STORM SURGE ENSEMBLE MODELING USING A SUITE OF HURRICANE WIND MODELS

Machuan Peng\textsuperscript{1,2}, Jesse Feyen\textsuperscript{1}, Arthur Taylor\textsuperscript{3}, and Frank Aikman\textsuperscript{1}

\textsuperscript{1}NOAA, National Ocean Service, Coast Survey Development Laboratory
1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910
\textsuperscript{2}University Corporation for Atmospheric Research, PO Box 3000, Boulder, CO 80307
\textsuperscript{3}NOAA, National Weather Service, Meteorological Development Laboratory
1325 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910
Outline of the talk

• Value of ensemble modeling
  - Wind forcing from hurricane models
• Importance of accurate Rmax in surge prediction
• Evaluation of ensemble predictions
Why do ensemble modeling?

- Uncertainty in initial conditions
- Model uncertainty: dynamics
- Model uncertainty: physics
- Uncertainty in forcing
- Probability forecasts can help address these uncertainties

Effect of Initial Conditions can be ignored compared with wind forcing (Flowerdew 2010)

Uncertainty in initial conditions... fades over time when predicting water level
Wind forcing is the major uncertainty source for TC track and intensity forecast and the resulting storm surge and inundation prediction.
Initial testing of ensemble methods

• Possible ensemble members
  – Wind forcing can be based on parametric or dynamic models
  – Surge models can be 2-D or 3-D, structured or unstructured, ...

• As a first step we employ SLOSH surge model
  – Contains parametric wind model driven by track, $R_{\text{max}}$ and central pressure
  – Efficient 2D finite difference
  – Used in P-Surge to determine probabilities

• NHC track and intensity predictions in set of 2 files
  – $B_{\text{deck}}$ track data based upon recent observations
  – $A_{\text{deck}}$ contains 70+ predictions based upon models and forecasts

OFCL (Official NHC forecast)
Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Lab (GFDL)
HWRF (Hurricane WRF)
Global Forecast System (GFS)
U.K. Met Office (UKMET)
Navy Operational Global Atmospheric Prediction System (NOGAPS)
European Center for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (ECMWF)
...
P-Surge Set-up based on Official Forecast Track

- Bdeck: 20 Hours Historic Data (Best Track)
- Adeck: 80 Hours Forecast (OFCL)

Forecast

- Rmax
- Along Trk
- Cross Trk
- Vmax

Master.txt save all the N tracks
Slosh Basin 1 With n1 tracks

Ensemble Set-up using Multiple Track Predictions

- Adeck: 80 Hours Forecast from Multi Resources (AN01, AN05, AP01, AP05, AVNO, BAMD, BAMN, GFDI, GFDL, GUNA, GUNS, LBAR, NGPS, SHIP...)
- Bdeck: 20 Hours Historic Data (Best Track)

Track 1

Master.txt save all the M tracks
Slosh Basin 1 With m1 tracks

Storm Surge Ensemble Modeling
Hurricane Irene (2011) storm surge with 45 *Adeck* ensemble members for Chesapeake Bay

Spin-up from *Bdeck*...  
Forecast from predictions in *Adeck*...
Hurricane Irene (2011) storm surge with 22 historically accurate *Adeck* ensemble members for Chesapeake Bay.
Hurricane Irene (2011) storm surge with 45 *Adeck* ensemble members for Northeast
Hurricane Irene (2011) storm surge with 22 historically accurate \textit{Adeck} ensemble members for Northeast

![Hurricane Irene (2011) Storm Surge with 22 Advanced Ensemble Members](image)

- **Sandy Hook, NJ**
- **Kings Point, NY**
- **New London, CT**

Storm Surge Ensemble Modeling
Size of storm not predicted

• $R_{\text{max}}$ is not predicted in either $Adeck$ or $Bdeck$ files but is an important factor in determining wind forcing and storm surge

• Use SLOSH parametric hurricane model equation to calculate $R_{\text{max}}$ based on maximum wind and central pressure predictions

• Can be determined from $Bdeck$ then keep as a constant for whole forecast time

• Can be updated at each time step from $Adeck$
Hurricane Irene (2011) surge hindcast with 45 ensemble members by using observed $R_{\text{max}}$. 

Legend:
- Ensemble Member
- Observed
- Ensemble Mean

Locations:
- Sandy Hook, NY
- Kings Point, NY
- New London, CT
Modeled central pressure drop from *Adeck* tracks’ maximum winds, assuming constant $R_{\text{max}}$. Models underestimate central pressure drop.

*Boxplot: Modeled results
Red lines are of median
Models underestimate central pressure drop*
Modeled central pressure drop from *Adeck* tracks’ maximum winds, by using observed $R_{\text{max}}$

*Models perform better in central pressure drop*
Storm Surge Prediction Error as a Function of Ensemble Spread

Storm Surge Ensemble Modeling

Hurricane Irene at Virginia Bridge, VA for forecast at 8/26/12Z
Evaluating skill of a ensemble prediction

- **Ranked Probability Score (RPS)**
  
  Let $K$ be the number of forecast categories to be considered. For a given probabilistic forecast–observation pair, the ranked probability score is defined as

  \[ RPS = \sum_{k=1}^{K} (Y_k - O_k)^2 = (Y - O)^2. \]  

  Here, $Y_k$ and $O_k$ denote the $k$th component of the cumulative forecast and observation vectors $Y$ and $O$, respectively. That is, $Y_k = \sum_{i=1}^{k} y_i$, with $y_i$ being the probabilistic forecast for the event to happen in category $i$, and $O_k = \sum_{i=1}^{k} o_i$ with $o_i = 1$ if the observation is in category $i$ and $o_i = 0$ if the observation falls into a category $j \neq i$. Note that the RPS is zero for a perfect forecast and positive otherwise.

  - smaller value is more accurate

- **Relative Operating Characteristics (ROC)**
  
  - Calculates ensemble members’ ability to match (“hit”) observation versus overpredicting

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Storm Surge Ensemble Modeling
The effect of ensemble members and storm structure on RPS for Hurricane Irene (2011) and Katrina (2005)

Ranked Probability Score

Sandy Hook, Kings Point, New London, Dauphin Island, Pilot Station, Grand Isle

The first three stations are for Hurricane Irene and the last three for Katrina

All members with fixed $R_{max}$
Selected members with fixed $R_{max}$
Selected members with varying $R_{max}$ (hindcast)
Future work

• Choose the best *Adeck* TC track and intensity predictions as ensemble members
  • Accurately estimate $R_{\text{max}}$ and $C_p$ where needed
  • Apply weighting based upon historical performance
• Develop and apply ensemble evaluation techniques
  • Statistically evaluate ensemble groups
• Use of gridded wind forcing from dynamic models rather than the parametric wind model
• Develop and evaluate super ensemble with multiple storm surge models