

1 Experimental results of a multimode monopile offshore wind turbine support structure subjected to steep and breaking
2 irregular waves

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We present experimental data from MARIN on a bottom-fixed offshore wind turbine mounted on a monopile in intermediate water depth subjected to severe irregular wave conditions. Two models are analysed: the first model is fully flexible and its 1st and 2nd eigenfrequencies and 1st mode shape are representative of those of a full-scale turbine. This model is used to study the structural response with special focus on ringing and response to breaking wave events. The second model is stiff and is used to analyse the hydrodynamic excitation loads, in particular the so-called secondary load cycle. The largest responses are registered when the second mode of the structure is triggered by a breaking wave on top of a ringing response. In such events, the quasi-static response accounts for between 40 and 50% of the total load, the 1st mode response between 30 and 40%, and the 2nd mode response up to 20%. A statistical analysis on the occurrences and characteristics of the secondary load cycle shows that this phenomenon is not directly linked to ringing.

Keywords: offshore wind turbine, monopile, ringing, slamming, modal decomposition, experimental hydrodynamics

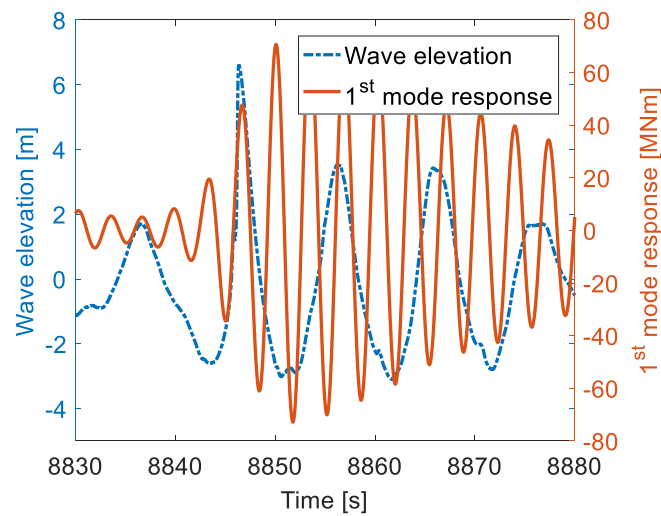
1. Introduction

Over their lifetime, many bottom-fixed offshore wind turbines will encounter steep or breaking waves that might produce large structural responses. A number of offshore wind farms are planned or being developed in the North Sea, in water depths between 20 and 50 m (Ho et al., 2016). At these depths, interaction with the sea bottom enhances the wave nonlinearity, increasing the likelihood of breaking waves (Dalrymple and Dean, 1991). When designing the support structure of an offshore wind turbine for a specific site, the industry has to assess the maximum expected response that the structure will experience over its lifetime (so-called Ultimate Limit State (ULS) analysis, DNV, 2014a; DNV, 2014b; IEC, 2009).

Under ULS conditions, experiments have shown that the natural period of the structure can be suddenly excited by non-breaking waves whose fundamental period lies far from the structure's eigenperiod (Marthinsen et al., 1996; Stansberg et al., 1995;

28 Welch et al., 1999). This phenomenon, called ‘ringing’, is characterized by a fast build-up of transient resonant vibrations (only
29 a few oscillations; Chaplin et al., 1997) and a much slower decay (Natvig and Teigen, 1993). In the case of a monopile type of
30 support structure such as the one studied in this paper, ringing occurs during the passage of steep waves whose height is of the
31 same order of magnitude as the diameter of the cylinder and whose fundamental period is around 3 times the natural period of
32 the structure. Figure 1 shows an illustration of a ringing event. The bending moment has been filtered to show only the response
33 of the first mode of the structure (this procedure is explained in section 4). After the passage of a very steep wave, the first
34 mode gets suddenly excited and then decays slowly.

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36

37 **Figure 1. Illustration of a ringing event. A surface-piercing vertical cylinder is exposed to a steep wave, and the**
38 **bending moment is measured at the sea bottom. The 1st mode is suddenly triggered and slowly decays, which is a**
39 **typical characteristic of ringing events.**

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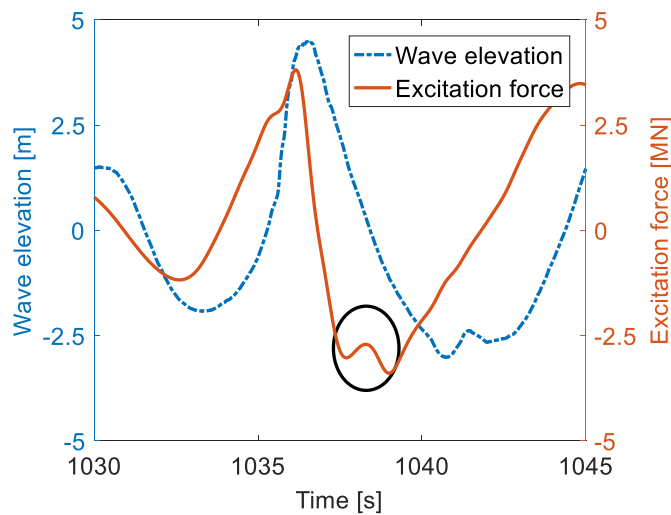
41 The ringing phenomenon started gaining attention in the 1990s when it was first observed on model tests of the Hutton and
42 Heidrun TLP offshore oil and gas platforms, and then on the deep water concrete towers of the Draugen and Troll A platforms
43 (Natvig and Teigen, 1993). Recently, the increase in size of offshore wind turbines combined with the limitation of the blade
44 tip velocity has led to decreasing natural frequencies of the support structure down to a level where the 3rd harmonic of large
45 waves (i.e. three times the fundamental frequency) coincides with the first structural natural frequency. This intensifies the risk
46 of ringing response when subjected to extreme storms (see Suja-Thauvin et al., 2014). In addition to higher order hydrodynamic
47 loads, breaking wave events have been a major concern for offshore structures. Both de Ridder et al. (2011) and Bredmose et
48 al. (2013) carried out experiments on a bottom-fixed responding structure (as opposed to a stiff structure) whose characteristics
49 were similar to those of an idling extra-large wind turbine (i.e. with the blades completely pitched to feather to limit the
50 aerodynamic loading) and found that breaking waves could lead to extreme accelerations of the nacelle.

51

52 The main objective of this paper is to examine the process of maximum response of monopile offshore wind turbines under
53 extreme stochastic sea states, in particular assessing the importance of the second mode of the structure and the characteristics
54 of the measured excitation. In order to do so, we analyse data from experiments carried out in the Maritime Research Institute
55 Netherlands (MARIN). The tests were performed within the project Wave Impact on Fixed structures (WiFi JIP). The
56 characteristics of the model used for the experiment are those of an idling 4 MW bottom-fixed offshore wind turbine mounted
57 on a monopile. These tests were performed with both a flexible and a stiff model in order to be able to measure the response
58 and the excitation of the structure. Here, we focus on the measured excitation and response rather than on the wave kinematics.
59 A correct understanding of the most important physical effects is an important first step in developing and validating
60 engineering models which incorporate the relevant nonlinearities in the wave kinematics and in the wave-structure interaction.
61

62 In addition to the response analysis, we examine the phenomenon known as “secondary load cycle”, or SLC, which appears
63 as a rapid and high frequency increase of the excitation force, as Grue et al., (1993) described from their experiments. An
64 occurrence of a SLC (sometime referred to as ‘hydraulic jump’) is highlighted in Figure 2. The SLC typically occurs about one
65 quarter wave period after the main peak of the excitation force (Grue and Huseby, 2002) and lasts for about 15% of the wave
66 period (Grue et al., 1993).

67



68

69 **Figure 2. Occurrence of secondary load cycle, visible on the excitation force (circled in black).**

70

71 Occurrences of SLCs have been extensively reported for steep waves in experiments in infinite water depths (see Chaplin et
72 al., 1997; Grue et al., 1993; Grue and Huseby, 2002; Stansberg et al., 1995; Welch et al., 1999). Grue and Huseby (2002) also
73 summarized the experimental data from those papers to establish a trend of occurrences of the SLC. One of their conclusions

74 is that flow separation effects might reduce the likelihood of SLCs on small cylinders, and they suggest that for experimental
75 analysis of the SLC the β -number should be larger than 15 000 ($\beta = (2R)^2/\nu T$, with R the cylinder radius, T the local period
76 of the wave, and ν the kinematic viscosity of the water). For the events presented in this paper, the longest wave corresponds
77 to $\beta \approx 19\,000$ and the Keulegan-Carpenter number is approximately 5, which places us in what they describe as cylinders of
78 moderate size.

79

80 There has been a lot of work published around the relevance of the SLC for ringing responses. Grue and Huseby (2002) used
81 the experimental data of the above-mentioned papers to show that SLCs and ringing responses are correlated, and state that
82 “The secondary load cycle gives an important contribution to build-up of resonant body responses [...]”. High speed
83 photography from the experiments of Chaplin et al. (1997) and Rainey and Chaplin (2003) was used by Rainey (2007) to
84 conclude that “the rapid loading cycle causing the “ringing” vibration is traceable to local wave breaking around the cylinder
85 [...]”. However, in a recent study, Paulsen et al. (2014) investigate the SLC numerically by solving the two-phase
86 incompressible Navier-Stokes equations and conclude that “[...] the secondary load cycle is thus an indicator of strongly
87 nonlinear flow rather than a direct contributor to the resonant forcing”. This agrees with earlier findings from Krokstad and
88 Solaas (2000), where a study of the phasing between the SLC and the ringing response led them to conclude that “The hydraulic
89 jump [i.e. secondary load cycle] has no direct connection with the non-linear behaviour of the ringing force [...]”.

90

91 The paper is organized as follows: in section 2 we describe the experimental set up and the models used during the tests and
92 section 3 gives a simple justification of how to estimate slamming events from video recording. Section 4 presents the analysis
93 of the response of the flexible structure. Section 5 combines results from the stiff and the flexible structure to establish the link
94 between secondary load cycle and ringing events. Conclusions of this study are drawn in section 6.

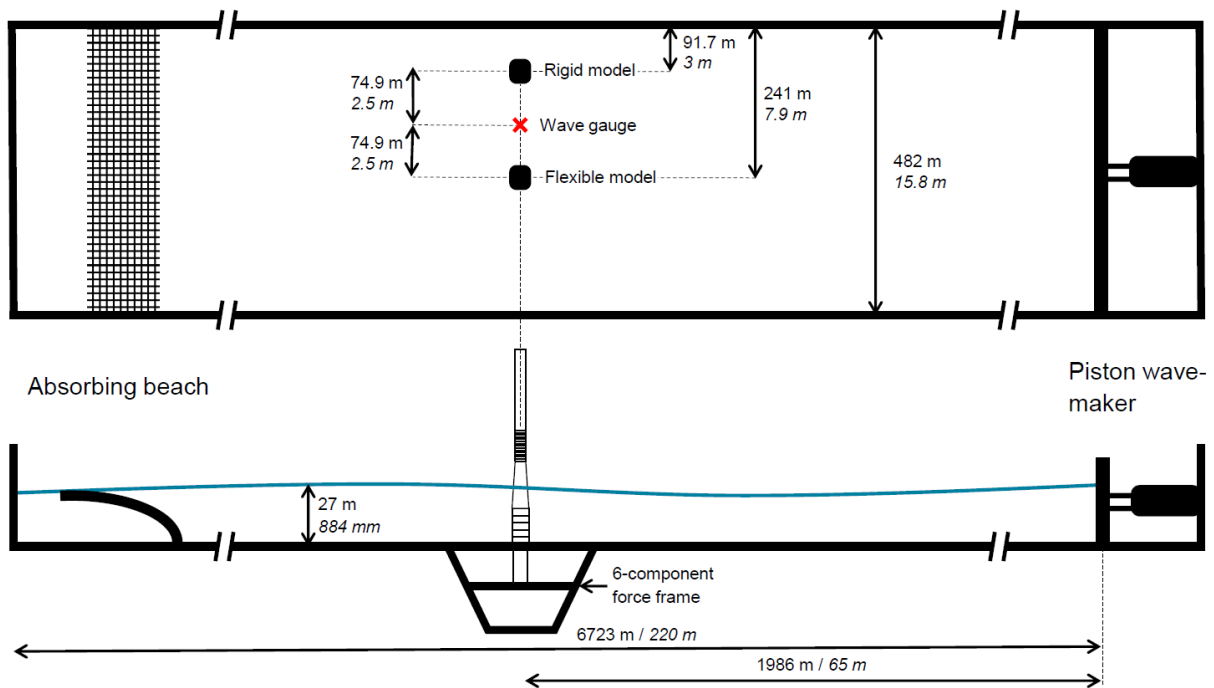
95 2. Presentation of the model test

96 The model tests were carried out at 1:30.6 scale, and Froude scaling was applied in order to correctly generate gravity waves.
97 For the considered model and wave conditions, inertia forces dominate compared to viscous forces (DNV, 2014a; DNV, 2014b;
98 IEC, 2009) and the effects of the Reynolds number mismatch are not examined here. All the values given in the paper are full-
99 scale unless specified otherwise.

100 2.1. Test facilities

101 The tests were performed at the shallow water basin of MARIN, a 220 m long and 15.8 m wide wave flume (model scale) with
102 constant water depth. One end of the flume was equipped with a piston-type wave-maker, consisting of a flat plate forced into
103 horizontal translational motion by an electrical actuator. The wave maker includes 2nd order wave generation techniques that
104 enable a correction for the difference between the oval motion of water particles in shallow/intermediate waters and the

105 horizontal motion induced by the flat plate. It is possible to suppress parasitic wave generation using this technique (see
 106 Schäffer, 1996). On the other side of the flume, an absorbing parabolic beach was fitted in order to minimize wave reflection.
 107 Two pits were dug into the ground approximately 65 m (model scale) from the wave maker, and the two models were mounted
 108 onto two 6-component force frames solidly anchored into the pits. Figure 3 shows the layout of the experiment. No aerodynamic
 109 loading was modelled during the tests.
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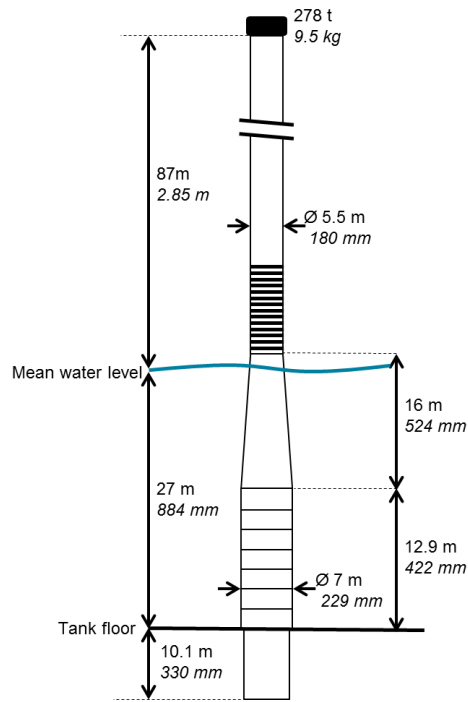


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 112 **Figure 3. Top and side view of the experimental set-up (values are given both in full and model scale).**

113 2.2. Physical models

114 2.2.1. Flexible model

115 A flexible model of an extra-large bottom-fixed offshore wind turbine mounted on a monopile was built according to typical
 116 dimensions of a 4 MW turbine. The model is composed of two cylindrical sections of diameters 7 m and 5.5 m, linked via a
 117 conical section (see Figure 4). This gives a diameter at the mean sea level of 5.8 m. The pile goes 10.1 m below seabed at a
 118 water depth of 27 m and extends up to 87 m above the mean sea level, for a total length of 124 m. The rotor-nacelle assembly
 119 is modelled by a mass of 278 tons placed at the top of the tower.
 120



121

122

Figure 4. Characteristics of the flexible model (values are given both in full and model scale).

123

Special emphasis was put on achieving correct 1st and 2nd eigenfrequencies and the 1st mode shape. Table 1 gives the eigenfrequencies and damping values derived from hammer tests in water (Bunnik et al., 2015), and Figure 5 shows the targeted and obtained mode shapes of the flexible model. Due to physical restrictions in the laboratory, it is not straightforward to exactly match all mode shapes. The largest discrepancies occur at hub height which has little influence on the response to hydrodynamic loads. The obtained deflections at the mean sea level and down to the sea bed are seen to be acceptable.

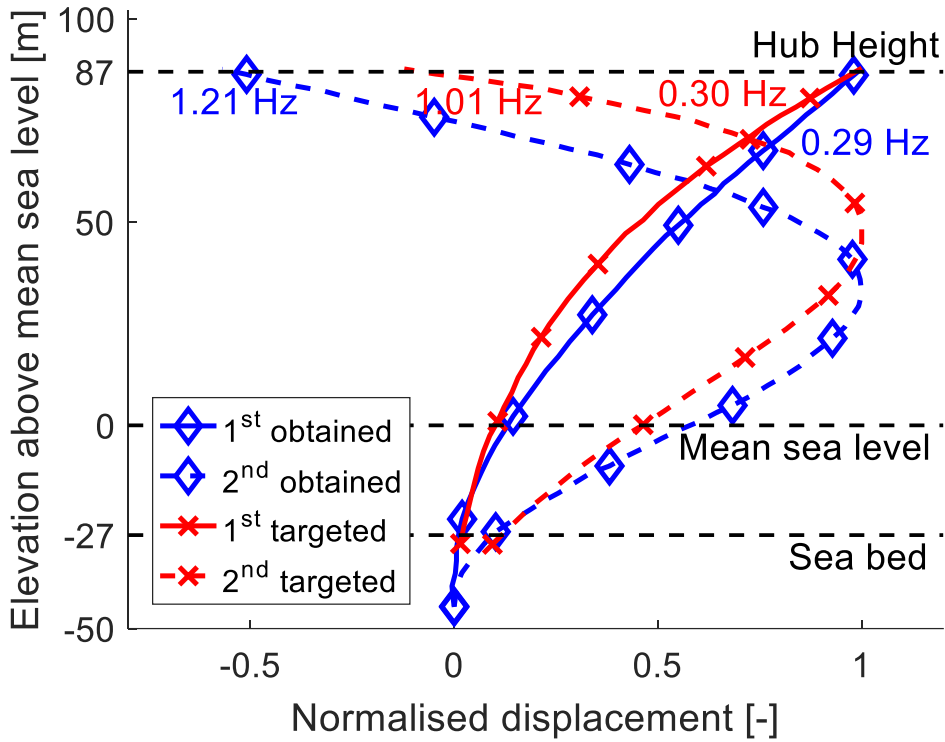
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The measured 3rd and 4th mode characteristics are also shown in Table 1 but they are not representative of the full-scale wind turbine. More details about the physical meaning of the 3rd and 4th mode are given in section 4.4.

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Figure 5. Dimensionless mode shapes. Blue colour represents the obtained mode shapes and red colour represents the targeted ones.

Table 1. Achieved frequencies and damping ratios of the flexible model (obtained from hammer tests).

	1 st mode	2 nd mode	3 rd mode	4 th mode
Eigenfrequency [Hz]	0.29	1.21	3.11	7.24
Damping (% of critical)	1.1	1.1	2	2

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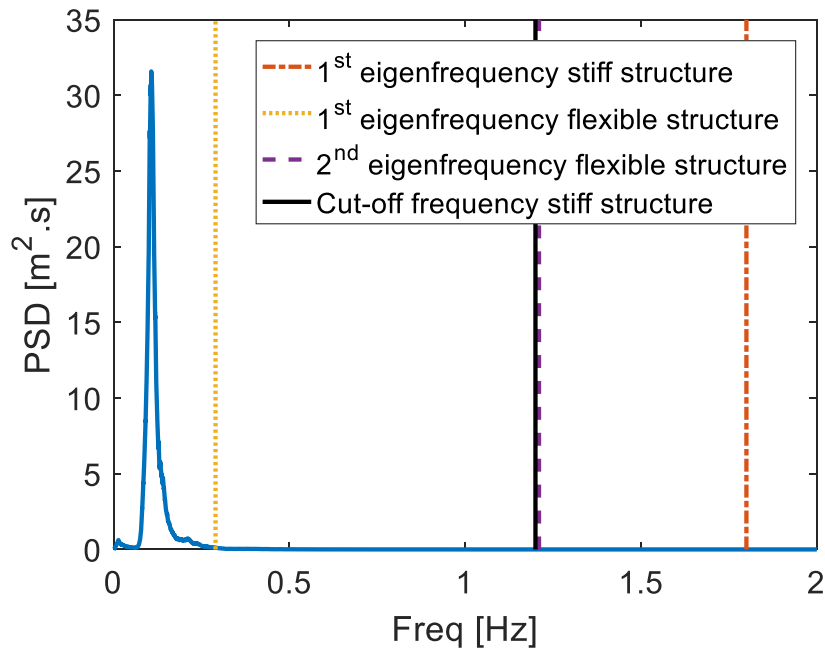
The damping for the first and second modes is found to be 1.1% of the critical damping. For the first mode, this is somewhat lower than the damping ratios measured on similar idling full-scale wind turbines (1.7 to 2.8% depending on the wind speed, Damgaard et al., 2013; Damgaard and Andersen, 2012; Shirzadeh et al., 2015). As a result, the obtained responses are expected to be slightly conservative, but previous research suggests that the damping is more important for the decay of the response than for the maximum values (Bachynski and Moan, 2014; Schløer et al., 2016).

144 2.2.2 Stiff model

145 A stiff model was also constructed, whose geometry is the same as the flexible model but extended only up to the expected
146 maximum wave run-up. The objective of having a non-responding model was to be able to measure the hydrodynamic
147 excitation.

148

149 Ideally, the 1st eigenfrequency of the stiff model should be as high as possible, such that it responds as little as possible to the
150 hydrodynamic loading. The obtained fundamental eigenfrequency was 1.8 Hz (full-scale value). Figure 6 shows the smoothed
151 spectrum of the measured wave elevation of one of the studied sea states (with a spectral peak period $T_p = 10$ s, see section
152 2.3). The wave spectrum does not contain significant energy at or above 0.4 Hz, i.e. one-third of the eigenfrequency of the stiff
153 model, so 2nd and 3rd order excitation loads are not expected to excite significant response.



154

155 **Figure 6. Example of an incoming wave spectrum.**

156 During the tests, it was observed that the stiff model was nonetheless responding at times in its 1st mode. The loads measured
157 on the stiff model can therefore not be taken as the excitation loads because they contain the dynamic amplification of the 1st
158 mode of the structure. In order to remove the response from the stiff model from the measured response and keep only the
159 excitation loads, a low-pass 6th order Butterworth filter was applied with a cut-off frequency at 1.2 Hz. This simple technique
160 brings a major limitation: loads from breaking waves typically have very short durations, so by removing high frequencies
161 from the excitation loads, the load contribution from breaking waves is potentially removed as well. The data from the stiff
162 model therefore cannot be used to study slamming loads, but it can be used to examine 2nd and 3rd order loads.

163

164 2.2.3 Data acquisition

165 **Foundation loads:** Both models were placed on a 6 component measurement frame that enabled recording of forces and
166 moments at the seabed.

167 **Wave probes:** 4 resistance-type wave probes were placed around the models to measure the wave elevation. One of the wave
168 probes (marked with a red cross in Figure 3) was placed between the 2 models, at 2.4 m (model scale) from both of them
169 (corresponding to around 13 diameters). It is expected that this wave probe is far enough from the models to not be affected by
170 radiated and diffracted waves.

171 **Video recording:** Most sea states were recorded with two above-water cameras, one for each model. These video recordings
172 are used to visually check whether a wave has broken when a large response of the structure was recorded (see section 3).

173 **Accelerations:** both models were fitted with accelerometers along their length. In the present study, those accelerometers were
174 used to confirm that the flexible monopile only experienced significant displacement in the wave direction and to derive its
175 mode shapes.

176

177 The wave elevations, loads and accelerations were recorded at a sampling rate of 200 Hz (model scale value), resulting in a
178 time step of 5 ms in model scale, or 0.028 s in full scale.

179 2.3 Sea states

180 During the experiments, different irregular sea states were generated following a JONSWAP spectrum (Hasselmann et al.,
181 1973). The JONSWAP spectrum describes sea conditions that are likely to occur for severe sea states in the North Sea and is
182 typically recommended by the standards for ULS analysis (DNV, 2014a; DNV, 2014b; IEC, 2009). Table 2 shows the sea
183 states that are analysed in this paper. For each sea state, only one realization was performed. Each sea state is characterized by
184 a spectral peak period T_p and a significant wave height H_s . All sea states were realized with a spectral peak enhancement factor
185 of 3.3.

186

187 We define an average wave steepness s_p for irregular seas based on (DNV, 2014b):

$$188 s_p = \frac{k_p H_s}{2\pi} \quad (1)$$

189 where k_p is an average wave number obtained from T_p from the dispersion relationship (DNV, 2014b uses a linear dispersion
190 relationship but we here apply eq (1) in Kirby and Dalrymple, 1986, which is based on 2nd order theory). For the analysed
191 spectral peak periods, at the considered water depths, sea states with a steepness larger than 0.059 are not possible (DNV,
192 2014b). The average steepnesses used in this paper are well below this limit.

193

194 In addition, we calculate an averaged Ursell parameter Ur for the presented sea states. The Ursell parameter is typically defined
 195 for regular waves, but here we use the method given by Stansberg (2011) to calculate an average value for irregular seas:

$$196 \quad Ur = \frac{k_p H_s}{2(k_p h)^3} \quad (2)$$

197
 198 where h is the water depth. The average Ursell numbers thus calculated are well below the classical limit of 0.33, above which
 199 2nd order wave kinematic models are no longer valid and fully non-linear models are suggested.

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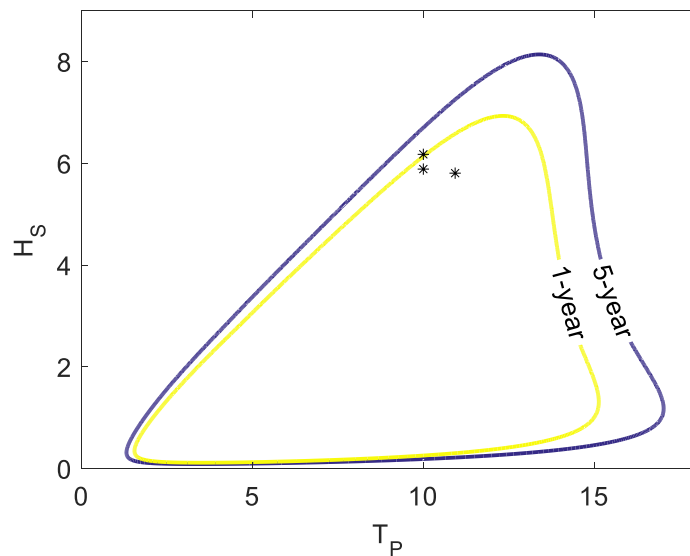
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Table 2. Selected sea states.

H_S	T_P	s_P	Ur
5.89	10	0.043	0.070
6.18	10	0.045	0.074
5.81	10.93	0.038	0.088

202

203 To give an indication of what these sea states represent in terms of return period, the H_S - T_P graph based on the metocean
 204 conditions at the Dogger Bank Creyke Beck B site is given in Figure 7 (see Frimann-Dahl, 2015). The yellow and blue lines
 205 correspond to 1-year and 5-year return period sea states, respectively, and the sea states are indicated with asterisks. More sea
 206 states than the ones analysed in this paper were run, but they are not presented here as they did not produce large responses of
 207 the structure.



208

209 **Figure 7. Contour lines for the metocean conditions at the Dogger Bank Creyke Beck B site. The asterisks represent**

210

the studied sea states.

211 When carrying out ULS analysis, the standards commonly used by the industry in the North Sea (DNV, 2014a; DNV, 2014b;
 212 IEC, 2009) recommend assessing sea states corresponding to 50-year return storms. The sea states considered in this paper
 213 correspond to generally much lower sea states, as illustrated by Figure 7, which is a limitation of this study. More extreme sea
 214 states were later tested with the same experimental set-up and will be included in future work.

215 It should also be noted that the wind conditions for the analysed sea states have not been determined. For the present paper and
 216 in the experiments, the turbine is assumed to be idling, which is likely not to be the case under the studied wave conditions. On
 217 an idling turbine, aerodynamic damping is usually small compared to an operating turbine (Shirzadeh et al., 2015) which
 218 makes 1st mode oscillations due to ringing decay slower than on an operating turbine (Bachynski and Moan, 2014; Schløer et
 219 al., 2016). This means that the ringing events observed during the experiments would decay faster if the turbine was operating.

220 3 Use of video recording to detect slamming on the flexible structure

221 Loads from breaking waves have been a major concern in the design of offshore structures over the past decades. We define
 222 ‘slamming loads’ for this paper using the explanation provided by Sarpkaya (1979): we consider a cylinder of radius R fixed
 223 to the sea bottom that we divide vertically into strips of length dz . We assume now that a vertical wall of incompressible water
 224 parallel to the cylinder with a control volume of constant mass per unit length M approaches a strip at a velocity u_0 , the mass
 225 of water has then a horizontal momentum per unit length $p = Mu_0$. The duration of the impact being very short (Faltinsen,
 226 1990; Sarpkaya, 2010) compared to the eigenperiod of the structure, it is reasonable to assume that, during the impact, no
 227 significant response will occur (according to classical structural theory, see for example Biggs, 1964) and that the cylinder will
 228 thus behave as a stiff structure. If we neglect nonconservative forces, the momentum of the water will remain constant during
 229 penetration. After the breaking wave has impacted the structure, because the fluid is in motion in the vicinity of the cylinder, a
 230 positive 2D added-mass term m_a appears, thus reducing the velocity to u and giving a new equation for the momentum $p =$
 231 $Mu_0 = (M + m_a)u$. Here m_a is taken as the high-frequency asymptote for the added mass (Faltinsen, 1990). Figure 8
 232 illustrates the terms defined here, with the expression of the momentum p before and after impact. We can calculate the
 233 horizontal force using Newton’s second law:

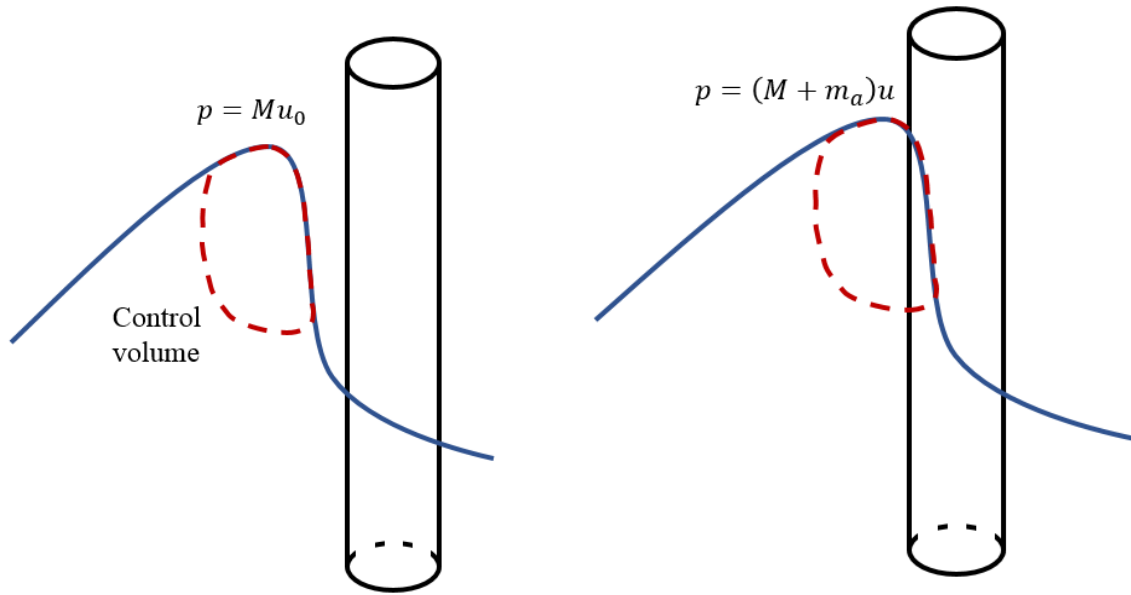
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$$235 \quad dF = \frac{dp}{dt} dz = \left((m_a + M) \frac{du}{dt} + u \frac{dm_a}{dt} \right) dz \quad (3)$$

236

237 The first term of the above equation, proportional to the acceleration of the fluid, is the classical added mass load (see for
 238 example Faltinsen, 1990). The second term incorporating the time derivative of the added mass is the so-called slamming load
 239 dF_{slam} . If the latter is non-negligible compared to the former, the event is considered a slamming event.

240



241 **Figure 8. Breaking wave on circular cylinder before impact (left) and after impact (right).**

242

243

244 This derivation provides a good mathematical understanding of slamming but is of little use in practice because the evaluation
 245 of the time-varying added mass is rather complex (Sarpkaya, 2010). However, it provides a way to visually check whether
 246 slamming loads occur. In order to have a large slamming force on a cylinder strip, we need to have a large velocity u in the
 247 horizontal direction and a rapidly changing two-dimensional added mass in the horizontal plane. For the considered monopile,
 248 the most suitable situation for slamming loads to occur is when a breaking wave impacts on the cylinder.

249

250 Under these conditions, most of the momentum of the water in motion will be in the horizontal direction. When the water
 251 particles impact the cylinder, they are restricted in the horizontal direction by the incoming water on the back side and by the
 252 cylinder itself on the front side. In order to conserve the total momentum, these particles must be deflected and ejected upwards
 253 and sideways, which gives a good visual indication of whether a slamming load has occurred. In the present paper, video
 254 recordings of the experiments are used to check whether slamming has occurred using the above hypothesis. Figure 10a,b show
 255 two such events.

256

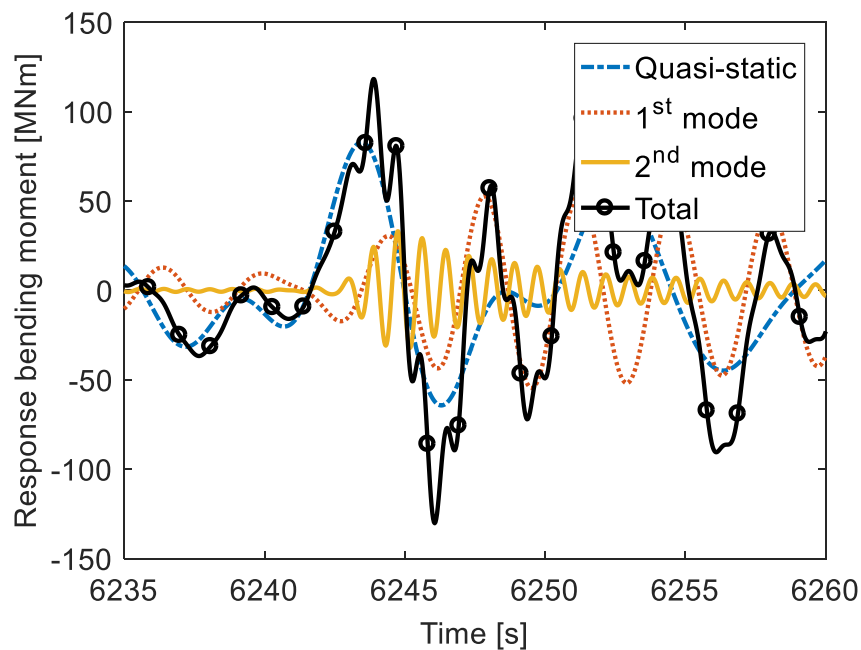
257 4 Maximum response analysis

258 This section deals with the response of the flexible model and only data measured on this model is used here. Here and in the
259 rest of the paper, the term ‘response’ corresponds to the bending moment of the flexible model taken at the seabed. A positive
260 bending moment corresponds to the structure being deflected in the direction of the wave propagation. Since the amplitude of
261 the moment is what is relevant to the design of a monopile rather than its direction, we compare absolute values of those
262 moments. We therefore refer to ‘maximum’ or ‘highest’ moments even when the moment is negative.

263

264 In order to study the influence of different modes on the response of the structure, the measured bending moment in the
265 frequency domain was split into responses around different frequencies corresponding to the eigenfrequencies of the system.
266 Figure 9 below is the result of such decomposition performed on one of the events studied in this paper. The sum of the quasi-
267 static, 1st and 2nd mode responses equal the total response. This figure enables us to assess the relative importance of the
268 responses of different modes of the structure.

269



270

271 **Figure 9. Example of decomposition of the response around the eigenfrequencies of the structure.**

272 4.1 Maximum responses

273 In this section, the two events with the largest responses of all three sea states (named event 1 and event 2 and shown in Figure
274 10a,b respectively) are analysed in detail. Table 3 gives the characteristics of these two events. The trough-to-trough period is
275 measured for each event and used to calculate the wave number k based on 2nd order theory (calculated with eq (1) in Kirby
276 and Dalrymple, 1986), and η_m is the maximum wave elevation of the given event. The trough-to-trough period rather than the

277 up- or down-crossing period was chosen because this type of wave is typically approximated by embedded stream function
 278 waves in design practices. The embedding process commonly uses the trough-to-trough period (Rainey and Camp, 2007).

279
 280 Figure 10 shows these two events side by side. The figures from top to bottom correspond to the measured response and wave
 281 elevation, the frequency decomposition (as shown in Figure 9), the continuous wavelet transform (cwt) of the measured
 282 response, and snapshots of the cylinder at the time of wave impact. Responses from the 3rd and 4th modes of the structure have
 283 been removed by low-pass filtering, see section 4.4. Even though the contribution of these modes has been removed, we still
 284 refer to this filtered response as ‘total response’.

285

286 Table 3. Events with maximum bending moments.

Event	Sea state	Max [MNm]	Time [s]	Period [s]	η_m [m]	k [m^{-1}]
1	$H_S = 5.89\text{ m}, T_p = 10\text{ s}$	-145	8848	7.80	6.61	0.0599
2	$H_S = 6.18\text{ m}, T_p = 10\text{ s}$	-130	6246	8.13	7.57	0.0550

287

288 For these events, the maximum response is measured when a steep and breaking wave passes the structure (see Figure 10c,d).
 289 The wave excites the 1st mode of the structure, which starts oscillating and decays in similar fashion to the ringing phenomenon
 290 described in section 1. As shown in Figure 10e,f, the structure also oscillates in its 2nd mode, but in a different way than the
 291 1st mode response: the 2nd mode resonant oscillations occur suddenly after the breaking wave has passed, whereas the 1st mode
 292 response experiences a build-up over one wave period and then slowly decays. The influence of the second mode is studied in
 293 more detail in the following section.

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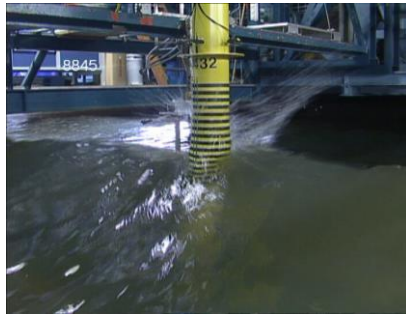
295 The cwt plots of Figure 10g,h also show that the structure responds at the frequency of the wave (about 0.1 Hz for the selected
 296 events) and that its 1st and 2nd modes are triggered (respectively at 0.29 and 1.21 Hz). The snapshots of Figure 10a,b indicate
 297 that the wave breaks at the cylinder. As explained in the previous section, the water particle ejection visible in the photographs
 298 is characteristic of slamming events.

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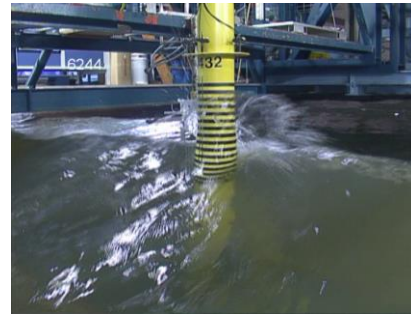
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Event 1

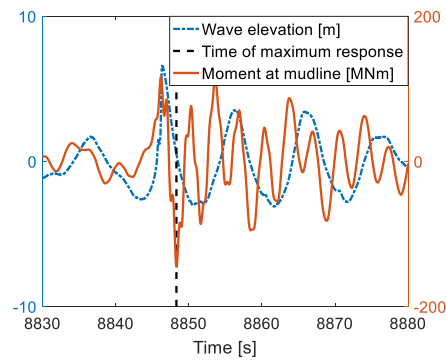


a. Snapshot of event 1

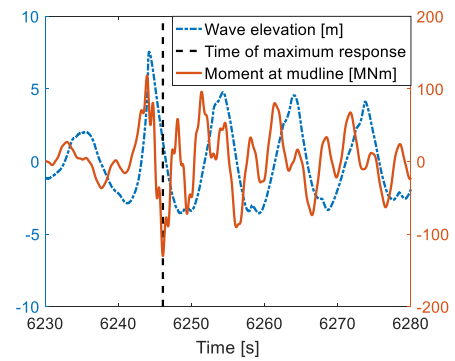
Event 2



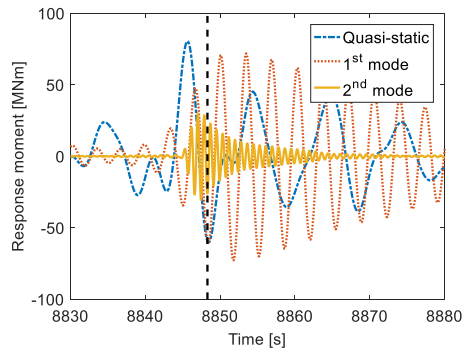
b. Snapshot of event 2



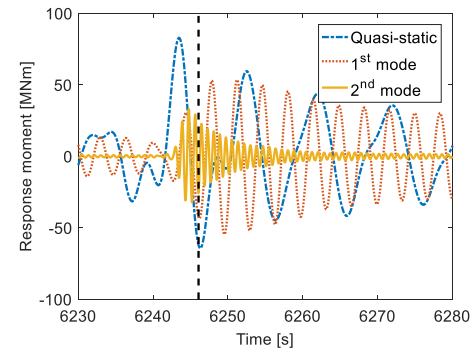
c. Response and wave elevation of event 1



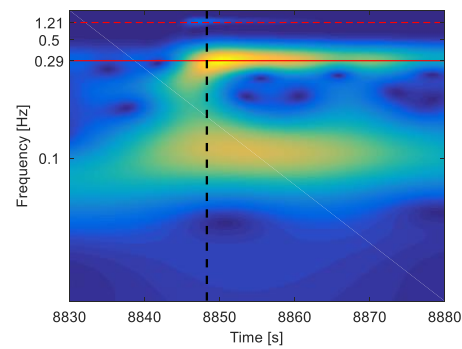
d. Response and wave elevation of event 2



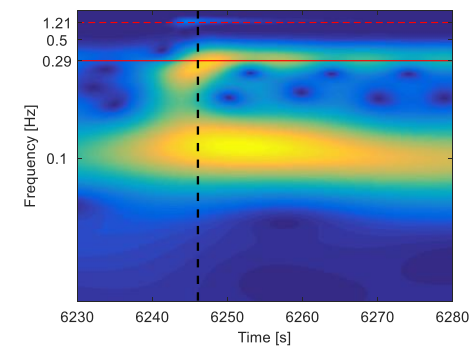
e. Response decomposition of event 1



f. Response decomposition of event 2



g. Cwt of event 1



h. Cwt of event 2

302

Figure 10. Characteristics of the largest and 2nd largest measured responses, respectively Event 1 and 2.

303

304 In addition to the two events shown in Figure 10, the 21 events with the largest responses were analysed. For all events it was
305 found that the 1st and 2nd mode responses were triggered after the passage of a steep and breaking wave, as described above.
306 The characteristics of these 21 events are given in Table 5.

307

308 Previous work done by Suja-Thauvin et al. (2016) and further developed by Suja-Thauvin and Krokstad (2016), showed that
309 the first mode response of a similar structure can be explained solely by 2nd and 3rd order hydrodynamic excitation loads,
310 without the need to account for slamming loads. We apply their findings to the present study to conclude that the ringing
311 response observed for large events is mainly due to 2nd and 3rd order hydrodynamic loads and not to slamming loads. However,
312 as their work is done on a one degree-of-freedom system, it does not include any consideration of the 2nd mode of the structure.

313 4.2 Contributions to the total response

314 In this section, we analyze the contribution of the different modes of the structure to the total response. To do so, we decompose
315 the response as shown in Figure 9 and Figure 10c,d and evaluate the value of the response at different modes at the instant of
316 maximum total response. Their relative importance for events 1 and 2 is given in Table 4. Moments (here and in the rest of the
317 paper) are given within an accuracy of 3%.

318

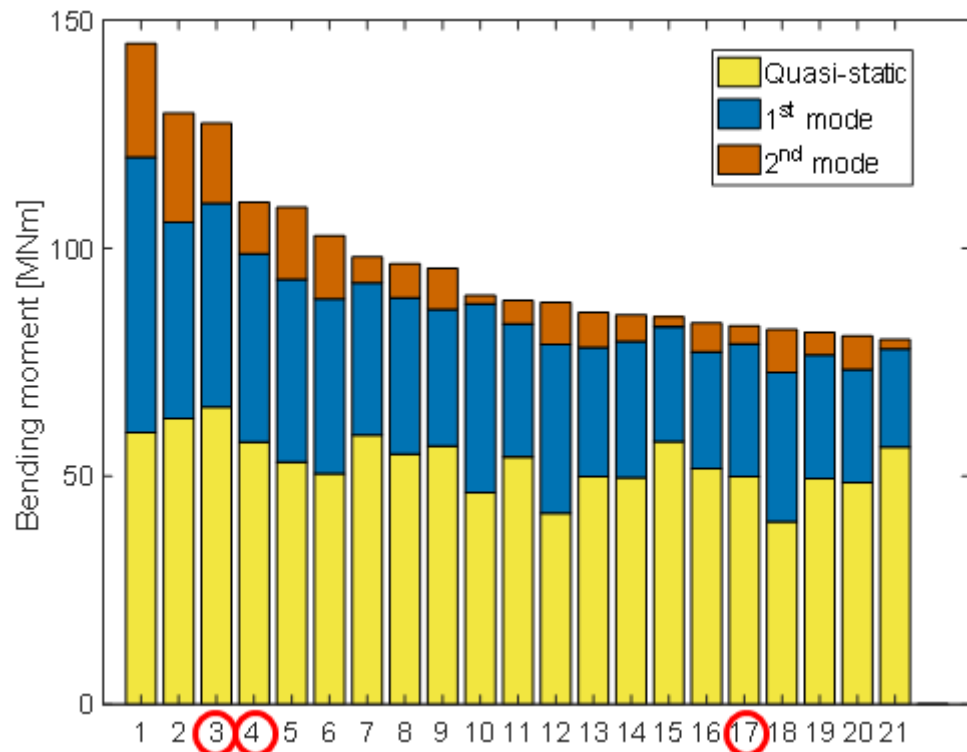
319

Table 4. Different contributions to the maximum load.

Event	Total moment [MNm]	% quasi-static	% 1 st mode	% 2 nd mode
1	-145	41.1	41.6	17.2
2	-130	48.3	33.2	18.5

320

321 Figure 11 offers a graphical interpretation of table 4 for the 21 largest events. This figure shows the different contributions to
322 the total response: quasi-static response accounts for between 40 and 60%, 1st mode response accounts for between 30 and 40%
323 and the second mode contributes up to 20%. The numerical values for each event are given in Table 5.



325

326

Figure 11. Decomposition of the largest responses into quasi-static, 1st and 2nd mode response. The red circles

327

correspond to events where no secondary load cycle was observed (see section 5).

328

These observations suggest, as was also found in de Ridder et al. (2011), that not taking into account the 2nd mode of the

329

structure when assessing ULS leads to underestimation of the total response. For these 21 events, we also note that the

330

maximum response is negative, i.e. it corresponds to the structure moving against the wave propagation direction.

331

332

333

Table 5. Characteristics of the 21 highest recorded responses. T , η_m , H and k correspond to the trough-to-trough

334

wave period, the crest elevation, the wave height and the wave number, respectively.

Event	Max [MNm]	Contribution to total moment [%]			Time [s]	Sea state Hs - Tp	T [s]	η_m [m]	H [m]	k [m^{-1}]
		Quasi-static	1st mode	2nd mode						
1	-145	41.1	41.6	17.2	8848	5.89 m – 10 s	7.82	6.61	9.32	0.0599
2	-130	48.3	33.2	18.5	6246	6.18 m – 10 s	8.15	7.57	10.6	0.055
3	-127	51.1	35.1	13.7	1046	5.89 m – 10 s	8.76	8.06	11.96	0.0492
4	-111	52.2	37.6	10.2	3132	6.18 m – 10 s	7.24	6.65	9.02	0.0664
5	-110	48.8	36.7	14.5	6962	6.18 m – 10 s	9.34	6.33	9.67	0.0474
6	-103	49.2	37.3	13.5	10688	5.89 m – 10 s	7.57	5.85	8.45	0.0642
7	-98.2	60.2	34.0	5.8	340	6.18 m – 10 s	8.62	6.43	9.53	0.0527
8	-97.0	56.8	35.5	7.7	6961	5.89 m – 10 s	9.29	7.4	10.23	0.0465
9	-95.7	59.2	31.4	9.4	4217	5.81 m – 10.93 s	7.96	6.52	8.57	0.0587
10	-88.6	51.8	46.1	2.1	6482	5.89 m – 10 s	8.82	6.12	9.51	0.0516
11	-88.6	61.3	32.9	5.8	8748	5.89 m – 10 s	7.63	5.67	8.3	0.064
12	-86.3	47.5	42.1	10.4	4514	5.81 m – 10.93 s	10.59	6	8.64	0.0405
13	-86.0	58.2	33.0	8.9	6685	6.18 m – 10 s	7.96	5.83	8.01	0.0599
14	-85.7	58.2	34.9	6.9	5293	6.18 m – 10 s	8.71	7.08	10.06	0.0511
15	-85.1	67.8	29.6	2.6	6245	5.89 m – 10 s	8.71	6.57	10.09	0.0518
16	-83.6	61.8	30.6	7.6	6562	5.89 m – 10 s	8.46	5.79	8.53	0.0551
17	-83.2	60.2	35.1	4.8	8583	5.89 m – 10 s	7.43	7	9.54	0.0633
18	-82.5	48.7	39.9	11.4	8616	5.81 m – 10.93 s	10.14	5.69	7.74	0.0431
19	-81.6	60.6	33.3	6.1	2304	6.18 m – 10 s	7.13	4.67	6.5	0.073
20	-80.9	60.2	30.8	9.0	9499	5.89 m – 10 s	8.12	6.09	8.82	0.0578
21	-80.1	70.5	267.0	2.5	11492	5.81 m – 10.93 s	10.06	7.18	10.41	0.0421

335

336

It should be noted that Table 5 only shows the characteristics of the individual waves that occur at the same time as the

337

maximum response. However, a wave with a given height could produce less response than a wave with smaller height if, for

338

the latter case, the structure was already responding to a previous wave. This “memory effect” is relevant for dynamic systems

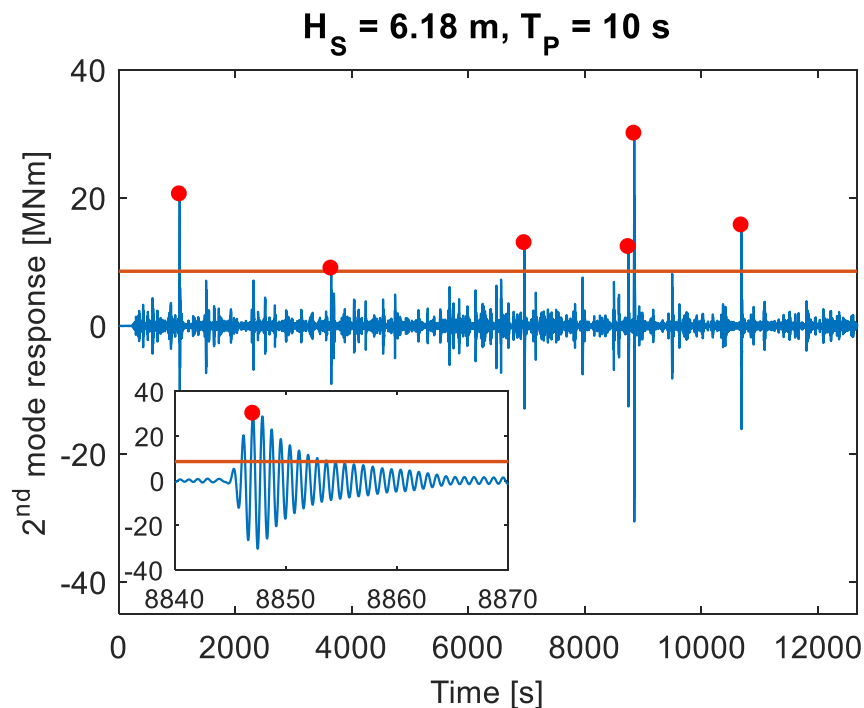
339 with low damping. Peng et al. (2013) showed that wave groups could produce larger responses than individual regular waves
340 with the same characteristics as the largest wave of the wave group.

341 4.3 Physics of the second mode response

342 Figure 12 shows the full time series of the 2nd mode response of sea state $H_S = 6.18$ m and $T_P = 10$ s. In this plot, independent
343 peak occurrences of 2nd mode response higher than half of the standard deviation of the quasi-static response have been marked
344 with a red dot. From comparison with the video recordings, it appears that these large second mode responses only occur when
345 a breaking wave hits the cylinder. Indeed, as pointed out by Hallowell et al. (2015), loads from breaking waves have two
346 characteristics that make them especially relevant when analysing 2nd mode motion:

- 347 - They have a very short duration (as shown for instance by Wienke and Oumeraci, 2005) compared to 1st, 2nd or 3rd
348 order loads (Suja-Thauvin and Krokstad, 2016). With such a duration, according to classical structure theory (see for
349 example Biggs, 1964), these loads have the potential to trigger significant 2nd mode response.
- 350 - They are concentrated around the free water surface, where 2nd mode shape displacement is the highest (see Figure
351 5) whereas loads from non-breaking waves are distributed between the free surface and the sea bed.

352



353

354 **Figure 12.** Response of the structure in its 2nd mode. A zoom of the 2nd mode response of event 1 is also shown. The
355 red line corresponds to half of the standard deviation of the quasi-static response.

356

357 This visual check was performed for all sea states mentioned in this paper, and it was consistently found that responses of the
358 2nd mode above the selected threshold corresponded to breaking wave events. We therefore suggest that large 2nd mode
359 responses only occur when a wave breaks at the cylinder. However, it should be noted that not all breaking wave events produce
360 such a large response in the 2nd mode.

361

362 The empirical cumulative distribution function of the 2nd mode response is given in Figure 13 in terms of exceedance
363 probability. Exceedance probabilities for total and the quasi-static response are also shown for comparison. There is a
364 qualitative difference between the 2nd mode response and the other responses: for the main part of the observations (for an
365 exceedance probability higher than about 3% for the most severe sea states or even than 0.5% for the mildest sea state), the
366 probability of exceedance curve of the 2nd mode response follows a linear variation (in the logarithmic plot). For lower
367 exceedance probabilities, the 2nd mode response significantly increases. This sudden change in the slope of the probability of
368 exceedance curve is not visible for the total or the quasi-static response.

369

370 In order to explain this observation we compare the 2nd mode response to the quasi-static response. A given wave produces a
371 quasi-static response proportional to the wave particle acceleration for an inertia-dominated structure such as the one presented
372 here. The quasi-static response is therefore roughly linear in terms of wave steepness. The 2nd mode, however, is only triggered
373 by breaking waves, which means that below a certain steepness threshold, no 2nd mode response is expected, but past this
374 threshold the 2nd mode gets excited and large responses will occur. This confirms the non-linear behaviour of 2nd mode response
375 and shows that there will be a large number of outliers in the peak distribution.

376

377 In addition, the excess kurtosis gives a good indicator of the behaviour of the outliers of a given distribution. The excess kurtosis
378 (calculated for each sea state using all data points) is calculated by Matlab® with the following formula:

379

$$380 \quad k_1 = \frac{\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})^4}{\left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})^2 \right)^2} - 3 \quad (4)$$

381

382 where n is the number of samples, x is the set of data points and \bar{x} is the average of x . A large excess kurtosis means that the
383 distribution produces a large number of outliers and that their value will be more extreme than for a normal distribution. For
384 the presented sea states, the 2nd mode response has a very large excess kurtosis compared to the total and quasi-static responses,
385 as shown in Table 6. This confirms what was suggested in the previous paragraph, i.e. that the extremes of the 2nd mode
386 response lie far from the rest of observations.

387

388

389

390

391 **Table 6. Excess kurtosis of the measured wave (W_{meas}), of the total (M_{tot}), quasi-static (M_0) 1st mode (M_1) and 2nd**

392

mode (M_2) moments.

	W_{meas}	M_{tot}	M_0	M_1	M_2
$H_S = 6.18 \text{ m}, T_p = 10 \text{ s}$	-0.0543	0.787	0.0667	3.83	190
$H_S = 5.89 \text{ m}, T_p = 10 \text{ s}$	0.0538	0.915	0.185	4.91	147
$H_S = 5.81 \text{ m}, T_p = 10.93 \text{ s}$	0.0020	0.370	0.0704	1.10	33.3

393

394

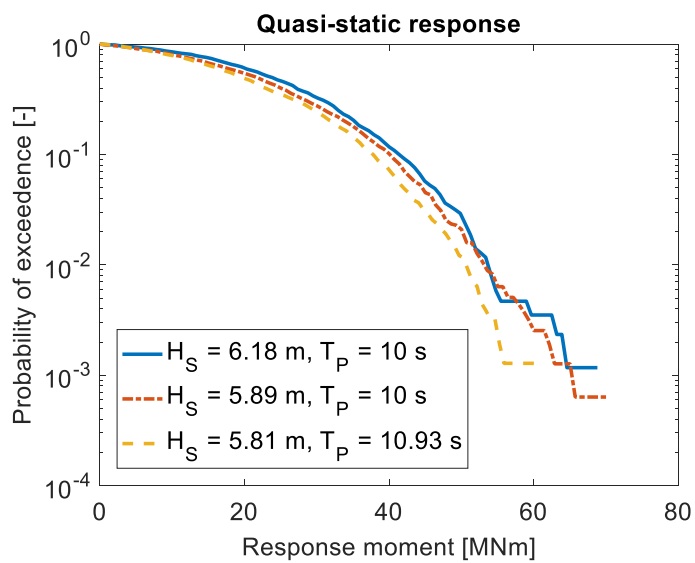
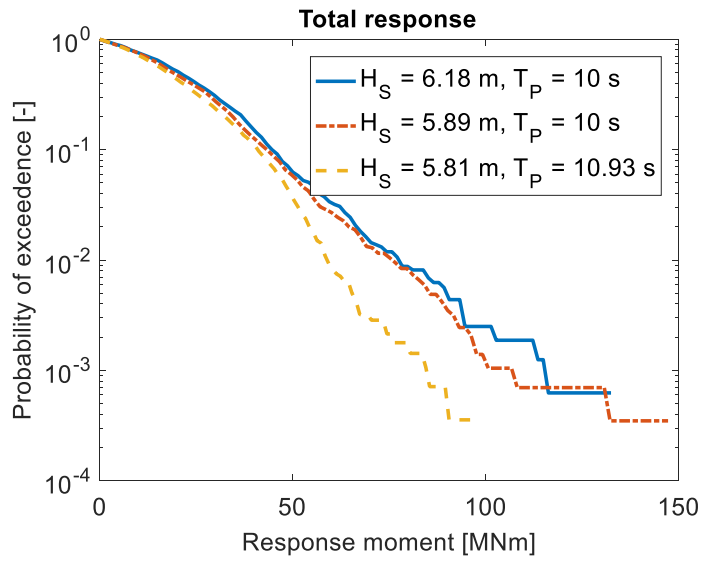
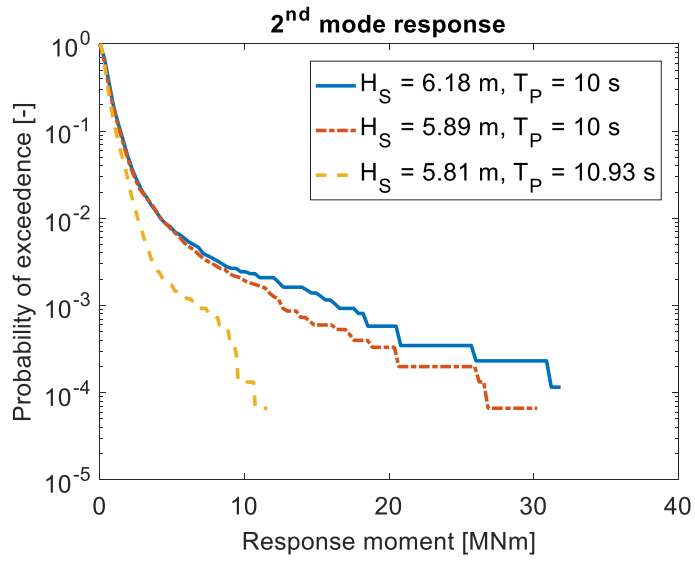
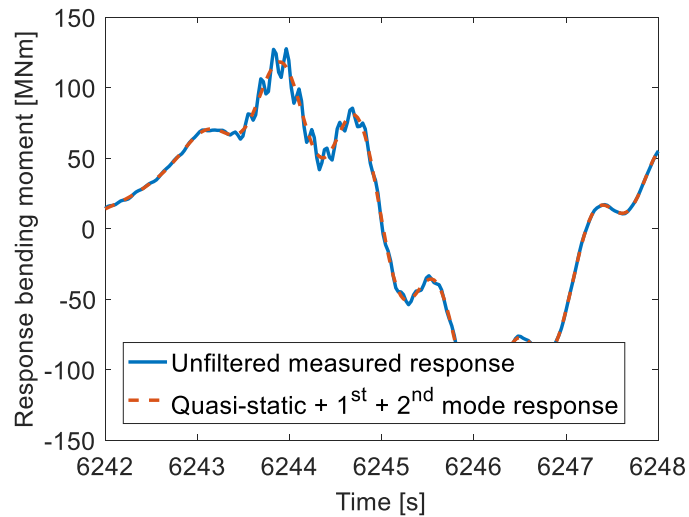


Figure 13. Empirical exceedance probability curve for response moments.

396 4.4 3rd and 4th modes

397 The previous analysis considered measured responses after filtering out the 3rd and 4th mode. However, these modes are in fact
398 present and they contribute to the total measured response. As exemplified in Figure 14 (a zoom of event 2), structural modes
399 higher than the 2nd mode influence the response. These modes decay quickly after the slamming impact.

400

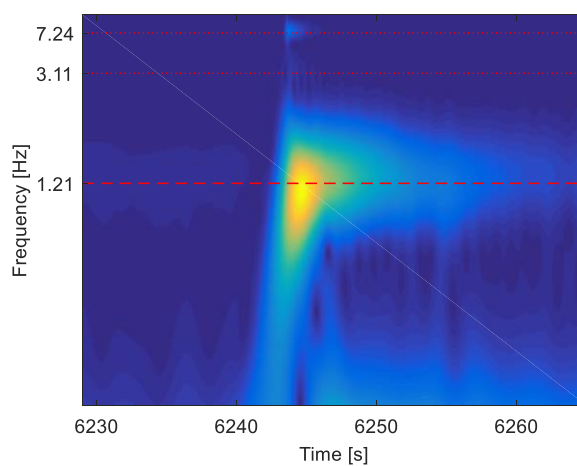


401

402 **Figure 14. Zoom of the response of event 2. The difference between the two curves is due to modes higher than 2nd.**

403

404 Figure 15 shows a zoom of the wavelet plot for event 2 (the scaling of the colours has been changed compared to Figure 10 for
405 clarity). This plot shows that the 3rd and 4th modes, respectively at 3.11 and 7.24 Hz are also excited by the breaking wave but
406 that their influence is limited compared to the 2nd mode response at 1.21 Hz.



407

408 **Figure 15. Zoom of the cwt plot of the unfiltered measured response of event 2.**

409 The 3rd and 4th modes on the model were not tuned to fit the modes of a full-scale wind turbine, so the response at these modes
410 is not representative of that of a full-scale wind turbine. Further analysis of the influence of higher modes is needed to assess
411 their influence on the total response of an offshore wind turbine, and whether not including 3rd and 4th modes might lead to
412 non-conservative results.

413

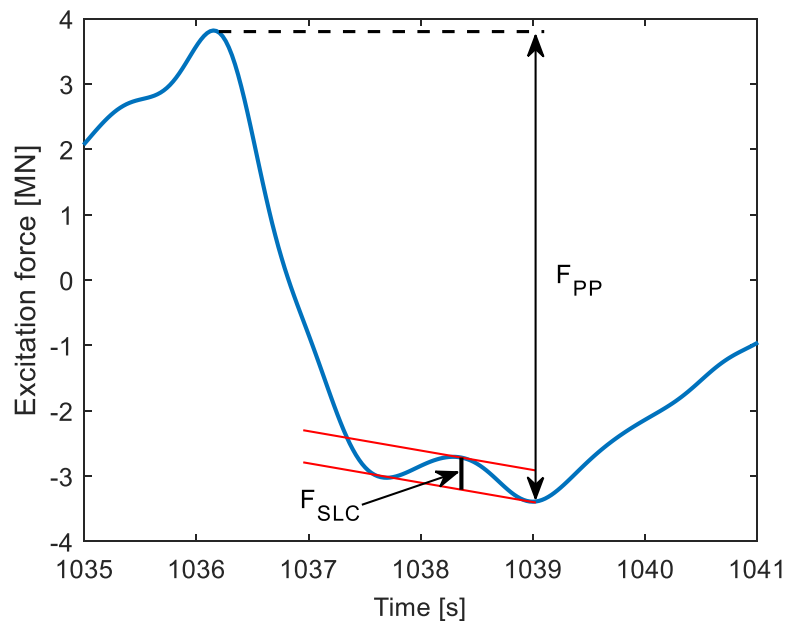
414 5 Secondary load cycle analysis

415 In this section we use data measured on the stiff model and on the flexible model. Both models were in the basin at the same
416 time and experienced the same sea states.

417 5.1 Occurrences in the present study

418 The secondary load cycle (SLC) appears as a rapid and high-frequency variation in the excitation force. Figure 16 shows an
419 occurrence of a SLC together with the definitions of its magnitude (F_{SLC}) and the peak-to-peak force (F_{PP}). The SLC ratio is
420 defined as F_{SLC}/F_{PP} (Grue and Huseby, 2002).

421



422

423 **Figure 16. Example of a secondary load cycle occurrence with the definitions of the magnitude and**
424 **the peak-to-peak force.**

425

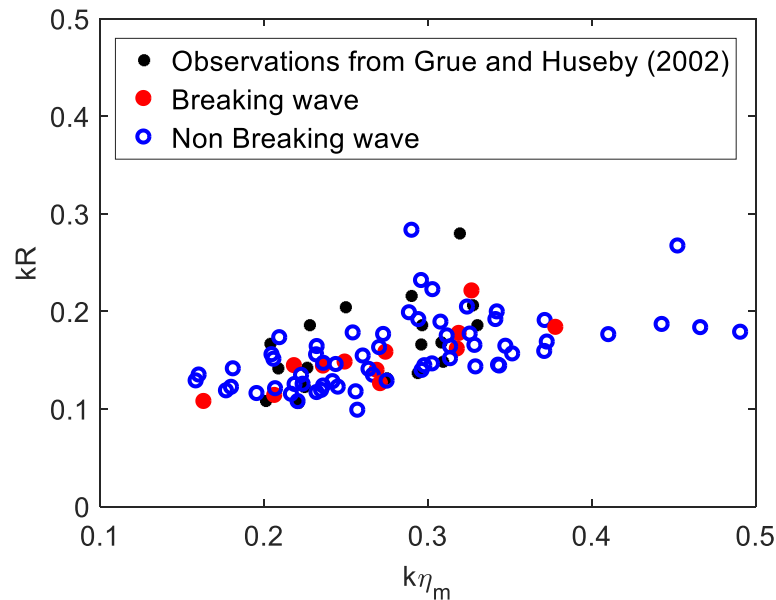
426 The occurrences of SLCs are found by analysing the force measured by the stiff structure. As explained in section 2.2.2, this
427 measured force is first low-pass filtered at a frequency of 1.2 Hz to remove the response of the structure, giving the time-series

428 obtained in Figure 16. Grue et al. (1993) state that the SLC has a duration of about 15% of the wave period. For the present
429 experiments, this corresponds to durations of about 1.5 s. The cut-off frequency is about twice the expected frequency of the
430 SLC; it is therefore expected that the SLC is not removed or significantly altered by the filtering. A visual check of the excitation
431 force time series is performed on each of the events selected hereafter to ensure they correspond to SLCs.

432

433 For each of the three sea states, the 25 occurrences of SLCs with the highest magnitudes are kept and plotted in the $kR - k\eta_m$
434 plane in Figure 17. Our observations of SLCs are within the same range as those reported by Grue and Huseby, (2002) where
435 they report SLCs for $0.1 < kR < 0.21$ and $0.2 < k\eta_m < 0.33$. They analysed the SLC phenomenon based on experiments
436 carried out in deep water, whereas the experiments of the present paper were performed in finite water. It should be noted that
437 due to finite water, we observe SLC for waves steeper than those reported in Grue and Huseby (2002). This is the only
438 noticeable difference between SLC occurrences in deep water and finite water.

439



440

441

442 **Figure 17. Occurrences of secondary load cycle in the $kR - k\eta_m$ plane. The 25 largest occurrences (i.e. with highest**
443 **magnitudes) of each of the 3 sea states are kept.**

444

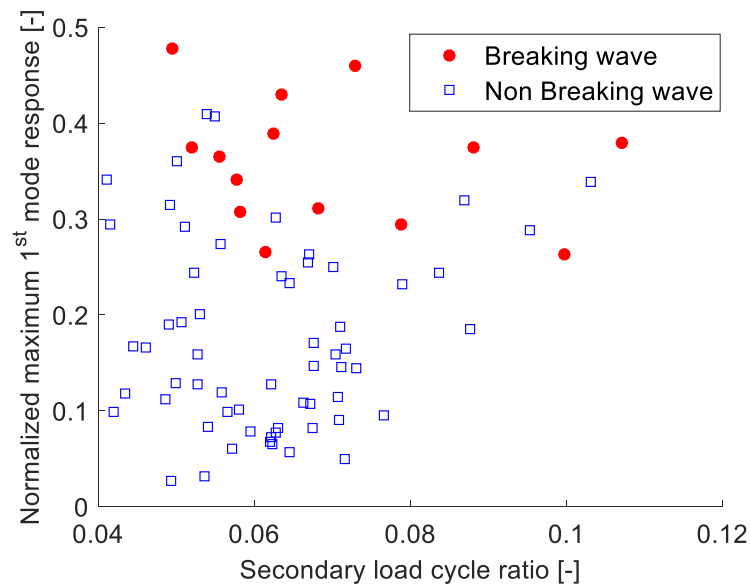
445 5.2 Link with maximum responses

446 The correlation between SLC and ringing responses was examined in the present experiments. For each of the 75 occurrences,
447 the response of the structure in its 1st mode is analysed: the maximum of the 1st mode response (measured on the flexible

448 structure) occurring immediately after the SLC is normalized by dividing it by the excitation moment (measured on the stiff
449 structure). The obtained result is plotted as a function of the SLC ratio in Figure 18.

450

451 Figure 18 shows that the highest 1st mode amplifications are not provoked by the largest SLC ratios. Breaking waves usually
452 provoke large 1st mode amplification, but as explained previously, there is no causality link between the two phenomena: both
453 are a consequence of a wave being very steep.



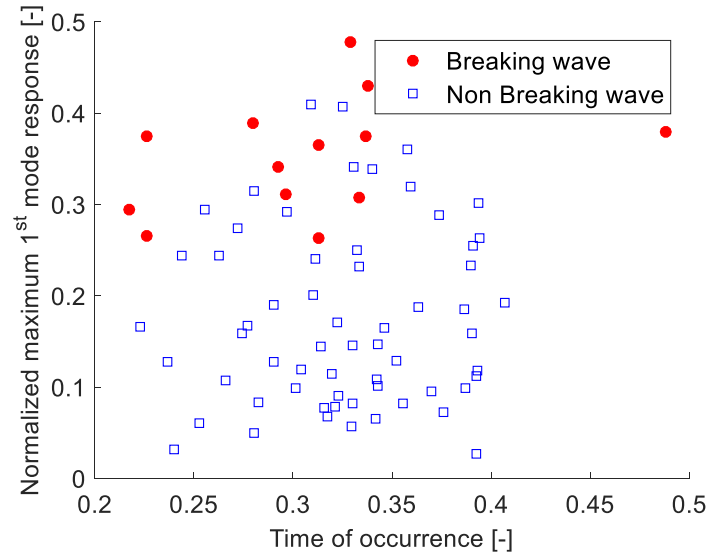
454

455

456 **Figure 18. Correlation between the secondary load cycle ratio and the 1st mode amplification. The 25 largest**
457 **occurrences (i.e. with highest magnitudes) of each of the 3 sea states are kept.**

458 Another correlation that was explored is the time of occurrence of the SLC against the 1st mode response amplification. The
459 time of occurrence is defined as the time between the maximum of the excitation force and the maximum of the SLC, and is
460 normalized by the wave period. Again, there is no clear trend between the time of occurrence and the 1st mode amplification.

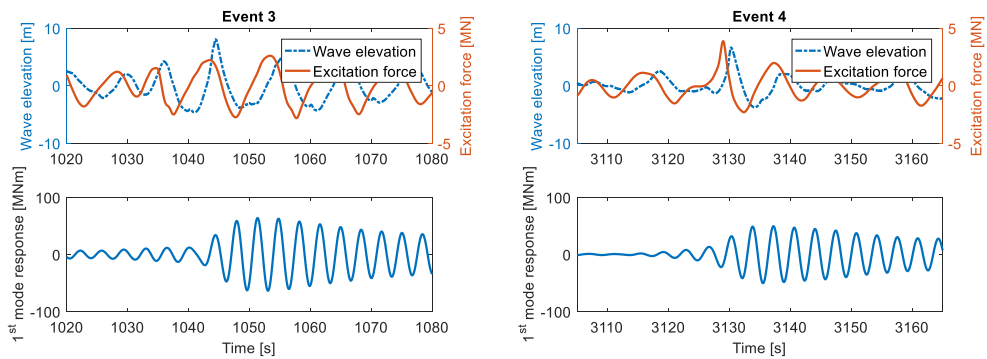
461



462

463 **Figure 19. Correlation between the time of occurrence of the secondary load cycle and the 1st mode amplification. The**
 464 **25 largest occurrences (i.e. with highest magnitudes) of each of the 3 sea states are kept.**

465 In addition, some events did not present a SLC but a ringing type of response was still visible in the bending moment (these
 466 events are marked with a red circle in Figure 11). Figure 20 shows events 3 and 4 (respectively 3rd and 4th highest total
 467 responses) in detail. No SLC was seen in the measured excitation for either event. However, the lower plots of Figure 20 clearly
 468 show a resonant response of the structure around its first eigenfrequency, characteristic of ringing responses.



469 **Figure 20. Large response events with no visible secondary load cycle. The response is measured on the flexible model**
 470 **while the excitation is measured on the stiff one.**

471

472 These observations suggest that in the present experiment, the SLC is not a necessary load attribute to generate ringing response.
 473 This statement has important implications in terms of what is necessary to accurately model the response of offshore wind
 474 turbines in ULS conditions. Faltinsen et al. (1995) and Malenica and Molin (1995) developed third-order hydrodynamic models
 475 based on a perturbation approach (with the wave steepness as the perturbation parameter) in order to model ringing events.
 476 These models, as was shown in Paulsen et al. (2014), cannot depict the SLC because it is a phenomenon of even higher order.

477 However, as discussed in this paragraph, the SLC is not required in the excitation force to produce ringing responses, meaning
478 that these models that cannot predict SLCs can still potentially predict ringing responses, as seen for deep water (Gaidai and
479 Krokstad, 2014).

480

481 6 Conclusions

482 Experimental data of a bottom-fixed offshore wind turbine mounted on a monopile and subjected to extreme weather conditions
483 in finite water are analysed in this paper. Two models of the support structure are presented: one is a fully flexible model whose
484 1st and 2nd eigenfrequencies and 1st mode shape were tuned to fit those of a full scale 4 MW wind turbine and the other one is
485 a stiff model with the same dimensions as the flexible model. Both models were in the tank at the same time and therefore
486 experienced the same incoming waves.

487

488 The flexible model is used to study the bending moment response at the seabed of the structure in ULS conditions. Over the
489 whole set of experiments, the 21 events with largest responses are analysed and the bending moment is decomposed into
490 response around the 2nd eigenfrequency, response around the 1st eigenfrequency (which highlights ringing responses) and quasi-
491 static response. It is found that for every event, in addition to the quasi-static response, the structure experiences ringing and
492 that its second mode is triggered, contributing to up to 20% of the total response. In line with what was found in Suja-Thauvin
493 and Krokstad (2016) and by comparing the bending moment time series with video recordings, the conjecture is made that
494 ringing responses are induced by 2nd and 3rd order hydrodynamic loads and that the 2nd mode is excited by slamming loads.
495 The 2nd mode response exhibits behaviour qualitatively different than the total response or the quasi-static response. By
496 analysing the excess kurtoses of the 2nd mode response of different sea states and the exceedance probability, it is shown that
497 there are more outliers with more extreme values in the 2nd mode response than in the total or quasi-static response.

498

499 The excitation force is obtained by measuring the force at the stiff structure. This enables study of the phenomenon known as
500 secondary load cycle, where shortly after the passage of a steep wave, a high frequency increase of the excitation force occurs.
501 It has been conjectured in previous work that the secondary load cycle could be a cause of ringing responses. In the present
502 paper, however, no correlation is found between the characteristics of secondary load cycles and ringing responses.
503 Furthermore, some events with a strong ringing response do not present a secondary load cycle in the excitation force, indicating
504 that the secondary load cycle is not a necessary load attribute to trigger ringing responses.

505

506 There are several important limitations to the present work, which is based on a limited number of experimental realizations at
507 1:30 scale. In addition to the limitations and uncertainties associated with small-scale testing and wave generation, this study
508 only deals with one pair of values for 1st and 2nd eigenfrequencies. With the current trend of rotors getting larger (Ho et al.,

509 2016), it is expected that the mass and moment of inertia on top of the tower will increase differently, thus changing the ratio
510 of 1st over 2nd eigenfrequency. This could potentially change the relative contributions of the 1st and 2nd mode responses to the
511 total response and therefore modify Figure 11. A more detailed assessment of this phenomenon is left for further studies. The
512 presence of the 3rd and 4th mode in the response, and the use of visual detection of slamming also represent limitations in the
513 present work. Furthermore, the sea states considered here are not associated with a 50-year return period. As such, the
514 considered conditions are not necessarily representative of typical ULS assessment, and the assumption of an idling turbine
515 may not be correct. Finally, memory effects (i.e. the fact that the response to one wave depends on the response to previous
516 waves) are not studied in this paper. As explained in section 4.2, wave groups can produce larger responses than individual
517 regular waves with the same characteristics as the largest wave of the wave group.

518

519 This study explains the mechanism of large responses in ULS conditions for offshore wind turbines and shows the necessity of
520 having both a non-linear hydrodynamic load model and a slamming model for the excitation loads, and at least 1st and 2nd
521 structural modes accurately represented. The finite water conditions make it likely that more and steeper breaking waves will
522 occur at the support structure of the turbine compared to deep water. In order to account for the phenomena described in this
523 paper, a common practice in the industry is to simulate the wave kinematics using the stream function theory (Rienecker and
524 Fenton, 1981) and adding a slamming model on top of it. This model will be studied in depth in future work.

525

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531 lab, Statkraft, Statoil, STX, Van Oord, Vattenfall and Volker InfraDesign bv.

532

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