained in Section 3.4, the sail polars give the sail forces at the considered steady Apparent Wind Angle (AWA) for an optimal trim. In dynamic conditions, such an approach is an idealization as it means that the sails are trimmed for maximum driving force at the same rate as the Apparent Wind Angle varies. However, the maximum driving force may not be the tuning that allows the maximal speed.

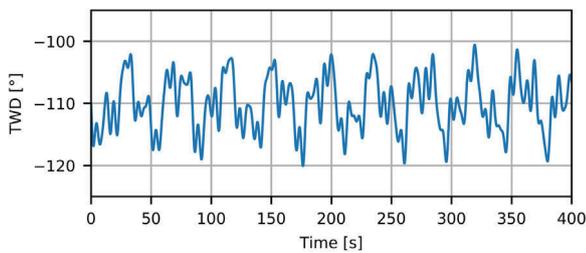


Fig. 7. True Wind Direction evolution.

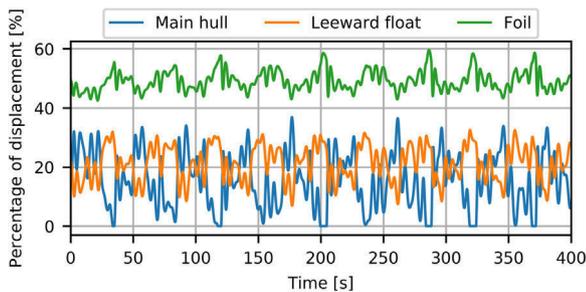
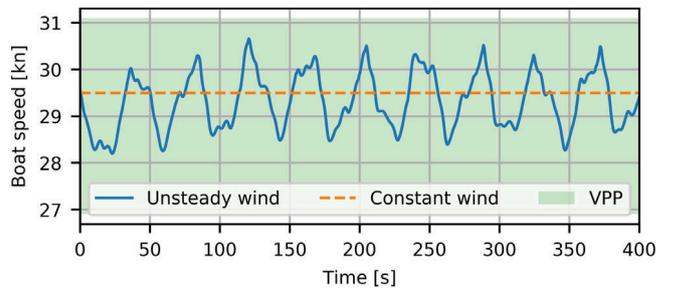
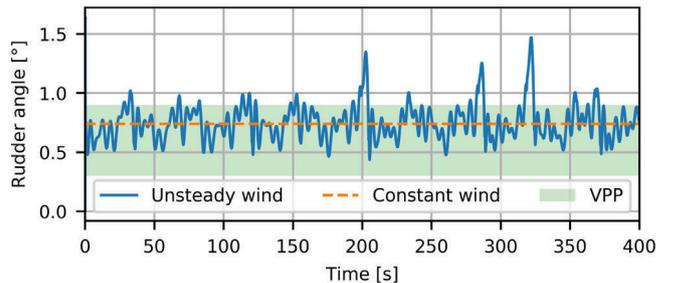


Fig. 8. Time series of hulls and foil vertical forces (in Earth fixed frame) as percentage of yacht displacement (Design 1).

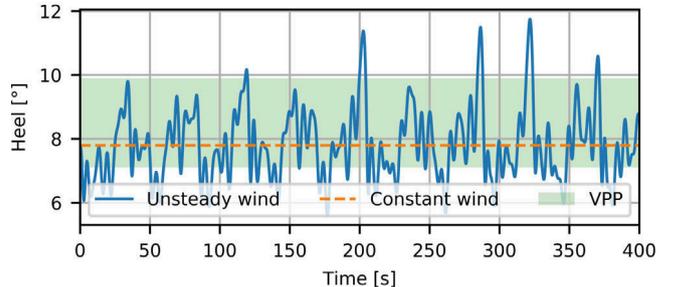
VPP studies carried out to optimize initial and final states configurations (board extension, rudder rake, *Flat* and *Twist*, etc.) show that the sails must be de-powered (twisted) after the bearing away maneuver. The sail twist enables to lower the center of effort, which decreases the heeling moment at the cost of an increased drag coefficient. The compared strategies focus on the timing of this specific action. In the first one, twist is operated progressively, but directly after the rudder action, while in the second one, the sails are twisted only after the main hull is lifted out of the water.



(a) Boat speed.



(b) Rudder angle.



(c) Heel angle.

Fig. 9. Dynamic simulation results compared to steady VPP optimization on the same True Wind Angle value (orange) and range (green) (Design 1). (For interpretation of the references to color in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

With the second strategy the yacht maintains a strong heeling moment which makes her heel and decreases the wetted area of the main hull. The yacht can then accelerate, increasing thus the lift force of the foil in a virtuous circle that sees the hulls dynamic buoyancy and drag replaced by the foil action. Finally, the sails need to be twisted to enable the heeling moment to be balanced (as the boat accelerates, the aerodynamic heeling moment keeps on increasing otherwise). Acting too soon, as in the first strategy, prevents the yacht, under-powered, from lifting the main hull (Figs. 5c, and 5g), with an implicated lack of speed of more than 4.5 knots (Fig. 5a).

Pushed by the inertial forces after the start of the turn, the yacht keeps briefly a non negligible speed component in the direction of her initial motion, that is to windward. This explains the negative leeway peak shown in Fig. 5b.

The ratio of the main hull wetted surface area to its nominal value is shown in Fig. 5e. Its evolution is close to the heel angle behavior and, while it saturates at about 25% when using the first strategy, it indeed tends to zero in the second case, which corresponds to flying the main hull.

The pitch angle evolution is visible in Fig. 5f. Its evolution is driven by three main phenomena. First, the appendage tuning is changed during the maneuver, altering the pitching moment generated initially. The tuning history being similar in both strategies, this does not cause the difference between their final state. Second, after the maneuver, speeds are higher in both strategies, and as the speed increases, the aerodynamic bow down moment increases, leading to a greater pitch

angle. Finally, a last factor is at stake in the second strategy: the main hull leaves the water and its pitching moment component vanishes. That is why the second strategy shows a lower pitch angle than the first one.

While the timing of the sail twist varies between both strategies, other parameters are altered when bearing away but with identical timing in both cases. It is for instance necessary to partially lift up the centerboard and to change the rake angle of foils and rudders. This modifies the balance of the boat and explains the perturbations seen on the time series.

Fig. 6 shows the time evolution of the distribution of vertical forces (aligned with acceleration of gravity) as a percentage of the yacht displacement. On both strategies, the load transfer from the float to the foil as the speed increases is visible, allowing to accelerate even more as the foil has a substantially better lift to drag ratio at such speeds. As previously shown, in the second strategy, the main hull is lifted out of the water by the sails heeling moment and the displacement is transferred to the foil and to a lesser extent to the float. Finally, the foil carries 50% of the yacht in the first strategy while in the second strategy this percentage reaches 70%.

This simulation highlights an interesting aspect verified in full-scale: one must build up speed before setting on the final configuration and track. This is very important as – especially for foiling yachts which can evolve in very different modes – one given configuration does not lead to a unique equilibrium. Dynamic simulation allows to work on

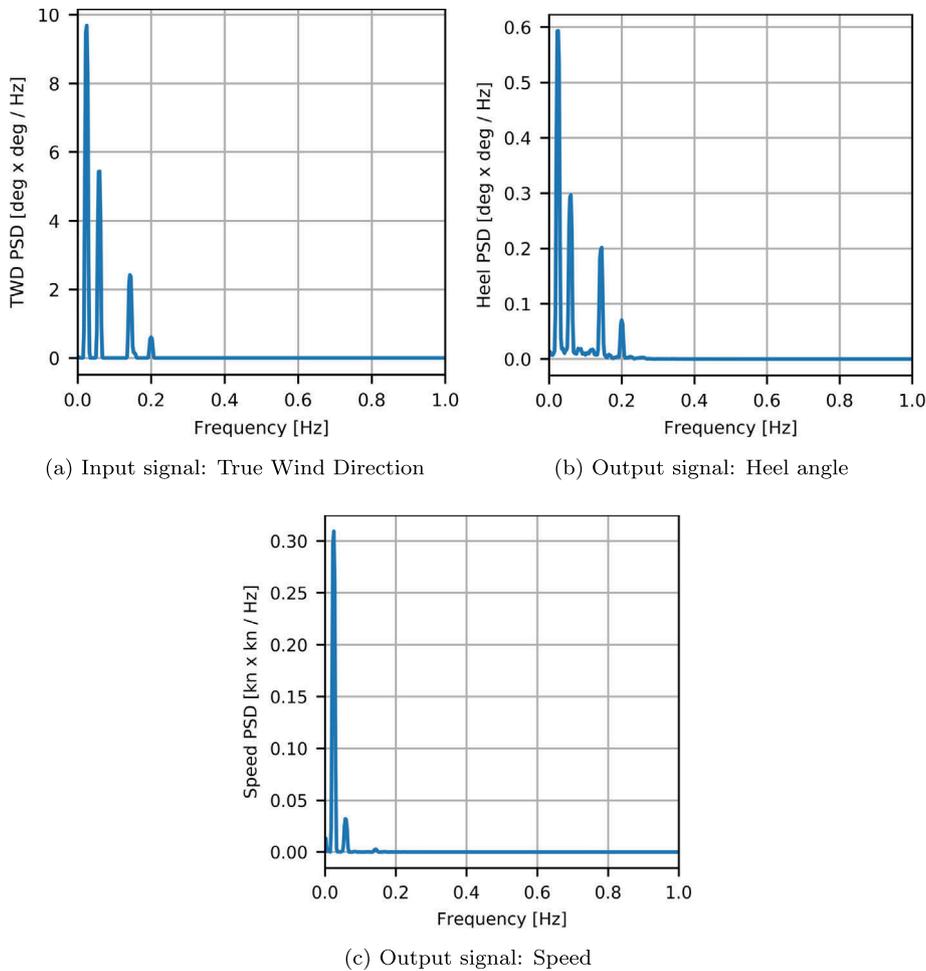


Fig. 10. Power spectral density of the input and output signals showing the boat speed low-pass filtering (Design 1).

Table 3
Wind sinusoidal components.

i	Period [s]	Intensity factor
1	41	0.04
2	17	0.03
3	7	0.02
4	6.5	0.005
5	5	0.01

the strategy necessary to reach the VPP optimized steady speed and to optimize those transient phases.

4.3. Behavior in unsteady wind conditions

This second simulation case aims at showing the interest of dynamic studies to predict potentially critical situations when evolving in unsteady conditions. The consequences on the yacht behavior of an irregular wind are studied. For this example, unsteadiness is modeled by adding sinusoidal components to the mean True Wind Direction TWD_0 while the True Wind Speed is kept constant at 18 knots:

$$TWD(t) = TWD_0 \left[1 + \sum_i k_i \sin\left(\frac{2\pi}{T_i} t\right) \right] \quad (16)$$

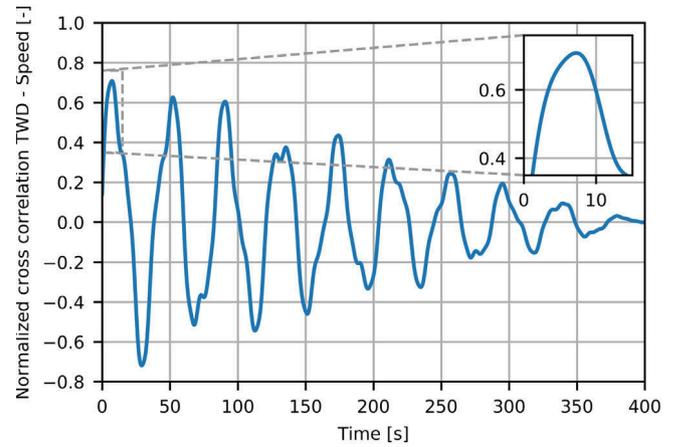
The periods T_i and the intensity factors k_i of the five sinusoidal components are chosen arbitrarily. They are given in Table 3. Periods are chosen so that they are not multiples of each other, in order to increase the time necessary to observe a periodic behavior. Time evolution of the True Wind Direction is visible in Fig. 7 over the time range of the simulation, those variations impact both the Apparent Wind Speed and the Apparent Wind Angle.

Flat water conditions are considered. At $t = 0$, the simulation is launched from a VPP optimized equilibrium corresponding to TWA 110° / TWS 18 kn, so that the unsteady wind acts as a perturbation to this situation. It is interesting to notice that, in such a configuration the boat speed is about 30 knots, and therefore a major component of the apparent wind. The fluctuations of the apparent wind are thus much smaller than the true wind variations. During the 400 s simulation the standard deviation of the True Wind Direction is 4.3° and the amplitude between extrema is 19.5° , while the corresponding values for the Apparent Wind Angle are respectively 1.4° and 6.1° . Some of the simulation outputs are shown in Figs. 8 and 9. The yacht is free to move in 6 degrees of freedom, while an autopilot with a constant heading target ($\psi_T = 0^\circ$) controls the rudders.

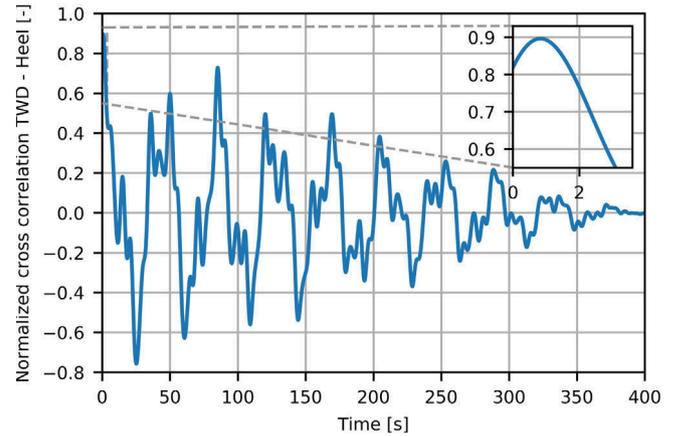
As can be seen from Fig. 8, the yacht evolves in hybrid mode, with in average 50% of the yacht displacement sustained by the foil.

One can notice three peaks where the heel angle almost reaches 12° (at t equals 200, 280 and 320 s, see Fig. 9c). Consistently, Fig. 7 shows that they correspond to situations where the wind heads (TWD maxima as the yacht heads North on port tack). However, such values of the True Wind Angle are reached several times without resulting in such heel angle peaks. This demonstrates how the wind sequence has a strong impact on the yacht instantaneous behavior and proves how necessary time-domain simulations are for the complete understanding of the yacht behavior.

Similarly, Fig. 9 shows in green the limits reached in a steady VPP when the yacht configuration is kept constant and the True Wind Angle ranges from 100° up to 120° , the minimal and maximal values of Fig. 7. The heel variations are highly correlated to the wind direction signal, but very high peaks occur incidentally. This shows, as could be expected, that steady state analysis can miss critical situations. On the contrary, the simulated boat speed is well contained within the VPP limits, as the wind oscillates too quickly for the speed to settle to the steady equilibrium values seen in VPP. The average speed during the simulated sequence is 29.3 knots, which is slightly below the speed reached in steady wind (29.5 knots).



(a) Boat speed.



(b) Heel angle.

Fig. 11. Normalized cross-correlation function between True Wind Direction and boat speed (a) and Heel angle (b) (the first peak is highlighted in the enlargement).

Unlike the other outputs, the boat speed presents a low frequency component strongly dominating the high frequency ones. This low-pass filtering can be explained by the loads' dependency to the boat speed that tends to damp the response as well as, unlike heel or heave, the absence of a strong hydrodynamic stiffness. This can be verified by comparing the power spectral densities of the output signals with the input one (Fig. 10), which consistently shows that the first component of the speed PSD is largely dominant over the other components. On the contrary, the signals of angular position show a spectrum that is relatively close to the input one, with some additional very small harmonics. The fourth component being rather weak and close to the third one, it is hardly distinguishable in the shown spectra.

Another difference between the yacht attitudes and her horizontal velocity components is the delay with which they respond to the wind perturbation. This can be shown by computing the normalized cross-correlation function between input and output signals (see Fig. 11). The first peak height gives the strength of the correlation while the abscissa indicates the phase shift. As expected the heel angle is highly correlated to the True Wind Direction (maximum correlation coefficient of 0.90) with a very short 0.85 s lag. On the contrary, the boat speed, which is also well correlated (maximum correlation coefficient of 0.71), presents a much higher delay of 7.22 s.

This simulation case has shown that a VPP is unable to predict the critical phases that can occur in unsteady conditions and that may be detrimental to the yacht safety and performance. DVPPs allow to study

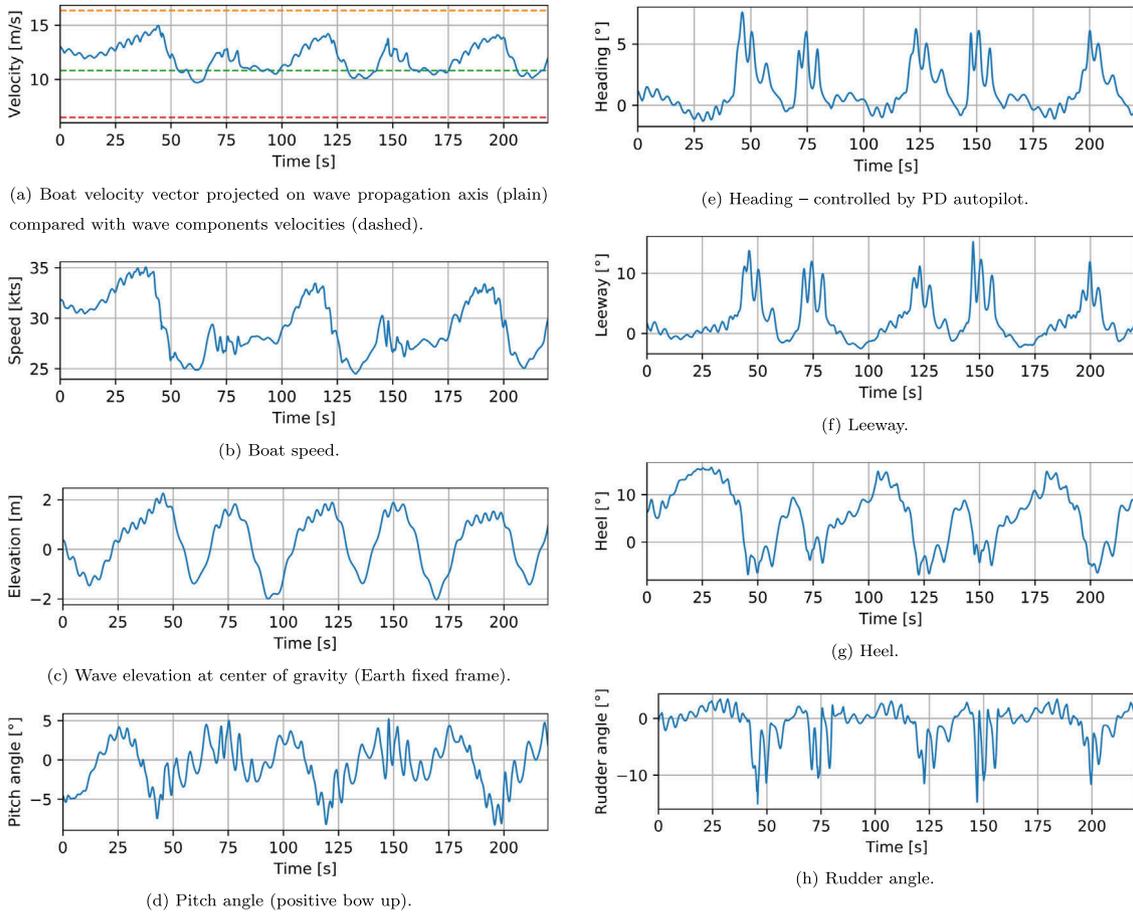


Fig. 12. Downwind sailing in waves results (Design 2).

Table 4
Wave components properties.

i	Period [s]	Amplitude [m]	Wavelength [m]	Phase velocity [m/s]
1	10.46	1.69	171.1	16.34
2	6.92	0.49	74.8	10.80
3	4.15	0.18	26.9	6.48

these critical situations. Furthermore, they enable to study and improve the ship tuning parameters to optimize the speed in unsteady conditions and smooth even more the output signal. Besides, in such situations, the tuning of the autopilot coefficients may have significant impact on the response. DVPPs thus allow to study the effects of given coefficients and may be used within the tuning loop to optimize the behavior of on-board control systems.

4.4. Downwind sailing in waves

Finally, this third simulation case aims at modeling a sequence in the Southern Oceans (Indian or Pacific) which are generally almost totally sailed downwind in westerly winds. Southern ocean properties corresponding to the period December–January have been chosen based on Young (1999). The sea state is constructed by superposition of three wave components (Table 4) representing respectively the low, medium and high frequency parts of a fully-developed spectrum of about 4.5 m significant wave height and 12.0 s peak period. All three components propagate in the same direction as the wind.

The pilot target is set at 140° of the wind direction. Results are shown in Figs. 12 and 13.

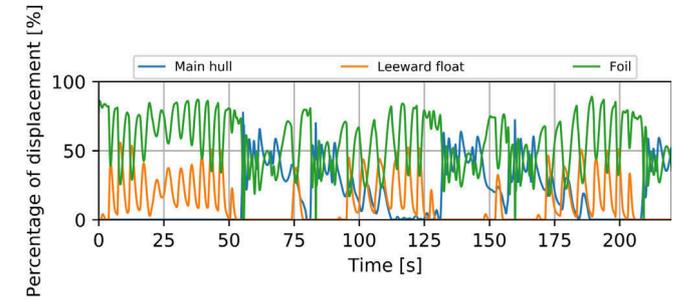


Fig. 13. Hulls and foil vertical forces (in Earth fixed frame) as percentage of yacht displacement (Design 2).

While the phase velocities of the three wave components are respectively 16.3, 10.8 and 6.5 m/s (Fig. 12a), the yacht speed projected along the wave propagation axis ranges between 9.7 and 15.0 m/s. When caught up by the largest wave component, the yacht almost reaches its velocity. On the contrary, the smaller components are mostly overtaken by the yacht.

Fig. 12c shows the free surface elevation at the horizontal coordinates of the yacht center of gravity. The correspondence with the boat speed evolution (Fig. 12b) is clearly visible. When the crests of the largest wave component arrives at the ship (Fig. 14a), she is pushed forward and surfs (between $t = 25$ s and 40 s for instance, see Fig. 14b). The yacht mean speed is 30 knots but it undergoes very large variations, ranging from 25 up to 35 knots during the surfing phases.

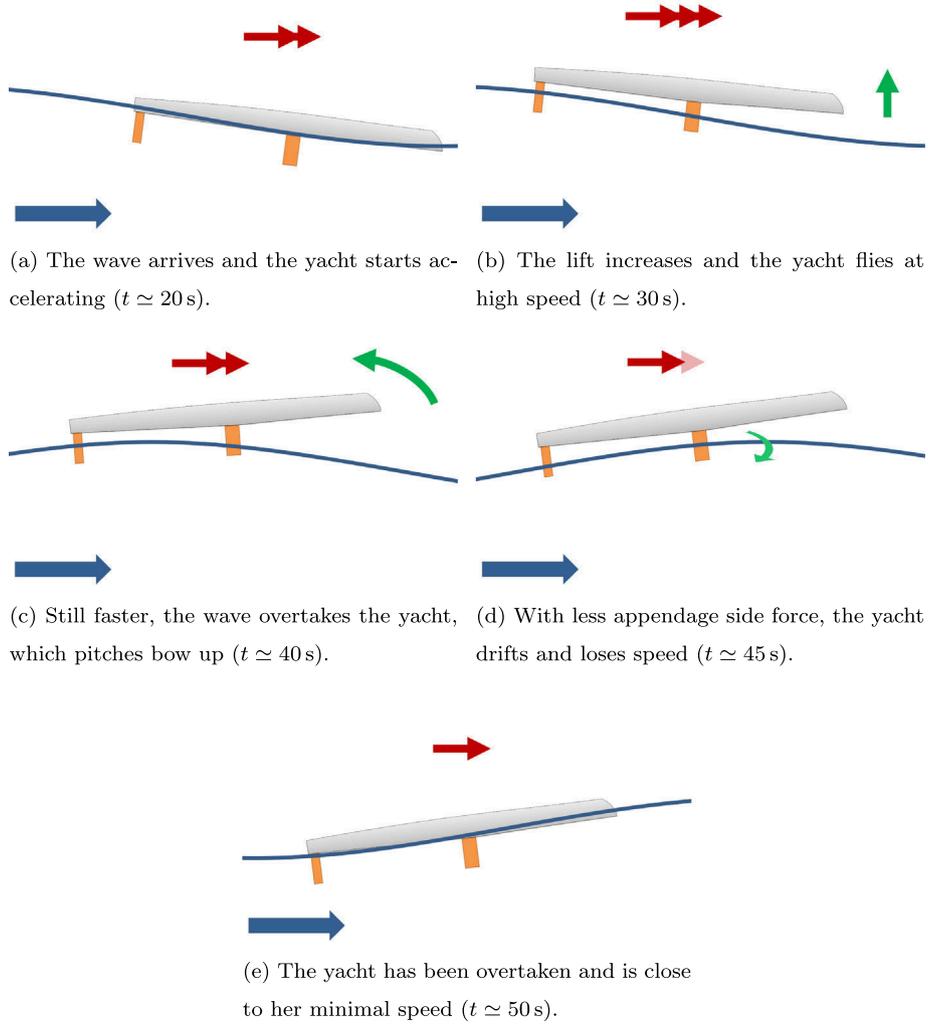


Fig. 14. Schematic sequence of the downwind simulation in waves (Blue arrows: wave propagation, red arrows: yacht speed, green arrows: yacht attitude evolution). (For interpretation of the references to color in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

As the yacht surfs in front of the coming wave, the orbital velocities further increase the appendage lift (by increasing the angle of attack, consequence of the wave vertical velocity component), especially of the foils, and the yacht may reach a flying mode (Fig. 13). She remains however slightly slower than the wave and is progressively overtaken. As it happens the effect of orbital velocities on the rear appendages is inverted (the wave vertical velocity becomes negative) and their lift decreases, as well as the efficiency of their pitch stabilizing effect. The pitch angle is reduced (Figs. 12d and 14c) and the bow gains altitude over the free surface. Consequently, the immersed surface of the foil shaft decreases, leading to a drop in the side force, making the yacht bear away and drift (see Figs. 12e, 12f, for instance at $t = 40$ s, and Fig. 14d). Drifting, and not pushed anymore by the wave, the yacht slows down and reenters the water (Fig. 14e). It may reach negative heel angles (Fig. 12g) due to the coupled effect of decreased aerodynamic heeling moment (less apparent wind speed) and buoyancy on the leeward float bow that may touch the wave. The yacht finally realigns with her heading target as the pilot acts on the rudder (Fig. 12h), and the sequence starts again when another large wave arrives.

In Fig. 12c, one can notice the presence of higher harmonics when elevation is positive and smoother behavior otherwise. A possible explanation would be that the appendages that carry the boat when elevation is large are more sensitive to small changes in the free surface elevation due to the high frequency waves than the hulls for which free surface

variations are averaged along a larger length. This is however not clearly visible from the vertical loads time series (Fig. 13). A second, more convincing, possible explanation is that the platform stability is higher when in Archimedean or hybrid mode than in flying mode, so that the high frequency perturbations are better filtered out.

It is interesting to note that the proportional coefficient of the heading autopilot (1.5 here) has a critical impact on the yacht behavior: with a too stiff autopilot the rudder corrections are too abrupt and the yacht drifts largely, while with a too small coefficient the yacht slaloms slowly, making very wide turns with substantial impacts on the velocity made to mark. The wave spectrum being fully developed and having a tight resonance peak, the first wave component is largely predominant over the others. A quasi-periodic behavior with frequency corresponding to the encounter frequency of this component can thus be observed on the provided time series. A pilot that would be aware of the position of the waves would be able to anticipate the yacht motion while she is overtaken. An autopilot algorithm with learning abilities would be able to recognize such a repeating pattern and determine an action to prevent it. Dynamic simulation allows to develop, train and test such controllers.

5. Conclusion

This paper describes the development and models of a numerical tool for sailing yacht dynamic behavior analysis. Example simulations

are presented to demonstrate the DVPP abilities, especially to study dynamic situations in which the yacht attitudes heavily differ from the corresponding steady state ones. In particular, it is shown how for identical values of the wind angle it is possible to observe highly different boat speed and attitudes depending on the recent history of the yacht and her environment. Examples of dynamic simulation show how the simulator can resolve the dynamic response of the yacht in unsteady wind and in waves as well as the sensibility of the yacht behavior to the tuning strategies, and the necessity for the user to find a tuning path to the VPP optimized boat speed.

This second design configuration proves to be closer to a flying mode – which is consistent with the increased size of the lifting surfaces – with a foil that carries in average 60% of the yacht displacement (30% for the hulls, see Fig. 13) while for the first configuration in the unsteady wind simulation the distribution was respectively 50% and 40% (Fig. 8). The last 10% are mainly distributed between the T-rudders. The lifting board of design 2 has a small averaged contribution as, due to the large trim variations it regularly exerts a negative lift force. Its main interest resides here in a stabilizing effect.

Such a numerical tool therefore brings a relevant help to yacht designers and sailors in order to predict and identify critical situations where the dynamic stability and performance of the yacht can be affected. Furthermore, from such a non-linear model, it is possible to derive simpler models for specific use. One may for instance compute the load derivatives to perform stability analysis around given equilibrium points and derive the eigenvectors and natural modes of the system (Heppel, 2015), which can then be compared to actual time-domain simulation. Deriving linear models from the initial non-linear one is also of great help for control systems tuning (Legursky, 2013). To further study the motion stability, deriving dedicated criteria and quantities based on dynamic simulations should help assess the quality of given appendages design.

Further work is however still needed, especially regarding appendages and aerodynamic loads, to handle a wider range of dynamic situations, for instance to model imperfectly trimmed sails.

CRediT authorship contribution statement

Paul Kerdraon: Methodology, Software, Writing - original draft. **Boris Horel:** Supervision, Writing - review & editing. **Patrick Bot:** Supervision, Writing - review & editing. **Adrien Letourneur:** Supervision, Writing - review & editing. **David Le Touzé:** Supervision, Writing - review & editing.

Declaration of competing interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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