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Analytic solutions for linear waves propagating
in an ocean with variable bottom topography
and their applications in renewable wave
energy

Fatimah Noor Harun

A Thesis submitted for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

School of Mathematics and Applied Statistic

University of Wollongong

August 2009

Declaration

In accordance with the regulations of the University of Wollongong, I hereby state that the work described herein is my original work, except where due references are made, and has not been submitted for a degree at any other universities or institutions.

Fatimah Noor Harun

August 2009

Abstract

Studies about ocean waves have been evolving over a period of time. Recently, there has been renewed interest in problems of refraction, diffraction and radiation of ocean waves around structures. In this thesis, the analytic solutions for linear waves propagating in an ocean with variable bottom topography and their applications in renewable wave energy are presented. In the first part, we present an analytic solution to the shallow water wave equation for long waves propagating over a circular hump. As a useful tool in coastal engineering, the solution may be used to study the refraction of long waves around a circular hump. It may also be used as a validation tool for any numerical model developed for coastal wave refraction. To validate the new analytic solution, we have compared our new analytical solution with a numerical solution obtained by using the finite difference method. The agreement between these two solutions is excellent. By using the analytic solution, the effect of the hump dimensions on wave refraction over the circular hump are examined.

In the second part of this thesis, based on the mild-slope equation derived by Smith and Sprinks [1] and the extended refraction-diffraction equation developed by Massel [2], we have constructed a two-layer mild-slope equation for interfacial waves propagating on the interface of a two-layer ocean model. First, we follow Smith and Sprinks's [1] approach to derive the mild-slope equation for the propagation of interfacial waves, with the higher-order terms proportional to the bottom slope and bottom curvature all being neglected. We then derived the extended version of the mild-slope equation with the higher-order terms included. While we were able to solve the first equation

analytically, we presented a numerical solution for the second equation. As a part of the verification process, both solutions were compared with each other and also with the single-layer mild-slope equation when the density of the upper layer goes to zero. We then used the new solution to study the effect of the hump dimensions on the refraction of the interfacial waves over a circular hump.

Finally, in the final section of this thesis, we have used what we have developed before to construct the two-layer mild-slope equation with free surface on top. By utilizing this equation, we then derived an analytic solution for long waves propagating over a circular hump with a hollow circular cylinder floating in the free surface. In order to validate our new analytic solution, we have compared our problem with Mac Camy and Fuchs [3] solution, because our solution has reduced to their solution when the lower water depth, h_2 , goes to zero. We have also compared our solution with the flat bottom case in order to further verified our solution. Finally, by using the new solution, both diffraction and refraction effects from the hollow cylinder and hump dimensions are examined and discussed.

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Contents

1	Introduction	1
2	Basic Wave Theory	7
2.1	Introduction	7
2.2	Basic Wave Characteristic	8
2.3	Governing Equations for Water Waves	11
2.4	The mild-slope equation	12
3	Long Wave Refraction Over a Circular Hump	16
3.1	Overview	16
3.2	Analytic solution	19
3.3	Results and discussions	24
3.3.1	<i>Comparison with the circular pit</i>	25
3.3.2	<i>Comparison with a numerical solution</i>	30
3.3.3	<i>Effect of the hump size</i>	32
3.4	Conclusions	39
4	Refraction of interfacial waves by a circular hump	42
4.1	Overview	42
4.2	Analytic Solution	46

4.2.1	<i>The Mild-slope equation for the propagation of interfacial waves in a two-layer fluid model</i>	47
4.2.2	<i>Long waves propagating over a circular hump</i>	52
4.3	Results and Discussions	58
4.3.1	<i>Comparison with the single-layer fluid model</i>	59
4.3.2	<i>Comparison with the numerical solution</i>	60
4.3.3	<i>Effect of the density ratio</i>	61
4.3.4	<i>Effect of the Layer Thickness</i>	62
4.3.5	<i>Topographic Effects</i>	64
4.4	The Mild-slope Equation For The Propagation Of Interfacial Waves In A Two-layer Fluid Model With Higher-order Terms Included	69
4.4.1	<i>Derivation for the extended two-layer fluid model</i>	70
4.4.2	<i>Numerical Solution and Results</i>	79
4.5	Conclusions	80
5	Wave diffraction around floating structures	82
5.1	Overview	82
5.2	Analytic Solution	85
5.2.1	<i>The two-layer fluid model</i>	85
5.2.2	<i>The Mild-slope equation in a two-layer fluid model</i>	88
5.2.3	<i>Wave diffraction around floating structure over a variable water depth</i>	90
5.2.4	<i>Wave diffraction around floating structure over a flat bottom</i>	97
5.3	Results and Discussions	100
5.3.1	<i>Comparison with the Mac Camy and Fuchs Solutions</i>	100
5.3.2	<i>Comparison with the flat bottom</i>	102

5.3.3	<i>Effect of the cylinder height</i>	104
5.3.4	<i>Topographic and radius Effects</i>	106
5.4	Conclusions	109
6	Conclusions	111
A	Elevations of the Inner Products	115
B	Calculation of the Limit	120
C	Derivation for Equation (5.20)	123
D	Publications of the Author	124
	Bibliography	125

List of Figures

1.1	A definition sketch showing how an OWC works	4
1.2	An OWC prototype locate at Port Kembla, NSW, Australia	5
2.1	Waves characteristic	9
3.1	A definition sketch of a hump located on the floor of an ocean with otherwise constant water depth (top figure: side view, bottom figure: top view)	20
3.2	Convergence test for Frobenius series solution	26
3.3	Contour plots of relative wave amplitude for waves propagating over a hump	27
3.4	Contour plots of relative wave amplitude for waves propagating over a pit	28
3.5	Comparison of relative wave amplitudes along the x -axis	29
3.6	Comparison of relative wave amplitudes along the y -axis	30
3.7	Contour plots of relative wave amplitude for waves propagating over a hump	31
3.8	Contour plots of relative wave amplitude for waves propagating over a pit	32
3.9	Comparison of relative wave amplitudes along the x -axis	33
3.10	Comparison of relative wave amplitudes along the y -axis	34

3.11	Comparison of relative wave amplitudes along the x -axis between the numerical and analytical solutions	35
3.12	Comparison of relative wave amplitudes along the y -axis between the numerical and analytical solutions	36
3.13	Comparison of relative wave amplitudes along the x -axis with different h_0 values	37
3.14	Comparison of relative wave amplitudes along the y -axis with different h_0 values	38
3.15	Comparison of relative wave amplitudes along the x -axis with different hump radius	39
3.16	Comparison of relative wave amplitudes along the y -axis with different hump radius	40
4.1	A definition sketch for bounded interfacial waves	48
4.2	A definition sketch of a hump located on the floor in two-layer fluid systems	52
4.3	Comparison of relative wave amplitudes between single-layer and two-layer fluid models with $\rho_1 = 0$ along x -axis at $y=0$. .	59
4.4	Comparison of relative wave amplitudes between single-layer and two-layer fluid models with $\rho_1 = 0$ along y -axis at $x=0$. .	60
4.5	Comparison of relative wave amplitudes using numerical and analytical solution when ρ_1/ρ_2 are varied along the x -axis at $y=0$	62
4.6	Comparison of relative wave amplitudes using numerical and analytical solution when ρ_1/ρ_2 are varied along the y -axis at $x=0$	63
4.7	Comparison of relative wave amplitudes when ρ_1/ρ_2 are varied along the x -axis at $y=0$ by using the analytic solution	64

4.8	Comparison of relative wave amplitudes when ρ_1/ρ_2 are varied along the y -axis at $x=0$ by using the analytic solution	65
4.9	Contour plots of relative wave amplitude for waves propagating over a hump with $\rho_1/\rho_2 = 3/5$ and $h_{10}/h_{20} = 1/2$	65
4.10	Contour plots of relative wave amplitude for waves propagating over a hump with $\rho_1/\rho_2 = 3/5$ and $h_{10}/h_{20} = 2$	66
4.11	Comparison of relative wave amplitudes with $\rho_1/\rho_2 = 3/5$ along x -axis with h_{10}/h_{20} varied	66
4.12	Comparison of relative wave amplitudes with $\rho_1/\rho_2 = 3/5$ along y -axis with h_{10}/h_{20} varied	67
4.13	Comparison of relative wave amplitudes with $\rho_1/\rho_2 = 3/5$ along the x -axis with b/L varied	68
4.14	Comparison of relative wave amplitudes with $\rho_1/\rho_2 = 3/5$ along the y -axis with b/L varied	69
4.15	Comparison of relative wave amplitudes with $\rho_1/\rho_2 = 3/5$ along the x -axis with d varied	70
4.16	Comparison of relative wave amplitudes with $\rho_1/\rho_2 = 3/5$ along the y -axis with d varied	71
4.17	Comparison of relative wave amplitudes with high-order terms included(- -) and without high-order terms included (-)	79
5.1	An OWC prototype locate at Port Kembla, NSW, Australia	84
5.2	A definition sketch for a two-layer fluid with free surface on top	86
5.3	A definition sketch of a hump located on the floor in a two-layer fluid system	91
5.4	A definition sketch of a hollow circular cylinder floating on the upper layer in a two-layer fluid system	97

5.5	Comparison of relative wave amplitudes between MacCamy and Fuchs solution and our solution when $h_{20} = 0$ along x -axis	101
5.6	Comparison of relative wave amplitudes between MacCamy and Fuchs solution and our solution when $h_{20} = 0$ along y -axis	102
5.7	A definition sketch of a hump located on the floor in a two-layer fluid system	103
5.8	Comparison of relative wave amplitudes between the flat sea bottom and tiny little hump along the x -axis	103
5.9	Comparison of relative wave amplitudes between the flat sea bottom and tiny little hump along the y -axis	104
5.10	Comparison of relative wave amplitudes when h_{10} are varied along the x -axis	105
5.11	Comparison of relative wave amplitudes when h_{10} are varied along the y -axis	105
5.12	Comparison of relative wave amplitudes along the x -axis with b/L varied	107
5.13	Comparison of relative wave amplitudes along the y -axis with b/L varied	107
5.14	Comparison of relative wave amplitudes along the x -axis with d varied	108
5.15	Comparison of relative wave amplitudes along the y -axis with d varied	109

List of Tables

4.1	Comparison of relative wave amplitude with higher-order and without higher-order terms	80
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