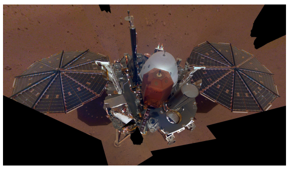
A view into the deep interior of Mars from nutation measured by InSight RISE

Sébastien Le Maistre[1,2], Attilio Rivoldini[1], Alfonso Caldiero[1,2], Marie Yseboodt[1], Rose-Marie Baland[1], Mikael Beuthe[1], Tim Van Hoolst[1,3], Véronique Dehant[1,2], William Folkner[4], Dustin Buccino[4], Daniel Kahan[4], Jean-Charles Marty[5], Daniele Antonangeli[6], James Badro[7], Mélanie Drilleau[8], Alex Konopliv[4], Marie-Julie Péters[1], Ana-Catalina Plesa[9], Henri Samuel[7], Nicola Tosi[9], Mark Wieczorek[10], Philippe Lognonné[7], Mark Panning[4], Suzanne Smrekar[4], W. Bruce Banerdt[4].

[1] **Royal Observatory of Belgium, Brussels, Belgium**;[2] UCLouvain, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium; [3] Institute of Astronomy, KU Leuven, Leuven, Belgium; [4] Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, USA.; [5] Centre national d'Études Spatiales, Toulouse, France. [6] IMPMC, Sorbonne Université, MNHN, CNRS, Paris, France. [7] Université de Paris, Institut de Physique du Globe de Paris, CNRS, Paris, France; [8] Institut Supérieur de l'Aéronautique et de l'Espace SUPAERO, Toulouse, France; [9] DLR Institute of Planetary Research, Berlin, Germany; [10] Université Côte d'Azur, Observatoire de la Côte d'Azur, CNRS, Laboratoire Lagrange, Nice, France.

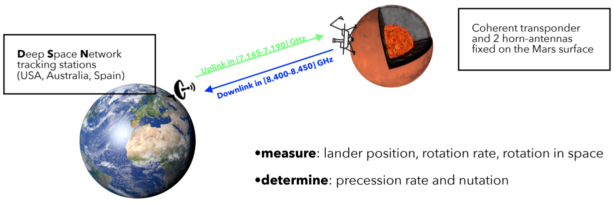
The Rotation and Interior Structure Experiment

- RISE is together with SEIS and HP3 one of the main instruments of the InSight mission
- RISE objective: determine the rotation of Mars
  - precession
  - measure the nutation of the spin axes to detect and quantify the effect of the liquid core
  - measure the rotation rate of Mars on a seasonal timescales to constrain the atmospheric angular



RISE setup

⇒uses radio-links to reconstruct the motion of the lander in space



Deep **S**pace **N**etwork
tracking stations
(USA, Australia, Spain)

Coherent transponder
and 2 horn-antennas
fixed on the Mars surface

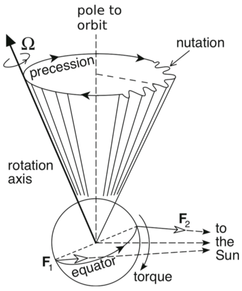
- **measure**: lander position, rotation rate, rotation in space
- **determine**: precession rate and nutation

Precession and nutation

- the gravitational torque exerted by the Sun on the flattened rotating Mars causes a precession of the rotation axis in space (~171000 years).

  ⇒ the precession rate is proportional to the polar moment of inertia and constraints the mass distribution within the planet
- torque variations due to the relative positions between the Sun and Mars lead to periodic motions of the rotation axis, the nutations (1/(1,2,3,4..) year)

  ⇒ lander position changes by about 10 m on the surface



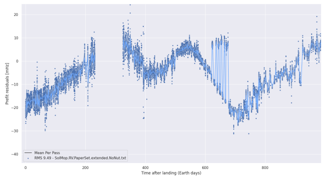
Nutation: interior structure

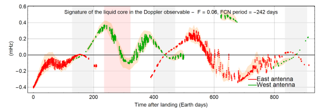
- if a planet were rigid then nutation amplitudes can be predicted very precisely from its moment of inertia and from the tidal potential (well known forcing periods)
- nutation amplitudes depend on the interior structure of Mars and in particular on the liquid core
- the relative rotation between the fluid core and solid mantle is characterized by a rotational normal mode, the Free Core Nutation
- if the FCN frequency ω_{FCN} is close to forcing frequency the nutation amplitude can be resonantly amplified
- the amplification strength $F = \frac{A_f}{A - A_f}\left(1 - \frac{\gamma}{e}\right)$ and $\omega_{FCN} = -\Omega \frac{A}{A - A_f}(e_f - \beta)$ are related to the interior structure of the planet

  ⇒ moments of inertia of the planet (A) and core (A_f), planet (e) and core shape (e_f), core compliances due to tidal forcing (γ) and rotation rate variation (β)

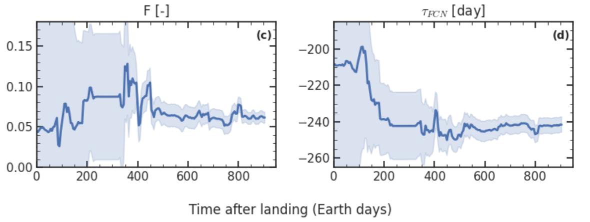
Liquid core signature and real data

- the measured doppler shift is about 20-30 mHz
- the signature of the liquid core is 2 orders of magnitude smaller
- since its periods are well known and because of data accumulation it can be determined





RISE results

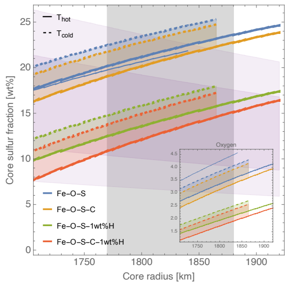


- >600 d. of data are required to obtain robust estimates for the core amplification factor F and FCN period τ_{FCN}
- $F = 0.061 \pm 0.0064$ and $\tau_{\mathrm{FCN}} = -242.25 \pm 2.7$ days

Core radius and composition

- inferred core range in excellent agreement with tidal measurements (e.g. Rivoldini et al. 2011) and seismic data (Stähler et al. 2021, Duràn et al 2022)

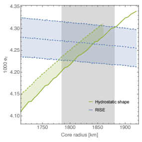
  $\Rightarrow r_{\mathrm{cmb}} = 1825 \pm 55$ km
- candidate light elements that are siderophile at core forming conditions: S, O, C, H
- models without H are unlikely if S in agreement with geochemical constraints
- RISE data and geochemical constraints require a core with 2.5±0.5wt% O, 14.5±1.5wt% S, and 1.5±0.5wt% C if 1wt% H is assumed in the core (Dorogokupets 2017; Nishida 2016,2020; Morard 2017, 2018; Xu 2021; Komabayashi 2014, Shimoyama 2016, Terasaki 2010, Kawaguchi 2017, Thomson 2018, Gendre 2022)

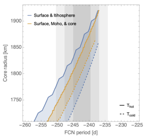


Interpretation: FCN period

- FCN frequency proportional to core shape which is directly related to the density jump at the core mantle boundary

  (⇒ constraints density jump at the core-mantle boundary)
- RISE data implies an almost **hydrostatic** core shape, but the shape of Mars is **not hydrostatic**
  - requires mass anomaly at the bottom of a thick lithosphere (>550km)
  - or two loads at shallow depth and at the core-mantle boundary





Conclusions

- the measured nutation and the detection of the FCN normal mode confirm the liquid state of the core
- RISE data constrain the moment of inertia of the core, the density jump at the core mantle boundary, and the shape of the core
- the core radius is in excellent agreement with estimates obtained from tides and seismic data
- RISE data and geochemical constraints require a core with 2.5±0.5wt% O, 14.5±1.5wt% S, and 1.5±0.5wt% C if 1wt% H is assumed in the core
- the measured FCN period can be explained if the core has an almost hydrostatic shape, such a core shape can result from deep seated mass anomalies within the mantle that originate form thermal or chemical anomalies

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