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David Gal

In this presentation:

1. The need to derive sailing mobility and the involved actors
2. Ancient ships' windward sailing ability: The elephant in the room
3. The practicality of windward sailing
4. New metrics of potential sailing mobility spawned by modelling the ancient mariner
5. How well could the ancient mariner have predicted favourable winds?

Map with permission, Amnon Dror




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The alternate research route:

Deriving potential sailing mobility by modelling its three primary actors.

- THE SHIPS 
- THE WIND 
- THE MARINERS 

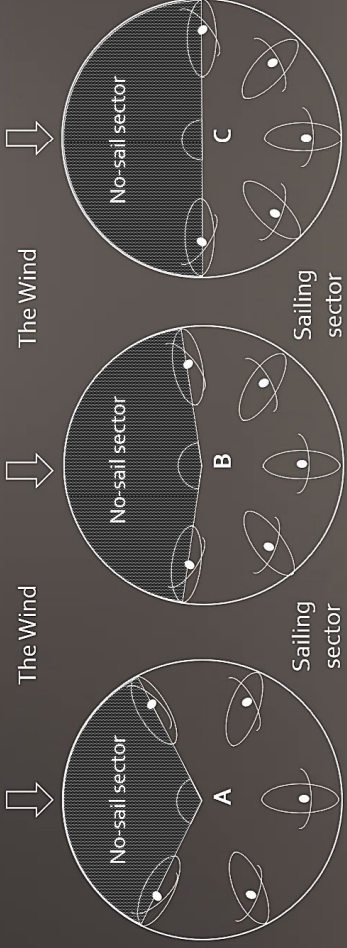
Paramètres audio

Discussion 1 min 0 s

Reactions

Quitter

Windward sailing: Three scholarly camps



Practical windward sailing

Limited windward ability

No windward ability

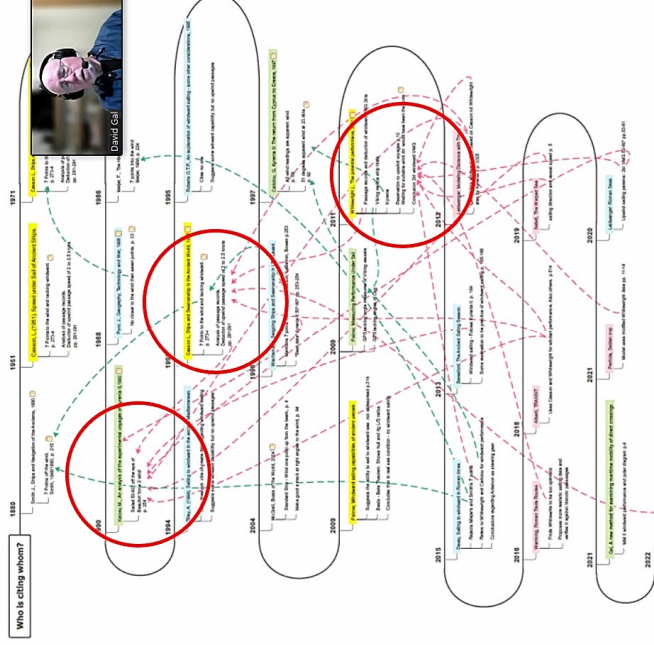
A reassessment of Mediterranean ships' windward ability in Antiquity



1. Conducting a critical review of influential scholarly sources
2. Revisiting the theory of windward sailing
3. Studying inputs from experimental archaeology

The three most cited "suppliers"

- M. Katzev (1990)
An Analysis of the Experimental Voyages of Kyrenia II
- L. Casson (1995)
Ships and Seamanship in the Ancient World
- J. Whitewright (2011)
The Potential Performance of Ancient Mediterranean Sailing Rigs



L. Casson's method to derive ships' speed

Passages conducted with favourable wind

Average passage speed made good

"4 – 6 knots with the wind"

Historic non-stop passages with given durations

"Unfavourable or foul winds are those that blow from some point ahead [of the ship]."

Casson 1951, p.137

Passages conducted with unfavourable wind

Average passage speed made good

"2 – 2½ knots against the wind"



L. Casson's method to derive ships' speed

Historic non-stop passages with given durations

Passages conducted with favourable wind

Average passage speed made good

"4 – 6 knots with the wind"

Passages conducted with unfavourable wind

Average passage speed made good

"2 – 2½ knots against the wind"

"...could probably point no closer to the wind than seven points [78,75°] ...When his destination lay well to windward he resorted ... to tacking"

Casson 1995, p.274

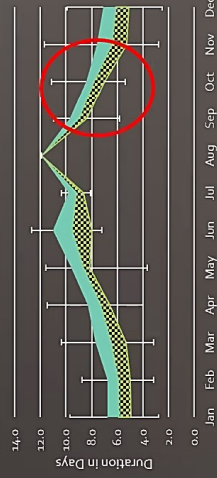
Voyage	Distance (nm)	Duration (days)	Overall Speed (knots)
Cyrene-West point of Crete	160	2	3-3
Ascalon-Thessalonica	800	13	2.6
Rhodes-Gaza	410	7	2.4
Alexandria-Marseilles	1,500	30	2.1
Puteoli-Ostia	120	2½	2.0
Gaza-Byzantium	855	20	1.8
Rhodes-Byzantium	445	10	1.8
Caesarea-Rhodes	400	10	1.8
Alexandria-Cyprus	250	6½	1.6
Sidon-Chelidonian Islands	350	9½	1.5

"...record of voyages made under unfavourable wind conditions"

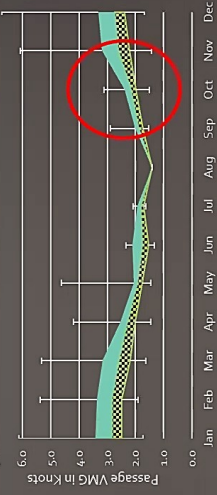
Following Casson, 1995, p. 289

Caesarea to Rhodes in October: Sailing characteristics

Caesarea-Rhodes - Reasonable Passage Duration (Quartiles)

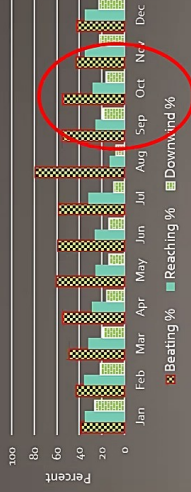


Caesarea-Rhodes - Reasonable Passage VMG (Quartiles)

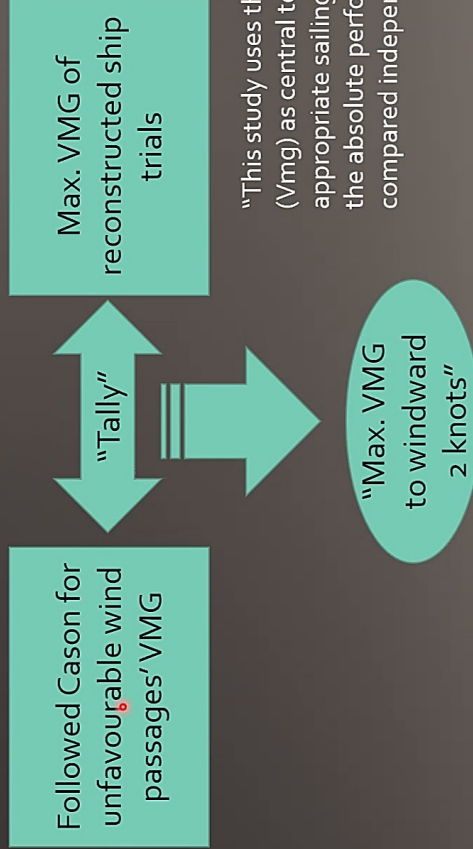


- Median Coefficient of Mobility 0.23
- Median Passage Duration 8 days
- Median Passage VMG 2.2 knots
- Destination in No-Sail sector 14%
- Reaching and Downwind PoS 45%

Caesarea-Rhodes - Points of Sail for Set of Reasonable Passages



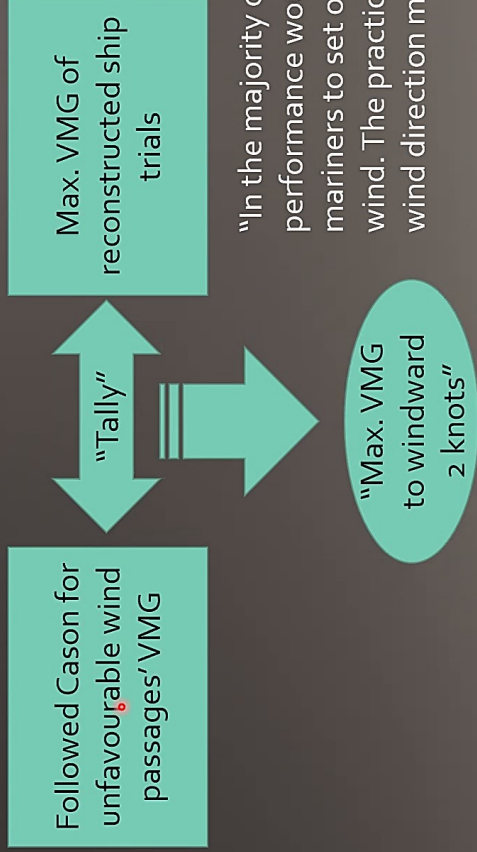
J. Whitewright's method (2011)



"This study uses the concept of 'velocity made good' (Vmg) as central to the comparative assessment of appropriate sailing vessels [...] Analysis of Vmg allows the absolute performance of two vessels to be compared independent of factors ..."

Whitewright, 2011 p. 3

J. Whitewright's method (2011)



"In the majority of cases it is unlikely that such performance would have encouraged ancient mariners to set out on a voyage against the wind. The practice of waiting for a suitable wind direction must have been the norm."

Whitewright, 2011 p. 10



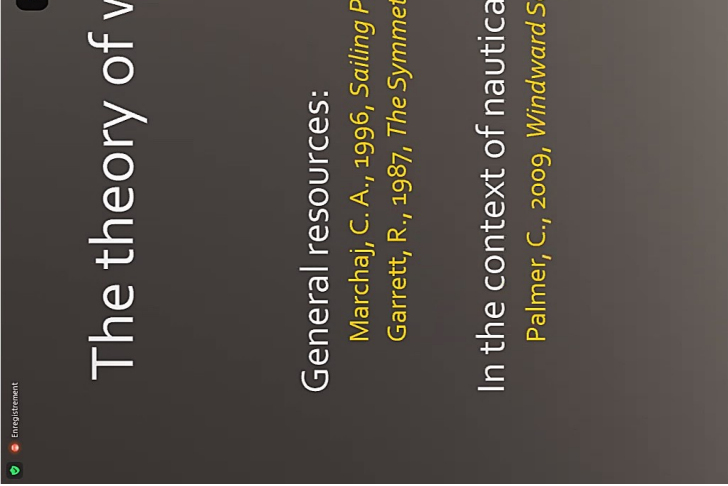
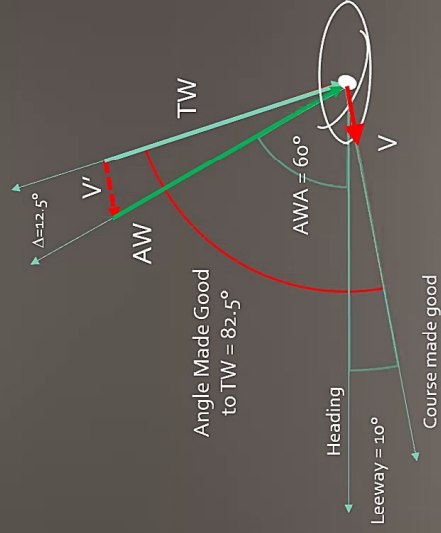
M. Katzev *An Analysis of the Experimental Voyages of Kyrenia II*, (1990)

"Later in the afternoon the wind shifted to the southwest. During a two hour period around sunset *KYRENIA II* sailed 50° to 60° off the eye of a 2 Beaufort wind, close hauled, port tack, making over 2 knots speed – evidence of her ability to sail effectively into the wind"

Katzev, 1990, p. 254



The difference between heading to the apparent wind (60°)... and course made-go to the true wind (82.5°)



The theory of windward sailing

General resources:

- Marchaj, C. A., 1996, *Sailing Performance: Theory and Practice*
- Garrett, R., 1987, *The Symmetry of Sailing*

In the context of nautical archaeology:

- Palmer, C., 2009, *Windward Sailing Capabilities of Ancient Vessels*

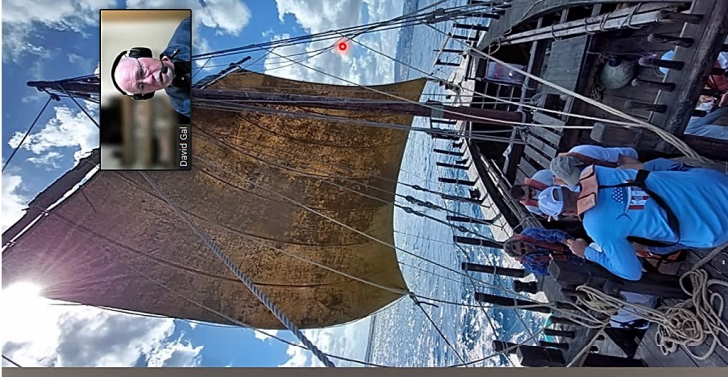
The β (Beta) Theorem

When sailing close-hauled the force of the sail applies a sideways force on the vessel.

The hull creates lift in the opposite direction balancing the sail's sideways force.

The more efficient the sail and/or the hull, the vessel can sail effectively closer to the wind.

This can be calculated



How efficient is my sail and hull?

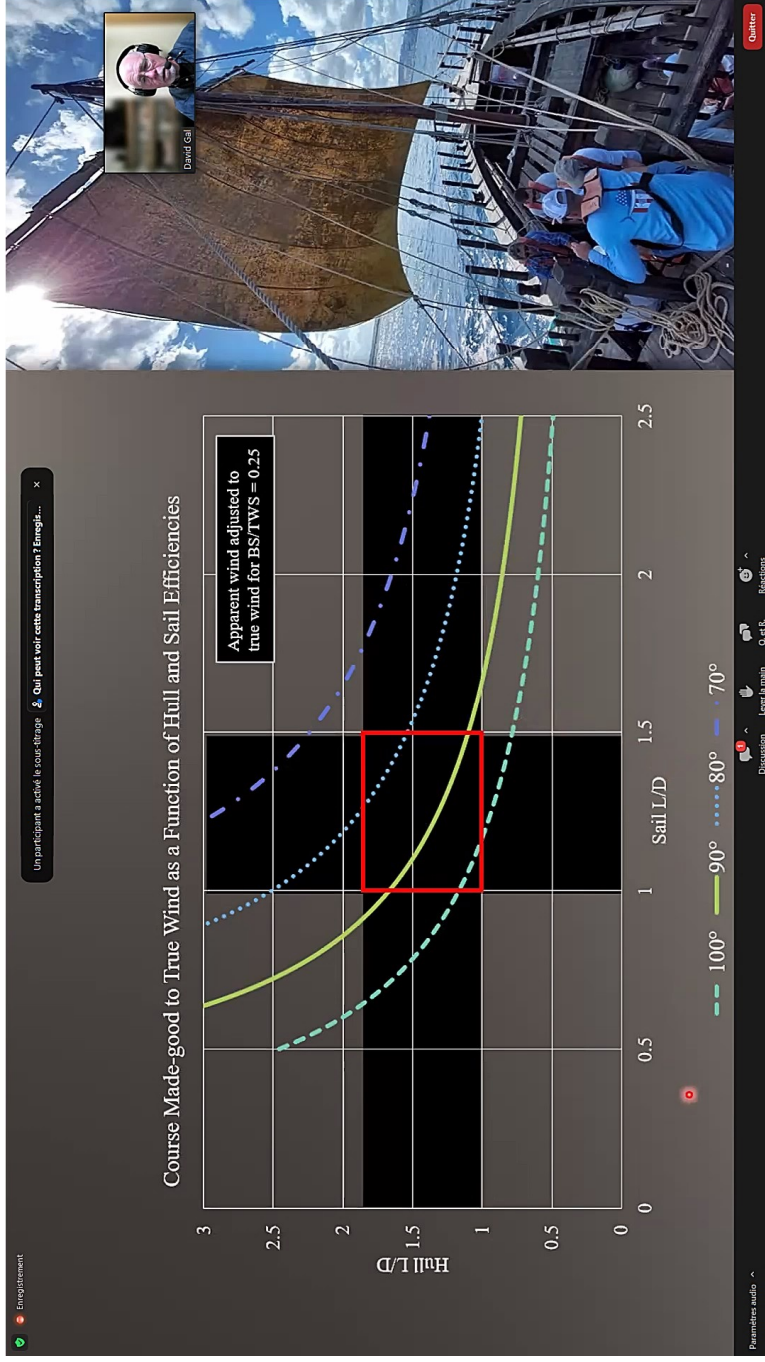
Practical measurements require a wind tunnel and a tow tank

Expressed in terms of Lift to Drag Ratio (L/D)

Palmer (2009) provided a range of measures from tests on representative models

Palmer also provided measures of L/D degradation by various factors





Experimental sailings

Both authors and readers are human

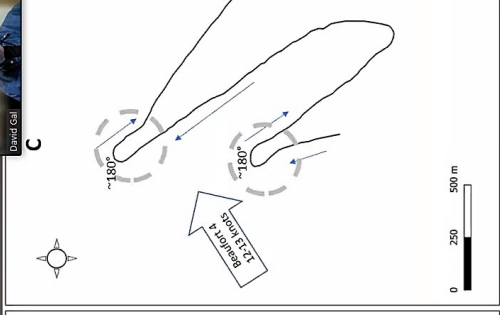
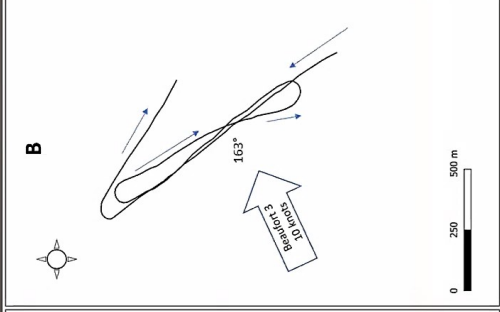
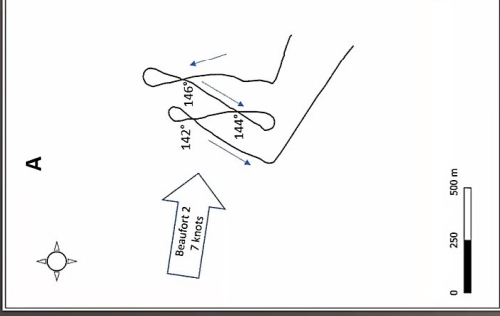
Authors tend to highlight the best achieved values of windward sailing

Readers tend to adopt the highlighted values and to ignore reservations and *caveats*

Tests in sheltered waters are not representative of real-life (open sea) conditions

Achieving reliable onboard measurement is very difficult. Only external observer measurements such as GPS tracks, provide an accurate reconstruction of test sailings

The effect of increasing sea state from 2 Bft to 4 Bft

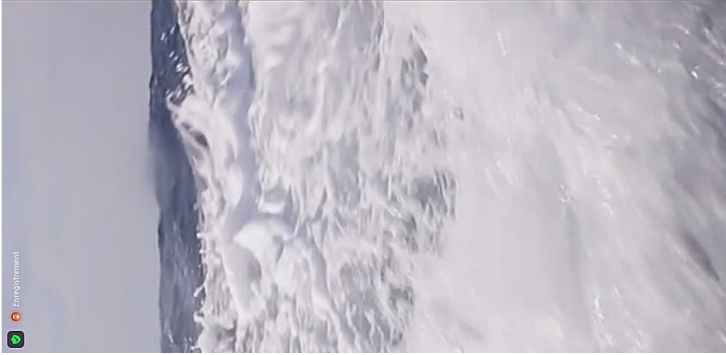


Ma'agan Mikhael II sailing trials off Haifa 2022

The Human Factor in Windward Sailing: The practicality of sailing windward from Paphos to Rho (225 nm)



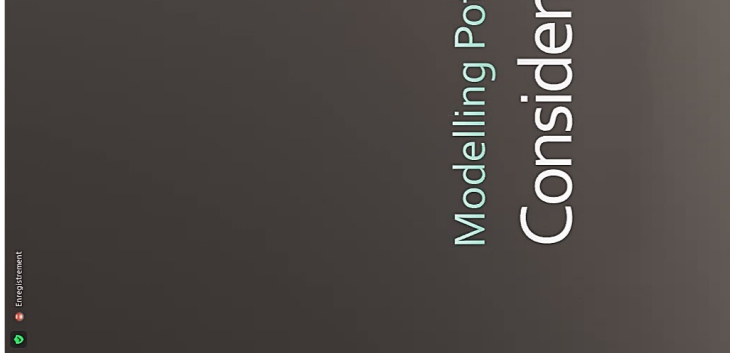
Technological close-hauled course made good (CMG) degrees	85	80	78.75	75	72	70
Loss due to helmsman's leeway (degrees)	3	3	3	3	3	3
Effective CMG (degrees)	88	83	81.75	78	75	73
Boat speed (BS) (knots)	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5
Windward VMG (knots)	0.09	0.30	0.36	0.52	0.65	0.73
Loss of windward ground due to wearing (%)	10	10	10	10	10	10
Windward gain (NM/day)	1.9	6.6	7.7	11.2	14.0	15.8
Distance ratio (dist. sailed to dist. made good)	31.5	9.0	7.7	5.3	4.3	3.8
Duration for a 225 NM upwind passage (days)	119	34	29	20	16	14
Actual distance sailed for a 225 NM Passage (NM)	7092	2031	1725	1190	956	847



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The elephant in the room: Conclusion

- Ship technological windward abilities are less than generally accepted
- Putting an exact number to the above, is not necessary as the limits of practical windward sailing significantly overshadow the technological abilities
- Concur with J. Whitwright's conclusion: Waiting for favourable winds, in the needed direction, would have been the norm



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Modelling Potential Sailing Mobility Considering the ancient mariners



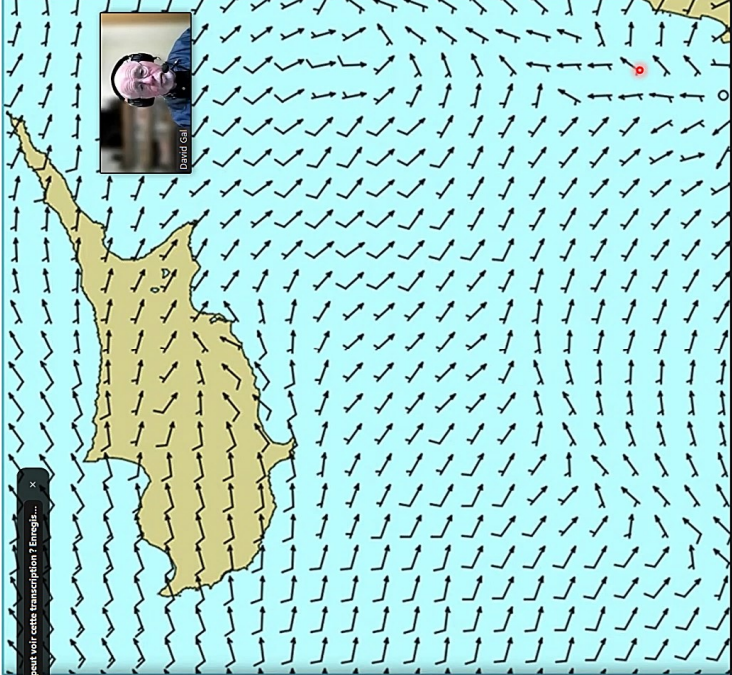
Focus on the wind: The most dominant factor

Patterns of recurring variability are characteristic in the Mediterranean

Opportunities for favourable winds, contrary to prevailing winds, are driven by this variability

Ancient winds equal modern winds

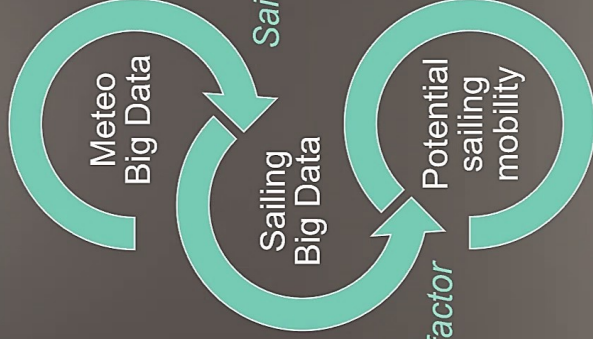
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A Data Science Methodology

Exposing opportunities for favourable winds.

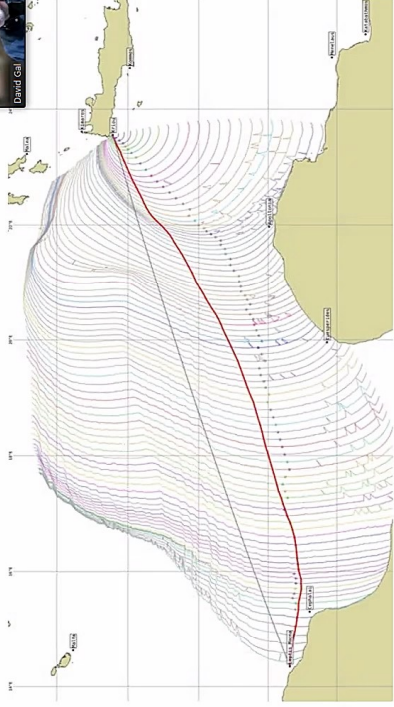
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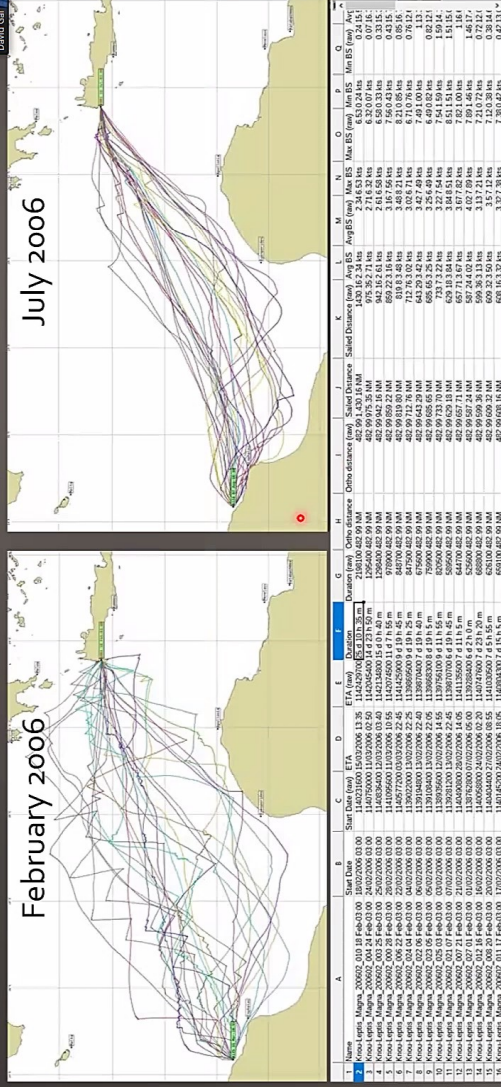
Modelling the human factor

Weather Routing Simulations

- Least Cost Path routing between two points based on isochrones
- One simulated sailing every day on each passage for 15 years = 5479 simulations
- For 224 direct passages = 1.2 million simulated sailings



Seasonal effects on sailing: Crete to Leptis Magna The practicality of the simulated passages?



One summary record for each sailing

Modelling the human factor: New mobility metrics



No longer the sole metric of passage speed



Coefficient of Potential Sailing Mobility

The proportion of a month having favourable winds to depart on a practical passage



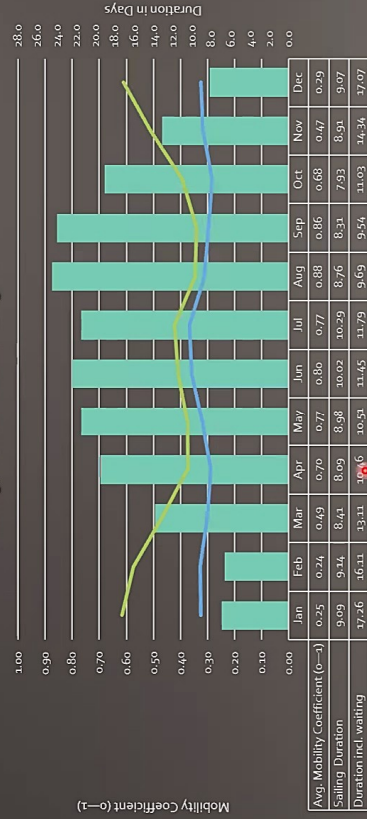
Quantifiable waiting time

Factoring waiting time into passage duration reflects true link costs

Potential Sailing Mobility from Kriou to Leptis Magna: Probability of a reasonable passage and total duration (incl. waiting time)



Kommos-Leptis_Magna - Potential Mobility Coefficient and Duration (incl. waiting) for Reasonable Passages

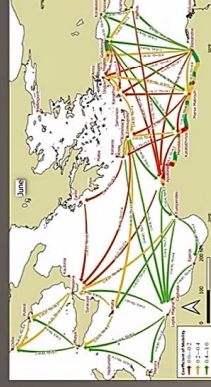
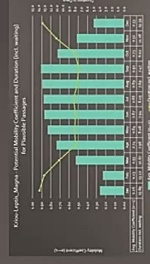


Summary Chart: Mobility Coefficient (0-1) and Duration including time spent waiting (days) averaged over 15 years (2004-2018)

From measurements to case study: Assessing the potential envelope of sailing mobility for a historic scenario



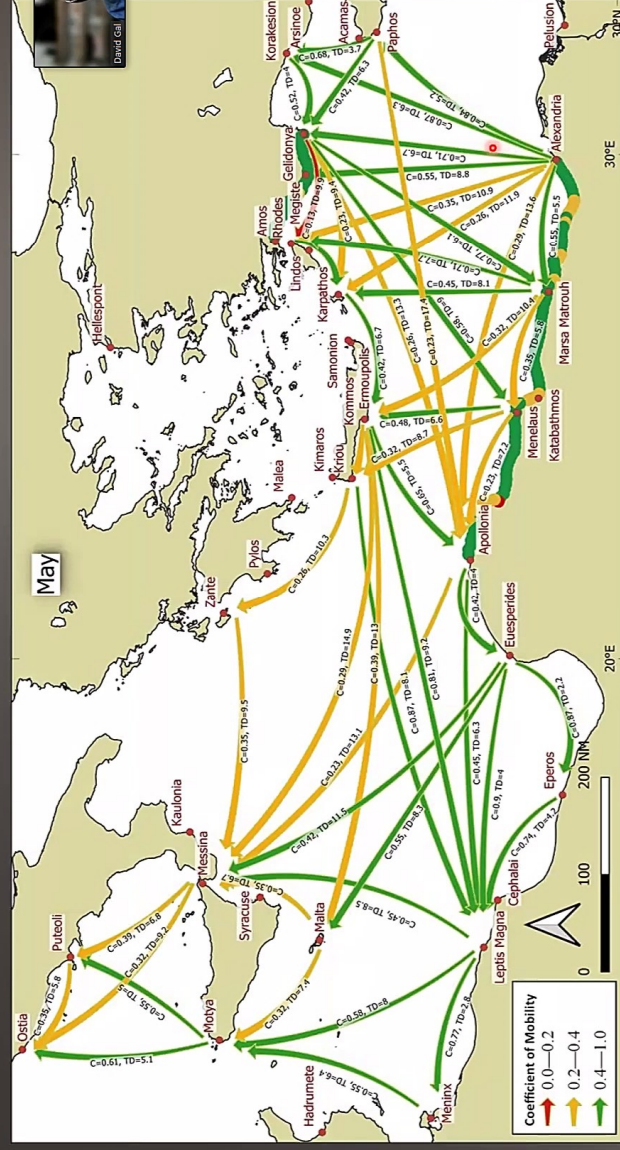
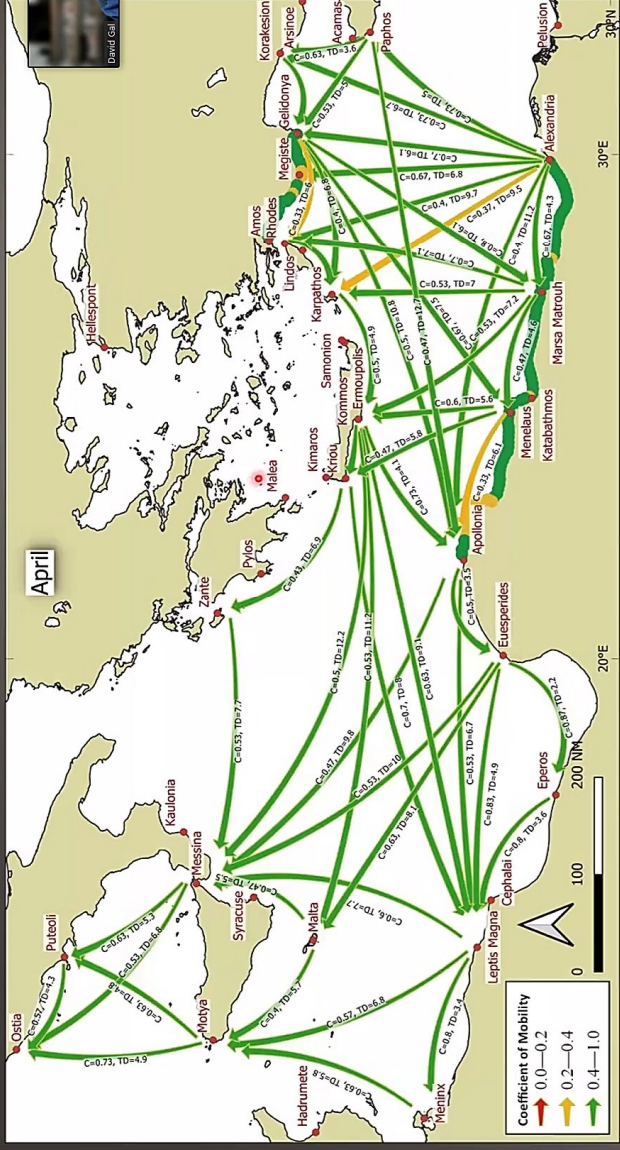
- Seasonal routing options
- Bottlenecks
- Coastal sailing options
- Sailing durations
- Time spent waiting
- Annual round trip planning

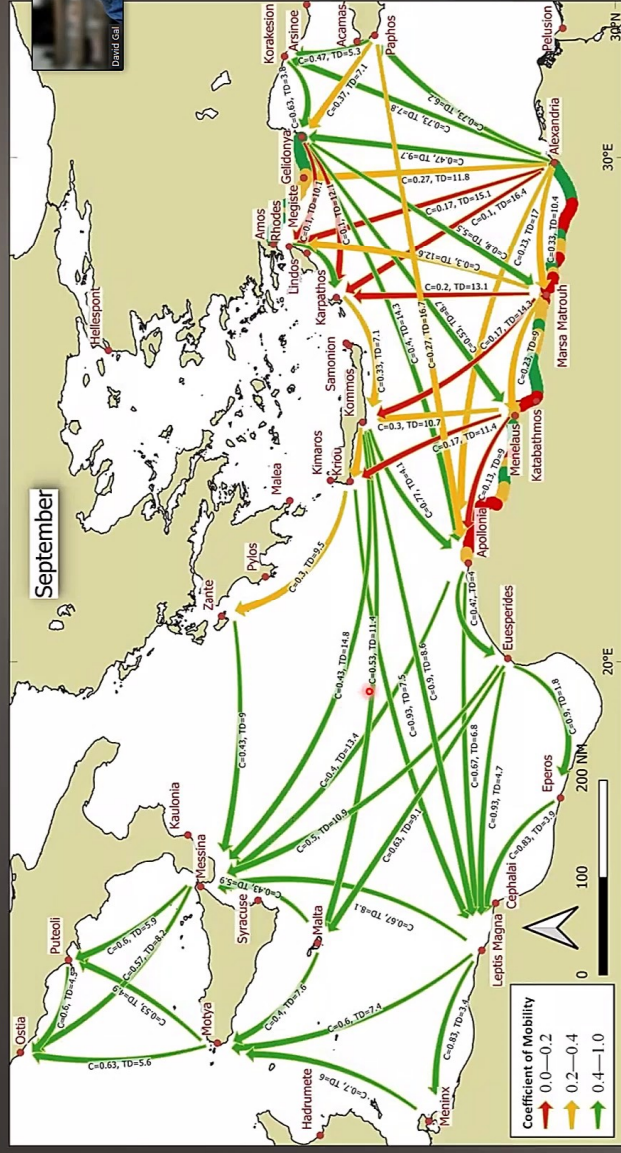
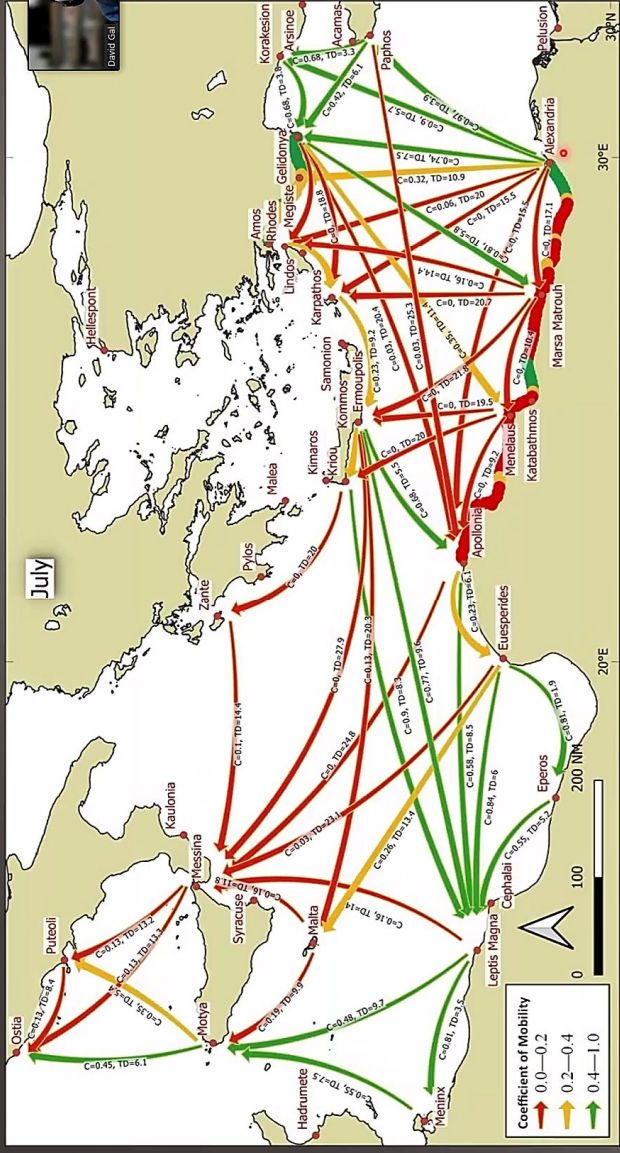


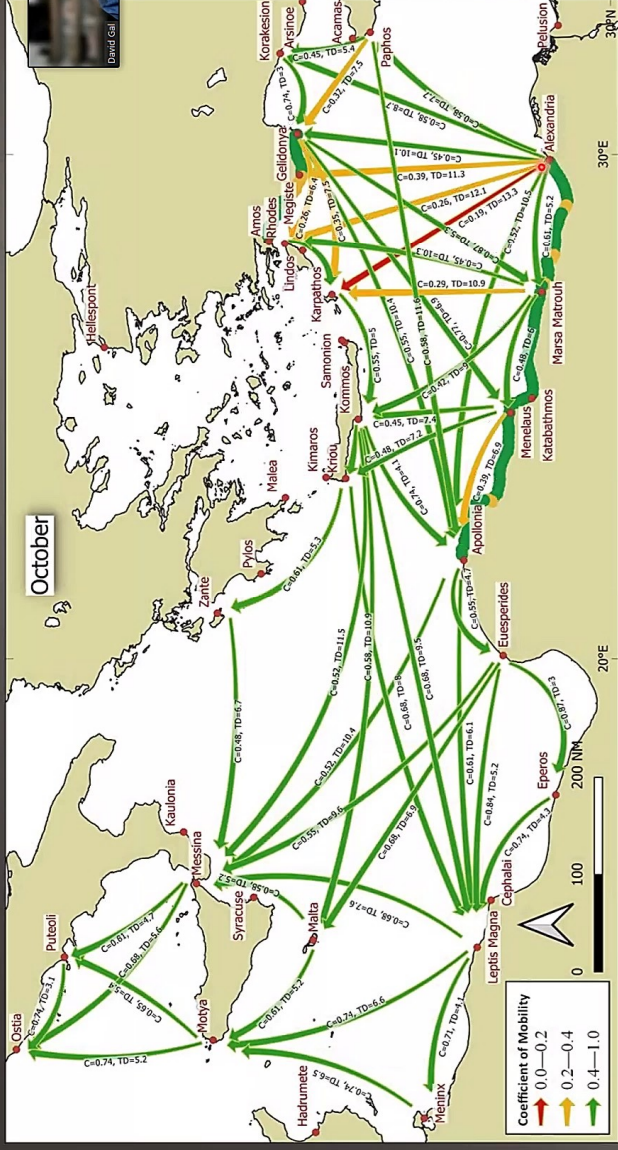
From measurements to assessments

Potential sailing mobility in historic context Shipping Egyptian grain to Rome



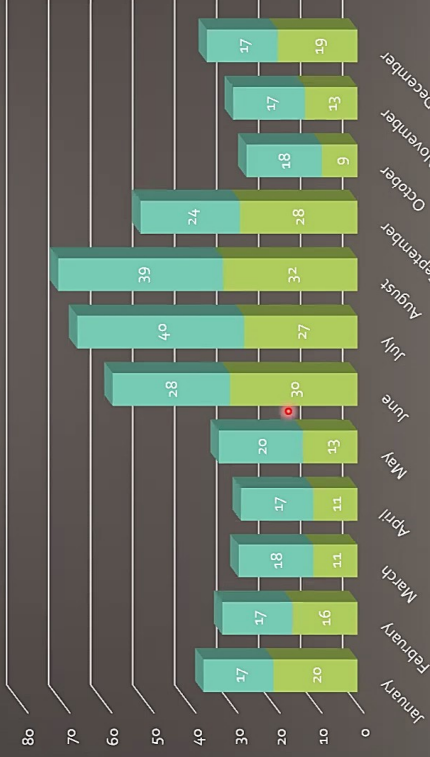






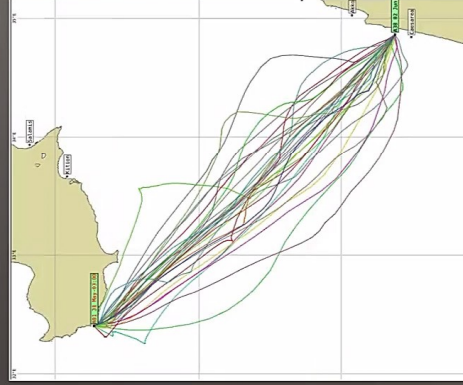
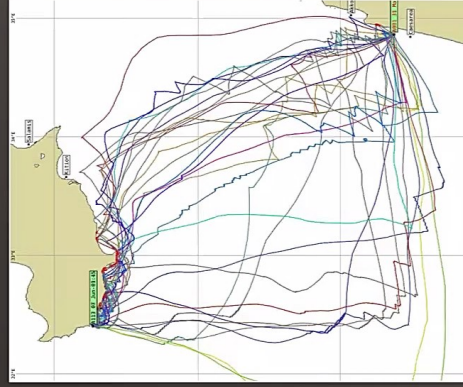
Westbound from Alexandria to Ostia

Sailing and waiting durations in days





The human factor Predicting favourable winds for a passage



Could the ancient mariner predict when to sail and exploit a window of opportunity for favourable winds?

Could he predict when not to sail?

Sailings from Dor to Paphos in May 2005.

Sailings from Paphos to Dor in May 2005.



Thank you



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- My two supervisors, Debbie Cvikel and Hadas Saaroni
- The crew and volunteers of the replica ship *Ma'agan Mikhael II*

Acknowledgements

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Sailing through history