



# Telerobotics from Mars Orbit: Lessons from Robotic Exploration for Human Missions to Mars

Prof. Jim Bell  
ASU/School of Earth & Space Exploration  
President, The Planetary Society

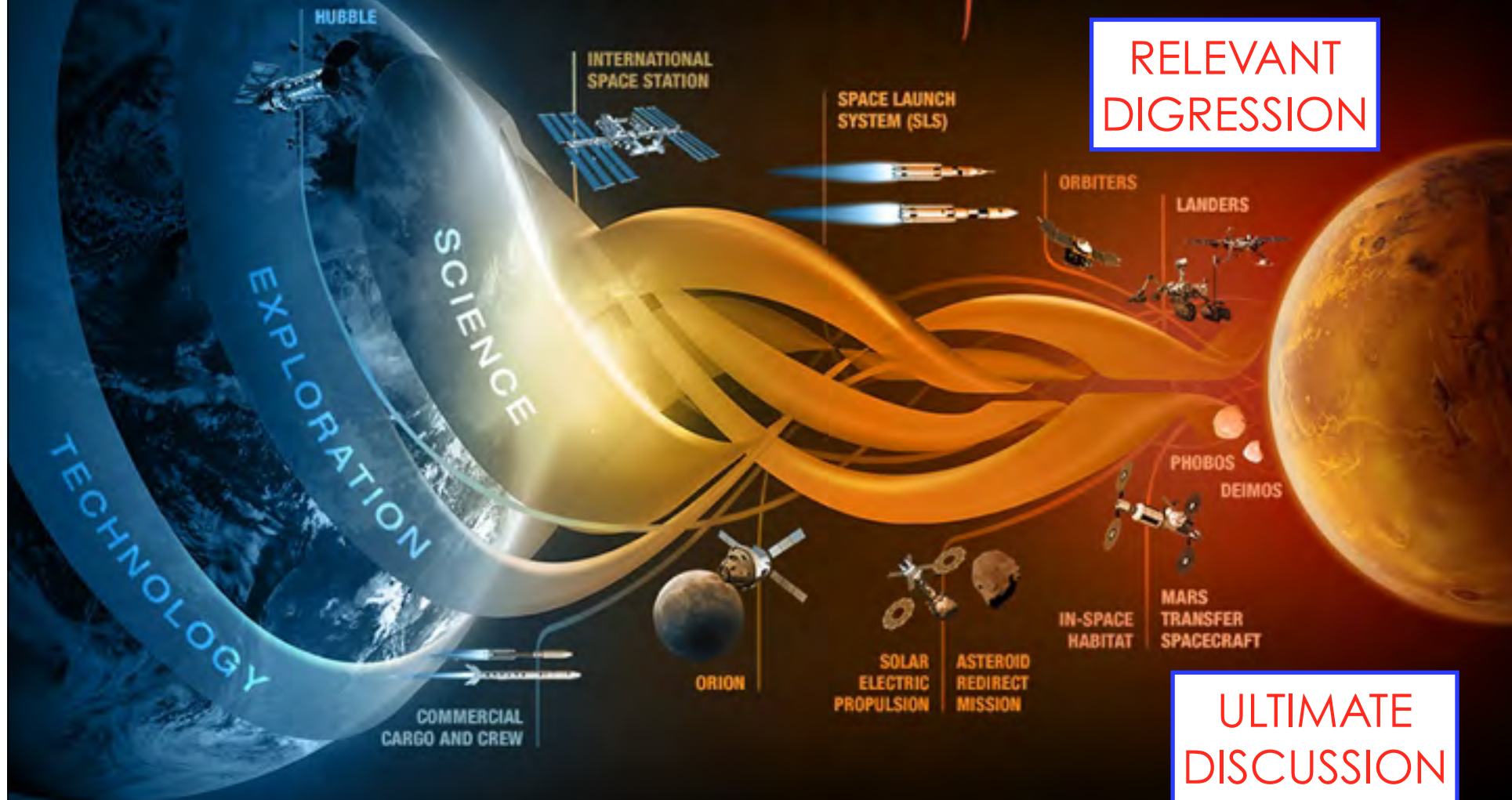
Future In Space Operations (FISO) Working Group Presentation  
31 August 2016



# JOURNEY TO MARS



RELEVANT  
DIGRESSION



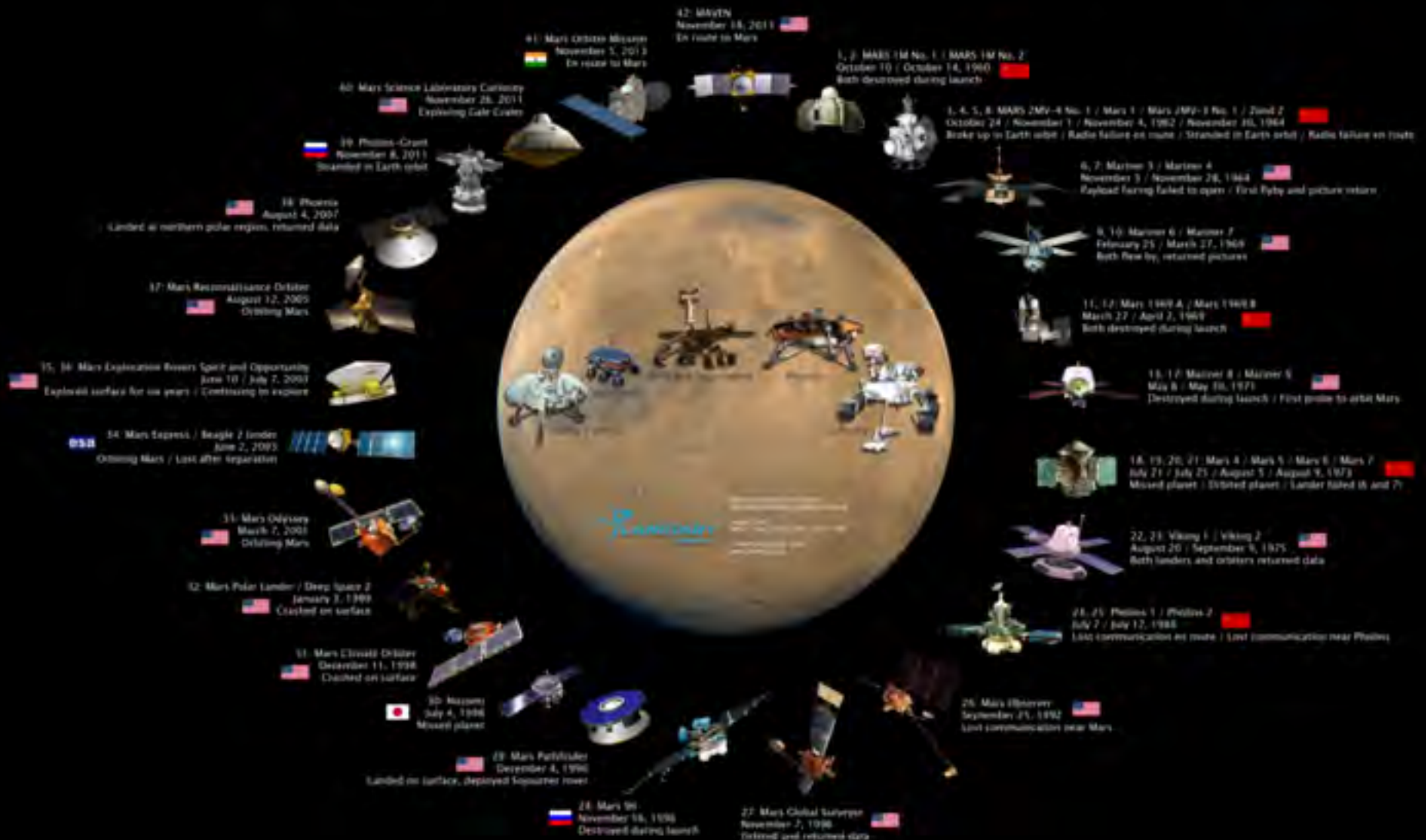
ULTIMATE  
DISCUSSION

# JOURNEY TO MARS



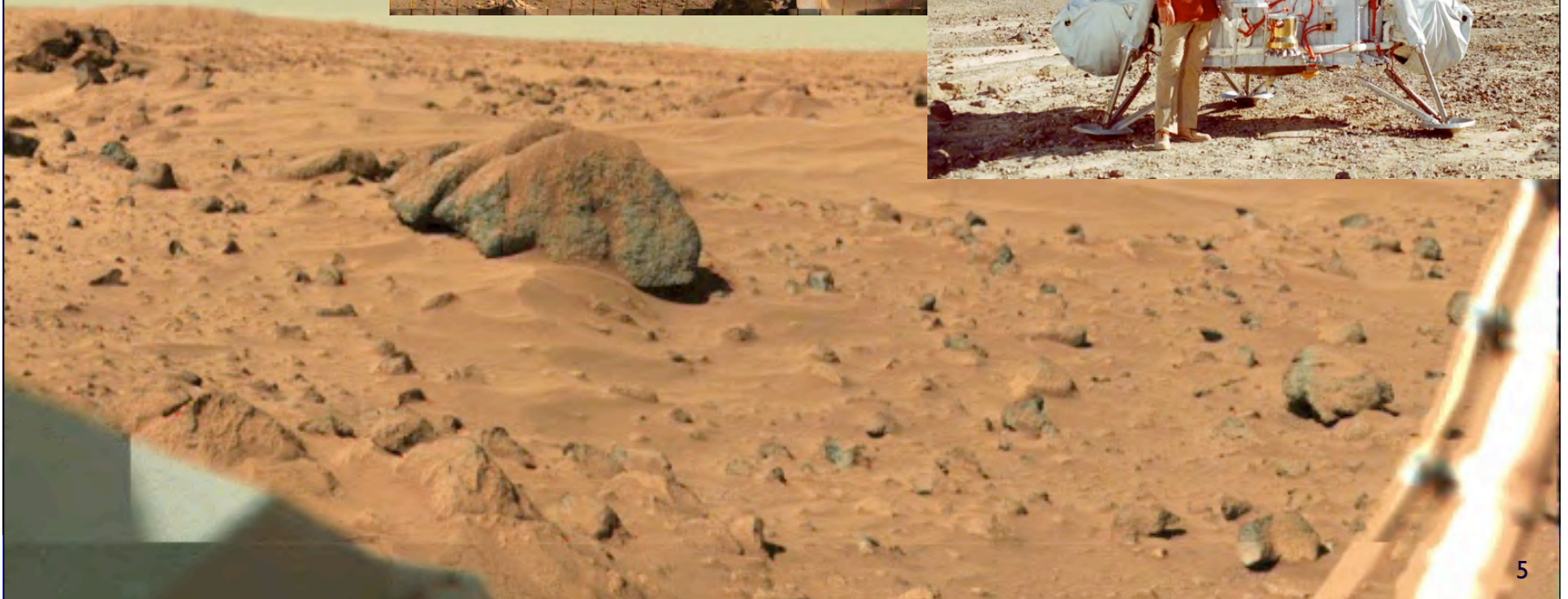
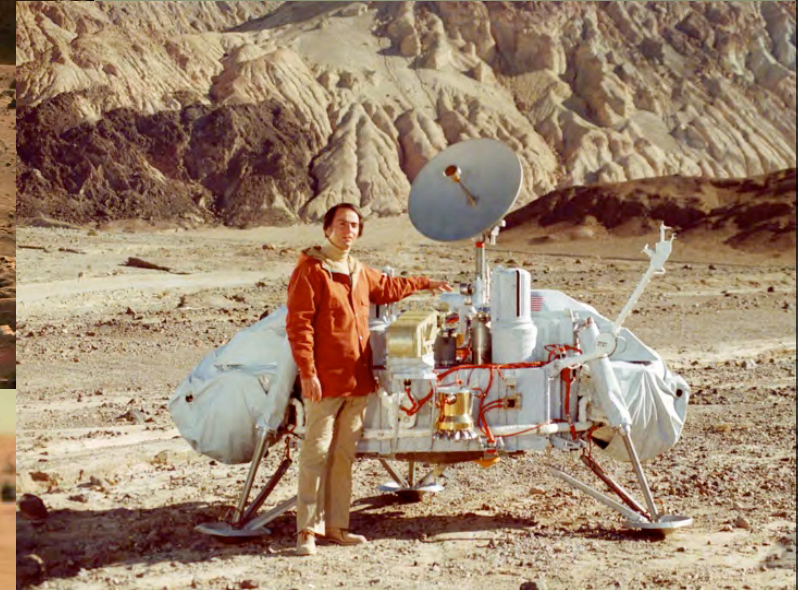
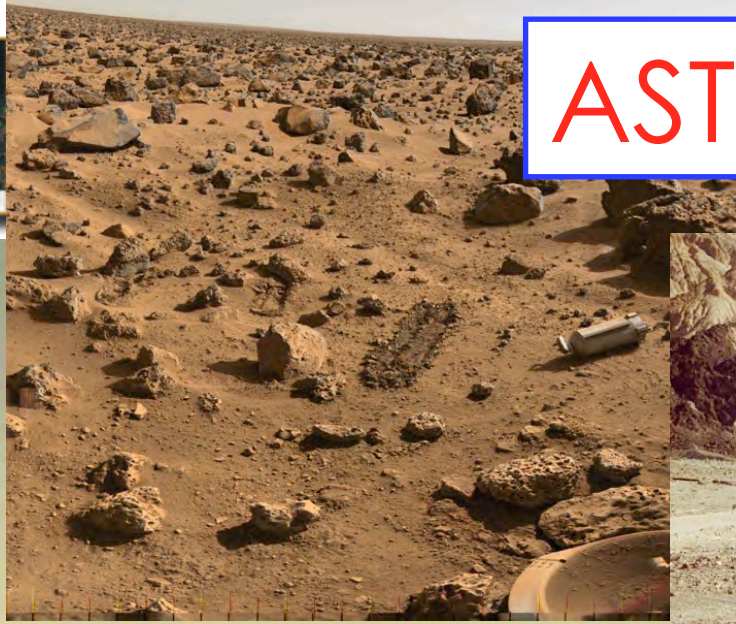
1. Robotic exploration IS human exploration
2. Robotic exploration ENABLES science AND human exploration
3. LATENCY is complex, and its role in future exploration needs careful study

# Mars Exploration Family Portrait

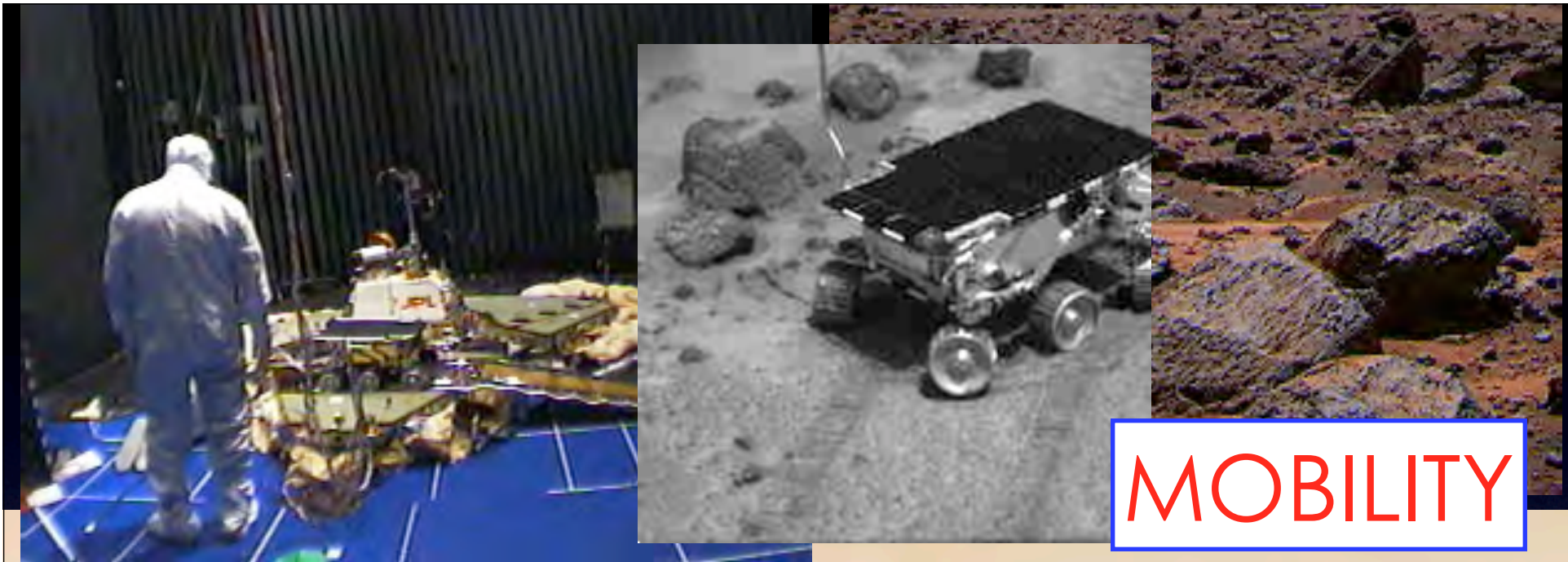




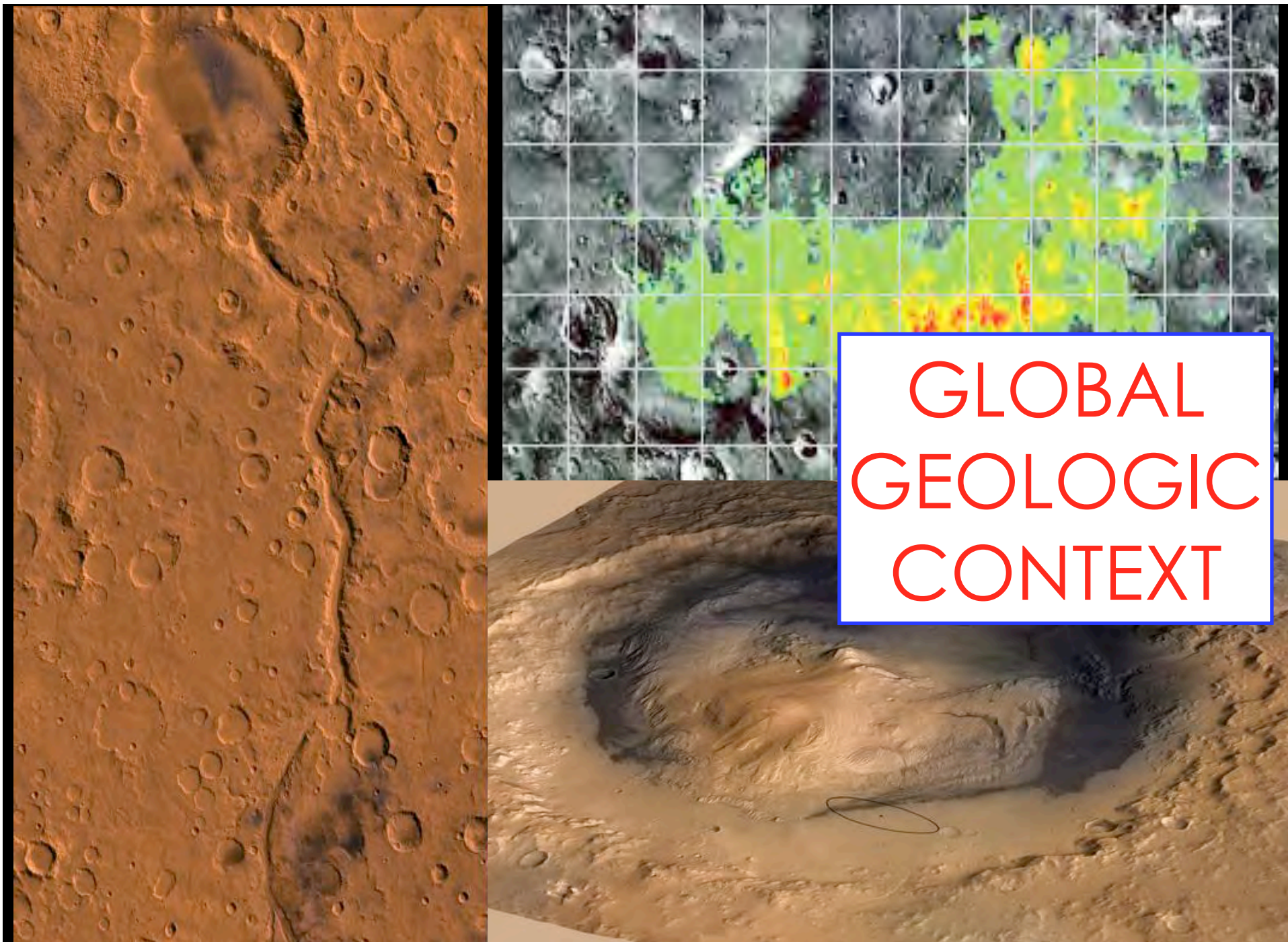
# ASTROBIOLOGY







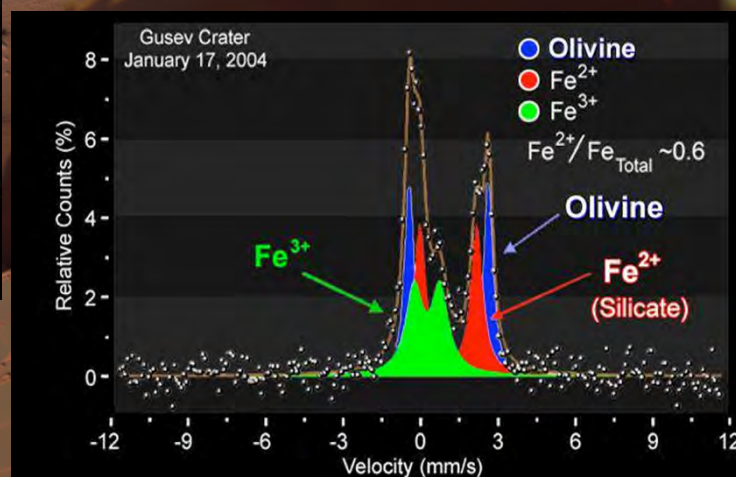
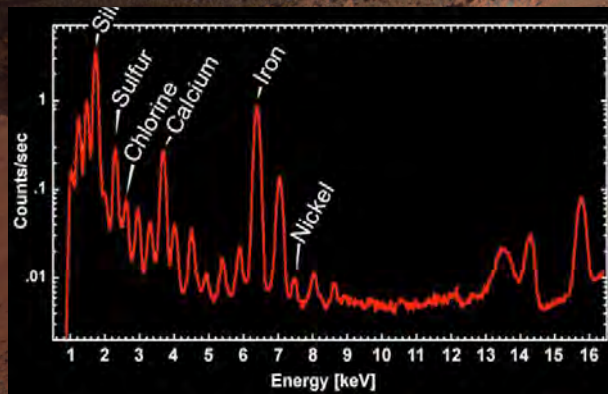
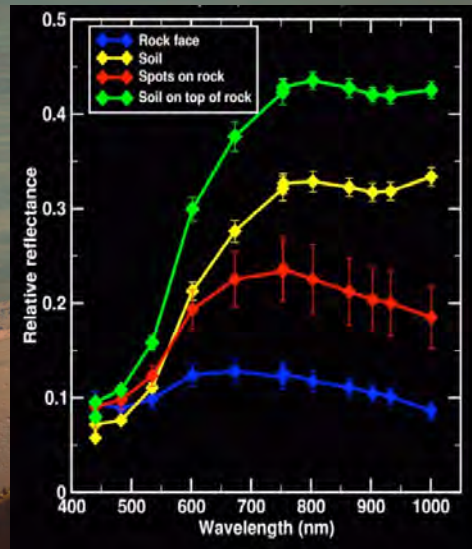
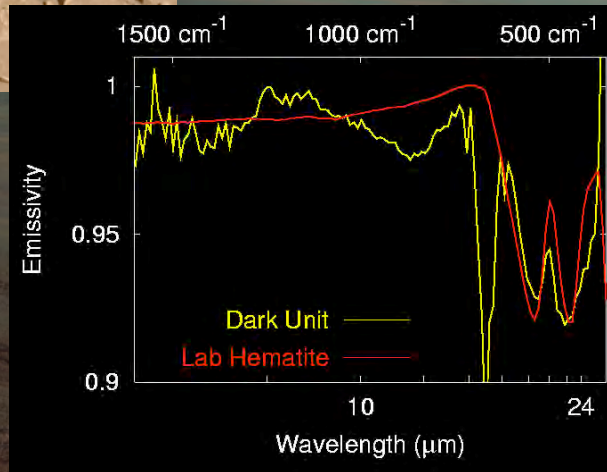
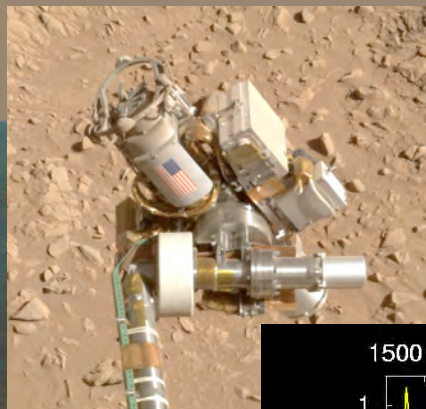




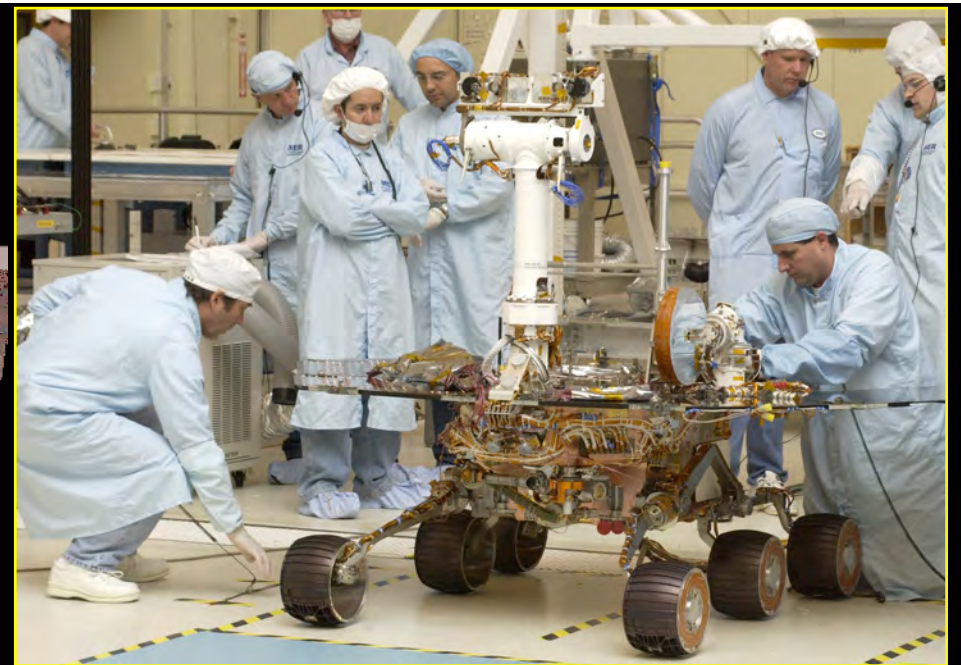
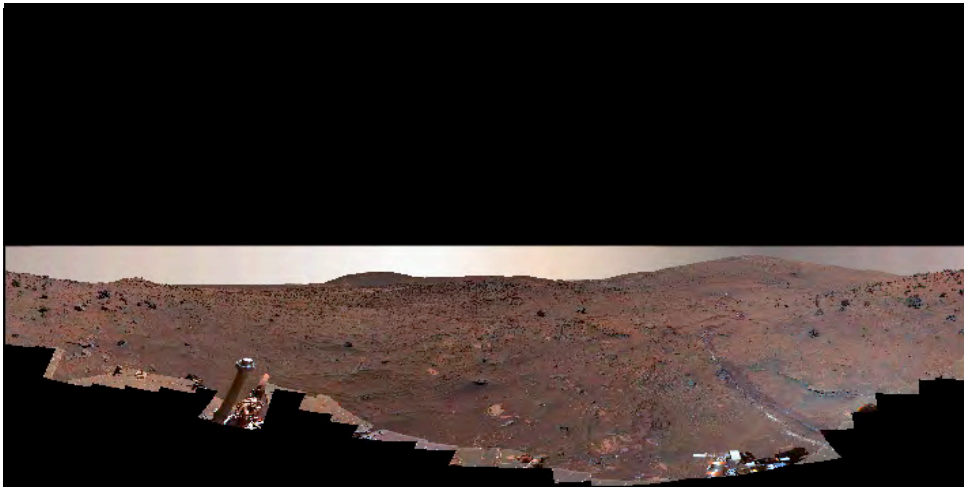
# GLOBAL GEOLOGIC CONTEXT



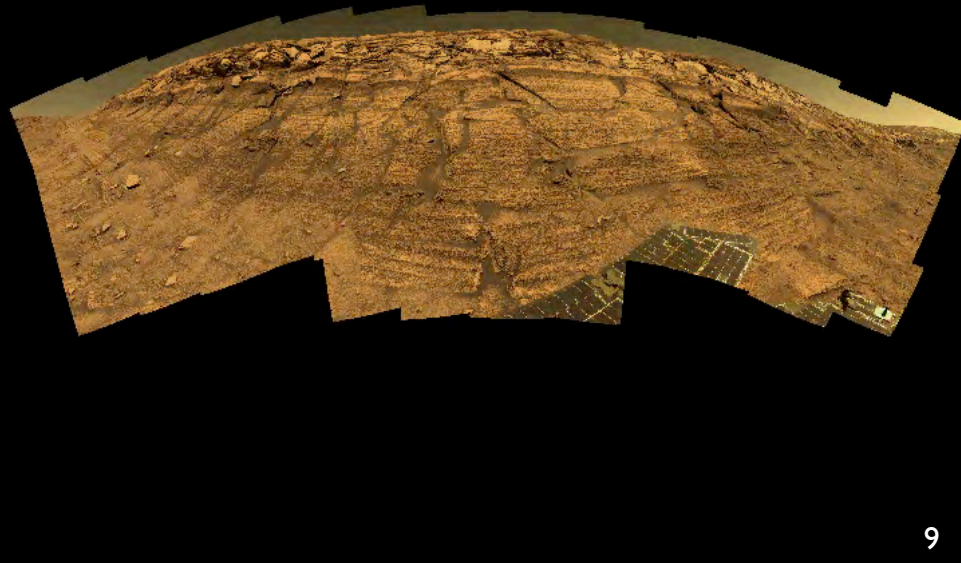
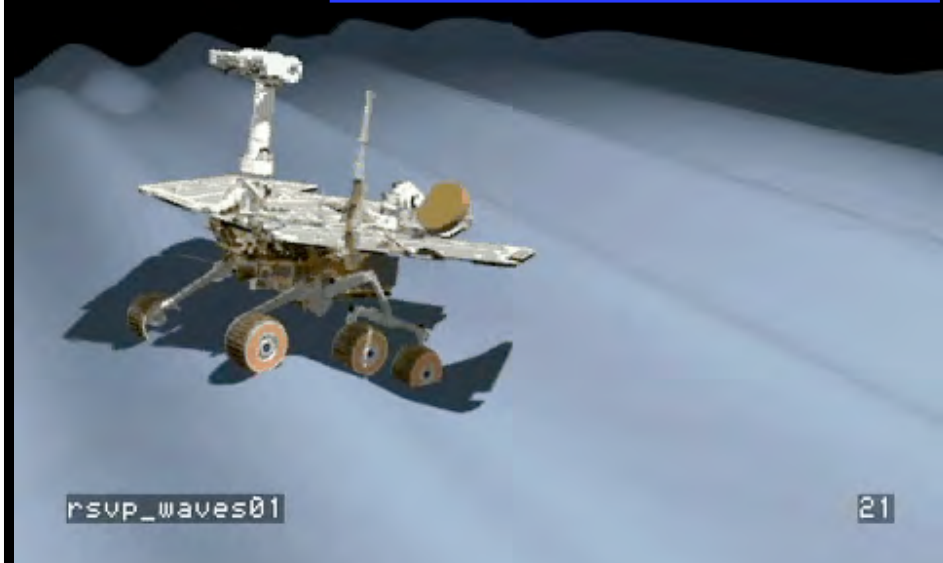
# P.I.-LED SCIENCE



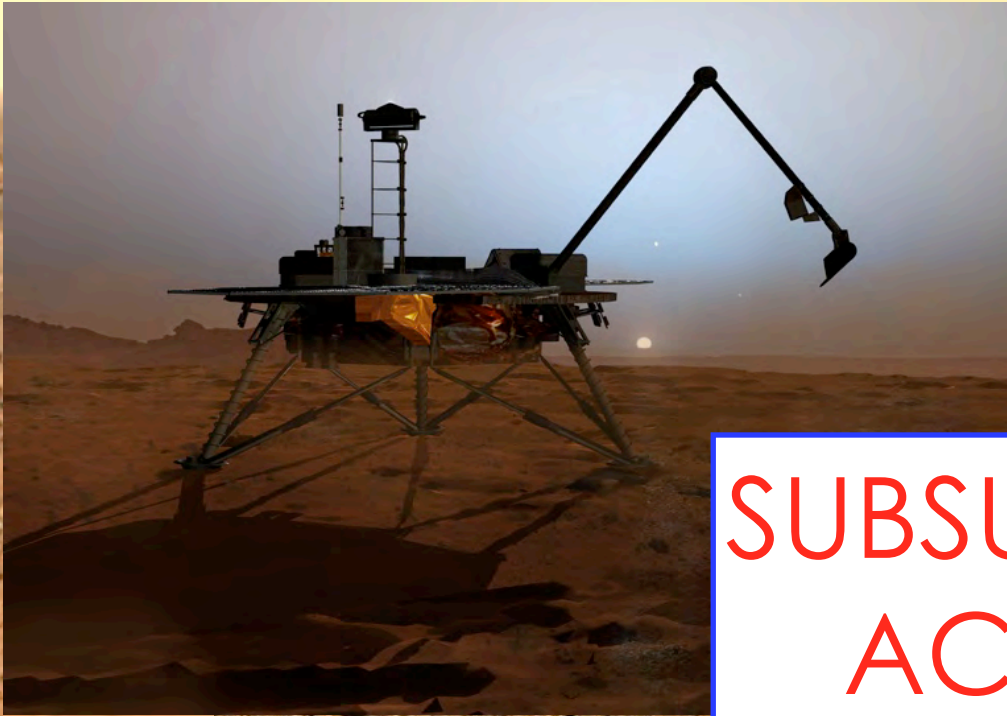




MOBILITY!!!



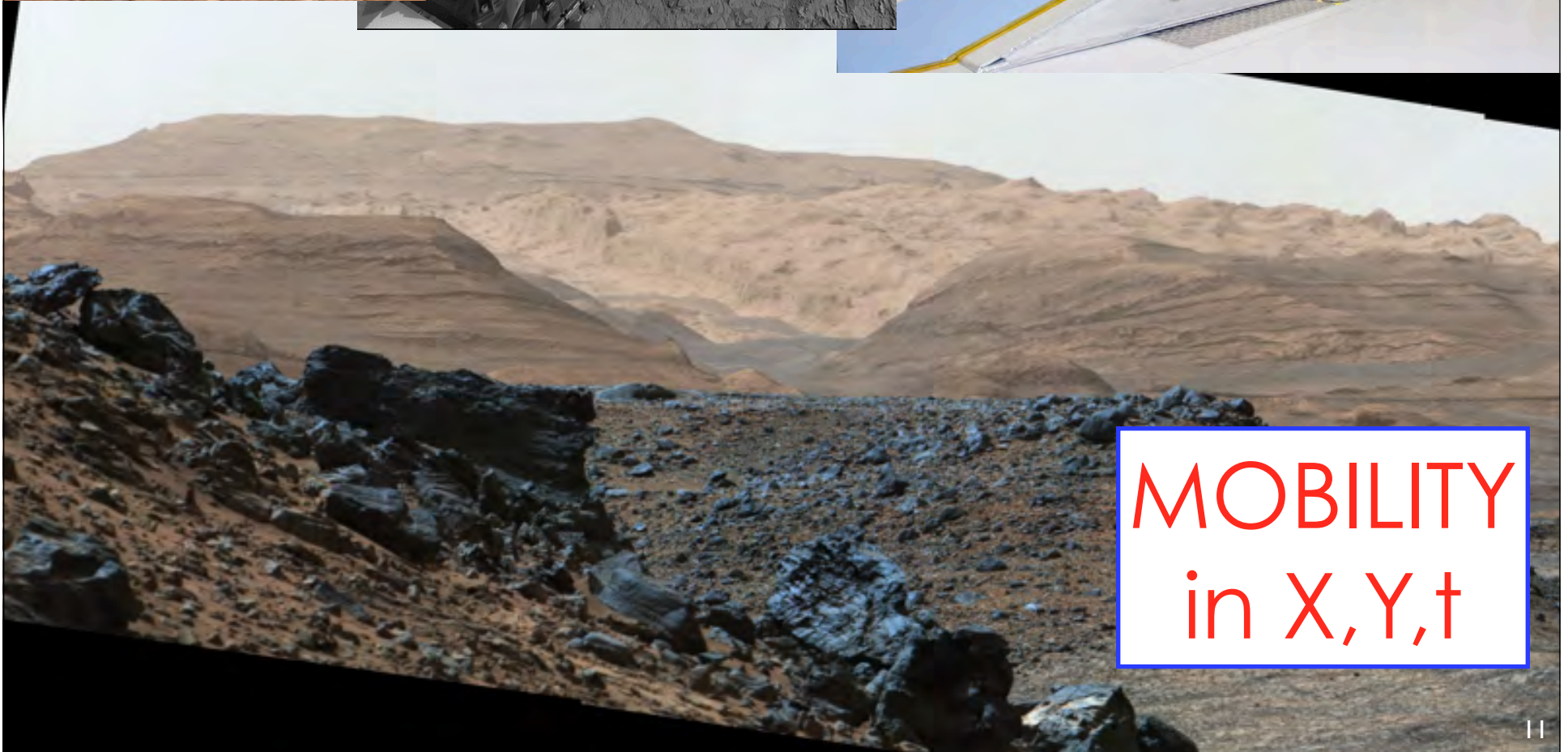




# SUBSURFACE ACCESS





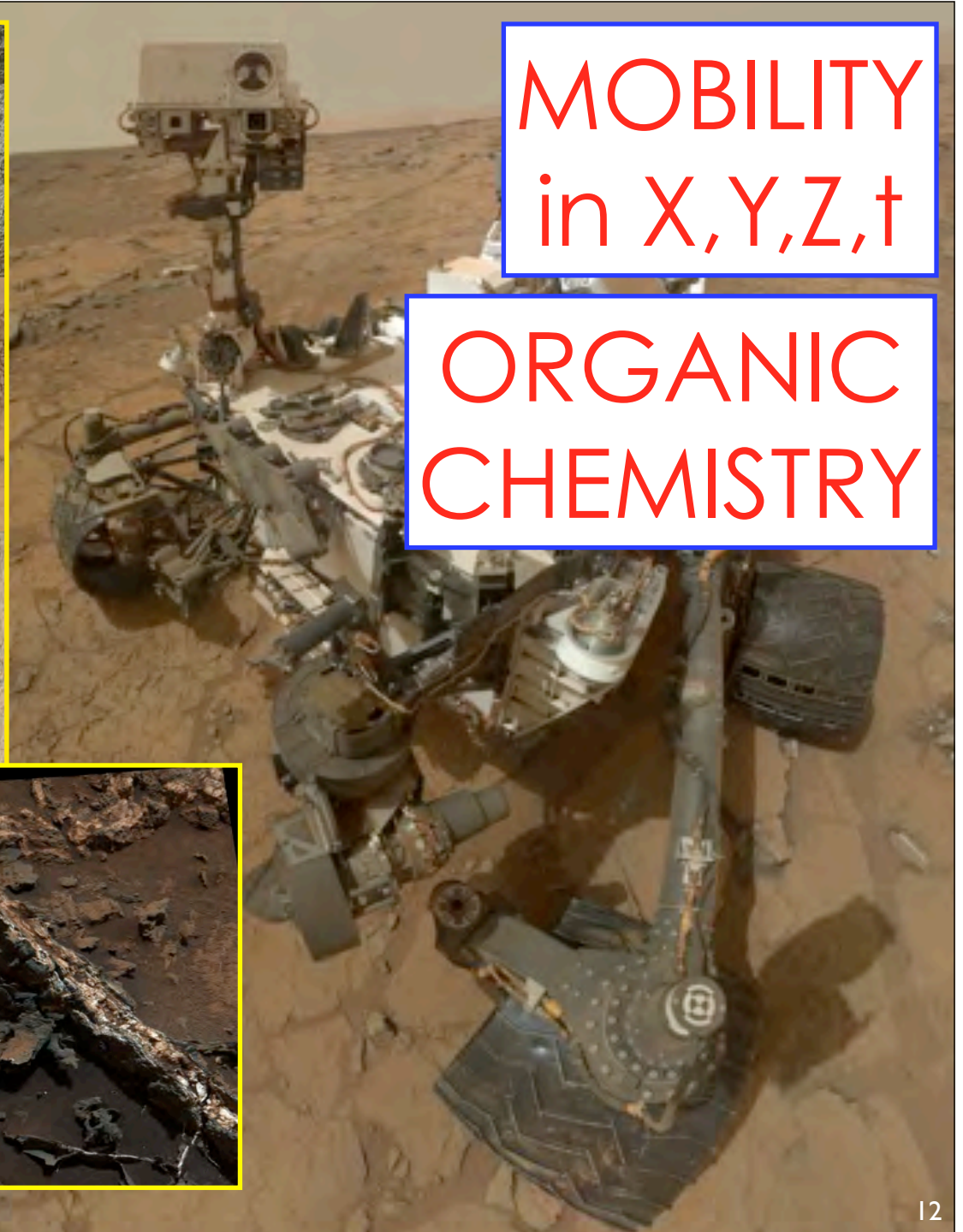


MOBILITY  
in X,Y,t



MOBILITY  
in X,Y,Z,t

ORGANIC  
CHEMISTRY





# JOURNEY TO MARS



1. Robotic exploration IS  
human exploration

MOBILITY  
in X,Y,Z,t

ASTROBIOLOGY

SUBSURFACE  
ACCESS

P.I.-LED  
SCIENCE

GLOBAL  
GEOLOGIC  
CONTEXT



# JOURNEY TO MARS



## 2. Robotic exploration ENABLES SCIENCE and human exploration

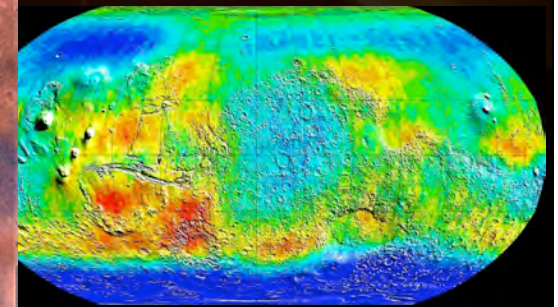
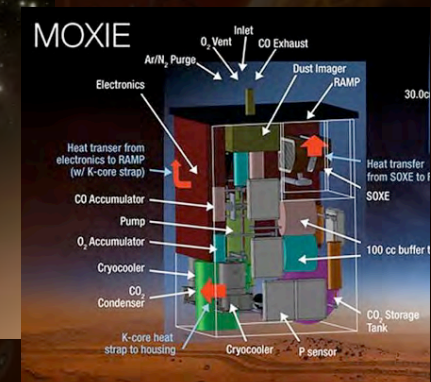
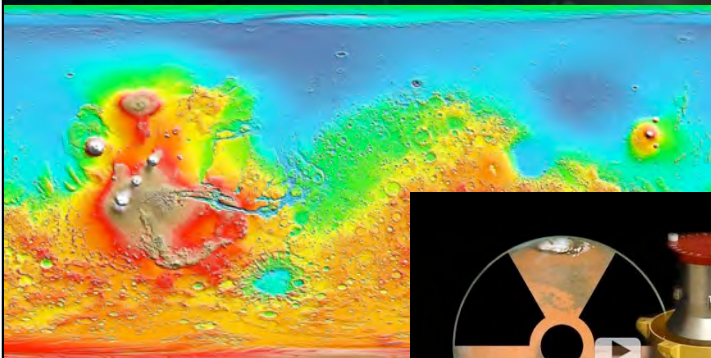




# JOURNEY TO MARS



## 2. Robotic exploration ENABLES science AND HUMAN EXPLORATION





# JOURNEY TO MARS



## 3. LATENCY is complex, and its role in future exploration needs careful study



"...the unfortunate truth is that most things our rovers can do in a perfect sol a human explorer could do in less than a minute."  
- Steve Squyres, *Roving Mars*

COMMERCIAL  
CARGO AND CREW

ORION

SOLAR  
ELECTRIC  
PROPULSION

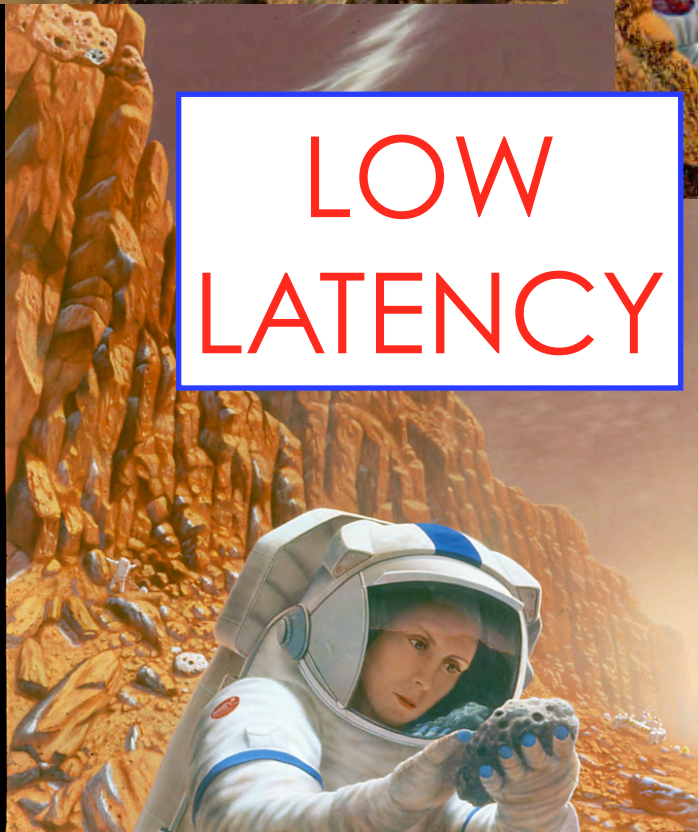
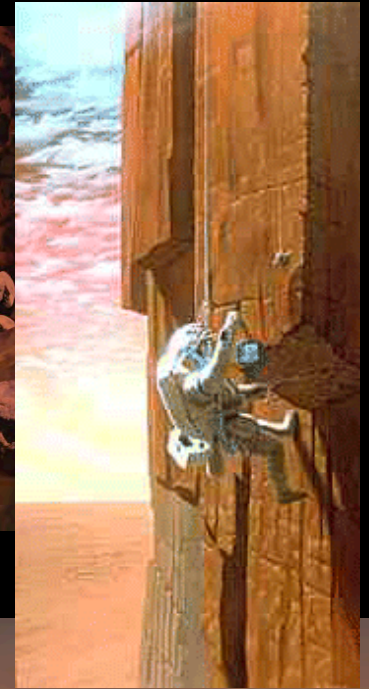
ASTEROID  
REDIRECT  
MISSION

IN-SPACE  
HABITAT

MARS  
TRANSFER  
SPACECRAFT



LOW  
LATENCY







UNIQUE CAPABILITIES  
FOR CONSTRUCTION  
AND REPAIR

COGNITION

ADAPTABILITY

LOW  
LATENCY

EXPERIENCE-BASED  
AND/OR  
OPPORTUNISTIC  
DECISION MAKING

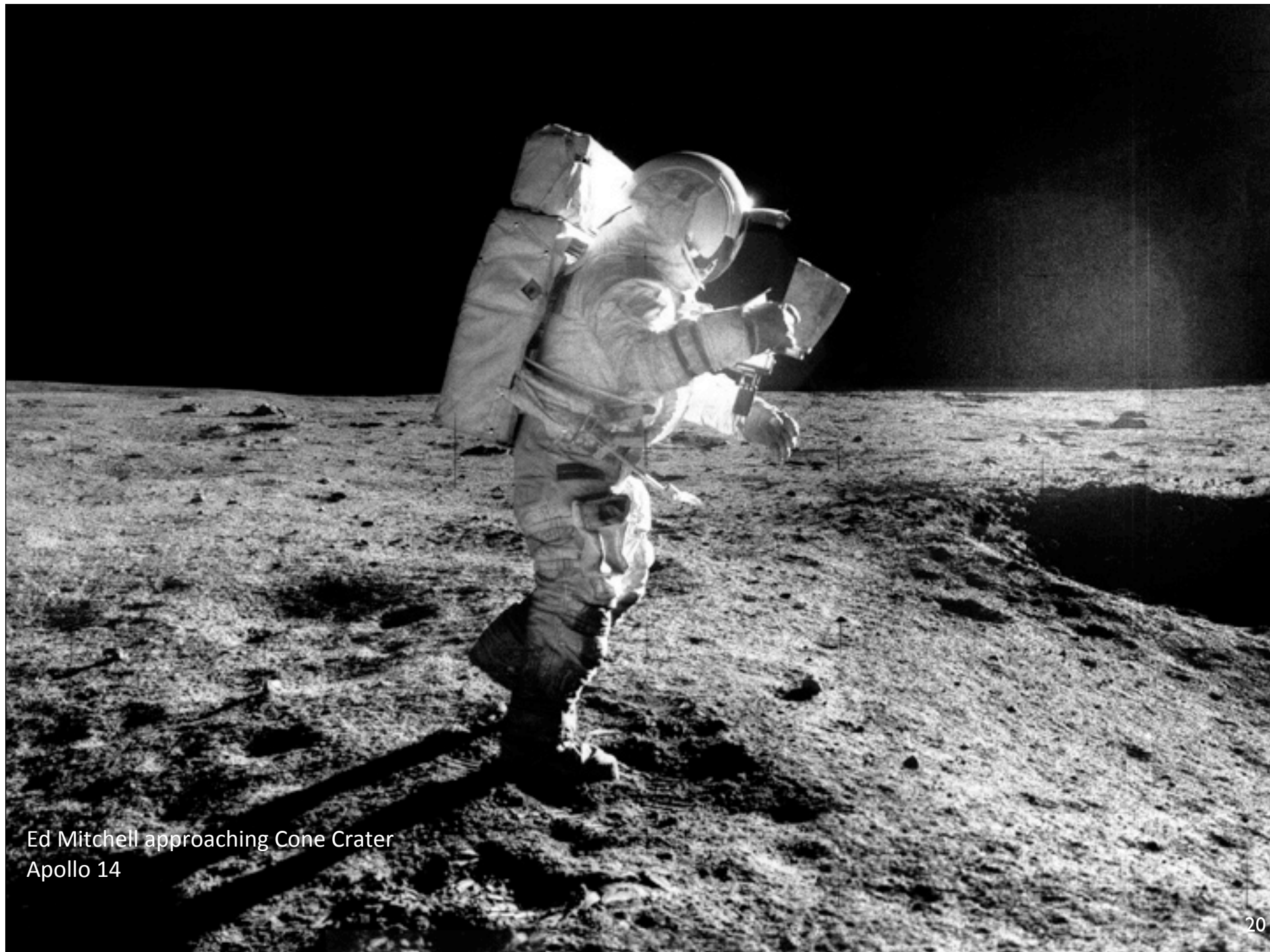
FLEXIBILITY





BUT LATENCY  
IS COMPLEX





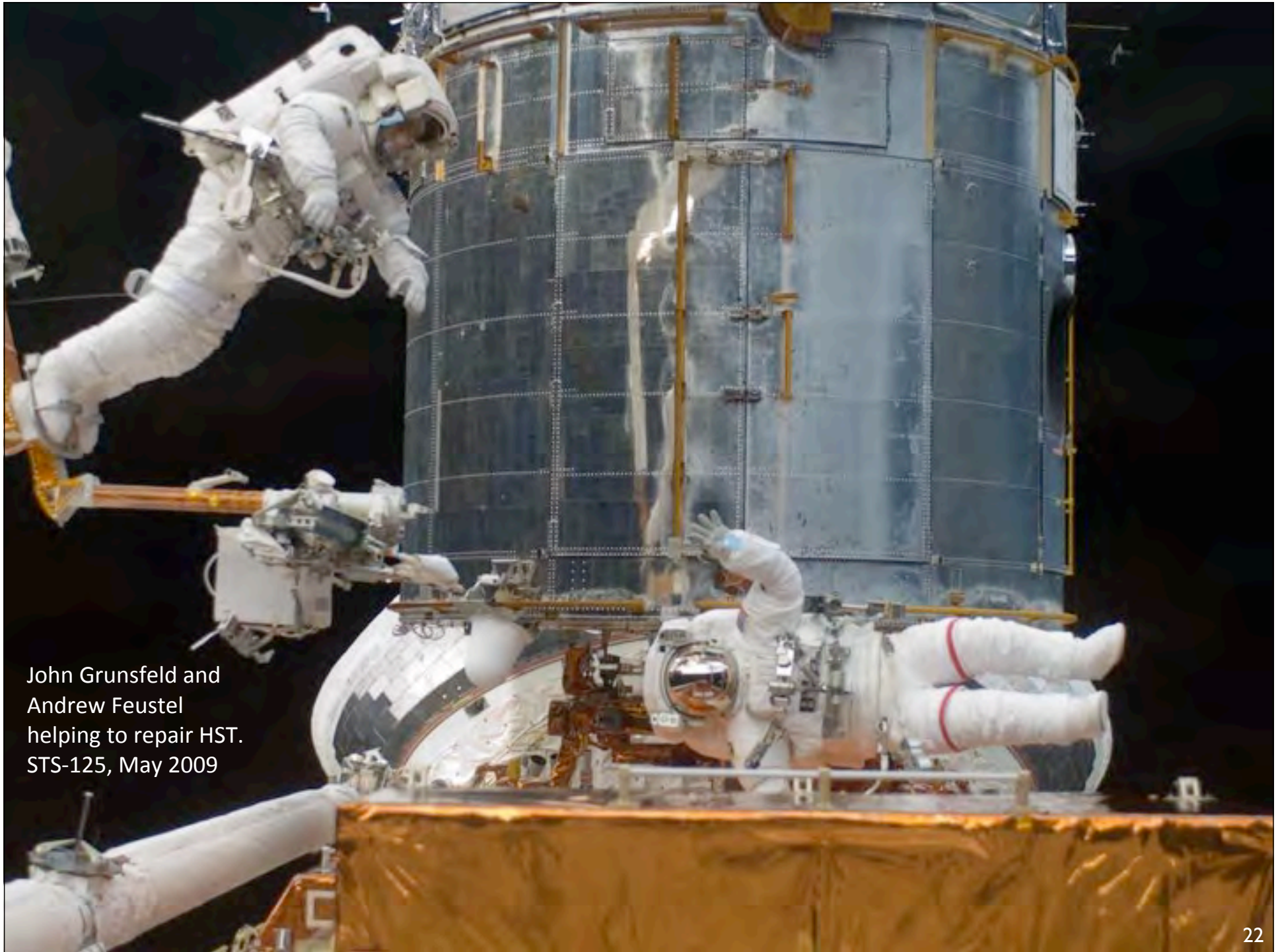
Ed Mitchell approaching Cone Crater  
Apollo 14





Charlie Duke sampling rock-shielded materials  
Apollo 16



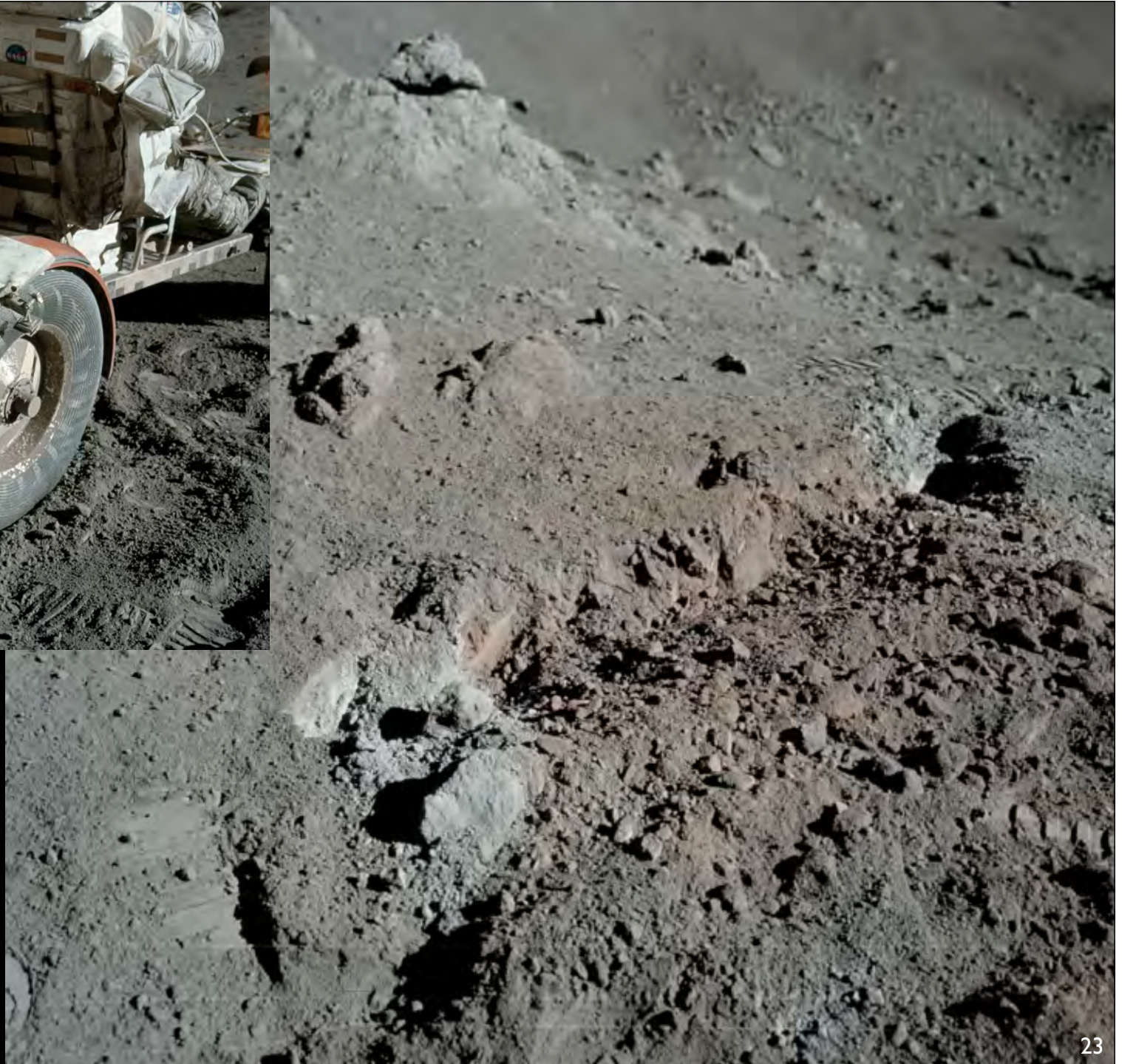


John Grunsfeld and  
Andrew Feustel  
helping to repair HST.  
STS-125, May 2009





Improvised rover  
repair by Gene Cernan  
and Jack Schmitt helps  
enable the discovery  
of orange soil near  
Shorty crater.  
Apollo 17







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## Crew on the ISS: Creativity or determinism?

Sergey K. Krikalev, Alexander Yu. Kalery, Igor V. Sorokin\*

*S.P. Korolev Rocket and Space Corporation Energia (RSC Energia), 4A, Lenin Street, Korolev City, Moscow region 141070, Russia*

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Flight control flexibility

### ABSTRACT

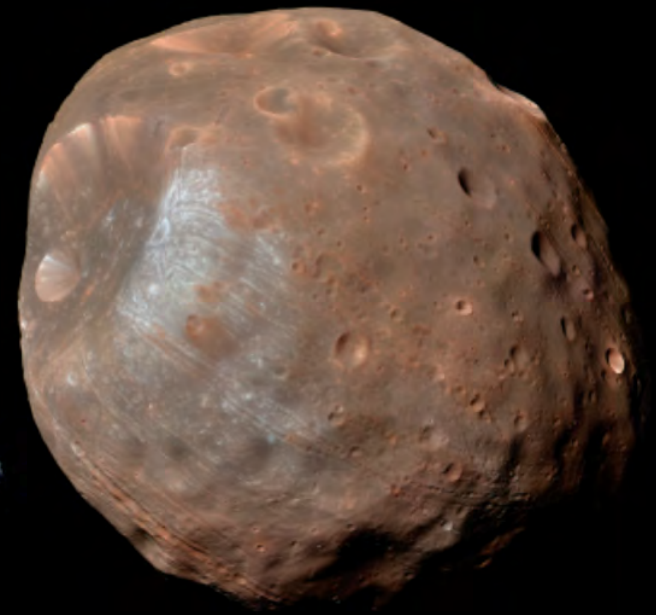
Analyzing the experience of human flights to the *Mir* space station in 1986–2000 and to the ISS in 2000–2008, as well as *Space Shuttle* missions we can define structural and organizational tendencies in human missions to space and mission support. The tendency to the increased determinism in flight operations leads to lower flexibility of the “Crew-Mission Control Center” link in case of contingency. We justify the necessity to reduce the centralization of the control process and to hand over some mission control centers (MCC) authority to the International Space Station (ISS) crew. We conclude that human missions to the Moon and Mars where crew actions will be independent to a high degree will be impossible without resolution of this issue. Creativity and determinism should be properly balanced.

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# HUMANS ORBITING MARS

THE PLANETARY SOCIETY  
March 31–April 1, 2015  
Washington, D.C.







# HOW TO BEST DEPLOY LOW LATENCY FOR TELEROBOTICS?

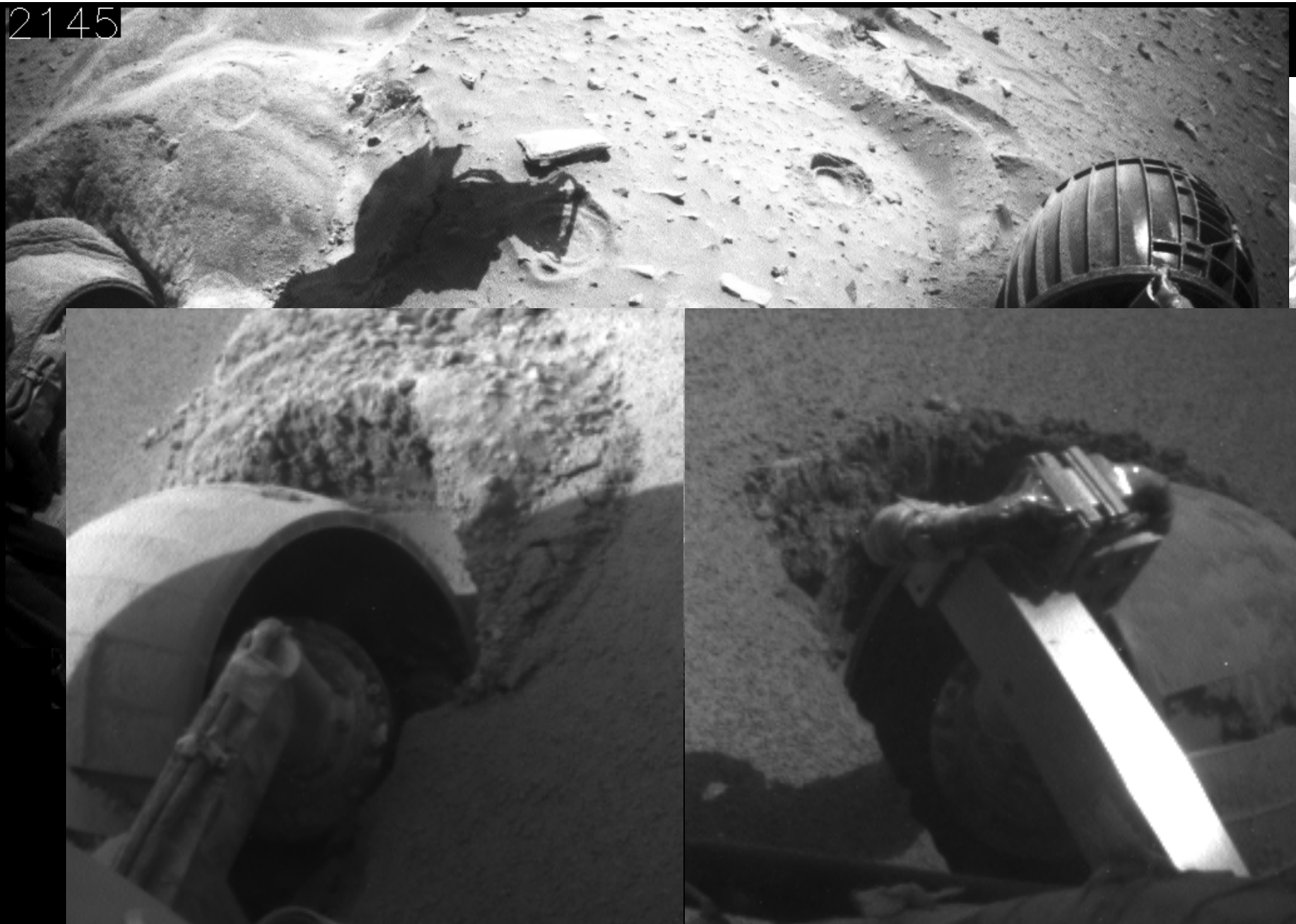


First 12 drill holes in  
Gale Crater (through sol 1261)...

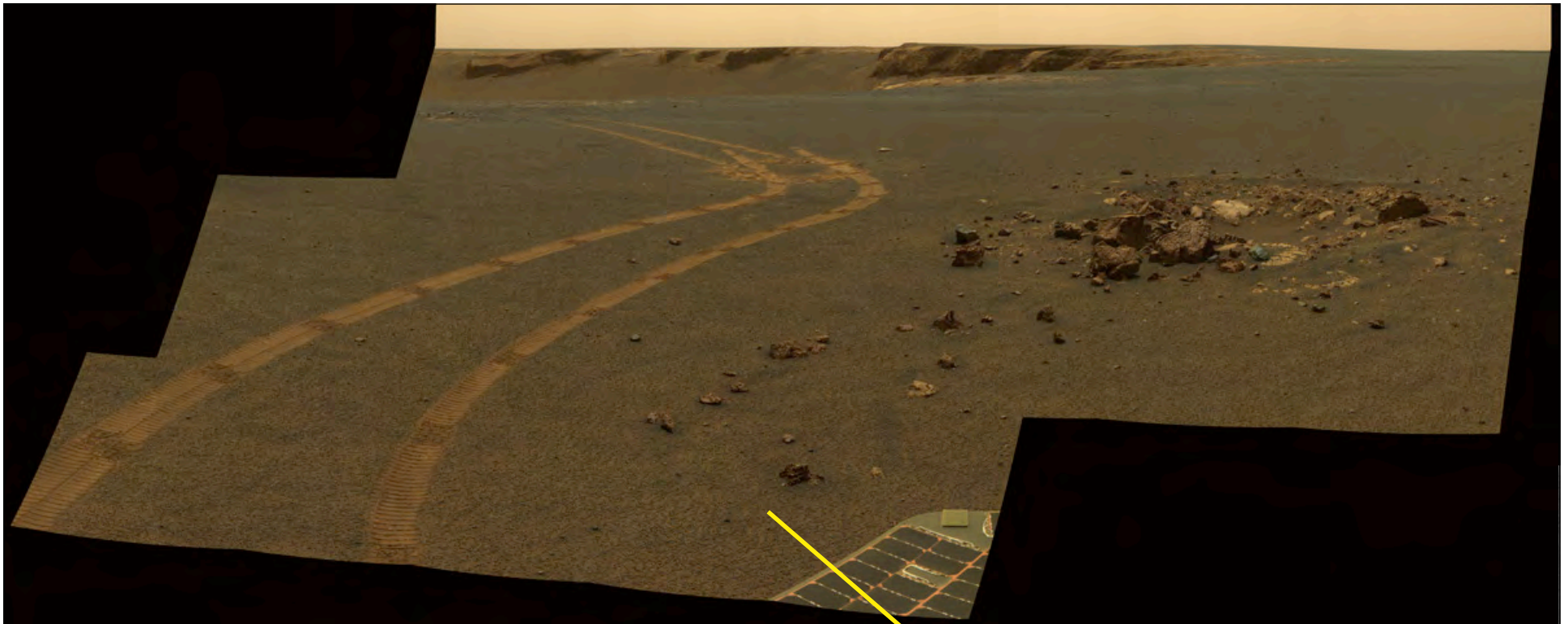




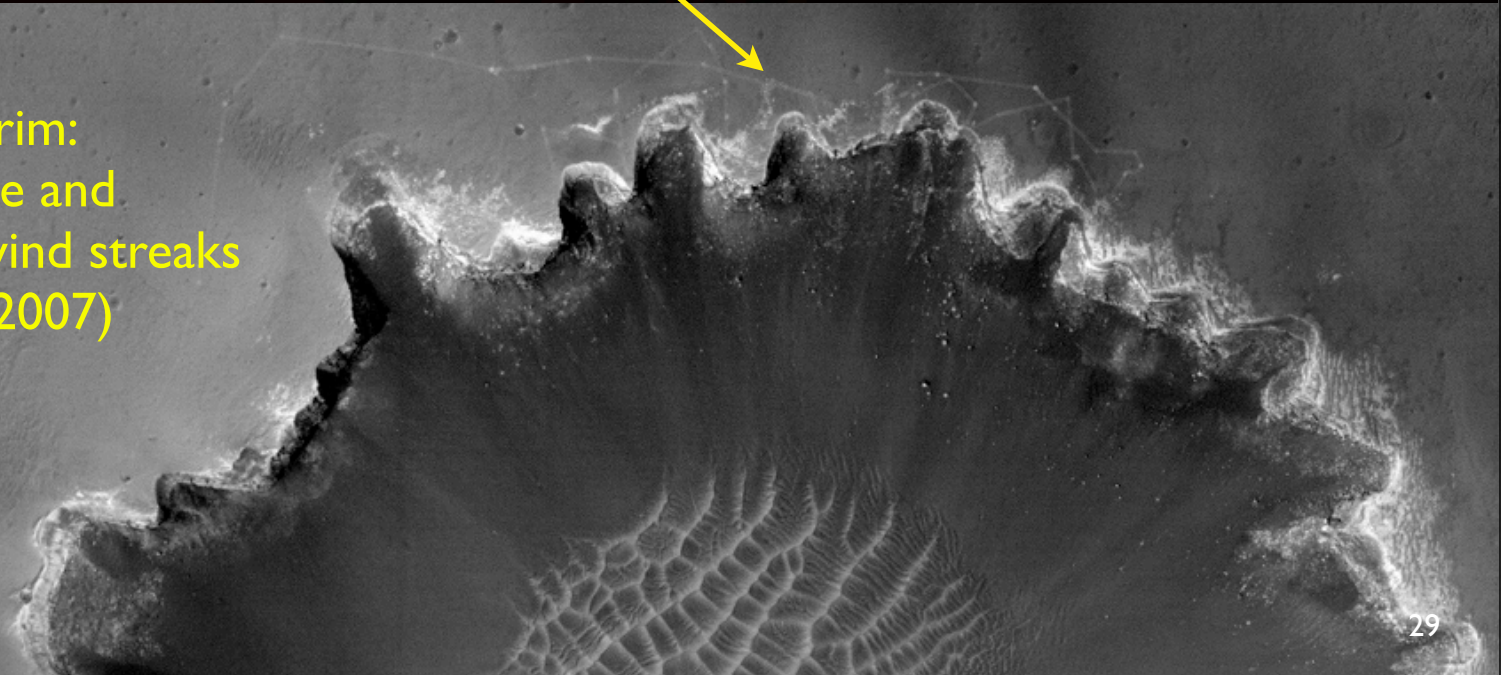
2145



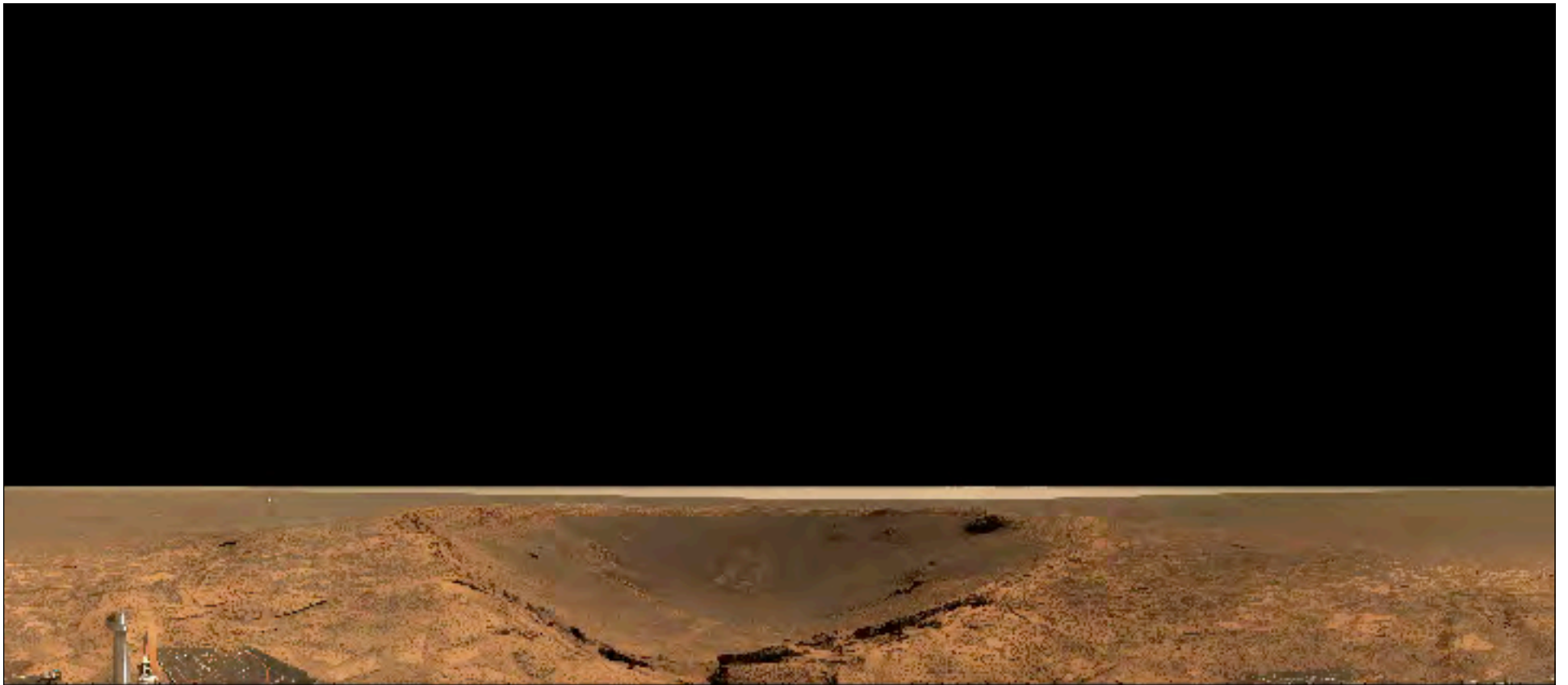




Driving along the rim:  
Obstacle avoidance and  
mapping of dark wind streaks  
Sol 1162 (May 2, 2007)









# Important Drivers

- Is there added science and/or exploration value that telerobotic operations from Mars orbit provides, given the risks that the crew will be exposed to?
- If so, what specific attributes does low-latency provide that is worth that risk, versus just living with the current delay in communications?
- If not, are there technological advances or innovations that *could* provide that added value, helping to focus current/future development work?



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