

Dear Dr. Julian Mak,

Thank you for reading and handling the manuscript. I have revised the manuscript following the referee's and your comments. The details are listed below.

I am looking forward to hearing the outcome of the manuscript.

Kind regards,
Kenji Shimizu

<Editor comments>

As discussed, would suggest the competing statement be shortened and rephrased accordingly (not that bothered about the change of affiliation). Would suggest for it simply being "KS is employed as a consultant in Australia, and involved in commercial projects related to the topic of this paper."

<Author's response>

I have revised the competing interests statement as you suggested.

<Author's changes in manuscript>

Competing Interests section: "KS is employed as a consultant in Australia, and involved in commercial projects related to the topic of this paper. ~~KS has a competitive relationship with some physical oceanographers at University of Western Australia for industry-funded projects on topics related to this paper. During the review stage, University of Western Australia requested through his employer that KS removes the statement regarding the competing relationship, and names a collaborative project between University of Western Australia and his employer, even though this study received no funding or indirect support from these parties or the project. KS declined the requests, but it required the removal of the name of his employer from this paper.~~"

<Referee comments>

On line 228 it is written: 'the e-folding standard deviation (where the dashed line reaches 1 in Fig. 2d) is 16% of the full phase 2π '. Please explain. What does the sloping dashed line represent, and how does the e-folding standard deviation relate to this plot? Please also improve the description of Fig. 2b in the figure caption. Perhaps it would be more logical to

replace the horizontal dashed line by a solid line, which would also make the sentence cited above less ambiguous?

<Author's response>

I thank the referee's comments. The following changes were made to the revised manuscript.

<Author's changes in manuscript>

l.219: "For example, the e-folding ~~standard deviation~~ variance (where the dashed line reaches 1 in Fig. 2d) is about 1, or 16% of the full phase 2π in terms of standard deviation."

Fig. 2: The horizontal line in panel (d) was changed from a dashed line to a dashed double-dotted line.

Caption to Fig. 2: "(d) normalized contributions to $E(A'^2)$ (first term (dashed double-dotted line) and second terms (solid line) in Eq. (14b))."