

Jinzhe Gong, Mark L Stephens, Nicole S Arbon, Aaron C Zecchin, Martin F Lambert, and Angus R Simpson

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On-site Non-invasive Condition Assessment for Cement Mortar Lined Metallic Pipelines by Time-Domain Fluid Transient Analysis

by

Gong, J., Stephens , M., Arbon, N., Zecchin, A.C., Lambert, M.F., and Simpson, A.R.

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For further information about this paper please email Angus Simpson at angus.simpson@adelaide.edu.au

1 **On-site non-invasive condition assessment for cement mortar**
2 **lined metallic pipelines by time-domain fluid transient**
3 **analysis**

4 **Jinzhe Gong¹, Mark Stephens², Nicole Arbon¹, Aaron Zecchin¹, Martin Lambert¹, Angus Simpson¹**

5 ¹School of Civil, Environmental and Mining Engineering, the University of Adelaide, Adelaide, SA 5005,
6 Australia

7 ² South Australian Water Corporation, 250 Victoria Square, Adelaide, SA 5000, Australia

8 **Corresponding author:**

9 Jinzhe Gong, School of Civil, Environmental and Mining Engineering, the University of Adelaide,
10 Adelaide, SA 5005, Australia

11 Tel: +61 (8) 8313 4323

12 Email: jinzhe.gong@adelaide.edu.au

13 **Abstract**

14 Pipeline condition assessment is essential to targeted and cost-effective maintenance of aging water
15 transmission and distribution systems. This paper proposes a technique for fast and non-invasive
16 assessment of the wall condition of cement mortar lined metallic pipelines using fluid transient pressure
17 waves (water hammer waves). A step transient pressure wave can be generated by shutting off a side-
18 discharge valve in a pressurised pipeline. The wave propagates along the pipe and reflections occur when
19 it encounters sections of pipe with changes in wall thickness. The wave reflections can be measured by

20 pressure transducers as they are indicative of the location and severity of the wall deterioration. A
21 numerical analysis is conducted to obtain the relationship between the degree of change in wall thickness
22 in a cement mortar lined pipe and the size of the corresponding pressure wave reflection. As a result,
23 look-up charts are generated for any specific cement mortar lined pipeline to map this relationship. The
24 wall thickness of a deteriorated or distinct section can be determined directly and quickly from the charts
25 using the size of the reflected wave, thus facilitating on-site pipeline condition assessment. The validity of
26 this time-domain pipeline condition assessment technique is verified by numerical simulations and a case
27 study using the field data measured in a mild steel cement mortar lined (MSCL) water main in South
28 Australia. The condition of the pipe as assessed by the proposed technique is generally consistent with
29 ultrasonic measurements.

30 **Keywords**

31 on-site, non-invasive, pipeline condition assessment, fluid transient pressure wave, water transmission
32 and distribution system, water hammer

33 **Introduction**

34 Water transmission and distribution pipelines are critical infrastructure for modern cities. Due to the sheer
35 size of the networks and the fact that most pipelines are buried under ground, the health monitoring and
36 maintenance of this infrastructure is challenging. Although a number of techniques have been developed
37 for pipeline condition assessment, including visual inspection (e.g. closed-circuit television inspection¹),
38 electromagnetic methods (e.g. magnetic flux leakage method² and ground penetrating radar³), acoustic
39 methods (e.g. SmartBall⁴), and ultrasonic methods (e.g. guided wave ultrasound inspection⁵), they are
40 either too costly, inefficient for large networks or invasive⁶. Efficient and non-invasive pipeline condition

41 assessment technologies are yet to be developed for targeted and cost-effective pipeline rehabilitation and
42 the prevention of catastrophic events such as pipe failure.

43 Research in the past two decades has shown that fluid transients^{7, 8}, which are also known as water
44 hammer waves, can be used for non-invasive detection of defects in pressurised pipeline systems. Fluid
45 transients are pressure waves that propagate in the fluid and along a pipeline. A typical transient pressure
46 wave used for detecting faults in pipelines is a step pressure wave generated by abruptly closing a side-
47 discharge valve after the steady-state flow is established. Theoretically, any physical changes on the pipe
48 wall, such as leaks or wall thinning due to corrosion, can introduce wave reflections. The reflected waves
49 propagate towards the source of the initial transients (i.e. the side-discharge valve) and can be measured
50 by pressure transducers installed on existing accessible points such as air valves or fire hydrants. The
51 arrival time of the wave reflection can be used to determine the location of the defect, and the magnitude
52 of the reflection is indicative of the severity of the deterioration⁹.

53 Typical defects in aging pipelines include leaks, blockages, internal or external corrosion and the spalling
54 of cement mortar lining in lined pipes. Leak detection using transient pressure waves has been a focus of
55 research for many years and a number of techniques have been developed, either in the time domain¹⁰⁻¹²,
56 in the frequency domain¹³⁻¹⁸, or by means of advanced signal processing (e.g. wavelet) that involves
57 analysis in both domains¹⁹⁻²³. Blockage detection has also been studied intensively, either for discrete
58 blockages (orifices)²⁴⁻²⁸ or extended partial blockages^{29, 30}. The frequency-domain leak and blockage
59 detection uses the change in the magnitude of resonant response or the shift of the resonant frequencies of
60 the pipeline. The principle is similar to that used in vibration-based condition monitoring applied to other
61 areas^{31, 32}.

62 In recent years, the use of fluid transients has been extended to non-invasively assess the condition of the
63 pipe wall. Zecchin et al.^{33, 34} studied general pipeline parameter identification using fluid transient waves

64 but only limited to numerical analysis. Stephens et al.^{35, 36} were the first to apply the inverse transient
65 analysis (ITA) to detect degradation of the pipe wall in a mild steel cement mortar lined (MSCL) pipeline.
66 The ITA uses an iterative process to calibrate pipeline parameters for a number of discretised reaches;
67 therefore, it requires considerable computational effort for complex systems. Hachem and Schleiss³⁷
68 developed a technique for detecting a structurally weak section in a pipeline using a step transient
69 pressure wave. The wave speed in the weak section was determined first and then the stiffness was
70 estimated from the theoretical wave speed formula. However, challenges are expected when using their
71 method to accurately determine wave speeds when multiple deteriorated sections exist in a pipeline. Gong
72 et al.⁹ proposed an approach for determining the wall thickness of a single degraded section in an unlined
73 pipeline. It was found that the magnitude of the wave reflection resulting from a section with a uniform
74 change in wall thickness was directly related to the hydraulic impedance of that section. The impedance
75 could then be used to determine the wall thickness and wave speed in the degraded section. An advanced
76 technique was then proposed by Gong et al.³⁸ to cater for the detection of multiple deteriorated sections in
77 a pipeline. Only unlined pipelines were studied and the transient generation and measurement were
78 required to be conducted at the upstream face of a closed end. However, in real water transmission
79 systems, a great portion of pipelines used are cement mortar lined metallic pipes, and the requirement of
80 generating and measuring at a closed end is not always achievable.

81 The research presented in this paper develops a technique that enables on-site condition assessment for
82 cement mortar lined pipes by fast time-domain analysis of transient pressure wave reflections. The
83 location of a defect with respect to the measurement point can be determined by time-domain
84 reflectometry (TDR)³⁹ (i.e. using half the measured arrival time of the wave reflection multiplied by the
85 wave speed). The procedure is not discussed in detail in this paper since applications have been reported
86 in previous literature, such as for locating leaks^{12, 20}, partially closed in-line valves²⁷ and pipe sections

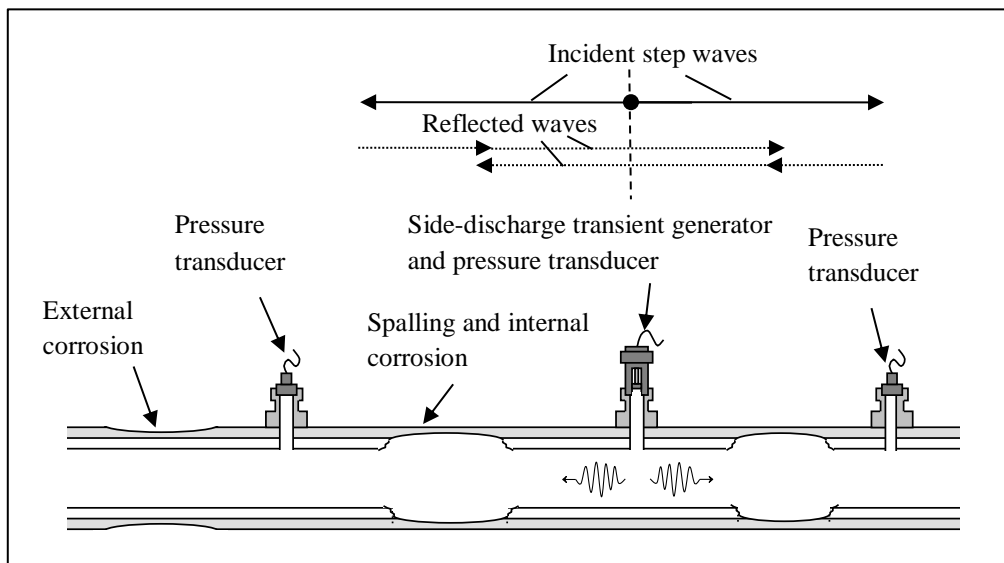
87 with a thinner wall thickness⁹. The focus of this research is to achieve fast and quantitative determination
88 of the wall thickness of a degraded section in a cement mortar lined pipe using the magnitude of the
89 pressure wave reflection. Mild steel cement mortar lined (MSCL) pipe is studied in particular, but the
90 analysis can be easily extended to any other types of metallic cement mortar lined pipes. Equations are
91 derived to connect the degree of change in wall thickness of an MSCL pipe to the size of the
92 corresponding wave reflection. Changes in wall thickness from either side of the pipe wall (internal or
93 external) are considered. As a result, plots can be drawn to describe this relationship for any MSCL
94 pipeline if the specifications of the intact part are known. These plots can be used as look-up charts for
95 on-site transient-based pipeline condition assessment in practice. The validity of this new technique is
96 verified by numerical simulations. The applicability of this technique is verified by conducting wall
97 condition assessment using a transient pressure trace measured from a MSCL water main in South
98 Australia. Significant wave reflections are selected using a threshold corresponding to full cement loss
99 and then analysed using the look-up charts. The representative wall thicknesses are determined for four
100 sections that are believed to have significant loss of the cement mortar lining and internal corrosion. The
101 condition of the pipeline determined using the proposed technique is generally consistent with pipe wall
102 ultrasonic thickness measurements.

103 **Analysis of fluid transients in a cement mortar lined metallic pipe**

104 This section discusses the relationship between the size of the reflected transient pressure wave and the
105 degree of change in wall thickness in a cement mortar lined metallic pipeline. First, the typical
106 measurement setup of the field test layout is outlined. Second, the fundamental equations are reviewed
107 and then adapted to mild steel cement mortar lined (MSCL) pipes. Two scenarios are considered: an
108 *internal* change and an *external* change in wall thickness.

109 *Overview of Field Experiments*

110 A typical configuration used for field measurement is given in Figure 1. A transient wave generator and
111 multiple pressure transducers are typically used for each test. The adopted transient generator is a
112 customised side-discharge valve connected to an existing access point (such as an air valve or scour
113 valve). A small step transient pressure wave (typically 5 to 10 m in magnitude) is induced by rapidly
114 closing (within 10 ms) the side-discharge valve after opening and releasing a flow (typically 20 to 40 L/s
115 for pipes from 600 to 1000 mm in diameter) until steady-state conditions are reached. The generated
116 incident wave then propagates along the pipe in both upstream and downstream directions. As discussed,
117 reflections occur when the incident wave encounters a physical change in the pipe, such as a section with
118 a reduction in wall thickness. The reflected waves propagate back towards the generator, and can be
119 measured by pressure transducers that are mounted along the pipe (also at existing access points). The
120 wave reflections are then able to be analysed to determine the location of defects from the arrival times,
121 and the severity of the defects from the magnitude of the reflected wave. By comparing the arrival times
122 of a specific reflection as measured by two or more pressure transducers at different locations, it can be
123 determined whether the reflection comes from the upstream or downstream side of the generator.



124

125 **Figure 1.** Typical configuration used in the field for pipeline condition assessment using transient
126 pressure waves.

127 *Fundamental equations*

128 The spalling of cement mortar lining (CML) and extended internal, or external, corrosion are common
129 problems in aging water pipelines. The deterioration often introduces a change in wall thickness, which in
130 turn introduces a change in pipeline impedance. The impedance of a pipeline is defined as⁷

$$B = \frac{a}{gA} \quad (1)$$

131 where B is the impedance of the pipeline, a is the wave speed of pressure waves, g is the gravitational
132 acceleration and A is the internal cross-sectional area of the pipe. The wave speed (a) can be determined
133 using the theoretical wave speed formula^{7,8}

$$a^2 = \frac{K / \rho}{1 + (K / E)(D / e)c} \quad (2)$$

134 in which K is the bulk modulus of elasticity of fluid, ρ is the density of fluid, E is Young's modulus
135 of the pipe wall material, D is the internal diameter of the pipeline, e is the wall thickness and c is a
136 factor depending on the method of restraint of the pipeline⁸.

137 Gong et al.⁹ demonstrated that the size of the pressure wave reflection from a deteriorated pipe section is
138 related to any change in the pipeline impedance of that deteriorated pipe section. The dimensionless head
139 perturbation can be determined using

$$H_r^* = \frac{B_r - 1}{B_r + 1} \quad (3)$$

140 where H_r^* is the dimensionless head perturbation of the first reflected pressure wave and B_r is the ratio
141 of the impedance of the deteriorated pipe section to the impedance of an intact section. The dimensionless
142 head perturbation, H_r^* can also be defined from the incident and reflected transient waves as

$$H_r^* = \frac{H_{j1} - H_i}{H_i - H_0} \quad (4)$$

143 where H_{j1} is the head of the reflected pressure wave, H_i is the head of the incident transient pressure
144 wave and H_0 is the steady-state head at the measurement point before the generation of the transient
145 incident wave (during which time the side-discharge valve based transient generator is open). The values
146 of H_{j1} , H_i and H_0 are measureable by a pressure transducer. Note that, although H_0 appears in Eq. (4),
147 the dimensionless head perturbation H_r^* is independent from H_0 . In addition, H_r^* is only related to the
148 size of the reflection ($H_{j1} - H_i$, note that this can be negative) and the size of the incident wave
149 ($H_i - H_0$). The impedance ratio B_r is given as

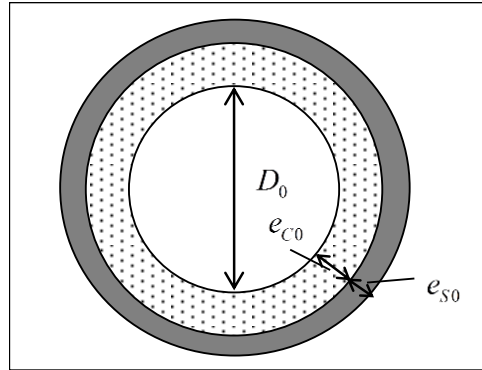
$$B_r = \frac{B_1}{B_0} \quad (5)$$

150 where the subscript '0' and '1' represent the intact pipe section and the section with a change in
151 impedance (the deteriorated pipe section), respectively.

152 *Equations adapted to mild steel cement mortar lined pipes*

153 For pipelines with a cement mortar lining (CML), the contribution of the lining has to be considered when
154 calculating the wave speed. Mild steel cement mortar lined (MSCL) pipe is used as an example to

155 facilitate the analysis in this paper. The cross section of an intact MSCL pipe is shown diagrammatically
 156 in Figure 2.



157

158 **Figure 2.** Cross section of an intact MSCL pipe (D_0 is the internal diameter of the pipe, e_{C0} is the
 159 thickness of the cement mortar lining and e_{S0} is the thickness of the steel pipe wall).

160 The cement mortar lining has a different modulus of elasticity to that of steel, but its contribution to the
 161 wave speed can be included as an equivalent thickness of steel³⁶. The value of the total equivalent steel
 162 wall thickness ('equivalent steel thickness' as used in the rest of the paper) to be used in the wave speed
 163 formula is the summation of the equivalent thickness of steel contributed by the CML and the original
 164 thickness of the steel. For a thin-walled intact MSCL pipe, as shown in Figure 2, the equivalent steel
 165 thickness can be defined as e_0 and written as

$$e_0 = e_{C0} \frac{E_C}{E_S} + e_{S0} \quad (6)$$

166 where E_C and E_S are the modulus of elasticity of cement mortar lining and steel, respectively, and e_{C0}
 167 and e_{S0} are the thicknesses of the CML and that of the steel, respectively. The same concept of

168 equivalent steel thickness was used in Wylie and Streeter⁸ for reinforced concrete pipes. The use of the
169 equivalent steel thickness [Eq. (6)] for thin-walled MSCL pipe is justified in the Appendix.

170 Assuming the same Poisson's ratio for steel and cement mortar, the theoretical wave speed for an intact
171 MSCL pipe (Figure 2) is denoted as a_0 and can be written as

$$a_0^2 = \frac{K / \rho}{1 + (K / E_S)(D_0 / e_0)c} \quad (7)$$

172 where D_0 is the internal diameter of the intact MSCL pipe. Similarly, the wave speed in a section with a
173 change in wall thickness can be written as

$$a_1^2 = \frac{K / \rho}{1 + (K / E_S)(D_1 / e_1)c} \quad (8)$$

174 where a_1 , D_1 and e_1 are the wave speed, the internal diameter and the equivalent steel thickness, in the
175 section with a change in wall thickness, respectively. As a result, B_r can be re-expressed as

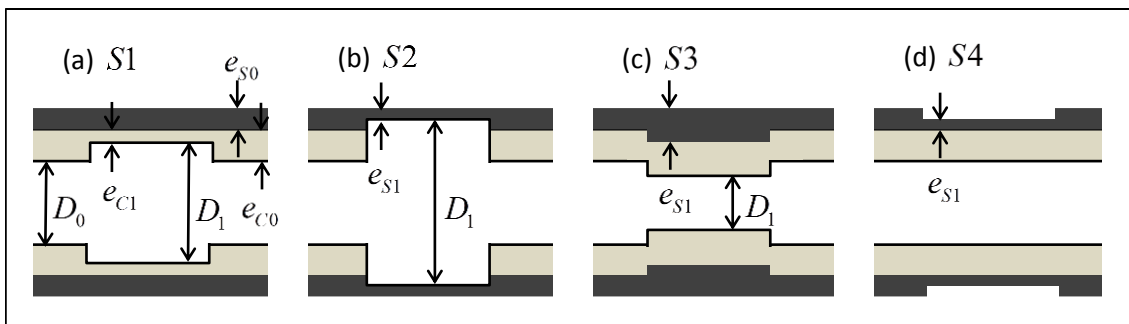
$$B_r = \frac{a_1 D_0^2}{a_0 D_1^2} \quad (9)$$

176 To facilitate the analysis in subsequent sections, the relative change in equivalent steel thickness, e_{rc} , is
177 given as

$$e_{rc} = \frac{e_1 - e_0}{e_0} \quad (10)$$

178 The aim of this research is to develop algorithms for estimating the remaining wall thickness of a
 179 deteriorated section from a measured transient pressure trace. For any pipeline, wall deterioration or a
 180 change in wall thickness (which results in a change in impedance) can occur either internally or externally
 181 or both. Theoretically, there are three possibilities for the cement mortar lining: intact, change in
 182 thickness (internally) and total loss. There are also three possibilities for the steel wall: intact, external
 183 change in thickness and internal change in thickness. As a result, there are 9 theoretical combinations for
 184 the condition of the pipe wall. Internal wall deterioration (only) and external wall deterioration (only) are
 185 discussed in subsequent sections. Simultaneous internal and external wall deterioration is not discussed in
 186 this paper, but it is expected to require a superposition of the effects caused by internal wall deterioration
 187 (only) and external wall deterioration (only).

188 Four commonly-seen wall deterioration cases are identified as illustrated in Figure 3: (a) $S1$: an internal
 189 change in the thickness of the CML; (b) $S2$: total loss of the CML plus an internal reduction in the
 190 thickness of the steel wall; (c) $S3$: intact CML with an internal change in the thickness of the steel wall;
 191 and (d) $S4$: intact CML with an external change in the thickness of the steel. Case $S3$ exists when the
 192 pipeline was initially installed with no lining but lined after years, or a section of original pipe is replaced
 193 by a section in the same nominal size (same outside diameter) but a different class (with thicker or thinner
 194 steel wall), or sections of a different class are installed during construction.



195

196 **Figure 3.** Longitudinal view of four sections of MSCL pipe with the changes in wall thickness considered
 197 in this research: (a) $S1$: an internal change in the thickness of the CML; (b) $S2$: total loss of the CML
 198 plus an internal reduction in the thickness of the steel wall; (c) $S3$: intact CML with an internal change in
 199 the thickness of the steel wall; and (d) $S4$: intact CML with an external change in the thickness of the
 200 steel wall.

201 *An internal change in wall thickness*

202 For the scenario of an internal change in wall thickness, the diameter and wall thickness of the intact and
 203 damaged sections can be related based on the fact that the external diameter is constant. If the change is in
 204 the thickness of the CML alone [$S1$, Figure 3(a)], the following equation holds

$$D_0 + 2e_{c0} = D_1 + 2e_{c1} \quad (11)$$

205 where e_{c1} is the thickness of the CML in the deteriorated/distinct section. In this case, the total
 206 equivalent steel thickness is given as

$$e_1 = e_{c1} \frac{E_c}{E_s} + e_{s0} \quad (12)$$

207 Substituting Eqs. (6) and (12) to Eq. (11) yields

$$D_0 + 2e_0 \frac{E_s}{E_c} = D_1 + 2e_1 \frac{E_s}{E_c} \quad (13)$$

208 Substituting e_1 as given in Eq. (10) into Eq. (13), the ratio D_1 / e_1 can be written as

$$\frac{D_1}{e_1} = \frac{D_0}{e_0(1+e_{rc})} - 2 \frac{E_s}{E_C} \frac{e_{rc}}{1+e_{rc}} \quad (14)$$

209 Substituting Eq. (14) into Eq. (8), and then substituting the ratio D_0 / e_0 using Eq. (7), the wave speed
 210 a_1 can be described by

$$a_1^2 = \frac{(K/\rho)(1+e_{rc})a_0^2}{(K/\rho) + e_{rc}a_0^2(1-2cK/E_C)} \quad (15)$$

211 Substituting e_1 as given in Eq. (10) into Eq. (14) and rearranging the subsequent equation yields

$$\frac{D_0}{D_1} = \frac{1}{1-2e_{rc}(e_0/D_0)(E_s/E_C)} \quad (16)$$

212 Substituting Eqs (15) and (16) into Eq. (9), and replacing D_0 / e_0 with an expression including a_0 as
 213 given in Eq. (7), the impedance ratio can be described by

$$B_r = \sqrt{\frac{(K/\rho)(1+e_{rc})}{(K/\rho) + e_{rc}a_0^2(1-2cK/E_C)}} \left[1 - 2e_{rc} \frac{(K/E_C)a_0^2c}{K/\rho - a_0^2} \right]^{-2} \quad (17)$$

214 Where finally, substituting Eq. (17) into Eq. (3), the relationship between the dimensionless head
 215 perturbation of the first reflected pressure wave H_r^* and the relative change in equivalent steel thickness
 216 e_{rc} for case S1 can be obtained as

$$H_r^* = \frac{\sqrt{\frac{(K/\rho)(1+e_{rc})}{(K/\rho)+e_{rc}a_0^2(1-2cK/E_C)}} - \left[1 - 2e_{rc} \frac{(K/E_C)a_0^2c}{K/\rho - a_0^2}\right]^2}{\sqrt{\frac{(K/\rho)(1+e_{rc})}{(K/\rho)+e_{rc}a_0^2(1-2cK/E_C)}} + \left[1 - 2e_{rc} \frac{(K/E_C)a_0^2c}{K/\rho - a_0^2}\right]^2} \quad (18)$$

217

218 It can be seen from Eq. (18) that the dimensionless head perturbation H_r^* is related to the relative change
 219 in the equivalent steel thickness e_{rc} , the wave speed in the intact pipeline a_0 , and physical properties of
 220 the pipeline and fluid that are typically known (K and ρ). The value of a_0 can be calculated using the
 221 theoretical formula in Eq. (7), or measured by conducting experiments. As a result, when conducting
 222 pipeline condition assessment, the value of e_{rc} can be determined from the value of H_r^* , which in turn
 223 can be determined from a measured transient pressure trace. A curve describing values of H_r^*
 224 corresponding to values of e_{rc} can be plotted numerically. An example will be presented in the *numerical*
 225 *simulations* section.

226 Eq. (18) is for an internal change in the thickness of the CML. A negative value of e_{rc} represents a
 227 thinning in CML, which can be induced by deterioration. In this research, positive e_{rc} is also considered,
 228 which represents a section of pipe with a CML thickness greater than the standard thickness. The lower
 229 bound of e_{rc} is reached when the CML is totally lost and is calculated as $e_{S0}/e_0 - 1$.

230 For case *S2* in Figure 3(b), the relationship between H_r^* and e_{rc} can be determined by a similar
 231 procedure as used in the derivation of Eqs (11) to (18). The expression of H_r^* for the *S2* case is given
 232 by

$$H_r^* = \frac{\sqrt{\frac{(K/\rho)(1+e_{rc})}{K/\rho + e_{rc}a_0^2 - 2ca_0^2K(1/E_C - 1/E_S)(e_{s0}/e_0 - 1)} - \left\{1 - 2\frac{(K/E_S)a_0^2c}{K/\rho - a_0^2} \left[e_{rc} + \left(\frac{E_S}{E_C} - 1\right) \left(\frac{e_{s0}}{e_0} - 1\right) \right] \right\}^2}}{\sqrt{\frac{(K/\rho)(1+e_{rc})}{K/\rho + e_{rc}a_0^2 - 2ca_0^2K(1/E_C - 1/E_S)(e_{s0}/e_0 - 1)} + \left\{1 - 2\frac{(K/E_S)a_0^2c}{K/\rho - a_0^2} \left[e_{rc} + \left(\frac{E_S}{E_C} - 1\right) \left(\frac{e_{s0}}{e_0} - 1\right) \right] \right\}^2}} \quad (19)$$

233 Note that the value of $2cK/E_S$ is in the order of 10^{-2} so that an approximation $1 - 2cK/E_S \approx 1$ is

234 used in the derivation of Eq. (19). The possible range of e_{rc} is from -1 to $e_{s0}/e_0 - 1$. The lower bound

235 corresponds to total loss of the CML plus total reduction of the steel wall, and the upper bound refers to

236 total loss of the CML, but no reduction in the steel thickness.

237 By combining Eqs (18) and (19), a curve can be plotted for any specific MSCL pipe to describe the

238 relationship between H_r^* and e_{rc} for cases *S1* and *S2* together. A discontinuity is expected in the

239 curve, which represents the situation of total loss of the CML, but no loss of the steel wall thickness.

240 Case *S3*, i.e. intact CML with an internal change in the thickness of the steel wall, can be analysed by

241 the same strategy as used for cases *S1* and *S2*. Analysis shows that case *S3* is equivalent to the

242 scenario of an internal change in wall thickness in an unlined pipe. Using the approximation of

243 $1 - 2cK/E_S \approx 1$, the relationship between H_r^* and e_{rc} in this case is given by

$$H_r^* = \frac{\sqrt{\frac{(K/\rho)(1+e_{rc})}{K/\rho + e_{rc}a_0^2} - \left[1 - 2e_{rc} \frac{(K/E)a_0^2c}{K/\rho - a_0^2}\right]^2}}{\sqrt{\frac{(K/\rho)(1+e_{rc})}{K/\rho + e_{rc}a_0^2} + \left[1 - 2e_{rc} \frac{(K/E)a_0^2c}{K/\rho - a_0^2}\right]^2}} \quad (20)$$

244 *An external change in wall thickness*

245 Case $S4$ shown in Figure 3(d), i.e. intact CML with an external change in the thickness of the steel wall,
 246 is discussed in this subsection. An example is a pipe section with a reduction in wall thickness due to
 247 extended external corrosion.

248 The equivalent steel thickness for case $S4$ can be written as

$$e_1 = e_{C0} \frac{E_C}{E_S} + e_{S1} \quad (21)$$

249 The intact pipe and the section with an external change in wall thickness have the same internal diameter
 250 D_0 . As a result, in this case, D_0 can be used in the formula for a_1 [Eq. (8)] and B_r is the ratio of the
 251 wave speeds, i.e. $B_r = a_1/a_0$. Using Eqs (7), (8), (10) and (21), the impedance ratio can then be derived
 252 as

$$B_r = \sqrt{\frac{(K/\rho)(1+e_{rc})}{(K/\rho) + e_{rc}a_0^2}} \quad (22)$$

253 Substituting Eq. (22) into Eq. (3) results

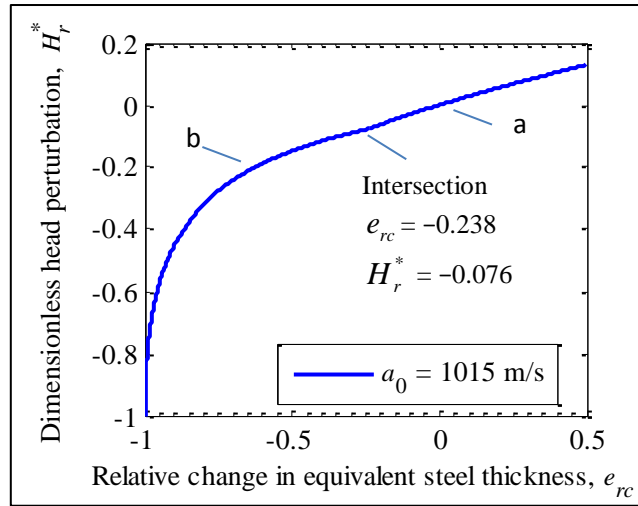
$$H_r^* = \frac{\sqrt{(K/\rho)(1+e_{rc})} - \sqrt{(K/\rho) + e_{rc}a_0^2}}{\sqrt{(K/\rho)(1+e_{rc})} + \sqrt{(K/\rho) + e_{rc}a_0^2}} \quad (23)$$

254 In Eq. (23), the lower bound of e_{rc} is $-e_{S0}/e_0$, which represents total loss of the steel wall. A curve can
 255 be drawn for a specific MSCL pipeline for Eq. (23), and it can serve as a look-up chart for pipeline
 256 condition assessment.

257 Numerical simulations

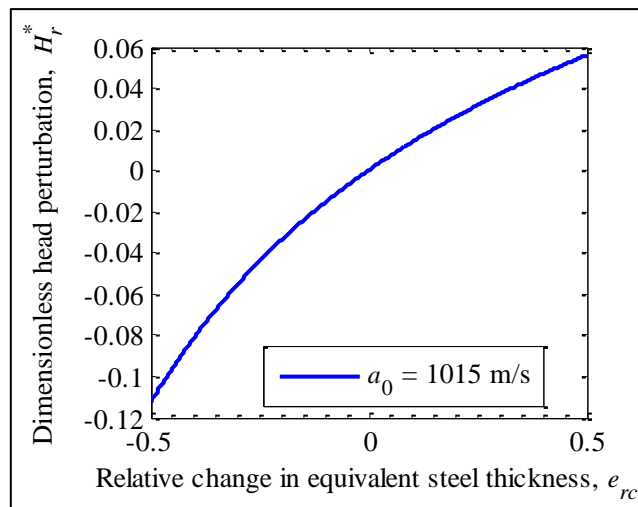
258 Numerical simulations using the Method of Characteristics (MOC)^{7, 8} were conducted to verify the
259 validity of Eqs. (18), (19), (20) and (23). A reservoir-pipeline-valve (RPV) system was studied and a step
260 transient pressure wave was used as the excitation. The physical details of the pipeline are those for the
261 existing MSCL Morgan Transmission Pipeline (MTP) in South Australia, which will be further discussed
262 in the subsequent *case study* section. For intact sections, the external diameter is 762 mm, the internal
263 diameter (D_0) is 727.5 mm, the thickness of the CML (e_{C0}) is 12.5 mm and the thickness of the steel
264 (e_{S0}) is 4.76 mm. Other parameters used in the numerical study include: the estimated elastic modulus of
265 the cement mortar $E_C = 25$ GPa; the elastic modulus of the steel pipe wall $E_S = 210$ GPa; the bulk
266 modulus of water (at 15°C) $K = 2.14$ GPa; the density of water (at 15°C) $\rho = 999.1$ kg/m³ and the
267 restraint factor for an axially and laterally restrained steel pipe $c = 0.91$ (for a Poisson's ratio for the steel
268 pipe wall of 0.3). As a result, the theoretical wave speed and equivalent steel thickness for an intact
269 section are calculated as $a_0 = 1015$ m/s and $e_0 = 6.25$ mm, respectively.

270 Plots for Eqs. (18), (19), (20) and (23) can be drawn using the physical details of the intact MSCL
271 pipeline. Curves of Eqs. (18) and (19) are shown together in Figure 4. The point at $e_{rc} = e_{S0} / e_0 - 1 = -$
272 0.238 and $H_r^* = -0.076$ is the intersection of the curves of Eqs. (18) and (19) and it corresponds to total
273 CML loss with an intact steel wall. Plots for Eqs (20) and (23) are given in Figure 5 and Figure 6. The
274 lower bound for the curve in Figure 6 is $e_{rc} = -e_{S0} / e_0 = -0.762$. Figures 4 to 6 can be used as look-up
275 charts for pipeline condition assessment for the MTP.



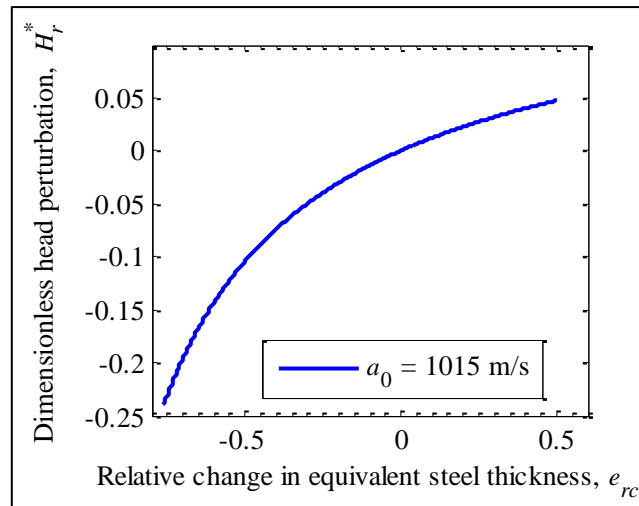
276

277 **Figure 4.** Relationship between the dimensionless head perturbation (H_r^*) and the relative change in
 278 equivalent steel thickness (e_{rc}) for: (a) an internal change in the thickness of the CML [Eq. (18), $S1$ in
 279 Figure 3(a)], and (b) total loss of the CML plus a reduction in the thickness of the steel wall [Eq. (19),
 280 $S2$ in Figure 3(b)].



281

282 **Figure 5.** Relationship between the dimensionless head perturbation (H_r^*) and the relative change in
 283 equivalent steel thickness (e_{rc}) for the case of intact CML with an internal change in the thickness of the
 284 steel wall [Eq. 20, $S3$ in Figure 3(c)].



285

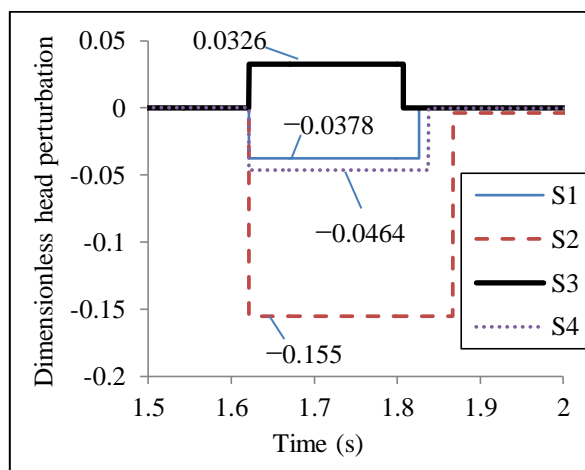
286 **Figure 6.** Relationship between the dimensionless head perturbation (H_r^*) and the relative change in
 287 equivalent steel thickness (e_{rc}) for an external change in the thickness of the steel wall [Eq. (23), $S4$ in
 288 Figure 3(d)].

289 The four cases, $S1$ to $S4$ as shown in Figure 3, are simulated by MOC in sequence and independently
 290 (i.e. in each simulation, only one case was involved). Specifically, the sections of pipe involved in the
 291 simulations include: (a) $S1$: $e_{C1} = 6$ mm; (b) $S2$: $e_{S1} = 3$ mm; (c) $S3$: $e_{S1} = 6.35$ mm; and (d) $S4$:
 292 $e_{S1} = 3$ mm. A reservoir-pipeline-valve system was used and the total length of the pipeline was taken as
 293 2333 m. The length of each section with a change in wall thickness was approximately 100 m (with slight

294 adjustment to keep the Courant number value to unity) and started from 1015 m downstream of the
 295 reservoir. The time step used in the MOC was 0.0005 s. A step transient wave was generated by closing
 296 the downstream valve within one time step. Friction was not considered in the MOC simulations.
 297 Pressure responses were measured at a point 203 m downstream from the deteriorated section.

298 The theoretical wave speeds in the four sections (*S1* to *S4*) were calculated using the wave speed
 299 formula with the results: $a_{1_{S1}} = 975$ m/s, $a_{1_{S2}} = 801$ m/s, $a_{1_{S3}} = 1074$ m/s, and $a_{1_{S4}} = 925$ m/s. The
 300 theoretical equivalent steel thicknesses for the four sections (*S1* to *S4*) were calculated as $e_{1_{S1}} = 5.47$
 301 mm, $e_{1_{S2}} = 3.0$ mm, $e_{1_{S3}} = 7.84$ mm, $e_{1_{S4}} = 4.49$ mm. The theoretical relative changes in the
 302 equivalent steel thicknesses are calculated as $e_{rc_{S1}} = -0.124$, $e_{rc_{S2}} = -0.520$, $e_{rc_{S3}} = 0.254$, $e_{rc_{S4}} =$
 303 -0.282 .

304 The dimensionless head perturbations (H_r^*) obtained from the MOC simulations for the four cases are
 305 given in Figure 7. The values of the dimensionless head perturbations are also shown in Figure 7.



306

307 **Figure 7.** Dimensionless head perturbations obtained from the MOC simulations for the four pipe
308 sections with changes in wall thickness ($S1$ to $S4$).

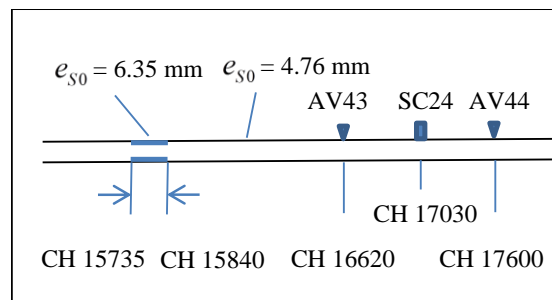
309 Using Figures 4 to 6, the corresponding values for the relative change in the equivalent steel thickness can
310 be determined for each case, and the results are $e_{rc_S1}^{MOC} = -0.123$, $e_{rc_S2}^{MOC} = -0.519$, $e_{rc_S3}^{MOC} = 0.258$, $e_{rc_S4}^{MOC}$
311 $= -0.283$. It can be seen that the results determined from the numerical transient pressure traces are
312 consistent to a high degree with the analytical results (e_{rc_S1} to e_{rc_S4}). The small differences are from
313 rounding errors and the approximations used in the derivation of Eqs. (18), (19), (20) and (23). The
314 numerical simulations verify that Eqs (18), (19), (20) and (23) are valid, and they can be used for
315 quantitative pipeline condition assessment. For a specific measured wave reflection, potential
316 deterioration scenarios can be listed and the remaining wall thickness for each scenario can be determined.

317 **Case study**

318 A real-world case study is conducted to verify the applicability of the proposed pipeline condition
319 assessment technique. A section of pipe in the Morgan Transmission Pipeline (MTP) in South Australia is
320 studied. The section of pipe studied in this paper is from chainage (location as measured along the pipe
321 length from some datum) 15000 m to CH 18000 m, covering scour valve No. 24 (SV24), and air valves
322 No. 43 (AV43) and No. 44 (AV44). The layout of the section of pipe under study is given in Figure 8.

323 The MTP is an above ground MSCL water main between a pump station and a staging tank over a length
324 of 26.1 km. During the field testing, the pump was turned off and formed a dead-end boundary. The
325 pipeline system was pressurised by the staging tank. The physical details for intact pipe sections (D_0 ,
326 e_{C0} , e_{S0} , e_0 and a_0) and other parameters (E_C , E_S , K , ρ and c) have been given in the section

327 *numerical simulations*. The section between CH 15735 m and CH 15840 m has a known thicker steel
 328 thickness of 6.35 mm. However, the external diameter and the thickness of the CML in this section are
 329 the same as counterparts in the original intact sections (Case *S3*). A few replacements with thicker steel
 330 wall are also located in this section of pipe. These replacement sections are not considered here because
 331 of their short length (typically a few meters). A transient generator, which is a customised side-discharge
 332 valve, was used at SV24 to produce step transient pressure waves. Flow meters were connected to the
 333 side-discharge valve to measure the steady-state side-discharge before the signal generation. The steady-
 334 state side-discharge is used to facilitate the determination of the magnitude of the incident step wave.
 335 Pressure transducers were placed at SC24, AV43 and AV44 to measure the pressure response. More
 336 details about the field tests and an analysis of this section of pipe using inverse transient analysis (ITA)
 337 are given in Stephens et al.³⁶.



338

339 **Figure 8.** Layout of a section of the Morgan transmission pipeline.

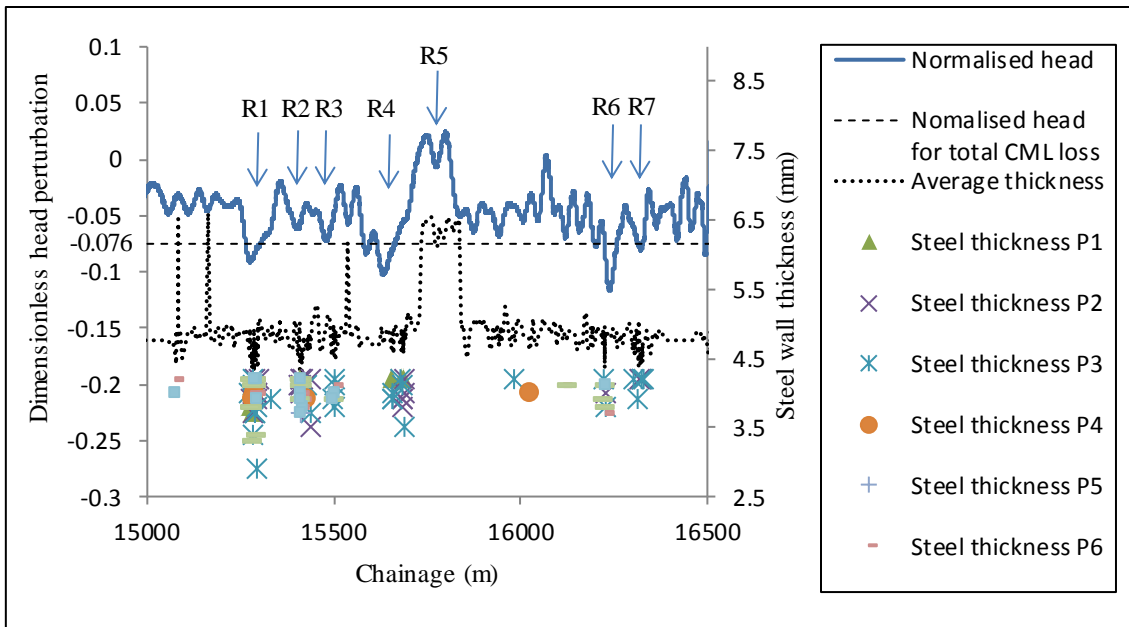
340 The dimensionless head perturbations between chainage 15000 m and 16500 m, as measured at AV43,
 341 are shown in Figure 9 as the solid line. Long-period (low frequency) pressure oscillations associated with
 342 the opening of the side-discharge valve (to introduce a side-discharge) have been removed by a band-pass
 343 filter and the original pressure trace and filtered trace are presented in Stephens et al.³⁶. The steady-state
 344 head is determined by averaging a short period of the data measured before the arrival of the incident

345 wave, and the result is $H_0 = 32.01$ m. The magnitude of the incident wave ($H_i - H_0$) is estimated from
346 the wave front shown in the measured trace (the range from the steady state head H_0 to the first peak
347 shown on the top of the wave front, which is 37.80 m), and the result is 5.79 m.

348 The x-axis in Figure 9 is the chainage corresponding to the wave reflections. The chainage information is
349 obtained by time-domain reflectometry (TDR) and using the measured arrival time of the reflection and
350 the representative wave speeds. The arrival time of a reflection as measured by a transducer (relative to
351 the arrival time of the wave front) is the time for a pressure wave to travel to, and be reflected back from,
352 the corresponding defect. The representative wave speed for the section between AV43 (CH16620) and
353 the right boundary of the thicker-walled section (CH15840) is 930 m/s, which is determined by the known
354 distance and the arrival time of the reflection resulting from the thicker-walled section. The representative
355 wave speeds for the thicker-walled section and the pipe section on its left side are calculated as 1050 m/s
356 and 900 m/s respectively.

357 The dashed line in Figure 9 represents the value of the dimensionless head perturbation resulting from a
358 section of pipe with total CML loss but intact steel wall, which is $H_r^* = -0.076$. This dashed line acts as a
359 threshold to distinguish significant reflections that result from deteriorated sections with total CML loss
360 and internal corrosion. The steel wall thickness values were also measured by an ultrasonic thickness
361 measurement instrument at 5 m intervals along the MTP between CH 14900 and CH 18900. The
362 ultrasonic measurements were taken at eight points around the circumference of the pipe (P1 to P8,
363 starting from the top of the pipe and with 45° interval around the circumference) at each location. The
364 interval of measurement was reduced to 1 m for some sections where changes in steel wall thickness were
365 detected. The dotted line in Figure 9 gives the average steel wall thickness along the section of pipe
366 (average of the ultrasonic wall thicknesses measurements at eight points around the circumference). The

367 markers shown in Figure 9 are ultrasonic measurements of the steel wall thickness with values less than
 368 4.3 mm (this value is considered significant as it corresponds to approximately a 10% steel wall reduction
 369 compared to the original steel thickness of 4.76 mm as given by the manufacturer for an intact MSCL
 370 section).



371

372 **Figure 9.** Dimensionless head perturbation (as function of distance) measured at AV43 (the solid line),
 373 dimensionless head perturbation resulting from a section of pipe with total CML loss but intact steel wall
 374 (the dashed line), average steel thickness measured by ultrasonic sounding (the dotted line), and
 375 ultrasonic measurements with values less than 4.3 mm (marks as indicated in the legend).

376 Seven significant reflections are selected for analysis, shown as R1 to R7 in Figure 9. The selection is
 377 based on a comprehensive analysis of the transient traces measured at AV43, SC24 and AV44 in the same
 378 test to ensure the selected reflections are induced by defects that are located on the left hand side of AV43
 379 (see Figure 8). A reflection coming from the left hand side of AV43 will appear in the trace measured at

380 AV43 first, then shows at SC24 and finally arrives at AV44. The time lag between the arrival times of a
381 reflection is consistent with the time for the initial incident pressure wave traveling from one point to
382 another. By moving the traces measured at SC24 and AV44 forward in time by the corresponding time
383 lag and then plotting them together with that measured at AV43, reflections from the left hand side of
384 AV43 are overlapped while reflections from the other direction are not, consequently enabling an
385 identification of the directional source of the reflection.

386 The reflection R5 is from a known feature, the thicker-walled section between CH 15735 m and CH
387 15840 m, and it aligns with Case S3 as in Figure 3(c). The maximum dimensionless head perturbation for
388 R5 is read as 0.0254 from Figure 9. Using the look-up chart given in Figure 5, the relative change in
389 equivalent steel thickness is determined as 0.195. Using Eq. (10) and $e_0 = 6.25$ mm for the MTP, the
390 equivalent steel thickness for this thicker-walled section is determined as $e_1^{R5} = 7.47$ mm. Using Eq. (6)
391 and $e_{C0} = 12.5$ mm for the MTP, the thickness of the steel wall for the thicker-walled section is
392 determined as $e_{S1}^{R5} = 5.98$ mm. This result is smaller than the steel wall thickness given by the
393 manufacturer for this section (which was 6.35 mm) and the ultrasonic measurement (6.1 to 6.5 mm). The
394 discrepancy is believed to be caused by the inaccuracy of the estimated magnitude of the dimensionless
395 head perturbation for R5 and the damping of the transient pressure wave.

396 The MTP is an above ground pipe and no significant external wall deterioration was observed during the
397 testing for the pipe section under study. As a result, the reflections R1 to R4, R6 and R7 are believed to be
398 associated with pipe sections with internal changes in wall thicknesses. In real MSCL pipelines, the
399 internal wall deterioration is more complex than the situation discussed in the numerical study [Cases S1
400 and S2 as shown in Figure 3(a) and (b)]. The deterioration of CML mainly includes cracking, de-bonding,
401 and spalling, and the distribution of deterioration is not uniform around the internal circumference. This

402 has been confirmed by the CCTV camera footage obtained for the MTP and photo evidence has been
403 included in Stephens et al³⁶. After spalling of the CML, internal corrosion may start on the steel wall.
404 The sizes of the dimensionless reflections are compared with the threshold that represents uniform total
405 CML loss (dashed line in Figure 9).. Reflections R1, R4, R6 and R7 are greater than the threshold so that
406 they are believed to be indications of large scale CML loss together with considerable internal corrosion
407 of the steel wall. Reflections R2 and R3 are significant but haven't reached the threshold, so that they are
408 indications of considerable de-bonding and spalling of the CML and likely to be associated with localised
409 internal corrosion.

410 To quantify the deterioration, the look-up chart in Figure 4 is used to determine the representative wall
411 thickness (the remaining wall thickness under uniform wall deterioration assumption). Sections associated
412 with reflections R1, R4, R6 and R7 are equivalent to sections with total CML loss and uniform thinning
413 of the steel wall (Case *S2*), in which the representative remaining steel wall thicknesses are determined
414 as $e_{S1}^{R1} = 4.34$ mm, $e_{S1}^{R4} = 4.05$ mm, $e_{S1}^{R6} = 3.76$ mm and $e_{S1}^{R7} = 4.62$ mm, respectively. Note that the results
415 are only the representative steel wall thicknesses (based on the assumption of 'uniform deterioration') and
416 the thicknesses in some patches can be smaller than the representative values. Because the damping of the
417 transient wave (which reduces the magnitude of wave reflections) is approximately proportional to the
418 distance travelled by the wave, and the reflections R1 to R4 are resulting from sections more than 1 km
419 away from the measurement point (AV43), the condition of these sections is likely to be worse than the
420 representative conditions as determined by using the observed magnitudes of the reflections.

421 Overall, the condition of the pipe, as determined by applying the proposed technique, is generally
422 consistent with the ultrasonic results of the steel wall thickness. Six pipe sections with significant internal
423 wall deterioration are identified by using the dimensionless head perturbation trace and the representative
424 steel wall thicknesses are determined by the look-up charts. The case study demonstrates that the

425 proposed pipeline condition assessment technique can be used for non-invasive condition assessment for
426 cement mortar lined pipes in the field.

427 **Limitations and challenges**

428 The proposed pipeline condition assessment technique has been proven to be useful but it has its
429 limitations and some challenges are expected in the field. This time-domain technique directly maps the
430 magnitude of a wave reflection to the wall thickness, which makes the technique efficient and easy to use,
431 but also limits its application to the interpretation of selected significant wave reflections only. In contrast,
432 the inverse transient analysis (ITA) is much more complex to apply, but it can provide information for the
433 whole section of pipe under test and to a much higher resolution³⁶.

434 Internal and external changes in wall thickness are analysed separately in this research and equations that
435 describe the relationship between a wave reflection and an internal or external change in wall thickness
436 have been derived respectively. However, from a measured transient pressure trace, it is difficult to tell if
437 a reflection is due to an internal or an external change in wall thickness. Without additional information,
438 the operator has to estimate the wall thicknesses for different scenarios. If priori information is available
439 (for example, from visual inspections of an above ground pipe), the operator can firstly determine the
440 most likely wall deterioration scenario and then choose the corresponding look-up chart for the estimation
441 of the remaining wall thickness.

442 The accuracy of the look-up chart based technique proposed in this paper relies on the accurate
443 determination of the wave speed for the intact pipe (a_0) and the magnitude of the dimensionless head
444 perturbation as induced by the deteriorated section. In real pipelines, the determined a_0 may have
445 uncertainties since some physical properties of the pipeline may be unknown; deterioration is more likely
446 to be non-uniform; multiple deteriorated sections can introduce overlapped complex reflections; and the

447 transmission of the transient pressure wave is subject to signal dissipation and dispersion. These practical
448 challenges make the accurate estimation of the dimensionless head perturbation difficult. Provided the
449 dimensionless head perturbation is determined with acceptable accuracy, the wall thickness as obtained
450 from the look-up chart is the representative wall thickness that indicates the overall condition of the
451 deteriorated section. Localised information about wall thickness, such as the remaining steel thickness of
452 a corrosion pit, is unable to be determined.

453 The sharpness of the incident pressure wave is important⁴⁰, but the generation of a sharp and clean step
454 transient incident pressure wave in real pipelines is a challenge. In the case study reported in this paper, a
455 ball valve-based side-discharge valve was connected to the downstream of a scour valve to act as the
456 transient generator and the closing time was typically less than 10 ms³⁶. As a result, the generated
457 incident pressure wave was sharp and the pressure oscillation in the scour valve chamber damped out in
458 less than 30 ms. However, in cases where the generator cannot be connected to the main pipe closely but
459 via a relatively long stand pipe (e.g. several meters), the pressure oscillations in the stand pipe after the
460 valve closure can be significant and persist for a longer time (hundreds of milliseconds), which impedes
461 the analysis of the measured transient pressure signal for that time period. If the side-discharge valve is
462 not closed quickly enough so that the wave front is not as sharp as the step wave used in the numerical
463 analysis, the reflections from the deterioration will not be sharp either. This may lead to error in the
464 determination of the remaining wall thickness of a deteriorated section if the length of the section is
465 shorter than $T_r a / 2$, where T_r is the rise time of the wave front. A numerical study presented in Gong et
466 al.⁹ explores how the sharpness of a wave front affects the accuracy of the analysis.

467 Despite the limitations and challenges, the proposed technique is efficient and applicable to condition
468 assessment of cement mortar lined pipes in the field. The accuracy of the determination of the wall

469 thickness can be improved in the future if techniques are developed to compensate the effects of multiple
470 reflections and signal damping.

471 **Conclusions**

472 A new technique has been developed in this paper for the condition assessment of cement mortar lined
473 pressurised pipes. The condition assessment is achieved by time-domain analysis of the transient pressure
474 wave reflections measured at existing access points along a pipeline, such as air valves. The relationship
475 between a change in wall thickness (either internal or external) in a cement mortar lined metallic pipe and
476 the size of the wave reflection has been derived analytically for the first time. As a result, plots can be
477 drawn to describe the relationship for any specific pipeline and these plots can serve as look-up charts for
478 transient-based pipeline condition assessment. Numerical simulations have been conducted to verify the
479 validity of the analytical findings. A case study has been conducted on a section of mild steel cement
480 mortar lined (MSCL) water main in South Australia to illustrate how to apply the proposed technique to
481 field data and also verify its applicability. The dimensionless head perturbation trace as measured at an air
482 valve has been plotted and analysed. A threshold value, which represents the dimensionless head
483 perturbation that would be induced by a section of pipe with total loss of the cement mortar lining, is used
484 to facilitate evaluation of the significance of the wave reflections. Seven significant transient reflections
485 have been identified and analysed, with one from a known thicker-walled section and the other six from
486 sections with considerable internal wall deterioration. The reflection from the known feature and the four
487 reflections that have magnitudes greater than the threshold are further analysed using the look-up chart to
488 determine the representative thicknesses of the steel wall. The results are generally consistent with the
489 ultrasonic measurements.

490 This technique is non-invasive as fluid transient waves are used as the tool for the detection of defects.

491 This technique is also efficient as look-up charts are used and no interactive calculation is involved. The

492 proposed technique enables on-site transient-based condition assessment for cement mortar line metallic
493 pipes, which is cost-effective and contributes to strategic maintenance of critical pipeline assets.

494 **Acknowledgements**

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496 Linkage Project Grant LP130100567.

497 **Appendix**

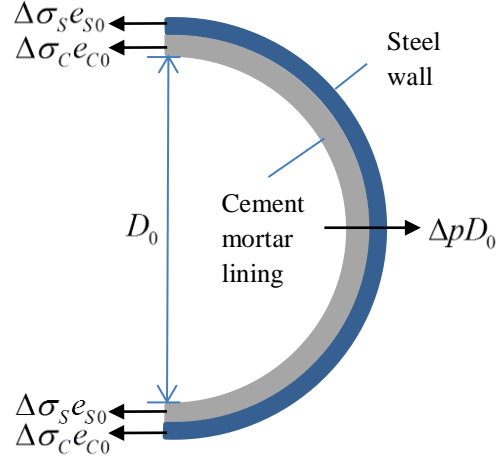
498 *Justification of the total equivalent steel wall thickness (equivalent steel thickness) as defined in Eq. (6)*
499 *and used in Eq. (7)*

500 For a pressure wave propagating inside a frictionless pipe with uniform cross section, classic one-
501 dimensional water hammer theory gives the general wave speed formula as⁸

$$a = \sqrt{\frac{K / \rho}{1 + (K / A)(\Delta A / \Delta p)}} \quad (\text{A1})$$

502 where ΔA is the variation of the cross-sectional area of the pipe caused by the variation of the water
503 pressure Δp . For a thin-walled steel pipe with thin-walled cement mortar lining, the change in tensile
504 stress in the steel wall and in the cement mortar lining, $\Delta\sigma_s$ and $\Delta\sigma_c$ respectively as illustrated in
505 Figure A1, are related to the change in radial force induced by Δp , where the relationship is

$$\Delta\sigma_s e_{s0} + \Delta\sigma_c e_{c0} = \Delta p D_0 / 2 \quad (\text{A2})$$



506

507 **Figure A1.** Forces on semicylinder of pipe due to variation in pressure.

508 Assuming the cement mortar lining is closely bonded with the steel wall so that the change in
 509 circumferential unit strain is the same in both layers, ignoring the change in axial tensile stress and
 510 applying Hooke's law to Eq. (A2), the change in circumferential unit strain $\Delta\varepsilon$ can be written by

$$\Delta\varepsilon = \frac{\Delta p D_0}{2(E_c e_{c0} + E_s e_{s0})} \quad (\text{A3})$$

511 The radial extension is obtained by multiplying $\Delta\varepsilon$ by the radius $D_0/2$, which, when multiplied by
 512 πD_0 , yields the change in cross sectional-area ΔA . As a result, the following equation is derived:

$$\frac{\Delta A}{A \Delta p} = \frac{D_0}{E_c e_{c0} + E_s e_{s0}} \quad (\text{A4})$$

513 Substituting Eq. (A4) into Eq. (A1) and applying mathematical manipulation, the wave speed is given by

$$a = \sqrt{\frac{K / \rho}{1 + (K / E_s)(D_0 / e_0)}} \quad (\text{A5})$$

514 where e_0 is the total equivalent steel wall thickness (equivalent steel thickness) as defined by Eq. (6). If

515 $e_{s0} = 0$ (no steel wall) and $e_{c0} = 0$ (no cement lining), Eq. (A5) becomes the commonly seen general

516 wave speed formula for uniform material thin-walled elastic pipe. If E_s or E_c reaches infinity, Eq. (A5)

517 becomes $a = \sqrt{K / \rho}$, which is the acoustic speed of a small disturbance in an infinite fluid.

518 If the change in axial tensile stress is considered, the Poisson's ratio can be used to describe the

519 relationship between the circumferential strain and the axial strain. Assuming that the Poisson's ratios are

520 the same for steel and cement, Eq. (7) can be derived.

521

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