

# KATHOLIEKE UNIVERSITEIT



# The role of spectral multimodality in wave climate design

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## Unimodal approach generates misinterpreation of real sea states

**Motivation** 





Applied Stochastic models for ocean engineering, climate and safe transportation

http://www.maths.lth.se/seamocs









- Spectral partitioning scheme MuSeas
- Different assignment criteria lead to different wave system climates
- Additional criteria proposed (wave steepness, directional spreading, charactheristic frequency)



#### 1- Identify the wave systems



## MuSeas partitioning scheme 2/3

#### 2- Combine the wave systems



3-Assign wind sea and swell

Peak parameters 
$$\begin{cases} (1.3 \frac{u}{c_p} \cos(\theta_p - \theta_w) > 1) \\ \text{Hasselmann et al., 1996} \\ [H96] \\ (1.2 \frac{u}{c} \cos(\theta_m - \theta_w) > 1) \\ \text{Bidlot, 2001} \\ (1.5 \frac{u}{c} \cos(\theta_m - \theta_w) > 1) \\ \text{Hanson and Phillips, 2001} \end{cases}$$

## Data description

### ERA-Interim 1989-2008

#### Grid Resolution: 1°x1°

**Spectral Resolution**: 30 frequencies x 24 directions

Analysis times: 00 UTC, 06 UTC,

12 UTC, 18 UTC

See Bidlot (2001) for more details





## Unimodal wave climate

# 

0-1

## Wind distribution





SOUTH

Hs distribution



## Separation wrt energy content

#### Hm0 1<sup>st</sup> wave system

#### Hm0 2<sup>nd</sup> wave system





## Separation with assignment (H96)



### Hm0 Wind sea (39.4%)



# Hm0 Total swell (60.6%)



## Assignment with 3 formulations

3





Hanson & Philips, 2001



## Comparison with ECMWF assignment







## Additional criteria



#### Wave steepness and directional spreading correlation











#### Wave steepness and directional spreading correlation

All spectra



731/29220

Is this Swell?



## Additional criteria

#### **Characteristic frequency**







## Summary



- Spectral partitioning scheme MuSeas
- Different assignment criteria lead to different wave system climates
- Additional criteria proposed (wave steepness, directional spreading, charactheristic frequency)

#### Further work:

How the resulting wave climates will affect the joint description of wind sea and swell components?



Bidlot, J. R., 2001: ECMWF wave-modelproducts, ECMWF Newsletter No. 91.

Hanson, J. L. and O. M. Phillips, 2001: Automated analysis of ocean surface directional wave spectra. *J. Atmos. OceanicTechnol.*,**18**, 277-293.

Hasselmann, S., C. Bruening, K. Hasselmann and P. Heimbach, 1996: An improved algorithm for retrieval of ocean wave spectra from synthetic aperture radar image spectra. J. Geoph. Res., 101(C7), 16615-16629.



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