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### A Generalized Satellite-based Method of Water Depth Measurement Using a Semiparametric Optical Model

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## Abstract

Shallow water depth is one of the important factors in science and management. However, in-situ measurement is quite costly and time-consuming. Previous research efforts have provided a number of optically-based methods for water depth distribution from satellite image, but they cannot properly account for heterogeneity in bottom sediment distribution because they require many assumptions or additional information on bottom reflectivity. It is necessary to develop a method that can be applied more generally to water areas with various bottom material.

In any application of depth prediction methods, we need depth data to validate the results. A leave-one-out cross validation technique is essential for predictive model building without degrading the reliability of prediction. From this standpoint, we present a new generalized method over the existing methodologies by utilizing depth measurement data.

In the new method, the bottom reflection term of the optical model is expressed as a nonparametric function of the depth-independent variables (bottom sediment type) calculated from the brightness values of the pixels. In this way, the model is estimated by a semiparametric regression model. The ratios of the diffuse attenuation coefficients, which are needed to calculate the bottom index, are optimized to minimize the error of Cross-Validation(GCV).

The new method is applied to 3 coral reef areas and artificially generated data. Prediction accuracy is compared with those of the methods proposed by Stumpf et al., and Kanno et al. As a result, the new method is found to have higher accuracy in cases that enough depth-known pixels are available and can be applied well.

Keywords: [Depth Estimation](#), [Semiparametric Regression](#), [Nonlinear Regression](#), [Coral Reef](#)

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