



# **3D NUMERICAL AND EXPERIMENTAL INVESTIGATION OF SUPERCRITICAL FLOWS AT CHANNEL BENDS**

By

**Eng. Tarek Abd El-Raheem Mohamed Abuzaid**

A Thesis Submitted to the  
Faculty of Engineering at Cairo University  
in Partial Fulfillment of The  
Requirements for the Degree of  
**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY**  
in  
**IRRIGATION AND HYDRAULICS ENGINEERING**

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING, CAIRO UNIVERSITY  
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Under the Supervision of

**Prof. Dr. Ahmad W. Abdeldayem**

Professor of Hydrology  
Irrigation & Hydraulics Dept.  
Faculty of Engineering  
Cairo University  
.....

**Dr. Ahmad M. Helmi**  
Assistant Professor  
Irrigation & Hydraulics Dept.  
Faculty of Engineering  
Cairo University  
.....

**Dr. Ahmad H. Shehata**  
Assistant Professor  
Irrigation & Hydraulics Dept.  
Faculty of Engineering  
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.....

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Approved by the  
Examining Committee

.....  
**Prof. Dr. Ahmad W. Abdeldayem**, Thesis Main Advisor

.....  
**Prof. Dr. M. Mokhles Abou-Seida**, Internal Examiner

.....  
**Prof. Dr. Anas M. El-Molla**, External Examiner  
Professor of Hydraulics, Al Azhar University

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING, CAIRO UNIVERSITY  
GIZA, EGYPT  
2019



**Engineer:** Tarek Abd El-Raheem Mohamed Abuzaid  
**Date of Birth:** 24/06/1979  
**Nationality:** Egyptian  
**E-mail:** named\_tarek@yahoo.com  
**Phone:** 01000957143  
**Address:** 13 Seleem St., Haram, Giza  
**Registration Date:** 01/10/2010  
**Awarding Date:** / /2019  
**Degree:** Doctor of Philosophy  
**Department:** Irrigation and Hydraulics Engineering  
**Supervisors:** Prof. Dr. Ahmad W. Abdeldayem  
Dr. Ahmad Mohammed Helmi  
Dr. Ahmad Hussein Shehata



**Examiners:** Prof. Dr. Ahmad W. Abdeldayem (Thesis Main Advisor)  
Prof. Dr. M. Mokhles Abou-Seida (Internal Examiner)  
Prof. Dr. Anas M. El-Molla (External Examiner)  
Professor of Hydraulics, Al Azhar University

**Title of Thesis:** **3D Numerical and Experimental Investigation of Supercritical Flows at Channel Bends**

**Key Words:** open channel bends; superelevation in bends; flow separation in bends

#### **Summary:**

The centrifugal force generated by open channel flow around curves will push the water particles away from main stream to radial direction. In order to maintain water particle equilibrium at the bend section, a differential rise in water surface beside the outside wall and a depression along the inside wall is created. This water surface rise causes a pressure force  $\Delta P$  to balance the flow against the centrifugal force. The rise of water surface above the mean water level is called Superelevation.

Due to steep terrain natures, land acquisition, innovative flood mitigation designs in urban areas, inaccurate cited equations for estimation of superelevation at bends. Accordingly it is essential to investigate 3D flow field around bends, establish design charts for superelevation at supercritical flow ( $Fr = 1.3 - 2$ ) with sharp bends where  $r/b < 3$ , to determine the bend outer walls height, and study the extended bend protection against high shear stresses for these sharp bends.

These objectives are achieved through creating a 3D numerical model for rectangular channels with different bends degrees using Ansys Fluent Launcher, and carrying an experimental runs using a rectangular flume on laboratory for measuring the water surface profile for bend with angles of  $90^\circ$  to calibrate the results of the numerical model as no field data are available.

The results of this study address design charts for calculating the superelevation at sharp open channel bends, address a modified equation for the protection length downstream the bend ( $L_p$ ) after adding the effect of  $r/b$  ratio, confirm the three flow regions around open channel bends after matching them with the predefined regions in the previous studies, and identify the locations of maximum superelevation along the bend radial section.





## **Disclaimer**

I hereby declare that this thesis is my own original work and that no part of it has been submitted for a degree qualification at any other university or institute.

I further declare that I have appropriately acknowledged all sources used and have cited them in the references section.

Name: **Tarek Abd El-Raheem Mohamed Abuzaid**

Date: **17/2/2019**

Signature:



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*To My Beloved Egypt  
To All Members of My Big Family*



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