

# Triggers of Rogue Waves in Deep Water Envelope Equations

Will Cousins

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Joint work with:

Themistoklis Sapsis, Mustafa Mohamad (MIT)

Amin Chabchoub (Swinburne University of Technology)

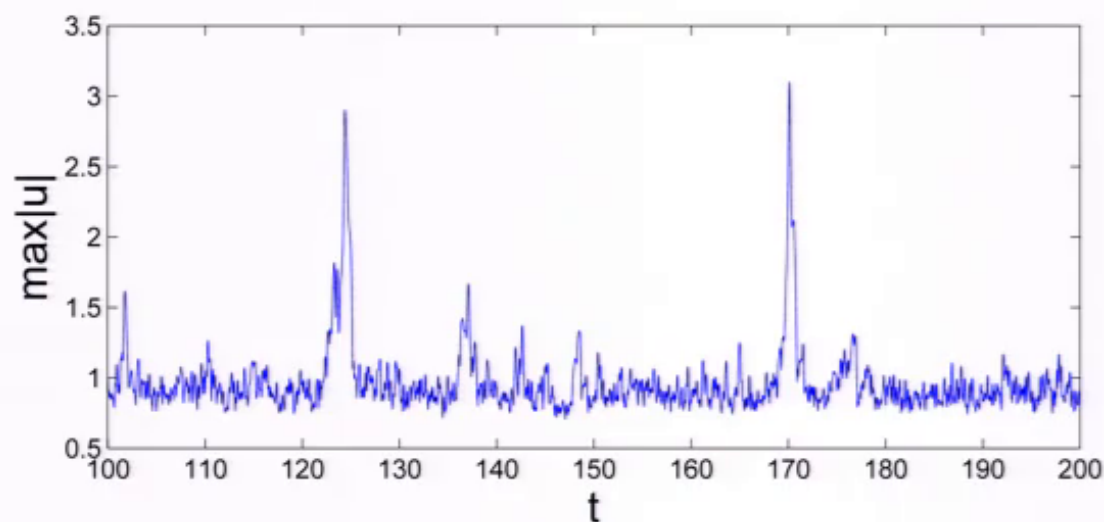


Massachusetts  
Institute of  
Technology



# Extreme Events

- Dramatically atypical system responses
- Rare—live in the tails of the probability distribution
- Examples:
  1. Freak/Rogue Ocean Waves
  2. Financial market crashes
  3. Extreme weather events (hurricanes, droughts, earthquakes)



# High Dimensional, Nonlinear, Noisy Systems

---

## Why should you care?

1. Many systems demand such models, particularly when you want to represent extreme events
2. Nonlinearity can generate non-Gaussian, heavy-tailed statistics (extreme events thus more likely)
3. Combination of high dimensionality and nonlinearity make analysis challenging

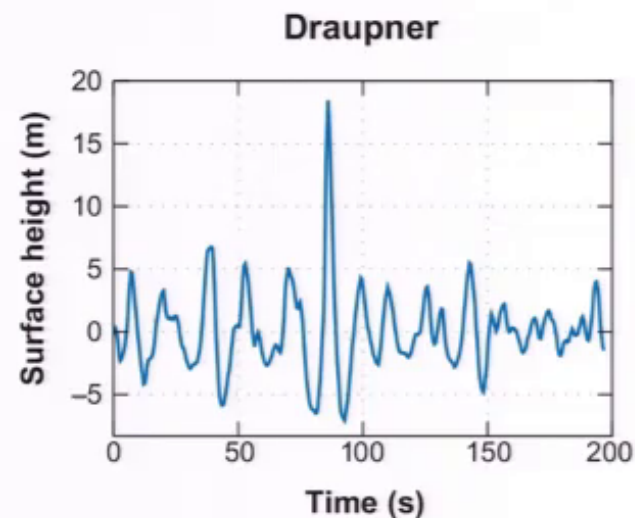
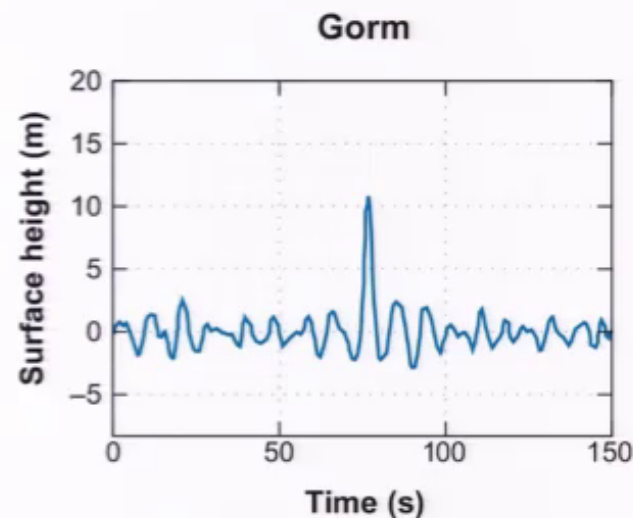
# Extreme Event Triggers

---

- We consider systems with intermittent, nonlinear, large magnitude events
- In some cases, it is possible to describe the *triggers* of these extreme events
- We will show you how you can use this information to perform
  1. Prediction
  2. Density Estimation (of the state and functionals thereof)

# Rogue/Freak Ocean Waves

- Waves whose height is extremely large for a given wave field
- Common definition:  $> 4$  times the standard deviation
- Such waves have caused catastrophic damage to people, ships, and coastal structures



From Dysthe, Krogstad,  
Muller (2008)



# Oceanic Rogue Waves

Rogue Waves – large elevation relative to a given sea state



# Modified Nonlinear Schrodinger Equation

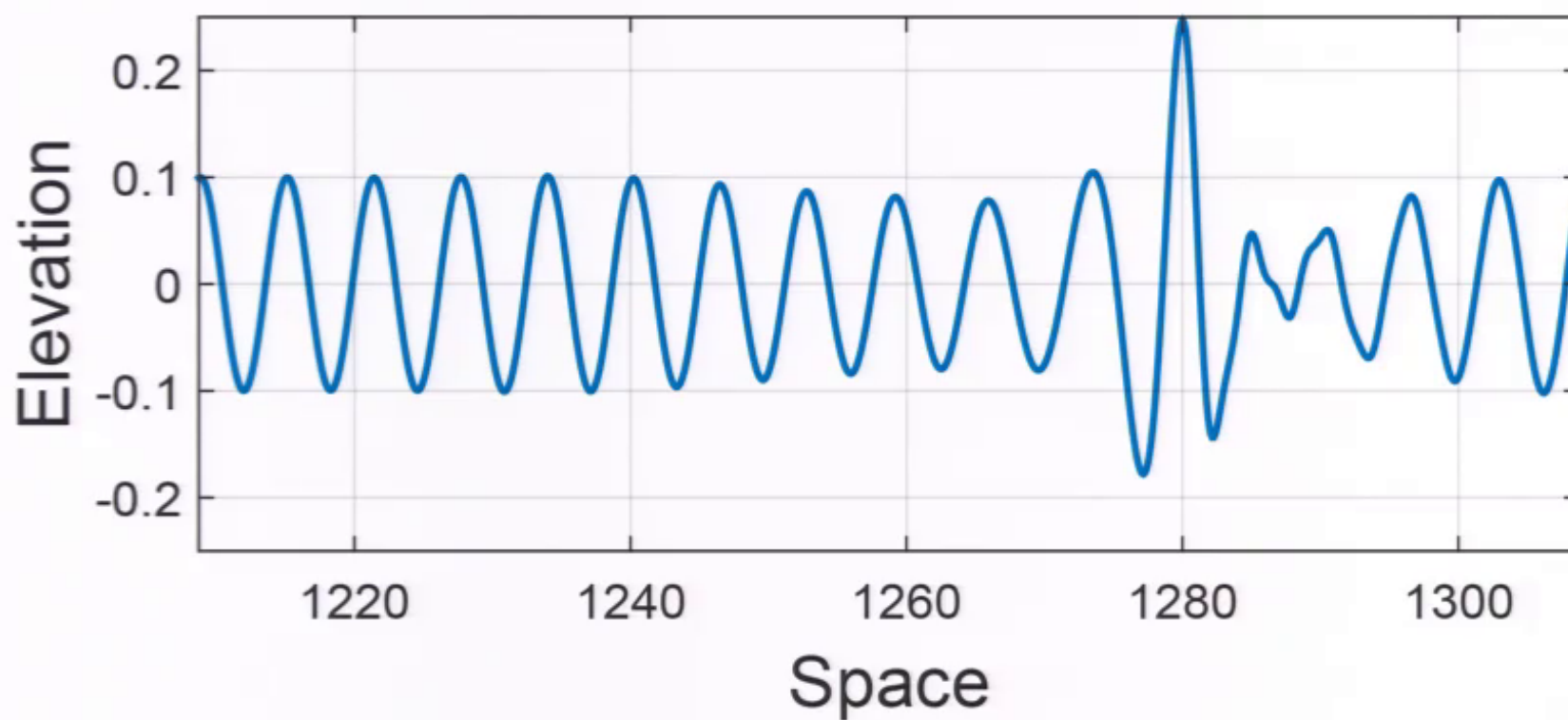
Dysthe derived closed equation for wave envelope  $\mathcal{U}$  via perturbation method [Dysthe 1979]

**Assumptions:** Small steepness and slow varying  $\mathcal{U}$

$$0 = \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + L(\partial_x, \partial_y) + \frac{i}{2}|u|^2 u + \frac{3}{2}|u|^2 \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{1}{4}u^2 \frac{\partial u^*}{\partial x} + iu \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} \Big|_{z=0}$$

**Note:** Extreme waves are steep and vary quickly in *late* stages of their evolution, but less so in early stages. Envelope equations reproduce wave-tank extreme waves well [Chabchoub 2011]

# Instabilities and Heavy Tails





# Instabilities and Heavy Tails

- Real wave fields aren't infinitesimally perturbed plane waves—energy distributed over range of frequencies
- Ex: Gaussian Spectrum:

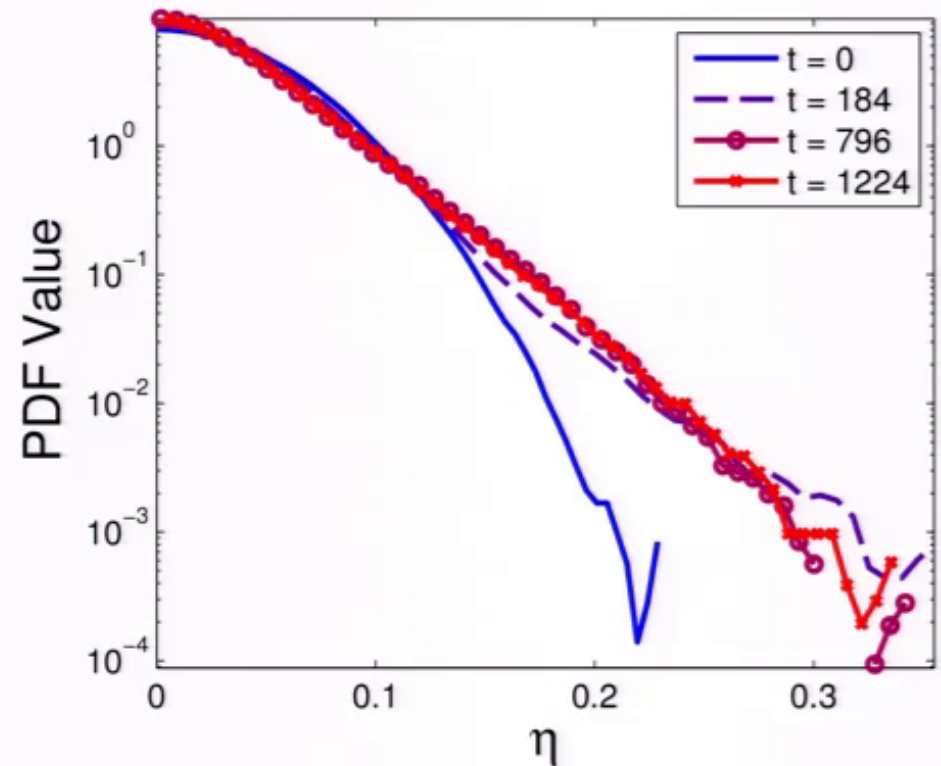
$$u(x, 0) = \sum_{-N/2+1}^{N/2} \sqrt{2\Delta_k F(k\Delta_k)} e^{i(\omega_k x + \xi_k)}, \quad F(k) = \frac{\epsilon^2}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{k^2}{2\sigma^2}}$$

- $\xi_k$  are random phases, meaning  $u(x,0)$  is normally distributed
- $\epsilon$  gives the magnitude of the envelope (wave steepness),  $\sigma$  determines the width of the power spectrum

# Instabilities and Heavy Tails

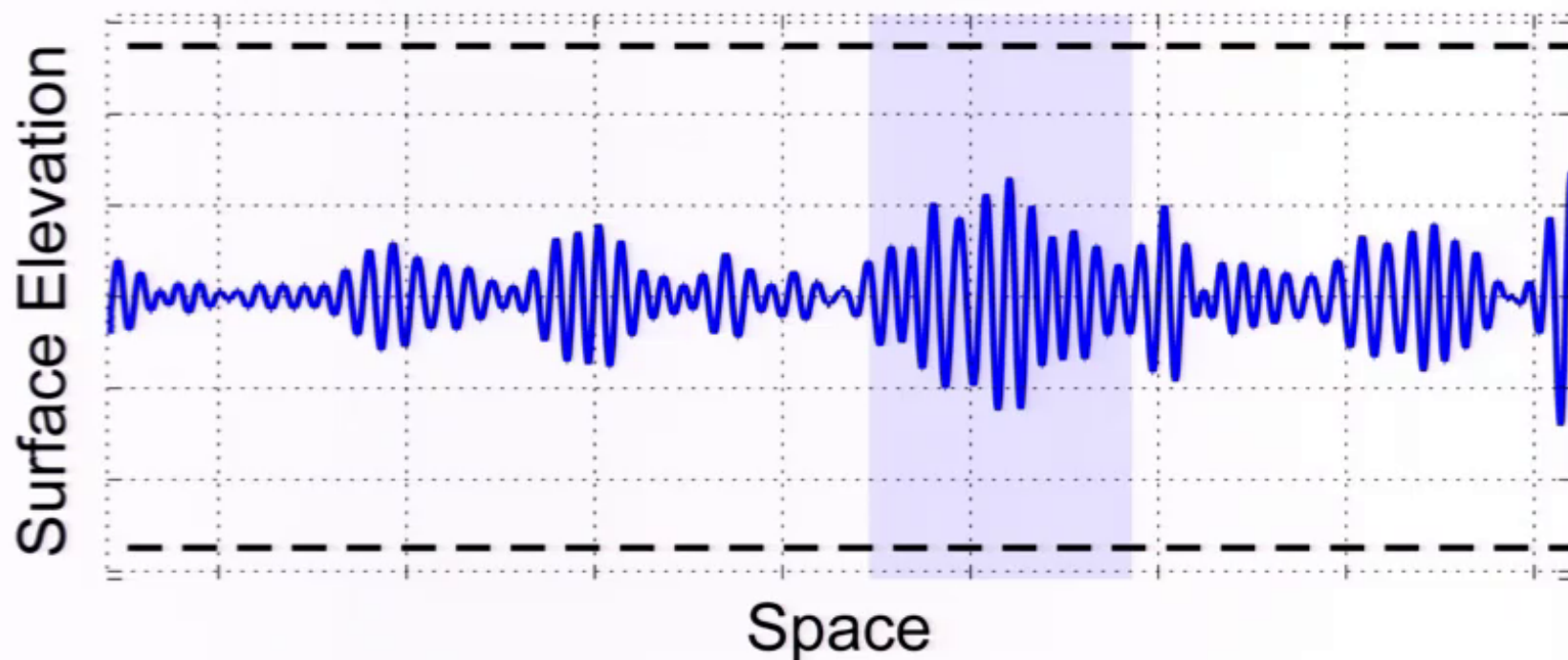
- Nonlinear interactions generate:
  1. Energy transfer between modes
  2. Non-stationary statistics—**heavy tails**

[Alber 1978, Janssen 2003]



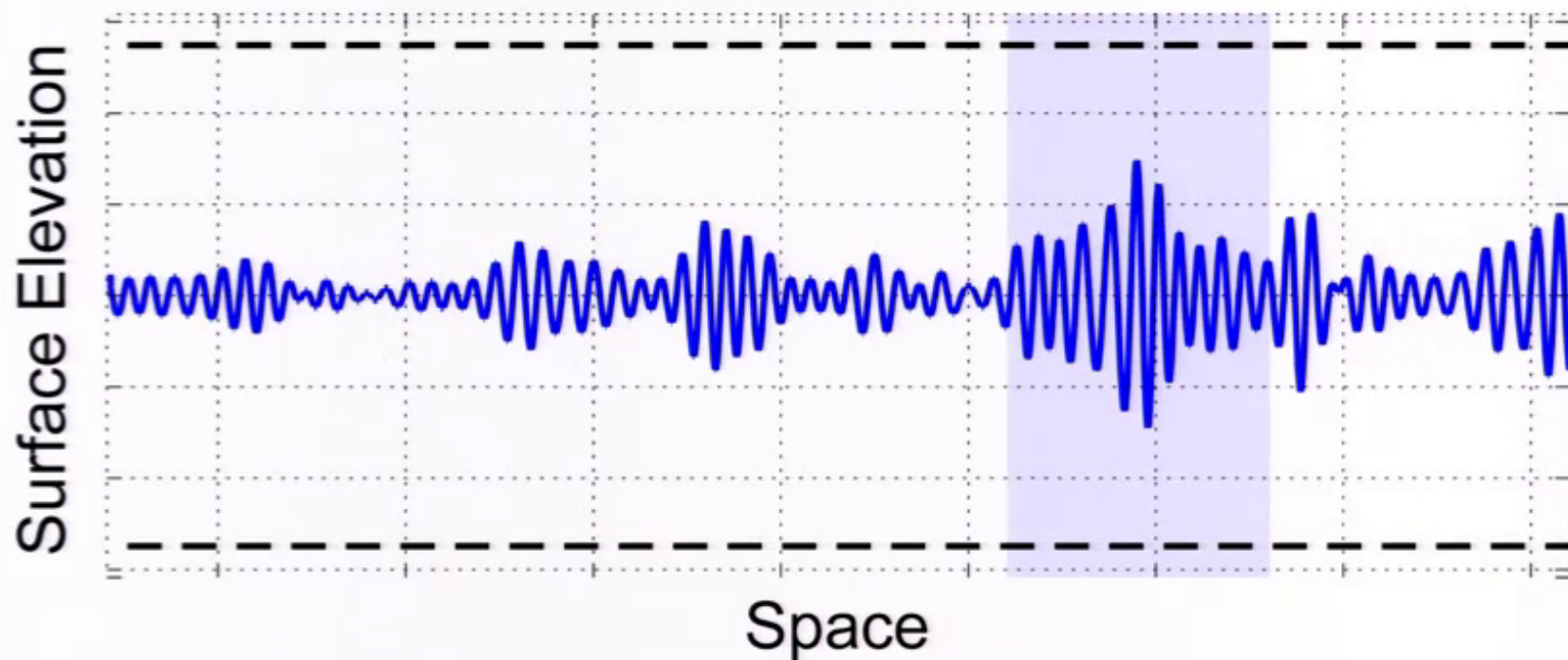
# Focusing Wave Groups Trigger Rogue Waves

Rogue waves are triggered by focusing of benign-looking wave groups



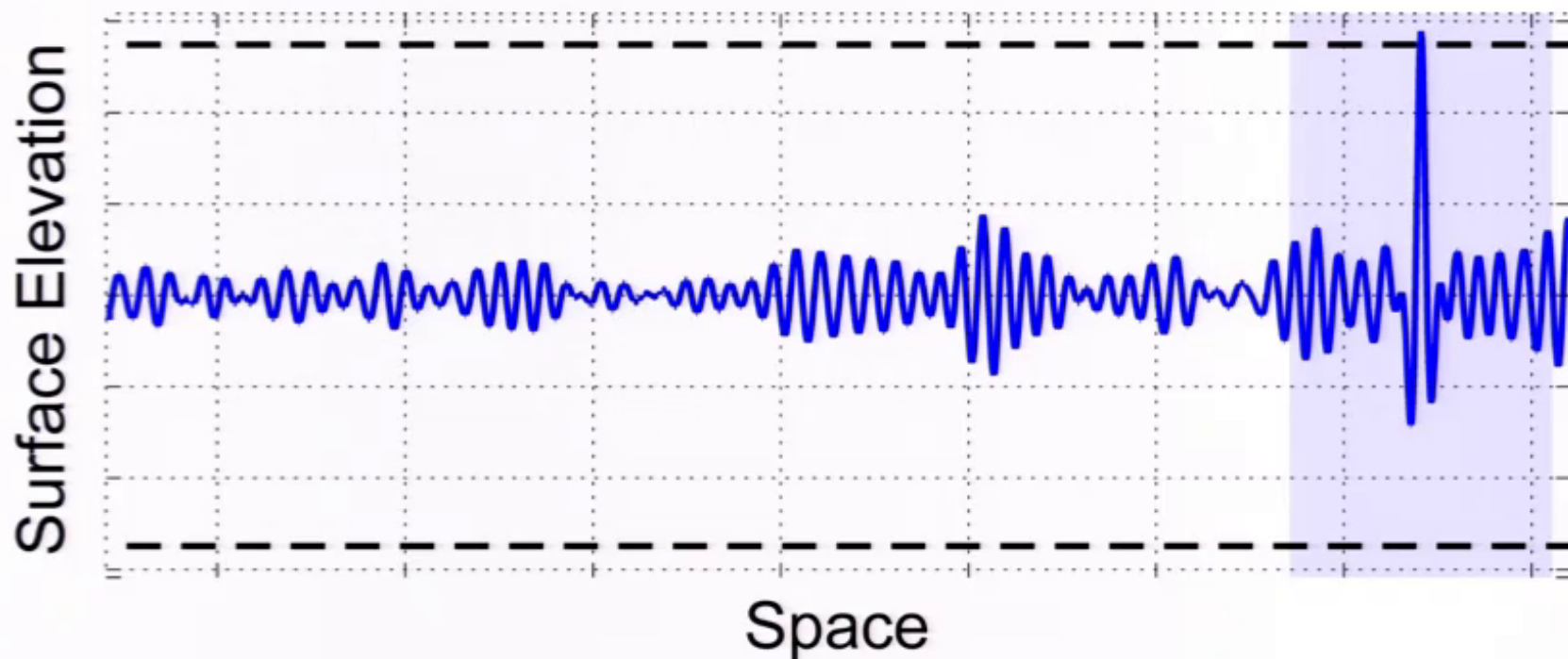
# Focusing Wave Groups Trigger Rogue Waves

Rogue waves are triggered by focusing of benign-looking wave groups



# Focusing Wave Groups Trigger Rogue Waves

Rogue waves are triggered by focusing of benign-looking wave groups

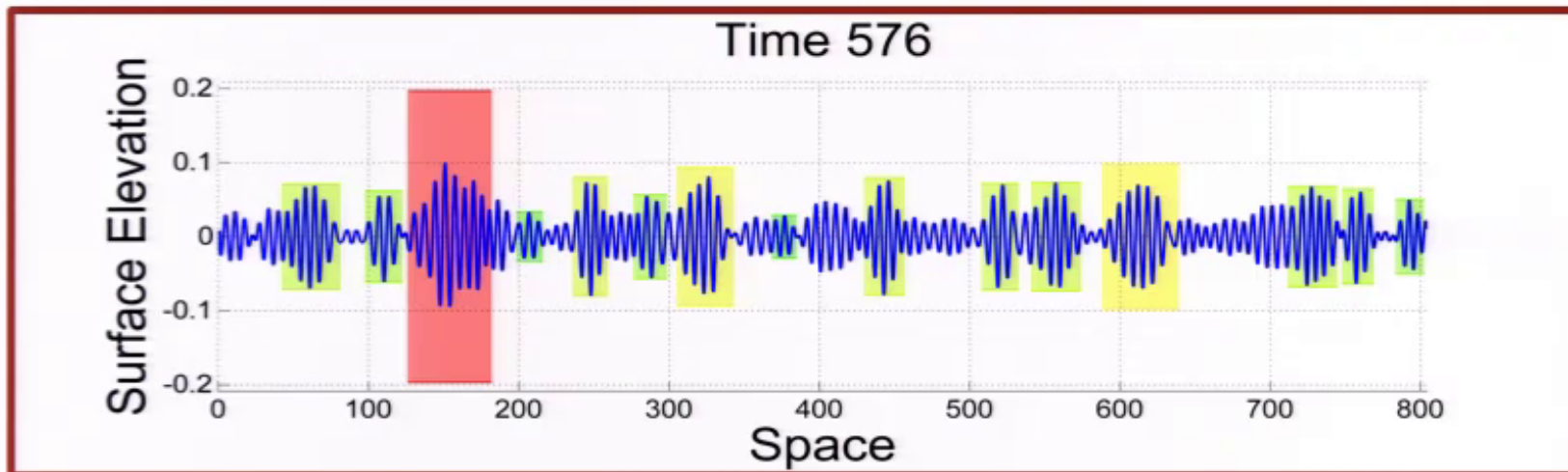




# Our Simple Predictive Scheme

Our **computationally cheap, group-based** predictive scheme consists of two steps

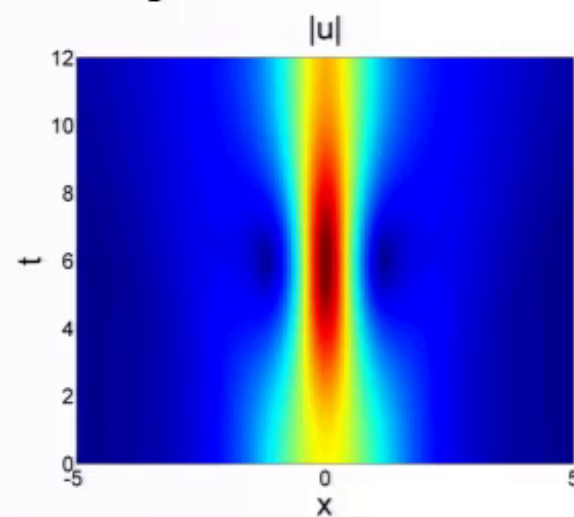
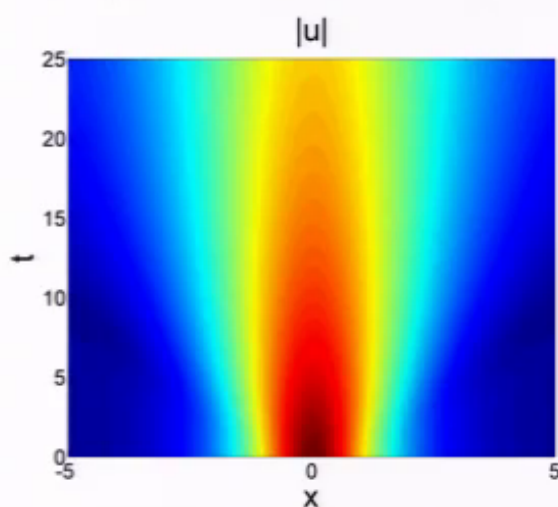
- **Step 1 (offline):** Quantify how a given wave group evolves as a function of its amplitude and length scale
- **Step 2 (online):** In an irregular wave field, pick out the groups. Use step 1 to predict future amplitude



# Localized Group Evolution

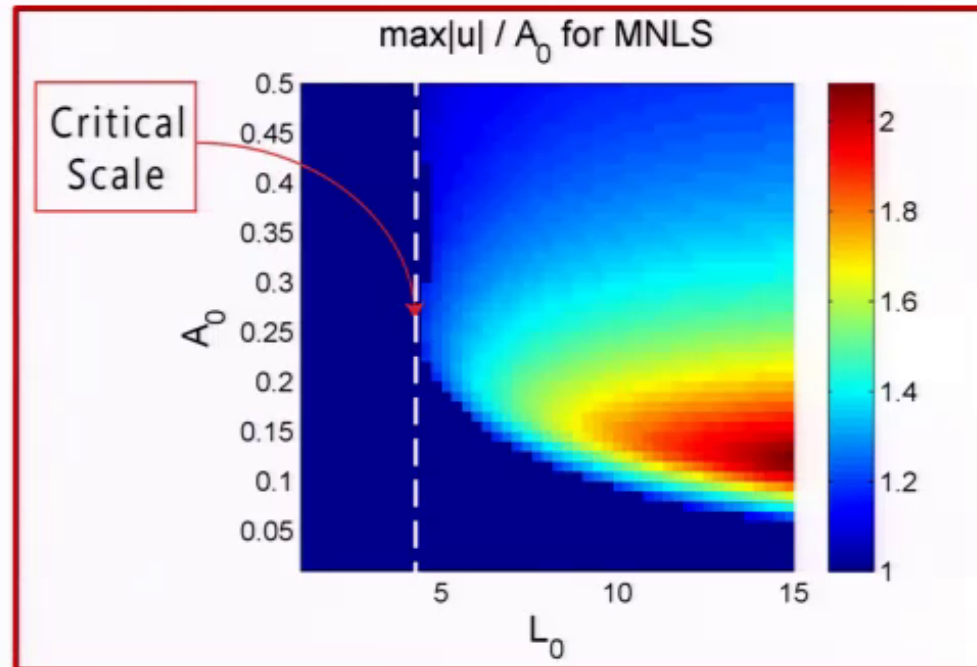
$$u(x, 0) = A_0 \operatorname{sech}(x/L_0)$$

- For a given  $A_0$  and  $L_0$ , how does this initial data evolve?
- Does group focus and increase in amplitude?
- If so, by how much? [Cousins, Sapsis 2015]



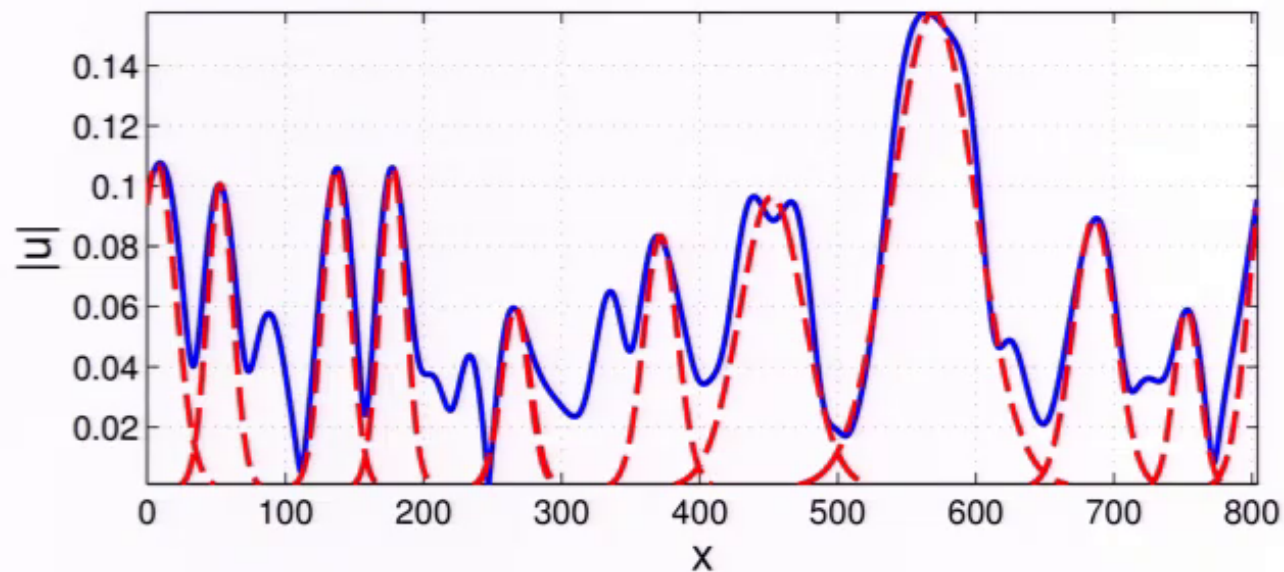
# Localized Group Amplification Factors

Construct a map  $u_{\max}(A_0, L_0)$  using combination of offline numerical simulation and reduced order modeling



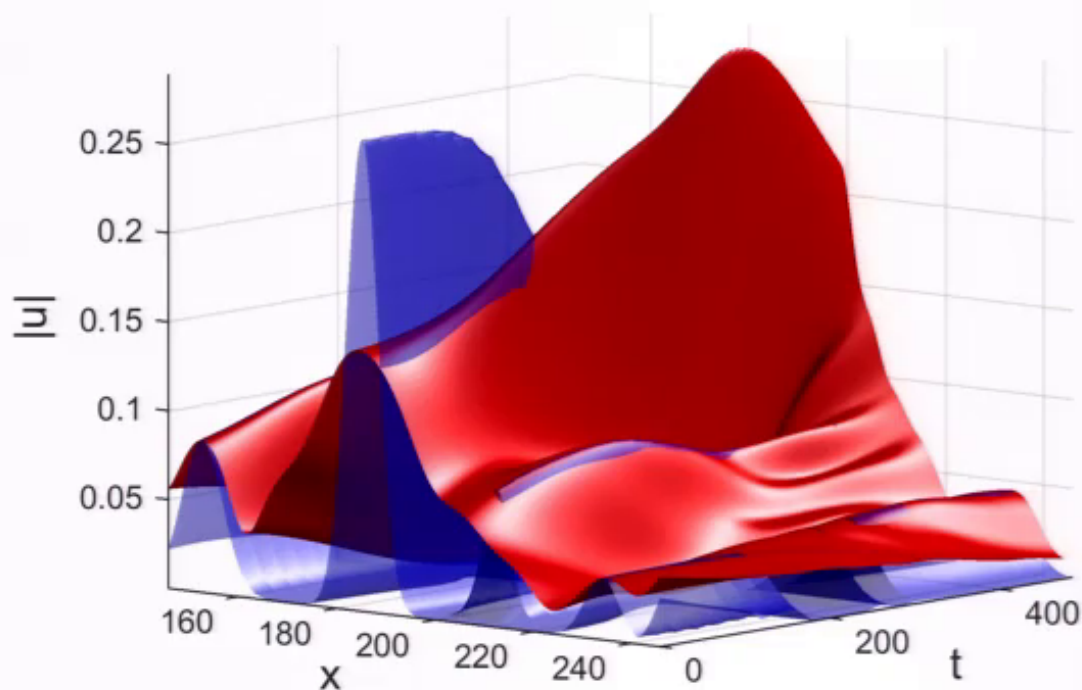
# Group Detection

- Apple scale selection technique [Lindeberg 1998] to determine dominant groups in the wave field
- Gives locations, amplitude, and length scales of each group



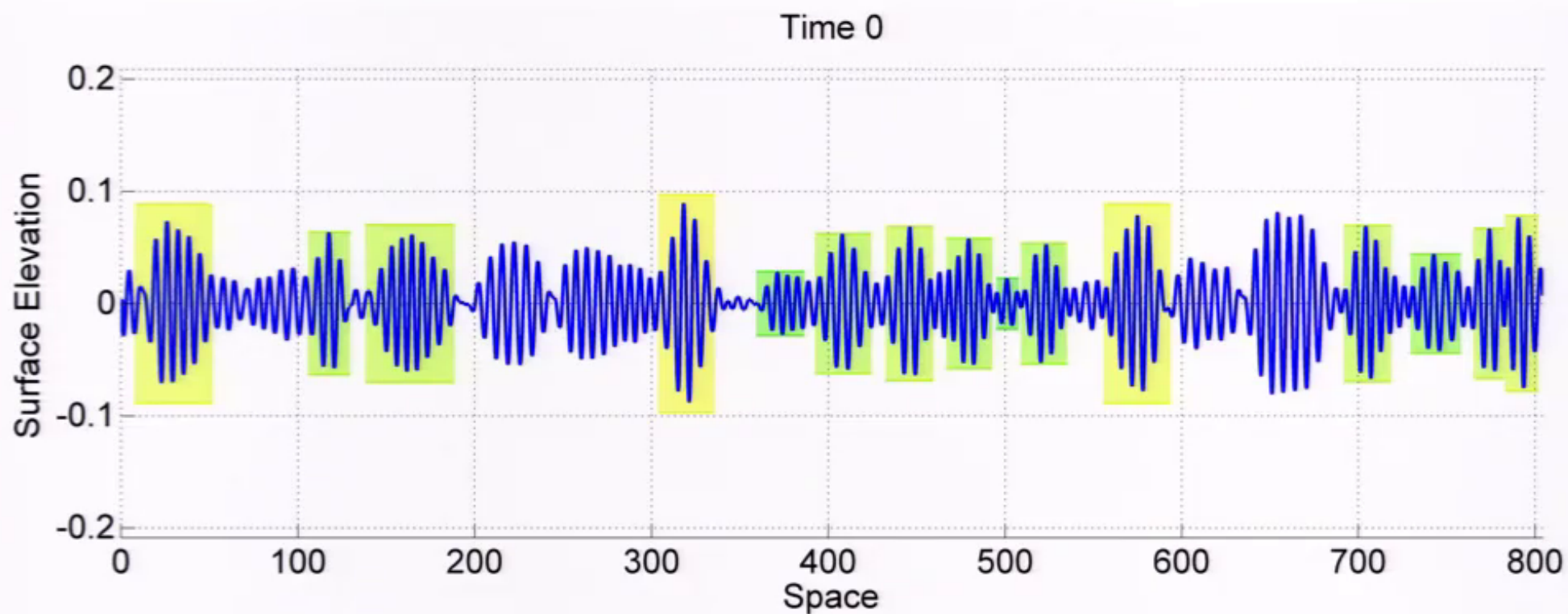
# Prediction: Simulated Data

- Tested our scheme on 100 simulations of MNLs with Gaussian spectra
- 336 rogue waves occurred, predicted all of them in advance
- Average warning time: 24 wave periods
- 91 false positives (21.3%)



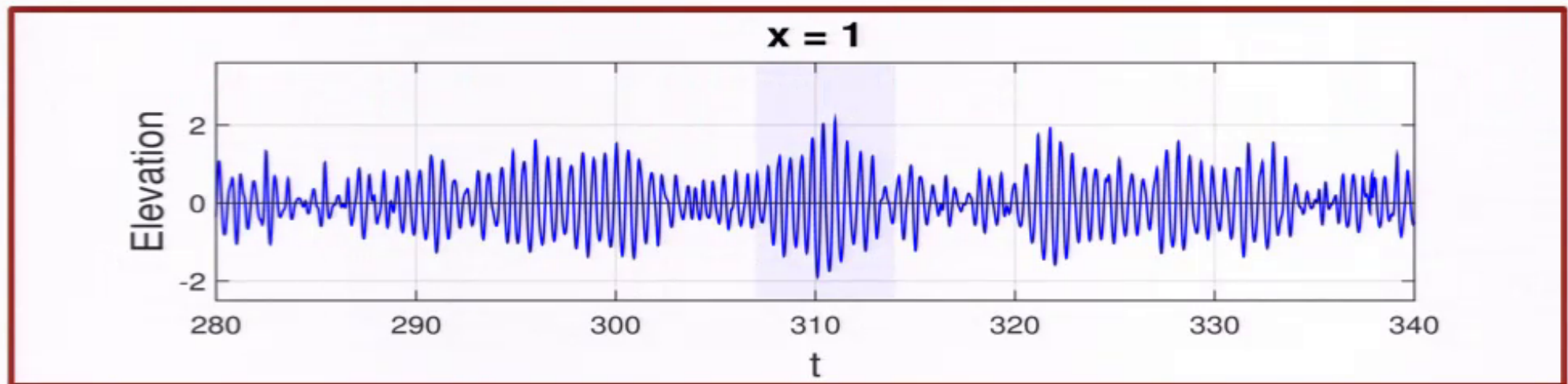


# Prediction: Simulated Data

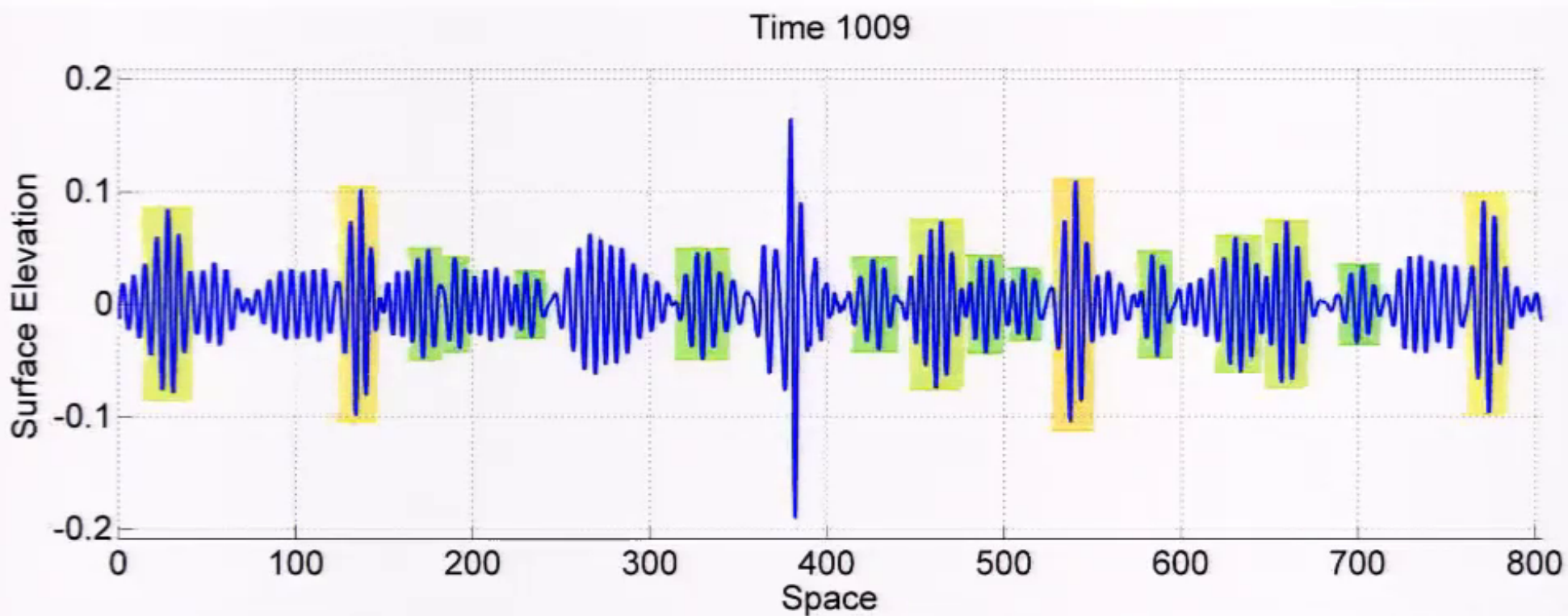


# Prediction: Wave Tank Data

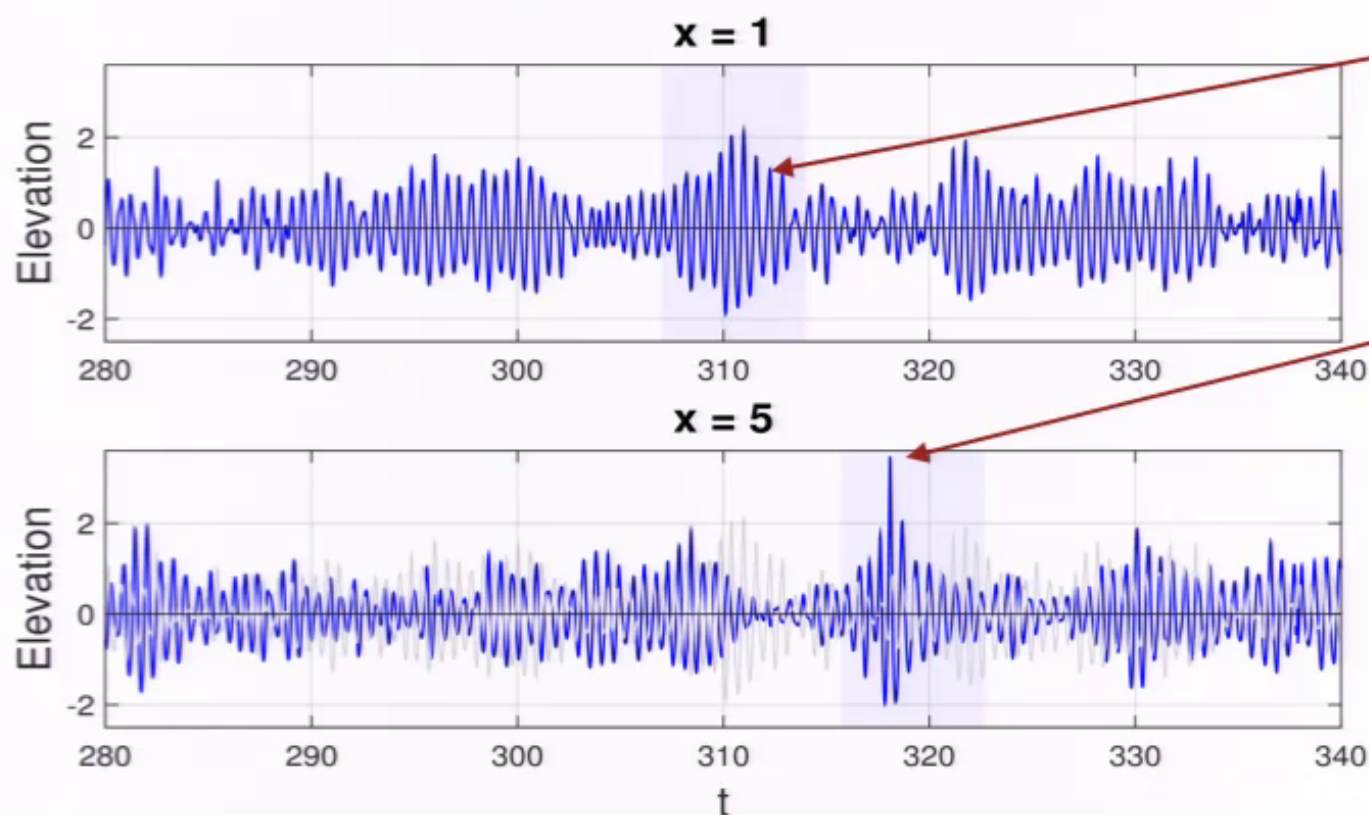
- We analyze data from an wave tank experiment
- Tank is 10 meters long, probes spaced 1 meter apart measure elevation time series
- Use measurements from one probe to cheaply predict downstream rogue wave



# Prediction: Simulated Data



# Prediction: Wave Tank Data



Predict future  
rogue wave here

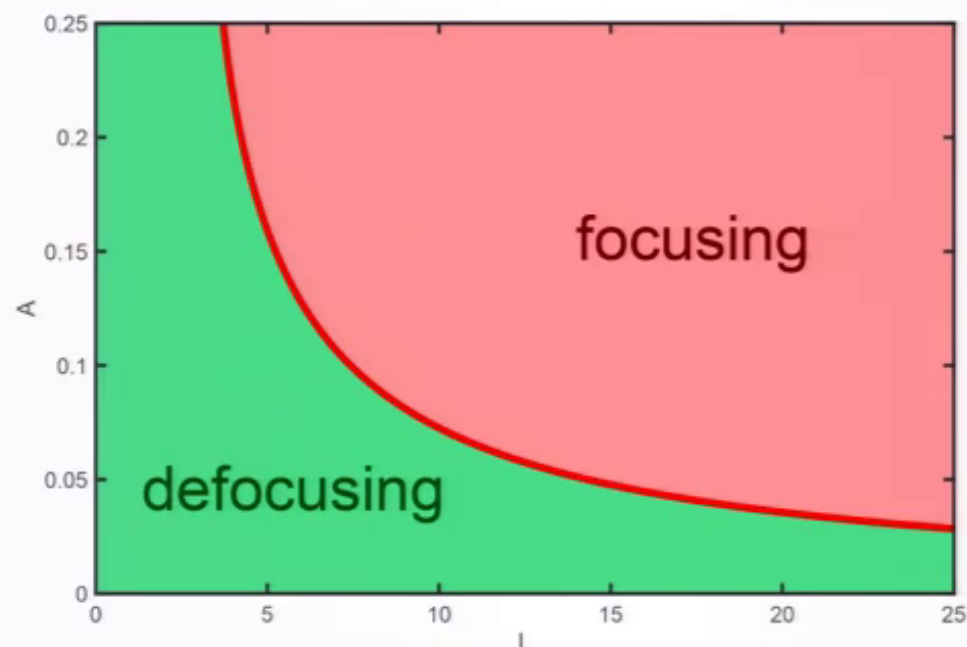
Rogue wave occurs  
here

**Warning Time: 8-  
9 temporal wave  
periods**



# Estimation of Heavy Tailed Statistics

- Understanding the trigger of rogue waves allows us to predict them in advance
- We can also use this characterization of the trigger to efficiently compute statistics
- Use idea from Mohamad, Sapsis (2015): partition phase space into a stable and unstable regime





# Estimation of Heavy Tailed Statistics

- $u$  = envelope of wave elevation, let  $f(u)$  be functional of the wave field (i.e. response of ocean structure)
- We decompose the probability measure of  $f$  as follows

$$\rho(f(u)) = \rho(f(u)|\text{Foc. Group})\rho(\text{Foc. Group}) + \rho(f(u)|\neg\text{Foc. Group})\rho(\neg\text{Foc. Group})$$

Nonlinear/Unstable Part

Linear/Stable Part

# Evaluation of the Unstable Part

$$\rho(f(u)|\text{Foc. Group})\rho(\text{Foc. Group}) = \iint_{A,L \in \mathcal{F}} \rho(f(u)|A, L)\rho(A, L)dAdL$$

