

# What Causes Tides ?

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**Abstract** It has been known for thousands of years that the waters of coastal seas ebb and flow on a daily basis. This movement was long-term ascribed to the gravitational attractions of the moon and sun on water. However, an in-depth investigation shows this understanding incomplete. Here we propose, the earth's curved motions about the centre of mass of the earth-moon system and around the sun create some centrifugal effects to stretch the earth's body; under the effect of the deformation, the spinning earth drives its each part to regularly move up and down, giving birth to oscillations for ocean basins, generating water transferring and further the rise and fall of regional water levels.

**Keywords** tide, wave, the earth-moon system, the centrifugal effect, deformation of solid earth, oscillating vessel, water transferring

## 1 Introduction

### 1.1 A brief retrospect of tidal theories

From antiquity it has been known that coastal seas always perform daily regular water movements of rise and fall. Since these movements are closely related to the frequently coastal activities, explaining them has undoubtedly tested human wisdom. Aristotle (384-322 BC) was highly perplexed by the phenomenon and vaguely attributed it to the rocky nature of the coastline. The early Chinese considered tides as the beating of the earth's pulse and alternately, it was believed to be caused by the earth's breathing. Others thought tides were caused by the different depths of ocean water. Galileo theorized that the rotations of the earth around the sun and about its axis induced motion within the sea to generate the tides. The majority certainly linked tidal action to the influence of the moon and of the sun. Seleucus (2nd century BC) was the first to consider this connection and concluded the height of tide was correlated with the moon's position relative to the sun. However, the exact determination of how the moon and sun caused tides was unknown. A few Arabic explanations proposed that the moon used its rays to heat and expand the water. Descartes argued that space was full of ethereal substance and the resulting stresses between the ether and the earth's surface gave birth to tides when the moon orbited the earth. In contrast, Kepler and Newton defined the action as the attraction of the moon and sun on water. Newton concluded the moon's gravitation caused a pair of water bulges on the earth. In consideration of the complexity of actual oceans and currents, Laplace developed a set of hydrodynamic equations. Together with the following endeavours (made by William Thomson, Baron

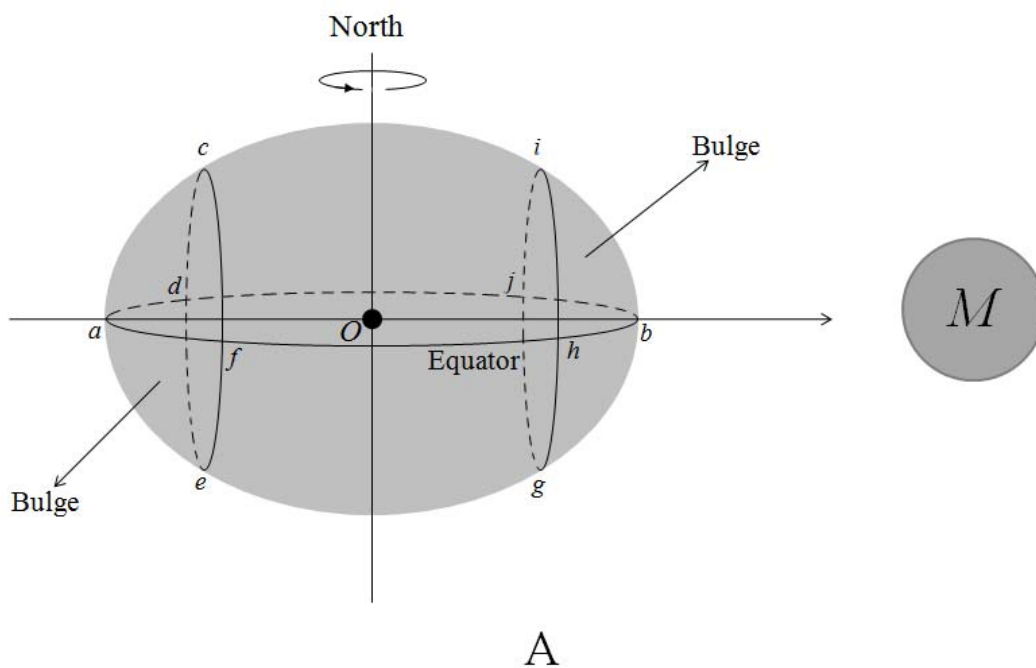
Kelvin, Henri Poincaré, Arthur Thomas Doodson, etc.), the idea of the gravitational attractions of the moon and sun on water (the attractive mechanism) was increasingly consolidated and became the cornerstone of modern tidal theories. A fuller review of tidal theory may be seen in these works (Pugh 1987; Cartwright 1999; Deacon 1971; Pugh and Woodworth 2014). Undoubtedly, the physics of tides involves in a variety of fields ranging from the orbit of celestial objects (the moon and the sun, for instance), the mixing of the oceans, solid-earth geophysics and coastal flooding (Lambeck 1988; Munk 1997; Vlasenko et al. 2005). In the past decades a rapid growth of tide model greatly facilitated spatial and ground measurements (Pekeris et al. 1969; Schwiderski 1979; Fu and Cazenave 2001; Visser et al. 2010), tidal dynamics and energy dissipation were also studied (Stammer et al. 2014), the investigation on internal tides becomes considerably active (Gargett and Hghees 1972; Phillips 1974; Shepard 1975; Garrett and Munk 1979; Gao et al. 2013; Shanmugam 2014), these in turn help us realize a better understanding of the tide. Notwithstanding, many problems remain open in the established tidal theories.

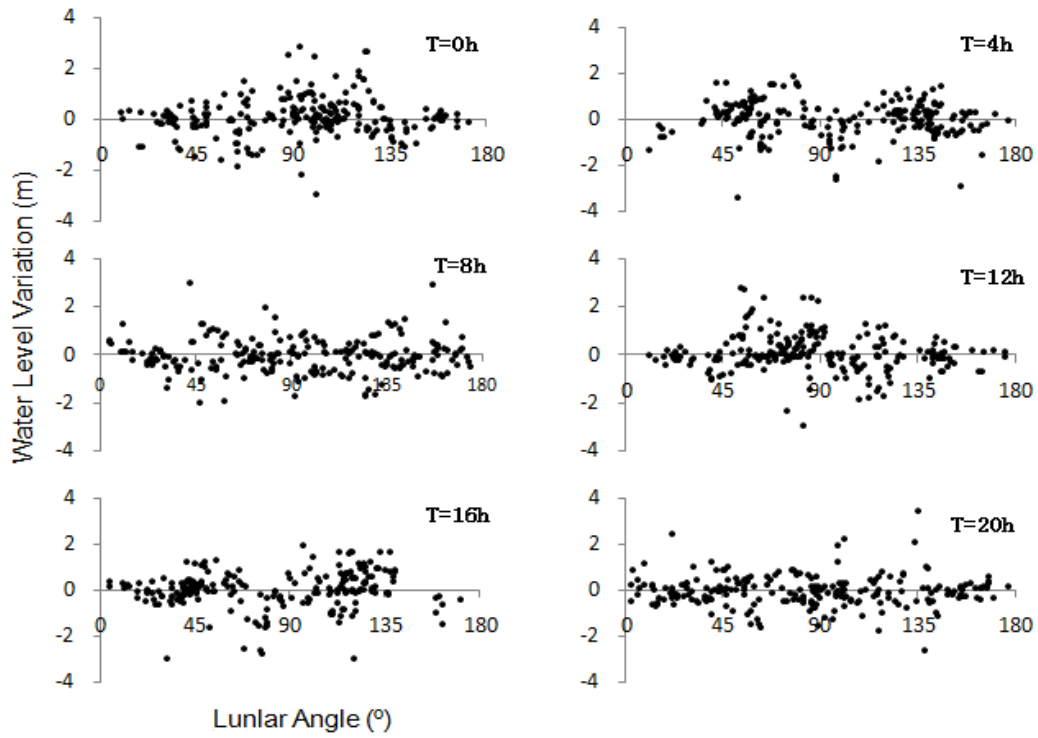
### **1.2 Problems of the established tidal theories**

The established tidal theories may be morphologically divided into two parts: the equilibrium tide and the dynamic tide. The equilibrium tide was directly developed from the attractive mechanism, that's to say that the earth orbits about the centre of mass of the earth-moon system, this makes all particles of the earth travel around in circles which have the same radius. The force responsible for these circular or curved motions is treated as centripetal force. The centripetal force necessary to maintain each particle in this revolution is the same as for the particles at the centre. For particles nearer the moon, its gravitational attraction on them is greater than the centripetal force. Further away, the moon's gravitational attraction is weaker than the centripetal force. The difference between the centripetal force and the moon's gravitational attraction is the tide-generating force (Pugh 1987; Pugh and Woodworth 2014). The tide-generating force is further decomposed into two components respectively perpendicular and parallel to the earth's surface. The vertical can be compensated by earth's gravity, but the horizontal cannot be counteracted in the same manner and causes particles to move in the direction of the force. The net result of the tidal forces acting on a watery earth is to move water towards positions nearest to and farthest from the moon. This eventually yields two bulges of water along the earth-moon line and a depression of water in a ring around the earth halfway between the two bulges (Pugh 1987; Robert 2008; Pugh and Woodworth 2014). For an earthly site it would pass through the two bulges of water and the depression as the Earth spins and hence undergoes two cycles of high and low water per day. Similarly, another two bulges of water along the earth-sun line and another depression of water between these two bulges are yielded due to the Sun's gravitational attraction on water. When these two types of bulges and depressions are considered together, they reinforce or cancel each other to generate the two cycles of high and low water per month.

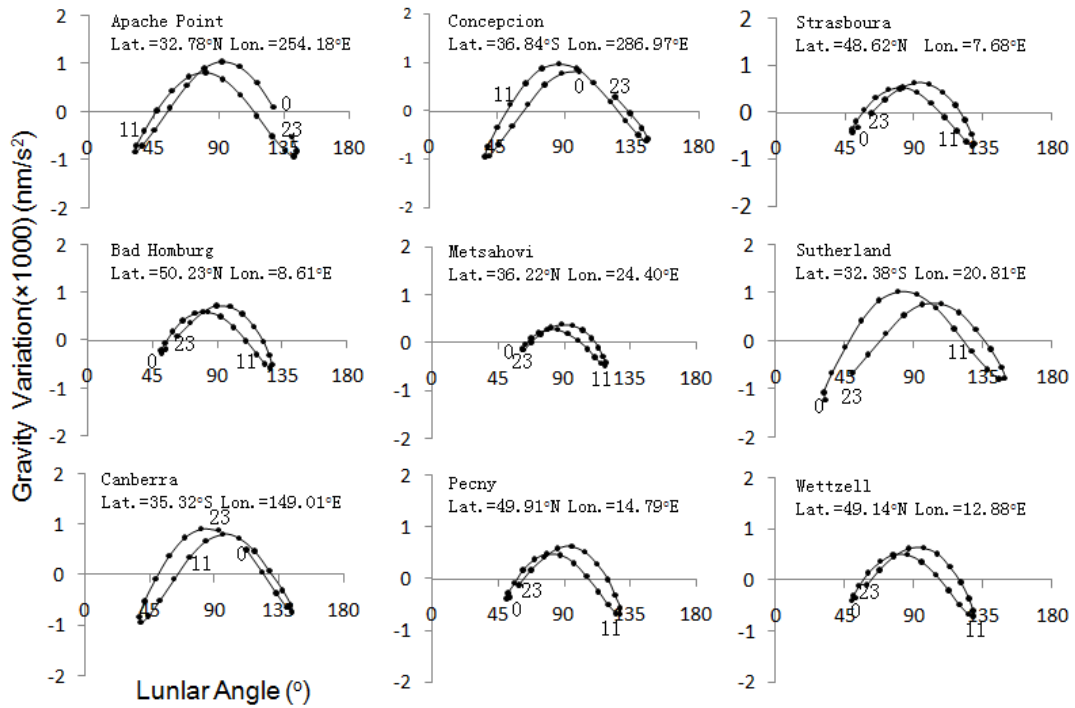
More than 300 years since the foundation of attractive mechanism, this proposition of the two bulges of water seems to be self-evident and has never been strictly verified. Nowadays, several large tide data collections like UHSLC(University of Hawaii Sea

Level Center), PSMSL(Permanent Service for Mean Sea Level), and BODC(British Oceanographic Data Center) provide opportunity for us to do this work. If there are two bulges of water and the depression on the Earth, there must be a matter that, when the Earth spins around its axis, these sites which enter into the scope of these bulges would undergo a behaviour of high water whereas those sites which enter into the scope of the depression would undergo a behaviour of low water. The frame of the two bulges and the Moon in space may be illustrated (Fig. 1(A)). We use tide data of 229 globally distributed gauge stations to examine this expectation. Tide data are commonly treated as follows: water level change of a tide gauge site is the difference of the mean of all hourly water levels of this site during the month and its hourly water level. This eventually yields a same reference frame (water level is zero) for all these tide data to be compared together. The result, however, extremely surprised and unexpectedly, disagrees to the existence of the two bulges of water and the depression. From a viewpoint of spherical geometry, we infer that these sites, if their lunar angles (that's the angle of an earthly site and the Moon with respect to the Earth's centre) fall into a phase of  $0^{\circ}\sim 45^{\circ}$  and  $135^{\circ}\sim 180^{\circ}$ , should have entered into the scope of the two bulges and tend to perform a behaviour of high water, whereas if their angles fall into a phase of  $45^{\circ}\sim 135^{\circ}$ , they should have entered into the scope of the depression and tend to perform a behaviour of low water. Different from this, the distributions of high and low waters of all 229 tide gauge sites are highly scattered (Fig. 1(2)), no evidence to show a concentration of high or low water on a special phase. The chart lists only a state of 6 independent moments (0h, 4h, 8h, ..., for instance) in the day of August 13, 2014. At the time, the Moon is located about equator. In fact, we checked the hourly tide data of all these gauge sites that across the whole August, all results object to the existence of the two bulges of water and the depression.





B



C

**FIG. 1 Tidal bulges Versus Water Level Change.** A, modelling the frame of tidal bulges and the Moon in space. Area *a-cdef* and *b-ghij* denote the two bulges. *O* and *M* denote respectively the Earth's centre and the Moon. Note that, the deformation is highly exaggerated; B, water level changes of 229

tide gauge sites out to their lunar angles in the day of August 13, 2014. Tide gauge data refer to UHSLC (Caldwell et al. 2015). C, gravity changes of 9 gauge sites out to their lunar angles in the day. In each diagram number 0, 11, and 23 respectively represent a GMT hour of August 13, 2014. Gravity data refer to IGETS (International Geodynamics and Earth Tide Service) (Voigt et al. 2016).

Once the two bulges of water and the depression are non-existed, it is impossible for any earthly site to get in or out of them, and also impossible for the two types of water bugles and depressions to reinforce or cancel each other, the daily and fortnightly two cycles of high and low waters immediately become unable to be explained by the established understanding. This also disables the dynamic tide, we will later discuss this point. Now, let's see what happens if we assume the two bugles of water and the depression to be existed and workable.

First of all, the structure of the two bulges of water and the depression would yield an equality of size of the two successive low waters and an inequality of size of the two successive high waters for a site. As shown in Figure 2(a), there is mechanically a ring (the depression, for instance) of lowest water around the earth halfway between the two bulges. As the earth spins around its axis, a site  $P$  would pass through the two bulges and the depression to undergo two low waters of same size and two high waters of different size per day. From a viewpoint of the globe, other sites like  $N$  and  $Q$  also would undergo two low waters of same size and two high waters of different size per day. On the whole, the frame of the two bulges and the depression requires high waters of all sites to be different in size and low waters to be same in size within a fixed day. Contrary to this expectation, the low waters of all observed tides are generally different in size.

Secondly, the structure of the two bulges of water and the depression would require the two successive high (low) waters of a site to reversely develop within a lunar month, namely, for a site which is located at higher latitude, the size of its one high (low) water is increased/decreased whereas the size of its another high (low) water is decreased/increased when the two bulges transfer between north and south of equator. This point may be easily inferred from Figure 2(a). Refer to Pugh's work (1987), the tide-generating force was eventually developed into a formula below to describe the elevation of the sea surface.

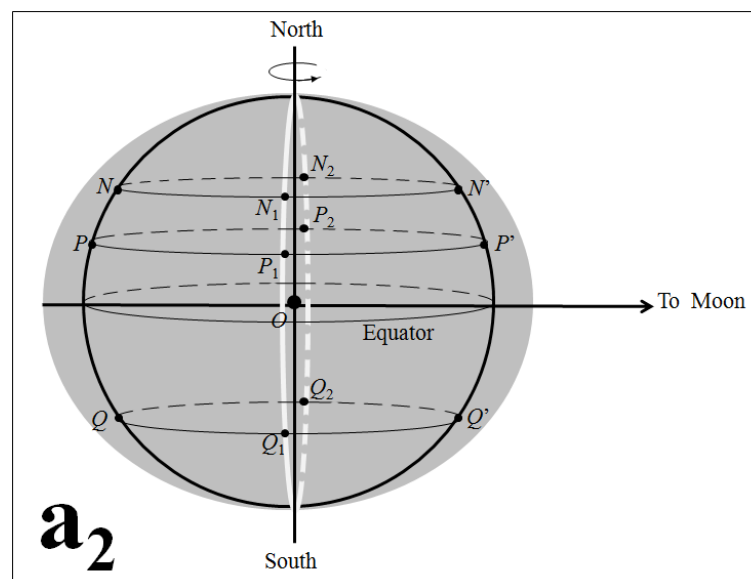
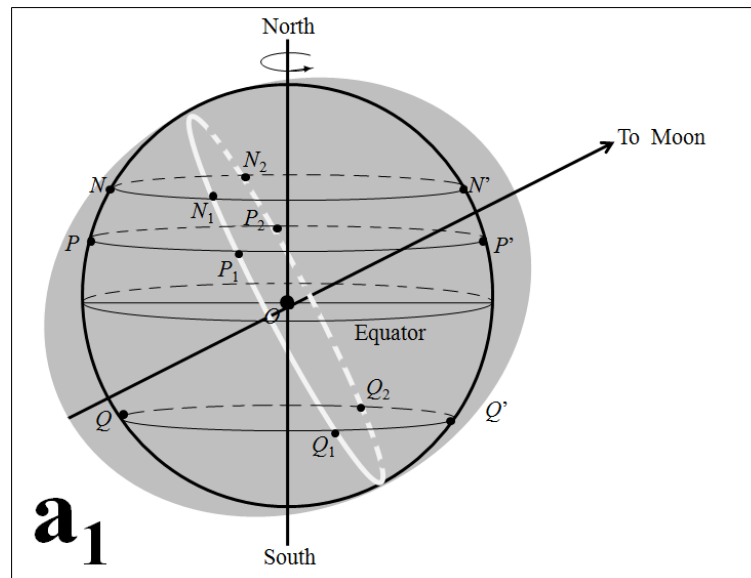
$$\begin{aligned}
 H_m &= a(M_m/M_e)[C_0(t)(3\sin^2\varphi_p/2-1/2)+C_1(t)\sin 2\varphi_p+C_2(t)\cos^2\varphi_p] \\
 C_0(t) &= (a/R_m)^3(3\sin^2d/2-1/2) \\
 C_1(t) &= (a/R_m)^3(3\sin 2d\cos C_p/4) \\
 C_2(t) &= (a/R_m)^3(3\cos^2d\cos 2C_p/4)
 \end{aligned}$$

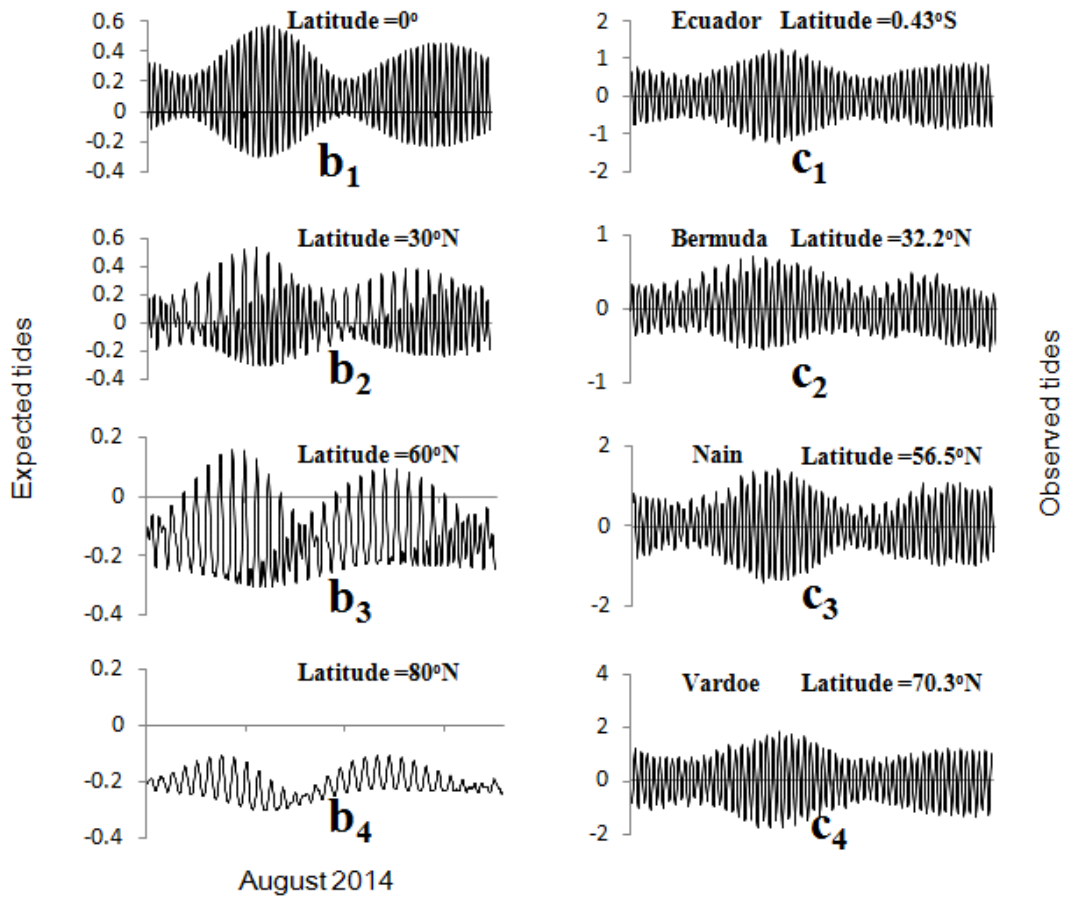
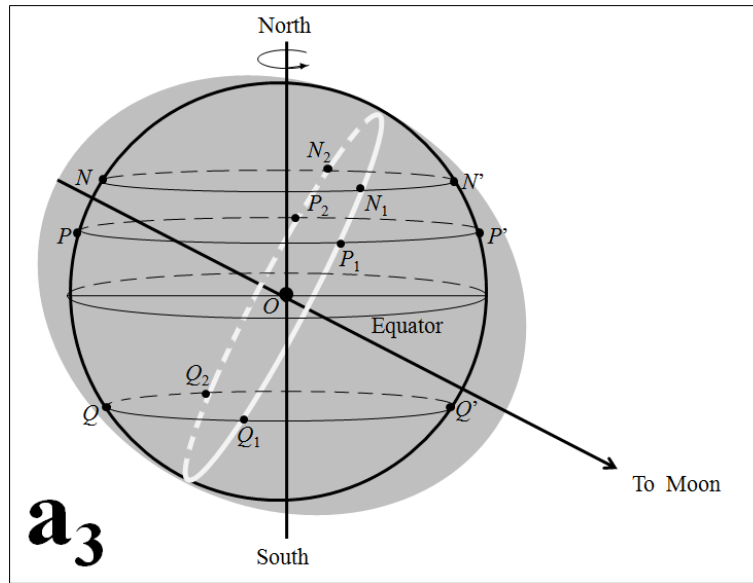
where  $H_m$ ,  $a$ ,  $M_m$ ,  $M_e$ ,  $\varphi_p$ ,  $R_m$ ,  $d$ , and  $C_p$  are respectively the elevation of the sea surface, the earth's radius, the moon's mass, the earth's mass, the latitude of a particle at the sea's surface, the distance of the earth and moon, the declination of the moon, and the hour angle of the particle relative to the moon.

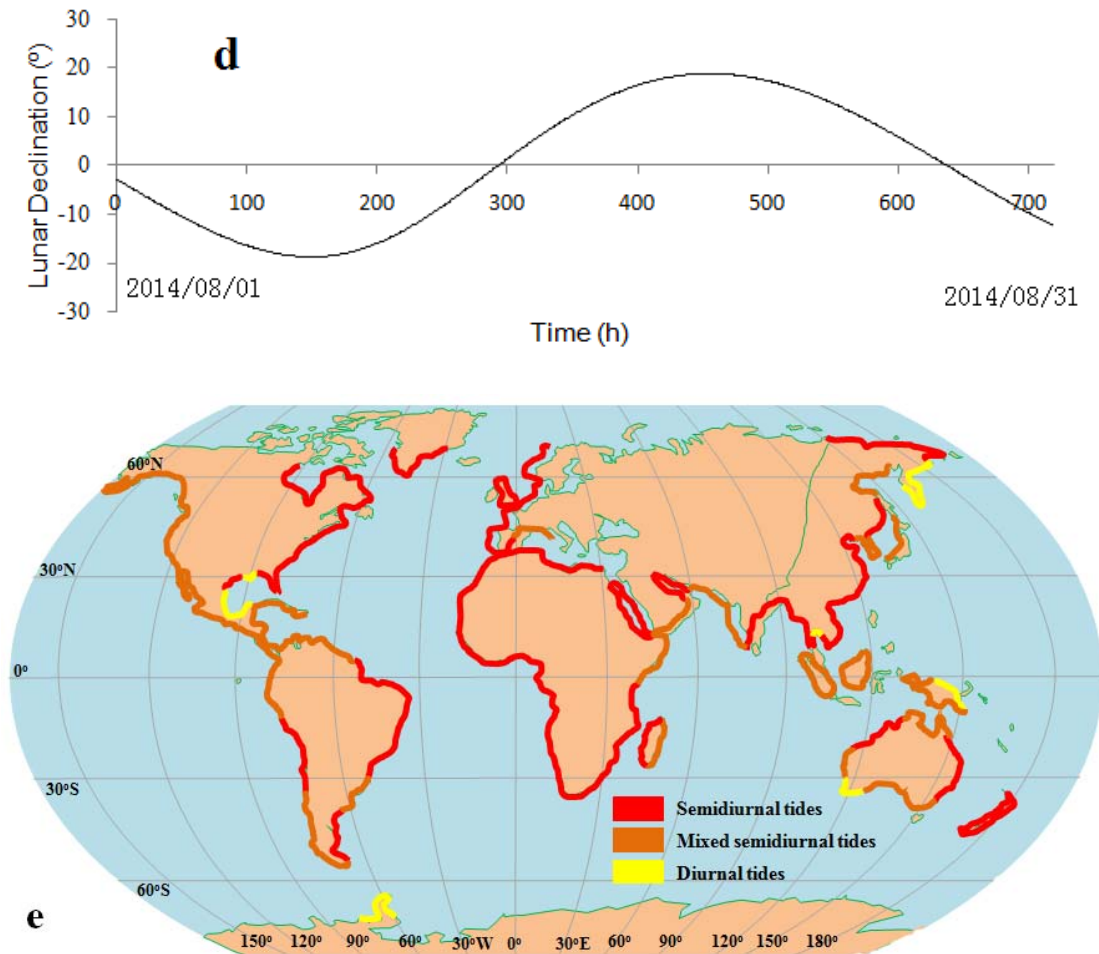
By replacing  $M_m$  and  $R_m$  respectively with  $M_s$  (the sun's mass) and  $R_s$  (the distance of the earth and sun), the elevation of the sea surface  $H_s$  due to the effect of the sun may be got.  $H_m + H_s$  therefore represent the total elevation of sea surface due to the influences of the moon and sun. Figure 2(b) exhibits several expected tides. It can be seen that, at

latitude  $30^{\circ}\text{N}$  the size of one high (low) water increases (decreases) when the size of another high (low) water decreases (increases); towards higher latitudes ( $60^{\circ}\text{N}$  and  $80^{\circ}\text{N}$ , for instance), this asymmetry becomes considerably noticeable. Different from these, the sizes of the two successive high (low) waters of all observed tides, as shown in Figure 2(c), are alternately increased or decreased. Morphologically, there is a significant discrepancy between the expected tides and the observed tides.

Lastly, the structure of the two bulges of water and the depression would require semidiurnal tides (which have two high and two low waters of same size per day) to occur at lower latitudes, diurnal tides (which have one high water and one low water of same size per day) to occur at higher latitudes, and mixed tides (which have two high and two low waters of different size per day) to occur at middle latitudes. Contrary to these, the semidiurnal and mixed tides, as shown in Figure 2(e), are extensively distributed around the globe, only a few places (the Karumba and Mexico gulf, for instance) hold diurnal tides.







**FIG. 2 Comparison of the equilibrium and observe tides. a**, showing how the unequal high water levels and the equal low water levels are generated at various sites under the resulting two bulges. From **a<sub>1</sub>**, **a<sub>2</sub>**, to **a<sub>3</sub>**, it represents the orderly positions of the two bulges as the moon transfers from the north to the south. *O* is the earth's centre. The big circle represents an undisturbed watery planet. Note that the two bulges are seriously exaggerated; **b**, the expected tides from the tide-generating forces at different latitudes in August 2014. Vertical axis represents tidal amplitude and unit is metre; **c**, the observed tides at different latitudes during the month. Vertical axis represents tidal amplitude and unit is metre; **d**, the moon's declination during the month; **e**, tidal pattern distribution of the observed tides throughout the globe. Data supporting is from U.S. NOAA, GLOSS database - University of Hawaii Sea Level Center (Caldwell et al. 2015), and Bureau National Operations Centre (BNOC) of Australia.

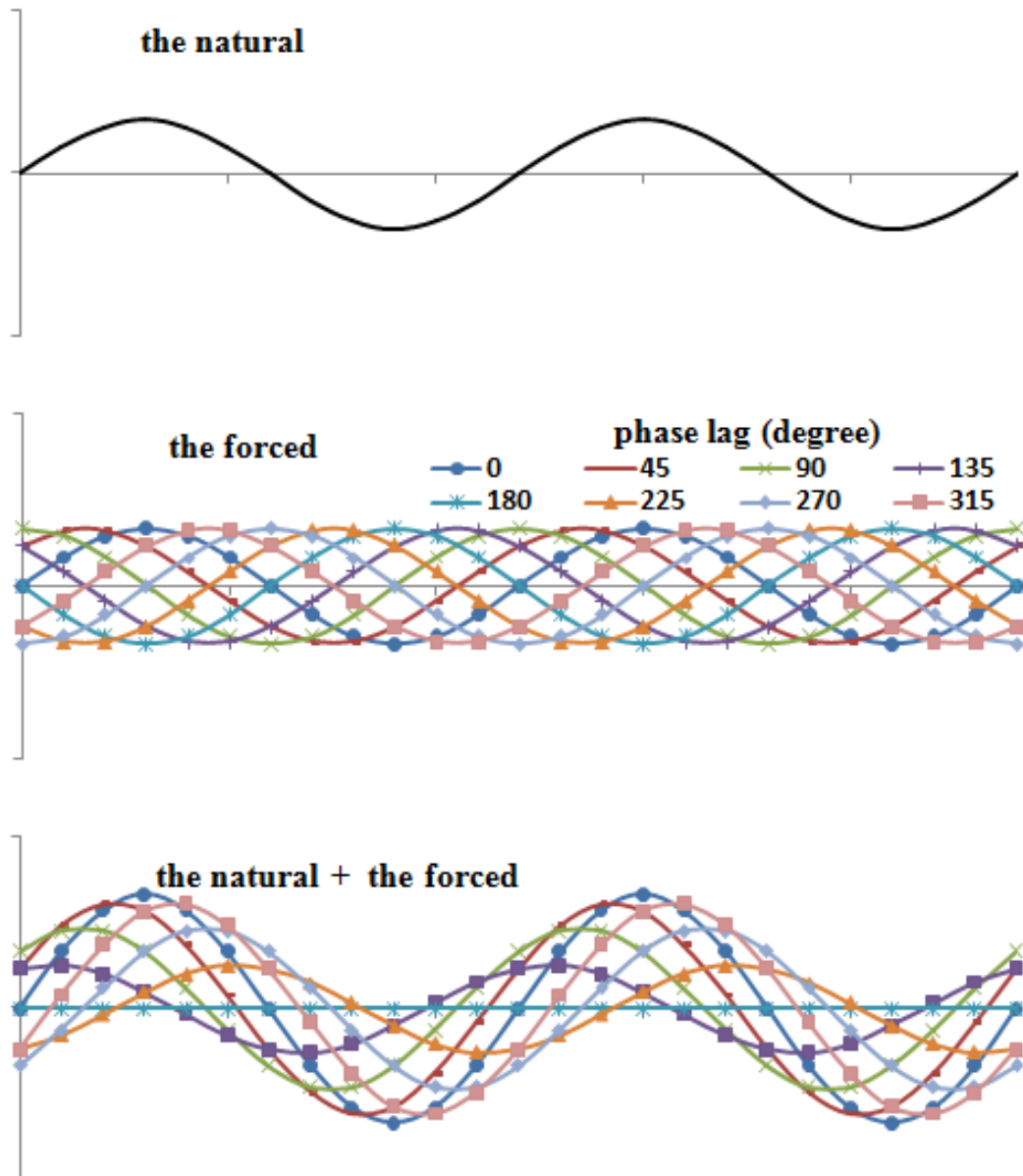
The dynamic tide begins with a consideration of several factors: if there is no landmass, the two bulges of water would continuously track from east to west with the earth's daily rotation. The presence of landmasses breaks off this progression. Most of the continents are oriented in the north-south direction, the travelling tidal wave would encounter continents, generating a reflection of tidal wave. From deep oceans to shelf seas, water becomes shallower, the slope of sea floor also greatly disperses and refracts tidal waves. Moreover, the Coriolis force deflects tidal waves to right in the direction of motion in the northern hemisphere and to left in the southern hemisphere. Within the constraint of the influences of these factors, the dynamic tide was developed. An earlier



treatment of this matter was made by Laplace who expanded the equilibrium tide into a set of hydrodynamic equations of continuity and momentum. He assumed spherical earth to be with a geocentric gravitational field, a rigid ocean bottom, and a shallow ocean, which allowed Coriolis accelerations to be neglected (Pugh 1987; Pugh and Woodworth 2014). These equations are latterly followed by a series of ideas such as progressive and standing wave, resonance, Kelvin wave, and amphidromic system. As we know, wave has crest (high) and trough (low), this resembles the shape of tide (high and low water), treating tide as wave is therefore acceptable. Wave can propagate, reflect, and refract. If the frequencies of two waves near to each other, a resonance between them may amplify amplitude. A long progressive wave can be constrained by a combination of Coriolis force and shore to form a Kelvin wave. Kelvin wave often moves cyclonically around a basin. Especially, at the boundary of a basin two Kelvin waves travelling in opposite directions can be seen forming an amphidromic system. Based on these theoretical ideas, a general understanding for tides is achieved: ocean tides are generated directly by the external gravitational forces, the continental shelf tides were generated by co-oscillation with oceanic tides (Pugh 1987; Pugh and Woodworth 2014).

Careful readers would find that, the equilibrium tide tells why it occurs the alternation of high and low water on the earth whereas the dynamic tide tells how the high and low water moves around the earth. But essentially, the equilibrium tide is the source of the dynamic tide. Once the two bulges of water and the depression, which represent the equilibrium tide, aren't existed, the dynamic tide becomes groundless. Actually, the dynamic tide hasn't yet resolved the problems of the equilibrium tide, except for a introduction of resonance mechanism which attempts to deal with the problem of tidal range difference. The tidal range expected from the equilibrium tide is about 0.5 m at equator, but in the main oceans the observed tides have a range of about 0.0~1.0 m, in the continental shelf seas a much larger range of tides are found, at some places (the Bay of Fundy and the Argentine shelf, for instance) the tidal ranges even may reach 10.0 m (Pugh 1987; Pugh and Woodworth 2014). The resonance mechanism is to say that the continental shelf tides were generated by co-oscillation with oceanic tidal waves when the oceanic tidal waves are propagated onto the continental shelves. This treatment, however, is difficult to succeed. Supposedly, the oceanic tidal waves have smoothly spread onto the continental shelf seas, but their resonances with local oscillations still aren't easy to occur as we thought, this is because the resonance of two waves has a strictly physical constraint. An approach of frequency is simply not enough. At least, the phase of two waves must be the same. For example, if the wavelengths of two sinusoidal waves are the same while phase lag between them is  $180^\circ$ , the amplitude of the combined wave would be zero, this could be a minification of rather than an amplification. This may be illustrated with the composition of two sinusoidal waves  $\sin(2\omega t)$  (the natural) and  $\sin(2\omega t+k45)$  (the forced), which resemble the semidiurnal tides, the natural and the forced conceptually represent the oscillation of continental shelf sea and the oceanic tidal wave, respectively, where  $\omega$  is angular speed of unit degree per hour, and  $\omega = 15^\circ$ ,  $t$  is the time of unit hour,  $k45$  is phase lag of unit degree,  $k=0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, \text{ and } 8$  (Fig. 3). It can be seen that the amplitudes of

some of these combined waves are greatly decreased when phase lag falls into a span of  $135^{\circ}\sim 225^{\circ}$ , in particular, the amplitude reduces to zero when phase lag is  $180^{\circ}$ . The amplitudes indeed may be amplified when phase lag falls into a span of  $0^{\circ}\sim 135^{\circ}$  and  $225^{\circ}\sim 360^{\circ}$ .



**FIG. 3 Modelling the resonance of natural oscillation and forced oscillation under different phase lag.**

The demonstration above leads to the fact that a system, which is forced by oscillation close to its natural period, is uncertain to yield a large amplitude anywhere. One should be aware that, due to the moon's daily advance in its orbit, the gravitational pull of the moon on an earthly site has a phase (time) lag of about 52 minutes per day (equivalent to  $3.75^{\circ}$ ). This means that, after 36 days the total phase lag falls into a span of  $135^{\circ}\sim 225^{\circ}$ , in which a counteraction of the two will occur. In other words, to maintain

the resonance between oceanic tidal wave and the oscillation of continental shelf sea, the latter has to timely recede in order to keep synchronization with the former. This hence leads to another problem why the oscillation of the continental shelf sea may recede day by day. It is unintelligible, because the natural (inherent) oscillation of a system never advances or recedes. One must also be aware that, in the real world the occurrences of resonated events (collapsing bridge, acoustic speaker, for instance) are rare, there is no eternal resonance for a special system. Attempting to relate resonance to tide seems violate our intuition.

Finally, we come to the conclusion that the proposition of the two bulges of water and the depression is unpractical, the resultants of the two bulges of water also contradict observations, and that the attractive mechanism fails to account for tide. It appears to again enter a dark age when we face this daily movement of water. Even so, some evidence, like the fortnightly cycle of high and low water, still tends to show a close coupling of tide and the Moon. If it isn't the Moon's (Sun's) gravitational attraction to elevate water, we have to redefine this relationship.

For a long time, too much attention was paid to ocean tides whereas the deformation of solid Earth (also called Earth tide) was less considered. Love (1909) presented the first theory of solid Earth deformation, Longman (1963) introduced a Green's function by which the surface deformation of the earth can be calculated exactly, these authors (Hendershott 1972; Farrell 1973; Melchior 1974; Agnew 1981; Scherneck 1991) systematically investigated the responses of solid Earth to the tide-generating forces and to ocean tide. Along with these efforts, it is established that the deformation of solid earth follows the shape of the equilibrium tide. However, once the two bulges of water and the depression, which represent the equilibrium tide, is observationally refused, the reality of the deformation of solid Earth needs to be revalidated. In doing so, we use gravity data of 9 globally distributed gauge sites to analyze their responses to the lunar angles. The result really agrees to the existence of the deformation of solid Earth. As shown in Figure 1(C), these gauge sites commonly perform a fall of gravity when their lunar angles fall into a phase of  $0^{\circ}\sim 45^{\circ}$  and  $135^{\circ}\sim 180^{\circ}$ , but perform a rise of gravity when their lunar angles fall into a phase of  $45^{\circ}\sim 135^{\circ}$ . The fall (rise) of gravity geographically represents a rise (fall) of elevation relative to the Earth's centre. These sites are highly scattered on several continents. This closely response of gravity to lunar angle, if we refer to Figure 1(A), quite fits to a frame of the two bulges of solid Earth and a depression of solid Earth around the earth halfway between the two bulges. The chart exhibits a state of 24 hours in the day of August 13, 2014. Gravity data are treated as follows: gravity change of a site is the difference of the mean of all hourly gravity changes of this site during the whole August and the hourly gravity change. This eventually yields a same reference frame (gravity is 0) for these data to be compared together. Solid earth covers with oceans, any deformation of solid earth has to disturb the water in the oceans. It's widely accepted that the influence of the deformation of solid earth on ocean tide is expressed with  $(1+k-h)\Omega p/g$ , where  $\Omega p/g$  is the equilibrium tide amplitude,  $(1+k-h)$  is a diminishing factor (combination of Love numbers) in the equilibrium tide (Pugh 1987; Pugh and Woodworth 2014). This treatment, however, lost something important. Since

$(1+k-h)\Omega\rho/g$  itself represents tide amplitude, this means that the contribution of the deformation of solid earth to ocean tide is simply a reduction of tide amplitude in the vertical direction. In fact, solid earth responds quickly to the external forces. Once solid earth is deformed, the spinning deformed earth would mechanically drive each part of ocean basin to move up and down, under the effect of the earth's gravity, water in ocean basin begins to flow. For a site of ocean basin, the inflow of water increases water level whereas the outflow of water decreases water level, tide therefore occurs.

## 2 An analytic treatment of the deformation of solid earth

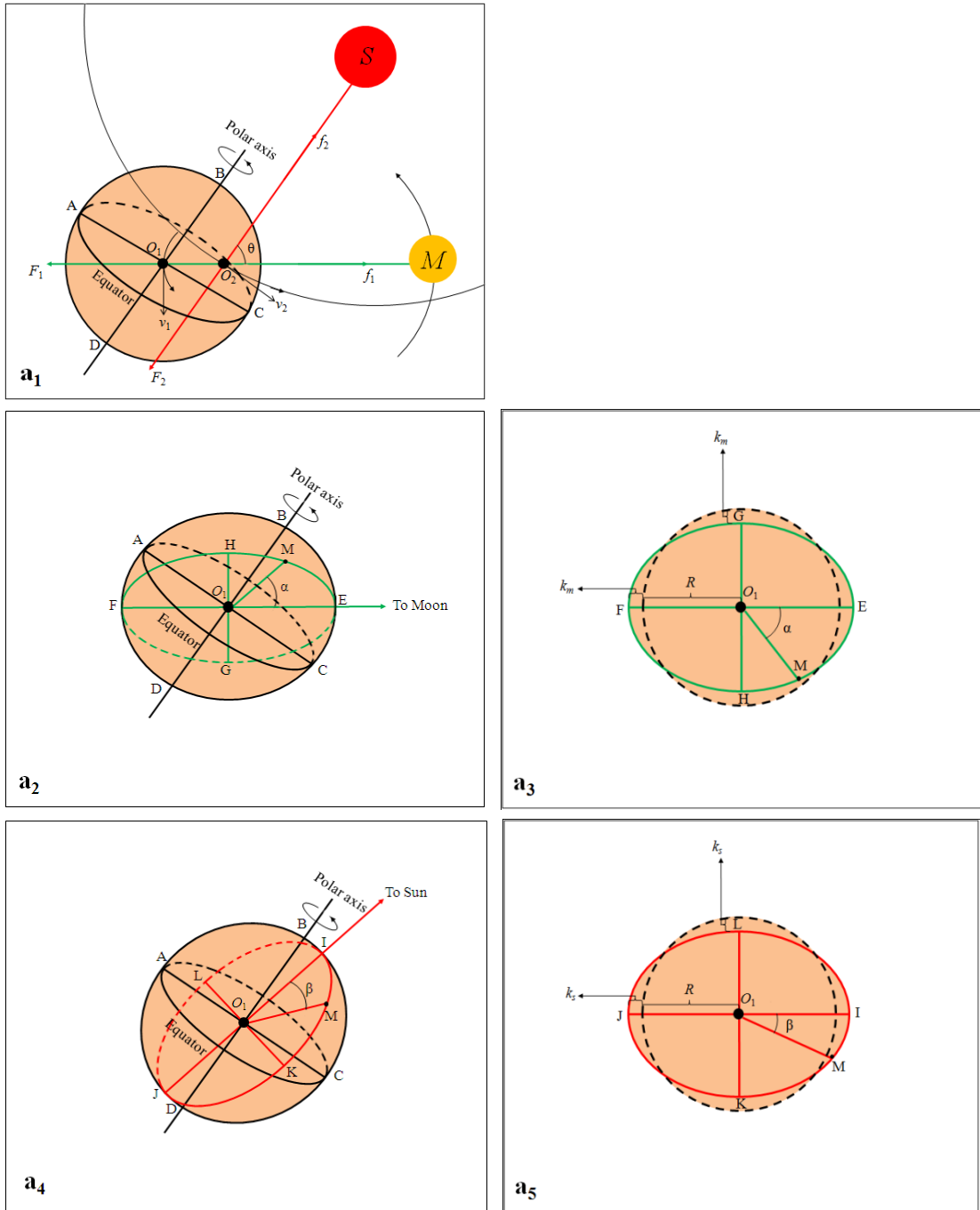
The earth may be treated as a solid sphere that is enveloped by water and atmosphere (Fowler 2004; National Research Council 1964, 1993). The structure of solid earth, from surface to interior, is sequentially divided into different layers like crust, mantle, outer core, and inner core (Jordan 1979). A large number of works had confirmed that these layers are filled with various materials (Wootton 2006; Stixrude and Cohen 1995; Ozawa et al. 2011; Herndon 1980; Herndon 2005; Birch 1964) and denser materials are concentrated towards the interior (Monnereau et al. 2010). Notwithstanding, solid earth is strictly not a rigid body. Both experiment and measurement had proved it to be elastic (Stixrude and Cohen 1995; Schettino 2014) and to had been stretched into an oblate spheroid because of the centrifugal effect of the earth's rotation about its axis (Heiskanen 1962; Burša 1993). It has been already established that there are two curved motions for the earth in space: one is the earth orbits about the centre of mass of the earth-moon system, and another is the earth-moon system orbits about the sun. Fuller details of these motions of the earth, moon, and sun may be found in these works (Kopal 1969; Schureman 1976; Smart 1940; Doodson and Warburg 1941; Kaula 1968; Roy 1978). These two curved motions generate two centrifugal effects  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  for solid earth (Fig. 4(a<sub>1</sub>)).  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  are mechanically balanced by the gravitation  $f_1$  from the Moon and by the gravitation  $f_2$  from the Sun. The ratio of  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  will be 1:178 according to some established parameters such as orbital radius and period, mass of each body, and so on. Apparently,  $F_2$  is far greater than  $F_1$ , but its working point is not at the Earth's centre, we therefore suppose the effective part of  $F_2$ , which is able to stretch the earth, to be relatively small and to exert at the earth centre. The counteraction of  $F_1$  ( $F_2$ ) and  $f_1$  ( $f_2$ ) elongates solid earth along the earth-moon (sun) line and compresses it in the midway of the elongation, the net effect is solid Earth turns to an oblate spheroid (Fig. 4(a<sub>2</sub> and a<sub>4</sub>)). We call this lunar (solar) deformation in the following sections. A rigorous dynamically treatment on this matter refers to Pugh's work (1987, pp60-63) and won't be mentioned further. We see, solid earth undergoes two sets of deformations at the same time. This means that the position of any earthly site with respect to the earth's centre is a result of the combination of these two sets of deformations. Since a section which cuts an oblate spheroid along its long axis would form an ellipse (Fig. 4(a<sub>3</sub> and a<sub>5</sub>)), and then, according to the geometry of ellipse, the distance of an earthly site M from the earth's centre may be expressed as

$$H_M = ((R+k_m)^2 \cos^2 \alpha + (R-k_m)^2 \sin^2 \alpha)^{1/2} + ((R+k_s)^2 \cos^2 \beta + (R-k_s)^2 \sin^2 \beta)^{1/2} - R$$

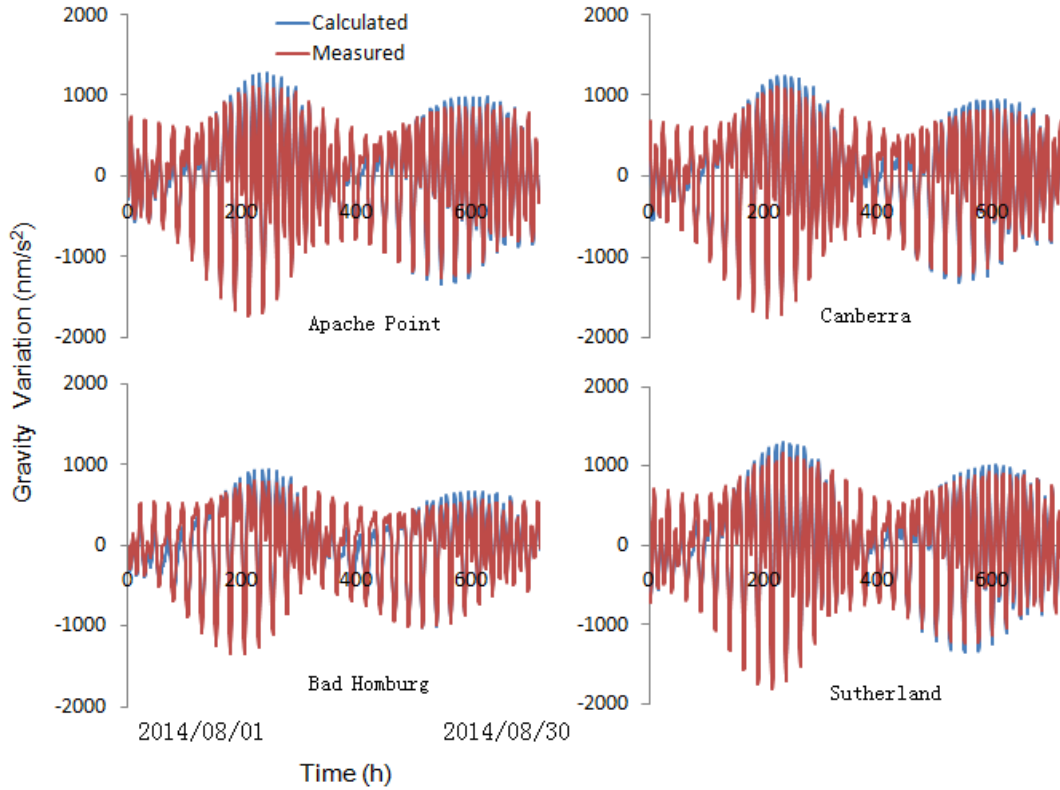
Where

$R$  is mean radius of solid earth,  $k_m$  and  $k_s$  denote lunar and solar deformations.  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are the lunar and solar angles of the site, they may be calculated through these

formulas of spherical geometry:  $\cos\alpha = \sin\sigma\sin\delta_m + \cos\sigma\cos\delta_m\cos C_{mm}$ ,  $\cos\beta = \sin\sigma\sin\delta_s + \cos\sigma\cos\delta_s\cos C_{ms}$ , where  $\sigma$ ,  $\delta_m$ ,  $\delta_s$ ,  $C_{mm}$ , and  $C_{ms}$  are respectively the geographic latitude of site M, the declination of the moon, the declination of the sun, the hour angle of site M with respect to the moon, and the hour angle of site M with respect to the sun. The expression above allows the assumption that the elongation and depression for each set of deformation keep equal in amplitude, and indicates that the distance  $H$  is relevant to the angles  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ , this means that site M would regularly rise and fall as the earth spins. The amplitudes of the rise and fall vary with the adjustment of the relative positions of the moon, sun, and earth, in particular, they become maximum at the times of full and new moon and minimum at the times of first quarter and last quarter. This is because at the times of full and new moon the two sets of deformations add each other to reinforce, whereas at the times of first quarter and last quarter the two cancel each other to weaken. The closely coupling of gravity and lunar angle, as shown in Figure 1(C), suggests that we may use this relation to determine the deformation  $k_m(k_s)$ . Gravitation acceleration at an earthly site fits to an expression  $g_H = GMe/H^2$ , the resultant gravity change would be  $\Delta g = g_H - g = (1/H^2 - 1/R^2)GMe$  when  $g = GMe/R^2$  is referred, where  $G$ ,  $Me$ ,  $R$ , and  $H$  are respectively gravitation constant, mass of the earth, mean radius of the earth, and the distance of the site from the earth's centre. A purely experienced expression for these two sets of deformations will be  $k_m = E_m Q_m (\cos\delta_m + \cos\Theta)$  and  $k_s = Q_s \cos\delta_s$ , where  $E_m$  is elliptical coefficient of the Moon's orbit and may be further written as  $E_m = R_{ME}^2/R_M^2$  ( $R_{ME}$  and  $R_M$  denotes respectively the mean distance of the Moon from Earth and the orbital radius of the Moon), this influences the gravitational force  $f_1$  from the Moon and the centrifugal effect  $F_1$ ,  $Q_m$  and  $Q_s$  denote the amplitudes of the lunar and solar deformations,  $\delta_m$ ,  $\Theta$ , and  $\delta_s$  denote respectively the Moon's declination, the angle of the Moon and Sun, and the Sun's declination. After these parameters are packed together, we select gravity hourly data of 4 sites (which cover the whole August of 2014), by means of a regression analysis, to get  $Q_m$  and  $Q_s$ . As each gravity gauge station has its own reference level  $g_{re}$  when measurement is operated, the gravity change of a site may thus be expressed as  $\Delta g = (1/H^2 - 1/R^2)GMe - g_{re}$ . The calculated and measured gravity changes are compared in Figure 5, the results for  $Q_m$ ,  $Q_s$ , and  $g_{re}$  are listed in Table 1, the values of  $G$ ,  $Me$ ,  $R$ , and  $R_{ME}$  that bear these calculations may refer to Table 2.



**Fig. 4 Combined centrifugal effects for solid Earth and the resultant deformation.** **a<sub>1</sub>**, the curved motions of the Earth around the barycenter of the Earth-Moon system and around the Sun, **a<sub>2</sub>** and **a<sub>4</sub>** are the resultant deformations respectively from the Moon and from the Sun, **a<sub>3</sub>** and **a<sub>5</sub>** are the elliptical intersections respectively from these deformations.  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  are the centrifugal effects solid Earth undergoes due to these curved motions.  $O_1$ ,  $O_2$ ,  $M$ , and  $S$  are the Earth's centre, the barycenter of the Earth-Moon system, the Moon, and the Sun, respectively.  $\theta$  is the angle of the Moon and Sun relative to the barycenter of the Earth-Moon system.  $v_1$  and  $v_2$  are respectively the velocity of the Earth orbiting the barycenter of the Earth-Moon system and the velocity of the Earth-Moon system orbiting the Sun, it is these motions to generate the centrifugal effects  $F_1$  and  $F_2$ . Black dashed circles in diagram **a<sub>3</sub>** and **a<sub>5</sub>** are referred as the original shape of solid Earth.



**FIG. 5 Comparison of calculated and measured gravity change.** Gravity data refer to IGETS (International Geodynamics and Earth Tide Service) (Voigt et al. 2016).

**Table 1 Calculated results for lunar and solar deformations**

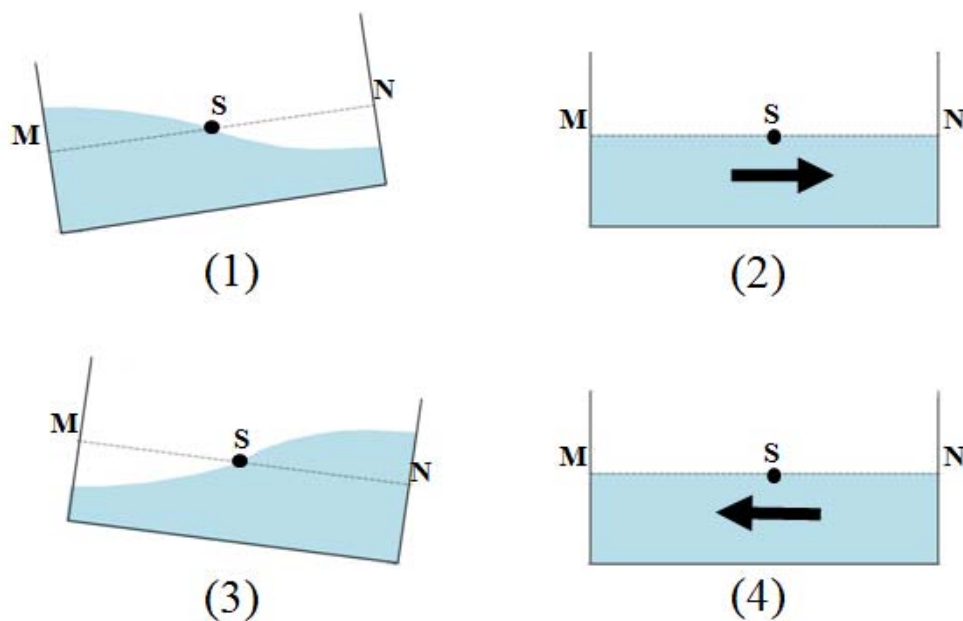
Item		Apache Point, New Mexico, USA	Bad Homburg, Germany	Canberra, Australia	Sutherland, South Africa	Mean
Geographic position	Latitude	32.78°N	50.23°N	35.32°S	32.38°S	--
	Longitude	105.82°W	8.61°E	149.01°E	20.81°E	--
Calculated	$Q_m$ (m)	0.19	0.18	0.19	0.19	0.19
	$Q_s$ (m)	0.11	0.12	0.11	0.11	0.11
	$g_{re}$ (nm/s <sup>2</sup> )	379.04	695.91	426.76	371.88	--

Note:  $Q_m$ ,  $Q_s$ , and  $g_{re}$  are respectively the amplitudes of the lunar and solar deformations, and gravity reference level of each site.

### 3 The resulting tide

Our understanding of tide depends on a demonstration of the water movement of an oscillating vessel. As shown in Figure 6, we first let the right end of a rectangular water box rise, the water then flows towards left. If line MN represents a reference level, the water level at site M rises whereas the water level at site N falls. We restore the right end to its former level and continue to let the left end rise, the water at the left end flows towards right, the water level at site M correspondingly falls whereas the water level at

site N rises. Repeat the rise and fall of the two ends continuously, the water level of sites M and N alternately vary. Compared to sites M and N, another site S, which is located in the middle of this vessel, holds the minimal variation of water level. Now we let one end rise and fall alternately while another end is motionless, the water level at sites M and N still alternately vary. Further, we let one end rise (fall) but another end fall (rise) at the same time, the water level at sites M and N also alternately vary. The variation of water level at one end may be roughly represented by the difference of vertical displacement between the two ends. For example,  $\Delta H = H_N - H_M$  may be an expression of water level change of site M, where  $H_N$  and  $H_M$  denote respectively the vertical displacement of sites N and M. Mathematically, this variation of water level may be depicted with a sinusoidal function of  $h \sin(\omega t + \sigma)$ , where  $h$ ,  $\omega$ , and  $\sigma$  denote respectively amplitude, angular frequency, and phase lag. It should be noted here that, this mode is different from the first gravitational mode of the oscillations of water that was mentioned in the Pugh's work (1987, pp149). In that gravitational mode the vessel is motionless and the oscillations of water are ascribed to a tide-generating force.

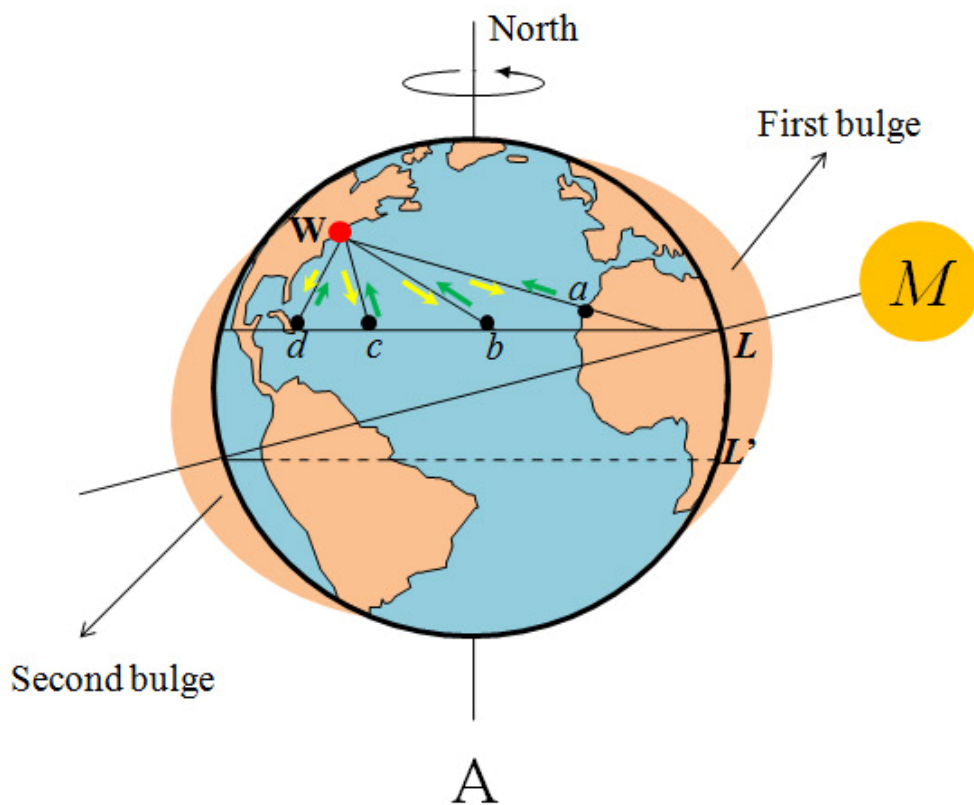


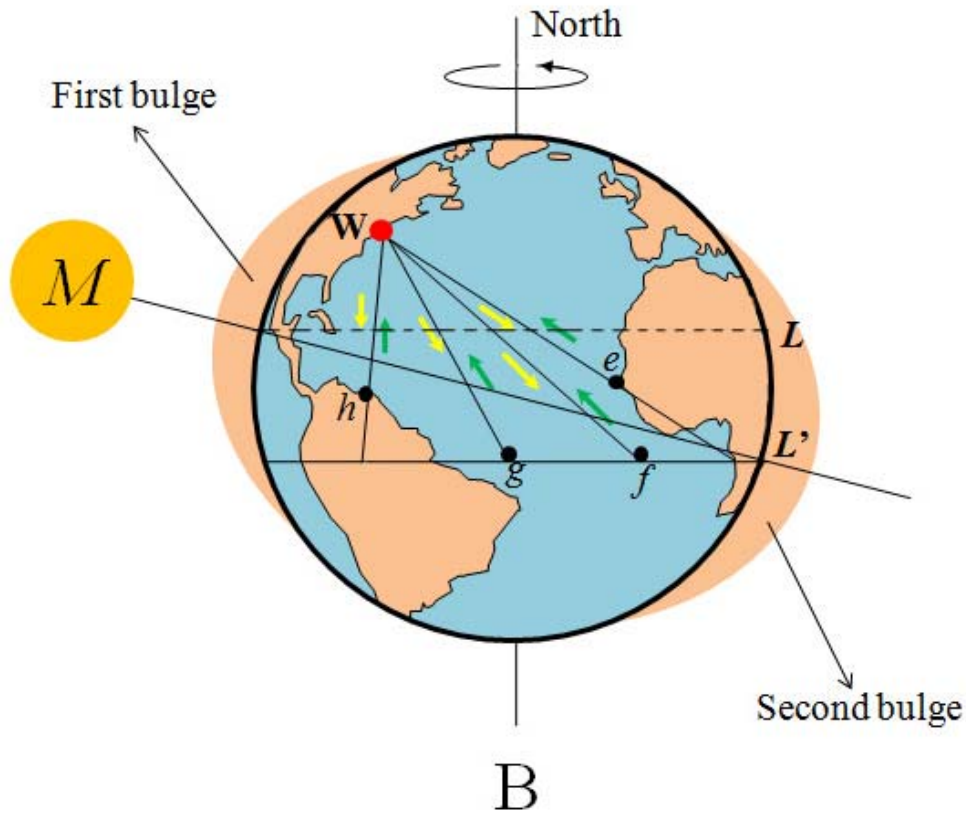
**FIG. 6 Modelling the water movement of an oscillating rectangular box.** From (1), (2), (3) to (4) it represents a full alternation of the rise and fall of the two ends. Arrows denote the directions of water movements.

Go back to real world, about 71% of the earth's surface is covered with oceans (Pidwirny 2006). Apparently, all the oceans bisect the earth's surface, and each ocean basin is like a gigantic vessel. In consideration of the matter of deformation of solid earth, the spinning earth would drive every part of ocean basin to regularly rise and fall, this leads water to transfer back and forth, and also generates high and low water at the ends of the basin. The water transferring may be demonstrated with Figure 7. Within the lunar deformation, there is an elongation in the direction of the earth-moon line and



a compression in the midpoint of the elongation. The elongation of solid earth may be represented with two bulges. The first bulge tracks from east to west along line  $L$  as the earth spins. For a coastal site  $W$ , the raising of site  $a$  firstly leads water to transfer towards site  $W$ . Subsequently, the raising of the site  $b$ ,  $c$ , and  $d$ , which are supposed to lie at ocean floor, leads water to transfer from these sites to site  $W$ . With the passage of time, site  $a$ ,  $b$ ,  $c$ , and  $d$  begin to fall in order. This leads water to return, inevitably, there is a water transferring from site  $W$  to each of these sites. Half a day later, the second bulge tracks from east to west along line  $L'$ , the raising of site  $e$ ,  $f$ ,  $g$ , and  $h$  (site  $f$  and  $g$  are also supposed to lie at ocean floor), leads water to flow out from these sites, transferring towards site  $W$ . Similarly, with the passage of time, these sites begin to fall in order, and cause water to transfer from site  $W$  to each of these sites. Please note that, during the day each of these sites  $b$ ,  $c$ ,  $d$ ,  $f$ , and  $g$  would undergo a maximum rise and a maximum fall. Even if sites  $a$ ,  $e$ , and  $h$  can't undergo a maximum rising, the landmass's rise still would entrain them to rise, this leads water to transfer towards site  $W$ . If the water transferring between site  $W$  and each of these sites is treated as wave, the total variation of water level at site  $W$  could be a simple addition of these waves. This provides foundation for the presently tide prediction.





**FIG. 7** A simplified system illustrates water transferring due to the rise and fall of related sites. From A to B, the earth rotates  $180^\circ$  with respect to the moon. Green (yellow) arrows denote the direction of water transferring between site W and the other sites.  $L$  and  $L'$  denote the paths that the earth-moon line tracks along the earth's surface (dashed line means it is at far side). The two bulges denote the elongation of solid earth.

Three coastal sites Karumba (K), Prince Rupert (P), and Rorvik (R) are selected to perform the variation of water level. Base on the physics of the oscillating rectangular vessel and of the water transferring in the ocean basin we demonstrate above, each of these three sites acts as one end of a smaller rectangular vessel, those sites  $K_1$ ,  $P_i$  ( $i=1, 2, 3, 4$ , and  $5$ ), and  $R_0$  act as another ends of these vessels.  $P_i$  ( $i=1, 2, 3, 4$ , and  $5$ ) are considered because each of these sites and P may consist of a rectangular vessel, in which there would be water transferring. One or more partner sites are added to these vessels.  $R_j$  ( $j=1, 2, 3$ , and  $4$ ) are considered because the rise and fall of each of these sites would result in a water transferring between  $R_0$  and itself, from  $R_0$  the transferring water may further move towards R. Actually,  $R_0$  plays a role of connecting point alone. A geographical frame of these rectangular vessels is outlined in Figure 8(A). As the maximum rising of solid earth is always in the direction of the earth-moon line and always follows the paths (e.g. line  $L$  and  $L'$ ) that the earth-moon line tracks, this means that the positions of  $P_i$  ( $i=1, 2, 3, 4$ , and  $5$ ) and  $R_j$  ( $j=1, 2, 3$ , and  $4$ ) are time-variable, relevant to the position of the moon.  $P_i$  ( $i=1, 2, 3, 4$ , and  $5$ )' and  $R_j$  ( $j=1, 2, 3$ , and  $4$ )' represent some possible locations of  $P_i$  ( $i=1, 2, 3, 4$ , and  $5$ ) and  $R_j$  ( $j=1, 2, 3$ , and  $4$ ). The geographic latitudes and longitudes of these sites are

determined as below. By Google earth software or world map, the latitudes and longitudes of K, K<sub>1</sub>, P, R, and R<sub>0</sub> are got. The solution for P<sub>*i*</sub>(P<sub>*i*'</sub>) and R<sub>*j*</sub>(R<sub>*j*'</sub>) becomes relatively complicated. Since the earth-moon line always tracks on the earth, the latitude of P<sub>*i*</sub>(P<sub>*i*'</sub>) is valued as the moon's latitude when the hour angle of P relative to the moon is less than 90° and as the reverse of the moon's latitude when the hour angle is greater than 90°, the longitudes of P<sub>*i*</sub>(P<sub>*i*'</sub>) are considered to have a difference of 15°, 0°, 15°, 30°, and 45° relative to that of P. Essentially speaking, this treatment is not too satisfactory, but it may be effective for this presently tentative simulation. The reverse represents such a case: for example, if the moon's latitude is 10°N(S), its reverse is just 10°S(N). Similar treatment is done for R<sub>*j*</sub>(R<sub>*j*'</sub>), the longitudes of R<sub>*j*</sub>(R<sub>*j*'</sub>) are considered to have a difference of 10°, 5°, 0°, and 5° relative to that of R<sub>0</sub>. Once the geographic positions of these sites are got, the distance of any of these sites from the earth's centre can be calculated through the expression we presented in section 2, the rise and fall of any of these sites is thus a difference of this distance and the Earth's mean radius. And then, the variation of water level of Karumba (K), Prince Rupert (P), and Rorvik (R) may be approximately written as

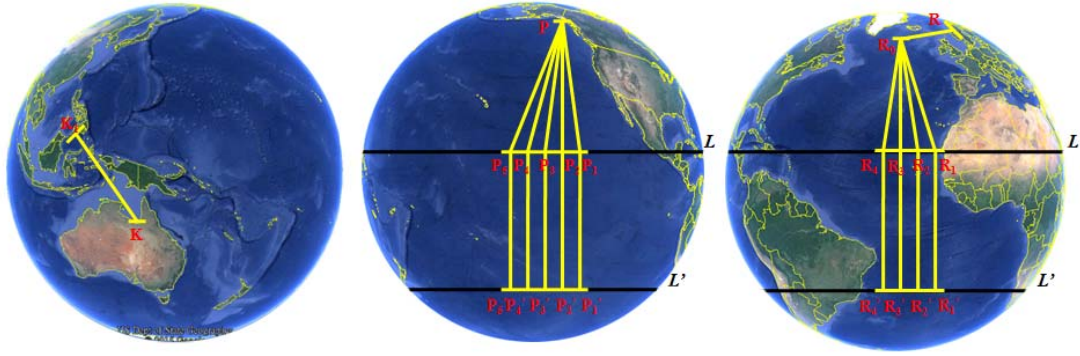
$$\zeta_K = \Delta H_{K1} - \Delta H_K$$

$$\zeta_P = \sum \Delta H_{P_i(P_i')} - \Delta H_P, i=1, 2, 3, 4, \text{ and } 5$$

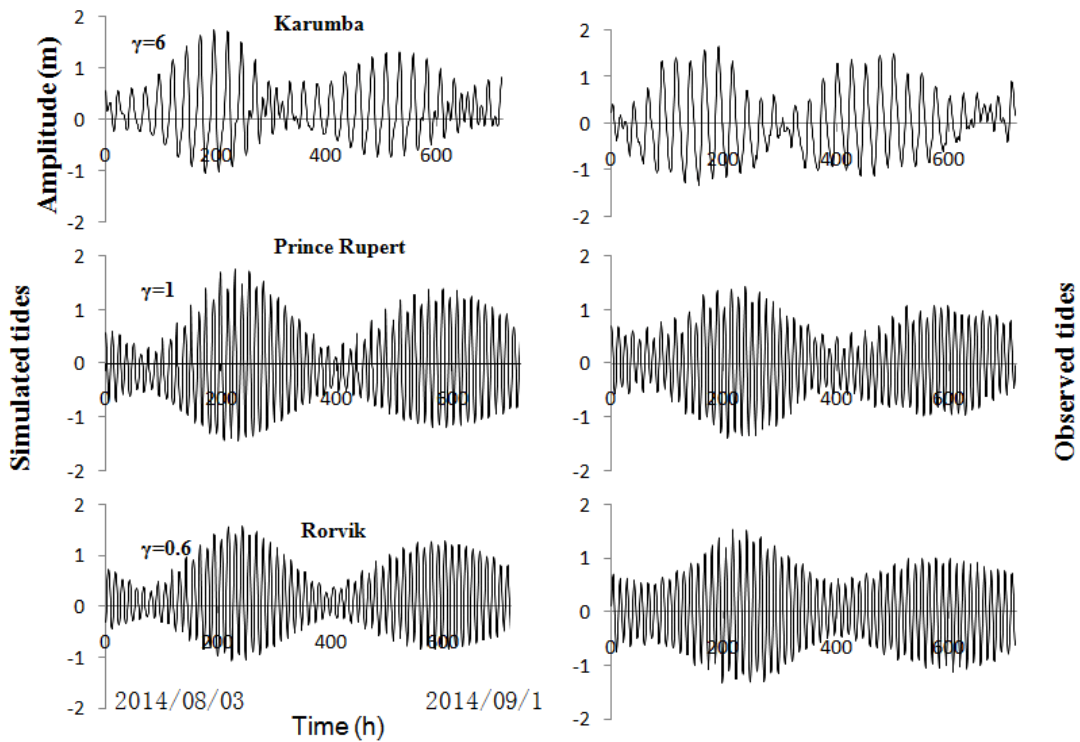
$$\zeta_R = \sum \Delta H_{R_j(R_j')} - \Delta H_R, j=1, 2, 3, \text{ and } 4$$

where  $\Delta H_K$ ,  $\Delta H_P$ ,  $\Delta H_R$ ,  $\Delta H_{K1}$ ,  $\Delta H_{P_i(P_i')}$ , and  $\Delta H_{R_j(R_j')}$  represent the rise and fall of related sites.

In the experiment of the oscillating vessel we see that, with the passage of time, the variation of water level at one end is no longer synchronous with the fall (rise) of this end itself, there is often a time lag between them, this is consistent with the age of tide. In addition to this, the amplitude of water level variation is gradually increased. The simulated tides and the observed tides are compared in Figure 8 (B), related parameters are listed in Table 2. We see, the simulated tides are morphologically consistent with the observed tides. But for a more exactly tide prediction, the influences of these factors such as the shape of ocean basin, orientation of coastline, water depth, Coriolis effect, inertia, and so on must be considered. In particular, when ocean basin is divided into a series of smaller vessels, the input of water from adjacent vessel needs to be included, too. On the whole, the water in the ocean basin per day performs two sets of overwhelming transferring: one is between site W and these sites (represented with *a*, *b*, *c*, and *d*) that are located on line *L*, another is between site W and these sites (represented with *e*, *f*, *g*, and *h*) that are located on line *L'*. The inflow of water naturally leads to an increase of water level, while the outflow naturally leads to a decrease of water level. This ultimately gives site W two high and two low waters during a lunar day. When this oscillation of ocean basin, which is induced by the lunar deformation, is considered together with that oscillation of ocean basin that is induced by the solar deformation, these two sets of water transferring becomes strongest at the times of full and new moon and weakest at the times of first quarter and last quarter, this generates two cycles of high and low waters during a lunar month.



A



B

**FIG. 8** Treatments of ocean vessels and comparisons of simulated and observed tides. **A**, defining smaller vessels within ocean basins and putting GGP (Global Geodynamics Project) sites at the surface of solid earth (base map is from Google earth).  $K$ ,  $K_1$ ,  $P$ ,  $P_i(P_i')$ ,  $R$ , and  $R_j(R_j')$  denote the ends of the potential vessels. Each short yellow line represents a rectangular vessel.  $L$  and  $L'$  are the paths that the earth-moon line tracks on the earth, which define a latitudinal boundary of the maximum rising point; **B**, showing a morphological comparison between the simulated and observed tides in August 2014.  $\gamma$  is the amplifying coefficient of tidal range. Age of tide is commonly considered as 2 days for these sites. For Karumba, the rise (fall) of  $K_1$  is later than that of  $K$  as the earth spins from east to west, the phase lag is thus considered as 1 hour between them. Data supporting is from NASA's JPL, GLOSS database - University of Hawaii Sea Level Center (Caldwell et al. 2015), and Bureau National Operations Centre (BNOC) of Australia.

Table 2 Parameters selected for simulation

		Symbol
The Moon		
Mass	7.35*10 <sup>22</sup> kg (Wieczorek et al, 2006)	$M_m$
Mean distance from Earth	384400 km (Wieczorek et al, 2006)	$R_{ME}$
The Earth		
Mass	5.97*10 <sup>24</sup> kg (Luzum et al., 2011)	$M_e$
Mean radius	6370 km (Lide, 2000)	$R$
Mean distance from Sun	1.49*10 <sup>8</sup> km (Simon et al., 1994)	$R_s$
The Sun		
Mass	1.99*10 <sup>30</sup> kg (Williams, 2013)	$M_s$
Gravitation constant	6.67*10 <sup>-11</sup> m <sup>3</sup> kg <sup>-1</sup> s <sup>-2</sup>	$G$
Geographic sites for water vessels		
	Latitude, Longitude	
Karumba, Austrilia	17.70°S, 139.20°E	K
Partner (1)	5.00°N, 121.00°E	K <sub>1</sub>
Prince Rupert, Canada	54.32°N, 130.32°W	P
Partner (1)	___, 115.32°W	P <sub>1</sub> (P <sub>1</sub> ' )
Partner (2)	___, 130.32°W	P <sub>2</sub> (P <sub>2</sub> ' )
Partner (3)	___, 145.32°W	P <sub>3</sub> (P <sub>3</sub> ' )
Partner (4)	___, 160.32°W	P <sub>4</sub> (P <sub>4</sub> ' )
Partner (5)	___, 175.32°W	P <sub>5</sub> (P <sub>5</sub> ' )
Rorvik, Norway	64.87°N, 11.25°E	R
Partner (1)	50.00°N, 28.00°W	R <sub>0</sub> (R <sub>0</sub> ' )
Partner (2)	___, 18.00°W	R <sub>1</sub> (R <sub>1</sub> ' )
Partner (3)	___, 23.00°W	R <sub>2</sub> (R <sub>2</sub> ' )
Partner (4)	___, 28.00°W	R <sub>3</sub> (R <sub>3</sub> ' )
Partner (5)	___, 33.00°W	R <sub>4</sub> (R <sub>4</sub> ' )

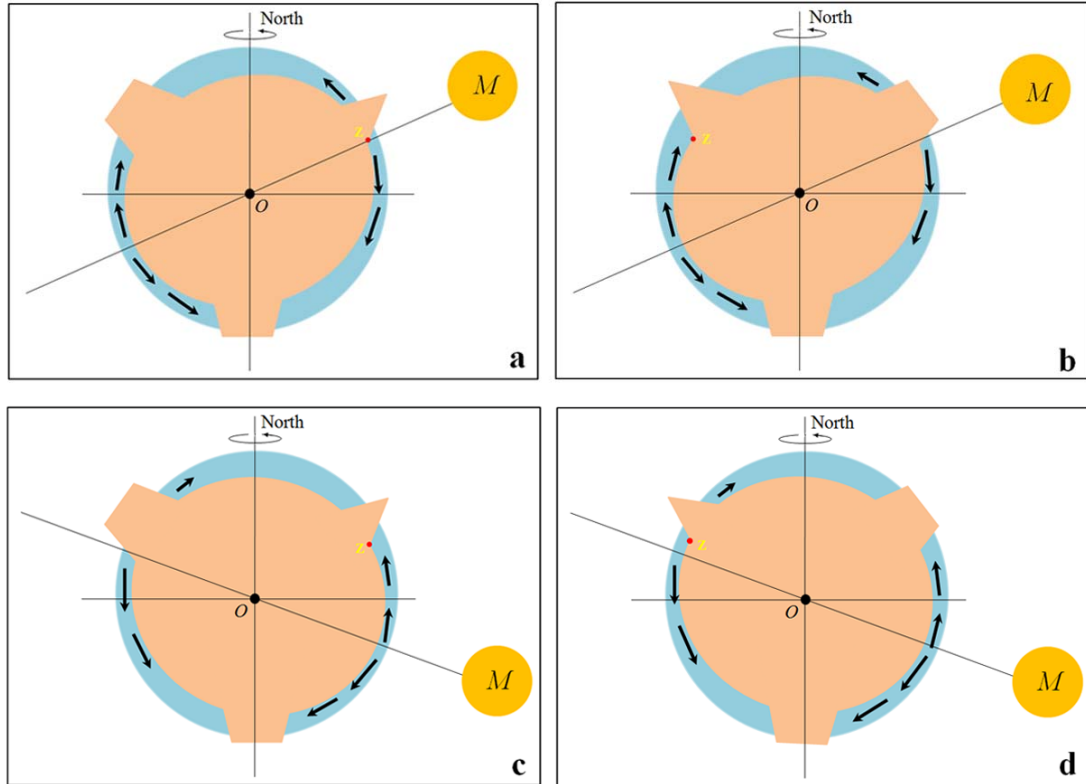
#### 4 Discussion

The physics of the oscillating vessel is also applicable to the matter of an enclosed sea/lake. If we treat Black sea as a vessel and use the expression we presented in section 2 to estimate, the west or east end of this region may experience a tide of up to 17.0 cm. Similarly, a tube of water (20 m in length) horizontally located at equator will experience a tide of up to  $3.2 \times 10^{-3}$  mm, an imperceptible amount. This means that, any smaller vessel, such as swimming pool, cup, bowl, and so on, because of its short size, wouldn't exhibit a perceptible tide. The oscillating ocean basin drives water to move back and forth, the continental shorelines are generally long enough to block the transferring water to form large accumulation. In particular, most of these shorelines are concave, this may create an effect of narrow to amplify tide. Typical representatives could be the tides around Qiantang River and at the Bay of Fundy. In contract, the shorelines of the islands that are isolated in the deep oceans are short, the transferring water can't be effectively accumulated and may bypass. These cause larger tidal ranges to occur at the coastal seas and smaller ones to occur at the deep oceans. The

transferring water, if constrained by the narrowness of a strait, may also form a swift current, like that in the Cook Strait (Stevens et al. 2012; Bowman et al. 1983). For the various features of the tides in the Atlantic and in the North West Europe shelf seas, they may be understood as follows: since the rise and fall of each part of the ocean basin is launched from east to west as the earth spins, the rising of east end of the Atlantic basin first leads water to flow towards north, west, and south, the following rise of middle part of the basin leads water to flow towards east, north, west, and south, and finally, the rise of west end of the basin leads water to flow towards north, east, and south. The westerly water reaches the eastern coastline of America nearly at the same time and leaves no difference in tidal phase. The northerly water forms a progression of tidal phases oriented north in the North Atlantic. Moreover, a large body of north-easterly water will enter the strait of Gibraltar and cross the Celtic Sea, from where it continues to run into the English Channel and other related regions. A series of progressive tides along these shores are created, such as the tides around England's shores. With passage of time, the Atlantic ocean basin begins to fall from east to west, water is slowly restored. On the whole, the falling of the middle of the Atlantic basin would lead water to flow in. This gives rise to a progression of tidal phases towards north in the South Atlantic and towards south in the North Atlantic. However, the progression of tidal phases towards south is not as apparent as towards north. This could be ascribed to the influences of the trumpet-shape North and South Atlantic. The width of the North Atlantic reaches 6400 km at 22° N and 3500 km at 52° N, similarly, the width of the South Atlantic reaches 3800 km at 5° S and 5500 km at 33° S. The southerly water at the North Atlantic and at the South Atlantic may be decompressed and minimize the phases as the channel becomes wider. In contrast, the northerly water at the South Atlantic and at the North Atlantic would be narrowed to amplify the phases as the channel becomes narrower.

Newton in his book *Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy* described a tide (Proposition XXIV. Theorem XIX, translated by Andrew Motte): “*An example of all which Dr. Halley has given us, from the observations of seamen in the port of Batsham, in the Kindom of Tunquin (presently Viet Nam), in the latitude of 25°50' north. In that port, on the day which follows after the passage of the moon over the equator, the waters stagnate: when the moon declines to the north, they begin to flow and ebb, not twice, as in other ports, but once only every day: and the flood happens at the setting, and the greatest ebb at the rising of the moon. This tide increases with the declination of the moon till the 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> day; then for the 7 or 8 days following it decreases at the same rate as it had increased before, and ceases when the moon changes its declination, crossing over the equator to south. After which the flood is immediately changes into an ebb; and thenceforth the ebb happens at the setting and the flood at the rising of the moon; till the moon, again passing the equator, changes its declination. There are two inlets to this port and the neighboring channels, one from the seas of China, between the continent and the islands of Leuconia; the other from the Indian sea, between the continent and the island of Borneo. But whether there be really two tides propagated through the said channels, one from the Indian sea in the space of 12 hours, and once from the sea of China in the space of 6 hours, which therefore happening at the 3d and*

9<sup>th</sup> lunar hours, by being compounded together, produce those motions; or whether there be any other circumstances in the state of those seas, I leave to be determined by observations on the neighbouring shores." Newton gave an explanation for this tide but without being verified. A similar tide also appears in the Australian Gulf of Carpentaria. The tide at this location reduce to zero when the moon's declination is zero, increasing to its largest values when the moon is at its greatest declination, either north or south of the equator. This kind of tide is presently called a diurnal tide. Here we demonstrate how this tide forms under the frame of the spinning deformed solid earth. As shown in Figure 9, when the moon declines to the north, since the elongation of solid earth is always in the earth-moon line and tracks from east to west, a part of the northern hemisphere of solid earth is dominantly raised at the moon's rising, this leads water to flow out and the water level at site Z falls naturally. With the passage of time, a part of the southern hemisphere is dominantly raised at the moon's setting. This leads water to flow out, at least, there is a water transferring from south to north, the water level of site Z rises naturally. When the moon declines to the south, a part of the southern hemisphere is dominantly raised at the moon's rising. This leads water to flow out, at least, there is a water transferring from south to north, the water level at site Z rises. With the passage of time, a part of the northern hemisphere is dominantly raised at the moon's setting. This leads water to flow out, and the water level at site Z falls. This eventually gives site Z one high water and one low water per day. When the moon lies at the equator, the water transferring between the northern and southern hemispheres is relatively slight, the water at site Z become nearly motionless.



**FIG. 9 Modelling the formation of diurnal tide in Batsham and Karumba (Z).** From a(b) to c(d) the moon transfers from north to south. From a(c) to b(d), the earth rotates 180°. Please note, the

deformation of solid earth is highly exaggerated. *M* represents the moon. Black arrows in each diagram denote water transferring caused by the deformation.

Galileo in his *Dialogue Concerning the Two Chief World Systems* (translated by Stillman Drake) described the tides of the Mediterranean, “*three varieties of these hourly changes are observed: in some places the waters rise and fall without making any forward motions; in others, without rising or falling they move now toward the east and again run back toward to the west; and in still others, the height and the course both vary. This occurs here in Venice, where the waters rise in entering and fall in departing. ... .., elsewhere the water runs to and fro in its central parts without changing height, as happens notably in the Straits of Messina between Scylla and Charybdis, where the currents are very swift because of the narrowness of the channel. But in the open Mediterranean and around its islands, such as the Balearics, Corsica, Sardinia, Elba, Sicily (on the African side), Malta, Crete, etc., the alterations of height are very small but the currents are quite noticeable, especially where the sea is restrained between islands, or between these and the continent.*” The Mediterranean is like a perfect vessel. Under the effect of the deformation of solid earth, the vessel is shaken regularly, this yields water transferring between its related parts, refer to Figure 6, the greatest alternation of water level occurs at these ends, whereas the smallest occurs in the open area. The transferring water, while constrained by the straits, form swift currents.

A critical difference between the attractive mechanism and this proposed theory lies at, the former relates ocean tide directly to the gravitational pulls of the moon and sun on water, while the latter relates ocean tide directly to the oscillation of ocean basin; Another difference is the former firstly treats ocean tide, and then, uses ocean tide to multiply a diminishing factor function  $(1+k-h)$  to express the deformation of solid earth (e.g. earth tide), instead, the latter takes a reverse process by using the deformation of solid earth to account for ocean tide. Actually, ocean water is too thin (light) relative to solid earth’s thickness (weight), the response of solid earth to external force could be more intense than that of liquid water. In addition, landmass accounts for about 29% the earth’s surface (e.g, the earth is not fully covered with water), most importantly, ocean depths vary from site to site. These determine that the two bulges of water and the depression, which was asserted by the attractive mechanism, are difficult to occur on the earth.

We see, this proposed theory not only explains the general features of tide (the daily and fortnightly cycles of high and low waters, for instance), realizes some competitive results, but also avoids the problems that the two bulges of water and the depression arise, moreover, it provides a realistic physically foundation for tide prediction. And then, a problem we have to clarify is why presently tide prediction is successful in reproducing the observed tides. Let’s take a relatively long passage to see how tide prediction is made. If the dynamic tidal theory were used to make prediction, a realistic difficulty is many different variables must be included to determine tidal height, accuracy cannot be guaranteed. A widely accepted routine for tide prediction is by means of tide observation. As tidal variations (the height and time of high and low



water) are recorded continuously, once tide data is available, we use computers to analyze the data to identify components of the complex wave. This process is called tidal analysis, which usually employs three methods (non-harmonic, harmonic, and responsive). A detailed description of these methods may refer to the Pugh's work (1987). Morphologically, the profile plotted from tide record may be regarded as a complex wave. Wave has crest and trough, this feature corresponds to the high and low water of tide. Harmonic analysis makes full use of this point, by which the tidal variations (high and low) are represented with a finite number of harmonic terms of cosine form ( $H_n \cos(\sigma_n t - g_n)$ , where  $H_n$  is amplitude,  $g_n$  is phase lag, and  $\sigma_n$  is angular speed). The tidal analysis worked out the wave heights and time lags (related to the Moon's or Sun's orbital movement) of many components. Once the timing, periodicity, and amplitude of each component are known for a particular location, computing the magnitude of each component for any point in time in the future becomes relatively easy. A simple addition of these components gives the tidal height at the future time and location. Tide predictions made in this way are used extensively and give the basis for the tide forecasts we daily see in many public forms (Segar 2012). Tide models were technically developed when tide-gauge data and satellite altimeter data had been collected, they are also the need for geophysical corrections in the fields such as oceanography and space technology (Provost 1994). The first generation of ocean tide models was published between 1960's and 1980's and followed by improved works in the following decades (Egbert and Erofeeva 2002; Arbic et al. 2008; Egbert et al. 2004; Hill et al. 2011; Schwiderski 1979; Eanes and Bettadpur 1996). Some comprehensive evaluations of ocean tide models may refer to these two works (Shum et al. 1997; Stammer et al. 2014). Nowadays most of tides around the world may be produced through tide models. In these models many different variables can be comprehensively treated, furthermore, the time of data processing is greatly shortened, these wholly guarantee the produced components more reliable and the predicted tides more accurate.

Some argue that we shouldn't use the equilibrium tide to make comparison with observation as the responses of oceans to the tidal forces are complicated and depends on the shape of the ocean basins, the Earth's rotation, and so on. A few points may overturn these arguments. Firstly, the equilibrium tide is a net result of the attractive mechanism. If we don't use the equilibrium tide to compare, how can we confirm the gravitational attraction of the Moon and Sun on water to be the cause of tide rather than other factors such as moonlight, or solar radiation, or ghost effect of a distant star? In fact, when the two bulges of water are refused by observation, all addressing for the equilibrium tide immediately become speculative and powerless. Indeed, each ocean basin has its own response to the tidal forces, but we see, as shown in Figure 2(c and d), when the size of high or low water of a site is increased (increased), the sizes of high or low water of all other tides are also increased (decreased) at the same time, this indicates that this evolution of high and low water is independent of ocean basin's geographic factors. Many generations have been led by the textbooks of drawing two bulges of water and full of extremely complicated formulas to know tide.

When the two bulges of water is refused, all these instantly become a false prosperity. That's a time to wake up.

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