

Tidal Stress on Phobos

- The orbital decay of Mars' moon Phobos produces tidal stress on the surface (yellow and white tick marks in the image below)
- Tidal tensile stress forms surface fractures aligned with the stress field (warmer colored tick marks in the image)
- New models for tidal stress indicate that Phobos' interior is weaker than previously thought
- Tidal forces are slowly pulling Phobos apart

Hurford et al., 2015

