

Experimental Study of Flow Characteristics Over Single Step Broad Crested Weir

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ABSTRACT

Weirs are hydraulic structures built across channels to raise the depth of water across irrigation channels and also to vary the channels flow characteristics making it easier to measure discharge rate of flow. This study analyzed the parameters that have effect on the steps and its shape to influence the flow characteristics such as coefficient of discharge, height, velocity etc. An empirical relations for discharge coefficient (-*) and flow rate due to these changes were derived. The results showed that the weir model with* $\frac{R_2}{R_1}$ *= 0.167 produce a higher* c_d compared with other weir models of different configuration of *constant round nose radius. At the end of the analysis, two model equations were obtained, the first model was used to estimate the flow rate over the weir models, the second was to estimate the* c_d *in terms of ratios of weir height* $\left(\frac{H}{P_1}\right)$ and round nose radius $\left(\frac{R_2}{R_1}\right)$. The model *results obtained can be used to design a prototype weirs of desired coefficient of discharge.*

INTRODUCTION

Weirs can be defined as an overflow strucures used in irrigation canal, river etc for measuring flow, diversion of flow and also in conrol of discharge sometimes. They are designed for free flow conditions and usually placed at right angle to the flow direction. A normal linear weir is used commonly in irrigation canal and also for diversion purpose which raises the water level upstream (Egnew, 2011). More over, weirs can also be used in make rivers more navigable and prevention of flooding (Sunderland, 2014).

According to Sharp (2014), there are mainly two types of weirs based on their function and appearance. Sharp crested weirs and broad crested. Sharp crested weirs are mainly applied in measuring discharge in small water bodies and canal and are thin plate while broad crested weirs usually made from wood or reinforced concrete and used for measuring high flow discharges. The depth of water flowing in the channel through the

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notch correlate to the discharge in the channel (Cruise, 2007).

Furthermore, the discharge may also be influenced by the crest configuration. A quarter round broad crested weirs may give higher discharge for a given head than a sharp crested weir; a half round broad crested weir may give better discharge than the quarter round broad crested weir or sharp crested weir (Tingey, 2011). Salmasi et al (2012) study Discharge Relations for Rectangular Broad-Crested Weirs. Series of experiments were conducted in the laboratory to examine the influence of widths of lower weir crest and height of a step of broad crested weir with compound cross section on the values of coefficient of discharge (C_d) . They concluded that the values C_d obtained from the compound broad crested weir experiment are lower than those of broad crested weir having rectangular cross section. This is due to the contraction effects in compound weirs.

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Mujahid et al (2012) study the hydraulic performance of flow under the normal and inclined compound crested weir experimentally, they varied the weir crest radius R= 2.5cm, 3.5cm and 4.5cm, as well as the angle weir angles α =30⁰, 45⁰, 60⁰ and 90⁰ but maintaining a constant height of P=15cm for all the models. They found that the increase in ratio of $\left(\frac{h}{p}\right)$ leads to increase in coefficient of discharge.

For compound sharp-crested weirs (Rectangular-Triangular weir), the discharge coefficient decreases as both notch angles and cascading widths of the rectangular section are increased (Mujahid & Argungu, 2014). Jahad et al (2016) study Energy dissipation and geometry effects over stepped spillways. They fabricated four models in order to evaluate the impact of addition of end sills with a quarter circle shapes at the step edges. They concluded that the radius of the endsills and number of steps are more effective parameters in energy dissipation and also step number has greater effect that the step height for napped flow.

For broad-crested oblique weir (Semi-circular), the weir performs best when the angle of inclination (oblique angle) is 15° with the crest radius being 5cm (Abdullahi, 2014).

Chinnarasri et al (2008) performed an experimental study of hydraulic characteristics over gabion stepped weirs. They that gabion stepped weirs were better in energy dissipation by about 7-14% than the corresponding horizontal stepped weir. However, they did not consider the discharge coefficient Al-Hashim et al (2018) study "Determination of Discharge Coefficient of Rectangular Broad-Crested Weir by CFD" In their study, The performance of broad crested weir was assess by varying an upstream face slope from 90⁰ to 23**⁰** degree in order to reduce the effect of flow separation. They concluded that the coefficient of discharge tends to increase with decrease in upstream weir slope. Thus weirs with upstream face slopes 90⁰ have the smallest and 23⁰ has largest discharge coefficient. Altalib (2021) study Coefficient of Discharge for flow over Al-Shalalat stepped weir on Al-Khusr River. He uses the calculated discharge for daily rainstorm for the period of (2000-2018) data, then predicted a coefficient of discharge equation and predicted

coefficient of discharge using statistical tools and compare the equation obtained with the previous studies available. The study shows there is good agreement between their equations.

Hussein et al (2009) study flow characteristics and energy dissipation over stepped round nosed broad-crested weirs. The authors vary the weir models by reducing the downstream height of the weir to provide a different performance. The height of the downstream step was vary several times, while length of the downstream step was fixed. The results obtained showed the energy dissipation rate increased by 46% with reduction in downstream height of the weir. Moreover, the discharge coefficient were also improved as the values obtained are higher compared with that of traditional weirs.

Hussein et al (2011) also investigated the effects of changing the step geometry on the flow characteristics and energy dissipation downstream of the stepped weir by changing the downstream step length and fixing downstream step height. The experimental results showed that when the ratio of the length of the downstream step (L_2) to the length of the weir (L_1) equals 0.5 gives higher energy dissipation and over single step weirs there are two parts of flow, in the first part the flow is gradually-varied flow while in the second part the flow is rapidly-varied flow.

In the light of Hussein et al (2011), this study investigates the effects of changing the geometry of step on coefficient of discharge and flow characteristics of a single stepped weir by introducing two additional D/S round-noses before the step and after the step.

THEORETICAL ANALYSIS

Seven models were fabricated from thermo-stone and painted to avoid swelling and decrease in surface roughness. But one of the models was a block (traditional) round-nosed broad-crested weir, it has a length 48cm, 50cm wide and 12cm height with 6cm radius of the round-nose. The remaining four models involved have dimensions of the weir with D/S stepped height P_2 = 6cm and D/S lengths L_2 = 12, 18, 24 and 30cm. While the last two model's length of the weirs was increased to 54 and 60cm with D/S lengths 30 and 36cm respectively

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Figure 2.01: Free flow over Broad-crested weir: Traditional round-nosed weir (LEFT); stepped weir (RIGHT) (Source: Hussein et al, 2011).

Weir Discharge Coefficient,

Based on the parameters that have an effects on the weir coefficient of discharge, Hussein et al, (2011) expressed the C_d in nondimensional form as:

$$
C_d = \frac{q}{\frac{2}{3}H\sqrt{\frac{2}{3}gH}} = f_1\left(\frac{H}{P_1}, \frac{L}{P_1}, \frac{R}{P_1}, \frac{P_2}{P_1}, \frac{L_2}{P_1}\right) (2.10)
$$

Since, P_1 ; P_2 ; L_1 and R were fixed in their study, the Eqn. 2.16 became

$$
C_d = f_2 \left(\frac{H}{P_1}, \frac{L_2}{L_1} \right) \qquad (2.11)
$$

Empirical Relation

Based on Eqn.2.17, Hussein et al, (2011) used multiple non-linear regression analysis to correlate \mathcal{C}_d with both $\big(\frac{H}{P_A}$ $\frac{H}{P_1}$ and $\left(\frac{L_2}{L_1}\right)$ $\frac{L_2}{L_1}$)in an empirical power relation with a correlation coefficient of 0.89.

$$
C_d = 1.02 \left(\frac{H}{P_1}\right)^{0.05} (2.12)
$$

Figure 2.07 shows the variation of C_d with $\frac{H}{P_1}$, where C_d was found to increase with the increase of $\frac{L_2}{L_1}$, as observed in the figure the highest values of C_d is when $\frac{L_2}{L_1}$ = 0.625.

Figure 2.07. Relation between C_d and $\frac{H}{P_1}$ for weirs (Source: Hussein et al, 2011).

The relation between c_d values predicted by Eqn. 2.18 and experimental values of c_d is shown in Figure 2.08 showing a good agreement.

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Figure 2.08: Variation of predicted values of C_d with the observed ones for all models (Source: Hussein et al, 2011).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Experimental Models

Seven weir models were made from wood, they were painted to avoid swelling and reduction in surface roughness. One of the weir models was a (Block) traditional round nose broad crested weir, its length (L_{1}) was 30cm, 30cm wide (b) and 20cm high (P_{1}) with 6cm radius (R) of the round-nose. The other six models have the above dimensions of the weir with downstream, D/S stepped height (P_2) = 10cm.

Figure 3: Schematic diagram of block and step broad-crested weir models (with round-noses)

According to Hussein et al, (2009), $\frac{P_2}{P_1}$ = 0.5, downstream, D/S stepped length (L_2) = 15cm; according to Hussein et al, (2011), $\frac{L_2}{L_1}$ = 0.5 and the introduction of two additional round-noses of radius (R_1) = 6cm and radius (R_2) = 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1cm before and after the step respectively. The Table below shows the summary of the geometries of the weir models tested.

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Table 3.0: Dimensions of weir models tested.

Experimental set up

The experiment was conducted in the Department of Water Resources and Environmental Engineering, Hydraulic laboratory ABU Zaria. The rectangular flume was leveled horizontally and then the weir model set at right angle to the direction of flow was installed at 3m from the inlet channel as suggested by Munta, (2010) and glued within the walls of the flume in order to prevent leakage of water at the walls of the flume. Water from the flume storage tank was then pumped to the flume main channel by a centrifugal pump through a pipe of 150mm which was regulated by a valve. As water overflows the weir model's crest, it was allowed to flow till the

flow became steady before any measurement was taken. At steady state, the upstream, the upstream (U/S) water head above the weir crest (H) and downstream, D/S water head (h) were measured using the point gauge; also the mass flow rate passing over the model was determined using the weighing scale and the stop watch; Seven different discharges were passed over each model and the heights of water over specific grid points were measured in order to determine the upstream surface profile. The above procedure was then repeated for the rest of the weir models (Seven weir models were tested in total) as shown in the plates below

Plate I: Block Model **Plate II: Model with** $R_2 = 1$ **cm**

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Plate III: Model with R_2 = 2cm **Plate IV: Model with** R_2 **= 3cm**

Plate V: Model with $R_2 = 4$ cm Plate VI: Model with $R_2 = 5$ cm

Plate VII: Model with R_2 **= 6cm**

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DETERMINATION OF WEIR DISCHARGE

Since the physical models are considered as a rectangular broad crested weir, the proposed theoretical equation for the step broad-crested weirs was initially assumed to be the basic equation developed for the linear weirs according to Chow (1959), expressed as Equation (3.01)

$$
Q = C_d \frac{2}{3} H b \sqrt{\frac{2}{3} g H}
$$
 (3.01)

The actual/experimental discharge of the weir model was determined by gravimetric method with the aid of a weighing scale and stop watch. In this method, the mass of the water that flows over the weir models was determined directly from the weighing scale on which a container that collects water from the flume was mounted; which was then converted to volumetric unit as follows as shown in Equations 3.02

$$
Q_{act} = \frac{m}{\rho.t_{avg}}
$$
 (3.02)
Where, volume = $\frac{m}{\rho}$

To determine the theoretical discharge Equation 3.03 was used

$$
Q_{theo} = \frac{2}{3} \text{Hb} \sqrt{\frac{2}{3} gH} \tag{3.03}
$$

The experimental discharge coefficient, C_d , has been taken as the ratio of the actual discharge, Q_{act} , to the theoretical discharge Q_{theo} given by:

$$
C_d = \frac{Q_{act}}{Q_{theo}}\tag{3.04}
$$

Basically, the general form of the discharge equation for broad-crested weir is given as:

$$
Q = C_d \frac{2}{3} Hb \sqrt{\frac{2}{3} gH}
$$
 (3.05)

Where Q is the actual discharge of the weir model, that is Q_{act} .

Q = K $H^{\frac{3}{2}}$ where, $K = \frac{2}{3}C_d$ b $\sqrt{\frac{2}{3}}$ $\frac{2}{3}g$ and n = $\frac{3}{2}$, then the above Eqn. 3.05 becomes

$Q = KH^n$

By simplifying the above equation taking log of both sides, then it becomes

log Q = log K + nlog H

Plotting a graph of log Q against log H, n is the slope and log K is the intercept.

DETERMINATION OF ACTUAL WEIR DISCHARGE COEFFICIENT USING DIMENSIONAL ANALYSIS

The parameters that influence the weir coefficient of discharge can be selected and expressed as flows:

$$
f_1
$$
 (q, H, P_1 , P_2 , L_1 , L_2 , R, R_1 , R_2 , g) = 0 (3.09)

The parameters in Eqn. 3.08. Expressed in non-dimensional form as

$$
C_d = \frac{q}{\frac{2}{3}H\sqrt{\frac{2}{3}gH}} = f_2\left(\frac{H}{P_1}, \frac{P_2}{P_1}, \frac{L_1}{L_2}, \frac{L_1}{P_1}, \frac{R_2}{R_1}, \frac{R}{R_1}\right) (3.10)
$$

Since, P_1 , P_2 , L_1 , L_2 , R and R_1 are fixed in this study, then Eqn.3.09 can be expressed as:

$$
C_d = f_3 \left(\frac{H}{P_1}, \frac{R_2}{R_1} \right) \tag{3.11}
$$

COMPUTATION OF WATER SURFACE PROFILE

Water surface profile is defined as the measurement of flow depth as the depth of flow changes longitudinally. Over the weirs models, there are two flow paths. In the upstream path the flow is gradually-varied flow while in the downstream path the flow is rapidly-varied flow (Hussein et al, 2011).

The classic differential equation for gradually-varied flow in open channels as given by Chow, (1959) and Venutelli, (2004) is given below:

$$
\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{S_0 - S_f}{1 - \alpha Q^2 T / g A^3}
$$
(3.15)

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Forty-nine experiments were conducted to determine the flow parameters; namely water

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surface profile, U/S water head above the weir crest "H", D/S water head "h", actual discharge Q_{act} , theoretical discharge Q_{theo} , discharge coefficient C_d

WATER SURFACE PROFILE

The graph in Figure 4.01 illustrates the water surface profile upstream of the weir using the measured water depth for seven various

discharges Q_1 to Q_7 (5.42 to 11.63litres per second).The abscissa of the graph represents the distance from the weir while the ordinate represents the water height from the bottom of the channel. As can be seen from the graph, the water surface is almost uniform after 50cm from the weir. So as stated in Section 3.1.3, in order to be on the safe side, the point gauge was located 60cm upstream from the weir.

Figure 4.01: Water Surface Profile for various Discharges

FLOW REGIMES

The three flow regimes namely Nappe flow, Transition flow and Skimming flow were all observed during the experimental work. At smaller discharges where the step height is higher than depth of flow a free falling napped was observed. Transition flow occur at intermediate discharges where the depth of flow is close to step height, no free falling of flow and the water surface is rising and undulating. While for Skimming flow at higher discharges, the depth of flow is higher than the step height so the step has submerged (immerse completely) below strong current.

NUMERICAL MODELLING OF FLOW RATE AND DISCHARGE COEFFICIENT

From the following expressions below:

$$
Q = kH^n
$$
\n
$$
C_d = \alpha \left(\frac{H}{P_1}\right)^{\beta} \left(\frac{R_2}{R_1}\right)^{\gamma}
$$
\n(14)

Equation 15 shows the non-linear variation of E% with $\frac{H}{P_1}$ and $\frac{R_2}{R_1}$ which can be used to determine the energy dissipation percent of any of the step broad-crested weir models. The parameters of the above equations that is k and n in eqn.14, α, β and γ in eqn.15 were determined using regression analysis. At the end of the regression analysis, the values of these parameters were found

$\mathsf{Coefficient}$ of Discharge \mathcal{C}_d "

Table 4.02 to 4.10 show variation of C_d with $\sqrt{P_1}$ for the Block model and the stepped models with $R_2 = 1$ cm, 2cm 3cm, 4cm, 5cm 6cm. Hence, the following were observed from the graphs of C_d against $^{H}/_{P_1}$ below:

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Figure 4.02: Variation of C_a *with* $\frac{H}{P_1}$ *for Block and* Step Broad-crested weir (R_2 = 1cm)

The above figure, shows that the coefficient of discharges of the step broad-crested weir (R_2 = 1cm) are higher than those of the Block model, which is technically due to the step

introduced which reduces the surface area for flow, hence, effect of friction between the fluid and weir surface. Subsequently, less pronounced as in the Block model. The introduction of the two round-noses increases the velocity due to streamline curvature, resulting to increase in the coefficient of discharge.

Figure 4.03: Variation of C_d with $\frac{H}{P_1}$ for Models (R₂ = 2cm and 3cm)

For the second model (Fig. 4.03), the coefficient of discharges of the model $(R_2 = 2cm)$ are higher than those of model (R_3 = 3cm). As it was also observed from their respective C_{davg} ; 0.964 and 0.918. This is because the model with R_3 = 3cm has higher surface area of flow at the D/S round-nose, making the friction between the

fluid and the surface more pronounced, hence, reducing the discharges of the model $(R_2 = 3cm)$. Figure 4.04, showed the coefficient of discharges of the model $(R_2 = 4cm)$ are higher than those of model (R_2 = 5cm and R_2 = 6cm). This is because the model with R_2 = 5cm and 6cm have higher surface area of flow at the D/S round-nose,

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making the friction between the fluid and the surface more pronounced, hence, reducing the discharges of the model $(R_2 = 5cm$ and 6cm).

Figure 4.04: Variation of C_d with $\frac{H}{P_1}$ for Models (R_2 = 4cm, 5cm, 6cm)

The combined variation of C_d with $\frac{H}{P_1}$ for all the weir models, indicated that the discharge coefficient " C_d " decreases with increase in $\frac{H}{P_1}$, which means that the C_d decreases as $\frac{R_2}{R_1}$ increases. It implies that the radius of the D/S round-nose (R_2) increases. As stated earlier, this is technically due to the fact that as $\frac{R_2}{R_1}$ increases, the surface area of flow at the D/S round-nose is also increasing, hence, the friction between the

fluid and surface at the D/S round-nose increases. Thus, decreasing the coefficient of discharge " C_d ". The coefficients of discharges achieved were higher than those achieved by Hussein *et al* (2011) in their investigation by 10.63%. More so, the C_d values obtained were higher than the C_d values of the traditional (Block) broad-crested weir by 14.78%. This is to say that introduction of round-noses at U/S and D/S of the step broadcrested weir will improve the coefficient of discharges " C_d ".

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The Developed Model Equations

The parameters of Equations (4.01) and (4.02), were obtained using a statistical package analysis. Correlation coefficient (R^2) is an indicator of how reliable the regression model is. Eqn. (4.01) has R^2 of 0.788, this means that 78.8% of the variation in the observed values of the dependent variable is explained by the model, and 21.2% of these differences remain unexplained in the error (residual) term. Similarly, Eqn. 4.02 has R^2 value of 0.895 and maximum error of 0.105 for predicting the discharge coefficient C_d .

 $Q = 0.462H^{1.284}$ (4.04)

Equation (4.04) is the discharge-head relationship which can be used to calculate the flow rate over the step broad-crested weir. *Considering equation. 4.02, multiple non-linear regression analysis was applied to correlate* C_d with both $\frac{H}{P_1}$ and $\frac{R_2}{R_1}$ in an empirical power *relation*.

$$
C_d = 0.0437 \left(\frac{H}{P_1}\right)^{-0.1967} \left(\frac{R_2}{R_1}\right)^{-1.6469} (4.05)
$$

The correlation between C_d values predicted by eqn 4.05 and experimental values of C_d is plotted in figure 4.17 showing a good agreement between the two data.

Figure 4.17: Variation of predicted values of C_d with the observed values for all weir models

CONCLUSION

Within the scope of the study and the analysis of the results obtained, the following conclusions are summarized as follows:

- 1. Stepping and introducing round-nose at U/S and D/S of the broad–crested weirs will increase the discharge coefficient; resulting to higher C_d values compared to those of the traditional weir by 14.78%.
- 2. The coefficient of discharge C_d decreases as the ratio $\frac{R_2}{R_1}$ increases. Thus the value of the weir model ratio

 R_{2} $\frac{\kappa_2}{R_1}$ = 0.167 gives a higher C_d when compare with the other weir models.

- 3. Flow regimes were observed, Nappe flow at small discharges, Transition flow at intermediate discharges and Skimming flow at large discharges
- 4. Considering the results obtained in this study, the efficiency of the weir can be improved by stepping and varying the weir sections.

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