

1 **CHARACTERIZING DEPOSITS EMPLACED BY**  
2 **CRYOVOLCANIC PLUMES ON EUROPA**

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24 **Abstract:** In the absence of direct observations of Europa's particle plumes, deposits left behind  
25 during eruptive events would provide the best evidence for recent geological activity, and would  
26 serve as indicators of the best places to search for ongoing activity on the icy moon. Here, we  
27 model the morphological and spectral signatures of europian plume deposits, utilizing constraints  
28 from recent Hubble Space Telescope observations as model inputs. We consider deposits emplaced  
29 by plumes that are 1 km to 300 km tall, and find that in the time between the Galileo Mission and  
30 the arrival of the Europa Clipper spacecraft, plumes that are < 7 km tall are most likely to emplace  
31 deposits that could be detected by spacecraft cameras. Deposits emplaced by larger plumes could  
32 be detected by cameras operating at visible wavelengths provided that their average particle size  
33 is sufficiently large, their porosity is high, and/or they are salt-rich. Conversely, deposits emplaced  
34 by large plumes could be easily detected by near-IR imagers regardless of porosity, or individual  
35 particle size or composition. If low-albedo deposits flanking lineated features on Europa are indeed  
36 cryoclastic mantlings, they were likely emplaced by plumes that were less than 4 km tall, and  
37 deposition could be ongoing today. Comparisons of the sizes and albedos of these deposits between  
38 the Galileo and Europa Clipper missions could shed light on the size and frequency of cryovolcanic  
39 eruptions on Europa.  
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## 41 **1. Introduction**

42 The youthful and heavily fractured surface of Jupiter's moon Europa indicates that it has  
43 been geologically active in the relatively recent past. Multiple Hubble Space Telescope (HST)  
44 observations of large, water-vapor-dominated plumes suggest that the icy moon may currently be  
45 geologically active, with water vapor being actively vented into space [Roth *et al.*, 2014; Sparks  
46 *et al.*, 2016; 2017]. Additionally, a reanalysis of Galileo data suggests that several instruments  
47 aboard the spacecraft may have detected plume activity during low-altitude flybys of the moon  
48 [Jia *et al.*, 2018]. Meanwhile, Fagents *et al.* [2000] suggested that low-albedo deposits lying along  
49 lineaments and surrounding lenticulae on the icy moon could be ballistically-emplaced mantlings  
50 of cryoclastic material. Assuming that eruptive events were driven by volatiles such as CO, CO<sub>2</sub>,  
51 SO<sub>2</sub> and NH<sub>3</sub>, they constrained the dimensions of plumes that could have emplaced these deposits.  
52 Focusing solely on the particle component of European plumes, Quick *et al.* [2013] extended this  
53 analysis by constraining likely optical depth values and eruption lifetimes for these plumes. These  
54 authors assumed that the putative deposits imaged by the Galileo spacecraft were on the order of

55 1-10 m thick and consisted solely of particles with  $0.5 \mu\text{m}$  radii. Similar to the results of *Fagents*  
56 *et al.* [2000], they concluded that the dimensions of the dark deposits on Europa were consistent  
57 with emplacement by plumes that were 2.5 - 26 km tall. Additionally, *Quick et al.* [2013] found  
58 that plumes with optical depths  $\geq 0.04$  were most likely to be detected by spacecraft operating at  
59 visible wavelengths. This optical depth value corresponded to  $I/F \geq 0.07$ , where  $I/F$  is a  
60 standardized measure of the plume's reflectance, and particle column densities of  $1.88 \times 10^{-6}$   
61  $\text{kg/m}^2$  [*Quick et al.*, 2013].

62 Although recent HST observations suggest the presence of large vapor plumes [*Roth et al.*,  
63 2014], previous searches for plumes in the Galileo dataset yielded null results, suggesting that  
64 venting on Europa is not dominated by sizeable eruptions, and/or that eruptions may be sporadic  
65 in nature [*Phillips et al.*, 2000]. Hence if large plumes are outliers, and most plumes on Europa are  
66 indeed small in stature as has been suggested by image analysis [*Phillips et al.*, 2000; *Quick et al.*,  
67 2010; *Bramson et al.*, 2011] and modeling [*Fagents et al.*, 2000; *Quick et al.*, 2013], it is possible  
68 that active venting would have been missed by spacecraft cameras. Conversely, if plumes erupted  
69 at a time when Galileo was not observing Europa's limb, or, if large plumes on Europa are similar  
70 to Io's proposed "stealth plumes" [*Johnson et al.*, 1995], i.e., primarily composed of vapor-phase  
71 volatiles, then cameras would have missed eruptions altogether. Moreover, the extent to which  
72 thermal observations can be relied upon to reveal plume activity on Europa is unclear [*Rathbun*  
73 *and Spencer*, 2018; 2019]. Thus, in the absence of direct, *in-situ* observations of active plumes,  
74 the identification of fresh plume deposits may be the only tangible evidence of recent and/or  
75 ongoing activity on Europa.

76 Searching for evidence of recent activity on Europa and determining the extent of material  
77 exchange between the ice shell and ocean are key subgoals of NASA's Europa Clipper Mission

78 [Europa Science Definition Team, 2012; Phillips and Pappalardo, 2014; Pappalardo et al., 2015;  
79 Turtle et al., 2016; 2019]. Given the large uncertainties surrounding the scale and frequency of  
80 eruptions on Europa, constraining the dimensions and deposition rates of plume deposits may be  
81 the best way to quantify current activity. Nevertheless, quantitative examinations of the  
82 appearance of these deposits, and the potential for their detection by instruments on Europa Clipper  
83 have been limited (but see Southworth et al. [2015]). While the presence of plume deposits may  
84 be indicative of the presence of liquid water at shallow levels in the ice shell, plume deposit  
85 dimensions could help to constrain rates of material exchange between the surface and subsurface  
86 and provide a baseline from which the properties of the plumes that emplaced them could be  
87 extrapolated. In addition, plume particle size distributions and deposition rates could be utilized to  
88 predict the character of localized albedo changes caused by the emplacement of cryoclastic  
89 particles on Europa's surface. Moreover, as is the case on Io where localized venting and the  
90 subsequent deposition of pyroclastic deposits occurs contemporaneously with effusive eruptions  
91 [Geissler et al., 2004], cryoclastic particle deposition on Europa could occur within the same  
92 timespan that cryolava is extruded onto the surface. Further, owing to their minimum exposure to  
93 Europa's severe radiation environment, fresh plume deposits may contain and preserve organic  
94 compounds (e.g., see Nordheim et al., [2018]). The characterization of candidate plume deposits  
95 is therefore a crucial step in gauging both the rates of occurrence, and probable locations of,  
96 cryovolcanic activity on Europa. Their potential to contain biomarkers also makes their  
97 identification a critical step in constraining Europa's habitability and astrobiological potential.

98 Here we employ the properties of candidate European plumes, gathered from observational  
99 data and modeling, to characterize the dimensions, deposition rates, particle size distributions, and  
100 spectral properties of their resulting deposits on Europa's surface. Europa's plumes may be

101 generated by exsolution of CO<sub>2</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, etc. in fractures propagating from the ocean to the surface  
102 [*Crawford and Stevenson, 1988; Fagents et al., 2000*], or similar to Enceladus' plumes, by H<sub>2</sub>O  
103 boiling at the surface of a water column exposed to the vacuum of space [cf. *Berg et al. 2016*]. It  
104 is unclear whether stress states in Europa's crust would allow fractures to extend from the surface  
105 directly to the ocean, especially if the icy crust is tens of km thick, or if the ice overlying the ocean  
106 is sufficiently ductile [*Crawford and Stevenson, 1988; Gaidos and Nimmo, 2000; Fagents, 2003*].  
107 Hence we assume the latter case, in which plumes are generated by the boiling of a water column  
108 at 273 K. In this case, fractures that expose fluids to Europa's zero-pressure surface environment  
109 may be connected to fluid reservoirs that exist at shallow levels in the crust [c.f. *Gaidos and*  
110 *Nimmo, 2000; Fagents, 2003; Schmidt et al., 2011*].

111 In Section 2, we introduce the dynamical and spectral models that were used to perform  
112 our analyses. We present our dynamical and spectral modeling results in Section 3 and discuss the  
113 implications of these results in Section 4. Finally, we conclude in Section 5 by placing constraints  
114 on the eruption rates that are necessary to emplace candidate plume deposits along lineaments on  
115 Europa. We also summarize the specifications of visible and near-IR imagers on the Europa  
116 Clipper spacecraft and comment on their ability to detect plume deposits on the icy moon. For  
117 reference, all variables that are utilized in our dynamical and spectral models are listed in Table 1.

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**Table 1.** Plume and Deposit Parameters

Symbol	Parameter	Value	Unit
$A$	Deposit area		km <sup>2</sup>
$A_I$	Brightness coefficient		
$c_p$	Specific Heat at Constant Pressure		J/K-kg
$c_v$	Specific Heat at Constant Volume		J/K-kg
$D$	Deposition rate		m/s
$g$	Acceleration due to gravity on Europa	1.31	m/s <sup>2</sup>
$H$	Maximum plume height	1 - 300	km
$H_p$	Maximum height of individual plume particles		km
$I/F$	Plume Brightness		
$I/V$	Ice to vapor mass ratio		
$k_B$	Boltzmann's Constant	$1.28 \times 10^{-23}$	J/K
$L$	Particle collision length	0.1	m
$m$	Mass of a water molecule	$2.99 \times 10^{-26}$	kg
$m_w$	Molar mass of a water molecule	$1.8 \times 10^{-2}$	kg/mol
$m_p$	Mass of individual plume particles as a function of size		kg
$M$	Total mass of plume particles		kg
$M_p$	Total mass of particles of a particular size		
$M_v$	Total mass of water vapor in the plumes		kg
$n$	Real index of refraction		
$n_f$	Mass fraction of driving volatile		
$n_{gas}$	Weight percent of driving volatile	0.1-100	%
$N$	Total number of particles in the plume		
$N_A$	Avogadro's Number	$6.022 \times 10^{23}$	kg/mol
$N_p$	Number of particles of a certain size in the plume		
$N_w$	Total number of water molecules in the plume		
$r_c$	Critical radius of plume particles		$\mu\text{m}$
$R_g$	Ideal gas constant	8.314	J/mol-K
$R_p$	Maximum range of plume particles		km
$r_p$	Plume particle radius	0.5 - 3	$\mu\text{m}$
$r_{eff}$	Effective average particle size in deposit		$\mu\text{m}$
$S$	Effective average scattering length in regolith		$\mu\text{m}$
$t_{deposit}$	Deposit accumulation time		hour; day; year
$t_R$	Particle residence time		s
$T$	Eruption temperature	240	K
$T_D$	Deposit thickness		m
$T_{total}$	Total deposit thickness per eruption		mm
$v = v_{gas}$	Maximum plume eruption velocity		m/s
$v_p$	Plume particle velocity		m/s
$V_p$	Volume of plume particles		m <sup>3</sup>
$\alpha$	Absorption Coefficient		$\mu\text{m}^{-1}$
$\beta$	Condensation coefficient	0.2	
$\gamma$	Ratio of specific heats of water vapor ( $c_p/c_v$ )	1.334	
$\theta$	Particle eruption angle	45	°
$\kappa$	Molecular weight of water vapor	$1.8 \times 10^{-2}$	kg/mol
$\kappa_r$	Imaginary index of refraction		
$\lambda$	Wavelength of light	1-2.5	$\mu\text{m}$
$\rho_{gas}$	Density of water vapor	$4.85 \times 10^{-3}$	kg/m <sup>3</sup>
$\rho_p$	Density of plume particles	920	kg/m <sup>3</sup>
$\phi$	Deposit porosity	0.5; 0.9	

## 123 2. Materials and Methods

### 124 2.1 Dynamical Model

125 We utilize an analytical model, based on the work of *Quick et al.* [2013], to estimate the  
126 dimensions of deposits generated by a variety of plumes. While our model represents a  
127 simplification of the dynamics associated with plume particle deposition on Europa, such a  
128 simplified model allows us to explore the full parameter space as it relates to deposit dimensions  
129 and the sizes of plumes that may have emplaced them. As in *Quick et al.* [2013], we have assumed  
130 that eruptions are steady, i.e., the number of particles supplied to, and the particle discharge rate  
131 from, any plume as a function of time are both constant [*Parfitt and Wilson*, 2008]. We calculate  
132 the maximum travel distance of each plume particle assuming that particles are launched from  
133 eruptive sources regions at an angle of  $45^\circ$  from the horizontal and travel along ballistic  
134 trajectories. As suggested by HST observations, we assume that water vapor is the main volatile  
135 that drives eruptions [*Roth et al.*, 2014; *Sparks et al.*, 2016; 2017], and have utilized the methods  
136 of *Fagents et al.* [2000] and *Quick et al.* [2013] to constrain general plume particle eruption  
137 dynamics, assuming that plumes on Europa follow ballistic trajectories after ejection from the vent,  
138 a scenario which has been previously modeled for plumes on Enceladus [*Degruyter and Manga*,  
139 2011].

140 We assume that plumes and their deposits consist of particles that range from  $0.5 \mu\text{m}$  to  
141  $3 \mu\text{m}$  in radius, consistent with the size range of plume particles on Enceladus and Io [*Cook et al.*,  
142 1981; *Strom et al.*, 1981; *Collins et al.*, 1981; *Porco et al.*, 2006; *Spahn et al.*, 2006; *Kempf et al.*,  
143 2008; *Postberg et al.*, 2008; *Hedman et al.*, 2009; *Kieffer et al.*, 2009; *Ingersoll and Ewald*, 2011].  
144 Although plume particles may contain salts and other compounds (c.f. [*Postberg et al.*, 2008; 2011;  
145 2018; *Hsu et al.*, 2015; *Porco et al.*, 2017]), for the sake of simplicity we assume that all particles  
146 are solely composed of water ice.

147 2.1.1 Plume Parameters

148 As eruptions are assumed to be vapor driven, the maximum velocity of the gas-particulate  
149 mixture upon eruption may be expressed as:

150 
$$v = v_{gas} = \sqrt{\frac{2n_f R_g T \gamma}{\kappa(\gamma-1)}} \quad (1)$$

151 [*Wilson and Head, 1983; Fagents et al., 2000*] where  $n_f$  is the mass fraction of gas in the erupting  
152 plume,  $R_g = 8.314$  J/mol-K is the universal gas constant, and  $T$  is the gas temperature at the time  
153 that the erupted material expands into Europa's zero-pressure surface environment.  $\gamma = c_p/c_v =$   
154  $1.334$  and  $\kappa = 1.8 \times 10^{-2}$  kg/mol represent the ratio of specific heats and the molecular weight,  
155 respectively, of the volatile driving the eruption, which in this case is water vapor.

156 Equation (1) has been utilized in previous work to describe the velocities reached by grains  
157 during explosive eruptions on both the moon and Europa [*Wilson and Head, 1983; Fagents et al.,*  
158 *2000*]. In those cases, eruptions included volatile contents as low as 0.07 wt%, and 0.09 wt% ( $n_f =$   
159  $7 \times 10^{-4}$  and  $9 \times 10^{-4}$ ), respectively, and plumes were 0.4 km to 1 km tall [*Fagents et al., 2000; L.*  
160 *Wilson, personal communication*]. Owing to their low volatile contents, these plumes would have  
161 had very high solid to vapor mass ratios. In such particle-rich plumes, momentum is transferred  
162 from the gas to the particles in order to keep the latter in motion. Particles will remain interspersed  
163 in a dense column of gas near the vent, enabling efficient coupling between the gas and grains,  
164 especially in cases when the solids to gas ratio is at least on the order of 10 [*Yeoh et al., 2015;*  
165 *Mahieux et al., 2019*]. Icy particles in these plumes would therefore be in constant contact with  
166 the driving gas [*Yeoh et al., 2015; Berg et al., 2016*]. Equation (1) describes the velocity of all of  
167 the icy particles upon eruption as long as they remain coupled with the driving volatile (L. Wilson,  
168 personal communication). Tables 2 and 3 illustrate that plumes  $\leq 25$  km tall will have low water  
169 vapor content and will therefore have high enough ice to vapor mass ratio values ( $I/V$ ) to be within

170 this limit (see Section 3). Thus, the velocity of icy particles, regardless of particle size, in plumes  
 171  $\leq 25$  km tall, is adequately described by (1).

172 Conversely, large plumes ( $H \geq 50$  km) will have high vapor contents and relatively low  
 173  $I/V$  (Tables 2 & 3). Individual particles in plumes with  $I/V \leq 1$  will interact more with the walls  
 174 of the fissure than with other particles. As a consequence, their upward motion will be dependent  
 175 upon how often they collide with the fissure walls before they can be reaccelerated by the driving  
 176 gas [Schmidt *et al.*, 2008; Yeoh *et al.*, 2015]. Hence, while (1) is adequate to describe the motion  
 177 of icy particles in small, particle-packed plumes, we must consider the velocity of particles as a  
 178 function of size for large plumes with low  $I/V$ . The dynamics of icy particles in large European  
 179 plumes may be similar to the dynamics of particles in Enceladus' plumes. We therefore apply the  
 180 dynamical model of Schmidt *et al.* [2008] to obtain velocity distributions, as a function of particle  
 181 size, for particles in plumes that are  $\geq 50$  km tall.

182 Schmidt *et al.* [2008] illustrated that plume particle speeds on Enceladus are affected by  
 183 wall collisions and that particle acceleration is dependent upon gas density and particle size.  
 184 Likewise, ionian plume dynamics are also dependent upon particle interactions with the driving  
 185 gas [Zhang *et al.*, 2004; Geissler and Goldstein, 2006]. The average velocity  $\langle v_p \rangle$  of plume  
 186 particles as a function of particle radius,  $r_p$ , in large, low  $I/V$  plumes is:

$$187 \quad \langle v_p(r_p) \rangle = \frac{v}{\left(1 + \frac{r_p}{2r_c}\right)} \quad (2)$$

188 [Schmidt *et al.*, 2008], where  $r_c$ , the critical radius, is expressed as:

$$189 \quad r_c = \frac{\rho_{gas}}{\rho_p} \sqrt{\frac{8k_B T}{\pi m}} \left[1 + \frac{\pi}{8}(1 - \beta)\right] \frac{L}{v} \quad (3)$$

190 [Schmidt *et al.*, 2008]. Here  $\rho_{gas}$  and  $\rho_p$  are the density of water vapor and icy particles,  
 191 respectively,  $k_B = 1.28 \times 10^{-23}$  J/K is Boltzmann's constant, and  $m = 2.99 \times 10^{-26}$  kg is the mass of

192 one water molecule.  $\beta$  is a condensation coefficient, a quantity that represents the adsorption of  
 193 water molecules by ice grains [Shaw *et al.*, 1999; Batista *et al.*, 2005].  $L$  is the collision length,  
 194 which represents the characteristic distance that particles are able to travel between collisions with  
 195 the walls of fractures that transport plume material to the surface. According to Schmidt *et al.*  
 196 [2008] particles with  $r_p < r_c$  travel with  $\langle v_p \rangle \sim v$ , while particles with  $r_p > r_c$  have wide velocity  
 197 distributions and their maximum velocity peaks at a speed  $v_{max} < v$ . We assume that all particles  
 198 are spherical and are solely composed of water ice [Degruyter and Manga, 2011; Quick *et al.*,  
 199 2013; Hedman *et al.*, 2018], so that  $\rho_p = 920 \text{ kg/m}^3$ . As in Schmidt *et al.* [2008] we have assumed  
 200 that  $\rho_{gas} = 4.85 \times 10^{-3} \text{ kg/m}^3$  is the density of water vapor.

201 Assuming ballistic trajectories for plume particles [Fagents *et al.*, 2000; Quick *et al.*, 2013],  
 202 the maximum height,  $H_p$ , that individual plume particles reach above the surface, regardless of  
 203 whether their motion is best described by (1) or (2), is:

$$204 \quad H_p = \frac{v_p^2}{2g} \quad (4)$$

205 where  $g = 1.31 \text{ m/s}^2$  is the acceleration due to gravity on Europa. Assuming a particle eruption  
 206 angle  $\theta = 45^\circ$  from the horizontal, the range,  $R_p$ , which is the distance from the vent that plume  
 207 particles travel across the surface is:

$$208 \quad R_p = 2H_p = \frac{v_p^2}{g} \quad (5)$$

209 The amount of time that particles spend in these plumes is represented by the particle residence  
 210 time,  $t_R = 2v_p \sin \theta / g$ . Assuming a  $45^\circ$  particle eruption angle,  $t_R$  is calculated as:

$$211 \quad t_R = \frac{2v_p \sin \theta}{g} = \frac{v_p \sqrt{2}}{g} \quad (6)$$

212 Assuming that dark deposits along lineaments and surrounding lenticulae on Europa are  
 213 cryoclastic mantlings, Fagents *et al.* [2000] and Quick *et al.* [2013] suggested that plumes required

214 to emplace these deposits would extend, at most, 26 km above the surface. However, recent  
215 observations [Roth et al., 2014; Sparks et al., 2016; 2017] suggest that Europa's plumes have  
216 maximum heights between 50 and 300 km. In order to account for the broadest suite of plausible  
217 plume parameters, we consider eruptions where plume heights range from 1 to 300 km.

### 218 2.1.2 Plume Deposit Parameters

219 The volume of a plume deposit can be approximated as that of a thin disk. The area of the  
220 plume deposit, as a function of particle size, is:

$$221 A(r_p) = \pi R_p^2 \quad (7)$$

222 Consequently, plume deposit thickness as a function of particle size,  $T_D(r_p)$ , may be expressed by  
223 combining equations (3) and (4) from Quick et al. [2013]:

$$224 T_D(r_p) = \frac{4r_p^3 N_p}{3R_p^2(1-\phi)} \quad (8)$$

225 Here  $N_p$  is the total number of particles of a given size in the plume, and hence in the resulting  
226 deposit, and  $\phi$  represents deposit porosity.

227 The brightness of Enceladus' interstripe plains, which are believed to be covered by plume  
228 fallback, is consistent with that of freshly fallen snow [Porco et al., 2006]. This implies that fresh  
229 plume deposits have a snow-like consistency. Freshly fallen snow has 90% pore space so that its  
230 porosity,  $\phi = 0.9$  [Cuffey and Paterson, 2010]. However, any subsequent coalescence and  
231 compression of plume particles, perhaps as a result of sintering or other processes, would generate  
232 a deposit with a porosity that is more consistent with dense snow, for which  $\phi = 0.45$  [Quick et al.,  
233 2013]. We assume a slightly higher minimum porosity,  $\phi = 0.5$ , for plume deposits in which  
234 particles have undergone a significant amount of compression and coalescence. We therefore  
235 assume that plume deposits have minimum porosities of 0.5, and maximum porosities of 0.9.

236 The masses of individual plume particles, which must be known in order to apply the model  
 237 of *Schmidt et al.* [2008] to plumes with  $H \geq 50$  km, is defined by  $m_p = V_p \rho_p$ , where  $V_p = \frac{4}{3} \pi r_p^3$  is  
 238 the volume of a particle. Assuming  $\rho_p = 920$  kg/m<sup>3</sup>,  $m_p = 4.8 \times 10^{-16}$  kg,  $3.9 \times 10^{-15}$  kg,  $3 \times 10^{-14}$  kg,  
 239 and  $1 \times 10^{-13}$  kg for icy particles with  $r_p = 0.5, 1, 2,$  and  $3$   $\mu\text{m}$ , respectively. The total mass of  
 240 plume particles,  $M$ , may be expressed as:

$$241 \quad M = \sum N_p m_p \quad (9)$$

242 which, as will be shown in the next section, has been taken to be equal to the total mass of vapor  
 243 in the plume,  $M_v$ , multiplied by the plume's ice to vapor ratio so that:

$$244 \quad M = \sum N_p m_p = M_v * \left(\frac{I}{V}\right) = M_v * \left(\frac{1}{n_f} - 1\right) \quad (10)$$

245  $N_p$  can be alternatively expressed as:

$$246 \quad N_p = \frac{M_p}{m_p} \quad (11)$$

247 where  $M_p$  is the total mass of particles of the given size in the plume, which depends on the  
 248 assumed particle size distribution. For the sake of simplicity, we will here assume that  $M_p = M/4$   
 249 for all 4 discrete particle sizes, which yields values of  $N_p$  that are proportional to  $1/r_p^3$ . This, along  
 250 with the non-uniform spacing of the particle sizes, is consistent with the observed particle size  
 251 distributions observed in Enceladus' plume, which have a differential power-law index between 3  
 252 and 4 for micron-sized grains [*Ye et al.*, 2014].

253 In determining  $M_v$  for each plume in (10), we have used the only repeat observation of  
 254 plumes on Europa, i.e., the 50 km tall plume described in *Sparks et al.* [2016; 2017], as a baseline  
 255 from which to scale plume mass according to height. The reported column density of the 50 km  
 256 plume is  $1.8 \times 10^{21}$  molecules/m<sup>2</sup>, estimated  $M_v = 5.4 \times 10^6$  kg, and the reported number of water  
 257 molecules in the plume,  $N_w$ , is  $1.8 \times 10^{32}$  [*Sparks et al.*, 2017]. This implies an estimated plume

258 area equal to  $1 \times 10^{11} \text{ m}^2$ . Scaling plume column density and area according to plume height for a  
259 1 km tall plume returns a column density of  $3.6 \times 10^{19} \text{ molecules/m}^2$  and a plume area of  $2 \times 10^9$   
260  $\text{m}^2$ . Multiplying these quantities together returns  $N_w = 7.2 \times 10^{28}$  water molecules total in a 1 km  
261 tall plume. From here,  $M_v$  may be calculated according to the following relation:

$$262 \quad M_v = \frac{N_w}{N_A} * m_w \quad (12)$$

263 where  $N_A = 6.022 \times 10^{23} \text{ molecules/mol}$  is Avogadro's number, and  $m_w = 1.8 \times 10^{-2} \text{ kg/mol}$  is the  
264 molar mass of one water molecule. Application of (12) returns  $M_v = 2.2 \times 10^3 \text{ kg}$  of water vapor  
265 for a 1 km tall plume.  $M_v$  for plumes with  $H = 10\text{-}300 \text{ km}$  are listed in Table 3.

## 266 2.2 Spectral Model

267 The computed ranges and deposit thicknesses for various particle sizes can be translated into  
268 predictions for deposit spectra using light-scattering models that provide analytical expressions for  
269 the wavelength-dependent brightness of a surface [Hapke, 1981;1993; Cuzzi and Estrada, 1998;  
270 Shkuratov et al., 1999]. These model spectra depend on both the composition and texture of the  
271 regolith, which are often quantified in terms of the product  $\alpha S$ , where  $S$  is the mean scattering  
272 length of the photons within the surface regolith (also known as the regolith's "grain size"), and  $\alpha$   
273 is the absorption coefficient of the plume material, which is given by the expression  $\alpha=4\pi\kappa/\lambda$ .  
274 Here  $\kappa$  is the imaginary part of the material's refractive index and  $\lambda$  is the wavelength of the  
275 radiation.

276 For this particular analysis, we will assume that the deposits are sufficiently thick so that the  
277 underlying material does not contribute to the spectrum. For the near-infrared wavelengths  
278 considered here, this corresponds to a deposit at least a few tens of microns thick, which is  
279 reasonable for the sources considered above. Finally, we assume that the scattering length  $S$  is  
280 equal to the average grain radius,  $r_{eff}$ , in the deposit, which is a function of the distance from the

281 vent. For the sake of simplicity, we assume that the deposit is composed of pure water ice. While  
282 plume deposits could include non-ice materials with distinctive spectral signatures, at present there  
283 are few constraints on the nature or concentration of such contaminants. Hence for this initial study  
284 we have chosen to focus on spectral trends associated with variations in the average grain size of  
285 icy particles in the plume deposits. Assuming a fixed composition allows us to utilize the optical  
286 constants determined by *Mastrapa et al.* [2009], specifically values of  $\kappa_r$  at each wavelength for  
287 crystalline ice at 120 K. The above assumptions will enable us to obtain a qualitative sense of the  
288 spectral trends in plume deposits. However, future work that considers a range of particle  
289 compositions and full particle size distributions will be needed to derive robust estimates of certain  
290 quantities such as the depths of specific bands.

291 In practice, we compute  $r_{eff}$  by first interpolating the above ranges and deposit thicknesses  
292 onto a regular grid of 100 particle sizes between 0.5 and 3  $\mu\text{m}$ . Since these parameters are roughly  
293 power-law functions of the particle size, we perform these interpolations on the logarithms of the  
294 relevant parameters (i.e., we take the logarithm of the particle sizes and ranges, interpolate linearly  
295 between the computed values, and then take the exponential to recover the interpolated ranges).  
296 Then, for each radial distance from the vent, we compute the average particle size,  $r_{eff}$ , as the  
297 weighted average of the particle sizes in the deposit using the following formula:

$$298 \quad r_{eff} = \frac{\sum r_p T_D(r_p)}{\sum T_D(r_p)} \quad (13)$$

299 where  $r_p$  are the individual particle sizes and  $T_D$  are the deposit thicknesses. Note that this sum  
300 only considers particles between 0.5 and 3  $\mu\text{m}$ , so the particle size distribution emerging from the  
301 vent is assumed to have hard cutoffs at 0.5 and 3  $\mu\text{m}$ .

302 The above estimates of  $\alpha$  and  $r_{eff}=S$  can be used to compute the predicted spectra at each  
303 radius using the analytical models from *Cuzzi and Estrada* [1998], which uses a Hapke-based

304 formalism, or *Shkuratov et al.* [1999]. In practice, these two papers provide very different formulas  
 305 for albedo as a function of  $\alpha S$ , and it is well known that the Hapke and Shkuratov scattering  
 306 theories can yield different estimates of the composition and effective scattering lengths required  
 307 to match a given spectrum [*Poulet et al.*, 2002]. In part, this is because *Cuzzi and Estrada* [1998]  
 308 compute the albedo of regolith, while *Shkuratov et al.*[1999] compute the albedo for a one-  
 309 dimensional model of a regolith surface. For this analysis, we prefer to use the *Shkuratov et al.*  
 310 [1999] model because it is explicitly designed for spectral analysis, while Hapke-based models are  
 311 better optimized for photometric studies. Hence for this analysis the expected value of the deposit's  
 312 brightness for a given  $\alpha S$  is computed using equations 8-12 from *Shkuratov et al.* [1999]. For the  
 313 sake of simplicity, we assume here that the real part of the grains' refractive index is  $n = 1.3$   
 314 (appropriate for ice-rich material) and **zero porosity** (note that including a finite porosity changes  
 315 the overall strength of spectral features, but not the trends with distance from the vent). In this  
 316 case, the relevant formula for the brightness can be written as:

$$317 \quad A_1 = \frac{1+r_b^2-r_f^2}{2r_b} - \sqrt{\left(\frac{1+r_b^2-r_f^2}{2r_b}\right)^2 - 1} \quad (14)$$

318 where the parameters  $r_b$  and  $r_f$  are given by the expressions:

$$319 \quad r_b = R_b + \frac{1}{2} \frac{(1-R_e)(1-R_i)e^{-2\alpha S}}{1-R_i e^{-\alpha S}}$$

$$320 \quad r_f = (R_e - R_b) + (1 - R_e)(1 - R_i)e^{-\alpha S} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{(1-R_e)(1-R_i)e^{-2\alpha S}}{1-R_i e^{-\alpha S}},$$

321 and the coefficients  $R_i$ ,  $R_e$  and  $R_b$  are set by our choice of  $n$ :

$$322 \quad R_i \approx 1.04 - 1/n^2 \approx 0.45$$

$$323 \quad R_e \approx (n-1)^2/(n+1)^2 + 0.05 \approx 0.067$$

$$324 \quad R_b \approx (0.28 n - 0.20) R_e \approx 0.011$$

325           When using these formulae, it is important to understand that the parameter derived by  
326 *Shkuratov et al.* [1999] (here denoted  $A_I$ ) is a “brightness coefficient” of a one-dimensional  
327 model system viewed at low phase angles [*Shkuratov et al.* 1999]. The value of  $A_I$  at any given  
328 wavelength should therefore not be mistaken for the Bond or single-scattering albedo of the surface  
329 [*Hedman et al.* 2013]. It is also important to note that the simplifications associated with the above  
330 model will fail around strong water-ice absorption bands, where the real index deviates strongly  
331 from 1.3 and the imaginary index is large. This model therefore does not provide reliable  
332 information about the shape of the deep water-ice absorption band around 3 microns. However, as  
333 prior work demonstrates that this model can reproduce the overall shape and depths of the 1.5 and  
334 2.0  $\mu\text{m}$  bands quite well for ice-rich surfaces [*Hedman et al.* 2013], this model is adequate for this  
335 initial study.

336           Once we have computed the model spectra of the plume deposits, we may calculate spectral  
337 parameters such as the 1.5 and 2.0  $\mu\text{m}$  band depths. These band depths are simply the difference  
338 in brightness between the center of the band and the continuum on either side, normalized to the  
339 continuum brightness level. For the 1.5  $\mu\text{m}$  band depth, we use the average  $A_I$  between 1.5 and  
340 1.55  $\mu\text{m}$  to define the brightness in the center of the band, while the average  $A_i$  between 1.35-1.40  
341  $\mu\text{m}$  and 1.8-1.85  $\mu\text{m}$  defines the continuum brightness level. For the 2.0  $\mu\text{m}$  band depth, the  
342 average  $A_I$  between 2.00 and 2.05  $\mu\text{m}$  defines the brightness in the center of the band, while the  
343 average  $A_i$  between 1.80-1.85  $\mu\text{m}$  and 2.20-2.25  $\mu\text{m}$  defines the continuum brightness level. These  
344 simple estimates of the band depths are sufficient to illustrate trends in the deposit’s spectral  
345 parameters with distance from the vent.

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347

**Table 2.** Plume velocity ( $v$ ) and height ( $H$ ) as a function of wt% of water vapor ( $n_{gas}$ ). Gas mass fraction,  $n_f = n_{gas}/100$ 

$n_{gas}$ (%)	$v$ (m/s)	$H$ (km)
0.1	30	0.34
0.2	42	0.67
0.3	52	1.0
0.4	60	1.3
0.5	67	1.7
0.6	73	2.0
0.7	79	2.3
0.8	84	2.7
0.9	89	3.0
1	94	3.4
2	133	6.7
3	163	10.1
4	188	13.4
5	210	16.8
6	230	20
7	249	23
8	266	27
9	282	30
10	298	34
15	364	50.3
20	421	67
25	471	84
30	515	101
35	557	117
40	595	134
45	631	151
50	665	168
55	698	185
60	729	201
65	759	218
70	787	235
75	815	252
80	842	268
85	868	285
90	893	302
95	917	319
100	941	335

349 **Table 3.** Cryovolcanic Plume Parameters: **Plume Height** ( $H$ ), wt% ( $n_{gas}$ ) and mass fraction ( $n_f$ ) of water vapor, total  
 350 mass of water vapor in the plume ( $M_v$ ), total mass of icy particles in the plume ( $M$ ), and ice to vapor ratios ( $I/V$ )

H (km)	$n_{gas}$ (%)	$n_f$	$M_v$ (kg)	$M$ (kg)	$I/V$
1	0.3	0.003	$2.2 \times 10^3$	$7.2 \times 10^5$	332
10	3.0	0.030	$2.2 \times 10^5$	$6.9 \times 10^6$	32
25	7.4	0.074	$1.4 \times 10^6$	$1.7 \times 10^7$	12.5
50	15	0.15	$*5.4 \times 10^6$	$3.1 \times 10^7$	5.7
100	30	0.30	$2.2 \times 10^7$	$5 \times 10^7$	2.3
200	60	0.60	$8.6 \times 10^7$	$5.8 \times 10^7$	0.67
<b>300</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>0.90</b>	$2 \times 10^8$	$2 \times 10^7$	<b>0.1</b>

351 \*Extracted from *Sparks et al.* [2017]  
 352

### 353 3. Results

#### 354 3.1 Dynamical Model Results

##### 355 3.1.1. Plumes with $H = 1$ km

356 According to (1) and (4), eruptions with a 0.3 wt% water vapor content will produce plumes that  
 357 extend 1 km above Europa's surface. In this case,  $v_{gas} = 52$  m/s, and the mass fraction of gas,  $n_f =$   
 358  $n_{gas}/100 = 0.003$  (Table 2). A 0.3 wt% water vapor content means that 99.7wt % or .997 mass  
 359 fraction of a 1 km tall plume consists of icy particulates. In this case,  $I/V = .997/.003 = 332$  (Table  
 360 3). Substituting  $M_v = 2.2 \times 10^3$  kg and  $I/V = 332$  into (10) returns  $M = 7.2 \times 10^5$  kg for the total  
 361 mass of ice in the plume. If we assume that the total mass of particles of each size is equal to  $\frac{1}{4}$   
 362 the total mass of ice in the plume, then  $M_p = \frac{1}{4} M = 1.8 \times 10^5$  kg as the total mass of particles of  
 363 each size (i.e.,  $r_p = 0.5 \mu\text{m}$ ,  $1 \mu\text{m}$ , etc.) in the plume, as well as in the resulting deposit. As  
 364 mentioned in Section 2.1, icy particles in a 1 km tall plume will remain dispersed in a dense column  
 365 of gas near the vent and will not be reaccelerated during the course of the eruption [*Yeoh et al.*,  
 366 2015]. Hence, we can assume that particles in these small plumes will travel at maximum speeds  
 367 close to the gas speed (cf. *Fagents et al.* [2000]). In addition, the maximum particle deposition  
 368 radius will be  $\sim 2$  km from the vent (Table 4a).

369 **Based on the duration of observations during which *Sparks et al.* [2017] identified plumes**  
 370 **on Europa, those authors suggested that Europa's plumes have  $\sim 1$  hour eruption timescales. Thus,**

371 **assuming** continuous eruptions occur for at least an hour, deposits with 50% porosity ( $\phi = 0.5$ )  
372 would accumulate at rates of  $8.6 \times 10^{-9}$  m/s, while those with 90% porosity ( $\phi = 0.9$ ) would  
373 accumulate at rates of  $4.3 \times 10^{-8}$  m/s (Table 4a). At these deposition rates, it would take almost 4  
374 years to produce a 1 m thick deposit with 50% porosity; a similar deposit with 90% pore space  
375 would take just under 9 months to form. In both cases the deposit would be spread over an area of  
376  $12.6 \text{ km}^2$  on the surface (Table 4a). The time for 10 m thick deposits to form can be determined  
377 by multiplying the time it takes for 1 m deposits to accumulate by a factor of 10, so that a 10 m  
378 thick deposit with 50% porosity would take 37 years to form, while a similar deposit with 90%  
379 porosity would accumulate in just over 7 years (Table 4a). According to (6), particles in a 1 km  
380 tall plume would have a residence time,  $t_R$  of 55 sec.

381 In order to determine the maximum distance that icy particles will travel across the surface,  
382 we have considered  $45^\circ$  as the eruption angle at which plume particles will be ejected. **In this way**  
383 **we are able to obtain the maximum deposit radius for particles of a certain size. We assume that**  
384 **all particles will be uniformly emplaced within a circle for which the outer radius is commensurate**  
385 **with their maximum travel distance across the surface.** However, it is likely that particles will be  
386 ejected from the plume at a range of initial angles between  $1^\circ$  and  $90^\circ$  from the horizontal [*Fagents*  
387 *et al.*, 2000; *Glaze and Baloga*, 2000; *Quick et al.*, 2013], so that there will be overlap between  
388 deposits whose constituent particles are primarily of one size. In other words, plume deposits  
389 consisting primarily of particles with  $r_p = 0.5 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$  may overlap with deposits whose constituent  
390 particles are mostly 2 or 3  $\mu\text{m}$  in radius. It is therefore likely that deposits containing variable  
391 particle sizes will build up on the surface. **Assuming that each deposit contains particles of multiple**  
392 **sizes,** we find that a surface deposit emplaced during a single eruption of a 1 km tall plume could

393 be  $\sim 0.12$  mm thick if the resulting deposit is 50% porous, and 0.62 mm thick if the deposit has  
394 90% porosity (Table 4a).

### 395 3.1.2. *Plumes with $H = 25$ km*

396 These plumes would have 256 m/s gas speeds and would contain 7.4 wt% water vapor and 92.6  
397 wt% icy particles, resulting in an  $I/V = 12.5$  (Tables 2 & 3). Utilizing (9)-(12), and scaling plume  
398 mass with height as described in Section 2.1, returns  $M_v = 1.4 \times 10^6$ ,  $M = 1.7 \times 10^7$  kg and  $M_p = 4$   
399  $\times 10^6$  kg. Here, **the maximum particle deposition radius is 50 km** (Table 4a). The resulting plume  
400 deposits would be spread over a relatively wide area of Europa's surface, and particle deposition  
401 rates would be  $3 \times 10^{-10}$  m/s for deposits with 50% porosity and  $1.6 \times 10^{-9}$  m/s for deposits with  
402 90% pore space (Table 4a). Total deposits thicknesses, per eruption, would be  $5 \times 10^{-3}$  mm for  
403 deposits with 50% pore space, and  $\sim 0.02$  mm for deposits with 90% pore space. In the case of  
404 deposits that are 90% porous, 1 m thick deposits will take less than 20 years to accumulate.  
405 Conversely, 1 m thick deposits with 50% porosity would take almost 100 years to form (Table 4a).

### 406 3.1.3. *Plumes with $H = 50$ km*

407 Plumes that extend 50 km above Europa's surface would be composed of  $\sim 15$  wt% water vapor  
408 and 85 wt % icy particles. In this case  $v_{gas} = 362$  m/s and  $I/V = 5.7$  (Tables 2 - 3). *Sparks et al.*  
409 [2017] report observations of a 50 km tall plume on Europa, with an estimated water vapor content  
410 of  $5.4 \times 10^6$  kg. Substituting  $M_v = 5.38 \times 10^6$  kg and  $I/V = 5.7$  into (10) returns  $M = 3.1 \times 10^7$  kg  
411 and  $M_p = 7.7 \times 10^6$  kg. As previously mentioned, the dynamics of particles in plumes with  $H \geq 50$   
412 km may be described by equations (2) and (3). Employing (3) and assuming that plume expansion  
413 begins at  $T = 240$  K,  $\rho_{gas} = 4.85 \times 10^{-3}$  kg/m<sup>3</sup>,  $\beta = 0.2$ , and  $L = 0.1$  m, commensurate with the  
414 minimum collision length of plume particles on Enceladus, [*Schmidt et al.*, 2008], returns  $r_c = 1$   
415  $\mu$ m. However, all particles peak at speeds less than  $v_{gas}$  (Table 4b), and **only cryoclastic particles**

416 with  $r_p = 0.5\mu\text{m}$  will reach the maximum particle deposition radius of 64 km (Fig. 1). The areal  
417 extent of deposits emplaced by a 50 km tall plume would be quite broad and could cover an area  
418 up to  $1.3 \times 10^4 \text{ km}^2$  (Fig. 2 & Table 4b). Particle deposition rates for hour-long eruptions range  
419 from  $4 \times 10^{-10} - 6 \times 10^{-9} \text{ m/s}$ , with the highest deposition rates occurring for particles with  $r_p = 3\mu\text{m}$   
420 (Table 4b). 1m thick deposits with 50% pore space could take as little as 6 years to accumulate if  
421 primarily composed of particles with  $r_p = 3\mu\text{m}$ , while 1m thick deposits composed of particles  
422 with  $r_p = 2\mu\text{m}$  could form in approximately 14 years. Conversely, 1 m thick deposits with 50%  
423 pore space could take in excess of 40 years to accumulate if primarily composed of particles with  
424  $r_p = 1 \mu\text{m}$ , and 89 years to accumulate if primarily composed of particles with  $r_p = 0.5 \mu\text{m}$  (Table  
425 4b). For all particle sizes considered, 1 m thick deposits with 90% pore space would take, at most,  
426 20 years to form. Of note is that 1 m thick deposits, with  $\phi = 0.9$ , that are primarily composed of  
427 particles with  $r_p = 1-2 \mu\text{m}$  would take 9 and 3 years to accumulate, respectively, while it would  
428 only take deposits composed of particles with  $r_p = 3 \mu\text{m}$  a year to form a 1 m thick layer on the  
429 surface. If deposits consist of particles that vary in size so that particles with  $r_p$  ranging from 0.5  
430  $-3\mu\text{m}$  are present, total deposit thicknesses per eruption would be 0.03 mm and 0.16 mm for  
431 deposits with  $\phi = 0.5$  and 0.9, respectively.

#### 432 3.1.4. Plumes with $H = 200 \text{ km}$

433 Plumes that extend 200 km above Europa's surface would be composed of  $\sim 60 \text{ wt}\%$  water vapor  
434 and  $40 \text{ wt}\%$  icy particles (Table 2). In this case,  $v_{\text{gas}} = 724 \text{ m/s}$ , as previously reported [Roth et al.,  
435 2014] and  $I/V = 0.67$  (Table 3). We find that  $M_v$  would be  $8.6 \times 10^7 \text{ kg}$  for plumes with  $H = 200$   
436 km. Substituting this value for  $M_v$  and  $I/V = 0.67$  into (10) returns  $M = 5.8 \times 10^7 \text{ kg}$ , and  $M_p = 1.4$   
437  $\times 10^7 \text{ kg}$ . Although according to (3)  $r_c = 0.5 \mu\text{m}$ , all particle velocities peak at values that are  
438 substantially less than the gas speed. Particle deposition rates would be between  $10^{-11}$  and  $10^{-9} \text{ m/s}$

439 for deposits with 50% porosity, and between  $10^{-10}$  and  $10^{-8}$  m/s for deposits with 90% porosity.  
440 (Table 4b). Total deposit thicknesses, per eruption, are 0.02 mm and 0.11 mm for deposits with  $\phi$   
441 = 0.5 and 0.9, respectively. Our analysis shows that for the case of such large plumes, 1m thick  
442 deposits with 50% pore space would take between 7.5 and 24 years to accumulate if primarily  
443 composed of larger particles with  $r_p = 2-3 \mu\text{m}$ , and on the order of 100 years to accumulate if  
444 composed of smaller particles with  $r_p = 0.5-1 \mu\text{m}$  (Table 4b). 1m thick deposits with 90% pore  
445 space would take  $\leq 24$  years to accumulate if primarily composed of particles with  $r_p \geq 1 \mu\text{m}$ .  
446 However if primarily composed of particles with  $r_p = 0.5 \mu\text{m}$ , 1m thick deposits could take as  
447 much as 74 years to form. Particles ejected by plumes this size could be deposited as far as 180  
448 km from their eruptive source regions (Fig. 1), and depending on particle size, the resulting  
449 deposits could be spread over areas as large as  $101,510 \text{ km}^2$  (Fig. 2 & Table 4b).

450 For plumes with  $H \geq 50$  km, we find that only particles with submicron radii travel at  
451 speeds identical to the gas speed (Fig. 3). This is similar to the case for plumes on Enceladus  
452 [Schmidt *et al.*, 2008]. Utilizing equations (1)-(3), we find that for plumes with  $H = 50, 100,$  and  
453  $200$  km, only particles with  $r_p \leq 2 \times 10^{-3} \mu\text{m}, 1 \times 10^{-3} \mu\text{m},$  and  $7 \times 10^{-4} \mu\text{m}$  respectively, would  
454 travel at speeds identical to the gas speed (Fig. 3). In the case of  $300$  km tall plumes, only particles  
455 with  $r_p \leq 6 \times 10^{-5} \mu\text{m}$  would travel at the gas speed (Fig. 3). Hence the larger the plume, the smaller  
456 the particles must be in order to attain the gas speed. Figure 4 illustrates that in all of the plumes  
457 considered in our study, the population of small particles ( $r_p = 0.5 \mu\text{m}$ ) is larger than the population  
458 of large particles ( $r_p = 3 \mu\text{m}$ ) by 2-3 orders of magnitude. Additional details regarding particle  
459 deposition for plumes for plumes with  $H = 10, 100$  and  $300$  km can be found in Tables 4a-c.

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**Table 4a.** Plume and Deposit Parameters for Small Plumes

	$H = 1$ km $v = 51$ m/s	$H = 10$ km $v = 162$ m/s	$H = 25$ km $v = 256$ m/s
$v_p$ (m/s)	51	162	256
$H_p$ (km)	1	10	25
$R_p$ (km)	2	20	50
$t_R$ (s)	55	175	276
$A$ (km <sup>2</sup> )	12.6	1257	7854
<sup>a</sup> $D_{\phi=50\%}$ (m/s)	$8.6 \times 10^{-9}$	$8 \times 10^{-10}$	$3 \times 10^{-10}$
$T_{D_{\phi=50\%}}$ (mm)	0.03	0.003	$1.2 \times 10^{-3}$
$T_{total \phi=50\%}$ per eruption	<b>0.12 mm</b>	<b>0.01 mm</b>	<b>0.005 mm</b>
<sup>b</sup> $t_{deposit} = 1$ m	3.7 yr	38 yr	98 yr
<sup>c</sup> $t_{deposit} = 10$ m	37 yr	383 yr	976 yr
<sup>d</sup> $D_{\phi=90\%}$ (m/s)	$4.3 \times 10^{-8}$	$4.1 \times 10^{-9}$	$1.6 \times 10^{-9}$
$T_{D_{\phi=90\%}}$ (mm)	0.15	0.015	$5.8 \times 10^{-3}$
$T_{total \phi=90\%}$ per eruption	<b>0.62 mm</b>	<b>0.06 mm</b>	<b>0.02 mm</b>
<sup>e</sup> $t_{deposit} = 1$ m	0.74 yr	7.7 yr	19.5 yr
<sup>f</sup> $t_{deposit} = 10$ m	7.4 yr	77 yr	195 yr

<sup>a,d</sup>Particle deposition rate assuming each individual eruption is continuous for 1 hour  
<sup>b,c</sup>time to accumulate 1 m and 10 m thick deposits assuming individual eruptions last for one hour, when  $\phi = 50\%$   
<sup>e,f</sup>time to accumulate 1 m and 10 m thick deposits assuming individual eruptions last for one hour, when  $\phi = 90\%$

**Table 4b.** Plume and Deposit Parameters for Large Plumes

	$H = 50$ km $v = 362$ m/s				$H = 100$ km $v = 512$ m/s				$H = 200$ km $v = 724$ m/s			
	$r_p$ ( $\mu\text{m}$ )				$r_p$ ( $\mu\text{m}$ )				$r_p$ ( $\mu\text{m}$ )			
	0.5	1	2	3	0.5	1	2	3	0.5	1	2	3
$v_p$ (m/s)	291	243	182	146	380	302	214	166	485	365	244	183
$H_p$ (km)	32	22	13	8	55	35	17	10	90	51	23	13
$R_p$ (km)	64	45	25	16	110	70	35	21	180	102	45	26
$t_R$ (s)	314	262	197	158	410	326	231	179	524	394	263	198
$A$ (km <sup>2</sup> )	13,043	6344	2029	837	38,078	15,200	3843	1384	101,510	32,466	6483	2062
<sup>a</sup> $D_{\phi=50\%}$ (m/s)	$4 \times 10^{-10}$	$7 \times 10^{-10}$	$2 \times 10^{-9}$	$6 \times 10^{-9}$	$2 \times 10^{-10}$	$5 \times 10^{-10}$	$2 \times 10^{-9}$	$5 \times 10^{-9}$	$9 \times 10^{-11}$	$3 \times 10^{-10}$	$1 \times 10^{-9}$	$4 \times 10^{-9}$
$T_{D_{\phi=50\%}}$ (mm)	$1 \times 10^{-3}$	$3 \times 10^{-3}$	0.01	0.02	$7 \times 10^{-4}$	$2 \times 10^{-3}$	$7 \times 10^{-3}$	0.02	$3 \times 10^{-4}$	$1 \times 10^{-3}$	$5 \times 10^{-3}$	0.02
$T_{total \phi=50\%}$ per eruption	<b>0.03 mm</b>				<b>0.03 mm</b>				<b>0.02 mm</b>			
<sup>b</sup> $t_{deposit} = 1$ m	89 yr	43 yr	14 yr	6 yr	161 yr	64 yr	16 yr	6 yr	369 yr	118 yr	24 yr	7.5 yr
<sup>c</sup> $t_{deposit} = 10$ m	891 yr	433 yr	139 yr	57 yr	1614 yr	644 yr	163 yr	59 yr	3689 yr	1180 yr	236 yr	75 yr
<sup>d</sup> $D_{\phi=90\%}$ (m/s)	$2 \times 10^{-9}$	$4 \times 10^{-9}$	$1 \times 10^{-8}$	$3 \times 10^{-8}$	$9.8 \times 10^{-10}$	$2 \times 10^{-9}$	$9.7 \times 10^{-9}$	$3 \times 10^{-8}$	$4 \times 10^{-10}$	$1 \times 10^{-9}$	$7 \times 10^{-9}$	$2 \times 10^{-8}$
$T_{D_{\phi=90\%}}$ (mm)	$6 \times 10^{-3}$	0.01	0.04	0.1	$4 \times 10^{-3}$	$9 \times 10^{-3}$	0.03	0.1	$2 \times 10^{-3}$	$5 \times 10^{-3}$	0.02	0.08
$T_{total \phi=90\%}$ per eruption	<b>0.16 mm</b>				<b>0.14 mm</b>				<b>0.11 mm</b>			
<sup>e</sup> $t_{deposit} = 1$ m	18 yr	9 yr	3 yr	1 yr	32 yr	13 yr	3 yr	1 yr	74 yr	24 yr	5 yr	1.5 yr
<sup>f</sup> $t_{deposit} = 10$ m	178 yr	87 yr	28 yr	11 yr	323 yr	129 yr	33 yr	12 yr	738 yr	236 yr	47 yr	15 yr

<sup>a,d</sup>Particle deposition rate assuming each individual eruption is continuous for 1 hour  
<sup>b,c</sup>time to accumulate 1 m and 10 m thick deposits assuming individual eruptions last for one hour, when  $\phi = 50\%$   
<sup>e,f</sup>time to accumulate 1 m and 10 m thick deposits assuming individual eruptions last for one hour, when  $\phi = 90\%$

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**Table 4c.** Plume and Deposit Parameters for Plumes with  $H = 300$  km

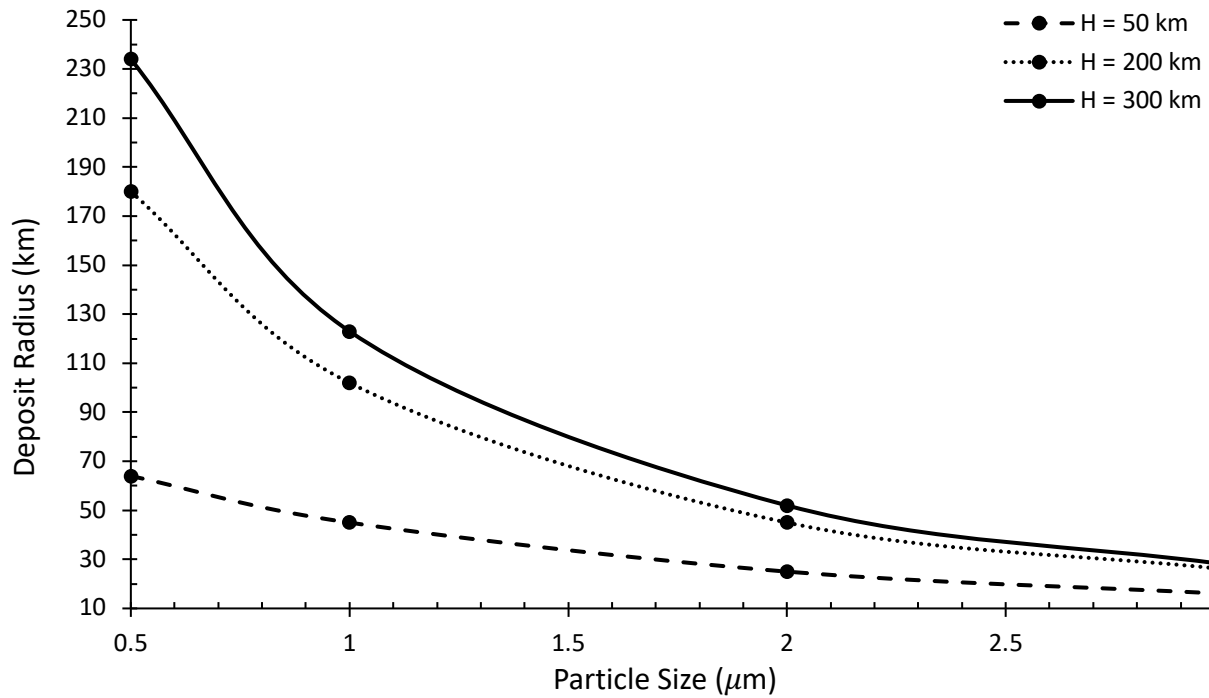
	$H = 300$ km $v = 887$ m/s			
	$r_p$ ( $\mu\text{m}$ )			
	0.5	1	2	3
$v_p$ (m/s)	553	402	260	192
$H_p$ (km)	117	62	26	14
$R_p$ (km)	234	123	52	28
$t_R$ (s)	597	434	281	207
$A$ ( $\text{km}^2$ )	171,520	47,852	8366	2494
$^a D_{\phi=50\%}$ (m/s)	$1.7 \times 10^{-11}$	$6 \times 10^{-11}$	$4 \times 10^{-10}$	$1 \times 10^{-9}$
$T_{D_{\phi=50\%}}$ (mm)	$6 \times 10^{-5}$	$2 \times 10^{-4}$	$1 \times 10^{-3}$	$4 \times 10^{-3}$
$T_{total \phi=50\%}$ per eruption	<b><math>5.86 \times 10^{-3}</math> mm</b>			
$^b t_{deposit} = 1$ m	1825 yr	509 yr	89 yr	27 yr
$^c t_{deposit} = 10$ m	18,250 yr	5092 yr	890 yr	265 yr
$^d D_{\phi=90\%}$ (m/s)	$9 \times 10^{-11}$	$3 \times 10^{-10}$	$2 \times 10^{-9}$	$6 \times 10^{-9}$
$T_{D_{\phi=90\%}}$ (mm)	$3 \times 10^{-4}$	$1 \times 10^{-3}$	$6 \times 10^{-3}$	$2 \times 10^{-2}$
$T_{total \phi=90\%}$ per eruption	<b>0.03 mm</b>			
$^e t_{deposit} = 1$ m	365 yr	102 yr	18 yr	5 yr
$^f t_{deposit} = 10$ m	3650 yr	1018 yr	178 yr	53 yr

<sup>a,d</sup>Particle deposition rate assuming each individual eruption is continuous for 1 hour

<sup>b,c</sup>time to accumulate 1 m and 10 m thick deposits assuming individual eruptions last for one hour, when  $\phi = 50\%$

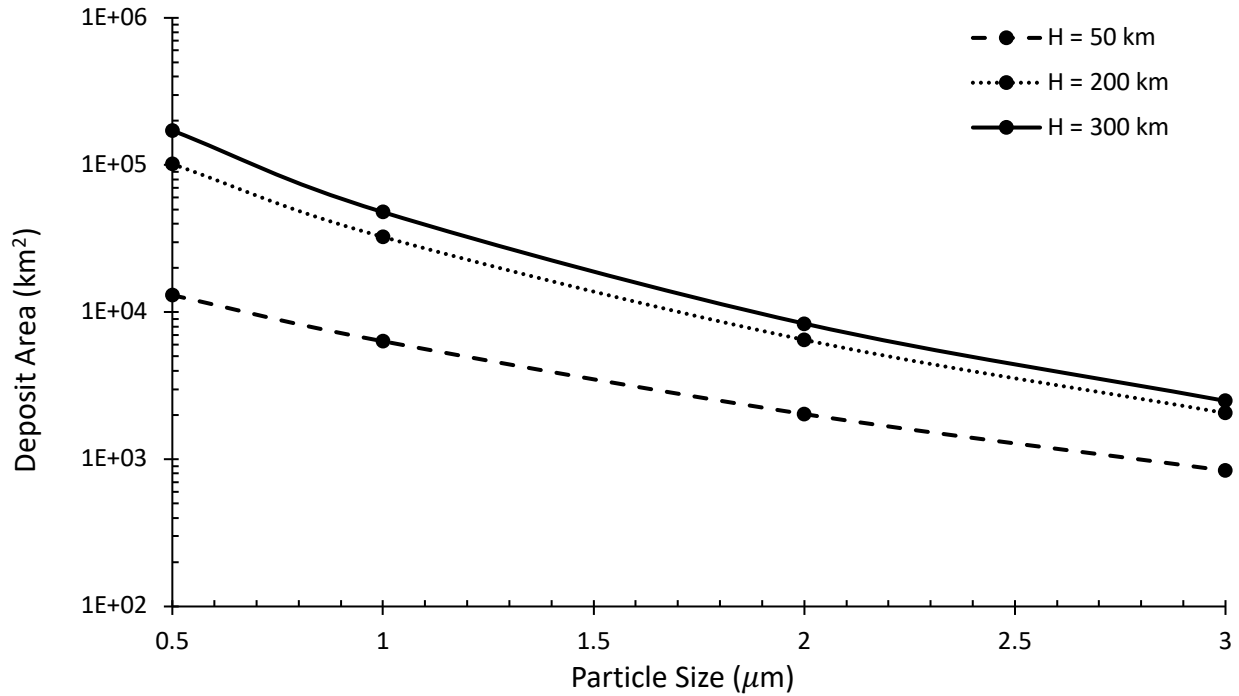
<sup>e,f</sup>time to accumulate 1 m and 10 m thick deposits assuming individual eruptions last for one hour, when  $\phi = 90\%$

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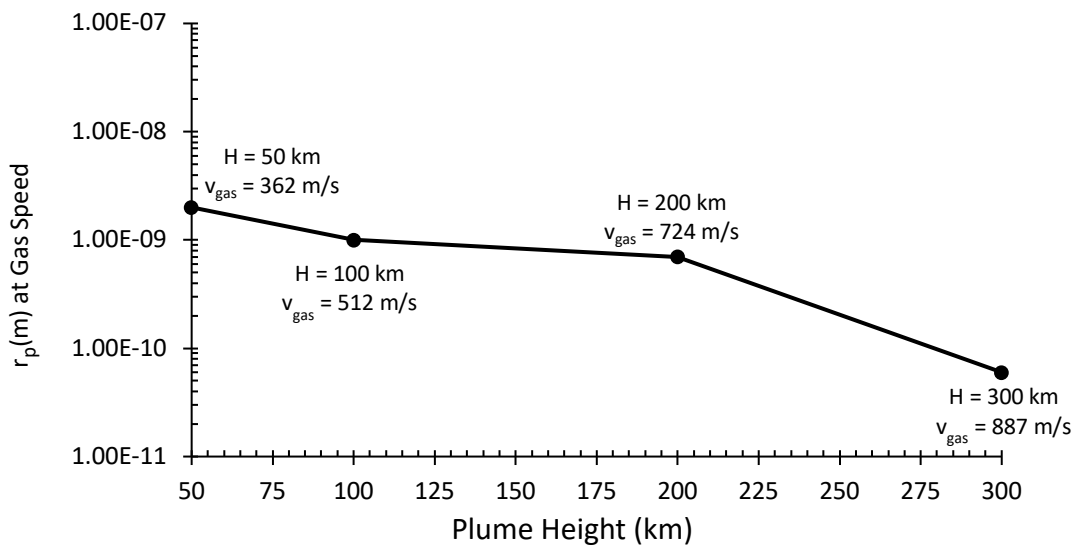


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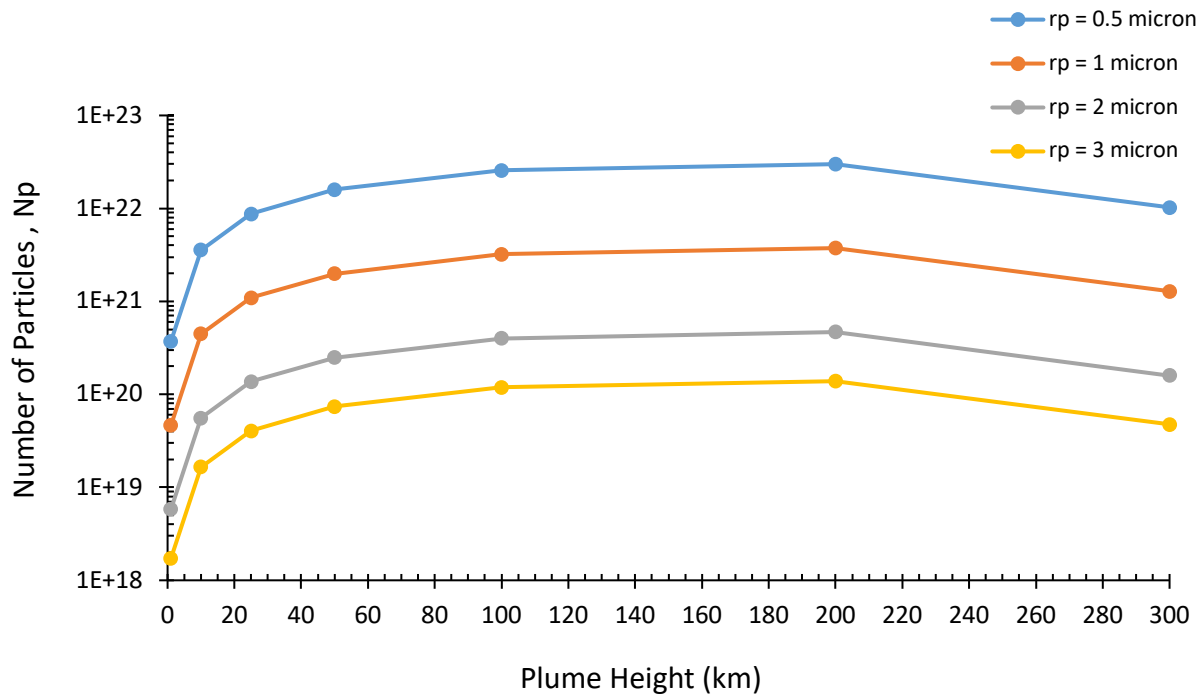
**Figure 1.** Maximum distance beyond the vent that icy particles reach, as a function of particle size, for plumes that are 50 km [Sparks et al., 2017] and 200 km [Roth et al., 2014] tall. We also plot maximum particle range for 300 km tall plumes, which may represent the largest possible plume observed on Europa according to Roth et al. [2014]. Each black dot, from the top left to the lower right of each data series, represents the particle sizes considered in this analysis:  $r_p = 0.5 \mu\text{m}$ ,  $1 \mu\text{m}$ ,  $2 \mu\text{m}$ , and  $3 \mu\text{m}$ .



539  
 540 **Figure 2.** Areal extent of plume deposits as a function of primary particle size for plumes that are  
 541 50 km [Sparks *et al.*, 2017], 200 km, and 300 km tall [Roth *et al.*, 2014]. Each black dot, from the  
 542 top left, to the lower right of each data series, represents the particle sizes considered in this  
 543 analysis:  $r_p = 0.5 \mu\text{m}$ ,  $1 \mu\text{m}$ ,  $2 \mu\text{m}$ , and  $3 \mu\text{m}$ .  
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545  
 546 **Figure 3.** Size of particles that attain the gas speed as a function of plume height. The larger the  
 547 plume, and the higher the gas velocity, the smaller constituent particles must be to remain entrained  
 548 with the gas. For plume heights greater than 100 km, particle radii must be  $\sim \leq 10^{-10} \text{ m}$  to attain  
 549 the gas speed.  
 550



551

552 **Figure 4.** Particle population as a function of plume height. Regardless of **plume height**, the  
 553 number of particles in the smallest particle population in the plume ( $r_p = 0.5 \mu\text{m}$ ) is larger than the  
 554 number of particles in the biggest particle population in the plume ( $r_p = 3 \mu\text{m}$ ) by 2-3 orders of  
 555 magnitude.

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558 **Figure 5.** Average effective particle size and model spectra for deposits associated with a 50-300  
 559 km tall plumes. The left panels show average particle size as a function of distance from the vent,  
 560 while the middle panel shows the expected depths of the water-ice bands as a function of distance  
 561 from the vent. The right panel shows representative spectra at the distances marked with horizontal  
 562 lines in the previous panels. Note that while the scale of the plumes changes, the overall trends in  
 563 spectral properties are remarkably similar.  
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### 567 3.2 Spectral Model Results

568 Figure 5 illustrates how the average effective particle size and model surface spectra vary  
 569 with distance from the vent for plumes with heights greater than 50 km (for shorter plumes, the  
 570 uniform particle velocity leads to deposits with uniform spectral properties). The left panels show  
 571 the effective average particle size versus distance from the vent. The middle panels show how the  
 572 depths of the 1.5 and 2.0  $\mu\text{m}$  water ice bands vary with distance from the vent, and the right panels

573 show representative spectra between 1.3 and 2.5  $\mu\text{m}$  at a few **selected** distances from the vent.  
574 Recall that all these plots assume that the deposit is at least a few tens of microns thick, so that the  
575 underlying terrain does not contribute to the spectra.

576 For all of the simulated plumes, the effective particle size decreases with distance from the  
577 vent, which gives rise to a corresponding reduction in the depths of the water ice bands. This basic  
578 result simply reflects the fact that smaller particles are launched at higher speeds and so reach  
579 larger distances from the vent. Indeed, the observed trends are very similar for all the plume  
580 deposits shown in Figure 5. However, it is worth noting that the detailed shape of these trends is  
581 different for each plume. In particular, for the smaller plumes, the effective average particle size  
582 and band depths are constant over a larger fraction of the deposit because the particles are all  
583 launched at nearly the same speed (cf. Table 4a). For taller plumes, there are more substantial  
584 variations in the deposit's effective average particle size and band depths with distance from the  
585 vent. In addition, the maximum effective average particle sizes and band depths near the vent are  
586 slightly larger than they are for more compact plumes. This happens because the dispersion of  
587 launch velocities is higher, so the larger particles are now more concentrated near the vent.

#### 588 **4. Discussion**

589 While the above simulations of plume particle dynamics and deposit spectra are rather  
590 idealized, estimates of the deposits' dimensions and their spectral trends are sufficient to identify  
591 the most promising observable signatures of recent activity on Europa. Below, we will consider  
592 the morphological indicators of plume deposits, and show that these are most likely to be detectable  
593 for very compact plumes whose resulting deposits accumulate rather quickly, and for plumes that  
594 are approximately 50 km tall, which are comprised of significantly more mass than plumes that  
595 are 10-25 km tall, and contain substantially more ice than the other large plumes we have

596 considered. Next, we consider the spectral signatures of emplaced deposits and show that these  
597 may be a more promising approach for identifying fallout from larger and/or more transient  
598 plumes.

#### 599 **4.1 Morphological Signatures of Plume Deposits**

600 Europa was last imaged by the Galileo spacecraft in 2002 [*Alexander et al.*, 2009], and the  
601 Europa Clipper spacecraft will reach the icy moon in the 2020s [*Phillips and Pappalardo*, 2014].  
602 Assuming: (1) an approximately 25-year gap between the two missions, (2) that steady plume  
603 eruptions occur on approximately hour-long timescales [*Sparks et al.*, 2017], and (3) that deposits  
604 recognizable by cameras operating at visible wavelengths must be 1-10 m thick [*Quick et al.*,  
605 2013], it is clear that deposits emplaced by very compact plumes will be easiest to identify on  
606 Europa (Table 4a-c). For example, with particle deposition rates near  $9 \times 10^{-9}$  m/s, a 1 km tall  
607 plume could emplace a  $\sim 7$  m thick deposit with 50% porosity, or a 34 m thick deposit with 90%  
608 porosity, if it erupted regularly, in the time between the two missions. Deposits emplaced by 1 km  
609 tall plumes would therefore be relatively thick and should be easily identifiable by high-resolution  
610 cameras, regardless of porosity. In general, we find that depending on deposit porosity, plumes  
611 that are less than 7 km tall would emplace deposits that could grow to be tens of meters thick in  
612 the time between the Galileo and Europa Clipper Missions. For example, applying the  
613 methodology outlined in Section 2.1, we find that an 800 m tall plume could emplace a 42 m thick  
614 deposit, assuming that the deposit has 90% pore space.

615 Conversely, our analysis shows that deposits emplaced by plumes that are  $\sim 10$ -25 km tall  
616 could be somewhat difficult for spacecraft cameras to detect. Owing to the relatively low mass of  
617 icy particles in these plumes (Table 3), and the large area over which deposits would be spread on  
618 the surface, deposition rates for these intermediate-sized plumes would be quite low, making it

619 difficult for their deposits to accumulate sufficient mass in the time between the two missions to  
620 be detected. Even if detectable deposits were emplaced on the surface, they may be rendered  
621 unidentifiable by spacecraft cameras once they begin to coalesce and compress. For example, it  
622 would take between 38 and 98 years for compact deposits emplaced by plumes that are 10-25 km  
623 tall to grow to be 1 m thick (Table 4a). Further, although 10 km tall plumes could emplace ~ 3 m  
624 thick deposits in the time between the two missions, particles would only be able to form a layer  
625 this thick if the fraction of pore space between the particles remained very high. It is unknown  
626 whether icy particles in Europa's surface environment could resist compression for the 25 years  
627 between the two missions. As will be discussed in the next section, fresh surface deposits may be  
628 degraded by processes such as sintering and micrometeorite bombardment within a matter of  
629 decades [Cooper *et al.*, 2001; Tiscareno and Geissler, 2003; Carlson *et al.* 2003; 2009].

630 In the case of plumes that are 50-300 km tall, we find that deposits would only accumulate  
631 enough mass to be detected by cameras operating at visible wavelengths for a very specific set of  
632 circumstances. Unless primarily composed of large particles, compact deposits (i.e., 50% pore  
633 space) produced by 50-200 km tall plumes would fail to reach 1m thickness in the time between  
634 the two missions. For example, deposits with 50% pore space that are emplaced by 50 km tall  
635 plumes may accumulate to ~ 2-4 m thick if primarily composed of particles that are 2-3 $\mu$ m in  
636 radius (Table 4b). Additionally, the 10<sup>-9</sup>-10<sup>-8</sup> m/s particle deposition rate for 50 km tall plumes  
637 would allow deposits with 90% pore space to be detectable to spacecraft cameras, regardless of  
638 the size of the constituent particles (Table 4b). Moreover, highly porous deposits that are primarily  
639 composed of larger particles could grow to be as much as 23 meters thick in the time between the  
640 two missions if emplaced by 50 km tall plumes (Table 4b). With the exception of plumes that are  
641 on the order of 1 km tall, deposits emplaced by 50 km plumes would have the highest probability

642 of being detected by spacecraft cameras when compared to other large plumes (Table 4b). Indeed,  
643 even deposits that are primarily composed of particles with  $0.5\mu\text{m}$  radii would accumulate enough  
644 mass to be detectable to visible imagers, provided that the deposits have a high percentage of pore  
645 space. This is not the case for plumes that are  $\geq 100$  km tall. Tables 4b-c show that high-porosity  
646 deposits emplaced by 100-300 km tall plumes would only be detectable if primarily composed of  
647 particles that are  $\geq 1\mu\text{m}$  in radius, and that deposits emplaced by these plumes may only grow to  
648 be 10 m thick in the time between the two missions if they are composed of particles that are  $\geq$   
649  $3\mu\text{m}$  in radius.

650         If deposits must indeed be 1-10 m thick to be visible to spacecraft cameras, we find that  
651 that low-porosity deposits emplaced by 300 km tall plumes would not be detected by spacecraft  
652 cameras operating at visible wavelengths at all. Compact deposits emplaced by 300 km tall plumes  
653 would grow to be, at most,  $10^{-3}$  mm thick in the intervening time between the Galileo and Europa  
654 Clipper missions. If these deposits consist of large particles, they would take at least 27 years to  
655 reach 1 m; if they primarily consist of small particles (e.g.,  $0.5\mu\text{m}$  radii) it would take over 1800  
656 years for them to emplace a 1 m thick layer on the surface (Fig. 4c). However, eruption of a 300  
657 km tall plume could emplace a 1.4-5 m thick veneer of icy particles on Europa's surface if the  
658 deposit is highly porous, and is primarily composed of particles that are  $\geq 2\mu\text{m}$  in radius (Table  
659 4c).

660         Owing to their high ice to vapor ratios, and their small area of particle fallout, our  
661 calculations suggest that deposits emplaced by relatively small plumes, i.e., plumes that are  $< 7$   
662 km tall, would accumulate orders of magnitude faster and would be much thicker than their  
663 counterparts that are emplaced by larger plumes. Based on the likely morphology of deposits  
664 emplaced by large plumes, our analyses also suggest that it would be difficult for cameras

665 operating at visible wavelengths to identify surface deposits that have been emplaced by plumes  
666 that are > 100 km tall unless the deposits are fresh, have been able to resist compression (i.e.,  
667 remain highly porous), and/or are primarily composed of large particles. Features on Europa's  
668 surface brighten with age, and young features appear dark due to their larger grain sizes [Geissler  
669 *et al.*, 1998]. Hence assuming that they could accumulate enough mass, fresh deposits emplaced  
670 by large plumes might be identifiable as anomalous patches of dark deposits against an otherwise  
671 bright surface. Nevertheless, because these particles would be launched on trajectories that would  
672 carry them so far across the surface (Table 4b-c), it could be difficult to trace the resulting deposits  
673 back to their source locations. Further, as previously mentioned, any subsequent coalescence of  
674 deposits emplaced by large plumes could render them undetectable.

675 For all plume sizes considered, we find that deposits with 90% pore space accumulate 5  
676 times faster and are therefore on average, 5 times thicker than their more compact counterparts  
677 that have only 50% pore space (Table 4). Accordingly, fresh, high-porosity deposits, and deposits  
678 that primarily consist of larger particles (i.e.,  $r_p = 2\text{-}3\ \mu\text{m}$ ) have the highest likelihood of being  
679 detected by spacecraft cameras, regardless of the size of the plumes that emplace them. This could  
680 suggest that if large plumes are common on Europa, and if these plumes leave behind surface  
681 deposits that are thick enough to be identified by spacecraft cameras, that their average particle  
682 sizes are at least on the order of  $1\ \mu\text{m}$ , or that timescales for sintering or other processes that may  
683 facilitate their compression, are relatively long. Conversely, large plumes on Europa might consist  
684 of two particle populations, one which is composed of small particles that are entrained in the  
685 water vapor and may only be visible at wavelengths shorter than visible (e.g., UV), and another  
686 consisting of much larger particles that cluster near the vent. Enceladus' plumes are known to  
687 include particles with a range of sizes, with larger particles being more likely to be deposited on

688 the moon's surface, while the smaller ones are more likely to escape into the E ring [Porco et al.,  
689 2006; Kempf et al., 2008; 2010; Postberg et al., 2008; Hedman et al., 2009; Ingersoll and Ewald,  
690 2011]. The plume resulting from Io's Loki Patera also has two particle populations. Dust in the  
691 "outer plume" is  $10^{-3}$ -0.01  $\mu\text{m}$  in radius and travels entrained in the  $\text{SO}_2$  gas, and the dust in the  
692 "inner plume" is 1-1000  $\mu\text{m}$  in radius, decouples from the gas, and clusters close to the vent  
693 [Collins et al., 1981].

694 If European plumes consist of particle populations that are larger in size than those we  
695 considered, this will have an effect on our reported ice to vapor ratios. Ice to vapor ratios for the  
696 plumes we considered range from  $I/V = 0.1$  for 300 km tall plumes to  $I/V = 332$  for 1 km tall  
697 plumes (Table 3). Although the ice to vapor ratios for plumes that are likely to leave behind the  
698 most detectable deposits ( $H < 10$  km) are much greater than the  $I/V$  estimated for plumes on  
699 Enceladus, they are commensurate with ice to vapor ratios for modeled eruptions on Europa and  
700 the Moon [Wilson and Head, 1983; Fagents et al., 2000; Quick et al., 2013]. In addition, ice to  
701 vapor ratios for 50 to 100 km tall European plumes are the same order of magnitude as dust to gas  
702 ratios for Io's Pele-type plumes and dust to gas ratios within the fine-grained dust component of  
703 Prometheus-type plumes (e.g., Thor and Loki) where the dust to gas ratio = 1 [Geissler and  
704 McMillan, 2008]. Further, ice to vapor ratios for 200-300 km tall plumes on Europa are within the  
705 range of plausible ice to vapor ratios reported for plumes on Enceladus [Porco et al., 2006; Kieffer  
706 et al., 2009; Portyankina et al., 2017]. Moreover, Europa's plumes may differ significantly from  
707 Enceladus' in a variety of ways, including in intensity, output, and periodicity [Rhoden et al.,  
708 2015]. It is therefore possible that Europa's plumes also differ from Enceladus' in terms of particle  
709 content. Bearing these details in mind, the ice to vapor ratios reported in Section 3, including the  
710 high ice to vapor ratios reported for small European plumes, seem plausible.

711 We note however, that our analysis has assumed an idealized case where at least the  
712 smallest plume particles issue from the vent at velocities that are equal to the gas velocity. In  
713 reality, icy particles will issue from the vent at velocities that are somewhat slower than the gas,  
714 resulting in a low  $I/V$  at the foot of a plume. Additionally, as the gas and icy particles will reach  
715 different scale heights,  $I/V$  in the upper portions of plumes will be different from  $I/V$  at other  
716 locations. Moreover, observers may report a line-of-sight integrated  $I/V$ . For all of these reasons,  
717 the values of  $n_{gas}$ ,  $n_f$ ,  $M_v$ ,  $M$ , and  $I/V$  listed for each plume in Table 3 may be substantially different  
718 from what is directly observed. This could also be the reason for the order of magnitude difference  
719 between the total water vapor mass calculated for the 200 km plume in Section 2 (Table 3), and  
720 the value reported (i.e.,  $1.46 \times 10^6$  kg) in *Roth et al.* [2014]. Additionally, we have scaled total  
721 plume mass according to plume height, using water vapor column densities reported in *Sparks et*  
722 *al.* [2017] as a baseline. However, preliminary calculations using the methods described in Section  
723 2 suggest that if the total mass of water vapor in all of Europa's plumes, regardless of their size, is  
724 on the order of  $10^6$  kg, deposits that are composed of pure water ice and are emplaced by plumes  
725  $\geq 100$  km tall, would not be easily detected. We note that although *Roth et al.* [2014] observed  
726 plumes that were  $200 \pm 100$  km tall, and *Sparks et al.* [2016; 2017] reported repeat observations  
727 of a 50 km tall plume, both of these authors reported total water vapor masses of  $\sim 10^6$  kg in the  
728 plumes they observed. This could indicate the total plume mass does not scale with plume height,  
729 or that the actual column densities of Europa's plumes differ from what is inferred from  
730 observation.

### 731 *Observational Constraints: Rhadamanthys and Androgeous Linea*

732 Previous workers have suggested that lineaments could be sites of recent geological  
733 activity on Europa [*Geissler et al.*, 1998]. Indeed, *Fagents et al.* [2000] and *Quick et al.* [2013]

734 considered that the low-albedo deposits which flank Rhadamanthys Linea (Fig. 11) and  
735 Androgeous Linea (Fig. 12) **may** be mantlings of cryoclastic particles that were emplaced by  
736 plumes. Rhadamanthys was imaged at 230 m/pixel and 1.6 km/pix during Galileo's E15 and G1  
737 orbits, respectively, and Androgeous was imaged at 20 m/pix during Galileo's E6 orbit of Europa.  
738 **The highest resolution images of Rhadamanthys, taken during Galileo's E15 orbit, provide the**  
739 **most accurate measurements of the dimensions of its low-albedo flanking deposits.** The average  
740 radii of deposits flanking Rhadamanthys range from ~ 2 to 7 km, while the broadest portion of the  
741 deposit flanking Androgeous is approximately 3 km wide [*Fagents et al.*, 2000, Tables I & III].  
742 Based on the visibility of preexisting topographic features beneath these deposits in Galileo  
743 imagery, and on Europa's  $10^{-6}$  m/yr surface erosion rate [*Cooper et al.*, 2001], *Quick et al.* [2013]  
744 estimated these deposits to be 1-10 m thick. According to Table 4a, above, and Tables IIIa-IIIb of  
745 *Fagents et al.* [2000], the dimensions of these deposits are consistent with emplacement by plumes  
746 that were < 10 km tall.

747         Pre-existing topographic features are clearly visible beneath the low-albedo material  
748 flanking Rhadamanthys (Fig. 11). It is therefore reasonable to assume that the Rhadamanthys  
749 deposits are on the order of 1 m thick. According to Table 4a, the smallest Rhadamanthys deposits,  
750 i.e., those that are approximately 2 km in radius, could have been emplaced by 1 km tall plumes.  
751 Assuming 50% deposit porosity, we could expect each eruption to emplace a veneer of plume  
752 material with a maximum thickness of 0.12 mm. At these deposition rates, ~ 8333 eruptions would  
753 have to occur in order for a 1m thick deposit to accumulate. Assuming a deposit with 90% porosity,  
754 each eruption would emplace a veneer of plume material with a maximum thickness of 0.62 mm  
755 so that an approximately 1m thick veneer would accumulate after ~ 1613 eruptions. We find that  
756 it takes ~ 3.7 years for a 1 m thick deposit with 50% porosity to form, and ~ 9 months for a 1 m

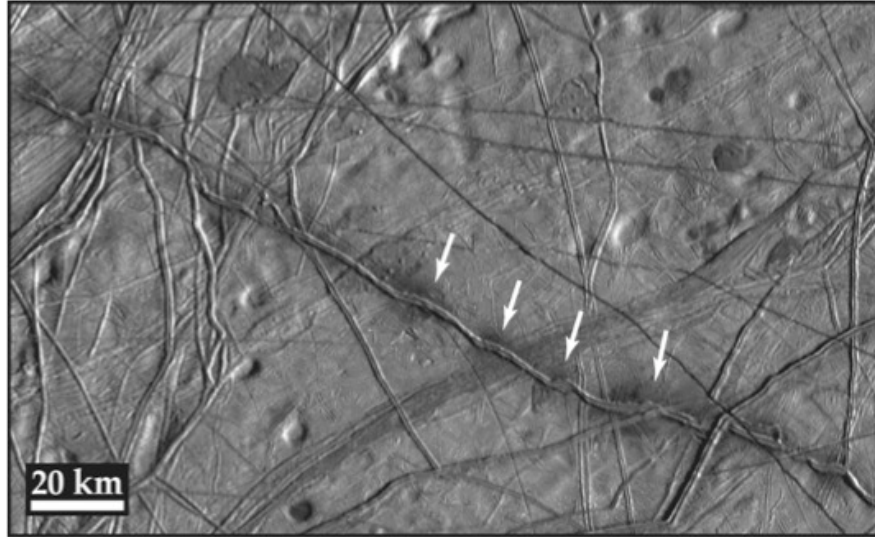
757 thick deposit with 90% porosity to form. In both cases, it would take a minimum of 6 eruptions  
758 per day to emplace just one of the smallest deposits in Fig. 11. **At present, it is not clear if Europa's**  
759 **plumes are tidally modulated (e.g., see Rhoden et al. [2015]). Hence in all of these cases, the**  
760 **amount of time required to accumulate the modeled cryoclastic deposits is reported as a function**  
761 **of Earth days.**

762 The largest Rhadamanthys deposit is  $\sim 7$  km in radius [Fagents et al., 2000]. **Calculations**  
763 **using the procedures outlined in Section 2.1** suggest that its dimensions are consistent with having  
764 been emplaced by plumes that are 3.5 km tall. A 3.5 km tall plume could emplace a 0.04 mm thick  
765 deposit with 50% porosity each time it erupts. In this case, 25,000 eruptions would be required for  
766 a 1m thick deposit to form. We find that compact, 1m thick deposits emplaced by 3.5 km tall  
767 plumes would take approximately 13 years to accumulate. This suggests that 1923 eruptions per  
768 year, or 5 eruptions per day would be required to form the widest Rhadamanthys-flanking deposit  
769 (profile R18 in Table I of Fagents et al [2000]). Conversely, if the resulting deposit has 90% pore  
770 space, a 0.18 mm thick veneer would be emplaced on the surface after each eruption, and  $\sim 5556$   
771 eruptions would had to have occurred in order to for a 1m thick deposit to form. Calculations  
772 using the methods introduced in Section 2 suggest that 1m thick deposits could form in 2.6 years.  
773 This again suggests that over 2000 eruptions per year, or  $\sim 6$  eruptions/day, would have been  
774 necessary to produce these deposits. Thus, regardless of porosity and the size of the resulting  
775 deposits, we find that a minimum of 5-6 eruptions per day would have been required to produce  
776 the Rhadamanthys deposits.

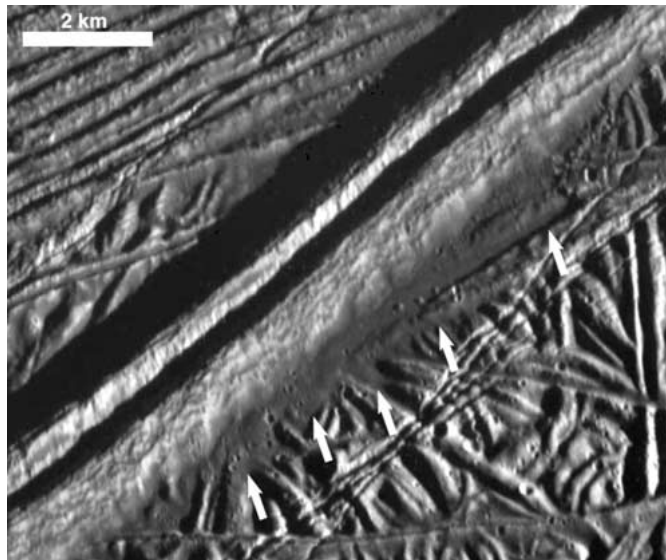
777 The deposits flanking Androgeous Linea (Fig. 12) appear to obscure more of the  
778 background plains than those that lie along Rhadamanthys. Because Androgeous was imaged at a  
779 much higher resolution than Rhadamanthys [Fagents et al., 2000], it is possible that this

780 heightened obscuration of the background plains is apparent rather than actual. Nevertheless,  
781 because of the decreased visibility of Androgeous' preexisting topographic features relative to  
782 Rhadamanthys' (Fig. 11), it appears that the dark deposits that flank the former are somewhat  
783 thicker than those flanking the latter. It is therefore possible that the low-albedo deposits lying  
784 along Androgeous Linea are ~10 m thick. Assuming plume eruptions took place at the edge of  
785 Androgeous, as noted in *Fagents et al.* [2000], we find that the 3 km wide portion of the  
786 Androgeous deposit could have been emplaced by plumes that were on the order of 0.8 km tall. If  
787 these deposits have 50% pore space, each eruption would emplace a veneer of material with a  
788 maximum thickness of approximately 0.16 mm, and ~ 63,000 eruptions would have to occur before  
789 a 10 m thick deposit could accumulate. We find that these eruptions would occur over, at most, 28  
790 years' time, indicating that at a minimum, 186 eruptions per month, or just over 6 eruptions per  
791 day, would be required to form the broadest portion of the Androgeous deposit. Assuming deposits  
792 with 90% porosity, each eruption would emplace a veneer of plume material with a maximum  
793 thickness of 0.8 mm so that a 10 m thick veneer would accumulate after ~ 12,500 eruptions. In this  
794 instance, approximately 5.6 years would elapse before a 10 m thick deposit would accumulate on  
795 the surface. This equates to a minimum of 2232 eruptions per year, or once again, just over 6  
796 eruptions per day, in order for these deposits to accumulate.

797



798  
 799 **Figure 11.** Rhadamanthys Linea from the Galileo spacecraft's E15 orbit of Europa at 230 m/pixel.  
 800 The low-albedo deposits flanking this feature are indicated by the white arrows. These deposits  
 801 range from approximately 2 – 7 km in radius (4 – 14 km in width) and may be cryoclastic mantlings  
 802 that were emplaced by plumes.  
 803



804  
 805 **Figure 12.** Segment of the prominent double ridge, Androgeous Linea. Image taken during  
 806 Galileo's E6 orbit of Europa at 20 m/pixel. White arrows point to flanking low-albedo deposits  
 807 that may be cryoclastic mantlings. According to *Fagents et al.* [2000], the broadest portion of this  
 808 deposit is approximately 3 km wide.  
 809

#### 810 4.2 Spectral and Photometric Signatures of Plume Deposits

811 While significant accumulation is needed to produce observable morphological signatures  
 812 of plume deposits, spectral signatures can arise with much thinner deposits. In general,

813 electromagnetic radiation only penetrates to depths a few times larger than the observed  
814 wavelength. Thus, a deposit that is only 10-100  $\mu\text{m}$  thick would be enough to substantially affect  
815 the spectral properties of the surface at visible and near-infrared wavelengths. Even the 200-km  
816 tall plume considered above would produce a deposit of order 10  $\mu\text{m}$  thick over the course of only  
817 a few days, so in principle even very short-lived eruptions could produce surface deposits with  
818 detectable trends in their spectral properties. These spectral signatures also extend over large  
819 regions and so do not require high spatial resolutions to detect, making them a promising way to  
820 search for deposits from large and/or intermittent plumes. Indeed, the spectral models discussed in  
821 Section 3.2 show that even if the plume particles do not have a distinctive composition, that the  
822 deposits can exhibit detectable spectral signatures. For example, the band depths of even a pure  
823 ice deposit from a 200-km high plume vary by a factor of two across a deposit hundreds of  
824 kilometers wide (see Figure 10). Detecting such a trend with a suitable near-infrared spectrometer  
825 would therefore only require spatial resolutions of order 10 km. More compact deposits would  
826 require correspondingly higher resolution, but the spectral variations associated with even a 10-  
827 km tall plume would still only require spatial resolutions on the order of 1 km.

828         Of course, in reality both the average size and the composition of plume particles can vary  
829 with distance from the vent, which could give rise to trends in wide variety of spectral and  
830 photometric parameters. For example, European plume deposits may contain significant fractions  
831 of non-ice material, perhaps in the form of condensed  $\text{CO}_2$ ,  $\text{SO}_2$ , etc. [*Fagents et al.*, 2000], and  
832 the low-albedo deposits along Rhadamanthys and Androgeous may contain a significant fraction  
833 of salt species [*McCord et al.*, 1998; 1999; *Shirley et al.*, 2010]. Indeed, previous workers have  
834 suggested that low-albedo deposits on Europa's surface are likely composed of salts and other  
835 contaminants originating from the subsurface ocean or other internal liquid reservoirs [*Shirley et*

836 *al.*, 2010; *Prockter et al.*, 2017]. If this is the case for the lineae-flanking deposits considered here,  
837 this would imply that the low-albedo spots along Rhadamanthys and Androgeous lineae are  
838 photometrically dark due to their composition. The density of NaCl is approximately equal to 2200  
839 kg/m<sup>3</sup>. Independent calculations using equations (2)-(5) with  $\rho_p = 2200 \text{ kg/m}^3$  suggest that plumes  
840  $\geq 50$  km tall could emplace deposits with radii on the order of 5-6 km, consistent with the  
841 dimensions of the largest Rhadamanthys deposits (see Table IIIa of *Fagents et al.*, 2000), if the  
842 erupted particles are primarily composed of salt, and are rather large, with average radii equal to  
843  $3\mu\text{m}$ . Eruptions of a 200 km tall plume could emplace a  $15 \mu\text{m}$  thick deposit, with 50% pore  
844 space, composed primarily of  $3\mu\text{m}$  salt particles, in about 7.5 years. A similar deposit with 90%  
845 pore space could form in just 1.5 years. Similar to the case for the emplacement of ice-dominated  
846 deposits, if the small Rhadamanthys deposits and the deposits flanking Androgeous Linea are  
847 primarily composed of salts, they were likely to have been emplaced by plumes  $< 4$  km tall.

848 One potential challenge to identifying spectral and photometric signatures of plume  
849 deposits is that spectral signatures could be more transient than morphological signatures. Europa's  
850 surface spectra vary on a wide range of scales, with darker regions generally showing larger  
851 concentrations of non-icy materials (see *Carlson et al.*, 2009, and references therein). While some  
852 of these variations could be due to Europa's geological history and activity, others are almost  
853 certainly due to the surface being modified by the radiation environment. Radiation exposure can  
854 sinter grains, implant molecules, and sputter ice, while micrometeorites can mix surface deposits  
855 with underlying material. Various calculations indicate that these processes will mix or  
856 contaminate freshly exposed surfaces to depths of order 10-100  $\mu\text{m}$  on timescales of order decades  
857 [*Cooper et al.*, 2001; *Tiscareno and Geissler*, 2003; *Carlson et al.* 2003; 2009]. Hence the spectral  
858 and photometric signatures of surface deposits may become undetectable if they are more than a

859 few decades old. Fortunately, the presence of dark patches around Rhadamanthys Linea, and the  
860 fact that dark terrains along lineae correspond to regions with higher fractions of non-ice material  
861 [McCord *et al.*, 1998; 1999], suggest that compact patches are emplaced regularly enough to  
862 maintain their distinct spectral and photometric properties. Alternatively, these deposits could have  
863 distinct compositional or structural features that are not easily erased by radiation exposure. If the  
864 former is correct, then this would imply that deposits from small plumes will likely be easier to  
865 detect both spectroscopically and morphologically. On the other hand, if the deposits have a  
866 persistent compositional signature, larger deposits could be easier to detect because they require  
867 lower resolution data. The possibility that 200 km tall plumes could emplace substantial deposits  
868 in the time between the Galileo and Europa Clipper missions, suggests that it is possible for plumes  
869 with ice to vapor ratios equal to 0.67 (Table 3), which is approximately equal to the maximum end  
870 of the *I/V* range *Ingersoll and Ewald* [2011] considered for plumes on Enceladus, to produce  
871 recognizable deposits on Europa's surface. For all other cases, the ice to vapor ratios of plumes  
872 that are likely to have produced the deposits are larger by several orders of magnitude.

## 873 **5. Conclusions**

874 In the absence of direct detection of plumes, plume deposits would provide the best  
875 evidence of recent geological activity on Europa and could also serve as important indicators for  
876 where to search for ongoing activity. We find that plumes that are less than 7 km tall are most  
877 likely to emplace deposits that are thick enough to be detected by spacecraft cameras operating at  
878 visible wavelengths. Mantlings emplaced by these plumes could accumulate to form deposits that  
879 are 1 - 10 m thick in as little as 7 months' time. If eruptive activity has occurred frequently on  
880 Europa since the Galileo Mission, these deposits could be substantial today, perhaps on the order  
881 of tens of meters thick. Moreover, we find that at most,  $\sim 5 - 6$  eruptions/day of plumes that are

882 0.8-3.5 km tall are enough to produce the candidate cryoclastic mantlings flanking lineaments on  
883 Europa. Deposits emplaced by large plumes will be spread over large areas of the surface, but may  
884 accumulate enough mass to be detected by cameras operating at visible wavelengths if they are  
885 composed of particles  $> 0.5\mu\text{m}$ . Larger particles would cluster close to the source vent and the  
886 resulting deposits would be identifiable by cameras operating at visible wavelengths. Regardless  
887 of the size of the plumes that emplace them, we find that fresh, highly porous cryoclastic deposits  
888 and deposits that are primarily composed of particles with radii  $\geq 2\mu\text{m}$  would be most visible from  
889 the point of view of spacecraft imagers, and hence most easily detected. Our analyses also indicate  
890 that any deposits that may have been emplaced by 100-300 km plumes would be visible to  
891 spacecraft cameras, provided that they are highly porous and/or composed of large particles.  
892 Nevertheless, within the parameter space explored here, we find that deposits emplaced plumes  
893 that are  $< 7$  km tall, would be the easiest to detect.

894 Large candidate plumes that may be sporadic in nature have recently been observed on  
895 Europa. If these plumes are outliers, and most plumes on Europa are small in stature as suggested  
896 by previous modeling and image analysis, strategies for plume detection on the ocean moon should  
897 not only consider the potential periodicity of Europa's eruptions, **but they should also consider the**  
898 **possibility that a significant number of Europa's plumes may be compact.** Comprehensive plume  
899 search strategies should therefore include high-resolution imaging of low-albedo deposits that may  
900 have been emplaced via eruptive venting. These searches should pay special attention to the  
901 deposits that flank lineated features such as Rhadamanthys and Androgeous Lineae, and  
902 subsequent analyses should be carried out to determine if the albedos and/or dimensions of these  
903 deposits have changed in the time since the Galileo spacecraft first visited Europa.

904           The Europa Clipper spacecraft could constrain the amount of activity occurring along  
905 lineaments by acquiring high-resolution imagery of Androgeous and Rhadamanthys Linea. If the  
906 deposits that flank these features were indeed emplaced by plumes, then three scenarios are  
907 possible: (1) If Europa Clipper finds that the deposits have brightened and/or appear shrunken,  
908 then that would suggest that plume activity along these features ceased in the intervening decades  
909 between the two missions; (2) If imagery from Europa Clipper reveals that the albedo and  
910 dimensions of these deposits have remained unchanged since Galileo, then eruptions may have  
911 occurred along these lineaments in the time between the two missions, albeit at a steady state that  
912 allowed for the overall abundance of particles deposited onto the surface to remain constant; (3) If  
913 the deposits appear darker and wider in Europa Clipper imagery, then this might indicate that  
914 plume activity not only occurred continuously in the time between the two missions, but that plume  
915 output rates increased in the intervening years. This could take the form of material erupting from  
916 relatively small plumes for long periods of time between the two missions, or, could suggest that  
917 additional material was emplaced sporadically by large plumes in the intervening decades.

918           The Europa Imaging System (EIS) on Europa Clipper is well-suited to test the findings  
919 reported here and will be able to place improved constraints on the constitution of plume deposits.  
920 EIS will be able to detect surface color changes caused by the deposition of micron-sized plume  
921 particles, and stereo imaging by the Narrow Angle Camera (NAC) will be ideal for constraining  
922 the thicknesses of candidate plume deposits that flank lineaments and any other features [*Turtle et*  
923 *al.*, 2016; 2019]. Moreover, deposits emplaced by small plumes should be easily detected by EIS  
924 during its local- and regional-scale imaging campaigns. As previously mentioned, even if Europa  
925 Clipper does not directly detect plumes on Europa, their presence could be indirectly inferred via

926 comparison of the dimensions of low-albedo deposits as they appear in Galileo imagery, with their  
927 appearance in high-resolution imagery acquired by EIS.

928         Meanwhile, the Mapping Imaging Spectrometer for Europa (MISE) will obtain near-  
929 infrared spectra of Europa's surface between 0.8 and 5.0  $\mu\text{m}$  at 10 nm spectral resolution, and at  
930 spatial resolutions better than 10 kilometers on global scales, 500 meters at regional scales, and 25  
931 meters at local scales [Blaney *et al.*, 2019]. This investigation will therefore be able to detect  
932 variations in both the surface composition and typical regolith particle sizes on scales comparable  
933 to many of the plume deposits considered here. Therefore, MISE will also place reasonable  
934 constraints on the levels of Europa's recent plume activity, particularly for large plumes whose  
935 morphological signatures may be difficult to discern.

936

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941

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