

# How to extract the oscillating components of a signal? A wavelet-based approach compared to the Empirical Mode Decomposition

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- **Decomposing** time series into several **modes** has become more and more popular and **useful** in signal analysis.
- Methods such as EMD, SSA, STFT, EWT, wavelets,... have been successfully applied in **medicine, finance, climatology, ...**
- Old but gold: **Fourier** transform allows to decompose a signal as

$$f(t) \approx \sum_{k=1}^J c_k \cos(\omega_k t + \phi_k).$$

- Problem: often **too many components** in the decomposition.
- Idea: Considering the **amplitudes and frequencies as functions of  $t$**  to decrease the number of terms:

$$f(t) = \sum_{k=1}^K a_k(t) \cos(\phi_k(t))$$

with  $K \ll J$  (AM-FM signals).

- We will focus on the EMD and a wavelet-based method.

- 1 EMD
  - Description of the method
  - Illustration
- 2 WIME
  - Description of the method
  - Illustration
- 3 EMD vs WIME
  - Crossings in the TF plane
  - Mode-mixing problem
  - Resistance to noise

- Real-life example: ECG
  - Some conclusions
- 4 Edge effects
    - The problem
    - A possible solution
  - 5 Wavelets and forecasting?
    - ENSO index
    - Analysis
    - Model and skills
    - Some conclusions

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## EMD

- Empirical Mode Decomposition
- Empirical = no strong theoretical background
- Decomposes a signal into IMFs (Intrinsic Mode Functions)
- Is often used with the Hilbert-Huang transform to represent the IMFs in the TF plane (not shown here).

## EMD

- 1) For a signal  $X(t)$ , let

$$m_{1,0}(t) = \frac{u_{1,0}(t) + l_{1,0}(t)}{2}$$

be the mean of its upper and lower envelopes  $u(t)$  and  $l(t)$  as determined from a cubic-spline interpolation of local maxima and minima.

- 2) Compute  $h_{1,0}(t)$  as:

$$h_{1,0}(t) = X(t) - m_{1,0}(t).$$

- 3) Now  $h_{1,0}(t)$  is treated as the data,  $m_{1,1}(t)$  is the mean of its upper and lower envelopes, and the process is iterated (“sifting process”):

$$h_{1,1}(t) = h_{1,0}(t) - m_{1,1}(t).$$

- 4) The sifting process is repeated  $k$  times, i.e.

$$h_{1,k}(t) = h_{1,k-1}(t) - m_{1,k}(t),$$

until a stopping criterion is satisfied.

## EMD

- 5) Then  $h_{1,k}(t)$  is considered as the component  $c_1(t)$  of the signal and the whole process is repeated with the rest

$$r_1(t) = X(t) - c_1(t)$$

instead of  $X(t)$ . Get  $c_2(t)$  then repeat with  $r_2(t) = r_1(t) - c_2(t)$ , ...

By construction, the number of extrema is decreased when going from  $r_i$  to  $r_{i+1}$ , and the whole decomposition is guaranteed to be completed with a finite number of modes.

Stopping criterion for the sifting process: When computing  $m_{i,j}(t)$ , also compute

$$a_{i,j}(t) = \frac{u_{i,j}(t) - l_{i,j}(t)}{2} \quad \sigma_{i,j}(t) = \left| \frac{m_{i,j}(t)}{a_{i,j}(t)} \right|.$$

The sifting is iterated until  $\sigma(t) < 0.05$  for 95% of the total length of  $X(t)$  and  $\sigma(t) < 0.5$  for the remaining 5%.

# EMD - Illustration

Show time!



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## Continuous wavelet transform

Given a wavelet  $\psi$  and a function  $f$ , the wavelet transform of  $f$  at time  $t$  and at scale  $a > 0$  is defined as

$$W_f(t, a) = \int f(x) \bar{\psi} \left( \frac{x-t}{a} \right) \frac{dx}{a}$$

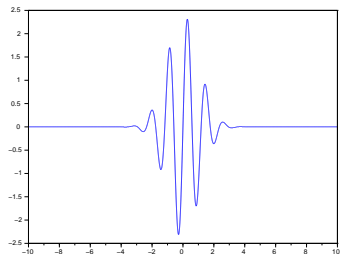
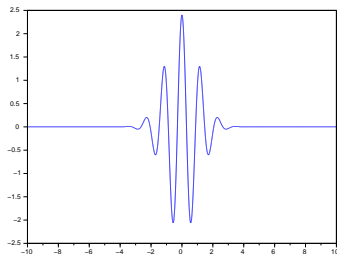
where  $\bar{\psi}$  is the complex conjugate of  $\psi$ .

We use the wavelet  $\psi$  defined by its Fourier transform as

$$\hat{\psi}(v) = \sin \left( \frac{\pi v}{2\Omega} \right) e^{-\frac{(v-\Omega)^2}{2}}$$

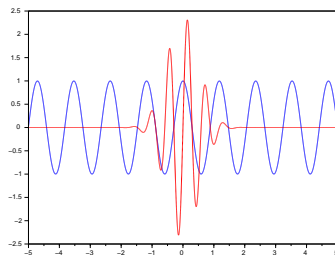
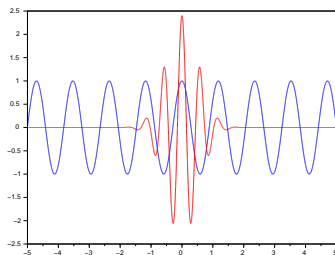
with  $\Omega = \pi\sqrt{2/\ln 2}$ , which is similar to the Morlet wavelet but with exactly one vanishing moment.

## CWT

Real and Imaginary parts of  $\psi$ 

## CWT

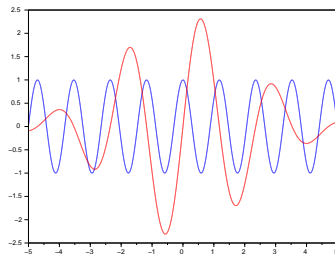
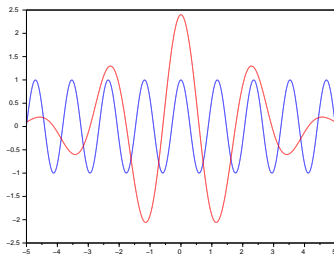
Real and Imaginary parts of  $\psi$  compared to a cosine.



$\Re(W_f(0, a)) \approx 0$ ,  $\Im(W_f(0, a)) \approx 0$  thus  $|W_f(0, a)| \approx 0$ .

## CWT

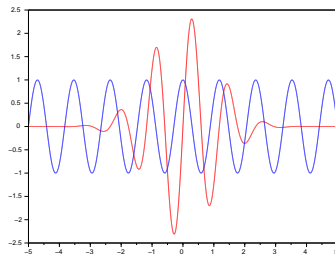
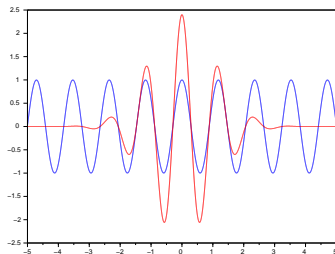
Real and Imaginary parts of  $\psi$  compared to a cosine.



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## CWT

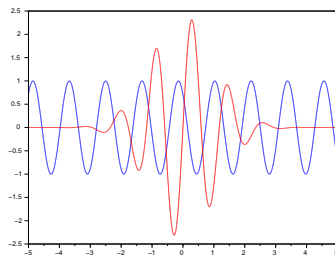
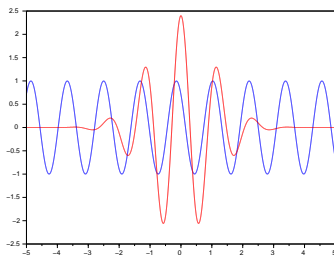
Real and Imaginary parts of  $\psi$  compared to a cosine.



$\Re(W_f(0, a)) \approx 1$ ,  $\Im(W_f(0, a)) \approx 0$  thus  $|W_f(0, a)| \approx 1$ .

## CWT

Real and Imaginary parts of  $\psi$  compared to a cosine shifted.



$\Re(W_f(0, a)) \approx \sqrt{2}/2$ ,  $\Im(W_f(0, a)) \approx -\sqrt{2}/2$  thus  $|W_f(0, a)| \approx 1$ .

## CWT

One has

$$|\hat{\psi}(v)| < 10^{-5} \text{ if } v \leq 0$$

thus  $\psi$  can be considered as a **progressive wavelet** (i.e.  $\hat{\psi}(v) = 0$  if  $v \leq 0$ ).

Property: If  $f(x) = A \cos(\omega x + \varphi)$ , then

$$W_f(t, a) = \frac{A}{2} e^{i(t\omega + \varphi)} \overline{\hat{\psi}(a\omega)}.$$

Consequence: Given  $t$ , if  $a^*$  is the scale at which

$$a \mapsto |W_f(t, a)|$$

reaches its maximum, then

$$a^* \omega = \Omega.$$

The value of  $\omega$  can be obtained (if unknown) and  $f$  is recovered as

$$f(x) = 2\Re(W_f(x, a^*)) = 2|W_f(x, a^*(x))| \cos(\arg W_f(x, a^*(x))).$$



## WIME - Wavelet-Induced Mode Extraction

- 1) Perform the CWT of the signal  $f$ :  $W_f(t, a)$ .
- 2) Compute the wavelet spectrum  $\Lambda$  associated with  $f$ :

$$a \mapsto \Lambda(a) = E_t |W_f(t, a)|$$

where  $E_t$  denotes the mean over time.

- 3) Segment the spectrum to isolate the scale  $a^*$  at which  $\Lambda$  reaches its highest local maximum between the scales  $a_1$  and  $a_2$  at which  $\Lambda$  displays the left and right local minima that are the closest to  $a^*$ . We set  $A = [a_1, a_2]$ .
- 4) Choose a starting point  $(t_0, a(t_0))$  with  $a(t_0) \in A$ , e.g.

$$(t_0, a(t_0)) = \underset{t, a \in A}{\operatorname{argmax}} |W_f(t, a)|.$$

- 5) Compute the ridge  $t \mapsto (t, a(t))$  forward and backward that stems from  $(t_0, a(t_0))$ :
- Compute  $b_1$  and  $b_2$  such that  $b_2 - b_1 = a_2 - a_1$  and  $a(t_0) = (b_1 + b_2)/2$ , i.e. center  $a(t_0)$  in a frequency band of the same length as the initial one.
  - Among the scales at which the function  $a \in [b_1, b_2] \mapsto |W_f(t_0 + 1, a)|$  reaches a local maximum, define  $a(t_0 + 1)$  as the closest one to  $a(t_0)$ . If there is no local maximum, then  $a(t_0 + 1) = a(t_0)$ .
  - Repeat step 5) with  $(t_0 + 1, a(t_0 + 1))$  instead of  $(t_0, a(t_0))$  until the end of the signal.
  - Proceed in the same way backward from  $(t_0, a(t_0))$  until the beginning of the signal.
- 6) Extract the component associated with the ridge:

$$t \mapsto 2\Re(W_f(t, a(t))) = 2|W_f(t, a(t))| \cos(\arg W_f(t, a(t))).$$

- 7) That component is  $c_1$ . The whole process is repeated with the rest

$$r_1 = f - c_1$$

instead of  $f$ . Get  $c_2$  then repeat with  $r_2(t) = r_1(t) - c_2(t)$ , ...

- 8) Stop the process when the extracted components are not relevant anymore, e.g. at  $c_n$  if  $\|f - \sum_{i=1}^n c_i\| < 0.05 \|f\|$ .

Alternative stopping criterion : EMD-like method.

Very useful:  $(t, a) \mapsto |W_f(t, a)|$  can be seen as a TF representation of  $f$ .

# WIME - Illustration

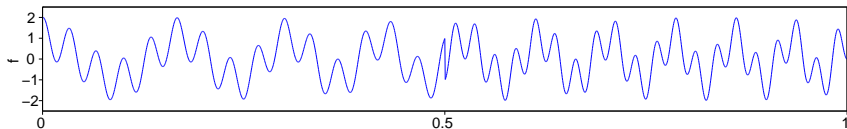
Show time again!

## WIME - Illustration

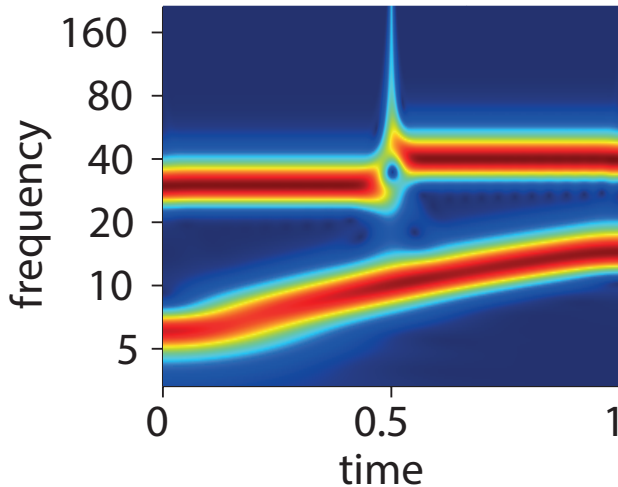
We consider the function  $f = f_1 + f_2$  defined on  $[0, 1]$  by

$$f_1(t) = \begin{cases} \cos(60\pi t) & \text{if } t \leq 0.5 \\ \cos(80\pi t - 15\pi) & \text{if } t > 0.5 \end{cases}$$

$$f_2(t) = \cos(10\pi t + 10\pi t^2).$$

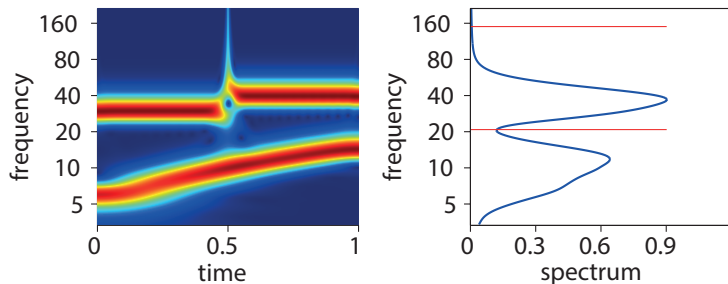


## WIME - Illustration



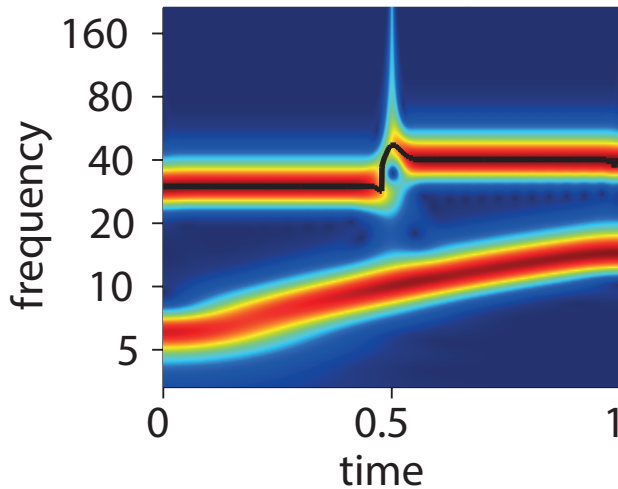
Time-frequency representation of  $f: (t, a) \mapsto |W_f(t, a)|$ .

## WIME - Illustration



Time-frequency representation of  $f$  and spectrum  $a \mapsto \Lambda(a) = E_t |W_f(t, a)|$ .

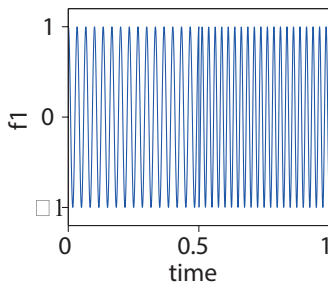
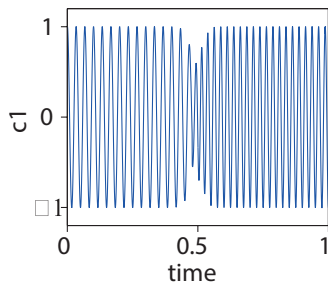
## WIME - Illustration



First ridge.

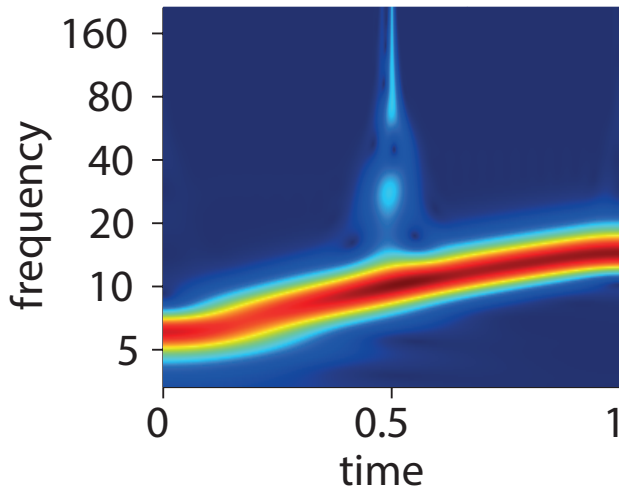


## WIME - Illustration



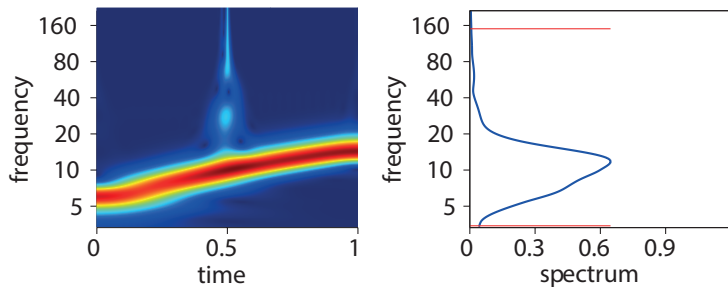
First component  $c_1$  extracted and expected component  $f_1$ .

## WIME - Illustration



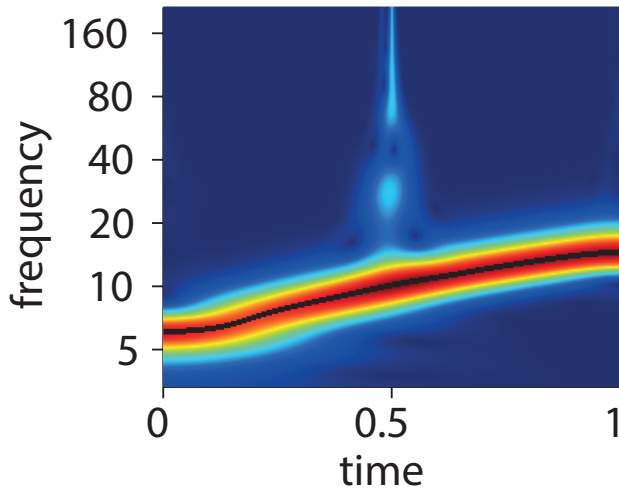
Time-frequency representation of  $r_1 = f - c_1$ .

## WIME - Illustration



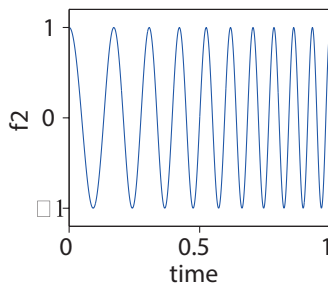
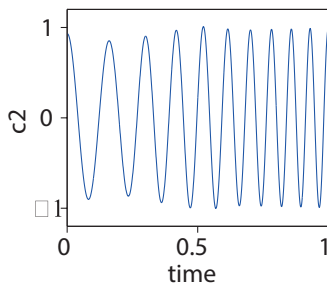
Time-frequency representation of  $r_1 = f - c_1$  and spectrum.

## WIME - Illustration



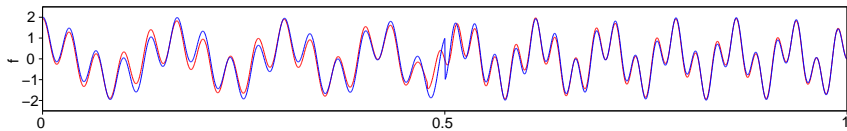
Second ridge.

## WIME - Illustration



Second component  $c_2$  extracted from  $r_1 = f - c_1$  and expected component  $f_2$ .

## WIME - Illustration



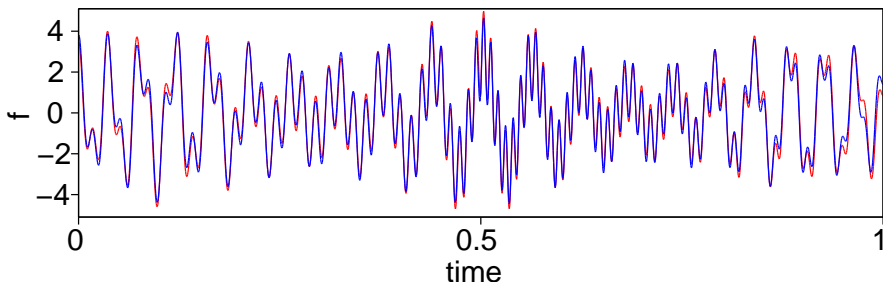
Original and reconstructed signal.

## WIME - Illustration

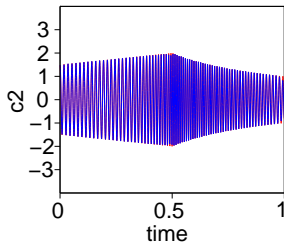
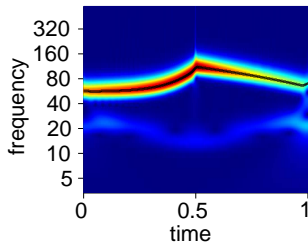
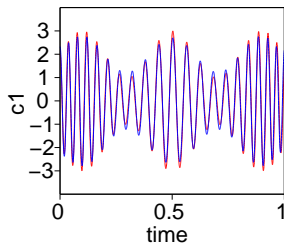
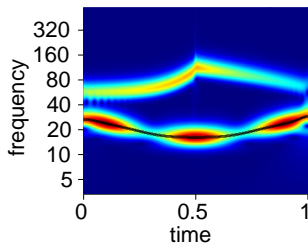
With an AM-FM signal

$$f_1(t) = (2 + \sin(5\pi t)) \cos(100(t - 0.5)^3 + 100t)$$

$$f_2(t) = \begin{cases} (1.5 + t) \cos(0.2e^{10t} + 350t) & \text{if } t \leq 0.5 \\ t^{-1} \cos(-300t^2 + 1000t) & \text{if } t > 0.5 \end{cases}$$



## WIME - Illustration





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## EMD vs WIME

Round 1  
Crossings in the TF plane

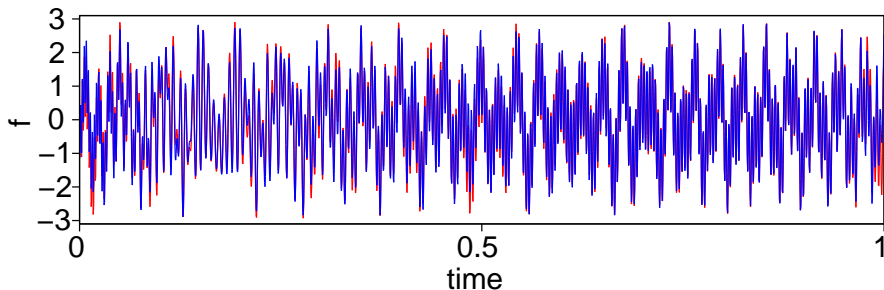
## EMD vs WIME: Crossings in the TF plane

We consider  $f = f_1 + f_2 + f_3$  (on  $[0, 1]$ ) made of three FM-components with constant amplitudes of 1.25, 1, 0.75:

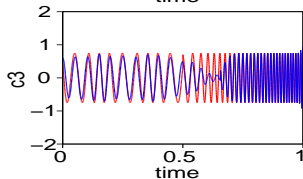
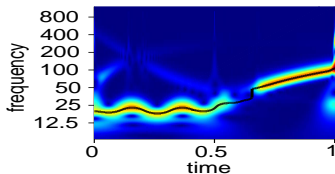
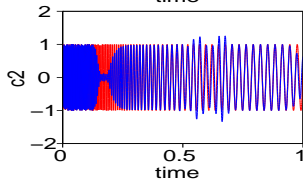
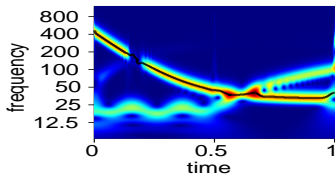
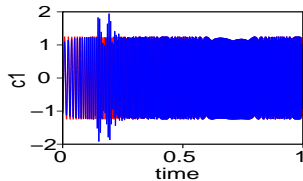
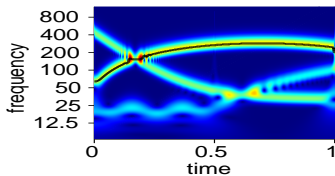
$$f_1(t) = 1.25 \cos((10t - 7)^3 - 1800t)$$

$$f_2(t) = \cos(360(0.5)^{10t} - 200t)$$

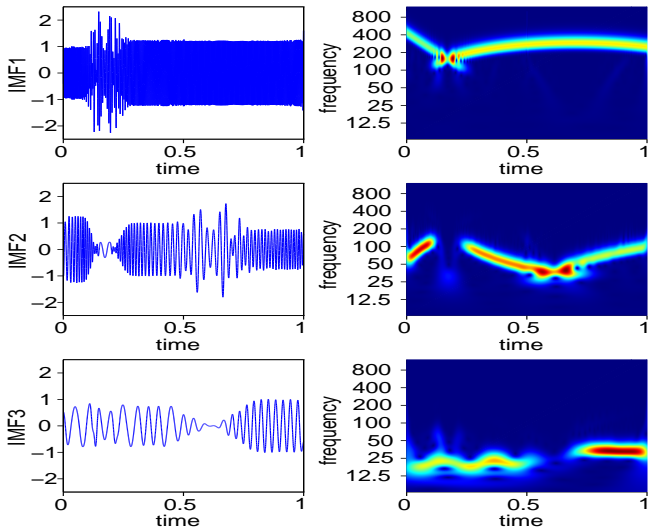
$$f_3(t) = \begin{cases} 0.75 \cos(125t + \cos(30t)) & \text{if } t \leq 0.5 \\ 0.75 \cos(-500t^2 + 375t) & \text{if } t > 0.5 \end{cases}$$



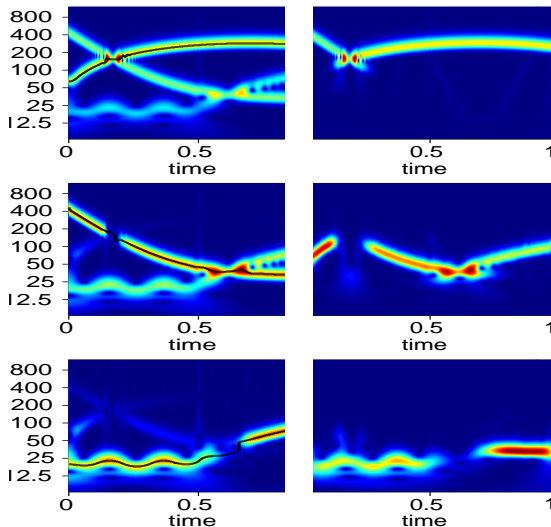
## EMD vs WIME: Crossings in the TF plane - WIME



## EMD vs WIME: Crossings in the TF plane - EMD



## EMD vs WIME: Crossings in the TF plane - WIME-EMD



## EMD vs WIME: Crossings in the TF plane

- The **influence** of the crossings between the patterns in the TF plane **remains limited for WIME**.
- The **energy-based hierarchy** among the components is **respected for WIME**
- The EMD follows an “upper ridge first” scheme and can’t proceed otherwise.

## EMD vs WIME

Round 2  
Mode-mixing problem



## EMD vs WIME: Mode-mixing problem

We consider a signal made of AM-FM components that are not “well-separated” with respect to their frequency nor with their amplitudes. Objective: recover the original frequencies used to build the signal. We consider  $f = \sum_i f_i$  with

$$f_1(t) = \left( 1 + 0.5 \cos \left( \frac{2\pi}{200} t \right) \right) \cos \left( \frac{2\pi}{47} t \right)$$

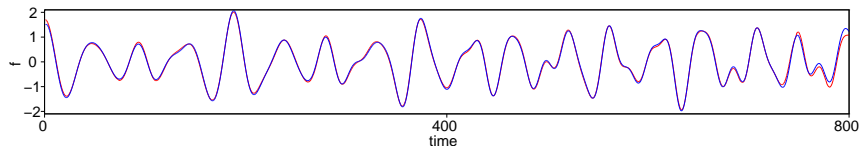
$$f_2(t) = \frac{\ln(t)}{14} \cos \left( \frac{2\pi}{31} t \right)$$

$$f_3(t) = \frac{\sqrt{t}}{60} \cos \left( \frac{2\pi}{65} t \right)$$

$$f_4(t) = \frac{t}{2000} \cos \left( \frac{2\pi}{23 + \cos \left( \frac{2\pi}{1600} t \right)} t \right).$$

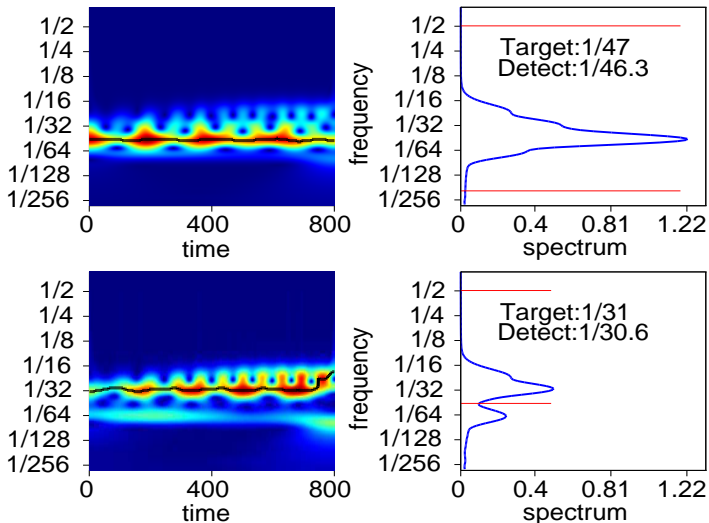
Target frequencies: 1/47, 1/31, 1/65, and  $\approx 1/23$  Hz. Note that  $t$  takes integer values from 1 to 800.

## EMD vs WIME: Mode-mixing problem

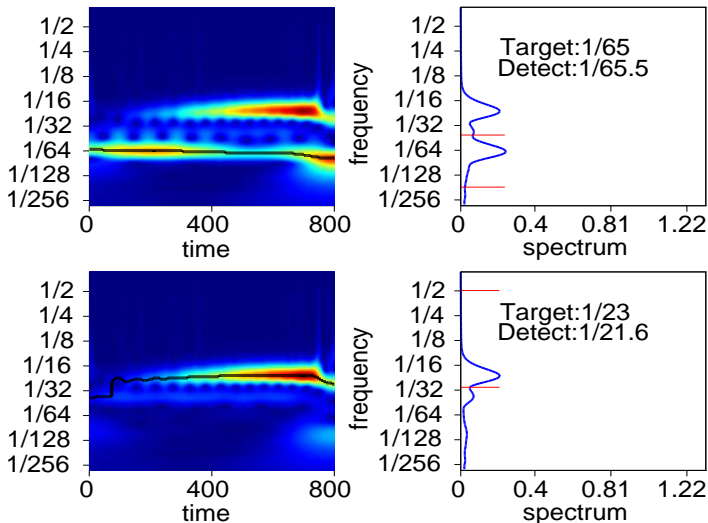


Target frequencies:  $1/47$ ,  $1/31$ ,  $1/65$ , and  $\approx 1/23$  Hz.

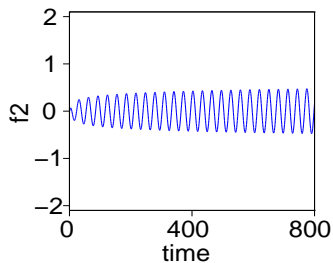
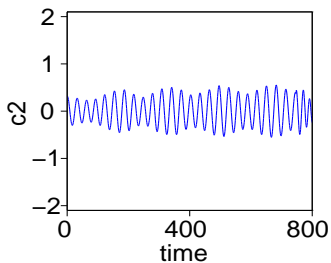
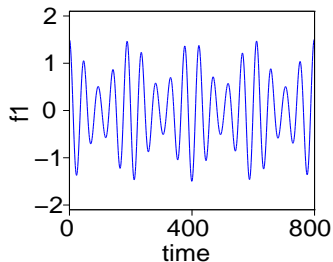
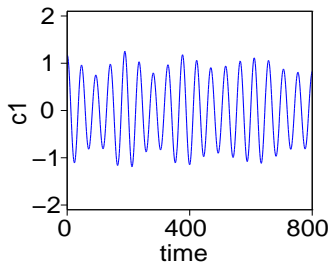
## EMD vs WIME: Mode-mixing problem - WIME



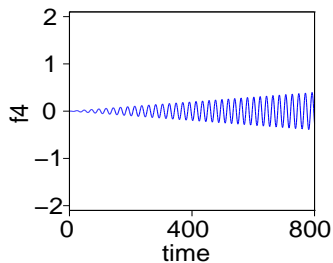
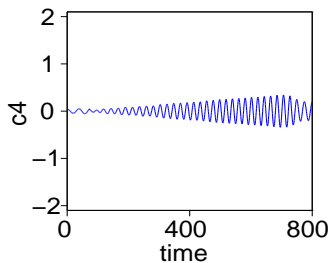
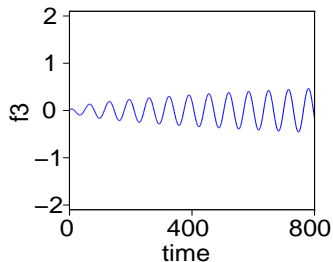
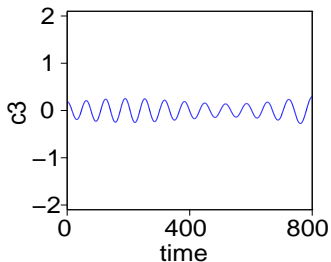
## EMD vs WIME: Mode-mixing problem - WIME



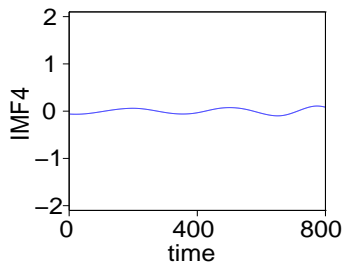
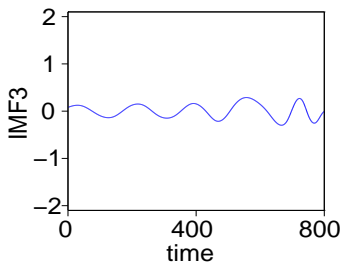
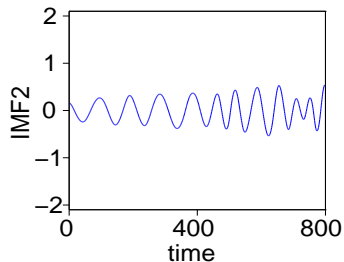
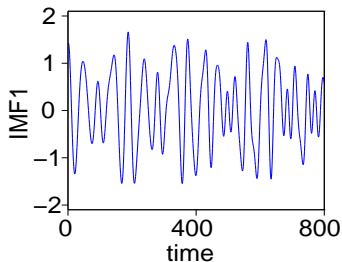
## EMD vs WIME: Mode-mixing problem - WIME



## EMD vs WIME: Mode-mixing problem - WIME



## EMD vs WIME: Mode-mixing problem - EMD



## EMD vs WIME: Mode-mixing problem - WIME - EMD

Target	WIME	EMD
1/23	1/21.6	-
1/31	1/30.6	-
1/47	1/46.3	1/41
1/65	1/65.5	1/75
-	-	1/165
-	-	1/284

- IMF1 is almost the signal itself - correlation of 0.93.
- EMD cannot resolve the mode-mixing problem.
- WIME provides accurate information.



## EMD vs WIME

Round 3  
Resistance to noise

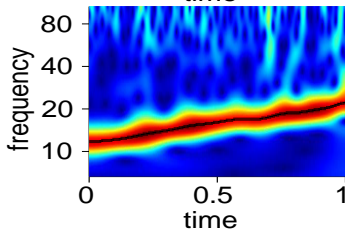
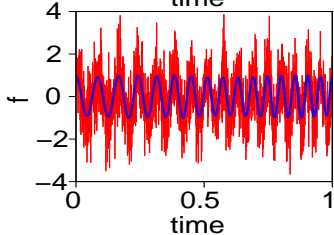
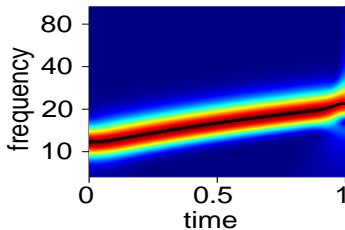
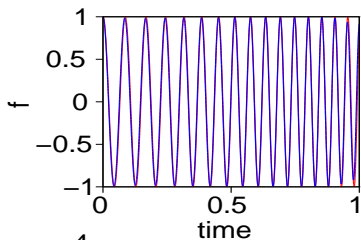
## Resistance to noise

We consider the chirp  $f$  defined on  $[0, 1]$  by

$$f(t) = \cos(70t + 30t^2)$$

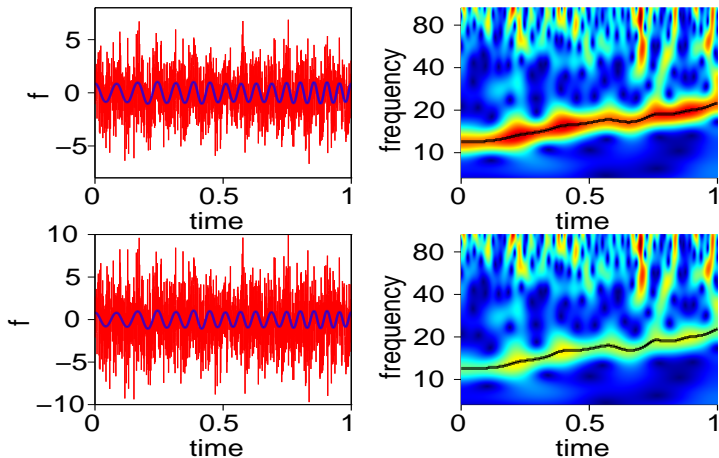
and a Gaussian white noise  $X$  of zero mean and variance 1 and we run WIME on  $f$ ,  $f + X$ ,  $f + 2X$  and  $f + 3X$ .

## Resistance to noise: WIME



WIME with  $f$  and  $f + X$ .

## Resistance to noise: WIME



WIME with  $f + 2X$  and  $f + 3X$ .

## Resistance to noise: EMD

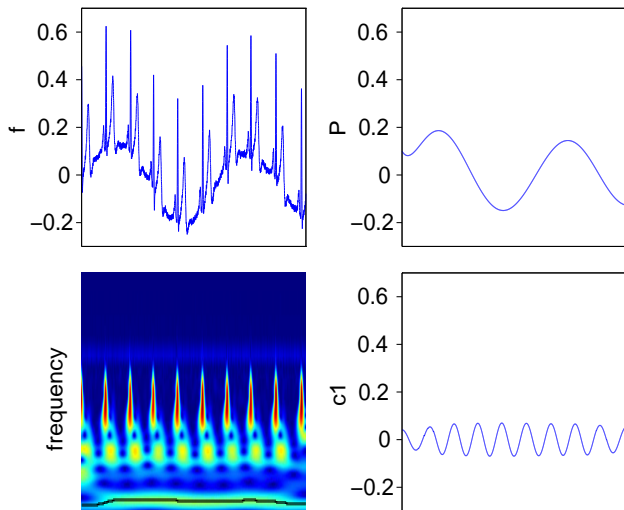
Not performed since:

- It is known (and obvious) that EMD is not noise-resistant.
- It first gives many noisy IMFS.
- It is not fair to compare EMD with WIME; improved versions of the EMD should be used instead, e.g. Ensemble Empirical Mode Decomposition (EEMD) and Complete Ensemble Empirical Mode Decomposition with Adaptive Noise (CEEMDAN).
- Improvements of EMD are made to the detriment of computational costs.
- WIME is naturally resistant and the scales to use for the reconstruction can be selected.

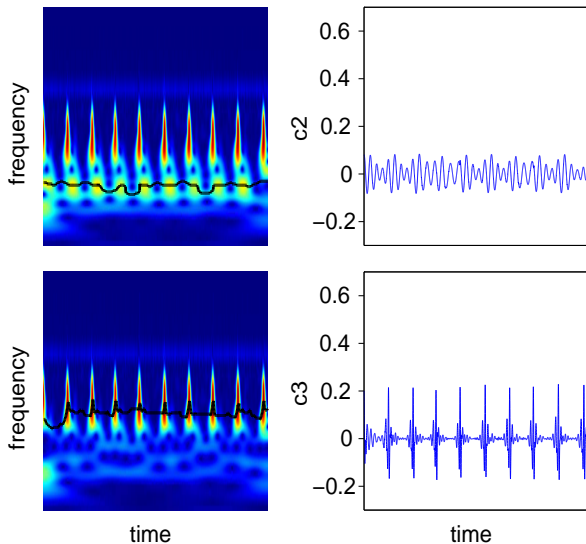
## Real-life example: ECG

### Real-life example Electrocardiogram

## Real-life example: ECG



## Real-life example: ECG





## Real-life example: ECG

- The Dirac-like impulses make it an approximation of an AM-FM signal.
- WIME extracts valuable information.
- It decomposes the signal into simpler components easy to analyze.
- It could be useful to compare hundreds of patients.
- EMD provides 14 IMFS, many of them are noisy.

## EMD vs WIME: Some conclusions

- EMD is fully data-driven but sensitive to noise and not flexible (black box).
- EMD extract components before visualizing them.
- EMD follows “upper ridge first” principle, thus have problems with intersecting frequencies and mode mixing.
- EMD has codes available on the internet.
- ...
- WIME is flexible but works in the frequency domain. Visualization prior to the analysis allows more freedom.
- WIME respects the hierarchical structure imposed by the energy of the components thus have better skills when EMD is in trouble.
- WIME is naturally tolerant to noise.
- WIME can provide a finer analysis of the data.
- ...

## 1 EMD

- Description of the method
- Illustration

## 2 WIME

- Description of the method
- Illustration

## 3 EMD vs WIME

- Crossings in the TF plane
- Mode-mixing problem
- Resistance to noise

- Real-life example: ECG
- Some conclusions

## 4 Edge effects

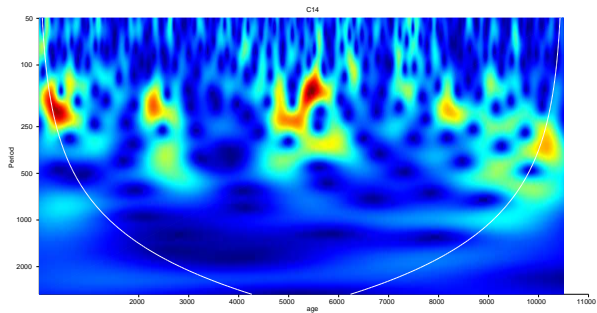
- The problem
- A possible solution

## 5 Wavelets and forecasting?

- ENSO index
- Analysis
- Model and skills
- Some conclusions

# Edge effects

What you often see in practice



## Edge effects

In practice: the signal has to be padded at its edges to obtain the CWT.

Possibilities:

- zero-padding
- constant padding
- orthogonal symmetry (mirroring)
- central symmetry (inverse mirroring)
- periodization

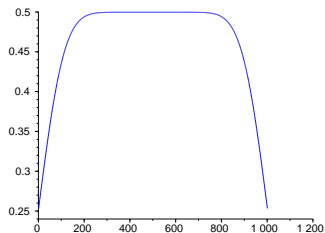
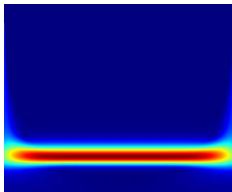
If possible, the padding needs to have the same properties as the signal.

**Zero-padding:** “universality”, independent of the signal.

## Zero-padding

Expected modulus for  $f(t) = \cos(\omega t + \varphi)$ :  $|W_f(t, \Omega/\omega)| = 0.5$ .

What happens with a simple cosine:



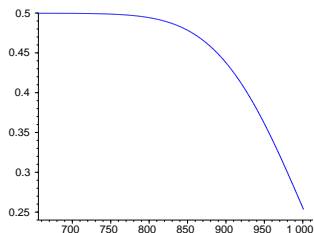
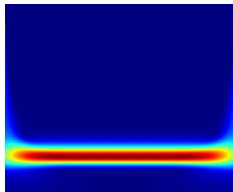
Ridge : straight line.

The amplitude decreases at the borders. The instantaneous frequency increases or decreases depending on  $\varphi$  (not shown). This confirms intuition.

## Zero-padding

Expected:  $W_f(t, \Omega/\omega) = \frac{1}{2}e^{it\omega}$  thus  $|W_f(t, \Omega/\omega)| = 0.5$ .

What happens with a simple cosine  $f(x) = \cos(2\pi/100x)$ :



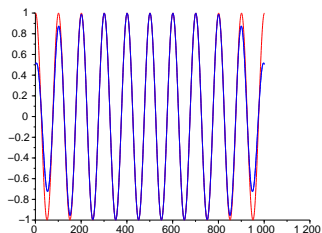
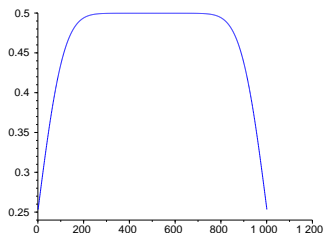
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## Zero-padding

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Ridge : straight line.

The amplitude decreases at the borders. The instantaneous frequency increases or decreases depending on  $\varphi$  (not shown). This confirms intuition.



## Zero-padding: In theory

This is due to the finite length of the signal. Mathematically, in this case,

$$f(x) = \cos(\omega x) \chi_{]-\infty, 0]}(x)$$

and thus for  $a = \Omega/\omega$ ,

$$W_f(t, \Omega/\omega) = \frac{1}{2} e^{it\omega} z(t)$$

with

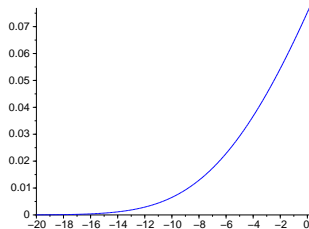
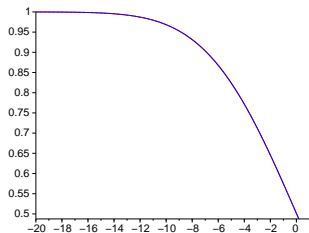
$$\Re(z(t)) = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^1 \frac{\overline{\hat{\psi}(\Omega x)}(x^2 - 2x - 1)}{(x^2 - 1)(3 - x)} \sin(t\omega(1 - x)) dx$$

and

$$\Im(z(t)) = \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^1 \frac{\overline{\hat{\psi}(\Omega x)}}{(x + 1)(3 - x)} \cos(t\omega(1 - x)) dx.$$

## Zero-padding: In theory

$$W_f(t, \Omega/\omega) = \frac{1}{2} e^{it\omega} z(t), \text{ study of } z(t):$$



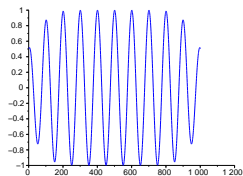
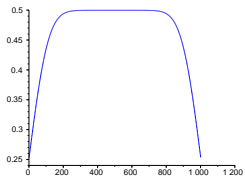
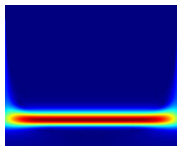
Amplitude and argument of  $z$  as function of  $t$ . These confirm intuition and experiments.

## A possible solution? Iterations!

- The theoretical result is difficult to use in practice.
- All the energy has not be drained from the TF plane, there is still some energy left at the borders.
- Iterate the extraction process **along the same ridge** to sharpen the component before getting interested in another ridge.
- Stop iterations when the component extracted is not significant anymore, e.g. at iteration  $J$  if the extracted component at iteration  $J$  has less than 95% of the energy of the extracted component at the first extraction.

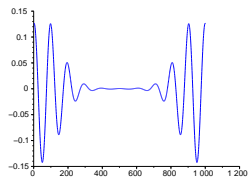
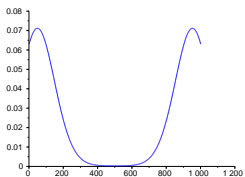
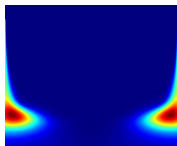
# A possible solution? Iterations!

## Iteration 1



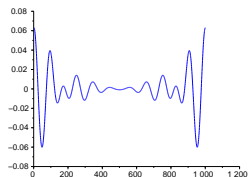
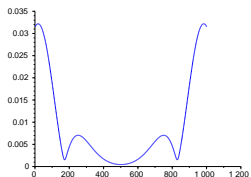
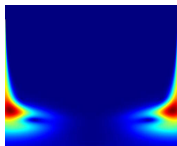
## A possible solution? Iterations!

## Iteration 2



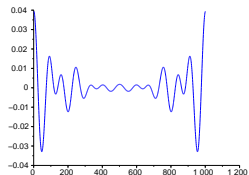
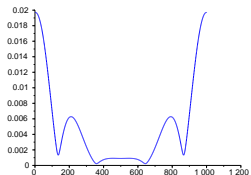
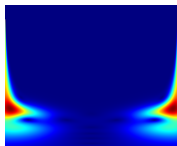
# A possible solution? Iterations!

## Iteration 3



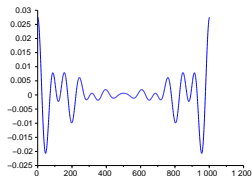
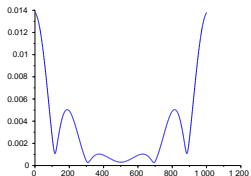
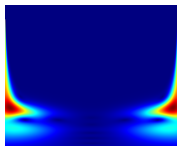
# A possible solution? Iterations!

## Iteration 4



## A possible solution? Iterations!

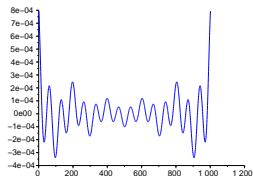
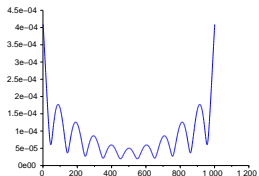
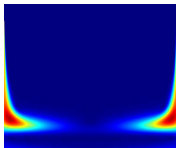
## Iteration 5





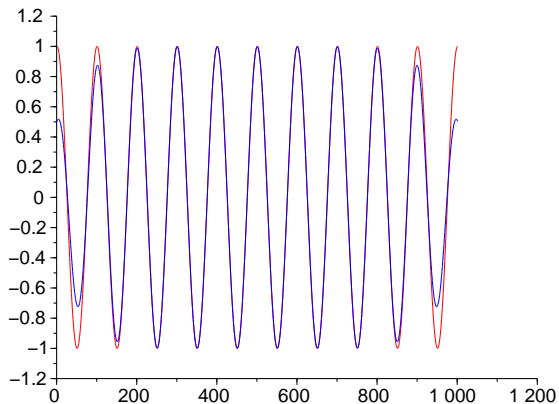
## A possible solution? Iterations!

## Iteration 50



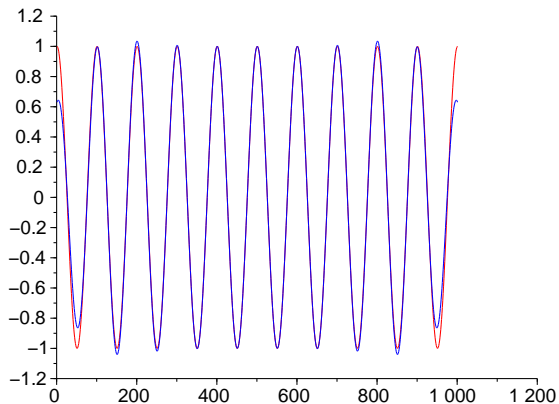
## A possible solution? Iterations!

## Iteration 1



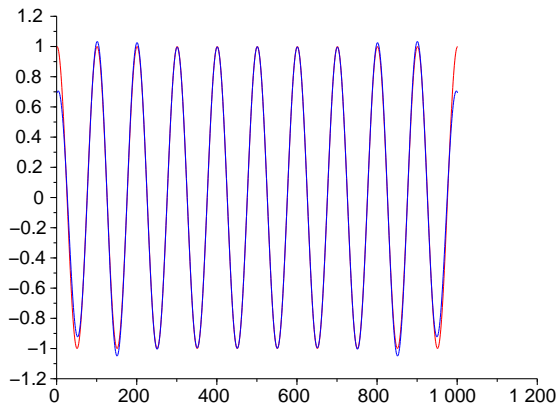
## A possible solution? Iterations!

## Iteration 2



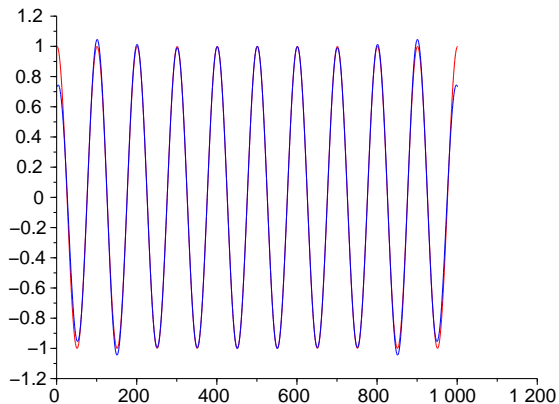
## A possible solution? Iterations!

## Iteration 3



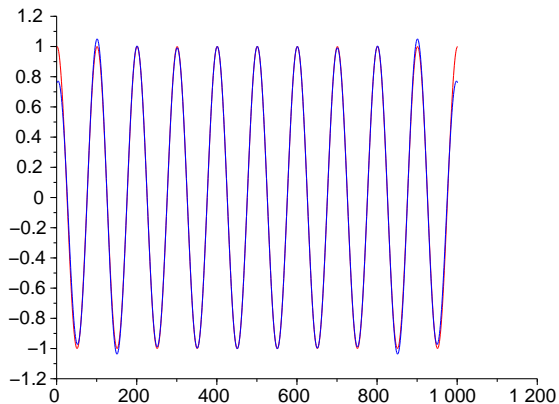
## A possible solution? Iterations!

## Iteration 4



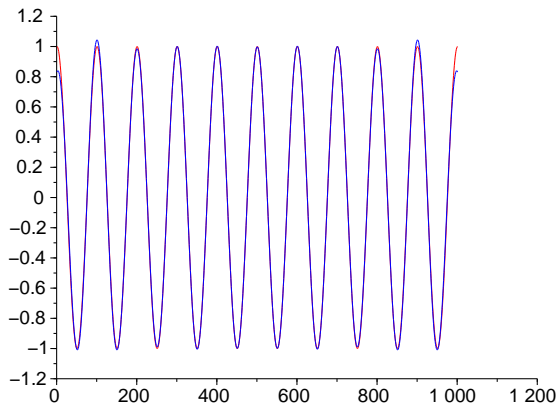
## A possible solution? Iterations!

## Iteration 5



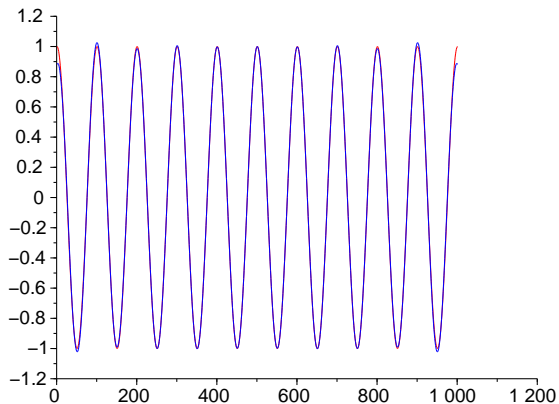
## A possible solution? Iterations!

## Iteration 10



## A possible solution? Iterations!

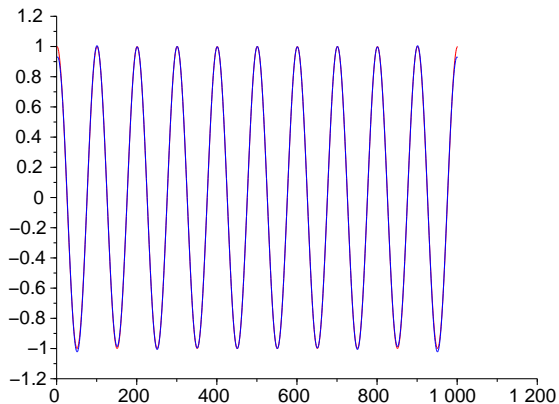
## Iteration 20





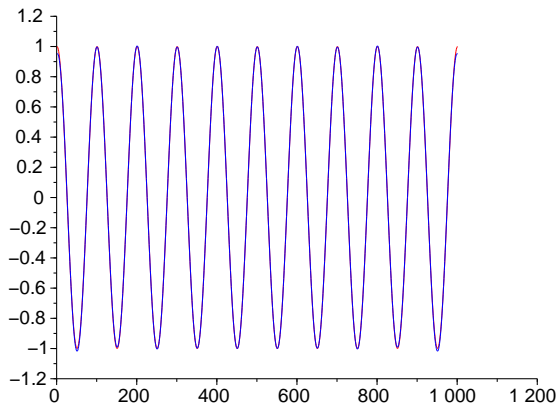
## A possible solution? Iterations!

## Iteration 50



## A possible solution? Iterations!

## Iteration 100



## 1 EMD

- Description of the method
- Illustration

## 2 WIME

- Description of the method
- Illustration

## 3 EMD vs WIME

- Crossings in the TF plane
- Mode-mixing problem
- Resistance to noise

- Real-life example: ECG
- Some conclusions

## 4 Edge effects

- The problem
- A possible solution

## 5 Wavelets and forecasting?

- ENSO index
- Analysis
- Model and skills
- Some conclusions

## Some ideas

Perfect correction of border effects  $\Rightarrow$  Terrific forecasts!

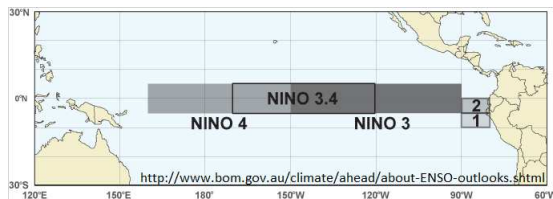
Idea: perform the CWT, extract dominant components (with corrected border effects), extrapolate the components (smooth AM-FM signals), then add the components to reconstruct and predict the signal.

Great idea. Doesn't work.

Instead: build a model based on the information provided by the CWT.

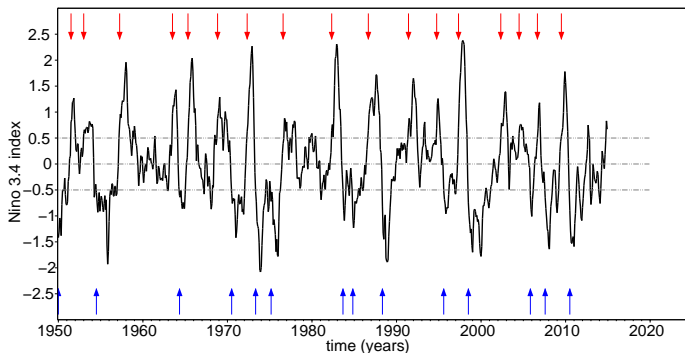
## ENSO index

- Analyzed data: Niño 3.4 time series, i.e. monthly-sampled sea surface temperature anomalies in the Equatorial Pacific Ocean from Jan 1950 to Dec 2014 (<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/>).



## ENSO index

## ● Niño 3.4 index:

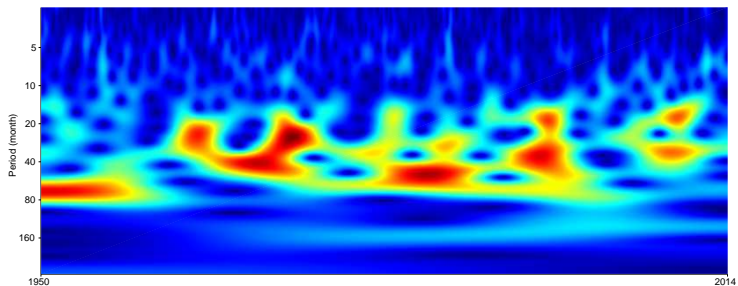


- **17 El Niño events:** SST anomaly above  $+0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  during 5 consecutive months.
- **14 La Niña events:** SST anomaly below  $-0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  during 5 consecutive months.

## ENSO index

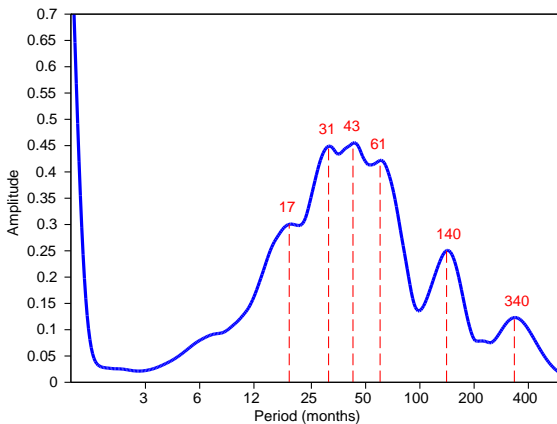
- **Flooding** in the West coast of South America
- **Droughts** in Asia and Australia
- **Fish kills** or shifts in locations and types of fish, having **economic impacts** in Peru and Chile
- Impact on snowfalls and **monsoons**, drier/hotter/wetter/cooler than normal conditions
- Impact on **hurricanes/typhoons** occurrences
- Links with famines, increase in **mosquito-borne diseases** (malaria, dengue, ...), civil conflicts
- In Los Angeles, increase in the number of some species of mosquitoes (in 1997 notably).
- ...

## Analysis

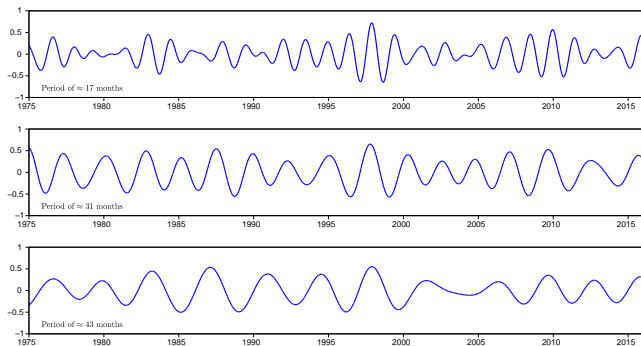




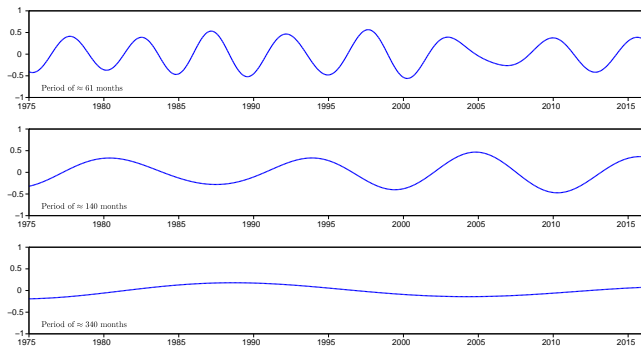
## Analysis



## Analysis



## Analysis



## Analysis

- Periods of  $\approx 17, 31, 43, 61, 140$  months in agreement with previous studies.
- Period of  $\approx 340$  months can be an artifact; will be neglected.
- The low frequency components (corresponding to 31, 43, 61, 140 months) capture  $\approx 90\%$  of the variability of the signal.
- These components appear relatively stationary thus easier to model.

## Idea of the model

- Model the decadal oscillation and subtract it.
- Model a 61-months component phased with warm events and subtract it.
- Model a 31-months component phased with cold events and subtract it.
- Model a 43-months component phased with remaining warm and cold events.
- Extrapolate these modeled components and add them to obtain a forecast.

## Model

Idea: build components that mimic the low-frequency ones and that are easy to extrapolate. Let us assume we have the signal up to time  $T$  (between 1995 and 2015).

1. Model the decadal oscillation. The amplitude  $A_{140}$  is estimated with the WS of  $s$  as 0.35 and we set

$$y_{140}(t) = A_{140} \cos(2\pi t/140 + 2.02).$$

2. We now work with  $s_1 = s - y_{140}$ . The WS of  $s_1$  gives  $A_{61} = 0.435$ . Phase  $y_{61}$  with the strongest warm events of  $s_1$ , which occur approximately every 5 years: find the position  $p$  of the last local maximum of  $s_1$  such that  $s_1(p) > 0.5$ . If  $s_1(p) > 0.9$  then we set

$$y_{61}(t) = A_{61} \cos(2\pi(t - p)/61);$$

else

$$y_{61}(t) = -A_{61} \cos(2\pi(t - p)/61).$$

## Model

3. We now work with  $s_2 = s_1 - y_{61}$ . The WS of  $s_2$  gives  $A_{31} = 0.42$ . Phase  $y_{31}$  with the cold events of  $s_2$ , which occur approximately every 2.5 years. Find the position  $p$  of the last local minimum of  $s_2$  such that  $s_2(p) < -0.5$  and we set

$$y_{31}(t) = -A_{31} \cos(2\pi(t - p)/31).$$

4. We now work with  $s_3 = s_2 - y_{31}$ . The WS of  $s_3$  gives  $A_{43} = 0.485$ .  $y_{43}$  has to explain the remaining warm and cold events of  $s_3$ . Find the position  $p$  of the last local maximum of  $s_3$  such that  $s_3(p) > 0.5$  and we set

$$y_{43}^1(t) = A_{43} \cos(2\pi(t - p)/43).$$

Then we find the position  $p$  of the last local minimum of  $s_3$  such that  $s_3(p) < -0.8$  and we set

$$y_{43}^2(t) = -A_{43} \cos(2\pi(t - p)/43).$$

Finally, we define

$$y_{43} = (y_{43}^1 + y_{43}^2)/2.$$

## Model

5. Extend the signals  $(y_i)_{i \in I}$  up to  $T + N$  for  $N$  large enough (at least the number of data to be predicted). Then

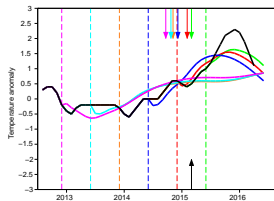
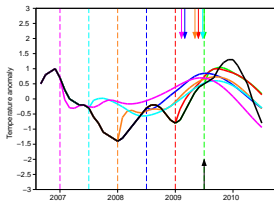
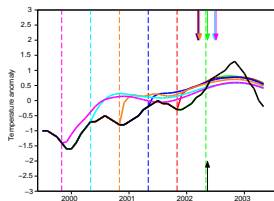
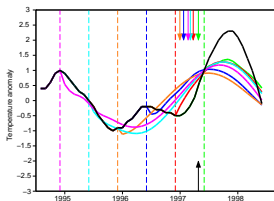
$$y = \sum_{i \in I} y_i$$

stands for a first reconstruction (for  $t \leq T$ ) and forecast (for  $t > T$ ) of  $s$ .

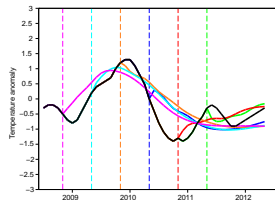
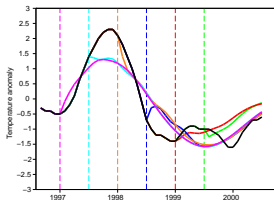
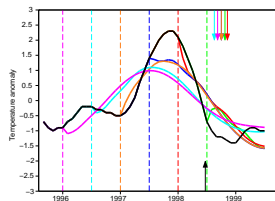
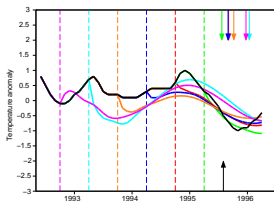
6. We set  $s(t) = y(t)$  for  $t > T$ , perform the CWT of  $s$  and extract the components  $\hat{c}_j$  at scales  $j$  corresponding to 6, 12, 17, 31, 43, 61 and 140 months. These are considered as our final AM-FM components and  $\hat{c} = \sum_j \hat{c}_j$  both reconstructs (for  $t \leq T$ ) and forecasts (for  $t > T$ ) the initial ONI signal in a smooth and natural way.



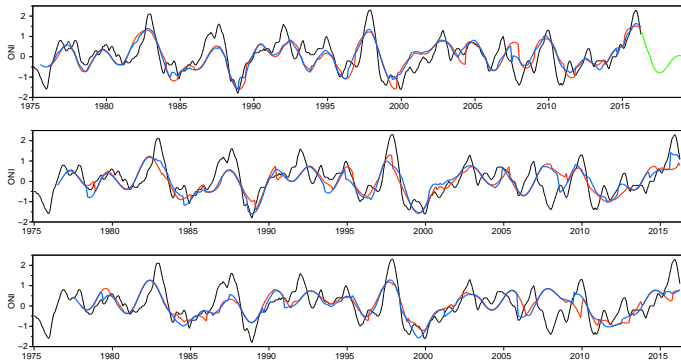
## Skills of the model



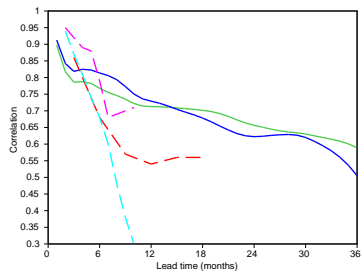
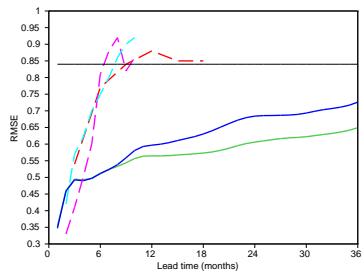
## Skills of the model



## Skills of the model



## Skills of the model



(slightly unfair) comparison with other works.

## Some conclusions

- The periods detected are in agreement with previous works
- The information provided by the CWT allows to build a model for long-term forecasting
- Early signs of major EN and LN events can be detected 2-3 years in advance
- The ideas could be combined with other models that are better for short-term predictions
- We could improve the model with seasonal and annual variations
- We could make the amplitudes vary through time
- The important feature is the phase-locking of the components

## Some references

EMD: [4, 5, 9, 11, 12] and

<http://perso.ens-lyon.fr/patrick.flandrin/emd.html>

CWT: [1, 2, 6, 7, 10]

WIME: [3, 8] + coming soon

Thank you

Thank you  
for your attention



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