

Astronomy 405: Homework #6 (Planets)

1. (a) Compute the ratio of the height of the tides raised on Earth by the Moon to those raised by the Sun. (4 pts)
- (b) Compute the ratio of the tidal torque on the Moon and the Sun due to the Earth. (4 pts)

Consider the following, if the Earth-Moon distance was reduced to half its current value.

- (c) Neglecting solar tides, how many times as large as at present would the maximum tide heights on Earth be? (3 pts)
 - (d) Including solar tides, how many times as large as at present would the maximum tide heights on Earth be? (4 pts)
2. (a) Show that dust released at perihelion from a body on an eccentric Keplerian orbit will escape from the Solar System if β , the ratio of radiation pressure to the solar gravity, is as follows. (4 pts)

$$\beta \geq \frac{1-e}{2}.$$

- (b) Derive an analogous expression for the stability of a dust grain released at aphelion. (3 pts)
- (c) Assume that a dust grain is heated entirely by the interstellar radiation field at UV wavelengths, and that the UV flux is 2×10^5 photons $\text{cm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}\text{\AA}^{-1}$. The bandwidth of the radiation is 1000\AA , and the mean photon energy is 9 eV per photon. If the grain radiates with an efficiency of 0.1%, calculate its temperature. (3 pts)