PRESSURE IMPULSES CAUSED BY WAVE IMPACT

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Abstract

Coastal sea defences fail when the impact pressures due to breaking waves cause their constitutive elements to move. This situation is modelled in an idealised domain by solving a boundary value problem for the Pressure Impulse, the integral of pressure over the short time of the impact. The relative insensitivity of this model to the velocity profile chosen when representing the impacting wave, compared to variables such as the wave's height and speed, is demonstrated explicitly for three profiles. In order to analyse further the impulse on a vertical wall, a class of awkward summations of trigonometric terms is approximated with a rapidly convergent series.

The impulsive forces on a body resting on the sea bed are calculated using two different methods, and shown to be dependent on its added mass and volume. A number of different classes of body are examined and larger objects are found to be more prone to movement away from a wall, due to the pressure impulse gradient along the sea bed. The case of a sphere, where the problem is equivalent to finding the potential flow perpendicular to the line joining two touching spheres, is solved with a very accurate numerical method and the distance moved by a near-spherical boulder on a beach subjected to wave impact is calculated. Similarly, a surface-piercing body experiences a vertical impulse when a wave breaks against a nearby vertical wall. The velocity at which a body will initially move is calculated for several different shaped bodies.

The pressure impulse in a fluid filled crack in a wall which is exposed to wave impact is calculated for several different crack geometries allowing the force on an element of a breakwater to be calculated, showing that these impact pressures are the probable cause of failure.

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Break, break, break,
On thy cold gray stones, O Sea!
And I would that my tongue could utter
The thoughts that arise in me.

Alfred Lord Tennyson.

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Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 Wave Breaking on Coastal Structures

Waves crashing against breakwaters and causing huge sheets of spray to erupt into the air are a popular image, being visually arresting. But the breaking process is not understood at all well. Many of the world's coastal areas, especially harbours, are protected by sea walls, but not always successfully. Coastal engineers need to predict the high, short-lived pressures which breaking waves can exert on these walls, with the aim of determining what causes them to fail. We are interested in the highest pressures, which give rise to the greatest forces and therefore usually cause the most damage. One of our aims is to construct a theory which gives coastal engineers reliable, straightforward information on the movement of objects in the zone where breaking waves occur. But there are many variables in a physical model which are hard to include in a mathematical treatment, so we concern ourselves only with those waves which generate high pressures over short times as they slam into sea walls. These are known as impact pressures, being very high pressures of brief duration which are associated with a delta-function-like pressure versus time graph.

It has long been known that large and sudden impulsive pressures occur (see

Bagnold (1939) and Denny (1951) who discuss the work of French and Italian experimenters towards the beginning of this century) but there are still no definitive rules relating the parameters associated with the incident wave (e.g. height, velocity) and the geometry of the area where it breaks (e.g. water depth) to the pressures recorded on the wall.

Evidence for these huge impulsive forces includes observations such as those by Stevenson (1864) of the "remarkable destructive effects at Whalsey Skerries" in Scotland, where "blocks of 6 tons weight have been quarried or broken out of their beds in situ ... [by] aqueous action". He also records the passage of a rock, weighing $7\frac{1}{2}$ tons, across 73 feet of rugged ledges, at a height of 20 feet above the sea. This feat is remarkable, even if we assume that it occurred in many small successive motions over a long period of time. Blocks of stone of a hundred tons in weight have been disturbed by heavy seas (Cunningham 1928). Gaillard (1904, §8) gives many instances of the destructive forces exerted by waves, including that of a 20 ton block being lifted vertically to land atop a pier of 12 feet in height, almost 5 feet above the level of high water. At the same site, the entrance to the Amsterdam Canal in the Netherlands, a block weighing 7 tons was pushed forward out of its position in the wall. Gaillard surmises that this is due to the air at the back of the stone being compressed by the incoming wave, so that the block moves in a direction opposite to the direction of impact. These events also occur in smaller expanses of water, for instance in the great lakes of America, where Stevenson (1849) quotes observations of stones "weighing upwards of half-a-ton [being] completely turned over".

Breakwaters are usually constructed from a series of huge rectangular concrete 'buckets' or caissons which are filled with rubble and then sunk in the required position. They have a vertical face and are then often surrounded by a pile of armour protection units designed to break up incoming waves and therefore reduce impact pressures. These are made in various shapes (see the Shore Protection Manual, U.S. Army 1973), and the breakwaters employing them are known as composite. We follow Lundgren (1969) in considering two sorts of breakwater: (i) where the caisson extends almost to the sea floor on a small rubble foundation so that the depth of water in front of the caisson is large and (ii) where the caisson sits on top of a high rubble foundation, with relatively shallow water in front. This latter is more likely to cause waves to break right in front of the structure (although this does depend to some extent on the wave height), and it is breakwaters of type (ii) that we expect will receive very high pressures. These pressures will cause large forces to act on the breakwater, in addition to the frictional forces holding the blocks in place and the drag forces due to the passage of waves near the structure.

Occasions when the sea has caused large scale damage to man-made coastal structures include the failures of both the Mutsu-Ogawara Port in Japan and the Sines breakwater in Portugal, which are documented by Hitachi (1994) and Baird, Caldwell, Edge, Magoon, and Treadwell (1980) respectively. The damage at Mutsu-Ogawara, in 1991, occurred while the construction of the caisson-type composite breakwater was still in progress (although 8 years after construction had begun!). The huge concrete caissons were struck by waves of up to fifteen metres in height and some of the armour blocks found their way inside the caissons. However, the worst damage was characterised by the caissons sliding away from the wall, in some cases by distances of almost 5 metres (his figure 3), and scattering the armour blocks at the base of the wall. At Sines, in 1978, the majority of the damage was caused by the movement and loss of the 'dolos' armour units - those units that broke free then proceeded to batter the wall further. The breakwater was again of a composite type and the armour units were placed so as to attempt to protect the concrete wall. It is noteworthy that the sea floor shelves very steeply away from the wall, so that large waves were to be expected. Lamberti and Franco (1994) reproduce an old photograph showing parts of the rubble mound scattered across the remains of the breakwater at Galliera. In 1898 a severe storm, with waves of almost 7 metres in height, destroyed 140 metres of the wall.

Further evidence of the magnitude of the impulsive forces around the impact zone (by which we mean that area of the wall over which the wave breaks - the part which goes from being in contact with air to being in contact with fluid, ignoring the presence of entrained air) is seen in the failure of the breakwater at Sakata Port in Japan during the winter of 1973/74 due to sliding of the caissons, as at Mutsu-Ogawara Port. Tanimoto and Takahashi (1994) record the sliding distances of eight metre high caissons due to the impact of large waves, showing movements of almost 4 metres away from their initial position. On this occasion there were no armour protection units around the caissons to protect them (or cause further damage by solid body impact). Since the frictional forces opposed the motion of the caissons, this observation suggests that the impulsive forces were very large.

In order to understand the wave damage, many researchers study scale modelling of waves impinging on both vertical and sloping walls under controlled conditions. However, they are all faced with the inherent problem of unrepeatability in their experiments. Chan and Melville (1988) measured the impact dynamics of deep-water plunging waves hitting a vertical wall and conclude that "at each wall location, identical incident wave conditions could yield significantly different impact pressures". To overcome the problem of unrepeatability, Bagnold (1939) showed that while the peak pressure varied between apparently similar impacts, the pressure impulse, which is the integral of pressure over the duration of the impact, remained fairly constant. This conclusion is not supported by the experiments of Richert (1968), however, who finds that "the pressure and impulse distributions are fairly congruent". That is, the pressure impulse varied just as much as the pressure itself. However, as the pressure peak becomes larger, and the pressure rise time smaller, the pressure impulse becomes a better approximation, providing that one can measure the start and finish times of the pressure peak. (Due to the oscillatory nature of the pressure-time trace, it is not always evident where the impact starts and finishes, a problem encountered by Wood 1997, §2.)

Waves are generally classified into three types, each giving different sorts of pressure response when they hit a wall. Oumeraci, Klammer, and Partenscky (1993) find that *plunging* breakers give the highest impact pressures. These are waves where the top of the wave curls over to entrap air prior to impact. Less air being trapped leads to higher pressures. In fact, the largest pressures occur when the forward face of the wave is vertical as it hits the wall. Bagnold (1939) modelled this as due to a column of fluid hitting the wall, whose momentum can be correlated with the measured impulse. The length of column causing that impulse is the momentum length of the wave. An *upward deflected* breaker gives the next highest pressures, and is due to the wave meeting the wall before it can break, so that the free surface rises very quickly up the wall. A thin jet is formed, although the pressure on the wall due to the jet is negligible, and vertical fluid particle accelerations of over $10,000g$ (where g is the acceleration due to gravity) have been predicted by Cooker (1997). These calculations agree with the experiments of Chan and Melville (1988) and Chan (1994) and this mechanism has been called *flip through* by Cooker and Peregrine (1992). The third, and final, type of wave, which generally causes the lowest impact pressures, is the turbulent bore or *spilling* breaker, when the broken wave moves towards the wall in a welter of foam. There is a large volume of bubbly mixture, of low density and lower speed, which helps to explain the low recorded pressures. Usually a particular wave will not show features of any one type, and this classification is more a rule of thumb than a definitive guide. For instance, the position of the wall in relation to the position at which a wave breaks is critical in how it is classified, as shown by Hattori, Arami, and Yui (1994). These authors present stills from video footage of breaking waves in a tank, showing in detail how the breaking wave deforms. Their measurements confirm that the highest pressures (of brief duration) occur when the front of the wave is vertical. Further, these maximum impact pressures usually occur around the still water level.

Blackmore and Hewson (1984) recorded full-scale prototype pressures at a sea wall in Ilfracombe, England. The wall is not quite vertical and an array of nine pressure transducers was used to allow comparison between real data and the "semi-empirical equations" used to estimate pressures at that time. The correlation is shown to be poor, and from their data we can estimate values of peak pressure (the greatest pressure recorded at any one point as a function of time) and pressure rise time with which to compare theory. The pressure rise time is the time taken for the pressure to rise to its peak value from hydrostatic pressure, $\rho g h$, where ρ is the density of the water, g the acceleration due to gravity and h the depth of water.

To give an idea of the magnitude of impact pressures and pressure rise times involved in wave breaking, we review some of the pressures recorded in experiments at different wave scales. The small scale experiments of Hattori *et al* (1994), with wave heights of about 5 cm, showed that for flip through type breaking the peak pressures recorded on the vertical wall were fairly small, although the free surface motion was large. However, breaking waves enclosing a thin cushion of air gave the highest peak pressures of the order of 5×10^4 N m^{-2}. These large pressures were associated with pressure rise times of the order of 1×10^{-3} sec. At a slightly larger laboratory scale, the impact pressures measured by Chan (1994) for deep water plunging breakers of about 12 cm in height had much larger amounts of entrained air. The peak pressures recorded when the waves impacted on a vertical wall were much less than those found by Hattori *et al*, with a maximum of about 3×10^3 N m^{-2}. However the pressure rise time was similar, 1×10^{-3} sec. At full scale, the analysis of Blackmore and Hewson (1984) for wave impact pressures on sea walls found maximum impact pressures similar to those of Hattori *et al*, 5×10^4 N m^{-2}, but rather slower rise times of the order of 0.1 sec. This shows how difficult it is to scale laboratory measurements to try and predict full scale pressures on breakwaters.

One of the reasons that scaling from model experiments to prototype is difficult is the presence of air, which is entrained in the wave during breaking. Walkden, Hewson, and Bullock (1997) obtain reasonably good results when they scale their results from a small wave tank up to those obtained in a large one. Rather than repeating the physical boundary conditions in each tank, they tried to create the same breaking wave profile at the vertical wall so that the fraction of entrained air was the same. The experiments of Kortenhaus, Oumeraci, Kohlhase, and Klammer (1994) showed that the effect of trapped air is to extend the pressure rise time and reduce the peak pressures. These authors were concerned with finding the uplift forces on a breakwater caisson resulting from different types of impinging wave. The greatest forces occurred for plunging breakers without entrained air, when the caisson tended to move horizontally rather than rotating about a point on its underside. As the amount of air in the wave decreases, we are led to consider the flat faced wave that Bagnold (1939) says is responsible for the highest pressures. Lundgren (1969), in his summary of wave impact dynamics, indicates that Froude scaling can be used when there is little air trapped, which means that impact pressures are directly proportional to wave height.

Until recently, theoretical simulations of waves breaking against coastal structures have involved large scale computational schemes. Cauchy's integral theorem and Green's identity are invoked to solve Laplace's equation in a domain whose free-surface boundary deforms in time. For example, Dold and Peregrine (1986) and Dold (1992) solve for the exact non-linear boundary condition on the free surface with a method that is stable and does not require smoothing, even when the computed flow is violent or continued for many wave periods (unlike previous methods, e.g. New, McIver, and Peregrine 1986). The method works for waves which are breaking, and, with a sufficiently small time step, can cope with the jet which is formed at the tip of the breaker. Cooker and Peregrine (1992) use a similar numerical scheme, which allows them to show that high pressure gradients act along the sea bed away from the wall.

Peregrine and Kalliadasis (1996) investigate analytically the effect of a wave breaking into a crack in a sea wall. This two-dimensional *filling flow*, where the fluid moves rapidly along the base of the crack and then returns along the top, may have enough force to dislodge material from the interior of the crack, thereby deepening it. The fluid also exerts an impulse on the boundaries of the crack which may be large enough to move parts of the surrounding structure. Peregrine and Kalliadasis give this impulse as

$$I = \frac{\rho k V_1 L^2}{2(2k-1)} \tag{1.1.1}$$

where L is the length of the crack, V_1 the speed of the incoming fluid and k^2 is the ratio of the height of the incoming water jet to the height of the crack (with $k > \frac{1}{2}$).

The analysis of Peregrine and Kalliadasis (1996) is extended by Peregrine and Thais (1996) to include the effect of the compressibility of the fluid. They find that a small amount of entrained air significantly reduces the impact pressures. Indeed, this statement is true for all impacts, since the entrained air reduces the sound speed in the bubbly mixture. They conclude that the volume reduction of the fluid at high pressures reduces the speed of filling so that the pressures are reduced.

The theoretical analysis in our work uses the concept of a Pressure Impulse, which allows estimates of the peak pressures associated with wave breaking to be made, without recourse to complicated numerical schemes. We will first derive Pressure Impulse Theory, and then review the literature which uses it. In Chapter 2 we examine three different velocity profiles for the impact of a wave against a vertical wall. A boundary value problem for the pressure impulse in a semi-infinite domain is solved to analyse the sensitivity of the pressure impulse distribution to changes in the way the impacting wave is modelled. This extends the simple model of Cooker and Peregrine (1995), where the wave is assumed to have a flat forward face with all points moving towards the wall at the same, constant, velocity. Their case is included for comparison. The expressions for the pressure impulse are found as infinite sums, so we derive an approximation to some awkward trigonometric sums to allow the pressure impulse on the wall to be found more easily.

We follow Cooker and Peregrine (1992) in using the model of Chapter 2, for the whole domain, to supply a far-field boundary condition for the problem of finding the impulse on a body which is at rest on the sea bed. Information gained from this analysis is of use in determining mechanisms by which armour units around breakwaters are moved by storm waves. This is explored in Chapter 3, where we give two methods of finding the pressure impulse distribution around a body. The first is to construct a periodic surface using a Fourier series. This requires a rather complicated way of finding the impulse on a body consisting of one period of the series. Secondly, we show how to use a conformal map to generate an isolated body on the bed. Formulae for both the horizontal and vertical impulses are given, and several examples are shown in order to ascertain the effect of shape and size on the magnitude of the impulse.

If a body is held so that it pierces the free surface, we can again use the results of Chapter 2 to give a far-field boundary condition for the motion of the body when a wave impacts against a nearby wall. An object is given a vertical velocity by the impulsive upthrust associated with the impact, which can be found by solving Laplace's equation for the pressure impulse, P, subject to mixed boundary conditions. In Chapter 4 we show that this is related to the solution for the pressure impulse around a body on the sea bed and this enables P below a flat plate on the free surface to be found. We then conformally map the solution around this plate to find the different velocities and impulses associated with other two-dimensional bodies, and derive some general formulae. This analysis is detailed in Cox and Cooker (1998). We also examine some three-dimensional bodies, and find that the same formulae are applicable.

Chapter 5 shows how the pressure impulse in a thin crack in the wall of the above domain can be found. Integrating the pressure impulse over the (small) height of the crack gives a modified Laplace's equation for the pressure impulse in the crack. We solve this for several geometries relating, for instance, to cracks between constituent blocks of sea walls. Our aim is to try and find ways in which these blocks will be loosened by the effect of wave impact, to explain the failures of coastal structures, noted in §1.1, such as that at Sakata Port in Japan. The equation is also applied to the flow in the crack around the base of an axisymmetric body which has point contact with a horizontal plane. In particular, this solution is valid around the point of contact of a sphere with a plane. The method of conformal mapping, from Chapter 3, is also used to find the pressure impulse in a crack in the sea wall, enabling qualitative comparison with the solutions of our modified Laplace's equation.

A particularly interesting body on the sea bed, on which we were unable to find the impulse using the methods of Chapter 3, is a sphere, which has a singularity in the velocity around the point of contact. We solve this problem in Chapter 6, much of the contents of which are in Cox and Cooker (2000), using tangent sphere coordinates to express the pressure impulse as an integral, up to an unknown function α. An ordinary differential equation for α is solved numerically and we then match P with the crack solution from Chapter 5, near to the contact point. This calculation allows the velocity potential and added mass of a sphere on its tangent plane to be found, or, what is equivalent, the velocity potential and added mass for two spheres in ideal flow perpendicular to the line joining their centres. With this solution for P we show that large boulders on a beach exposed to wave impact are likely to move farther up the beach than small ones.

Finally, some conclusions are drawn and we suggest some areas for further work, and for further experimentation to allow verification of our theoretical results.

1.2 Pressure Impulse Theory

We now describe Pressure Impulse Theory, hereafter referred to as PIT. Measurements on both real coastal structures and scale models show that breaking waves produce a pressure response such as that shown in figure 1.2.1. In the majority of 'impact pressure' traces, there is an initial large pressure rise, then a rapid descent. This is followed by a period of oscillation between relatively small pressures, thought to be due to compression and expansion of the entrapped air bubble (see Topliss 1994), before the pressure returns to hydrostatic. An impulsive pressure is defined by the limiting process of an infinitely great pressure acting for an infinitely short time and we consider twice the pressure rise time to be the short time scale over which the pressure is very large and then the Pressure Impulse, P, is defined to be the integral of pressure over time, following Batchelor (1973, §6.10). That is,

$$P = \int_{t_b}^{t_a} p(x, y, t)\mathrm{d}t, \qquad (1.2.1)$$

where the subscripts b and a refer to before and after the impact, i.e. t_b and t_a are the start and finish times of the impact. Then it is evident that P is the area under the pressure spike in figure 1.2.1. The empirical observation of Bagnold (1939) was that, whilst the peak pressure, p_{peak}, varied, the product $\frac{1}{2}p_{peak}\Delta t$ remained fairly constant (where $\Delta t = t_a - t_b$ is the time taken for the impact to occur). If Δt is taken as twice the pressure rise time (normally of the order of 1×10^{-3}sec, at least at laboratory scales) this product approximates the pressure impulse. That is,

$$P \approx \frac{1}{2}p_{peak}\Delta t \quad \text{or, alternatively,} \quad p_{peak} \approx \frac{2P}{\Delta t}. \qquad (1.2.2)$$

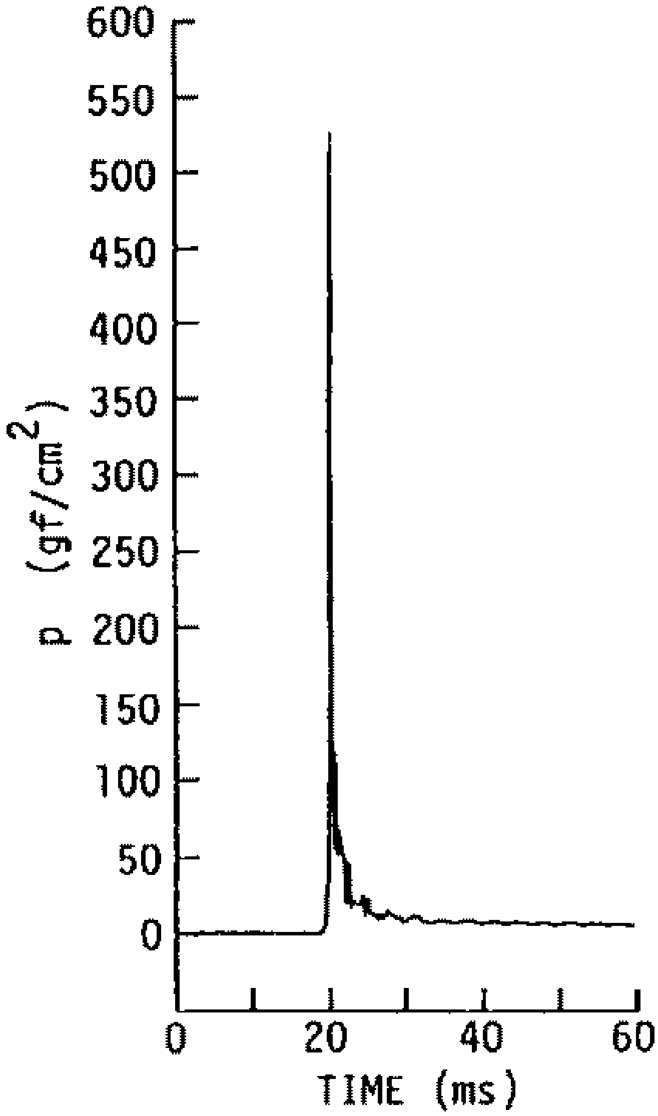

Figure 1.2.1: A pressure-time trace for a wave which impacts with an almost vertical front surface, recorded on a vertical wall at still water level by Hattori *et al* (1994, fig 15). The wave entrains little or no air and the pressure peak occurs over a short time and has large magnitude ($p_{peak} \approx 530$gf cm$^{-2} \approx 5 \times 10^4$N m^{-2}). It is not clear how we define the end of the impulsive pressure for the purposes of PIT but $t_b = 20 \times 10^{-3}$sec and t_a lies somewhere in the range $22 - 30 \times 10^{-3}$sec so Δt is at most 0.01sec. Notice also that the pressure doesn't rapidly decrease back to zero after the impact.

Thus P, as defined by (1.2.1), is a more convenient concept to study, and we can use the knowledge gained about P to estimate corresponding peak pressures.

We derive the equations of motion from the Navier Stokes equations:

$$\frac{\partial \underline{u}}{\partial t} + (\underline{u}.\nabla)\,\underline{u} = -\frac{1}{\rho}\nabla p + \nu\nabla^2\underline{u} - g\underline{k} \qquad (1.2.3)$$

where $\underline{u}$ is the velocity, p the pressure, ρ the density and ν the kinematic viscosity of the fluid, g the acceleration due to gravity and $\underline{k}$ is a unit vector pointing vertically up. We non-dimensionalise the variables with a time scale Δt, a length scale L, a velocity scale u_0 and a pressure scale p_0. The length scale L is associated with the depth of water prior to the impact and u_0 is pertinent to the speed of waves approaching the wall. Then, after some manipulation, with primes denoting dimensionless variables,

$$\frac{\partial \underline{u}'}{\partial t'} + S\,(\underline{u}'.\nabla')\,\underline{u}' = -\frac{\Delta t p_0}{\rho u_0 L}\nabla' p' + N\nabla'^2\underline{u}' - \frac{\Delta t}{u_0}g\underline{k} \qquad (1.2.4)$$

where $S = \Delta t u_0/L$ and $N = \Delta t\,\nu/L^2$. Typically, if $L \sim 10$ m, $u_0 \sim 10$ m sec^{-1} and $\Delta t \sim 0.01$ sec then $S = 0.01$, $N = 1 \times 10^{-10}$ for water and the quantity scaling gravity is 0.001. So we seek a balance between the first term and the pressure term in (1.2.4) by scaling pressure according to $p_0 = \rho u_0 L/\Delta t$, which is very large (1×10^7). These two terms are those which relate to the impact event. Then we neglect the non-linear convective terms since S is small compared to p_0. This effectively linearises the formulation: the inclusion of these nonlinear convective terms by Cooker (1996), who uses S as a small parameter in order to obtain a perturbation expansion, shows that these terms are influential only near the free surface, helping to quantify the singularity in the gradient of P where the free surface meets the vertical wall. Similarly, we neglect the viscous terms (N small) and gravity. Thus we consider inviscid flow. Since the duration of the impact (Δt) is small, this is a reasonable approximation because there is insufficient time for viscous effects to develop at the solid boundaries: Rosenhead (1963, p.60) gives the following formula for the displacement thickness of the boundary layer, δ, at small times, t':

$$\delta \sim 2\sqrt{\frac{\nu t'}{\pi}}.$$

If $t' = \Delta t = 0.01$ sec then $\delta \sim 1.13 \times 10^{-4}$ m which is indeed small compared with length scales such as the depth of water at the wall, L.

Now (1.2.3) becomes (in dimensional variables)

$$\frac{\partial \underline{u}}{\partial t} = -\frac{1}{\rho}\nabla p. \tag{1.2.5}$$

Integrating with respect to time gives

$$\int_{t_b}^{t_a} \frac{\partial \underline{u}}{\partial t}\mathrm{d}t = \underline{u}_a - \underline{u}_b = -\frac{1}{\rho}\nabla \int_{t_b}^{t_a} p\mathrm{d}t = -\frac{1}{\rho}\nabla P,$$

that is,

$$\underline{u}_a = \underline{u}_b - \frac{1}{\rho}\nabla P \tag{1.2.6}$$

where P is pressure impulse, as defined by (1.2.1), and, using the same subscript convention as before, $\underline{u}_b$ and $\underline{u}_a$ are the fluid velocities before and after the impact. Thus the gradient of P relates how the velocity of the fluid changes over the short duration of impact. We assume that the fluid is incompressible before impact and after impact, $\nabla.\underline{u}_b = 0$ and $\nabla.\underline{u}_a = 0$, making no assumptions about its compressibility during impact. This does not extend to the bubbly mixture often present after the impact, but by this stage PIT is no longer valid. During the short impact time the impact speed is taken to be much less than the speed of sound in the fluid, and the peak pressures never exceed 2 atmospheres, so that incompressibility should be a good approximation. Then the divergence of (1.2.6) shows that

$$\nabla^2 P = 0. \tag{1.2.7}$$

That is, the Pressure Impulse satisfies Laplace's equation. Notice also that the curl of (1.2.6) implies that vorticity is conserved. Then whatever the vorticity before impact, none will be generated by the impact.

We can now formulate, and solve, mixed boundary value problems for the pressure impulse. The boundary conditions can be in one of four forms:

- $\nabla P.\underline{n} = 0$ on a fixed impermeable surface (with normal vector $\underline{n}$) which is in contact with the fluid before and after impact. That is, fluid can't pass through the boundary.

- $\partial P/\partial n = \rho\, \underline{u}_b . \underline{n}$ where fluid impacts on a solid surface with velocity $\underline{u}_b$ and remains in contact with the surface after impact (whence $\underline{u}_a = 0$). This is a consequence of (1.2.6).

- P or ∇P specified in the far field.

- $P = 0$ on a free surface. Since pressure, p, is constant on a free surface, we can define P up to an arbitrary constant, and without loss of generality this constant is zero. A consequence of this is that we can take any contour of constant pressure impulse to be a free surface for the flow.

The present method simplifies the flow equations at the instant when the fluid undergoes a large acceleration. The non-linear boundary conditions are approximated by a linear free surface condition, $P = 0$, and the deforming fluid domain is replaced by the domain at the instant at which the impulsive pressures occur. We neglect the large fluid displacements which occur at the free surface, since we are interested only in the high pressures on the wall. Indeed, since the highest pressures occur when the wave approaches parallel to the wall, two-dimensional analysis of P is often appropriate for predicting the highest impact pressures.

Given a pressure impulse distribution $P(x, y, z)$, we can calculate the impulse, $\underline{I}$, on a solid structure, B, in the fluid domain, by integrating the normal component of P over its boundary, ∂B. That is, $\underline{I} = -\int_{\partial B} P \underline{n}\, \mathrm{d}B$, where $\underline{n}$ is the normal pointing out of B and $\mathrm{d}B$ is a surface element of B. Then, given $\underline{I}$, we can approximate the force on B by assuming that the impulse is the product of a large force $\underline{F}$ and a short time Δt so that $\underline{F} = \underline{I}/\Delta t$. Since Δt is often very small, and $|\underline{I}|$ is proportional to the size of the body and the peak pressure, this can give very large forces, which anecdotal evidence suggests are so great as to overcome the forces holding objects such as caissons in place. So by finding P for some particular geometries, we intend to show how big these forces are, and that the movement of elements of breakwaters is caused by impulsive pressures due to wave breaking.

1.2.1 Applications of PIT - a Literature Review

Cooker and Peregrine (1990, 1995) use PIT to account for the high pressures and velocities involved in the impact of a body of incompressible fluid on a solid surface. They solve for the pressure impulse in a two-dimensional rectangular domain, which is an idealisation of a wave breaking against a vertical wall in shoaling water. The wave is assumed to impact with a vertical face and a flat free surface. The length of the impact zone, the upper part of the wall over which the wave breaks, is a free parameter, and their calculations show that wave breaking over the whole wall gives the highest impact pressures. The length of the domain (distance away from the wall) is also varied to allow the theory to account for wave breaking in containers (small lengths) as well as sea waves (semi-infinite approximation). We extend this analysis in the next chapter, where the model is explained in more depth. Cooker and Peregrine (1995) also use PIT to examine liquid-liquid impact.

The impact zone is extended by Topliss (1994) to a rectangular patch on the wall (in three-dimensions). She shows that as the size of the patch grows, so does the maximum pressure impulse, although it is generally less than that predicted by a two-dimensional model. In the same piece of work, the author uses PIT to find pressure impulse distributions in containers, such as lorries carrying liquid loads. In particular, for partially filled circular containers very high pressure impulse gradients are found.

Wave impact under a horizontal deck projecting out from a vertical wall is studied by Wood (1997) using PIT and conformal mapping. A numerical solution is evaluated, showing that as the depth of water under the deck decreases, the pressure impulses on the underside of the deck increase. This leads to a consideration of the filling flow of Peregrine and Kalliadasis (1996) (see earlier). Wood also models the pressure impulses in a rubble mound in front of a vertical wall by assuming it to be a uniformly porous horizontal sea bed. The pressure impulse in the rubble is relatively low and increasing porosity reduces P along the interface and on the wall.

The solution for the pressure impulse in the rectangular domain of Cooker and

Peregrine (1995) is compared with numerical computations by Cooker and Peregrine (1992). They show that there is reasonably good agreement between the distribution of pressure predicted by each method and that PIT only slightly underestimates peak pressures on the wall. They also find large pressure impulse gradients along the sea bed, acting away from the wall. Hypothesising the presence of a rigid body, resting on the sea bed but free to move, they show that the pressure impulse on the object, generated by the wave breaking against the wall, may be large enough to overcome the fluid drag and friction acting and so move the body. Results are presented for a hemi-ellipsoid and for a circular cylinder, although their conclusion that the cylinder experiences a vertical impulse is incorrect, due to an error in their numerical integration. Their paper also shows that if the body is fixed to the bed it will experience a greater fluid impulse. This model is extended in Chapter 3 to enable some general formulae to be applied to the impulse on a body in this position.

Okamura (1993) employs PIT to explore the effect on the maximum pressures on a sea wall if the wall is inclined. In this wedge shaped geometry, the equations are solved using a Mellin transform. With a careful choice of impacting velocity profile, he shows that pressure impulses (and therefore peak pressures) are higher when the wall is nearly vertical. This, in part, justifies our choice of a vertical wall for most of the analysis that follows.

Agreement between PIT and experiment is found by Chan (1994). He describes his experiments concerning wave breaking against a vertical wall in deep water. In particular, choosing parameter values for the analysis of Cooker and Peregrine (1990) from his experiments, Chan shows that the profiles of peak pressure in the impact zone are similar. It is suggested that trapped air effects could account for the small discrepancy.

Chapter 2

A Comparison of Models for Fluid Impacting on a Vertical Wall

2.1 Introduction

In this chapter we model a wave entering shoaling water and impacting against a vertical wall. As the depth of water decreases towards the wall, the wave steepens and its forward face becomes vertical. Some waves will hit the wall before this happens, and others will propagate further so that a jet is formed at the forward edge, but Bagnold (1939) suggests that the largest pressure forces are caused by those waves whose face is vertical at the instant of impact. We approximate the gently sloping free surface by a flat, horizontal free surface, and assume that the sea bed is also horizontal so that we can solve a boundary value problem for the pressure impulse in this idealised rectangular domain, to model the fluid domain during the time of impact. We extend the model of Cooker and Peregrine (1990, 1995) to ascertain the sensitivity of their results to changes in the velocity profile of the impacting wave. The authors calculate the field of pressure impulse when a rectangular wave slams into a vertical wall. The sea bed is assumed to be flat and the wave impacts over a certain amount of the top of the wall, expressed as a fraction of the total water depth at the wall. For instance, Chan (1994) suggests that for deep-water plunging breakers the proportion of the wall being impacted upon is only 0.028. Cooker and Peregrine take the wave face to be vertical, since this is the shape that experiments show to be the wave profile giving the highest impact pressures. But we wish to know if other idealised profiles will give similar peak pressures, or whether this 'flat face' is unique in causing particularly high peak pressures. We shall consider three different profiles, including the flat face, which will enable us to make some comments about how important it is to choose the correct profile when using PIT.

The next section contains the details of the domain studied here. Section 2.3 describes the results of the modelling, some analytic results and a discussion concerning the number of terms required in the sum giving the solution for the pressure impulse. In §2.4 we give a method enabling $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty}\cos(2n-1)\theta/(2n-1)$ to be repeatedly summed and integrated which uses an asymptotic expansion for $\tan(\theta/2)$. Following this we draw some conclusions.

2.2 Formulation

At the instant of impact the shape of the fluid domain is idealised, as in figure 2.2.1. Consider this simple domain in which the free surface is flat and lies along $y = 0$. The sea bed is at $y = -H$ and the domain extends to $x = B$, for some $B > 0$. The vertical wall is at $x = 0$ and the fraction of the wall in the impact is denoted by μ - the impact occurs over the part of the wall $y \in [-\mu H, 0]$. It may seem perverse to hypothesise a flat free surface, when so many people spend so much time trying to deduce the free surface profile during wave impact. However we justify this choice on two counts: (i) after solving the problem we can choose any of the lines of constant P to be the free surface, since P is only specified up to an additive constant and (ii) during the very short time of impact, $\Delta t \sim 0.01$ seconds, the free surface profile changes little.

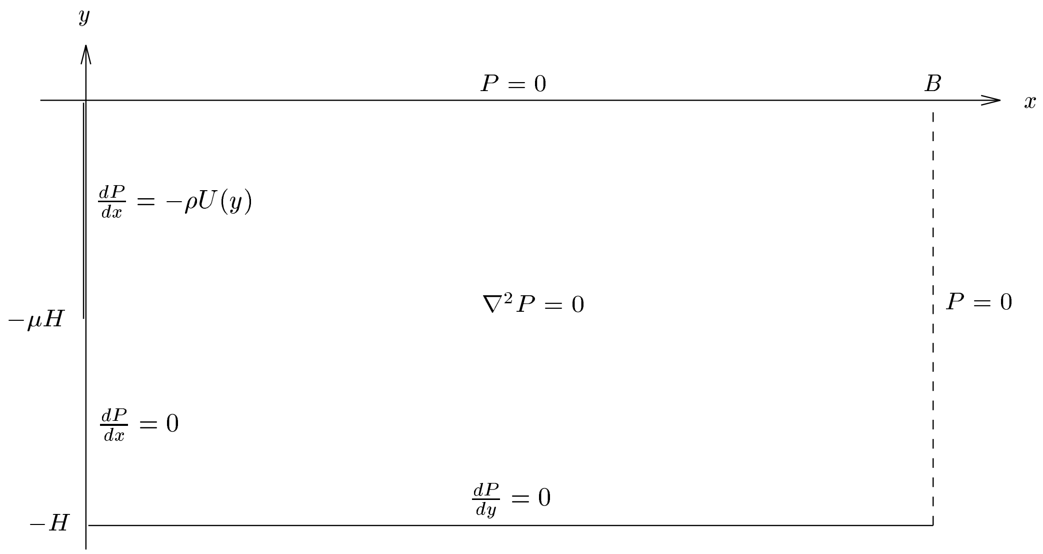

Figure 2.2.1: The boundary value problem for P, which satisfies Laplace's equation throughout the fluid. It is zero on both the free surface, $y = 0$, and the line $x = B > 0$. On the sea bed, $y = -H$, and on the lower part of the vertical wall at $x = 0$ we have $\partial P/\partial n = 0$ (where n is the normal to the specified surface). On the remainder of the wall (the fraction μH over which the wave impacts) $\partial P/\partial x = -\rho U(y)$ for a specified impact velocity profile, $U(y)$. ρ is the density of the fluid and we choose $U(y)$ to be one of three profiles.

The four boundary conditions on the pressure impulse $P(x, y)$ are derived according to the rules in §1.2, and are summarised in figure 2.2.1. P is zero on the free surface and also on $x = B$. The normal derivative of P is zero on the part of the wall below the impact zone and on the sea bed. In the impact zone itself, the normal derivative of P is given by (1.2.6) with $u_a = 0$ and $u_b = U(y)$. Thus

- $P(x, 0) = 0$, for $x \in [0, B]$
- $\partial P/\partial y\ (x, -H) = 0$, for $x \in [0, B]$
- $P(B, y) = 0$, for $y \in [-H, 0]$ or, as $B \to \infty$, $P(x, y) \to 0$ as $x \to \infty$
- $\partial P/\partial x\ (0, y) = \begin{cases} -\rho U(y) \text{ for } y \in [-\mu H, 0) \\ 0 \qquad\quad \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$

where $\mu \in [0, 1]$ and $U(y)$ is the given normal (horizontal) component of the velocity profile of the impacting wave.

A solution of (1.2.7) satisfying the first three conditions is

$$P(x, y) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \sin\left(\lambda_n \frac{y}{H}\right) \frac{\sinh(\lambda_n (x - B)/H)}{\cosh(-\lambda_n B/H)} \tag{2.2.1}$$

where $\lambda_n = (n - \frac{1}{2})\pi$ and the a_n are Fourier coefficients. The set of functions $\sin(\lambda_n y/H), n \in \mathbb{N}$ are orthogonal for $y \in [-H, 0]$, so substitution of (2.2.1) into the fourth boundary condition, together with Fourier analysis gives

$$a_n = -\frac{2\rho}{\lambda_n} \int_{-\mu H}^{0} U(y) \sin(\lambda_n \frac{y}{H})\, \mathrm{d}y. \tag{2.2.2}$$

We consider three impact velocity profiles, each representing a wave impinging with maximum velocity u_0.

- A: $U(y) = u_1 = u_0$.

  u_1 represents the limiting case of a thin lens shape that Bagnold (1939) cites as responsible for the highest peak pressures, where the forward face of the wave is vertical at the moment of impact. This case is treated by Cooker and Peregrine (1990, 1995) and it is included here for comparison of results.

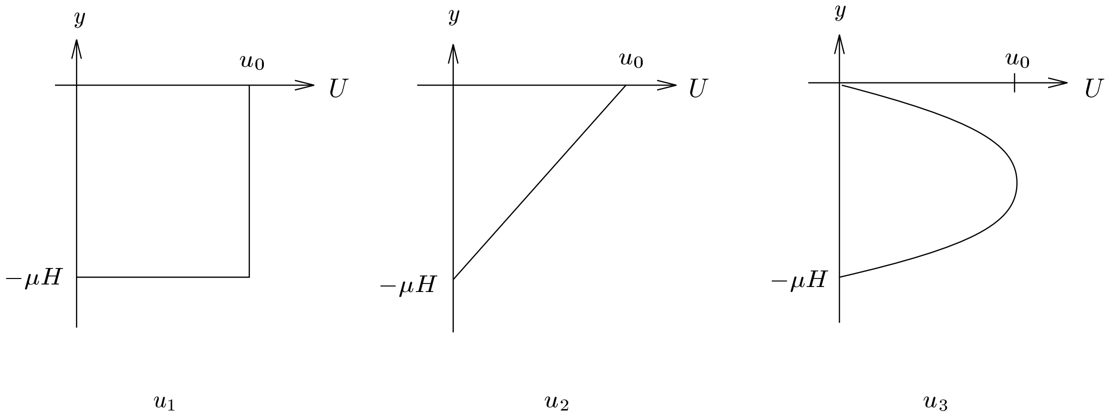

Figure 2.2.2: The impinging velocity profiles, u_1, u_2 and u_3. Each hits the wall over the range $[-\mu H, 0]$ with maximum velocity u_0.

- B: $U(y) = u_2 = \begin{cases} u_0 \frac{(y+\mu H)}{\mu H} & \text{for } y \in [-\mu H, 0) \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$

  u_2 exhibits a 'trapdoor' type mechanism where the fluid speeds increase towards the top of the wave.

- C: $U(y) = u_3 = \begin{cases} -4u_0 y \frac{(y+\mu H)}{(\mu H)^2} & \text{for } y \in [-\mu H, 0) \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$

  u_3 is parabolic in shape, with faster fluid at the centre compared to the fluid at the top and bottom of the impact zone.

These profiles are illustrated in figure 2.2.2, where u_0 is constant but there is no rule as to how it should be prescribed. Hattori *et al* (1994) find forward velocities of $1 - 2$ m sec^{-1}, but the jets which are often formed move much faster than this. Since there is so much variability between waves, even those classed together as either plunging, upward deflected or spilling, it is hard to relate our three chosen profiles to particular wave types: they are perhaps better left as mathematical constructs.

The corresponding Fourier coefficients, from (2.2.2), are

$$\begin{aligned} &\bullet\ A:\ a_{1n} = 2\rho u_0 H \frac{1-\cos(\mu\lambda_n)}{\lambda_n^2} \\ &\bullet\ B:\ a_{2n} = \frac{2\rho u_0 H}{\mu}\frac{\mu\lambda_n - \sin(\mu\lambda_n)}{\lambda_n^3} \\ &\bullet\ C:\ a_{3n} = \frac{8\rho u_0 H}{\mu^2}\frac{2(1-\cos(\mu\lambda_n)) - \mu\lambda_n\sin(\mu\lambda_n)}{\lambda_n^4} \end{aligned} \tag{2.2.3}$$

Thus far a rectangle of finite length B has been considered, but in the limiting case of a semi-infinite rectangle as $B \to \infty$, each term of (2.2.1) simplifies since

$$\lim_{B\to\infty}\frac{\sinh(\lambda_n(x-B)/H)}{\cosh(-\lambda_n B/H)} = \lim_{B\to\infty} \mathrm{e}^{-\lambda_n x/H}\,\frac{\mathrm{e}^{2\lambda_n(x-B)/H}-1}{\mathrm{e}^{-2\lambda_n B/H}+1} = -\mathrm{e}^{-\lambda_n x/H}.$$

Writing the hyperbolic functions in terms of their constituent exponentials also increases the rate of convergence, and eases the computation, reducing rounding errors. In the following, the semi-infinite domain is considered, where

$$P_i = -\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_{in}\sin\left(\lambda_n\frac{y}{H}\right)\mathrm{e}^{-\lambda_n x/H} \qquad i = 1, 2, 3. \tag{2.2.4}$$

2.3 Results

Use of the semi-infinite approximation ($B \to \infty$) is justified by referring to figure 2.3.1, which shows $P_3|_{x=0}$ (which we write as P_3^0) for different values of the length of the domain, B. For $B/H < 0.5$ the pressure impulse on the wall is relatively small and decays to zero towards the sea bed. However, once $B/H > 0.5$, $P|_{x=0}$ changes very little as $B \to \infty$, showing significant pressure impulses everywhere, including the base of the wall. For $B/H \geq 2$ the profile is virtually indistinguishable from $B/H \to \infty$ showing that for $B > H$ the pressure impulse distribution doesn't depend significantly on B and the assumption $B \to \infty$ is valid. $B < H$ is not considered further here since this geometry is of a different nature. In particular it is useful for analysing waves breaking in containers, and perhaps for impulsive pressure propagation in cracks in breakwaters: see Cooker and Peregrine (1995) and also Chapter 5.

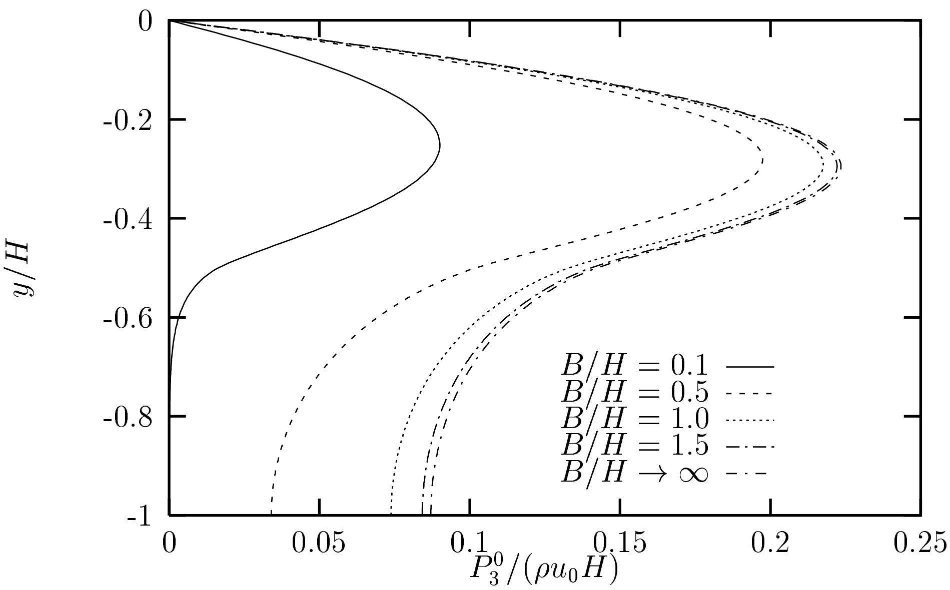

Figure 2.3.1: The pressure impulse on the wall, $x = 0$, for different values of the length of the domain, $B/H = 0.1, 0.5, 1.0, 1.5, \infty$. Case C, with velocity profile $U(y) = u_3$ and $\mu = 0.5$ is shown; the other cases give similar results, as do different values of either x or μ. Notice how close the two lines for $B/H = 1.5$ and $B/H \to \infty$ are, showing how quickly the semi infinite approximation becomes effective.

2.3.1 Varying impact zone length

Figure 2.3.2 indicates that, in each of the three cases, the pressure impulses increase as μ increases. It shows plots of the pressure impulse at the wall, P_i^0, in each of the three cases ($i = 1, 2, 3$), for $\mu = 0.2, 0.5$ and 0.8 respectively. In fact, purely physical considerations lead to the same conclusion - a larger impact zone has a larger body of fluid hitting it (providing all other factors remain constant, as they do here) and so the impulsive pressure is greater. Case B gives the smallest pressure impulses, except near to the surface where, for all μ, it shows higher values than Case C. Case A gives the largest pressure impulses on the wall. Note that the point on the wall at which the maximum pressure impulse occurs, $y_{\max}$, moves down the wall as μ increases.

2.3.2 Comparison of the three velocity profiles

Figures 2.3.3 to 2.3.5 show lines of constant pressure impulse in the domain $x \in [0, H], y \in [-H, 0]$. $P_i = 0$ on the x-axis and P_i increases into the fluid, with increments between the contours of $2 \times 10^{-3}\rho u_0 H$ for $\mu = 0.2$ and $1 \times 10^{-2}\rho u_0 H$ for $\mu = 0.5$ and $\mu = 0.8$.

With μ constant at 0.2 (figure 2.3.3) there is a trend of decreasing maximum pressure impulse from Case A, through Case C, to Case B. That is, $P_1^{\max} = 0.112\rho u_0 H$, $P_2^{\max} = 0.045\rho u_0 H$ and $P_3^{\max} = 0.087\rho u_0 H$. Whilst the impact occurs in the same place on each occasion, the pressure gradients around this area steepen dramatically in Case A. The maxima occur at positions on the wall given by $y_{\max}/H = -0.12, -0.09$ and -0.12 respectively.

As μ increases to 0.5 (figure 2.3.4), an increase in the pressure gradients is observed through the tighter spacing of the contours. In particular, the pressure impulse gradients are very large around the impact zones in Cases A and C. The maximum pressure impulses in each case are $P_1^{\max} = 0.294\rho u_0 H$, $P_2^{\max} = 0.123\rho u_0 H$ and $P_3^{\max} = 0.223\rho u_0 H$. The points at which the maximum pressure occurs on the wall are less close together: respectively $y_{\max}/H = -0.35, -0.22, -0.30$. This effect is due to the

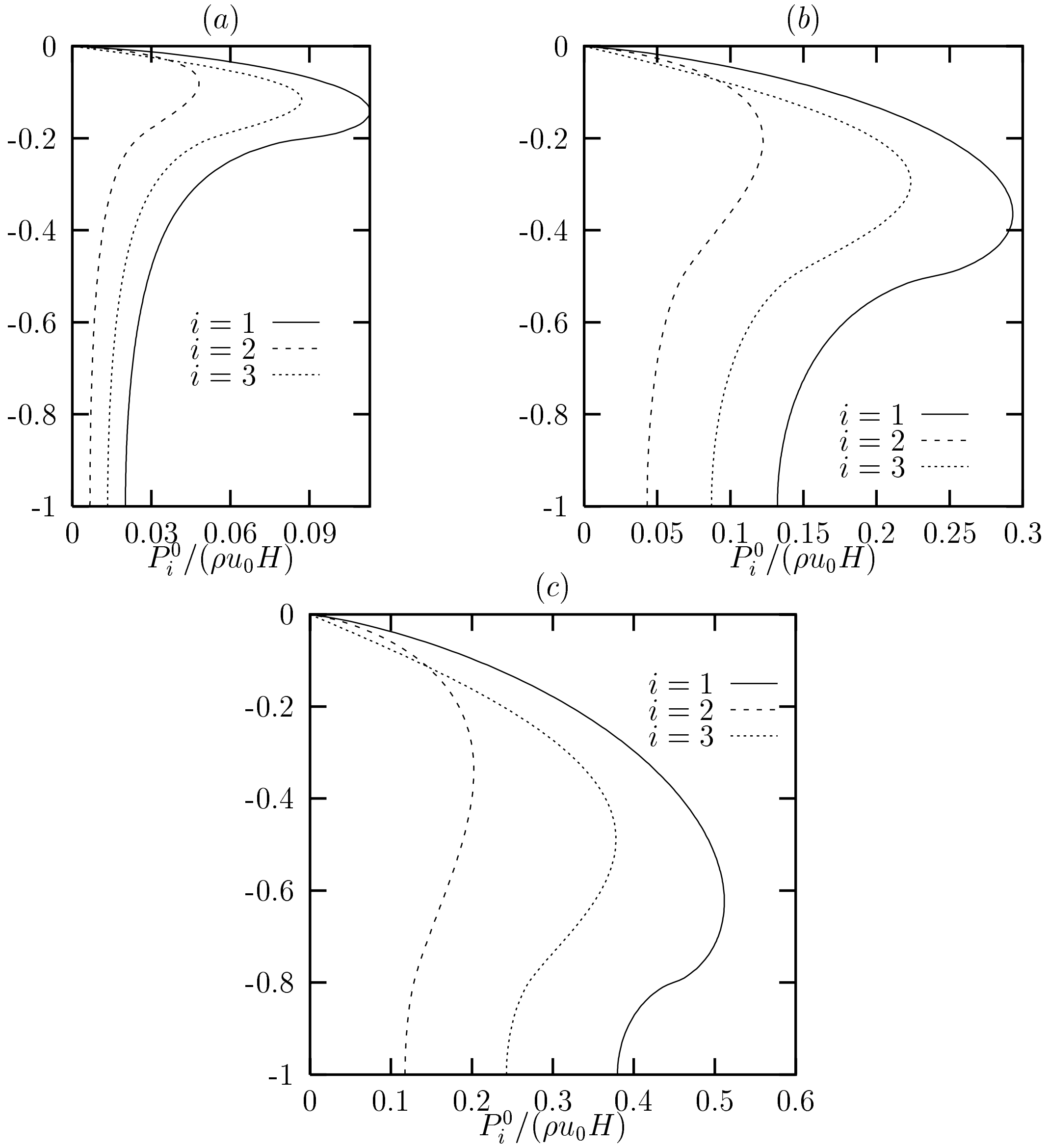

Figure 2.3.2: The pressure impulse on the wall, $x = 0$, for (a) $\mu = 0.2$, (b) $\mu = 0.5$ and (c) $\mu = 0.8$ in each of the three cases. The vertical axis represents distance down the wall, y/H, so that the base of the wall is $y/H = -1$. Case A ($i = 1$) gives the highest pressures. Case B ($i = 2$) gives the lowest pressure impulses, except near the surface, where Case C ($i = 3$) is lower. Recall that the velocity profiles show Case B to have a larger velocity at the surface than Case C, which explains this phenomenon.