Following the Multicomponent Phase Diagram to the Origin of the Moon



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Simon J. Lock, Sarah T. Stewart, Michail I. Petaev, Zöe M. Leinhardt, Mia T. Mace, Stein B. Jacobsen, Matija Cuk, The origin of the Moon within a terrestrial synestia, J. Geophysical Research Planets, submitted

The Giant Impact Hypothesis for Lunar Origin

Hartmann & Davis 1975 Ward & Cameron 1976

National Geographic





Lunar Accretion from a Circumterrestrial Disk

Calculated moons are small. Hard to make lunar mass satellite from mixed phase disk.

(Salmon & Canup 2012, 2014)

Poorly understood physics in a vapor-rich disk.

(Charnoz & Michaut 2015)



Misleading artist drawing!!

Disk is made mostly of impactor material.

Earth and Moon are Isotopic Twins

(Nearly) Identical Isotopes



- O volatile, large variations in solar nebula
- Ti refractory, nucleosynthetic anomalies
- Cr radiogenic (3.7 Ma), variations in nebula
- H volatile, large variations in solar nebula
- Si moderately refractory, core formation
- W radiogenic (8.9 Ma), core formation

Each planetary body has a different isotopic thumbprint*.

Lugmair & Shukolyukov 1998, Wiechert et al. 2001, Georg et al. 2007, Zhang et al. 2011, Saal et al. 2013 W: Touboul et al. 2015, Kruijer et al. 2015 *Dauphas et al. 2014, Dauphas 2017

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Minimalist interpretation:

Earth and the Moon are derived from the same material.

Giant Impact Hypothesis in Crisis: Proposed Solutions

- 1. Impactor had same isotopes (Dauphas et al. 2014 but Dauphas 2017)
- 2. Mix after the impact (Pahlevan & Stevenson 2007 but Melosh 2014)

- Mix during the impact
 with high angular momentum events (Ćuk & Stewart 2012; Canup 2012 but too special?)
- 4. The giant impact hypothesis is wrong (includes multiple moon hypothesis, Rufu et al. 2017)



Enstatite



Giant Impact Hypothesis in Crisis: New Solution (Lock et al., in review)

- 1. Impactor had same isotopes
- 2. Mix after the impact

- Mix during the impact with high angular momentum events
- 4. The giant impact hypothesis is wrong



Fnstatite



A High-Energy, High-Angular-Momentum Giant Impact Makes a Hot, Fast-spinning Structure



What does it looks like?





The Structure of Hot, Spinning Rocky Planets Numerically solve for the structure

GADGET2 SPH code

Initialize planets with mass of mantle, core constant entropy mantle total ang. momentum Solve for equilibrium size and shape Code modified for tabulated EOS iron MANEOS core

forsterite MANEOS mantle

Lock & Stewart, JGR-Planets, in press.

New HERCULES code

Concentric constant density layers Iteratively solve for equipotential surfaces Conserve AM, mass Expanded Hubbard 2013 Very useful for exoplanets ρ_0 ρ_1

The Structure of Hot, Spinning Rocky Planets Thermodynamics



Specific entropy used to designate thermal state.

The Structure of Hot, Spinning Rocky Planets Thermodynamics



Specific entropy of outer layer of post-impact body is determined by the energy of the impact

Davies et al. LPSC 2017



1 M_{Earth}, Ang. Mom.=1 L_{Earth-Moon}





1 M_{Earth}, Ang. Mom.=1 L_{Earth-Moon}















Increasing Angular Momentum $1 M_{Earth}$, S = 4 kJ/K/kg $I = \frac{1}{1} \frac{1}{0} \frac{1}{1} \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{3} \frac{1}{4} \frac{1}{5}$

6

7









High AM and High Entropy Ang. Mom.=2.45 L_{Earth-Moon}



Log Pressure (bar)



6

High AM and High Entropy Ang. Mom.=2.45 L_{Earth-Moon}





Synestia: Connected Structure syn + Hestia (goddess of architecture, hearth/home)



Increasing Specific Entropy (kJ/K/kg)



Corotating Planets and Synestias



Synestias are a new class of astronomical objects.

- Dynamics are very different from corotating planets.
- Important for rocky planet giant impacts, formation of gas giant planets and their satellites, and fastspinning stars.

Expect multiple synestias during planet formation.

Lock & Stewart, JGR, in press

Post-impact Synestia



Example Post-Giant Impact Structures

Profile in the midplane



Example Post-Giant Impact Structures



Example Post-Giant Impact Structures





Cooling a synestia

Modified SPH code to simulate thermal equilibration and radiative cooling

No internal heating Conservative estimate for FASTEST cooling

Condensates are extracted forming a 'lunar seed'

Structure condenses from outer radii inwards. Falling silicate 'raindrops' either revaporize or accrete into growing moonlets.

Condensates beyond Roche limit == growing moon

Two estimates for lunar mass and orbit

Cooling a synestia

Canup 2012 style giant impact Mt=0.572 M_{Earth} Mp=0.468 M_{Earth} V = 12.33 km/s, b = 0.4

Similar results for other impact scenarios





Black line is boundary between pure vapor and saturated vapor curve

Cooling a synestia

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The Origin of the Moon within a Terrestrial Synestia

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What is the composition of the Moon?



Moon is depleted in moderately volatile and volatile elements

Bulk Silicate Earth Phase Diagram







3. If the condensates were thermally isolated, then they would fall on approximately isothermal adiabats.



3. If the condensates were thermally isolated, then they would fall on approximately isothermal adiabats. 4. Falling condensates are heated by the surrounding gas and partially equilibrate leading to higher temperature paths.





Pressure & Temperature of Lunar Origin



High-energy, high-AM giant impacts generate BSE vapor pressures of 10's bars beyond the Roche limit. Well-mixed synestia and well-mixed Moon.

The liquid moon is surrounded by hotter BSE vapor. Moon is a cold trap. Moon heats to the boiling point of silicate (about 10% Si in the vapor).

Predicted Lunar Chemistry



Predicted chemistry at 10's bar and 10% Si in vapor agrees very well with observations

W isotopes similar because well-mixed vapor structure (other isotopes TBD)

M. Petaev calculations using the GRAINS thermochemical code.

Lock et al., in review



Summary of Lunar Origin

Lock et al., submitted

After making the Moon.....

Need to explain present-day orbit (AM and lunar inclination)

