Wave groups and spectral shape in ice

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Johannes Gemmrich
University of Victoria
Victoria, BC, Canada
gemmrich@uvic.ca

Todd Mudge
ASL Environmental Sciences
Victoria, BC, Canada

Jim Thomson
Applied Physics Laboratory
Seattle, WA, USA

Enhanced group structure of waves in ice - Linear or nonlinear process?

Motivation:
Previous case study
in pancake ice
(Thomson et al 2019, JGR):

High frequency wave attenuation
→ narrow band
Linear superposition
→ Strong group structure

Here: new study, 4 year record, including thick first year ice

Definitions: Wave parameters

Spectral moments

$$m_n = \int \omega^n S(\omega) d\omega$$

Significant wave height $$H_s = 4\sqrt{m_0}$$

Dominant frequency $$\omega_p = \frac{\int \omega S(\omega)^4 d\omega}{\int S(\omega)^4 d\omega}$$

Spectral bandwidth $$\nu = \left(\frac{m_0 m_2}{m_1^2} - 1\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

Steepness $$\varepsilon = k_p H_s / 2$$

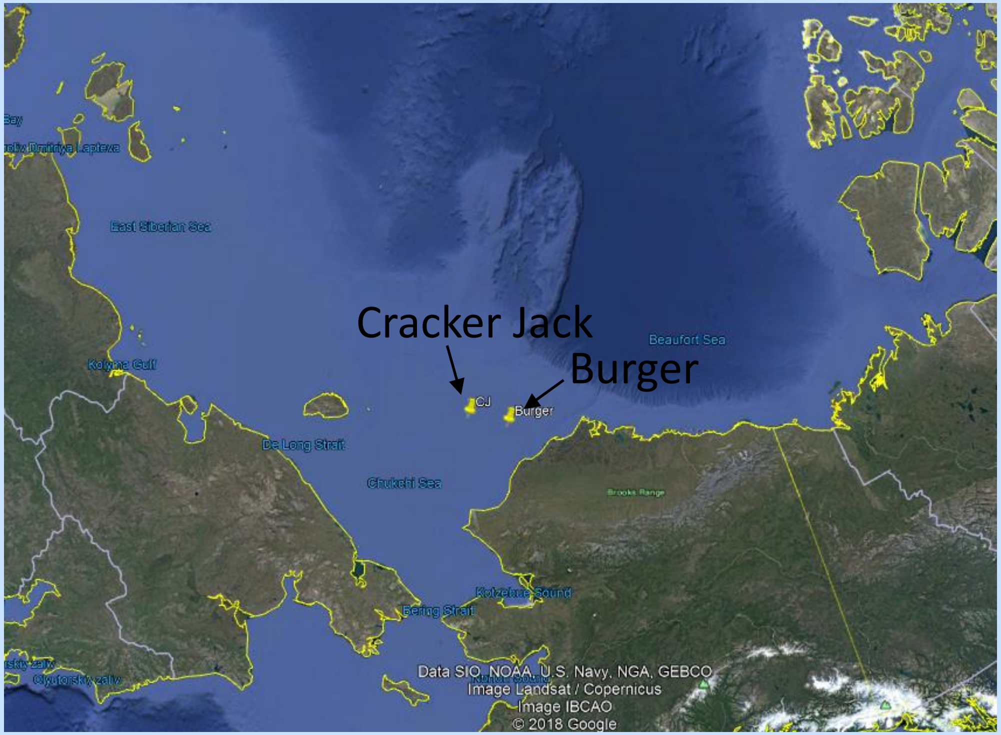
Group factor

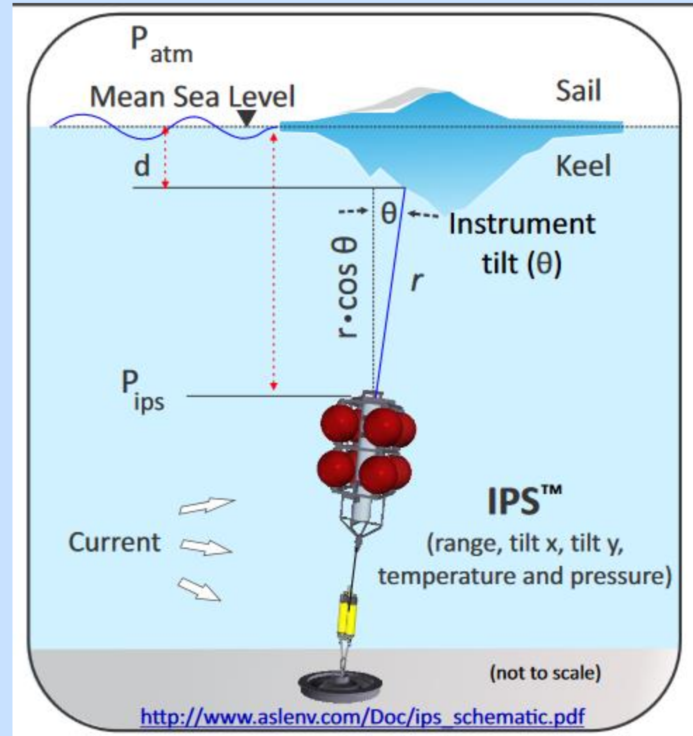
$$GF = \frac{\sigma_{SWH}}{\langle SWH \rangle}$$

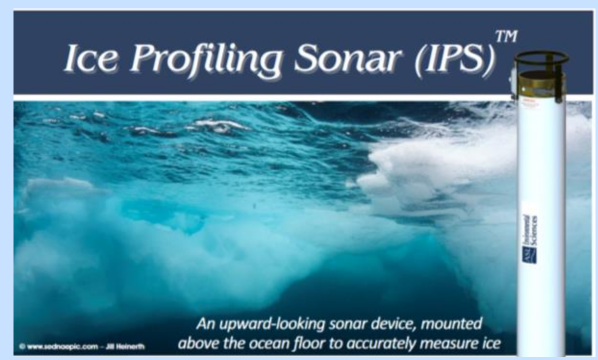
Smoothed Instantaneous **W**ave Energy **H**istory (wave envelope) $$SWH = Q * \eta^2$$

(Q: Bartlett window length $2T_p$)

Observations: surface elevation (various ice conditions)







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Observations 2010 – 2015

2 sites: Burger and Cracker Jack, ~47m depth

- Range to surface at 0.5 Hz (some 1 Hz),

→ 1d ‘surface elevation’ time series

(inverted echosounder range)

Group factor – wave steepness

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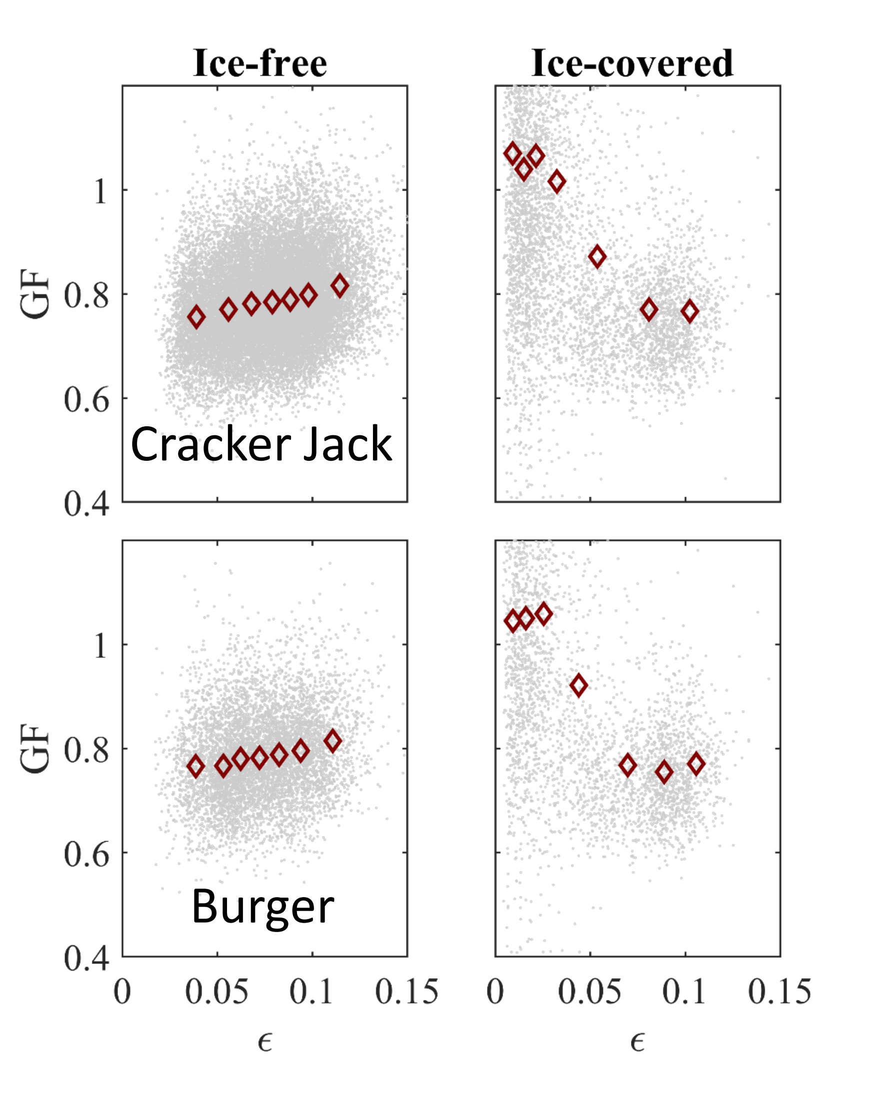


Ice free:

- Lower GF
- **Steeper waves**
  → more pronounced groups

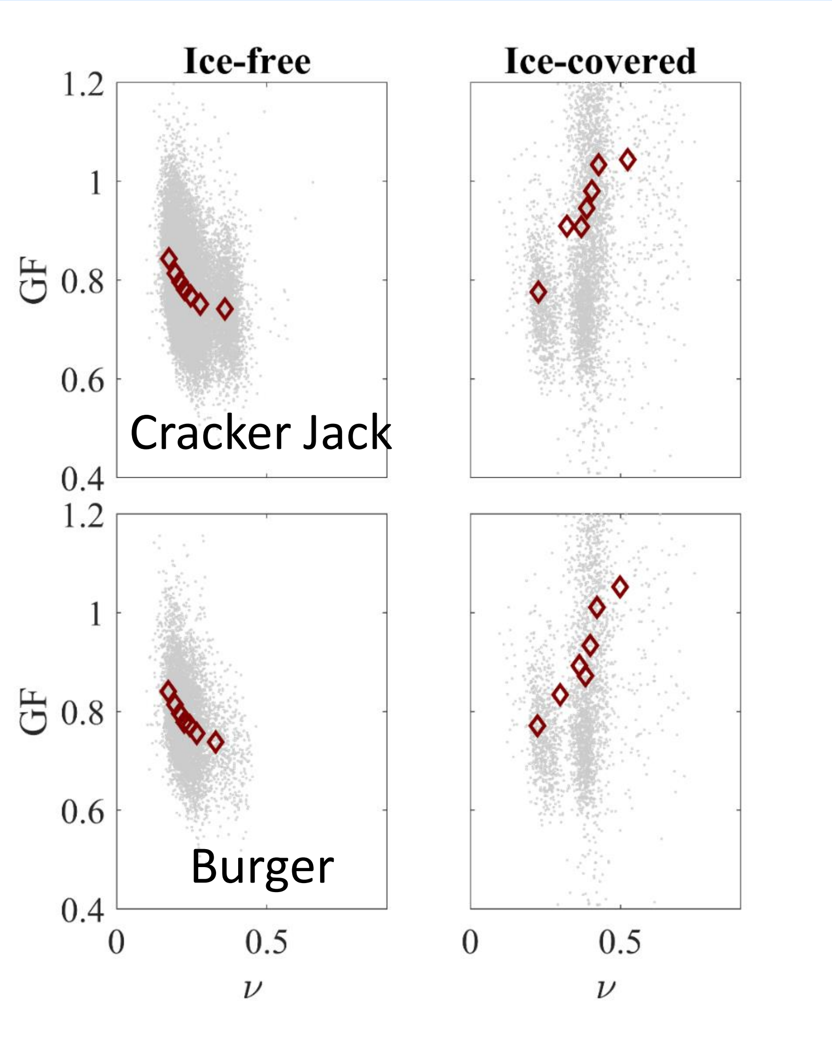
Ice covered:

- Higher GF
- **Steeper waves**
  → less pronounced groups

Similar steepness in ice and ice-free
(despite lower Hs)
→ Attenuation of longer waves (?)
Or change in dispersion relation (?)

(Note: in pancake ice: GF highest in ice, decreasing with steepness)

Group factor – bandwidth



<u>Ice free:</u>

- **Narrow-banded waves**
  → more pronounced groups

<u>Ice covered:</u>

- **Broad-banded waves**
  → more pronounced groups

<u>Similar bandwidth in ice or ice-free</u>

→ Why?
(would expect high-frequency attenuation in ice
→ linear: narrow band)

(Note: in pancake ice: GF highest in ice, decreasing with bandwidth)

Group factor – bandwidth: nonlinear process

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Original Russian Text © V.G. Polnikov, I.V. Lavrenov, 2007, published in Okeanologiya, 2007, Vol. 47, No. 3, pp. 363–373.

MARINE PHYSICS

Calculation of the Nonlinear Energy Transfer through the Wave Spectrum at the Sea Surface Covered with Broken Ice

V. G. Polnikov[a] and I. V. Lavrenov[b]
[a] Obukhov Institute of Atmospheric Physics, Moscow, Russia
[b] Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg, Russia

Note: Spectral bandwidth defined omni-directional, but group generation effective in unidirectional waves

Ice reduces nonlinear 4-wave transfer

but enhanced transfer to high frequencies

(compensates for high frequency attenuation: → n_{ice}~n_{water})

→ High frequency spreads to lateral directions

→ Waves in dominant direction more “narrow-banded”

→ Increase in group factor

Process less pronounced in narrow band wave field

Broad-banded waves → high frequency lateral spread → more pronounced groups

Summary

Wave groups in ice: linear or nonlinear?

Thin ice: Group factor decreasing with bandwidth **linear** [a)]

Thick ice: Group factor increasing with bandwidth **nonlinear** [b)]

Ice enhances nonlinear 4-wave transfer to high frequencies
→ Lateral spread → more groups in dominant direction

Spectral parameter ← → groupiness:

Opposite behaviour in thick ice vs. open water

a) Thomson et al, 2019

b) This study. Consistent with nonlinear mechanism suggested in Collins et al, 2015

References:

Collins, C.O., W.E. Rogers, A. Marchenko, and A. V. Babanin, 2015: *‘In situ measurements of an energetic wave event in the Arctic marginal ice zone’.* Geophys. Res. Lett.,42, 1863–1870

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Thomson, J., J. Gemmrich, W. E. Rogers, C. O. Collins, and F. Ardhuin, 2019: *'Wave groups observed in pancake sea ice'*. J. Geophys. Res.124, 7400-7411

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