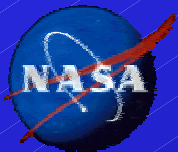


Lunar Geophysics, Geodesy, and Dynamics

James G. Williams and Jean O. Dickey
Jet Propulsion Laboratory
California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, CA



Acknowledgment: Dale H. Boggs, XX Newhall, J. Todd Ratcliff, E. Myles Standish & others especially the Staffs of CERGA, Haleakala, and the University of Texas McDonald Observatory

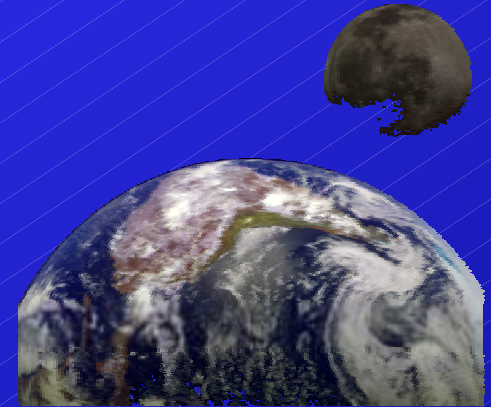


Contact: James.G.Williams@jpl.nasa.gov



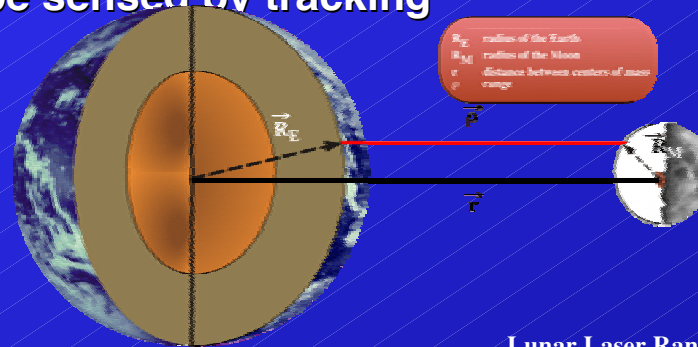
Majors Points

- Introduction
- Recent developments
- Comparison of the Earth and Moon
- Lunar Geodesy
- Lunar Interior studies
- Science Potential - from Centimeter toward millimeter Ranging Accuracy
- Concluding Remarks

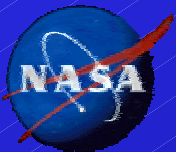
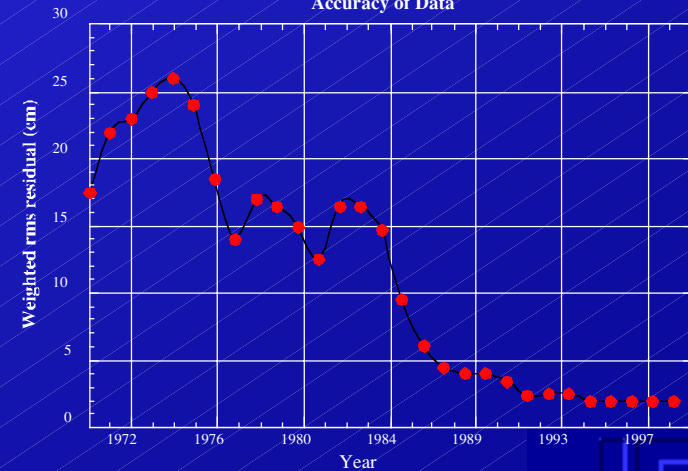


Introduction

- Lunar tides and rotation are influenced by the interior properties of the Moon.
- Three-axis rotation and tides can be sensed by tracking lunar landers
 - 4 corner-cube retroreflector arrays
 - Three decades of accurate ranges
- Areas of Impact
 - Lunar Science
 - Gravitational Physics
 - Earth Science
 - Ephemerides and Constants



Lunar Laser Ranging
Accuracy of Data



An Apollo -Era Experiment Still Going Strong!

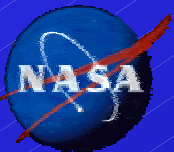


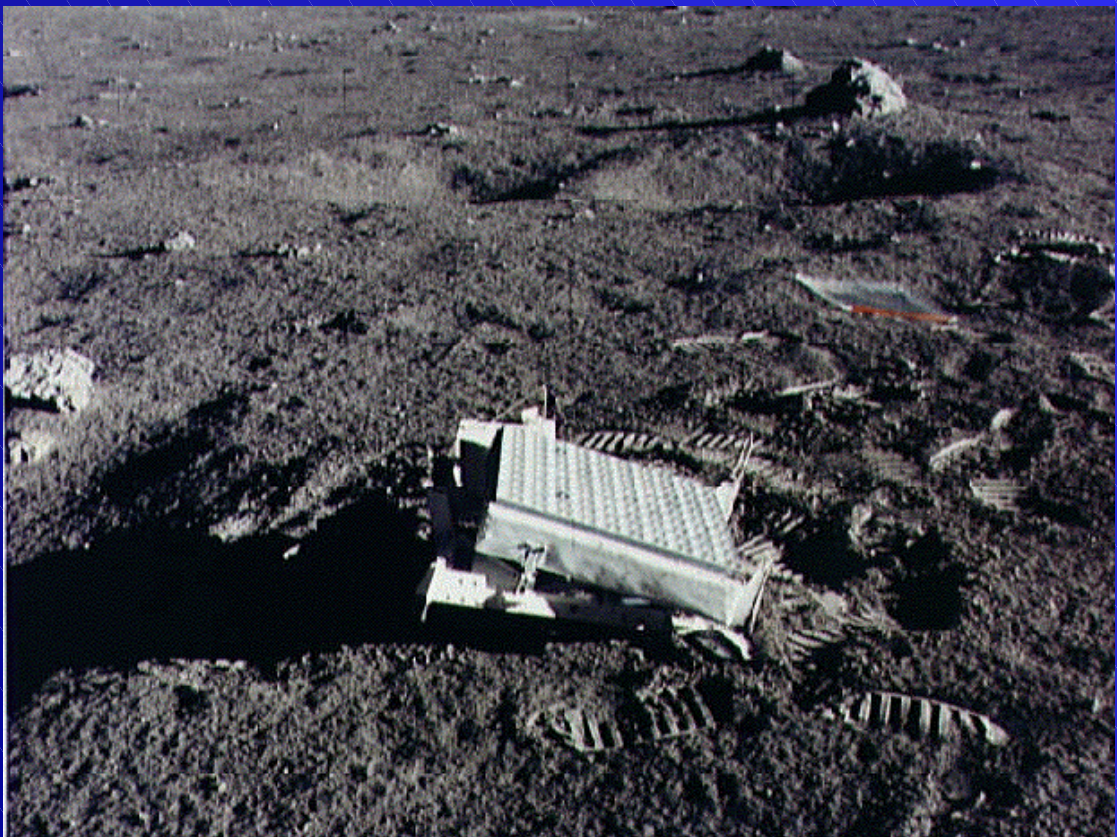
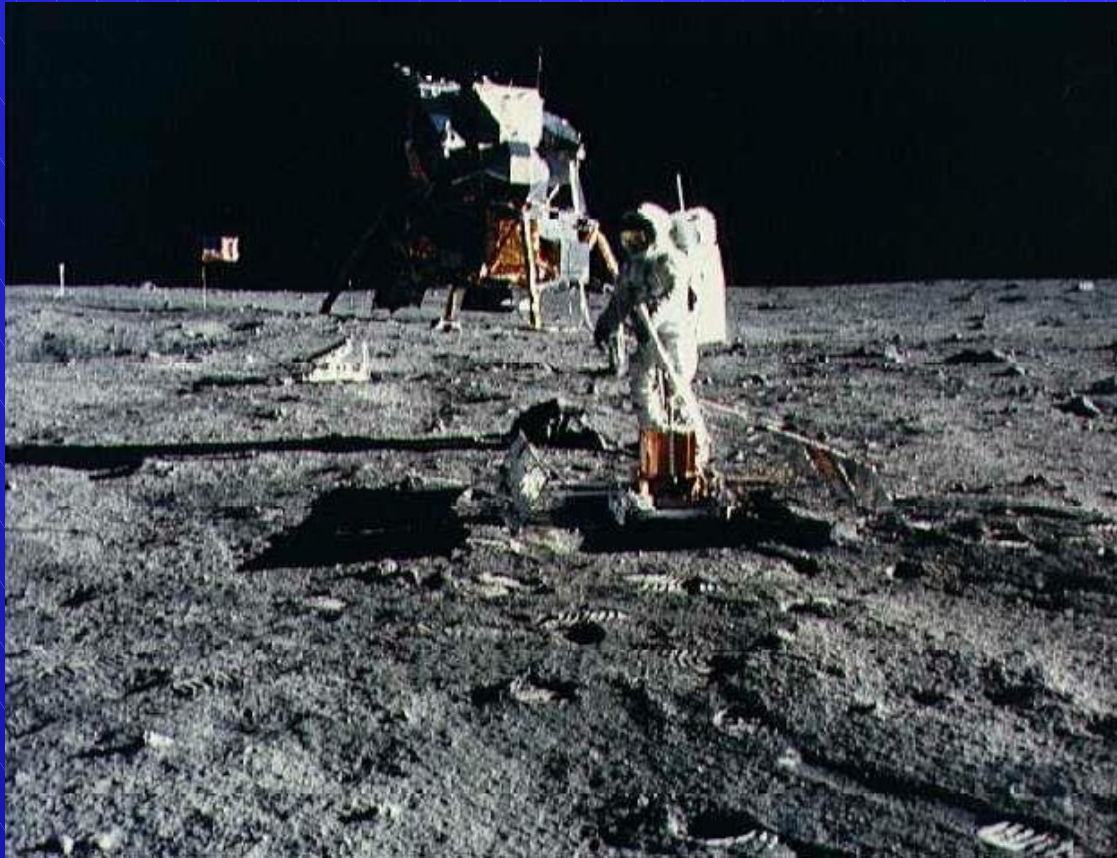
- Laser Ranges between observatories on the Earth and retroreflectors on the Moon started in 1969 and continue to the present
- 4 retroreflectors are ranged: Apollo 11, 14, & 15 sites and Lunakhod 2 rover



- **Earth-based Observatories:**

- McDonald (Texas)
- OCA (Grasse)
- Haleakala (Hawaii - historic data)
- Expected soon! : Matera & Apache Point





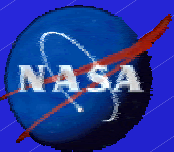
Comparison of the Earth and Moon I

Earth

- Atmosphere, ocean & life!
- Rotation rapid
 - short period variation linked to atmosphere
- Tidal loading is important
- Non-grav effects are a challenge with short-arc solutions
- Plate motion
- Earthquakes

Moon

- No atmosphere, ocean & known life!
- Rotation is synchronous and slow (27.3 days)& not near rotational equilibrium
- Tidal loading is lacking
- Orbit is “quiet” with the largest non-grav effect of 4 mm angle arc solution for 32 years with an rms of 17 mm
- No plate motion
- Moonquake (small in magnitude)



Comparison of the Earth and Moon II

| | Earth | Moon |
|-------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Radius | 6371 km | 1737 km |
| Mean Density | 5.51 gm/cm ³ | 3.35 gm/cm ³ |
| C/MR ² | 0.3307 | 0.3932 |
| Spin Period | 1 d | 27.3 d |
| Precession | 26,000 yr | 18.6 yr |
| Tilt to Ecliptic | 23.44° | 1.54° |



Comparison of the Earth and Moon

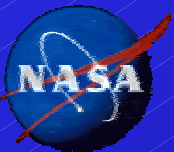
III

Earth

- Studies of the Earth's interior are advanced
- Solar perturbation are smaller
- Moment of Inertia ~ 0.33 smaller than the value expected from a solid body
- Center of Mass and J_2 variations are geophysical interesting & are under current study!
- Tides on the Earth- Large and complex
- Tidal dissipation - Earth's contribution dominates!

Moon

- Moon's interior is less well known -LLR analysis indicates a liquid core
- Solar perturbation are sizable!
- Moment of Inertia = 0.3932 ± 0.0002 (Konopliv et al., *Science*, 1998) close to the value expected from a solid body
- No analogy - Center of Mass variation
- J_2 time series would be rather \sim constant
- Tidal dissipation - Moon's contribution is small
- Tides on the Moon
 - Largest ~ 10 cm; Synchronous rotation keeps angular variation modest; solar tides ~ 4 mm

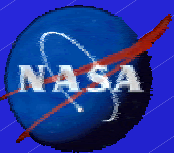


Largest Lunar Radial Variations

Interaction Type

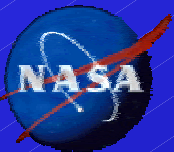
Amplitudes

- Ellipticity 20905 km
- Solar perturbations 3699 & 2956 km
- Jupiter perturbation 1.06 km
- Venus perturbations 0.73, 0.68 & 0.60 km
- Earth J_2 0.46 & 0.45 km
- Moon J_2 & C_{22} 0.2 m
- Earth C_{22} 0.5 mm
- Lorentz contraction 0.95 m
- Solar potential 6 cm
- Time transformation 5 & 5 cm
- Solar radiation pressure 4 mm
- Note ratio smallest to the largest = $2 \times 10^{**}-10$



Lunar Science Questions

- What are the properties and structure of the deep interior?
- What are the core properties?
 - Iron or Silicate?
 - Solid or fluid?
 - Does an inner core exist?
- What causes strong tidal dissipation?
- What were the roles of tidal and core dissipation in the thermal and dynamical evolution?
- What stimulates free librations?



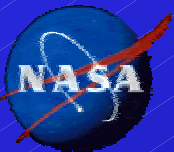
CAUSES OF ROTATIONAL VARIATIONS

- Departure from uniform rotation and precession is caused by
 - Static figure, moments of inertia, and gravity field
 - Tidal k_2 and oblateness of fluid-core/solid-mantle boundary
 - Tidal dissipation and dissipation at fluid-core/solid-mantle boundary



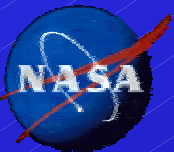
Elastic Tides

- Love numbers
 - Depend on the elastic properties of interior
 - Elastic tidal displacement: h_2 & l_2
 - Tidal distortion of 2nd degree gravity potential: k_2
- Values of k_2
 - LLR determines k_2 more accurately from lunar rotation
 - > $k_2 = 0.0266 \pm 0.0027$
 - Spacecraft determined values agree
 - > $k_2 = 0.026 \pm 0.003$ (Konopliv et al., Icarus, 2000)
 - Simple structural models produce lower values of k_2
 - > Something like partial melt in the deep mantle could bring model results into better agreement with measurements



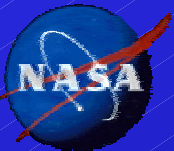
EVIDENCE FOR A CORE

- **Moment of inertia**
- **Rotation effects**
- **Magnetic induction**
- **Ancient magnetized basalts**



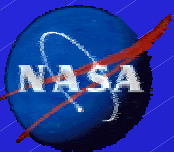
Elastic Tides

- Love numbers
 - Depend on the elastic properties of interior
 - Elastic tidal displacement: h_2 & l_2
 - Tidal distortion of 2nd degree gravity potential: k_2
- Values of k_2
 - LLR determines k_2 more accurately from lunar rotation
 - > $k_2 = 0.0266 \pm 0.0027$
 - Spacecraft determined values agree
 - > $k_2 = 0.026 \pm 0.003$ (Konopliv et al., Icarus, 2000)
 - Simple structural models produce lower values of k_2
 - > Something like partial melt in the deep mantle could bring model results into better agreement with measurements



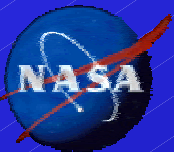
CAUSES OF ROTATIONAL VARIATIONS

- Departure from uniform rotation and precession is caused by
 - Static figure, moments of inertia, and gravity field
 - Tidal k_2 and oblateness of fluid-core/solid-mantle boundary
 - Tidal dissipation and dissipation at fluid-core/solid-mantle boundary



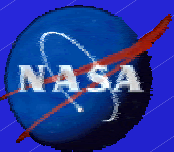
Tidal Dissipation

- Tidal dissipation Q
 - A bulk physical property of the Moon
 - Depends on radial distribution of material Q's
- LLR detects 4 dissipation terms
 - Infers a weak dependence of tidal Q on frequency
 - Surprisingly low Q's ($Q_{\text{Moon}} \approx 37$ vs $Q_{\text{Solid Earth}} \approx 200-600$)
 - Location of the low Q material not determined by LLR
- At seismic frequencies
 - Low Q material was found in the deep mantle
 - Suspected to be partial melt



Fluid Core/Solid Mantle Dissipation

- Fluid core
 - Doesn't share axis of rotation of the solid mantle
 - Weakly coupled to precessing mantle
 - Torque due to core-mantle velocity difference dissipates energy
- LLR analysis
 - Several dissipation terms considered in order to separate tidal from core dissipation
 - Yoder's (1995) turbulent boundary-layer theory gives
 - > Fe: $R_{\text{core}} \leq 352$ km
 - > Fe-FeS eutectic: $R_{\text{core}} \leq 374$ km



Future - Previews of Coming Attractions

- **LLR data from Matera**
- **New ranging system with improved accuracy and sensitivity (see Tom Murphy presentation)**
 - Currently under construction at Apache Point Observatory (UW)
 - 3.5 meter telescope with 1-arcsec typical performance
 - 10 mm single-photon system uncertainty --> mm accuracy quickly achievable
 - Will allow ranging to single corner-cube reflectors
- **Advent of a new era in LLR analysis enabling new breakthroughs in many areas**



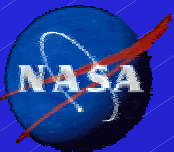
Expected Scientific Advances I

- Einstein's Theory is not a quantum theory & is expected to break down at some small level - may be observed by LLR.
- Improved in relativity parameters
 - Both longer data span and higher accuracy
 - Improved in PPN parameters
 - dG/dt improves as the times squared
- Improved J_2 of Sun expected



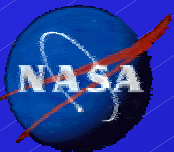
Expected Scientific Advances II

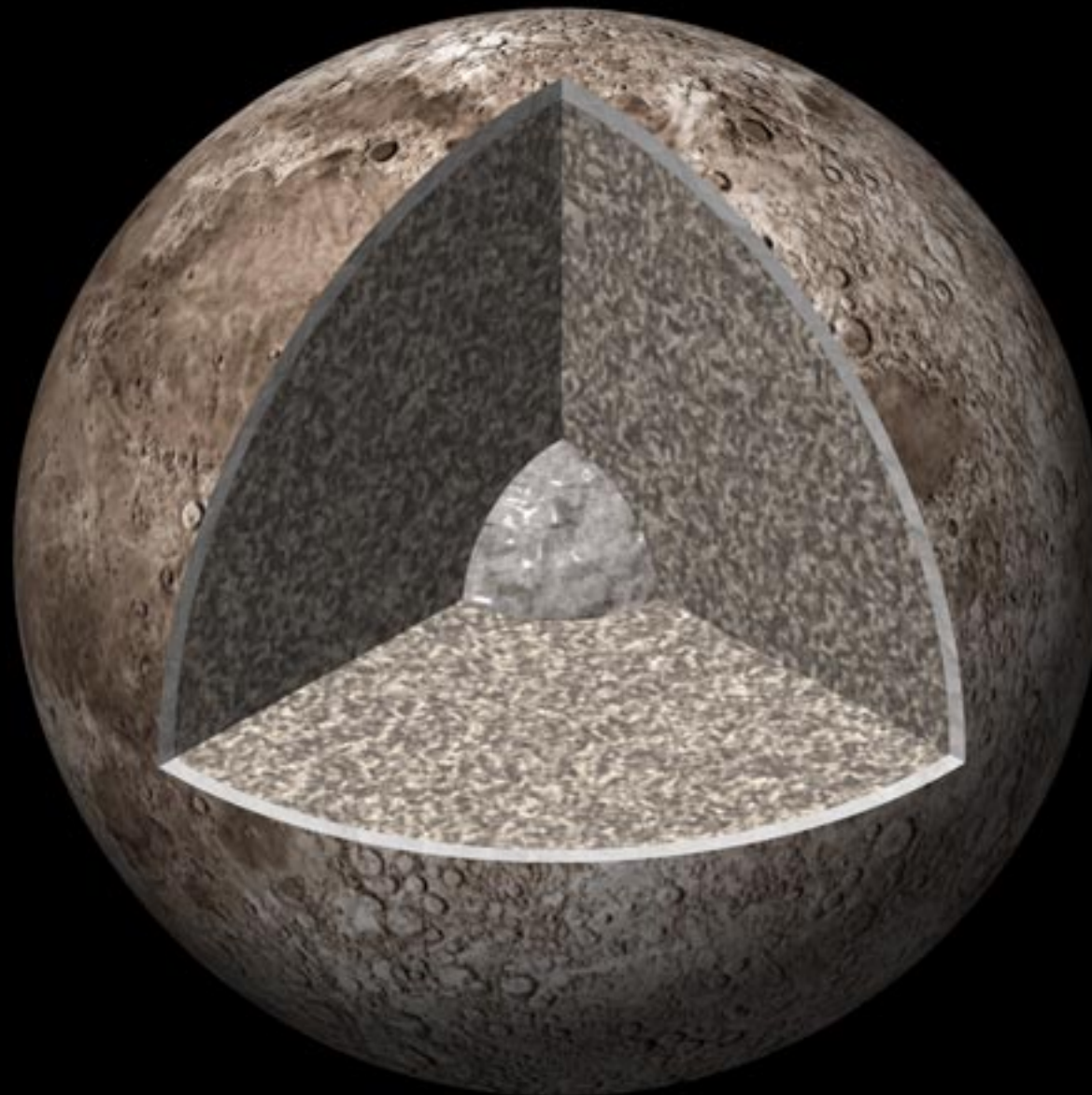
- Lunar Interior: Targets from possible detection
 - Fluid-core/solid-mantle boundary oblateness
 - Additional tidal dissipation terms
 - Core moment term
 - Solid inner core effect ?
 - free core nutation ?
 - Free libration stimulating events?



Summary

- **LLR is an unique ground-based tool for lunar study... only working experiment from the Apollo Program**
 - Complements orbiter and seismic experiments
 - **The best is yet to come!**
 - **Matera is coming on-line!**
 - **New Apollo Program at Apache Point (Murphy, UW) under development with 1 mm accuracy goal!!**
- **LLR data favors fluid core ~ 350 km**
 - Longer time (more measurements) & greater coverage (more retroreflectors) will permit detection of smaller signals (oblateness, moment?)
- **Heat available from tidal dissipation and turbulent dissipation at the CMB could power early core convection and dynamo**
- **Major advances expected in Gravitation and Relativity**





The Lunar Interior

© Copyright 1999 by Calvin J. Hamilton

