



Anisotropic surface current response to the wind in a coastal region

Sung Yong Kim, Bruce Cornuelle, and Eric Terrill Scripps Institution of Oceanography



Anisotropic surface current response



- Anisotropic response means the current response depends on the wind direction.
- Surface current response to the wind in a coastal region is different from the isotropic response in the open ocean.

Outline

- Ekman solutions (iso- and aniso-tropic cases)
- Statistical impulse response function estimate
 - Regression using observation data (surface current and shore station wind)
- Response to steady wind
 - Wind-driven current estimate (time integration).
 - Linear/Nonlinear response function

Isotropic and anisotropic views

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} - f_c v = \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial \tau_x}{\partial z},$$
$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial t} + f_c u = \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial \tau_y}{\partial z},$$

$$[\mathbf{u} = u + iv]$$
 $[\boldsymbol{\tau} = \tau_x + i\tau_y]$

$$\lambda^2 \hat{\mathbf{u}}(z,\omega) = \frac{\partial^2 \hat{\mathbf{u}}(z,\omega)}{\partial z^2},$$

where $\lambda = \sqrt{i(\omega + f_c)} / \nu$,

 $'\nu =$ Depth independent eddy viscosity

With BCs (finite or infinite depth)

$$\mathbf{H}(z,\omega) = \frac{\hat{\mathbf{u}}(z,\omega)}{\hat{\boldsymbol{\tau}}(\omega)} = \frac{e^{-\lambda z}}{\lambda \rho \nu},$$

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} - f_c v + A_x = \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial \tau_x}{\partial z},$$
$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial t} + f_c u + A_y = \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial \tau_y}{\partial z},$$

where

$$A_x = a_{xx} * u + a_{xy} * v,$$

$$A_y = a_{yx} * u + a_{yy} * v,$$

*: time domain convolution

Fourth order PDE is solved with BCs using Ferrai-Cardan method for the quartic characteristic equation.



Study domain & data

- A single hourly surface current (spatially averaged) and wind observation near Tijuana River during two years are used.
- Major tides (K1, P1, O1, M2, and S2) are removed. _{90 subsamples}



Statistical estimate



Freq. Iso/Anisotropic Linear WIRF



Freq. Iso/Anisotropic Nonlinear WIRF



- Nonlinear WIRF breaks symmetric responses.
- Isotropic nonlinear WIRF to the upcoast and onshore wind yields the identical response.

Summary

- Anisotropic surface current response to the wind in a coastal region was investigated with the impulse response function of the observation data.
- The response function is used to estimate the wind-driven surface currents.
- The asymmetric and anisotropic response in a coastal region may result from the pressure setup due to wind and bottom/coastline friction.

Extra slides

Residual variance ratio



- 90 subsamples are chosen for WIRF estimate in freq. domain.
 - ~8.12 days period
- Residual variance cross-validated on the training data.
- Similar pattern to the sample data.

Comparison of iso/anisotropic WIRF

$$\hat{\mathbf{u}}(\omega < 0) = \left(H_{xx}^{\dagger} + iH_{yx}^{\dagger}\right)\hat{\tau}_x(\omega),$$

 $\hat{\mathbf{u}}(\omega > 0) = (H_{xx} + iH_{yx})\hat{\tau}_x(\omega),$

$$\hat{\mathbf{u}}(\omega > 0) = (H_{xy} + iH_{yy})\hat{\tau}_y(\omega),$$

 $\hat{\mathbf{u}}(\omega < 0) = \left(H_{xy}^{\dagger} + iH_{yy}^{\dagger}\right)\hat{\tau}_{y}(\omega)$



Test-out cross validation

- 30 times repeated
- Comparable to results with systematic subsampling.
- The regularization matrix (R_b) may need for the non-positive definite wind stress covariance matrix due to missing data.
- The x-validation has minimum at $\kappa^2 = 10$ -40% of mean eigenvalue when Rb = κ^2 I.

$$\mathbf{G}(z,t) = \left(\langle \mathbf{u}(z,t) \, \boldsymbol{\tau}_N^{\dagger}(t) \rangle \right) \left(\langle \boldsymbol{\tau}_N(t) \, \boldsymbol{\tau}_N^{\dagger}(t) \rangle + \mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{b}} \right)^{-1}$$

Time domain WIRF

Freq. domain iso/anisotropic WIRF





Characteristics of wind-driven currents (Magnitude & Coherence)



END.