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Local Scour Depths at Bridge Foundations: New Zealand Methodology

By

Bruce Melville¹

ABSTRACT

A comprehensive method for estimating local scour depths at bridge foundations is presented. The method, which is presented in detail in Melville and Coleman (2000), was developed in New Zealand on the basis of an extensive series of laboratory investigations. Application of the method ensures that the various influences on local scour depths are systematically addressed. These are the characteristics of the flow approaching the bridge crossing, the shape of the river channel in the vicinity of the bridge, the characteristics of the bed sediments in the vicinity of the bridge, the geometry of the bridge foundations (piers and abutments), and the peak value and duration of the design flood. Application of the method is highlighted in two examples.

INTRODUCTION

The major damage to bridges at river crossings occurs during floods. Damage is caused for various reasons, the main reason being riverbed scour at bridge foundations, namely piers and abutments. In New Zealand, at least one serious bridge failure each year (on average) can be attributed to scour of the bridge foundations. The damage can range from minor erosion at an adjacent river bank or bridge approach, to complete failure of the bridge structure or its road approach. Complete failure results in severe disruption to local traffic flows. The frequency of bridge failures due to scour has spurred many research projects of this vexing problem.

In spite of the significant investment in bridge scour research, bridges still fail due to scour. This has been a consequence of both inadequacies in design criteria adopted for older bridges and the lack of convenient and appropriate availability of the results of the past scour research to practitioners. A comprehensive treatment of the present state of knowledge on bridge scour is now available in Melville and Coleman (2000). The monograph, which makes use of New Zealand's extensive experience with scour problems, addresses all aspects of bridge scour, including general scour, contraction scour, local scour, scour countermeasures and 31 case histories of scour failures. The methodology for local scour is summarised in this paper. Examples of application of the local scour method are included.

ESTIMATION OF LOCAL SCOUR DEPTHS

The method for estimation of local scour depths at bridge piers and abutments by Melville and Coleman (2000) is presented. The basic data required to apply the method are:

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- **Approach flow**, characterised by the mean velocity (V), depth (y) and Manning's coefficient (n) of the main channel. For bridge piers, the appropriate values of V and y are those, which best represent the flow approaching the particular pier.
- **Bed sediment**, characterised by the median size (d_{50}), maximum size (d_{max}) and geometric standard deviation (σ_g) of the particle size distribution. In practice, d_{90} (or a similar size) can be used in place of d_{max} , which is unlikely to be known.
- **Foundation geometry**, characterised by the pier width (b) and pier length (l) for piers, abutment length (L) for abutments, shape (Sh) and alignment (θ). Circular piers are characterised by pier diameter (D). For nonuniform piers, additional parameters are required, as described below.
- **Channel geometry (for abutments only)**, characterised by V , y , n and the depth (y^*), Manning's coefficient (n^*) and width (L^*) of the flood channel.

The design method is based on the following relation for the depth of local scour:

$$d_s = K_{yB} K_I K_d K_s K_\theta K_G K_t \quad (1)$$

where the K factors are empirical expressions accounting for the various influences on scour depth: K_{yB} = depth-size $\equiv K_{yb}$ for piers and K_{yL} for abutments; K_I = flow intensity; K_d = sediment size; K_s = pier or abutment shape; K_θ = pier or abutment alignment; K_G = channel geometry ($K_G \equiv 1$ for piers); and K_t = time. K_I is formulated to include sediment gradation effects as well as flow velocity effects. $K_{yB} = f(y, B)$ and d_s have the dimension of length, while the other K factors are dimensionless.

The K factors are derived from envelope curves fitted to laboratory data. Expressions for the various K factors are summarised in Tables 1 and 2 and illustrated in Figures 1 and 2 for piers and abutments, respectively. For nonuniform piers, the pier width (b) is replaced by the equivalent pier width (b_e), as illustrated in Figure 3.

K_I is a function of the threshold velocity (V_c), the armour velocity (V_a) and the velocity parameter $[V - (V_a - V_c)]/V_c$. The procedure for estimating these velocities is explained below and summarised in Tables 1 and 2.

Maximum Possible Local Scour Depths at Piers and Abutments

The local scour depth is given by (1), in which K_I , K_d , K_G and K_t are always less than or equal to unity. Thus the maximum possible equilibrium local scour depth is

$$d_{(se)max} = K_{yB} K_s K_\theta \quad (2)$$

A simple equation for the maximum local scour depth at piers is obtained by substitution of the expression for K_{yB} for narrow piers in (2), giving

$$d_{(se)max} = 2.4 K_s K_\theta b \quad (3)$$

For design purposes, (3) is adequate for estimation of local scour depth at piers in many situations.

PHYSICAL BASIS OF SCOUR DEPTH METHODOLOGY

The K-factors in (1) represent the various physical influences on local scour depth, as determined from systematic laboratory-based tests. In the following sections, each parameter is discussed briefly.

Flow Depth - Foundation Size (Depth - Size) Factor, K_{yB}

Data, which demonstrate the influence of $K_{yB} = f(y, B)$ on local scour depth, are given in Figure 4. The plot includes the reliable pier and abutment local scour depth data that are unaffected by flow intensity, sediment size, sediment gradation, foundation shape and alignment, channel geometry and time. The data plotted are from Chabert and Engeldinger (1956), Laursen and Toch (1956), Hancu (1971), Bonasoundas (1973), Basak (1975), Jain and Fischer (1979), Chee (1982), Chiew (1984), and Ettema (1980), for piers; and Gill (1972), Wong (1982), Tey (1984), Kwan (1984, 1988), Kandasamy (1989), and Dongol (1994), for abutments.

The solid lines in Figure 4 are envelopes to the data and apply, from left to right respectively, to wide (long), intermediate width (length) and narrow (short) piers (abutments) at threshold conditions. For clear-water scour at reduced flow velocities, lesser scour depths are developed. The equations of the upper-limit lines define the depth-size factors for piers, and are given in Tables 1 and 2.

Flow Intensity Factor, K_I

K_I represents the effects of flow intensity on local scour depth. It is defined, for each set of data, as the scour depth at a particular flow intensity divided by the maximum scour depth for the data set, where V is systematically varied for each data set and all other dependent parameters are held constant. The scour maxima used occur at the threshold peak for uniform sediments and the live-bed peak for nonuniform sediments.

Figure 5 (uniform sediments) and Figure 6 (nonuniform sediments) are plots of laboratory data from many sources for local scour at piers and abutments in terms of K_I . The nonuniform sediment data are plotted in terms of a transformed velocity parameter, as shown. The transformed velocity parameter aligns the armour peaks (that is $V=V_a$) for nonuniform sediments with varying σ_g with the threshold peak (that is $V=V_a$) for uniform sediments. For uniform sediments, $V_a \equiv V_c$ and $[V-(V_a-V_c)]/V_c \equiv V/V_c$. The transformed velocity parameter incorporating V_a largely accounts for the effects of sediment nonuniformity as well as those of flow velocity, although the smaller values of scour depth at $[V-(V_a-V_c)]/V_c \approx 1$, as σ_g increases, remain. Thus, the effects of sediment nonuniformity are mostly accounted for in the flow intensity factor. It is apparent that all of the data are enveloped by a value of K_I increasing linearly from zero to unity at the threshold condition and thereafter remaining unchanged.

The velocities V_c and V_a can be determined using the logarithmic velocity distribution equation:

$$\frac{V_c}{u_{*c}} = 5.75 \log \left(5.53 \frac{y}{d_{50}} \right) \quad (4)$$

where u_{*c} is critical shear velocity determined from the Shields' diagram, and d_{50} and u_{*c} are replaced by d_{50a} (median size of the armour layer = $d_{\max}/1.8$) and u_{*ca} (critical shear velocity of the armour layer), respectively, for determination of the armour peak velocity, V_a .

Figure 7 is a comparison of U.S. field data with the laboratory-based envelope curves for K_1 . Because many of these data were collected at sites where the bed material is nonuniform, the transformed velocity parameter is used in Figure 7. The field scour depths are normalised using the projected pier width, b_p , to compensate for pier skewness effects inherent in the data. The armour peak velocity was determined assuming d_{84} to be representative of the maximum grain size in the bed material. The laboratory-derived K_1 function also envelops the field data.

Sediment Size Factor, K_d

The pier data by Ettema (1980), Chiew (1984) and Baker (1986) and the abutment data by Dongol (1994) are plotted in Figure 8 in terms of the sediment size multiplying factor, K_d , which is defined generally as the ratio of the scour depth for a particular B/d_{50} to that for $B/d_{50} \geq 50$. The data for uniform and nonuniform sediments are plotted separately. The plots show that the influence of relative sediment size on scour depth is the same for both piers and abutments, although few data are shown for abutments. Because the condition $L/d_{50} < 50$ is unlikely in practice, it is considered that the few abutment data shown in Figure 8 are adequate for definition of K_d for abutments.

Nonuniform sediments are characterised by channel bed armouring as discussed earlier. The nonuniform sediment data in Figure 8 are plotted for different values of the velocity parameter $[V - (V_a - V_c)]/V_c = 1.0, 2.0, 3.0$ and 4.0 . The data are plotted in terms of b/d_{50a} or L/d_{50a} because the median size of the armour layer is considered to be the characteristic sediment size. The envelope curves in Figure 8 define the sediment size factor for design purposes.

Foundation Shape Factor, K_s

The shape factor K_s is defined as the ratio of the scour depth for a particular foundation shape to that for the standard shapes, namely circular piers and vertical-wall abutments.

Recommended shape factors for uniform piers, i.e. piers having constant cross-sectional shape, are given in Table 1. These factors, taken from Melville (1997), show that shape is relatively insignificant for uniform piers. The shape factors should only be used where the pier is aligned with the flow, that is, $K_s = 1$ for a skewed pier.

The four cases of local scour at nonuniform piers, where the pier is founded on a wider element (caissons, slab footings and pile caps), are shown in Figure 3. For **Case I**, the local scour is estimated using the pier width b . For **Case II**, a procedure given by Melville and Raudkivi (1996) to estimate the size of an equivalent uniform pier can be applied. The equivalent uniform pier induces (at least) the same scour as the nonuniform pier. The procedure is therefore conservative. Melville and Raudkivi (1996), who measured scour depths at a circular pier founded on a larger concentric, circular caisson, give the following relation:

$$b_e = b \left(\frac{y + Y}{y + b^*} \right) + b^* \left(\frac{b^* - Y}{b^* + y} \right) \quad (5)$$

where b_e = width of an equivalent uniform pier; b^* = caisson width; and the equation is restricted to the range defined by $Y \leq b^*$ and $-Y \leq y$, where Y represents the elevation of the top surface of the caisson (Figure 3). The relation for b_e can be used for Case II nonuniform piers that are geometrically similar to the caisson foundation shown in Figure 3, including piers founded on slab footings and piled foundations, unless the footing or the pile cap is

undermined by the scour. Equation 5 also applies to *Case III* caisson foundations and may be used to give conservative scour estimates for Case III piled foundations. For *Case IV* caisson foundations, the local scour is estimated using the caisson width b^* . This approach would also give a conservative estimate of Case IV local scour at a piled foundation.

Also given in Figure 3 and Table 1 is a method to determine the effective size of a bridge pier having a raft of floating debris material attached.

Shape factors, based on data by Hannah (1978), for piled pier foundations where the pile cap is clear of the water surface (Case V) are given in Table 1 and illustrated in Figure 3 (Case V). The pile-group shape factor values are shown in Table 1 for a single row and a double row of piles in terms of approach flow angle, θ , pile diameter, D_p and pile spacing (measured centre-to-centre), S_p . The single-row values apply also to a pier comprising a row of cylinders. The values shown include pier alignment effects and shape effects, that is, they represent $K_s K_\theta$.

Recommended shape factors for shorter abutments are given in Table 2. For longer abutments, shape effects are less significant, and an adjusted shape factor K_s^* is applied. K_s^* is given in Table 2.

Foundation Alignment Factor, K_θ

The alignment factor K_θ is defined as the ratio of the local scour depth at a skewed bridge foundation to that at an aligned foundation. Bridge piers are aligned if $\theta = 0^\circ$, while abutments are considered to be aligned where $\theta = 90^\circ$. An equation for K_θ for non-cylindrical piers is given in Table 1.

Recommended alignment factors for longer abutments are given in Table 2. For shorter abutments, alignment effects are less significant. The adjusted alignment factor K_θ^* for shorter abutments is given in Table 2.

Approach Channel Geometry Factor, K_G

The approach channel geometry factor K_G is the ratio of the local scour depth at a bridge foundation to that at the same foundation sited in the equivalent rectangular channel. The local scour at bridge piers is considered to be unaffected by approach channel geometry as long as appropriate values of y and V are used to estimate the scour depth. If values of y and V are selected to be representative of the flow approaching the particular pier, $K_G=1.0$.

For bridge abutments in rectangular channels (Case A of Figure 2), $K_G=1.0$ by definition. For abutments in compound channels, K_G depends on the position of the abutment in the compound channel (Figure 2). At Case B abutments, the equation given in Table 2 is recommended, where L and L^* = total projected length of the abutment (including the bridge approach) and projected length of the abutment (including the bridge approach) spanning the flood channel, respectively; y and y^* = flow depths in the main and flood channels, respectively; and n and n^* = Manning roughness coefficients for the main and flood channels, respectively. The equation is derived from a simple theoretical analysis based on the ratio of flows deflected by the abutment, including the bridge approach, in a compound channel to such flows in the corresponding rectangular channel. The equation is plotted in Figure 9 for ranges of values of the ratios (L^*/L) , (y/y^*) and (n/n^*) . Case C can be considered to be a special condition of Case A if the flow in the main channel is ignored; thus $K_G=1.0$. For Case D abutments where the abutment is sited at about the edge of the main channel, K_G can be estimated from the equation for Case B, with $L^*/L=1.0$. No specific information is available to aid estimation of K_G for other Case D abutments; such situations could be treated by

interpolating conservatively between scour depth estimates for longer (Case B) and shorter (Case C) abutments sited in the same channel.

Time Factor, K_t

The time factor is defined as the ratio of local scour depth d_s at a particular time t to the equilibrium scour depth d_{se} , which occurs at time t_e . The value of K_t at a site depends on whether conditions are clear-water or live-bed. Under live-bed conditions, the equilibrium depth of local scour is attained rapidly and $K_t = 1.0$ can be assumed.

Functions for the time factor at piers and abutments are given in Tables 1 and 2, respectively. The latter is derived from recent research and represents an updating of the recommendations in Melville and Coleman (2000). K_t depends on t_e , the time to equilibrium scour depth. Equations for estimation of t_e are also given in Tables 1 and 2.

EXAMPLES OF APPLICATION OF METHODOLOGY

Local scour at piers

A bridge pier, comprising a piled foundation, is situated in the 310 m wide flood channel of a river crossing, as illustrated in Figure 10. The peak flow rate in the flood channel is $500 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$ and this persists for 1 day. The calculations are presented in Table 3, showing a local scour depth of 1.71 m.

Local scour at abutments (including contraction scour)

A bridge is situated at a channel bend, as illustrated in Figure 11. The sediment is a medium sand with $d_{50} = 0.5 \text{ mm}$. The peak flow rate is $440 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$ and this lasts for 2 days. The calculations are presented in Table 4, showing local scour depth of 3.83 m.

Contraction scour would occur due to the bridge narrowing the channel. Mobile-bed conditions would exist (Table 4). Laursen's (1960) equation for contraction scour is used to estimate the contraction scour depth. The equation is

$$\frac{y_2}{y_1} = \left(\frac{Q_2}{Q_{1m}} \right)^{6/7} \left(\frac{W_1}{W_2} \right)^{k_1} \quad (5)$$

where y_1 = average depth in the approach main channel; y_2 = average depth in the main channel of the contracted section; W_1 = bottom width of the approach main channel; W_2 = bottom width of the main channel in the contracted section; Q_{1m} = discharge in the approach main channel transporting sediment; Q_2 = total discharge through the bridge; and k_1 = a coefficient depending on the mode of sediment transport. For the given example $Q_{1m} = Q_2$.

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Table 1 Factors influencing local scour depth at bridge piers

Factor	K	Method of Estimation					
Depth-size factor	K_{yb}	$K_{yb} = 2.4b$	$\frac{b}{y} < 0.7$				
		$K_{yb} = 2\sqrt{yb}$	$0.7 < \frac{b}{y} < 5$				
		$K_{yb} = 4.5y$	$\frac{b}{y} > 5$				
Flow intensity factor	K_I	For uniform sediments: $d_{50a} \equiv d_{50}$ and $V_a \equiv V_c$ For nonuniform sediments: $d_{50a} = d_{max}/1.8 \approx d_{84}/1.8 = \sigma_g d_{50}/1.8$; and $V_a = 0.8V_{ca}$, where V_{ca} is V_c calculated for d_{50a}					
		$K_I = \frac{V - (V_a - V_c)}{V_c}$	$\frac{V - (V_a - V_c)}{V_c} < 1$				
		$K_I = 1$	$\frac{V - (V_a - V_c)}{V_c} \geq 1$				
Sediment size factor	K_d	$K_d = 0.57 \log\left(2.24 \frac{b}{d_{50}}\right)$	$\frac{b}{d_{50}} \leq 25$				
		$K_d = 1.0$	$\frac{b}{d_{50}} > 25$				
Shape factor	K_s	Shape			K_s		
		Circular			1.0		
		Round Nosed			1.0		
		Square Nosed			1.1		
		Sharp Nosed			0.9		
Skewed piers			1.0				
Equivalent size for nonuniform piers	b_e	$b_e = b$			Case I		
		$b_e = b\left(\frac{y+Y}{y+b^*}\right) + b^*\left(\frac{b^*-Y}{b^*+y}\right)$ $Y \leq b^*, -Y \leq y$			Case II Case III		
		$b_e = b^*$			Case IV		
Multiplying factors for pile groups	$K_s K_\theta$	Type	S_p/D_p	$K_s K_\theta$			
		Single Row		$\theta < 5^\circ$	$\theta = 5^\circ \rightarrow 45^\circ$	$\theta = 90^\circ$	
				2	1.12	1.40	1.20
				4	1.12	1.20	1.10
				6	1.07	1.16	1.08
				8	1.04	1.12	1.02
		10	1.00	1.00	1.00		
		Double Row		2	1.50	1.80	-
4	1.35			1.50	-		
Alignment factor	K_θ	$K_\theta = \left(\frac{l}{b} \sin \theta + \cos \theta\right)^{0.65}$ non - circular piers					
		$K_\theta = 1.0$ circular piers					

Time factor	K_t	$K_t = \exp\left\{-0.03\left \frac{V_c}{V}\ln\left(\frac{t}{t_e}\right)\right ^{1.6}\right\}$	$\frac{V}{V_c} \leq 1$
		$K_t = 1.0$	$\frac{V}{V_c} > 1$
Equilibrium time	t_e	$t_e(\text{days}) = 48.26 \frac{b}{V} \left(\frac{V}{V_c} - 0.4\right)$	$\frac{y}{b} > 6, \frac{V}{V_c} > 0.4$
		$t_e(\text{days}) = 30.89 \frac{b}{V} \left(\frac{V}{V_c} - 0.4\right) \left(\frac{y}{b}\right)^{0.25}$	$\frac{y}{b} \leq 6, \frac{V}{V_c} > 0.4$
Equivalent size - pier with debris	b_e	$b_e = \frac{0.52T_d b_d + (y - 0.52T_d)b}{y}$	

Table 2 Factors influencing local scour depth at bridge abutments

Factor	K	Method of Estimation	
Flow depth-abutment size	K_{yL}	$K_{yL} = 10y$	$\frac{y}{L} \leq 0.04$
		$K_{yL} = 2\sqrt{yL}$	$0.04 < \frac{y}{L} \leq 1$
		$K_{yL} = 2L$	$\frac{y}{L} > 1$
Flow intensity	K_I	For uniform sediments: $d_{50a} \equiv d_{50}$ and $V_a \equiv V_c$ For nonuniform sediments: $d_{50a} = d_{\max}/1.8 \approx d_{84}/1.8 = \sigma_g d_{50}/1.8$; and $V_a = 0.8V_{ca}$, where V_{ca} is V_c calculated for d_{50a}	
		$K_I = \frac{V - (V_a - V_c)}{V_c}$	for $[V - (V_a - V_c)]/V_c < 1$
		$K_I = 1.0$	for $[V - (V_a - V_c)]/V_c \geq 1$
Sediment size	K_d	$K_d = 1.0$	$\frac{L}{d_{50a}} > 60$
Foundation shape	K_s	Shape	
		Vertical-wall	1.0
		Wing-wall	0.75
		Spill-through 0.5:1 (H:V)	0.6
		Spill-through 1:1	0.5
		Spill-through 1.5:1	0.45
	K_s^*	$K_s^* = K_s$	$\frac{L}{y} \leq 10$
		$K_s^* = K_s + 0.667(1 - K_s) \left(0.1 \frac{L}{y} - 1\right)$	$10 < \frac{L}{y} < 25$
		$K_s^* = 1.0$	$\frac{L}{y} \geq 25$

Foundation alignment	K_θ	θ (°)	30	45	60	90	120	135	150
		K_θ	0.90	0.95	0.98	1.0	1.05	1.07	1.08
	K_θ^*	$K_\theta^* = 1.0$	$\frac{L}{y} \leq 1$						
		$K_\theta^* = K_\theta + (1 - K_\theta) \left(1.5 - 0.5 \frac{L}{y} \right)$	$1 < \frac{L}{y} < 3$						
		$K_\theta^* = 1.0$	$\frac{L}{y} \leq 1$						
Approach-channel geometry		Case A (Fig. 2):	[Simple rectangular river channel]						
		$K_G \equiv 1.0$							
		Case C (Fig. 2):	[Abutment well back from the flood-channel edge]						
		Consider only the flood channel flows of y^* and set $K_G = 1.0$							
	K_G	Case B (Fig. 2):	[Abutment in the main channel]						
		$K_G = \sqrt{1 - \left(\frac{L^*}{L} \right) \left[1 - \left(\frac{y^*}{y} \right)^{5/3} \left(\frac{n}{n^*} \right) \right]}$							
		Case D (Fig. 2):	[Abutment near the flood channel edge]						
		Abutment at about the flood-channel edge: Case B with $L^*/L=1.0$.							
Time		t_e (days) = $20.83 \frac{L}{V} \left(\frac{V}{V_c} \right)^3 \left(\frac{y}{L} \right)^{0.8}$	for $y/L < 1$						
		t_e (days) = $20.83 \frac{L}{V} \left(\frac{V}{V_c} \right)^3$	for $y/L \geq 1$						
	K_t	$K_t = \exp \left[-0.07 \left(\frac{V}{V_c} \right)^{-1} \left \ln \left(\frac{t}{t_e} \right) \right ^{1.5} \right]$	for $V/V_c < 1$						
		$K_t = 1.0$	for $V/V_c \geq 1$						

Table 3 Pier Scour Example

$b_e = b \left(\frac{y_f + Y}{y_f + b^*} \right) + b^* \left(\frac{b^* - Y}{b^* + y_f} \right) = 0.6 \left(\frac{2.0 - 0.6}{2.0 + 1.5} \right) + 1.5 \left(\frac{1.5 + 0.6}{1.5 + 2.0} \right) = 1.14 \text{ m}$
$\frac{b_e}{y} = 0.57, K_{yb} = 2.4b_e = 2.74 \text{ m}$
$K_s = 1.0$, for skewed pier
$K_\theta = \left(\frac{l}{b_e} \sin \theta + \cos \theta \right)^{0.65} = 1.93$
$V = \frac{Q_f}{W_{1f} y_f} = \frac{500}{310 \times 2} = 0.81 \text{ m/s}$

<p>From grading curve, $d_{\max} = 27 \text{ mm}$</p> $d_{50a} = \frac{d_{\max}}{1.8} = 15 \text{ mm}, u_{*c} = 0.067 \text{ m/s}, u_{*ca} = 0.118 \text{ m/s}$ $V_c = 1.29 \text{ m/s}, V_{ca} = 1.95 \text{ m/s}, V_a = 1.56 \text{ m/s}, \frac{V - (V_a - V_c)}{V_c} = 0.42, K_I = 0.42$
$\frac{y}{b_e} = 1.75, t_e (\text{days}) = 30.89 \frac{b_e}{V} \left(\frac{V}{V_c} - 0.4 \right) \left(\frac{y}{b_e} \right)^{0.25} = 11.4 \text{ days}$
$K_t = \exp \left\{ -0.03 \left \frac{V_c}{V} \ln \left(\frac{t}{t_e} \right) \right ^{1.6} \right\} = 0.77$
$\frac{b_e}{d_{50}} = 228, \frac{b_e}{d_{50a}} = 76, K_d = 1.0$
$d_s = K_{yb} K_I K_d K_s K_\theta K_t = 1.71 \text{ m}$

Table 4 Abutment Scour Example

<p>The threshold velocity is, $V_c = 1.3 \text{ m/s}$, for $y = 6 \text{ m}$ and $d_{50} = 0.5 \text{ mm}$ (using Neill's 1987 competent velocity chart.</p> $V_2 = \frac{Q}{W_2 y} = \frac{440}{19 \times 6} = 3.86 \text{ m/s} \gg V_c$ <p>and conditions are live-bed</p>
<p>Using (5) with $k_1 = 0.69$ to estimate contraction scour:</p> $\frac{d_s}{y_1} = \left(\frac{W_1}{W_2} \right)^{k_1} - 1, d_{s)contraction} = 1.25 \text{ m}$ <p>$d_{s)contraction} = 1.5 \text{ m}$, RHS, $d_{s)contraction} = 1.0 \text{ m}$, LHS</p> <p>It is assumed that the contraction scour is distributed as shown in Figure 11</p>
<p>Flow depth after contraction scour is:</p> $y = 6 + d_{s)contraction} = 7.25 \text{ m}$
$\frac{L}{y} = 0.42, K_{yL} = 6 \text{ m}$
$V = \frac{Q}{W_1 y} = \frac{440}{25 \times 7.25} = 2.43 \text{ m/s}$
$u_{*c} = 0.016 \text{ m/s}, V_c = 0.45 \text{ m/s}, \frac{V}{V_c} = 5.4, K_I = 1.0 \text{ and } K_t = 1.0 \text{ for live - bed conditions}$
$\frac{L}{d_{50}} > 25, K_d = 1.0$
$K_s = 0.75, \text{ for wing - wall abutment, } K_s^* = K_s$
$\frac{L}{y} < 1, K_{\theta)LHS} = K_{\theta)RHS} = 1.0$
$K_G = 1.0$
$d_s = K_{yL} K_I K_d K_s K_\theta K_G K_t, d_s = 4.5 \text{ m}$

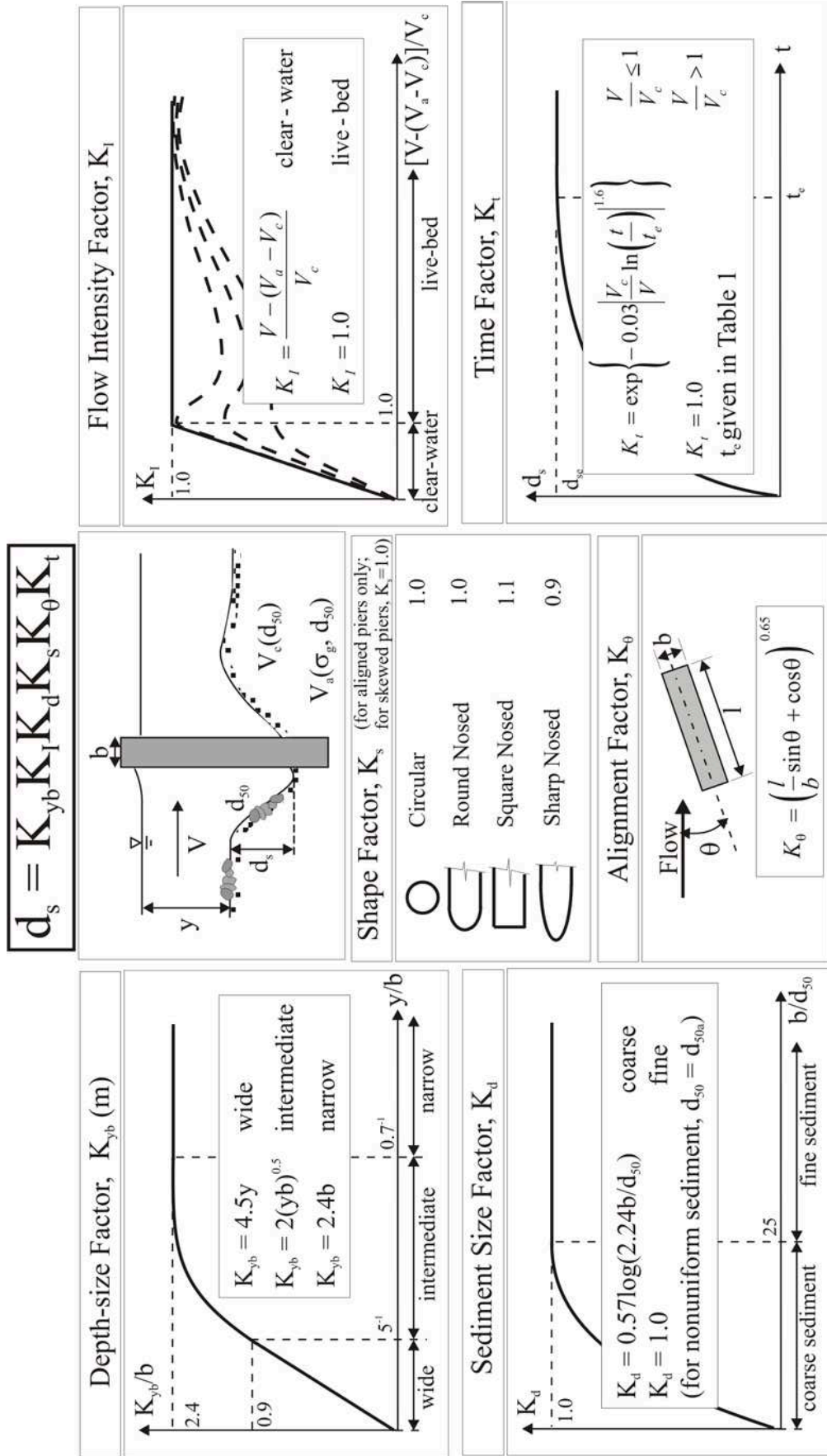


Figure 1 Method for estimation of local scour depth at piers.

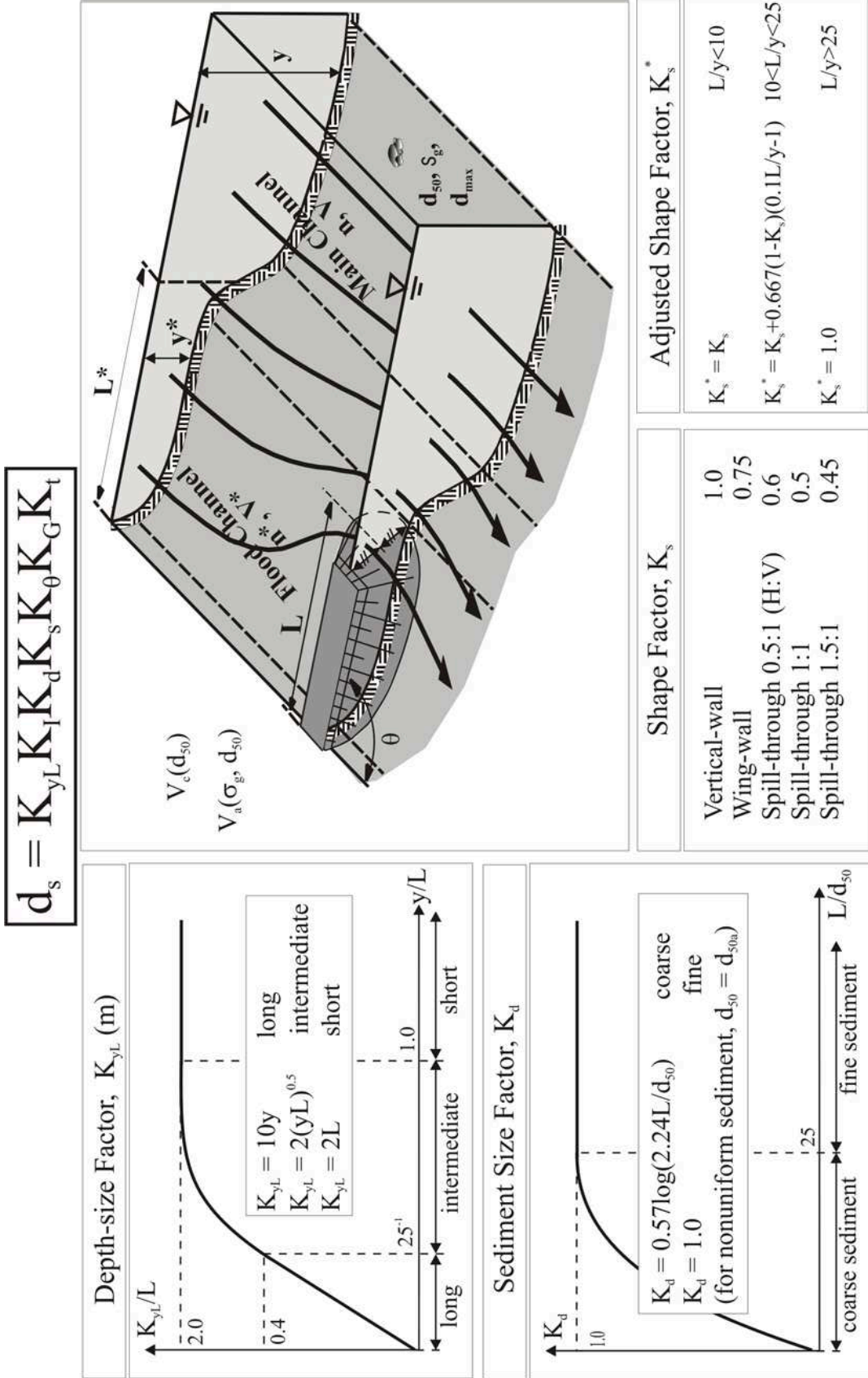


Figure 2 Method for estimation of local scour depth at abutments.

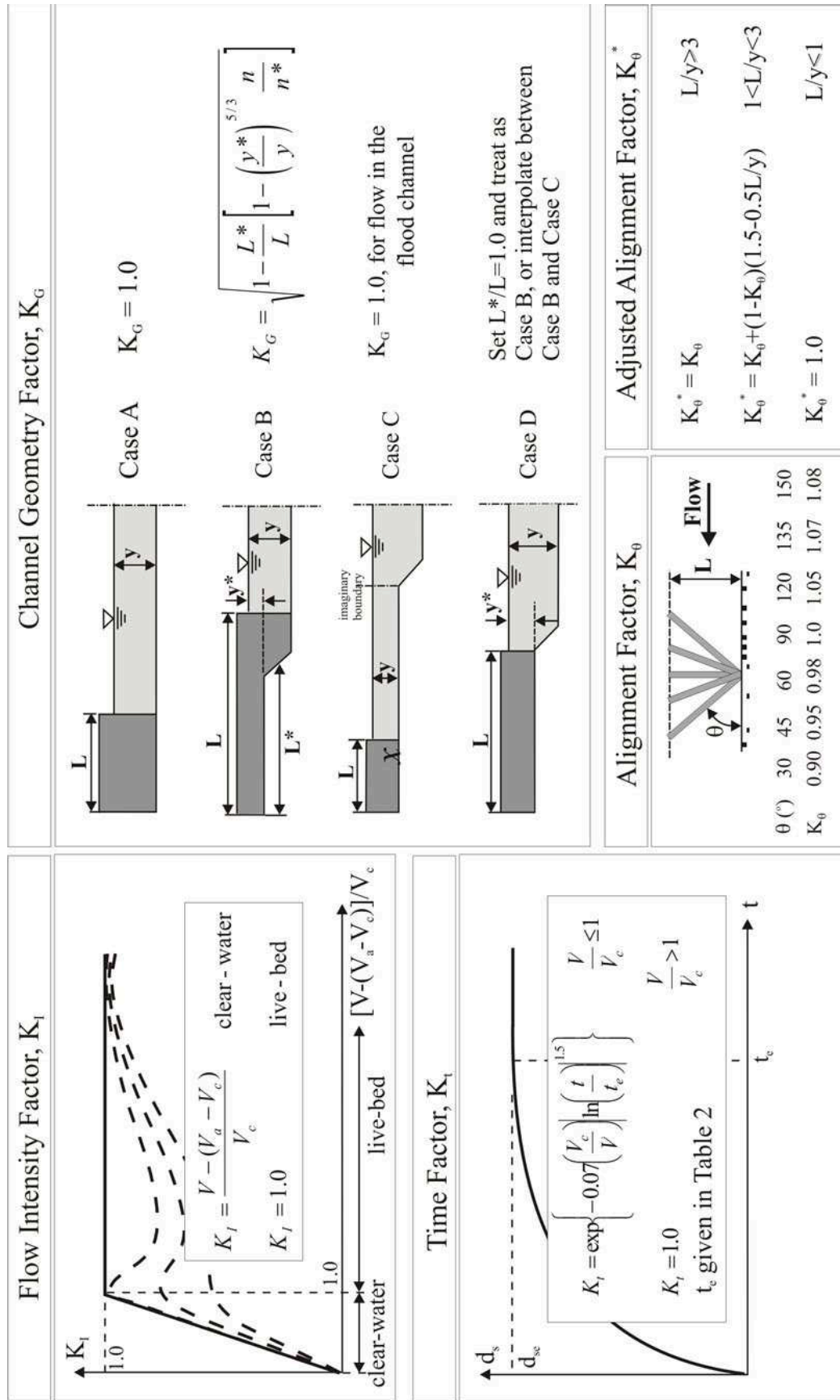


Figure 2 (cont.) Method for estimation of local scour depth at abutments.

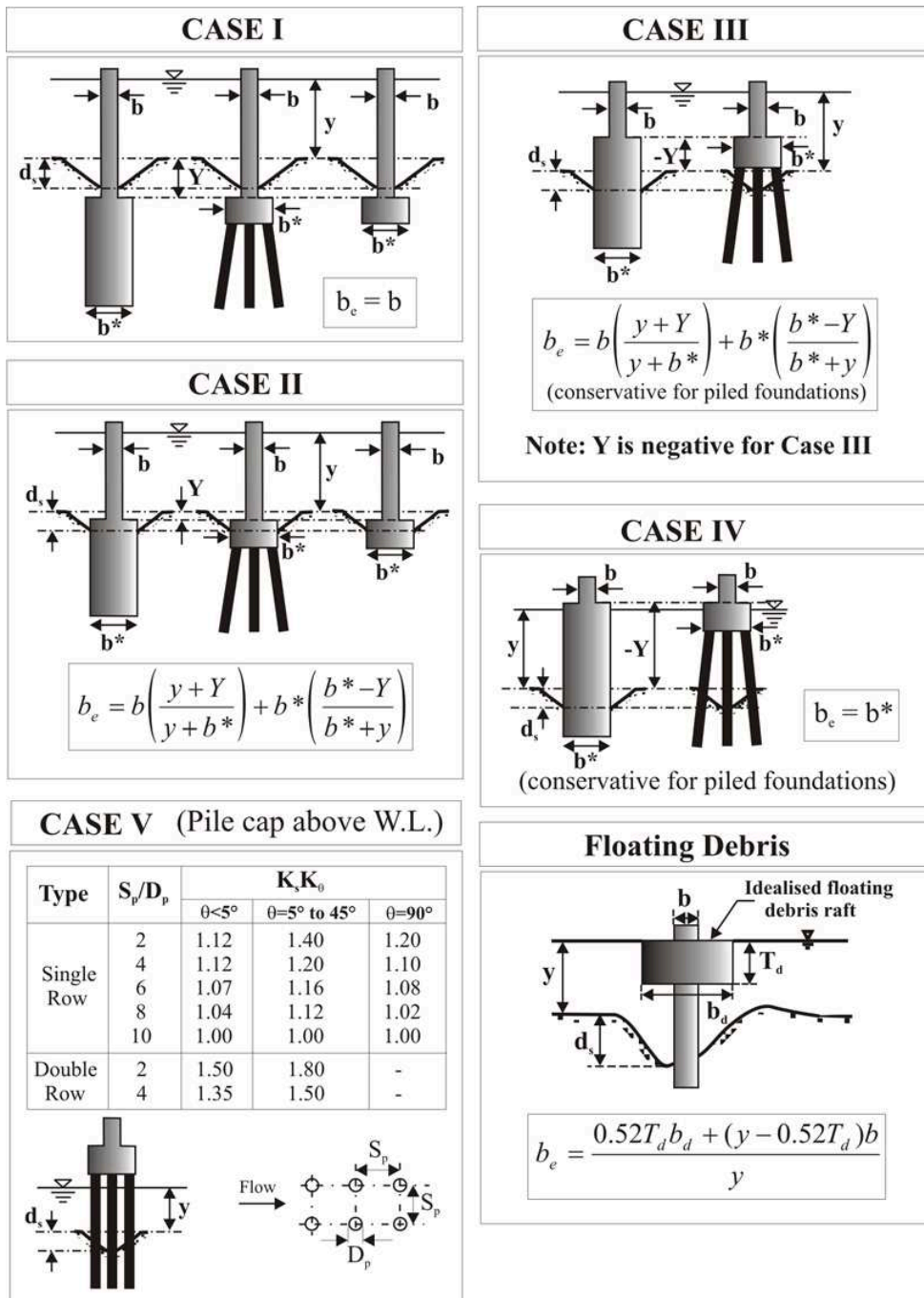


Figure 3 Method for estimation of local scour depth at nonuniform piers

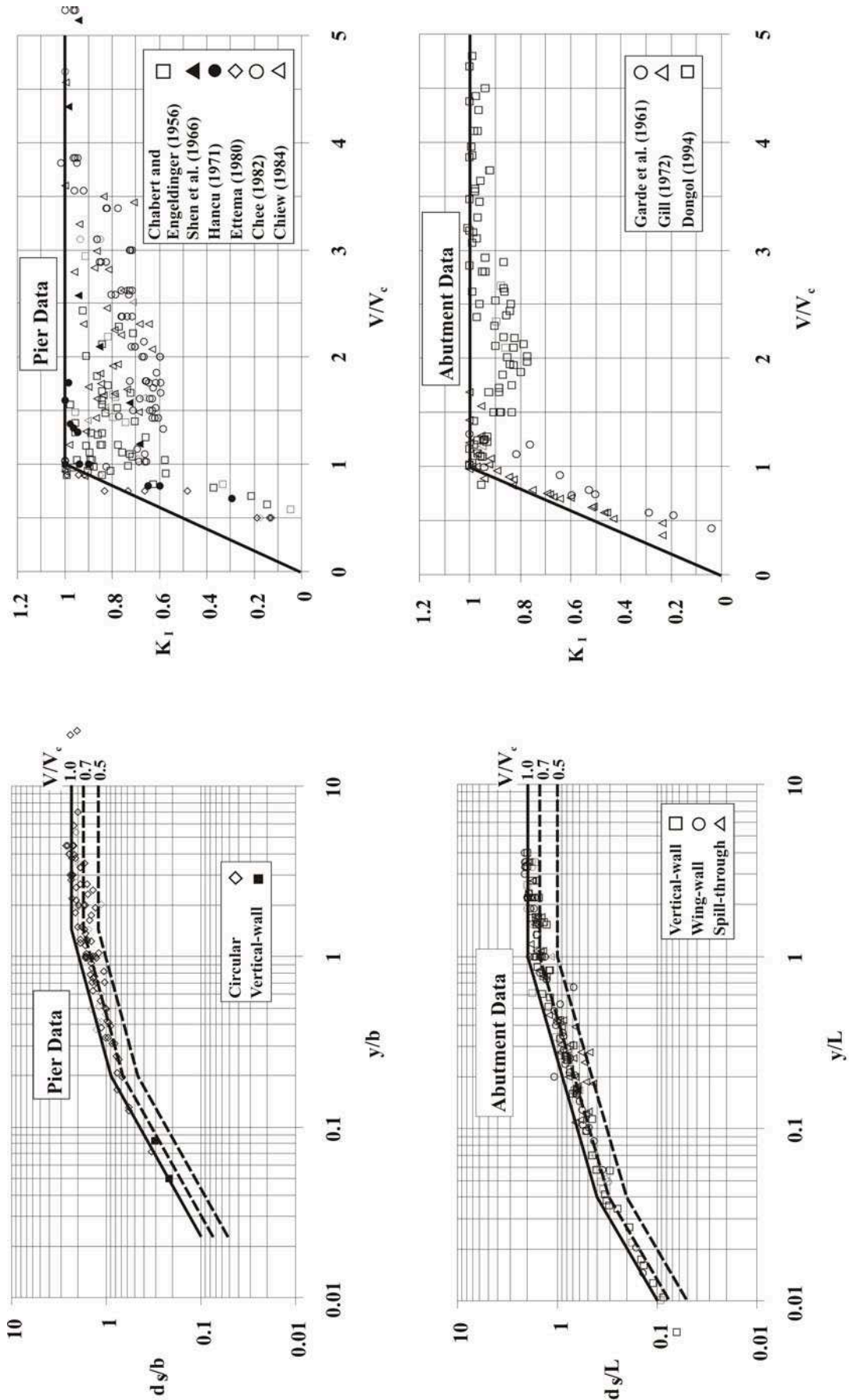


Figure 5 The influence of flow intensity on local scour depth in uniform sediment

Figure 4 The influence of flow shallowness on local scour depth

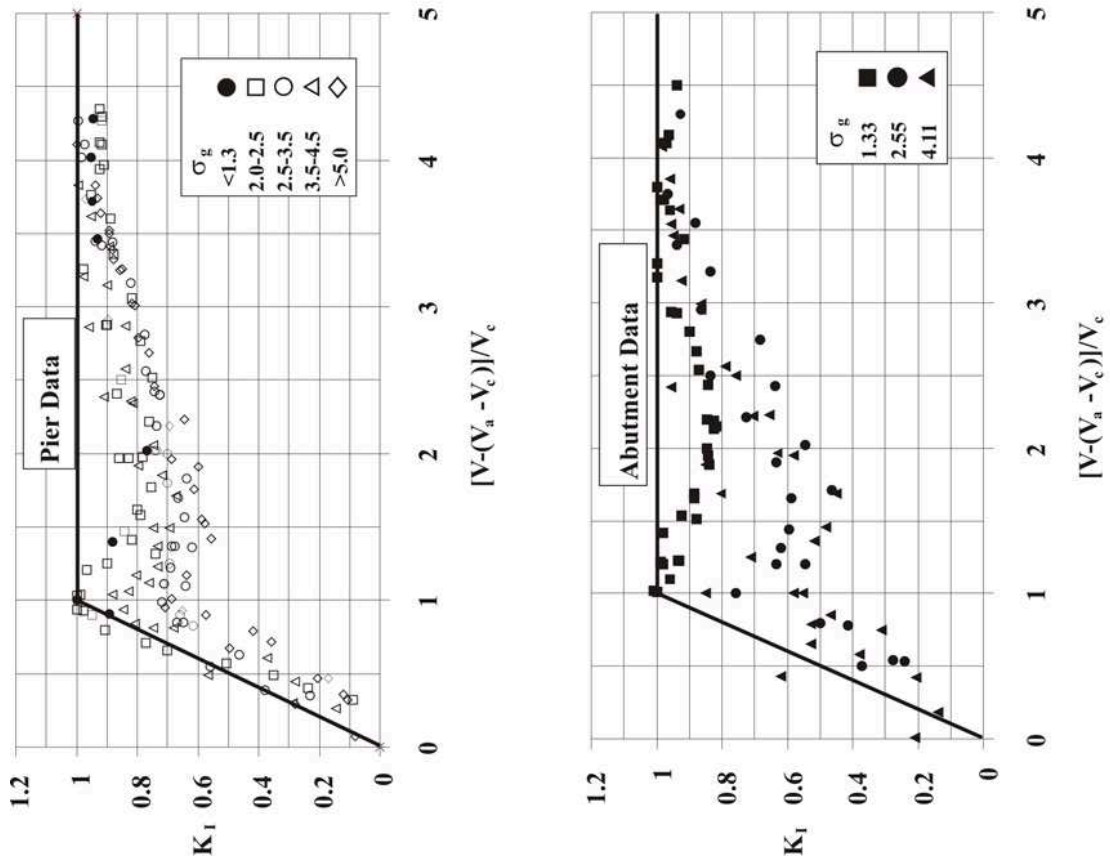


Figure 6 Influence of flow intensity on local scour depth in nonuniform sediment

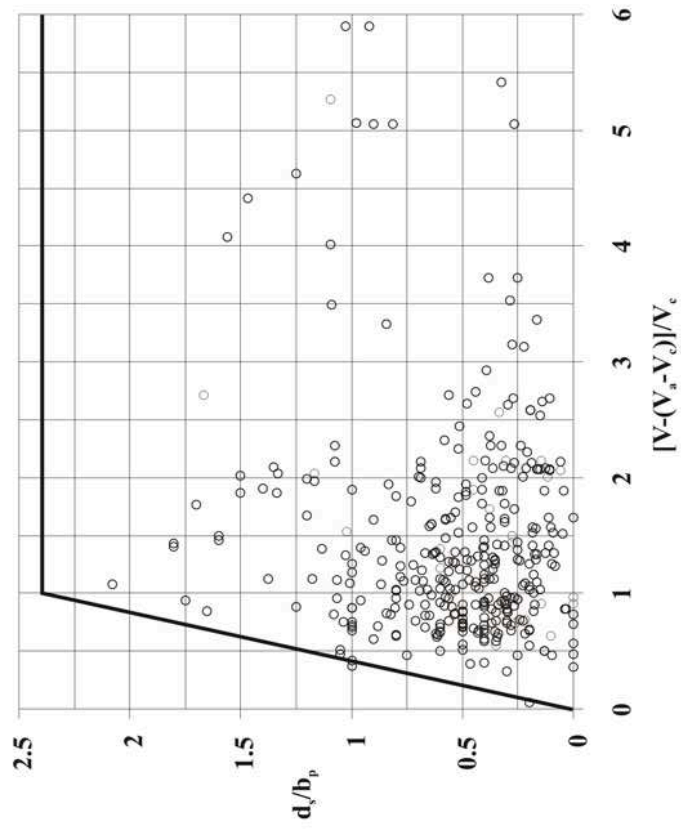


Figure 7 Comparison of field data with flow intensity curves

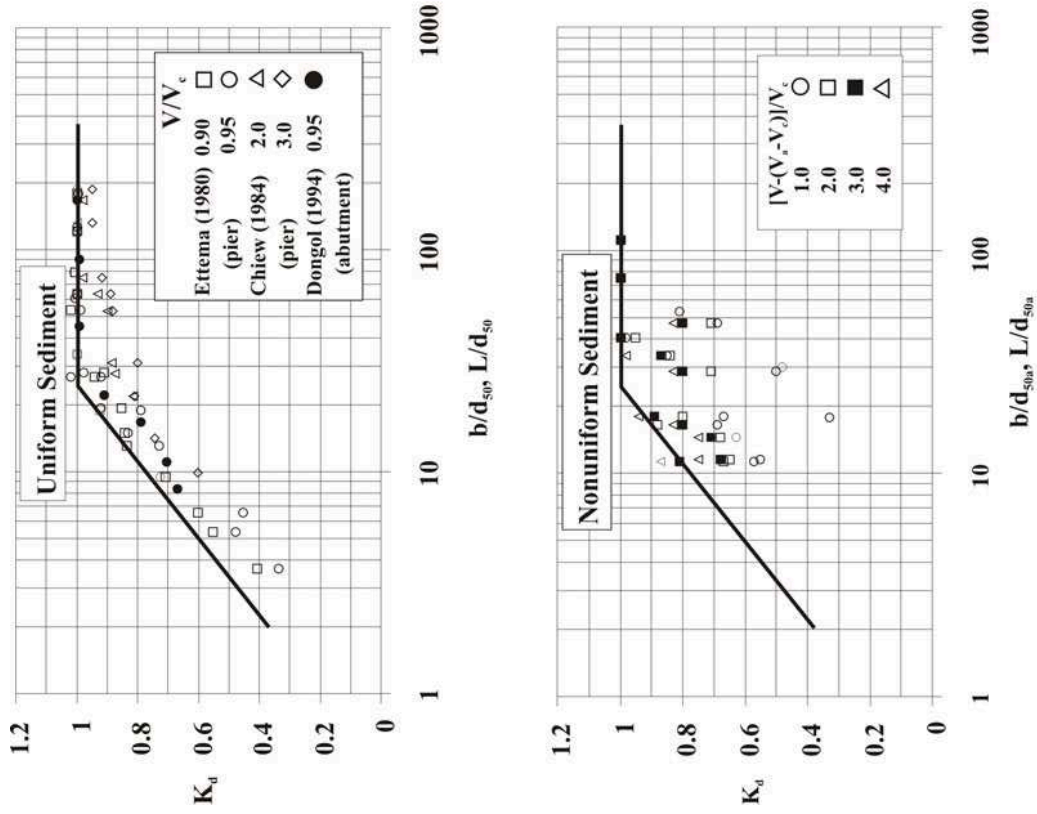


Figure 8 Influence of sediment coarseness on local scour depth

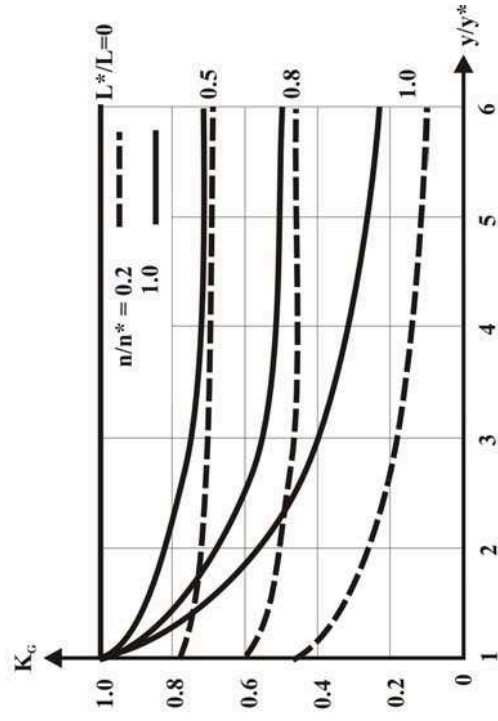


Figure 9 Influence of channel geometry on local scour depth at bridge abutments

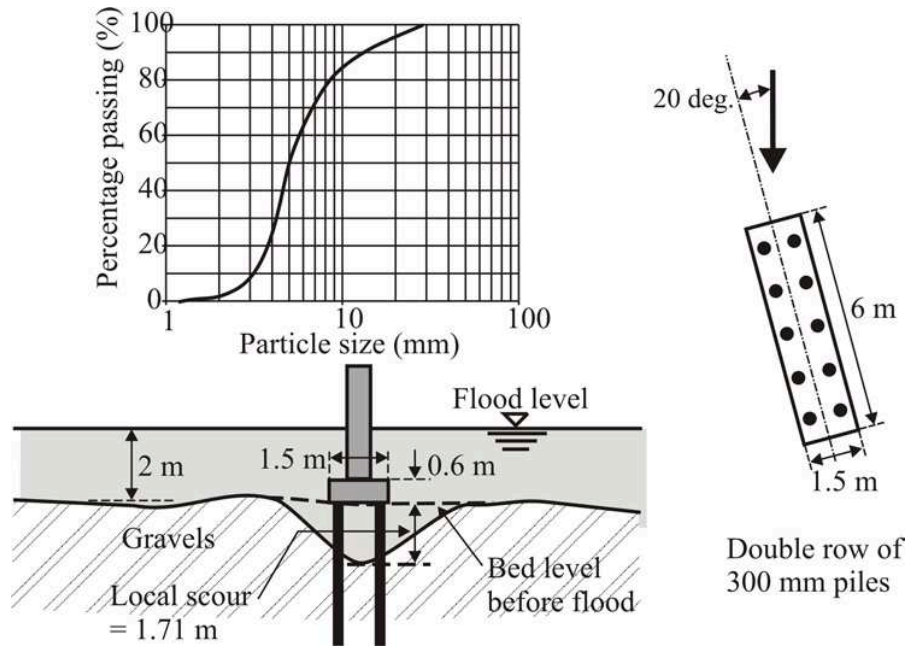


Figure 10 Diagram for pier scour example

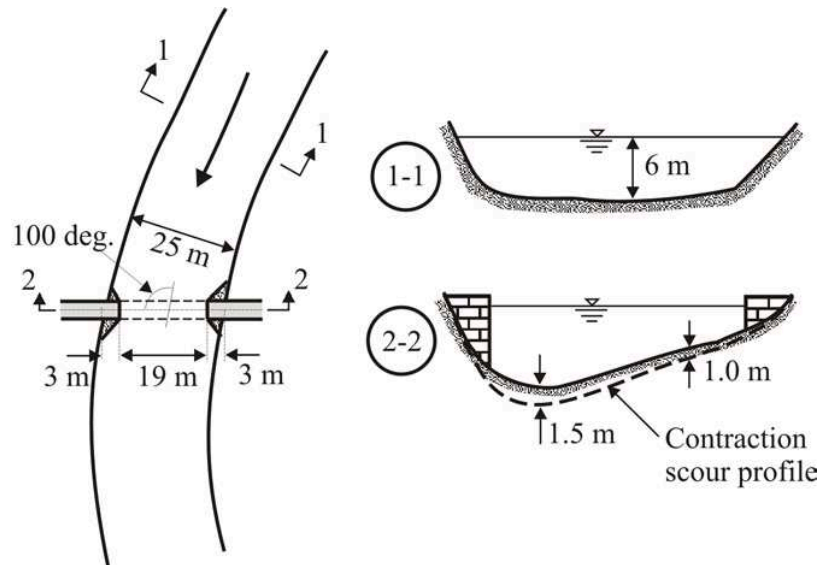


Figure 11 Diagram for abutment scour example