

A New Multilayer Nonhydrostatic Formulation for Surface Water Waves

Gang Wang^{†,*}, Qiuhua Liang[‡], Jinhai Zheng[†] and Peng Wan[†]

[†]Key Laboratory of Coastal Disaster and Defence (Hohai University), Ministry of Education,
Nanjing, China

[‡]School of Civil Engineering and Geosciences, Newcastle University, Newcastle upon Tyne,
United Kingdom

LRH: Wang *et al.*

RRH: New Multilayer Nonhydrostatic Formulation

ABSTRACT

This work presents a new multilayer nonhydrostatic formulation for surface water waves. The new governing equations define velocities and pressure at an arbitrary location of a vertical layer and only contain spatial derivatives of maximum second-order. Stoke-type Fourier and shoaling analyses are carried out to scrutinize the mathematical properties of the new formulation, subsequently optimizing the representative interface and the location to define variables in each layer to improve model accuracy. Following the analysis, the one-layer model exhibits accurate linear and nonlinear characteristics up to $kd = \pi$, demonstrating similar solution accuracy to the existing second-order Boussinesq-type models. The two-layer model with optimized coefficients can maintain its linear and nonlinear accuracy up to $kd = 4\pi$, which boasts of better solution accuracy a larger application range than most of the existing fourth-order Boussinesq model and two-layer Boussinesq models. The three-layer model presents accurate linear and nonlinear characteristics up to $kd = 10\pi$, effectively removing any shallow water limitation. The current multilayer nonhydrostatic water wave model does not predefine the vertical flow structures and

* Corresponding author: gangwang@hhu.edu.cn

1 more accurate vertical velocity distributions can be obtained by taking into account the
2 velocity profiles in coefficient optimization.

3 **ADDITIONAL INDEX WORDS :** *Nonhydrostatic Modeling, Multilayer Model,*
4 *Wave Propagation, Surface Gravity Waves*

5 INTRODUCTION

6 Coastal engineers and researchers develop mathematical and numerical models to
7 simulate different types of water waves for engineering applications, from initiation,
8 propagation from deep to shallow water, breaking in nearshore zone to run-up on the
9 beach. For shallow waves with wavelength much greater than water depth, the water
10 motion is predominantly horizontal and propagates at the same speed with negligible
11 vertical acceleration, satisfying the hydrostatic pressure assumption. This leads to the
12 shallow wave theory as described by the shallow water equations. However, outside of
13 the nearshore zones where water becomes deeper, the wave dispersion effects become
14 significant; waves of different frequencies propagate at different phase speed and can
15 no longer be accurately described by the shallow water equations. Therefore, the
16 shallow water equations only support limited applications in coastal engineering.

17 Through incorporating more frequency dispersion and nonlinearity effects to the
18 non-dispersive shallow-water theory, Boussinesq-type equations provide a more robust
19 mathematical model for wave propagation in coastal regions (Brocchini, 2013).
20 Peregrine (1967) pioneered the derivation of the Boussinesq equations with a variable
21 water depth using the depth-averaged velocity as a dependent variable. This classical
22 Boussinesq formulation includes only the lowest-order frequency dispersion and
23 nonlinearity effects, and is only applicable to relatively shallow water. A number of
24 attempts have been made to extend the applicability of Boussinesq equations to deeper
25 water. Madsen and Sørensen (1992) presented a set of improved Boussinesq equations
26 by including extra high-order terms to better describe wave dispersion and shoaling.
27 Nwogu (1993) derived an alternative set of Boussinesq equations using the velocity at
28 an arbitrary water level as an independent variable to allow applications in deeper water.

1 Gobbi, Kirby and Wei (2000) adopted a fourth-order polynomial to approximate the
2 vertical flow distribution (alternative equations generally used quadratic polynomial
3 approximation), retaining more nonlinear and dispersive terms in the Boussinesq
4 equations to improve their application range. Lynett and Liu (2004a) proposed a set of
5 multilayer Boussinesq equations by approximating the vertical flow field in each layer
6 with quadratic polynomials; the equations present good linear and nonlinear behavior
7 although the highest order of spatial differentiation is only less than three, leading to
8 simple numerical discretization. More Boussinesq-type equations have been reported
9 in literature, which usually follow a similar approach to one of the above models (Liu
10 and Fang, 2015; Madsen and Schaffer, 1998). Clearly, the improved accuracy of the
11 Boussinesq equations comes at a price of more sophisticated formulation (Agnon,
12 Madsen and Schaffer, 1999; Madsen, Bingham and Liu, 2002; Madsen, Bingham and
13 Schaffer, 2003), demanding complicated numerical schemes to resolve the higher-order
14 derivative terms and also high computational cost.

15 Theoretically, a numerical model solving the fully 3D hydrodynamic equations, *e.g.*
16 the Euler equations or the Navier-Stokes equations, can accurately represent a full range
17 of wave phenomena from deep to shallow water. The main challenge in discretizing
18 these fully 3D equations to predict free-surface wave motions is to accurately capture
19 the moving free surface which is part of the solution itself. A number of techniques
20 have been developed for this purpose, including the volume of fluid (VOF) method
21 (Hirt and Nichols, 1981; Lin and Liu, 1998), Lagrangian-Eulerian method (Silva Santos
22 and Greaves, 2007) and level set methods (Osher and Fedkiw, 2001). Some of these
23 approaches can also handle sharp-fronted free surface and wave overturning. However,
24 these surface-capturing approaches are commonly computationally demanding,
25 prohibiting their wider application to large-scale wave climate prediction. In case where
26 the free surface can be assumed to be continuous and featured as a single value function
27 of the horizontal plane, simplified numerical methods can be employed to solve the 3D
28 governing equations to reduce computational cost. These models typically involve

1 decomposition of the pressure terms into hydrostatic and non-hydrostatic components,
2 and are known as non-hydrostatic models.

3 In developing non-hydrostatic models, a key challenge is to impose the pressure
4 boundary condition at the free surface and resolve the non-hydrostatic terms, which
5 plays an important role in providing accurate description of wave dispersion. When
6 developing their 3D quasi-hydrostatic model, Casulli and Stelling (1998) assumed
7 hydrostatic pressure distribution at the top layer of the vertical dimension; a large
8 number of vertical layers are required to provide meaningful solutions for short waves.
9 Stelling and Zijlema (2003) subsequently implemented the Keller-box method to
10 approximate the non-hydrostatic pressure terms; the resulting model can accurately
11 capture the wave characteristics with one or two vertical layers, leading to much
12 improved computational efficiency. To obtain the free surface boundary condition,
13 Yuan and Wu (2004) derived non-hydrostatic pressure at the top layer by integrating
14 the vertical momentum equation from the center of the layer to the moving free surface,
15 providing increased phase accuracy for the simulation of dispersive waves. Ahmadi,
16 Badiei and Namin (2007) proposed a new implicit approach to treat the non-hydrostatic
17 pressure at the top layer, releasing the model from any hydrostatic pressure assumption
18 across the entire water column and giving improved solution accuracy for free surface
19 elevation and wave celerity. Young and Wu (2009) reported an effective approach to
20 obtain the analytical pressure distribution at the top layer by introducing Boussinesq-
21 like equations into their implicit non-hydrostatic model. Later on, Choi, Wu and Young
22 (2011) presented an efficient curvilinear non-hydrostatic model for surface water waves
23 using a higher order (either quadratic or cubic spline function) integral method for the
24 top-layer non-hydrostatic pressure within a staggered grid framework. Most of these
25 non-hydrostatic models discretize the vertical domain into uniform layers; the number
26 of layers required for a specific application is usually determined through trial and error.

27 Considering the fact that the velocity and non-hydrostatic pressure are predominant
28 near the free surface, non-uniform vertical discretization, *i.e.* with finer resolution

1 layers on the top, may be used to improve the model capability in describing wave
2 dispersion. This strategy was adopted by Yuan and Wu (2006) to develop their 3D
3 implicit surface-wave model. Zhu, Chen and Wan (2014) introduced an approach to
4 achieve optimal distribution of vertical layers by considering the analytical dispersion
5 relationship of a non-hydrostatic Euler water wave model.

6 Mostly based on direct discretization of the Euler equations or the Navier-Stokes
7 equations, the non-hydrostatic models have been widely used for the simulation of wave
8 propagation from deep water to the surf zone. It is difficult to analyze the accuracy for
9 these models, which is dependent on the use of different vertical layers and different
10 numerical methods. There still lacks of a comprehensive theoretical framework to
11 precisely determine the application range of a model. Preliminary attempt was made by
12 Bai and Cheung (2013) to derive a new multilayer formulation by integrating the
13 continuity and Euler equations over each layer and specify its application range through
14 analysis of wave dispersion and nonlinearity.

15 It is evident that 1) specifying the pressure especially at the top-layer and 2) using
16 the non-uniform vertical layers can significantly improve the nonhydrostatic models'
17 capability to describe wave dispersion and nonlinearity characteristics. This paper
18 combines these two strategies to derive a new set of multilayer nonhydrostatic
19 formulations from the Euler equations. To balance the benefit of using lower-order
20 derivatives and the desire of achieving high accuracy of linearity and nonlinearity, the
21 pressure and velocities are approximated as quadratic polynomials using the Taylor
22 expansions. Different from the aforementioned existing models that define the variables
23 at the center or at the edge of a layer, the current model defines the pressure and
24 velocities at an arbitrary level within a layer. As the fluid can be assumed inviscid and
25 incompressible, the irrotationality condition is reinforced to simplify the fluid dynamics
26 equations. The new formulation involves only the first- and second-order spatial
27 derivatives, which can be solved using simpler numerical methods. Systematic analysis
28 of dispersion and nonlinearity is further performed to evaluate the merits and limitations

1 of the new formulation. The thicknesses of layers and the position of flow variables at
 2 each layer are finally determined by minimizing the linearity and errors in comparison
 3 with Stokes theory.

4 The rest of the paper is organized as follows: the next section briefly reviews the
 5 continuity and Euler equations for describing free-surface fluid motions. The third
 6 section present detailed derivation of the new formulation; the fourth section discusses
 7 the linearity and nonlinearity characteristics of the new formulation for up to three
 8 layers; and finally, conclusions are drawn in the last section.

9 METHODS

10 Euler equations are chosen as the governing equations for surface water waves.
 11 velocities and pressure are defined at an arbitrary location of each vertical layer, and a
 12 new multilayer nonhydrostatic formulation is detailed derived.

13 Governing Equations

14 The current work focuses on surface gravity waves, including wind waves, swell and
 15 tsunamis, and so the variation of water density is insignificant over the temporal and
 16 spatial scales for most of the engineering applications, leading to incompressible flows.
 17 Also, for wave propagation over a large spatial scale, the velocity gradient is relatively
 18 small; the vortices are usually weak; and so the viscous effect becomes negligible. The
 19 inviscid and incompressible fluid assumptions lead to irrotational flows and the flow
 20 dynamics may be described by the Euler equations based on momentum conservation

$$21 \quad \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} + w \frac{\partial u}{\partial z} = -g \frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial x} - \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial q}{\partial x} \quad (1)$$

$$22 \quad \frac{\partial v}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} + w \frac{\partial v}{\partial z} = -g \frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial y} - \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial q}{\partial y} \quad (2)$$

$$23 \quad \frac{\partial w}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial w}{\partial y} + w \frac{\partial w}{\partial z} = -\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial q}{\partial z} \quad (3)$$

24 and the continuity equation based on mass conservation

$$25 \quad \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial w}{\partial z} = 0 \quad (4)$$

1 where t denotes the time; x , y and z represent the 3D Cartesian coordinates; u , v and w
 2 are the velocity components in the three coordinate directions; ζ is the free surface
 3 elevation above the still water level; $h = \zeta + d$ defines the total flow depth with d being
 4 the still water depth; g and ρ are respectively the acceleration due to gravity and fluid
 5 density; q is the non-hydrostatic pressure components and consequently the total
 6 pressure p is given by

$$7 \quad p = \rho g(\zeta - z) + q \quad (5)$$

8 where $\rho g(\zeta - z)$ calculates the hydrostatic pressure. Due to the irrotational fluid
 9 assumption, Eqs. (1-4) satisfy the following conditions

$$10 \quad \frac{\partial u}{\partial z} = \frac{\partial w}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial v}{\partial z} = \frac{\partial w}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} \quad (6)$$

11 For water wave simulations, the dynamic and kinematic boundary conditions must
 12 also be satisfied at the free surface, *i.e.*

$$13 \quad q = 0 \quad \text{at } z = \zeta \quad (7)$$

$$14 \quad w = \frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial y} \quad \text{at } z = \zeta \quad (8)$$

15 Assuming a rigid and impermeable bed, the no-flux boundary condition is given by

$$16 \quad w|_{z=-d} = -u \frac{\partial d}{\partial x} - v \frac{\partial d}{\partial y} \quad (9)$$

17 **New Multilayer Wave Equations**

18 The water column is divided into N vertical layers by $(N - 1)$ non-intersecting
 19 interfaces between the bottom and the free surface, as shown in Figure 1, with an
 20 arbitrary interface located at

$$21 \quad z_j = -\alpha_j d \quad (10)$$

22 where $1 = \alpha_1 > \alpha_2 \dots \alpha_{j-1} > \alpha_j > \alpha_{j+1} \dots > \alpha_{N-1} \geq 0$. The vertical layers are not necessary to
 23 be uniform. The free surface defines the upper interface of the top layer and is time-
 24 independent. Theoretically, the upper and lower interfaces of the top layer may intersect
 25 under severe wave conditions, leading to unphysical solutions. To avoid this, it is
 26 required that the thickness of the top layer must be at least larger than the wave

1 amplitude. In applications, it is recommended that the thickness of the top layer should
 2 be set conservatively larger than the wave height, taking into account the shoaling effect
 3 in shallow water. This restricts the use of excessive number of vertical layers to improve
 4 model accuracy; but it will not pose much restriction on actual applications as the
 5 current formulation is derived to accurately describe wave propagation with fewer
 6 layers. More details will be provided in the following sections.

7 The flow variables, *i.e.* velocities and pressure, can be defined at an arbitrary
 8 elevation h_j within a vertical layer j , where

$$9 \quad h_j = -\beta_j d \quad (11)$$

10 and $\alpha_{j-1} \geq \beta_j \geq \alpha_j$.

11 Herein it intends to develop a new mathematical model to flexibly describe the wave
 12 motions from deep to shallow water zones. Even in the deep water, the vertical variation
 13 of the water motions in each layer will be weak and predominantly horizontal.
 14 Subsequently, the velocities at an arbitrary point within layer j may be expanded using
 15 a Taylor series with respect to h_j :

$$16 \quad u = u_j + (z - h_j) \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial z} \right)_j + \frac{(z - h_j)^2}{2} \left(\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial z^2} \right)_j + \dots \quad (12)$$

17 Using the irrotationality condition (6), the above equation can be written as

$$18 \quad u = u_j + (z - h_j) \left(\frac{\partial w}{\partial x} \right)_j + \frac{(z - h_j)^2}{2} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left(\frac{\partial w}{\partial x} \right)_j + \dots \quad (13)$$

19 Using the continuity equation Eq.(4), it can be further rewritten as

$$20 \quad u = u_j + (z - h_j) \left(\frac{\partial w}{\partial x} \right)_j - \frac{(z - h_j)^2}{2} \left(\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} \right)_j + \dots \quad (14)$$

21 Similarly, the expressions for the horizontal velocity component v and the vertical
 22 velocity component w can be obtained, *i.e.*

$$23 \quad v = v_j + (z - h_j) \left(\frac{\partial w}{\partial y} \right)_j - \frac{(z - h_j)^2}{2} \left(\frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial y^2} \right)_j + \dots \quad (15)$$

24 and

$$1 \quad w = w_j - (z - h_j) \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} \right)_j - \frac{(z - h_j)^2}{2} \left(\frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial y^2} \right)_j + \dots \quad (16)$$

2 The partial derivatives in Eqs. (14) ~ (16) may be expressed using the variables at
3 the elevation h_j . The first-order derivatives thus become

$$4 \quad \left(\frac{\partial w}{\partial x} \right)_j = \frac{\partial w_j}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial h_j}{\partial x} \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} \right)_j + \dots \quad (17)$$

$$5 \quad \left(\frac{\partial w}{\partial y} \right)_j = \frac{\partial w_j}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial h_j}{\partial y} \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} \right)_j + \dots \quad (18)$$

$$6 \quad \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right)_j = \frac{\partial u_j}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial h_j}{\partial x} \left(\frac{\partial w}{\partial x} \right)_j + \dots \quad (19)$$

$$7 \quad \left(\frac{\partial v}{\partial y} \right)_j = \frac{\partial v_j}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial h_j}{\partial y} \left(\frac{\partial w}{\partial y} \right)_j + \dots \quad (20)$$

8 which can lead to

$$9 \quad \left(\frac{\partial w}{\partial x} \right)_j = \frac{\partial w_j}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial h_j}{\partial x} \left(\frac{\partial u_j}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v_j}{\partial y} \right) + O \left[\left(\frac{\partial h_j}{\partial x} \right)^2, \frac{\partial h_j}{\partial x} \frac{\partial h_j}{\partial y}, \left(\frac{\partial h_j}{\partial y} \right)^2 \right] \quad (21)$$

$$10 \quad \left(\frac{\partial w}{\partial y} \right)_j = \frac{\partial w_j}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial h_j}{\partial y} \left(\frac{\partial u_j}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v_j}{\partial y} \right) + O \left[\left(\frac{\partial h_j}{\partial x} \right)^2, \frac{\partial h_j}{\partial x} \frac{\partial h_j}{\partial y}, \left(\frac{\partial h_j}{\partial y} \right)^2 \right] \quad (22)$$

$$11 \quad \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right)_j = \frac{\partial u_j}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial h_j}{\partial x} \frac{\partial w_j}{\partial x} + O \left[\left(\frac{\partial h_j}{\partial x} \right)^2 \right] \quad (23)$$

$$12 \quad \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \right)_j = \frac{\partial u_j}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial h_j}{\partial y} \frac{\partial w_j}{\partial y} + O \left[\left(\frac{\partial h_j}{\partial y} \right)^2 \right] \quad (24)$$

$$13 \quad \left(\frac{\partial v}{\partial x} \right)_j = \frac{\partial v_j}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial h_j}{\partial x} \frac{\partial w_j}{\partial x} + O \left[\left(\frac{\partial h_j}{\partial x} \right)^2 \right] \quad (25)$$

$$14 \quad \left(\frac{\partial v}{\partial y} \right)_j = \frac{\partial v_j}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial h_j}{\partial y} \frac{\partial w_j}{\partial y} + O \left[\left(\frac{\partial h_j}{\partial y} \right)^2 \right] \quad (26)$$

15 In the above derivation, the products of the horizontal bottom gradients are neglected,
16 and therefore the resulting formulation is restricted to the applications with slowly
17 varying bottom.

1 Similarly, the second-order derivatives are rewritten as

$$2 \quad \left(\frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x^2} \right)_j = \frac{\partial^2 w_j}{\partial x^2} + O \left[\left(\frac{\partial h_j}{\partial x} \right)^2, \frac{\partial^2 h_j}{\partial x^2} \right] \quad (27)$$

$$3 \quad \left(\frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial y^2} \right)_j = \frac{\partial^2 w_j}{\partial y^2} + O \left[\left(\frac{\partial h_j}{\partial y} \right)^2, \frac{\partial^2 h_j}{\partial y^2} \right] \quad (28)$$

$$4 \quad \left(\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} \right)_j = \frac{\partial^2 u_j}{\partial x^2} + O \left[\left(\frac{\partial h_j}{\partial x} \right)^2, \frac{\partial^2 h_j}{\partial x^2} \right] \quad (29)$$

$$5 \quad \left(\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} \right)_j = \frac{\partial^2 u_j}{\partial y^2} + O \left[\left(\frac{\partial h_j}{\partial y} \right)^2, \frac{\partial^2 h_j}{\partial y^2} \right] \quad (30)$$

$$6 \quad \left(\frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial x^2} \right)_j = \frac{\partial^2 v_j}{\partial x^2} + O \left[\left(\frac{\partial h_j}{\partial x} \right)^2, \frac{\partial^2 h_j}{\partial x^2} \right] \quad (31)$$

$$7 \quad \left(\frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial y^2} \right)_j = \frac{\partial^2 v_j}{\partial y^2} + O \left[\left(\frac{\partial h_j}{\partial y} \right)^2, \frac{\partial^2 h_j}{\partial y^2} \right] \quad (32)$$

8 where the second-order bottom effects and products of the first-order bottom gradients
9 are neglected.

10 The velocities at an arbitrary point within layer j can thus be expressed as

$$11 \quad u = u_j + (z - h_j) \left[\frac{\partial w_j}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial h_j}{\partial x} \left(\frac{\partial u_j}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v_j}{\partial y} \right) \right] - \frac{(z - h_j)^2}{2} \left(\frac{\partial^2 u_j}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u_j}{\partial y^2} \right) \quad (33)$$

$$+ O \left[\left(\frac{\partial h_j}{\partial x} \right)^2, \frac{\partial h_j}{\partial x} \frac{\partial h_j}{\partial y}, \left(\frac{\partial h_j}{\partial y} \right)^2, \frac{\partial^2 h_j}{\partial x^2}, \frac{\partial^2 h_j}{\partial y^2} \right]$$

$$12 \quad v = v_j + (z - h_j) \left[\frac{\partial w_j}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial h_j}{\partial y} \left(\frac{\partial u_j}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v_j}{\partial y} \right) \right] - \frac{(z - h_j)^2}{2} \left(\frac{\partial^2 v_j}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 v_j}{\partial y^2} \right) \quad (34)$$

$$+ O \left[\left(\frac{\partial h_j}{\partial x} \right)^2, \frac{\partial h_j}{\partial x} \frac{\partial h_j}{\partial y}, \left(\frac{\partial h_j}{\partial y} \right)^2, \frac{\partial^2 h_j}{\partial x^2}, \frac{\partial^2 h_j}{\partial y^2} \right]$$

$$13 \quad w = w_j - (z - h_j) \left(\frac{\partial u_j}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v_j}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial h_j}{\partial x} \frac{\partial w_j}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial h_j}{\partial y} \frac{\partial w_j}{\partial y} \right) - \frac{(z - h_j)^2}{2} \left(\frac{\partial^2 w_j}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 w_j}{\partial y^2} \right) \quad (35)$$

$$+ O \left[\left(\frac{\partial h_j}{\partial x} \right)^2, \left(\frac{\partial h_j}{\partial y} \right)^2, \frac{\partial^2 h_j}{\partial x^2}, \frac{\partial^2 h_j}{\partial y^2} \right]$$

14 The Taylor series expansion may be also applied to the nonhydrostatic pressure,
15 leading to

1
$$q = q_j + (z - h_j) \left(\frac{\partial q}{\partial z} \right)_j + \frac{(z - h_j)^2}{2} \left(\frac{\partial^2 q}{\partial z^2} \right)_j + \dots \quad (36)$$

2 Substituting the vertical momentum Eq. (3) into the above equation yields

3
$$q = q_j - \rho(z - h_j) \left[\left(\frac{\partial w}{\partial t} \right)_j + u_j \left(\frac{\partial w}{\partial x} \right)_j + v_j \left(\frac{\partial w}{\partial y} \right)_j + w_j \left(\frac{\partial w}{\partial z} \right)_j \right] \quad (37)$$

$$- \rho \frac{(z - h_j)^2}{2} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left(\frac{\partial w}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial w}{\partial y} + w \frac{\partial w}{\partial z} \right)_j + \dots$$

4 Substitution of the continuity Eq. (4) into the above expression gives

5
$$q = q_j - \rho(z - h_j) \left[\frac{\partial w_j}{\partial t} + u_j \left(\frac{\partial w}{\partial x} \right)_j + v_j \left(\frac{\partial w}{\partial y} \right)_j - w_j \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right)_j - w_j \left(\frac{\partial v}{\partial y} \right)_j \right] \quad (38)$$

$$- \rho \frac{(z - h_j)^2}{2} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left(\frac{\partial w}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial w}{\partial y} - w \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} - w \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} \right)_j + \dots$$

$$= q_j - \rho(z - h_j) \left[\frac{\partial w_j}{\partial t} + u_j \left(\frac{\partial w}{\partial x} \right)_j + v_j \left(\frac{\partial w}{\partial y} \right)_j - w_j \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right)_j - w_j \left(\frac{\partial v}{\partial y} \right)_j \right]$$

$$+ \rho \frac{(z - h_j)^2}{2} \left\{ \begin{aligned} &+ \left(\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t \partial x} \right)_j + \left(\frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial t \partial y} \right)_j - \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial z} \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} \right)_j + u_j \left(\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial x \partial y} \right)_j - \left(\frac{\partial v}{\partial z} \frac{\partial w}{\partial y} \right)_j \\ &+ v_j \left(\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y \partial x} + \frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial y^2} \right)_j - \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} \right)_j^2 + w_j \left(\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x \partial z} \right)_j + w_j \left(\frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial y \partial z} \right)_j \end{aligned} \right\} + \dots$$

6 Using the irrotationality condition in Eq. (6), the nonhydrostatic pressure at an
7 arbitrary point within layer j can be finally expressed as

8
$$q = q_j - \rho(z - h_j) \left[\left(\frac{\partial w}{\partial t} \right)_j + u_j \left(\frac{\partial w}{\partial x} \right)_j + v_j \left(\frac{\partial w}{\partial y} \right)_j - w_j \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right)_j - w_j \left(\frac{\partial v}{\partial y} \right)_j \right] \quad (39)$$

$$+ \rho \frac{(z - h_j)^2}{2} \left\{ \begin{aligned} &\left(\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t \partial x} \right)_j + \left(\frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial t \partial y} \right)_j - \left(\frac{\partial w}{\partial x} \right)_j^2 - \left(\frac{\partial w}{\partial y} \right)_j^2 - \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} \right)_j^2 \\ &+ u_j \left(\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial x \partial y} \right)_j + v_j \left(\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y \partial x} + \frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial y^2} \right)_j + w_j \left(\frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial y^2} \right)_j \end{aligned} \right\} + \dots$$

9 which may be further expressed in terms of the variables at the elevation h_j , *i.e.*

$$\begin{aligned}
q = q_j - \rho(z - h_j) & \left[\frac{\partial w_j}{\partial t} + u_j \frac{\partial w_j}{\partial x} + v_j \frac{\partial w_j}{\partial y} - w_j \left(\frac{\partial u_j}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v_j}{\partial y} \right) \right. \\
& \left. + \left(u_j \frac{\partial h_j}{\partial x} + v_j \frac{\partial h_j}{\partial y} \right) \left(\frac{\partial u_j}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v_j}{\partial y} \right) + w_j \left(\frac{\partial h_j}{\partial x} \frac{\partial w_j}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial h_j}{\partial y} \frac{\partial w_j}{\partial y} \right) \right] \\
+ \rho \frac{(z - h_j)^2}{2} & \left\{ \frac{\partial^2 u_j}{\partial t \partial x} + \frac{\partial^2 v_j}{\partial t \partial y} - \frac{\partial h_j}{\partial x} \frac{\partial^2 w_j}{\partial t \partial x} - \frac{\partial h_j}{\partial y} \frac{\partial^2 w_j}{\partial t \partial y} - \left(\frac{\partial w_j}{\partial x} \right)^2 - \left(\frac{\partial w_j}{\partial y} \right)^2 - \left(\frac{\partial u_j}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v_j}{\partial y} \right)^2 \right\} \\
& \left\{ + u_j \left(\frac{\partial^2 u_j}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u_j}{\partial y^2} \right) + v_j \left(\frac{\partial^2 v_j}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 v_j}{\partial y^2} \right) + w_j \left(\frac{\partial^2 w_j}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 w_j}{\partial y^2} \right) \right\} \quad (40) \\
+ O & \left[\left(\frac{\partial h_j}{\partial x} \right)^2, \frac{\partial h_j}{\partial x} \frac{\partial h_j}{\partial y}, \left(\frac{\partial h_j}{\partial y} \right)^2, \frac{\partial^2 h_j}{\partial x \partial y}, \frac{\partial^2 h_j}{\partial x^2}, \frac{\partial^2 h_j}{\partial y^2} \right]
\end{aligned}$$

2 For the corresponding first-order derivatives,

$$\begin{aligned}
\left(\frac{\partial q}{\partial x} \right)_j &= \frac{\partial q_j}{\partial x} + \rho \frac{\partial h_j}{\partial x} \left[\frac{\partial w_j}{\partial t} + u_j \frac{\partial w_j}{\partial x} + v_j \frac{\partial w_j}{\partial y} - w_j \left(\frac{\partial u_j}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v_j}{\partial y} \right) \right] \\
&+ O \left[\left(\frac{\partial h_j}{\partial x} \right)^2, \frac{\partial h_j}{\partial x} \frac{\partial h_j}{\partial y}, \left(\frac{\partial h_j}{\partial y} \right)^2 \right] \quad (41)
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\left(\frac{\partial q}{\partial y} \right)_j &= \frac{\partial q_j}{\partial y} + \rho \frac{\partial h_j}{\partial y} \left[\frac{\partial w_j}{\partial t} + u_j \frac{\partial w_j}{\partial x} + v_j \frac{\partial w_j}{\partial y} - w_j \left(\frac{\partial u_j}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v_j}{\partial y} \right) \right] \\
&+ O \left[\left(\frac{\partial h_j}{\partial x} \right)^2, \frac{\partial h_j}{\partial x} \frac{\partial h_j}{\partial y}, \left(\frac{\partial h_j}{\partial y} \right)^2 \right] \quad (42)
\end{aligned}$$

5 In each layer, the horizontal momentum Eq. (1) may be written as

$$\frac{\partial u_j}{\partial t} + u_j \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right)_j + v_j \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \right)_j + w_j \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial z} \right)_j = -g \frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial x} - \frac{1}{\rho} \left(\frac{\partial q}{\partial x} \right)_j \quad (43)$$

7 Incorporating the irrotationality condition in Eq. (6), Eq. (43) becomes

$$\frac{\partial u_j}{\partial t} + u_j \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right)_j + v_j \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \right)_j + w_j \left(\frac{\partial w}{\partial x} \right)_j = -g \frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial x} - \frac{1}{\rho} \left(\frac{\partial q}{\partial x} \right)_j \quad (44)$$

9 Combining with Eqs. (23), (24), (21) and (40), Eq. (44) can be now rewritten as

$$\frac{\partial u_j}{\partial t} + u_j \frac{\partial u_j}{\partial x} + v_j \frac{\partial u_j}{\partial y} + w_j \frac{\partial w_j}{\partial x} = -g \frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial x} - \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial q_j}{\partial x} + v_j \frac{\partial h_j}{\partial y} \frac{\partial w_j}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial h_j}{\partial x} \left(\frac{\partial w_j}{\partial t} + v_j \frac{\partial w_j}{\partial y} \right) \quad (45)$$

11 Similar expression can be obtained for the horizontal momentum Eq. (2), *i.e.*

$$\frac{\partial v_j}{\partial t} + u_j \frac{\partial v_j}{\partial x} + v_j \frac{\partial v_j}{\partial y} + w_j \frac{\partial w_j}{\partial y} = -g \frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial y} - \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial q_j}{\partial y} + u_j \frac{\partial h_j}{\partial x} \frac{\partial w_j}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial h_j}{\partial y} \left(\frac{\partial w_j}{\partial t} + u_j \frac{\partial w_j}{\partial x} \right) \quad (46)$$

13 With Eq. (40), the dynamic boundary condition in Eq. (7) can now be expressed as

$$\begin{aligned}
q_N = \rho(\zeta - h_N) & \left[\begin{aligned} & \frac{\partial w_N}{\partial t} + u_N \frac{\partial w_N}{\partial x} + v_N \frac{\partial w_N}{\partial y} - w_N \left(\frac{\partial u_N}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v_N}{\partial y} \right) \\ & + \left(u_N \frac{\partial h_N}{\partial x} + v_N \frac{\partial h_N}{\partial y} \right) \left(\frac{\partial u_N}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v_N}{\partial y} \right) + w_N \left(\frac{\partial h_N}{\partial x} \frac{\partial w_N}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial h_N}{\partial y} \frac{\partial w_N}{\partial y} \right) \end{aligned} \right] \\
& - \rho \frac{(\zeta - h_N)^2}{2} \left[\begin{aligned} & \frac{\partial^2 u_N}{\partial t \partial x} + \frac{\partial^2 v_N}{\partial t \partial y} - \left(\frac{\partial w_N}{\partial x} \right)^2 - \left(\frac{\partial w_N}{\partial y} \right)^2 - \left(\frac{\partial u_N}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v_N}{\partial y} \right)^2 \\ & + u_N \left(\frac{\partial^2 u_N}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u_N}{\partial y^2} \right) + v_N \left(\frac{\partial^2 v_N}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 v_N}{\partial y^2} \right) + w_N \left(\frac{\partial^2 w_N}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 w_N}{\partial y^2} \right) \\ & - \frac{\partial h_N}{\partial x} \frac{\partial^2 w_N}{\partial t \partial x} - \frac{\partial h_N}{\partial y} \frac{\partial^2 w_N}{\partial t \partial y} \end{aligned} \right] \quad (47)
\end{aligned}$$

2 Combining equations (33)-(35), the kinematic boundary condition in Eq. (8) and the
3 bottom boundary condition in Eq. (9) can be respectively rewritten as

$$\begin{aligned}
w_N - \frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial t} - u_N \frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial x} - v_N \frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial y} & = (\zeta - h_N) \left(\frac{\partial u_N}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v_N}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial x} \frac{\partial w_N}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial y} \frac{\partial w_N}{\partial y} \right) \\
& + (\zeta - h_N) \left[\left(\frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial x} \frac{\partial h_N}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial y} \frac{\partial h_N}{\partial y} \right) \left(\frac{\partial u_N}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v_N}{\partial y} \right) - \left(\frac{\partial h_N}{\partial x} \frac{\partial w_N}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial h_N}{\partial y} \frac{\partial w_N}{\partial y} \right) \right] \\
& + \frac{(\zeta - h_N)^2}{2} \left[\frac{\partial^2 w_N}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 w_N}{\partial y^2} - \left(\frac{\partial^2 u_N}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u_N}{\partial y^2} \right) \frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial x} - \left(\frac{\partial^2 v_N}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 v_N}{\partial y^2} \right) \frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial y} \right] \quad (48)
\end{aligned}$$

5 and

$$\begin{aligned}
w_1 + u_1 \frac{\partial d}{\partial x} + v_1 \frac{\partial d}{\partial y} & = (d + h_1) \left\{ \begin{aligned} & \left[\frac{\partial d}{\partial x} \frac{\partial w_1}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial d}{\partial y} \frac{\partial w_1}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial h_1}{\partial x} \left[\frac{\partial w_1}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial d}{\partial x} \left(\frac{\partial u_1}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v_1}{\partial y} \right) \right] \right] \\ & - \left(\frac{\partial u_1}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v_1}{\partial y} \right) + \frac{\partial h_1}{\partial y} \left[\frac{\partial w_1}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial d}{\partial y} \left(\frac{\partial u_1}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v_1}{\partial y} \right) \right] \right\} \\
& + \frac{(d + h_1)^2}{2} \left[\frac{\partial d}{\partial x} \left(\frac{\partial^2 u_1}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u_1}{\partial y^2} \right) + \frac{\partial d}{\partial y} \left(\frac{\partial^2 v_1}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 v_1}{\partial y^2} \right) + \left(\frac{\partial^2 w_1}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 w_1}{\partial y^2} \right) \right] \quad (49)
\end{aligned} \right.
\end{aligned}$$

7 Assuming continuous velocities and pressure across an interface, the Taylor series
8 expanded flow variables with respect to h_j at interface z_j must be equal to those based
9 on h_{j+1} , *i.e.*

$$u_{z_j}^{h_j} = u_{z_j}^{h_{j+1}} \quad v_{z_j}^{h_j} = v_{z_j}^{h_{j+1}} \quad w_{z_j}^{h_j} = w_{z_j}^{h_{j+1}} \quad q_{z_j}^{h_j} = q_{z_j}^{h_{j+1}} \quad (50)$$

11 The continuity equation Eq. (4) and the irrotationality condition Eq. (6) have been
12 commonly used to derive the expressions for velocities u , v and w and the
13 nonhydrostatic pressure q in each layer. Any two of the above four continuity
14 relationships can be deduced by the other two. Taking the horizontal velocity u and the

1 vertical velocity w as examples, using their expressions (33) and (35), the above
 2 continuity condition across the interface lead to

$$\begin{aligned}
 & u_j + (z_j - h_j) \left[\frac{\partial w_j}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial h_j}{\partial x} \left(\frac{\partial u_j}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v_j}{\partial y} \right) \right] - \frac{(z_j - h_j)^2}{2} \left(\frac{\partial^2 u_j}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u_j}{\partial y^2} \right) = \\
 & u_{j+1} + (z_j - h_{j+1}) \left[\frac{\partial w_{j+1}}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial h_{j+1}}{\partial x} \left(\frac{\partial u_{j+1}}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v_{j+1}}{\partial y} \right) \right] - \frac{(z_j - h_{j+1})^2}{2} \left(\frac{\partial^2 u_{j+1}}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u_{j+1}}{\partial y^2} \right) \\
 & w_j - (z_j - h_j) \left(\frac{\partial u_j}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v_j}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial h_j}{\partial x} \frac{\partial w_j}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial h_j}{\partial y} \frac{\partial w_j}{\partial y} \right) - \frac{(z_j - h_j)^2}{2} \left(\frac{\partial^2 w_j}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 w_j}{\partial y^2} \right) = \\
 & w_{j+1} - (z_j - h_{j+1}) \left(\frac{\partial u_{j+1}}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v_{j+1}}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial h_{j+1}}{\partial x} \frac{\partial w_{j+1}}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial h_{j+1}}{\partial y} \frac{\partial w_{j+1}}{\partial y} \right) - \frac{(z_j - h_{j+1})^2}{2} \left(\frac{\partial^2 w_{j+1}}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 w_{j+1}}{\partial y^2} \right)
 \end{aligned} \tag{51}$$

(52)

6 Whilst deriving the new multilayer equation system, all of the z -direction derivatives
 7 have been automatically eliminated, leading to a much-simplified formulation. Unlike
 8 Boussinesq-type equations, the vertical velocity w and pressure q are not expanded in
 9 the form of horizontal velocities u and v in order to prevent higher order derivative
 10 terms in the equations. In turn, these simplified equations can be numerically
 11 discretized using simpler numerical scheme, minimizing the possible numerical errors
 12 caused by sophisticated vertical discretization near to the bathymetry with abrupt
 13 changes.

RESULTS

15 As a summary, the multilayer nonhydrostatic momentum equations are given as
 16 follows

$$\frac{\partial u_j}{\partial t} + u_j \frac{\partial u_j}{\partial x} + v_j \frac{\partial u_j}{\partial y} + w_j \frac{\partial u_j}{\partial x} = -g \frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial x} - \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial q_j}{\partial x} + v_j \frac{\partial h_j}{\partial y} \frac{\partial w_j}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial h_j}{\partial x} \left(\frac{\partial w_j}{\partial t} + v_j \frac{\partial w_j}{\partial y} \right) \tag{53}$$

$$\frac{\partial v_j}{\partial t} + u_j \frac{\partial v_j}{\partial x} + v_j \frac{\partial v_j}{\partial y} + w_j \frac{\partial v_j}{\partial y} = -g \frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial y} - \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial q_j}{\partial y} + u_j \frac{\partial h_j}{\partial x} \frac{\partial w_j}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial h_j}{\partial y} \left(\frac{\partial w_j}{\partial t} + u_j \frac{\partial w_j}{\partial x} \right) \tag{54}$$

19 with the following free-surface boundary conditions

$$\begin{aligned}
q_N = \rho(\zeta - h_N) & \left[\begin{aligned} & \frac{\partial w_N}{\partial t} + u_N \frac{\partial w_N}{\partial x} + v_N \frac{\partial w_N}{\partial y} - w_N \left(\frac{\partial u_N}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v_N}{\partial y} \right) \\ & + \left(u_N \frac{\partial h_N}{\partial x} + v_N \frac{\partial h_N}{\partial y} \right) \left(\frac{\partial u_N}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v_N}{\partial y} \right) + w_N \left(\frac{\partial h_N}{\partial x} \frac{\partial w_N}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial h_N}{\partial y} \frac{\partial w_N}{\partial y} \right) \end{aligned} \right] \\
& - \rho \frac{(\zeta - h_N)^2}{2} \left\{ \begin{aligned} & \frac{\partial^2 u_N}{\partial t \partial x} + \frac{\partial^2 v_N}{\partial t \partial y} - \left(\frac{\partial w_N}{\partial x} \right)^2 - \left(\frac{\partial w_N}{\partial y} \right)^2 - \left(\frac{\partial u_N}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v_N}{\partial y} \right)^2 \\ & + u_N \left(\frac{\partial^2 u_N}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u_N}{\partial y^2} \right) + v_N \left(\frac{\partial^2 v_N}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 v_N}{\partial y^2} \right) + w_N \left(\frac{\partial^2 w_N}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 w_N}{\partial y^2} \right) \\ & - \frac{\partial h_N}{\partial x} \frac{\partial^2 w_N}{\partial t \partial x} - \frac{\partial h_N}{\partial y} \frac{\partial^2 w_N}{\partial t \partial y} \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (55)
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
w_N - \frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial t} - u_N \frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial x} - v_N \frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial y} & = (\zeta - h_N) \left(\frac{\partial u_N}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v_N}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial x} \frac{\partial w_N}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial y} \frac{\partial w_N}{\partial y} \right) \\
& + (\zeta - h_N) \left[\left(\frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial x} \frac{\partial h_N}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial y} \frac{\partial h_N}{\partial y} \right) \left(\frac{\partial u_N}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v_N}{\partial y} \right) - \left(\frac{\partial h_N}{\partial x} \frac{\partial w_N}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial h_N}{\partial y} \frac{\partial w_N}{\partial y} \right) \right] \\
& + \frac{(\zeta - h_N)^2}{2} \left\{ \frac{\partial^2 w_N}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 w_N}{\partial y^2} - \left(\frac{\partial^2 u_N}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u_N}{\partial y^2} \right) \frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial x} - \left(\frac{\partial^2 v_N}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 v_N}{\partial y^2} \right) \frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial y} \right\} \quad (56)
\end{aligned}$$

3 the bottom boundary condition

$$\begin{aligned}
w_1 + u_1 \frac{\partial d}{\partial x} + v_1 \frac{\partial d}{\partial y} & = (d + h_1) \left\{ \begin{aligned} & \left[\frac{\partial d}{\partial x} \frac{\partial w_1}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial d}{\partial y} \frac{\partial w_1}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial h_1}{\partial x} \left[\frac{\partial w_1}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial d}{\partial x} \left(\frac{\partial u_1}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v_1}{\partial y} \right) \right] \right] \\ & - \left(\frac{\partial u_1}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v_1}{\partial y} \right) + \frac{\partial h_1}{\partial y} \left[\frac{\partial w_1}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial d}{\partial y} \left(\frac{\partial u_1}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v_1}{\partial y} \right) \right] \right\} \\
& + \frac{(d + h_1)^2}{2} \left[\frac{\partial d}{\partial x} \left(\frac{\partial^2 u_1}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u_1}{\partial y^2} \right) + \frac{\partial d}{\partial y} \left(\frac{\partial^2 v_1}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 v_1}{\partial y^2} \right) + \left(\frac{\partial^2 w_1}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 w_1}{\partial y^2} \right) \right] \quad (57)
\end{aligned} \right.
\end{aligned}$$

5 and the continuity conditions across an interface of layers (if more than one layers are
6 used)

$$\begin{aligned}
u_j + (z_j - h_j) & \left[\frac{\partial w_j}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial h_j}{\partial x} \left(\frac{\partial u_j}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v_j}{\partial y} \right) \right] - \frac{(z_j - h_j)^2}{2} \left(\frac{\partial^2 u_j}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u_j}{\partial y^2} \right) = \\
u_{j+1} + (z_j - h_{j+1}) & \left[\frac{\partial w_{j+1}}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial h_{j+1}}{\partial x} \left(\frac{\partial u_{j+1}}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v_{j+1}}{\partial y} \right) \right] - \frac{(z_j - h_{j+1})^2}{2} \left(\frac{\partial^2 u_{j+1}}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u_{j+1}}{\partial y^2} \right) \quad (58)
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
w_j - (z_j - h_j) & \left(\frac{\partial u_j}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v_j}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial h_j}{\partial x} \frac{\partial w_j}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial h_j}{\partial y} \frac{\partial w_j}{\partial y} \right) - \frac{(z_j - h_j)^2}{2} \left(\frac{\partial^2 w_j}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 w_j}{\partial y^2} \right) = \\
w_{j+1} - (z_j - h_{j+1}) & \left(\frac{\partial u_{j+1}}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v_{j+1}}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial h_{j+1}}{\partial x} \frac{\partial w_{j+1}}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial h_{j+1}}{\partial y} \frac{\partial w_{j+1}}{\partial y} \right) - \frac{(z_j - h_{j+1})^2}{2} \left(\frac{\partial^2 w_{j+1}}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 w_{j+1}}{\partial y^2} \right) \quad (59)
\end{aligned}$$

1 The above N -layer nonhydrostatic equation system consists of $2N$ momentum
2 equations, three sets of boundary conditions and $2(N - 1)$ continuity conditions, a total
3 of $4N + 1$ coupled equations for $4N + 1$ variables including u_j, v_j, w_j and q_j ($j = 1 \sim N$)
4 and an additional free surface elevation ζ .

5 The above governing equations only possess derivatives of up to second-order, which
6 can be easily and efficiently solved using a well-established numerical method, *e.g.*
7 finite difference method, finite volume method and finite element method. For
8 numerical implementation, the system of equations may be solved in two steps:
9 hydrostatic step and nonhydrostatic step. The hydrostatic components (*i.e.* the
10 governing equations without considering the nonhydrostatic pressure effect) are solved
11 in the hydrostatic step while the nonhydrostatic pressure terms are computed in the
12 second step. In the nonhydrostatic step, the relationships between u_j, v_j, w_j and q_j are
13 given in Eqs.(53)-(55), which are substituted into the bottom condition Eq.(57) to give
14 an elliptic equation for the non-hydrostatic pressure. The focus of this work is to
15 introduce the new multilayer nonhydrostatic formulation for surface water waves. The
16 corresponding numerical model is currently being developed and will be presented in a
17 future paper.

18 Although the above governing equations are derived for gravity water waves, it has
19 not predefined any specific vertical profiles for the velocities and pressure and therefore
20 they can indeed provide more natural vertical profiles for these variables, as shown in
21 the theoretical analysis in the following section.

22 ANALYSIS

23 The new multilayer governing equations should be further analyzed to reveal their
24 properties and optimize parameterization. The analyses undertaken herein are limited
25 to one horizontal dimension for simplicity, but the procedure and conclusions can be
26 directly extended to the two-dimension case. The optimized values for coefficients α_j
27 and β_j will be obtained by analyzing the linear properties of the equations, including the

1 linear dispersion, linear shoaling and linear velocity profile. The nonlinear properties
2 of the formulations are further examined after these coefficients are determined.

3 **Fourier Analysis**

4 Stoke-type Fourier analysis is conducted to obtain the linear and nonlinear second
5 and third harmonics of the governing equations (Madsen, Bingham and Liu, 2002). The
6 first-, second- and third-order solutions may be extracted through a perturbation
7 expansion

$$8 \quad \zeta = \varepsilon A^{(1)} \cos(kx - \omega t) + \varepsilon^2 A^{(2)} \cos 2(kx - \omega t) + \varepsilon^3 A^{(3)} \cos 3(kx - \omega t) \quad (60)$$

$$9 \quad u_j = \varepsilon U_j^{(1)} \cos(kx - \omega t) + \varepsilon^2 U_j^{(2)} \cos 2(kx - \omega t) + \varepsilon^3 U_j^{(3)} \cos 3(kx - \omega t) \quad (61)$$

$$10 \quad w_j = -\varepsilon W_j^{(1)} \sin(kx - \omega t) - \varepsilon^2 W_j^{(2)} \sin 2(kx - \omega t) - \varepsilon^3 W_j^{(3)} \sin 3(kx - \omega t) \quad (62)$$

$$11 \quad q_j = \varepsilon Q_j^{(1)} \cos(kx - \omega t) + \varepsilon^2 Q_j^{(2)} \cos 2(kx - \omega t) + \varepsilon^3 Q_j^{(3)} \cos 3(kx - \omega t) \quad (63)$$

12 where ε is a small perturbation parameter, $A^{(i)}$, $U_j^{(i)}$, $W_j^{(i)}$ and $Q_j^{(i)}$ are real functions ($i =$
13 1, 2 and 3), k is the wavenumber, and ω is the cyclic frequency. To avoid unbounded
14 solutions at the third order, the frequency and first-order solutions are expanded as
15 follows

$$16 \quad \omega = \omega(1 + \varepsilon^2 \omega^{(13)}), \quad U_j^{(1)} = U_j^{(1)}(1 + \varepsilon^2 U_j^{(13)}), \quad W_j^{(1)} = W_j^{(1)}(1 + \varepsilon^2 W_j^{(13)}), \quad Q_j^{(1)} = Q_j^{(1)}(1 + \varepsilon^2 Q_j^{(13)})$$

$$17 \quad (64)$$

18 where superscript (13) denotes the third-order terms arisen from the first-order solutions.
19 Substituting Eq. (60) - (64) into the governing equations Eq. (53), (55)-(59) and
20 collating all the terms of order $O(\varepsilon^n)$ will lead to the first, second and third-order
21 solutions. Results from the analysis for the first-three-layer formulations are compared
22 with the exact Stokes solutions (Fenton, 1985; Kennedy *et al.*, 2001).

23 **Shoaling Analysis**

24 In one horizontal dimension with a slowly varying bathymetry $d = d(\varepsilon x)$, solutions
25 of the following form may be sought by following Madsen, Bingham and Liu (2002),

$$\begin{aligned}
\zeta &= A^{(1)} \exp\left\{i\left[\omega t - \int k(x) dx\right]\right\}, & u_j &= U_j^{(1)}(1 + i\sigma_j^1 d_x) \exp\left\{i\left[\omega t - \int k(x) dx\right]\right\} \\
w_j &= iW_j^{(1)}(1 + i\sigma_j^2 d_x) \exp\left\{i\left[\omega t - \int k(x) dx\right]\right\}, & q_j &= Q_j^{(1)}(1 + i\sigma_j^3 d_x) \exp\left\{i\left[\omega t - \int k(x) dx\right]\right\}
\end{aligned}
\tag{65}$$

where i is the imaginary unit, σ_j^i is introduced to account for a small phase due to a slowly varying bottom. Substituting Eq. (65) into the linearized formulation and keeping only the first-order derivatives, it obtains the real and imaginary parts of the solutions. $U_j^{(1)}$, $W_j^{(1)}$ and $Q_j^{(1)}$ are solved in terms of $A^{(1)}$ to give the first-order solutions for monochromatic waves on a slowly varying bottom. Further eliminating σ_j^i , $U_{jx}^{(1)}$, $W_{jx}^{(1)}$ and $Q_{jx}^{(1)}$ yields the equation in the form of

$$\frac{A_x}{A} = -s_0 \frac{dx}{d} \tag{66}$$

where s_0 is the shoaling coefficient. The equation will be analyzed by comparing with the shoaling gradient from Stokes linear theory (Madsen and Sørensen, 1992).

DISCUSSION

Stoke-type Fourier and shoaling analyses are carried out to scrutinize the mathematical properties of the new formulation. The representative interface and the location to define variables in each layer are optimized to improve model accuracy.

One-Layer Formulation

The one-layer formulation involves four variables, *i.e.* ζ , u_1 , w_1 , q_1 , which can be obtained by solving Eq. (53), (55), (56) and (57). The specific expressions for the first-, second- and third-order solutions for monochromatic waves on a horizontal bottom and the shoaling coefficient can be obtained using Wolfram Mathematica. The corresponding dispersion relation, the associated velocities and the shoaling coefficient are detailed in Appendix A.

Through examination of linear property, the most accurate set of the representative interface and the location to define variables will be chosen. The coefficient β_1 can be directly determined by fitting the calculated phase speed c or the group velocity c_g with

1 the exact linear solution for Stokes waves. However, as the velocity profile may play
 2 an important role in wave-structure interaction and the shoaling coefficient is a
 3 fundamental quantity for wave propagation over varying bathymetry, optimized value
 4 of β_1 is obtained by minimizing the errors for phase speed, group velocity, shoaling
 5 effect and velocity profiles following the method of Lynett and Liu (2004a), *i.e.*

6

$$7 \quad \Delta_{\text{linear}} = \frac{1}{5} \left(\sum_{kd=0.1}^{\Omega} \left| \frac{c^e - c}{c^e} \right| + \sum_{kd=0.1}^{\Omega} \left| \frac{c_g^e - c_g}{c_g^e} \right| + \sum_{kd=0.1}^{\Omega} \left| \frac{S_0^e - S_0}{S_0^e} \right| + \sum_{kd=0.1}^{\Omega} \left| \frac{\int_{-d}^0 [u^e(z) - u(z)] dz}{\int_{-d}^0 u^e(z) dz} \right| + \sum_{kd=0.1}^{\Omega} \left| \frac{\int_{-d}^0 [w^e(z) - w(z)] dz}{\int_{-d}^0 w^e(z) dz} \right| \right)$$

8 (67)

9 where the superscript e denotes the exact solution from the Stokes theory. As the one-
 10 layer model is supposed to be applied in coastal wave transformation that generally
 11 occurs when water depth kd is less than π , β_1 is thus optimized over the range $\Omega = \pi$,
 12 leading to $\beta_1 = 0.50$ and $\Delta_{\text{linear}} = 0.014$.

13 The resulting phase speed, wave group celerity and shoaling coefficient for the one-
 14 layer model are plotted in Figure 2. The model has a maximum error of less than 3%
 15 for the phase speed and less than 10% for the group velocity in the entire range, which
 16 has the similar accuracy as the second-order dispersion Boussinesq equations derived
 17 by Nwogu (1993) and Madsen, Murray and Sørensen (1991). The shoaling coefficient
 18 has an excellent agreement with the Stokes first theory for $\Omega \leq 5/8\pi$. However, the
 19 discrepancy increases monotonically with kd beyond this range.

20 The vertical profiles of horizontal and vertical velocities are plotted in Figure 3,
 21 showing good agreement with those resulting from the linear Stokes theory, especially
 22 for the vertical velocity component. The predicted horizontal velocity near to the
 23 bottom is slightly larger than that from the Stokes theory, especially for high
 24 wavenumbers. The possible reason may be that the water motion is predominantly
 25 horizontal and vertical velocity is much weaker than the horizontal velocity in shallow
 26 and intermediate water. The solutions from one-layer model agree more favorably with
 27 the exact solutions than the second-order Boussinesq theory as reported by Gobbi,

1 Kirby and Wei (2000). The reason may lie in the fact that the current formulation does
2 not predefine the vertical velocity structures as the Boussinesq theories do.

3 Following the procedure of solving the Stokes water theory, the first-order solutions
4 provide forcing to drive the second-order solutions; the first and second-order solutions
5 together provide forcing to the third-order solutions. The corresponding second- and
6 third-order solutions are provided in Appendix A.

7 Stokes wave theory gives the second- and third-harmonic amplitudes

$$8 \quad a_{\text{Stokes}}^{(2)} = \frac{ka^{(1)2} \cosh kd (2 \cosh^2 kd + 1)}{4 \sinh^3 kd} \quad (68)$$

9 and

$$10 \quad a_{\text{Stokes}}^{(3)} = \frac{3k^2 a^{(1)3} 8 \cosh^6 kd + 1}{64 \sinh^6 kd} \quad (69)$$

11 They are used as references for comparison with the solutions obtained from the present
12 formulations.

13 Figure 4 compares the second- and third-order wave amplitudes from the one-layer
14 model and Boussinesq equations of Nwogu (1993). As the results are normalized with
15 Stokes solutions (68) and (69), the unity indicates perfect agreement. The Boussinesq
16 solutions converge to the Stokes solution as kd approaches zero. The one-layer system
17 exhibits different convergence patterns, and there are offsets towards $kd = 0$ for the
18 second- and third-order solutions. The similar results also appear at the multi-layer
19 nonhydrostatic free-surface model from Bai and Cheung (2013), and they thought that
20 it is due to the slower convergence of the dispersion relation in shallow water. As the
21 present formulations have the similar accuracy as Boussinesq equations derived by
22 Nwogu (1993) (see Figure 2), it prefers that these different convergence patterns might
23 be due to the fact that Boussinesq equations usually express the vertical velocity w with
24 one lower order polynomials than that for the horizontal velocities u and v while the
25 present formulations describe them with the same order polynomials. Furthermore,
26 Nwogu (1993) assumed the vertical velocity linearly varying and the horizontal
27 velocities quadratically varying in the vertical direction respectively, however, this

1 paper expresses all of them as quadratic polynomials. Such different kinematic
2 structures may be the reason why distinct convergence characteristics are exhibited
3 from Boussinesq equations and the present formulations. However, it must be
4 emphasized that the solution from the one-layer system presents overall good
5 agreement with the Stokes nonlinear theory for $kd \leq \pi$ than that from Nwogu (1993);
6 the discrepancy for both the second and third-order solutions becomes less noticeable
7 for larger kd .

8 **Two-Layer Formulation**

9 Considering the two-layer equation system in one horizontal dimension with a
10 horizontal bottom, the dispersion relationship and velocities can be derived, which are
11 listed in Appendix B with the corresponding shoaling coefficient.

12 The values of coefficients β_j and α_j can be again obtained by minimizing the error
13 Δ_{linear} in Eq. (67) as for the one-layer system, *i.e.* $\Delta_{\text{linear}} = 0.014$. This yields $\Omega = 4\pi$, β_1
14 $= 0.641$, $\alpha_1 = 0.391$ and $\beta_2 = 0.305$, which are referred to as optimized coefficients
15 herein. Most of the previous studies related to the optimization of coefficients for the
16 Boussinesq-type equations considered only the shoaling effect and dispersion related
17 characteristics, but neglected the vertical velocity structures (Gobbi, Kirby and Wei,
18 2000; Madsen, Murray and Sørensen, 1991; Nwogu, 1993; Schäffer and Madsen, 1995).
19 Following these approaches (*i.e.* without considering the vertical velocity structures),
20 coefficients are obtained and given by $\beta_1 = 0.895$, $\alpha_1 = 0.535$ and $\beta_2 = 0.105$, which are
21 referred to as partially optimized coefficients.

22 Many numerical models based on the Navier-Stokes equations or the Euler equations
23 adopt uniform layers in the vertical direction (Casulli and Stelling, 1998; Lin and Liu,
24 1998; Stelling and Zijlema, 2003; Zijlema and Stelling, 2005), except the model with
25 non-uniform layers reported by Yuan and Wu (2006) that can achieve the same
26 accuracy with less layers. Herein, the performance of the current formulation with
27 uniform vertical layers is also examined. The associated coefficients for the current

1 two-layer equation system are $\beta_1 = 0.75$, $\alpha_1 = 0.50$ and $\beta_2 = 0.25$, which are referred to
2 as uniform-layer coefficients.

3 Figure 5 plots the phase speed, group velocity and shoaling effect with the three
4 groups of coefficients as mentioned above. The coefficients obtained from Eq. (67)
5 give the maximum errors of 1.0% and 4.5% for the phase speed and the group velocity
6 respectively; the error corresponding to the shoaling coefficient increases as the
7 wavenumber kd increases and reaches its maximum value (less than 0.06) at $kd = 4\pi$. It
8 appears that the optimized coefficients obtained by neglecting vertical velocity
9 structures provide the most accurate solutions for the phase speed, group velocity and
10 shoaling effect, with relative errors less than 0.6% and 1.8% respectively for the phase
11 speed and group velocity and absolute error less than 0.04 for the shoaling effect. For
12 the model with uniform layers, the predicted phase speed is found to be closest to the
13 exact solution; however, the errors for the group velocity and shoaling effect are the
14 largest among the three sets of coefficients.

15 Figure 6 shows the horizontal and vertical velocities predicted by the two-layer
16 equation system with aforementioned three groups of coefficients, in comparison with
17 the exact linear solution for various relative water depth kd . The coefficients obtained
18 from Eq. (67) lead to the most accurate results compared with the exact solution, even
19 for $kd = 4\pi$. The model with two uniform layers also well represents the vertical velocity
20 profiles, despite the slight deviation observed at the interface between the layers in the
21 region with relative large water depth. Completely wrong velocity profiles are predicted
22 for large kd with the partially optimized coefficients, which are obtained by only
23 considering the phase speed, group velocity and shoaling effect. Both of the horizontal
24 and vertical velocities should theoretically reach their maximum values at the free
25 surface; however, the predicted vertical velocity profile with the partially optimized
26 coefficients reaches its maximum at the interface between the two vertical layers; the
27 medium-depth velocity is several times larger than that at the surface. Although these
28 coefficients may lead to more accurate phase speed, group velocity and shoaling effect,

1 they produce unacceptable velocity profiles and therefore will be discarded in the rest
2 of this study. From now on, the two-layer equation system adopts $\beta_1 = 0.641$, $\alpha_1 = 0.391$,
3 $\beta_2 = 0.305$ as the default optimized coefficients based on its overall good dispersion
4 properties.

5 The two-layer equation system with the optimized coefficients provides much
6 improved linear dispersion properties than the fourth-order Boussinesq equations
7 derived by Gobbi, Kirby and Wei (2000). Their model gives a (4, 4) Padé dispersion
8 relationship and the phase speed up to the range of $kd \approx 7$ with an error of 1% and the
9 group velocity up to the range of $kd \approx 5$ with an error of 5%. Furthermore, the deviation
10 between the Boussinesq model predicted vertical velocity profile and the exact linear
11 theory becomes evidently when $kd \geq 8$. The present two-layer equation system with
12 optimized coefficients also outshines the two-layer Boussinesq model derived by
13 Lynett and Liu (2004a). Lynett and Liu's Boussinesq model can only predicts phase
14 speed up to the range of $kd \approx 10$ and group velocity up to the range of $kd \approx 8$ with the
15 same errors as the present two-layer model; the shoaling effect predicted by the present
16 two-layer model has an overall much better accuracy. Additionally, the present two-
17 layer equation system predicts a smooth vertical profile to a much higher degree of
18 accuracy in a wider range; on the other hand, the Boussinesq model predicts a
19 discontinuous vertical velocity gradient, causing an unphysical sharp change in the
20 vertical velocity profile.

21 The second and third-order solutions for the two-layer equation system can be
22 obtained using Mathematica, in a similar way as that for the one-layer formulations and
23 are omitted here for simplicity. Figure 7 shows these solutions obtained using
24 respectively the uniform-layer and default optimized coefficients, in comparison with
25 the Stokes theory. The two second-order solutions are approximately anti-symmetry for
26 $kd \leq 7\pi/4$. It is just coincidental and there is no specific physical reason behind it.
27 Although the two-layer solutions with the optimized coefficients leads to slight larger
28 error than the uniform-layer solutions in the special range $\pi/4 \leq kd \leq 7\pi/4$, they have an

1 overall higher degree of accuracy over the optimized range $0 < kd \leq 4\pi$. The model with
2 two uniform layers gives in a maximum error of 8% for the second-order solution and
3 14% for the third-order solution, while the model with optimized coefficients predicts
4 a maximum error of 4% for the second-order solution and less than 9% for the third-
5 order solution.

6 **Three-Layer Formulation**

7 The linear solutions including the dispersion relationship, phase speed, group
8 velocity, shoaling coefficient and velocity profiles, as well as the second and third-order
9 nonlinear solutions, to the three-layer model can be obtained in the same way as that
10 for the one and two-layer formulations. All of the mathematical expressions are omitted
11 here for simplicity and only results (comparison with analytical solutions) are discussed
12 here.

13 Coefficients representing the phase speed, group velocity and shoaling effect
14 obtained by following Eq. (67) are found to induce the same errors as the one and two-
15 layer systems, *i.e.* $\Delta_{\text{linear}} = 0.014$, resulting in $\beta_1 = 0.965$, $\alpha_1 = 0.880$, $\beta_2 = 0.555$, $\alpha_2 =$
16 0.185 , $\beta_3 = 0.118$ and the range of $\Omega = 10\pi$ (referred to as optimized coefficients).
17 Figure 8 shows the resulting phase speed, group velocity and shoaling effect with these
18 coefficients. The model with the optimized coefficients exhibits more accurate
19 solutions, predicting a maximum relative error of 0.6% for the phase speed and of 1.2%
20 for group velocity, compared with the 1.2% and 11.4% resulting from the uniform-layer
21 model associated with the uniform-layer coefficients of $\beta_1 = 0.833$, $\alpha_1 = 0.667$, $\beta_2 =$
22 0.500 , $\alpha_2 = 0.333$ and $\beta_3 = 0.167$. For the shoaling effect, the maximum absolute errors
23 predicted by the two models are 0.025 and 0.271, respectively. The three-layer model
24 with optimized coefficients is also superior to the four-layer Boussinesq model derived
25 by Lynett and Liu (2004b) which gives maximum errors of more than 1% and 11% for
26 phase speed and group velocity over the range $kd \leq 10\pi$. Furthermore, the three-layer
27 model with optimized coefficients performs consistently better than the one and two-
28 layer models within its application range.

1 Figure 9 presents the velocity profiles from the three-layer model with the optimized
2 coefficients and the three-uniform-layer model. Large errors are observed on the
3 vertical velocity profiles for both u and w from the three-uniform-layer model when kd
4 $\geq 4\pi$ and the largest discrepancies are detected at the interfaces. On the other hand, the
5 three-layer model with optimized coefficients predicts the vertical velocity profiles to
6 a much higher degree of accuracy. Furthermore, the model is able to provides
7 satisfactory results in extremely deep water, *e.g.* up to $kd = 10\pi$. The model is also
8 superior than the four-layer Boussinesq model derived by Lynett and Liu (2004b) in
9 predicting the vertical velocity profile which shows evident errors for $kd > 8\pi$.

10 Figure 10 presents the second- and third-order solutions to uniform-layer model and
11 the model with optimized coefficients, in comparison with the analytical solution from
12 the Stokes theory. The errors of the second and third-order solutions to the three-
13 uniform-layer model increase as the kd increases and reach the maximum values of over
14 8% and 15% at $kd = 10\pi$. The model with optimized coefficients provides overall
15 satisfactory second and third-order solutions, except for the range of $kd < 2\pi$.
16 Considering the fact that the three-layer model is usually used in intermediate to deep
17 water (outside the range of $kd < 2\pi$), the three-layer model with optimized coefficients
18 can lead to reasonable accurate results.

19 CONCLUSIONS

20 A new formulation of the multilayer nonhydrostatic equations for surface water
21 waves has been derived. The model defines velocities and pressure at an arbitrary
22 location of a layer; subsequently the Taylor expansion is applied to derive the vertical
23 flow field, and finally matches with the continuity conditions across the interface
24 between two adjacent layers. With the maximum second-order spatial derivatives and
25 identical structure of the formulations at different layers, the new governing equations
26 can be numerically solved using a standard numerical scheme. Stoke-type Fourier and
27 shoaling analyses have been carried out to scrutinize the properties of the new equations;

1 the representative interface and the unknowns evaluation locations in each layer are
2 chosen to improve the model accuracy.

3 Optimization of the model coefficients for one-layer model is obtained for
4 applications in the range of $kd \leq \pi$. The model with the optimized coefficients captures
5 similar accurate linear and nonlinear wave behaviors to the existing second-order
6 Boussinesq-type models (Madsen, Murray and Sørensen, 1991; Nwogu, 1993; Wei *et*
7 *al.*, 1995). Optimized coefficients are derived for the two-layer model for applications
8 in the range of $kd \leq 4\pi$. The resulting model predicts the phase speed and group velocity
9 within the error bound of 1.0% and 4.5% and provides the second and third-order
10 solutions within the error bound of 4% and 9%. It maintains better linear and nonlinear
11 accuracy and has larger application range than existing four-order Boussinesq model
12 and the two-layer Boussinesq model (Gobbi, Kirby and Wei, 2000; Lynett and Liu,
13 2004a). The linear and nonlinear optimization of the interface and variable evaluation
14 locations for the three-layer model is implemented for the application range of $kd \leq 10\pi$.
15 The model with the optimized coefficients exhibits accurate linearity for phase speed
16 and group velocity within the error bound of 0.6% and 1.2% respectively, which
17 effectively removes any shallow water limitation. It gives accurate nonlinear results
18 towards the deep water for the second and third-order solutions within 2% and 4% of
19 error bounds respectively, despite relatively large errors in the shallow-water region.
20 Furthermore, as the current multilayer nonhydrostatic water wave model does not
21 predefine the flow structures in the vertical direction and the optimization of
22 coefficients considers the error in velocity profiles, it provides more accurate vertical
23 profiles of the velocity field.

24

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4

5

APPENDIX A.

6 The corresponding dispersion relation for one-layer formulations is

$$7 \quad \omega^2 = gk \frac{4kd + 2(1 - \beta_1)\beta_1 k^3 d^3}{4 + 2d^2 k^2 + (-1 + \beta_1)^2 \beta_1^2 d^4 k^4} \quad (\text{A.1})$$

8 The associated velocities are

$$9 \quad U^{(1)} = \frac{2gkA_1}{\omega} \frac{2 + k^2 d^2 (1 - \beta_1)^2}{4 + 2k^2 d^2 + (1 - \beta_1)^2 \beta_1^2 k^4 d^4} \quad (\text{A.2})$$

10 and

$$11 \quad W^{(1)} = -\frac{4(1 - \beta_1)gdk^2 A_1}{\omega [4 + 2d^2 k^2 + (1 - \beta_1)^2 \beta_1^2 d^4 k^4]} \quad (\text{A.3})$$

12 The shoaling coefficient for the one-layer formulation is

$$13 \quad s = \frac{S_{10}^{(1)} + S_{12}^{(1)} k^2 d^2 + S_{14}^{(1)} k^4 d^4 + S_{16}^{(1)} k^6 d^6 + S_{18}^{(1)} k^8 d^8 + O(k^{10} d^{10})}{S_{20}^{(1)} + S_{22}^{(1)} k^2 d^2 + S_{24}^{(1)} k^4 d^4 + S_{26}^{(1)} k^6 d^6 + S_{28}^{(1)} k^8 d^8} \quad (\text{A.4})$$

14 where

$$15 \quad S_{10}^{(1)} = 4 \quad (\text{A.5})$$

$$16 \quad S_{12}^{(1)} = -6 + 14\beta_1 - 14\beta_1^2 \quad (\text{A.6})$$

$$17 \quad S_{14}^{(1)} = -6\beta_1^2 + 12\beta_1^3 - 6\beta_1^4 \quad (\text{A.7})$$

$$18 \quad S_{16}^{(1)} = \beta_1 / 2 + \beta_1^2 / 2 - 13\beta_1^3 + 34\beta_1^4 - 33\beta_1^5 + 11\beta_1^6 \quad (\text{A.8})$$

$$19 \quad S_{18}^{(1)} = \beta_1^2 / 4 - 3 / 2 \beta_1^3 + 3 / 2 \beta_1^4 + 4\beta_1^5 - 19 / 2 \beta_1^6 + 7\beta_1^7 - 7 / 4 \beta_1^8 \quad (\text{A.9})$$

$$20 \quad S_{20}^{(1)} = 16 \quad (\text{A.10})$$

$$1 \quad S_{22}^{(1)} = 32\beta_1 - 32\beta_1^2 \quad (\text{A.11})$$

$$2 \quad S_{24}^{(1)} = 8\beta_1 - 16\beta_1^3 + 8\beta_1^4 \quad (\text{A.12})$$

$$3 \quad S_{26}^{(1)} = 8\beta_1^2 - 24\beta_1^3 + 32\beta_1^4 - 24\beta_1^5 + 8\beta_1^6 \quad (\text{A.13})$$

$$4 \quad S_{28}^{(1)} = \beta_1^2 - 4\beta_1^3 + 8\beta_1^4 - 10\beta_1^5 + 8\beta_1^6 - 4\beta_1^7 + \beta_1^8 \quad (\text{A.14})$$

5 The second harmonic solutions from the one-layer formulations are

$$6 \quad A^{(2)} = \frac{k(N^0 + N^1 kd + N^2 k^2 d^2 + N^3 k^3 d^3 + N^4 k^4 d^4 + N^5 k^5 d^5 + N^6 k^6 d^6)}{8[-d g k^2 - (1 - \beta_1)\beta_1 2d^3 g k^4 + \omega^2 + 2k^2 d^2 \omega^2 - 4(1 - \beta_1)^2 \beta_1^2 k^4 d^4 \omega^2]} \quad (\text{A.15})$$

$$7 \quad U_1^{(2)} = \frac{k[1 + 2k^2 d^2 (1 - \beta_1)^2]}{8} \\ 2\omega(U^{(1)2} + W^{(1)2}) + A^{(1)} \left[gk(4U^{(1)} - 4\beta_1 kdW^{(1)} + \beta_1^2 k^2 d^2 U^{(1)}) + 4\omega^2 (W^{(1)} - \beta_1 kdU^{(1)}) \right] \\ \div \frac{-d g k^2 + 2(1 - \beta_1)\beta_1 d^3 g k^4 + \omega^2 + 2k^2 d^2 \omega^2 + 4(1 - \beta_1)^2 \beta_1^2 k^4 d^4 \omega^2}{8} \quad (\text{A.16})$$

$$8 \quad W_1^{(2)} = \frac{dk^2(1 - \beta_1)}{4} \\ 2\omega(U^{(1)2} - W^{(1)2}) + gkA^{(1)}(4U^{(1)} - 4\beta_1 kdW^{(1)} + \beta_1^2 k^2 d^2 U^{(1)}) + 4\omega^2(W^{(1)} - \beta_1 kdU^{(1)}) \\ \div \frac{-d g k^2 - 2(1 - \beta_1)\beta_1 d^3 g k^4 + \omega^2 + 2k^2 d^2 \omega^2 - 4(1 - \beta_1)^2 \beta_1^2 k^4 d^4 \omega^2}{4} \quad (\text{A.17})$$

$$9 \quad Q_1^{(2)} = \frac{-\rho\omega}{4} \left\{ \begin{aligned} & 2k^2 d^2 (U^{(1)2} - W^{(1)2}) \beta_1 [2 + (-1 + 2k^2 d^2) \beta_1 + (2\beta_1^3 - 4\beta_1^2) k^2 d^2] \omega \\ & + 4\beta_1 d^3 k^3 \cdot [gk(1 - 3\beta_1 + \beta_1^2) - 4k^4 d^3 g + 4k^2 d^2 (1 - \beta_1)^2 \omega^2] W^{(1)} A^{(1)} \\ & + [2d^6 g k^7 (1 - \beta_1)^2 \beta_1^4 + d^4 g k^5 (4 - 10\beta_1 + 7\beta_1^2) \beta_1^2] U^{(1)} A^{(1)} \\ & + 4\beta_1 d^3 k^3 \cdot [2\beta_1 k^3 d^2 (3g - 2\beta_1 g - 2d\omega^2) + (-1 + \beta_1)^2 \omega^2] U^{(1)} A^{(1)} \\ & - [8d^5 g k^6 (-1 + \beta_1)^2 \beta_1^3 + 2\omega^2] W^{(1)} A^{(1)} \end{aligned} \right\} \\ \div [-d g k^2 - 2(1 - \beta_1)\beta_1 d^3 g k^4 + \omega^2 + 2k^2 d^2 \omega^2 - 4(1 - \beta_1)^2 \beta_1^2 k^4 d^4 \omega^2] \quad (\text{A.18})$$

13 where

$$14 \quad N^0 = 4A^{(1)}U^{(1)}\omega \quad (\text{A.19})$$

$$15 \quad N^1 = 2[U^{(1)2} - W^{(1)2} (W^{(1)} + A^{(1)}(-2 + 2\beta_1)\omega)] \quad (\text{A.20})$$

$$1 \quad N^2 = A^{(1)}U^{(1)}(8 - 4\beta_1 + \beta_1^2)\omega \quad (\text{A.21})$$

$$2 \quad N^3 = -4\beta_1 \left[U^{(1)2}(-1 + \beta_1) + W^{(1)}(W^{(1)} - W^{(1)}\beta_1 + 2A^{(1)}\beta_1\omega) \right] \quad (\text{A.22})$$

$$3 \quad N^4 = 2A^{(1)}U^{(1)}\beta_1^2(5 + 8\beta_1^2 - 12\beta_1)\omega \quad (\text{A.23})$$

$$4 \quad N^5 = -12A^{(1)}W^{(1)}(-1 + \beta_1)^2\beta_1^3\omega \quad (\text{A.24})$$

$$5 \quad N^6 = 4A^{(1)}U^{(1)}(-1 + \beta_1)\beta_1^4\omega \quad (\text{A.25})$$

6 The third-order wave amplitude for one-layer formulations is

$$7 \quad A^{(3)} = \frac{k(M^0 + M^1kd + M^2k^2d^2 + M^3k^3d^3 + M^4k^4d^4 + M^5k^5d^5 + M^6k^6d^6)}{24[-4d g k^2 - 18(1 - \beta_1)\beta_1 d^3 g k^4 + 4\omega^2 + 18k^2 d^2 \omega^2 - 81(1 - \beta_1)^2 \beta_1^2 k^4 d^4 \omega^2]} \quad (\text{A.26})$$

9 where

$$10 \quad M^0 = 12 \left[4A^{(2)}U^{(1)} + A^{(1)}(4U^{(2)} - kA^{(1)}W^{(1)}) \right] \omega \quad (\text{A.27})$$

$$11 \quad M^1 = 4U^{(1)} \left[12U^{(2)} + A^{(1)2}k(-3 + 2\beta_1)\omega \right] + 48 \left\{ 2A^{(1)}W^{(2)}(1 - \beta_1)\omega - W^{(1)} \left[W^{(2)} + (1 - \beta_1)\omega A^{(2)} \right] \right\} \quad (\text{A.28})$$

$$12 \quad M^2 = -54k\omega A^{(1)2}W^{(1)} - 8U^{(1)} \left[6\beta_1 W^{(2)} + A^{(2)}(-27 + 6\beta_1 - 2\beta_1^2)\omega \right] + 8U^{(2)} \left[6\beta_1 W^{(1)} + A^{(1)}(27 - 24\beta_1 + 4\beta_1^2)\omega \right] \quad (\text{A.29})$$

$$13 \quad M^3 = 6\beta_1 U^{(1)} \left[-4U^{(2)}(-9 + 8\beta_1) + 3kA^{(1)2}(-1 + 3\beta_1)\omega \right] - 24\beta_1 \left[18\beta_1 \omega A^{(1)}W^{(2)} + W^{(1)}(9W^{(2)} - 8\beta_1 W^{(2)} + 9\beta_1 \omega A^{(2)}) \right] \quad (\text{A.30})$$

$$14 \quad M^4 = -36\beta_1^2 U^{(2)} \left[6W^{(1)}(-1 + \beta_1) + A^{(1)}(-7 + 30\beta_1 - 27\beta_1^2)\omega \right] + 36\beta_1^2 U^{(1)} \left[6(-1 + \beta_1)W^{(2)} + A^{(2)}(23 - 48\beta_1 + 27\beta_1^2)\omega \right] - 243\beta_1^2 k A^{(1)2} W^{(1)}(1 - \beta_1)^2 \omega \quad (\text{1.31})$$

$$16 \quad M^5 = 54(1 - \beta_1)\beta_1^3 U^{(1)} \left[2U^{(2)} + 3A^{(1)2}k(1 - \beta_1)\omega \right] - 108(1 - \beta_1)\beta_1^3 \left\{ 18A^{(1)}W^{(2)}(1 - \beta_1)\omega + W^{(1)} \left[W^{(2)} + 9A^{(2)}(1 - \beta_1)\omega \right] \right\} \quad (\text{A.32})$$

$$17 \quad M^6 = 324 \left(A^{(2)}U^{(1)} + 2A^{(1)}U^{(2)} \right) (1 - \beta_1)^2 \beta_1^4 \omega \quad (\text{A.33})$$

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APPENDIX B.

The dispersion relationship for the two-layer system is

$$\frac{\omega^2}{gk} = \frac{m_{11}^{(2)}dk + m_{13}^{(2)}k^3d^3 + m_{15}^{(2)}k^5d^5 + m_{17}^{(2)}k^7d^7}{m_{20}^{(2)} + m_{22}^{(2)}d^2k^2 + m_{24}^{(2)}k^4d^4 + m_{26}^{(2)}k^6d^6 + m_{28}^{(2)}k^8d^8} \quad (\text{B.1})$$

where

$$m_{11}^{(2)} = 1 \quad (\text{B.2})$$

$$m_{13}^{(2)} = \frac{1}{2} \left[\beta_1 - \alpha_1^2 \beta_1 + (-1 + \alpha_1) \beta_1^2 + \alpha_1 (\alpha_1 - \beta_2) \beta_2 \right] \quad (\text{B.3})$$

$$m_{15}^{(2)} = \frac{1}{4} \left\{ \begin{aligned} & \beta_2^4 + \alpha_1^4 (1 - \beta_1 + \beta_2) + \alpha_1^2 (-\beta_1 + 3\beta_1^2 - 2\beta_1^3 + \beta_2 + 3\beta_2^2 + 2\beta_2^3) \\ & + 2\alpha_1^3 [-\beta_1 + \beta_1^2 - \beta_2 (1 + \beta_2)] + \alpha_1 [\beta_1^2 - 2\beta_1^3 + \beta_1^4 - \beta_2^2 (1 + \beta_2)^2] \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (\text{B.4})$$

$$m_{17}^{(2)} = -\frac{1}{8} (\alpha_1 - \beta_1) (-1 + \beta_1) (\alpha_1 - \beta_2) \beta_2 \left[\begin{aligned} & \beta_2^2 + \alpha_1^2 (1 - \beta_1 + \beta_2) + \\ & \alpha_1 [-\beta_1 + \beta_1^2 - \beta_2 (1 + \beta_2)] \end{aligned} \right] \quad (\text{B.5})$$

$$m_{20}^{(2)} = 1 \quad (\text{B.6})$$

$$m_{22}^{(2)} = \frac{1}{2} \quad (\text{B.7})$$

$$m_{24}^{(2)} = \frac{1}{4} \left\{ \begin{aligned} & \alpha_1^4 + \beta_1^2 - 2\beta_1^3 + \beta_1^4 + \beta_2^2 - 2\alpha_1^3 (\beta_1 + \beta_2) \\ & - 2\alpha_1 (-\beta_1^2 + \beta_1^3 + \beta_2^2 + \beta_2^3) + \alpha_1^2 [-2\beta_1 + 3\beta_1^2 + \beta_2 (2 + 3\beta_2)] \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (\text{B.8})$$

$$m_{26}^{(2)} = \frac{1}{8} \left[\alpha_1^2 (-1 + \beta_1 - \beta_2) - \beta_2^2 + \alpha_1 (\beta_1 - \beta_1^2 + \beta_2 + \beta_2^2) \right]^2 \quad (\text{B.9})$$

$$m_{28}^{(2)} = \frac{1}{16} (\alpha_1 - \beta_1)^2 (1 - \beta_1)^2 (\alpha_1 - \beta_2)^2 \beta_2^2 \quad (\text{B.10})$$

Velocities for the two-layer system are

$$w_1^{(1)} = \frac{gkA_1}{\omega_0} \frac{kd (\Lambda_{10}^{w1} + \Lambda_{11}^{w1} kd)}{\Lambda_{20}^{w1} + \Lambda_{22}^{w1} k^2 d^2 + \Lambda_{24}^{w1} k^4 d^4 + \Lambda_{26}^{w1} k^6 d^6 + \Lambda_{28}^{w1} k^8 d^8} \quad (\text{B.11})$$

$$w_2^{(1)} = \frac{gkA_1}{\omega_0} \frac{kd (\Lambda_{10}^{w2} - \Lambda_{12}^{w2} k^2 d^2 + \Lambda_{14}^{w2} k^4 d^4)}{\Lambda_{20}^{w2} + \Lambda_{22}^{w2} k^2 d^2 + \Lambda_{24}^{w2} k^4 d^4 + \Lambda_{26}^{w2} k^6 d^6 + \Lambda_{28}^{w2} k^8 d^8} \quad (\text{B.12})$$

$$u_1^{(1)} = \frac{gkA_1}{\omega_0} \frac{\Lambda_{10}^{u1} + \Lambda_{12}^{u1} k^2 d^2 + \Lambda_{14}^{u1} k^4 d^4 + \Lambda_{16}^{u1} k^6 d^6}{\Lambda_{20}^{u1} + \Lambda_{22}^{u1} k^2 d^2 + \Lambda_{24}^{u1} k^4 d^4 + \Lambda_{26}^{u1} k^6 d^6 + \Lambda_{28}^{u1} k^8 d^8} \quad (\text{B.13})$$

$$1 \quad u_2^{(1)} = \frac{gkA_1}{\omega_0} \frac{\Lambda_{10}^{u_2} + \Lambda_{12}^{u_2} k^2 d^2 + \Lambda_{14}^{u_2} k^4 d^4 + \Lambda_{16}^{u_2} k^6 d^6}{\Lambda_{20}^{u_2} + \Lambda_{22}^{u_2} k^2 d^2 + \Lambda_{24}^{u_2} k^4 d^4 + \Lambda_{26}^{u_2} k^6 d^6 + \Lambda_{28}^{u_2} k^8 d^8} \quad (\text{B.14})$$

2 where

$$3 \quad \Lambda_{10}^{w_1} = 16(-1 + \beta_1) \quad (\text{B.15})$$

$$4 \quad \Lambda_{11}^{w_1} = 4(-1 + \beta_1)(\alpha_1 - \beta_2)^4 \quad (\text{B.16})$$

$$5 \quad \Lambda_{20}^{w_1} = 16 \quad (\text{B.17})$$

$$6 \quad \Lambda_{22}^{w_1} = 8 \quad (\text{B.18})$$

$$7 \quad \Lambda_{24}^{w_1} = 4 \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \alpha_1^4 - 2\alpha_1^3(\beta_1 + \beta_2) + \beta_2^4 - 2\alpha_1(-\beta_1^2 + \beta_1^3 + \beta_2^2 + \beta_2^3) \\ + \beta_1^2 - 2\beta_1^3 + \beta_1^4 + \alpha_1^2[-2\beta_1 + 3\beta_1^2 + \beta_2(2 + 3\beta_2)] \end{array} \right\} \quad (\text{B.19})$$

$$8 \quad \Lambda_{26}^{w_1} = 2 \left[\alpha_1^2(-1 + \beta_1 - \beta_2) - \beta_2^2 + \alpha_1(\beta_1 - \beta_1^2 + \beta_2 - \beta_2^2) \right]^2 \quad (\text{B.20})$$

$$9 \quad \Lambda_{28}^{w_1} = \left[(\alpha_1 - \beta_1)\beta_2(1 - \beta_1)(\alpha_1 - \beta_2) \right]^2 \quad (\text{B.21})$$

$$10 \quad \Lambda_{10}^{w_2} = 16(-1 + \beta_2) \quad (\text{B.22})$$

$$11 \quad \Lambda_{12}^{w_2} = 8(-1 + \alpha_1)(\beta_1 - \beta_2)(-1 - \alpha_1 + \beta_1 + \beta_2) \quad (\text{B.23})$$

$$12 \quad \Lambda_{14}^{w_2} = 4(\alpha_1 - \beta_1)(1 - \beta_1)(\alpha_1 - \beta_2) \left[\alpha_1^2 - \beta_1 + \beta_1^2 + \beta_2 - \alpha_1(\beta_1 + \beta_2) \right] \quad (\text{B.24})$$

$$13 \quad \Lambda_{20}^{w_2} = 16 \quad (\text{B.25})$$

$$14 \quad \Lambda_{22}^{w_2} = 8 \quad (\text{B.26})$$

$$15 \quad \Lambda_{24}^{w_2} = 4 \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \alpha_1^4 + \beta_1^2 - 2\alpha_1^3(\beta_1 + \beta_2) - 2\alpha_1(-\beta_1^2 + \beta_1^3 + \beta_2^2 + \beta_2^3) \\ - 2\beta_1^3 + \beta_1^4 + \beta_2^4 + \alpha_1^2[-2\beta_1 + 3\beta_1^2 + \beta_2(2 + 3\beta_2)] \end{array} \right\} \quad (\text{B.27})$$

$$16 \quad \Lambda_{26}^{w_2} = 2 \left[\alpha_1^2(-1 + \beta_1 - \beta_2) - \beta_2^2 + \alpha_1(\beta_1 - \beta_1^2 + \beta_2 - \beta_2^2) \right]^2 \quad (\text{B.28})$$

$$17 \quad \Lambda_{28}^{w_2} = \beta_2^2(\alpha_1 - \beta_1)^2(1 - \beta_1)^2(\alpha_1 - \beta_2)^2 \quad (\text{B.29})$$

$$18 \quad \Lambda_{10}^{u_1} = 16 \quad (\text{B.30})$$

$$19 \quad \Lambda_{12}^{u_1} = 8(1 - \beta_1)^2 \quad (\text{B.31})$$

$$20 \quad \Lambda_{14}^{u_1} = 4(\alpha_1 - \beta_2)^2 \quad (\text{B.32})$$

$$1 \quad \Lambda_{16}^{u1} = 2(1-\beta_1)^2 (\alpha_1 - \beta_2)^4 \quad (\text{B.33})$$

$$2 \quad \Lambda_{20}^{u1} = 16 \quad (\text{B.34})$$

$$3 \quad \Lambda_{22}^{u1} = 8 \quad (\text{B.35})$$

$$4 \quad \Lambda_{24}^{u1} = 4 \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \alpha_1^4 - 2\beta_1^3 + \beta_2^4 + \alpha_1^2 [-2\beta_1 + 3\beta_1^2 + \beta_2(2+3\beta_2)] \\ + \beta_1^2 + \beta_1^4 - 2\alpha_1^3(\beta_1 + \beta_2) - 2\alpha_1(-\beta_1^2 + \beta_1^3 + \beta_2^2 + \beta_2^3) \end{array} \right\} \quad (\text{B.36})$$

$$5 \quad \Lambda_{26}^{u1} = 2 \left[\alpha_1^2 (-1 + \beta_1 - \beta_2) - \beta_2^2 + \alpha_1 (\beta_1 - \beta_1^2 + \beta_2 - \beta_2^2) \right]^2 \quad (\text{B.37})$$

$$6 \quad \Lambda_{28}^{u1} = \beta_2^2 (\alpha_1 - \beta_1)^2 (1 - \beta_1)^2 (\alpha_1 - \beta_2)^2 \quad (\text{B.38})$$

$$7 \quad \Lambda_{10}^{u2} = 16 \quad (\text{B.39})$$

$$8 \quad \Lambda_{12}^{u2} = 8(1 - \beta_2)^2 \quad (\text{B.40})$$

$$9 \quad \Lambda_{14}^{u2} = 4 \left[\alpha_1^2 - \beta_1 + \beta_1^2 + \beta_2 - \alpha_1 (\beta_1 + \beta_2) \right]^2 \quad (\text{B.41})$$

$$10 \quad \Lambda_{16}^{u2} = 2 \left[(\alpha_1 - \beta_1)(1 - \beta_1)(\alpha_1 - \beta_2) \right]^2 \quad (\text{B.42})$$

$$11 \quad \Lambda_{20}^{u2} = 16 \quad (\text{B.43})$$

$$12 \quad \Lambda_{22}^{u2} = 8 \quad (\text{B.44})$$

$$13 \quad \Lambda_{24}^{u2} = 4 \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \alpha_1^4 + \beta_1^2 - 2\beta_1^3 + \alpha_1^2 [-2\beta_1 + 3\beta_1^2 + \beta_2(2+3\beta_2)] \\ + \beta_1^4 + \beta_2^4 - 2\alpha_1^3(\beta_1 + \beta_2) + 2\alpha_1(\beta_1^2 - \beta_1^3 - \beta_2^2 - \beta_2^3) \end{array} \right\} \quad (\text{B.45})$$

$$14 \quad \Lambda_{26}^{u2} = 2 \left[\alpha_1^2 (-1 + \beta_1 - \beta_2) - \beta_2^2 + \alpha_1 (\beta_1 - \beta_1^2 + \beta_2 - \beta_2^2) \right]^2 \quad (\text{B.46})$$

$$15 \quad \Lambda_{28}^{u2} = \beta_2^2 (\alpha_1 - \beta_1)^2 (1 - \beta_1)^2 (\alpha_1 - \beta_2)^2 \quad (\text{B.47})$$

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17 The shoaling coefficient for the two-layer system is

$$18 \quad s = \frac{S_{10}^{(2)} + S_{12}^{(2)} k^2 d^2 + S_{14}^{(2)} k^4 d^4 + S_{16}^{(2)} k^6 d^6 + O(k^8 d^8)}{S_{20}^{(2)} + S_{22}^{(2)} k^2 d^2 + S_{24}^{(2)} k^4 d^4 + S_{26}^{(2)} k^6 d^6 + O(k^8 d^8)} \quad (\text{B.48})$$

19 where

$$20 \quad S_{10}^{(2)} = -4 \quad (\text{B.49})$$

$$1 \quad S_{12}^{(2)} = 4 \left[1 - 6\beta_1(1 - \alpha_1^2) + 6(1 - \alpha_1)\beta_1^2 - 6\alpha_1^2\beta_2 + 6\alpha_1\beta_2^2 \right] \quad (\text{B.50})$$

$$2 \quad S_{14}^{(2)} = \left\{ \begin{aligned} & 3 + 3\beta_1 - 43\beta_1^2 + 80\beta_1^3 - 40\beta_1^4 - 10\beta_2^4 \\ & - \alpha_1^2 \left[\begin{aligned} & 60\beta_1^3 + 51\beta_1^4 - 6\beta_1^2(12 + 17\beta_2 + 17\beta_2^2) \\ & + 2\beta_1(2 + 51\beta_2) + \beta_2(-4 + 30\beta_2 + 42\beta_2^2 + 51\beta_2^3) \end{aligned} \right] - \\ & \alpha_1 \left[82\beta_1^3 - 81\beta_1^4 - 102\beta_1\beta_2^2 - \beta_1^2(4 - 102\beta_2^2) - \beta_2^2(4 - 20\beta_2 - 21\beta_2^2) \right] \\ & - \alpha_1^4 \left[10 + 51\beta_1^2 + 21\beta_2 + 51\beta_2^2 - 3\beta_1(7 + 34\beta_2) \right] + \\ & 2\alpha_1^3 \left[51\beta_1^3 - 3\beta_1^2(7 + 17\beta_2) + \beta_1(10 - 51\beta_2^2) + \beta_2(10 + 21\beta_2 + 51\beta_2^2) \right] \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (\text{B.51})$$

$$3 \quad S_{16}^{(2)} = \left\{ \begin{aligned} & -12\beta_1^3 + 56\beta_1^4 - 60\beta_1^6 + 10\beta_2^4 + \beta_1(7 - 60\beta_2^4) + \beta_1^2(-11 + 60\beta_2^4) - \\ & 3\alpha_1^5 \left[\begin{aligned} & 55\beta_1^4 - 2\beta_1^3(39 + 55\beta_2) + 2\beta_1\beta_2^2(39 + 55\beta_2) \\ & + \beta_1^2(43 + 79\beta_2) - \beta_2^2(43 + 78\beta_2 + 55\beta_2^2) \end{aligned} \right] + \\ & \alpha_1^6 \left[\begin{aligned} & 55\beta_1^3 - \beta_2(43 + 78\beta_2 + 55\beta_2^2) - \\ & 3\beta_1^2(26 + 55\beta_2) + \beta_1(43 + 156\beta_2 + 165\beta_2^2) \end{aligned} \right] + \\ & \alpha_1 \left[\begin{aligned} & 96\beta_1^5 + \beta_1^4(-22 + 147\beta_2^2) + 2\beta_1\beta_2^2(4 + 60\beta_2 + 39\beta_2^2) \\ & - 14\beta_1^3(2 + 21\beta_2^2) + \beta_1^2(13 + 139\beta_2^2 - 120\beta_2^3 - 138\beta_2^4) \\ & - 52\beta_1^6 + \beta_2^2(-13 - 20\beta_2 + 3\beta_2^2 + 43\beta_2^4) \end{aligned} \right] + \\ & \alpha_1^4 \left[\begin{aligned} & 10 + 165\beta_1^5 - 25\beta_2^2 - 215\beta_2^3 - 312\beta_2^4 - 2\beta_1^3(14 + 87\beta_2 + \beta_2^2) \\ & - 3\beta_1^4(49 + 55\beta_2) + \beta_1^2(113 + 348\beta_2 + 477\beta_2^2 + 330\beta_2^3) \\ & - 3\beta_2 - 165\beta_2^5 + \beta_1(-57 - 28\beta_2 + 105\beta_2^2 + 156\beta_2^3 + 165\beta_2^4) \end{aligned} \right] + \\ & \alpha_1^3 \left[\begin{aligned} & + 2\beta_1^3(-113 - 105\beta_2 + 87\beta_2^2) + \beta_1^4(271 + 252\beta_2 + 165\beta_2^2) \\ & - 96\beta_1^5 + \beta_1(-20 + 120\beta_2 + 106\beta_2^2 + 210\beta_2^3 - 78\beta_2^4) \\ & - 55\beta_1^6 - \beta_1^2(-114 + 170\beta_2 + 486\beta_2^2 + 486\beta_2^3 + 165\beta_2^4) \end{aligned} \right] \\ & + \alpha_1^2 \left[\begin{aligned} & \beta_1^4(17 - 147\beta_2 - 252\beta_2^2) + 7\beta_1^3(-5 + 42\beta_2 + 30\beta_2^2) \\ & + 87\beta_1^6 - 105\beta_1^5 - \beta_1(13 + 8\beta_2 + 180\beta_2^2 + 105\beta_2^4) \\ & + \beta_1^2(38 - 139\beta_2 + 230\beta_2^2 + 276\beta_2^3 + 243\beta_2^4) \\ & - \beta_2(-13 - 30\beta_2 + 6\beta_2^2 + 25\beta_2^3 + 129\beta_2^4 + 78\beta_2^5) \end{aligned} \right] \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (\text{B.52})$$

$$4 \quad S_{20}^{(2)} = -16 \quad (\text{B.53})$$

$$5 \quad S_{22}^{(2)} = -8 \left[1 - 9\beta_1(-1 + \alpha_1^2) + 9(-1 + \alpha_1)\beta_1^2 + 9\beta_2\alpha_1^2 - 9\alpha_1\beta_2^2 \right] \quad (\text{B.54})$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& \left. \begin{aligned} & 11\beta_1 + 22\beta_1^2 + 33\beta_1^4 + \alpha_1^4 (10 + 34\beta_1^2 + 11\beta_2 + 34\beta_2^2 - \beta_1(11 + 68\beta_2)) - \\ & \alpha_1 \left[-48\beta_1^3 + 57\beta_1^4 + 68\beta_1\beta_2^2 + \beta_2^2(20 + 20\beta_2 + 11\beta_2^2) - 4\beta_1^2(5 + 17\beta_2^2) \right] \\ & -2\alpha_1^3 \left[34\beta_1^3 - \beta_1^2(11 + 34\beta_2) + \beta_1(10 - 34\beta_2^2) + \beta_2(10 + 11\beta_2 + 34\beta_2^2) \right] \\ & +10\beta_2^4 + \alpha_1^2 \left[\begin{aligned} & 46\beta_1^3 + 34\beta_1^4 - 2\beta_1^2(19 + 34\beta_2 + 34\beta_2^2) \\ & +4\beta_1(-5 + 17\beta_2) + 2\beta_2(10 + 15\beta_2 + 11\beta_2^2 + 17\beta_2^3) \end{aligned} \right] \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (\text{B.55})
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& \left. \begin{aligned} & 27\beta_1^3 - 195\beta_1^5 + 65\beta_1^6 - 10\beta_2^4 - 2\beta_1(1 + 45\beta_2^4) + \beta_1^2(-44 + 90\beta_2^4) \\ & +149\beta_1^4 - 3\alpha_1^5 \left[\begin{aligned} & 70\beta_1^4 - 2\beta_1^3(41 + 70\beta_2) + 2\beta_1\beta_2^2(41 + 70\beta_2) \\ & +\beta_1^2(77 + 82\beta_2) - \beta_2^2(77 + 82\beta_2 + 70\beta_2^2) \end{aligned} \right] + \\ & \alpha_1^6 \left[\begin{aligned} & -2\beta_1^2(41 + 105\beta_2) - \beta_2(77 + 82\beta_2 + 70\beta_2^2) \\ & +70\beta_1^3 + \beta_1(77 + 164\beta_2 + 210\beta_2^2) \end{aligned} \right] + \\ & \alpha_1^4 \left[\begin{aligned} & -10 + 210\beta_1^5 - 22\beta_2 - 130\beta_2^2 - 385\beta_2^3 + \beta_1^3(93 - 256\beta_2 - 420\beta_2^2) \\ & -2\beta_1^4(59 + 105\beta_2) + \beta_1^2(42 + 412\beta_2 + 538\beta_2^2 + 420\beta_2^3) \\ & -328\beta_2^4 - 210\beta_2^5 + 2\beta_1(-34 + 89\beta_2 - 60\beta_2^2 + 82\beta_2^3 + 105\beta_2^4) \end{aligned} \right] \\ & +\alpha_1 \left[\begin{aligned} & +2\beta_1\beta_2^2(81 + 90\beta_2 + 41\beta_2^2) + 2\beta_1^4(51 + 109\beta_2^2) \\ & +174\beta_1^5 - 123\beta_1^6 - \beta_1^2(13 - 56\beta_2^2 + 180\beta_2^3 + 172\beta_2^4) \\ & -2\beta_1^3(71 + 218\beta_2^2) + \beta_2^2(13 + 20\beta_2 + 22\beta_2^2 + 77\beta_2^4) \end{aligned} \right] \\ & +\alpha_1^3 \left[\begin{aligned} & +4\beta_1^3(-21 - 60\beta_2 + 64\beta_2^2) + \beta_1^4(199 + 338\beta_2 + 210\beta_2^2) \\ & -174\beta_1^5 + \beta_1(20 + 180\beta_2 - 96\beta_2^2 + 240\beta_2^3 - 82\beta_2^4) \\ & -70\beta_1^6 - 2\beta_1^2(-68 + 220\beta_2 + 292\beta_2^2 + 292\beta_2^3 + 105\beta_2^4) \\ & +\beta_2(20 + 44\beta_2 + 262\beta_2^2 + 385\beta_2^3 + 246\beta_2^4 + 70\beta_2^5) \end{aligned} \right] \\ & +\alpha_1^2 \left[\begin{aligned} & -15\beta_1^5 - \beta_1(-13 + 162\beta_2 + 270\beta_2^2 + 164\beta_2^3 + 120\beta_2^4) \\ & +128\beta_1^6 - \beta_2(13 + 30\beta_2 + 44\beta_2^2 + 130\beta_2^3 + 231\beta_2^4 + 82\beta_2^5) \\ & -2\beta_1^4(66 + 109\beta_2 + 169\beta_2^2) + 2\beta_1^4(-85 + 218\beta_2 + 120\beta_2^2) \\ & +2\beta_1^2(66 - 28\beta_2 + 265\beta_2^2 + 172\beta_2^3 + 146\beta_2^4) \end{aligned} \right] \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (\text{B.56})
\end{aligned}$$

3

1 **FIGURE CAPTIONS**

2 Figure 1 Definition sketch. The water column is divided into N vertical layers by ($N -$
3 1) non-intersecting interfaces, and velocities and pressure are defined at an arbitrary
4 elevation h_j within each vertical layer z_j .

5 Figure 2 Accuracy of the phase speed, group velocity and linear shoaling gradient for
6 the one-layer formulation. they show a high degree of accuracy with Stokes theory
7 over the range $kd \leq \pi$.

8 Figure 3 Vertical profiles of the horizontal velocity (top row) and vertical velocity
9 (bottom row) for different kd . The present formulations yield a good agreement with
10 the linear Stokes theory and have a higher degree of accuracy than the second-order
11 Boussinesq theory.

12 Figure 4 Accuracy of the second and third-order nonlinear amplitudes from one-layer
13 and Boussinesq models. The present solution obtains an overall good agreement with
14 the Stokes second-order theory for $kd \leq \pi$, and yields much smaller maximum error
15 than that predicted by the Boussinesq models derived by Nwogu (1993) and Wei et
16 al. (1995) for the same range.

17 Figure 5 Accuracy of the phase speed, group velocity and linear shoaling gradient of
18 the two-layer formulation. The formulation with partially optimized coefficients
19 provides the most accurate solutions for the phase speed, group velocity and shoaling
20 effect, and the uniform-layer formulation yields the closest phase speed but the most
21 inaccurate group velocity and shoaling coefficient.

22 Figure 6 Vertical profiles of the horizontal velocity (top row) and vertical velocity
23 (bottom row) for different kd . The formulation with optimized coefficients yields the
24 most accurate results compared to Stokes theory over the range $kd \leq 4\pi$, and the two-
25 uniform-layer mode also well represents the vertical velocity profiles with slight
26 deviations at the medium water depth in the region with relative large water depth,
27 while the formulation with partially optimized coefficients predicts completely
28 wrong velocity profiles for large kd .

1 Figure 7 Accuracy of the second and third-order nonlinear wave amplitudes. The
2 optimized coefficients lead to slight larger error than the uniform-layer solutions in
3 the special range $\pi/4 \leq kd \leq 7\pi/4$ but obtain an overall higher degree of accuracy over
4 the optimized range $0 < kd \leq 4\pi$.

5 Figure 8 Accuracy of the phase speed, group velocity and linear shoaling gradient for
6 the three-layer formulation. The three-layer model with optimized coefficients
7 exhibits more accurate characteristics than the uniform-layer model and performs
8 consistently better than the one and two-layer models within its application range.

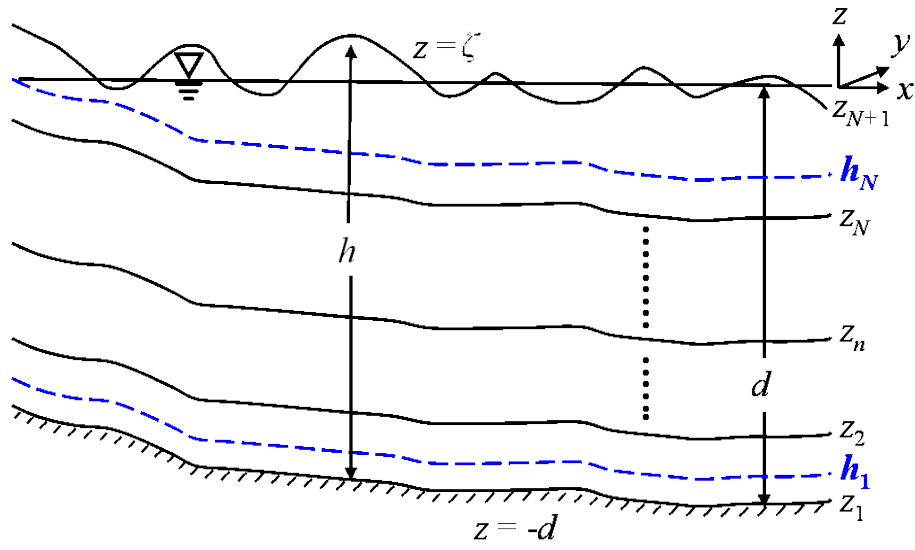
9 Figure 9 Vertical profiles of the horizontal velocity (top row) and vertical velocity
10 (bottom row) for different kd . The three-layer model with optimized coefficients
11 predicts the vertical velocity profiles to a much higher degree of accuracy than the
12 three-uniform-layer model, and it can be able to provides satisfactory results in
13 extremely deep water, e.g. up to $kd = 10\pi$.

14 Figure 10 Accuracy of the second and third-order nonlinear amplitudes. The three-layer
15 model with optimized coefficients provides overall satisfactory second and third-
16 order solutions than the three-uniform-layer model.

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2 **Figure 1**

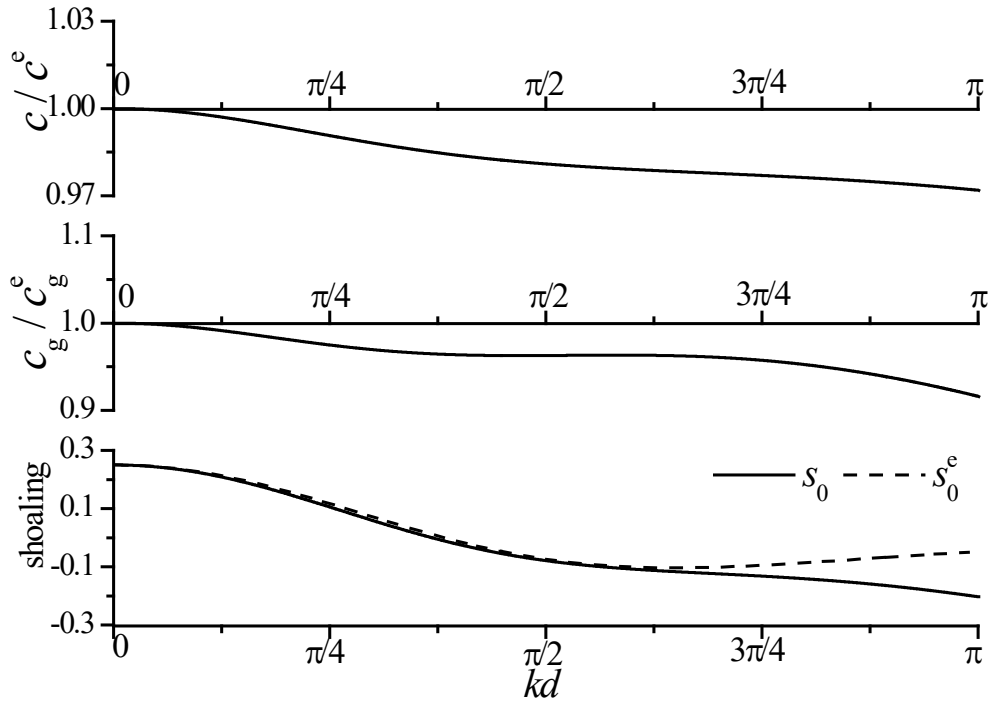


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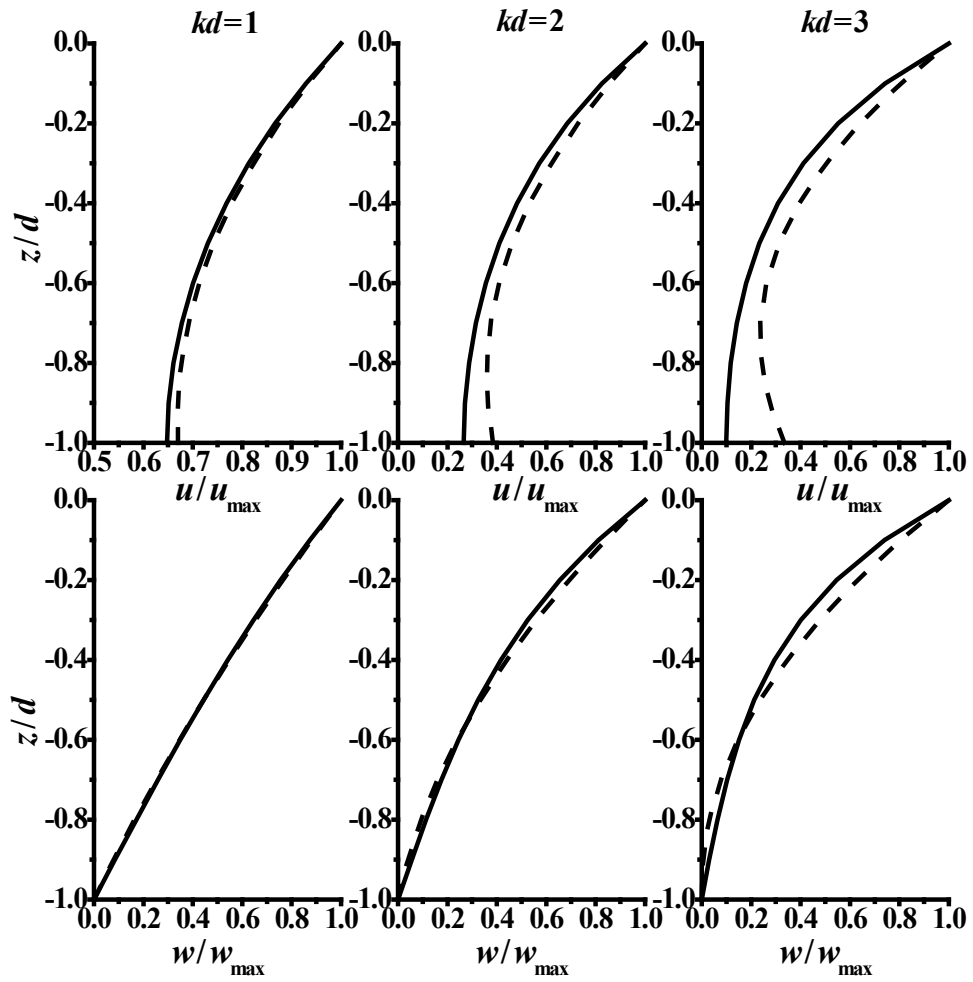
2 **Figure 2**



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1 **Figure 3**

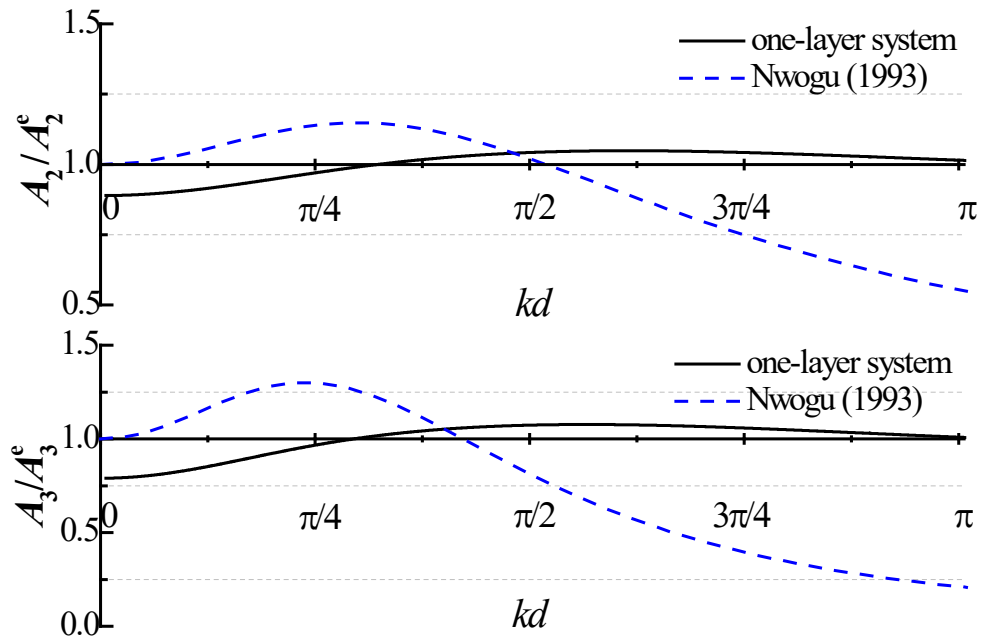


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1 **Figure 4**

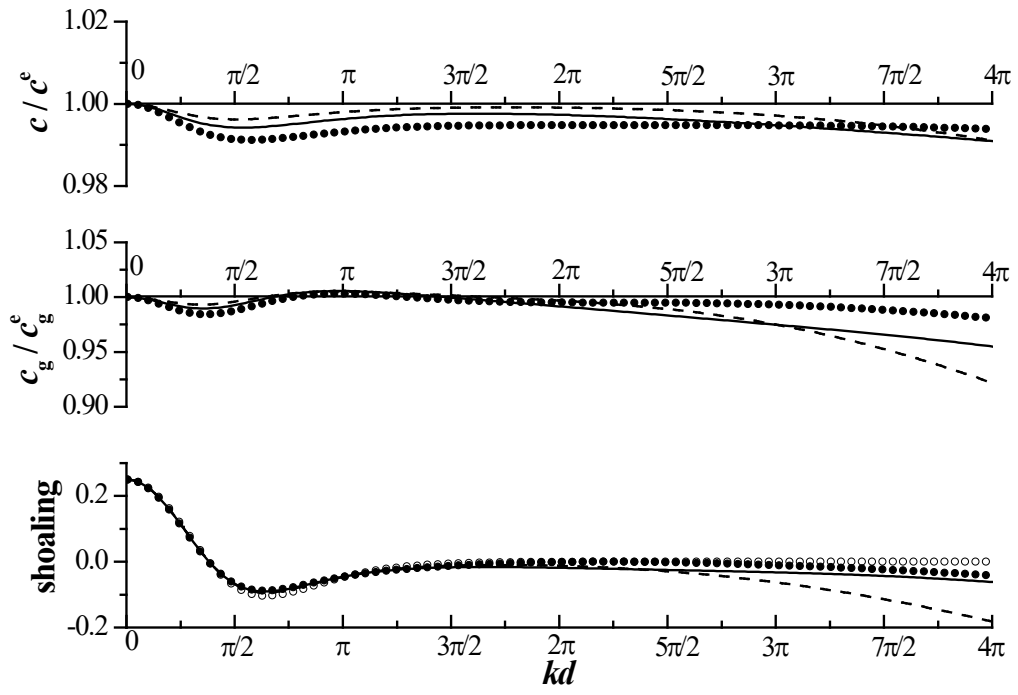
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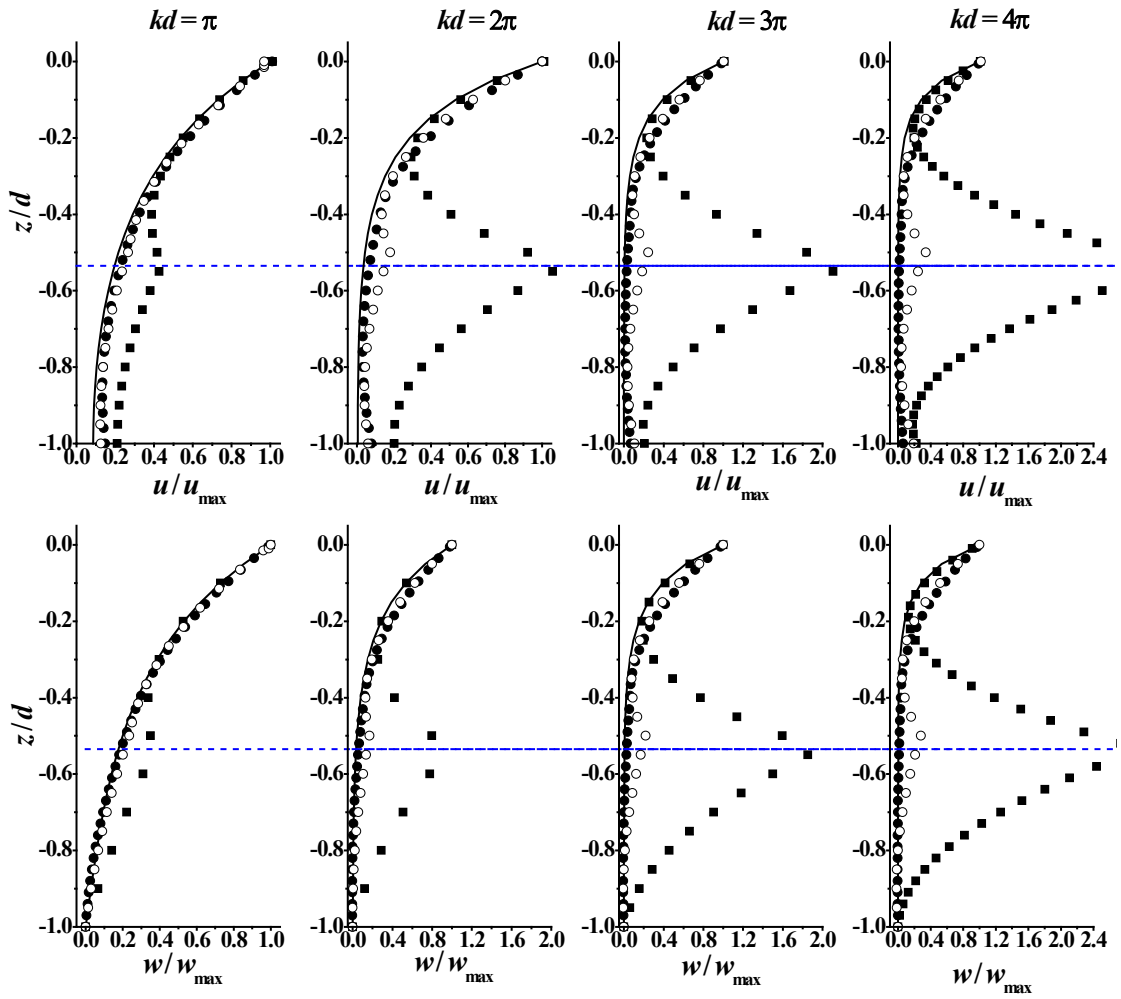
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1 **Figure 5**



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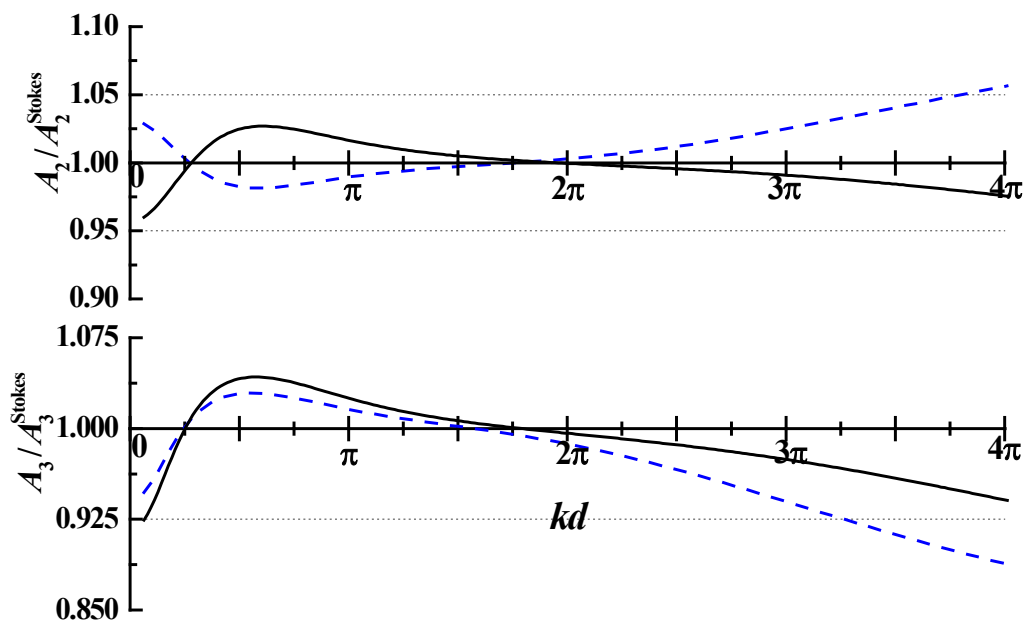
1 *Figure 6*



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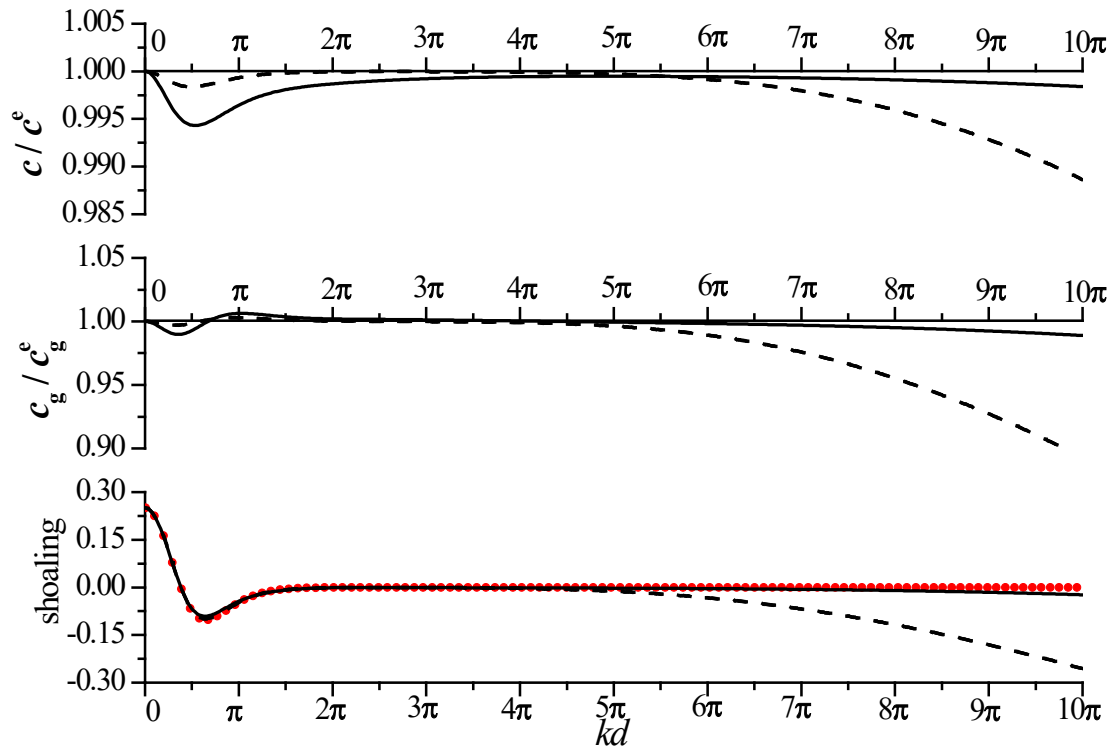
1 **Figure 7**



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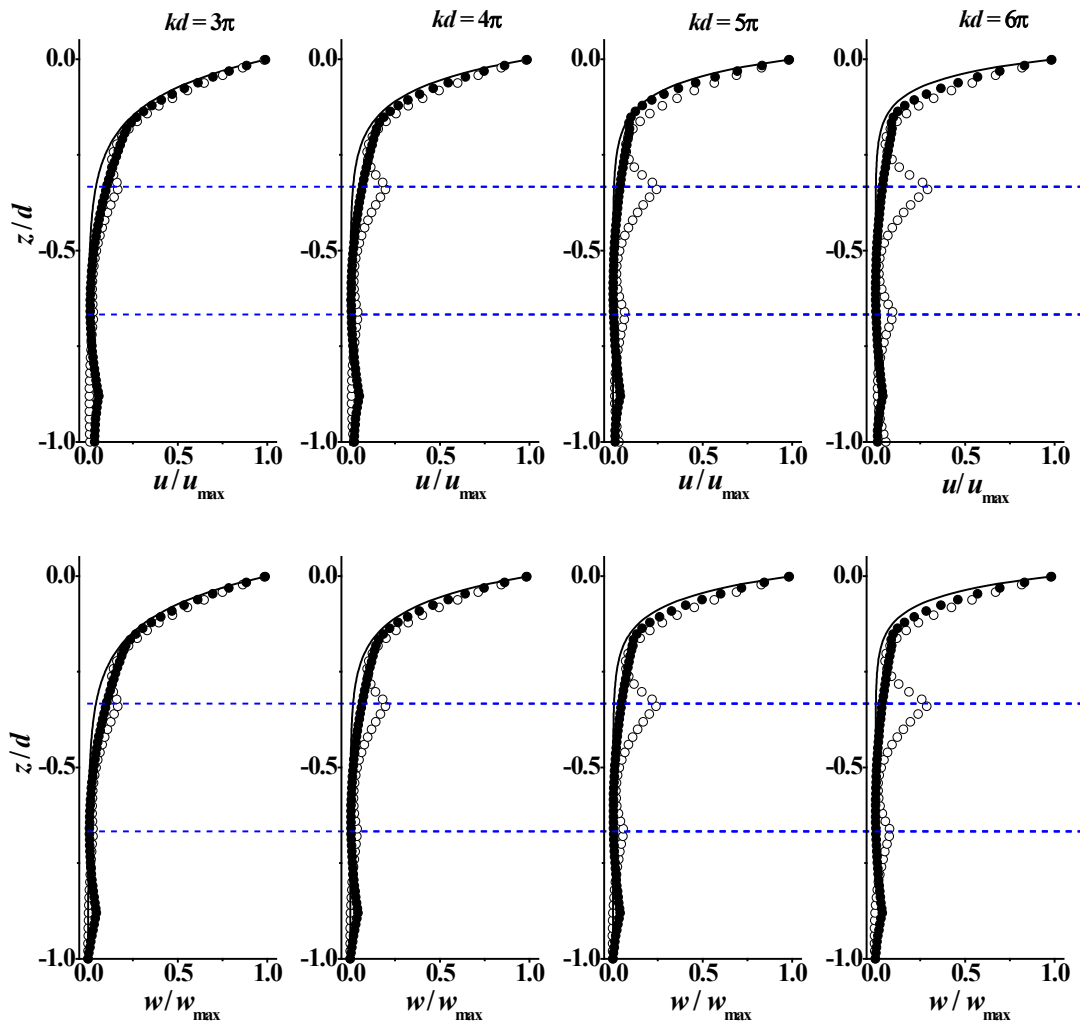
1 **Figure 8**



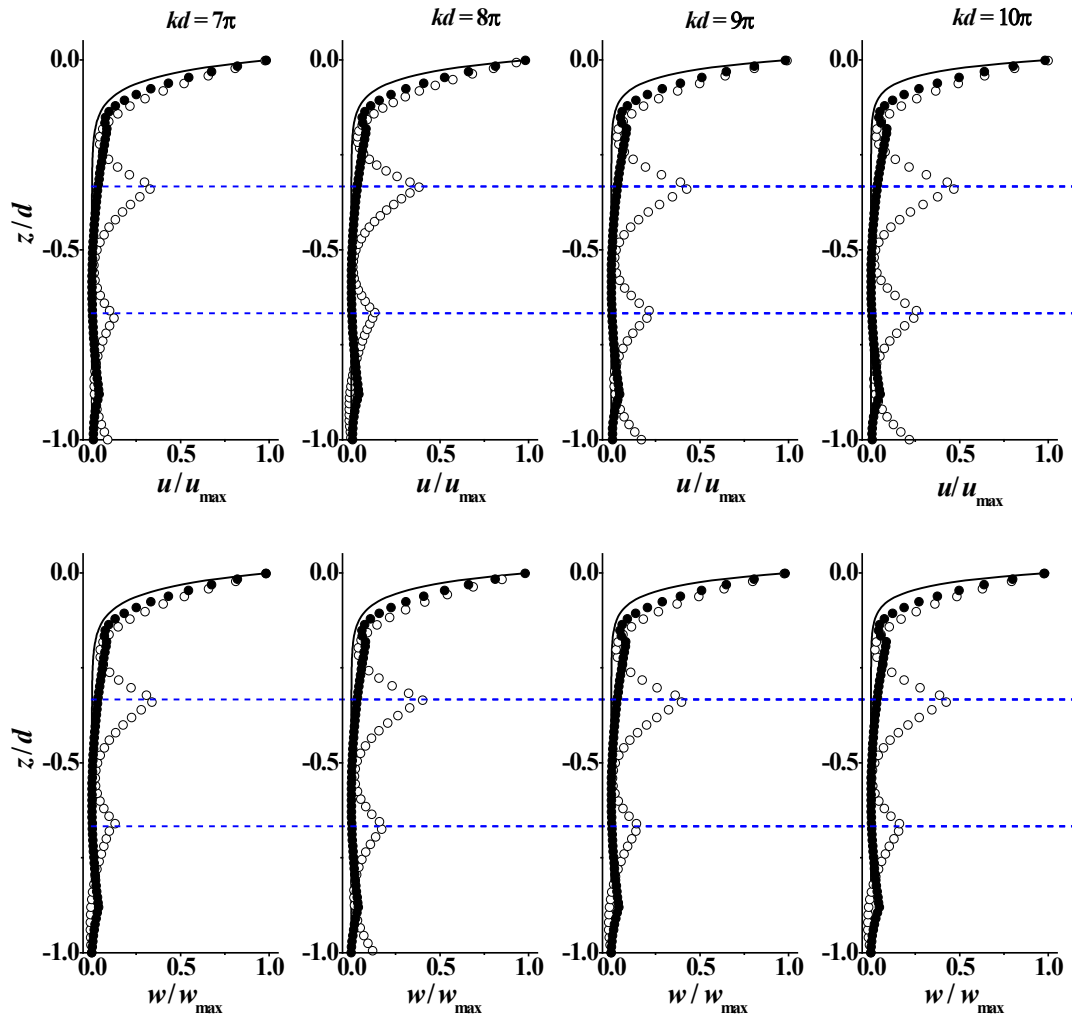
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1 **Figure 9**



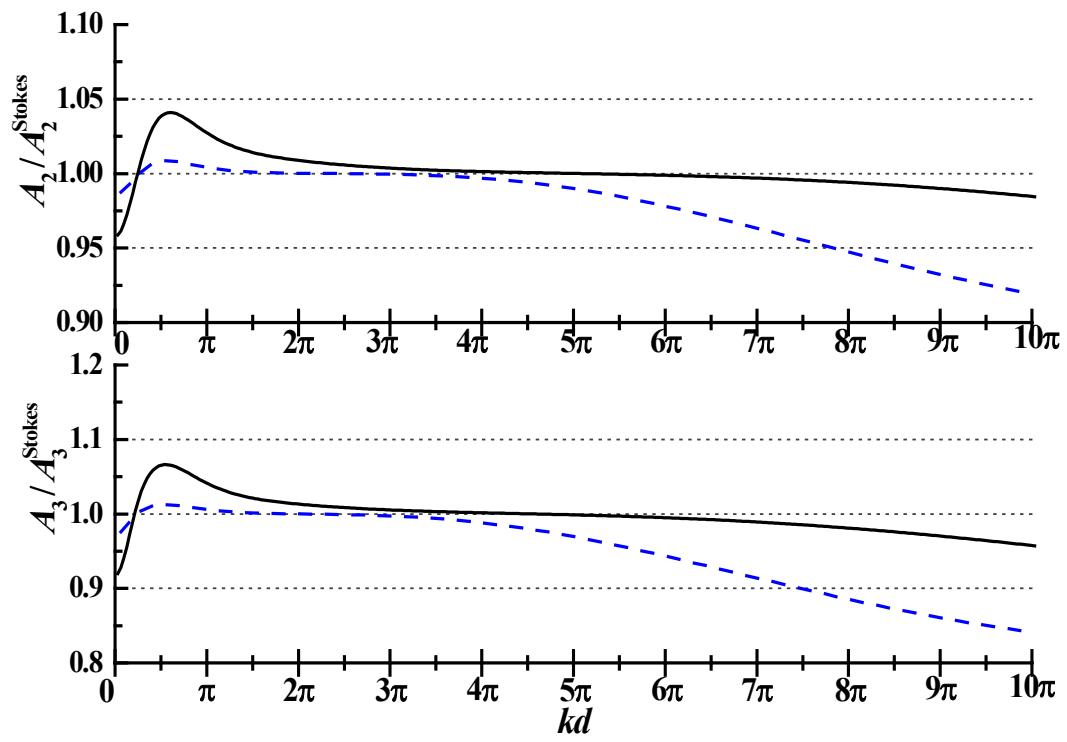
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1 **Figure 10**

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