



Article

Machine Learning for Short-Term Prediction of Ship Motion Combined with Wave Input

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Abstract: There is a response relationship between wave and ship motion. Based on the LSTM neural network, the mapping relationship between the wave elevation and ship roll motion is established. The wave elevation and ship motion duration data obtained by the CFD simulation are used to predict ship roll motion with different input data schemes. The results show that the prediction scheme considering the wave elevation input can predict ship roll motion. Compared with the direct prediction scheme based on the roll data input, the prediction scheme considering the wave elevation input factor can greatly improve the prediction accuracy and effective advance prediction time. Different wave elevation data inputs have different prediction effects. The advance prediction duration will increase with the increase in the input wave elevation position and the ship distance. The simultaneous input of multi-point wave elevation greatly increases the amount of data, allowing the trained model to utilize a greater data depth. This not only improves the advance prediction duration of the prediction model, but it also enhances the robustness of the model, making the prediction results more stable.

Keywords: ship motion; random wave; machine learning; short-term prediction



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1. Introduction

Ships present random motion under the action of irregular waves. The violent motion of ships harms their navigation and operation. Wave is the main incentive factor of the ship oscillation motion. If the mapping relationship between wave elevation near the ship and ship motion can be established, the ship motion can be predicted in a very short time. Its motion attitude for a period of time in the future can be known in advance, so as to ensure the safety of the ship's operation at sea.

The very short-term prediction of ship motion refers to the prediction of a ship's motion in the next few seconds to tens of seconds. Triantafyllou and Bodson (1983) [1] used the Kalman filter (KF) method to study the very short-term prediction of the ship motion. Through the characteristics of the ship motion and the corresponding assumptions, the mechanical principle was used to analyze the force on the ship. The state equation of the ship sway motion was derived, so as to obtain the multi-step ship motion predictor based on the KF method. The KF method needs an accurate ship motion state equation. Because the sea state environment often changes, the hydrodynamic parameters are not stable enough, which makes it difficult to obtain an accurate ship motion state equation. Zhao et al. (2004) [2] used minor component analysis (MCA) to predict ship motion a long time ahead with consistent accuracy. The prediction error is almost the same for the 5 s and 20 s predictions. Li et al. (2017) [3] used a nonlinear autoregressive exogenous (NARX) network combining 29 ship state attributes to predict heading, roll, and pitch. Their study showed that modeling and analyzing based on the NARX network was helpful in generating the data-driven model for the ship motion prediction. Suhermi et al. (2018) [4] combined the depth neural network (DNN) and the auto-regressive (AR) model to predict

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the ship roll data. The results show that the mixed model has better prediction accuracy than the single depth feedforward neural network and AR model. Duan et al. (2015) [5] developed a novel order selection approach based on ship impulse response function (IRF). Additionally, the AR model using the IRF order selection is designated as an IRF-AR model. The simulation results of an S175 container ship showed the superiority of the IRF-AR model to the conventional model in prediction accuracy, efficiency, and algorithm adaptation. Yin et al. (2018) [6] established an ensemble mechanism by combining the discrete wavelet transform and variable radial basis function (RBF) networks. The effectiveness of the proposed discrete wavelet transform (DWT)-based real-time roll prediction scheme was demonstrated by short-term ship roll motion prediction experiments based on the actual ship roll motion measurements collected. Li and Hong (2019) [7] optimized the least squares support vector regression (SVR) model through the chaotic cloud particle swarm optimization algorithm and combined it with the periodogram estimation method. They developed this hybrid model algorithm for predicting ship motion and carried out prediction analysis with two sets of real ship data. The results show that the hybrid model has better prediction accuracy than the classical prediction model. Based on the SVR, Duan et al. (2015) [8] proposed a hybrid model for forecasting the nonlinear and non-stationary short-term prediction of ship motion. The difficulty of processing non-stationary data in the SVR model was overcome by using the mode decomposition (EMD) technology, which has higher accuracy for the very short-term prediction results of the ship motion.

In recent years, the artificial neural network has been widely used in the ship motion prediction. The cyclic neural network is a kind of time recursive neural network that can process the information of sequence structure. Shen (2005) [9] established a diagonal recurrent neural network (RNN) model for large ship motion prediction. The results were compared with the AR prediction method and the periodogram prediction method. The prediction results show the feasibility of the algorithm.

The long short-term memory (LSTM) neural network [10] is a special cyclic neural network. Its special gating structure makes it have the ability of long-term memory and can process time series data more effectively. Wang et al. (2017) [11] used the LSTM neural network and traditional RNN and AR models to carry out a comparative analysis of ship motion prediction, proving that the LSTM neural network has better prediction accuracy. D'Agostino et al. (2021) [12] assessed and compared the performance of RNN, LSTM, and gated recurrent units (GRU) models using a data set obtained from computational fluid dynamics (CFD) simulations of a self-propelled destroyer-type vessel. The objective was to obtain about a prediction of 20 s ahead. The three methods provided promising and comparable results.

Zhang et al. (2019) [13] carried out prediction research on USV roll data by combining the convolution neural network (CNN) and LSTM neural network. The results proved that the combined prediction model has better a prediction effect. The EMD-LSTM combined forecasting model established by Zhang et al. (2020) [14] has better forecasting accuracy than the single LSTM model. Peng et al. (2019) [15] integrated the particle swarm optimization algorithm (PSO) and the EMD algorithm on the LSTM neural network algorithm. The results show that the hybrid model can effectively improve the prediction accuracy. Geng et al. (2023) [16] proposed a prediction algorithm based on EMD and adaptive PSO-LSTM with the sliding window approach. The simulation results demonstrate that the proposed model performs well in terms of predicting the nonlinear and nonstationary ship roll and pitch. Zhang et al. (2021) [17] combined an attention mechanism (AM) with LSTM, and carried out prediction tests using real ship data. The results show that this method has better prediction performance than other common methods. Sun et al. (2022) [18] used the LSTM neural network and Gaussian process regression (GPR) to predict the ship rolling angle and pitch angle. The model yielded reliable interval prediction results without reducing the forecasting accuracy of the LSTM model, which verified the effectiveness and advancement of the hybrid model. Wang et al. (2021) [19] proposed a ship roll angle prediction method based on the bidirectional long short-term memory network (BLSTM)

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and temporal pattern attention mechanism (TPA). Compared with the LSTM model and the SVM model, the combined model had a significant reduction in errors. Later, Wang et al. (2021) [20] proposed the single input single output (SISO) and multiple input single output (MISO) methods to predict ship motion based on deep learning. The methods achieved good prediction accuracy. Table 1 summarizes the relevant machine learning models for the short-term perdition of ship motion.

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Table 1. Sumn	iarization o	i maciime	rearring in	loueis i	or sind	monon	prediction.

Model	Input	Reference
KF	sway	Triantafyllou and Bodson (1982) [1]
MCA	6-DoF motion	Zhao et al. (2004) [2]
NARX	state attribute	Li et al. (2017) [3]
DNN-AR	roll	Suhermi et al. (2018) [4]
IRF-AR	heave, pitch	Duan et al. (2015) [5]
DWT-RBF	roll	Yin et al. (2018) [6]
SVR-PSO	roll	Li and Hong (2019) [7]
AR-EMD-SVR	heave, pitch	Duan et al. (2015) [8]
RNN	6-DoF motion	Shen (2005) [9]
LSTM	roll, pitch	Wang et al. (2017) [11]
GRU	state attribute	D'Agostino et al. (2021) [12]
CNN-LSTM	roll	Zhang et al. (2019) [13]
EMD-LSTM	motion	Zhang et al. (2020) [14]
PSO-EMD-LSTM	roll, pitch, heave	Peng et al. (2019) [15]
EMD-PSO-LSTM	roll, pitch	Geng et al. (2023) [16]
AM-LSTM	6-DoF motion	Zhang et al. (2021) [17]
LSTM-GPR	roll, pitch	Sun et al. (2022) [18]
BLSTM-TPA	roll	Wang et al. (2021) [19]
MISO-BLSTM-TPA	roll	Wang et al. (2021) [20]

At present, most scholars used the LSTM neural network to predict ship motion in the very short-term, mostly based on the data of ship motion itself, while there are few reports on the research of ship motion prediction based on wave elevation data. In fact, in the process of ship operation at sea, especially at zero speed, waves are the main excitation of ship movement. The wave itself has the memory effect. If the ship movement can be predicted in the very short-term by using the wave elevation data as the input feature, the prediction duration and prediction accuracy can be effectively improved in theory. In order to verify the effectiveness of the scheme, this paper, based on the LSTM neural network model, combined with wave elevation and ship motion duration data to study the very short-term prediction of ship roll motion.

2. LSTM for Ship Motion Prediction

2.1. LSTM Theory

The LSTM unit structure is composed of the forgetting gate, input gate, output gate, and unit state. The unit structure is shown in Figure 1. At the current time t, there are three input parameters of the LSTM network: input value x_t at the current time (such as wave elevation), output value h_{t-1} at the previous time (such as roll motion), and unit state C_{t-1} at the previous time. There are two output parameters: the current time output value h_t and the current time unit state C_t . Through the activation function σ , the LSTM realizes the control of the three gates, so as to preserve and forget the historical information. Referring to study [21] for the specific principle of the mathematical expression of the gating structure.

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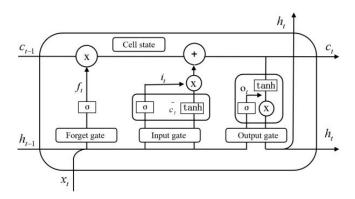


Figure 1. LSTM structure.

The function of forgetting gate determines how many C_{t-1} unit states need to be retained until the current moment. The mathematical expression is as follows:

$$f_t = \sigma(W_f \cdot [h_{t-1}, x_t] + b_f) \tag{1}$$

where W_f is the vector weight; b_f is the offset vector quantity. The gate will read the two input values, x_t and h_{t-1} , and activate the function σ (sigmoid function) that controls the output of a value between 0 and 1 to C_{t-1} , where 0 represents the complete rejection of C_{t-1} and 1 represents the complete retention of C_{t-1} .

The function of the input gate determines how much new data need to be saved to the cell state C_t . The mathematical expression is as follows:

$$i_t = \sigma(W_i \cdot [h_{t-1}, x_t] + b_i) \tag{2}$$

$$\widetilde{C}_t = \tanh(W_c \cdot [h_{t-1}, x_t] + b_c)$$
(3)

$$C_t = f_t \cdot C_{t-1} + i_t \cdot \widetilde{C}_t \tag{4}$$

The gate needs two steps to realize the new unit state C_t . The first step is to determine which information needs to be updated through Equation (2), and calculate the temporary state at the current time through Equation (3). The second step is to obtain the new unit state C_t at the current time through Equation (4).

The function of the output gate controls how much of the unit state C_t needs to be output to h_t . The mathematical expression is as follows:

$$o_t = \sigma(W_o[h_{t-1}, x_t] + b_o)$$
 (5)

$$h_t = o_t \cdot \tanh(C_t) \tag{6}$$

The door activates the function through Equation (5) σ to determine the output part o_t in the cell state C_t , and then determine the final output value h_t through Equation (6).

2.2. LSTM Theory

The main process of the ship motion prediction model based on the LSTM neural network includes data preprocessing, model parameter setting, model training, prediction data, and prediction result evaluation.

Normalization can reduce the impact of the data magnitude differences, accelerate convergence speed, and improve computational efficiency. All data in this study are normalized first, and then LSTM training is conducted. After the prediction, the data

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are restored by anti-normalization processing. The normalization method is expressed as follows:

$$x^* = \frac{x - x_{\min}}{x_{\max} - x_{\min}} \tag{7}$$

where x^* is the normalized value of x; x_{max} and x_{min} represent the maximum and minimum values of x, respectively.

The LSTM neural network can realize a multi-feature input, as shown in Figure 2. When training, it is necessary to establish the mapping relationship between the input duration data x_{ti} and the output duration data y_t ; where i represents the number of input feature types. First, the input duration data group is slided to form the input vector group X. The window length j is the number of input steps. The output vector group Y is the output data y_{j+n} corresponding to each window, where n is the number of advance prediction steps and is used to control the advance prediction duration. The advance prediction duration is n times the sample data sampling interval. The wave elevation input data are used to predict the ship motion. When n = 1, the prediction model predicts the ship motion attitude at the current time. When n > 1, the prediction model predicts the ship motion attitude corresponding to the n-th data moment in the future. The maximum absolute error (MAE) and the root mean square error (RMSE) are used to evaluate the forecast results. The MAE represents the error of the data peak point, while the RMSE represents the overall prediction error.

Figure 2. LSTM input and output data mapping diagram.

3. Ship Motion Data

In this study, the motion of ships in irregular waves is simulated by the CFD method. The time-history data of the ship motion and wave elevation at different positions on the ship's side are obtained for the study of the short-term prediction of ship motion. The test ship is DTMB5415 with scale ratio of 1/51. The ship parameters are listed in Table 2. The simulated working condition is the roll and heave motion of the ship with zero speed in the beam wave sea state of level five. The sea wave spectrum adopts the Pierson–Moskowitz spectrum. The significant wave height at the model scale is 0.078 m. The average wave period is 0.98 s.

Table 2. Ship information.

Parameter	Full Scale	Model Scale (1/51)
Water line (m)	142.18	2.79
Breadth (m)	19.06	0.37
Draft (m)	6.15	0.12
Displacement (m ³)	8424	0.0635

The CFD solver is STAR-CCM+. The computation model is based on solving the Reynolds time-averaged Navier–Stokes (RANS) equation combined with the shear stress transport (SST) k- ω formulation. The interface of water and air is captured using the volume of the fluid method with a second-order high resolution interface capturing (HRIC) scheme. The mesh updates caused by the ship motion are processed using the dynamic

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overlapping mesh technology. An irregular wave is generated through the velocity entry boundary condition. A damping source method is used to eliminate the reflection of waves from the open boundary. The time stepping method is a second-order implicit scheme. The algorithm of the semi-implicit method for pressure-linked equations (SIMPLE) is used to couple the pressure and velocity fields. The computational grid is generated by the trimmer mesher. The boundary layer of the hull surface is divided by a prism layer grid. The thickness of the first layer of the grid adjacent to the hull surface is 2 mm, to ensure that the Y+ value on the ship's wetted surface is within 100. In order to ensure the accuracy of the wave surface generation and propagation, the grid in the vicinity of the wave surface is refined along the wave height and wavelength directions. The numbers of grid per average wave height and per average wavelength is 6 and 40, respectively. In addition, the local refinement of the grid is performed around the border area between the background grid and the overlapping grid. The computational time step is 0.001 s, approximately 1/1000 of the average wave period.

There are four groups of monitoring data in the CFD simulation. One group is the ship roll motion data. Three groups are the wave elevation data at the position 1 m, 3 m, and 5 m away from the ship side in the direction of the incoming wave. Figure 3 shows the ship rolling time-history. Figure 4 shows the wave elevation time-history at the position of 3 m away from the ship's side. The number of simulation data in each group is 5000. The sampling interval is 0.04 s. The total duration is 200 s. The first 4000 data are selected for model training data. The data for model validation start from the 4500th component.

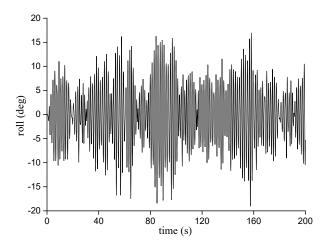


Figure 3. Time series of roll motion obtained by CFD simulation.

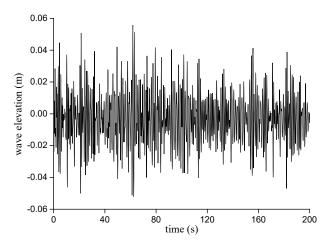


Figure 4. Time series of wave elevation obtained by CFD simulation (wave probe 3 m from ship).

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4. Prediction based on LSTM

4.1. Prediction Solely Using Roll Data

Based on the LSTM model, the roll motion duration data are used as the input feature to directly predict the roll motion with a different advance time. The advance forecast steps n is tested from 5 to 70. The sampling interval is 0.04 s. The advance forecast duration in the model scale is from 0.2 s to 2.8 s, which is converted to 1.4 s to 20 s in full scale.

The roll prediction errors solely based on the roll data are shown in Table 3. The comparison between the predicted values of the advance prediction steps n of 5, 15, 40, and 70 and the sample data in the time series are shown in Figure 5. When the number of the advance prediction step is 5, the prediction accuracy is the best. The prediction results are basically matched with the sample values. When the prediction interval step is 70, the accuracy of the prediction results is poor. There is a large deviation between the prediction value and the sample value. This is because the correlation between the time series data weakens the prediction accuracy, which gradually declines with the increase in the advance forecast duration. The results show that the number of effective advance prediction steps solely utilizing the input data of roll cannot exceed 70.

Table 3. Roll	prediction	solely us	sing data of	roll input.

Advance	Model Scale	FII CI-	Prediction	Error (deg)
Prediction Step	Model Scale	Full Scale -	RMSE	MAE
5	0.2 s	1.4 s	0.43	1.41
10	$0.4 \mathrm{\ s}$	2.9 s	0.54	1.53
15	$0.6 \mathrm{s}$	4.3 s	0.57	1.58
20	$0.8 \mathrm{s}$	5.7 s	0.81	3.12
30	1.2 s	8.6 s	1.31	3.48
40	1.6 s	11.4 s	1.36	4.29
50	$2.0 \mathrm{s}$	14.3 s	1.51	4.35
60	$2.4 \mathrm{s}$	17.1 s	1.57	4.48
70	2.8 s	20.0 s	2.22	7.60

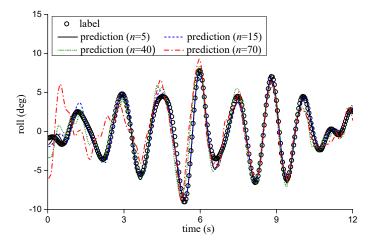


Figure 5. Time series of roll prediction solely using data of roll input.

4.2. Prediction Combining with Single-Wave Data

Combined with the ship roll data and the wave elevation data, the roll motion is predicted for a different advance time. The advance prediction steps n based on the wave elevation input at 1 m from the ship's side are 5, 10, 15, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60 and 70. The number of advance prediction steps based on the wave elevation input at 3 m from the ship's side increases to 120. The number of advance prediction steps based on the wave elevation input at 5 m from the ship's side increases to 160. The errors of the prediction results with different input schemes are summarized in Table 4. The results solely based on the ship's

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own roll data are also listed in the table. Figures 6–8 show the comparison between the time series of roll prediction and the sample data.

Table 4. Roll	prediction	combining	with singl	le-wave data	(unit: deg).

Advance	No Way	ve Data	1 m fro	m Ship	3 m fro	m Ship	5 m fro	m Ship
Prediction Step	RMSE	MAE	RMSE	MAE	RMSE	MAE	RMSE	MAE
5	0.43	1.41	0.28	0.98	0.44	1.39	0.79	2.48
10	0.54	1.53	0.25	0.98	0.51	1.58	0.84	2.84
15	0.57	1.58	0.26	0.90	0.50	1.58	0.86	2.94
20	0.81	3.12	0.27	0.77	0.56	1.64	1.04	3.10
30	1.31	3.48	0.35	1.01	0.53	1.92	0.87	2.55
40	1.36	4.29	0.50	1.29	0.53	1.63	0.90	2.20
50	1.51	4.35	1.02	3.20	0.55	1.80	0.85	2.22
60	1.57	4.48	1.24	3.69	0.56	1.67	0.94	2.71
70	2.22	7.60	1.85	3.90	0.57	1.72	0.91	2.25
80	_	_	_	_	0.66	1.91	0.96	2.59
90	_	_	_	_	0.94	2.43	0.92	2.47
100	_	_	_	_	1.13	3.27	0.98	2.70
110		_	_	_	1.69	5.67	1.00	2.47
120	_	_	_	_	2.19	7.02	1.06	2.24
130	_	_	_	_	_	_	1.23	3.13
140	_	_	_	_	_	_	1.40	3.58
150		_	_	_	_	_	1.94	5.03
160	_	_	_	_	_	_	2.58	7.30

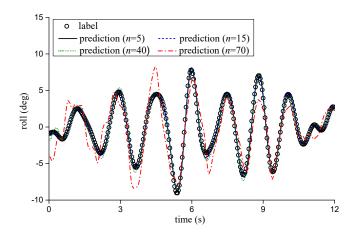


Figure 6. Time series of roll prediction combining wave data 1 m from ship.

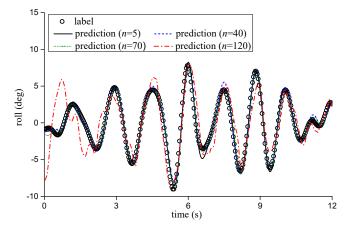


Figure 7. Time series of roll prediction combining wave data 3 m from ship.

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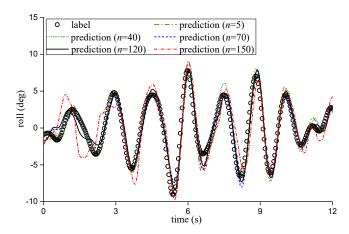


Figure 8. Time series of roll prediction combining wave data 5 m from ship.

Compared with the prediction results solely based on roll input, when the wave elevation data at 1 m from the ship's side are also taken as the input feature, the overall prediction accuracy is greatly improved. Because the wave is the excitation of the ship rolling, the wave and roll data are related. When roll data and wave elevation data are used as input features for training, the LSTM can mine more effective features for roll prediction. By comparing the prediction results of three wave data inputs, the longer the input wave measurement point is from the ship, the longer will the effective advance prediction time of the ship roll take to gradually increase, although the corresponding prediction accuracy still gradually declines. On the one hand, because of the memory effect of the waves, with the increase in the distance between waves and ships, the time of propagation in space needs to be longer, which can effectively improve the prediction duration. On the other hand, the response relationship between the wave and ship motions will weaken with the increase in distance, resulting in the decline of the prediction accuracy. Combined with the wave data at 5 m from the ship, the number of advance steps for ship roll prediction can reach 120.

4.3. Prediction Combining with Multiple-Wave Data

In order to explore the relationship between waves and ship motions, the effect of multiple-wave elevation data as input characteristics on the roll motion prediction is studied. Based on three sets of wave elevation data at 1 m, 3 m, and 5 m from the ship's side, three different wave elevation data schemes and roll data are combined as input features for roll motion prediction. The three wave elevation input forms are based on the wave elevation data at 1 m and 3 m, at 3 m, and 5 m and at 1 m, 3 m, and 5 m. The comparison between the time series of the ship roll predicted based on different input schemes and the sample value is shown in Figures 9–11. The roll prediction error is summarized in Table 5.

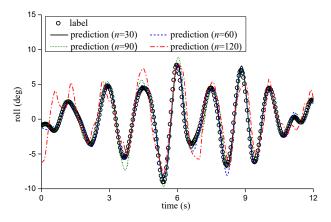


Figure 9. Time series of roll prediction combining wave data 1 m and 3 m from ship.

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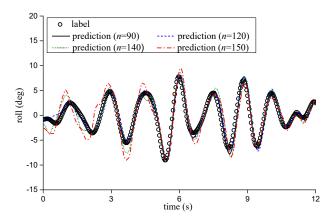


Figure 10. Time series of roll prediction combining wave data 3 m and 5 m from ship.

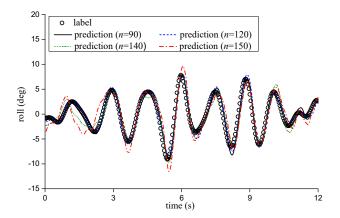


Figure 11. Time series of roll prediction combining wave data 1 m, 3 m and 5 m from ship.

|--|

Advance Prediction	1 m ar from		3 m an		1 m, 3 m and 5 m from Ship	
Step	RMSE	MAE	RMSE	MAE	RMSE	MAE
5	0.29	0.97	0.42	1.17	0.32	1.12
10	0.29	0.88	0.48	1.45	0.40	1.38
15	0.32	1.15	0.49	1.65	0.30	1.01
20	0.37	1.28	0.51	1.55	0.32	0.92
30	0.38	1.18	0.54	1.37	0.39	1.20
40	0.45	1.16	0.60	1.52	0.47	1.46
50	0.56	1.57	0.60	1.60	0.56	1.59
60	0.54	1.69	0.66	1.89	0.60	1.66
70	0.60	1.65	0.63	1.86	0.61	1.82
80	0.71	2.32	0.68	1.93	0.62	1.60
90	0.96	2.94	0.69	2.04	0.65	1.85
100	1.27	3.73	0.79	2.06	0.78	2.05
110	1.65	4.29	0.93	2.51	0.90	2.32
120	2.04	5.71	0.93	2.85	0.91	2.29
130	_	_	1.11	2.81	1.10	2.36
140	_	_	1.30	2.97	1.23	2.54
150	_	_	1.93	4.55	1.92	4.27
160	_	_	2.37	6.08	2.30	5.79

The prediction results based on multiple-wave data have better stability than those based on single-wave data. When the input scheme combines the wave elevation data of $1\,\mathrm{m}$ and $3\,\mathrm{m}$ from the ship, compared with the prediction scheme with the input wave

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height of 1 m from the ship, the prediction accuracy decreases with a small advance prediction step ($n \leq 30$), but the prediction accuracy increases significantly in case of a large advance prediction step ($n \geq 40$). Compared with the prediction scheme with the input wave height of 3 m from the ship, the prediction accuracy based on the two sets of wave input has greatly improved even if the number of advance prediction step is small. With the increase in the number of prediction steps, the prediction accuracy is equivalent to both. When the input scheme is combined with the wave data at 1 m, 3 m, and 5 m from the ship, the stability of the prediction results is improved to a certain extent compared with that based on the two sets of wave input, especially when the advance prediction step is smaller. The prediction accuracy is improved significantly. The number of advance step for the ship roll prediction can reach 150 by combining the three sets of the wave input scheme. Because the wave elevations at different locations have different optimal advance prediction durations, the LSTM neural network could extract the optimal weights of the multiple wave elevations. When the different advance prediction durations are used, the stability of the prediction could be improved as a whole.

5. Conclusions

Based on the LSTM neural network, this paper studies the very short-term prediction of the ship roll motion considering the wave elevation input. The influence of the wave data input on the prediction accuracy and the advance prediction duration is analyzed. Using the wave elevation and ship motion data, the feasibility of considering the wave elevation input to predict the ship roll motion is verified. The following conclusions are obtained.

- Compared with the prediction results solely based on the roll data input, the roll
 motion prediction considering the wave elevation input greatly improves both the
 prediction accuracy and the advance prediction duration;
- (2) For single-wave data input, the LSTM model can mine the mapping relationship between the advance prediction duration and the distance of the wave height measurement points. The effective advance prediction time increases with the increase in the distance from the wave gauge to the ship;
- (3) Compared with the prediction results of the single-wave data input, the prediction of the multiple-wave data input has better stability for different advance times. As the amount of data increases, the overall advance prediction duration of the LSTM model improves, and the model also has better robustness for larger advance prediction durations.

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