

# Coastal Inundation Risk Assessment

*Quogue (vicinity), NY*  
Hurricane Sandy



NOAA/GoogleEarth

*Mantoloking, NJ*  
Hurricane Sandy



Jen Irish

January 31, 2012  
Rockville, MD

*Sponsored by U.S. Department of Energy  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
and NOAA Sea Grant*

# Coastal Inundation Risk Assessment

## Why is Coastal Flooding Unique?

- Coasts are highly dynamic, landscape constantly changing
- Storm surge depends on meteorology + generation capacity
- Physics extremely important for accurate surge estimation
- A single event spans a wide range of return periods
- More difficult to mitigate because of the short timeframe
- Almost always have multiple hazards at same time
- ~50% of weather-related damages due to coastal storms (since 1980)

# Coastal Inundation Risk Assessment Outline

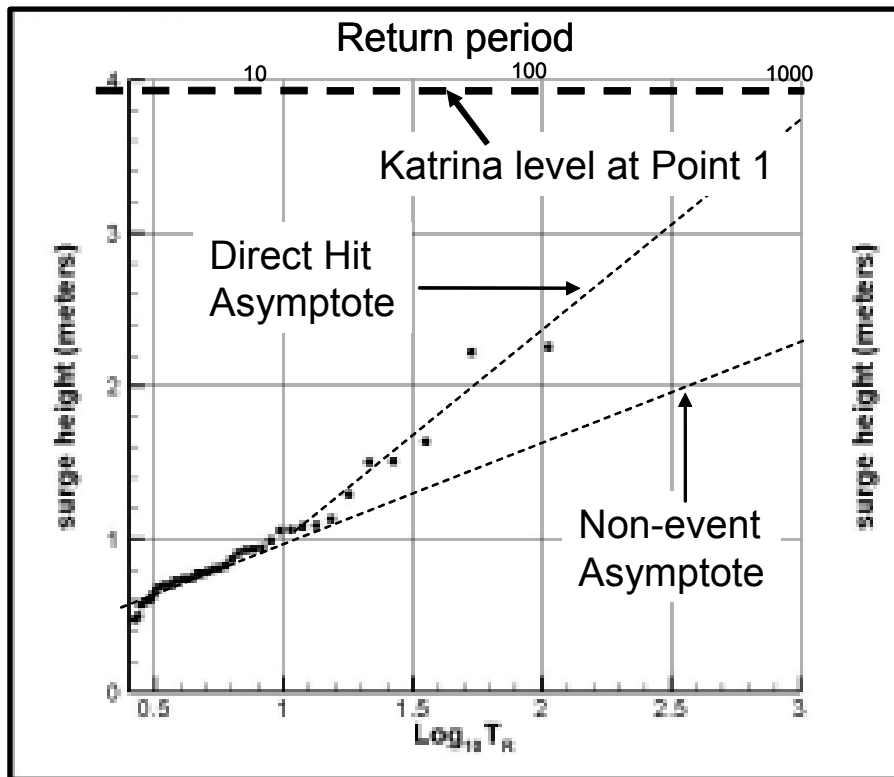
- Motivation for PFHA
- Surge response functions (SRF)
  - Theoretical Basis
  - Parameterization
  - Validation
- Extreme-value analysis: JPM-OS
- Uncertainty
- Examples
- Shortcomings/lack of knowledge



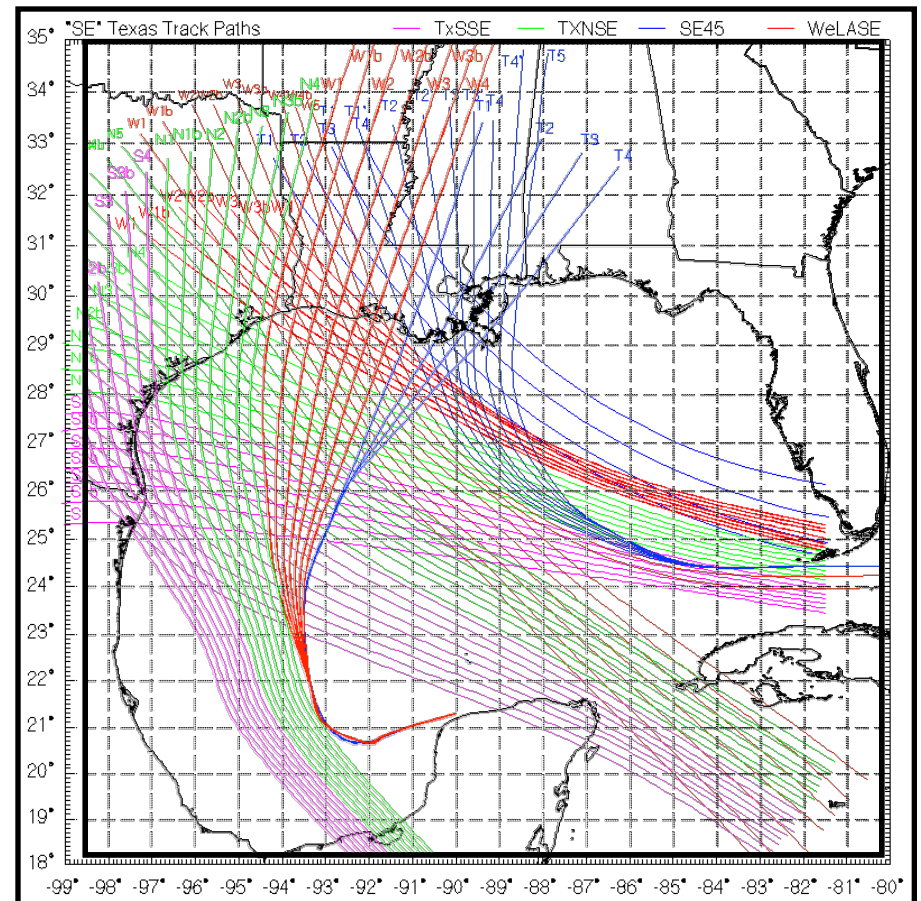
# Coastal Inundation Risk Assessment Motivation for PFHA

A robust and accurate method for determining hurricane surge extreme value probabilities is required.

*Historical surge population approach*



*Joint probability method*



# Coastal Inundation Risk Assessment

## Surge Response Functions

### General form for maximum surge response:

$$\xi_{\max}(x) = \phi(x, p_o, R_p, v_f, \theta, x_o) + \varepsilon_z$$

$$\varepsilon_z^2 = \varepsilon_{\text{tide}}^2 + \varepsilon_{\text{surge simulation}}^2 + \varepsilon_{\text{waves}}^2 + \varepsilon_{\text{winds}}^2 + \dots$$

where:

$\phi$  is a continuous flood response function,

$x$  is location of interest,

$p_o$  is central pressure,

$x_o$  is landfall location,

$R_p$  is hurricane pressure radius near landfall (Thompson and Cardone 1996),

$\theta$  is hurricane track angle with respect to the shoreline,

$v_f$  is hurricane forward speed near landfall, and

$\varepsilon_z$  is epistemic uncertainty in the flood response (Resio et al. 2012)

# Coastal Inundation Risk Assessment

## Surge Response Functions

- Shallow-water momentum balance:

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + g \frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial x} = \frac{\tau_a}{\rho_w h(x)}$$

- Assume:

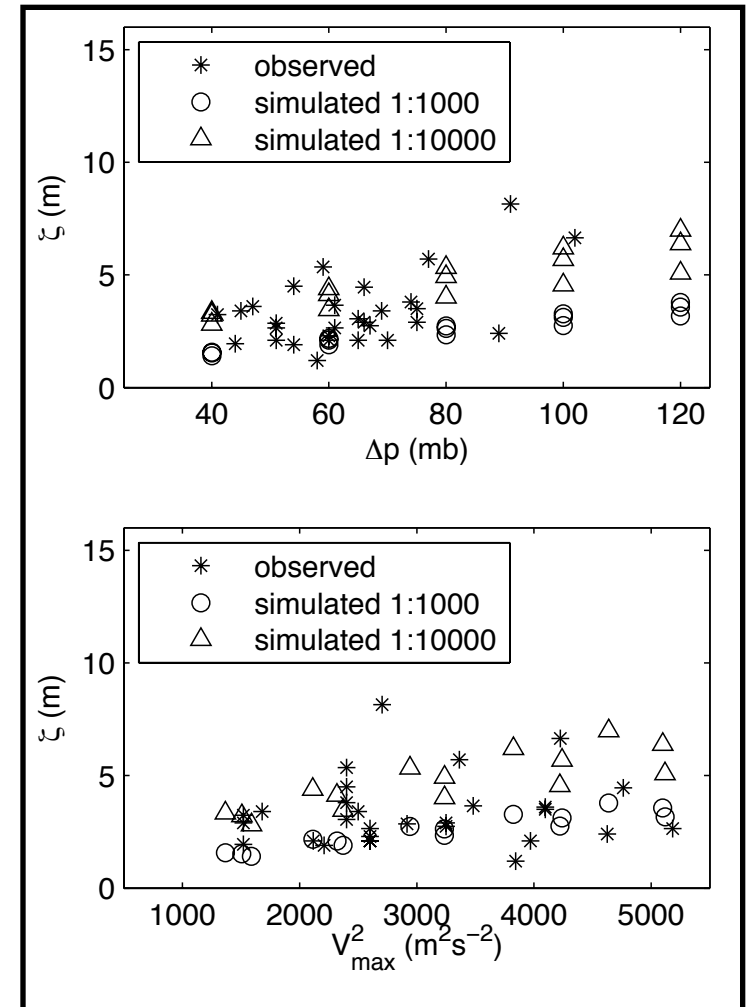
- Steady winds over long period
- Wind stress in quadratic form

$$\frac{d\zeta}{dx} = \left( \frac{\rho_a}{\rho_w} \right) \frac{c_d V^2}{gh(x)}$$

- Assume continental shelf of constant depth with width, L:

$$\zeta = \left( \frac{\rho_a}{\rho_w} \right) \frac{c_d V^2}{g \langle h \rangle} L \quad \xrightarrow{V^2 \propto \Delta p} \quad \zeta = \chi_1 \Delta p \frac{L}{\langle h \rangle}$$

where  $\Delta p = P_{far} - p_o$



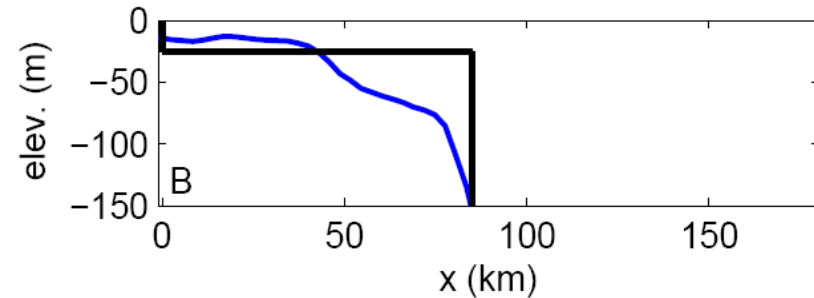
# Coastal Inundation Risk Assessment

## Surge Response Functions

- Influence of depth profile:

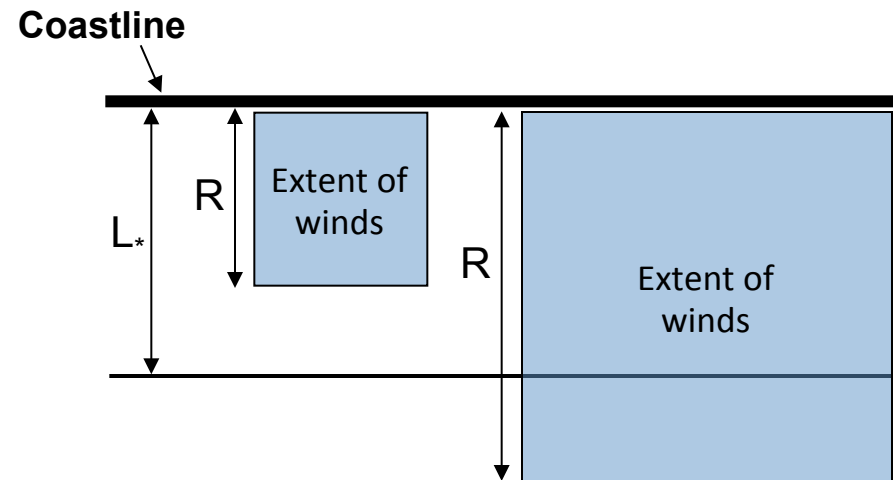
$$\xi = \chi_1 \Delta p \frac{L_*}{h_* \phi_*}$$

$\phi_*$  = dimensionless depth function



- Influence of hurricane size:

$$\xi = \chi_1 \Delta p \frac{L_*}{h_* \phi_*} \Psi_x \left( \frac{R}{L_*} \right)$$

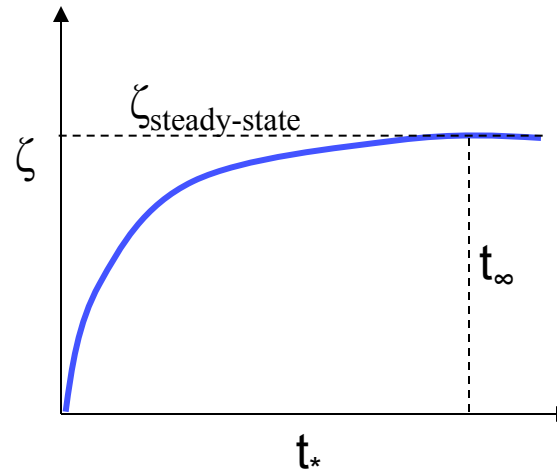


# Coastal Inundation Risk Assessment

## Surge Response Functions

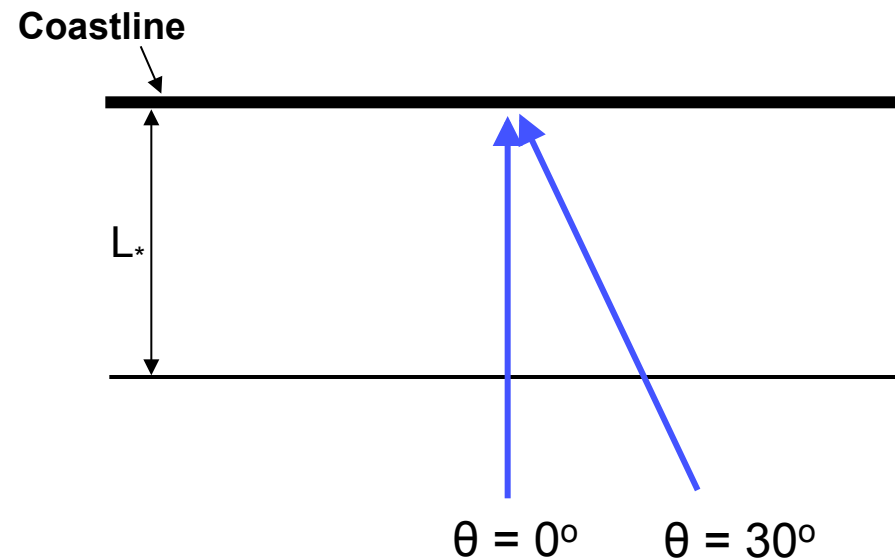
- Influence of forward speed:

$$\xi = \chi_1 \Delta p \frac{L_*}{h_* \phi_*} \psi_x \left( \frac{R}{L_*} \right) \psi_t \left( \frac{t_*}{t_\infty} \right)$$



- Influence of approach angle:

$$\xi = \chi_1 \Delta p \frac{L_*}{h_* \phi_*} \psi_x \left( \frac{R}{L_*} \right) \psi_t \left( \frac{t_*}{t_\infty} \right) \psi_\theta (\theta)$$





# Coastal Inundation Risk Assessment

## Surge Response Functions

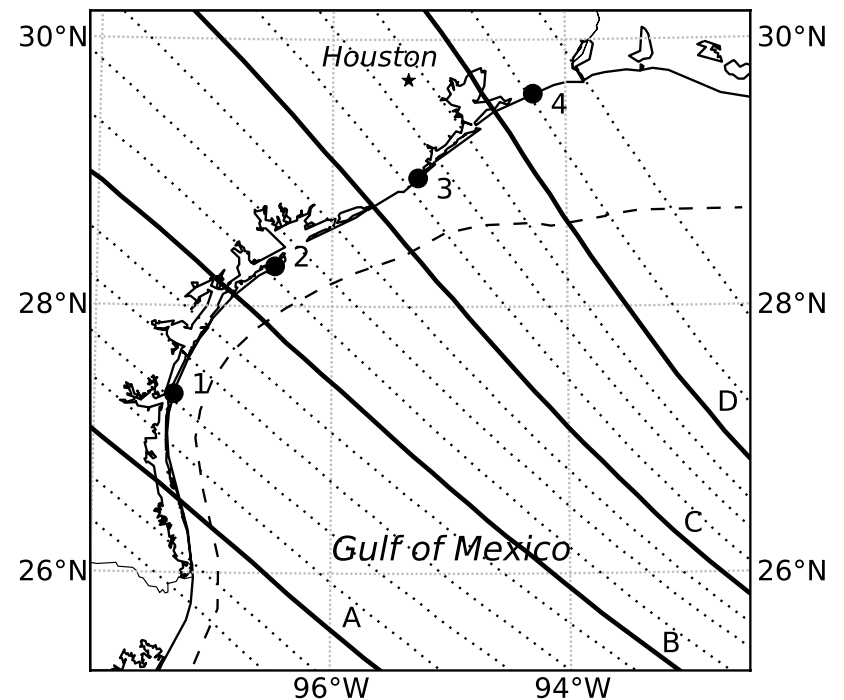
### Storm surge and tides – ADCIRC (Luettich *et al.* 1992)

- Hydrodynamic model:

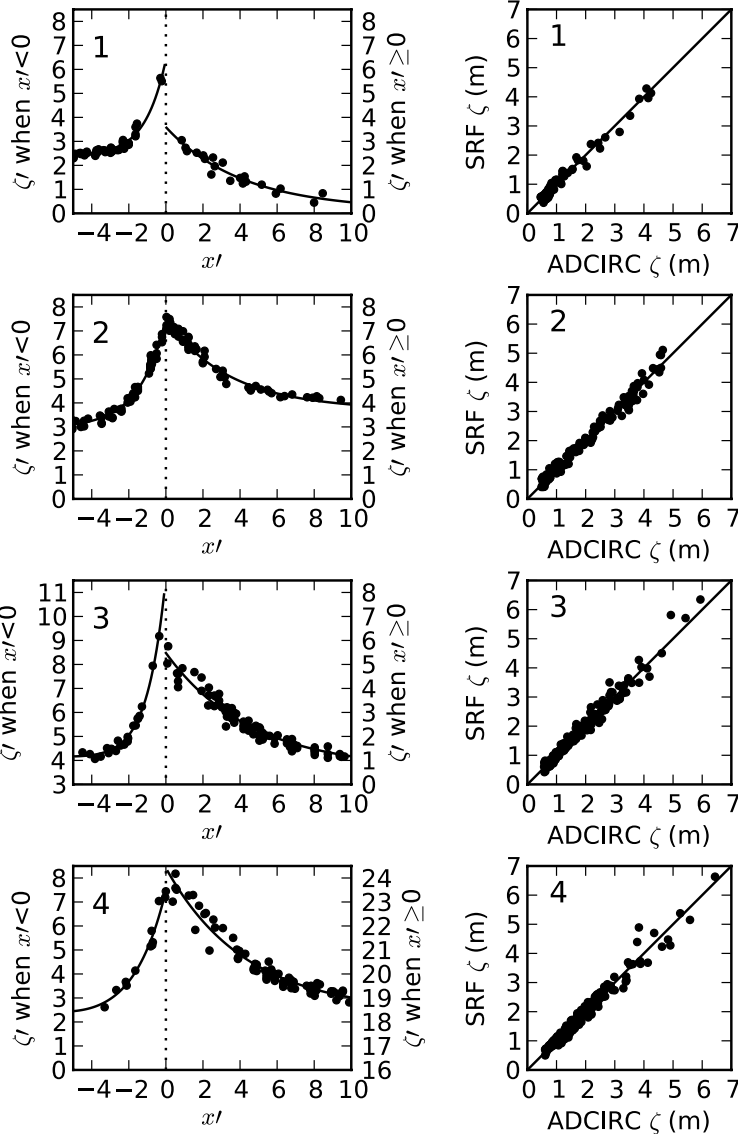
$$\frac{\partial H}{\partial t} + \nabla_H (\vec{U} H) = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial \vec{U}}{\partial t} + (\vec{U} \cdot \nabla_H) \vec{U} = -g \nabla_H \left( \zeta_2 + \frac{p(x, y)}{g \rho_w} - \alpha \eta \right) + f \vec{k} \times \vec{U} + \frac{\vec{\tau}_s}{H \rho_w} - \frac{\vec{\tau}_b}{H \rho_w}$$

- Finite element, variable resolution
- Model forcing:
  - Wind stress & Barometric pressure (Thompson & Cardone 1996):
    - $V_f, \theta, c_p, R_p$ , track position, ...
- Simulation time: 1000+ hours (on 1 CPU)



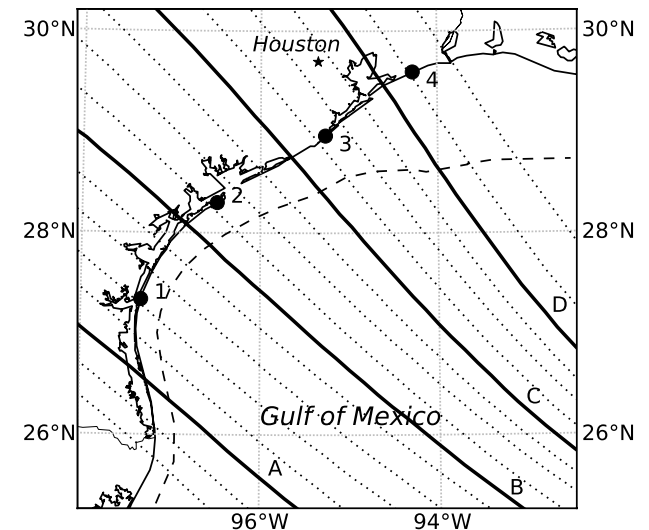
# Coastal Inundation Risk Assessment Surge Response Functions



$$\zeta' = \frac{\gamma \zeta}{\Delta p} + m_2(x, x') \left( \frac{P_{far} - c_p}{P_{far} - c_{p-max}} \right)^{\alpha(x, x')} \left( \frac{R_p / L_{30}(x_o)}{[R_p / L_{30}]_{ref}} \right)^{\beta(x, x')}$$

$$x' = \frac{(x - x_o)}{R_p} - \lambda(x_o) + cH \left( \frac{(x - x_o)}{R_p} - \lambda(x_o) - 1 \right) \left( \frac{R_p}{L_{30}} \right) - F \left( 1 - \frac{R_p}{R_{thres}} \right) H \left( 1 - \frac{R_p}{R_{thres}} \right)$$

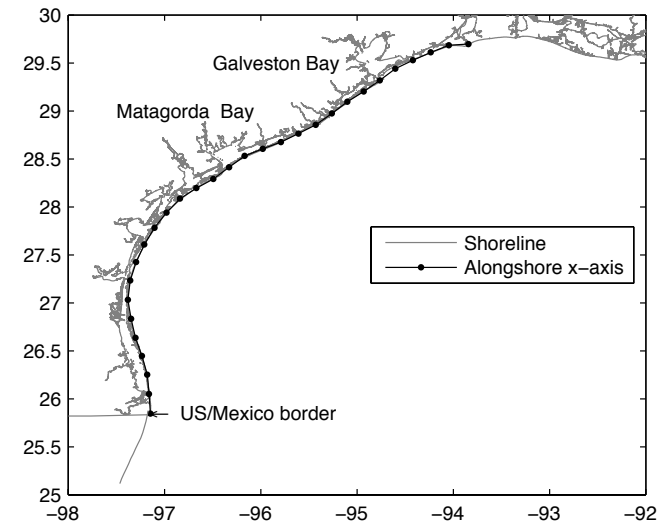
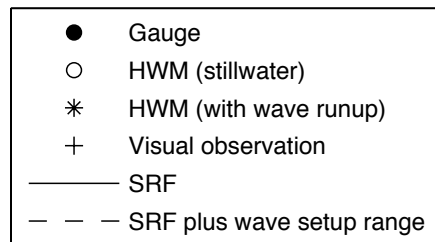
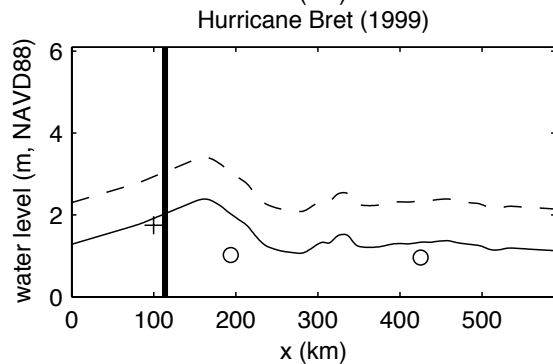
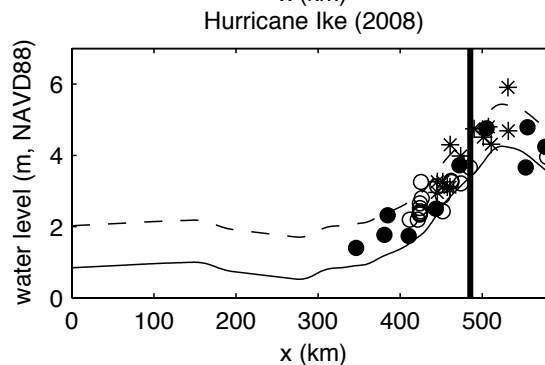
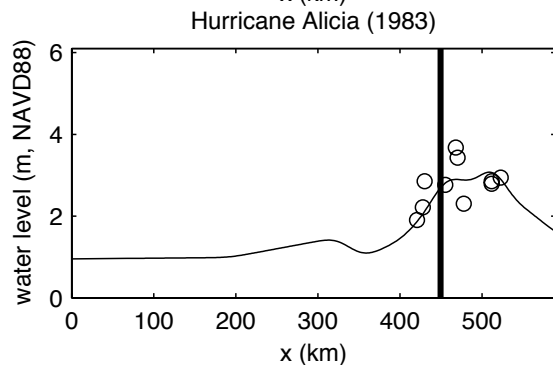
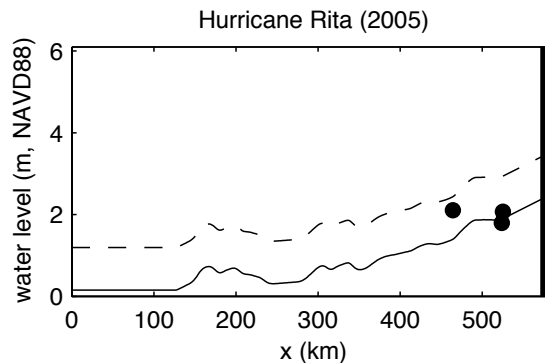
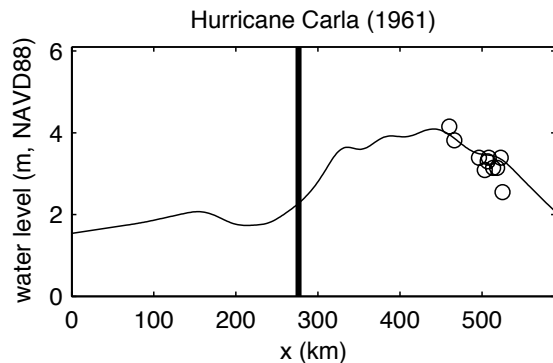
mean error = -3 to +1 cm ← NO BIAS!  
RMS error = 11 to 22 cm



From Song et al., 2012 *Nat. Hazards*

# Coastal Inundation Risk Assessment

## Surge Response Functions



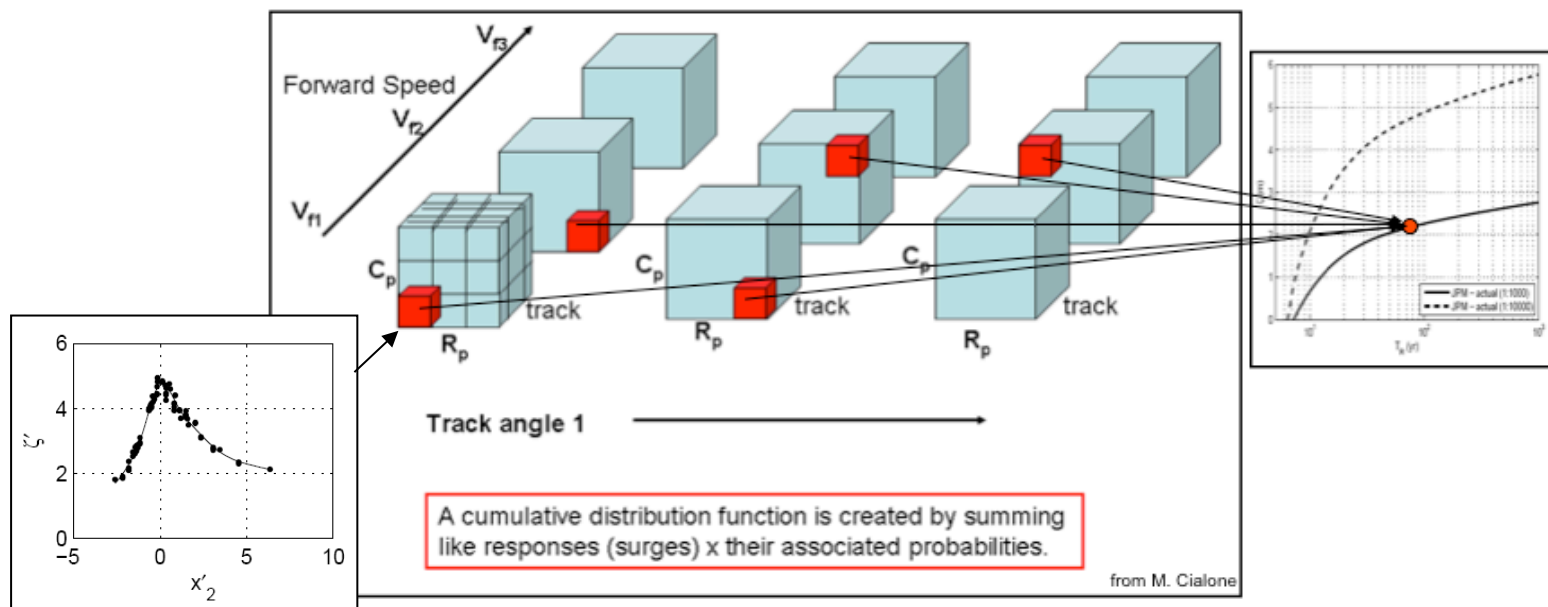
# Coastal Inundation Risk Assessment Joint Probability Method with Optimal Sampling (JPM-OS)

$$T_R(z_{\max}) = \left\{ 1 - \int_{p_o} \int_{R_p} \int_{v_f} \int_{\theta} \int_{x_o} f(p_o, R_p, v_f, \theta, x_o) \left[ H(z_{\max} - [\phi(x, p_o, R_p, v_f, \theta, x_o, MSL) + \varepsilon_z]) \right] dx_o d\theta dv_f dR_p dp_o \right\}^{-1}$$

$$f(p_o, R_p, v_f, \theta, x_o) = \Lambda_1 \Lambda_2 \Lambda_3 \Lambda_4 \Lambda_5$$

$$\Lambda_1 = f(p_o | x_o) = \frac{1}{a_1(x_o)} \exp\left[-\frac{\Delta p - a_o(x_o)}{a_1(x_o)}\right] \exp\left\{-\exp\left[-\frac{\Delta p - a_o(x_o)}{a_1(x_o)}\right]\right\} \text{ (Gumbel Distribution) } \leftarrow \text{Extreme-value distribution}$$

$$\Lambda_5 = g(\lambda, x_o)$$



# Coastal Inundation Risk Assessment Joint Probability Method with Optimal Sampling (JPM-OS)

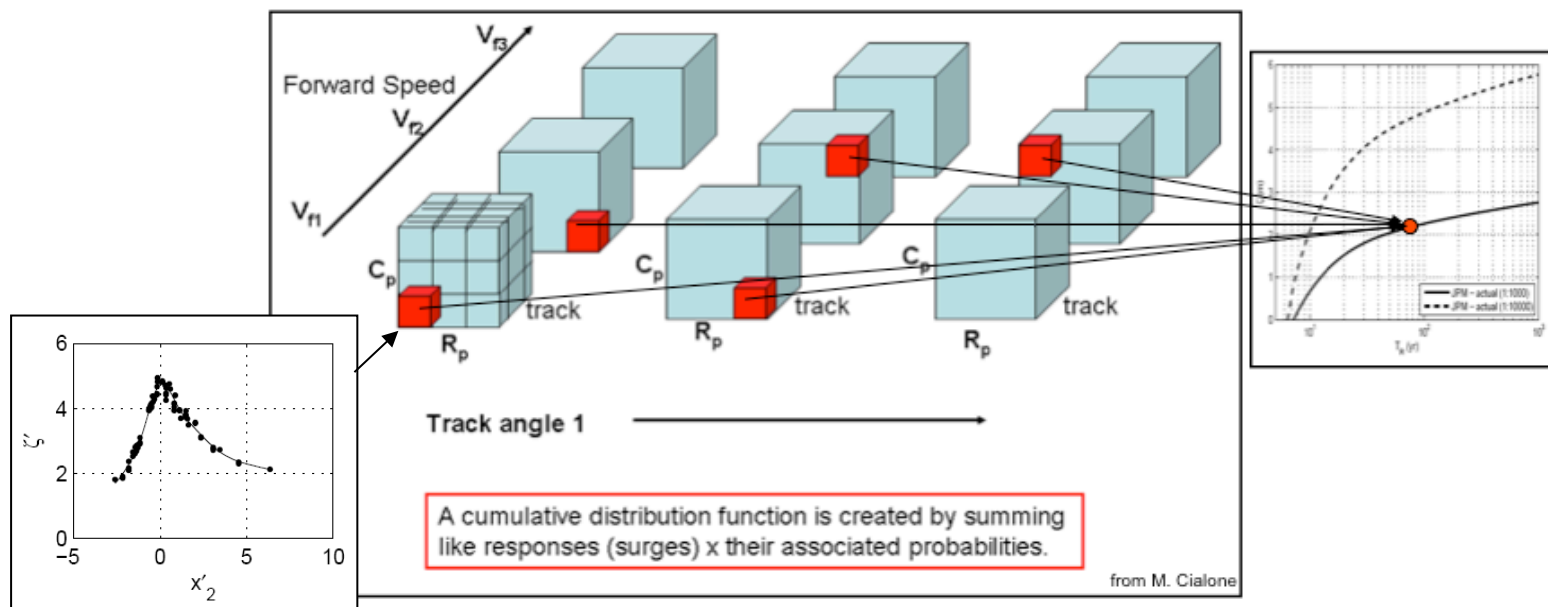
$$T_R(z_{\max}) = \left\{ 1 - \int_{SST} \int_{p_o} \int_{R_p} \int_{v_f} \int_{\theta} \int_{x_o} f(p_o, R_p, v_f, \theta, x_o) \left[ H(z_{\max} - [\phi(x, p_o, R_p, v_f, \theta, x_o) MSL + \varepsilon_z]) \right] dx_o d\theta dv_f dR_p dp_o dSST \right\}^{-1}$$

$$f(SST, p_o, R_p, v_f, \theta, x_o) = \Lambda_{SST} \Lambda_1 \Lambda_2 \Lambda_3 \Lambda_4 \Lambda_5$$

$$\Lambda_1 = f(p_o | x_o) = \frac{1}{a_1(x_o, t)} \exp\left[-\frac{\Delta p - a_o(x_o, t)}{a_1(x_o, t)}\right] \exp\left\{-\exp\left[-\frac{\Delta p - a_o(x_o, t)}{a_1(x_o, t)}\right]\right\} \text{ (Gumbel Distribution)}$$

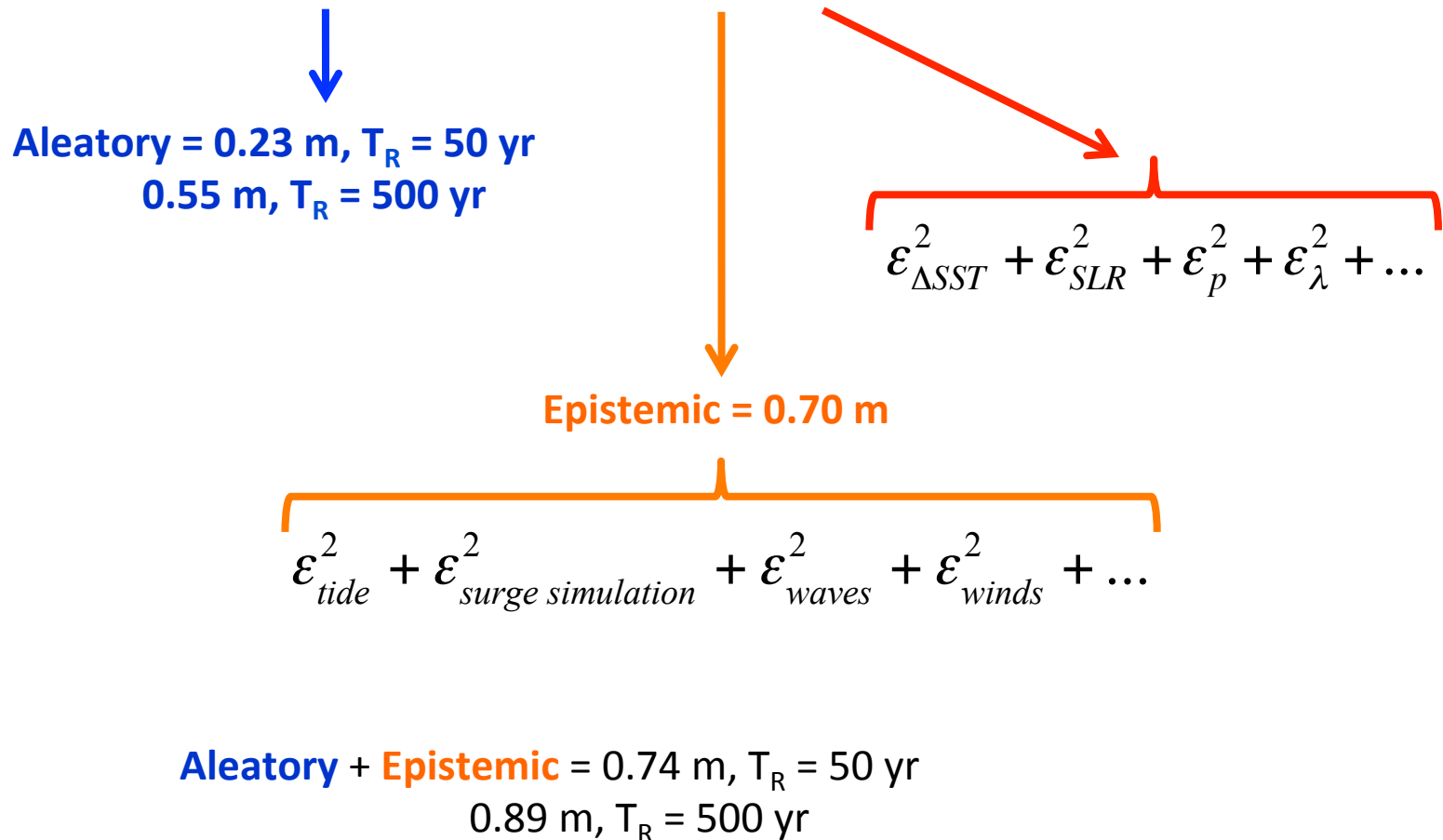
$$\Lambda_5 = g(\lambda(t), x_o)$$

$$\Lambda_{SST} = ?$$



# Coastal Inundation Risk Assessment Uncertainty

$$\text{Uncertainty} = \text{Aleatory} + \text{Epistemic}$$



# Coastal Inundation Risk Assessment

## Uncertainty - Aleatory

For estimating surges in large coastal applications to date, the standard has been to include epistemic uncertainty but to neglect aleatory uncertainty, assuming it was small for the range of annual exceedance probabilities required in those studies.

However, aleatory uncertainty can be shown to have a form such that

$$\left[ \frac{F(z')}{F(z)} \right] = \Psi \left[ \frac{T(z)}{N}, \frac{\sigma_1}{\sigma_2} \right]$$

where

$F(z), F(z')$  are the CDFs of the results with and without aleatory uncertainty included

$\Psi$  is highly nonlinear function of its 2 arguments

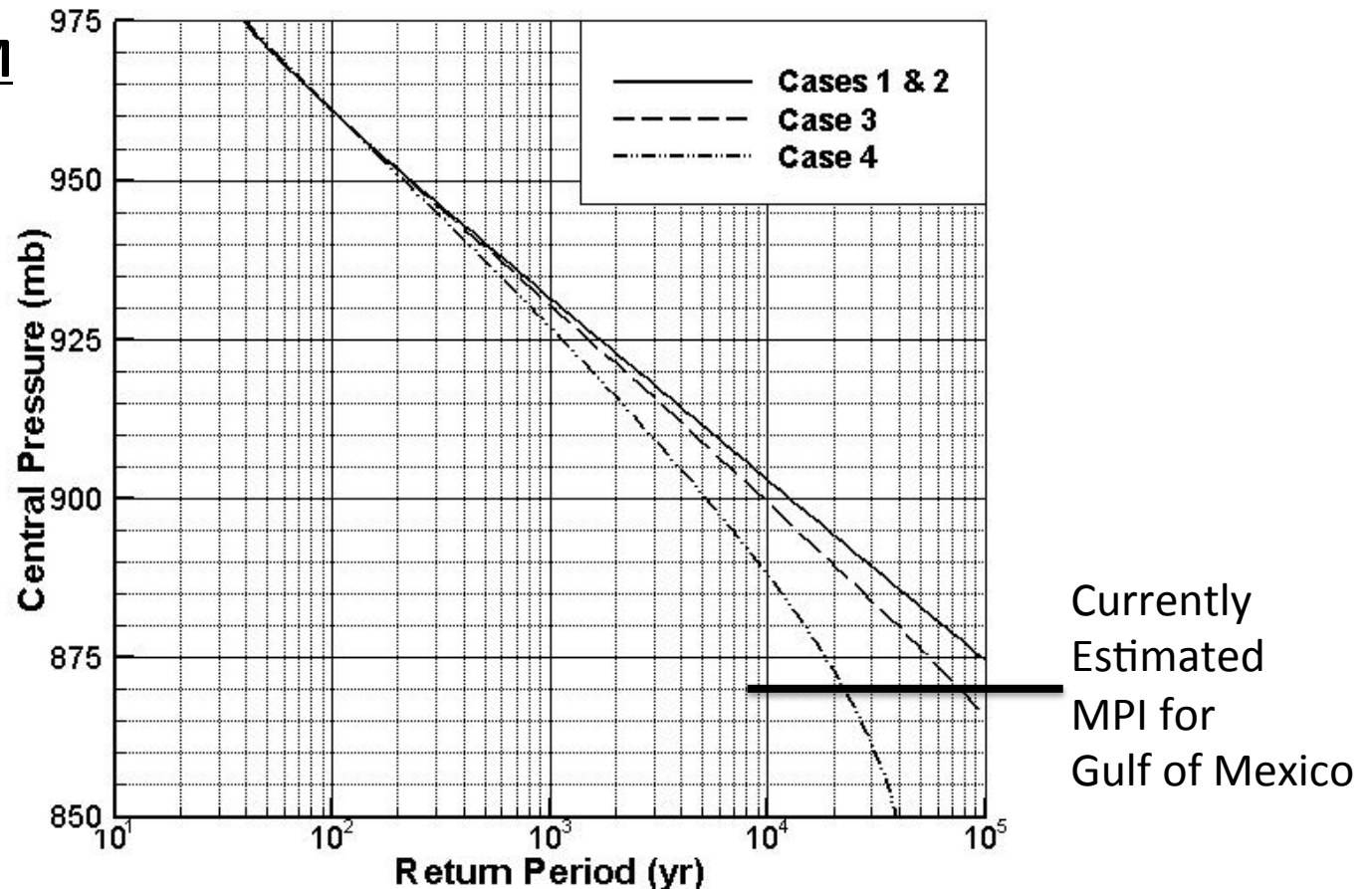
$T(z)$  is the return period associated with surge level  $z$

$N$  is the number of years in the sample

$\sigma_1, \sigma_2$  are the measures of dispersion for the extremal distribution and the uncertainty distribution (which varies with  $T(z)$ )

# Coastal Inundation Risk Assessment Uncertainty - Aleatory

## Florida Example, JPM



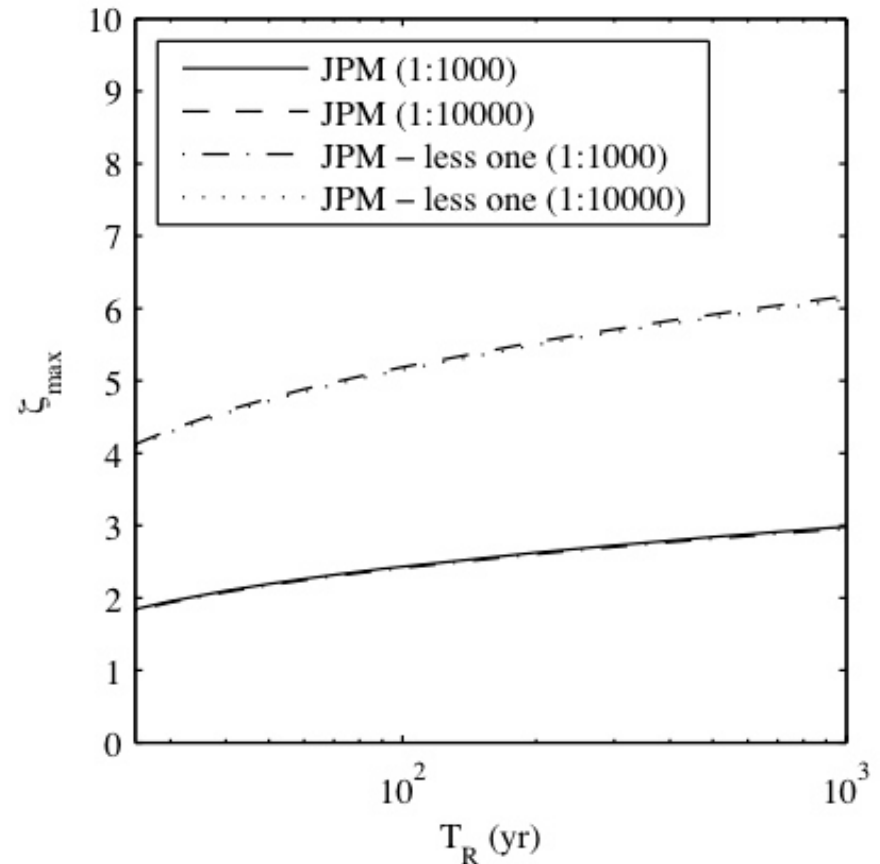
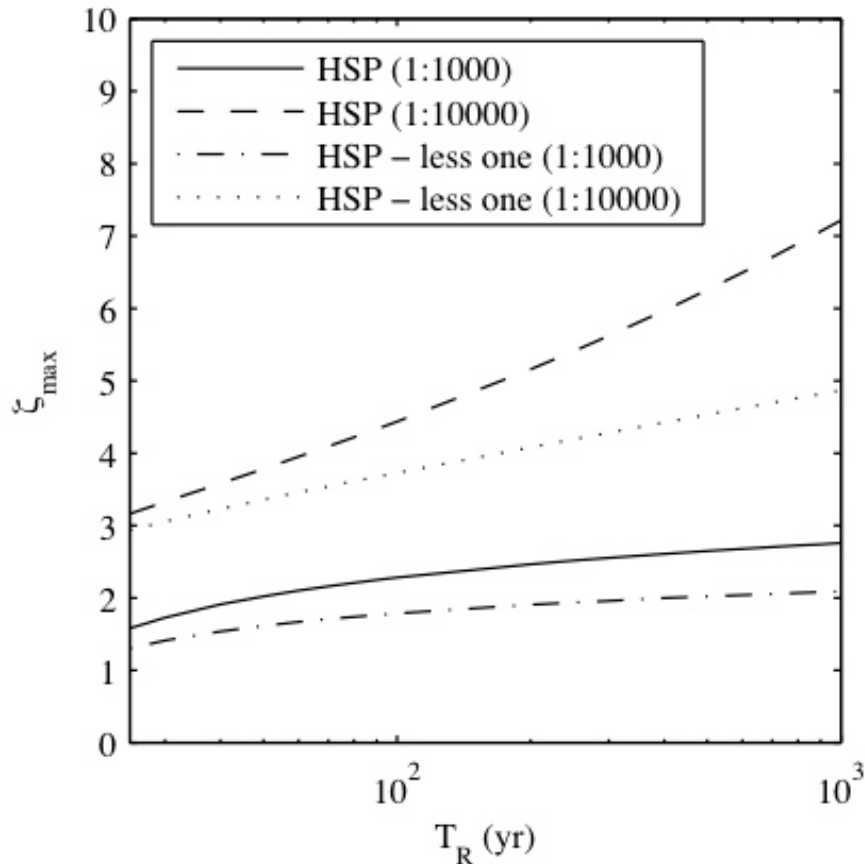
Estimated return periods with and without uncertainty:

- Case 1&2: deterministic and delta function approximation
- Case 3: using estimated standard deviations divided by 2
- Case 4: using actual estimated standard deviations



# Coastal Inundation Risk Assessment

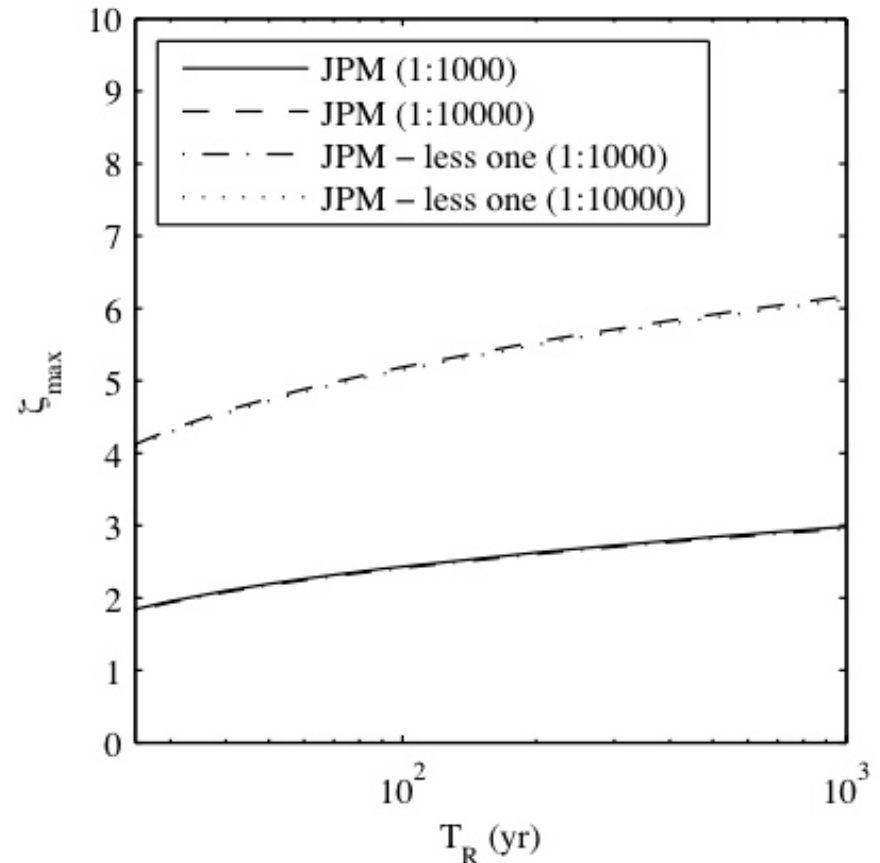
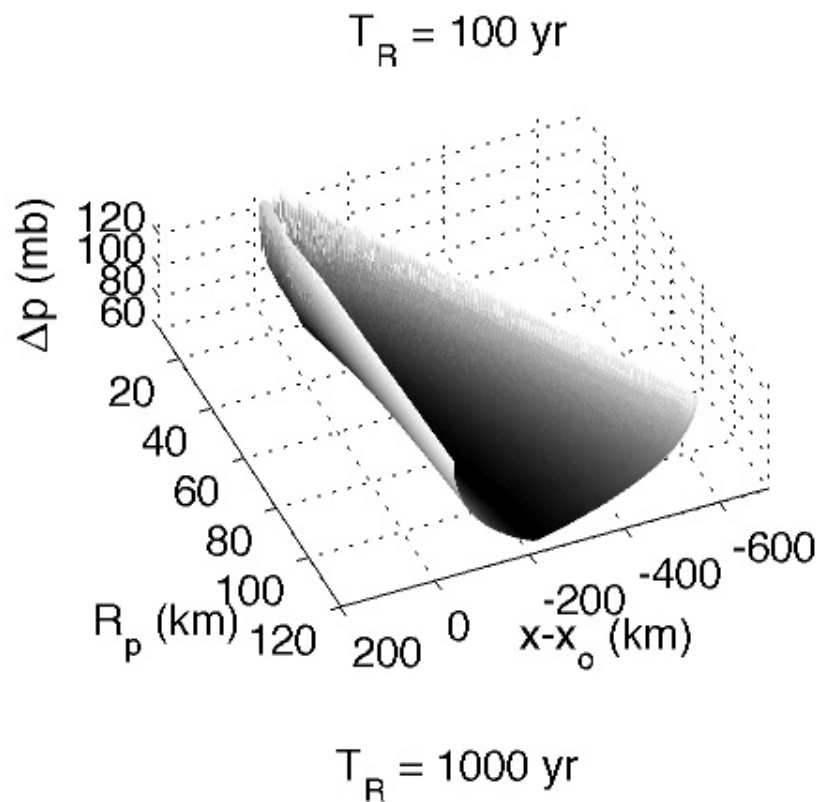
## Examples – Strength of JPM-OS



- Optimal sampling reduces computational requirements by 75%
- Means to bound upper tail of distribution using Maximum Possible Intensity
- Stable with respect to small changes in sample
- Considers all storms in parameter space contributing to surge level

# Coastal Inundation Risk Assessment

## Examples – Strength of JPM-OS



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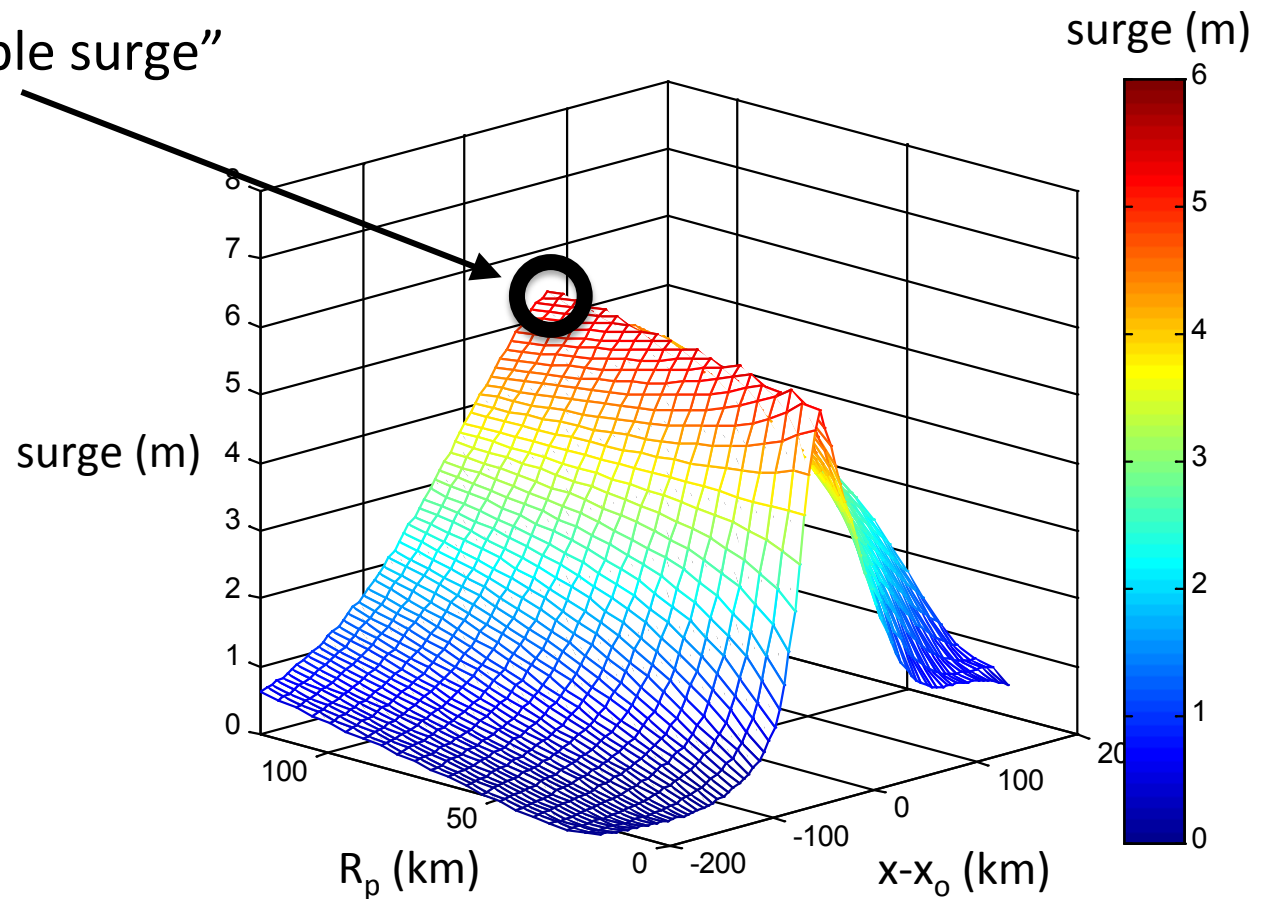
# Coastal Inundation Risk Assessment

## Examples – Upper Limits

“Maximum possible intensity”:

$p_o = 870$  m (Tonkin 2000)

“Maximum possible surge”



# Coastal Inundation Risk Assessment

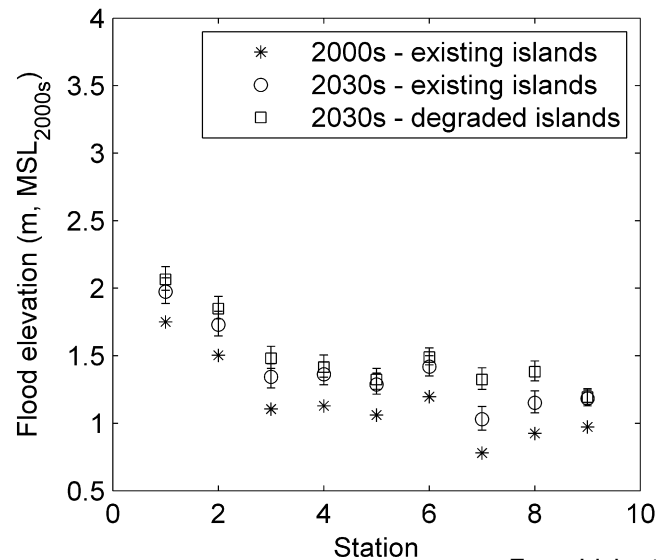
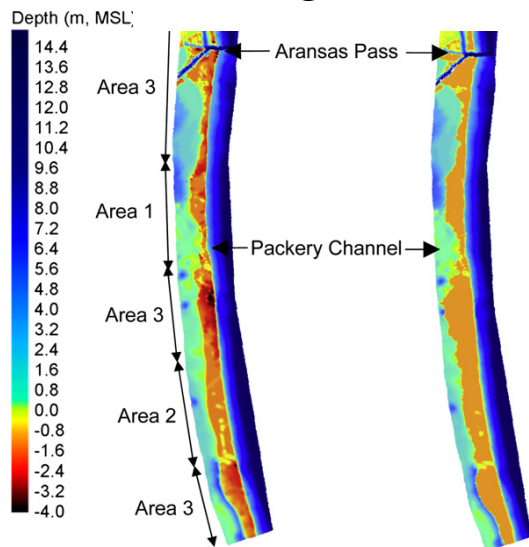
## Shortcomings: Multi/Combined-Hazards

- Within single events:
  - Surge + tides + waves + winds + precipitation
  - Tsunami + earthquake
- Consecutive events:
  - Storm then storm
  - Storm then tsunami, vice versa
- Concurrent events:
  - “Superstorm” Sandy = hurricane + Nor’easter
  - 2011 MS River flood = inland rainfall event + coastal storm
  - Tsunami + hurricane (??)

# Coastal Inundation Risk Assessment

## Shortcomings: Future Conditions (UNCERTAINTY!)

- Sea-level rise
- Climate variability/climate change
- Landform changes:



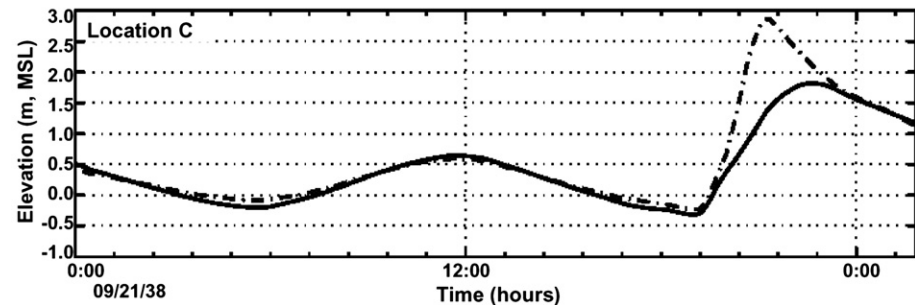
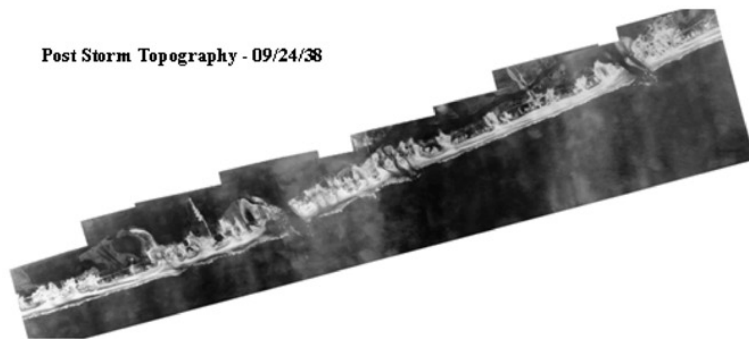
From Irish et al. 2011, *Ocean Coastal Mgt.*

- Human impacts:
  - Land use changes
  - Population growth/migration
  - Policy/Procedure
  - Maintenance
  - Adaptation

# Coastal Inundation Risk Assessment

## Shortcomings: Complex/Coupled Processes

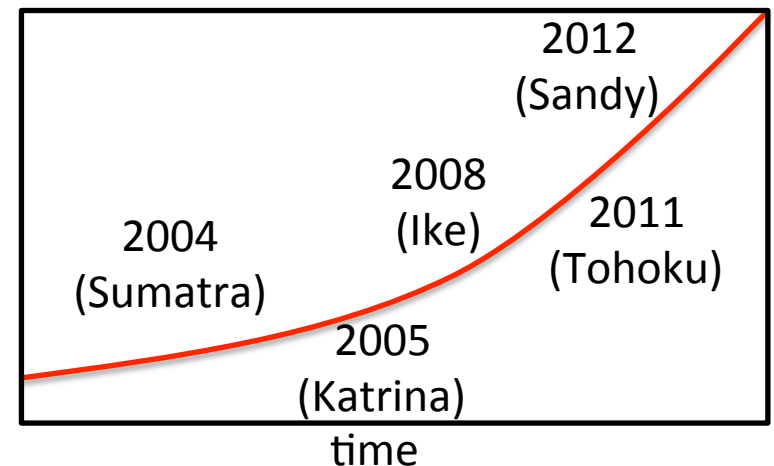
- Surge response coupled with **sediment transport**, vice versa
- Example: Barrier island overwash and breaching



From Cañizares and Irish 2008, *Coastal Eng.*

- **Spatiotemporal** variation in surges, waves, winds, etc.
- Natural limits
- Methods validation
- What else have we yet to learn?

knowledge



# Coastal Inundation Risk Assessment

## Shortcomings: Probability vs. Risk

**Single flood probability = multitude of outcomes**

### Natural: Flood level +

- Velocity
- Forces
- Erosion
- 
- 
- 

### Natural/Human

- Policy/Decisions
- Procedures
- Maintenance
- Adaptation