

Power station based on the energy of the sea waves

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ABSTRACT

In this paper is shown working principal of wave pump, which simultaneously draws energy from larger number of sea waves. The pump could pump the water, but also the air. It is possible to form particular systems, wave electric power stations, made of larger number of wave pumps. Simplified calculation shows that there is significant energy in question. Simultaneous drawing energy from sea waves, gives the possibility to collect energy from larger to smaller space, for example space of turbine with generator of electric energy.

Wave electric power stations, if near the coast, could pump the water and form water accumulation on the land. Potential energy of these accumulations could be used in intervals when there are no waves on the sea.

If wave electric power stations are on the ocean, far away from the coast, they could produce hydrogen. Hydrogen will be transported to the land and used as power fuel.

Described wave electric power station satisfies principal of physics, but it does not mean that it is technically feasible due to moods of seas and oceans.

Keywords: Sea, wave, pump, power station, energy

1. General

In this paper is explained the possibility of constructing a large number of wave pumps, which draw energy from waves of Adriatic Sea. Energetic abilities of the waves of Adriatic Sea as well as of Atlantic Ocean, have been analyzed in general.

2. Description

Wave pump working principle can be described by Fig.1. Vertical movement of the changeable direction of water molecules, i.e. transversal wave is marked as W. Such waves are formed at seas and oceans due to blowing winds energy, i.e. energy of winds is transformed into sea waves energy. If the float is placed on a sea surface it will oscillate up and down, but it will stay at one point, i.e. it will always cut the horizontal axis at the same point, although the waves are moving. Fig.1 shows several floats p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n , firmly connected to levers n of the equal lengths and particular shaped. The levers n are firmly connected to levers m under angles $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n$. At the spot where levers m and n are firmly interconnected there is an axle O_1 connected to a rigid stick q . Axels O_1 are placed at identical distances l . At the other end of the levers n are placed axels O_2 linked to an elastic hose C. The length of the hose l between the axels O_2 is always the same, but it is elastic (like accordion bellow), so its length l can easily be increased or decreased along the longitudinal axis. Valves t_1, t_2, \dots, t_n are placed at the spots where axle O_2 is linked to the hose. Valves are opened by pressure in V_3 direction, and are closed by pressure in the opposite direction.

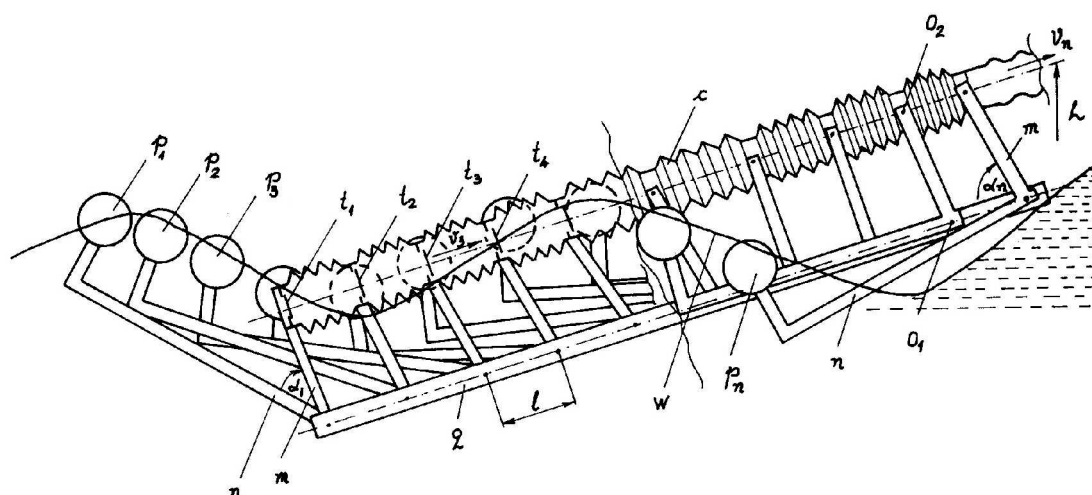


Fig 1. Experimental wave pump

The hose, on the Fig.1, is placed under angle to the sea surface, so one end of hose is under sea surface and the other is on the height h . If the float p_1 is at the foot of the wave (point between two maximal points of the waves), the hose will maximally stretch between valves t_1 and t_2

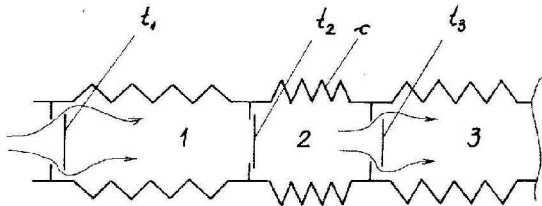


Fig 2. Entering water in volume 1 and crossing water from volume 2 in volume 3

When the float p_1 begins to climb up the wave slope, the hose between valves t_1 and t_2 will shrink and reduce its volume, so that the pressure increase and it will now close valve t_1 and open valve t_2 . It can easily be opened, as its float p_2 is on its way to the wave foot (wave minimum) so that the pressure decreases in the hose between valves t_2 and t_3 - Fig.3. Water will flow from volume 1 into volume 2, as the volume of hose between valves t_1 and t_2 is decreasing and volume of the hose between valves t_2 and t_3 is increasing. This will proceed until float p_1 reaches the top (wave maximum) and than the whole process repeats. Float p_1 descends along the wave slope, volume 1 increases again and the water is absorbed again, float p_2 climbs up the wave slope, volume 2 decreases and the water is pressed through valve t_3 into volume 3 etc. Thus, each passing of the waves over all floats will press the water, at the speed V_n , through the other end of the elastic hose, which is placed on the height h . At the hose end water will possess both potential and kinetic energy. One can choose. By changing the angles α the pump can be placed into horizontal position, so there will be no height potential energy but an increased pressure will throw out the water at higher speed V_n . Sea waves are variable values, but from Fig.1 it can be observed that, for sinusoidal wave, one half of all the floats is always in the ascending phase up the wave slope, i.e. at the same time pressing the water into elastic hose. The result of this simultaneous action is that the highest pressure is at the end of the

and will increase its volume. During this stretching the pressure between valves t_1 and t_2 will decrease valve t_2 will close and valve t_1 will open. As valve t_1 is always under sea surface, water will be absorbed in the hose as shown on Fig.2.

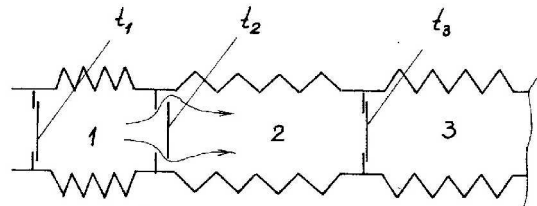


Fig 3. Crossing water from volume 1 in volume 2

hose. So it comes out that the energies of all floats are subtracted at the end of elastic hose, where can be placed turbine y with generator g for producing electric energy, as shown on Fig.4.

A number of pumps $t_{p1}, t_{p2}, t_{p3}, \dots$ can be connected to one turbine. It should be noted that if a wave pump is of large length, i.e. if there is a large number of floats, huge pressure will appear at the end of elastic hose, so that resistance of incorporated material will be a limiting factor.

A large sea surface can be covered by such wave pumps and thus obtaining larger amount of energy. In order to estimate that energy, wave characteristics must be known.

The calculation of wave energy is based on the characteristics of the waves.

Each sea and ocean has its own characteristics. Adriatic sea waves characteristics are shown in Table 1. Energy of the waves consists of kinetic and potential energy. Kinetic energy originates from circular movement of particles which extends to one half of the wave length into depth, Fig.5, and potential energy originates from position of particles related to calm sea surface. Developed expression for total energy is:

$$E = \rho \cdot g \frac{\lambda \cdot \delta^2}{8} \cdot \left[1 + \frac{4 \cdot \pi \cdot H/4}{s \cdot h \cdot 4 \cdot \pi \cdot H/4} \right] \quad (1)$$

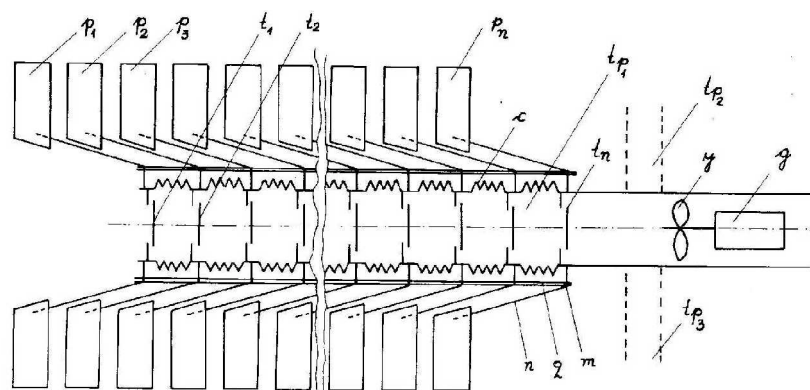


Fig. 4. Wave pump with turbine and generator

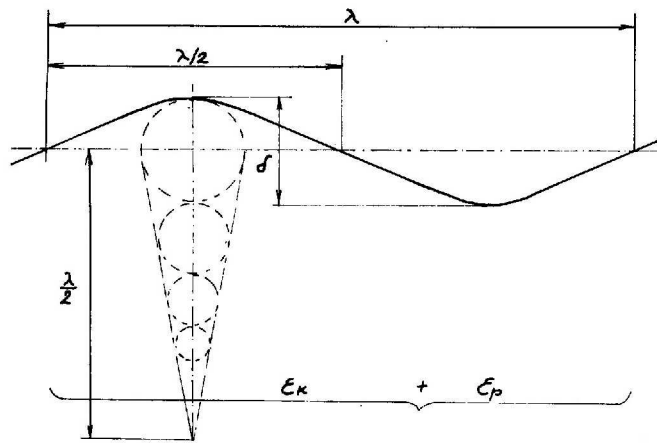


Fig. 5. Sinuous wave

The power will be obtained by dividing of energy by time. But in Table 1 energy is given in function of longitudinal meter of wave front (kW/m). It is considered that future electric power stations will be linearly dependent of the coast length, no matter which type will be applied later. Any electric power station, bound to the coast, can not receive more energy. Location of electric power station is very important, due to the fact that it receives only the waves directed to the coast. This points out very poor possibilities of consumption of waves energy.

However, the results are different if the wave pump is placed further from the Adriatic coast, as shown on Fig.6. Float dimensions are (40dmx20dmx4dm), those dimensions are adopted, but optimal float dimensions should be explored in future. Wave characteristics given on Fig.6 are: wave height 2.6m, wave length 32m and period 6.9sec. Suppose that wave pump contains 700 floats, 350 at each side, and if its length is 1000m, distance between two floats is 0.85m. The volume of one float is 40dm x 20dm x 4dm=3200dm³, so each float acts with power of: $F = 3200 \times 9.8 = 31360N$

Table 1

BEUFORT'S SCALE	Wind	Adriatic wave			Wave power
	W Speed m/s	δ Altitude m	λ Length m	τ Period s	kW/m
0.Silence	0 - 0.2	0	0	0	0
1.Zephyr	0.3 - 1.5	0.05	2.0	1.6	0.0027
2.Air	1.6 - 3.3	0.20	5.0	2.7	0.086
3.Breeze	3.4 - 5.4	0.50	9.5	3.7	0.657
4.Medium wind	5.5 - 7.9	0.80	14.0	4.6	2.767
5.Fresh wind	8.0 - 10.7	1.30	20.0	5.4	8.446
6.Medium strong wind	10.8 - 13.8	1.9	25.0	6.2	21.02
7.Strong wind	13.9 - 17.1	2.6	32.0	6.9	45.42
8.Very strong wind	17.2 - 20.7	3.5	39.0	7.6	88.56
9.Stormy wind	20.8 - 24.4	4.6	46.5	8.3	160.0
10.Strong storm	24.5 - 28.4	5.9	55.0	9.0	270.3
11.Very strong storm	28.5 - 32.6	7.3	66.0	9.7	453.3
12.Hurricane storm	32.7 - 36.9	8.8	79.0	10.4	673

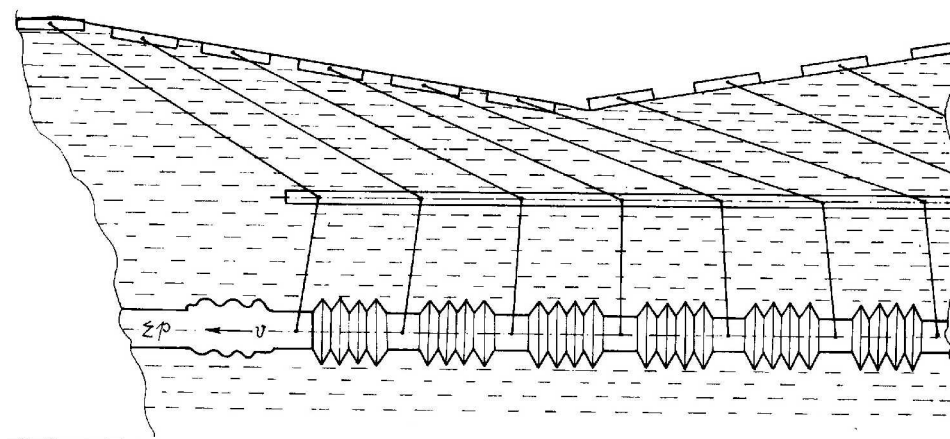


Fig. 6. Horizontal wave pump

Waves will rise simultaneously $700/2=350$ floats, so total power is: $F = 31360 \times 350 = 10.976.000\text{N}$

The way that the float has to pass is equal to the wave height lessened for the float height, i.e. $s=2.6-0.4=2.2\text{m}$, and it will do it for the half of period $t=6.9/2=3.45\text{sec}$, so float speed is $v=2.2/3.45=0.637\text{m/sec}$.

Total pump power is:

$$P = F \times v =$$

$$= 10.976.000 \times 0.637 = 6.991.712 \text{ Nm/sec} = 6.99 \text{ MW}$$

This example shows that, whenever there are waves, there is significant absorption of energy, and 2.5m high waves on the Adriatic Sea are not rare as shown on climate atlas. Fig.7 shows the rose of the waves near island Mljet in January. Average and maximum heights of wave, in meters, are given at the end of each direction and time frequency is shown by line length. Stillstand without waves is written in the middle of the circle, as percent. Number of measurements are marked by separate number in lower part, above the line.

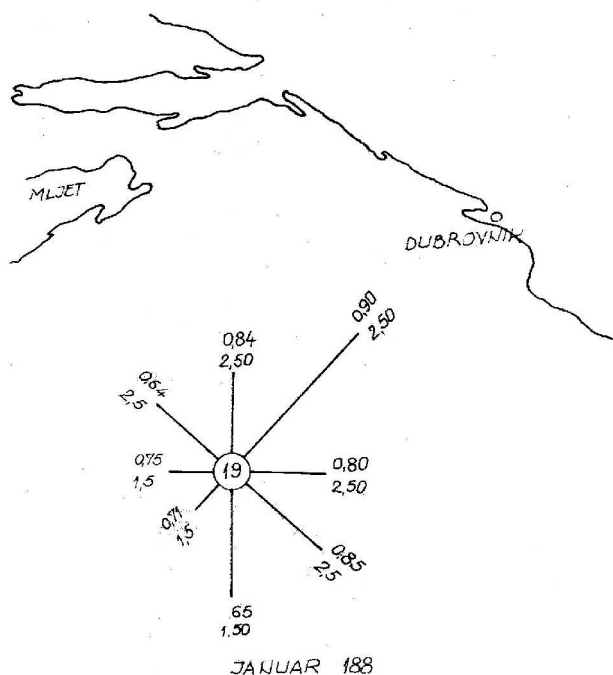


Fig. 7. Rose wave

Medium height of Adriatic sea waves is 0.8m, wavelength is 14m and period 4.6sec, so the energy obtained by pump described in the former example, can be calculated.

The distance that float has to pass is:

$$s = 0.8 - 0.4 = 0.4\text{m}.$$

Float speed is:

$$v = \frac{s}{\frac{\tau}{2}} = \frac{0.4}{2.3} = 0.174 \text{ m/s} \quad (2)$$

As the total force is known from the former example, pump power is:

$$P = F \times v = 10.976.000 \times 0.174 = 1.909.824 \text{ Nm/sec} = 1.9 \text{ MW}.$$

Calculated powers ratio is $6.99/1.9=3.67$ and ratio of wave powers, from the Table 1 is $45.42/2.767=16.4$. It comes out that pump should be constructed in such a way to absorb proportionally the most energy from the average wave, as they are the most frequent. With the increase of the waves their energy increases too, but not proportionally, which is favorable, as by hurricane storms, the waves do not burden the pump construction with their full power.

It has already been mentioned that the pump is placed further from the coast, let us say at the spot of wave rose given on Fig.7, so the waves are coming from all directions. As each of them rises and lowers the float, it comes out that waves of all directions and their energy are used. The energies of waves, after passing the pump floats, are decreased for the amount absorbed by floats. They do not break against it, as on the coast, but they still exist. The waves originate from the wind, and the wind still blows, it is sure that the waves chased by wind, after certain time, would regain the lost energy. Now, new pump can be installed and the process repeated again, etc. On larger seas and oceans the possibilities are greater. At same wind speed the waves are much higher. Average wave at Adriatic sea is formed under wind speed of $W=6.7\text{m/sec}$, and for the same wind speed the wave formed on Atlantic ocean will be with following characteristics:

$$\delta = 0,405 W^{1.025} = 2,84\text{m}$$

$$\lambda = 4,05 W^{1.3} = 48\text{m}$$

$$\tau = 1,52 W^{0.665} = 5,38\text{sec}$$

If for such a wave the same pump is used and same calculation applied, obtained power at one pump would be 9.87 MW, what is 5.19 times more than of Adriatic sea. A system of 2400 pumps of the Atlantic ocean will have power capacity of $2400 \times 9.87 = 23688\text{ MW}$, which by degree of only 20% exploitation would be equivalent to 4.7 nuclear power stations rated 1000 MW.

3. Conclusion

Described wave electric power station satisfies principals of physics, but it does not mean that it is technically feasible due to moods of seas and oceans. Isolated pumps may not be more suitable, may be it is better to construct systems as spider web, Fig.8, or frontal along the shore, Fig.9. Perhaps, install complete construction on sea surface and pump the air by waves power. On the oceans, far away from coast hydrogen could be produced, transported to shore and used as power fuel.

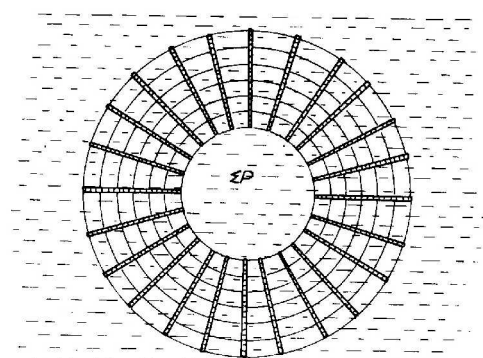


Fig. 8. System wave pump – spider web

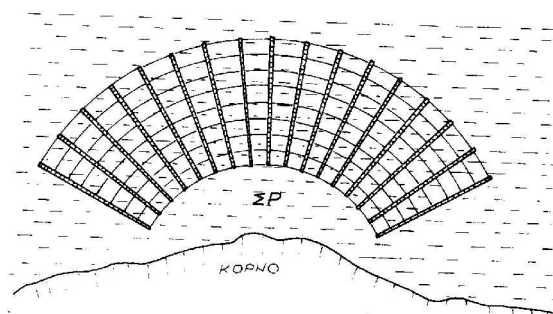


Fig. 9. Frontal system wave pumps

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