Measurement and empirical evaluation of acoustic loss in tube with abrupt area change

Yuki Ueda,¹,a) Shunsuke Yonemitsu,¹ Kenichiro Ohashi,¹ and Takuya Okamoto¹

Graduate school of Bio-Applications and Systems Engineering,
Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology, 2-24-16 Nakacho, Koganei,
Tokyo 184-8588, Japan

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This study measures the acoustic power loss that occurs when an acoustic wave passes through a tube with an abrupt change in area. It is determined that the power loss is proportional to the third power of the velocity amplitude, and that the proportionality coefficient depends upon the area change ratio of the tube. On the other hand, the proportionality coefficient is almost independent of the acoustic impedance and frequency in the 80-250 Hz range. Furthermore, the effect of a tapered tube in reducing the coefficient is experimentally investigated. Based on these experimental results, an empirical estimation method for the acoustic power loss is proposed and validated using a high-pressure-helium-filled tube.

¹uedayuki@cc.tuat.ac.jp
I. INTRODUCTION

When fluids flow in tubes, two types of energy loss occur: One is due to the tube length, whereas the other is due to geometrical irregularities, such as abrupt area change, bifurcation, and bend. The latter is referred to as minor loss. For unidirectional fluid flow, both types of losses have been investigated and are well documented in several textbooks on fluid dynamics. However, for oscillatory fluid flow, only few studies have addressed the minor loss, although energy loss due to the tube length has been well understood.

Wakeland and Keolian showed an equation for the acoustic minor loss. This equation is based on the Bernoulli equation and is expressed as follows:

\[ \Delta W = \frac{2}{3\pi} \rho_m S K |U|^3, \]  

where \( \Delta W \) is the acoustic minor loss, \( \rho_m \) is the time averaged density of the working gas, \( S \) is the cross-sectional area of the tube, where the minor loss occurs, \( |U| \) is the peak amplitude of the oscillatory velocity averaged over the cross-sectional area of the tube, and \( K \) is the coefficient of the minor loss. Hence, the acoustic minor loss can be estimated if the value of \( K \) is known. Because \( K \) cannot be theoretically derived, there is a need for empirical determination.

Abrupt area change generated by the connection of two tubes with different cross-sectional areas is one of the most common geometrical irregularities in acoustic systems. Morris et al. computationally investigated the acoustic minor loss in a sharp-edged expansion with a tube cross-section-area ratio of 0.01, and presented the flow structure at the vicinity of the expansion point. Based on this result, the minor loss factor was derived. Smith and
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Swift\textsuperscript{2} experimentally investigated the acoustic minor loss with an infinite area ratio and elucidated the effects of a rounded edge at the connecting point. King and Smith, and Doller experimentally investigated the effect of a tapered tube on the minor loss, and showed the minor loss can be reduced by a tapered tube.\textsuperscript{5,6}

One of the critical parameters of the abrupt area change is the ratio of the cross-sectional areas of the tubes. However, researches on the variation of the area ratio is limited as mentioned above. Hence, we evaluate the effect of the area ratio on the minor loss in this study. The minor loss is measured by changing the velocity amplitude and area ratio. It is confirmed that the minor loss is proportional to the third power of the velocity amplitude, as predicted by Eq. (1). The value of $K$ is experimentally determined as a function of the area ratio. In addition, the effect of the acoustic frequency and acoustic impedance, which depict the oscillatory flow characteristics, is investigated. Furthermore, following King and Smith\textsuperscript{5}, and Doller\textsuperscript{6} the effect of a tapered tube on the reduction of $K$ is examined. Finally, an empirical equation is introduced for estimating the acoustic minor loss, and validated using a high-pressure-helium-filled tube.

II. EXPERIMENTAL SETUP

The schematic of the experimental apparatus is illustrated in Fig. 1. The apparatus comprises circular tubes A and B connected to each other at a sharp edge, and a unit including a speaker (FW168N, Fostex Co. Ltd.). The cross-sectional areas of tubes A and B are denoted by $S_A$ and $S_B$, respectively. Tube A is connected to the speaker unit and two pressure sensors (PD-104, JTEKT Co. Ltd.) are mounted on the tube wall. The distance
FIG. 1. Schematic of the experimental setup.

between the sensors is denoted by $L_1$, and the distance between one of the sensors and the connecting point (see Fig. 1) is denoted by $L_2$. One end of tube B is closed by a brass plate on which a pressure sensor (PD-104, JTEKT Co. Ltd.) is mounted. The length of tube B is denoted by $L_3$. The apparatus is filled with atmospheric air.

In this experiment, the value of $R_{AB} = S_A/S_B$ or its inverse is selected as one of the variable parameters. Table I lists the values of the radius $r_A$ of tube A, radius $r_B$ of tube B, and $R_{AB}$. Note that the experiments are performed under two conditions, i.e. $R_{AB} \leq 1$ and $R_{AB} > 1$.

III. MEASUREMENT METHOD

As shown in Fig. 1, pressure is measured at two points on the wall of tube A and one point on the closed end of tube B. This section describes the method for evaluating $\Delta W$ using the three measured pressure values. This method is similar to the method used in our previous study\textsuperscript{10}.
TABLE I. Radii of tube A (top row) and tube B (left column) and the corresponding $R_{AB}$ values (and $1/R_{AB}$).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$r_B$(mm)</th>
<th>$r_A$(mm)</th>
<th>7.5</th>
<th>12</th>
<th>16</th>
<th>20</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<td>7.5</td>
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<td>2.56</td>
<td>4.55</td>
<td>7.11</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(0.39)</td>
<td>(0.22)</td>
<td>(0.14)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>0.39</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.78</td>
<td>2.78</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(0.56)</td>
<td>(0.36)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>0.22</td>
<td>0.56</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(0.64)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>0.14</td>
<td>0.36</td>
<td>0.64</td>
<td>1</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A. Acoustic power and minor loss

It is assumed that an acoustic field with a single frequency is formed in the circular tube, with the $x$-axis set along the length of the tube. The tube radius is assumed to be considerably smaller than the wavelength of the acoustic wave. For expressing the acoustic pressure and cross-sectional mean velocity amplitudes, the complex number $P(x)$ and $U(x)$ are used, respectively. Using $P(x)$ and $U(x)$, the acoustic power, which is the time-averaged
rate of acoustic energy transmission through the tube cross-section, is determined as

$$W(x) = \frac{S}{2} \text{Re} \left[ P(x) \bar{U}(x) \right],$$  \hspace{1cm} (2)

where notation $\bar{}$ indicates the complex conjugate, and $S$ is the cross-sectional area of the tube. If we denote the acoustic power in front and immediately behind the geometrical irregularity by $W_+$ and $W_-$, respectively, the acoustic minor loss can be expressed as

$$\Delta W = W_+ - W_-.$$  \hspace{1cm} (3)

When acoustic minor loss does not occur, $W_+ = W_-$; hence, $\Delta W = 0$.

**B. Theory**

Based on the linear acoustic theory, the momentum and continuity equations\textsuperscript{12,13} for a circular tube can be expressed as

$$\frac{dP(x)}{dx} = -\frac{i\omega \rho_m}{1 - \chi_\nu} U(x),$$  \hspace{1cm} (4)

$$\frac{dU(x)}{dx} = -\frac{i\omega \left[ 1 + (\gamma - 1) \chi_\alpha \right]}{\gamma P_m} P(x),$$  \hspace{1cm} (5)

where $\omega$ is angular frequency, and $\rho_m$, $P_m$, $\gamma$, and $\sigma$ are the mean density, mean pressure, specific heat ratio, and Prandtl number of the working gas, respectively. $\chi_\alpha$ and $\chi_\nu$ are complex functions\textsuperscript{12–14} that are denoted below. To express these functions, we use two parameters, namely, the thermal relaxation time $\tau_\alpha$ and viscous relaxation time $\tau_\nu$.\textsuperscript{14} These parameters are defined as

$$\tau_\alpha = \frac{r^2}{2\alpha}$$  \hspace{1cm} (6a)

$$\tau_\nu = \frac{r^2}{2\nu},$$  \hspace{1cm} (6b)
where $r$ is the tube radius, $\alpha$ is the thermal diffusivity of the working gas, and $\nu$ is its kinematic viscosity. For a circular-cross-section tube, functions $\chi_\alpha$ and $\chi_\nu$ are expressed as\textsuperscript{12–14}

\begin{align}
\chi_\alpha &= \frac{2J_1(Y_\alpha)}{Y_\alpha J_0(Y_\alpha)} \quad (7a) \\
\chi_\nu &= \frac{2J_1(Y_\nu)}{Y_\nu J_0(Y_\nu)} \quad (7b)
\end{align}

where

\begin{align}
Y_\alpha &= (i - 1) \sqrt{\omega \tau_\alpha} \quad (8a) \\
Y_\nu &= (i - 1) \sqrt{\omega \tau_\nu} \quad (8b)
\end{align}

Equations (4) and (5) can be solved analytically. With the obtained solution, the pressure and cross-sectional mean velocity at $x = x_b$ can be expressed by those at $x = x_a$ as\textsuperscript{11,15}

\begin{equation}
\begin{pmatrix}
P(x_b) \\
P(x_a)
\end{pmatrix} = M(x_a, x_b) \begin{pmatrix}
P(x_a) \\
U(x_a)
\end{pmatrix}
\end{equation}

where

\begin{align*}
M(x_a, x_b) &\equiv \begin{pmatrix}
m_{11}(x_a, x_b) & m_{12}(x_a, x_b) \\
m_{21}(x_a, x_b) & m_{22}(x_a, x_b)
\end{pmatrix} \\
m_{11}(x_a, x_b) &= \cos(k(x_b - x_a)) \\
m_{12}(x_a, x_b) &= -iz_0 \sin(k(x_b - x_a)) \\
m_{21}(x_a, x_b) &= \frac{-i}{z_0} \sin(k(x_b - x_a)) \\
m_{22}(x_a, x_b) &= \cos(k(x_b - x_a)).
\end{align*}

Here, $k$ is the complex wave number and $z_0$ is the characteristic impedance calculated as

\begin{equation}
k = \frac{\omega}{c} \sqrt{\frac{1 + (\gamma - 1) \chi_\alpha}{1 - \chi_\nu}}, \quad (10)
\end{equation}
and

\[ Z_0 = \rho m \frac{\omega}{k(1 - \chi \nu)}, \quad (11) \]

respectively, where \( c \) is the adiabatic sound speed.

First, let us consider the method for evaluating \( W^+ \) using the pressure measured at the two locations on the wall of tube A. The measuring points are set as \( x_1 \) and \( x_2 \), respectively, and the junction point is set as \( x_3 \), as shown in Fig. 1. From Eq. (9),

\[ U(x_1) = \frac{P(x_2) - m_{11}(x_1, x_2)P(x_1)}{m_{12}(x_1, x_2)}. \quad (12) \]

Equation (9) is represented as

\[
\begin{pmatrix}
P(x_3) \\
U(x_3)
\end{pmatrix} = M(x_1, x_3)
\begin{pmatrix}
P(x_1) \\
U(x_1)
\end{pmatrix},
\quad (13)
\]

and hence,

\[
\begin{pmatrix}
P(x_3) \\
U(x_3)
\end{pmatrix} = M(x_1, x_3)
\begin{pmatrix}
P(x_1) \\
\frac{P(x_2) - m_{11}(x_1, x_2)P(x_1)}{m_{12}(x_1, x_2)}
\end{pmatrix}.
\quad (14)
\]

Substituting \( L_1 \) and \( L_2 + L_1 \) for \( (x_2 - x_1) \) and \( (x_3 - x_1) \), respectively, in Eq. (14), we can obtain the pressure \( P \) and velocity \( U \) at \( x = x_3 \), i.e. at the junction. With \( P(x_3), U(x_3) \), and Eq. (2), the acoustic power \( W^+ \) at the connecting point tube A is obtained.
Next, let us consider the method for expressing the acoustic power $W^-$ at the connecting point of tube B. We set the closed end as $x_4$, and modify Eq. (9) as

$$
\begin{pmatrix}
P(x_3) \\
U(x_3)
\end{pmatrix} = M(x_4, x_3) \begin{pmatrix}
P(x_4) \\
U(x_4)
\end{pmatrix}.
$$

(15)

At the closed end, the velocity becomes zero and the pressure $P_{\text{closed}}$ is measured. Substituting $x_3 - x_4 = -L_3$, $P(x_4) = P_{\text{closed}}$, and $U(x_4) = 0$ in Eq. (15), we can obtain $P(x_3)$ and $U(x_3)$ at the connecting point of tube B. With $P(x_3)$, $U(x_3)$, and Eq. (2), we can calculate $W^-$. It should be noted that the values of $P(x_3)$ and $U(x_3)$ for calculating $W^-$ are not equal to the values of $P(x_3)$ and $U(x_3)$ for $W^+$. Substituting the obtained $W_+$ and $W_-$ in Eq. (3), we can evaluate the acoustic minor loss $\Delta W$.

IV. RESULTS

A. Preliminary Experiment

To verify the experimental method described in Sec. III, we perform the experiment with $R_{AB} = 1$. Both $r_A$ and $r_B$ are set to 7.5 mm, 12 mm, 16 mm, and 20 mm, respectively. The lengths $L_1$ and $L_2 + L_3$ are set to 390 mm and 750 mm, respectively. The frequency, $\omega/(2\pi)$, of the input acoustic wave is maintained at 161 Hz which is the second resonant frequency of the gas column in the setup. As a result of the use of the second resonance frequency, the velocity antinode appears between $x_2$ and $x_4$ rather than in the vicinity of the speaker unit.

Although there is no cross-sectional variation, we set a virtual connecting point at the velocity antinode and measured $W^+ - W^-$; this is denoted by $\delta W$. In Fig. 2, the measured
FIG. 2. Measured $\delta W$ in a straight tube as a function of the velocity amplitude at the velocity antinode.

$\delta W$ is depicted as a function of the velocity amplitude $|U|$, where the value of $r$ shown in this figure refers to the radius of the circular tube cross-section. Notably, the maximum $|U|$ for each $r$ shown in Fig. 2 is approximately equal to the maximum $|U|$ obtained by measuring $\Delta W$ described in Sec. IV B. As observed in Fig. 2, $\delta W$ is nonzero and depends upon $|U|$ with $S = r^2 \pi$, i.e. $\delta W(U,S)$. The dotted and solid lines in Fig. 2 show functions proportional to $|U|^2$ and $|U|^3$, respectively. They indicate that $\delta W(U,S) \propto |U|^2$ when $|U| < 10$ m/s, whereas $\delta W(U,S) \propto |U|^3$ when $|U| > 20$ m/s. In addition, the repeatability of the measured value of $\delta W$ was confirmed. We consider that when $|U| < 10$ m/s, the source of $\delta W(U,S)$ is the underestimation of tube wall attenuation due to the viscosity and thermal conductivity of the gas. On the other hand, $|U| > 20$ m/s, $\delta W(U,S)$ can be attributed to nonlinearity due to the large amplitude of the oscillatory velocity.\textsuperscript{16–18} When $|U|$ is maximized for each $r$, the Reynolds number $Re_{os}$ determined using $|U|$ and $2r$ approaches or just exceeds the critical value\textsuperscript{17,18} above which flow becomes turbulent. For example, when $r = 7.5$ mm,
the maximum velocity amplitude is 32 m/s, thus, \( Re_{os} = 2.7 \times 10^4 \), while the critical \( Re_{os} \) estimated by the equation proposed by Merkli and Thoman\(^\text{18}\) is \( 2.3 \times 10^4 \). Based on these preliminary experimental results, we suggest that \( \delta W(U, S) \) represents the additional losses occurring in a straight section of the tubes and assume that \( \delta W(U, S) \) is proportional to the length of the tube, \( L \). Instead of Eq. (3), we use

\[
\Delta W = \left( W^+ - \frac{L_1 + L_2}{L_1 + L_2 + L_3} \delta W(U_A, S_A) \right) - \left( W^- + \frac{L_3}{L_1 + L_2 + L_3} \delta W(U_B, S_B) \right),
\]

for measuring \( \Delta W \), where \( U_A \) and \( U_B \) are \( U(x_3) \) in tube A and tube B, respectively. Note that the impact of the additional loss on the value of \( K \) is found to be approximately 0.15

**B. Measurement of the acoustic minor loss**

In this study, we investigate the effect of three factors on the value of \( K \): the effect of the ratio of the tube cross-sectional area \( R_{AB} \), absolute value of the acoustic impedance \( |Z| = |P|/|U| \), and frequency \( (\omega/(2\pi)) \).

1. **Effect of the tube cross-sectional area ratio on the acoustic minor loss coefficient**

In the experimental setup shown in Fig. 1, the pressure and velocity amplitudes depend on position \( x \). To highlight the effect of the velocity amplitude while minimizing the effect of the pressure amplitude, we set the connecting point in the vicinity of the velocity antinode.
Measurement and empirical evaluation of acoustic loss

FIG. 3. Measured acoustic minor loss. The radii of tube A and tube B are 12 mm and 20 mm, respectively, resulting in $R_{AB} = 0.36$.

According to previous research$^{19}$, the velocity amplitude $|U|$ at the connecting point in the narrower tube is used as the representative value.

In Fig. 3, the measured $\Delta W$ is depicted as a function of $|U|^3$. The experimental conditions are $\omega/(2\pi) = 161\text{Hz}$, $L_1 = 390\text{ mm}$, $L_2 = 250\text{ mm}$, $L_3 = 500\text{ mm}$, and $R_{AB} = 0.36$ ($r_A = 12\text{ mm}$ and $r_B = 20\text{ mm}$). Figure 3 shows that the value of $\Delta W$ linearly increases with the increase in $|U|^3$. When $|U| = 33.4\text{ m/s}$ ($|U|^3 \sim 37000\text{ m}^3/\text{s}^3$), $\Delta W$ is 2.59 W. This value is considerably greater than the $\delta W$ for straight tubes. (See data indicated by the unfilled circle at $|U| = 33\text{ m/s}$ and that indicated by the filled square at $|U| = 12\text{ m/s}$ ($= 33 \times R_{AB}$ m/s) in Fig. 2.) Hence, we can conclude that acoustic minor loss is generated in the setup.

As previously mentioned, the measured $\Delta W$ is proportional to the third power of $|U|$; hence, we can use Eq. (1), as suggested by Swift and Wakeland$^{37}$. Using the least squares method, the gradient of $g$ of the obtained data is calculated to be $7.0 \times 10^{-5}\text{ kg/m}$. From
Eq. (1), \( g \) can be related to the acoustic minor loss coefficient \( K \) as follows:

\[
K = \frac{3\pi}{2S_i \rho_m} g, \quad \text{(17)}
\]

where \( S_i \) is the cross-sectional area of the narrower tube and \( S_i = S_A \) for this case; hence \( K = 0.60 \) with \( R_{AB} = 0.36 \).

Next, we perform the experiment with several values of \( R_{AB} \) and determine the value of \( K \). The relationship between \( K \) and \( R_{AB} \) or \( 1/R_{AB} \) is shown in Fig. 4. The unfilled symbols indicate the data under the expansion condition (\( R_{AB} < 1 \)) whereas the filled ones indicate the data under the contraction condition (\( R_{AB} \geq 1 \)). It is important to note that when \( R_{AB} > 1 \), \( 1/R_{AB} \) is considered as the horizontal axis instead of \( R_{AB} \). As shown in Fig. 4, the obtained value of the acoustic minor loss coefficient \( K \) decreases with the increase in \( R_{AB} \) and \( 1/R_{AB} \). The observed dependence of \( K \) on \( 1/R_{AB} \) smoothly connects the value of \( K \) numerically predicted by Morris et al.\(^4\) and that experimentally obtained by Doller\(^6\); Morris et al.\(^4\) reported that when \( 1/R_{AB} = 0.01 \), \( K = 0.9 \), whereas Doller showed that when \( 1/R_{AB} = 0.03 \), \( K = 0.85 \). Furthermore, the data indicated by the unfilled and filled symbols approximately agree with each other; the maximum discrepancy is 0.18. This implies that the minor loss coefficient \( K \) can be set to be the same for abrupt tube expansion as well as contraction.

Next, the minor loss coefficient of this study (oscillatory flow case) and that of the unidirectional flow case are compared. According to the textbook\(^{19}\), when fluid flows unidirec-
FIG. 4. Empirically determined acoustic minor loss coefficient $K$.

Optionally in a tube, the minor loss coefficient becomes

$$K_e = (1 - R_{AB})^2$$  \hspace{1cm} (18)

($R_{AB} < 1$)

for the expansion condition.

$$K_c = 0.5 \left(1 - \frac{1}{R_{AB}}\right)^{0.75}$$  \hspace{1cm} (19)

($R_{AB} > 1$)

for the contraction condition. Because the measured result indicates that $K$ is the same in the expansion and contraction cases, we represent the mean of $K_e$ and $K_c$ in Fig. 4 by a dotted line:

$$K = \frac{1}{2} \left(1 - \frac{A_i}{A_j}\right)^2 + \frac{1}{4} \left(1 - \frac{A_i}{A_j}\right)^{0.75}$$  \hspace{1cm} (20)

($A_i < A_j$).
FIG. 5. Acoustic impedance dependence of the minor loss coefficient.

This dotted line shows approximate agreement with the obtained experimental data; hence, Eq. (20) can be used as an approximation for the acoustic minor loss coefficient $K$.

2. Effect of the acoustic impedance and frequency on the acoustic minor loss coefficient

To investigate the effect of the absolute value of the acoustic impedance on coefficient $K$, we measure $K$ by varying the connecting point, namely, $L_3$; The values of $L_3$ were set to 0.3, 0.4, 0.5, 0.6, and 0.7 m. This implies that the connecting point is located between the pressure and velocity antinodes. In the experiment, $R_{AB}$ is maintained at 0.36 and $\omega/(2\pi)$ is 161 Hz. The measured $K$ is plotted as a function of $|P|/|U|$, as displayed in Fig. 5. The upper limit of $|P|/|U|$ is determined by the performance of the speaker; when $|P|/|U|$ is large, large $|U|$ is not obtained. In Fig. 5, significant dependence of $K$ on the value of
|\(|P|/|U|\) is not obtained. This indicates that the acoustic minor loss is governed by the value of \(|U|\), and that the effect of the pressure amplitude \(|P|\) on \(K\) is less.

Furthermore, we examine the effect of the frequency, \(\omega/(2\pi)\), on the value of \(K\). For a fixed value of \(R_{AB} (= 0.36)\), \(K\) is measured when the frequency of the acoustic wave is varied from 83-253 Hz. For this experiment, the length \(L_3\) of tube B is changed such that the connecting point is always fixed in the vicinity of the velocity antinode. The tested values of \(L_3\) were 0.3, 0.4, 0.5, 0.6, 0.8 and 1.0 m. The results (Fig. 6) indicate that the frequency has no significant effect on the value of \(K\) in the used frequency range.

C. Effect of tapered tube on the minor-loss reduction

To reduce minor loss, a tapered tube with a gradually changing cross-sectional area is generally employed\(^{1,5,6,20–22}\). In this subsection, we demonstrate the quantitative effect of a tapered tube on the reduction of the acoustic minor loss coefficient. As a parameter
depicting the tapered tube characteristics, we define the taper angle \( \theta \), as shown in Fig. 7. The radii of tubes A and B are fixed at 12 mm and 20 mm, respectively. The frequency of the input acoustic wave is fixed at 161 Hz, and the tapered tube is positioned in the vicinity of the velocity antinode.

In Fig. 8(a), the evaluated \( K \) is depicted as a function of \( \theta \). The condition \( \theta = 90^\circ \) refers to an abrupt area change, whereas \( \theta = 0^\circ \) indicates a straight tube. Note that in this evaluation, the effect of the dissipation due to the length of the tapered tube is included in \( K \); hence, \( K \) will become infinity when \( \theta = 0^\circ \). However, when \( \theta = 8^\circ \), the length of the tapered tube is 56 mm and the effect of the dissipation due to the length is negligible in the conducted experiments. As observed in Fig. 8(a), when \( \theta > 15^\circ \), the minor loss coefficient \( K \) reduces with the decrease in \( \theta \), and the value of \( K \) at \( \theta = 30^\circ \) becomes less than half of that without the tapered tube. Note that the lengths of the tapered tube at \( \theta = 60^\circ \) and \( 30^\circ \) are 4.6 mm and 14 mm, respectively, and are comparable to the radii of the tubes. Furthermore, the value of \( K \) at \( \theta = 15^\circ \) is almost equal to that of a straight tube within the error margin. Therefore, we can conclude that the use of a tapered tube is an
FIG. 8. The taper angle dependence of the (a) minor loss coefficient and (b) normalized coefficient

\[ b = \frac{K}{K_{\theta=\pi/2}}. \]

effective method for reducing the acoustic minor loss, and that a tapered tube with a length comparable to the tube radius can reduce the acoustic minor loss by half.

To obtain the approximation of the effect of the taper angle, we introduce the normalized coefficient \( b = \frac{K}{K_{\theta=\pi/2}} \) and plot it in Fig. 8(b). As observed in this figure, when \( \pi/2 > \theta > \pi/12 \), \( b \) is almost a linear function of \( \theta \) and can be approximately expressed as

\[ b(\theta) = 0.69 \times \theta - 0.09. \]
Therefore, we propose an empirical equation to estimate the acoustic minor loss for coupling Eq. (20) and Eq. (21) as follows:

\[ K = b(\theta) \times \left( \frac{1}{2} \left( 1 - \frac{A_i}{A_j} \right)^2 + \frac{1}{4} \left( 1 - \frac{A_i}{A_j} \right)^{0.75} \right) \]

(\( A_i < A_j, \pi/12 < \theta < \pi/2 \)).

V. VALIDATION OF THE OBTAINED EMPIRICAL K

In order to validate Eq. (22), we perform an experiment using pressurized helium as a working fluid. The experimental setup is composed of a power source (thermoacoustic engine), resonator, and tank, as shown in Fig. 9. The setup is filled with helium at a time-averaged pressure of 0.8 MPa or 1.1 MPa. The inner radii the neck tube and the tank are 49 mm and 195 mm, respectively, (Fig. 9); hence, ratio \( A_i/A_j = 0.063 \). The taper angle \( \theta \) is estimated using CAD data and is \( 33^\circ \). Note that because welding is used to connect the neck tube to the tapered tube, the connecting point is not sharp. Substituting these values in Eqs. (21) and (22), we obtain \( K = 0.21 \).

Pressure sensors are mounted on the wall of the resonator and the acoustic power flowing to the tank is measured when the velocity amplitude is varied. All this acoustic power is dissipated in the tank mainly at the point where the cross-section changes. The power source generates an acoustic wave of 59±1 Hz, and the velocity antinode is found to be located near the tank inlet.

The measured acoustic power with 0.8 MPa helium and that with 1.1 MPa helium, respectively, are depicted by unfilled and filled squares in Fig. 10 as a function of the cubic of the velocity amplitude, respectively. The dissipated power is approximately proportional...
FIG. 9. Schematic illustration of the experimental setup for validation.

... to the cubic of $|U|$ and the time averaged pressure, as expected based on Eq. (1). Using $K = 0.21$ and Eq. (1), we estimate the minor loss, and display it in Fig 10 using solid and dotted lines. In this figure, the estimated loss is in good agreement with the measured power. Therefore, we conclude that Eq. (22) can be used for estimating the acoustic minor loss.

VI. CONCLUSION

In this study, the minor loss that occurs at abrupt changes in the tube cross-section was measured, and the minor loss coefficient $K$ was experimentally determined. It was established that $K$ is independent of the frequency and acoustic impedance, and that the dependence of $K$ on the cross-sectional area ratio can be expressed by an equation based on the minor loss coefficient for unidirectional flow. Furthermore, the reduction effect of a
tapered tube on $K$ was investigated. When the taper angle $\theta = 15^\circ$, $K$ was reduced to 10% of that without the tapered tube. An empirical model was proposed based on the obtained data, in addition. The proposed model was validated using a system filled with pressurized helium; the estimated and experimental data were in good agreement.

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REFERENCES


Measurement and empirical evaluation of acoustic loss