

Analysis of wave force on steel pipe pile under construction

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Abstract. In this research, a two-dimension physical model experiment was conducted, which studied the wave force characteristics on steel pipe pile under three different construction stages. The experiment results show that the single pile horizontal force maximum and sub-maximum and total horizontal force maximum are going down as the slope pavement construction, which indicates that the wave force on steel pipe pile appears in the early stage of construction. It is necessary to pay attention to protection work under extreme wave conditions.

Introduction

During the construction of port engineering, the hydraulic structure may be damaged by wave impact. Such as core rocks are exposed before placing armor blocks under construction of breakwater, the single caisson are installed before the whole caisson breakwater was built and so on. Therefore, it is necessary to study the safety of hydraulic structure during construction. Hydraulic structure's wave load plays an important role in engineering safety and cost. The existing research about wave force on piles is mainly from physical model, formula computing and numerical model aspects. Avinash M. Nafday [1] developed a probabilistic model of wave forces on cylindrical pile in 1983. Yiming Liu [2] studied the wave loads on pipe-group foundation in 2013. Yanbao Li [3] studied the breaker force on the vertical cylinder in the shallow water. This research is based on the steel pipe piles in front of vertical caisson, measured the wave force on steel pipe pile under construction stages, namely under different protection conditions. Analyze and compare the stress characteristics of steel pipe pile under different protection conditions.

Equipment and Model arrangement

The experiment is carried out in a wave flume. The wave flume is 68.0 m long, 1.0 m wide and 1.5 m high. At one end of the flume, the wave generator is set, the regular and irregular waves can be generated. Both ends of wave flume are equipped with the wave-absorption devices. The wave pressure is measured by point pressure sensor of Hydrodynamic Data Collection System named TK2008.

The caisson size is 25m×15m×17m, top elevation is +2.0m. 7 rows and 7 columns of total 49 steel pipe piles are set evenly spaced in front of the caisson. The connection support of pile holder structures are on top of steel pipe piles. The three different construction stages are selected for experiment. Section 1 is a section without covered, after pile driving and the waves impact the caisson and steel pipe piles directly; section 2 is a semi-riprap protection, 3~6ton stones are laid to -8.50m elevation before the caisson; section 3 is standard design section, the 3~6ton stones are laid to -6.0m elevation and armor blocks are placed to cover the slope from -6.0m to +1.0m elevation. The steel pipe piles' layout and three states' cross section are shown in Fig. 1.

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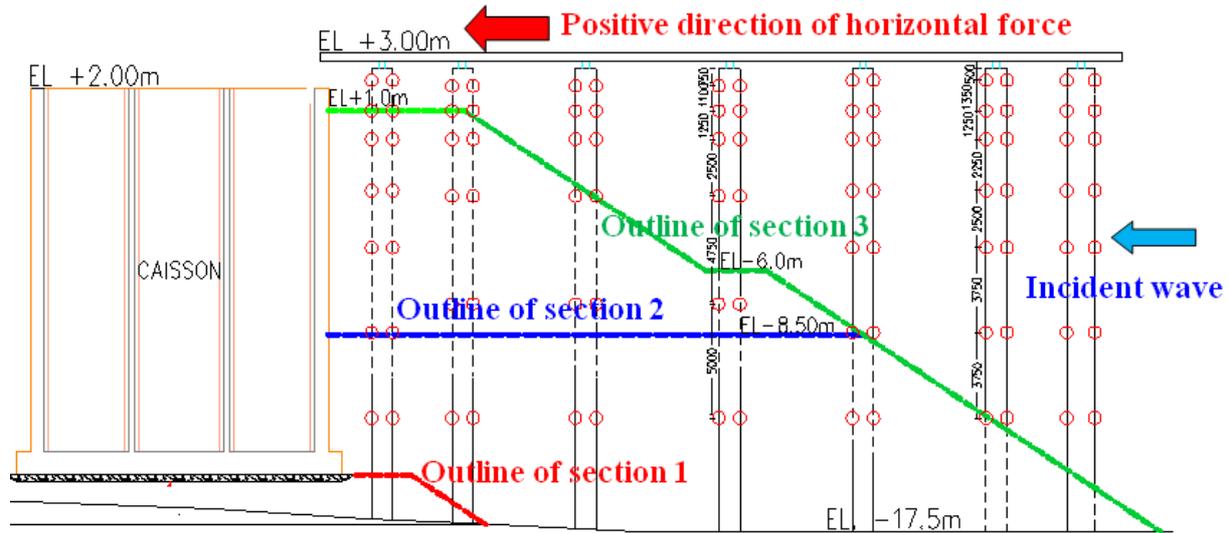


Fig. 1 Model arrangement and pressure sensor layout on steel pipe piles

Wave condition

The wave condition includes water level, wave height, wave period, wave type and spectrum is shown in Tab. 1. The physical model must satisfy gravitational similarity [4] and geometry similarity [5]. In this experiment, the geometry scale is 25, that is mean the depth scale, wave weight scale, wave length scale all are 25, the period scale is 5, the force scale is 15625.

Tab. 1 Wave condition of physical model

Water level (m)	H_s (m)	T_s (s)	Wave type	Spectrum
1.0	5.75	12.20	Irregular wave	Jonswap

Analysis method of wave force

In the experiment, the horizontal force positive direction is defined to parallel to the incident wave direction. For the normal experiment method of horizontal force on the pile, the measuring points are laid by every 45° evenly on circular cross section. In this study, considering the pile diameter is small (steel pipe pile's diameter is 0.9m), so the measuring points are laid on the sea side and back side on the piles. For this kind of gauges arrangement method, the results are revised according to the calculation formula of pile foundation and pier column [6]. Then take the diameter of circular cross section's 45° arc projection as a representative width and integrate along the pile length. A total of 92 pressure sensors are laid on the steel pipe piles, the sensor layout is shown in Fig. 1 in the previous paragraph.

Experiment phenomenon

In section 1, the wave impact the caisson after through the pile group, and overtopping happened on the top of caisson. In section 2, the wave climbed slightly along the underwater slope and then impacted the caisson. In section 3, because the elevation between caisson and armor layer are close, the wave climbed along the armor blocks and cross the caisson straight. The experiment phenomenons under different construction stage are shown in Fig. 2.



**Fig.2 Experiment phenomenon under different construction stage
(From left to right are section 1, section 2 and section 3)**

Results of maximum horizontal force of single pile

The results of maximum horizontal force of single pile are shown in Fig. 3. The maximum and sub-maximum force value are 394.42kN and 391.52kN in section 1; the maximum and sub-maximum force value are 370.85kN and 320.86kN in section 2; the maximum and sub-maximum force value are 282.10kN and 311.40 in section 3. The maximum of horizontal force appeared in the first row of piles in sea side, which hit by waves. The sub-maximum force of horizontal force appeared in front of the caisson since the reflection wave increased the wave force. And the maximum and sub-maximum force are going down as the slope pavement construction.

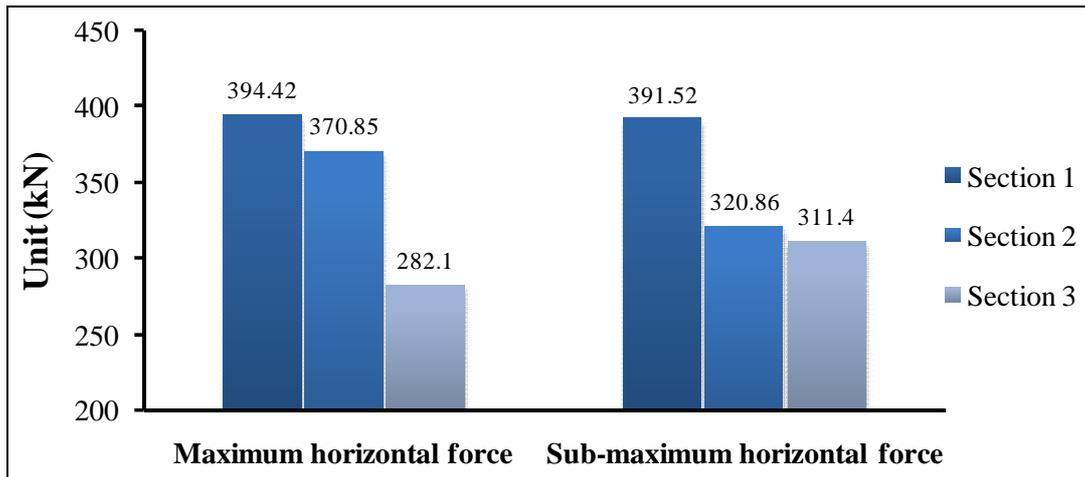


Fig. 3 Results of maximum horizontal force of single pile

Results of maximum total horizontal force

The results of maximum total horizontal force of 7 piles in the same column are shown in Fig. 4. The total horizontal force could reflect the bearing condition of whole pile group. The maximum force value of each three section is 1481.40kN in section, 1403.87kN in section 2 and 1391.05kN in section 3. This due to the cover effect of stones and armor blocks to steel pipe piles is increase with the slop shape from no-riprap to semi-riprap then to the full coverage of armor blocks, which lead to the impact of waves decreased.

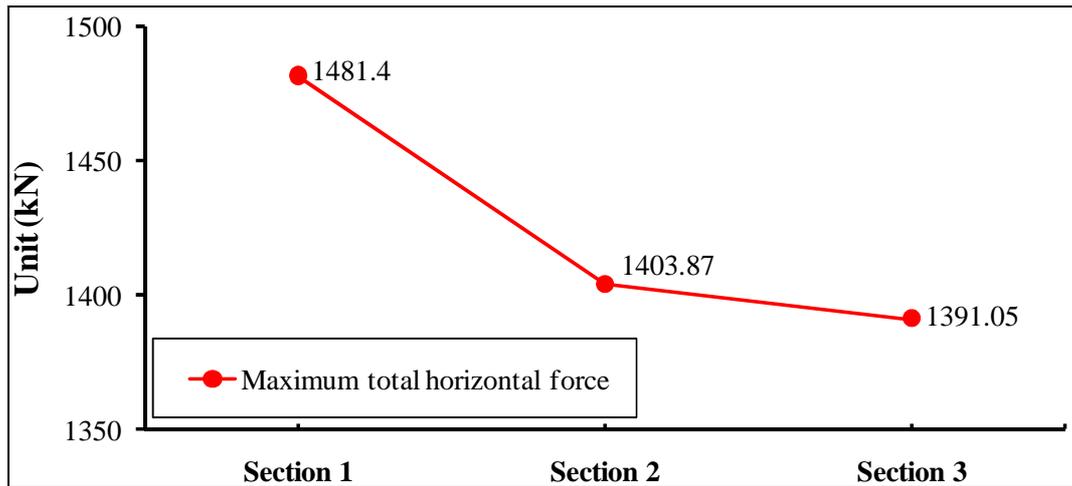


Fig. 4 Results of maximum total horizontal force

Conclusions

(1) The maximum of horizontal force is 394.42kN appears in the first row of piles in sea side in section 1; the sub-maximum of horizontal force is 391.52kN appears appeared in front of the caisson in section 1. And the maximum and sub-maximum force are going down as the slope pavement construction. (2) The maximum of total horizontal force of 7 piles in the same column is 1481.40kN in section 1. The relationship of total horizontal force in three sections is section 1 is greater than section 2 and greater than section 3. (3)The results indicate that the wave force on steel pipe pile appears in the early stage of construction. It is necessary to pay attention to protection work under extreme wave conditions.

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