



Ain Shams University
Faculty of Engineering
Irrigation and Hydraulics Department

INVESTIGATING THE SCOUR BELOW SUBMARINE PIPELINES

A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of
the Requirements for the Degree of
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN CIVIL ENGINEERING
(Irrigation and Hydraulics Engineering)

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STATEMENT

This thesis is submitted to the Irrigation and Hydraulics Department, Faculty of Engineering, Ain Shams University in the partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Civil Engineering.

The work in this thesis was carried out in the Irrigation and Hydraulics Department, Faculty of Engineering, Ain Shams University from September 2010 to January 2013.

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ABSTRACT

Scour below submarine pipelines in currents or waves or combined current and wave is an important problem because it may lead to eventual rupture of the pipelines.

An experimental work was carried out in constructed wave and current flume to investigate the onset of scour below submarine pipelines. The main studied parameters were the pipeline diameter, burial depth, water depth, Shields parameter, Keulegan-Carpenter number and the angle of attack relative to pipeline longitudinal axis.

A number of 96 runs were executed in case of currents alone; the results indicated that scour is governed by the pipeline burial depth, Froude number, Shields parameter and angle of attack. The results indicated that scour decreases by increasing the burial depth and decreasing Froude number. The maximum scour depth occurred at angle of attack of 45° . No scour was noticed if angle of attack is 0° . Equations showing the relationship between scour depth and main affecting parameters were developed.

A number of 288 runs were executed in case of waves alone; the results gave the same indication as in the case of currents alone. It is also found that scour increases by increasing the Keulegan-Carpenter number (KC) for pipes 3, 6 and 11.5 cm in diameter. The angle of attack of 90° gives the maximum magnitude of the scour depth. Also, no scour occurred if angle of attack is 0° . The results include the relationships between the scour depth and main affecting parameters for the different angles of attack.

A number of 288 runs were executed in case of combined current and wave; the results gave also the same indication as in the previous cases of currents and

waves. The maximum scour depth occurred at angle of attack of 45° . And also, no scour occurred if angle of attack is 0° . However, by investigating the three cases of flow it was found that the maximum magnitude of the scour depth occurred in case of current alone. All curves and equations showing the relationship between scour depth and main affecting parameters for the different angles of attack were developed.

Finally, a guide charts has been developed for designing offshore pipelines, based on the results of an experimental work in a wave flume and the relations between the main parameters. This charts aimed to help designers in the alignment stage to minimize scour around the pipeline.

CONTENTS

CHAPTER (1): INTRODUCTION	1-1
CHAPTER (2): LITERATURE REVIEW	2-1
2.1 COASTAL HYDRODYNAMICS PROCESSES.....	2-1
2.1.1 Wind	2-1
2.1.2 Waves	2-2
2.1.2.1 Characteristics of Wave.....	2-4
2.1.3 Currents.....	2-5
2.1.3.1 Types of Currents	2-6
2.1.3.1.1 Ocean Currents	2-6
2.1.3.1.2 Local Currents	2-6
2.1.3.1.3 Wind-Induced Currents	2-6
2.1.3.1.4 Tidal Currents	2-7
2.1.3.1.5 Wave-Induced Currents.....	2-7
2.1.4 Tides.....	2-7
2.1.4.1 Types of Basic Tides	2-8
2.2 SEDIMENT TRANSPORT	2-9
2.2.1 Sediment Properties	2-10
2.2.1.1 Particle Size Characteristics	2-10
2.2.1.2 Specific Gravity	2-10
2.2.1.3 Settling Velocity.....	2-11
2.2.2 Bed-Load Transport.....	2-11
2.3 SCOUR.....	2-14
2.3.1 Classification.....	2-14
2.3.1.1 Degradation and aggradation.....	2-14
2.3.1.2 General Scour	2-15
2.3.1.3 Local Scour.....	2-15
2.3.2 Mechanism of Local Scour	2-16
2.3.3 Local Scour with Respect to Sediment Motion.....	2-16
2.3.3.1 Clear Water Scour	2-16
2.3.3.2 Live Bed Scour	2-16
2.3.4 Local Scour at the Upstream and Downstream of the Structure	2-17
2.3.4.1.6 Scour at Submarine Pipelines.....	2-17
CHAPTER (3): WAVE HYDRODYNAMICS AND SEDIMENT TRANSPORT	3-1
3.1 WAVE HYDRODYNAMICS	3-1
3.1.1 Regular Waves.....	3-1
3.1.2 Definition of Wave Parameters	3-2
3.1.3 Linear Wave Theory	3-3
3.1.3.1 Wave Celerity, Length, and Period	3-6
3.1.3.2 The Sinusoidal Wave Profile	3-9

3.1.3.3	Some Useful Functions.....	3-10
3.1.3.4	Local fluid velocities and accelerations.....	3-10
3.1.3.5	Summary of Linear Wave Theory	3-12
3.2	GENERAL DISCUSSION OF SEDIMENT TRANSPORT.....	3-13
3.2.1	Sediment Transport Modes.....	3-13
3.2.2	Critical Conditions for Sediment Transport under Unidirectional Uniform Flows.....	3-14
3.2.3	Critical Conditions for Sediment Transport under Oscillatory Flows	3-16
3.2.4	Critical Depths for Incipient Sediment Motion	3-20
3.2.5	Bed-Load Transport in Unidirectional Flows.....	3-21
3.2.6	Bed-Load Transport Under Wave Action.....	3-24
CHAPTER (4): SCOUR AROUND SUBMARINE PIPELINE		4-1
4.1	SCOUR PROBLEMS AT SUBMERGED PIPELINES.....	4-1
4.1.1	Scour Around Pipelines Due to Currents	4-7
4.1.2	Scour Around Pipelines Due to Waves	4-11
4.1.3	Scour Around Pipelines Due to Waves and Currents Combined	4-14
4.2	SCOUR PREDICTION METHODS	4-15
4.2.1	Experimental Estimation and Design	4-19
4.2.1.1	Physical Scale Models	4-19
4.3	SCOUR PROTECTION METHODS	4-22
4.3.1	Design Allowances	4-22
4.3.2	Pipeline Burial	4-22
4.3.3	Scour Reducing Measures	4-23
4.3.3.1	Artificial Seaweed	4-24
4.3.3.2	Armour Cover Layers	4-25
4.3.3.3	Stone Filters	4-26
4.3.3.4	Filter Fabrics	4-28
CHAPTER (5): MODELING AND EXPERIMENTAL WORK....		5-1
5.1	HYDRAULIC MODEL	5-1
5.2	MODELING OF THE INVESTIGATED PARAMETERS.....	5-3
5.2.1	Modeling of Currents of Fluid Flow.....	5-3
5.2.2	Modeling of the Generated Waves	5-3
5.2.3	Modeling of Combined Waves and Currents	5-4
5.3	DESCRIPTION OF THE WAVE FLUME	5-4
5.3.1	Description of Facilities.....	5-4
5.3.1.1	The Model.....	5-5
5.3.1.2	Water Depth Control.....	5-7
5.3.1.3	The Soil Bed Material.....	5-7
5.3.1.4	Methods of Measuring	5-8

5.3.1.4.1 Measuring of Water Depths.....	5-8
5.3.1.4.2 Measuring of Scour Depths	5-9
5.3.1.4.3 Measuring of the Carriage Positions	5-9
5.3.1.4.4 Measuring of Flow Discharge	5-10
5.3.1.4.5 Measuring of Flow Velocity.....	5-10
5.3.1.4.6 Measuring Procedure	5-13
5.3.2 Description of Testing	5-14
5.3.3 Test Procedure	5-15
5.3.4 Main Parameters	5-16
5.4 DESCRIPTION OF THE WAVE FLUME	5-16
5.4.1 Description of Facilities.....	5-17
5.4.1.1 The Model.....	5-17
5.4.1.2 Wave Generating Machine	5-19
5.3.1.2.1 Motor.....	5-19
5.3.1.2.2 Pulleys.....	5-19
5.3.1.2.3 Rotating Arms.....	5-19
5.4.1.2.4 Wave Paddle	5-20
5.4.1.3 Wave Absorbers.....	5-20
5.4.1.4 Methods of Measuring.....	5-21
5.4.1.4.1 Measuring of Wave Height (H)	5-21
5.4.1.5 Calibration of the Wave Generating Machine	5-21
5.4.2 Description of Testing	5-24
5.4.3 Test Procedure	5-25
5.4.4 Main Parameters	5-26
5.5 DESCRIPTION OF THE COMBINED WAVE AND CURRENT EXPERIMENTS.....	5-26
5.5.1 Description of Testing	5-28
5.3.2 Test Procedure	5-29
5.5.3 Main Parameters	5-30
CHAPTER (6): ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF THE EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS.....	6-1
6.1 CASE OF CURRENT ALONE	6-1
6.1.1 Discussion of Results.....	6-1
6.1.1.1 Case of Angle of Attack (90°)	6-1
6.1.1.1 Case of Angle of Attack (60°)	6-9
6.1.1.1 Case of Angle of Attack (45°)	6-12
6.1.1.1 Case of Angle of Attack (30°)	6-14
6.1.1.1 Case of Angle of Attack (15°)	6-16
6.1.1.1 Case of Angle of Attack (0°).....	6-16
6.2 CASE OF WAVES ALONE.....	6-20
6.1.1 Discussion of Results.....	6-20
6.1.1.1 Case of Angle of Attack (90°)	6-20

6.1.1.1 Case of Angle of Attack (60°)	6-31
6.1.1.1 Case of Angle of Attack (45°)	6-33
6.1.1.1 Case of Angle of Attack (30°)	6-34
6.1.1.1 Case of Angle of Attack (15°)	6-34
6.1.1.1 Case of Angle of Attack (0°).....	6-35
6.3 CASE OF COMBINED WAVES CURRENT	6-48
6.1.1 Discussion of Results.....	6-48
6.1.1.1 Case of Angle of Attack (90°)	6-48
6.1.1.1 Case of Angle of Attack (60°)	6-51
6.1.1.1 Case of Angle of Attack (45°)	6-53
6.1.1.1 Case of Angle of Attack (30°)	6-56
6.1.1.1 Case of Angle of Attack (15°)	6-56
6.1.1.1 Case of Angle of Attack (0°).....	6-56
6.4 EVALUATION THE SCOUR IN THE DIFFERENT CASES OF FLOW	6-73
CHAPTER (7): CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	7-1
7.1 CONCLUSIONS.....	7-1
7.1.1 Case of Current Alone	7-1
7.1.2 Case of Wave Alone	7-2
7.1.3 Case of Combined Waves Currents.....	7-3
7.1.4 Final Conclusion of the Preceding Cases	7-4
7.2 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE WORK	7-5
REFERENCES	R-1
APPENDIX A: Program for water hammer in a simple pipe	A-1
APPENDIX B: Program for interior surge relief valve a simple pipe	B-1
APPENDIX C: Program for pump power failure	C-1

LIST OF FIGURES

<u>No.</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
2.1	Definition of Terms-Elementary, Sinusoidal and Progressive Wave, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (2008)	2-2
2.2	Different Modes of Sediment Transport, Fredsøe and Sumer (1992)	2-12
2.3	Total Sediment Transport Rate under Steady Flow over Flat Beds, Nielson (1994)	2-13
2.4	Mechanism of onset of scour underneath the pipeline, Sumer (1991)	2-18
2.5	Critical Burial Depth versus KC number, Live-Bed, Sumer (1991)	2-19
2.6	Nondimensional Plot of Time Scale against Shields Parameter, Change in Wave Climate, Sumer and Fredsøe (1992)	2-20
2.7	Equilibrium scour depth, combined wave and current, arrows on vertical axis from $S/D = 0.1 KC^{0.5}$ (waves alone), Sumer and Fredsøe (1999)	2-21
2.8	General scour picture around a pipeline, Sumer et. al. (2001)	2-22
2.9	Definition sketch, sinking of pipeline at span shoulder, Sumer et. al. (2001)	2-23
2.10	Time scale of sinking process as a function of KC and $\theta > \theta_{cr}$, Sumer et. al. (2001)	2-23
2.11	Layout of the flow domain, Liang Cheng and Chew (2002)	2-24
2.12	The equilibrium scour profile, Dongfang Liang and L. Cheng (2005)	2-25
2.13	Pressure distributions in the water and in the seabed, Zhipeng Zang and Liang Cheng et. al. (2008)	2-26
2.14	Sketch of the computational domain, Liang Cheng (2009)	2-27
2.15	A typical scour process below a pipeline, Liang Cheng (2009)	2-28
2.16	Experimental setup, Liang Cheng (2009)	2-28
2.17	Model pipe set up in the flume, Liang Cheng (2009)	2.28
2.18	Variation of the maximum value of U_s/U_m with KC number, Liang Cheng (2009)	2.29

<u>No.</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
2.19	Definition sketch of scour depth (s) below a pipeline in shoaling conditions, Dag Myrhaug (2008)	2.30
2.20	Definition sketch of the burial depth (B) of a short cylinder, Dag Myrhaug (2008)	2.31
2.21	Definition sketch of the lengths, (L_{sd} , L_{st} , L_{su}) and the width (W) of the scour hole around a short cylinder, Dag Myrhaug (2008)	2.31
2.22	Configuration of the breakout of a half-buried pipe from the sea bed due to wave action, Adrian and Mostafa (1996)	2.32
2.23	Movement of the pipe during one wave cycle, Adrian and Mostafa (1996)	2.32
2.24	Localized passive soil failure at the end of the soil trench, Adrian and Mostafa (1996)	2.32
2.25	Slip passive soil failure near the breakout time, Adrian and Mostafa (1996)	2.33
2.26	Numerical scour equilibrium profiles base on RNG model of this paper and comparisons, Lin Lu et. al. (2005)	2.34
2.27	General schematic diagram of the geometric dimensions for 2D scour oscillatory flows, Yovanni and Catano-Lopera (2006)	2.35
2.28	Sketch of sand scouring around a vibrating pipeline, Gao et. al. (2007)	2.36
3.1	Definition of terms - elementary, sinusoidal, progressive wave, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (2008)	3-2
3.2	Variation of wave parameters with d/L_o (Dean and Dalrymple 1991)	3-10
3.3	Local fluid velocities and accelerations, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (2008)	3-12
3.4	Profiles of particle velocity and acceleration by Airy theory in relation to the surface elevation, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (2008)	3-12
3.5	Summary of linear (Airy) wave theory - wave characteristics, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (2008)	3-13
3.6	Forces on a particle in unidirectional flows	3-15

<u>No.</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
3.7	Curve representing conditions of incipient motion in unidirectional uniform flows	3-17
3.8	Komar and Miller (1974) plots of near-bottom orbital velocity for threshold of sediment movement under oscillatory waves	3-19
3.9	Einstein's relationship between Φ^* and ψ^* (Herbich et. al. 1984)	3-24
3.10	Empirical relation for bed load transport using data of Kalkanis and Abou-Seida [after Hales (1980)]	3-26
4.1	Scour problems at pipelines	4-1
4.2	Histogram of pipeline failures 1967 to 1975 (Demars et. al. 1977)	4-3
4.3	Slide Initiation Analysis Model (Bea, 1971)	4-6
4.4	Jacking process. a) the pipe is placed in a dredged trench; b) current and/or wave action from right to left produces sediment transport which causes the pipe to move to the left and slightly upward; c) current and/or wave action from left to right produced sediment transport which moves the pipe to the right and upward; d) at a later date after several changes in current and wave action the pipe is found laying on top of the trench. (Herbich, 1981)	4-6
4.5	Forces on a buried pipeline: d = outside diameter of pipeline; h = depth of cover; F_w = weight of pipeline and contents, lb/ft; F_b = buoyancy of pipeline, lb/ft; F_o = weight of overburdening soil, F_{sc} = apparent shear force due to compression of the pipeline into the bottom soil, lb/ft. (Brown, 1971)	4-7
4.6	Scour Underneath a Pipeline at Different Heights above the Seabed Due to Unidirectional Current (Bijker, 1983)	4-8
4.7	Scour Underneath a Pipeline at Different Height above the Seabed Due to Unidirectional Current (Kjeldsen et. al. 1973)	4-8
4.8	Scour around Exposed Pipeline (Bijker, 1983)	4.9
4.9	G = gap between cylinder and plane boundary D = outer diameter of the cylinder Classification of interference flow regimes (Zdravkovich and Kirkham, 1982)	4.10
4.10	Effect of particle motion on a partially buried pipeline: F_L = lift force; F_b = drag force; F_{RL} = soil resistive force, (From Blumberg. 1974)	4.10