



Planetary geomorphology

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History of the Study of Landforms Volume 5: Geomorphology in the Second Half of the Twentieth Century

Section C: Advances in research on processes and landforms

Chapter 25: Planetary geomorphology

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Abstract

With the advent of the space age, planetary geomorphology has become a stand-alone discipline. This contribution provides a summary of the different processes that have been identified to form landscapes and landforms on planetary bodies in our Solar System, including rocky planets, icy planets and moons, dwarf planets, comets and asteroids. I highlight the insights these landforms have provided into the workings of these bodies and how what has been learnt in space has often taught us new lessons about the Earth. Finally, I conclude that despite the limitations imposed by remote sensing, planetary geomorphology has a bright future in planning future missions to explore our Solar System as well as understanding the data that will be returned.

1 Introduction

This chapter is rather different from the rest of those in this book. First it is the only one that takes us away from our own planet. Secondly, it deals with a topic that was not covered, for obvious historical reasons, in the four previous volumes of the History of the Study of Landforms. Thirdly, it does not restrict itself to the temporal span of 1965-2000 which is the focus of this book. It reviews progress in the study of planetary geomorphology up until the present and shows the progress that has been made since the first successful missions were carried out from the mid-1960s onwards - It was in 1965 that Mariner 4 brought us back the first close-up photographs of another planet: Mars.

Planetary geomorphology is a branch of planetary science, which was born in the second half of the Twentieth Century from astronomy and has foundations in geology, meteorology, chemistry and biology. The rise of planetary geomorphology as a discipline goes hand in hand with an increasing use of satellite remote sensing data to study our own planet and the associated development of techniques to exploit these data.

The first remote sensing image of the Earth taken from space was in 1946. Only twenty years later, the NASA Mariner missions marked the first of a flurry of space missions that have only increased in number as the century progressed, bringing us images, topography and other data from all the major bodies in the Solar System and more. The objective of this chapter is not to provide a history of space exploration, which is done elsewhere (e.g., Burns, 2010), but to highlight the main discoveries and associated advances in the understanding of the processes and landforms of other worlds spanning the era of robotic and human exploration of space.

In order for landscapes and landforms to be studied the surface of the body has to be resolved at a sufficient resolution (in the author's opinion at least hundreds of metres per pixel). Hence to date, planetary geomorphology is restricted to solid bodies in our Solar System and relies on space probes sent to or near to the body of interest. We therefore have geomorphological information on (listed in approximate increasing solar distance):

- Mercury
- Venus*
- The Moon*
- Mars* and its moons Phobos and Deimos
- Dwarf planet Ceres in asteroid belt
- Asteroids (Bennu*, Ryugu *, Itokawa*, Vesta, Ida, Eros, Mathilde, Gaspra, Šteins, Toutatis)
- The satellites of Jupiter (Io, Europa, Ganymede, Callisto)
- The satellites of Saturn (Pan, Daphnis, Atlas, Prometheus, Pandora, Epimetheus, Janus, Mimas, Enceladus, Tethys, Telesto, Calypso, Dione, Helene, Rhea, Titan*, Hyperion, Iapetus, Phoebe)
- The satellites of Neptune (Proteus, Triton)
- The satellites of Uranus (Miranda, Ariel, Umbriel, Titania, Oberon)
- Dwarf planet Pluto and its moon Charon
- Trans-Neptunian Kuiper belt object "Arrokoth"
- Comets (Tempel 1*, Churyumov–Gerasimenko 67P*, Borrelly, Wild 2, Hartley 2)

(A * symbol indicates a landed mission)

This exploration has revealed a suite of familiar and unfamiliar processes and landforms compared to those found on Earth. This review will consider first processes and landforms already known from studying the Earth before the space exploration era and then move towards those processes and landforms less studied before Planetary Geomorphology became a distinct subdiscipline. Each section will highlight lesser-known landforms and knowledge gained from studying other worlds. For an exhaustive list of the landforms present on other worlds I refer the reader to the Encyclopaedia of Planetary Landforms (Hargitai and Kereszturi, 2015). For brevity only one or two references are cited per topic, with the intent that an interested reader can use them to access to the wider relevant literature on each topic.

2 Planetary aeolian landforms and processes

All bodies with an atmosphere have wind and aeolian landforms have been reported from: Mars, Venus Titan and Pluto (Lorenz and Zimbelman, 2014; Telfer et al., 2018), as well as of course Earth. For a full review of planetary aeolian landforms and associated processes I refer interested readers to Bourke et al. (2019). The observation of aeolian bedforms including ripples, megaripples and dunes on other planetary bodies (Figure 1a,b) has been very important for understanding the basic physics underlying aeolian processes, because these planetary bodies provide different atmospheric densities and particle densities spanning a wider range of parameter space than accessible on Earth at the landscape-scale (Kok et al., 2012; Lapôtre et al., 2020). Martian aeolian bedforms have a wider diversity of form and size than their terrestrial equivalents (e.g., Bourke, 2010; Sullivan et al., 2020), which has led to researchers to question whether the basic physics underlying their formation are indeed the same. A prime example is the landform called a Transverse Aeolian Ridge (Figure 1c) which at < 1 m tall are thought to represent megaripples whose morphology is determined by grainsize sorting rather than reptation and creep and whose origin remains unknown at larger

amplitudes (Zimbelman and Foroutan, 2020). Another example comes from radar images of longitudinal parallel and occasionally bifurcating ridges have been interpreted to be longitudinal dunes (Figure 1d) on Venus and Titan. Such dunes on Earth indicate strongly unimodal winds yet the “physics of saltation on Titan and Venus is fundamentally different from that on Earth and Mars [...] dominated by direct fluid lifting” (Kok et al., 2012).

Hence, planetary observations have also revealed aeolian processes that are only experienced on extra-terrestrial environments resulting in potentially unique landforms. These include bedforms created by ablation (in the form of sublimation of ices – see also Section 11) rather than particle movements (Bordiec et al., 2020), which have so far only been studied in detail on the Antarctic ice cap (van den Broeke and Bintanja, 1995) or in ice caves (Obleitner and Spötl, 2011). Another surprising result was the discovery of dunes on the comet 67P Churyumov–Gerasimenko, which has no atmosphere (Jia et al., 2017; Thomas et al., 2015). These “dunes” are thought to form at times when the comet is close to the sun causing vigorous outgassing and strong winds being setup between sunlit and shadowed areas on the surface (Jia et al., 2017). Scouring “upwind” and build-up of sediment on the “downwind” of boulders supports this hypothesis (Mottola et al., 2015).

Abrasion by particles lofted by the wind results in erosional aeolian landforms, such as yardangs and the landscape-scale (Figure 1e) and ventifacts at the “field” scale (e.g., Wells and Zimbelman, 1997) – the orientation of these landforms is used as an important indicator of prevailing wind directions. Yardangs have been studied in most detail on Mars, but also have been suggested on Venus (Greeley et al., 1995), Titan (Paillou et al., 2016) and as an alternative interpretation of the “dunes” on Pluto (Moore et al., 2018). The study of yardangs on Mars drove a renaissance for their study on Earth (Goudie, 2007) where their climate significance is still debated. Ventifacts have been observed at the surface of Mars and are remarkably similar to those found on Earth (Knight, 2008; Laity and Bridges, 2009) and most modern studies of terrestrial ventifacts refer to planetary-driven research on this topic.

Wind can also drive the formation of inverted landforms, which have been of particular importance in revealing ancient fluvial processes on Mars (Davis et al., 2016; Day and Kocurek, 2016)(Section 3). Wind is the agent that erodes and deflates the sediments surrounding the channel(s) which are more resistant to abrasion (Figure 1e). This additional resistance can come about from cementation, coarser grainsizes or lava capping (e.g., Williams et al., 2009).

Particular to Mars are landforms related to the copious dust at its surface, which also influences the atmospheric circulation on that body (e.g., Madeleine et al., 2011). Dust via airfall is incorporated in sedimentary deposits and ice-deposition landforms (e.g. the polar caps - Kieffer, 1990; or the ice-dust latitude dependant mantle - Mustard et al., 2001). Unique to Mars are “Slope Streaks” which are landforms associated with dust motion down steep slopes (e.g., Schorghofer et al., 2007; Sullivan et al., 2001), see Section 7 for further details. Dust Devils are atmospheric vortices which are common on Mars (Figure 1f) and have been observed by every landed mission (e.g., Ferri et al., 2003; Greeley et al., 2006b; Ryan and Lucich, 1983; Thomas and Gierasch, 1985). They can also be found in deserts on Earth (Balme and Greeley, 2006), yet on Mars they often remove the dust on the surface leaving a tortuous track in their wake which is clearly visible from orbit. Much recent research on terrestrial dust devils has been driven by the desire to better understand the phenomenon on Mars (e.g., Balme et al., 2012; Reiss et al., 2010).

3 Planetary fluvial landforms and processes

The possibility of extraterrestrial fluvial geomorphology was first revealed by the discovery of valley networks and channel systems on the surface of Mars (Masursky, 1973) (Figure 2a). On Saturn's satellite Titan fluvial landforms in the form of valley networks (Porco et al., 2005; Tomasko et al., 2005) are thought to be formed by flowing liquid methane eroding the 'bedrock' of ice (Perron et al., 2006) (Figure 2b). Together with the observation of lakes (see section 4), the existence of valley networks on Titan has led to the hypothesis of a hydrocarbon-cycle driven by the decade-long seasonal cycle and atmospheric synthesis of hydrocarbons. On Venus, the river-like canali could be lava channels or carved by, another as-yet unidentified, fluid (Jones and Pickering, 2003; Kargel et al., 1994; Komatsu and Baker, 1994). Equally dendritic valleys on Pluto have been proposed to be carved by flowing liquid nitrogen (Stern et al., 2017) - the favoured alternate interpretation as glacial in origin, is described in Section 8.

The observation of valley networks motivated the hypothesis that Mars had a full-hydrological cycle early in its history, when its atmospheric density was higher allowing surface liquid water to be stable (Baker et al., 1991; Pollack et al., 1987). These valley networks are visible in a degraded (Ansan et al., 2008; Baker and Partridge, 1986) or inverted (Davis et al., 2016) state on the oldest visible surfaces of Mars (Figure 2a). Some of these valleys have low tributary order/number and by analogy with valleys with similar morphology on Earth have been interpreted to originate via groundwater sapping (Luo and Howard, 2008), hence revealing the potential presence of aquifers, although this interpretation has been questioned (Lapotre and Lamb, 2018). Some have also been interpreted to originate from sub-icesheet drainage (Grau Galofre et al., 2020), attesting to potentially widespread glaciation early in Mars' history (Fastook and Head, 2015). The observation of meandering channel belts on Mars brought into question the hypothesis that vegetation was a prerequisite for developing meanders early in Earth's history (Ielpi and Lapôtre, 2020).

Outflow channels on Mars – thought to represent colossal outbursts of water (Baker and Kochel, 1979) from pressurised aquifers (Marra et al., 2015) - reach hundreds of kilometres in width and thousands in length (Figure 2c). They are characterised by streamlined obstacles and often multiple terrace levels indicating several pulses of activity (Warner et al., 2009). The outflow channels often originate at "Chaos Terrain" which also exists on Mercury (Rodriguez et al., 2020), Europa and Pluto (Skjetne et al., 2021) (Figure 2d), and hence is not a landform directly connected to fluvial processes. Chaos terrain is thought to form by the fracturing of a layer of crust sliding over a lower lubricated layer (water in the case of Mars and Europa and glacial flow of N₂ ice for Pluto). Alternatively, such outflow channels could be carved by very fluid lava (Leverington, 2011), as is thought to be the case for analogous channels found on Mercury (Byrne et al., 2013).

Mars' surface hosts many enigmatic discontinuous channel segments, some of which have been related to water release by impacts (Mangold, 2012). Others terminate in landforms that resemble alluvial fans on Earth, such as Peace Vallis and its fan that was explored by the Curiosity Rover and found to contain conglomerates (Williams et al., 2013). These observations, together with those of the outflow channels point to surface water occurring only episodically, which contrasts with the older valley networks which point to a full-hydrological cycle having existed on Mars. As surface liquid water is not thought to have been stable for the last 1 Ga due to low atmospheric pressure and humidity, all together this points to Mars's surface becoming more arid over time.

The smallest planetary landforms thought to be related to fluvial activity are kilometre-scale martian gullies (Figure 2e) (Conway et al., 2019; Malin and Edgett, 2000) and the metres-wide and up to hundreds of metres long Recurring Slope Lineae or "RSL" on Mars (Figure 2f) (McEwen et al., 2011).

Martian gullies resemble first-order drainage systems dominated by debris flow processes on Earth, yet present-day flows in martian gullies during local winter argue against a completely fluvial origin (Diniega et al., 2010; Dundas et al., 2019) – see Section 11. RSL are low albedo streaks that grow in the hottest times of year extending from rocky steep slopes (Ojha et al., 2014) and have been suggested to be water or brine seeps (Stillman et al., 2020), however the temporal and spatial limits of orbital observations mean their origin remains enigmatic and could represent a uniquely martian surface process and landform (F. Schmidt et al., 2017).

4 Coastal, lacustrine and karstic processes and landforms

Mars is the only planet besides Earth in the Solar System which is suspected to have had ocean-scale open bodies of standing liquid (in this case water). Mars' valley networks and outflow channels generally terminate in the northern lowlands and it is around these plains that two or more levels of putative shorelines have been identified (Carr and Head, 2019; Parker et al., 1993). These shorelines are characterised by a continuously traceable contact (expressed by albedo and/or topographic contrasts - Figure 3a) over thousands of kilometres and interpreted to represent wavecut platform(s). The lack of features typically associated with paleoshorelines on Earth, such as terraces, or barrier ridges (Ghatan and Zimbelman, 2006; Malin and Edgett, 1999), means this interpretation remains contentious. Variations in their altitude have been attributed to tectonic deformation post-formation (Citron et al., 2018), and are also used as evidence against the landforms representing shorelines (Sholes et al., 2021). The evidence for an ancient ocean is bolstered by the presence of deltas whose altitudes are consistent with the ocean levels represented by the shorelines (Di Achille and Hynek, 2010). Some of the shoreline landforms are alternately interpreted as the wash-up deposits of tsunamis (Figure 3b) (Costard et al., 2017; Rodriguez et al., 2016), which also implies the presence of an ocean.

Deltas are also one of the key lines of evidence in favour of the prevalence of paleolakes on ancient Mars (Mangold et al., 2012) (Figure 3c). Other lines of evidence include sedimentary and in situ observations by the Mars Science Laboratory rover Curiosity (Stein et al., 2018), spectral observations from orbit (Dehouck et al., 2010), and morphological arguments – e.g., channels ingress into depressions, but have no outlet or a higher elevation outlet (Cabrol and Grin, 1999; Fassett and Head III, 2008; Goudge et al., 2016, 2015). The only other body in the Solar System thought to host (or have hosted) seas or lakes is Saturn's Moon Titan (Figure 3d), whose 1.5 bar nitrogen-dominated atmosphere and -180°C surface temperature means that liquid methane is believed to be the main constituent of these lakes or seas, which are mainly located in polar regions. While some of these bodies are connected to drainage systems, others are thought to be the result of karstic-type dissolution processes (Mastrogiuseppe et al., 2019). Deposits interpreted to be evaporitic associated with basins located at Titan's tropics are inferred to be paleolakes or paleoseas (Moore and Howard, 2010), which could have resulted from seasonal (decadal timescales) or longer-term climatic changes on Titan (MacKenzie et al., 2014).

Numerous sulphate salt deposits exist on Mars and hundred-metre-scale depressions within them have been linked to karstic processes (Baioni and Sgavetti, 2013; Sefton-Nash et al., 2012) potentially related to groundwater circulation (Grindrod and Balme, 2010). Dissolution has been invoked to partly explain the collapse features associated with chaos terrain (described in Section 3). Pseudokarst is where material is lost by mechanisms other than dissolution e.g. thermokarst, which in a planetary context has been employed to describe karst-like features caused by temperature induced volatile loss in contrast to the terrestrial definition which involves melting of ice-rich permafrost. These karstic landforms are described further in Section 11 and martian thermokarst initially also attributed to melting ice-rich permafrost are referred to in Section 8).

5 Planetary tectonic landforms and processes

Tectonic landforms are ubiquitous on planetary surfaces. Even the smallest bodies that have been explored, such as comets, show signs of fracturing which result from interior forces (El-Maarry et al., 2015). However, only the Earth has plate tectonics, whose action profoundly influences its landscapes, making it one of the most dynamic surfaces in the Solar System. Europa, which is an icy Moon of Jupiter, may have an analogous system of plates, but in this case the plates are made of water ice floating on a liquid water “mantle” (Kattenhorn and Prockter, 2014) (Figure 4a). The detailed morphology of Europa’s plates was key in motivating the dynamic modelling that underpins our understanding of this planet’s interior. A similar “jostling plates” model has been advanced for Venus based on analogy with deformational structures observed in actively deforming continents on Earth (Byrne et al., 2021). Typical compressional tectonic landforms include wrinkle ridges, high relief ridges and lobate scarps (Figure 4b, c), common on Mercury (Byrne et al., 2014), Mars (Herrero-Gil et al., 2019; Nahm and Schultz, 2011), and the Moon (Schleicher et al., 2019; Watters et al., 2010). They are thought to be compound landforms representing folds above faults, but not common on Earth (Crane, 2020) hampering their interpretation. Global mapping these compressional tectonic features on Mercury has provided an independent estimate of its global contraction (Byrne et al., 2014).

Typical extensional forms include graben (Figure 4d) and are found commonly throughout the solar system. Graben systems are sometimes associated with pit-chains, which are thought to be caused by fracture dilation (Ferrill et al., 2011) (Figure 4e) and whose origin is also interpreted to be magmatic (see section 6):

Extensional tectonic features are very common on the icy moons of Jupiter, Saturn, and Neptune and their patterns have been vital in understanding the forces that influence these bodies including tidal stresses from their planets, crustal thickness, and mantle motions (Collins et al., 2009). Tectonic landforms on these icy satellites can be unique, for example the double ridges on Europa (Figure 4a), or the twisting double ridge-sets on Triton, or the prominent single equatorial ridge on Iapetus (Figure 4f).

6 Planetary volcanic landforms and processes

The definition of volcanism has been extended beyond magmatic volcanism in a planetary science context, to include also sedimentary volcanism and cryovolcanism and each are thought to produce somewhat distinct landforms. Magmatic volcanism requires interior heating and an availability of silicates to produce magma, so generally related volcanic landforms are found on terrestrial planets of the inner solar system, as well as Earth’s Moon and Jupiter’s innermost moon Io. Volcanism at the largest scale (hundreds to thousands of kilometres) is recognised in the form of volcanic constructs, such as Tuulikki Mons on Venus (Basilevsky et al., 2012) (Figure 5a) or Olympus Mons on Mars (Morris, 1982) and/or volcanic plains, such as the Mare of the Moon (Figure 5b) (Stuart-Alexander and Howard, 1970) or the Northern Plains of Mercury (Denevi et al., 2013). Peculiar to Venus are coronae, arachnoids and novae, which are large patterns of fractures (concentric, concentric-radial and radial, respectively) believed to be volcanic in origin (Head et al., 1992). Io is the only planetary body in the Solar System where volcanic eruptions have actually been observed occurring (McEwen, 1998).

Recognisable at the kilometre to tens of kilometre-scale on Mars, the Moon, Venus and Io are individual lava flows (Figure 5c – io “dark flow”) and lava channels. On the Moon sinuous rilles (Figure 5d) – sinuous channels hundreds of metres to kilometres in width and up to 500 km long – were initially attributed to water (Peale et al., 1968), but are now generally acknowledged to be lava channels carved predominantly by thermal erosion (Hurwitz et al., 2013). “Skylights” (Figure 5e) –

deep nearly vertically walled circular to elliptical depressions – on Mars and the Moon are interpreted to represent the collapse of the roof of lava tubes and present considerable interest as natural habitats which could be exploited for human exploration (Sauro et al., 2020). Larger pit chains are thought to represent collapse on the withdrawal of lava from dikes (Wyrick, 2004) but could also be tectonic in origin (see Section 5).

Evidence for explosive volcanism is usually smaller-scale (tens of kilometres) and more subtle in its surface expression, taking the form of pits with associated red-colouration on Mercury (Kerber et al., 2011) (Figure 5f), low-albedo markings on the Moon (Gustafson et al., 2012) and km-scale volcanic cones on Mars (Brož and Hauber, 2012).

Sedimentary volcanism (often called mud volcanism) is driven by the circulation of water through a planetary crust generally driven by tectonic forces or density contrasts and has been reported on Mars (Figure 6a). Here, movement of groundwater is thought to have remobilised ancient sedimentary deposits creating pitted cones and lobate-fronted flow features (Oehler and Allen, 2010). On Earth, mud volcanoes are the most commonly expressed landform resulting from sedimentary volcanism and differ from their volcanic counterparts in terms of morphology, however this distinction is harder to make on other bodies because of differences in environmental conditions are difficult to directly infer the potential morphologic impacts (Brož et al., 2020).

Cryovolcanism is thought to be more abundant in the icy moons of the outer planets (Ahrens, 2020; Kargel, 1995), where liquid water and ice, are thought to substitute almost directly the more familiar lava and silicic rocks in the functioning of the volcanic plumbing system. On Ceres, brine driven cryovolcanism is thought to explain the bright faculae, such as Cerealia Facula in Occator Crater (Nathues et al., 2020) (Figure 6b). Inspired by planetary research cryovolcanic processes have been cited as a potential cause for explosive pits that occurred in continuous permafrost on the Yamal Peninsula in Russia (Buldovicz et al., 2018).

Diapirism (either compositional or thermal), where a less dense material rises through a denser one above it is often associated with sedimentary- or cryo-volcanism. The resulting landforms can be a result of tectonic deformation rather than extrusion at the surface. Several enigmatic terrains have been attributed to diapirism or associated convection: the honeycomb and banded terrain in Hellas basin on Mars (Figure 6c - cassis) (Bernhardt et al., 2016), Cantaloupe terrain on Triton (Schenk and Jackson, 1993) or the cellular structure of Sputnik Planitia on Pluto (Howard et al., 2017b) (Figure 6d).

7 Mass movements on planetary bodies

Landslides have been identified on nearly every solid planetary surface observed in the solar system. Notably the long runout landslides observed on bodies as diverse as Mars (Crosta et al., 2018; McEwen, 1989), Mercury (Brunetti et al., 2015), the Moon (Boyce et al., 2020), Iapetus (Singer et al., 2012), Callisto (Moore et al., 1999), Pluto's moon Charon (Beddingfield et al., 2020), Ceres (Duarte et al., 2019) and Comet 67P (Lucchetti et al., 2019) (Figure 7a-c, landslide on Ceres, Callisto Moore et al, Mars, Mercury) have inspired a comparative planetology approach seeking to understand the physical processes underlying the motion of the long-runout landslides. The role that volatiles do or do not play in the mobility of landslides is a key recurring theme. On one hand being used as an argument to support inclusion of volatiles on Iapetus (Singer et al., 2012) and on the other being used to refute their action on comet 67P (Lucchetti et al., 2019). For Ceres (Johnson and Sori, 2020; B. E. Schmidt et al., 2017) as for Mars, both cases have been presented and no consensus has yet been achieved (Harrison and Grimm, 2003; Johnson and Campbell, 2017).

Peculiar to Mars are a landform called “Slope Streaks” (Figure 7d) (Sullivan et al., 2001), which are thought to represent avalanches of dust-sized material, taking the form of contrasting albedo, downslope-widening streaks, up to several kilometres in length and hundreds of metres wide. Slope Streaks usually appear as relatively dark (and sometimes relatively light) downslope oriented streaks with barely detectable or negligible relief (Brusnikin et al., 2016; Chuang et al., 2007), which fade to the background albedo over time. They often widen from a point source and can be sinuous, overcome obstacles and have digitate margins. They can overtop small obstacles (Brusnikin et al., 2016) yet are generally diverted by topographic irregularities (Miyamoto, 2004), so can form complex bifurcating features. The involvement of liquid water has been invoked to explain their mobility on low slopes (Bhardwaj et al., 2017), but dry granular mechanisms seem to also provide an adequate explanation (Dundas, 2020).

Images at better than 1 m/pix on the Moon have revealed a diversity of mass movements on steep slopes, including lobate and digitate dry granular flows on Moon (Figure 7e,f) (Senthil Kumar et al., 2013; Xiao et al., 2013). The Moon and Mercury host unique surface textures hinting at slower downslope movement of the surface regolith, including “elephant hide texture” on the Moon and “chevron texture” on Mercury, whose precise origin is unknown (Zharkova et al., 2020). On Mars, tens to hundreds of metre-scale lobate forms on slopes have been associated with the existence of a solifluction-type movement on Mars (Gastineau et al., 2020; Johnsson et al., 2012) and are found in association with other landforms interpreted to be periglacial in origin (see Section 8).

8 Planetary glacial and permafrost landforms and processes

Mars has an extensive suite of landforms at its mid-latitudes which are commonly accepted to be debris covered glaciers (Figure 8a) dating from the last 1 Ga of Mars’ history. These glaciers can cover tens to hundreds of kilometres and reach hundreds of metres thick. Their water ice core has been revealed through orbital radar sounding (Petersen et al., 2018; Plaut et al., 2009), and their surface textures indicate slow viscous deformation. Modelling studies (Karlsson et al., 2015; Parsons et al., 2011) and the general lack of landforms associated with melt imply that the ice is likely perennially frozen to the glacier bed (cold-based glaciers). The rare discovery of ridges interpreted to be eskers connected to extant glaciers suggests that this constraint is only occasionally overcome (Butcher et al., 2020; Gallagher and Balme, 2015). Isolated eskers and moraine-like ridges have been interpreted to be signs of ancient glaciation and/or icesheets (Butcher et al., 2016; Head and Marchant, 2003).

On Pluto the existence of glaciers of N₂ ice has been reported (Howard et al., 2017a). These take the form of smooth material filling topographic lows in highland terrains with longitudinal albedo lineations indicating flow direction, which appear to flow out onto Sputnik Planum at lower elevation where the lineations blend into the plains materials (Figure 8b). These glaciers are hundreds of kilometres in length. The only other planetary body where debris covered glaciers have been proposed is the dwarf planet Ceres (B. E. Schmidt et al., 2017), but their ambiguous morphology means that landsliding could also be a viable interpretation.

Permafrost conditions exist on many bodies, particularly those in the outer solar system, yet landforms typically associated with permafrost on Earth generally imply the degradation of ground ice, or at least cycling of temperatures near water’s triple point to produce terrain modifications e.g., periglacial landforms. One exception is the formation of polygon crack patterns in ice-rich soil by thermal contraction, which only requires temperature cycling – metre to decametre-scale examples of these landforms have been widely reported at latitudes greater than 50°N and S on Mars (Mangold, 2005; Mellon et al., 2009) where ground ice is thought to be prevalent (Feldman et al., 2011). Periglacial landforms have been reported on Mars, implying the action of freeze-thaw cycling

in the planet's recent history and hence their interpretation as such remains a subject of debate. These landforms include:

- Gullies, which are alcove-channel-fan systems hundreds of metres to kilometres in length, which are found on steep slopes in the mid to high latitudes on Mars (Figure 2e) (Harrison et al., 2015; Malin and Edgett, 2000). Their resemblance at landscape and landform-scale to gullies carved by overland-flow and debris flow on Earth means that they have been widely interpreted to form by these processes (Balme et al., 2006; Conway and Balme, 2016; de Haas et al., 2015), and the source of water is likely from snow and/or ground ice thaw. Yet their present activity has led to a re-evaluation of this interpretation (see Section 11 - Sublimation landforms and processes).
- Surface albedo and/or clast patterns that resemble, and have a similar-scale to, sorted patterned ground on Earth, including sorted circles on flat ground and stripes on sloping terrain (Gallagher et al., 2011; Soare et al., 2016) (Figure 8c).
- Lobate forms interpreted to be solifluction lobes (see section 7) (Figure 8d).
- Polygonal patterned ground where the centres are lower than the margins and those margins form double-ridges implying the existence of ice wedges (Soare et al., 2021, 2014) (Figure 8e).
- Scalloped depressions (Soare et al., 2008) and polygon junction pits (Costard et al., 2016) were initially interpreted to be true thermokarst (i.e. caused by thaw). However, together with expanded craters (Viola et al., 2015) are now thought to be caused by sublimation (Dundas et al., 2015), see Section 11.
- Tens to hundreds of metre isolated hills or mounds with summit cracks/depressions interpreted to be caused by ice-heave, otherwise known as "pingos" (Burr et al., 2009; Soare et al., 2005) (Figure 8f).

9 Weathering

Weathering on planetary bodies produces regolith from rock via a range of breakdown processes, some of them unknown on Earth. The landscape expression of these weathering processes includes softening of primary landforms, such as impact craters, following a generally diffusive trend (Fassett et al., 2017; Soderblom, 1970). Landforms directly linked to weathering processes, include regolith surface textures and rock shapes, which tend to be expressed at the metre-scale or less. Hence, *in situ* observations are best suited to inferring weathering processes are limited to the Moon, Mars, asteroids Bennu and Ryugu and comet 67P.

On bodies without an atmosphere the surface is subject to a range of processes not experienced at Earth's surface, including solar wind sputtering and micrometeorite impacts. In addition, thermal stress and fatigue are greatly accentuated by the high amplitude thermal variations experienced on many planetary surfaces compared to Earth (El Mir et al., 2019; Molaro and Byrne, 2012). Cracked rocks or "Puzzle rocks" observed on Bennu (Walsh et al., 2019), Ryugu (Sasaki et al., 2021), the Moon (Ruesch et al., 2020) and Mars (Eppes et al., 2015; Hörz et al., 1999) have been linked to thermal fatigue and/or micrometeorite impacts (Figure 9a). On Mars rocks can also be sculpted by the wind – producing ventifacts (Bridges et al., 1999; Greeley et al., 2006a; Thomson et al., 2008) (see also Section 2). Pitted boulder surfaces on Mars have been linked to transient melting of snow (Head et al., 2011) and volatile-related processes have been implicated in accelerating rock chute formation (Levin et al., 2021) and boulder breakdown (de Haas et al., 2013).

A consequence of rock breakdown is rockfalls, which have been observed to occur in repeat imaging of Mars (Grindrod et al., 2021; Vijayan et al., 2021) (Figure 9b). Roll/bounce marks left in the regolith

in the wake of boulders (Figure 9c) have shown rockfall to be a recently active process on the Moon (Arvidson et al., 1975; Bickel et al., 2020). Patterns in the distribution of rockfall tracks have been used to provide evidence for rock breakdown by thermal stress on Mars on the timescale of < 1Ma (Tesson et al., 2020), seismic activity on Mars (Roberts et al., 2012) and on the Moon (Senthil Kumar et al., 2016), as well as inform the regolith strength on the Moon (Bickel and Kring, 2020).

Some puzzling aspects of surface regolith appearance have been attributed to surface sintering caused by solar irradiation (Zharkova et al., 2020) (Figure 9d).

10 Impact Cratering

The process of impact cratering dominates most planetary surfaces apart from the Earth, Venus, Titan and Io which either have dense atmospheres reducing the incoming impactor population and/or surface processes that act to erase any crater landforms that are created. Impact craters create topographic relief that can serve as a catalyst for other surface processes and they expose materials from planetary interiors to active surface processes. For example, impacts can cause substantial seismic shaking (Schultz and Gault, 1975) and therefore can initiate mass movements (see Section 7).

The shape of an impact crater is primarily a function of the gravity, impactor size and the target surface composition (Melosh, 1989). Other factors, such as impact speed and angle, impactor composition, or target structure, also play a role in modulating the crater shape, but for the purposes of this review will not be considered in further detail. With increasing impactor sizes craters evolve from “simple” bowl-shapes towards more “complex”, including flat-floored with a central peak up to multi-ringed basins (Figure 10a-c). The crater diameter at which the simple-to-complex transition occurs varies from planetary body to planetary body and is traditionally represented by plotting the population of craters on a logarithmic depth-diameter diagram. For example, on Mars the simple-to-complex transition occurs at crater diameters of ~8 km, on Europa it occurs at ~1 km and Vesta at 28 km (Hiesinger et al., 2016).

Impact craters eject material from their cavity forming unique morphologies, such as ejecta blankets, secondary crater clusters/chains, and visible radial “rays” which can be global in extent (Figure 10d). Impact melt, found within the cavity and in the ejecta, shares many morphological characteristics with lava and in ancient terrains on the Moon and Mercury, the distinction between them can be challenging (Denevi et al., 2013). The outcrops located in crater walls and central peaks can provide relatively fresh exposures of subsurface materials providing insights into the subsurface composition of a body without having to drill *in situ* (Quantin et al., 2012).

Impact craters substantially disturb the crust (Kenkmann et al., 2014) and as a result can form a structural conduit for endogenic processes that are then expressed at the surface, such as hydrothermal circulation (Osinski et al., 2013), explosive volcanism (Thomas et al., 2014), or cryovolcanism (Nathues et al., 2020).

Impact craters are used as an essential dating tool in planetary science, as their size-frequency distribution is a function of the exposure age of a surface (Hartmann and Neukum, 2001). The degradation state of the craters, hence the ability to recognise the surface processes that have influenced them, is an important factor when interpreting the results of the crater size-frequency distribution (Michael and Neukum, 2010).

11 Sublimation landforms and processes

Environments dominated by sublimation are rare on Earth, hence entire landforms or landscapes dominated by this phase change are restricted to other planetary bodies. In particular the icy satellites of the outer Solar System have surfaces dominated by various ices and whose sublimation is thought to explain some of the most unusual landscapes (Mangold, 2011). For example, the entire surface of Jupiter's moon Callisto is thought to have been extensively modified by the sublimation of CO₂ and H₂O ices at its surface leaving a terrain dominated by dissected ridges and knobs (Figure 11a) (White et al., 2016). Helene, in the Saturn system, has a sculpted surface attributed to remobilisation of a thick layer of particles whose origin is sublimation from the plumes of Enceladus (Figure 11b) (Hirata et al., 2014).

Comets are another planetary body where sublimation is the dominant landscape forming process every time the comet approaches the sun. The first cometary orbital data from the Rosetta mission to comet 67P revealed astonishingly diverse landscapes, including dunes (see Section 2), retreating steep sided pits and cliffs (Figure 11c) (Vincent et al., 2015) and cracks and fissures (El-Maarry et al., 2015). The steep sided pits and cliffs are thought to be correlated to the plumes of outgassing (Vincent et al., 2016). Gassy outbursts were also noted to mobilise dust on asteroid Bennu, yet the geomorphic effect if any in this setting remains unclear (Lauretta et al., 2019).

On other bodies, depressions are the most common landform associated with sublimation and can be considered akin to karst on Earth. The perennial CO₂ ice found at the South Polar cap of Mars, undergoes retreat each year in the form of enlarging and coalescing circular to elliptical steep sided pits typically several hundred metres in diameter and metres deep, dubbed "swiss cheese" (Buhler et al., 2017) (Figure 11d). The loss of excess water ice from the ground via sublimation in the mid-latitudes of Mars results in "scalloped depressions" (Dundas et al., 2015; Soare et al., 2007) – shallow-sloping depressions of hundreds of metres in extent, with an arcuate and steeper backwall. In some of the same regions, sublimation expands polygonally patterned contraction cracks producing chains of pits and possibly cavities (Séjourné et al., 2011). Volatile loss has also been invoked to explain shallow, steep-sided depressions on Mercury which are surrounded by a relatively bright halo – "hollows" (Blewett et al., 2011) (Figure 11e). The discovery of these landforms was part of the realisation that Mercury's crust is not actually depleted in volatiles as once thought (Nittler and Weider, 2019).

The seasonal retreat of the CO₂ ice deposits across the surface of Mars results in a uniquely martian process caused by basal sublimation of the CO₂ ice (Kieffer et al., 2006). CO₂ ice is translucent to solar radiation, hence the increasing incoming solar radiation in late winter to early spring can heat the regolith under the CO₂ ice, causing it to sublimate and CO₂ gas to be trapped underneath it. The gas pressure builds until the ice above breaks, releasing the gas in a jet which deposits dark dust from under the ice onto the still bright icy surface. This phenomenon most commonly manifests itself as dark fans or spots (Hansen et al., 2013) and on the steep slopes of dunes can even appear as digitate (Gardin et al., 2010). The sediment mobilised under the ice is thought to explain the observation of "spiders" – dendritic networks of channels leading to one or more "nodes" (Thomas et al., 2011) (Figure 11f). Individual spiders can be hundreds of metres in size and they can extend across many kilometres. Although spiders have not been observed to grow, similar branching networks have been observed to appear and grow on dunes ("furrows") (Portyankina et al., 2010). Sediment mobilisation by sublimating CO₂ is thought to explain ongoing sediment motions observed in martian gullies which only occur in winter (Dundas et al., 2019). In particular, a uniquely martian morphology called "linear gullies" is thought to be formed by levitating blocks of CO₂ ice falling from icy dune crests (Diniega et

al., 2013). Volatile loss is believed to drive the formation of gully-like-landforms on the asteroid Vesta (Scully et al., 2015) and on Mercury (Malliband et al., 2019).

12 Discussion & Conclusions

Planetary geomorphology is distinctive from Earth-based geomorphology in that it is very reliant on remote sensing and often a more global-scale perspective is taken on unravelling the formation of landscapes and landforms. Satellite data of the Earth have spurred a number of studies taking a similar planetary-scale perspective on Earth (Chen et al., 2019; Poulos et al., 2012), but more often studies are local and/or regional in scale and scope. Planetary geomorphology is enticing to many, because of the aspect of exploration and the possibility of making unusual discoveries on alien worlds. Planetary geomorphology can drive key advances to better understand our own planet (Baker, 1993; Sharp, 1980).

One of the major limitations of planetary geomorphology is the problem of equifinality and the uncertainty of what landforms can be produced by processes unknown on Earth (Baker, 2014). To infer processes from landforms and landscapes is not an exact science and always open to interpretation. Access to the field can resolve many ambiguities on Earth, yet in a planetary context this is rarely an option and can lead to impasses where researchers just do not have enough data to disambiguate the leading hypotheses. Yet, as shown in this contribution, planetary geomorphology remains an essential tool in understanding the internal and external forces shaping bodies in the Solar System.

Planetary Geomorphology is likely to continue to grow, because the ability to interpret process from remote sensing data is key to planning future missions, for example deciding where to land or acquire certain types of data. Image and topographic data are the cornerstones of every new mission and future exploration will only add to our database of new and surprising planetary landforms and landscapes. Further, these landscapes have much to teach us about our own planet.

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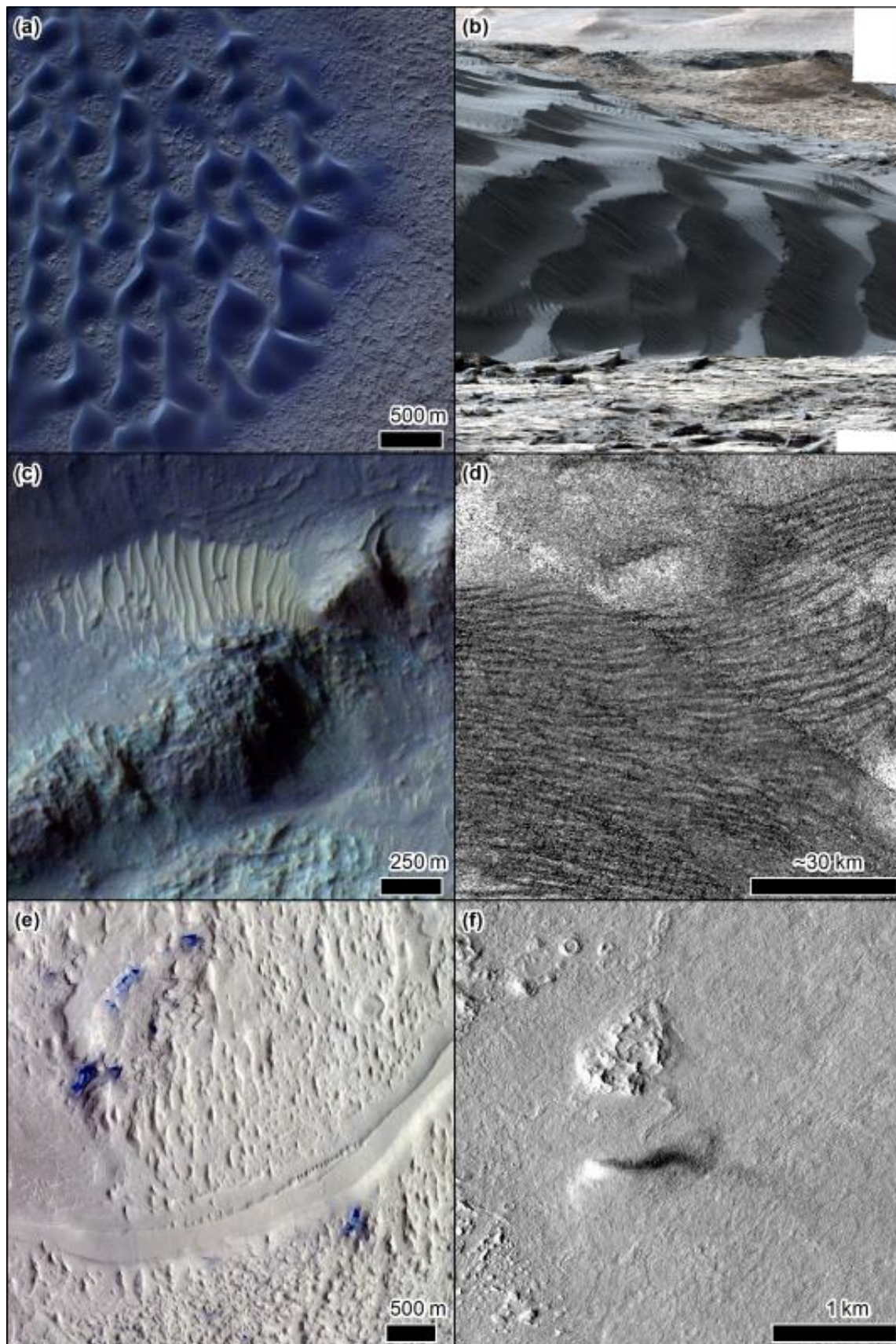
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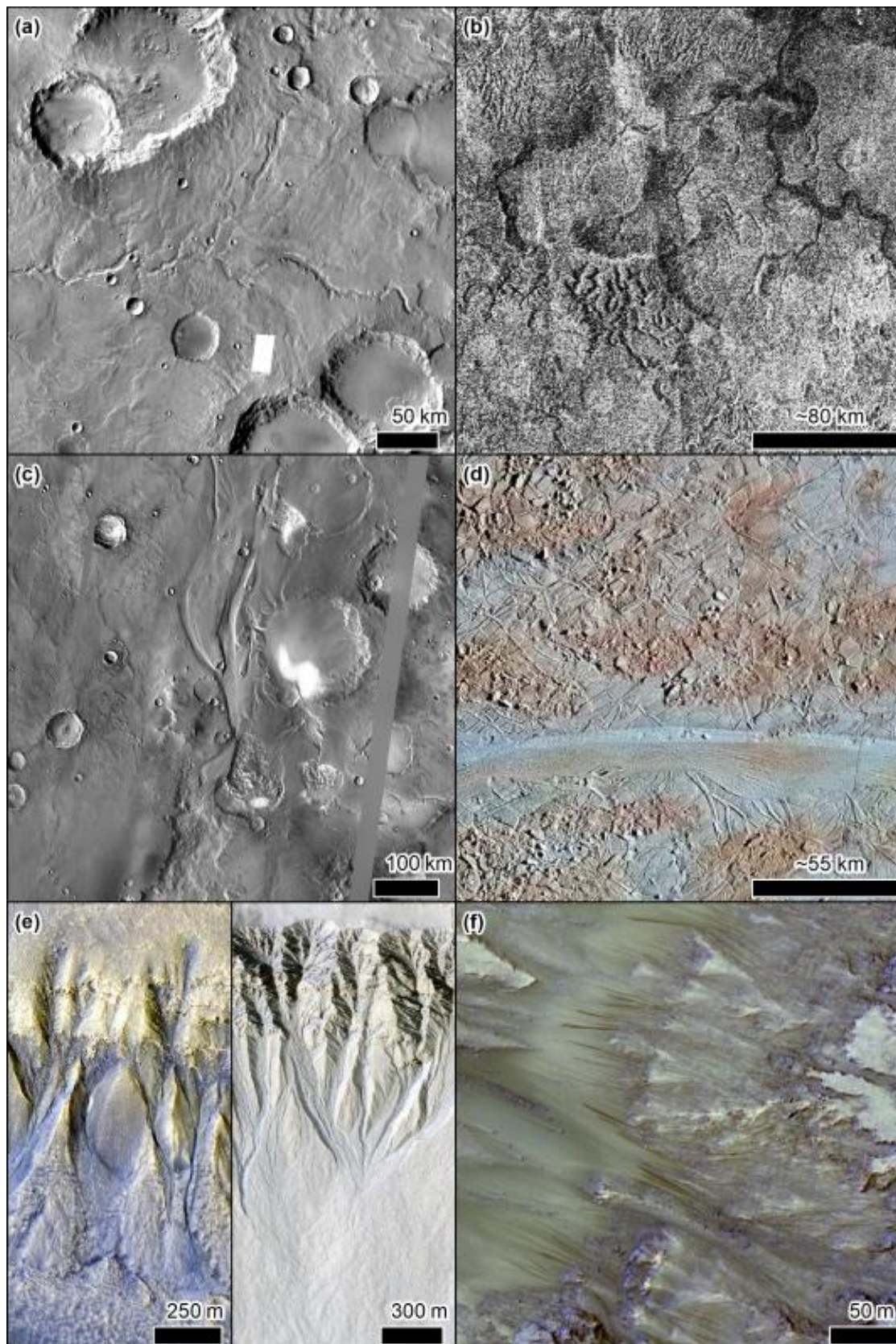
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1315 Figure 1: Aeolian planetary landforms. a) Dark Dunefield on the floor of a 35-km-diameter crater in
 1316 Aonia Terra on Mars (sunlight from the left), CaSSIS image MY36_015406_006_0, credit
 1317 ESA/Roscosmos/Unibe. b) Large ripples (spacing 2-2.5 m) superposed by smaller impact ripples on

1318 the secondary lee slope of Namib Dune in Gale Crater on Mars (sunlight from the left). Mosaic of MSL
1319 Mastcam images from sol 1192 (Ewing et al., 2017), credit NASA/JPL-Caltech/Malin Space Science
1320 Systems. c) Transverse aeolian ridges (TARs) on the floor of a 17-km-diameter crater in Margaritifer
1321 Terra on Mars (sunlight from the left), CaSSIS image MY36_015406_006_0, credit
1322 ESA/Roscosmos/Unibe. (d) Cassini Synthetic Aperture radar image of the Shangri-La Sand Sea on
1323 Titan (PIA20710). Image credit NASA/JPL-Caltech/ASI. (e) Yardangs and an inverted channel in Aeolis
1324 Mensae region of Mars (sunlight from the right), CaSSIS image MY34_005683_188_2, credit
1325 ESA/Roscosmos/Unibe. (f) Dust Devil in Amazonis Planitia on Mars (sunlight from the left), CTX image
1326 D02_028082_2155. Credit NASA/JPL/MSSS. North is up in all images apart from (b).



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1328 Figure 2: Fluvial planetary landforms. a) Evros Vallis, a valley network in Sinus Sabaeus region of Mars
 1329 (sunlight from the left). The image is the Day IR THEMIS controlled mosaic available from the USGS.
 1330 b) A synthetic aperture radar image of valleys near Titan's south pole taken by the Cassini spacecraft
 1331 image reference PIA10219, credit NASA/JPL-Caltech/ASI. c) Baetis Chaos leading north into Maja

Valles outflow channel on Mars (sunlight from the left). The image is the Day IR THEMIS controlled mosaic available from the USGS. d) Chaos terrain on Europa near Agenor Linea (sunlight from the right) taken by Galileo, image reference PIA23873, credit NASA/JPL-Caltech/SETI Institute. e) Two false-colour images of gullies on Mars (sunlight from the left in both): left Crater in Terra Cimmeria HiRISE image PSP_004019_1420 and right Gasa Crater, HiRISE image PSP_003939_1420, credit NASA/JPL/UofA. f) Recurring Slope Lineae in Palikir Crater (sunlight from the left), HiRISE image ESP_031102_1380, credit NASA/JPL/UofA. North is up in all images.

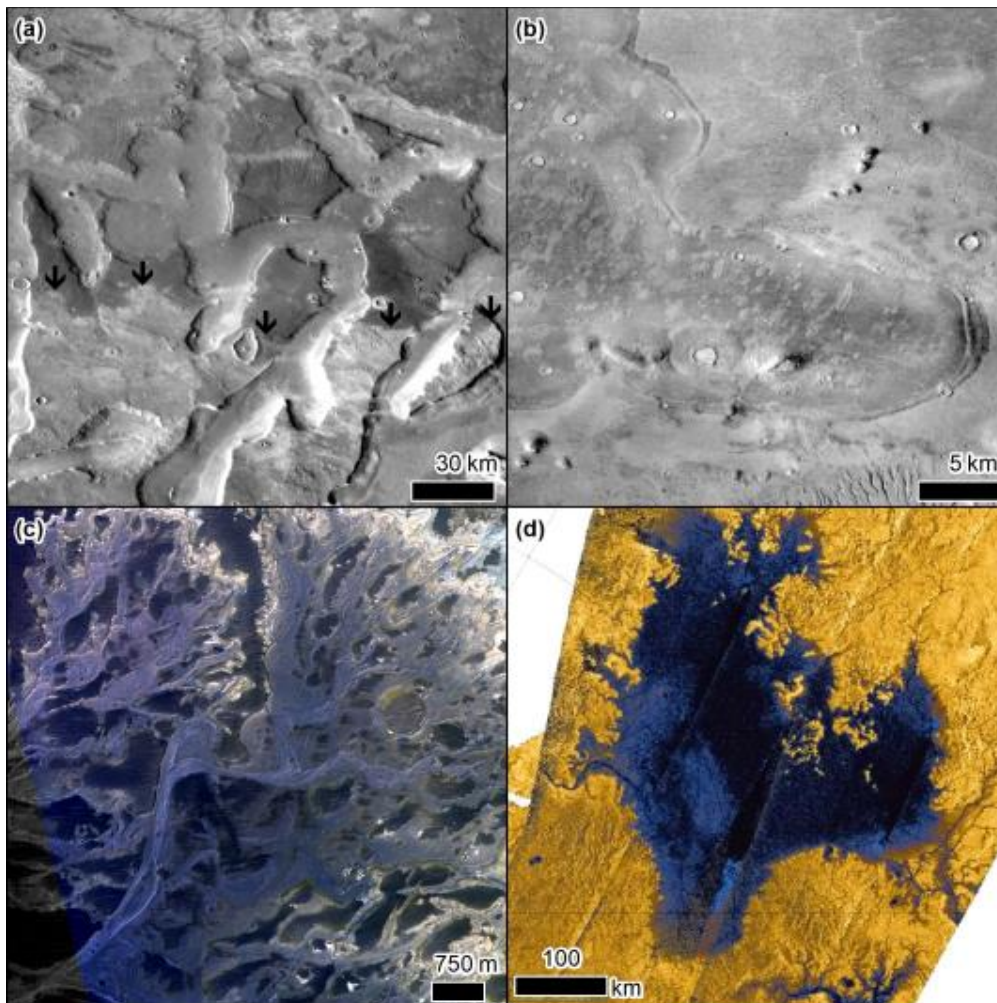


Figure 3: Coastal and lacustrine planetary landforms. a) Albedo contrast (black arrows) interpreted as a shoreline of a former norther ocean on Mars as seen in the Day IR THEMIS controlled mosaic available from the USGS (sunlight from the left). B) Lobate features interpreted to be tsunami runup deposits originating from an impact into a former norther ocean (sunlight from the left). CTX image P17_007835_2249, credit NASA/JPL/MSSS. c) CaSSIS false colour image of the inverted distributary channel systems within Eberswalde Crater on Mars, interpreted to be eroded remnants of a delta that formed within a lake in the crater (sunlight from bottom-right). CaSSIS images MY34_004384_206_1 and MY34_004384_206_2, credit ESA/Roscosmos/Unibe. d) Cassini false-colour radar image of Ligeia Mare, the second largest known sea of liquid hydrocarbons on Titan, credit: NASA/ESA/T. Cornet. North is up in all images.

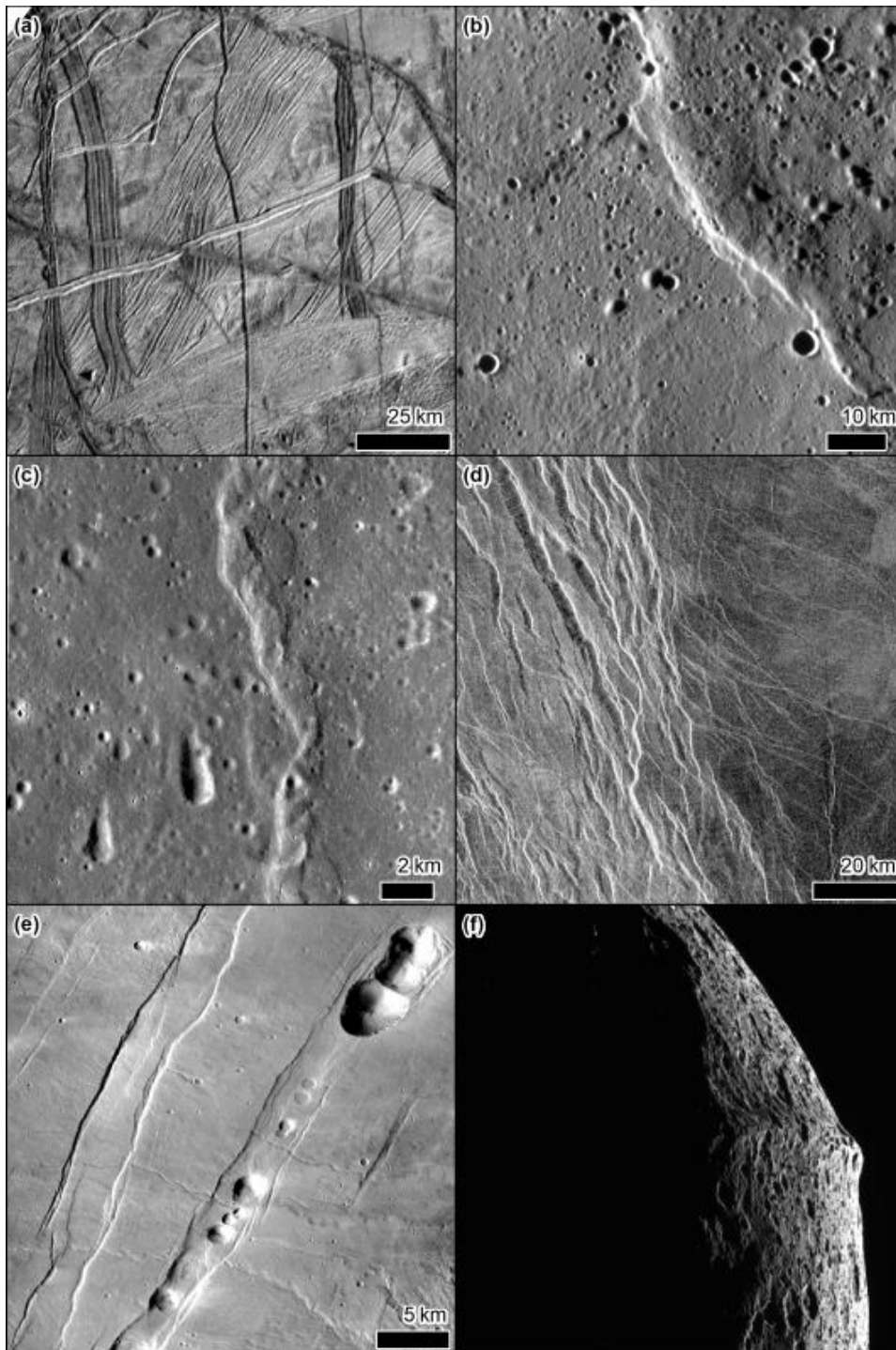


Figure 4: Tectonic planetary landforms. a) The surface of Europa divided into “plates” criss-crossed by fractures containing internal parallel ridges. Galileo SSI image 4700R, credit NASA/JPL-Caltech/SETI Institute. b) A lobate scarp on Mercury (sunlight from the left), MESSENGER MDIS NAC image EN1014447282M, credit NASA/Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory/Carnegie Institution of Washington. c) Wrinkle ridge on the Moon (sunlight from the left), LROC NAC images M181023296 and M104376385, credit NASA/GSFC/ASU. d) Graben on Venus, extract of the Venus Magellan SAR FMAP Left Look Global Mosaic from the USGS. e) Graben and pit chains on Mars (sunlight from the left), CTX image B18_016700_2167, credit NASA/JPL/MSSS. f) Limb image of Iapetus, showing the 20 km high equatorial ridge, taken by Cassini N1568094172_2. North is up in all images except f.

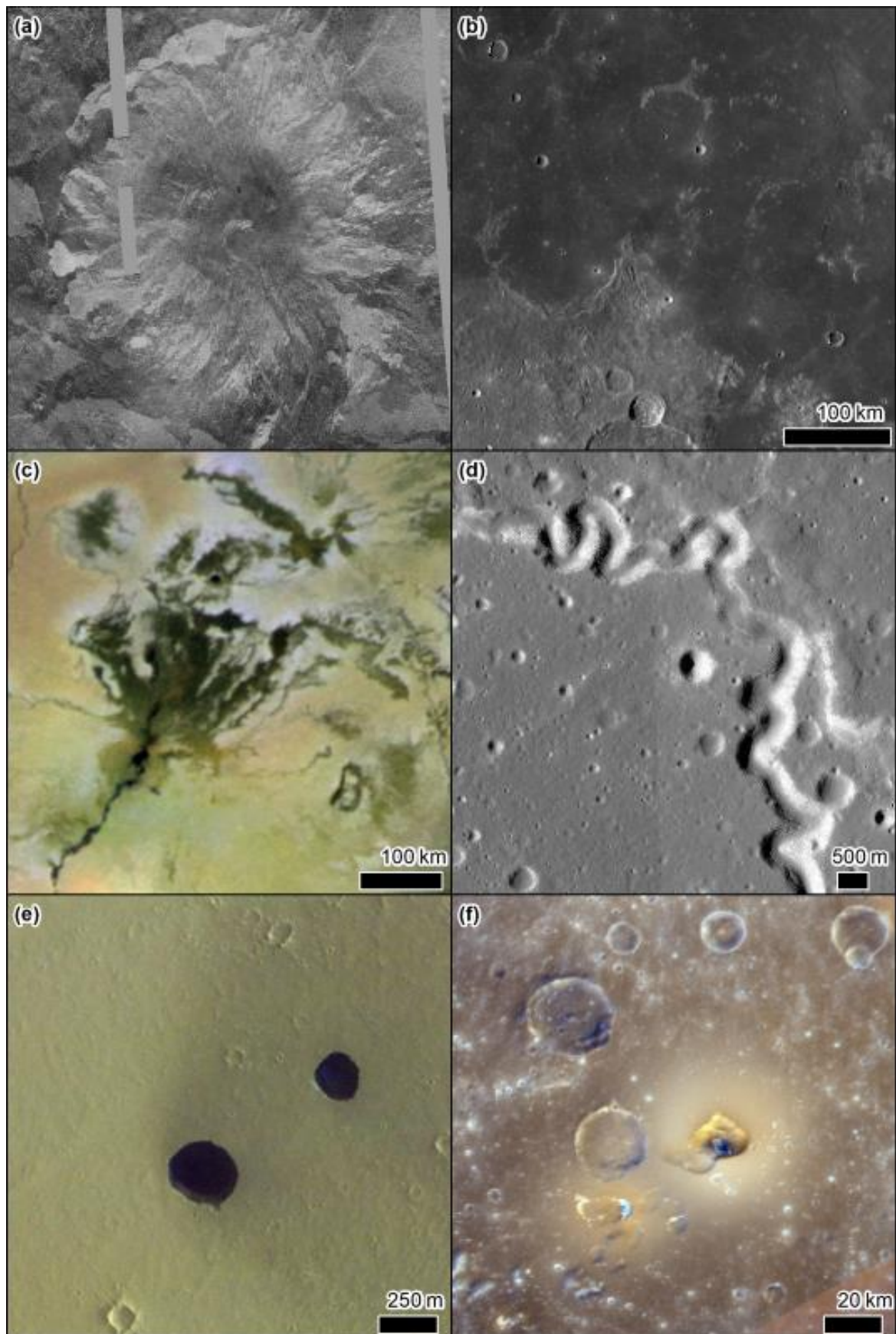


Figure 5: Volcanic planetary landforms. a) Tuulikki Mons a shield volcano on Venus, extract of the Venus Magellan SAR FMAP Left Look Global Mosaic from the USGS. b) The lunar maria with portions

of embayed impact crater rims visible and the contact with the highlands towards the bottom left (sunlight from the left). LROC WAC global mosaic made available by the USGS. c) Volund dark volcanic field on Io (Veeder et al., 2009) using the USGS Io basemap combining Voyager and Galileo images. d) Sinuous rilles on the Moon (sunlight from the left), LROC NAC image M1157998924, credit NASA/GSFC/ASU. e) Skylights on Mars (sunlight from the top-right), with the east-facing walls barely visible. CaSSIS false colour image MY36_015278_162_0, credit: ESA/Roscosmos/Unibe. f) Agwo Facula on Mercury, where the central vent is surrounded by smooth deposits with an orange coloration in the MDIS enhanced colour mosaic overlain by MDIS WAC image EW1012888774 (where sunlight is from the bottom), credit NASA/Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory/Carnegie Institution of Washington. North is up in all images.

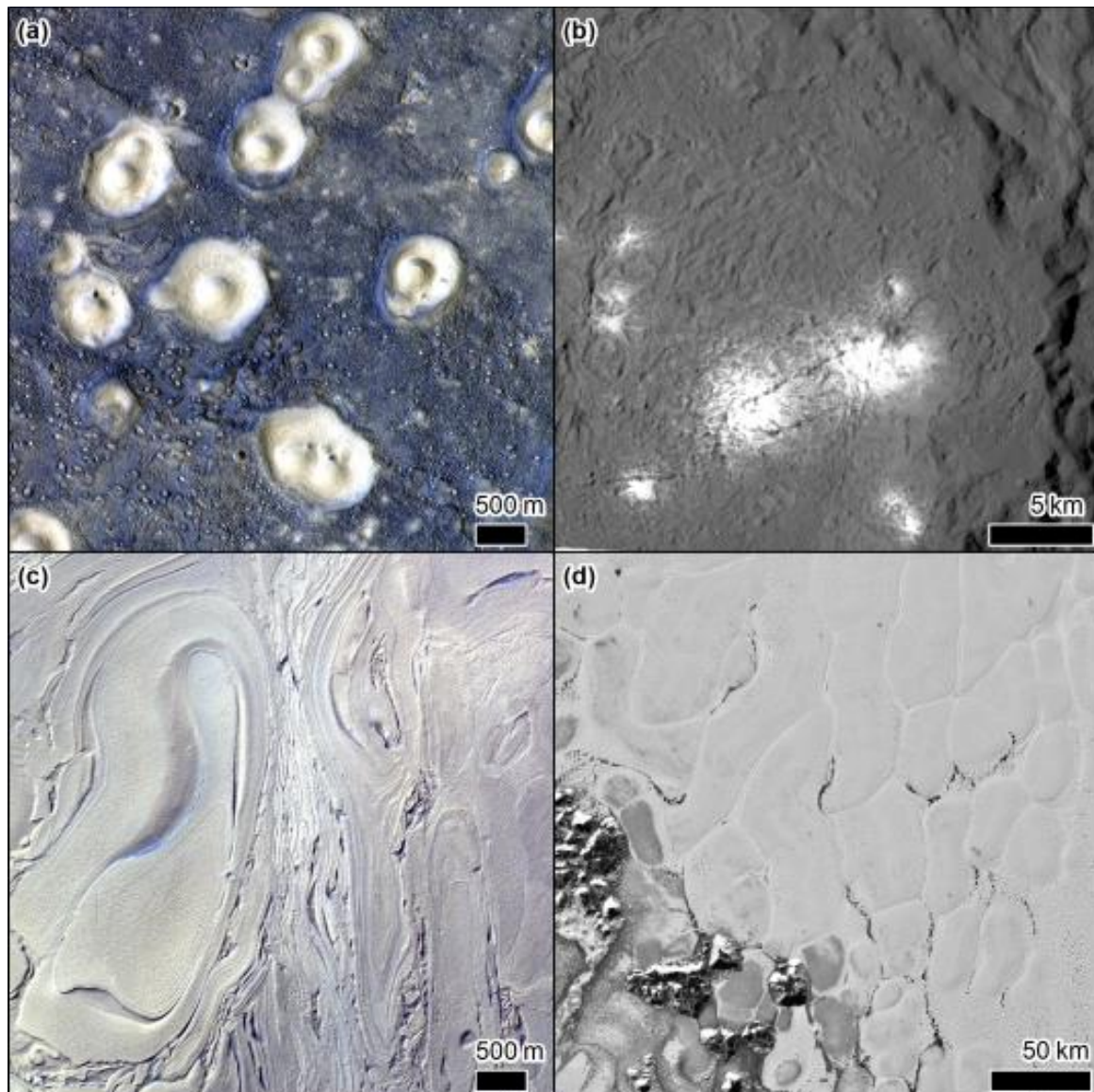


Figure 6: Sedimentary volcanism and cryo-volcanic landforms. a) Pitted cones interpreted to result from mud volcanism in Acidalia Planitia on Mars (sunlight from the top-right). CaSSIS image MY35_009227_048_0 credit: ESA/Roscosmos/Unibe. b) Bright faculae in Occator Crater on Ceres interpreted to be salt deposits resulting from cryovolcanism (sunlight from the right). DAWN framing camera image FC21B0070808_16169044543F6C, credit NASA/JPL-Caltech/UCLA/MPS/DLR/IDA. c) The enigmatic banded terrain on the floor of Hellas Basin on Mars (sunlight from the left). CaSSIS image MY36_015427_317_0 credit: ESA/Roscosmos/Unibe. d) The mysterious cellular structure of

1383 Sputnik Planitia on Pluto (sunlight from the top), image New Horizons global mosaic from the USGS.

1384 North is up in all images.

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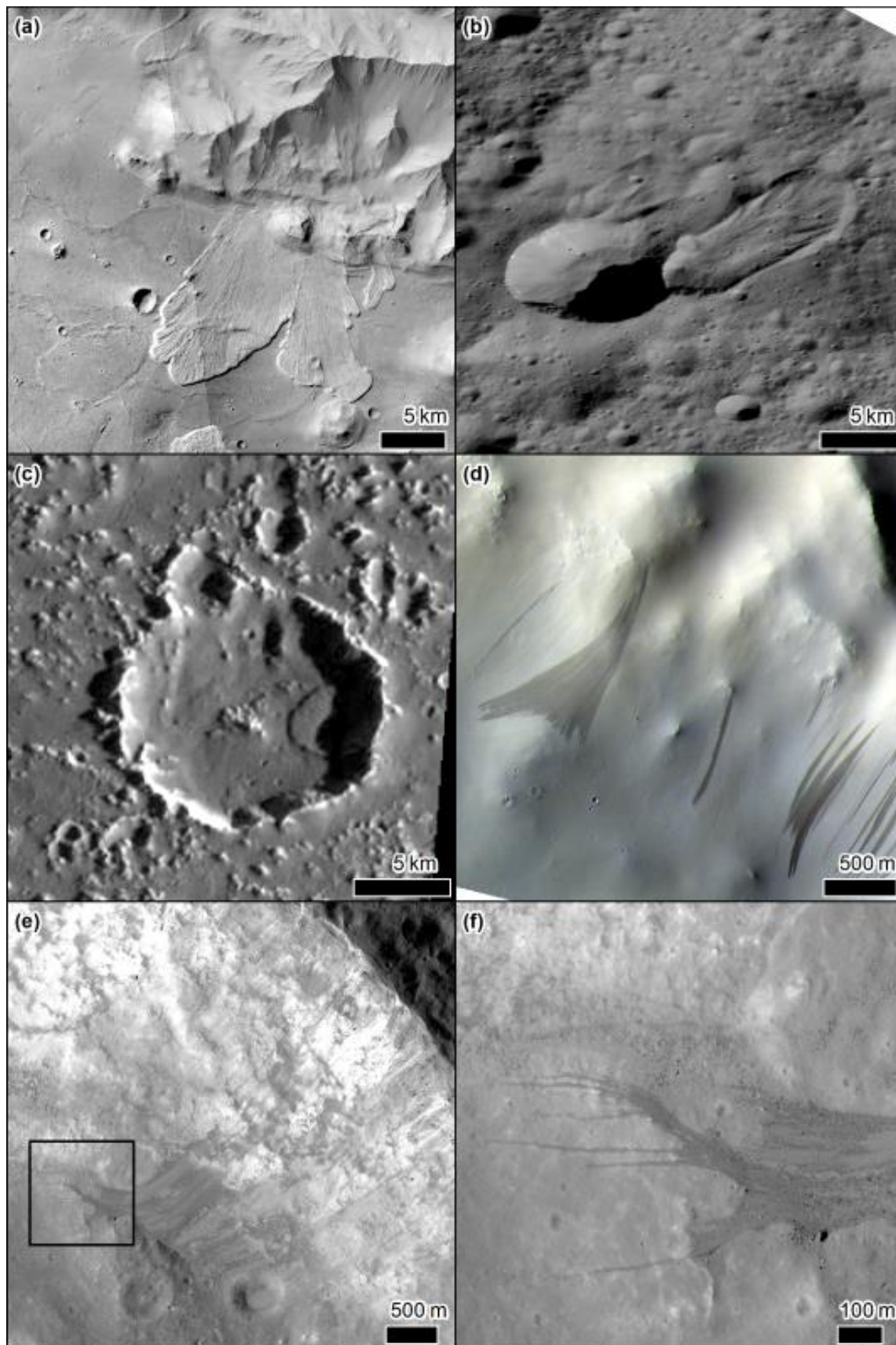
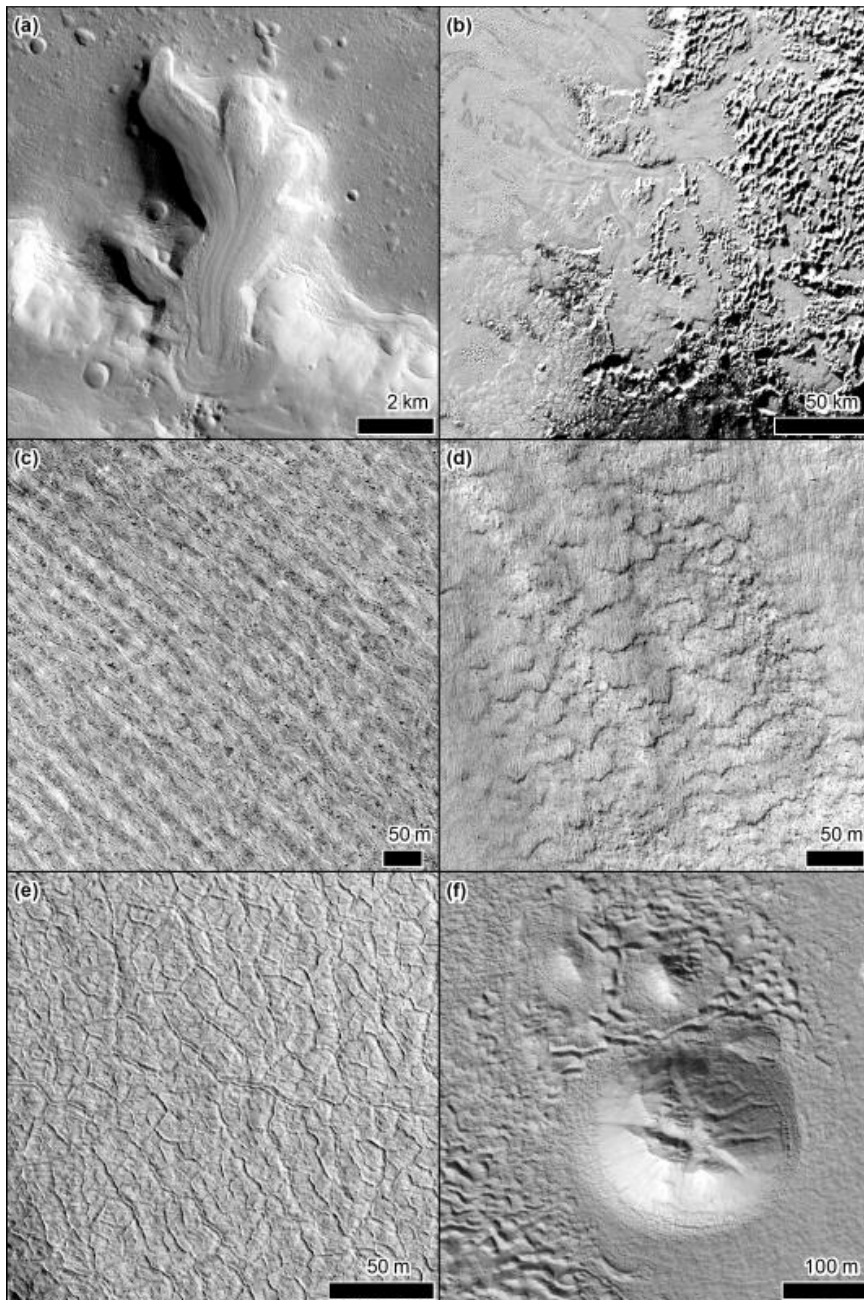


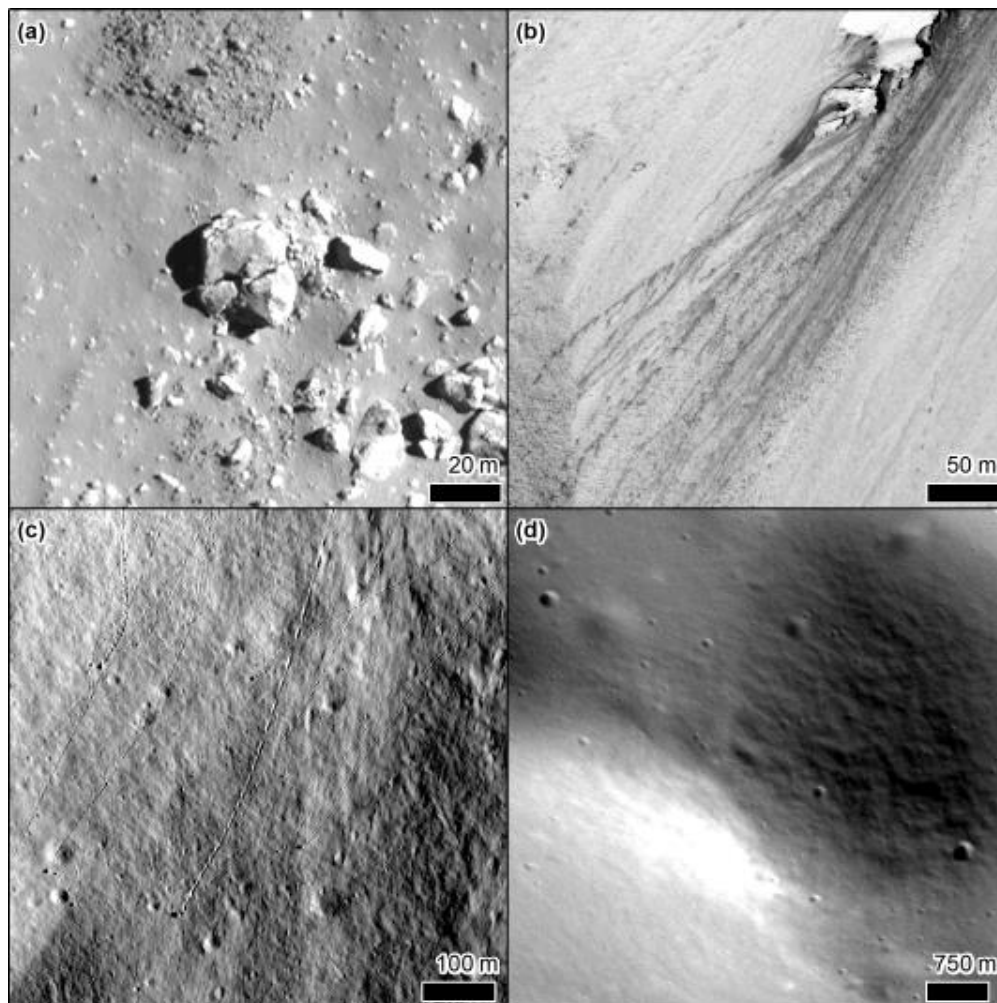
Figure 7: Planetary Mass Movements. a) Landslides in Valles Marineris on Mars (sunlight from the left), CTX images D20_034988_1669, G19_025850_1688, credit NASA/JPL/MSSS. b) Landslide on Ceres (sunlight from the bottom), DAWN FC FC21A0061028_16091125549F1D. c) Landslide on Callisto (sunlight from the right), Galileo SSI image 2840R, credit NASA/JPL-Caltech/SETI Institute. d)

1391 Slope Streaks on Mars (sunlight from the left), CaSSIS image MY36_015392_011_0 credit:
 1392 ESA/Roscosmos/Unibe. e) Granular flows in Kepler Crater on the Moon (sunlight from the left), LROC
 1393 NAC images credit: NASA/GSFC/ASU. f) Zoom in on the termini of the granular flows in panel e. North
 1394 is up in all images.

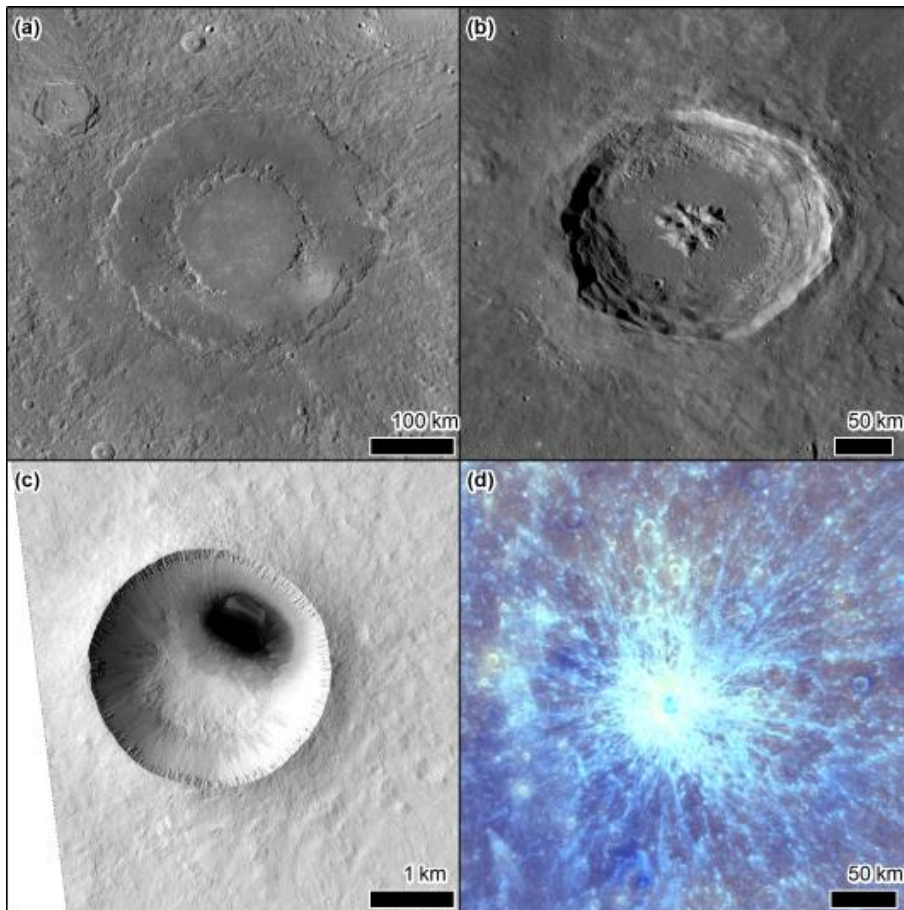


1395
 1396 Figure 8: Planetary glacial and periglacial landforms. a) Debris covered glacier on Mars (sunlight from
 1397 the left), CTX Image B05_011776_2208, credit NASA/JPL/MSSS. b) Glacial flows on Pluto imaged by
 1398 New Horizons (sunlight from top-left), taken from the Global Mosaic available from the USGS. c)
 1399 Linear arrangements of boulder propagating downslope interpreted to be sorted patterned ground
 1400 on an impact crater wall in the high northern latitudes on Mars (sunlight from top-left), HiRISE image
 1401 PSP_009580_2485, credit NASA/JPL/UofA. d) Lobate forms on the wall of an impact crater on Mars
 1402 interpreted to be solifluction lobes (sunlight from the left), HiRISE image ESP_023679_1365, credit
 1403 NASA/JPL/UofA. e) Polygonal fractured ground where the polygon boundaries are raised as single or
 1404 double ridges, termed low centres polygons (sunlight from bottom-left), HiRISE image

1405 PSP_005821_1095 credit NASA/JPL/UofA. f) A mound with a fractured summit near Moreaux Crater
 1406 on Mars interpreted to be a pingo (sunlight from bottom-left), HiRISE image ESP_058140_2225 credit
 1407 NASA/JPL/UofA. North is up in all images.

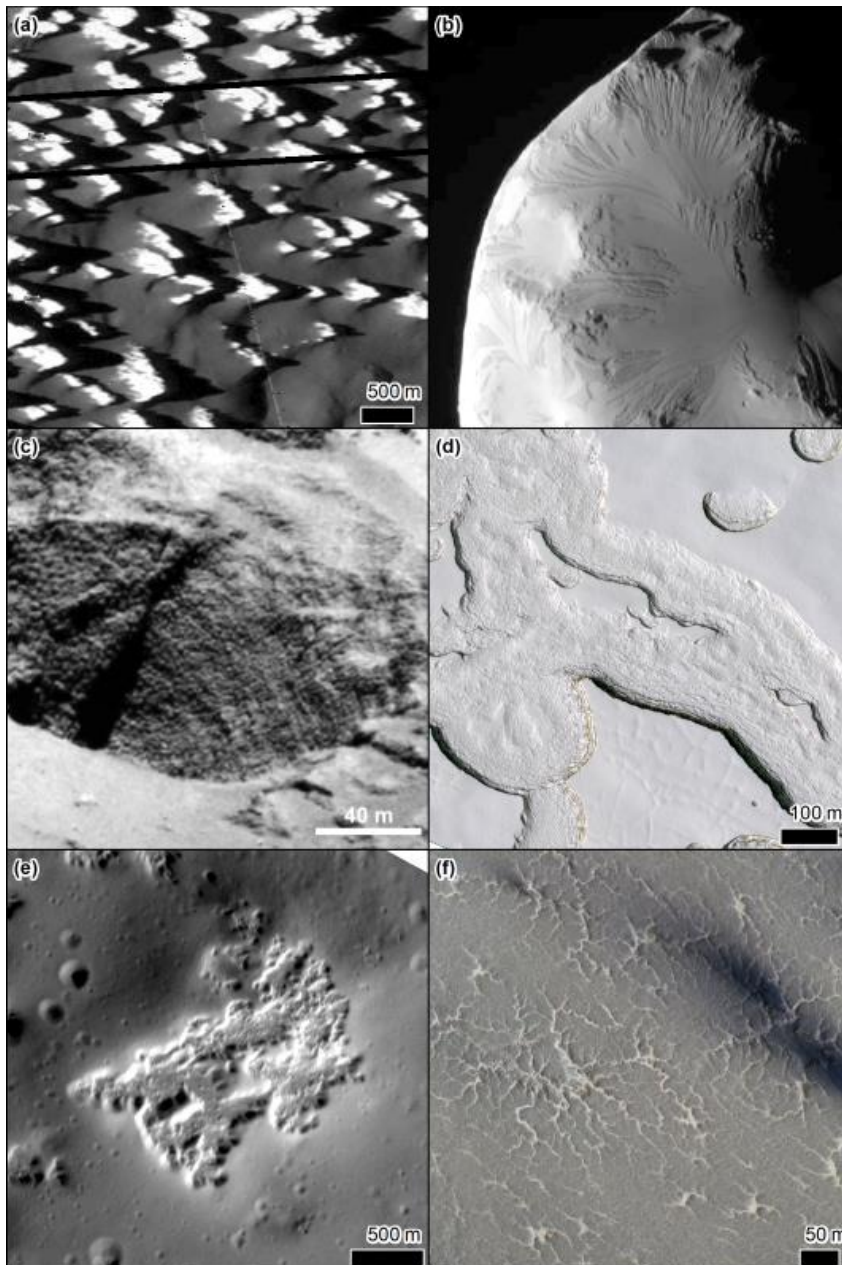


1408
 1409 Figure 9: Weathering on planetary surfaces. a) Fractured rocks around Byrgius A Crater on the Moon
 1410 (sunlight from the right), LROC NAC image M175698856LE, credit NASA/GSFC/ASU. b) Tracks and low
 1411 albedo “ejecta” left by recent rockfalls on a crater wall on Mars (sunlight from the left), HiRISE image
 1412 PSP_004110_1640, credit NASA/JPL/UofA. c) Multiple rocks which have left depressions behind them
 1413 while rolling and bouncing over the lunar surface (sunlight from the right), LROC NAC image
 1414 M1198659818LE, credit NASA/GSFC/ASU. d) Undulating, irregular surface texture on Mercury
 1415 (sunlight from the bottom-left), termed “Elephant hide” (Zharkova et al., 2020) MDIS NAC image
 1416 EN1042186062M, credit NASA/Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory/Carnegie
 1417 Institution of Washington. North is up in all images.



1418

1419 Figure 10: Impact craters on Planetary bodies. a) Rachmanioff, an impact basin on Mercury, with
 1420 noticeable multiple rings (sunlight from the right), MDIS global BDR mosaic, credit NASA/Johns
 1421 Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory/Carnegie Institution of Washington. b) Arstillus, a
 1422 complex crater with central peak and wall terraces on the Moon (sunlight from the left), LRO global
 1423 WAC mosaic, credit NASA/GSFC/Arizona State University. c) ~ 2km diameter simple crater on the
 1424 floor of Pasteur Crater on Mars (sunlight from the left), HiRISE image ESP_045152_2000, credit
 1425 NASA/JPL/UofA. d) Petipa, an impact crater with rayed ejecta on Mercury (sunlight from overhead),
 1426 MDIS global enhanced color mosaic, credit NASA/Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics
 1427 Laboratory/Carnegie Institution of Washington. North is up in all images.



1428

1429 Figure 11: Sublimation dominated landscapes and landforms. a) Pinnacle terrain on Callisto Galileo
 1430 (sunlight from the left) SSI image 5214R, credit NASA/JPL-Caltech/SETI Institute. b) Image of the
 1431 surface of Helene a moon of Saturn (sunlight from the left) taken by the Cassini spacecraft image
 1432 reference N1687119876_1, credit NASA/JPL-Caltech/ASI, scene is about 30 km across. c) Oblique
 1433 image of the wall of a steep pit revealing internal structure (sunlight from the left), on comet
 1434 67P/Churyumov–Gerasimenko taken by the OSIRIS narrow-angle camera, credit ESA/Rosetta/MPS
 1435 for OSIRIS Team MPS/UPD/LAM/IAA/SSO/INTA/UPM/DASP/IDA. d) Siss cheese terrain in the CO₂ ice
 1436 on the south polar cap of Mars (sunlight from the bottom-left), HiRISE image ESP_057828_0930,
 1437 credit NASA/JPL/UofA. e) Hollows on Mercury (sunlight from the bottom-right), MDIS NAC image
 1438 EN1042186062M, credit NASA/Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory/Carnegie
 1439 Institution of Washington. f) Spiders on Mars (sunlight from the top-right), where the dark marks are
 1440 dust fans deposited by seasonal jets, HiRISE image ESP_055604_0930, credit NASA/JPL/UofA.