

Syllabus: SIOC 221A, Analysis of Physical Oceanographic Data

Sarah Gille

Class Meetings: Tuesday and Thursday, 11:00-12:20, Spiess 330

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Course website: <http://www-pord.ucsd.edu/~sgille/sioc221a>

Grading: letter or S/U

Course Description: Fundamental elements of analysis of geophysical and oceanographic time series, including sampling problems, least-squares techniques, spectral analysis, interpretation of series, design of experiments.

Course Objectives: During this class you will learn (or refresh your knowledge of) basic statistics, Fourier transforms, time-series analysis methods including least-squares fitting and spectral analysis. Along the way, you should develop your programming skills so that you are able to put the methods that we discuss in class into practice.

Course requirements: Complete weekly problem sets (by due dates). You may work on most of the problem sets collaboratively, but you need to work through the problems yourself and write up your own work. If you work in a group, please identify your collaborators. (Science is collaborative, and we always acknowledge our sources and our collaborators.) A mid-term problem set will have about the same scope as the regular problem sets, but you will complete it independently, and you will be asked to sign a statement indicating that the work you submit is your own. The final problem set will be a project based on data that you choose and will also be completed independently. Each problem set will contribute approximately equally to your final grade. Bonus points may be awarded for exemplary class participation.

The final exam is scheduled for Wednesday 13 December, 11:30-2:30. Please plan to be available for this time slot, since the final problem set will likely involve a brief oral presentation, which we will do during the exam period.

Perhaps needless to say, you are also expected to come to class, to participate in class discussions, and to ask questions (e.g. for clarification, because you don't understand a point, or to seek further perspective.) I will assign some small segments of reading, which will be available in electronic form, and you are expected to complete the reading.

Topics:

- Introduction: statistics, probability density functions, mean, standard deviation, skewness, kurtosis
- Error propagation
- Least-squares fitting
- The Fourier transform
- Spectra, spectral uncertainties, using Monte Carlo methods (and fake data) to evaluate formal uncertainties

- Windowing and filtering
- Cross-spectra, coherence, uncertainties of coherence
- Multi-dimensional spectral analysis

Time permitting, we might get to:

- Rotary spectra
- Alternative approaches for computing spectra: multitaper and maximum entropy methods
- Filter design
- Introduction to linear systems
- Spectral modeling; spectral physics

Texts on reserve for SIOC 221A

Electronic resources (available on line and in hard copy):

- Bendat, J. S. and A. G. Piersol, 2010: *Random Data: Analysis and Measurement Procedures*. John Wiley & Sons, 4th edition.
- Thomson, R. E. and W. J. Emery, 2014: *Data Analysis Methods in Physical Oceanography*, 3rd edition, Elsevier.
- von Storch, H. and F. W. Zwiers, 1984: *Statistical Analysis in Climate Research*, Cambridge University Press.

Hard-copy resources (available for consultation in the Eckart Building):

- Helstrom, C. W., 1991: *Probability and stochastic processes for engineers*. Macmillan.
- Papoulis, A. and S. U. Pillai, 2002: *Probability, random variables, and stochastic processes*. McGraw-Hill.