



π IN THE SKY⁹

What is the interior of Mars really made of?

See for yourself how pi can take you to infinity and beyond!

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CORE CONUNDRUM

The InSight Mars lander is equipped with several tools to help scientists learn more about the interior of the Red Planet, including a seismometer that detects marsquakes. By measuring the vibrations that travel across the surface of Mars and through its interior layers, scientists were able to accurately measure the size of Mars' liquid core and estimate its density. Knowing the size and density of Mars' core will help us learn more about how the planet formed, how its magnetic field developed, and what materials make up the core, which will ultimately lead to a better understanding of how Earth and other planets form.

If Mars' core has a mass of 1.54×10^{23} kg and a radius of 1,830 km, as measured by InSight, what is the density of the core? How does that compare to the density of Earth's core, which ranges from 10 to 13 g/cm³? What does that tell us about the makeup of Mars' core?

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