

Consider 'test' masses,  $m_A = m_B = m$ , at A and B, separated by  $dr$ .

$\vec{F}_A$  = grav. force on A due to Moon

$\vec{F}_B$  = grav. force on B due to Moon

$$\vec{F}_A \neq \vec{F}_B$$

We call the difference,  $\vec{F}_A - \vec{F}_B$ , the TIDAL FORCE due to the Moon,  $M$

We can estimate its magnitude :-

$$dF = F_A - F_B$$

$$= \left( \frac{dF}{dr} \right) dr$$

If we evaluate  $\frac{dF}{dr}$  at  $r$  (not strictly true, but OK for  $R_p \ll r$ )

$$dF \approx \frac{d}{dr} \left( \frac{GM_M m}{r^2} \right) dr = -\frac{2GM_M m}{r^3} dr$$

Note: tidal force falls off with distance more rapidly than inverse-square law.