



Numerical and Experimental Investigations of Modal Coherence Characteristics for the Determination of Broadband Noise in Flow Ducts

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This paper presents a detailed investigation about the modal coherence characteristics of turbomachinery noise. The modal coherence characteristics of ducted noise at high frequencies are investigated by establishing three kinds of ducted sound source distribution models. The results are consistent with the acoustic experimental results of a single-stage axial fan. The results show that acoustic modes of different orders are mutually incoherent, and radial modes within the same circumferential mode have a great degree of coherence. This paper successfully conducted an acoustic measurement on turbomachinery noise by rotating microphone arrays. The acoustic experimental results show that the coherence of some modes has little impact on the measurement of incident acoustic waves in the flow duct, while it leads to about 3 dB deviation in the prediction of the reflected modal sound power and has little influence on the spectral shape of reflected acoustic waves. It was demonstrated that the experimentally measured modal coherence functions give an inner sense of the spatial noise source distribution and enable the investigation of mode scattering within the propagation. Based on the modal coherence characteristics obtained in this paper, more theoretical and methodological studies can be carried out for the turbomachinery broadband noise test.

Keywords: broadband noise, mode amplitude, array, turbomachinery, axial fan

INTRODUCTION

Ducted broadband noise becomes increasingly important for the noise reduction concept in the modern civil aviation, especially when improved passive absorbers in the engine inlets and bypass sections, modern fan blade configurations, and a cut-off design of the fan rotor and stator become a standard. For the assessment and measurement of broadband noise in a duct, it is of great worth to investigate the multi-mode propagation characteristics and also coherence functions of pairwise modes (Morfey, 1971; Bolleter and Crocker, 1972; Moore, 1979).

Due to the complex mechanism of the broadband noise source inside aero-engines, the acoustic mode identification measurement becomes more difficult than tonal noise. Unlike tonal noise in which the sound energy is mainly concentrated in several dominant modes, the sound energy of turbomachinery turbulent noise is distributed in each cut-on modes. Therefore, in the investigation of turbulent broadband noise, we need to identify all the propagating modes and measure the modal distribution characteristics. Sijtsma and Brouwer (2018) assumed that the sound field of the

turbomachine is dominated by a finite number of acoustic modes and proposed an acoustic mode recognition method based on a non-equally spaced microphone array, the deconvolution algorithm is used in the research to increase the dynamic response range in order to overcome the occurrence of multimodal mutual interference. Compared with the traditional beamforming method, the dynamic response range is increased by 10 dB. In order to evaluate and measure the broadband noise, it is necessary to conduct a detailed study on the propagation characteristics and coherence functions of modes in the flow duct and to analyze the error transfer characteristics in the mode recognition (Xu et al., 2018). Enghardt (Enghardt et al., 2004) considered that the turbulent broadband noise still propagates in the form of statistically averaged modal waves inside the turbine duct and proposed a reference correlation method to identify the broadband acoustic mode. This method uses a measured cross-spectrum vector to obtain the amplitude spectrum of the acoustic mode propagating downstream and upstream in the duct. It should be noted that the method used by Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt (DLR) in a lot of applications requires the occupation of several rings of microphones, in which the number of sensors is proportional to the total number of modes propagating within the duct. As the frequency under consideration increases, more microphones are required to accurately decompose the broadband noise accordingly. This needs either an array consisting of a large number of fixed sensors, as employed by Ganz et al. (1998), for example, or an array with a smaller number of microphones rotating around the duct axis (Xu et al., 2017a). Kopiev et al. (2017) used a sparse array of 100 microphones to identify and measure the acoustic mode of a turbofan engine. The experiment was carried out in the anechoic chamber of the Russian State University of Technology. The results show that the sparse microphone array can be used to test the circumferential modal distribution of a new generation turbofan engine (Bu et al., 2020). proposed a compressive sensing technology for radial modal recognition of turbomachines based on the previous circumferential modal recognition research (Yu et al., 2018); when the number of microphones is significantly reduced, the tonal noise modal distribution measured by the compressed sensing technology has good accuracy and can effectively suppress the interference of background noise.

An improved version of the broadband noise measurement method was demonstrated by Jürgens et al. (2011) to expound and prove that the measured modal coherence functions give insight into the spatial noise source distribution. Regarding the coherence characteristics between the duct sound field and internal modes, Dyer (1958) pointed out that the modes generated by a monopole mass source with a random location is statistically uncorrelated, but Michalke et al. (1996) indicated that the sound field generated by the random monopole in the time domain is completely correlated, even in the near field of the sound source, which is completely opposite to the conclusion drawn by Dyer. Michalke et al. (1996) proposed an experimental method to predict the correlation of the sound field with the cross-spectrum signals measured by three microphones (Enghardt et al., 2007), and (Jürgens et al., 2010) used the

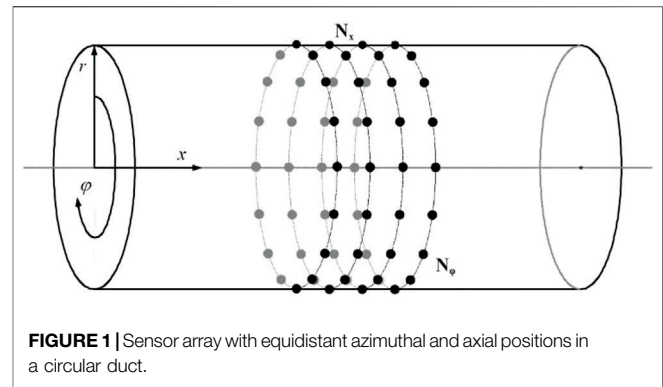


FIGURE 1 | Sensor array with equidistant azimuthal and axial positions in a circular duct.

cross-correlation method to investigate the broadband noise modal coherence function in the duct with no flow. A ducted sound field was artificially constructed by the application of two ring loudspeakers, and the results show that the coherence function results between different modal combinations are completely different (Tapken et al., 2014). Constructing the broadband noise in the duct by arranging several rings of monopole sources on the duct wall, the modes in the artificial sound fields are completely incoherent when 20 rings of monopole sources are arranged; this is consistent with the conclusion of Jürgens et al. (2010). On account of the measured coherence function between broadband noise modes in the flow duct, it is possible to explore the characteristics of broadband noise sources, such as the dominant noise source distribution characteristic and appearance of each sound source (Jürgens et al., 2011) and to further investigate the modal characteristics in the airflow duct with different hub ratios (Jeong et al., 2006). However, in order to achieve noise reduction in the sound source aspect and radiation process, it is worthwhile to investigate the coherence characteristics of acoustic modes in turbomachinery and modal distribution characteristics of broadband noise.

The purpose of this paper is to deeply investigate the coherence characteristics between the modes of the turbomachinery duct through theoretical analysis, numerical simulation, and experimental testing methods. Based on the obtained modal coherence features, the design of a new modal identification method is guided to meet the noise test requirement of large-sized fans and large bypass ratio engines. This paper provides the modal coherence characteristic measurements of ducted noise in turbomachinery for comparison with models and numerical investigation. The findings should better inform the future cognition of the broadband noise generation mechanism and allow a basis for the broadband noise reduction design in turbomachinery. The paper is organized as follows. The measurement theory is discussed in the *Measurement Theory* section, which includes the modal coherence coefficient, details of synthetic sound fields, and ducted sound source distribution models. The characteristics of the synthesized sound fields are provided in the *Characteristics of the Synthesized Sound Fields* section. In the *Experimental Study on the Acoustic Modal Coherence Characteristics* section, we present the experimental

facility and setup and experimental and theoretical analysis on acoustic modal coherence distribution and broadband modal distribution results. A summary of the findings and future perspectives is provided in the *Conclusion* section.

MEASUREMENT THEORY

Modal Coherence Coefficient

The cross-spectrum of two sound pressure measurement points at a single frequency as shown as **Figure 1** can be expressed as

$$S_{pp'} = \langle p(x, r, \phi) p^*(x', r', \phi') \rangle \quad (1)$$

In the formula, the superscripted * represents the complex conjugate. Under the linear assumption, the measured sound pressure p is related to the vector a composed of the modal amplitude A_{mn}^\pm :

$$a = [a_1 \ a_2 \ a_3 \ \dots \ a_{K-1} \ a_K]^T \quad (2)$$

In the formula, K represents the length of the modal vector, and its value is equal to twice the number of truncated modes at this frequency; the measured sound pressure signal can be expressed as the product of the coefficient matrix Φ and radial modal amplitude vector a :

$$p = \Phi a \quad (3)$$

where $p \in \mathbb{C}^K$ represents the complex sound pressure vector at the measured frequency; $a \in \mathbb{C}^L$ represents the complex amplitude vector of the mode, the modal amplitude is A_{mn} , and the size of L depends on the total number of cut-on modes in the duct, the value of matrix $\Phi \in \mathbb{C}^{K \times L}$ is determined by the microphone array position and the mode order. The cross-spectrum of two sound pressure signals can be defined as $S_{pp} \triangleq E(pp^H)$, where E represents the expectation. According to **Eq. 3**, the cross-spectrum of two sound pressure signals can be written as

$$S_{pp} = \Phi S_{aa} \Phi^H \quad (4)$$

Therefore, the cross-spectrum of the modal amplitude can be written as

$$S_{aa} = \Phi^\dagger S_{pp} (\Phi^\dagger)^H \quad (5)$$

In the formula, \dagger represents the pseudo-inverse of the matrix. In the actual experimental measurement, the measurement point number K of the microphone array is usually greater than the magnitude of the modal amplitude vector L , and the coefficient matrix may be singular. When solving such a matrix with a singular coefficient matrix and overdetermined equation, singular value decomposition (Nelson and Yoon, 2000; Kim and Nelson, 2004) is used in this paper.

$$G^+ p = \hat{a} \Leftrightarrow U \cdot W \cdot V^T p = \hat{a} \quad (6)$$

In the formula, U and V are both transformation and orthogonal matrices, satisfying $U \cdot U^T = 1$ and $V \cdot V^T = 1$, but W is a diagonal matrix, consisting of positive elements and singular values. It can improve the accuracy of the algorithm

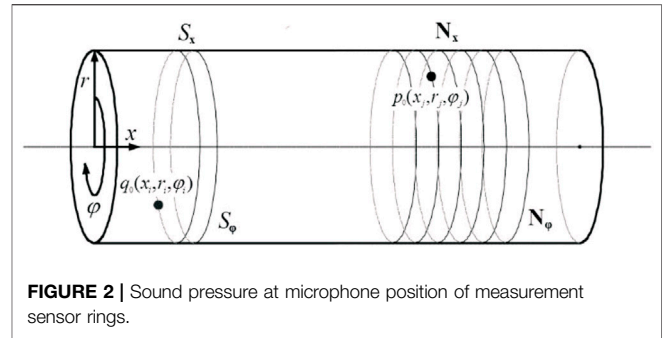


FIGURE 2 | Sound pressure at microphone position of measurement sensor rings.

by discarding smaller singular values appropriately. The best estimate can be obtained by

$$\hat{a} = V \cdot \left[\text{diag} \left(\frac{1}{w_j} \right) \right] \cdot U^T \quad (7)$$

The modal amplitude and cross-term between them can be obtained by formula (5), which is defined according to the modal coherence coefficient between the mode (m, n) and (μ, ν) :

$$C_{(m,n)}^{(\mu,\nu)} = \frac{|\langle A_{mn} A_{\mu\nu}^* \rangle|^2}{\langle |A_{mn}|^2 |A_{\mu\nu}|^2 \rangle} \quad (8)$$

The coherence characteristics between the cut-on modes in the duct can be obtained. It should be noted that the modal amplitude in formula (8) represents the statistical average of the modal amplitude. The sound power carried by each individual mode can be calculated by

$$PWL_{mn}^\pm(\omega) = \frac{\pi(r_D^2 - r_H^2)}{\rho c} \frac{\alpha_{mn}(\omega)(1 - M_a^2)^2}{(1 \mp \alpha_{mn}(\omega)M_a)^2} |A_{mn}^\pm(\omega)|^2 \quad (9)$$

with $\alpha_{mn}(\omega) = (1 - (1 - M_a^2)(\sigma_{mn}/(k_{mn}R))^2)^{1/2}$, R is the duct radius, c is the sound speed, ρ is the flow density, and M_a is the Mach number in the axial direction.

Synthetic Sound Fields

A numerical analysis was first performed in the synthetic sound fields. It is assumed that the duct is hard walled and has non-reflecting terminations in the following. The duct radius is 0.25 m. An optionally superposed axial flow is represented as a uniform-profile flow. In this section, M_a is set as 0.10. The sound pressure at position (x_j, r_j, ϕ_j) is excited by the S_x ring(s) of monopole sources (each ring has S_ϕ point-like monopole sources) at position (x_i, r_i, ϕ_i) , which are driven with volume velocity, e.g., $q_0(x_i, r_i, \phi_i)$, cf. **Figure 2**, can be calculated with the appropriate Green's function:

$$p(x_j, r_j, \phi_j | x_i, r_i, \phi_i) = q \sum_{m,n} \chi_{mn} f_{mn}(r_i) f_{mn}(r_j) e^{im(\phi_j - \phi_i)} e^{ik_{mn}^+(x_j - x_i)} \quad (10)$$

The quantity χ_{mn} is definite for each mode (m, n) , which contains the frequency-dependent mode cut-on ratio. Referring to the typical **Eq. 3** of duct mode expansion, the amplitude of mode (m, n) excited by the source is written as

TABLE 1 | Source arrangements used for mode coherence detection.

Condition number	Condition I	Condition II	Condition III	Condition IV
Axial positions	1	1	2	10
Circumferential positions in each ring	1	12	12	12

$$A_{mn}^{\pm}(q, x_i, r_i, \varphi_i) = q\chi_{mn}f_{mn}(r_j)e^{-im\varphi_i}e^{-ik_{mn}^{\pm}x_i} \quad (11)$$

In the following, the modal cross-spectral density is formulated for an array consisting of S_x rings of point-like monopole sources; each ring is equipped with S_{φ} equidistantly positioned sources. All sources are placed at the outer duct radius $r_i = R$, considering the experimental implementation. If all sources are incoherent and have equal spectral density, the analytical modal cross spectral can be inferred.

$$\langle A_{mn}A_{\mu\nu}^* \rangle = \chi_{mn}\chi_{\mu\nu}^*\langle qq^* \rangle \sum_{j=0}^{N_x} \sum_{l=0}^{N_{\varphi}-1} \Gamma_{mn}(x_j, R, \varphi_l)\Gamma_{\mu\nu}^*(x_j, R, \varphi_l) \quad (12)$$

Here $\Gamma_{mn}(x, R, \varphi) = f_{mn}(R)e^{-im\varphi}e^{-ik_{mn}^{\pm}x}$, the analytical mode coherence function can be calculated subsequently.

In the actual test, environment reflections can appear upstream or downstream of the sensor array. The impact of the reflections can be integrated into the Green's function with a method of mirrored sources. For simplicity, the reflection coefficient r_c is assumed to be independent of the mode order and also the frequency; here, it is set as 0.2. The effect of mode scattering from an incident mode into another mode with different azimuthal or radial orders is neglected here. The Green's function can be modified subsequently to

$$p(x_j, r_j, \varphi_j) = \frac{\rho c}{4\pi R^2} q_0 \sum_{m,n} \frac{f_{mn}(R)^2}{\alpha_{mn}} e^{im(\varphi_j - \varphi_i)} (e^{ik_{mn}^+ (x_j - x_i)} + r_c e^{ik_{mn}^- (x_j - x_i)}) \quad (13)$$

In the frame of the numerical study, four substantially different arrangements of point-like monopole sources, denoted by Latin numbers I–IV, are investigated. The detailed information of source configurations is displayed in **Table 1**. The main difference lies in the number of axial sensor rings and also the total number of point-like monopole sources. At each sensor, the position time series of 700 FFT windows are used in the numerical process.

Ducted Sound Source Distribution Models

At high frequency, a large number of modes will be cut on inside the duct according to the Tyler and Sofrin modal theory, which brings great challenges to the experimental test of the modal coherence coefficient. As an alternative strategy, it is necessary to study the modal coherence distribution at a high frequency by pre-assuming the modal amplitude or sound source distribution in the duct. The sound source in the low-speed flow duct is mainly composed of dipole and monopole sound sources. This section will establish three representative sound source models:

uniformly distributed monopoles, uniformly distributed dipoles, and equal energy per mode (EPPM) sound source models.

When the incoherent sound sources are uniformly distributed on a certain cross-section in the duct, the non-homogeneous wave equation contains the source term

$$\left(\frac{1}{c^2} \frac{D^2}{Dt^2} - \nabla^2\right)p = q \quad (14)$$

The source term can be expressed as

$$q = \left(\frac{D}{Dt}\right)^{\nu} \frac{(-\partial)^{\mu}}{\partial x_i \partial x_j \dots} q_{ij\dots} \quad (15)$$

in which ν represents the time order of the sound source distribution and μ represents the space order of the sound source distribution. In the follow-up study, the sound source distribution is limited to the axial direction. At this time, the source term can be written as

$$q = \left(\frac{D}{Dt}\right)^{\nu} \left(\frac{-\partial}{\partial x}\right)^{\mu} q_{xx} \quad (16)$$

Considering the single mode generated by a fixed sound source in a semi-infinite duct, Joseph et al. (2003) indicated that the spatial differentiation of the single mode (the second item on the right of **Eq. 16**) is equivalent to

$$\left(\frac{-\partial}{\partial x}\right)^{\mu} \rightarrow (-ik_{mn}^+)^{\mu} \quad (17)$$

Similarly, the time differential in equation is equivalent to

$$\left(\frac{D}{Dt}\right)^{\nu} \rightarrow \left[-i\omega + U \frac{\partial}{\partial x}\right]^{\nu} = \left[-i\omega \left(\frac{1 - \alpha_{mn} Ma}{1 - Ma^2}\right)\right]^{\nu} \quad (18)$$

Therefore, when the cross-section in the semi-infinite circular duct is uniformly distributed with incoherent sound sources of spatial order μ and time order ν , the modal amplitude value can be expressed in a general form (Joseph and Morfey, 1999):

$$\left|A_{mn}^{(\mu,\nu)}\right|^2 \propto \frac{1}{\alpha_{mn}^2} \left(\frac{Ma - \alpha_{mn}}{1 - Ma^2}\right)^{2\mu} \left(\frac{1 - \alpha_{mn} Ma}{1 - Ma^2}\right)^{2\nu} \quad (19)$$

in which (μ, ν) is used to indicate the sound source type, $(\mu, \nu) = (0, 1)$ corresponds to a monopole sound source, and $(\mu, \nu) = (1, 0)$ corresponds to an axial dipole sound source. There is also a type of sound source distribution in the actual research: EPPM, that is to say, the energy carried by each cut-on mode is the same, that is $PWL_{mn} = W_0$. The modal amplitude distribution $A_{mn}^{(ee)}$ of EPPM can be expressed as

TABLE 2 | Three sound source models in airflow duct.

Sound source model	Monopole sound source	Dipole sound source	EEPM
(μ, ν, γ)	(0,1,2)	(1,0,2)	(0,1,1)
$C_{\mu,\nu,\gamma}^2$	$(\rho c)^2 \overline{Q_s^2}/2$	$\overline{F_s^2}/2$	$2\rho c W_0/S$

$$|A_{mn}^{(ee)}|^2 \infty 2\rho c S^{-1} \alpha_{mn}^{-1} W_0 \left(\frac{1 - \alpha_{mn} Ma}{1 - Ma^2} \right)^2 \quad (20)$$

It can be found that the model formula (20) cannot be unified to formula (19). Therefore, the sound source distribution model is integrated as

$$E\{|A_{mn}|^2\} = C_{\mu,\nu,\gamma}^2 \left(\frac{Ma - \alpha_{mn}}{1 - Ma^2} \right)^{2\mu} \left(\frac{1 - \alpha_{mn} Ma}{1 - Ma^2} \right)^{2\nu} \frac{1}{\alpha_{mn}^\gamma} \quad (21)$$

in which $E\{|A_{mn}|^2\}$ is the expected value of the square of the modal amplitude, and $C_{\mu,\nu,\gamma}^2$ represents the sound source intensity.

The corresponding values of the three models are shown in **Table 2**; the type of sound source is defined by three Greek letters (μ, ν, γ) : $\overline{Q_s^2}$ is the mean value of the squared velocity in the monopole sound source distribution; $\overline{F_s^2}$ is the mean value of the squared force in the dipole sound source distribution; W_0 is the energy carried by each mode in EEPM. The modal amplitudes of the three sound source models can be expressed as

$$E\{|A_{mn}|^2\} = C_{012}^2 \left(\frac{1 - \alpha_{mn} Ma}{1 - Ma^2} \right)^2 \frac{1}{\alpha_{mn}^2} \quad (22)$$

$$E\{|A_{mn}|^2\} = C_{102}^2 \left(\frac{Ma - \alpha_{mn}}{1 - Ma^2} \right)^2 \frac{1}{\alpha_{mn}^2} \quad (23)$$

$$E\{|A_{mn}|^2\} = C_{011}^2 \left(\frac{1 - \alpha_{mn} Ma}{1 - Ma^2} \right)^2 \frac{1}{\alpha_{mn}} \quad (24)$$

Eq. 22 represents a uniformly distributed incoherent monopole sound source $(\mu, \nu, \gamma) = (0, 1, 2)$, **Eq. 23** represents a uniformly distributed incoherent dipole sound source $(\mu, \nu, \gamma) = (1, 0, 2)$, and **Eq. 24** represents a modal and equal energy distribution sound source $(\mu, \nu, \gamma) = (0, 1, 1)$.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SYNTHETIZED SOUND FIELDS

In the frame of the numerical study of modal coherence in a flow duct, four substantially different arrangements of point-like monopole sources displayed in **Table 1** are investigated. On one hand, the analytical coherence functions of pairwise modes theoretically obtained by **Eq. 16** are compared with that inferred from **Eq. 8** in order to assess the characteristics of the simulated sound fields; on the other hand, a comparison of the squared mode amplitudes obtained by **Eq. 11** with that calculated by the cross-correlation mode decomposition method (CC-MDM) (Jürgens et al., 2010; Xu et al., 2015), Reference Correlation Mode Decomposition Method (RC-MDM) (Xu et al., 2017a), Combined Sensor Array (CSA method) (Tapken et al., 2014; Xu et al., 2017b), and also the

analytical values inferred from **Eq. 21** is fulfilled to determine the bias. **Figure 3** shows exemplary results in the flow direction for a duct with measurement sensor rings located downstream of the sources rings.

The reflected modes are found to have comparatively little difference compared with the deviation of incident modes, so it is not shown in this paper for simplicity. In the left column of **Figure 3**, the coherence functions of mode pairs (0, 0) and (0, 1), (0, 0) and (1, 0), (1, 0), and (1, 1) are plotted up to 1,400 Hz (corresponding to $kR = 6.47$, $|M_{\max}| = 5$, $N_{\max} = 1$), with the lowest frequency of $f = 397\text{Hz}$ ($kR = 1.83$) delineating the frequency range between purely plane wave propagation, $kR < 1.83$, and higher-order modes $kR \geq 1.83$. Mode pairs are specially chosen to investigate the characteristics of modal coherence with respect to the azimuthal order m and radial order n . Shown on these figures (as a solid line) are the analytical values of the mode coherence, the corresponding terms obtained by the CC-MDM are plotted in dash-dotted form with different symbols. The estimate of the mode coherence functions is completely consistent with the analytical values for all the four conditions.

The sound field within the duct generated by a single monopole source is completely coherent, i.e., all modes are fully coherent, which is consistent with the investigation (Michalke et al., 1996). When a single ring of $S_\varphi = 12$, incoherent monopole sources that have equal spectral density are arranged; the excited sound field is partially coherent as shown in **Figure 3B**, i.e., the modes with a different azimuthal order are incoherent except for pairs $m - \mu = \pm sN_\varphi$ with s being any integer; the radial modes are all coherent not only within each azimuthal mode m but also with the radial modes of azimuthal order μ . Good collapse of the measured coherence between pairwise radial modes are observed in **Figures 3C,D** when more rings of monopole sources are occupied, especially in condition VI in which the statistical coherence between almost all radial modes can be set to zero (referring to (Jeong et al., 2006)). The notable feature of **Figure 3D** is the slow rate of decay observed in the coherence function between (0, 0) and (0, 1) modes. The reason for this behavior is most likely due to the deficiency of the number of source rings and total axial length of source rings. In the right columns of **Figure 3**, the mode sound power determined with CSA method are shown for mode (0, 0) and (0, 1) in comparison with the CC-MDM, RC-MDM methods and with the analytical solutions. Each mode is accurately determined by the CC-MDM, and the values calculated by the CC-MDM are consistent with analytical terms. The results calculated by RC-MDM and CSA methods are relatively consistent, but there appears a 2 dB deviation from the true values, the error of the predicted modal sound power will be higher when the modal sound power is relatively low.

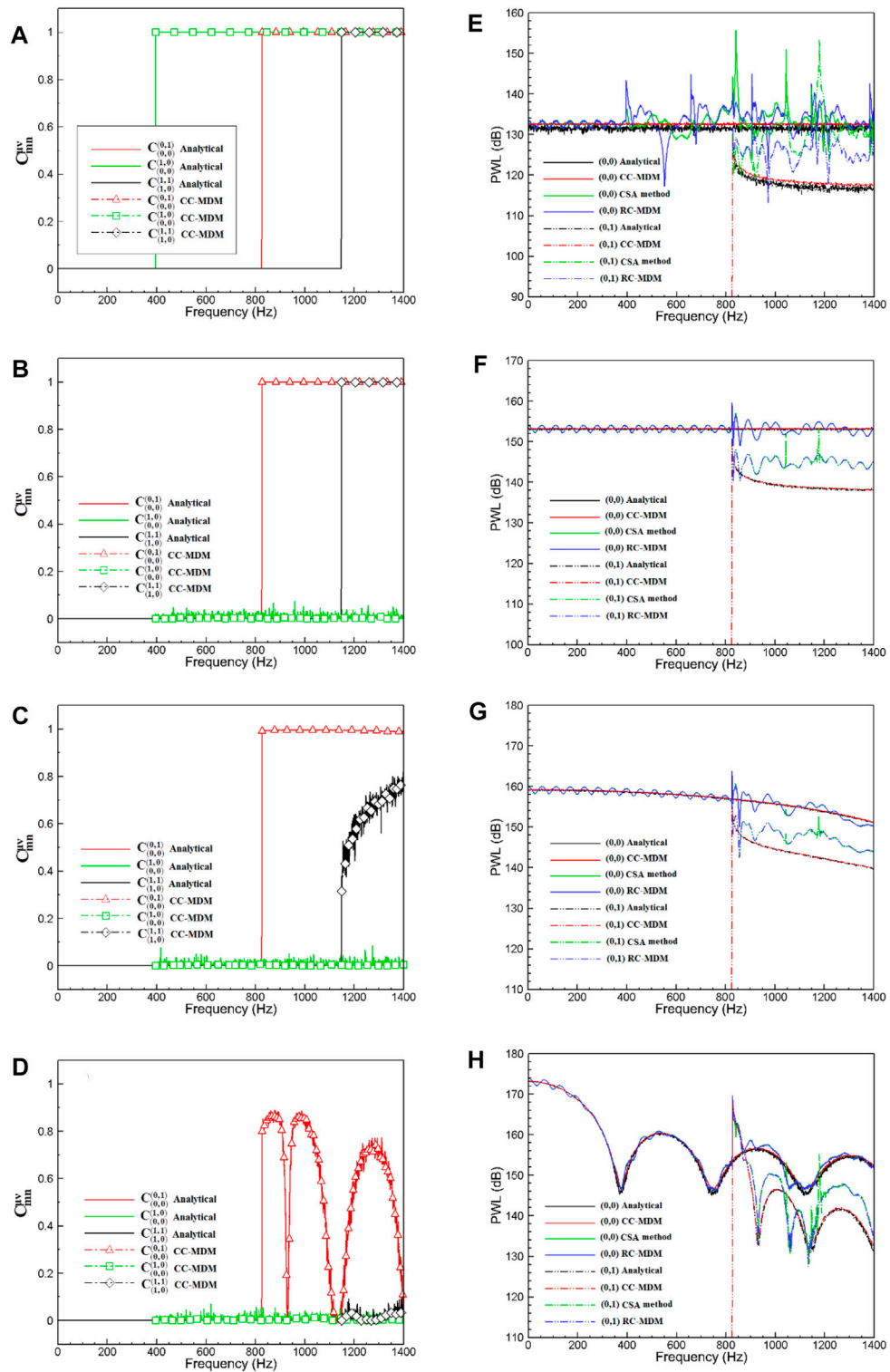


FIGURE 3 | Modal coherence and sound power results of CC-MDM, CSA method, and RC-MDM appended with analytical prediction. Broadband sound fields were synthesized by using different ring numbers of incoherent monopole sources shown in **Table 2**. Diagrams **(A–D)** depict the mode coherence; diagrams **(E–H)** show the modal sound power.

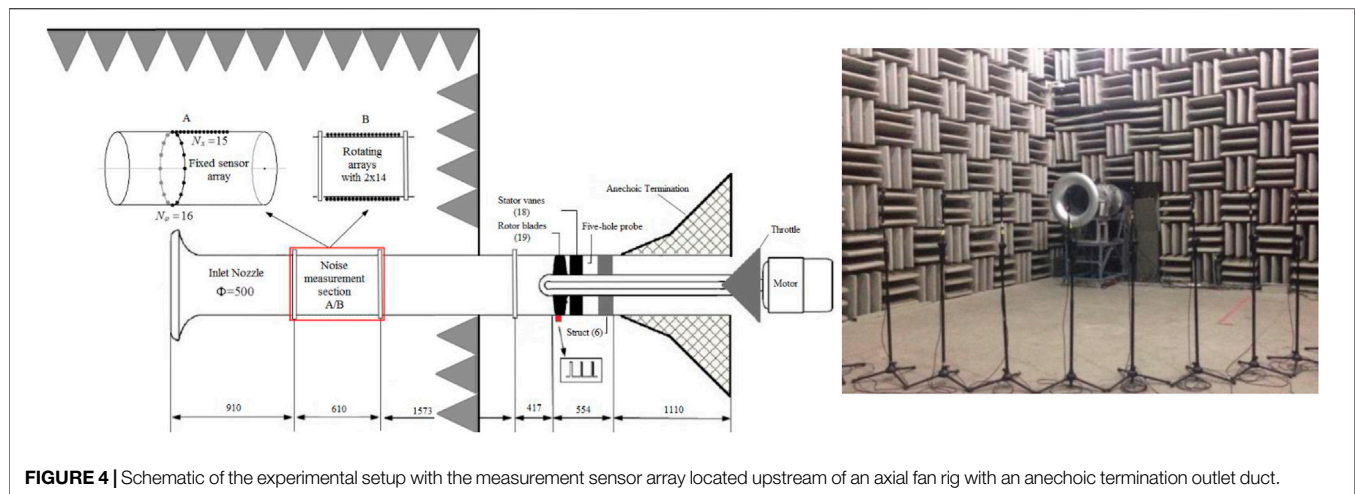


FIGURE 4 | Schematic of the experimental setup with the measurement sensor array located upstream of an axial fan rig with an anechoic termination outlet duct.

In condition I, mode amplitudes above the cut-on frequency of the non-plane wave are determined with large oscillation error since all mode pairs are fully coherent. In conditions II and III, relatively accurate modal sound power results are determined with CSA and RC-MDM methods up to the cut-on frequency of the first higher radial mode order (i.e., $f = 826\text{Hz}$). However, the mode amplitude distribution observed in this figure appear to be systematically oscillatory with 1 dB deviation. Above 826 Hz, the amplitudes of both modes (0, 0) and (0, 1) obtained by the RC-MDM and CSA method are distracted strongly in all source conditions. The underlying precondition of both methods is the assumption that modes with different azimuthal and radial orders are mutually incoherent. However, this is not consistent with the actual modal coherence characteristic referring to the mode coherence results shown alongside. Serious deviation arises as a result of high degree of modal coherence in pairwise mode with respect to a higher radial mode order n .

It should be noted that the resolved mode amplitudes of mode (0, 1) are always higher than the actual value; the potential reason for this phenomenon is that the energy carried by the modal cross-terms is forced to superimpose over the squared mode amplitudes in the process of mode decomposition. In condition IV, a reasonable sound power solution of mode (0, 0) is determined by the CSA method, although a high degree of coherence appears between the radial modes with the azimuthal mode order $m = 0$. That is to say, internal modal cross-terms have decayed to sufficiently small values in comparison with the dominant mode when more rings of monopole sources are occupied. The peaks observed in the modal sound power are induced by the numerical instability when they are close to the cut-on frequencies of modes. The corresponding axial wave number is nearly zero when the Mach number is very low, i.e., $k_{mn} \doteq 0$ if $M_a \ll 1$; at this typical condition, the only way to decompose this mode is by placing sensors with sufficiently long distance.

In general, broadband modal decomposition appears to be highly sensitive to the mode coherence characteristics, CSA and RC-MDM methods deliver a comparable estimate of the incident

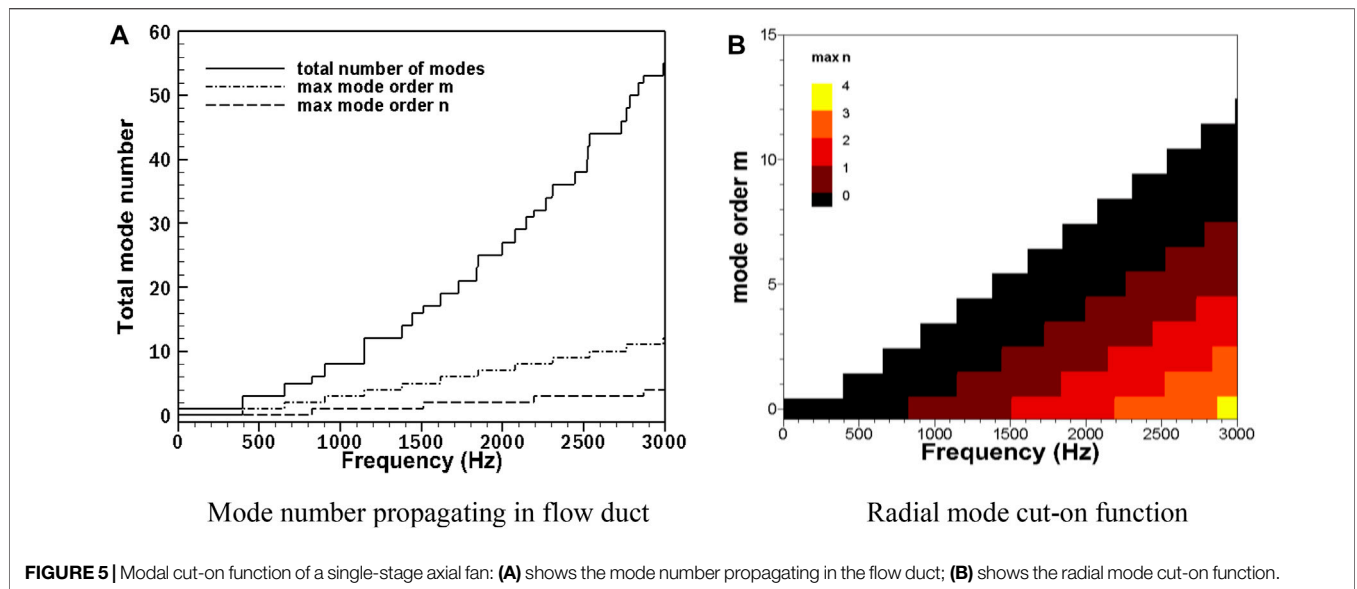
modal sound power within the frequency range in which modes are almost mutually incoherent.

EXPERIMENTAL STUDY ON THE ACOUSTIC MODAL COHERENCE CHARACTERISTICS

Experimental Facility and Setup

One important aspect of this paper is to experimentally investigate the modal coherence distribution with respect to an axial fan test rig. A schematic of the experimental set-up is shown in **Figure 4**. It was designed with the intention to capture the most relevant acoustic features of an axial fan. On the inlet side there is a short duct section with a bell mouth nozzle and there are no flow straighteners or screens in the inlet duct. The single-stage axial fan consisting of 19 rotor blades and 18 stator vanes was driven at 3,000 rpm with the help of one motor providing 18.5 kW electric power. The diameter is 0.5 m, and the axial Mach number is 0.1. The outlet duct is equipped with an anechoic termination device; this condition strictly conforms to the international standard ISO 5136 for in-duct sound power determination. The number of stator vanes was designed such that the rotor–stator interaction tone at the blade passing frequency (BPF) is acoustically cut on.

In order to eliminate noise pollution in the experimental measurement, the acoustic environment of the experiment is particularly important. For example, when the standing wave formed by the external enclosed environment radiates into the duct, it will directly affect the experimental measurement of the fan inlet noise and reduce the signal-to-noise ratio of the acoustic signal. The fan inlet and the acoustic measurement section are placed inside the semi-anechoic chamber to reduce the influence of external reflected noise on the fan inlet noise test; perforated acoustic liners are installed on the inner and outer walls of the fan exhaust duct. The phase lock device (shown as a red square in **Figure 4**) used in this paper is a photoelectric sensor. The pulse signal can be used to capture the circumferential angle of the fan blade and also the real-time fan rotating speed; the accuracy can



be guaranteed to be less than 2°. The sampling frequency is 16,384 Hz, and time series of a length of 60 FFT windows were used here, each window comprising 16,384 data samples. In order to meet the requirements of the designed method, the acoustic measurement section (shown as a red box in **Figure 4**) is divided into two measurement devices: part A and part B. Part A is a combined sensor array that includes a ring of 16 equiangular installed sensors and a row of 15 equidistant microphones. In part B, a rotating measurement system is designed to be driven by a stepper motor; two axial arrays, each consisting of 14 microphones with equal intervals, are installed in the rotating measurement system that can rotate 360° in the circumferential direction in the experiment.

Figure 5 shows the acoustic modal cut-on function of the fan duct. **Figure 5A** shows the total mode number propagating in the flow duct; the solid line, dash-dotted line, and dashed line indicate the total number of cut-on modes, maximum circumferential mode order, and maximum radial mode order, respectively. At 3,000 Hz, a total of 55 modes are able to propagate in the flow duct. Taking into account the forward and backward propagation of the modes, there will be 110 modal waves propagating in the duct, of which the maximum circumferential order is $m = \pm 12$ and the maximum radial mode order is $n = 4$. **Figure 5B** shows the radial mode details of each circumferential mode. As the frequency increases, more radial modes will be cut on in the duct. At 3,000 Hz, the circumferential mode $m = 0$ is composed of (0,0), (0,1), (0,2), (0,3), and (0,4) modes.

Acoustic Modal Coherence Distribution of the Single-Stage Axial Fan

In the turbomachinery, the noise generated by rotor blades is a radially distributed sound source term. It is assumed that the ducted broadband sound field consists of fully incoherent modes, which are the important precondition of the broadband mode decomposition method presented by Enghardt (Enghardt et al.,

2004). This assumption has not been verified experimentally so far for turbomachinery noise. Indeed, it is reasonable that specific modes are excited with high degree of coherence if certain conditions with respect to the spatial arrangement of sources are fulfilled; the compactness of the sources and the interference of the in-stationary aerodynamic forces also play an important role on modal coherence.

In the analysis of modal coherence function, the modal combinations are divided into two categories: in the first modal combination, the circumferential orders of modes are different from each other ($m \neq \mu$); the second type satisfies the same circumferential mode order but different radial mode order ($m = \mu, n \neq \nu$).

Coherence Coefficient Spectrum of $m \neq \mu$ Modal Combination

The modal coherence coefficients are measured at four operation conditions: 90%, 92%, 96%, and 100% design speed in the single-stage axial fan noise experiment. It should be noted that, although the microphone in the test is equipped with a windshield, the pressure pulsation of the airflow will inevitably affect the sound pressure measurement. The coherence function between modal complex amplitudes will be affected accordingly; the result will not reach the upper and lower limits, i.e., 1 and 0 defined by the formula eventually. **Figure 6** shows the modal coherence coefficients of the first mode combination, the coherence coefficient is lower than 0.15 from 300 to 1,100 Hz. The test results can show that the modes of different circumferential orders are incoherent from each other, taking into account the influence of airflow pulsation and acoustic test error. At the BPF, the coherence coefficients of $m \neq \mu$ mode combinations rise to the maximum value as shown by the red dashed box; the value reaches to 1 nearly, for example, the peak appearing at 1BPF of 100% design speed condition shown in **Figure 6D**. It indicates that all modes in flow duct are completely coherent. As everyone knows that the tonal noise of

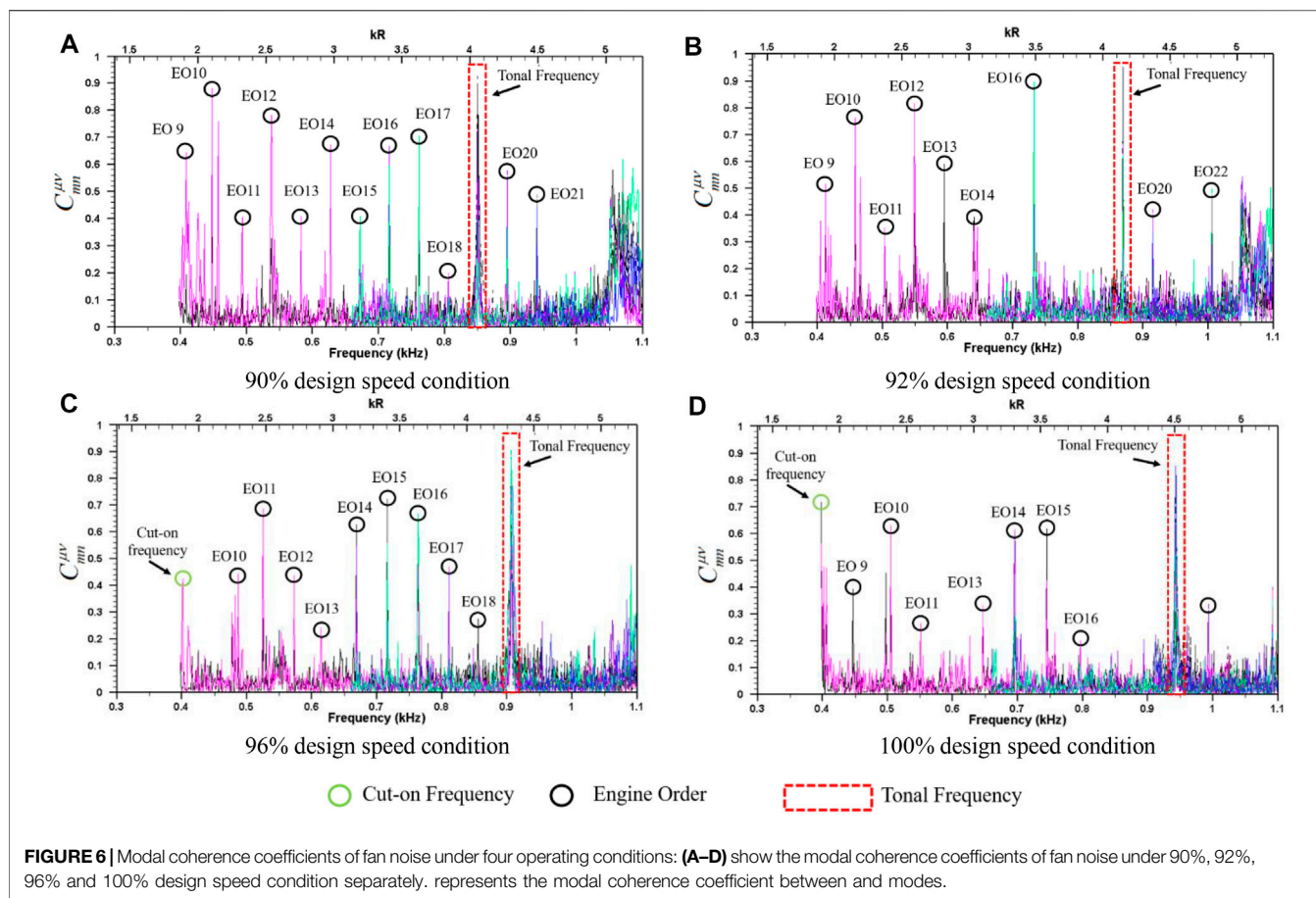


FIGURE 6 | Modal coherence coefficients of fan noise under four operating conditions: (A–D) show the modal coherence coefficients of fan noise under 90%, 92%, 96% and 100% design speed condition separately. represents the modal coherence coefficient between and modes.

axial fan is mainly caused by the unsteady aerodynamic force generated by the viscous wake of the upstream blade periodically interfering with the rotor or stator blades. Due to the clear generation mechanism of tonal noise, there is a strong degree of coherence between the internal modes of tonal noise, which is consistent with the coherence coefficient peaks appearing at the tonal noise frequencies in **Figure 6** at different operation conditions.

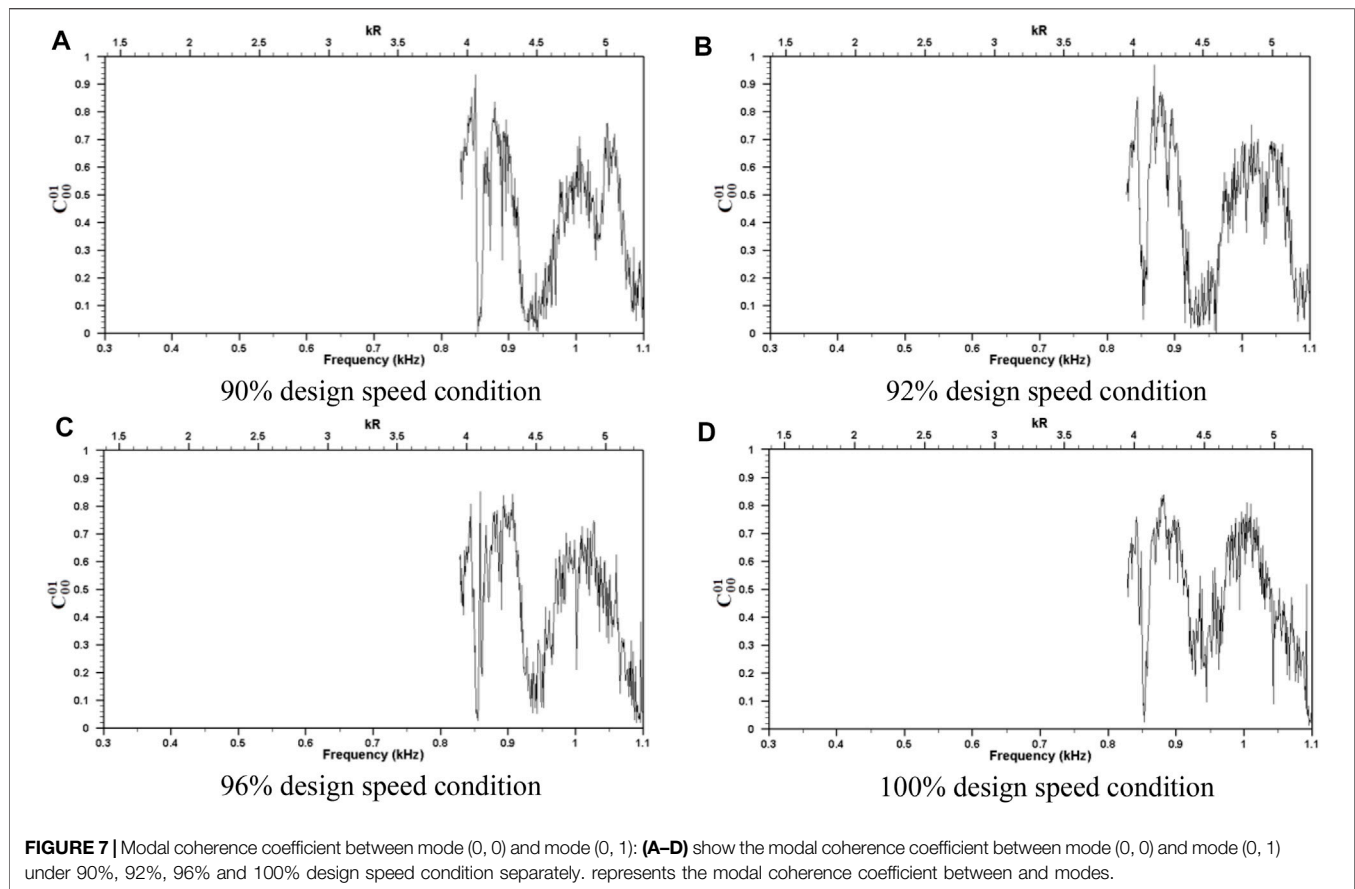
In addition to the peaks appearing at the tonal noise frequencies, multiple peaks at other frequencies also exist in the experimentally measured coherence coefficient results. The main reasons can be attributed to two categories: (a) when the frequency is close to the mode cut-on frequencies, due to the extreme eigenvalue generated in the process of matrix operation, the instability of numerical calculation leads to unreal complex modal amplitude. The modal coherence coefficients become exaggerated accordingly, which is represented by a green circle in **Figure 6**; (b) there are many peaks at the shaft frequency and its harmonics. For example, in **Figure 6C**, the fundamental shaft frequency (engine order [EO]) is 47.6 Hz; the modal coherence coefficients existing peak at 666, 714, 761.5, and 809 Hz. These frequencies correspond to EO14, EO15, EO16, and EO17, which are marked with black circles in **Figure 6**. The amplitudes of these coherence coefficient peaks are relatively small to that of tonal noise, and the occurrence frequencies are determined regularly. It can be considered to be the mechanical noise generated by the

rotating shaft. Therefore, they have limited influence on the acoustic modal coherence characteristics of the flow duct.

Coherence Coefficient Spectrum of $m = \mu$ Mode Combination

Figure 7 shows the coherence coefficients of the second type of mode combination. At four operating conditions, the results of C_{00}^{01} show a trend of large oscillations around the value of 0.5, which indicates that fan noise has a high degree of coherence between the radial modes within the same circumferential mode order. The shape of coherence coefficient spectrum is very similar at different operating conditions, which shows that the C_{00}^{01} spectrum is very low sensitive to the tonal noise of flow fan. When the flow parameters of axial fan change, there is almost no obvious variation in the coherence coefficient magnitude and spectrum appearance, showing an approximately constant and regular characteristic.

For turbomachine aerodynamic noise, the hypothesis of the incoherence of internal modes has not been experimentally verified. The experimental results above show that the modes with different circumferential orders are statistically incoherent. As for the specific radial modes with the same circumferential order, the reason for appearing high relevance is closely related to the spatial distribution, compactness of the sound source, and also the individual sound source terms generated by the unsteady aerodynamic force. At low frequencies, a high degree of



coherence characteristics appears between the radial modes with the same circumferential order. This may be caused by the self-noise generation mechanism of the blade row, which means that each blade can be regarded as a compact sound source compared to a long sound wavelength at low frequencies. However, it can be expected that the coherence characteristics existing between some modes may change at high frequencies because the characteristic wavelength of the sound wave becomes shorter relative to the blade spanwise length.

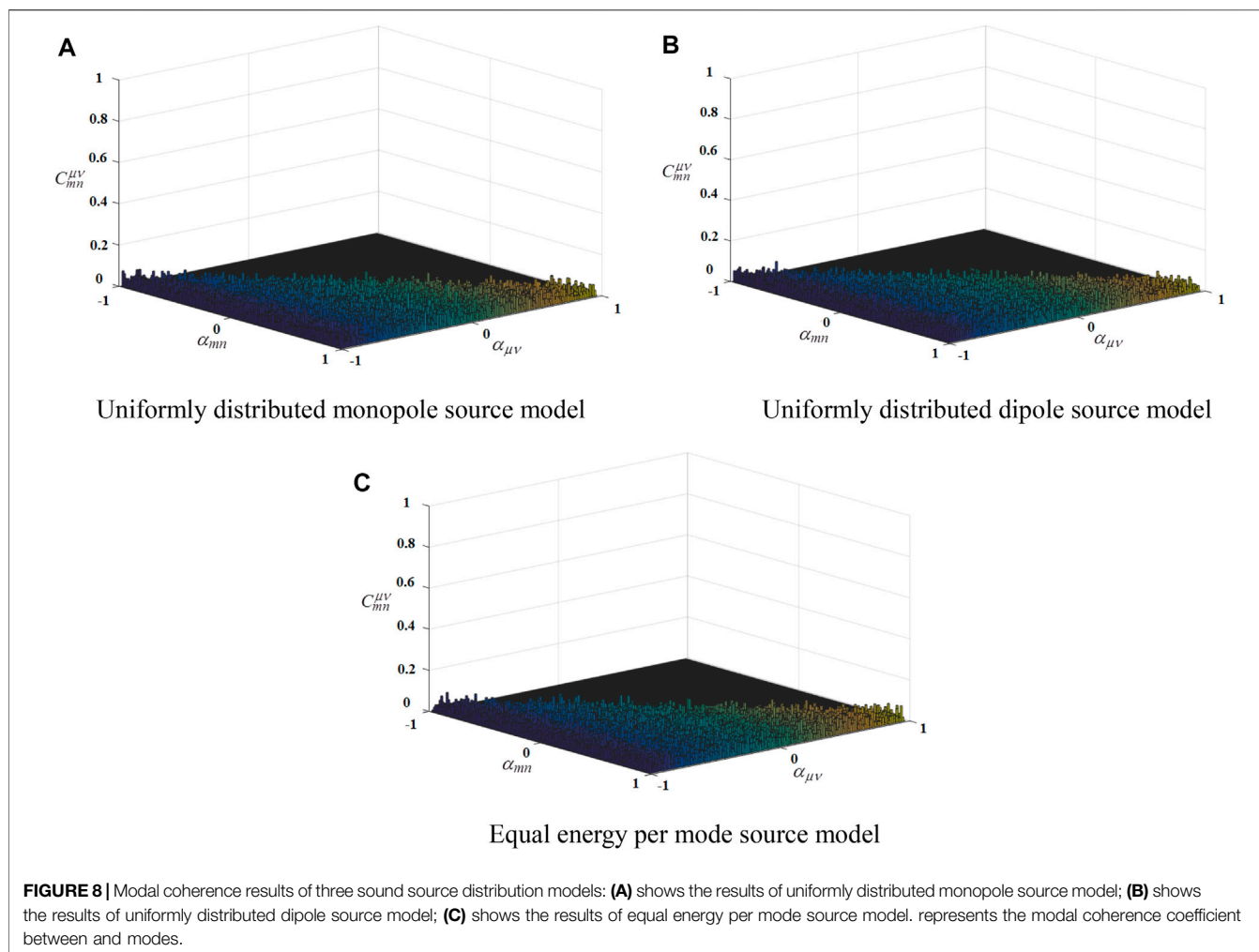
Theoretical Analysis on Acoustic Modal Coherence Distribution at High Frequency

The *Characteristics of the Synthesized Sound Fields Section* and *Acoustic Modal Coherence Distribution of the Single-Stage Axial Fan* section investigated the modal coherence distribution between modes in synthesized sound fields and a single-stage axial fan and finally came to important conclusions. As the frequency gradually increases, the number of modes will increase exponentially, and the number of sound pressure measurement points required for experimental measurement will also increase exponentially; this requirement results in a great challenge to the acoustic experiment of turbomachines.

In this section, theoretical analysis methods will be used to further expand the research on the acoustic modal coherence in flow duct at high frequencies in the hope of drawing conclusions

over a wider frequency range. The modal amplitude distribution function in the duct can be obtained by using three ducted sound source distribution models proposed in the *Ducted Sound Source Distribution Models* section. Based on the ducted noise propagation model, the sound pressure values at different positions of microphone array measurement can be obtained by complex modal sound pressure superposition; combined with the broadband noise modal coherence analysis method, it can be achieved to further investigate the modal coherence function in a theoretical way. The advantage of this research is that the modal amplitude obtained by the mode decomposition method can be used to verify the reliability of the model based on the preknowledge of the modal amplitude distribution function. The modal coherence is deliberated on the basis of successful verification to make the results more reliable.

The influence of different ducted sound source models on modal coherence is discussed first in theoretical analysis. **Figure 8** shows the modal coherence results of three sound source models at 5,412 Hz, in which the expected values are calculated with a statistical average process. A total of 170 modes are cut on in the flow duct at 5,412 Hz, including the maximum circumferential order $m_{max} = \pm 22$ and the maximum radial order $n_{max} = 7$. The microphone array is composed of 20 rings of measuring points; each ring is equipped with 50 equiangular microphones. The coherence coefficients of modes (m, n) and (μ, ν) are expressed as $C_{mn}^{\mu\nu}$; the two modes are distinguished by α_{mn} and $\alpha_{\mu\nu}$, the range of

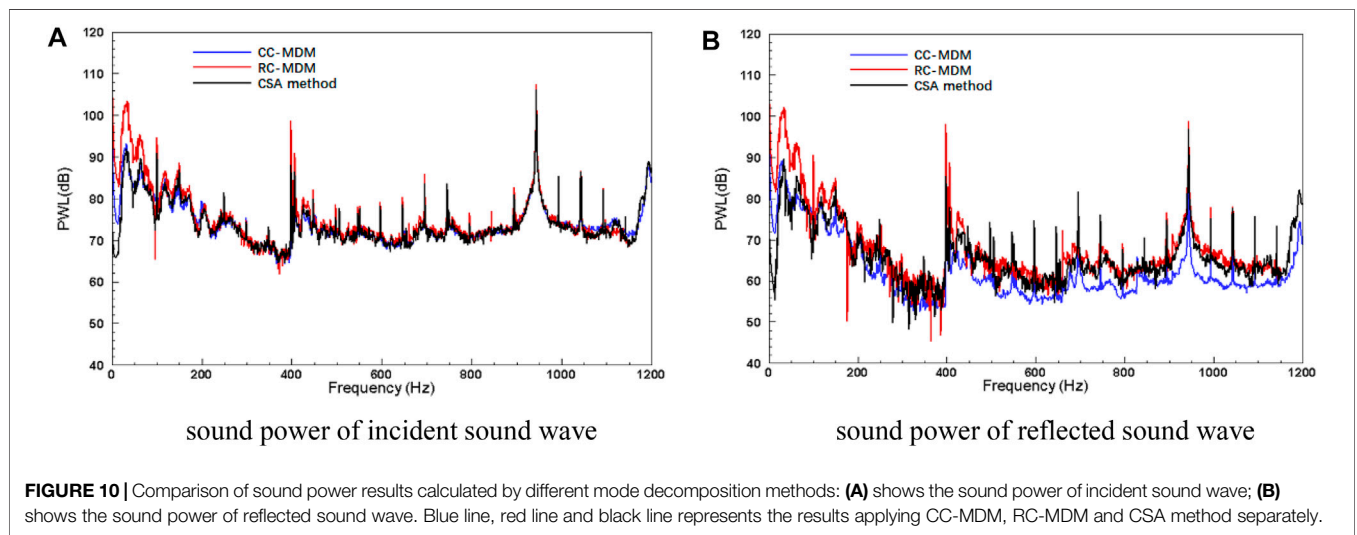
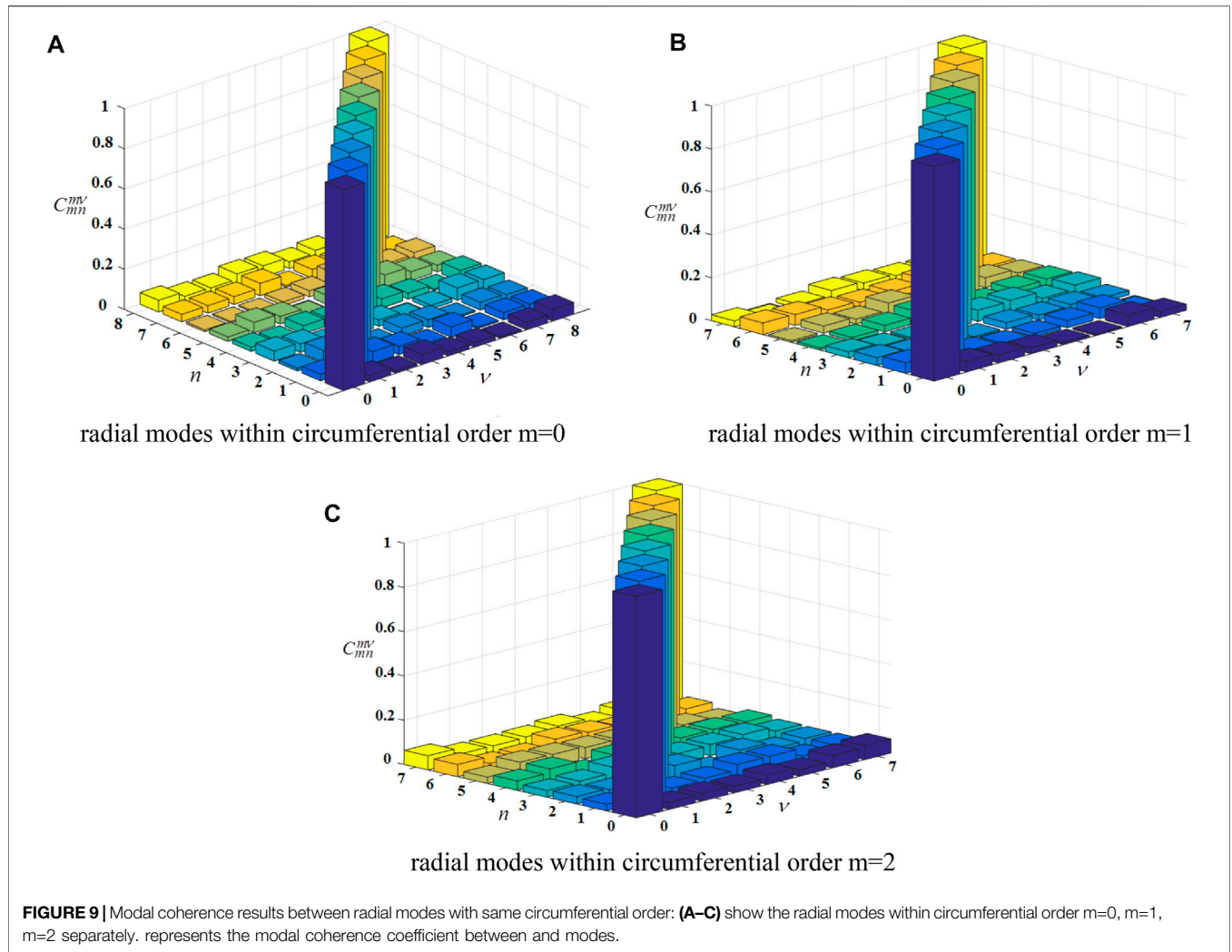


which is zero to one, referring to Eq. 19. In order to distinguish the forward modes (the modal circumferential order is positive, $m > 0$) and reverse modes (the modal circumferential order is negative, $m < 0$), the modal cut-on ratio of reverse modes is set to negative values. Then, all the modes in the duct can be expressed as a single-valued function of the modal cut-on ratio, and the value range becomes -1 to $+1$. It can be seen in Figure 8 that the coherence coefficients of all modes are lower than 0.1, that is to say the modes are mutually incoherent. By comparing the modal coherence coefficient results of the three ducted sound source models (monopole source model, dipole source model, EEPM source model), it can be found that the coherence results of the three sound source distribution models are very consistent, which shows that it is not necessary to study all the three sound source distribution models, but only one of them can be used to achieve the purpose of further study on modal coherence coefficients.

Figure 9 shows the modal coherence coefficients of different radial modes within the circumferential mode $m = 0$, $m = 1$ and $m = 2$ at 5,412 Hz. Abscissa n and ν represent different radial mode orders, respectively, and ordinate $C_{mn}^{\mu\nu}$ represents the coherence coefficients of (m, n) mode and (m, ν) mode.

According to formula (19), the main diagonal element in Figure 9 corresponds to the autocorrelation coefficient of the mode. The numerical result of the main diagonal is close to 1, which is consistent with the theory. The coherence coefficients between different radial modes are all less than 0.1, which indicates that the different radial modes are mutually incoherent. Compared with the experimental results of acoustic modes in the *Coherence Coefficient Spectrum of $m = \mu$ Mode Combination* section, the modal coherence coefficient becomes more concise in this section; this is because the sound field in the theoretical study is artificially generated by the ducted sound source models, and there is no aerodynamic self-noise in theoretical analysis. The results further illustrate that high degree of coherence appearing between individual modes is due to the fact that the fan rotor blades and stator vanes are radial compact sound sources.

In this section, three kinds of ducted sound source distribution models are established, and the modal coherence characteristics at high frequencies are investigated theoretically for the first time by using the artificially constructed ducted sound fields. The results show



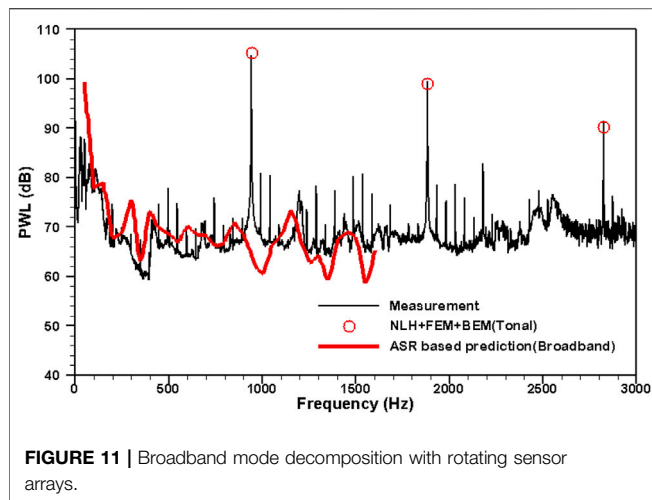


FIGURE 11 | Broadband mode decomposition with rotating sensor arrays.

that all the modes are incoherent at different frequencies, and the modal coherence characteristics are independent of the sound source distribution models. The coherence characteristics of the three ducted sound source models are approximately the same. At high frequencies, the radial modes within the same circumferential mode are incoherent to each other.

Broadband Modal Distribution Results

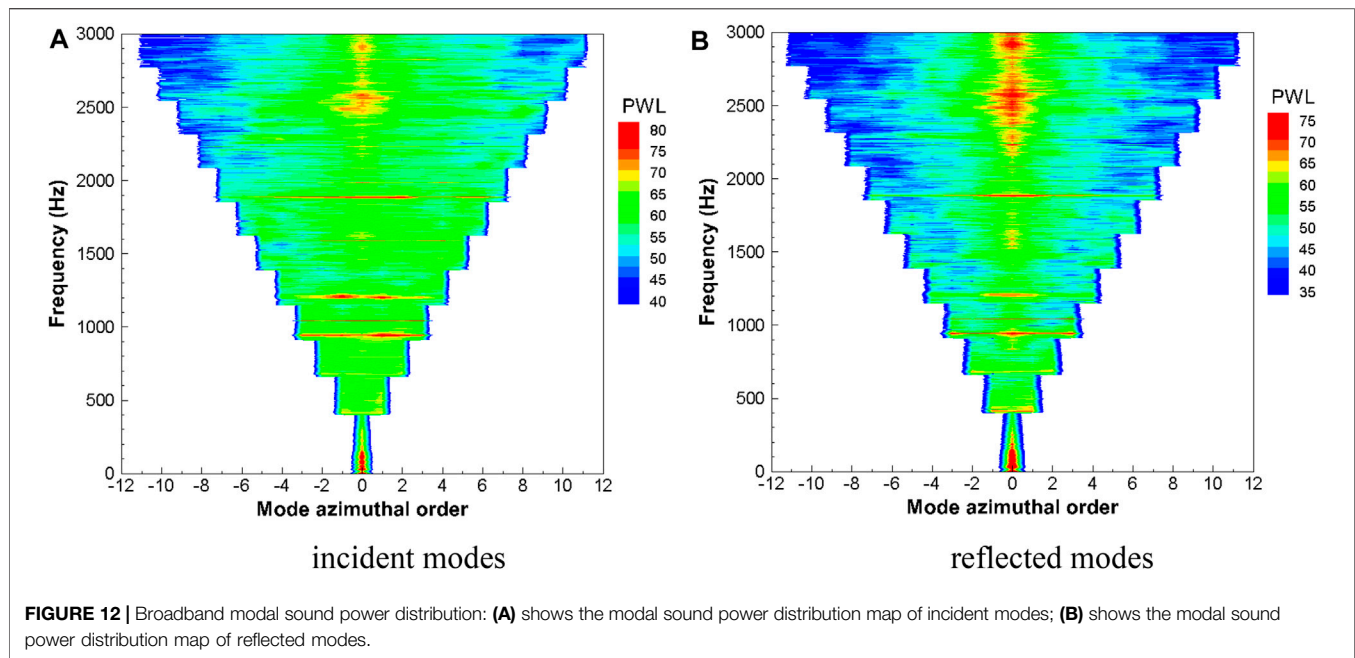
Different modal identification methods (RC-MDM, CSA method) make relevant assumptions and simplifications about the modal coherence; the influence of this simplified treatment on the sound power and modal amplitude distribution of turbomachinery ducted noise field, which we are most concerned about, needs to be further studied. **Figure 10** shows the sound power results of incident and reflected sound waves calculated by different modal decomposition methods. The red and blue lines represent the computed sound power results calculated by the RC-MDM and CC-MDM, respectively, and the black line represents the sound power results computed by the CSA method. A series of simplifications of complex modal amplitude cross-terms are carried out in CSA and RC-MDM methods. It can be seen from **Figure 10** that the shape of sound power spectral calculated by the three methods are consistent with each other, both in the incident and reflected sound waves.

The cross-terms $C_{mn}^{\mu\nu}$ of modal complex amplitudes are retained completely in the CC-MDM, which make its calculation results more reliable. However, the need to compute the modal cross-terms makes the calculating process more time-consuming compared with RC-MDM and CSA methods, and this method requires much more sensors to synchronously measure the sound pressure in the experiment. The latter feature becomes unaffordable at higher frequencies because the required measuring points multiply exponentially with increased frequency. RC-MDM and CSA methods have attracted more and more attention due to their stronger practicability. The acoustic sound power of the incident sound wave is nearly 10 dB higher than that of the

reflected sound wave. In the sound power spectra of the incident sound wave, the maximum deviation of three methods is only 1 dB. In the sound power spectrum of reflected acoustic waves, although the spectrum trend of the three methods is similar, there are significant differences in the magnitude of sound levels. The calculated results of the RC-MDM (red line) and CSA (black line) are in good agreement. However, there is a deviation of nearly 3 dB compared with the outcome of the CC-MDM. This is because the time-averaged modal cross-terms in RC-MDM and CSA methods are forced to be suppressed. In the calculation process of broadband mode identification, the energy of the modal cross-term is artificially imposed into the square-term of the modal amplitudes. This results in reflected sound waves predicted by the RC-MDM and CSA methods being 3 dB higher than the CC-MDM. Based on the successful application of a fixed sensor array, **Figure 10** shows that the modal coherence characteristic has little influence on the prediction of incident sound waves. In order to further investigate the inner mechanism of modal coherence, the rotating sensor arrays shown as part B in **Figure 4** were used in turbomachinery broadband noise measurement.

Under the framework of Sino-European cooperation, the NUMECA is the name of an internationally renowned computational fluid dynamics business company, conducted a numerical acoustic simulation on the single-stage axial fan duct device used in this research. As shown in **Figure 11**, the broadband mode decomposition result calculated by the RC-MDM with rotating sensor arrays is marked as a black solid line; the thick red line is the predicted broadband noise result calculated by NUMECA, using the adaptive spectral reconstruction method. The red circle symbol indicates the predicted tonal noise result. The results of the broadband noise spectrum are in good agreement in the frequency range (50–1,600 Hz), and the overall magnitude is around 68 dB. The broadband noise spectral characteristics are also very consistent at a special frequency, for example, the leap in sound power spectra at 400 Hz. In the tonal noise part, less than 1 dB deviation appears at 1BPF, and less than 0.5 dB arises at 2BPF. At 3BPF, the deviation increases to 1.5 dB. In general, fan noise measurements based on RC-MDM method using the rotating microphone array can be added to the aircraft turbomachinery noise database as standard data, which can provide evaluation and verification criteria for other broadband noise measurement methods or numerical simulation algorithms.

Figure 12 shows the sound power distribution of the incident and reflected modes of fan broadband noise identified by the rotating microphone array. The abscissa is set as the circumferential mode order m , ranging from -12 to $+12$, and the ordinate is set as the frequency, ranging from 0 to 3,000 Hz. In order to display the sound power results of incident and reflected sound waves more clearly, the legend range of incident sound waves is set to 40–80 dB, while the value of reflected sound waves is set to 35–75 dB, 5 dB lower than incident waves. When the fan operating speed is 3,000 rpm, the 1BPF and 2BPF tones are clearly visible in



the incident sound waves; the sound power is mainly concentrated in the $-6 \sim +6$ circumferential modes. The 1BPF and 2BPF tonal tones can still be seen in the reflected sound waves, but different from the incident sound wave, the dominant mode in the reflected sound wave is not the rotor–stator interference modes but the plane sound wave. In the whole frequency range of reflected sound waves, the modal acoustic power is mainly concentrated in the $-2 \sim +2$ circumferential modes, and is approximately distributed symmetrically with the $m = 0$ mode as the center. This paper uses an equally spaced axial array to test the fan noise. For large ventilation facilities, this kind of device is often difficult to meet. How to use the obtained modal coherence characteristics to design a new test method needs further research, and the correlation between error characteristics in mode identification and microphone array design aspects also requires further study.

CONCLUSION

In this paper, the modal coherence characteristics of turbomachinery noise are studied in detail for the first time. The distribution characteristics of complex acoustic pressure in the flow duct are studied by constructing the ducted sound fields artificially, establishing three kinds of ducted sound source distribution models and an acoustic testing of a single-stage axial fan.

The simulation results of artificially constructed ducted sound fields show that the broadband noise power calculated by the RC-MDM, CSA, and CC-MDM are in good agreement. Due to the simplified processing of acoustic modal coherence characteristics, the RC-MDM and

CSA methods are extremely sensitive to the phase variation precision of modal wave propagation in the axial direction. Therefore, it is necessary to design microphone arrays with sufficient axial measurement positions for accurately measuring the phase variation resulting from acoustic modal wave axial propagation. The modal coherence characteristics of ducted noise at high frequencies are investigated by establishing three kinds of ducted sound source distribution models. The results are consistent with the acoustic experimental results of a single-stage axial fan. The results show that the acoustic modes of different orders are mutually incoherent, and the radial modes within the same circumferential mode have a great degree of coherence.

It was demonstrated that the experimentally measured mode coherence functions give an inner sense of the spatial noise source distribution and enable the investigation of mode scattering within the propagation. In order to further study the influence of the distribution characteristics of modal coherence on the mode identification of turbomachinery noise, this paper successfully conducted acoustic measurement on turbomachinery noise by rotating microphone arrays. The acoustic experimental results show that the coherence of some modes has little impact on the measurement of incident acoustic waves in the flow duct, while it leads to about 3dB deviation in the prediction of reflected modal sound power and has little influence on the spectral shape of reflected acoustic waves. The acoustic modal distribution results show that the incident mode waves are mainly concentrated in the $m = -6$ to $m = +6$ modes; the reflected acoustic waves are concentrated in the $m = -2$ to $m = +2$ mode and are approximately distributed symmetrically around the $m = 0$ mode. In conclusion, although some internal modes of turbomachinery-ducted noise have strong coherence characteristics, the influence of such characteristics on the

acoustic measurement of turbomachinery-ducted noise can be ignored. Based on the modal coherence characteristics obtained in this paper, more theoretical and methodological studies can be carried out for the turbomachinery broadband noise test.

DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

The raw data supporting the conclusion of this article will be made available by the authors, without undue reservation.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

KX is responsible for the whole project. CL is responsible for the experiment and the data processing. FT is responsible for the

numerical investigation and also the experimental plan design. WQ designs the structure of the thesis and propose suggestions.

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