

PARAMETRIC COMPARISON OF RECTANGULAR AND CIRCULAR PONTOONS PERFORMANCE AS FLOATING BREAKWATER NUMERICALLY

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ABSTRACT

Rectangular and circular pontoons are one of the most widely cross-sections used as floating breakwaters (FB). Although, there are several articles on comparison of behavior of rectangular and circular floating breakwaters however, the Authors try to show some details of difference between these two types where they have not been addressed before. To do so, transmission coefficient (C_t), as a measure of merit, of similar rectangular and circular sections is numerically compared. A computer code is developed for two-dimensional hydrodynamic analysis of floating breakwater based on diffraction theory in frequency domain in regular waves with any configuration of mooring line. The numerical method is the finite element method and validated by comparing with experimental and numerical results. Three types of rectangular sections are defined equivalent to circular section and a numerical comparison is made between 100 similar sections. The C_t versus wave frequency has been considered in detail and three new points called L_{MinF} , L_{MaxF} and L_{MaxCt} are introduced. It has been shown that L_{MinF} and L_{MaxF} of circular section are greater and L_{MaxCt} is much smaller than equivalent rectangular section. The L_{MaxCt} of both sections are very dependent to new non-dimensional parameter B/D (Breadth/Draft). Although, rectangular sections are more common for floating breakwater, however the results of this study show that possibility of using circular sections must be also considered.

Keywords: Floating Breakwater, transmission coefficient, circular section, rectangular section,

INTRODUCTION

For many years, fixed breakwaters have been used to create a calm environment for different purposes such as loading, unloading, fishing, military and even recreational use. They were designed and implemented vertically or sloped. Rubble mound breakwaters are the most common type of sloped fixed breakwaters that is built with stone pouring from the sea floor to above water level. For various reasons, such as high cost especially in deep water, extreme sedimentation, poor sea bed and large changes in water level because of tide, floating breakwater (FB) was introduced.

Sea wave energy is mainly distributed on water surface. Therefore it is not necessary to extend breakwaters up to sea

bed, especially in deep water condition. The FB is a floating structure on water surface and its movements are limited by mooring lines. As a system of sea wave hits a FB, it responses by motion in six degrees of freedom, that is surge, sway, heave, roll, pitch and yaw. A FB response depends on its specifications such as, geometry, mass and its distribution and incident wave parameters such as period and height. Additionally, the FB motions in wave are function of mooring characteristics such as material, weight, length, angle and its type. All six motions may have a natural frequency and they can be determined by breakwater geometrical characteristics and mooring line specifications.

Normally, the extreme motions of a FB may happen when direction of wave propagation is perpendicular to

the longitudinal axis of the FB. In this case, the motion is limited to the sway, heave and roll and they are coupled to each other. Since, in areas near beach, waves usually propagate perpendicular to the breakwater, thus two-dimensional analysis of FB is realized.

In the past few decades, numerous analytical, experimental and numerical studies have been done, mainly to increase performance and reduce costs of FB. (McCartney, 1985; Mani, 1991) categorized types of FB based on their specifications and expressed the advantages and disadvantages of each type. On that basis, FB types are pontoon, mat and tethered.

The most common type of FB is rectangular section, Ji (2015), due to the ease of production and transportation as well as the flat deck. The other common pontoon sections are circular and trapezoidal, Sawaragi (1995). So far, plenty of researches have been directed to the rectangular pontoon but there is still a lack of enough information on circular sections, Ozeren (2011).

Bloomberg (1998) compared Ct of seven types of rectangular sections and concluded that the catamaran type has the best performance. The types that he considered include single, double, triple, double with 1, 2, 4 meter intermediate skirt and catamaran.

Dimer et al. (1992) analytically investigated 2-D pontoon type of FB in regular wave. They have shown that at intermediate water depth, the pontoon type FB has well performance against wave with wave lengths several times of width of the structures.

Sannasiraj et al. (1998) made a two-dimensional experiment as well as numerical calculation on a rectangular pontoon having three mooring configurations. They measured and calculated motion responses such as sway, heave, roll, Ct and mooring forces. Results showed that numerical code written by finite element method is pretty reliable to predict FB behavior. They concluded that changing type of mooring configuration does not make a significant difference on FB performances.

Behzad et al. (2007) experimentally investigated response and efficiency of five types of pontoon with different drafts in random waves. It was shown that by increasing the wave period the Ct increases, while increase of the mass reduces the Ct.

Mays (1998) summarized works done on the circular cylinder in his PhD thesis. He examined submerged circular cylinder encountering sea waves in oblique and perpendicular directions by a three-dimensional numerical boundary element method. It was shown that circular section is efficient for a wide range of wave directions.

Ozeren et al. (2011) studied single and multiple circular sections with three types of mooring line namely bottom-moored, arm-restrained and pile-restrained in deep and transitional water depth. It was shown that in pile-restrained type, wave reflection was much more than two other types. Additionally, for the pile-restrained type, performance depends on section draft to height ratio. Moreover, for the two other types of mooring line, dissipation had the greatest influence on Ct. Besides, in order to improve performance

of FB, the horizontal restraint is more important than the vertical one.

Isaacson et al. (1995) studied circular sections with chain and nylon mooring line in regular waves, experimentally. It was stated that for Ct, the breadth ratio i.e. diameter of cylinder to wavelength will be more effective than wave steepness. The Authors must indicate that this is the only study in which rectangular and circular sections are compared, experimentally. They concluded that the circular and rectangular sections have similar responses where Ct of rectangular section is slightly less than circular section. Moreover, they stated that the concrete circular pontoons have less cost, torsion and tension in corners compared with rectangular one due to wave impact.

Shankar (1998) in his PhD thesis, numerically studied two similar pontoons connected to each other where one had rectangular section and the other had circular section. As far as Ct is concerned, it was shown that the size of pontoon and pontoon's breadth are the most important parameters. They also stated that circular section behaves like rectangular section very much.

Although, there are several articles on comparison of behavior of rectangular and circular FB however, the Authors try to show some details of difference between these two types where they have not been addressed before. To do so, the Ct of 100 similar rectangular and circular sections is numerically compared. A computer code is developed for two-dimensional hydrodynamic analysis of FB based on diffraction theory in frequency domain in regular waves with any configuration of mooring line. The numerical method is the finite element method and validated by comparing with experimental and numerical researches. A parametric study for comparison of these two sections is carried out. It has been shown that generally circular section has better transmission coefficient.

THEORY AND BASIC EQUATIONS

Fig.1 shows a FB with mooring line. A coordinate system is defined where its origin is located on symmetry line of the FB and waterline. The x and y are on water surface and z is perpendicular to the water surface.

The fluid is assumed to be ideal, incompressible and irrotational, and therefore the governing equation is the Laplace equation.

$$\nabla \cdot \nabla \varphi = 0 \rightarrow \nabla^2 \varphi = 0 \rightarrow \frac{\partial^2 \varphi}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \varphi}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \varphi}{\partial z^2} = 0 \quad (1)$$

Where φ is the velocity potential, x, y and z are spatial variables. Wave height and motion assumed to be small. The FB dimensions in respect to wavelength are large where use of diffraction theory is justified.

As shown in Fig.1 the dynamic of the FB is defined as a two-dimensional problem where four different configurations of symmetrical catenaries mooring lines are considered.

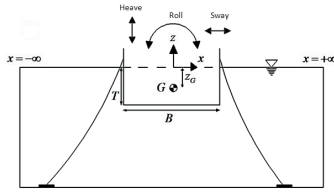


Fig. 1. FB, motions, degrees of freedom and position of coordinate axes

In order to solve the equation (1) the boundary conditions are to be defined according to physical conditions of the problem. Boundary condition on the surface of the rigid body is defined as follows:

$$\nabla \varphi \cdot \hat{n} = \frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial n} = V_B \cdot \hat{n} = V_{Bn} \quad (2)$$

Where \hat{n} is the unit vector normal to the body surface, V_B is velocity of the body at the desired point and V_{Bn} is the component of velocity normal to the surface.

Impermeable boundary of sea bed will be as follows:

$$\left. \frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial z} \right|_{z=-h} = 0 \quad (3)$$

Linear boundary condition of free surface is defined as follows:

$$\frac{\partial^2 \varphi}{\partial t^2} + g \frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial z} = 0 \quad (4)$$

Far field boundary condition is:

$$\frac{\partial \varphi_s}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \varphi_s}{\partial t} = 0 \quad (5)$$

Where φ_s is velocity potential for scattered wave due to floating body, and c is the wave celerity and r is the radial distance from the desired point on the surface of the body.

The linear diffraction is applicable when wave height and response of the body are small. The total velocity potential can be written in terms of its components as follow:

$$\varphi(x, z, t) = \varphi_I(x, z, t) + \varphi_D(x, z, t) + \varphi_R(x, z, t) \quad (6)$$

Where:

$\varphi_I(x, z, t)$ Is velocity potential of incident wave

$\varphi_D(x, z, t)$ Is velocity potential of diffraction due to floating body

$\varphi_R(x, z, t)$ Is velocity potential of radiated energy due to motions of floating body

Having assumed a sinusoidal regular wave as incident wave, there is an analytical solution for incident wave velocity

potential. The diffraction and radiation velocity potentials are obtained by solving boundary value problems, numerically. Having used Bernoulli equation, one may calculate the pressure on the FB. In order to calculate the forces acting on the FB, it is necessary to integrate the pressure exerted on the wetted surface. By implementing Newton's second law, motion of FB could be extracted from the equation of motion.

The equation of motion, boundary condition, boundary value problems and quasi-static analysis of mooring line based on basic catenary equations is fully described by Sannasiraj et al. (1998)

COMPUTER CODE AND VALIDATION

COMPUTER CODE

To analyze the motions of FB in waves, a computer code based on FEM model is developed in MATLAB. Input data are water depth, breadth or diameter of FB, draft, wave frequency range and frequency increment. For each wave frequency, zone of the problem is defined, mesh is generated and velocity potential for each node is calculated. The zone of the problem is set as twice the wavelength plus breakwater breadth. After calculation of pressure, motion amplitude of three degrees of freedom, response amplitude operator and Ct is calculated. The code is able to analyze any geometry of FB. Fig.2 shows flowchart of the computer code.

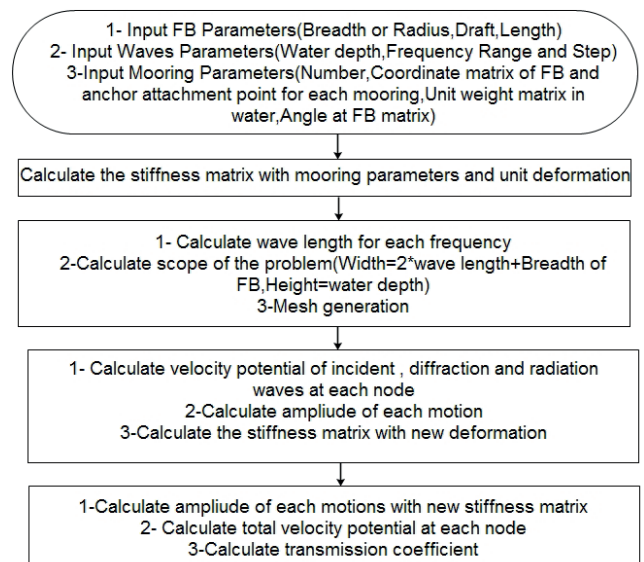


Fig. 2. Flowchart of the computer code

VALIDATION

In order to validate the computer code, two cross sections, rectangular and circular, for which experimental results have been published, are considered.

Rectangular pontoon

As mentioned previously, Sannasiraj et al. (1998) studied rectangular pontoons, experimentally and numerically. The experiment performed in constant water depth of 2.35 m, catenary chain mooring with fixed length of 4.7 m and weight of 1.25 N/m, wave with 0.05 m height and 0.3 to 1.5 Hz frequency range propagating perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the breakwater. The Sannasiraj et al. model experiment has been widely used for validation of numerical models due to publishing many details of test parameters. The Sannasiraj et al. rectangular pontoon parameters and three symmetrical mooring line configurations called C1, C2 and C3 are shown in Table 1 and Fig. 3.

Tab1. Sannasiraj et al. (1998), rectangular pontoon specifications

Particulars	Symbol	Unit	Value
Length	L	M	3.78
Breadth	B	M	0.40
Draft	T	M	0.10
Mass	M	Kg	150.5
Mass center	(X_g, Z_g)	M	(0.0,0.026)
Transverse Metacentric height	GM_T	M	0.057
Mass MI about transverse axis	I_{xx}	kg m ²	188.0
Mass MI about longitudinal axis	I_{yy}	kg m ²	5.33
Mass MI about vertical axis	I_{zz}	kg m ²	189.8
Roll natural frequency	f_r	Hz	0.592
Heave natural frequency	f_z	Hz	1.012

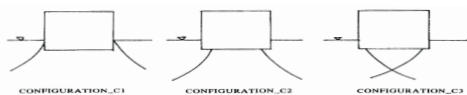


Fig. 3. Sannasiraj et al. (1998), rectangular pontoon and three mooring line configurations

In the case of C1 mooring configuration, the RAO of sway, heave and roll motions and Ct of Sannasiraj et al. experiment as well as numerical model and present study are shown in Figs.4 to 7, respectively. Generally, the present study follows the trend of experiment for three motions as well as for transmission coefficient. However, there is some considerable difference between the present method and experiment for some frequencies. More or less this difference is repeated in Sannasiraj et al. numerical method, too. At natural frequency of roll motion that is 0.592 Hz or 0.2712 in non-dimensional form, the present method has shown better compliance with experiment both for motions and Ct in comparison with the Sannasiraj et al. numerical method. One may aware of uncertainty of experiment in particular at natural frequency as two Ct for a single frequency are reported.

Fig.7 also shows that, at the roll natural frequency, waves generated by FB has significantly decreased the Ct.

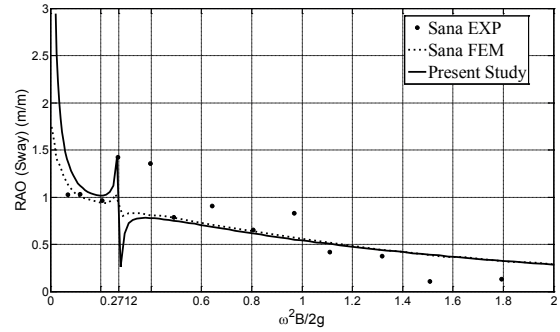


Fig. 4. Comparison RAO of sway motion, C1 mooring configuration

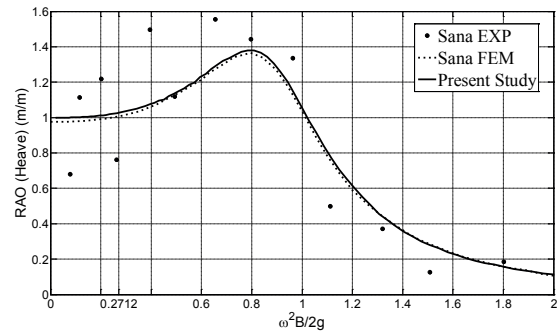


Fig. 5. Comparison of RAO of heave motion, C1 mooring configuration

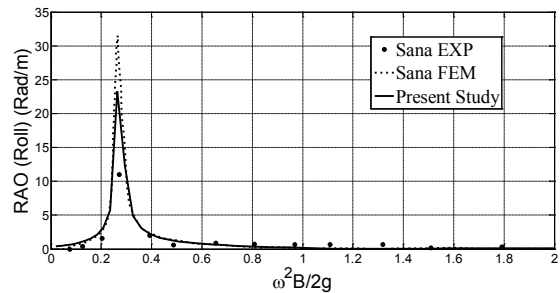


Fig. 6. Comparison of RAO of roll motion, C1 mooring configuration

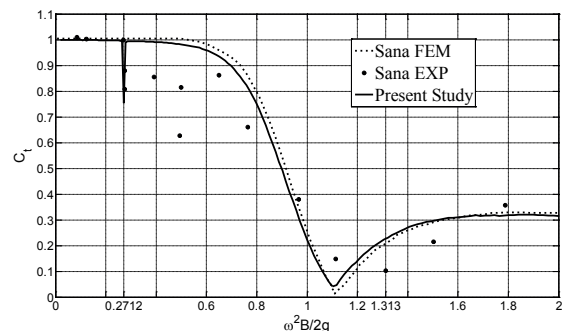


Fig. 7. Ct comparison for C1 mooring configuration

In the case of C2 mooring configuration, the RAO of sway, heave and roll motions of Sannasiraj et al. (1998) experiment and numerical model, Lee and Cho (2003) numerical element-free Galerkin model and Loukogeorgaki et al. (2005 a, b) 3-D panel method are compared with the present study as shown

in Figures 8 to 10. It is worth to mention that Loukogeorgaki et al. used Green's theorem, panel method and static and dynamic analysis of mooring with iteration method. Basically, the present study follows the trend of experiment for three motions. However, there is some difference between present method and experiment for some frequencies. More or less this difference is repeated in other numerical methods, too.

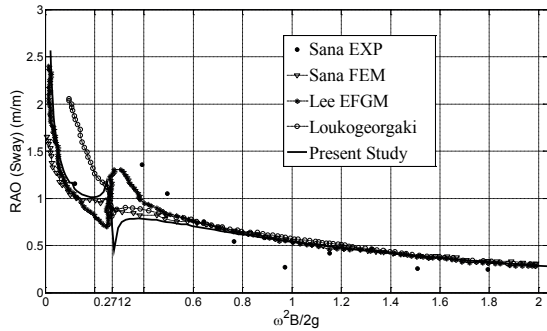


Fig. 8. Comparison of RAO of sway motion, C2 mooring configuration

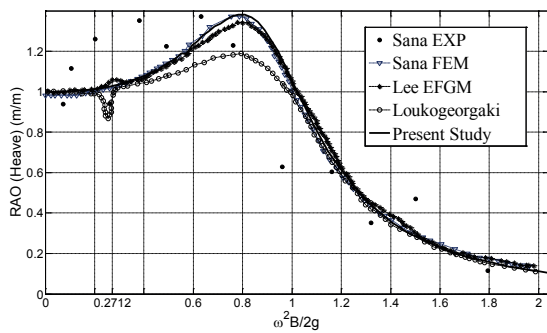


Fig. 9. Comparison of RAO of heave motion, C2 mooring configuration

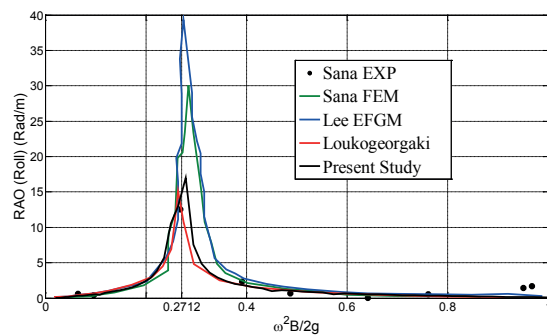


Fig. 10. Comparison of RAO of roll motion, C2 mooring configuration

Fig. 8 shows that for sway motion, all numerical studies follow the same trend as experimental results.

Fig. 9 shows that Loukogeorgaki et al., in some frequency in particular at natural frequency of rolling, better predicts the heave amplitude, but in other frequencies is worse.

As Fig. 10 shows, results of present study at the roll natural frequency are quite better than others in comparison with experiment.

Circular pontoon

Isaacson et al. (1995) provided 2D and 3D experiments and 2D numerical calculation for circular pontoon with different mooring configurations. As depicted in Fig.11, the moorings are chain and nylon types and connected to the pontoon in three configurations called bottom, crossed and uncrossed.

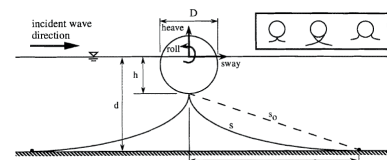


Fig. 11. Circular pontoon cross-section and three mooring configurations, Isaacson et al. (1995)

In 2D experimental study of Isaacson that is called Wave Flume Test, the flume parameters are 0.62 m width, 40 m length and 0.6 m water depth. A PVC model of 321 mm diameter, 0.62 m length, slightly smaller than the width of the flume, manufactured and for several h/D and draught to diameter had been tested. In the case of bottom chain mooring configuration with $S/S_0=1.060$, 140 N/m submerged weight and $h/D=0.579$, the C_t and the RAO of sway, heave and roll are calculated by present method and compared with Isaacson as shown in Figs. 12 to 15, respectively.

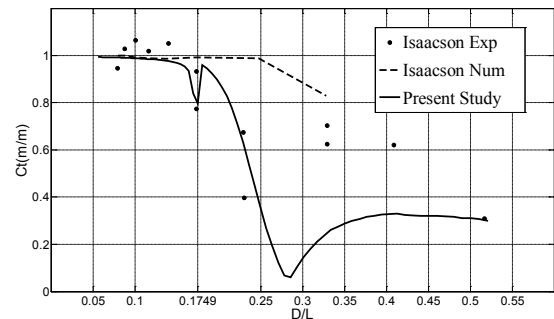


Fig. 12. C_t comparison of circular pontoon, chain moored at bottom of pontoon

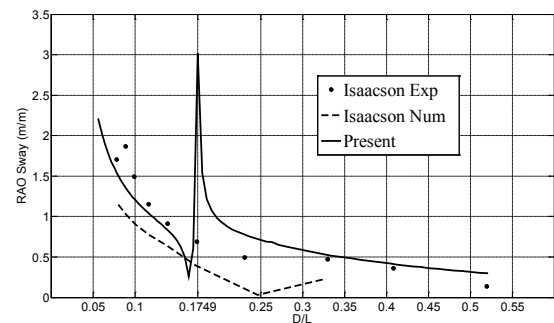


Fig. 13. Comparison of RAO of sway motion of circular pontoon, chain moored at bottom of pontoon

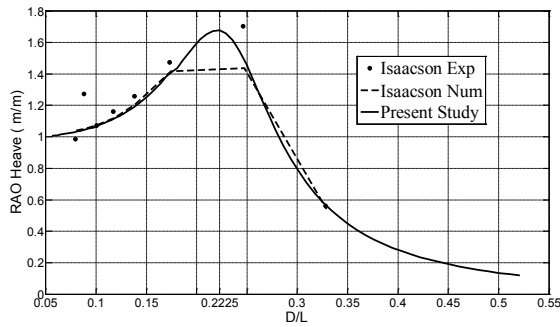


Fig. 14. Comparison of RAO of heave motion of circular pontoon, chain moored at bottom of pontoon

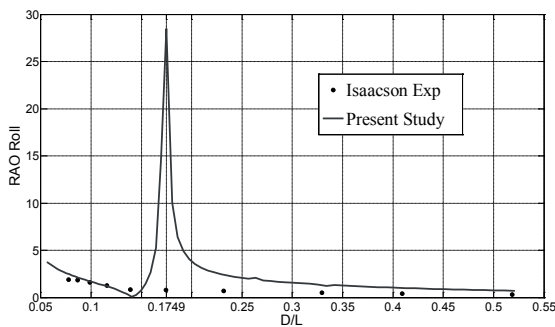


Fig. 15. Comparison of RAO of roll motion of circular pontoon, chain moored at bottom

Fig.12 shows that, in general, the present study follows the Ct trend as in experiment. However, there is significant underestimation for the D/L ranging of 0.30 to 0.40. Furthermore, the Ct trend changes sharply around D/L = 0.3. Besides, a very good compliance with the experiment at resonance frequency is quite promising. One may conclude that the present study is complying with the experiment better than the Isaacson numerical method.

Fig.13 shows that, for sway motion, the present numerical method follows the same trend of experiment except at resonance frequency. As far as roll motion is concerned, the present method depicts the same tendency as shown in Figure 15. Since, the sway and roll motions are strongly coupled, the deviance from experiment at roll resonance frequency for both motions are more pronounced. It may arise from viscous damping which is not included in the present method.

The heave motion is uncoupled to the roll and sway motions. That is why, according to Figure 14, a pretty good prediction of heave motion for all range of D/L in respect to experiment achieved. General speaking, the present method seems to predict the experiment better than the Isaacson numerical method.

Having considered the above validation studies, one may conclude that the present method is an accepted tool to be used for analysis of moored FB with different sections.

A PARAMETRIC STUDY ON COMPARISON OF RECTANGULAR AND CIRCULAR FB

There are several studies comparing effectiveness of circular FB with the rectangular FB such as Isaacson et al. (1995) and Shunkar (1998). However, this study tries to present more comprehensive comparison between these two sections at fair conditions.

Certainly, the rectangular section in comparison with circular section is easy to be manufactured and also better for operation as it provides flat deck. If these two sections are to be compared on the basis of their hydrodynamic performance, the transmission coefficient is the best measure of merit.

DEFINITION OF SIMILAR CIRCULAR AND RECTANGULAR SECTIONS

In order to compare the performance of circular and rectangular sections, the size of them is to be similar to ensure a fair comparison. The similar size of two sections may be defined by three ways:

Type I: rectangular section with the same breadth and draft of circular section, but different buoyancy

$$2 * R_C = Breadth_R = Breadth_c$$

$$R_C = draft_R = Draft_c$$

$$A_C = (\pi R_C^2)/2$$

$$A_R = Breadth_R * Draft_R = 2 * R_C^2 > A_C$$

Type II: rectangular section with the same breadth and buoyancy of circular section, but different draft

$$A_C = A_R = (\pi R_C^2)/2 = Breadth_R * Draft_R$$

$$Breadth_R = 2 * R_C$$

$$draft_R = \frac{\pi}{4} R_C$$

Type III: rectangular section with the same draft and buoyancy of circular section, but different breadth

$$A_C = A_R = (\pi R_C^2)/2 = Breadth_R * Draft_R$$

$$draft_R = 2 * R_C$$

$$breadth_R = \frac{\pi}{4} R_C$$

As shown in Fig.16 R_C , A_C , $Draft_c$ and are radius, section area (wet section area), draft and breadth of circular pontoon, respectively. $Draft_R$, $Breadth_R$ and A_R are draft, breadth and section area of rectangular pontoon, respectively.

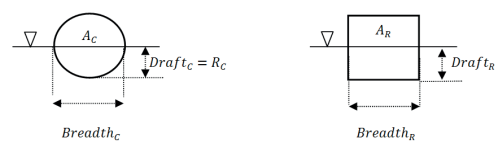


Fig.16 similar rectangular and circular sections parameters

CALCULATION OF TRANSMISSION COEFFICIENTS FOR A SET OF CIRCULAR AND RECTANGULAR SECTIONS

For the sake of simplicity, it is assumed that all sections are homogeneous, mass uniformly distributed and center of gravity coincide with center of buoyancy. Among three configuration of mooring line shown in Figure 3, the configuration C1 is chosen for calculation. For the stiffness matrix of mooring line, coordinate of connection point to breakwater has been modified based on geometry change. The present numerical model has been implemented for 25 circular sections and 75 equivalent similar rectangular

sections to obtain transmission coefficient. The specifications of these 100 sections are shown in Table2.

A typical C_t versus ω is shown in Figure17. This type of C_t behavior is applicable for circular, rectangular and any other sections. It starts with $C_t=1$ for low frequency, as low as about 2 radian per second, and then starts to decrease. Suddenly, it sharply decreases and reaches to zero for complete reflection condition theatrically. But in fact, a local minimum $C_t < 0.1$ takes at frequency that called LMinF (Fig.17) which is around 3 to 7 radians per second usually . After that, it rises and reaches a local maximum C_t that called LMaxCt at a frequency that called LMaxF (Fig.17).

Tab. 2 .Specification of 100 similar circular and rectangular sections

	Circular	Rectangular pontoons Type I		Rectangular pontoons Type II		Rectangular pontoons Type III	
		$\begin{cases} \text{Breadth}_R = \text{Breadth}_C \\ \text{Draft}_R = \text{Draft}_C \end{cases}$		$\begin{cases} \text{Breadth}_R = \text{Breadth}_C \\ \text{Buoyancy}_R = \text{Buoyancy}_C \end{cases}$		$\begin{cases} \text{Draft}_R = \text{Draft}_C \\ \text{Buoyancy}_R = \text{Buoyancy}_C \end{cases}$	
No.	Radius(m)	Breadth(m)	Draft(m)	Breadth(m)	Draft(m)	Breadth(m)	Draft(m)
1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.0785	0.1571	0.1
2	0.125	0.25	0.125	0.25	0.0982	0.1963	0.125
3	0.15	0.3	0.15	0.3	0.1178	0.2356	0.15
4	0.175	0.35	0.175	0.35	0.1374	0.2749	0.175
5	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.1571	0.3142	0.2
6	0.225	0.45	0.225	0.45	0.1767	0.3534	0.225
7	0.25	0.5	0.25	0.5	0.1963	0.3927	0.25
8	0.275	0.55	0.275	0.55	0.216	0.432	0.275
9	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.6	0.2356	0.4712	0.3
10	0.325	0.65	0.325	0.65	0.2553	0.5105	0.325
11	0.35	0.7	0.35	0.7	0.2749	0.5498	0.35
12	0.375	0.75	0.375	0.75	0.2945	0.589	0.375
13	0.4	0.8	0.4	0.8	0.3142	0.6283	0.4
14	0.425	0.85	0.425	0.85	0.3338	0.6676	0.425
15	0.45	0.9	0.45	0.9	0.3534	0.7069	0.45
16	0.475	0.95	0.475	0.95	0.3731	0.7461	0.475
17	0.5	1	0.5	1	0.3927	0.7854	0.5
18	0.525	1.05	0.525	1.05	0.4123	0.8247	0.525
19	0.55	1.1	0.55	1.1	0.432	0.8639	0.55
20	0.575	1.15	0.575	1.15	0.4516	0.9032	0.575
21	0.6	1.2	0.6	1.2	0.4712	0.9425	0.6
22	0.625	1.25	0.625	1.25	0.4909	0.9817	0.625
23	0.65	1.3	0.65	1.3	0.5105	1.021	0.65
24	0.675	1.35	0.675	1.35	0.5301	1.0603	0.675
25	0.7	1.4	0.7	1.4	0.5498	1.0996	0.7

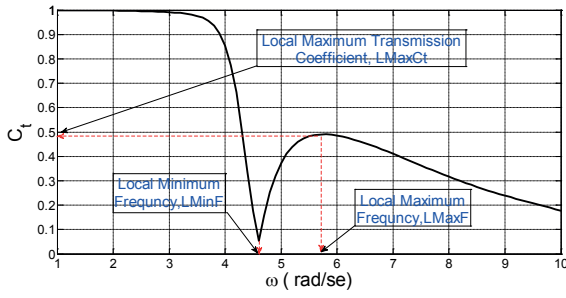


Fig.17. Typical C_t versus ω and definition of L_{MinF} , L_{MaxF} and L_{MaxCt}

If one could so design a FB for which the working condition is set in the range of L_{MinF} and over, then this kind of FB design has the best transmission condition for the whole operation condition. Certainly, among them, the best FB is one which has the lowest L_{MaxCt} .

The transmission coefficient of circular section and three similar rectangular sections as categorized by types I, II and III (Table 2) versus wave angular frequency, ω , are shown in Figs. 18 to 21.

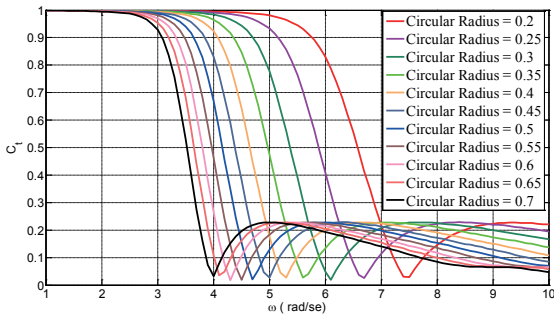


Fig. 18. C_t of circular sections with different radius

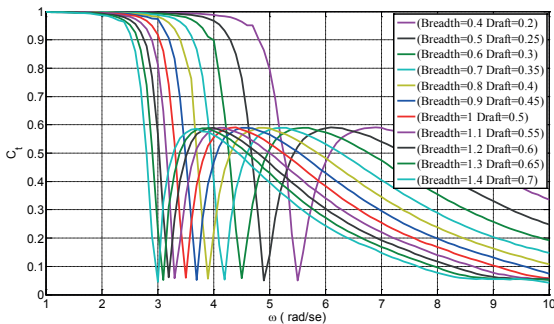


Fig. 19. C_t of rectangular pontoon section, type I

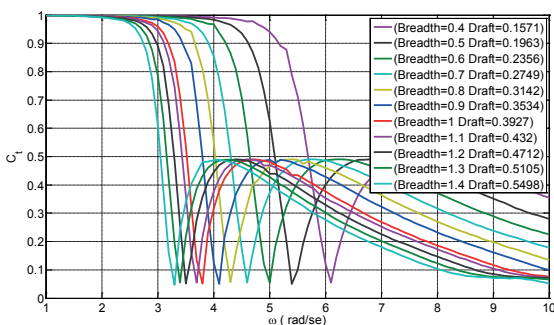


Fig. 20. C_t of rectangular pontoon section, type II

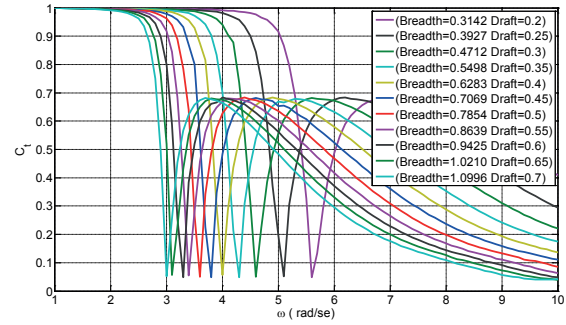


Fig. 21. C_t of rectangular pontoon section, type III

Figure 18 depicts transmission coefficient of circular section having radius ranging from 0.2 to 0.7 meter. For all ranges it follows the typical behavior as shown in Figure 17. The L_{MinF} is about 4 to 7.5 radians per second for whole range of circular section radius. However, as circular sections radius increases the L_{MinF} and L_{MaxF} decreases. The L_{maxCt} is almost constant, 0.22, for whole range of radius.

The typical behavior of Figure 17 is repeated for the rectangular sections. Having seen in circular section, as the size of rectangular section increases the L_{MinF} and L_{MaxF} are shifting to the lower frequencies. However, L_{maxCt} is 0.59, 0.49 and 0.68 for Type I, II and III, respectively.

As an example of comparison, Figure 22 presents C_t comparison of circular section (radius=0.3 m) and three similar rectangular sections. Although, L_{MaxCt} of circular section is smaller than three equivalent rectangular sections however, the L_{MinF} and L_{MaxF} of three rectangular types are smaller than circular section.

An important conclusion of this comparison is that the rectangular section of Type II is more comparable to the circular section than others. The reason of this kind of similarity returns back to the ratio of B/D . It seems that B/D plays an important role which will be discussed in next section. The same behaviors may be seen for other circular section in comparison with similar rectangular sections.

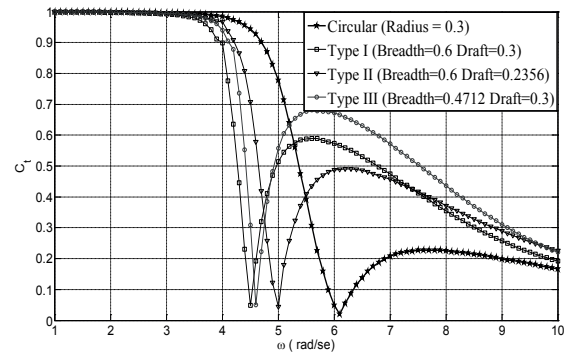


Fig. 22 C_t comparison of circular section (radius=0.3 m) and three similar rectangular sections

DISCUSSIONS AND ANALYSIS

TYPICAL FB PARAMETRIC STUDY

Parametric study of FB is classically concerns the C_t versus relative breadth, B/L (breadth to wavelength), relative draft, D/L (draft to wavelength) and normalized frequency, $\omega^2 B/2g$.

Figures 23 to 25 show C_t against B/L , D/L , $\omega^2 B/2g$ for 100 sections (circular and three types of similar rectangular), respectively. The domination of wave length on C_t as shown in previous Figures, such as Figures 18 to 21 is repeated here.

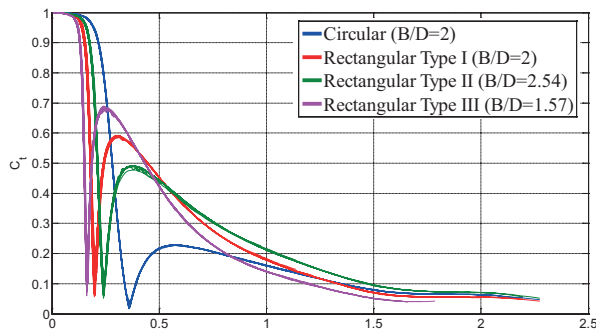


Fig. 23. C_t comparison of circular section and three similar rectangular sections versus relative breadth

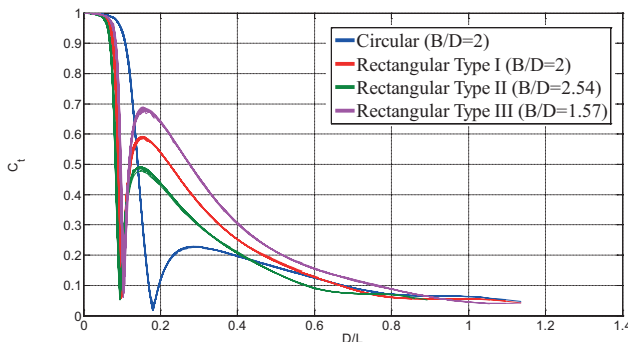


Fig. 24. C_t comparison of circular section and three similar rectangular sections versus relative draft

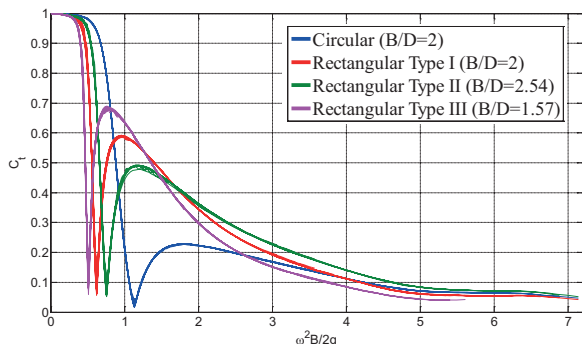


Fig.25. C_t comparison of circular section and three similar rectangular sections versus normalized frequency

CT VERSUS NEW PARAMETER, B/D

Having considered the $L_{Max}C_t$ for different kind and type of sections, the B/D may be introduced as a new non-dimensional parameter. For rectangular sections, B/D is 2, 2.54 and 1.57 for Type I, II and III, respectively. Furthermore, for circular section the B/D is 2 for all cases as per Table 2. Additional calculation for $L_{Max}C_t$ of rectangular sections and circular section are performed and depicted in Figure 26. It can be seen that as B/D increases, the $L_{Max}C_t$ sharply decreases for rectangular sections. Anyway, $L_{Max}C_t$ of circular section is unique as B/D is unique and smaller than all rectangular sizes.

Actually, a FB is working in a range of wave frequencies mostly between $L_{Min}F$ and $L_{Max}F$ as well as beyond. So, it is important to have low C_t for a range of wave frequencies. In Table 3 the average of $L_{max}C_t$ is shown for all FB as per Table 2. $L_{Max}C_t$ of rectangular are at least twice than circular and it is simply concluded that the circular section has better performance than all equivalent types of rectangular sections.

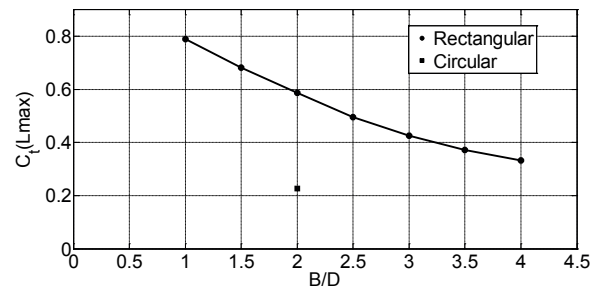


Fig. 26. $L_{Max}C_t$ of rectangular and circular section versus B/D

Tab. 3. $L_{Max}C_t$ comparison of circular and rectangular sections

FB Section	Mean $L_{Max}C_t$
Circular	0.2274
Rectangular Type I	0.5865
Rectangular Type II	0.4883
Rectangular Type III	0.6778

CONCLUSIONS

The aim of this study is to compare the performance of circular section and rectangular sections as a breakwater in detail. For this purpose a 2-D computer code based on finite element method has been developed. The code results are validated in comparison with experimental methods where good compliance has been achieved.

A set of 100 breakwater sections, 25 circular sections and 75 equivalent rectangular sections, has been defined and their transmission coefficients are calculated. A comparison is made between the circular section and rectangular sections transmission coefficients.

Three new points L_{MinF} , L_{MaxF} and L_{maxCt} defined on Ct versus ω and a new non-dimensional parameter, B/D , has been introduced. It has been shown that the L_{MaxCt} of all sections are very dependent to this parameter.

There are some advantages for rectangular and some for circular sections.

L_{MinF} and L_{MaxF} of similar rectangular sections are smaller than circular sections.

L_{MaxCt} of similar rectangular sections are at least twice of circular sections. It means Ct of circular section does not sharply change between L_{MinF} and L_{MaxF} in comparison with rectangular sections.

Generally, the circular sections have shown better performance than the rectangular section in whole range of wave frequencies.

Actually, the decision regarding type of section for FB not only depends on Ct performance, but also the cost of production is to be considered. However, the application of circular section as FB is not easy to be discarded. Although, rectangular sections are more common for FB, but the results of this study show that possibility of using circular sections must be considered.

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