

Ch. 11 Tides - The Last Wave

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KlWpFLfLFBI>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pwChk4S99i4>



How have tides impacted you?



Tides are rhythmic variations of sea level with periods of approximately 6 or 12 hours, depending on where you are on Earth.



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Tides are caused by an imbalance*
between the gravitational attraction
of the Sun and Moon and the
inertia of water on a rotating Earth.

- * forces must be unequal or no movement
 - Newton's 1st law ($F=ma$)



Some common ideas:

~~Does the Moon orbit around the Earth?~~

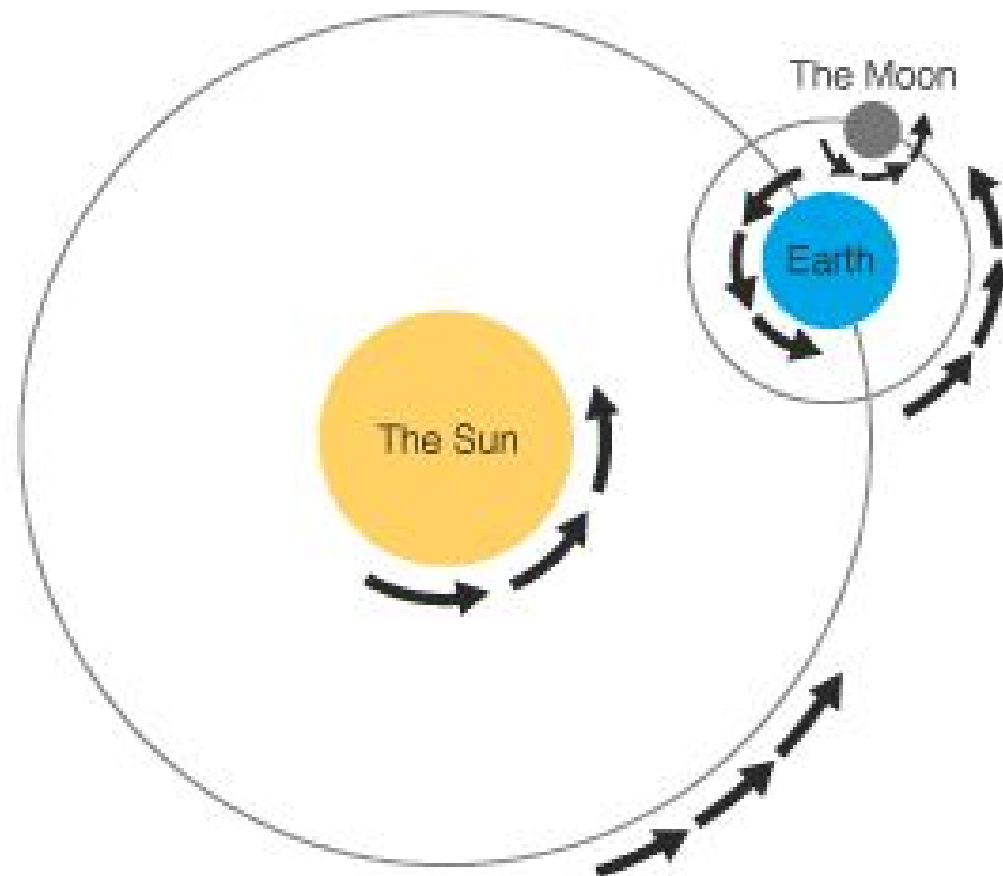
The Earth and Moon form a system
that rotates around a common center
of mass!

~~Tides are caused by the Moon's orbit~~

Tides result from the rotation of
Earth on its axis every 24 hours.



Playground Diagram – Bird's eye view.

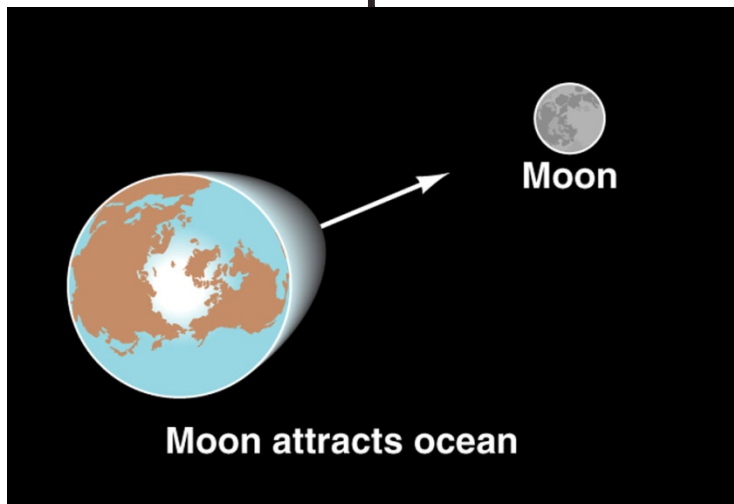


Sizes and distances not to scale



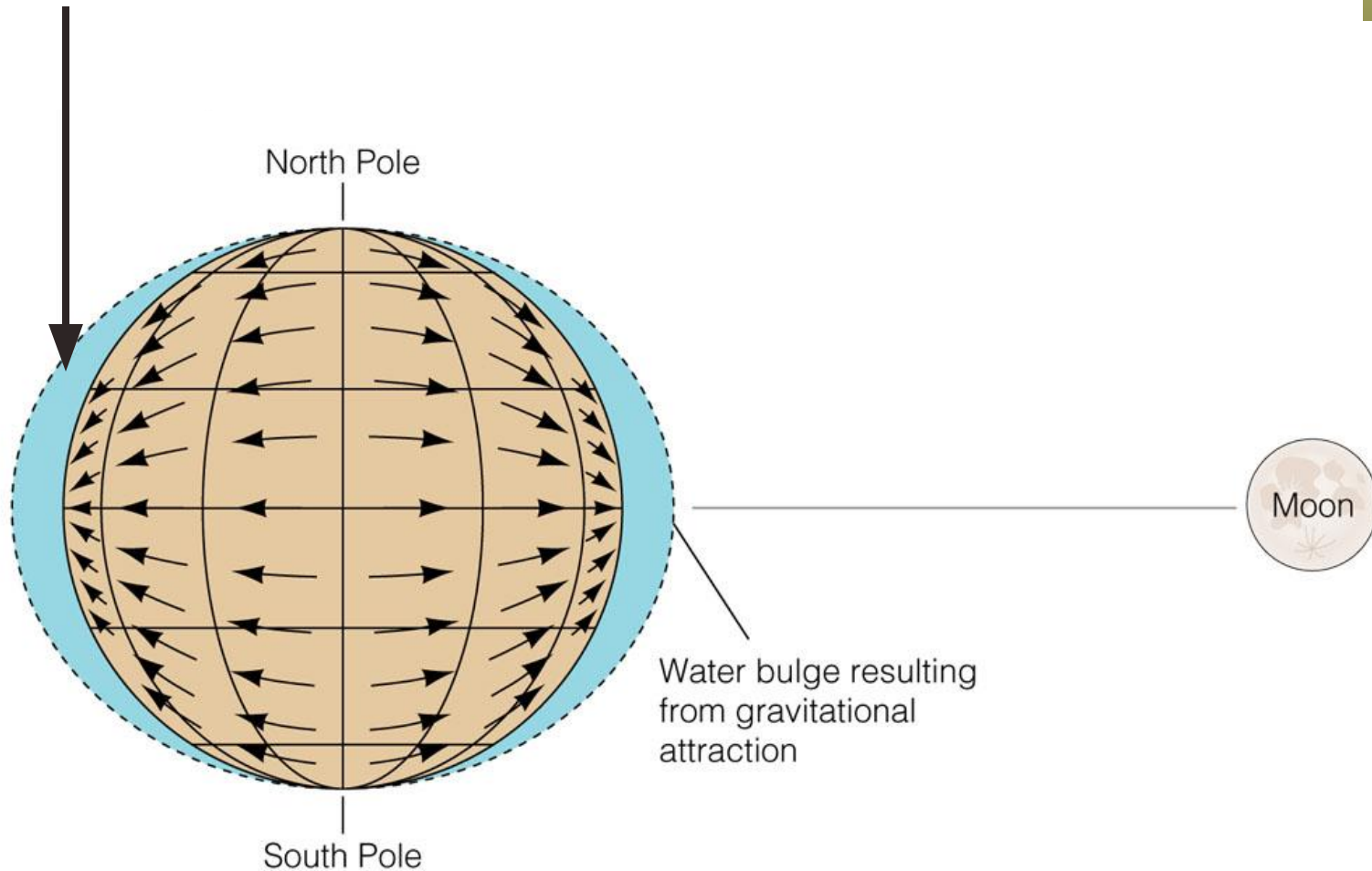
Let's begin with the gravitational pull of the Moon on the Earth:

$$F = \frac{G m_{\text{moon}} m_{\text{earth}}}{r^2}$$

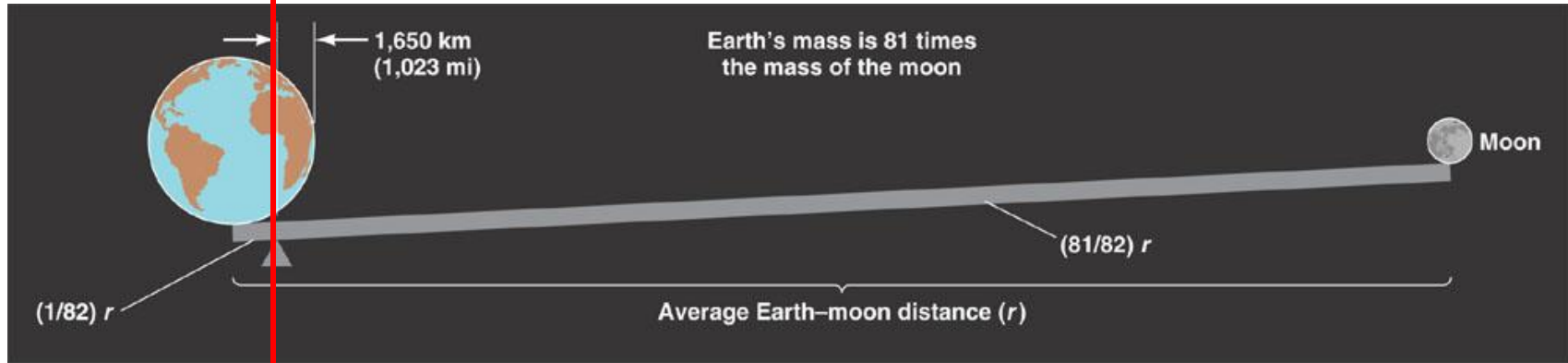


This explains
the bulge of water
towards the Moon,
but

... how do we explain the bulge away from the Moon?



This other bulge is the result of both the Earth and the Moon orbiting around a common center of mass:

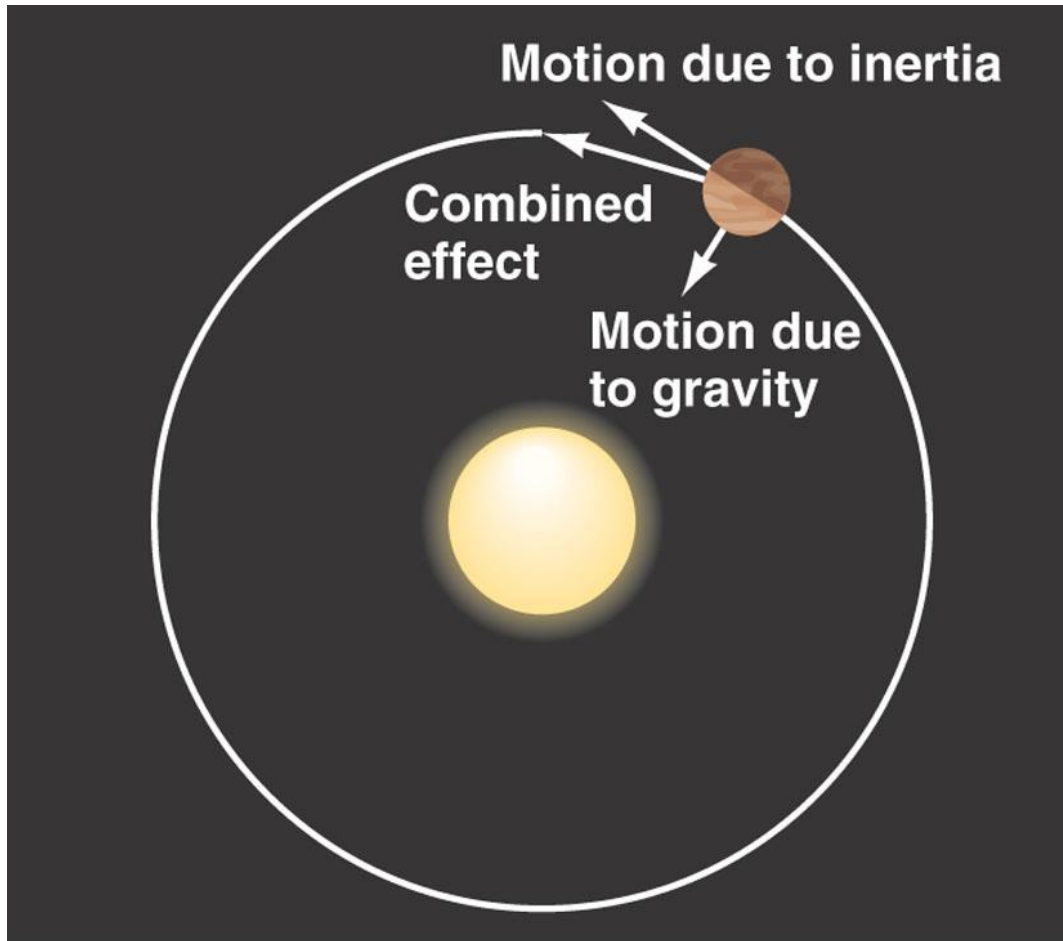


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The center of mass of the Earth-Moon system is located 1650 km deep in the Earth. Both the Earth and Moon rotate around this same axis

(If they did not, then the unbalanced force of the Moon would cause the Earth to leave its orbit.)

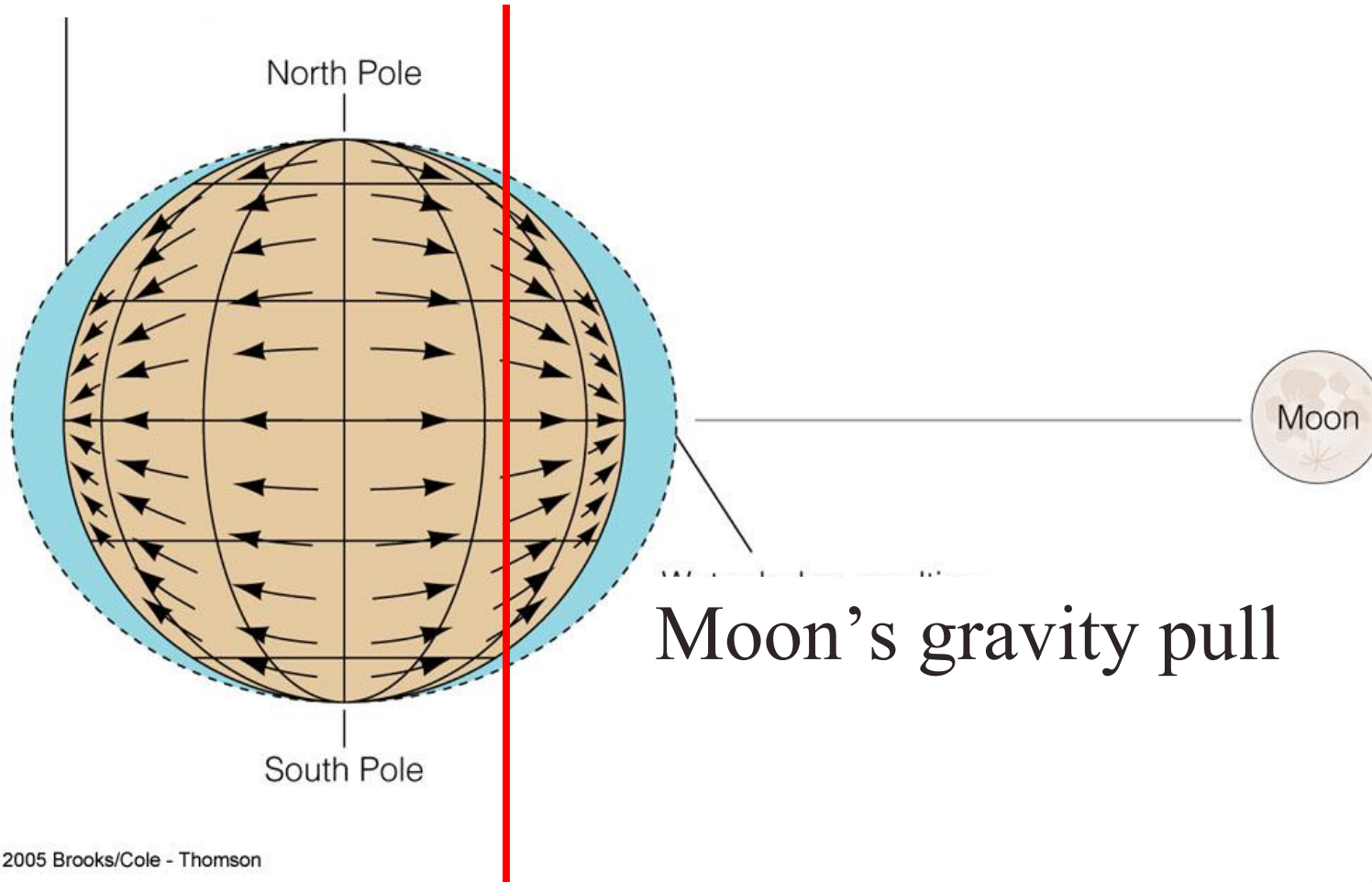
Just as you seem to feel a force pulling you outward on a merry-go-round, the water on the side away from the Moon experiences the same ‘force’:

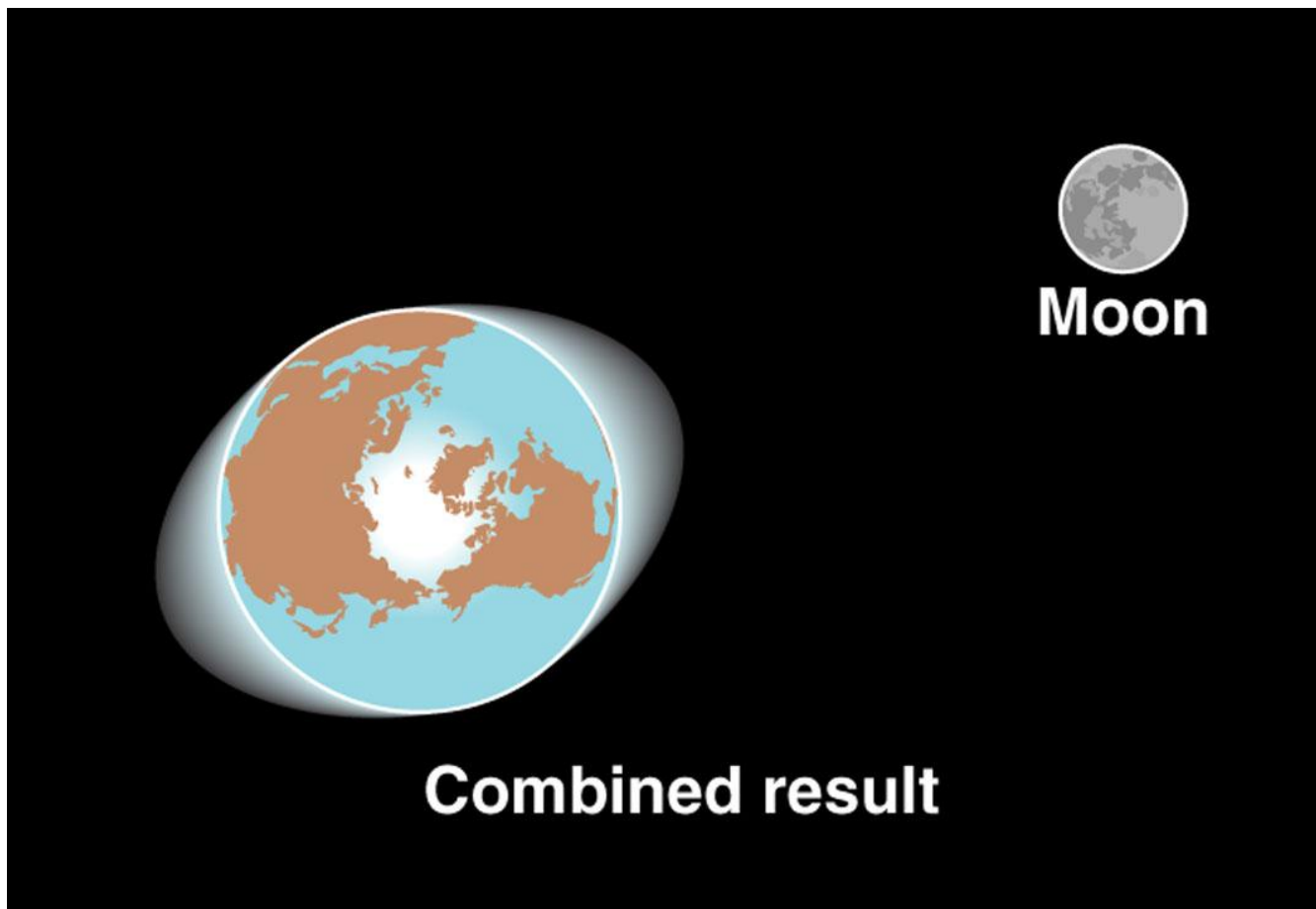


It is not really a force, but just the tendency of an object to continue in a straight line unless acted on by a force (Newton's 2nd law). This is called inertia.

One bulge is due to gravity and the other is due to inertia.

Inertia





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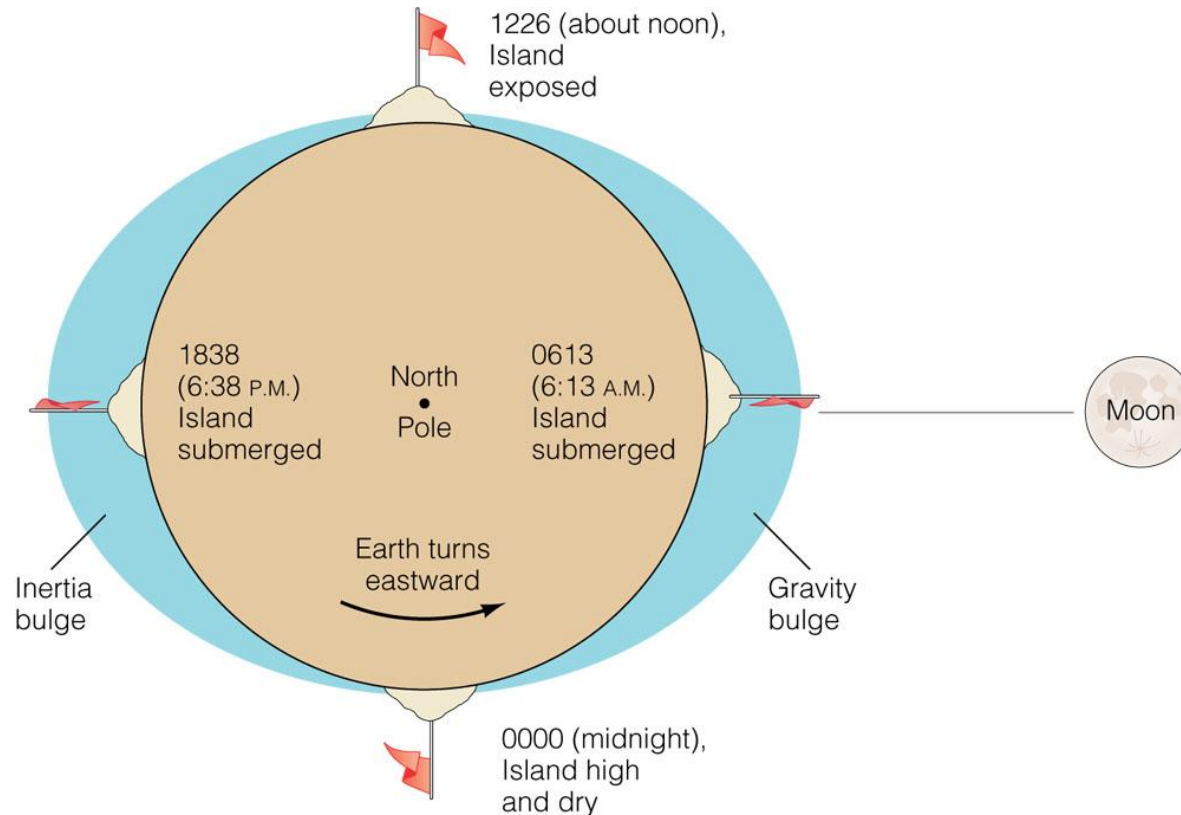
Because the Earth-Moon system complete one revolution every 27.3 days, the bulge goes completely around the Earth in 27.3 days. Right?

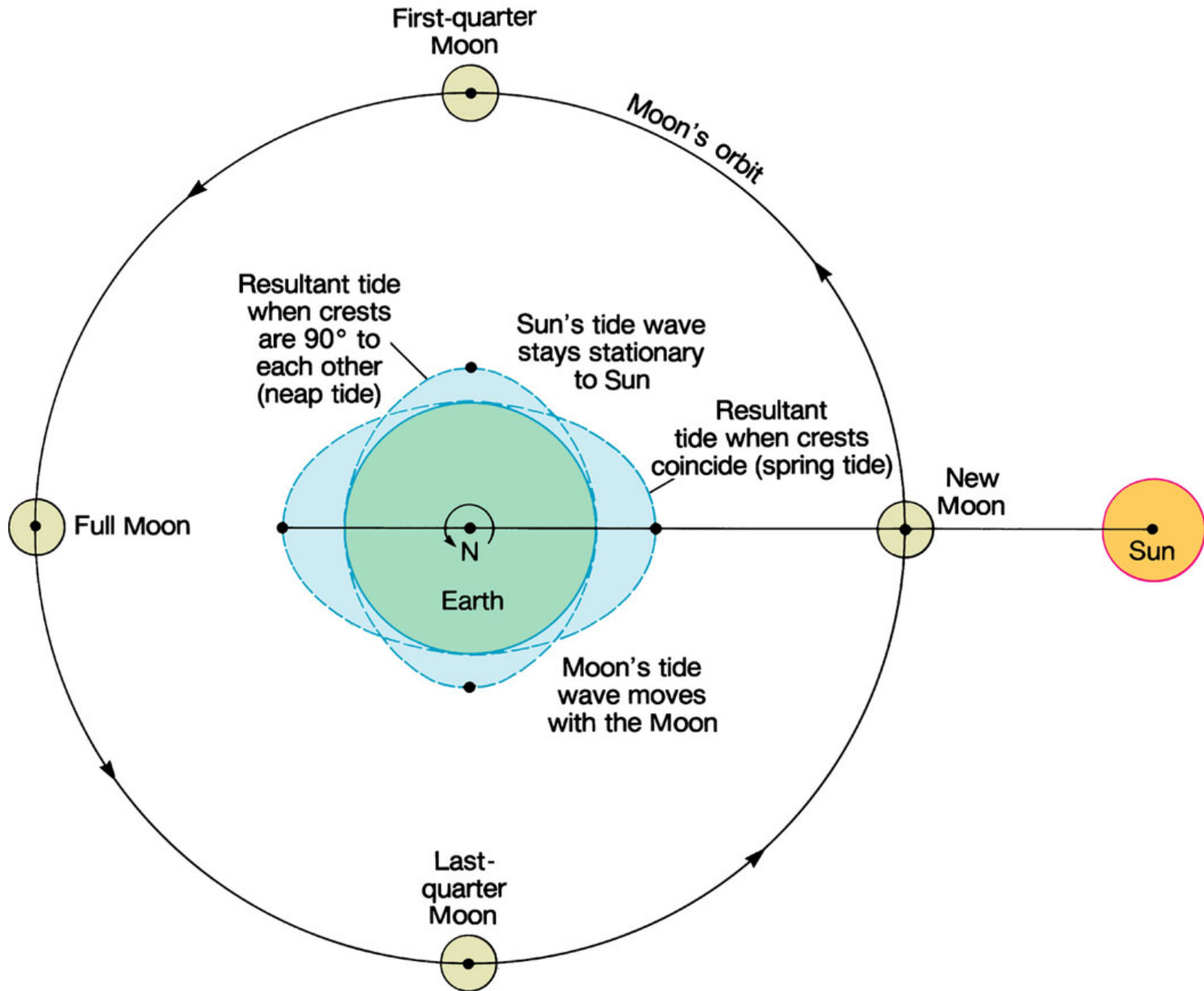
NO!



Write this down:

The 12 hour period seen in tides is due to the spin of the Earth on its axis, one revolution every 24 hours. They are NOT due to the orbit of the Moon.

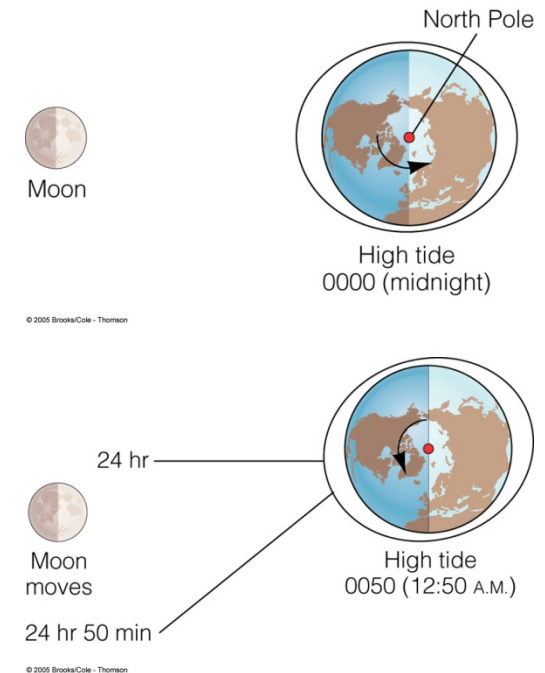




Complications:

The lunar tidal period is not exactly 12 hours

In the time it has taken the Earth to complete one revolution, the Moon has moved $360^\circ / (27.3 \text{ days}) = 13.2^\circ$ farther along, so the Earth has to rotate $360 + 13.2 = 373.2^\circ$ for a point to move directly beneath the Moon again.

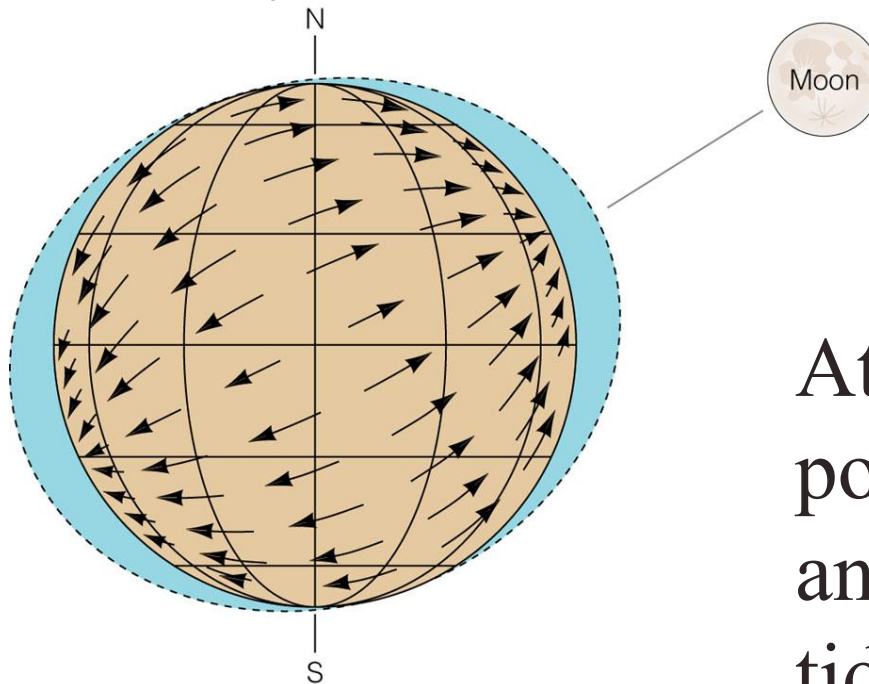


This takes the Earth 24 hours $\ast \frac{373.2}{360} = 24\text{h } 53\text{m}$

The tidal period is thus 12h 26.5m

MORE complications:

The Earth's spin axis is tilted, so the Moon moves from 28.5° below the equator to 28.5° above the equator every 27.3 days.



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At one
point, day
and night
tides differ



But the BIGGEST complication is something you see every day -- **the Sun!**

The Sun also exerts a tidal force (gravity ALWAYS sucks), but to understand this we must first examine the equation for the combined gravity-inertia force.

Both of these forces depend on the inverse square distance and on the mass of the Moon, so the **difference** can be shown to be proportional to the inverse cube of distance:

$$\text{Net tidal force} \propto \frac{m_{\text{object}}}{\text{distance}^3}$$




Taking the ratio of the tidal force of the Sun
to that of the Moon

($m_{\text{sun}} = 27,000,000 m_{\text{moon}}$ but $r_{\text{sun}} = 387 r_{\text{moon}}$):

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\text{Tidalforce}_{\text{sun}}}{\text{Tidalforce}_{\text{moon}}} &= \frac{m_{\text{sun}} / r_{\text{sun}}^3}{m_{\text{moon}} / r_{\text{moon}}^3} \\ &= \frac{(27 \times 10^6 * m_{\text{moon}}) / (387 r_{\text{moon}})^3}{m_{\text{moon}} / r_{\text{moon}}^3} = \frac{27 \times 10^6}{387^3} \\ &= \frac{.46}{1.0}\end{aligned}$$

**The Sun exerts a tidal force approximately HALF
of that of Moon.**



Oh God, tell
me he doesn't
want me to do
this math!

No, but I expect students to
answer questions like:

What is the ratio between
the tidal forces of the Moon
and Sun?

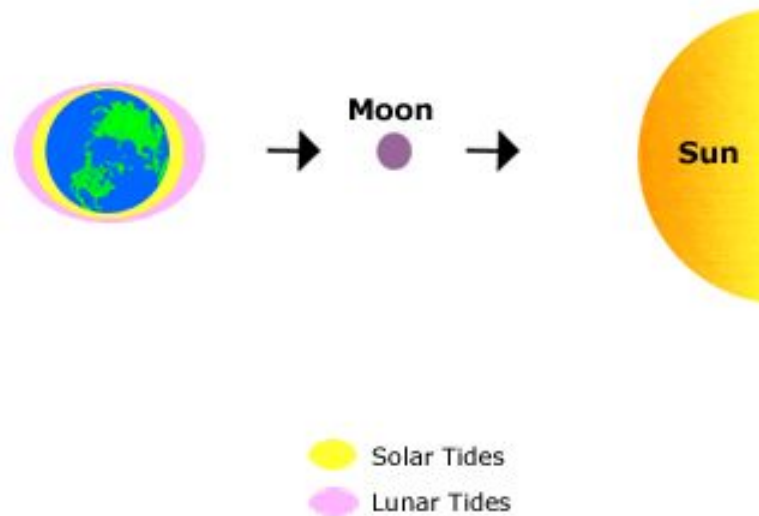
How can the Sun exert a
smaller tidal force than the
Moon when it is SO much
bigger.

Only once every 27.3 days are the tidal forces of the Moon and Sun aligned:



Depending on the time of month, we can have large or small tides:

Spring Tides



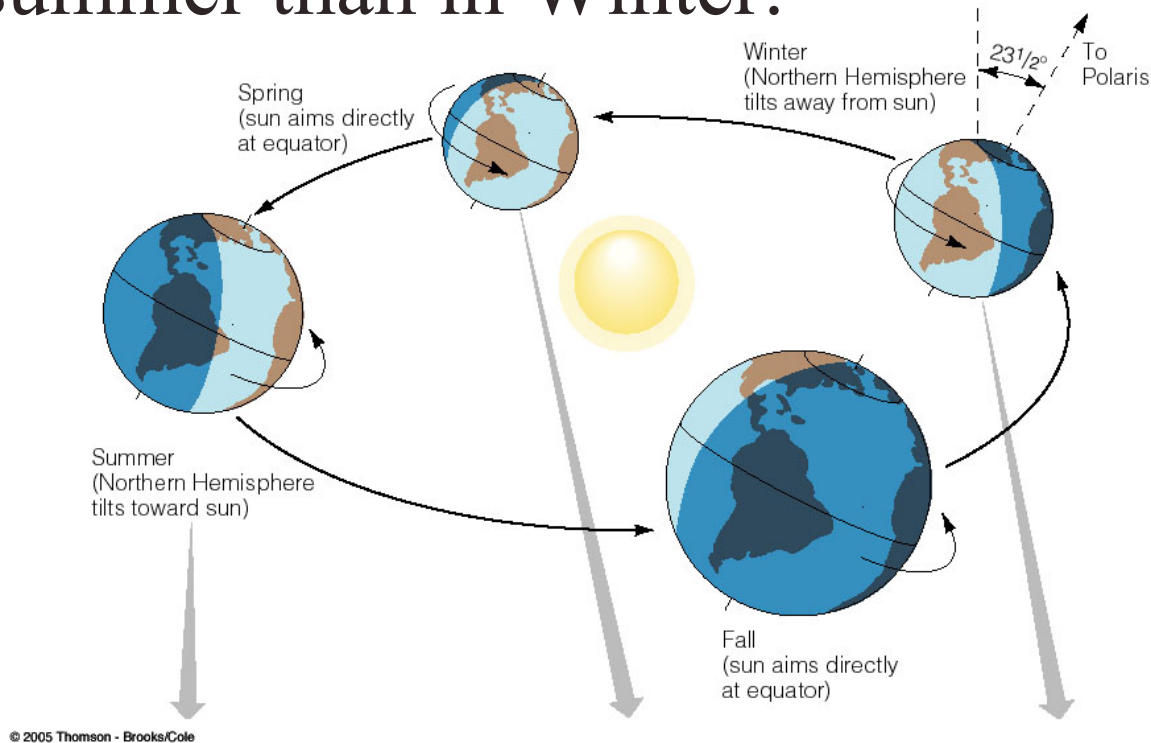
Spring ('jump') tide	large ht.	new,full moon
Neap ('hardly disturbed') tide	short ht.	waxing,waning moon



Another complication:

There is a seasonal dependence.

Earth is 3,700,000 km farther from the Sun in summer than in Winter:



Winter tides in the northern hemisphere tend to be larger than summer tides.

Now, let's consider the wave properties of tides*:

Period? 12 h 53 m (=43,518 s)

Wavelength? 1/2 circumference of Earth = 20,000 km

Speed? Governed by rotation rate of Earth - 1600 km/hr at Equator (444 m/s)

Does $C=L/T$? $L/T = 460 \text{ m/s}$

*Remember, tides ARE waves!

Not quite!



Are tidal waves **deep water** or **shallow water** waves?

Consider wavelength = 20000 km

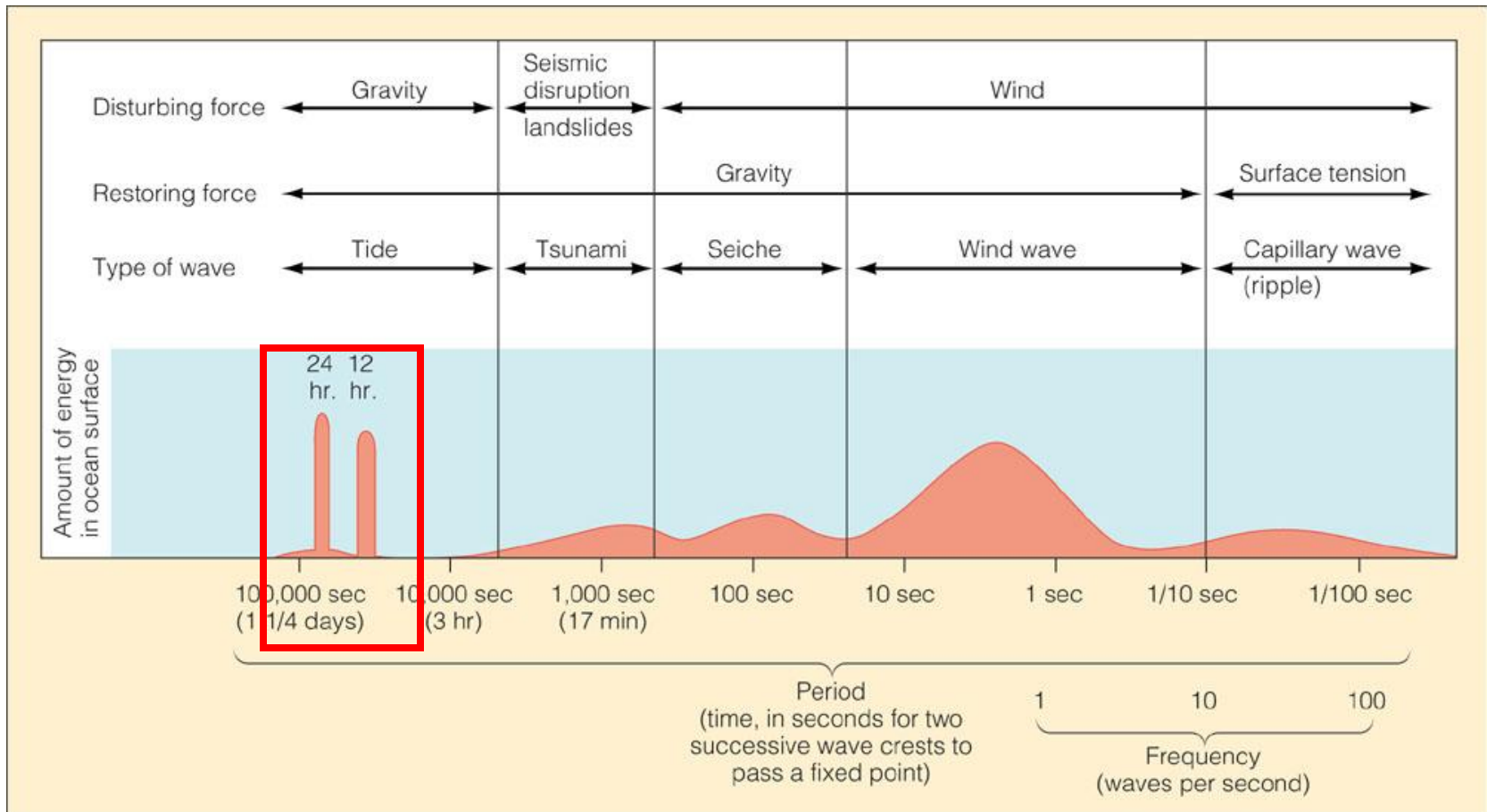
For deep water, ocean depth $> 20000/2$ km

Max ocean depth = 11 km and average ~ 3.8 km

For shallow water, depth $< 20000/20 = 1000$ km

Tides are shallow water waves!

Tides have lots of energy!



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But small wave height:
(theoretical max)

solar	lunar
0.24 m	0.55 m

Why are tides so much larger than theory predicts?

(Compare **2 m** in open ocean versus theoretical maxima of 0.55 m and 0.24 m predicted for lunar and solar tides)

This led to Laplace proposing the
“Dynamic Theory of Tides”



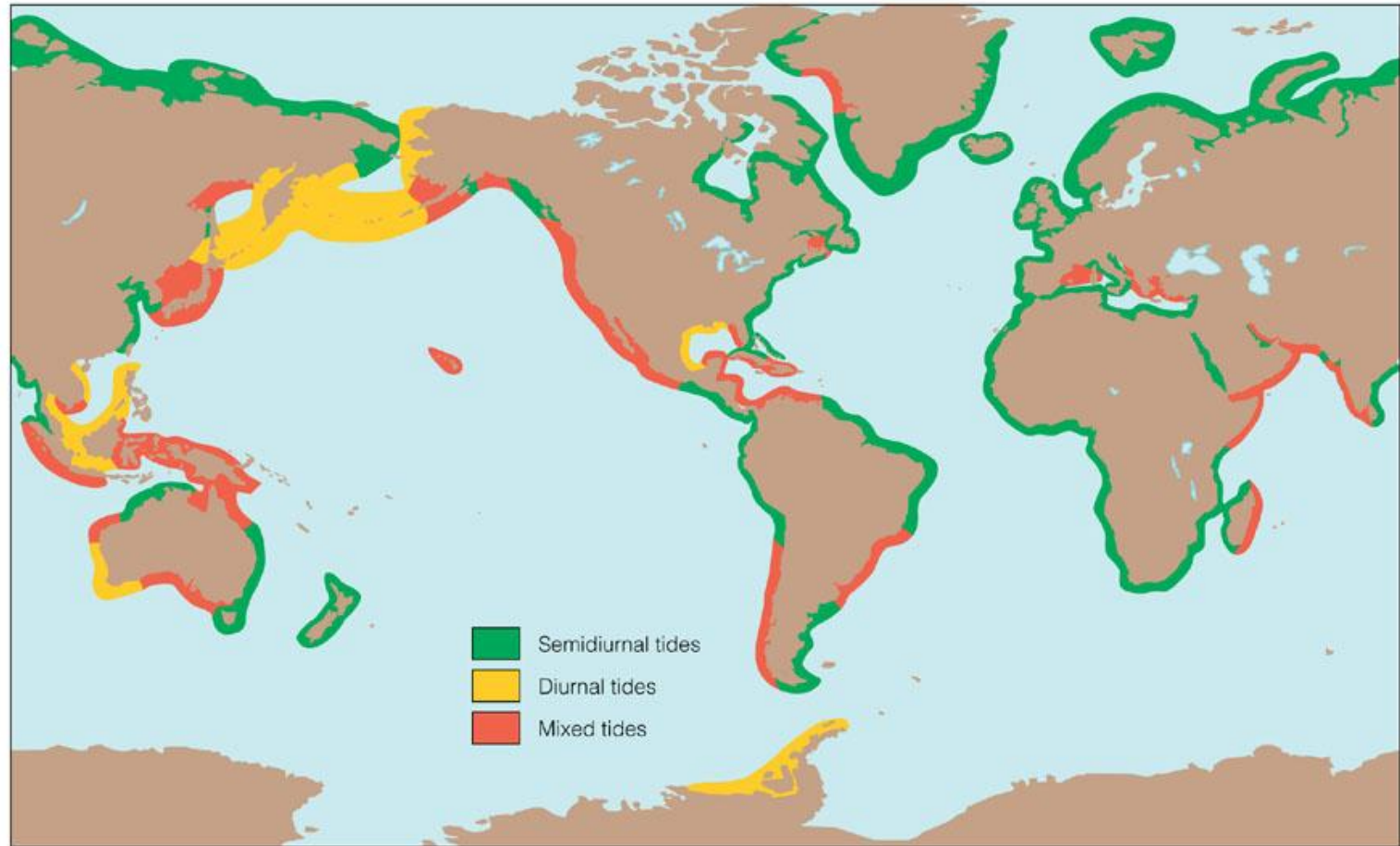
Dynamic Theory of Tides

Tides are shallow water waves and are forced waves because the driving forces are always there

Tidal waves get reflected and refracted by land masses, and these waves constructively and destructively interfere with each other. This leads to...



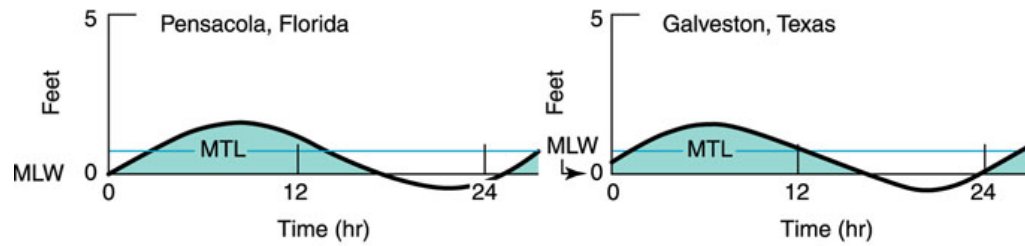
.. a complicated pattern of tides.



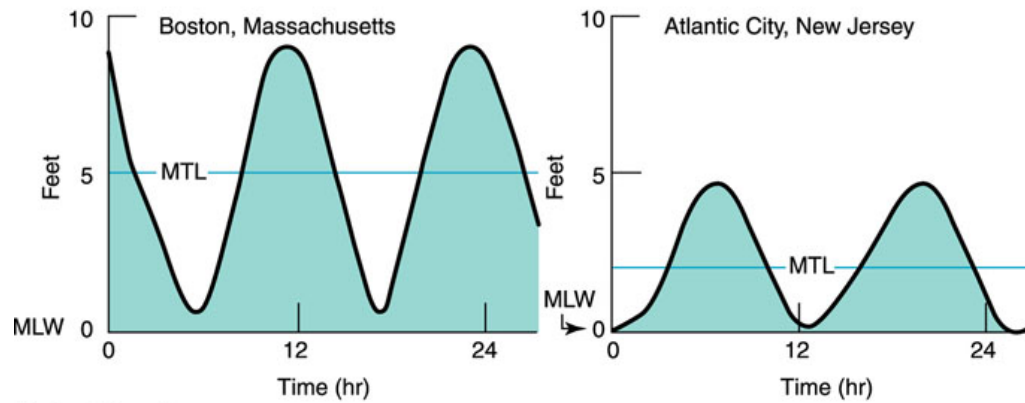
Semidiurnal tides - 2 high and 2 low per day (12 hr period)

Diurnal tides - 1 high and 1 low per day (24 hr period)

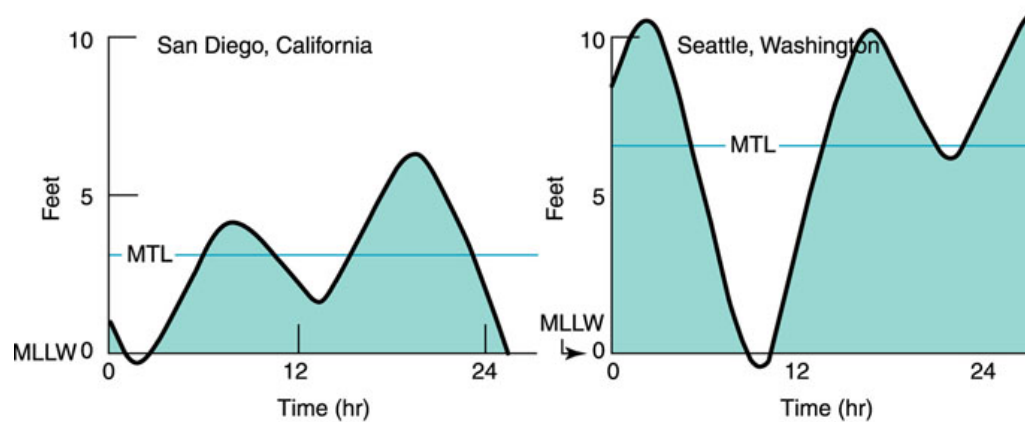
Mixed tides - unequal high and low (12 hr periods)



(a) Diurnal type



(b) Semidiurnal type



(c) Semidiurnal mixed type



Table 11.2 Predicted Times and Heights of High and Low Waters for July 6–9, 2006, San Diego, California, United States (32.7133° N, 117.1733° W)

Day	Time (h:min) ¹	Height (ft)
6	01:26	0.80 low
	07:42	3.19 high
	11:47	2.46 low
	18:35	5.84 high
7	02:09	0.15 low
	08:39	3.43 high
	12:42	2.55 low
	19:17	6.26 high
8	02:49	−0.94 low
	09:23	3.66 high
	13:31	2.54 low
	19:59	6.69 high
9	03:27	−0.94 low
	10:02	3.87 high
	14:18	2.44 low
	20:42	7.05 high

1. hours:minutes. Time meridian 120°W. 00:00 is midnight; 12:00 is noon—Pacific Daylight Time. Heights are referred to mean lower low water, which is the chart datum of soundings.

Source: www.tidepredictor.com, University of South Carolina.



More reality:

Tides get amplified in confined basins if the resonant period in the basin (remember seiches?) is close to the tidal period:

tidal waves in open ocean = **2 m**

coastal tides as large as **8 m** but usually only **1 m**

tidal bore = true tidal wave moving
up river inlet



Tidal bore = true tidal wave (now you can say you've seen one!)



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1-8 m high (this one is 2-3 m)



Bay of Fundy, New Brunswick, Canada:

resonant period = tidal period

BIGGEST tides in world (15 m)



Energy flow in tides

Tides acquire gravitational potential energy
from pull of Sun and Moon (water higher)



Tidal waves transmit energy to coasts



Energy dissipated as heat and
turbulence at shores

+

slowing Earth's rate of rotation!!
(22 hours/day 450 My ago)





Seven Ghosts

Surf Camp

- The tidal wave “Bono” breaking in the Kampar River in Sumatra, Indonesia, is a bit different from European river waves. Bono, also known by the Rip Curl Movie “Seven Ghosts”, can produce faces up to 10 feet and offers rides of several minutes. Breaking in comfortable 27 degrees Celsius, this wave can travel up to 50 kilometers with you riding it! So far the record for a ride is more than 1 hour on one and the same wave.
- Bono has no seasonal peaks, but it works only on special days around the full moon and the new moon. During rainy season the Kampar River has more water thus the bore is stronger and the waves are bigger. Bono works similar to the Brazilian wave “Prororoca”. At high tide, sea water is flowing into the river mouth of the Kampar River and produces a bore together with the flowing river water. There are several peaks which produce daily up to 4 hours of surfable waves with the length more than 50 kilometers.



