

# Heat flow and thermal structure of the Martian lithosphere

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LAURA M. PARRO



UPWARDS  
UNDERSTANDING PLANET MARS

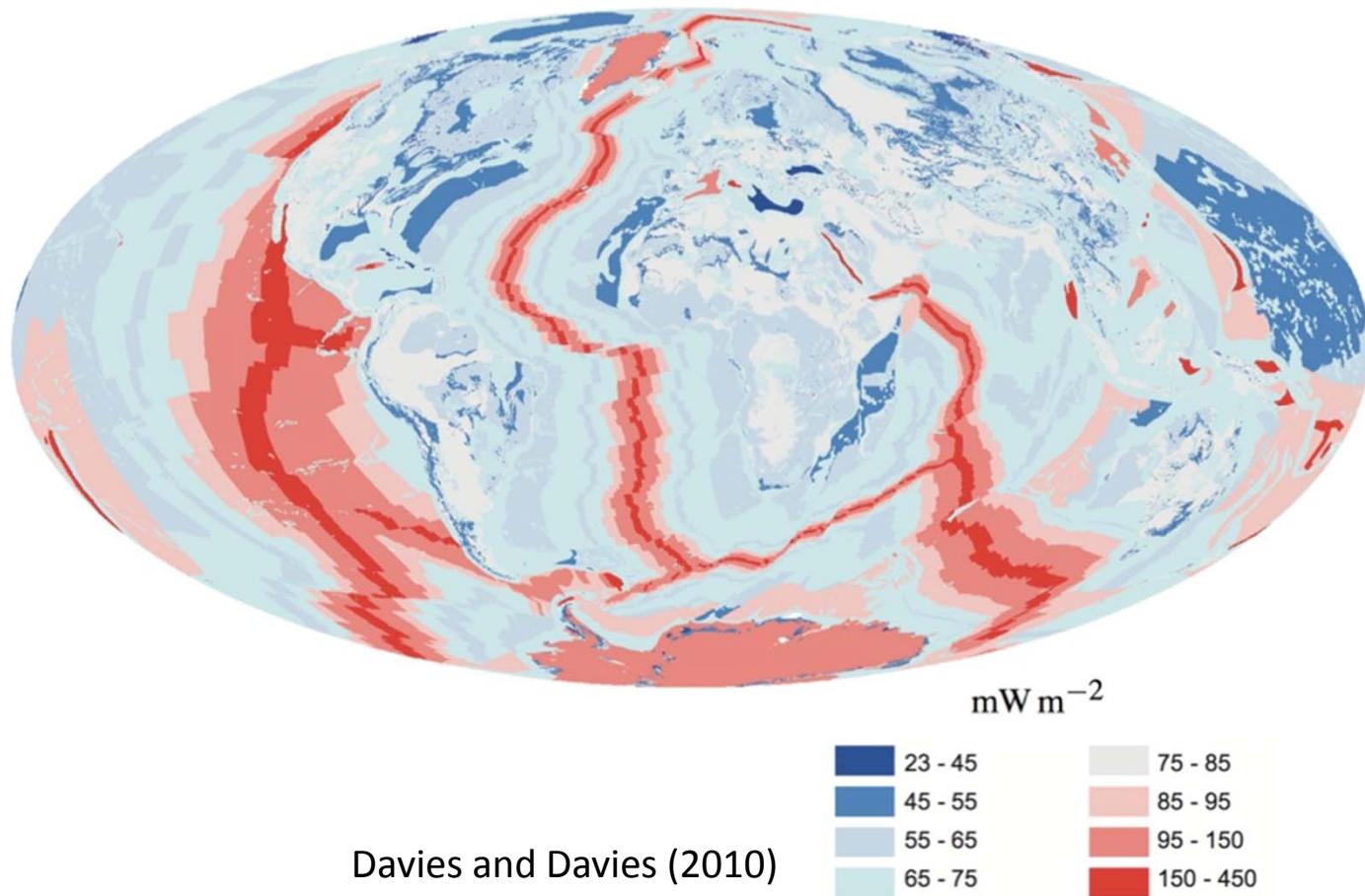


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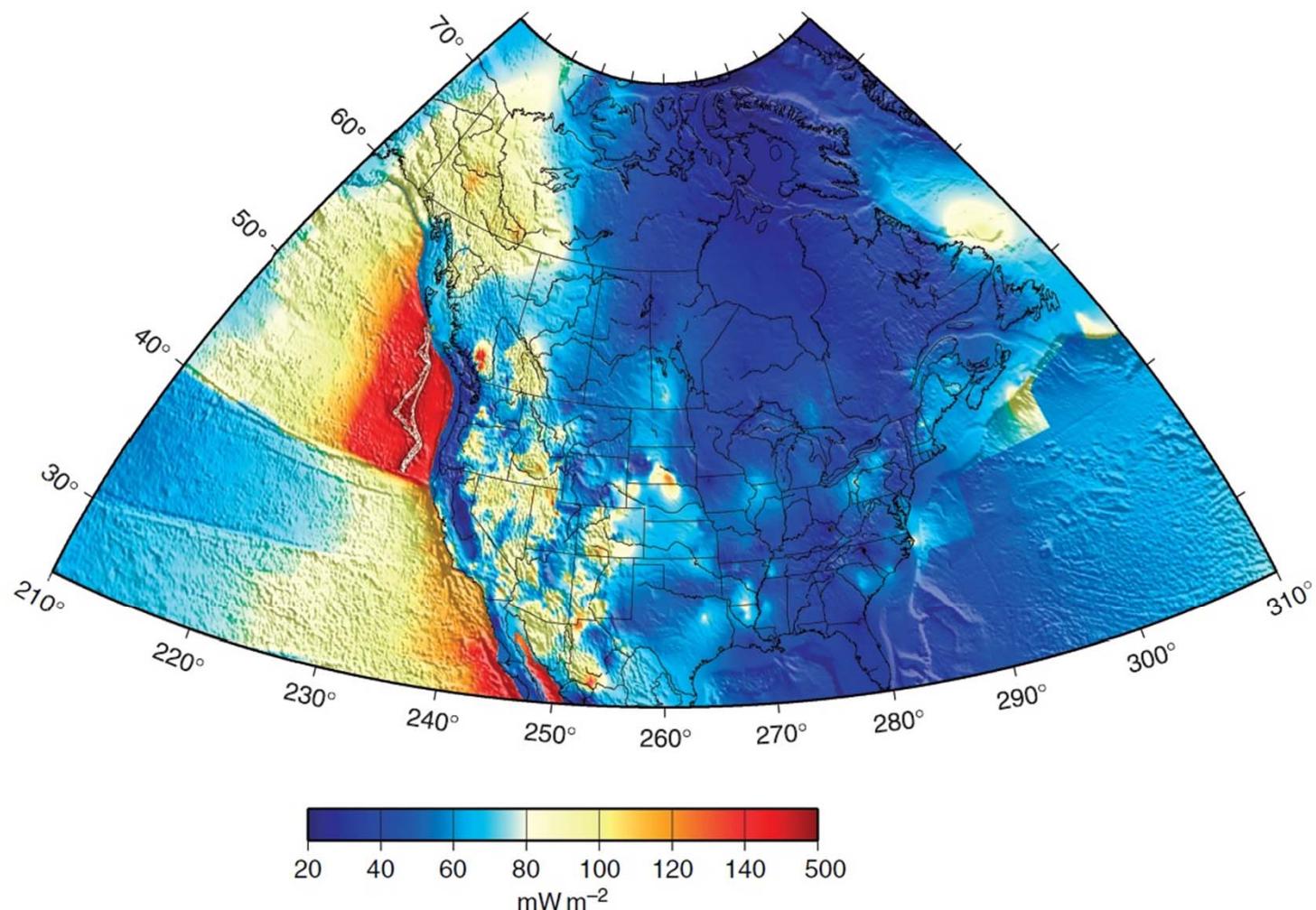
# INTRODUCTION: HEAT FLOW

**Heat flow** is the movement of heat (energy) from the interior of a planet to its Surface.



# INTRODUCTION: HEAT FLOW

**Heat flow map of North America.** Adapted from Blackwell and Richards (2004)



# THERMAL STATE AND MECHANICAL STRUCTURE OF THE LITHOSPHERE

## HEAT FLOW ON MARS



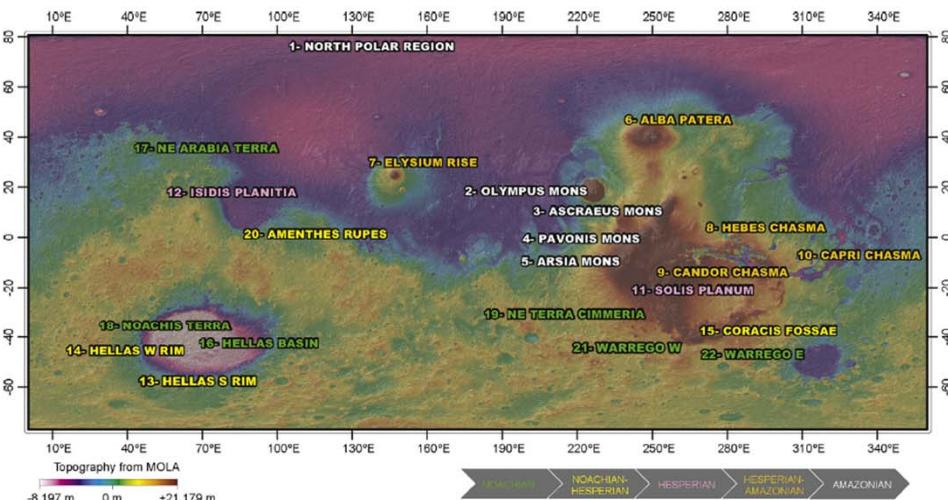
Direct measurements



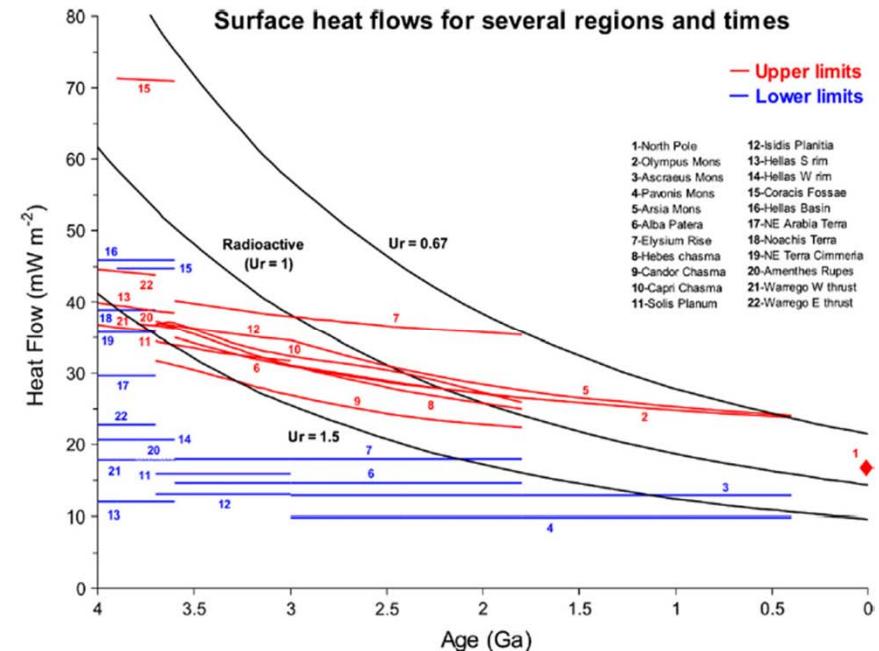
InSight mission

- Effective elastic thickness of the lithosphere ( $T_e$ )
- Depth of the brittle-ductile transition beneath large thrust faults (BDT)

Indirect methods

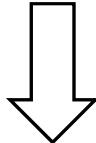


Heat flow in the past (paleo-heat flows) Ruiz et al., 2011



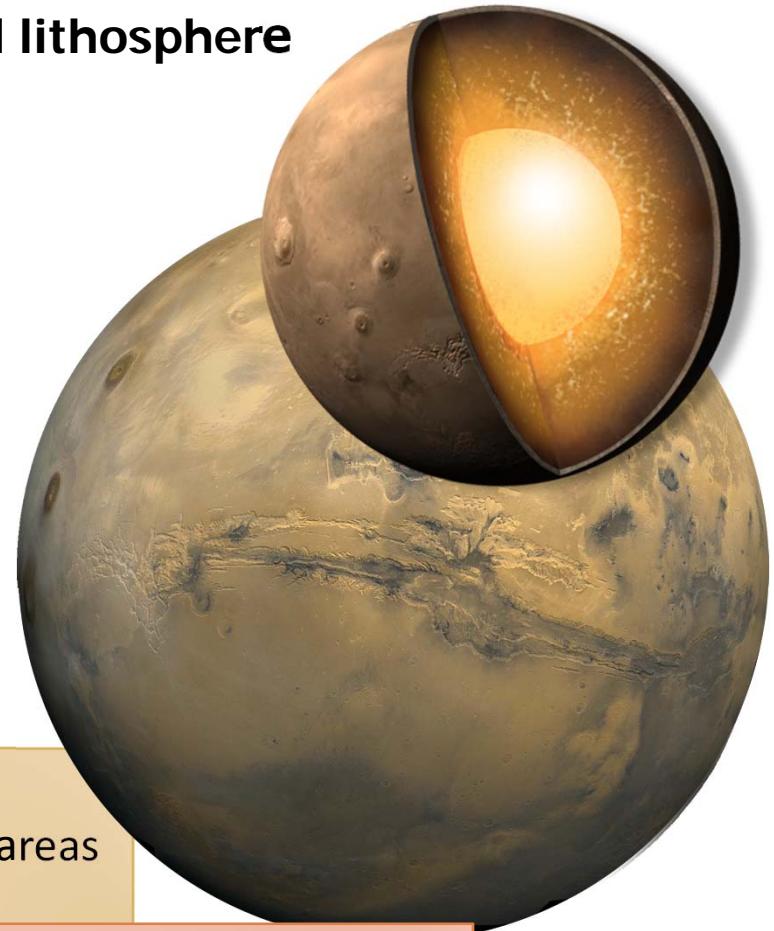
# MOTIVATIONS

## Thermal state of the martian subsurface and lithosphere

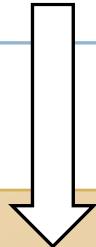


### Present-day pattern of heat flow of the planet:

- Global heat flow model at the present.
- Compared these results with our previous knowledge on the heat flow history.
- Compared with the data obtained by InSight



Geodynamics of the planet, evaluate landing zones, the distribution of groundwater or clathrates, areas with higher thermal gradient, etc.

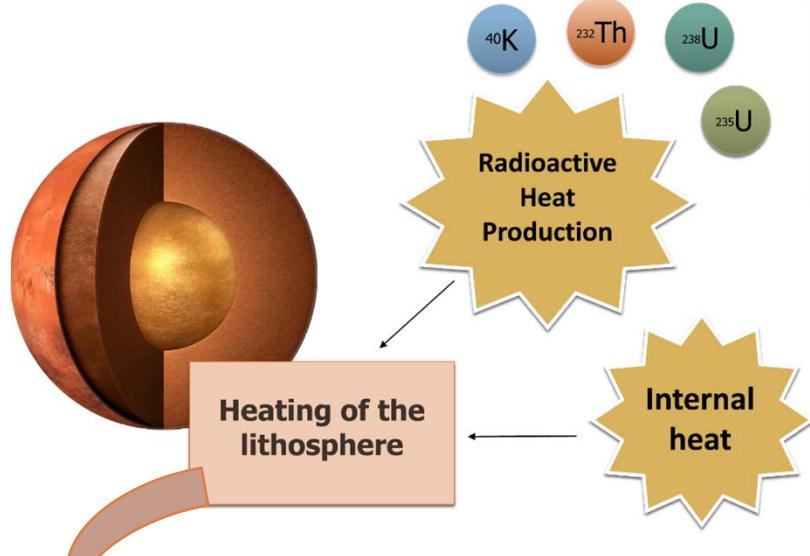


**Thermal state and evolution of the terrestrial planets**



# PRESENT-DAY THERMAL STATE OF MARS

## Present-day heat flow model of Mars



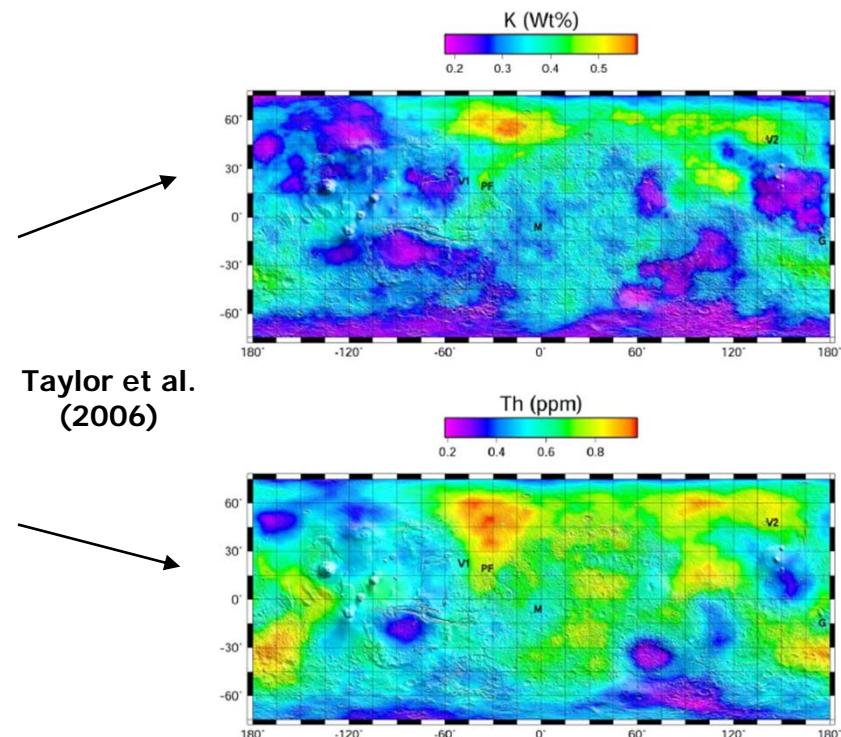
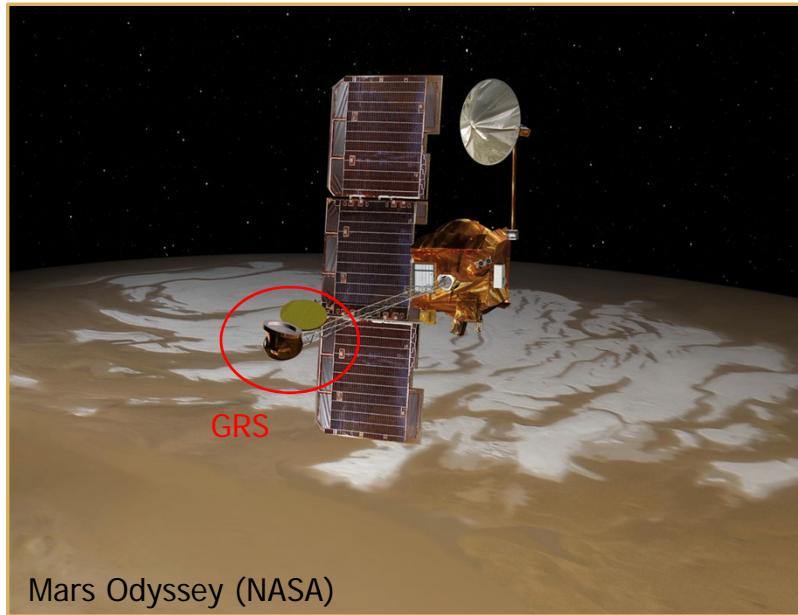
1. The radiogenic heat production of the crust and the lithosphere mantle.
2. Scaling heat flow variations arising from crustal thickness and topography crustal thickness variations. New crustal thickness model
3. The heat flow derived from the effective elastic thickness of the lithosphere beneath the North Polar Region (NPR), as a control, also from the South Polar Region (SPR).

# CRUSTAL AND MANTLE HEAT PRODUCTION

The **crustal** heat production is the sum of the heat-producing elements (HPEs)

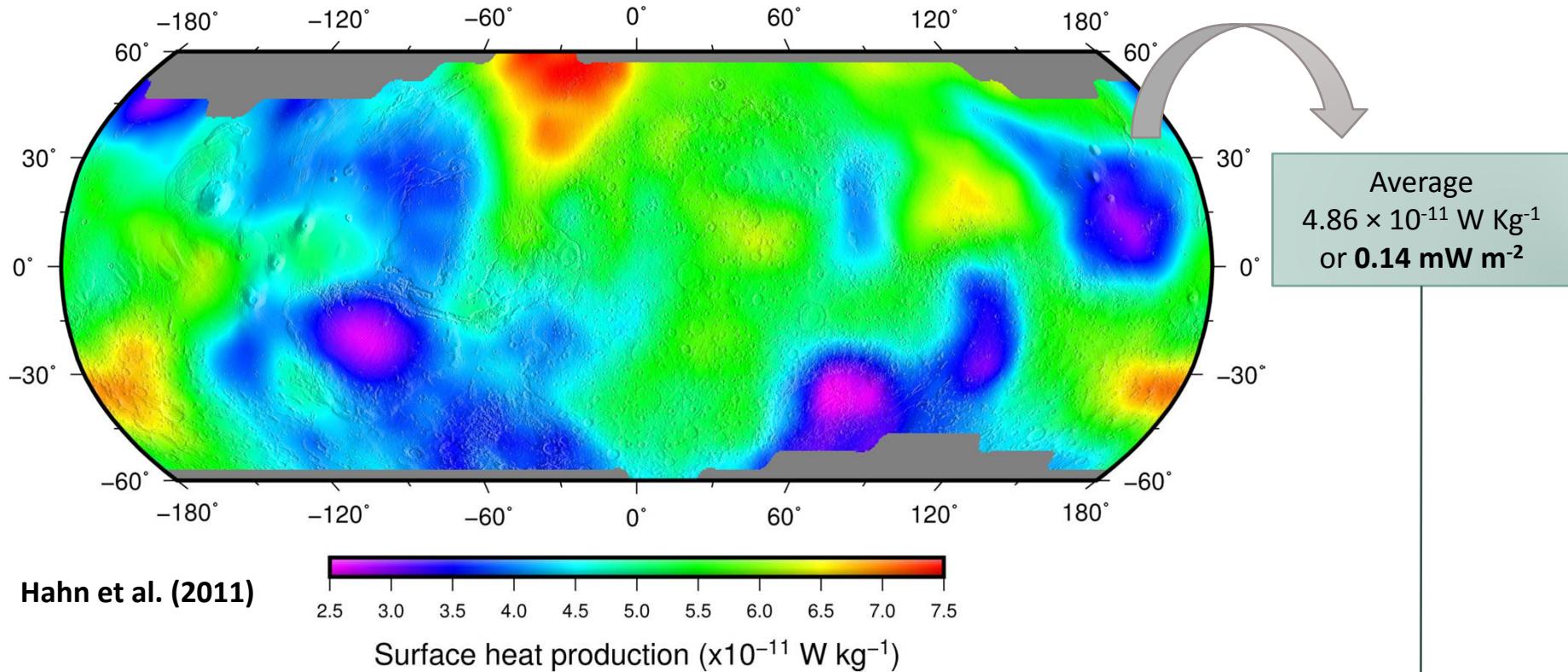
$$H = h_{\text{Th}232} + h_{\text{U}238} + h_{\text{U}235} + h_{\text{K}40}$$

HPE abundances on the surface of Mars have been estimated from measurements by the GRS (2001 Mars Odyssey). Th/U ratio = 3.8



# CRUSTAL AND MANTLE HEAT PRODUCTION

The **crustal** heat production is the sum of the heat-producing elements (HPEs)



The **mantle** heat production → we use HPE mantle lithosphere abundances **0.1 times** the average value for the martian crust

$$\approx 0.017 \text{ mW m}^{-2}$$



# PRESENT-DAY HEAT FLOW MODEL OF MARS

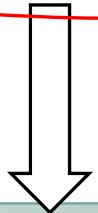
## Present-day thermal state of Mars

1. The radiogenic heat production of the crust and the lithosphere mantle.
2. Scaling heat flow variations arising from crustal thickness and topography variations → New crustal thickness model.
3. The heat flow derived from the effective elastic thickness of the lithosphere beneath the North Polar Region (NPR), as a control, also from the South Polar Region (SPR).



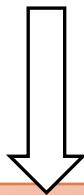
# CRUSTAL THICKNESS MODEL

We scale heat flow differences across the martian surface due to **crustal thickness** and **topographic differences (MOLA)** in the planet.

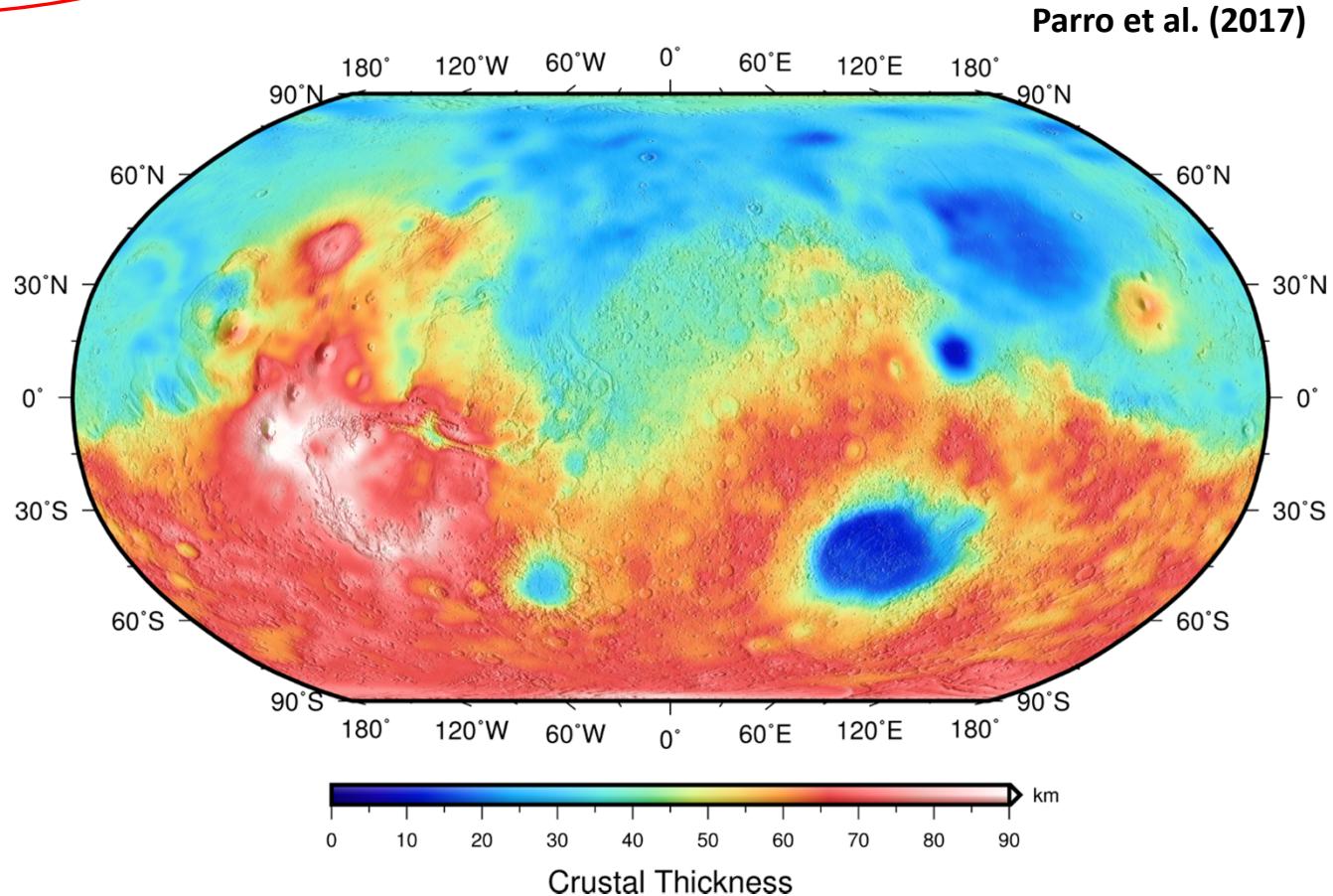


+

Gravity model



New crustal  
thickness model  
Average: 50 km



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# PRESENT-DAY HEAT FLOW MODEL OF MARS

## Present-day thermal state of Mars

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# SCALING OF PRESENT-DAY SURFACE HEAT FLOW

We scale heat flow differences across the Martian surface using the expression:

$$F_{local} = F_{ref} + H_c \Delta t + (H_c - H_m) (\Delta b - \Delta t)$$

$F_{local}$  = local heat flow for a given location on the surface of Mars

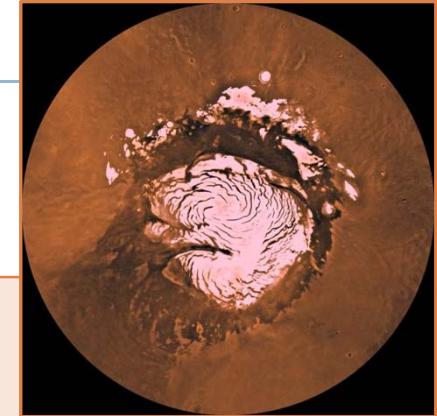
$F_{ref}$  = reference value used for anchoring the model

$H_c$  = crustal heat production =  $0.14 \text{ mW m}^{-2}$

$H_m$  = mantle heat production =  $0.017 \text{ mW m}^{-2}$

$\Delta t$  = difference between the local elevation and the elevation at the reference location.

$\Delta b$  = difference between the local crustal thickness and the crustal thickness in the reference location.



- **North Polar Region (NPR)**  
=  $17 \text{ mW m}^{-2}$   
( $T_e$ ) of 300 km
- **South Polar Region (SPR)**  
=  $23.5 \text{ mW m}^{-2}$   
( $T_e$ ) of 161 km

Surface topography → Mars Orbiter Laser Altimeter (MOLA) topography model

Crustal thicknesses → Our crustal thickness model

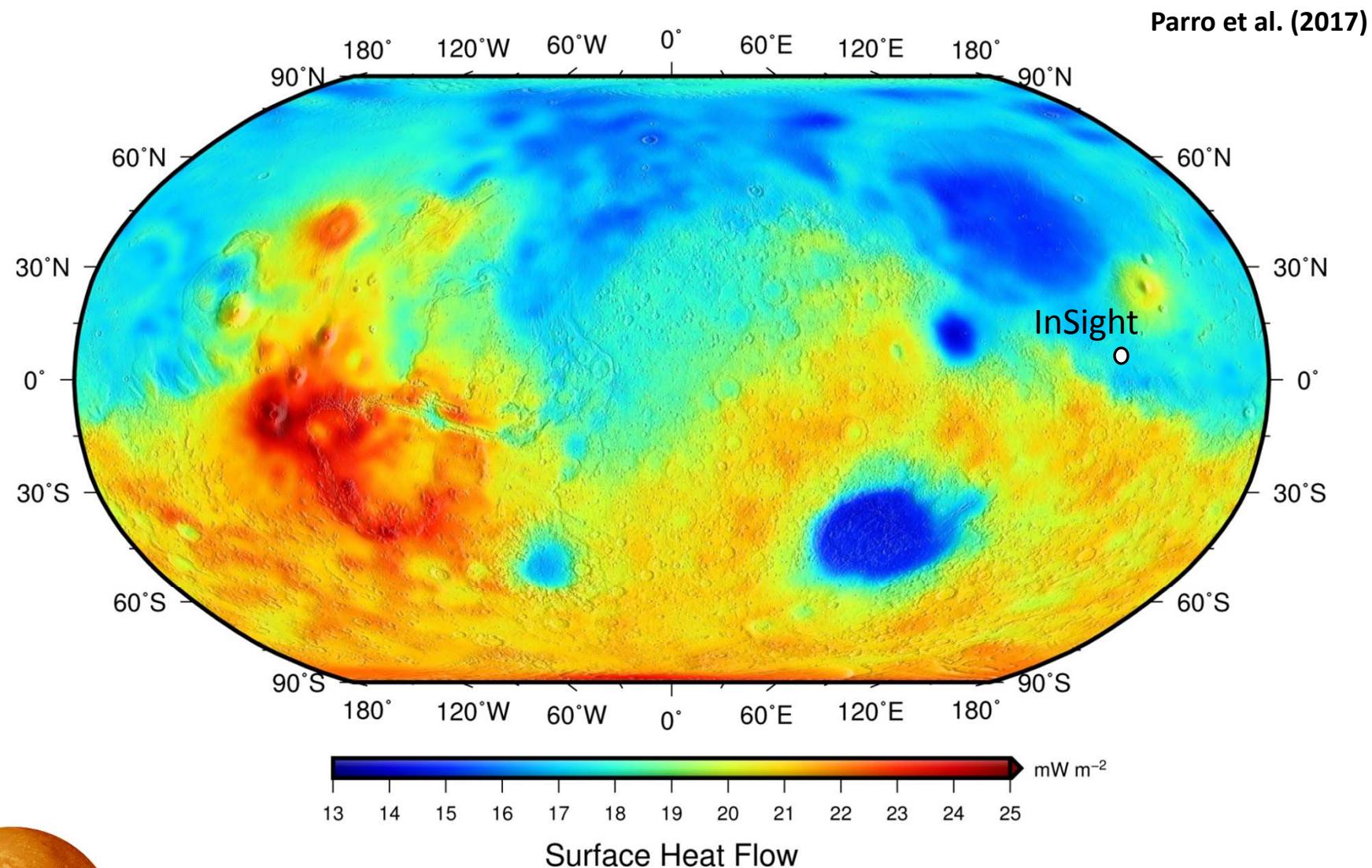
Crust density:  $2900 \text{ kg m}^{-3}$

Lithospheric mantle density:  $3500 \text{ kg m}^{-3}$

Conductivity:  $2 \text{ W m}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$



## RESULTS: PRESENT-DAY HEAT FLOW MODEL



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# Heat flow data distribution

www.ucm.es/upwards/

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Upwards - Understanding Planet Mars

Proyectos de Investigación

UPWARDS - UCM

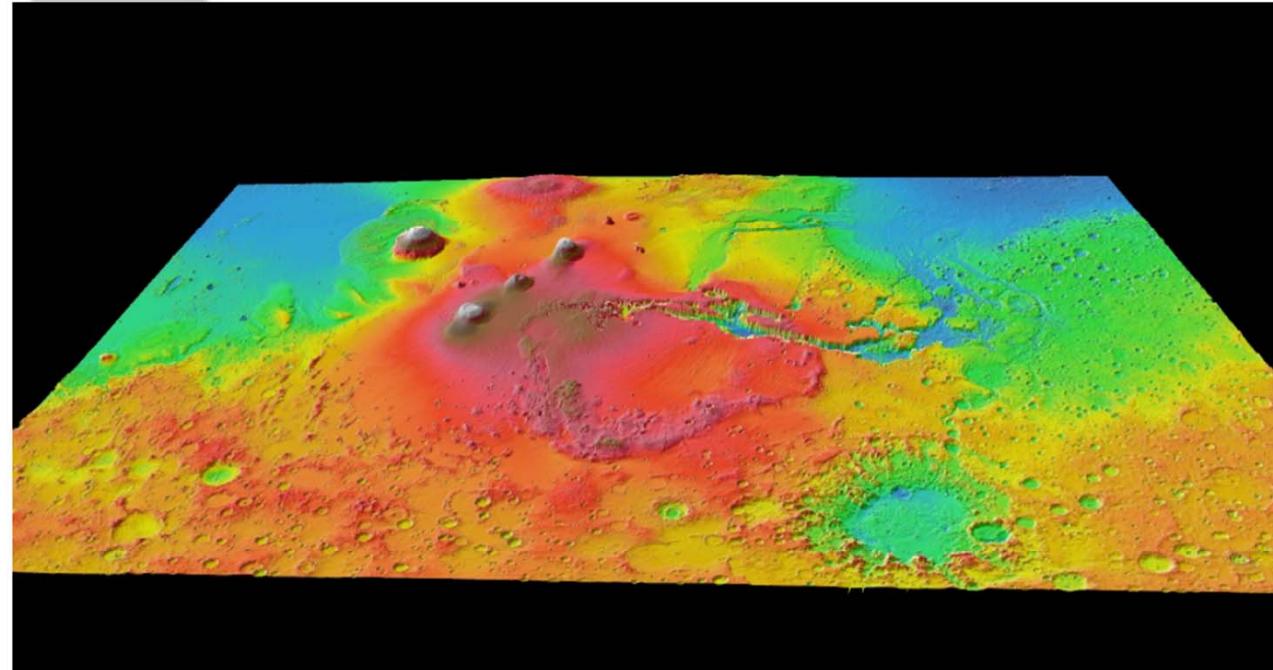
Project

Scientific staff

Achievements

Disclaimer

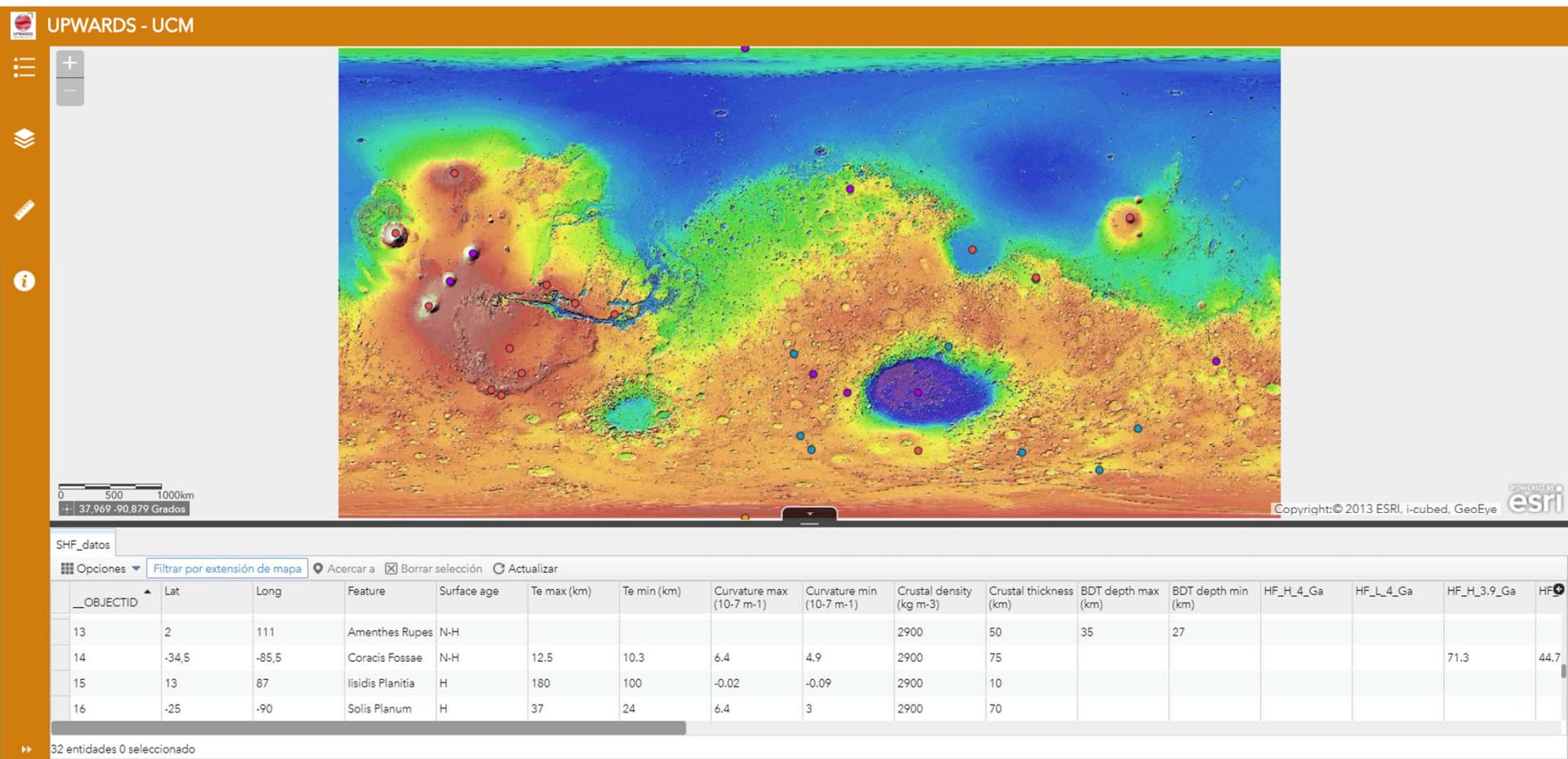
Horizon 2020, the European Union's most ambitious research and innovation programme, which aims at excellence in scientific production, the quest for answers to social challenges. UPWARDS is a cutting-edge project which, through the cooperation of groups of excellence, is creating a new image of Mars, examining everything from the subsoil to the escape into space.



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# Heat flow data distribution



Heat Flow Web map

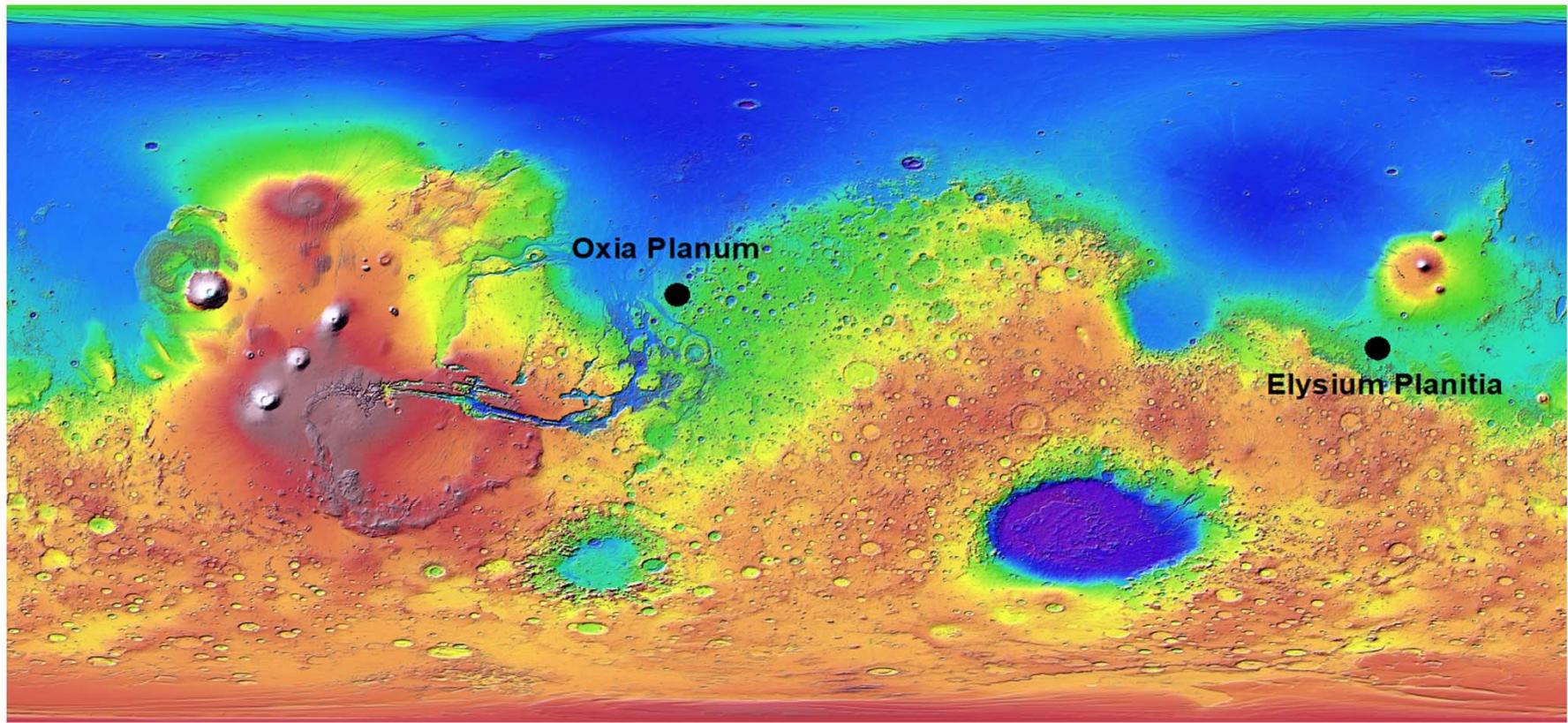
<http://www.ucm.es/upwards>

<http://ucmadrid.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=1ac196e992bd4b7393aa288d20801f4c>

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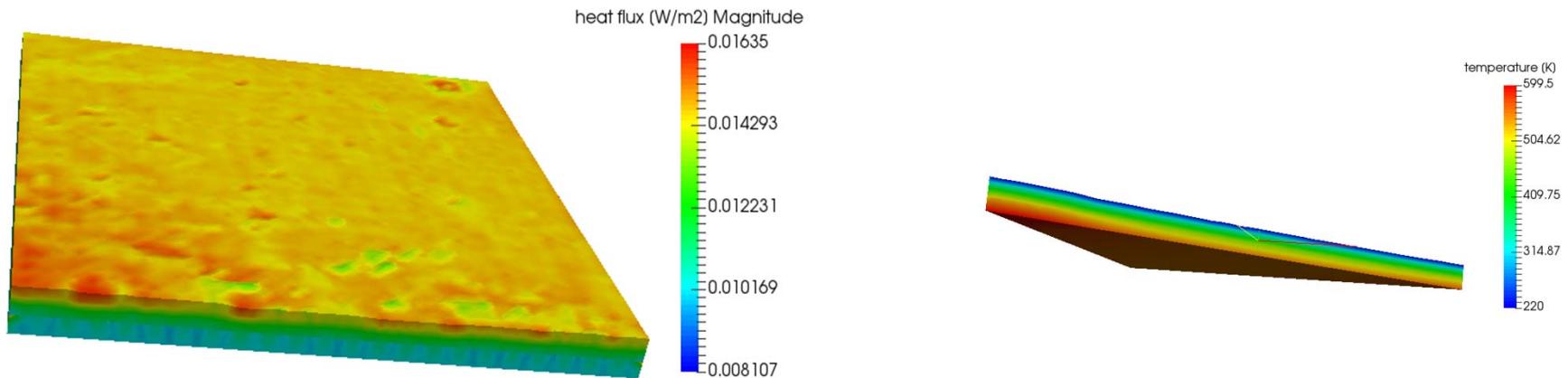
# RECENT WORK



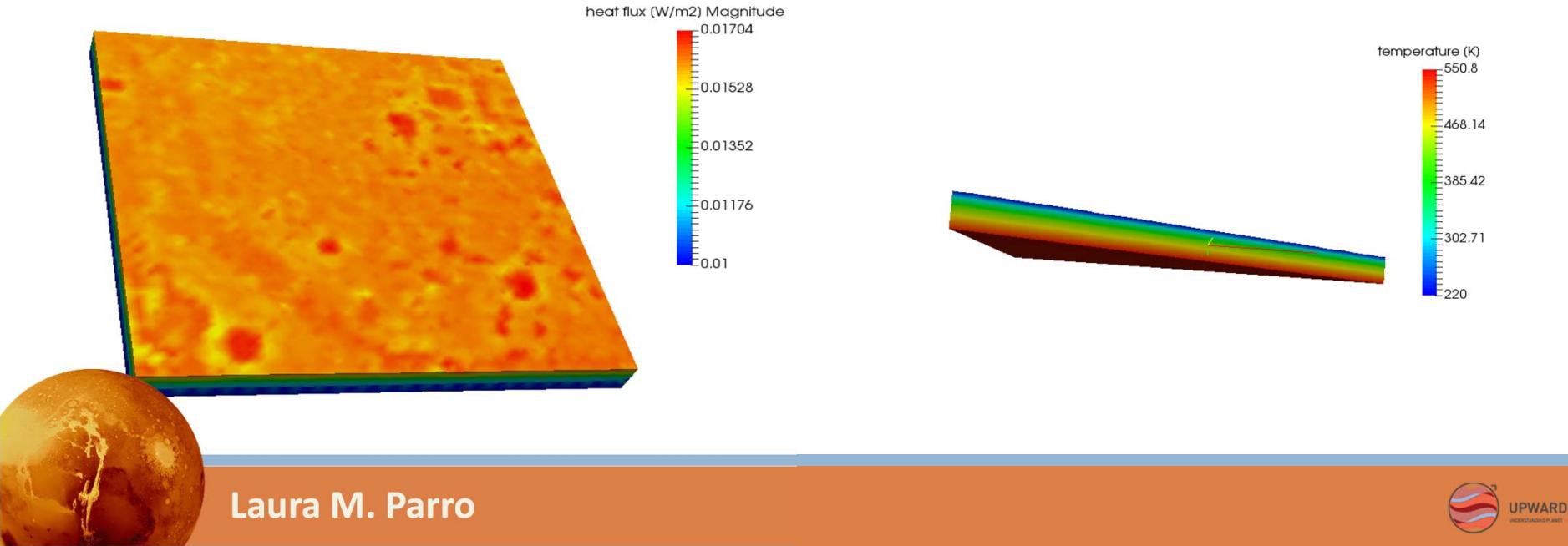
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# RECENT WORK

## Elysium Planitia



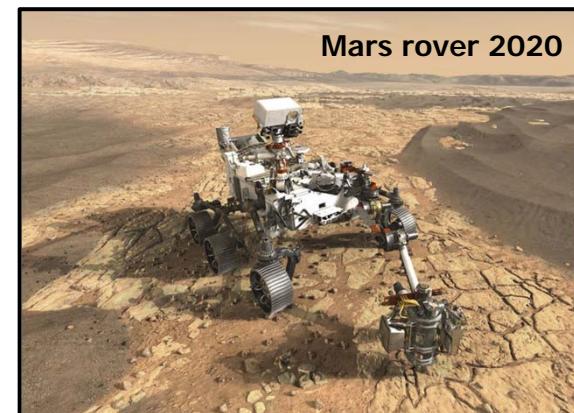
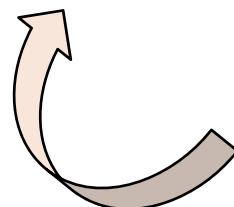
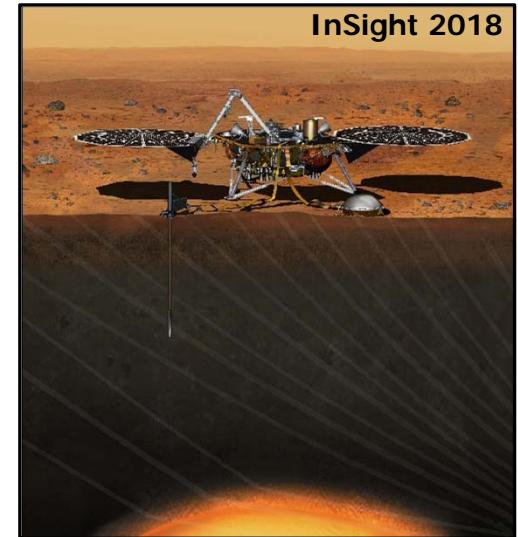
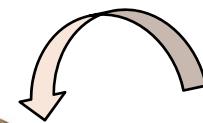
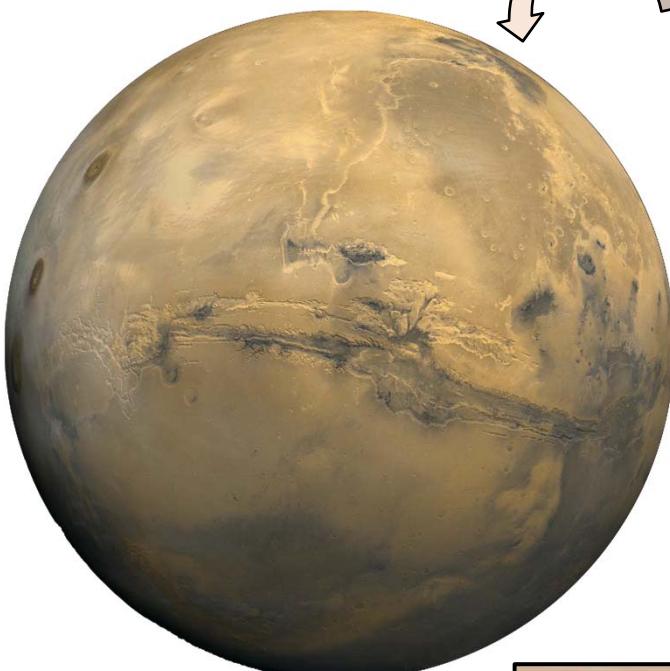
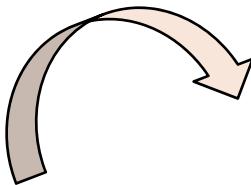
## Oxia Planum



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# FUTURE WORK





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Stony Brook University