

Interactive comment on “On fluctuating air-sea-interaction in local models: linear theory” by Achim Wirth

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The main criticism of the reviewer is that the models are too simple and there is nothing new in my work. He performs this statement without citing a single reference showing that the presented results have been published elsewhere. This is an expression of his personal view but not a scientific argumentation. The models I consider are also implemented as (local) "bulk formulas" in today's models of ocean and climate dynamics. The analytic calculations I present have, to the best of my knowledge not been published previously.

To increase scientific understanding of complex natural phenomena a hierarchy of models has to be constructed. When observational data and more involved models

C1

are systematically connected to simpler models, which can be solved analytically, in such a hierarchy, scientific understanding is increased. The models I discuss are highly idealised and can be (partly) solved analytically. They present a solid basis to which results from more involved models can be compared. There are many papers on the subject which analyse data from more or less idealised simulations, but very few (no?) analytic results. It is important, to my understanding to show how far analytic calculations can go. My work contains a large amount of analytical results (mostly in the appendices) and the reviewer has found no error in the calculations.

The reviewer states: "The fact that accounting for surface currents (or not doing so) changes the surface momentum budget is true by definition; the existence of consequences for the energetics is also wellknown" Yes, there are publications from observations and more involved models, but I give analytic results for the idealised models (bulk formulas), so one clearly sees where the differences come from. I am not aware that this has been done elsewhere. I also show that differences are qualitative not only quantitative, meaning that one parameterization can not mimic the behaviour of another parameterization by adapting eddy coefficients, which is attempted frequently. This has not been shown elsewhere.

The reviewer continues: "The models used here are not needed to demonstrate these points, and are too simple to quantify the implications meaningfully. In particular, the models' assumption that variations in surface currents are entirely driven by local momentum fluxes from the atmosphere is far too large an oversimplification to allow for a meaningful quantification of the importance of these currents on surface coupling." Yes, the models (bulk formulas) are local, but the scientific method is to split-up a complicated problem and to see where differences arise. It is important to distinguish between local and non-local contributions. To increase understanding both local and non-local contributions have to be studied separately. In my previous paper in JPO (<https://doi.org/10.1175/JPO-D-17-0097.1>), I compare data from one of the models to a non-local simulation and discuss the differences. And again: the models I consider

C2

are implemented as (local) "bulk formulas" in today's models of ocean and climate dynamics and of course non-local dynamics in the models non-linearly superpose to these local bulk formulas.

The reviewer writes: "There is also nothing new in the fact that these linear models, when cast as linear stochastic differential equations with solutions which are Markov processes, satisfy fluctuation-dissipation theorems: they are after all just multivariate Ornstein-Uhlenbeck processes. " The important point of my paper is that the fluctuation-dissipation theorems differ between the models, the relaxation time vary between different finite values and infinity, as for some models the solution includes a Brownian motion (which is not stationary like an Ornstein-Uhlenbeck processes). An infinite relaxation time points to long-time memory in the problem and questions ergodicity. This has not been stated elsewhere to the best of my knowledge. In my paper I give all the analytic results for the different bulk parameterizations, this has never been accomplished.

The reviewer further states that: "The fact that non-Markov state variable subspaces (such as obtained in the case of red noise forcing without augmenting the state space appropriately) do not satisfy a FDT is also a standard result." I agree and it is stated in my paper (last sentence of section 2): "Augmenting the phase space dimension to render a non-Markovian process Markovian is a standard procedure." (The statement of the reviewer is actually not correct. When a red-noise is used and the state space not-augmented the FDT can be assured by a generalised Langevin equation with a memory kernel, this point is discussed, e.g. in detail by Balakrishnan (1979), cited in my paper)

The reviewer does not say anything about the fluctuation-dissipation-relations that have been derived for the different models and compared. And he does not comment on the results concerning fluctuation theorems, which to the best of my knowledge, have never been considered in the context of environmental sciences.

C3

The reviewer has taken a few aspects of a few of my results and qualified them as "not new" and rejects my paper on this grounds. He did not value the analytical results presented in my paper. I challenge the reviewer by giving me a single reference (other than my publication in JPO (<https://doi.org/10.1175/JPO-D-17-0097.1>) that discusses the fluctuation-dissipation relation OR the fluctuation-dissipation theorem OR fluctuation relations in the context of momentum transfer at the air-sea-interface, which are all discussed in the present work.

When presenting my previous results at conferences, the comment that arouse the most often was, on how these results change in different bulk formulas of air-sea interaction (as after my talk at the EGU2018 General Assembly). I performed this work to answer this question and submitted it to GMD so it reaches the right community.

Interactive comment on Geosci. Model Dev. Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/gmd-2018-300>, 2019.

C4