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TECHNICAL REPORT N-75-5

EFFECT OF CHARGE SHAPE ON CRATER DIMENSIONS

Ьу

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Final Report

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Errata Sheet

No. 1

EFFECT OF CHARGE SHAPE ON CRATER DIMENSIONS

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1. Page 14, second column should read:

 ${\binom{r_a}{n}}/{\binom{r_a}{l}}^a$ Dimensionless

2. Page 14, third column should read:

$$\binom{d_a}{n} / \binom{d_a}{l}^b$$

Dimensionless

3. Page 14, fourth column should read:

Volumetric Effectiveness Factor, V $e^{(v_a)} / (v_a)_1$ Dimensionless

4. Page 15, second column should read:

$$\frac{\binom{r_a/d_a}{n}^a}{\binom{r_a/d_a}{1}}$$

5. Page 15, third column should read:



- 6. Page 23, replace with page 23 attached.
- 7. Page 32, line 16 should read:
 - Volumetric effectiveness factor $[(v_a)_n/(v_a)_1]$ Ve

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20. ABSTRACT (Continued).

Since charges can be configured with aspect ratios up to 8 without significantly affecting crater shape or volume, it is possible to reduce drilling costs associated with charge emplacement in that drilling costs depend on penetration rate and penetration rates increase as hole diameters decrease. In an excavation program in which many holes are required, cost reductions could be substantial.

PREFACE

The experimental efforts in this study were accomplished as an adjunct to the New Madrid Fuse-Plug Study. Analysis of the data and preparation of this report were accomplished as a part of DA Project 4A762719AT32, Task 02.

Mr. J. N. Strange of the Weapons Effects Laboratory (WEL) prepared the report; Mr. S. B. Price (WEL) executed the field experiments and made appropriate crater measurements; and Mr. Max Ford (WEL) wrote the computer code for calculating crater volumes (see Appendix A). Ms. Virginia Mason typed the manuscript and assisted in the preparation of the Tables and Figures.

During the time this study was being accomplished, COL G. H. Hilt was Director of the Waterways Experiment Station, Mr. F. R. Brown was Technical Director, and Mr. W. J. Flathau was Chief of the WEL.

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EFFECT OF CHARGE SHAPE ON CRATER DIMENSIONS

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

Where cylindrical charges are employed to produce craters, it has generally been required by those who routinely conduct crater scaling experiments (experiments that are designed to simulate point source spherical explosions) that the aspect ratio (charge height-to-diameter ratio) be less than three. This requirement on charge shape has been, to some degree, an arbitrary restriction; however, it has been rather widely imposed in an effort to insure that the crater produced by the nonspherical charge would have essentially the same shape and overall size as one that would have been formed by the detonation of a spherical charge having the same yield.

The placement of large charges underground for the purpose of forming large craters can be simplified somewhat if the shape of the charge can be other than spherical, cubical, or cylindrical (assumes the aspect ratio of the latter to be 1). For example, containment of a 1-megagram (Mg) (2200-pound) charge of, say, nitromethane, which has a density of approximately 1.2 g/cm³, would require a volume equal to 0.83 m³ (29.3 ft³). If the charge is configured as a sphere, an access hole 1.2 metres (3.94 feet) in diameter would be required for proper placement. Similarly, a cube would require an access hole 1.4 metres (4.59 feet) in diameter, and a cylindrical charge (aspect ratio of one) would require an access hole slightly larger than 1 metre (3.28 feet) in diameter.

The practicality and economy of hole drilling favor small holes. The question thus arises "How high can the aspect ratio of a given cylindrical charge be and yet not affect significantly the size or shape of the crater formed by an equivalent-yield spherical detonation?" For example, if a cylindrical charge with an aspect ratio of 5 does not significantly affect the size or shape of the resulting crater, then it

would be possible to emplace the same 1-Mg (2200-pound) charge through an access hole that is only 60 cm (23.62 inches) in diameter (allows for a 5-cm (1.97-inch) oversize for clearance).

A series of tests was therefore conducted to investigate the effect that charge shape has on crater geometry and size. In these tests the variance in shape was confined to cylindrical charges whose aspect ratios varied from 1 to 8.

1.2 SCOPE

This report describes the geometries of the various craters formed by cylindrical charges having different aspect ratios. The crater profiles along mutually perpendicular diameters (north-south and east-west) are presented, and comparisons are made of crater radius, depth, and volume, as well as certain crater shape parameters.

CHAPTER 2

EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES

2.1 TEST SITE

The test series was conducted at the U. S. Army Engineer Waterways Experiment Station's Big Black Test Site, located about 16.09 km (10 miles) east-southeast of Vicksburg, Mississippi. The geology of the site is predominately sandy-silty loam. The test area within the overall test site was at one time under cultivation; therefore, the upper portion of the soil mantle is fertile topsoil.

The moisture content at the time of the tests was determined by sampling to range from 18 percent near the surface to 28 percent at a depth of about 1.5 metres (4.92 feet).

2.2 CHARGE AND SHOT GEOMETRIES

A total of seven cylindrical charges were prepared with the following aspect ratios: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 8. The actual dimensions of the charges are listed in Table 2.1. In every case, the charge weight was 4.54 kg (10 pounds).

All charges were initiated by high-energy blasting caps embedded in the charge at its center of gravity.

The charge center of gravity was used as the point of reference for positioning all charges at their proper depth of burial (DOB). For these tests, the charges were positioned 0.8 metre (2.7 feet) below ground; this DOB corresponds to a scaled DOB of 0.513 m/kg^{1/3.4} (1.37 ft/lb^{1/3.4}).

Charge placement was accomplished in the following manner. A 15-cm(6-inch)-diameter hand auger was used to drill the emplacement hole. In every instance, the emplacement hole depth was 0.8 metre (2.7 feet) plus H/2, where H designates the charge height (notations used in this report are listed in Appendix B). The charge initiator was then embedded in the charge (at its center of gravity) and the safe-ready charge was lowered into the emplacement hole. The void

space surrounding the charge was filled with native soil and compacted to approximately the same density as that of the in situ material (Figure 2.1).

A polyethylene hole liner was then placed in the emplacement hole (above the charge) and the liner filled with water; all charges were stemmed in this same manner (Figure 2.1). The charge was then fired and appropriate measurements were made to document the crater size and shape.

2.3 CRATER MEASUREMENTS

Prior to each shot, mutually perpendicular axes were established through ground zero (GZ) (epicenter of each explosion). Since the test area was essentially a horizontal plane, it was not necessary to obtain preshot surface profiles along the alignments specified. Postshot surveys were made along the alignments (crater diameters) and differences in elevation were determined at appropriate horizontal ranges. The data thus obtained enabled the plotting of apparent crater profiles along the north-south and east-west axes.

Crater volumes were calculated from the apparent crater profiles. Each radial profile (half-crater profile) was considered an independent data source. From these overlaid profiles, an average profile was developed and thus used to calculate the apparent crater volume. The crater volume computations were done by numerical integration of cylindrical shells formed by rotating vertical increments about the vertical axis through GZ. Details of the computer code that calculated the crater volumes are presented in Appendix A.

TABLE 2.1. CHARGE GEOMETRIES^a

H-Height	of Charge	D-Diameter	of Charge	H D
<u> </u>	ft	cm	ft	Dimensionless
15.4 ^c	0.504	15.4	0.504	1
24.4	0.801	12.2	0.400	2
32.0	1.05	10.7	0.350	3
38.7	1.27	9.68	0.318	4
44.8	1.48	8.96	0.294	5
50.7	1.66	8.47	0.278	6
61.5	2.02	7.68	0.252	8

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^a All charges were right circular cylinders.
^b Defined as the Aspect Ratio (AR) of the cylindrical charges.
^c Numerical values included in the first four columns were recorded to three significant figures.



Figure 2.1 Details of the charge emplacement.

CHAPTER 3

EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

3.1 PRESENTATION

During the course of the experimental program, seven detonations were accomplished. Orthogonal profiles of each of the seven craters formed by the detonations are presented in Figures 3.1 through 3.7. To determine an average profile for any given shot, the two orthogonal profiles were each divided into half-crater profiles, thus forming four such profiles, viz., GZ-north, GZ-south, GZ-east, and GZ-west. These four half-crater profiles were then superimposed and an average profile determined. The dimensions given in Table 3.1 describe quantitatively the average or representative half-crater profile developed for each shot. For volumetric determinations, the average half-crater profile was revolved about a vertical axis through GZ, thus forming the threedimensional depression that constitutes the average crater.

Table 3.2 presents the linear shape factors and the volumetric shape factors. Table 3.3 provides a quantitative measure of the change in dimensions for each H/D value compared to the dimension when the charge shape was defined by H/D = 1. Finally, Table 3.4 presents relative parametric changes as a function of H/D by comparing changes in the crater shapes.

3.2 DISCUSSION

<u>3.2.1</u> General Observations. A comparison of the crater dimensions listed in Table 3.1 shows a variation that is bounded by the mean plus or minus a 20 percent variation from the mean. Since crater dimensions from identical shots are generally characterized by a scatter in the range of ± 20 percent, there appears to be no significant difference in the respective crater dimensions as the value of H/D varies from 1 to 8. This observation is borne out by the fact that the crater shape parameters show a variation from the mean in the range of ± 15 percent (Table 3.2).

If the relative changes in the crater dimensions are examined as a function of H/D (Table 3.3), then one might conclude that there is a very slight decrease in radius and volume and a very slight increase in crater depth.

Table 3.4, which compares in a relative fashion the crater shape factors listed in Table 3.2, exhibits only a very slight change in crater shape. When H/D varies from 1 to 8, the total change is in the range of -10 percent.

Figure 3.8 shows the variation in the volumetric effectiveness factor as a function of H/D; the same plot compares the experimental results of this series of tests with results from other sources (References 1 and 2). The scatter observed in the experimental results (plotted points) precludes a definite statement that the experimental results are in agreement with References 1 and 2. The trend of the experimental results seems to agree with the downward trend noted by Reference 2 and agrees roughly with the Reference 1 results for H/D greater than 5.

From the tabular data, particularly Tables 3.2-3.4, and from Figure 3.8, it is obvious that, for a constant DOB, major changes in crater size and volume do not occur when H/D values range from 1 to 8.

3.2.2 Extrapolation of Results. Extrapolation of experimental results beyond the parametric range of the experiments is generally regarded as questionable. In some cases, where scaling laws are not violated regardless of the scale of the experiments, extrapolations prove quite accurate. In instances where scaling laws are violated to a degree that is somewhat dependent on various factors (as is true with the scaling of cratering experiments), the reliability of extrapolations is not predictable per se. In cratering experiments, the gravitational stresses (lithostatic pressures) scale as the length ratio while strength of the test medium and detonation pressures remain constant regardless of scale. Also, the seismic velocity of the test medium and the detonation velocity of the explosive remain constant; this advocates that time scale as the length scale. However, the acceleration due to gravity remains constant in both model and full-scale experiments. This requires that time scale as the square root of the length scale. Thus,

in cratering there are present conflicts in scaling that preclude blind extrapolation of results without regard to the discrepancies.

Experience has shown that the several conflicts in scaling are minimized when the length scale (λ) is proportional to the charge weight (W) raised to the 1/3.4 power, or

$$\lambda \propto W^{1/3.4} \tag{3.1}$$

Extrapolations of the experimental results obtained during the course of this study should therefore be in proportion to the rule stated in Equation 3.1 above. In addition, extrapolations should not violate the following constraints if the observed results are to yield valid results when extrapolated:

1. The charge weight should not exceed a few thousand pounds.

2. The aspect ratio should not exceed about 10. Higher aspect ratios may lead to a scaling law different from $W^{1/3.4}$, e.g., line charges follow a $W^{1/2}$ scaling law.

3. The scaled distance from the ground surface to the top of the charge should satisfy the following relation:

$$Z_{t} \ge 0.3 (W)^{1/3.4}$$

where Z_t is the distance from the ground surface to the top of the charge in metres and W is the charge weight in kilograms. By the same token, the scaled depth to the charge center of gravity $(Z_c/W^{1/3.4})$ should not exceed about 0.6 nor be less than 0.4. In order that this overall constraint hold, the charge height should generally be less than 0.4 $(W)^{1/3.4}$.

$\frac{H}{D}^{b}$ Dimensionless	Apparent Crater Radius, r _a , m (ft)	Apparent Crater Depth, d _a , m (ft)	Apparent Crater Volume, V _a , m ³ (ft ³)
1	1.89 (6.20)	0.914 (3.00)	5.01 (177)
2	1.77 (5.81)	0.792 (2.60)	3.96 (140)
3	2.01 (6.59)	0.975 (3.20)	5.30 (187)
24	1.80 (5.91)	0.914 (3.00)	4.39 (155)
5	1.65 (5.42)	0.975 (3.20)	3.99 (141)
6	1.71 (5.62)	1.04 (3.41)	4.28 (151)
8	1.80 (5.91)	0.975 (3.20)	4.56 (161)

TABLE 3.1 APPARENT CRATER DIMENSIONS ASSOCIATED WITH CYLINDRICAL CHARGES HAVING DIFFERENT ASPECT RATIOS^a

^a All tabular values are given to three significant figures except for the H/D values, which are discrete. b Charge depth of burial was held constant at 0.8 metre or 2.7 feet.

$\frac{H}{D}^{b}$ Dimensionless	(r _a /d _a) ^C Dimensionless	$ \begin{pmatrix} \frac{V_a}{\pi r_{ad_a}^2} \end{pmatrix}^d $ Dimensionless
1	2.07	0.489
2	2.23	0.509
3	2.06	0.427
4	1.97	0.473
5	1.69	0.478
6	1.64	0.448
8	1.85	0.459

TABLE 3.2 CRATER SHAPE FACTORS^a

 a All tabular values are given to three significant figures except b for the H/D values, which are discrete.
b Charge depth of burial was held constant at 0.8 metre or 2.7 feet.
c Linear shape factor.
d Volumetric shape factor.

H/D Dimensionless	$(r_a)_1/(r_a)_n^a$ Dimensionless	$(d_a)_1/(d_a)_n^b$ Dimensionless	Volumetric Effectiveness Factor, V _e ^c (V _a) _l /(V _a) _n Dimensionless
l	1.00	1.00	1.00
2	0.937	0.867	0.790
3	1.06	1.07	1.06
<u>)</u> 4	0.952	1.00	0.876
5	0.873	1.07	0.796
6	0.904	1.14	0.854
8	0.952	1.07	0.910

TABLE 3.3 RELATIVE CHANGES IN CRATER DIMENSIONS AS A FUNCTION OF H/D

a b Derived from column 2, Table 3.1. Derived from column 3, Table 3.1. Derived from column 4, Table 3.1.

с

H D	$\frac{\left(r_{a}/d_{a}\right)_{1}}{\left(r_{a}/d_{a}\right)_{n}}^{a}$	$\frac{\left(\frac{v_{a}}{\pi r_{a}^{2} d_{a}}\right)_{1}}{\left(\frac{v_{a}}{\pi r_{a}^{2} d_{a}}\right)_{n}}^{b}$
Dimensionless	Dimensionless	Dimensionless
1	1.00	1.00
2	1.08	1.04
3	0.995	0.873
4	0.952	0.967
5	0.816	0.978
6	0.792	0.916
8	0.894	0.939

TABLE 3.4 CALCULATION OF RELATIVE PARAMETRIC CHANGES AS A FUNCTION OF H/D

^a Derived from column 2, Table 3.2. Derived from column 3, Table 3.2.





Figure 3.2 Apparent crater profiles: H/D = 2.



Figure 3.3 Apparent crater profiles: H/D = 3.



Figure 3.4 Apparent crater profiles: H/D = 4.



Figure 3.5 Apparent crater profiles: H/D = 5.



Figure 3.6 Apparent crater profiles: H/D = 6.



Figure 3.7 Apparent crater profiles: H/D = 8.



Figure 3.8 Variation of the volumetric effectiveness factor as a function of charge shape (H/D).

CHAPTER 4

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 CONCLUSIONS

From the experimental results, it is obvious that changes in the erater size and shape are insignificant as applies to a given charge weight when the aspect ratio (H/D) of cylindrical charges varies from 1 to 8 (assumes a soil medium as opposed to desert alluvium or rock and assumes a constant scaled depth of burial in the range of $0.5 \text{ m/kg}^{1/3.4}$ (1.37 ft/lb^{1/3.4})). This observation is supported also by References 1 and 2 which indicate that only minor changes in crater volume occur in the range of H/D greater than 1 and less than 8.

It therefore appears that drilling costs associated with charge emplacement in soil media can be significantly lessened when cylindrical charges with aspect ratios in the range of 5 to 8 are used. For any given size charge, the use of smaller diameter holes will serve to increase the penetration rate, thereby reducing the drill time and thus the drilling cost. However, savings in drilling costs are an interdependent function depending on penetration rate (p_r) as a function of hole diameter for any given medium, depth of hole (d_h) , and the fixed unit operating cost (per hour or day) of the rig and crew (C_u) . The cost (C) of drilling a given hole can thus be determined from:

$$C = \frac{d_{h}}{p_{r}} C_{u}$$

In minimizing costs for any given excavation project, trade-offs in charge shape versus drilling effort must be carefully studied for cost reductions to be real and significant.

4.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that high-yield tests (charge weights on the order of hundreds of pounds) be performed in order to insure that the low-yield results described in this report are in fact valid for the

larger yields. Tests in the range of hundreds of pounds would provide confident scaling of results into the thousand-pound range.

It is further recommended that similar experiments be carried out in desert alluvium and rock to establish whether or not the results presented in this report are applicable to widely differing media.

REFERENCES

1. J. Briggs; "Military Engineering Applications of Commercial Explosives: An Introduction;" Technical Report E-73-2, May 1973; Explosive Excavation Research Laboratory, U. S. Army Engineer Waterways Experiment Station, CE, Livermore, Calif.

2. J. N. Strange; "The Effect of Charge Shape on the Geometry of Craters Formed;" (unpublished notes), June 1970; Weapons Effects Laboratory, U. S. Army Engineer Waterways Experiment Station, CE, Vicksburg, Miss.

APPENDIX A

CALCULATION OF APPARENT CRATER VOLUME

Postshot surveys of the cratered area established crater depths at regular intervals along four orthogonal radials extending outward from GZ. For each crater, the four orthogonal radials (half-crater profiles) were considered independent. The four half-crater profiles were then averaged to form the half-crater profile representative of the particular shot. The computed apparent crater volumes were calculated from each of the representative profiles.

The method chosen to calculate the apparent crater volume treats the range (horizontal distance from GZ) as the independent variable. The primary reason for this choice is that range is a nondecreasing function and thus makes for a simpler calculational routine.

Each range and the crater depth at that range (observed from the representative half-crater profile) are input parameters to the computer program. As shown in Figure A.1, each range interval and the depth associated with each end point of the interval form a trapezoid. The area of the trapezoid is given by:

Area =
$$h\left(\frac{a+b}{2}\right)^{-1}$$

where h is the height and a and b are the bases of the trapezoid. If the depths associated with any two consecutive ranges are considered to be the bases and the interval between the ranges is considered to be the height, then a cross section of the crater can be viewed as a series of rectangles, each with a height of

$$R_n - R_{n-1}$$

and a base of

¹ Prepared by Max B. Ford, Weapons Effects Laboratory, U. S. Army Engineer Waterways Experiment Station.

By revolving each of the trapezoids about the vertical axis through GZ, the crater can now be considered as the summation of a series of concentric hollow cylinders or cylindrical shells, except for the innermost cylinder, which is a solid of revolution. This logic serves as the basis for calculating the apparent crater volumes.

 $\frac{D_n - D_{n-1}}{2}$

The volume of each cylindrical shell is calculated from the following formula:

Volume =
$$\pi \left(\frac{R_n^2 - R_{n-1}^2}{n} \right) \left[\left(\frac{D_n + D_{n-1}}{n} \right) / 2 \right]$$

The volumes of the cylindrical shells are then summed to give the total volume of the crater as calculated from the input measurement of that particular representative half-crater profile.

The following computer program was written to calculate crater volumes using the above procedure. It is specifically for use on the Honeywell G 635 time-sharing system.

```
1000
       PROGRAM TO CALCULATE CRATER VOLIME
11ØC
      X DISTANCES AND Y DEPTHS MAY BE TYPEL IN OR INPUT
1200
                       STARTING AT CENTER OF CRATER OUTVARL
13ØC
      ON PAPER TAPE,
      OF STARTING AT ONE SILE OF CRATER AND PROCEELING ACROSS
140C
      THE DIAMETER OF THE CRATER
15ØC
1600
              APRIL 1975.
17ØC
                            MBF
180C
         DIMENSION X(100), Y(100), ZX(100), ZY(100)
190
200
      10 CONTINUE
210
         KOUNT = \emptyset
220
         SIMM2 = 0.
230
      20 CONTINUE
         PRINT, "X DISTANCE AT CENTER OF CRATER?"
240
250
         REAL 40, DIS
         DO 30 I = 1, 100
260
      30 ZX(I) = -100.
270
         PRINT, "RANGE?, LEPTH?"
280
290
         READ (5,40,ENL = 50) (ZX(I), ZY(I), I = 1, 100)
300
      40 FORMAT (V)
310
      50 CONTINUE
         D0 80 I = 1, 100
320
         IF (ZX(I).LT. - 90.) GO TO 100
330
340
         X(I) = ZX(I)
350
         Y(I) = ZY(I)
      80 CONTINUE
360
370
     100 J = I - 1
         NUM = 1
380
390
         IF (DIS) 110, 160, 110
400
     110 CONTINUE
410
         SIM = 0
420
         DO 120 I = 1, J
         IF (X(I).GE.FIS) GO TO 130
430
440
     120 CONTINUE
450
     130 CONTINUE
         NUM = I
46Ø
470
         KNUM=2
480
         KX = NUM
```

÷.

```
LO 140 I = 1, NUM
490
         X(I) = DIS - ZX(KX)
500
         Y(1) = ZY(KX)
510
         KX = KX - 1
520
     140 CONTINUE
530
540
     180 CONTINUE
55ØC
56ØC
57ØC
      VOLUME CALCULATIONS ARE PERFORMED BELOW
58ØC
590C
600C
610
         DO 150 I = KNUM \cdot NUM
         YY = (Y(I) + Y(I-1)) / 2.
620
         V = 3.14159 * YY * (X(I) + 2. - X(I-1) + 2.)
630
         SIM = SIM + V
640
     150 CONTINUE
650
660C
67ØC
68ØC
69ØC
         KOUNT=KOUNT+1
700
710
         SUMM2=SUMM2+SUM
         PRINT, "VOLUME THIS RALIAL IS", SUM
720
730
         IF (NLM.GE.J) GO TO 190
740 160 CONTINUE
         DO 170 I = NUM, J
750
         X(I) = ZX(I) - LIS
760
         Y(I) = ZY(I)
770
780 170 CONTINUE
79Ø
         KNUM = NUM + 1
800
         NLM=J
810
         SUM=0
820
         GO TO 180
830
     190 CONTINUE
         PRINT, "AVERAGE VOLUME=1 CONTINUE=0 ENL=-1"
840
         REAL, M
850
         IF (M) 210, 20, 200
860
870
     200 AVOL = SUMM2 / KOUNT
         PRINT, "AVERAGE VOLUME OF CRATER IS", AVOL
880
         PRINT, "END=0, ANOTHER RUN=1"
89Ø
900
         READ, MM
910
         IF (MM.LE.0) GO TO 210
920
         GO TO 10
     210 CONTINUE
930
940
         STOP
950
         END
```

READY

*



Figure A.1 Methodology for calculating the apparent crater volume.

APPENDIX B: NOTATION

a,b	Bases of trapezoid (Appendix A)
C	Drilling cost
°u	Unit operating cost of drill rig and crew
da	Apparent crater depth
d _h	Emplacement hole depth
D	Diameter of charge
h	Height of trapezoid (Appendix A)
Н	Height of charge
H/D	Aspect ratio of cylindrical charge
p _r	Penetration rate
ra	Apparent crater radius
$\frac{r_a}{d_a}$	Linear shape factor
Va	Apparent crater volume
$\frac{v_a}{\pi r_a^2 d_a}$	Volumetric shape factor
-V _e	Volumetric effectiveness factor $[(v_a)_1/(v_a)_n]$
W	Charge weight
Z _c	Depth below ground to charge center of gravity (depth of burial, DOB)
z_t	Depth below ground to top of charge

 λ Length scale

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