

Solutions to Open Channel Flow Problems

1. **Problem 1:** A rectangular channel 3 m wide carries a flow of $10 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$. Determine the flow velocity if the flow depth is 1.5 m.

Solution: The flow velocity v can be calculated using the formula $v = \frac{Q}{A}$, where Q is the discharge and A is the cross-sectional area. Here, $A = \text{width} \times \text{depth} = 3 \text{ m} \times 1.5 \text{ m} = 4.5 \text{ m}^2$. Thus, $v = \frac{10 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}}{4.5 \text{ m}^2} = 2.22 \text{ m/s}$.

Video Solution: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zutPyDrI7Sg>

2. **Problem 2:** A trapezoidal channel has a bottom width of 4 m and side slopes of 2:1 (horizontal: vertical). If the depth of flow is 2 m, determine the wetted perimeter.

Solution: The wetted perimeter P is the sum of the bottom width and the lengths of the two side slopes. Each side slope length can be found using the Pythagorean theorem: $\text{sidelength} = \sqrt{(2 \times \text{depth})^2 + (\text{depth})^2} = \sqrt{(4 \text{ m})^2 + (2 \text{ m})^2} = \sqrt{16 + 4} = \sqrt{20} = 4.47 \text{ m}$. Therefore, $P = 4 \text{ m} + 2 \times 4.47 \text{ m} = 12.94 \text{ m}$.

Video Solution: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1tAhMkfYfEA>

3. **Problem 3:** A 2.5 m wide rectangular channel has a discharge of $8 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$. Compute the critical depth.

Solution: The critical depth y_c in a rectangular channel can be calculated using the formula $y_c = \left(\frac{Q^2}{gb^2}\right)^{1/3}$, where Q is the discharge, g is the acceleration due to gravity, and b is the width of the channel. Substituting the given values: $y_c = \left(\frac{(8)^2}{9.81 \times (2.5)^2}\right)^{1/3} = \left(\frac{64}{61.3125}\right)^{1/3} = (1.044)^{1/3} = 1.02 \text{ m}$.

Video Solution: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LMHj7JkxbHc>

4. **Problem 4:** A channel has a flow velocity of 3 m/s and a depth of 1.8 m. Determine the specific energy of the flow.

Solution: The specific energy E is given by $E = y + \frac{v^2}{2g}$, where y is the flow depth, v is the flow velocity, and g is the acceleration due to gravity. Substituting the given values: $E = 1.8 \text{ m} + \frac{(3 \text{ m/s})^2}{2 \times 9.81 \text{ m/s}^2} = 1.8 + \frac{9}{19.62} = 1.8 + 0.459 = 2.259 \text{ m}$.

Video Solution: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z8eBjKpC9J4>

5. **Problem 5:** A rectangular channel with a width of 5 m carries a flow of $20 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$ with a depth of 2 m. Compute the Froude number and classify the flow as subcritical, critical, or supercritical.

Solution: The Froude number Fr is calculated using $Fr = \frac{v}{\sqrt{gy}}$, where v is the flow velocity, g is the acceleration due to gravity, and y is the flow depth. First, calculate the velocity: $v = \frac{Q}{A} = \frac{20 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}}{5 \text{ m} \times 2 \text{ m}} = 2 \text{ m/s}$.

Then, $Fr = \frac{2}{\sqrt{9.81 \times 2}} = \frac{2}{\sqrt{19.62}} = \frac{2}{4.43} = 0.45$. Since $Fr < 1$, the flow is subcritical.

Video Solution: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XnM6fCJ6C8w>