

## CHAPTER 132

### THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN WAVE LENGTH AND WEIGHT OF ARMOUR BLOCKS

by

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#### ABSTRACT

Every coastal engineer realizes that the weight of armour blocks decided by Hudson's formula is safe enough for short steep waves, however, suffering damage from long period swells, even though the incidental wave height is the same. Several corrections have been made and submitted to ICCE as well as in other occasion. The authors try to explain analytically the influence of wave length on the design weight of armour blocks and justify by much of experiments in order to offer new formula and graphs for practical application.

#### INTRODUCTION

Armour blocks used as effective protection on seashore or structures, the wave energy absorbed due to its surface roughness, porosity and stability, when wave attacked. While an appropriate design of weight of armour unit, it is difficult to derive from theory because of many factors and conditions which conducted to

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select it. [1]. Generally, the most frequently used formula, today, modified by Hudson(1959) and given by

$$W = \frac{\rho_s g H^3}{K_d \left( \frac{\rho_s}{\rho} - 1 \right)^3 \cot \theta} \text{-----(1)}$$

Where: W = armour blocks design weight

$\rho_s, \rho$  = mass density of blocks and sea water

$K_d$  = stability number

$\theta$  = slope angle of riprap facing offshore.

H = wave height at the location of the breakwater without wave breaking.

Its popularity comes from the limited variable of parameters and convenient to use.

From the viewpoints of safety and economics, design of armour unit used as shore protection, selection of the type, arrangements and its weight are the main consideration factors. Some armour unit, developed with special characteristics on its shapes and arrangements, but the weight of armour unit depends on equation (1), though it's safe enough for short waves, the damage occurred from long waves occasionally. Especially for the waves caused by Typhoon on the sea area around Taiwan during summer and fall every year.

In accordance with the experiences abovementioned, the authors try to consider wave period as an important factor as design of appropriate weight of armour unit. For wave energy is under various influences, such as wave height, wave length, etc, ie,  $E = \rho ( \rho, g, H^2, L )$ . From the point, the authors developed fundamentally the

design equation for armour blocks involved the effect of wave period on stability, and justified by experiments for practical applications.

Some papers described armour blocks effected under irregular waves recent time, mostly based on Hudson's formula [8][10], However, Pilarczyk and Boer (1983), [7][11], developed series of stability formula, under random wave attacked, of which the parameters included wave period, number of waves, armour grading, spectrum shap, groupiness of waves and permeability of the core, etc. The abovementioned subjects were rubble mound but not armour unit, especially for artificial armour unit was lacking to make mention of. The authors have performed much experiences on study and design of coastal and harbor engineering, [2,3,4,5,6,9,12] and realized that it is necessary to develop an application formula from the fundamentally studies.

ANALYSIS

If the weight of armoured block, on slope angle  $\theta$ , is  $W$ , density  $\rho_s$  in air, then the vertical component force is  $(1 - \frac{\rho}{\rho_s}) W \cos \theta$ , therefore, the drag force ( $F_1$ ) of aumour block against incoming waves express as follows, if  $\mu$  as friction coefficient between block and mound. ( Fig. 1 )

$$F_1 = (1 - \frac{\rho}{\rho_s}) W (\mu \cos \theta - \sin \theta) \text{-----} (2)$$

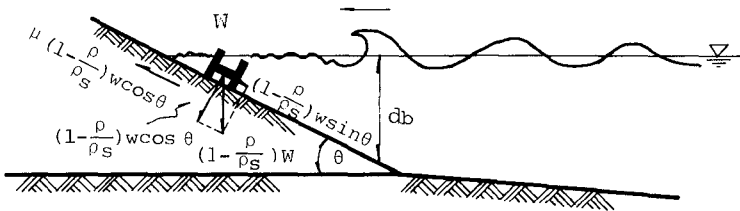


Fig. 1 Definition

The volume of armour block  $V = \frac{W}{\rho_s g}$  is direct proportional to the cross sectional area of vertical direction of incoming waves, ie, proportional to  $V^{2/3}$ . if wave velocity  $v$ , then amour block attacked by wave force will be:

$$F_2 = C_D \rho v^2 \left( \frac{W}{\rho_s g} \right)^{2/3} \text{-----} (3)$$

Irribarren derived from velocity of long wave, under the stability conditions of armour block,  $F_1 \geq F_2$  . ie,

$$\left( 1 - \frac{\rho}{\rho_s} \right) W ( \mu \cos \theta - \sin \theta ) = \frac{1}{2} C_D \rho g H \left( \frac{W}{\rho_s g} \right)^{2/3} \text{----} (4)$$

Irribarren's formula

$$W = \frac{K' \mu^3 \rho_s g H^3}{\left( \frac{\rho_s}{\rho} - 1 \right)^3 ( \mu \cos \theta - \sin \theta )^3} \text{-----} (5)$$

Where,  $K' = C_D^3 / 8 \mu^3$  ,  $C_D$  = drag coefficient.

In the case of a definite cross section,  $\mu$ ,  $\rho_s$ ,  $\rho$ , and  $\theta$  may be regarded as constant but  $C_D$  will be different according to the shape of block and velocity.

Let

$$C = \frac{1/8 \rho_s g}{\left( \frac{\rho_s}{\rho} - 1 \right)^3 ( \mu \cos \theta - \sin \theta )} \text{-----} (6)$$

Consequently

$$W = C C_D^3 H^3 \text{-----} (7)$$

H is to be replaced by H' under water level

$$H' = \frac{\pi H^2}{L_0 \left( \sinh \frac{2\pi d}{L} \right)^2} = \frac{2\pi H^2}{L \sinh \left( \frac{4\pi d}{L} \right)} \text{-----} (8)$$

Substitute (8) to (7)

$$W = C C_D^3 H^6 \frac{(2\pi/L)^3}{\sinh^3 (4\pi d/L)} \text{-----} (9)$$

A non-dimensional expression is worked out as follows

$$\frac{W}{\rho_s g C_2 C_D^3 H^3} = \frac{(H/L)^3}{\sinh^3 (4\pi d/L)} \text{-----} (10)$$

Where

$$C_2 = \left[ \frac{\pi}{\left( \frac{\rho_s}{\rho} - 1 \right) (\mu \cos \theta - \sin \theta)} \right]^3 \text{-----} (11)$$

This will be a new formula if the coefficients  $\mu$  and  $C_D$  are selected properly which authors will be measured by experiments.

#### EXPERIMENT INVESTIGATION

In order to verify under the conditions of the armour blocks attacked by incoming waves, equation (10) and (11) in which friction coefficient  $\mu$  and drag coefficient  $C_D$  included.

The values of  $\mu$  and  $C_D$  which is obtained by a series of experiments.

Test on friction coefficient, it measured friction between block and mound under water, due to the block considered as submerged condition when wave attacked. The test layout as Fig.2, the value

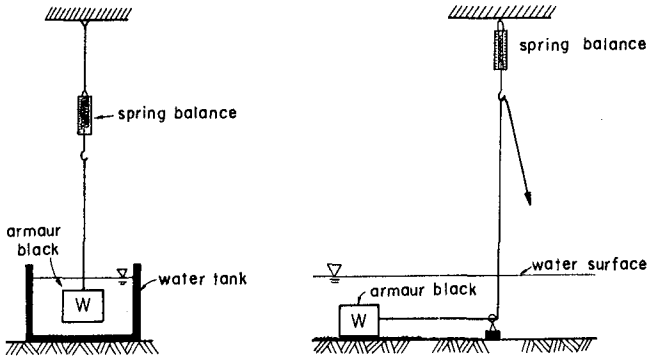


Fig. 2 Test of Friction Coefficient

of  $\mu$  was obtained in average value of repeated experiments, as table 1.

Table-1 Friction Coefficient

Types	$W_0$ (grf)	$W_w$ (grf)	$f$ (grf)	$\mu$
HOLTRIPOD	74.9	42.5	61.67	1.4511
HEXA-HOLLOW TRI-LEG	46.1	30.1	50.00	1.6667
	67.4	45.0	75.00	1.6667
	84.9	57.5	83.75	1.4565
	110.9	72.5	103.57	1.4286
	137.6	79.1	119.45	1.5101

Another test on drag coefficient  $C_D$ , due to  $C_D$  related to reynoulds number of flow, authors tried to express volume of block as  $2/3$  order of characteristic length, using falling velocity experiment to find out the falling velocity, the instrument as Fig.3

and Photo-1, tested blocks namely Holtripod and Hexa-Hollow Tri-leg (Photo-2).

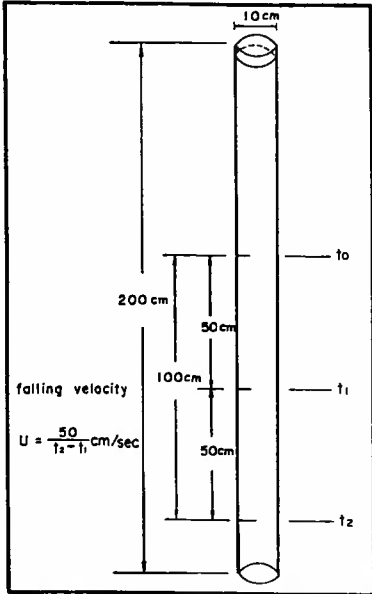


Fig. 3 Test on Falling Velocity

Photo-1 Test Instrument of Falling Velocity

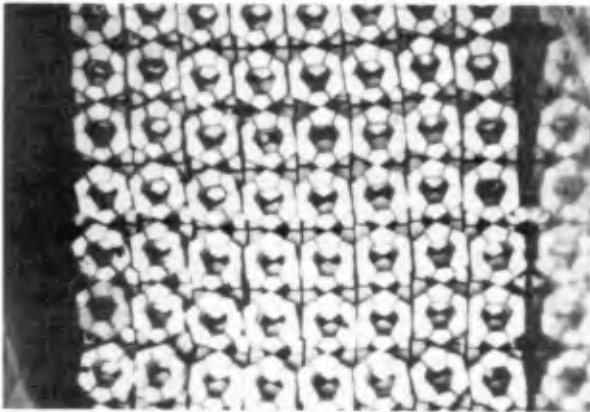


Photo-2 Model Blocks

The value of falling velocity of every model block obtained by measuring average of 30 repeated experiments, defferent weight of 4 blocks to be tested. These value were substitute to equation (13) and obtained  $C_D$  as table-2.

$$(\rho_s - \rho) g V = \frac{1}{2} \rho g v^2 C_D v^{2/3} \text{----- (12)}$$

$$\Rightarrow C_D = 2 \left( \frac{\rho_s - \rho}{\rho} \right) g \frac{v^{2/3}}{v^2} \text{----- (13)}$$

Where  $V$  = Volume of armour blocks

$v$  = falling velocity

Using value of  $\mu$  and  $C_D$  substitute to equation (10) and (11), it was calculated for varying relative depth  $d/L$  and wave steepness  $H/L$  and then plotted on theoretical curve in Fig. 4.

Table-2 Test Data of Drag Coefficient

Types	Wa (grf)	Ww (grf)	$\Psi$ (cm <sup>3</sup> )	$\Upsilon$ (grf/cm <sup>3</sup> )	U (cm/sec)	$C_D$
HOLTRIPOD	74.9	42.5	32.56	2.282	59.2445	2.286
HEXA-HOLLOW TRI-LEG	46.1	30.1	20.00	2.310	58.6809	2.024
	67.4	45.0	29.43	2.290	59.8402	2.180
	84.9	57.5	37.00	2.295	60.7334	2.293
	110.9	72.5	48.70	2.277	61.3556	2.428
	137.6	79.1	59.70	2.305	63.9164	2.447



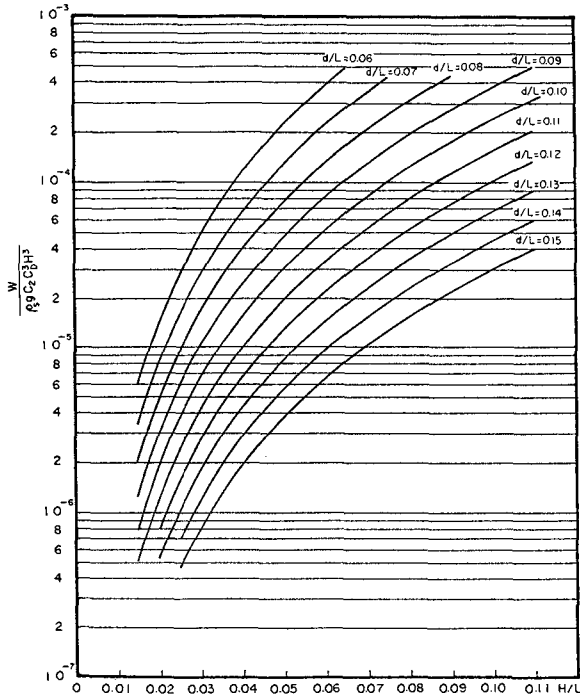


Fig. 4 Theoretical curve from eq. (10), (11)

To examine the results abovementioned, numerous experiments have been carried out in the regular wave flume of Tainan Hydraulics Laboratory, National Cheng-Kung University, Taiwan, as Photo-3. A channel 75 m long, 1.0 m wide and 1.2 m deep was equipped with a hingeplate wave generator near one end, wave height and period were measured with resistance gages, amplifier and recording oscillograph. The cross section of test model as Fig. 5, and test conditions as table-3.



Photo-3 Wave flume

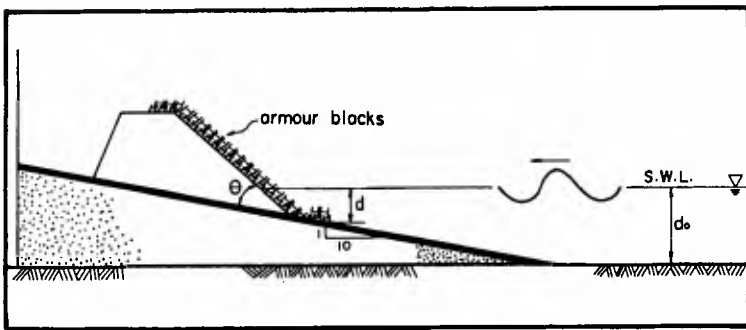


Fig. 5 Dike cross section in the wave flume

Table-3 Testing wave conditions

Testing wave Conditions	Wave Height $H_0$ (cm)	wave periods $T$ (sec)			water depth $d$ (cm)	$d_0$
	10 — 26		1.0	1.3	1.6	15.0 cm
1.8			2.0	2.14	25.0 cm	60 cm

Fig. 6 shows the experimental results graphically simultaneously with calculated results of equation (11).

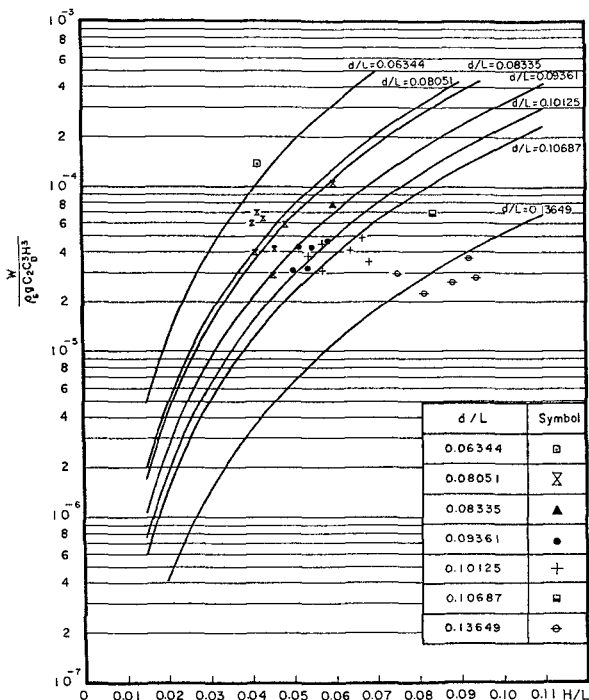


Fig. 6 Experimental result

CONCLUSIONS

1. According to abovementioned analytical calculations and experiments, equation (10) namely

$$W = \rho_s g C_2 C_D^3 H^3 ( H/L )^3 / [\sinh ( 4\pi d/L ) ]^3$$

is to be applied in practical design, while  $C_2$  in equation (11) is known for the same type of blocks and definite design profile, the coefficient  $\mu$  and  $C_D$  should be determined by the experiments having been

performed by the authors.

2. From the outcomes of calculations and experiments, it is obvious that wave length has marked effect on the design weight of armour blocks. In experiments, the influence of relative depth even greater than steepness. This reality reveals the fact that to determine the weight of armour block by wave height only will be deficient.
3. Based on this fundermental results, the authors will try to modify the value of drag coefficient  $C_D$  for futher studies, such that measuring flow condition of armour block under the design wave length, for practical application.

#### NOTE, DEFINITION

W	: armour block design weight	(kgf/m <sup>3</sup> )
$\rho_S$	: mass density of block	(kg/m <sup>3</sup> )
$\rho$	: mass density of sea water	(kg/m <sup>3</sup> )
$K_D$	: stability of Hudson's formula	
$\theta$	: slope engle of riprap facing offshore	
H	: wave height at the location of the breakwater without wave breaking	(m)
$K'$	: stability coefficient of Irribarren's formula	
$C_D$	: drag coefficient	
$\mu$	: friction coefficient between blocks and mounds	
g	: acceleration due to gravity	(cm/sec <sup>2</sup> )
W <sub>a</sub>	: armour block's weight in air	(grf)
W <sub>w</sub>	: armour block's weight in water	(grf)
f	: friction force	(grf)
V	: volume of armour block	(cm <sup>3</sup> )
U, v	: falling velocity	(cm/sec)
$\gamma$	: specific Weight of armour blocks	(grf/cm <sup>3</sup> )
H <sub>O</sub>	: wave height of testing wave conditions	(cm)
T	: wave period of testing wave conditions	(sec)

- d : water depth in the toe of dike (cm)  
d<sub>0</sub> : deep water depth of testing wave conditions (cm)

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