

APPLICATION OF MATHEMATICAL MODELLING IN INVESTIGATING COASTAL PHENOMENA

By

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A Thesis submitted to University of Moratuwa
for the Degree in Master of Engineering



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ABSTRACT

With the evolvement of Information Technology, the simulation of physical theories on real matter in order to envisage the behavior of man-made structures and its impact on earth resources have “spread its wings” from scaled models to highly sophisticated virtual reality computer models where all elements can be viewed in 2D/3D in graphic user interfaces.

Particularly the study in Coastal wave mechanics and simulation of such uncertainty with man-made structures, have proven the value of technology and it has been much effective with cost and time.

With the current research that had been carried so far, commercially used in-house wave models were studied and a whole new design and analysis of a computer simulated numerical model for Sediment Transport Modelling was carried out.

Case study on Hambanthota describes the coastal processes that has been undertaken in order to investigate the wave climate, wave induced currents and sediment movement for the proposed fishery harbour at Hambathota in Sri Lanka.

Various components of an available wave modelling suite (“Halcrow”) were applied to evaluate the nearshore wave climate for design purposes, for optimization of the harbour configuration, for examination of wave penetration and for the input to the beach evolution model. The wave modelling shows that there is no significance wave penetration for the proposed fishery harbour. In addition, Wave-induced current modelling and investigation of beach evolution of the existing bay has been undertaken.

The proceedings of a final year project discussed on environmental impact on ecological and social environment with several proposed alternatives for a fishery harbour in Negombo Lagoon were considered for a case study using a commercial wave model to examine the significance impact of the wave climate for the nearshore region and structures proposed to be located in Negombo Bay. Several components of “Halcrow” wave model are used in order to validate the first alternative and modifications required are suggested herewith.

Most important of all, a sophisticated numerical model is designed and analyzed with the use of paradigms of software engineering for the simulation of Alongshore

Sediment Transport. Equations by Kamphuis (1992) based on empirical co-relations and dimensional analysis of properties have been used and followed through the whole design. Theories and equations integrated from research carried out by Dr. Saman Samarawickrama were used in deriving solutions for the numerical model of which the design is based on many GIS (*Geographical Information System*) functionalities.



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ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I offer my most heartfelt gratitude to Prof. Samantha Hettiarachchi and Dr. Saman Samarawickrama for the extravagant assistance and perfect guidance held upon my research. The inspiring work on several government projects funded by international funding organizations was possible with their precious directions and absolute collaboration and involvement towards guiding my research.

I was privileged to conquer this opportunity with the absolute co-operation of National Science Foundation with their funding during my course of research, and I warmly appreciate their efforts to do so, without them this research would not be a possibility. I would also like to thank the Vice Chancellor, Dean of Engineering Faculty and the Senate Research committee, Head, Department of Civil Engineering, Director, Postgraduate Studies of University of Moratuwa for their favorable arrangements.

I'm grateful to consultants/engineers of Halcrow's Group of companies and Applied Science Association Inc. for the collaboration with their expensive resources and guidance.

My sincere gratitude is also offered to Dr. Ranjith Galappaththi and the rest of the staff at Lanka Hydraulic Institute for their wonderful collaboration towards my research work.

My warm gratitude is for my parents and my sister who always stood by me during difficult moments and for nourishing my mind with hope.

DECLARATION

This thesis is a report of research carried out in the Department of Civil Engineering, University of Moratuwa, between August 2001 and December 2003. Except where references are made to other work, the contents of this thesis are original and have been carried out by the undersigned. The work has not been submitted in part or whole to any other university. This thesis contains 173 pages.

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