Constraining the Formation Time and Depth of Magnetic Sources within the Martian Crust

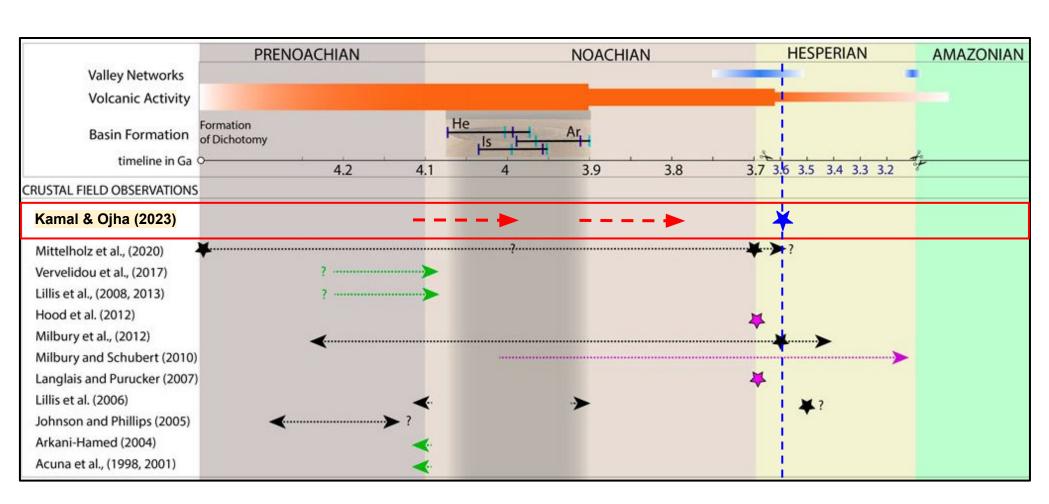
Zain Eris Kamal, Lujendra Ojha — Rutgers University, New Brunswick

1. DYNAMO CESSATION ESTIMATES

Previous crustal magnetic field studies disagree on dynamo cessation age — *Our approach is the first to combine:*

- (1) Systematically searching **all resolvable craters** (Diam>70km, n=855),
- (2) Analyzing high-res (low-altitude, nighttime) MAVEN track data.

By correlating crater magnetization with their ages [fig 1], we conclude the dynamo <u>likely persisted through 4.0 Ga, and certainly shut down by 3.6 Ga</u>:



2. THE CURIOUS CASE OF HENRY CRATER

Our conclusions seemed **contradictory** with past works::

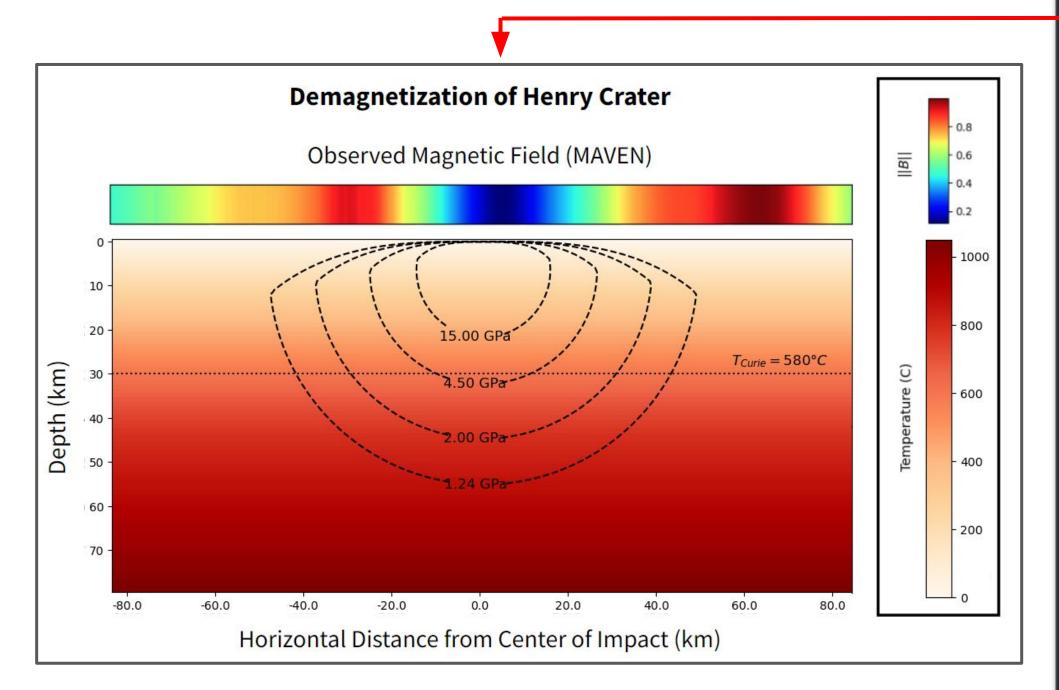
- We predict craters >300 km diameter should be demagnetized, **but this is** only observed in 25% of cases.
- Despite its size, Henry crater (167 km) is one of the most demagnetized
 (non-major) craters on Mars (~90% reduction in ||B||).

Henry formed at 3.6 ± 0.03 Ga, and shows no clear crustal/gravity anomalies.

3. CONSTRAINING THE MAGNETIZED LAYER

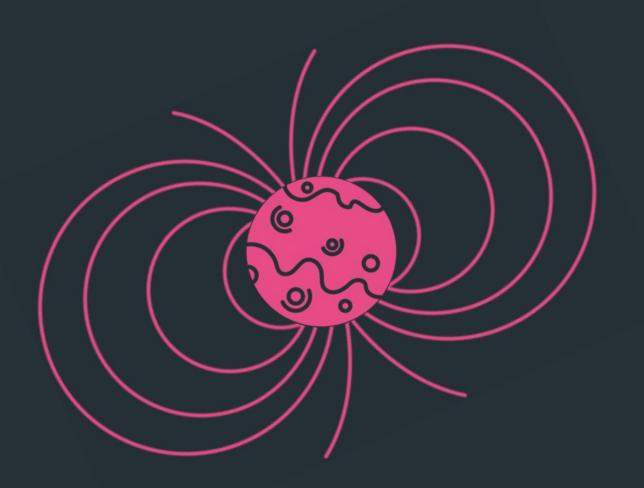
Can our observations be explalined by basic processes? We consider demagnetization from:

- (Contour lines) Impact **shock wave** demagnetization.
- (Red gradient) Curie depths due to radiogenic HPE decay.



4. FUTURE WORK

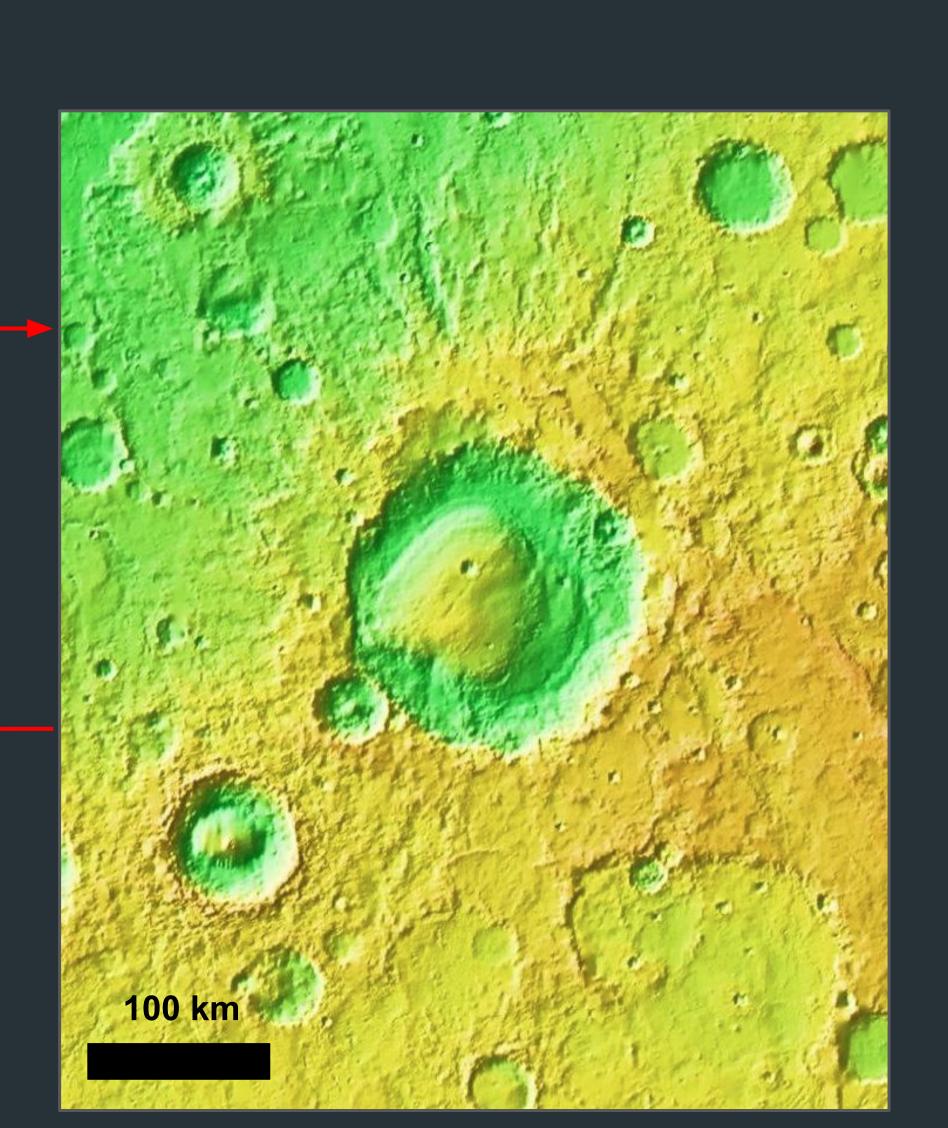
- Repeating this for all >70km craters on Mars allows us to constrain magnetic source depths globally.
- 2. Comparing the above results to other models would let us constrain:
 - Crustal formation mechanisms,
 - Early basal heating / heat flow rates,
 - Threshold demagnetization pressures/temperatures,
 - Crustal thickness/density quantities,
- GRS elemental concentration uncertainties, etc.

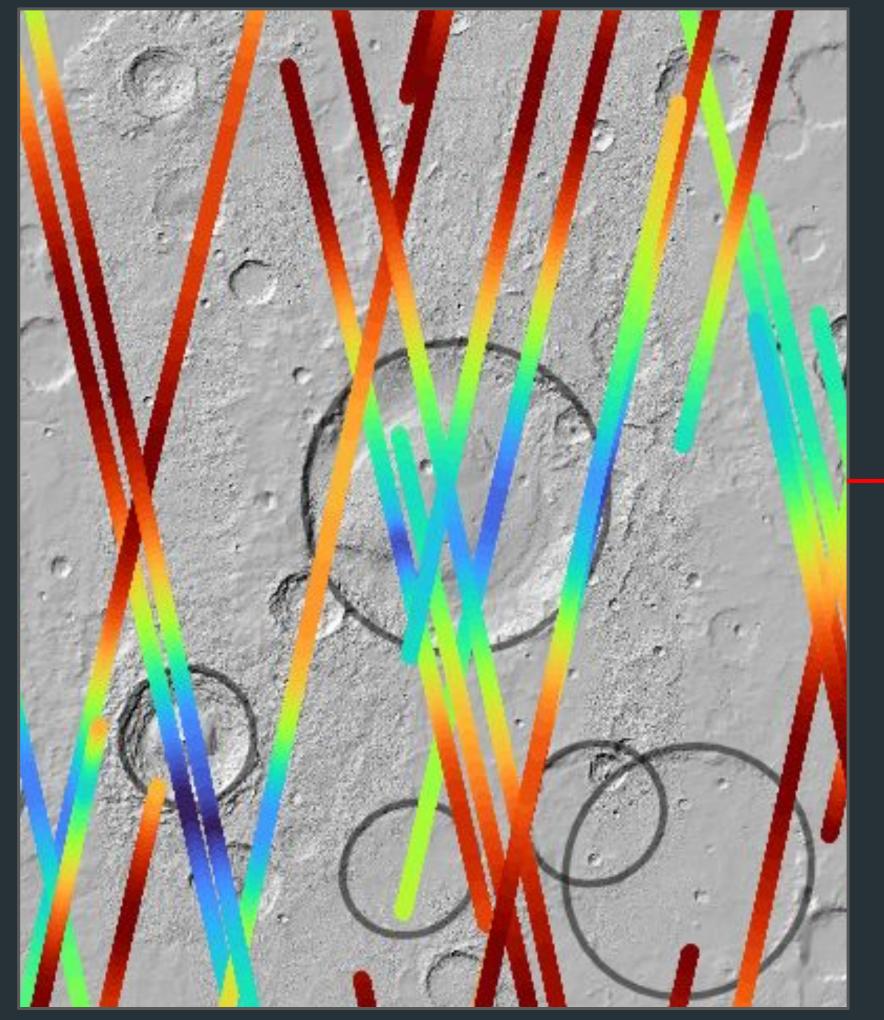


Small crater demagnetization lets us constrain:

- (1) Dynamo cessation age (3.6 Ga), and
- (2) Depth of magnetic sources (20-50 km).

But causual factors remain an unsolved puzzle.



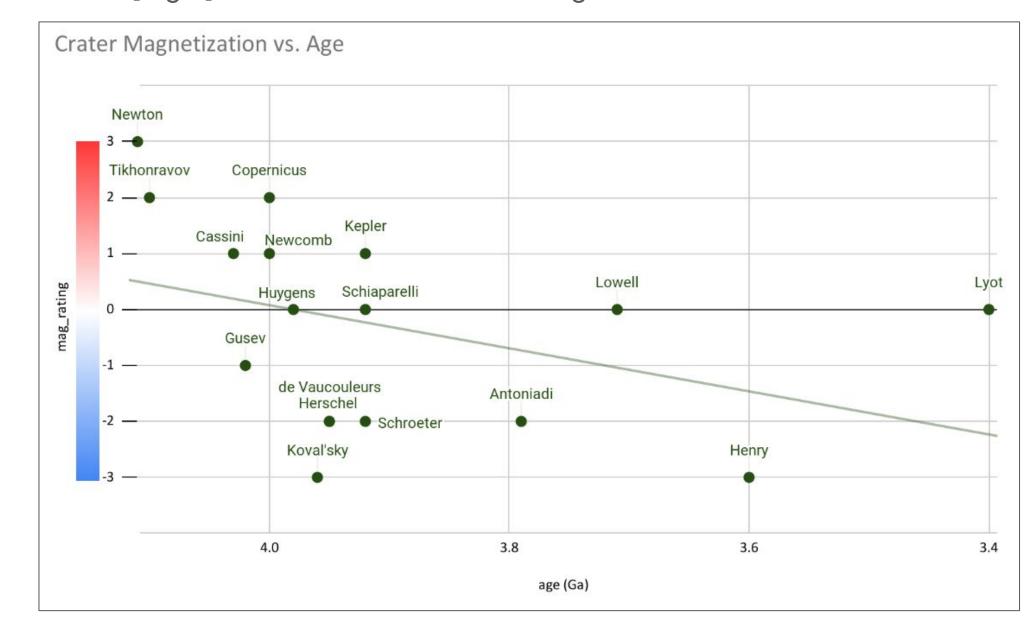




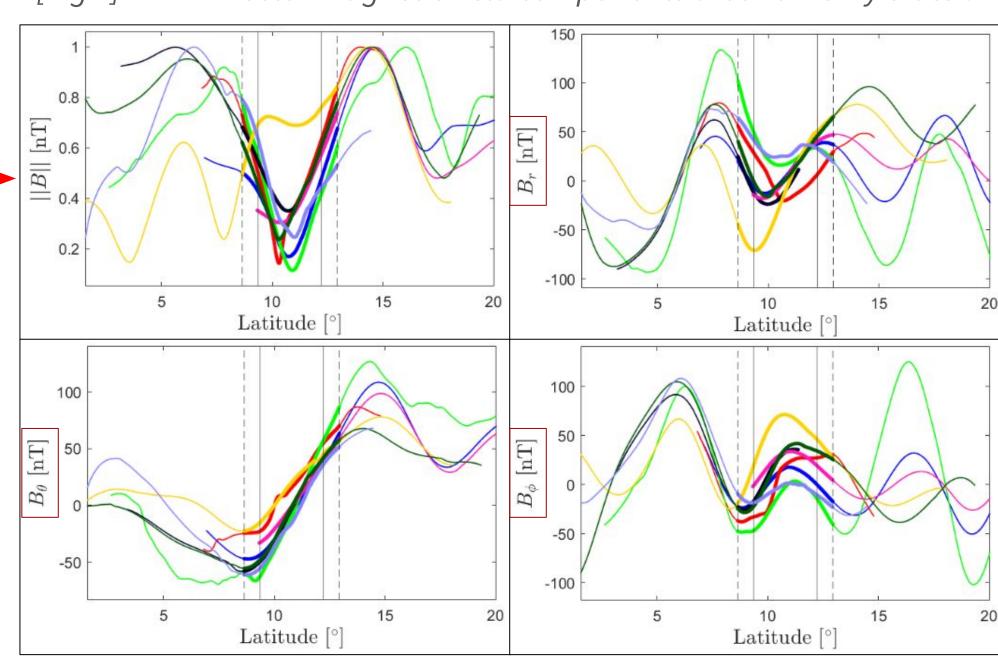


Take a picture for more information, or visit: https://bit.ly/CuriousCaseOfHenry

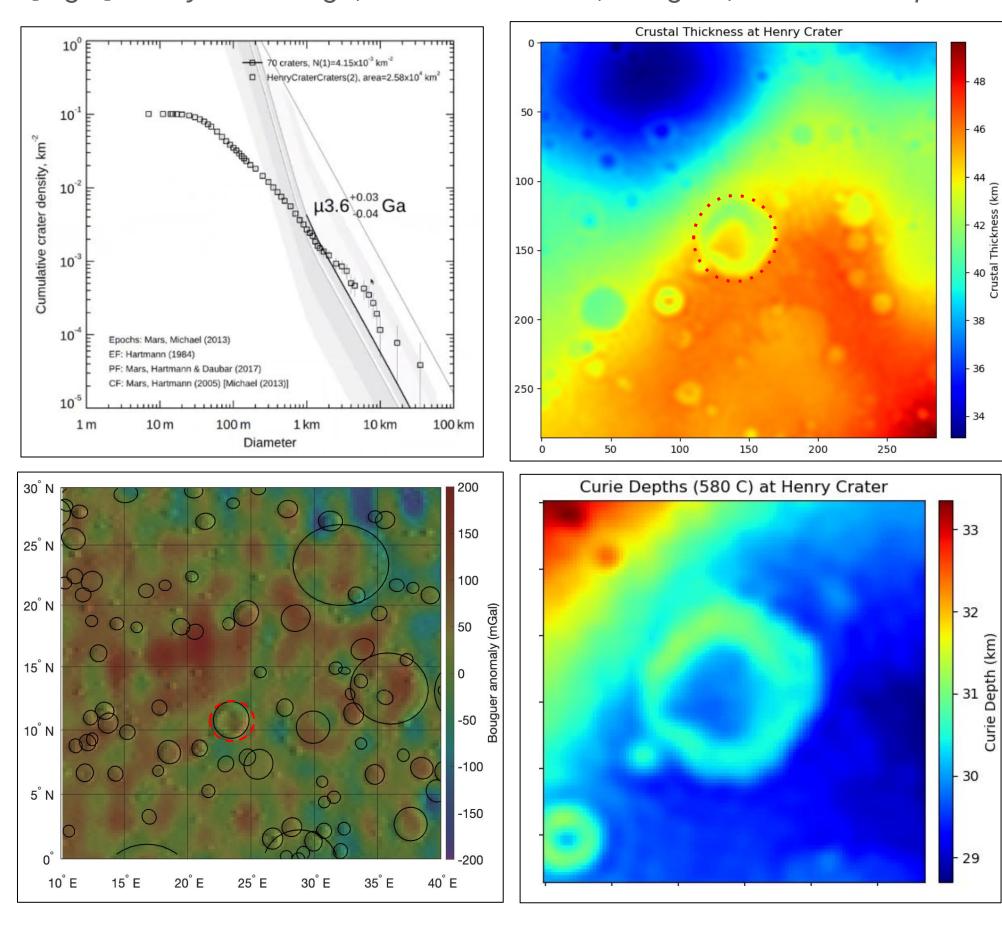
[Fig 1] Newer craters are less magnetized than older ones.



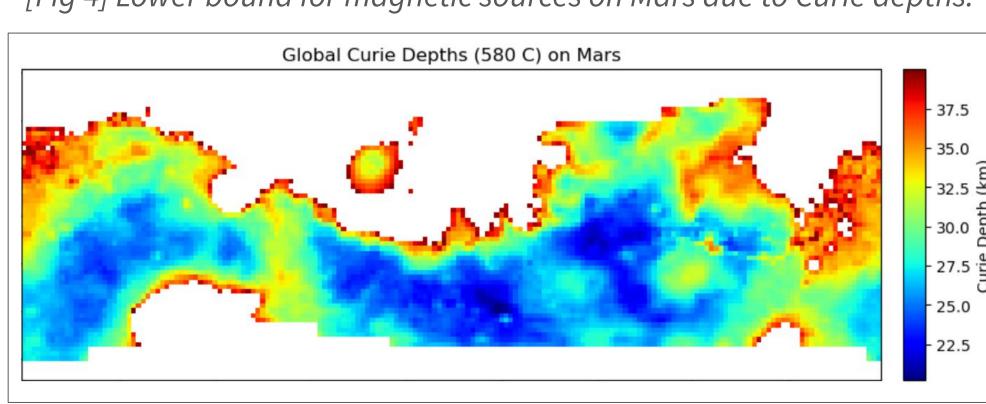
[Fig 2] MAVEN vector magnetic field components around Henry crater.



[Fig 3] Henry crater: age, crustal thickness, Bouguer, and Curie depths.



[Fig 4] Lower bound for magnetic sources on Mars due to Curie depths.







"Somewhere, something incredible is waiting to be known." - Sagan