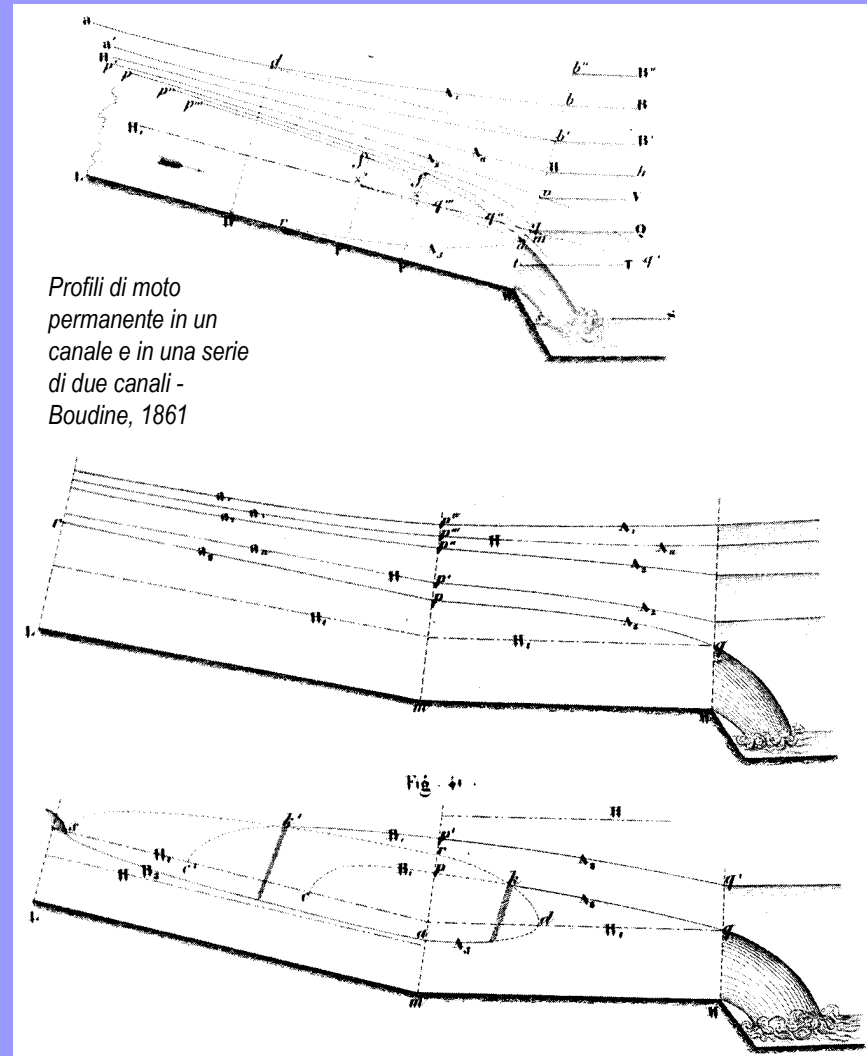


NOTES ON OPEN CHANNEL FLOW

Prof. Marco Pilotti

Facoltà di Ingegneria, Università
degli Studi di Brescia



Profili di moto
permanente in un
canale e in una serie
di due canali -
Boudine, 1861

OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: glossary and main symbols used during the lectures

Proprietà dei fluidi

g	: [m/s ²]	accelerazione di gravità
γ	: [N/m ³]	peso specifico del fluido
ρ	: [Kg/m ³]	densità di massa del fluido
μ	: [Ns/m ²]	primo coefficiente di viscosità dinamica
ν	: [m ² /s]	coefficiente di viscosità cinematica

Proprietà generali del moto

h	: [m]	altezza della corrente
R	: [m]	raggio idraulico
P	: [m]	perimetro bagnato
U	: [m/s]	velocità media della corrente
Q	: [m ³ /s]	portata liquida
u	: [m/s]	velocità puntuale della corrente
v^*	: [m/s]	velocità d'attrito
S_b	: [-]	pendenza del fondo dell'alveo
S_f	: [-]	cadente totale
S_w	: [-]	pendenza del pelo libero
q	: [m ² /s]	portata liquida in volume per unità di larghezza dell'alveo
q_i	: [m ² /s]	portata in volume entrante per unità di lunghezza dell'alveo
q_o	: [m ² /s]	portata in volume uscente per unità di lunghezza dell'alveo
τ	: [N/m ²]	sforzo superficiale
τ_0	: [N/m ²]	sforzo medio al fondo

Fluid properties

gravity acceleration
Fluid specific weight
Fluid mass density
Viscosity coefficient
Kinematic viscosity coefficient

General properties

Water depth
Hydraulic radius
Wetted perimeter
Average flow velocity
Liquid volumetric discharge
Local flow velocity
Shear velocity
Bed slope
Slope friction, Head slope
Water surface slope
Liquid volumetric discharge per unit length
As above, entering the flow
As above, going out of the flow
Shear stress
Average bed shear stress



OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: glossary and main symbols used during the lectures

Proprietà generali del moto

$z+p/\gamma$:	[m]	carico piezometrico Linea dei carichi totali Linea dei carichi piezometrici
S	:	[N]	Spinta totale della corrente
h_0	:	[m]	Profondità di moto uniforme
A	:	[mq]	Area bagnata della sezione retta
B	:	[m]	Larghezza della sezione
D	:	[m]	Profondità media della corrente = $A(h)/B(h)$
$Q(h)$			Scala delle portate

General properties

Piezometric pressure
Total energy line
Hydraulic grade line
Specific Force
Normal depth
Wetted surface
Top width of the wetted surface
Hydraulic depth
Stage-discharge relationship

Termini generali

bonifica
fognatura
rigurgito
Altezze coniugate
Opera di presa/ griglia di presa

Words of common usage

Land reclamation
sewer
swellhead
sequent depths or conjugate depths
Intake / drop intake



OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: glossary and main symbols used during the lectures

	Numeri adimensionali	Dimensionless groups
$Fr = \frac{U}{\sqrt{gh}}$	Numero di Froude	Froude number
$Re = \frac{4UR}{v}$	numero di Reynolds della corrente	Reynolds number
$X = \frac{\rho v_* D}{\mu}$	numero di Reynolds del fondo	grain Reynolds number
$Y = \frac{\rho v_*^2}{\gamma_s D}$	numero di mobilità (sforzo adimensionale al fondo)	Dimensionless shear stress (mobility number)
Π_A	generica versione adimensionale di una proprietà A del moto bifase	Dimensionless number corresponding to dimensional property A



OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: basic assumptions

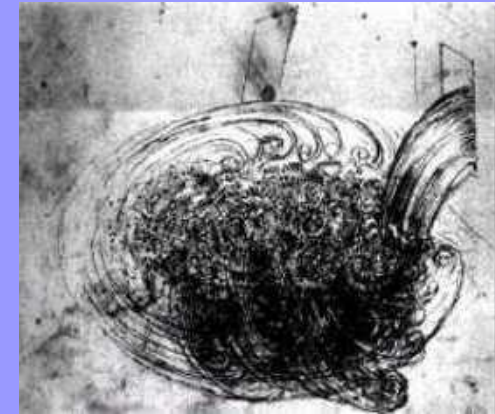
Free surface flow: the upper surface is limited by a gas (typically, the atmosphere) so that its pressure is constant

Typical cases: channel (irrigation, hydropower supply, water supply, land reclamation...) river, sewer conduits, lakes...

Particular cases: groundwater flow, free surface flow in a syphon

Main hypothesis in these lectures

- *1D approach in steady conditions*
- *Single-phase flow in unerodible, fixed bed*
- *Newtonian, constant density fluid*
- *Mostly, linear flow in rough turbulent conditions*

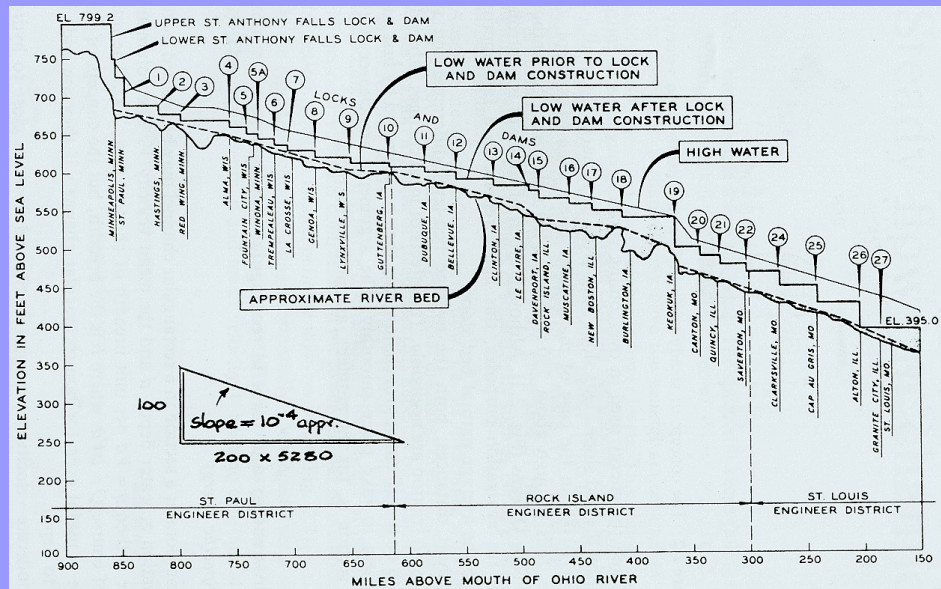


- *Bed slope $i_f < 0.1$ m/m*

	<i>Minimum slope</i>	<i>Maximum slope</i>
Irrigation or land reclamation channel	0.0001	0.001
Sewer free surface pipe	0.001	0.05
Floodplain river	0.00005	0.005
creek	0.005	0.3

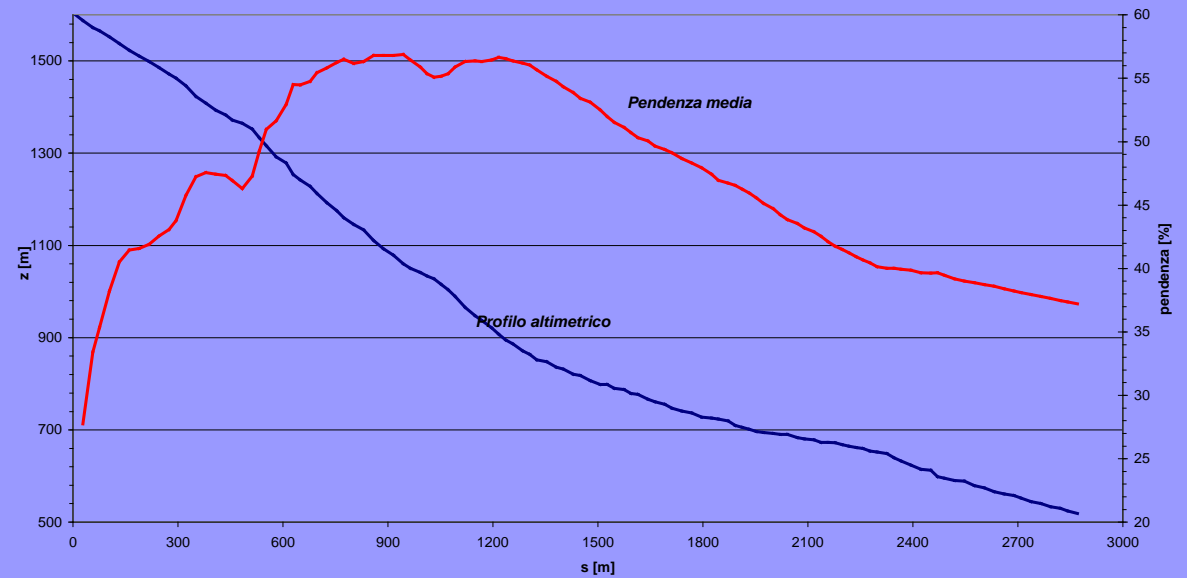


OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: typical slopes



Mississippi river between St. Louis and Minneapolis
(U.S. Corps of Engineers)

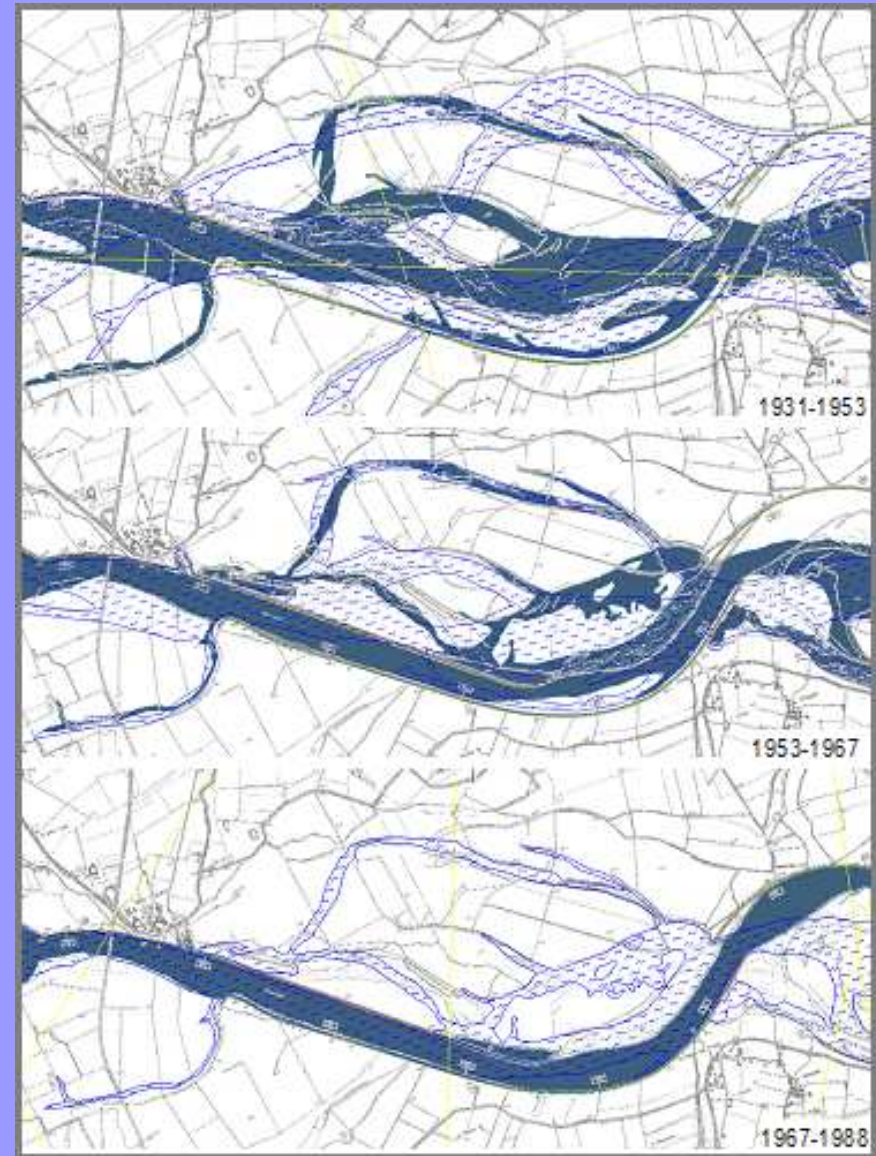
Typical mountain creek in Italian alps
(T. Rossiga, $A = 3.72 \text{ Km}^2$)



M. Pilotti - lectures of Environmental Hydraulics

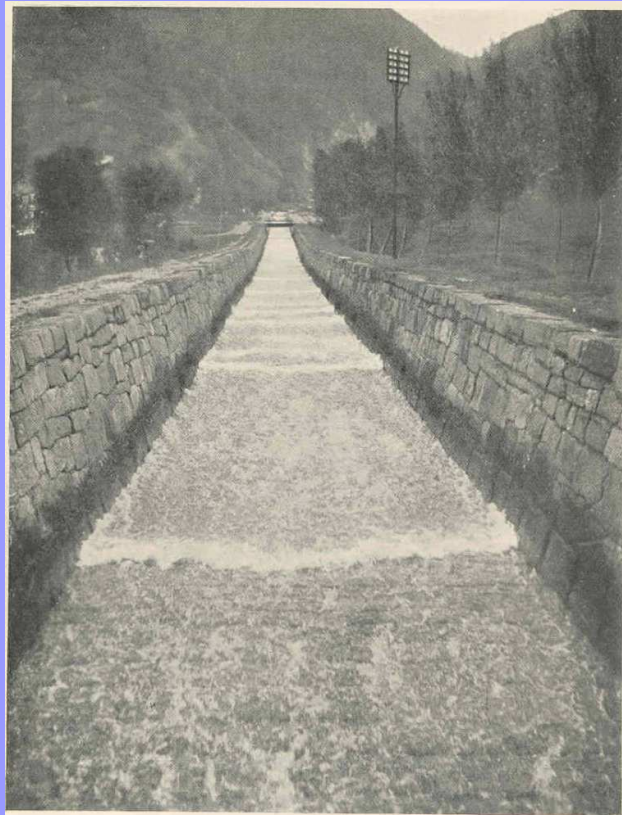
OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: relevance and applicability of basic hypothesis

*Unerosible and fixed bed: the area surrounding Isola Pescaroli
(from braided river to a single bed river)*



OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: relevance and applicability of basic hypothesis

Roll waves in steep channels



ROLL-WAVES IN THE GRÜNBACH CONDUIT, LOOKING UP-STREAM.

Debris flow (colata detritica) (see USGS movie, by Costa and Garret)



M. Pilotti - lectures of Environmental Hydraulics

HOMEWORK:
see USGS movie on debris-flow

OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: mass balance

$$\int_A \rho(\vec{V} \cdot \vec{n}) dA = Q_M \quad \text{Mass discharge through A, the area of the cross section}$$

$$\bar{\rho} = \frac{\int_S \rho dA}{A} \quad \text{Average density on A}$$

$$U = \frac{Q_M}{\bar{\rho}A} \quad \text{Average velocity on A}$$

$$\int_S \vec{V} \cdot \vec{n} dA = Q_V = Q \quad \text{Volumetric discharge through A}$$

$$\frac{D}{Dt} \left(\int_W \rho dW \right) = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left(\int_W \rho dW \right) - \int_A \rho(\vec{V} \cdot \vec{n}) dA = 0 \quad \text{Mass balance for a control volume}$$

$$\frac{dW}{dt} = \int_A (\vec{V} \cdot \vec{n}) dA = Q_{in} - Q_{out} \quad \text{(G.1) Mass balance for a basin, under constant density assumption}$$

$$\frac{\partial(\bar{\rho}A)}{\partial t} dx = Q(x)_M - Q(x+dx)_M = \frac{\partial(\bar{\rho}UA)}{\partial x} dx \quad \text{Mass balance for 1D flow}$$

$$\frac{\partial(\bar{\rho}A)}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial(\bar{\rho}UA)}{\partial x} = 0 \quad \text{(G.1a) Mass balance for 1D flow when density varies (e.g., turbiditic flow or debris flow)}$$

$$\frac{\partial(A)}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial(UA)}{\partial x} = q \quad \text{(G.1b) Mass balance for 1D flow when density is constant (typically, in open channel flow), and with net discharge q per unit length}$$



OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: energy balance

$$\frac{\partial H}{\partial s} = -\frac{\beta}{g} \frac{\partial U}{\partial t} - S_f$$

(G.2) Energy balance equation for 1D gradually unsteady varied flow

$$H = z + \frac{p}{\gamma} + \frac{\alpha U^2}{2g} = z + h + \frac{\alpha U^2}{2g}$$

(G.2a) Total head

$$\alpha = \frac{\int_A u^3 dA}{U^3 A};$$

First and second
Coriolis' coefficient

$$\beta = \frac{\int_A u^2 dA}{U^2 A}$$

$$E = h + \frac{\alpha U^2}{2g} = h + \frac{\alpha Q^2}{2gA(h)^2}$$

(G.2b) Specific Energy with respect to the thalweg

$$H = z + h + \frac{\alpha U^2}{2g} = z + E$$

Relationship between (G.2a) and (G.2b)

$$\frac{\partial H}{\partial s} = \frac{\partial z}{\partial s} + \frac{\partial E}{\partial s} = -S_b + \frac{\partial E}{\partial s}$$

$$\frac{\partial E}{\partial s} = S_b - S_f - \frac{\beta}{g} \frac{\partial U}{\partial t}$$

(G.2c) Energy balance in terms of E

$$\frac{dE}{ds} = S_b - S_f$$

(G.2d) Energy balance in terms of E in steady state conditions



OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: uniform motion

Let us consider a 1D flow in steady state condition with no lateral influx. Accordingly Q is constant

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial s} = 0$$

(U.1) The definition of uniform motion in a weak sense, imply a cilindric boundary and can be immediately rewritten in term of average velocity

$$\frac{\partial U}{\partial s} = 0$$

That, if one consider (G.1b) , implies

$$\frac{\partial A}{\partial s} = 0$$

i.e, the wetted cross section does not vary. But in a prismatic boundary $A=A(h)$, so that

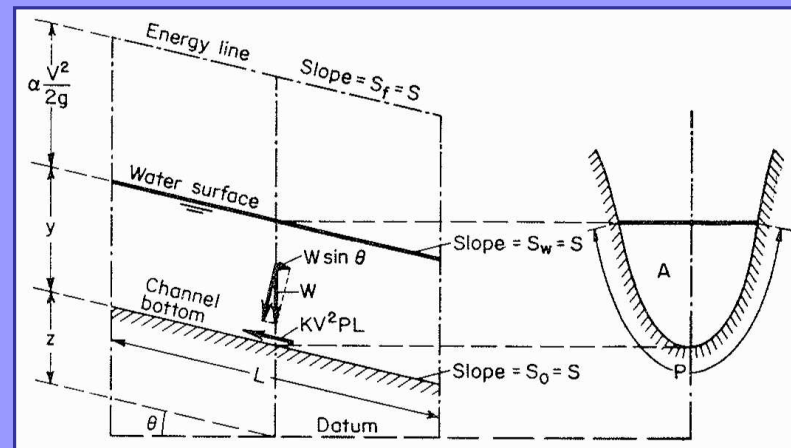
$$\frac{\partial h}{\partial s} = 0$$

If now we consider (G.2b),

$$\frac{dE}{ds} = \frac{dh}{ds} - \alpha \frac{Q^2}{gA^3} \frac{dA}{ds} = 0 \quad \text{that implies}$$

$$S_b = S_f = S_w$$

(U.2) Energy head loss = bed slope
= water surface slope



The assumption (U.1) at the basis is never fully verified but it is often verified in an approximate way.

The implication (U.2) is of paramount importance because it implies a steady energy content of the flow

Accordingly, uniform flow is considered the reference state for all the other flow conditions



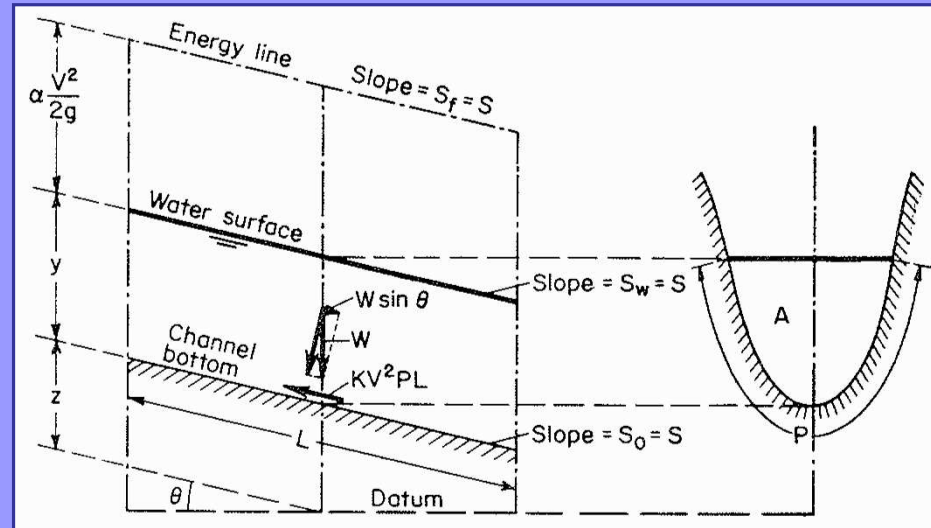
OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: uniform motion

Accordingly, from the kinematic point of view uniform flow is characterized by

$$\frac{dU}{ds} = 0; \quad \frac{dA}{ds} = 0; \quad \frac{dh}{ds} = 0$$

Whilst, from the energetic point of view

$$\frac{dH}{ds} = -S_f; \quad S_b = S_f; \quad \frac{dE}{ds} = 0$$



And finally, from the momentum point of view

$$\beta \frac{\gamma Q^2}{gA_1} + \Pi_1 + W \sin \theta = \beta \frac{\gamma Q^2}{gA_2} + \Pi_2 + T_f$$

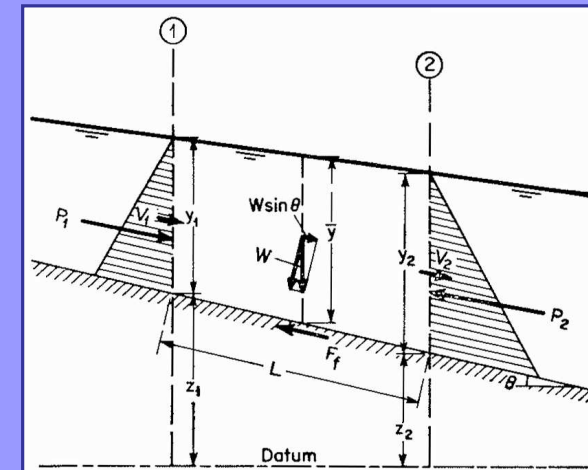
$$W \sin \theta = T \Rightarrow \gamma A L S_b = \tau_0 P L \Rightarrow \tau_0 = \gamma R S_b = \gamma R S_f$$

where

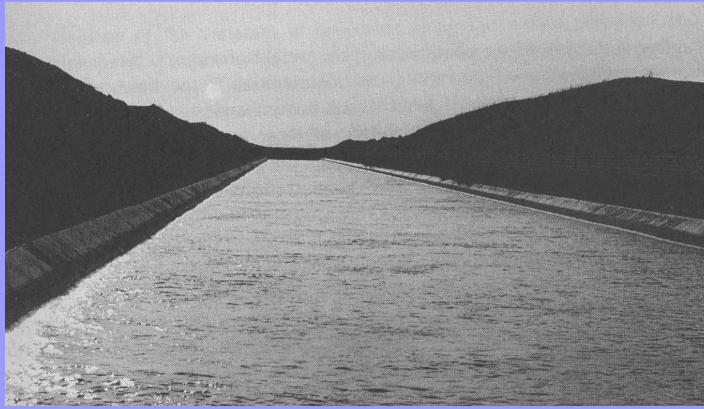
Π : pressure force acting on the given cross section;

W : weight of the water enclosed between the sections;

T_f : total external force of friction acting along the wetted boundary.



OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: uniform motion



In order to have a uniform flow, a prismatic channel is a necessary condition.

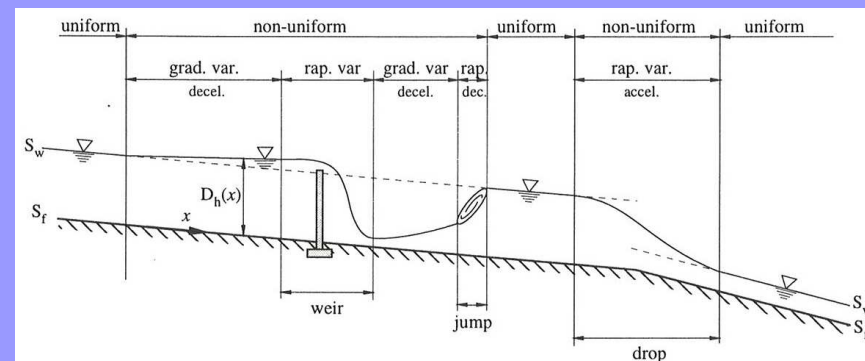
This channel, of trapezoidal cross section ($b=6\text{ m}$, $B=17\text{ m}$), is used to convey $Q = 51\text{ mc/s}$ of drinkable water to a large american town. Its length is 300 kms.



However, this is not a sufficient condition because many man-made structures can interact with the flow causing departure from uniform flow (e.g., the gate on the left)

In these situations uniform motion still holds but one has to be sufficiently far away from the disturbance

How much far away is far ? We have to compute the profiles...



OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: uniform motion

Let us consider the problem of finding the relationship between h and Q in uniform flow

$$S_b = S_f = \lambda \frac{U^2}{8gR} = \lambda \left(\text{Re}, \frac{\varepsilon}{R}, Fr, f \right) \frac{Q^2}{8gRA^2} \quad (\text{U.3}) \text{ Darcy-Weisbach relationship, with friction coefficient } \lambda$$

$$U = \chi \sqrt{RS_b} = k_s R^{1/6} \sqrt{RS_b} = \frac{1}{n} R^{1/6} \sqrt{RS_b}$$

(U.3a) Chezy equation with Gauckler Strickler and Manning's coefficient

$$Q = \chi A \sqrt{RS_b} = k_s R^{1/6} A \sqrt{RS_b} = \frac{1}{n} R^{1/6} A \sqrt{RS_b}$$

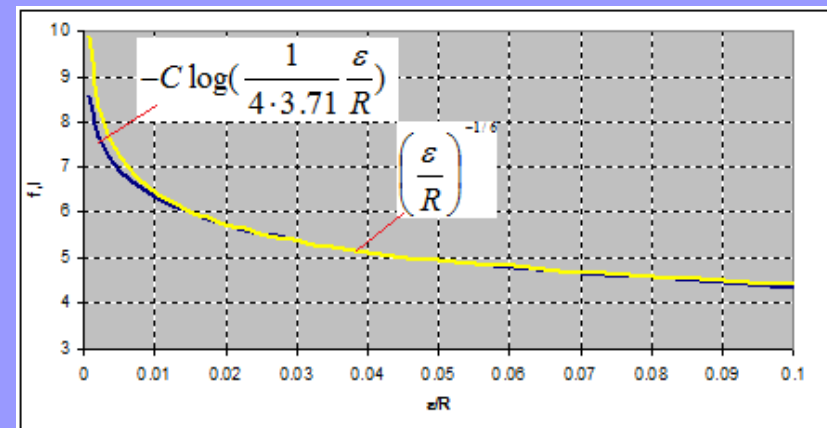
(U.3b) Chezy equation with Gauckler Strickler and Manning's coefficient

$$\chi = \sqrt{\frac{8g}{\lambda}}$$

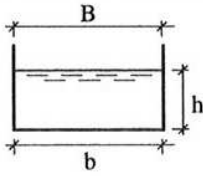
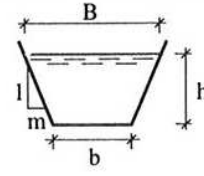
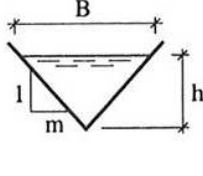
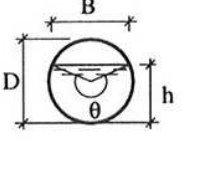
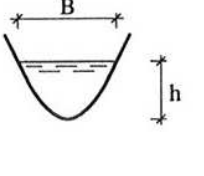
By comparing (U.3) and (U.4a-U.4b) one sees that the friction coefficient and the Chezy coefficient have the same informative content. Actually, if one compare a logarithmic law for hydraulically rough flow for λ and admits that k_s is proportional to $\varepsilon^{-1/6}$

$$k_s R^{1/6} = \sqrt{\frac{8g}{\lambda}} \left(\frac{\varepsilon}{R} \right)^{-1/6} \approx -C \log \left(\frac{1}{4 \cdot 3.71} \frac{\varepsilon}{R} \right)$$

Conclusion: law valid for hydraulically rough turbulent motion with k_s being a conveyance coefficient proportional to $\varepsilon^{-1/6}$



OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: cross-sections geometry

					
	Rectangle	Trapezoid	Triangle	Circle	Parabola
Section A	$b h$	$(b + mh)h$	mh^2	$\frac{1}{8} (\theta - \sin \theta) D^2$	$\frac{2}{3} B h$
Wetted perimeter P	$b + 2h$	$b + 2h\sqrt{1+m^2}$	$2h\sqrt{1+m^2}$	$\frac{1}{2} \theta D$	$B + \frac{8}{3} \frac{h^2}{B}^*$
Hydraulic radius R_h	$\frac{b h}{b + 2h}$	$\frac{(b + mh) h}{b + 2h\sqrt{1+m^2}}$	$\frac{mh}{2\sqrt{1+m^2}}$	$\frac{1}{4} \left[1 - \frac{\sin \theta}{\theta} \right] D$	$\frac{2B^2 h}{3B^2 + 8h^2}^*$
Width B	b	$b + 2mh$	$2mh$	$\frac{(\sin \theta/2) D}{2 \sqrt{h (D-h)}}$	$\frac{3}{2} \frac{A}{h}$
Hydraulic depth D_h	h	$\frac{(b + mh) h}{b + 2mh}$	$\frac{1}{2} h$	$\left[\frac{\theta - \sin \theta}{\sin \theta/2} \right] \frac{D}{8}$	$\frac{2}{3} h$

* Valid for $0 < \xi \leq 1$, with $\xi = 4h/B$. If $\xi > 1$: $P = (B/2) \left[\sqrt{1 + \xi^2} + \frac{1}{\xi} \ln(\xi + \sqrt{1 + \xi^2}) \right]$

From W. H. Graf and M. S. Altinakar, 1998



OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: different formulation for friction - gravel bed rivers -

$$Q = \chi A \sqrt{RS_b}$$

$$\chi = K_s R^{\frac{1}{6}} \quad K_s = 21/D^{\frac{1}{6}} \quad \text{For natural channels with sediments of diameter } D \text{ (} D=D_{50} \text{ [m], Strickler, and } D=D_{75} \text{, Lane).}$$

$$\chi = \frac{1}{n} R^{\frac{1}{6}} \quad \text{Manning}$$

$$\chi = \frac{1}{n} R^{\delta} \quad \delta = 2.5\sqrt{n} - 0.13 - 0.75\sqrt{R}(\sqrt{n} - 0.1) \quad \text{Pavloskii, 1925, took into account the exponent variation with relative roughness (} 0.1\text{m} < R < 3\text{m ; } 0.011 < n < 0.04 \text{)}$$

$$\frac{\chi}{\sqrt{g}} = -5.75 \log \left[\frac{\chi}{\sqrt{g} \operatorname{Re} f} + \frac{\varepsilon}{13.3 R f} \right] \quad \text{Marchi (1961), for situations where a logarithmic profile holds. } f \text{ is a shape factor varying between 0.8 (wide rectangular cross section) and 1.3 (triangular equilateral cs)}$$

$$\frac{\chi}{\sqrt{g}} = 5.62 \log \left[\frac{aR}{3.5 D_{84}} \right] \quad \text{Hey (1979), for gravel bed rivers, where } a \text{ varies with bed slope between 11.1 and 13.46.}$$

$$\frac{\chi}{\sqrt{g}} = 5.62 \log \left[\frac{y}{D_{84}} \right] + 4 \quad \text{Bathurst (1978) for rivers where slope is } > 0.4\%$$

$$n = 0.32 \frac{S_b^{0.38}}{R^{0.16}} \quad \text{Jarret (1992), for mountain creeks.}$$

$$\frac{\chi}{\sqrt{g}} = \sqrt{\frac{8}{\lambda}} = 4.53 \log \left(\frac{R}{D_{50}} \right) + 3.09 \quad \frac{\chi}{\sqrt{g}} = \sqrt{\frac{8}{\lambda}} = 5.41 \log \left(\frac{R}{D_{84}} \right) + 3.83 \quad \text{Ferro e Giordano for gravel bed rivers}$$

$$\frac{\chi}{\sqrt{g}} = 2.41 \left[1 - 0.11 \left(\frac{y}{D_{50}} \right)^{-1.1} \right] \ln \left[4.78 \left(\frac{y}{D_{50}} \right) \right] \quad \frac{\chi}{\sqrt{g}} = 2.41 \left[1 - 0.45 \left(\frac{y}{D_{50}} \right)^{-1.06} \right] \ln \left[2.73 \left(\frac{y}{D_{50}} \right) \right] \quad \text{Butera e Sordo (1984), for beds with medium and high relative roughness}$$



OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: different formulation for friction

How do these formulas compare ? Let us consider an infinitely wide bed with $y=1$ m, $D=D_{50} = 0.2$ m:

$$\chi = 21 \frac{R^{1/6}}{D^{1/6}} = 27.5 [m^{1/2} s^{-1}]$$

Gauckler-Strickler:

$$\chi = 19.6 [m^{1/2} s^{-1}]$$

Ferro e Giordano: first equation

$$\chi_1 = 23.5 [m^{1/2} s^{-1}]$$

Butera e Sordo: first and second equation

$$\chi_2 = 18.1 [m^{1/2} s^{-1}]$$

$$\chi_1 = 21.7 [m^{1/2} s^{-1}]$$

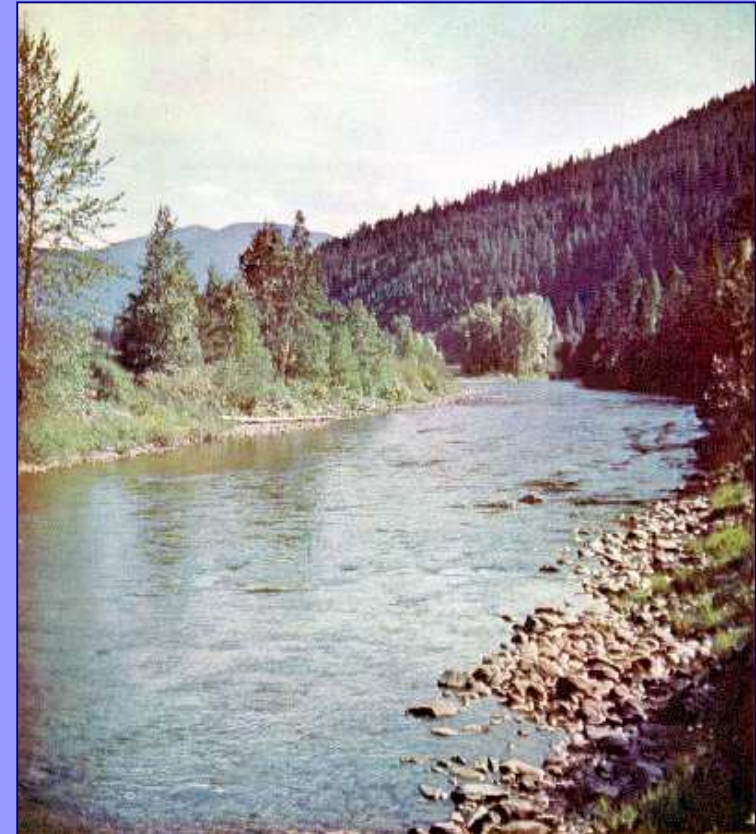
Hey's equation with $a = 12$.

$$\chi_1 = 24.8 [m^{1/2} s^{-1}]$$

Bathurst

$$\chi_2 = 71.6 [m^{1/2} s^{-1}]$$

Marchi: with $\varepsilon=D$ and we suppose hydraulically rough regime with $f = 0.8$

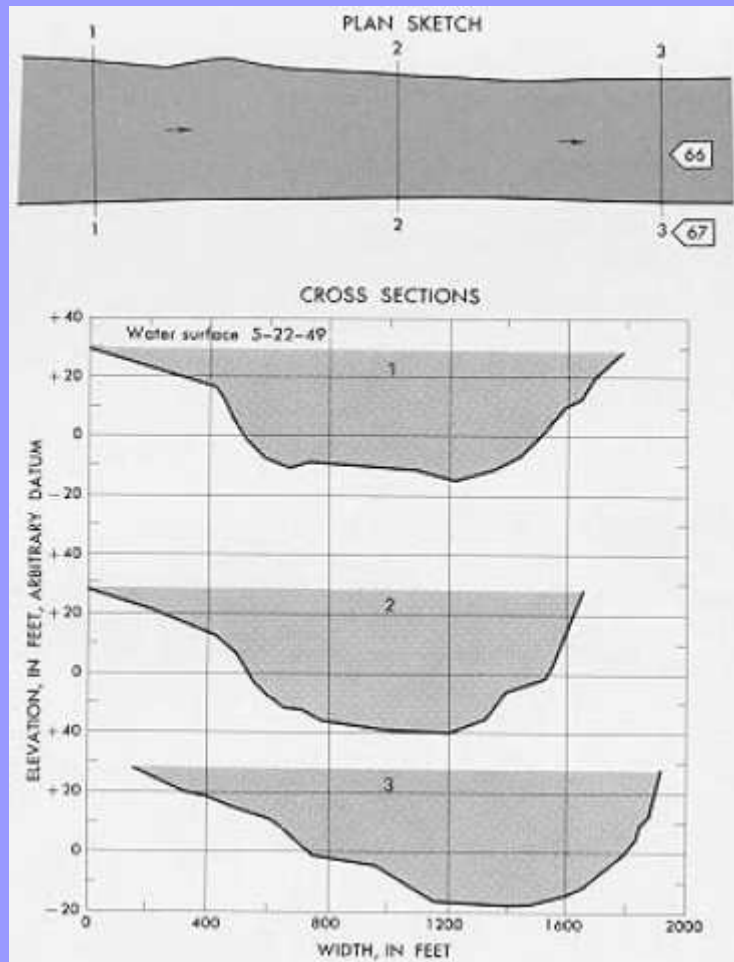


Bed of gravel and well-rounded small boulders. Right bank is fairly steep and lined with trees and brush. Left bank slopes gently and has tree and brush cover.



OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: uniform motion

In river or streams the uniform flow is a mere approximation, still extremely useful

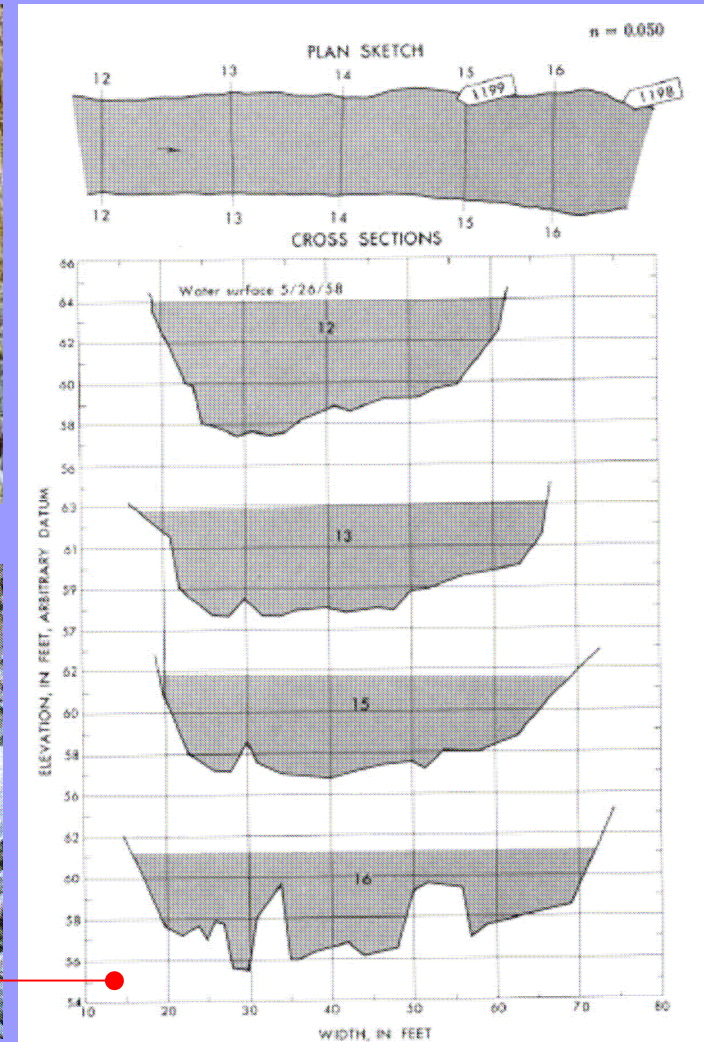
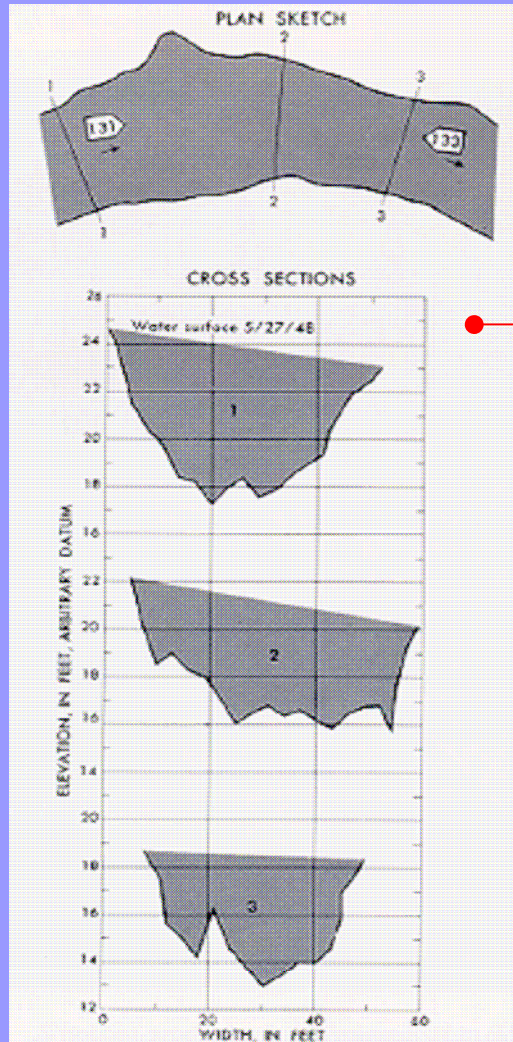


Sometime the approximation is very good, as in this case (plan sketch and cross sections, Columbia River at Vernita, Wash)



OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: uniform motion

In other cases it is a crude approximation, but still very useful (plan sketch and cross sections of some creeks in the US, from Barnes, USGS)

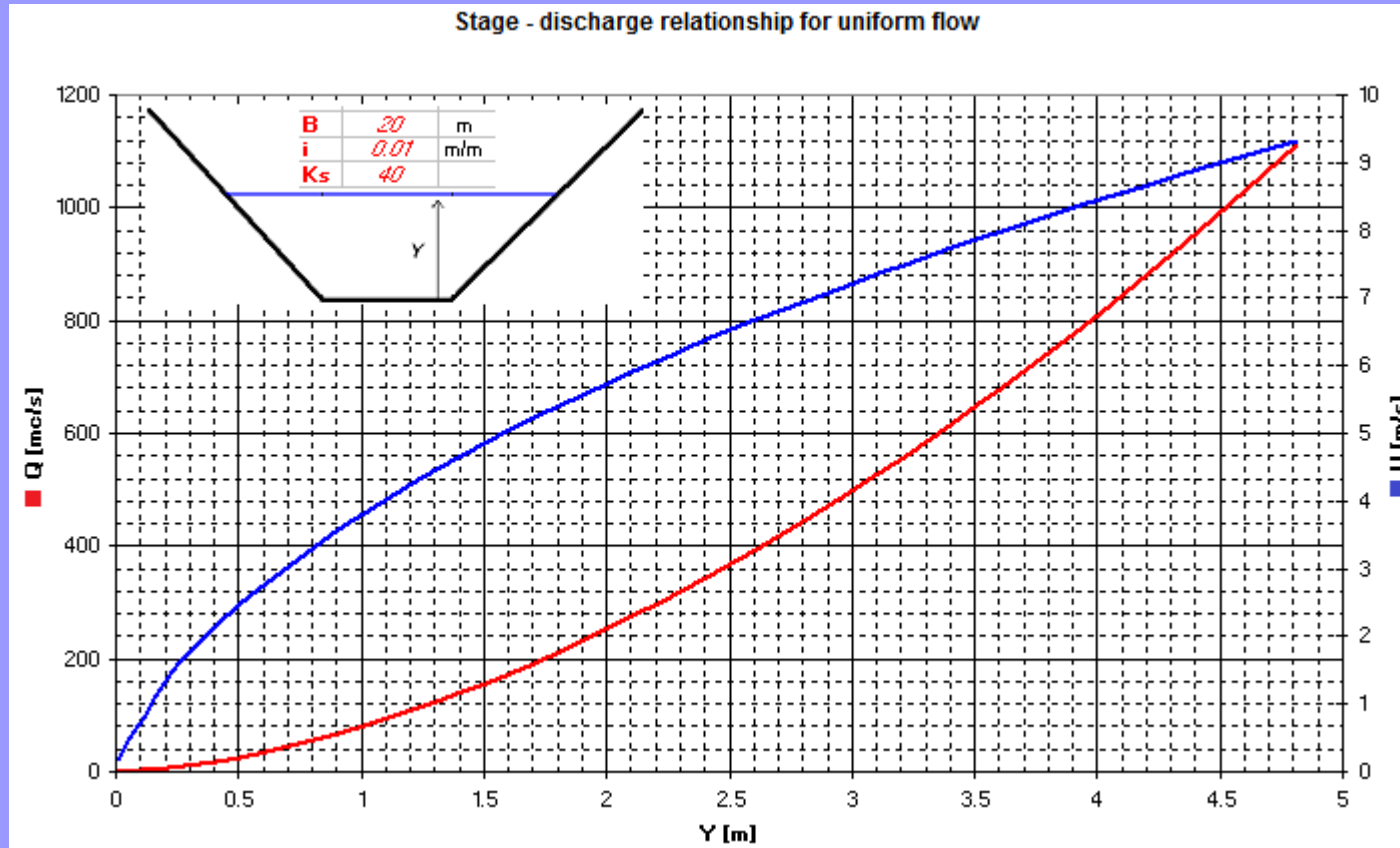


OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: uniform motion

Stage-discharge (scala delle portate) relationship in uniform flow (also, normal rating curve)

$$Q = k_s R(h_0)^{1/6} A(h_0) \sqrt{R(h_0) S_b} = k_s \frac{A(h_0)^{5/3}}{P(h_0)^{2/3}} \sqrt{S_b}$$

The encircled expression is known as conveyance, being a function of h and representing a measure of capacity of water transport



$h = h_0$ is the so called
NORMAL DEPTH
(profondità di moto uniforme)



OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: uniform motion

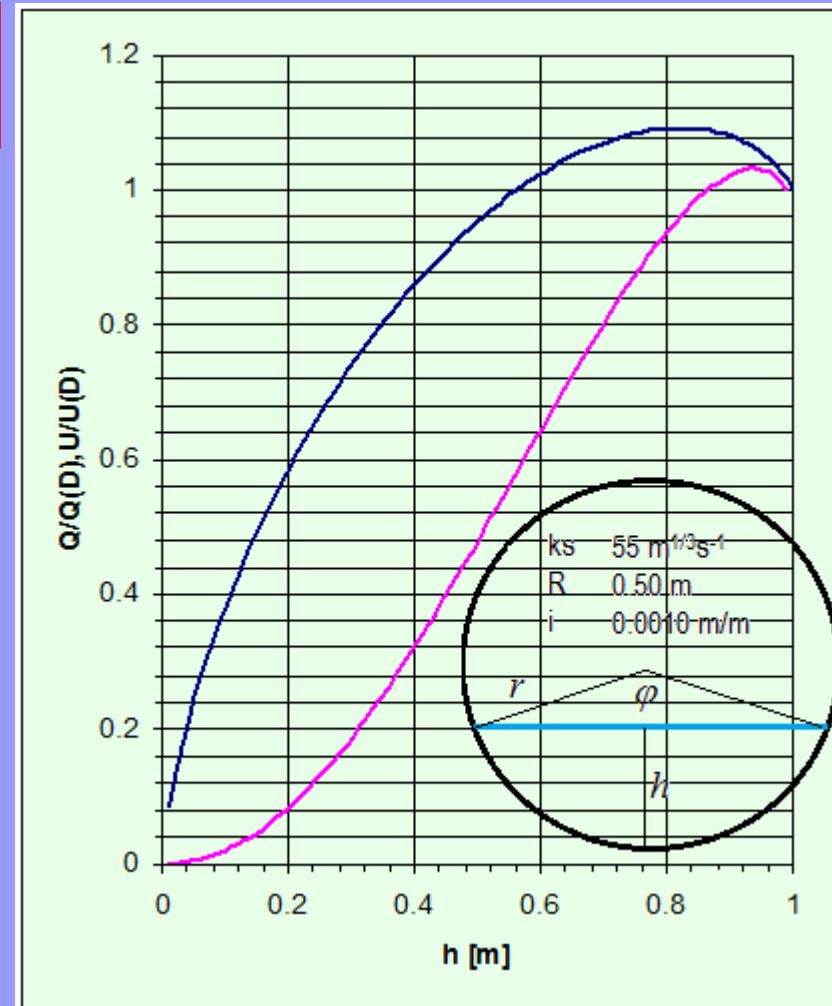
Stage-discharge relationship for closed conduits in uniform flow

$$Q = k_s R(h)^{1/6} A(h) \sqrt{R(h) S_b} = k_s \frac{A(h)^{5/3}}{P(h)^{2/3}} \sqrt{S_b}$$

$$A = \frac{1}{2} r^2 (\varphi - \sin(\varphi))$$

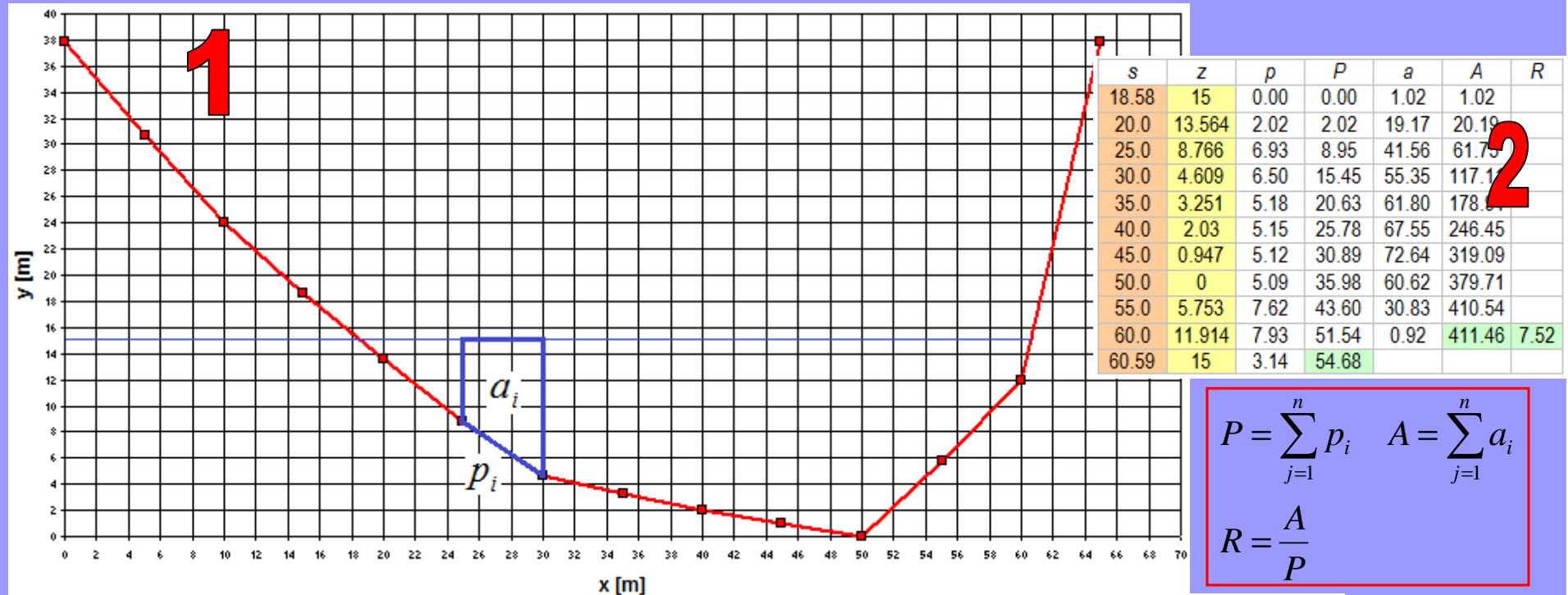
$$P = r\varphi$$

$$R = \frac{1}{2} r \left(1 - \frac{\sin(\varphi)}{\varphi} \right)$$



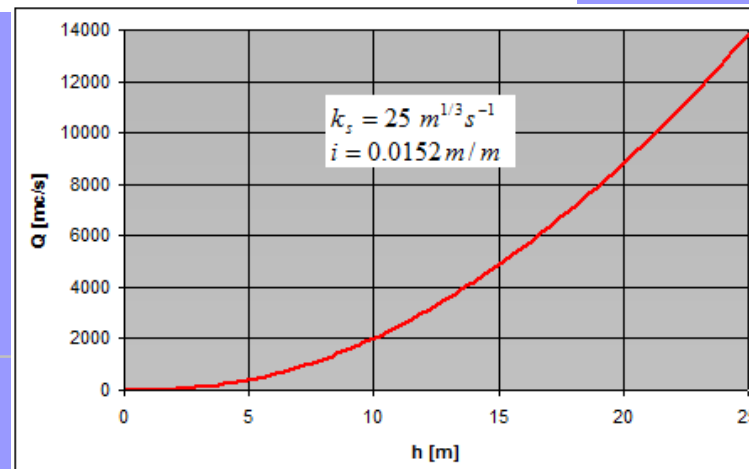
OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: uniform motion

Stage-discharge relationship for irregular cross section in uniform flow



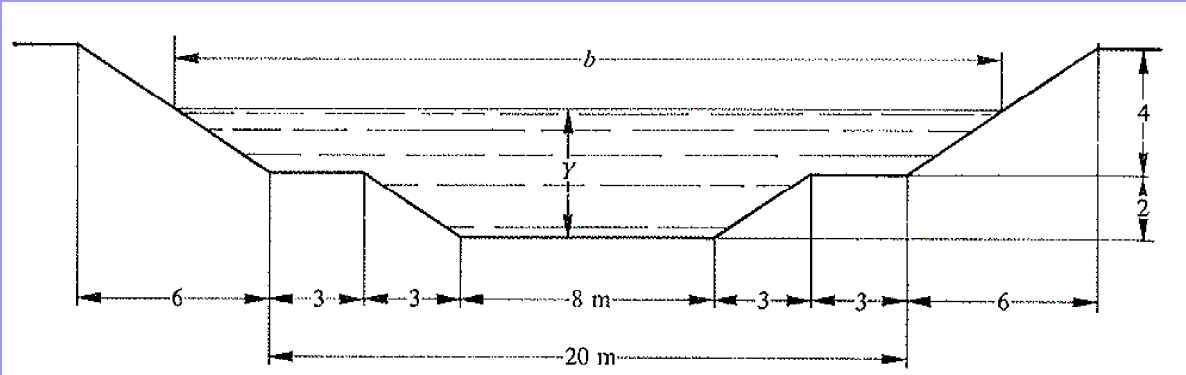
$$Q = k_s R(h)^{1/6} A(h) \sqrt{R(h) S_b}$$

3

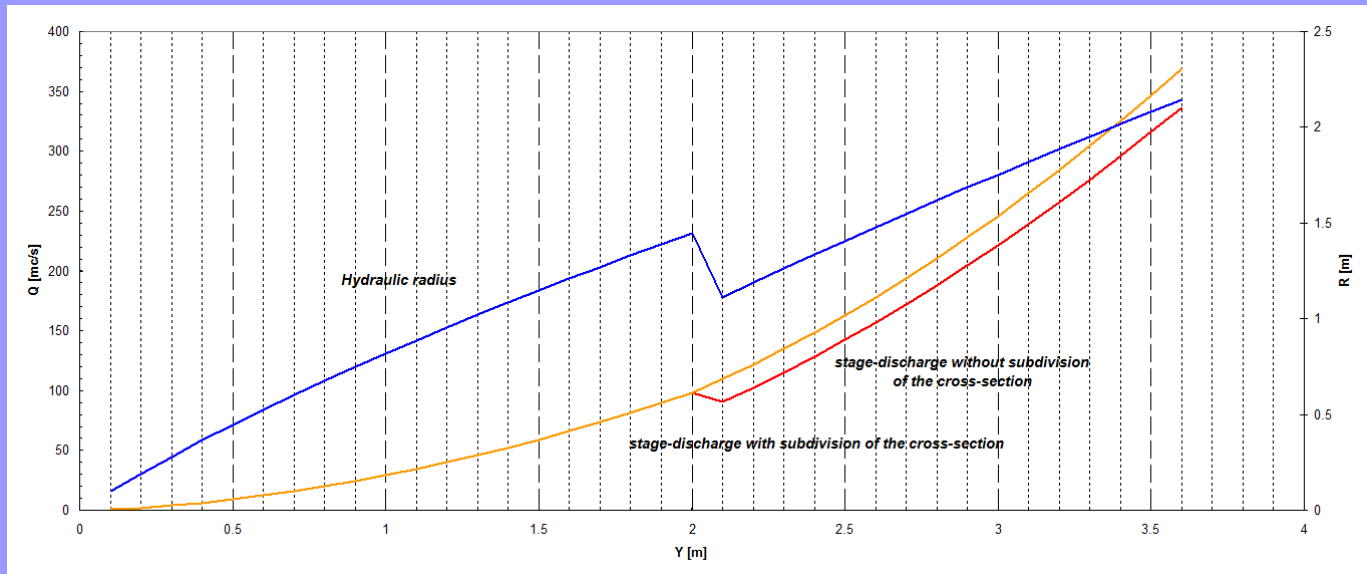


OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: uniform motion

Often natural or man-made cross section are composite, i.e., composed of different subsections, maybe with different roughness and local slope, due to different lengths of the thalweg. The lower subsection (alveo di magra) conveys water during drought or low flows. The overflow sections (alvei di piena e golenale) are activated during floods

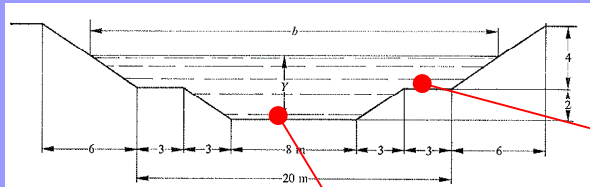


Without a proper decomposition the 1D assumption is violated and the hydraulic radius shows sudden reductions that have unrealistic effects on the other hydraulic quantities



OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: uniform motion

“Zona golenale” of the Po river at Isola Pescaroli (floodplain)

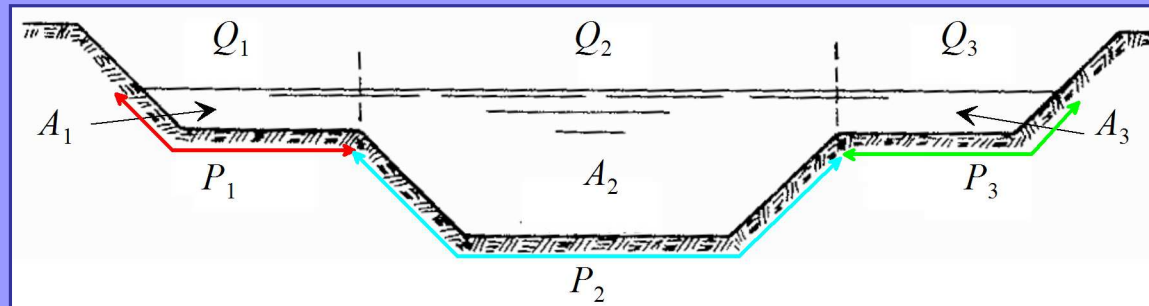


“Alveo di magra”
(main bed or
channel)



OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: uniform motion in channels of compound section

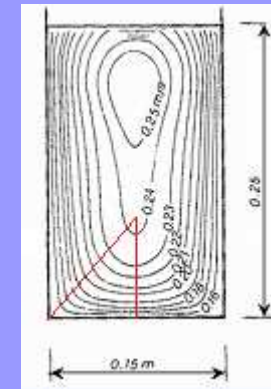
The cross section of a channel may be composed of several subsections, e.g. a main channel and two side channels (flood plains). In this case the Chézy equation has to be applied to each subsection i to compute the corresponding discharge Q_i . The total discharge is obtained as $Q = \sum Q_i$



For the evaluation of the wetted perimeter P_i of each subsection only the solid boundaries are considered. This criterion would require to subdivide the section along the lines orthogonal to the isotachs; actually, along these lines no internal shear stress takes place; however, vertical lines are generally used. The hydraulic radius R_i of each subsection is calculated as $R_i = A_i / P_i$.

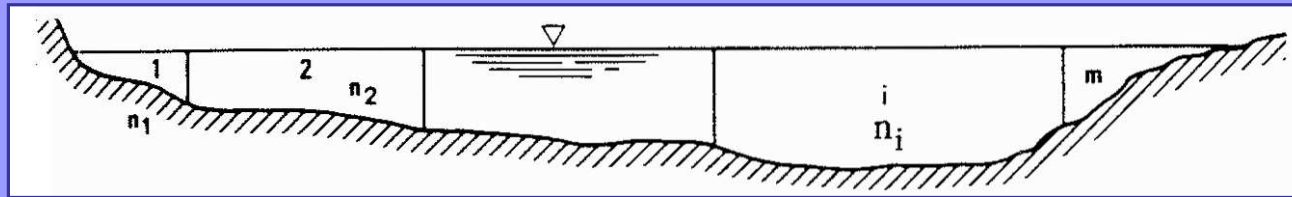
$$Q = \sum_i Q_i = \sum_i \frac{1}{n_i} R_i^{2/3} A_i S_b^{1/2} = K S_b^{1/2}, \quad K = \sum_i \frac{1}{n_i} R_i^{2/3} A_i$$

conveyance



OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: equivalent roughness

In case of **compact sections** in which the roughness may be different from part to part of the perimeter the discharge can be computed without actually subdividing the section. To this purpose, an equivalent roughness coefficient can be introduced dividing the water area into N parts of which the wetted perimeter P_i (calculated taking into account only the solid boundaries) and roughness coefficients n_i are known.



Assuming the same mean velocity for each partial area, in uniform flow (according to Horton and Einstein)

$$V = \frac{1}{\bar{n}} R^{2/3} S_b^{1/2} \Rightarrow \frac{V^{3/2}}{S_b^{3/4}} = \frac{1}{\bar{n}^{3/2}} \frac{A}{P} = \frac{1}{n_i^{3/2}} \frac{A_i}{P_i} = \frac{V_i^{3/2}}{S_b^{3/4}} \Rightarrow \frac{1}{\bar{n}^{3/2}} \frac{A}{P} P_i n_i^{3/2} = A_i$$

from which

$$\frac{1}{\bar{n}^{3/2}} \frac{A}{P} \sum_i P_i n_i^{3/2} = A \Rightarrow \bar{n} = \left(\frac{\sum_i P_i n_i^{3/2}}{P} \right)^{2/3} \quad (P = \sum P_i)$$

$$k_s = \frac{\sum (P_i k_{si} R_i^{5/3})}{P R^{5/3}}$$

In a similar way, Pavloskii and Einstein, considering the tractive force along the boundary as the sum of the single contributions

$$k_s = \frac{P^{0.5}}{\left(\sum \frac{P_i}{k_{si}^2} \right)^{0.5}}$$

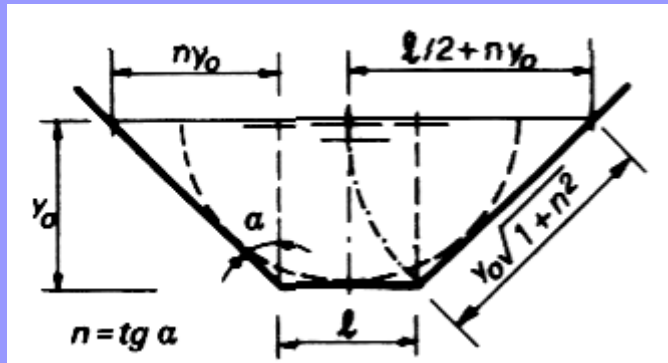
And Lotter, regarding the overall discharge as the sum of the single contributions



OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: uniform motion

Section of Maximum discharge

$$Q = k_s \frac{A(h)^{5/3}}{P(h)^{2/3}} \sqrt{S_b} = C \frac{A(h)^{5/3}}{P(h)^{2/3}}$$



Let us suppose that Q , k_s and S_b are kept constant. The channel will be less expensive if A is the smallest possible. This condition is equivalently satisfied if, for A given, P is minimum.

Let us consider a trapezoidal cross-section, that is a function of l , y_0 and n . If A is kept constant, these three variables are constrained, because

$$A(h) = (l + nh)h; \quad l = \frac{A(h)}{h} - nh$$

The perimeter is given by $P(h) = l + 2h\sqrt{1+n^2} = \frac{A}{h} - nh + 2h\sqrt{1+n^2}$

And, depending on the quantities that can be varied in our problem, can be differentiated either with respect to n or to h .
If one differentiates with respect to h

$$dP = -\frac{A}{h^2} - n + 2\sqrt{1+n^2} = 0; \quad 2\sqrt{1+n^2} = n + \frac{A}{h^2} \quad \text{So that the perimeter is}$$

$$P(h) = l + hn + \frac{A}{h} = 2\frac{A}{h}$$

$$R(h) = \frac{A}{P} = \frac{h}{2}$$

Which is the condition to be satisfied in order to minimize the area. This condition is true independently from n . If $n = 0$ we have an optimal rectangular cross section for $B = 2h$



OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: uniform motion

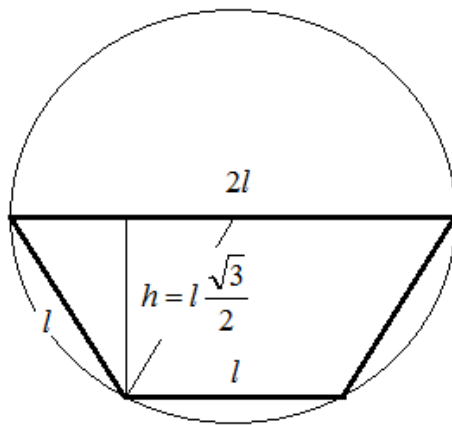
$$dP = -h + \frac{2hn}{\sqrt{1+n^2}} = 0; \quad \sqrt{1+n^2} = 2n$$

Always with A constant, If one can minimize also with respect to n one obtains this condition that corresponds to $n = \tan 30^\circ$

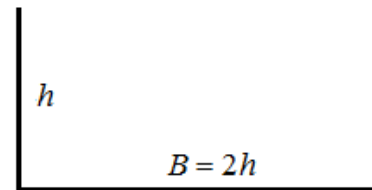
These two conditions provide an additional constraint to identify the optimal cross section

Accordingly, if everything can be chosen, an half exagonal cross section seems to be the most reasonable.

On the other hand, if the choice is constrained to a rectangular cross-section, $B=2h$ provides the best choice.



$$A = \frac{3l}{2}h \quad R = \frac{\frac{3l}{2}h}{3l} = \frac{h}{2}$$
$$P = 3l$$



$$A = 2h^2 \quad R = \frac{2h^2}{4h} = \frac{h}{2}$$
$$P = 4h$$

Whether this choice is practicable or not depends on other constraints, such as, for instance, the type of lining used to cover the channel surface, the actual availability of space around the channel or the maximum allowable velocity.



OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: uniform motion and selection of roughness coefficient

Tables of n values for channels of various kinds can be found in the literature (e.g. Chow, 1964)

Type of channel and description	Minimum	Normal	Maximum
D. NATURAL STREAMS			
D-1. Minor streams (top width at flood stage <100 ft)			
a. Streams on plain			
1. Clean, straight, full stage, no rifts or deep pools	0.025	0.030	0.033
2. Same as above, but more stones and weeds	0.030	0.035	0.040
3. Clean, winding, some pools and shoals	0.033	0.040	0.045
4. Same as above, but some weeds and stones	0.035	0.045	0.050
5. Same as above, lower stages, more ineffective slopes and sections	0.040	0.048	0.055
6. Same as 4, but more stones	0.045	0.050	0.060
7. Sluggish reaches, weedy, deep pools	0.050	0.070	0.080
8. Very weedy reaches, deep pools, or floodways with heavy stand of timber and underbrush	0.075	0.100	0.150

Type of channel and description	Minimum	Normal	Maximum
b. Mountain streams, no vegetation in channel, banks usually steep, trees and brush along banks submerged at high stages			
1. Bottom: gravels, cobbles, and few boulders	0.030	0.040	0.050
2. Bottom: cobbles with large boulders	0.040	0.050	0.070
D-2. Flood plains			
a. Pasture, no brush			
1. Short grass	0.025	0.030	0.035
2. High grass	0.030	0.035	0.050
b. Cultivated areas			
1. No crop	0.020	0.030	0.040
2. Mature row crops	0.025	0.035	0.045
3. Mature field crops	0.030	0.040	0.050
c. Brush			
1. Scattered brush, heavy weeds	0.035	0.050	0.070
2. Light brush and trees, in winter	0.035	0.050	0.060
3. Light brush and trees, in summer	0.040	0.060	0.080
4. Medium to dense brush, in winter	0.045	0.070	0.110
5. Medium to dense brush, in summer	0.070	0.100	0.160
d. Trees			
1. Dense willows, summer, straight	0.110	0.150	0.200
2. Cleared land with tree stumps, no sprouts	0.030	0.040	0.050
3. Same as above, but with heavy growth of sprouts	0.050	0.060	0.080
4. Heavy stand of timber, a few down trees, little undergrowth, flood stage below branches	0.080	0.100	0.120
5. Same as above, but with flood stage reaching branches	0.100	0.120	0.160
D-3. Major streams (top width at flood stage >100 ft). The n value is less than that for minor streams of similar description, because banks offer less effective resistance.			
a. Regular section with no boulders or brush	0.025	0.060
b. Irregular and rough section	0.035	0.100



OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: uniform motion and selection of roughness coefficient

Roughness Characteristics of Natural Channels

By HARRY H. BARNES, JR.

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY WATER-SUPPLY PAPER 1849

Color photographs and descriptive data for 50 stream channels for which roughness coefficients have been determined



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE, WASHINGTON : 1967

Australian Government
Land & Water Australia

Knowledge for managing Australian landscapes

An Australian Handbook of Stream Roughness Coefficients



Centre for Integrated Design of Advanced Structures

3 INTEGRATED DESIGN FOR EXTREME SITUATIONS
3.1 Development of methods for analysis of selected extreme actions on structures and built-up environment
3.1.1 Development and verification of procedures for evaluation of the severity and uncertainty estimation during floods
3.1.1.1 Analysis of possible sources of uncertainty resulting from the replacement of real properties of physical phenomena by the model ones

Author: Dr. Václav Měšťák, Czech Technical University in Prague

INTRODUCTION TO CATALOGIZATION OF ROUGHNESS CHARACTERISTICS OF NATURAL CHANNELS IN CZECH REPUBLIC

Summary

The hydraulic roughness of a channel surface is one of the primary resources of uncertainty in calculations of a water stage in a natural channel conveying water at a certain discharge. In practice, the determination of the hydraulic roughness of natural channels is often based just on the experience of an expert carrying out the calculations. Experience is gained during channel-roughness measurements on rivers and creeks. It is desirable to collect results of roughness measurements in Czech, Moravian and Silesian natural channels and systemize them into a catalogue similar to catalogues available abroad. Expert knowledge on how to determine the roughness characteristics is scarce for usual flow conditions in natural channels and virtually nonexistent for extreme flow conditions like flooding conditions when a certain part of the discharge is conveyed outside a channel through floodplains. It is the ambition of the constructed catalogue to provide roughness information also for such complex hydraulic situations.

Field of application

In some parts of the world (e.g. U.S., Australia and New Zealand), the measurement results of the roughness characteristics in natural channels of different kinds are collected into comprehensive guides in both printed form (technical books) and electronic form (web sites). Unfortunately, the results available in the overseas databases cannot be directly applied to the domestic conditions where the geological, vegetative and other conditions may be very different from those on the rivers for which the data were collected. Therefore, it is desirable to develop our own catalogue for natural channel types and flow conditions typical for the Czech Republic. At the moment, no catalogue is available and the results of roughness characteristics from different Czech channels are scattered over a large number of research reports, from which a certain part is not public.

The aim of the project is to collect roughness data for different types of natural channels and their floodplains at different water stages. The catalogue should serve water engineers a more accurate estimation of water stages at various flow rates in channels. Such estimations are important e.g. for planning of flood control measures.

Methodological and conceptual Approach

Data collection

The methodology of the data collection is in principle ready. The researchers of our department use the methodology during their fieldwork. For planning of future fieldwork, new measuring locations will have to be selected for the roughness tests. The locations should have a pseudo-prismatic channel of sufficient length and a floodplain of a measurable size (width). There should be an easy way to determine the discharge in the location (e.g. a stream-gauge station in the neighbourhood). Measurements will have to be carried out for different water stages and vegetation periods at one location.

Selection of data for database and catalogue

For the purpose of the development of a single methodology, it will be necessary to define:

- the suitable method(s) for a calculation of the water stage from the discharge and other input parameters for non-uniform flows through channel cross sections of complex shapes and variable hydraulic roughness along the wetted perimeter (e.g. the software HEC-RAS);
- the suitable coefficient characterizing the roughness of a natural channel surface, the Manning coefficient is the most widely used roughness parameter.

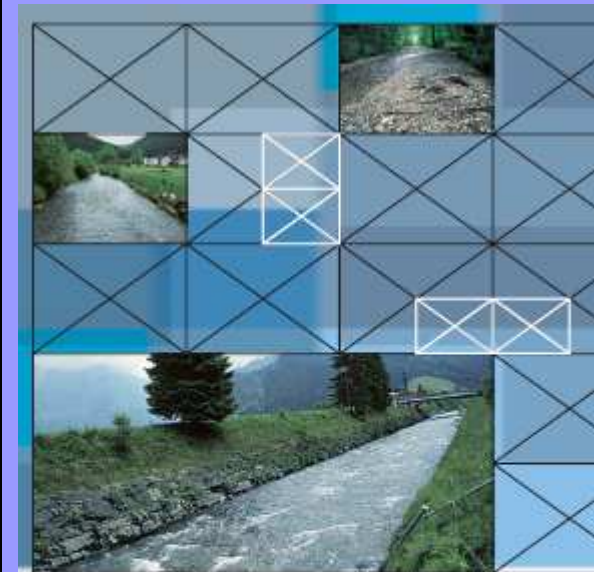
Research results

Existing catalogues

For the list of the existing catalogues, see the References at the end of the article. A typical catalogue gives a value of the Manning's n .

HEC-RAS is the most widely used software for the analysis of unsteady and steady open channel flow. It is a 2D model, which means that it does not take into account the vertical structure of the flow. It is a 2D model, which means that it does not take into account the vertical structure of the flow.

3.1.1.1-2



Rauheiten in ausgesuchten schweizerischen Fließgewässern

Berichte des BIVG, Serie Wasser - Rapports de l'ORSG, Série Eau - Rapports dell'ISAGO, Serie Acque



Guide for Selecting Manning's Roughness Coefficients for Natural Channels and Flood Plains

United States Geological Survey Water-supply Paper 2339

Metric Version

Welcome to Manning's Roughness Coefficients for Natural Channels and Flood Plains

[Table of Contents](#)
[U.S. - SI Conversions](#)



Authors: G.J. Arcement, Jr. and V.R. Schneider, USGS

NOTE: WSP2339 is the USGS version of FHWA-TS-84-204 which has the same title. The publications are substantially the same, but have different arrangement of figures.

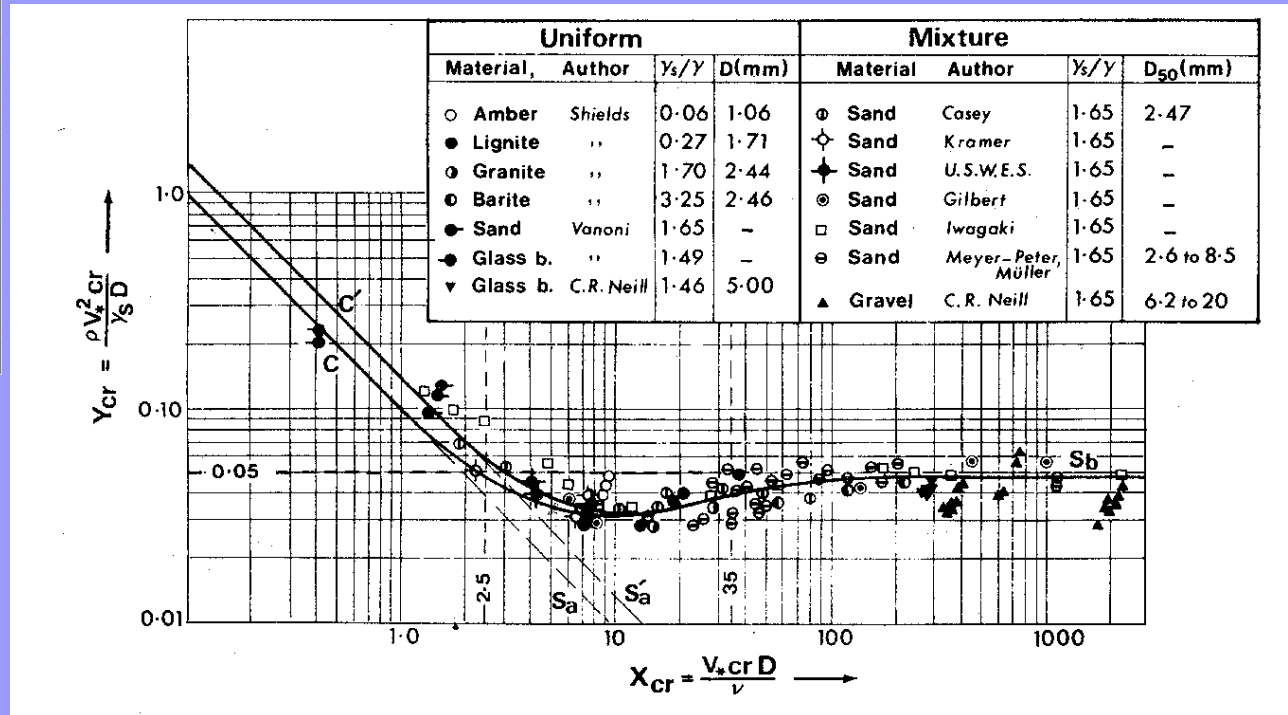
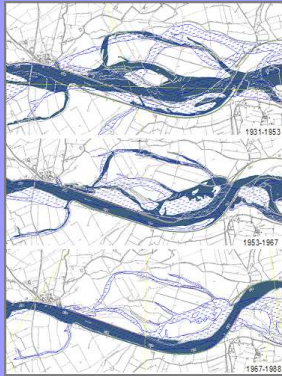
DISCLAIMER: During the editing of this manual for conversion to an electronic format, the intent has been to convert the publication to the metric system while keeping the document as close to the original as possible. The document has undergone editorial update during the conversion process.



M. Pilotti - lectures of Environmental Hydraulics

OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: a remark on the applicability of the fixed bed hypothesis

The hypothesis of unerodible and fixed bed is true whenever the flow lies below the Shields diagram : $Y < Y_c$



Where $Y = \frac{\rho v_*^2}{\gamma_s D} = \frac{\tau_0}{\gamma_s D}$ mobility number [-], with γ_s sediment submerged specific weight [N/m³]

$X = \frac{\rho v_* D}{\mu}$ grain Reynolds number [-]

For a better definition of the left side of the Shields diagram see

Pilotti M., Menduni G., Beginning of sediment transport of incoherent grains in shallow shear flows, *Journal of Hydraulic Research, IAHR*, 39, 115-124, 2001.



OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: Specific Energy

$$E = h + \frac{\alpha U^2}{2g} = h + \frac{\alpha Q^2}{2gA(h)^2}$$

(G.2b) Specific Energy with respect to the thalweg, with Q constant

$$\frac{dE}{dh} = 1 - \frac{\alpha Q^2}{gA(h)^3} \frac{dA}{dh} = 1 - \frac{\alpha U^2}{gh} = 1 - \alpha Fr^2 = 0 \quad (E.1) \text{ Minimum of } E(h)$$

$$\bar{h} = \frac{A(h)}{B(h)} \quad (E.2) \text{ Equivalent (average) Hydraulic Depth}$$

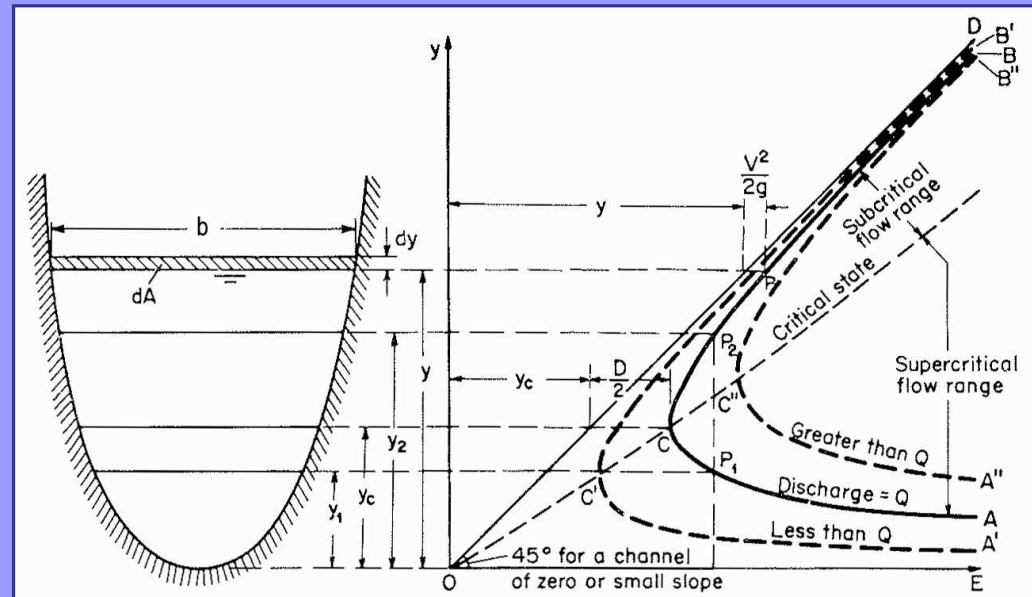
$$1 = \frac{\alpha Q^2}{gA(k)^3} B(k) \quad (E.3) \text{ General expression for critical depth}$$

$$k = \sqrt[3]{\frac{\alpha Q^2}{gB^2}} \quad (E.4) \text{ Critical depth in rectangular channel}$$

$$E_k = k + \frac{\bar{k}}{2} \quad \text{General expression for Specific Energy in critical Condition}$$

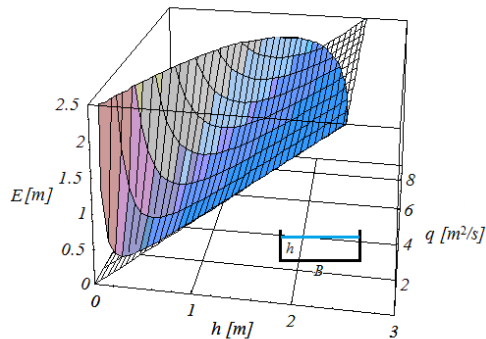
$$k = \frac{2}{3} E_k; \quad k = \frac{4}{5} E_k; \quad k = \frac{3}{5} E_k$$

$E(k)$ in Rectangular, Triangular and Parabolic cross-section;

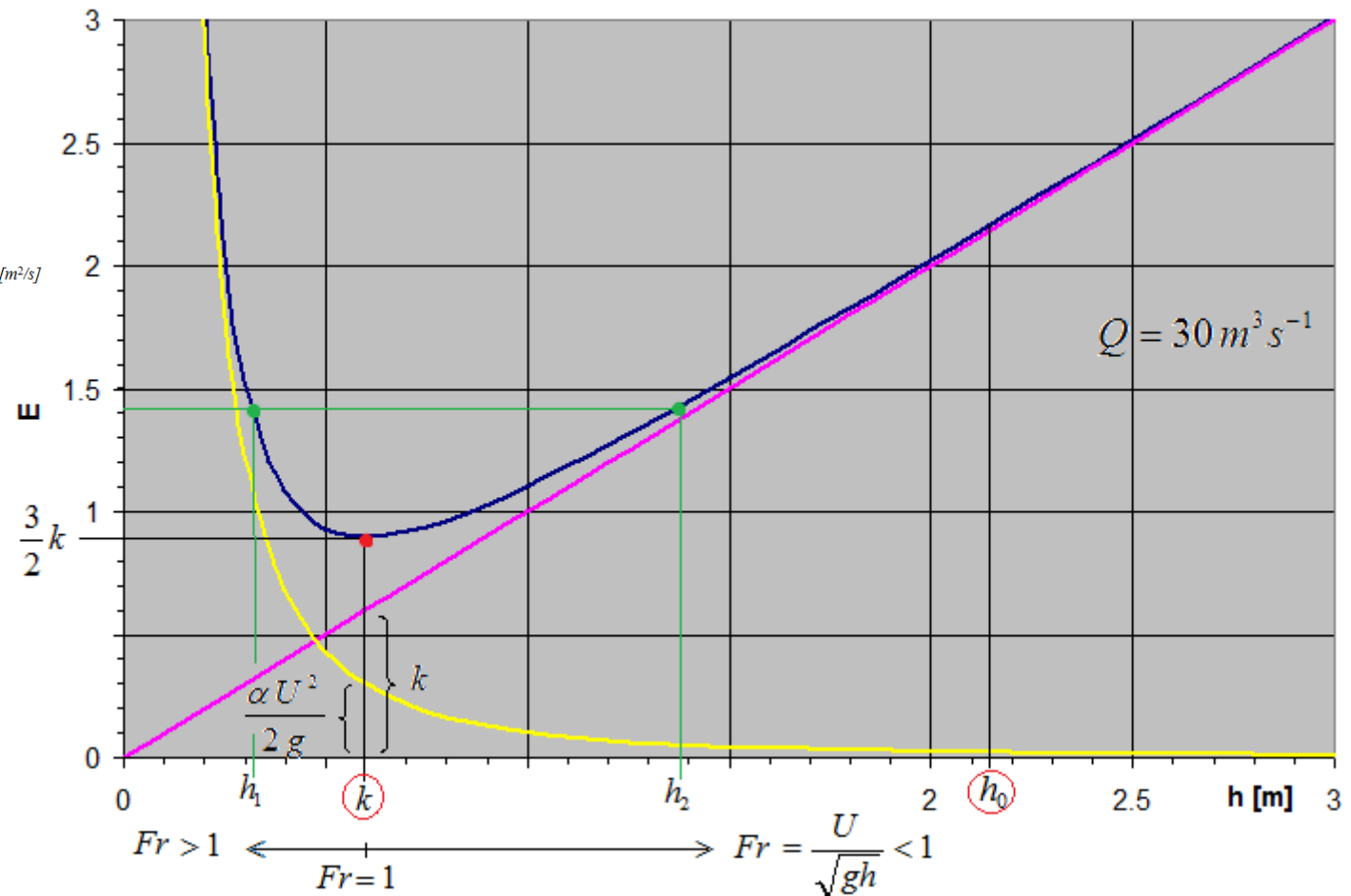


OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: Specific Energy

$$E = h + \alpha \frac{U^2}{2g} = h + \alpha \frac{Q^2}{2gB^3h^3} = h + \alpha \frac{q^2}{2gh^3}$$



For a given channel section and a given discharge the critical depth h_c depends only on the geometry of the section, while the normal depth $h = h_0$ depends on the slope of the channel and the roughness coefficient.



Depending on the relative position between h_0 and k , the bottom slope is defined as
 Mild slope: $h_0 > k$ (see figure above); Steep slope: $h_0 < k$; Critical slope: $h_0 = k$



OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: Specific Discharge

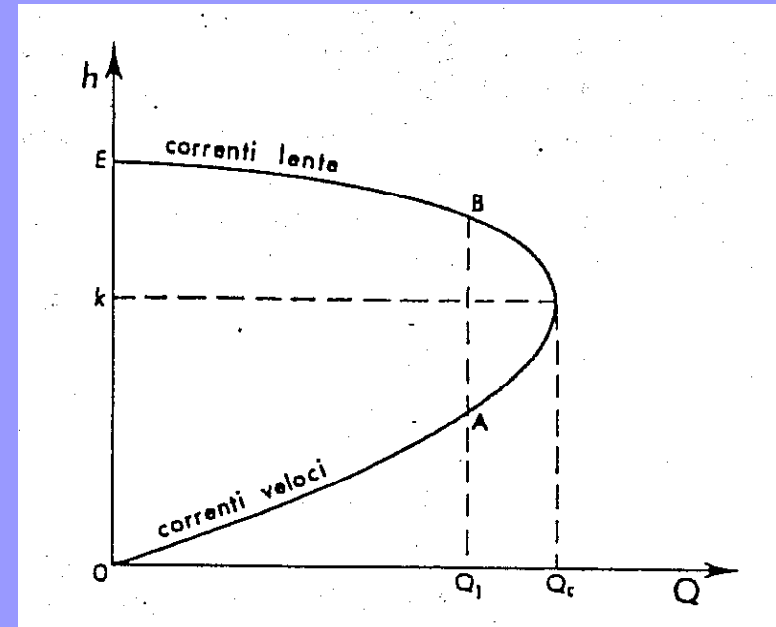
$$Q = A(h) \sqrt{\frac{2g}{\alpha} (E - h)}$$

Specific discharge for E constant

$$\frac{dQ}{dh} = 0 \rightarrow E = h + \frac{\bar{h}}{2} \rightarrow h \equiv k$$

$$\frac{Q}{B} = q = h \sqrt{\frac{2g}{\alpha} (E - h)}$$

In a rectangular cross section



OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: Froude number

Let us underline the meaning of the Froude number.

Let us consider an infinitely wide channel where water flows in uniform motion with depth h and velocity U .

If perturbation affects the whole water column (tsunami like), we have a wave of positive height dh that may travel upstream and downstream with absolute celerity $\pm a$. Due to its passage U is modified, as $U-dU$.

Given that the motion is an unsteady one, it is convenient to study the process as seen from astride the wave. This is a inertial frame of reference so that both energy and mass balance can be written in terms of relative velocity.

We can write

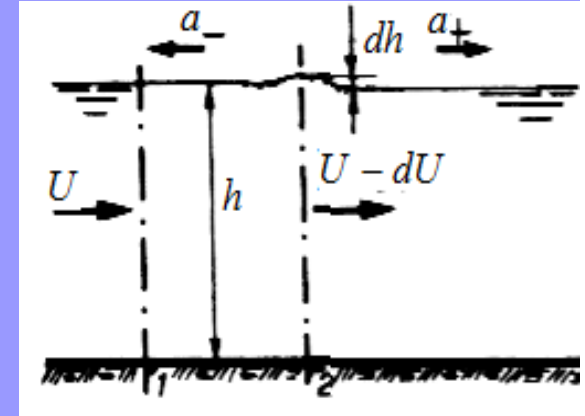
$$\vec{v}_a = \vec{v}_r + \vec{v}_t$$

$$U = U_r + a; \quad U_r = U - a$$

$$\frac{dE}{ds} = 0 \quad h + \frac{(U - a)^2}{2g} = (h + dh) + \frac{(U - dU - a)^2}{2g}$$

$$\frac{dQ}{ds} = 0 \quad (U - a)h = (U - dU - a)(h + dh)$$

$$a = U \mp \sqrt{gh} = U \mp c = \sqrt{gh} (Fr \mp 1)$$



$$dh = dU \frac{(U - a)}{g} \quad \text{energy balance}$$

$$dU = dh \frac{(U - a)}{h} \quad \text{mass balance}$$



OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: Froude number

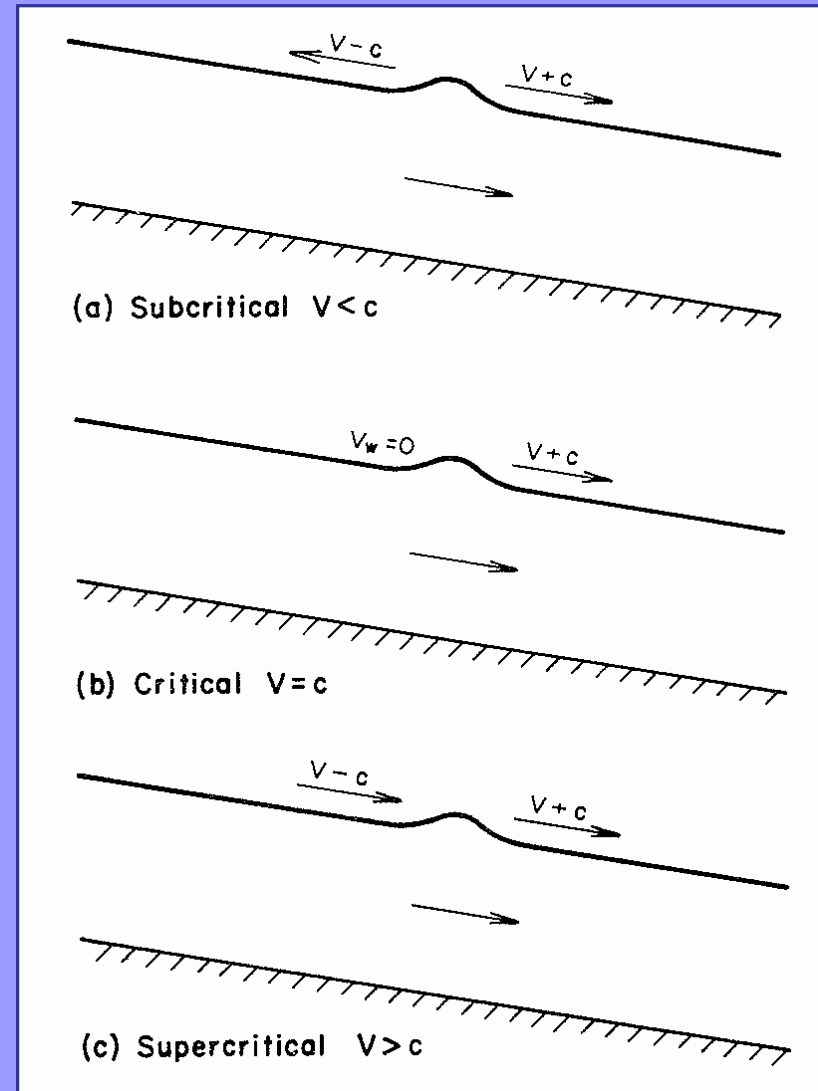
Let us observe our final result

$$a = U \mp \sqrt{gh} = U \mp c = \sqrt{gh} (Fr \mp 1)$$

if $Fr > 1$ both values of a are positive, so that the wave cannot propagate upstream.

if $Fr = 1$, $c=U$ (see previous slides) and $a = 0$

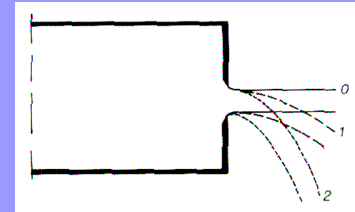
Note that c is generally different from U . The infinitely small wave propagates with a celerity that is different from the average mass velocity, U .



OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: overall significance of the Froude number;

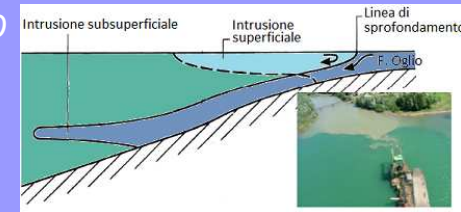
$$\frac{\rho v \nabla v V}{\rho g V} \propto \frac{\frac{\rho U^2}{L}}{\rho g} = \frac{U^2}{gL} = Fr^2$$

Froude number can be introduced when studying jets, as the ratio between inertial and gravitational Forces



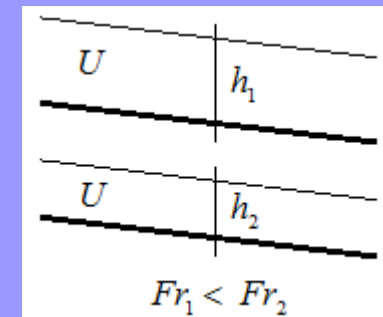
$$\frac{\rho v \nabla v V}{(\rho - \rho_1)gV} \propto \frac{\frac{\rho U^2}{L}}{\frac{\Delta \rho}{\rho} \rho g} = \frac{U^2}{\frac{\Delta \rho}{\rho} gL} = Fr_d^2$$

In general terms it should take into account the density of the fluid where the jet is taking place (densimetric Froude number)



$$\frac{\frac{U^2}{2g}}{\frac{p}{\gamma}} = \frac{\frac{U^2}{2g}}{\frac{\gamma h}{\gamma}} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{U^2}{gh} = \frac{1}{2} Fr^2$$

But also in open channel flow as the semi-ratio between the kinetic energy per unit weight over the energy related to pressure (after Bakhmeteff, 1912).



$$\frac{D\vec{v}^*}{D\tau} = \frac{1}{Fr^2} \nabla z^* - \nabla p^* + \frac{1}{Re} \Delta \vec{v}^*$$

$$\vec{v}^* = f(x^*, \tau, Fr, Re);$$

$$p^* = f(x^*, \tau, Fr, Re)$$

Finally it arises when Navier Stokes equations are made dimensionless. This result is particularly important because it dictates the Froude similarity criterion. Accordingly, if Froude similarity is imposed and one defines $\lambda_l = l/L$, $\lambda_t = t/T$ and $\lambda_v = v/V$, then the constraints hold

$$\lambda_t = \sqrt{\lambda_l}; \quad \lambda_v = \sqrt{\lambda_l}$$



OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: steady flow profiles in prismatic channels

Let us consider a gradually varied flow, i.e. one in which vertical acceleration on the cross section are negligible, and, accordingly, an hydrostatic pressure distribution is present. This happens if the slope of the channel is small and the geometry of the boundary is such that the streamlines are practically parallel. Under the above hypotheses, starting from energy equation of gradually varied flow.

$$\frac{dH}{dx} = -S_f$$

$$\frac{dH}{dx} = \frac{d}{dx} \left(z + y + \frac{Q^2}{2gA^2} \right) = -S_0 + \frac{\partial E}{\partial y} \frac{dy}{dx} + \frac{\partial E}{\partial A} \frac{dA}{dx}$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{S_b - S_f}{dE/dy}, \quad \frac{dE}{dy} = \frac{d}{dy} \left(y + \frac{Q^2}{2gA^2} \right) = 1 - \frac{Q^2 b}{gA^3} = 1 - Fr^2$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = S_b \frac{1 - Q^2 / (K^2 S_0)}{1 - Fr^2} = S_b \frac{1 - Q^2 / Q_0^2}{1 - Fr^2}$$

Let us now consider a prismatic channels, so that $A=A(y(x))$ and $S_b=\text{constant}$



OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: steady flow profiles in prismatic channels

From the equation of gradually varied flow in a prismatic channel, the following general properties of the flow profile $y(x)$ are easily obtained:

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{N(y; Q)}{D(y; Q)}, \quad N = S_b \left(1 - \frac{Q^2}{Q_0^2} \right), \quad D = 1 - Fr^2$$

$$y \rightarrow \infty \Rightarrow \begin{cases} Q_0 \rightarrow \infty \\ Fr \rightarrow 0 \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} N \rightarrow 1 \\ D \rightarrow 1 \end{cases} \Rightarrow \frac{dy}{dx} \rightarrow S_b \quad (\text{asymptotic to a horizontal line})$$

$$y \rightarrow y_0 \Rightarrow Q_0 \rightarrow Q \Rightarrow \begin{cases} N \rightarrow 0 \\ D \neq 0 \end{cases} \Rightarrow \frac{dy}{dx} \rightarrow 0 \quad (\text{asymptotic to normal-depth line})$$

$$y \rightarrow y_c \Rightarrow Fr \rightarrow 1 \Rightarrow \begin{cases} N \neq 0 \\ D \rightarrow 0 \end{cases} \Rightarrow \frac{dy}{dx} \rightarrow \infty \quad (\text{asymptotic to a vertical line})$$

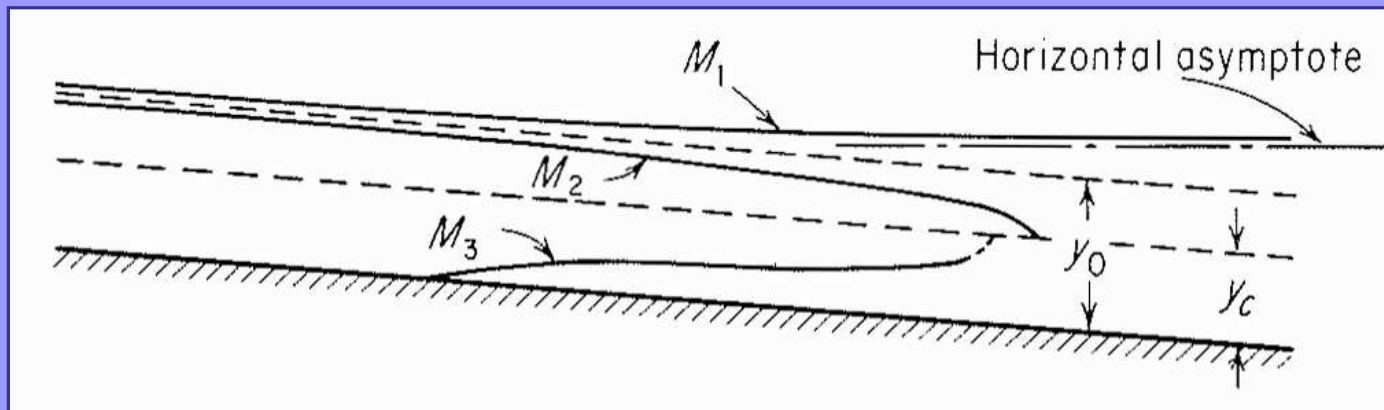
$$y \rightarrow 0 \Rightarrow \begin{cases} Q_0 \rightarrow \infty \\ Fr \rightarrow \infty \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} N \rightarrow -\infty \\ D \rightarrow -\infty \end{cases} \quad (dy/dx \rightarrow \infty \text{ if Manning eq. is used for } Q_0)$$



OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: steady flow profiles in prismatic channels

Mild slope prismatic channel

$$dy/dx = N/D, \quad N = S_b \left(1 - Q^2/Q_0^2\right), \quad D = 1 - Fr^2$$



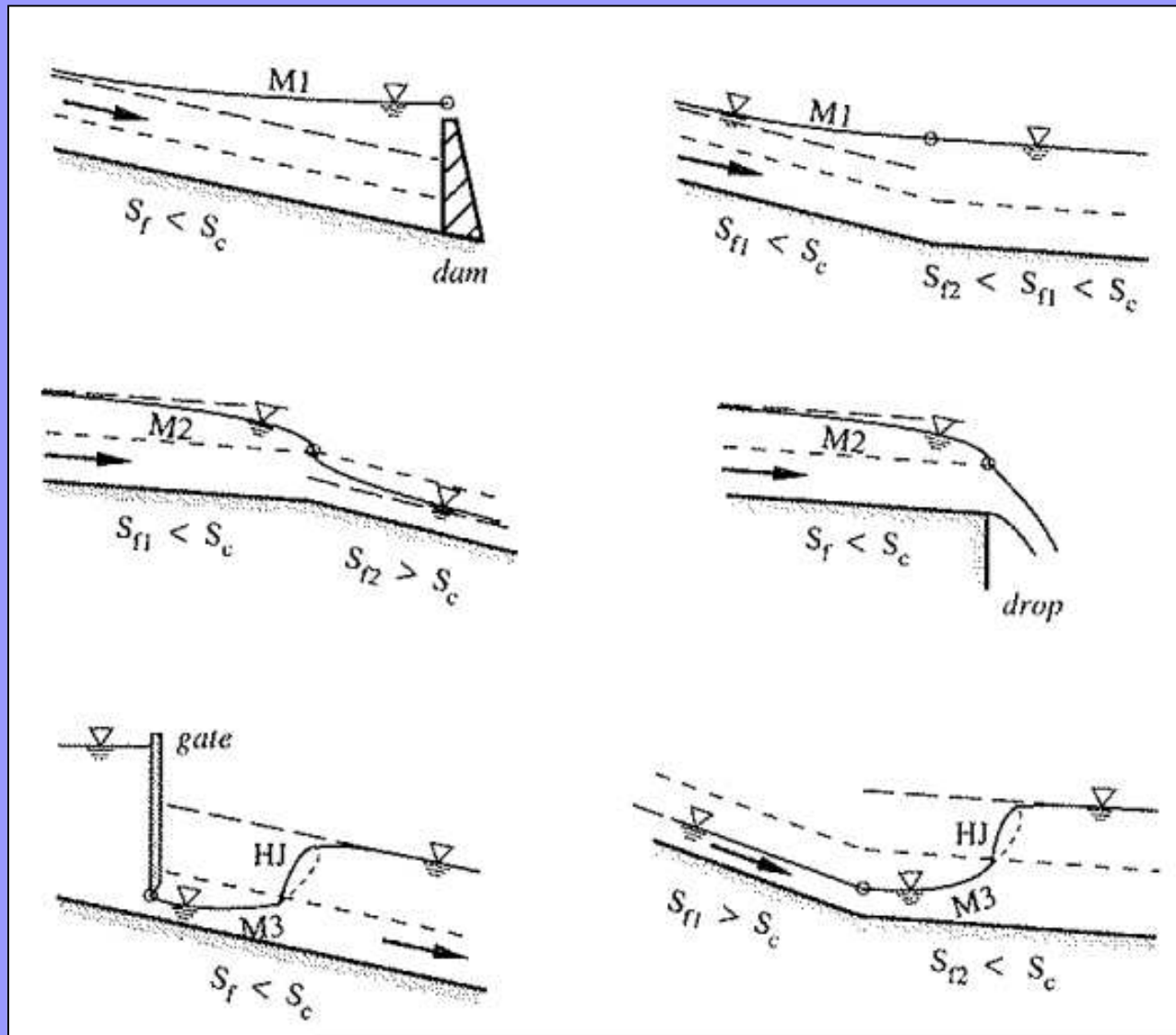
$$y > y_0 > y_c \Rightarrow \begin{cases} Q_0 > Q \\ Fr < 1 \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} N > 0 \\ D > 0 \end{cases} \Rightarrow \frac{dy}{dx} > 0 \quad \text{M1 profile}$$

$$y_c < y < y_0 \Rightarrow \begin{cases} Q_0 < Q \\ Fr < 1 \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} N < 0 \\ D > 0 \end{cases} \Rightarrow \frac{dy}{dx} < 0 \quad \text{M2 profile}$$

$$y < y_c < y_0 \Rightarrow \begin{cases} Q_0 < Q \\ Fr > 1 \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} N < 0 \\ D < 0 \end{cases} \Rightarrow \frac{dy}{dx} > 0 \quad \text{M3 profile}$$



OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: steady flow profiles in mild slope prismatic channels



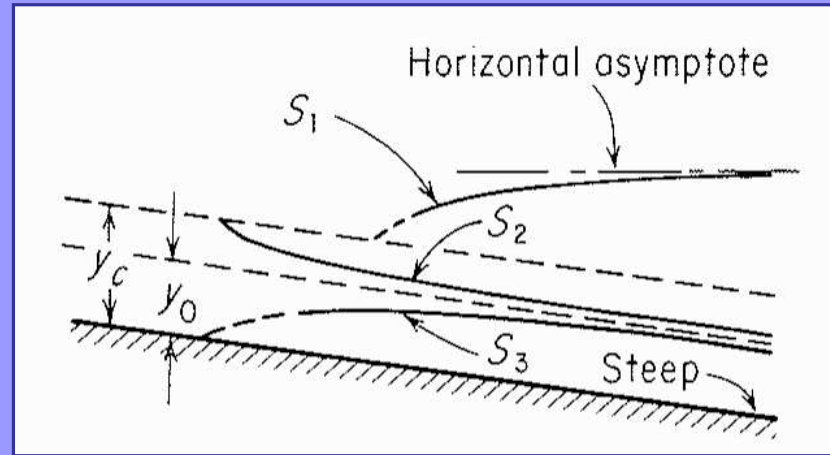
From W. H. Graf and
M. S. Altinakar, 1998



OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: steady flow profiles in prismatic channels

Steep slope prismatic channel

$$dy/dx = N/D, \quad N = S_0(1 - Q^2/Q_0^2), \quad D = 1 - Fr^2$$



$$y > y_c > y_0 \Rightarrow \begin{cases} Q_0 > Q \\ Fr < 1 \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} N > 0 \\ D > 0 \end{cases} \Rightarrow \frac{dy}{dx} > 0$$

S1 profile

$$y_0 < y < y_c \Rightarrow \begin{cases} Q_0 > Q \\ Fr > 1 \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} N > 0 \\ D < 0 \end{cases} \Rightarrow \frac{dy}{dx} < 0$$

S2 profile

$$y < y_0 < y_c \Rightarrow \begin{cases} Q_0 < Q \\ Fr > 1 \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} N < 0 \\ D < 0 \end{cases} \Rightarrow \frac{dy}{dx} > 0$$

S3 profile



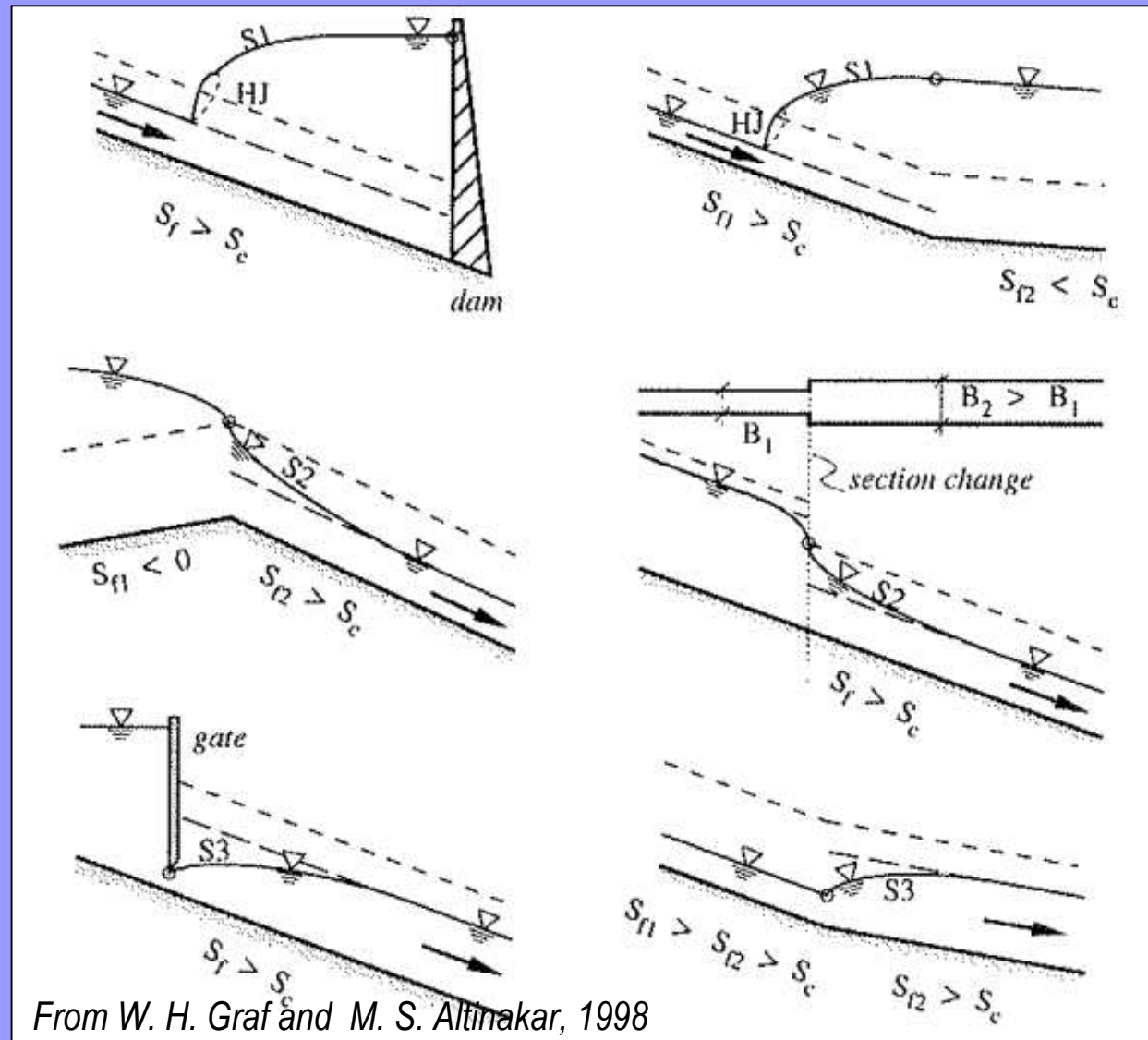
OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: steady flow profiles in steep slope prismatic channels

Boundary conditions:

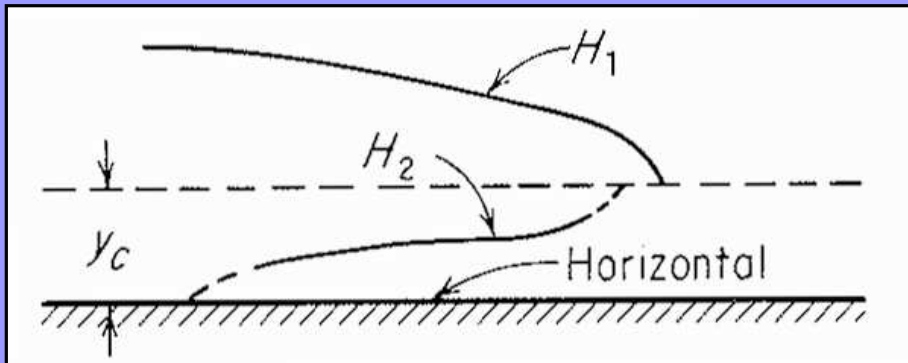
Q known;

If $Fr < 1$, Y downstream and the computation proceeds in the upstream direction along the channel.

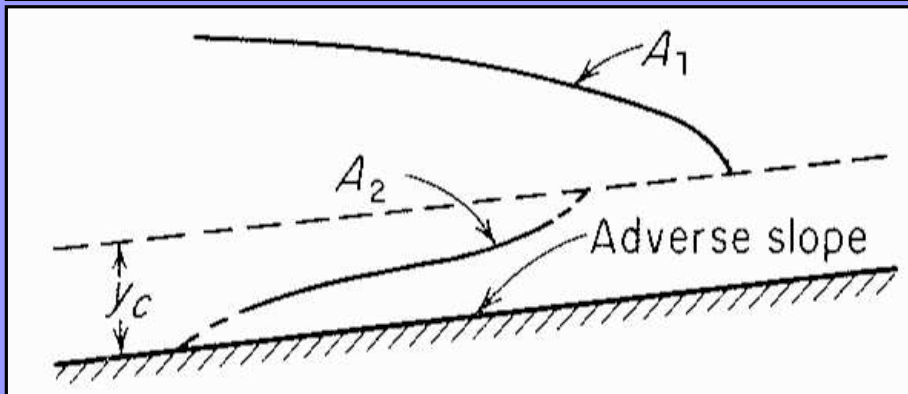
If $Fr > 1$, Y upstream and the computation proceeds in the downstream direction along the channel.



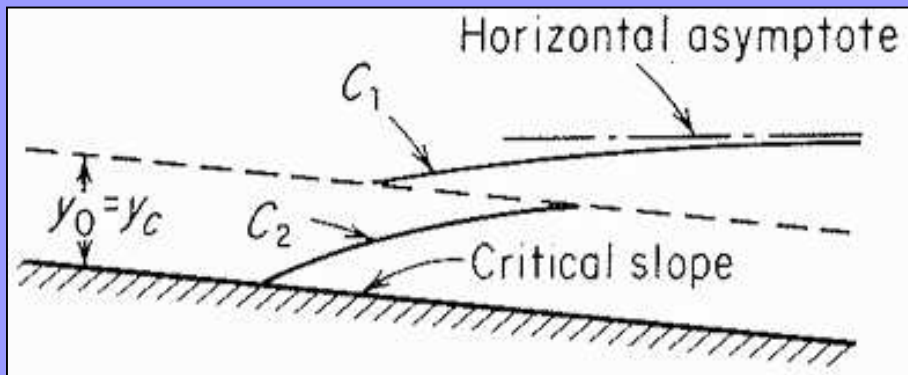
OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: steady flow profiles in prismatic channels



Horizontal slope prismatic channel



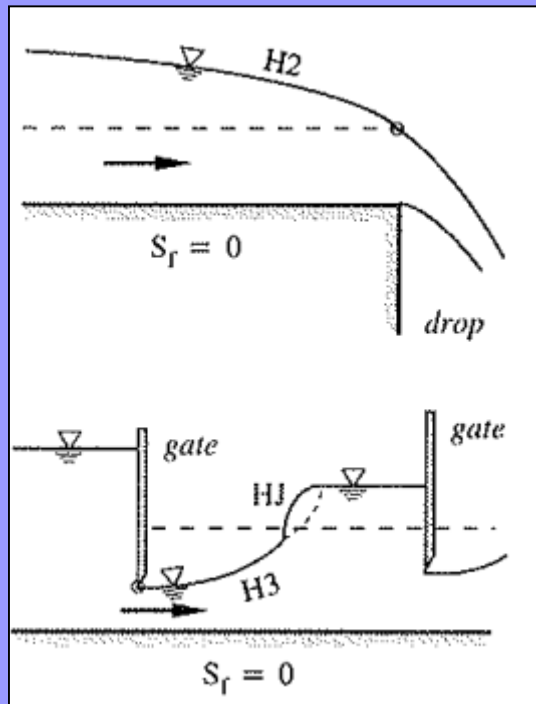
Adverse slope prismatic channel



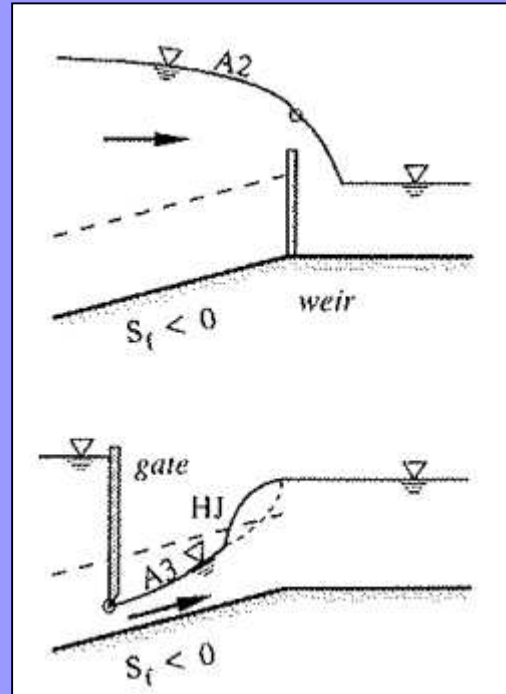
Critical slope prismatic channel



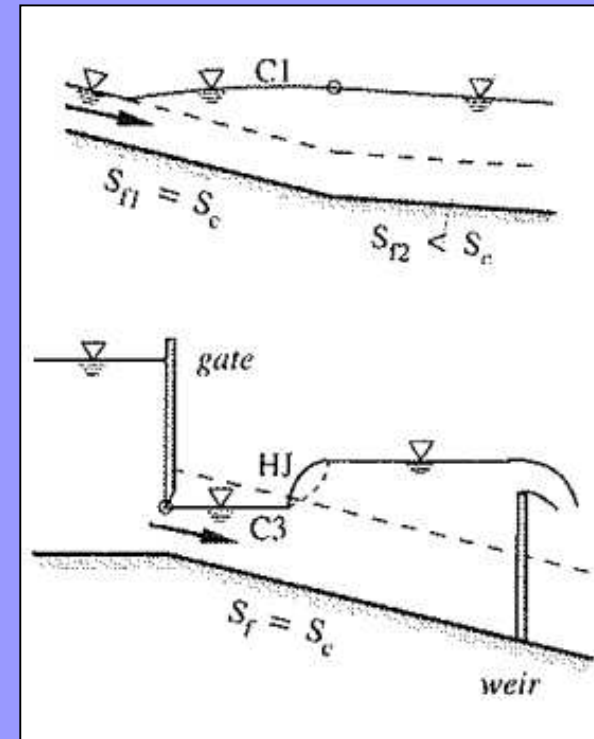
OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: steady flow profiles in various slope prismatic channels



Horizontal slope prismatic channel



Adverse slope prismatic channel



Critical slope prismatic channel

From W. H. Graf and M. S. Altinakar, 1998



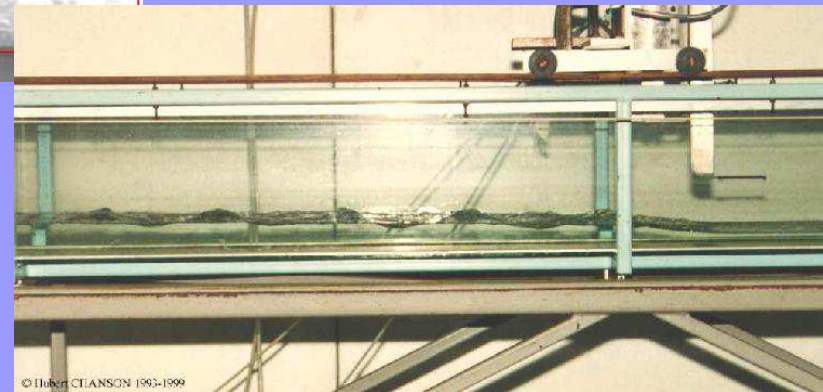
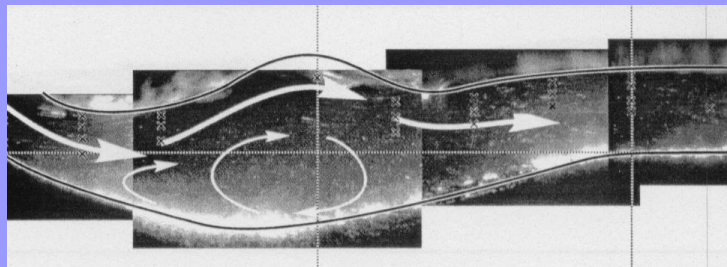
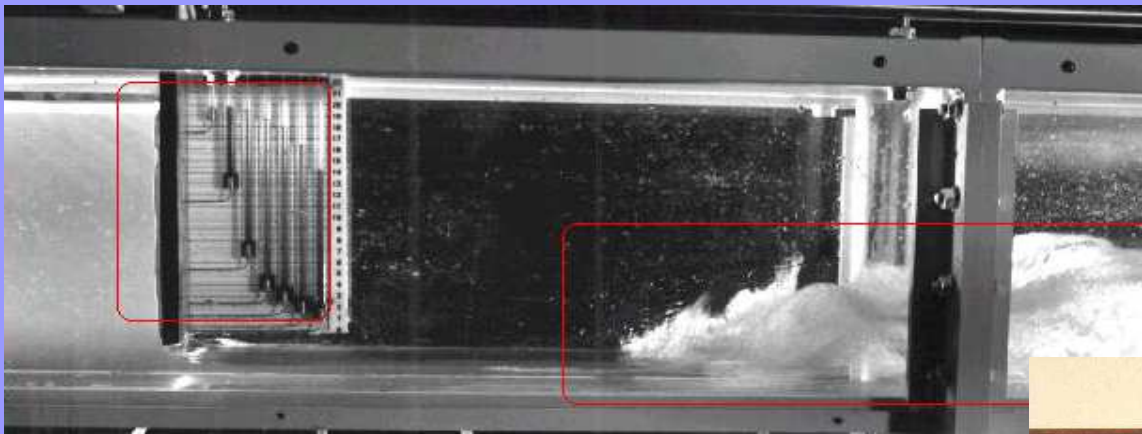
M. Pilotti - lectures of Environmental Hydraulics

OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: hydraulic jump

Supercritical flow in mild slope prismatic channels (M3 profile) and subcritical flow in steep slope prismatic channels (S1 profile) are limited downstream and upstream respectively at the critical depth. In these cases it may happen that supercritical flow has to be followed by subcritical flow to cover the whole channel length.

The change from supercritical to subcritical flow takes place abruptly through a vortex known as the hydraulic jump, characterized by considerable turbulence and energy loss.

The flow depths upstream and downstream of the jump are called sequent depths or conjugate depths.



OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: hydraulic jump



OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: hydraulic jump

Due to the loss of linearity and to the unknown energy loss we have to revert to the Momentum balance

$$\beta \frac{\gamma Q^2}{gA_1} + \Pi_1 + W \sin \theta = \beta \frac{\gamma Q^2}{gA_2} + \Pi_2 + T_f$$

where

Π : pressure force acting on the given section, computed as $\Pi = \gamma y_g A$ where y_g is the depth of the centroid of flow area A

W : weight of the water enclosed between the sections;

T_f : total external force of friction acting along the boundary.

If the tractive force on the boundary and the component of the weight compensate each other, we can write

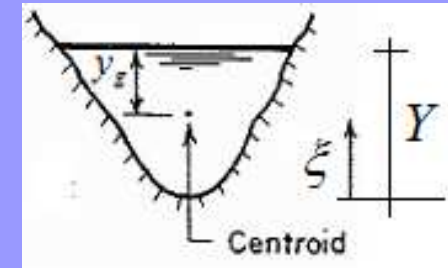
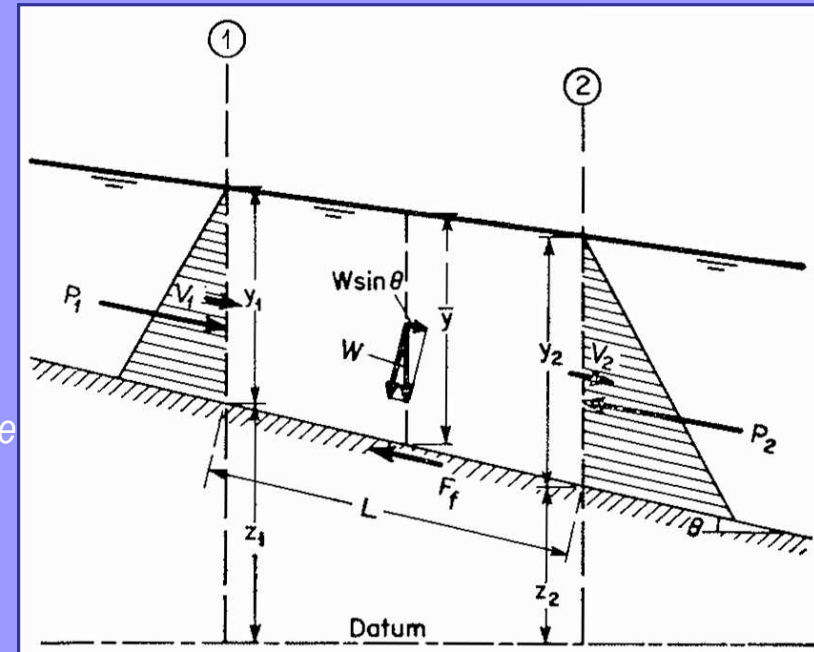
$$S = \frac{\gamma Q^2}{gA_1} + \gamma y_{g1} A_1 = \frac{\gamma Q^2}{gA_2} + \gamma y_{g2} A_2$$

According to which Specific Force S is conserved across the hydraulic jump. This function has some interesting properties. For instance

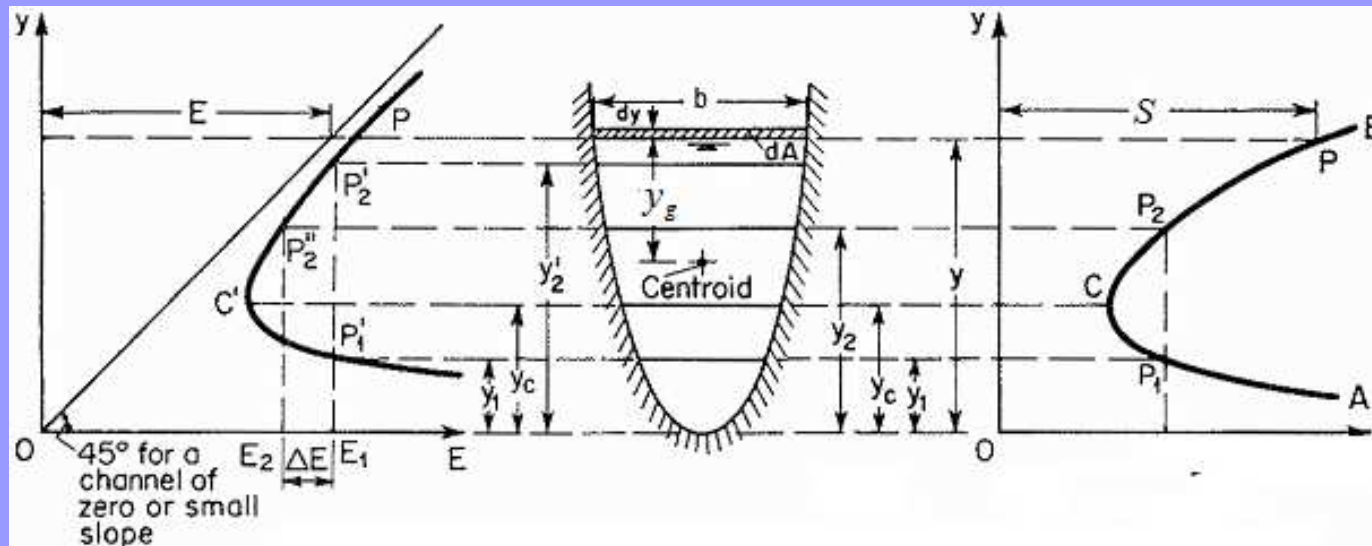
$$\frac{\partial S}{\partial y} = -\frac{Q^2}{gA^2} \frac{\partial A}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial (y_g A)}{\partial y} = -\frac{Q^2 b}{gA^2} + A = A \left(1 - \frac{Q^2 / A^2}{g A / b} \right) = A(1 - Fr^2)$$

$$y_g = \frac{\int_0^Y (Y - \xi) b(\xi) d\xi}{A}; \quad \frac{d(Ay_g)}{dY} = \frac{d}{dY} \int_0^Y (Y - \xi) b(\xi) d\xi = \frac{d}{dY} \int_0^Y f(Y, \xi) d\xi = f(Y, Y)1 - f(Y, 0)0 + \int_0^Y \frac{d}{dY} f(Y, \xi) d\xi = \int_0^Y b(\xi) d\xi = A$$

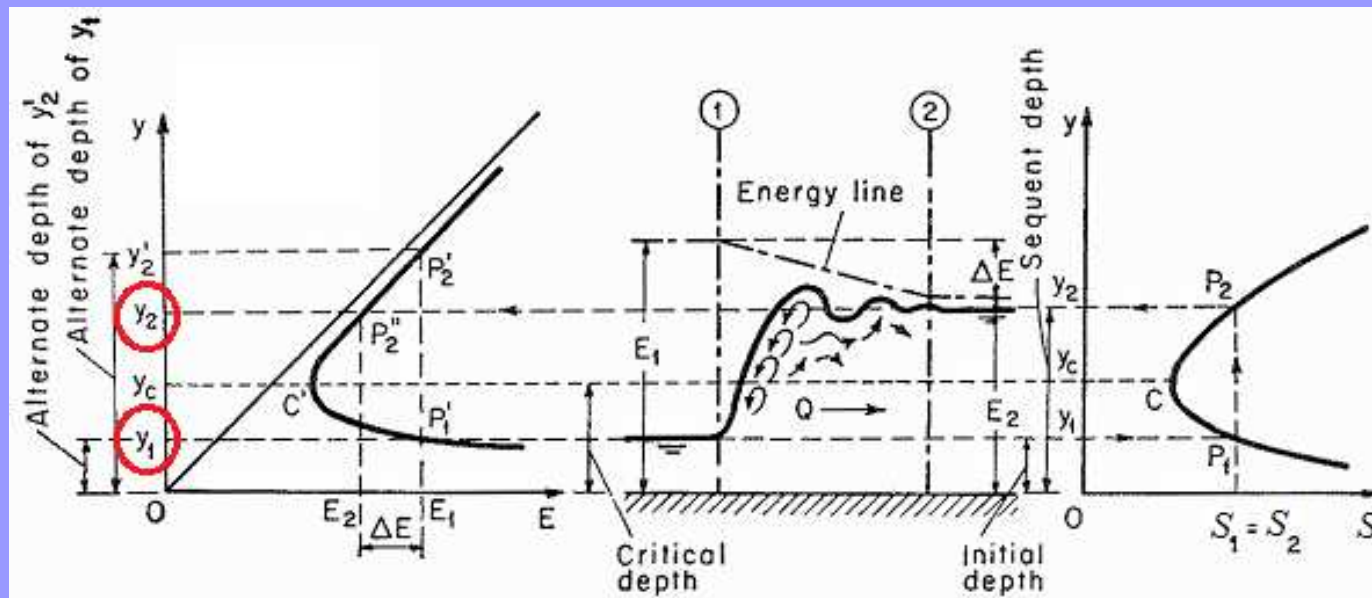
Is zero when $Fr=1$, i.e., in critical conditions



OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: hydraulic jump



From the momentum equation in the form $S_1 = S_2$ it turns out that since $E_2 < E_1$ an energy loss $\Delta E = E_1 - E_2$ takes place across the jump



y_1 is the initial depth (depth before the jump) and y_2 the sequent depth. Both are conjugate depths



OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: hydraulic jump

For rectangular sections the condition of momentum conservation between sections 1 and 2 can be written as

$$\frac{Q^2}{gb y_1} + b \frac{y_1^2}{2} = \frac{Q^2}{gb y_2} + b \frac{y_2^2}{2} \Rightarrow y_1 y_2 (y_1 + y_2) = \frac{2Q^2}{gb^2}$$

Whose solution, due to the symmetry of the equation, can be put in one of the following forms that can be used to calculate downstream (or upstream) depth once upstream (or downstream) conditions are known:

$$\frac{y_2}{y_1} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\sqrt{1 + 8Fr_1^2} - 1 \right) \quad \frac{y_1}{y_2} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\sqrt{1 + 8Fr_2^2} - 1 \right)$$

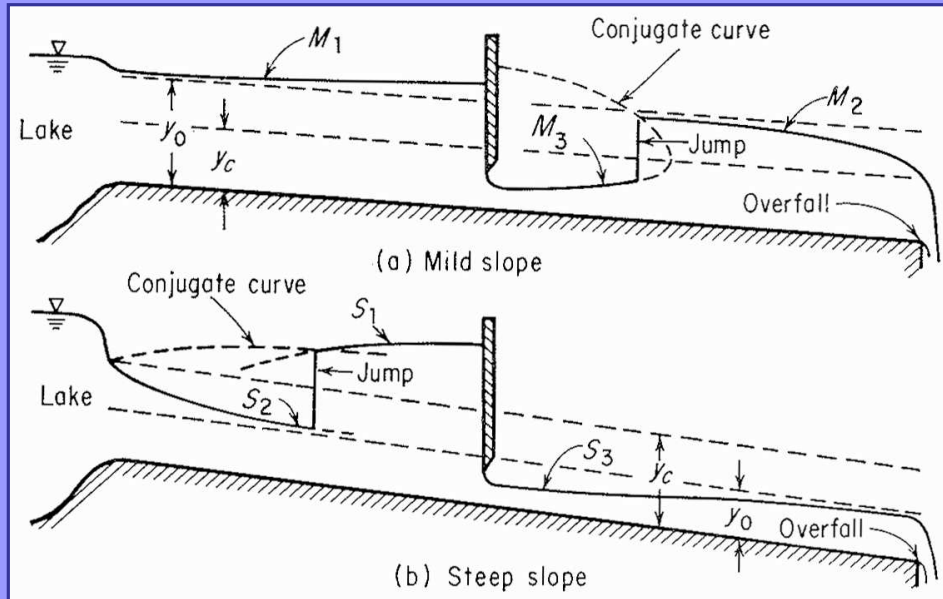
The energy loss across the jump can be calculated as:

$$E_1 - E_2 = y_1 + \frac{Q^2}{2gb^2 y_1^2} - y_2 - \frac{Q^2}{2gb^2 y_2^2} = \frac{(y_2 - y_1)^3}{4y_1 y_2}$$

Experimental investigations show that in the range $Fr_1 < 10$ the length of the jump is $L \cong 6y_2$



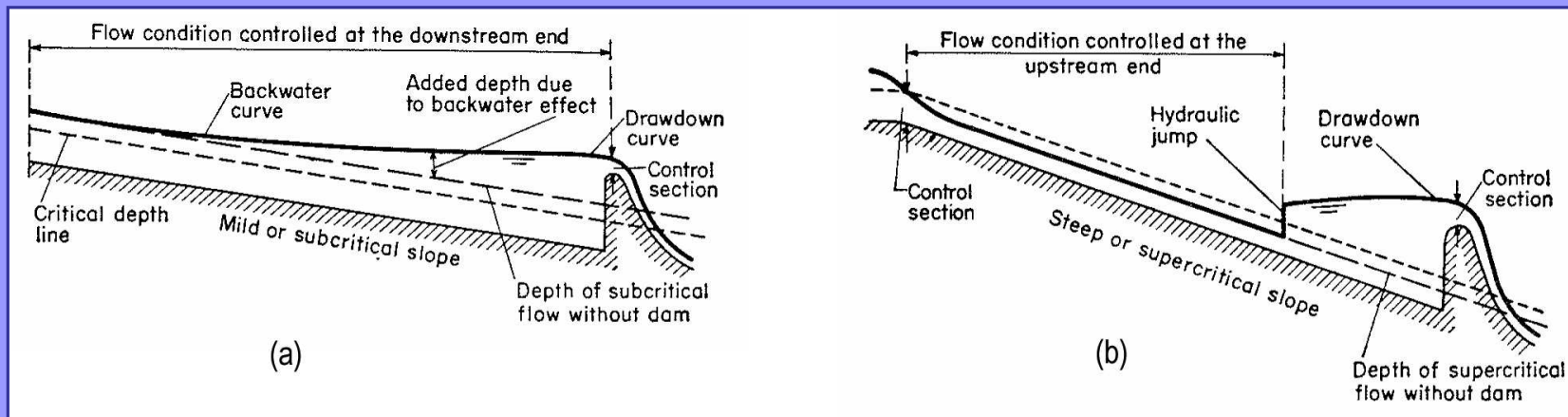
OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: qualitative profiles in complex channels



Real cases can be obtained by combining the simple profiles seen before.

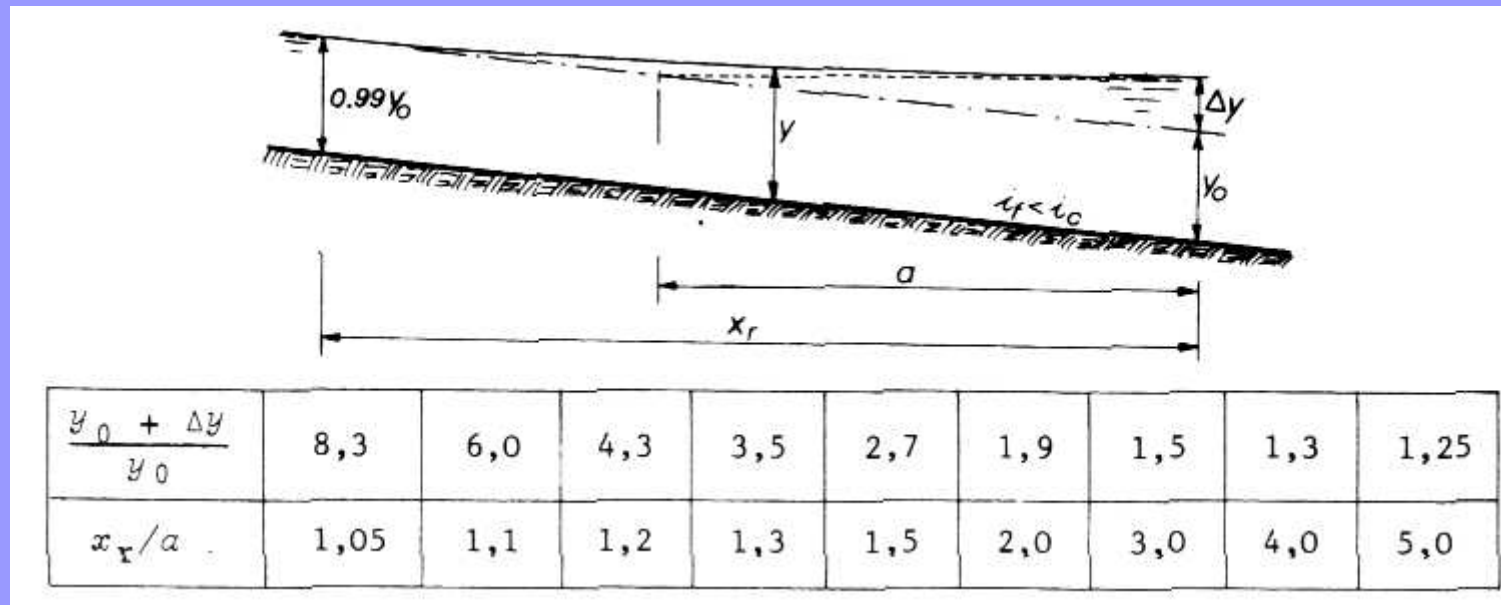
As a first step control section must be identified, where the depth is known as a function of Q . From there one starts computing the profile moving in the direction dictated by the Froude number, as far as the critical depth is reached.

At this stage, in some stretch of the channel, more than a single profile is potentially present. The final choice will be the one whose Specific Force prevails.



OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: quantitative profiles in complex channels

Initially, in order to understand what is the actual applicability scope of uniform motion we asked how much far away is far ? When an M1 profile is considered a first guess can be provided by the following table, that is valid for infinitely wide rectangular channel, according to Bresse's solution



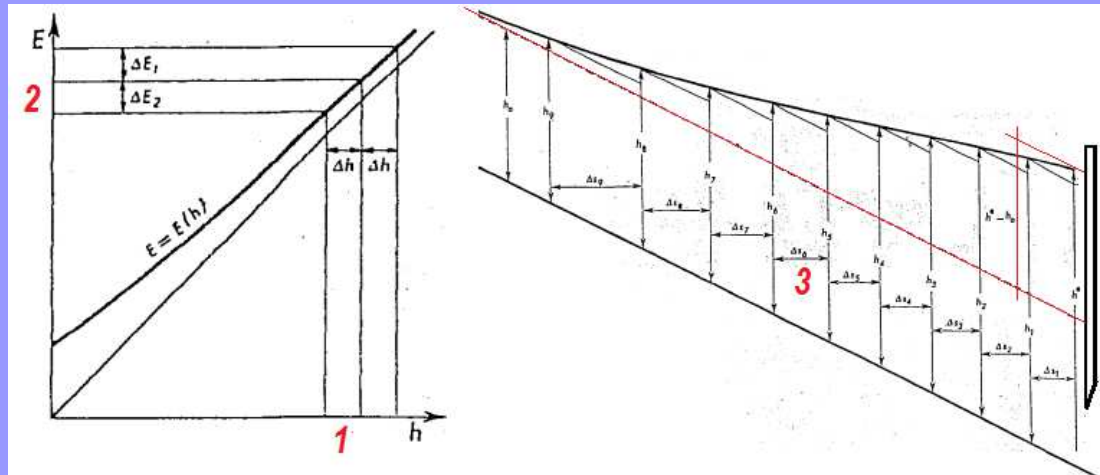
OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: quantitative profiles in complex channels

Let us first consider a method which is very convenient but is valid only in prismatic channel, where, independently from x , one knows $A(x)$ and $S_b(x)$

$$\frac{dE}{dx} = S_b - S_f$$

y_1 at the position x_1 along the channel is known as a boundary condition. From the qualitative discussion of the profile, one knows what is the asymptotic depth (e.g., if M_1 , it will tend to h_0). Accordingly one selects in an adaptive way a depth value $y_1 < y_{i+1} < h_0$ for the section at the unknown station x_{i+1} , computing the corresponding values E_{i+1} and $(S_f)_{i+1}$ (that depend only on y_{i+1} in prismatic channels). The unknown station x_{i+1} is obtained by discretization of the dynamic equation

$$E_{i+1} - E_i = S_0(x_{i+1} - x_i) - \frac{1}{2}[(S_f)_i + (S_f)_{i+1}](x_{i+1} - x_i) \Rightarrow x_{i+1} = x_i + \frac{E_{i+1} - E_i}{S_0 - \frac{1}{2}[(S_f)_i + (S_f)_{i+1}]}$$



Direct step method
(distance calculated from depth)



OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: quantitative profiles in complex channels

Let us now consider a general method which can be as convenient as the direct step if solved explicitly or just a bit more complex if solved implicitly. Its scope is not limited to prismatic channels.

We know the boundary condition y_i at the position x_i along the channel. By a first order approximation of the energy balance equation, we obtain :

$$\frac{dH}{dx} = -S_f \quad \Rightarrow \quad H_{i+1} - H_i = -\frac{1}{2}[(S_f)_i + (S_f)_{i+1}](x_{i+1} - x_i) \quad \text{Standard step method} \\ \text{(depth calculated from distance)}$$

The unknown value y_{i+1} at the position x_{i+1} is such that $F=0$

$$F(y_{i+1}) = 0, \quad \text{where} \quad F(y_{i+1}) = H_{i+1} - H_i + [(S_f)_i + (S_f)_{i+1}](x_{i+1} - x_i)/2$$

IMPLICIT

This equation is non linear and must be solved by, e.g., a Newton Raphson method.

$$y_{i+1} = y_{i+1}^* - F(y_{i+1}^*)/F'(y_{i+1}^*)$$

As a first guess for the iteration, a first estimate y_{i+1}^* of y_{i+1} can be obtained as

$$y_{i+1} = -z_{i+1} - \alpha \frac{Q^2}{2gA_{i+1}^2(y_i)} + H_i - (S_f)_i (x_{i+1} - x_i)$$

EXPLICIT

that can also be used as an explicit approximation of the energy balance equation

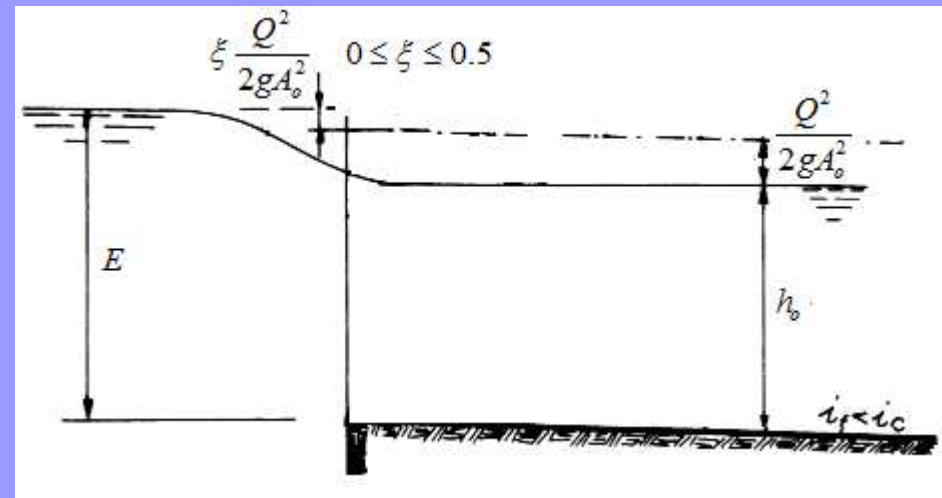


OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: inlet of a an infinitely long wide channel

Let us consider a wide channel ($Y/B \ll 1$) which is originated from a reservoir where water is motionless. Let us suppose that the channel is infinitely long so that we can disregard the influence of boundary conditions. In general term we can write an energy balance between the reservoir and the flow at the inlet of the channel, also considering the presence of a local dissipation that is proportional to the kinetic energy. Q is unknown. If the slope of the channel is mild, then we should have normal depth up to the channel inlet, so that we have to solve

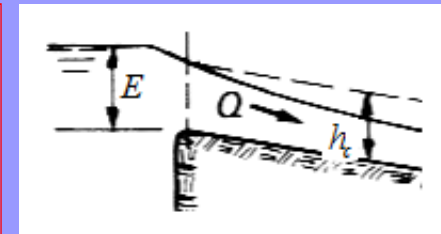
$$\begin{cases} E - \xi \frac{Q^2}{2gA_o^2} = h_o + \frac{Q^2}{2gA_o^2} \\ Q = \chi A_o \sqrt{R_o i} \end{cases} \quad \text{Which is solved for the normal depth and } Q$$

Accordingly, by increasing i Q increases as well until the critical condition is obtained at the inlet



If the channel is steep, then the channel inlet is a transition through the critical depth between mild and steep channel. The system is solved for the critical depth and Q , that is independent from i

$$\begin{cases} E - \xi \frac{Q^2}{2gA_c^2} = h_c + \frac{Q^2}{2gA_c^2} \\ 1 = \frac{Q^2}{gA_c^3} \frac{dA}{dh} \end{cases}$$

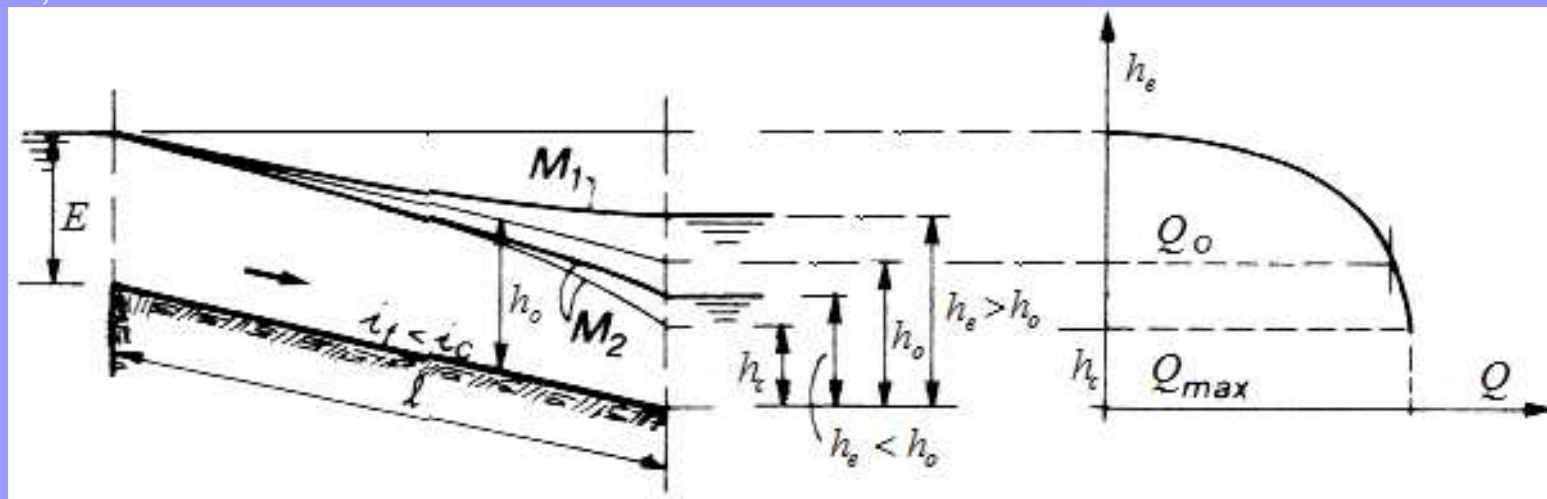


OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: inlet of a short and wide channel - mild slope case

If the channel is not infinitely long, then we may have a backwater (rigurgito) or drawdown (chiamata) effect caused by the boundary condition located at the channel outlet. In this case the discharge is computed through an iterative procedure.

Let us suppose that the channel outlet is into another reservoir, that conditions the level of water at the channel end, h_e . If the channel is mild, the discharge computed from the system seen before is only an initial guess

- 1) From Q , compute the critical depth h_c
- 2) If $h_e < h_c$ compute a M2 profile starting from h_c , otherwise either a M2 profile ($h_c < h_e < h_o$) or an M1 one ($h_e > h_o$)
- 3) Compare the computed water depth at the channel sill (inlet) with the normal depth. If it is higher, than Q must be decreased; otherwise it must be increased.



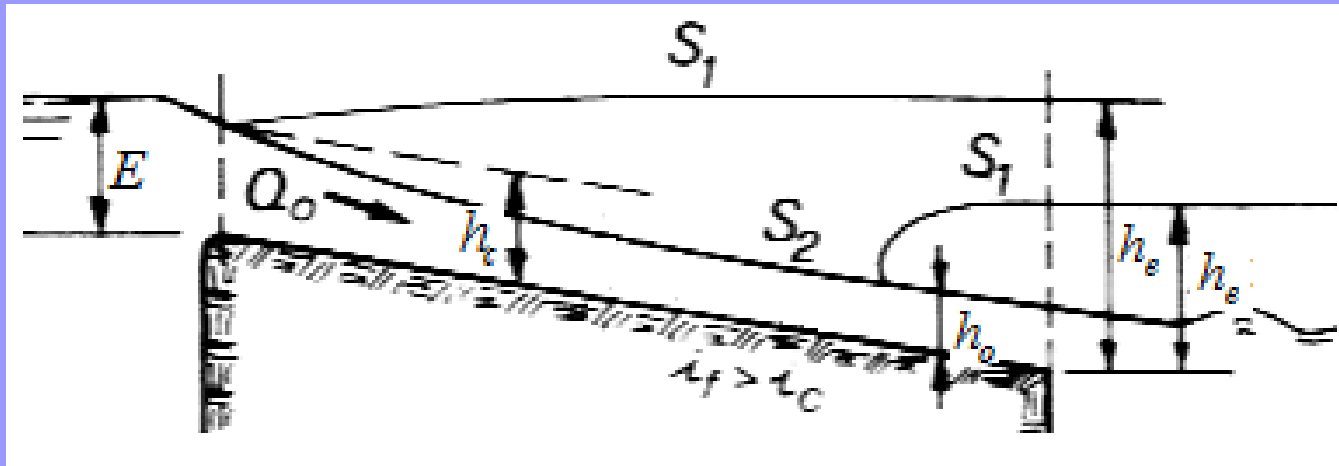
If $h_e = E + il$, then $Q = 0$;

If $h_e > E + il$, the flow is reversed from downstream to upstream. The mild slope channel turns into an adverse slope one



OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: inlet of a short and wide channel - steep slope case

If the channel is steep, there might be a backwater effect caused by the boundary condition located at the channel outlet, with an hydraulic jump that is positioned within the channel stretch. If the specific force of the S_1 profile is larger than the specific force of the accelerated supercritical S_2 profile, the hydraulic jump moves backward locating closer and closer to the channel inlet where eventually there might be a drowned hydraulic jump. This happens when h_e is close to the upstream energy level E



If $h_e = E + il$, then $Q = 0$;

If $h_e > E + il$, the flow is reversed from downstream to upstream. The original channel turns into an adverse slope one

Now you know what “Ininitely Long” means



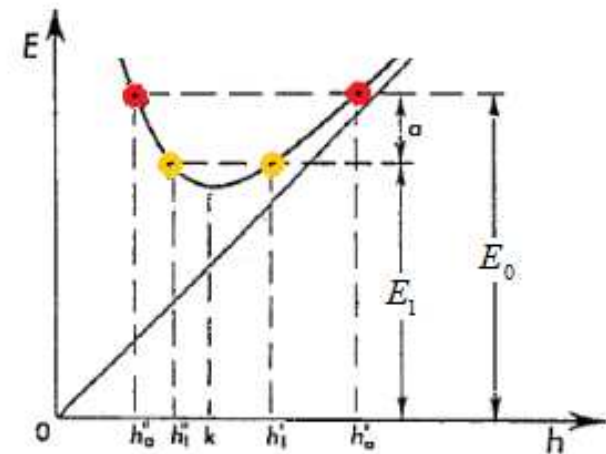
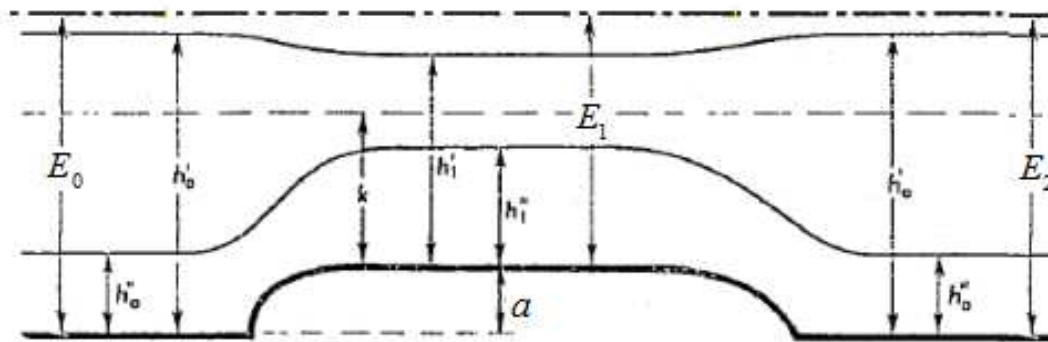
OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: passage over a sill (hump, bump: soglia)

When flow passes over an hump, several situations may happen, depending on the Froude number and on Energy content. Locally there is a sudden curvature of the flow, the channel is not prismatic and the theory on water surface profiles is of no use. However an energy balance can be accomplished to study this transition

let us first suppose that no head loss is present with respect to the energy upstream

$$E_1 + a = E_0; \quad E_2 = E_0$$

and that the sill height a is small

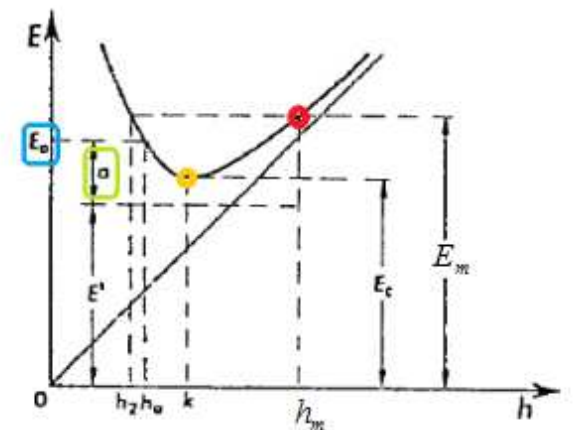
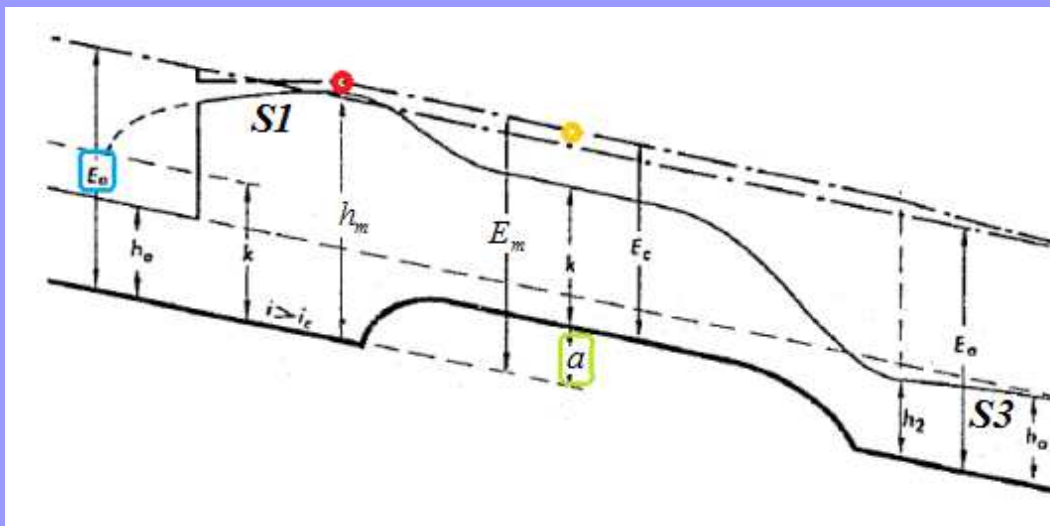
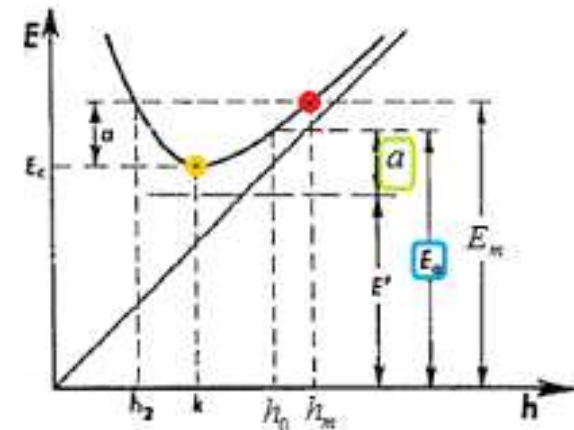


If the slope is mild, water depth on the sill lowers more than the sill height. If the slope is steep, the effect of rise of the sill bed prevails

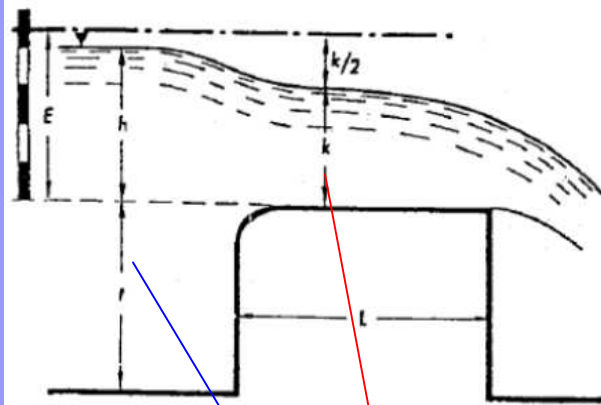


OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: passage over a sill (hump, bump: soglia)

Sometimes the height of the sill is such that the specific energy in normal flow is not sufficient to pass over it. Again, we have to distinguish between mild and steep channel



AN IMPORTANT EXAMPLE: Broad crested, round nose, horizontal crest weir

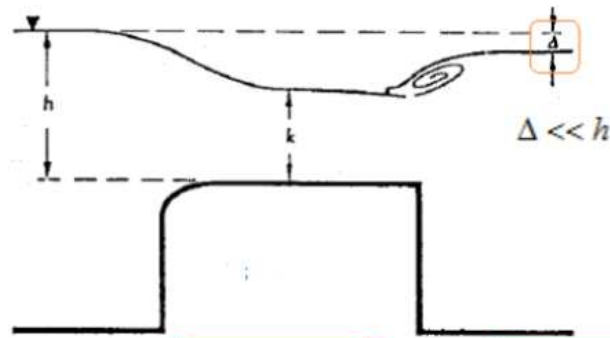


$$E = h + \alpha \frac{U^2}{2g} = h + \alpha \frac{Q^2}{2gB^2(h+p)^2} = \frac{3}{2}k$$

$$Q = Bk\sqrt{gk}$$

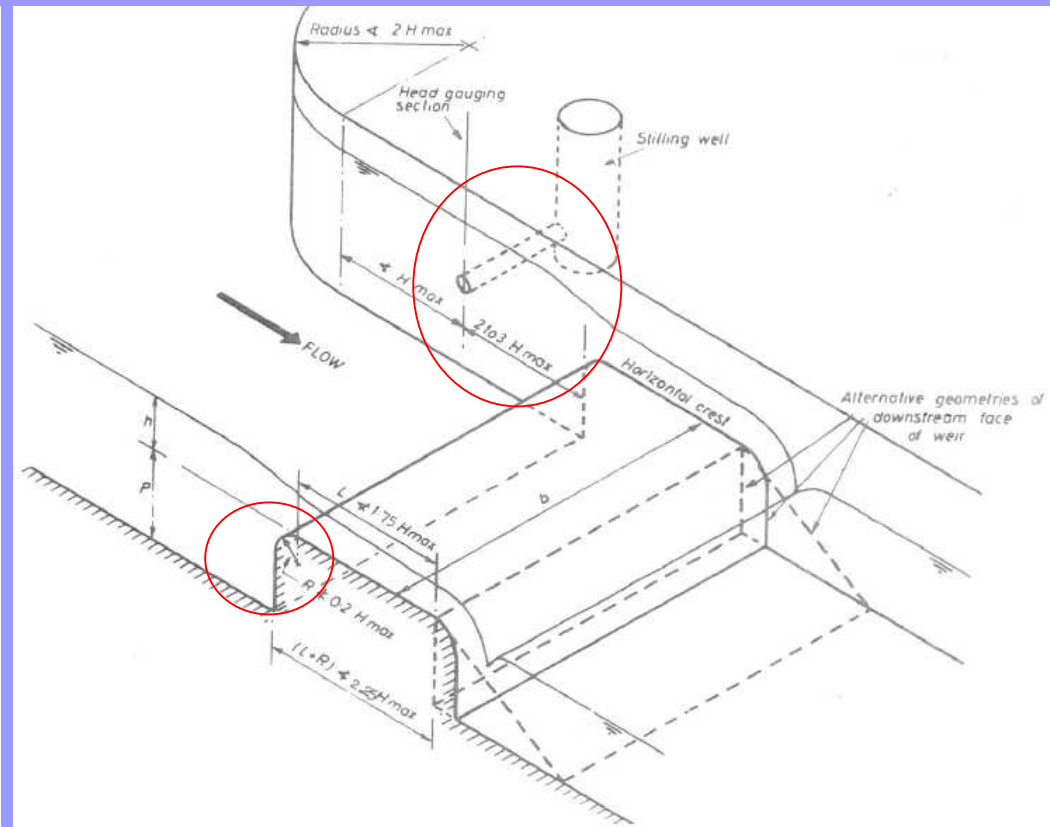
$$h + \alpha \frac{(Bk\sqrt{gk})^2}{2gB^2(h+p)^2} = \frac{3}{2}k$$

$$\text{when } \frac{U^2}{2g} \ll h \rightarrow k = \frac{2}{3}h; \quad Q = \frac{2}{3\sqrt{3}} B \sqrt{2gh}^{3/2} = 0.385B \sqrt{2gh}^{3/2}$$



$$\text{or more precisely } 0.385C_r C_D B \sqrt{2gh}^{3/2} \quad \text{where } C_D = \left(1 - \frac{2xL}{b}\right) \left(1 - \frac{xL}{h}\right)^{3/2} < 1$$

$$x = \begin{cases} 0.003 & \text{laboratory weir} \\ 0.005 & \text{field installation} \end{cases}$$



- Upstream corner well rounded to prevent separation
- Geometrical requirements as in figure above and in the specific publications



WEIRS: Broad crested horizontal crest weir



OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: passage over a sill (hump, bump: soglia)

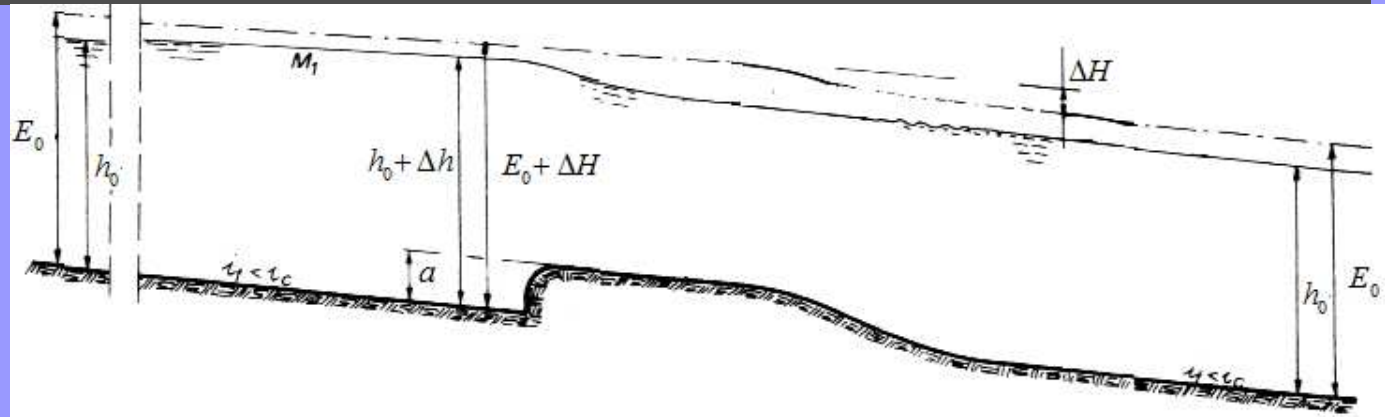
But an head loss is almost inevitable so that

(1: on the sill;
2: downstream;
0m: upstream)

Making an energy balance starting downstream (2), one sees that in a mild channel the level upstream is higher (M1)

$$H_2 \equiv H_0; \quad H_2 = H_1 - \Delta H_2; \quad H_1 = H_{0m} - \Delta H_1; \quad H_{0m} = H_0 + \Delta H$$

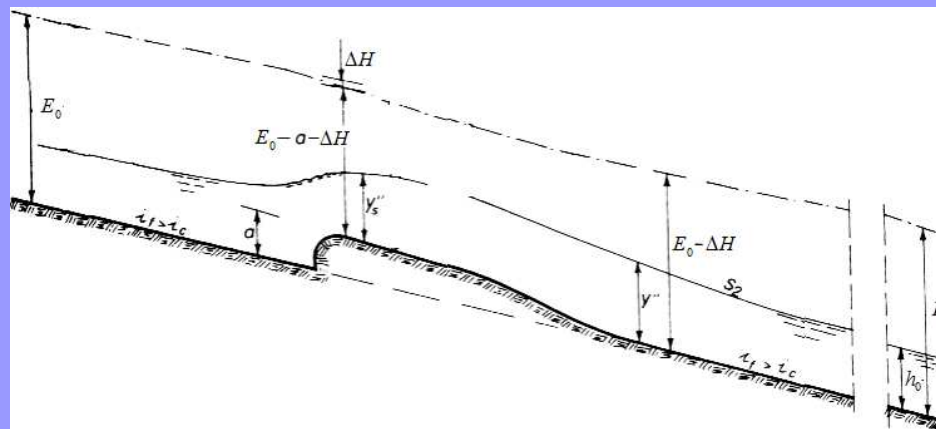
$$E_{0m} = E_0 + \Delta H$$



$$H_{0m} \equiv H_0; \quad H_1 = H_{0m} - \Delta H_1; \quad H_2 = H_1 - \Delta H_2; \quad H_2 = H_0 - \Delta H$$

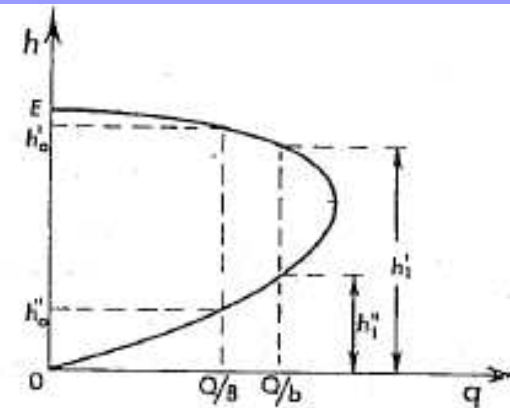
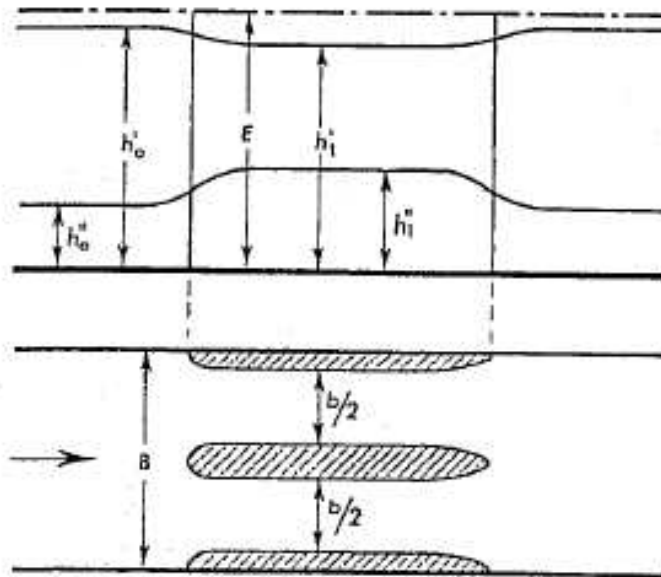
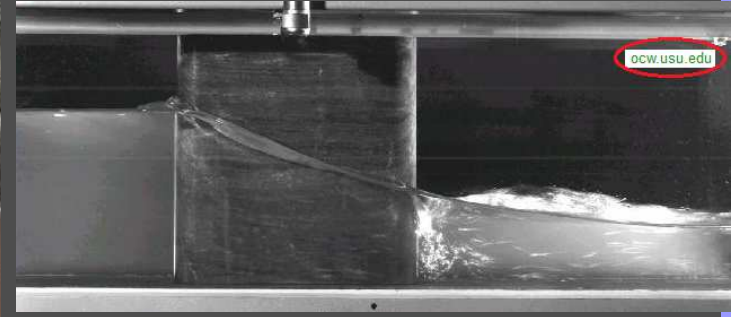
$$E_2 = E_0 - \Delta H$$

And in a steep channel, Starting upstream, one sees that the rise on the hump is stronger and The level downstream Is greater than the Normal depth (S2)



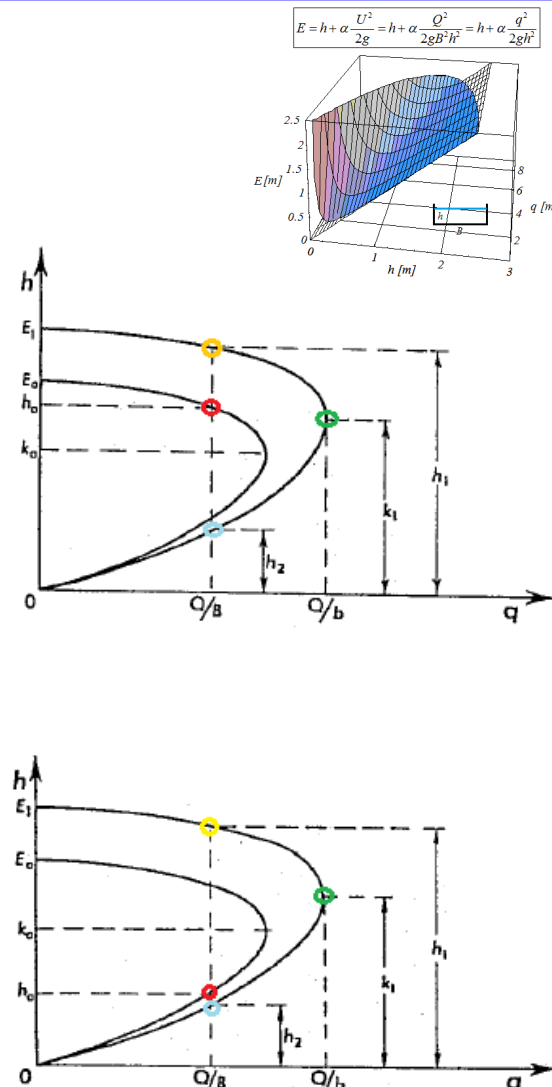
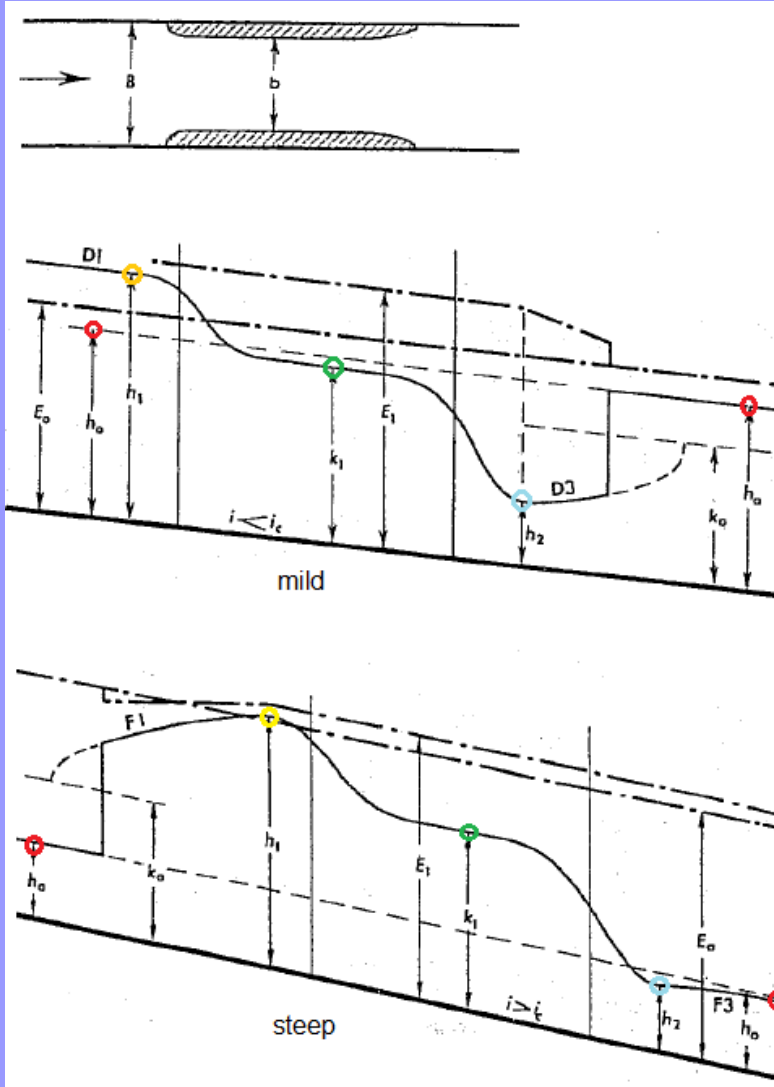
OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: passage through a contraction (1)

The same situation occurring when a flow passes over an hump can be observed in the passage through a contraction. Usually a contraction can be caused by the piers or abutments of a bridge

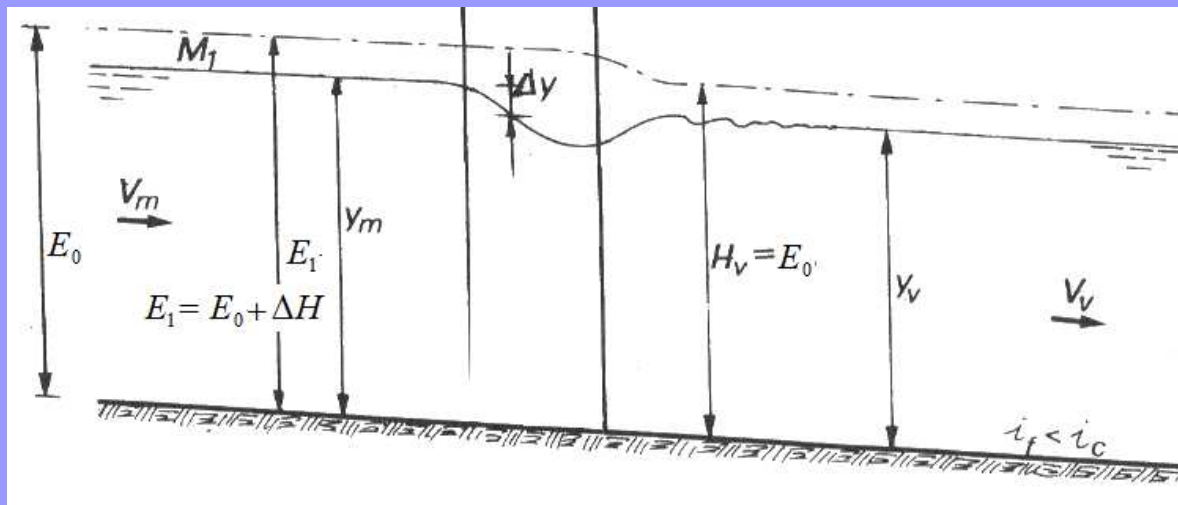


OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: passage through a contraction (2)

Sometimes the Energy upstream isn't enough...

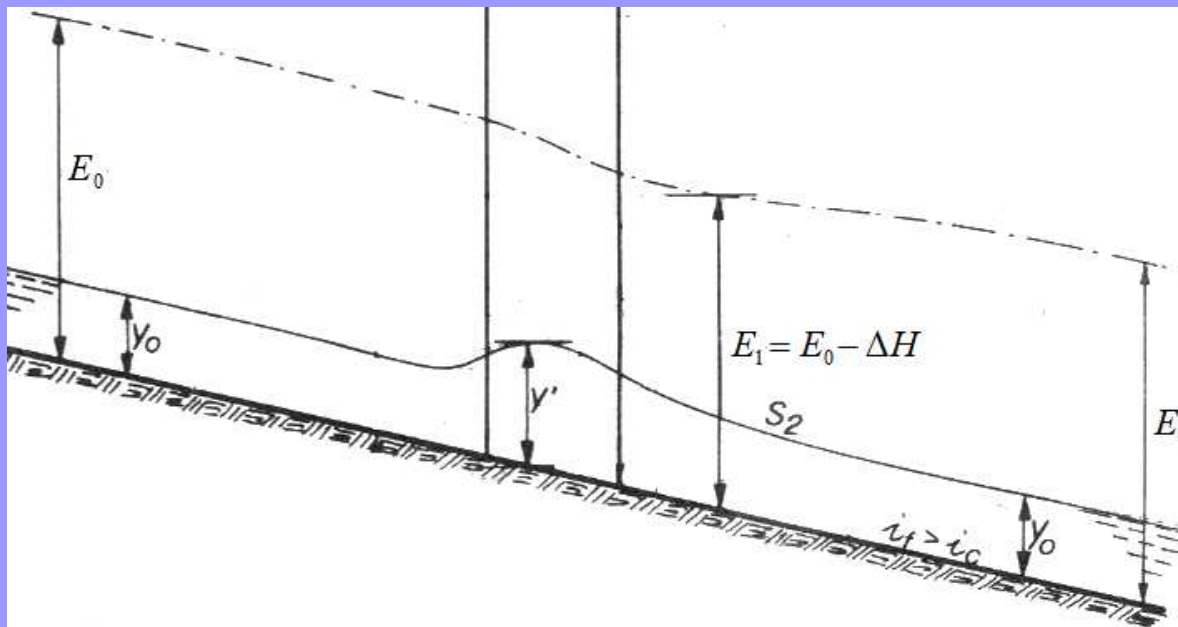


OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: passage through a contraction (1)



Although one can suppose that no head loss is present, this is not generally true.

Accordingly, the flow must gain energy to compensate for the localized head loss. This happens upstream if $Fr < 1$ and downstream if $Fr > 1$



$$H_{0m} - \Delta H = H_v$$

$$\text{if } Fr < 1 \quad H_v \equiv H_0 \rightarrow M1$$

$$\text{if } Fr > 1 \quad H_{0m} \equiv H_0 \rightarrow S2$$

The process is similar to the one considered for the passage over a bump



OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: Transitions in subcritical flow

Let us consider an abrupt drop in the channel floor. If we have an head loss we cannot directly use an energy balance and we have to revert to a momentum balance, under the same assumptions usually used to derive Borda's head loss in a pipe.

$$\beta \frac{\gamma Q^2}{gA_1} + \Pi_1 = \beta \frac{\gamma Q^2}{gA_2} + \Pi_2$$

$$\frac{\gamma Q^2}{gb(h_1 + a)} + \gamma \frac{b(h_1 + a)^2}{2} = \frac{\gamma Q^2}{gbh_2} + \gamma \frac{bh_2^2}{2}$$

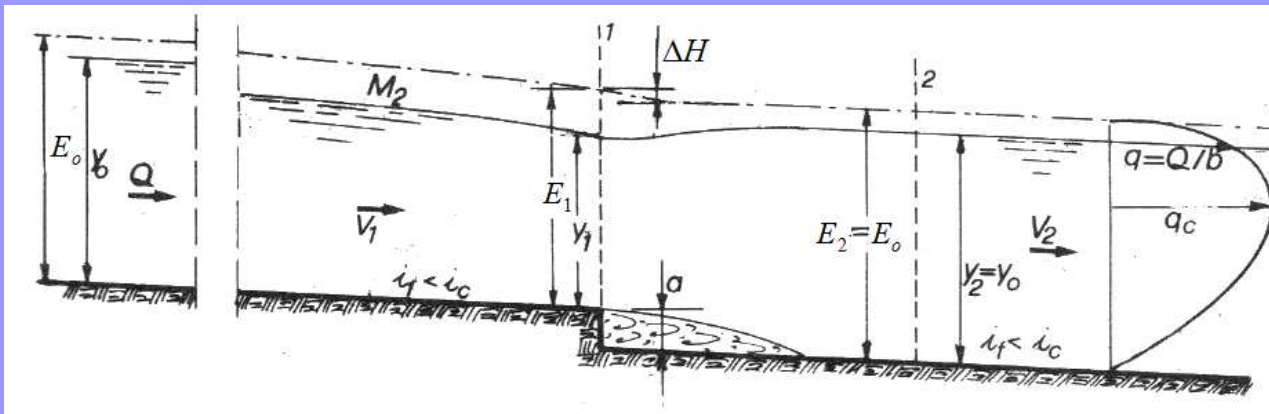
If we now consider an energy balance

$$H_1 = H_2 + \Delta H$$

$$E_1 + a = E_2 + \Delta H; \quad h_1 + \frac{Q^2}{2gA_1^2} + a = h_2 + \frac{Q^2}{2gA_2^2} + \Delta H$$

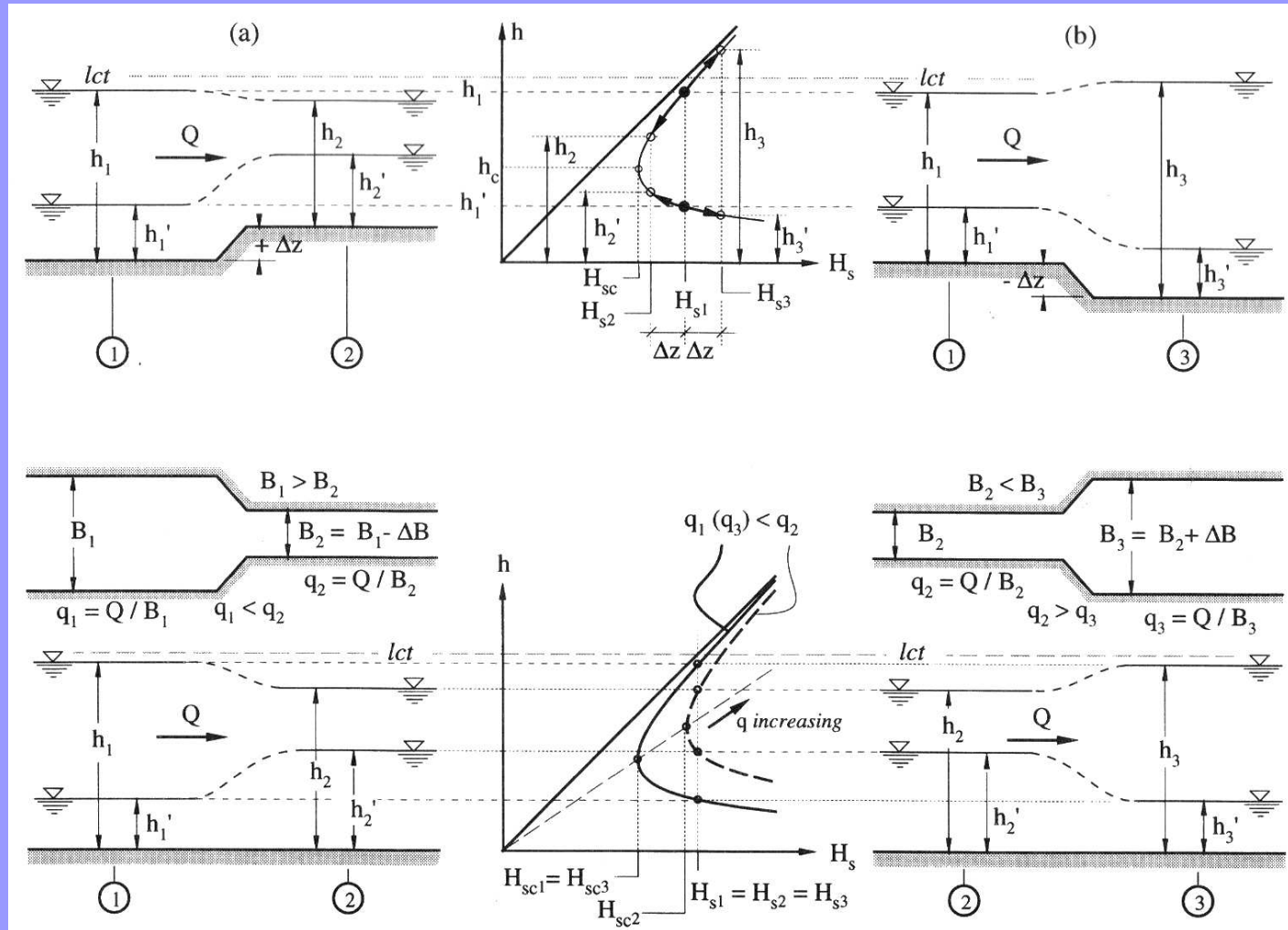
we get under reasonable assumptions (e.g., Ghetti, pag 395)

$$\Delta H = \frac{(U_1 - U_2)^2}{2g}$$



OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: Transitions

As a first approximation one can disregard the energy losses implied in a transition. In such a case the following situations arise for a sudden rise/fall of the bed or contraction/expansion



OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: Variable discharge due to lateral inflow/outflow

Main hypothesis:

- permanent motion in a rectangular channel (base is B) with a small and constant slope; gradually varied flow
- Negligible weight component in the direction of motion and of shear along the wall; α and $\beta = 1$

Let us consider the equation of momentum balance

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left(\int_W \rho \vec{V} dW \right) - \int_S \rho \vec{V} (\vec{V} \cdot \vec{n}) dS = \int_W \rho \vec{g} dW + \int_S \vec{\sigma}_n dS$$

In its component along the main flow direction

$$M + \Pi + \rho Q_i ds V_* = M(s + ds) + \Pi(s + ds) + \rho Q_o ds V$$

$$\frac{d}{ds} (M + \Pi) ds = \rho ds (Q_i V_* - Q_o V)$$

$$\frac{d}{ds} \left(\gamma \frac{h^2 B}{2} + \frac{\rho Q^2}{Bh} \right) = \rho (Q_i V_* - Q_o V)$$

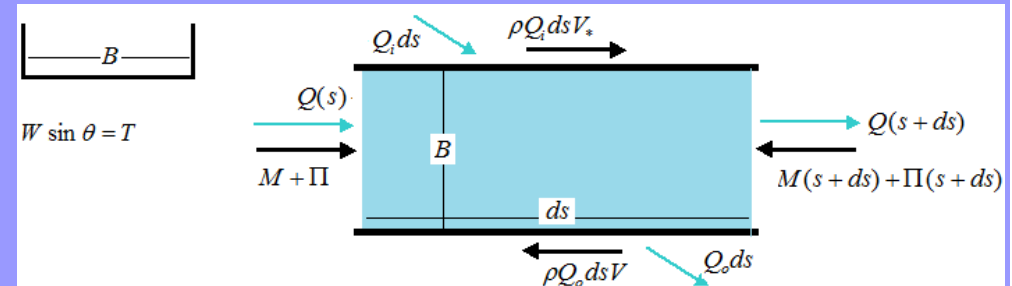
Where we suppose that the outflow velocity is V . The LHS varies with s because both h and Q are a function of s

$$\frac{dh}{ds} \left(\gamma h B - \frac{\rho Q^2}{Bh^2} \right) + \frac{2\rho Q}{Bh} \frac{dQ}{ds} = \rho (Q_i V_* - Q_o V)$$

Let us now consider the mass balance equation

$$Q(s) + Q_i ds = Q(s + ds) + Q_o ds$$

$$\frac{dQ}{ds} = (Q_i - Q_o)$$



OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: lateral outflow - Q decreasing along the flow direction

Case A: $Q_l=0$; discharge decreasing along the flow direction

$$\frac{dh}{ds} \left(\gamma h B - \frac{\rho Q^2}{B h^2} \right) + \frac{2 \rho Q}{B h} \frac{dQ}{ds} = -\rho Q_o V$$

$$\frac{dQ}{ds} = -Q_o$$

Which can be combined to obtain

$$\frac{dh}{ds} \left(\gamma h B - \frac{\rho Q^2}{B h^2} \right) + \frac{dQ}{ds} \left(\frac{2 \rho Q}{B h} - \rho V \right) = \frac{dh}{ds} \left(\gamma h B - \frac{\rho Q^2}{B h^2} \right) + \frac{\rho Q}{B h} \frac{dQ}{ds} = 0$$

If we now consider the flow specific energy E

$$E = h + \frac{Q^2}{2gB^2h^2}$$

It varies with s as a function of h and Q

$$\frac{dE}{ds} = \frac{\partial E}{\partial h} \frac{dh}{ds} + \frac{\partial E}{\partial Q} \frac{dQ}{ds}$$

$$\frac{\partial E}{\partial h} = 1 - \frac{Q^2}{gB^2h^3}$$

$$\frac{\partial E}{\partial Q} = \frac{Q}{gB^2h^2}$$



Drop Intake of a small hydropower plant



Lateral outflow (on the left) and inflow (on the right)



OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: lateral outflow - Q decreasing along the flow direction

If one consider that

$$\gamma h B \frac{\partial E}{\partial h} = \gamma h B - \frac{\rho Q^2}{B h^2}$$

$$\gamma h B \frac{\partial E}{\partial Q} = \frac{\rho Q}{B h}$$

The momentum balance equation can be written as

$$\gamma h B \frac{\partial E}{\partial h} \frac{dh}{ds} + \gamma h B \frac{\partial E}{\partial Q} \frac{dQ}{ds} = 0$$

or, more simply

$$\frac{dE}{ds} = 0$$

And alternatively

$$\frac{dh}{ds} = - \frac{1}{\left(\frac{g h^2 B^2}{Q} - \frac{Q}{h} \right)} \frac{dQ}{ds} = - \frac{\sqrt{2g(\bar{E} - h)}}{gB(3h - 2\bar{E})} \frac{dQ}{ds}$$

water overflow from the channel happens without decreasing the energy per unit weight of the water flowing in the channel. Its value will be determined on the basis of the boundary condition

in an alternative way, this equation provides the water surface profile differential equation. It can be integrated numerically.

Both equations require an additional equation for water overflowing out of the channel. Usually it is in the form

$$\frac{dQ}{ds} = -Q_o = -\mu \sqrt{2g} (h - c)^{3/2}$$

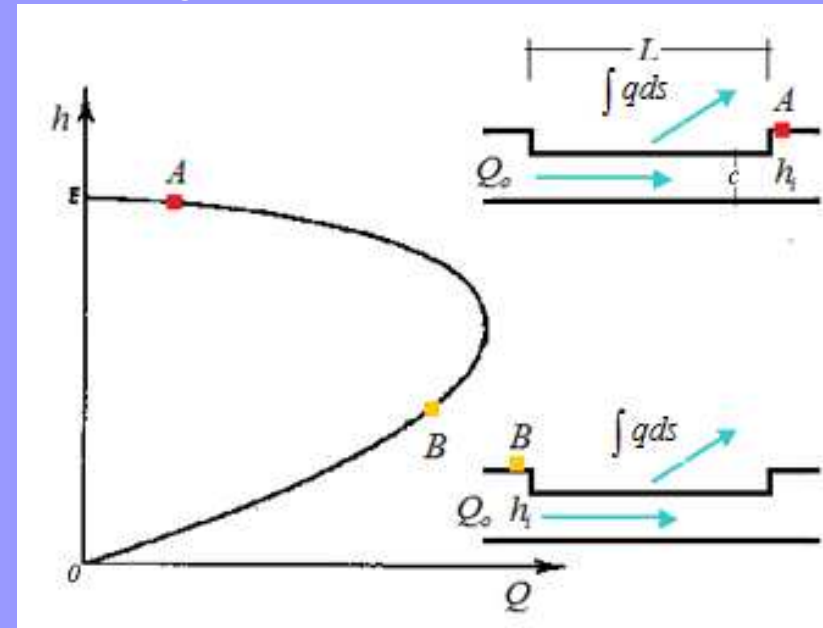
Although an analytical solution is possible if μ is constant, a numerical solution provides a more general approach



OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: lateral outflow - Q decreasing along the flow direction

E constant and Q decreasing along the flow: use of the Specific discharge curve

$$\frac{Q}{B} = q = h \sqrt{\frac{2g}{\alpha} (E - h)}$$



Two different classes of problem:

(1) *L and c are given; find out $\int q ds$, i.e., $Q(L)$ - CONTROL problem*

If $Fr < 1$, starts downstream (station A) with a tentative $Q(L)$ and a corresponding $h_i(Q(L))$ and compute profile in a backward fashion. Change $Q(L)$ until $Q(0)$ is found. Note that $h_i(Q(L))$ depends on the boundary condition downstream.

If $Fr > 1$, starts upstream (B) knowing h_i and $Q(0)$ and compute $Q(L)$.

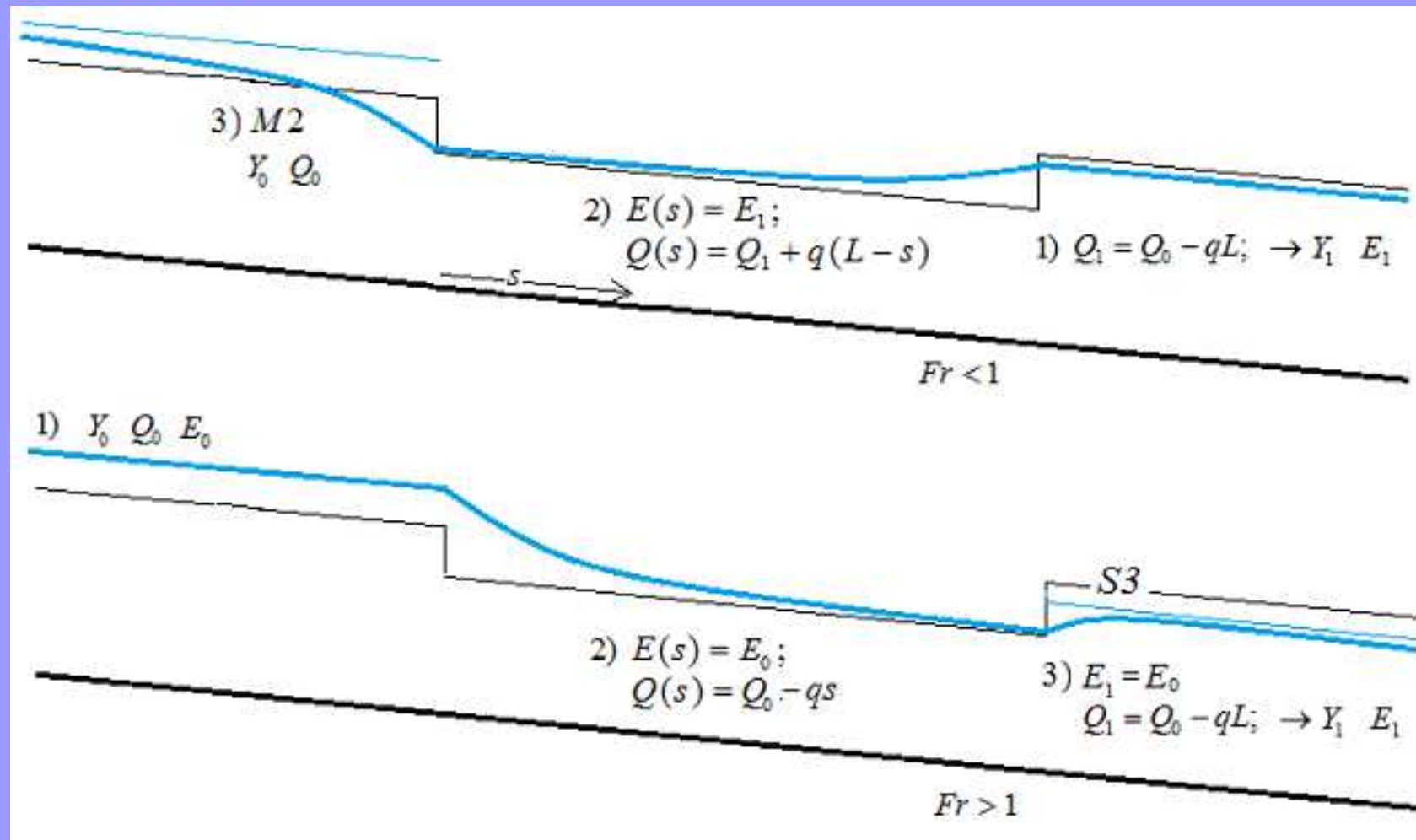
(2) *$\int q ds$ is given; find out L or c - DESIGN problem*

If $Fr < 1$, starts downstream (station A) with the known value $Q(L), h_i$ and compute profile in a backward fashion. When $Q(s) = Q(0)$, then $L = s$. If $Fr > 1$, starts upstream (B) with the known value $Q(s), h_i$ and compute profile until

$Q(s) = Q(0) - \int q ds$. then $L = s$.



OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: lateral outflow - Q decreasing along the flow direction



OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: lateral inflow - Q increasing along the flow direction

Case B: discharge increasing along the flow direction

$$\frac{dh}{ds} \left(\gamma h B - \frac{\rho Q^2}{B h^2} \right) + \frac{2 \rho Q}{B h} \frac{dQ}{ds} = \rho Q_i V_*$$

Here we need the velocity component V_* along the flow direction of the entering discharge. Often this quantity can be set = 0, so that

$$\frac{dh}{ds} = - \frac{\frac{2 \rho Q}{B h}}{\left(\gamma h B - \frac{\rho Q^2}{B h^2} \right)} \frac{dQ}{ds}$$

Which is an equation stating the conservation of the specific force (SF)

$$\frac{d}{ds} (M + \Pi) = 0$$

Accordingly, the SF is constant whilst E certainly is not. The SF value must be determined on the basis of the boundary condition. This equation must be considered along with the mass conservation equation

$$\frac{dQ}{ds} = Q_i$$

and where the entering discharge Q_i is a known function.

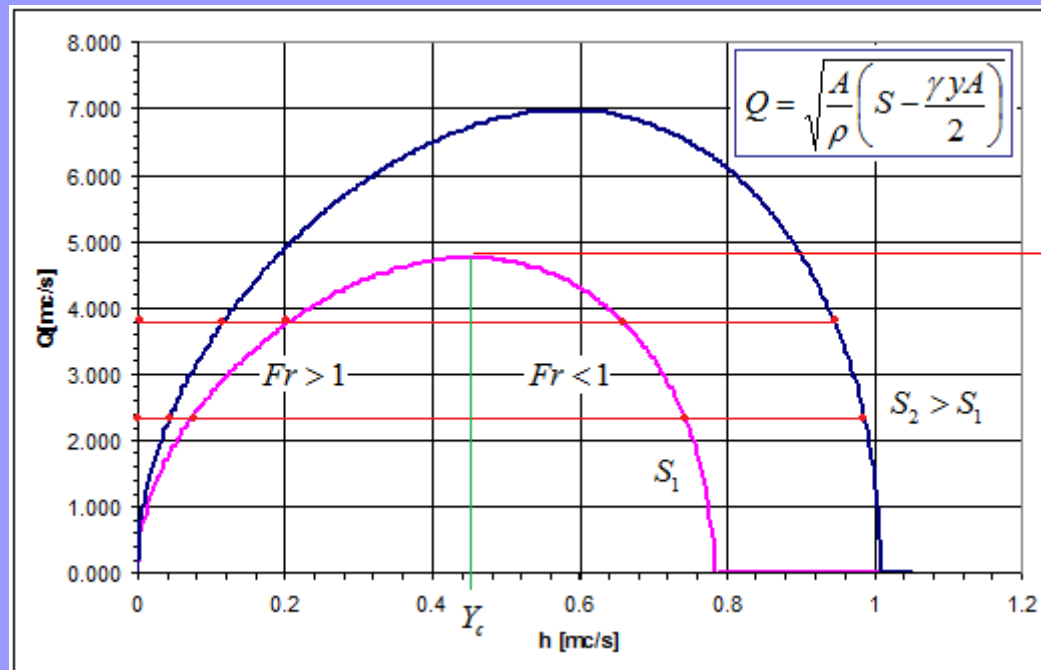


OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: lateral inflow - Q increasing along the flow direction

In order to investigate the possible profiles, we consider

$$S = \frac{\rho Q^2}{A} + \frac{\gamma y A}{2}; \quad Q = \sqrt{\frac{A}{\rho} \left(S - \frac{\gamma y A}{2} \right)}$$

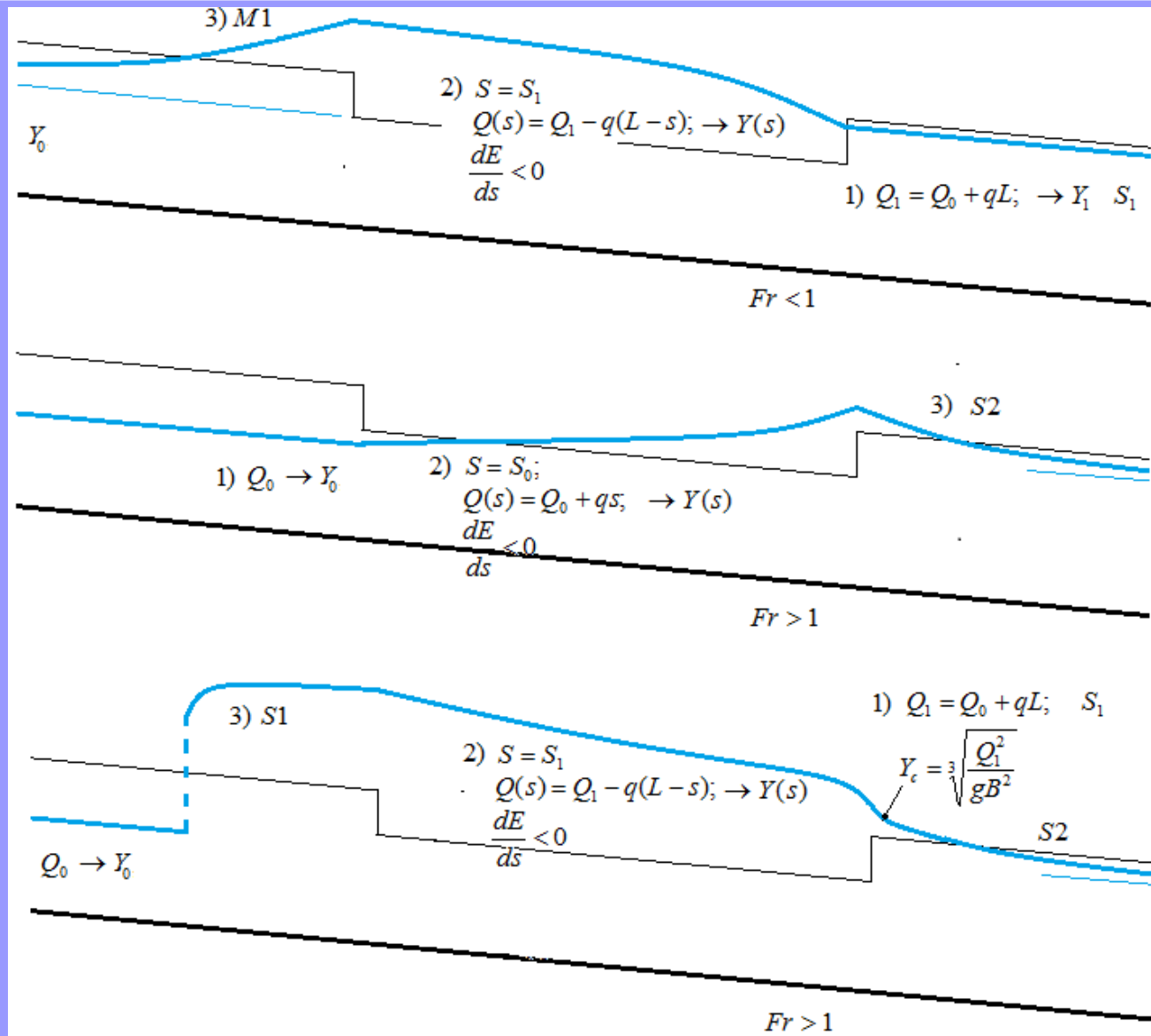
whose maximum is the critical depth. As one can see, whilst Q increases with s, in a subcritical flow the depth decreases. the contrary happens in a supercritical flow. In both cases the section where the critical depth occurs can only be located downstream. In both cases, E decreases moving from upstream to downstream, due to the entering discharge that has no momentum in the average flow direction



$$Q = \left(\frac{2}{3} \frac{S_1 B^{1/3}}{\rho g^{1/3}} \right)^{3/4}$$



OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: lateral inflow - Q increasing along the flow direction



In this case, only an S2 profile is possible. Actually E , which is a specific quantity, keeps decreasing along the flow entrance flow stretch, because dq enters with 0 momentum in the flow direction. Accordingly, at the end the flow must gain energy to attain a final downstream normal flow that is more energetic than the one upstream

If $Fr > 1$, it might happen that the overall inflow cannot be supported by the specific force of the normal flow upstream. In such a case this situation may occur. Being a mild profile, one must start downstream from the critical depth and compute the profile moving upstream



OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: Bridge and culvert

When flows interact with the invert of a bridge, a sudden reduction of the hydraulic radius happens, so that also the stage-discharge relationship of the bridge is modified.

The upstream propagating M1 profile is strongly conditioned by the boundary condition exerted by the bridge



Firenze, 1966, Ponte Vecchio



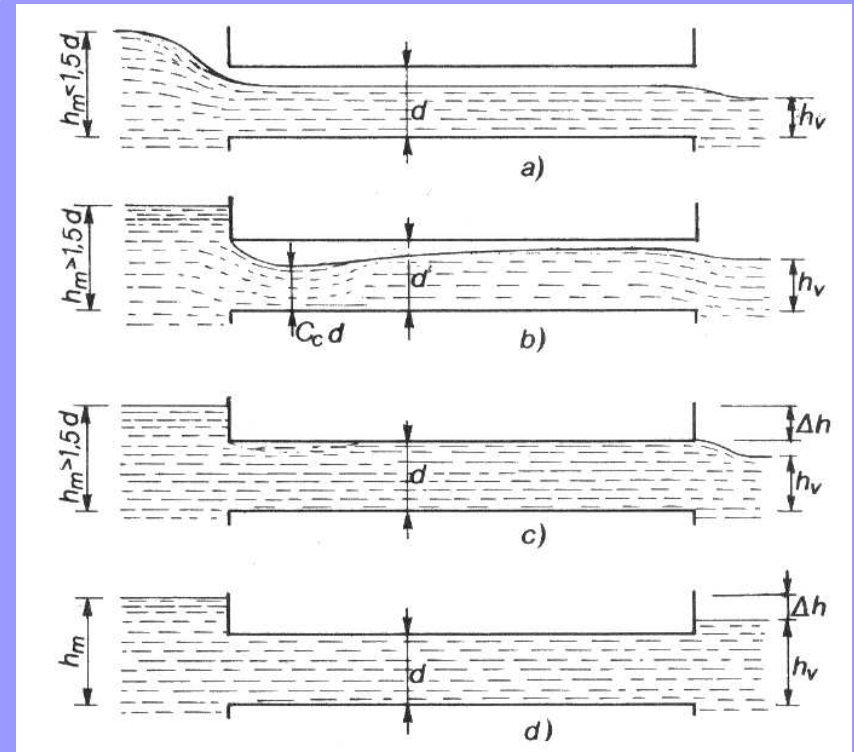
OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: Culvert (tombino o botte a sifone)

Often a small channel is used to convey water from one side to the other of a levee (often a road). The hydraulic behaviour can be quite complex and, apart from the geometry, depends on the level upstream (h_m) and downstream (h_v) and on the culvert length (L).



- a) Initially, when both h_m and h_v are small: open channel flow through a contraction
- b) Then, when h_m grows but both L and h_v are small: orifice flow
- c) Eventually, pressure flow

The transition between 1 and 3 implies a reduction of RH. Accordingly, a strongly backwater effect may occur



OPEN CHANNEL FLOW: Bridge

Bridges are the most common obstruction and they can strongly condition the upstream water surface profile. On the other hand, a wide variety of situations is possible and this must be treated on a case by case basis



In general terms, passage through a bridge usually implies a contraction, due to piers and abutments.

