



Dynamic Mode Decomposition Uncovers Hidden Oceanographic Features Around the Strait of Gibraltar

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Strait of Gibraltar and Western Mediterranean

12

36°N

48'

6°W

- AJ Atlantic Jet
- WAG Western Alboran Gyre
- EAG Eastern Alboran Gyre
- Camarinal Sill (CS): Underwater elevation where an internal hydraulic jump gives rise to
 - internal waves _ comprising solitons
 - internal tides. -



BATHYMETRY

Camarinal Sill

-100

-200

-300

-400

-600

-800

900

5°W





[Sánchez-Garrido, 2013]

Known oceanographic features near Strait of Gibraltar





Western Alboran Gyre



Terra, 22 May, 11:30 UTC MODIS, Enhanced True Colour RGB. Source: NASA EOSDIS Worldview



Internal Waves

 Interested in recovering/decomposing known and hidden features

- Gyres
- Atlantic Jet
- Internal waves
- Hydraulic transitions
- Special waves (such as Kelvin waves)
- Applied Dynamic Mode Decomposition (DMD) to simulated evolution

[Sánchez-Garrido, 2013], [Gofima UMA, YouTube], [NASA EOSDIS Worldview]

Numerical Model

MIT general circulation model (MITgcm; [8]) (3-D, finite-volume) simulating the 3D velocity components, temperature, salinity and density.

Input to analysis: velocity components at all grid points.

Grid:

- Nonuniform curvilinear orthogonal grid (190 x 96 x 32 nodes)
- Duration of 144h (6 days) with time step 1h

Forcing: Tidal currents extracted from intermediate resolution model and prescribed at open boundaries:

- diurnal (O1, K1) tides,
- semidiurnal (M2, S2) barotropic tides.



Simulated surface speed:



Dynamic Mode Decomposition (DMD)



Objective: Represent simulation data by a **linear**, separation-of-variables data model. Such linearization is justified by Koopman operator theory.

 $\begin{array}{c} \text{Spatiotemporal} \\ \text{snapshot matrix} \\ V(t,x) \approx \sum_{k=1}^{K} \Phi_k(x) \exp\{\Omega_k t\} b_k \\ \text{Spatial profile} \\ \begin{array}{c} \text{Time-evolution} \\ \text{governed by eigenvalue} \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \text{Mode} \\ \text{magnitude} \end{array} \end{array}$

 $\Omega_k = \sigma_k + i\omega_k$

DMD modes oscillate at a single (complex) time frequency.

Dominant modes: large mean L² norm

Real parts of eigenvalues imply growth/decay of a modes:

Imaginary parts of eigenvalues reported as oscillation period

$$\begin{split} & ilde{b}_k \coloneqq rac{1}{T} \int_0^T | \exp\{\Omega_k t\} b_k |^2 \ & ext{sign Re} \, \Omega_k = egin{cases} + & ext{Growth of mode} \ - & ext{Decay of mode} \end{split}$$

$$P = 2\pi / \operatorname{Im} \Omega_k$$

Semidiurnal dominant mode:

Input data:

Diurnal dominant mode:







Behavior of Modes by Continuous- time Spectrum



Best-Fit of Modes

$$X(t) = egin{bmatrix} u(t) \ v(t) \ w(t) \end{bmatrix} pprox \sum_{i=1}^r b_i \Phi_i(x,y,z) e^{\omega_i t} \ ext{Let} \ \omega_i = \sigma_i + i
ho_i$$



- DMD Algorithm decompose the data in to dynamical relevant flows features (same frequency).
- Noticed b, Φ, ω could be complex values.
- Eigenvalues ω describe the dynamics of the system.
- Magnitude and phase describes the how the spatial locations related each within a mode.

Mode Selection

- L_2 norm contribution to the initial condition.
 - Sorting modes according to descending |b|.
- Average L₂-contribution across all snapshots

$$E_i = \sqrt{rac{1}{T}\int_0^T |be^{\omega_i t}|^2 dt} = |b_i| \sqrt{rac{e^{2\sigma_i T}-1}{2\sigma_i T}}$$

Selection of modes based on the

oscillation frequency associated with eigenvalues enables matching of modes to frequencies known a priori, e.g., forcing frequencies.



DMD for Gibraltar Dataset: Eigenvalue Spectrum



DMD Modes: Periods, decay rates, norms



Mode 1: Non-oscillatory Background – Surface Speed



- Approximately non-oscillatory
- Persistent: Decay with half life time around 27 days (668 hours)
- Reveals several well-known features of the circulation in the region
 - West Alboran Gyre (WAG)
 - Atlantic Jet
 - the accelerated surface inflow in the Strait of Gibraltar.
- Also reveals a feature that is not as well known: secondary gyre that sits between the Ceuta and the WAG

Mode 1: Non-oscillatory Background – Vertical cross section



Mode 5: Dominant Semidiurnal (P=12.3 h)



Horiz. speed at surface (phase)





Cross-sec. vertical velocity phase



- Persistent: Effectively no decay
- Reveals internal waves radiating from the Strait into the Mediterranean.



Mode 35: 2nd Harm. of Semidiurnal Tide (P=6.24h)

Surface horiz. speed magnitude



Surface horiz. speed phase



Cross-sec. vertical vel.



Cross-sec. vertical phase



- Second harmonic of semidiurnal tide, and third harmonic of diurnal tides.
- Persistent: Decay with half life time around 297 hours (~2x available data length).
- Reveals internal waves radiating from the Strait into the Mediterranean.

Mode 15: Dominant Diurnal (P=24.65h) – Surface Section





- Persistent: Decay half life around 172 h (7 days).
- (I) Isolates the meandering of the Atlantic Jet.
- Indicates that Atlantic Jet meanders are locked with a tide (first observation?).
- (II) Shows two patches of strong horizontal surface velocity along the southern coastline (Kelvin waves)



Hypothesis: Meanders originate from tidal pulses of vorticity generated in the strait and then carried by the jet.

Mode 15: Dominant Diurnal (P=24.65h) – Vertical Section







- Persistent: Decay half life around 172 h (7 days).
- (I) Isolates the meandering of the Atlantic Jet.
- Indicates that Atlantic Jet meanders are locked with a tide (first observation?).
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Mode 33: 3rd Harm. of Diurnal Tide (P=8.17h)

Horiz. speed at surface (magnitude)



Horiz. speed at surface (phase) $\arg(\Phi_i(u))$





Cross-sec. vertical velocity

- Persistent: Decay with half life time around 124 hours.
- Exhibits internal wave activity and shows additional detail in Atlantic Jet meandering.

Cross-sec. vertical velocity phase



Summary

- Dynamic Mode Decomposition decomposes the data into modes that evolve according to a single (complex-valued) frequency.
- Clear time signature enables easy correlation with tidal components and identification of tidal harmonics.
- Individual DMD modes correlate with specific features and mechanisms of ocean dynamics: West Alboran Gyre, Atlantic Jet, hydraulic transition at Camarinal Sill, radiating internal waves, ...
- DMD modes additionally isolate less-obvious features: secondary gyre at Ceuta, hydraulic jump, meandering of Atlantic Jet, Kelvin waves.











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