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The effect of a stationary windfield on a
rotating shallow sea

by

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§1. Introduction. General equations.

As a part of the research on the hydrodynamical behaviour of a shallow sea under influence of storm surges (see the foregoing paper of H.A. Lauwerier), the case of a stationary windfield has been considered in some detail (VELTKAMP, 1953, 1954).

We start with the following differential equations

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \lambda u - \Omega v + g \frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial x} &= (\rho h)^{-1} U \\ \lambda v + \Omega u + g \frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial y} &= (\rho h)^{-1} V, \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (1.1)$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} (hu) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} (hv) = 0. \quad (1.2)$$

where u, v are averages over a vertical of the horizontal components of the velocity, ζ the elevation of the sealevel above the undisturbed level, U, V the components of the tangential stress on the surface of the sea due to the wind, h the depth of the sea (in undisturbed position), and λ, Ω, g and ρ coefficients of friction, Coriolis force, gravity and density, respectively.

In the derivation of these equations considerable simplifications have been introduced: linearisation, neglect of vertical motions, a simple model for the turbulent friction, etc. ²⁾

In this paper we shall only consider the case that all coefficients λ, Ω, g, ρ and h are independent of x and y . In this case a rather elegant treatment with the aid of function-theoretic methods is possible.

It is well-known that any two-dimensional vector-field (U, V) can be separated into an irrotational and a solenoidal field, each of which being generated by a scalar potential:

$$\left. \begin{aligned} U &= - \rho g h \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial x} - \rho g h \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial y} \\ V &= - \rho g h \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial y} + \rho g h \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial x} \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (1.3)$$

Furthermore, on behalf of (1.2) we can introduce a stream function $\Theta(x, y)$ by

1) Research carried out under the direction of Prof. Dr D. van Dantzig.
2) A careful discussion of these matters has been given by SCHÖNFELD (1954). Compare also SCHALKWIJK (1947).

$$u = -(g/\lambda) \frac{\partial \Theta}{\partial y}, \quad v = (g/\lambda) \frac{\partial \Theta}{\partial x}. \quad (1.4)$$

Substitution of (1.3) and (1.4) into (1.1) gives

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (\Theta - \Phi) &= \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(\frac{\Omega}{\lambda} \Theta - \zeta - \Psi \right) \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial y} (\Theta - \Phi) &= - \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\frac{\Omega}{\lambda} \Theta - \zeta - \Psi \right) \end{aligned} \quad (1.5)$$

These equations are directly seen to be the Cauchy-Riemann differential equations. Accordingly an analytic function $Z(z) = X(x,y) + i Y(x,y)$ of $z=x+iy$ must exist such that

$$\Theta - \Phi = X, \quad \frac{\Omega}{\lambda} \Theta - \zeta - \Psi = Y,$$

or

$$\Theta = X + \Phi, \quad \zeta = \frac{\Omega}{\lambda} (X + \Phi) - (Y + \Psi) \quad (1.6)$$

Hence, if Ψ , Φ and Z are known, the problem is completely solved.

The function $Z(z)$ can be determined with the aid of boundary-conditions.

Let the sea be represented by a domain D with boundary Γ . On parts of Γ which represent coasts, the normal components of the mean velocity (u,v) must vanish, hence, if we assume D to be simply-connected, we have the boundary-condition $\Theta=0$ or $\text{Re } Z = -\Phi$. (1.7)

On parts of Γ which represent the connection of the sea with a deep ocean (the level of which is assumed to be undisturbed), we have $\zeta=0$, or $\frac{\Omega}{\lambda} \text{Re } Z - \text{Im } Z = -\frac{\Omega}{\lambda} \Phi + \Psi$, or, defining the real number μ by

$$\text{tg } \pi\mu = (\Omega/\lambda), \quad -\frac{1}{2} < \mu < \frac{1}{2}, \quad (1.8)$$

$$\text{Im } (e^{-\pi i \mu} Z) = \Phi \sin \pi\mu - \Psi \cos \pi\mu. \quad (1.9)$$

§2. Shallow sea bounded by coasts only.

If the wind-forces (U,V) are given, the potentials Ψ and Φ are of course not uniquely determined by (1.3). A special pair of potentials can be found as follows. Let $\Phi_0(x,y)$ and $\Psi_0(x,y)$ be determined by the conditions

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \nabla^2 \Phi_0 &= - (g h)^{-1} \left(\frac{\partial U}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial V}{\partial x} \right) \text{ in } D \\ \Phi_0 &= 0 \text{ on } \Gamma \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (2.1)$$

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \nabla^2 \Psi_0 &= - (g h)^{-1} \left(\frac{\partial U}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial V}{\partial y} \right) \text{ in } D \\ \frac{\partial \Psi_0}{\partial n} &= - (g h)^{-1} W_n \text{ on } \Gamma \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (2.2)$$

where W_n is the normal component of (U,V) on Γ . Then Φ_0 is uniquely determined and Ψ_0 is uniquely determined apart from an additive con-

stant. Furthermore it is directly seen that the vector $U + \rho gh \left(\frac{\partial \Psi_0}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial \Phi_0}{\partial y} \right), V + \rho gh \left(\frac{\partial \Psi_0}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial \Phi_0}{\partial x} \right)$ is zero in D since it is both irrotational and solenoidal and its normal component on Γ is zero. Accordingly, the vector field U, V is generated by the potentials Ψ_0 and Φ_0 by means of (1.3).

For a sea, bounded by coasts only, (1.7) now gives $\operatorname{Re} Z = -\Phi_0 = 0$ on Γ , hence we have in D $Z(z) = iC$, where C is a real constant.

Accordingly

$$\theta = \Phi_0, \quad \zeta = \frac{\Omega}{\lambda} \Phi_0 - \Psi_0 - C \quad (2.3)$$

Let us assume that the free constant in Ψ_0 has been determined such that $\iint_D \Psi_0 dS = 0$. Then, since the total amount of water in the sea must be constant, we have

$$0 = \iint_D \zeta dS = \frac{\Omega}{\lambda} \iint_D \Phi_0 dS - C \cdot \iint_D dS,$$

or

$$C = \frac{\Omega}{\lambda} \bar{\Phi}_0,$$

where $\bar{\Phi}_0$ is the mean value of Φ_0 over D .

Accordingly, we have the unique solution

$$\zeta = \frac{\Omega}{\lambda} (\Phi_0 - \bar{\Phi}_0) - \Psi_0 \quad (2.4)$$

This formula permits some interesting conclusions.

a. In a non-rotating sea, the elevation of the surface is independent of the solenoidal part of the wind forces.

b. The difference between the elevations at the coast of a rotating and a non-rotating sea is a constant along the coast, this constant is proportional to Ω/λ and only dependent on the solenoidal part of the wind force.

c. In an actual storm-surge, caused by a depression on the Northern hemisphere the curl $\frac{\partial V}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial U}{\partial y}$ of the wind force is usually positive and accordingly $\bar{\Phi}_0$ is negative ($\Phi_0 = 0$ on Γ and $\nabla^2 \Phi_0 > 0$ in D). Consequently the presence of Coriolis force results in an increase of elevation at the coasts.

Remark.

If potentials Φ and Ψ are given which do not satisfy the boundary conditions in (2.1) and (2.2), one finds the corresponding potentials Φ_0 and Ψ_0 as follows. Let $Z(z) = X + iY$ be an analytic function of z in D such that on Γ $X = \operatorname{Re} Z = -\Phi$ (Z is uniquely determined up to an additive imaginary constant). Then $\Phi_0 = \Phi + X$, $\Psi_0 = \Psi + Y$.

§3. Shallow sea connected with a deep ocean.

Let us consider the case that the boundary Γ consists of two parts Γ_1 and Γ_2 , ^{where} Γ_1 represents the connection with a deep ocean and Γ_2 represents a coast. If the wind-forces are represented by potentials Φ_0 and Ψ_0 which satisfy the boundary-conditions of (2.1) and (2.2), respectively, we have for the analytic function $Z(z)$, introduced in §1, the following boundary-conditions (compare (1.7) and (1.9))

$$\text{on } \Gamma_1: \operatorname{Im} (e^{-\pi i \mu} Z) = -\Psi_0 \cos \pi \mu,$$

$$\text{on } \Gamma_2: \operatorname{Re} Z = 0.$$

We shall now prove the following formula:

Let $w(z)$ be an analytic function of z in D which maps D conformally on the half-plane $\operatorname{Im} w > 0$ such that Γ_1 is mapped on the real segment $\operatorname{Im} w = 0$, $|\operatorname{Re} w| < 1$ and Γ_2 on the segments $\operatorname{Im} w = 0$, $|\operatorname{Re} w| > 1$ ³⁾. Then we have

$$Z(z) = -\cos \pi \mu \cdot (w(z)-1)^{\mu+\frac{1}{2}} (w(z)+1)^{-\mu+\frac{1}{2}} \cdot \frac{1}{\pi i} \int_{\Gamma_1} (1-w(t))^{-\mu-\frac{1}{2}} (1+w(t))^{\mu-\frac{1}{2}} \frac{\Psi_0(t)w'(t)}{w(t)-w(z)} dt. \quad (3.1)$$

Proof:

It is not difficult to see that if $\operatorname{Im} w = 0$, $|\operatorname{Re} w| > 1$, $(w-1)^{\mu+\frac{1}{2}}(w+1)^{-\mu+\frac{1}{2}}$ is real. And since clearly the integral is real if z is on Γ_2 , the boundary-condition on Γ_2 is satisfied.

If z tends to a point z_0 on Γ_1 (from the side of D), we have by application of a formula of PLEMELJ (cf MUSKHELISHVILI, 1953, Ch.2) ⁴⁾

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{Re} \lim_{z \rightarrow z_0} \frac{1}{\pi i} \int_{\Gamma_1} (1-w(t))^{-\mu-\frac{1}{2}} (1+w(t))^{\mu-\frac{1}{2}} \frac{\Psi_0(t)w'(t)}{w(t)-w(z)} dt = \\ = (1-w(z_0))^{-\mu-\frac{1}{2}} (1+w(z_0))^{\mu-\frac{1}{2}} \Psi(z_0). \end{aligned} \quad (3.2)$$

Furthermore, if z is on Γ_1 , $1-w$ and $1+w$ are positive and $w-1 = e^{\pi i}(1-w)$, so $(w-1)^{\mu+\frac{1}{2}}(w+1)^{-\mu+\frac{1}{2}} = i e^{\pi i \mu} (1-w)^{\mu+\frac{1}{2}}(1+w)^{-\mu+\frac{1}{2}}$ (3.3)

Combination of (3.2) and (3.3) now shows that the boundary-condition on Γ_1 is satisfied.

3) $w(z)$ is not uniquely determined by these conditions, but that does not matter, however.

4) This formula reads $\lim_{z \rightarrow z_0} \frac{1}{\pi i} \int_{\Gamma_1} \frac{\varphi(t)}{t-z} dt = \varphi(z_0) + \frac{1}{\pi i} \oint_{\Gamma_1} \frac{\varphi(t)}{t-z_0} dt$,

where the second integral is a Cauchy-integral. Hence, if $\varphi(z)$ is real (on Γ_1), $\operatorname{Re} \lim \dots = \varphi(z_0)$.

Finally, $Z(z)$ is clearly analytic in D and from theorems cited by MUSKHELISHVILI (l.c. Chs.2 and 4) it follows that $Z(z)$ is continuous in $D+\Gamma$. This completes the proof of the validity of formula (3.1).

As has been pointed out in § 1, the knowledge of Z (and $\bar{Z}$ and Ψ) implies the complete solution of the problem.

4. Rectangular sea connected with an ocean.

Let D be the domain $-a < x < a$, $0 < y < b$ and let the part $y=b$, $-a < x < a$ ^{if} be the connection of the sea with a deep ocean, the other parts of Γ being coasts. This domain ^{can} be considered as an approximate model for the North Sea, cf. fig.1.

For the mapping function $w(z)$, introduced in § 3, one has

$$w(z) = - \operatorname{sn} \left(\frac{z-ib}{a} K, k \right). \quad (4.1)$$

where the modulus K of the Jacobian elliptic function follows from the condition

$$\frac{K'(k)}{K(k)} = \frac{b}{a}$$

($K(k)$ being the complete elliptic integral of the first kind and $K'(k)=K(\sqrt{1-k^2})$).

If k is small (which is the case for $b \gg a$, for the North Sea we have roughly $b=4a$ and accordingly $k \sim 4e^{-(\pi b/2a)} = 0,747 \cdot 10^{-2}$), one has on Γ_1 , where $z=x+ib$, x real,

$$\operatorname{sn} \left(\frac{Kx}{a}, k \right) \sim \sin \frac{\pi x}{2a}. \quad (4.2)$$

For $z=0$ we have $w=\infty$ and accordingly one finds from (3.1), (4.1) and (4.2) after some algebra

$$Z(0) = - \frac{1}{2a} \cos \pi \mu \int_{-a}^a t g \left(\frac{\pi(t+a)}{4a} \right)^{-2\mu} \Psi_0(t, b) dt$$

and this constant can be shown to be a satisfactory approximation for $Z(z)$ for all values of z near the "South coast" of the sea.

Let us now consider a specific wind field:

$$U = U_0 + U_1 x + U_2 (y - \frac{1}{2}b)$$

$$V = V_0 + V_1 x + V_2 (y - \frac{1}{2}b)$$

One then finds for the value of the elevation ζ at the middle of the south coast

a. if $\Omega=0$:

$$\rho g h \zeta(0,0) = -b V_0 - \frac{1}{6} a^2 U_1$$

b. if $n/\lambda = 5,3$ 5):

$$\rho g h \zeta(0,0) = -b V_0 - 0,410a^2 U_1 + 0,845a(U_0 + \frac{1}{2}b U_2) + \\ + 0,472a^2(V_1 - U_2)$$

Here the first term $-b V_0$ is the main term, due to the average of the axial component of the wind. The last term is due to the curl of the wind-forces, whereas the second and third terms are due to the x-component of the wind-forces near the entrance of the sea.

If for instance we have $a = \frac{1}{4} b$ and $U=0$, $V=-V_0(1 - \frac{x}{a})$, we find

$$\zeta(0,0) = 1,12 \frac{bV_0}{\rho g h},$$

hence a 12%-increase over the case of no Coriolis-force.

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