

Tides are a means of probing the internal structure of Europa and establishing the existence or absence of a liquid water ocean at depth (1-4). An ocean may lie beneath Europa's outer icy shell which may have a depth ranging from a few to 100km. It is also possible that the observed icy crust is frozen all the way to the rocky surface of the mantle. The rocky mantle could be solid down to a liquid iron core. Another alternative is that the lower mantle is softened by tidal heating, perhaps even partially melted at depth as was originally proposed for Io(3). One can discriminate between these three extremes by measuring the $3.60d = 2\pi/n$ surface tide (or the h_2 Love number) and the corresponding change in external gravity (or the k_2 Love number). An alternative to the ocean is a plastic ice layer at depth. An examination of Love numbers for a range of models for Europa illustrates the extent that measurement of these parameters can distinguish between these models. The nominal model includes a water layer of 105km thickness, a lunar-like rocky mantle and a liquid iron core of radius 600km and density 5gm/cc . The table below divides the water layer into a rigid outer shell with S-wave velocity v_s ranging from 1 to 2km/s and which covers a 'soft.' layer with much lower v_s .

	outer icy shell thickness	soft. icy layer velocity v_s (km/s)	h_2	k_2	h_2/k_2
1	105	2.0	0.039	0.021	1.86
2	25	0.30	0.011	0.030	2.58
3	25	0.05	0.122	0.039	3.30
4	25	0.01	0.732	0.165	4.44
5	25	0.001	1.288	0.282	4.57
6	65	0.01	0.219	0.060	3.67
7	65	0.0005	1.204	0.275	4.38
8	25	0.01	1.084	0.458	2.37
9	25	0.01	1.253	0.587	2.13

Column 1 corresponds to the solid shell case and the surface radial tide amplitude is $d = 3eR(M_J/M)(R/a)^3 = 24h_2m \approx 1\text{m}$. Columns 2-5 progressively decrease v_s in the soft layer (of thickness 80km) until it reaches a 'fluid' layer limit for which $k_2 \approx 0.29$. We find that both Love numbers increase, as does the ratio h_2/k_2 . Columns 8 and 9 includes a soft lower mantle layer below radius 1400km with S-wave velocity = 0.5km/s and 0.0km/s, respectively. The addition of a softened lower mantle to a model with a nearly decoupled icy shell tends to increase Love numbers further while reducing the ratio h_2/k_2 toward a limiting value near 2. If the icy shell is completely decoupled, then for $k_2 > 0.3$ there must be a contribution from a softened mantle. The ratio h_2/k_2 also helps discriminate between these extremes. A ratio near 2 implies that the mantle contributes significantly to the tide while a ratio greater than 3 implies that the icy shell/ocean layer is the main source of the tide.

These two parameters are not enough to completely constrain all possibilities, especially if the 'soft' ice layer as in col. (2-4,6) inhibit shell deformation. Measurement of the phase lag or dissipation Q for this tide might help since one might expect a thick mushy layer of ice to be highly dissipative while a deep ocean layer would not.. Tidal

Europa Tides: Yoder and Sjogren

friction in Europa results in a heating rate of $5.4 \times 10^{21} k_2/Q$ ergs/s (2) or a surface heat flow of $1.7 \times 10^4 k_2/Q$ erg/s/cm². Radiogenic heating might contribute 10 ergs/s/cm² to surface heat flow and therefore tides are an important heat source for $Q/k_2 < 1.7 \times 10^3$. The contribution from solid friction within the mantle with 0.020 and $Q = 25 \times 10^{21}$ ergs/s/cm², but this rate could be increased by a factor of 10 or more for mantle models with a softened lower mantle as in col. 8. Ojakangas and Stevenson (4) obtain $k_2/Q \approx 0.0004$ for an equilibrium shell model coated with 'soft', plastic ice at its base. increasing this rate requires mechanisms other than conduction through the solid icy layer to remove heat, such as open cracks or resurfacing. High dissipation might also be achieved with a thin ocean layer. Ocean currents cause skin friction at the interfaces and dissipate tidal energy. As with Earth, ocean currents are a very efficient energy loss mechanism since here the mean depth can adjust to match heat flow. The rheology of ice is not relevant except as it effects heat flow.

Covariance analysis of an orbiting spacecraft about Europa has been performed to determine its sensitivity to the k_2 Love number. The tidal flexing period is an anomalistic orbit and differs from the rotation period by the apsidal yr period. We expected that aliasing of the 3.6d tide with odd harmonics in the permanent gravity field might dilute the ability to detect this parameter for short duration missions, but this suspicion happens to be unfounded. Two factors which improve tide resolution include spacecraft altitude which allows it to partially sense gravity on the backside of Europa. Also, for polar orbits, contributions from the fixed field which might alias with the tidal signature are small. Continuous Doppler tracking for 5d (at X-band) of a polar orbiting spacecraft at an altitude of 100-200km and nearly edge-on to Earth can resolve k_2 (and also k_2/Q) to about ± 0.001 (1 standard deviation). Realistic errors are expected to be no worse than 2-5 times larger (5). A laser altimeter aboard such a spacecraft and with $\approx 15m$ range accuracy should be sensitive to h_2 to ± 0.1 or better. Therefore, an orbiter should be able to discriminate between models with and without liquid oceans or a softened lower mantle and determine whether tidal friction is a significant source of heating compared to internal sources. These and other issues such as detection of polar moment of inertia from spin pole orientation shall be discussed.

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