



# Planetary Seismology: Nearly 3 years on Mars, and a return to the Moon

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InSight

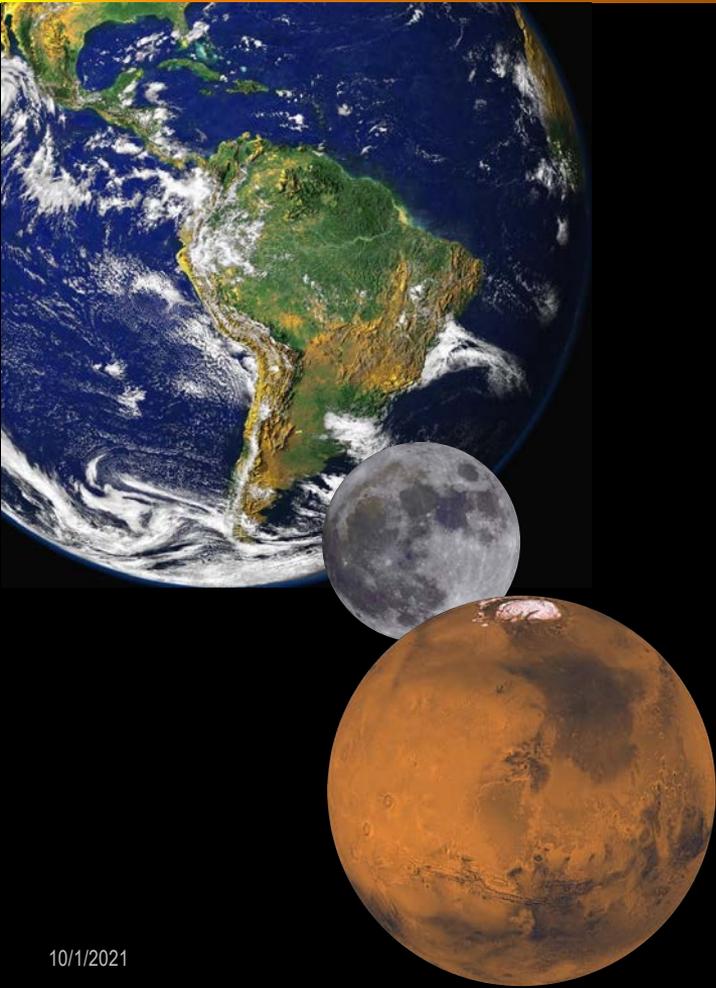


LOCKHEED MARTIN



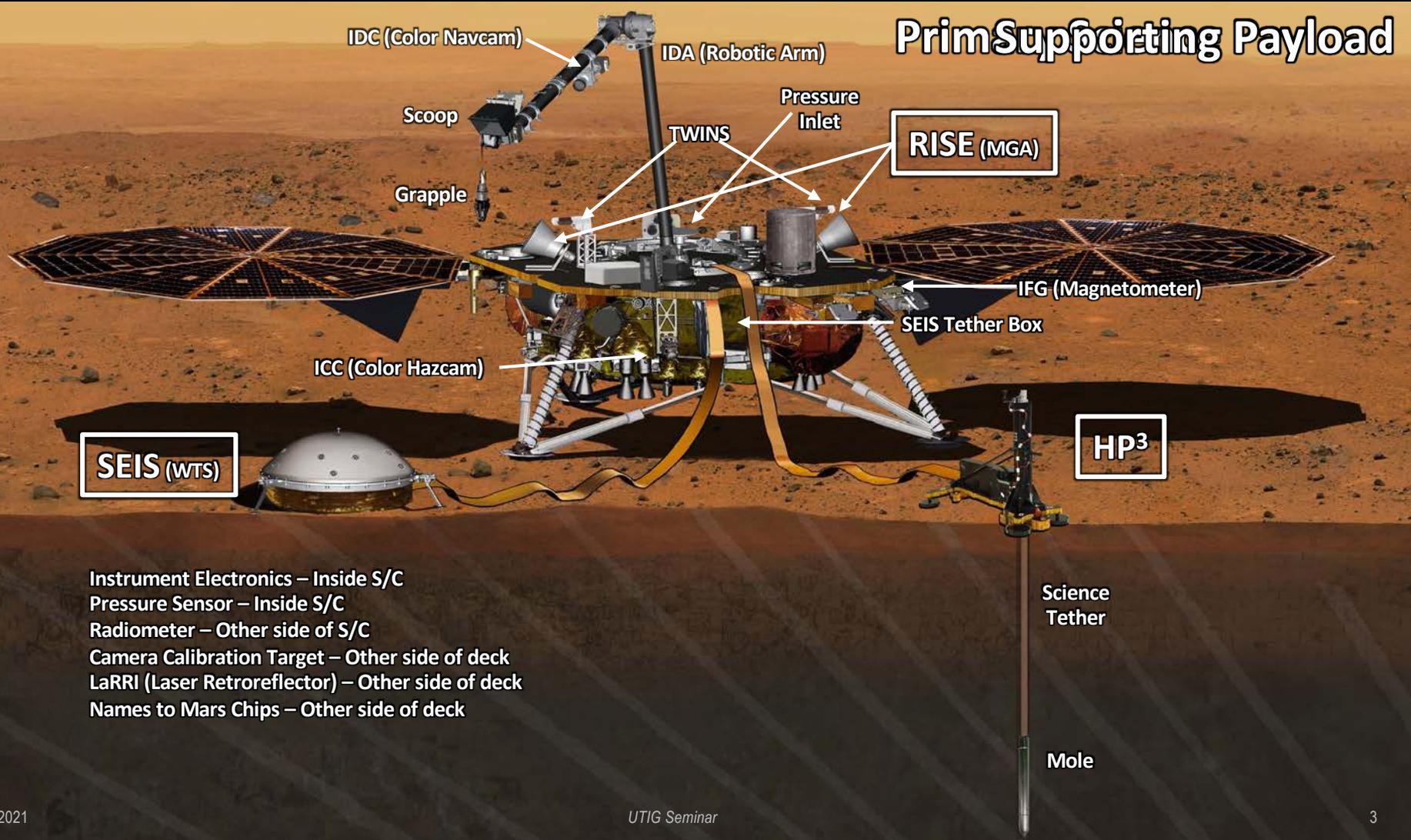
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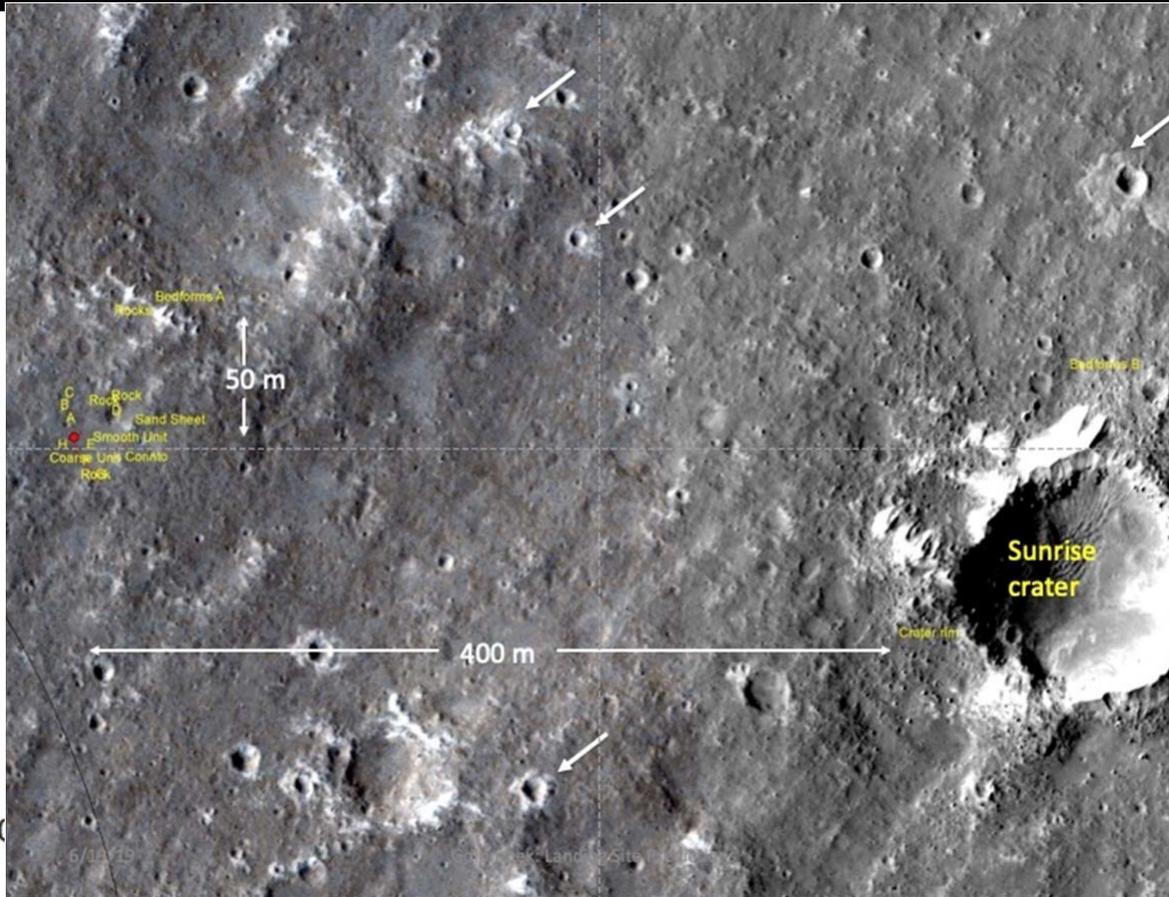
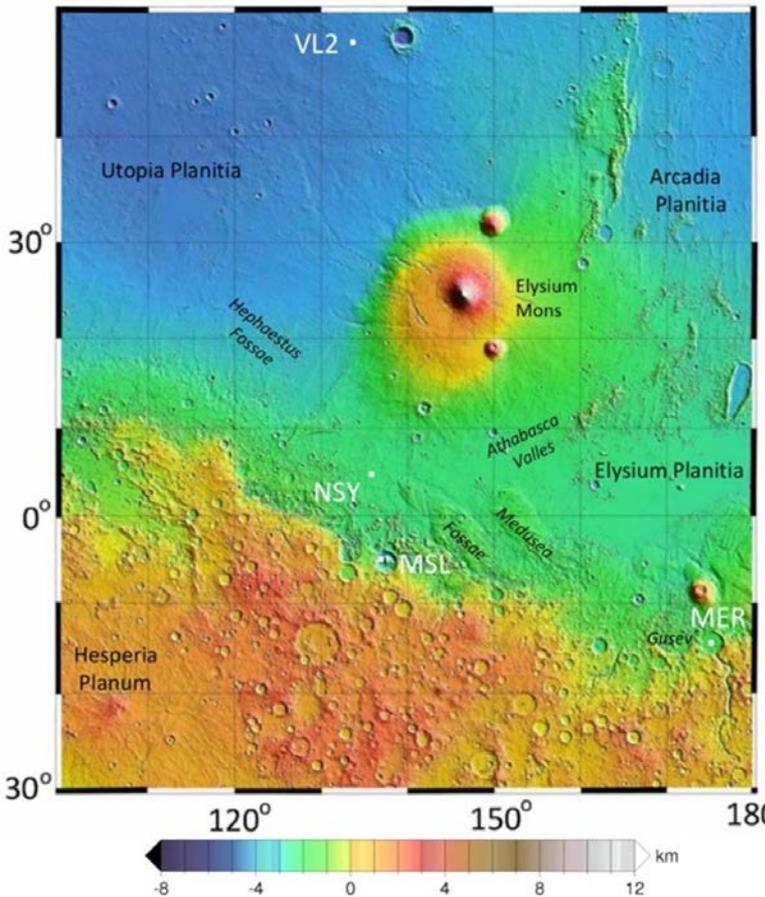


- InSight follows in the footsteps of terrestrial geophysics at the dawn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, attempting to answer basic questions about the planet:
  - What is the thickness of the crust?
  - What is the structure of the mantle?
  - What is the size and density of the core?
  - What is the distribution of seismicity?
  - What is the planetary heat flow?
- It also follows a similar path taken a half-century ago on the Moon, when Apollo put in place a lunar seismic/heat flow/laser retroreflector network.
- The overarching goal motivating this mission is to better understand the processes of planetary differentiation that formed the terrestrial planets, and the global processes that subsequently modify them.

# Primary Supporting Payload



# Landing Site: Elysium Planitia



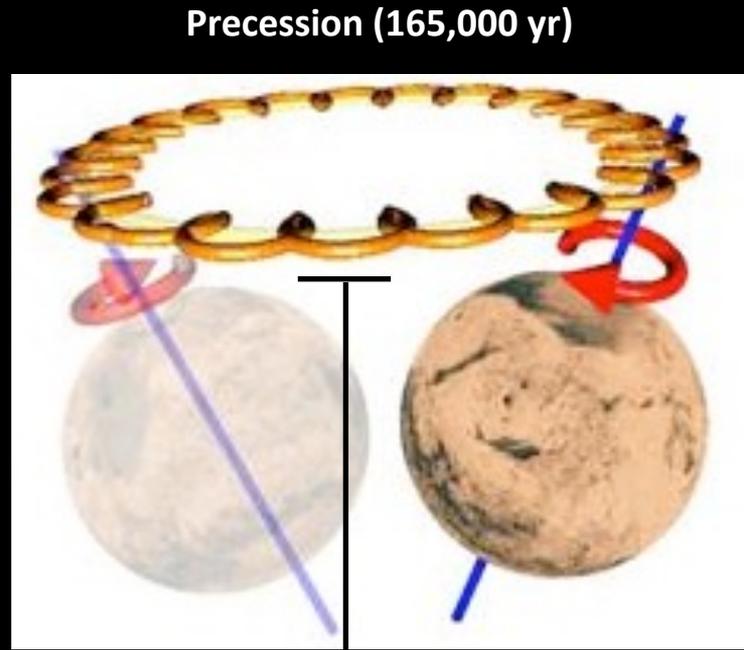


InSight

# Landing Site: Elysium Planitia

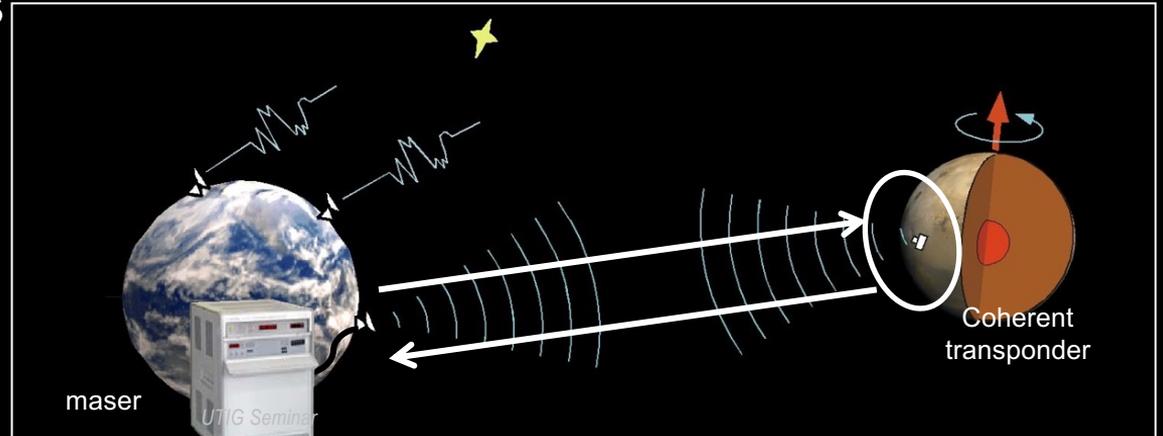


- Determines spin axis direction in 20 years intervals (Viking-Mars Pathfinder-InSight)
- 2 years of data needed for:
  - core radius & density
  - Free core nutation constrains CMB density jump



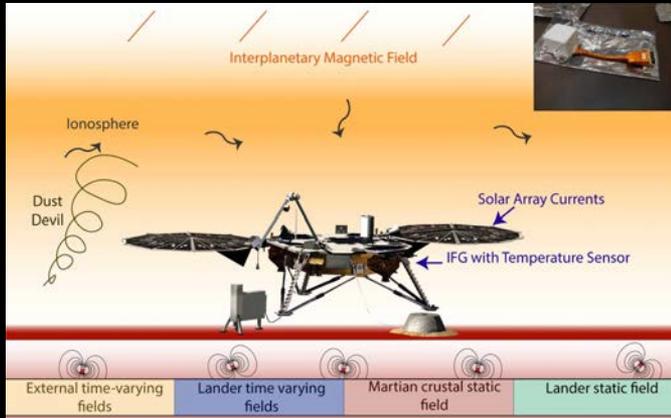
**Nutation ( $\leq 1$  Mars yr)**

- X-band tracking determines lander location  $<10$  cm in inertial space.
- Several 1-hr long measurements/week (reduced to 30 minutes in extended mission)
- Improved precession estimate verifies moment of inertia and liquid (outer) core
- The prograde semi-annual and retrograde ter-annual nutations require a core radius between 1780 and 2080 km, towards the upper end of pre-mission expectations

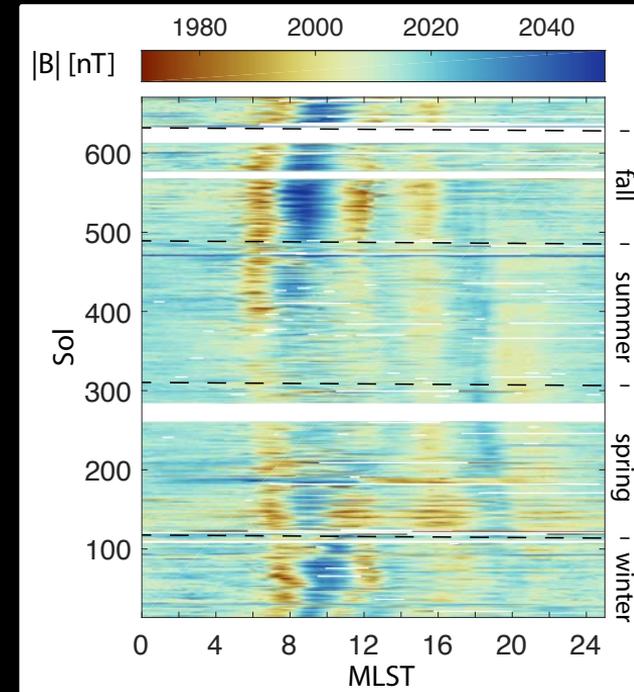


## First magnetic measurements from the surface of Mars.

- **Crustal Field:** The DC field at the landing site  $\sim 2000$  nT (10x larger than orbital predictions)  $\rightarrow$  significant crustal field variations at spatial scales  $< \sim 150$  km.
- **Time Varying Fields:** Different periodicities, e.g. Pulsations (T $\sim$  10-100s)  
Ionospheric wind-driven fields (diurnal/annual)



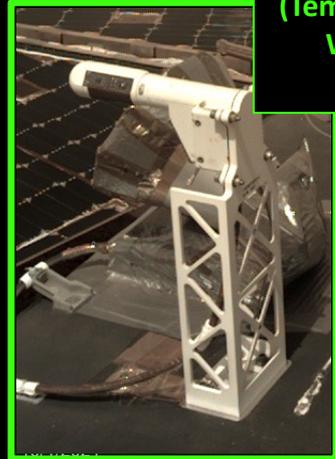
Johnson et al., *Nat. Geo.*, 2020; Mittelholz et al., *JGR*, 2020





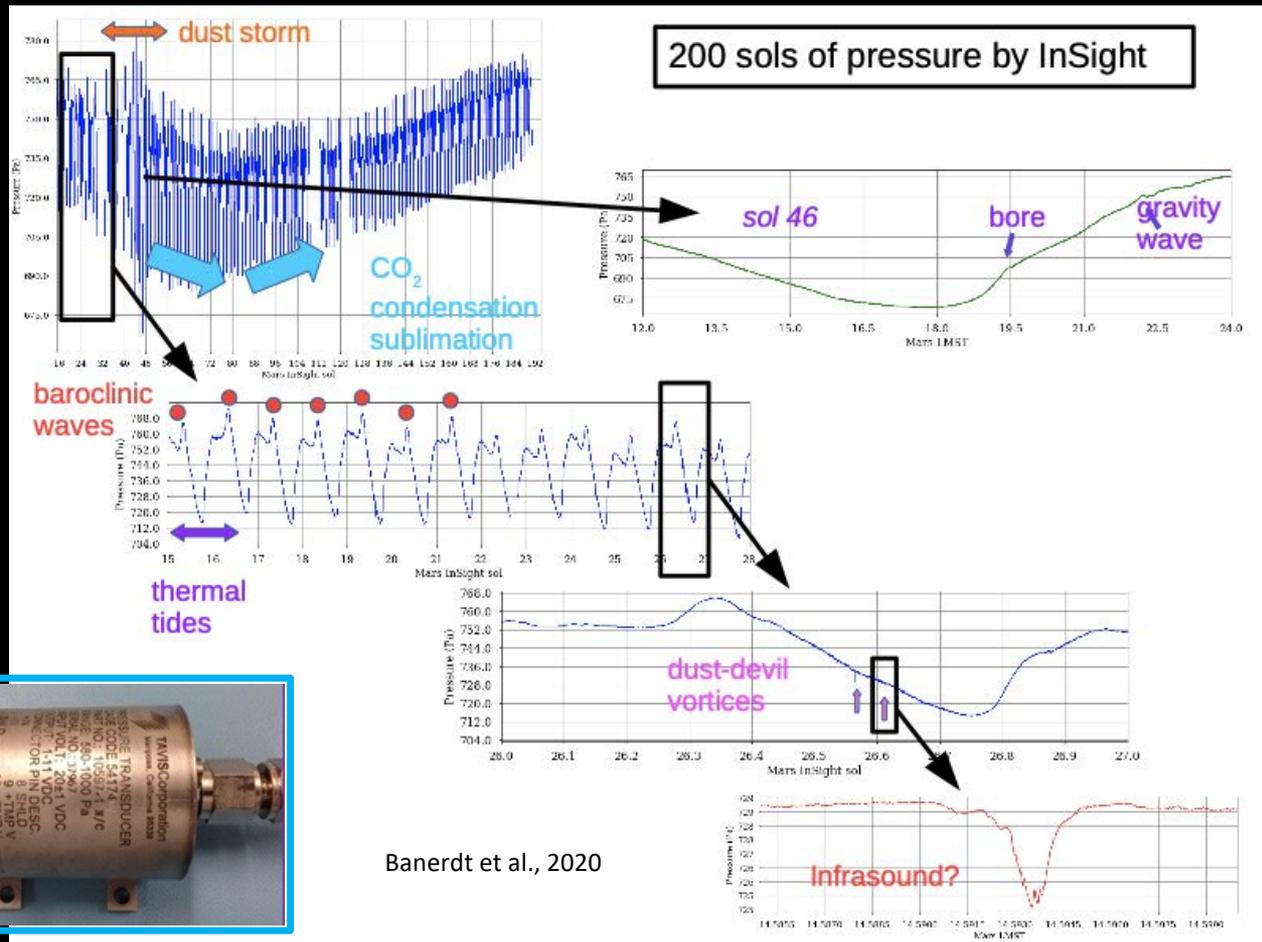
# InSight Meteorology

InSight is returning continuous high-rate pressure, temperature, and wind measurements, providing an unprecedented view of atmospheric behavior at time scales from less than a second to months and seasons.



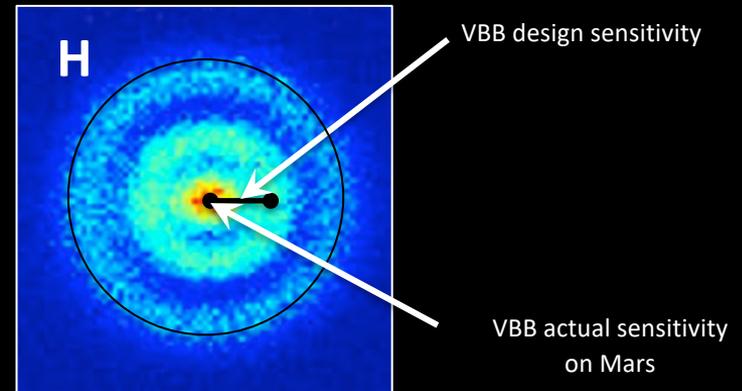
**TWINS**  
(Temperature & Wind for InSight)

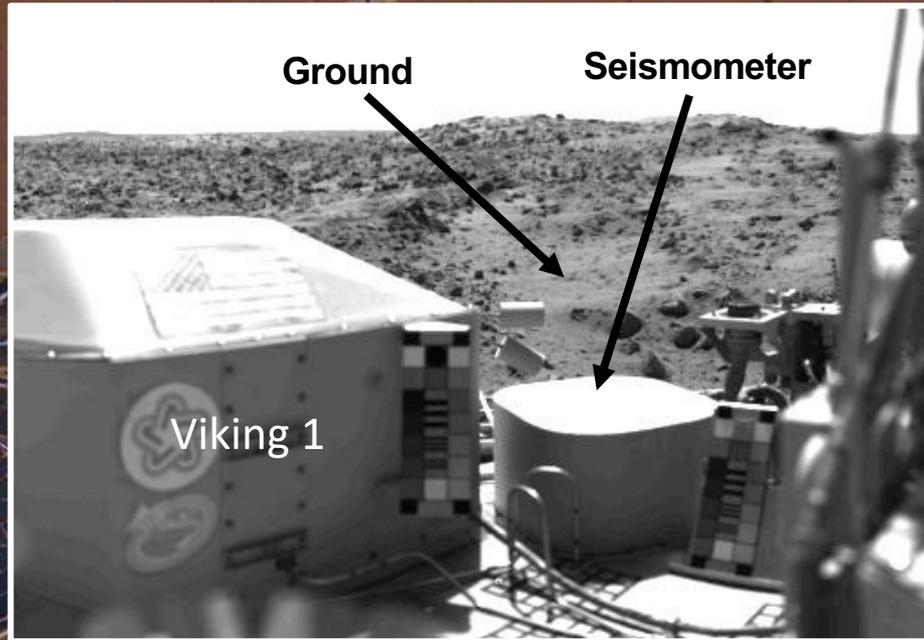
**Pressure Sensor**



Banerdt et al., 2020

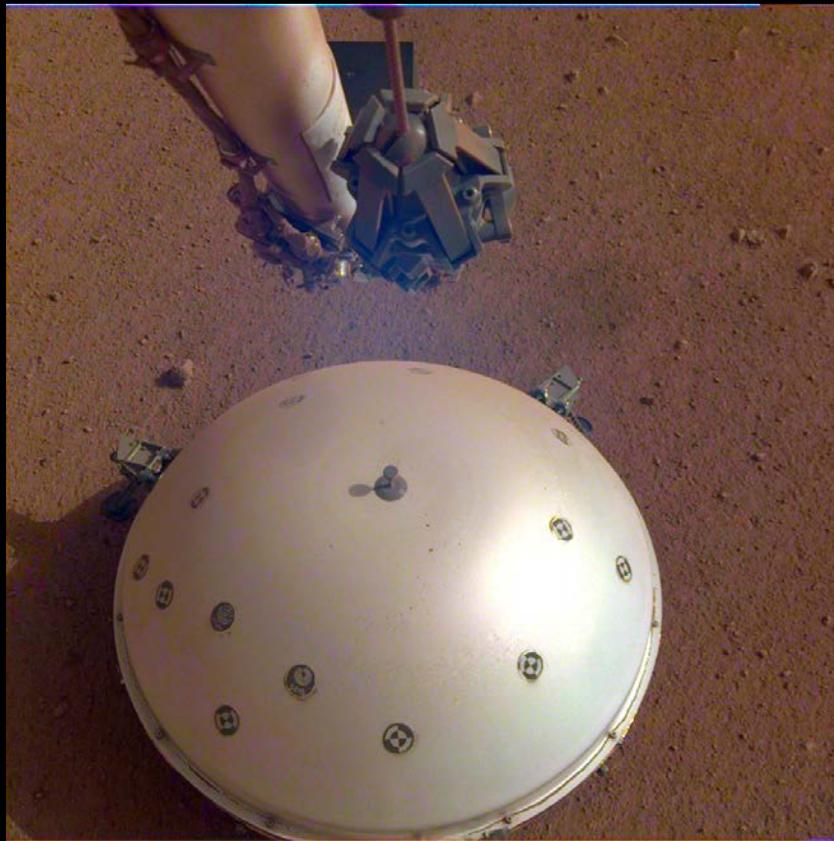
- Need extremely high sensitivity – expect fewer and smaller quakes than on the Earth
  - Sensitivity target:  $2.5 \times 10^{-9} \text{m/sec}^2/\text{Hz}^{1/2}$
  - This is equivalent to displacement amplitudes smaller than a hydrogen atom
- Therefore one must minimize/compensate for all noise sources:
  - Instrument intrinsic noise
  - Temperature variations
  - Wind
  - Atmospheric pressure variations
  - Magnetic field variations
  - Lander vibrations



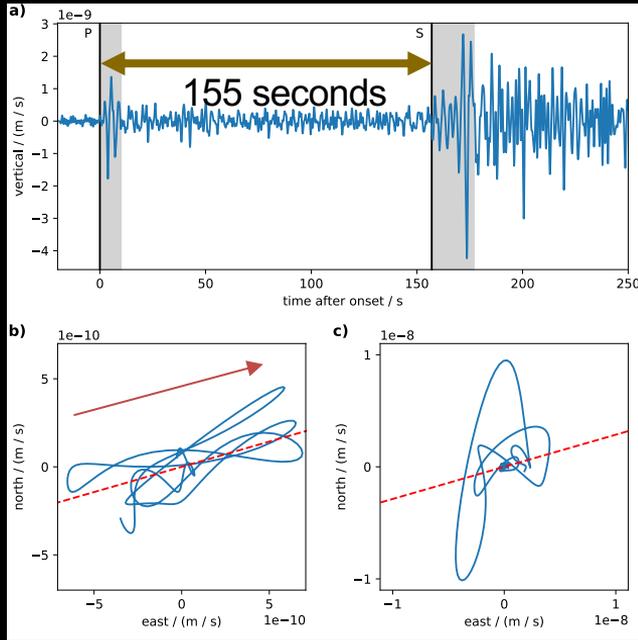




# SEIS Deployment

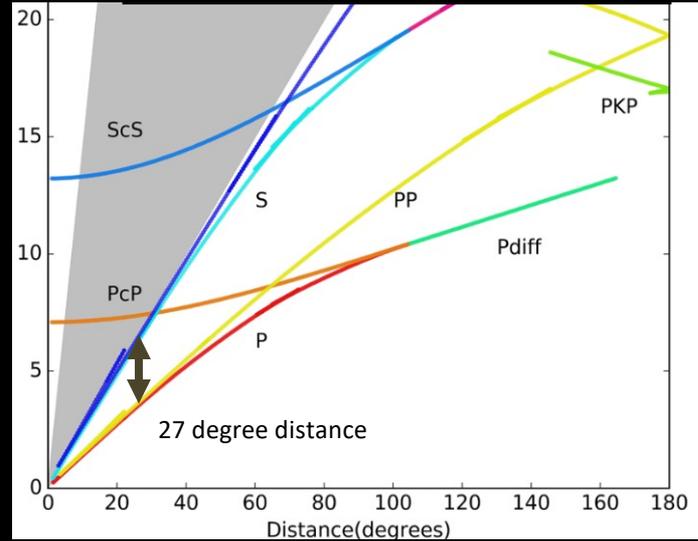


**Sol 000 We made it!**



M. van Driel

**Direction**



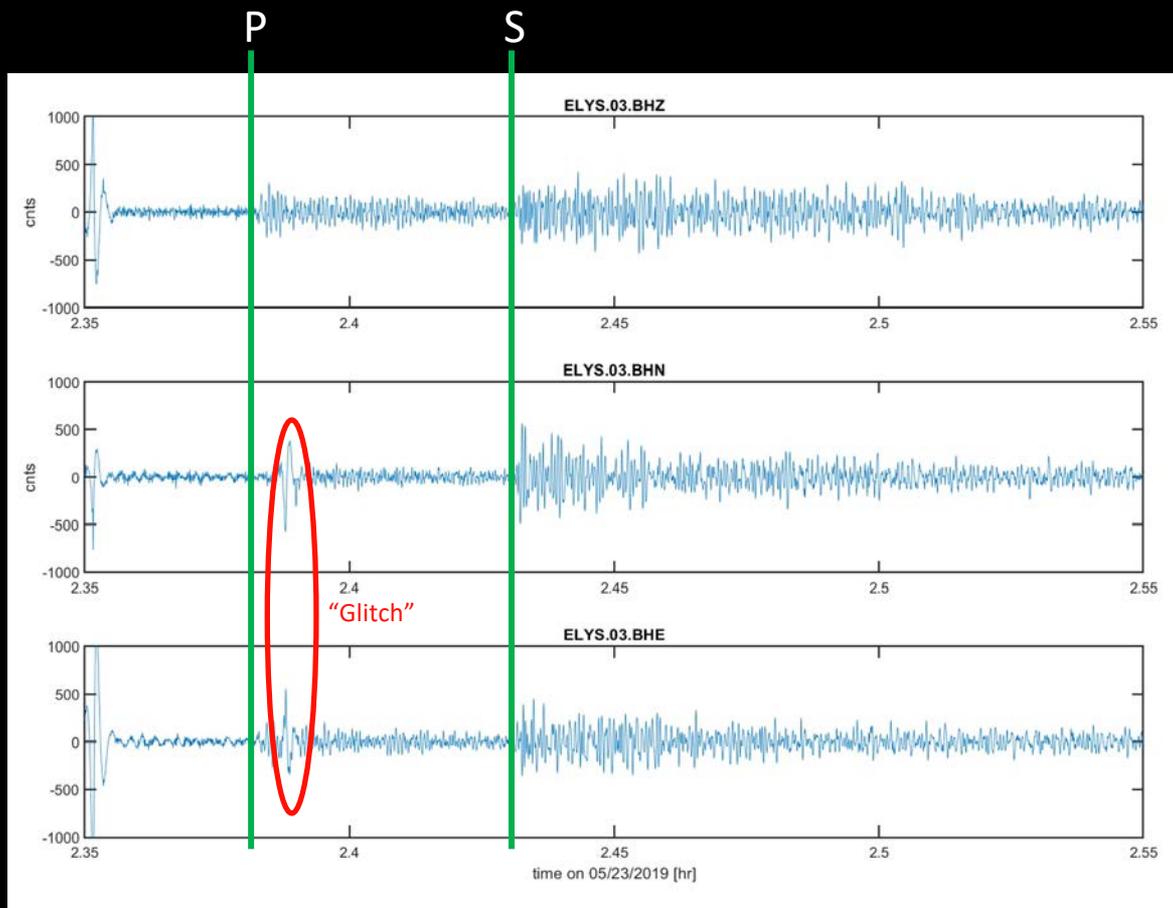
Ceylan et al. (2017)

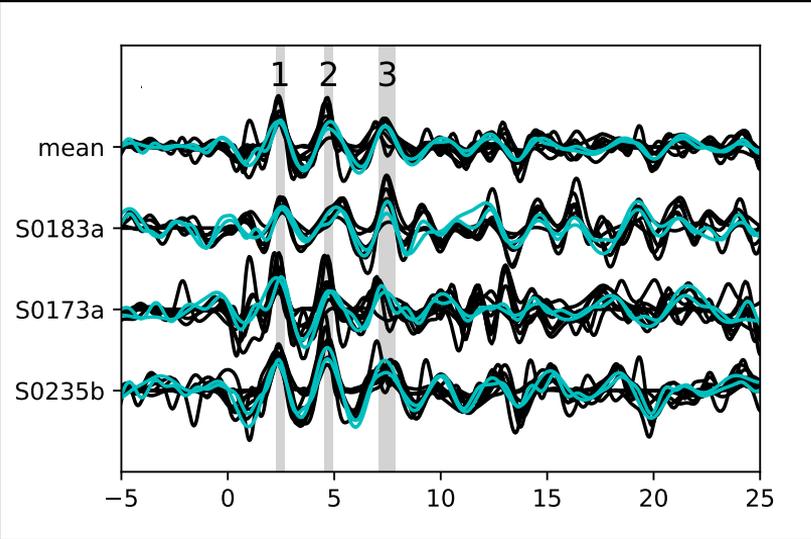
**Distance**





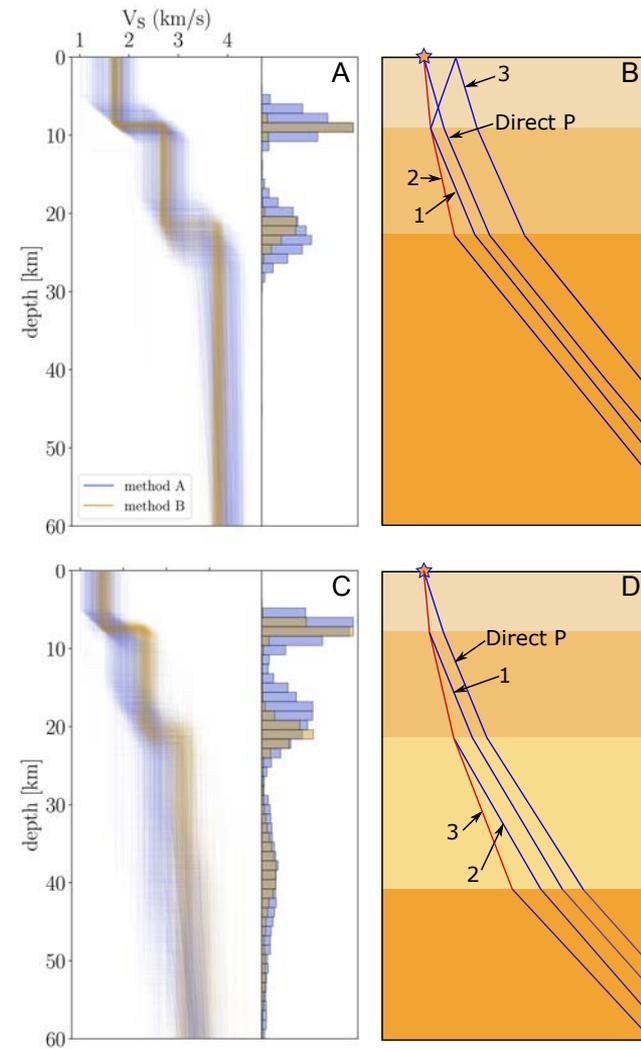
# First “large” event: S0173a (BA), Magnitude 3.7

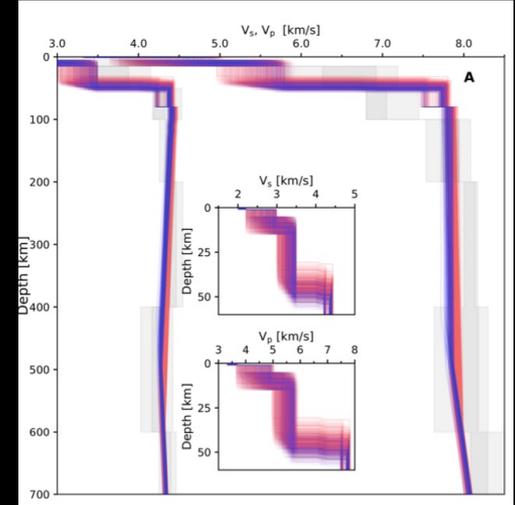
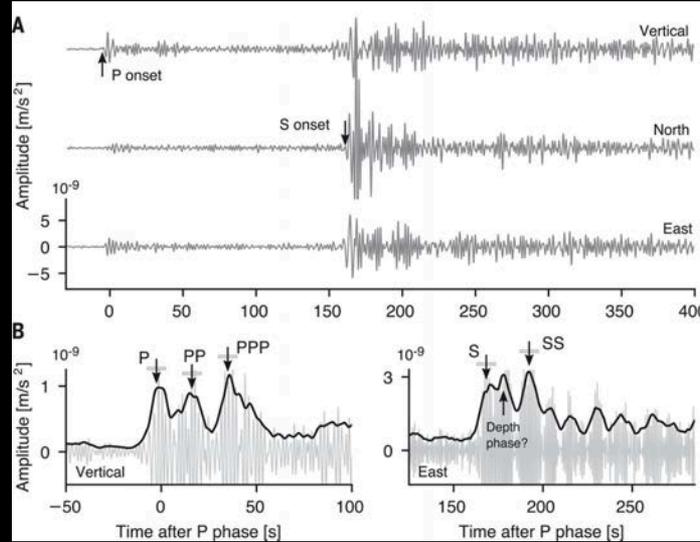
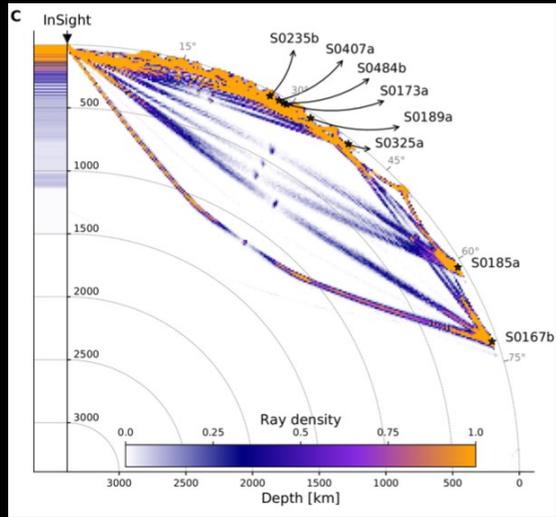




Figures from Knapmeyer-Endrun et al. (Science, 2021)

- We can look for arrivals buried after the P-wave that represent conversions to S waves below the lander
- 3 events had clean enough polarized records to try this on (more recent ones appear to be consistent as well)
- 3 arrivals could be from 2 or 3 layer model – 2 possible crustal thicknesses





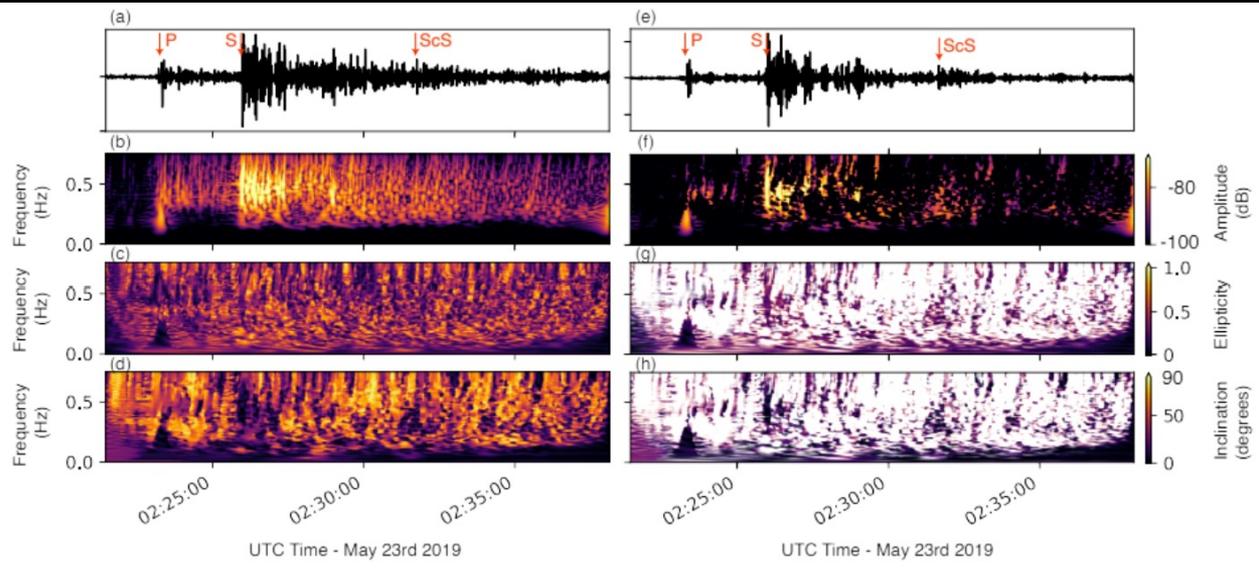
From Khan et al. (Science, 2021)

## First results for mantle seismic velocities

- Relies on picks of seismic phases which bounce off the surface (PP, PPP, SS, SSS)
- S-wave Low Velocity Zone in upper mantle.
- Thermal gradients 1.6–2.5 K/km.
- Thermal lithospheric thickness 400 – 600 km.
- Mantle potential temperature 1600-1700K.

→ Thermal structure more compatible with ‘cool’ mantle models

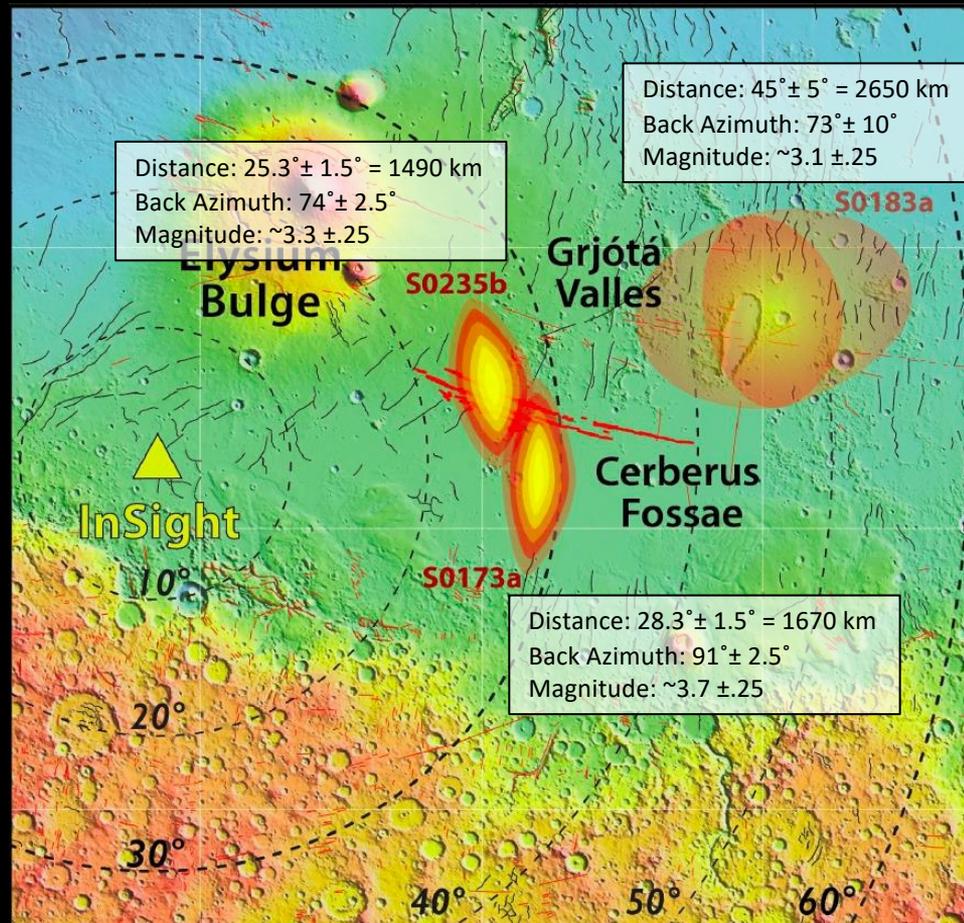
→ Puzzle of crustal results. May point to 3D structure.



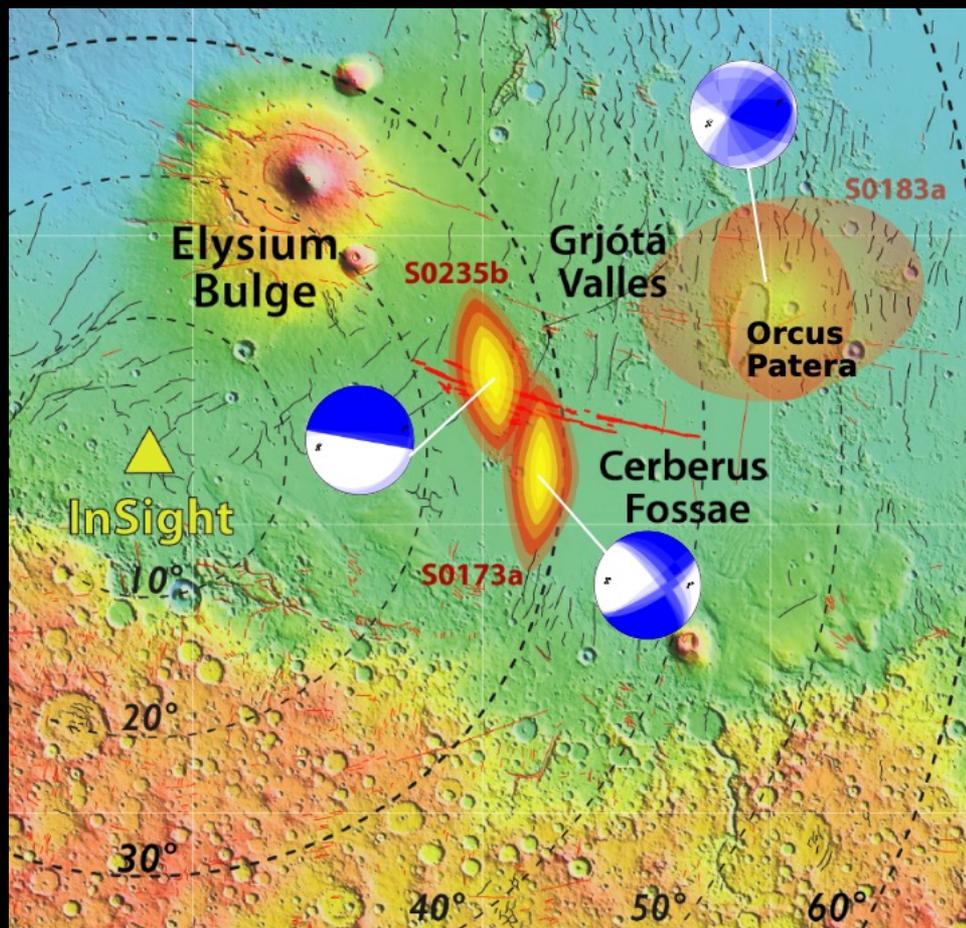
- With careful polarization filtering, a phase consistent with ScS (which bounces off the core), can be spotted in 6 events just above the noise, including the clearest one in S0173a (left)
- All show arrivals consistent with a core radius of  $\sim 1830 \pm 40$  km, in general agreement with the RISE results

From Stähler et al. (Science, 2021)

# Source Locations for Three Events



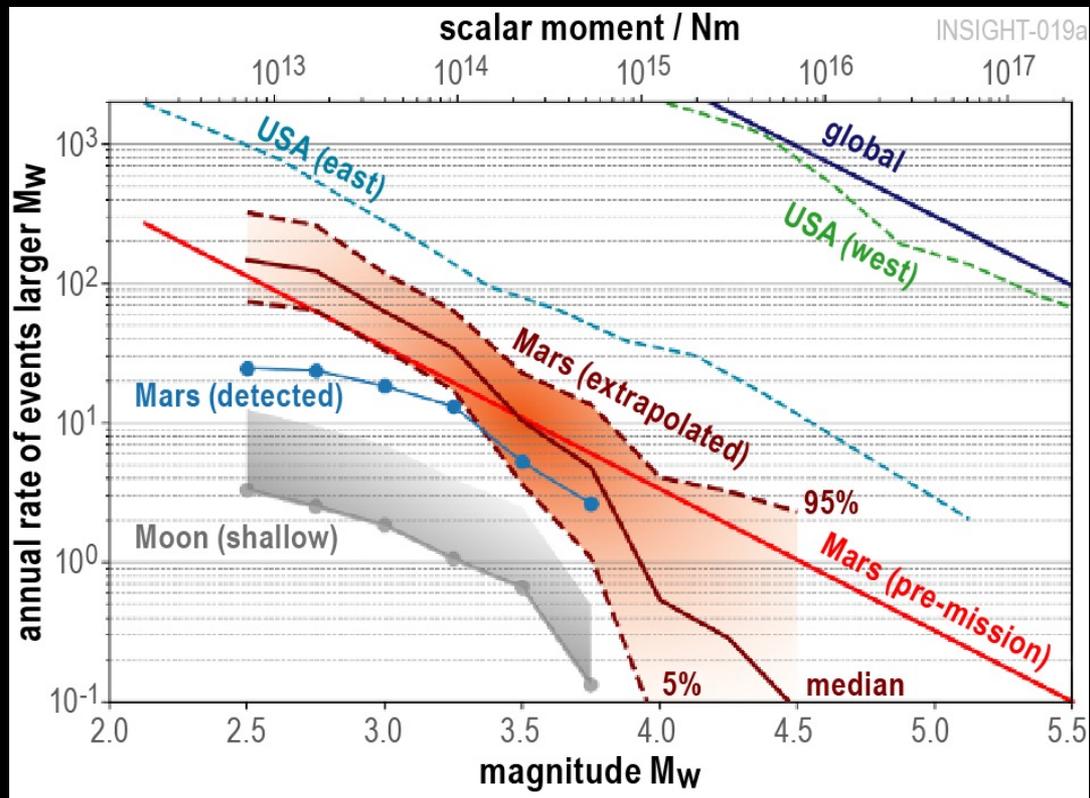
From Giardini et al., 2020



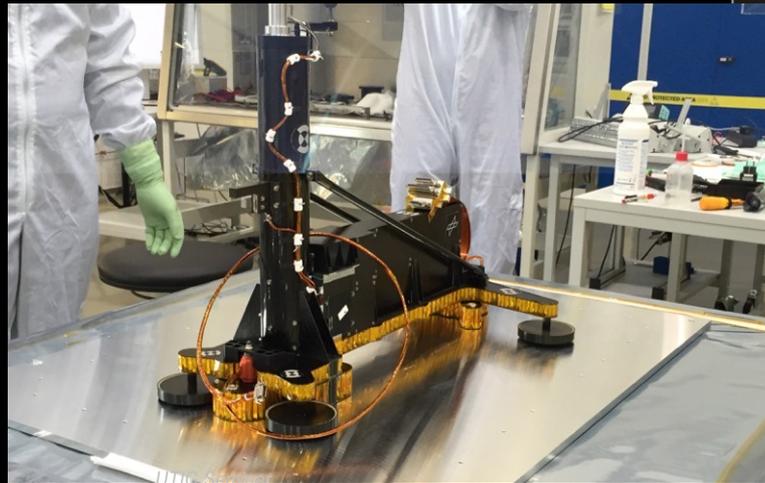
- Based on waveform inversions for the three events
- S0235b gives the cleanest results consistent with near-vertical normal faulting aligned with Cerberus Fossae fractures
- S0173a is less well-resolved and more oblique
- S0183a is relatively poorly resolved

From Brinkman et al., 2021

- Mars' activity appears to be close to pre-InSight predictions, perhaps somewhat higher
- However, there is an apparent deficit of larger marsquakes, which may be bad luck.
- Hopefully, we'll be more lucky in the upcoming extended mission... or we'll find out Mars acts different than the Earth!

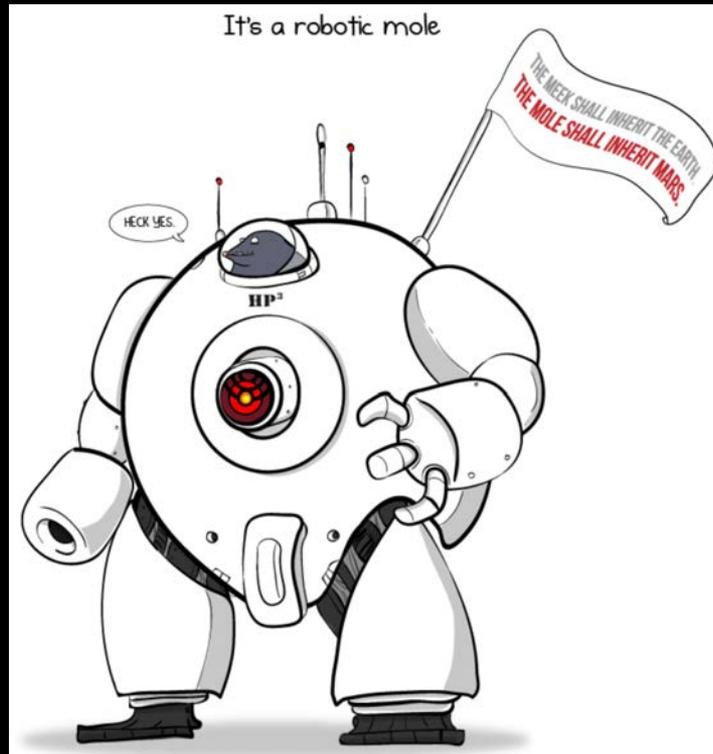


- HP<sup>3</sup> includes a penetrator (the “mole”) that was designed to burrow up to 5 meters below the surface.
- Cable and mole contain precise temperature sensors to measure the temperature changes with depth and the thermal conductivity in order to measure heat flow
- A radiometer to measure the surface radiation temperature to constrain boundary condition and near-surface properties completes the package



# What about the Mole?

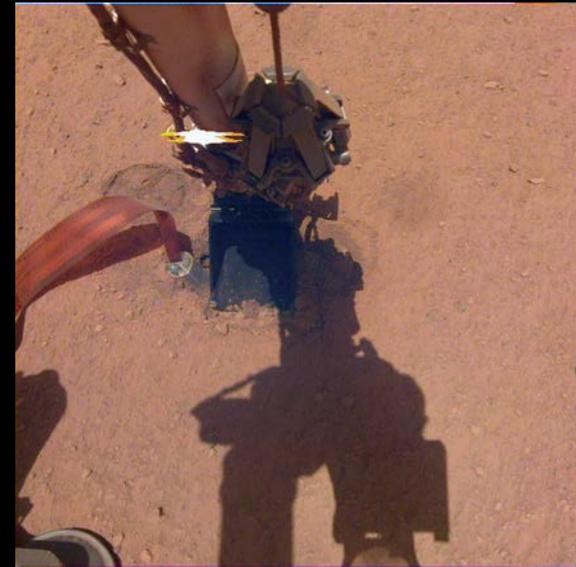
- The Heat flow and Physical Properties Package (HP3) was designed with a “mole” which was supposed to hammer itself down to a depth of 3-5 meters and measure heat flow.
- After release, it hammered very quickly down to about 35 cm, and then stopped



Slightly fictional visualization of the Mole by The Oatmeal (© 2018 Matthew Inman <https://theoatmeal.com/comics/insight>)

To make matters worse, after our first round of trying to help it down, the darn thing backed itself out.

Space is hard!





InSight

# The end of the line

Our engineering team did heroic work to get the mole buried, but in January, we officially ceased efforts to get the mole to depth. It is still a buried thermal properties sensor, and the radiometer continues observation providing constraints on near-surface thermal properties and surface-atmosphere heat exchange.





InSight

# Energy concerns...

Mars is a dusty place, and the solar panels are currently generating much less energy than at the beginning of the mission

We've just passed through aphelion, when our energy production is at its lowest, and our heating needs are at their greatest

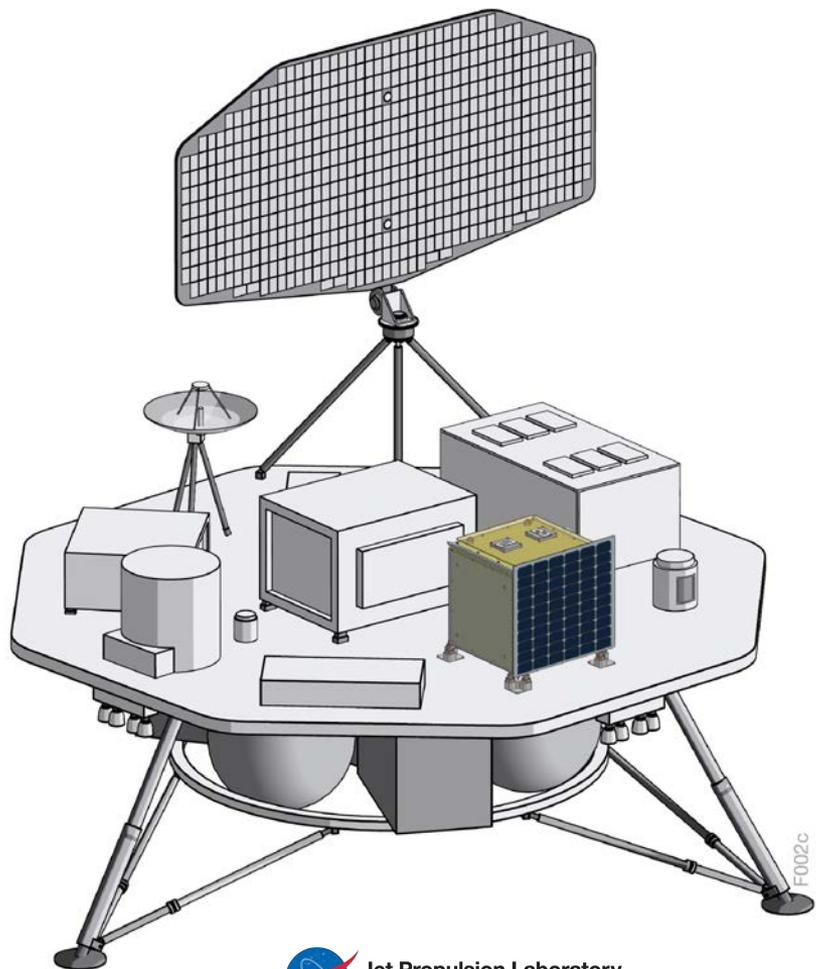
We've continued operating with two main approaches to extending operations



- Deploying a seismometer on Mars is a long, slow process.
- The data, though, is quieter than anywhere on Earth in some frequency bands
- We have detected many events and located several of them
- Working on Mars with a robot you can only command every few days or once a week is hard

Raw images are available at [mars.nasa.gov/insight](https://mars.nasa.gov/insight) essentially as soon as they hit the ground.

All InSight science data is currently available in the Planetary Data System or through IRIS Data Management Center.



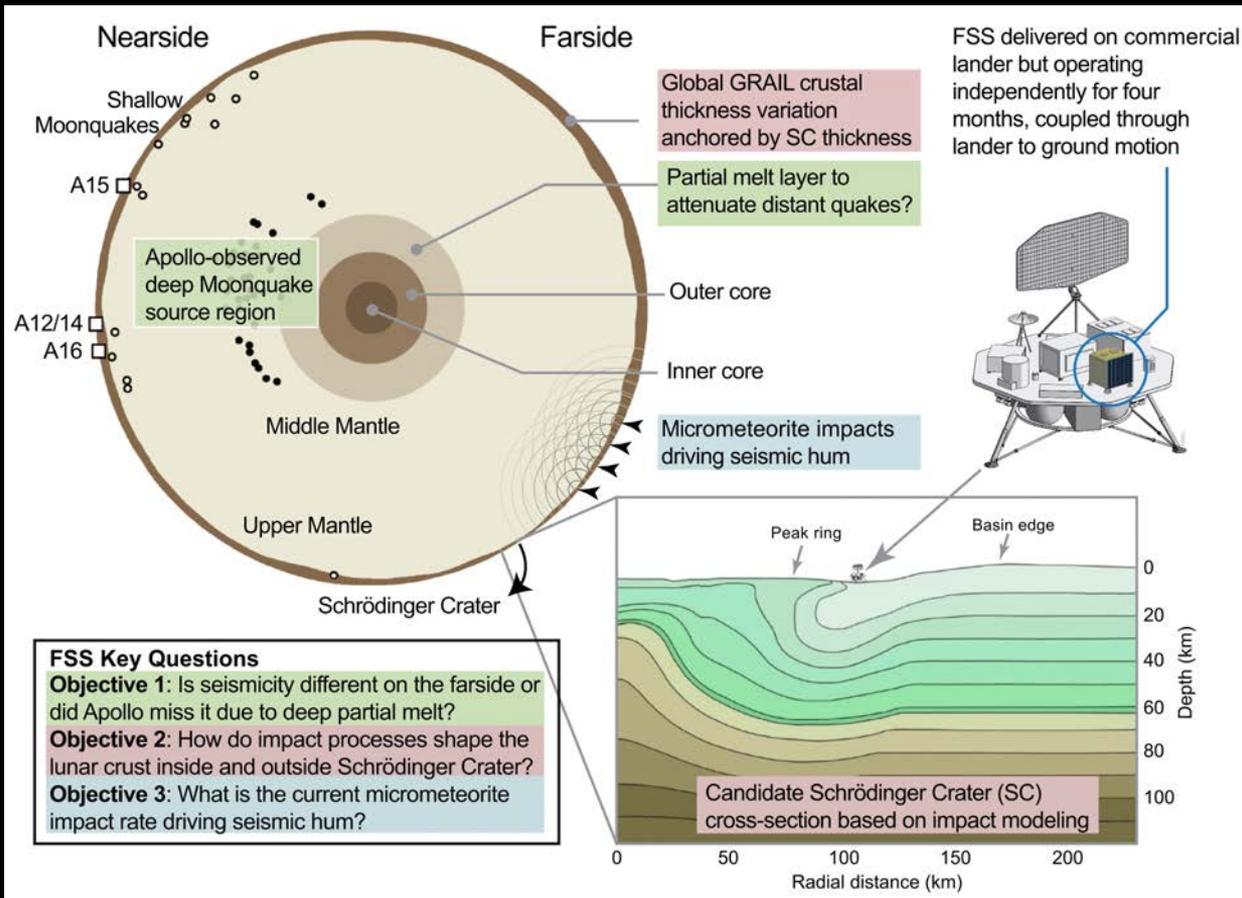
# Part 2: Farside Seismic Suite

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Globe, Paris, 6. Imperial College, London, 7. CNES, 8. Kinemetrics, Inc., 9. NASA  
Marshall Space Flight Center

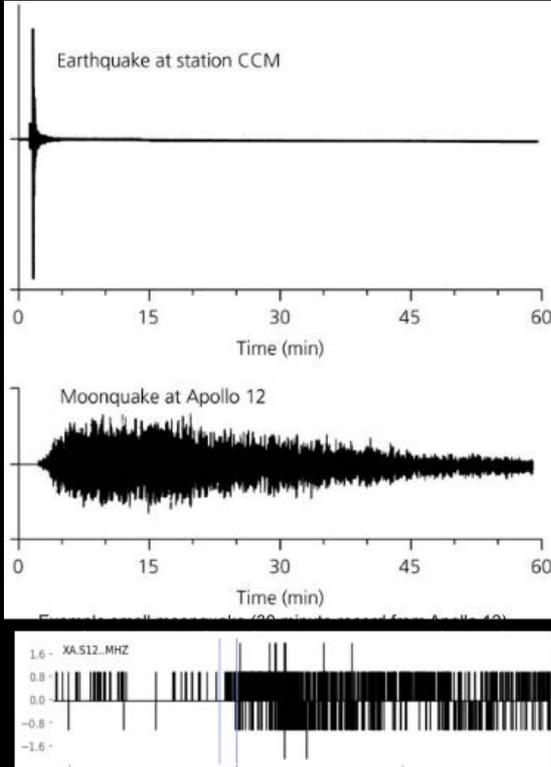


# The Concept



FSS delivers a vertical component Very Broad Band seismometer (VBBZ), the most sensitive seismometer to fly on a planetary mission, and a very capable and compact 3-component SP seismometer, both based on the instrumentation of the currently-operating InSight Mars mission. These instruments are delivered inside a thermal enclosure incorporating independent command, power, and communications systems to outlive the commercial lander and deliver continuous day and night seismic data for months.

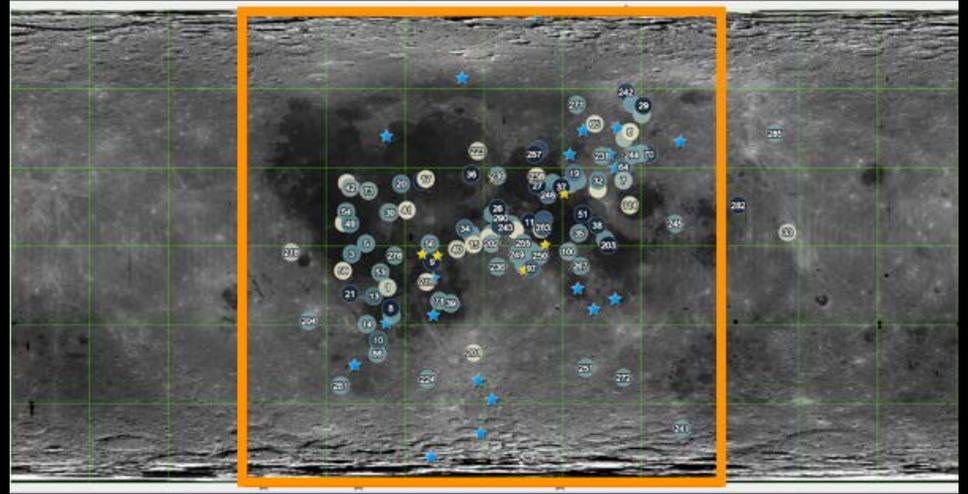
# Lunar Seismology



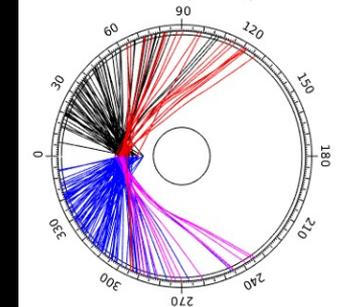
- Lunar seismology is very different than Earth seismology with unique challenges
- The Apollo instruments were extremely sensitive instruments, but were limited by very coarse digitization
- Apollo measurements were only made at the nearside landing locations
- Landing modern, sensitive instruments (on the far side of the Moon!) with 24-bit modern digitization opens up new opportunities beyond what was possible with Apollo

# Farside Seismicity

- Nearly all located deep moonquake clusters and shallow moonquake locations are on the nearside of the Moon
- How much of this is due to attenuation in the deep lunar mantle and how much is due to fundamental differences in seismicity?
- Paths from known repeating deep moonquake locations to Schrödinger pass through the deep mantle constraining that structure, while recording of new sites on the far side will directly constrain farside activity rates

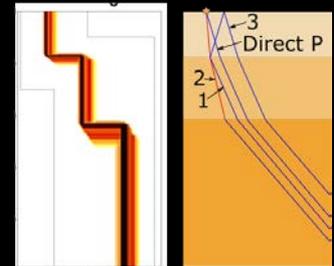
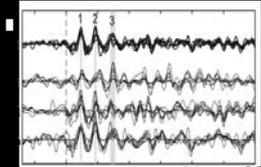


Ray paths in Garcia et al. (2019) M1 model from known deep moonquakes



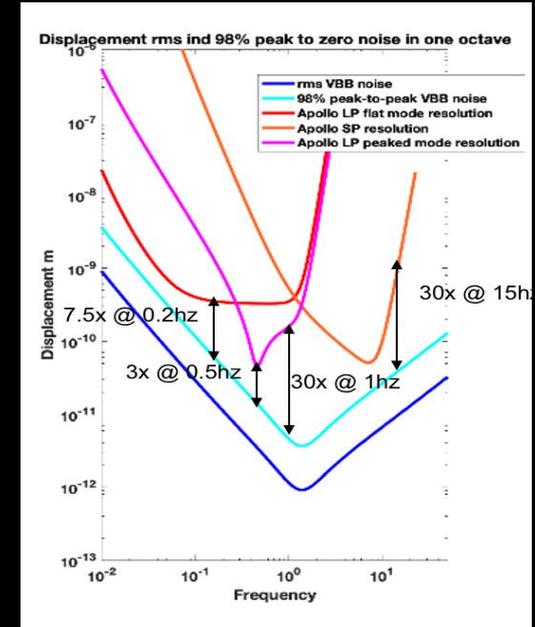
# Local structure at Schrödinger

- Schrödinger Crater is well-preserved impact crater with a peak ring and smooth floors interpreted as impact melts
- 3-component seismic records present the potential for resolving crustal thickness and layering through a receiver function approach
- Continuous noise records can be autocorrelated to obtain the seismic reflectivity response below the landing site
- Local crustal structure can be used to anchor global gravity-derived models

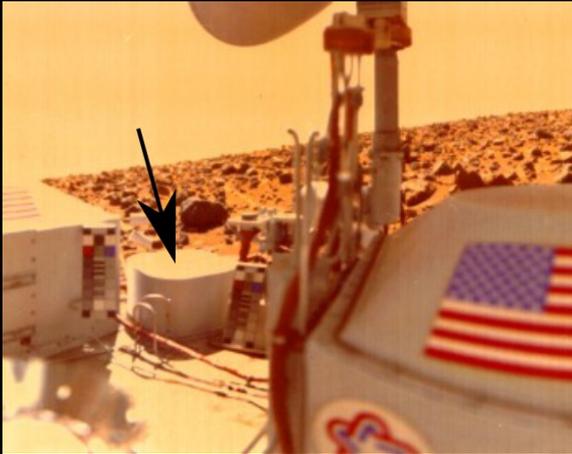


# The lunar background hum

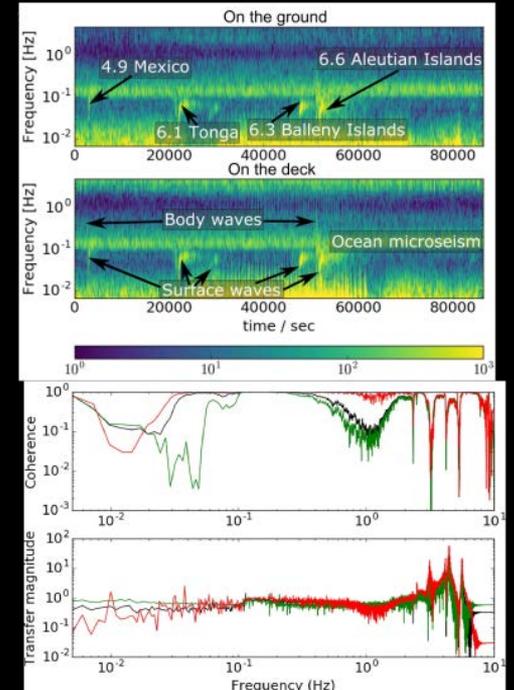
- The background seismic noise on the Moon is expected to be driven by the regular impacts of micrometeorites (Lognonné et al. 2009)
- Apollo seismometers were not able to record the level of this background noise due to the sensitivity of the instruments and the digitization noise
- VBBZ will record at a lower noise level than Apollo and either directly constrain the lunar background noise, or lower the upper bound of that noise level
- This can be used to better constrain the impact rate of the smallest micrometeorites, an important goal for long term human safety



# Can we record without deploying to the surface?

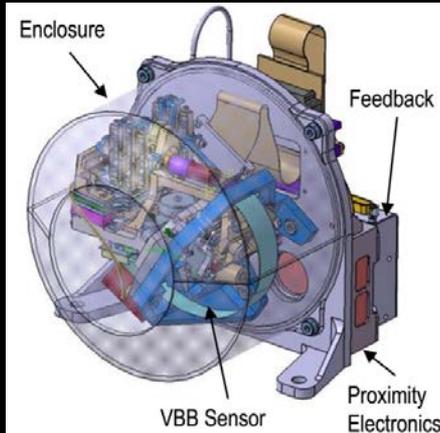


- The Viking mission (and InSight before deployment) taught us that a deck-mounted seismometer faces difficulties
- But experiments on the engineering model of the MSL Curiosity rover show ground motion can be well-coupled through the structure of a spacecraft below the resonant frequency
- On the Moon, there will be no wind noise, and thermal noise is expected to be concentrated near dawn and dusk (as demonstrated by thermal moonquakes measured by Apollo instruments)



From Panning and Kedar (2019)

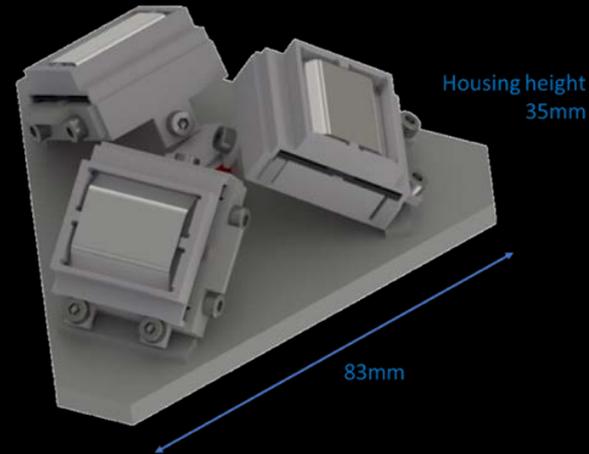
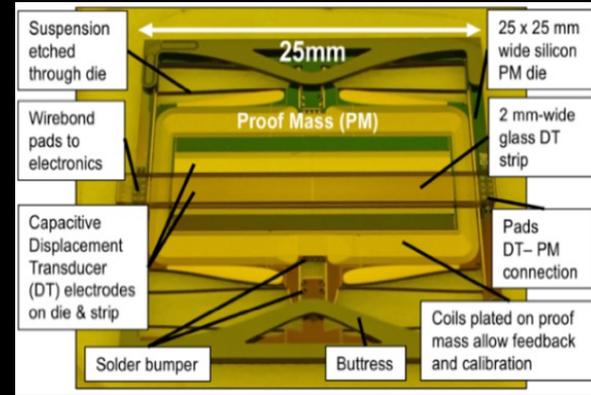
# The VBBZ seismometer



- Uses a flight spare VBB seismometer from the InSight mission
- Spring needs to be replaced to account for lunar gravity and rotated to sense vertical motions (rather than 3 tilted components as in InSight)
- Packaged in enclosure which allows venting to attain vacuum on the Moon
- Contributed by CNES in partnership with Institut de physique du globe de Paris/Université de Paris

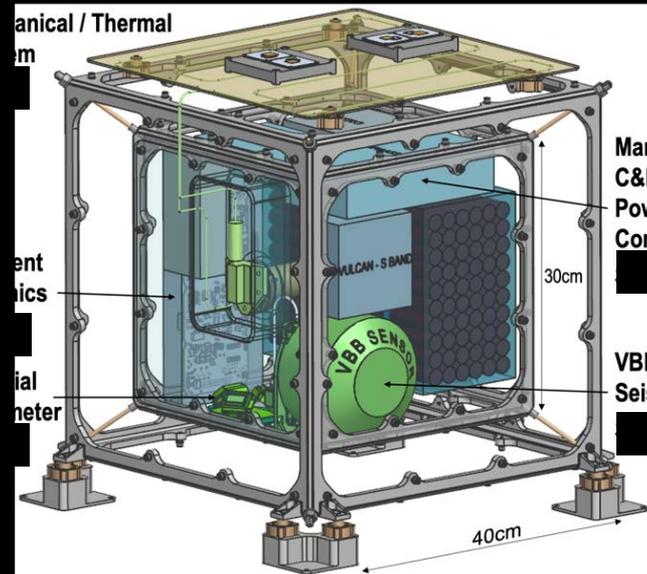
# The SP seismometer

- Micromachined silicon system
- New build based on InSight heritage
- Spring adjusted for lunar gravity and changed to Galperin configuration (3 tilted components) rather than 1 vertical and 2 horizontal sensors as on InSight
- Delivered by Kinematics, Inc. in collaboration with Oxford University and Imperial College, London

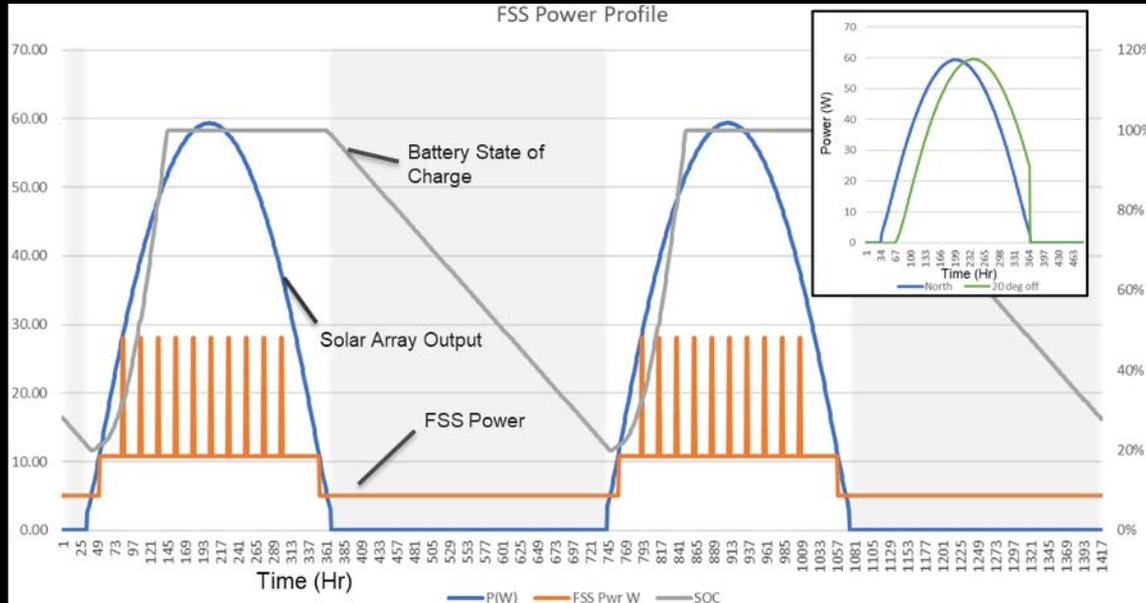


# The package design

- Powered by solar panel with sufficient batteries to operate through the night
- Thermal system relies on cube within cube separated by spacerless multi-layer insulation
- Command, communications and power systems based on MarCO flight spares delivered by University of Michigan



# Power profile



- Solar panel charges battery during the day (enough power even if misaligned by 20 degrees)
- Communications only performed during the day
- Seismometers operate continuously through the night

# Prospects for a Lunar Geophysical Network (LGN)?

- With FSS, LITMS, and LuSEE, PRISM 1b includes most of the primary instrumentation proposed for LGN (Neal et al., 2020)
- While FSS has defined science goals reachable for a single station, a long-lived network opens many more possibilities for seismology
  - Networked locations open up many more events for detailed study
  - Expanding the broadband instrument to 3 components possibly deployed on the surface (expanding the number of events accessible to detailed analysis)
  - Long-lived networked data sampling the whole Moon
- FSS can serve as a key pathfinder for LGN
  - Quantifying tradeoffs of an undeployed seismic package
  - Demonstration of candidate instrumentation
  - Demonstration of compact night-surviving package which could be adapted for a complete geophysical instrument suite in the context of possible LGN mission design

# Summary

- FSS outlives its commercial lander delivery to deliver key lunar science from the farside of the Moon
- Addresses key questions about farside seismicity rate, deep lunar structure, local structure at Schrödinger Crater, and micrometeorite impact rate
- Innovative thermal design allows continuous operation through the lunar night
- PRISM 1b can serve as a model for potential future LGN nodes