CIEM4220 - Project

Modelling a Breakwater Caisson

Introduction:

This project is designed to apply and deepen your understanding of computational modeling techniques in hydraulic and offshore structures. You will use the principles learned in the "Computational Modeling" unit to develop a numerical simulation of a Breakwater Caisson. The focus will be on the OC3 phase-IV spar-buoy concept, incorporating structural and hydrodynamic modeling to analyze its dynamic behavior under offshore environmental conditions.





This project emphasizes hands-on numerical experimentation and algorithm development. You will work with Python or MATLAB to develop and validate your simulation. Additionally, following the FAIR principles, you will ensure that your computational work is transparent, reproducible, and scientifically rigorous.

For simplicity, you are requested to create a 2D model consisting of a representative cross section of the structure. We will consider that the structure can be modelled as a linear elastic body in plane strain. We assume that the structure is fixed at the bottom. Optionally, you can model the rubble mound as an additional elastic body.

Structural model

To pass the course, the model should include the following key aspects:

• A simple 2D caisson cross section fixed to the ground

For a maximum grade, the model should include:

• Spring bed as boundary condition at the bottom and/or elastic mount with different modulus of elasticity

Hydrodynamic/Aerodynamic force estimation

Throughout this project, you will implement numerical methods to account for coastal environmental forces such as waves. Your simulation will be expected to capture key system responses and provide insights into the dynamic behavior of the breakwater caisson. The model should include the following hydrodynamic forces:

• Linear wave theory (Airy waves) as a baseline approach for regular waves.

For a maximum grade, you should include:

• Irregular wave loads.

Structural dynamic analysis

With the structural model and the hydrodynamic force estimation you can assess the dynamics of the structure. Your dynamic assessment should include:

- Identification of natural frequencies and modes of the structure
- Dynamic response of the structure at key locations (COG, ...)
- Dynamic response of the structure using a reduced order model with few relevant modes.

Deliverables:

As a final deliverable you should write a report that does not exceed **15 pages** with the sections described below. Together with the report you need to provide an executable file, or notebook, that can reproduce the results reported in the document.

Section 1. Model Definition:

- Obtain dimensions and design the model. Higher complexity in the geometry definition, higher grade.
- Describe governing equations and characteristic loading, including (possibly) time-dependent wave loading.

Section 2. Numerical Methods:

- Derive discrete formulation using Finite Element Method. Inclusion of terms not discussed in class will be valued positively if their inclusion is properly justified.
- Detail geometry discretization, Finite Element space, shape functions, weak form, boundary conditions, and loading.
- Justify all your choices.

Section 3. Numerical Schemes:

• Implement the discrete formulation, utilizing appropriate time discretization methods. You can use the notebooks given in the lectures as starting point. More efficient implementations will be valued positively.

Section 4. Results Analysis:

- Validate structural deformations with literature data.
- Conduct convergence study (in space) and analyse time stepping.

- Analyze response based on literature's operating conditions.
- Perform modal analysis and relate mode shapes/frequencies to loading conditions.

Additional Requirements:

- Justify choices and provide supporting references.
- Supplement findings with relevant graphics.

Assessment Criteria:

- Quality of the final model (10 points).
- Correct definition and derivation of numerical model (30 points).
- Correct implementation of numerical model (10 points).
- Correct analysis of results, including convergence, validation, and response assessment (50 points).

The report and supporting code should be submitted through "Assignments" in Brightspace. The due date is **Friday 13/06/2025 at 23:59.**