

The Continued Development of the Third-generation Shallow Water Wave Model "SWAN"

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LONG-TERM GOALS

The long-term goal of this effort is to provide a commonly accepted third-generation wave model for shallow water to the international community of scientists and engineers for the purpose of basic research and operational wave computations.

OBJECTIVES

The main objective is to support and assist the development, validation and verification of the SWAN model and its use in operational conditions. The development is based on new scientific insights in the evolution of waves in shallow water. The verification and validation is based on field observations and laboratory experiments supplemented with numerical experiments. Operational use is supported with first-line assistance and diagnostics.

APPROACH

The development of the SWAN model is envisioned as a community effort of the wave modelers presently working in this field of technology, most of whom coordinate their efforts in an international forum called the WISE group (Waves in Shallow Environments).

We provide support and assistance to the ONR-designated investigators. We assist in the installation of SWAN under conventional operating systems (also as a sub-model in larger systems of models such as atmospheric and ocean circulation models). The complete and detailed documentation (about 120 pages) has been supplemented with introductory documentation. Questions of users are answered and errors are located and repaired. Updated program codes are communicated to all registered users. This support is operating through electronic-mail facilities.

This approach is essentially a continuation of the development of the SWAN model over the years 1992 - 1996 by J.A. Battjes, L.H. Holthuijsen and N. Booij and their Ph.D. students. This consists of designing, implementing and testing a fully spectral third-generation wave model for shallow water with a fully implicit propagation scheme. Battjes supervises the scientific developments, Booij supervises the numerical developments. Holthuijsen is responsible for project management and overall supervision. In addition, I.J.G. Haagsma, A.T.M.M. Kieftenburg and E.E. Kriezti carry out the

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upgrading of the computer code as regards system requirements as well as regards scientific and numerical aspects and they provide first-line support for the users.

WORK COMPLETED

A new version of SWAN, SWAN 40.11 Cycle III (to extend the present Cycle II with oceanic options) was released on October 26th, 2000. Compared to the previous authorized version, SWAN 40.01, this new release:

- permits wave propagation with highly reduced diffusion (using a third-order propagation scheme for non-stationary computations and a second-order scheme for stationary computations developed in the AWPP program (by J. Kaihatu, E. Rogers, H. Petit, N. Booij and L. Holthuijsen),
- permits wave propagation on the globe (oceans) with the basic model equation formulated and implemented in terms of longitude and latitude (optional),
- can dampen the garden sprinkler effect with a diffusion term (default),
- can reflect waves against obstacles (command option)
- allows nesting in WAVEWATCH III (data transfer only; physics presently being tested).

All bug-fixes for the previous release are included.

Support and assistance

- 1) The SWAN homepage on the internet has been regularly updated. Coding bugs which are discovered in the authorized version of SWAN, and their fixes, are published on this site. The discussion group of SWAN on the website is operational.
- 2) The SWAN code (40.11, and previous versions) has been downloaded by approximately 940 institutes from over 70 countries.
- 3) In the report period 103 queries of users about SWAN installation have been answered: general information (30), program bugs (21), installation (21), code (7) and usage (24).
- 4) The testing of the SWAN code with the Lahey Fortran 95 compiler version 5.0 (severest level) was continued. SWAN Cycle III (40.11) requires a Fortran90 compiler as the transition to Fortran90 has been initiated.

User documentation:

Several of the existing subroutines have been adapted to the SWAN programming protocol.

User support, diagnostics and repairs:

- a) Several (minor) errors in the new release have been detected. They are published on the SWAN home page, describing the impact and (possible) solutions.
- b) The updating of the system documentation (headers of the subroutines) has continued.

RESULTS

Improvement of model technology

- 1) Scattered reflection against obstacles has been added to the presently operational specular reflection (not Bragg scattering or bottom scattering).
- 2) A modification of the white-capping source term has been implemented. It reproduces a generic laboratory experiment of M. Donelan (where wind sea is generated in the presence of a following swell) but it fails to reproduce an equally generic experiment of Mitsuyasu (where wind sea is generated in the presence of an opposing swell). A field equivalent of the experiment of Donelan (Haringvliet) is being investigated with this new formulation. Ocean-scale applications give unrealistic results.
- 3) The effect of swell on wind generation has been parameterized in an experimental version of SWAN. The laboratory experiments of Donelan and Mitsuyasu can now both be explained.
- 4) A multiple DIA approximation of the quadruplet wave-wave interaction (six quadruplets) has been included in an experimental version of SWAN with the support of N. Hashimoto (short visit from Japan). Experiments look promising
- 5) A code for exact calculations of the quadruplet wave-wave interactions has been acquired from N. Hashimoto. During a short visit of Hashimoto this code has been included in an experimental version of SWAN. During that visit the code has been modified to obtain more stable results than with previous versions of that code. The results of a real 2D case in Lake George (Australia) are significantly better (at the price of very large computing effort) than with the default DIA approximation.
- 6) The transition from Fortran77 to Fortran90 of the SWAN code is continuing. The full transition depends on funding outside the present project.
- 7) Numerical experiments (funded by the Dutch Ministry of Public Works) have shown the dominant character of the numerical limiter in SWAN (taken from the WAM model). Alternatives have been tried but failed to give satisfactory results. The (de-)activation of the limiter for the source terms will be user controlled in the next release of SWAN. Some improvements in shallow water can thus be achieved.
- 8) The formulations of WAVEWATCH III for representing the physical processes of generation and dissipation in deep water have been implemented in an experimental version of SWAN. They are being tested.
- 9) The model for depth-induced breaking in SWAN has been extended with the model of Baldock (to better estimate the fraction of breakers) and the maximum possible wave height (for a given depth) has been made dependent on wave steepness (based on Battjes and Stive). Both modifications improve the performance of SWAN in the surf zone.
- 10) Diffraction based on a phase-decoupled approach has been included successfully in an experimental version. See Figure 3.
- 11) The boundary conditions for the wave- induced set-up have been improved.
- 12) The convergence of the solver for the wave-induced set-up has been improved.
- 13) The development of a 4th-generation version of SWAN (a bi-spectral version) has been initiated (outside this project).

IMPACT/APPLICATION

SWAN provides scientists with a common platform for their research of the generation, propagation and dissipation of wind surface waves in shallow water. It facilitates the integration of these aspects and avoids the need to develop supplementary models in each individual research project. With the support provided here, the results of such projects will be implemented in the fully operational SWAN model thus serving the community in general. It provides a common standard for coastal applications, and is accepted by a large number of institutions worldwide: SWAN has now been introduced to about 940 institutes from all over the world by registered users.

TRANSITIONS

The SWAN model is available free of charge to anyone. It can be downloaded from the SWAN website. Its use is supported by the original authors under this project. SWAN is aimed at operational use by such government agencies as army and navy, national weather services and others. Also private industry is using SWAN, mostly to determine the coastal wave climate for the purpose of design of structures and off-shore operations.

RELATED PROJECTS

Considerable efforts are being carried out by others to further develop the SWAN model. In the USA this is coordinated mostly through the AWPP program of ONR. In Europe, similar efforts (on a smaller scale) are carried out by groups of investigators funded by the EC and by national governments (notably in the Netherlands, Germany and England). The nature of these efforts is both theoretical and empirical and require extensive field work and computer experiments. The level of funding is several million US dollars per year.

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