

Oceanic excitation hypothesis for continuous oscillations of the Earth

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We have examined frequency dependency and the seasonal variation of the atmospheric pressure and deep ocean bottom pressure recordings more than a year long. The power spectrum at the deep ocean bottom is larger than that of the atmosphere by one or two orders of magnitude. The ground spectrum shape of quiet seismic stations and the spectrum of the deep ocean bottom share common characteristic spectrum structures. The structural resemblance between the ocean bottom pressure and the ground motion, as well as the larger power, indicates that the pressure at the ocean bottom might be responsible for the continuous oscillations of the Earth. We have found that the seasonal variation of atmospheric pressure correlates with the local mean wind speed and pressure power at the ocean bottom.

Because of the meridional imbalance of solar influx, the energy transport from the equatorial area to the polar regions causes a planetary-scale wind system. The large wind energy in DC component is efficiently converted into higher normal mode frequency by the wind and ocean wave interaction over the sea. A strong sustained wind blows in the circum-Antarctic ocean in winter and we suggest this to be the potential excitation source in the summer time in the northern hemisphere.

If the Earth were an oceanless planet, the spectrum shape of the background ground noise would differ in its magnitude and its shape in the free oscillations band from the one we observe.