

**WAVE TRANSMISSION AND DISSIPATION COEFFICIENTS OF A  
MODIFIED ARTIFICIAL MANGROVE ROOT SYSTEM**

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## ABSTRACT

A modified Artificial Mangrove Root System (ArMS) has been proposed to improve the earlier model presented by Eldina (2007). The system may act as an alternative protection structure during the replanting of the young mangrove seedlings while enhancing to protect the marine life and shoreline. ArMS is designed to be porous enough so that it facilitates the exchange of water around it and allows sedimentation. Technically, ArMS acts as a partially or fully submerged breakwater which dissipates the incoming wave energy by the process of breaking, friction and transmission. Laboratory studies with a series of regular waves were conducted for 1-row, 2-row, 3-row, 4-row, and 5-row ArMS to determine the hydraulic performance in terms of its efficiency in reducing the incident wave and local velocities in various geometry and wave conditions. Wave attenuation coefficient was investigated by determining the transmission, reflection, and energy loss coefficients. The parameters that affect the wave attenuation are wave length, wave height, water depth, water velocity, and wave period. *Funke and Mansard* method was adopted to separate the incident and reflected wave. Transmitted waves were measured behind the model structure. Empirical equations to predict transmission, reflection and loss coefficients were derived using multiple linear regression analysis. The analytical predictive equations were developed using  $H_i/L$ ,  $B/L$ ,  $d/L$ , and  $d_s/d$  as the predictive variables. Experimental results showed that wave attenuation depends strongly on the structure geometrical factors. It increases as the width of the structure increase, or exposed to long wave length or period, or when the water depth is relatively large. On the other hand, line configuration of ARMS was found to have lower wave transmission compared to staggered configuration. ArMS gap effect is not significant in affecting wave attenuation performance. In general, the predicted data from derived analytical equations agreed well with the observed data. The comparison between the present and previous ArMS model found that the present model (0.63 porosity) produced lower wave transmission coefficient compared to the previous models (0.94 and 0.95 porosity).

## ABSTRAK

Rekabentuk semula Sistem Akar Bakau Tiruan (*Artificial Mangrove Root System-ArMS*) daripada Eldina (2007) telah dilakukan dalam kajian ini. Sistem ini bertindak sebagai struktur pelindung alternatif untuk melindungi proses penanaman semula bakau, di samping sebagai pelindung kepada habitat hidupan laut dan garisan pantai. ArMS direkabentuk dengan keporosan yang mencukupi agar proses pertukaran air boleh berlaku di sekelilingnya dan membenarkan pemendapan. Secara teknikal, ia bertindak sebagai pemecah ombak separa atau tenggelam untuk melemahkan tenaga ombak melalui proses pemecahan, penggeseran, dan pemindahan. Kajian makmal bagi sesiri ombak seragam telah dilakukan ke atas 1-baris, 2-baris, 3-baris, 4-baris, dan 5-baris ArMS untuk mengenalpasti perlakuan hidraulik terhadap keberkesannya mengurangkan ombak insiden dan halaju sekeliling dalam pelbagai geometri dan keadaan ombak. Pekali pelemah ombak dikenalpasti dengan menentukan pekali ombak hantaran, pantulan dan tenaga lesap. Antara parameter yang mempengaruhi pelemah ombak adalah panjang ombak, tinggi ombak, kedalaman air, halaju air dan tempoh masa ombak. Kaedah *Funke and Mansard* telah digunakan untuk mengasingkan ombak insiden dan ombak pantulan. Ombak hantaran pula diukur di belakang struktur model. Persamaan empirikal untuk meramal pekali ombak hantaran, pantulan, dan tenaga lesap telah diperolehi dengan menggunakan analisis regresi linear berganda. Persamaan peramal analitikal dibangunkan dengan  $H_i/L$ ,  $B/L$ ,  $d/L$ , dan  $d_s/d$  dianggap sebagai pemboleh ubah peramal. Keputusan eksperimen menunjukkan bahawa pelemah ombak dipengaruhi oleh faktor geometri struktur. Pelemah ombak akan meningkat apabila kelebaran struktur bertambah, atau terdedah kepada ombak atau tempoh ombak yang panjang, atau kedalaman air yang tinggi. Di samping itu, susunan ARMS berbaris menghasilkan hantaran ombak yang lebih kecil berbanding dengan susunan berperingkat. Kesan ruang pemisah antara ArMS tidak begitu mempengaruhi keupayaan pelemah ombak. Secara keseluruhan, didapati bahawa data yang diramal daripada persamaan empirikal setara dengan data yang diperolehi daripada pemerhatian. Perbandingan antara model terdahulu dan yang direkabentuk semula mendapati bahawa model yang direkabentuk semula (keporosan 0.63) menghasilkan pekali ombak hantaran yang lebih rendah berbanding dengan model terdahulu (keporosan 0.93 dan 0.94).

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## **CHAPTER 1**

### **INTRODUCTION**

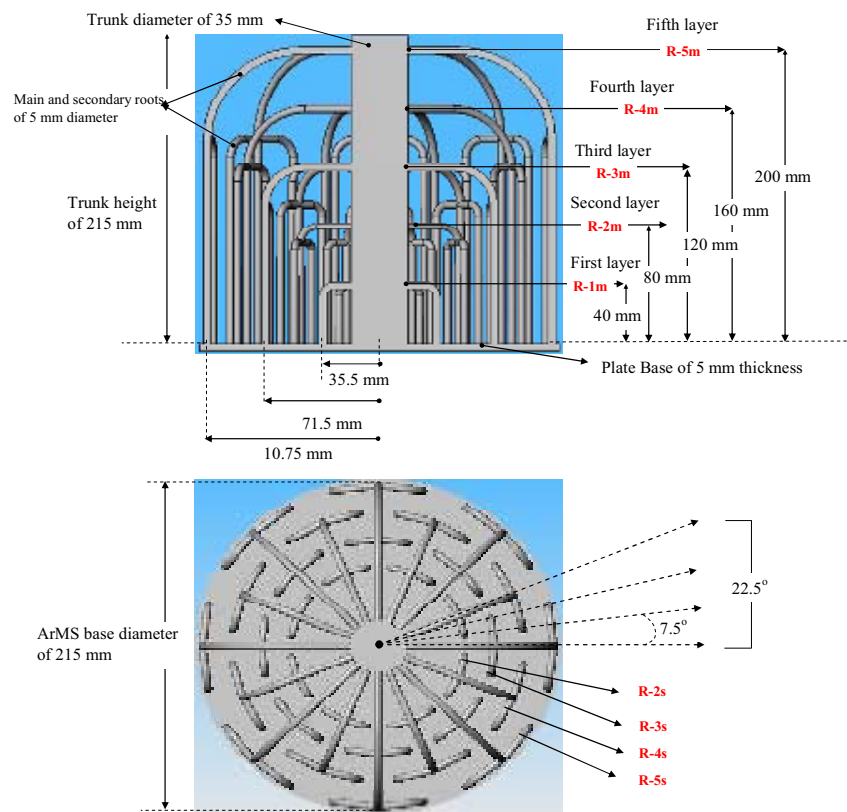
#### **1.1 Background of the Problem**

The demand for new mangrove areas or enhancement of degraded mangroves is increasing to this day. According to Muhammad Akhir Othman (1994), nearly 30% of the coastline of Malaysia is undergoing erosion. Many of these areas are coastal mudflats, fringed by mangroves. Mangroves are forested wetland that are located in the upper intertidal zones of the tropics (Wu, et al., 2001). Mangroves play important roles in the nutrient cycle of tropical estuarine ecosystem, marine coastal ecological systems maintenance, sustaining the aquaculture, tropical shoreline stabilization and etc. Yet, activities such as land reclamation, shrimp farming, timber and charcoal production without control throughout the world destroyed the mangrove forest. From the view of coastal engineering, over cutting of mangrove forest may lead to a significant impact on shoreline erosion.

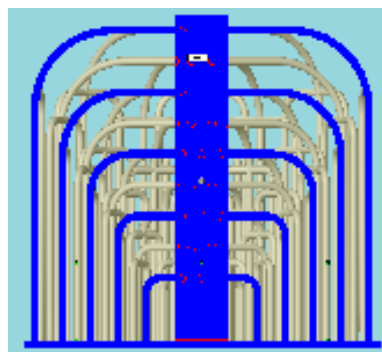
Mangroves are known to reduce wave energy as waves travel through them. It is an eco-friendly structure that can protect sensitive shorelines. Behind the mangroves, there are usually agricultural areas that are protected by bunds from tidal inundation. Thus, mangroves are used to protect the bunds from eroding. However, mangroves themselves are susceptible to erosion. The approaches to use conventional concrete breakwaters to protect the new mangroves areas are not advisable as this solution is too heavy, expensive as well as not environmentally safe.

According to Nyandwi (2001), beach structures, although are able to protect the beach, also could cause erosion. Therefore the construction of sea walls, jetties etc. must consider on their effects on the environment. Finding the best method in using natural system of coastal protection is therefore necessary.

Recognizing the benefits of mangrove forests, efforts have recently been made in some countries to re-establish the mangrove forests. (Wu, et al., 2001 and Hadibah Ismail, et al., 2005, Eldina, et al., 2005, and Eldina, 2007). Due to the consideration of protecting the mangrove forests, Eldina (2007) initiated an approach to replicate the mangrove root system itself as a coastal protection structure. The replicated structure, known as ArMS (Artificial Mangrove Root System), was designed by simplifying the complicated mangrove root system into a simple and easy-to-construct porous submerged structure. The root system was designed to follow a streamline shape and interconnected creating a very porous natural barrier. Besides, it is also designed to be placed in the inter-tidal zone to protect the mangrove or wetland habitat restoration while considering the aesthetic factor as for ecotourism point of view and with least impact to the environment. The mangrove root system was constructed with small sized steel bars called main roots that are welded on the trunk, layer by layer. The definition sketch and details of the ARMS model with the porosity of 0.94 are shown in Figure 1.1. The model with a porosity of 0.94 is constructed similar to the porosity of 0.95 with the same diameter steel bar but containing 9 layers with a gap between layers of 2 cm vertically as illustrated in Figure 1.2.



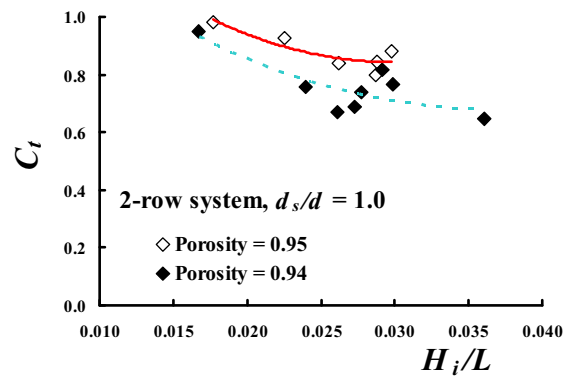
**Figure 1.1** Definition sketch and details of a unit of ArMS structure of 0.95 porosity (Eldina, 2007)



**Figure 1.2** Slice section of a unit of ArMS model of 0.94 porosity (Eldina, 2007)

Physical experiments and numerical modeling were conducted by Eldina (2007) to study and investigate the mechanism of wave transmission and reflection,

under a wide range of design conditions. The observation of porosity effects from her experimental results are plotted in Figure 1.3.



**Figure 1.3** Effect of porosity on  $H_i/L$  and  $C_t$  at  $d_s/d = 1.0$  of 2-row system (Eldina, 2007)

From the results obtained, it was found that for a 2-row ArMS system, with porosity = 0.94 it transmitted wave energy lower than that of an ArMS system with porosity = 0.95. It shows that reducing the porosity of a unit ArMS will decrease wave transmission. However, Eldina (2007) indicated that a structure with a higher porosity is preferred so as to protect the wetland habitat rehabilitation zone. Based on Eldina (2007)'s observation, modifications for improving the existing ArMS structure are found to be necessary.

It is advisable to minimize the transmission of wave energy through a breakwater. According to Eldina (2007), a structure with higher porosity transmitted more wave energy than a lower porosity structure. Therefore a reduction of porosity for the existing ArMS model was made. The porosity of the structure developed is reduced from 0.95 and 0.94 to 0.63.

In this research, a High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) was used to replace the steel which was used to construct the earlier ArMS models. The reason for material replacement is mainly to solve the corrosion and costing problem. HDPE is a material that will not be corroded by the sea water, and it can be obtained easily in various sizes in the market with much lower cost than steel.

From the structural engineering perspective, there are several limiting conditions which, if exceeded, can lead to failure of the designed ArMS. A larger base is designed for the existing ArMS structure in order to avoid the overturning problem. Besides, the bending stress failure which is directly related to pipe deflection need to be considered as well. Corrugated Polyethylene Pipe Association (1996) recommended that every pipe size should not exceed HDPE's bending stress limits of 3,000 psi at deflection levels of 5%. Therefore, the initiative to bend the main root of each layer at 90 degrees is not possible anymore when using HDPE for the modified ArMS model.

The model developed by Eldina (2007) consists of five layers of the main roots, the gaps between layers are 4.0 cm vertically, and the placement of the layer follows a staggered form. Each layer contains 8 pieces of main roots of 5.0 mm diameter with a clear spacing of 0.9 cm. Therefore the modified model structure is simplified by reducing the number of layers of the root system in order to reduce the complexity of the existing model.

The studies of the modified ArMS model that altered the wave motions are yet to be investigated. Moreover, the turbulence intensity might be increased in the vicinity of the structure due to flow separation which is especially true for porous coastal structures have yet to be verified (Losada, et al., 1995).

Modification to design guidelines which requires theory of complex marine processes around the modified ArMS system also needs to be established. Wave transmission and overtopping are the two phenomena that allow wave energy to pass over or through the ArMS structure. The other part of the wave energy will be dissipated by wave breaking on and over the structure and some of the energy will be reflected. The prediction of the amount of energy transmitted behind them is a crucial point in design practice for generating the design formulae for wave transmission of the ArMS structure.

## 1.2 Research Objectives

The objectives of the research are as follows:-

- To modify the existing Artificial Mangrove Root System developed by Eldina (2007) in the expectation that it may improve the wave dissipation performance.
- To investigate the influences of wave height, wave period, water depth, width of the structure (in terms of row numbers), velocity, structure arrangement configurations, gap, depth of submergence of the modified model due to various configurations and flow conditions in a physical model of the modified Artificial Mangrove Root System by studying its wave transmission, wave reflection and energy loss characteristics.
- To determine the velocity profile changes around the mangrove root system.
- To derive empirical relationships of the model in order to predict the hydrodynamic behavior of the mangrove root system as a means to optimize the design configuration for mangrove restoration and replanting projects.

## 1.3 Scope of Research

The characteristic of flow passing the Artificial Mangrove Root System and the engineering services that the roots may provide were studied and/or quantified (Hadibah Ismail, et al., 2005). The physical measurements of the hydrodynamic interaction of the waves and water levels with respect to ArMS system alignment have been investigated by determining the hydraulic performance of the mangrove root system in dissipating wave energy.

In this research, the performance of the modified ArMS design is expected to be varied with mangrove arrangement, gap, wave height, and water depth. The transmission coefficient,  $K_T$  for the modified model structure will be defined using relationships with non-dimensional parameters obtained from laboratory measurements of currents, waves and water depths. Besides, the velocity profile before and after the ArMS system will be determined as well.

The scope of work mainly includes model design and some other development processes involved for the artificial mangrove root system. Most of the design criteria of the ArMS structure were derived according to the specifications of the previous model. The modified structure is expected to have improved its efficiency in wave dissipation. It also should be porous enough in a way that it should facilitate the exchange of water around it and allow sedimentation to happen.

In promoting the use of bio-technical or bio-engineering approaches to coastal protection, established scientific investigations and wave-structure interactions on the proposed artificial mangrove root system hydrodynamics have been investigated. A series of laboratory experiments was conducted to investigate the hydrodynamic response in a one-dimensional hydraulic wave flume available at Coastal and Offshore Engineering Institute (COEI), UTM *International Campus*. The setting up of the laboratory experiment for the hydrodynamics test was conducted under the wave only condition. The estimations of wave reflection and transmission are useful in characterizing the effectiveness of the structure, the detailed velocity measurements are essential for the understanding of the physical process involved. According to Sakakiyama (2002), the detailed velocity measurements are essential for validating any mathematical/ numerical models that are to be used for designing a coastal structure.

Finally, the dimensionless variables to describe the hydraulic properties of wave and ArMS system interaction were developed. The data collected from laboratory studies are used for the derivation of empirical equations using Multiple Linear Regression Analysis. Different functions were tried in order to yield the empirical equations with the best correlation. The computation was made using SPSS

- vii. The data collected from laboratory studies for the derivation of empirical equations should be verified by conducting site specific prototype studies.

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