

SELENE-2/Lunar ElectroMagnetic Sounder (LEMS): The effect of lunar crust on electromagnetic response

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In the SELENE-2 mission, we propose a lunar electromagnetic sounder (LEMS) to estimate the electrical conductivity structure of the Moon, from which the thermal structure in the lunar interior can be deduced. This means that electromagnetic sounding of the Moon provides any constraints on the lunar origin and evolution. It should also be noted that the electrical conductivity structure is independent of the seismic velocity structure derived from seismic measurements. Hence multiple mission instruments for geophysical exploration of the Moon are significant to investigate the lunar interior from various angles.

Magnetometers onboard a lunar orbiter measure temporal variations in the magnetic field of lunar external origin (the inducing field), which induce eddy currents in the lunar interior depending on the electrical conductivity distribution and frequencies of magnetic field. Magnetometers onboard a lunar lander measure temporal variations in the magnetic field of lunar internal origin (the induced field) generated by the eddy currents, as well as those in the inducing field. Electromagnetic response of the Moon can be obtained from these magnetic field measurements, and the response function is used to estimate the electrical conductivity structure by solving an inverse problem.

We have so far paid attention to the electrical conductivity structure of mantle which is the bulk of the Moon. We have investigated electromagnetic response of the Moon for prescribed conductivity models. The response function at higher frequencies obviously depends on the shallow structure, such as lunar crustal thickness and its electrical conductivity. Hence we examine the effect of lunar crust on electromagnetic response of the Moon. The result suggests that crustal thickness at the landing site may be estimated electromagnetically.

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