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1 AN EXPERIMENTAL STUDY ON GRAVITY WAVES THROUGH A
2 FLOATING VISCOELASTIC COVER
3

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14 **ABSTRACT**

15

16 We report the results of a laboratory study conducted to investigate the dispersion relation and
17 attenuation of surface waves under viscoelastic floating covers. The study uses oil-doped
18 polydimethylsiloxane (PDMS) with different viscoelastic properties quantified in-situ using a
19 rheometer. An additional test is made with a floating PVC film to estimate possible attenuation in
20 the boundary layer under the cover. Within the frequency range tested, the wavelength deviates
21 from open water case negligibly under the PVC film. But for the PDMS covers, depending on the
22 material property, cover thickness and incident wave period, both wave lengthening and shortening
23 are observed. With thin PDMS covers, the measured wavelength matches well with three
24 theoretical predictions based on different viscoelastic rheological models, while the thick cover
25 shows some discrepancy especially for shorter wave periods. In terms of wave attenuation,
26 however, large discrepancies are observed between the measured data and theoretically predicted
27 results for all PDMS covers. Various mechanisms that could contribute to the discrepancies are
28 considered. The most important mechanism is the boundary layer effect, as demonstrated by the
29 measured wave attenuation from the PVC film. The overall results indicate that the attenuation
30 due to the oscillatory boundary layer underneath the floating cover, which has not been included
31 in the viscoelastic theories, contributes significantly to the discrepancies. Direct measurement of
32 the fluid flow under a periodically flexing cover and the related attenuation rate is a challenging
33 but highly important future study.

34 Keywords: viscoelastic; floating covers; PDMS; wave dispersion; attenuation.

35 **1. Introduction**

36

37 Arctic ice reduction has created longer fetches, which aid in the generation of larger gravity waves
38 that could penetrate hundreds of kilometers of distance through ice covers. With increased interests
39 in Arctic shipping (Smith and Stephenson, 2013), better knowledge of the wave climate in the
40 Marginal Ice Zone (MIZ) is required to facilitate navigation near the ice edge. Thus, there is an
41 appreciable demand to understand wave propagation through diverse types of ice covers in the
42 MIZ (the glossary and associated ice cover images can be found at
43 <http://aspect.antarctica.gov.au/home/conducting-sea-ice-observations>).

44

45 Field studies based on observations from satellites (Wadhams et al., 2002) and in-situ
46 measurements (Wadhams et al., 1986, 1988; Meylan et al., 2014) showed that ice covers behave
47 primarily as a low-pass filter, which scatters and attenuates the high frequency wave components.
48 Satellite observations also suggested changes of wavelength and thus the speed of energy
49 propagation (Schulz-Stellenfleth and Lehner, 2002), dispersion relations in ice fields have been
50 observed in field experiments conducted by Fox and Haskell (2001) and Sutherland and Rabault
51 (2016). To determine the wave propagation under diverse types of ice covers from first principles
52 is a challenging task. Therefore, various theories have been proposed based on different
53 assumptions.

54

55 The initial theoretical attempts on wave propagation through a viscous medium were done
56 independently by Stokes (1851) and Lamb (1932) for an infinite deep single layer with constant

57 viscosity. The first two-layer viscous model was developed by Weber (1987) assuming ice as a
58 thin viscous layer over infinitely deep inviscid water. This was later extended to inviscid finite
59 deep water by Keller (1989), in which the momentum equation of the floating high viscous layer
60 was coupled with that of the inviscid layer underneath to solve for the dispersion relation. Newyear
61 and Martin (1999) used this theory to inversely determine the viscosity of grease ice. De Carolis
62 and Desiderio (2002) and De Carolis et al. (2005) later extended the Keller's model to include the
63 viscosity of water under ice covers.

64

65 In addition to the two-layer viscous model (Keller, 1998), two other classical theories that describe
66 wave dispersion through an idealized floating cover are of particulate relevance here. The first
67 theory assumes the large unbroken ice cover as a thin elastic plate (Greenhill, 1886). This theory
68 demonstrates the changes of wavelength, but it does not allow wave attenuation. The second
69 theory, the mass loading model, assumes the ice cover as a surface composed of non-interacting
70 mass points (Peters, 1950; Weitz and Keller, 1950; Keller and Weitz, 1953). This theory is later
71 pointed out to be a special case of the thin elastic plate theory when the elasticity is set to zero
72 (Squire, 1993). The mass loading theory predicts only wave shortening and no attenuation. Among
73 these three theories, only two-layer viscous model predicts attenuation.

74

75 Each of the three classical theories partially captures the mechanical processes associated with an
76 ice cover that moves and deforms in a wave field. The thin elastic theory focuses on the elastic
77 strain as well as the inertia of the ice cover, the mass loading theory considers only the inertia, and
78 the viscous theory includes the strain-rate-dependent dissipation. Recognizing that all these

79 processes may co-exist, several viscoelastic theories have been proposed to model sea ice in a
80 wave field. Squire and Allan (1980) extended the thin elastic plate theory by introducing a complex
81 elasticity. Wang and Shen (2010) extended the model by Keller (1998) to consider the ice cover
82 as a Voigt-type viscoelastic continuum. This continuum model was based on the concept that in
83 any representative region of an ice cover, part of it would experience elastic deformation while the
84 rest would undergo some rate dependent dissipation. The resulting dispersion relation was shown
85 to converge under proper limiting conditions to all three classical theories mentioned above. In
86 addition to these two viscoelastic theories, Mosig et al. (2015) investigated another relevant theory
87 developed for wind-induced vibration of floating roofs on oil storage tanks (Robinson and Palmer,
88 1990). The fundamental principles of this theory are analogous to the existing models on sea ice.

89

90 A viscoelastic dispersion relation is appealing for wave modelling in MIZ, because it can predict
91 different wavelength changes and wave energy attenuation by choosing different combinations of
92 elastic and viscous parameters. By fitting the observational data obtained from different ice cover
93 types, it is envisioned that one may connect different ice types to their distinct viscoelastic
94 properties, as demonstrated in the laboratory studies (Newyear and Martin, 1999; Zhao and Shen,
95 2015) and a field study (Cheng et al., 2017). In Zhao and Shen (2015), experimental data were
96 used to calibrate the viscoelastic parameters for different ice covers. However, a direct validation
97 of the viscoelastic model by Wang and Shen (2010) has not been done. However, the validity of
98 the dispersion relation from these viscoelastic theories needs to be established in order to
99 confidently apply it to the field. Such model validation can only be done in the laboratory under
100 controlled conditions with true viscoelastic materials and clean wave forcing. In real ice
101 conditions, other than the rheological properties of sea ice, bottom roughness of floating ice floes

102 (Kohout et al, 2011), ice pack compression (Liu and Mollo Christensen, 1988) etc. could also
103 contribute to wave damping, though they are not considered in the above-mentioned continuum
104 models. Laboratory experiments, closer to theoretical conditions with less complexities, thus
105 enable the comparison of the experimental results with different viscoelastic theories to validate
106 the existing theories and point out missing mechanisms. In addition to enhancing our
107 understanding of wave propagation through ice covers, the finding from the present study is also
108 relevant to the wave interactions with very large floating structures (Hermans, 2004).

109

110 We performed the first attempt of experimental validation of viscoelastic theories in Sree et al.
111 (2016a). A set of laboratory experiments were conducted using viscoelastic covers with different
112 properties, which were measured in-situ in the laboratory using a rotational rheometer. The covers
113 were made of oil-doped polydimethylsiloxane (PDMS). Different properties were achieved by
114 varying the percentage of a curing agent added during preparation. The model predictions by Wang
115 and Shen (2010) were found to be generally consistent with the experimental data from wave flume
116 experiments, both in terms of the switching of normalized wavelength from less than to greater
117 than 1, as well as the magnitude of the change. Thus, the study provided a general confirmation of
118 the viscoelastic theory by Wang and Shen (2010) in terms of the dispersion relation with respect
119 to the viscoelastic properties and wave characteristics. However, there were uncertainties
120 introduced by the free-body motion of the floating cover due to its finite extent. In addition, it was
121 not possible to examine the wave attenuation through the viscoelastic cover because the magnitude
122 of wave decay through the cover was relatively insignificant compared to the above-mentioned
123 uncertainties.

124

125 In the current study, we continued the laboratory validation effort of Sree et al. (2016a) using the
126 viscoelastic PDMS material with a much longer cover length as well as different cover thicknesses.
127 The additional combinations of viscoelastic cover properties and wave characteristics used in the
128 new experiments provide more data for further confirmation of the dispersion relation predicted
129 from viscoelastic theories. Furthermore, experimental measurements on wave attenuation through
130 a true viscoelastic cover are also reported for the first time, which enables the close examination
131 of another aspect of predictions of critical importance from viscoelastic theories.

132

133 In the following sections, we will begin by describing the three theoretical models: Squire and
134 Allan (1980), Robinson and Palmer (1990), Wang and Shen (2010). It is followed by material
135 preparation along with its mechanical properties and the experimental setup for wave experiments.
136 Data analysis for wave celerity (phase speed) and attenuation, as well as comparison of the
137 experimental results with theoretical models are presented, followed by the discussion and
138 conclusions.

139

140 **2. Viscoelastic Models for Sea Ice**

141

142 The three existing viscoelastic theories to be considered in this study are: Squire and Allan (1980),
143 Robinson and Palmer (1990), and Wang and Shen (2010), which are abbreviated as SA, RP and
144 WS models respectively in the following sections. A brief description of these three theories is
145 given below. The configuration of all three models is a two-layer system with the upper layer as a
146 viscoelastic cover (representing floating sea ice) with thickness h , and density ρ_1 . The lower layer

147 represents inviscid water with depth H and density ρ_2 . In each case, a relation between the wave
 148 frequency and the complex wave number, $k = k_s + ik_i$ is given, where k_s is the real wavenumber
 149 related to the celerity / phase speed and k_i is the attenuation coefficient. In all three models,
 150 exponential decay is a natural consequence of the complex wave number from the dispersion
 151 relation.

152

153 Squire and Allan (1980) assumed the two-layer system as a thin plate over deep water, with the
 154 top layer modelled as a linear Maxwell-Voigt model with four model parameters. For the present
 155 case, the system is simplified with a Voigt model and modified with a finite water depth. The Voigt
 156 model has two parameters defined by the complex shear modulus, $G_V = G - i\sigma\rho_1\nu$, where G is the
 157 shear modulus, ν is the kinematic viscosity and σ is the wave angular frequency. The dispersion
 158 relation is obtained as (Li et al., 2015)

$$159 \quad (\sigma^2 - Q_{SA}gk\tanh kH) = 0 \quad (1)$$

$$160 \quad Q_{SA} = \frac{G_V h^3}{6g\rho_2(1-\vartheta)}k^4 - \frac{\rho_1 h \sigma^2}{\rho_2 g} + 1 \quad (2)$$

161 where, g is the acceleration due to gravity and ϑ is the Poisson's ratio.

162

163 Robinson and Palmer (1990) assumed that the top cover is a purely elastic Euler Bernoulli beam.
 164 They added a damping/viscous term proportional to the velocity of the vertical displacement under
 165 wave action (Mosig et al., 2015). The dispersion relation for their model is

$$166 \quad (\sigma^2 - Q_{RP}gk\tanh kH) = 0 \quad (3)$$

167
$$Q_{RP} = \frac{Gh^3}{6g\rho_2(1-\vartheta)}k^4 - \frac{\rho_1h\sigma^2}{\rho_2g} + 1 - \frac{i\sigma}{\rho_2g}\gamma \quad (4)$$

168 Unlike the SA model, where the viscosity is considered a material property, the viscous term γ
 169 here is admitted as purely phenomenological, which must be determined by fitting the attenuation
 170 to match with the experimental results.

171

172 Wang and Shen (2010) assumed that the upper layer is a viscoelastic fluid of the Voigt type. The
 173 dispersion relation is

174
$$(\sigma^2 - Q_{WS}gk\tanh kh)J = 0 \quad (5)$$

175 with

176
$$Q_{WS} = 1 + \frac{\rho_1g^2k^2S_kS_\alpha - (N^4 + 16k^6\alpha_k^2v_e^4)S_kS_\alpha - 8k^3\alpha_kv_e^2N^2(C_kC_\alpha - 1)}{J} \quad (6)$$

177 and

178
$$J = gk(4k^3\alpha_kv_e^2S_kC_\alpha + N^2C_kS_\alpha - gkS_kS_\alpha) \quad (7)$$

179 where $v_e = v + iG/\rho_1\sigma$ is the complex viscosity, $\alpha_k = k^2 - i\sigma/v_e$, $S_k = \sinh(kh)$, $S_\alpha = \sinh(\alpha_k h)$, C_k
 180 $= \cosh(kh)$, $C_\alpha = \cosh(\alpha_k h)$ and $N = \sigma + 2ik^2v_e$. As shown in Wang and Shen (2010) and
 181 Mosig et al. (2015), this dispersion relation has multiple roots. The nature of these roots has been
 182 discussed in detail in Zhao et al. (2017). The dominant root, i.e. the one corresponding to the
 183 gravity wave mode, is selected in the present study.

184

185 For the present experiments, two types of floating covers were used: PVC film and PDMS covers.
186 The thickness of the viscoelastic PDMS layer h was either 0.01 m or 0.02 m, density $\rho_1 = 940$
187 kg/m^3 , water depth $H = 0.3$ m and water density $\rho_2 = 1000 \text{ kg/m}^3$. The determination of viscosity
188 and shear modulus for the PDMS covers will be discussed in Section 3.2. These values of material
189 properties will be used to derive the theoretical wave speed and attenuation from SA and WS
190 models. The thickness of the PVC film was on the order of 10^{-4} m. Its mechanical properties were
191 not directly measured. As will be discussed later, for such thin film its mechanical properties
192 become irrelevant for the SA and WS models. The RP model requires a phenomenological
193 parameter which can only be calibrated.

194

195 **3. Experiments**

196

197 **3.1 Material preparation**

198

199 In the present study, the viscoelastic covers are 3 m long, which span from the center of the flume
200 to the beach. Wave experiments using 1 m long covers had been reported in Sree et al. (2016a)
201 earlier, which assessed the dispersion relation under the viscoelastic cover and the results were
202 found to agree well with the predictions by the WS model. However, the 1 m cover length did not
203 allow the determination of wave attenuation since the damping was too slight to be accurately
204 measured.

205

206 The floating viscoelastic covers for the present experiments are made of PDMS which is identical
207 to Sree et al. (2016a). The elastomer consists of a silicone oil base and curing agent/ cross linker,
208 which is commercially available as Sylgard 184 Silicone Elastomer kit. The preparation of the
209 PDMS covers involves three main steps: mixing the components (base, curing agent and white
210 oil), degassing and natural curing. Sree et al. (2016a) described the novel development of the
211 natural curing approach (as opposed to the elevated temperature approach for previous applications
212 in the literature) for the preparation of viscoelastic floating layers in wave experiments as well as
213 the detailed procedures using a curing tray.

214

215 The greatest challenge in the current experiments is the natural curing of the 3 m long covers. The
216 process of transferring a long and soft PDMS cover prepared outside the wave flume in the curing
217 tray, as used in the previous study (Sree et al. 2016a), often damages the cover. We thus developed
218 another new set of in-situ procedures to make the cover inside the wave flume as described in Sree
219 et al. (2016b).

220

221 Covers with various levels of viscoelasticity are produced by varying the percentage of curing
222 agent used ($m_{CA} = 4, 6, 8$ and 10%), where $m_{CA} = \frac{M_{CA}}{M_{CA} + M_B}$, M_{CA} and M_B represent the mass of
223 curing agent and base respectively. The freshly prepared PDMS material is left to cure for 7 days
224 at room temperature. Fig. 1 shows the cover inside the flume under curing. The inside walls of the
225 3 m long confined region for the PDMS cover to cure are lined with transparent plastic films to
226 prevent the adhesion of the PDMS cover to the flume. The layer thickness is $h_s = 0.01$ m for

227 covers with $m_{CA} = 6, 8, \text{ and } 10\%$. For the 4% mass of curing agent, two thicknesses, $h_s = 0.01$
228 m and 0.02 m, are used.

229 <Fig. 1>

230 3.2 Material testing

231

232 The rheological properties of oil-doped PDMS covers are analyzed once the covers become stable
233 after curing. The storage modulus, G' and the loss modulus G'' are determined using small
234 amplitude oscillatory shear tests in a rheometer (Anton Paar, MCR 302, Germany), with a parallel
235 plate geometry. A detailed discussion about the two categories of rheometer testing a) amplitude
236 sweep and b) frequency sweep, is provided in Sree et al. (2016a). Three samples are tested for each
237 cover with the specific m_{CA} to confirm the repeatability of results. The stability in the rheological
238 properties is confirmed for a period of two weeks after the material is fully cured, hence the wave
239 experiments are performed within this stable period.

240

241 The range of angular frequency (ω) used for the rheometric testing is set equal to the angular
242 frequencies (σ) of the wave tests. The test results are shown in Table 1. When m_{CA} is increased
243 from 4 to 10 %, the material becomes stiffer with larger G' but smaller G''/G' . The values obtained
244 for G' and G'' shows that the PDMS material properties can be approximated by the Voigt model
245 with G' nearly constant and G'' monotonically increasing with frequency (Sree et al. 2016a). The
246 viscoelastic parameters used in the SA and WS models are related to the storage and loss modulus
247 as $G = G'$, $\nu = G''/\rho_1\sigma$. Table 1 shows that viscosity increased with m_{CA} . The Poisson's ratio is
248 not measured; we use the value $\vartheta = 0.5$ for PDMS neglecting the influence of oil in the property

249 (Folch, 2012). The irrelevance of finite mechanical properties for PVC film in this study will be
250 discussed in Section 5.2.4. Instead the PVC film experiments are performed to estimate the
251 influence of factors other than the rheological properties of a cover on surface waves, i.e. the
252 boundary layer dissipation under a floating cover.

253 **<Table 1>**

254 3.3 Wave flume experimental setup

255

256 The laboratory experiments are conducted in a wave flume (see Fig. 2) at the Environmental
257 Process Modelling Centre (EPMC) Laboratory of Nanyang Environment and Water Resources
258 Institute, Singapore. The wave flume, with [length L , width B , depth D] = [8, 0.3, 1] m, is made of
259 tempered transparent glass panels and is filled with fresh water up to a height, $d = 0.3$ m. It is
260 equipped with a piston-type wave generator at one end and an inclined mesh type wave absorber
261 beach (slope angle = 38°) at the other end (see Fig. 2). The wave generator can produce regular
262 waves as well as irregular waves, however only regular waves are considered in this study.

263 **<Fig. 2>**

264 Monochromatic waves with periods from $T = 0.5$ to 1.0 s at 0.05 s intervals are generated for the
265 experiments. A static calibrated capacitance wave gauge is installed near the wave generator to
266 control the stroke of the piston to produce incident waves of the required amplitude. The values of
267 wave steepness ($k_o a$) for the experiments are summarized in Table 2, where k_o is the wavenumber
268 and a is the wave amplitude in open water. Smaller amplitudes are used for high frequency cases,
269 to prevent the water running over the cover, referred to as overwash at the leading edge.

270 We note that for the range of waves tested, the effect of surface tension of water, T_s , on the
271 dispersion relations can be neglected as $\frac{T_s k^2}{\rho g} \sim 0.002 \ll 1$.

272 **<Table 2>**

273 In the present study, the 3-m long PDMS covers extend up to the beach. Hence, the beach and the
274 inertia for the long covers together minimize the possible surge or drift as well as free-body
275 rotation. Seven ultrasound sensors (US325, Ultra lab 40D, General Acoustics, Germany) with
276 resolution of 0.18 mm and sampling frequency of 50 Hz are installed above the floating covers to
277 record its surface deflection upon wave action. The synchronized data from all ultrasound sensors
278 are then collected from LABVIEW, using a common data acquisition system (NI 9215, National
279 Instruments, Texas). The first ultrasound sensor is held 20 cm away from the leading edge to avoid
280 possible edge effects like flapping due to damped travelling waves. The positioning of ultrasound
281 sensors over the viscoelastic sheets are provided in Appendix A. The repeatability of the
282 experiments is checked by performing each experiment at least three times (see Fig. 3). To increase
283 the time resolution of the ultrasound sensor records, prior to data analysis, numerical interpolation
284 with the *PCHIP* function (Piecewise Cubic Hermite Interpolating Polynomial) is used to increase
285 the data rate from 50 Hz to 200 Hz. Only the first three fully developed waves are considered in
286 the analysis (see Fig. 3) instead of continuous wave train to avoid the effect of reflection from the
287 beach which can excite partially standing waves inside the wave flume.

288 **<Fig.3 >**

289 **4. Data Analysis and Results**

290

291 4.1 Wave celerity

292

293 Wavenumbers are calculated in the same way as described in Sree et al. (2016a) for the 1 m long
294 PDMS covers. Since only three waves are involved in the data analysis, the spectral method cannot
295 be used properly to determine the wave celerity. Instead, the celerity is determined by measuring
296 the time corresponding to the peaks of the three waves with the *findpeaks* function at each sensor.
297 The time differences between the corresponding crests of the first ultrasound sensor US1 and the
298 other sensors US_i, i from 2 to 7, are then calculated. The celerity is calculated as

$$299 \quad c_s = \frac{\Delta x_i}{\Delta t_i} = \frac{\sigma}{k_s} \quad (8)$$

300 where, Δx_i is the distance of the i^{th} ultrasound sensor US_i from US1, and Δt_i is the mean of the
301 corresponding time lapse taken for the wave crest to travel between the two sensors considered,
302 and k_s is the wavenumber under the floating covers.

303

304 For the PVC film cover, $c_s/c_o \approx 0.99 - 1.01$ for all wave periods tested. Hence, the resulting
305 dispersion relation is unchanged from the open water condition. For the PDMS covers, the
306 measured celerity behaves almost the same as with the 1 m case (Sree et al., 2016a). As shown in
307 Fig. 4, c_s along the covers is different from the open water celerity, c_o . For $T = 0.5$ s, $c_s < c_o$ for
308 $m_{CA} = 4\%$. It increases with increasing m_{CA} and finally becomes greater than c_o . The increase of
309 celerity with increasing m_{CA} is less dramatic with increasing wave period. The celerity obtained
310 using the sensors near the free edges shows deviation from the values obtained away from the
311 edges, which can be attributed to the edge effect from the damped travelling waves (Fox and

312 Squire, 1990). For the 1 m cover studied in Sree et al. (2016a), the proportion of the data affected
313 by the edge was greater.

314 < Fig. 4 >

315 4.2 Wave attenuation along viscoelastic covers

316

317 The vertical locations of crests and troughs from the interpolated data (200 Hz) are determined
318 using the *findpeaks* function. The wave height is then obtained as the distance between the adjacent
319 crest and trough. The wave amplitude, A_x , calculated as half of the wave height, is plotted against
320 the distance along the cover as shown in Fig. 5. For wave amplitude measurements, especially at
321 small amplitudes in our study, sensor resolution is an important issue. With the sensor resolution
322 at ~ 0.18 mm, less than 10% of the minimum amplitude shown in Fig. 5, the data are adequate for
323 our attenuation analysis.

324

325 To compare with the three viscoelastic theories, we fit the measured amplitude data with an
326 exponential curve, as shown in Fig. 5. The attenuation coefficient for each case is defined as the
327 parameter, α , of the fitting curve

$$328 \quad A_x = A_o e^{-\alpha x} \quad (9)$$

329 where, A_x is the wave amplitude at the distance x from the leading edge and A_o is the amplitude at
330 $x = 0$. From Fig. 5, the wave amplitude clearly decreases with distance from the leading edge for
331 $T = 0.5$ s. The dependence of attenuation coefficient on both the wave period and thickness of the

332 cover are clearly visible. The root mean square error for the fitted curve is confirmed to be less
333 than 10^{-4} m for all the test cases.

334 < Fig. 5>

335

336 5. Results and discussions

337

338 5.1 Wavenumber

339

340 The variation of normalized wavenumber, $\kappa = k_s/k_o$ with wave period is provided in Fig. 6. In
341 this figure and all subsequent figures, the theoretical curves are from Equations 1, 3 and 5 for the
342 three models considered in Section 2. The required elastic parameters for all the three models and
343 the viscous parameters for the SA and WS models are from Table 1. For the RP model, however,
344 the viscous parameter is inversely calculated by fitting the attenuation data for one case ($T = 0.55$
345 s for $m_{CA} = 4\%$) with the theoretical model. This value is then applied for all other cases to
346 calculate the real and imaginary parts of the complex wavenumber, k . The experimental results
347 with the 1 m PDMS cover reported in Sree et al. (2016a) is also superimposed in Fig. 6. With the
348 longer PDMS covers and lesser edge effects, the measured wavelength compares even better with
349 the theoretical predictions from the WS model than Sree et al. (2016a). There is practically no
350 difference between the three predictions within the tested parameter range.

351

352 For open water, $\kappa = 1$; wave lengthening compared to open water case is represented by $\kappa < 1$
353 and wave shortening by $\kappa > 1$. The normalized wavenumber depends on both the material

354 characteristics and wave period. For $h_s = 0.01$ m, all three viscoelastic models predict the
355 experimental results well. Fig. 6 shows that with $m_{CA} = 4\%$ and thickness, $h_s = 0.01$ m, wave
356 shortening occurs for all wave periods. However, the behavior of κ is not monotonic. The
357 dimensionless wavenumber increases from $T = 0.5$ s to 0.6 s to reach the maximum then drops
358 with further increase of T . With $m_{CA} = 6\%$, the wavenumber is similar to the open water case for
359 $T = 0.5$ s. When the wave period is increased, an increase in κ followed by a decrease is again
360 seen. With $m_{CA} = 8$ and 10% , wave lengthening is observed for $T = 0.5$ s, while all other cases
361 show wave shortening. This non-monotonic change of wavenumber with wave period is shown in
362 all three viscoelastic models and the experimental data. Hence, the modification of wavenumber
363 in a covered region, with respect to open water case, depends largely on the combination of wave
364 period and the material characteristics of the covers. This non-monotonic behavior was mentioned
365 in the theoretical studies by Squire (1993) and Collins et al. (2017). However, for the thicker
366 PDMS cover ($h_s = 0.02$ m), unlike the thinner covers with the same $m_{CA} = 4\%$, differences between
367 all three theoretical predictions and experimental data are noted. Additional discussion on this
368 wave number discrepancy is provided in the following sections.

369 <Fig. 6>

370

371 5.2 Wave attenuation

372

373 A comparison of the attenuation coefficient, α , obtained from the experiments (circles) and the
374 imaginary part of the complex wavenumber, k_i , obtained from the theories (lines) are shown in
375 Fig. 7. The error bars showed the 95% confidence bound for the coefficient obtained when fitting

376 the experimental data for average amplitude of the three fully developed waves with an exponential
377 curve. Qualitatively, the attenuation coefficient decreases with increasing wave period, except with
378 $m_{CA} = 10\%$ and the thicker sheet with $m_{CA} = 4\%$, where a rollover is seen. This rollover
379 phenomenon is not predicted by two of the three theoretical models; only the RP model
380 demonstrates a mild rollover for larger m_{CA} or a thicker cover. Quantitatively, except with the RP
381 model, a significant difference between the experimental results and the theoretical predictions is
382 observed. As explained earlier, unlike the other two models where the viscous parameter is from
383 the actual rheometer data, the empirical viscous parameter, γ for RP model is calibrated from data
384 fitting. A good comparison between RP model and the experimental data is thus expected.

385 <Fig. 7>

386 We now discuss some of the plausible reasons for the observed discrepancies in wave attenuation.

387

388 5.2.1 Linear constant viscoelasticity

389

390 The three theories considered are all based on linear viscoelastic assumptions. The dispersion
391 relation in the WS model is based on treating the ice cover as a linear Voigt material with G'
392 independent of rotational frequency and G'' linearly varying with rotational frequency. In the SA
393 model, the Euler-Bernoulli assumption is used with a linear complex modulus. When the ice
394 thickness becomes very thin and the elastic modulus is sufficiently high, these two models
395 essentially converge to each other (Mosig et al., 2015). The RP model (1990), though quite
396 different from the above two, also assumes a linear combination of the elastic and viscous stresses.

397

398 For a strict linear Voigt model, the storage modulus G' is constant with respect to varying frequency
399 ω , while G'' is linearly proportional to ω , implying a constant viscosity with respect to ω . Table 1
400 shows that our PDMS material is not strictly a linear Voigt material. We re-examine the SA and
401 WS models and find that for a small amplitude monochromatic wave field, it is inconsequential
402 whether the material is a linear Voigt material or frequency-dependent material. The same
403 conclusion was also made in Mei et al. (2010) for wave-mud interactions. This is because each test
404 involves a single frequency with the associated viscosity, hence there is no change in the form of
405 the dispersion relation. The results shown in Figs. 6 and 7 already adopt these frequency dependent
406 viscosities.

407

408 To check whether a small amplitude wave assumption did apply, we tried several different wave
409 amplitudes in the experiments, the results are shown in Table 3. Under different wave amplitudes,
410 the variation of the attenuation is much lower than the discrepancies observed in Fig 7. Thus, the
411 observed discrepancy cannot be attributed to the material properties of the PDMS covers or the
412 linearity of the experimental regime.

413

414 The data analysis and theoretical assumptions are thus both ruled out as the cause of the significant
415 discrepancies observed between the experimental data and theoretical predictions. The extra
416 mechanisms on attenuation that could be present in the experiments but not in the theories are
417 analyzed next.

418

5.2.2 Damping due to water and wave flume interaction

419

420

421 It is known that in wave flumes, even under open water, there are several mechanisms that could
422 produce damping (Miles, 1967). These mechanisms include: viscous dissipation between the water
423 with rigid boundaries (walls and bottom), at the top surface, and the meniscus effect at the wall-
424 air-water interface. For the top surface, minute impurities (surfactant or other films) could increase
425 the wave damping from the clean water condition. Theoretical models were developed to account
426 for these energy losses (Henderson et al., 2015). Using $\nu_w = 1.1 \times 10^{-6} \text{ m}^2/\text{s}$ as the kinematic

427 viscosity of clean water, the attenuation from (a) the wave surface is $\alpha_{CL} = \frac{2\nu_w k^2}{c_g} = \sim 0.001 \text{ m}^{-1}$

428 and (b) the boundaries of the flume is $\alpha_{SB} = \sqrt{\frac{\omega\nu_w k}{2 c_g}} \left(\frac{1}{\sinh(2kd)} + \frac{1}{kB} \right) = 0.002 \text{ m}^{-1}$ for $T = 0.5 \text{ s}$,

429 where c_g is the group celerity (Sutherland et al., 2017). Both are two orders of magnitude lower
430 than the discrepancies observed in Fig. 7. In the extreme case, the maximum dissipation due to the

431 presence of massless floating film at the water surface $\sqrt{2} \left[\frac{\nu_w^2 |k|^7}{g} \right]^{1/4} \approx 0.08 \text{ m}^{-1}$ for $T = 0.5 \text{ s}$

432 (Henderson et al. 2015). This compares well to the maximum attenuation, $\alpha_o = 0.05 \text{ m}^{-1}$ in open

433 water, performed in our experiments (see Fig. 8). All these values due to the various mechanisms

434 are therefore much too small to explain the discrepancies observed in Fig. 7.

435

5.2.3 Boundary effects due to the moving cover and side walls

436

437

438 Between the PDMS cover and the glass walls there is an allowance, $\Delta \cong 0.005\text{m}$, on both sides.

439 The attenuation coefficient due to the side wall may be obtained by considering the viscous

440 dissipation per unit time per unit length caused by the fixed side wall on either side of the cover, $\frac{1}{T}$
441 $\int_0^T 2\nu_w \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial y}\right)^2 dt \sim \frac{2\nu_w L_s t_s}{\Delta} \left(2\frac{\pi\alpha}{T}\right)^2$. The corresponding energy dissipation per unit time per unit length
442 is then $L_s \frac{d}{dx}(E_w c_g) \sim L_s \frac{\alpha^2 \alpha e^{-2\alpha L_s} \rho_w g}{T} \frac{\lambda}{2T}$, where λ is the wavelength, u is the horizontal orbital
443 velocity, E_w is the wave energy density, ρ_w is density of water and L_s is length of the covers. The
444 corresponding coefficient α calculated for $T = 0.5$ s is 10^{-6} m^{-1} , which is three orders of magnitude
445 lower than all other mechanisms. In other words, the boundary effects due to the moving covers
446 and the side walls are insignificant.

447

448 5.2.4 Boundary layer under the covers

449

450 For wave attenuation under ice covers, Weber (1987) and Liu and Mollo-Christensen (1988)
451 considered the damping mechanisms in the water body below the ice cover. They used an eddy-
452 viscosity to describe the boundary layer dynamics and the associated attenuation rate. The effect
453 of a boundary layer beneath the viscoelastic covers was not considered in the three viscoelastic
454 models. Here we first consider the laminar Stokes boundary layer (BL) theory which is only
455 applicable to a rigid plate oscillating in a fluid. The viscous boundary layer for this situation has a
456 thickness $\delta_s = 2\pi \sqrt{\frac{2\nu_w}{\sigma}}$. Using the kinematic viscosity and the wave frequencies in our study, this
457 thickness is in the range of 0.0025 m to 0.0035 m for $T = 0.5$ s to 1.0 s which is very small. Hence
458 the attenuation coefficient from this boundary effect, $\frac{\pi\nu_w k}{\delta_s c_g} < O(10^{-2})$, is at least one order below
459 the measured attenuation. The PVC cover tests shows significantly higher dissipation, as shown in
460 Fig. 5(d) and Fig. 8 (circles) thus, the BL structure underneath the PVC covers is likely to be

461 turbulent. Without direct measurements of the flow structure under the PDMS viscoelastic covers,
 462 we can only speculate that for the PDMS covers the dissipation due to this boundary layer effect
 463 is also significant.

464

465 Sutherland et al. (2017) provided another estimate of the wave attenuation from the laminar
 466 boundary layer effect. For a floating but inextensible thin film (with modulus $E \rightarrow \infty$), the
 467 theoretical attenuation coefficient is given by $\alpha_{IN} = \frac{1}{2}v_w\gamma_a k/c_g$ where $\gamma_a = \sqrt{\frac{\sigma}{2v_w}}$. If a finite

468 elasticity is considered, Christensen (2005) showed $\alpha_e = \alpha_{IN} \left[\frac{2\varepsilon^2 + 4^{k/\gamma_a} (1 - \varepsilon)}{(1 - 2\varepsilon + 2\varepsilon^2)} \right]$ where $\varepsilon = \frac{Ek^2\gamma_a}{\rho_w\sigma^2}$.

469 For the present experiments with PVC film ($E \approx 1$ GPa), both formulas yield approximately the
 470 same value for the range of wave periods considered here. This boundary layer attenuation, α_{IN} ,
 471 is shown as the solid line in Fig. 8.

472

473 The estimated boundary layer attenuation in the present study, α_{IN} , is much larger than the sum of
 474 theoretical predictions for clean water attenuation and side boundaries, $\alpha_{CL} + \alpha_{SB}$, hence the latter
 475 may be ignored from further analysis. Fig. 8 shows the measured PVC attenuation, calculated PVC
 476 attenuation using the inextensible assumption discussed above, and measured open water
 477 attenuation (from different wave amplitudes). The measured attenuation from the water body under
 478 the film is on the same order as the measured attenuation under the PDMS, which is not considered
 479 in the SA and WS models, but could be parameterized by RP model.

480

481 Notable discrepancy between α_{IN} and attenuation caused by PVC cover is evident in Fig 8.
 482 Quantitative discrepancies from 20% to 90% for higher frequencies were observed in the results
 483 by Sutherland et al (2017) when they tested very thin (0.25 to 0.5 mm) polypropylene and latex
 484 covers as well. A comparable discrepancy of almost twice the value of α_{IN} was observed for
 485 experiments conducted by Henderson et al. (2015) using floating cling wrap. The increased
 486 attenuation could be contributed by resonance effect due to the energy transfer from transverse to
 487 longitudinal waves when $\sigma = \left(\frac{2\nu\rho^2g^4}{E^2}\right)^{\frac{1}{5}}$ (Sutherland et al., 2017). In this case, the resonant
 488 frequency is approximately 0.002 rad/s, which is 3 - 4 orders smaller than the experimental
 489 frequency range here, hence resonant effect can be ignored.

490 **< Fig. 8 >**

491 The attenuation measured from the PVC film strongly suggests that the damping in the boundary
 492 layer is much more significant than what is anticipated from an oscillatory laminar boundary layer.
 493 From physical arguments, the no-slip condition generates flows that are determined by the
 494 boundary geometry and its dynamics. The cover changes the horizontal velocity from being max
 495 (free surface) to zero (if the cover is held in place with only one degree of freedom: vertical), which
 496 creates strong shear and damping in the BL. For the infinitely deep viscous model viscous model,
 497 the Reynolds number $= \frac{g^2}{4\nu\sigma^2}$ is $\sim O(10^5)$ with $\nu = 10^{-6}$ m²/s for pure water for the wave parameters
 498 considered in the present study (Newyear and Martin, 1997). Adopting a Reynolds number in the
 499 form of $u_{\max} * \delta/\nu$, where δ is the boundary layer thickness, previous research (e.g. Song and Law,
 500 2015) had shown that the laminar boundary layer will transit to partial turbulence when $Re > \sim 150$
 501 and fully developed turbulence when $Re > \sim 500$ for a fixed boundary. The corresponding energy

502 dissipation in the oscillatory turbulent BL would be much higher than that of the laminar BL.
503 However, how the undulating water surface interacts with the BL such that the critical Re may be
504 reduced to the range in our experiments, is not currently well understood and needs to be further
505 studied. This is a difficult hydrodynamic problem, we imagine, since even in open water, how
506 waves interact with the flow structure under the free surface is not completely known. Hence the
507 attenuation due to this effect would be unique for each cover and the wave period combination
508 considered. Without complete knowledge of this boundary layer structure, we could only estimate
509 its effect on wave attenuation as follow.

510

511 In Fig. 9, a rough estimate of the reduced attenuation due to PDMS covers is provided. The reduced
512 experimental attenuation coefficient for PDMS covers is obtained by subtracting the attenuation
513 due to the boundary layer effect using the PVC cover from the actual attenuation obtained for the
514 PDMS covers. The underlying assumption is that for the same wave period, the boundary
515 attenuation under the PDMS is the same as under the PVC cover. An improved correlation between
516 the reduced attenuation and theoretical predictions is obtained, as compared to Fig. 7.

517

<Fig. 9>

518 Finally, as discussed above, although the comparison for wavenumbers is quite good for thin
519 PDMS covers as shown in Fig. 7, it deteriorates for the thicker PDMS cover. We do not believe
520 that it is due to the edge effect since the extra wave mode existing near the leading edge is two
521 orders larger than the surface gravity waves with an attenuation rate = 25 m^{-1} . One possibility for
522 the discrepancy is that for a thicker cover the BL effect may begin to not only influence the
523 attenuation, but also the wave speed.

524

525 **6. Conclusions**

526

527 Floating viscoelastic covers with properties close to a linear Voigt material are prepared from oil-
528 doped PDMS. Four different PDMS are tested that cover a range of shear modulus between 22 to
529 145 kPa, and viscosity between 0.23 to 0.67 m²/s. Two different cover thickness, 0.01 and 0.02 m
530 are also tested in this study. The wavenumber and attenuation along the covers are measured and
531 compared with three different linear viscoelastic theories (Squire and Allan, 1980; Robinson and
532 Palmer, 1990; and Wang and Shen, 2010).

533

534 Wave experiments show that the wavelength could be shorter or longer than the open water case,
535 depending on wave period, material property and cover thickness. The theoretical predictions
536 match reasonably well with the experiment results for larger periods and the thinner cover, while,
537 some discrepancies are observed for the thicker cover.

538

539 The wave attenuation has large discrepancies between the theoretical predictions and experimental
540 data, more so for shorter periods and the thicker cover. The effects due to several missing
541 mechanisms that could be estimated based on fundamental knowledge in fluid mechanics are
542 examined. The strongest effect appears to be the boundary layer below the flexing floating covers.
543 The experiments with the PVC film confirm this conjecture. We note that similar effects are also
544 expected in the field under real ice covers. As shown in recent studies (Smith et al., 2016;
545 Marchenko et al., 2017), waves may create quite complicated flow structures under an ice cover.

546 Overall, the current findings highlight that a detailed study on the presence of boundary layer
547 underneath an oscillating cover, with its influence on decay of wave as well as wavenumber
548 modification, need to be performed in the future.

549

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551

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558

559 **Appendix A:**

560

561 The positioning of ultrasound sensors over the 0.01 m thick covers is as follows:

562 (i) The first ultrasound sensor, US1, is fixed at 20 cm from the leading edge.

563 (ii) The second ultrasound sensor, US2, is placed at 50 cm from the leading edge and the other five
564 sensors are kept at 40 cm distance apart from each other following US2 towards the beach.

565 (iii) The first set of experiments are conducted with the position of the ultrasound sensors as
566 mentioned above for the required wave periods.

567 (iv) The second set of experiments are conducted after moving the ultrasound sensors other than
568 US1 by 20 cm towards the beach from their previous position. Each experiment from the second
569 set is also repeated three times. Because of the repeatability of the experiments, the two sets under
570 the same wave condition are then combined to effectively increase the monitoring density along
571 the floating covers. In all, each wave test is monitored at 13 locations with respective distance
572 from the leading edge as: 20, 50, 70, 90, until 270 cm.

573

574 For the 0.02 m thick PDMS cover, the distance between the sensors is maintained at 20 cm for the
575 first set of experiments. In the second set of experiments, all the sensors are shifted by 10 cm from
576 their previous position (except US1), resulting in the 13 locations as: 20, 50, 60, 70, until 160 cm.
577 This positioning is done so that the surface elevation under stronger attenuation is still within the
578 measurable range of the ultrasound sensors.

579

580 For each PDMS cover, the time series of surface displacement data at 13 locations along the length
581 of the cover are obtained with a total of 66 experiments (i.e. 11 wave periods \times 2 position changes
582 \times 3 repetitions). Open water experiments and experiments with floating PVC film are also
583 conducted with the same input wave conditions to compare with the viscoelastic floating cover
584 cases.

585

586 For each PVC cover, the time series of surface displacement data at only 7 locations along the
587 length of the cover are obtained with no shift provided for the sensors. Thus, a total of 33
588 experiments (i.e. 11 wave periods \times 1 position \times 3 repetitions) are conducted. Open water

589 experiments and experiments with floating PVC film are also conducted with the same input wave
590 conditions to compare with the viscoelastic floating cover cases.

591

592 **Appendix B**

593

594 The procedure for data analysis is validated using open water condition, where the measured wave
595 speed is confirmed with the theoretical value. For covered case, we repeated each test at least three
596 times with almost identical results. Reflection from the beach is carefully removed, with details
597 given below.

598

599 One common challenge in a wave flume facility, to analyze wave parameters, is to avoid
600 contamination from the beach reflection. Reflection can produce a partial standing wave that can
601 influence both celerity and attenuation measurements. The only way to avoid the influence of
602 reflection is to truncate the data at the time before the arrival of the reflection, which may be
603 estimated using the wave celerity. Hence, the number of “clean waves” is first determined in the
604 data analysis. The time needed for the wave energy to travel from each sensor with the group
605 celerity, reflected from the vertical wall near the beach and return to the sensor is calculated. The
606 time taken for each wave to make a round trip from a sensor to the wall is denoted by t_r . This time
607 span is calculated as twice the distance between sensor location and wall (x_b) divided by c_g , $t_r =$
608 $\frac{2x_b}{c_g}$. The number of waves considered free from reflection is calculated as $N_c = \frac{t_r}{T} - N_d$, where
609 N_d is the number of waves generated before the fully developed wave, which is estimated from the

610 ultrasound signal. Using this method, we found that for $T = 0.5$ s, N_c was 33 for US1 and 8 for
611 US13. For $T = 1.0$ s, N_c was 4 for the US1 and 3 for the US4. Since only three fully developed
612 waves are considered to obtain the wave attenuation throughout the analysis, the portion of the
613 PDMS covers where $N_c < 3$ are excluded from further analysis. Thus, the effect of reflection can
614 be ruled out as the reason for discrepancy between experimental data and theoretical results.

615

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745 α_{IN}), Black asterisk = experimental data for open water experiment for amplitude, $a = 0.01$ m, and
746 Grey asterisk = experimental data for open water experiment with reduced wave amplitude as
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748 The circles are the mean of each test and the error bars represent the 95% confidence interval limit
749 for fitted curve.

750 **Fig. 9.** Reduced attenuation coefficient against wave period ($h_s = 0.01$ m). Triangle = reduced
751 experimental data, model predictions: a) Dark grey dotted line = SA model, and b) Light grey solid
752 line = WS model.

753

754 **List of Abbreviations**

755

756 MIZ Marginal Ice Zone

757 PDMS Polydimethylsiloxane

758 PVC Polyvinyl chloride

759 RP Robinson and Palmer model (1990)

760 SA Squire and Alan model (1980)

761 US ultra sound

762 WS Wang and Shen model (2010)

763

764 **List of Symbols**

765

766 a wave amplitude in open water

767 B breadth of wave flume

768 c_o open water wave celerity

769 c_s wave celerity under the floating cover

770 c_g group celerity of wave

771 D depth of wave flume

772 d water depth

773 E_w wave energy

774 E Young's modulus of elasticity

775 g acceleration due to gravity

776 G shear modulus

777 G' storage modulus

778 G'' loss modulus

779 G_V complex Voigt shear modulus

780 h thickness of upper layer

781 h_s thickness of PDMS cover

782	H	thickness of lower layer
783	k_o	wavenumber in open water
784	k	complex wavenumber
785	k_i	imaginary part of the complex wavenumber
786	k_s	wavenumber under the floating cover / real part of complex wavenumber
787	L	length of wave flume
788	L_s	length of sheet
789	M_B	mass of base
790	m_{CA}	mass percentage of curing agent
791	M_{CA}	mass of curing agent
792	N_c	number of waves free from reflection
793	N_d	number of transient waves
794	T	wave period
795	u	horizontal orbital velocity of wave
796	ω	angular frequency of rheometer
797	σ	wave frequency
798	η	surface displacement
799	A_x	amplitude along the cover at x

800	A_o	amplitude along the cover at $x = 0$
801	α_o	attenuation coefficient for open water condition
802	α	experimentally determined attenuation coefficient
803	ϑ	Poisson's ratio
804	ρ_1	density of upper layer
805	ρ_2	density of lower layer
806	ρ_w	density of water
807	ν_e	complex viscosity
808	ν	real part of complex viscosity
809	ν_w	viscosity of water
810	κ	normalized wavenumber, k_s/k_o
811	δ_s	Stokes boundary layer thickness
812	λ	wavelength
813	Δ	gap between PDMS cover and side wall
814	γ	viscous term in RP model
815	α_{IN}	attenuation due to inextensible film
816	α_{CL}	clean water attenuation
817	α_{SB}	attenuation due to flume boundaries

818 α_e attenuation due to floating cover of finite elasticity and negligible thickness

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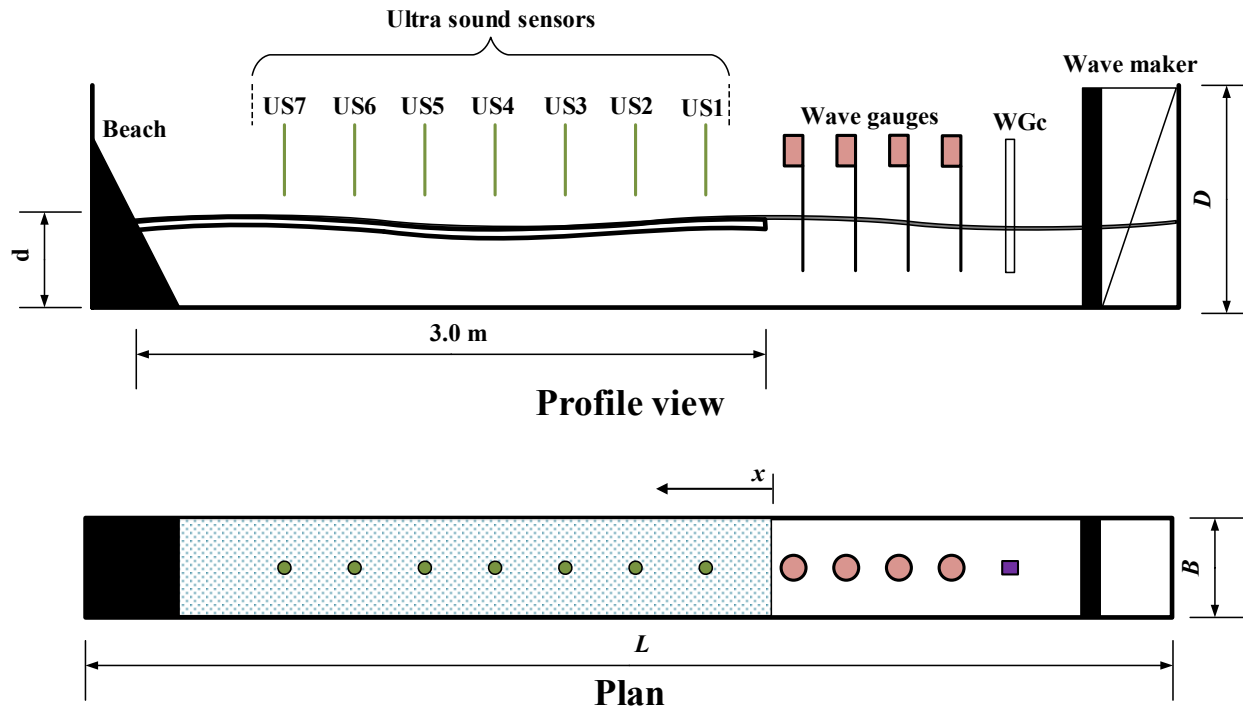
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1

2 **Fig. 1.** Curing of PDMS inside wave flume (view from above).

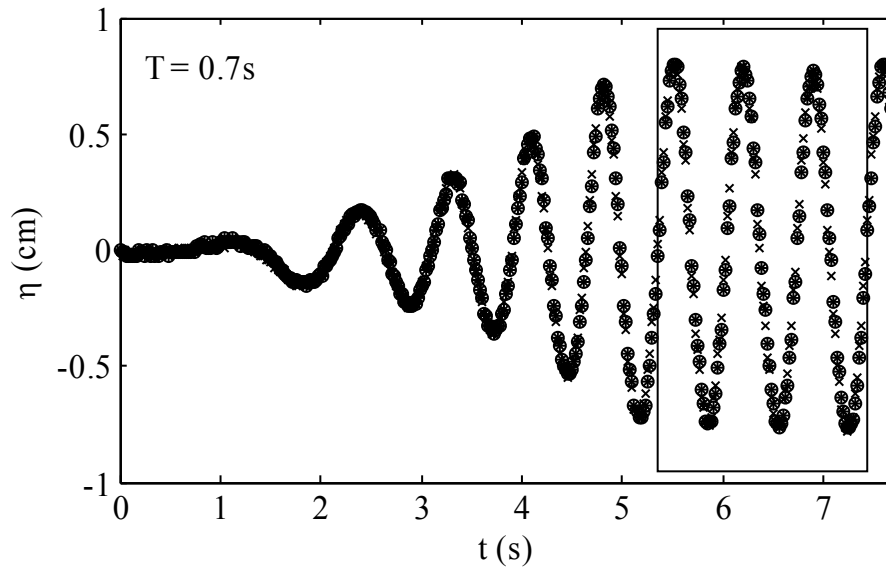
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4

5 **Fig. 2.** Schematic diagram of wave flume.

6



7

8 **Fig. 3.** The surface profile data obtained using US1 for $T = 0.7$ s, $m_{CA} = 4\%$ and cover thickness,

9 $h_s = 0.01$ m. The three fully developed waves considered are enclosed in the rectangle box, the

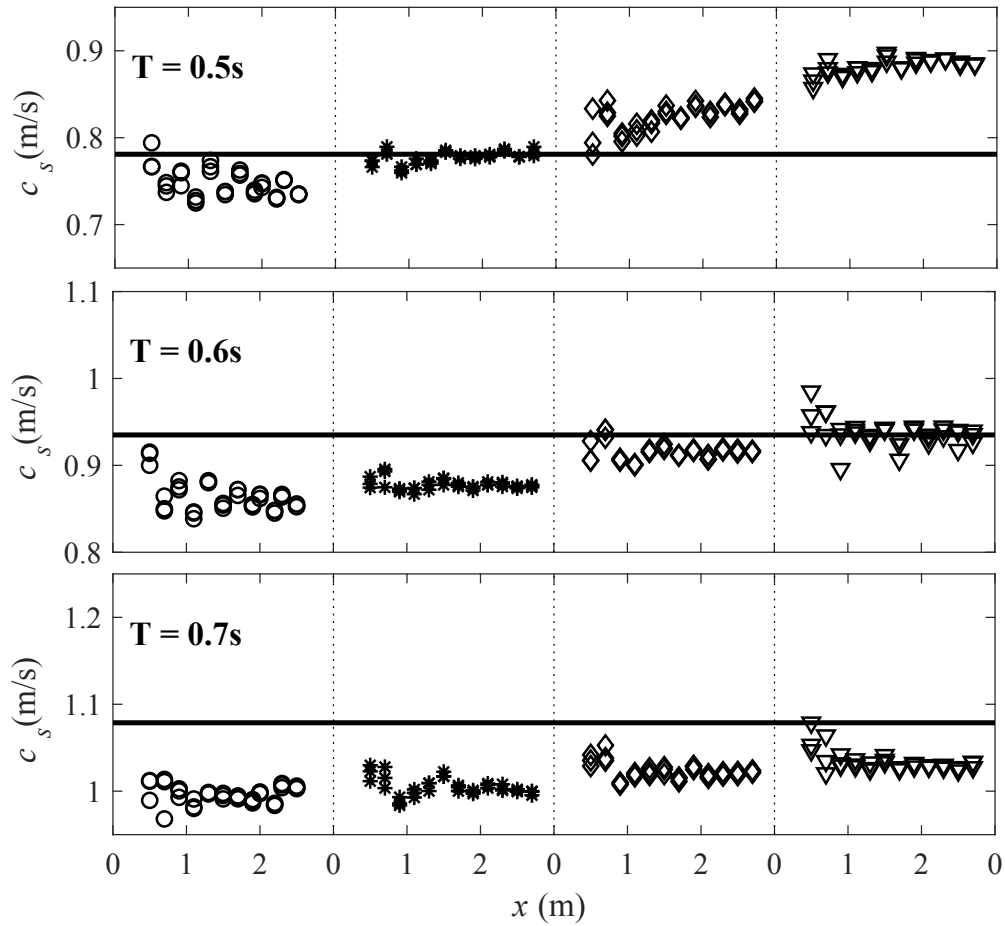
10 repeatability of test is confirmed using three experiments (cross symbol, asterisk and circle).

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○ $m_{CA}=4\%$ * $m_{CA}=6\%$ ◇ $m_{CA}=8\%$ ▽ $m_{CA}=10\%$ — Open water

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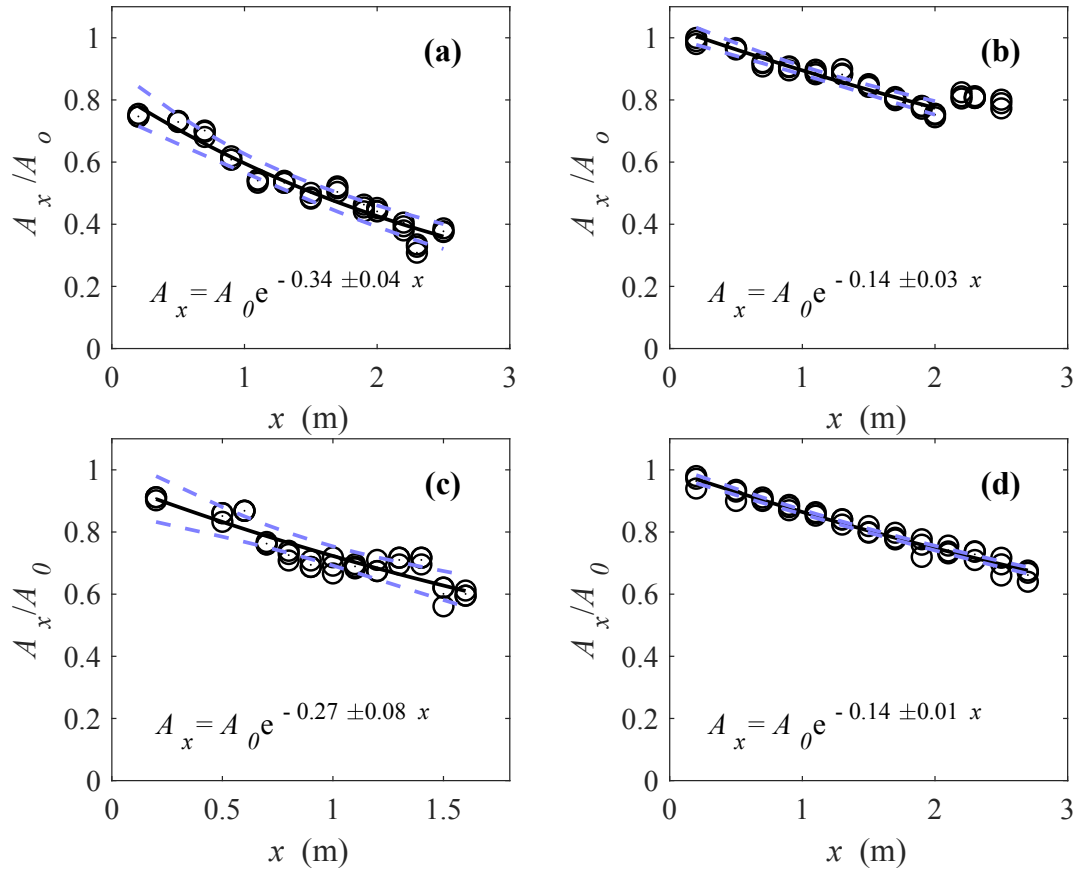
16

17 **Fig. 4.** Wave celerity along the length of the PDMS cover, $h_s = 0.01$ m. To aid visualization, figure

18 for each wave period is separated by dotted lines into 4 plots for different values of m_{CA} : Circles

19 = 4%, asterisk = 6%, diamonds = 8%, and triangle = 10%. Solid line = open water wave velocity.

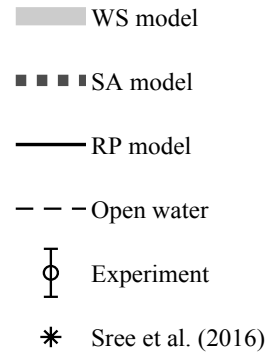
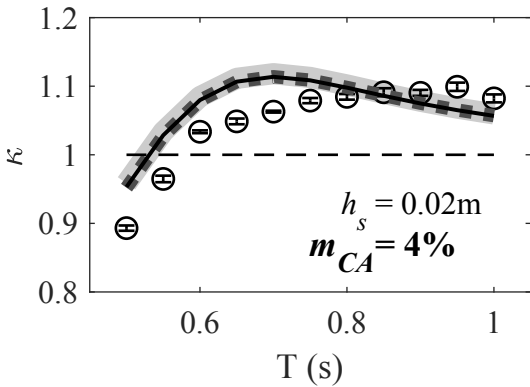
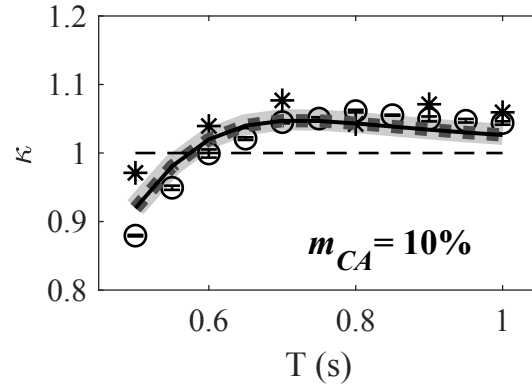
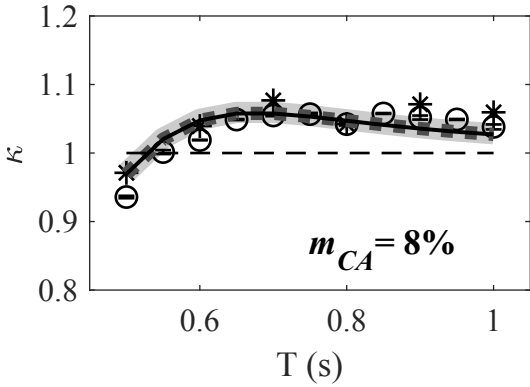
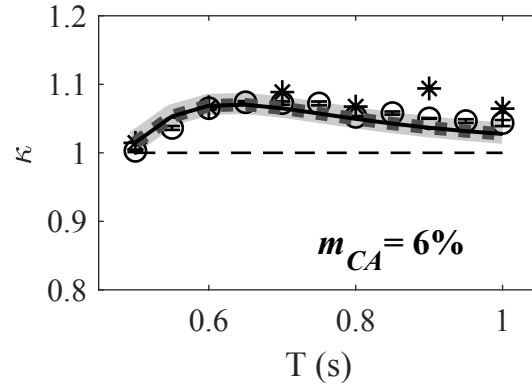
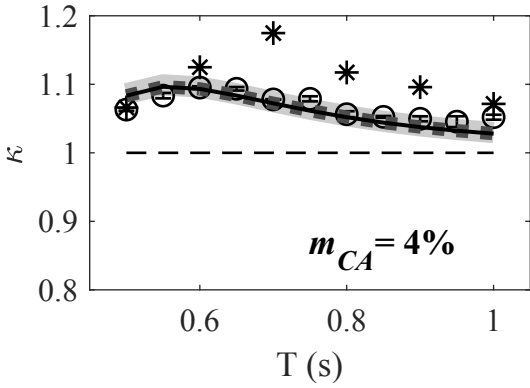
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22 **Fig. 5.** Normalized wave amplitude along the length of the floating covers. PDMS cover with m_{CA}
 23 $= 4\%$, $h_s = 0.01$ m and $T =$ a) 0.5 s and b) 0.7s. Wave attenuation along: c) PDMS cover with m_{CA}
 24 $= 4\%$, $h_s = 0.02$ m and $T = 0.5$ s, and d) PVC film for $T = 0.5$ s. Overlapping circles confirms the
 25 repeatability of tests. The solid line indicates the exponential fit curve and dashed line indicates
 26 the 95% simultaneous functional prediction bounds of the fitted curve.



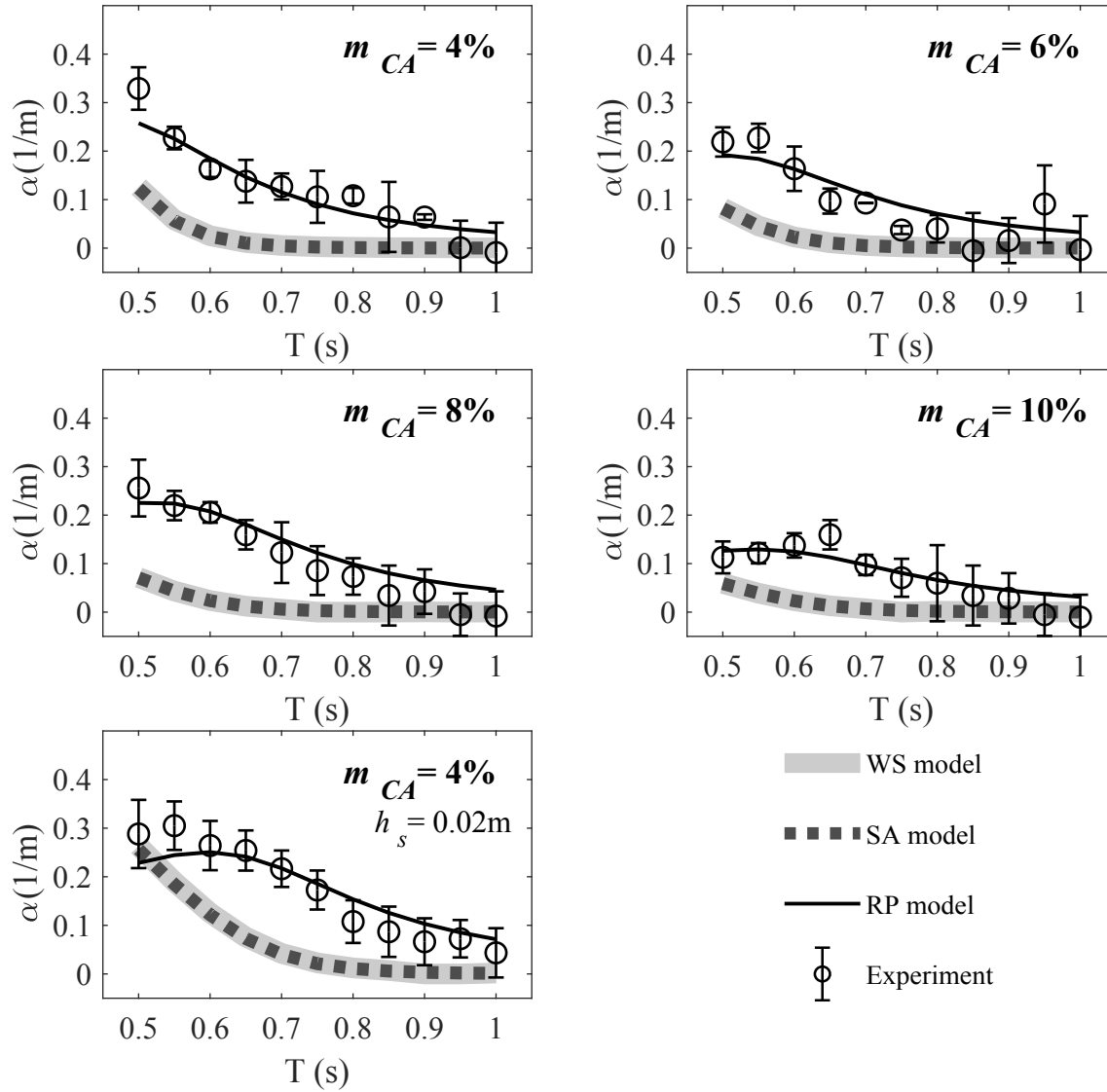
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30 **Fig. 6.** Variation in normalized wavenumber with wave period for PDMS cover ($h_s = 0.01$ m). The
 31 three model predictions are practically identical.

32



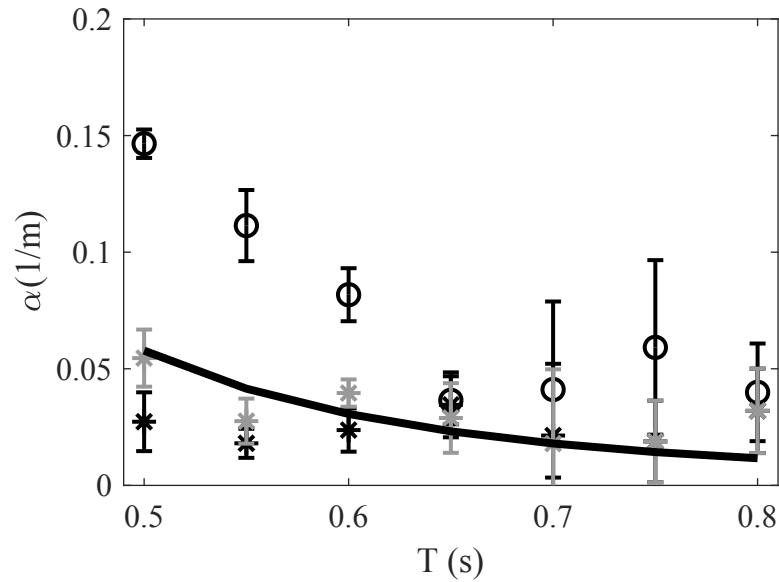
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36 **Fig. 7.** Attenuation coefficient against wave period ($h_s = 0.01$ m). The circles are the mean of each
 37 test and the error bars represent the 95% confidence interval limit for fitted curve.

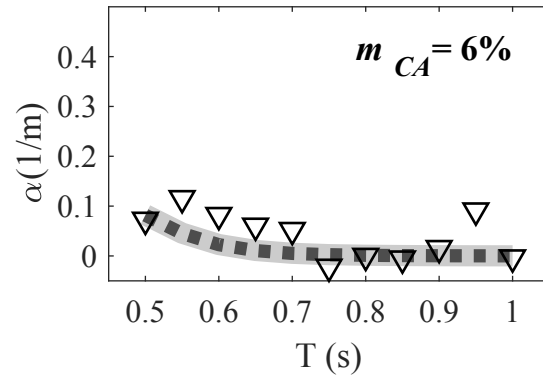
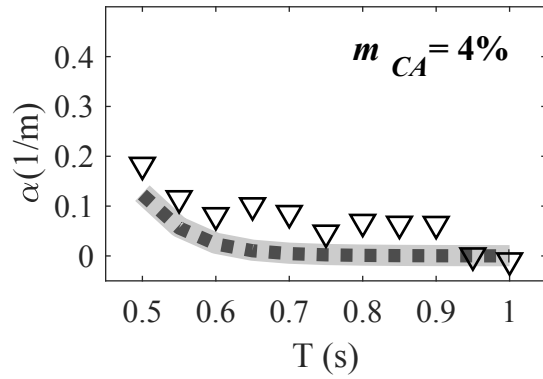
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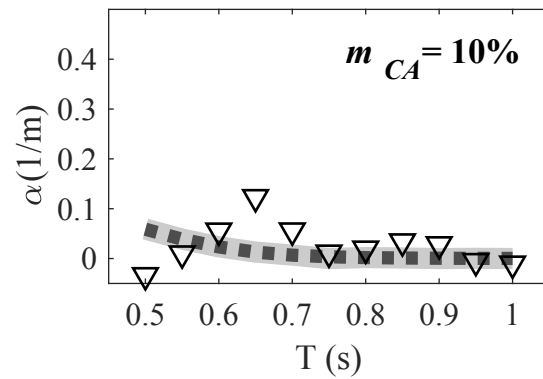
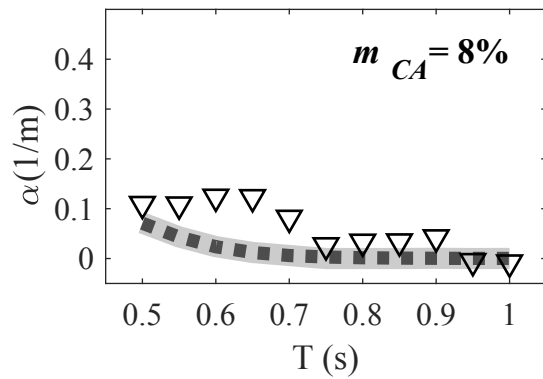
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40 **Fig. 8.** Wave attenuation due to all additional damping mechanisms. Circles = experimental data
 41 for PVC cover, Black solid line = theoretically obtained attenuation due to inextensible sheet (α_{IN}),
 42 Black asterisk = experimental data for open water experiment for amplitude, $a = 0.01$ m, and
 43 Grey asterisk = experimental data for open water experiment with reduced wave amplitude as
 44 mentioned in Table 2 for $h_s = 0.01$ m. In the experiment, each test was repeated at least three times.
 45 The circles are the mean of each test and the error bars represent the 95% confidence interval limit
 46 for fitted curve.

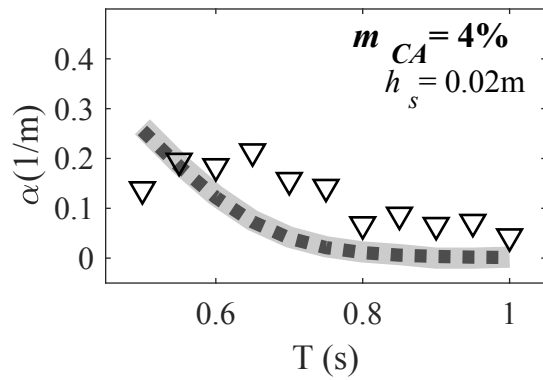
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51 **Fig. 9.** Reduced attenuation coefficient against wave period ($h_s = 0.01$ m). Triangle = reduced
 52 experimental data, model predictions: a) Dark grey dotted line = SA model, and b) Light grey solid
 53 line = WS model.

54

55

1 **Table 1**

2 Mechanical properties of PDMS cover. Viscosity and shear modulus obtained for Voigt model.

T (s)	ω (rad/s)	G'' (kPa)				$G' = G$ (kPa)				$\nu = \frac{G''}{\rho\omega}$ (m ² /s)			
		4%	6%	8%	10%	4%	6%	8%	10%	4%	6%	8%	10%
0.50	12.56	2.70	3.12	3.92	4.92	23.18	55.64	89.79	145.11	0.23	0.26	0.33	0.42
0.55	11.42	2.61	3.02	3.81	4.77	23.06	55.47	89.60	144.91	0.24	0.28	0.35	0.44
0.60	10.47	2.53	2.9	3.71	4.64	22.95	55.33	89.45	144.75	0.26	0.30	0.38	0.47
0.65	9.67	2.45	2.863	3.62	4.53	22.85	55.21	89.29	144.58	0.27	0.32	0.40	0.50
0.70	8.98	2.37	2.79	3.53	4.40	22.73	55.10	89.15	144.39	0.28	0.33	0.42	0.52
0.75	8.38	2.31	2.72	3.45	4.30	22.64	55.00	89.02	144.23	0.29	0.35	0.44	0.55
0.80	7.85	2.25	2.66	3.37	4.21	22.55	54.92	88.90	144.09	0.30	0.36	0.46	0.57
0.85	7.39	2.19	2.61	3.31	4.13	22.48	54.84	88.80	143.96	0.32	0.38	0.48	0.59
0.90	6.98	2.15	2.56	3.26	4.05	22.41	54.78	88.71	143.85	0.33	0.39	0.50	0.62
0.95	6.61	2.11	2.52	3.21	3.99	22.35	54.72	88.63	143.75	0.34	0.41	0.52	0.64
1.00	6.28	2.07	2.48	3.16	3.93	22.30	54.66	88.56	143.66	0.35	0.42	0.54	0.67

3

4

5 **Table 2**

6 Input wave characteristics.

T (s)	λ (m)	k_o (rad/m)	$a \times 10^{-2}$ (m)	$k_o a$	h_s (m)
0.50	0.39	16.20	0.43	0.07	0.02
			0.51	0.08	0.01, 0.02
0.55	0.47	13.32	0.43	0.06	0.02
			0.51	0.07	0.02
0.60	0.56	11.24	0.60	0.07	0.02
			0.68	0.08	0.01, 0.02
0.65	0.65	9.72	0.51	0.06	0.02
			0.72	0.07	0.02
0.70	0.76	8.29	0.85	0.07	0.01, 0.02
			0.85	0.08	0.01, 0.02
0.75	0.86	7.31	0.85	0.06	0.01, 0.02
0.80	0.96	6.56	0.85	0.06	0.01, 0.02
0.85	1.05	5.99	0.85	0.05	0.01, 0.02
0.90	1.14	5.50	0.85	0.05	0.01, 0.02
0.95	1.26	4.99	0.85	0.04	0.01, 0.02
1.00	1.37	5.57	0.85	0.04	0.01, 0.02

7

8

9 **Table 3**

10 Variation of wavelength and attenuation coefficient with wave amplitude. $m_{CA}= 4\%$, $h_s= 0.02$ m.

$a \times 10^{-2}$ (m)	0.43	0.51	0.60	0.68	0.73	0.85	0.43	0.51	0.60	0.68	0.73	0.85	
	κ (mean \pm standard deviation)						α (1/m) mean (lower upper, limit of 90% confidence interval)						
T(s)	0.50	0.89 \pm 0.02	0.89 \pm 0.02	-	-	-	0.28 (0.22,0.36)	0.27 (0.19,0.35)	-	-	-	-	
	0.55	0.96 \pm 0.01	0.96 \pm 0.01	0.97 \pm 0.02	-	-	0.30 (0.25,0.36)	0.24 (0.18,0.30)	0.22 (0.15,0.28)	-	-	-	
	0.60	-	1.03 \pm 0.01	1.03 \pm 0.01	1.04 \pm 0.02	-	-	-	0.22 (0.16,0.27)	0.26 (0.21,0.31)	0.26 (0.21,0.30)	-	-
	0.65	-	-	-	-	1.05 \pm 0.03	1.07 \pm 0.02	-	-	-	-	0.25 (0.21,0.29)	0.25 (0.22,0.28)