
Contents

| | |
|--|------|
| Foreword | ix |
| Introduction | xiii |
| Chapter 1. Potential: Energy Resource and Markets | 1 |
| 1.1. Ocean wave energy resource | 1 |
| 1.1.1. The Airy regular wave model | 1 |
| 1.1.2. Characterization of waves at sea | 5 |
| 1.1.3. Characterization of the energy resource at a given site | 13 |
| 1.1.4. World map of wave energy resource | 19 |
| 1.1.5. Nearshore resource | 20 |
| 1.2. Market considerations | 29 |
| 1.2.1. Adequacy of resource and electricity prices | 29 |
| 1.2.2. Cost reduction based on the learning effect | 31 |
| 1.2.3. Alternative and niche markets | 33 |
| 1.3. Conclusion | 34 |
| Chapter 2. Wave Energy Conversion: Historical Perspective | 37 |
| 2.1. Before 1973: “prehistory” | 38 |
| 2.2. 1973–1985: the modern age | 41 |
| 2.3. 1985–1998: the trough of the wave | 52 |
| 2.4. Since 1998: the wave of technologies | 62 |
| 2.4.1. In Europe | 64 |
| 2.4.2. In the rest of the world | 78 |
| 2.5. Summary | 89 |

| | |
|---|----|
| 2.6. 2012–2016: a crisis of confidence | 89 |
| 2.7. Conclusion: are we at a turning point in the history of wave energy? | 96 |

Chapter 3. Working Principles and Technologies of Wave Energy Conversion 99

| | |
|--|-----|
| 3.1. Classifications of wave energy converters | 99 |
| 3.2. Working principles | 103 |
| 3.2.1. Overtopping devices | 103 |
| 3.2.2. Oscillating water column | 107 |
| 3.2.3. Wave-activated bodies | 115 |
| 3.3. New trends | 138 |
| 3.3.1. Flexible or deformable wave energy converters | 139 |
| 3.3.2. Hybrid systems | 146 |
| 3.3.3. Systems finding a positioning in markets alternative to the continental market of electricity | 149 |
| 3.4. Conclusion | 150 |

Chapter 4. Energy Performance of Wave Energy Converters . 153

| | |
|--|-----|
| 4.1. Capture width and capture width ratio | 153 |
| 4.2. Wave energy conversion as wave interference | 155 |
| 4.3. Capture width ratio theoretical maxima in the two- dimensional case | 157 |
| 4.4. Theoretical maxima for the capture width ratio in the three- dimensional case | 162 |
| 4.4.1. Wave energy converters with axisymmetric floats whose axis is vertical | 162 |
| 4.4.2. Wave energy converters with elongated bodies (attenuators) | 166 |
| 4.4.3. General case | 170 |
| 4.4.4. Practical constraints and limitations of the frequency approach | 183 |
| 4.5. Energy performance and capture width ratios observed under realistic conditions | 187 |
| 4.6. Technical and economic comparison of a representative selection of wave energy converters | 190 |
| 4.7. Conclusion | 197 |

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Conclusion | 199 |
| Appendices | 201 |
| Appendix 1 | 203 |
| Appendix 2 | 209 |
| Bibliography | 225 |
| Index | 239 |