

**Analysis of a beach as a time-  
invariant linear input-output  
system of marine litter**  
(Kataoka et al., MPB, 2013)

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# Motivation1

To understand beach responses to marine litter inputs from offshore

← In order to assess impacts of the litter on the beach environment and/or take measures for scenarios of natural disasters or run-off accidents



2011 Tohoku-oki Earthquake

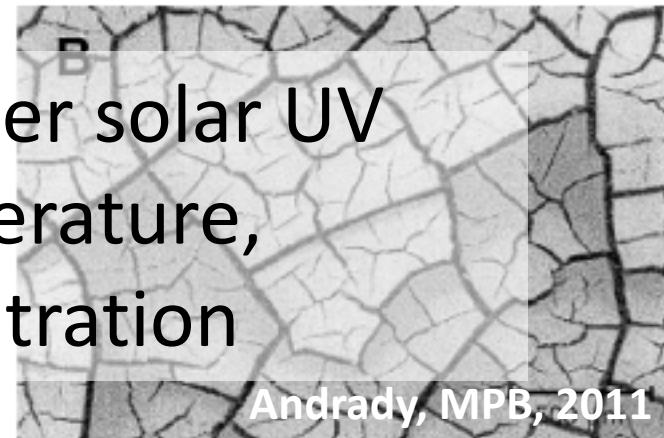
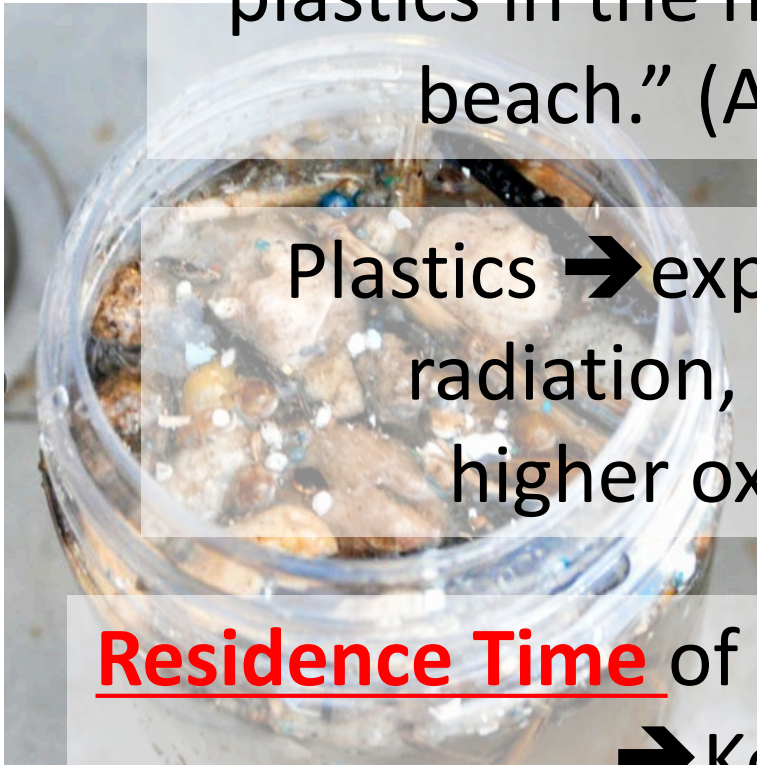
## Motivation 2

Beach → Hot spot of microplastic generation

“The most likely site for generation of microplastics in the marine environment is the beach.” (Andrady, MPB, 2011)

Plastics → exposed to higher solar UV radiation, higher temperature, higher oxygen concentration

Residence Time of (Macro) Plastics on Beaches  
→ Key Parameter



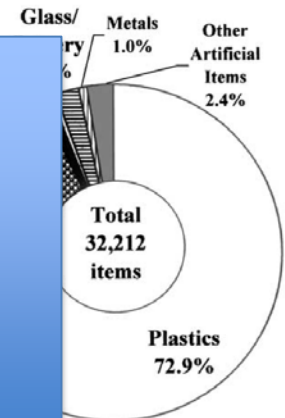
# Previous Studies on Beached Macro Plastics

## Abundance and categorization of beached litter

e.g., Walker et al., 1997;  
Kusui and Noda, 2003;  
Ivar do Sul and Costa, 2007;  
Ryan et al., 2009;  
Ribic et al., 2012.

Present Beach Environment,  
Its variability Trend,  
Its origin

Residence time  
Beach Response



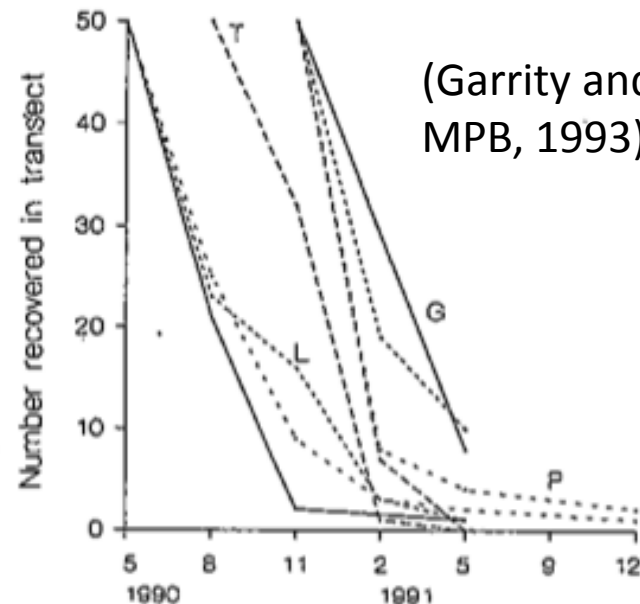
(a, MPB, 2003)

## Residence Time

e.g., Garrity and Levings (1993);  
Williams and Tudor, 2001;  
Bowman et al., (1998)

### Mark-recapture (MR) Experiment

G&L → 50 target items in 1\*50m  
transect were sprayed with the  
same color



(Garrity and Levings,  
MPB, 1993)

# Objective

Time decay of population ← Linear System Analysis

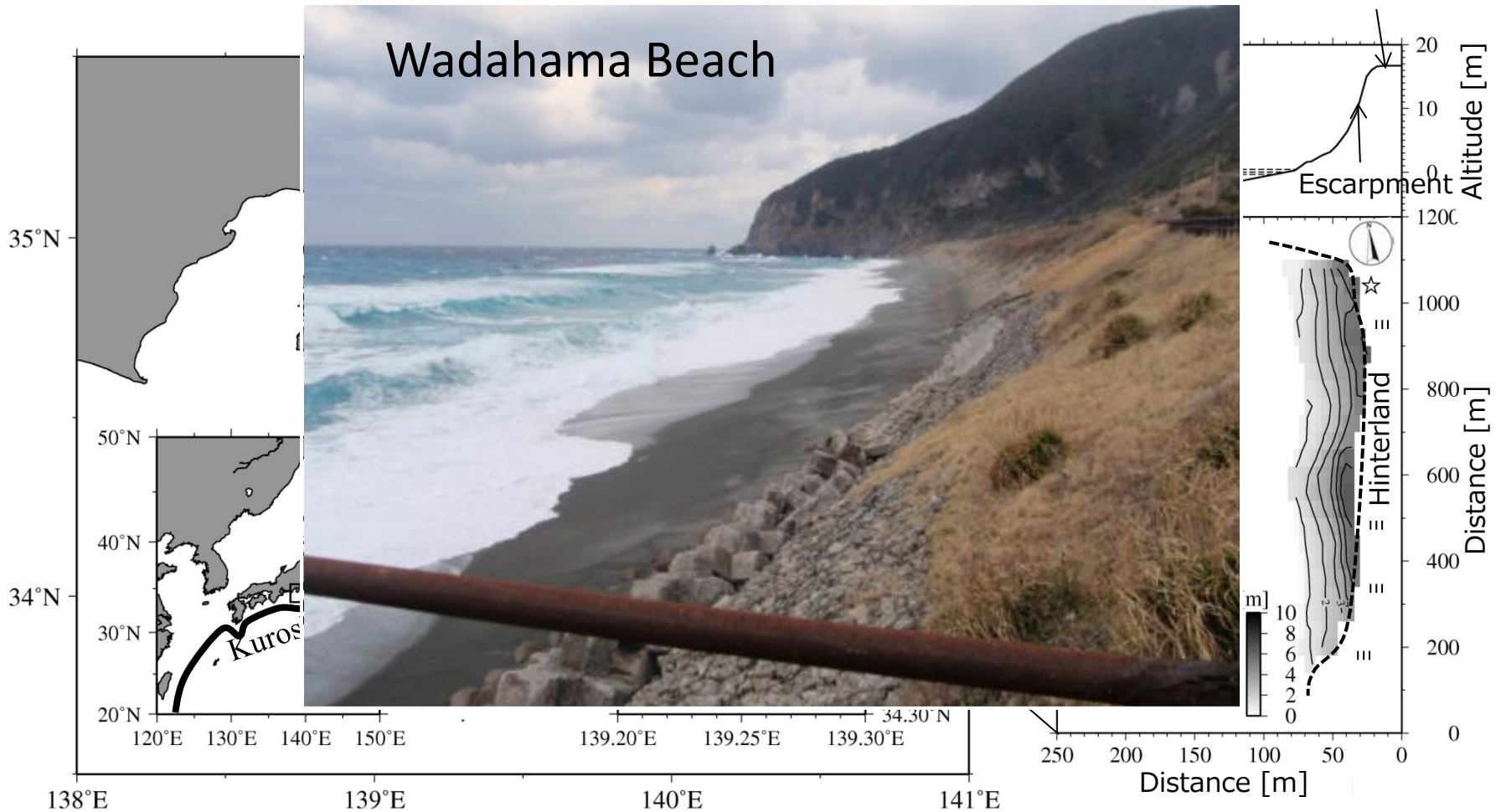


Unit impulse response of the beach to litter input

We consider a beach as a linear black box and measure the residence time by the MR experiment, and investigate the system characteristics and beach response to idealized litter inputs by applying linear system analysis.

# MR Experiment Study Field

Wadahama Beach



# MR Experiment

## Date and Target Items

▪ **Date:** 2011/09/30 ~ (@ 2-3 months)

2011: 09/30, 10/27, 11/24, 11/26

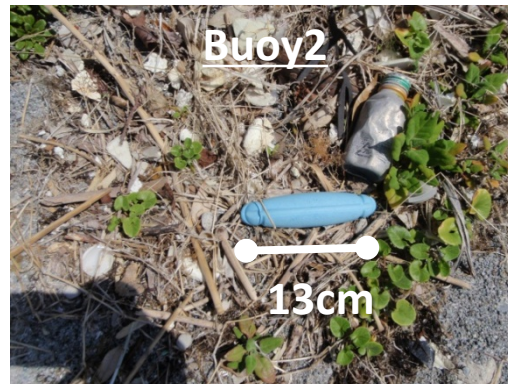
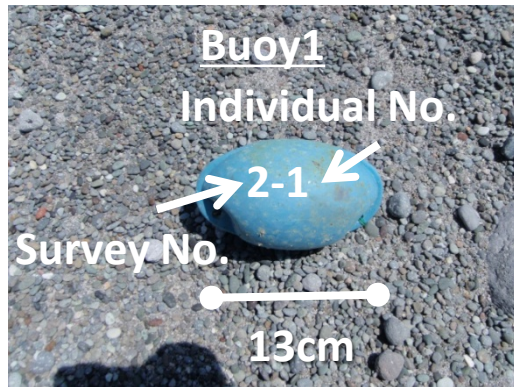
2012: 01/26, 03/23, 06/29, 08/21, 11/08, 12/27

2013: 02/27, 05/08, 06/27, 08/31, ...

▪ **Target Items:**

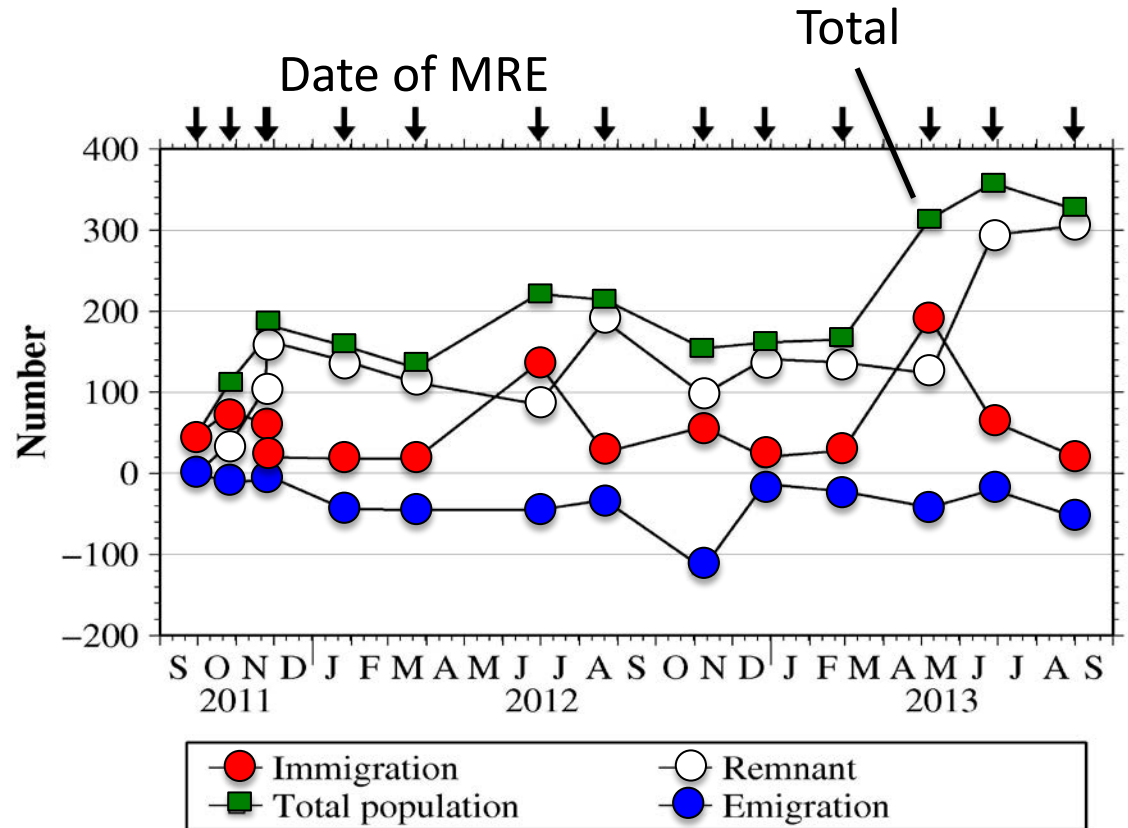
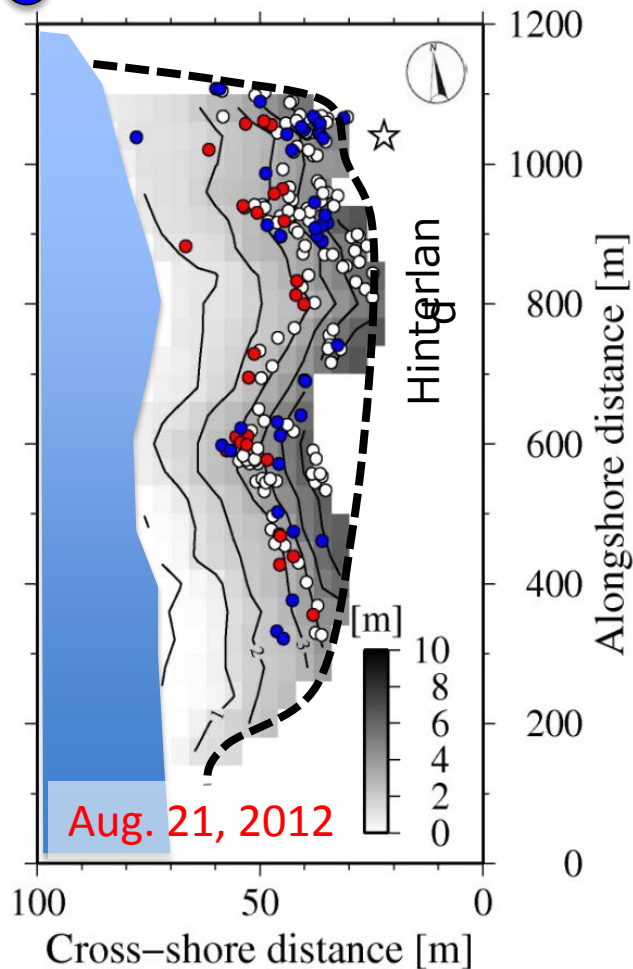
Plastic Fishing Floats (**H**ardly moved by wind, **F**ound on many Japanese beach,  
Buoy2 containing a high concentration of Pb (Nakashima et al., EST, 2012) )

Putting ID number and Measuring Position by Handy GPS Receiver  
(measurement error: 3m)



# Time series of Immigration, Remnant Emigration and Total

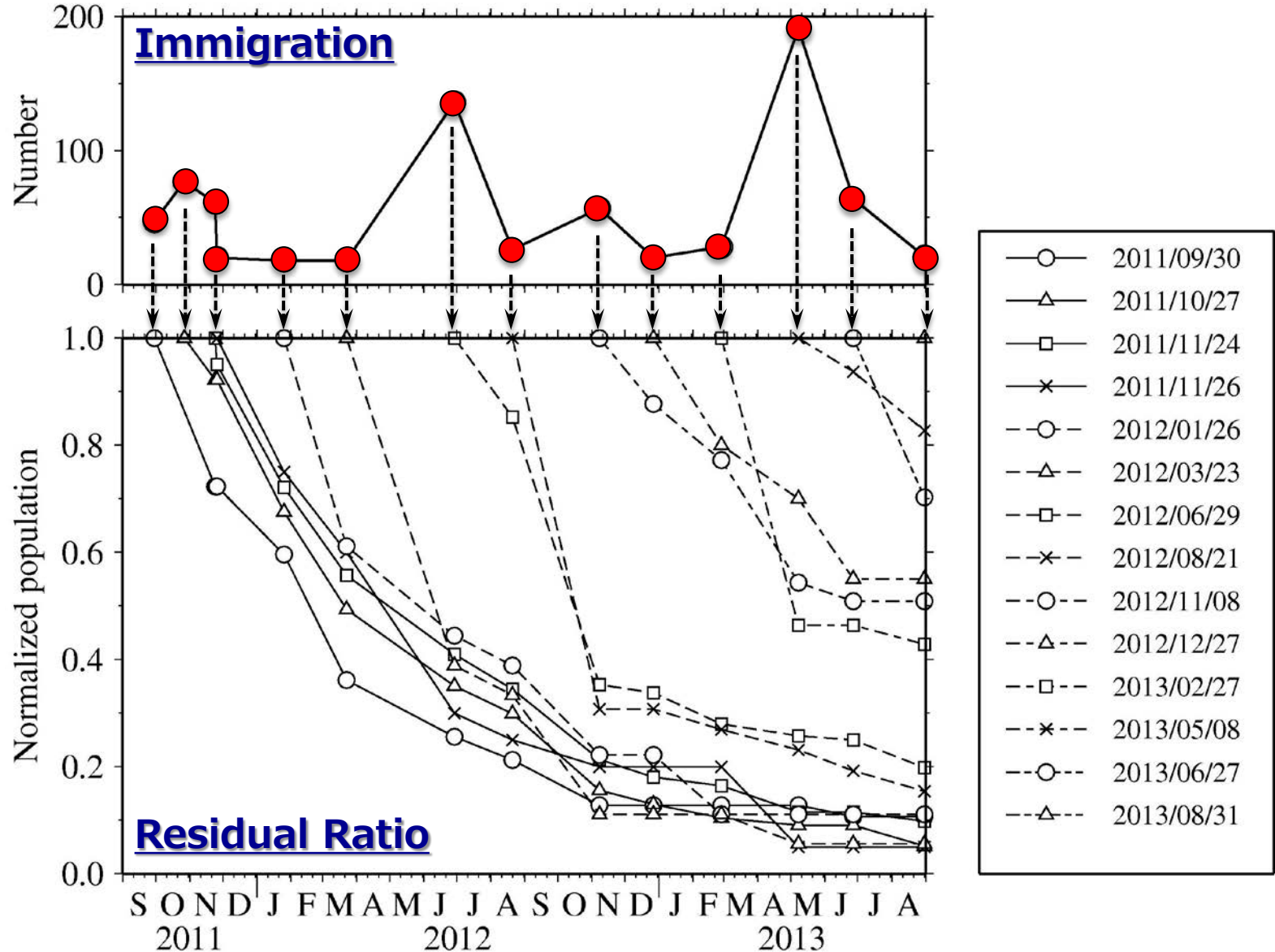
- Immigration
- Emigration
- Remnant



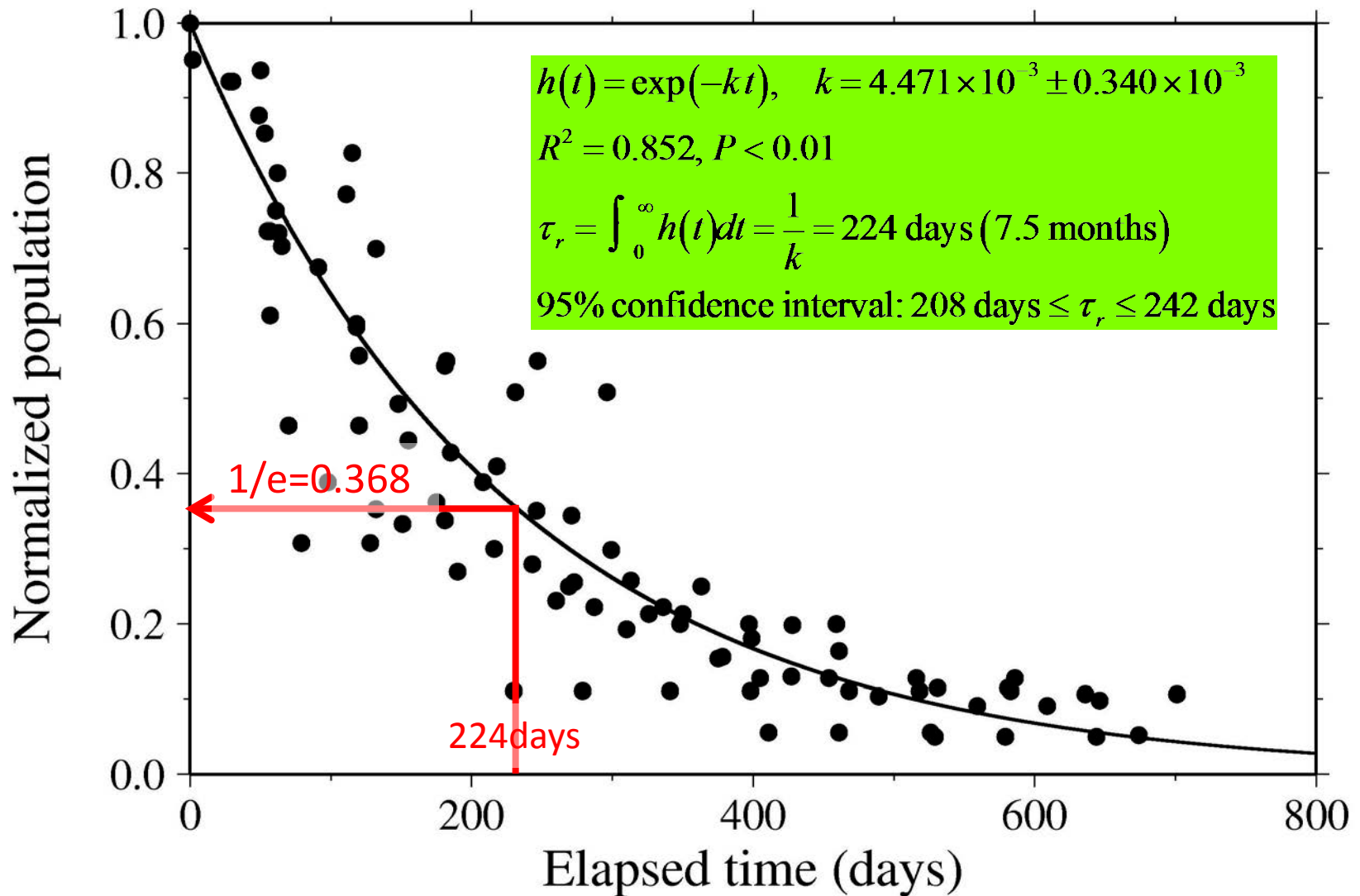
\*Beach surveys measure the total population, not the immigration.



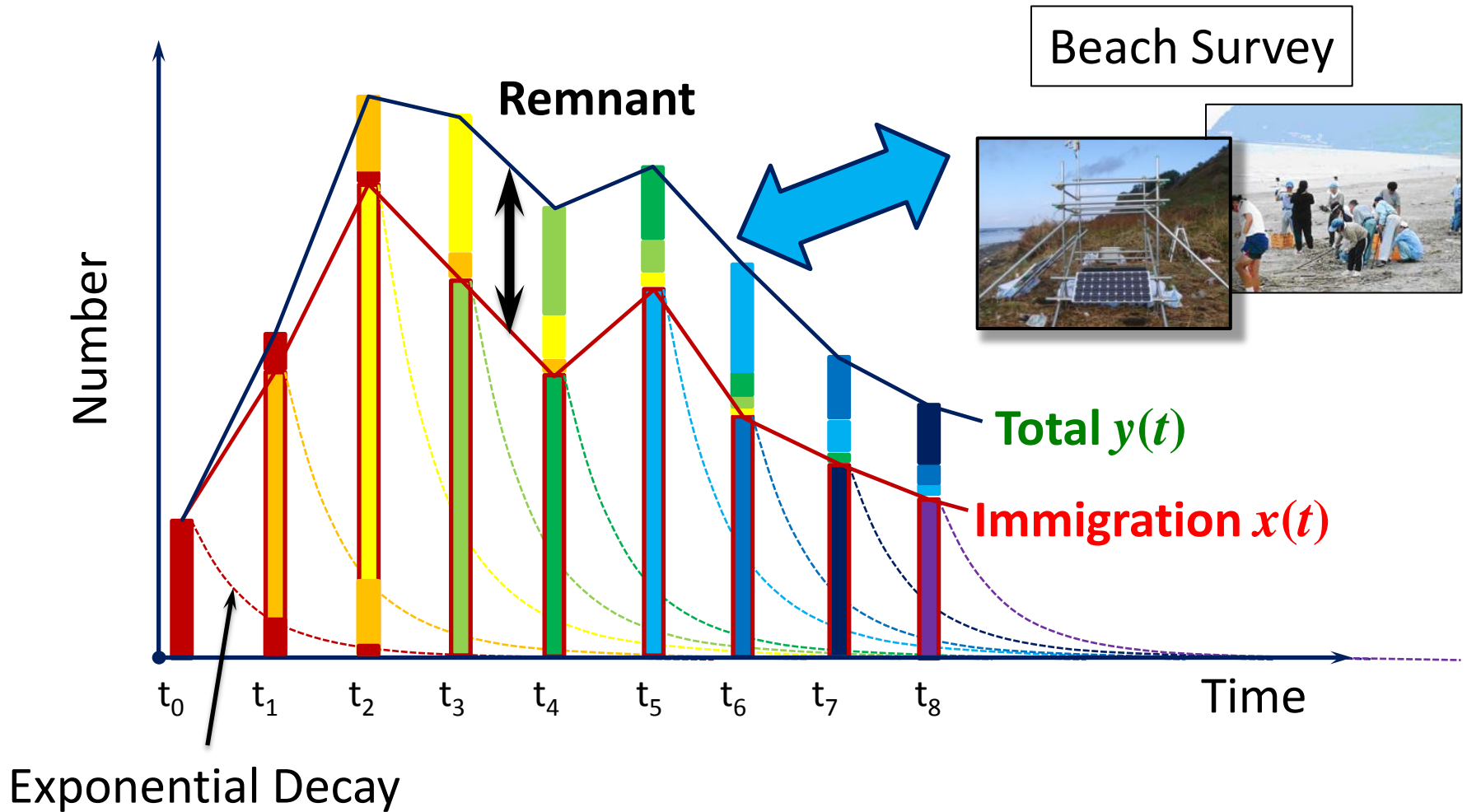
# Cohort Population Decay



# Residence Time of Wadahama Beach



# Relation between Immigration, Remnant and Total



# Wadahama Beach as a time-invariant liner system



**Output  
(Total)**

$$y(t) = \int_0^t x(\tau) h(t - \tau) d\tau$$

**Input (Immigration)**

**Unit Impulse  
Response (UIR)**

$$h(t) = \exp(-kt) = \exp\left(-\frac{t}{224}\right)$$

residence time

# Wadahama Beach as a time-invariant liner system



Output  
(Total)

$$y(t) = \int_0^t x(\tau) h(t - \tau) d\tau$$

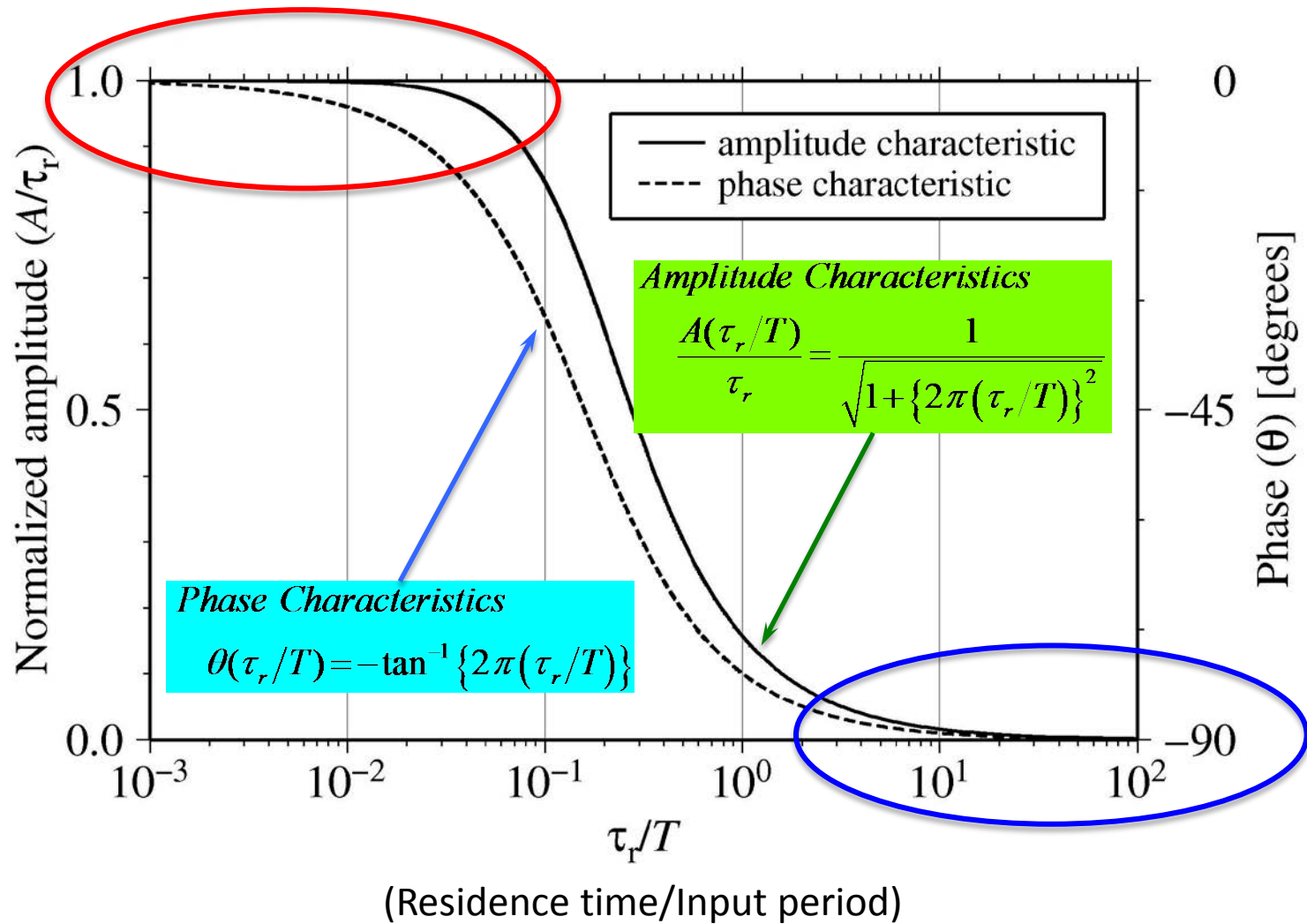
Input (Immigration)

Unit Impulse  
Response (UIR)

$$h(t) = \exp\left(-\frac{1}{\tau_r} t\right) = \exp\left(-\frac{t}{224}\right)$$

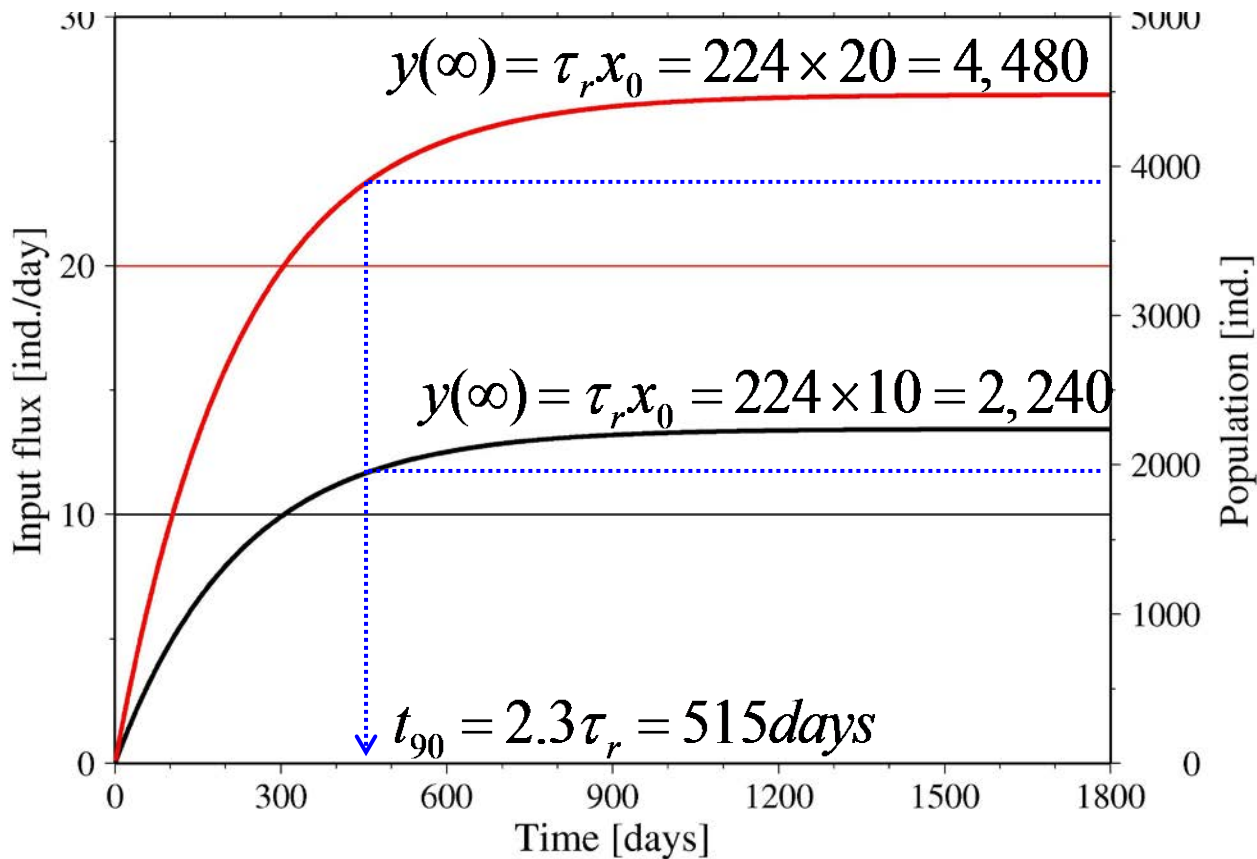
Residence time

# Amplitude and Phase Characteristics



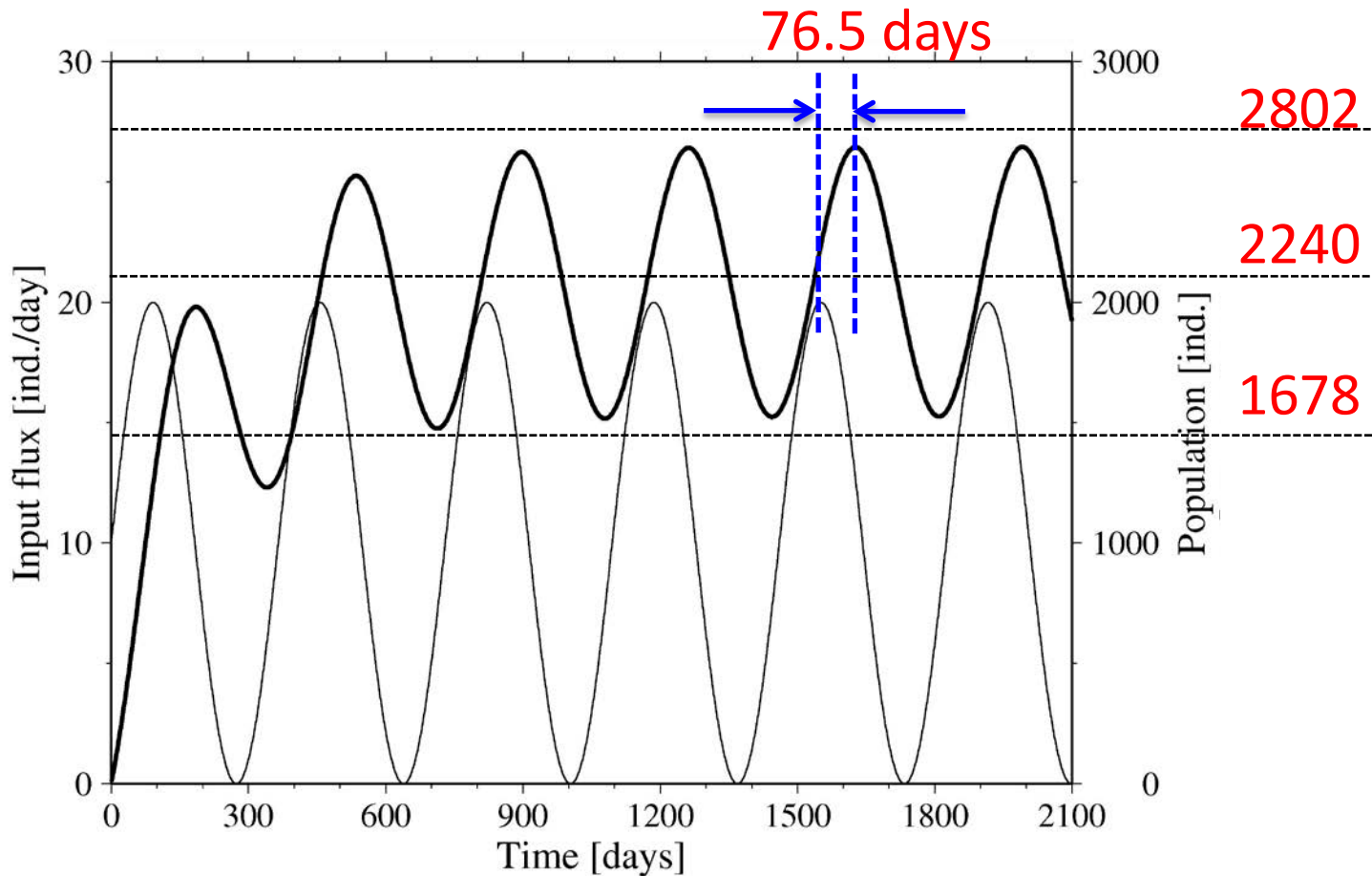
# Wadahama Beach Response to Constant Input

$$y(t) = \int_0^t x_0 e^{-(t-\tau)/\tau_r} d\tau = \tau_r x_0 \left[ 1 - \exp\left(-\frac{t}{\tau_r}\right) \right] \Rightarrow y(t) = \tau_r x_0$$



# Beach Response to Constant + Sinusoidal Input

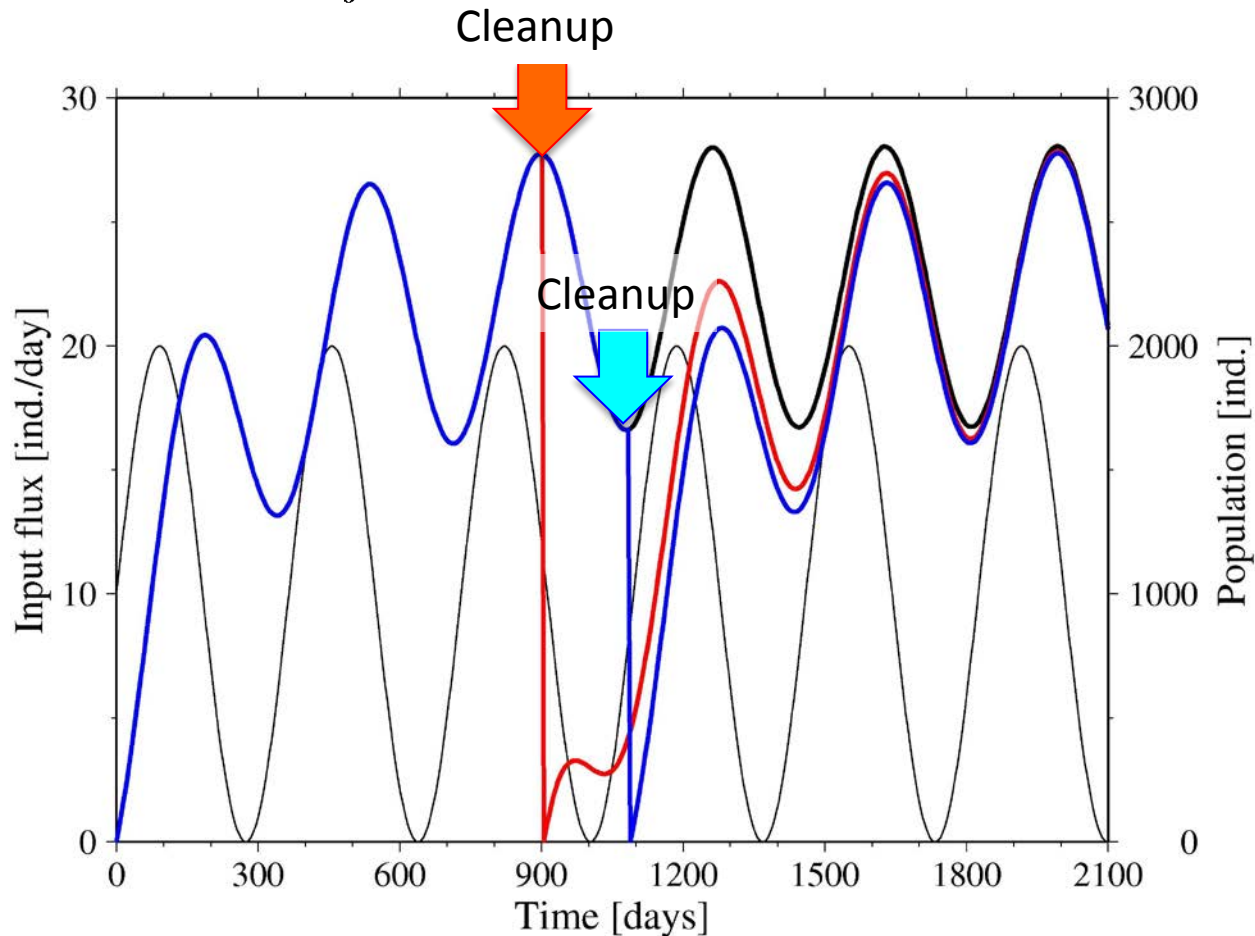
$$y(t) = \int_0^t \{10 + 10 \sin(2\pi t/365)\} e^{-(t-\tau)/\tau_r} d\tau$$





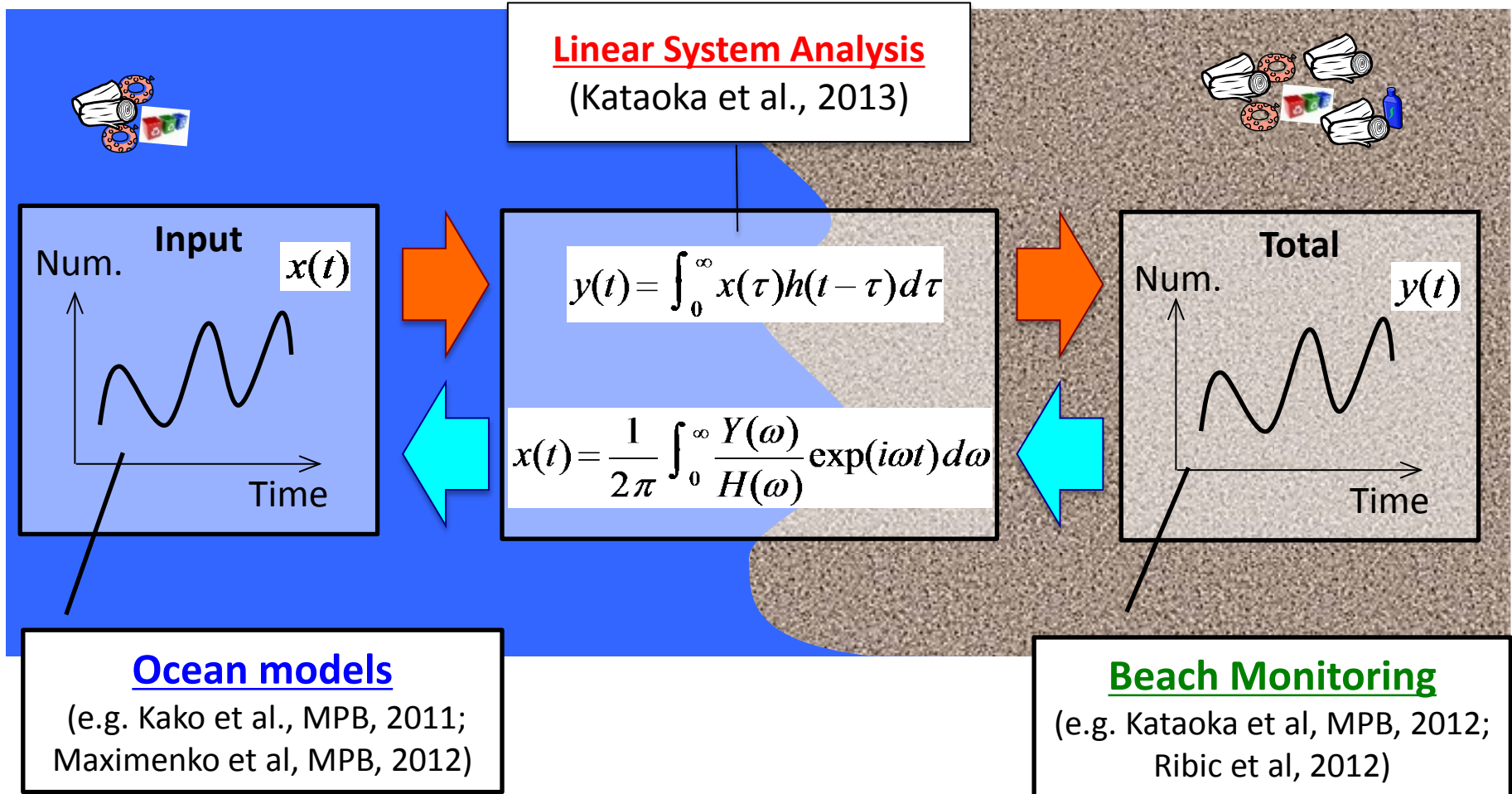
# Beach Response to Cleanups

$$y(t) = \int_0^t \{10 + 10 \sin(2\pi t/365)\} e^{-(t-\tau)/\tau_r} d\tau$$



# Linear System Analysis

## → Mediator between Ocean Models and Beach Monitoring



# Future work

It is not realistic to conduct long-term MR experiments of all beaches involving human effort.

➔ We are developing a mathematical model of residence time as a function of hydro statistics, so that we will be able to produce a residence time map for a region of interest with much less effort.

➔ The map would allow us to assess the impacts of marine litter caused by natural disasters and/or loss of flow accidents on beaches and to take measures to minimize the overall damage in the region.

# Characteristics of Wadahama Beach System

**Frequency  
Response (FR)**

$$H(\omega) = \int_0^{\infty} h(t) \exp(-i\omega t) dt.$$

**Amplification  
Characteristics**

$$A(\omega) = |H(\omega)|$$

**Phase  
Characteristics**

$$\theta(\omega) = \tan^{-1} \frac{\text{im}(H(\omega))}{\text{re}(H(\omega))}$$