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1 Evidence for Amazonian mid-latitude glaciation on Mars from impact crater

2 asymmetry

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11 Abstract

We find that craters slopes in the mid-latitudes of Mars have a marked north-south 12 asymmetry, with the pole-facing slopes being shallower. We mapped impact craters in two 13 southern hemisphere sites (Terra Cimmeria and Noachis Terra) and one northern hemisphere 14 site (Acidalia Planitia) and used elevation data from the High Resolution Stereo Camera 15 (HRSC) onboard Mars Express to find the maximum slope of the impact crater's walls in the 16 17 four cardinal directions. Kreslavsky and Head (2003) using Mars Orbiter Laser Altimeter (MOLA) track data found that, in general, conjugate slopes are shallower in the pole-facing 18 direction, but over a narrower ($\sim 10^{\circ}$) and more constrained latitude band. They linked the 19 asymmetry to active-layer formation (thaw) at high obliquity. However, Parsons and Nimmo 20 (2009) studied crater asymmetry using MOLA gridded data and found no evidence of a 21 relationship between crater asymmetry and latitude. Our work supports the observations of 22 23 Kreslavsky and Head (2003), and shows that asymmetry is also found on conjugate crater slopes below the resolution of MOLA, over a wider latitude band than found in their work. 24 25 We do not systematically find a sudden transition to asymmetric craters with latitude as expected for thaw-related processes, such as solifluction, gelifluction, or gully formation. The 26 formation of gullies should produce the opposite sense of asymmetry to our observations, so 27 28 cannot explain them despite the mid-latitude location and pole-facing preferences of gullies. 29 We instead link this asymmetry to the deposition of ice-rich crater deposits, where the base of 30 pole-facing slopes receive ten to hundreds of meters of additional net deposition, compared to 31 equator-facing ones over the mid-latitudes. In support of this hypothesis we found that craters 32 in Terra Cimmeria that have deposits on both their floor and pole-facing walls, occur preferentially at the mid-latitudes and have marked positive asymmetry. These deposits were 33 34 likely laid down during high obliquity excursions (>45°) at least 5 My ago and potentially over the whole Amazonian epoch. 35

36 KEYWORDS: Mars, Surface; Cratering; Mars, climate; Ices

37 Highlights

• Pole-facing slopes are shallower from HRSC elevation between 30 and 50°N/S.

- The N-S asymmetry is best explained by preferred deposition of ice-rich deposits on
 the pole-facing slope.
- These deposits were laid down at high obliquity during the Amazonian.
- 42 **1. Introduction**

43 The morphology of the surface of Mars is dominated by impact craters, which are continually added to its surface. After emplacement craters are modified by active surface processes and 44 45 thus if global trends can be observed in crater morphology then information can be obtained about the active processes and therefore past climate (e.g., Craddock et al., 1997; Mangold et 46 al., 2012). Kreslavsky and Head (2003) found using 0.3 km baseline MOLA (Mars Orbiter 47 48 Laser Altimeter) data that pole-facing slopes are shallower than equator-facing ones over the mid-latitudes (40-50°N and S). They attributed this slope asymmetry to the thawing of 49 ground ice under high obliquity conditions. 50

In contrast Parsons and Nimmo (2009) modeled the expected asymmetry due to long-51 term viscous creep of ground ice forced by insolation-driven variations in temperatures and 52 53 found that this produced pole-facing slopes that were steeper than equator-facing ones. To validate their results they measured the slope asymmetry of 120 craters in both hemispheres 54 55 (diameters of 16-40 km) using MOLA gridded data. This method has potential advantages 56 over the Kreslavsky and Head (2003) one, because conjugate slopes within craters are the 57 same age and on average craters are symmetrical on formation. However, the observations of Parsons and Nimmo (2009) showed no systematic pattern in crater wall slope asymmetry 58 59 contrary to the predictions of their numerical model and the observations of Kreslavsky and Head (2003). They attribute the discrepancy between their asymmetry measurements and 60

61 those of Kreslavsky and Head (2003) to either a lack of small craters in their study, or to different slope processes being active in craters compared to those on other types of slopes. 62 The distinction between the different hypotheses proposed by these two groups of 63 authors is important for the following reasons. Firstly, relaxation of crater-form through long-64 term deformation (Parsons and Nimmo, 2009) strongly implies the presence of tens to 65 hundreds of meters of ice-rich regolith at or very near the surface for periods of 100,000 66 67 years or more. However, deformation of crater shape through repeated episodes of thaw concentrated on pole-facing crater walls, as described by Kreslavsky et al. (2008), only 68 69 requires: a) the top few meters of the surface to be ice-rich and b) does not necessarily require 70 this ice to be permanent, just present when warmer conditions occur. These two hypotheses 71 have very different implications for the martian water cycle and the reservoir of water ice 72 over the Amazonian. The first hypothesis implies that a large and shallow cryosphere has 73 been present on Mars for long periods of the Amazonian, whereas the second implies only temporary and superficial water ice, possibly resulting from exchange with the atmosphere. 74 75 To attempt to resolve these conflicting results we revisit this mid-latitude zone in Terra Cimmera, Noachis Terra and Acidalia Planitia and analyze the slopes within all 76 77 resolvable craters using HRSC (High Resolution Stereo Camera) data (Fig. 1). The higher resolution (~100 m compared to ~450 m) of this dataset compared to MOLA allows us to 78 79 study smaller craters. We decided to measure conjugate slopes inside craters so as to assess 80 slopes with the same age, hence same time of exposure to surface processes. This enables us to compare rates of crater wall degradation with orientation and determine if different 81 82 processes have been acting according to exposure orientation.

83 **2.** Methods

All available level 4 HRSC elevation data on ESA's Planetary Science Archive (Scholten et
al., 2005) with a resolution of 125 m or better and accompanying orthorectified images were

86 used in the three areas spanning the maximum latitude range possible. The elevation data use the GMM3 Aeroid as a vertical reference (Gwinner et al 2008). Table 1 lists the images and 87 elevation data resolutions for each study area. The elevation data were reprojected into a 88 89 sinusoidal projection having a central meridian at the center of each study area (155° for Terra Cimmeria, 10° for Noachis Terra and 351° for Acidalia Planitia). The elevation data 90 91 were resampled to a constant pixel resolution of 75 m/pixel and where there was data overlap 92 the data with higher resolution and/or better quality were used to avoid sampling craters in these areas twice. We chose this resolution as a compromise: to preserve information from 93 94 the 50 m/pix data and so as not to heavily oversample the 100-125 m/pix data. The crater catalog MA130301GT (Salamuniccar et al., 2011) was used as a basis for mapping of craters 95 down to 0.75 km in diameter. Impact craters visible in the images and hillshade model of the 96 97 elevation data were digitized as circles in the sinusoidal projection of each study area. Craters that are obviously oblate were excluded from the survey. The center was computed from this 98 circle for each crater and the distance and direction of each elevation pixel from the crater-99 100 center was calculated.

Errors in the elevation data stem from two sources: firstly the internal elevation 101 uncertainty derived from the stereo-photogrammetric method and secondly the error 102 introduced by superposing adjacent strips. Absolute deviation of the HRSC elevation data 103 from the MOLA spot heights is reported to be on the order of 29 m with a standard deviation 104 105 of 41 m (Gwinner et al., 2009) and this corresponds well to the magnitude of the noise that we observe in our HRSC data. HRSC level 4 products can have significant shift and rotation 106 between adjacent strips (Dumke et al. 2008). Where our craters intersected with boundaries 107 between HRSC strips we did not find horizontal misalignment greater than 1 pixel. However, 108 we found the average elevation differences between overlapping elevation data strips in the 109

110 Terra Cimmeria region to be between 0.7 m and 9.3 m with a standard deviation of between111 15 and 42 m.

112 To account for these uncertainties and the natural variability in crater shape we analyzed the topographic trends in quadrants of the crater, rather than in individual line-profiles. HRSC 113 elevation noise has a normal distribution centered on the 'real' elevation value (Gwinner et 114 al., 2009); hence average profiles calculated from the data within crater quadrants are more 115 116 robust than single line-profiles are to these errors. The data within 1.25 crater diameters of the crater center were extracted for further analysis. These data were divided into quadrants, 117 118 north-, south-, east- and west-facing. We calculated the worst-case meridional distortion by taking the furthest crater from the projection center at the highest latitude (125 km and 72°S 119 in Noachis Terra) and took the angular difference between true north and the map-projected 120 121 north from the map. At worst the meridional distortion introduced by the projection system was $\sim 5.7^{\circ}$ from the true north direction at the edges of the study regions. So in the worst case 122 6% of the pixels (5.7° span of a 90° segment) included to calculate the average profile could 123 be incorrectly assigned. Only if these data were consistently and systematically different from 124 their neighbors (i.e. greater than the noise, ~40 m) would they shift the mean profile, hence 125 we considered this error as negligible. For each of these quadrants the mean elevation and its 126 standard error were calculated in 75 m distance bins (Fig. 2). The standard error on the mean 127 elevation for each bin was on average less than 5 m, hence sometimes smaller than the points 128 129 in Fig. 2. Throughout we use the term "standard error" to refer to the likelihood that our calculated mean is a true representation of the population mean, i.e. sd / \sqrt{n} , where sd is the 130 sample standard deviation and *n* is the number of samples. 131

This mean profile was used to calculate the maximum crater slope on the crater wall, as follows. Firstly a weighted linear model was fitted to each point and its two nearest neighbors and the gradient and standard error of the gradient were recorded. The weights were

proportional to the inverse of the standard error on the mean elevation for those points.

Secondly the maximum positive gradient value was taken as the maximum crater slope on the crater wall and its associated standard error was recorded. The slope calculated is therefore an estimate of the maximum slope at length-scales of 150 m. The crater wall was defined as the interval between the position of maximum curvature and the rim (Fig. 2). The rim was assumed to be the highest point on the profile or at the distance given by the circle-radius if no maximum could be found before the end of the profile.

The asymmetry, "A", of the slopes was calculated similarly to Parsons and Nimmo
(2009), but considering equator- and pole-facing slopes rather than north- and south-facing
ones:

$$A = S_{eq} - S_p / S_{avg}, \tag{1}$$

146 where S_{eq} is the equator-facing slope, S_p the pole-facing and S_{avg} the average of the N-, S-, E-147 and W-facing slopes. Using this system, an equator-facing slope which is steeper than a pole-148 facing slope leads to a positive value of *A* in both hemispheres. The error in *A* (σ_A) is 149 estimated using propagation of errors, as follows:

150
$$\sigma_A = \left(\sqrt{\left(\sigma_{seq}^2 + \sigma_{sp}^2\right)}\right) / S_{avg}$$
(2)

where σ_{seq} is the standard error for the equator-facing slope and σ_{sp} is the standard error estimated for the pole-facing slope, both derived from the fitting of the weighted linear model as described above. The estimates of error on the mean (σ_{Amn}) of asymmetry per latitude bin presented in Table 2 were derived by propagating the individual errors of *A* (σ_A) as follows:

$$\sigma_{Amn} = \frac{\sqrt{\sum_{i=0}^{n} (\sigma_{Ai}^2 + \sigma_{Ai+1}^2 + \sigma_{Ai+2}^2 + \cdots)}}{n}$$
(3)

155

To provide an estimate of regional slope the median value of the topography was taken
between 1.4 and 1.5 crater radii for each quadrant. The difference in elevation was then taken
between the equator- and pole-facing, and the W- and E-facing quadrants and normalized by

the crater's radius. For the analysis of the asymmetry data, craters superposed on strong
regional slopes were excluded. A strong regional slope was defined as a normalized
difference in elevation of greater than 5%.

162 **3. Results**

In Terra Cimmeria we mapped 567 craters between 0.75 - 39 km diameter, 664 craters 163 between 0.75 – 68 km diameter in Noachis Terra and in Acidalia Planum 687 craters between 164 0.75 - 46 km diameter. The latitudinal evolution of the maximum slope of crater walls for 165 each region is shown in Fig. 3a. The propagated error on the mean for the slope 166 167 measurements is less than 0.003 (m/m) for all latitude bins with more than 20 craters over all study zones in Fig. 3a (Table 2). In general agreement with previous global studies using 168 MOLA data (Kreslavsky and Head, 2003), we also find that the slopes of crater walls 169 170 decrease towards the high latitudes (Fig. 3a). This decrease is gradual in Acidalia Planum and Terra Cimmeria, but abrupt in Noachis Terra. Median slope values dip below 0.18 in Noachis 171 Terra at 35° latitude, whereas values below 0.18 are not found until 50° latitude in Acidalia 172 Planum and Terra Cimmeria. At latitudes greater than 55° craters in all regions have slopes of 173 ~0.18. In contrast, below 30° of latitude, slopes stretch between ~0.3 and ~0.5, which are 174 typical of fresh craters (e.g., Mangold et al., 2012). 175

Figure 3b shows how the asymmetry of crater walls changes with latitude. Each region 176 has a different pattern, but each has marked positive asymmetry (steeper equator-facing 177 178 slopes) in the mid-latitudes. The propagated error on the mean for the asymmetry measurements is on average 0.01 (and always less than 0.03) for all latitude bins with more 179 than 20 craters for all study zones in Fig. 3b (Table 2). There is a strong scattering of the data 180 for all three regions studied. This effect is expected because of the natural variability of 181 impact crater shape from differences in formation processes and bedrock. As craters at 182 equatorial latitudes ($\leq 22.5^{\circ}$) have high slopes typical of weakly degraded fresh craters, we 183

have used these regions to estimate the natural variation in asymmetry. Taking all the craters 184 at these latitudes (n=162), the median value (-0.02) has a standard error of asymmetry of 185 ± 0.03 , corresponding to a 95% confidence limit of ± 0.06 (calculated by multiplying the 186 187 standard error by 1.96, the position of 95% area under the normal distribution). Hence, a median asymmetry value >|0.06| is a significant signal (when the number of craters sampled 188 is large, see Table 2) and thus linked to crater degradation, rather than natural variability. The 189 fact that asymmetry is systematically positive for most mid-latitude regions is consistent with 190 this interpretation. 191

192 A more detailed inspection shows that, in Terra Cimmeria, the mean and median asymmetry changes smoothly, with positive asymmetry between 50° and 30° , which peaks at 193 45° and a small negative asymmetry at 55°. This asymmetry variation is similar to that 194 195 predicted by relaxation of ~100 m of creeping permafrost (Parsons and Nimmo, 2009), but has the opposite sign, as discussed in more detail in Section 4. In Noachis Terra craters have 196 positive mean and median asymmetry at 65°, 50° and 40-25° and marked negative 197 asymmetry at 15-10° and 60° and a small negative asymmetry at 55°. The negative anomalies 198 at 55-60° in Noachis Terra and Terra Cimmeria will be discussed further in Section 4.3. 199 Acidalia Planum has positive median and mean asymmetry from 50° to 40° and negative 200 values at 10°. Absolute mean and median values are lower than for the two previous regions, 201 and only slightly above 0.06 at latitudes from 50 to 40°, suggesting that this region is less 202 203 affected by the process creating asymmetry.

A comparison between Figs. 3a and 3b shows that the asymmetry is an intrinsic parameter that does not depend on the slope value. For example, between 30° and 50° in Terra Cimmeria, there is continuous positive asymmetry and the slopes range from ~0.25 to 0.4. Figure 4 shows how the asymmetry is expressed for different sizes of craters between the latitudes of 27.5 to 42.5° where the asymmetry is high for two of the regions (Fig. 3b).

Craters between 1.5 and 8 km have the most marked asymmetry (>> 0.1) for the two southern hemisphere regions. Craters at 0.5-1.0 km and 4-16 km in Acidalia Planum have weakly positive asymmetry, but unlike the other two regions this latitude zone does not have strong asymmetry in Fig. 3b, so we will not discuss this region further in this context. Craters larger than 8 km and smaller than 1 km in Terra Cimmeria have no significant asymmetry. All craters in Noachis Terra have positive asymmetry, with the least asymmetric craters being in the 0.5-1.5 km diameter range.

The variation of asymmetry with depth to diameter ratio (d:D) for the three study zones 216 is shown in Fig. 5 in the latitude zone 27.5 to 42.5° (as for Fig. 4). Craters with d:D > 0.1 in 217 Acidalia Planum have weakly positive mean and median asymmetry and the other craters 218 have no significant values of asymmetry. In both Terra Cimmeria and Noachis Terra craters 219 220 with d:D > 0.05 have asymmetry >0.1 and craters with d:D < 0.025 are less asymmetric. The main difference between the two regions is for craters with d:D range of 0.025-0.05: craters 221 in Terra Cimmeria have no significant asymmetry whereas those in Noachis Terra have a 222 mean and median asymmetry between 0.1 and 0.2. 223

4. Implications and discussion

4.1 Comparison with previous work

We compared our results to the asymmetry predicted by the modeling of viscous creep 226 performed by Parsons and Nimmo (2009). They modeled the creep of an ice-rich layer of 3 227 228 different thicknesses (50, 100 and 150 m, dotted curves in Fig. 3b) in a 30 km diameter crater using varying obliquity (Laskar et al., 2004) over the last 100 My. For the temperature-wave 229 to affect the depth over which deformation by ice creep occurs there must be significant 230 differences in year-average insolation between the equator- and pole-facing slopes. Year-231 average insolation is greatest on equator-facing slopes, and at higher obliquities the 232 magnitude of the difference decreases. The negative asymmetries found by Parsons and 233

Nimmo (2009) result from deformation with an average obliquity of 34°. However, we find
significant positive asymmetry, rather than negative in the latitude range predicted by their
model in all of our study regions (Fig. 3b). Despite the sign being reversed it is important to
note that the magnitude of the asymmetry observed approaches that predicted by their model
for a deforming layer 150 m thick in Terra Cimmeria and Noachis Terra. This observation
will be discussed in more detail in Section 4.3.

240 In contrast, the sense of the asymmetry and its latitudinal location from our study are in agreement with the results of Kreslavsky and Head (2003) (green or grey bars, Fig. 3), but 241 242 there is a broader zone of asymmetry in our study areas (Fig. 3b). This may be explained by the different methods used to measure asymmetry. Kreslavsky and Head (2003) considered 243 244 the distribution of all north- and south-facing slopes within ~14x14 km cells, whereas we 245 considered conjugate craters slopes at a range of different length-scales (from ~1-150 km). Kreslavsky and Head (2003) explained their observations by invoking the melt or the 246 deformation of an active layer (Kreslavsky et al., 2008) on pole-facing slopes at high 247 248 obliquity. Although year-average insolation is still greatest on equator-facing slopes at high obliquities, at obliquities above $\sim 30^{\circ}$ (depending on the slope inclination) day-average 249 250 insolation is greater on the pole-facing slope (e.g., Costard et al., 2002).

In summary, considering the processes presented in these two models the asymmetry we have measured can only come about if temperatures are greater on the pole-facing, compared to the equator-facing slope, in the mid-latitudes. Ice-creep as modeled by Parsons and Nimmo (2009) produces steeper pole-facing slopes at any *average* obliquity up to 50° and the process of thaw/active layer formation as proposed by Kreslavsky et al. (2008) only produces steeper equator-facing slopes under high obliquity excursions. Hence, our observations can only be explained by periods of high obliquity if thaw is the agent of degradation.

4.2 Timeframe of asymmetry development

Craters from 2 to 8 km are those which display the most asymmetry (Fig. 4). The large 259 majority of these craters formed >100 My ago. The frequency of craters in this diameter bin 260 261 in any of these three areas is of the timescale of ~100 My (after Hartmann and Neukum, 2001). This means, that, statistically, there is no more than one 2.83-4 km crater younger than 262 100 My. Hence, the timing of the asymmetry development of these craters should be of the 263 order of 100 My. The depth to diameter ratio (d:D) can be used a rough proxy for the 264 degradation state of the crater (e.g. Robbins and Hynek, 2012), hence craters with large d:D 265 266 values are 'fresh' and those with small d:D values are 'degraded'. The craters with the highest d:D > 0.1 ('freshest') and the lowest d:D < 0.025 ('degraded') in Terra Cimmeria and 267 Noachis Terra have less pronounced positive asymmetry than those with an intermediate d:D 268 269 (Fig. 5). If the development of asymmetry happened prior to the Amazonian then we would expect only 'degraded' craters to show the asymmetry, conversely if it was very recent then 270 we would expect craters with all degradation states to exhibit asymmetry. Neither is the case, 271 272 so it is likely that the asymmetry was developed during the Amazonian.

4.3 Ice deposition as an agent of asymmetry development

Our asymmetry observations agree with those of Kreslavsky and Head (2003) and Kreslavsky et al. (2008) and these authors propose that the asymmetry of these craters is explained by thaw processes. However, we have also observed that many of our craters contain deposits (Fig. 6), whose form and distribution could also explain the asymmetry. In this section and Section 4.4 we further explore the development of asymmetry by deposition alone and in Section 4.5 go on to explore the plausibility of the other previously proposed mechanisms.

In the deposition model pole-facing slopes are a focus for deposition of water ice from the atmosphere and equator-facing slopes either remain ice-free, or collect less ice. For this to produce asymmetry ice must be thicker at the bottom of the slope than at the top. According 283 to the calculations of Parsons and Nimmo (2009) for a 30 km diameter crater 50-150 m of topographic difference is needed to produce our observed magnitude of asymmetry. From our 284 actual asymmetry observations we can make an independent estimate of the thickness of 285 286 material needed to be deposited, as follows. For any given crater, we can approximate the slope of the 'pristine' (i.e. pre-deposition) crater wall by using the slope of the equator-facing 287 crater wall (S_{eq}) and approximate the length of the pristine wall (L_w) by using the equator-288 facing distance from the maximal concavity to the rim (Fig. 7). We can then simply calculate 289 the maximum thickness of material (*Th*) as follows: 290

$$291 Th = L_w \ge (S_{eq} - S_p) (4)$$

For the 357 craters in Terra Cimmeria and Noachis Terra between 27.5°S and 42.5°S with an
asymmetry ≥0.2, this gives an average of the maximum *Th* estimate of 122 m with the first
and third quartiles being 22 m and 150 m respectively. This is similar to the 50-150 m
estimate of Parsons and Nimmo (2009) despite our craters having a wide range of diameters.
There are two putative ice-rich deposits, which show a similar latitudinal distribution to
the zones of positive asymmetry: firstly the latitude dependent mantle (LDM) and secondly
ice-deposits within craters, often termed Concentric Crater Fill (CFF).

To test whether these deposits were responsible for the asymmetry we undertook a survey 299 of all Context Camera images (CTX) at ~ 6 m/pix in the Terra Cimmeria study region. We 300 found CTX images were the only reliable way of identifying LDM, CFF or other ice deposits 301 at the regional scale. We did not perform the same survey in Acidalia Planitia or Noachis 302 Terra because good quality CTX images were not present at all latitudes within these areas at 303 304 the time of writing. We used the criteria of Head et al. (2010) to identify ice deposits, including the presence of elongate parallel striate, arcuate ridges, sublimation pits and 305 troughs: some examples of the deposits are shown in Fig. 6. We divided ice deposits into 306

three types according to their distribution within the crater: floor deposits, deposits on thepole-facing wall and deposits on the equator-facing wall.

Figure 8 shows that there are very clear trends in ice-deposits with latitude in Terra 309 Cimmeria. Equatorward of 32° we did not find ice deposits in any crater and polewards of 310 38° there are no craters without ice-deposits, with the exception of two fresh craters. At 311 latitudes around 35° the most common deposits are found on pole-facing walls only, then 312 313 moving polewards these grade into deposits being most common on both the floor and polefacing walls at 42°. Finally at 55° almost all craters have floor, pole- and equator-facing 314 315 deposits. Craters with positive asymmetry (where pole-facing slopes are shallower than equator-facing ones) occur at latitudes where deposits are predominantly located on both 316 pole-facing walls and on crater floors (Fig. 8). The link is substantiated by the observation 317 318 that the 72 craters with both pole-facing and floor deposits have the highest asymmetry amongst all of the other deposit-configurations with an average asymmetry of 0.25, compared 319 to 0.07 for the 110 craters without any deposits. The negative asymmetry expressed at 55° 320 321 corresponds to an area where crater floors and pole- and equator-facing walls all have deposits. Negative asymmetry is also found at the same latitude in Noachis Terra and from 322 323 available images, the deposits also cover the whole crater. This zone of negative anomalies corresponds to a region with a higher than average thermal inertia (Putzig et al., 2005), 324 325 interpreted as "Rocks, bedrock, duricrust and polar ice". This provides additional evidence 326 that the deposits covering these craters could be both extensive and ice-rich.

327 4.4 Link with previously mapped ice deposits

The distribution of the dissected mantle or LDM (Mustard et al., 2001) coincides with zones where we observe positive asymmetry in all three study areas (Fig. 3). In Terra Cimmeria we observed LDM "pasted-on" to pole-facing slopes in 36% of craters and that craters with pole-facing deposits are concentrated in zones of higher positive asymmetry

(Fig. 8). However, thickness estimates for the LDM are of the order of tens of meters (e.g., 332 Mustard et al., 2001; Willmes et al., 2012) and in places up to 40 m (Zanetti et al., 2010). The 333 most recent estimates of the age of the mantle from Kostama et al. (2006) range from 5 to 0.1 334 335 My. Up to six distinct stratigraphic layers were found in areas of degradation by Schon et al. (2009), who link these layers to excursions to high obliquity in the last 5 My. Hence, the 336 surface age is younger than the estimated age of asymmetry development, as outlined in 337 338 Section 4.2. Together the age and thickness of this deposit argue against its dominant role in developing asymmetry, 339

340 The zones of positive asymmetry also coincide with mapped CFF ice deposits within craters (Fig. 3; Dickson et al., 2012), which are estimated to have thicknesses of up to 1 km 341 (Dickson et al., 2010). Such deposits have been previously linked to positive asymmetry for 342 343 individual craters in both the northern (Kreslavsky and Head, 2006) and southern hemisphere (Head et al., 2008). Flow directions estimated for the CFF-type fills are predominantly 344 polewards, indicating an accumulation zone on the pole-facing slope (Fig. 6A; Dickson et al., 345 346 2012). Levy et al. (2009, 2010) found that LDM superposes CFF in the northern hemisphere and is not deformed in the same way, therefore postdates CFF formation and deformation. 347 Levy et al. (2010) estimate the age of CFF in the northern hemisphere to be older than 70 My 348 with ages potentially going back to 1 Ga. This is consistent with our estimate for the timing 349 350 of the asymmetry development (as outlined in Section 4.2). These estimates of thickness and 351 age are consistent with our observations, even though we accept the large margin for error on the age estimates. 352

Accepting ice-deposits within craters as a plausible candidate, we now examine the processes of developing asymmetry. For positive asymmetry to be developed, the slope of the pole-facing slope must be reduced compared to the equator-facing one. This cannot be done by simply placing a blanket of material of the same thickness across the pole-facing wall.

357 Hence, on the pole-facing slope there must be either 1) less deposition at the top of the slope, or 2) removal of the deposits at the top of the slope (by sublimation), or 3) flow downhill of 358 the deposits previously located at the top of the slope. Option 3 could be a possibility because 359 360 some of our craters contain pole-facing glacier like forms (GLFs) as mapped by Souness et al. (2012) and our study areas cross the region of viscous flow features mapped by Milliken 361 et al. (2003). Dickson et al. (2012) found that not all of their mapped ice-deposits have 362 363 characteristics indicating flow (only ~50% in Noachis Terra and Acidalia Planitia according to their Fig. 3). Our own observations confirm those of Dickson et al. (2012); we only found 364 365 10 (out of 124 with floor deposits) that exhibited flow features in Terra Cimmeria (example in Fig. 6C). Hence, flow downhill of ice-deposits cannot be a universal mechanism for 366 asymmetry development. 367

368 From our observations we cannot differentiate between uneven deposition on the polefacing crater wall, as opposed to deposition everywhere and removal at the crater rim. The 369 summits of crater rims are exposed to insolation and wind from two orientations hence form 370 371 both a hostile environment for ice deposition, and a favored location for ice-removal. A deposition model explains the lack of correspondence between the latitudinal trends in 372 crater wall slopes and their asymmetry (Fig.3) without having to invoke two different 373 processes. The asymmetry is explained solely by differences in deposition with orientation 374 and the slope trend by the overall amount of deposition; hence craters at higher latitude have 375 376 a greater amount of infill (so lower slopes), but can still have uneven deposition (so are still asymmetric). The greatest asymmetry is observed in craters between 1.5 and 8 km (Fig. 4) 377 and this can easily be explained by the deposition model: smaller craters tend to be 378 completely infilled and larger craters only protect limited amount of ice near their crater wall 379 (Fig. 6D), rather than across their whole crater floor, hence neither exhibit strong asymmetry. 380 The depth to diameter ratios in Fig. 5 support this by indicating that asymmetric craters range 381

from "fresh", hence practically unfilled (deposits on the walls) to moderately filled (d:D
>0.025).

The deposition model can also provide an explanation as to why there are marked negative excursions at 55-60° in Terra Cimmeria and Noachis Terra: from image data we find these craters are completely covered with deposits (including the rims), hence these craters are subject to universal deposition and may have undergone viscous relaxation to produce asymmetry as proposed by Parsons and Nimmo (2009).

We have shown that to develop the crater slope asymmetry, whereby pole-facing slopes 389 390 are shallower than equator-facing ones in the mid-latitudes, tens to hundreds of meters of additional net deposition is required at the base of the pole-facing slope compared to the 391 equator-facing one (Section 4.3). This implies that pole-facing slopes in the mid-latitudes 392 393 have been good environments for deposition and preservation of ice-rich deposits in the Amazonian period. From our observations we cannot differentiate between a single episode 394 of deposition followed by preservation and multiple cycles of deposition and preservation. 395 396 Net deposition relies on deposition exceeding removal by sublimation or more rarely melting. Climate models suggest that deposition of ice should occur at obliquity $> 45^{\circ}$ 397 (Forget et al., 2006), with such obliquities occurring in clusters 1-2 My apart, during the 398 time-period preceding 5.5 My ago (Laskar et al, 2002; 2004). Ice may preferentially be 399 deposited on pole-facing slopes at high obliquity, because they have lower day-average 400 401 insolation than equator-facing ones under high obliquity conditions, despite these slopes also experiencing the highest day-average temperatures in summer (Kreslavsky et al. 2008). The 402 ice deposited during these high obliquity periods must also survive the intervening time. The 403 lower year-average temperatures on pole-facing slopes at any obliquity compared to equator-404 facing ones helps to slow the sublimation and preserve deposits there as observed in Greg 405 406 crater (Hartmann et al., 2013).

407 **4.5 Other candidate processes for asymmetry development**

Kreslavsky and Head (2003) and Kreslavsky et al. (2008) favored thaw-related processes to 408 generate asymmetry, including: a) creep, in the form of active layer creep (solifluction and/or 409 410 gelifluction) or b) overland flow, or debris flow associated with gullies. Kreslavsky et al. (2008) argue that the asymmetry and lack of steep slopes at high latitudes must be accounted 411 for by thaw-processes rather than any other process for the following two reasons: 1) The 412 413 transition from preservation of steep slopes to shallower slopes occurs over a very narrow band and thus must be related to a threshold process, such as melting. However, we find that 414 415 this rapid transition is only observed in Noachis Terra (Fig. 3b), so this argument cannot be used in favor of thaw-related processes. 2) Steep slopes are preserved at the equator despite 416 the evidence for glacial activity; hence flowing-ice cannot explain slope-lowering. However, 417 418 this only applies a) if the deposits are no longer present and b) if the flowing ice did not experience basal melting (so non-erosive). We have found that in areas with marked positive 419 asymmetry there are still ice-deposits present, but there is not always evidence of flow. 420 421 Hence, this argument does not preclude that cold-based, or non-moving ice-deposits could cause asymmetry, rather than thaw-processes. 422

423 Active layer creep only occurs within the top few meters of the ground and only when temperatures are above zero, and on Earth horizontal displacement rates are on the order of 424 425 10cm/yr or less, with annual thaw (e.g., Alexander and Price, 1980). On Mars, thaw would be 426 less common and the distance from the rim to base of the slope is on average 1.3 km (range: 0.2-11.6 km). Hence, simply moving material the required distance would take 130 Earth-like 427 thaw cycles, without considering the fact that the deposits can be 22-150 m thick. This seems 428 unlikely, but only modeling of depth-limited creep could reveal if this amount of mass 429 transfer was plausible over realistic timescales for the martian environment. Unfortunately 430 the lobes and terraces which would indicate geliflucation/solifluction processes, as seen 431

elsewhere on Mars (Gallagher et al., 2011; Johnsson et al., 2012) are on the decameter scale
so would not necessarily be identifiable on CTX images. Hence, the role of active-layer creep
in generating asymmetry cannot be completely ruled out.

435 Gullies are thought to be the result of overland flow or debris flow (e.g., Costard et al. 2002; Heldmann et al., 2005). Gullies occur in our study regions and are predominantly pole-436 facing in accordance with other global-scale studies (e.g., Balme et al., 2006; Kneissl et al., 437 2010). Gullies are found only on steep slopes (>18° or 0.32 m/m, Conway et al., 2012). This 438 observation could be explained by gullies causing the steeper slopes - removal of material 439 440 near the top of the slope tends to increase, rather than decrease the maximum slope angle (e.g., Ballantyne and Benn, 1994). This action would lead to negative slope asymmetry. If 441 gullies require steep slopes to form (and do not steepen the slopes) then asymmetries 442 443 developed on crater walls below 0.32 slope angle cannot be explained by gully-forming process. In either case, gullies cannot be the dominant process causing asymmetry. If gullies 444 are associated with degradation of the thicker pole-facing ice-deposits, as suggested by 445 446 Berman et al. (2005), then gullies could be an explanation for the scatter in our data in the mid-latitudes. 447

448 **5.** Conclusions

We find an asymmetry in conjugate crater wall slopes for mid-latitude regions whereby pole-449 facing crater walls are shallower than equator-facing ones over a wide band (30-50°) for our 450 451 three study regions. Although the asymmetry that we observe has the same magnitude as the creep of a hundreds of meters thick ice-rich layer (Parsons and Nimmo, 2009), it has the 452 opposite sense. Our work confirms and extends the global asymmetry observations of 453 Kreslavsky and Head (2003) made using MOLA track data, with our data showing that 454 conjugate crater slopes below the resolution of MOLA are also asymmetric, and this 455 asymmetry is expressed over a wider latitude band than found in their work. These authors 456

457 suggest that asymmetry is related to thaw processes, such as solifluction, gelifluction or gully-formation. However, we do not observe a threshold latitude of onset for the asymmetry 458 as expected for thaw-processes. In addition, gully-formation acts to produce negative 459 460 asymmetry, hence cannot explain the observations. Therefore, we propose another mechanism to produce asymmetry: the differential deposition of ice. In this model, ice-rich 461 material is preferentially deposited at the base of the pole-facing crater wall under high 462 463 obliquity periods during the Amazonian. To produce the observed asymmetry tens to hundreds of meters of additional net deposition is required on the pole-facing slope compared 464 465 to the equator-facing one. This model is supported by our observation in Terra Cimmeria that the most positively asymmetric craters contain deposits on their floors or pole-facing wall. 466 Our observations suggest that these deposits are likely to have formed throughout the 467 468 Amazonian and are more likely to be similar to those previously described as Concentric Crater Fill (CFF; e.g., Dickson et al., 2012), rather than the thinner surficial latitude 469 dependent mantle (LDM; e.g., Mustard et al. 2001). 470

471 5. Acknowledgments

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477 **6. References**

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7. Tables

592	Table 1: HRSC	image numbers	used for each	study area ^a
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Study area	Image IDs
Acidalia	H1465_0000*,H3231_0000*,H1498_0000*,H1476_0000,H1249_0000,
	H1205_0000, H1260_0000, H1216_0000, H3253_0000 ^{\$} ,
	H5350_0000*,H5368_0000*,
Noachis	H0430_0000, H1899_0000**, H2258_0000, H2247_0000, H0397_0000,
	H2225_0000, H2280_0000*,
Cimmeria	H2066_0000, H2055_0000, H0280_0001, H0293_0000*, H0228_0000,
	H0241_0000*, H2612_0000*, H2579_0000*, H2590_0001**,
	H2634_0000**
^a Unless noted	d as follows data are at 75 m/pix, otherwise: ^{\$} data at 50 m/pix, * data at

594 100 m/pix, ** data at 125m/pix. The order of the images denotes the order in which they

595 were stitched, with the first of the list taking priority.

Table 2: Summary statistics for crater asymmetry, slope, diameter and depth to diameter ratio by latitude zone and study area ^a
597

										Latitude						
Acidalia9303751107120513916310CountNoschis83229645959454265422721Cumeria001739007007007007007007007Median0.1030.0570.0600.0710.0730.0180.0130.0270.090.0170.0170.017MedianNonehis0.1160.1150.0570.0060.0730.0050.0930.0050.0930.0170.0170.0170.017MedianNonehisNANANA0.0310.0550.0300.0130.0130.0130.0170.0130.0170.017MedianNonehisNANANANA0.0310.0350.0300.0310.0350.0310.0310.0310.031MedianNonehisNANANANANA0.0310.0150.0110.0120.0130.017NAMedianNonehisNANANANANANANA0.0310.0320.0320.0320.0310.0310.0310.031MedianNonehisNANANANANANANANANAMedianNonehisNANANANANANANANAMedianNonehis		Statistic	Area	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70
Count Noachis 8 32 29 64 59 45 42 65 42 73 73 Cimmeria 0 0 1 39 62 99 92 63 31 30 0 0 0 Media 0.103 0.057 0.060 -0.073 0.013 0.013 0.013 0.017 0.00 0.247 0.13 Media 0.116 0.124 -0.03 0.056 0.03 0.013 0.017 0.03 0.017 0.03 0.017 0.03 0.013 0.13 0.23 0.03 0.013 0.147 0.29 0.013 0.147 0.29 0.013 0.147 0.13 0.23 0.03 0.013 0.147 0.147 0.143			Acidalia	6	30	37	51	107	120	51	39	16	с	1	0	0
		Count	Noachis	8	32	29	64	59	59	45	42	65	42	27	21	25
			Cimmeria	0	0	17	39	62	66	92	63	31	30	0	0	0
			Acidalia	0.103	0.057	0.060	-0.079	-00.00	0.013	-0.119	-0.118	-0.158	-0.204	0.017	NA	NA
		Median	Noachis	-0.106	-0.124	-0.083	0.056	0.192	0.267	0.098	0.029	0.107	0.000	-0.247	0.132	0.021
			Cimmeria	NA	NA	0.051	-0.077	0.075	0.113	0.221	0.272	0.156	-0.077	NA	NA	NA
			Acidalia	0.146	0.031	0.055	-0.038	-00.00	-0.005	-0.081	-0.130	-0.122	-0.003	0.017	NA	NA
	Asymmetry	Mean	Noachis	-0.161	-0.154	-0.028	0.084	0.159	0.216	0.065	0.019	0.091	-0.142	-0.292	0.191	0.058
			Cimmeria	NA	NA	-0.033	-0.056	0.080	0.131	0.232	0.280	0.305	-0.082	NA	NA	NA
		P P 70	Acidalia	0.423	0.482	0.306	0.516	0.411	0.412	0.523	0.599	0.472	0.399	NA	NA	NA
		Deviation	Noachis	0.248	0.425	0.236	0.400	0.341	0.421	0.613	0.435	0.511	0.551	0.449	0.445	0.384
			Cimmeria	NA	NA	0.204	0.281	0.556	0.452	0.365	0.463	0.540	0.342	NA	NA	NA
Tropagate ErrorNoachis 0.038 0.038 0.016 0.014 0.016 0.017 0.016 0.016 0.016 0.022 0.016 CimmeriaNANA 0.018 0.019 0.016 0.014 0.012 0.013 0.024 0.026 0.02 0.014 Acidalia1050 67 72141188 87 49 18 4 1 0 CountNoachis9 43 33 38 72 75 64 52 80 59 33 22 CountNoachis 0 0 32 58 72 75 64 52 80 33 22 Acidalia 0.266 0.290 0.313 0.263 0.294 0.326 0.204 0.236 0.12 0.091 0.121 0.126 0.114 MedianNoachis 0.439 0.282 0.294 0.365 0.270 0.139 0.091 0.121 0.126 0.121 0.126 0.121 0.122 0.129 0.121 0.121 0.126 0.121 0.121 0.121 0.124 0.161 0.124 0.161 0.161 0.126 0.121		Ducence	Acidalia	0.022	0.022	0.030	0.033	0.015	0.015	0.020	0.026	0.078	0.093	0.032	NA	NA
		r ropagateu Error	Noachis	0.038	0.028	0.019	0.014	0.010	0.011	0.016	0.017	0.013	0.016	0.022	0.019	0.017
			Cimmeria	NA	NA	0.018	0.019	0.015	0.014	0.012	0.013	0.024	0.026	NA	NA	NA
			Acidalia	10	50	67	72	141	188	87	49	18	4	1	0	0
		Count	Noachis	6	43	38	88	72	75	64	52	80	59	33	22	27
Acidalia 0.266 0.290 0.313 0.263 0.292 0.236 0.236 0.236 0.236 0.236 0.132 0.090 0.182 0.211 0.111 MedianNoachis 0.439 0.282 0.294 0.365 0.270 0.139 0.091 0.121 0.126 0.151 0.114 MediaNaNANA 0.481 0.391 0.290 0.266 0.215 0.149 0.126 0.152 NANAMeanNoachis 0.269 0.230 0.230 0.265 0.217 0.221 0.219 0.152 0.132 0.149 0.152 0.132 0.149 0.152 0.129 0.124 0.141 NAMeanNoachis 0.411 0.322 0.330 0.236 0.2317 0.221 0.263 0.219 0.152 0.149 0.152 0.163 0.211 0.125 MeanNoachis 0.411 0.322 0.330 0.386 0.302 0.177 0.223 0.140 0.152 0.163 <			Cimmeria	0	0	32	58	85	136	112	73	36	34	0	0	0
MedianNoachis 0.439 0.282 0.294 0.365 0.270 0.139 0.091 0.121 0.126 0.151 0.151 0.114 CimmeriaNANA 0.481 0.391 0.290 0.266 0.215 0.175 0.149 0.152 NANAAcidalia 0.269 0.299 0.320 0.205 0.271 0.221 0.219 0.152 0.132 0.211 NAMeanNoachis 0.411 0.322 0.330 0.386 0.2017 0.212 0.149 0.153 0.103 0.101 MeanNoachis 0.411 0.322 0.330 0.386 0.302 0.177 0.125 0.140 0.153 0.163 0.123 MeanNoachisNANANA 0.461 0.379 0.314 0.223 0.125 0.140 0.154 0.137 0.163 0.125 MadardAcidalia 0.162 0.125 0.117 0.125 0.191 0.185 0.163 0.125 MadardAcidalia 0.162 0.125 0.113 0.127 0.191 0.185 0.127 0.162 0.127 0.127 0.129 0.127 0.127 0.129 0.127 0.127 0.129 0.127 0.127 0.129 0.127 0.127 0.129 0.127 0.129 0.127 0.129 0.127 0.129 0.127 0.127 0.127 0.127 0.127 0.127 <			Acidalia	0.266	0.290	0.313	0.263	0.295	0.204	0.236	0.152	060.0	0.182	0.211	NA	NA
	slone	Median	Noachis	0.439	0.282	0.294	0.365	0.270	0.139	0.091	0.121	0.121	0.126	0.151	0.114	0.147
Acidalia 0.269 0.320 0.265 0.277 0.221 0.263 0.219 0.158 0.203 0.211 NA Noachis 0.411 0.322 0.330 0.386 0.302 0.177 0.125 0.140 0.154 0.163 0.125 Noachis NA NA NA 0.461 0.379 0.314 0.272 0.235 0.191 0.163 0.125 0.125 Acidalia 0.162 0.113 0.127 0.140 0.155 0.152 NA NA			Cimmeria	NA	NA	0.481	0.391	0.290	0.266	0.215	0.175	0.149	0.152	NA	NA	NA
Noachis 0.411 0.322 0.330 0.386 0.302 0.177 0.125 0.140 0.154 0.163 0.163 0.125 Cimmeria NA NA 0.461 0.379 0.314 0.272 0.235 0.191 0.185 0.152 NA NA Acidalia 0.162 0.113 0.127 0.140 0.155 0.152 NA NA			Acidalia	0.269	0.299	0.320	0.265	0.277	0.221	0.263	0.219	0.158	0.203	0.211	NA	NA
Cimmeria NA NA 0.461 0.379 0.314 0.272 0.235 0.191 0.185 0.152 NA NA Acidalia 0.162 0.115 0.113 0.127 0.119 0.140 0.155 0.127 NA NA		Mean	Noachis	0.411	0.322	0.330	0.386	0.302	0.177	0.125	0.140	0.154	0.137	0.163	0.125	0.169
Acidalia 0.162 0.125 0.166 0.113 0.127 0.119 0.140 0.155 0.150 0.127 NA NA			Cimmeria	NA	NA	0.461	0.379	0.314	0.272	0.235	0.191	0.185	0.152	NA	NA	NA
		Standard	Acidalia	0.162	0.125	0.166	0.113	0.127	0.119	0.140	0.155	0.150	0.127	NA	NA	NA

	Deviation	Noachis	0.175	0.143	0.156	0.156	0.160	0.125	0.089	0.092	0.097	0.078	060.0	0.055	0.063
		Cimmeria	NA	NA	0.120	0.164	0.181	0.127	0.110	0.094	0.117	0.061	NA	NA	NA
		Acidalia	0.002	0.003	0.002	0.002	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.002	0.002	0.005	0.003	NA	NA
	Propagated Error	Noachis	0.005	0.002	0.002	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001
		Cimmeria	NA	NA	0.002	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	NA	NA	NA
		Acidalia	2.93	4.91	4.69	3.23	3.41	1.91	2.03	2.33	3.98	4.76	3.15	NA	NA
	Median	Noachis	2.85	2.91	3.04	3.11	1.88	1.43	1.95	2.14	2.03	2.33	4.65	2.70	2.55
		Cimmeria	NA	NA	2.70	2.03	2.18	2.10	2.66	4.39	6.34	6.62	NA	NA	NA
		Acidalia	2.95	7.73	10.75	8.48	7.70	5.99	3.07	3.72	4.91	25.19	3.15	NA	NA
Diameter (km)	Mean	Noachis	7.39	8.44	5.02	6.12	4.76	2.82	5.28	6.13	3.59	8.29	6.79	3.34	4.02
		Cimmeria	NA	NA	10.26	7.39	3.98	5.84	6.56	9.72	14.75	13.21	NA	NA	NA
		Acidalia	1.34	9.29	17.33	15.57	10.96	10.24	2.59	3.50	4.17	36.39	NA	NA	NA
	Standard Deviation	Noachis	8.16	14.89	4.46	10.21	6.10	3.48	9.47	12.05	5.41	22.10	8.58	2.28	3.09
		Cimmeria	NA	NA	16.21	15.48	4.79	9.45	10.80	10.51	15.52	12.60	NA	NA	NA
		Acidalia	0.0965	0.0620	0.0657	0.0589	0.0605	0.0594	0.0643	0.0400	0.0146	0.0326	0.0751	NA	NA
	Median	Noachis	0.0940	0.0648	0.0754	0.0905	0.0707	0.0384	0.0257	0.0259	0.0310	0.0234	0.0316	0.0272	0.0375
		Cimmeria	NA	NA	0.0972	0.0822	0.0544	0.0566	0.0484	0.0300	0.0268	0.0243	NA	NA	NA
		Acidalia	0.0805	0.0680	0.0685	0.0625	0.0661	0.0603	0.0662	0.0490	0.0314	0.0461	0.0751	NA	NA
Depth:Diameter	Mean	Noachis	0.0822	0.0695	0.0758	0.0828	0.0712	0.0408	0.0260	0.0281	0.0346	0.0274	0.0325	0.0283	0.0380
		Cimmeria	NA	NA	0.0983	0.0877	0.0672	0.0609	0.0512	0.0324	0.0307	0.0266	NA	NA	NA
	L L 17	Acidalia	0.0473	0.0329	0.0364	0.0309	0.0383	0.0341	0.0325	0.0391	0.0346	0.0383	NA	NA	NA
	Deviation	Noachis	0.0515	0.0295	0.0307	0.0351	0.0328	0.0211	0.0104	0.0131	0.0188	0.0153	0.0149	0.0129	0.0141
		Cimmeria	NA	NA	0.0551	0.0444	0.0434	0.0340	0.0265	0.0149	0.0213	0.0099	NA	NA	NA
a including the statistics and sample numbers for the boxplots in Fig.	atistics and s	ample numbe	rs for the	e boxplo	ts in Fig	5. 3. The	sample	number	s are dif	sample numbers are different between the slope	etween 1	the slope	and as	and asymmetry plots	/ plots
because craters with a significant regional slope were	vith a signific	ant regional s	lope we		ded fron	excluded from the asymmetry plots. but not the slope plots. The depth and depth: diameter	mmetrv	' plots. t	out not tl	he slope	plots. T	he deptl	n and de	oth:dian	neter
)	0	-			¢	0	-		-	-	-		-	
entries have the same number of samples as the asymmetry entries. NA means "not applicable" because there are no craters in that latitude bin	same number	of samples as	s the asy	mmetry	entries.	NA mea	ans "not	applica	ble" bec	ause the	re are no	o craters	in that	latitude	bin.

601 8. Figure Captions

Figure 1. Study sites. "A" = Acidalia Planum, "C" = Terra Cimmeria and "N" = Noachis
Terra. The outlines represent the outlines of the stitched HRSC elevation data.

Figure 2. Top: plan view of example craters in Terra Cimmeria and bottom corresponding 605 average crater profiles for pole-facing (south-facing) crater slopes. On the left is an example 606 607 simple crater (35.920°S, 153.841°E) and on the right an example complex crater (27.315°S, 157.427°E). For the maps: HRSC images are overlain on a color-stretch of the HRSC 608 609 elevation data (in online version; red is high and blue is low elevation). The crater center is marked as a dot, solid lines delimit the quadrants used to extract the profile data (at 1.5 crater 610 radii) and dashed lines are the initial crater rim approximation. For the profiles: grey points 611 612 are the raw data points from the whole quadrant, black points are the average profile and those that lie at distances less than the crater radius are filled. The standard error of each 613 elevation point is given as vertical bars (often within the point). The black line is the straight 614 line connecting the crater's center (positioned vertically at the measured profile minimum to 615 ignore the central peak) to the rim. The 'x' marks the horizontal distance to the maximum 616 slope measurement and the '*' shows the position of maximum curvature (where the distance 617 from the straight line and average profile is greatest). The simple crater from the profile on 618 the left has a maximum slope of 0.33 and curvature of 0.03. The complex crater from the 619 620 profile on the right has a maximum slope of 0.31 and curvature of 0.16. The Curvature is defined as the maximum distance from the straight line to the average profile normalized by 621 rim-to-floor height. 622

623

Figure 3. Boxplots of (a) the variation of maximum crater slope with latitude and (b) craterwall asymmetry in the three study regions. Note the latitude scale is absolute, so for Acidalia

626 they represent northern latitudes and for the other two sites, southern latitudes. The thick bar across each box is the mean value and the thin bar the median value, the extent of the box 627 delimits the interquartile range, the whiskers indicate the range, while the points are outliers -628 629 values which are further than 1.5 interquartile ranges from the quartiles. Sample numbers for these plots are given in Table 2. The boxes are placed on the center of their latitude range. 630 The bars in the panel between the plots represent the latitudinal distribution of: in dark grey 631 (yellow online) = the distribution of crater ice fill as mapped by Dickson et al. (2012), in 632 black (red online) = the boundary between the rough and smooth terrains mapped by 633 634 Kreslavsky and Head (2000), in white (blue online) zones with dissected mantle noted by Mustard et al. (2001) and in grey (green online) = zones of asymmetry noted by Kreslavsky 635 and Head (2003), "+" meaning the asymmetry was positive and "-" that it was negative. The 636 637 dotted lines on (b) show the expected asymmetry of craters after 100 My of deformation of a 150 m (dash-dot, blue online), 100 m (dotted, red online) and 50 m (dashed, black) thick 638 layer with 40% dust as calculated by Parsons and Nimmo (2009). The grey zone delimits 639 640 $A = \pm 0.06$ outside which asymmetry values are significant.

641

Figure 4. Asymmetry "*A*" against crater diameter for in the region between 27.5 and 42.5°. Sample numbers are given below the boxes. The thick bar across each box is the mean value and the thin bar the median value, the extent of the box delimits the interquartile range, the whiskers indicate the range, while the points are outliers - values which are further than 1.5 interquartile ranges from the quartiles. The grey zone delimits $A = \pm 0.06$ outside which asymmetry values are significant. The intervals are closed on the right (i.e. 1.5-2 indicates $1.5 < D \le 2$).

649

Figure 5. Asymmetry "*A*" against crater depth:diameter for in the region between 27.5 and 42.5°. Sample numbers are given below the boxes. The thick bar across each box is the mean value and the thin bar the median value, the extent of the box delimits the interquartile range, the whiskers indicate the range, while the points are outliers - values which are further than 1.5 interquartile ranges from the quartiles. The grey zone delimits $A = \pm 0.06$ outside which asymmetry values are significant. The intervals are closed on the right (i.e. 0.05-0.075 indicates $0.05 < d:D \le 0.075$).

657

658 Figure 6. Examples of positively asymmetric infilled craters, all images are oriented with the pole towards the bottom of the image and the equator towards the top (arrowheads point 659 north) and all scale bars are 1 km. A: Crater at 40.14°S, 156.34°E with an asymmetry of 0.47 660 661 in Terra Cimmeria, showing evidence of flow of material away from the pole-facing wall. CTX image: P15_006894_1417. B: Crater at 43.44°S, 156.43°E with an asymmetry of 1.14 662 in Terra Cimmeria, showing no evidence of flow, but asymmetric deposition. CTX image: 663 P17 007751 1349. C: Crater at 47.52°N, 8.68°W with asymmetry of 0.21 in Acidalia 664 Planitia with classic Concentric Crater Fill (CFF), this deposit continues up onto the pole-665 facing crater wall and it absent from the equator-facing wall. The equator-facing wall also 666 hosts a suite of small gully-like landforms. CTX image: B21_017646_2281. D: Crater at 667 31.16°S, 12.92°E in with asymmetry of 0.09 in Noachis Terra. In this case the infill shows no 668 669 evidence of being ice-rich, but deposition of material at the base of the pole-facing wall (indicated by arrows) has caused the crater to be positively asymmetric. CTX image: 670 P17_007743_1482. CTX images courtesy of NASA/JPL-Caltech/MSSS. 671 672

Figure 7: Diagram to illustrate the calculation of thickness of deposition (*Th*) required to

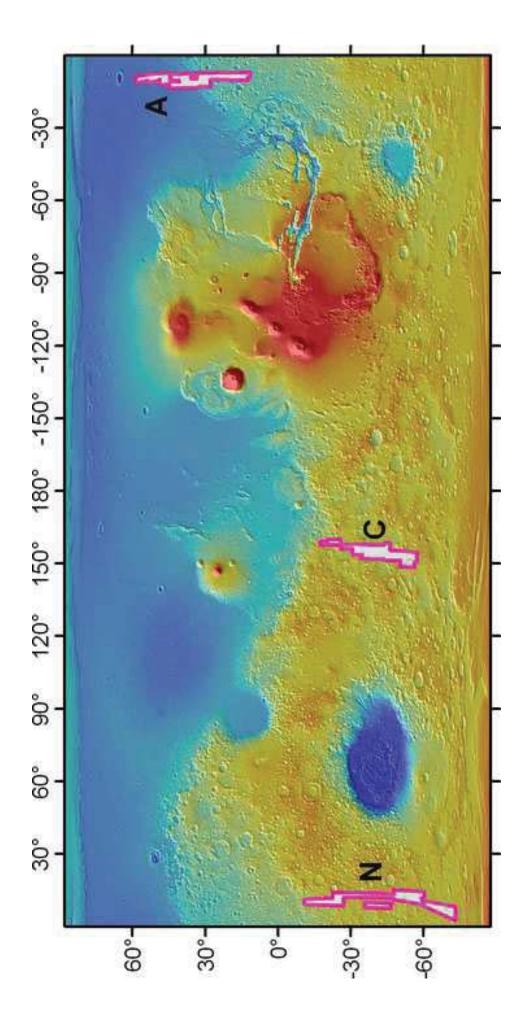
produce observed asymmetries (Eq. 4). S_p is the slope of the pole-facing wall, S_{eq} is the slope

of the equator-facing wall and L_w is the length of the equator-facing wall. If we assume that S_{eq} is a reasonable minimum estimate of the slope of the pre-deposition crater wall, and L_w a reasonable estimate of that wall's length, we can project S_{eq} downwards from the rim of the pole-facing wall over a distance L_w , to estimate the additional thickness of deposition (*Th*) on the pole-facing wall.

680

Figure 8: A map of craters with ice-rich deposits in the Terra Cimmeria study area aligned 681 with a copy of Fig. 3b: a boxplot showing the variation of crater asymmetry with latitude. 682 The different symbols on the map refer to different locations within the crater which host ice-683 deposits, as indicated in the legend. Where the crater deposits are 'unknown', this means that 684 either, there was no CTX image available, the CTX image contained noise or cloud, or there 685 686 was too much shadow to clearly see the crater walls. The boxplot is a simplified version of Fig. 3b where the thick bar across each box is the mean value with the extent of the box 687 delimiting the interquartile range. 688





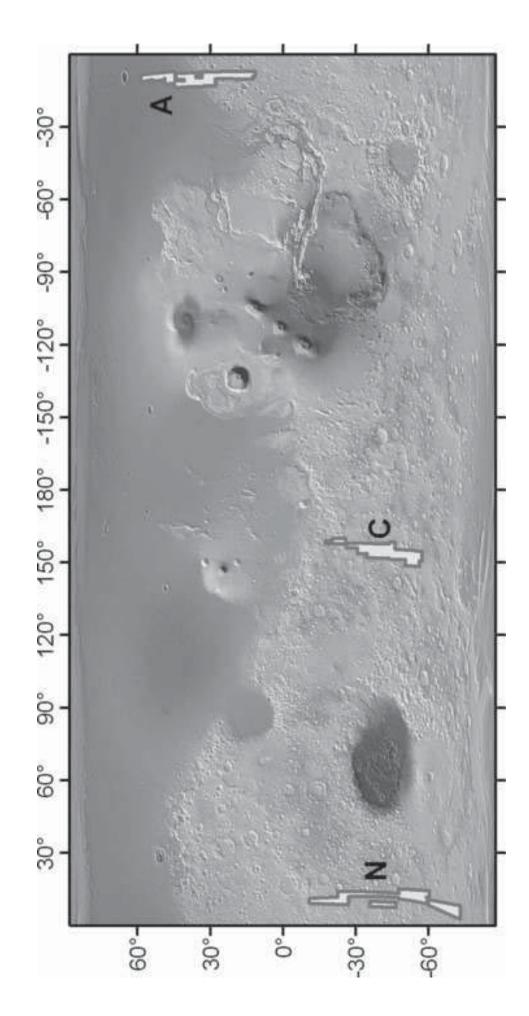
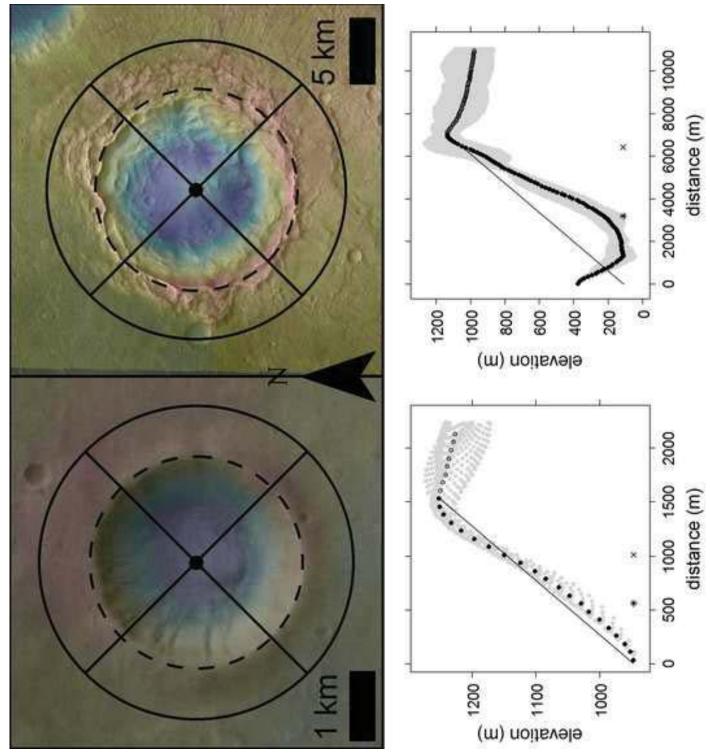
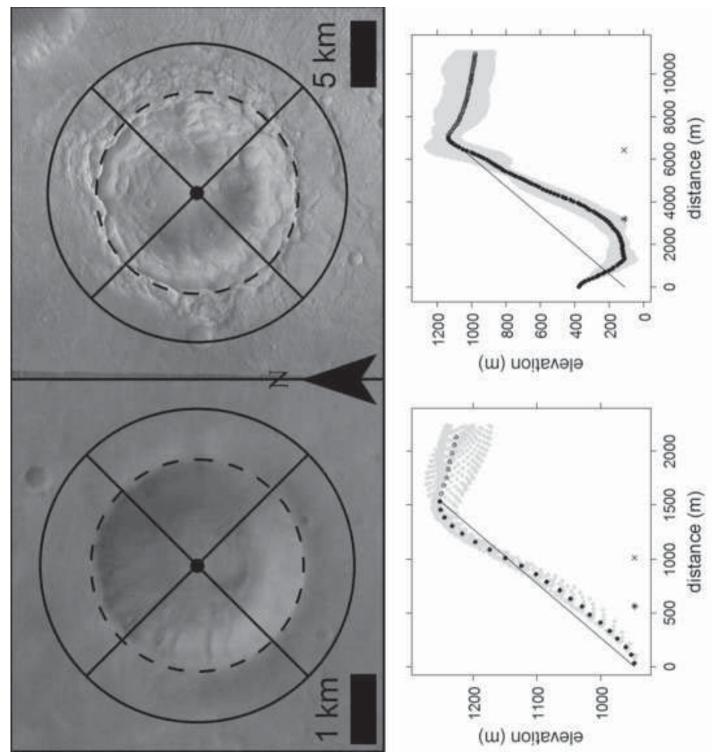
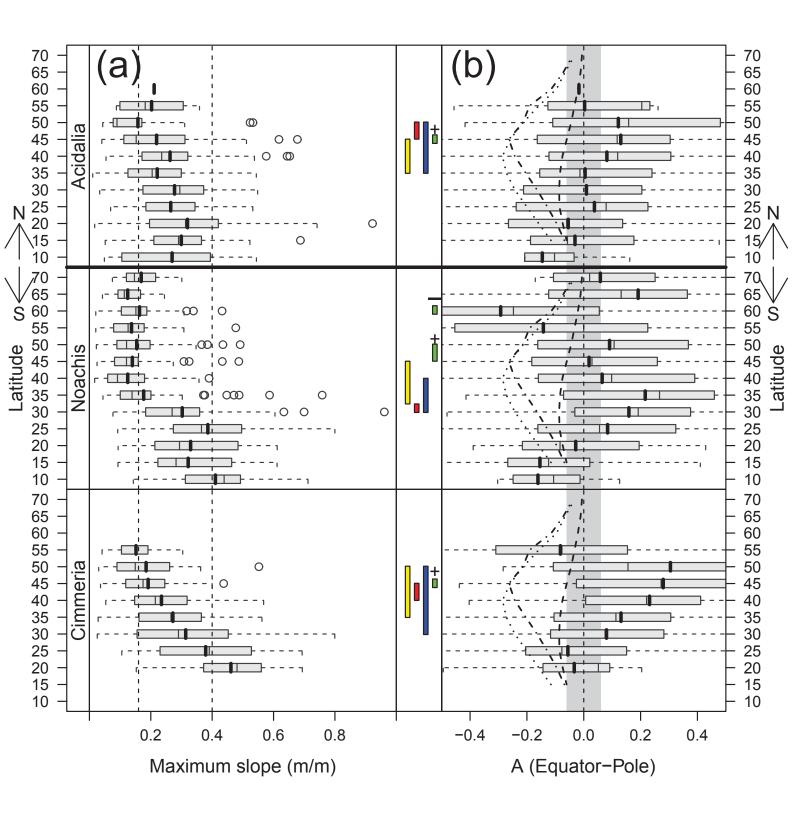


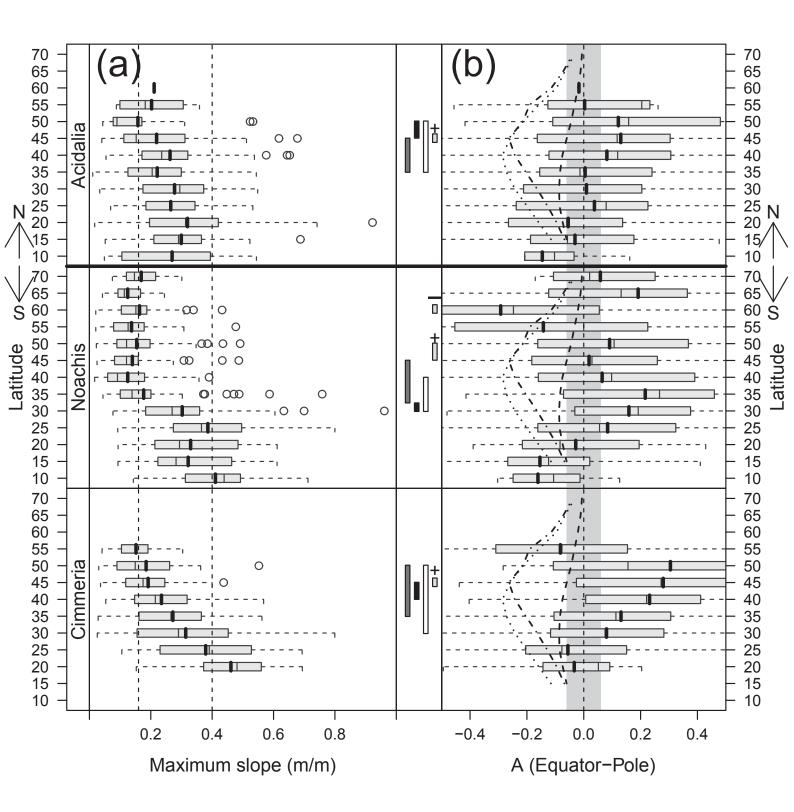
Figure 1 Click here to download high resolution image

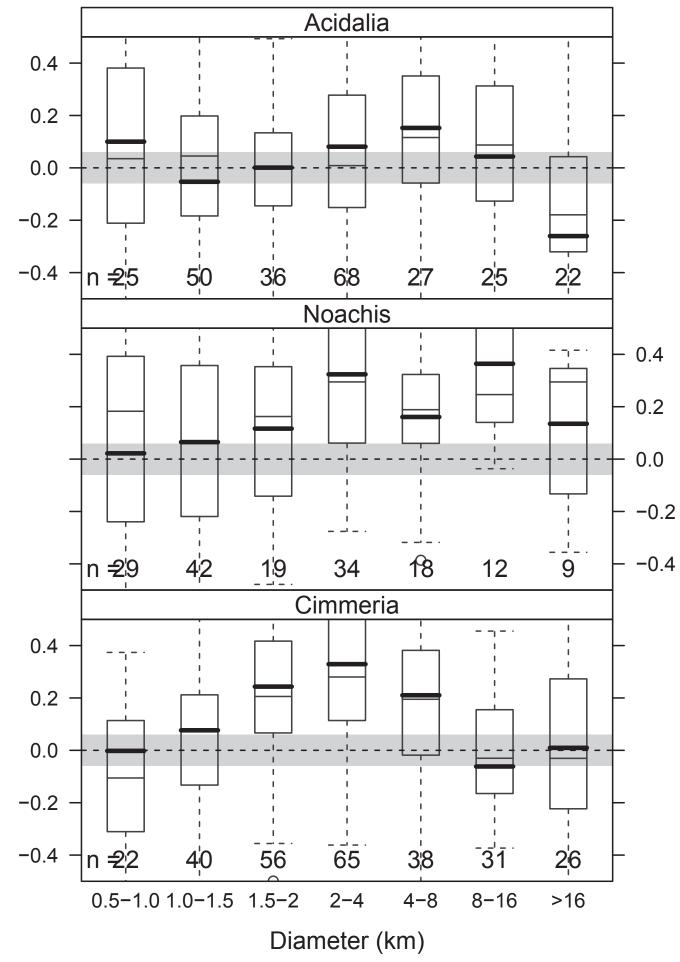




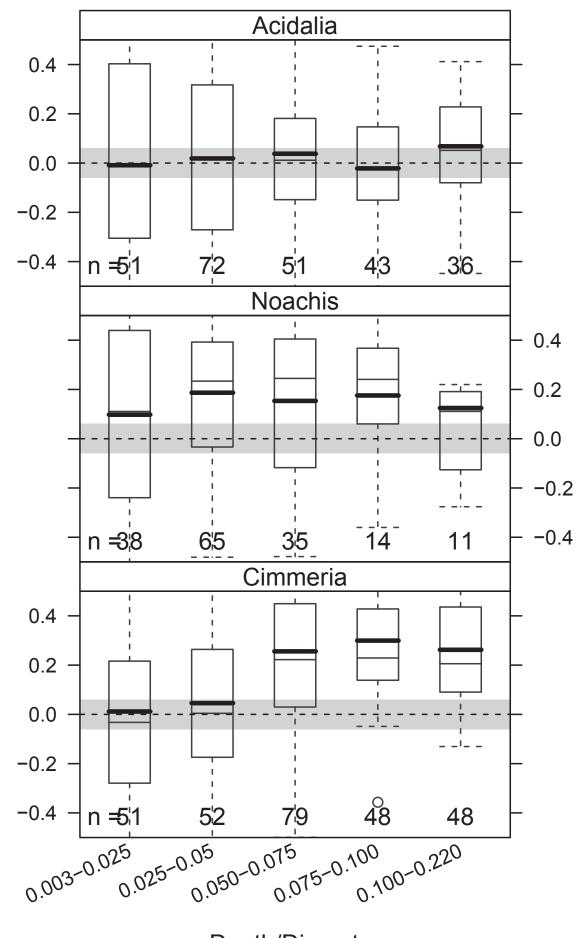








A (Equator-Pole)



Depth/Diameter

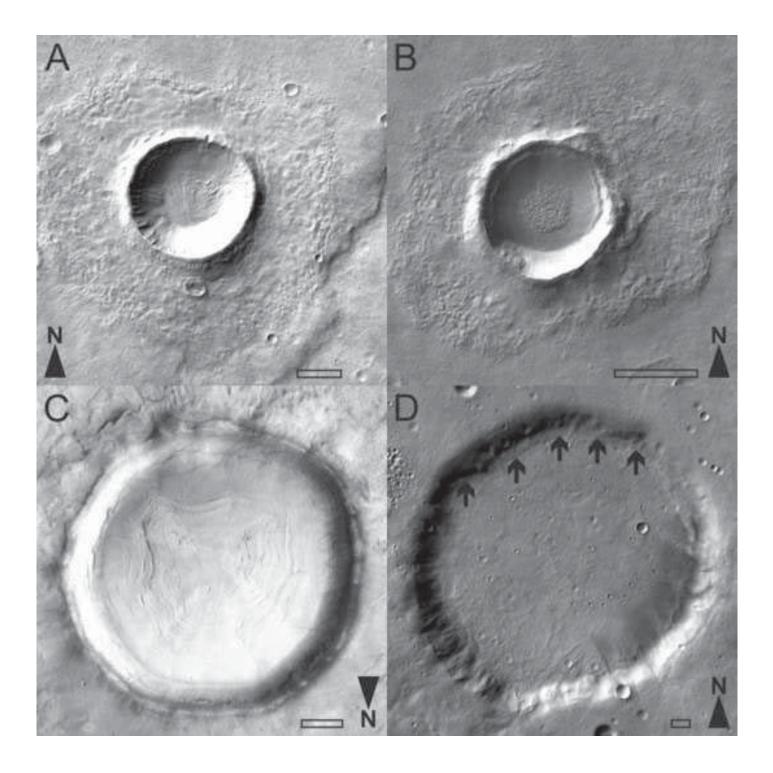


Figure 7

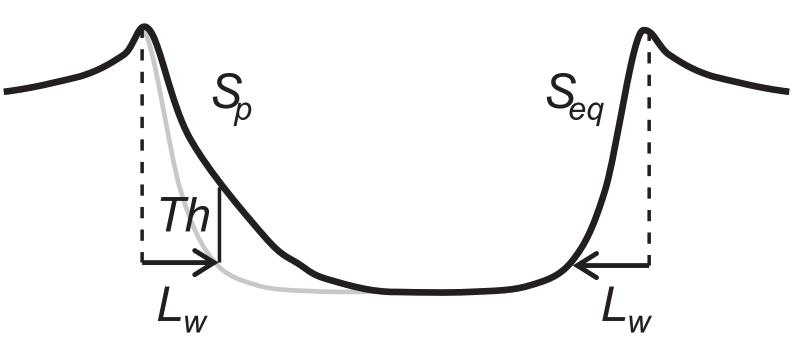


Figure 8 (colour) Click here to download high resolution image

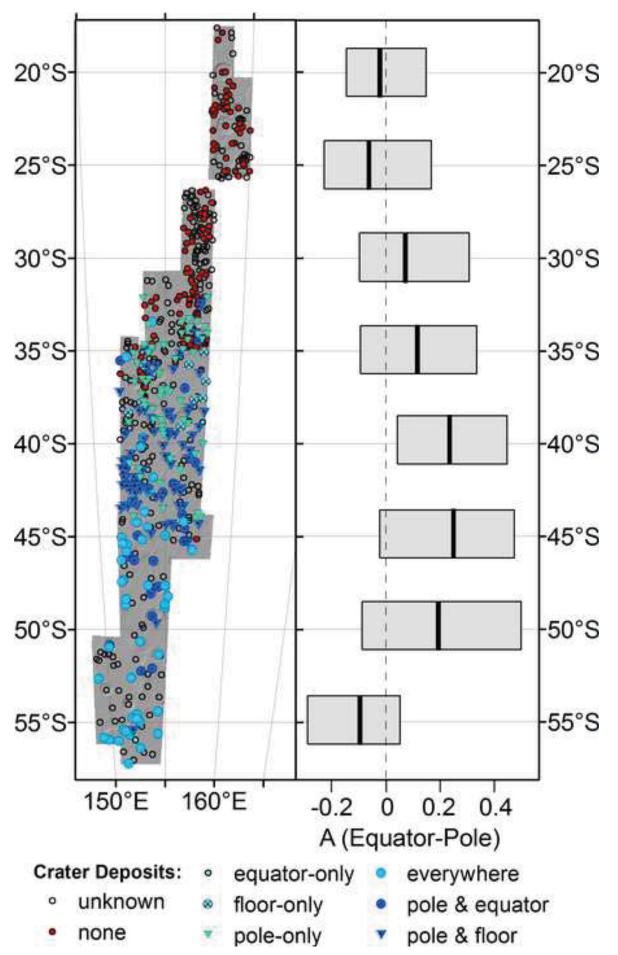


Figure 8 Click here to download high resolution image

