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Wave Prediction Formulas

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List of 15 Wave Prediction Formulas

Wave Prediction

Predicting Waves in Deep Water

1) Significant Wave Height from Bretschneider Empirical Relationships

fx

Open Calculator 

$$H_{dw} = \frac{U^2 \cdot 0.283 \cdot \tanh\left(0.0125 \cdot \left(\frac{[g] \cdot F_1}{U^2}\right)^{0.42}\right)}{[g]}$$

ex

$$0.052681\text{m} = \frac{(25\text{m/s})^2 \cdot 0.283 \cdot \tanh\left(0.0125 \cdot \left(\frac{[g] \cdot 2\text{m}}{(25\text{m/s})^2}\right)^{0.42}\right)}{[g]}$$

2) Significant Wave Period from Bretschneider Empirical Relationships

fx

Open Calculator 

$$T = \frac{U \cdot 7.54 \cdot \tanh\left(0.077 \cdot \left(\frac{[g] \cdot F_1}{U^2}\right)^{0.25}\right)}{[g]}$$

ex

$$0.622726\text{s} = \frac{25\text{m/s} \cdot 7.54 \cdot \tanh\left(0.077 \cdot \left(\frac{[g] \cdot 2\text{m}}{(25\text{m/s})^2}\right)^{0.25}\right)}{[g]}$$



3) Water Depth given Wavelength, Wave Period and Wave Number

[Open Calculator !\[\]\(4729e517bc6a7cd81c8025b9646574fb_img.jpg\)](#)

$$\text{fx } d = \frac{a \tanh\left(\frac{L \cdot \omega}{[g] \cdot T}\right)}{k}$$

$$\text{ex } 2.157505\text{m} = \frac{a \tanh\left(\frac{0.4\text{m} \cdot 6.2\text{rad/s}}{[g] \cdot 0.622\text{s}}\right)}{0.2}$$

4) Wave Number given Wavelength, Wave Period and Water Depth

[Open Calculator !\[\]\(e474458956c9a37fbf9586ddb60a7fa1_img.jpg\)](#)

$$\text{fx } k = \frac{a \tanh\left(\frac{L \cdot \omega}{[g] \cdot T}\right)}{d}$$

$$\text{ex } 0.200698 = \frac{a \tanh\left(\frac{0.4\text{m} \cdot 6.2\text{rad/s}}{[g] \cdot 0.622\text{s}}\right)}{2.15\text{m}}$$

Wave Statistics Relationships

5) Average of Waves based upon Rayleigh Distribution

[Open Calculator !\[\]\(0d5ec72f61334709c3fc9450209b754f_img.jpg\)](#)

$$\text{fx } H' = 0.886 \cdot H_{\text{rms}}$$

$$\text{ex } 39.87 = 0.886 \cdot 45\text{m}$$



6) Average of Waves given Significant Wave Height

$$fx \quad H' = \frac{H_s}{1.596}$$

[Open Calculator !\[\]\(e78f798d4ea5c530c9db49e7d26e6b95_img.jpg\)](#)

$$ex \quad 40.72682 = \frac{65m}{1.596}$$

7) Probability of Exceedance of Wave Height

$$fx \quad P_H = (e^{-2}) \cdot \left(\frac{H}{H_s} \right)^2$$

[Open Calculator !\[\]\(05be7c7a8995decd503647c99211f7c2_img.jpg\)](#)

$$ex \quad 0.205005 = (e^{-2}) \cdot \left(\frac{80m}{65m} \right)^2$$

8) Root Mean Square Wave Height

$$fx \quad H_{rms} = \frac{\sigma_H}{0.463}$$

[Open Calculator !\[\]\(fe3aebe81acea8d45108cd2768939da7_img.jpg\)](#)

$$ex \quad 49.67603m = \frac{23}{0.463}$$

9) Root Mean Square Wave Height given Average of Waves based upon Rayleigh Distribution

$$fx \quad H_{rms} = \frac{H'}{0.886}$$

[Open Calculator !\[\]\(899d8b7697d64725bf017d3296cfcf1b_img.jpg\)](#)

$$ex \quad 45.14673m = \frac{40}{0.886}$$



10) Root Mean Square Wave Height given Significant Wave Height based on Rayleigh Distribution

$$fx \quad H_{\text{rms}} = \frac{H_s}{1.414}$$

[Open Calculator !\[\]\(e2376d476d06eb31946dc01a69a4403a_img.jpg\)](#)

$$ex \quad 45.96888\text{m} = \frac{65\text{m}}{1.414}$$

11) Significant Wave Height given Average of Waves

$$fx \quad H_s = 1.596 \cdot H'$$

[Open Calculator !\[\]\(0b5e7e25e8775f7e7e80906ada4f0021_img.jpg\)](#)

$$ex \quad 63.84\text{m} = 1.596 \cdot 40$$

12) Significant Wave Height of Record based upon Rayleigh Distribution

$$fx \quad H_s = 1.414 \cdot H_{\text{rms}}$$

[Open Calculator !\[\]\(bd3b31712ad9bab5a241210fa6925cdd_img.jpg\)](#)

$$ex \quad 63.63\text{m} = 1.414 \cdot 45\text{m}$$

13) Significant Wave Height of Record for Probability of Exceedance

$$fx \quad H_s = \frac{H}{\left(\frac{P_H}{e^{-2}}\right)^{0.5}}$$

[Open Calculator !\[\]\(7bc43b319a082987e20f7bf78f4bab80_img.jpg\)](#)

$$ex \quad 65.00078\text{m} = \frac{80\text{m}}{\left(\frac{0.205}{e^{-2}}\right)^{0.5}}$$



14) Standard Deviation of Wave Height

$$\text{fx } \sigma_H = 0.463 \cdot H_{\text{rms}}$$

[Open Calculator !\[\]\(d3fb9f94af8b26d1c844efa9a98805b0_img.jpg\)](#)

$$\text{ex } 20.835 = 0.463 \cdot 45\text{m}$$

15) Wave Height of Record for Probability of Exceedance

$$\text{fx } H = H_s \cdot \left(\frac{P_H}{e^{-2}} \right)^{0.5}$$

[Open Calculator !\[\]\(e1d6102fe77919492c04879c8450f1f5_img.jpg\)](#)

$$\text{ex } 79.99904\text{m} = 65\text{m} \cdot \left(\frac{0.205}{e^{-2}} \right)^{0.5}$$







Variables Used

- **d** Water Depth (Meter)
- **F₁** Fetch Length (Meter)
- **H** Wave Height (Meter)
- **H'** Average of All Waves
- **H_{dw}** Wave Height for Deep Water (Meter)
- **H_{rms}** Root Mean Square Wave Height (Meter)
- **H_s** Significant Wave Height (Meter)
- **k** Wave Number for Water Wave
- **L** Wavelength (Meter)
- **P_H** Probability of Exceedance of Wave Height
- **T** Wave Period (Second)
- **U** Wind Speed (Meter per Second)
- **σ_H** Standard Deviation of Wave Height
- **ω** Wave Angular Frequency (Radian per Second)














Constants, Functions, Measurements used

- **Constant:** **[g]**, 9.80665
Gravitational acceleration on Earth
- **Constant:** **e**, 2.71828182845904523536028747135266249
Napier's constant
- **Function:** **atanh**, atanh(Number)
The inverse hyperbolic tangent function returns the value whose hyperbolic tangent is a number.
- **Function:** **tanh**, tanh(Number)
The hyperbolic tangent function (tanh) is a function that is defined as the ratio of the hyperbolic sine function (sinh) to the hyperbolic cosine function (cosh).
- **Measurement:** **Length** in Meter (m)
Length Unit Conversion 
- **Measurement:** **Time** in Second (s)
Time Unit Conversion 
- **Measurement:** **Speed** in Meter per Second (m/s)
Speed Unit Conversion 
- **Measurement:** **Angular Frequency** in Radian per Second (rad/s)
Angular Frequency Unit Conversion 



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