

The Nonlinear Influence of Large Celestial Bodies on Earthquakes—Short Commentary

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Abstract

A new study on the nonlinear interaction of the fluctuating planetary gravitational field with the lithosphere suggests that not only the directly acting gravitational forces are of influence, but mainly higher harmonics of the celestial bodies considered as oscillators on large scales [1]. In the meantime, resonances caused by fluctuating gravity can also be detected on small scales in the laboratory [2].

Keywords

Earthquake Triggering, Planetary Gravity Field, Gravitational Field Fluctuations, Harmonics

1. Introduction

Gravity is a force that acts both on large scales, the planetary system, and on small scales, on the micro scale of atoms. The kinematics of the planets correspond to oscillators that have been stable and have been able to exert their effects over billions of years of evolution. The gravitational forces are weak and sensually only in the coupling of sun and moon in the tides directly noticeable. As in nonlinear optics, the special effects of the fluctuating gravitational field become visible only in the harmonics. A correlation function constructed to indicate the change in probabilities for stable (harmonic) and unstable (disharmonic) states is also applied to earthquake triggering.

Tidal stresses are very small, so there is still a lot of debate about whether they can trigger an earthquake at all. Several studies have found no correlation between tides and earthquake occurrence, e.g. Kennedy *et al.* [3]. Other studies report small positive correlations, e.g., Kasahara [4]. Some recent research by Metivier *et al.* suggests evidence that tidal-induced uplift may reduce the normal stresses that hold faults together [5].

Previous studies related to the triggering of earthquakes do not take into account the gravitational interactions of the planets, e.g. [6] [7] [8].

A correlation function (derivation of function see [1]) is a Fourier series expansion of a periodic process and can be optimized both in its order and in its frequencies for the respective problem. It has the function of a high pass filter (as shown in Figure 1).

This new research method was applied to an initial study of 41 of the strongest earthquakes between 1900 and 2000 and first published as a Lecture on the 10th conference on synergetics and complexity research: “Self Organization in Psychology, Psychiatry and Social Sciences” 6th-8th June 2002 conference centre Bildungszentrum Kloster Seeon (Bavaria, Germany) [9].

The result shows the density function (Figure 2).

Monte Carlo simulation was used to calculate the density function. 10,000 groups of 41 events each were randomly selected in the period from 1900 to the end of 2000.

Further research on the 41 earthquakes is in [1].

$$H_{i,j} = \sum_{s=1}^{N-12-1} a_k \cos(s \cdot \alpha); mit(k = s \text{ mod } 12) \quad a_k = \{0, 1, -2, 3, -5, 0, 3, 0, -5, 3, -2, 1\}$$

Figure 1. $H_{i,j}$ is the correlation of two celestial bodies; α is the angle between two celestial bodies; a_k are the 12 coefficients of the Fourier series repeated N times; N is the order of the correlation function. The coefficients a_k were obtained from a Fourier transform describing the change in probability for stable and unstable processes, respectively.

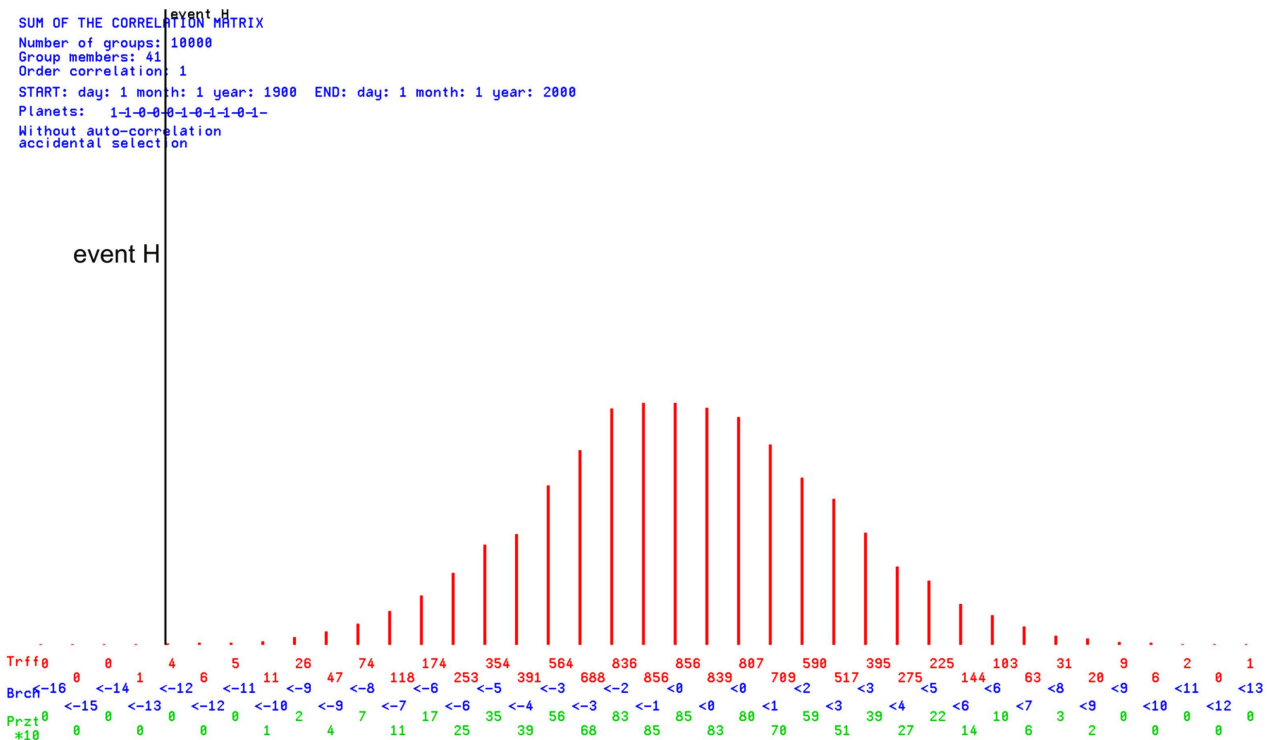


Figure 2. 1st order density function $\Sigma H_{i,j}$ with $N = 1$. Sun, Moon, Jupiter, Uranus and Neptune were correlated. The significance is very high 0.03% (99.97% of the 10,000 control groups are more harmonic).

2. Other Groups of Earthquakes

Other groups of earthquakes were presented at various international congresses, including International Association for Mathematical Geology IAMG 2003 Portsmouth, UK; September 7-12, 2003 [10] and EGS-AGU-EUG; Joint Assembly Nice, France, April 25-30, 2004 [11].

The method was extended in 2021 by investigations of the whole period before and after an earthquake. An estimation of the suitability of this method as an element for earthquake forecasting was also carried out (585 earthquakes [12]).

If only the absolute value of the correlation function (proportional to the energy) is considered, the following course before and after the earthquake is obtained (Table 1 and Table 2).

3. Examination

Examination of the Sun, Moon, Jupiter, Saturn and IC alone shows that something like 6% of the 588 earthquakes may be triggered by these celestial bodies. These results refer to the superposition of all correlations.

Looking at this more closely, we can see that individual correlations produce a pattern that could lend itself as one element (among many others) to predicting earthquakes.

The correlation matrix H_{ij} shows a specific pattern of probability for instability for the 588 earthquakes.

Order of the correlation: 4 ; time shift d: 0 h: 0;

GROUP-MEMBERS: 588 ; NUMBER OF THE GROUPS: 3000
 Julian-date-start: 2450083.458333 Julian-date-end: 2452640.458345
 Accidental selection; TEST: Number of accidental selection >= correlation

CORRELATION-MATRIX H AS INPUT

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	*	0.04	-0.10	-0.06	0.06	-0.08	0.01	0.07	-0.00	0.00	0.09
2	0.04	*	0.04	0.02	-0.13	-0.02	-0.04	0.02	-0.12	0.08	-0.02
3	-0.10	0.04	*	0.11	-0.05	-0.06	-0.05	0.05	0.10	0.15	-0.08
4	-0.06	0.02	0.11	*	0.06	-0.04	-0.09	0.02	-0.06	-0.08	-0.15
5	0.06	-0.13	-0.05	0.06	*	-0.09	-0.17	0.21	0.12	-0.05	-0.08
6	-0.08	-0.02	-0.06	-0.04	-0.09	*	0.03	0.05	-0.02	0.09	0.04
7	0.01	-0.04	-0.05	-0.09	-0.17	0.03	*	0.10	0.32	-0.15	-0.14
8	0.07	0.02	0.05	0.02	0.21	0.05	0.10	*	-0.00	0.56	0.02
9	-0.00	-0.12	0.10	-0.06	0.12	-0.02	0.32	-0.00	*	-0.18	-0.04
10	0.00	0.08	0.15	-0.08	-0.05	0.09	-0.15	0.56	-0.18	*	-0.08
11	0.09	-0.02	-0.08	-0.15	-0.08	0.04	-0.14	0.02	-0.04	-0.08	*

Matrix H of the probability of error:

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	*	29.47	67.13	100.00	25.33	93.60	48.90	17.10	50.40	50.23	10.10 PR 39.53
2	29.47	*	32.37	41.20	96.83	57.60	68.43	36.63	95.10	13.40	61.10 PR 70.90
3	67.13	32.37	*	46.40	82.60	62.93	75.17	61.37	33.97	12.40	86.30 PR 64.80
4	100.00	41.20	46.40	*	50.03	88.90	94.67	42.63	62.50	98.40	97.97 PR 99.90
5	25.33	96.83	82.60	50.03	*	25.03	19.87	33.27	7.57	96.63	86.27 PR 60.70
6	93.60	57.60	62.93	88.90	25.03	*	93.27	17.10	13.70	6.83	29.73 PR 35.00
7	48.90	68.43	75.17	94.67	19.87	93.27	*	95.87	5.13	28.30	97.83 PR 81.03
8	17.10	36.63	61.37	42.63	33.27	17.10	95.87	*	90.63	47.80	44.87 PR 43.47
9	50.40	95.10	33.97	62.50	7.57	13.70	5.13	90.63	*	70.57	71.23 PR 21.47
10	50.23	13.40	12.40	98.40	96.63	6.83	28.30	47.80	70.57	*	84.97 PR 49.67
11	10.10	61.10	86.30	97.97	86.27	29.73	97.83	44.87	71.23	84.97	* PR 97.50

bigger are: 85.80 %

1=SUN; 2=MOON; 3=MERKUR; 4=VENUS; 5=MARS; 6=JUPITER; 7=SATURN; 8=URANUS; 9=NEPTUN; 10=PLUTO; 11=IC;
 BEGIN: year: 1996 month: 1 day: 1 hour: 0 END: year: 2003 month: 1 day: 1 hour: 0

Table 1. Time offsets for 588 earthquakes in the period 1996 to 2002. They are the correlations of the Sun, Moon and IC (Earth's center).

Order 10 time-shift/ Probability So-Mo-IC	-6 h	-5 h	-4 h	-3 h	-2 h	-1 h	0 event	+1 h	+2 h	+3 h	+4 h	+5 h	+6 h
Energy $\Sigma H_{i,j} $	92.06	35.04	64.60	56.82	81.02	30.72	0.10	1.75	19.46	3.24	4.90	80.32	5.70

Table 2. Time shift for 588 earthquakes in the period 1996 to 2002. These are the correlations of Jupiter, Saturn and IC (earth center).

Order 10 time-shift/ Probability Ju-Sa-IC	-6 h	-5 h	-4 h	-3 h	-2 h	-1 h	0 event	+1 h	+2 h	+3 h	+4 h	+5 h	+6 h
Energy $\Sigma H_{i,j} $	20.76	65.46	83.54	72.32	58.30	43.56	0.58	1.75	0.02	10.30	23.62	84.92	28.32

9 out of 55 elements of the matrix are significant with $\leq 5\%$ $p \leq 0.05$; probability of error: 0.0015.

4. Conclusion

The whole matrix is not significantly unstable. 85.8% of the 3000 control groups show more stability. However, 9 correlations show significant instability against no correlation shows significant stability. This pattern of instability, in conjunction with other elements of the correlation function $H_{i,j}$ (e.g. 1st derivative of the function), may appear suitable to be incorporated as an element in an AI. However, further investigations are necessary for this purpose. The computer program can be downloaded here for free [13].

Conflicts of Interest

The author declares no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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