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Estimating Canal Pool Resonance with Auto Tune Variation

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Abstract: The Integrator-Delay (ID) model is commonly used to model canal pools which do not exhibit resonance behavior. Simple step tests are often used to estimate ID model parameters; namely, delay time and backwater surface area. These step tests change the canal inflow at the upstream end of the pool and observe water depth variations at the downstream end. Some knowledge of the canal pool characteristics are needed to determine the amount of flow change and its duration. The Auto Tune Variation (ATV) method is one method for determining the duration of these step tests. Pools that are under backwater over their entire length tend to exhibit oscillations due to resonance waves. Pseudo-Binary-Random-Sequence (PBRs) tests have been used to determine the resonance frequency of such pools, where step tests with different durations are used. PBRs tests are difficult to implement in practice and may not provide the resonance frequency. The intent of this paper is to demonstrate on a real canal that the ATV method can determine both the resonance frequency and the resonance peak height for canal pools whose water levels oscillate.

Introduction

Automatic control of canals requires a process model relating water flows and levels from which a controller can be designed. Schuurmans et al. (1999a) developed a simple linear model of canal pool response; the Integrator-Delay (ID) model. The model assumes that the canal pool has two

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parts. The downstream end of the pool acts as a reservoir (Integrator) and the water level responds to changes in inflow and outflow based on its water surface area, A . The upstream end of the pool is assumed to be at normal depth, where upstream flow changes gradually arrive downstream. This part of the pool is characterized by a delay time, τ . Schuurmans et al. (1999b) show that the ID model fits canal response to changes in flow under two conditions; 1) The changes are relatively small, and 2) The frequency of the input is below the resonance frequency, ω_R , implying very gradual changes. Pools that have a significant portion of their length under normal depth typically do not exhibit resonance. But pools that are entirely under backwater usually do not have a delay ($\tau = 0$). Other pools can be a combination of these two responses.

Clemmens and Schuurmans (2004) used Linear-Quadratic Regulator (LQR) methods to develop multi-pool canal controllers, based on an ID process model. Generally, the ID model parameters (A and τ) were determined from simple step tests, where the upstream inflow was changed suddenly. These controllers have been applied to control both simulation (ASCE test canal 1, Arizona Canal) and real canals (WM canal) where canal pools are not under backwater (Clemmens and Wahlin 2004, Bautista et al. 2006, Clemmens and Strand 2010). Litrico et al (2007) used the auto tune variation (ATV) method to determine ID model parameters for the Gignac Canal. Once the ID model parameters were determined from ATV, they used gain and phase margin specifications developed by Litrico and Fromion (2006) to design simple Proportional Integral Differential (PID) or PI controllers, which were then applied successfully to the canal.

Control of canal pools whose water levels oscillate has proven more challenging. Schuurmans (1997) proposed simple procedures for design of proportional-integral controllers for individual canal pools that are under backwater. Low-pass filtering was used to account for the resonance. This procedure requires knowledge of both the resonance frequency and the resonance peak height. Litrico and Fromion (2004) propose an Integrator Delay Zero (IDZ) model, where the zero takes the resonance behavior into account. Unfortunately, the IDZ model as presented does not capture the resonance peak height. Silvis et al. (1998) applied system identification to determine ID model parameters. Overloop et al. (2010) used system identification tools to

identify canal pool properties, including the resonance frequency and peak height, M_R . They superimposed a Random Binary Signal (RBS) (step inputs) in upstream discharge of roughly $\pm 0.08 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$ (5% of capacity), and frequencies that ranged from 60% to 120% of the resonance frequency estimated from wave celerity. They showed that the resonance frequency was close to that expected from wave celerity. The resonance-peak height was also accurately predicted. However, the backwater surface area was not well predicted. They recommended simpler methods to obtain the low-frequency properties (i.e., backwater surface area). A drawback of system identification using PRBS is that the resonance frequency needs to be estimated beforehand. For certain type of canal pools, e.g. with culvert in the pool or with irregular cross-sections, this may be difficult. Another issue is that the tests take a long time to execute (e.g. more than 8 hrs). In this period, the downstream flow rate needs to be kept constant. Over such a long period, drift of the water level, which is supposed to remain close to target level (setpoint), is unavoidable. Hence, application of system identification signals to a real canal is difficult and not likely to be routinely adopted.

ATV is a more manageable way of generating a disturbance signal. The ATV method was applied to the same canal pool as Overloop et al. (2010). In this paper, the results of the ATV method in determining the resonance frequency and resonance-peak height are presented, and the potential for ATV as a general procedure for identifying all canal pool properties is discussed.

Canal Resonance

For an infinitely long canal with constant flow rate, bottom slope, canal cross section and frictional resistance, the water depth will eventually reach a uniform value with distance, so called normal depth. The value of normal depth changes with discharge such that the energy loss from frictional resistance matches the bottom slope. A change in upstream discharge causes a wave to travel downstream. The initial (dynamic) wave travels at the speed of celerity, c (discussed below). However, this wave travels too fast for the inflow to create the new steady-state water depth. After a long time, the speed of the wave is based on continuity (kinematic

wave) or going from one steady state to another. In most real canals, the wave speed is somewhere between the kinematic and dynamic wave speeds (Bautista et al. 2003, Munier et al., 2010). Under normal depth conditions, the dynamic wave is damped relatively quickly because of hydraulic resistance. Obstructions to flow (e.g., canal structures) cause the water depth to be deeper, such that friction is reduced. When the water depth is at normal depth, the depth of a wave caused by a disturbance is generally small, such that resonance behavior is usually not significant. However, as the depth is increased above normal depth, the magnitude of the depth and the wave speed both increase. For canal pools that combine a length where water is at normal depth with a length where water is under backwater, waves in the backwater part are damped when they intersect the normal depth portion, such that resonance behavior is usually not significant. However, for pools that are entirely under backwater or that are relatively short, waves will reflect off both upstream and downstream structures. Deeper depths allow waves to propagate more easily. Lower flow rates can result in a larger backwater part, so resonance behavior would be greater (e.g., assuming same downstream water level). Overloop (2006) gives a description of the effects that different canal parameters, and their variation, have on the resonance peak height.

For canal pools under backwater, water travel at the speed of celerity, c , where

$$c = \sqrt{gD} \quad (1)$$

where g is the acceleration of gravity and D is the hydraulic depth (cross sectional area divided by top width). The wave travel speed is $c+v$ going downstream, where v is the average flow velocity, and $c-v$ going upstream. The wave travel time, T_r , is thus

$$T_r = T_{rD} + T_{rU} = \frac{L}{c+v} + \frac{L}{c-v} \quad (2)$$

where L is the pool length, T_{rD} is the time for the wave to travel to the downstream end, and T_{rU} is the time for the wave to travel to the upstream end.

Figure 1 shows the downstream water level deviation (simulation results from Sobek, 2000) for a step change in upstream discharge in a pool where the upstream portion is under normal depth. Note that the water level initially increases very slowly and then gradually increases at a steady

rate. The initial increase represents the time for the dynamic wave to arrive. The dashed line is the ID model fit. The slope of the ID model line is the flow change divided by the backwater surface area, A . The time delay, τ , is the time from the upstream flow change to the time where the ID model line crosses zero (7 minutes in Fig. 1). As the depth increases, the backwater surface area also increases and the slope of the water level deviation decreases. The pool demonstrated in Figure 1 is pool CD-12 of the Central Arizona Irrigation and Drainage District (CAIDD). The pool has a bottom width of 1.219 m, side slopes 1.5:1 (horizontal to vertical), slope 0.0012 m/m, length 922 m, a downstream set point depth of 1.539 m, and a capacity of 3.115 m³/s. The flow change was 0.156 m³/s, and the backwater surface area was approximately 1400 m².

Figure 2 shows the Bode plots for this pool. The Bode plot was determined by linearizing the full Saint-Venant equations around the steady state solution and assuming a Manning friction coefficient of 0.016. The Bode plot magnitude for a pure integrator (with or without a delay), such as the ID model, would be a straight line with a slope of -20 decibels (dB). Note that the magnitude is nearly linear at this slope. However, the line bends horizontal at high frequencies representing the Zero as described by the IDZ-model proposed by Litrico and Fromion (2004). This zero should not cause concern for control because the magnitude is low, structure position changes are slow, and low-pass filtering, commonly used to dampen sensor noise, is sufficient to remove the high frequency response.

Figure 3 shows the downstream water level deviation for a step change in upstream discharge in a pool which is entirely under backwater (simulation results from Sobek, 2000). Note that the initial increase is rather rapid, followed by oscillations, before rising at a more or less constant rate. The dashed line is the ID model response. Note that when this ID model is projected back to zero depth change, the time matches the time of the upstream flow change, or $\tau = 0$. Canal pool details (NB-12) are given in the example below. For Figure 3, the flow change was 0.016 m³/s and the backwater surface area was approximately 2950 m².

Figure 4 shows the Bode plots for this pool with resonance. Resonance peaks can be clearly seen in Figure 4. Note that in canal pools, typically, the first resonance peak has a phase lag of -180° and is therefore prone to violating the gain margin stability criterion. Knowledge of the frequency and magnitude of this first resonance peak, next to the storage area and delay time, is sufficient for filter and controller design. If a controller is designed at the resonance frequency, the response at higher frequencies is not a significant concern because they are above the cut-off frequency of the closed loop system.

Auto Tune Variation Method

The Auto Tune Variation (ATV) method is a classical automatic tuning method that has been applied to many industrial processes (Hang et al 2002). Its purpose is to determine the ultimate gain and ultimate period, typically for design of PI or PID controllers. The ATV method uses a relay feedback that applies step changes in inflow, positive and negative, around a steady state. The size of the step change should be based on allowable deviations from set point. Too large a step change might overtop the canal. Too small of a step change might be lost in signal noise. The timing of the step changes is based on the downstream water level response. The procedure is as follows. Steady state is manually established in the canal at, or at least close to, the water level setpoint. A change in upstream inflow is made (positive or negative). When the downstream water level starts to change, the change in inflow is reversed. Each time the downstream water level crosses the setpoint, the change in inflow is reversed. The canal therefore oscillates around the steady-state, in a limit cycle at a frequency corresponding to a phase lag of exactly 180° between the input and the output signals. In this test, the limit cycle was well established after 5 oscillations.

For canal pools where the upstream length is under normal depth, Litrico et al. (2004) demonstrated that the ATV procedure would provide good estimates for both the delay time and backwater surface area. They show that the magnitude of the ultimate frequency can be determined from

$$M_R(\omega_R) = \frac{\pi \Delta y}{4 \Delta Q} \quad (3)$$

where Δy is the change in water depth and ΔQ is the change in flow rate. The $\pi/4$ term is needed because there are step changes in flow rate and approximately sinusoidal changes in water depth.

For canal pools under backwater, the ATV procedure would only be useful if the changes in upstream flow match the resonance frequency. The time from a flow change upstream to the downstream water level change corresponds to the time for the wave to travel downstream, T_{rD} . If a positive wave is sent downstream and reflects back upstream, adding another positive wave at that moment should provide the maximum effect on the water level. In this case, the input signal of the upstream gate is in counterphase with the output signal of the downstream measurement location, so the input and output signals are -180° out of phase. This study was conducted because it was uncertain whether or not the timing would be sufficiently accurate in a real application. If this is the case, then the changes in observed water depth would provide the resonance-peak height directly, i.e. the point in the Bode-diagram of the first resonance peak (see Figure 4).

Determining the resonance frequency and resonance peak height is not sufficient, by itself, to fully characterize the canal's response. In addition, the gain at lower frequencies is required. Adding a delay in the loop during the ATV test is suggested in the literature as a method to estimate the response at frequencies other than the ultimate frequency (Hang et al., 2002). For a pure integrator, the integrator gain (inverse of the backwater surface area) can be found from (Litrico et al. 2007)

$$A = \frac{1}{\omega_L \cdot M(\omega_L)} \quad (4)$$

where ω_L is the frequency of the delayed ATV test. This equation is not appropriate for conditions near the resonance frequency. But this equation can be used if the frequency is sufficiently low.

Test Canal

Simulations and a field test were executed on the NB lateral canal at the Central Arizona Irrigation and Drainage District. The NB-12 pool was selected because it has significant resonance response, it does not have culverts or other obstructions in the pool, and because it had been previously investigated by Overloop et al (2010). The pool is 793 m long, has a slope of 0.0002, bottom width 0.61 m, side slope of 1.5 (horizontal to vertical). The downstream gate is 0.76 m wide and 1.14 m high. In-line weirs next to the gate at 1.14 m depth allow water to continue downstream if the gate is closed. The capacity is 1.56 m³/s. The nominal depth setpoint at the downstream end of the pool is 1.08 m, although a lower water depth of 0.957 m was chosen for this test to avoid over topping the weirs during high discharge tests. (This reduced the backwater surface area determined in Figure 2). Field tests were conducted on May 6, 2010. The steady state flow rate was 0.322 m³/s and the flow change was ± 0.17 m³/s ($\Delta Q = 0.34$ m³/s).

The water depth just upstream from gate NB-12 (Downstream end of the pool) was measured with a pressure transducer. A temporary transducer was installed in the upstream end of the pool, just downstream from the upstream gate (NB-11A). The initial depth at the upstream end of the pool was 0.820 m, giving an average depth in the pool of 0.889 m. This gives a cross sectional area of 1.725 m², a top width of 3.275 m, a hydraulic depth of 0.527 m, an average velocity of 0.19 m/s, and celerity speed from Eq (1) is 2.27 m/s. The estimated resonance time from Eq (2) is 703 s, $\omega_R = 0.0089$. From Eq (2), the time for the wave to travel downstream, T_{rD} , is 322 s and the time for the wave to travel upstream, T_{rU} , is 381 s. Thus change in the upstream depth were expected to lag behind changes in the downstream depth. Based on the average top width of flow, the backwater surface area should be approximately 2598 m² (3.275 m * 793 m).

Data from the pressure transducers were read by remote terminal units at the site and transmitted to the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system through spread-spectrum radios. The SCADA system was set up to display values of water depth deviation from setpoint, in this case the, initial water depth. The operator could remotely change gate position by specifying a flow set point for each gate. A flow controller adjusted the gate position to obtain

the correct flow rate. Details of the SCADA system and associated controls are given in Clemmens and Strand (2010). The water depth observations were made every 10 seconds, while the flow control adjustments were made every 30 seconds.

As part of the field experiment, a delay term was added to the ATV test, in an attempt to determine the backwater surface area (system integrator). A 6 minute delay was chosen assuming that at low frequencies the system behaves as an integrator. An integrator has 90° phase lag, so an extra 90° needs to be put in the loop at a frequency where the ATV needs to start cycling. A pure delay gives a phase lag of 90° at $\omega = \pi / (2\tau_d)$, so the delay time was calculated as $(\pi/2) / (\omega_R/2)$ which is approximately 6 minutes, thus essentially doubling the cycle time. In hind sight, a longer delay would have been more useful in order to make the closed loop system oscillate at a frequency that was further away from the resonance frequency.

Results of ATV with Simulation

Before ATV was implemented on the real canal, the response was simulated with unsteady flow simulation (Sobek, 2000). The results shown here are for a Manning roughness coefficient of $n = 0.016$. Figure 5 shows the inflow to NB-12 based on the ATV rules from simulation with the unsteady-flow simulation software, Sobek (2000). Figure 6 shows the simulated water depths over time. The frequency found from the simulation for the standard ATV test (no delay) is $\omega_R = 0.0087$ rad/s (cycle time = $2\pi/\omega_R = 720$ s). The magnitude M_R from Eq. 3 is 0.234 s/m².

For the simulated ATV test, Figure 5 and 6 show the results of adding 6- and 12-min delays. The oscillation period increases as the delay increases. The amplitude also changes, but not monotonically. This is clearly visible on the corresponding Bode plots which are depicted in Figure 7. The magnitude plot is the same, but the phase differs, depending on the value of the added delay. The standard ATV test makes the system oscillate at the first resonance frequency, while adding a delay of 6 minutes moves the oscillating frequency to about 0.0043 rad/s (1465 s). The change in water depth is roughly 0.068 m, and from Eq 3, $M_R = 0.157$ s/m². Finally, with

an added delay of 12 minutes, the oscillating frequency is equal to 0.0018 rad/s. Here $\Delta y = 0.146$ and $M_R = 0.337 \text{ s/m}^2$.

Results of ATV from Field Experiment

Figure 8 shows the inflow to pool NB-12 resulting from the ATV procedure. The resulting resonance period is 760 s (based on cycle of flow set point changes), so $\omega_R = 0.0083 \text{ rad/s}$. Figure 9 shows the water depths recorded during the test. The first 70 minutes are the 5 cycles of the ATV test for determining the resonance. From casual observation, the upstream water depths are 180 degrees out of phase with the downstream depth, which implies that it is at the resonance frequency. However, the cycles of the upstream wave are on average about 35 seconds ahead of the downstream wave, based on the time to cross the steady state water depth. Since gate flow changes are made only every 30 second, the operator could not make changes exactly when the ATV criteria were met. Also, these changes were made manually. Finally, we expect the upstream depth to lag behind the downstream depth because of the difference in upstream versus downstream wave speed. The change in water depth between cycles (average for the last three cycles) is 0.100 m. From Eq (3), the magnitude M_R is 0.231 s/m^2 , or $M_R = -12.7 \text{ dB}$.

In the second part of the measurements, 6 minutes of delay time was added in order to make the closed loop oscillate at a lower frequency. The observed cycle time was 2190s, so $\omega_R = 0.0029 \text{ rad/s}$. The water depth deviation, Δy , was 0.115m, which from Eq. 3 gives $M_R = 0.265$, or $M_R = -11.5 \text{ dB}$.

Figure 9 also shows a comparison between the observed and simulated water level, when the measured upstream flow (Figure 8) was used as input to the simulation model, rather than using the ATV criteria (as in Figure 6). The Manning roughness coefficient was varied to get a good match between predicted and observed water-level responses. This value of Manning n (0.016) is reasonable since the canal had recently been cleaned. For higher roughness values, the variation

in water levels was significantly reduced (i.e., lower gain), while lower values of Manning n , resulted in a higher gains.

The water level at the upstream end of the pool (NB-11A in Figure 9) was measured with a temporary pressure transducer whose elevation was not accurately calibrated. Unfortunately, it was removed before a more detailed calibration could be done. In open-channels with canal pools under backwater, the upstream water surface elevation is influenced by the downstream water surface elevation. Water depth actually has a relatively minor effect. When the Manning roughness coefficient was adjusted to match the observed downstream water level response, the upstream water level was roughly 4 cm high. This could have been caused by an error in the bottom elevation at the upstream end of the canal relative to the downstream end of the canal or an error in the transducer elevation. This offset was applied to the results shown in Figure 9, which shows reasonably good prediction of water-level response. This amount of error is plausible. Fortunately, this error in upstream depth has no influence on the analysis presented here.

System Identification

In the ATV-tests executed on the model and real canal, the system was excited at frequencies that are of interest. Therefore, the input signal was expected to be useful for system identification, resulting in models that are accurate around the frequencies whose corresponding magnitudes can be used to compute the pool properties. Standard system identification tools (Mathwork 2003) were used to identify low order (Box-Jenkins) models for both the simulation-model response and the field test. The procedure we apply is described in Overloop et al. (2010). Figure 10 and 11 gives the Bode plots of the model test and the field test respectively. Analysis of the residuals showed that both models were validated. The only required change from the procedure described in Overloop et al. (2010) is that a 7th order model was used instead of a 5th order model to accurately capture the first resonance peak (and to get the models validated).

The values for the first resonance model found from the identified model using the model test data are: $\omega_R = 0.0084$ rad/s and $M_R = 0.238$ s/m². These values essentially match the values found from the ATV-procedure applied to the model test. The values for the field test are $\omega_R = 0.0086$ rad/s and $M_R = 0.261$. Here, the frequency is accurately estimated, while the magnitude is roughly 10% off.

With the results from system identification, conditions can be estimated at low frequencies. With the results for $\omega_R = 0.001$ rad/s, Eq. 4 provides estimates of A for the model test and the field test of 2676 m² and 3081 m², respectively. The first one is remarkably close to the one estimated from the pool dimensions (3%), while the value resulting from the field test is more than 15% off. Clearly this is the result of insufficient low frequency information in the identification signals as available from the field test.

Discussion

Table 1 presents the estimates for all pool properties resulting from the various tests and estimation methods. The largest errors likely resulted from inexact application of the ATV method in the field. The operator was not able to change the upstream flow quickly (or accurately) enough to hit the resonance frequency exactly. It is interesting that system identification was able to find a better estimate. Regarding the resonance peak height, it can be seen in Figure 5 that, when switching, the flow shows significant overshoot, 6 out of 9 times. Our actual test did not accurately produce a square wave output, as required for use of Eq. 3. System identification was able to account for this error and provide a better estimate.

The delayed ATV tests for the field (0.0029 rad/s) and simulation (0.0043 rad/s) tests resulted in very different frequencies, even though the same rules were used. When making a disturbance at other than the resonance frequency, there are multiple overlapping waves. Minor errors in our ability to model the primary wave can result in very different responses when observing the wave overlap. The wave overlap can be seen in Figure 12 by the sudden changes in downstream

water depth at around 0.95 m. Clearly, the effect of these waves is different for the increasing and decreasing flows. It is significant that this response occurs close to the depth at which the ATV criteria cause the flow to cycle. Take for example the rise in water level at roughly 12:10 in Figure 9. Here, the field results and simulated results differ just when the depth crosses the initial water level. Thus while the overall response is similar, the ATV delay time might be quite different because of this difference in wave overlap. For our field test, the system was clearly not steady when switched from the standard to the delayed ATV test. Residual wave action during this test could have easily caused the cycle to be longer for this test.

The low frequency response, and thus the backwater surface area A , can be determined from a simple step test, as demonstrated in Figure 3, or from the gain of a binary signal at a very low frequency. This is easy to do with simulation, but establishing a sufficiently steady condition for these tests in the field can be difficult. The ATV test has the advantage that it is not sensitive to the lack of a good steady condition. And as shown by our field test, the ATV test provided good parameter estimates even when conditions were far from steady and the resulting frequency was far from that expected.

Future research will continue to explore whether or not the ATV method can become a general procedure for determining canal pool properties, regardless of conditions within the pool. The method was previously shown to be applicable for canal pools that did not display significant resonance. Both the delay time and the backwater surface area could be determined. By applying the ATV procedure both with and without an extra delay, it was able to determine the resonance frequency and the resonance peak height with reasonable accuracy, and the backwater surface area approximately. If both a standard and delayed ATV test are run, it should be easy to determine whether resonance occurs since both should give the same backwater surface area if resonance does not exist (i.e., from Eq 4).

For canal pools with internal structures, particularly culverts, both resonance and a delay can exist. While this has not been tested, the procedure is expected to work here as well. If this is the

case, then perhaps this one methodology can identify canal pool properties regardless of their configuration.

Conclusions

The ATV method was applied in real time to a canal pool that exhibited resonance. The standard ATV approach was able to determine the resonance peak height and the resonance frequency. By adding a delay in the ATV response, an estimate for the backwater surface area, which serves as an integrator, was obtained. The delayed ATV approach is recommended for field use because it is not sensitive to steady conditions. The combination of a standard and delayed ATV test is proposed as a general method for determining canal pool properties for any canal configuration.

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Figure 1. Water level deviation response to a step change in upstream inflow for pool CD-12 at 30% capacity.

Figure 2. Bode plots for pool CD-12.

Figure 3. Water level deviation response to a step change in inflow for pool NB-12 at 10% of capacity.

Figure 4. Bode plots for pool NB-12 (10% of flow capacity and Mannings=0.016).

Figure 5. Flow rates for simulated ATV test results for canal pool NB-12 with 0, 6 and 10 minute delays.

Figure 6. Water depths for simulated ATV test results for canal pool NB-12 with 0, 6 and 10 minute delays.

Figure 7. Bode plots of NB-12 canal pool with different added delays.

Figure 8. Inflow to pool NB-12 for ATV test (May 6, 2010).

Figure 9. Observed and predicted water depths for ATV test on pool NB-12 (May 6, 2010). (NB-11A is upstream depth. NB-12 is downstream depth).

Figure 10. Bode plots of identified model using model data

Figure 11. Bode plots of identified model using field test data.

Table 1

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Table 1. Estimation results from field and simulation tests for canal pool NB-12.

	From pool dimensions	Field Data		Simulation Data	
		Data and Eq. 3	System Identification	Data and Eq. 3	System Identification
Storage area A (m^2)	2598		3081		2676
Resonance Frequency ω_R (rad/s)	0.0089	0.0083	0.0086	0.0087	0.0084
Resonance peak M_R (s/m^2)		0.231	0.261	0.234	0.238