

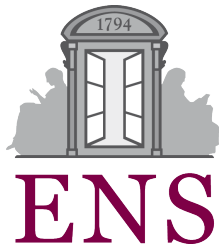
*Lezioni dottorali, Università degli  
Studi di Napoli "Parthenope"*

Napoli, 21–27 October 2016

# ***Nonlinearity, Tipping Points & Chaos in the Climate Sciences***

**Michael Ghil**

**Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris, and  
University of California, Los Angeles**



*Please visit these sites for more info.*

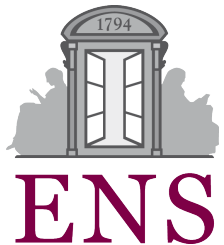
<https://dept.atmos.ucla.edu/tcd>

<http://www.environnement.ens.fr/>

# *Time Series Analysis and Applications to the Climate Sciences and to Other Fields*

**Michael Ghil**

**Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris, and  
University of California, Los Angeles**



Joint work with many people; most recently with  
*A. Groth & D. Kondrashov (UCLA)*



*Please visit these sites for more info.*

<https://dept.atmos.ucla.edu/tcd>, <http://www.environnement.ens.fr/>  
and [https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Michael\\_Ghil](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Michael_Ghil)

# ***Advanced Spectral Methods, Nonlinear Dynamics, the Geosciences and Econometrics***

## ***Motivation***

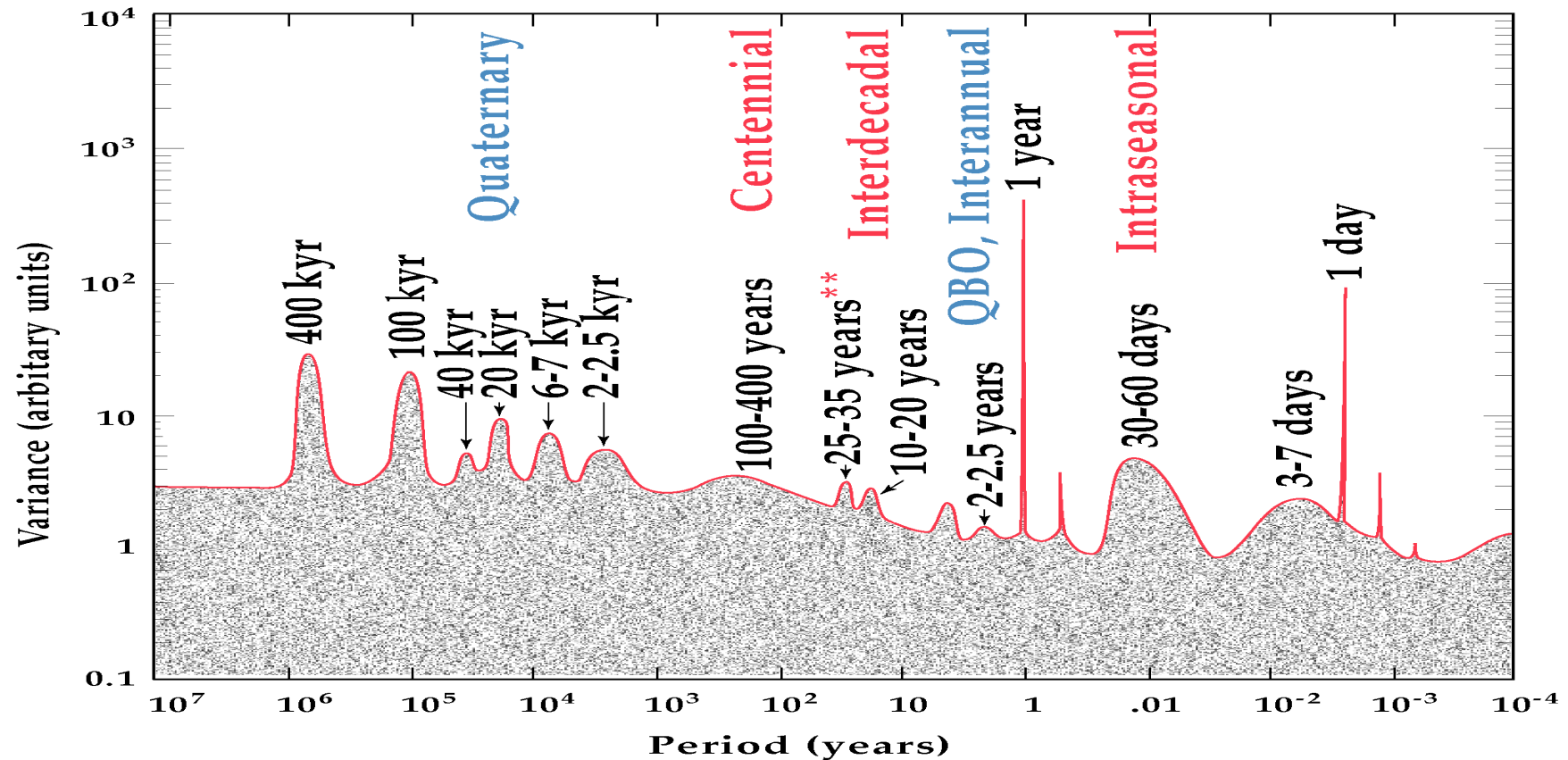
- Time series in the geosciences and elsewhere have typically broad peaks on top of a continuous, “warm-colored” background → ***Method***
- Connections to nonlinear dynamics → ***Theory***
- Need for stringent statistical significance tests → ***Toolkit*** (\*)
- Applications to analysis and prediction → ***Examples***

(\*) ***SSA-MTM Toolkit***, <https://dept.atmos.ucla.edu/tcd/ssa-mtm-toolkit>

# Composite spectrum of climate variability

Standard treatment of frequency bands:

1. High frequencies – white noise (or “colored”)
2. Low frequencies – slow evolution of parameters



From Ghil (2001, *EGEC*), after Mitchell\* (1976)

\* “No known source of deterministic internal variability”

\*\* 27 years – Brier (1968, *Rev. Geophys.*)

# Outline

- **Motivation**: spectrum has **trends, broad peaks**, and continuous **background** + connections to **nonlinear dynamics**.
- **Methodology**
  - univariate: singular-spectrum analysis (SSA)
  - multivariate: M-SSA + varimax rotation
  - statistical significance tests: MC-SSA & Procrustes rotation
  - SSA-MTM Toolkit
  - gap filling
- **Applications** to analysis and prediction
  - Southern Oscillation Index (SOI)<sup>(\*)</sup>
  - Nile River floods
  - GPS data sets in the geosciences
  - macroeconomic indicators – US, EU & global
- **Concluding remarks and bibliography**

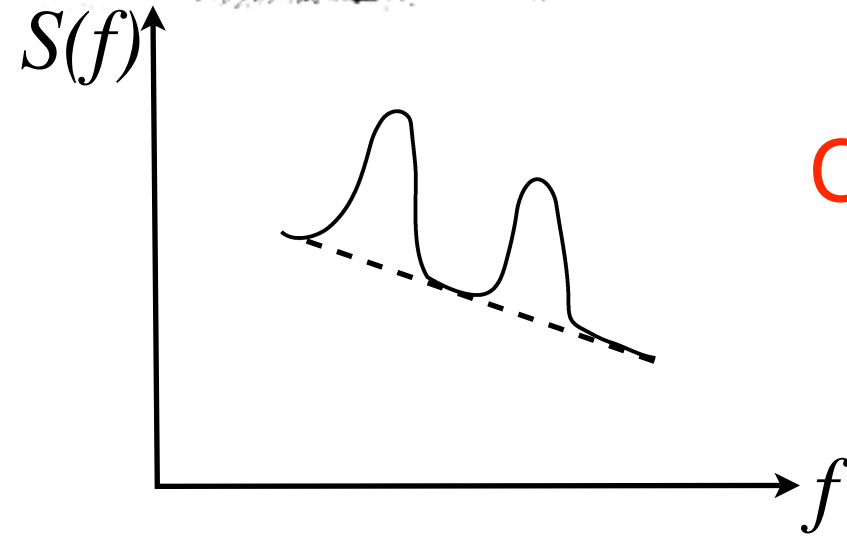
(\*) *SSA-MTM Toolkit*, <https://dept.atmos.ucla.edu/tcd/ssa-mtm-toolkit>

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# Spectral Density (Math)/Power Spectrum (Science & Engng.)



Continuous background  
+ peaks

◦ Wiener-Khinchin (Bochner) Theorem

Blackman-Tukey Method

$$R(s) = \lim_{L \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2L} \int_{-L}^L x(t)x(t+s)dt$$

$$S(f) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} R(s)e^{-ifs}ds \equiv \hat{R}(s)$$

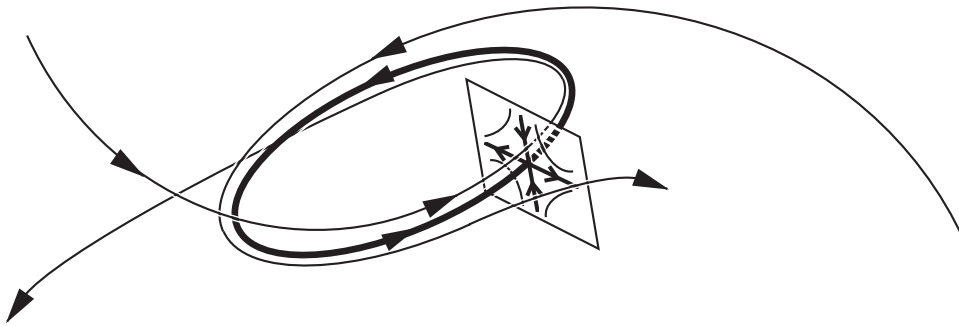
i.e., the lag-autocorrelation function & the spectral density

are Fourier transforms of each other.

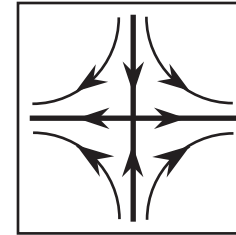
# Power Law for Spectrum (cont'd)

- Hypothesis: “**Poles**” correspond to the least unstable periodic orbits

“*unstable limit cycles*”



“*Poincaré section*”



- Major clue to the physics

that underlies the dynamics

- N.B. Limit cycle not necessarily elliptic, i.e. not

$$(x, y) = (a_f \sin(ft), b_f \cos(ft))$$



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**Singular**

**Spectrum**

**Analysis**

# Singular Spectrum Analysis (SSA)

## Spatial EOFs

$x$  -- space

$$\phi(x, t) = \sum a_k(t) e_k(x)$$

$$C_\phi(x, y) = E \phi(x, \omega) \phi(y, \omega)$$

$$= \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T \phi(x, t) \phi(y, t) dt$$

$$C_\phi e_k(x) = \lambda_k e_k(x)$$

## SSA

$s$  -- lag

$$X(x + s) = \sum a_k(t) e_k(s)$$

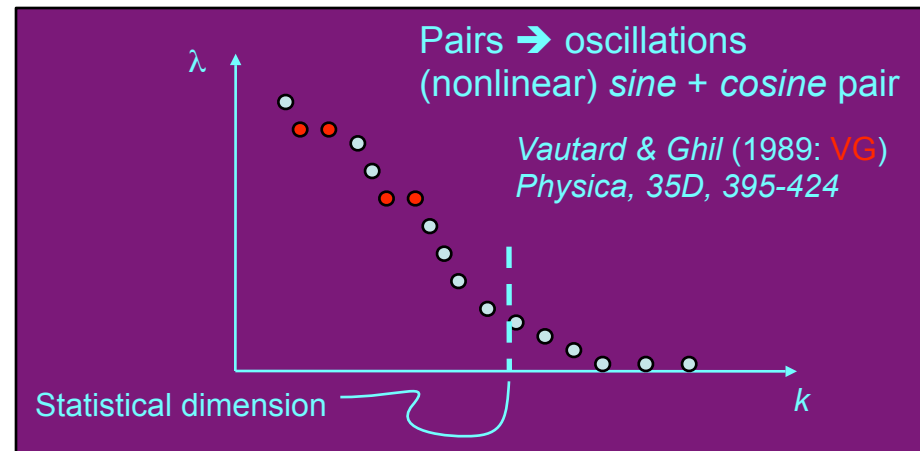
$$C_X(s) = EX(t + s, \omega) \phi(s, \omega)$$

$$= \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T X(t) X(t + s) dt$$

$$C_X e_k(s) = \lambda_k e_k(s)$$

Colebrook (1978); Weare & Nasstrom (1982);  
Broomhead & King (1986: BK); Fraedrich (1986)

BK+VG: Analogy between Mañe-Takens embedding  
and the Wiener-Khinchin theorem



# Power Spectra & Reconstruction

## ◦ A. Transform pair:

$$X(t + s) = \sum_{k=1}^M a_k(t) e_k(s), e_k(s) - EOF$$

The  $e_k$ 's are **adaptive filters**,

$$a_k(t) = \sum_{s=1}^M X(t + s) e_k(s), a_k(t) - PC$$

the  $a_k$ 's are **filtered time series**.

## B. Power spectra

$$S_X(f) = \sum_{k=1}^M S_k(f); \quad S_k(f) = R_k(s); \quad R_k(s) \approx \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T a_k(t) a_k(t + s) dt$$

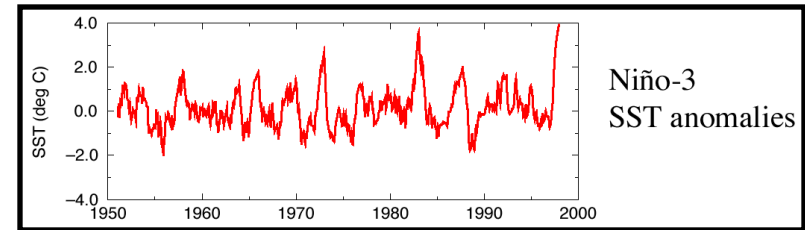
## C. Partial reconstruction

$$X^K(t) = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{k \in K} \sum_{s=1}^M a_k(t - s) e_k(s);$$

in particular:  $K = \{1, 2, \dots, S\}$  or  $K = \{k\}$  or  $K = \{l, l + 1; \lambda_l \approx \lambda_{l+1}\}$

# Singular Spectrum Analysis (SSA)

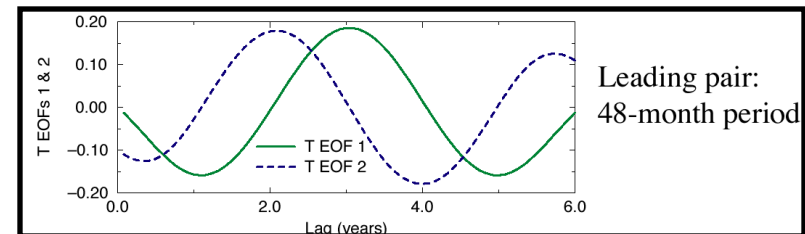
Time series



SSA decomposes (geophysical & other)  
time series into

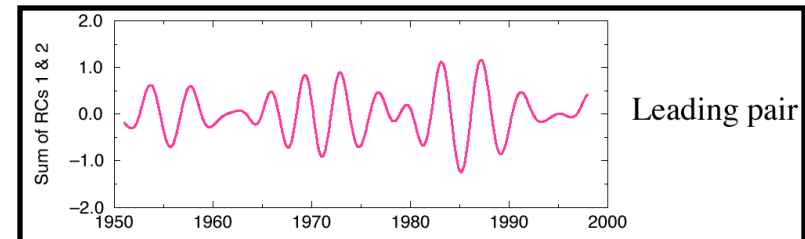
**Temporal EOFs** (T-EOFs) and  
**Temporal Principal Components** (T-PCs),  
based on the series' lag-covariance matrix

T-EOFs



RCs

Selected parts of the series can be  
reconstructed, via  
**Reconstructed Components** (RCs)



- SSA is good at isolating oscillatory behavior via paired eigenelements.
- SSA tends to lump signals that are longer-term than the window into
  - one or two trend components.

*Selected References:*

Vautard & Ghil (1989, *Physica D*);  
Ghil *et al.* (2002, *Rev. Geophys.*) 12/28

# **SSA-MTM Toolkit, I – A Free Toolkit for Spectral Analysis**

- Developed at UCLA, with collaborations on 3 continents, since 1994.
- Used extensively at the ENS and in various summer schools for teaching spectral methods to various audiences.
- GUI based, for Linux, Unix and Mac OS X platforms.
- Command-line version available.
- Latest developments by A. Groth and D. Kondrashov (UCLA).
- Total cites for top 4 papers  $\approx$  2000 (WoS, July 2015)
- Hundreds of downloads at every new version.
- Available at: <https://dept.atmos.ucla.edu/tcd/ssa-mtm-toolkit> .

# SSA-MTM Toolkit, II – General Goals

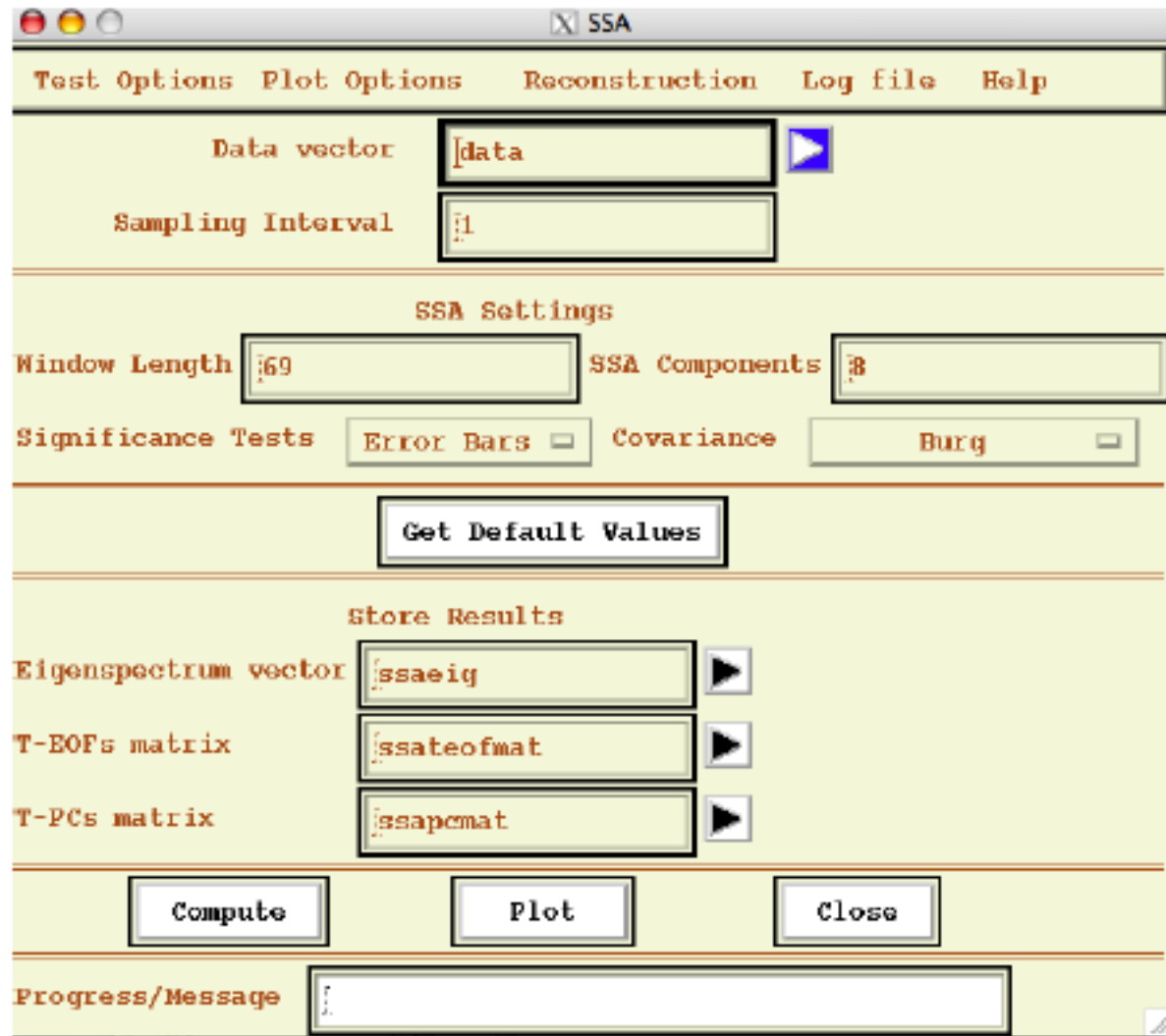
- Reduce the variance of the spectral estimate of a time series, based on the periodogram (MTM), correlogram (BT) or other spectral analysis method (e.g., SSA).
- Estimate peak frequencies to “fingerprint” limit cycles of the underlying dynamical system.
- Provide statistical significance tests when such behavior is blurred by “noise.”
- Allow rapid, visual and numerical comparison between the results of different methods: BT, SSA, MEM, MTM.

BT – Blackman-Tukey version of FT (Fourier transform),

MEM – Maximum Entropy Method, MTM – Multi-Taper Method

# SSA-MTM Toolkit, III – Targeted audiences

- ◆ Non-specialists in time series analysis
  - ◆ Reasonable default options
  - ◆ Reads ASCII files
- ◆ Non-specialists in computer management
  - ◆ Precompiled binaries
  - ◆ User-friendly interface
- ◆ Non-specialists in dynamical systems
  - ◆ Better if you do know.
  - ◆ No problem if you don't.





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- **Motivation:** spectrum has trends, broad peaks, and continuous background + connections to nonlinear dynamics.
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# SSA for Southern Oscillation Index (SOI)

SOI = mean monthly values of  $\Delta p_s$  (Tahiti – Darwin)

**Results** (“undigested”) from 1933–1988 time interval (\*)

1. For  $18 < M < 60$  months, singular spectra show a clear break at  $5 < S < 17$  (= “deterministic” part;  $M - S =$  “noise”);
2. 3 pairs of EOFs stand out:  
EOFs 1 + 2 (27%), 3 + 4 (19.7%), and 9 + 10 (3%);
3. the associated periods are ~  
60 mos. (“ENSO”), 30 mos. (QBO”), and 5.5 mos. (?!)

(\*) E. M. (“Gene”) Rasmusson, X. Wang, and C.F. Ropelewski, 1990:  
The biennial component of ENSO variability. *J. Marine Syst.*, **1**, 71–96.

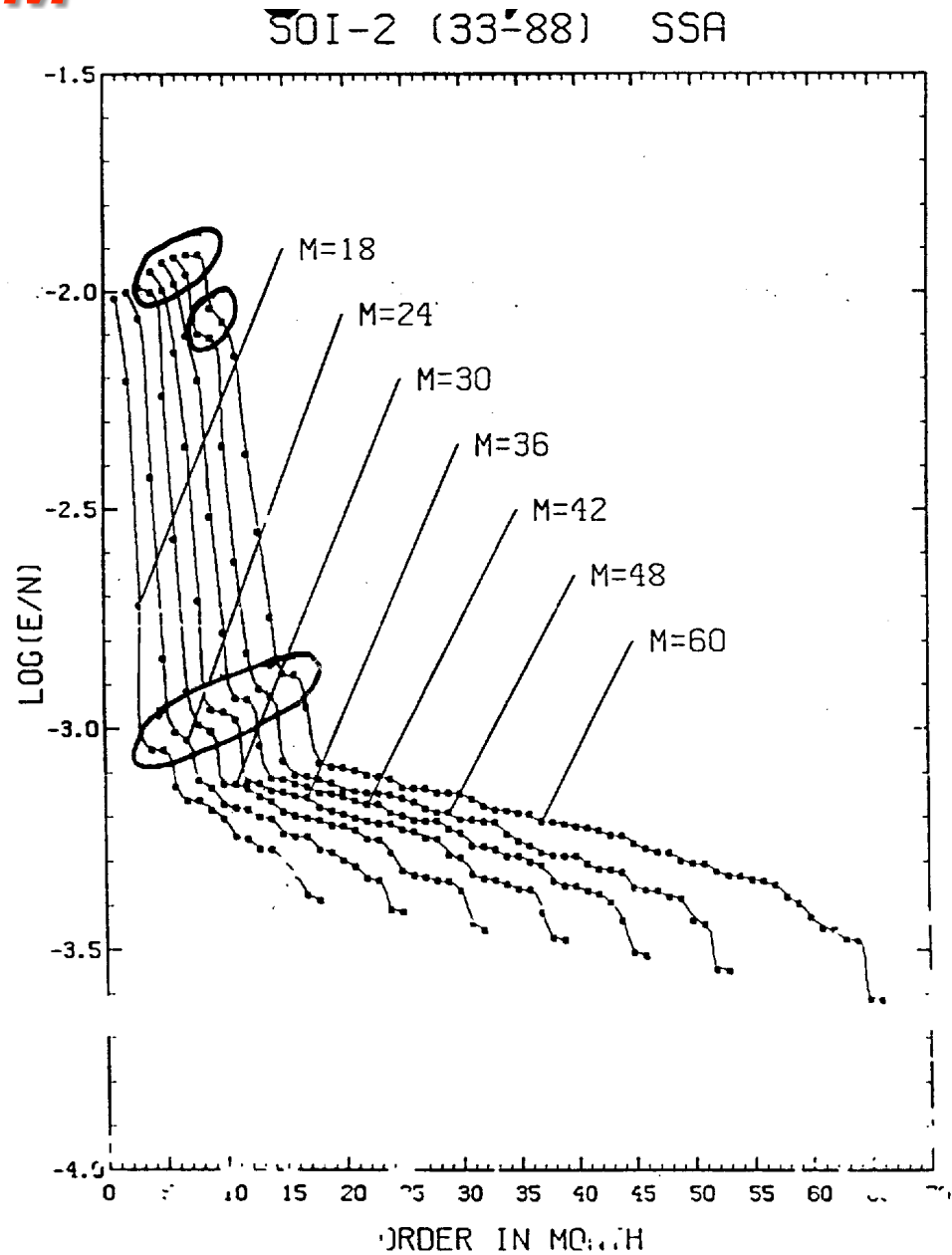
# Variable window size $M$

Sampling interval –  $\tau_s = 1$  month

Window width  $M\tau_s$ :

$18\tau_s < \tau_w < 60\tau_s$  or

$1.5 \text{ yr} < \tau_w < 5 \text{ yr}$ .



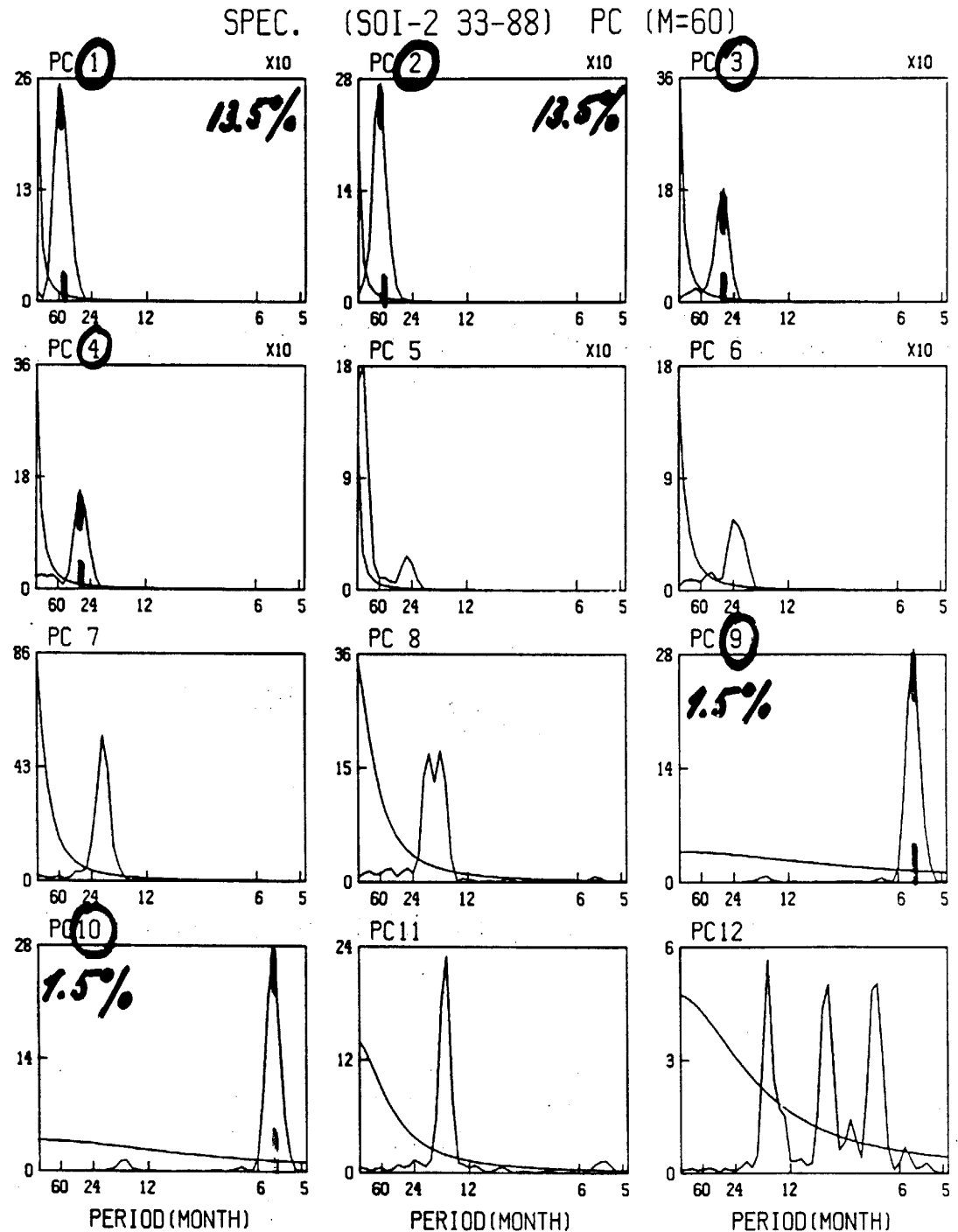
# Spectral peaks ( $M = 60$ )

Each principal component (PC) is Fourier analyzed separately; individual variance indicated as well.

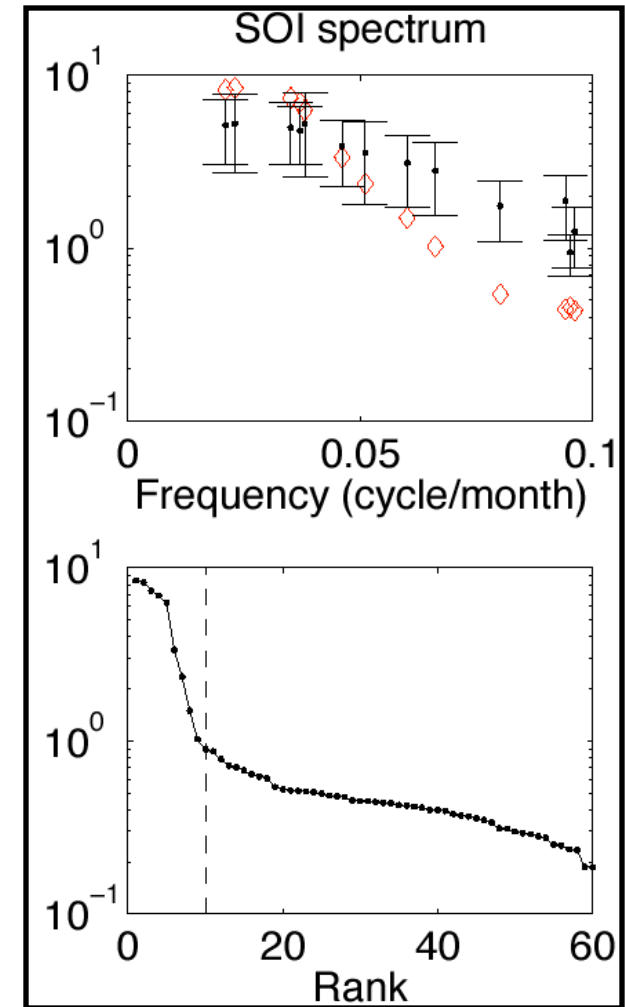
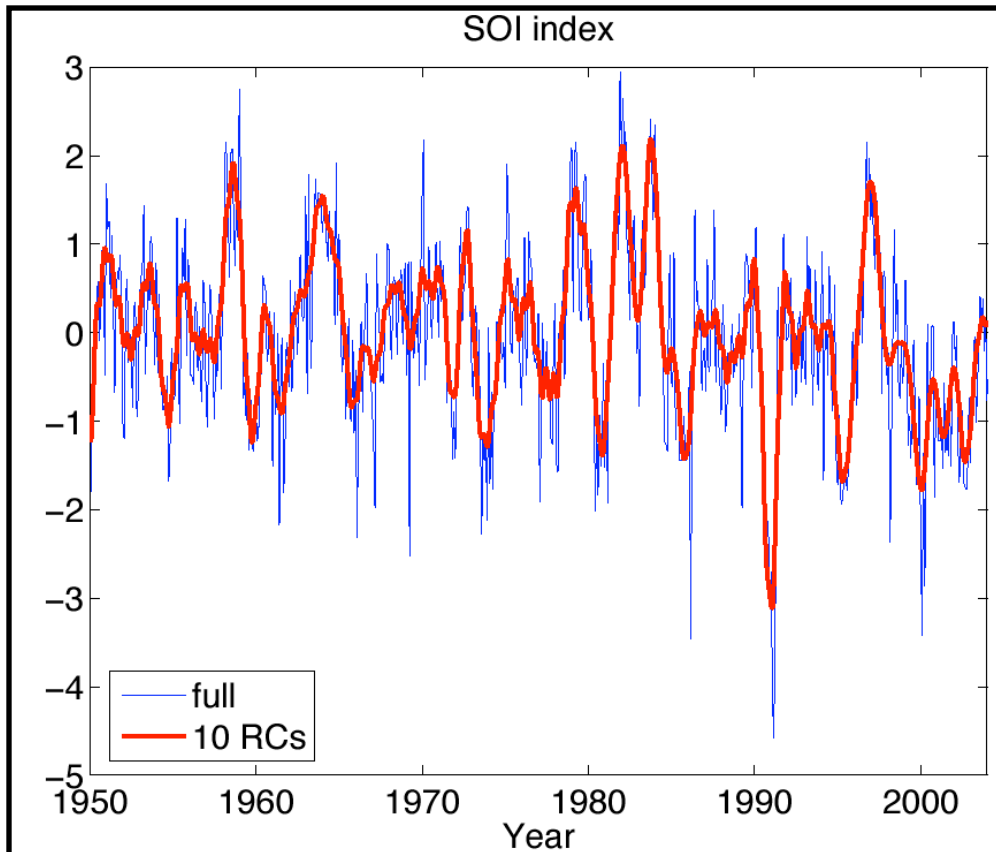
PCs (1+2) – period = 60 months, low-frequency or “ENSO” or quasi-quadrennial (QQ) component;

PCs (3+4) – period = 30 months quasi-biennial (QB) component;

PCs (9+10) – period = 5.5 months



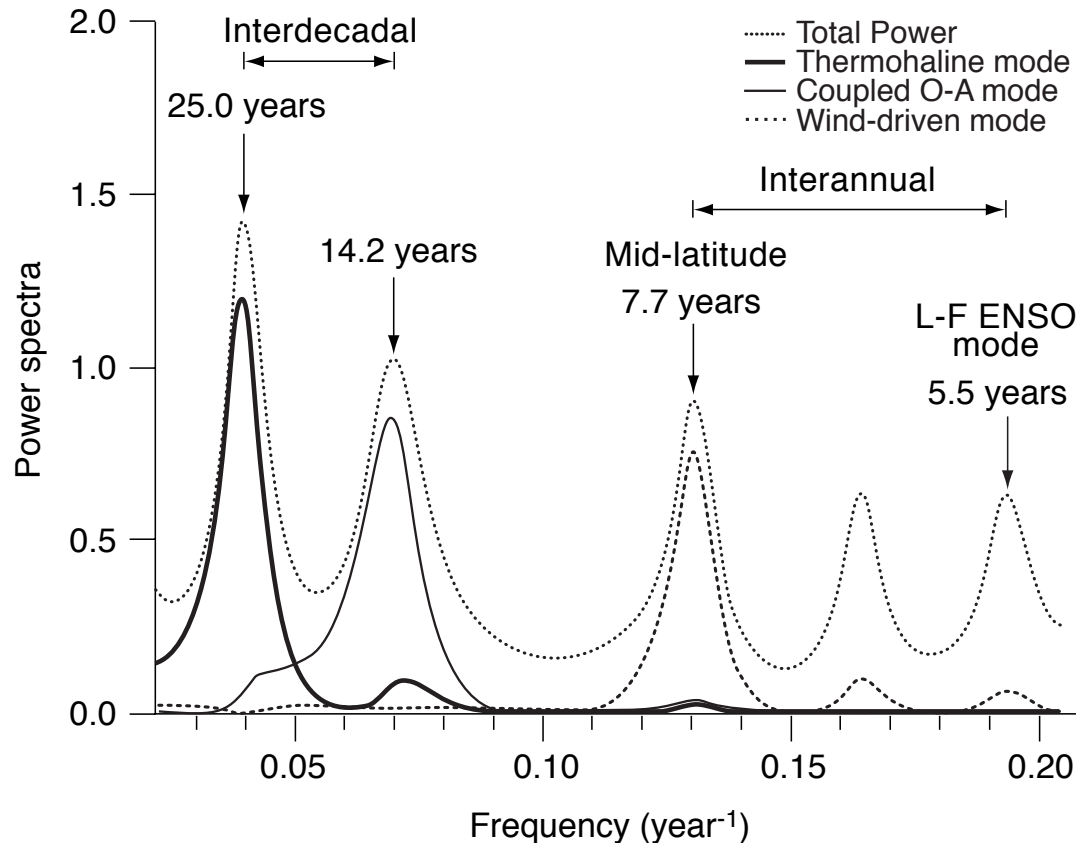
# Singular Spectrum Analysis (SSA) and M-SSA (cont'd)



- Break in slope of SSA spectrum distinguishes “**significant**” from “**noise**” EOFs
- Formal Monte-Carlo test (Allen and Smith, 1994) identifies 4-yr and 2-yr ENSO oscillatory modes. A window size of  $M = 60$  is enough to “resolve” these modes in a monthly SOI time series

# SSA (prefilter) + (low-order) MEM

◦ “Stack” spectrum



In good agreement with MTM peaks of **Ghil & Vautard (1991, *Nature*)** for the Jones *et al.* (1986) temperatures & stack spectra of Vautard *et al.* (1992, *Physica D*) for the IPCC “consensus” record (both global), to wit 26.3, 14.5, 9.6, 7.5 and 5.2 years.

Peaks at 27 & 14 years also in Koch sea-ice index off Iceland (Stocker & Mysak, 1992), etc.  
**Plaut, Ghil & Vautard (1995, *Science*)**

# The Nile River Records Revisited: **How good were Joseph's predictions?**

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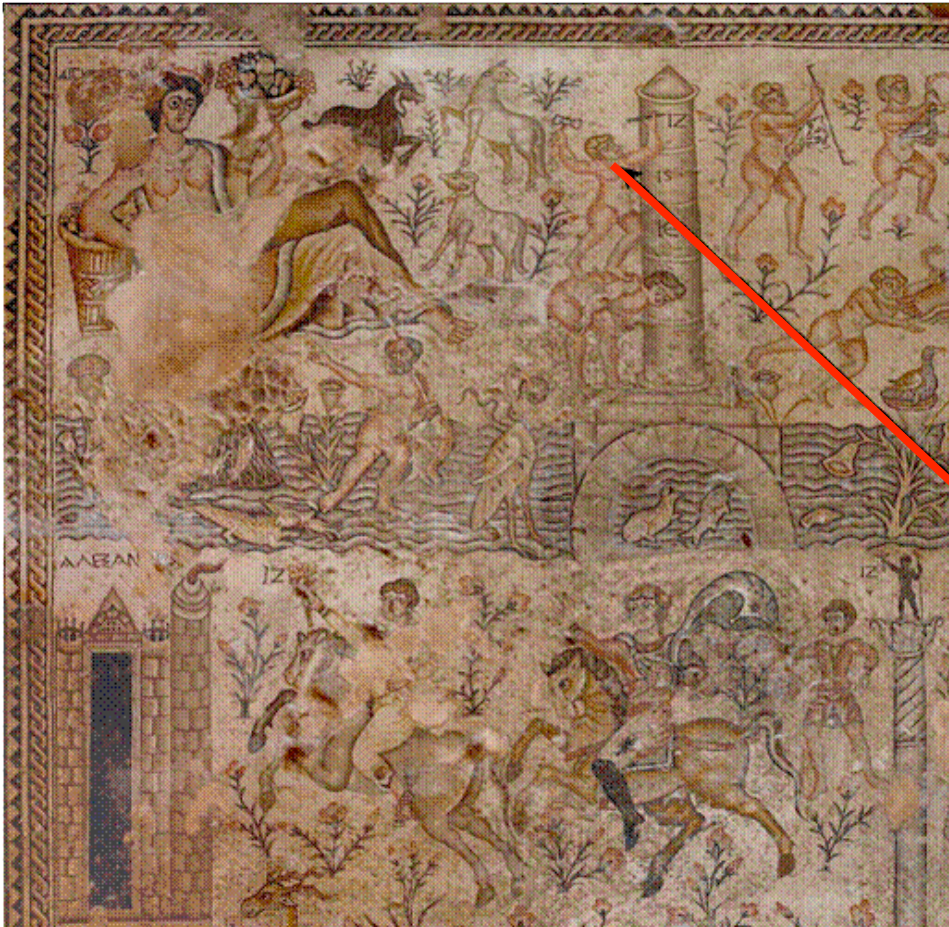
Michael Ghil, ENS & UCLA

Yizhak Feliks, IIBR & UCLA,

Dmitri Kondrashov, UCLA

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## Why are there data missing?

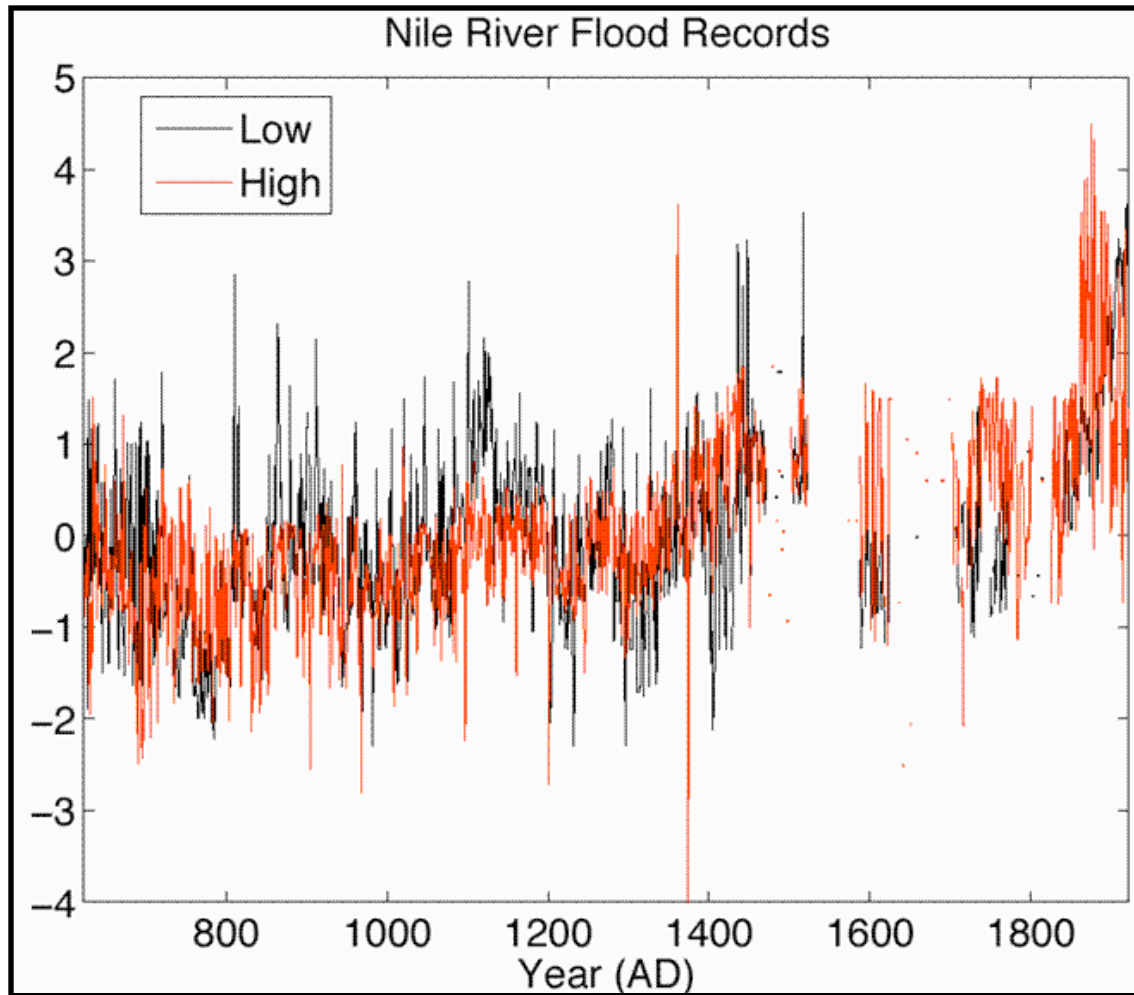


**Hard Work**

- Byzantine-period mosaic from Zippori, the capital of Galilee (1st century B.C. to 4th century A.D.); photo by Yigal Feliks, with permission from the Israel Nature and Parks Protection Authority )



# Historical records are full of “gaps”....



Annual maxima and minima of the water level at the nilometer on Rodah Island, Cairo.

# SSA (M-SSA) Gap Filling

Main idea: utilize **both spatial and temporal correlations** to iteratively compute self-consistent lag-covariance matrix; M-SSA with  $M = 1$  is the same as the EOF reconstruction method of Beckers & Rixen (2003)

Goal: keep “**signal**” and truncate “**noise**” — usually a few leading EOFs correspond to the dominant oscillatory modes, while the rest is noise.

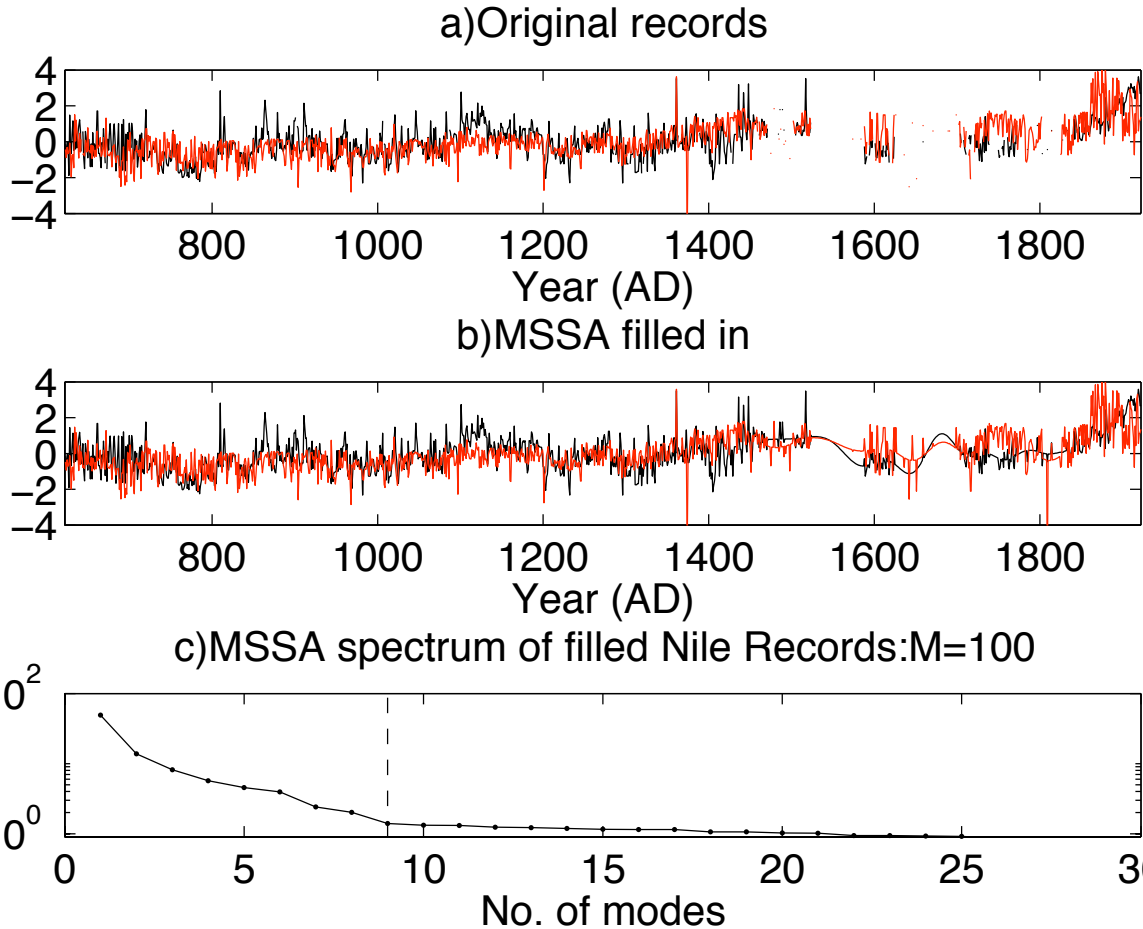
(1) for a given window width  $M$ : center the original data by computing the unbiased value of the mean and set the missing-data values to zero.

(2) start **iteration** with the **first EOF**, and replace the missing points with the reconstructed component (RC) of that EOF; **repeat the SSA algorithm** on the new time series, until convergence is achieved.

(3) repeat steps (1) and (2) with **two leading EOFs**, and so on.

(4) apply **cross-validation** to optimize the value of  $M$  and the number of dominant SSA (M-SSA) modes  $K$  to fill the gaps: a portion of available data (selected at random) is flagged as missing and the RMS error in the reconstruction is computed.

# Nile River Records



- High level —————
- Low level —————

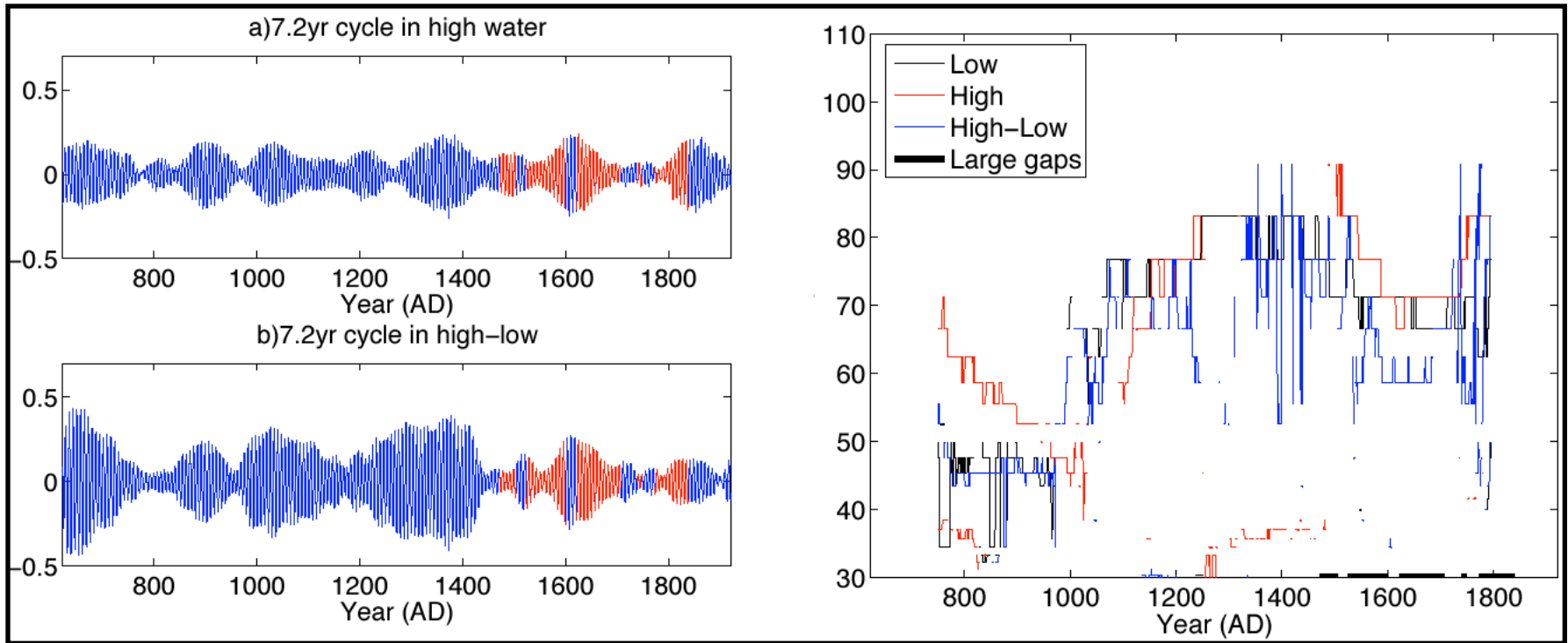
**Table 1a: Significant oscillatory modes in short records (A.D. 622–1470)**

Periods	Low	High	High-Low
40–100yr	<b>64</b> (9.3%)	<b>64</b> (6.9%)	<b>64</b> (6.6%)
20–40yr		[32]	
10–20yr	<b>12.2</b> (5.1%), <b>18.0</b> (6.7%)		<b>12.2</b> (4.7%), <b>18.3</b> (5.0%)
5–10yr	<b>6.2</b> (4.3%)	<b>7.2</b> (4.4%)	<b>7.3</b> (4.4%)
0–5yr	<b>3.0</b> (2.9%), <b>2.2</b> (2.3%)	<b>3.6</b> (3.6%), <b>2.9</b> (3.4%), <b>2.3</b> (3.1%)	<b>2.9</b> (4.2%),

**Table 1b: Significant oscillatory modes in extended records (A.D. 622–1922)**

Periods	Low	High	High-Low
40–100yr	<b>64</b> (13%)	<b>85</b> (8.6%)	<b>64</b> (8.2%)
20–40yr		<b>23.2</b> (4.3%)	
10–20yr	[12], <b>19.7</b> (5.9%)		<b>12.2</b> (4.3%), <b>18.3</b> (4.2%)
5–10yr	[6.2]	<b>7.3</b> (4.0%)	<b>7.3</b> (4.1%)
0–5yr	<b>3.0</b> (4%), <b>2.2</b> (3.3%)	<b>4.2</b> (3.3%), <b>2.9</b> (3.3%), <b>2.2</b> (2.9%)	[4.2], <b>2.9</b> (3.6%), <b>2.2</b> (2.6%)

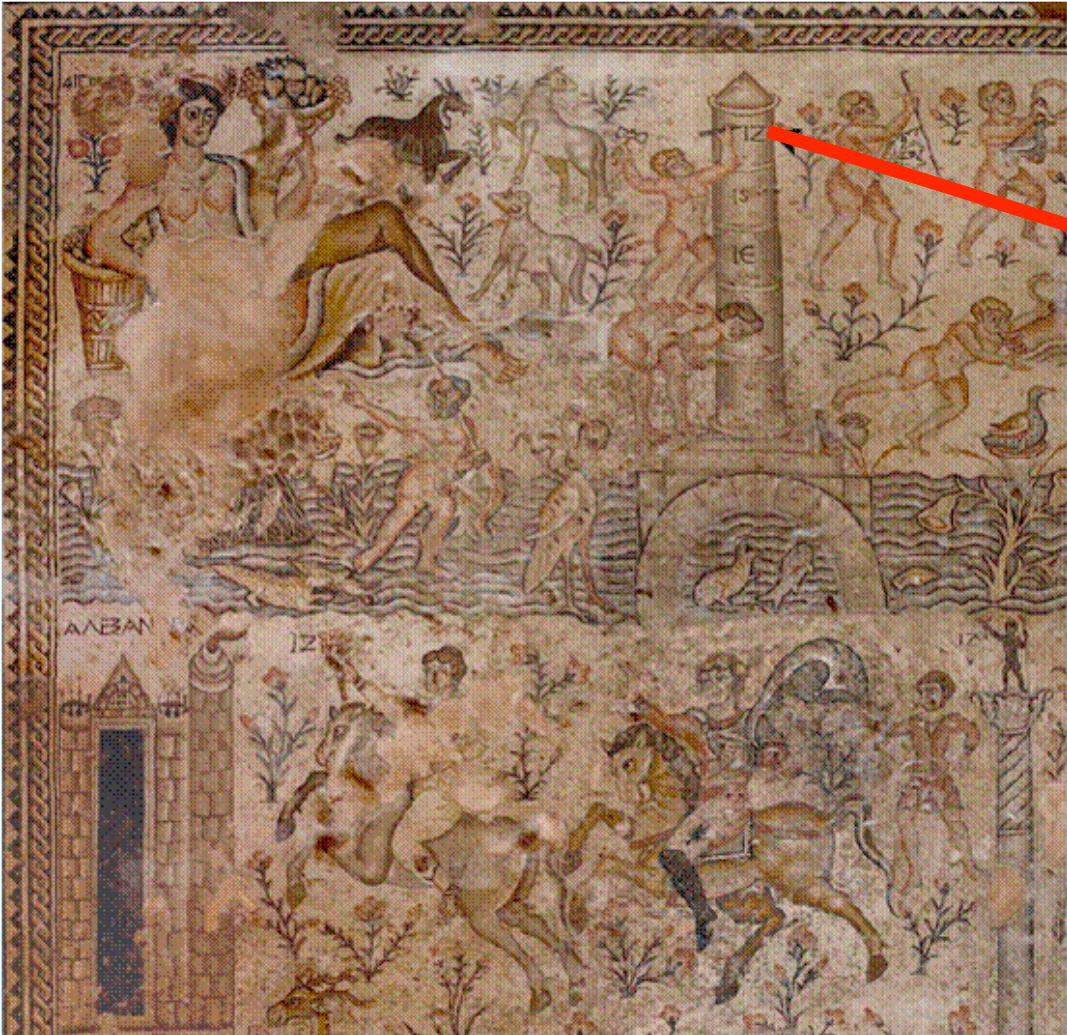
# Significant Oscillatory Modes



SSA reconstruction of the 7.2-yr mode in the extended Nile River records:  
(a) high-water, and (b) difference.  
Normalized amplitude; reconstruction in the large gaps in red.

Instantaneous frequencies of the oscillatory pairs in the low-frequency range (40–100 yr).  
The plots are based on multi-scale SSA [Yiou *et al.*, 2000]; local SSA performed in each window of width  $W = 3M$ , with  $M = 85$  yr.

**How good were Joseph's predictions?**



**Pretty good!**

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# Concluding Remarks

- M-SSA allows one to extract **spatial + temporal** features from **time series** without any *a priori* hypothesis on the physical or economical processes at work or on the data set's stochastic characteristics.
- We illustrated successful **applications** to both **climatic** and **economic** time series, including **ENSO**, **Nile River floods**, **US and EU macroeconomic indicators**.
- Many other successes in the **physical** and **life** sciences, including **synchronization of chaotic oscillators**, **solid-earth geosciences**, **fish population data**, and **agent-based predator–prey models**.
- Further methodological developments: **varimax rotation**, **Procrustes target target rotation**.
- These developments allow application **to large data sets** in many areas, without prior dimension reduction, e.g. to complete temperature fields.
- Availability of **freeware toolkit<sup>(\*)</sup>** + other teaching and research aids.

(\*) **SSA-MTM Toolkit**, <https://dept.atmos.ucla.edu/tcd/ssa-mtm-toolkit> .



# Significance tests (“garde-fous”) in SSA

To check a spectral feature, e.g., **an oscillatory pair**:

1. Find pair for given **data set**  $\{X_n: n = 1, 2, \dots, N\}$  and **window width**  $M$ .
2. Apply **statistical significance tests** (MC-SSA, etc.).
3. Check **robustness** of pair by changing  $M$ , sampling interval  $\tau_s$ , etc.
3. Apply **additional methods** (MTM, wavelets, etc.) and their tests to  $\{X_n\}$ .
4. Obtain **additional time series** pertinent to the same phenomenon  $\{Y_m\}$ , etc.
5. Apply steps (1)–(3) to these data sets.
6. Use **multi-channel SSA (M-SSA)** and other multivariate methods to check mutual dependence between  $\{X_n\}$ ,  $\{Y_m\}$ , etc.
7. Based on steps (1)–(6), try to provide a **physical explanation** of the mode.
8. Use (7) to **predict an as-yet-unobserved feature** of the data sets.
9. If this new feature **is found in new data**, go on to next problem.
10. **If not, go back** to an earlier step of this list.

(\*) **Ghil, M.**, M. R. Allen, M. D. Dettinger, K. Ide, D. Kondrashov, M. E. Mann, A. W. Robertson, A. Saunders, Y. Tian, F. Varadi, and P. Yiou, 2002: Advanced spectral methods for climatic time series, *Rev. Geophys.*, **40**(1), pp. 3.1–3.41, doi: 10.1029/2000RG000092.

# Some general references

## ***Classical, paper-based***

Blackman, R. B., & J. W. Tukey, 1958: *The Measurement of Power Spectra*, Dover, Mineola, NY.

Broomhead, D. S., King, G. P., 1986a. Extracting qualitative dynamics from experimental data. *Physica D*, **20**, 217–236.

Chatfield, C., 1984: *The Analysis of Time Series: An Introduction*, Chapman & Hall, New York.

Ghil, M., *et al.*, 2002: Advanced spectral methods for climatic time series, *Rev. Geophys.*, **40**, doi:10.1029/2001RG000092.

Hannan, E. J., 1960: *Time Series Analysis*, Methuen, London/Barnes & Noble, New York, NY, 152 pp.

Loève, M., 1978: *Probability Theory, Vol. II, 4th ed.*, Graduate Texts in Mathematics, vol. 46, Springer-Verlag, ISBN 0-387-90262-7.

Percival, D. B., & A. T. Walden, *Spectral Analysis for Physical Applications*, Cambridge Univ. Press, 1993.

## ***Web-based***

<https://dept.atmos.ucla.edu/tcd/ssa-mtm-toolkit>.

Reserve slides

Diapos de réserve

# Outline

- Time series analysis
  - The “smooth” and “rough” part of a time series
  - Oscillations and nonlinear dynamics
- Singular spectral analysis (SSA)
  - Principal components in time and space
  - The SSA-MTM Toolkit
- The Nile River floods
  - Longest climate-related, instrumental time series
  - Gap filling in time series
  - NAO and SOI impacts on the Nile River
- Concluding remarks
  - Cautionary remarks (“garde-fous”)
  - References

# ***Data-Adaptive Detection of Transient Deformation in GNSS Networks***

**Damian Walwer, Eric Calais and Michael Ghil**

Permanent GPS network  
(12 876 sites)



# Motivation & Outline

1. **Data sets** in the geosciences are often **short and contain errors**: this is both an obstacle and an incentive.
2. **Phenomena** in the geosciences often have both **regular** (“cycles”) and **irregular** (“noise”) aspects.
3. Different spatial and temporal scales:  
**one person’s noise** is **another person’s signal**.
4. Need both **deterministic** and **stochastic** modeling.
5. **Regularities** include **(quasi-)periodicity** → spectral analysis via “classical” methods (see **SSA-MTM Toolkit**).
6. **Irregularities** include **scaling and (multi-)fractality** → “spectral analysis” via Hurst exponents, dimensions, etc. (see **Multi-Trend Analysis, MTA**)
7. Does some **combination of the two**, + **deterministic** and **stochastic** modeling, provide a **pathway to prediction**?

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For details and publications, please visit these two Web sites:

**TCD**    <http://www.atmos.ucla.edu/tcd/> → key person – **Dmitri Kondrashov!**

**E2-C2**    [http://www.ipsl.jussieu.fr/~ypsce/py\\_E2C2.html](http://www.ipsl.jussieu.fr/~ypsce/py_E2C2.html)

# Time Series in Nonlinear Dynamics

The 1980s — decade of greed & fast results

(LBOs, junk bonds, fractal dimension).

Packard *et al.* (1980), Roux *et al.* (1980);

Mañe (1981), Ruelle (1981), Takens (1981);

- Method of delays:  $\ddot{x}_i = f_i(x_1, \dots, x_n) \Leftrightarrow x^{(n)} = F(x^{(n-1)}, \dots, x)$   
 $\ddot{x} = F(x, \dot{x}) \Rightarrow \begin{cases} \dot{x} = y, \\ \dot{y} = F(x, y) \end{cases}$

Differentiation ill-posed  $\Rightarrow$  use differences instead!

1st Problem — smoothness:

Whitney embedding lemma doesn't apply to most attractors (e.g., Lorenz)

2nd Problem — noise;

3rd Problem — sampling: long recurrence times.

- Some rigorous results on convergence:

Smith (1988, *Phys. Lett. A*), Hunt (1990, *SIAM J. Appl. Math.*)

# Power Law for Spectrum

$$S(f) \sim f^{-p} + \text{poles}$$

i.e. **linear** in **log-log** coordinates

For a 1st-order Markov process or “red noise”  $p = 2$

“Pink” noise,  $p = 1$  ( $1/f$ , flicker noise)

“White” noise,  $p = 0$

Low-order dynamical (deterministic) systems

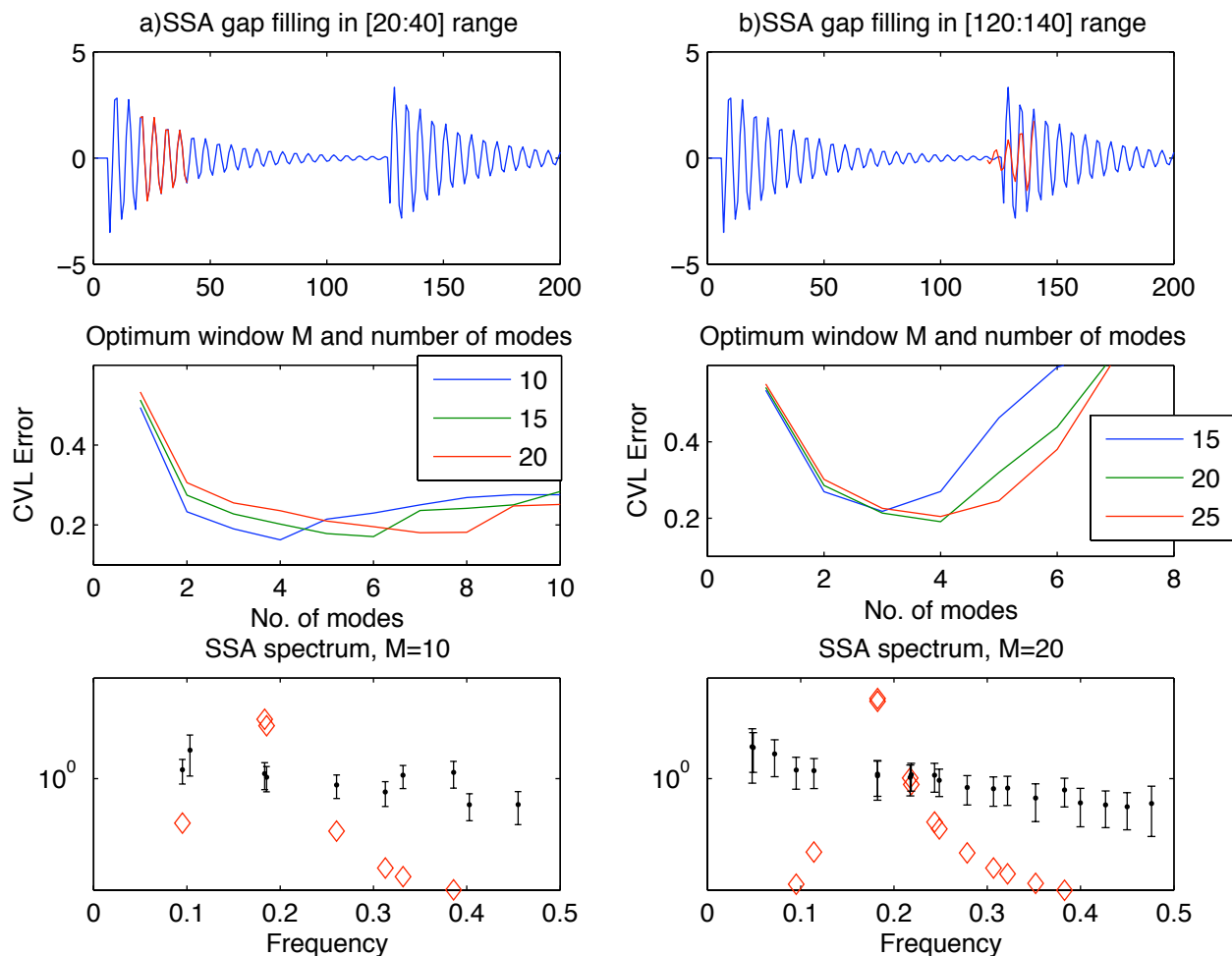
have exponential decay of  $S(f)$  (linear in log-linear coordinates)

e.g. for Smale horseshoe  $\forall k \exists 2^k$  unstable orbits of period  $k$

N.B. Bhattacharaya, Ghil & Vulis (1982, *J. Atmos. Sci.*) showed a spectrum  $S \sim f^{-2}$  for a nonlinear PDE with delay (doubly infinite-dimensional)

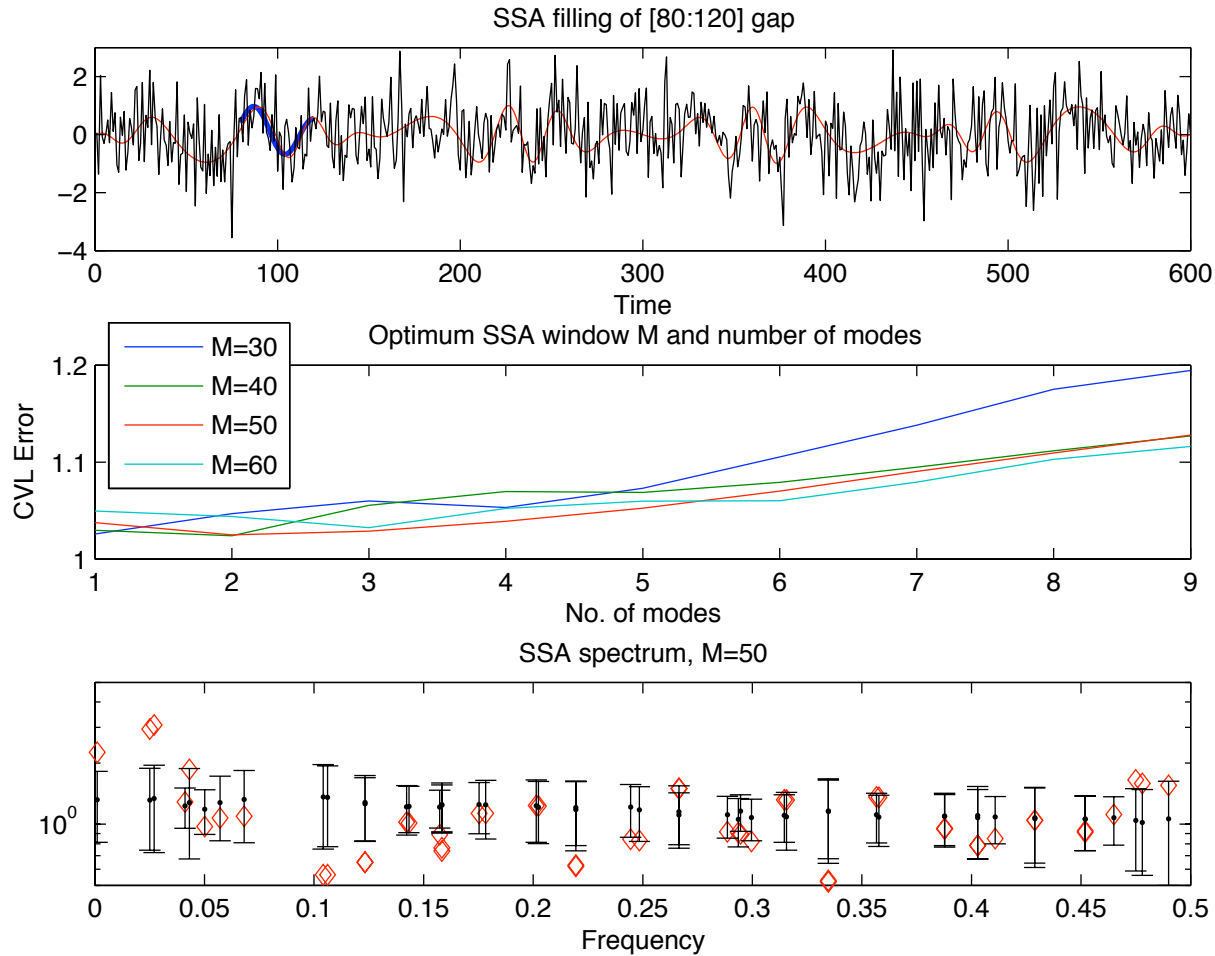


# Synthetic I: Gaps in Oscillatory Signal



- Very good gap filling for smooth modulation; OK for sudden modulation.

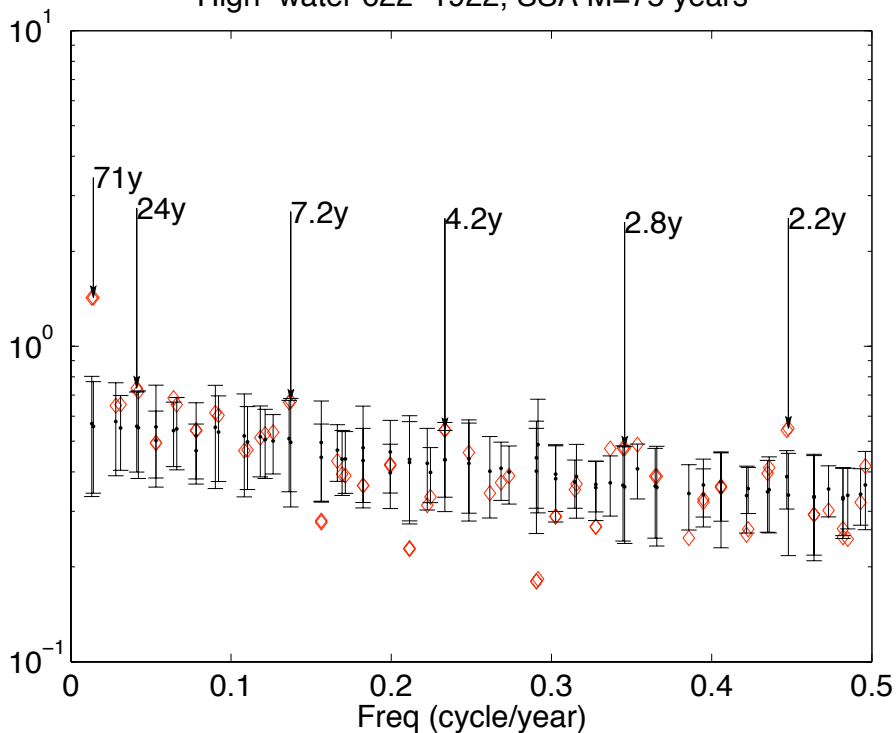
# Synthetic II: Gaps in Oscillatory Signal + Noise



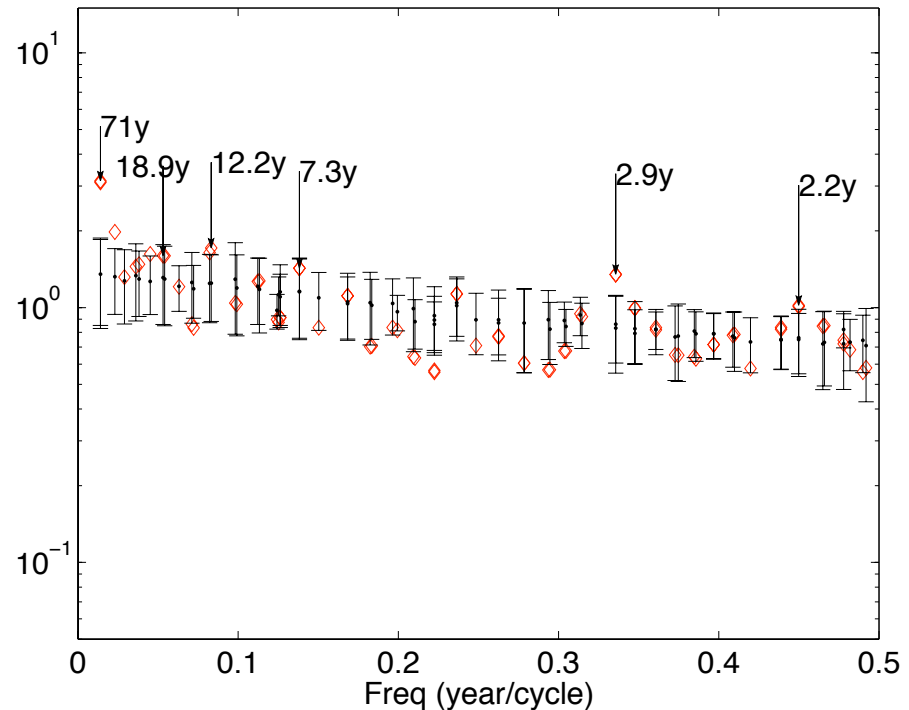
$$x(t) = \sin\left(\frac{2\pi}{300}t\right) * \cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{40}t + \frac{\pi}{2}\sin\frac{2\pi}{120}t\right)$$

# MC-SSA of Filled-in Records

High-water 622–1922, SSA M=75 years



High-Low Water Difference, 622–1922, SSA M=75 years



**SSA results for the extended Nile River records;**  
arrows mark highly significant peaks (at 95%), in both SSA and MTM.

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# Advanced Spectral Methods, Nonlinear Dynamics, and the Nile River

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## Motivation

1. Climatic time series have typically broad peaks on top of a continuous, “warm-colored” background → *Method*
2. Connections to nonlinear dynamics → *Theory*
3. Need for stringent statistical significance tests → *Toolkit*
4. Applications to analysis and prediction → *Examples*

*Joint work with: M. R. Allen, M. D. Dettinger, K. Ide, N. Jiang, C. L. Keppene, D. Kondrashov, M. Kimoto, M. E. Mann, J. D. Neelin, M. C. Penland, G. Plaut, A. W. Robertson, A. Saunders, D. Sornette, S. Speich, C. M. Strong, C. Taricco, Y.-d. Tian, Y. S. Unal, R. Vautard, & P. Yiou (on 3 continents).*

<http://www.atmos.ucla.edu/tcd>

# Type of noise used in the toolkit

- Red noise:
  - AR(1) random process:  $X(t+1) = aX(t) + b(t)$
  - Decreasing spectrum (due to inertia)

$$C_X(\tau) = \frac{\sigma^2 a^{|\tau|}}{1 - a^2}$$

$$P_X(f) = C_X(0) \frac{1 - a^2}{1 - 2a \cos 2\pi f + a^2}$$

# Monte Carlo SSA

(Allen et Smith, *J. Clim.*, 1995)

Goal: Assess whether the SSA spectrum can reject the null hypothesis that the time series is red noise.

## Procedure:

- Estimate red noise parameters with same variance and auto-covariance as the observed time series  $X(t)$
- Compare the pdf of the projection of the noise covariance onto the data EOFs:

$$\Lambda_B = R_X^t \underbrace{C_R}_{\text{Covar. bruit rouge}} \underbrace{R_X}_{\text{EOFs données}}$$

The null hypothesis is rejected using the pdf of  $\Lambda_B$ .

# Monte Carlo SSA: red noise test

