

On wave impact pressure variability

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ABSTRACT

The variability of the largest wave impacts, where nominally identical waves produce significantly different pressures, is widely known. However, the mechanisms are not well understood. Here we provide a review and investigation of factors affecting the variability of wave impact pressures on steep walls, quantifying the range of parameters that have been used in the literature. We then present two investigations: (i) Setup 1 on the effect of structure slope and (ii) Setup 2 on the effects of kinematics variability on pressure variability. Firstly, wave impacts arising from about 250 focused wave groups interacting with three values of wall steepness (vertical, 10° to the vertical, and 27° to the vertical) showed that steeper walls resulted in larger and more variable impact loads, the largest of which were experienced higher up the wall. The maximum pressure data was seen to be a good fit to the Gumbel model for the vertical wall but closer to the log-Normal distribution for the 10° wall. Parameter estimates for those distributions revealed a systematic variation which could potentially be used to predict maximum impact pressures at intermediate wall angles and locations. The pressure wave arising from the impact was seen to be of highly variable speed, for the 10° wall it was estimated to be about 10 m/s at the 1:25 model scale, decreasing for the 27° wall. In the second investigation, which provided kinematics data using particle tracking velocimetry, rapidly varying velocities close to the impact location were observed, with maximum values at impact being a reasonable fit to the Weibull distribution. Findings indicate that though the water surface may appear to be calm, residual sub-surface velocities undoubtedly play some role in the variability of the subsequent wave impact pressures.

1. INTRODUCTION

Humanity has long been aware of the destructive power of breaking waves and attempts to measure and characterise the resulting forces began when suitable instrumentation became available. Early advances were made by Stevenson (1886) and De Rouville *et al.* (1938) in the field and Bagnold (1939) in the laboratory, all of whom realised that breaking-wave impacts on a steep-fronted structure can generate very high pressures. Despite this, designers of structures required to withstand harsh coastal and offshore environments did not always fully appreciate the importance of wave-impact pressures, in part because the extreme pressures were thought to be too short-lived or localised to be of major significance. An analysis of breakwater failures carried out by Oumeraci (1994), in which breaking waves were blamed for the bodily displacement of massive caissons, did much to change this view and emphasised the need to take account of both the magnitude and duration of the associated forces (Oumeraci *et al.* 2001). Knowledge has also been gained concerning wave impacts' potential for causing localised damage to steep-fronted structures. Examples

48 include the buckling of the bow plating on floating production storage and offloading (FPSO)
49 systems such as those used by the oil industry in the North Sea (Hodgson and Barltrop,
50 2004), and the propagation of impact pressures into cracks that can lead to the removal of
51 blocks from masonry structures (Bezuijen *et al.*, 2005).

52 However, maximum wave impact pressures have been found to be highly variable for similar
53 conditions, making their quantification prone to uncertainty. This aspect has received
54 attention in a number of physical modelling investigations (Bagnold, 1939, Denny, 1951;
55 Hattori *et al.*, 1994; Bullock *et al.*, 2007; Cuomo *et al.*, 2010a). This paper reviews wave
56 impact variability investigations to date, comparing some of the key parameters and
57 statistical distributions used by investigators. It then presents a sequence of two
58 investigations, the first (Setup 1) designed to quantify the wave impact variability on three
59 different geometries using large numbers of repeatable focused wave groups (Section 3)
60 and the second (Setup 2), again using focused wave groups but extending the investigation
61 to include the measurement of wave kinematics (Section 4). Concluding remarks are
62 provided in Section 5.

63 **2. BACKGROUND**

64 **2.1 Causes of wave impact variability**

65 Common to all wave impact tests is the fact that the maximum impact pressures vary
66 substantially from one breaking event to another, even when the breakers originate from
67 nominally identical waves. This is due to a variety of effects including the types of waves
68 used, the 'noise' in the wave channel, *i.e.* residual motion from previous waves (Peregrine,
69 2003), and the turbulence due to wave breaking which can entrain or entrap air.

70 Several researchers have used regular wave trains (Mogridge and Jamieson 1980; Kirkgoz
71 1991; Hattori *et al.* 1994; Bullock *et al.* 2007), sometimes of just a few cycles because of the
72 build-up of reflections in the channel (Marzeddu *et al.*, 2017). However, even individual
73 waves within a short regular wave train will be different due to the preceding waves
74 modifying the next incident wave; in early tests by Mogridge and Jamieson (1980) it was
75 estimated that wave height varied by $\pm 4\%$, though more recent tests by Marzeddu *et al.*
76 (2017) on highly repeatable short duration regular waves interacting with a laboratory scale
77 breakwater had a mean percentage error of 1% or less. Other researchers have used
78 solitary waves: Bagnold (1939) reported that with a mains voltage fluctuation of the order of
79 3% it was not possible to control the wave such that there would be a succession of wave
80 impacts. However, in the same lab some years later, Denny (1951) reported that a new
81 control mechanism was devised to ensure repeatability of the paddle motion to within 2%.

82 Short wave packet or focused groups have been used by several investigators: small-scale
83 deep-water tests were undertaken by Chan and Melville (1988) and full-scale tests for the
84 SLOSH project in the Delta flume by Hofland *et al.* (2010). The latter tests revealed that
85 flip-through impact types created largest variability. Reporting on the same project, but on
86 both full-scale tests in the Delta flume and 1:6 'large-scale' tests in the Scheldt flume,
87 Bogaert *et al.* (2010) calculated the coefficient of variation of various parameters, and
88 confirmed that in the Scheldt flume, greatest variability in maximum pressures was seen for
89 flip-through impacts (45%), then for impacts having trapped air pockets (15%), then sloshing
90 impacts (0.1%), all for small numbers of tests (≤ 10). Furthermore, repeatability of tests in the
91 Delta flume were affected by the wind (Hofland *et al.*, 2010; Bogaert *et al.*, 2010).

92 Wave impacts have also been simulated by dropping objects onto still water (*e.g.* Verhagen
93 1967; Zhu *et al.* 1995; Ma *et al.* 2016; Mai 2017). Mai (2017) found the repeatability of the
94 drop test impact velocity was about 1 to 2% (standard deviation as a percentage of the

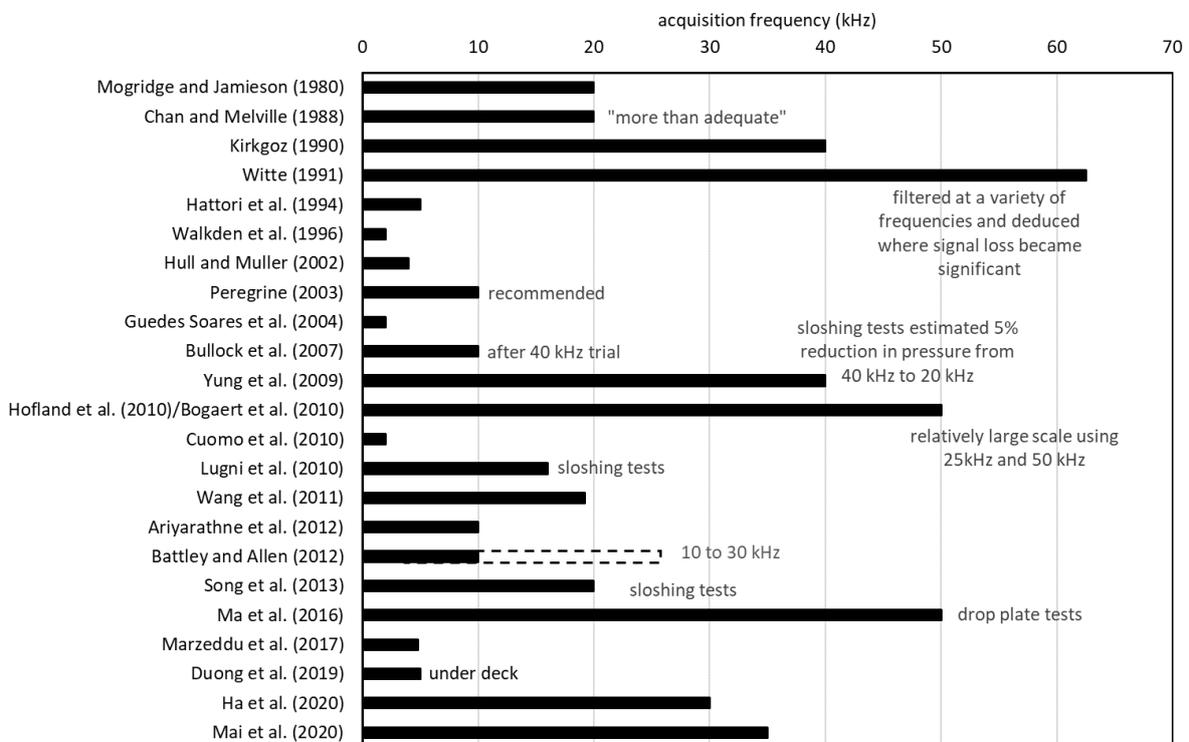
95 mean) but the impact pressures varied by up to 9%. Battley and Allen (2012) reported
96 differences of 3% in velocity and differences of 11.3%, 4.4% and 0.8% in the impulse at
97 each of their transducer locations, for drop tests of a rigid panel at a nominal impact velocity
98 of 5 m/s.

99 Finally, sloshing motion in fluid tanks is also known to give rise to significant impacts and has
100 been the subject of much study in naval architecture and marine engineering (e.g. Faltinsen
101 1974; Akyildiz and Erdem Ubal 2006; Song *et al.* 2013). Song *et al.* (2013) used the Bubble
102 Image Velocimetry to try to establish a relationship between the velocity of the flow and the
103 resulting pressures in the tank. They used data from a single sloshing test cycle, and
104 repeated the test 20 times. They do not provide a quantification of the repeatability of the
105 motion, or the highest impact pressures, though they give a standard deviation of more than
106 20% for the maximum velocities.

107 In a bid to reduce the effect of residual motions, the flume should be allowed to settle for an
108 appropriate time period between tests. Denny (1951) ran two sets of tests, firstly in 'calm'
109 water (with a 15-20 minute delay between wave trains) and 'disturbed' water (with no delay)
110 and found that the average impact pressures were reduced by 50% if the water was
111 disturbed (cited by Walkden and Bruce, 1999); Chan and Melville (1988) allowed 30 minutes
112 between wave groups; Kirkgoz (1990) limited his tests to 20 waves after which he waited
113 about an hour; Hull and Muller (2002) allowed just 2 ½ minutes between tests that
114 comprised 5 or 6 waves; and Marzeddu *et al.* (2017) waited 3 minutes (A. Marzeddu 2017,
115 personal communication). Disturbances caused by preceding wave breaking were discussed
116 by Bogaert *et al.* (2010); these necessitated the redesign of a series tests in the large Delta
117 flume.

118 Furthermore, because impact pressure maxima are both spatially and temporally localised,
119 the accuracy and repeatability of the measurements are affected by: the number and
120 spacing of the sensors; and the data collection rate. To reduce the spatial limitations of their
121 transducer array, Stagonas *et al.* (2016) used a pressure mapping system, which had 196
122 sensor elements uniformly distributed over a 71 mm x 71 mm square. Currently this
123 technology is not widely used because of challenges related to calibration, longevity and
124 cost. Kimmoun *et al.* (2010) used a remarkable 88 pressure sensors, in a cruciform
125 configuration but the repeatability of their experiments was negatively affected by issues
126 such as variation in water depth due to evaporation. For reasons of economy and
127 practicality, between five (Ma *et al.*, 2016; Duong *et al.*, 2019, Ha *et al.*, 2020, Mai *et al.*,
128 2020) and 15 (Song *et al.*, 2013) sensors are normally used, with a bias towards the lower
129 end, particularly in small-scale tests. Thus, the use of 6 sensors is in line with common
130 practice in coastal engineering. Some investigations in maritime and naval applications have
131 used much higher resolutions e.g., Chan and Melville (1988) who mention 29 transducer
132 locations and Bogaert *et al.* (2010) who apparently had up to 300 locations. Certainly, higher
133 resolutions would be desirable and could be obtained by positioning a limited number of
134 sensors in different locations. However, this would be at the cost of a significant increase in
135 repetitions, and with some uncertainty about whether extremes were captured for all
136 configurations. Regarding the size of the sensor heads, for a large measurement area, the
137 greater spatial averaging is likely to cause peak pressures to be underestimated but improve
138 repeatability. Whilst peak pressures can be more accurately recorded by use of a transducer
139 with a small measurement area, the chances of the head location coinciding with the peak
140 are obviously reduced. As the impact location also varies, there is an unavoidable trade-off
141 between resolution and repeatability. Furthermore, Kim *et al.* (2015) found size to be
142 important from a sensitivity aspect, with a larger pressure transducer being more stable to
143 changes of medium and temperature.

144 Debates around the acquisition rates necessary to accurately resolve the pressure time
 145 history have been running for some time. With the pressure spike lasting just a few tens of
 146 milliseconds it is necessary to acquire data in the range of kilohertz to get close to capturing
 147 the tip of the spike, otherwise the maximum impact pressure will be wrongly measured. The
 148 wide variety of acquisition frequencies that have been used in small scale experiments are
 149 shown in Figure 1. Interestingly there is no clear trend of acquisition rates with time. Based
 150 on seminal wave loading experiments in the Large Wave Flume in Hannover, Schmidt *et al.*
 151 (1992) provided percentage loss results in maximum pressures, suggesting that a sample
 152 rate of 1 kHz may result in a 7% underestimate in maximum impact pressure with respect to
 153 values obtained at 11 kHz. Mogridge and Jamieson (1980) surmised that improvements in
 154 the quality of experiments has resulted in larger pressures being attained, however some of
 155 the largest pressures ever recorded (Bagnold, 1939) used the most rudimentary equipment.
 156 Given that Bagnold (1939) used analogue equipment and therefore had no quantisation
 157 errors, it could be argued that analogue equipment with an appropriate frequency response
 158 should be used.



159

160 *Figure 1: Range of data acquisition frequencies used in laboratory wave impact tests (unless*
 161 *labelled as sloshing or drop plate tests).*

162 Finally, recent investigations have begun to shed some light on the causes of the
 163 hydrodynamic variability. Lubin *et al.* (2019) and Dias and Ghidaglia (2018) suggest
 164 instabilities on the wave crest are the source of wave impact variability. Van Meerkerk *et al.*
 165 (2021) investigate this effect using focused wave groups to generate a plunging breaking
 166 wave on a vertical wall, measuring gas flow dynamics around the wave crest tip, using
 167 planar particle image velocimetry and stereo planar laser induced fluorescence. Their
 168 experiments revealed the presence of vortices, and they conclude that the gas phase could
 169 affect the impact pressure variability, because it contributes to the variability of the impact
 170 location. Van Meerkerk *et al.* (2021) also mention the effects of temperature variation and
 171 the presence of surface particles *i.e.* dust.

172 **2.2 Quantification of the maximum impact pressure variability**

173 Several investigators have attempted to quantify the variability of maximum pressures using
174 regular waves: Walkden *et al.* (1996) presented the probability of occurrence of maximum
175 pressures, but commented that the interpretation of such results for design purposes was
176 not clear; Mogridge and Jamieson (1980) produced cumulative probability distributions for
177 wave impact data from solid and perforated caisson walls; Hull and Muller (2002) presented
178 scatter graphs showing the spread in maximum pressure measurements at different wave
179 heights; and Bullock *et al.* (2007) provided percentage exceedance curves for four different
180 impact types identified, which could be used to give an indication of wave impact severity.

181 The starting point for a theoretical approach to quantifying variability is the quantification of
182 the level of air entrained or entrapped in the breaking wave that leads to random behaviour.
183 Führböter (1987) postulated that the thickness of an air cushion at the structure (Bagnold,
184 1939) is strongly stochastic and follows a Gaussian distribution. In this case the maximum
185 pressures, which are related to the size of the air cushion, can be fitted by a log-Normal
186 distribution. This distribution was subsequently used by Witte (1991) and Kirkgoz (1990,
187 1991, 1995) to present their own data. However, the early PROVERBS (Probabilistic design
188 tools for vertical breakwaters) project investigations (Kortenhaus, 1997; Oumeraci and
189 Kortenhaus, 1997), which used data from a number of different tests (McConnell and
190 Kortenhaus 1996, Kortenhaus *et al.* 1994 and Allsop *et al.* 1996), considered several
191 distributions. Kortenhaus' (1997) results showed that the log-Weibull distribution, with
192 parameters estimated using linear regression, provided the best fit to breaking wave impact
193 data. However, following further analysis by project partners, the final suggestion in the
194 PROVERBS guidance (Oumeraci *et al.* 2001) was to use the General Extreme Value (GEV)
195 distribution; whilst there was limited difference in the fit, it was deemed to provide greater
196 flexibility (A. Kortenhaus 2012, personal communication). Cuomo *et al.* (2010b) fitted wave
197 impact and pressure rise time (time to achieve the maximum pressure) data from irregular
198 wave tests to a joint-probability distribution which permits conditional and coupled
199 occurrences to be deduced. Subsequently Marzeddu *et al.* (2017) used short-duration
200 regular wave trains and proposed the gamma distribution for maximum pressures and the
201 GEV for maximum forces.

202 The effect of wall angle on the maximum impact pressures and variability has been the
203 subject of some investigation, but the findings are not consistent. Richert (1968) found that it
204 was not possible to create the same size shock pressures on a wall inclined at 30° to the
205 vertical compared with those on a vertical wall, due to no air cushion being entrapped. In
206 contrast, Kirkgoz (1991) investigated walls inclined at several angles to the vertical (-5°, 0°,
207 5°, 10°, 20°, 30° and 45°) and found that the maximum impact pressures increased as the
208 wall slope decreased from vertical to 30°, before the pressures then decreased on the 45°
209 wall. A possible explanation for this apparent anomaly is that Kirkgoz optimised his waves to
210 produce 'perfect breaking' on each wall slope, thereby changing the input characteristics as
211 well as the wall slope. On the wave impact variability, Kirkgoz plotted maximum impact
212 pressures on log-Normal graphs onto which data from the 0° and 10° walls collapsed.
213 However, for the 30° wall the largest pressures showed a higher probability of occurrence
214 than the normal distribution. Bullock *et al.* (2007) conducted tests at both 0° and 27° in the
215 GWK but only provided percentage exceedance curves for the vertical wall. They mention
216 that the loading (pressure, force and impulse) on the sloping wall tended to be less than on
217 the vertical wall for the same wave cases, though there were fewer tests on the sloping wall.

218 These statistical treatments require large data sets to give confidence in the distributions;
219 Davey *et al.* (2008) warn of the difficulties in fitting distributions at the extremes where data
220 are scarce. Kortenhaus (1997) suggests that a minimum of 250 data points is required. Chan

221 and Melville (1988) obtained a large number of wave impacts for different breaking wave
 222 types, but for identical tests had a maximum of only 10 repeats. Mogridge and Jamieson
 223 (1980) had 300 tests but used sets of 10 regular waves so they were not strictly repeatable,
 224 as already mentioned. Marzeddu *et al.* (2017) experiments used 120 repeat tests for four
 225 different regular wave trains.

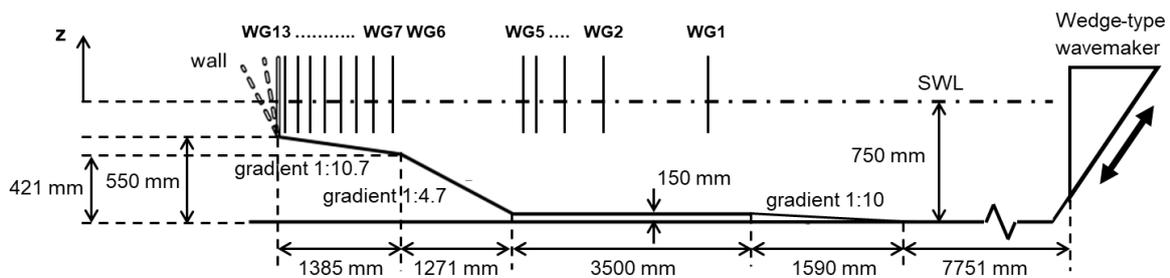
226 Exhibiting less variability and therefore of greater use in design guidance is the pressure- or
 227 force-impulse: the time-integral of pressure (or force). Both Denny (1951) and Walkden *et al.*
 228 (1996) present frequency distributions for maximum impact pressures and impulse,
 229 demonstrating that the impulse distribution is much more compact, *i.e.* less variable, than the
 230 pressure maxima, confirming the findings of others *e.g.* Chan and Melville (1988).

231 In conclusion, it has been established that to obtain the most repeatable wave impacts it is
 232 necessary to minimise residual motions, to allow the water to settle between tests, to sample
 233 data at a high enough rate to capture the peak value, to have a high spatial distribution of
 234 pressure sensors, and to have sufficient repeats for findings to be statistically significant.
 235 The following tests were designed to fulfil these requirements, excepting the high spatial
 236 distribution, as tests used a relatively modest number of conventional sensors. The tests
 237 methodically investigate the effect of wall slope on the variability (Setup 1) and relate the
 238 underlying kinematics to the resulting impact pressures (Setup 2).

239 3. QUANTIFICATION OF WAVE IMPACT VARIABILITY ON DIFFERENT SLOPES

240 3.1 Experimental Setup 1

241 Tests reported here were conducted as part of the Breaking Wave Impacts on COastal
 242 SStructures (BWIMCOST) project (Bullock *et al.* 2007) and as such were undertaken on a
 243 1:25 scale model of Admiralty Breakwater in Alderney, constructed in a 20 m wave flume
 244 (see Figure 2) with a still water level (SWL) 750 mm above the flume bed and 200 mm
 245 above the toe of the wall. Three wall slopes were investigated: 27° to the vertical (similar to
 246 the Admiralty Breakwater), 10° to the vertical and a vertical wall.



247

248 *Figure 2: Schematic diagram of Setup 1 wave flume, indicating approximate wave gauge*
 249 *(WG) locations and details of the bathymetry (not to scale).*

250 In order to produce impacts with the highest degree of repeatability, and an appropriate
 251 representation of large ocean waves, focused wave groups were used (see also Chan &
 252 Melville, 1988, Hofland *et al.*, 2010 and Whittaker *et al.* 2016). In contrast to the work of
 253 Kirkgoz (1990, 1991, and 1995) who optimised his wave for each wall slope with a view to
 254 producing the maximum impact on the slope being used, in the current investigation the
 255 same focused wave group was used on all three wall slopes. This provides a more stringent
 256 test of the effect of identical offshore conditions on different wall geometries. Waves were
 257 generated with a wedge-type wavemaker (Bullock and Murton, 1989).

258 An optimisation process was initially undertaken to find the wave that produced the largest
 259 impact on the 27° wall, subject to the sample of tests used. This same wave produced some
 260 of the highest impact pressures on the vertical wall so was subsequently used on the vertical
 261 and the 10° wall. The simple input signal for a focused group is described by Hunt-Raby *et*
 262 *al.* (2011), but here we also included second order corrections (Barthel *et al.*, 1983) plus
 263 those due to evanescent modes (T. Baldock 2004, personal communication, 15 May). The
 264 group had a Pierson-Moskowitz spectral shape, defined by 34 wave components across a
 265 frequency band of 0.293 Hz to 1.454 Hz, with a peak frequency of 0.5 Hz. It had a nominal
 266 central crest amplitude of 390 mm and a target focus location 11 m from the paddle.
 267 Preliminary tests were conducted to determine how long the water would take to settle
 268 between runs; 10 minutes was deemed sufficient for this compact wave packet.

269 Surface elevation time histories were obtained using resistance-type wave gauges placed at
 270 up to 13 locations, as stated in Table 1, with a data acquisition rate of 30 Hz. Data have
 271 been presented with time zero ($t = 0$ s) corresponding to the time of maximum force on the
 272 wall. A total of 99 data sets are available for both the vertical and 27° walls, and 46 sets for
 273 the 10° wall.

274 In order to determine impact pressures, six 10 mm diameter XPM10 FGP Sensors pressure
 275 transducers were placed along the vertical centreline of the wall at elevations shown in Table
 276 1. Pressures were recorded at 10 kHz by means of a desktop computer containing a
 277 National Instruments logging card NI PCI-6013, 16-Bit, 16-Analog-Input Multifunction DAQ,
 278 and National Instruments LabVIEW logging software. Synchronisation between wave gauge
 279 and pressure transducers was achieved by including a 5V trigger pulse in the surface
 280 elevation measurements as the pressure data acquisition commenced. However, the 33.33
 281 ms duration between surface elevation data points was found to be insufficient resolution to
 282 precisely synchronise the impact pressure peaks between tests. Therefore a further level of
 283 synchronisation was undertaken, using a least-squares fit to the preceding quasi-hydrostatic
 284 signal that arose from a highly repeatable gentle sloshing wave. Force time histories were
 285 estimated by linear spatial integrations of the instantaneous pressures over areas as shown
 286 in Figure 3, on the assumptions that a) the pressure measured by each transducer was
 287 constant up to the mid-point between adjacent transducers; b) the pressure measured by P1
 288 remained constant below P1 for half the vertical distance between P1 and P2 and c) the
 289 pressure measured by P6 remained constant above P6 for half the vertical distance between
 290 P5 and P6.

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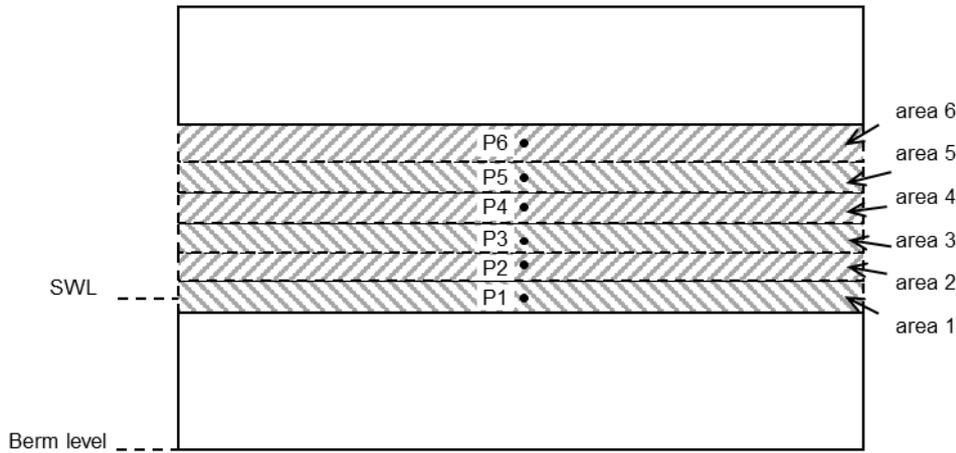
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Table 1: Setup 1 wave gauge and pressure transducer locations.

Wave gauge ID	Gauge location offshore of the wall toe (m)	Pressure transducer ID	Transducer location above SWL (mm)		
			Vertical wall	10° wall	27° wall
WG1	5.025	P1	2	2	2
WG2	3.765	P2	46	45	40
WG3	3.130	P3	78	77	68
WG4	2.785	P4	123	121	108
WG5	2.650	P5	163	161	143
WG6	1.125	P6	208	205	183
WG7	0.925				

WG8	0.720
WG9	0.525
WG10	0.320
WG11	0.230
WG12	0.123
WG13	0.025

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294

295 *Figure 3: Schematic diagram of wall showing pressure transducer locations and the*
 296 *respective areas over which forces were determined.*

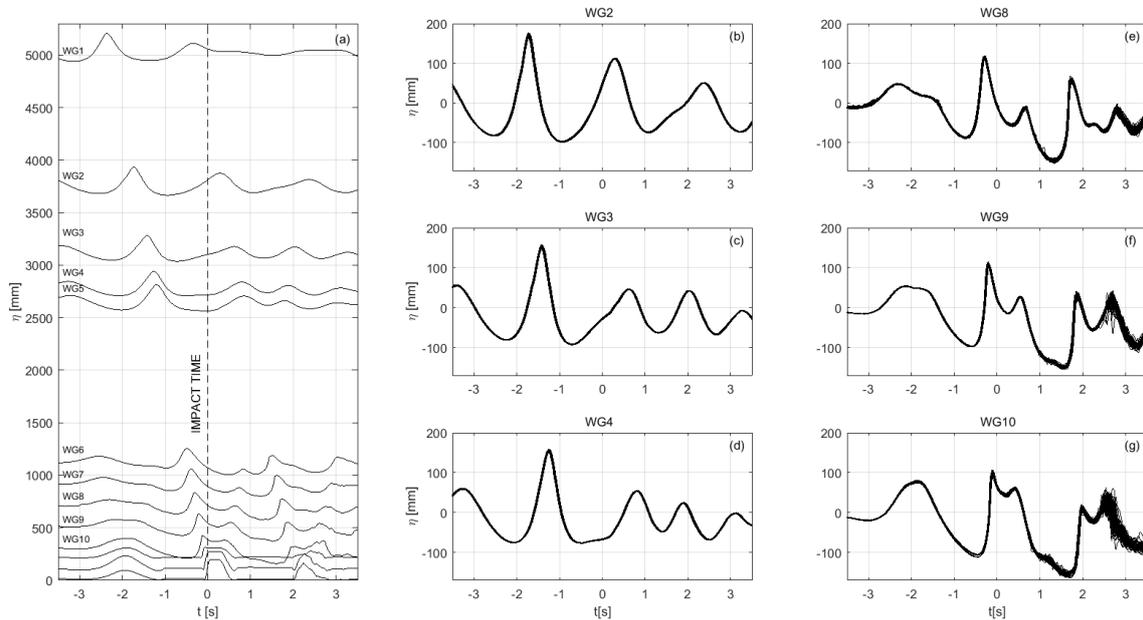
297 **3.2 Surface elevation variability**

298 Figure 4 (a) shows mean surface elevations for WG1-WG13 as the wave group propagated
 299 along the channel to the vertical wall. The position of WG4 corresponds to the apparent
 300 focus location of the wave group when the troughs either side of the central crest are the
 301 same size. This location is 1.7 m shoreward of the specified focus location but this
 302 discrepancy is to be expected due to nonlinear interactions between wave components
 303 (Baldock *et al.*, 1996). The measured central crest amplitude at WG4 was of the order of 160
 304 mm, far smaller than the nominal amplitude of 390 mm; it is likely that a manual adjustment
 305 was made to the generator gain, to reduce the size of the focused group to avoid wave
 306 breaking far from the wall. WG11 - 13 suffered from signal drop-out from the trough as they
 307 were situated in very shallow water. There was also electrical interference due to their close
 308 proximity to the bed, so they are not used in further analysis.

309 Data from 99 overlaid tests are shown in Figures 4(b) – (g). They show a high degree of
 310 repeatability before the impact, but less so afterwards. There is also a discernible reduction
 311 in repeatability for gauges closer to the wall, particularly for WG8 and WG10. The root mean
 312 square error of the impacting wave surface elevation (determined from preceding trough to
 313 subsequent crest) as measured at the closest wave gauge to the paddle (WG1), is 3.0%.
 314 This compares reasonably well to the highly repeatable tests of Marzeddu *et al.* (2017), who
 315 achieved 1.3% for their linear wave and 2.9% for their cnoidal wave, both determined at a
 316 distance of 3 m from their paddle. One source of the relatively high error is that surface
 317 elevation data were acquired at 30 Hz, compared to 100 Hz by Marzeddu *et al.* (2017). *N.B.*
 318 WG6 – WG13 data were only acquired for the vertical wall investigations due to the
 319 considerable time taken for daily calibration of the gauges and the limited additional

320 information that they provided. Note also from Figure 4 that the wave gauges closest to the
321 wall (WG11 – WG13) show clipping of the signals, but these data are not used for any
322 subsequent analysis.

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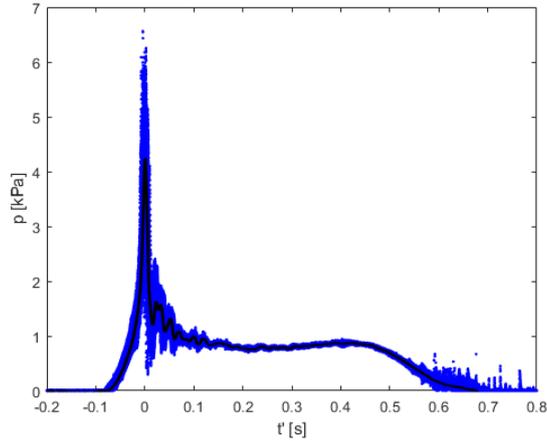


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325 *Figure 4: Vertical wall surface elevation time histories (a) mean measurements at the gauge*
326 *locations and (b) to (g) 99 overlaid tests from six selected wave gauges.*

327 3.3 Pressure variability

328 Figure 5 shows pressure time history data from 99 repeat tests on the vertical wall at the
329 lowest pressure transducer, P1, where blue dots indicate individual data points. The mean
330 curve, indicated by the solid black line, shows the typical 'church steeple' shape
331 characteristic of wave impacts (Peregrine, 2003). The time variable, t , is with respect to the
332 time of the mean curve peak. A good degree of repeatability is evident just before the impact
333 and during the smoothly varying pseudo-hydrostatic region between 0.2 s and 0.5 s after
334 impact. Beyond 0.5 s the data become more variable again, which may be due to spray
335 falling back onto the water surface. The oscillations after impact indicate that most, if not all,
336 of the impacts were of the high-aeration type (Bullock *et al.*, 2007); the scatter of results
337 suggests that the amplitude of the oscillations varied from test to test. If the frequency of the
338 oscillations also changed, it would suggest that there was significant variation in the volume
339 of air trapped (Minnaert, 1933; Hattori *et al.*, 1994), but that has not been investigated here.



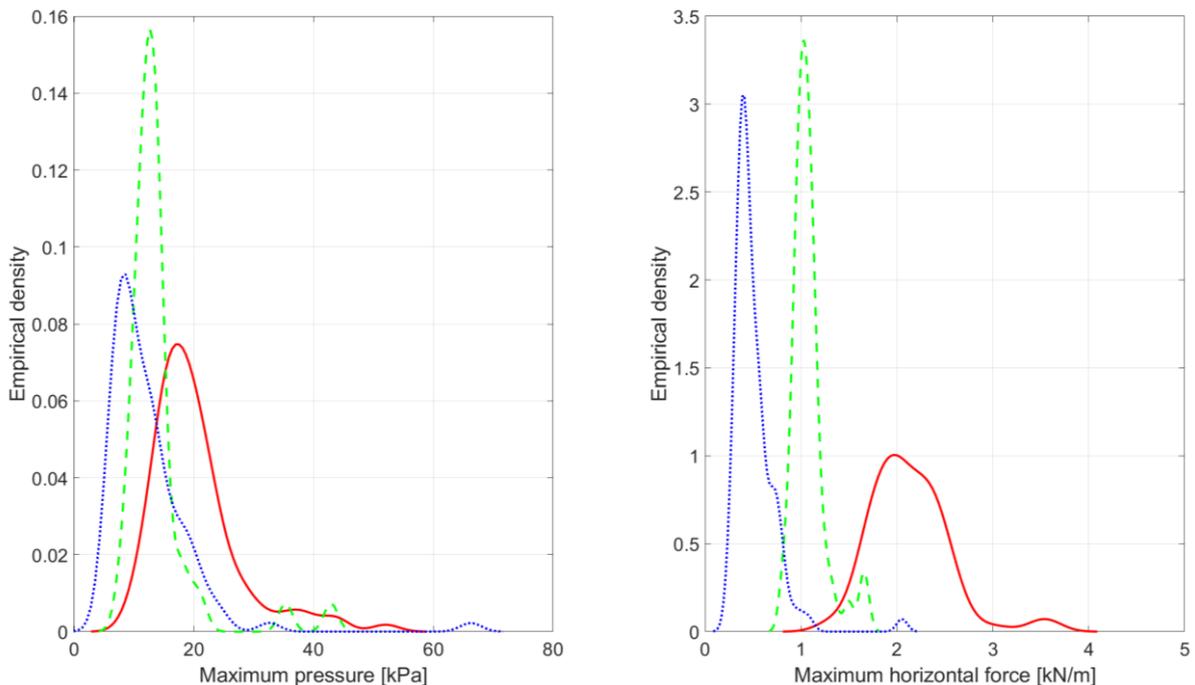
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341 *Figure 5: 99 repeated pressure time histories at P1 on the vertical wall: Blue dots indicate*
 342 *data acquired at 10 kHz and the black solid line is the calculated mean*

343 Coefficients of variation of the maximum impact pressures at each of the transducer
 344 locations varied from 8% to 103% (Table A.1, Appendix A), higher than those reported by
 345 Bogaert *et al.* (2010) (0.1% for sloshing wave, 15% for an air pocket and 45% for flip-through
 346 type impact). This difference may be due to the lower resolution of pressure gauges in the
 347 present tests.

348 **3.4 Pressure and force frequency distributions**

349 Figure 6 presents maximum pressure and horizontal force empirical densities for the three
 350 wall slopes. In terms of wall slope, the ordering of empirical densities for maximum pressure
 351 and force is the same. It can also be seen that the densities for maximum force are
 352 somewhat more separated than those of maximum pressure. Finally, the densities for
 353 maximum pressure, especially at 10° deg and 27°, exhibit longer right-hand tails. Summary
 354 statistics are provided in Table B.1 (Appendix B). These show that the relative standard
 355 deviation (standard deviation/mean) of both the maximum pressures and forces generally
 356 decreases with increasing wall steepness.

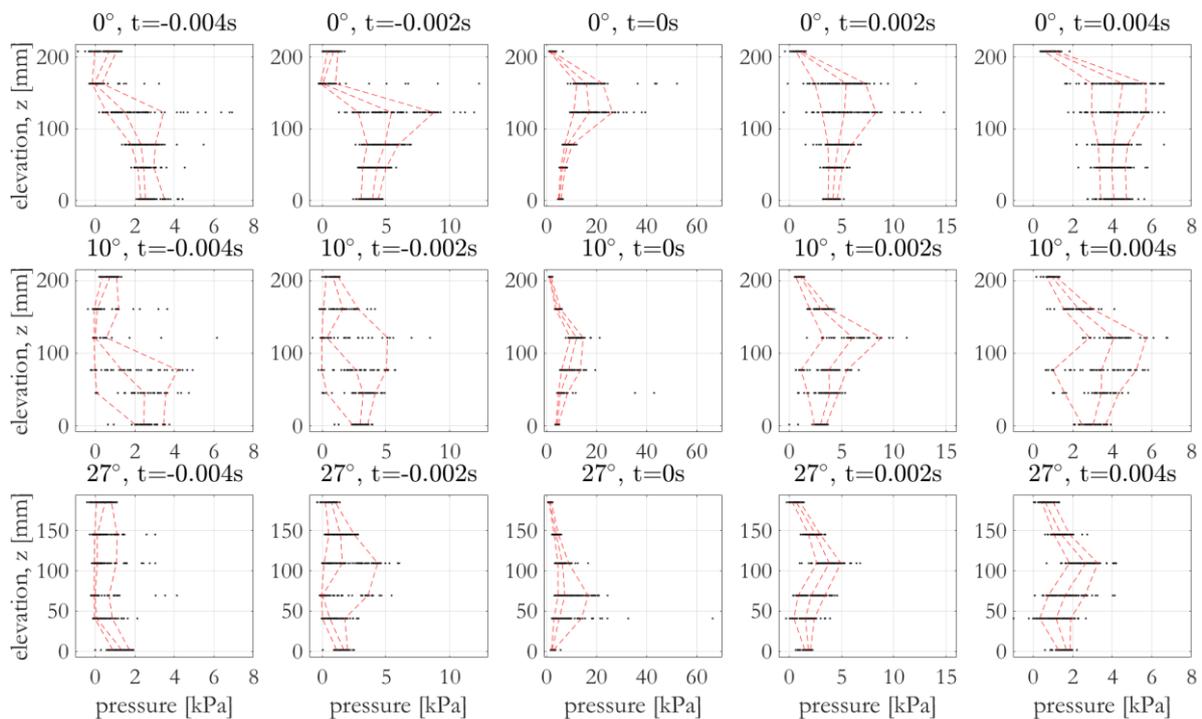


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358 *Figure 6: Empirical densities of (a) maximum recorded pressures and (b) maximum*
 359 *estimated forces: red — 0°; green - - - 10°; blue ...27°.*

360 **3.5 Spatial distributions of pressures**

361 In order to understand the spatial evolution of the wave impact, Figure 7 presents pressure
 362 data at elevations (z) with respect to SWL at five instances in time, for the three walls,
 363 indicating the extent of the impact zone. The first observation is that the highest pressures
 364 occur some distance above the SWL. Different locations of maximum impact pressure have
 365 been reported in the literature, with Hull & Muller (2002) suggesting that the position is likely
 366 to be dependent on wave shape at impact. Hofland *et al.* (2010), who used focused wave
 367 groups, also report maximum impact pressures above SWL. Secondly, the elevation of the
 368 maximum pressures seems to increase with increasing wall steepness: on the vertical wall
 369 the maximum pressure recorded during an experiment only ever occurred at transducers P4
 370 and P5; on the 10° wall maximum pressures also occur at around P4 to P5; and on the 27°
 371 wall maximum pressures are lower down, at transducers P2 to P3. Kirkgoz (1995) also found
 372 that the maximum point of the distribution curve became progressively lower for less steep
 373 walls. However, he discovered that the location of maximum pressures showed a much
 374 larger variability than is evident from the current data. Thirdly, looking at the mean values at t
 375 = 0 s, the impact pressure is generally reduced for gentler slopes. But defying this trend, the
 376 highest impact pressure recorded at $t = 0$ s occurred on the 27° wall; this anomalous result is
 377 likely to be due to the optimization of wave impacts for this wall geometry.



378
 379 *Figure 7: Vertical spatial distribution of maximum impact pressure at elevations above the*
 380 *SWL at five instances in time (sequential columns) for each wall slope (sequential rows):*
 381 *dots indicate individual maxima and dashed red lines indicate the 10, 50 and 90 percentile*
 382 *values.*

383 **3.6 Pressure probability distributions**

384 Illustrations of the fits of Weibull, Log-Normal and Gumbel distributions to the empirical
 385 distribution of maximum pressure measurements at each location P1, P2, ..., P6 and wall

386 angle 0°, 10° and 27° are given in Figure 8. The probability density functions for the three
387 distributions are as follows.

388 Weibull:

$$f(x|\lambda, k) = \frac{k}{\lambda} \left(\frac{x}{\lambda}\right)^{k-1} e^{-\left(\frac{x}{\lambda}\right)^k} \quad (1)$$

389 where variable $x > 0$ represents maximum pressure here, and $\lambda > 0$ and $k > 0$ are scale and
390 shape respectively;

391 log-Normal:

$$f(x|\mu, \sigma) = \frac{1}{x\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp\left\{-\frac{(\ln x - \mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right\}, \quad (2)$$

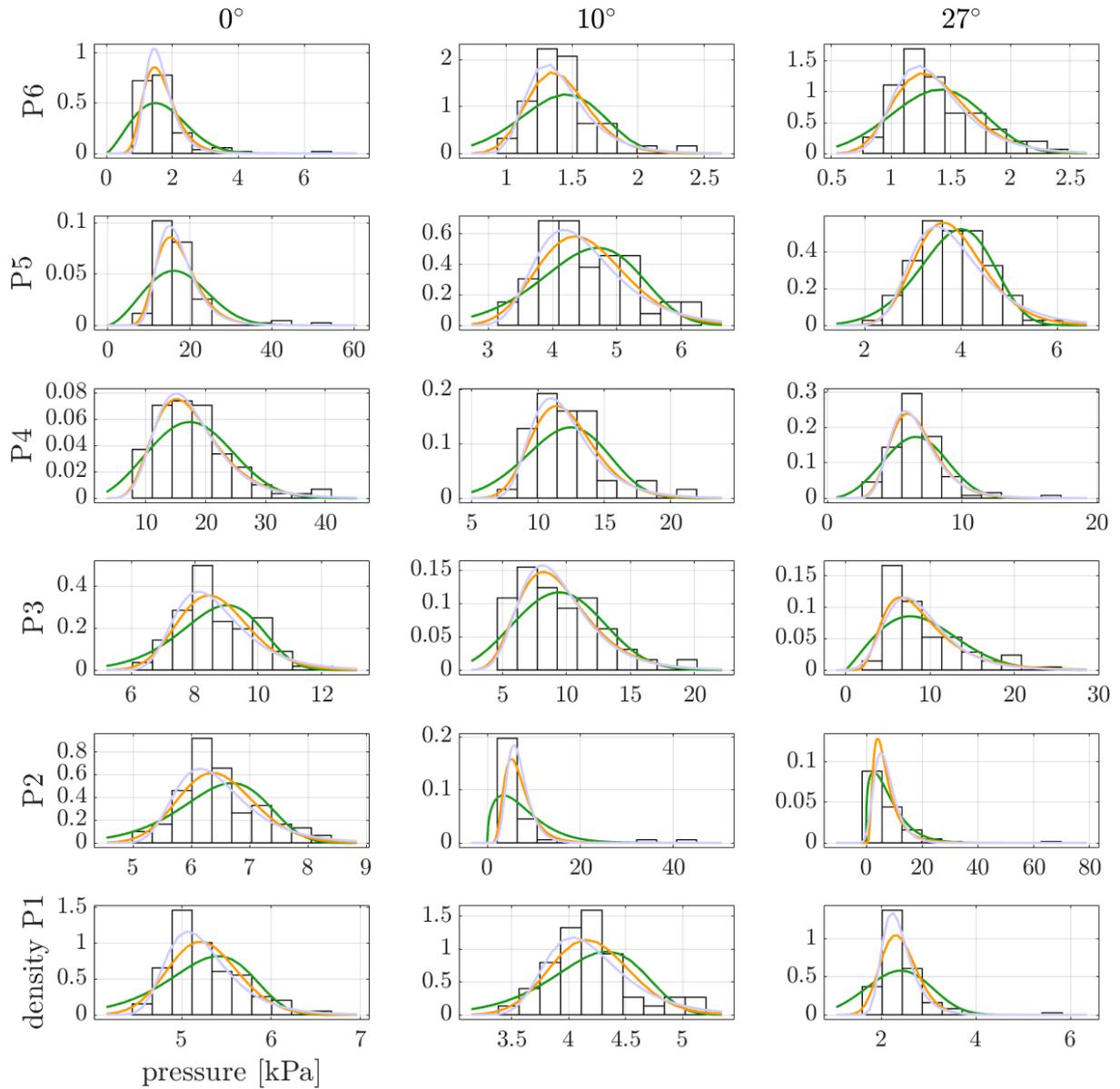
392 where μ is the mean and $\sigma > 0$ is the standard deviation; and

393 Gumbel:

$$f(x|\mu, \beta) = \frac{1}{\beta} \exp(-(z + e^{-z})), \quad (3)$$

394 where $z = \frac{x-\mu}{\beta}$, for location μ and scale $\beta > 0$.

395



396

397 *Figure 8: Empirical densities (black) for maximum pressure at locations P1, P2, ..., P6 and*
 398 *angles 0°, 10° and 27° with corresponding Weibull (Wbl, green), Log-Normal (LgN, orange)*
 399 *and Gumbel (Gmb, blue-grey) fits.*

400 In general, all model forms give a reasonably satisfactory description of the empirical
 401 distribution of measurements. For quantitative comparison of the different models, Table 2
 402 gives corresponding Kullback-Leibler (KL) divergences. The KL divergence is a measure of
 403 the difference between two distributions; a value of KL divergence of zero indicates perfect
 404 agreement between the distributions, with quality of agreement decreasing with increasing
 405 value of KL divergence. For each combination of location and angle, the minimum KL
 406 divergence over the Weibull, Log-Normal and Gumbel models is given in bold for
 407 convenience in Table 2.

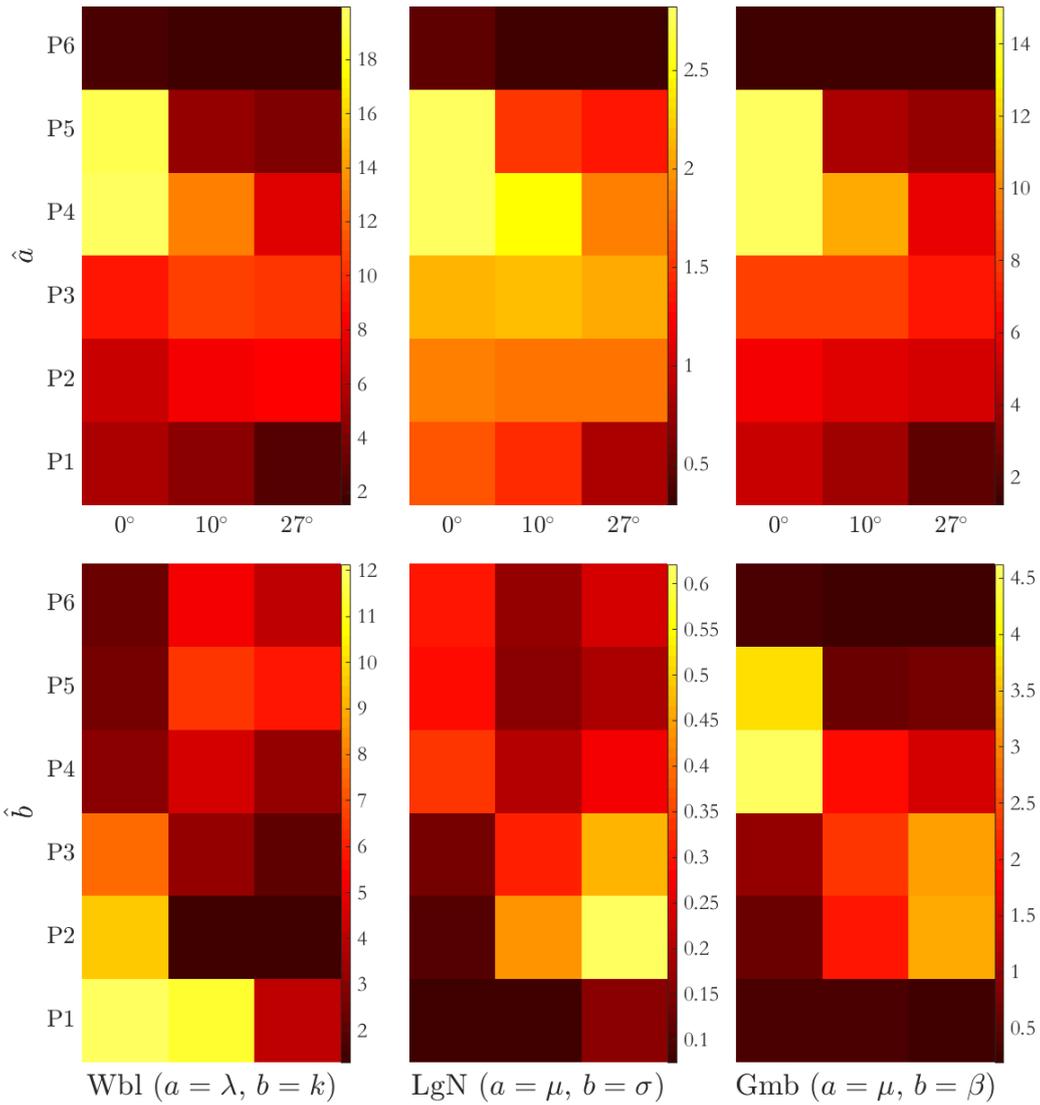
408 *Table 2: Kullback-Leibler (KL) divergences for Weibull (Wbl), Log-Normal (LgN) and Gumbel*
 409 *(Gmb) fits to the empirical distributions of maximum pressure values at 6 locations P1,P2, ...,*
 410 *P6 and three angles 0°, 10° and 27°. Values in bold are the minimum KL divergence for a*
 411 *given combination of angle and location. Perfect agreement corresponds to a KL divergence*
 412 *of zero.*

Wbl	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6
0°	0.0473	0.0415	0.0372	0.0292	0.0787	0.0914
10°	0.0262	0.0428	0.0230	0.0184	0.0227	0.0310
27°	0.1123	0.0630	0.0403	0.0477	0.0258	0.0376
LgN						
0°	0.0311	0.0291	0.0298	0.0244	0.0359	0.0375
10°	0.0184	0.0506	0.0164	0.0150	0.0180	0.0199
27°	0.0362	0.0356	0.0338	0.0294	0.0258	0.0278
Gmb						
0°	0.0240	0.0279	0.0287	0.0288	0.0288	0.0374
10°	0.0207	0.0630	0.0165	0.0168	0.0146	0.0190
27°	0.0261	0.0536	0.0379	0.0316	0.0331	0.0245

413

414 No single model form gives best performance overall, with the Weibull model performing
415 more poorly, with lower KL divergence than the Log-Normal and Gumbel; the Weibull fit for
416 27° at location P1 is particularly poor. For location P6, e.g., the Gumbel model has in
417 general the lowest KL divergence for all angles; yet at P4, the Log-Normal model is best for
418 all angles. For angle 0°, the Gumbel model has in general the lowest KL divergence at all
419 but one location (which happens to be the location of highest impact pressure), yet the Log-
420 Normal model is to be preferred for most locations at angle 10°. Some very large pressure
421 measurements were recorded at P2 and 10°, resulting in the best fit in terms of KL
422 divergence for a Weibull model with long tail.

423 The corresponding parameter estimates from the Weibull, Log-Normal and Gumbel model
424 fits as a function of location and angle are given in Figure 9. There is some evidence of
425 systematic variation of model parameter estimates with location and angle e.g., for the
426 vertical wall (0°), the parameter \hat{a} steadily increases with elevation above the SWL, and the
427 elevation associated with this peak reduces with increasing angle. Trends in the parameter \hat{b}
428 are a little less clear, but for example estimates of its value gradually decrease with elevation
429 for the vertical wall Weibull distribution, though they steadily increase for the same geometry
430 for the Log Normal distribution. Based on the trends it might be feasible to estimate a
431 predictive model for maximum pressure at intermediate locations and wall angles. The
432 parameter estimates in Figure 9 are provided in Table C.1 of Appendix C, and can be used
433 with the appropriate model form from equations (1)-(3), to provide a first estimate of the
434 distribution of maximum pressure.



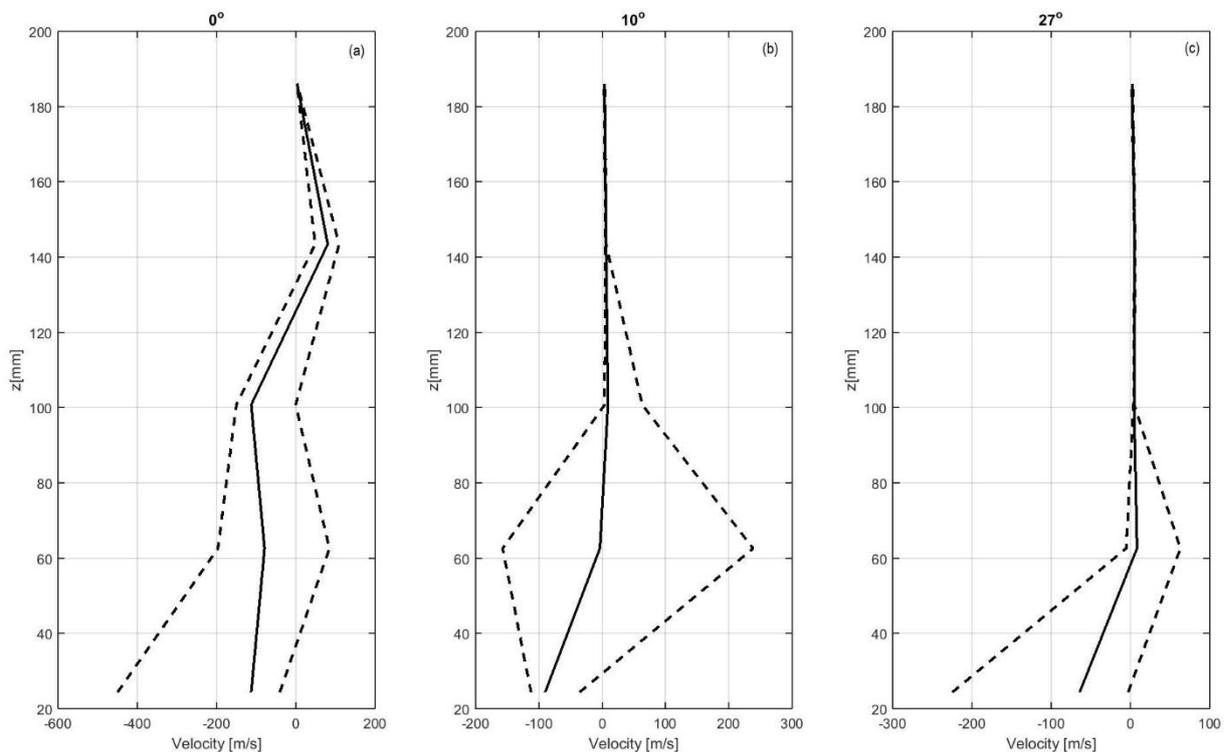
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436 *Figure 9: Parameter estimates \hat{a} and \hat{b} for fits of Weibull (Wbl), Log-Normal (LgN) and*
 437 *Gumbel (Gmb) models to the empirical distribution of maximum pressure measurements for*
 438 *each combination of location P1, P2, ..., P6 and angle 0°, 10° and 27°. Referring to the*
 439 *equations in Section 3.6, the interpretation of parameters is as follows. For Wbl, $a = \lambda, b = k$;*
 440 *for LgN, $a = \mu, b = \sigma$; and for Gmb, $a = \mu, b = \beta$.*

441 **3.7 Pressure wave variability**

442 To provide quantitative information about the characteristics of the pressure wave, we
 443 present the pressure wave celerity. This is estimated from the distance between adjacent
 444 sensors divided by the time that the pressure wave takes to travel between the adjacent
 445 sensors when the pressure first exceeds a particular threshold, in this case 25% of the
 446 maximum pressure at a location. Positive velocities mean that the pressure wave goes up
 447 the wall, and negative means the wave is travelling down. Figure 10 presents these results,
 448 which include 75% uncertainty bounds. Clearly there is a high degree of scatter in velocities
 449 for the lower locations, and on the vertical wall there are limited useful data over the entire
 450 extent of the transducers. The fact that scatter is so significant for the vertical wall compared
 451 to the sloping ones suggests that the nature of the pressure wave is more chaotic, likely
 452 being affected by air entrainment/entrapment. The celerity of a pressure wave is highly
 453 sensitive to the level of aeration, a void fraction of just 2% reducing it from 1450 m/s in pure
 454 water to about 85 m/s at atmospheric pressure (Bredmose et al., 2009). Whilst the ambient

455 level of aeration in the still water in front of the focused-wave group will be much less than
 456 this, there is evidence (Bullock et al., 2001; Blenkinsopp & Chaplin, 2011) to suggest that,
 457 even in small-scale freshwater tests, wave breaking can temporarily increase the level of
 458 aeration to above 2%. 'Infinite' velocities were also obtained for some impacts where the
 459 pressure wave was experienced simultaneously at two transducers (within the limits of the
 460 data acquisition frequency, at least). For the 10° wall where there is greater confidence in
 461 the data at upper transducers, the data suggest that a pressure wave travels towards the top
 462 of the wall at a velocity not exceeding 10 m/s. The general behaviour towards the SWL is
 463 that the pressure wave travels downwards at very large negative velocities of the order of
 464 tens of m/s. The trend is similar for the 27° wall with upward moving velocities of slightly
 465 smaller values than for the 10° wall, presumably because the impact is less violent, and
 466 much smaller uncertainty bands at all locations except between the two lowest transducers.
 467 It should be noted that results might be affected by other causes such as the break-up of a
 468 crest which impacts two pressure sensors in close succession.



469

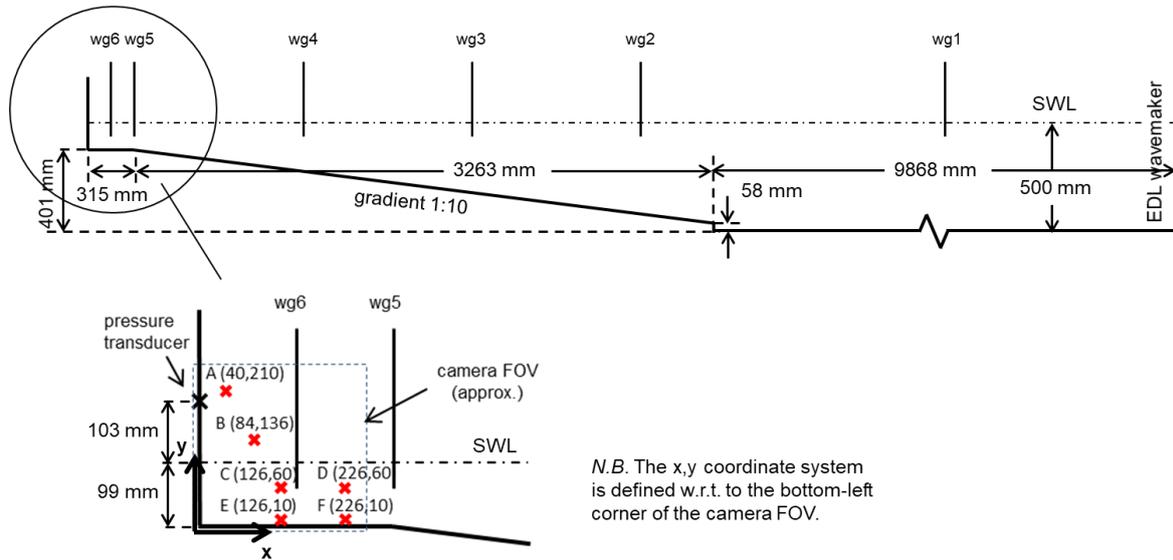
470 *Figure 10: Velocity of pressure wave from sensor to sensor at z elevations above with 75%
 471 uncertainty bounds.*

472 **4. COMPARISONS OF KINEMATICS AND PRESSURE VARIABILITY**

473 **4.1 Experimental Setup 2**

474 The second set of tests were conducted on a vertical wall in a 20 m wave flume in the
 475 COAST Laboratory at the University of Plymouth, with bathymetry as indicated in Figure 11.
 476 The SWL was set at 500 mm over the channel bed and 99 mm over the berm. Focused
 477 wave groups were again used, based upon a Pierson-Moskowitz spectrum with peak
 478 frequency of 0.464 Hz, and a theoretical crest amplitude of 100 mm with a measured wave
 479 amplitude of 104 mm at wg1. They had a theoretical focus location of 15.5 m, which places it
 480 2.06 m beyond the wall. Preliminary corrections to second-order error waves were
 481 implemented in a similar manner to Whittaker *et al.* (2017), but with only partial success. The

482 use of an apparently non-real focus location is merely a convenient way to control the
 483 relative phasing of the wave group properties (Whittaker *et al.*, 2017), and was used here to
 484 produce wave breaking at the vertical wall. A number of repeat tests were conducted, 10
 485 minutes apart, of which 10 tests were used in the data analysis. Resistance wave gauges
 486 with an acquisition rate of 128 Hz were positioned at locations shown in Table 3. Wave
 487 impact pressures were measured with a single FGP XPM10 sensor at 10 kHz, on the centre-
 488 line of a vertical wall, 202 mm above the berm which corresponds to 103 mm above the
 489 SWL.



490

491 *Figure 11: Schematic diagram of Setup 2 indicating wave gauge (wg) locations and*
 492 *bathymetry, with an inset showing PTV locations (labelled A-F in mm with respect to the toe*
 493 *of wall), pressure transducer location and camera field of view.*

494

Table 3: Setup 2 wave gauge locations.

Wave gauge ID	Gauge location offshore of the wall toe (m)
wg1	8.75
wg2	3.30
wg3	2.30
wg4	1.30
wg5	0.3
wg6	0.15

495

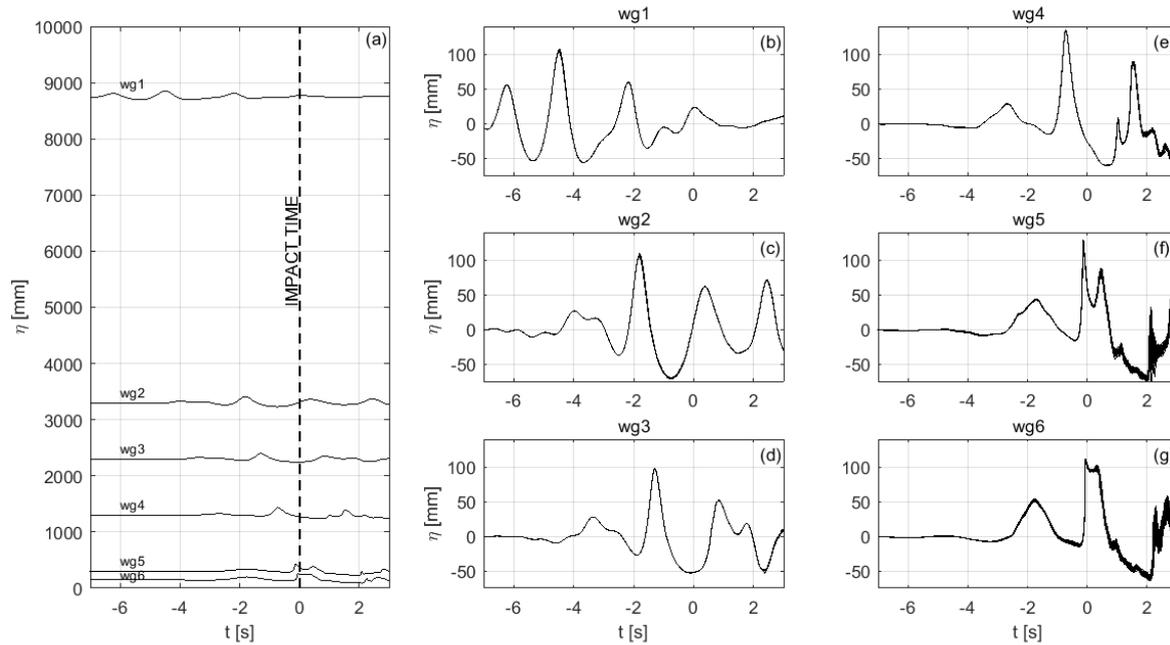
496 Kinematics over the berm were determined using the particle tracking velocimetry (PTV)
 497 method (Nokes, 2021). A light box comprising a number of light-emitting diodes (LEDs)
 498 located above the flume illuminated fluid within a vertical (x,y) plane (see Figure 11); this
 499 plane was located near the flume sidewall, offset from the wave gauge locations in the
 500 vicinity of the wall. The fluid was seeded with near-neutrally buoyant 'Plascoat' particles,
 501 approximately 150 μm in diameter, and a Photron SA4 high-speed camera located outside
 502 of the flume captured images of these illuminated particles during the impact process. The

503 camera captured images at 125 frames/s, with a resolution of 1024 by 1024 pixels and a
504 shutter speed of 1/200 s. The average number of particles per image was 2700, while the
505 seeded water took an average of 40% of the total image area. With reference to the velocity
506 field shown in Figure 14, this yielded an average of 12 particles per grid point.

507 The PTV method involves processing the recorded images to identify and subsequently
508 match particles between frames using an optimisation algorithm, providing the particle-
509 centred displacements and velocities for the experiment. Applications involving tracking
510 orbital particle motions under regular and focused wave groups (e.g. Grue and Kolaas, 2017
511 and van den Bremer *et al.*, 2019) directly use these Lagrangian measurements. To
512 determine the Eulerian velocity field, these particle-centred velocities are subsequently
513 interpolated onto a rectangular grid using Thiessen Triangulation (see Nokes, 2021, for
514 details). Obtaining robust Eulerian velocity fields may be challenging even in steady flows
515 (e.g. Crowe *et al.*, 2016), as the particle seeding density may limit the ability to resolve
516 motions on small spatial scales (Nikora *et al.*, 2007) and affect the overall repeatability of the
517 experiments (Qiao *et al.*, 2016). Unsteady phenomena such as focused wave group
518 interactions with a vertical wall are further complicated by the significant spatial temporal
519 variations in particle motion (complicating both the particle identification and tracking
520 processes). Interpolation of particle-centred velocities can also cause issues in locations of
521 significant free surface curvature observed in wave overturning during the breaking process,
522 where velocities may be determined for grid points located above the free surface. The
523 aeration introduced by wave breaking also renders particle identification impossible; Na *et al.*
524 (2020) combined particle image velocimetry (PIV), bubble image velocimetry (BIV) and fibre
525 optic reflectometry (FOR) to measure the flow structure and aeration under spilling breakers
526 in the laboratory. Although the void fraction and post-breaking (i.e. following contact with the
527 wall) velocity field are out of the scope of the present study, their findings regarding the need
528 for a large number of repeat experiments are also relevant here. Reliable velocity data were
529 obtained from 10 of 26 experiments, mostly due to challenges in identifying the rapidly
530 moving particles prior to the impact upon the wall. In the following discussion, we focus our
531 attention on the velocity measurements from grid points the locations indicated by red
532 crosses A - F in Figure 11.

533 **4.2 Surface elevation variability**

534 In the same manner as for the Setup 1 tests, Figure 12 (a) shows mean surface elevations
535 for the six wave gauge locations. Data from 26 overlaid tests are shown in Figures 12 (b) –
536 (g). The repeat tests show exceptional repeatability before the impact. As a comparison to
537 the tests in Setup 1, for the wave gauge closest to the paddle (wg1), the maximum root
538 mean square error is 0.68% (previously 3.0%), which is also lower than Marzeddu *et al.* The
539 more modern paddle for Setup 2 and the increased sample rate go some way to explaining
540 the improvement from the Setup 1 results.

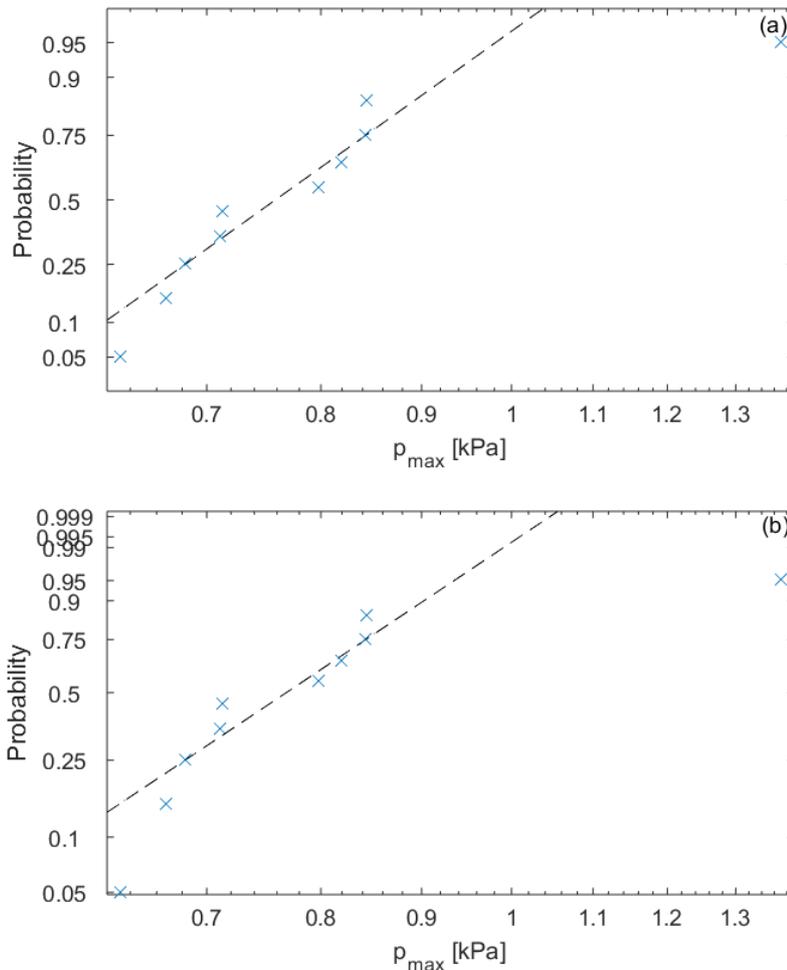


541

542 *Figure 12: Surface elevation time histories (a) mean values at the gauge locations and (b) to*
 543 *(g) 26 overlaid tests from each of the wave gauges.*

544 **4.3 Pressure variability**

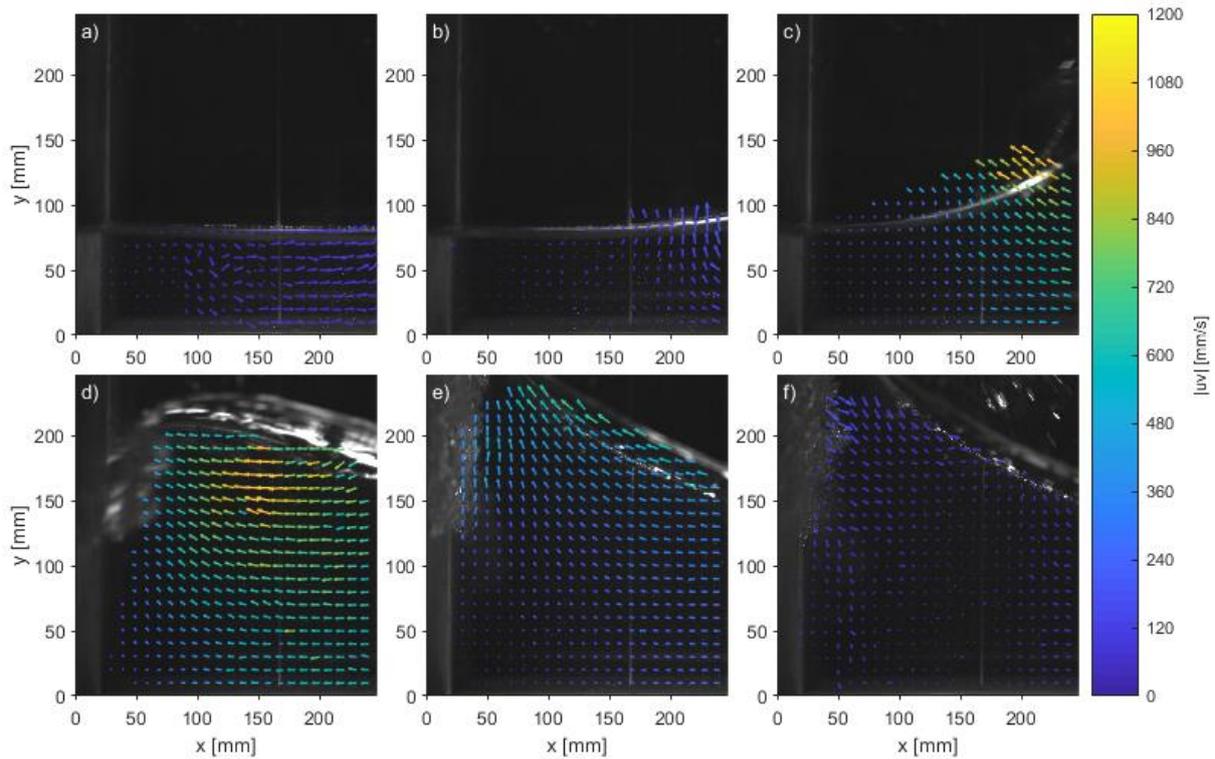
545 Peak pressures were lower for the smaller wave in Setup 2, indicating a less violent impact.
 546 Correspondingly the coefficient of variation, c_v , was lower, at 26% (Table A.2, Appendix A).
 547 The variability from the 10 repeats was investigated by plotting against a variety of
 548 probability distributions, as in Setup 1, with the log-Normal and Gumbel distributions being
 549 reasonable fits (Figure 13). The highest maximum pressure (test no. 27) is a relatively poor
 550 fit to the theoretical line, being larger than would be expected for these distributions. *N.B.*
 551 The pressure values are modest compared with the experiments in Setup 1, possibly due to
 552 the different bathymetry and the determination of pressure at just one location which may not
 553 have been at the very centre of the impact. The relatively poor fit to the extreme casts into
 554 some doubt whether it is possible to have confidence that particular probability distributions
 555 can usefully be applied between different setups, as the largest values will be of most
 556 interest. This case-dependence might be the root cause of the lack of agreement of
 557 probability distributions between investigators.



558 *Figure 13: Probability distributions for maximum impact pressures (a) Log-Normal and (b)*
 559 *Gumbel.*

560 **4.4 Kinematics variability**

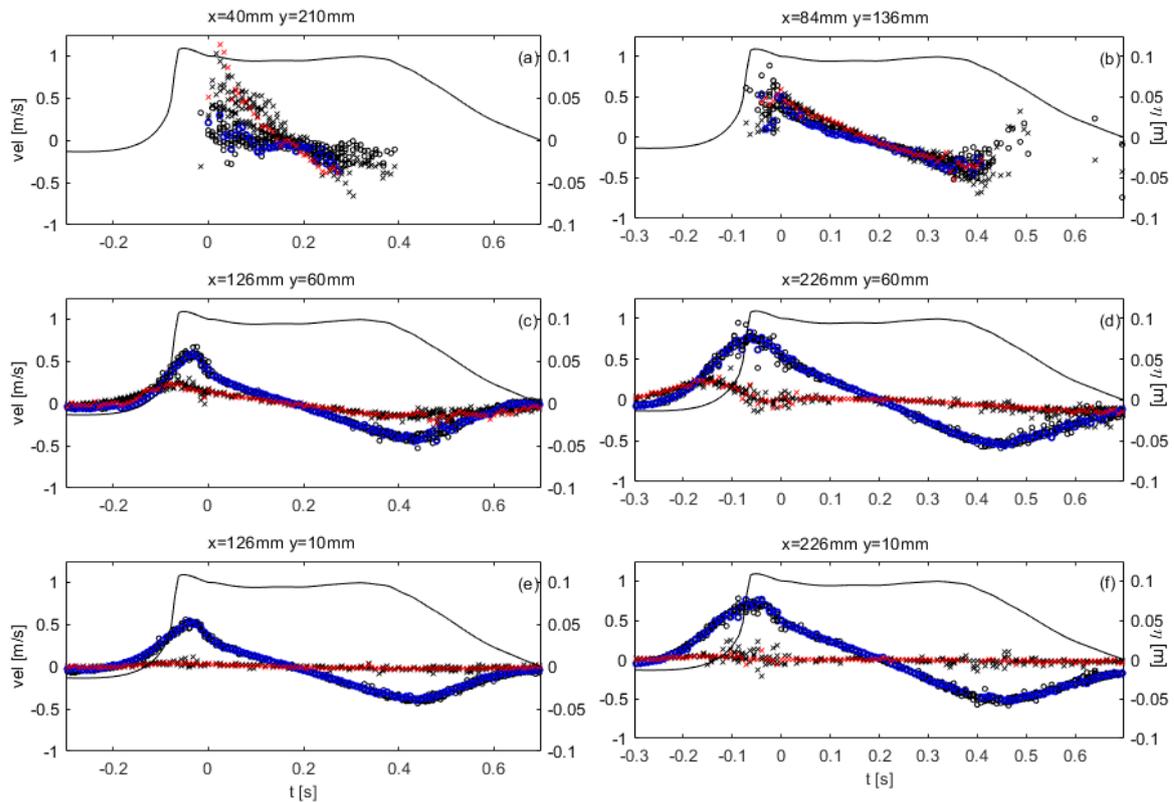
561 Figure 14 illustrates the wave kinematics during the impact process, with the wave
 562 approaching the wall from the right of the images. Figure 14 (a) illustrates the initial
 563 drawback of the water, followed by velocities in the upwards vertical direction in Figure 14
 564 (b). As the wave crest approaches the wall in Figure 14 (c), the magnitudes of the velocities
 565 increase significantly. Figure 14 (d) shows the wave overturning and the trapping of an air
 566 pocket, with horizontal velocities dominant at the moment of impact. Figure 14 (e) shows the
 567 upwards motion of the wave immediately after impinging on the wall, while Figure 14 (f)
 568 shows a moment of near stagnation before the drawback of the wave. Although not shown in
 569 the figure, this rapid drawback led to a turbulent flow with relatively large velocities at the
 570 water surface but negligible velocity magnitudes throughout the lower water column. Some
 571 vectors are visible above the illuminated free surface, due to some particles on the free
 572 surface (out of plane of the light sheet) or reflected from the flume sidewall being identified
 573 and tracked in the PTV algorithm, or the interpolation of particle-based velocities onto the
 574 rectangular grid in regions of significant free surface curvature (e.g. $t = -0.1$ s). However,
 575 these vectors were not used in any further analysis.



576

577 *Figure 14: Images and overlaid velocity vectors from the particle tracking velocimetry*
 578 *experiments recorded (a) $t = -0.3$ s, (b) $t = -0.2$ s, (c) $t = -0.1$ s, (d) $t = 0$ s, (e) $t = 0.1$ s, (f)*
 579 *$t = 0.2$ s, relative to the time of impact upon the wall. For ease of visualisation, the velocity*
 580 *vectors are normalised within each image to show the direction of the velocity field within the*
 581 *wave, while the colour scale represents the velocity magnitude.*

582 Particle tracking velocity data from locations A to F (as shown in Fig. 12) are presented
 583 in Figure 15 (a) to (f) respectively, overlaid with the surface elevation time history at the
 584 closest wave gauge to the wall (wg6). Positive velocities in the horizontal (\circ) and vertical
 585 (\times) directions are towards the wall and vertically upwards, respectively.



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Figure 15: Velocity and surface elevation time histories at locations A-F and wg6 respectively: \circ horizontal velocities, positive towards the paddle; \times (black) vertical velocities, positive upwards; \circ (blue) horizontal velocities for test no. 27, positive towards the paddle; \times (red) vertical velocities for test no. 27, positive upwards; solid line - surface elevation time history from wg6.

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Locations A and B are above the SWL so only have data for the time during which the wave travels over the berm and is then reflected back from the wall. Velocity time histories at C-F (Figs. 15 (c), (d), (e) and (f) respectively) show very clear trends that correspond to the surface elevations on the berm: a fairly rapid increase to a maximum velocity (towards the wall) of 0.96 m/s at location D at the time of the maximum crest elevation, followed by a reversal of velocity to a maximum negative value (away from the wall) of about 0.59 m/s, again at D. The time of maximum positive velocity approaches $t = 0$ s, the closer the measurement location is to the point of impact, estimated to be about 215 mm above the wall toe.

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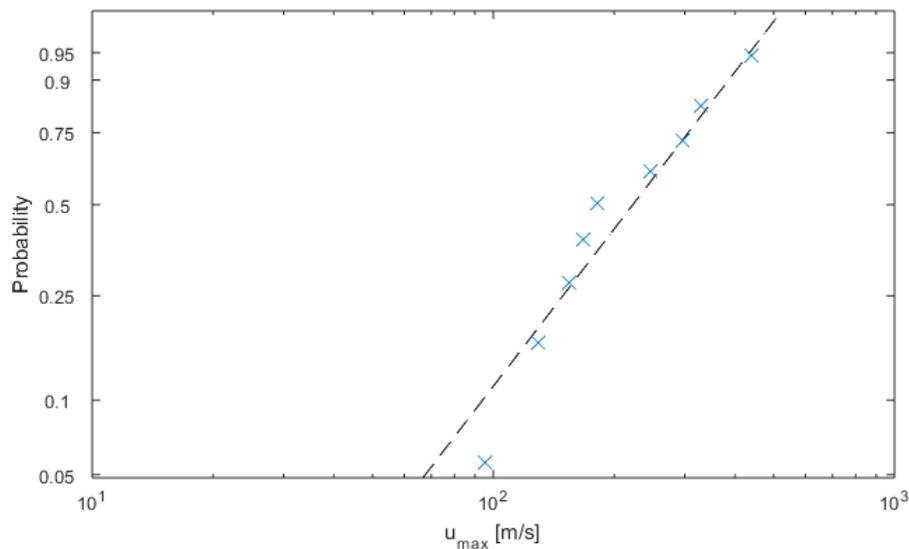
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The point of impact is defined as where the water in the leading edge of the overturning wave crest hits the wall. An alternative definition could be where an air pocket is trapped against the wall and compressed, as this can also cause high 'impact' pressures. However, this latter location would be slightly more arbitrary. The occurrence of the second (negative) maximum velocity follows a reduction in the local surface elevation as the reflected wave travels back down the flume. The velocity time histories at A and B follow the trends of the lower locations, except that the vertical velocities are greater than the horizontal ones, not unsurprising given the nature of the impact that sends water upwards as shown in Figure 14 (e). The variability of the velocity data is greater around the time of impact and towards the impact location. Interestingly, the velocity data from test no. 27 were amongst the highest determined at locations A and B, providing some insight into why the measured pressure for that test was also the greatest. Finally, as shown in Table A.3 (Appendix A), the coefficient of variation of the maximum absolute

614 velocities, away from the impact area (locations C, D, E and F), are between 5% and
615 8%, whereas it rises substantially to 65% and 51% for locations A and B respectively,
616 which are much closer to the impact area. These higher values are even higher than the
617 c_v of the maximum measured impact pressures (26%).

618 Maximum horizontal velocities at location A, closest to the impact location, are shown to
619 be a reasonable fit to the Weibull probability distribution as shown in Figure 16. *N.B.* A
620 negative data point has been omitted as the Matlab routine does not permit negative
621 values.



622
623 *Figure 16: Weibull probability distribution for maximum horizontal velocities at location A.*

624 5. CONCLUSIONS

625 This paper has reviewed factors affecting the variability of wave impact measurements on
626 steep walls, describing the range of parameters that have been used in the literature. The
627 review demonstrated the importance of minimising residual motions by allowing sufficient
628 settling of water between tests, the requirement to sample at fast enough data rates to
629 capture the peak pressure at a location (also requiring relatively high spatial resolution of
630 sensors), and to have enough repeats for findings to be statistically significant. Two
631 investigations were then described: in Setup 1 wave impacts arising from large numbers of
632 focused wave groups interacting with three different wall steepness were presented. These
633 repeatable wave groups, which generally caused high-aeration impacts, were used to show
634 that the steeper the wall, the larger the impact load, the higher up the wall the maximum
635 loads were experienced and the greater the load variability. Regarding probability
636 distributions of the maximum pressures recorded at each location, the Gumbel model was
637 most promising for the vertical wall at all but one location. However the Log-Normal model
638 was a better fit for the 10° wall. Parameter estimates for the probability distributions suggest
639 the presence of some systematic variations which could potentially be used for predicting
640 pressure maxima at other locations and wall angles within the ranges tested here. This
641 parameter-fitting approach might also form the foundation of a database of maximum wave
642 impact pressures for a range of coastal structure configurations, analogous to the wave
643 overtopping databases (EurOtop, 2018).

644 The pressure wave that was generated as a result of the impact was seen to be of highly
645 variable speed, but for the 10° wall was estimated to be about 10 m/s at this laboratory
646 scale, decreasing for the 27° wall. However, other phenomena such as impacts from the
647 break-up of a crest, might also be responsible for these results. Sensitivity of all the
648 variability findings to sensor spatial resolution would be worthy of further investigation. For

649 Setup 2, a limited number of focused wave group repeats were undertaken, with the log-
650 Normal and Gumbel distributions the best fit to peak pressures, but not being a good
651 representation of the most extreme value. This suggests that probability distributions may be
652 case-specific, perhaps explaining the variety of findings from investigators. Kinematics data
653 available from a particle tracking technique provided an insight into the flow close to the
654 impact location, with maximum velocities being a fairly good fit to the Weibull distribution.
655 The high repeatability of the water surface elevation as measured by wave gauges in a
656 modern laboratory wave facility, lulls us into a false sense of security. Clearly modern wave
657 generators do not produce breaking waves with as repeatable flow/momentum flux fields as
658 measurements of the variation of their water surface elevation lead us to expect.
659 Recommendations arising from Setup 2 tests are to have: multiple pressure measurement
660 locations to ensure that the pressure maxima are captured; faster video capture rates so that
661 more precise comparisons between wave profiles could be made in both space and time;
662 and more repetitions to obtain more statistically significant results. It would also be useful to
663 use PTV techniques to investigate settling times between repeats, as it is undoubtedly the
664 case that even though the water surface may be still, there is considerable water particle
665 motion beneath the surface. These requirements are onerous but essential to truly
666 accurately quantify wave impact variability. Considering the engineering application of these
667 findings, the wave generation should also more closely model a real extreme *i.e.* NewWave,
668 a design wave that comprises a small number of waves with a form that reflects the
669 underlying statistical properties of a real sea-state and with an amplitude that has a
670 meaningful exceedance probability (Whittaker *et al.*, 2016, Vyzikas *et al.*, 2018).

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673 studies) project GR/T24708/01.

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865 **Appendix A. Statistical properties of maximum impact pressures and velocities**

866 Table A.1

867 Statistical properties (μ – mean, σ – standard deviation and c_v – coefficient of variation) of
 868 the maximum impact pressures from each of the Setup A tests.

	0° wall			10° wall			27° wall		
	μ [kPa]	σ [kPa]	c_v [%]	μ [kPa]	σ [kPa]	c_v [%]	μ [kPa]	σ [kPa]	c_v [%]
P1	5.3	0.40	8	4.2	0.36	9	2.4	0.47	20
P2	6.5	0.67	10	7.4	7.03	95	7.7	7.90	103
P3	8.7	1.16	13	9.5	3.14	33	9.1	4.68	51
P4	17.8	6.29	35	12.1	2.58	21	6.6	1.93	29
P5	17.4	6.52	37	4.5	0.71	16	3.8	0.72	19
P6	1.7	0.72	43	1.4	0.25	18	1.4	0.34	25

869

870 Table A.2

871 Statistical properties (μ – mean, σ – standard deviation and c_v – coefficient of variation) of
 872 the maximum impact pressures from Setup B tests.

μ [kPa]	σ [kPa]	c_v [%]
2.4	0.47	20

873

874 Table A.3

875 Statistical properties (μ – mean, σ – standard deviation and c_v – coefficient of variation) of
 876 the maximum horizontal velocities from Setup B tests.

location (Fig. 10)	μ [mm/s]	σ [mm/s]	c_v [%]
A	202	133	65
B	489	247	51
C	593	31	5
D	777	32	4
E	516	40	8
F	715	31	4

877

878 *N.B.* The coefficient of variation is the ratio of the standard deviation to the mean.

879 **Appendix B. Summary statistics of maximum pressure and horizontal force empirical**
 880 **densities**

881 Table B.1

882 Summary statistics (mean, μ , and standard deviation, σ) of maximum pressure (p) and
 883 horizontal force (F) empirical densities

wall angle	p [kPa]			F [kN/m]		
	μ_p	σ_p	σ_p/μ_p	μ_F	σ_F	σ_F/μ_F
0°	20.2	7.46	0.37	2.13	0.407	0.19
10°	14.0	6.07	0.43	1.08	0.175	0.16
27°	12.3	7.44	0.61	0.51	0.228	0.45

884

885 **Appendix C. Parameter estimates of the empirical distributions of maximum pressure**
 886 **measurements**

887 Table C.1

888 Parameter estimates of the empirical distribution of maximum pressure measurements from
 889 the Weibull, Log-Normal and Gumbel model fits, as a function of location and angle

	wall angle	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6
Weibull a	0°	5.45	6.77	9.19	19.96	19.48	1.9
	10°	4.37	8.24	10.61	13.16	4.82	1.52
	27°	2.59	8.46	10.39	7.31	4.14	1.51
Weibull b	0°	12.13	9.64	7.65	2.94	2.58	2.32
	10°	11.41	1.41	3.18	4.55	6.59	5.11
	27°	3.97	1.29	2.11	3.28	5.78	4.14
log- normal a	0°	1.66	1.86	2.15	2.82	2.81	0.47
	10°	1.43	1.84	2.2	2.47	1.49	0.33
	27°	0.86	1.8	2.1	1.85	1.33	0.29
log- normal b	0°	0.07	0.1	0.13	0.33	0.29	0.3
	10°	0.08	0.44	0.32	0.2	0.16	0.17
	27°	0.16	0.62	0.47	0.27	0.19	0.23
Gumbel a	0°	5.07	6.15	8.12	15.04	15.03	1.45
	10°	4.04	5.67	8.1	10.96	4.18	1.3
	27°	2.23	5.3	7.11	5.78	3.49	1.22
Gumbel b	0°	0.31	0.56	0.99	4.62	3.8	0.35
	10°	0.31	2	2.34	2	0.59	0.19
	27°	0.27	3.32	3.19	1.49	0.69	0.26

890