PRACTICAL METHODS FOR ASSESSING
SEAKEEPING PERFORMANCE

by

D. A. Walden

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SHIP PERFORMANCE DEPARTMENT

August 1983

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<td>B</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Beam</td>
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<td>CP</td>
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</tr>
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<td>CPA</td>
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<td>Prismatic coefficient aft of amidships</td>
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<td>Section coefficient</td>
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<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>Length</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R</td>
<td>R</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>R̂</td>
<td>R̂</td>
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ABSTRACT

Seakeeping performance measures are discussed. This is followed by the description of a method for efficiently calculating such performance measures. The relation of this method to the scheme used by NAVSEA to generate and describe hull forms at early design stages is discussed. An application of the hull form design, seakeeping assessment process is given. Finally, suggestions are made for future work.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

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INTRODUCTION

Increasing attention is being paid to the seakeeping of ships. In order to maximize seakeeping performance, it must receive attention at early design stages, when constraints are least limiting. To accomplish this, there must be a practical means of assessing seakeeping performance based on the information available to the designer early in the design process. In fact, the best approach is to couple the seakeeping assessment to the method used by the designer to generate hull forms. This is the subject addressed in the present report. The following sections describe the process.

SEAKEEPING PERFORMANCE MEASURES

The desirability of a ship with "good" seakeeping characteristics is indisputable. What is the subject of considerable discussion is the definition of good. There is much to be said for the performance measure devised by Bales in terms of its simplicity and generality. It does not require details of a ship's particular mission, operating area or speed-heading profile. Yet there is little doubt that because of the generality of the Bales index, a ship which ranks high will also rank high when more specific information is available and more detailed performance assessments can be carried out.

*A complete list of references is given on page 6.
The Bales seakeeping rank $R$ is based on the calculation of eight ship motion RMS values shown in Figure 1 at each of five speeds in five sea states. Figure 2 shows an example of the five pitch response amplitude operators (RAO's) for the five speeds, considered. Figure 3 shows the five heave RAO's and Figure 4 shows the five sea states used. Thus, the rank $R$ is based on the average of 200 RMS responses, as shown in Table 1, obtained from the 200 response spectra resulting from the product of 40 RAO's each multiplied by five wave spectra. All of the eight responses used can be derived from the pitch and heave RAO's since all are related to vertical plane motion calculated in long-crested head seas.

The seakeeping rank $R$ calculated as described above should not be confused with estimated rank $\hat{R}$ also described by Bales. The seakeeping rank, $R$, can be calculated for any ship of any displacement with no limitations on length, beam, draft or any of the hull form coefficients. The value of $R$ can range from less than -5 for small poor seakeeping ships to over 30 for large good seakeeping ships. In the following, concentration will be on the more general calculated $R$ values, and on developing an efficient means of calculating $R$ such that an estimation, i.e., $\hat{R}$, is not necessary on the grounds of time and cost.

**SEAKEEPING PERFORMANCE COMPUTATIONS**

Attention will now be given to the method of computing the 200 RMS responses required for the calculated seakeeping rank $R$ described above. In the work by Bales, a 20 station, close-fit representation was used. In order to speed up the calculation, an investigation was made into the use of a Lewis-form representation (3, 4, 5, 6, 7) as in the Lewis-form option of VF-17, rather than a close-fit. A Lewis-form representation requires only beam, draft and sectional area at each station, while a close-fit representation requires a full set of offsets at each station. For Hull 14 from reference 2, the computed $R$ using close-fit is 6.6. Using Lewis-form the computed $R$ value is 6.3. The estimate $\hat{R}$ is 6.1. Thus, it can be seen that the agreement between the Lewis-form computation and the close-fit computation is better than the agreement between the close-fit computation and the estimated values. This is shown in Figure 5. This good agreement is not unexpected given the close match between the actual body plan and the Lewis-form representation shown in Figure 6.
It should be noted that although SMP-82 has a Lewis-form option, it merely uses beam, draft, and sectional area to generate offsets for a Lewis-form and then does a close-fit calculation using these offsets. Thus, SMP-82 does not utilize the efficient analytic method for calculating the added mass and damping for Lewis-forms. It was thus not considered as practical as other alternatives for use in the rapid assessment of seakeeping performance at early design stages.

**GENERATION ON HULL FORMS**

The method currently used by NAVSEA to generate hull forms at the early design stage is a program called HULGEN (8, 9). The program allows the user to interactively manipulate the hull form. Of importance to the present work are the sectional area curve, the design waterline curve, and the profile produced by HULGEN. Examples of these curves are given in Figures 7, 8 and 9. When the user is satisfied with the hull form, HULGEN can be used to generate output files containing selected portions of the hull form description. For this work, the option is selected to produce a file containing table versions of the curves in Figures 7, 8 and 9. This file is then read and reformatted by a HULGEN post-processor/Seakeeping Program pre-processor.

Since the data required by HULGEN is extensive, a pre-processor called PREHULL was developed by NAVSEA. Based on regression analysis of previous designs, it prepares a HULGEN input file given only L, B, T, depth of station 10, C_p and C_x. With this input file, HULGEN creates a "reasonable" ship which the user can then modify. For the present work, a new pre-processor called SEAHULL was developed. It prepares a HULGEN input file given L, B, T, C_p, C_x, C_PA', C_WP and C_WPA'. It is thus possible to do studies of a series of hulls with systematic variations in C_WP for example, without having to use HULGEN to manually manipulate and iterate to get the desired coefficient. Other pre-processors could be written to produce values of other sets of hull form coefficients.

The Lewis-form seakeeping program, of course, does not require that the sectional areas, DWL and profile curves be produced by HULGEN. They can be created and entered manually, or values for an existing ship can be entered. Thus, the seakeeping performance of a proposed ship produced by HULGEN can easily be compared with the performance of an existing ship based on exactly the same computational procedure.
**APPLICATION**

In this section, more details are provided on the method developed giving a step-by-step example. Figure 10 shows a summary of the procedure including the data input and output by each program and gives typical file names for these data sets. In this example, we begin by running the SEAHULL program. This is an interactive program which solicits data on hull form coefficients and then prepares a HULGEN input file. As shown in Figure 11, the first set of input data is, LBP, beam, draft, C_P, C_X and C_PA. SEAHULL then draws the nondimensional sectional area curve shown in Figure 12. It next asks CWP and CWPA, as shown in Figure 13. It then draws the nondimensional DWL curve shown in Figure 14 and produces the output file shown in Table 2.

The next step is to run HULGEN using the file prepared above by SEAHULL. HULGEN is used to generate the SDH file containing the sectional area, DWL, and profile curves.

This output of HULGEN is used as the input to a post-processor called POSTHULL. POSTHULL reformats the HULGEN data and adds some information required by the seakeeping program for the R factor computation.

The final step is the running of the seakeeping program to compute the R factor. This is shown in Figure 15. The actual R factor value, i.e., 7.4624 is contained in the output file BRF, also shown in Figure 15.

**FUTURE WORK**

During the course of the present work, quite a number of topics for possible future work arose:

1. Incorporate into SMP Grim's method\(^10\) for calculating the added mass and damping of Lewis forms. As described in the Seakeeping Performance Computation section, SMP now uses the close-fit method for all sections. This would enable SMP to run much faster for Lewis-form ships.

2. Investigate the differences in seakeeping predictions using the MIT bulb form, which is a Lewis-type form representation versus a close fit representation. It may be possible to use Lewis-form type calculations of added mass and damping even for extreme bulbs.

3. Since the R factor computation can easily be carried out, a systematic study for other definitions of R is possible. For example R could be based on motions at 30 knots instead of 5 Froude numbers.
4. Develop an SMP-HULGEN interface. This would be particularly useful if item 1 above could be accomplished. Seakeeping results could be obtained interactively from the SMP-HULGEN combination.

5. Modify the existing LEWIS2D seakeeping program to read the HULGEN output file XX.SDH directly. This is quite straightforward to do and would streamline the procedure.

6. Extending item 5 above, modify LEWIS2D to read the HULGEN input file. If the user did not need to modify a ship created by SEAHULL or PREHULL, they need never run HULGEN.

7. Possibilities exist for further speeding up the calculations in LEWIS2D, see Ravenscroft. These results could also be carried over into item 1 above.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The work described here would not have been possible without the assistance of Ron Nix of NAVSEA. During his three month tour at DTNSRDC he wrote several of the programs described. His knowledge of NAVSEA design procedures was of great help.
REFERENCES


Figure 1 - Selected Responses
Figure 2 - Pitch RAO's
Figure 3 - Heave RAO's
Figure 4—Wave Spectra
HULL 14

Close Fit $R_{comp} = 6.6$

Lewis $R_{comp} = 6.3$

Bales $\hat{R} = 6.1$

Figure 5 - R-Computed vs. $\hat{R}$-Estimated
Figure 6 - Hull 14 Body Plans
Figure 7 - Computer Generated Section Area Curve

Figure 8 - Computer Generated DWL Curve

Figure 9 - Computer Generated Profile
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Input/Output</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>L, B, T, D₀, Cₚ, Cₓ, Cₚₐ, Cₚₚ, Cₚₐ, Cₚₚ</td>
<td>Manual Entry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEAHULL</td>
<td>HULGEN Input Data</td>
<td>HULL04HG.DAT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 minutes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HULGEN</td>
<td>SA, DWL &amp; Profile Curves</td>
<td>HULL04HG.SDH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 minutes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POSTHULL</td>
<td>Seakeeping Input Data</td>
<td>HULL04SK.DAT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 minutes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEWIS2D</td>
<td>Seakeeping Performance R Factor</td>
<td>HULL04SK.BRF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 minutes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Times shown are elapsed time on the NAVSEA VAX 11/780.*

Figure 10 - Seakeeping Assessment Flow Chart
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO CALL
YOUR OUTPUT FILE
SOON TO BE INPUT FOR HULLGEN
?HULL04.DAT

WHAT TITLE WOULD YOU LIKE TO ASSIGN TO YOUR SHIP?
HULL04.DAT

PLEASE INPUT THE FOLLOWING DATA SEPARATED BY COMMAS:
LBP, BEAM, DRAFT, CP, AND CX

417
46.62
15.58
0.608
0.808
WHAT IS THE CPA
CPA
7.613

Figure 11 - SEAHULL Computer Program Example Run

SECTIONAL AREA CURVE

Figure 12 - SEAHULL SA Curve
Figure 13 - SEAHULL Computer Program Input

DESIGN WATERLINE

Figure 14 - SEAHULL DWL Curve
RUN LEWIS2D
WHAT IS THE NAME THE FILE CONTAINING
THE INPUT DATA
?HULL0ASK.DAT
WHAT DO YOU WANT THE FILE CALLED THAT
WILL CONTAIN YOUR
OUTPUT DATA
?HULL0ASK.OUT
WHAT DO YOU WANT THE FILE CALLED THAT
WILL CONTAIN YOUR
BRIEF OUTPUT
?HULL0ASK.BRF
WHAT IS THE DW FACTOR
?1.0
DO YOU WANT A RCOMP
INPUT FILE CREATED
?N
DO YOU WANT THE BALE S MATRIX
DUMPED INTO A FILE
?N
1 ORTRAN STOP
$

"STY HULL0ASK.BRF
DW FACTOR= 1.0000000
CALCULATED FROM INPUT-
CB = 0.4914
XCG = -0.0123
WEIGHT = 4255.0391

7.4624

Figure 15 - LEWIS2D Computer Program Example Run
**TABLE 1 - RMS RESPONSES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PITCH</th>
<th>HEAVE</th>
<th>REL o</th>
<th>ACC o</th>
<th>SLAM</th>
<th>ACC 1o</th>
<th>HDT 2o</th>
<th>REL o Fa</th>
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<td>0.7846</td>
<td>0.6894</td>
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<td>0.4898</td>
<td>0.1372</td>
<td>0.4280</td>
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<td>0.6894</td>
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<td>0.1372</td>
<td>0.4280</td>
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**TABLE 2 - HULGEN INPUT FILE**

```plaintext
4.04 417.00 46.677 13.160 9.000 0.000 0.000 0.000
12.00 35.387 35.950 31.176 9.394
1.000 9.660 1.306
0.3933325E-01 0.9359320E+00 0.1852000E+02 0.6279900E+00 0.0000000E+00 0.0000000E+00 0.0000000E+00
0.1001517E-01 0.5419598E+00 0.6875000E+00 0.1801600E+01 0.1362509E+02 0.0000000E+00 0.0000000E+00
0.4999999E+00 0.1234454E+01 0.1764456E+01 0.6245000E+01 0.4250000E+02 0.0000000E+00 0.0000000E+00
0.1196439E+01 0.2957995E+01 0.5483000E+00 0.2886000E+00 0.6200000E+00 0.0000000E+00 0.0000000E+00
0.2392500E+02 0.6352000E+02 0.1148500E+02 0.2538000E+00 0.1050000E+00 0.0000000E+00 0.0000000E+00
0.5999999E+00 0.1399990E+00 0.2645000E+00 0.5000000E+00 0.1000000E+00 0.0000000E+00 0.0000000E+00
0.2966270E-01 0.6228485E+02 0.1495378E+02 0.3250000E+00 0.6250000E+00 0.0000000E+00 0.0000000E+00
0.8625017E-01 0.6263319E+01 0.2744000E+00 0.6250000E+00 0.1000000E+00 0.0000000E+00 0.0000000E+00
0.0000000E+00 0.1999999E+02 0.1000000E+02 0.1000000E+02 0.1000000E+02 0.0000000E+00 0.0000000E+00
0.0000000E+00 0.0000000E+00 0.0000000E+00 0.0000000E+00 0.0000000E+00 0.0000000E+00 0.0000000E+00
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0.1045000E+02 0.0000000E+00 0.0000000E+00 0.0000000E+00 0.0000000E+00 0.0000000E+00 0.0000000E+00
4.04 417.00 46.677 13.160 9.000 0.000 0.000 0.000
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