

Location of water deposits in the polar regions of the Moon. Gunther Kletetschka ^{1, 2*}, Jaroslav Klokočník ³, Nicholas Hasson ^{1, 4}, Jan Kostecký ^{5, 6}, and Aleš Bezděk ^{3, 7}, ¹Geophysical Institute, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, 903 N Koyukuk Drive, Fairbanks, AK, USA, gkletetschka@alaska.edu, ²Institute of Hydrogeology, Engineering Geology and Applied Geophysics, Faculty of Science, Charles University, Albertov 6, 12000 Prague 2, Czech Republic, ³Astronomical Institute, Czech Academy of Sciences, CZ 251 65 Ondřejov, Fričova 298, Czech Republic, ⁴Water and Environmental Research Center, Institute of Northern Engineering, University of Alaska Fairbanks - Fairbanks, AK 99775 1764 Tanana Loop AK, USA, ⁵Research Institute of Geodesy, Topography and Cartography, CZ 250 66 Zdíby 98, Czech Republic, ⁶Faculty of Mining and Geology, VSB-TU Ostrava, CZ 708 33 Ostrava, Czech Republic, ⁷Faculty of Civil Engineering, Czech Technical University in Prague, CZ 166 29 Praha 6, Czech Republic

Summary: Our Moon periodically moves through the magnetic tail of the Earth that contains terrestrial ions of hydrogen and oxygen. Reconnection inside this magnetosphere's tail reverts the ions flow back to the Earth and allows for oxygen and hydrogen transfer into the lunar surface regolith when the Moon is inside the Earth's terrestrial magnetosphere. We discovered, using gravity aspects, this inference reveals polar deposits of potential frozen water signatures forming volumes of permafrost in the lunar subsurface. Our analysis predicts that impact cratering processes were responsible for specific pore space network that were subsequently filled with the water-ice in the polar regions of the Moon. Identified hydrogravity strike anomalies by the novel gravity aspect approach serve as potential resource utilization sites for future landing exploration sites (e.g., Artemis objectives). The unique locations may become necessary structures for future human settlement. In this work, we conjecture plasma-magnetotail reconnections has allow the accumulation of up to ~3000 km³ of terrestrial water-ice, filling the pore spaced regolith, for which novel gravity strike signals appear.

Introduction: Artemis mission's planning requires cogent analyses of potential resource utilization sites [1]. Lunar surface operations are both novel, and expensive, and require geophysical explorations. The best knowledge for these later known resource extraction sites, currently must be decided from remote inference. The lunar environment is unlike contemporary earth analogues geophysics (gravity, ionosphere, that is to say, almost entirely). Indeed, our lunar satellite experiences ion-magnetohydrodynamics often overlooked when discussing resource formation. For example, the lunar environment is shielding for five days of each Earth orbit period from a magnetic field tail extending all the way from the Earth's geomagnetic field [2].

Gravity aspects: We use a novel method for detection of underground density anomalies via anomalous gravity signal. This method was developed for the study of various geological structures on the Earth (the impact craters, subglacial volcanoes, lakes, lake basins, paleolakes or oil&gas deposit sites around

the world) and extended for the impact craters, maria and catenae on the Moon [3,4].

Gravity studies applied to geoscience commonly employ just the traditional gravity anomalies or second radial derivatives of the disturbing gravitational potential. This work uses a wider set of functions of the disturbing gravitational potential, which we call "gravity aspects". These are derivation operators acting on the gravity anomalies Δg , the Marussi tensor ($\mathbf{\Gamma}$); the second derivatives of the disturbing potential (T_{ij}), with the second radial component T_{zz} and the two of these three gravity invariants (I_j), given their specific ratio (I), the strike angles (θ), and the virtual deformations (vd). Our prior usage revealed their diverse sensitivity to the underground density contrasts, due to causative associations. Here, we compute these operators to a high degree and order with sufficient numerical stability. It appears that such application provides a clearer and more comprehensive data extraction from these satellite gravity measurements. Theory of this approach was outlined in the book of Klokočník et al [4], with further references and examples presented by our specific application that can use such method methods Moon exploration, provided in the Supplementary material.

Gravity data: The input data now uses harmonic geopotential coefficients of the spherical harmonic expansion to degree and order d/o of the perturbational gravitational potential (Stokes parameters). A set of these coefficients define a global static gravitational field. We use the best models available built from satellite records [5,6]. This defines the limits of d/o = 1200 and 1500 for the models GRGM1200A [5], and GL1500E [6] respectively, using the applied limit d/o = 600 (recommended by the authors of these models themselves). Application of these models allows for the theoretical ground resolutions of ~10 km. The precision is nearly 10 mGal. For this paper, we selected the GRGM1200A model (after performing tests concerning the degradation of gravity aspects for different harmonic degree and discovering the order and/or appearance of artifacts).

Results: We computed and plotted these gravity aspects, namely the strike angles θ and the second radial derivatives T_{zz} near the lunar poles - see Fig. 1. We then

used two color modes to express the degree of alignment of strike angles: blue as misaligned and red with high degree of alignment. The choice of contrasting alignments (i.e., aligned vs non-alignment), was chosen to be the most conservative, such that only areas in conjunction with high Comb values (0.99-1.00) were outlined in Fig. 1. The calculations resulted in agreement of areas with high degree alignment and for Comb values > 0.99 . Hence, we outlined these areas by black lines. We then identified 27 areas of significant alignment of θ near the north pole and 33 such areas near the south pole on the Moon (Fig. 1).

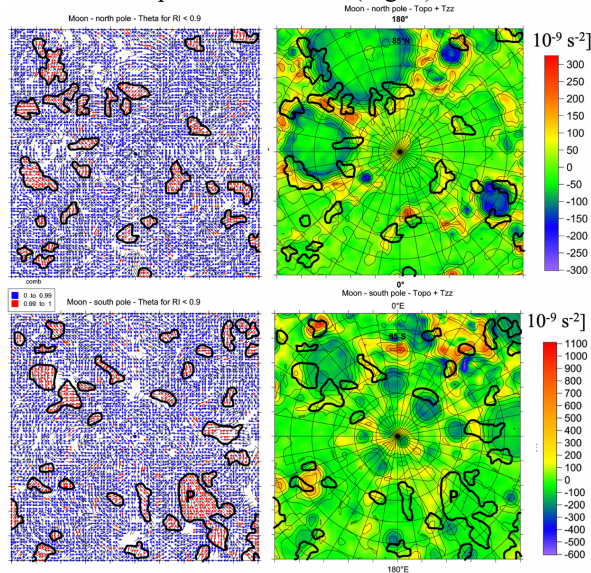


Fig. 1: Geophysics, topography and geological subunits of the Moons polar regions. Left two panels: Gravity strike angles θ [degrees, with respect to the local meridian] plotted for ratio I (RI) < 0.9 (see equation (2)). The black lines outline these significant clusters of highly aligned strike angles; B. Gravity second derivative T_{zz} [10^{-9}s^{-2}] shown along with topography [m]. These black lines define and outline highly aligned strike angles.

Note that Fig 1. reveals how the T_{zz} , second derivative of the disturbing gravitational potential distributes near the polar regions of the Moon. These values are spread between -300 E to 300 E near the north pole and from -600 E to 1100 E near the south pole. In the north pole region, the low values indicate these compressional regimes; thus showing, near surface rocks having denser and near the inner ring of two large impact structures in the upper left corner of Fig. 1 (upper north pole panel on the right). Note, the minimum values of T_{zz} reside inside smaller impact craters, which are expressed by topographic mapping. Similarly, we obtained values for T_{zz} near the south pole (Fig. 1, lower panel). Note, a larger span of T_{zz} values and the association of T_{zz} minima inside the interior of impact

structures, and topographic heights having the positive T_{zz} values (Fig. 1).

Conclusions: We applied this novel method by presenting gravity measurements on the Moon. This new method is sensitive to the anisotropy of the Moon's regolith. Our method detected specific regions near the north and south poles that point to the presence of significant volume of pore space. This pore space was likely formed by impact cratering processes over eons. Since the polar regions have been confirmed to accumulate water/ice deposits, it is then very likely that these identified regions now hold significant amounts of water as ice, necessary for resource extraction in-situ and use during future planned missions (Artemis [1]).

Acknowledgments: GK was partially supported from the Czech Science Foundation 20-08294S, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports LTAUSA 19141. This work was partly supported from the projects RVO #67985815 and #67985831 (Czech Academy of Sciences, Czech Republic), and the project LO 1506 (PUNTIS) and #LTT18011 from the Ministry of Education of the CR. We thank Dr. F. L. Lemoine (GSFC NASA) for his consultations. The input data – the harmonic geopotential coefficients (Stokes parameters), magnetic field parameters and surface topography of the Moon are generic. The data to our figures (in surfer program, png files) and our figures with high resolution can be received from J. Kostecký on request.

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