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The State of the Art and Science of Coastal Engineering

Experimental modeling of wave forces and hydrodynamics on elevated coastal structures subject to waves, surge or tsunamis: the effect of breaking, shielding and debris



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Introduction

What is an elevated coastal structure?



Introduction

Why are they designed and build like this?



Introduction

Building codes and recommendations (FEMA, ASCE 7, Local codes, ...)

Recommended Practice:



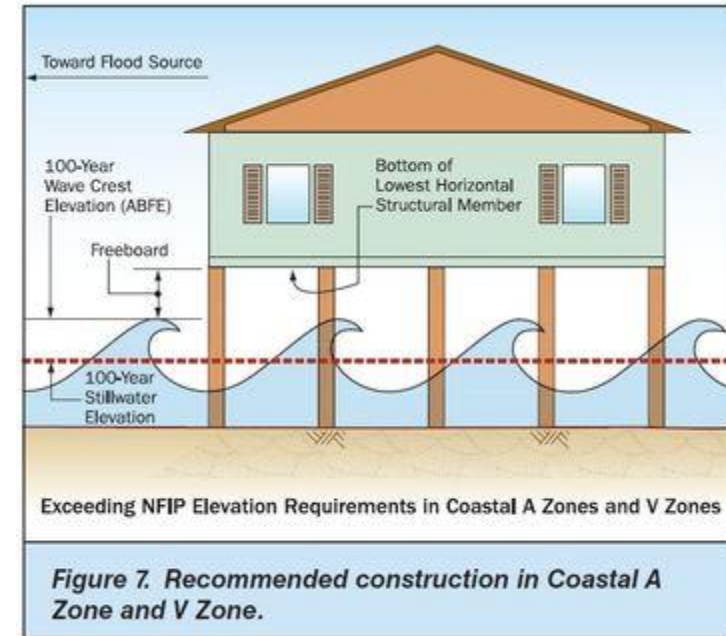
A Zones in Coastal Areas:

Subject to Breaking Waves and Erosion During the Base Flood
 Lowest Horizontal Structural Member Above BFE (Freeboard)



V Zones:

Bottom of Lowest Horizontal Structural Member Above BFE (Freeboard)



Introduction

Natural Hazards affecting Elevated Coastal Structures:

- Storm surge -> storm waves
- Earthquakes -> Tsunamis
- Wind
- Climate change
 - Sea level rise
 - Increase storm strength
 - Increased frequency



Photographs by Tori Tomiczek

Introduction

Scientific interest in understanding:

Actions

Effect of storm surge: water level v.s. structure elevation (air gap)

Effect of (short) waves at limited depth:

Broken waves

Breaking waves

Non-breaking waves

Extreme events: Tsunamis

Broken bore

Breaking first impact

Non-breaking wave

Structural response

Fragility and resilience

Interaction with other structures (shielding)

Debris impact

Scour and liquefaction

Etc.



The study

Modeling of wave forces and hydrodynamics on elevated coastal structures subject to waves, surge or tsunamis: the effect of breaking, shielding and debris

- Study on the impact forces of storm waves and tsunami-like waves on elevated coastal structures ([Park et al., 2017](#); [Tomiczek et al. 2018](#) – ICCE; [Alam et al., in preparation](#))
- Effect of other structures on flow changes (shielding) – ([Winter et al., in preparation](#))
- Impact forces on waterborne debris under Tsunami-like waves ([Shekhar et al., in preparation](#))

Approach:

Physical modelling: extensive experimental campaign

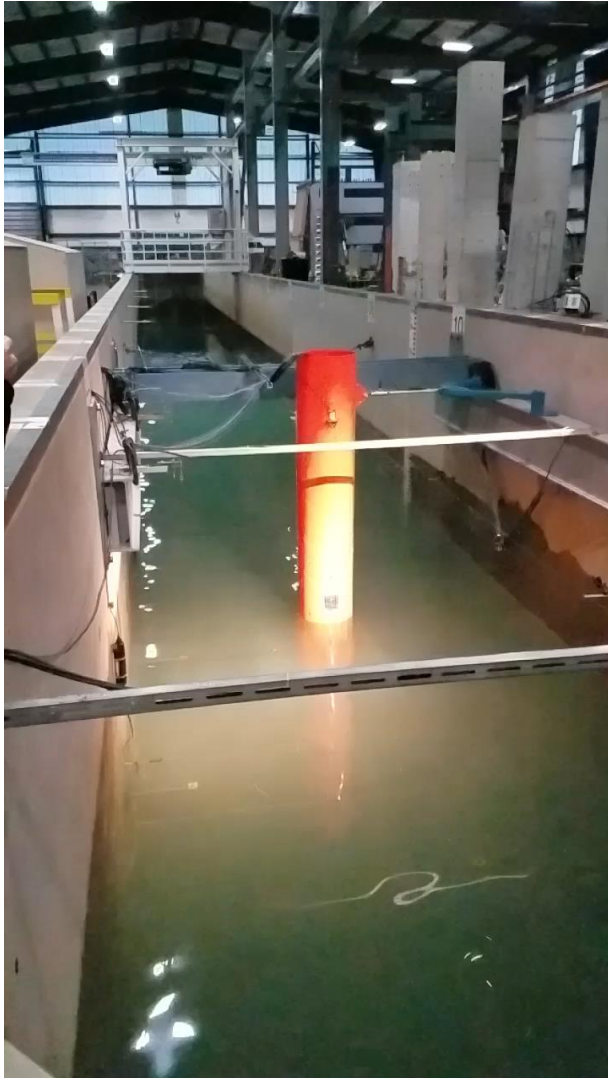
Numerical modelling: detailed hydrodynamics ([Park et al., 2017, 2018a, 2018b](#) – ICCE)

Structural modelling: stress and deformation for design

Transport of large scale floating bodies: waterborne debris



Experiments conducted at the Large Wave Flume (LWF) at Hinsdale Wave Research Laboratory (HWRL), Oregon State University



Test Facility and Flume Bathymetry

HWRL Large Wave Flume, OSU

104 m long, 3.7 m wide, 4.6 m deep (max depth 2.7 m for wind waves)

Piston-type, dry-back, 4.2 m stroke wave maker

One of the Experimental Facilities at OSU part of the NSF NHERI Program (prevent natural hazards from becoming societal disasters, i.e.

earthquake, tsunami, hurricane, storm waves, wind, surge, overland flow, flooding,...).

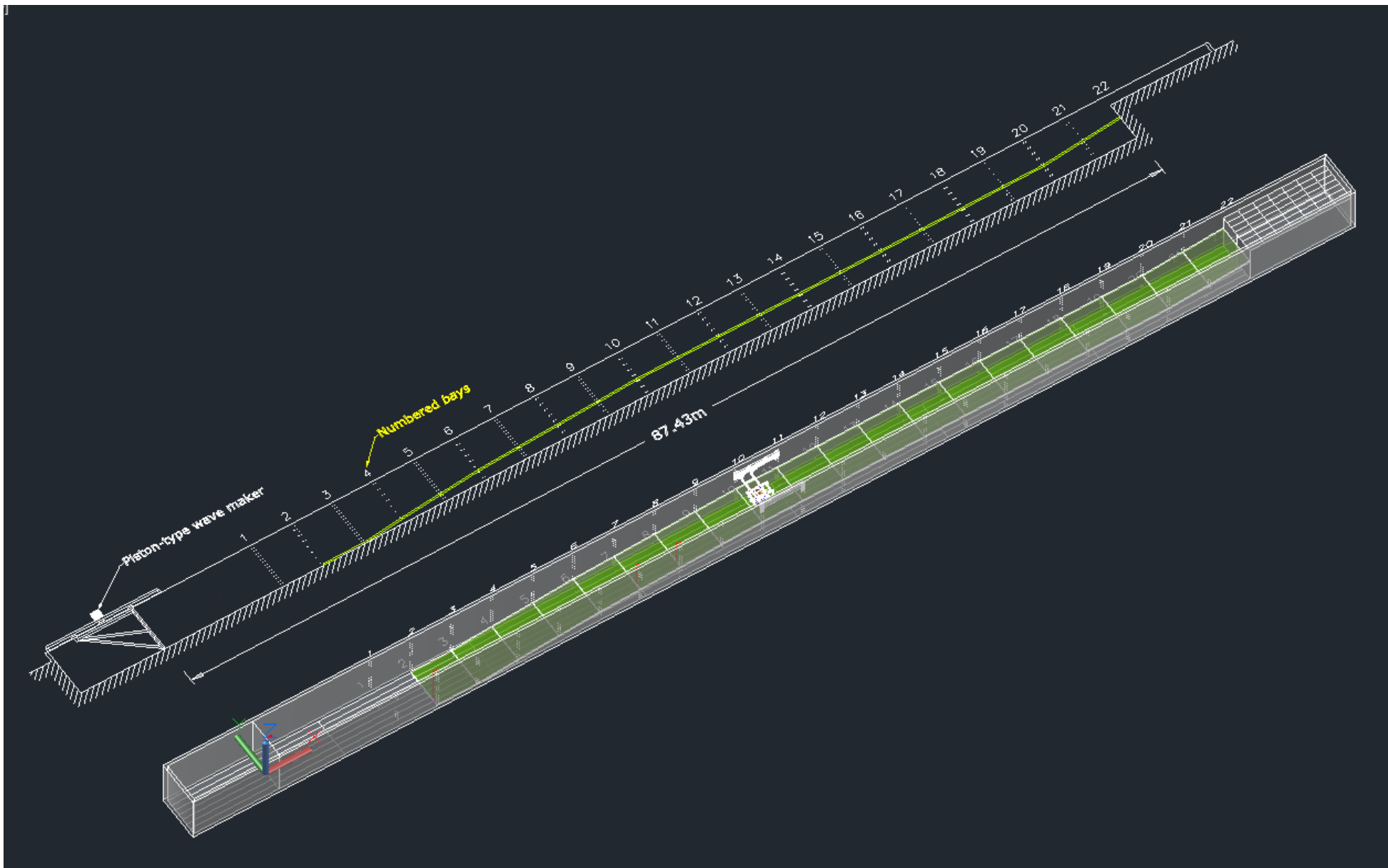
Study sponsored by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the U.S.

Department of Homeland Security (USDHS).

Impact forces on offshore wind turbines by breaking waves
NSF NHERI – Dr. Andrew Myers, Northeastern University



Experimental design (concept)

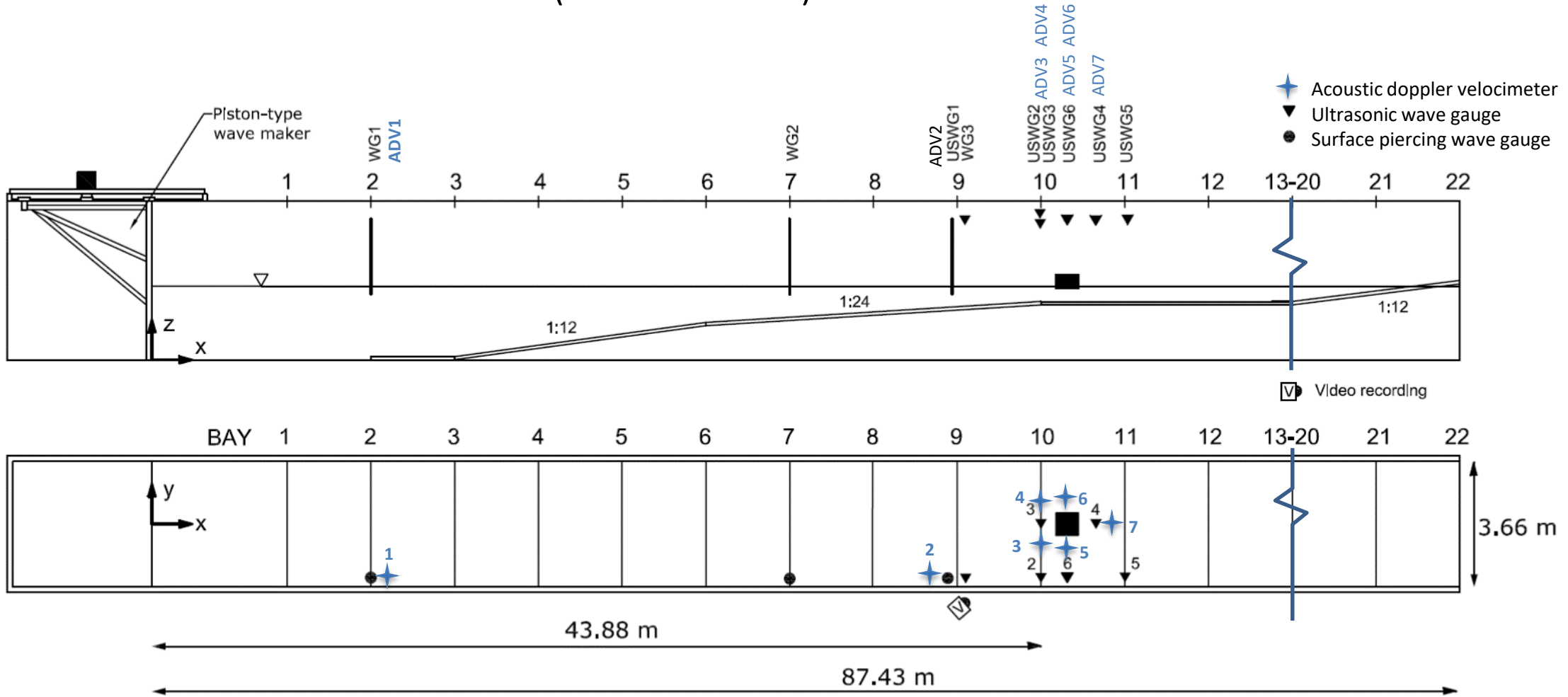


Measurements:

Hydrodynamics

Surface elevations (resistive wave gauges)

3D velocities (Vectrino-II ADV)



Measurements:

Wave induced-

- Dynamic pressures at the structure's faces (DRUCK-PS800)
- Forces on the specimen (Pancake and in-line load cells)
- Accelerations at the structure (Multi-axial PCB-Piezotronics)

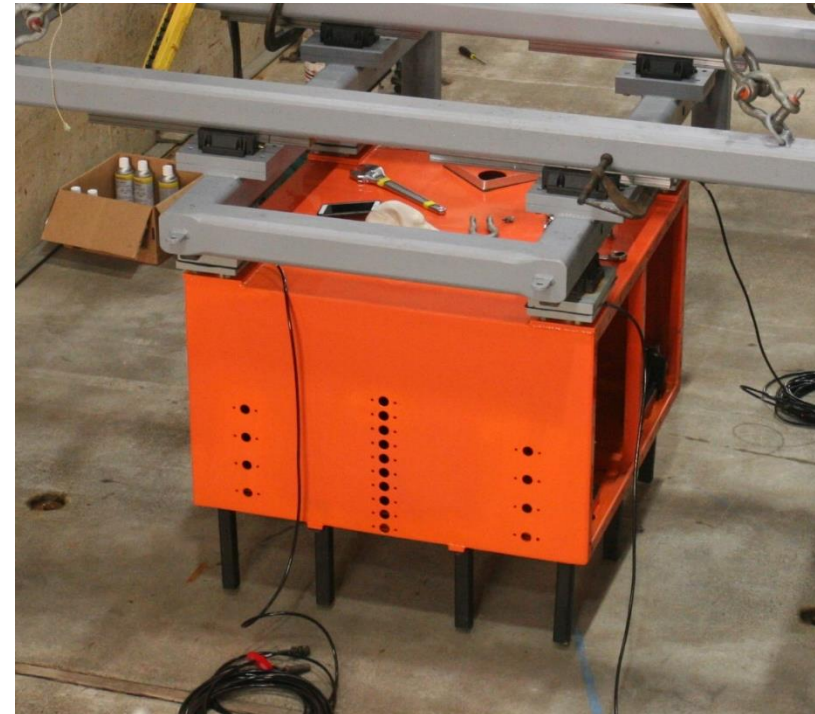
Mechanical properties of

- Specimen (elevated structure) – (Pluck, hammer, static load tests)
- Debris elements – (Swing tests)



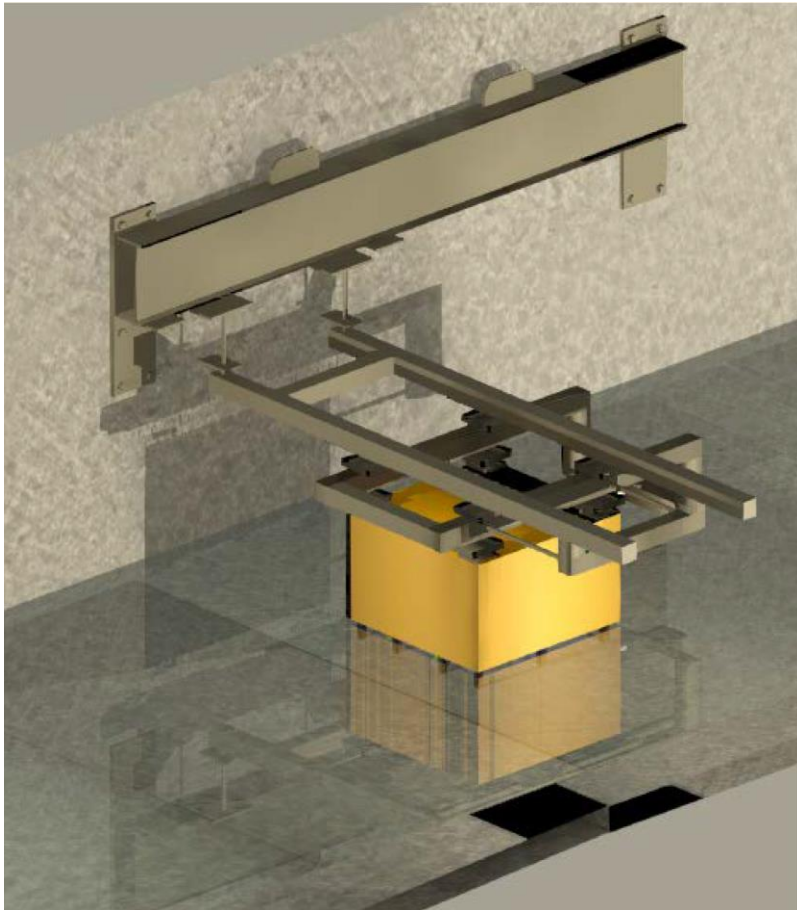
Test specimen design and instrumentation

- Elevated structure: Rigid steel box, 1 m x 1 m x 0.6 m
- 12 removable stilts, 4 designed for measuring longitudinal forces
- 28 pressure taps (18 at front, 2 on each side, 1 at the back, 8 at the bottom)
- Connections at the top corners for force measurements
- Connections at inside corners for 3-axis accelerometers



Test rig

- Allows the modification and fixing of the structure's elevation
- Designed for measuring longitudinal and lateral forces
- Control of stiffness
- Low-friction linear rails and bearings



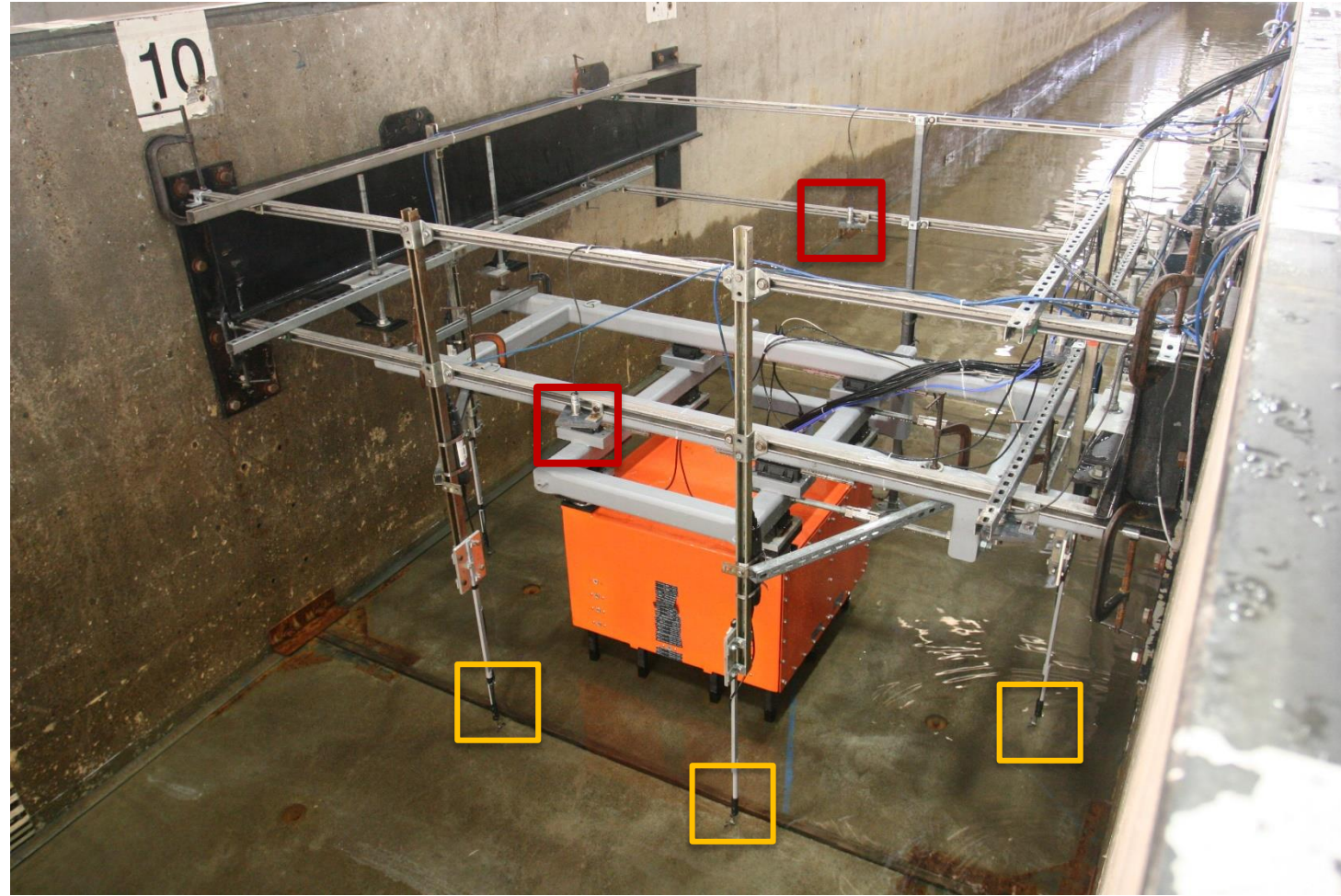
Test specimen design and instrumentation



ADV



USWG

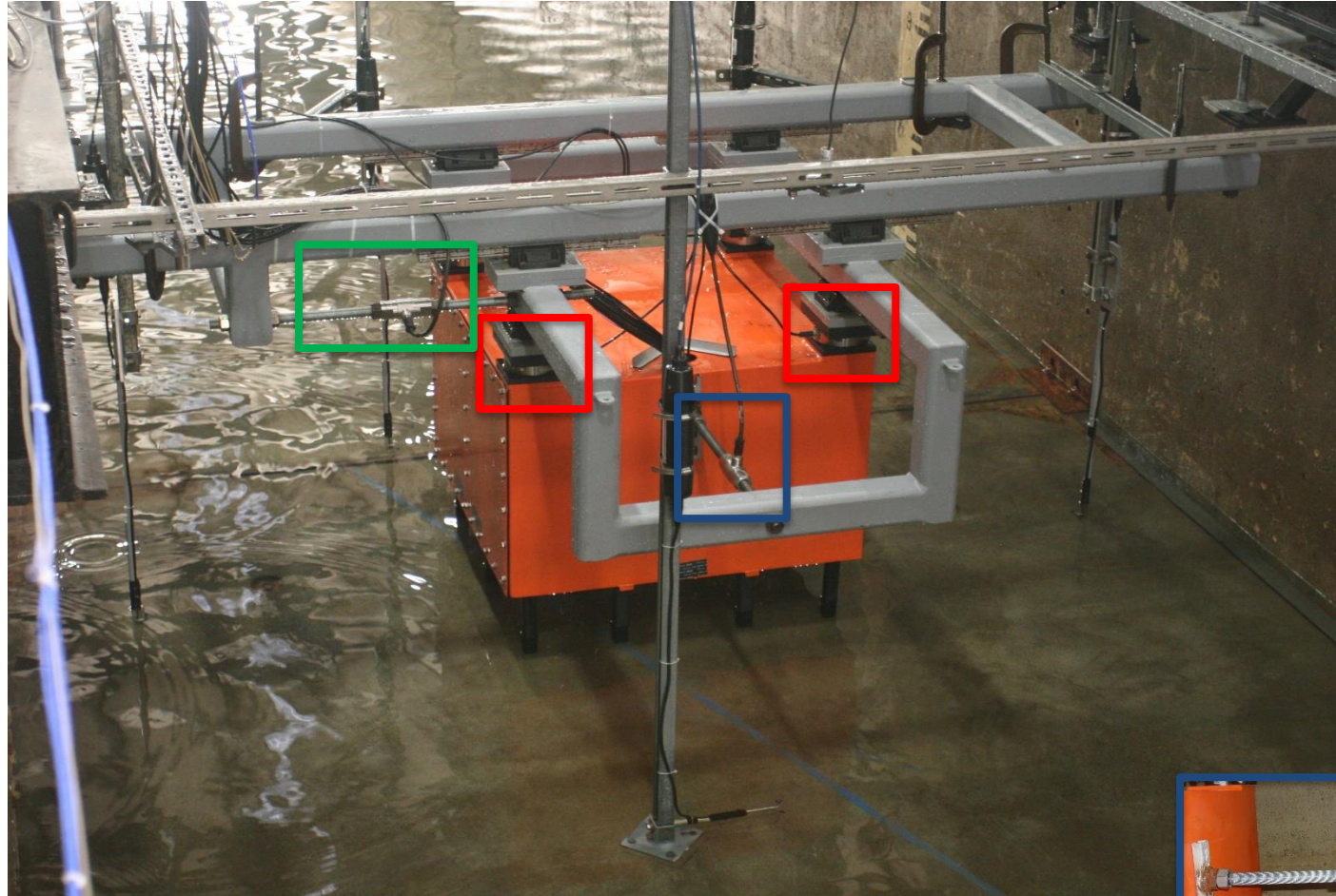


Front view

Test specimen design and instrumentation



In-line load cell
(for lateral loads)



Rear view



Pancake
load cell



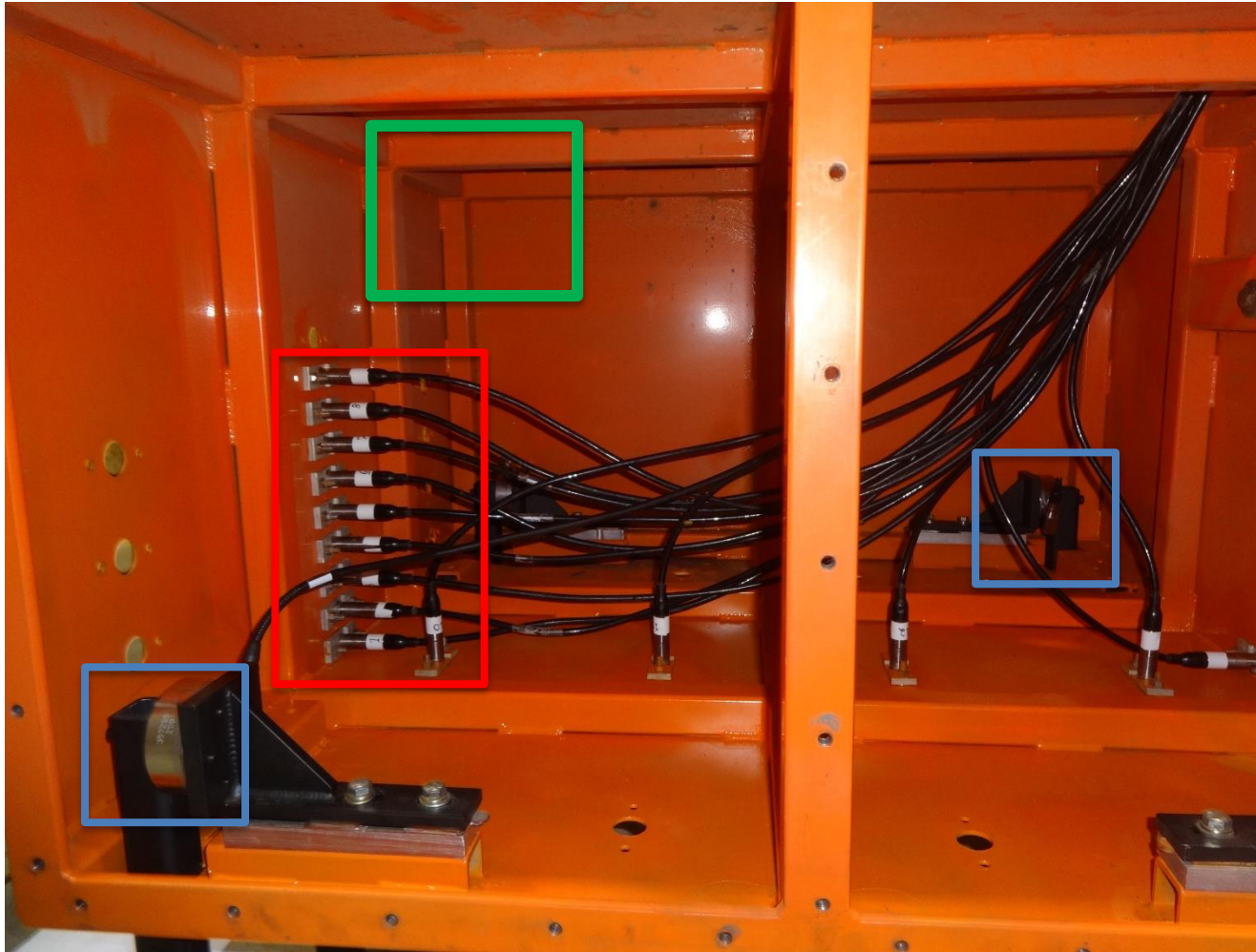
In-line load cell
(for longitudinal forces)



Test specimen design and instrumentation



Pressure gauges



Box inside



Accelerometers



Pancake load cell



Test program

- Different wave conditions: short waves and tsunamis
- Effect of wave breaking relative to the structure
- Variations in air-gap (freeboard)
- Relevance of stilts
- 3D Interaction with neighboring buildings (shielding)
- Debris impact forces: (variability of placing, density, damming effects)
- Uncertainty assessment
- Structural response (stiffness control)
- Structural characterization

Testing in **6 phases** (summer of 2016, winter/spring of 2017)

Overall, about 1100 individual tests

Comprehensive database



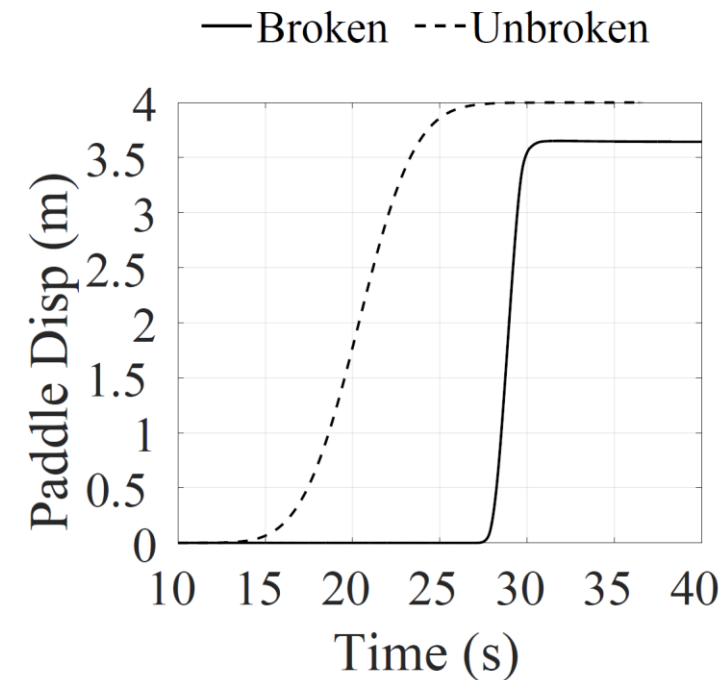
Test program

Phase 1: Wave calibration (undisturbed wave tests)

Measurement of wave conditions in absence of the structure

Identification of the breaking location for short (regular and irregular)
and tsunami waves (solitary and transient)

Definition of the specimen location for the next phases



Wave Maker Displacement Time Histories

Test program

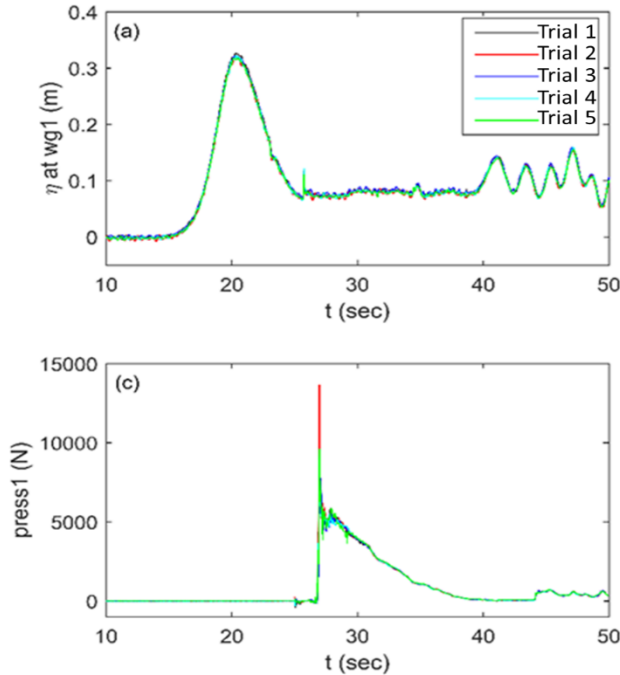
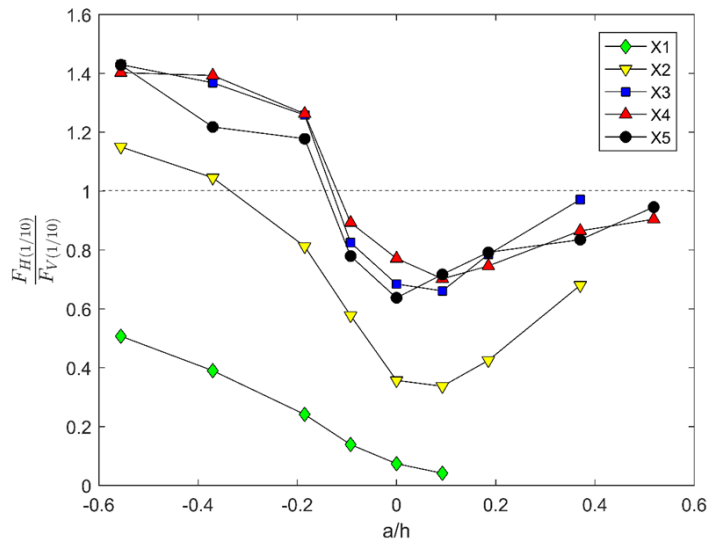
Phase 2: Air-gap (Park et al., 2017; Tomiczek et al., 2018)

Basic specimen and rig

Short waves and tsunamis

Variation of relative elevation to the water level (air-gap)

Surface elevation, pressure along the symmetry axis, vertical and longitudinal forces



Test program

Phase 3: Fixed air-gap ([Alam et al., in preparation](#))

12 stilts, 2 instrumented

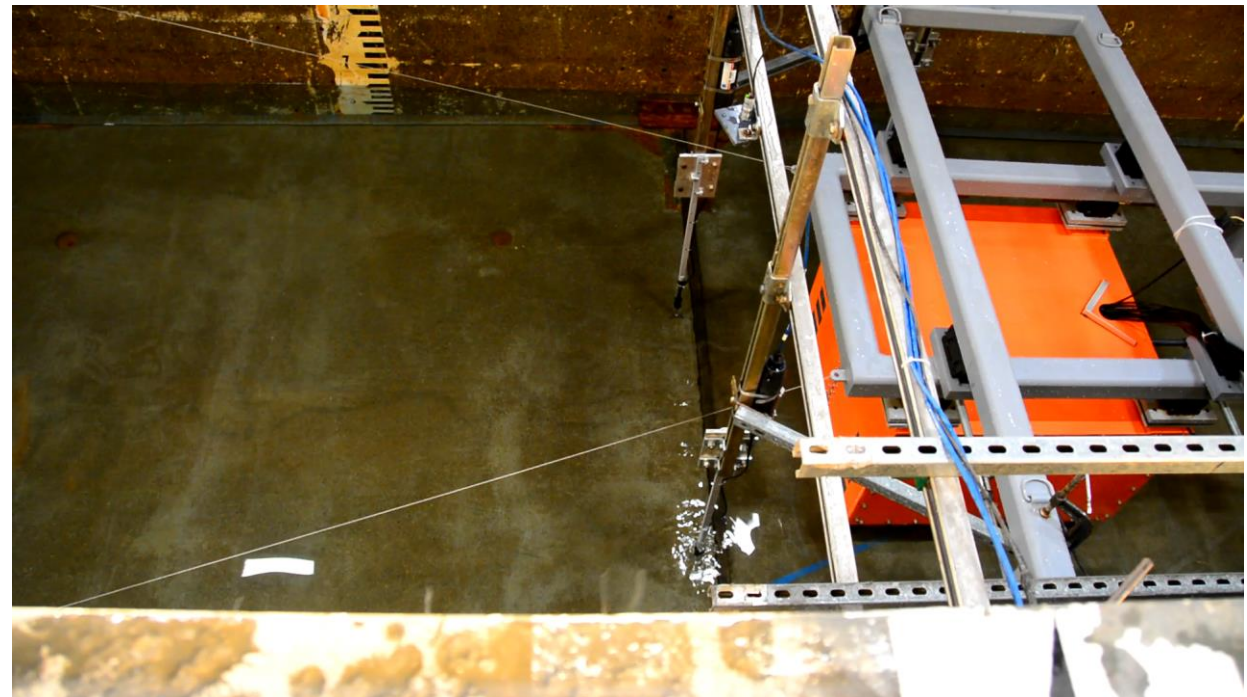
Improved rig and specimen for 3D measurements

Stiffness control

Broken, breaking and non-breaking tsunamis (solitary and transient waves)

Surface elevation, 3D velocities

Pressures on all faces, vertical, longitudinal and lateral forces, structural accelerations

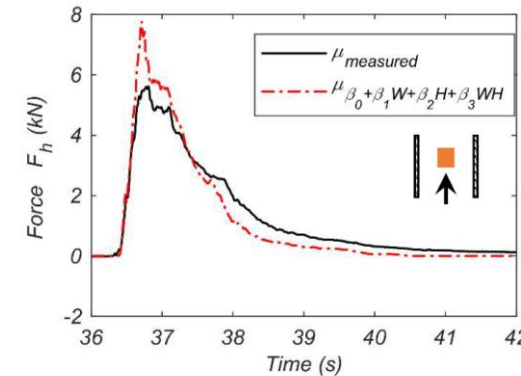
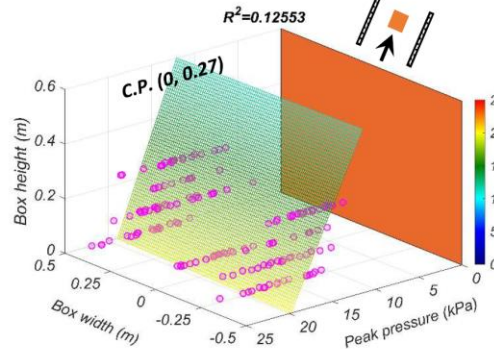
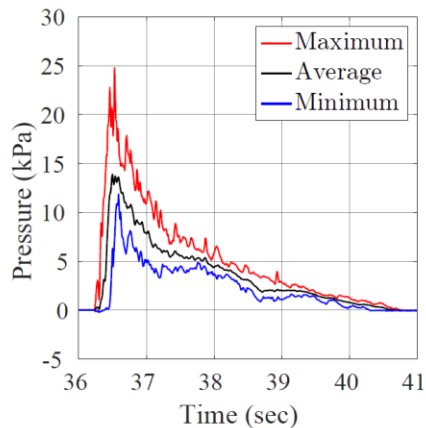
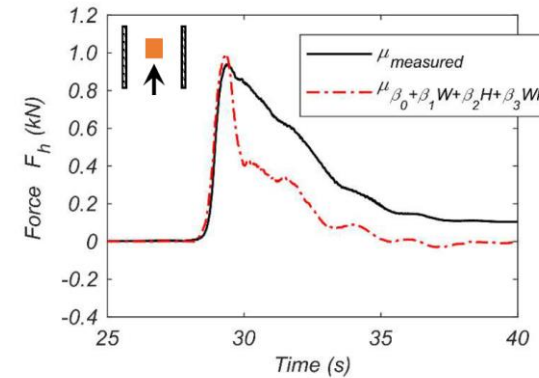
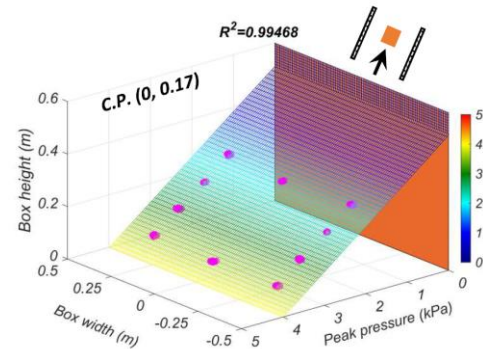
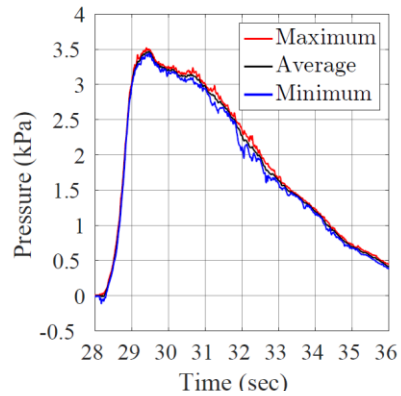


Test program



Phase 3: Fixed air-gap (Alam et al., in preparation)

- 12 stilts, 2 instrumented
- Improved rig and specimen for 3D measurements
- Stiffness control
- Broken, breaking and non-breaking tsunamis (solitary and transient waves)
- Surface elevation, 3D velocities
- Pressures on all faces, vertical, longitudinal and lateral forces, structural accelerations



Test program

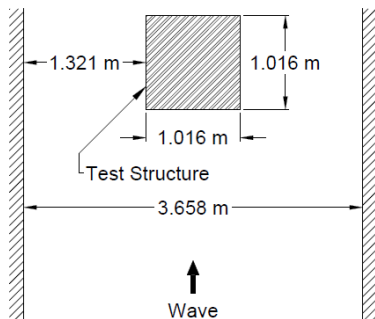
Phase 4: Interaction with neighboring structures (shielding), ([Winter et al., in preparation](#))

3D effects: induced flow asymmetry

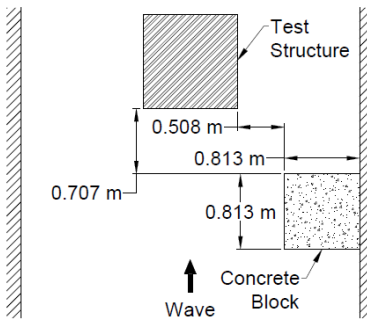
Broken, breaking and non-breaking tsunamis (solitary and transient waves)

Surface elevation, 3D velocities

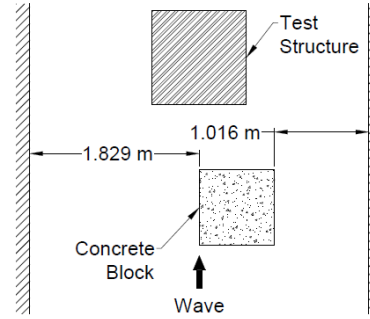
Pressures on all faces, vertical, longitudinal and lateral forces, structural accelerations



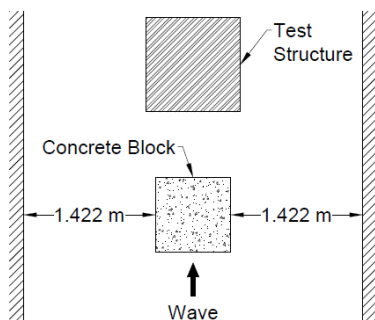
(a) Case A



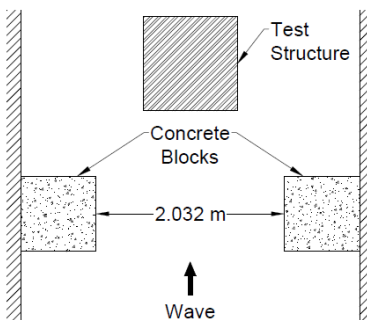
(b) Case B



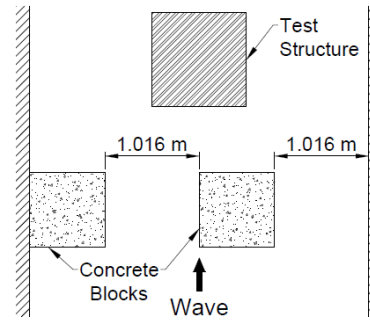
(c) Case C



(d) Case D



(e) Case E



(f) Case F



Test program



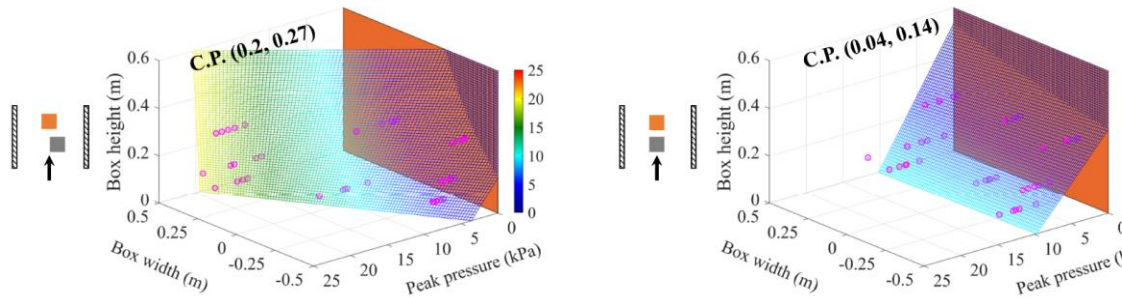
Phase 4: Interaction with neighboring structures (shielding), (Winter et al., in preparation)

3D effects: induced flow asymmetry

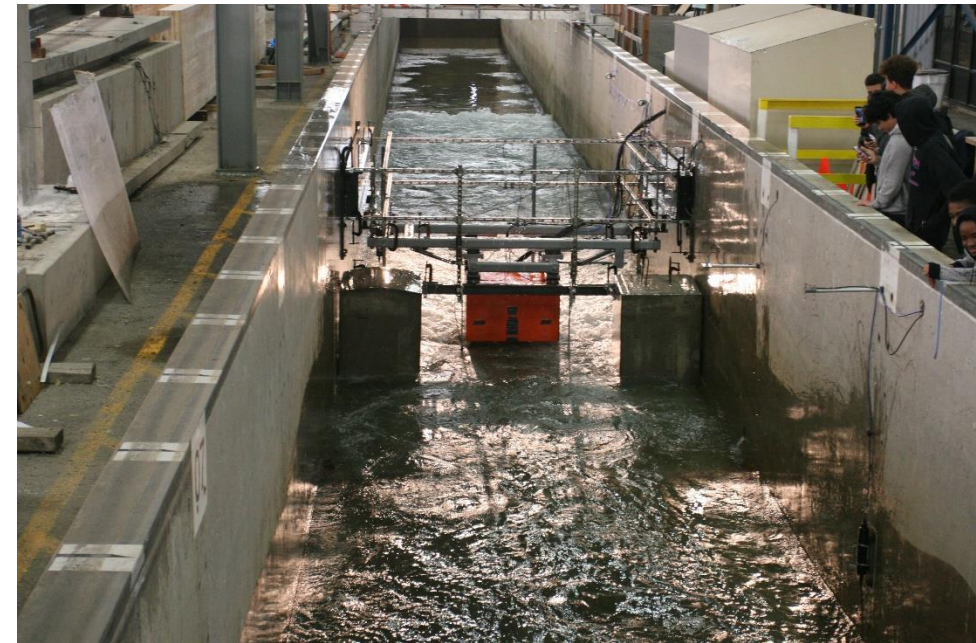
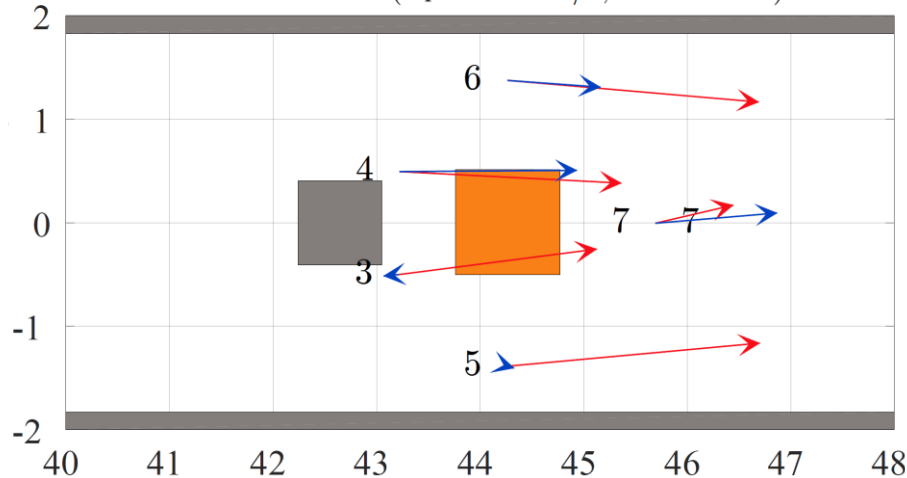
Broken, breaking and non-breaking tsunamis (solitary and transient waves)

Surface elevation, 3D velocities

Pressures on all faces, vertical, longitudinal and lateral forces, structural accelerations



- Unbroken Wave ($u_4 = 1.71$ m/s, $t = 30.58$ s)
- Broken Wave ($u_4 = 2.14$ m/s, $t = 38.40$ s)



Test program

Phase 5: Debris impact ([Shekhar et al., in preparation](#))

Waterborne debris (non-breaking wave)

Random v.s. regular placing

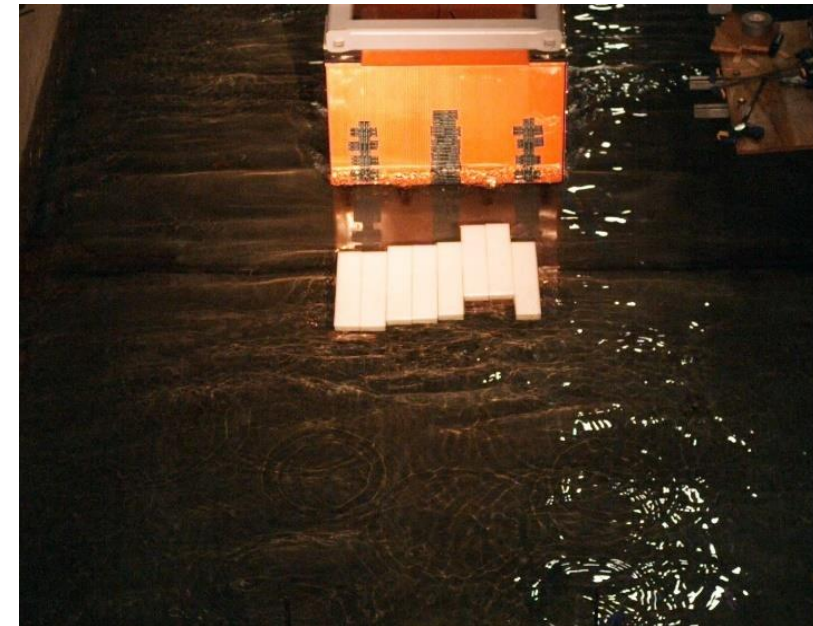
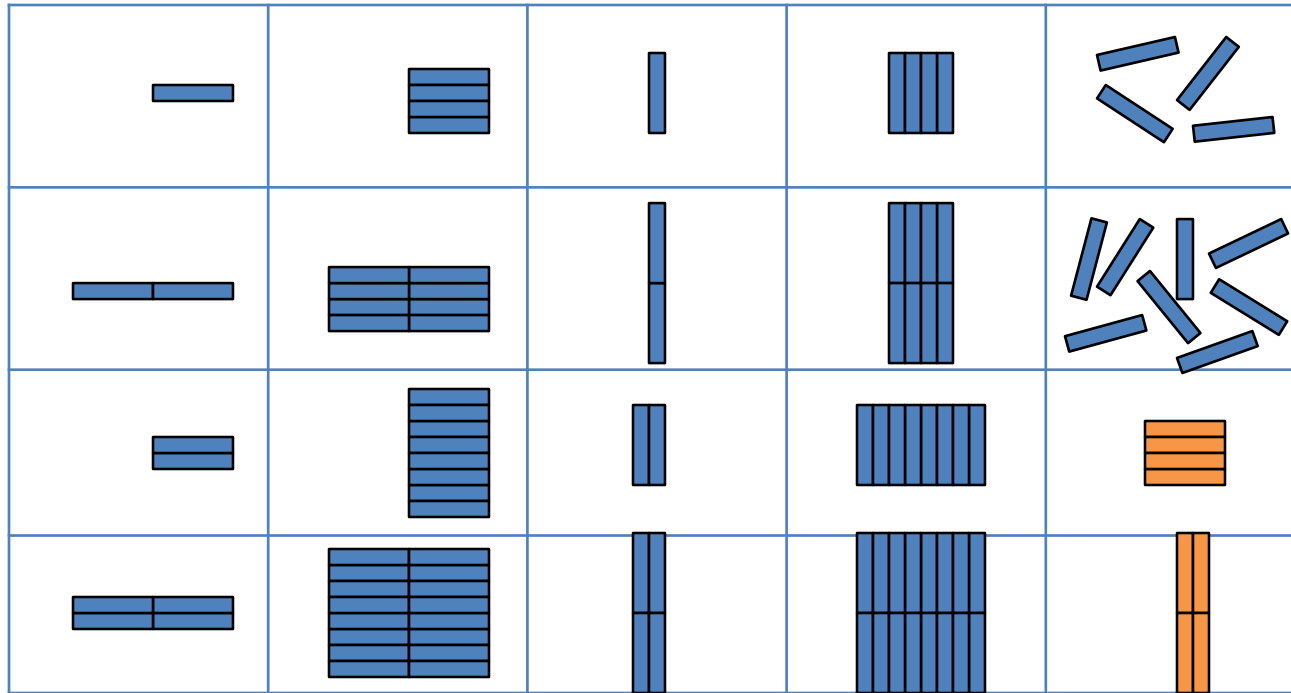
Probabilistic v.s. deterministic approach

2 types of materials (wood and HDPE) – effect of density and stiffness

Variable number of pieces, different orientations and sizes

Surface elevation, vertical, longitudinal and lateral forces, structural accelerations

Increased sampling rate



Test program

Phase 5: Debris impact (Shekhar et al., in preparation)

Waterborne debris (non-breaking wave)

Random v.s. regular placing

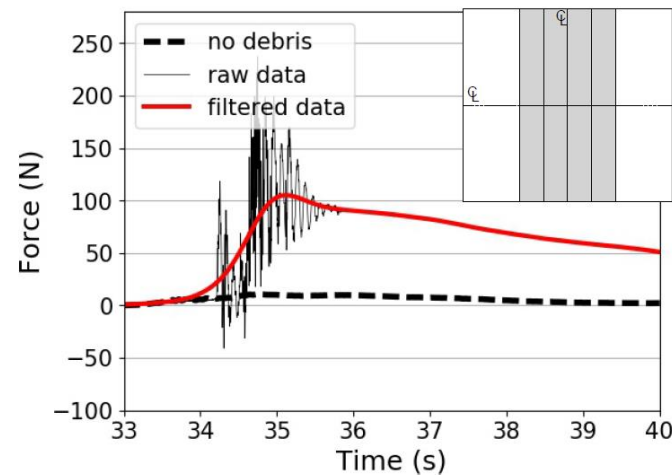
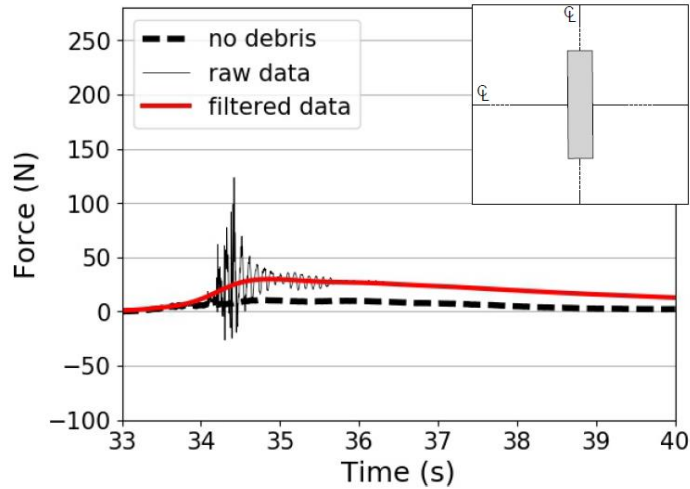
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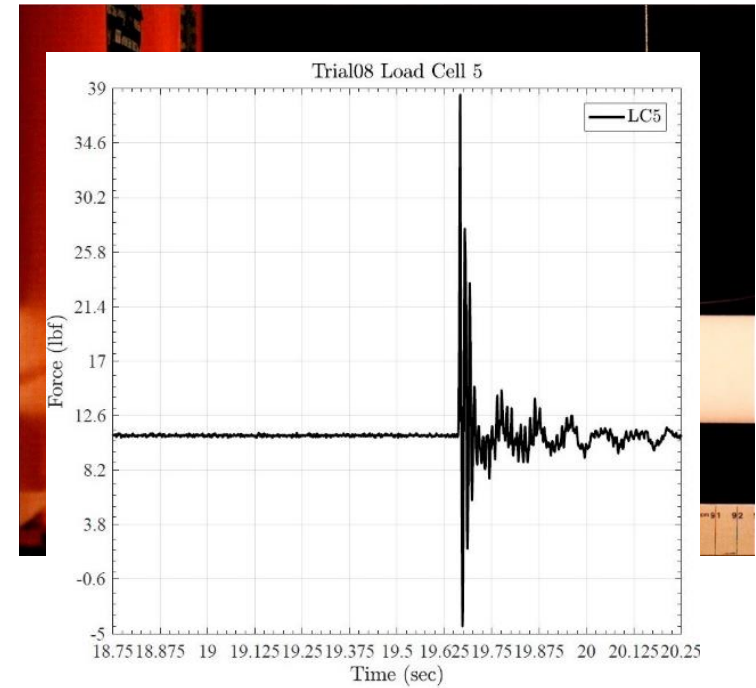
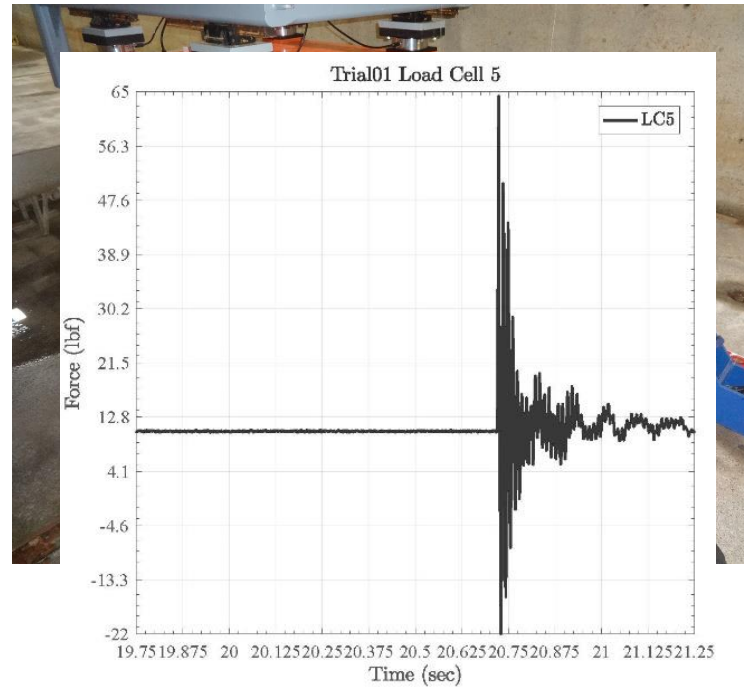
Phase 6: Structure and debris characterization

Pluck tests

Swing tests

Hammer tests

$$F = v_i \sqrt{km}$$



Database



NHERI: A NATURAL HAZARDS ENGINEERING RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE

- NSF supported for collaborative research
- Data repository for shared use
- Creation of DOI for the dataset
- Unlimited access



Concluding remarks

A comprehensive series of experiments have been conducted to study wave (-induced) forces and hydrodynamics on elevated coastal structures subject to waves, surge and tsunamis.

The effect of the elevation of the structure relative to the waterline, wave breaking conditions, flow shielding by adjacent structures, and waterborne debris, have been incorporated in the structural response of the specimen.

The experiments included detailed measurements of the free surface elevation, 3D velocities in the vicinity of the specimen, dynamic pressures on the exposed faces of the structure, forces and torques in all directions, 3D accelerations of the specimen, as well as the characterization of the mechanical properties of the specimen as well as the different debris blocks used.

Overall, close to 1100 tests have been executed and the data have been post-processed and uploaded in the NSF-NHERI Cyberinfrastructure: DesignSafe-CI.org



Acknowledgements

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And by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security under Award Number 2015-ST-061-ND0001-01



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Thank you for your attention

