Review Comment

December 6th, 2024

Title: Quantifying Tropical Cyclone-Generated Waves in Extreme-Value-Derived Design for Offshore Wind
Author(s): McElman Sarah, Verma Amrit Shankar, and Goupee Andrew
MS No.: wes-2024-129
MS type: Research article
Iteration: Initial submission

General comment

This manuscript is discussed about the estimation method of extreme wave height for mixed climate (i.e. the region that both tropical cyclone and extra-tropical cyclone occurs) using different models and concluded with recommended modeling, extreme value analysis method and the number of data years used from extreme analysis for each extra-tropical and tropical cyclone. The conclusion is generally understandable and may help to backup industry's knowledge. However, it is difficult to judge the reasonability of methodologies and conclusions mentioned by authors because there is a lot of missing information.

In conclusion, a reviewer consider that MAJOR REVISION is needed for this manuscript.

Clause/	Line number	Comments
Subclause		
2	79-80	Proper extreme distribution may depend on site
	81-85	characteristic. Although authors discussed about only
	Figure A	differences of extreme wave height obtained from Gumbel
		and Weibull distribution, these result itself doesn't explain
		the reason that Gumbel distribution is chosen. In other
		words, why didn't choose Weibull. It is better to draw raw
		data used for fitting in Figure A.
	85-88	The authors say "block maxima method was considered
		suitable for this study" by referring two papers, however,
		the reason is not clearly mentioned. What part of these
		papers are referred? Need explanation.
	Figure 2	The word "Calibration", which also appear in text many time

Specific comment

		is ambiguous. The authors have to explain the detail
		methodology or procedure.
	96	Appendix B -> Appendix C
	Table 2	These wave models need not only lateral boundary
		conditions but also bathymetry or sea surface boundary
		conditions. Table 1 may be used for sea surface boundary
		conditions for wave models in Table 2, however, it is difficult
		to understand it because no explanation made here.
		Computational area (i.e. domain) for each model is also
		important information.
		The authors have to explain about these modeling
		configurations.
2.1.1	108	Is Wrenger (2022) publicly available report? If not, the
		authors have to explain the relevant part in the report in
		Annex or somewhere.
2.1.2	116	"vertically nested domain" is correct? Horizontal nesting
		to perform locally high-resolution simulation is more
		common way to use WRF. Explanation about computational
		domain is needed.
	116	"real lateral boundary condition" mentioned here may be
		CFSR according to Table 1. However, it is difficult to
		understand that. It is recommended to mention as text
		clearly.
	120	Is Georgas(2023) publicly available report? If not, the
		authors have to explain the relevant part in the report in
		Annex or somewhere.
	109, 123	Because 62m and 40m are shallow water region, simulated
		wave height by wave model is very sensitive to water depth,
		especially in high wave height. Also, there are geographical
		distances between buoy and model grid. The authors have
		to explain the differences between real and modelled water
		depth.
	129	Explanation of abbreviation OWI3G is needed.
2.1.3	131	"100 years of tropical storms and 75 years of extra-tropical
		storms" Use of as long as data has aspect to improve
		extreme value, however, old data may have quality
		extreme value, nowever, old uata may have quality

		weeklow. The outhors have to discuss the state of the
		problem. The authors have to discuss about data quality
		issue.
2.1.4	147 or Appendix C	There is no explanation about temporal resolution about
		buoy observation. Also, the authors have to explain how
		handled or corrected differences of temporal resolutions
		between each model and buoy observation.
	150, 158	Unit is needed for the RMSE values.
	143, 151	The authors have to explain the real and modelled water
		depth. According to line 109 and 123, water depths are 62m
		and 40m. Because these depths are shallow, simulated
		wave heights by wave models are very sensitive to water
		depth, especially for high wave heights.
		Also, according to Table 2 model resolutions are 400m for
		NA and 600m for MA, however, grid point 29km away
		from buoy are used for validation. The authors have to
		explain the reason.
2.2	160, 161	font of "x" in formula and text are different.
2.2.1	168, 171	"exp" and "In" should not be italic letters.
	169	"empirical estimation" is not clear explanation. The authors
		have to explain more detail methodology.
	172	The authors explain "annual largest value" is used
		distribution fit. Does tropical cyclone occur and approach to
		site of interest every year? If not, authors have to explain
		how handled annual maximum value derived by tropical
		cyclone for zero tropical cyclone years.
	179	"Extreme Value Theory assumes that extremes are
		independent variables." I could understand that what the
		authors want to say but this sentence may be difficult to
		understand for some reader. it is suggested to explain a bit
		detail by changing "extremes are" to other word.
	199-201, Figure 3	What we can understand from figure 3 is only that extreme
	,	distribution obtained from GF models and high-resolutions
		model show qualitatively close values or distributions for
		extra-tropical cyclone. Because both these are obtained
		model, nothing explains storm physics are represented or
		not.

	Figure 3	Drawing annual maxima used for fitting of extreme
		distribution in Figure 3 is suggested.
3.1.1	205	Dolan-Davis scale and Saffir-Simpson scale are probably US
		specific. References to explain about these scales are
		needed.
	210	Duplicated "the".
	212, 213, Table 1	Although the authors explain "neither model", lack of
		representation of high frequency wave could be caused by
		frequency range of wave model. Add information about the
		highest frequency in Table 1.
	Figure 4a, c	Why are wave height axis normalized? In general, higher
		wave height more difficult to simulate. For this reasons,
		magnitude of wave height is very important information
		and recommended not to be normalized.
	Figure 4d, Figure C1d	Need explanation why SWAN + WRF shows poor Tp
		resolution.
3.1.2	235, 240	The authors have to explain how inside/outside of storm
		fetch was defined in this manuscript. Also, explanations
		about closest approach distance and radius of maximum
		wind speed of cyclones are need as general information to
		judge inside/outside.
	Figure 5	Y axis of Figure 5a and 5b are cut off. Also, Tp=18 on Y axis
		in Figure 5c is missing.
	240-244	In general, wave periods in inside of storm are dominated
		by wind-wave and those for outside are significantly
		affected by wind field both inside and outside of cyclone. Is
		simulation period enough long, or simulation area enough
		large? It is suggested that draw wind field and wave height
		field and add explanation about simulation period about
		this cyclone. These may help to understand this
		phenomenon.
3.1.3	253-254	Add reference height of "storm winds (90 knots, or 46 m/s)"
	255	"Wave buoy measurements occurred on a 30-minute
		cycle," Is buoy observation available for Hurricane Bob. If
		so, the authors have to show comparison with observation
		and modeled value such as Figure 4 and Figure 6b.

[
3.1.4	277-278	Although the authors considered "primarily to be a function
		of fetch or duration representation", development of
		cyclone or error of track depends on model horizontal
		resolution of weather simulation, or wind data etc. The
		authors have to understand and explain only wave models
		are "high resolution" in this study, not for wind models,
		which were used for input of wave model.
	279-286	There is no explanation about what Cd model used in this
		study. Although the authors show wind stress values in
		Figure 10, these values are strongly affected by Cd models
		or formula, and each wave models may use different Cd
		model. Need explanation.
3.2	311	It is not clear that the meaning of "higher-than-average
		tropical cyclone activity". If it means that annual occurrence
		is higher than usual, I comment that it is not affect extreme
		wave height because the authors use only annual maxima.
	314-315	The meaning of sentence "in fact" is not clear. Are
		extreme distributions in Figure 11a and 12a based on
		"original high-resolution data set" or "post-processed high-
		resolution data set"? If the result mentioned in the
		sentence is not shown in graph, it is better to add word "not
		shown in graph" in the text.
	Figure 11, Figure 12	It is suggested to draw annual maxima use for fitting of each
		extreme distribution to understand reasonability, trend etc.
		of each distribution.
4	342	"ERA5-boundary conditions" -> "ERA5 wave boundary
		conditions" is suggested.
	359-367	It is understood that these four are main conclusions of this
		study, however,
		1) it is questionable that how "200km or less" in bullet 1 is
		quantified (e.g. cyclone has radius more then 200km
		exist.)? There is no detail discussion or deep insight about
		this.
		2) bullet 2-4 are already explained in IEC 61400-1 Annex J.
		Although the standard is about only for wind, not
		mentioned for wave, the authors should at least explain and

		refer in somewhere in this manuscript, then have to explain
		the differences or originality of this paper.
Appendix A	373	What value are used for threshold "u"? Need explanation.
Appendix C	Figure C1	Unit for RMSE is needed. Also, definition of NRMSE
		needed.
	Overall	Because the authors decided to use annual maxima for
		fitting of extreme value distribution, the validation shou
		be made for annual maximum wave heights. Otherwis
		readers don't understand the reasonability of all results an
		conclusions.