

Fractal Measures of Sea, Lake, Strait, and Dam-Reserve Shores: Calculation, Differentiation, and Interpretation

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The fractal dimensions d_f of the shore lines of the Mediterranean, the Aegean, the Black Sea, the Bosphorus Straits (on both the Asian and European sides), the Van Lake, and the lake formed by the Atatürk Dam have been calculated. Important distinctions have been found and explained.

I. INTRODUCTION

The fractal dimension d_f gives the amount of material in an object as function of its linear extent: If the linear extent is changed by a factor of b , the amount of material changes by a factor of b^{d_f} . Thus, physically, the fractal dimension d_f subsums important structural and historical information on the object. We thus expect the fractal dimension of a shoreline (or any line boundary) to be between 1 (a straight line) and 2 (a curve compactly covering a surface), and to reflect important information. We have thus calculated the shores of Turkey: The shores of the Mediterranean, the Aegean, the Black Sea, the Bosphorus Straits (on both the Asian and European sides), the Van Lake, and the lake formed by the Atatürk Dam. As we shall see below, we have indeed found distinctive results, leading to cogent explanations and associations.

II. METHOD

On a given shore line between two specific points, we would expect

$$L = \lim_{G \rightarrow 0} N(G) \cdot G, \quad (1)$$

where G is the length of the unit ruler used in the measurement, $N(G)$ is the number of unit rulers spanning the shore between the two points, and L is the actual shore distance between the two points. However, in his classic work on the border between Portugal and Spain, Richardson [1, 2] found that $N(G) \cdot G$ did not converge in the limit $G \rightarrow 0$, but that

$$M = \lim_{G \rightarrow 0} N(G) \cdot G^{d_f} \quad (2)$$

did converge. Subsequently, Mandelbrot [3] interpreted d_f , generally a non-integer number, as the fractal dimension of the shore line. Simply set, this is the consequence of the shore line not being comprised, at any length scale, of consecutive small linear units.

Substituting Eq.(1) into Eq.(2),

$$\log L = \log M + (1 - d_f) \log G. \quad (3)$$

Shores	N_1, N_2, N_3	d_f	Line Goodness R
Mediterranean	416,244,180	1.21	0.9489
Aegean	391,234,170	1.20	0.9787
Black Sea	224,144,106	1.08	0.9963
Bosphorus Asia	96,61,43	1.16	0.9854
Bosphorus Europe	85,56,41	1.05	0.9576
Bosphorus Eur + Asia	181,117,84	1.11	0.9807
Thrace	87,55,41	1.09	0.9453
Van Lake	136,85,55	1.31	0.9492
Atatürk Dam Lake	485,252,170	1.51	0.9914

TABLE I. Calculated fractal dimensions d_f of the shore lines of the Mediterranean, the Aegean, the Black Sea, the Bosphorus Straits (on both the Asian and European sides), the Van Lake, and the lake formed by the Atatürk Dam, using unit lengths of $G_1, G_2, G_3 = 1, 1.5, 2$ cm. By being close to 1, the fit measure R shows the goodness of the linear fits, also seen in Fig. 2

The fractal dimension d_f is found by fitting the slope of this function for varying G .

III. APPLICATION: DISTINCTIVE FRACTAL DIMENSIONS

We have calculated by this method to obtain the fractal dimensions of the different outer and inner shores of Turkey. On maps of different sizes appropriate to the shore object, we have measured the shore lines of the Mediterranean, the Aegean, the Black Sea, the Bosphorus Straits (on both the Asian and European sides), the Van Lake, and the lake formed by the Atatürk Dam, using unit lengths of $G = 1, 1.5$, and 2 cm.

The Mediterranean was calculated from Data to the Syrian border. The Aegean was calculated from Datça to Çanakkale. The Black Sea was calculated from the Bulgarian border to the Georgian border. The totality of the Van Lake and Atatürk Dam Lake shore lines were calculated. In addition, the Thracian shore line was calculated the Greek border to Seddülbahir. The results are given in Fig. 2 and Table I.

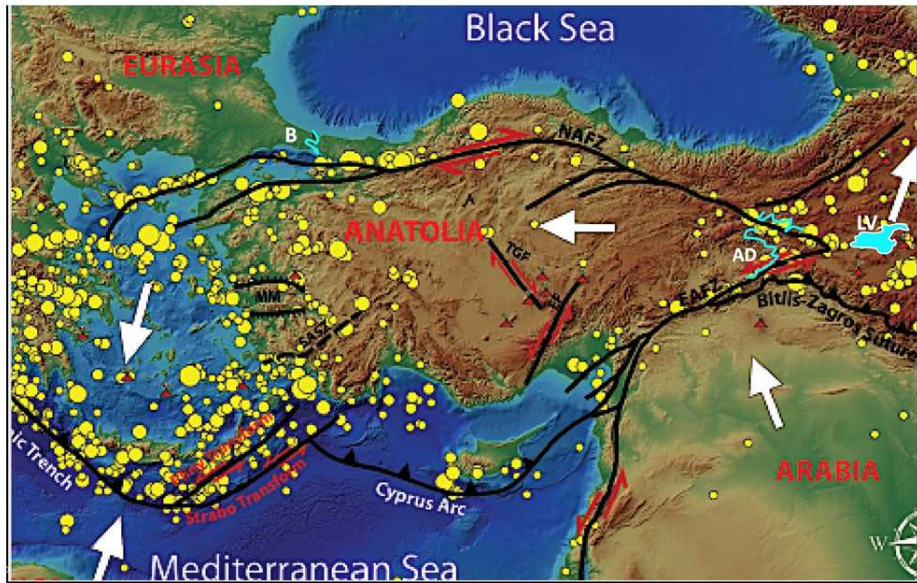


FIG. 1. Tectonic map of Anatolia and the surrounding regions showing the major faults (black lines) and the earthquake epicenters (yellow circles). The white arrows indicate relative motions of the different regions of the Arabian, Anatolian, and Aegean Plates. The abbreviations are LV for Lake Van, AD for the lake of the Atatürk High Dam, and B for the Bosphorus. (Modified after [6]).

IV. DISCUSSIONS: ORIGINS AND GEOLOGY

The goodness of the linear fits, as seen from Fig. 2 and the last column of Table I, clearly shows the validity of the concept of fractal dimension, which indeed turns out to be more than 1 (a line) and less than 2 (a surface). Furthermore, our specific results lead to cogent explanations. The fractal dimension of the Atatürk Dam Lake clearly stands out with the maximal value of $d_f = 1.5$. Interestingly, this fractal dimension has the best goodness of linear fit value, $R = 0.9914$. This distinctively high value of the Atatürk Dam Lake fractal dimension is consistent with the knowledge that this Lake recently formed by flooding meandering and multiply branched rivers. The fractal dimension of Van Lake also stands with the large value of $d_f = 1.3$. This is supported by the difference in the morphotectonic patterns of these regions as outlined in the following paragraphs.

Anatolia is one of the most strongly deformed continental regions of the World. This is manifested by two geological features: 1-Morphology 2-Earthquakes (Fig.1). Therefore, the landforms are young, formed primarily after the Late Miocene. The two mountain ranges, the Pontide and the Taurus in the North and the South respectively lying along with the shores, rise steeply like a Wall and separate the Central Anatolian Plateau from the sea realm. The coastal regions are tectonically very active and display zigzagging patterns formed as a result of the conjugated pairs of faults of medium (1-10

km) and big (10-100 km) scale [4-7]. The Lake Van on the other hand represents an erosional flatland on the elevated Eastern Anatolian High Plateau, which is later filled with water when the broad valley floor was dammed by edifices of the young volcanoes, i.e., the Nemrut and Kirkor volcanoes [4-7].

All other fractal dimensions of the shore lines are about $d_f = 1.2$. This consistency in itself is an important fact. Finally, one would wonder that the Bosphorus was also the result of the flooding of a meandering river [4-7], some 8,000 years ago, but does not show the high fractal dimension. The explanation could be that the Bosphorus is singularly lacking in important branches. Therefore, the Bosphorus represents an ancient meandering river valley which was flooded by the sea from the Black Sea about 8000 years ago [4-7].

V. CONCLUSION

It is seen that fractal dimensions can easily yield important classifications for shore lines.

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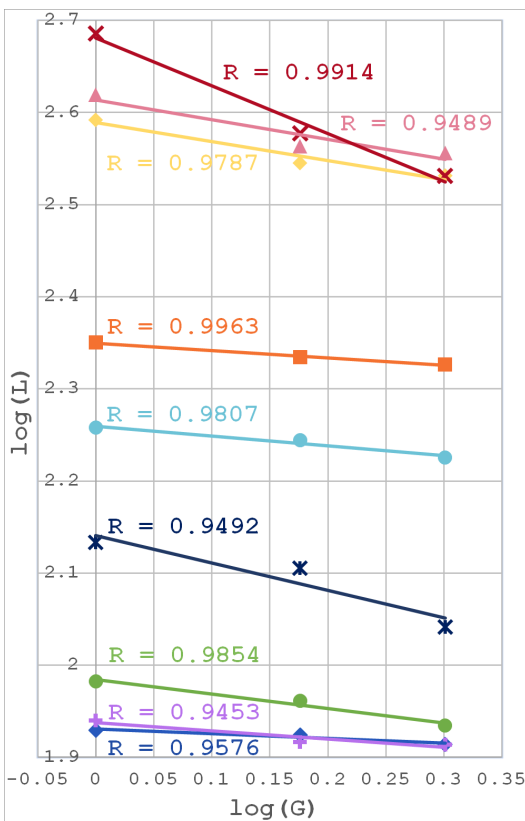


FIG. 2. Logarithmic plot of the shore length L versus the unit ruler G . The goodness R (see Table I) of the linear fit, shown here, gives the validity of the fractal dimension d_f . The value of the slope gives $1 - d_f$, also given in Table I. The line fits are, from top to bottom on the left, for the Atatürk Dam Lake, Mediterranean, Aegean, Black Sea, Bosphorus Europe and Asia, Van Lake, Bosphorus Asia, Bosphorus Europe, Thracian. Notice how the shores of the Atatürk Dam Lake and (to a lesser extent) the Van Lake stand out by their slope and, therefore, by their high fractal dimension d_f , which has a geological explanation.

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