

Is a sum of random waves a good model of the internal wave field?

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The open ocean internal wave field is remarkably steady in time. This observation has led to a statistical description of the internal wave field known as the Garrett–Munk spectrum. The wave field is often considered to be made up of a random sum of independent waves. Some of the ramifications of this assumption are explored in trying to explain and understand the low-frequency temporal modulation of the relatively high-frequency internal waves.

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