



Volatiles on Airless Bodies

Andrew Ingersoll

api@gps.caltech.edu

July 22, 2013

Lunar Volatiles: An Outline in Matrix Form

Sources of volatiles	Comets & asteroids	Moon's Interior	Solar wind
Volatiles delivered	H ₂ O, CO, CO ₂ , H ₂ S, organics	hydrated minerals	H ⁺ + O ⁻ , all elements
Recorded history	comets, asteroids	lunar water, outgassing	solar activity, cosmic rays
Volatiles as resources	astronaut life support	structures	power & propulsion
Basic physics	cold trapping	OH in mantle	mineral alteration
Competing processes, loss of record	Sublimation, solar UV, sputtering	exogenic vs. endogenic sources	degradation vs. preservation by burial

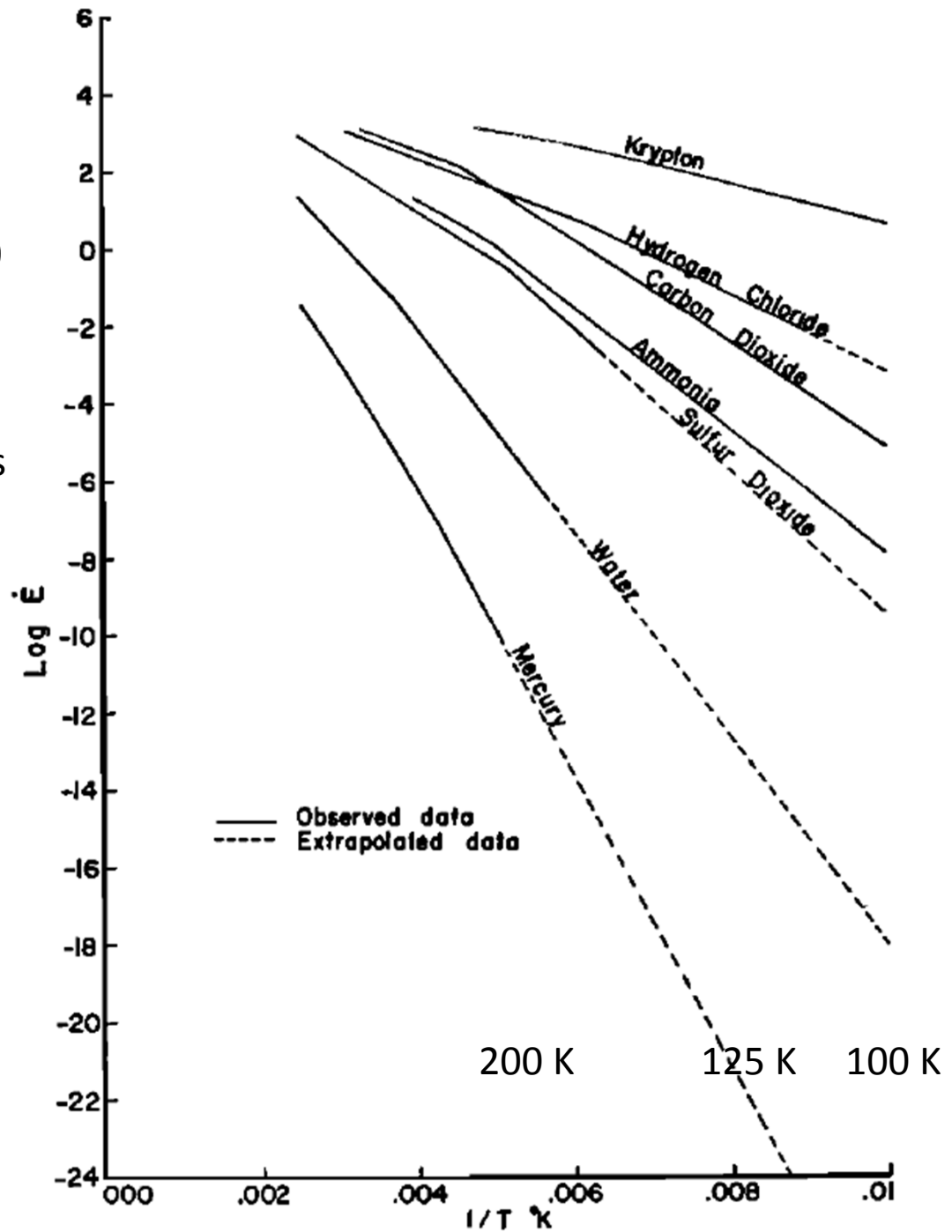
Watson et al. (1961)

\dot{E} (g cm² s⁻¹) vs. 1/T (K)

4.56×10^9 yr = 1.44×10^{17} s

$$E = p \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{2\pi RT}}$$

James Jeans: The
Dynamical Theory of
Gases (1904)



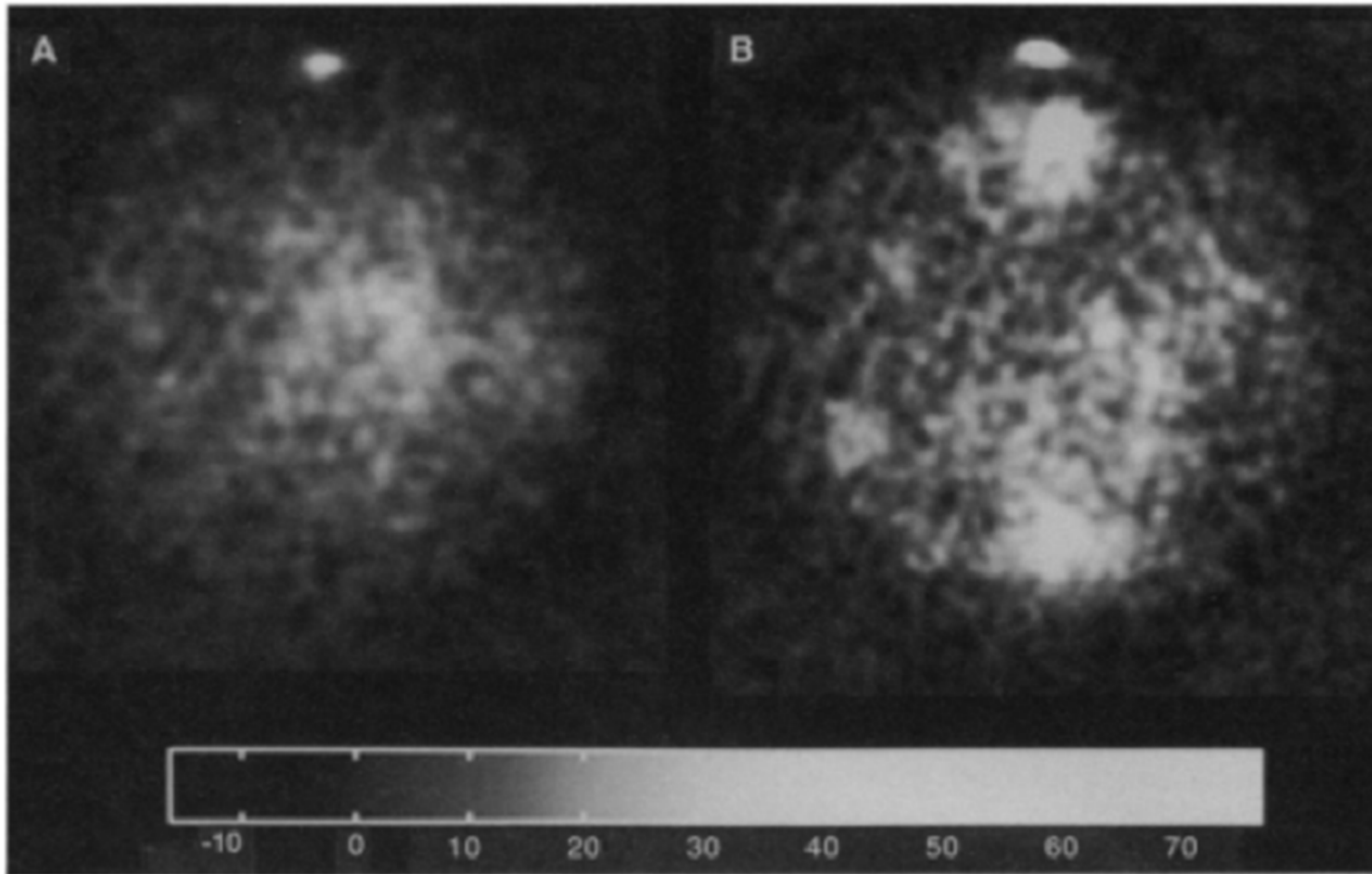


Fig. 1. Goldstone/VLA SS, or "depolarized," radar images of the Mercury disk for (A) 8 August 1991 and (B) 23 August 1991. North is at the top. Scale, radar reflectivity $\times 10^{-3}$ (see Eq. 1).

Goldstone/VLA depolarized radar images of Mercury. From Slade et al. (1992).

Paige et al. (1992): Mercury

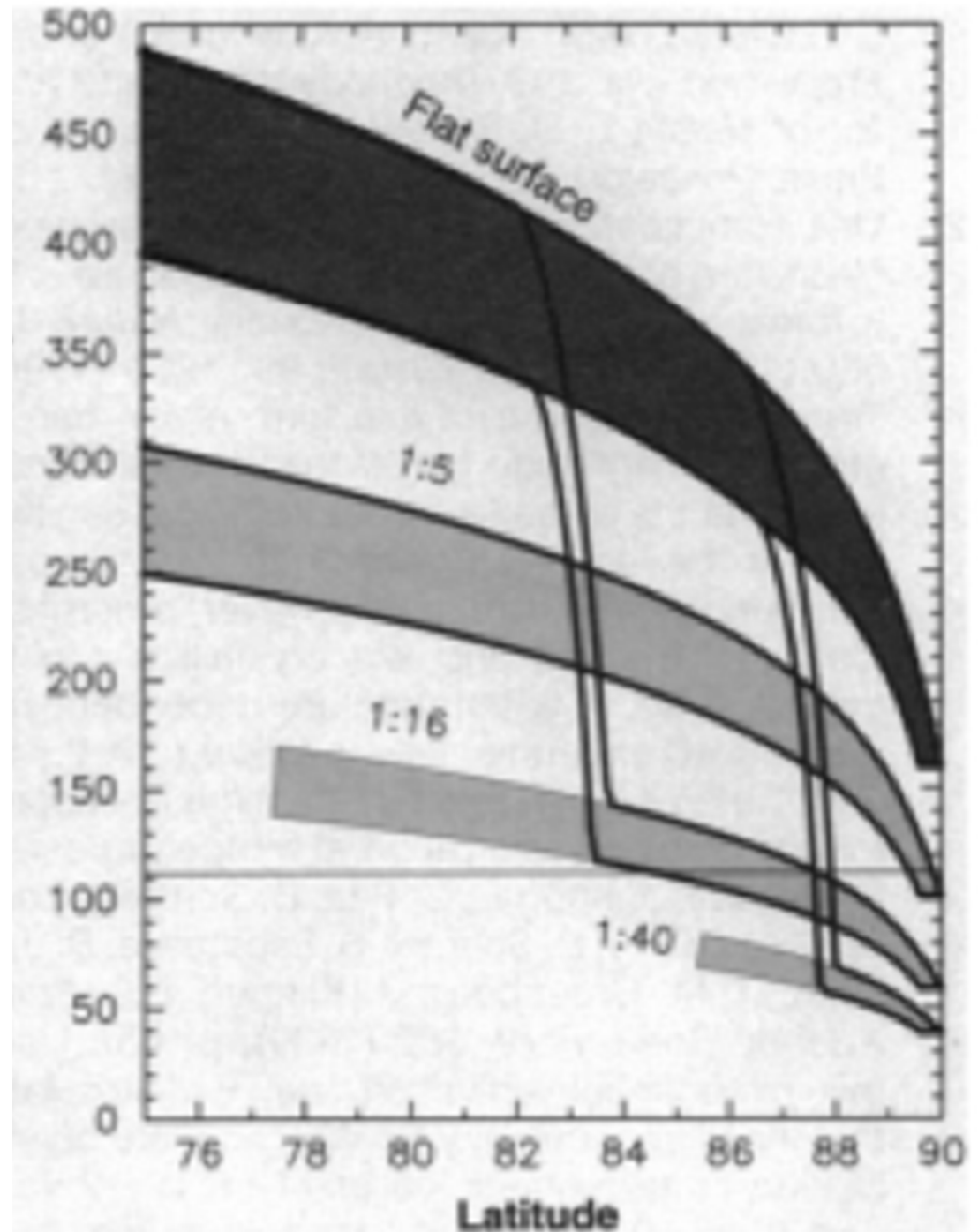
Biannual maximum surface temperature vs. latitude for craters of depth to diameter ratios of 1:5, 1:16, and 1:40.

The line at $T = 112$ K corresponds to an evaporation rate of 1 m/b.y.

Ingersoll et al. (1992):
Spherical bowl-shaped craters:

$$\sigma T^4 = F_{abs} (1 + A / \varepsilon) (2d / D)^2$$

$$F_{abs} = F_0 \sin i (1 - A)$$



Butler (1997)

Random walk with MB velocity distribution with H₂O molecules uniformly spread over the surface.

T = lifetime against photo-dissociation and photo-ionization.

$\tau(10^4 \text{ s})$	$n_{\text{stable}}(\%)$
3.3	21
6.7	34
13.0	50

Lower curve: Probability of a single molecule reaching a stable cold trap vs. latitude (my interpretation of Butler's Figure 5).

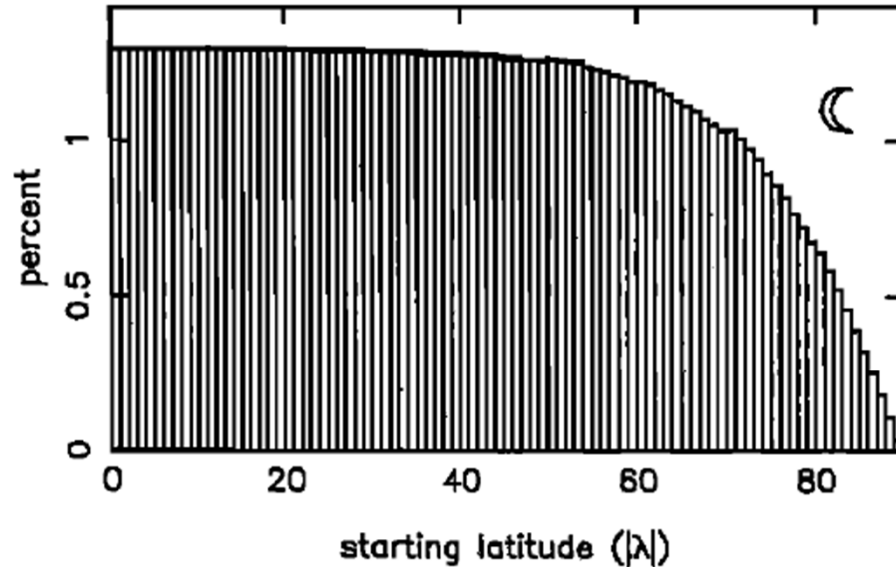
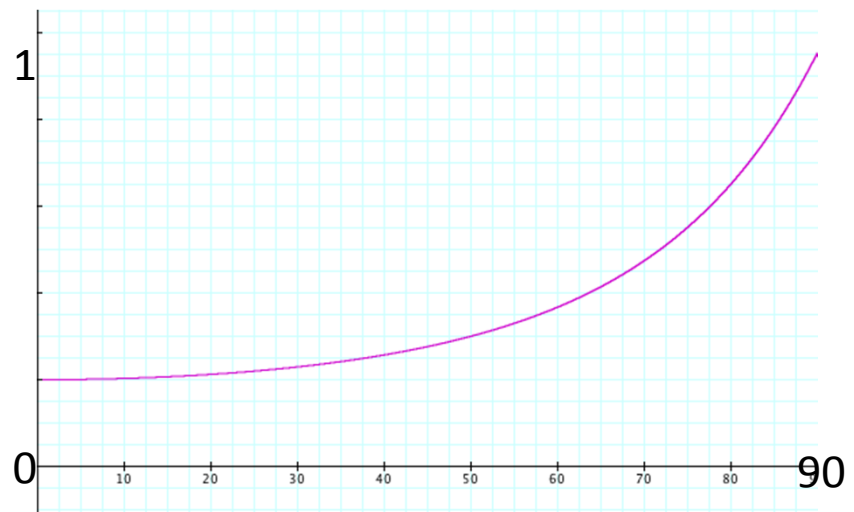


Figure 5. Histogram of the starting latitude of molecules which eventually became stable in the nominal Mercury and Moon simulations, showing that equatorial molecules may become stable.



Moses (1999): Mercury

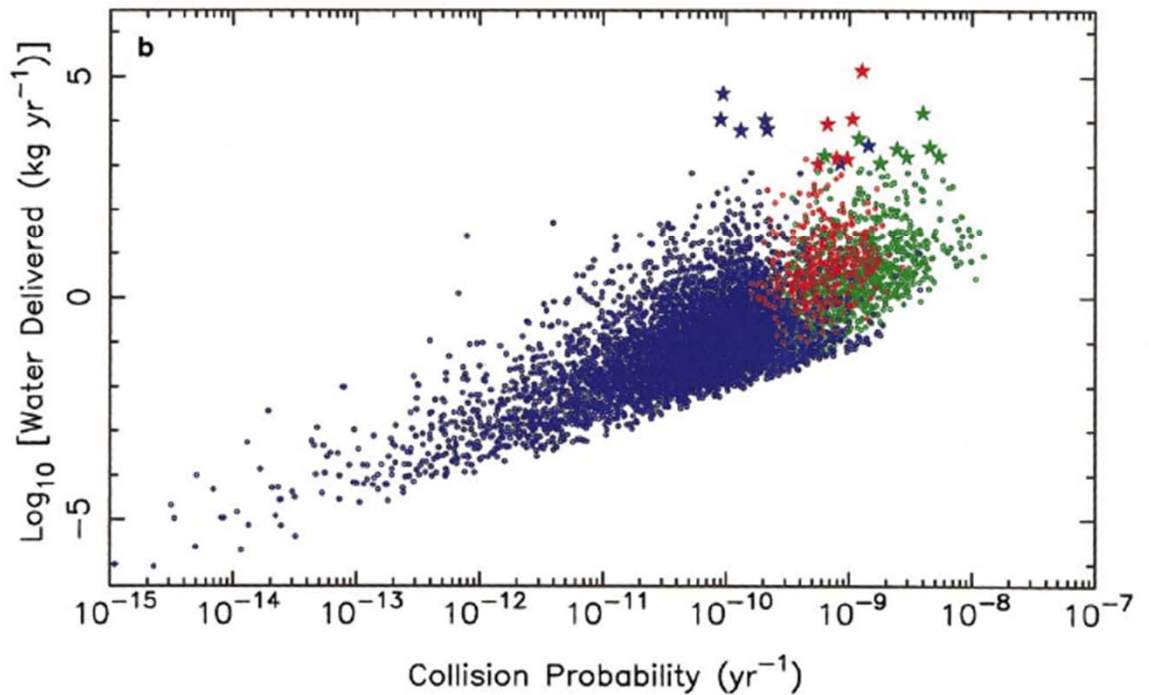
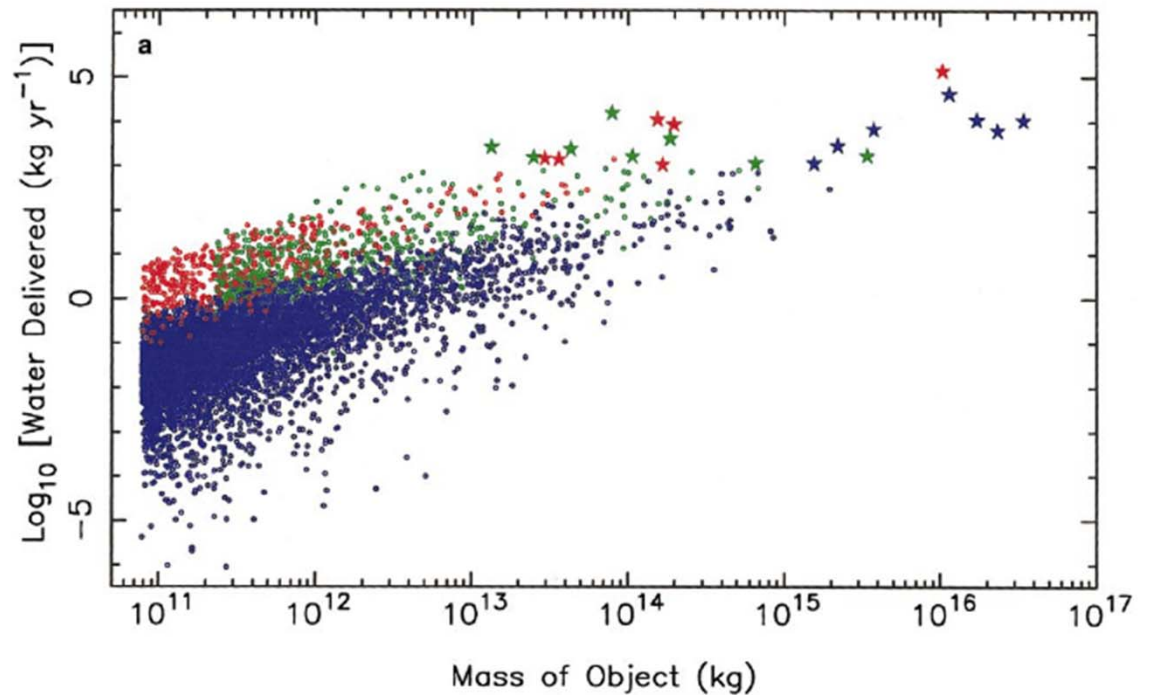
Monte Carlo results
for 3 kinds of impactors

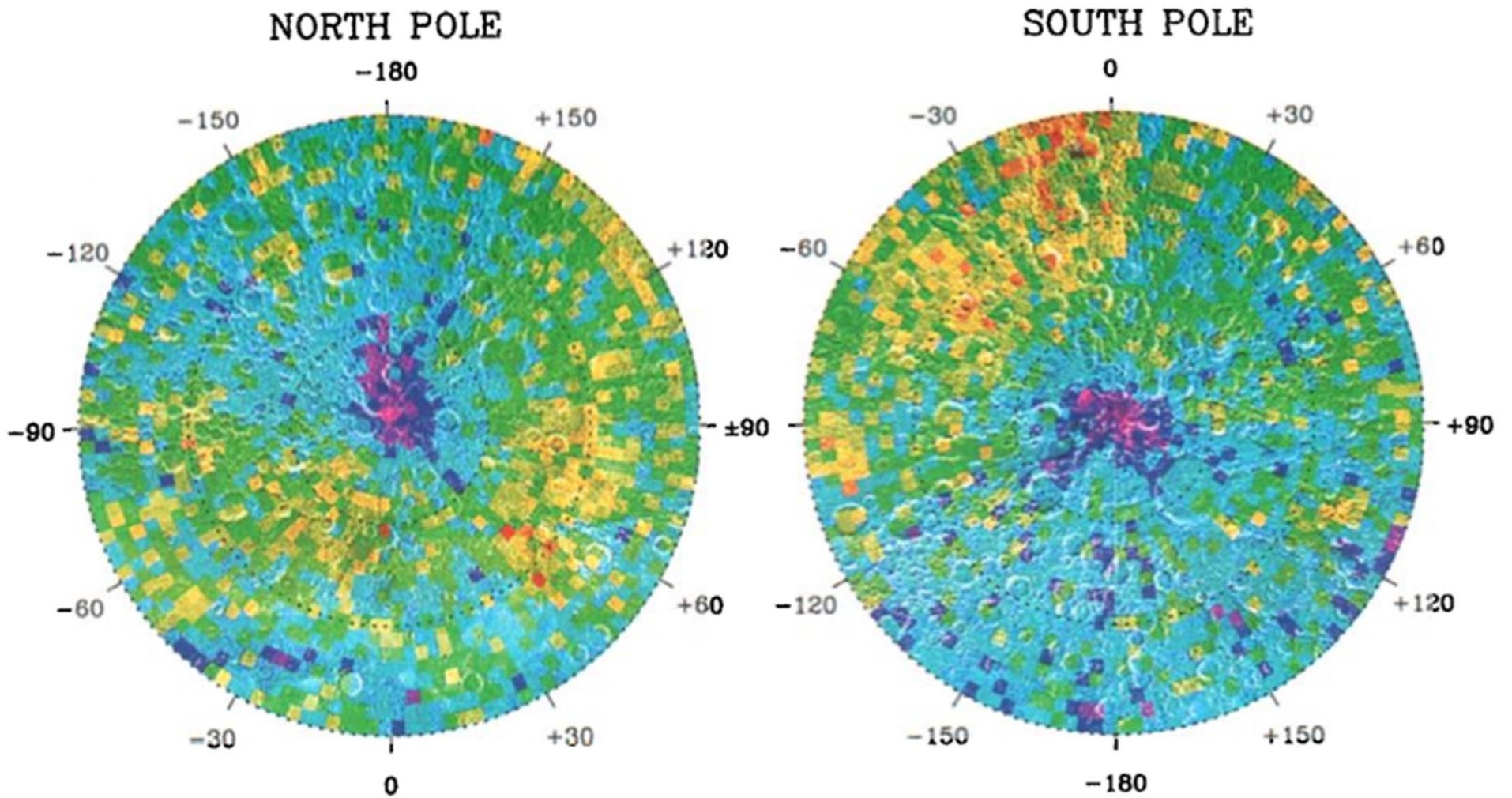
Asteroids in green
 $0.04\text{-}2 \times 10^{17}$ g over 3.5 b.y.

Jupiter-family comets in red
Halley-type comets in blue
 $0.03\text{-}20 \times 10^{17}$ g over 3.5 b.y.

Micrometeoroids (IDPs)
 $0.3\text{-}6 \times 10^{17}$ g over 3.5 b.y.

Observations of poles:
Mercury: $0.6\text{-}6 \times 10^{17}$ g
Moon: 2×10^{15} g





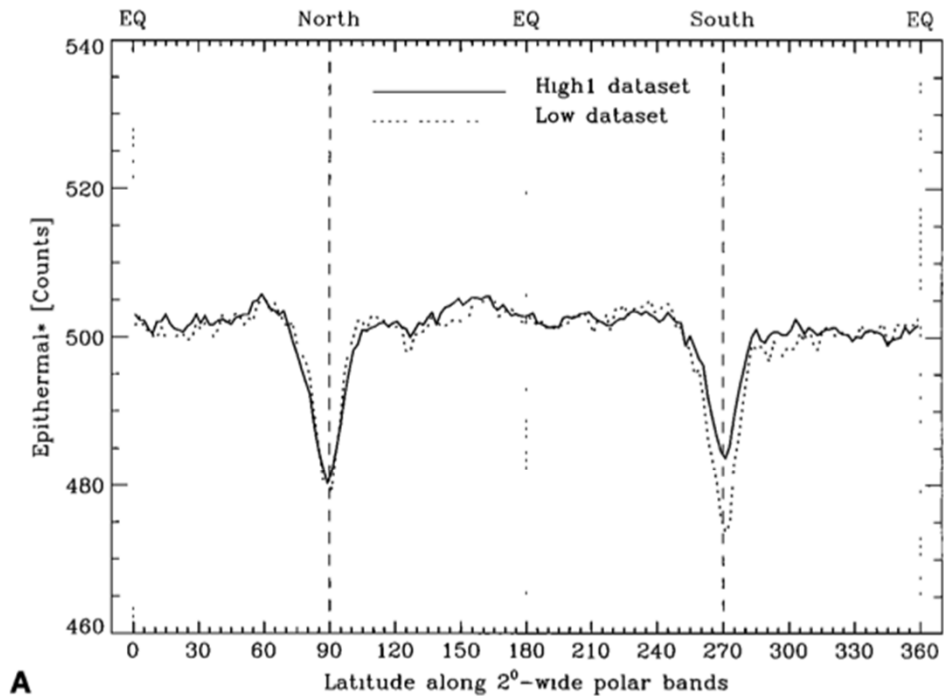
Moon: Absorption of epithermal neutrons poleward of $\pm 45^\circ$. Purple color indicates the presence of hydrogen, either H₂O or OH. From Feldman et al. (2000).

- A. Epithermal neutrons
- B. Fast neutrons

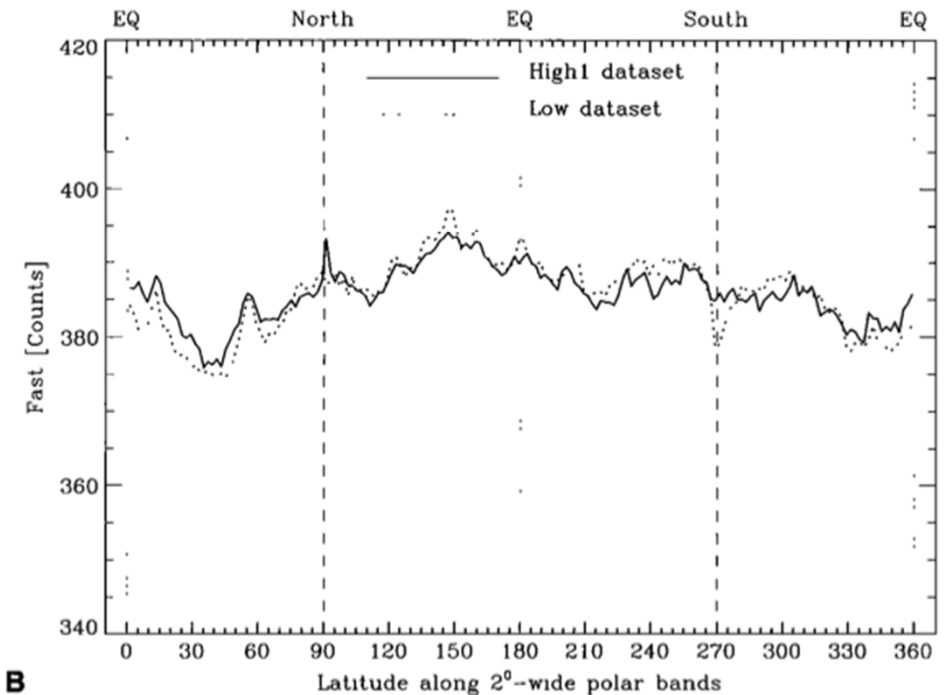
Low counting rates indicate absorption by hydrogen. Fast neutrons are more sensitive to elements beside H.

The polar deposits are estimated to be $1.5 \pm 0.8\%$ by mass of water ice. Any deposits of pure water ice must be at least 1 m below the surface.

From Feldman et al. (2000)
 2×10^{15} g ice at lunar poles

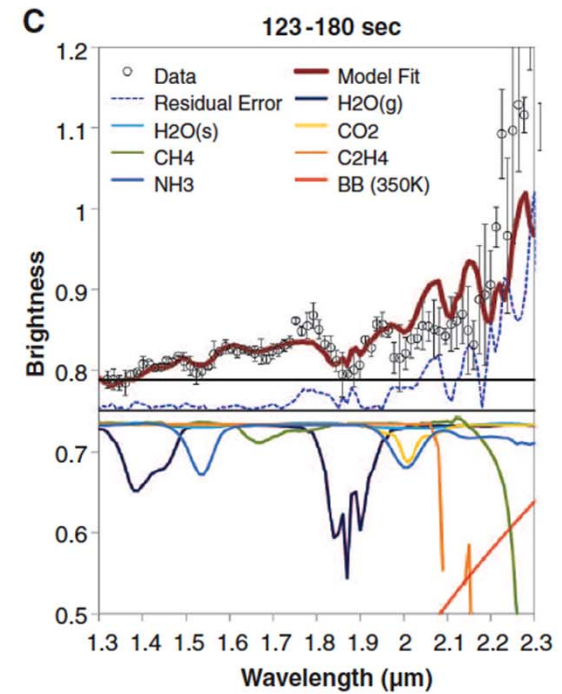
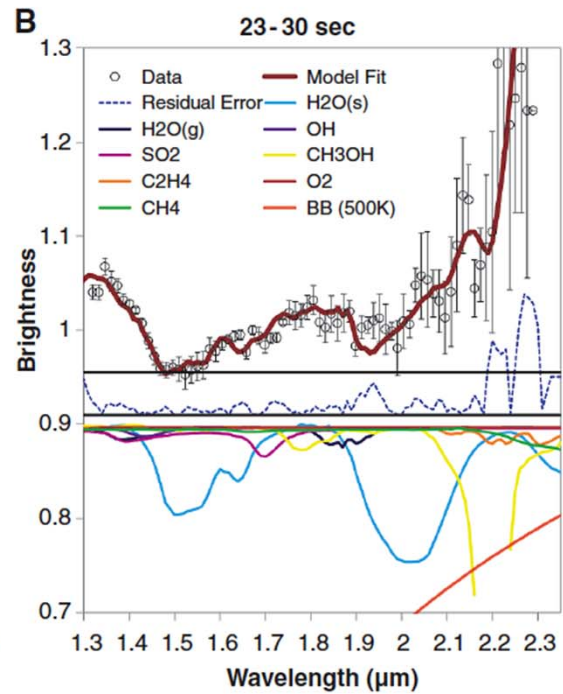
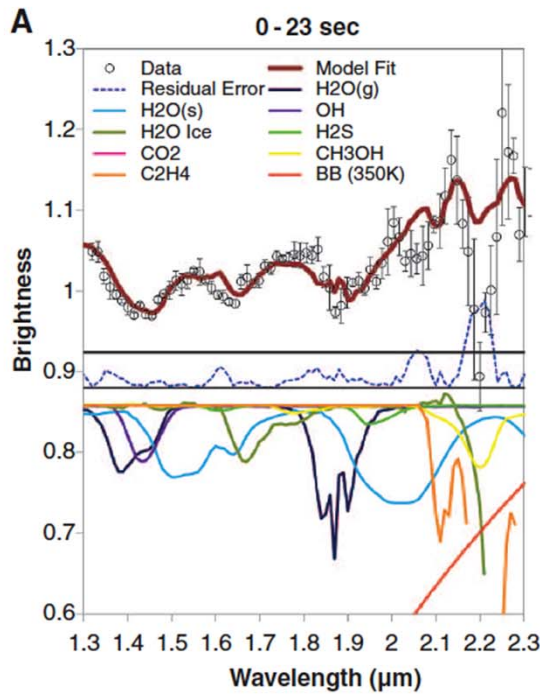


A



B

Colaprete et al. (2010): Moon. LCROSS ejecta plume

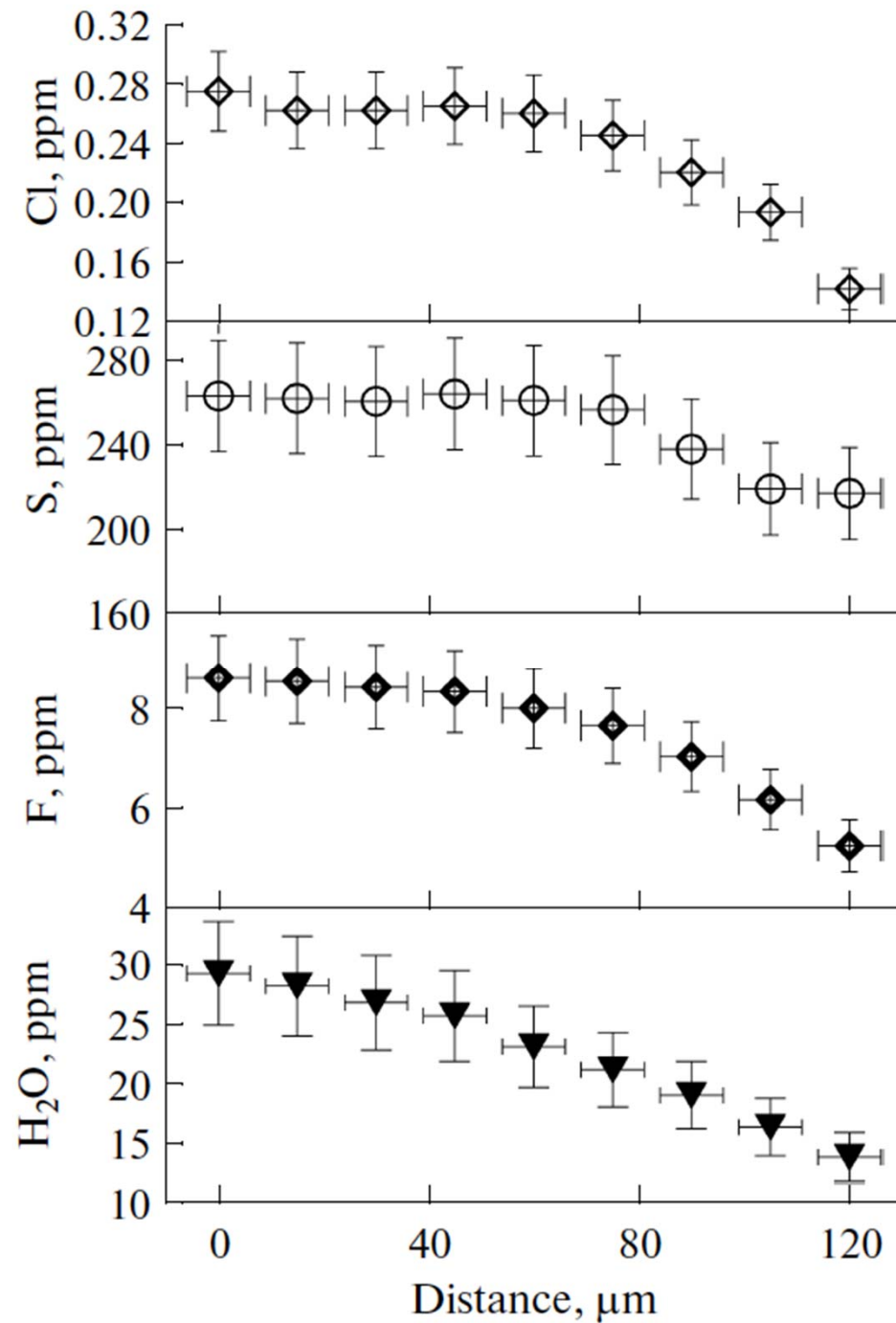


Compound	Molecules cm^{-2}	% Relative to $\text{H}_2\text{O}(\text{g})^*$
H_2O	$5.1(1.4)\text{E}19$	100.00%
H_2S	$8.5(0.9)\text{E}18$	16.75%
NH_3	$3.1(1.5)\text{E}18$	6.03%
SO_2	$1.6(0.4)\text{E}18$	3.19%
C_2H_4	$1.6(1.7)\text{E}18$	3.12%
CO_2	$1.1(1.0)\text{E}18$	2.17%
CH_3OH	$7.8(42)\text{E}17$	1.55%
CH_4	$3.3(3.0)\text{E}17$	0.65%
OH	$1.7(0.4)\text{E}16$	0.03%

Volatile content of lunar glass beads vs. distance from the center.

Terrestrial contamination and solar wind implantation would have *increased* with distance from the center.

Redrawn by Basilevsky et al. (2012) from data by Saal (2008).



From Basilevsky et al. (2012).

Apatite = calcium phosphate with F, which is sometimes replaced by Cl or OH.

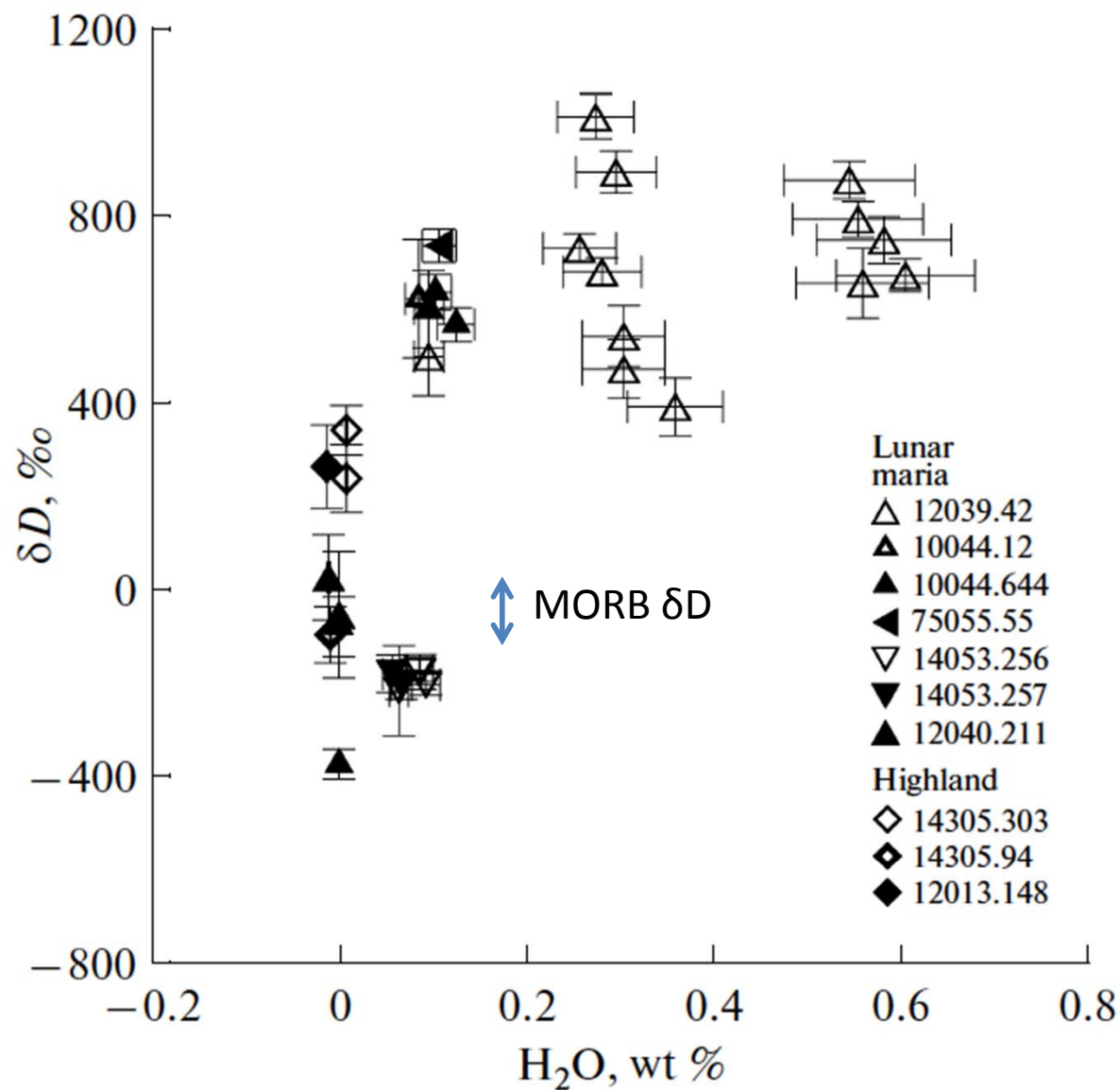


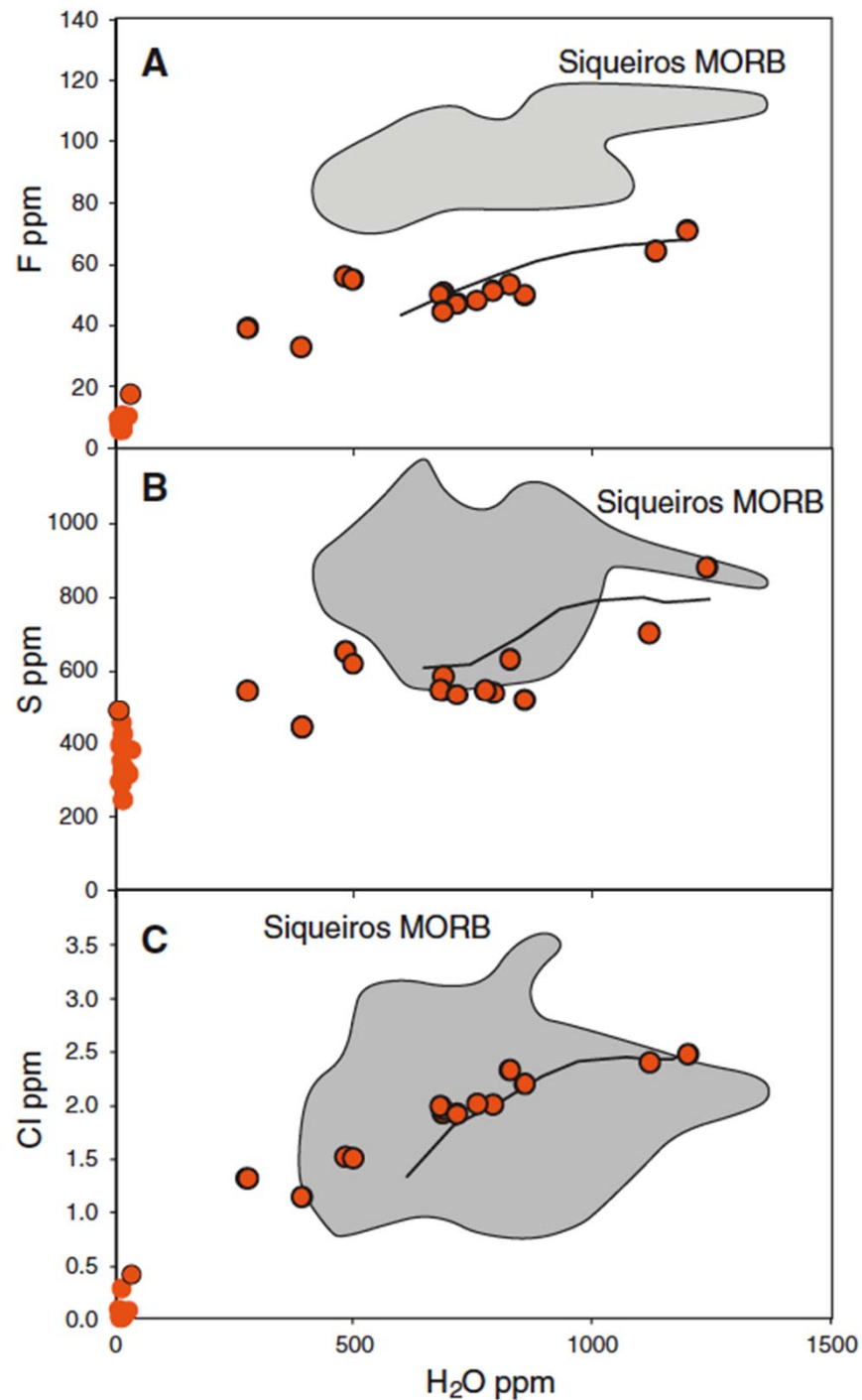
Fig. 3. Hydroxyl contents (in H_2O equivalent) and σD of lunar apatites (built from the data of Table 7 in *Supplementary Materials* to (Greenwood et al., 2011a)).

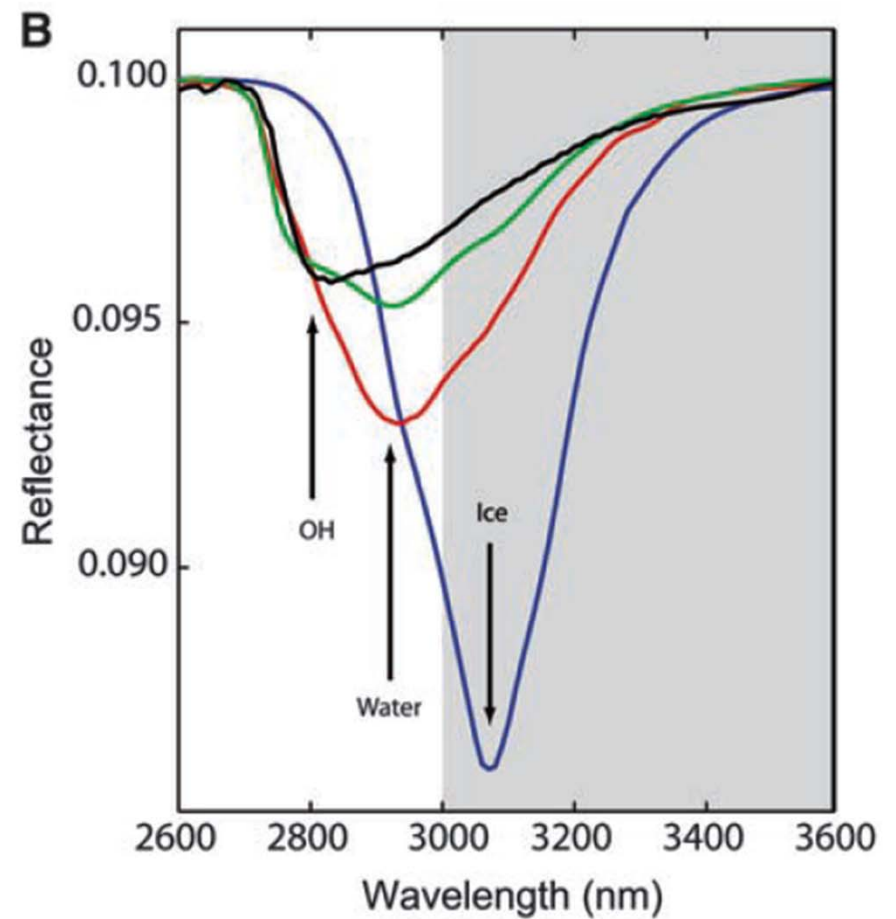
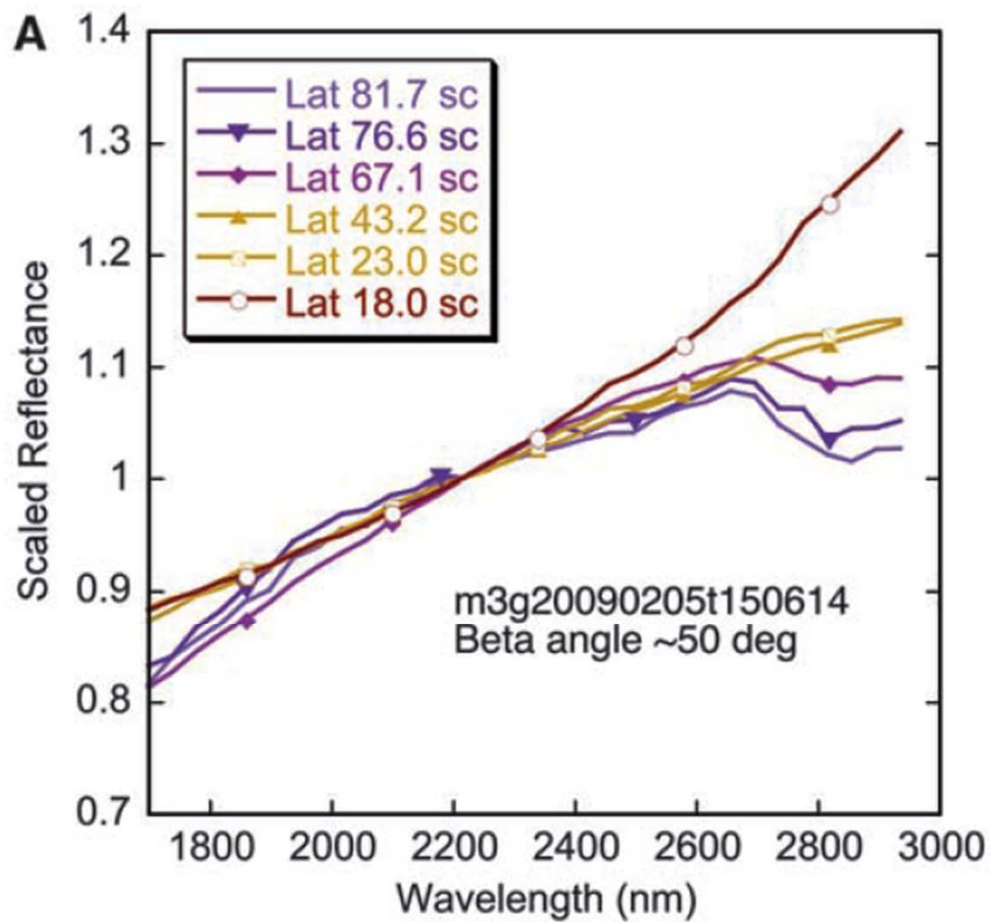
Volatiles in lunar melt
Inclusions from Hauri
et al. (2011).

Orange circles with
dark outlines are from
the inclusions. Orange
circles without outline
are from the matrix in
which the inclusions
are imbedded.

Implies volatiles were
not entirely lost during
the lunar-forming
giant impact.

Degassing may have
contributed to polar
volatile inventory



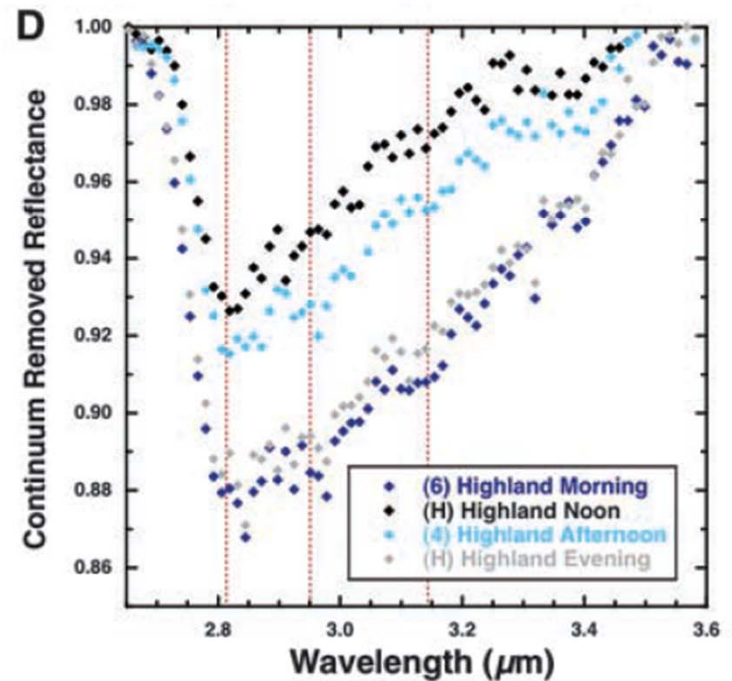
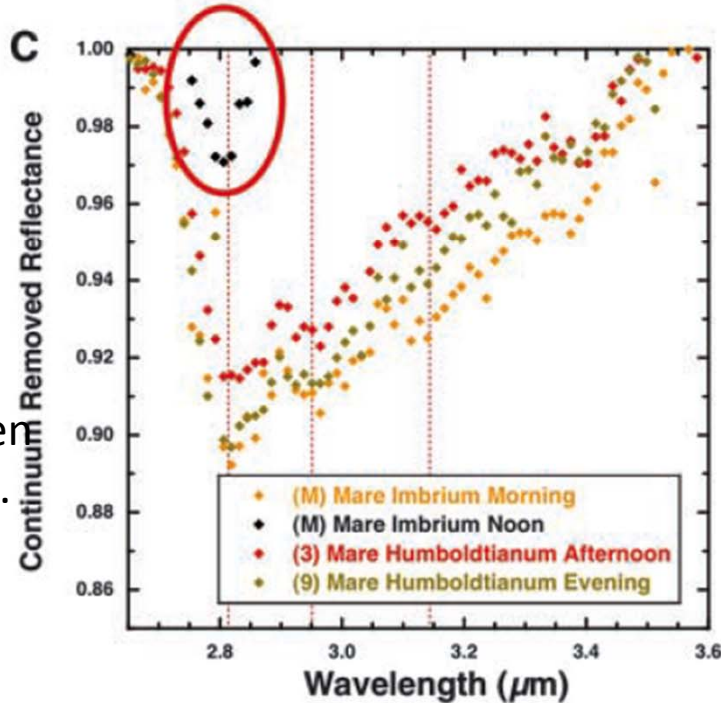
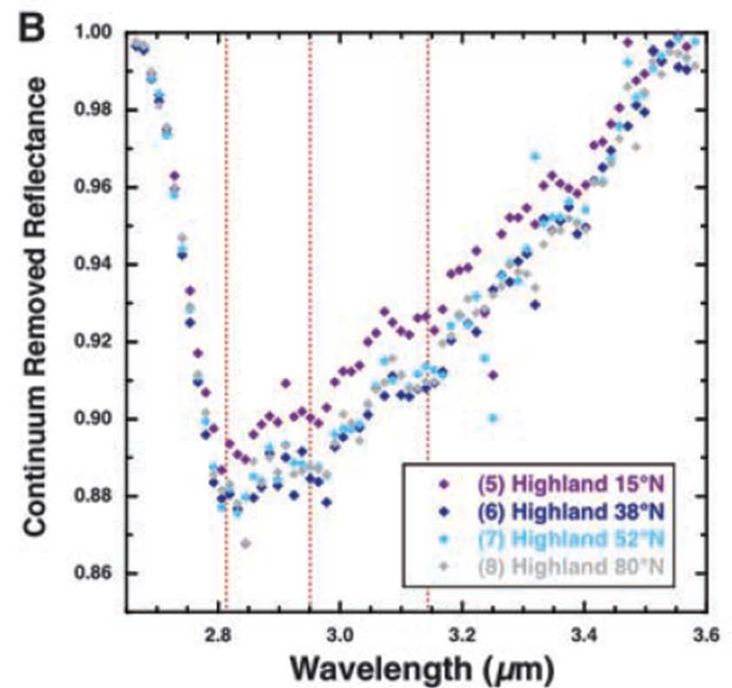
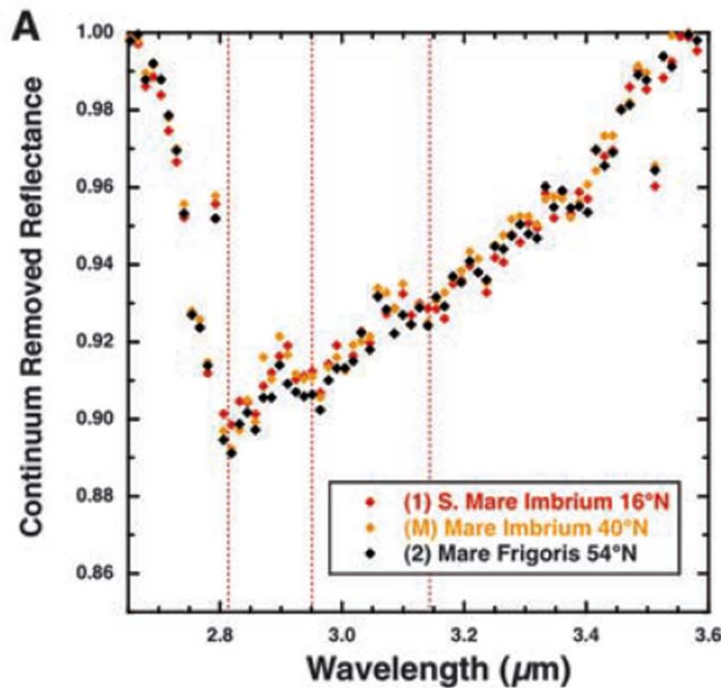


Pieters (2009). 2.8-3.0 μm absorption bands of water are stronger at high latitudes

Sunshine et al. (200): diurnal cycles in 3 μm water band.

Higher position on the graph (noon time) means less water.

Water is on the grain surfaces, Is produced by solar wind, and evaporates when T is high (noon).



Solar wind particle flux
 $3 \times 10^8 \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$.

Assume it impacts the lunar disk for 3.5 b.y. and produces one H_2O for every 2 particles (100% efficiency, no losses).

Total mass = $4.7 \times 10^{19} \text{ g}$.

100 x (asteroids + comets)
10,000 x (polar ice observed)



Sanders and Larsen (2013): In Situ Resource Utilization

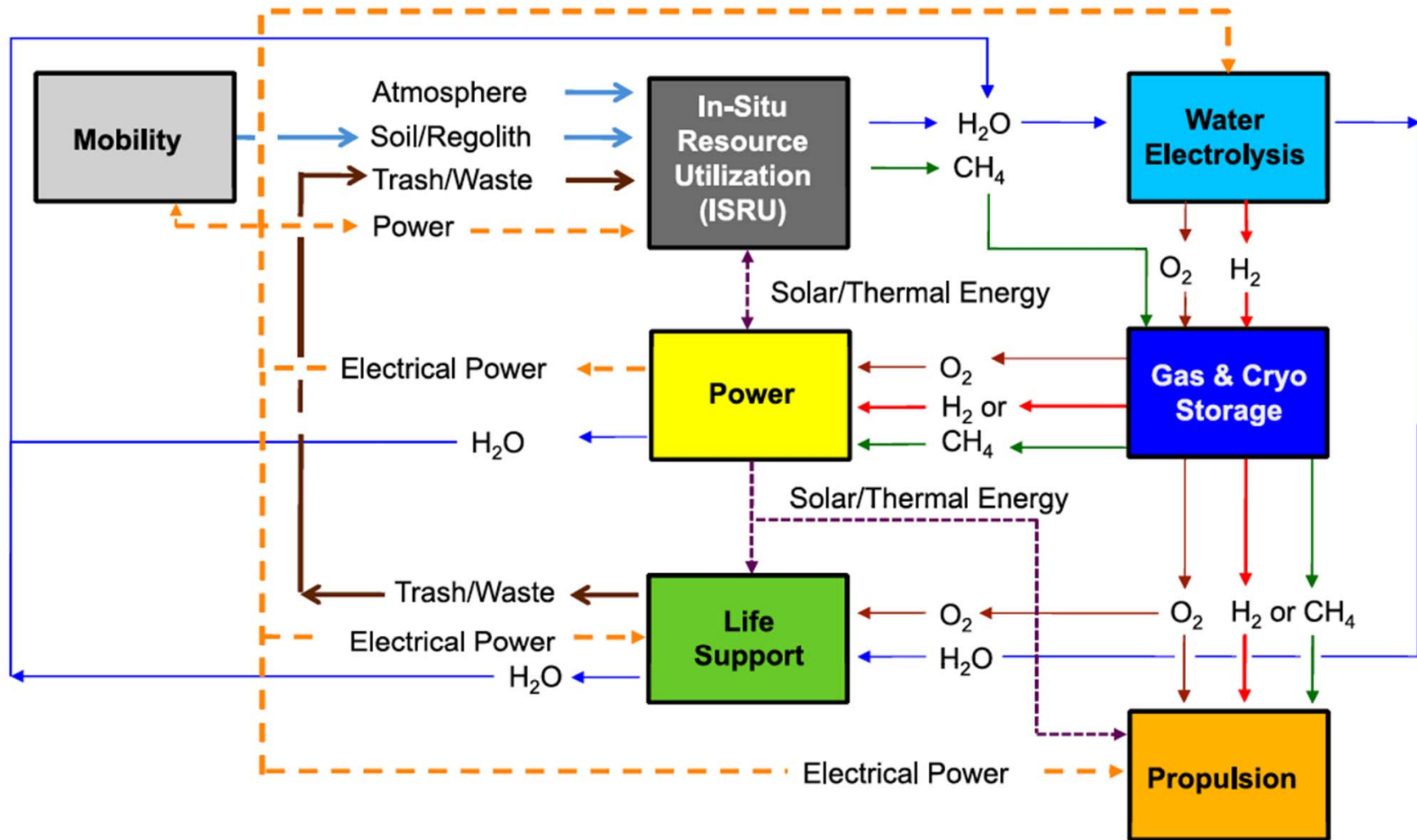


Fig. 2. Integrated ISRU-power-propulsion-life support fluid and energy cycles

Lunar Volatiles: An Outline in Matrix Form

Sources of volatiles	Comets & asteroids	Moon's Interior	Solar wind
Volatiles delivered	H ₂ O, CO, CO ₂ , H ₂ S, organics	hydrated minerals	H ⁺ + O ⁻ , all elements
Recorded history	comets, asteroids	lunar water, outgassing	solar activity, cosmic rays
Volatiles as resources	astronaut life support	structures	power & propulsion
Basic physics	cold trapping	OH in mantle	mineral alteration
Competing processes, loss of record	Sublimation, solar UV, sputtering	exogenic vs. endogenic sources	degradation vs. preservation by burial