Numerical Study on the Plume Behavior of Multiple Stacks of Container Ships

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Abstract: This paper showed different plume behaviors of exhausts from different number of stacks of the container ship, using CFD code PHOENICS version 6.0. The plume behavior was quantitatively analyzed by mass fraction of the pollutant in the exhaust and plume heights. Three simplified typical configurations were constructed by CFD according to the investigation of container ships. The configurations included a single main stack (BL1), one main stack and multiple auxiliary stacks (BL2), and two main stacks and multiple auxiliary stacks (BL3). All the main stacks had the same emission characteristics, and all the auxiliary stacks had the same emission characteristics. The results show that the transmission and diffusion characteristics of the exhaust from multiple stacks are different from those of the exhaust from a single stack. In BL2 and BL3 simulations, the maximum mass fraction of SO\(_2\) in the exhaust (C1\(_{\text{max}}\)) of multiple stack emissions was approximately 329% and 269% higher than that of single stack emissions over the main stack, respectively, and the plume height of multiple stack emissions is higher than that of single stack emissions. In BL2 and BL3 simulations, the plume height of multiple stack emissions was 41% and 75% higher than that of single stack emissions, respectively. The increase of C1\(_{\text{max}}\), due to multiple stack emissions, is weakened as the distance of the stacks increase. The difference in plume behavior between multiple stack emissions and single stack emissions is of great significance for air quality management and pollution control in port areas.

Keywords: plume behavior; container ship; multiple stacks; numerical simulation; CFD

1. Introduction

With the development of international trade and globalization, ship emissions have a significant impact on air pollution [1] and may influence the global and local environment, human health, and quality of life, especially in offshore and coastal areas [2–6]. Maritime trade accounted for more than 80% of global trade by the end of 2015 [7]. In the last few years, the total number of ships and ports in China has rapidly increased, making the regional pollution in port cities more serious [8]. Therefore, the increasing concentration of pollutants in port cities needs more attention [9,10], and ship pollution has become an important source.

The most common ship pollutants include carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons, and primary and secondary particles. Zhao et al. [11] monitored and analyzed the pollutant concentrations in Shanghai Ports and used the backward trajectory analysis to discover that SO\(_2\) and NO\(_2\) in coastal areas were mainly caused by ship emissions. Chen et al. [12] combined SMOKE/WRF/CMAQ (the Spare Matrix Operator Kernel Emissions/Weather Research and Forecast/Community Multiscale Air Quality model) with a ship emission inventory to show that N and S depositions in coastal and offshore areas contributed by ship emissions were more than 15 kg ha\(^{-1}\) yr\(^{-1}\). Liu et al. [13] combined measurement results and WRF/CMAQ (the Weather Research and Forecasting/Community Multiscale Air Quality model) to determine that up to 20–30%
(2–7µg/m³) of PM$_{2.5}$ concentration was generated by ship emissions in coastal and riverside areas of Shanghai.

Murena et al. [14] assessed the influence of cruise ship emissions on air quality in the port of Naples using CALPUFF (the California Puff model) and compared the results with fixed monitoring data. The correlation between the measurement results and simulation results was low; the study attributed this to the fact that the pollutant sources of fixed monitoring points were more than those of ship simulation, which were limited in the seaside area.

Karla et al. [15] compared the results of CALPUFF with the measurement results and investigated the concentrations of PM$_{2.5}$, NO$_2$, and SO$_2$ contributed by ship emissions in James Bay, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. The study reported that the results of CALPUFF were lower than measurement results, inferring that the ship model had not been effectively established and some unknown sources were not considered. In June 2018, we also found several special cases where the pollutant concentrations monitored by unmanned aerial vehicles were significantly higher than those simulated by WRF/CALPUFF, during a short-term observation period in Yantian Port, Shenzhen. A logical assumption was that the plume height of measurement results was significantly lower than that of simulation results due to the model setup, which was consistent with the reasons noted in [15].

The superstructure of the ship is an important factor in modeling, which may have a significant impact on the plume behavior. Vijayakumar et al. [16] conducted a wind tunnel study on the ship superstructure to investigate the interaction between the exhaust smoke and superstructure. The study found that the downwash would occur when the distance between the mast and the funnel was close. Kulkarni et al. [17] performed a wind tunnel study to assess the exhaust smoke–superstructure interaction on the ship. The study found that the exhaust smoke from two funnels, which had the same structure, had two different plume trajectories when the first funnel was in front of the second one. The exhaust from the first funnel disturbed the plume distribution of the second one. Park et al. [18] carried out CFD (the Computational Fluid Dynamics model) study to argue that ineffective funnel designs would influence the plume distribution and could damage the ship’s electronic equipment on the superstructure. Kulkarni et al. [19] investigated the interaction between the exhaust smoke and ship superstructures. The study compared the results of CFD with measurement results, demonstrating the usefulness of CFD as a tool to simulate the exhaust plume emitted from ship funnel.

Previous studies assumed that multiple stacks on container ships were a single whole unit, without considering that the plume behavior of the exhaust from multiple stacks may be different from that of the exhaust from a single stack, due to the concentrated release of hot smoke. This may lead to measurement errors in the study conducted on regional scale. Schulman and Scire [20] found that the plume height of exhaust from a single line source was much lower than that of exhaust from multiple line sources that were close to each other. The plume height was relative to the length and design of the line sources. Sumner et al. [21] showed that, compared to the turbulence flow around stacks of single stack emissions, the turbulence flow around stacks of two stack emissions showed a significant difference. The Environmental Protecting Research Institute at the Central Research Institute of Building and Construction in China [22] conducted a wind tunnel study to evaluate the plume height of exhaust emitted from two stacks that were close to each other. The study found that the plume height of exhaust emitted from two stacks was approximately 33% higher than that of exhaust emitted from a single stack. Therefore, further studies are needed to clarify the difference in exhaust plume behaviors between multiple stack emissions and single stack emissions.

In this study, three simplified stack configurations of container ships were established using CFD (the Computational Fluid Dynamics model). This paper further quantitative analyzes the difference in mass fraction of SO$_2$ in the exhaust and the exhaust plume height.
between single stack emissions and multiple stack emissions, providing technical support and theoretical basis for subsequent ship pollution simulation research.

2. Methods

2.1. Nomenclature

In this paper, qualitative analysis was showed in the results using some nomenclatures, as shown in Table 1.

| Nomenclature                  | Description                                                                 |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| \( C_{10} \cdot M1/A1 \)      | Mass fraction of \( SO_2 \) in the exhaust from the stack at the outlet of the main/auxiliary stack |
| \( C_{1} \)                   | Mass fraction of \( SO_2 \) in the plume                                     |
| \( C_{1_{\text{max}}} \cdot M1/A1 \) | The maximum \( C_1 \) over the main stack on the M1/A1 plane                 |
| \( C_{1_{\text{1km}}} \cdot M1 \) | The maximum \( C_1 \) at around 1 km downwind of the stack on the M1 plane   |
| \( V_{\text{wind}} \)         | Wind speed                                                                   |

2.2. Physical Model Setup

In the present study, three typical simplified stack configurations were established to analyze the transport and distribution of \( SO_2 \) in the exhaust. The configurations selected were based on the investigation on 116 container ships in June 2018, in the Shenzhen port, Guangdong, China, as shown in Table 2. The first configuration (BL1) was modeled on the ship GRETE MAERSK, consisting of a single main stack, as the ship exhaust was from a single stack. The second configuration (BL2) was modeled on the ship MSC LAURENCE, consisting of a main stack and six auxiliary stacks, located on either side of the main stack. The ship pollution was contributed by the main engine, auxiliary engine, and boiler. The third configuration (BL3) was modeled on the ship MATHILDE MAERSK and consisted of two main stacks and six auxiliary stacks. The lines in Table 1 marked M1, A1, and A2 are the centerlines of the main stacks and auxiliary stacks.

| Stack Configuration          | Corresponding Physical Models |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| BL1 (Single Main Stack)      | Real ships                    |
| BL2 (A Main Stack and Multi-Auxiliary Stacks) | Real ships, CFD Models |
| BL3 (Two Main Stacks and Multi-Auxiliary Stacks) | Real ships, CFD Models |

The diameters of the main stack and the auxiliary stack were 2.5 and 0.8 m, respectively. The distance between the main stack and the auxiliary stack was 1.75 m, and the distance between two main stacks was 9.5 m.
2.3. Computational Domain and Numerical Considerations

The computational domain covered a volume of 2600 (global x axis in this analysis) × 400 (global y axis in this analysis) × 1000 m (global z axis in this analysis). The dimension of the ship was 324 (length) × 43 (width) × 40 (height) m³. The structured grid was selected in this study, which was automatically generated after physical modeling. The mesh had 1,040,000 tetrahedral cells, as shown in Figure 1.

![Figure 1](image-url)

**Figure 1.** The ship model, the domain, and the grids in CFD: (a) model setting on the X–Z plane; (b) model setting on the Y–Z plane.

The standard $k$-$\varepsilon$ turbulence model was used in the CFD (PHOENICS version 6.0) modeling. The boundary conditions, initial conditions, governing equations, and some other assumptions are shown in Table 3.

| Boundary conditions | All solid surfaces were set as non-slip conditions. In the bottom of the domain, a no-slip, adiabatic WALL boundary condition was applied. |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Initial conditions  | The temperature of ambient air was maintained at 20 °C. The flow rate of the exhaust from the main stacks in three simulations was 187.5 m³/s. The flow rate of the exhaust from the auxiliary stacks in Simulation II and Simulation III were 1.28 m³/s. The $C_{l0}$-$M_{1}$ in three simulations were all $1.49 \times 10^{-3}$. The $C_{l0}$-$A_{1}$ in Simulation II and Simulation III were $1.645 \times 10^{-3}$. The exhaust temperature of all stacks in three simulations were maintained at 330 °C. |
| Governing equations | Equations used in the paper are as follows: Continuity equation; Momentum conservation equation; Energy conservation equation; Turbulence energy ($k$) equation; Turbulence dissipation rate ($\varepsilon$) equation. |
| Extra assumptions   | Applied the Boussinesq Hypothesis that the effect of buoyancy is only considered with respect to gravity. |
The wind blew from the ship’s head to the end (East Wind), the inlet wind speed described by the following power law profile:

\[ \frac{v}{v_r} = \left( \frac{z}{z_r} \right)^{1.7} \]  

(1)

where \( v \) is the average wind speed at the height \( z \) above the ground; \( u_r \) is the reference average wind speed at the height \( z_r \) above the ground.

3. Approach Adopted

The analysis of the exhaust emitted from stacks is complicated. The turbulence model and governing equations used in this study need to accurately predict the flow field in this situation, making the results of ship simulations credible. Therefore, it is essential to validate the predictions from CFD (PHOENICS version 6.0) simulations with the benchmark data. The benchmark can be experimental data, analytical data, or other numerical results [23].

The results of the previous study, “Impacts of Upstream Building Height and Stack Location on Pollutant Dispersion from a Rooftop Stack” [24], were used as benchmark data. The physical model configurations are shown in Figure 2, which were based on the wind tunnel models established by Chavez et al. [25] in the wind tunnel experiments, at the Boundary Layer Wind Tunnel of Concordia University.

Figure 2. Physical models of the reference paper and CFD: (a) models of the reference paper; (b) CFD models.

The wind flew from the left side (west wind); the average speed was described as following power law profile:

\[ U(z) = 6.2 \left( \frac{z}{0.075} \right)^{0.31} \text{ m/s} \]  

(2)

where \( U(z) \) is the average wind speed at the height of \( z \) above the ground.

There were many cases in the reference paper, so the result of one case was selected to compare the result of the numerical simulations by CFD code PHOENICS version 6.0, using the standard \( k-\varepsilon \) turbulence model and governing equations mentioned in Section 2.3. The dimensions of the upstream building (B1) were 0.075 (length) \times 0.25 (width) \times 0.075 (height) m³, and the dimension of the downstream building (B2) were 0.25 (length) \times 0.25 (width) \times 0.075 (height) m³. The distance from the stack to the upwind edge of building B2 was 0.005 m, and the distance between two buildings was 0.1 m. The stack was 0.005 m high, and the stack diameter was 0.003 m. The pollutant SF₆ emitted from the stack was simulated as \( Q = 4.38 \times 10^{-5} \text{ m}^3/\text{s} \) (\( Q \) was the flow rate of the pollutant at the outlet of the stack) and \( C_e \) (the concentration of SF₆ in the exhaust) was 10 ppm. Figure 3 qualitatively compares the flow field and normalized dilution contours between the reference paper and CFD simulation on the centerline plane of the buildings.
Figure 3. Qualitative comparison of the results between the reference paper and CFD simulation; (a) results of the reference paper; (b) results of CFD.

The study evaluated the dispersion of the plume by normalized dilution, as shown in following equation:

\[ D_{normalized} = \frac{D_r Q}{U B_2 H_{B2}^2} \quad D_r = \frac{C_e}{C_r} \]  

where \( D_{normalized} \) is the normalized dilution at a coordinate location, with \( C_r \) is the concentration of pollutant at the corresponding location. \( C_e = 10 \text{ ppm}, Q = 4.38 \times 10^{-5} \text{ m}^3/\text{s}, U_{B2} = 6.2 \text{ m/s}, \) and \( H_{B2} = 0.075 \text{ m} \), so that \( D_{normalized} = 1.256 \times 10^{-8}/C_r \).

Figure 3a shows a tiny recirculation zone next to the upwind of B1. There was a clockwise vortex between B1 and B2, and a large wake vortex zone next to the downwind of B2. There were few pollutants in the region upwind of the stack. The pollutant concentration was in a high level on the roof of B2 downwind of the stack and in the wake vortex zone behind B2. Equation (3) shows that the pollutant concentration is inversely proportional to the normalized dilution. As the pollutant was conveyed downstream and mixed with the clean air, the degree of pollutant dilution increased, and the pollutant concentration decreased. Figure 3b presents the results simulated by CFD (PHONECIS version 6.0), which shows a reasonably good agreement with the results of the reference paper. Therefore, the results simulated by CFD code PHOENICS version 6.0 are accepted with the appropriate level of accuracy to demonstrate the numerical value reality. The turbulence model and solution techniques were used to investigate the plume behavior of the exhaust emitted from multiple stacks on the container ship.

4. Results

The results of the numerical simulation by CFD code PHOENICS version 6.0 were quantified analyzed to clarified the difference in \( C_{1_{max}} \) and the plume heights between multiple stack emissions and single stack emissions. For the plume rise mainly occurring within 1 km of the stacks, and the maximum of \( C_{1} \) can be used to observe the maximum impact of ship pollution on the environment.

4.1. BL1 Simulations

Figure 4 presents \( C_{1} \) (mass fraction of SO2 in the plume) contours at different wind speeds. The \( C_{1_{max}}-\text{M1} \) was 16.5%, 13.8%, 10.9%, and 8.4% of \( C_{10-\text{M1}} \), respectively, when the \( V_{wind} \) was 1.5, 5, 10, and 15 m/s. The \( C_{1_{1km}-\text{M1}} \) was 0.47%, 0.56%, and 0.59% of
When the wind speed was 1.5 m/s, the location of C1 at 1 km downwind of the stack was outside the computational domain, so C1 at 1 km downwind of the stack were shown at wind speeds of 5, 10, and 15 m/s. The results show that as the wind speed increases, C1 max at 1 km downwind of the stack decrease and C1 at 1 km downwind of the stack increase. This indicates that with the increase of wind speed, the pollutant diffusion is faster and the plume conveying is more efficient.

Figure 4. BL1 simulations: The contours of C1 (mass fraction of SO2 in the plume) on the M1 plane at different wind speeds: (a) V wind = 5 m/s; (b) V wind = 10 m/s; (c) V wind = 15 m/s; (d) V wind = 20 m/s.

Figure 5 shows different plume heights at different wind speeds on the M1 plane. The plume had risen vertically to a great height before bending, and the plume height was beyond the computational domain at the point around 300 m downwind of the stack, when the wind speed was 1.5 m/s. As the wind speed increased, the plume rise tended to be diminished and further. At the point 1 km downwind of the stack, the plume height was approximately 142 m when the wind speed was 15 m/s. When the wind speed was 10 and 5 m/s, the plume heights at the point 1 km downwind of the stack was approximately 1.57 times and 2.99 times of that when the wind speed was 15 m/s, respectively.

Figure 5. BL1 simulations: Different plume heights at different wind speeds.

4.2. BL2 Simulations

A switching approach was adopted in the simulations for stack configuration BL2, when the wind speed was 5 m/s. The approach was to divide the simulations into several situations, so that the exhaust emitted from different number of stacks, analyzing the difference in plume behavior between these situations. The situations included exhaust emitted from single main stack (Situation I), exhaust emitted from single auxiliary stack
(Situation II), exhaust emitted from multiple auxiliary stacks (Situation III), and exhaust emitted from single main stack with multiple auxiliary stacks (Situation IV).

Figure 6 shows the results of \( C_{1\text{max}}^\text{M1} \), \( C_{1\text{max}}^\text{A1} \), and \( C_{1\text{max}}^{1\text{km}}\text{M1} \) in different situations. There was a significant difference in \( C_1 \) between multiple stack emissions and single stack emissions. Compared to Situation I, the \( C_{1\text{max}}^\text{M1} \) in Situation IV was much higher. The \( C_{1\text{max}}^\text{M1} \) in Situation III was much higher than in Situation II.

The results in Figure 6 show a significant difference in \( C_1 \) between different situations. The \( C_{1\text{max}}^\text{M1} \) was \( 3.52 \times 10^{-5} \) when the exhaust emitted from multiple auxiliary stacks at the same time (Situation III), which was approximately 186% of the sum of \( C_{1\text{max}}^\text{M1} \) when exhaust was emitted from six auxiliary stacks individually (\( 6 \times 3.16 \times 10^{-6} \)). This meant that the \( C_{1\text{max}}^\text{M1} \) in Situation III was 86% higher than that in Situation I, due to the multiple auxiliary stack emissions, as shown in Table 4. The \( C_{1\text{max}}^\text{M1} \) was \( 9.05 \times 10^{-4} \) when exhaust emitted from all stacks at the same time (Situation IV), which was approximately 446% of that when exhaust emitted from single main stack (Situation I). The \( C_{1\text{max}}^\text{M1} \) in Situation III was approximately 17.4% of that in Situation I. Therefore, the \( C_{1\text{max}}^\text{M1} \) in Situation IV was approximately 329% higher than that in Situation I, due to all stack emissions. The increase in \( C_{1\text{max}}^\text{A1} \) (160%), due to all stack emissions, was lower than that in \( C_{1\text{max}}^\text{M1} \) (329%).

\[
\text{The increase of } C_1 \text{ due to the multiple stack emissions:} \begin{align*}
\text{86%}^1 \quad &\text{329%}^2 \quad 160%^2 \quad 37%^1 \quad 58%^2 \\
\text{1} \quad &\left[ C_1 \text{ in Situation III} / C_1 \text{ in Situation I} - 1 \right] \times 100\%; \quad 2 \quad \left[ C_1 \text{ in Situation IV} - C_1 \text{ in Situation III} / C_1 \text{ in Situation I} \right] \times 100\%.
\end{align*}
\]

The results show that the influence of multiple stack emissions on \( C_1 \) is significant because of the close distance between multiple stacks. The multiple stack emissions cause heat to accumulate near the stacks, slowing plume diffusion and increasing pollutant concentrations. The \( C_{1\text{max}} \) in the exhaust of multiple stack emissions is significantly higher than that of single stack emissions. This difference in \( C_1 \) between multiple stack emissions and single stack emissions is decreased as the crosswind distance of the stack increases.
At around 1 km downwind of the main stack, $C_{1km}$ in Situation III ($3.95 \times 10^{-6}$) was approximately 37% higher than the sum of $C_{1km}$ when exhaust was emitted from six auxiliary stacks individually ($6 \times 4.79 \times 10^{-7}$). The increase of $C_{1km}$ (37%), due to the multiple auxiliary stack emissions, was lower than that of $C_{1max}$ (86%). The increase of $C_{1km}$ (58%) due to all stack emissions (Situation IV) was lower than that of $C_{1max}$ (329%), as shown in Table 4. Therefore, the difference in $C_1$ between multiple stack emissions and single stack emissions decreases as the downwind distance of the stack increases.

Figure 7 shows the plume height on the M1 plane when the wind speed was 5 m/s in different situations. The exhaust flow rate of the auxiliary stack was small, leading the plume rise to stop quickly in Situation II. The line representing the plume height in Situation II in Figure 7 is close to the X-axis. The plume height in Situation III was approximately 30 m at the edge of the domain, which was higher than that in Situation II. The plume in Situation I and Situation IV kept rising within the calculation domain. The plume height in Situation I was approximately 355 m at the edge of the domain. The plume height in Situation IV was approximately 500 m at the edge of the domain, which was 41% higher than that in Situation I. The difference in the plume height between Situation IV and Situation I was not kept at a fixed value in the calculation domain, and the maximum value reached approximately 100 m (the plume height in Situation IV was 182% higher than that in Situation I), while the minimum value was approximately 400 m (the plume height in Situation IV was 37% higher than that in Situation I).

![Figure 7. BL2 simulations: Different plume heights in different situations.](image)

4.3. BL3 Simulations

The results shown in BL2 simulations demonstrate that $C_1$ and plume heights of multiple stack emissions were higher than those of single stack emissions. The BL3 simulations included another four situations to verify the results in Section 4.2: exhaust emitted from single main stack (Situation I), exhaust emitted from two main stacks (Situation II), exhaust emitted from multiple auxiliary stacks (Situation III), and exhaust emitted from two main stacks with multiple auxiliary stacks (Situation IV).

Figure 8 shows the $C_{1max}$ and $C_{1km}$ in different situations when the wind speed was 5 m/s. The $C_{1max}$ in Situation II was higher than that in Situation I, due to the two main stack emissions. The $C_{1max}$ in Situation IV was higher than that in
Situation I, due to all stack emissions. The $C_{\text{max}}$-M1 in Situation III was lower than that in Situation I, due to the small exhaust flow rate of the auxiliary stack, and the $C_{1\text{km}}$-M1 in these four situations were lower than $C_{\text{max}}$-M1, due to the diffusion of pollutants.

Figure 8. BL3 simulations: C1 on M1 plane in different situations ($V_{\text{wind}} = 5$ m/s).

The differences in $C_{\text{max}}$-M1 and $C_{1\text{km}}$-M1 between multiple stack emissions and single stack emissions were quantified and analyzed, as shown in Table 5. The $C_{\text{max}}$-M1 in Situation IV was 269% higher than that in Situation I, due to all stack emissions, which was lower than the increase value in $C_{\text{max}}$-M1 in BL2 simulations mentioned in Section 4.2 (329%). Therefore, the distance between stacks is a very important element for the change of $C_{\text{max}}$-M1. The distance between two main stacks of configuration BL3 was 9.5 m, and the distance between the main stack and multiple auxiliary stacks of configuration BL2 was 1.75 m. When multiple stacks with small exhaust flow rates are close to each other, the increase in $C_{\text{max}}$-M1 due to multiple stack emissions is higher than that when multiple stacks with large exhaust flow rate are far away from each other. Further, Table 5 also shows that the difference in C1 is decreased as the crosswind and downwind distance of the stack increases between multiple stack emissions and single stack emissions. The result is consistent with that in BL2 simulations, mentioned in Section 4.2.

Table 5. BL3 simulations: The increase of C1 due to the multi-stack emissions in different situations.

| C1 in Different Situations | $C_{\text{max}}$-M1 in Situation II | $C_{\text{max}}$-M1 in Situation IV | $C_{1\text{km}}$-M1 in Situation II | $C_{1\text{km}}$-M1 in Situation IV |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| The increase of C1 due to the multiple stack emissions | 39% $^1$ | 269% $^2$ | 18% $^1$ | 50% $^2$ |

$^1 C_{\text{in Situation II}} - C_{\text{in Situation I}} \times 100%$; $^2 C_{\text{in Situation IV}} - C_{\text{in Situation II}} - C_{\text{in Situation III}} - C_{\text{in Situation I}} \times 100%$.

Figure 9 shows the plume heights on the M1 plane in different situations at a wind speed of 5 m/s. The exhaust flow rate of the auxiliary stack was small, leading the plume rise to stop quickly in Situation III. The line representing the plume height in Situation III in Figure 9 is close to the X-axis. The plume in Situation II kept rising within the calculation
domain (1700 m downwind of the stack), and the plume height was consistently higher than that in Situation I. At around 1700 m downwind of the stack, the difference in plume height between Situation II and Situation I reached the largest value in the domain, which was approximately 117 m (the plume height in Situation II was 33% higher than that in Situation I). In Situation IV, the plume kept rising within the calculation domain. The difference in height between the Situation I and Situation IV gradually increased with the increase of downwind distance of the stack, which reached approximately 268 m (the plume height in Situation IV was 75% higher than that in Situation I) at around 1700 m downwind of the stack. Therefore, the exhaust plume height of multiple stack emissions is much higher than that of single stack emissions. The result is consistent with that discussed in Section 4.2.

Figure 9. BL3 Simulations: different exhaust plume heights in different situations.

5. Conclusions and Discussion

In this study, three simplified typical configurations on multiple stacks of the container ship were established based on real ships. The cases were simulated by CFD code PHOENICS version 6.0. The differences in C1 and plume heights between multiple stack emissions and single stack emissions were then quantified analyzed. The results show that there is a significant difference in plume behavior between the single stack emissions and the multiple stack emissions, and the different value has some spatial variation.

The C1 in multiple stack emissions is much higher than that in the single stack emissions, because the accumulation heat slows down the diffusion of the pollutant. The difference in the C1 between multiple stack emissions and single stack emissions decreases as the downwind and crosswind distances of the stack increase. In BL2 and BL3 simulations, C\text{1max}-M1 of all stack emissions was 329% and 269% higher than that of single main stack emissions, respectively, and C\text{1km}-M1 of all stack emissions was 58% and 50% higher than that of single main stack emissions, respectively.

The distance between stacks is an important element in determining the C\text{1max}-M1 difference between all stack emissions and single stack emissions. The distance between the main stack and the auxiliary stack was 1.75 m in configuration BL2, smaller than that between two main stacks which was 7.5 m in configuration BL3. Compared with single stack emissions, the C\text{1max}-M1 of all stack emissions increased approximately 329% and 269%, respectively, in BL2 and BL3 simulations.

The exhaust plume height in all stack emissions is much higher than that in single main stack emissions, and in BL2 and BL3 simulations, the difference in height between
Situation IV and Situation I reached the largest value of approximately 100 and 268 m (the plume height in Situation IV was 182% and 75% higher than that in Situation I), respectively, at around 500 and 1700 m downwind of the stacks.

This paper shows the mass fraction of SO2 in the exhaust and plume heights of multiple stack emissions are much higher than those of single stacks emissions. This study provides theoretical and technical support for ship research at a regional scale. Further studies of ship pollution in port areas should consider the significant difference in plume behavior between multiple stack emissions and single stack emissions.

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