Western music generally adopts the one and the same pitch organization, namely 12 pitch classes per octave, divided into equal steps. Etnic music adopts different classifications that can not be grasped within the Western musical idiom. Tarsos tries to offer a method that will help us determine and analyze these pitch classes. Illustrated below is an example of pentatonic pitch scale. The dotted lines represent the Western pitch class histogram. The 5 peaks illustrate diviations.

Tarsos is a software that extracts pitch from audio sets. These 'annotations' are the starting point to determine the pitch classses through grafic visualisation and peak detection. The pitch classes are being assigned automatically or manually and immediately a pitch class interval table appears which clearly shows how it differs from Western pitch. By clicking on the graph and table, you can listen to the pitches.
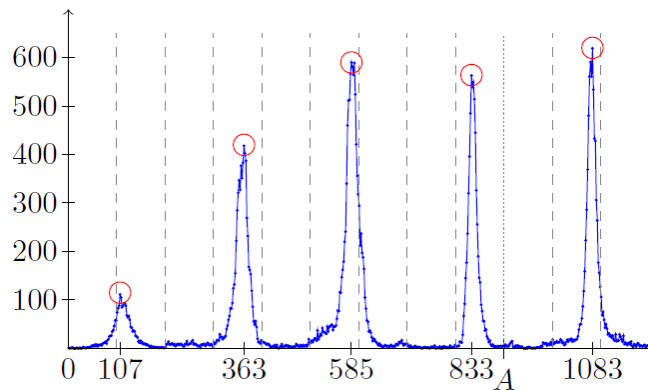
Horzontal axis shows one octave, consisting of 1200 cents where the 12 dotted lines show the Western moodmodel. The 5 peaks are pitches that Tarsos detected in a African song.

Tarsos gives etnomusicological research the opportunity to determine pitch classes in a simple way. This paves the way for interesting research like geographical spreading and time-related evolutions. The results of Tarsos can be saved as a graph or as a text, but can also be sent to a MIDI syntheziser which allows you to play according to the same pitch class as the one in the annoted piece of music that you just analyzed. Tarsos Live offers real-time analysis which allows playing along with musicians that use an alternative tuning.