# Best Practices & considerations to evaluate WECs

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# Once you leave

#### You should be aware

- ✓ What are waves and how we describe wave
- ✓ What is wave energy & wave resource assessments
- ✓ Wave energy converters & how to estimate power



Introducing waves as a resource

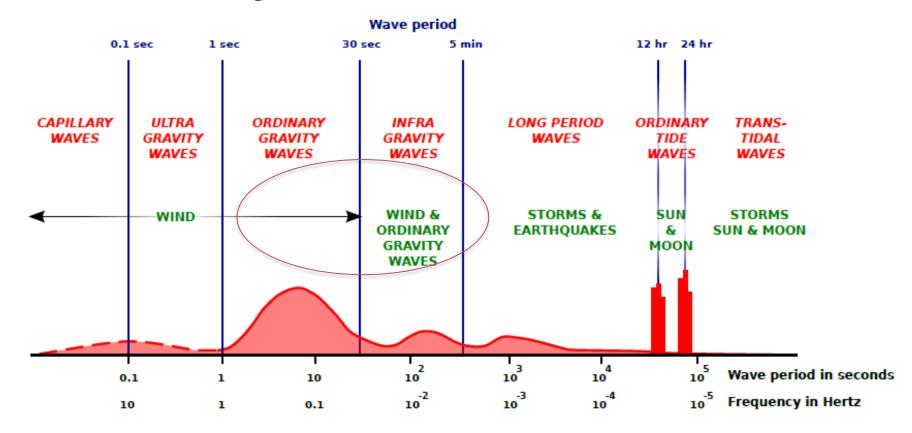


### **Definition**

In general an ocean/sea wave is:

"the mean of vertical motion of the ocean surface"

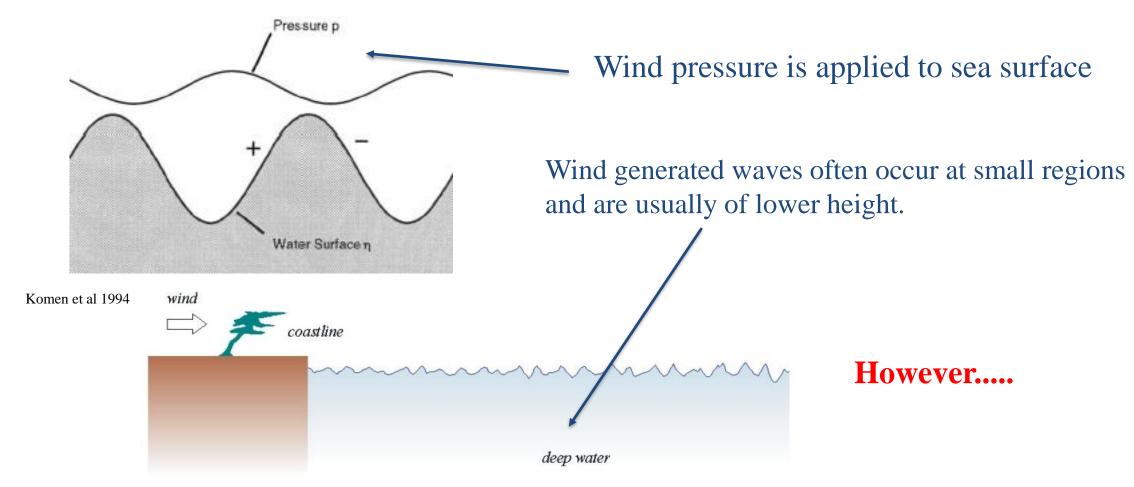
Vertical motion can be either due to **wind**, **gravity**, tectonic plates, etc.. There are numerous "wave" version(s), however we focus at **wind generated waves**.





# Wind generated waves

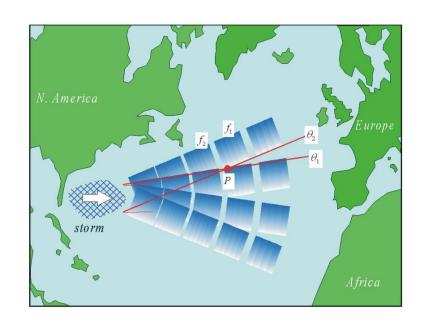
Real ocean waves are more complex and most are irregular waves

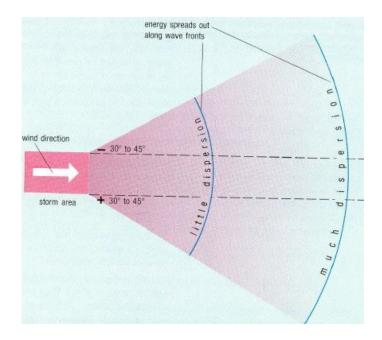




### Swells

Wind generated waves travelling long distances, "transform" into swells They tend to maintain a constant direction with some directional spreading



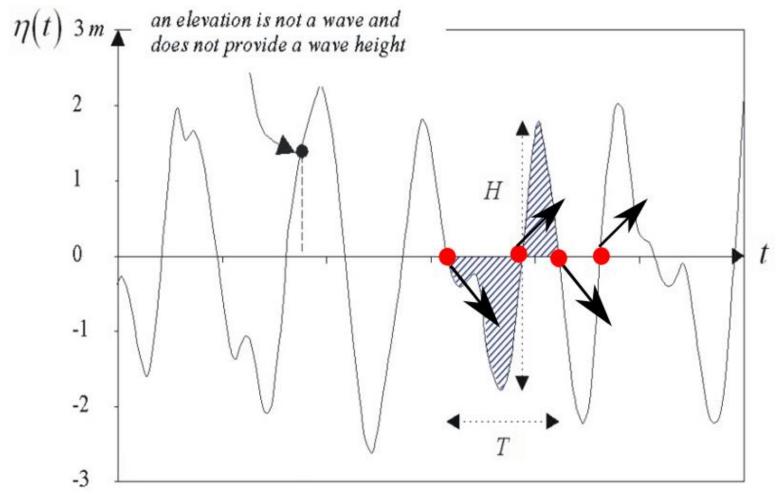


- High frequency (low periods) "merge" to form lower frequency
- Lower frequency waves, travel faster



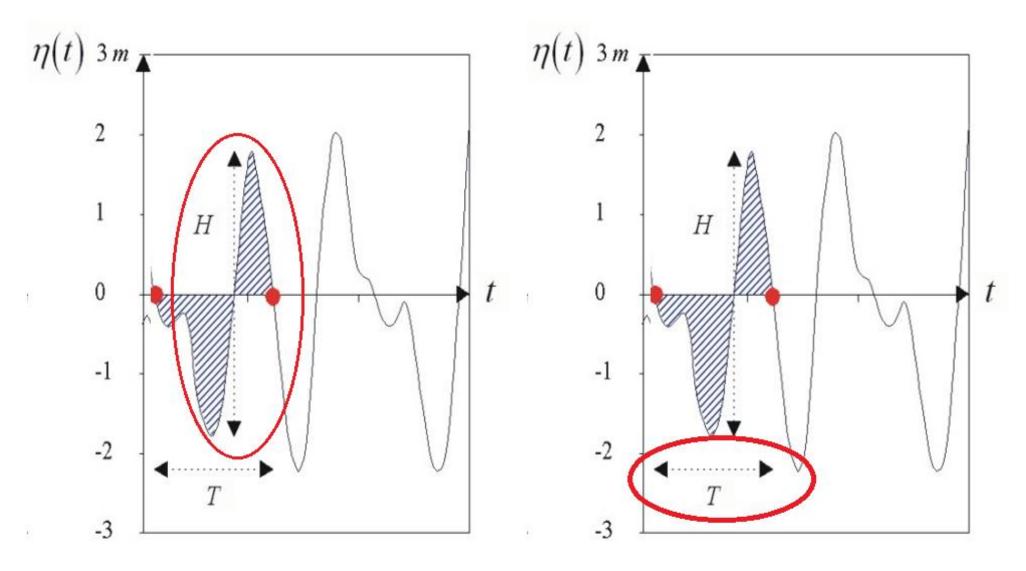
### Metocean characteristics

A wave is not every surface elevation





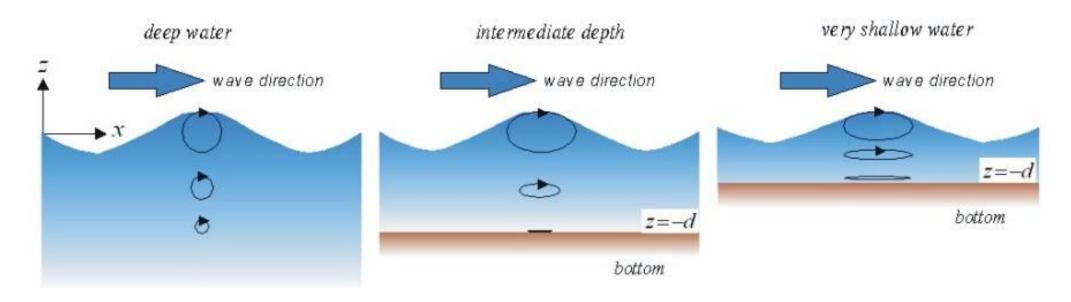
# Height & Period(s)





### Non Linear Waves

#### Local characteristics affect waves



- ✓ No interaction with the bottom
- ✓ Water particles moves in circle
- ✓ Diameter of orbital motion decreases with depth
- ✓ Wave speed (celerity) proportional to wavelength

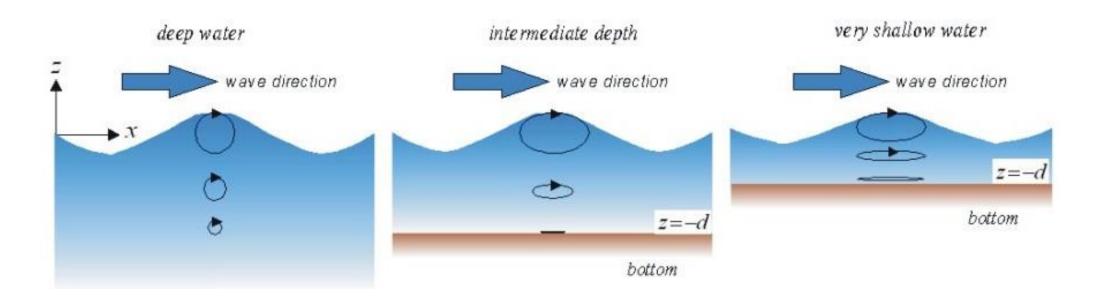
$$L = 1.56 \cdot T^{2}$$

$$C = 1.56 \cdot T$$

$$C = 1.56 \cdot \sqrt{L}$$



### Non Linear Waves



$$C = \sqrt{g h}$$

- ✓ Orbital motion changes due to bottom interactions
- ✓ Transforming wave column into ellipse
- ✓ Surge motion is more common.
- ✓ Celerity proportional to depth of water.



# Depth Effects

#### Bottom friction

- > Effects of seabed on water column
- ➤ Negative effects
- > Depends on seabed particles roughness
- ➤ Site specific
- ➤ Material specific

### Depth breaking

- At shallow depth breaking is more often
- Cannot be predicted always
- Preferred to obtain by a ration of wave height-to-depth

$$\frac{H_{max}}{d} \approx 0.75$$



#### Near & Shallow waters

#### Shoaling & Reflection

- Phase speed = Group velocity
- ✓ Waves disperse less
- ✓ Waves will reflect on coastlines
- Pending on morphology (i.e. sloped, vertical etc.)
- ✓ Returning waves cause higher non-linear losses

#### Refraction & Diffraction

- ✓ Waves slowly change direction as they move ashore
- ✓ As in the case of other wave types (i.e. Snel's Law similarities)
- ✓ Long-crested waves prefer to propagate to lower energy region
- ✓ Waves will propagate to sheltered lower resource region

Dominant physical processes in nearshore environments and can affect the wave characteristics

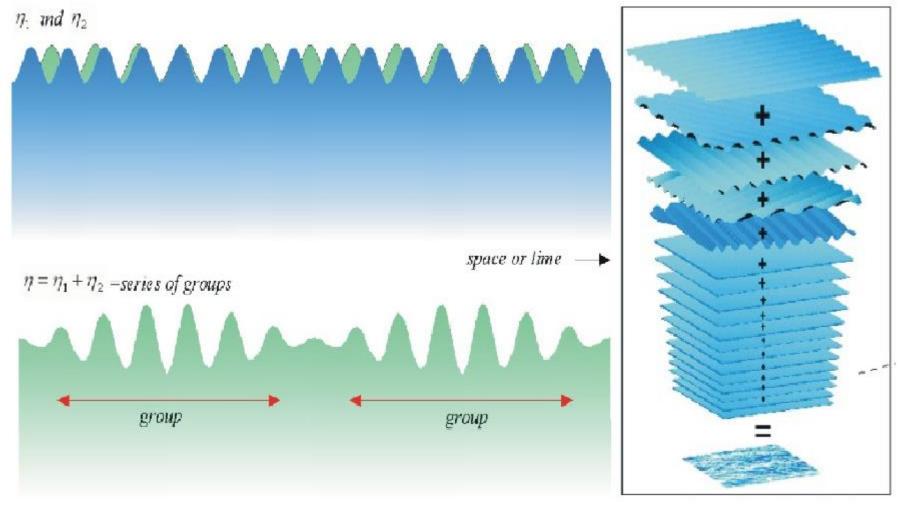


Waves in reality



### Real waves

Real Seas encompass waves that have multiple characteristics (irregular, swells, wind-waves etc.).



They constitute a variety of periods/frequencies and elevations.



### Wave Spectra

Basic concept: Wave spectrum is surface elevation as a function of time, always considering numerous harmonic waves

- ✓ One directional spectrum (1D)
- √ Two directional spectrum (2D)

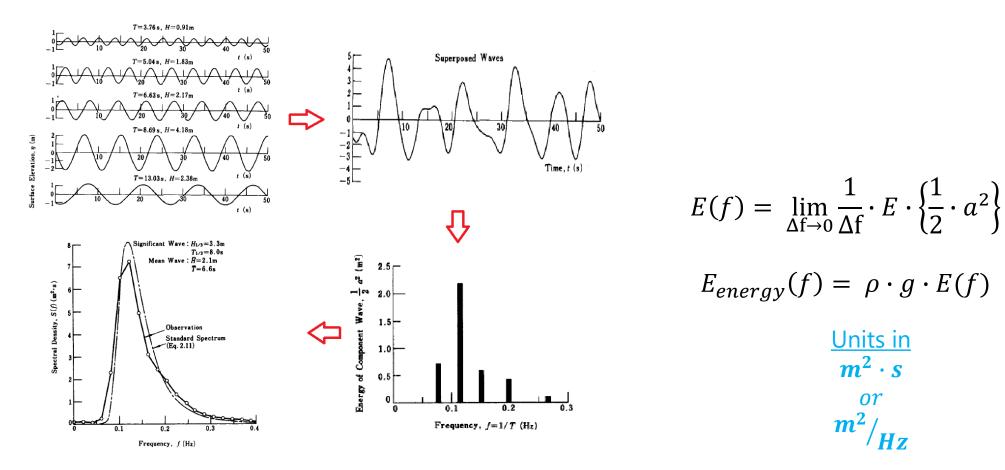
$$n(t) = \sum_{i=1}^{N} a_i \cdot \cos(2\pi \cdot f_i \cdot t + \varphi_i)$$

This is the random-phase amplitude model!!



### 1D Spectrum

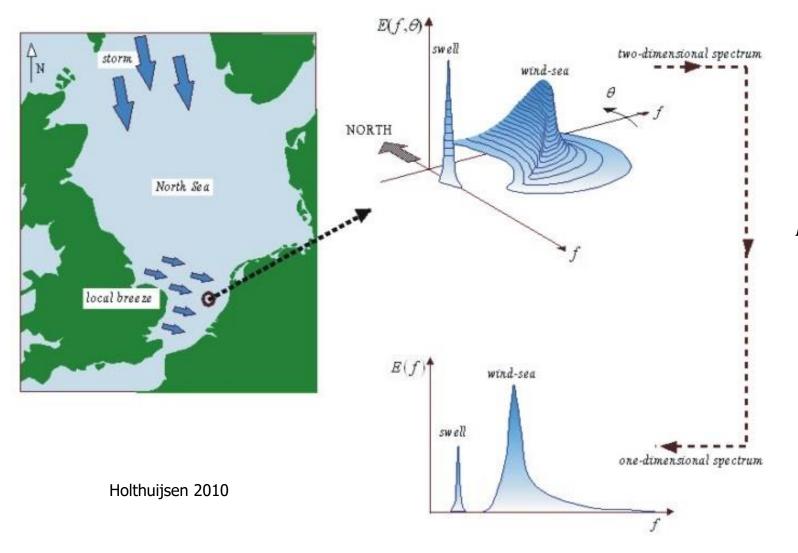
Seas do not have pre-defined OR discrete range of frequencies, nor are they stationary in time.



The 1D spectrum describes large number of waves in the time/frequency domain



### 2D spectrum



$$E(f,\theta) = \lim_{\Delta f \to 0} \lim_{\Delta \theta \to 0} \frac{1}{\Delta f \cdot \Delta \theta} \cdot E \cdot \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \cdot a^2 \right\}$$

$$E_{energy}(f(\theta)) = \rho \cdot g \cdot E(f(\theta))$$

Units in m<sup>2</sup>/Hz/rad Or m<sup>2</sup>/Hz/degrees



## Description of spectral for real waves

### Wave Spectra

- Wind generated waves are random
- Superposition of larger number of waves
- Waves is described according to amplitudes and energy variance
- ✓ Some variations of spectra exist

### Spectra (Empirical)

- ✓ Pierson-Moskowitz (PM)
- ✓ Joint North Sea Wave Project (JONSWAP)
- Other empirical formulations

Ocean spectra of real waves provide realistic descriptions.

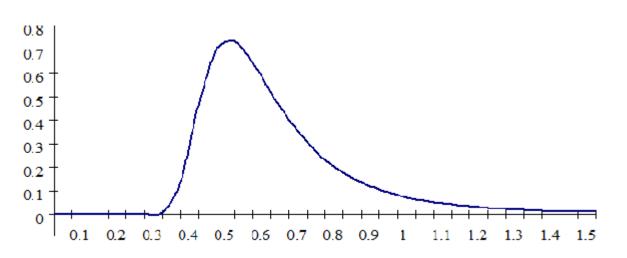
Major consideration is that wind acts as the generating and propagating force



# Spectra

#### Pierson-Moskowitz (PM)

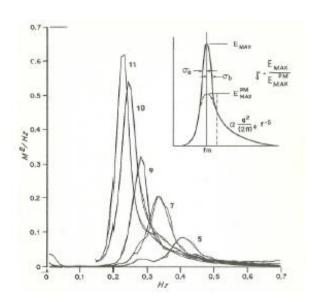
#### **JONSWAP**

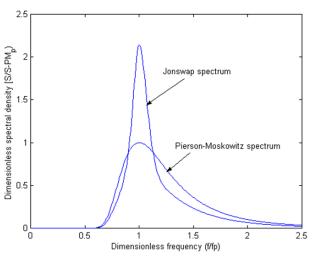


$$E(f,\theta) = \alpha_{PM} \cdot g^2 \cdot (2\pi)^{-4} f^{-5} \cdot exp \left[ -1.25 \cdot \left( \frac{f}{f_m} \right)^4 \right] \cdot \left[ -\frac{1}{2} \cdot \left( \frac{\frac{f}{f_m^{-1}}}{\sigma_{peak,param}} \right) \right]$$

$$f_m = \frac{\nu_{19.5}^{PM}g}{U_{19.5}} \& H_{m0} = 0.023 \cdot U_{19.5}^2$$

$$\sigma_{peak,param} = \begin{cases} \sigma_{\alpha} & f \leq f_m \\ \sigma_{\beta} & f > f_m \end{cases}$$
 with:







### Tides & currents

- ✓ Local environmental characteristics also include, local wave current and tidal resources.
- ✓ Pending on region and resolution at which is observed, tidal & current effects can alter direction and reduce wave energy propagated.
- ✓ These consideration will depend on the level of study, and application
- ✓ Different approach to higher non-linear physical solution is needed



**Wave Monitoring** 



## Why data acquisition & monitoring ....

### Applications

- Maritime
- Marine structures
- ✓ Offshore platforms
- ✓ M&O
- ✓ Offshore energies
- ✓ More....

#### Objectives

- Hindcasts
- ✓ Forecast studies (short/long & term)
- ✓ Climate Change
- ✓ More .....

#### Methods

- ✓ In-Situ
- ✓ Ship/human observations
- ✓ Satellites
- Numerical Wave Models (NWM)



### In-Situ

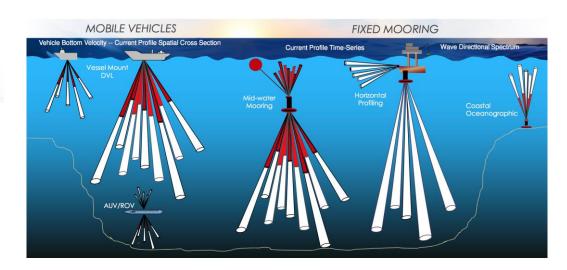
### Limitations for wave buoys

- Area coverage
- ✓ Time recording duration
- Monitored quantities
- Dependence on moorings
- Breakdown events (non-recording)
- ✓ Filtering processes required



#### Limitations for ADCP

- Limited vertical resolution
- ✓ Limited measurement range
- Susceptibility to noise
- ✓ Influence of surface roughness
- ✓ Influence of current





# Ship/Human Observation

#### Limitations

- Requires experienced personnel
- ✓ Short duration-expedition
- ✓ Limited applicability & range
- ✓ Subjectivity & Human error
- ✓ Incomplete information
- ✓ Lack of precision



#### Some examples can be

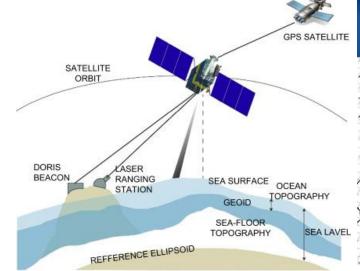
- Shore based observation
- Boat-based observations
- Aerial observations
- Video observations
- Human observations

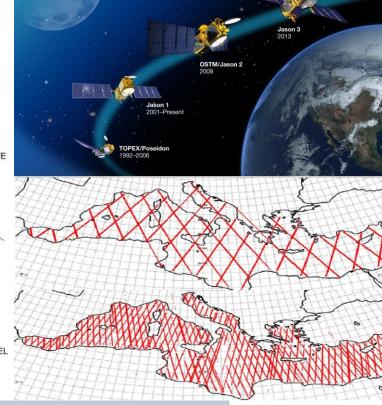


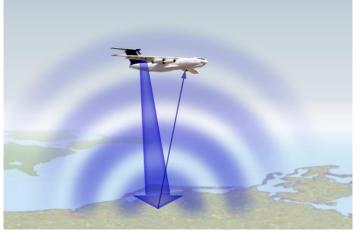
# Satellites/Altimeter/Radar Altimetry

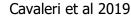
### Limitations

- Temporal recordings
- Coverage
- ✓ Applicability nearshore & coastal waters
- Filtering processes are necessary
- Not immediately available
- Affected by weather phenomena
- ✓ Affected by other human tech (radar, etc)
- Not suitable for measuring in shallow or near shorelines











### **Numerical Wave Models**

Continuous improvements on models have enhanced our knowledge on waves, past,

present and future.

- ✓ Wave resource
- ✓ Boundary interaction
- ✓Ocean feedback to atmosphere
- ✓ Temperature
- ✓ Tsunami, extreme storms
- ✓ etc.....

#### Strengths

Global and/or Local coverage
Computing Speed
Accuracy
Historical data
Forecast data

Results for multiple industries

Multiple nesting

Physical solutions of complex terms

Timescale of results

Tuning of physical properties

Data Assimilation

HPC multi-threading (computing)

#### Opportunities

Data assimilation

Multi-model communication

HPC multi-threading (computing)

Quality of Inputs

#### Weaknesses

Experience of User
Data for calibration, validation
Storage requirement
Computing requirements
Tuning of physical properties
Improvements for physical terms
Quality of inputs

#### Threats

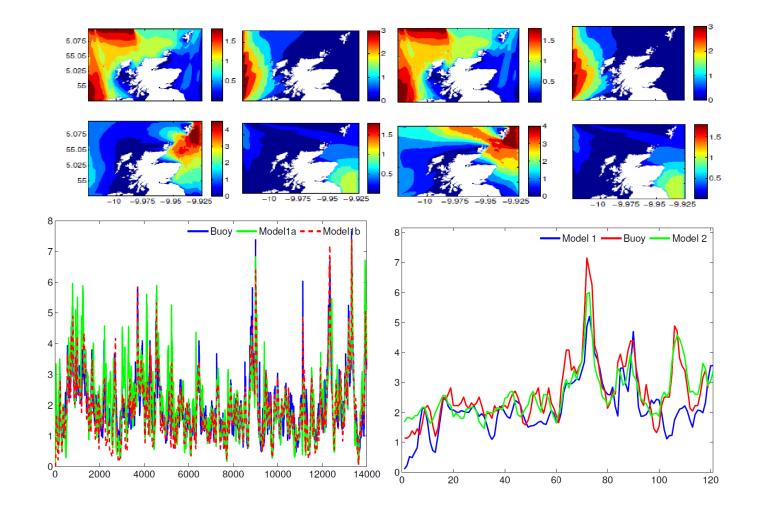
User Experience
Instability of propagation schemes
Allocation of computing resources
Processes based on empirical formulations



### **Numerical Wave Models**

#### Limitations

- ✓ Inputs quality
- ✓ Physical calibration
- Need benchmarking
- Computational resources
- Experienced User
- ✓ High level of tuning





Waves as Energy



# Why is the wave resource important?

Short answer: It helps us with day-to-day operations

**Long answer:** It provides necessary information that can be expanded to many different sectors

- ✓ Naval, maritime (Commercial & Military)
- ✓ Weather forecasting
- ✓ Structures/platforms
- √Ships
- ✓ Fisheries
- √Climate Analysis
- ✓ Climate Change
- ✓ Energies
- $\checkmark$



### Some applications vital for wave resource

#### **❖** WEC applications



https://www.offshore-energy.biz/corpower-launchesits-first-commercial-scale-wave-energy-converter

#### Ports and harbours



https://zeymarine.com/worlds-biggest-ports/

#### Design of offshore structures



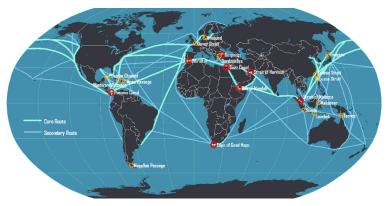
https://www.nesfircroft.com/blog/2021/06/the-6-biggest-offshore-structures-in-the-world?source=google.com

#### Maritime activities



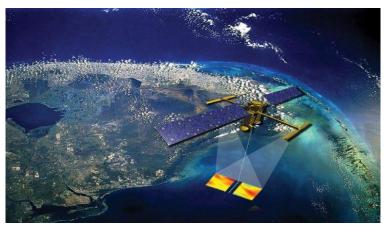
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Commercial\_fishing

#### Optimal ship routes and safe navigation



https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Major-maritime-shipping-routes-and-strategic-passages\_fig1\_315398501

#### SSB Correction



 $\frac{https://www.whoi.edu/satellite-altimetry-mission-promises-huge-advances-for-physical-oceanography-and-hydrology/$ 

### Distribution(s)

Pending on the description desired, waves can be distinguished in two ways:

- I. Weather
- II. Climate

These two will ultimately use different approaches & outcomes: Short-term & Long-term Statistical analysis.

- For shorter periods changes are easily observed i.e. foreshores and shallow water waves.
- Local Characteristics have serious effects



# Short-term vs Long-term

#### Short

- √ 15-30 min or for a storm 6-12 hr
- ✓ Easily "accessible"
- ✓ Suitable short time intervals & storm
- ✓ Assume Gaussian and stationary
- ✓ Used analyse structures, fatigues and instantaneous characteristics
- ✓ Determine physical wave characteristics

#### Long

- ✓ Non-stationary
- ✓ Design condition for offshore & coastal structures
- √ For energy applications
- ✓ Climate analysis
- ✓ Difficult to obtain data
- ✓ No theoretical distribution model
- ✓ Requires preparation of dataset

Extreme Value Analysis (EVA) is useful in many sector and very important for estimating survivability, applicable to the energy sector



### Extreme Value Analysis (EVA)

Usually 20, 50, 100 years of return periods are investigated.

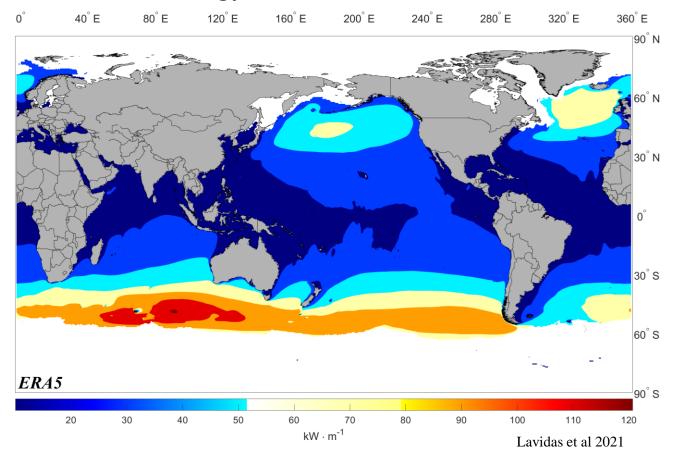
- ✓ Suitable method/empirical distributions need proper selection
- ✓ Access/Development and preparation of datasets
- ✓ "Goodness-of-Fit" assessment
- ✓ Estimation and determination of probabilities of exceedance that may occur in the future
- ✓ Awareness of extreme events and expected return values is vital to the design in offshore industries

Recommended duration > 10 years, ideally not less that 20% of the desired return period



# Renewable Energy

Asides from the "traditional" application and utilization of ocean & Sea resources by human societies, waves are an inexhaustible source of energy.







### Wave power (regular waves)

 $E_{wave}$  is the summation of kinetic and potential energy per unit surface area of a wave

$$E_{wave} = E_{kinetic} + E_{pot} = \frac{1}{8} \cdot \rho \cdot g \cdot H_{m0}^2 \cdot C_g$$

$$\lambda_{wave} = T \cdot \sqrt{\frac{g}{k} \cdot tanh \cdot (k \cdot h)}$$

$$C = \frac{\lambda_{wave}}{T}$$

$$C_g = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \left[ 1 + \frac{2kh}{\sinh(2kh)} \right] \cdot C$$

$$P_{wave} = \frac{\rho \cdot g^2 \cdot H_{m0}^2 \cdot T}{32 \cdot \pi}$$



# Wave power (irregular waves)

$$C_g(f,h) = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \left[ 1 + \frac{2kh}{\sinh(2kh)} \right] \cdot C$$

$$E_{wave} = \frac{1}{8} \cdot \rho \cdot g \cdot H_{m0}^2 \cdot C_g(f,h)$$

In this case (f) is represented by the Energy period:  $T_e = \frac{m_{-1}}{m_n}$ 

$$m_n = \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^{\infty} \sigma^n \cdot E(f, \theta) \cdot df \cdot d\theta$$

$$P_{wave} = \frac{\rho \cdot g^2 \cdot H_{m0}^2 \cdot T_e}{64 \cdot \pi} \quad \text{In W/m or kW/m}$$



## Wave power (irregular waves) | Spectral formulation

$$H_{m0} = 4 \iiint E(f,\theta) \cdot df \cdot d\theta$$

$$P_{wave} = \rho \cdot g \cdot \int_{0}^{2\pi} \int_{0}^{\infty} C_{g} \cdot E(f,\theta) \cdot df \cdot d\theta$$

$$P_{\chi} = \rho \cdot g \cdot \iint C_{g\chi} \cdot E(f,\theta) \cdot df \cdot d\theta$$

$$P_{y} = \rho \cdot g \cdot \iint C_{gy} \cdot E(f,\theta) \cdot df \cdot d\theta$$

$$P_{wave} = \sqrt{P_{\chi}^{2} + P_{y}^{2}} \qquad \text{In W/m or kW/m}$$



#### Resource assessment

A resource assessment that is applicable over wide spatio-temporal conditions can be done (predominately in two ways):

- ➤ Satellite Data
- Numerical Wave Modelling

#### **Preparation is Key!!**

Depending on data produced or sampled filtering, clearing, modelling and set-up is vital. Usually to ensure proper assessment a numerical multi-model is the most suitable method.

- ✓ Wind Components
- ✓ Bathymetry information
- ✓ Constructing the model code
- ✓ Boundary conditions
- ✓ Initial conditions
- ✓ Determine time duration
- ✓ Determine parameters
- ✓ Nesting \& Multi-model combination
- ✓ and many more intrinsic and project specific details.



### **Action Balance Equation**

The Action Balance Equation is applicable both on Cartesian & Spherical, with a full spectral non-stationary solution.

$$\frac{\partial N \cdot (\sigma; \lambda; \theta; t)}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial C_{g,\lambda} \cdot N \cdot (\sigma; \lambda; \theta; t)}{\partial \lambda} + \cos \phi^{-1} \cdot \frac{\partial C_{f,\phi} N(\sigma; \lambda; \theta; t)}{\partial \phi} + \frac{\partial C_{f,\theta} \cdot N \cdot (\sigma; \lambda; \theta; t)}{\partial \theta} + \frac{\partial C_{f,\theta} \cdot N \cdot (\sigma; \lambda; \theta; t)}{\partial \sigma} = \frac{S \cdot (\sigma; \theta; \lambda; \varphi; t)}{\sigma}$$

radian frequency= $(\sigma)$ , time = t solution, latitude= $\lambda$ , longitude =  $\varphi$ , frequency= $\sigma$ , direction= $\theta$ , and group velocities =  $C_g$  (for latitude & longitude)

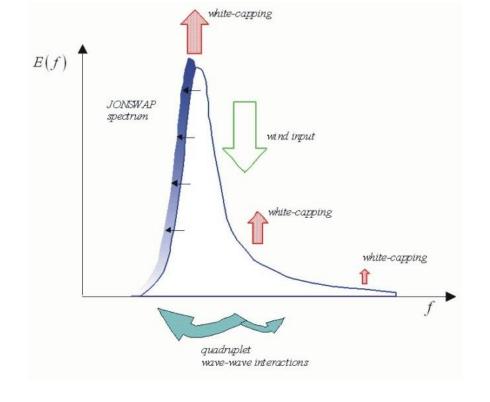


#### Sink terms

Wave theory and its translation into a working numerical model is presented in terms of the action density balance equation, with an overview of the physics and their importance in the resource analysis (per regional applicability)

$$S_{tot} = S_{in} + S_{nl4} + S_{ds,w} + S_{nl3} + S_{ds,b} + S_{ds,br} + S_{xx}$$

Deep water	Nearshore/Shallow
S <sub>in</sub> =Wind Input	$S_{n/3}$ =Triad Interactions
$S_{n/4}$ =Quadruplet	$S_{ds,b}$ =Bottom Friction
Interactions	$S_{ds,br}$ =Depth Breaking
$S_{ds,w}$ =Whitecapping	$S_{xx}$ =user defined





#### Model distinction

	Oceanic waters	Coastal water		
Process		Shelf Seas	Nearshore	Shallow
Wind generation				
Quadruplets			•	
Whitecapping			•	
Bottom Friction				
Depth breaking		•		
Currents		•		
Triads		•		
Reflection				
Refraction				

 $\blacksquare \blacksquare = Dominant, \blacksquare = Significant, \blacksquare = Minor, \square = Negligible$ 

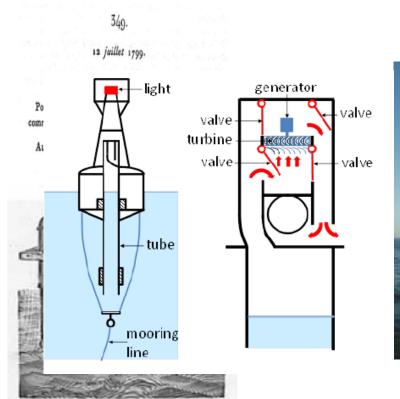


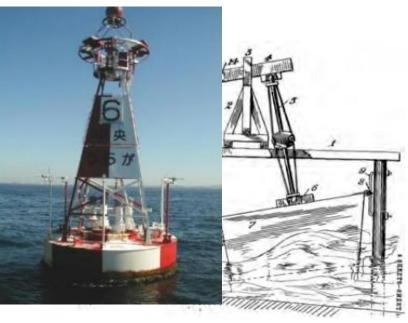
WEC History



## Early sparks

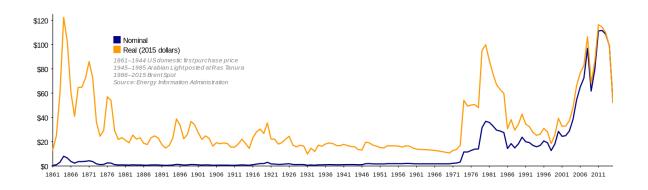
## 19th & early 20th Century







## Revival & energy "thirst"









#### 1970s "wave revolt"

## Wave power

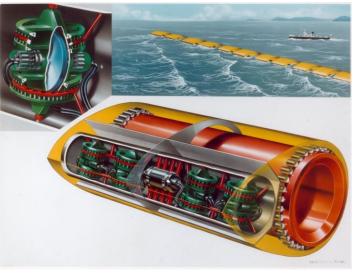
S. H. Salter

Bionics Research Laboratory, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh EH1 2QL, UK

Solar energy is one form of income on which we can afford to live. Here is another proposal: the use of power from the waves at sea. THE amount of pocalculating the chanabove sea level falls. If the sea water has is W, then the mas

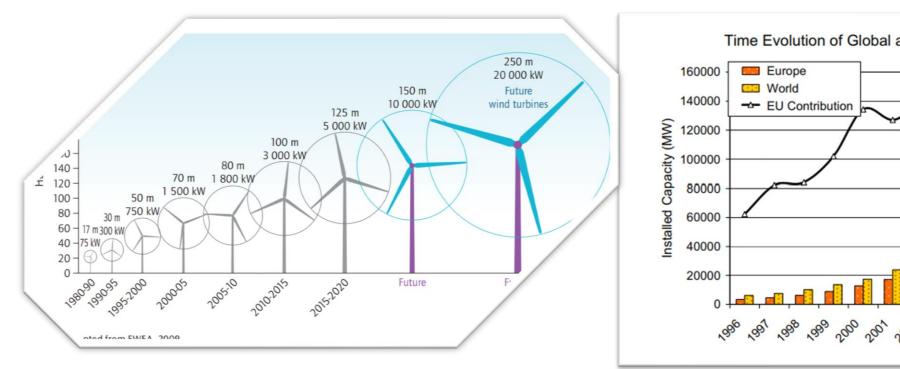
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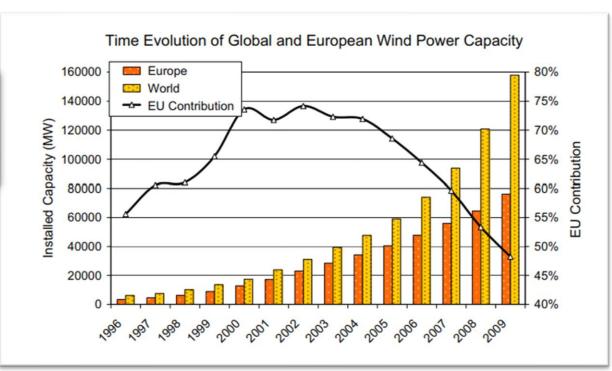






## Ambitious goals

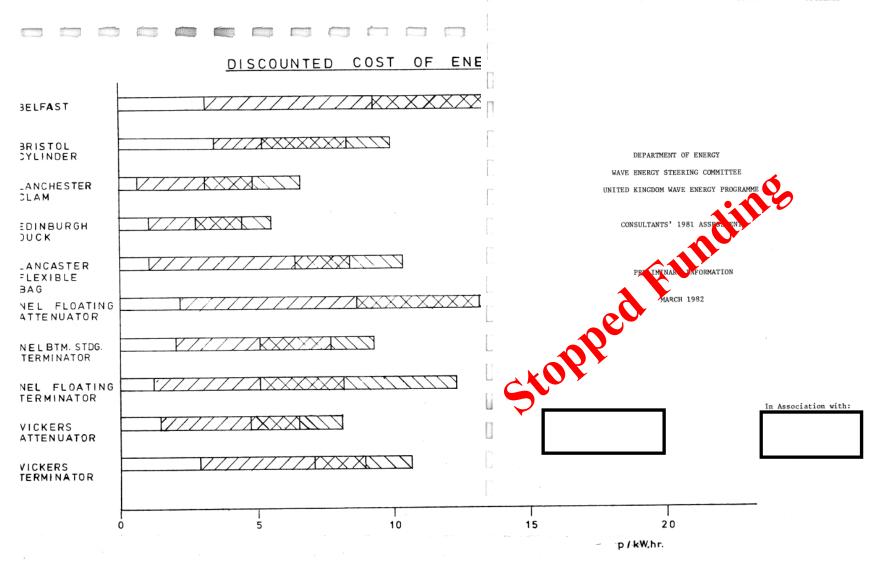






## **Ambitious goal**

COMMERCIAL IN CONFIDENCE





Evolution and progress

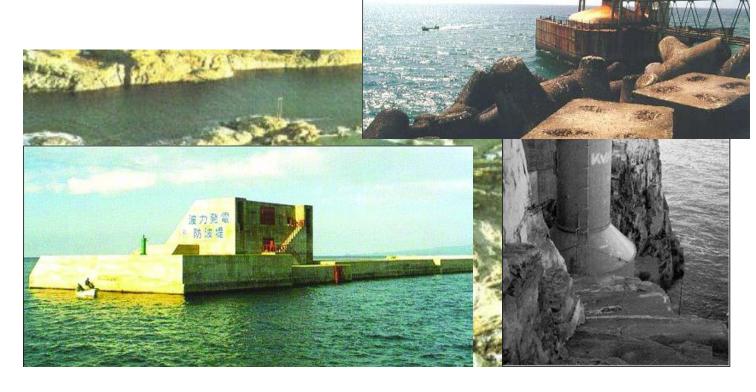


## Evolution (1980-1990s)

1985: Two full-sized (350 and 500 kW rated nower) shoreline prototypes installed

at Toftestallen, Norway

1990: Asia and India





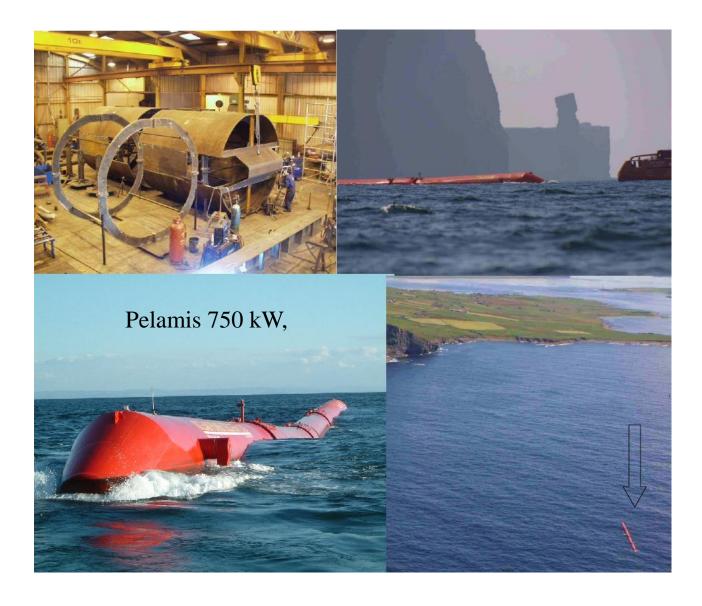
## Evolution 1990s-2000s

1991: LIMPET 500 kW, Scotland





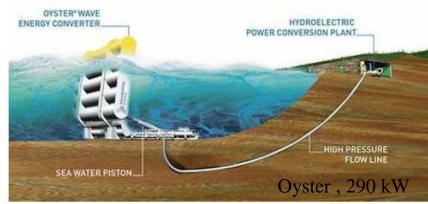
# Evolution (2000s – 2010s)



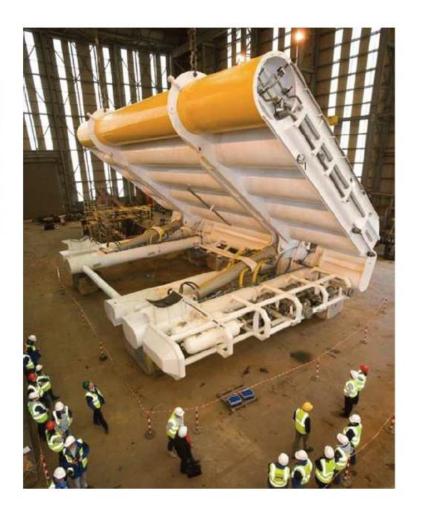


## Evolution (2000s – 2010s)

#### Aquamarine Power Ltd





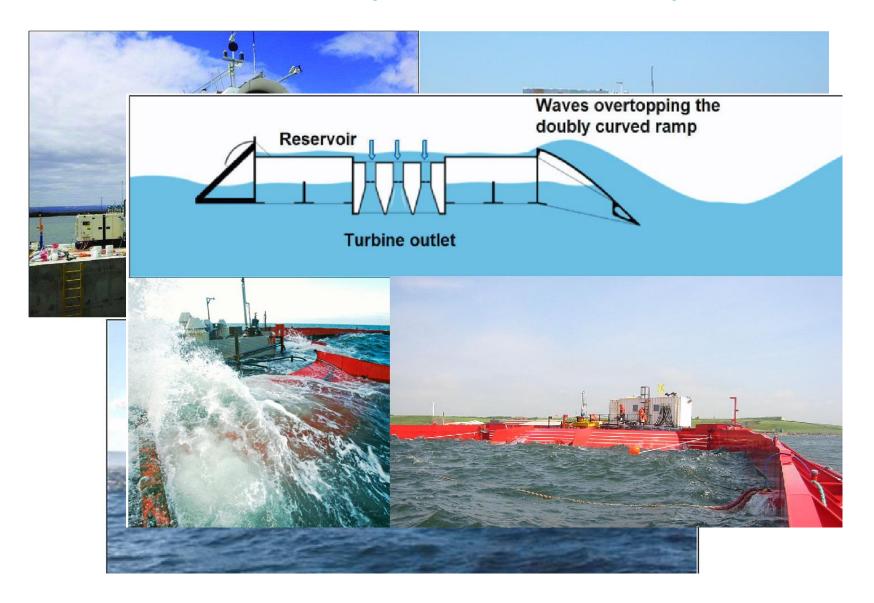


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Still operating, almost 12 years



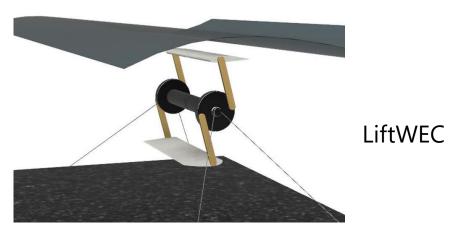
## New devices (2015s-Present)

#### Current status





Blue Star X





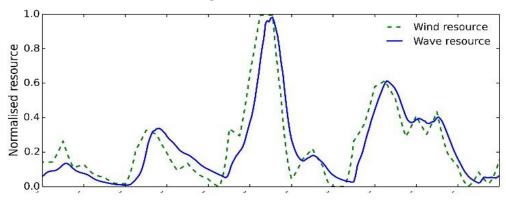
Wave Energy Converters



## Why Waves?

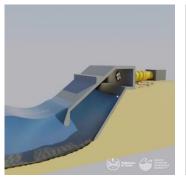
- > Waves are amongst the highest energy density renewables
- Predictable (though not as solar)
- Persistence of resource
- >Access to the resource
- ➤ Temporal Cross-Correlation
- ➤ Variability reduction
- ➤ Coastal protection
- Offshore hybrid systems
- > Energy Benefits to isolated commu
- >etc...

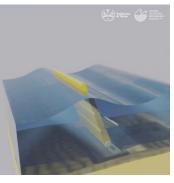
- ✓ Potential for variability reduction
- ✓ Accelerate the Energy Transition
- Increase utilization of indigenous resources
- ✓ Improve the environment
- ✓ Sustainable Development
- ✓ Renewable energies





# WEC concepts

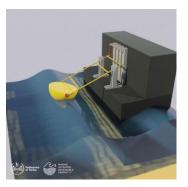




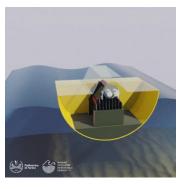














## WEC concepts

#### **Principles**

- 1. OWC
  - A. Floating
  - **B.** Fixed structure
    - i. Isolated
    - ii. Breakwater
- 2. OB
  - A. Floating
  - B. Submerged
- **3.** Overtopping (OT)
  - A. Floating
  - B. Fixed structure

#### <u>Deployment</u> (depths)

- □ Shoreline:  $3m \ge d$
- □ Shallow:  $3m \le d \le 25m$
- ☐ Intermediate  $25m \le d \le 50m$

- □ Concept  $d \le 150m$

#### **PTO**

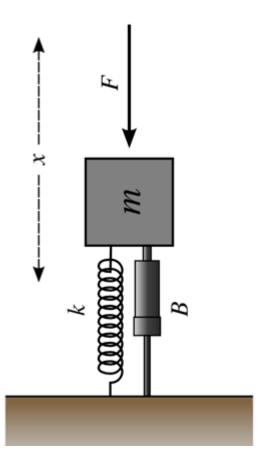
- Hydraulics
- Generators
- Turbines
- > Etc..



# Modelling a WEC



## Analytical Linear mathematical model – Point absorber

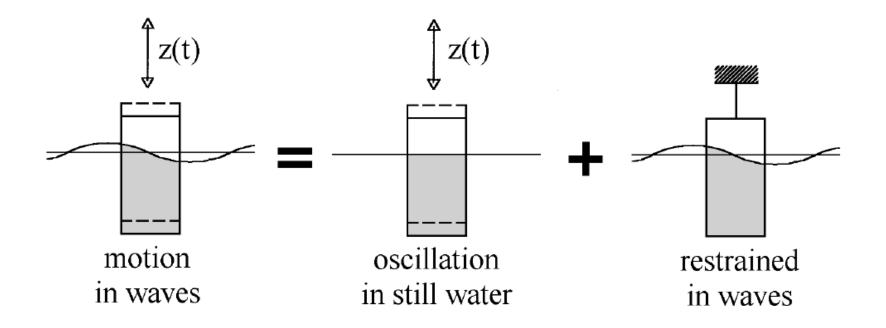


#### **Basic Assumptions:**

- Dimension (WEC) is small compared to the wave length
- PTO, mooring, control forces are linear
- WEC does radiate waves
- Over regular waves



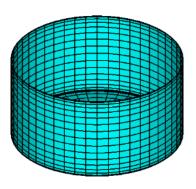
# Understanding the mathematical model – Heaving cylindrical PA





# Hydrodynamic modelling of WECs – Numerical approaches

- Frequency domain methods Boundary Element Method
  - Linear potential flow
  - Boundary integral equations (Green's function approach)
  - Mixed source/dipole formulation
  - Least computational time



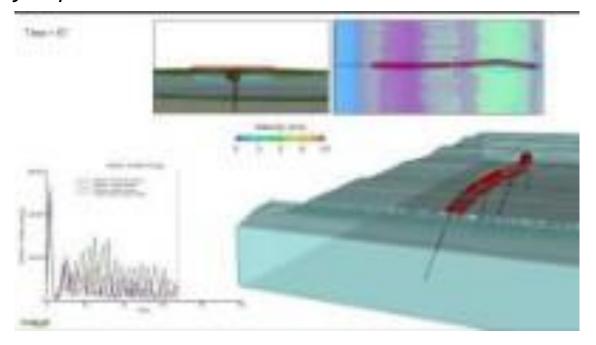
Liu et. al. 2019

- Time domain methods Integro differential Cummin's equation method
  - Modelling of non-linear forces such as viscous damping and inertia, PTO forces, mooring forces (more accurate)
  - Computationally expensive compared to frequency domain methods
  - Derive from frequency domain BEM method



# Hydrodynamic modelling of WECs – Numerical approaches

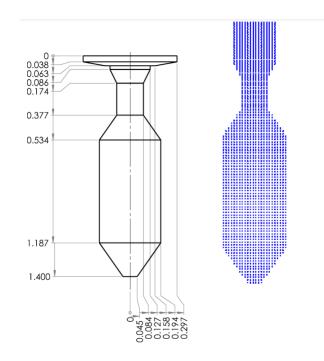
- CFD methods
  - Derived from Navier Stokes equation, Eulerian method
  - Full non-linear modelling possible including turbulence effects
  - RANS formulation most common using Volume of fluid method (Free surface modelling)
  - Computationally expensive





# Hydrodynamic modelling of WECs – Numerical approaches

- Lagrangian methods Smoothed particle Hydrodynamics
  - Mesh free particle following
  - Computationally intensive but less compared to CFD
  - Commonly used: Dual SPHysics (Smoothed Particle Hydrodynamics)







Estimating Power



## Non-linearities for detailed analysis

Detailed analysis based on BEM, non-linearities to be considered

Time domain simulation (e.g. Integro-differential Cummin's equation

$$(M + \mu_{\infty})\ddot{X} = F_{\text{ex}} - \int_{0}^{t} K(t - \tau)\dot{X}(\tau)dt + F_{H} + F_{\text{PTO}} + F_{V} + F_{\text{es}}$$

PTO force – linear, hydraulic

**End Stop forces** 

$$F_{es} = -K_{es} \operatorname{diag}(X + X_{es})u(-X - X_{es})$$
$$-K_{es} \operatorname{diag}(X - X_{es})u(X - X_{es})$$

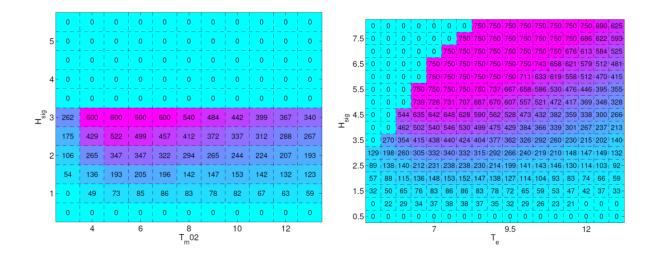
$$F_V = -\frac{1}{2}\rho C_D A_D |V - V_0| (V - V_0)$$



#### Power Matrix (PM)

Models produces the responses according to excitation, operation, numerical estimation of sub-components, controls & PTO.

After some hydrodynamic analysis and conversions





## **Producing Energy**

Estimation of  $E_{el}$  production requires two main components:

- Power matrix (Bivariate or Trivariate)
- ☐ Joint/Bivariate (or Trivariate) of location (metocean)

#### Potential methods:

**Non-advisable**, is to use coefficients, i.e.  $\eta = 90\%$  and estimate the extractable energy

$$E_{el} = \int_{t=1}^{\infty} \eta \cdot P_{wave}(t) \cdot \Delta_{\omega}$$

Waves comprise a highly statistical multi-parameter process, hence matrices of directionality-occurrences-PM combined

$$E_{el} = \frac{1}{100} \cdot \sum_{i,j=1}^{n_T} \sum_{i,j=1}^{n_{H_{m_0}}} \sum_{i,j=1}^{n_{PkDir}} p_{i,j} \cdot PM_{i,j} \cdot P_{kDir i,j}$$

Interpolation methods



$$E_{el}(t) = \int_{t=1}^{t=\infty} P_{PM_{i,j}(H_{m0_{i,j}};T_{m02 \mid peak \mid m01_{i,j}};P_{kDir_{i,j}})}$$

## Power production

Proper method is the combination of directionality-occurrences-P

$$E_{el} = \frac{1}{100} \cdot \sum_{i=1}^{n_T} \cdot \sum_{i=1}^{n_{H_{sig}}} \cdot \sum_{i=1}^{n_{Pk_{dir}}} \cdot p_{i,j} \cdot PM_{i,j} \cdot PkDir_{i,j}$$

Do's

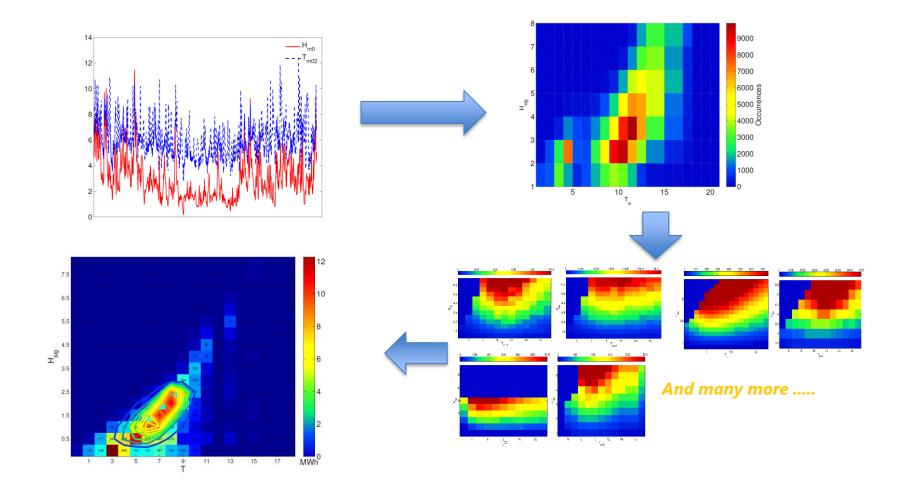
- ✓ Long-term dataset
- Trusted/validated sources
- Joint distributions
- Statistical Properties
- Consider depth
- Selecting device

#### Don't's

- Data from non-viable depths
- Lots of gaps in measurements
- Un-validated/obscure sources
- ≥3-hour intervals
- Improper use of coefficients
- Improper WEC applicability

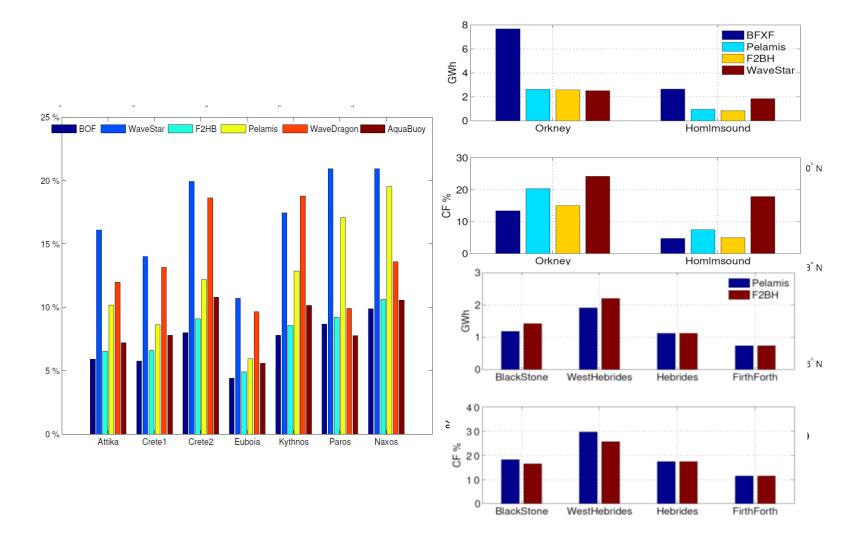


# Power production



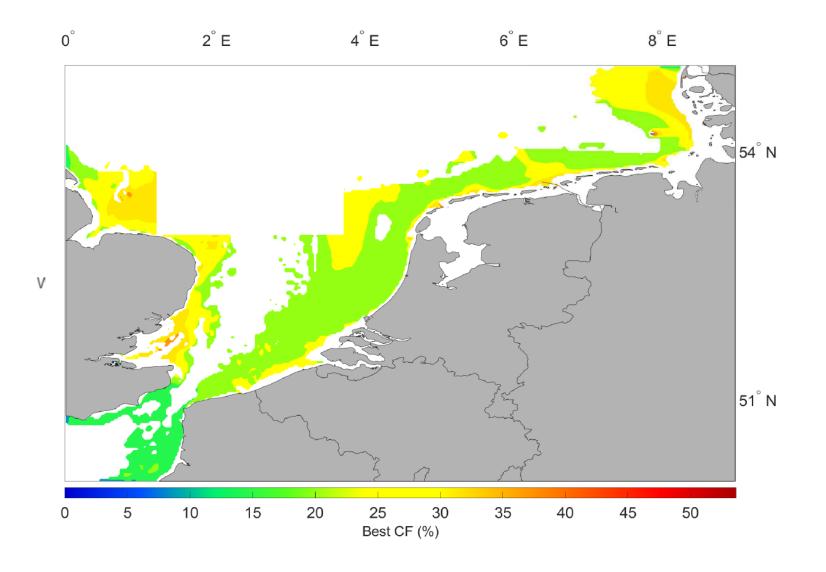


#### **Utilisation rates**





## Wave energy in the Netherlands





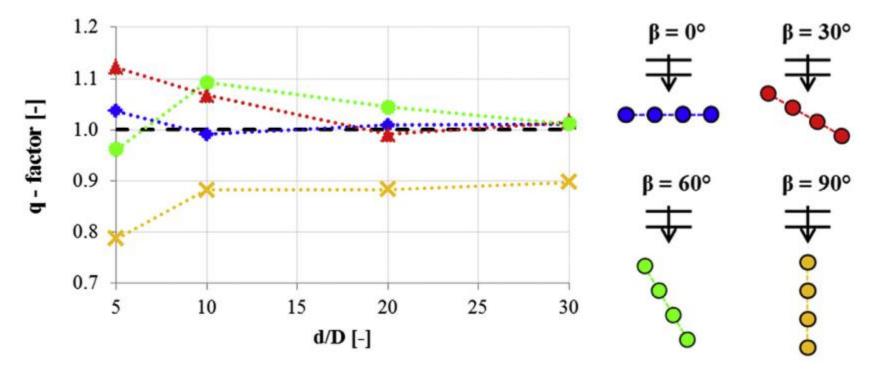
WEC arrays



## WEC arrays

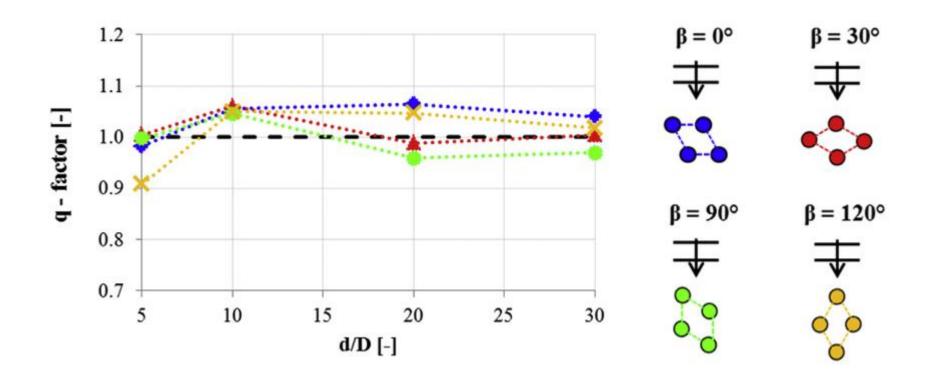
#### Why?

- Reduce costs
- WEC produce low power compared to wind
- Wake effects can be constructive



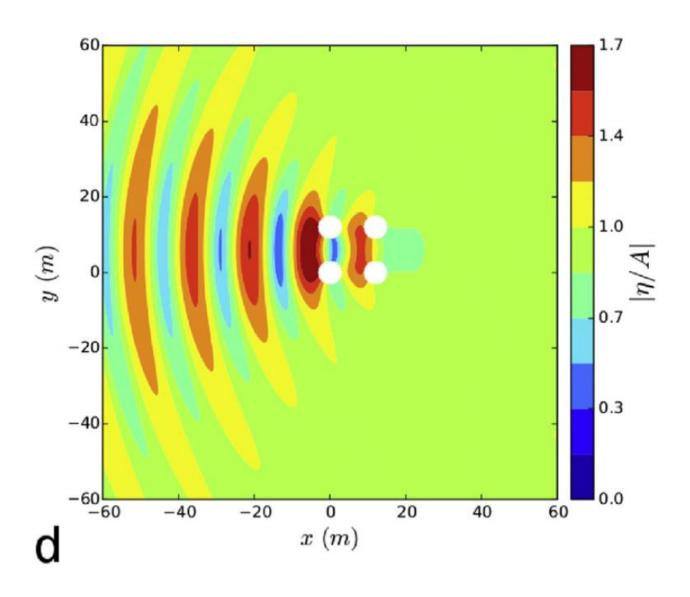


## WEC arrays





## WEC array interactions





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Thank you for your attention

