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# **CPRG** Paper9



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# Video-Based Nearshore Bathymetry Estimation in Macro-Tidal Environments

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### Abstract

Video-based depth inversion through the linear dispersion relation for free surface waves using the cross spectral correlation analysis, cBathy (Holman et al., 2013), is applied for the first time in a highly energetic macro-tidal environment in the South West of England at Porthtowan. This application of cBathy reveals two main issues: 1) inaccurate depth estimations on inter camera boundaries when multiple cameras are used and 2) significantly less accurate depth estimates over the whole domain during spring tide compared to neap tide (inaccuracies of around 35% of the local depths are found during spring tide). These two issues are not only important in macro-tidal environments: the camera boundary issue has been reported in numerous video-camera sites and the deviation in accuracy during tidal levels is a function of the tidal range in combination of the vertical camera position. To overcome the two issues, a camera boundary solution and a floating pixel solution (meaning moving pixels in a horizontal plane as function of the tidal elevation) are proposed here. With the modifications, cBathy is capable of

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estimating depths in the sub-tidal zone with an accuracy in the order of 10% of the local depth irrespective to the local tidal regime. However, for the very upper part of the beach face less accurate results are found due to the reduced validity of the linear dispersion relation in that region due to the non-linear behaviour of breaking waves and wave-current interactions. The improvements persist across all bathymetry survey campaigns at Porthtowan and when compared to other well known Argus video-system sites the importance of the floating pixels is apparent.

*Keywords:* depth-inversion, bathymetry estimation, video beach monitoring, macro-tidal, floating pixel solution, camera boundary solution

#### 1 1. Introduction

Nearshore bathymetric information is crucial in understanding vulnerability of the near-shore coastal region to e.g. flood risk exposure, long- and 3 short-term erosion/accretion and beach user safety. Extreme storms, for ex-4 ample, can lead to severe erosion of the inter- and sub-tidal domain of the 5 near-shore zone. The impact on, and recovery rate of, the sub- and inter-6 tidal zone varies greatly depending on location (Masselink et al., 2015). Our 7 comprehension of driving processes behind storm impact and recovery is lim-8 ited and largely constrained by the quality of the available datasets (Coco 9 et al., 2013). At present, there is a gap in understanding of the sub-tidal bar 10 morphology and the interaction with the inter-tidal beach (Coco and Mur-11 ray, 2007). Attempts to increase the knowledge of the nearshore zone are 12 mostly based on intermittent bathymetry surveys or numerical models (Smit 13 et al., 2008). The lack of high spatio-temporal resolution bathymetry data 14

has been identified as a weakness in relation to setting initial conditions and
for calibration of numerical models (Castelle et al., 2010). However, there are
remote sensing techniques which have the potential to deliver this data (e.g.
for the storm impact/recovery and interaction between sub- and inter-tidal)
on a high spatio-temporal scale.

Remote sensing techniques for marine and coastal environments take 20 many forms, from satellite-based systems estimating wave fields to SONAR 21 for estimating depths in the ocean. Camera systems have been used to es-22 timate depth and obtain beach slope information for over half a century 23 starting in a hostile environment of enemy held beaches (Williams, 1946). 24 The mathematical relation between wave length, wave velocity and water 25 depth (e.g. the linear dispersion relation) was applied to aerial photographs 26 taken in preparation of the World War II landings. More recently video 27 imagery has been applied in a research context such as for measurement of 28 swash excursions (Guza et al., 1984). Since the 1980s, several video based 20 tools have been developed within the Argus-camera system framework (Hol-30 man and Stanley, 2007). Examples of these tools include the estimation of the 31 crossshore position of sub-tidal sandbars by taking mean pixel intensities over 32 a confined time space (Lippmann and Holman, 1990) and estimation of beach 33 width by determining the shoreline position (Plant and Holman, 1997) which 34 was later modified into an inter-tidal shoreline mapper (Aarninkhof et al., 35 2003). These tools in combination with the camera systems have given the 36 research community and coastal-zone managers a relatively inexpensive way 37 of investigating and monitoring shorelines worldwide. 38



Besides the qualitative crossshore position of the sub-tidal sandbars, much

of the progress with video imagery over the last three decades has been fo-40 cussed in the inter-tidal zone (Holman and Stanley, 2007). Although the 41 inter-tidal area is important, Coastal Zone Management requires a more com-42 plete picture containing both the inter- and sub-tidal area as a basis for policy 43 and decision making (Davidson et al., 2007). Accurate video camera-based 44 sub- and inter-tidal depth information on a longer temporal scale provides 45 data to enhance understanding about seasonal and inter-annual beach be-46 haviour and storm recovery and gives the opportunity to adapt policies to 47 local conditions. On a short time scale, up-to-date sub-tidal depth informa-48 tion is an important boundary condition for numerical models to improve 40 the predictive capacity for short term computations such as the prediction 50 of times and locations of highest risk for rip currents and hence provide life-51 guards with accurate information to increase swimmer safety (Austin et al., 52 2013). 53

In the sub-tidal zone, remote sensing efforts have opened up the possibil-54 ity to estimate depths accurately, primarily using video imagery or X-band 55 radar. The most common approaches are depth-inversion methods, using the 56 linear dispersion relation (Bell, 1999; Stockdon and Holman, 2000; Almar 57 et al., 2008), non-linear depth inversion (Holland, 2001; Catálan and Haller, 58 2008) and extended Boussinesq equations (Misra et al., 2003). Another ap-59 proach is the coupling of estimated dissipation rates with camera imagery 60 and calculated rates with a numerical model (Aarninkhof et al., 2005). van 61 Dongeren et al. (2008) brought these techniques (depth through dissipation 62 rates and depth inversion) together in a data assimilation technique that com-63 bined the strong areas of both approaches. Wilson et al. (2010) shows that 64

through data assimilation (wave and current measurements) using an ensem-65 ble Kalman filter, the accuracy of an updated, modelled, bathymetry can be 66 enhanced. Remotely sensed (e.g. optical and radar) shore lines (Aarninkhof 67 et al., 2005), wave celerity (Holman et al., 2013) and current fields (Chickadel, 68 2003) together can estimate morphology accurately through data assimila-69 tion without in-situ measurements (Birrien et al., 2013; Wilson et al., 2014). 70 The focus in this study is on one of the parts of the data assimilation used in 71 Wilson et al. (2014): sensing the wave celerity and, hence, the depth inversion 72 technique (Holman et al., 2013). 73

Considering the first depth inversion technique mentioned above, the 74 phase difference in pixel intensity between two pixels over a crossshore ar-75 ray gives a wave number from which the local depth can be found using the 76 linear dispersion relation. This method of sensing the wave celerity between 77 two pixels was limited in accuracy [O(10%)] on simple beaches (Holman and 78 Stanley, 2007). A more robust method for determining the wave number in 70 the coastal zone was recently developed using multiple pixels to fit a wave 80 phase to an isolated frequency (Plant et al., 2008). The combination of the 81 linear dispersion relation, wave phase fitting and a Kalman-like filter forms 82 the latest, more robust version of cBathy (Holman et al., 2013). In Holman 83 et al. (2013), the cBathy system was tested in the micro/meso tidal regimes 84 at Duck, Oregon and Washington State in the United States. Testing of the 85 performance of cBathy in a highly energetic macro-tidal environment (with 86 more complex (3D) bathymetries) has been recently carried out (Bergsma 87 et al., 2014) showing the effect of the tide on the accuracy in a macro tidal 88 domain. 80

The wave-phase fitting of an isolated frequency requires accurate knowl-90 edge of the pixel positions in the real-world to prevent over or underesti-91 mation of the depth by fitting an incorrect phase ramp (Bergsma et al., 92 2014). In addition, inaccurate depth estimation is a common issue on the 93 camera boundaries when multiple cameras are used. Accurate estimation of 94 the phase ramp between two cameras is a challenge as the wave propagates 95 through the camera boundaries from one to the other camera. The objective 96 of this paper is to highlight tide and camera boundary related inaccuracies 97 that are observed during the application of cBathy in a macro-tidal environ-98 ment and, ultimately, present solutions to overcome both issues. 99

In the Methodology section the cBathy routines are explained in more 100 depth and the study site, site specific cBathy settings and field data are 101 presented. The Results section presents the results of the application of 102 cBathy as well as a diagnosis of the inaccurate depth estimations on the 103 camera boundary and inaccuracies caused by imprecise pixel locations. In 104 the same section solutions are introduced and renewed depth estimations are 105 presented. The Discussion places the findings in perspective and examines 106 the generality of the findings to locations which are not necessarily macro 107 tidal. 108

#### <sup>109</sup> 2. Methodology

#### 110 2.1. cBathy

The principle behind cBathy (Holman et al., 2013) is that wave-modulated time varying pixel intensities can be used in combination with the linear dispersion relation for free surface waves to estimate a depth. Details of the process can be found in Holman et al. (2013) but the general concept is that the linear dispersion relation can be rearranged so that a depth (h) can be found as a function of the wave frequency  $(\sigma)$  and wave number (k) (1).

$$h = \frac{\tanh^{-1}\left(\frac{\sigma^2}{kg}\right)}{k} \tag{1}$$

Where g is the acceleration due to gravity. In order to apply (1) to estimate local depths, corresponding pairs of wave frequency and wave number values have to be determined. In cBathy, these parametres are estimated hourly using collection of pixel intensities recorded at 2Hz. The time varying pixel intensities are decomposed by applying a Fast Fourier Transform from which the subsequent Fourier coefficients are normalised.

To calculate depth at a specific location, a subset of these normalised Fourier coefficients surrounding the point of interest  $(x_m, y_m)$  are selected. Depending on the size of the sub-sampling domain (determined by smoothing scales  $L_x$  and  $L_y$ ), a subset contains typically 40-50 sub-samples with pixel coordinates  $x_p$  and  $y_p$ . The cross spectral density matrix (2) is computed for all possible pixel pairs in this subset and averaged across each frequency.

$$C_{i,j,f}^{OBS} = \left\langle \tilde{I}\left(x_{i}, y_{i}, f\right) \tilde{I}^{*}\left(x_{j}, y_{j}, f\right) \right\rangle = \gamma_{i,j,f} e^{i\phi_{i,j,f}}$$
(2)

<sup>129</sup> Where  $\tilde{I}$  represents the subset of the normalised Fourier coefficients and <sup>130</sup>  $\tilde{I}^*$  is the complex conjugate,  $\gamma$  represents the coherence and  $\phi$  is the phase <sup>131</sup> shift between pixel points. A selection (4 is the default) of the most co-<sup>132</sup> herent frequencies are identified (coherence is  $\gamma_{i,j,f}$  in equation 2) and these <sup>133</sup> are then used through the remainder of the analysis. For each selected fre-<sup>134</sup> quency the cross-spectral density matrix is kept while the rest is neglected.

The cross-spectral density matrix essentially represents a noisy spatial (2D) 135 wave pattern  $(e^{i\phi_{i,j,f}})$  per selected frequency. Holman et al. (2013) included 136 a complex empirical orthogonal function analysis in order to filter different 137 physical components from the observed spatial pattern  $(C_{i,j,f}^{OBS})$  per selected 138 frequency. The inverse tangent of the dominant complex mode [1st com-139 plex eigenvector,  $v_1(x_p, y_p, f)$  is assumed to represent a wave train pattern 140 which contains a phase spatial pattern  $v'_1(x_p, y_p)$  at the frequency of interest 141 (Wallace and Dickinson, 1972). This spatial pattern with known angular fre-142 quency can be represented by a wave phase as a function of the wave number 143 k, wave angle  $\alpha$  and phase shift  $\Phi$ , as expressed in the right-hand side of (3). 144 A Hanning filter is applied to the observed spatial pattern in order to give 145 more importance to the values closer to the point of interest. A non-linear 146 Least Squares fitting procedure is then applied to identify optimal values of 147  $k, \alpha \text{ and } \Phi.$ 148

$$\underbrace{\nu_1'(x,y) = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{Im\left(\nu_1\left(x,y\right)\right)}{Re\left(\nu_1\left(x,y\right)\right)}\right)}_{\text{Observed spatial phase pattern}} \cong \underbrace{k\cos\left(\alpha\right)x_p + k\sin\left(\alpha\right)y_p + \Phi}_{\text{Spatial wave phase for known frequency}}$$
(3)

149

The best-fit wave phase is determined for each selected frequency and results in a set of frequencies and corresponding wave numbers per point of interest where one wants to estimate a depth. This also means that multiple depth estimates are calculated at each point of interest. The set of depth estimates must be combined into a single depth, but simply averaging these depth estimates results in inaccuracies due to the non-linear character of the dispersion relation (1). Consequently a single depth is found yielding the best-fit relation between the selected frequencies and corresponding wave numbers to the linear dispersion relation. For each hourly dataset (or sampling period), this process is repeated throughout the field of view until depths have been estimated for a predetermined grid of points of interest  $(x_m, y_m)$ .

Ultimately, the hourly estimated depths are combined through a Kalman 162 Filter. The Kalman filter accounts for decay in faith in the depth estimate. 163 Faith here means reliance upon the precision of the depth estimate that 164 decreases over time due to the knowledge that morphological change will 165 occur to a certain extent related to (in this case) changes in the wave height 166  $[H_{m0}]$  only. When a new depth is estimated the filter updates the depth points 167 with new estimates when the faith in the new estimate is considered greater 168 than the faith in the previous estimate. The decay in faith in the depth 169 estimate is captured in a process variability function Q (Holman et al., 2013), 170 presented in (4), where a crossshore Gaussian distribution is constructed such 171 that: 172

$$Q(x, H_{mo}) = C_Q H_{mo}^n \exp\left\{-\left[\frac{(x-x_0)}{\sigma_x}\right]^2\right\}$$
(4)

In this relation,  $C_Q$  represents a site specific constant,  $\sigma_x$  is the crossshore standard deviation of the allowable area of change and  $x_0$  the crossshore position where the highest level of morphological variability is allowed. The highest level of temporal variability in the depth estimates is allowed where the value for Q is maximum and so the decay in faith of the previous depth estimates is largest. This implies in practice that  $x_0$  should be defined by the user as the cross-shore location where one expects the greatest morphological change, following (4), with the result that estimates in that region are
updated most readily.

#### 182 2.2. Study site

The aim of this paper is to identify issues that occur when cBathy is 183 applied in a macro tidal environment, namely Porthtowan in Cornwall in the 184 South-West of England. At Porthtowan, the mean spring tidal range is 6.0 185 m and, in addition, highly energetic waves may be present. For the present 186 study, an offshore wave buoy at Perranporth (see Figure 1, approximately 187 15 km North-East of Porthtowan in approximately 18 m water depth) was 188 used to retrieve wave data, with the yearly averaged mean of the wave height 189 being 1.6 m with an average direction of 281°. During extreme events, wave 190 heights of over 7 m have been recorded at this site (Masselink et al., 2015). 191

At Porthtowan beach, a single alongshore stretch of 2.5 km open beach at 192 the foot of the rocky cliff appears during low tide reaching from Porthtowan to 193 Chapel Porth. However, during mid to high tide the beaches are geologically 194 constrained by the rocky cliffs creating 5 pocket beaches over the domain. 195 The main and widest pocket beach (> 300 m) is the entrance at Porthtowan 196 and the other pocket beach widths ranges from 100 to 250 m. The orientation 197 of the beach at Porthtowan is W-NW, in correspondence with the dominant 198 wave direction. Reflection of the waves on the rocky cliff during high tide is 199 a potential complication for the accuracy of cBathy (not considered in this 200 paper). Typically, the lower beach face exhibits a slope of approximately 201 0.015 whereas the upper beach face is steeper with a slope of 0.045. At the 202 lower and upper part of the beach a grain size  $(D_{50})$  of respectively 380  $\mu$ m 203

and 410  $\mu$ m is found (Buscombe and Scott, 2008; Poate et al., 2014).

## 205 2.3. Implementation of cBathy at Porthtowan

cBathy requires model specific settings and boundary conditions such as 206 domain settings, depth truncation, frequency domain and smoothing length 207 scales. The camera system at Porthtowan is mounted on the Southern cliff 208 and the cameras are looking alongshore in a Northerly direction, as shown in 209 Figure 2a. Considering the spatial domain for the pixel intensity collections, 210 the strategy used is to create the largest possible spatial domain stretching 211 as far offshore as the method will allow. Practical limits to the offshore 212 boundary are imposed by the depth controlled wave dispersion and the pixel 213 resolution of the cameras. A reasonable offshore boundary for the domain 214 is typically determined using the footprint of the pixel and occurring wave 215 periods. The combination of wave periods and pixel footprint determines, 216 at the same time, the spatial resolution  $(\Delta x \text{ and } \Delta y)$  of the pixel collection 217  $(x_p \text{ and } y_p)$ . Following this procedure, the offshore boundary for the appli-218 cation of cBathy at Porthtowan was chosen to be 1.2 km offshore with  $\Delta x$ 219 (crossshore) of 4 m and  $\Delta y$  (alongshore) of 10 m. 220

Points of interest on a (sub) grid are introduced  $(x_m, y_m)$  where the depth is estimated. The spacing between the gridded points for depth estimation is typically larger than the pixel intensity collection grid because for every depth estimate a set of sub-sampled pixel intensities around the depth estimation point is required. At Porthtowan the spacing for the depth estimation points is 10 m in the crossshore direction and 25 m in the alongshore direction.

Depth estimation values are filtered in cBathy by allowing depths within a reasonable site specific depth range. For this application of cBathy the depth truncation is set to a minimum depth of 0.25 m and maximum depth of 20 m. Besides the depth truncation, a frequency range controls the depth estimations. Based on wave data a typical frequency range is determined. Considering the prevailing swell-dominated wave climate at Porthtowan, a range up to 18 seconds wave period is used.  $\Delta f$  was chosen as  $100s^{-1}$  to create enough resolution around the longer wave periods.

The dimensions of the pixel sub-sampling domain are determined by the 235 smoothing length scales. Smoothing takes place such that the contribution 236 of the pixels to the final depth estimate is weighted through a Hanning filter. 237 More weight is assigned to the pixels close to a depth analysis point when 238 the sub-sampling domain is smaller while more spreading of the weighted 239 contribution occurs if the sub-sampling domain is larger. The sub-sampling 240 domain around the depth analysis point for Porthtowan has a width of  $\Delta x_m$ 241 and a length of  $\Delta y_m$  (10 m and 25 m respectively). 242

#### 243 2.4. Field data

Bed level data for ground truthing cBathy was collected in two ways. Following the work of Poate et al. (2009) in relation to the WAVEHUB (UK's wave energy array test site), monthly (inter-tidal) topographic surveys at Porthtowan have been carried out at spring low tide since 2008. Bathymetry measurements at neap tide have been periodically taken in addition to the topographic surveys since the application of cBathy at Porthtowan started (late 2012).

The monthly topography surveys are conducted using a GPS receiver mounted on an all-terrain vehicle(ATV) using real time kinematic (RTK) Global Positioning System (GPS). Alongshore lines are followed by the ATV-

driver with a cross-shore spacing of between 7 and 10 m. Every metre or every 254 second (depending on which occurs first) the GPS receiver stores a XYZ 255 point in OSGB36 coordinates with an accuracy of O(5 cm). Two bathymetry 256 surveys have been conducted with a single beam echo-sounder on a small 257 rigid-hull inflatable boat (RIB) or inflatable rescue boat (IRB). The echo-258 sounder estimates a depth by using the principle of measuring the double 259 way transit time of an acoustic signal reflected by the seabed. A RTK-GPS 260 receiver is mounted on top of the echo-sounder in order to couple the depth 261 estimate with a real-world position and elevation in OSGB36 coordinates. 262 The elevation together with the depth gives the bed level elevation. Both, 263 topography and bathymetry are combined into one dataset and the data is 264 subsequently interpolated on a grid using a local regression (LOESs) model 265 (Plant et al., 2008). 266

Figure 2b shows a final result of the combined topographic and bathy-267 metric data. For the following analysis, e.g. to determine RMS errors on 268 a regional basis, we consider three areas in the bathymetric domain. The 260 inter-tidal area (blue lines in Figure 2b) is the area where the quad bike sur-270 veys are carried out. In the sub-tidal zone an area around the sub-tidal bars 271 (yellow lines in Figure 2b) is distinguished stretching from its boundary with 272 the inter-tidal domain to well beyond the offshore extent of the bar. Further 273 offshore of the bar an offshore region is defined (red lines in Figure 2b). 274

The one bathymetric survey used in this work was conducted during relatively calm wave conditions and during neap tide on the 10th of April, as presented in Table 2. Since the aim is to investigate the impact under macro-tidal conditions we assume that limited morphological change took

place between the neap tidal survey and the next spring tide (17 April 2014). 279 A comparison between the survey (Figure 2b), a depth estimate with cBathy 280 on the survey day and an estimate with cBathy during the next spring tide 281 is presented in section 3 and provides a picture of the behaviour of cBathy 282 estimates under varying tidal ranges. Holman et al. (2013) shows that the 283 accuracy of the depth estimates during mild wave conditions is typically dis-284 tinguishably better than when more energetic wave conditions occur. Taking 285 this into account, and considering the wave conditions during the bathymet-286 ric survey (Table 2 - 10 April 2014), one would expect that cBathy would 287 work well for the day of bathymetric measurements (10 April 2014) and even 288 better for the lower wave conditions experienced during the next spring tide 289 (17 April 2014). 290

## <sup>291</sup> 3. Results

#### 292 3.1. Performance under macro tidal conditions

A bathymetry is estimated for all available hourly stack collections col-293 lected during daylight using the unmodified version of cBathy as presented in 294 Holman et al. (2013). These hourly bathymetries (in the order of 12 per day 295 around 10th of April) are combined into one bathymetry for the whole day 296 through the Kalman filter. These filtered bathymetries are subsequently used 297 for comparison with the bathymetric survey. Figure 3a shows the bathymetry 298 estimates for the 10th of April (neap tide and survey day), and results for 299 the 17th of April (spring tide) are presented in Figure 3b. The coast is in 300 the upper part of the figures and offshore corresponds to the higher values 301 along the X-axis (as Figure 2b). Similar features at corresponding locations 302

are observed in the bathymetric survey (Figure 2b) and the estimate on the 303 survey day (Figure 3a,b), for example, the sub-tidal bar at approximately 700 304 m crossshore position in the survey can also be found in the depth estimate 305 and the trough at the onshore side of the sub-tidal bar shows a similar shape. 306 In contrast to this performance are the estimates during the next spring tide 307 (17th of April). The shape of a bar in both estimates is recognisable but 308 it seems that the bar shape is more smeared out in the crossshore direction 309 over the complete alongshore domain. 310

The difference between the bathymetry survey which was collected on 311 10 April 2014 and the cBathy depth estimates calculated for 10 April 2014 312 and 17 April 2014 are presented in Figures 3c and 3d respectively. The 313 17<sup>th</sup> represents spring tide conditions. Although only a single realisation 314 is presented here, a considerable difference in accuracy exists for the neap 315 and spring tide depth estimation. Over most of the domain values of  $\pm 3$ 316 m are found during the spring tidal depth estimate while for the neap tidal 317 depth estimate the difference is more in the order of  $\pm 1.5$  m. Both difference 318 plots show that cBathy underestimates the depth in most of the domain 319 except for the shallowest parts of the domain. Holman et al. (2013) relates 320 this overestimation of depth in shallow water to wave non-linearity due to 321 breaking and hence poor correspondence with the linear dispersion relation 322 in the surf zones. Tests including non-linear models have been carried out 323 (Rutten, 2014) but significant improvements in estimating the depth in the 324 shallower waters have not yet been achieved. Wave-induced currents to due 325 wave breaking are a recognised source of error in the surfzone since the linear 326 dispersion relation without currents is applied. Furthermore, Tissier et al. 327

(2015) showed that the short-wave celerity depends largely on infragravity 328 modulations (infragravity wave height and induced velocity) in the surf zone. 329 However, depth estimations are found not to be significantly more accurate 330 when these infragravity modulations are accounted for. Closer to shore, 331 when the waves break, the linear dispersion relation does not relate to the 332 more bore-like wave physics. The technique observes a rather coherent and 333 relatively fast moving structure, this results in significant overestimation of 334 the depth. Also, one can argue that the inter-tidal zone does not experience 335 as much wet-time as the deeper areas. This means that the final estimates 336 using the Kalman filter will be constructed with less depth estimates. 337

Two representative crossshore profiles, at respectively 100 m and 300 m 338 alongshore, are presented for both dates in Figure 3e.f. The estimate during 339 neap tide on the 10th of April (Figure 3e) shows a significant underestimation 340 of the depth over the bar (at 700 m crossshore) in both cross sections (100 341 and 300 m). An underestimation of the depth is also observed over the sand 342 bar at Duck, NC (Holman et al., 2013). However, the sandbar at Duck is 343 smaller and less pronounced than the sand bar at Porthtowan. Similar ground 344 truth tests have been carried out at Egmond aan Zee in the Netherlands 345 (Sembiring, pers. comm.). The comparison between a survey and cBathy 346 estimates at Egmond shows a similar pattern to those from Porthtowan - an 347 underestimation of the depth over the sand bar followed by an overestimation 348 of the depth at the bar trough. Figure 3f shows the cross section during the 349 next spring tide. The cross sections for the spring tidal estimate show that 350 most of the domain experiences a significant underestimation of the depth. 351 However, features are in approximately the right places but with a significant 352

vertical offset. Differences between the survey and estimates up to 4.5 m can
be found.

A Root-Mean-Square error was determined over the whole domain and 355 per sub-domain (as indicated in Figure 2b) for the neap and spring-tide 356 estimates and presented in Table 3. Over the whole domain this analysis 357 reveals an RMS-error that is almost doubled during the spring-tide (2.05 m)358 compared to the neap tide (1.06 m). Around the sub-tidal bar region the 359 most accurate estimates (RMS-error of 0.77 m) can be found. However, for 360 the same region during spring tide the RMS error increases to 2.03 m. The 361 dramatic increases in RMS-errors in all the domains suggests that the tide 362 related accuracy is clearly a factor and directly relates to the accuracy of 363 cBathy. Especially taking into account the expected higher accuracy con-364 cerning the smaller waves during the spring tide estimates (larger waves =365 larger bias (Holman et al., 2013)). 366

An increase in RMS-error with tidal range is not only found during the 367 test case above but it is observed consistently. Although many additional 368 factors can play a role (for example, wave height and water on the camera 369 lens), a systematic increase of the RMS-error over the whole domain with 370 tidal range (TR) is found at Porthtowan as indicated in Figure 4. For the 371 lower tidal ranges (2 m < TR < 4 m) a large spread of the RMS-error is 372 found. One of the reasons for this is that wave heights up to 4 m were 373 measured in the days before the survey. Larger waves show, in general, less 374 accurate results with cBathy (Holman et al., 2013). For the larger tidal 375 ranges (TR > 4 m) the wave climate was relatively calm which results in a 376 smaller range in RMS-error. Taking the context into account a slight trend 377

<sup>378</sup> of an increasing bias with increasing tidal range is observed.

#### 379 3.2. Inaccuracies on camera boundaries

On the camera boundaries consistent inaccuracies in the depth estimates 380 are found. The magnitude of this bias varies under different conditions. Al-381 though the bias varies in magnitude, the depth is consistently overestimated 382 on the camera boundaries as shown in Figure 5a, b which shows the final, 383 single estimate (5a) and the Kalman-filtered (5b), depth estimation. For in-384 dividual estimates (the whole domain at a single point in time) this camera 385 boundary effect can be rather large O(1 m). However, the combination of 386 numerous estimates in the Kalman filter process tends to smooth the effect. 387 This can be observed in Figure 5b, most of the domain experiences an un-388 derestimation but over most of the camera boundaries an overestimation is 389 visible. As the distance from the camera system increases the impact of the 390 camera boundary issue increases. 391

#### 392 3.3. Modifications

From the results above the two suspected issues are confirmed; 1) inac-393 curate depth estimation on the camera boundaries and 2) a significant tide 394 dependent inaccuracy. The differences between survey and depth estimates 395 are up to 3 m and in the same order of magnitude as the measured local 396 depth. Considering the difference in RMS-error between the neap and spring 397 tide estimates we can confidently state that the tidal elevation plays an im-398 portant role in the accuracy of the depth estimates. In the following two 399 sections, respective solutions for the camera boundary and tide dependent 400 discrepancies are presented. 401

#### $_{402}$ 3.3.1. Camera boundary solution [cB]

Higher inaccuracies around the camera boundaries are identified when 403 cBathy is compared to the surveys (e.g. see Figure 5a,b). Such inter-404 camera differences are found at most of the sites where cBathy is applied 405 [Duck (USA), Egmond aan Zee and the ZandMotor (Netherlands)]. A com-406 mon work-around is to increase the spatial smoothing by enlarging the sub-407 sampling domain (Sembiring, pers com). Another approach seeks to derive 408 perfect camera-geometries by adjusting individual camera geometry parame-409 tres in order to stitch the camera views perfectly together (Stanley, pers 410 com). However, such approaches may not provide sufficiently accurate res-411 olution or be practical, and so there is not yet a consensus about how to 412 effectively overcome inaccuracies on the camera boundaries. 413

It is likely that even small errors in camera geometry solutions could lead 414 to a significant difference between the estimated and real-world position of 415 pixels. Such differences would result in a mismatch between the estimated 416 phases across the camera boundary. Where the sub-sampling domain solely 417 contains pixels from a single camera, depth is estimated independently from 418 this phase shift, meaning that only wave number k and wave angle  $\alpha$  are used 410 from equation 3. However, on the camera boundary, where the sub-sampling 420 domain contains pixels from multiple cameras, the fitting procedure of a 421 single wave phase is unable to incorporate a sudden apparent shift in the 422 phase over the sub-samples. Nevertheless, the fitting procedure will seek to 423 find the best fitting solution which in most cases means that the wave angle is 424 increased. When the wave angle is larger, the estimated wavelength is larger 425 and so the resulting wave number k is smaller than it should be. Using this 426

<sup>427</sup> underestimated wave number in the linear dispersion relation then leads to<sup>428</sup> an overestimation of the depth.

A new and effective solution to overcome this issue is presented here. If 429 the sub-sampling domain contains pixels from multiple cameras the process-430 ing system automatically splits the depth estimation procedure into separate 431 but parallel processes in which only pixels from single cameras are used. In 432 this way any potential difference in phase is removed (Equation 3) as in-433 tended and only the wave number and wave angle are used. However, with 434 this method, two wave numbers and two wave angles are found for the sub-435 sampling domain while only one depth estimate is desired. To counter this, 436 the two separate depth estimates are combined through a weighted average 437 based on the location of their centre of mass relative to the required loca-438 tion of the depth estimate. An accuracy measure is not incorporated in the 439 weighting as the normal quality control within the cBathy routines deter-440 mines whether a depth estimate is reliable or not. Figure 6 illustrates the 441 significant improvement that is achieved when the camera boundary solution 442 is applied. Figure 6a represents the bathymetry estimation without the cam-443 era solution. A clear overestimation of the depth on the camera boundaries 444 is found between camera 2 and 3. Figure 6b shows a depth estimation with 445 the camera boundary solution implemented. Improved depth estimations on 446 the camera boundaries are the result and, the camera boundary issue is no 447 longer apparent. 448

# 449 3.3.2. Tide dependent floating pixels [TPix]

A significant variation in performance of cBathy with the tidal range is a consequence of the limited inclusion of tidal elevation in the code which

results in fixed geographical pixel locations. The only use of tidal elevation 452 is to transform depth estimates to an absolute reference level. Geographical 453 pixel locations are determined once only when data collection is initially 454 scheduled. However, the reference level, and hence the set of geographical 455 pixel locations, changes as the water level rises and lowers with the tide. A 456 set of pixels moves towards the camera system, and at the same time the 457 spatial footprint of the set contracts, during a rising tide, while during a 458 falling tide the opposite occurs, with pixels moving further from the camera 459 and relative expansion of the pixel set footprint. Figure 7 presents this 460 process schematically, where the orange squares represent the pixel domain 461 in the current version of cBathy and the blue and green squares represent 462 the reality for low and high tide respectively. Incorrect pixel positions result 463 in a shorter sensed wavelength than in reality at low tide which leads to 464 an overestimation of the wave number and thus an underestimation of the 465 depth, and vice versa for high tide. 466

The pixel shifting is not solely dependent on the tidal elevation but, rather, is a function of tidal elevation, vertical position of the camera system and distance to the camera. The maximum shift as a percentage of the distance between pixel and camera system can be found with the ratio  $TR_{max}/z_{cam}$  where  $TR_{max}$  is the maximum tidal range and  $z_{cam}$  is the vertical position of the camera system. The instantaneous pixel shifting can be calculated using Equation 5.

$$(dx(t), dy(t)) = \frac{\eta_{tide}(t)}{z_{cam}} (x_{ref} - x_{cam}, y_{ref} - y_{cam})$$
(5)

474

Where dx, dy represent the shift in respectively x and y direction,  $\eta_{tide}$ 

relates to the tidal elevation,  $z_{cam}$  is the camera height and the subscripts ref 475 and cam refer respectively to the reference and camera position for x and y. 476 For Porthtowan, a ratio of 15.9% is found using  $z_{cam} = 44$  m and a  $TR_{max}$ 477 = 7 m. This means that with a camera reach of around 1880 m in the far 478 end of the domain the pixels move around 300 m back and forth between 479 low and high spring tide. The horizontal shift of the pixel location is +/-480 half the total shift since the excursion that should be accounted for starts at 481 the initial pixel location obtained using the vertical reference level (mid-tide 482 at Porthtowan, z = 0 m). To overcome this issue an additional inclusion of 483 the tide in the code was implemented following Equation 5. For every stack 484 collection the pixel location is recalculated according to the tidal elevation. 485

#### 486 3.4. Performance with modifications

Bathymetry estimates for neap (left) and spring (right) tide including the 487 floating pixels and camera boundary solution are presented in Figure 8a-d. 488 Unlike the estimates with the original version of cBathy (Figure 3), estimates 489 with the modifications show corresponding bar features in both spring and 490 neap tidal estimates. Features like a rip channel (X = 600 m, Y = 0 m) and 491 the sub-tidal bar are better resolved compared to the original version which 492 indicates a clear improvement in performance. Inaccurate depth estimates 493 are still found in the very shallow parts of the domain but as mentioned 494 before this is likely due to the invalidity of the linear dispersion relation for 495 that area. 496

Table 4 shows the calculated Root Mean Square (RMS) error and its percentage of the measured depth per step in the modifications for the whole domain and the specific regions indicated earlier in Figure 2b. Considering

the whole domain, a reduction of 8.5% with exclusively the floating pixel 500 solution is found. If the floating pixel and camera boundary solution are 501 applied simultaneously the RMS error is reduced by up to 19%. For the next 502 spring tide a larger reduction is found with solely the floating pixel solution 503 (49%). The combination of the floating pixels and camera boundary solution 504 results in almost 53% reduction of RMS error. The improvement in accuracy 505 was greatest for the sub-tidal bar area shifting from 2.03 m RMS error to 506 0.49 m. The RMS error as a percentage of the depth reduced in the sub-tidal 507 bar region from 39% to 9%. 508

The overall RMS error is comparable (between 0.86 and 1.05 m) for all 509 the new configurations. For the sub-tidal region a significant improvement is 510 reached, the RMS error decreased from 2 m to 50 cm with the modifications. 511 The difference between neap and spring tide depth estimates in the sub-512 tidal bar domain for the original version is 260%. When both the new cam-513 era boundary and floating pixel solutions are implemented simultaneously, 514 the best performance occurs around the sub-tidal bar region (RMS-error of 515 around 50 cm), around 9-10% of the local water depth. 516

#### 517 4. Discussion

## 518 4.1. Improved performance at Porthtowan

The results, in particular Figure 8 and Table 4, show a significant improvement using the two modifications compared to the estimates without the modifications. However, the data shown only comprises a single survey campaign and it remains a question whether the accuracy of the depth estimates is consistently ameliorated. Figure 9 shows that an improvement <sup>524</sup> in estimating depth is found when the modifications are applied to other <sup>525</sup> arbitrary depth estimations around the time of the survey (Figure 2b).

Figures 9a and 9b show the RMS error over the whole domain against tidal 526 range and wave height for the exact same points in time. Figure 9c shows the 527 reduction in percentage of the RMS error between cBathy (Holman et al., 528 2013) (9a) and cBathy with both corrections (9b). Depths estimated with the 529 original cBathy code at a tidal range larger than 4.5 m seem to coincide with 530 RMS errors larger than 1.5 m. With the inclusion of the floating pixels and 531 the camera boundary solution the same estimates have a RMS error lower 532 than 1.5 m. Figure 9c shows that the largest improvement is achieved for 533 the largest tidal ranges (as expected) during relatively calm wave conditions. 534 At maximum, a reduction of 60% in RMS error over the whole domain is 535 reached. The largest reductions in RMS error are found with limited wave 536 heights (< 1 m). 537

The depth estimates shown in Figure 9 are representative for the day con-538 sisting of Kalman-filtered hourly depth estimates. Depending on the number 530 of light hours per day, a certain amount of hourly depth estimates (maximum 540 16 hours during the longest day) are combined together for a daily estimate. 541 With more data the Kalman filtered depth estimates perform better. Fur-542 thermore, if the Kalman filtering starts with a measured bathymetry it starts 543 from a relative accurate starting point. The Kalman like filter will keep the 544 measured depth until the faith in the depth value has diminished over time 545 or the cBathy estimates have a greater Kalman gain factor. 546

# 547 4.2. Potential effects at other sites

The issue on the camera boundaries is observed at other sites, for ex-548 ample at a recently installed video station near to the Sand Engine in the 549 Netherlands (Holman, pers com). The camera boundary solution in its cur-550 rent form shows that the principle of estimating wave numbers per camera 551 and combining them afterwards works at Porthtowan. This solution is easily 552 transferable to other cBathy sites and collected data can be re-analysed with 553 the solution implemented. Nevertheless, the camera boundary solution could 554 be extended by incorporating cBathy's quality measure concerning the wave 555 phase fitting. 556

The reduction in bias of the depth estimation related to the floating pixel 557 solution is site specific. Equation 5 suggests that tide-related inaccuracies in 558 the cBathy depth estimates are not exclusively occurring at sites with a large 559 tidal range. The vertical angle (ratio between tidal range and vertical camera 560 position) is the key-factor and can potentially cause tide related inaccuracies 561 in macro/meso tidal environments when the camera system is mounted rela-562 tively low. Figure 10 shows the pixel displacement (presented on logarithmic 563 scale) in relation to tidal range and the ratio between the distance from the 564 camera (d) and the camera height (h) for a range of sites. The greved area 565 in Figure 10 shows the pixel displacement for all the pixels considered at 566 Porthtowan. The pixels farthest away from the camera experience almost 567  $10^{2.5} = 316$  m displacement. 568

Pixel displacement information for some other sites where video camera systems are sited but with smaller tidal ranges is also presented in Figure 10. The chosen (most 'famous') Argus sites are Duck NC (USA), Palm

Beach (AUS) and Egmond aan Zee (NL) and non-Argus sites are Biscarrosse 572 (FRA) (Almar et al., 2008; Sénéchal et al., 2009) and Alfeite (PT) (Silva 573 et al., 2009). Although the tidal range at all the sites is significantly lower 574 compared to Porthtowan, the total pixel displacement between low and high 575 tide due to the tidal elevation is up to 80 m in the outer edge of the domain 576 at Egmond aan Zee. If this is not taken into account this displacement would 577 mean that pixels are used to estimate a depth that are not around the point 578 of interest but 40 m further away from the camera (if the vertical reference 579 level is mid-tide). 580

# 581 5. Conclusions

Video-based bathymetry estimations are obtained at Porthtowan using an 582 inverse method following linear dispersion relation of free surface elevations. 583 Two areas of inaccurate depth estimation are identified: 1) inaccurate depth 584 estimation on the camera boundaries and 2) tide dependent bias in depth 585 estimation due to the lack of the exact position of the pixels in cBathy. On 586 the boundary, where the camera field of view are overlapping or bordering, 587 imprecise sensing of the propagation of the wave due to various reasons such 588 as differences in distortion and independent camera movement result in an 589 apparent abrupt phase shift and lead to errors in the depth estimation. A 590 straightforward solution to diminish the observed systematic overestimation 591 of depth on the camera boundary is proposed. The depth estimation analysis 592 is performed independently for each camera to overcome these inaccuracies. 593 The second identified source of inaccuracy is the tide dependent inaccuracy. 594 Here, the formerly fixed positions of the pixels in the real-world have been 595

changed to floating pixel positions depending on the instant tidal elevation 596 and the camera height. Floating pixels are not only important in macro-597 tidal environments, since the magnitude of this effect depends on the tidal 598 range and camera height. The two modifications to the unmodified cBathy 599 version as presented in Holman et al. (2013) lead to significant improvements 600 over the whole domain at Porthtowan. Depending on multiple environmental 601 variables, up to a 60% reduction in RMS-error over the whole domain (Figure 602 9) and 75% reduction in RMS error in the sub-tidal bar domain has been 603 demonstrated (Table 4) here. The video camera system at Porthtowan, with 604 the inclusion of the modifications, is then shown to be capable of estimating 605 the sub-tidal depths with a bias of around 10% of the local depth. 606

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Figure 1: Map showing the study site (Porthtowan) in the South-West of England, Chapel Porth being the Northern boundary of the study site and the wave buoy at Perranporth. The lower panel shows a close up on the bay in the vicinity of Porthtowan.



Figure 2: a) Camera layout at Porthtowan, four cameras are located on the Southern cliff looking Northwards alongshore. b) Measured bathymetry (10 April 2014) with the overlaying lines indicate the different regions for the further analysis; inter-tidal (blue), sub-tidal bar region (yellow) and offshore region (red).



Figure 3: On the left side respectively the bathymetry estimate on the 10th of April 2014 (a), the difference to the survey (c) and two cross sections (e) (at 100m and 300m) are shown. On the right side respectively the bathymetry estimate (b), the difference to the survey (d) and two cross sections (f) (at 100m and 300m) on 17 April 2014 are presented.



Figure 4: RMS error compared to wave height and tidal range. Red line represents a linear regression with  $r^2 = 0.295$  and is significant (p = 0.024) at the 95% confidence interval. Grey patch indicates the domain of the macro tidal range (TR > 4).



Figure 5: Difference between the survey (10 April 2014) and estimates (9 April 2014). (a) represents the difference between the survey and a single estimate (18:00) and (b) is the difference between the survey and the daily Kalman filtered result. The black lines represent the camera boundaries.



Figure 6: Difference between the survey (10 April 2014) and estimates (9 April 2014). (a) represents the difference between the survey and a single estimate (18:00) without the solution and (b) shows the difference between the survey and the same single estimate (18:00) with the camera boundary solution. The black lines represent the camera boundaries.



Figure 7: The squares represent a selection of pixels moving up and down with the tidal elevation. The pixel set moves respectively towards the camera system and away from it. At the same time relative contraction and expansion between the pixels takes place



Figure 8: On the left panel respectively a renewed bathymetry estimate using the modifications on the 10th of April 2014 (a) and two cross sections (c) at X=100 m and X=300 m. On the right is the renewed bathymetry estimate (b) on 17 April 2014 and the corresponding cross sections (d) at X=100 and X=300



Figure 9: RMS error versus significant wave height [Hs] over the whole domain where the marker size represents the tidal range at the time of the depth estimation. For the left and middle panel the colour corresponds to the tidal range while for the right panel the reduction of RMS-error in percentage is represented by the colour. The left panel represents the RMS error for cBathy as presented in (Holman et al., 2013), the middle panel shows the RMS error for cBathy with the floating pixel and camera boundary solutions together and the right panel shows the percentage reduction of the RMS error.



Figure 10: Horizontal pixel displacement (log scale) as function of the tidal range and ratio d/h (d = distance from the camera and h = camera height)

Description	value(s)	units
Pixel collection spacing $(\Delta x_p)$	4.0	m
Pixel collection spacing $(\Delta y_p)$	10.0	m
Depth analysis spacing $(\Delta x_m)$	10.0	m
Depth analysis spacing $(\Delta y_m)$	25.0	m
Allowable depth range $[h_{min} \text{ to } h_{max}]$	0.25 to 20.0	m
Frequency domain $[f_{min} \text{ to } f_{max}]$	1/18 to $1/4$	1/s
$\Delta f$	1/100	1/s
Smoothing scales (in depth analysis)	$\Delta x_m,  \Delta y_m$	

Table 1: Overview of Porthtowan specific settings for cBathy

	$TR_{max}$ [m]	Hs [m]	Tp [sec]	Dir $[^{\circ}]$
10 April 2014	2.78	1.16	10.51	278.4
17 April 2014	6.03	0.52	10.38	278.9

Table 2: Tide range and day-average wave conditions for the two estimate examples used here. The survey for this work has been carried out on the **10th of April 2014**.

RMS error $\rightarrow$	All [m]	inter-tidal [m]	sub-tidal [m]	sub-tidal Bar [m]	Offshore [m]
10 April 2014	1.06	1.15~(350%)	1.05~(14%)	0.77~(14%)	1.84 (13%)
17 April 2014	2.05	1.77~(623%)	2.12 (36%)	2.03 (39%)	2.43 (17%)

Table 3: The RMS errors are displayed here for cBathy (Holman et al., 2013). Results show the whole domain (All) and per area (inter-tidal, sub-tidal, sub-tidal bar and offshore) on the survey day (10 April 2014) and next spring-tide (17 April 2014). In brackets is the RMS error as percentage of the measured depth (mean over the (sub)domain).

RMS error $\rightarrow$	All [m]	inter-tidal [m]	sub-tidal [m]	sub-tidal Bar [m]	Offshore [m]
10  April  2014  [cBathy]	1.06	$1.15\ (350\%)$	1.05~(14%)	0.77~(14%)	1.84~(13%)
17  April  2014  [cBathy]	2.05	1.77~(623%)	2.12~(36%)	$2.03 \; (39\%)$	2.43~(17%)
10 April 2014 [TPix]	0.97	0.98~(160%)	0.97~(13%)	0.73~(14%)	$1.70\ (12\%)$
17 April 2014 [TPix]	1.05	$1.63\ (610\%)$	$0.90\ (11\%)$	$0.59\ (10\%)$	1.74~(12%)
10 April 2014 [TPixcB]	0.86	0.99~(160%)	0.83~(10%)	0.55(9%)	$1.59\ (11\%)$
17 April 2014 [TPixcB]	0.97	$1.51\ (600\%)$	0.84~(10%)	0.49(9%)	$1.70\ (12\%)$

per area (inter-tidal, sub-tidal, sub-tidal bar and offshore) on the survey day (10 April 2014) and next spring-tide (17 April Table 4: The RMS errors are displayed here for cBathy (Holman et al., 2013) [Orig], cBathy with the floating pixel solution [TPix] and cBathy with the floating pixel and camera boundary solution [TPixcB]. Results show the whole domain (All) and 2014). In brackets is the RMS error as percentage of the measured depth (mean over the (sub)domain).