

Ministry of Higher Education and  
Scientific Research  
Al-Mustansiriyah University  
College of Engineering  
Environmental Engineering  
Department



وزارة التعليم العالي والبحث العلمي  
الجامعة المستنصرية  
كلية الهندسة  
قسم هندسة البيئة

مكتب القيمة  
للطباعة والاستنساخ

# Experiment 3

## Centre of Pressure

Asst.Lecturer: Laith Hamdan

اعداد م. م. : ليث حمدان

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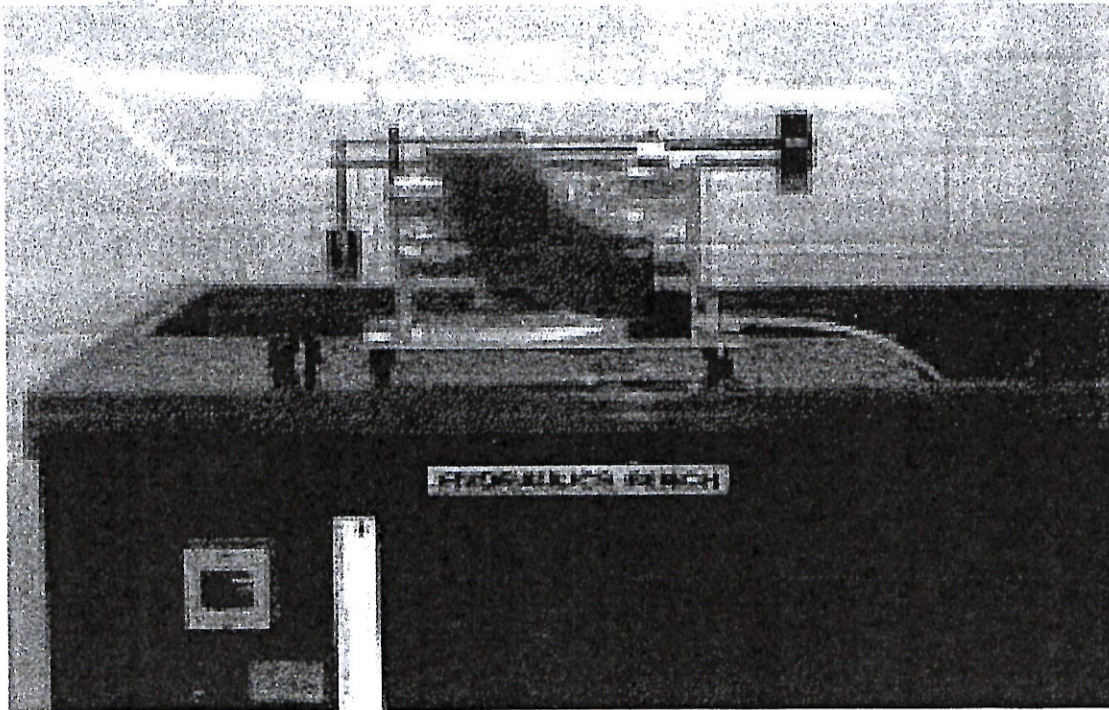
## Objectives:

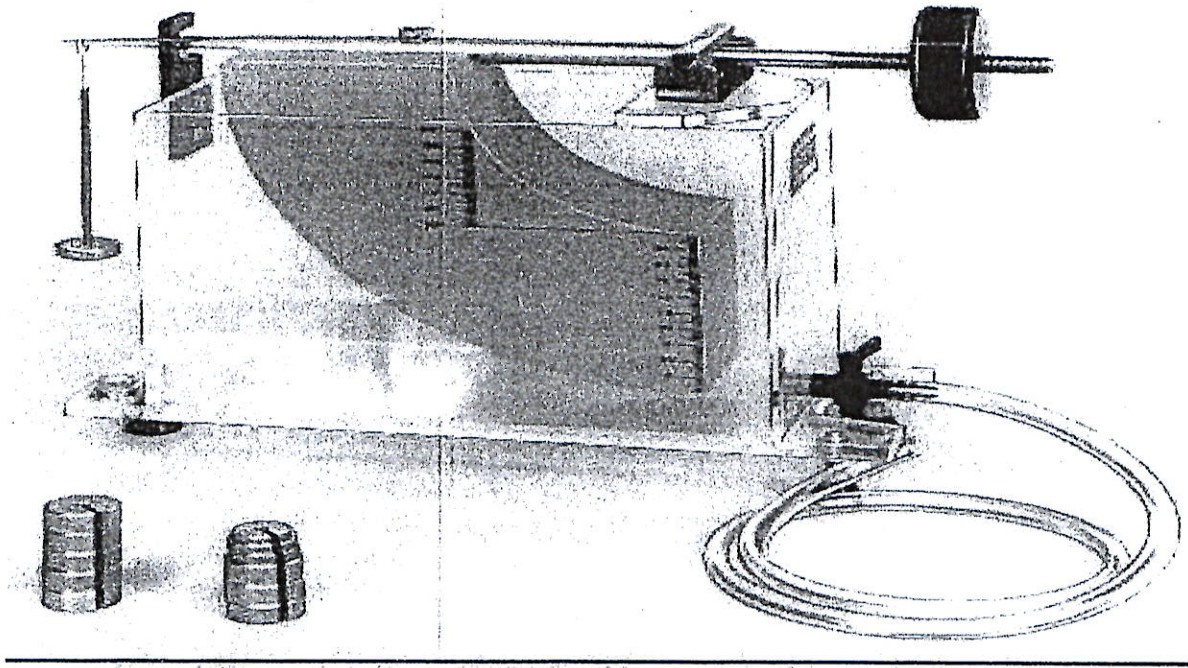
- 1- To determine experimentally the resultant hydrostatic force (total force) applied on a submerged surface.
- 2- To determine the experimental and the theoretical center of pressure.

## Equipments and apparatus:

- 1- Center of pressure device, consists of:
  - a- Quadrant.
  - b- Balance arm.
  - c- Balance pan.
  - d- Adjustable counter balance.
  - e- Drain valve.
  - f- Leveling feet.
  - g- Weights.
- 2- Hydraulic bench (Measuring tank).

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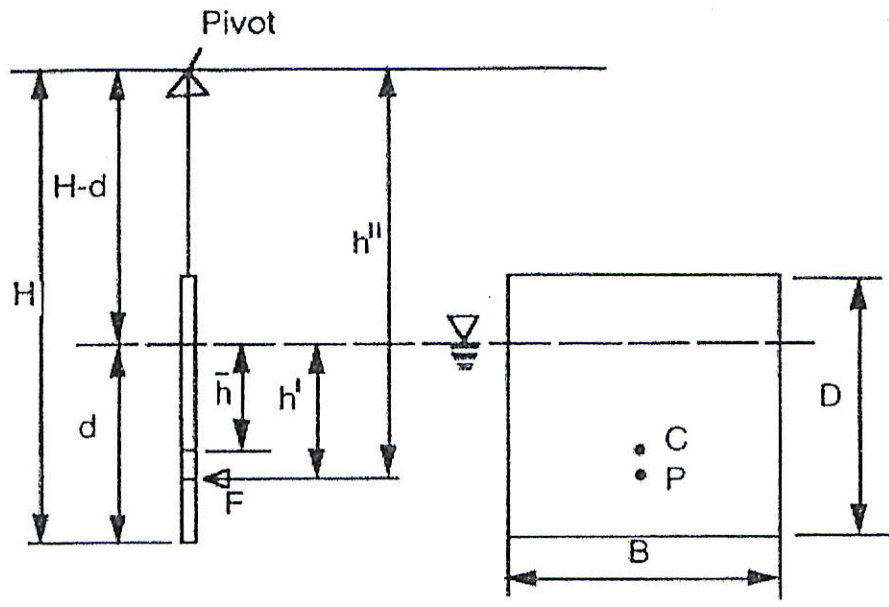


### Procedure:

- 1- Place the empty tank on the Bench and position the balance arm on the pivot.
- 2- Place the balance pan in the groove at the end of the balance arm.
- 3- Level the tank.
- 4- Position the counterbalance weight until the balance arm is horizontal.
- 5- Add a known amount of weight to the balance pan. Pour water into the tank until the balance arm is horizontal again. (Note: it may be easier to overfill then use the drain to level it.)
- 6- When the arm is level, this means that the force on the vertical face of the quadrant balances out the force due to the added weight.
- 7- Read the depth of immersion from the scale on the face of the quadrant.
- 8- Repeat the experiment by adding more weights (increments of 50 should work fine) until you have at least two measurements in which the vertical face is completely submerged.
- 9- Calculate the magnitudes and locations of the forces for each weight combination.
- 10- Compare these locations with the theoretical positions.

**Theoretical background and Calculation:**

**1. Partly submerged vertical plane surface**



$$F = \rho g A \bar{h} \quad (\text{Newtons})$$

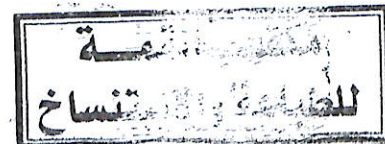
Where  $A = B \times d$  and  $d =$  depth of immersion. See figure above.

And  $\bar{h} =$  depth of the centroid of the submerged area  $C, = d/2$

Thus 
$$F = \rho g \frac{Bd^2}{2} \quad \dots \text{Eq.1}$$

Moment of thrust about pivot

Moment  $M = F \times h'' \quad (\text{Nm})$



Where  $h'' =$  depth of line of action of thrust below pivot. I.e. center of pressure P.

### Equilibrium condition

A balancing moment is produced by the weight (W) applied to the hanger at the end of the balance arm = W x L (Nm).

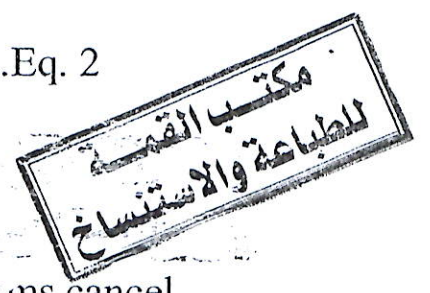
For static equilibrium the two moments are equal.

i.e.  $F \times h'' = W \times L = m \times g \times L$  (m = applied mass)

Thus  $h'' = \frac{mgL}{F} = \frac{2mL}{\rho B d^2}$  (meters) .....Eq. 2

Remember,

$F = \rho g \frac{Bd^2}{2}$  so  $h'' = \frac{mgL \times 2}{\rho g B d^2}$ , the gravity terms cancel,



leaving you with .....Eq. 2

The theoretical result for depth of center of pressure, P, below the free-surface of the fluid is:

$$h' = \frac{I_x}{A \bar{h}} \quad \dots \text{Eq. 3}$$

where  $I_x = 2^{\text{nd}}$  moment of area of immersed section about an axis in the free water surface.

So  $I_x = I_c + A \bar{h}^2$  (using the parallel axis theorem)

Thus  $I_x = \frac{Bd^3}{12} + Bd \left(\frac{d}{2}\right)^2$  which =  $\frac{Bd^3}{3}$  (m<sup>4</sup>) ..... Eq. 4

The depth of 'P' below the pivot point will be:

$$h'' = h' + H - d \quad (\text{m})$$

and if you substitute Eq. 4 into Eq.3 you will get :  $h'' = H - d/3$

as the theoretical result.

In other words, the distance from the pivot to the center of pressure is the depth to the bottom of the vertical plane, minus one third the depth of the submerged part of the vertical plane. So the center of pressure on a partially submerged plane will always be one third of  $d$  up from the base of the plane surface.

However, when the plane is fully submerged, you now have to include the additional depth from the free water surface to the top of the vertical plane.

## 2. Fully submerged vertical plane surface

Hydrostatic thrust,  $F = \rho g A \bar{h}$  (Newtons)

Where  $A = B \times D$  and  $D =$  depth of vertical surface. See figure above.

And  $\bar{h} =$  depth of the centroid of the submerged area  $C, = \frac{D}{2}$

Thus,  $F = \rho g B D \left( d - \frac{D}{2} \right)$  (Newtons)

Moment of thrust about pivot

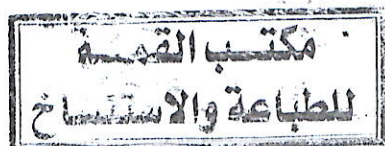
Moment  $M = F \times h''$  (Nm) As in previous part.

### Equilibrium condition

As before, a balancing moment is produced by the weight ( $W$ ) applied to the hanger at the end of the balance arm  $= W \times L$  (Nm).

For static equilibrium the two moments are equal.

i.e.  $F \times h'' = W \times L = m \times g \times L$  ( $m =$  applied mass)



But this time  $h'' = \frac{mgL}{F} = \frac{mL}{\rho BD \left( d - \frac{D}{2} \right)}$  (meters)

The theoretical result for depth of center of pressure, P, below the free-surface of the fluid is:

$$h' = \frac{I_x}{Ah}$$

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where  $I_x = 2^{nd}$  moment of area of immersed section about an axis in the free water surface.

Thus:  $I_x = I_c + A\bar{h}^2$  (using the parallel axis theorem)

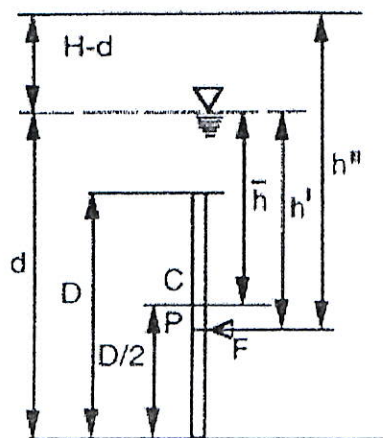
Thus  $I_x = BD \left[ \frac{D^2}{12} + \left( d - \frac{D}{2} \right)^2 \right]$  (m<sup>4</sup>)

So, the depth of 'P' below the pivot point will be:

$$h'' = h' + H - d \quad (m)$$

but it does not simplify as before.

Fully Submerged



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