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ANALYSIS OF CONTINUOUSLY RECORDED STORM DATA ON THE SOUTHWEST COAST OF SRI LANKA

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Knowledge of wave climate is of extreme importance for establishing the design parameters for coastal structures, model harbour investigation and other coastal phenomena. Wave data are analysed either on the wave by wave basis or by the

spectral method using Fast Fourier transforms and, whenever possible, both. The two methods reflect the dual feature of seawaves, i.e. non-linearity and irregularity. They complement each other and neither one alone is sufficient for successful application of wave data for engineering problems.

For the last five years (on the basis of identified projects) wave data on the south-west coast of Sri Lanka has been obtained at three-hourly intervals for a period of 20 minutes. On the occurrence of extreme events an attempt has been made to gather continuous records so as to obtain as complete a time history as possible of the event.

This Paper attempts to analyze some of these extreme events and correlate simultaneous wave recordings in Galle and Colombo on at least one instance and briefly discusses some of the limitations and assumptions made in the analysis. An attempt has also been made to correlate offshore meteorological information with recordings made on land.