

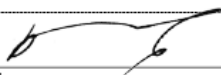

# CEGE0023: Offshore and Coastal Engineering

## Laboratory Report - Wave-flume experiment: wave generation and wave-data analysis

Alex (Nathalie Alexandra) Tcherdakoff

SN: 18006289 - Computer Science MEng - SoRA

### Risk Assessment

Department: Civil, Environmental & Geomatic Engineering	<b>Risk Assessment Form</b>
WORK/PROJECT TITLE: CEGE0023 Lab Visit.	
LOCATION(S): Fluids Lab (B09)	
DESCRIPTION OF WORK: Observation of wave generation and measurement in a wave flume	
PERSONS INVOLVED: CEGE0023 Students, PGTA (Konstantinos Chasapis)	
HAZARD IDENTIFICATION <i>(state the hazards involved in the work)</i>  Moving parts of the wave generator, electrical equipment and cables, open water in flumes, laser devices, general fluids laboratory hazards	
RISK ASSESSMENT <i>(make an assessment of the risks involved in the work and where possible state high, medium or low risk)</i> A low risk of physical injury by moving parts, a low risk of falling, a low risk of electrical shock.	
CONTROL MEASURES <i>(state the control measures that are in place for the protection of staff)</i>  <b><u>Follow instructions of lab technicians and a PGTA demonstrating the experiment.</u></b> <b>Do not open the electrical cupboards or any other electrical equipment.</b> <b>Stay away from moving parts of the wave generators.</b> <b>In the case of the fire alarm leave the lab and the building following designated fire escape routes.</b> <b>Take care when walking around the lab, step over cables and other obstacles.</b> <b>Don't approach areas marked as dangerous.</b> <b>Do not touch or move any objects without permission of a lab technician or a PGTA</b>	
SUPERVISOR DECLARATION I, the undersigned, have assessed the work, titled above, and declare that <del>there is no significant risk</del> the risks will be controlled by the methods stated on this form ( <i>delete as applicable</i> ) and that the work will be carried out in accordance with Departmental codes of practice.  Name: <u>Eugeny Buldakov</u>	
Signed: 	Date: 28 Oct 2019
STUDENT DECLARATION I, the undersigned, have assessed the work, titled above, and agree to work carefully and thoughtfully, to take the measures designed to protect my safety and that of others as described on this form, and to advise my supervisor of any additional risks or safety concerns that come to my attention.  Name: <u>Alex (Nathalie Alexandra) Tcherdakoff</u>	
Signed: 	Date: 18 December 2020

# 1 Abstract

This report contains an analysis of the wave-data from recorded waves generated in a laboratory wave-flume experiment. The analysis covers both regular waves (with frequencies  $f = 0.5\text{Hz}$ ,  $1\text{Hz}$ , and  $1.5\text{Hz}$  and respective nominal amplitudes  $A = 4\text{cm}$ ,  $3\text{cm}$ , and  $2\text{cm}$ ), as well as random waves (specifically, a 5 minute long sequence simulating a random sea state).

## 2 Experiment Description

This experiment is performed in a wave-flume, of which the dimensions are:

- 13m length (working section)
- 45cm width
- 40cm depth (water height at rest)

At either end of the wave-flume are piston-type wavemakers: the right-side wavemaker generates the waves, while the left-side wavemaker is to absorb the waves in order to eliminate reflection. However, the wavemaker is more efficient at absorbing long waves; in order to reduce overall reflections and absorb short waves, a horizontal flat metal perforated plate is placed just below water surface, in front of the wave absorber piston. While it is impossible to eliminate all reflections, the aim is to limit them as much as possible to limit experimental error. The wavemakers are connected to a control system, the input to which is the amplitude and frequency of generated regular waves, multiple of which can be superposed in order to create random waves or wave groupings. Wave generation is done using 2 pieces of software: the wave synthesizer designs specific experiments, which can be fed as input to the wave making program, which directly controls the wavemaker movement. There are 5 wave probes placed throughout the flume in order to measure wave data: these must be calibrated in order to provide a 1 Volt/cm water level change signal to their connected wave monitor. If they are not calibrated properly, this can also lead to experimental error. The data logger then translates the analogue signal from the wave monitor to digital signal, and transfers the data to the data acquisition software which can both save and inspect the data.

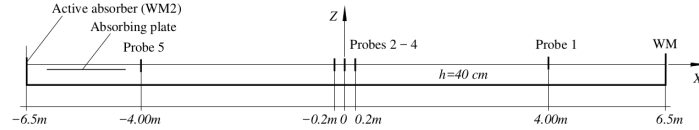


Figure 1: Wave flume layout and positions of wave probes [1]

## 3 Results

### 3.1 Regular wave record analysis

The measured wave data for probes 2, 3, and 4 can be represented using Python [2] (applies to all the graphs in this paper):

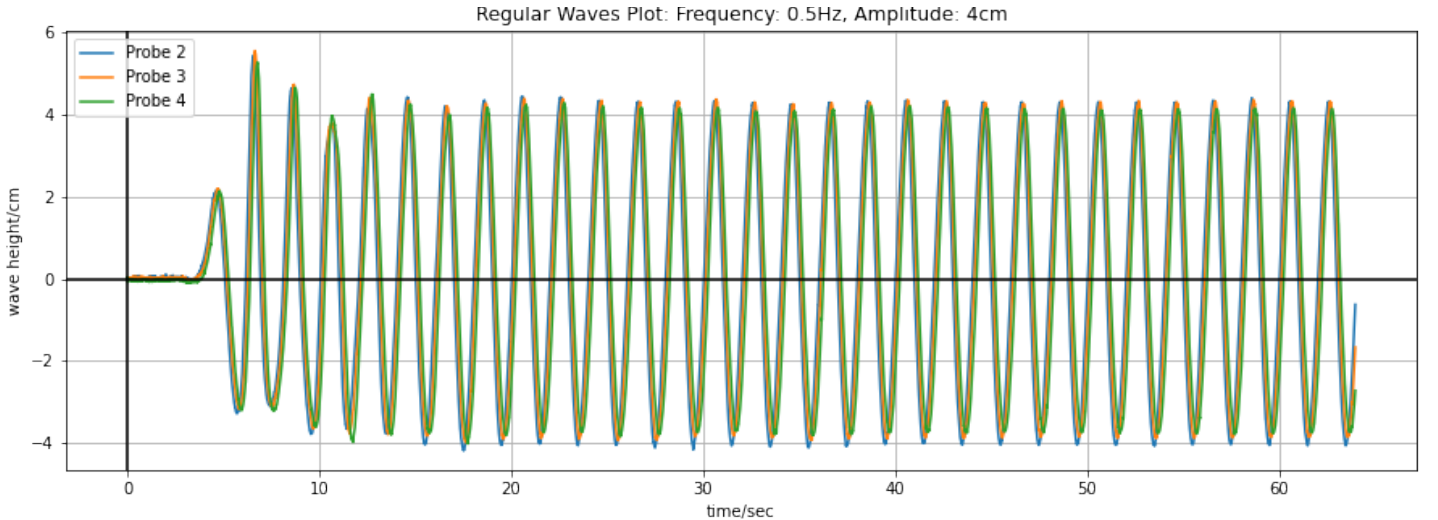


Figure 2: Regular Waves (Frequency = 0.5Hz, Amplitude = 4cm) Profile Representation measured from probes 2 through 4

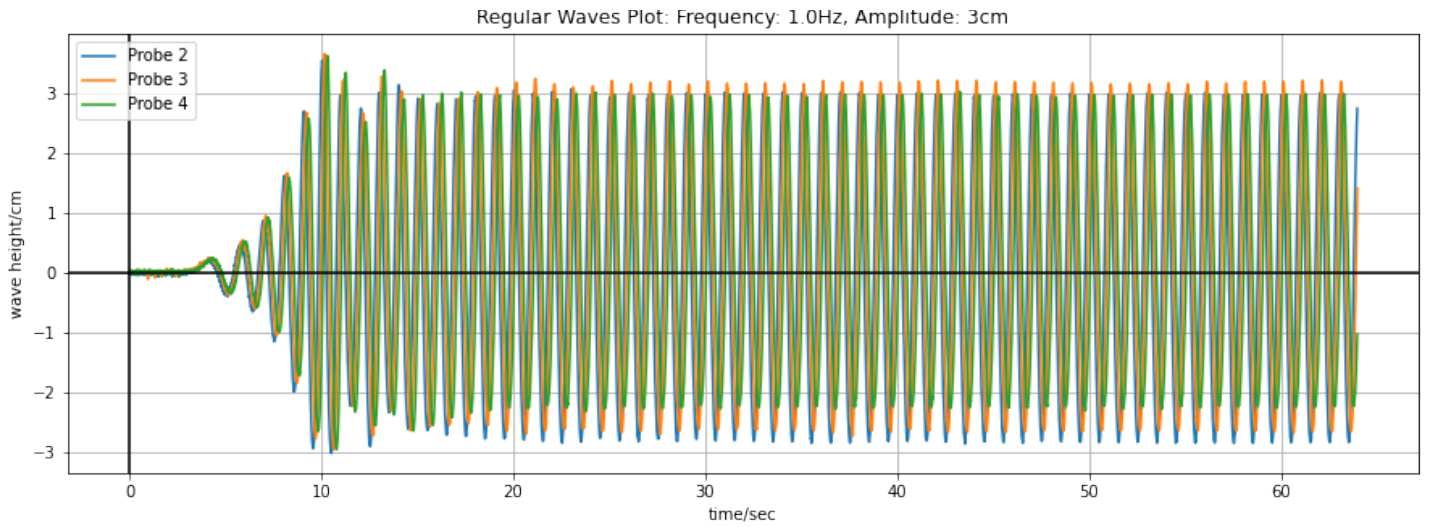


Figure 3: Regular Waves (Frequency = 1.0Hz, Amplitude = 3cm) Profile Representation measured from probes 2 through 4

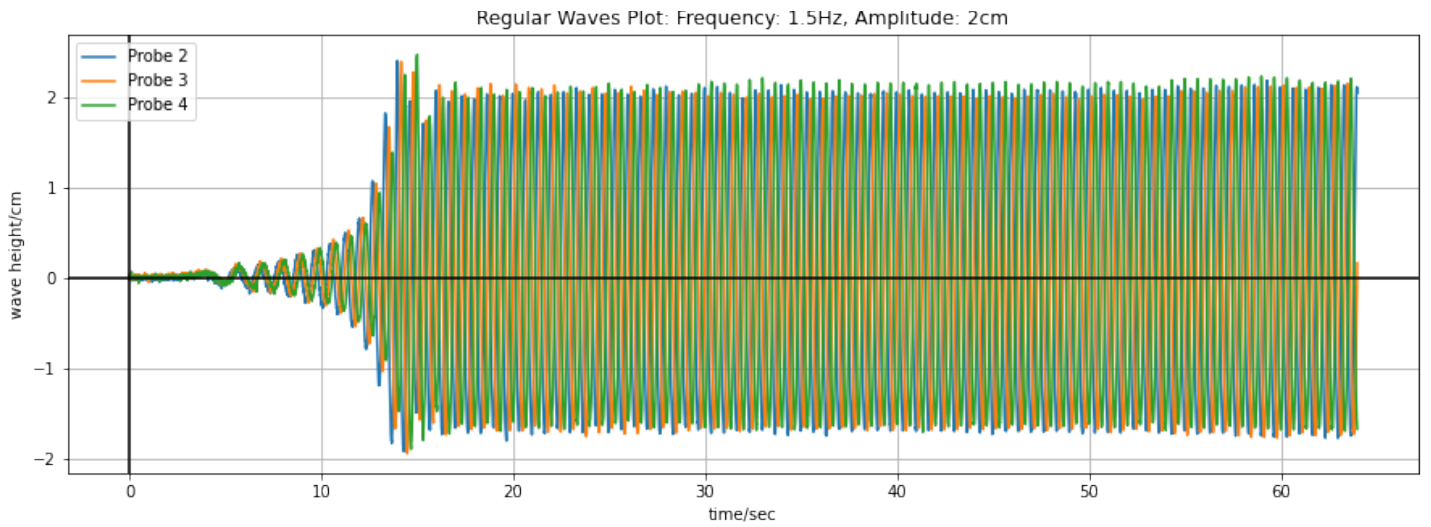


Figure 4: Regular Waves (Frequency = 1.5Hz, Amplitude = 2cm) Profile Representation measured from probes 2 through 4

The previous plots show an overview of the data, including the transitional period at the beginning. In order to analyse the wave record and compare the data, it is more appropriate to graph 1 period (not from the beginning) per record. The following periods were taken from approximately the middle of the records:

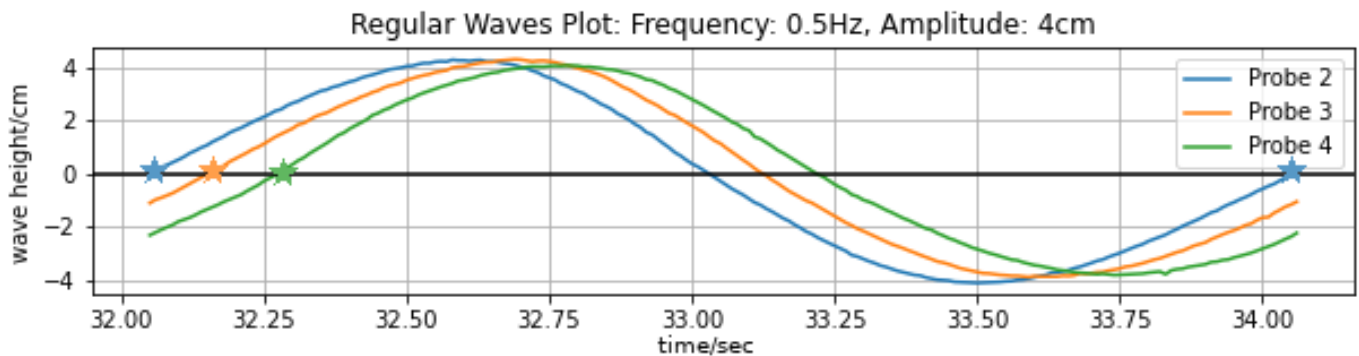


Figure 5: Regular Waves (Frequency = 0.5Hz, Amplitude = 4cm) Period Representation measured from probes 2 through 4

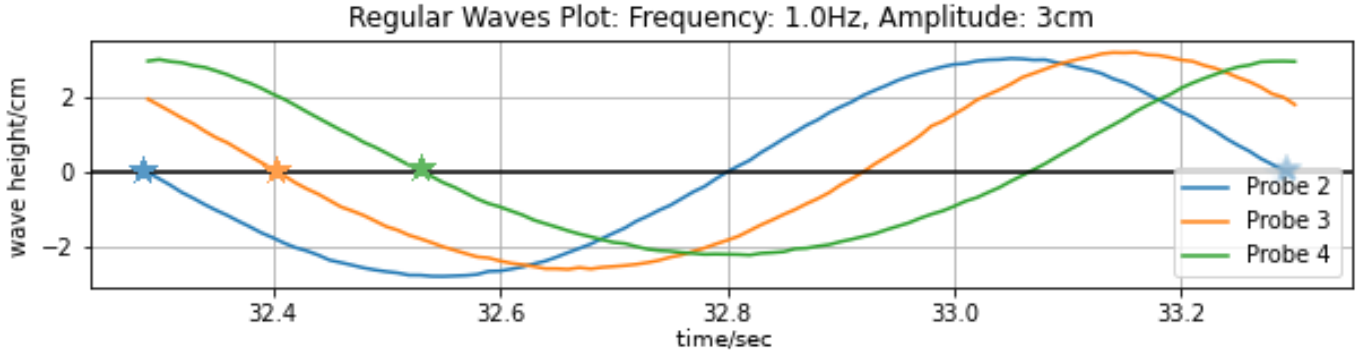


Figure 6: Regular Waves (Frequency = 1.0Hz, Amplitude = 3cm) Period Representation measured from probes 2 through 4

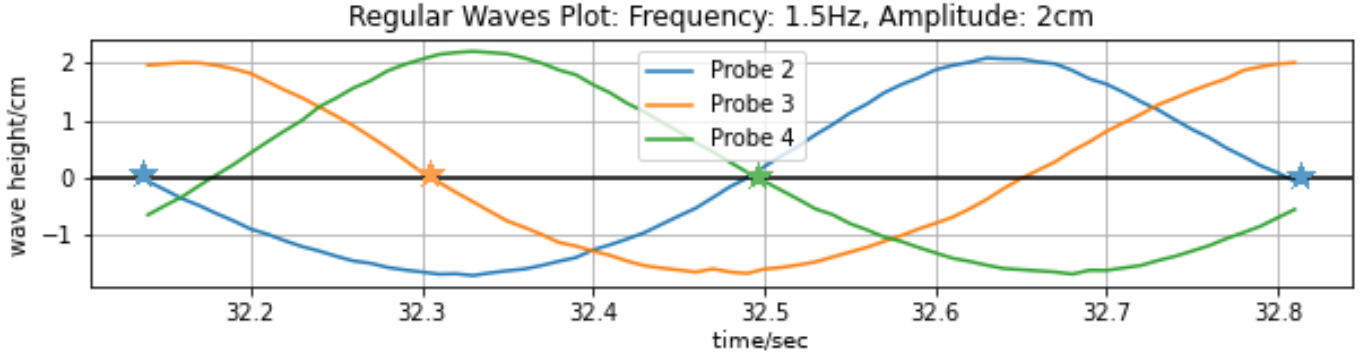


Figure 7: Regular Waves (Frequency = 1.5Hz, Amplitude = 2cm) Period Representation measured from probes 2 through 4

The following can be calculated from the data, using the same Python program to measure times between different phases for different probes as was used to generate the previous 3 plots: (theoretical period :  $T = 1/f$ )

Given Data			Measured Period (determined programmatically)		
Wave Frequency	Amplitude	Theoretical Period	Probe 2	Probe 3	Probe 4
$f = 0.5Hz$	$A = 4cm$	$T = 1/0.5 = 2.00s$	$34.06 - 32.05 = 2.01s$	$34.16 - 32.16 = 2.00s$	$34.28 - 32.28 = 2.00s$
$f = 1.0Hz$	$A = 3cm$	$T = 1/1.0 = 1.00s$	$33.30 - 32.29 = 1.01s$	$33.41 - 32.41 = 1.00s$	$33.57 - 32.57 = 1.00s$
$f = 1.5Hz$	$A = 2cm$	$T = 1/1.5 = 0.67s$	$32.81 - 32.14 = 0.67$	$32.98 - 32.31 = 0.67s$	$33.15 - 32.48 = 0.67$

Table 1: Regular Wave Record Analysis: table of results

The difference between the theoretical and the measured periods is negligible: they are nearly identical. However, now the comparison can be made between the measured celerities: the theoretical celerity can be determined, as in theory the regular waves can be represented as sine waves where the surface elevation  $\eta(x, t) = 2\pi A \sin(t/T - x/L)$  and the theoretical celerity  $C = L/T$  (the theoretical celerity in Table 2 was determined using the provided calculator). The distance between probes 2 and 4 is 0.4m, this as well as the delay between can be used to calculate the measured celerity:  $C_M = 0.4/(P_4 - P_2)$  m/s where  $P_2$  and  $P_4$  are the starting times of the measured periods from Table 1.

Wave Frequency	Amplitude	Theoretical Period	Theoretical Celerity	Measured Celerity
$f = 0.5Hz$	$A = 4cm$	$T = 2.00s$	$C = 1.84747746$ m/s	$C_M = 0.4/(34.28 - 34.06) = 1.81818$ m/s
$f = 1.0Hz$	$A = 3cm$	$T = 1.00s$	$C = 1.46373472$ m/s	$C_M = 0.4/(33.57 - 33.30) = 1.481481$ m/s
$f = 1.5Hz$	$A = 2cm$	$T = 0.67s$	$C = 1.04448977$ m/s	$C_M = 0.4/(33.15 - 32.81) = 1.176471$ m/s

Table 2: Regular Wave Record Analysis: table of celerities

The measured celerities of the first 2 waves are identical to the theoretical celerity values to  $10^{-1}$  degrees of precision. These differences can be attributed to the inevitable experimental errors (coming from refractions and probe calibration for example). The 3rd wave's measured and theoretical celerities are more different, only identical to  $10^1$  degrees of precision.

### 3.2 Wave length calculation

Using the measured and theoretical periods and celerities, the measured and theoretical lengths of each wave can be calculated as  $L = C * T$  m; these measured and theoretical values can then be compared:

Wave Frequency	Amplitude	Theoretical Wave Length $L = C * T$	Measured Wave Length
$f = 0.5Hz$	$A = 4cm$	$L = 1.84747746 * 2.00 = 3.69495492$ m	$L_M = 1.81818 * 2.00 = 3.63636$ m
$f = 1.0Hz$	$A = 3cm$	$L = 1.46373472 * 1.00 = 1.46373472$ m	$L_M = 1.481481 * 1.00 = 1.481481$ m
$f = 1.5Hz$	$A = 2cm$	$L = 1.04448977 * 0.67 = 0.699808146$ m	$L_M = 1.176471 * 0.67 = 0.7882356$ m

Table 3: Regular Wave Record Analysis: table of lengths

As expected (given the results for the measured celerity), the theoretical and measured values of the first 2 waves are identical to  $10^{-2}$  degrees of precision, and the 3rd to  $10^1$ . From these results, it can be determined for each wave if it corresponds to shallow-water, intermediate-water or deep-water regime: given the water depth (1)  $d = 40cm$  or  $d = 0.40$  m, and that:

- shallow water:  $d/L < 1/25$
- transitional water:  $1/25 < d/L < 1/2$
- deep water:  $d/L > 1/2$

Wave Frequency	Amplitude	$d/L$	Depth
$f = 0.5Hz$	$A = 4cm$	$0.40/3.69495492 = 0.1082557$	$0.04 < 0.1082557 < 0.5$ : intermediate water
$f = 1.0Hz$	$A = 3cm$	$0.40/1.46373472 = 0.27327356$	$0.04 < 0.27327356 < 0.5$ : intermediate water
$f = 1.5Hz$	$A = 2cm$	$0.40/0.699808146 = 0.57158522$	$0.57158522 > 0.5$ : deep water

Table 4: Regular Wave Record Analysis: table of depths

The 3rd wave being in the deep-water regime is possibly the reason the measured and theoretical values of wave-length and celerity are more different than for the other 2 waves.

### 3.3 Celerity and wave length: theoretical relationship

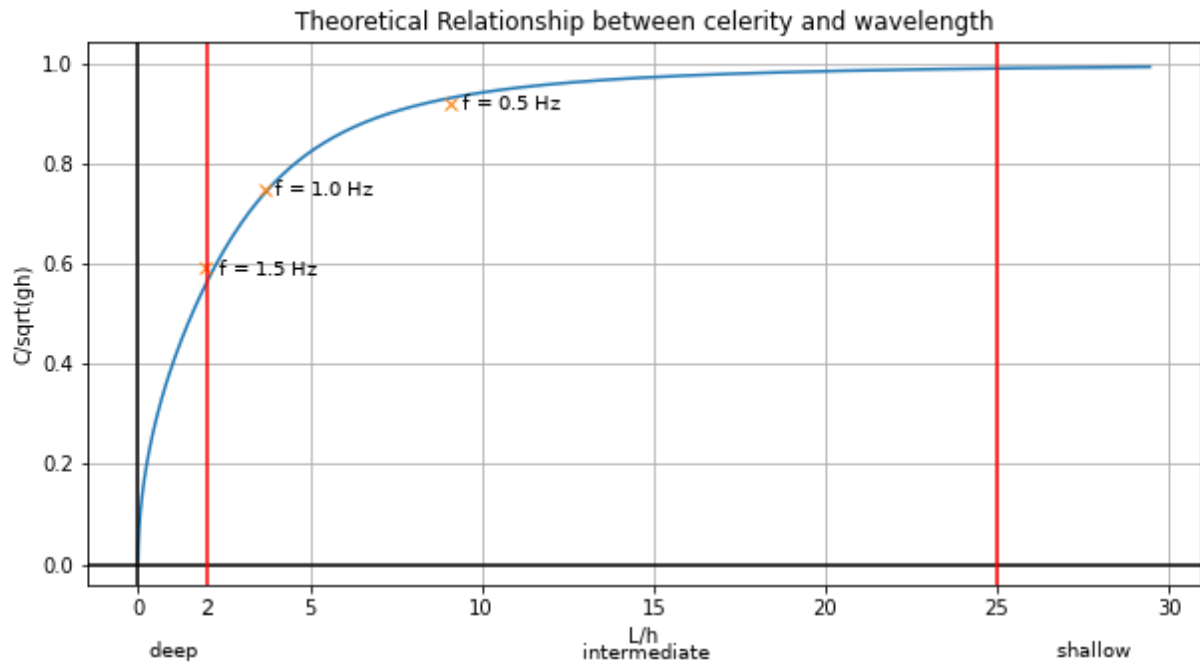


Figure 8: Theoretical relationship between celerity and wave length

### 3.4 Measured vs. theoretical waves

Using 1 wave period measured by probe 3 for each wave, the wave height can be calculated and compared to the nominal wave height:

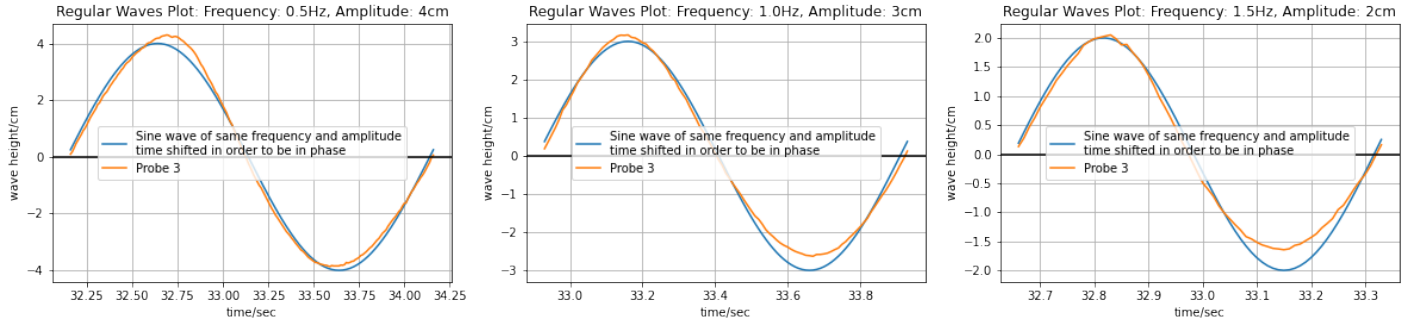


Figure 9: Regular Wave Periods measured by Probe 3 compared to sine wave (frequencies  $f = 0.5$  Hz,  $1.0$  Hz, and  $1.5$  Hz respectively, from left to right)

For all of the experimental waves, probe 3 measures a higher peak and trough than the expected sinusoidal wave; this can be observed in the following plot with scaled values, and the wave periods overlaid:

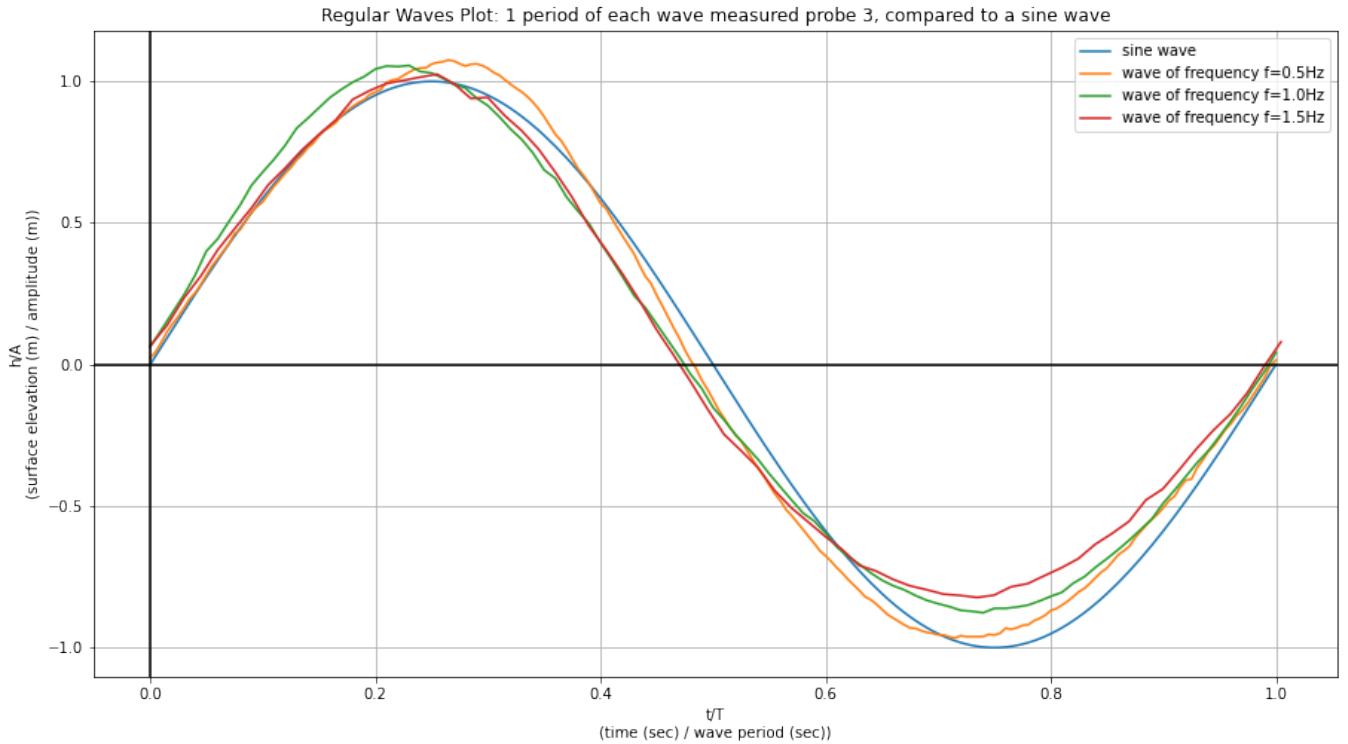


Figure 10: Single wave period measured by probe 3 for each experimental wave, scaled and compared to a sine wave

The higher peaks and shallower troughs as well as asymmetry of the wave shapes in the experimental wave data measured by probe 3 can be explained by the unavoidable experimental errors (such as probe calibration errors, reflections due to wave absorption being imperfect), and a mismatch between the linear wave generation and the nonlinear nature of the experimental components.



### 3.5 Wave amplitude variations

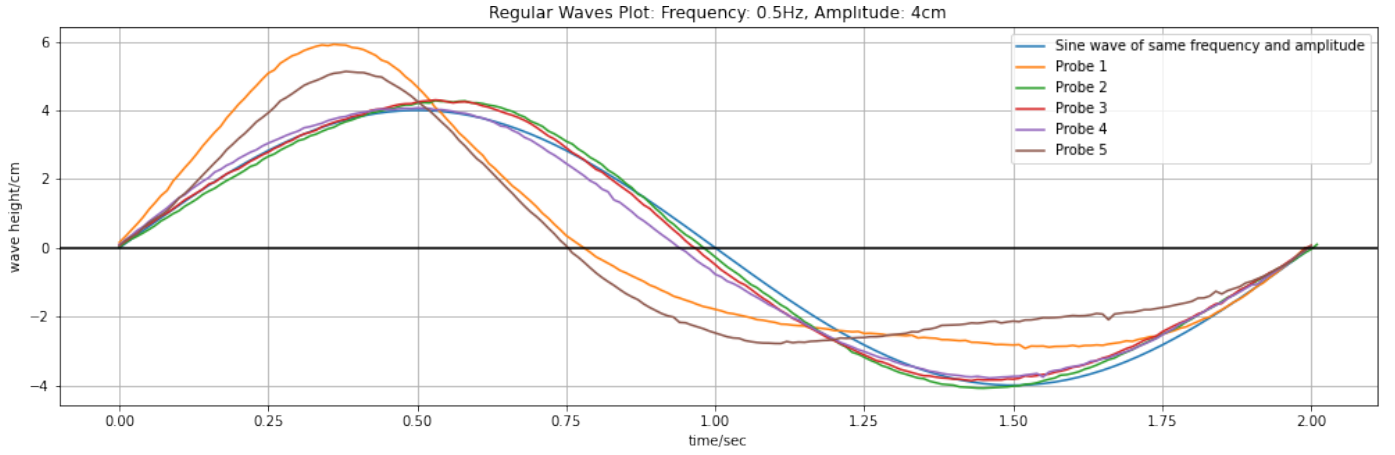


Figure 11: Regular Waves (Frequency = 0.5Hz, Amplitude = 4cm): time-shifted period-comparison of all probes and a sine wave

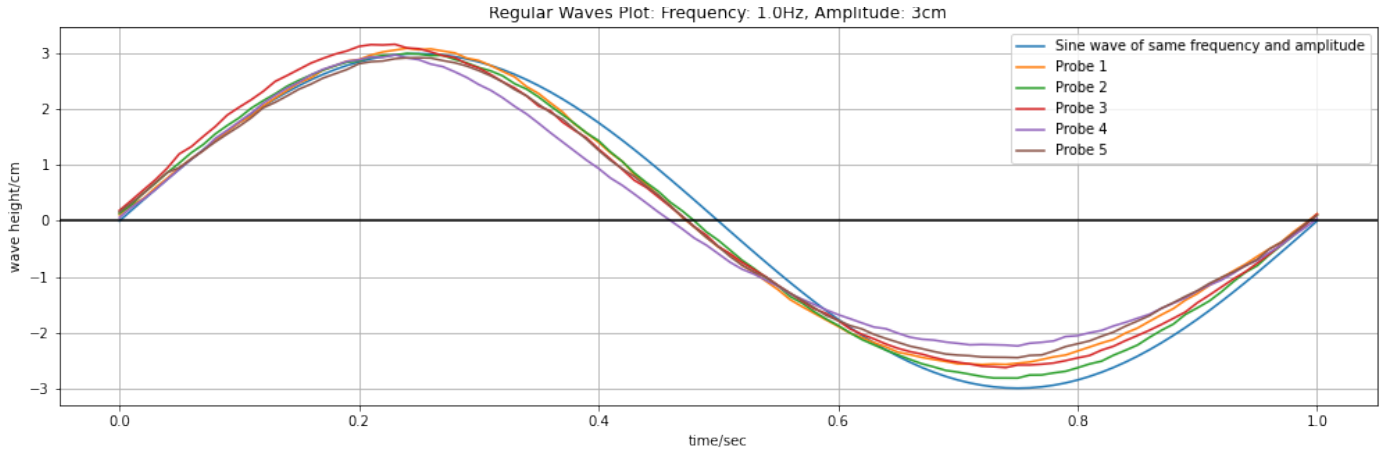


Figure 12: Regular Waves (Frequency = 1.0Hz, Amplitude = 3cm): time-shifted period-comparison of all probes and a sine wave

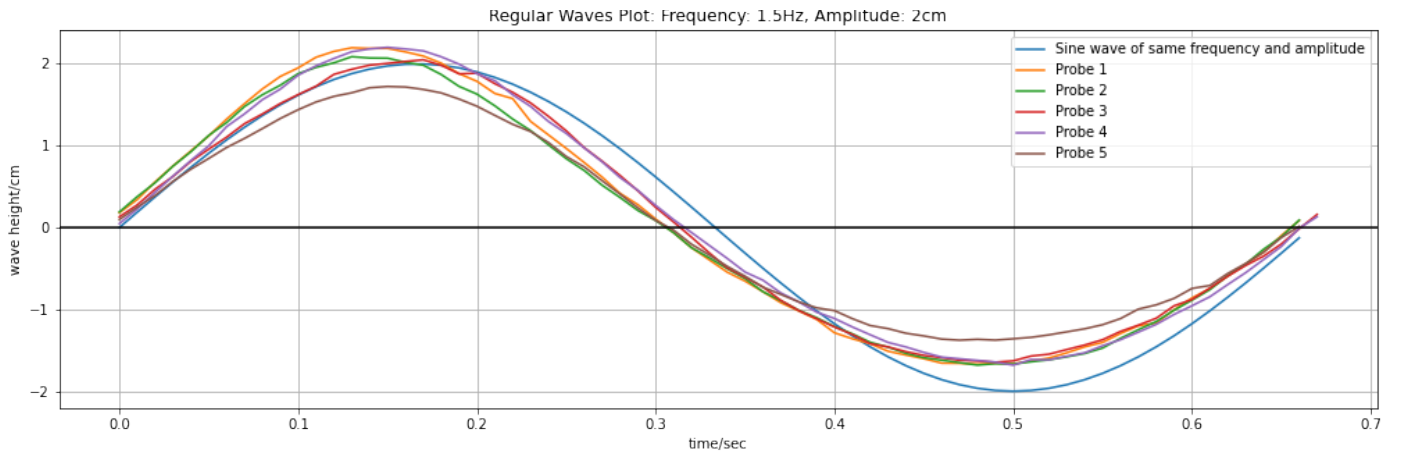


Figure 13: Regular Waves (Frequency = 1.5Hz, Amplitude = 2cm): time-shifted period-comparison of all probes and a sine wave

The previous Figures 11, 12, and 13 show analyses of developed periodic wave records for all probes compared to each other and to a regular sine wave of the same frequency and amplitude. These graphs show that the wave amplitudes are indeed **not** constant in space or time, as probes 1 and 5 for the 1st wave show higher peaks and shallower troughs than the rest of the probes as well as the sine wave, for example, and probe 5 for the 3rd waves shows overall lower peaks as well as shallower troughs. The inconsistencies with the first and last probes can be associated with the probes' proximity to the 2

wavemakers, and overall amplitude inconsistencies in the experiment can also be associated with experimental error (such as wave probe calibration imperfection, residual wave reflections, etc..) as well as, again, the mismatch between the linear wave generation, and the non-linear nature of the waves (assymetry in wave shape also leads to different wave amplitudes at different locations).

### 3.6 Wave front evolution

The wave front evolution can be analysed using probes 1 and 5's recordings for all the waves, specifically observing the beginning of the waves. The peaks and troughs of the values are encompassed by envelopes:

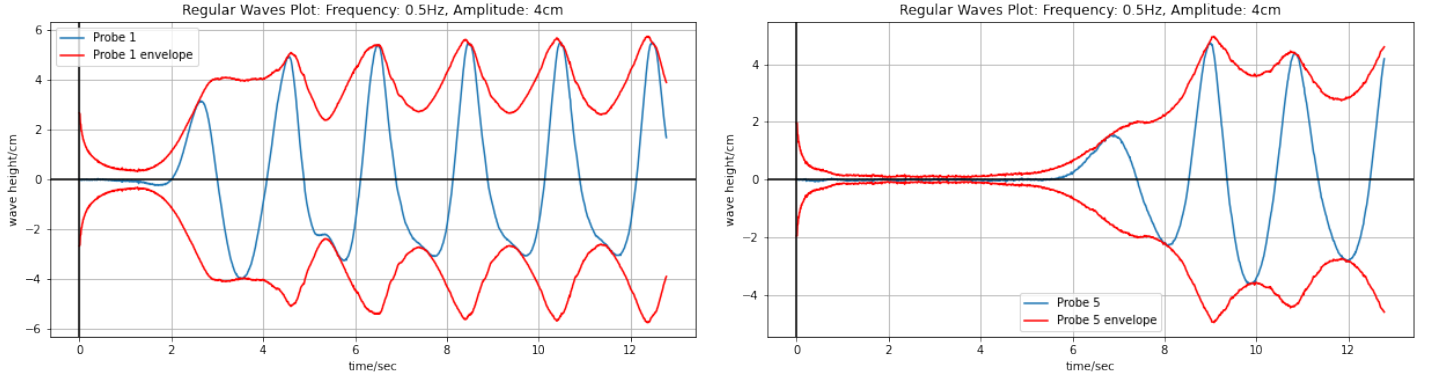


Figure 14: Wave Front Evolution for wave of frequency  $f = 0.5$  Hz as measured by Probe 1 and 5 with wave envelopes

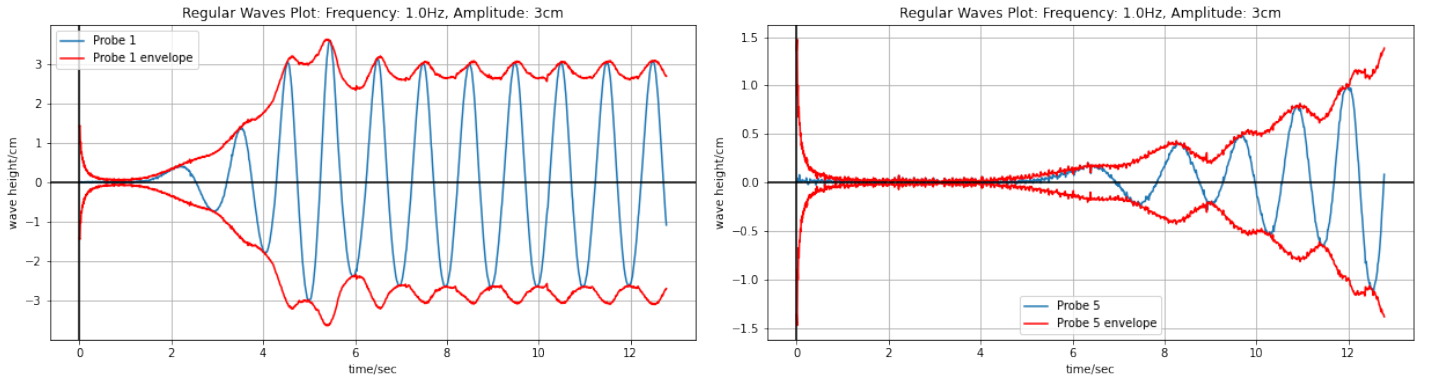


Figure 15: Wave Front Evolution for wave of frequency  $f = 1.0$  Hz as measured by Probe 1 and 5 with wave envelopes

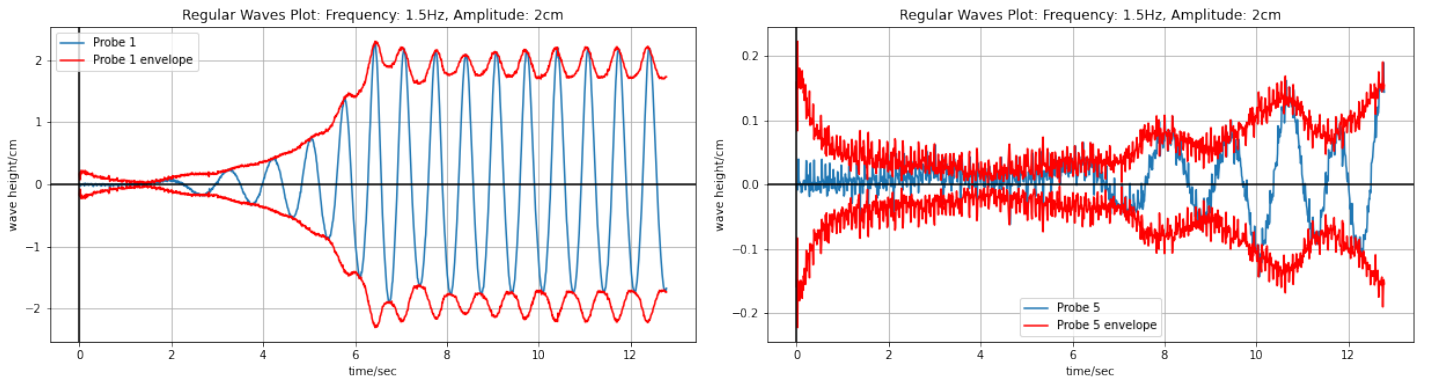


Figure 16: Wave Front Evolution for wave of frequency  $f = 1.5$  Hz as measured by Probe 1 and 5 with wave envelopes

These envelopes can then be directly compared to each other (as seen in Figures 17, 18, and 19):



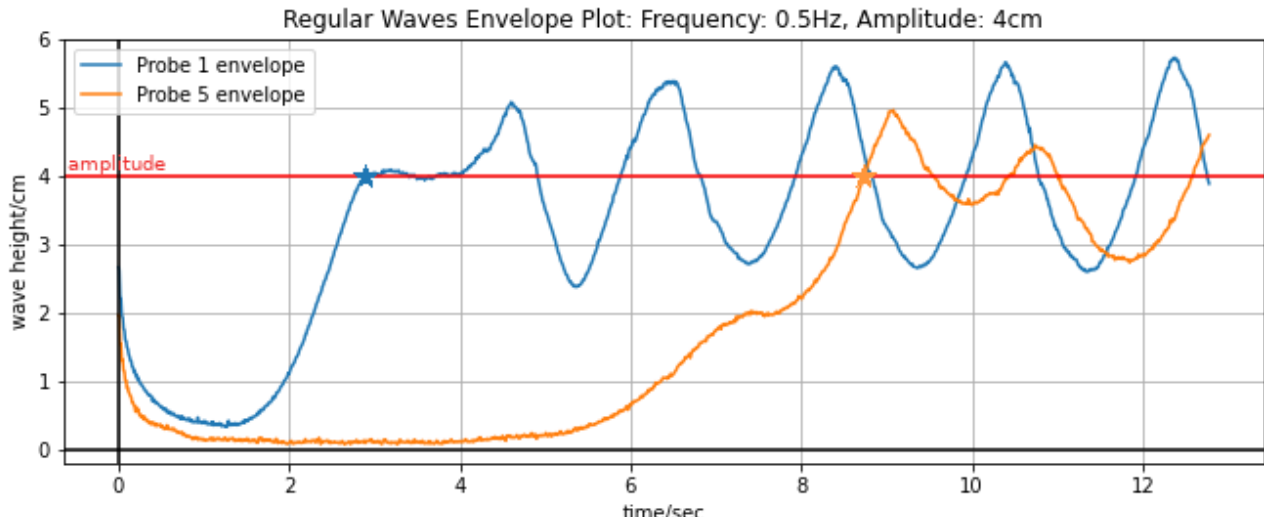


Figure 17: Regular Waves (Frequency = 0.5Hz, Amplitude = 4cm): Probes 1 and 5 envelopes comparison

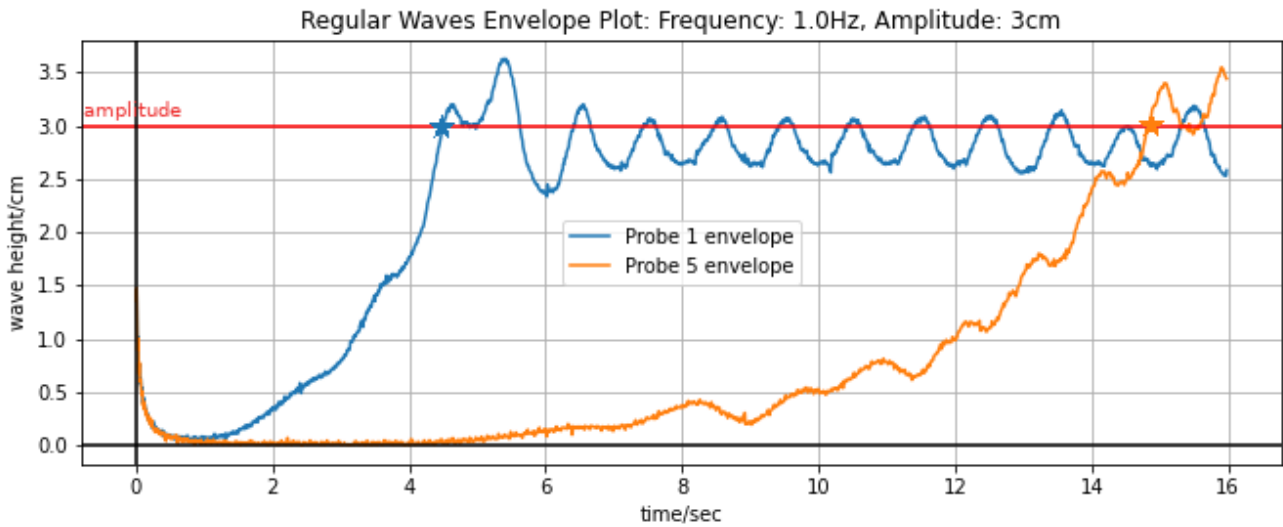


Figure 18: Regular Waves (Frequency = 1.0Hz, Amplitude = 3cm): Probes 1 and 5 envelopes comparison

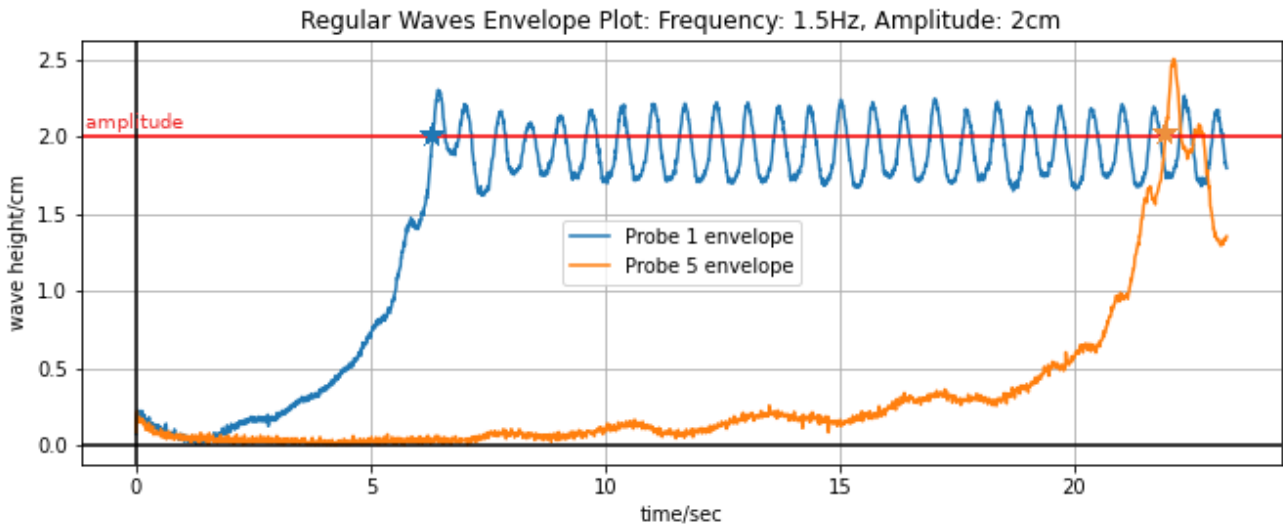


Figure 19: Regular Waves (Frequency = 1.5Hz, Amplitude = 2cm): Probes 1 and 5 envelopes comparison

### 3.7 Different speeds of energy propagation in the wave front

Repeat the previous analysis using times when wave heights at the probes positions almost reach the height of a developed wave (say 95%). Calculate the corresponding velocity for each wave. Compare it with the theoretical values of celerity, group velocity and shallow water celerity. Why do you observe different speeds of energy propagation in the wave front?

### 3.8 Random wave record analysis

Analyse a random wave record for probe 3. Calculate the significant wave height ( $H_s$ ) and the mean zero-crossing period ( $T_z$ ) of this wave sequence.

### 3.9 Maximum wave height for 3 hour storm at project site

Use Froude similarity law to scale the random wave experimental data to full-scale conditions of your Design Project site. Calculate the corresponding values of  $H_s$ ,  $T_z$  and the duration of the wave sequence. Assuming Rayleigh distribution, find expected maximum wave height for a 3 hours storm at your project site. Comment on the applicability of Rayleigh distribution.

## 4 Conclusions

## References

- [1] Wave generation in a wave-flume experiment and analysis of experimental wave data - Experiment Description and Report Assignment
- [2] Github Repository by user Nathalex (Nathalie Alexandra "Alex" Tcherdakoff)  
*<https://github.com/nathalex/Wave-Flume-Lab-Report>*