



# New (and evolving) Views of the Moon's Volatiles from the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter

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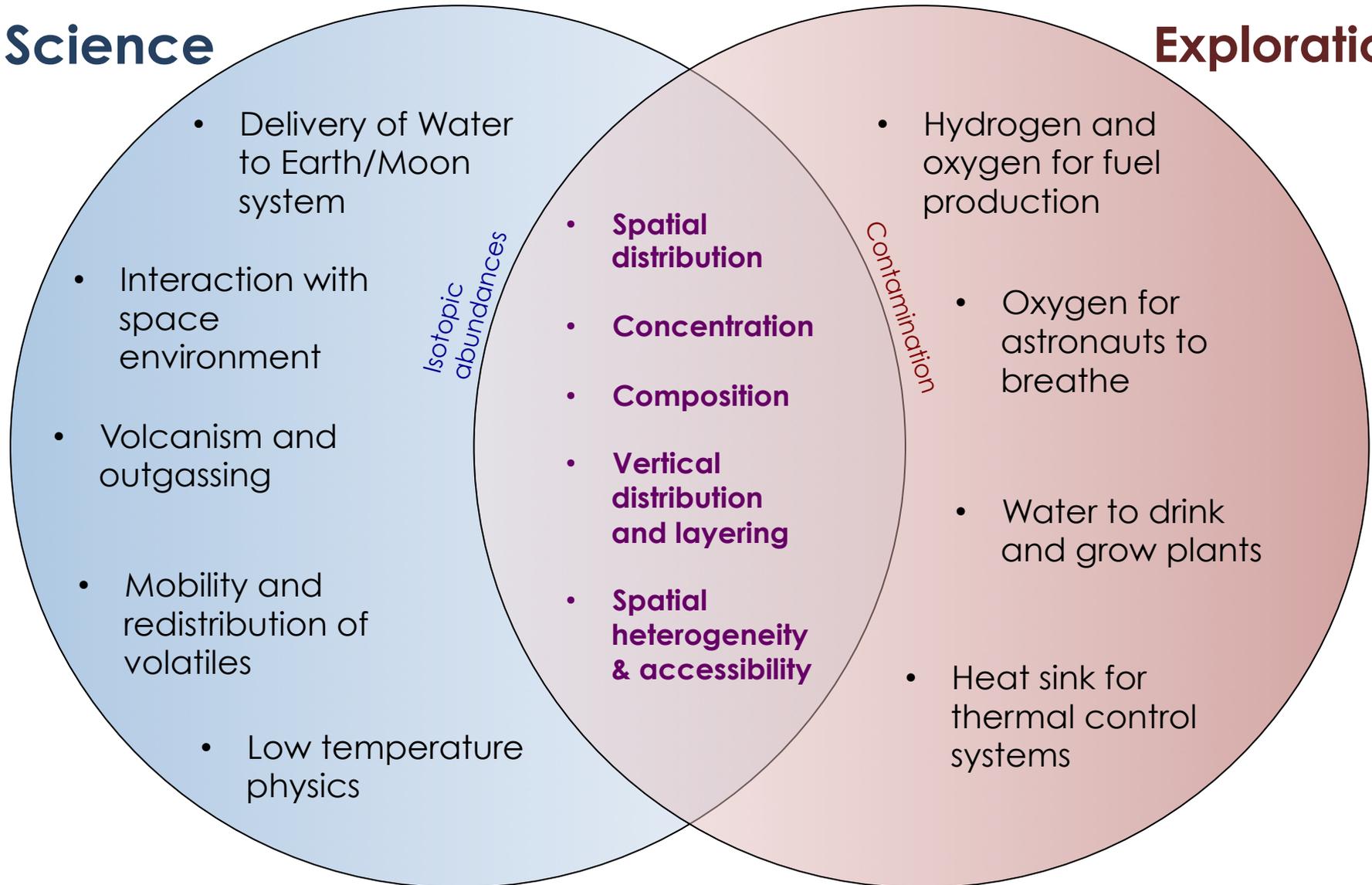
International Space Exploration Coordination Group – Lunar Polar  
Volatiles Virtual Workshop – Nov 2015



# Lunar Volatiles

## Science

## Exploration



# Shadowed Moon

# Illuminated Moon

**Sources:**  
Sun, Moon, Earth  
Comets, Dust, Asteroids  
Giant Molecular Clouds

Lost to Space

Lost to Space

UV ionization  
and sweeping

### Losses

- Sublimation
- UV ionization
- Sweeping
- Sputtering
- Micrometeorite impact vaporization

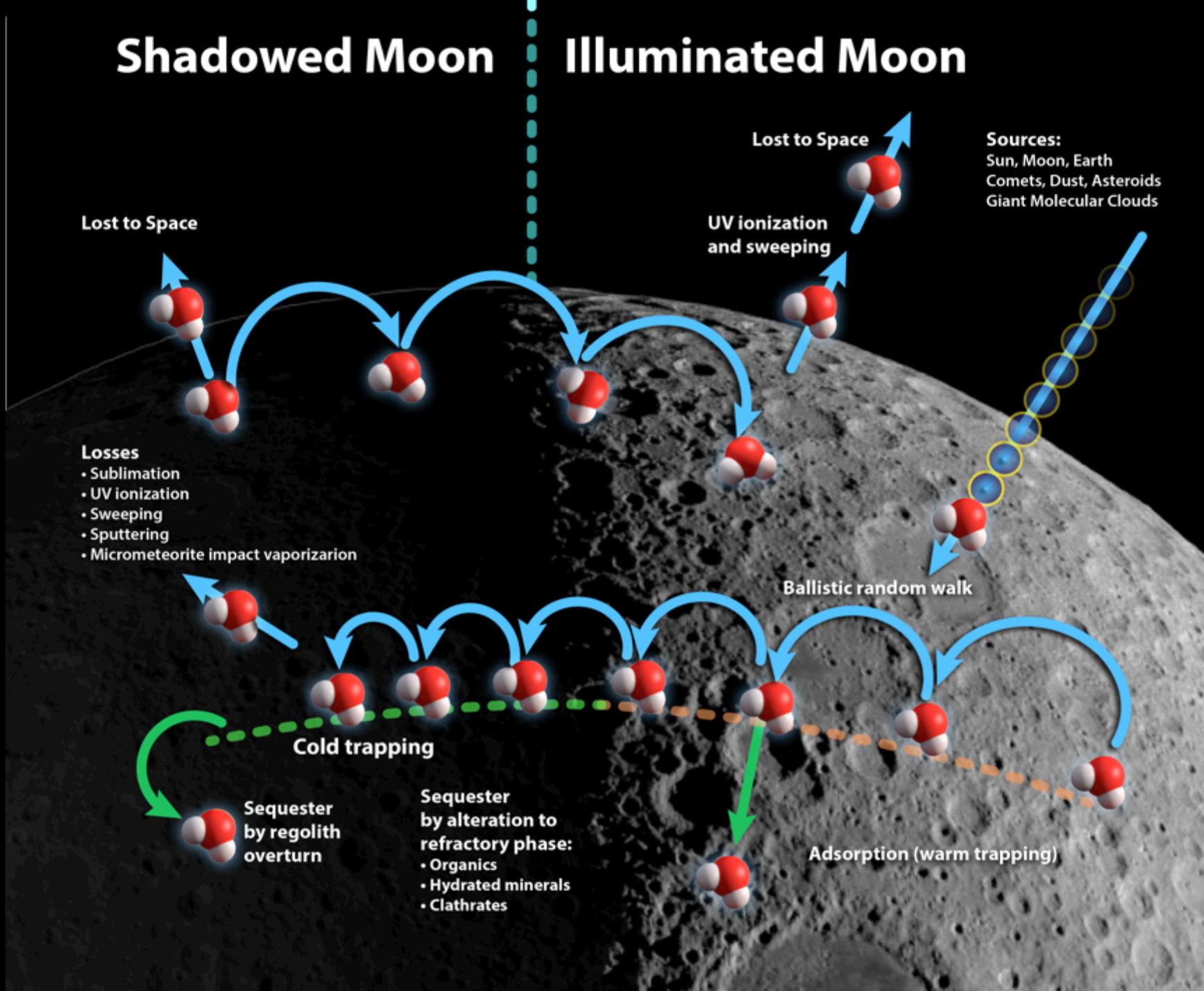
Ballistic random walk

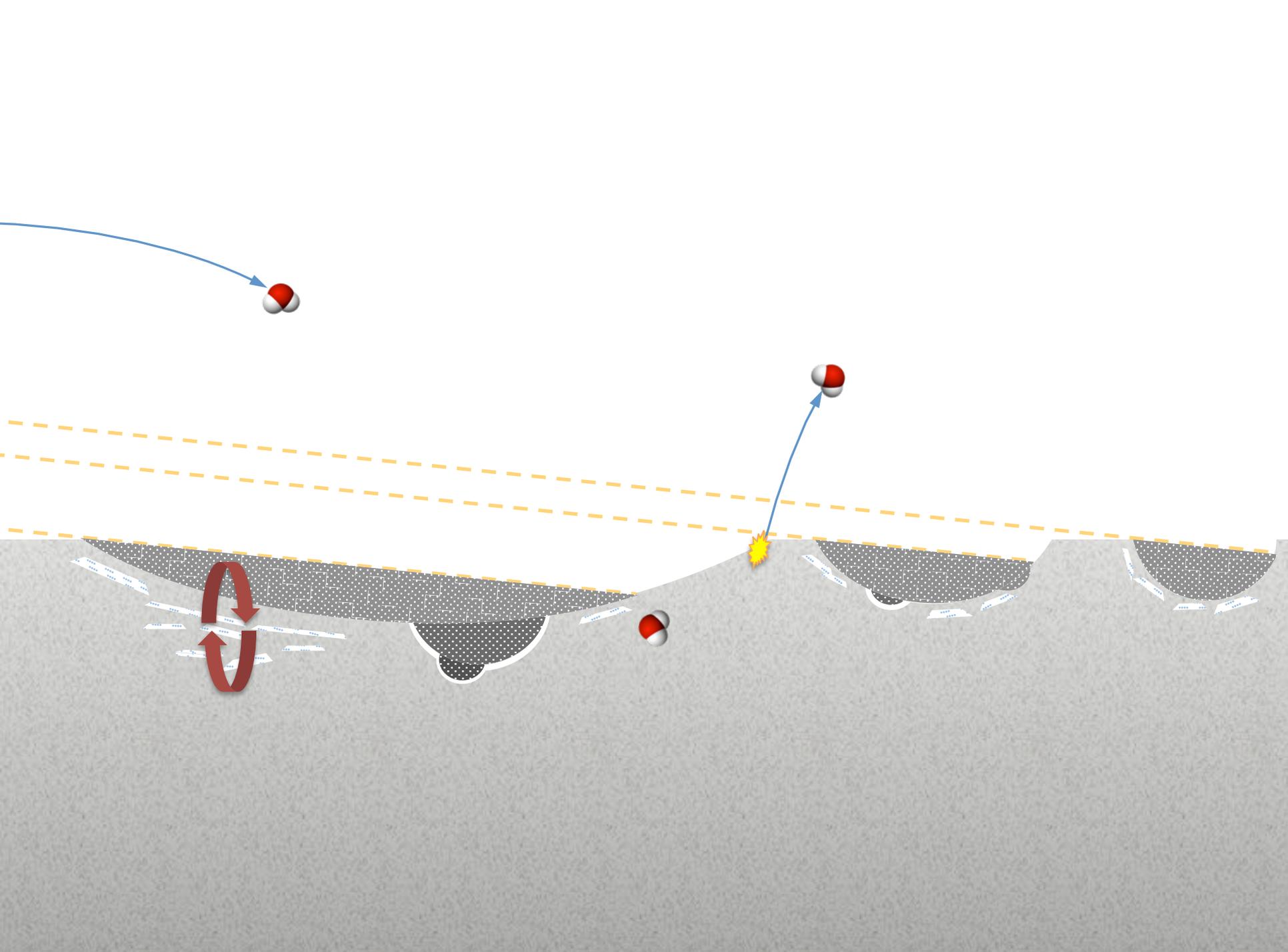
Cold trapping

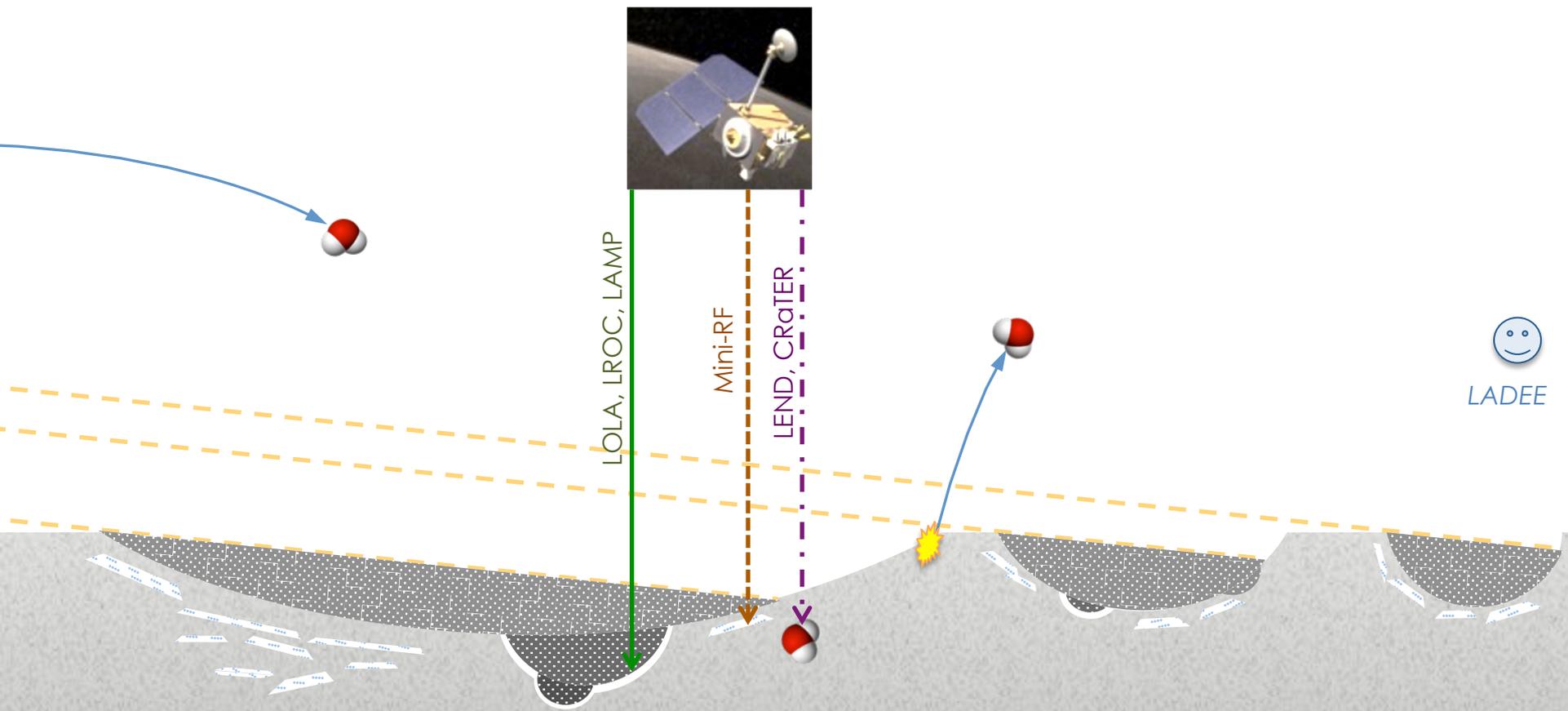
Sequester  
by regolith  
overturn

Sequester  
by alteration to  
refractory phase:  
• Organics  
• Hydrated minerals  
• Clathrates

Adsorption (warm trapping)







LOLA, LROC, LAMP

Mini-RF

LEND, CRATER



LADEE

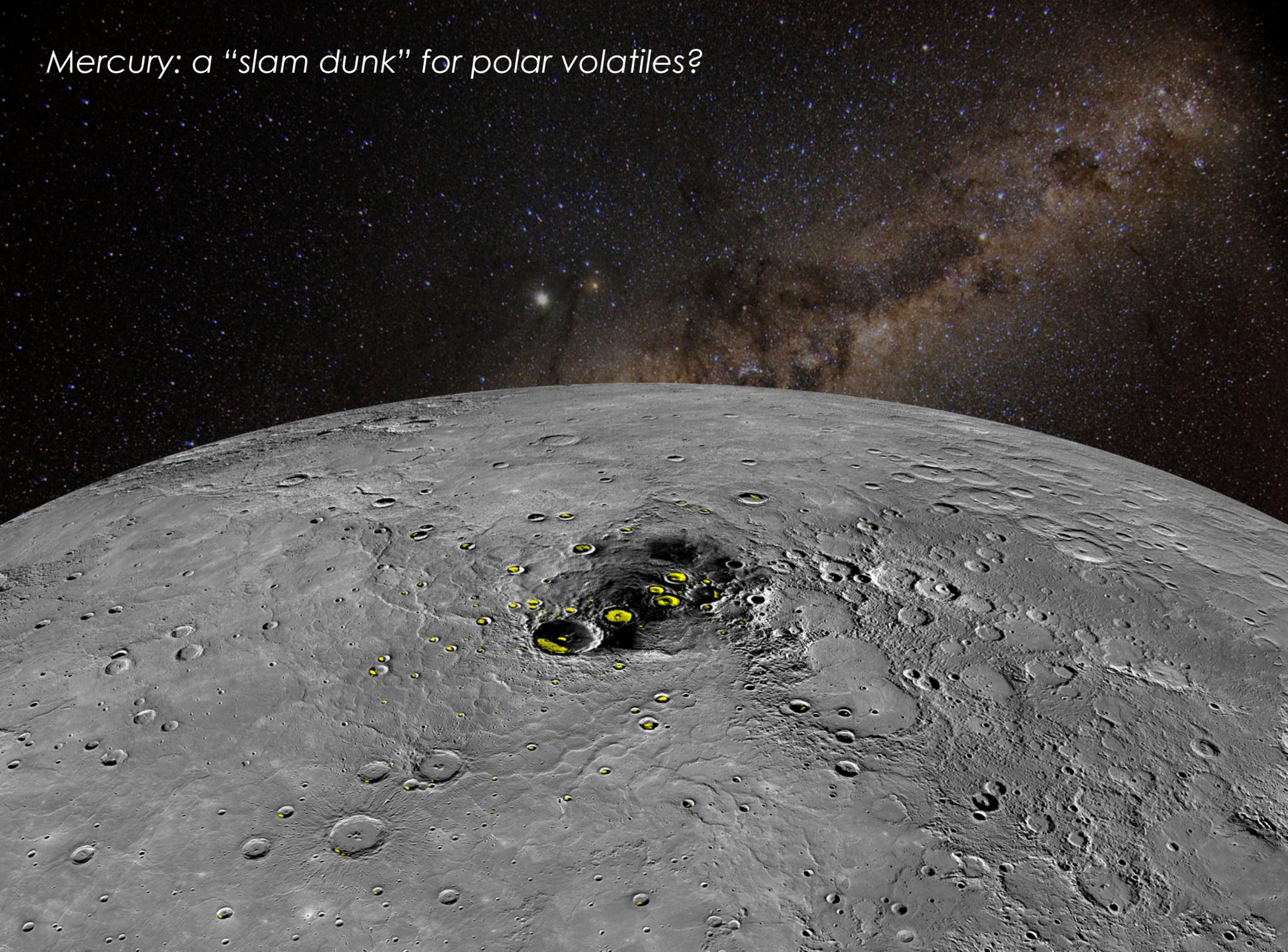
## **Distribution and concentration of ice is variable:**

- **Vertically**
  - ✧ Vapor diffusion
  - ✧ Burial
  - ✧ Outgassing/sputtering/photolysis
- **Laterally**
  - ✧ Molecular hops
  - ✧ Water-rich impactors
  - ✧ Thermal environments

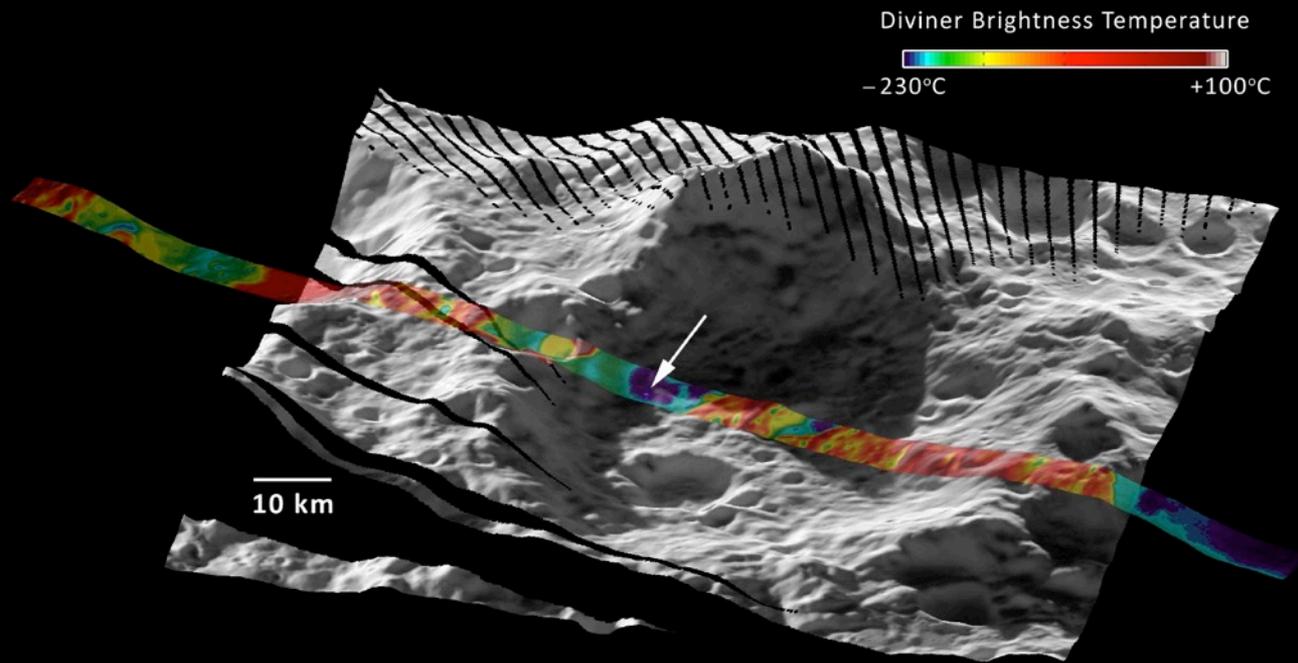
## **Different datasets probe different depths, record different processes**

- *Surprise! They each get slightly (or majorly) different answers...*

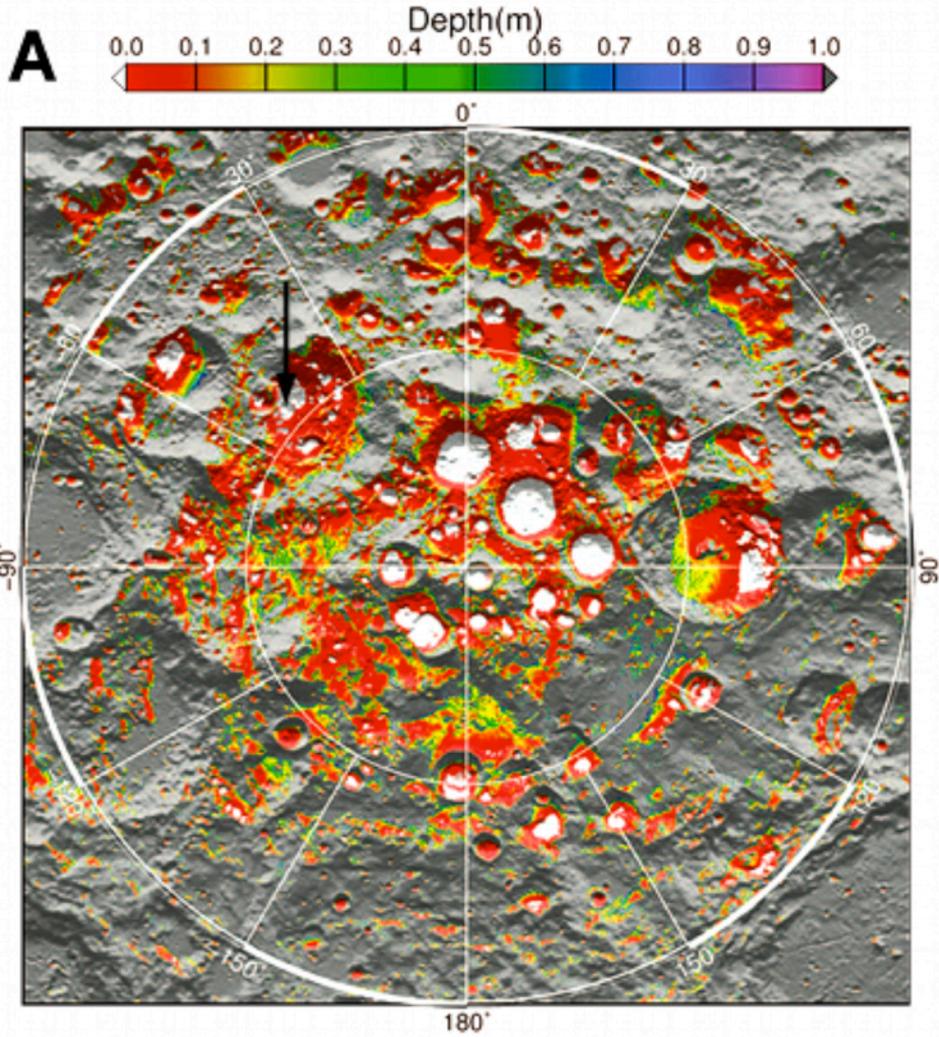
*Mercury: a “slam dunk” for polar volatiles?*



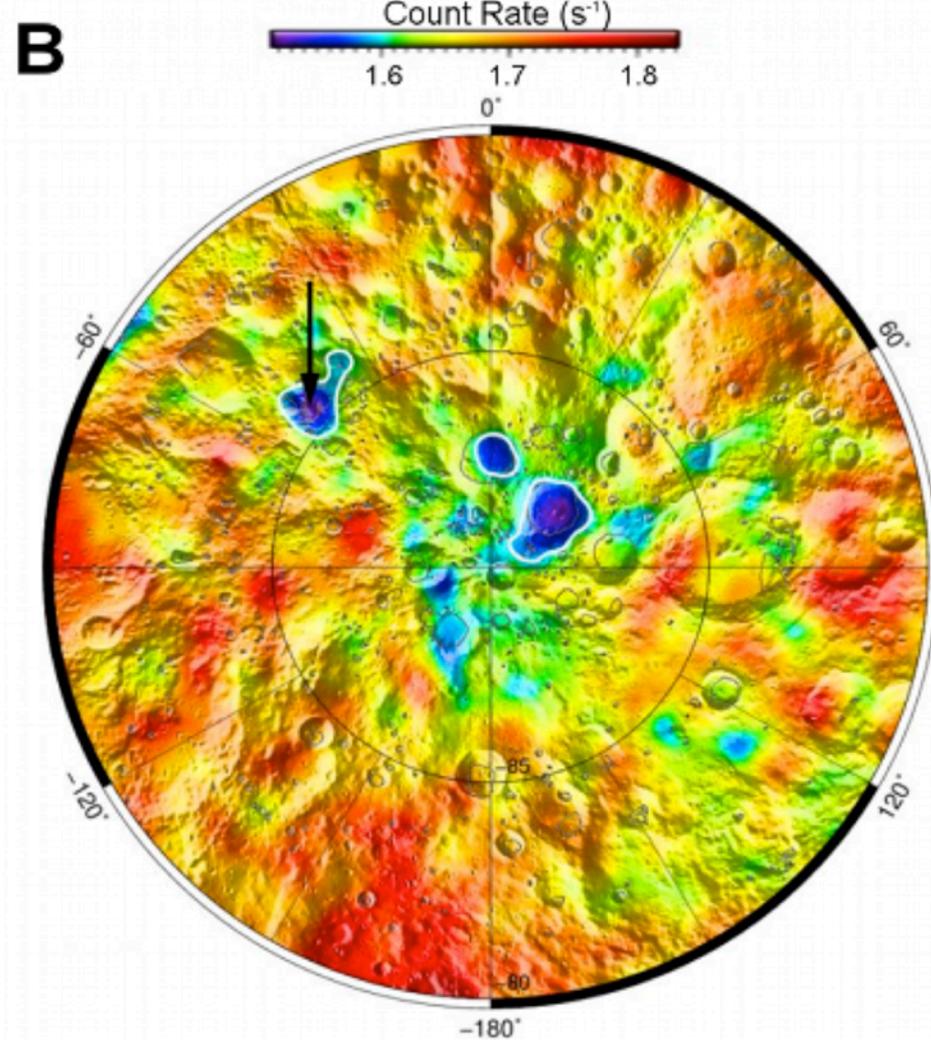




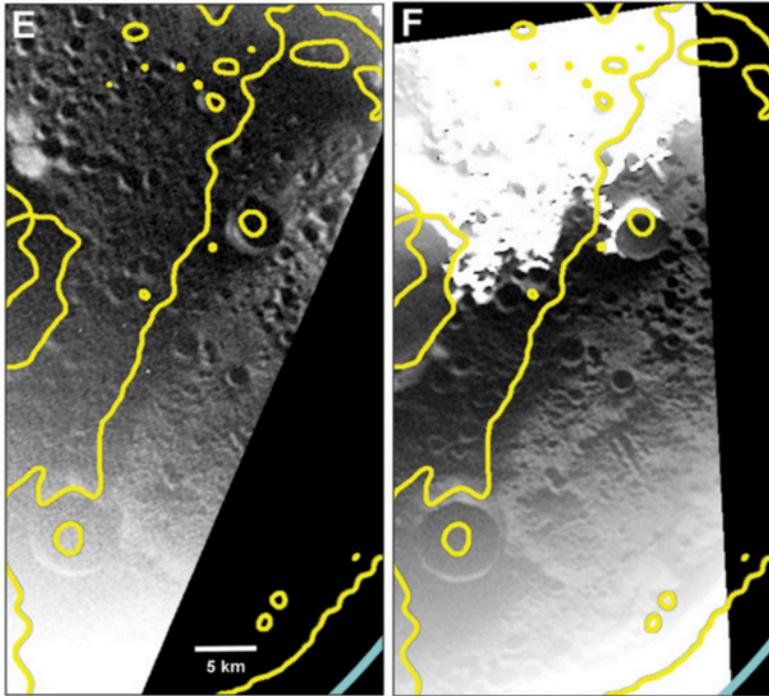
# Diviner Ice Stability Map



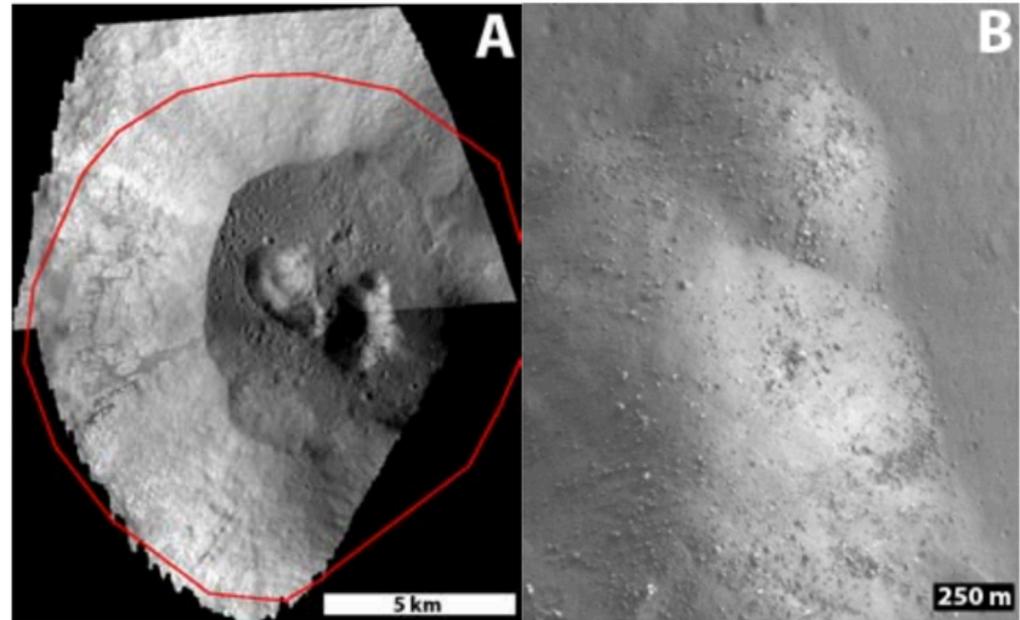
# LEND Hydrogen Map



# LROC

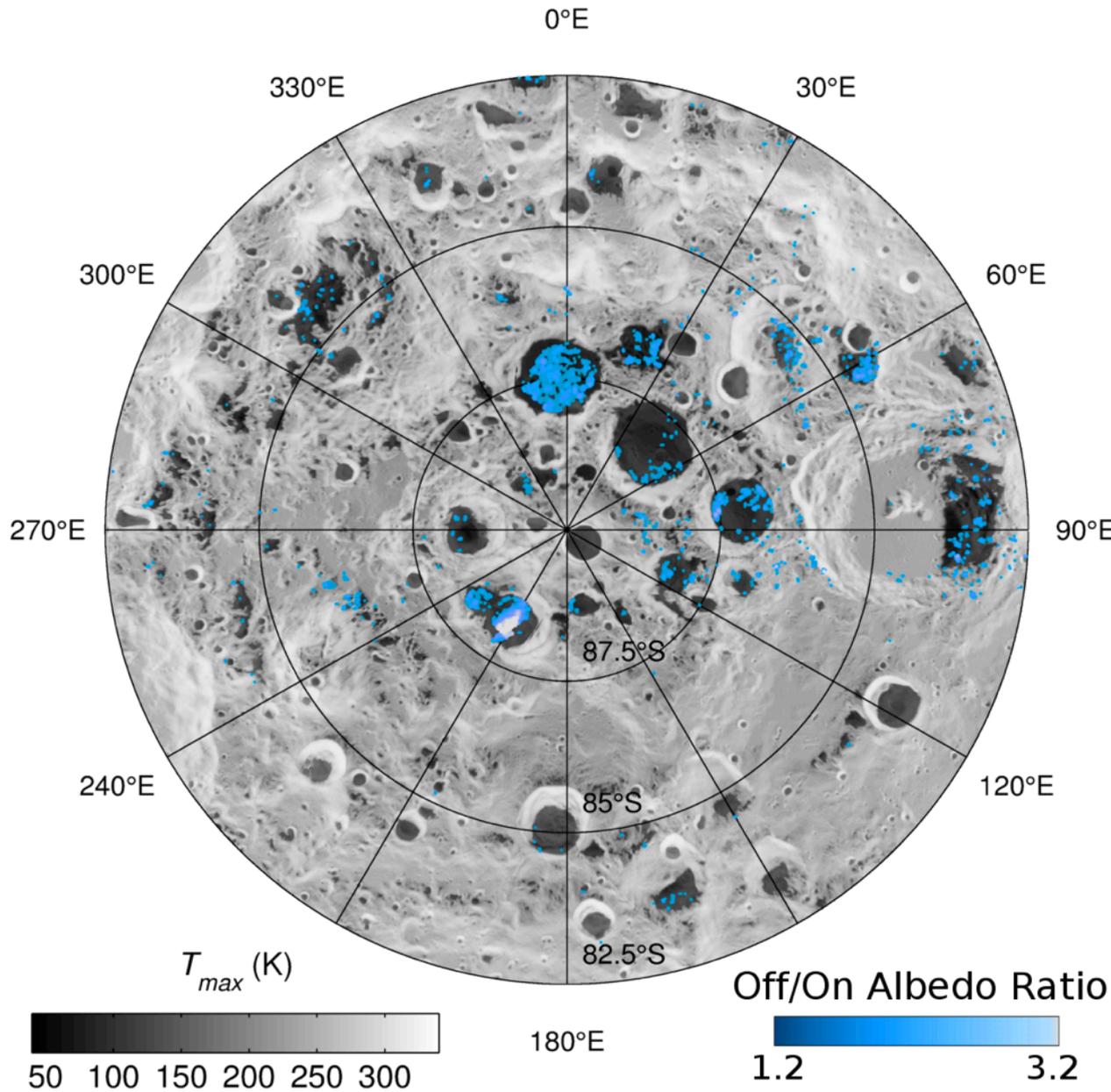


Mercury: well-defined ice boundary follows PSR (Chabot *et al.*, 2014)



Moon: no obvious albedo anomaly in PSR (Koeber *et al.*, 2014)

# LAMP Ice Index and Diviner Temperatures

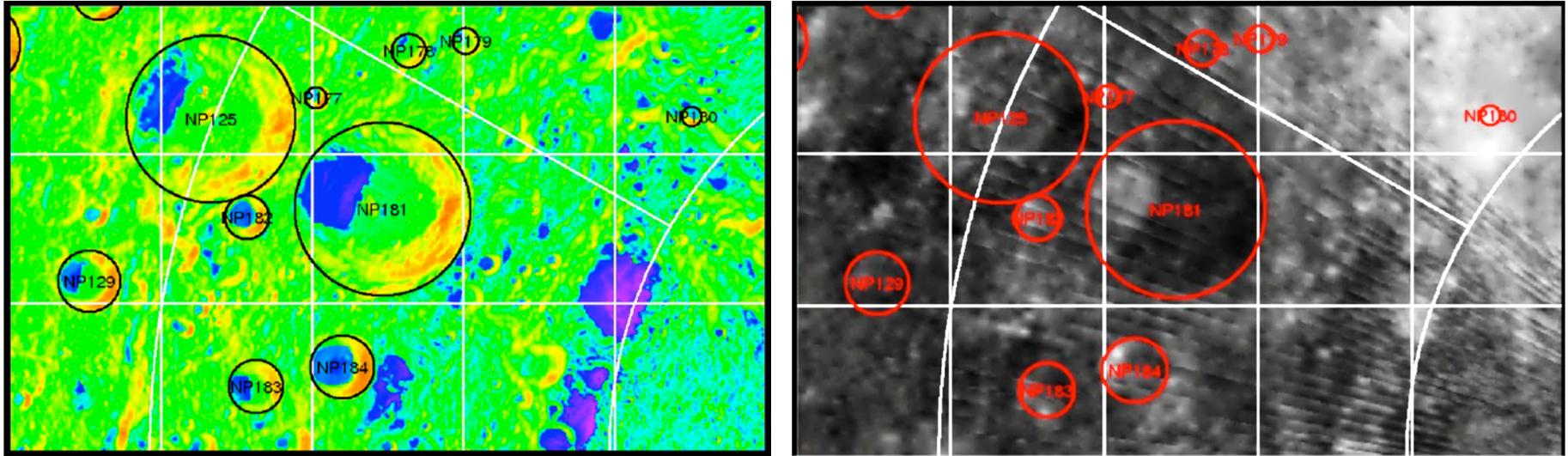


H<sub>2</sub>O ice:

- ~1 – 10 wt%
- Patchy, heterogeneous distribution
- Supply rates ~ destruction/burial rates

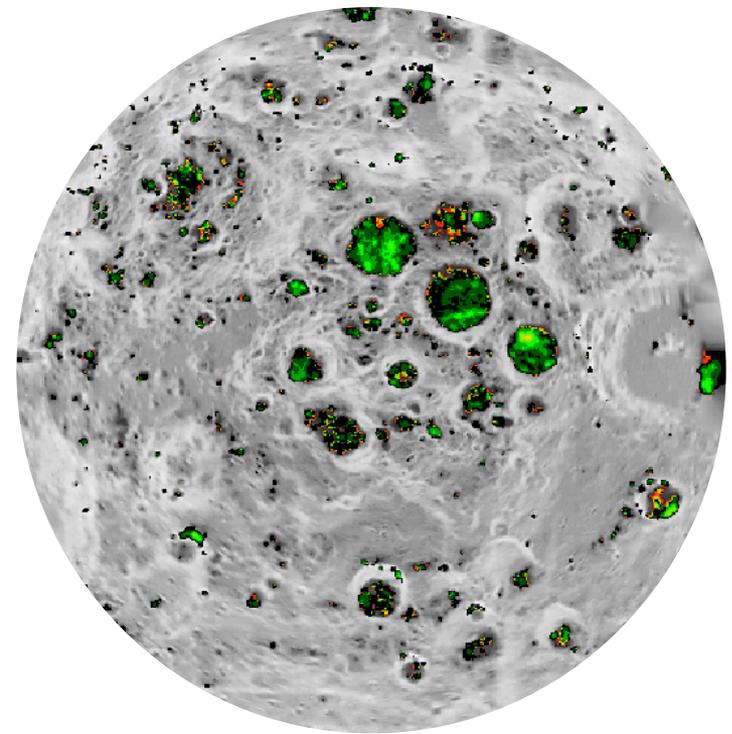
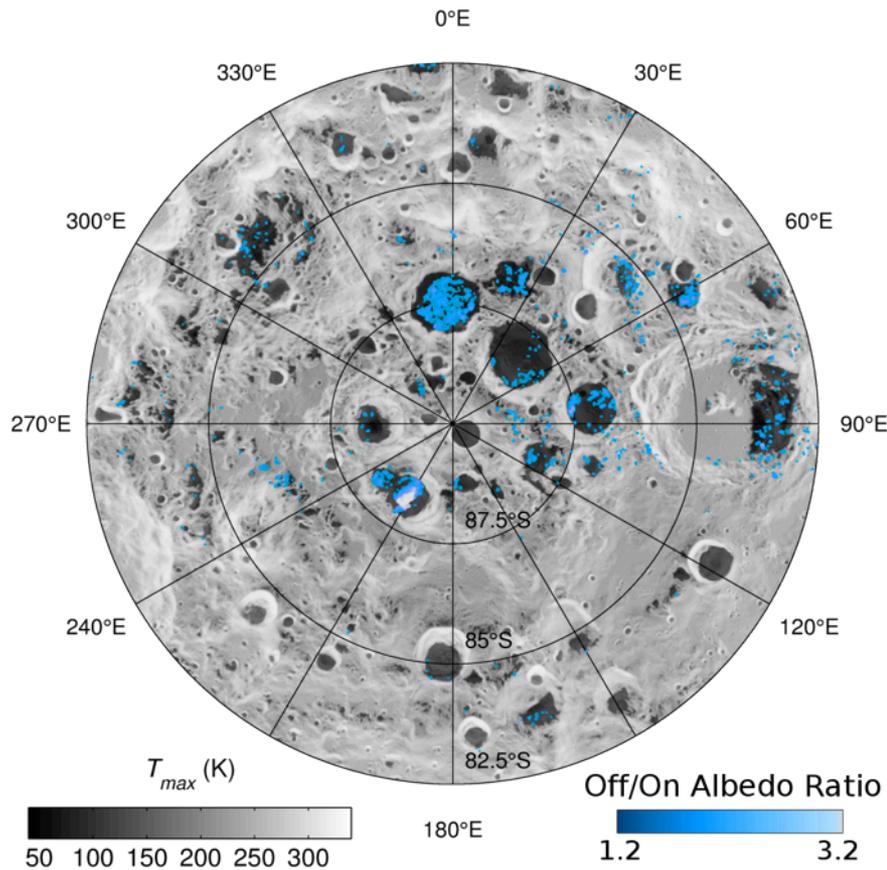
Some evidence for CO<sub>2</sub> ice

# Diviner-LOLA Comparison



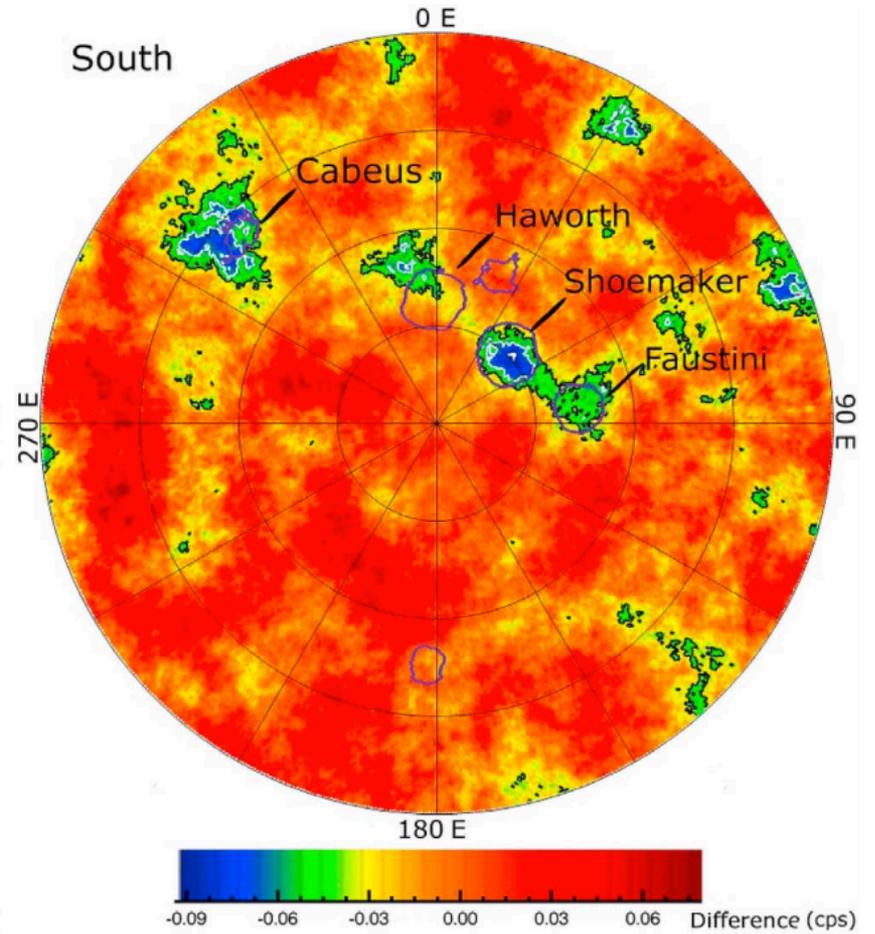
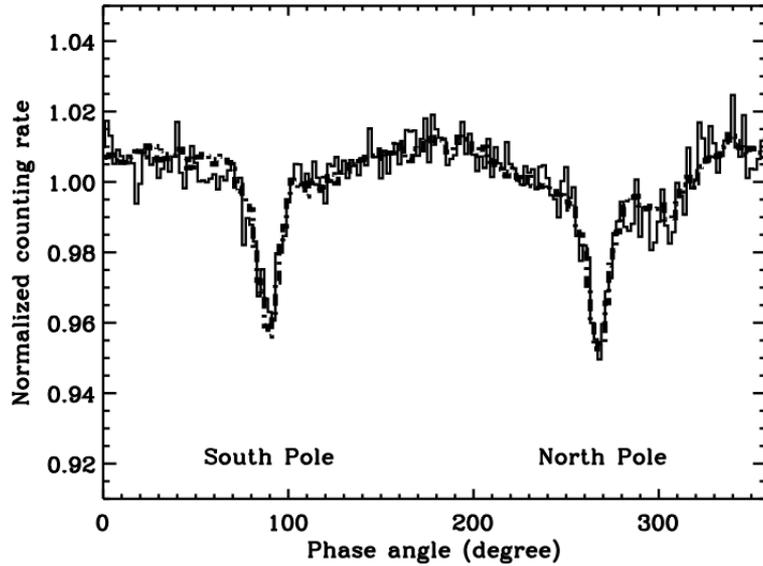
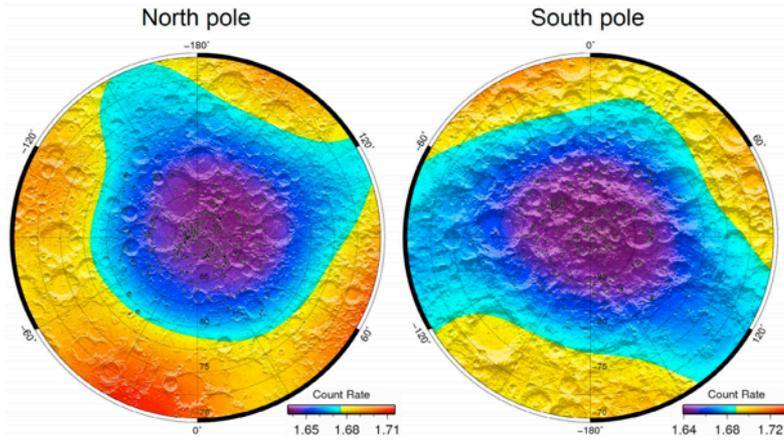
Diviner temperatures show well-defined cold traps, where LOLA often sees high-albedo deposits, consistent with surface frost at ~1 wt% level (above figure by D. Paige, Diviner PI)

# Diviner, LAMP and LOLA Comparison

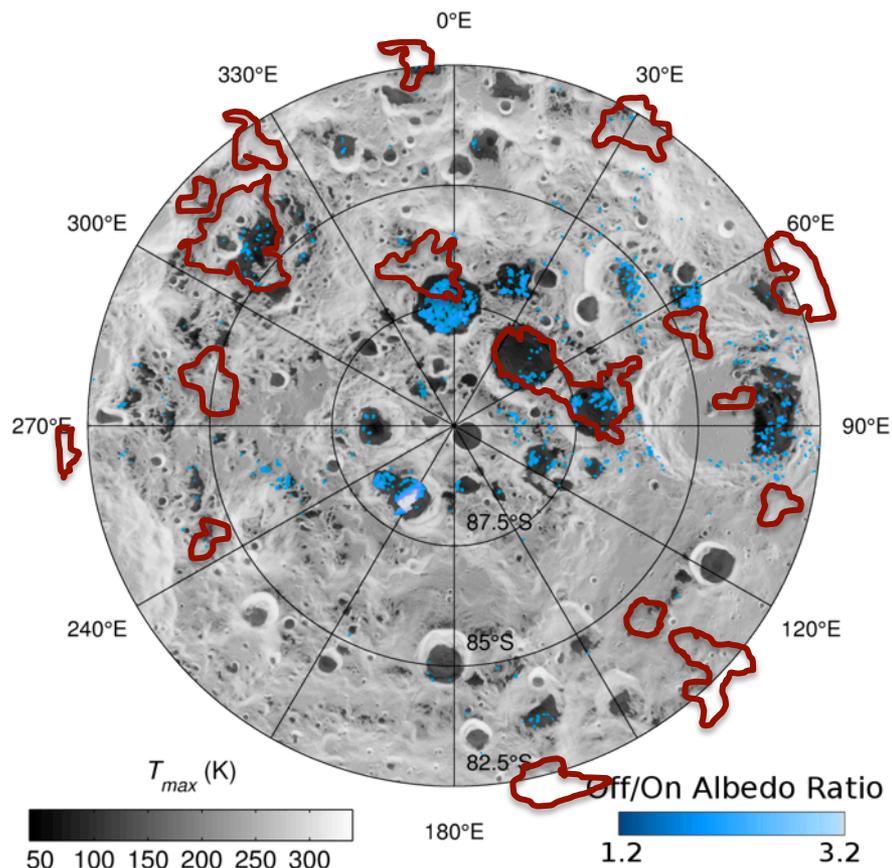
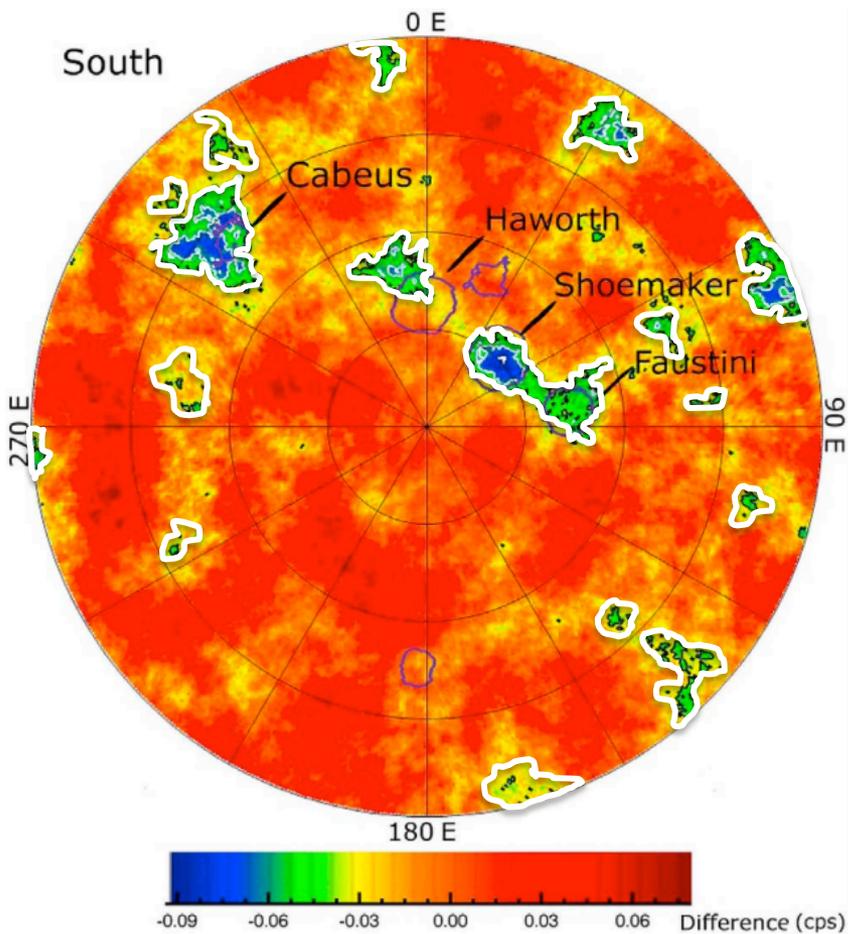


0.01 0.08  
Reflectance above local background

# LEND

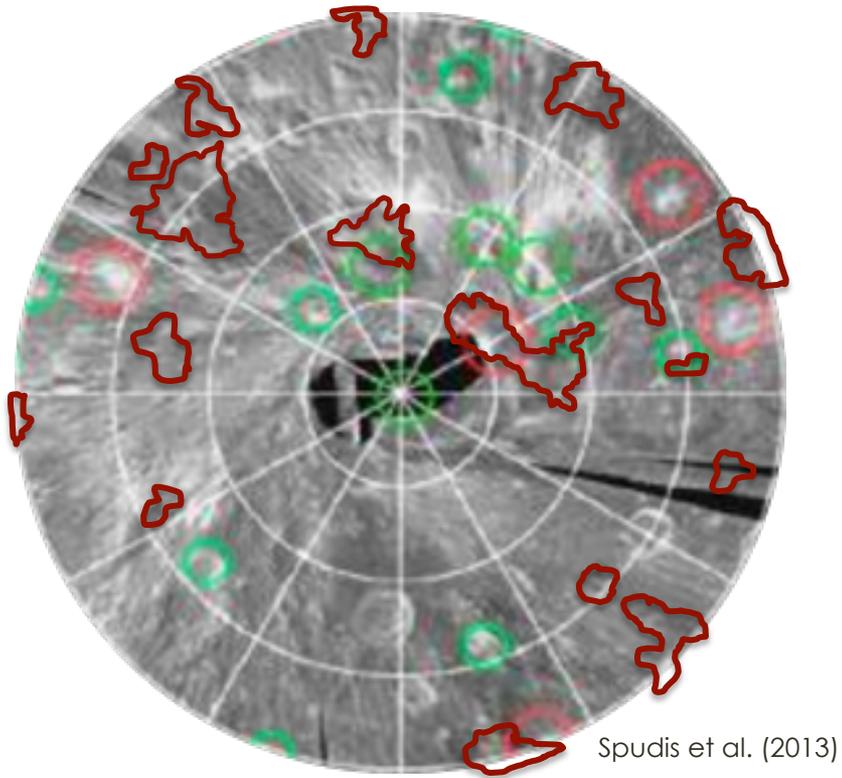


# Diviner-LEND-LAMP Comparison

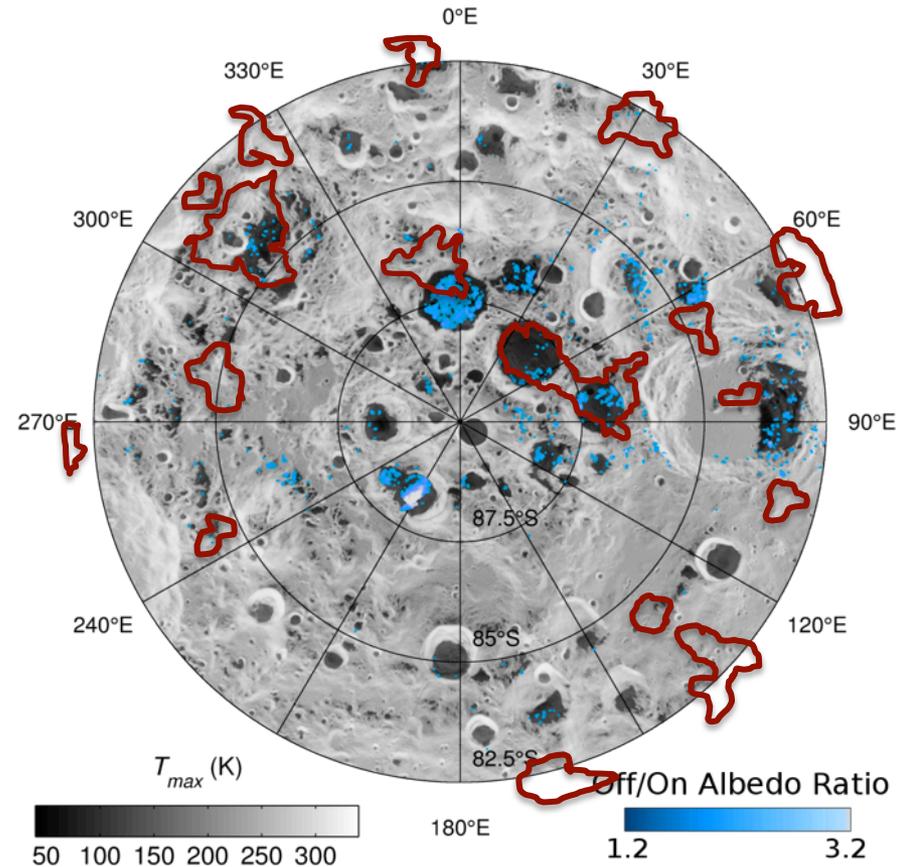


# MiniRF-Diviner-LEND-LAMP Comparison

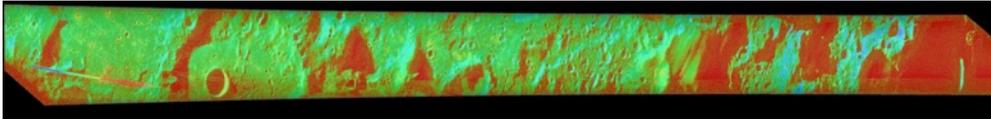
Mini-RF Circular Polarization Ratio



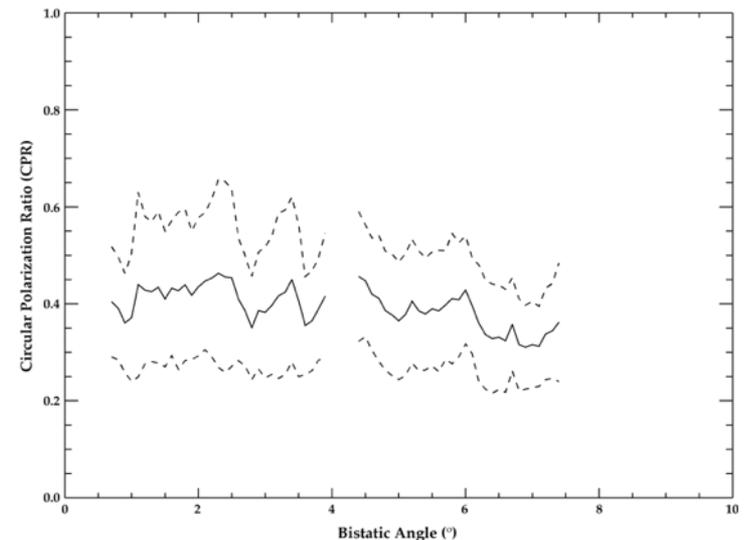
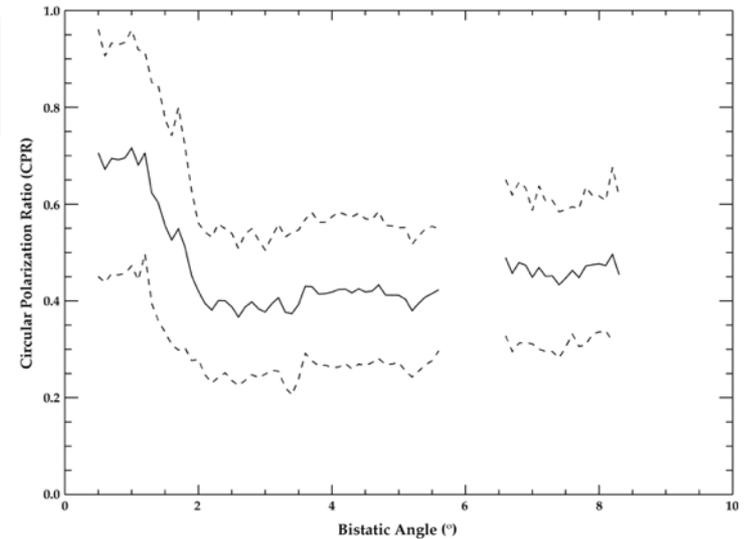
Red = fresh crater  
Green = anomalous (potentially icy) crater



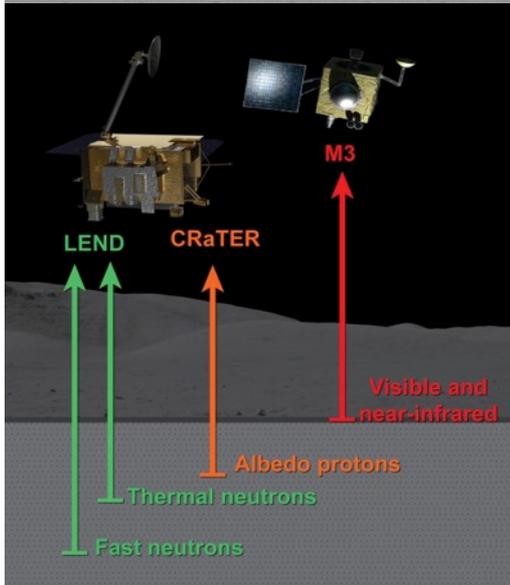
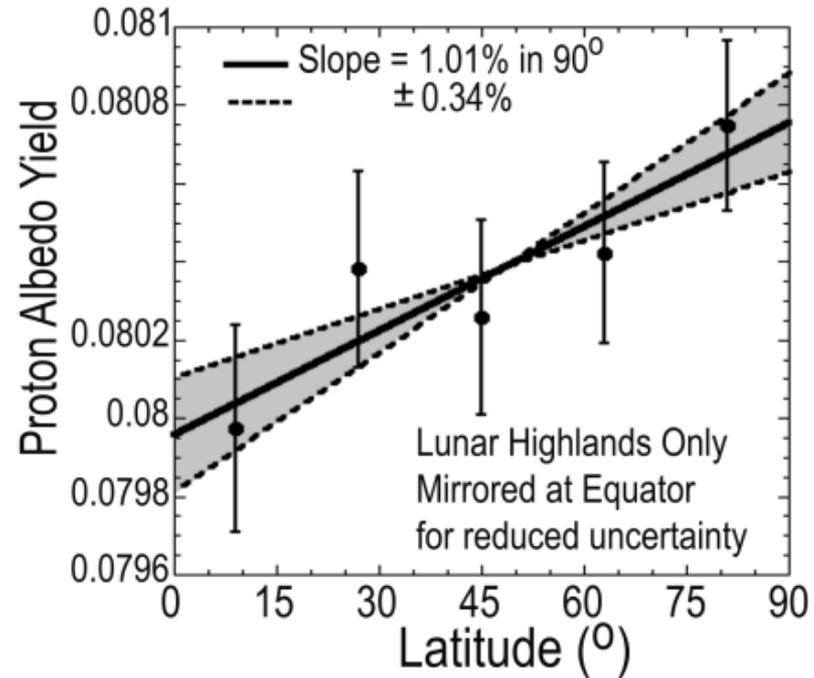
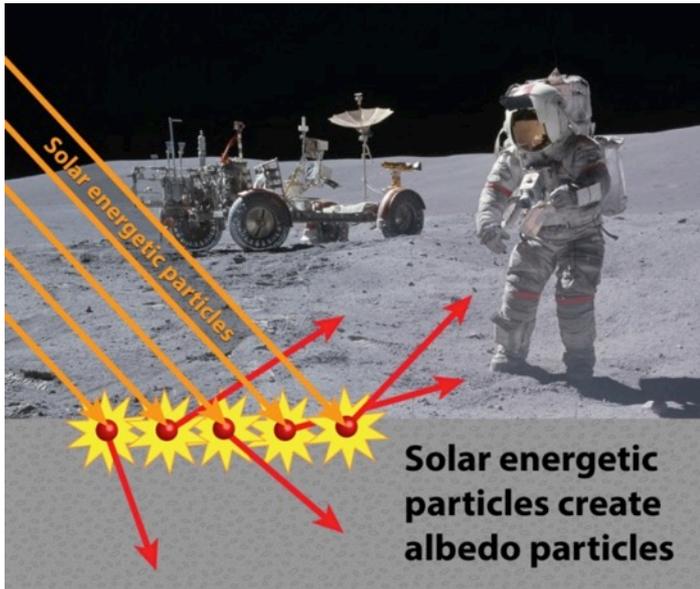
# Mini-RF



- New bi-static observations show phase behavior consistent with cm-scale ice layers (Patterson *et al.*, submitted)
- Signal above right comes from Cabeus crater, site of LCROSS impact



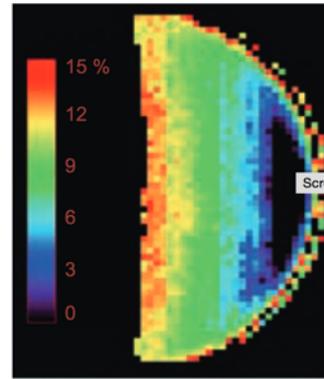
# CRaTER



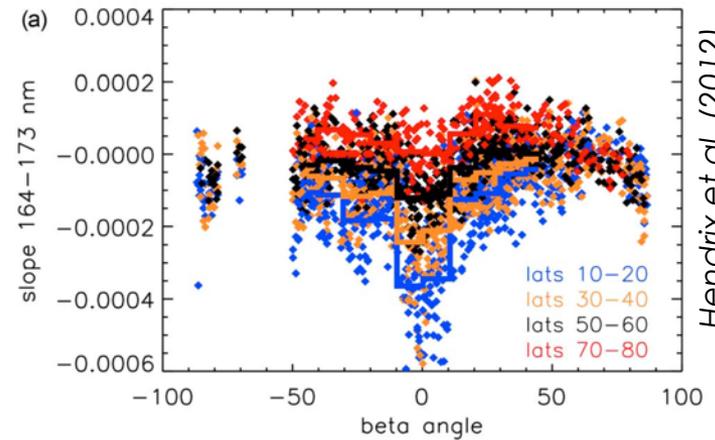
- Latitude trend in proton albedo suggests a 1-10 cm layer of hydrated regolith that is more prevalent near the poles [Schwadron et al., submitted]

# Mobility of Volatiles on the Moon

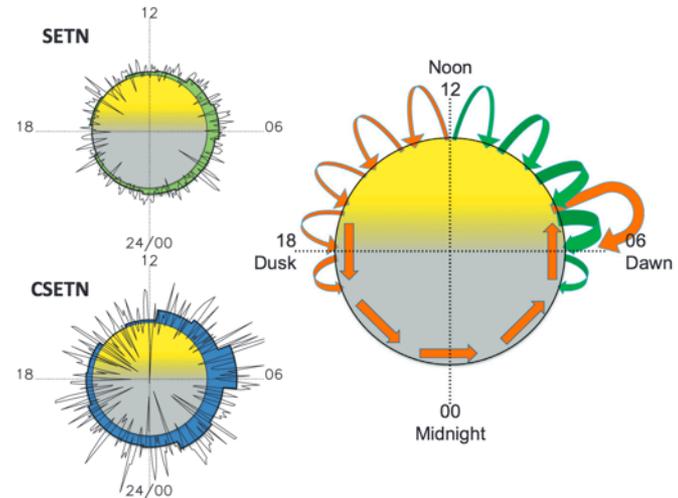
- Some evidence of diurnal variations in hydration: M<sup>3</sup>, LAMP, LEND
- Mobility = source for cold traps
- Must be checked for consistency across datasets, and exospheric measurements



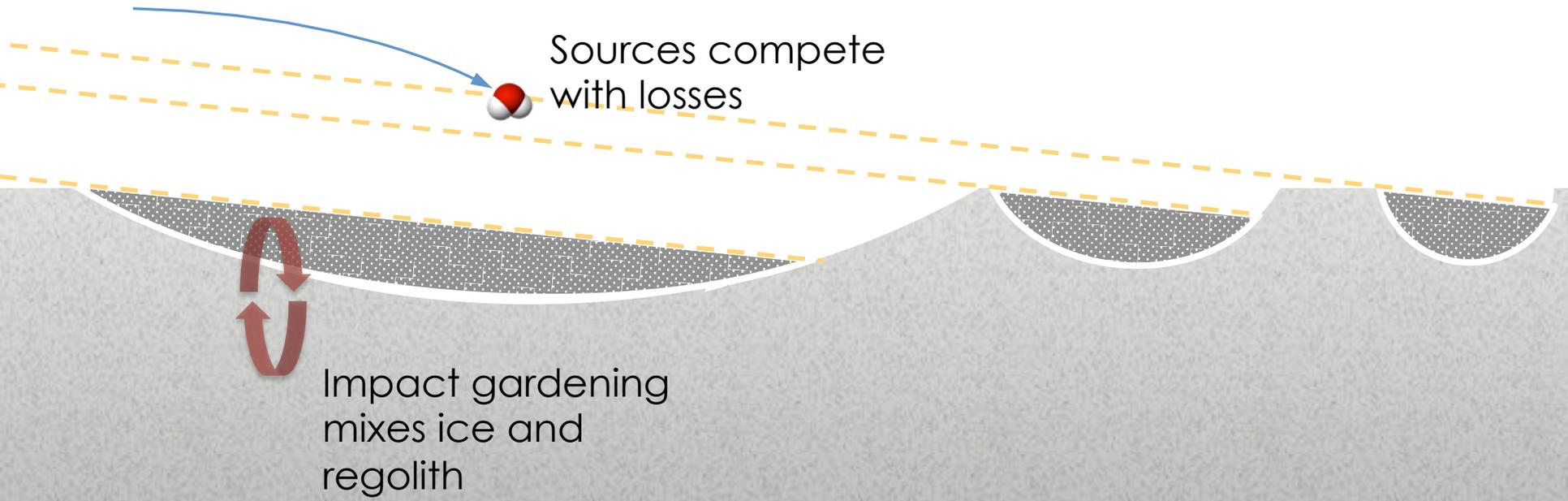
Sunshine et al. (2009)

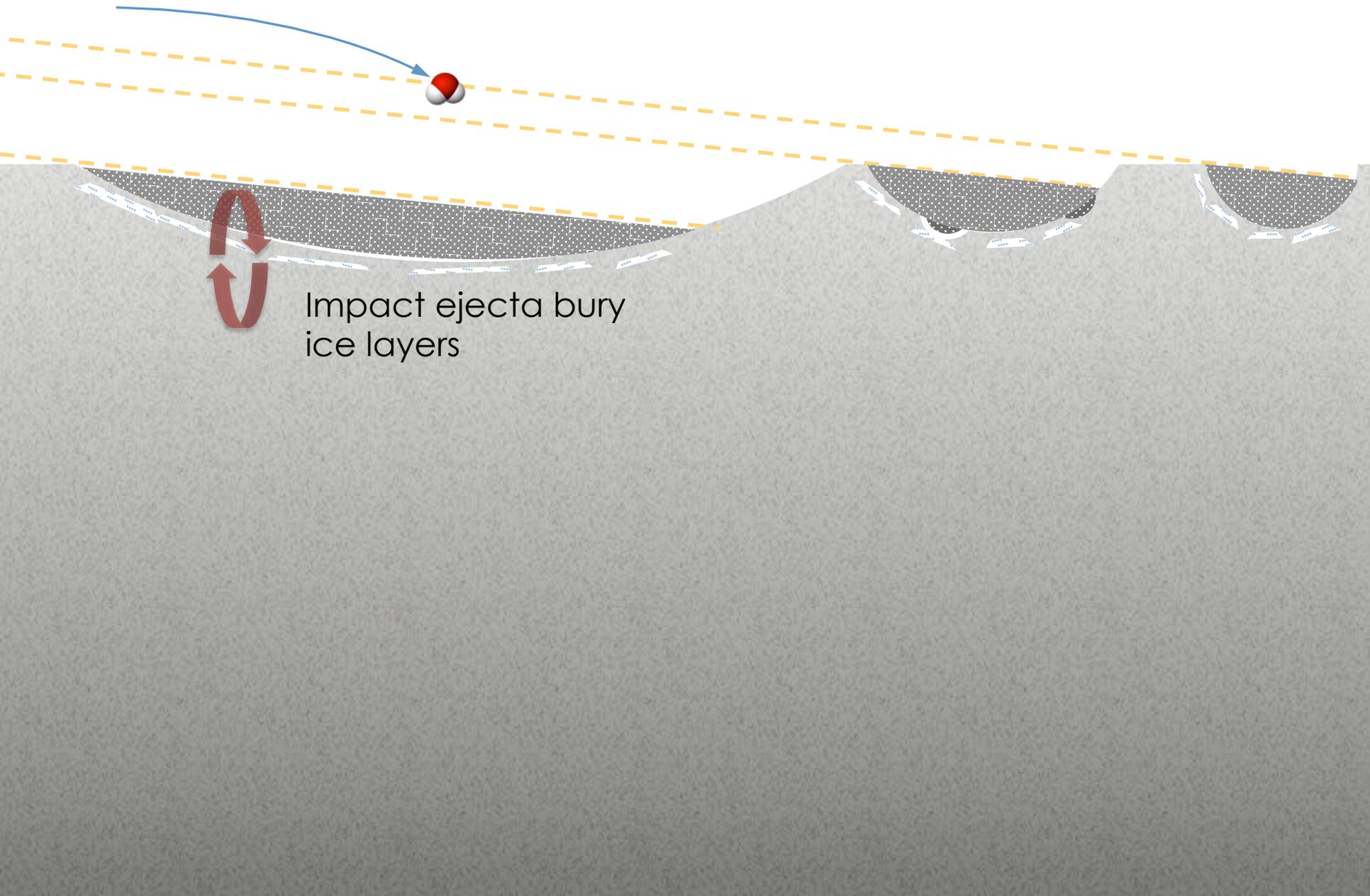


Hendrix et al. (2012)



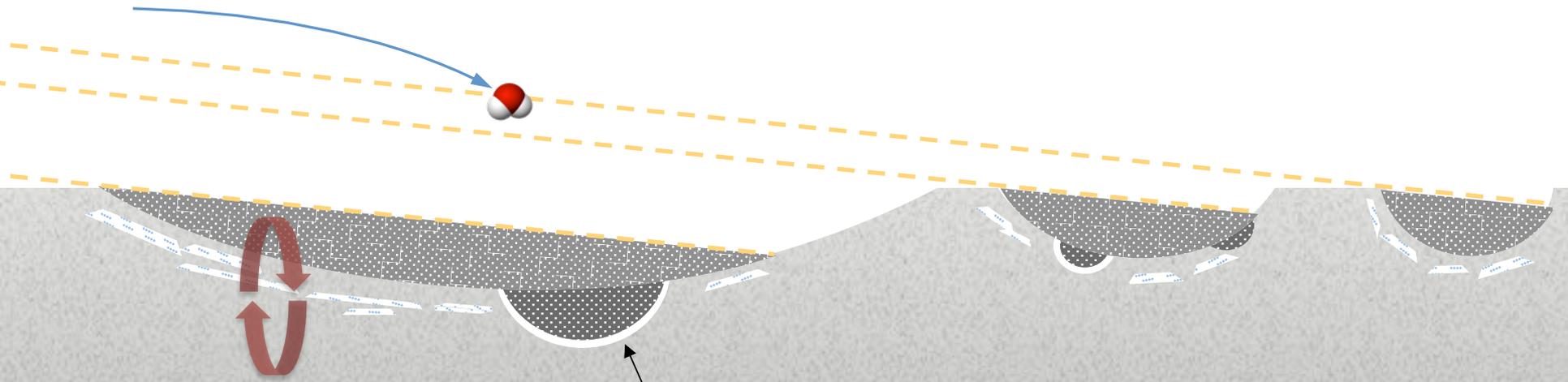
Livengood et al. (2015)





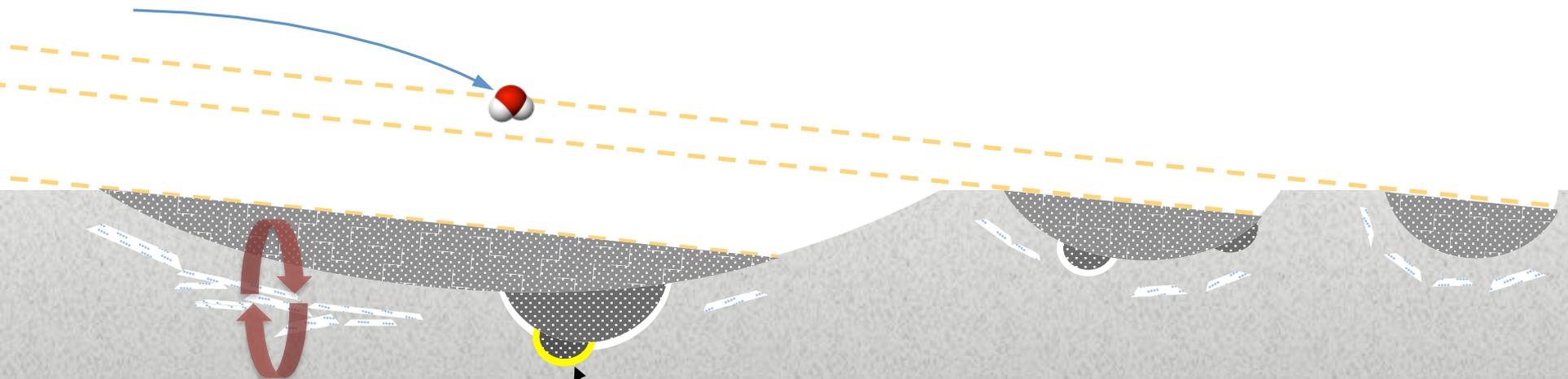
Impact ejecta bury  
ice layers

85° latitude



Volatiles migrate to very coldest surfaces

85° latitude



Extremely cold  
surfaces may trap  
more exotic  
volatiles (e.g.,  $\text{CO}_2$   
< 70 K)

# Preliminary LRO Volatiles Results and Future Measurements



- What we think we understand:
  - UV, visible, and near-IR reflectance data consistent with small quantities ( $\sim 1\%$ ) of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  ice intimately mixed and/or patchy at small scales in the PSRs
  - Near-IR and neutron data consistent with very small quantities (up to  $\sim 100$  ppm) outside the PSRs and at lower latitudes
- What we don't understand fully:
  - High concentrations of [H] in regions of thermal instability
  - Diurnal variations with magnitude large enough to fill cold traps with ice

# Preliminary LRO Volatiles Results and Future Measurements



- **Exciting new measurements to watch out for in the next LRO Extended Mission:**
  - Mini-RF bi-static observations could reveal locations of “blocky” subsurface ice
  - CRaTER albedo proton measurements could confirm presence of hydrated upper cm layer in polar regions → highly complementary to LEND and LPNS data
  - New mode of LAMP observations with up to ~10x signal-to-noise for measuring dayside and nightside hydration → tests diurnal variation hypothesis
  - Evidence for polar wander in the epithermal neutron data? (Sieglar et al., submitted)

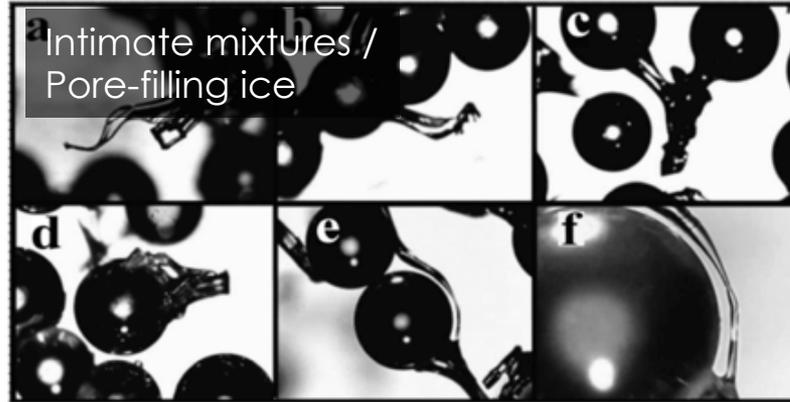
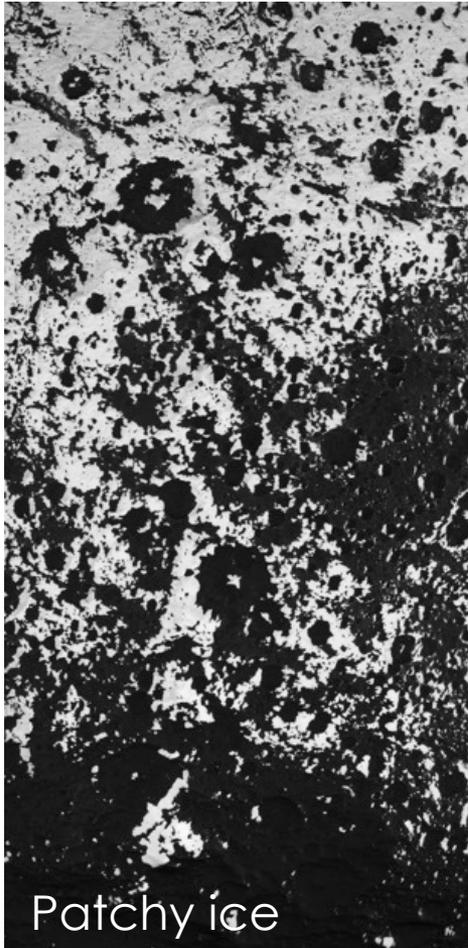


Thank you

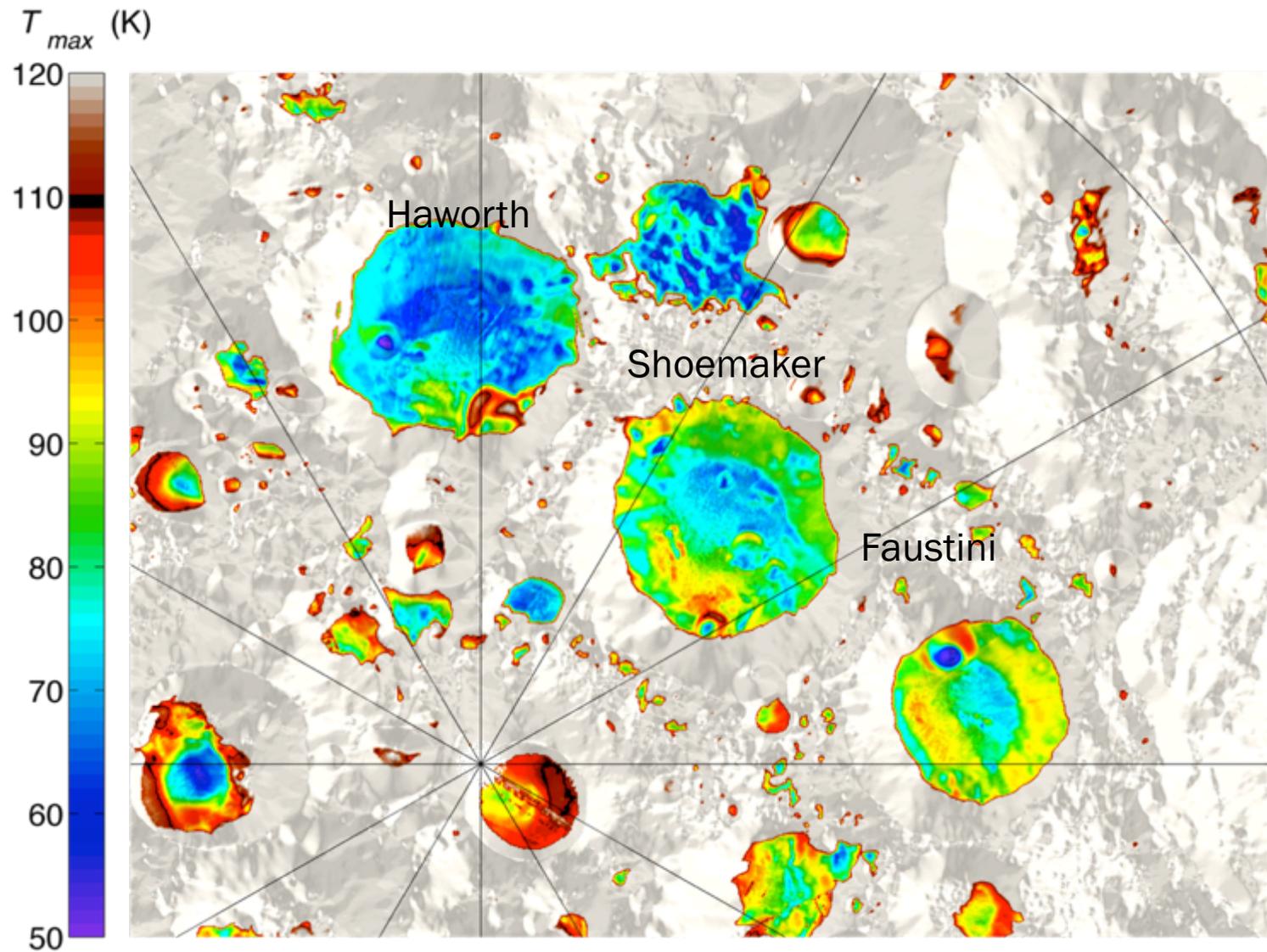
Acknowledgement: This work was performed at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, under contract with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.  
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Backup slides

# What kind of ice?

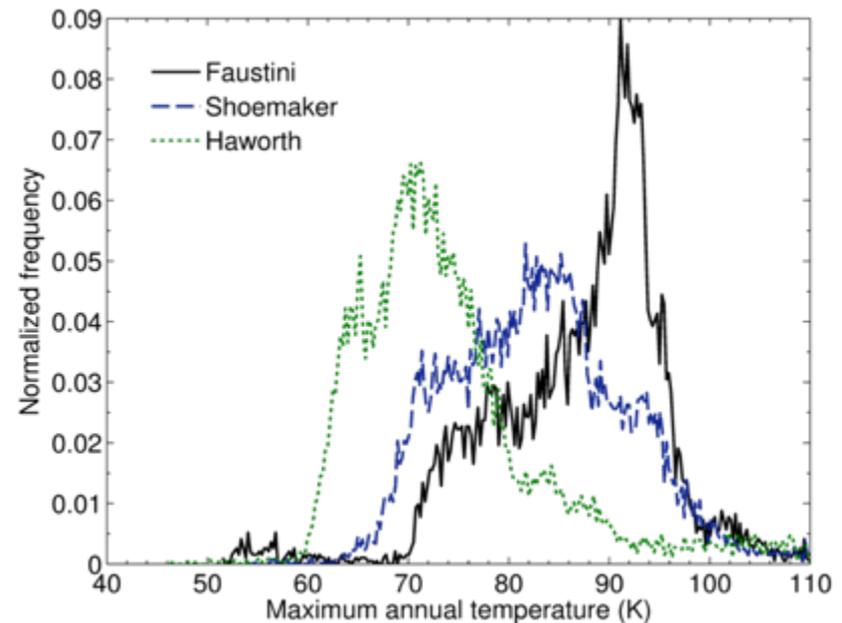
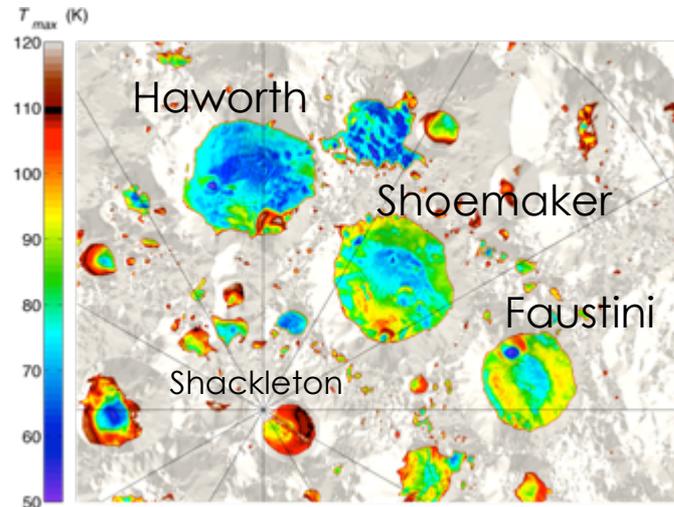


# “The Three Amigos”

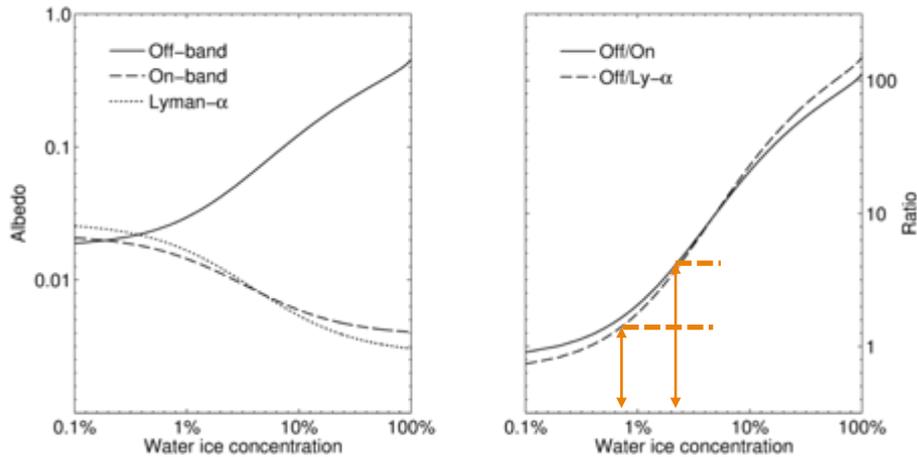


# “The Three Amigos”

- Each crater actually has quite a different average and range of thermal environments
- Haworth is by far the coldest on average
- Faustini has the greatest diversity, with both  $< 80$  K and even some  $> 100$  K regions
- Trend in LAMP in increasing apparent ice content: Haworth  $\gg$  Faustini  $>$  Shoemaker



# How Much Ice?



- Intimate mixture model: data consistent with  $\sim 1\text{--}2\%$  water ice by volume
- Area mixing model: up to  $\sim 10\%$  water ice by area

