



According to Newton's law of gravity, the acceleration of the Earth centre due to the gravitational force of the Sun is  $a_{CM} = \frac{GM_s}{R_s^2}$ , where  $M_s$  and  $R_s$  are the mass of the Sun and the distance between the Sun and the planet respectively,  $G$  is simply a constant. Acceleration can also refer to as force/mass. However, the acceleration exerted by the Sun on water masses located on the Earth surface ( $r = 6400\text{km}$ ) should be  $a_{\text{surface}} = \frac{GM_s}{(R_s-r)^2}$

The tidal acceleration is the acceleration difference between the surface and the centre, or part of the  $a_{\text{surface}}$  is used for maintaining Sun-earth rotation:

$$a_{\text{tidal, sun}} = a_{\text{surface}} - a_{CM} = \frac{GM_s}{R_s^2} \left\{ \left(1 - \frac{r}{R_s}\right)^{-2} - 1 \right\} \approx \frac{GM_s}{R_s^2} \left\{ \left(1 + 2\frac{r}{R_s}\right) - 1 \right\} = Gr \frac{M_s}{R_s^3}$$

Here, the binomial approximation was used to subtract two very close numbers in the curly bracket. Basically,  $a_{\text{surface}}$  is the sum of  $a_{CM}$ , which make the Earth moves around the Sun and  $a_{\text{tidal, sun}}$ , which is due to the geographical difference of the gravity. Notice the cubic exponent of  $R_s$ . Similarly, if the sun is replaced by the moon, we can have a similar equation  $a_{\text{tidal, moon}} = Gr \frac{M_m}{R_m^3}$  with  $M_m$  the mass of the moon and  $R_m$  the distance between the Earth and the moon. The moon-earth common mass centre (see note) is  $\ll 6400$  km from surface, so the difference can be ignored.

If we compare the magnitudes between two tidal accelerations, and substitute the numbers

$$\frac{a_{\text{tidal, moon}}}{a_{\text{tidal, sun}}} = \frac{M_m}{M_s} \left(\frac{R_s}{R_m}\right)^3 = \frac{1}{27 \times 10^6} \times (400)^3 \approx 2.37$$

The tidal acceleration (force) by the moon is roughly twice larger than the one by the Sun.

Reference:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tidal\\_force](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tidal_force)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Binomial\\_approximation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Binomial_approximation)