

Cautionary remarks on the correlation analysis of **non-Gaussian self-similar time series**

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Questions

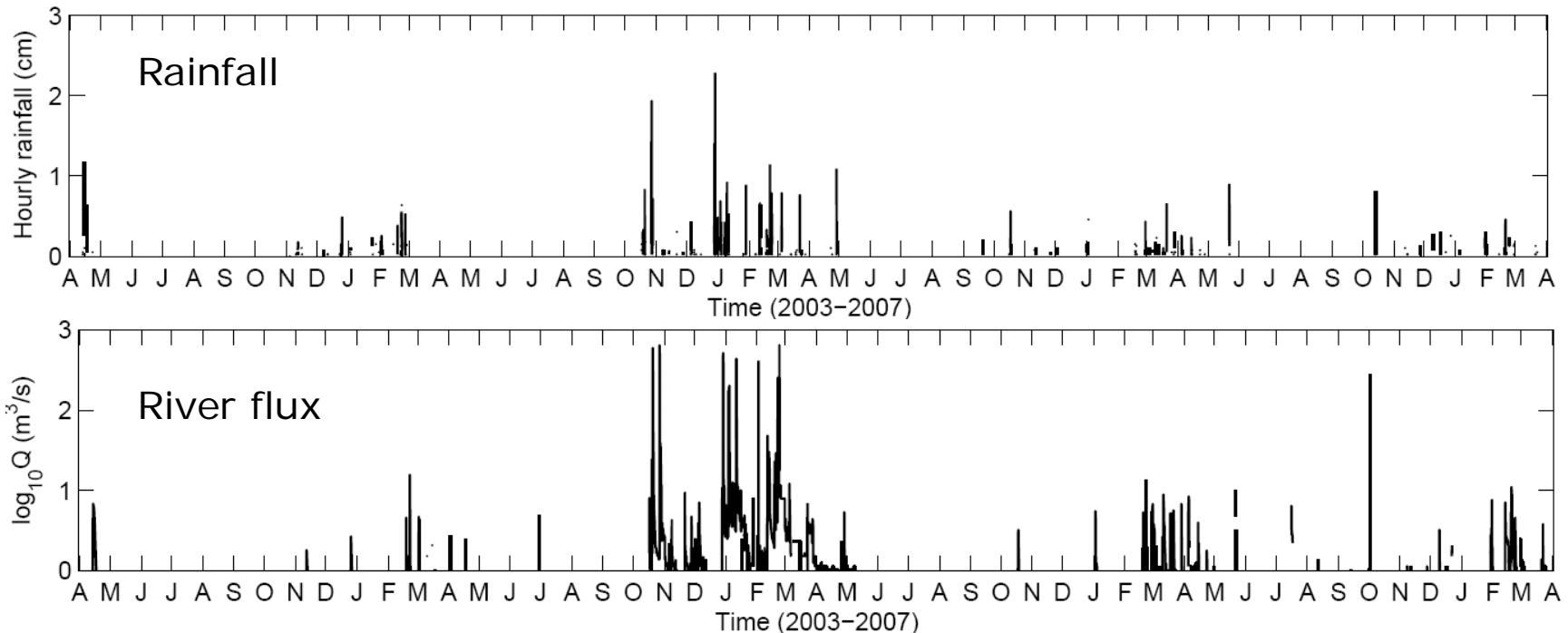
- When we describe the variability of the system or characterize the system, we may use decorrelation scales. Could we apply this approach to any types of data?
- Can we apply the correlation analysis to self-similar time/spatial series (or non-Gaussian variables)?
- Any other reasonable approaches to quantify the decorrelation scales?

Outline

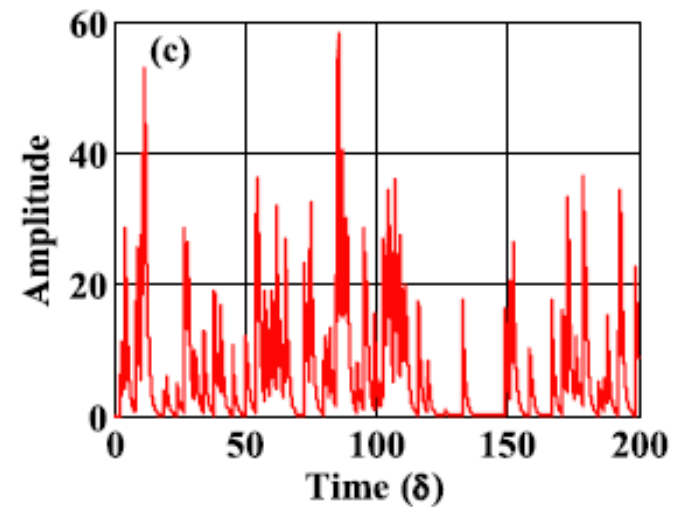
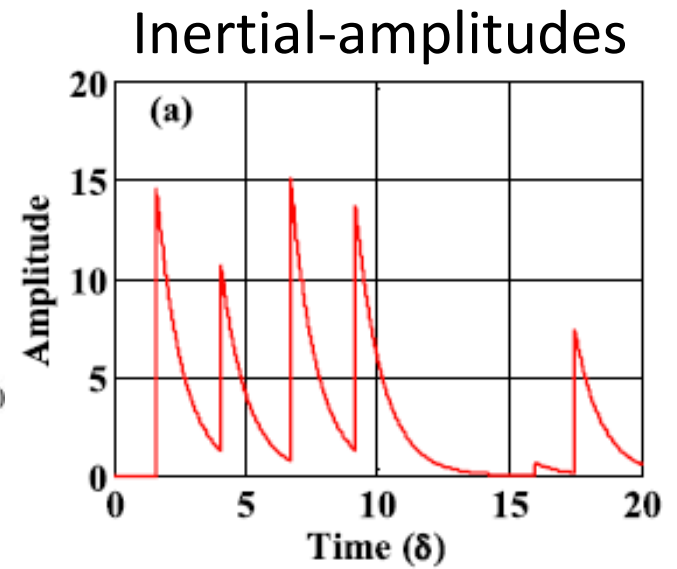
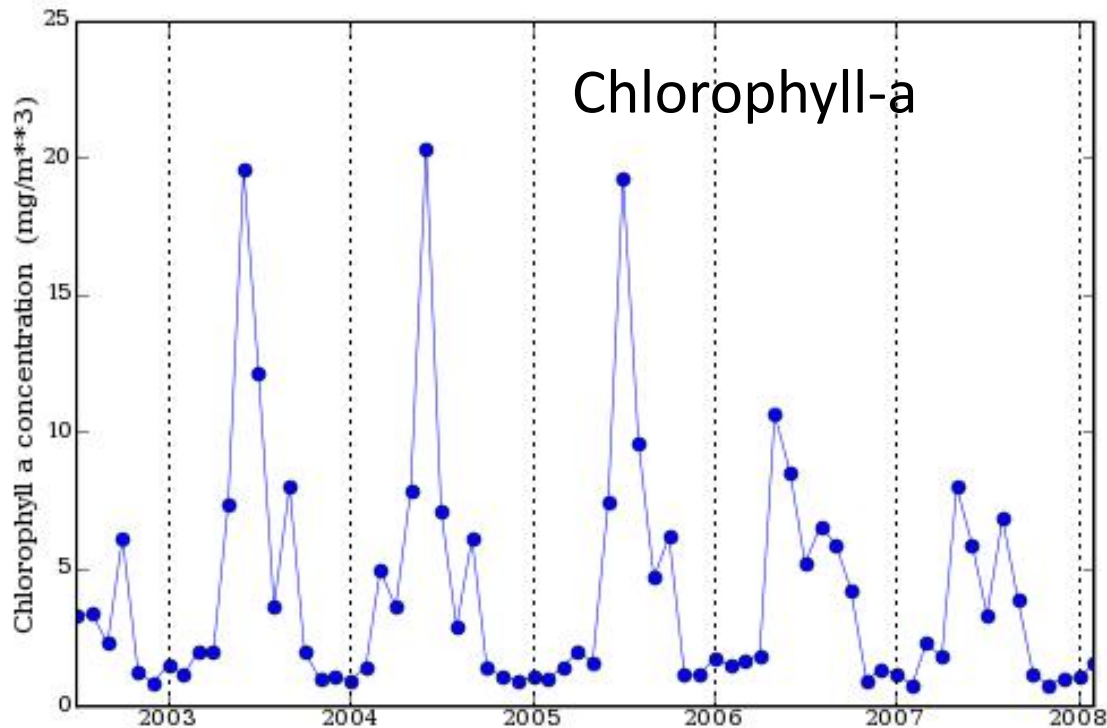
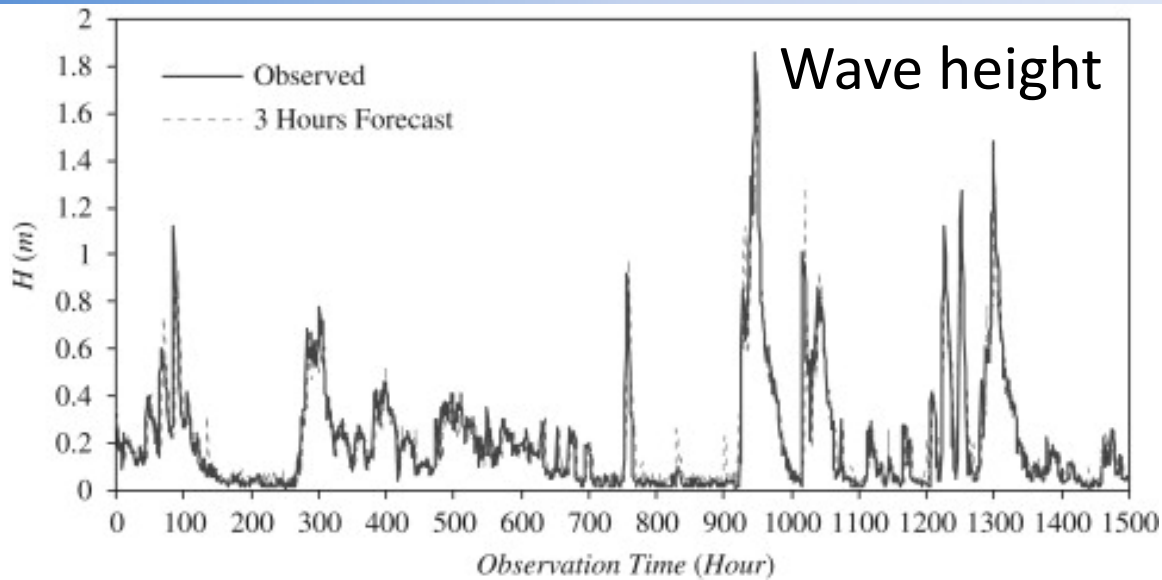
- Self-similar time series and correlation analysis
 - Examples of self-similar time series
 - Definition of correlation analysis
- Investigation with synthetic datasets
 - Generation of self-similar time series with exponential, Gaussian, and linearly decay patterns (single-sided and double-sided pulses)
 - Cross-correlation analysis to quantify the decay scales
 - Another approaches?
- Summary

Self-similar time series?

- Continuous time series with similar shapes of disturbances, pluses, or amplitudes
- May be governed by non-Gaussian statistics
 - e.g., River flows, rain fall, wind speed, wave height, concentration of Chlorophyll, and inertial amplitudes



Examples of self-similar time series



Decorrelation scales (or e-folding scales)

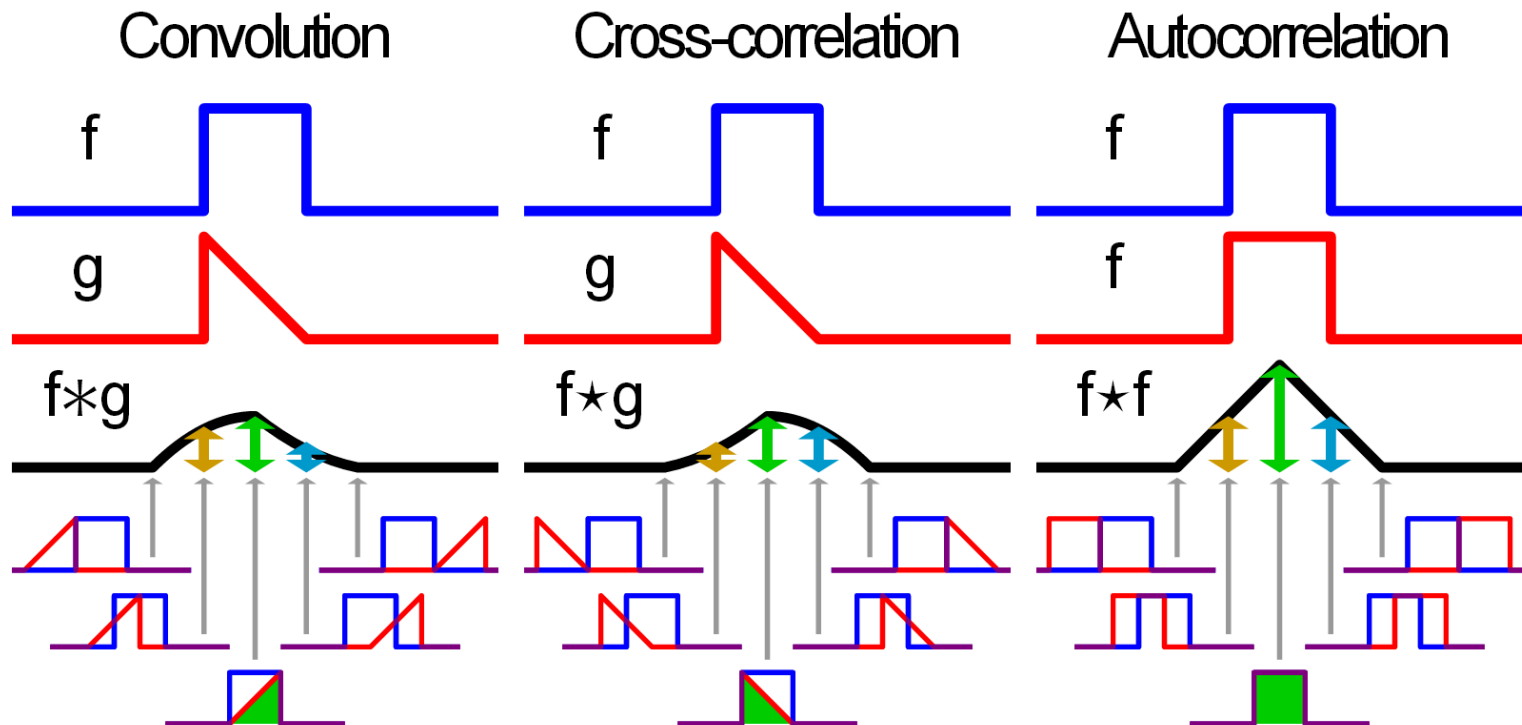
- Provide a convenient description on the structure of variables and a unique value for the system identification.
 - e.g.) decorrelation time scale is 3 days....
E-folding length scales are 4 km and 10 km in the x- and y-directions.
- System design and analysis, sampling techniques and optimization
- How to quantify these scales?

Cross-correlations

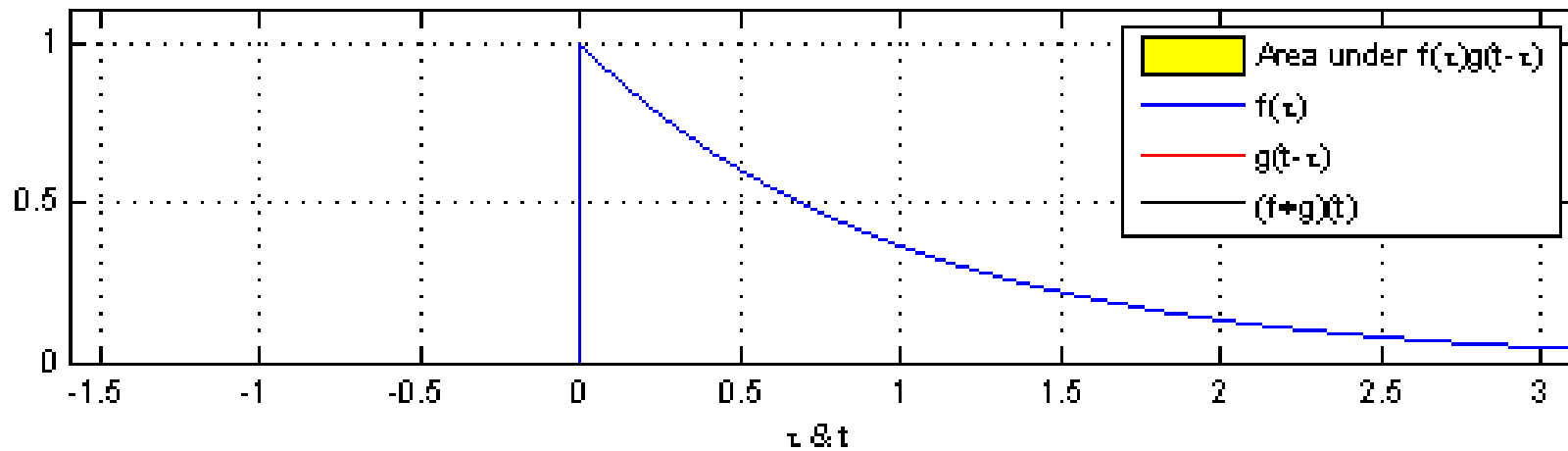
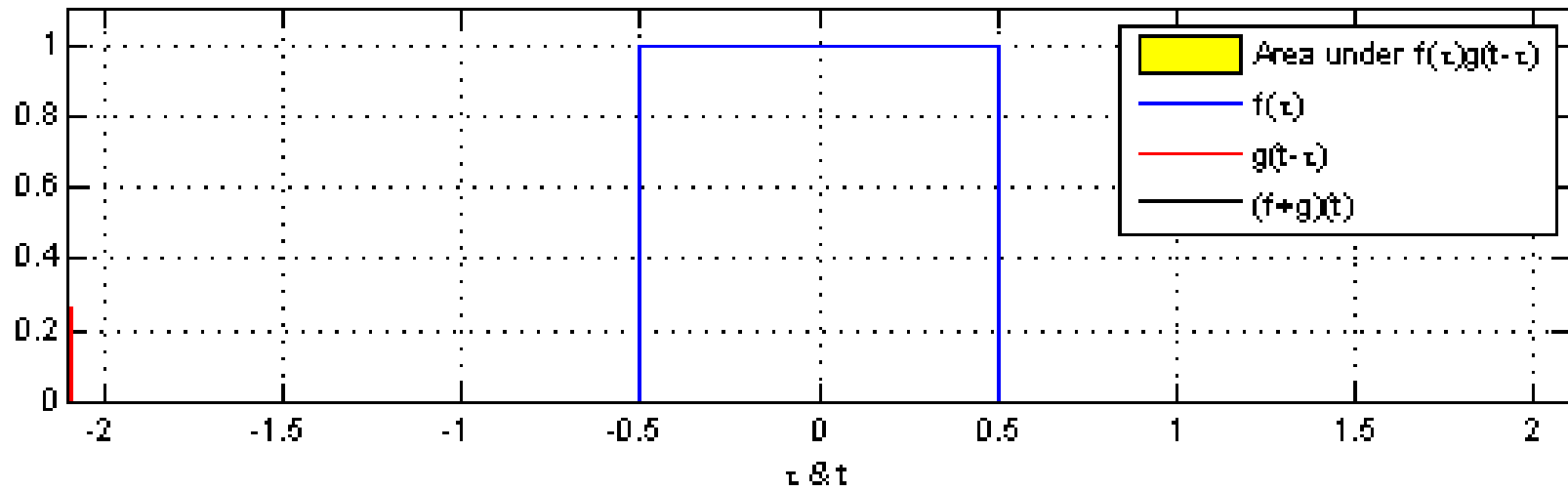
- For the finite and evenly spaced data $[d(t)]$:

$$\rho(n\Delta t) = \frac{c(n\Delta t)}{\sqrt{\langle d^2(t) \rangle} \sqrt{\langle d^2(t + n\Delta t) \rangle}},$$

$$c(n\Delta t) = \langle d(t)d(t + n\Delta t)^\dagger \rangle = \frac{d(t)d(t + n\Delta t)^\dagger}{N}$$



Cross-correlation (vs. convolution)



Issues of correlation analysis of self-similar time series

- However, the auto-correlation of self-similar times series produces spurious structure which is not relevant the raw time series.
- Let's take a look at what we examined with synthetic data sets:

Time series with multiple pulses

$$d^e(t) = \sum_{n=1}^N a_n^e b_n^e(t) = \sum_{n=1}^N a_n^e \exp \left[-\frac{|t - t_n|}{\lambda_n} \right],$$

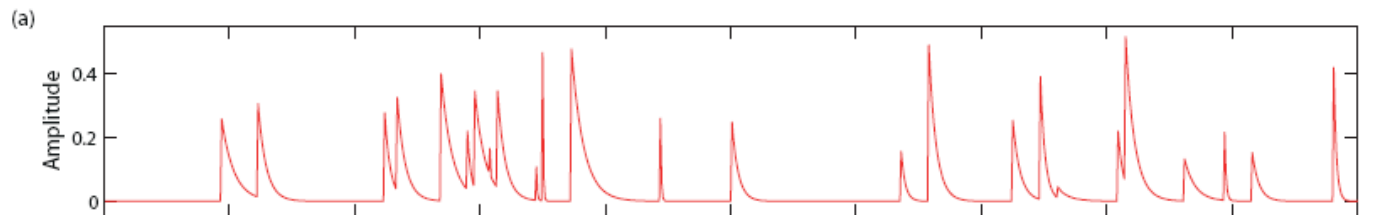
$$d^g(t) = \sum_{n=1}^N a_n^g b_n^g(t) = \sum_{n=1}^N a_n^g \exp \left[-\frac{(t - t_n)^2}{\lambda_n^2} \right],$$

$$d^l(t) = \sum_{n=1}^N a_n^l b_n^l(t) = \sum_{n=1}^N a_n^l \left[\frac{t - t_n}{t_n - \beta} + 1 \right],$$

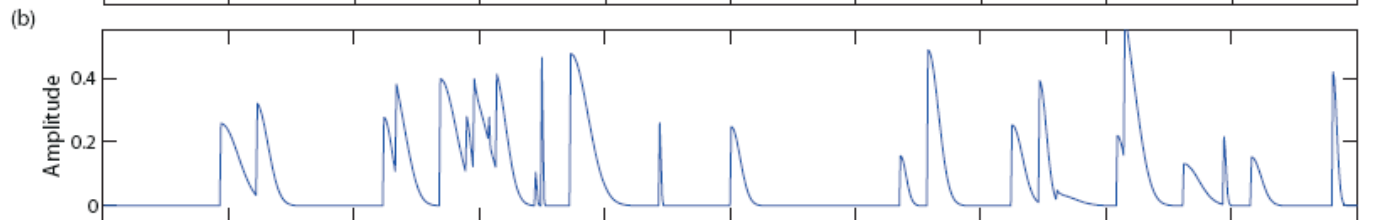
- **a_n**: Amplitude of each pulse

- **b_n**: Shape of decay of each pulse.

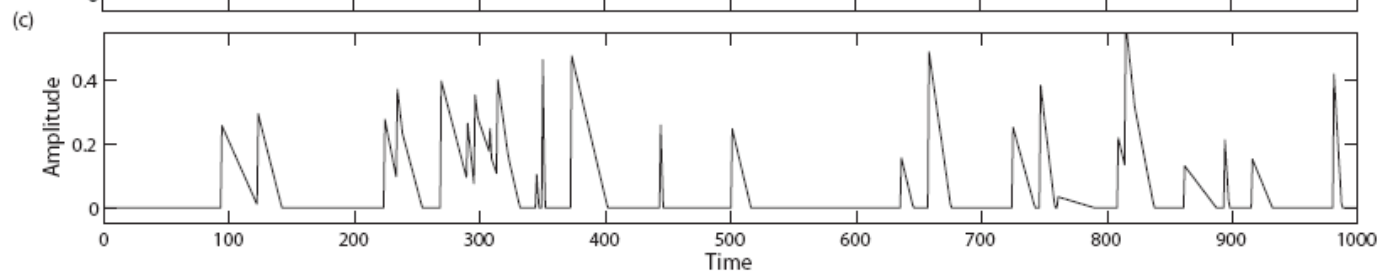
Exponential

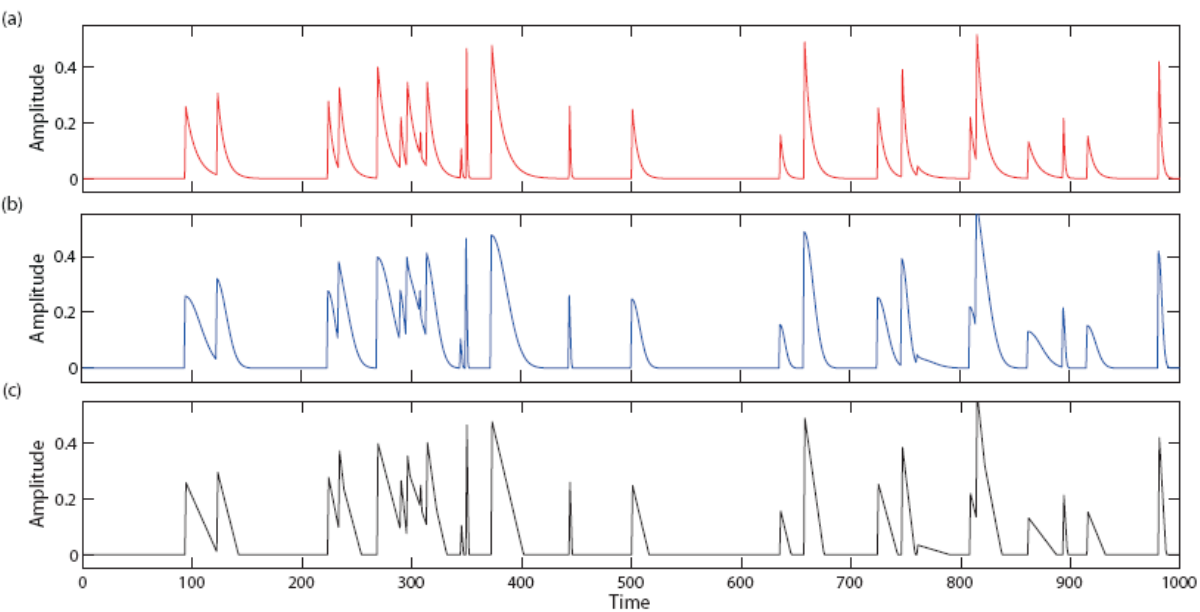


Gaussian



Linear



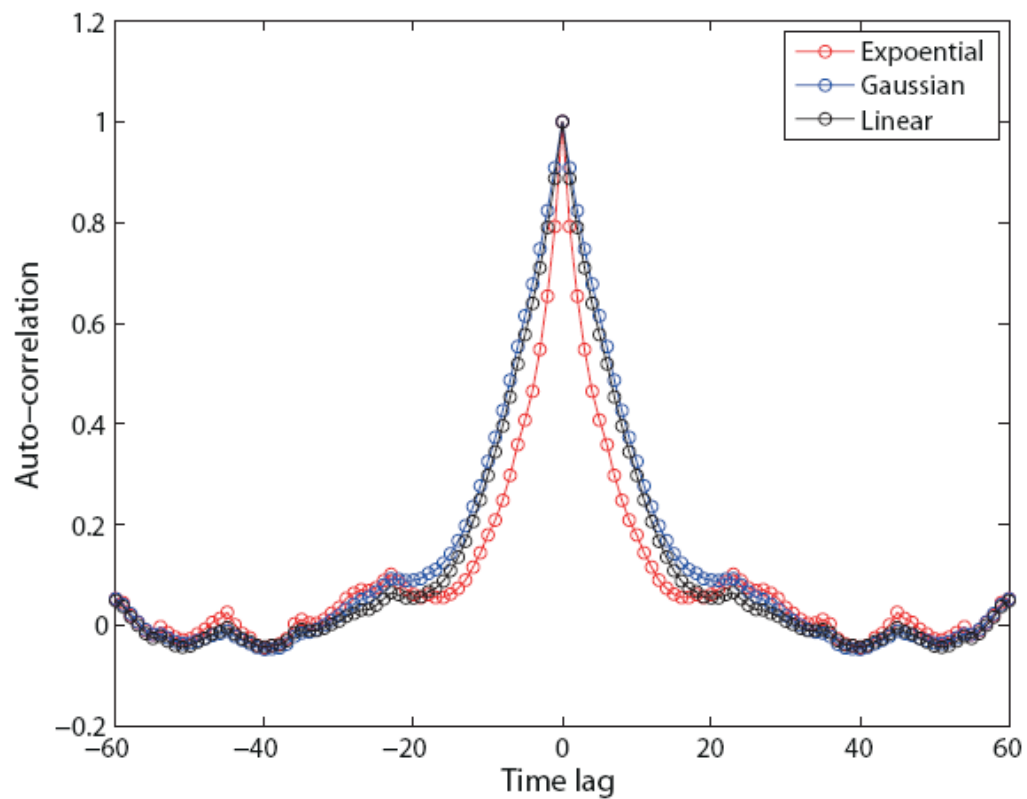


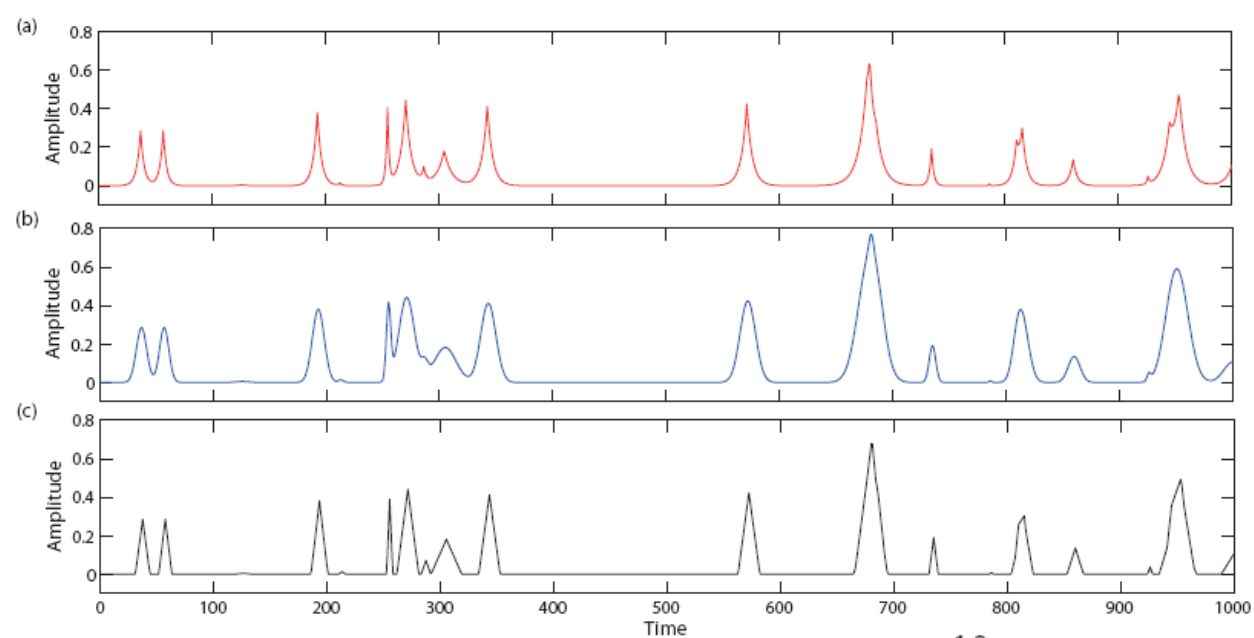
Exponential

Gaussian

Linear

Single-side pulses



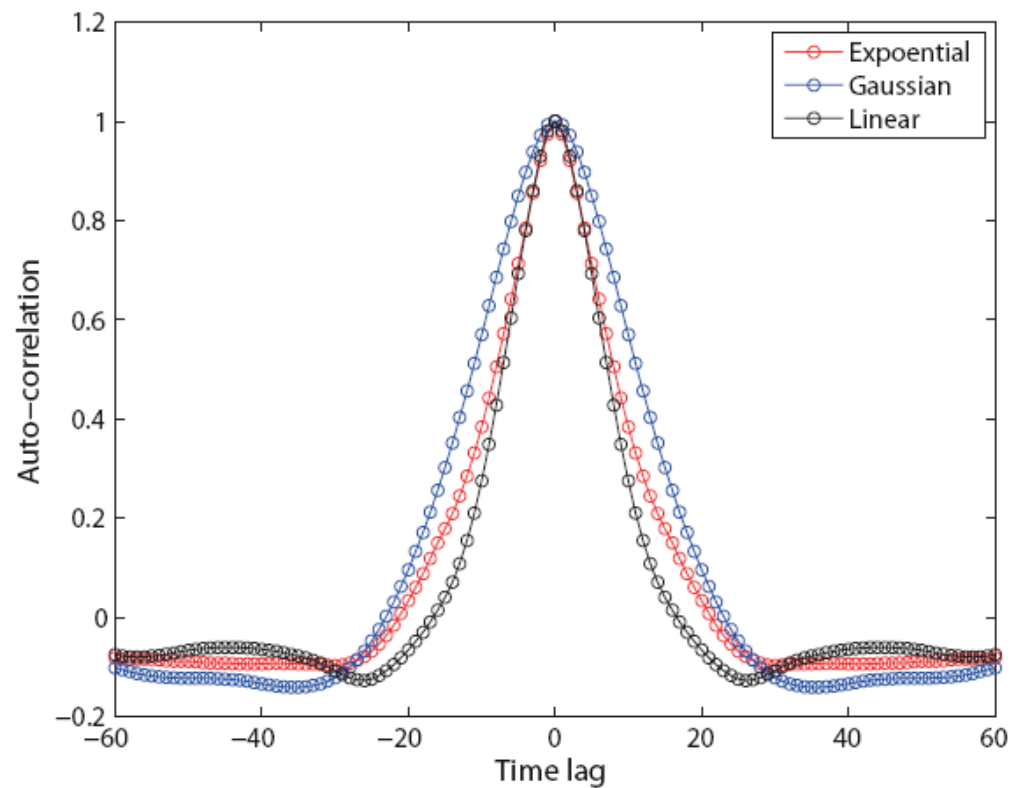


Exponential

Gaussian

Linear

Two-side pulses



Another approach to estimate decorrelation scales?

- Direct correlation analysis can mislead the estimate of decorrelation scales.
- Decorrelation scales of Individual pulses can be averaged or their statistics can identify the system.
- Dynamical constraints can be used.
 - e.g., near-inertial amplitudes can be addressed with the response function estimated from observations of wind stress and currents instead of conducting the correlation analysis on the (self-similar) time series of amplitudes of near-inertial currents.

Summary

- Cross-correlation analysis of self-similar time series may generate the spurious results in the estimate of decorrelation scales because convolving two time series does not guarantee their shape based on the original datasets.
- Using cross-correlation analysis the time lag having a maximum correlation can be found.
- Dynamical data analysis or composite mean of individual pulses in the self-similar time series can be used to identify the system or quantify the decorrelation scales.