Storm surge in HK waters: hydrodynamics and modeling

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- 1. Storm surge
- 2. Local examples
- 3. Challenge of storm surge prediction
- in PRE and GBA
- 4. Response to Climate Change

1. Storm surge

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A storm surge.

The low pressure and high winds generated within a hurricane can produce a storm surge up to 9 meters (30 feet) high.

Factors controlling surge:

- 1: storm intensity
- 2: TC translation speed,
- 3: Size and central P of TC
- 4: Angle and track of TC
- 5: shape and characteristics (water depth) of coastal features such as bay and estuary.

Surface Currents



Vertical Velocity



Vorticity



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2. Local examples





3. Challenge of storm surge prediction in PRE and GBA

a: Incorporation external (wave) signal into coastal waters (large-scale model);

b: Physically sensible numerical model that resolves well the local hydrodynamics;

c: Real-time monitoring and effective (short-time scale) data-assimilation;



To link processes driven by wind, tides, river discharge and remote TC and non-TC forced signals

$$\overline{U}_{b}^{n+1} = \overline{U}_{Rb}^{n+1} + \overline{U}_{Tlb}^{n+1} \pm \sqrt{\frac{g}{H}} \left(\eta_{b}^{n+1} - \eta_{Tlb}^{n+1} - \eta_{Rlb}^{n+1} \right)$$

(From Liu and Gan, JGR, 2017).

Summary of hydrodynamics in HK and adjacent waters

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Sketch of the river plume and coastal currents in the PRE and adjacent shelf in winter (blue dashed lines and arrows) and summer (red dashed lines and arrows), drawn from the results of Gan et al. (2009), Zu and Gan (2013) and others.

c: Real-time monitoring and effective (short-time scale) data-assimilation;

Hindcast with DA + forecast without DA

- Observation data: are assimilated when they are available in the hindcast period
- Restart files from the DA run are used for the forecast run

Categories

PRE Real Time Forecast (Demo)

Year: 2017 Variable: Salinity Depth: Surface Submit

Salt 2017-7-5 surface 35 23⁰N 30 25 30' 20 $22^{\circ}N$ 15 10 30' 5 21°N_{30'} 0 30' 30' 30' 114⁰E 115⁰E 113⁰E Forward Backward Stop Go one step Back one step Initial End

Pearl River Estuary

South China Sea

5. Storm surge forecast and management system

Keys to the storm surge forecasting system:

- Science-based (hydrodynamics, storm surge/waves physics)
- Physics-based numerical model (both physics and observation validation)
- Monitoring system and data assimilation

Research+Development=Storm Surge Forecasting System

There is NO forecasting system that fits all coastal oceans!

4. Response to climate change

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