Coastal Navigation II

Syllabus:

- Tides
- Obtaining a Fix
- Dead Reckoning
- Piloting Techniques
- Navigation Rules
- Electronic Navigation Systems
- Additional Resources

- Navigation means:
 - Determining your location
 - Determining a route to a destination
 - Collision avoidance
- Latitude & Longitude
 - Use degrees & minutes format
 - Use consistent horizontal datum
 - (WGS84 and/or NAD83)

- Nautical Mile:
 - Exactly 1852 meters
 - Almost exactly one minute of latitude
 - NOT one minute of longitude
- Mercator Projection
 - Scale changes with latitude
 - Direction angles can be measured on maps
 - Rhumb lines are straight lines

- Nautical Chart Features:
 - Scale, colors, depth soundings, chart symbols
- Aids to Navigation
 - Buoys, lights & daybeacons
 - Colors, shapes, sounds, lights, markings
 - Lateral marks, center-channel, danger, etc.
 - Symbols and labels on charts

- Magnetic Compass:
 - Variation (magnetic vs. true direction)
 - Deviation (compass error)
 - Var. and Dev. expressed as degrees E. or W.
 - Can Dead Men Vote Twice (add E)
 - True Virgins Make Dull Companions (add W)



Tides



Tides



Spring Tides & Neap Tides

Spring Tide





Tides



Tides





(Distances not to scale)



(Distances not to scale)

Tidal forces are the forces acting on an object caused by the difference in gravitational pull of another object relative to the force acting on the center of that object.



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Lateral forces acting parallel to the Earth's surface tend to have a greater effect on the oceans than forces towards or away from the Earth's center.

Tides



Tidal Amplitudes Model_TPX06.2



Tidal Range

What affects the range of the tides at a location?

- Shape of the sea floor:
 - Bays and inlets act as funnels
 - Rapidly rising sea floor will amplify a wave



Tidal Range

What affects the range of the tides?

- The size of the sea basin
 - Smaller bodies of water have negligible tides
 - Basins the right size create resonance

Tidal Range

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 - Basins the right size create resonance





Lunar Orbit

Apsidal Precession: orbit rotates every 8.85 years

(Not to scale)

Lunar Orbit Nodal Precession: every 18.6 years



How to predict tides at a specific location:

- Monitor the sea level for 19 years at a tidal station.
- Perform harmonic analysis on the data.
- Determine amplitude and phase for 37 harmonic factors.
- Each harmonic factor has a different period (frequency)
- Sum the 37 sine waves for a given time and date.

Main factors in the tide prediction function:

- Movement of the moon across the sky (12 hours, 24 min.)
- Movement of the sun across the sky (12 hours)
- Position of the moon on its elliptical orbit (12 hours 39.5 min.)

Vertical Datum

National Tidal Datum Epoch: 1983-2001

- The various reference levels are derived from this data:
 - Mean Higher High Water (MHHW)
 - Mean High Water (MHW)
 - Mean Sea Level (MSL)
 - Mean Low Water (MLW)
 - Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW)







Source of tide prediction information:

- NOAA website (http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov)
- NOAA weather radio
- Printed in various publications (Eldridge Tide Book)
- GPS chartplotter
- Many software applications



January										
	Time H	leight	Time Height							
1 F	h m 03:57 AM 10:03 AM 04:14 PM 10:27 PM	ft 9.0 1.4 8.9 1.0	h m ft 16 03:43 AM 10.4 Sa 09:57 AM -0.2 04:07 PM 10.1 ● 10:22 PM -0.4							
2 Sa 0	04:47 AM 10:56 AM 05:08 PM 11:17 PM	8.9 1.5 8.5 1.3	17 04:40 AM 10.4 10:58 AM -0.1 Su 05:09 PM 9.7 11:20 PM -0.1							
3 Su	05:38 AM 11:52 AM 06:03 PM	8.9 1.5 8.3	18 05:39 AM 10.4 12:01 PM -0.1 M 06:14 PM 9.4							
4 M	12:09 AM 06:30 AM 12:47 PM 06:59 PM	1.5 9.0 1.4 8.3	19 12:20 AM 0.1 Tu 06:41 AM 10.5 01:05 PM -0.2 07:19 PM 9.3							







Tidal Current Predictions



Station ID: BOS1111 Depth: 8 feet Source: NOAA/NOS/CO-OPS Station Type: Harmonic Time Zone: LST/LDT

NOAA Tidal Current Predictions

Boston Harbor (Deer Island Light), 2016 Latitude: 42.3378° N Longitude: 70.9558° W Mean Flood Dir. 264° (T) Mean Ebb Dir. 112° (T) Times and speeds of maximum and minimum current, in knots

January					February					March													
	Slack	Maximu	m		Slack	Maximu	ım		Slack	Maximu	ım		Slack	Maximu	ım		Slack	Maximu	ım		Slack	Maximu	ım
1 F	h m 03:48AM 10:30AM 04:06PM 10:48PM	h m 01:12AM 07:54AM 01:36PM 08:06PM	knots 1.1F -1.0E 0.9F -0.9E	16 Sa €	h m 03:18AM 10:06AM 03:36PM 10:30PM	h m 07:24AM 12:12PM 07:42PM	knots -1.3E 1.5F -1.2E	1 M ●	h m 04:48AM 11:36AM 05:18PM 11:42PM	h m 01:12AM 08:24AM 02:48PM 08:18PM	knots 0.9F -0.9E 0.8F -0.8E	16 Tu	h m 04:48AM 11:54AM 05:30PM	h m 01:18AM 09:18AM 02:18PM 09:36PM	knots 1.4F -1.3E 1.3F -1.1E	1 Tu ◑	h m 04:06AM 11:00AM 04:42PM 11:00PM	h m 12:18AM 07:48AM 01:06PM 07:48PM	knots 1.0F -1.0E 0.8F -0.9E	16 W	h m 05:24AM 12:36PM 06:12PM	h m 02:00AM 10:06AM 03:12PM 10:18PM	knots 1.3F -1.3E 1.2F -1.0E
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Tide Stations





SOUNDINGS IN FEET AT MEAN LOWER LOW WATER

Additional information can be obtained at nauticalcharts.noaa.gov.

PLACE	Height referred to datum of soundings (MLLW)								
NAME	(LAT/LONG)	Mean Higher High Water	Mean High Water	Mean Low Water					
		feet	feet	feet					
Boston Light	(42°19'N/70°53'W)	9.8	9.4	0.3					
Charlestown Bridge	(42°22'N/71°04'W)	10.2	9.8	0.3					
Weymouth Fore River Bridge	(42°15'N/70°58'W)	10.2	9.8	0.3					
Cohasset Harbor	(42°15'N/70°47'W)	9.5	9.1	0.3					
Dashes () located in datum columns indicate unavailable datum values for a tide station. Real-time water levels, tide predictions, and tidal current predictions are available on the Internet from http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov.									

TIDAL INFORMATION

(Jan 2011)
A "fix" is a determination of a position at a particular time. How do you take a fix?

A "fix" is a determination of a position at a particular time. How do you take a fix?



- Determining distance at sea is difficult
- Determining angles is easier



A "fix" is a determination of a position at a particular time. How do you take a fix?

- Determine bearing angles to objects with known positions.
- Draw "lines of position" (LOP's) on a chart through the object at the measured angle.
- The intersection of the LOP's intersect is called a *fix*.
- Always record the time of a fix.

Using compass bearings to take a fix:

- Find three "good" targets to take bearings on:
 - Beacons and objects on land are better than buoys
 - Targets that are separated by large angles are better
 - Close targets are better than distant targets







Using compass bearings to take a fix:

• Locate the targets on your chart.

















Beacons and objects on land are better than buoys

- Buoys are not in an exact position
- Buoys can be off-station



Closer targets are better than farther targets

• Error in position will be proportional to angle measurement error times the distance to the target.



Closer targets are better than farther targets

• Error in position will be proportional to angle measurement error times the distance to the target.



Closer targets are better than farther targets

• Error in position will be proportional to angle measurement error times the distance to the target.



The angle between Lines of Position should not be too wide or too narrow:

- LOP's at smaller angles cause greater error
- Optimal angle for two LOP's is 90°
- Optimal angles for three LOP's is 120°



Lines of Position should be at wide angles to each other

- LOP's at smaller angles cause greater error
- Optimal angle for two LOP's is 90°
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Lines of Position should be at wide angles to each other

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Estimating your position based on:

- Previously known position
- Known course and speed

To do this you need:

- Way to measure course (ship's compass)
- Way to measure speed (knotmeter)
- Way to measure time
- Chart
- Dividers, Ruler, Protractor or Parallels
- Pencil & Eraser

Definitions

- Heading: direction the boat is pointing
- Course: intended direction for the boat to travel
- Track: actual direction the boat is traveling and/or the path the boat has taken (sometimes called Course Made Good (CMG))
- Bearing: direction to another object
- Relative Bearing: direction to another object relative to the heading of the boat

Heading vs. Track (Leeway)



- Start with a fix (a position and a time)
- Steer to a course.
- Maintain constant speed.

• After a period of time, calculate distance traveled and mark it on the chart as a Dead Reckoning position (DR). Be sure to label the time.

- Start with a fix (a position and a time)
- Steer to a course.
- Maintain constant speed.

• After a period of time, calculate distance traveled and mark it on the chart as a Dead Reckoning position (DR). Be sure to label the time.

- Mark DR positions:
 - at regular intervals (at least once per hour)
 - any time there is a change in course or speed
- Whenever a fix is taken:
 - Mark on the chart (include the time)
 - Restart the DR plot, starting at the fix
 - If the fix doesn't match the estimated position from the DR plot, re-check your work and determine the error (perhaps caused by currents, or leeway).











Navigation Rules

1111

U.S. Department of Transportation

United States Coast Guard



NAVIGATION RULES

INTERNATIONAL—INLAND
The Navigation Rules are the national and international laws that govern seagoing vessels on the high seas and all navigable connected waterways.

The Navigation Rules that are applicable to U.S. waters are divided into two sections:

- International Rules
- Inland Rules

International Rules

- Based on the 1972 International Treaty for the Prevention of Collisions at Sea
- Known as the 72 COLREGS

Inland Rules

- Almost identical to the International Rules
- A few minor differences

Demarcation lines exist between areas subject to Inland vs. International rules.

COLREGS demarcation lines are marked on charts



Rule 2 – Responsibility

"Due regard shall be had to all dangers of navigation and collision and to any special circumstances, ... which may make a departure from these Rules necessary to avoid immediate danger."

You are responsible for operating your vessel safely and breaking a rule is ok if necessary to avoid a collision.

Rule 3 – Definitions

- Power Driven Vessel
- Sailing Vessel
- Vessel Engaged in Fishing
- Vessel Not Under Command
- Vessel Restricted in Its Ability to Maneuver
- Underway
- Give-Way Vessel
- Stand-On Vessel
- Restricted Visibility
- et al.

Rule 5 – Lookout

You are required to have an proper lookout at all times. If you have a collision, your lookout was not adequate.

Rule 6 – Safe Speed

You are required to proceed at safe speed at all times. You must be going slow enough to prevent collisions regardless of the conditions and circumstances.

Rule 7 – Risk of Collision

"Every vessel shall use all available means ... to determine if risk of collision exists. If there is any doubt such risk shall be deemed to exist."

Also if you have a working radar system, you are required to use it.

Rule 8 – Action to Avoid Collision

"Any action taken to avoid collision shall, if the circumstances of the case admit, be positive, made in ample time and with due regard to the observance of good seamanship."

"Any alteration of course and/or speed to avoid collision shall, if the circumstances of the case admit, be large enough to be readily apparent to another vessel...."

Take action early. Make it count. Make it obvious.

Rule 9 – Narrow Channels

- Stay to the right if possible.
- Do not impede larger vessels that must stay in the channel.
- Fishing vessels cannot impede traffic in the channel.
- Avoid anchoring in the channel.

Rule 10 – Traffic Separation Schemes

- Smaller boats should avoid the lanes.
- If necessary, cross lanes at right angles.
- Ships using the lanes have right of way over small boats and sailboats.

Rule 12 – Sailing Vessels

- Boats on port tack stay clear of boats on starboard tack.
- If on the same tack, windward boats stay clear of leeward boats.

Rule 13 – Overtaking

- Overtaking boats keep clear of the vessel being overtaken.
- A vessel is overtaking if it is approaching at an angle of more than 22° aft of abeam of the other vessel.
- Overtaking vessel must keep clear until "she is finally past and clear".

Rule 14 – Head-On Situation

• Both boats turn to starboard and pass port-to-port.

Rule 15 – Crossing Situation

- Boat on the left gives way to the boat on the right.
- Rule 16 Action by Give-Way Vessel
 - Take action early and stay well clear.
- Rule 17 Action by Stand-On Vessel
 - Must maintain course and speed.
 - Unless it looks like the other boat isn't going to turn.

Rule 18 – Responsibilities between Vessels

- The pecking order for stand-on vessels is:
 - Vessels not under command
 - Vessels "restricted in their ability to maneuver"
 - Vessels engaged in fishing
 - Sailing vessels
 - Power driven vessels
 - Seaplanes

Rule 19 – Conduct of Vessels in Restricted Visibility

- Proceed at safe speed.
- Be on the lookout.
- Use due regard to the prevailing circumstances when complying with all other rules.
- Be prepared to slow down or stop if another vessel is ahead.

Rule 20 – Lights and Shapes - Application

- Rules 21-31 describe lights and shapes.
- Lights must be used at night (sunset to sunrise).
- Shapes must be used during the day.

Rule 21 – Lights and Shapes - Definitions

- Masthead light white facing forward 225° arc
- Sidelights red and green, each 112.5° arc
- Sternlight white, 135° arc
- Towing light yellow stern light, 135° arc
- All-round light 360°
- Flashing light 120 flashes per minute or more
- Special flashing light forward facing yellow light, flashing 50-70 flashes per minute, over an arc of 180-225°

Rule 22 – Visibility of Lights

- The visibility of the various lights (in miles) are specified
- Larger vessels are required to have brighter lights

Rule 23 – Power Driven Vessels Underway

- Masthead light
- A second masthead light for vessels longer than 50m
- Sidelights
- Sternlight
- If less than 12m, can just use and all-round white light and sidelights.
- If less than 7m, can just use an all-round white light.



Vessel shorter than 50m: one masthead light, sidelights and a sternlight



Vessel longer than 50m: two masthead lights, sidelights and a sternlight



Vessel shorter than 12m: all-around white light and sidelights



Vessel shorter than 7m: all-around white light

Rule 24 – Towing and Pushing

- Towing astern:
 - Two masthead lights in a vertical line (3 if over 200m)
 - Sidelights
 - Sternlight
 - Yellow towing light vertically above the sternlight
- Towing aside or pushing, same as above, except:
 - Inland: no sternlight, but two yellow towing lights
 - International: no yellow towing lights

Rule 24 – Towing and Pushing

- Vessel being towed from ahead:
 - No masthead light
 - Sidelights
 - Sternlight
- Vessel being pushed or towed along side:
 - No masthead light
 - Sidelights
 - Sternlight
 - Special flashing yellow light at bow (Inland rules only)



Pushing or Towing Alongside



Rule 25 – Sailing Vessels Underway

- Sailboats must have:
 - Sidelights
 - Sternlight
- The above can be replaced by a tri-color light at the top of the mast.
- Optionally, two all-round lights, red over green, can be at the top of the mast (but cannot be used with tri-color).
- Vessels under oars may have sidelights and sternlight
- Sailboats under 7m or vessels under oars can just use a flashlight.





Rule 26 – Fishing Vessels



Vessels engaged in trawling (underway and not underway)

Vessels engaged in fishing other than trawling (underway and not underway)

Rule 27 – Vessels Not Under Command or Restricted in Ability to Maneuver



Vessels not under command (underway and not underway)

Vessels restricted in their ability to maneuver (underway and not underway)

Rule 27 – (continued)

• Vessels engaged in diving operations



Navigation Rules Rule 30 – Vessels at Anchor or Aground



Vessels at anchor (<50m and >50m)

Vessels aground (<50m and >50m)

Rule 32 – Sound & Light Signals - Definitions

- Whistle
- Short blast 1 second
- Prolonged blast 4 to 6 seconds

Rule 33 – Equipment for Sound Signals

- Vessel longer than 100m: whistle, bell and gong
- 12m to 100m: whistle and bell
- Shorter than 12m: some means of making an efficient sound signal

Rule 34 – Maneuvering and Warning Signals

- Inland: Head-on or crossing vessels
 - One short blast: I intend to leave you to my port side.
 - Two short blasts: I intend to leave you to my starboard side.
 - If in agreement, the other vessel will echo back the whistle blasts. If not, they will sound five or more rapid whistle blasts.
- International:
 - One short blast: I am altering my course to starboard
 - Two short blasts: I am altering my course to port

Rule 34 – Maneuvering and Warning Signals

- Inland: Overtaking:
 - Same as meeting or crossing.
- International: In a narrow channel:
 - Two long, one short blast: I intend to overtake you on your starboard side.
 - Two long, two short blasts: I intend to overtake you on your port side.
 - If in agreement, the other vessel answers back: one long, one short, one long, one short.

Rule 34 – Maneuvering and Warning Signals

- Three short blasts means I am backing up.
- At any time, if there is disagreement, confusion or danger, sound the danger signal: 5 or more rapid blasts.
- When approaching a bend in a channel or an area of obscured visibility, one prolonged blast.
- Inland only: when a power vessel is leaving a dock, one prolonged blast
- Inland only: one or two short blasts can be substituted by calling on the radio.

Rule 35 – Sound Signals in Restricted Visibility

- Power vessel making way: one prolonged blast every 2 minutes
- Power vessel underway but not making way: two prolonged blasts every 2 minutes
- Vessel not under command, restricted in ability to maneuver, engaged in towing, engaged in fishing while at anchor, or a sailboat: one prolonged and two short blasts every two minutes.
- Vessel at anchor: ring bell rapidly for 5 seconds every minute.
Navigation Rules

Rule 35 – Sound Signals in Restricted Visibility

- Power vessel making way: one prolonged blast every 2 minutes
- Power vessel underway but not making way: two prolonged blasts every 2 minutes
- Vessel not under command, restricted in ability to maneuver, engaged in towing, engaged in fishing while at anchor, or a sailboat: one prolonged and two short blasts every two minutes.
- Vessel at anchor: ring bell rapidly for 5 seconds every minute.

Navigation Rules Rule 37 – Distress Signals



Navigation Rules

Rule 37 – Distress Signals



- Built by the U.S. Government and maintained by the U.S. Department of Defense.
- Originally conceived as a military system; now considered a "dual-use" system (military and civilian).
- First satellite launched in 1978.
- Ten more satellites launched by 1985.
- First consumer hand-held receivers sold in 1989.
- Used heavily in the first Gulf War (1990-1991).
- Declared to be fully operational in April 1995.
- "Selective Availability" disabled in May 2000.

- System of 24+ satellites.
- Satellites transmit precise time and position data.
- Receivers on Earth need data from four satellites.
- Receivers triangulate their positions.
- Accurate to ± 10 m.
- Works anywhere on Earth in any weather.



- Satellites transmit very accurate time and position data.
- Radio signals travel at the speed of light: 299,792,458 m/s.
- If you know how long it takes the signal to reach you, you know exactly how far away the satellite is.
- If you know how far away three satellites are, you can determine your 2D position on the earth.
- If you know how far away four satellites are, you can determine your 3D position on the earth.

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- If you know how far away four satellites are, you can determine your 3D position on the earth.

One sphere of position.



Two spheres of position create a circle of position.

Three spheres of position reduce to two points.

Sources of GPS Position Error

- Signal arrival time measurement: $\pm 10 \text{ nS} \rightarrow \pm 3\text{m}$
- Atmospheric effects: ±5m
- Ephemeris errors (satellite position): ±2.5m
- Satellite clock errors: ±2m

Accuracy is better than 10m 95% of the time.

GPS Accuracy Enhancement

- Differential GPS (DGPS)
 - Uses reference stations on land with known positions.
 - Reference station determines difference between its true position and the calculated GPS position.
 - The error information is transmitted to GPS receivers which combine it with their own GPS data to provide a more precise location.
 - Accuracy can be 1-5m.
 - The accuracy decreases with distance from the reference station. Range is about 200 km.

GPS Accuracy Enhancement

- Differential GPS (DGPS)
 - The U.S. operates about 80 reference stations:
 - US Coast Guard (Maritime)
 - US Army Corp Engineers (Rivers)
 - NDGPS (Inland)
 - Canadian DGPS
 - European DGPS Network
 - 47 countries around the world operate DGPS systems



GPS Accuracy Enhancement

- Differential GPS (DGPS)
 - Transmits at 283-325 kHz
 - Requires a separate receiver and antenna from GPS
 - Some products have DGPS integrated into their GPS receivers.

GPS Accuracy Enhancement

- Wide Area Augmentation System (WAAS)
 - Similar to DGPS.
 - Developed by the FAA for aircraft.
 - Uses a network of ground-based reference stations.
 - The correction data is then sent to geostationary satellites.
 - The satellites transmit the error corrections on the same frequency as GPS.
 - Typical accuracy is 2-3m.



Satellite Navigation Satellite Based Augmentation Systems (SBAS)



Other Global Navigation Satellite Systems

- GLONASS Soviet/Russian System (since 1995)
- Galileo European (2017-2020)
- BeiDou Chinese System (2012-2020)
- IRNSS Indian System (2016)

GPS Chartplotters

- Portable vs. fixed
- Internal vs. external antenna.
- Different chart options.
- Navigation features (i.e. VMG?)







GPS Chartplotters

- Interface with other devices
 - Depth sounder
 - Wind instruments
 - Electronic compass
 - VHF radio (DSC)
 - AIS
- NMEA-0183 vs. NMEA-2000

GPS Chartplotters





AIS

Automatic Identification System

- Tracking system for ships.
- Transmitters required on large commercial vessels.
- Digital data transmitted on VHF radio frequencies.
- Includes data about the vessel:
 - Name of vessel
 - Length and width
 - Latitude and longitude
 - Heading
 - Speed
 - Destination
 - Type of vessel
 - et al.

AIS

Automatic Identification System

- Transceivers receive data from other ships.
- They re-broadcast that data along with their own.
- Transceivers are also being placed on aids to navigation.
- Range is limited by VHF frequencies: 10-20 nm.
- AIS units can have integrated displays, or can connect to a chartplotter.
- Chartplotters may have software to predict collisions with nearby ships.

Online Resources

http://navcen.uscg.gov/ http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/ http://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/ Magnetic Variation: http://ngdc.noaa.gov/geomag/WMM/DoDWMM.shtml

http://mailman.mit.edu/mailman/listinfo/bluewater



Further Reading

Chapman Piloting and Seamanship by Jonathan Eaton Annapolis Book of Seamanship by John Rousmaniere Piloting and Dead Reckoning by Capt. H.H. Shufeldt and G.D. Dunlap American Practical Navigator (BOWDITCH) https://msi.nga.mil/NGAPortal/MSI.portal

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geodetic_datum
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tide
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dead_reckoning
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piloting_(navigation)
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magnetic_declination
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rhumb_line