

# Chap 4. Design of Vertical Breakwaters

## 4.1 Overviews of Vertical and Composite Breakwaters

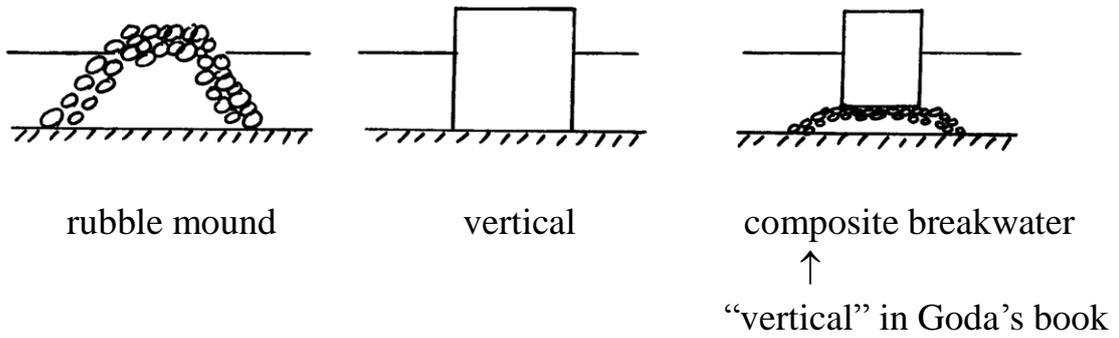


Fig. 4.2 X-section of vertical breakwater

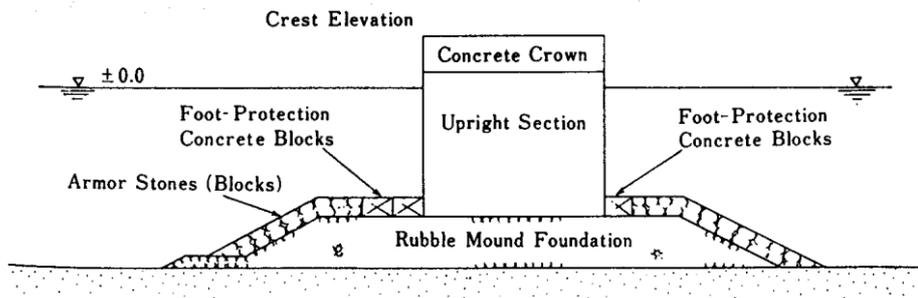
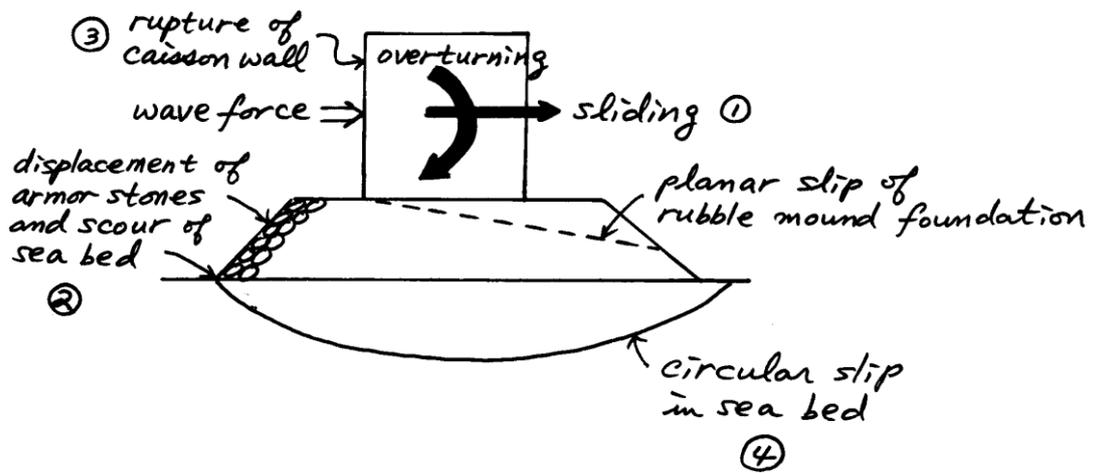


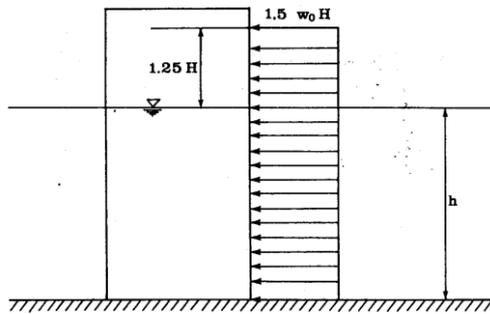
Fig 4.3 Failure modes



## 4.2 Wave Pressures Exerted on Upright Sections

### 4.2.1 Overview of Development of Wave Pressure Formulas

- Hiroi (1919): based on field measurements, breaking waves in relatively shallow seas



$$p = 1.5 \rho g H$$

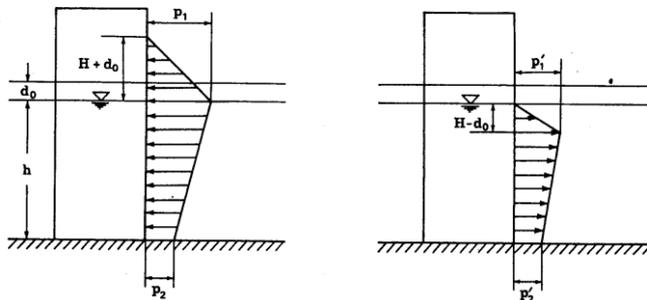
$$P_{\max} = (h + 1.25H)p$$

$H$  is usually taken as  $H_{1/3}$ , which is not much different from  $H_{\max}$  in shallow seas



vertically uniform pressure

- Sainflou (1928): standing (non-breaking) wave force based on trochoidal wave theory



$$d_0 = \frac{kH^2}{2} \coth kh$$

Positive force (at wave crest)

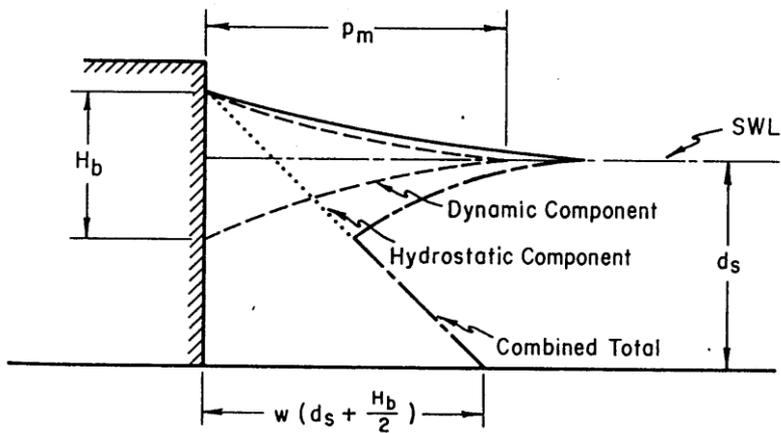
$$\left. \begin{aligned} p_1 &= (p_2 + \rho g h) \frac{H + d_0}{H + h + d_0} \\ p_2 &= \frac{\rho g H}{\cosh kh} \end{aligned} \right\} \rightarrow P_{\max} = \frac{p_1(H + d_0)}{2} + \frac{(p_1 + p_2)h}{2}$$

Negative force (at wave trough)

$$\left. \begin{aligned} p'_1 &= \rho g (H - d_0) \\ p'_2 &= p_2 = \frac{\rho g H}{\cosh kh} \end{aligned} \right\} \rightarrow P_{\max} = \frac{p'_1(H - d_0)}{2} + \frac{(p'_1 + p'_2)(h - H + d_0)}{2}$$

$H = H_{1/3}$ ,  $H_{1/10}$ , or  $H_{\max}$  depending on the importance of the breakwater.

- Minikin (1950): based on Bagnold's laboratory data,  
breaking wave pressure including impulsive pressure,  
yields excessive wave forces (too conservative?)



$$p_m = 101\rho g \frac{H_b}{L_h} \frac{d_s}{h} (h + d_s) = \text{max. dynamic pressure (at SWL)}$$

$H_b$  = breaker height

$d_s$  = water depth at the toe of the wall

$h$  = water depth at one wave length in front of the wall

$L_h$  = wave length at depth  $h$

$$P_{\max} = \frac{p_m H_b}{3}$$

Note: For a composite breakwater,  $d_s$  = water depth on the rubble mound,  $h$  = water depth at the toe of rubble mound.

- Goda (1973): extend the formula of Ito (1966),  
a single formula for both breaking and non-breaking waves
- Tanimoto et al. (1976) included the effect of oblique incidence.

#### 4.2.2 Goda Formulas of Wave Pressure under Wave Crests

See Fig. 4.4 and Eqs. (4.2) to (4.15).

Calculates uplift force as well as horizontal force.

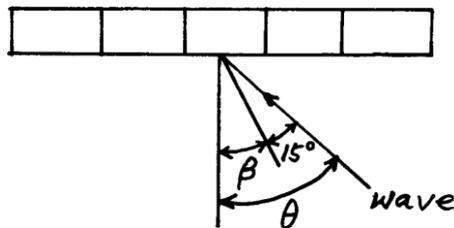
Design wave = highest wave in design sea state

$H_s = H_{1/3}$  = significant wave height } at the site of breakwater before construction  
 $T_s = T_{1/3}$  = significant wave period } (no reflected wave yet)

Outside surf zone:  $H_{\max} = 1.8H_{1/3}$  and  $T_{\max} = T_{1/3}$

Within surf zone:  $H_{\max}$  = max. height of random breaking waves at  $5H_{1/3}$  seaward of breakwater (calculated by Eq. (3.48))

$$T_{\max} = T_{1/3}$$



$\beta$  = wave angle ( $\theta$ ) - 15° for safety (if  $\theta > 15^\circ$ )  
 $\beta = 0^\circ$  if  $\theta \leq 15^\circ$

- Accuracy of the Goda wave pressure formula

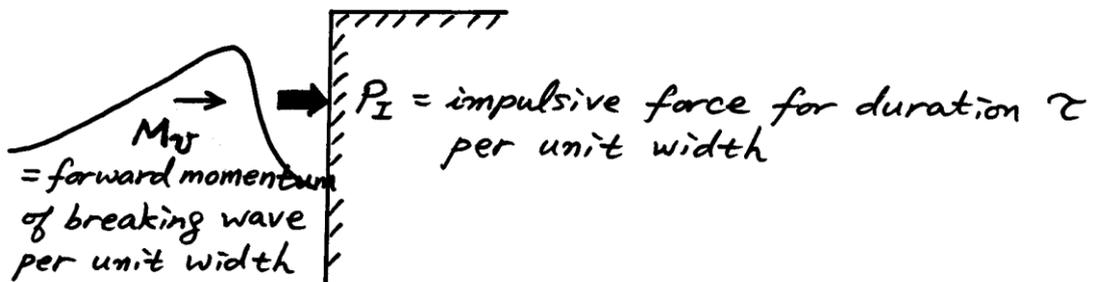
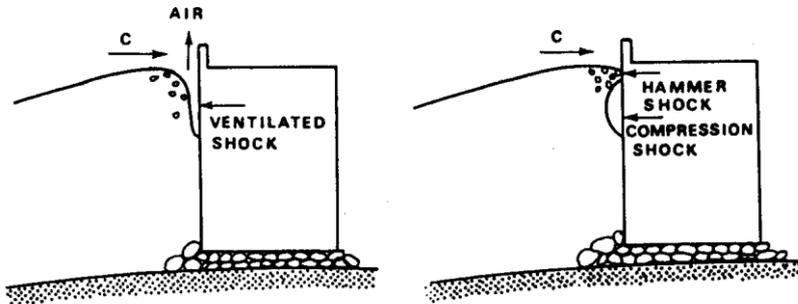
tested against 34 prototype breakwaters under approximately design wave conditions

safety factor against sliding =  $\frac{\text{resistance}}{\text{sliding force}}$  > 1.0 no sliding  
 < 1.0 sliding

See Fig. 4.9 (a) conventional formulas → poor

(b) Goda formula

### 4.2.3 Impulsive Breaking Wave Pressure and Its Estimation



Newton's 2nd law:  $F = ma = m \frac{du}{dt}$

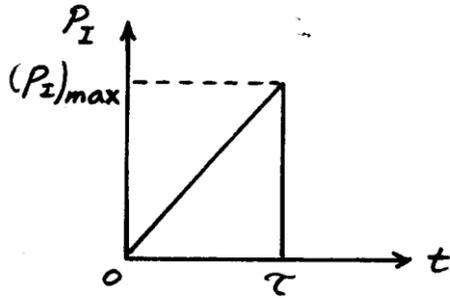
$$M = mu \rightarrow dM = mdu = Fdt$$

$$\int_0^\tau dM = [M]_0^\tau = \int_0^\tau F dt$$

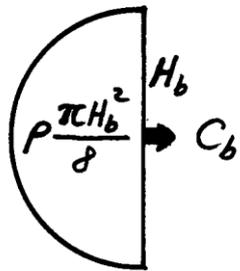
$$M|_{t=0} = M_v, \quad M|_{t=\tau} = 0, \quad F = -P_I$$

$$\int_0^\tau P_I dt = M_v$$

Order of magnitude of  $(P_I)_{\max}$  ?



$$\int_0^{\tau} P_I dt \cong \frac{\tau}{2} (P_I)_{\max}$$



$$M_v = \rho \frac{\pi H_b^2}{8} C_b; \quad C_b \cong \sqrt{g H_b}$$

$$(P_I)_{\max} \cong \frac{\rho \pi H_b^2 C_b}{4\tau} = \frac{\rho g \pi H_b^2 C_b}{4g\tau} \quad (4.18)$$

- Impulsive breaking wave pressure may occur

as wave angle  $\downarrow$  ( $20^\circ$ )

bottom slope  $\uparrow$  (1/50)

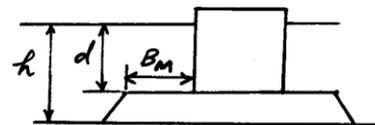
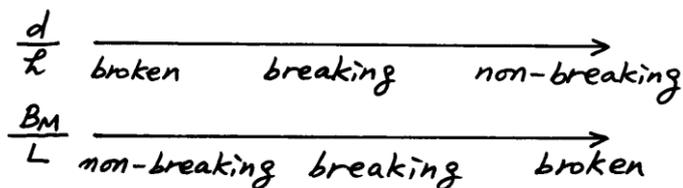
$H_0'/L_0 \downarrow$  (0.03)

$h_c \uparrow$  (0.3H)

$\uparrow$

threshold values

- Also mound height and mound berm width can give favorable conditions for waves to break just in front of the caisson



Takahashi et al. (1994) proposed Eqs. (4.19)~(4.26) for the coefficient  $\alpha_I$  for impulsive breaking wave pressure.

- It is recommended to design the breakwater not to withstand the impulsive pressure but to avoid the favorable condition for the impulsive breaking wave to occur.
- Countermeasures: Perforated-wall caisson, horizontally composite breakwater

#### 4.2.4 Sliding of Upright Section by Single Wave Action

In the performance-based design method (Chapter 6), the expected sliding distance during the lifetime of a breakwater is examined, which is the ensemble average of the total sliding distance during the lifetime. The total sliding distance is calculated by accumulating the sliding distances by single individual waves.

Assume the horizontal wave force is the larger between the standing wave force (sinusoidal form) and impulsive wave force (triangular pulse):

$$P(t) = \max\{P_1(t), P_2(t)\}$$

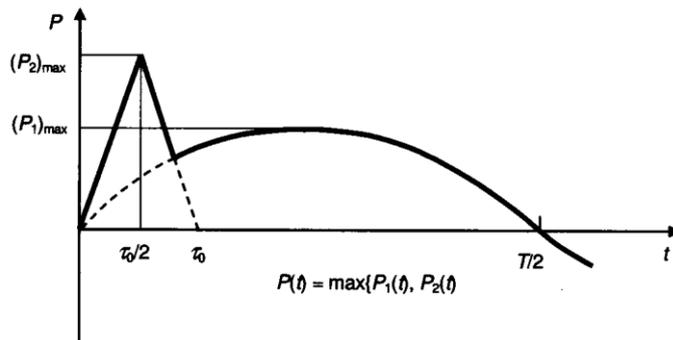


Fig. 4.11 A model of temporal variation of horizontal wave force (after Tanimoto *et al.*<sup>27</sup>).

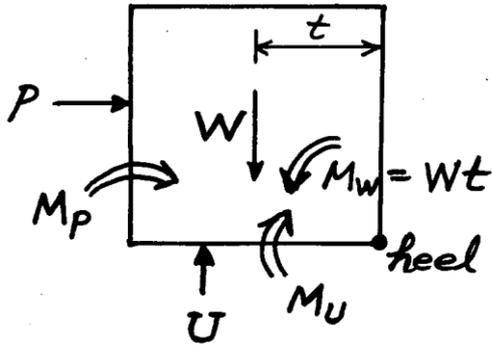
Solve the equation of motion describing caisson sliding:

$$\left( \frac{W_a}{g} + M_a \right) \frac{d^2 x_G}{dt^2} = P - F_R \quad (4.34)$$

The sliding distance  $x_G$  can be calculated by numerically integrating the above equation twice w.r.t. time.

### 4.3 Preliminary Design of Upright Sections

#### 4.3.1 Stability Condition for an Upright Section



##### Sliding

Frictional force between mound and caisson =  $\mu(W - U)$ , where  $\mu$  = friction factor  $\cong 0.6$ .

If  $P > \mu(W - U)$ , sliding occurs.

$$\text{S.F. against sliding} = \frac{\mu(W - U)}{P}$$

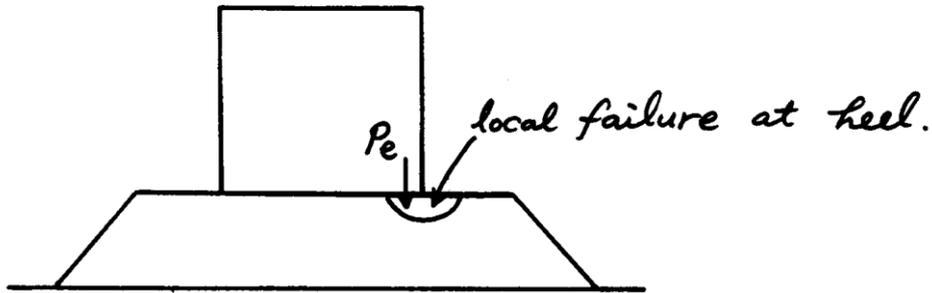
##### Overturning

If  $M_p > M_w - M_u$ , overturning occurs.

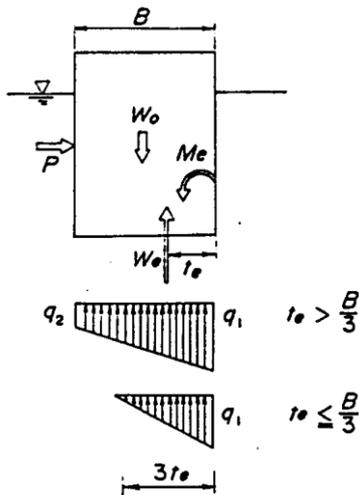
$$\text{S.F. against overturning} = \frac{M_w - M_u}{M_p} = \frac{Wt - M_u}{M_p}$$

In general, if the caisson is stable against sliding, it is stable against overturning as well.

Bearing capacity



The bearing pressure at the heel,  $p_e$ , should be less than a certain value:  
 $p_e \leq 400 \sim 600 \text{ kPa/m}^2$ .



- A trapezoidal or triangular distribution of bearing pressure is assumed depending on  $t_e$ .
- Net weight,  $W - U$ , is supported by the normal stress between stones and bottom slab ( $W_e = W - U > 0$ ).
- Net moment (ccw) due to  $W$ ,  $P$ , and  $U$  about heel is

$$M_e = Wt - M_p - M_U$$

which must be balanced by the moment (cw) due to  $W_e$ .

$$M_e = W_e t_e \rightarrow t_e = \frac{M_e}{W_e}$$

$$\text{If } t_e > \frac{B}{3}, q_1 = \frac{2W_e}{B} \left( 2 - 3\frac{t_e}{B} \right), q_2 = \frac{2W_e}{B} \left( \frac{3t_e}{B} - 1 \right)$$

$$\text{If } t_e \leq \frac{B}{3}, q_1 = \frac{2W_e}{3t_e}, q_2 = 0$$

- $q_1 = p_e$  must be less than 400~500 kPa/m<sup>2</sup> usually. Recently the limit is increased to 600 kPa/m<sup>2</sup> due to increasing weight of caisson in deeper water.

#### 4.3.2 Stable Width of Upright Section

Required  $B = \text{function}(H, T, i, D, \beta, h, d)$

See Figs. 4.12~4.16:

$B \uparrow$  as  $H \uparrow$   
 $T \uparrow$

$i \uparrow$  in shallow water } breaking wave reaction  
 $D \uparrow$  in shallow water } breaking wave reaction

Due to many uncertainties,  $B$  is usually determined by hydraulic model tests. However, because it is difficult to change  $B$ , sliding test is usually made by changing  $W$  instead of  $B$ .

## 4.4 Several Design Aspects of Composite Breakwaters

### 4.4.1 Wave Pressure under a Wave Trough



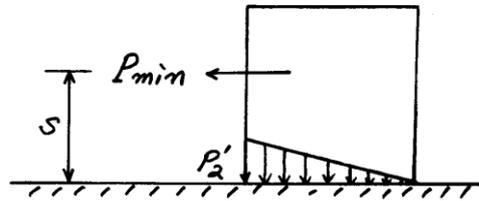
negative dynamic pressure → seaward movement of caisson

Negative pressure for breaking waves has not been examined in detail. Goda and Kakizaki (1966) used finite-amplitude (2<sup>nd</sup> order) standing wave theory.

Fig. 4.17:  $\frac{P_{min}}{w_0 H h}$  versus  $\frac{H}{L}$  and  $\frac{h}{L}$

Fig. 4.18:  $\frac{s}{h}$  versus  $\frac{H}{L}$  and  $\frac{h}{L}$

Fig. 4.19:  $\frac{p_2'}{w_0 H}$  versus  $\frac{H}{L}$  and  $\frac{h}{L}$



where  $w_0 = \rho g$ ,  $h$  = water depth,  $L$  = wave length,  $H$  = incident wave height

### 4.4.2 Uplift on a Large Footing

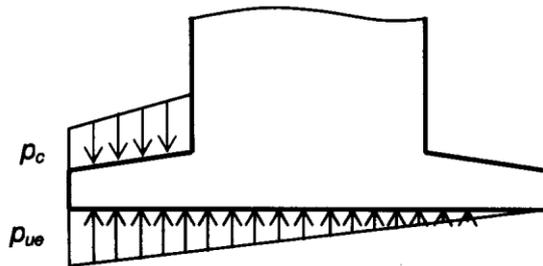
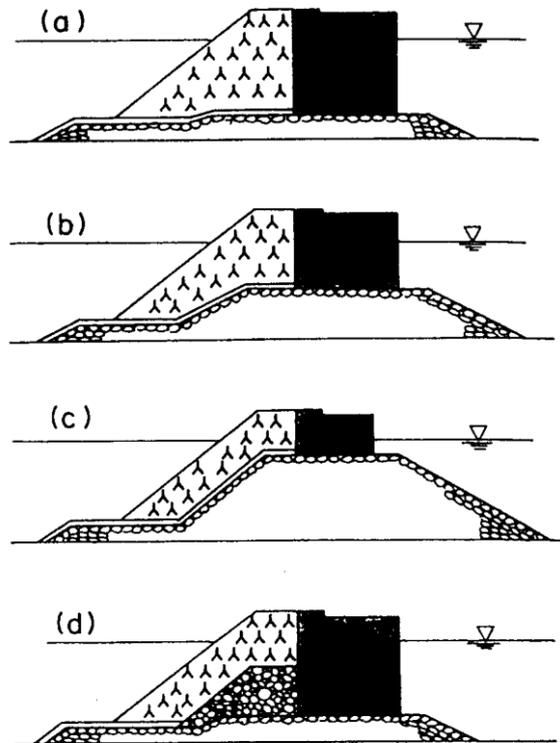


Fig. 4.20 Distributions of downward wave pressure and uplift exerted on a large footing and caisson.

Mostly, the width of footing is 0.5~1.0 m ← neglected in calculation of uplift force

Large footing is used to reduce the heel pressure or for other purposes. Bending moment and shear stress are important for design of large footing ← Use Eqs. (4.40) and (4.41) to calculate downward wave pressure  $p_c$  and uplift pressure  $p_{ue}$

#### 4.4.3 Wave Pressure on Horizontally-Composite Breakwaters



Pressure correction factors  $\lambda_1$ ,  $\lambda_2$ , and  $\lambda_3$  in Goda's formula for horizontally-composite breakwaters are given by Eqs. (4.42) and (4.43): No impulsive breaking wave force  $\rightarrow \lambda_2 = 0$ ; Standing wave pressure is reduced to 80% of vertical caisson without concrete blocks when  $H_{\max} / h > 0.6$ , but no reduction when  $H_{\max} / h \leq 0.3$ .

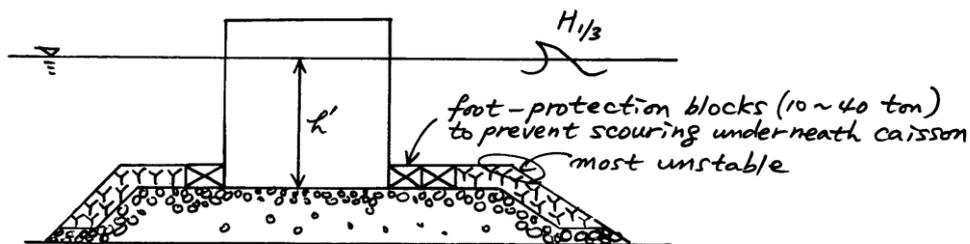
#### 4.4.4 Comments on Design of Concrete Caissons (read text)

## 4.5 Design of Rubble Mound Foundation

### 4.5.1 Dimension of Rubble Mound

- Height of mound: The lower, the better. But needs a minimum height ( $\geq 1.5$  m) to spread the weight of the caisson and wave force over a wide area of seabed and to provide workability of a diver.
- Berm width = 5 ~ 10 m. Wide berm is desirable to protect scouring of seabed, but cost and danger of impulsive pressure on the caisson should be considered.
- Mound slope = 1:2 ~ 1:3 for seaward side, 1:1.5 ~ 1:2 for harbor side.

### 4.5.2 Foot Protection Blocks and Armor Units



Height of foot protection blocks

$$t = AH_{1/3} \left( \frac{h'}{h} \right)^{-0.787} : 0.4 \leq \frac{h'}{h} \leq 1.0, \quad A = 0.21 \text{ (head)}, 0.18 \text{ (trunk)}$$

Required mass of armor units

$$M = \frac{\rho_r}{N_s^3 (S_r - 1)^3} H_{1/3}^3$$

$$D_n = \frac{H_{1/3}}{N_s \Delta} : \Delta = S_r - 1$$

$\rho_r$  = density of armor units

( $\cong 2650 \text{ kg/m}^3$  for quarry stones,  $2300 \text{ kg/m}^3$  for concrete blocks)

$$S_r = \frac{\rho_r}{\rho_w}; \quad \rho_w = \text{density of sea water } (\cong 1030 \text{ kg/m}^3)$$

$N_s$  = stability number given by Eqs. (4.47) ~ (4.55).

#### 4.5.3 Protection against Scouring of the Seabed in Front of a Breakwater

