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On the Interpretation of Ocean Current Spectra, Part II: Testing Dynamical Hypotheses

Jack Calman

Department of Earth kind Planetary Sciences, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge 02139

ABSTRACT

Three examples are chosen to illustrate how the several spectrum representations in Part 1 can be used to test whether a proposed dynamical mechanism is supported by a given set of observations. The examples are wind-forced surface currents, internal waves and bottom-trapped Rossby waves. Dynamical tests are formulated in the Cartesian, rotary, rotational invariant, hadograph and pre-specified spectrum representations. The limitations and prospects for applying these techniques to more complicated circumstances are discussed.

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