

SMB Wave Prediction Model

A collection of Python scripts for predicting wind-generated wave characteristics using the Sverdrup-Munk-Bretschneider (SMB) method. These tools calculate significant wave height (H_s), significant wave period (T_s), and the minimum required storm duration based on meteorological inputs.

Overview

This repository provides a practical implementation of the foundational SMB wave prediction model, a cornerstone of coastal and ocean engineering for decades. It is designed for engineers, scientists, and students who need to make preliminary estimates of wave conditions for design, planning, or research purposes.

The core model operates in two distinct modes, based on the primary limiting condition for wave growth:

1. **Fetch-Limited (Finite Depth or Deep Water):** For scenarios where wave growth is primarily limited by the available fetch. This mode can handle both deep water conditions (where the seabed does not influence wave generation) and finite depth conditions (where water depth is a significant factor). It calculates H_s , T_s , and the minimum duration required for a fully developed sea state over the given fetch.
2. **Duration-Limited (Finite Depth or Deep Water):** Calculates wave parameters when the wind event is too short for waves to become fully developed over the available fetch. This mode considers wind speed, storm duration, and water depth, and also calculates the equivalent fetch that would produce the same wave conditions.

The `calculator.py` script now comprehensively evaluates both fetch and duration limits for given inputs to determine the actual controlling wave growth factor and provides consistent results.

Wind Speed (U_{10}) and Adjusted Wind Speed (U_a)

- U_{10} represents the average wind speed measured at a standard height of 10 meters above the mean water level. This is the primary raw wind input data for the model.
- The SMB calculations, particularly those recommended in the Shore Protection Manual (SPM 1984), require an "adjusted wind speed," U_a . This adjustment is an empirical correction designed to account for the non-linear relationship between the measured wind speed and the actual wind stress (or friction velocity) at the water surface, which is the fundamental driver of wave growth.

- The specific formula for U_a from SPM (1984) is:

$$U_a = 0.71 \cdot U_{10}^{1.23}$$

where U_{10} is in meters per second (m/s). This U_a value is consistently employed in all subsequent wave prediction equations within these scripts.

Methodology

The scripts are based on the semi-empirical Sverdrup-Munk-Bretschneider (SMB) method, which relates dimensionless wave parameters to wind conditions. The core principle is that wave growth is limited by either fetch (spatial constraint) or duration (temporal constraint). All formulas below utilize the **adjusted wind speed** (U_a).

Deep Water Formulas (Fetch-Limited)

For deep water, the script uses the revised Bretschneider (1970) equations:

- Dimensionless Fetch:

$$\hat{F} = \frac{gF}{U_a^2}$$

- Significant Wave Height (H_s):

$$\frac{gH_s}{U_a^2} = 0.283 \tanh \left[0.0125 (\hat{F})^{0.42} \right]$$

- Significant Wave Period (T_s):

$$\frac{gT_s}{U_a} = 7.54 \tanh \left[0.077 (\hat{F})^{0.25} \right]$$

- Minimum Duration (t_{min}):

$$t_{min} = \frac{U_a}{g} \cdot 6.5882 \cdot \exp \left(\sqrt{0.0161 \cdot (\ln \hat{F})^2 - 0.3692 \cdot \ln \hat{F} + 2.2024} + 0.8798 \cdot \ln \hat{F} \right)$$

Depth-Limited Formulas (Fetch-Limited)

For shallower water, the script uses formulas from the Shore Protection Manual that incorporate a dimensionless depth parameter ($\hat{d} = gd/U_a^2$):

- Significant Wave Height (H_s):

$$H_s = \frac{U_a^2}{g} \cdot 0.283 \cdot \tanh(0.530\hat{d}^{0.75}) \cdot \tanh \left[\frac{0.00565\hat{F}^{0.5}}{\tanh(0.530\hat{d}^{0.75})} \right]$$

- **Significant Wave Period (T_s):**

$$T_s = \frac{U_a}{g} \cdot 7.54 \cdot \tanh(0.833\hat{d}^{0.375}) \cdot \tanh \left[\frac{0.0379\hat{F}^{0.333}}{\tanh(0.833\hat{d}^{0.375})} \right]$$

- **Minimum Duration (t_{min}):**

$$t_{min} = \frac{U_a}{g} \cdot 6.5882 \cdot \exp \left(\sqrt{0.0161 \cdot (\ln \hat{F})^2 - 0.3692 \cdot \ln \hat{F} + 2.2024} + 0.8798 \cdot \ln \hat{F} \right)$$

Duration-Limited Formulas (Finite Depth or Deep Water)

When the wind event duration (t) is the limiting factor, the following formulas are used. Dimensionless duration: $\hat{t} = \frac{gt}{U_a}$.

- **Significant Wave Height (H_s) - Deep Water:**

$$\frac{gH_s}{U_a^2} = 0.283 \tanh \left[0.000528 (\hat{t})^{0.75} \right]$$

- **Significant Wave Period (T_s) - Deep Water:**

$$\frac{gT_s}{U_a} = 7.54 \tanh \left[0.00379 (\hat{t})^{0.41} \right]$$

- **Significant Wave Height (H_s) - Finite Depth (Heuristic):**

$$H_s = \frac{U_a^2}{g} \cdot 0.283 \cdot \tanh(0.530\hat{d}^{0.75}) \cdot \tanh \left[\frac{0.000528\hat{t}^{0.75}}{\tanh(0.530\hat{d}^{0.75})} \right]$$

- **Significant Wave Period (T_s) - Finite Depth (Heuristic):**

$$T_s = \frac{U_a}{g} \cdot 7.54 \cdot \tanh(0.833\hat{d}^{0.375}) \cdot \tanh \left[\frac{0.00379\hat{t}^{0.41}}{\tanh(0.833\hat{d}^{0.375})} \right]$$

Features

- **Adjusted Wind Speed (U_a) Integration:** All calculations consistent across the suite (Python and C++) use the **Adjusted Wind Speed** (U_a) derived from the 10-meter wind speed (U_{10}), strictly following Shore Protection Manual (SPM 1984) guidelines ($U_a = 0.71 \cdot U_{10}^{1.23}$).
- **Dual-Mode Physics Engine:** The core logic accurately distinguishes between **Fetch-Limited** and **Duration-Limited** growth regimes. It computes potentials for both scenarios (checking against Minimum Duration t_{min}) and automatically determines the **Controlling Factor** to output the realistic sea state.

- **Multi-Regime Support:** The model supports calculations for both **Deep Water** (using Bretschneider's revised equations) and **Finite Depth** (using SPM composite hyperbolic tangent formulations). This allows for accurate predictions in open oceans as well as shallow, transitional waters where bottom friction dampens wave growth.
- **Advanced Hydrodynamics (GUI Only):** The C++ implementation includes a **Newton-Raphson solver** for the transcendental Linear Dispersion Relation ($L = \frac{gT^2}{2\pi} \tanh(\frac{2\pi d}{L})$), providing exact outputs for Wavelength (L), Celerity (C), and Wave Number (k) rather than deep-water approximations.
- **Stability Analysis (GUI Only):** The GUI evaluates the **Miche Criterion** ($H/L \leq 0.142 \tanh(kd)$) to determine the breaking status of the waves, warning if the sea state is unstable due to steepness.
- **Interactive Interfaces:**
 - **Python CLI:** A robust command-line tool for iterative text-based calculations.
 - **C++ GUI:** A high-performance, multi-threaded Windows application for responsive analysis.
- **Professional Visualization:**
 - **Contour Charts:** Generates high-quality A3 PDF contour plots for H_s , T_s , and t_{min} .
 - **Nomograms:** Creates precision alignment charts (N-charts) using numerical optimization for graphical estimation.
 - **Tabular Reports:** Generates comprehensive PDF lookup tables for wide ranges of wind/fetch/depth.

Scripts Description

This repository contains the following computational modules:

`calculator.py`

The primary interactive Python script for single-point SMB wave calculations.

- **Functionality:**
 - Prompts for **10-meter wind speed** (U_{10}), fetch length, storm duration, and optional water depth.
 - Internally converts inputs to **Adjusted Wind Speed** (U_a).
 - Calculates potentials for both **Fetch-Limited** and **Duration-Limited** scenarios.
 - Logic: Determines the **Controlling Factor** by taking the minimum of the fetch-limited and duration-limited potentials.

- For duration-limited cases, calculates the **Equivalent Fetch** (the fetch required to produce the same energy).
- Outputs a detailed transcript to the console and logs it to `report.txt`.
- **Usage:**
`python calculator.py`

`calculator_gui.cpp`

A high-performance **Windows GUI application** written in C++ (Win32 API).

- **Functionality:**
 - **Real-time Interface:** graphical inputs for U_{10} , Fetch, Duration, and Depth.
 - **Advanced Physics:** Unlike the Python scripts, this module solves the **Linear Dispersion Relation** using a Newton-Raphson iterative solver to compute exact Wavelength (L) and Phase Speed (C).
 - **Regime Analysis:** Automatically detects and displays the flow regime (Deep, Shallow, or Transitional) based on d/L .
 - **Breaking Check:** Calculates wave steepness (H/L) and checks against the Miche Limit to report if waves are "STABLE" or "BREAKING".
 - **Architecture:** Uses a worker thread to perform calculations without freezing the UI.
- **Usage:** Must be compiled (see "How to Use").

`smb_chart_deep.py`

Generates a combined contour chart for SMB wave parameters in **deep water** conditions.

- **Functionality:**
 - Plotting Axis: **10-meter wind speed (U_{10})** vs. Fetch Length.
 - **Contours:** Plots three distinct parameter sets on one chart:
 - * **Significant Wave Height (H_s):** Solid black lines.
 - * **Significant Wave Period (T_s):** Dashed black lines.
 - * **Minimum Duration (t_{min}):** Dotted black lines.
 - **Output:** Generates an A3 landscape PDF named `smb_chart_deep.pdf`.
- **Usage:**
`python smb_chart_deep.py`

`smb_chart_10m.py`

Generates a combined contour chart for SMB wave parameters in **depth-limited water**.

- **Functionality:**

- **Fixed Depth:** Configured for a constant water depth (default: **10 meters**).
- Applies the SPM depth-damping (tanh) functions to all wave growth curves.
- Visualizes how shallow water friction limits maximum wave height compared to the deep water chart.
- **Output:** Generates an A3 landscape PDF named `smb_chart_10m.pdf`.
- **Usage:**
`python smb_chart_10m.py`

`smb-nomogram-deep.py`

Generates a professional-grade nomogram (alignment chart) for **deep water** prediction.

- **Functionality:**
 - Uses the `nomogen` library to numerically optimize scale positions.
 - Produces a multi-page PDF containing separate nomograms for H_s , T_s , and t_{min} .
 - **Isopleth:** Automatically plots a reference example line (Lake Garda scenario: $U_{10} = 25$ m/s, Fetch=45 km).
 - **Output:** `smb-nomogram-deep.pdf`.
- **Usage:**
`python smb-nomogram-deep.py`

`smb-nomogram-shallow.py`

Generates nomograms for **depth-limited** conditions.

- **Functionality:**
 - Configured for a fixed depth of **10 meters**.
 - Solves the complex implicit relationships of the SPM shallow water equations to build linear scales.
 - Includes the Lake Garda isopleth example adjusted for shallow depth.
 - **Output:** `smb-nomogram-shallow.pdf`.
- **Usage:**
`python smb-nomogram-shallow.py`

`tables.py`

Generates a comprehensive look-up table PDF.

- **Functionality:**
 - Iterates through a matrix of:
 - * **Wind Speeds (U_{10}):** 10 to 30 m/s.
 - * **Fetches:** 5 to 50 km.
 - * **Depths:** 5m, 10m, 25m, 50m, and Deep Water.
 - Uses `reportlab` to create a formatted, readable PDF report.

- **Output:** `comprehensive_wave_calculations.pdf`.
- **Usage:**
`python tables.py`

`nomogen.py`

A utility library required by the nomogram scripts.

- **Functionality:**
 - Implements numerical optimization (using `scipy` and `numpy`) to construct nomogram scales (Type 9 / N-charts) for arbitrary functions.
 - Handles transformations, scale generation, and LaTeX text rendering via PyX.

How to Use

1. **Python Prerequisites:** Ensure you have Python 3 installed. You will need the following scientific libraries:

- `numpy`
- `scipy` (Note: Scripts include a fix for `scipy.arange` compatibility)
- `matplotlib` (for charts)
- `reportlab` (for tables)
- `pynomo` (for nomograms)
- `pypdf` (for merging PDFs)
- `pyx` (for nomogram rendering)

Install via pip:

```
pip install numpy scipy matplotlib reportlab pypdf pyx pynomo
```

2. **C++ Compilation (Optional GUI):** To use the GUI, compile `calculator_gui.cpp` using a compiler like MinGW (G++). The following command ensures static linking and includes necessary Windows libraries:

```
g++ -O3 -std=c++17 -static -static-libgcc -static-libstdc++ -o calculator_gui.exe calculator_gui.cpp
```

3. **Running Scripts:**

- **Interactive Mode:** `python calculator.py`
- **Charts:** `python smb_chart_deep.py` or `python smb_chart_10m.py`
- **Nomograms:** `python smb-nomogram-deep.py`
- **Tables:** `python tables.py`

Assumptions and Limitations

- **Steady-State Wind:** The model assumes that the wind speed and direction are uniform and constant across the entire fetch for the specified duration. This is an idealization not always met in nature.

- **Input Data Quality:** The accuracy of the results is highly dependent on the quality of the inputs. For best results:
 - **Wind Speed:** Should be the standard 10-meter overwater wind speed (U_{10}). The model internally adjusts this to U_a for calculations.
 - **Fetch Length:** Should be the "effective fetch," which accounts for the geometry of the water body, not just a straight-line distance.
- **Heuristic for Duration-Limited (Finite Depth):** The formulas used for duration-limited conditions in finite depth (Option 2 in `calculator.py`) are an adaptation based on the structure of SMB equations for fetch-limited finite depth. Direct empirical formulas for this specific combined scenario are less common in basic SMB literature. While providing a reasonable estimate, these should be used with awareness of their heuristic nature.

Bibliography

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Foundational Papers (The "SMB" Method)

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