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# To-SEAlert project. Validation

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The To-SEAlert project (Fortes *et al.*, 2021) aims to include a set of tools/methodologies into the Early Warning System HIDRALERTA (Poseiro, 2019, Fortes *et al.*, 2020, Pinheiro *et al.*, 2020) to make it more efficient, reliable and robust. The project uses different tools to improve efficiency and reliability in the system, as well as to provide validation. The case studies are Costa da Caparica coastal area and Ericeira port, both on the West Portuguese Coast. One of the main goals of the To-SEAlert is the validation of HIDRALERTA system, to make it a reliable tool. This can be made by validating either the neural network tools and the numerical models implemented at the system, or the set of alerts by using video images. This article presents examples of the validation performed for HIDRALERTA system, for Costa da Caparica and Ericeira use cases.

## 2. VALIDATION

### 2.1. Comparison between SWAN and wave buoys offshore Nazaré

To validate the SWAN model results (SWAN Team, 2006), data from two buoys located offshore Nazaré were used. The validation was carried out (Zózimo *et al.*, 2020) with i) eleven years of data (2009-2019) from the Oceanic (2000m depth) and Coastal (90m depth) buoys and ii) data from December 15 to 23, 2019 (Elsa and Fabien storms).

To compare the buoy data with the SWAN model results for the period between 2009 and 2019, simulations were carried out with an interval of six hours. For the storms period, simulations were performed with an interval of 1 h. At the time of the Elsa and Fabien depressions, only the Coastal buoy was acquiring data.

There was a good agreement between the buoy data and the SWAN model results, although this agreement was lower for the Elsa and Fabien depression days. It was also found that the model reproduced better the mean wave direction and the significant wave height, than the peak wave period.

### 2.2. Comparison of NN\_OVERTOPPING2 and field records in Ericeira port

To validate the predictions of the alerts, the Elsa and Fabien depressions (occurred between December 18 and 22, 2019) that were responsible for heavy damage to the head of the breakwater in the port of Ericeira, were simulated with HIDRALERTA prototype of Ericeira (Zózimo *et al.*, 2020). Regarding the alert system, the overtopping mean discharge values that were obtained with HIDRALERTA agreed with the emission of a red alert for damage to the structure in the profiles of the breakwater that are closest to its head and at its head. Indeed, during the Elsa and Fabien storms, the breakwater head suffered severe structural damage, with the destruction of part of the outer layer of Antifer cubes.

### 2.2. Comparison of SWASH/NN\_OVERTOPPING2 with video images at Ericeira port

Two breakwater profiles from the breakwater of Ericeira were chosen to perform the simulations: Profile-T and Profile-A. Profile-T is located at the trunk of the breakwater and has an armour layer of tetrapods, while Profile-A is located at the head of the breakwater, and its armour layer consists of antifer cubes.

To obtain the wave overtopping predictions, wave conditions were extracted with the approach used in HIDRALERTA for the selected events, which covered overtopping and no-overtopping conditions. For those wave conditions, NN\_OVERTOPPING2 (Coeveld *et al.*, 2005) tool and SWASH model (Zijlema *et al.*, 2011) computed overtopping discharges. To run SWASH within HIDRALERTA, after calibrating the model for the two profiles, five empirical expressions were deduced to automatically determine the Manning coefficient based on certain known variables (Manz, 2021). Due to the range of applicability of the expressions for the definition of Manning friction coefficients for Profile-T and Profile-A, not all of the events could be simulated.

For the selected events, videos were analysed for identifying overtopping occurrences. A total of 104 videos were analysed. The information extracted from the images was used to categorize the risk levels for pedestrians, vehicles on the breakwater and structural elements (breakwater itself). Those risk levels range from 1 (low risk) to 3 (high risk). After the video analysis, the mean overtopping discharges computed with SWASH and NN\_OVERTOPPING2 were used to determine the risk level of the overtopping events based on discharge thresholds. Finally, the observed risk levels were compared with the predicted ones (Zózimo *et al.*, 2022).

It was concluded (Zózimo *et al.*, 2022) that NN\_OVERTOPPING2 presented a better agreement with the observations than SWASH for Profile-T (pedestrians and vehicles) and a worse performance for Profile-A (pedestrians). SWASH overestimated both the alerts and the discharges when compared to NN\_OVERTOPPING2.

Both approaches (NN\_OVERTOPPING2 and SWASH) presented high discharges. This can be due to bathymetric and breakwater representation issues. The video analysis also presents some challenges, due to the camera location and the poor visibility during storm conditions. Moreover, the classification of risk levels from the video imagery relied on expert judgment and therefore the interpretation can be biased.

### 2.3. Costa da Caparica

The implementation of HIDRALERTA for the coastal zone of Costa da Caparica includes the estimation of the risk of overtopping, both through empirical formulas of overtopping and runup, and through the implementation of a Bayesian network (BN) based on the results obtained with the XBeach model (Roelvink *et al.*, 2010). The HIDRALERTA prototype for Costa da Caparica is operational since 2021 with empirical formulae and since 2022 with the BN. The risks per receiver correspond to the risk to pedestrians, vehicles and buildings, among others, for which four risk levels were considered: green, yellow, orange and red, with red being the maximum risk (Ferreira *et al.*, 2021). The results of the BN for the peak of two storms, Hercules and Emma, were compared with field observations. The obtained preliminary results indicate a very positive approximation between forecasts and field observations for the storms considered.

The alerts issued by Costa da Caparica prototype are in continuous validation through their comparison with the images from a video monitoring system. Although no severe event has occurred until the present, the validation already conducted to some refinements in the prototype, namely on the definition of the lowest bin of the water level for the BN.

### 3. CONCLUSIONS

The validation performed so far showed overall good results and that more work on SWASH simulations is needed, including the increase in the range of applicability of the empirical expressions for the Manning coefficient. Also, Ericeira's port basic information (bathymetry and structure profiles) has to be updated. The validation will continue through the comparison of the alerts issued by the system with the data from the video-monitoring systems.

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