

# Evaluation on Risk for Ship Collision with Archbridge and Crash Capability of Anti-Collision

Miao Jilun<sup>1,2</sup>, Cai Chuang<sup>\*2</sup> and Xiao Shengxie<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>School of Civil Engineering and Architecture, Chongqing Jiaotong University, China

<sup>2</sup>Key Laboratory of Hydraulic and Waterway Engineering, Ministry of Education, Chongqing Jiaotong University, China

**Abstract:** The development of the highway traffic has promoted the construction of increasing numbers of river-crossing bridges, but at the same time, large-size ship causes serious threat to structural safety of the bridge. The probability of bridge-ship collision increases, water safety accidents have happened frequently in the recent years. Arch bridge is easier to be subjected to the threat of ship collision because of small navigation clearance on both sides. However, study on the destructive consequences by ship impact on arch bridge is seldom. This paper takes reinforced concrete arch bridge as an example, on the basis of the forecast of the water-level frequency, flow velocity and long-term navigation density of the ship, the ship collision probability on different parts of the arch ring at different water levels are analyzed to deduce the annual collapse frequency of the grand bridge. The risk matrix evaluation result shows that there is medium risk in long-term. The establishment of finite element numerical model concludes the energy absorption and the change process when the arch ring suffers from collision from the ship under different working conditions as well as the relationship among the impact force, crown displacement and collision depth along with time change. According to the result of simulated analysis, the maximum collision force of the main arch ring suffered from the ship is 25.9MN, and the resistance of the main arch ring is 33.6 MN, so the existing structure basically meets the requirement for fortification against the ship collision. The numerical simulation results are qualitatively consistent with the risk of evaluation. The results of the analysis can provide scientific foundation to the maintenance and management of the arch bridge.

**Keywords:** Bridge, Ship Collision, Risk, Load, Resistance.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

With the rapid development of the transportation industry, various types of bridges are built constantly and developed for crossing the inland river to crossing the estuary even crossing the ocean, and the tonnage and speed of the ship is increasing. In the channel with busy transportation, due to the loading capacity of channel greatly exceeding the original designed carrying capacity, the collision accidents between bridge and ship happen frequently to endanger the traffic safety seriously [1]. Statistical data shows that, during 1960—2002, 32 bridges collapsed or serious damage occurred due to the ship collision, globally. There is about one large-scale bridge to be collapsed or damaged seriously due to ship collision every year on average, and the accident brings about huge economic loss and casualties.

Presently, the ship collision problems have been valued all over the world. There are three means for the aspect of study for the ship collision problems such as theoretical calculation analysis, model test and ship test. Minorsky Theory, G. Wosin Collision Theory, Hans-Andrew Cher

Theory and energy exchange principle are based on the quasi-static simulated analysis of collision are the basis of common method to analyze the problem of the pier's collision suffered from the ship [2, 3].

In the above common engineering calculation method for bridge and ship collision problems, the factors to be considered are very simple and there is a certain guiding significance for engineering application according to the calculation method derived from empirical data and mainly starting from the impulse formula, energy formula, etc. However, it is increasingly difficult to meet the requirement of engineering construction only by adopting the traditional formula for engineering calculation.

In recent years, with the development of the nonlinear finite element analysis technique and computer hardware system, there is a new breakthrough for the calculation of the ship and bridge collision problems [4]. For different types of ship-bridge collision problems, the complex geometrical shapes, material constitution, failure and damage and other information of ships and bridges can be very accurately described. The more accurate results can be obtained accordingly, and the more traditional empirical equation has embodied the greater superiority [5]. However, most of these focus techniques on the pier or beams, and it seldom pays attention to the damage to the arch ring. The mechanical

\*Address correspondence to this author at the School of River & Ocean Engineering, Chongqing Jiaotong University, Chongqing, 400016 China; Tel: +86 23 68890925; Fax: 023-68812821; E-mail: jimcqu@163.com

model for ship-bridge collision has been established based on finite element method in this paper to analyze and study the deformation and anti-collision capability of the main arch ring for certain arch bridge under different working conditions.

**2. DESIGN SCHEME FOR BRIDGE STRUCTURE**

**2.1. Bridge Span Arrangement**

Wujiang Bridge in Fuling has been taken as an example. The bridge is the reinforced concrete box arch bridge with 200m for main arch span, the rise is 50m, the full width of bridge deck is 12m, and the rise span ratio is 1/4. The spandrel building is 15.8m reinforced concrete hollow slab simply supported girder bridge with 13 holes and double-column flexible bent frame, and the abutment foundation is placed on the rock, the main arch ring is adopted with box arch form with 3 chambers, and approach bridge is adopted with 31.6m simply supported girder bridge, the overall length of the bridge is 352.6m. As shown in Fig. (1).

**2.2. Structural Type**

**2.2.1. Main Arch Ring**

The main arch ring is the cross section with single box and two chambers. The thickness of the arch ring is 3m, transversal equivalent width is 8m, the thickness of the top and bottom plate is 0.4m, thickness of the plate is 0.45m. The clear span of the main arch ring is 200m. Rise span ratio is 1/4. Arch-axis coefficient is 2.328.

**2.2.2. Spandrel Column**

Two spandrel columns are provided in the transverse direction of the bridge, cross tie beam is provided on the top of column. The width of each column in transverse direction of the bridge is 1.4m uniformly. The width along the direction of bridge is 1.2m for two groups of accessories at the root of the main arch ring, the dimension of rest is 1m.

**2.2.3. Prefabricated Hollow Slab**

The span of the hollow slab is 15.8m. The bridge is provided with 11 hollow slabs, 2 side plates and 9 middle plates.

**2.2.4. Abutment and Boundary Pier**

The abutment is designed as reinforced concrete abutment, and its foundation is placed on the stable and complete weakly-weathered bedrock. The boundary pier is a two-columned pier and the width of the pier in the transverse direction of the bridge is 1.4m, and 3m in the forward direction of the bridge.

**3. SAFTY EVALUATION FOR BRIDGE AND SHIP COLLISION RISK**

**3.1. Parameter Choice**

**3.1.1. Flow Parameter**

The characteristics parameters of water level and water flow rate of the river in bridge area refer to Table 1.

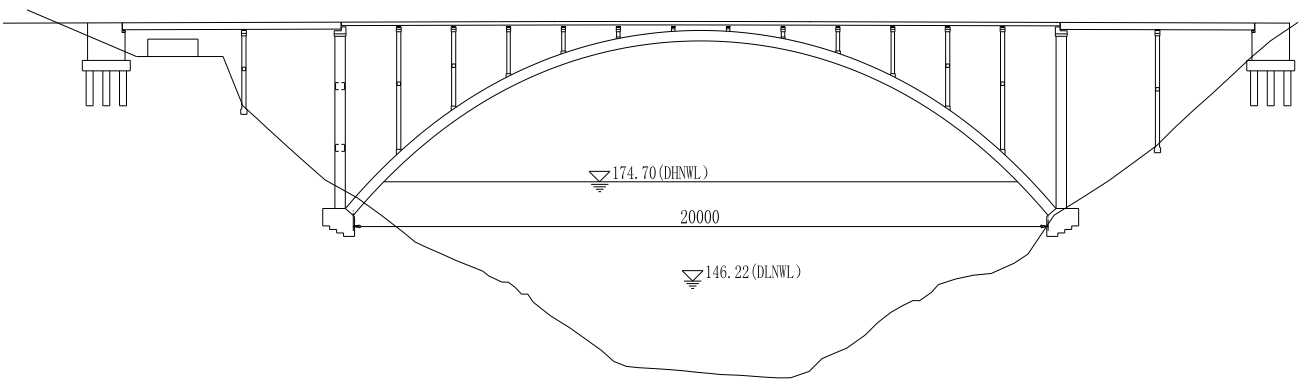


Fig. (1). Schematic Diagram for Elevation of Bridge.

Table 1. Flow rate of bridge at different water levels.

No.	Water Level (m)	Annual Probability of Occurrence	angle with Flow Direction(°)	Longitudinal Velocity (m/s)	Transverse Velocity (m/s)	Min. Flow Rate(m/s)
1	177.7	0.33%	6	5.97	0.63	6.0
2	176.0	5.67%	4	3.19	0.23	3.2
3	173.3	50%	2	0.50	0.02	0.5
4	164.0	18%	4	2.99	0.21	3.0
5	159.0	11%	4	2.49	0.18	2.5
6	145.88	15%	2	2.00	0.07	2.0

While calculating the ship collision risk, upon considering the water level change all the year round, each arch ring unit and the ship collision risk with the whole bridge shall be calculated firstly at different water levels, Then, the weighted sum shall be calculated according to the probability of occurrence at different water levels, namely.

$$P = \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i P_{wi}$$

Where,  $\alpha_i$  is the probability of occurrence of the water level,  $P_{wi}$  is the ship collision risk at the water level. The water level in the whole year has been divided into 6 levels.

**3.1.2. Density and Navigational Speed of Navigational Ship**

The navigation density of ship passing through the cross section of the bridge is shown in the Table 2. The typical navigational speed of the ship can be chosen based on Table 3.

**3.1.3. Other Parameters**

The length of the typical ship is 85m. The standard value of yaw angle is 0°. The standard deviation of yaw angle is 10°. The accepted risk for annual collapse of the bridge refers to 10<sup>-4</sup>/Year.

**3.2. Results and Analysis on Safety Evaluation for Ship Collision Probability**

Anti-Collision Design Guide Method of Bridge in China and AASHTO Method is adopted to obtain the ship collision probability and the security evaluation result of the main arch ring at different water levels in 2014, 2025 and 2050, listed in Table 4, for details [6, 7]. The results show that the collision risk at arch springing is higher under the influence of flow, clearance height of the ships movement, the collision range of the arch ring at high water level is wider, and the higher the water level, the higher the collision frequency.

It may be observed from the calculation results that, with increase of the year (the navigation capacity is increasing constantly), the annual collision frequency and annual collapse frequency of the main arch ring are increasing constantly. The annual collision frequency and annual collapse frequency of the main arch ring varying with the years are shown in Table 5. The results show that, with the development of navigation business, the ship collision risk of grand bridge is increasing by years. However, until 2050, the ship collision of the main arch ring is still lower than 10<sup>-4</sup>/Y of accepted risk of important bridge.

**Table 2. Forecasted ship navigation capacity at bridge location.**

Navigation Ship Frequency Ship Tonnage	Year		
	2014	2025	2050
Total number of ship passing ( ship frequency)	1455	4480	11355
Average daily ship passing frequency	4	12	31
50~500T	393	896	1817
500T~1000T	597	1568	2498
1000T~2000T	262	986	2952
2000T~3000T	131	672	2612
3000T~4000T	73	358	1476

**Table 3. Navigational speed of typical ship passing through the bridge.**

Ship Tonnage	Navigational Speed (m/s)	
	Sail Upstream	Sail Downstream
3000 tonner	4.0	5.0
2000 tonner	4.0	5.0
1000 tonner	4.0	5.0
500 tonner and below	4.0	5.0
Fleet	4.0	5.0

**Table 4. Evaluation results at different water levels in 2014.**

Year	Water Level(m)	AASHTO Method		Guiding Method	
		Annual Collision Frequency	Annual Collapse Frequency	Annual Collision Frequency	Annual Collapse Frequency
2014	177.7	1.57E-01	1.14E-04	4.31E-02	5.15E-05
	176.0	6.62E-02	4.46E-06	3.73E-02	4.44E-06
	173.3	2.36E-02	0.00E+00	2.73E-02	0.00E+00
	164.0	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00
	159.0	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00
	145.88	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00
2025	177.7	4.92E-01	5.46E-04	1.49E-01	2.49E-04
	176.0	2.08E-01	2.20E-05	1.29E-01	2.19E-05
	173.3	7.43E-02	0.00E+00	9.40E-02	0.00E+00
	164.0	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00
	159.0	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00
	145.88	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00
2050	177.7	1.28E+00	2.12E-03	4.26E-01	9.77E-04
	176.0	5.36E-01	8.90E-05	3.67E-01	8.88E-05
	173.3	1.92E-01	0.00E+00	2.68E-01	0.00E+00
	164.0	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00
	159.0	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00
	145.88	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00

**Table 5. Ship collision risk of the main arch ring of bridge.**

Years	AASHTO Method		Guiding Method	
	Annual Collision Frequency	Annual Collapse Frequency	Annual Collision Frequency	Annual Collapse Frequency
2014	1.61E-02	6.28E-07	1.59E-02	4.22E-07
2025	5.05E-02	3.05E-06	5.48E-02	2.06E-06
2050	1.31E-01	1.20E-05	1.56E-01	8.26E-06

### 3.3. Decision on Ship Collision Risk

#### 3.3.1. Risk Level and Risk Assessment Matrix

In order to determine the position of various risks of collision between bridge and ship in assessment matrix, based on relevant study and combined with the characteristics of collision risks between bridge and ship, the level grading on risk probability of ship collision is obtained as shown in Table 6.

Meanwhile, according to the damage degree, economic loss and social collision of structure and combining the specific characteristics of collision risk between bridge and ship, the decided level grade of ship collision risk consequences refers to Table 7.

In combination with the above level grade of risk probability and level grade of risk consequence, risk assessment matrix and decision criteria applied in this paper respectively refer to Table 8 and Table 9.

#### 3.3.2. Grade Evaluation Result and Decision

According to the previous risk analysis results and grade evaluation method, the determined risk grade of grand bridge refers to Table 10.

It can be known from above description that, although the value of yearly collapsed frequency for bridge calculated by AASHTO method and Guide method is different, the result of grade evaluation is basically consistent. According

**Table 6. Grading on risk probability of collision between bridge-ship.**

Grade	A	B	C	D	E	F
Qualitative Description	Impossible	Rare	Scarce	Occasional	Possible	Frequent
Probability Description	$10^{-6}$	$10^{-4} \sim 10^{-6}$	$10^{-3} \sim 10^{-4}$	$10^{-2} \sim 10^{-3}$	$10^{-1} \sim 10^{-2}$	$>10^{-1}$

**Table 7. Grade of consequences of collision risk between bridge- ship.**

Grade	1	2	3	4	5
Qualitative Description	Negligible	Smaller	Medium	Severe	Catastrophic
Failure Mode of Structure	No Damage or Micro Damage	Smaller Damage	Smaller Damage	Larger Damage	Collapse
Economic Loss	Smaller Economic Loss	Medium Economic Loss	Higher Economic Loss	Serious Economic Loss	Huge Economic Loss
Social Collision	Slight Social Collision	Low Social Collision	Medium Social Collision	Grandr Social Collision	Bad Social Collision

**Table 8. Risk assessment matrix of collision risk between bridge and ship.**

Risk Consequence / Risk Probability	1 Negligible	2 Smaller	3 Medium	4 Severe	5 Catastrophic
A ( $10^{-6} > X$ )	1A	2A	3A	4A	5A
B ( $10^{-4} > X > 10^{-6}$ )	1B	2B	3B	4B	5B
C ( $10^{-3} > X > 10^{-4}$ )	1C	2C	3C	4C	5C
D ( $10^{-2} > X > 10^{-3}$ )	1D	2D	3D	4D	5D
E ( $10^{-1} > X > 10^{-2}$ )	1E	2E	3E	4E	5E
F ( $X > 10^{-1}$ )	1F	2F	3F	4F	5F

**Table 9. Decision criteria for bridge risk.**

Risk Grade	Region	Countermeasures for Risk Disposal
Negligible	1A,2A,1B	Acceptable,management and review are unnecessary.
Low risk	3A,2B,3B,1C,2C,1D, 4A	Acceptable, management shall be reinforced during the whole process of construction and operation.
Medium risk	5A,4B,3C,2D,1E,1F	Conditional acceptable, had better further reduce the risk
High risk	5B,4C,5C,3D,4D,2E,3E,2F	Undesirable, senior management must make decision to reduce risk
Extremely high risk	5D,4E,5E,3F,4F,5F	Unacceptable,stop operation and reorganize promptly

to the result assessed by AASHTO method and Guide method, arch ring of the grand bridge is in a low risk condition, and the risk grade may be up to medium risk condition with the development of shipping business, the management shall be reinforced during the operating process of the grand bridge.

#### 4. NUMERICAL SIMULATION ON COLLISION BETWEEN GRAND BRIDGE AND SHIP

##### 4.1. Finite Element Model

Dynamic numerical simulation method is applied for the calculation of the collision function to bridge from the ship. LS-DYNA based on explicit algorithm is applied for the

Table 10. Risk Grade of collision between bridge and ship.

Method	2014		2025		2050	
	Yearly Collapsed Frequency	Risk Grade	Yearly Collapsed Frequency	Risk Grade	Yearly Collapsed Frequency	Risk Grade
Guiding	6.28E-07	4A Low Risk	3.05E-06	4B Med. Risk	1.20E-05	4B Med. Risk
AASHTO	4.22E-07	4A Low Risk	2.06E-06	4B Med. Risk	8.26E-06	4B Med. Risk

analysis software. Collision function between collision structures is completed by contact algorithm. Principal and subordinate contact surface are respectively defined on the two collided objects, in every time step of calculation. The acting force, whether to be acted on the principal surface, depends on the subordinate node, whether to penetrate the principal surface, and this force is the contact force. The grade of contact force depends on the penetrating quantity and element characteristics on both sides of contact the surface [8, 9].

There are many factors affecting the accuracy of the computed result, such as, friction between materials, selection of calculation element, and control of hourglass. Especially the function of element types and elaborate degree of grid, and the strain rate of materials also has a great affect function [10, 11]. Concrete material in the calculation of numerical simulation shall be adopted with elastic material conservatively and elastic constitutive relation, and the density of the cement is  $2500\text{kg/m}^3$ , Poisson's ratio is 0.17. Entity unit is applied for the arch ring part of the model, and beam element is adopted for bridge on the arch and deck. In order to shorten the calculation time, other parts without direct contact with ship shall be divided by entity unit with larger size. Numerical simulation of ship collision shall be adopted with 2000DWT bulk cargo ship, calculation model of arch bridge refers to Fig. (2), and grid model of ship refers to Fig. (3).

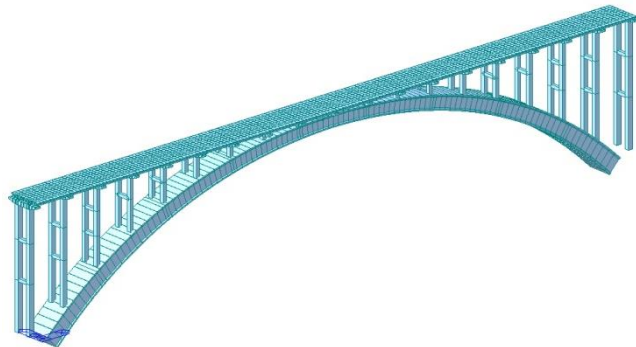


Fig. (2). Calculation Model of Arch Ring Resistance for Main Bridge.

4.2. Calculation of Arch Ring Resistance for Main Bridge

Main arch ring model shall be built as actual condition for the calculation of ship collision resistance of bridge's arch ring. The upper structure and columns shall be adopted with node load simulation by considering the influence of self weight, load combination of the calculation of ship

collision resistance includes dead load, automobile, crowd and ship collision force.

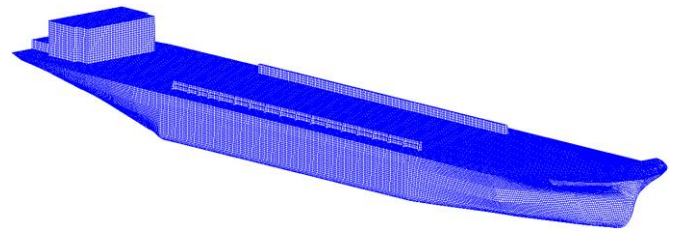


Fig.(3). Finite Element Calculation Model of 2000t Ship.

Maximum internal force of bridge's main arch ring under the function of transverse collision force in various heights shall be calculated and analyzed by the finite element method, and then, the compression resistance and loading capability of the normal section of the dangerous section shall be calculated by eccentric compression members to know ship collision resistance of the bridge's arch ring. If the horizontal force is acted on the different points, the limited ship collision resistance of arch ring is also different. Section of arch bridge refers to Fig. (4). According to the reinforcement conditions of the arch ring section, horizontal force with various strengths shall be imposed in the same water level, until the arch ring risk section dissatisfies strength requirements, and this horizontal force is the extreme ship collision force of arch ring under this water level.

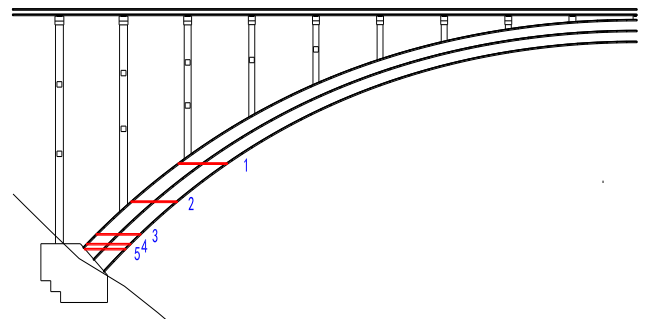


Fig.(4). Calculation Schematic Diagram of Arch Ring Self Limit Ship Collision Force.

Calculation result of self limit ship collision force of the main arch ring is shown in Table 11. Therein, 192.7m on point No.1 is added with 15m based on the maximum

Table 11. Self limit ship collision force of arch ring (Transverse Direction of Bridge).

No.	Elevation of Collision Point(m)	Position	Internal Force		Resistance (KN)
			Axial Force (KN)	Bending Moment (KN.M)	
1	192.7	Arch ring	-132948	373800	8780
2	185.7	Arch ring	-132948	373820	14400
3	179.7	Arch ring	-132948	372800	33600
4	178.0	Arch ring	-132948	373600	55200
5	175.3	Arch ring	-132948	373570	60000

navigable water level (177.7m), resistance result is used for review collision conditions of mast. 185.7m on point No.2 is added with 8m based on the maximum navigable water level (177.7m), the resistance result is used for checking the collision conditions of deck house, point No.3~5 elevation is corresponding to the stem collision point according to three water levels where the stem can collide with the arch ring (177.7m, 176m and 173.3m), i.e. 2m above navigable water level.

4.3. Calculation Result of Dynamic Numerical Simulation

The maximum collision force of structure shall be simulated and calculated by different water levels, different collision positions, different speeds and collision angles in 6 operating conditions. Calculation of operating conditions refers to Table 12.

Energy change process, collision force, crown displacement, and change collision depth with the change of time are acquired by calculation in various operating conditions. Take working condition 1 as example, when the navigable water level is 177.7m, cargo ship in 2000t collision arch ring with the speed of 4.9m/s, collision angle is 0° with normal of the bridge. Energy conversion in the process of collision shall refer to Fig. (5). The kinetic energy, internal energy, and sliding energy produce the mutual transformation in the process of collision, but the total energy is stable and hourglass is in good control.

Changing condition of collision force of the ship is shown in Fig. (6), the maximum value of ship collision force is 25.9MN after 0.61s of the collision. Time-history for crown displacement refers to Fig. (7), the maximum value of crown displacement is 2.72mm after 1.25s of the collision. Changing situations for collision depth of the ship is shown on Fig. (8), the maximum value of ship collision depth is 1.82m after 1.1s of the collision, the maximum value of main stress is 5.4MPa. Calculation results of various operating conditions are shown in Table 12.

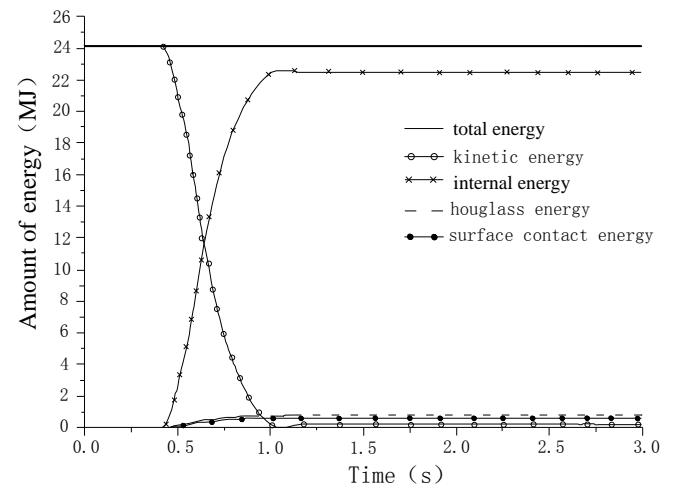
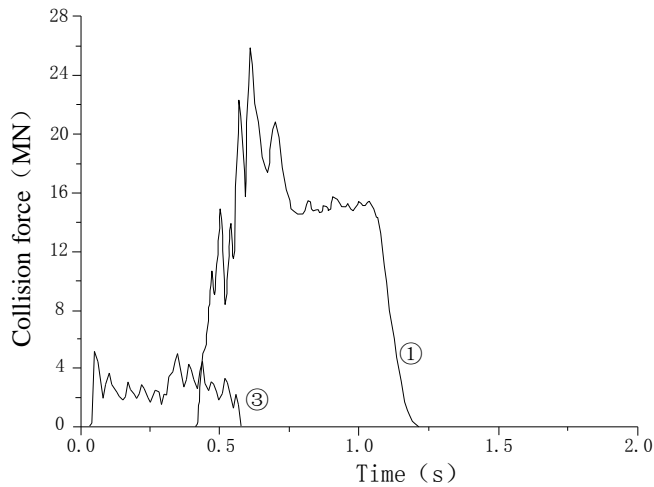


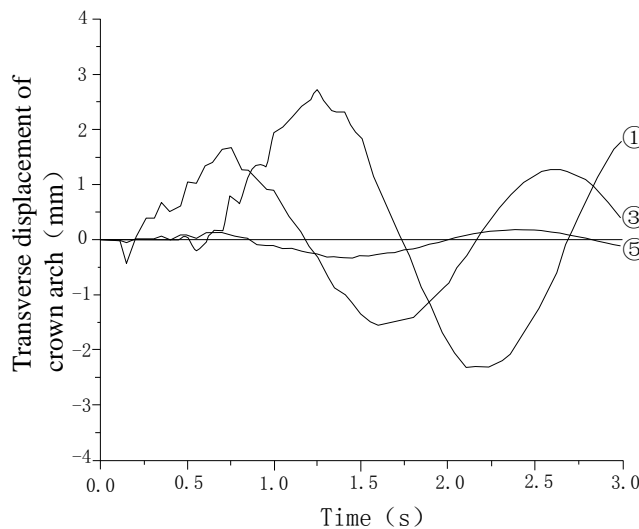
Fig. (5). Energy Time-History for Collision Process.

Table 12. Calculation result of various working conditions.

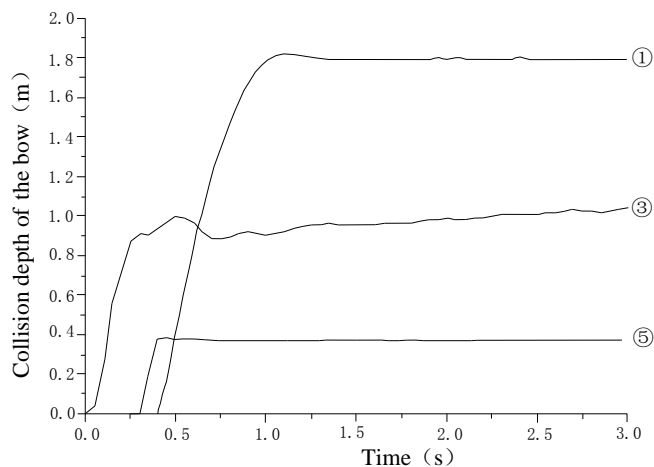
No.	Water Level(m)	Collision Position	Collision Angle(°)	Collision Speed(m/s)	Collision Force(MN)	Crown Displacement (mm)	Collision Crater Depth (m)	Resistance Capacity(MN)
1	177.7	Nose	0°	4.9	25.9	2.72	1.82	33.6
2	177.7	Nose	30°	4.9	18.0	2.03	1.25	33.6
3	177.7	Deck house	0°	4.9	5.0	1.7	1.0	14.4
4	177.7	Mast	0°	4.9	0.85	0.5	-	8.78
5	173.3	Deck house	0°	4.8	3.8	0.3	0.4	18.9
6	173.3	Mast	0°	4.8	0.92	0.2	-	8.78



**Fig.(6).** Time-History for Ship Collision Force.



**Fig.(7).** Time-History for Crown Displacement.



**Fig.(8).** Time-History for Collision Depth Change.

## CONCLUSION

Yearly collapse frequency of main arch ring under the predictive navigation density in 2014, 2025 and 2050 is  $6.28 \times 10^{-7}$ /year,  $3.05 \times 10^{-6}$ /year,  $1.20 \times 10^{-5}$ /year, respectively,

based on the assessment results of ship collision risk method. These results are all less than the acceptable risk  $10^{-4}$ /year of main bridge. Main arch ring of bridge is in medium risk under the predictive navigation density in 2050 and shall be adopted with self resistance. Ship collision force on the main arch ring is 25.9MN (corresponding water level is 177.7m), and resistance of main arch ring in this water level is 33.6MN, so the existing structure meets the requirement of ship collision fortification. Numerical simulation results are consistent with risk assessment qualitatively. In order to ensure the safety of bridge and ship navigation, ships on the bridge section shall be suggested for sailing in separate ways. Ship meeting, combination and surpassing are prohibited around the bridge location.

Collision between ship and bridge is a typical multi-disciplinary crossing question, involving bridge construction, ship engineering, traffic engineering, collision dynamics and hydromechanics etc. This paper provided a way to evaluate the risk for ship collision with Arch-bridge. The safety assessment of ship risks and dynamic numerical simulation method applied in this article shall be referred and used for the ship anti-collision analysis of similar bridges.

## CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors confirm that this article content has no conflict of interest.

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