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## Tide level in time and frequency domains at Dili port: Characteristic feature of a Lorentz oscillator

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**Abstract.** Tide level during one year in time-domain measured at Dili port (East Timor) is analyzed by the frequency spectrum with the Fast Fourier Transform (FFT), together with the autocorrelation function (AF). The frequency spectrum shows a characteristic feature of the Lorentz-type resonance (Lorentz oscillator) with the special peaks which are attributed to the major tide constituents related to the gravitational motions of the sun and the moon. The Lorentz-type resonance occurs in water fluid systems under the periodic change in gravitational potential, which is similar to the electronic polarization under an electric potential change. The  $1/f$  characteristics found at high frequencies in the power spectrum (the so-called  $1/f$  characteristics in frequency domain) can be originated *only* from the gravitational effect, while its origin is usually discussed in terms of meteorology such as atmospheric pressure.

**Keywords:** tide level, fast Fourier transform (FFT), autocorrelation function, Lorentz oscillator,  $1/f$  fluctuation.

### Introduction

The tide level should have time-to-time variations (time domain), involving periodic cycles (Banno, Kuriyama 2012; Kleinhans et al. 2017; Pugh 1996) due to gravitational actions. Meteorological effects such as atmospheric pressure may induce a complexity in the tide level. A popular technique for analyzing tides is the harmonic analysis (HA) in time domain (TD), in which the series of  $N$  harmonic constituents (sinusoids) are assumed (Pawlowicz et al. 2002; Ro et al. 2007; Stephenson 2016). Constructing a histogram for the tide level should also be useful to know the probability density at a particular level (Murthy, Rahi 2014; Tomaselli et al. 2011). Another approach is to obtain a frequency spectrum (FS) in frequency domain (FD) (Franco 1997; Marone et al. 2013). The Fourier Transform (FT) is also a popular technique to obtain an FS (Banno, Kuriyama 2012).

In this study, we will principally discuss the FS of tide level at Dili Port (East Timor) that is located near the equator (8.55° S, 125.56° E). The study explores a minute-by-minute data from a one-year period. It should be mentioned that the studies on the tidal changes from the area near the equator are few. Here, we will only focus on gravitational effects, while the meteorological effects, in general, cannot be ignored (Andrade et al. 2018; Pugh 1996; Truccolo et al. 2006). It is shown that the tide levels are dominated

by four major gravitational constituents from the sun and the moon (M2, S2, K1, O1) and tide level dynamics is replicated well by the Lorentz-type resonance (Wooten 1972). The FS shows two principal peaks (diurnal and semidiurnal) (Ro 2007; Stewart 2008) and another constituent (one year), together with a  $1/f$ -like characteristics at higher frequencies (Banno, Kuriyama 2012; Kogan 2008). It is also shown that the histogram of the tide level observed in time domain is approximated to be a Gaussian distribution function.

The autocorrelation function (AF) of the tide change clearly shows an equivalency to the Lorentz oscillator, suggesting that the tide flow resonates with the change of gravitational potentials. An analogy between the electronic polarization in microscopic media and the macroscopic tidal changes is of interest in complex systems in physics (Draper et al. 2014; Garrett, Cummins 2005). It is suggested, through this equivalency, that the  $1/f$ -like nature originates only from the gravitational effect, while its origin is commonly attributed to a change in meteorology (Andrade et al. 2018).

### Measurement system and analysis

Figure 1 shows the equipment installation consisting of an ultrasonic system and a control circuit at Dili Port (Timor Leste) to which two of the authors are affiliated. This method is used to measure reflection between transmitting and receiving pulses of the ultrasonic wave. The pulses are controlled by the control circuit. The output pulse of the control circuit is converted and transferred to the Data Logger (DL). The DL performs the arithmetic processing of several signals from sensors which monitor the water level. The minute-by-minute annual data of the tide level are stored in the built-in memory and an SD card. The host device uses the RS-232C interface to communicate with the personal computer on which the “data processing software” is installed.



Fig. 1. Instalation of equipment consisting of an ultrasonic system and a control circuit at Dili Port (Timor Leste).  
*Fotografer: Author (Abelito Filipe Belo), 20 January 2021*

The DL-collected data are Fourier transformed (Fast Fourier Transform: FFT). The Fourier transform (FT) of a time-dependent function  $f(t)$  is given by

$$F(f) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(t) e^{-i2\pi ft} dt, \quad (1)$$

where  $F(f)$  is the Fourier spectrum and  $|F(f)|^2$  is called the power spectrum, and  $f$  is the frequency ( $s^{-1}$ ) (Kogan 2008; Papoulis 1962).

FFT is an algorithm that computes the discrete  $F(f)$  (Zonst 2004). In general, a limited number ( $= 2^n$ ) of discrete data, where  $n$  is an integer, is required to perform the FFT. We take the MATLAB programme that allows to remove this limitation and the minute-by-minute one-year period import data of the tide level (data number  $N = 544778$ ) are Fourier transformed. The time interval of the data  $\Delta t$  is, therefore, given by  $t_p/N$ , where  $t_p$  is the period of measurement time. The frequency interval  $\Delta f$  is given as

$$\Delta f = \frac{1}{N\Delta t} . \tag{2}$$

The autocorrelation function of a time-dependent series is the average measure of its time-domain properties, being average product of the signal  $f(t)$  and a time-shifted version of itself, and is a function of the imposed time shift  $\tau$ , i.e.,  $C(\tau) = \langle f(t)f(t + \tau) \rangle$  (Geng, Boufadel 2017; Kogan 2008).  $C(\tau)$  is, therefore, useful for obtaining the information of the signal periodicity and its decay (loss of correlation), where  $\tau$  is the correlation time. FT of  $C(\tau)$  gives the power spectrum of  $F(f)$ , which is the well-known Wiener—Khinchine theorem (Kogan 2008):

$$|F(f)|^2 = 2 \int_0^\infty \langle f(t)f(t + \tau) \rangle e^{-i2\pi f\tau} d\tau \tag{3}$$

### Results and discussion

The tide level data at Dili Port (Timor Leste) were obtained for the period from May 2018 to July 2019. Note that the tide level is defined as the change from the chart datum level (CDL: minimum tide level is set to zero in one year). Figure 2 shows the measured time-dependent tide level  $h(t)$  at every 1 minute for one year. Amplitude modulation (AM)-like behavior (beat) is found, which is produced when two frequencies,  $f_1$  and  $f_2$ , are close each other, i.e., the beat frequency is  $f_1 - f_2$ . The periodical time of the beat is, therefore,  $1/(f_1 - f_2)$ . Details on this issue with the harmonic analysis (HA) will be discussed later.

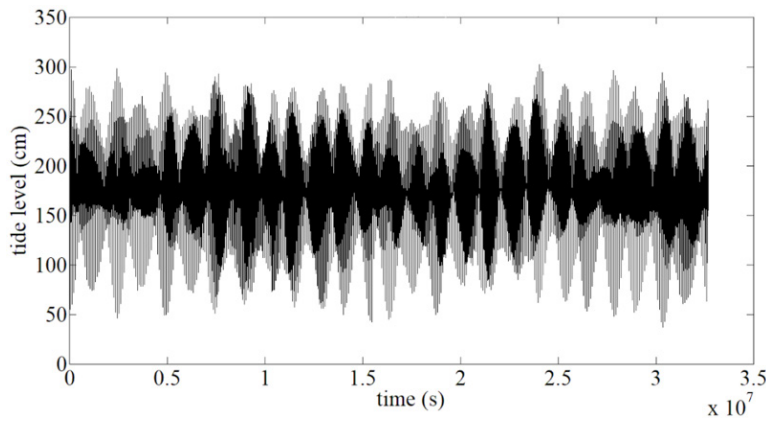


Fig. 2. Minute-by-minute one-year period data of the tide level

It may also be useful to show a histogram for the tide level  $h$  in which the probability density at a particular tide level can be obtained. The number of occurrences of each level is counted for this object. Discrete bars shown in Fig. 3 present the tide-level distribution for the total data set ( $N_T = 544778$ ). It is found that the tide level follows a Gaussian distribution and is given by (Walpole et al. 2017):

$$G(h) = \frac{A}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}(h - h_m)^2\right\} , \tag{4}$$

where  $A$  is a constant,  $\sigma$  is the standard deviation, and  $h$  and  $h_m$  are the tide level and its average, respectively.

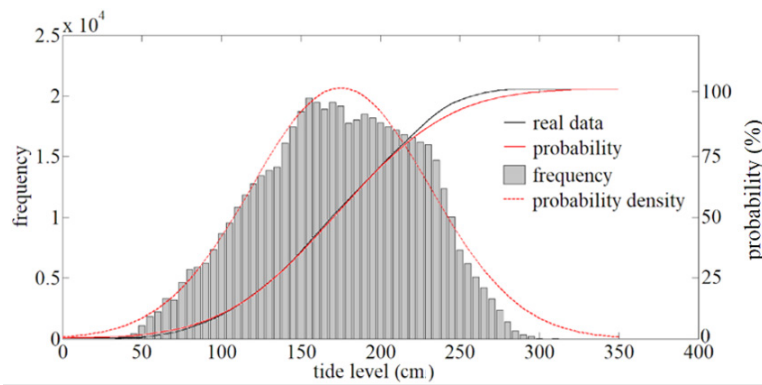


Fig. 3. Tide level distribution. Solid lines are predictions from the Gaussian (normal) distribution

The dashed line in Fig. 3 shows the probability density calculated from the  $G(h)$  ( $A = 2.9 \times 10^6$ ,  $\sigma = 56$ , and  $h_m = 175$ ). A more accurate comparison between the data and the probability distribution function should be given by an integral form of the histogram and the probability density, producing the probability only. Solid lines in Fig. 3 only show the probability calculated from the data (histogram) and the Gaussian distribution (red solid line) using the same parameters. Both curves fit well suggesting that the histogram basically follows a Gaussian distribution.

As is already stated, the discussion of the autocorrelation function  $C(\tau)$  may be helpful to understand the underlying physics of the tide change, which produces information on the periodicity and keeps memory of the time of events (Kogan 2008). Figure 4 shows the autocorrelation functions of the practical tide for the imposed time shift, (a)  $\tau_{\max} = 30$  days ( $2.59 \times 10^6$  s) and for (b)  $\tau_{\max} =$  one day ( $8.64 \times 10^4$  s). Here, we use the correlation time  $\tau$  (not  $t$ ) as a time variation. As seen for the  $h(t)$  in Fig. 2,  $C(\tau)$  shows the periodicity with beat. The time at which  $C(\tau)$  is first crossing zero is a characteristic time  $\tau_0$  ( $C(\tau_0) = 0$ ), which is a measure of the time of losing memory of an event and is estimated to be  $1.25 \times 10^4$  s ( $\sim 3.5$  hr). The first (positive) peak at  $4.54 \times 10^4$  s ( $\sim 12.6$  hr) and the second one at  $8.96 \times 10^4$  s ( $\sim 24.9$  hr), respectively, are the mode frequencies of semidiurnal and diurnal changes in  $h(t)$  (see also Fig. 2).

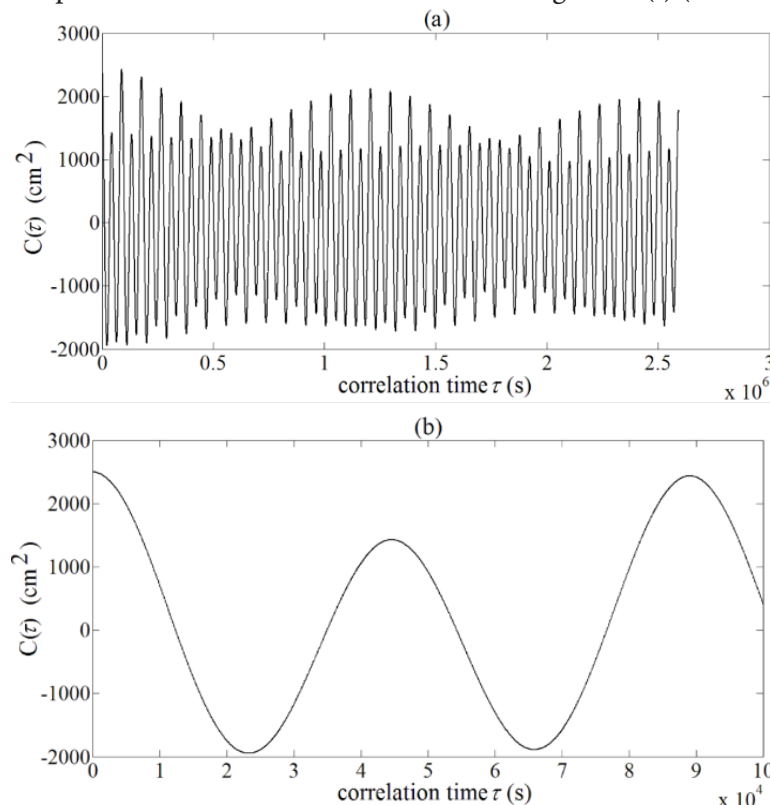


Fig. 4. Autocorrelation functions of the practical tide for (a)  $\tau_{\max} =$  one month, and for (b)  $\tau_{\max} =$  one day

These semidiurnal ( $M_2 = 2.236 \times 10^{-5}$  Hz,  $S_2 = 2.315 \times 10^{-5}$  Hz) and diurnal ( $K_1 = 1.161 \times 10^{-5}$  Hz,  $O_1 = 1.076 \times 10^{-5}$  Hz) modes can be attributed to the four major gravitational constituents from the sun and the moon. Magnitude of the semidiurnal mode is larger than the diurnal one (see Table 1).

Table 1. Standard values of relative amplitude and frequency for the semidiurnal ( $M_2, S_2$ ) and diurnal ( $K_1, O_1$ ) gravitational components of tide (Stewart 2008)

	Relative amplitude $A_n$	Frequency $f_n$ (Hz)	Phase $\theta_n$ (rad)
M2	0.454	$2.236 \times 10^{-5}$	-2.2
S2	0.212	$2.315 \times 10^{-5}$	-1.6
K1	0.266	$1.161 \times 10^{-5}$	0.0
O1	0.189	$1.076 \times 10^{-5}$	-0.5

The beat periods related to the semidiurnal mode should be  $1.27 \times 10^6$  s and to diurnal one,  $1.18 \times 10^6$  s, which is consistent with the actual data shown in Fig. 2. The same beat periodicity on the  $C(t)$  is found in Fig. 4 (a). The sinusoidal-like periodic response is similar to the Lorentz-type resonance in time domain, i.e.,

$$C(t) = Ae^{-\gamma t} \cos 2\pi f_0 t \quad (5)$$

where  $A$  is the amplitude of displacement,  $\gamma$  the decay rate ( $s^{-1}$ ), and  $f$  the frequency (Kogan 2008). The Lorentz-type displacement  $Y(f)$  in frequency domain, i.e., the Fourier transform of  $C(t)$ , is known as (Kogan 2008; Wooten 1972)

$$Y(f) = \frac{B}{(f_0^2 - f^2) - i\gamma f} \quad (6)$$

where  $B$  is a constant,  $f_0$  is the resonance frequency, and  $\gamma$  is the damping frequency (decay rate in time domain).

The solid (black) line (a) in Fig. 5 shows the power spectrum  $|H(f)|^2$  ( $cm^2 Hz^{-1}$ ) obtained from the FFT of the time-variation of real tide  $h(t)$  (practical data). The semidiurnal and diurnal peaks appear at  $\sim 2.3 \times 10^{-5}$  Hz (peak 1) and  $1.1 \times 10^{-5}$  Hz (peak 2), respectively. Each peak splits into two peaks, producing the beats in  $h(t)$  in time domain (see Fig. 2). Peaks 1 and 2, respectively, are composed of the  $K_1$  and  $O_1$  and  $M_2$  and  $S_2$ . The beats from the sets of ( $K_1, O_1$ ) and ( $M_2$  and  $S_2$ ) are found in  $h(t)$  shown in Fig. 2.

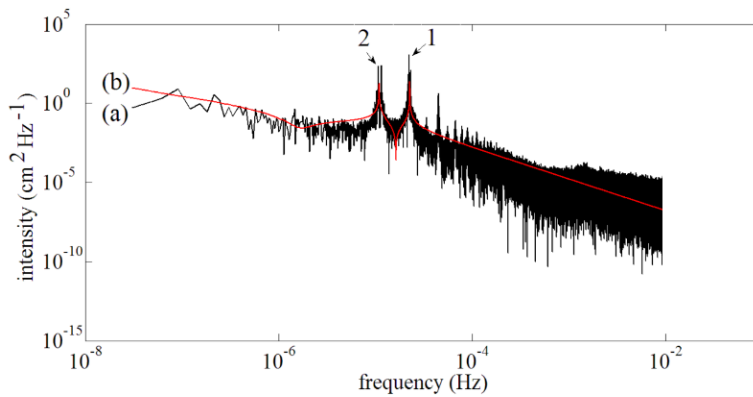


Fig. 5. Power spectrum of the tide level. Black solid line (a) is practical data; red line (b) is the model tide (Lorentz oscillators). 1 and 2 are the semidiurnal and diurnal peaks, respectively

Supposedly, the tidal change follows the Lorentz-type relaxation and the discussion in the frequency domain may clarify this point. Using eq. (5), the power spectrum  $|H(f)|^2$  is approximated by

$$|H(f)|^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{B_i}{(f_{0i}^2 - f^2) - i\gamma_i f} \quad (7)$$

where  $B_i$  is a constant,  $f_{oi}$  and  $\gamma_i$  is the resonant frequency and the damping frequency for  $i$ -th component, respectively. The solid line (b) shows the absolute intensity of the Lorentz oscillator (here  $|H(f)|^2$ ) with the fitting parameters given in Table 2.

Table 2. Physical parameters for the Lorentz oscillators used for the fitting.  $C_i$  is the relative amplitude of  $B_i$  of the component (see text)

	$f_{oi}$ (Hz)	$B_i$ (cm <sup>2</sup> × Hz)	$\gamma_i$ (Hz)	$C_i$
semidiurnal	$2.28 \times 10^{-5}$	$1.0 \times 10^{-11}$	$1.0 \times 10^{-8}$	0.63
diurnal	$1.10 \times 10^{-5}$	$6.1 \times 10^{-12}$	$1.0 \times 10^{-8}$	0.36
1 year	$3.17 \times 10^{-8}$	$2.0 \times 10^{-13}$	$7.0 \times 10^{-7}$	0.01

For simplicity, we took one (average) frequency for the semidiurnal and diurnal peaks. At lower frequencies, in addition to these two peaks, we need another 3rd component (one-year periodicity) (Banno, Kuriyama 2012), since the  $|H(f)|^2$  takes a constant value, without the 3rd component. Overall fitting of the Lorentz oscillator, including the 3rd constituent, to the practical data is reasonably good. At higher frequencies, we observe a decrease in the intensity with increasing frequency  $f$ , which is approximately proportional to  $1/f^2$ . This type of frequency-dependent behavior is similar to the  $1/f$  noise or  $1/f$  fluctuation (Kogan 2008). Note that the relative magnitudes of the Lorentz oscillator  $C_i$  in Table 2 are consistent with the relative intensity of the gravity constituents (M2 + S2, K1 + O1) (see Table 1).

Let us discuss tidal dynamics in more detail. It was shown that the power spectrum of the tide change was replicated well by the Lorentz oscillator. A popular example of the Lorentz oscillator (harmonic oscillation with damping) can be the dynamics of an electronic polarization, i.e., electronic displacement under a periodic electric field motion (complex dielectric function) (Wooten 1972) or a mechanical spring motion. For electronic displacement  $x$  under the external field  $F$ , the system follows Newton's second law as

$$M \frac{d^2x}{dt^2} + \gamma \frac{dx}{dt} + \omega_0^2 x = F = Ae^{-i\omega_0 t} \quad (8)$$

where  $M$  is a mass (electronically charged),  $\gamma$  is the damping coefficient, and  $\omega_0$  is the angular resonant frequency ( $= 2\pi f_0$ ). The solution of the above equation under some conditions gives Eq. (5) or (6). When the second term in Eq. (8) is dominant, the Debye type dielectric relation dominates the system (no oscillation). Note also that the above resonant phenomena can be represented by an equivalent electrical circuit, i.e.,  $RLC$  series connection (resonance circuit), where  $R$  is the resistance,  $L$  the inductance, and  $C$  the capacitance in the sense of electrical engineering (Kogan 2008; Prandle 1980). It was interesting to find out that the water fluid system under the periodic change in gravitational potential is phenomenologically the same as the electronic polarization under an electric potential change.

In addition to gravitational motion of the sun, the moon, and the earth, meteorology effects such as atmospheric pressure and wind power also contribute to the tide level (Andrade et al. 2018; Truccolo et al. 2006). Other contributing factors include the shape of the beach, coastline, and coastline depth (Kleinhans et al. 2017; Marone et al. 2013). While all these oceanic effects may dominate tidal behaviors, here we discuss the gravitational effect only. We once again suggest that the  $1/f$ -like nature at high frequencies originates gravitationally (nature of low-pass filter) without involving a meteorological effect.

Finally, we briefly discuss the harmonic analysis (HA) in time domain (Stewart 2008). We can model the series with  $I$  harmonic constituents of sinusoids (Stephenson 2016):

$$h(t) = H_0 + C \sum_{i=1}^I A_n \cos(2\pi f_n t + \theta_n) \quad (9)$$

where  $A_n$  is the relative amplitude of the  $n$ th component (cm),  $f_n$  is the frequency (Hz),  $\theta_n$  is the phase angle (rad),  $H_0$  is the mean sea-level (cm) and  $C$  is the multicable constant (cm). In the present study,  $H_0$  ( $= 180$  cm),  $C$  ( $= 105$  cm), and  $\theta_n$  is taken as fitting parameters, while the major constituents (M2, S2, K1, O1) are taken as the tide wave of gravitational origin ( $I = 4$ ) (see Table 1). Here, a one-year constituent (Matsumoto et al. 1995) was not involved in the HA. Comparisons of the actual tide change (black) with the model tide (red) are shown in Fig. 6 for the first one month. It is shown that the actual tide level is replicated well by the standard four parameters, M2, S2, K1, and O1 with some deviations.

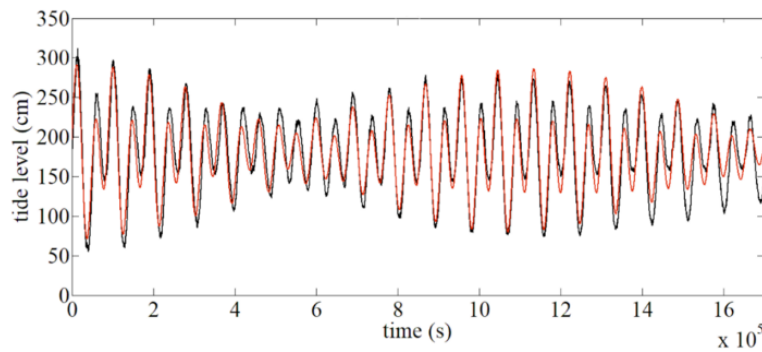


Fig. 6. Actual tide (black) and model tide (red) for the first one month

## Conclusion

The minute-by-minute change in the tide level for a one-year period was measured at Dili port (East Timor). It was found that the histogram of the tide level in time-domain was approximated to be the Gaussian distribution function, with the mean height of 175 cm and the standard deviation of 56 cm. The frequency spectra through the Fast Fourier Transform (FFT) showed the two clear peaks (semidiurnal and diurnal) induced by the gravitational motions of the sun, the moon, and the earth. It was also suggested that the constituent of one-year dominated the power spectrum at low frequencies with no clear peak. The power spectrum was replicated well by the Lorentz oscillator, indicating that the tide flow resonates with the gravitational forces, which is phenomenologically the same as the electronic polarization under the electric field: *Microscopic dynamics spans to macroscopic one*. The spectrum shows the  $1/f$  nature found at higher frequencies in the frequency spectra is a result of the Lorentz-type response. Origin of  $1/f$  characteristics can therefore be attributed only to the gravitational effect without involving the meteorological one. It was shown by a harmonic analysis that the actual tide change was replicated well by the four standard gravitational parameters, M2, S2, K1, and O1. It was concluded that tidal behavior follows *nature's orders* even in *complex systems* of the globe.

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