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Large Variations of the coefficient \$J_2\$ of geopotential, and the dynamical Love number \$k_2^d\$ from the analysis of laser ranging to LAGEOS~1 and LAGEOS~2

George A. Krasinsky

(Submitted on 1 Jul 2011)

Secular and seasonal variations of the coefficient \$J_2\$ of the geopotential are studied from the analysis of laser measurements of distances to the geodetic satellites LAGEOS~1 (1988--2003) and LAGEOS~2 (1992--2003). It is confirmed that beside the well-known annual variations with the amplitude \$\approx 2.5 \times 10^{-10}\$ there also exist very significant semi-annual variations of a comparable amplitude. Phases of these two modes are such that the total effect may be described as a sharp postive splash of \$J_2\$ in August and considerably smaller variations in the rest part of year.

Comments: 21 pages, 3 figures, 3 tables

Subjects: Earth and Planetary Astrophysics (astro-ph.EP)

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