

Odilon J. HOUNDEGNONTO

Ph.D. - Physical Oceanography and Environment

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<https://ojhoundegnonto.github.io/>

My background is physics, including ocean physics and climate dynamics, underpinned by a strong mathematics skillset with extensive experience using Python and Matlab for analysis. I extensively use Python Jupyter notebooks for my analyses of satellite data (e.g., sea surface salinity, sea surface temperature, sea surface height) and numerical model output (MITgcm, ECCO & NEMO) on both local and cloud compute environments. My research interests expand from understanding the ocean responses to the climate change via air-sea interaction to the global freshwater cycle (Rivers, Sea Ice & Precipitation). I am very flexible and eager to discover and learn new things to strengthen my career.

Education

- 2018-2021 - **Ph.D.**, *Physical Oceanography and Environment*, Topic: Analysis of freshwater plumes thermohaline variations from intra-seasonal to seasonal scales in the Gulf of Guinea, at Laboratory for Ocean Physics and Satellite remote sensing, **LOPS** - IRD/UBO/Ifremer/IUEM - Brest, France, with Dr. Christophe Maes and Dr. Nicolas Kolodziejczyk, with Honors
- 2016-2017 - **Research Master of science in Physical Oceanography and Applications /Sciences de l'océan, de l'atmosphère et du climat**, jointly accredited by Paul Sabatier University of Toulouse (UPS, France) and International Chair in Mathematical Physics and Applications (ICMPA UNESCO- Chair) of University of Abomey Calavi (UAC, Benin), Rank : 1st
- 2014-2015 - **Maîtrise ès-sciences Physiques**, specialization: **Physics**, Faculty of Sciences and Technologies - FAST/UAC, Benin
- 2013-2014 - **Licence ès-sciences Physiques**, specialization: **Physics**, Faculty of Sciences and Technologies - FAST/UAC, Benin
- 2012-2013 - **DUES (Diplôme Universitaire d'Étude Scientifique)**, specialization: **Physics and Chemistry**, Faculty of Sciences and Technologies - FAST/UAC, Benin

Awards

- July 2018 - **Laureate of Make Our Planet Great Again - MOPGA**, of French Republic for my PhD project and co-funded by Institut de Recherche pour le Développement - IRD, France, (Rank: 8th)

Professional Experiences and Research Training

- Jan. 2023-present - **PostDoc Researcher**, NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory/Caltech - *Salinity and Stratification at Sea Ice Edge* - SASSIE project, supervised by Dr. Severine Fournier and Dr. Ian G. Fenty.
 - Quantifying the 3D structure of near-surface stratification anomalies generated by melting sea ice (summer ice retreat), and understanding its precondition into the upper ocean for autumn ice advance, and the relevance OHC and surface heat fluxes.
- Mar-Dec 2022 - **PostDoc Researcher**, CNRS/LOPS, Brest, France (ESA 4DAtlantic-OHC project)
 - Validation of the Ocean Heat Content** derived from satellite products (estimated from Gravimetry and Altimetry) with In situ observations (CTD) along OVIDE transects (Portugal to Greenland) and Argo floats profiles.
 - Temperature and Salinity contributions to regional sea level changes in the north Atlantic subpolar gyre along the OVIDE transects (Portugal to Greenland)
- 2021 - **Associate researcher**, : Projects and Research collaboration at the CIPMA-UNESCO Chair, UAC, Benin, from Dec. 2021 to present
 - Training in Scientific integrity in the research community**, (in French: *Intégrité scientifique dans les métiers de la recherche*), University of Bordeaux via FUN MOOC, - France, Sep. 2019 to Apr. 2021

- 2019 - Summer School on Fluid Dynamics of Sustainability and the Environment at Ecole Polytechnique of Paris, France, from 1st to 12th July, 2019
- Training in Data Sciences for Geosciences: initiation to machine Learning and Deep Learning with Python, Plouzané - France, from 14th to 18th January 2019
- 2018 - Training in sampling techniques and methods, data analysis and interpretation of results, GEOMAR - Kiel, Germany, July 2018
- Participant of Oceanographic research cruise, (M148 cruise) in the tropical Atlantic, R/V Meteor - from 24th May to 29th June 2018; Position: CTD, UCTD, ADCP measurements, Microstructure, Argo and Glider float deployment + Physical analyzes
- 2017 - Participant of research cruises on the Lake Nokoué in Benin (ADCP, CTD, Turbidity, Ph and, Bathymetry with echo-sounder measurements) , IRD Benin & IRHOB, Period: 08-09/11/2017 and 31/09 to 01/10/2017
- 2012-2016 - Tutor:, individual tutoring of secondary school students in Physics, Chemistry and Technics, Abomey-Calavi, Benin

Dissertations and Reports

- Thesis:**
- Ph.D thesis, IRD-UBO/LOPS, Brest, France, Analysis of freshwater plumes thermohaline variations from intra-seasonal to seasonal scales in the Gulf of Guinea, (<https://hal.archives-ouvertes.fr/tel-03615021>): from Oct. 2018 to Dec. 2021
 - M.Sc thesis, CIPMA-Chaire UNESCO/UAC-Benin and Univ.-Paul Sabatier, Toulouse, France, Caractérisation des Panaches des Fleuves Niger et Congo dans le Golfe de Guinée., May-Aug. 2017
- Report:**
- Co-author of 4DAtlantic OHC data validation report, CNRS-UBO/LOPS, Plouzané-Brest, France, ESA 4DATLANTIC-OHC project hold by Magellium, Artal group, Toulouse, France., Mar-Dec. 2022
 - Calibration and validation of TSG salinity and temperature measurements, GEOMAR & POGO, Kiel, Germany, 2018 NF-POGO- GEOMAR Fellowship for Ship-board Training on-board RV Meteor cruise M148, May-Jul. 2018.

Publications

Peer Reviewed Publication

- [03] **Houndegnonto O. J.**, Fournier, S., Fenty, I. G., Steele, M. and Pacini, A. (2024), Assessment of SMOS and SMAP Sea Surface Salinity against SASSIE In Situ Measurements in the Arctic Ocean. *Journal of Atmospheric and Oceanic Technology*. (under review)
- [02] **Rousseau, V.**, Fraudeau, R., Hammond, M., **Houndegnonto, O. J.**, Ablain, M., Blazquez, A., Calafat, F. M., Desbruyères, D., Foti, G., Llovel, W., Marti, F., Meyssignac, B., Restano, M. & Benveniste, J., (2023), Monitoring the regional **Ocean Heat Content** change over the Atlantic Ocean with the space geodetic approach. *Earth Syst. Sci. Data Discuss.* [preprint], <https://doi.org/10.5194/essd-2023-236>
- [01] **Houndegnonto, O. J.**, Kolodziejczyk, N., Maes, C., Bourlès, B., Da-Allada, C. Y., & Reul, N. (2021), Seasonal variability of freshwater plumes in the eastern Gulf of Guinea as inferred from satellite measurements. *Journal of Geophysical Research: Oceans*, 126, e2020JC017041. <https://doi.org/10.1029/2020JC017041>

In Preparation

- [02] **Houndegnonto O. J.**, Fenty, I. G. and Fournier, S. (2024), Thermohaline preconditioning for sea-ice formation in the Beaufort Sea. *Journal of Geophysical Research Letter* (in pre.)
- [01] **Houndegnonto O. J.**, Kolodziejczyk, N., Maes, C., Bourlès, B., Dobler, D., Grima, N., & Reul, N. (2024), Upper Ocean staircases thermohaline stratification of the far field Congo River freshwater plume. *Journal of Geophysical Research: Oceans*. (in pre.)

Mentorship

- 2023 - Collaborative mentorship work with Bingham Frederick (UNCW, USA) for John Oklu (intern) on Investigating fresh water pathways in the Arctic Ocean using modeling., August, 2023 to present

Review activities

- Since 2024 - Reviewer for the Journal of Geophysical Research Letters
- Since 2023 - Reviewer for NASA Solicitation and Proposal Integrated Review and Evaluation System - NSPIRES/FINESST: Physical Oceanography, for 2023 and 2024 solicitations
- Reviewer for IOP Science, Environmental Research Letters
 - Reviewer for Marine Pollution Bulletin
- Since 2022 - Reviewer for the Journal of Geophysical Research: Oceans

Languages, Computing and Driving Skills

- Speaking: French – English – Fongbé (Mother tongue)
- OS: Mac, Linux, Docker images and Windows + WSL
- Scripting: Python, Matlab, GitHub, Shell Bash, Fortran^{beg.}, R^{beg.}, JavaScript^{beg.}
- Editing: LaTeX, Microsoft Office, LibreOffice, Jupyter Notebook and Visual Studio Code
- Remote & Computing: Amazon Elastic Compute Cloud (EC2, NASA-JPL, USA) - IFREMER Datamor-Supercomputer (Ifremer LOPS, France)
- Model: MIT general circulation model - KPP 1D Diffusion-Convection model -, ARIANE - Oceanic lagrangian analysis software/Model – SYMPHONIE, Coastal oceanography model
- Driving : Car driving license B — Boat driving license: coastal option

Voluntary Positions and Community Services

- 2024 - Co-organizer of the weekly seminar, for the Ocean Circulation and Air-Sea Interaction group of the Earth Science Division at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, CA, USA | since Jan. 2024
- Volunteer, Judge-Reviewer of the AGU Student Travel Grant for helping students attend the AGU annual meeting in Washington D.C., USA | 9-13 December 2024
 - Volunteer, Judge-Reviewer of the AGU Lloyd V. Berkner Travel Fellowship for supporting Students and Early Career Scientists from around the world to attend the AGU annual meeting in Washington D.C., USA | 9-13 December 2024
- 2023 - Volunteer, Judge of The Doris S. Perpall SURF Speaking Award, California Institute of Technology (Caltech, Pasadena, USA) - Period: 21st October 2023
- Volunteer, Judge of The Vodopia-Hasson Summer Poster Competition, California Institute of Technology (Caltech, Pasadena, USA) - Period: 24th August 2023
- 2020-2021 Spokesperson for non-permanent researchers on the board and scientific college of LOPS, Brest, France
- 2018 - Volunteer, hydrographer on board of Oceanographic research cruises (M148 cruise) in the tropical Atlantic, R/V Meteor - Period: 24th May to 29th June 2018.
- Volunteer researcher, Working with new Master students in Physical Oceanography and Applications, in their training and internship. (CIMPA UNESCO-Chair / UAC, Benin) - Period: October 2017 to May 2018

Conferences

- 2024 - Houndegnonto O. J., Fournier, S., & Fenty, G. I., : Comparison of SMOS and SMAP sea surface salinity against SASSIE in-situ measurements in the Arctic Ocean. Ocean Salinity Conference - May 14th, ESA ESTEC, The Netherlands, (as Poster)
- Houndegnonto O. J., Fournier, S., & Fenty, G. I., : Assessment of SMOS and SMAP Sea Surface Salinity against SASSIE In Situ Measurements in the Arctic Ocean. Ocean Sciences Meeting - February 22nd, New Orleans, LA, U.S.A. (as speaker)

- **S. Misra, M. Ogut, S. T. Brown, A. Akins, S. Fournier, I. G. Fenty, O. J. Houndegnonto, D. C Vandemark & S. Shellito** : Passive Microwave Remote Sensing Of Cold-Water Sea-Surface Salinity: Future Instrumentation And Techniques . **Ocean Sciences Meeting** - February 19th, New Orleans, LA, U.S.A. (as Poster presenter)
- 2023 - **Houndegnonto O. J., Fournier, S., & Fenty, G. I.** : Assessment of SMOS and SMAP Sea Surface Salinity against SASSIE In Situ Measurements in the Arctic Ocean. **JPL Postdoc Research Poster Day 2023** - November 29nd, Pasadena, CA, U.S.A. (as Poster)
- **Houndegnonto O. J., Kolodziejczyk, N., Maes, C., Bourlès, B., Dobler, D., Grima, N., Da-Allada, C. Y., & Reul, N.** : Upper Ocean staircases thermohaline stratification of far field Congo freshwater plume. **VEPOSSSS** - April 19th (as invited speaker, virtual)
- 2022 - **Houndegnonto O. J., W. Llovel & D. Desbruyères** : 4DAtlantic-OHC v0.4 validation against in situ observations in the Subpolar North Atlantic. **4DAtlantic - OHC project: Mid Term Review** - September 22th-23th, 2022, Magelium company site, Toulouse, **France** (as speaker)
- **Houndegnonto O. J., Kolodziejczyk, N., Maes, C., Bourlès, B., Dobler, D., Grima, N., Da-Allada, C. Y., & Reul, N.** : On the formation of thermohaline stratification off Congo River plume. **2022 Ocean Salinity Conference** - June 6th-9th, 2022, University of Columbia, New York, **USA** (Poster, virtual)
- **Houndegnonto O. J., Llovel, W. & Desbruyères, D.** : Full-depth temperature and salinity contribution to regional sea level changes in the north Atlantic subpolar gyre during 2002-2018 from repeated hydrographic transects. **Sea Level Workshop 2022** - June 1st-3th, 2022, Brest, **France** (as speaker)
- 2021 - **Houndegnonto O. J., Kolodziejczyk, N., Maes, C., Bourlès, B., Dobler, D., Grima, N., Da-Allada, C. Y., & Reul, N.** : On the formation of thermohaline stratification off Congo River plume. **TACCOVAR 2021** - Sep. 27th-30th, 2021, Cotonou, **Benin** (as speaker, virtual)
- 2019 - **Houndegnonto O. J., Kolodziejczyk, N., Maes, C., Bourlès, B., Da-Allada, C. Y., & Reul, N.** : Seasonal variability of Congo and Niger Rivers plumes in the Gulf of Guinea. **TACCOVAR 2019** - Sep. 23th-27th, 2019, Cotonou, **Bénin** (as speaker)
- **Houndegnonto O. J., Kolodziejczyk, N., Maes, C., Bourlès, B., Da-Allada, C. Y., & Reul, N.** : Seasonal variability of Congo and Niger Rivers plumes in the Gulf of Guinea. Summer School at **École Polytechnique de Paris Saclay**, July, 1st - 12th, 2019, Palaiseau, **France** (Poster)
- **Houndegnonto O. J., Kolodziejczyk, N., Maes, C., Bourlès, B., Da-Allada, C. Y., & Reul, N.** : Seasonal variability of Congo and Niger Rivers plumes in the Gulf of Guinea. **Living Planet Symposium 2019 (LPS19)**, May, 13th - 17th, 2019, Milan / **Italie** (as speaker)
- **Houndegnonto O. J., Kolodziejczyk, N., Maes, C., Bourlès, B., Da-Allada, C. Y., & Reul, N.** : Seasonal variability of Congo and Niger Rivers plumes in the Gulf of Guinea. **EGU 2019** (European Geosciences Union) General Assembly, Apr. 7th - 12th, 2019, Vienne/**Autriche** (as speaker)
- 2018 - **Houndegnonto O. J., Kolodziejczyk, N., Maes, C., Bourlès, B., Da-Allada, C. Y., & Reul, N.** : Characterization of Niger and Congo rivers plumes in the Gulf of Guinea. **2018 Ocean Salinity Sciences Conference** - Nov. 6th-9th, 2018, Sorbonne University, Paris/**France** (as speaker)

Referees

- 01 — **Dr. Christophe Maes (HDR)**, *Researcher at IRD/LOPS, Brest, France*, (christophe.maes@ird.fr)
- 02 — **Dr. Nicolas Kolodziejczyk (HDR)**, *Researcher - CLI/LOPS at UBO, Brest, France*, (nicolas.kolodziejczyk@univ-brest.fr)
- 03 — **Dr. Severine Fournier**, *Scientist at NASA-JPL Earth Science Division, Pasadena, CA, U.S.A.*, (severine.fournier@jpl.nasa.gov)
- 04 — **Dr. Ian G. Fenty**, *Scientist at NASA-JPL Earth Science Division, Pasadena, CA, U.S.A.*, (ian.fenty@jpl.nasa.gov)
- 05 — **Dr. Menemenlis Dimitris**, *Scientist at NASA-JPL Earth Science Division, Pasadena, California, U.S.A.*, (dimitris.menemenlis@jpl.nasa.gov)