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The Optimization for Aircraft Carrier Main dimensions

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Abstract. Based on the model of aircraft carrier "Kitty Hawk", a study on the influence of resistance performance and main elements was carried out. A designer will find out the elements effecting the aircraft carrier designing through its coefficient of L_ω/B_ω and block coefficient. With the change of coefficient of L_ω/B_ω and block coefficient improved by the law, the resistances were calculated. The objective of the optimization is to minimum resistance, optimal rapidity, also give a consideration to stability and seakeeping performance, optimizing the main dimensions with the restrictions of flight deck width. The speed of the optimal ship has increased from 32 kn to 35 kn. Compared with the parent ship, the main dimensions of optimal ship decreased while have performance improvement.

Introduction

As a highly mobile marine airfields and naval bases, aircraft carrier has received the world attention of the global navy since its creation. To seize command of the sea and air supremacy is a very important task for large aircraft carriers. And the rapidity of the aircraft carrier largely determines the status and combat mission of an aircraft carrier in the war[1].Improving the rapidity of "Kitty Hawk" with the premise of other performance unchanged has a significance on the development of future aircraft carriers.

The influence of rapidity by the aspect ratio changing with a constant displacement

A. The Influence of Rapidity by the Aspect Ratio(L_ω/B_ω)

For the medium and high speed ship, with the change of the length and the corresponding speed, it will get the best length Lopt of the lowest overall resistance under the condition of the constant displacement[2].Increasing the length may reduce the overall resistance of the ship within the preferred length range. According to the statistics, the L_ω/B_ω value is in the range of 7.10-8.10[3], which can ensure the model displacement unchanged, and parody transforming the length and width of the ship is showed in the following schemes.

The designer calculated the resistance curve under the speed of 32 kn, as shown in Figure 1 which can conclude that the ship resistance getting smaller as L_ω/B_ω increasing within the range of 7.20-8.10 and the constant displacement.

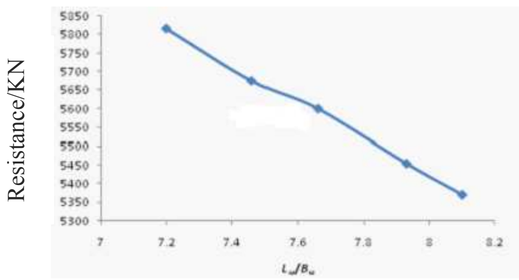

Fig1. L_ω/B_ω resistance curve of designed speed

B. The minimum B_ω limitation by flight deck width

The minimum waterline width and the flight deck width is relevant, the ratio of the waterline width of the foreign angled deck and the flight deck width is about 0.525[4].The width of flight deck is determined by the landing runway width and the stopped area of the carrier. And the minimum waterline width should be determined by the width of tail landing runway.

Taking into account the tail landing runway arrangement under the navigation, the tail landing runway should be placed at least 4 folded F-18[5].The width of folded F-18 is 8.39 m[6]. Abiding by the static park space requirements of the carrier-based aircrafts placed on the flight deck, the safe distance of the carrier-based aircrafts parked on the technology position in park area, is not less than 750mm[7]. As for "Kitty Hawk", the width of the tail landing runway is 37.9m, and the width of the flight deck is 72.3m. So as for the optimized ship, the width of the flight deck is 68.3m through proportionate relationships. The ratio of the waterline width and the flight deck width of “Kitty Hawk” is 0.55. Therefore, the optimized B_ω is 37.2m.

C. The minimum B_ω restriction by the hangar width

Compared with the waterline width of the Nimitz Class aircraft carrier, the width of Kitty Hawk increased by 1.4m, and the hangar width only increased by 0.4m, so the ratio of the hangar width and the waterline width is 0.808. The change of the aircraft positions or placing ways in hangar from Forrestal-class to Kitty Hawk-class made the hangar width of Kitty Hawk set necessarily at 32.6m, which is considered as the minimum waterline width. By the consideration of the rapidity and hanger placement for Kitty Hawk, the selection of the waterline length and the width is the best value. The waterline width is 39.4m.

Tab.1 Ship Transformation Scheme With Constant Displacement

scheme	transformation rule	L_ω(m)	B_ω(m)	L_ω/B_ω	draft (m)	Δ(t)
scheme A1	length minus 10 meters	291.2	40.4	7.20	11.4	80500
scheme A2	length minus 5 meters	296.2	39.7	7.46	11.4	80589.4
scheme A3	parent ship	301.804	39.4	7.66	11.4	80589.4
scheme A4	length plus 5 meters	306.88	38.7	7.93	11.4	80589.4
scheme A5	length plus 10 meters	310.23	38.3	8.10	11.4	80590

The influence on resistance by block coefficient change

The selection of the block coefficient influences so much on the resistance. So the designer needs to consider the influence on overall resistance by the block coefficient variation during the aircraft carrier rapidity optimization. We calculated the resistance and the powers of the five models under different speed through the parody transformation and obtained the following curves (Figure 2):

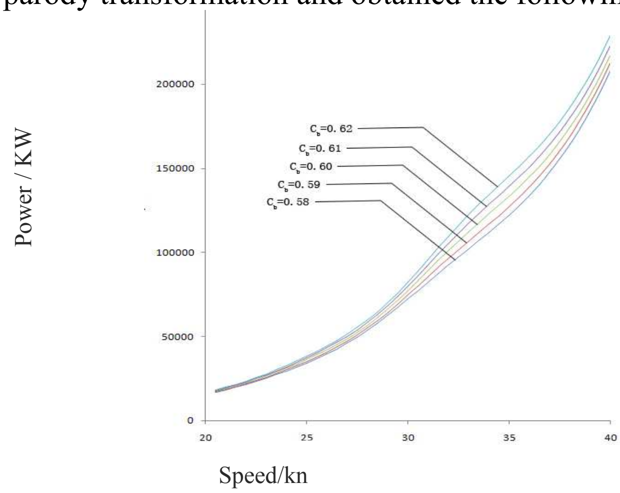

Fig.2 Speed power curves of different block coefficients

It is known from Figure 2 that the best ship resistance contributes to the minimum block coefficient. The ship resistance increased significantly with the increasing of the block coefficient.

Performance analysis of optimized ship

The best resistance performance depends on the maximum L_ω/B_ω value within the statistical range through the analysis of main dimensions. Therefore the L_ω/B_ω value of the optimized ship is 8.10, that is, $L_\omega=8.10B_\omega$ and the minimum waterline width is 39.4m. Increasing the draft can improve the performance of the propeller with the consideration of the rapidity. Taking the waterline width and draft ratio as 3.45, the $B_\omega=3.45T$ and the block coefficient Cb is selected as the minimum value 0.58 within the statistical range.

The load displacement calculation formula is displayed below:

$$\Delta=L_\omega\times B_\omega\times T\times C_b\times 1.025 \quad (1)$$

The size of molded depth reflected the freeboard size at a certain draft, so we determined that the optimized molded depth is 29.7m according to the molded depth and draft ratio from statistics.

The length of the ship is 319.2m(1047 feet) in the the optimized scheme. The new ship speed is between 32.4kn and 35.6kn when the new ship speed ratio is under the range from 1.0 to 1.1. Considering the economic speed is 35kn, which is obtained from the displacement optimization, the maximum speed of the new ship is taken as 35kn.

The comparison of principal dimensions between the optimized ship type and the parent pattern is showed in Table 2, and the comparison of total factors between optimized ship and parent pattern is showed in Table 3.

Speed is optimized for the new ship, maximum speed increased from 32 to 35 knots, the displacement increased approximately by over 5,000 tons, and five aircrafts in the hangar are added, and the effectiveness of the aircraft carrier is improved. By comparison with Kitty Hawk, there is no change for the initial stability and the seakeeping.

Tab.2 The comparison of principal dimensions between optimized ship type and parent pattern

	L_ω(m)	B_ω(m)	T(m)	D(m)	C_b	Δ(t)	speed（kn）
optimized ship	319.2	39.4	11.4	29.7	0.58	85411	35
Kitty Hawk	301.8	39.4	11.4	29.7	0.58	80588	32

Tab.3 The comparison of total factors between optimized ship and parent pattern

	hangar length(m)	hangar width(m)	flight deck length(m)	flight deck width(m)
optimized ship	238.6	32.6	330.6	72.3
Kitty Hawk	225.6	32.6	312.6	72.3

Conclusion

When the displacement was constant, under the design speed, the resistance decreased with the increase of L_ω/B_ω, the speed can be optimized by increasing L_ω/B_ω of the Kitty Hawk. But as the most special ship, some factors need to be taken into account, such as how a hangar carrier in the flight deck was put and the returns of flight deck, the limits of the designed line width as well. Through the analysis, it is thought that the minimum designed line width is 39.4 meters. In the premise of what water length and width keeps as the same, the resistance will increase with L_ω/B_ω increasing. By guaranteeing L_ω/B_ω in the statistical range, transform displacement of the Kitty Hawk form, when speed is 35 kn, the influence on the change of displacement in power is very small.

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