# The Wind Energy Toolkit User Manual

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# Contents

1	Introduction	<b>5</b> 9
2	Installation	59
3	Status of the Project	60
4	Using Core Library Functions 4.1 Working with Wind Data Time Series	66
5	Using the Graphical Interface 5.1 Loading Files and Plotting Timeseries	<b>69</b> 70 72

# 1 Introduction

The Wind Energy Toolkit is a compilation of software tools aimed towards students. It performs functions that relate to preliminary wind turbine design and analysis. It features six core libraries that cover topics in wind data analysis, data synthesis, aerodynamics, vibrations, electrodynamics and system performance. The code is designed to be used in conjunction with a course using the text Wind Energy Explained by James Manwell, et. al. This software is a Python port and hopefully advancement of the original Wind Energy Engineering Toolkit that was written in Visual Basic. This document describes how to use the functions that the software can currently perform. More information can be found at http://umass.edu/windenergy in the research tools section. The code can be obtained at http://code.google.com/p/windenergytk.

For comments or questions, please feel free to email me: akoumjian@gmail.com.

# 2 Installation

The toolkit may be installed as a Python module using the easy\_install utilities. At the moment the dependencies have to be obtained from their respective website or the Python Package Index.

Dependencies for the Core Libraries:

- 1. Numpy = 1.3
- 2. Scipy = 0.7.0
- 3. Scikits.timeseries

Dependencies for the graphic interface:

- 1. Matplotlib = .98
- 2. wxPython = 2.8
- 3. wxmpl

Once the dependencies are sucessfully installed, download and untar the toolkit source.

#### Listing 1: Untar the archive

```
# tar -xzf windenergy-0.10.54.tgz
```

Then use the python install script from within the untarred directory and the toolkit should be added to your path. Depending on your system you may need root privileges.

#### Listing 2: Install using setuptools

- # cd windenergytk/
- # python setup.py install

# 3 Status of the Project

The project is divided into three major sections: the core libraries, the graphical interface, and additional utilities. These sections are all at various levels of completion, outlined in the table.

the table.	
Analysis	100%
Statistics of a file	<b>√</b>
Histogram of a file	✓
Weibull parameters from a wind file	✓
Autocorrelation of a file	<b>√</b>
Crosscorrelation of 2 files	<b>√</b>
Block averaging of a file	<b>√</b>
Power spectral density of a file	<b>√</b>
Crinthogia	66.7%
Synthesis ARMA Time Series Generator	00.770
	<b>V</b>
Markov process transition probability matrix Generator	<b>√</b>
Use of Markov process TPM to generate data	<b>√</b>
Hourly wind speed generator including diurnal scaling	<b>√</b>
Hourly load generator including diurnal scaling	X
Turbulent wind generator (Shinozuka method)	X
Rotor Aerodynamics	100%
Optimum rotor design	<b>√</b>
Rotor analysis/linearized method	<b>√</b>
Rotor analysis using blade element momentum theory	<b>√</b>
Rotor Mechanics	60%
Vibration of a uniform beam (Euler method)	√
Vibration of a unnorm beam (Euler method)  Vibration of non-uniform, possibly rotating, beam (Myklestad method)	<b>∨</b>
Hinge-spring blade rotor flapping dynamics (Eggleston and Stoddard)	<b>√</b>
Rotating system dynamics (Holzer)	X
Rainflow cycle counting	X
Tannow Cycle counting	Λ
Electrodynamics	0%
System Performance	0%
Graphical Interface	40%
File Utilities	50%
Reading Wind Data Files	✓
Reading Blade Dimension Files	X

# 4 Using Core Library Functions

## 4.1 Working with Wind Data Time Series

The toolkit has functions for analyzing wind data and generating artificial data using different models. These functions are designed to work with scikits.timeseries objects. Many of them will work on numpy.ndarray objects as well.

#### 4.1.1 Loading Wind Data Files

The toolkit can load data files and store them as time series objects to be analyzed. Examples of the data format can be found in the "examples/" directory in the distribution package (they end in a ".dat" extension).

To parse one of these data files, the file\_ops module is imported. Use the parse\_file() function to separate the time series data and store it in a dictionary.

#### Listing 3: Reading in a .dat file

```
>>> import file_ops
>>> some_file = open("/home/aleck/Code/minicodes/windenergytk/examples/
    barnstable.dat","rb")
>>> some_file
<open file '/home/aleck/Code/minicodes/windenergytk/examples/barnstable.dat
    ', mode 'rb' at 0x9623cf0>
>>> ts_dict = file_ops.parse_file(some_file)
```

For each time series, the dictionary contains another dictionary with meta information such as location and the name of the sensor in addition to the time data itself and can be accessed accordingly:

#### Listing 4: Looking at the data read in

```
>>> ts_dict.keys()
[1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18]
>>> ts_dict[1]
{'elevation': 21, 'name': 'etmp2degc', 'designation': 'primary', 'collector
   ': 'rerl @ univ. of massachusetts', 'filters': {'dissimilar sensors':
   -988, 'out of range': -989, 'missing data': -999, 'icing or wet snow
   event': -991}, 'comments': '', 'meters_above_ground': 2, 'site_name': '
   barnstable', 'coords': {'latitude': 41.66483000000002, 'longitude':
   -70.304569999999998}, 'location': 'barnstable, ma', 'timeseries':
   timeseries([ 3.2
                    3.3 3.4 3.5 3.6 3.6
                                             3.6
                                                  3.6 3.6
    3.5
        3.4 3.2
      2.9 2.6 2.3 2.3 2.2 2.2
                                   2.3 2.3 2.4 2.4 2.6
      2.7],
  dates = [01-Jan-2006 00:00 01-Jan-2006 00:10 01-Jan-2006 00:20 01-Jan
      -2006 00:30
 01-Jan-2006 00:40 01-Jan-2006 00:50 01-Jan-2006 01:00 01-Jan-2006 01:10
 01-Jan-2006 01:20 01-Jan-2006 01:30 01-Jan-2006 01:40 01-Jan-2006 01:50
 01-Jan-2006 02:00 01-Jan-2006 02:10 01-Jan-2006 02:20 01-Jan-2006 02:30
```

```
01-Jan-2006 02:40 01-Jan-2006 02:50 01-Jan-2006 03:00 01-Jan-2006 03:10
01-Jan-2006 03:20 01-Jan-2006 03:30 01-Jan-2006 03:40 01-Jan-2006 03:50
01-Jan-2006 04:00 01-Jan-2006 04:10 01-Jan-2006 04:20 01-Jan-2006 04:30
01-Jan-2006 04:40 01-Jan-2006 04:50 01-Jan-2006 05:00 01-Jan-2006 05:10],
    freq = T)
, 'time_step': 600, 'units': 'units', 'timezone': -5, 'time_period': '
    2006-01-01 to 2006-04-03 09:50:00', 'logger_sampling': 2, 'type': '
    external temperature', 'report_created': '2006-07-14 16:08:28'}
```

The individual pieces can be accessed by their keys. For example, retriving the actual timeseries data is done using ts\_dict[1]['timeseries'].

#### 4.1.2 Analyzing Timeseries

Once a timeseries has been loaded uses the file\_ops package, or made by some other method, it can be looked at with the tools in the analysis module. The following functions assume that the analysis module has been imported:

```
Listing 5: Import the module

>>> from windenergytk import analysis
```

Whenever the variable "a\_series" is used, it refers to an already loaded or created time-series.

## 4.1.3 get\_statistics()

The get\_statistics() function returns the minimum, maximum, mean, standard deviation, and length of the timeseries array. The default behavior returns the values in a dictionary. Optionally the values can be returned as a list.

#### Listing 6: Getting basic statistics

```
>>> analysis.get_statistics(a_series)
{'std': 0.52035707391655595, 'max': 3.6000000000000001, 'min':
    2.200000000000002, 'size': 32, 'mean': 2.9718750000000007}
>>> analysis.get_statistics(a_series, "list")
[2.9718750000000007, 0.52035707391655595, 3.600000000000001,
    2.200000000000002, 32]
```

#### 4.1.4 get\_histogram\_data()

The get\_histogram\_data() function returns the bin divisions and integral value histogram data that can later be graphed. The options let the user specify the number of bins to divide the data into, and whether or not to normalize the results to integrate to one.

#### Listing 7: Generating histogram data

```
>>> analysis.get_histogram_data(a_series, 20, normalized=False)
(array([2, 4, 2, 0, 0, 3, 0, 4, 0, 2, 0, 0, 0, 0, 2, 1, 0, 2, 2, 8]), array
   ([ 2.2 , 2.27, 2.34, 2.41, 2.48, 2.55, 2.62, 2.69,
                           3.04, 3.11, 3.18, 3.25, 3.32,
       2.83,
              2.9 ,
                   2.97,
       3.46,
             3.53,
                    3.6 ]))
>>> analysis.get_histogram_data(a_series, 20)
(array([ 0.89285714, 1.78571429, 0.89285714,
       1.33928571, 0.
                                1.78571429,
                                            0.
                                                         0.89285714,
                                0.
       0.
                 , 0.
                                            0.
                                                         0.89285714,
                             , 0.89285714,
       0.44642857, 0.
                                            0.89285714,
                                                         3.57142857]),
          array([ 2.2 , 2.27, 2.34, 2.41,
                                             2.48, 2.55, 2.62, 2.69,
           2.76,
       2.83, 2.9, 2.97, 3.04, 3.11, 3.18, 3.25, 3.32,
       3.46, 3.53, 3.6]))
```

The first results simply returns the count for each bin. Note that the second array describes the bin edges, so it has a length of 21 in this example.

#### 4.1.5 crosscorrelate(), autocorrelate()

The analysis module also has the ability to correlate two timeseries, or autocorrelate a single one. The autocorrelate method is just wrapper for the crosscorrelate function using the same timeseries for both inputs.

#### Listing 8: Crosscorrelating two timeseries

The correlation functions take an optional argument that specifies the max lag to calculate. The returned values are arrays of the lag index and the normalized amount that the timeseries correlated to.

#### $4.1.6 ext{ get_weibull_params}()$

The analysis.get\_weibull\_params() function will take a mean and standard deviation and return the parameters c and k that describe a Weibull distribution with those statistical characteristics. This can be useful later for generating wind data with similar characteristics to another timeseries.

#### Listing 9: Approximate weibull parameters c and k

```
>>> analysis.get_weibull_params(5., 1.4)
(5.5175214395121817, 3.984615114175146)
```

#### 4.1.7 block\_average()

It may sometimes be better to reduce the size of the timeseries array by averaging blocks of the timeseries and labeling them with a new frequency. The block average function does this task. The inputs include the timeseries to be block averaged and the new frequency to conver it to. The available frequencies are those used by the scikits.timeseries package and can be found at .

Listing 10: Generating a new timeseries form another using slower frequency

### 4.1.8 power\_spectral\_density()

This is a wrapper function for the power spectral density functions offered through the matplotlib library. It allows for the ability to window the timeseries data using a Hanning window or square window. The segment size specifies the length of unit to be used for the fast fourier transform procedure.

Listing 11: Generate plot data for power spectral density

```
>>> analysis.power_spectral_density(a_series.data, .1)
(array([ 3.44258296,
                     3.35495142, 3.10480255,
                                                2.72769245,
        1.80194415,
                    1.36078285,
                                  0.98883648, 0.70582479,
                                                            0.51341346,
        0.00534055, 0.00508732,
                                  0.00525327,
                                               0.00579735,
                                                            0.00660582,
        0.0075136 , 0.00833654,
                                  0.00890797,
                                               0.00911224]),
                   , 0.00039063, 0.00078125, 0.00117188,
 array([ 0.
                                                             0.0015625 ,
        0.00195312, 0.00234375,
                                  0.00273438, 0.003125
                                                            0.00351563,
                     0.04726563,
                                  0.04765625,
                                               0.04804688,
                                                            0.0484375 ,
        0.046875
                     0.04921875,
        0.04882812,
                                  0.04960938,
                                               0.05
                                                         ]))
```

It should be noted that this function does not take timeseries objects as their argument. This will be changed in future revisions, once timeseries objects support subsecond frequencies.

#### 4.1.9 Generating Timeseries

The synthesis module allows for a variety of theoretical models to build timeseries wind data. The following examples assume that the synthesis function has been imported.

#### Listing 12: Import the module

```
>>> from windenergytk import synthesis
```

#### 4.1.10 gen\_arma()

This function employs an autoregressive moving average technique to generate a timeseries. The user may specify the mean, standard deviation, autocorrelation factor, and the number of point they want to generate. For now, the timeseries is given a frequency of one data point per minute. This will change in future revisions.

Listing 13: Generate synthetic timeseries using autoregressive moving average method

The more data points that are created, the better the function meets the average and standard deviation requirements.

#### 4.1.11 gen\_ts\_from\_tpm()

This function makes use of a Markov process whereby a timeseries is generated from a previously developed transition probability matrix (for now represented by the variable tpm).

Listing 14: Generate synthetic timeseries from a transition probability matrix

```
>>> new_ts = synthesis.gen_ts_from_tpm(tpm, 2., 20)
>>> new_ts
            4.03174413 11.16332847 10.31461996
timeseries([
   11.92281933
  11.59823027 10.30378196 11.34647608 10.01147421 10.02408444
  11.08574492 10.4952402
                           10.6724465
                                        10.02908196
                                                      9.37970177
   0.89870268
               0.25366088
                            3.93376901
                                         4.39539457 10.373766541,
  dates = [01-Jan-2001 00:00 ... 01-Jan-2001 00:19],
  freq = T)
```

The function also requires that the bin width be specified (here it is 2) in whatever units the user wants to measure the timeseries data in. The last input is the length of the timeseries array.

#### 4.1.12 gen\_markov\_tpm()

If you want to model a new timeseries from a currently existing one, it's possible to generate a transition probability matrix first from the existing one and feed it into the previous function.

Listing 15: Generate a transition probability matrix from a timeseries

```
synthesis.gen_markov_tpm(a_series, 5)
array([[ 0.875
                       0.125
                                    0.
                                                                0.
                                                                          ],
                                    0.16666667,
                                                                          ],
       [ 0.
                       0.83333331,
                                                                0.
                                                  0.
       [ 0.
                      0.
                                    0.5
                                                  0.
                                                                0.5
                                                                          1.
       [ 0.33333334, 0.
                                    0.
                                                  0.33333334,
                                                                0.33333334],
             , 0.08333334,
                                    0.
                                                  0.08333334,
                                                                0.83333331]],
          dtype=float32)
>>>
```

## 4.2 Rotor Aerodynamics

The aerodynamics module provides functions for testing the performance of certain rotor blade designs. It also allows the user to produce optimum rotor design given a certain range of parameters using the techniques employed in the Wind Energy Explained book. This section assumes that the "aerodyn" module has been imported.

```
Listing 16: Import the module

>>> from windenergytk import aerodyn
```

#### 4.2.1 optimum\_rotor()

This function takes a list of given parameters, such as the desired lift coefficient, angle of attack, tip speed ratio, and blade dimensions. It then returns a matrix of the chord and twist of each section of blade that best emulates those parameters.

Listing 17: Set the desired parameters and get dimensions of optimum rotor

```
>>> lift_coef = 4.
>>> AoA = .3
>>> tsr = [4., 5., 6., 6., 6., 6., 7., 8., 9., 10]
>>> radius = 10
>>> hradius = 1
>>> blades = 3
>>> sections = 10
>>> aerodyn.optimum_rotor(lift_coef, AoA, tsr, radius, hradius, blades, sections)

[[0, 0.16514867741462683, 0.0],
[1, 0.13255153229667402, 0.018453536538179546],
[2, 0.11065722117389563, 0.025698583040107224],
```

```
[3, 0.11065722117389563, 0.038547874560160837], [4, 0.11065722117389563, 0.051397166080214447], [5, 0.11065722117389563, 0.064246457600268064], [6, 0.09495170634275632, 0.056733628360690423], [7, 0.083141231888441219, 0.050729596832123344], [8, 0.07393903765794034, 0.045841924844088687], [9, 0.066568163775823808, 0.04179512695711006]] >>>
```

This kind of matrix can also be fed into the linear or nonlinear rotor analysis functions. It states the station, chord, and twist at each section.

#### $4.2.2 \quad rotor\_analysis()$

The rotor analysis function can be used one of two ways. One method involves using a linear approximation of a lift coefficient vs. angle of attack, in which case the slope and intercept are fed into the function. The other involves feeding a set of points inside of an array as a more detailed approximation of a lift coefficient versus angle of attack curve. In this case, the program interpolates values between the points given.

Listing 18: Analyze the performance of a rotor using linear lift coefficient and drag curves.

```
>>> tip_speed_ratio = 10
>>> number_blades = 3
>>> pitch_0 = .1
>>> blade_radius = 10
>>> hub_radius = 1
>>> lift_curve = [2, 1]
>>> drag_curve = [.2, .5]
>>> method = "linear'
>>> aerodyn.rotor_analysis(rct_matrix, tip_speed_ratio, number_blades,
   pitch_0, blade_radius, hub_radius, lift_curve, drag_curve, method)
[[1.0, 1.0, -0.72396523891638109, -0.62396523891638112,
   -0.44793047783276219, 0.35520695221672377, -0.02144358657715318,
   0.015437499991458428, -0], [2.0, 1.0, -0.75083587340192903,
   -0.63238233686374945, \ -0.50167174680385807, \ 0.34983282531961418,
   -0.0092480161116521731, 0.0033883338838999657, 0.0], ...
>>>
```

Alternatively, separate arrays can be used to describe points on the lift coefficient an drag coefficient curves:

#### Listing 19: Using nonlinear curve

```
>>> aerodyn.rotor_analysis
   ([[.2,2.,.3],[.4,2.,.4],[.6,2.,.5],[.8,2.,.6],[.9,2,.6,[.9,2.,.6]],
10.,
3,
.1,
10.,
```

## 4.3 Predicting Blade Movement

The *mechanics* module provides functions for describing blade movements and blade fatigue while in operation. The following functions assume that the mechanics module is imported.

#### 4.3.1 Natural Frequencies

The natural frequencies of beams can be calculated using the Euler or Myklestaad methods. These frequencies are then used in functions that predict blade movement.

The euler\_beam\_vibrations() function is used for blades which are assumed to have uniform dimensions and mass distribution.

#### Listing 20: Calculating natural frequencies of uniform cantilevered beams

```
>>> beam_length = 10
>>> area_moment = 4
>>> mass_per_length = 2
>>> elastic_modulus = 1.3
>>> mode = 2
>>> mechanics.euler_beam_vibrations(beam_length, area_moment, mass_per_length, elastic_modulus, mode)
(0.35529550069413179, 0.46940911329743357)
```

The myklestad\_beam\_vibrations() require much more detailed input than the euler beam method.

Listing 21: Calculating natural frequencies of oscillation for nonuniform beams

```
>>> sec_lengths = [1., 1., 1., 1.]
>>> sec_masses = [1., 1., 1., 1.]
>>> e_i = [1.5, 1.5, 1.5, 1.5]
>>> density = 1.
>>> rot_velocity = 20
>>> freq_start = 1
>>> freq_step = 0.5
>>> freq_final = 30
>>> mechanics.myklestad_beam_vibrations(sec_lengths, sec_masses, e_i, density, rot_velocity, freq_start, freq_final, freq_step)
[2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 6.5]
```

The results are a list of natural frequencies in radians per second.

#### 4.3.2 Flapping Blade Motion

The myklestad and euler method modes of oscillation can be used as part of the input for solving the flapping blade motion. The hinge\_spring\_flapping() function returns results that describe the coning, vertical, and lateral tilting terms that describing the motion of the plane of rotation.

Listing 22: Uses flapping matrix to calculate blade motions

```
>>> num blades = 3
>>> blade radius = 10
>>> blade chord = .5
>>> blade mass = 100
>>> lift curve slope = 2
>>> blade pitch angle = .2
>>> rot_nat_freq = 2.5
>>> non nat freq = 2.
>>> yaw_to_blade = 1
>>> yaw rate = .2
>>> cross_flow = 1.5
>>> linear_shear = 3
>>> air_density = .01
>>> rot_velocity = 2
>>> tip_speed_ratio = 10
mechanics.hinge_spring_flapping(num_blades, blade_radius, blade_chord,
   blade_mass, lift_curve_slope, blade_pitch_angle, rot_nat_freq,
   non_nat_freq, yaw_to_blade, yaw_rate, cross_flow, linear_shear,
   air_density, rot_velocity, tip_speed_ratio)
(0.013276940189759386, -0.18395789165942605, -0.0024270777670343615)
```

# 5 Using the Graphical Interface

The graphical interface only has minimal functionality at the moment. However, enough is completed that that the layout and general user interaction can be demonstrated. The start the GUI, go to the directory with the "gwindtk.py" file and execute it. From a \*nix environment, that will mean going to a shell and typing:

```
# ./gwintk &
```

Running the file opens up the main window. This displays the four main panels of the application. Going clockwise from the top left is the data selection panel, the graphing panel, the results panel, and the functions panel. The idea is that the left side of the application is for loading, manipulating, and calculating data while the right side presents the results in graphical and text form.

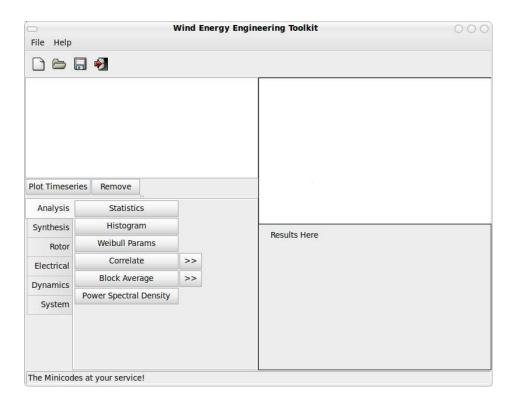


Figure 1: Main Page

# 5.1 Loading Files and Plotting Timeseries

The analysis and synthesis modules use timeseries data that is stored in the top left panel. Currently the graphical interface loads \*.dat files that can be downloaded from the UMass website. These data files contain wind speed and direction for a number of meteorological towers that the university administers. The files contain header data about the site location and information about each of the sensors, followed by a series of time stamped comma separated values.

#### Listing 23: Example .dat file provided by Wind Energy Center.

```
Site Name: BARNSTABLE
Location: Barnstable, MA
Latitude [N]: 41.66483
Longitude [W]: 70.30457
Time Zone [hrs from GMT]: -5
Elevation [m]: 21
Time Step of Data [seconds]: 600
Logger Sample Interval [seconds]: 2
Report Time Period: 2006-01-01 to 2006-04-03 09:50:00
Data Collection By: RERL @ Univ. of Massachusetts
Report Generated: 2006-07-14 16:08:28
Comments:
```

```
Sensors: Sensor Name, Type, Designation, Height Above Ground [m],
   Measurement Units
Sensor #1: Etmp2DEGC, External Temperature, Primary, 2, Units
Sensor #2: EtmpSD2DEGC, External Temperature Standard Deviation, Primary, 2,
Sensor #3: Anem39aMS, Anemometer, Primary, 39, m/s
Sensor #4: AnemSD39aMS, Anemometer Standard Deviation, Primary, 39, m/s
Sensor #17: Vane10DEG, Wind Direction Vane, Primary, 10, Units
Sensor #18: VaneSD10DEG, Wind Direction Vane Standard Deviation, Primary, 10,
   Units
Applied Validation Filter Code, Filter Name
-988, Dissimilar sensors
-989, Out of Range
-991, Icing or wet snow event
-999, Missing Data
Day-Month-Year Hour: Minute, Etmp2DEGC, EtmpSD2DEGC, Anem39aMS, AnemSD39aMS,
   Anem39bMS, AnemSD39bMS, Anem30aMS, AnemSD30aMS, Anem30bMS, AnemSD30bMS,
   Anem10MS, AnemSD10MS, Vane39DEG, VaneSD39DEG, Vane30DEG, VaneSD30DEG,
   Vane10DEG, VaneSD10DEG
2006-01-01
   00:00,3.2,0,-988,-988,3.9,0.5,3.2,0.5,3.3,0.5,2,0.5,39,7,34,9,26,14
2006-01-01
   00:10,3.3,0,-988,-988,3.8,0.9,3.2,0.9,3.3,0.9,1.9,0.8,44,8,40,10,35,15
```

A file can be loaded by using the Import item under the File menu. Sample files are included in the examples directory with the toolkit distribution.



Once any number of timeseries are loaded (shown in the upper left corner), they can be plotted, analyzed, or manipulated. Plotting a timeseries will display a graph of it in the upper right graphing panel. The graphing panel can zoom in on points of the graph by selected a rectangle. A mouse right click zooms back out to the previous zoom level.

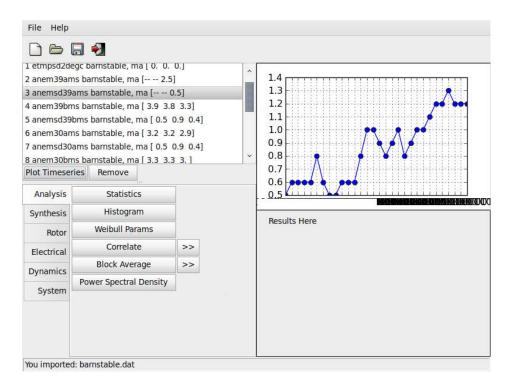


Figure 2: Plotting a Timeseries

# 5.2 Performing Functions on Timeseries

Functions provided by each of the different core librations are found by selected the tab in the bottom right corner. Once there, options such as retrieving histogram data or crosscorrelations can be performed. Different options require a different amount of selected timeseries. To select more than one, hold "Ctrl" while selecting them with the mouse. Some functions have optional parameters that can be changed by clocking on the double arrow button to the right of the function. This reveals the function's options menu.

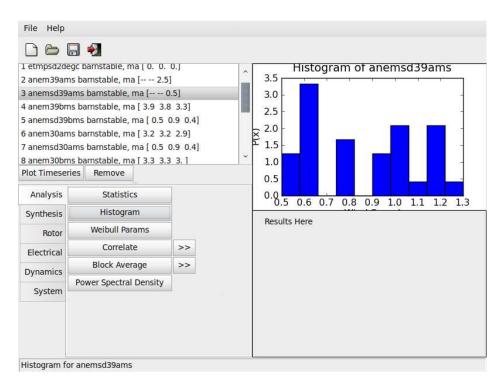


Figure 3: Histogram data

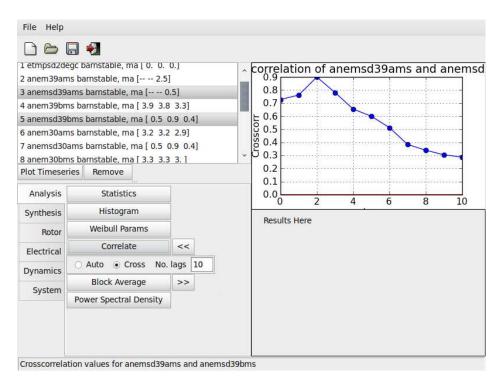


Figure 4: Crosscorrelation

Currently the only implemented method to generated time series uses a normal distribution and an autoregressive moving average algorithm (ARMA). When in the synthesis tab, the necessary inputs can be given and the function generates a new timeseries. Future revisions will let you load these statistics from another opened timeseries. When generating new timeseries data, the new arrays should appear at the bottom of the data panel. Since they are artificial, they have no location of origin.

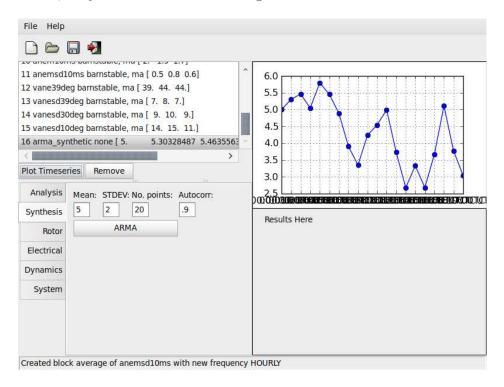


Figure 5: A new timeseries is added using ARMA