

Stochastic bivariate time series models of waves in the North Sea and their application in simulation-based design

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Abstract

In this paper, we present and evaluate three long-term wave models for application in simulation-based design of ships and marine structures. Designers and researchers often rely on historical weather data as a source for ocean area characteristics based on hindcast datasets or in-situ measurements. The limited access and size of historical datasets reduces repeatability of simulations and analyses, making it difficult to assess the sampling variability of performance and loads on marine vessels and structures. Markov, VAR and VARMA wave models, producing independent long-term time series of significant wave height (H_s) and spectral peak period (T_p), is presented as possible solutions to this problem. The models are tested and compared by addressing how the models affect interpretation of design concepts and the ability to replicate statistical and physical characteristics of the wave process. Our results show that the VAR and VARMA models perform sufficiently in describing design performance, but does not capture the physical process fully. The Markov model is found to perform worst of the tested models in the applied tests, especially for measures covering several consecutive sea states.

Keywords: Significant wave height, spectral peak period, stochastic time series modelling, simulation-based design

1. Introduction

Exposure to weather is a key challenge for engineers and designers working on marine technology projects and activities. Waves, wind and current affect the ability to perform marine operations and increases required propulsion power of ships, the extent of which is valuable knowledge during design. Virtual testing procedures, incorporating the effects of the surrounding environment, has in recent years been developed to improve our understanding of the scenarios ships and ocean structures are likely to face and the corresponding performance. The present work addresses the long-term modelling of waves and the impact alternative formulations has on our interpretation of ship added resistance and operability.

Simulation-based approaches for studying maritime systems and entities has existed for some time. In the IDEAS project benchmarking of ship design concepts using hindcast weather data and discrete-event simulation (DES) is performed to enhance power requirement estimates [13]. HOLISHIP is an international research project working towards the development of a simulation-based integrated decision support system to cover all aspects of ship design [21]. The ViProMa project (Virtual Prototyping of Maritime Systems and Operations) is a knowledge-building project using co-simulation for prototyping in the design process [29]. Bergström et al. [3] presents a simulation-based approach for assessing Arctic transport systems and ships in ice infested waters, providing a discussion on model fidelity and sources of uncertainty in [4]. Vernengo and Rizzuto [37] presents a ship synthesis model for exploration of the design space for compressed natural gas carriers, and illustrates its applicability for

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16 power and capacity variations in [36]. Design and planning of operations and fleet sizing problems often apply stochastic models
17 for representation of weather-induced delays, see e.g. [28] and [19].

18 For many years, *Global Wave Statistics* was the primary source of wave data for design of ships [17]. The data was collected
19 by visual observations from ships in service all over the world since 1949, and is presented as scatter diagrams of significant
20 wave height (H_s) and mean zero-crossing period (T_z) sorted according to propagation direction and season. Alternative sources
21 of data has been established based on in-situ measurements, numerical wave prediction models and satellite data. Instrumentally
22 recorded wave measurements is considered superior to model derived data, but is expensive and time consuming to collect.
23 Hence, the availability of sufficiently long in-situ time series is limited. Hindcast numerical models has been applied to assess
24 and estimate the global metocean wave climate. The WAM model is applied by many commercial wave databases and has been
25 subject to extensive testing and improvement in recent years [38] [20]. Bitner-Gregersen and Guedes Soares [6] addresses the
26 uncertainty of the average wave steepness by comparing three hindcast wave databases and data given in *Global Wave Statistics*.
27 Campos and Guedes Soares [8] compares and assess three wave hindcasts in the North Atlantic Ocean. These studies revealed
28 important differences in terms of extreme conditions, and that the magnitude of the differences is site-specific. For non-extreme
29 conditions, the hindcasts produce very similar values overall. Vanem [35] presents an extensive review of stochastic long-term
30 wave models, focussing primarily on estimation of extreme sea states but also covering literature on modelling of time and space
31 dependent variables in general. Monbet et al. [22] provides a review over stochastic time series models for wind and sea states,
32 stating that the context of use is important for determining whether a model is suitable.

33 The scope of this article is to present and compare stochastic bivariate wave models for producing synthetic long-term time
34 series for application in simulation-based design of marine systems. Previous research has to a large extent focused on the
35 fundamental statistical properties of models, as well as for prediction and filling missing time series values. The present paper
36 contributes by testing and comparing the models in view of their effect on important marine engineering parameters in a design
37 context. We have two main objectives in this paper: First, to present three long-term wave models by which bivariate synthetic
38 time series of H_s and T_p can be generated. Second, present a comparison to hindcast data for relevant measures in simulation-
39 based design to demonstrate the practical implications of their formulation.

40 The paper is structured in seven sections. In the following section, we illustrate the steps of stochastic wave model devel-
41 opment and the connection to simulation and design theory. Next, we present three candidate wave models in terms of their
42 mathematical formulation and assumptions. In Section 4, a presentation of the testing and benchmarking scheme for assessing
43 wave model application in simulation-based design is given. Sections 5 and 6 presents the results from the study and gives a
44 discussion of the practical implications, respectively. Finally, the last section lists the main findings and conclusions.

45 **2. Wave models and impact on design interpretation**

46 *2.1. Simulation in marine design*

47 Design of ships and marine structures includes analyses to determine the influence of ocean environment on safety and perfor-
48 mance. Loads and motions excited by the occurring waves, wind, and current must be considered to ensure safety of personnel
49 and the asset as well as profitability margins. In a design context, simulation is applied as a tool for mapping between the design
50 space and performance space. This mapping relies on what is referred to as interpretive knowledge, meaning the knowledge of
51 how a given set of design variables materialize to a set of performance quantities. Figure 1 shows how our interpretation of a ship
52 design concept is linked to the assumptions and modelling approach for long-term wave models. Based on the system theories
53 of the long-term wave process, a conceptual model is formulated in the form of a mathematical/logical/graphical representation

54 of the system, represented here as a decomposition of the yearly season variation and the stochastic process of wave formation
 55 in the short-term horizon. Specifying further, we assume that the seasonal effects can be obtained using Fourier and statistical
 56 analysis, and the short-term contribution can be modelled as a Markov process. Statistical analysis is then performed using the
 57 long-term dataset of real waves, giving us the complete model.

58 The model can then be applied in a simulation framework where we replicate the environmental impact on ships during
 59 operation. This process allow us to observe how the ship behave in terms of relevant measures for e.g. safety, operational
 60 performance, fuel consumption. As mentioned above, simulation is applied for mapping between the design and performance
 61 space. We convert our representation of form (synthesis) to a measure of function (semantics). Figure 1 shows how the modelling
 62 choices we make during model development affect this relation.

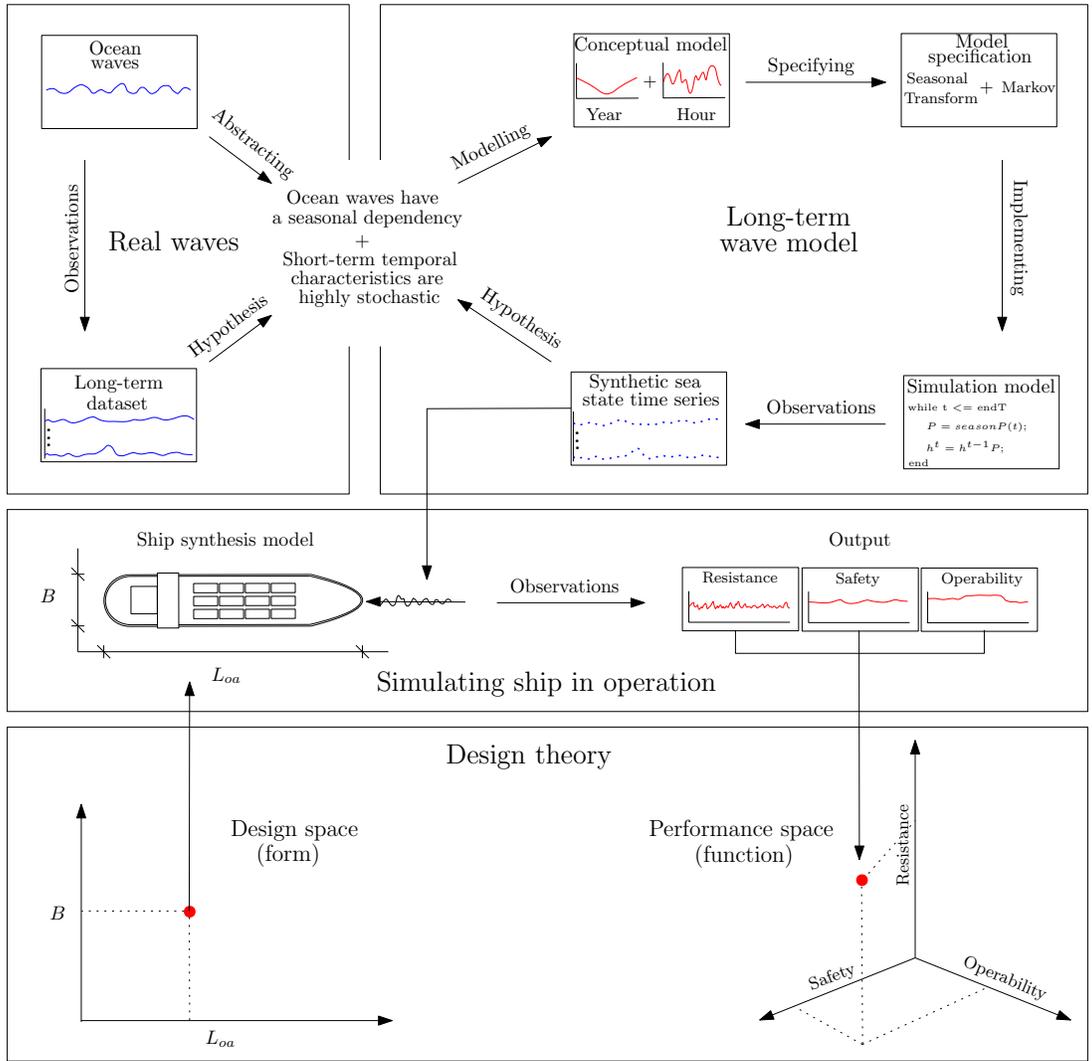


Figure 1: The stages of wave modelling and its connection to ship performance evaluation during design, exemplified by Markov model. (Top part of figure adapted and modified from [27])

63 The interpretation of a ship design concept should not be a function of the chosen wave model formulation, but rather the
 64 characteristics of the actual wave environment occurring at the site or route of operation. However, differences may develop as
 65 a consequence of model abstraction and simulation model specification. The corresponding impact on the design parameters
 66 varies with the parameter dependency towards the simulated wave environment. For example, marine operations require weather
 67 windows of a sufficient length and sea state intensity, implying sensitivity towards the occurring sea state levels and persistence.

88 Fuel consumption for a ship in a seaway, as a function of wave added resistance, is dependent on the occurring sea state pa-
89 rameters, permitting evaluation using wave parameter distributions. These differences in dependencies towards the generated
70 synthetic time series is the reason for choosing the test scheme presented in Section 4, and forms the basis for discussing model
71 applicability in Section 6.

72 2.2. The stochastic process of waves

73 The wave generation process and the dynamics of water surface behaviour follows the laws of physics and is generally well
74 understood. However, waves and sea systems are influenced by countless factors and parameters, making deterministic analysis
75 impossible due to the system complexity. Hence, waves are modelled using probabilistic models [35]. This implies that design
76 parameters dependent on wave intensity and occurrence are subject to uncertainty. Bitner-Gregersen et al. [5] addresses uncer-
77 tainties in wind and wave description in the context of engineering applications, dividing this uncertainty in two groups: aleatory
78 and epistemic uncertainty. Aleatory uncertainty is the inherent variability of a given parameter due to the process of which it
79 is generated. Epistemic uncertainty is related to the lack of knowledge for describing the parameter, and can subsequently be
80 reduced by acquiring more data. For design of ships and marine structures, we are interested in the variability of our estimates
81 occurring as a consequence of the environment of which it operates, i.e. aleatory uncertainty. Efforts are generally made to re-
82 duce epistemic uncertainty to a minimum, as it obscures the vision of how a system performs. Variability of design performance
83 using simulation is normally assessed by repeating simulations. This process provides confidence bounds for the performance
84 resulting from the inherent variability of the system environment. However, especially considering long-term simulations, such
85 analyses require large sets of accessible data for constructing equivalent simulation scenarios. This necessitates synthetic time
86 series from a scenario generator, which is the role of the stochastic wave models in the present work.

87 3. Bivariate long-term wave models

88 3.1. Hindcast data

89 In the present work we apply hindcast data from a single location in the North Sea positioned $56^{\circ}31'N$, $3^{\circ}14'E$ shown in Figure 2.
90 The dataset is provided by the Norwegian Meteorological Institute from the hindcast archive NORA10 (NORwegian ReAnalysis
10 km), see [26]. Time series of H_s and T_p with a temporal resolution of 3 h between 1958 and 2016 is provided.

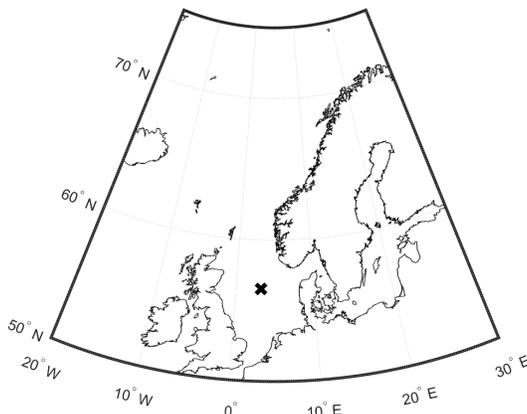


Figure 2: Location for wave data in the North Sea

92 3.2. Data transformation

93 Transformation of the hindcast data is applied to produce a stationary set of residuals W for which the models can be fitted.
 94 The VAR and VARMA models (see Section 3.4) both assume stationary time series behaviour. The hindcast data have a yearly
 95 statistical periodicity due to the meteorological annual cycle, which must be removed before the models can be fitted.

96 3.2.1. Rosenblatt transform

97 The common method for creating approximately Gaussian time series is to apply a form of logarithmic transformation, e.g. the
 98 Box-Cox transformation [7]. In the present work, we apply a log-normal Rosenblatt transformation to model the joint behaviour
 99 of H_s and T_p (see [24]). It is based on the Conditional Modelling Approach (CMA) given in DNV GL [11]. The joint density
 100 function $f_{H_s T_p}(h, t)$ is described using a marginal distribution of H_s and a conditional distribution of $T_p|H_s$. Therefore, the
 101 marginal distribution of H_s is assumed to follow a lognormal distribution given by

$$f_{H_s}(h) = \frac{1}{\sigma_h h \sqrt{2\pi}} \exp \left\{ -\frac{(\ln h - \mu_h)^2}{2\sigma_h^2} \right\} \quad (1)$$

102 where μ_h and σ_h are distribution parameters estimated from the hindcast data. The conditional distribution of $T_p|H_s$ is estimated
 103 as

$$f_{T_p|H_s}(t|h) = \frac{1}{\sigma_{t|h} \sqrt{2\pi}} \exp \left\{ -\frac{(\ln t - \mu_{t|h})^2}{2\sigma_{t|h}^2} \right\} \quad (2)$$

104 where $\mu_{t|h}$ and $\sigma_{t|h}$ are represented by functions

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_{t|h} &= E[\ln T_p] = a_0 + a_1 h^{a_2} \\ \sigma_{t|h} &= \text{std}[\ln T_p] = b_0 + b_1 \exp(b_2 h) \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

105 a_{0-2} and b_{0-2} are curve fitting coefficients. Transformation to Gaussian U-space is then given by

$$\begin{aligned} u_h &= \Phi^{-1}(F_{H_s}(h)) \\ u_t &= \Phi^{-1}(F_{T_p|H_s}(t)) \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

106 DNV GL [11] recommends fitting a 3-parameter Weibull distribution to the marginal distribution of H_s . Figure 3 shows the com-
 107 parison of 3-parameter Weibull and lognormal fit for the H_s marginal distribution. Both show a reasonable fit to the hindcast data.
 108 The 3-parameter Weibull distribution is recognized by its location parameter which introduces a lower limit for the distribution
 109 (0.422 in this case). The benefit of the location parameter is that a better fit can be achieved for the distribution tail, i.e. the high
 110 H_s range. The lognormal distribution is defined for all positive H_s values, but gives a wider tail than the Weibull distribution.
 111 This difference implies that the lognormal distribution is more susceptible for generating extreme sea state events. However, as
 112 seen in the residual distribution plot in Figure 3, the lognormal distribution residuals has a more symmetric distribution. Hence,
 113 it is more suited for implementation in the VAR and VARMA models which utilizes a white noise error component, see Section
 114 3.4.1. The Box-Cox log-transformation results in an equally symmetric residual distribution, but is rejected in the present work
 115 as the corresponding joint distribution of H_s and T_p is found to be poorly replicated.

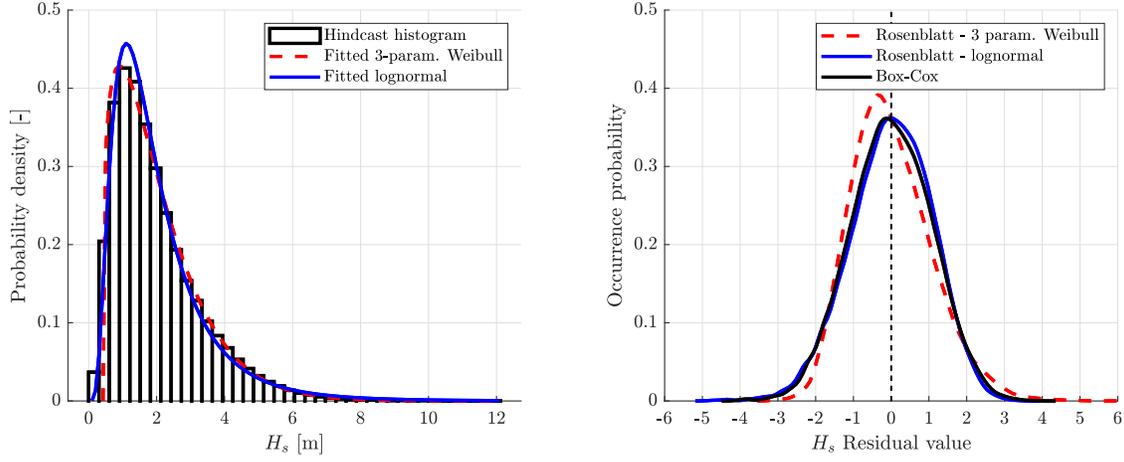


Figure 3: Distribution fit for hindcast wave data (left) and residual distribution plot (right)

116 3.2.2. Multivariate seasonal transform

117 To remove the yearly meteorological periodicity of u_h and u_t , the seasonal transformation given in [32] is applied. First, it is
 118 assumed that the u_h and u_t series can be decomposed as

$$Y_t = M_t + \Sigma_t W_t \quad (5)$$

119 where Y_t is a vector of the bivariate u_h and u_t data, M_t is the mean vector and Σ_t the standard deviation matrix. Σ_t is taken as the
 120 square root of the covariance matrix. M_t and Σ_t are deterministic periodic functions with period equal to one year. The seasonal
 121 pattern coefficients in Σ_t and M_t is estimated by first sorting the terms of Y_t according to the triple notation $Y_n(j, k, \tau_k)$. The
 122 indexes are given by the number of years J such that $j = 1, \dots, J$, m specifies the month $m = 1, \dots, 12$, and $k = 1, \dots, k_m$, where
 123 k_m is the number of observations in month m . The time series of monthly mean and covariance can then be approximated as

$$M_n(j, m) = \frac{1}{k_m} \sum_{k=1}^{k_m} Y_n(j, m, \tau_k) \quad n = 1, \dots, N \quad (6)$$

$$S_{nl}(j, m) = \frac{1}{k_m} \sum_{k=1}^{k_m} \{ [Y_n(j, m, \tau_k) - M_{3,n}(j, m)] \times [Y_l(j, m, \tau_k) - M_{3,n}(j, m)] \} \quad (7)$$

124 where τ_k is the observation index of sample points in month m in year j . The mean and covariance of the seasonal patterns can
 125 then be estimated as

$$\tilde{M}_n(m) = \frac{1}{J} \sum_{j=1}^J M_{vn}(j, m) \quad (8)$$

$$\tilde{S}_{nl}(m) = \frac{1}{J} \sum_{j=1}^J S_{vnl}(j, m) \quad (9)$$

126 Stefanakos and Athanassoulis [31, 30] states that the periodic extensions of $\tilde{M}_n(m)$ and $\tilde{S}_{nl}(m)$ are good estimates for M_{nt} and
 127 Σ_{nlt} respectively. Fourier series were fitted to $\tilde{M}_n(m)$ and $\tilde{S}_{nl}(m)$ to obtain M_{nt} and Σ_{nlt} estimates. The residual component W_t is
 128 then found as

$$W_t = \frac{Y_t - M_t}{\Sigma_t} \quad (10)$$

129 As an alternative, Guedes Soares and Cunha [15] states that transformation which disregards variance yields better results for
130 some metocean series

$$W_t = Y_t - M_t \quad (11)$$

131 The Markov and VAR model were fitted to data transformed using the transform in Equation 11. For the VARMA model, full
132 seasonal transform, i.e. including both mean and standard deviation as given in Equation 10 was applied.

133 3.2.3. Seasonal transform for Markov model

134 The Markov model does not need data that fulfil the Gaussian assumption, but require stationary distributions to generate the
135 transition matrix \mathbf{P} . In addition, the bivariate behaviour is modelled using a coupling matrix (see Section 3.3) which does not
136 require stationarity nor Gaussian behaviour of T_p . Hence, H_s was subject to seasonal transform to obtain stationarity.

137 3.3. Markov chains

138 Finite-state space Markov chains are discrete stochastic processes which satisfies the Markov property. This property, often
139 referred to as the memoryless property, is the assumption that the future variable state is only dependent on the current state. The
140 discrete state space is given by $\Omega = \{1, 2, 3, \dots, n\}$. Assuming that H_t is a random variable representing the state of H_s at time t ,
141 the Markov property then allow us to formulate the transition probability between state i and j as

$$p_{ij} = P(H_{t+1} = j | H_t = i) \quad (12)$$

142 The transition between states is governed by a transition matrix \mathbf{P} stating the probabilities of transition between the current and
143 all other states contained in the finite-state set.

$$\mathbf{P} = \begin{bmatrix} p_{11} & p_{12} & \dots & p_{1n} \\ p_{21} & p_{22} & \dots & p_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ p_{n1} & p_{n2} & \dots & p_{nn} \end{bmatrix} \quad (13)$$

144 To compute the transition probabilities, Anastasiou and Tsekos [2] applies a maximum likelihood estimator for the expressed as

$$\hat{p}_{ij} = \frac{N_{ij}^h}{N_i^h} \quad (14)$$

145 Where N_{ij}^h is the number of observed transitions from state i to state j , and N_i^h is the total number of occurrences of state i in the
146 sequence. To obtain a bivariate model of H_s and T_p , we need to couple the occurrence of H_s and T_p states. There are several
147 possible approaches to achieve this coupling, see [16]. For this model, we formulated a coupling matrix \mathbf{C} given by

$$\mathbf{C} = \begin{bmatrix} c_{11} & c_{12} & \dots & c_{1N_{T_p}} \\ c_{21} & c_{22} & \dots & c_{2N_{T_p}} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ c_{N_{H_s}1} & c_{N_{H_s}2} & \dots & c_{N_{H_s}N_{T_p}} \end{bmatrix} \quad (15)$$

148 where N_{H_s} and N_{T_p} are the number of unique values in the model model for H_s and T_p , respectively. c_{ij} states the probability of
 149 T_p being in state j while H_s is in state i . The maximum likelihood estimator for c_{ij} is given by [2].

$$\hat{c}_{ij} = \frac{N_{ij}^{t,h}}{N_i^h} \quad (16)$$

150 The initiation of the model is done by sampling an initial condition W_0 from the W_t distribution. Calculation of of the succeeding
 151 values is done by

$$W_t = P(W_{t-1}) \quad (17)$$

152 Utilizing Equation 11, the back-transform to retrieve the corresponding $H_{s,t}$ value is expressed as

$$H_{s,t} = M_t + W_t \quad (18)$$

153 Finally, the corresponding T_p value is obtained using the the coupling matrix in Equation 15

$$T_{p,t} = C(H_{s,t}) \quad (19)$$

154 3.4. Autoregressive and moving-average models

155 3.4.1. Univariate AR, MA and ARMA models

156 The univariate $AR(p)$ model assumes that the next step is linearly dependent on the past p values and a random term. This is
 157 expressed on the form

$$W_t = c + \sum_{i=1}^p \phi_i W_{t-i} + \epsilon_t \quad (20)$$

158 where ϕ_i are the AR parameters, c is a constant ϵ_t is white noise. The univariate moving average model $MA(q)$ is expressed as

$$W_t = \epsilon_t + \sum_{i=1}^q \theta_i \epsilon_{t-i} \quad (21)$$

159 where q is the number of lags, θ_i are the MA parameters and ϵ_t is white noise. Univariate $ARMA(p, q)$ model is simply the
 160 composition of $AR(p)$ and $MA(q)$ models, expressed as:

$$W_t = c + \epsilon_t + \sum_{i=1}^p \phi_i W_{t-i} + \sum_{i=1}^q \theta_i \epsilon_{t-i} \quad (22)$$

161 3.5. Bivariate VAR and VARMA models

162 Extension of AR to the multivariate case is often referred to as vector AR or VAR. For the bivariate case, considering evolution
 163 of residuals W_t^H and W_t^T , we express the VAR model as

$$\begin{bmatrix} W_t^H \\ W_t^T \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} c^H \\ c^T \end{bmatrix} + \sum_{i=1}^p \begin{bmatrix} \phi_i^{HH} & \phi_i^{HT} \\ \phi_i^{TH} & \phi_i^{TT} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} W_{t-i}^H \\ W_{t-i}^T \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \epsilon_t^H \\ \epsilon_t^T \end{bmatrix} \quad (23)$$

164 Extension of ARMA to the multivariate case is performed in the same manner as for the VAR model. For the bivariate case,
 165 considering evolution of residual components W_t^H and W_t^T , we express the VARMA model as

$$\begin{aligned} \begin{bmatrix} W_t^H \\ W_t^T \end{bmatrix} &= \begin{bmatrix} c^H + \epsilon_t^H \\ c^T + \epsilon_t^T \end{bmatrix} + \sum_{i=1}^p \begin{bmatrix} \phi_i^{HH} & \phi_i^{HT} \\ \phi_i^{TH} & \phi_i^{TT} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} W_{t-i}^H \\ W_{t-i}^T \end{bmatrix} \\ &+ \sum_{i=1}^q \begin{bmatrix} \theta_i^{HH} & \theta_i^{HT} \\ \theta_i^{TH} & \theta_i^{TT} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \epsilon_{t-i}^H \\ \epsilon_{t-i}^T \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned} \quad (24)$$

166 Utilizing equation 10, the reverse seasonal transformation of the residuals W_t^H and W_t^T for the VAR and VARMA model is
167 expressed as

$$\begin{bmatrix} u_t^H \\ u_t^T \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} M_t^H \\ M_t^T \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_{u^H} & \sigma_{u^H u^T} \\ \sigma_{u^T u^H} & \sigma_{u^T} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} W_t^H \\ W_t^T \end{bmatrix} \quad (25)$$

168 Finally, reverse Rosenblatt transformation is applied to obtain corresponding H_s and T_p values. This is done by reversing
169 Equation 4

$$\begin{aligned} H_{s,t} &= F_{H_s}^{-1}(\Phi(u_t^H)) \\ T_{p,t} &= F_{T_p|H_s}^{-1}(\Phi(u_t^T)) \end{aligned} \quad (26)$$

170 3.6. Parameter fitting

171 For the Markov chain model, the finite-state space size, i.e. the dimensions of matrices \mathbf{P} and \mathbf{C} , is important as it describes
172 both the range and discretization of occurring values. The adopted approach in the present work was to maximize the number
173 of states in \mathbf{P} without causing absorbing states, resulting in a 24×24 matrix. For the coupling matrix \mathbf{C} , the dimensions were
174 set to 111×23 , giving 111 and 23 unique values for H_s and T_p respectively. This is equal to the number of unique values in the
175 hindcast dataset which has a resolution of 0.1 for H_s and logarithmic spacing between sampled T_p levels.

176 The VAR model coefficients was fitted using maximum likelihood estimation (MLE) [39] followed by assessment using the
177 Akaike information criterion (AIC) as presented in [1]. The best fit was obtained by including the past seven values for estimating
178 the next, i.e. $p=7$.

179 For the VARMA model another approach was chosen. AIC is applied to complete models, requiring extensive computational
180 effort for coefficient fitting of Φ and Θ for a large set of combinations of p and q in the VARMA model. Therefore, considering
181 the practical time constraint of design processes, the approach described given by Tiao and Tsay [33] was applied. The two-way
182 tables of the P-values of extended cross-correlation matrices are first computed using multivariate Ljung-Box statistics of the
183 series [34]. The selection of p and q is then taken as the combination which give the lowest P-value at a 5% significance level,
184 MLE analysis to determine Θ and Φ . The optimal combination of p and q was found to be 2 and 3 respectively.

185 4. Wave model testing and benchmarking

186 This section presents the methodology for testing and comparing the models described in section 3.

187 4.1. Ship added resistance due to waves

188 Vessels in a seaway experience higher levels of resistance than in calm water conditions due to the exposure to waves, wind and
189 current. These effects cause an increase in propulsion power and fuel consumption required to maintain speed. If the long-term
190 weather models are to be applied for simulation-based design of ships, it is important that the resulting values of added resistance

191 is representative in terms of resistance level and variation. To test these criteria, a case study is performed where we assume the
 192 following:

193 • **Head seas**

194 Since the models do not consider wave propagation direction, constant head seas are assumed.

195 • **Frequency domain pressure integration**

196 Added resistance levels are estimated using the pressure integration method [12].

197 • **Wave added resistance**

198 Only the wave added resistance component is considered. This is expressed as a percentage of the calm water resistance,
 199 estimated using Holtrop’s method [18].

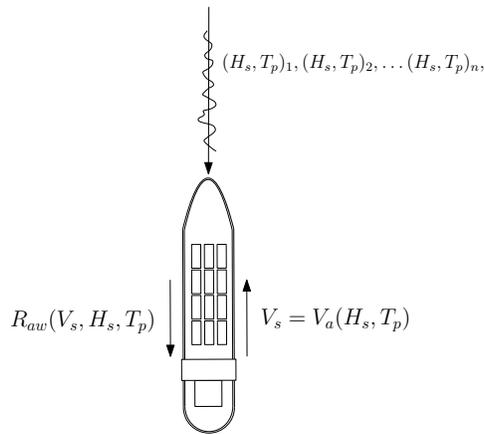


Figure 4: Added resistance analysis assumptions

200 Figure 4 illustrates the assumptions of the case study. The case vessel is the S175 hull, of which estimates of calm water and
 201 added wave resistance is performed in ShipX. The stochastic wave model time series is given as input, and equivalent time series
 202 of resistance is computed. To avoid unrealistic speed-sea state combinations, the attainable speed is computed as outlined in the
 203 following section.

204 The S-175 containership is adopted as a case vessel for the added resistance calculations. The same hull is used to obtain
 205 limiting sea state curves applied in the operability studies in Section 4.3. Vessel particulars are listed in table 1.

Table 1: Case vessel particulars S-175 containership

Parameter	Value
L_{pp}	175 m
Beam	25.4 m
Draft	9.5 m
GM_t	2 m
r_{44}	35 %B
r_{55}	25 % L_{pp}

206 4.1.1. Voluntary speed loss

207 In harsh conditions, the ship master may opt for reducing speed in order to save fuel and avoid large motions and loads on
 208 equipment and cargo. Finding the correct relationship between occurring sea state conditions and voluntary speed loss is difficult,
 209 as the choice and level the of speed reduction is to some extent subjective in terms of the ship master's opinion. In addition,
 210 factors like vessel and delivery schedule, as part of a larger logistical system, is likely to influence the decision. In most cases, the
 211 speed is adjusted to avoid slamming, excessive accelerations and propeller racing [25]. The vessel speed is adjusted according to
 212 the probability of these events within each occurring sea state, calculated using frequency domain short-term statistics.

Table 2: Voluntary speed loss criterion (Prpić-Oršić and Faltinsen [25])

Criterion	Probability	Limit	Location
Slamming	0.01	-	Bow
Deck wetness	0.05	-	Bow
Propeller emergence	0.1	-	Propeller
Vertical acceleration	-	0.215 g RMS	COG

213 A target transit speed of 20 knots and a lower speed threshold of 15 knots is assumed. Sea states that do not allow sailing
 214 above the lower speed threshold in compliance with the criteria in Table 2 are discarded.

215 4.2. Transition characteristics of H_s

216 Sea states develop due to two physical factors: wind and swell. Wind is caused by differences in atmospheric pressure, causing a
 217 flow of air from high-pressure to low-pressure areas. Boundary layer interaction between the air and sea surface produce waves
 218 with temporal characteristics depending on duration and wind intensity. In addition to locally wind-generated waves, waves
 219 generated elsewhere may propagate into the area, giving rise to swell. The analysis procedure presented in this section targets
 220 the periods of H_s increase and decrease with the intention of determining whether the physical process of sea state development
 221 is captured in the stochastic models.

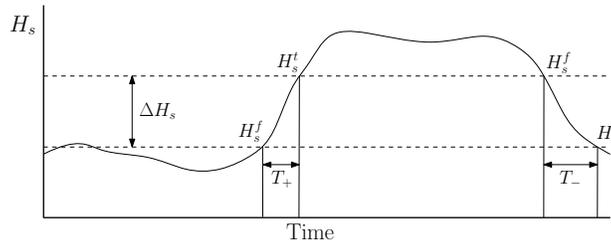


Figure 5: Analysis procedure for determination of transition periods of H_s

222 Figure 5 illustrates the procedure for sea state transition assessment. We define first an H_s interval of N values with constant
 223 increment λ on the form $H_s^{i=1..N}$ such that

$$\lambda = H_s^i - H_s^{i-1}, \quad i = 2 \dots N$$

$$N = \frac{H_s^{max} - H_s^{min}}{\lambda} \quad (27)$$

224 Since we are interested in evaluating the transition period between H_s levels, we define variables H_s^j and H_s^i corresponding to
 225 the initial and final H_s value, respectively. The corresponding difference, ΔH_s , is therefore

$$\Delta H_s = H_s^t - H_s^f \quad (28)$$

226 A positive ΔH_s indicates an increase in sea state energy and wave amplitudes. An observation of the period between H_s level i
 227 and j is denoted T_+^{ij} if $i > j$ and T_-^{ij} if $i < j$. Figure 6 outlines the relationship between the variables and the methodology of
 228 sorting and comparing sea state development periods.

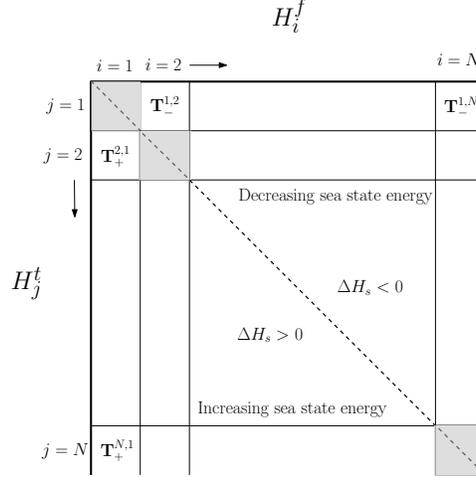


Figure 6: Relation between variables and structure of sorted transition periods

229 \mathbf{T}_+^{ij} and \mathbf{T}_-^{ij} are vectors containing all observations of periods for increasing and decreasing H_s levels from index i to j ,
 230 respectively. In the present work we examine the periods of sea state development ΔH_s . H_s^f and H_s^t combinations resulting in the
 231 same ΔH_s are therefore collected in the same set of observations. Equations 29 and 30 expresses the mean increase and decrease
 232 periods for a given ΔH_s -level, denoted $\bar{T}_{\Delta H_s}^+$ and $\bar{T}_{\Delta H_s}^-$ respectively.

$$\bar{T}_{\Delta H_s}^+ = \frac{1}{n_{\Delta H_s}^+} \sum_{k=1}^{n_{\Delta H_s}^+} T_+^k, \quad H_j^t - H_i^f = \Delta H_s > 0 \quad (29)$$

$$\bar{T}_{\Delta H_s}^- = \frac{1}{n_{\Delta H_s}^-} \sum_{k=1}^{n_{\Delta H_s}^-} T_-^k, \quad H_j^t - H_i^f = \Delta H_s < 0 \quad (30)$$

233 We assess the occurrence of transition on the interval given in Table 3. The interval is chosen to avoid too few observations
 234 of transition between the highest and lowest H_s values. We narrow our search to only cover cases where the sea state is either
 235 decreasing or increasing throughout the period, i.e. the derivative of the H_s curve is either strictly positive or negative.

Table 3: H_s transition interval

H_s^{min}	2.0 m
H_s^{max}	5.5 m
λ	0.5 m

236 4.3. Operability

237 The long-term ability to perform weather restricted marine operations and offshore activities is commonly quantified by the oper-
 238 ability measure. To assess the operability, operable weather window persistence is examined based on the sea state characteristics

239 at site and operational limits. Hence, the measure is dependent on the ratio between calm water and storm state durations. Hagen
 240 et al. [16] and De Masi et al. [9] investigated the quality of Markov sea state generators for application in marine operations
 241 studies, showing good agreement for H_s persistence compared to hindcast data. In the present work, we define the operational
 242 limit as a function of H_s and T_p , assessing operability for the bivariate case.

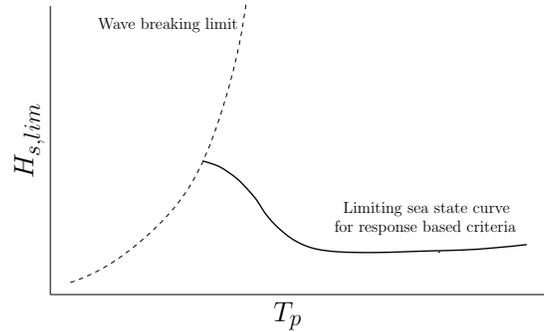


Figure 7: Limiting H_s as a function of T_p for response based criteria

243 Operability studies is formed around a limiting criterion which defines the border between operable and non-operable states.
 244 Response based criteria are applied as defined in [23]. Figure 7 illustrates the limiting sea state curve, which is obtained by
 245 considering the deterministic vessel response and short-term statistics using the ShipX plug-in VERES developed by SINTEF
 246 Ocean (former MARINTEK), see [14]. We assume that the operations is limited by the root-mean-square (RMS) roll response α
 247 degrees. $H_{s,lim}^\alpha$ is the corresponding limiting significant wave height as a function of T_p according to the curve in Figure 7.

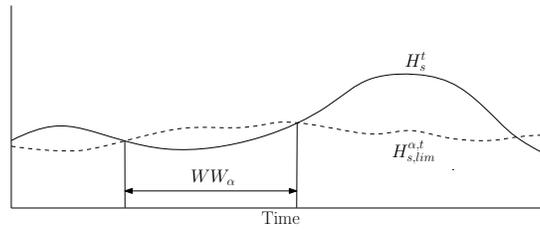


Figure 8: Weather window analysis

248 The bivariate time series are investigated by identifying the number and duration of operable weather windows. As illustrated in
 249 Figure 8, $H_{s,lim}^{\alpha,t}$ is computed based on the occurring T_p^t in the time series. If $H_{s,lim}^{\alpha,t} > H_s^t$, the current sea state permits operation.
 250 For operation completion, we demand a sequence of sea states to be operable. The sequence length criterion $WW_{\alpha,lim}$ is varied
 251 in order to investigate the occurrence of operable windows corresponding to different operational scenarios in the models. The
 252 operability is computed for each season s , roll limit angle α and weather window duration criterion d .

$$OP_{sd\alpha} = \frac{n_{sd\alpha}}{\lfloor \tau/d \rfloor} \times 100 \quad (31)$$

253 In Equation 31, $OP_{sd\alpha}$ is the percentage operability, $n_{sd\alpha}$ is the observed number of weather windows and τ is the time series
 254 length. If a weather window appears with a duration WW_{α} longer than the required weather window length d , the number of
 255 weather windows inside the sequence is taken as $\lfloor WW_{\alpha}/d \rfloor$.

256 **5. Results**

257 This section presents the results from the time series testing procedure given in Section 4. 10 time series spanning 25 years for
 258 each model are used in the comparison.

259 *5.1. Sea state parameter distributions and time series correlation*

260 The quickest and most straightforward assessment of stochastic models is done by comparing marginal distributions. Since all
 261 three models are fitted to the same hindcast dataset, one would expect the resulting output time series to be similar. Figure 9
 262 shows the marginal distributions for the applied hindcast data, the Markov model, VAR model and VARMA model, computed
 263 using a kernel density function for each season. The irregular shape of the Markov model distribution stands out from the rest,
 264 which is caused by the finite state space assumption, see Section 3.3. The largest deviations from the hindcast distribution is also
 265 found in the Markov model, especially during winter and fall for both H_s and T_p . VAR and VARMA coincides quite well with
 266 the hindcast distributions. The largest deviations for these models are observed for the summer season for T_p .

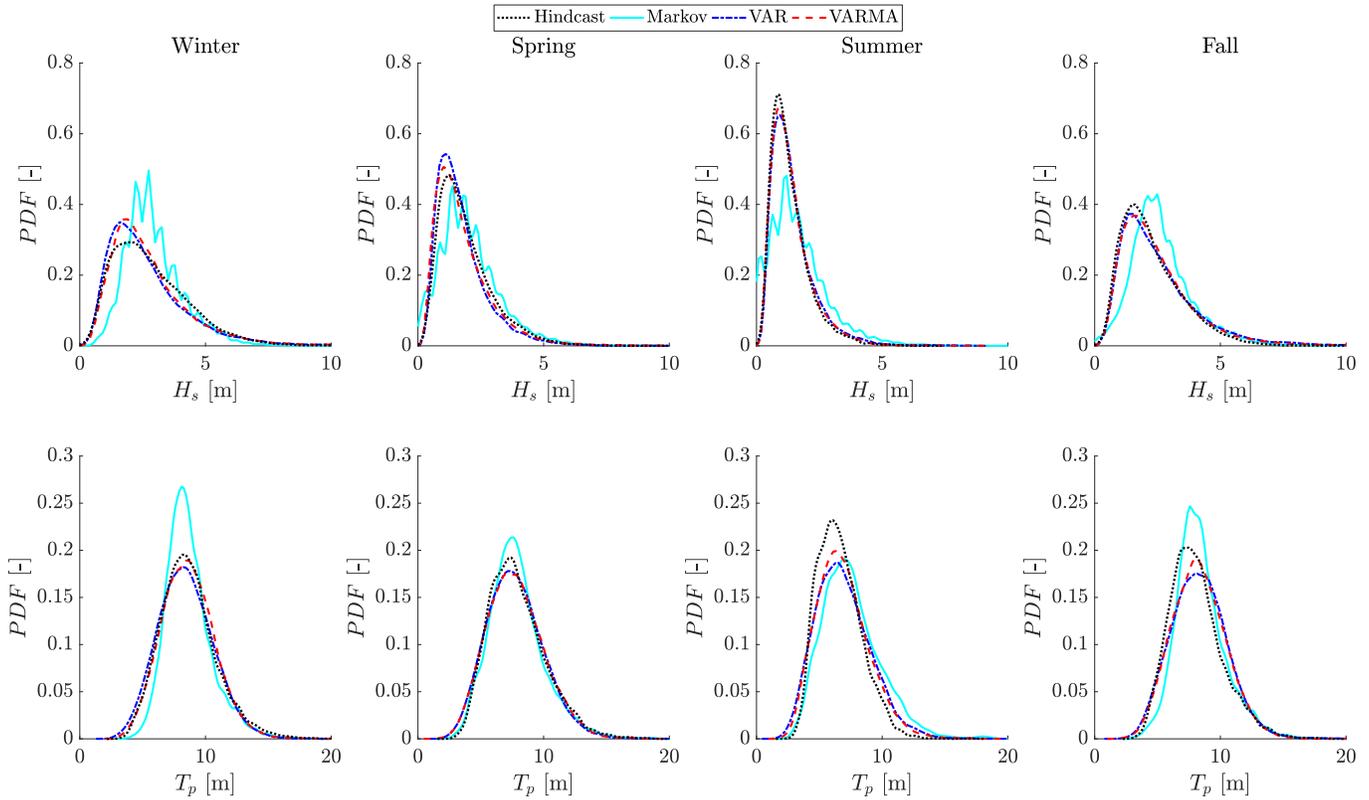


Figure 9: Marginal distributions of H_s and T_p in the hindcast and model data

267 Figure 10 shows scatter diagrams for the hindcast and model time series. Considering scatter shape, the Markov chain series
 268 seems to be most comparable. This is again due to the finite state space formulation, which defines clear boundaries for H_s
 269 and T_p . This assumption is not implemented in the VAR or VARMA model, which occasionally produce higher H_s values than
 270 is found in the hindcast time series. The overall scatter shape is determined by the Rosenblatt transform (see Section 3.2.1),
 271 and gives similar shape for the Markov model. Low lognormal standard deviation values for the conditional distribution of T_p
 272 produce a narrow distribution of T_p for high H_s values, clearly visible for the VAR and VARMA results.

273 Figure 11 shows the autocorrelation and cross-correlation functions of H_s and T_p for the hindcast dataset and models. The
 274 Markov model curves deviates significantly from the others, which can be explained by the memoryless assumption. The VAR

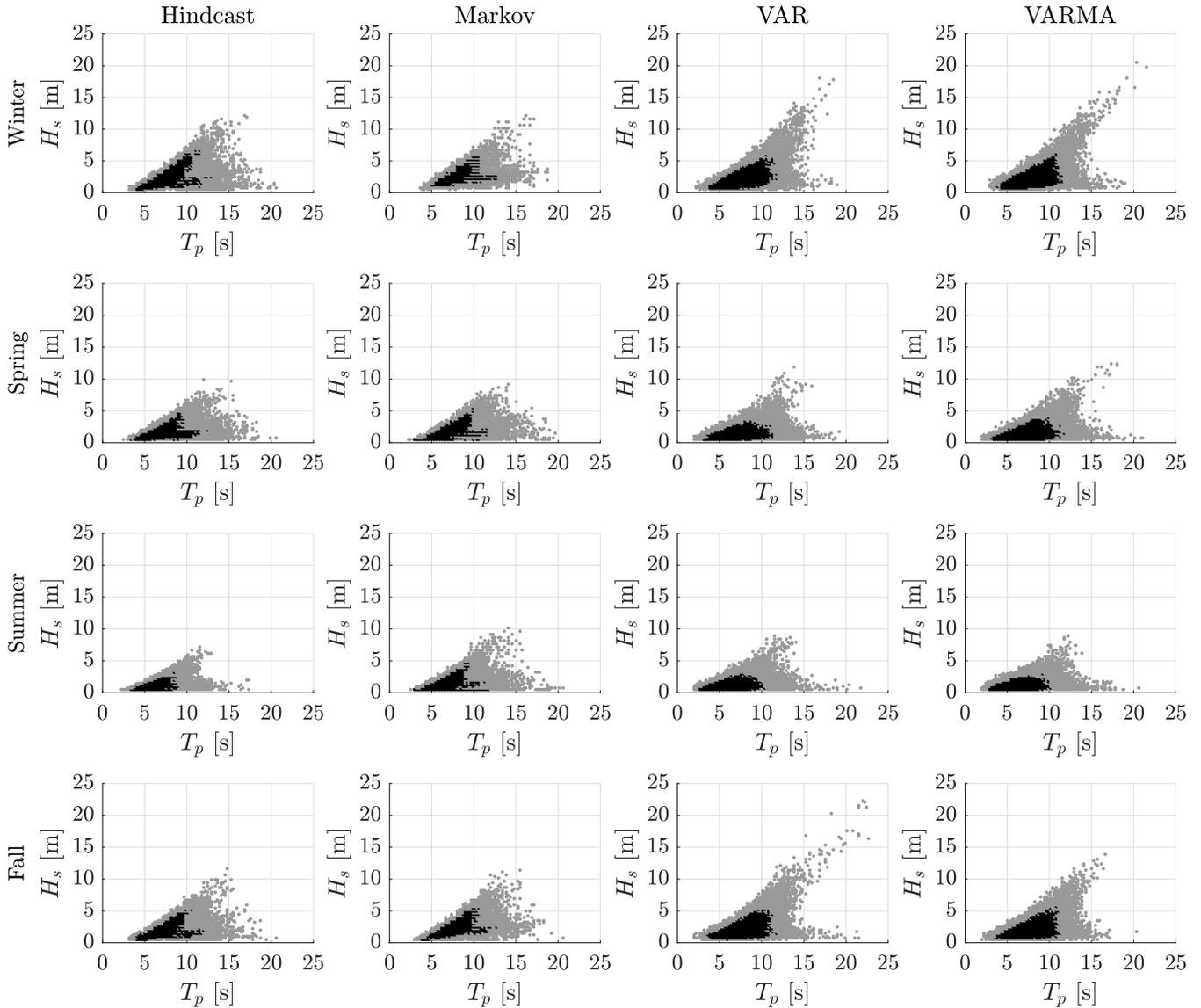


Figure 10: Scatter of hindcast and model H_s and T_p occurrences. Black areas indicate sea states with a higher number of occurrences than the average number of occurrences for all observed sea states for the given model and season.

275 and VARMA models agree well with the hindcast data in general, giving only minor differences in the autocorrelation function
 276 results. For the cross-correlation results the VAR model is found to overestimate slightly.

277 5.2. Added resistance

278 The added resistance results, computed using the procedure presented in Section 4.1, is given in Figure 12. Each set of time
 279 series is represented by a boxplot showing the distribution estimated added resistance fraction. In addition, an operability value
 280 is plotted showing the percentage of time the vessel was able to maintain an operable speed on the range 15-20 knots limited by
 281 the criteria in Table 2.

282 The distribution of added resistance is linked to the marginal distributions presented in Figure 9. However, not all sea states
 283 are included in the added resistance calculations as a result of the limiting criteria in Table 2, and the mapping from sea state
 284 intensity to added resistance is not linear. The results show that the distribution of added resistance is similar for the hindcast
 285 data and model results. Maximum observed added resistance is 60 to 75 % of the calm water resistance levels for all datasets.

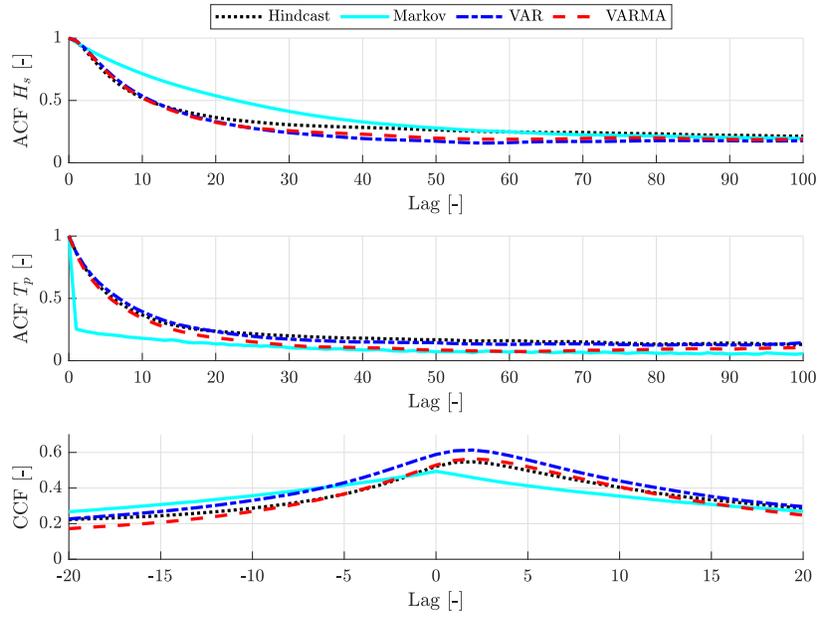


Figure 11: Autocorrelation function (ACF) and cross-correlation function (CCF) for hindcast and model H_s and T_p time series

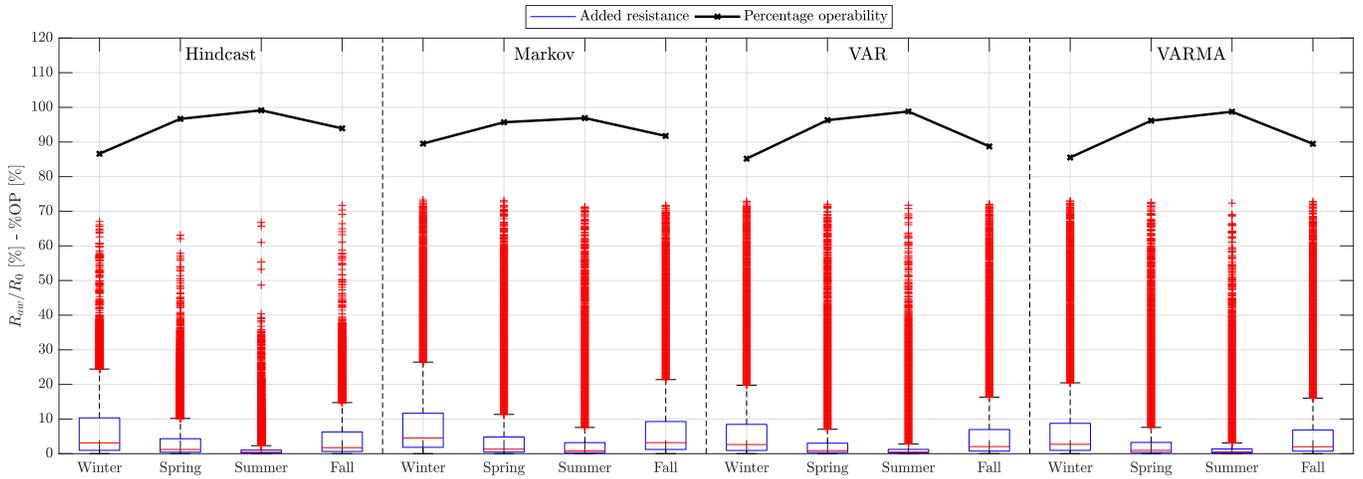


Figure 12: Added resistance estimates for speeds 15-20 knots according to attainable speed curve.

286 The seasonal variation does however vary significantly depending on model formulation. The top whiskers indicate that Markov
 287 results gives the highest added resistance levels for all seasons. It also produces higher estimates during fall season than the
 288 VAR and VARMA models do for winter season, which according the hindcast data is incorrect. The VAR and VARMA models
 289 are very similar, differences occur mainly in the outliers. Model seasonal percentage operability show a similar curve shape as
 290 for the hindcast data. However, the Markov model obtains a more invariable curve with respect to seasonal variation than the
 291 hindcast data. For the VAR and VARMA models the opposite is observed, underestimating the operability for the winter and fall
 292 season.

293 5.3. Transition characteristics

294 The marginal distributions and added resistance results shown in the previous sections addresses the occurrence of single, inde-
 295 pendent sea states. The current and following section presents results where the temporal characteristics and persistence is vital.

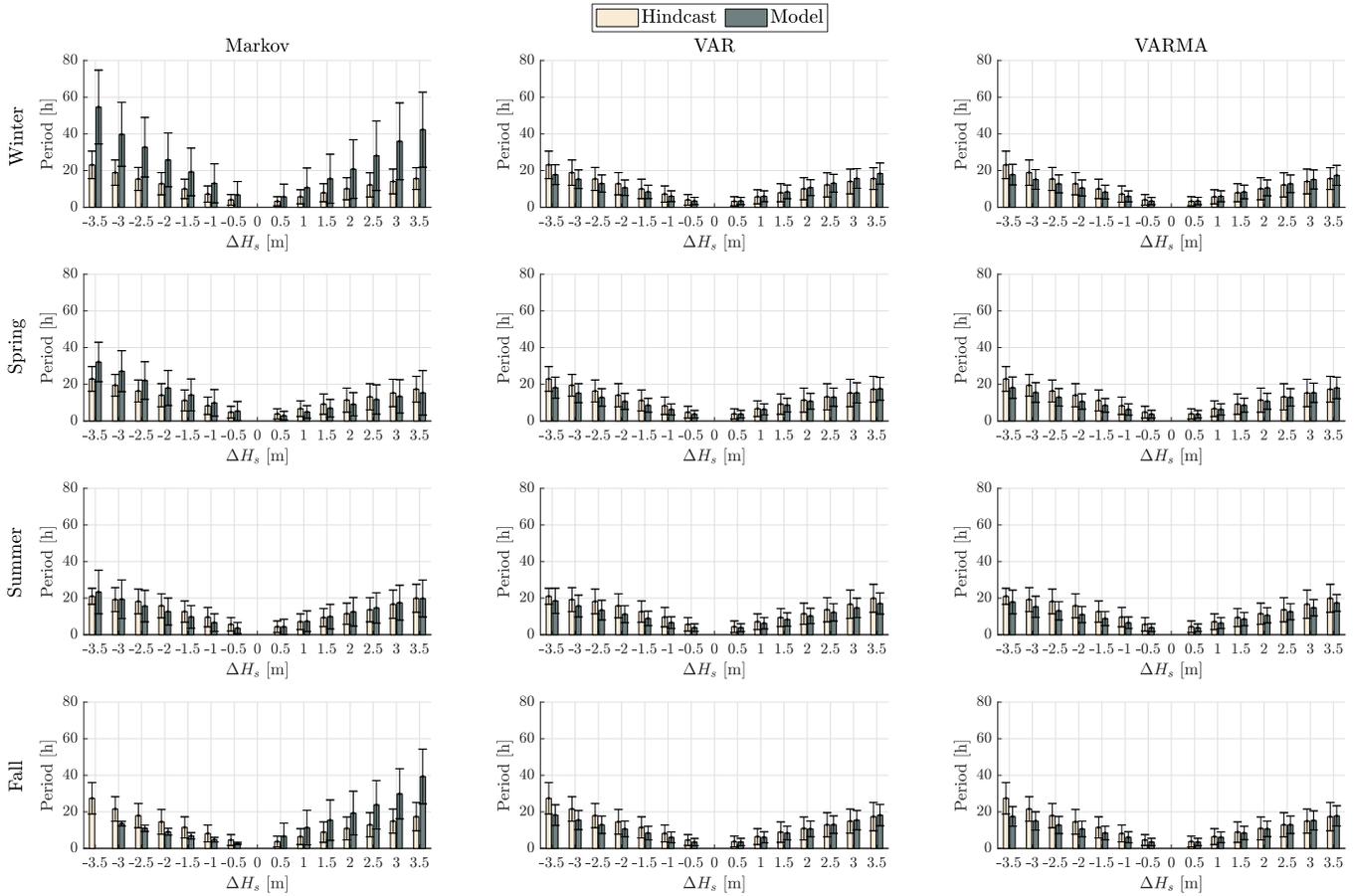


Figure 13: Transition times between sea state levels sorted according to season and model.

296

297 Figure 13 shows the results from the sea state intensity transition analysis presented in Section 4.2. Hindcast and model
 298 results is compared in each plot sorted according to model formulation and season. The hindcast data shows a gradual increase
 299 in average period from 0 to ± 3.5 m H_s . Decrease periods are slightly larger than the corresponding increase periods, which
 300 is explained by the physical process of wave excitation and dissipation. The VAR and VARMA models do not show a similar
 301 behaviour. These transition periods are more symmetrical, closely matching the increase periods of the hindcast data.

302 The Markov model deviates from the other results. In the winter season, the transition periods are significantly larger for both
 303 sea state energy increase and decrease compared to the other time series. The summer season is similar to the hindcast results,
 304 especially for increase periods. Spring and fall season results show a definite asymmetric behaviour with respect to increase vs.
 305 decrease periods. The spring season results indicate that an increase in H_s occurs more rapidly than the corresponding decrease
 306 of the same magnitude. The opposite is found for the fall season. This occurs as a consequence of the finite state assumption of
 307 the Markov model and the seasonal transform. As time progresses, the state levels update according to the continuous seasonal
 308 transformation presented in Section 3.2.3. During spring season, the seasonal average decreases from the harsh winter to the
 309 calm summer. This implies that for cases where the model maintains a constant state over time, a slight decrease in significant
 310 wave height is detected using the analysis procedure given in Section 4.2. Since we limit our analysis to period intervals where
 311 H_s is strictly increasing or decreasing, these small decreases affects the number and duration of observed periods. The same
 312 effect occurs during the fall season, though with an increase in seasonal average from summer to winter. Summer and winter
 313 season represents the minima and maxima in seasonal average respectively, thereby limiting this effect by consisting of both an

314 increasing and decreasing interval of seasonal average.

Table 4: Increase and decrease period ratio. Ratios larger than 1 indicate longer increase than decrease periods.

Season	Hindcast	Markov	VAR	VARMA
Winter	0.68	0.98	1.04	0.98
Spring	0.75	0.50	0.97	0.99
Summer	0.99	0.80	0.91	0.96
Fall	0.61	2.51	1.00	1.02

315 To assess the symmetry of characteristic transition periods for the time series, a linear curve was fitted to the averages
316 presented in Figure 13. The slope of the fitted curves was then taken as a basis for quantifying symmetry, noted τ_i and τ_d for
317 increase and decrease respectively. Table 4 lists the computed curve slope ratios τ_i/τ_d . VAR and VARMA results show very
318 symmetrical behaviour in terms of H_s increase and decrease periods, which is not consistent with the hindcast data. The effect
319 of seasonal average on the Markov model results, as mentioned above, is visible also in the period ratios. Spring and fall season
320 obtains a value of 0.50 and 2.51 respectively, outside the range of the other case results.

321 5.4. Operability

322 As stated in Section 4.3, the formulation of operability in this paper is dependent on the occurrence of operable weather window,
323 defined by a limiting sea state curve and operational duration. Figure 14 shows a comparison of hindcast and model operability
324 estimates for varying operational limit and weather window length criterion sorted according to season. The plots show constant
325 operability lines, i.e. the contours of the operability surface, expressing how the long-term wave model formulation has affected
326 our understanding of the vessel's capability to perform operations.

327 It is apparent that the Markov model performs poorly in terms of replicating weather windows. The Markov property,
328 often referred to as the memoryless property, is evidently not suited for studies addressing events stretching over multiple time
329 steps. Figure 11 shows that the auto- and cross-correlation is poorly replicated by the Markov model, which clearly affects the
330 operability estimates significantly. The constant-operability curves obtain a similar shape as for the hindcast data, but the values
331 suggests an underestimation of weather window occurrence.

332 The VAR and VARMA models produce similar curves in terms of curve shape and value. The difference from the hindcast
333 data results are found to depend on season, with reasonably low differences during winter and spring, and larger differences
334 during summer and fall.

335 6. Discussion

336 We have now covered the modelling assumptions, assessment methods and the corresponding results. This section discusses the
337 quality of the models in the context of simulation-based design application.

338 6.1. Comparison methodology

339 In the present work, we have assessed three formulations for long-term modelling of sea states. The models produce bivariate
340 synthetic time series of standardised wave spectrum parameters H_s and T_p . Even though the presented models are formed
341 around statistical analyses of hindcast data, by means of correlation mapping and curve fitting, the models have been assessed

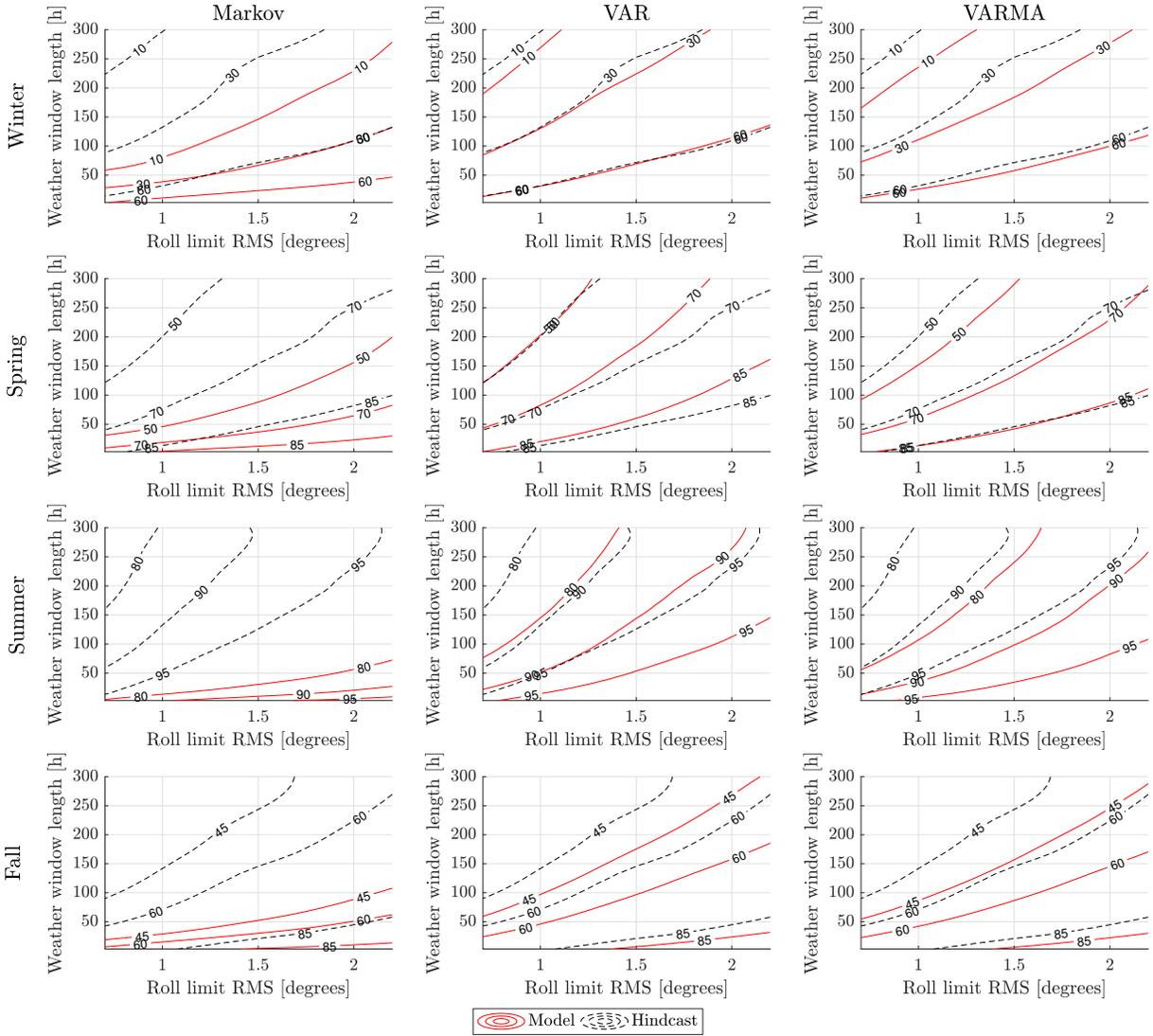


Figure 14: Operability results sorted according to model and season

342 in terms of the physical interpretation the output time series represents. This choice of methodology follows from our interest
 343 in the application of the models; simulation-based design of ships and ocean structures. The chosen basis of comparison,
 344 added resistance, operability and H_s transition characteristics, represents important factors in this context which incorporates the
 345 physical wave generation process and the performance of ships and marine structures.

346 6.2. Model abstraction

347 Vanem [35] provides good arguments for why waves should be modelled as a stochastic process, especially pointing towards the
 348 system complexity and infinite number of interrelated parameters needed to provide an exact description. The dataset used to
 349 construct the presented models is WAM10 results (see [20] and [26]), a physical model for wave-atmospheric coupling frequently
 350 used to establish wave hindcasts and forecasts. This implies that our foundation for constructing the stochastic models is resting
 351 on the modelling assumptions and uncertainties present in the WAM10 implementation. Reistad et al. [26] shows that the WAM10
 352 results are improved compared to the frequently applied ERA-40 reanalysis. Comparison with wave buoy measurements show
 353 that H_s and mean zero upcrossing period, T_z , estimates has improved significantly with the main deviations occurring at the
 354 upper levels. Work towards improving forecasting accuracy and hindcast database quality is performed continuously. However,

355 awareness of the fact that hindcast data is a representation of real waves, and not direct observation of the phenomenon itself,
356 should be kept clear in mind during model development.

357 Assuming that the data used for model fitting is a sufficient representation of real waves, our choice of modelling formulations
358 introduce further abstractions of the real system. This process is outlined in Figure 1, and described in detail in Section 2. The
359 choice of time series models was Markov chains, VAR and VARMA, representing alternative specifications of the conceptual
360 model. In addition, a seasonal transformation method is applied to model the variation of statistical parameters through the year.
361 These assumptions is formed from wave system theories developed over years of ocean research and modelling attempts.

362 6.3. Application in simulation-based design

363 According to Monbet et al. [22], the definition of a good model involves its intended application. In the present work, we
364 consider wave models in the context of simulation-based design, with the intention of using the models for replicating the
365 operational environment of ships and marine structures. We have addressed three parameters which, depending on design object
366 type and operational description, is of interest during design. Three alternative model formulations has been presented and
367 tested with varying assumptions and fidelity levels. If we follow Bergström et al. [4], assessing fidelity level and sources of
368 uncertainty for different models applied in simulation-based design of Arctic transport systems, the required model fidelity for
369 application in design is that which further increase of fidelity will not influence design decisions. The results presented in the
370 present work appears to be fall into two groups. The Markov model results does not provide a sufficient replication of H_s and T_p
371 marginal distributions, affecting the added resistance distribution significantly. Further, the estimated operability and H_s transition
372 characteristics, depending on the temporal development, deviates to a large degree from hindcast levels. These findings therefore
373 disagree with the conclusions of Hagen et al. [16] and De Masi et al. [9], stating that Markov models produce similar results in
374 terms of persistence and weather windows as for hindcast data. However, the definition of weather windows and Markov model
375 formulation is different in the present work to that in [16] and [9]. As mentioned in Section 4.3, our study considers weather
376 windows with an H_s threshold as a function of T_p , defined by the limiting sea state curve for the vessel. This procedure is chosen
377 with the intention of incorporating the inherent operational limits of the vessel design, expressed using response-based criteria.
378 In [16] and [9], the Markov model is developed with the intention of studying challenges related to marine operations, where a
379 constant H_s limit is commonly applied [10]. Differences in state space formulation, seasonal transformation and hindcast data
380 intensity and volatility may also affect the quality of the Markov model in terms of replicating weather windows.

381 The VAR and VARMA model performs more similarly. Both models coincide well with the hindcast marginal and added
382 resistance distributions. H_s transition characteristics are found to be too symmetrical compared to hindcast data, meaning that
383 the physical process of wave excitation and dissipation is not well represented. Weather windows are well represented during
384 winter and spring. During summer and fall, we observe an underestimation of operability, most prominent during long weather
385 window requirements. The testing methodology in the present work revealed only minor differences in the VAR and VARMA
386 models. Hence, we see little benefit in constructing a VARMA model to improve the estimates of the VAR model.

387 A variety of model schemes and data transformations exists for stochastic time series models. In the present work, our
388 approach is to construct models that produce the overall best results for the intended purpose, i.e. application in simulation-based
389 design with focus on added resistance, operability and transition characteristics. This approach resulted in a different formulation
390 for the seasonal transform for the three tested models, where the Markov and VAR model was constructed using the transform
391 given in Equation 11 and the VARMA model using Equation 10. It should be noted that different options may produce better
392 results in other contexts. In our opinion, a complete model follows a testing procedure with clear objectives and applicability
393 thresholds.

394 The chosen wave model testing approach in the present work targets the generation of low to medium harsh sea states. We
395 have applied a set of voluntary speed loss criteria for the added resistance analysis, and the operating limits in the operability
396 study does not permit harsh conditions. In the scatter plot of Figure 10, it is shown that the VAR and VARMA models produce
397 extreme sea states far outside the interval of the hindcast data. The importance and relevance for these values are however
398 questionable for the presented application. There is no doubt that extreme sea states are of great importance for the development
399 and operation of ships and marine structures, especially for ultimate and accidental limit state design. However, it can be argued
400 that the design point for a ship travelling in waves in terms of e.g. installed power and hull design is well below these sea state,
401 and that their appearance in the data has little impact on these design parameters. In a simulation model, as well as for real ships,
402 a weather routing system will keep the ship clear of the worst storm events. Marine operations are also planned according to
403 weather forecast to minimise the probability for harsh conditions. Extreme sea states must be taken into consideration during
404 design of scantlings and global strength, but this subject is covered by the classification societies and government regulators
405 during the detailed engineering phase.

406 **Conclusion**

407 This paper presents three bivariate stochastic long-term wave models for the North Sea as candidates for application in simulation-
408 based design. The models are tested by analysing their effect on estimated added resistance and operability for a case vessel, and
409 wave growth and decay periods is calculated to assess the replication of the physical wave process. Each test is performed using
410 10 synthetic time series of 25 years, and the results are compared towards hindcast data from 1958-2016.

411 The Markov model performs worst in the applied tests. Our conclusion is that the memoryless property and finite state-space
412 formulation is not suited for constructing synthetic time series for applications covered by the presented tests.

413 Only small differences are detected in the test results of the VAR and VARMA models. Hence, we conclude that the VAR
414 model gives a sufficient description of H_s and T_p in a context where extending to VARMA is a viable option. However, our results
415 indicate that all three stochastic models produce time series where the physical wave process is not fully captured, especially for
416 parameters stretching over multiple sea states. Application of the models should therefore follow a validity check based on the
417 parameter of interest.

418 **Acknowledgement**

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421 **Declarations of interest**

422 None

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