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Reconstruction of daily chlorophyll-a concentrations in the transit of severe tropical cyclone Hudhud using the ExDINEOF method

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Tropical regions experience a diverse range of dense clouds, posing challenges for the daily reconstruction of chlorophyll-a concentration data. This underscores the pressing need for a practical method to reconstruct dailyscale chlorophyll-a concentrations in such regions. While traditional data reconstruction methods focus on single variables and rely on specific factors to infer missing data at specific locations, these single-variable methods may falter when applied to tropical oceans due to the scarcity of available data. Fortunately, all oceanographic variables undergo similar atmospheric and marine dynamic processes, creating internal relationships between them. This allows for the reconstruction of missing data through correlations between variables. Thus, this study introduces a multivariate reconstruction approach using the extended data interpolating empirical orthogonal function (ExDINEOF) method to reconstruct missing daily-scale chlorophyll-a concentration data. The ExDINEOF method considers the simultaneous relationships among multiple variables for data reconstruction in tropical oceans. To verify the method's robustness, missing data were reconstructed during the formation and passage of severe tropical cyclone Hudhud through the Bay of Bengal. The results demonstrate that ExDINEOF outperforms traditional data reconstruction methods, exhibiting favorable spatial distribution and enhanced accuracy within the dynamic tropical marine environment. Furthermore, an assessment of marine physical environmental factors associated with chlorophyll-a concentration data provides additional evidence for the ExDINEOF method's accuracy. Notably, the ExDINEOF method offers comprehensive spatial distribution aligned with underlying physical mechanisms governing phytoplankton distribution patterns, detailed phytoplankton growth, bloom, extinction variations in time series, satisfactory accuracy, and comprehensive local-level details.

KEYWORDS

data reconstruction, chlorophyll-a concentration, ExDINEOF, Bay of Bengal, severe tropical cyclone, Hudhud

1 Introduction

Chlorophyll-a concentration data hold significance across diverse scientific domains, including global climate change, the global carbon cycle, biogeochemical cycles, and water quality (Maeda et al., 2019; Ma et al., 2021). Ocean-color remote sensing offers advantages over traditional methods for measuring chlorophyll-a concentrations. However, multiscale optical remote sensing data often suffer from extensive data gaps. The absence of chlorophyll-a concentration data hampers research on marine life's geochemical cycles and global climate change. In tropical regions, persistent cloud cover exacerbates this issue, necessitating data reconstruction to bridge these gaps.

The presence of widespread data irregularities and sparsity significantly impedes the progress of ocean-color remote sensing. Consequently, addressing missing data through reconstruction has emerged as a pivotal research aspect. Numerous researchers have explored data reconstruction methods (Jayaram et al., 2018; Ji et al., 2018; Liu and Wang, 2018; Yu et al., 2019). Optimum interpolation (OI) and data interpolating empirical orthogonal function (DINEOF) methods are commonly used in ocean-color remote sensing data reconstruction and use empirical orthogonal functions (Bretherton et al., 1976; Alvera-Azcárate et al., 2005; Reynolds and Smith, 1994; Waite and Mueter, 2013; Novelli et al., 2016). DINEOF, a parameter-free interpolation technique, was initially proposed by Beckers and Rixen (2003). This method employs empirical orthogonal function decomposition to reconstruct missing data in time series, enhancing efficiency and performance for datasets with substantial missing data and extended time series. Thus, DINEOF has been increasingly used in diverse applications (Beckers and Rixen, 2003; Alvera-Azcárate et al., 2009; Li and He, 2014). The DINEOF technique establishes a model grounded in historical data within a time series of a singular variable, subsequently enabling the prediction of absent data. However, this approach falls short in reconstituting the spatio-temporal domain data when the extent of valid data coverage is exceedingly minimal (less than 2%) (Alvera-Azcárate et al., 2015). If DINEOF is employed to reconstruct these regions, the outcome will be the average value extracted from historical time-series datasets, which would not accurately depict the authentic spatio-temporal distribution. Consequently, during practical applications, raw data marked by a high proportion of absent data tends to be excluded. This, in turn, constrains the applicability of this method within regions where data availability is scant.

While many studies investigate the reconstruction of environmental factors like sea surface temperature (SST) (Bignami et al., 2007; Zhao and He, 2012; Shropshire et al., 2016; Ji et al., 2018; Ma et al., 2021), wind field(Jayaram et al., 2014), turbidity(Alvera-Azcárate et al., 2015), sea surface salinity (SSS) (Alvera-Azcárate et al., 2016), and total suspended matter (NeChad et al., 2011)in ocean-color remote sensing, reconstruction methods for chlorophyll-a concentration data, crucial for global climate change and biogeochemical cycles, remain underdeveloped and warrant further exploration (Gunes et al., 2008; NeChad et al., 2011; Waite and Mueter, 2013). Most studies focus on regions with fewer missing data, such as the Mediterranean Sea (Alvera-Azcárate et al., 2005; Beckers et al., 2006; Antoine et al., 2008; Brando et al., 2015), the northern South China Sea (Ping et al., 2016; Ma et al., 2021), and the North Atlantic Ocean (Everson et al., 1996; Iida and Saitoh, 2007; Xiu et al., 2007; Zhao and He, 2012; Jouini et al., 2013; Waite and Mueter, 2013; Li and He, 2014; Wang and Liu, 2014; Liu and Wang, 2016; Shropshire et al., 2016; Hilborn and Costa, 2018; Wang et al., 2019). However, regions influenced by tropical monsoons or tropical rainy climates, where data scarcity is significant, have received limited attention, like the Bay of Bengal and its environs (Sirjacobs et al., 2011; Park et al., 2013). Temporal resolution also factors into ocean-color data reconstruction. While common reconstruction methods demand sufficient sample data points, current studies on chlorophyll-a concentration data reconstruction typically employ monthly-scale data (Wang and Liu, 2014; Yu et al., 2019). Notably, recent years have witnessed the use of an 8-day scale for ocean-color data reconstruction, generally yielding favorable outcomes (Jayaram et al., 2018; Martinez et al., 2020; Jayaram et al., 2021). Although some investigations have explored global-scale daily-scale data reconstruction (Liu and Wang, 2018; Liu and Wang, 2019), the approach's application on small-to-medium spatial scales remains limited, especially within tropical regions. The rapid generation and dissipation of sea surface chlorophyll-a concentration features, occurring in as little as three days for phytoplankton, accentuate the inadequacy of monthly-scale data for research needs. Consequently, there is an imminent requirement for higher temporal resolution reconstructed data to analyze biogeochemical cycles.

To summarize, current data reconstruction methods primarily rely on historical data of a single variable to establish models and predict missing data for different time periods and regions. In terms of research focus, most studies concentrate on reconstructing SST data, with only a small proportion addressing the reconstruction of missing chlorophyll-a concentration data in remote sensing (Xiao et al., 2019). While research areas for data reconstruction typically involve temperate waters, the challenge escalates in tropical seas due to increased cloud cover and rainfall. Existing works on chlorophyll-a concentration data reconstruction are predominantly conducted on a monthly or 8-day scale, rather than a daily scale (Wang et al., 2019). To capture short-term changes in the ocean environment of tropical oceans, daily-scale long-time-series remote-sensing chlorophyll-a concentration data is imperative. However, the presence of persistent clouds in tropical regions poses a significant hindrance to reconstruction efforts. Furthermore, while a few studies focus on an 8-day scale reconstruction, daily-scale data reconstruction is scarce. Researchers assert that studies on chlorophyll-a concentration data reconstruction should target large-scale, long-time-series data in regions significantly impacted by cloud cover. Nonetheless, the reconstruction of daily data within small-tomedium areas also warrants attention (Pottier et al., 2008; De Montera et al., 2011; Jouini et al., 2013). Thus, conducting a combined multivariate reconstruction of daily chlorophyll-a concentration data in small and medium regions, particularly in typical tropical waters like the Bay of Bengal, holds practical significance, theoretical value, and urgency.

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Several studies have utilized the multivariate OI method for data reconstruction. For instance, Reynolds et al. (1994) employed the OI approach to integrate inverted SST using the Advanced Very High Resolution Radiometer (AVHRR) and actual SST measured by boats or buoys. This successfully produced widely used daily and weekly average temperature analysis products globally (Reynolds and Smith, 1994). Grodsky and Carton (2001) utilized sea surface height (SSH) and the mixing layer rate to validate near-surface currents in the tropical Pacific Ocean (Grodsky and Carton, 2001). These studies demonstrated that employing multiple variables in data reconstruction yields more realistic reconstructed data. Despite the advantages of the OI approach, such as practical interpolation and reduced computational costs, it selectively employs adjacent information for interpolation calculations. This process is subjective and does not objectively estimate covariance between variables or obtain the error statistics needed for OI analysis. In contrast, the DINEOF method establishes relationships within inherent available data for variable reconstruction, eliminating the need for subjective parameter estimation. However, the traditional DINEOF method has limitations, filling missing data solely based on the inherent spatiotemporal relationship of a single variable. When dealing with extensive missing data areas, inadequate samples result in unreliable outcomes. Alvera-Azcárate et al. extended the traditional DINEOF method as ExEOFs in the West Florida Shelf. By incorporating environmental factors like SST, chlorophyll-a, and wind field within a specific space-time region, this improved ExEOFs method effectively reconstructed missing SST data. Comparative analysis with actual SST measurements revealed that the ExEOFs method achieved notably higher accuracy than the traditional monovariate DINEOF method (Alvera-Azcárate et al., 2007). Addressing DINEOF's limitations in reconstructing daily data in tropical seas with high missing data quantities, this study employs an adapted multivariate ExDINEOF method. This approach utilizes combinations of parameters closely linked to chlorophyll-a concentration, including SST, SSH, SSS, and wind field, to reconstruct missing data.

The paper's structure is as follows. Section 2 introduces the study area, data, and methodology. Section 3 discusses the results and data reconstruction validation. Further commentary and conclusions are presented in Sections 4 and 5, respectively.

2 Materials and methods

2.1 Study area

The study area encompasses the Bay of Bengal (Figure 1), situated between 5°-24°N and 79°-123°E. The climate in this region predominantly constitutes tropical oceanic monsoon type, featuring minor variations in daily and annual temperatures. Observed SST averages fall within the range of 25-29°C, with an estimated annual temperature range of about 6°C (Roxy et al., 2014; Thompson et al., 2017). Notably, the average humidity exceeds 80%, and annual precipitation ranges from 1500-2000 mm. This climate pattern results in frequent cloud cover, particularly during the rainy season, posing challenges for optical remote sensing. The study area stands out for its sparse chlorophyll-a concentration data records. Moreover, the Bay of Bengal is among the world's most active tropical cyclone regions. Consequently, investigating missing data reconstruction in this tropical region holds both practical significance and theoretical value.



Study area and the path of the severe tropical cyclone Hudhud. Region A covers the area 9°–12°N and 80°–88°E, and Region B covers the area 16°N and 80°–88°E.

2.2 The severe tropical cyclone Hudhud

On October 7, 2014, the severe tropical cyclone Hudhud developed in the Andaman Sea, subsequently traversing the Andaman Islands toward the Bay of Bengal (Figure 1) (Chacko, 2017). Hudhud brought substantial cloud cover, leading to widespread missing data in daily chlorophyll-a concentration records. Given the brief duration of tropical cyclones, daily data reconstruction proves invaluable in illustrating spatial and temporal chlorophyll-a concentration patterns during short-term cyclones or typhoons. Notably, the reconstruction of daily chlorophyll-a concentration data in the tropical study area around the time of severe tropical cyclone Hudhud encountered formidable challenges.

2.3 Data

Level-3 integrated daily chlorophyll-a concentration data, generated using the OC5 algorithm (ChlOC5) (Gohin et al., 2010), were combined with Level 2 ChlOC5 data from various sensors: the Medium Resolution Imaging Spectrometer, the MODerate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer, the Sea-Viewing Wide Field Sensor, the Visible and Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite, and the Ocean and Land Color Instrument. The spatial resolution of Level-3 integrated data was 4 km (Table 1). As depicted in Figure 2A, multi-year average data coverage in the study area exhibits significant variability. Most areas in the region of interest feature data coverage of around 25-35%, with notably low coverage of approximately 10-15% in the estuarine coastal zone (Figure 2A). Data coverage in October 2014 varies widely, ranging from 3.92% to 82.88%, with a 31-day average coverage of 39.13% (Figure 2B). The presence of only a limited 31day dataset in a tropical sea area with persistent data scarcity throughout the year presents considerable challenges for data reconstruction studies.

Besides, the wind field data of the advanced scatterometer, the photosynthetically available radiation (PAR) data, and the thermal infrared and microwave remote-sensing data from satellite observations of the SST, the SSS, the sea surface density (SSD),

the mixed layer depth (MLD), and the SSH were analyzed in this study (Table 1). Moreover, the Hybrid Coordinate Ocean Model (HYCOM) reanalysis data, combining remote-sensing, in-situ measured, and model-simulated datasets, were utilized, encompassing SST, SSS, SSH, Eastward Sea Water Velocity (Uvelocity), and Northward Sea Water Velocity (V-velocity) parameters (Table 1). Table 1 details the spatial resolutions of the datasets, ranging from 4 km to 25 km for ChlOC5 and PAR data, and 0.25° for SST, SSH, SLA, Wind Speed, and Wind Stress. The resolution for MLD, SSS, and SSD data is 25 km, while HYCOM reanalysis data has a resolution of 1/12°. All datasets, as shown in Table 1, are formatted in Network Common Data Form (NetCDF) format. For easier processing, ChlOC5 and PAR data were resampled to 9 km in MATLAB 2018. Subsequently, all data were integrated into a 3D dataset in MATLAB 2018 for subsequent reconstruction steps, marking the completion of data preprocessing.

2.4 Methods

Marine physical environmental factors, such as SST, wind, sea surface flow field, SSH, and sea-surface chlorophyll-a concentration data, are all impacted by atmospheric and marine dynamics (Figure 3). These factors are inherently interconnected, enabling the utilization of these connections to reconstruct missing data. However, disparities exist between the reconstructed chlorophyll-a concentration data and data reconstructed from other environmental parameters.

2.4.1 Difficulties in reconstructing daily chlorophyll-a concentration in tropical ocean during the transit of severe tropical cyclones

Research efforts have primarily concentrated on reconstructing missing SST data. Notably, chlorophyll-a concentrations significantly impact global climate change and biogeochemical cycles. However, studies on chlorophyll-a concentration reconstruction remain in their nascent stages. This is due to several factors. Firstly, sea surface chlorophyll-a concentrations are influenced by numerous environmental variables, with their

Parameter	Spatial Resolution	Website
ChlOC5	4 km,9 km,25 km	http://hermes.acri.fr/index.php?class=archive
SST	0.25°(About 25 km)	http://www.nodc.noaa.gov/satelliteData/ghrsst
SSH	0.25° (About 25 km)	https://www.aviso.altimetry.fr/index.php?id=422&L=0
PAR	4km,9km,25km	http://hermes.acri.fr/index.php?class=archive
WindField	0.25°(About 25 km)	ftp://ftp.ifremer.fr/ifremer/cersat/products/gridded/MWF/L3/ASCAT/
SSS	25 km	http://marine.copernicus.eu/services-portfolio/access-to-products/
SSD	25 km	http://marine.copernicus.eu/services-portfolio/access-to-products/
MLD	25 km	ftp://my.cmems-du.eu/Core/MULTIOBS_GLO_PHY_REP_015_002/
НУСОМ	1/12°(About 9 km)	https://hycom.org/dataserver/gofs-3pt0/reanalysis



spatial and temporal variability, as well as data distribution irregularities, surpassing those of parameters such as SST and salinity. Moreover, the wavelengths used for chlorophyll-a concentration inversion in remote sensing primarily fall within the blue-green spectrum, susceptible to cloud cover, aerosols, water vapor, and sun glint. Additionally, limitations of inversion algorithms and the influence of turbid waters near shorelines contribute to larger areas of missing chlorophyll-a concentration data compared to other parameters. Consequently, the inversion of sea surface chlorophyll-a concentration data poses greater challenges. These challenges result in extensive missing areas in chlorophyll-a concentration data due to algorithmic effects and cloud interference, leading to inadequate sample sizes for effective reconstruction.

Several complexities emerge when undertaking reconstitution studies for daily chlorophyll-a concentration products in the study area. Initially, the study reconstructed daily-scale chlorophyll-a concentration data in the tropical oceanic region during the transit of severe tropical cyclones. Notably, from October 8 to 12, 2014, when robust tropical cyclones passed through the study area, data coverage remained slightly below 20%. Particularly, data coverage stood at merely 3.92%, 8.05%, and 8.45% for October 10-12, respectively. Secondly, the ExDINEOF method did not incorporate lagged version data, resulting in a reduced sample size. Severe data deficiencies stem from three key factors: tropical marine regions, small and medium spatial scales, and abbreviated time series durations. Even with the inclusion of lagged data, insufficient reference information persists, hindering the reconstruction of missing data points. Thirdly, only 31 days of daily chlorophyll-a concentration data, in contrast to the 180 days utilized for SST reconstruction (Alvera-Azcárate et al., 2007), were employed for reconstructing the daily missing data. This limitation arises due to the brief duration of strong tropical cyclone transit, lasting barely a week. Utilizing data from an extensive time series would result in low-pass filtered outcomes, owing to the Empirical Orthogonal Function (EOF) effect.

2.4.2 The ExDINEOF method

Alvera-Azcárate and colleagues (2007) initially expanded the mono-variate DINEOF method to reconstruct absent SST data in the coastal region of the Gulf of Mexico. The outcomes demonstrated that the extended EOFs (ExEOFs) achieved greater precision than the mono-variate DINEOF. The reconstructed chlorophyll-a concentration data exhibits distinct attributes. Multiple environmental elements, including aerosols, thin clouds, fog, extremely turbid Class-II waters, and sun glint, impact chlorophyll-a concentration data (Sravanthi et al., 2017). As outlined in Mie scattering theory, shorter wavelengths in the blue-green spectrum result in a more pronounced influence of these environmental factors on the chlorophyll-a concentration inversion algorithm (Wang et al., 2020). In contrast, SST measurements derived from thermal infrared inversion possess a larger valid data coverage area compared to chlorophyll-a concentration data, attributed to their longer wavelengths and



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day/night availability (Figure 3). Consequently, the spatio-temporal variability and irregular distribution of chlorophyll-a concentration data surpass those of SST data concerning data reconstruction (Figure 3). Therefore, this study eschewed extensive historical data sets and instead leaned towards the relationship between chlorophyll-a concentration and closely associated environmental factors to reconstruct missing data within a small and medium-sized spatial range in tropical ocean settings.

This section presently examines the connection between the chlorophyll-a concentration datasets and various environmental factors influencing the temporal and spatial fluctuations of short-term chlorophyll-a concentration cycles through the application of the ExDINEOF technique (Ji et al., 2018; Yu et al., 2019). The fundamental mathematical formulation of ExDINEOF can be outlined in the ensuing steps:

$$X_{ExDINEOF} = \begin{pmatrix} a_1 \ a_2 \ a_3 \cdot a_N \\ b_1 \ b_2 \ b_3 \cdot b_N \\ c_1 \ c_2 \ c_3 \cdot c_N \\ d_1 \ d_2 \ d_3 \cdot d_N \\ e_1 \ e_2 \ e_3 \cdot e_N \\ f_1 \ f_2 \ f_3 \cdot f_N \\ g_1 \ g_2 \ g_3 \cdot g_N \end{pmatrix}$$
(1)

where $X_{ExDINEOF}$ is the multivariate reconstruction array; a_1 , a_2 , \dots , a_N are the column vectors of the time series that contain all the space points in matrix a at times 1, 2,..., N. Matrices a, b, c, d, e, f, and g are the chlorophyll-a concentration data and the relevant environmental factors. The size of the matrices is estimated as: a = $M \times N$, $b = O \times N$, $c = P \times N$, $d = Q \times N$, $e = R \times N$, $f = S \times N$, and $g = U \times N$, where M, O, P, Q, R, S, and U are the spatial dimensions of matrices a, b, c, d, e, f, and g, respectively; and N is the temporal dimension of each matrix. Specifically, for severe tropical cyclone Hudhud, the spatial matrices M, O, P, Q, R, S, and U cover the range 78–99°E and 8-23°N with around 263*189 spatial-dimension pixels (the data are resampled to obtain a 9-km resolution to enhance the computational efficiency). The numerical value of N in this context is 31. Consequently, the data pertaining to each of the seven variate products comprises a three-dimensional array containing 26318931 pixels. It should be noted that the spatial size of the matrices M, O, P, Q, R, S, and U can differ, but the numbers of their temporal dimensions must be identical. In this paper, the spatial matrices M, O, P, Q, R, S, and U all have the same size.

The datasets, which are stored in a matrix $X_{ExDINEOF}$ and averaged in time and space, are subtracted beforehand. The missing data are initialized to zero to ensure that they are unbiased with respect to $X_{ExDINEOF}$. Utilizing the initial estimation, a first-order EOF is employed, denoted as (k = 1), for the purpose of executing the initial singular value decomposition (SVD). Subsequently, the absent data are substituted with the derived EOF in the subsequent manner:

$$X_{i,j}^{ExDINEOF} = \sum_{p=1}^{k} \rho_P(u_p)_i (v_p^T)_i$$
⁽²⁾

Where i, j are the spatial and temporal indices of the missing data in matrix $X_{ExDINEOF}$; u_p and v_p are the pth columns of the spatial and temporal EOF U and V; ρ_P is the corresponding singular value, P = 1... k, and k is the number of EOF modes used for reconstruction, where $k = 2,3,4,..., k_{max}$, respectively. The SVD is iterated once more to incorporate the updated values for the absent data. These final two steps are reiterated until convergence is achieved in the values of the missing data. Subsequently, for each iteration index k, an approximation of the missing value is acquired. The most suitable count of EOFs to be retained for the purpose of reconstruction is determined through a cross-validation approach: a subset of data points (typically constituting 1% of the initial dataset) is pre-selected and designated as missing values. During each iteration of EOF estimation, the discrepancy between these initial points and their reconstructed counterparts is computed, allowing for the identification of the optimal number of EOFs that minimizes this discrepancy. Concurrently with the reconstructed dataset, a localized field of error is generated, reflecting the precision of the reconstruction. To enhance computational efficiency, the Lanczos method is employed within DINEOF to compute the empirical orthogonal functions (Alvera-Azcárate et al., 2007).

3 Results

3.1 Reconstructed daily chlorophyll-a concentration data for cyclone Hudhud in the tropical bay of Bengal

Figure 4 illustrates the spatial distribution of daily chlorophyll-a concentration data (ChlOC5) prior to, during, and subsequent to the occurrence of cyclone Hudhud spanning from October 1 to October 30, 2014. In the period preceding the cyclone's occurrence (October 1–5, 2014, depicted in Figures 4A–C), a substantial expanse was occupied by daily data points that were missing. During the passage of cyclone Hudhud (October 7–13, shown in Figures 4D–G), the deficiency in data coverage became more severe, with a considerable area devoid of any data. As the cyclone traversed the region (as evidenced in Figures 4H–O), a substantial portion of data was still found to be absent, except for the case depicted in Figure 4M, where the data coverage was extensive. This absence of data coverage hindered the subsequent analysis of variations in chlorophyll-a concentration post the cyclone's passage.

Figure 5 displays the daily reconstructed chlorophyll-a concentration data achieved through the implementation of the ExDINEOF technique. Upon scrutinizing the spatial arrangement, it can be observed that the reconstructed data effectively reinstated the situation of missing data across a substantial area. The outcomes of the reconstruction were determined to be comprehensive, devoid of any missing data points. Across the overall reconstruction, the values exceeded 1 mg/m³ within the northern coastal region of the Bay of Bengal, particularly at the Ganges River estuary. In certain extreme instances, the values even reached 3 mg/m³. In contrast, for vast offshore regions, the reconstructed values predominantly ranged



(A-O) show the daily original ChlOC5 chlorophyll-a concentration data before, during, and after passage of tropical cyclone Hudrida from October 1–30, 2014. (A–O) show the daily original ChlOC5 chlorophyll-a concentration data at an interval of two days from October 1–30, 2014. The distributions of randomly chosen data points for numbers 1001–1200 (200 data points in total) of the study area are shown as red points.

from 0.1 to 0.3 mg/m³. Moreover, in the middle region of the Bay of Bengal, northwest of the Andaman Islands (as depicted in Figure 1), a significant striped area characterized by maximal chlorophyll-a concentrations was observable. On October 1, 2014, prior to the arrival of cyclone Hudhud, the chlorophyll-a concentration within the striped region was approximately 0.25 mg/m³ (Figure 5A), only slightly higher than that of neighboring areas. Additionally, the striped pattern with respect to chlorophyll-a concentration was not distinctly discernible. However, between October 3 and 7, an augmentation in chlorophyll-a concentration was evident in that region (Figures 5B–D). By October 13, when cyclone Hudhud made landfall (Figure 5G), the chlorophyll-a concentration had risen to approximately 2 mg/m³. Subsequently, the concentration continued to increase, reaching its pinnacle of around 3 mg/m³ (Figure 51), after which it began to recede, stabilizing around 0.3 mg/m³. Ultimately, by October 29, the chlorophyll-a concentration further diminished to roughly 0.2 mg/m³.

Upon analyzing the reconstructed data graph (Figure 5), it becomes apparent that near 90°E and 18°N, situated in the northern sector of the Bay of Bengal, a circular region characterized by low chlorophyll-a concentration began to take shape gradually from October 1 (Figures 5A–F). Between October 15 and 19, this circular pattern became distinctly evident, exhibiting a peripheral chlorophyll-a concentration of approximately 0.1 mg/m³. The central portion of the



circle manifested a slightly elevated chlorophyll-a concentration ranging from 0.2 to 0.3 mg/m³ (Figures 5H–J). This circular pattern persisted until October 29 (Figure 5O).

By comparing Figures 4 and 5, it can be inferred that the ExDINEOF methodology exhibited commendable efficacy in reconstructing the daily missing data within confined regions both before and after the occurrence of tropical cyclone Hudhud. The deficient chlorophyll-a concentration data within the time series were adequately reconstructed within local contexts, whether preceding, during, or succeeding the cyclone's passage. Furthermore, the formation and dissipation of the circular region characterized by lower chlorophyll-a concentration, which would have remained obscured due to data gaps in the initial dataset, were clearly elucidated. This successful demonstration further attests to the practicality of the ExDINEOF reconstruction approach.

3.2 Comparison of the spatial distribution of the reconstructed results using alternative methods

To further evaluate the method's efficacy, namely the ExDINEOF method, alongside DINEOF and the bidirectional autoregressive model (BAR) approaches, were utilized to reconstruct variations in chlorophyll-a concentrations within the study region during and subsequent to the passage of the rapidly changing typhoon. A comparison of the methods was performed based on the spatial distribution of the reconstructed outcomes.

The bidirectional autoregressive model (BAR) employed in this research entails the repetition of forward and backward time-series vectors within MATLAB. The values of the reconstructed missinglike metadata are determined via calculating the mean values of both the forward and backward autoregressive models (Zhang et al., 2009). It can be discerned from Figure 6 that the correlation coefficient between times T and T+1 for chlorophyll-a concentration stands at 0.72, surpassing the requisite threshold of 0.5. As such, the essential prerequisites for BAR data reconstruction are fulfilled.

Through the application of the EOF approach, the reconstructed chlorophyll-a values within the region of missing data undergo iterative decomposition and synthesis until the cross-validated error attains its minimum. The optimal eigenmode retention is then ascertained, aligning with the most effective reconstruction of data. The time series of daily chlorophyll-a concentrations data for the study area was preprocessed using MATLAB and organized into a three-dimensional m×n matrix, where m signifies the daily ChlOC5 data within the study region (spatial, two-dimensional), and n denotes the count of time series ChlOC5 data points (temporal, one-dimensional). For the purpose of extracting oceanic pixels, a land mask was applied to the m×n matrix. Subsequently, the DINEOF package was employed on this matrix to complete the missing daily chlorophyll-a ChlOC5 data.

Figure 7 illustrates the original (Figures 7A, E, I, M, Q) and reconstructed daily ChlOC5 data during the occurrence of severe tropical cyclone Hudhud, derived through traditional univariate DINEOF, BAR, and ExDINEOF data reconstruction methods. Figures 7B, F, J, N, R presents the reconstructed data using the BAR method, focusing on both temporal and spatial dimensions of pixel reconstruction. Consequently, when substantial areas exhibited missing daily data for extended durations, the BAR method encountered challenges in obtaining sufficient samples for autoregressive modeling. In such scenarios, reconstruction would falter due to the absence of valid data, giving rise to noise points due to unnatural pixel transitions (depicted by red circles in Figures 7B, F, G, N, R), consequently failing to capture the surge in bloom and the attenuation of chlorophyll-a concentration information. Clearly, the DINEOF method experienced failure in reconstruction due to the significant lack of original sample data (depicted by red oval boxes in Figures 7C, G, K, O, S).

By contrasting the reconstruction outcomes attained via various methods, as exhibited in Figure 7, it becomes evident that the ExDINEOF approach yielded the most comprehensive spatial distribution of reconstructed results, encompassing the most intricate temporal variations, and offering the most exhaustive local details. In summary, when compared with the commonly adopted univariate DINEOF and BAR methods, the ExDINEOF approach showed superior performance in terms of daily reconstruction for small-scale regions in relation to spatial distribution.

3.3 Accuracy assessment of the reconstructed results for chlorophyll-a concentration data for ExDINEOF and the alternative methods

3.3.1 Evaluation of the accuracy of randomly selected points via bootstrap-type analysis

In this study, a validation dataset comprising 200 randomly selected points per day (totaling 6200 data points) with valid data, yet without data reconstruction, was employed. These pre-selected points were subjected to one-to-one comparison with the reconstructed data points at corresponding locations. The findings demonstrated that the ExDINEOF method exhibited satisfactory accuracy, along with stability in correlation coefficients, residuals, and relative errors, thereby showing potential for application.

A prevalent technique for evaluating data reconstruction methods involves conducting a bootstrap-type analysis. This entails removing a portion of the original non-missing data before data reconstruction (with these data points not being involved in the reconstruction calculations). Subsequently, the removed original data is compared with the reconstructed data. In this study, the same methodology was adopted to validate the results of data reconstruction. Specifically, 200 pixels (corresponding to numbers 1001–1200 of the original data) were



FIGURE 6

Correlation and residual analysis of chlorophyll-a concentration data at adjacent times: (A) Correlation of chlorophyll-a concentration data at times T and T+1 of the time series. (B) Residual distribution of the correlation of the time-series data between adjacent times.



Spatial distribution of the original (A, E, I, M, Q) and reconstructed ChIOC5 data using the BAR (B, F, J, N, R), DINEOF (C, G, K, O, S), and ExDINEOF (D, H, L, P, T) methods.

randomly chosen within the study area to assess the ExDINEOF method (as depicted in Figure 4). The outcomes of data reconstruction for a small spatial scale on a daily basis are presented in Figure 8.

The outcomes of data reconstruction were demonstrated for the 31-day time series of tropical cyclone Hudhud, encompassing its occurrences before, during, and after transit from October 1 to 31, 2014. In this process, the 200 sample points were preemptively removed to facilitate comparison. The time series correlation coefficients between the reconstructed and the original data are introduced in Figure 8, where the highest correlation coefficient exceeded 0.95 and the lowest correlation coefficient stood around 0.6. Among these coefficients, a certain level of variability was observed. The overall correlation coefficient between the original and ExDINEOF data for the 6200 data points was 0.859. Additionally, the data for residuals and relative errors exhibited robustness (Figure 9).

3.3.2 Evaluation of accuracy of time series for selected spatial points

Conducting data reconstruction studies within the estuarine coastal zone, characterized by heightened dynamic forces in its water bodies compared to other regions, poses increased challenges. In this regard, the region delineated by the red dashed box in panel (a), situated at the mouth of the Ganges River in the northern Bay of Bengal, was singled out for time series assessment. A comparison of the absolute values and trends of the 30-day time series (outliers excluded) was carried out based on the regional mean.

The reconstructed values for the regional average preceding, during, and subsequent to the passage of tropical cyclone Hudhud over 30 consecutive days were selected to illustrate the phytoplankton's biogenesis and extinction processes. Additionally, the 30-day time-series data reconstructed by the three methods were compared with the original satellite data to ascertain the method yielding the most accurate absolute results and trends in



the time-series changes. Panel (b) of Figure 10 presents a comparison of the regional averages for the 30-day time series within the test area. The red dotted line in panel (b) signifies that the concentration values of chlorophyll-a within the phytoplankton in this region were low (around 4 mg/m³) from the start of October until approximately day 10. From October 12, the chlorophyll-a concentration values surged rapidly, peaking around October 23 (12 mg/m³), before swiftly declining to around 4 mg/m³. The complete journey of phytoplankton's growth and subsequent extinction can

be traced by examining the regional average values displayed in panel (b) spanning from day 1 to day 30.

The original chlorophyll-a concentration data and the reconstructed remote sensing data (validated regional average) were compared in terms of trends, mean values, and correlation coefficients. In panel (b), the differences in absolute values of the reconstructed and original values for the 30-day time series within the region were compared. In the initial 5 days of October, the BAR reconstruction exhibited significant differences in both trend and



absolute value due to the scarcity of sample data arising from the extensive missing data area. This disparity notably improved by mid-October, as the area of missing data diminished and sample size increased. Both DINEOF (triangular line) and ExDINEOF (rectangular line) closely aligned with the original satellite data in terms of overall trend, making it difficult to discern apparent distinctions between the two methods from panel (b). Panel (c) facilitates a comparison of the mean values for the study area (panel (a)), indicating that the mean values for ExDINEOF showed the least divergence from the original data, while the BAR reconstruction exhibited the largest error. A correlation analysis between the original and reconstructed data was carried out, with panel (d) illustrating that the correlation coefficient between the ExDINEOF data and the original data stood at 0.748, surpassing both DINEOF (R of 0.714) and BAR (R of 0.592).

Overall, the reconstructed data reflect the phytoplankton's growth and extinction processes, with ExDINEOF yielding superior results for reconstructed outcomes, followed by DINEOF. Meanwhile, the BAR results proved the most variable, as they were heavily contingent upon the number of sample data available.

4 Discussion

4.1 Marine physical environmental factors associated with chlorophyll-a concentration

Overall, in Region B (depicted in Figure 1), traversed by cyclone Hudhud within the central-western expanse of the Bay of Bengal, the flow field's velocity exhibited continuous augmentation, reaching its zenith during October 9–13 (Figures 11E–G). Notably, during intense winds, the sea surface height (SSH) in the region diminished to its nadir during October 9–13, subsequently showing a gradual ascent. The reconstructed chlorophyll-a concentration achieved its zenith during October 15–19 (Figures 5H–J), subsequently experiencing a decline. Moreover, a circular striped area with low SST was discernible in the region during October 9–15 (Figures 12E–I). The SSH and SST values exhibited an inverse relationship with the chlorophyll-a concentration. Specifically, lower SSH and SST values corresponded to higher chlorophyll-a concentration. However, a discernible time lag existed between SSH, SST, and chlorophyll-a concentration, with the maximal chlorophyll-a concentration



occurring approximately 4–5 days subsequent to the nadir in SSH and SST values (Figure 13F).

It should be noted that both Region B and Region A (corresponding to the regions of Figure 1) displayed areas characterized by low SSH but high flow rates. However, Region A exhibited low chlorophyll-a concentration. As depicted in Figure 12, an anomalous region with considerably lower SST (approximately 3°C below surrounding areas) was evident in Region B, contrasting with Region A's elevated SST values (Figure 13D).

In conclusion, a discernible correlation emerged between chlorophyll-a concentration and the variation of environmental factors. Specifically, anti-clockwise cyclonic winds (Figure 13A) induced anti-clockwise sea surface current rotation, culminating in an anti-clockwise vortex (Figure 13B). These forces dispersed surface waters into adjacent regions, consequently lowering sea surface height within the eddy zone compared to its surroundings (Figure 13C). This, in turn, triggered the upwelling of cooler nutrient-rich waters from the depths to the surface through Ekman Pumping, leading to lower sea surface temperatures than neighboring regions (Figure 13D).

Phytoplankton underwent distinct movements based on the sea layers. On the one hand, Ekman pumping led to the upwelling of subsurface phytoplankton into the sea surface layer. On the other hand, phytoplankton blossomed in the mixed layer post-upwelling of cold water. Adequate temperature, ample light, and nutrients from cold water beneath facilitated phytoplankton bloom, peaking 4-5 days after the severe tropical cyclone passage (Figures 13F, 5I, J). Subsequently, nutrient depletion reduced phytoplankton amounts (Figures 5M–O). Reflecting upon this and taking environmental elements into account, the ExDINEOF-based reconstructed chlorophyll-a concentrations excellently documented phytoplankton development pre, during, and post the severe tropical cyclone passage. These findings underscore the efficacy of employing the ExDINEOF technique for reconstructing daily-scale chlorophyll-a concentrations.

4.2 Analysis of the causes of differences in the accuracy of the time series

Figure 14 shows the spatial distribution of points (red data points within the red oval box) displaying correlation coefficients exceeding 0.8 (Figures 14A–L) and hovering around 0.6 (Figures 14M–R) between reconstructed and original data. As highlighted by Figure 14, the distribution of points with correlation coefficients exceeding 0.8 and around 0.6 lacks a discernible pattern. To probe into the reasons behind discrepancies between original satellite and ExDINEOF-reconstructed data, the relative error encompassing the entire Bay of Bengal was calculated.

To scrutinize the technical proficiency of ExDINEOF, an evaluation of the spatial distribution of relative errors was executed on several days following the severe tropical cyclone Hudhud's transit. Data for October 16 and 18 pertained to phytoplankton blooms, while data for October 24 and 25 related to phytoplankton extinction.



days from October 1-30, 2014.

Figure 15 displays the original satellite data in the left column (a, d, g, j), outcomes of ExDINEOF reconstruction in the middle column (b, e, h, k), and relative errors between the two in the right column (c, f, i, l). The spatial distribution of relative errors generally fell below 0.3 across most areas. Especially on October 25, when phytoplankton were diminishing, relative errors were mostly below 0.1. Notably, ExDINEOF didn't manifest significantly higher relative errors in the nearshore area-typically marked by substantial errors and complex influencing factors. This highlights ExDINEOF's applicability in nearshore regions characterized by high turbidity, dynamics, and complexity. Regions featuring substantial relative errors were predominantly situated near the phytoplankton blooms zone within the central Bay of Bengal.

Instances of rapid phytoplankton blooms and extinctions are marked by their high-frequency characteristics in remote sensing data. The spatial distribution of the relative errors provides insight. Notably, ExDINEOF successfully reconstructs a significant portion of the high-frequency information, displaying reasonable spatial distribution and discernible texture features. However, certain aspects of high-frequency information remain filtered out due to the inherent low-pass filtering nature of DINEOF. Consequently, the relative errors exhibit greater magnitudes in areas where phytoplankton blooms and extinctions manifest prominently.

4.3 Differences between the DINEOF and **ExDINEOF** methods

ExDINEOF and DINEOF methods distinctly diverge in outcomes, suggesting distinct intrinsic mechanisms at play. The conventional DINEOF method hinges on an extensive time series of sample datasets to identify trends within data. This method then



extracts key modes of these trends to define the overall spatiotemporal characteristics of the original dataset, thus excelling at recuperating trends within long-term data. However, DINEOF tends to filter out spatial information at small and medium scales, as well as high-frequency information, over short timespans, treating them as noise.

In contrast, ExDINEOF eschews dependence on extended sample information, reconstructing missing data based on inherent nonlinear correlations between various environmental factors and simultaneous chlorophyll-a concentrations. These correlations arise as both factors are simultaneously influenced by atmospheric and oceanic dynamical processes. ExDINEOF captures high- and low-frequency information adeptly, demonstrating heightened sensitivity to high-frequency information (i.e., day-scale, rapid non-long-term shifts). This renders ExDINEOF effective in reconstructing missing chlorophyll-a concentrations within dynamic, nearshore water bodies. This distinction likely underpins differences in time series accuracy.

Conventional DINEOF has some drawbacks: (1) It inherently performs low-pass filtering and smoothing within three-dimensional spatio-temporal data across time and space dimensions. A limited set of key modes characterizes the overall spatio-temporal traits, favoring long-term trend analysis. However, this method erases small-to-medium-scale spatial and temporal information as noise. (2) Randomly selected cross-validation data for DINEOF reconstruction can incorporate anomalous values, propagating errors if these data



points are flawed. The selection of such data significantly influences subsequent error determination, optimal reconstruction mode, and the number of reconstructions. (3) To ensure reconstruction precision, pixels within time series covering less than a certain ratio (2%) must be preemptively removed, marking them as land areas. Failing to do so results in the reconstructed image becoming an average of the original, potentially leading to reconstruction failure. This issue historically prompted reconstructions on a monthly scale to ensure adequate data samples (Wang and Liu, 2014; Wang et al., 2019).

ExDINEOF supersedes original DINEOF due to: (1) Embracing the self-adaptive nature of original mono-variate DINEOF, negating the need for prior variable correlation values. (2) Recovery of the same variable's correlations at different moments and of different variables at the same moment. (3) Utilization of spatial and temporal proximity to reconstruct missing data based on closely correlated factors' signals. (4) Incorporating multiple data sources like thermal infrared remote sensing, optical remote sensing, microwave remote sensing, numerical modeling, and observations, all influenced differently by clouds and thus complementary (Figure 3).

5 Conclusion

This paper presents the adaptation and utilization of the ExDINEOF, a DINEOF-based data reconstruction method, for the purpose of reconstructing daily chlorophyll-a concentration data while considering various closely linked environmental factors. The ExDINEOF method, initially devised for small-scale daily reconstruction of SST data in the West Florida Shelf Alvera-Azcárate et al., 2007), was applied to reconstruct daily chlorophyll-a concentrations in the challenging context of a severe tropical cyclone passage over the Bay of Bengal, marked by limited data availability. The improved ExDINEOF proved valuable in reconstructing fine-grained daily chlorophyll-a concentrations during the transit of a severe tropical cyclone, with an emphasis on local spatial information. Comparative analysis was undertaken among the ExDINEOF method and similar data-reconstruction techniques, with a focus on the spatial distribution of the reconstructed outcomes. Furthermore, to gauge the absolute accuracy of the original satellite data and the reconstructed data, a bootstrap-type analysis was executed. This involved removing a portion of the initial data (specifically satellite chlorophyll-a measurements in this scenario) prior to the data reconstruction



process. Subsequently, the removed original data were juxtaposed against the reconstructed data. Additionally, a time series comparison was performed for selected spatial points to further evaluate the performance of the ExDINEOF method.

The findings unequivocally demonstrate that the ExDINEOF method successfully recuperated the absent daily chlorophyll-a concentrations within the timeframe of a typical severe tropical cyclone. This was achieved with comprehensive and detailed spatial information at a local scale. Moreover, the method aptly captured the progression of phytoplankton growth, bloom, and extinction. In terms of spatial distribution of the reconstructed data, the ExDINEOF method showed superior results when contrasted with other prevalent data reconstruction methods. Evaluation of the accuracy for chlorophyll-a concentration data reconstruction confirmed that the ExDINEOF method surpassed the BAR method and the traditional mono-variate DINEOF method in terms of accuracy.



The ExDINEOF approach yielded satisfactory outcomes in reconstructing daily chlorophyll-a concentrations within the designated study area. These results serve as a valuable reference for future endeavors focused on reconstructing daily chlorophyll-a concentrations in similar small-to-medium regions. Additionally, they lend support to subsequent investigations concerning the impact of short-term, small-scale fluctuations in environmental factors on marine phytoplankton. Nevertheless, the methodology employed in this investigation carries certain limitations. First, the validation data points were constrained due to the abbreviated duration of the severe tropical cyclone. Second, the multitude of environmental factors influencing chlorophyll-a concentrations is intricate and diverse. As a consequence, not all these factors were incorporated into the reconstruction model. Looking ahead, with the advancement of numerical simulation technology in marine ecology, the challenge of reconstructing missing (daily) data can be tackled through the amalgamation of remote sensing and numerical modeling.

Data availability statement

The original contributions presented in the study are included in the article/supplementary material. Further inquiries can be directed to the corresponding author.

Author contributions

All authors contributed substantially to the design of this study, the analysis of the data, drafting the work, and interpreting result. ZW, PD, and QZ conceived and designed the framework of this research; ZW performed the experiments and wrote the paper; JD analyzed the data; SQ, and XD gave comments and suggestions to the manuscript; JL checked the writing and provided many helpful suggestions. All authors contributed to the article and approved the submitted version.

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Conflict of interest

The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

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