

Direct IFORM: High-dimensional environmental contours from short datasets Ed Mackay



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Designing for extreme loads

- Design of ORE structures requires estimates of joint extremes of environmental variables, e.g. winds, waves and tides
- Current design standards recommend use of environmental contours
- Recent benchmarking exercise demonstrated large uncertainties: ± 50% on loads [1,2]
- Reduced uncertainty in environmental conditions leads to more efficient and reliable designs



Original IFORM method: Winterstein et al. (1993)

- We don't know where the failure region is
- Aim: define a region which will exclude any convex failure region with a given return period
- Procedure:
 - 1. Fit joint model
 - 2. Transform to independent normal variables (Rosenblatt transformation)
 - 3. Intersection of regions containing probability α forms a circle
 - 4. Apply inverse transformation to obtain contour



Monte Carlo Sampling Method: Huseby & Vanem (2013)

- Observation: This is silly
- No need to transform to normal space
- Just calculate exceedance regions in original space by simulating from joint model
- Contour is intersection of non-exceedance regions



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Direct IFORM: Derbanne & de Hauteclocque (2019)

- Observation: This is still silly
- Exceedance regions are univariate regions under rotations of the axes
- No need to fit joint model
- Apply standard univariate peaksover-threshold analysis at a range of angles
- Accounts for serial correlation reduces bias [7]



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Further observations

- D-IFORM method reduces problem to a series of univariate problems at various angles
- All data points used at each angle
- No loss of data with additional angles/dimensions
- Method can be applied in arbitrary dimensions
- Limitation becomes computational:
 - $_{\circ}$ Number of angles
 - $_{\circ}~$ Corresponding number of load cases



Example: joint extremes of winds and waves

- 4-dimensional problem:
 - $_{\circ}$ Wind speed, U_{10}
 - \circ Significant wave height, H_s
 - $_{\circ}$ Mean wave period, T_m
 - $_{\circ}$ Wind-wave misalignment direction, θ_{rel}
- Directions are periodic and defining "extreme directions" does not make sense
- Work with components of wave height in line and transverse to wind direction instead:

$$H_{long} = H_s \cos(\theta_{rel})$$
, $H_{trans} = H_s \sin(\theta_{rel})$



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Application

- 31-year wind-wave-current hindcast
- Analysis for floating wind test site off Cornish coast
- Contours derived using angular spacing of ~10° in each dimension
- 2720 direction vectors
- Approx. 30 s computational time



Visualisation

- Tricky for 4-dimensions
- Options include
 - Projections into 3D or 2D
 - Slices through variable space
 - $_{\circ}$ Using colour as a variable
- There are many ways to slice a 4-dimensional pie



"I'll take your brain to another dimension" The Prodigy



3D projection of 50-year surface



- Circles: observations
- Surface: 50-year contour
- Hollow centre not
 important for extremes
- Want to know return value of largest H_s at given U_{10} and θ_{rel}

2D projections



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Slices: $10 \le U_{10} \le 12 \text{ m/s}$



- This is around rated wind speed for an offshore wind turbine, where largest loads may occur
- We are interested in extreme H_s at given period or direction lower values are not important

Conclusions & further work

- Direct IFORM provides rational approach for selecting extreme combinations of environmental variables for design of ORE structures
- No assumptions required about dependence structure
- Method can be applied in higher dimensions with no degradation in performance
- Previous work showed that short-term variability in the response is large source of uncertainty for offshore wind [8]
- Future work will investigate how contours can be used to determine conditions to characterise short-term response function and combine with data to obtain long-term extreme response

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Thanks for your attention!

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