



Universiteit
Leiden
The Netherlands

Could we observe exomoons around β Pictoris b?

Kleisioti, E.; Dirkx, D.; Rovira-Navarro, M.; Kenworthy, M.

Citation

Kleisioti, E., Dirkx, D., Rovira-Navarro, M., & Kenworthy, M. (2021). Could we observe exomoons around β Pictoris b? *Epsc Abstracts*, EPSC2021-546. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/3263652>

Version: Publisher's Version

License: [Creative Commons CC BY 4.0 license](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/)

Downloaded from: <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/3263652>

Note: To cite this publication please use the final published version (if applicable).



Could we observe exomoons around β Pictoris b?

Evangelia Kleisioti¹, Dominic Dirkx², Marc Rovira-Navarro^{2,3}, and Matthew Kenworthy¹

¹Leiden Observatory, Leiden University, PO Box 9513, 2300 RA Leiden, The Netherlands (kleisioti@mail.strw.leidenuniv.nl)

²Faculty of Aerospace Engineering, TU Delft, Building 62 Kluyverweg 1, 2629 HS Delft, the Netherlands

³NIOZ Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research, Department of Estuarine and Delta Systems EDS, Utrecht University, P.O. Box 140, 4400 AC Yerseke, the Netherlands

Introduction

The discovery of the first extrasolar planets demonstrated that planets can form around other stars and be detected with current instrumentation. Since more than 200 moons exist in the Solar System, it is expected that they orbit exoplanets as well. Detecting an exomoon could set the next milestone in observations of exoplanetary systems.

Tidal interactions between planets and their satellites can heat a satellite's interior. The most evident example is Io, which is the most tidally active body in the Solar System. Since tidal dissipation depends on the orbital and physical properties of the system, if tidal heating is vigorous enough in exoplanetary systems, there is a chance that Tidally Heated Exomoons (THEMs; Peters and Turner 2015) are detectable with current instrumentation and/or the JWST in infrared (IR) wavelengths. As a direct result of tidal heating, spectral signatures of volcanic activity could also be a method of detecting THEMs (Oza et al. 2019).

Two of the gas giant planet moon systems are in long-lived mean motion resonances (MMR) and it is expected that the latter would prevail in extrasolar systems as well. Taking the Jovian satellites as an archetype for an exomoon system around β Pictoris b, this would mean that an MMR between two or more exomoons would make them detectable for larger timescales, maintaining tidal activity over the lifetime of the system.

β Pictoris is a 23 Myr old star with a distance of 19.44 pc. A ≈ 10 Mj directly imaged planet is orbiting the star at 9.8 AU (Lagrange et al. 2020). The system is almost edge-on to our line of sight, making β Pictoris b a plausible candidate for the search of THEMs in the IR, through photocenter astrometry of the combined planet and moon (Agol 2015) or by looking for primary and secondary transits of the exomoon.

Methods

We scale up a Galilean satellite system around β Pictoris b in order to investigate which properties make a putative exomoon detectable. We use orbital-thermal coupled models that assume a layered, radially symmetric moon, consisting of a silicate mantle and a liquid core. We assume that heat is transferred via melt advection (Moore 2003) and mantle convection from the interior to the

surface and we obtain equilibrium temperatures. We explore the parameter space of orbital and physical properties of an exomoon around β Pictoris b by using different rheological models (Maxwell, Andrade).

Results

Given a semi-major axis and eccentricity for an $8M_{Io}$ mass exomoon, we obtain the corresponding interior structure and heat flow through the moon, resulting in a calculated effective temperature at the surface. We present our results for our Andrade rheology model and heat transfer mechanisms (Figure 1) and place constraints on the feasible interior models and orbital parameters for a putative surface heat flux of an exomoon around β Pictoris b. At Io's orbital eccentricity a $2R_{Io}$ exomoon would need to be close to the Roche radius of β Pictoris b to reach 600 K and be observed with the JWST (Figure 2), however this limit relaxes for higher eccentricities and bigger moons. We find that the Andrade rheology results in higher surface temperatures when compared to the basic Maxwell viscoelastic model.

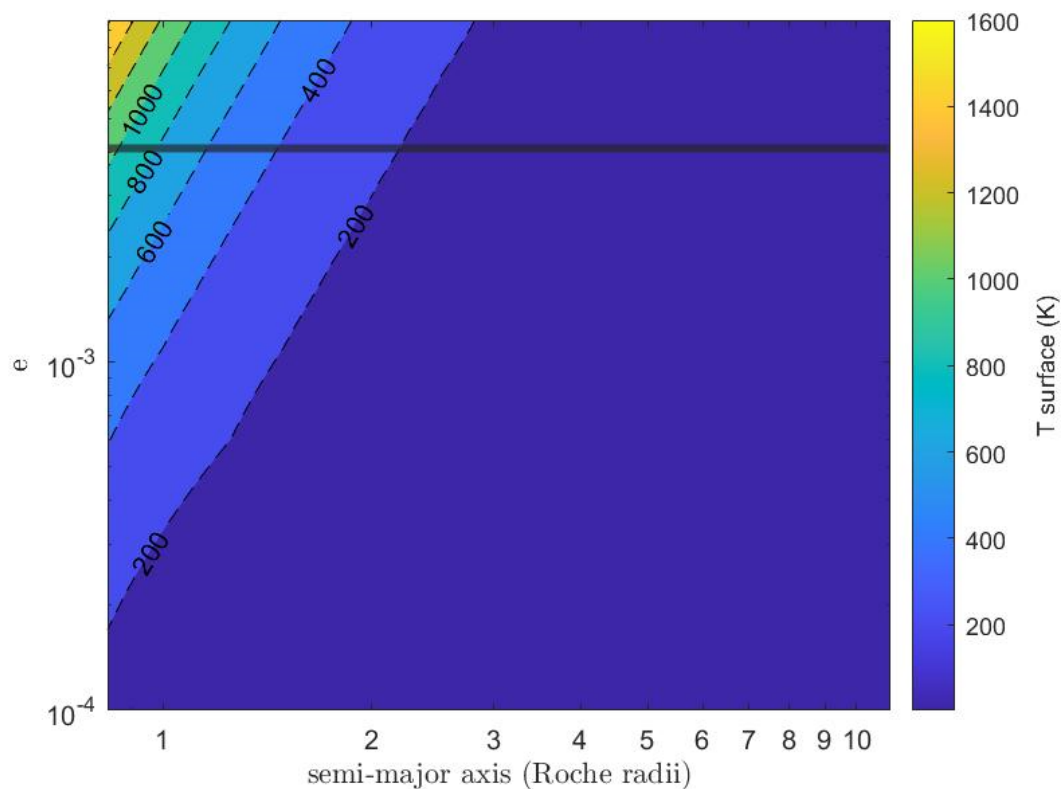


Figure 1: Equilibrium surface temperatures of a $2R_{Io}$ exomoon (Super-Io) around β Pictoris b using Andrade rheology and melt advection. The horizontal line shows Io's orbital eccentricity.

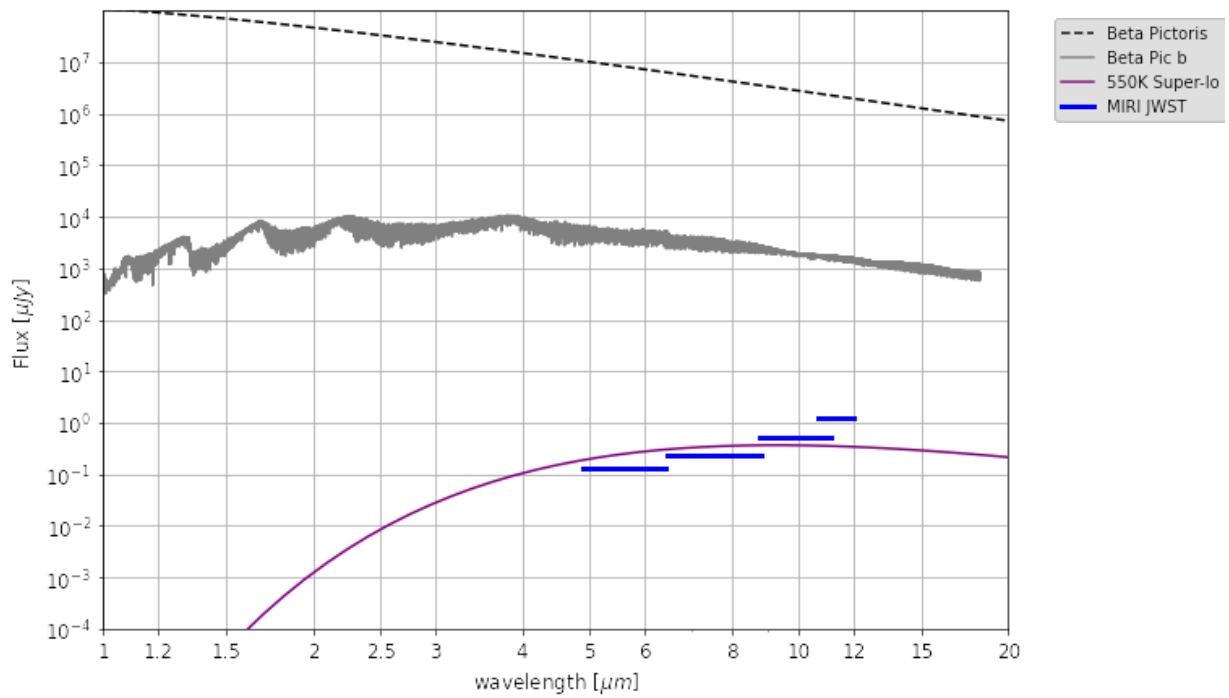


Figure 2: Fluxes at the β Pictoris system. The grey continuous line shows the modeled spectrum of a planet with similar parameters as β Pictoris b (Morley et al. 2015), the dashed black line the blackbody curve of the star and the purple line the one of a Super-Io ($2R_{Io}$). The horizontal lines are the 5σ and 10,000s integration time detection limits of MIRI/JWST for various bands (Glasse 2010)).

References

- Agol et al. (2015) *The Astrophysical Journal*, 812(1), p.5.
- Glasse (2010) *SPIE*, 7731, 77310K.
- Lagrange et al. (2020) *Astronomy & Astrophysics*, 642, p.A18.
- Moore (2003) *Journal of Geophysical Research*, 108(E8).
- Morley et al. (2015) *The Astrophysical Journal*, 815(2), p.110.
- Oza et al. (2019) *The Astrophysical Journal*, 885(2), p.168.
- Peters and Turner (2013) *The Astrophysical Journal*, 769(2), p.98.