Constraints for the Martian crustal structure from Rayleigh waves ellipticity of large seismic events

Sebastián Carrasco¹, Brigitte Knapmeyer-Endrun¹, Ludovic Margerin², Zongbo Xu³, Rakshit Joshi⁴, Martin Schimmel⁵, Eleonore Stutzmann⁶, Constantinos Charalambous⁷, Philippe Lognonné⁸, and William Bruce Banerdt⁹

¹Bensberg Observatory, University of Cologne
²Paul Sabatier University - Toulouse III
³Universite Paris Cite, Institut de Physique du Globe de Paris
⁴Max Planck Institute for Solar System Research
⁵Geosciences Barcelona
⁶Université paris Cité, Institut de physique du globe de Paris, CNRS
⁷Imperial College London
⁸Université Paris Cité, Institute de physique de globe de Paris, CNRS
⁹Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology

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| 6 7 8 | ¹ Bensberg Observatory, University of Cologne, Bergisch Gladbach, Germany ² Microgravity User Support Center, German Aerospace Center (DLR), Cologne, Germany ³ Institut de Recherche en Astrophysique et Planétologie, Université Toulouse III Paul Sabatier, CNRS, |
|-------------|---|
| 9 | CNES, Toulouse, France |
| 10 | ⁴ Université Paris Cité, Institut de physique du globe de Paris, CNRS, Paris, France |
| 11 | ⁵ Max Planck Institute for Solar System Research, Göttingen, Germany. |
| 12 | ⁶ Geosciences Barcelona, CSIC, Barcelona, Spain. |
| 13 | ⁷ Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Imperial College London, South Kensington |
| 14 | Campus, London, United Kingdom |
| 15 | ⁸ Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, CA 91109, USA |
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| 16 | Key Points: |
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| 17 | • Rayleigh waves ellipticity was measured between periods 15-35 s at the InSight |
| 18 | landing site using large seismic events, including S1222a. |
| 19 | • A 4-layer crust, including a shallow low-velocity layer, is required to explain the |
| 20 | ellipticity, receiver functions and P-wave lag times. |
| 21 | • Low crustal velocities are derived for the InSight site, which may be due to high |
| 22 | porosity or heavy alteration at local scale. |

 $Corresponding \ author: \ Sebastián \ Carrasco, \ \texttt{acarrascQuni-koeln.de}$

23 Abstract

For the first time, we measured the ellipticity of direct Rayleigh waves at intermediate 24 periods (15 - 35 s) on Mars using the recordings of three large seismic Martian events, 25 including S1222a, the largest event recorded by the InSight mission. These measurements, 26 together with P-to-s receiver functions and P-wave reflection times, were utilized for per-27 forming a joint inversion of the local crustal structure at the InSight landing site. Our 28 inversion results are compatible with previously reported intra-crustal discontinuities around 29 10 and 20 km depths, whereas the preferred models show a strong discontinuity at ~ 37 30 km, which is interpreted as the crust-mantle interface. Additionally, we support the pres-31 ence of a shallow low-velocity layer of 2-3 km thickness. Compared to nearby regions, 32 lower seismic wave velocities are derived for the crust, suggesting a higher porosity or 33 alteration of the whole local crust. 34

35 Plain Language Summary

As never before on Mars, we measured the characteristics of seismic waves trav-36 eling along the Martian surface that carry information about the crustal structure at the 37 InSight site. We combined these measurements with two other local-scale independent 38 observations to derive a consolidated model for the crust underneath the InSight lander. 39 Our results suggest a Martian crust with 4 layers and, particularly, one thin layer of about 40 2 km thickness close to the surface. The crust-mantle discontinuity was found at ~ 37 41 km depth, where the sharpest change in seismic wave velocity is observed. Overall, the 42 seismic wave velocities of the local Martian crust at the InSight site are lower than those 43 derived in other regions on Mars, which suggests a higher porosity or local alteration. 44

45 **1** Introduction

The structure and properties of the Martian crust are important for understanding the evolution of Mars and rocky planets. In this context, the InSight mission (Banerdt et al., 2020), which landed on Elysium Planitia in November 2018, aims to study the interior of Mars by means of one seismological station placed on the Martian surface (Lognonné et al., 2019).

After more than three years of data collection, the Martian crust has been stud-51 ied by a thorough analysis of the InSight seismological data. Locally at the InSight land-52 ing site, early analysis of P-to-s receiver functions (RFs) allowed to derive a shallow layer 53 with low seismic velocities in the first 8-11 km of the Martian crust (Lognonné et al., 2020). 54 Further investigation including more marsquakes suggests a layered local Martian crust 55 with two discontinuities at 8 ± 2 km and 20 ± 5 km, and a bimodal estimation of the 56 crust thickness of either 20 ± 5 or 39 ± 8 km (Knapmever-Endrun et al., 2021). Subse-57 quently, the analysis of further seismic events and the identification of other secondary 58 phases (PPs, Sp and three new crustal multiples) favor a 3-layer crustal model (Kim et 59 al., 2021; Joshi et al., 2023), for which the crust-mantle boundary would be located at 60 ~ 40 km depth. The shallow discontinuity around 8 km depth has been confirmed by 61 the detection of SsPp phases (J. Li, Beghein, Davis, et al., 2022) and SH-wave reflections 62 (J. Li, Beghein, Wookey, et al., 2022). Recently, Shi et al. (2023) proposed a shallow dis-63 continuity at around 2 km depth, based on the analysis of high-frequency RFs. Further 64 properties and characteristics of the Martian crust at regional scales (e.g., Kim, Banerdt, 65 et al., 2022; Beghein et al., 2022; Kim, Stähler, et al., 2022; J. Li, Beghein, Lognonné, 66 et al., 2022), as well as at global scale and away from the lander (e.g. J. Li, Beghein, McLen-67 nan, et al., 2022; Wieczorek et al., 2022; Durán et al., 2022), have been derived from the 68 analysis of the InSight seismic data using different approaches. Table S1 in the Supple-69 mentary Material details some representative models for the Martian crust. 70

Besides RFs, the analysis and inversion of the ellipticity of direct Rayleigh waves 71 is a single-station technique that, when measured at intermediate and long periods (>10)72 s), allows investigating the local underground structure down to crustal depths (Tani-73 moto & Rivera, 2008; Yano et al., 2009). The ellipticity, understood as the ratio between 74 the radial (R) and the vertical (Z) ground-motion of the Rayleigh wave (Fig. 1a), has 75 been shown to be invariant to the seismic source, the wave propagation path or the epi-76 central distance and rather depend on the local structure directly beneath the receiver 77 (e.g., Ferreira & Woodhouse, 2007). Even though this methodology was proposed in the 78 1970s, it has gained popularity only in recent years and with successful applications on 79 Earth (e.g., Lin et al., 2012; G. Li et al., 2016; Berbellini et al., 2017), but it has not been 80 applied on Mars so far due to the lack of observation of direct Rayleigh waves. Hence, 81 the ellipticity analysis of direct Rayleigh waves is still a pending task that could provide 82 further constraints on the structure of the Martian crust at the InSight landing site, as 83 proposed by Panning et al. (2017). 84

On May 4, 2022, the InSight lander recorded the S1222a event, which had a mo-85 ment magnitude estimated as M_W 4.7 and thus corresponds to the largest seismic event 86 ever recorded on Mars (Kawamura et al., 2022). This event exhibits clear surface waves 87 (both Love and Rayleigh) that can be used for studying lithospheric properties along the 88 source-receiver path (e.g., Beghein et al., 2022; J. Li, Beghein, Lognonné, et al., 2022; 89 Kim, Stähler, et al., 2022; Xu et al., 2023), but is also a unique opportunity to investi-90 gate the local crustal structure through ellipticity analysis of Rayleigh waves. Similarly, 91 the events S1000a and S1094b are two other good-quality seismic events, which are re-92 lated to the impact of meteorites on the Martian surface, 126° and 58° away from the 93 InSight lander, and had magnitudes estimated as M_W 4.1 and 4.0, respectively (Posiolova et al., 2022). For these two events, Rayleigh waves have also been observed (Kim, 95 Banerdt, et al., 2022). These three large events, whose source locations are shown in Fig. 96 1b, are thus excellent candidates to perform a Rayleigh wave ellipticity (also referred to 97 as ε) analysis. 98

The analysis of ε data can be used as an independent observation to characterize 99 the Martian crust at the InSight landing site. The inversion of RFs is affected by the non-100 uniqueness phenomenon and, although these data are highly sensitive to discontinuities, 101 the addition of ε data can provide constraints on long-wavelength velocity features (Chong 102 et al., 2016). As both data sets map the local structure at similar local scales, a joint 103 inversion of ε and P-to-s RFs can be performed. Similarly, the autocorrelation times (here-104 after T_a) obtained from the analysis of seismic ambient noise, such as those by Schim-105 mel et al. (2021), are sensitive to the local crustal structure and therefore can be used 106 as an independent data set to constrain the inversion. In fact, the predicted T_a for the 107 crustal models in Table S1 differs from the measurements (Table S3) whereas, as shown 108 in Fig. 2a, the corresponding predicted ellipticity curves fail to match the measured ε . 109 These mismatches further encourage a joint inversion of the three data sets. 110

In this work, we analyze the ellipticity and phase shift of the Rayleigh waves related to the large seismic events S1000a, S1094b and especially S1222a, to obtain further constraints on the structure of the Martian crust. In particular, we perform a joint inversion of Rayleigh wave ellipticity, P-to-s RFs and T_a , aiming to obtain a consolidated local crustal model.

¹¹⁶ 2 Data processing and methods

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2.1 Rayleigh wave ellipticity

To retrieve the characteristic ε at the InSight site, we performed a time-domain analysis in a similar way as has been performed on Earth (e.g., Ferreira & Woodhouse, 2007; Berbellini et al., 2016; Ferreira et al., 2020), following the steps shown in Fig. 1c-f. First, the time windows where the Rayleigh waves arrive are roughly estimated by manual inspection, following the identification by Kim, Banerdt, et al. (2022) for S1000a and S1094b and the time estimates by the Marsquake Service (MQS) for S1222a (Kawamura et al., 2022), and assuming they correspond to the fundamental mode $(_0R_1)$. These arrival time windows are shown in Fig. 1c.

The raw data (InSight Mars SEIS Data Service, 2019) have been deglitched using 126 the UCLA method (Scholz et al., 2020), restituted to ground motion (displacement) and 127 transferred into the ZNE coordinates system. The data are then rotated into a ZRT co-128 ordinates system by using the back azimuth (BAZ) of each event. As S1000a and S1094b 129 have been identified as impacts with source locations confirmed by orbital images (Po-130 siolova et al., 2022), their BAZs are well constrained at around 36° and 51° , respectively. 131 For S1222a, even though there are estimates for the location of the source (e.g., Kawa-132 mura et al., 2022), there is no ground-truth location as for S1000a and S1094b. 133

We applied an independent methodology to estimate the BAZ of S1222a, based on 134 the fact that the Rayleigh waves propagate in the ZR plane. Thus, we look for the max-135 imization of the ground-motion amplitudes on the Z and R components while minimiz-136 ing the ground motion on the T component. Further details on this methodology are pro-137 vided in section S2 (Supp. Material). For S1222a, our estimated BAZs are in the range 138 $114^{\circ}-137^{\circ}$, with a median value of 129° , which is used in this work. This BAZ is in the 139 range obtained from the analysis of multi-orbit Rayleigh waves (Panning et al., 2022) 140 and differs by $\sim 30^{\circ}$ from the BAZ derived from body waves by the MQS (Kawamura 141 et al., 2022). After rotating into the ZRT coordinates system, the Z and R components 142 are bandpass-filtered, with a 30% bandwidth, around different central periods T_0 (Fig. 143 144 1d). In this way, every T_0 will be associated with one ellipticity value.

Subsequently, we obtained the optimal phase shift (ϕ) by maximizing the cross-correlation 145 between the Z and R components. Examples of resulting ϕ and optimally shifted wave-146 forms are shown in Fig. 1d. Once optimally shifted, we computed the cross-correlation 147 factor $\nu(t)$ between the shifted Z and R components (Fig. 1e). The normalized envelope 148 $\eta(t)$, also shown in Fig. 1e and given by the multiplication of the Z and R envelopes, is 149 calculated in order to find the specific time window where the energy is maximized. In 150 order to discard low-amplitude signals with high cross-correlation (or vice versa), a char-151 acteristic function $\chi(t) = \nu(t)\eta(t)$ is calculated (Fig. 1e). The final ellipticity for the 152 central period T_0 , computed as the R/Z quotient, is the average of the ellipticities in the 153 time window where the characteristic function χ is larger than 0.8, as shown in Fig. 1f. 154

These processing steps are performed on the $_0R_1$ of events S1000a, S1094b and S1222a. 155 In order to combine these measurements, even though radial and azimuthal anisotropy 156 may be present, we assume that these would affect ellipticity to a lesser extent than the 157 underlying crustal structure. To get a single characteristic ellipticity curve at the InSight 158 landing site, only pairs of event- T_0 with actual Rayleigh wave signal are considered, i.e., 159 when the signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) is larger than a given threshold in both Z and R 160 components. We use $SNR_Z \ge 10$ and $SNR_R \ge 5$ (given the higher noise levels on the 161 horizontals). The final Rayleigh ellipticity curve for the InSight site is then calculated 162 as the smoothed median of the valid ε values, obtained by means of a Savitzky-Golay 163 filter (Savitzky & Golay, 1964). 164

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2.2 Joint inversion of ellipticity, P-to-s RFs and T_a

As the trade-off between the layer velocities and the depth of the discontinuities is a well-known feature of the ellipticity inversion, the incorporation of independent measurements such as RFs and T_a can help to further constrain the possible models (Chong et al., 2016). We thus retrieved the 1D crustal structure underneath the InSight landing site by jointly inverting the ε measurements (this work) with the mean P-to-s RF by Joshi et al. (2023), obtained by stacking radial-component low-frequency RFs for eight



Figure 1. Rayleigh wave ellipticity from large marsquakes. (a) Schematic representation of Rayleigh wave ellipticity using the radial (R) and vertical (Z) ground motion. (b) Topographic map of Mars, from the Mars Orbiter Laser Altimeter (Smith et al., 2001), showing the epicenter of events S1000a, S1094b, S1222a and the InSight lander. Below the map, from left to right, columns correspond to events S1000a, S1094b and S1222a, respectively. From top to bottom: (c) S-transform spectrogram of the Z component, where the fundamental mode and first overtone of the Rayleigh waves are highlighted; (d) shifted Z and R waveforms using the optimal phase shift ϕ . The Z and R components are bandpass-filtered with a 30% bandwidth around the central period T_0 , as indicated. The SNR_Z and SNR_R are given at the top right corner of each plot; (e) cross-correlation factor between shifted Z and R components (blue), normalized envelope $\eta(t)$ (yellow) and characteristic function $\chi(t)$ (dashed black). The red dot-dashed line denotes a threshold at 0.8; (f) ellipticity $\varepsilon(t)$. For each event and each central period, the average ellipticity ($\overline{\varepsilon}$) is computed over the time window where $\chi \geq 0.8$ (gray box).

high-quality marsquakes mainly originating in the Cerberus Fossae region (see Joshi et al. (2023) for further details). Additionally, we included the T_a obtained by Schimmel et al. (2021), which are understood as the two-way travel times of P waves bouncing back from the first (~ 6.15 s) and second (~ 10.6 s) strong discontinuity within the crust.

For every model, the RF forward calculation is performed via a Python implemen-176 tation of the code by Shibutani et al. (1996), using a fixed ray parameter $p^* = 6.9$ s/deg, 177 suitable for events in the Cerberus Fossae region (Joshi et al., 2023). In the RF, four peaks 178 at around 0, 2.4, 4.8 and 7.2 s are observed, which are related to the direct P phase and 179 three converted phases P_{1s} , P_{2s} , P_{3s} , where the subscript indicates the interface where 180 each phase is generated. The predicted ellipticity curves are obtained via the gpell tool-181 box included in the Geopsy package (Wathelet, 2005). Lastly, the T_a are computed as-182 suming two-way vertical travel paths of the P waves. 183

The inversion scheme utilized is the Neighbourhood Algorithm (NA), first intro-184 duced by Sambridge (1999) and widely used for multiple geophysical applications, in-185 cluding subsurface characterization (e.g., Hobiger et al., 2013; Ferreira et al., 2020; Car-186 rasco et al., 2022). We applied a modified version of the NA, where the parameters space 187 can be constrained by physical conditions and prior information (Wathelet, 2008). The 188 parameter space is configured as 3-uniform-layers over a half-space (3LOH), where the 189 depths of the discontinuities are constrained by Joshi et al. (2023). We inverted for shear-190 wave velocity V_s , P-wave velocity V_p and bottom depth z of each layer. Density was linked 191 to V_p by using the empirical relationship by Brocher (2005), as suggested by Lin et al. 192 (2012) for handling the trade-off with V_p/V_s , which was allowed to vary between 1.45 193 and 2.2. The upper mantle is modeled as a half-space with V_s between 4 and 5 km/s, 194 following the results for the surrounding region using surface waves (Kim, Stähler, et al., 195 2022) and teleseismic phases (e.g., Drilleau et al., 2022; Durán et al., 2022). See Table 196 S4 for further parameterization details. 197

¹⁹⁸ The NA is based on a fully non-linear, self-adaptive Monte Carlo approach, which ¹⁹⁹ efficiently explores the parameters space in order to find the model **m** that minimizes ²⁰⁰ the global misfit function Ψ between the observed and theoretical data. The global mis-²⁰¹ fit depends on the misfit of each data set and their weighting. In this case, we used 0.45, ²⁰² 0.45 and 0.1 as the weights of ε , RFs and T_a , respectively. Further details and other com-²⁰³ binations of weights can be found in sections S8 and S9 in the Supp Material.

²⁰⁴ 3 Results and discussion

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3.1 Ellipticity and phase-shift observations

The resulting ε and ϕ values are shown in Fig. 2a and b, respectively. Besides the limited number of events analyzed, there is a lack of valid ellipticity measurements due to the low-amplitude energy on the radial component. The valid ε values define an ellipticity curve between 15 and 35 s and two points at 8 and 9 s (Fig. 2a). For the purpose of this paper, we focus on the period range between 15 and 35 s, where the horizontal contribution of the tilt induced by Rayleigh waves can be neglected. Due to the lack of further observations, a common 15% uncertainty is utilized, which properly covers our observations.

On Earth, the ellipticity curve of one specific site is obtained from the recordings 214 of a large number of earthquakes. In our work, even though three events were initially 215 investigated, the ellipticity curve is mainly ruled by S1222a and, therefore, the lack of 216 observations can be disadvantageous for further analysis and interpretation. Ellipticity 217 data can have a large spread (e.g. Berbellini et al., 2016; Attanayake et al., 2017), which 218 might be associated with complex Rayleigh wave propagation effects (Sexton et al., 1977; 219 Pedersen et al., 2015) or due to local-scale heterogeneities near the receiver, as suggested 220 by Ferreira & Woodhouse (2007) after analyzing two close stations in California. Con-221



Figure 2. Rayleigh wave ellipticity and phase shift results. (a) Rayleigh wave ellipticity (ε) curve for events S1000a (red cross), S1094b (blue square) and S1222a (yellow star). Colored markers correspond to periods where the *SNR* criteria are fulfilled. Background light gray markers did not meet the minimum *SNR* threshold. The final ellipticity curve for the InSight site is denoted by the black circles, and a 15% uncertainty range has been imposed (gray area). Synthetic ellipticity curves are illustrated for characteristic crustal models from Knapmeyer-Endrun et al. (2021), Durán et al. (2022), Joshi et al. (2023) and Shi et al. (2023). (b) Phase shift ϕ between Z and R components of $_0R_1$ for the same events and with the same color code as in (a). The light red area corresponds to ϕ in the range $90\pm10^\circ$. (c) Vp and Vs models for the InSight crust used for synthetic calculation of ε in (a).

sidering the lower tectonic activity and smooth topography in the local surrounding of
InSight, as compared to the terrestrial case, we assume that the ellipticity measurements
from this event can be a good representation.

Besides, the $_{0}R_{1}$ of S1222a has a high SNR in both Z and R components, so the 225 final smoothed ε is expected to be a good representation of the local structure. For a bet-226 ter assessment, the same ellipticity analysis was performed for one station on Earth (sta-227 tion BQ.DREG in Germany, see section S4 in Supp. Material). These measurements sug-228 gest that well-recorded events can show some variation with respect to the character-229 istic smoothed ellipticity curve of the site, but the broad shape of the curve remains sim-230 ilar. In particular, some events show different slopes and trends at specific period ranges, 231 with respect to what is observed for the median ellipticity (Fig. S3 and S4), but the gen-232 eral trend is the same. Thus, we conclude that small oscillations on the ellipticity curve 233 should not be over-interpreted. 234

The resulting Z-R phase shifts, mainly ruled by S1222a, suggest ϕ values between 235 60° and 70° (Fig. 2b), which are persistently lower than the theoretical phase shift for 236 Rayleigh waves under isotropic and homogeneous conditions (90°) . On Earth, large de-237 viations up to $\pm 30^{\circ}$ have been found and have been related to small-scale heterogeneities 238 (e.g., Ferreira & Woodhouse, 2007). From our observations on Earth, low ϕ (60–75°) 239 were measured for some events at specific period ranges (see Fig. S5). These observa-240 tions suggest that anomalous ϕ might be related to the Rayleigh-wave path, or even the 241 source, rather than the characteristics of the receiver site. Tanuma & Man (2008) also 242 proposed that variations of ϕ with respect to the isotropic theoretical value depend on 243 the perturbation of the initial stress conditions of the medium. Although crustal anisotropy 244 was reported along the path of S1222a (Beghein et al., 2022; Kim, Stähler, et al., 2022), 245 its influence on the phase shift is unclear and should not be discarded. Thus, the low ϕ 246 measured at the InSight landing site might be due to a combination of path or source 247 effects with the initial stress conditions at this site, but not directly related to the me-248 chanical properties of the crust at the InSight landing site. In any case, low ϕ values have 249 previously been observed on Earth to occur in some cases. Further analysis of this phe-250 nomenon is beyond the scope of this work. 251

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3.2 Local crust structure at the InSight landing site

In order to derive a consolidated crustal structure for the InSight landing site, the joint inversion detailed in section 2.2 was performed. It is worth noting that the inversion of ellipticity data alone does not properly constrain the layering of the crustal structure, as different settings between one and four layers over a half-space can equally well explain the ε observations (Fig. S8).

The initial joint inversion results suggest that these local measurements can be well 258 explained by a three-layer model, with an overall good fitting of the three data sets (see 259 Fig. S11). However, the amplitude of the P-phase (first peak on the RFs), which is not 260 normalized as it provides information on the near-surface velocities (e.g., Ammon, 1991), 261 is clearly overestimated. As shown by synthetic forward modeling (Fig. S12), lower am-262 plitudes for this arrival can be achieved by having lower velocities in the first layer. Be-263 264 cause of this, we performed a second inversion where we allowed a shallow low-velocity layer (4LOH, see Table S5 for details on the parameter space). These new resulting mod-265 els are preferred as they explain the three independent data sets reasonably well (Fig. 266 3a-d), and especially the amplitude of the direct P-phase arrival is well retrieved. 267

Our inversion results show that a 4-layer crust structure (Fig. 3e-g), including a shallow low-velocity layer (sLVL) close to the surface, can explain the local-scale measurements well. The sLVL presents velocities between 1.6 and 1.8 km/s and extends down to 2-3 km depth. Its origin is unclear, but previous works on the shallowest structure of Mars have proposed the presence of sedimentary and heavily fractured basalt layers



Figure 3. Joint-inversion results and resulting Martian crustal models using a 4LOH parameter space. The measurements and the synthetic modeling of 200 best-fitting crustal models are shown for (a) Rayleigh wave ellipticity, (b) P-to-s RFs from Joshi et al. (2023), and (c) first and (d) second P-wave reflection times from Schimmel et al. (2021). The light gray dashed line and area correspond to the measured data and their uncertainty, respectively, whereas the synthetic data are colored by their misfit. The corresponding crustal models are shown in terms of (e) V_s , (f) V_p and (g) V_p/V_s , as a function of depth. (h) Depth absolute sensitivity kernels of ellipticity data for the best-fitting model, calculated at 15 s (dashed line) and 35 s (filled area) for V_s , V_p and ρ . Light red box in (b) shows the time window where the data was fitted.

²⁷³ in the first hundreds of meters (Hobiger et al., 2021; Carrasco et al., 2022), where $V_s <$ ²⁷⁴ 1 km/s were derived. Furthermore, Pan et al. (2020) suggested the presence of a sed-²⁷⁵ imentary layer extending from 200-300 m up to kilometers in depth, whereas Warner et ²⁷⁶ al. (2022) showed evidence for heavily fractured basalt units in the surrounding area. Thus, ²⁷⁷ we interpret this shallow discontinuity to be the bottom of this large-scale unit.

The sLVL results from combining the different data sets through the joint inver-278 sion, rather than from a specific feature of the RF. Indeed, Shi et al. (2023) showed that 279 the ~ 1 s signal in the high-frequency RFs, related to the sLVL, is absent in the low-frequency 280 RFs. Despite observing a similar 1 s signal in the low-frequency RF used in this work, 281 the RF-only inversion with 3LOH shows that it is not necessarily related to an sLVL (Fig. 282 S9). Instead, given the mantle velocity, the ellipticity data allows a range of average crustal 283 V_S to fit the data, which leads to too high velocities near the surface for the RF, so a 284 top layer with lower velocities is required. 285

In general, below the sLVL, our models have a similar structure and the discon-286 tinuities at ~ 10 and ~ 20 km depth are in good agreement with previously reported mod-287 els for the local crust (e.g., Knapmeyer-Endrun et al., 2021; Joshi et al., 2023). The dis-288 continuity around 37 km depth is interpreted as the crust-mantle boundary, where the 289 sharpest velocity contrast is observed. Even though the ellipticity data has low sensi-290 tivity at this depth, it can properly constrain the shallow V_s structure (Fig. 3h), which 291 directly affects the deeper structure as they are strongly tied through the RFs. Thus, 292 as the shallow part is well constrained, the joint inversion can provide reliable depths 293 for the Moho. 294

Overall, crustal V_p and V_s are lower than 5 and 3 km/s, respectively (Fig. 3e,f). 295 Vp/Vs is around 1.8 in the first 20 km of the crust and, even though large variation is 296 observed, it seems to decrease in the bottom layer of the crust (Fig. 3g). In particular, 297 V_s are lower than in other regions on Mars, such as along the path between Amazonis 298 Planitia and the InSight site in the lowlands (Kim, Banerdt, et al., 2022), or between 299 S1222a and the lander, along the dichotomy region (J. Li, Beghein, Lognonné, et al., 2022). 300 Although an increase in density is derived from the inversion, the inverted data sets are 301 poorly sensitive to this parameter, as shown for the ellipticity (Fig. 3h), so further in-302 terpretation is avoided. At a local scale, our proposed V_s are also slightly lower than those 303 previously reported for the InSight site (Knapmeyer-Endrun et al., 2021; Joshi et al., 2023). 304 Therefore, considering that porosity plays an important role in decreasing the velocity 305 of the seismic waves (e.g., Heap, 2019), these lower velocities might be related to an even 306 larger porosity or stronger alteration of the whole crust at the InSight site than previ-307 ously thought. 308

309 4 Conclusions

For the first time, the ellipticity of the fundamental mode of direct Rayleigh waves 310 was measured on Mars for periods between 15 and 35 s, especially thanks to S1222a. The 311 obtained ellipticity curve is interpreted as a good representation of the characteristic el-312 lipticity at the InSight landing site. Anomalously low phase shifts were measured, which 313 seem to be unrelated to the local crust structure. In order to consolidate the local crustal 314 model, we performed a joint inversion of local-scale observations (ellipticity, P-to-s RFs 315 and P-wave reflection times). Our results suggest that a four-layer crustal model, with 316 a shallow low-velocity layer of about 2-3 km thickness at the InSight landing site explains 317 the observations well. Other discontinuities around 10, 20 and 37 km depth correlate well 318 with previously reported models. We propose lower P- and S-wave velocities for the cor-319 responding crustal layers, which might be related to a higher porosity or alteration of 320 the Martian crust at the InSight landing site. 321

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333 Open Research

The event information of the Martian seismic events can be found in the InSight 334 seismic event catalog version 13 (InSight Marsquake Service, 2023). The waveform data 335 and station metadata are available from IPGP's MSDC as well as from IRIS MDC (In-336 Sight Mars SEIS Data Service, 2019). Seismic data for station DREG (BQ network, 2016) 337 are publicly available via EIDA (http://eida.gfz-potsdam.de/webdc3/). The GCMT cat-338 alog is available here https://www.globalcmt.org/CMTsearch.html, whereas the events 339 analyzed for the Earth case and the codes utilized for the processing of the events can 340 be found under https://github.com/scarrascom/Rellipy. Observed data used for the 341 joint inversion, a Python implementation and preferred crustal models shown in Fig. 3 342 can be found at 10.5281/zenodo.8051337 (Carrasco, 2023). The NA was implemented 343 via the *dinverext* plugin, which can be obtained from http://www.geopsy.org/. 344

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