

# 1 Volatiles and refractories in surface- 2 bounded exospheres in the inner Solar 3 System

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## 51 **Abstract**

52 Volatiles and refractories represent the two end-members in the volatility range of species in any  
53 surface-bounded exosphere. Volatiles include elements that do not interact strongly with the  
54 surface, such as neon (detected on the Moon) and helium (detected both on the Moon and at  
55 Mercury), but also argon, a noble gas (detected on the Moon) that surprisingly adsorbs at the  
56 cold lunar nighttime surface. Refractories include species such as calcium, magnesium, iron, and  
57 aluminum, all of which have very strong bonds with the lunar surface and thus need energetic  
58 processes to be ejected into the exosphere. Here we focus on the properties of species that have  
59 been detected in the exospheres of inner Solar System bodies, specifically the Moon and  
60 Mercury, and how they provide important information to understand source and loss processes of  
61 these exospheres, as well as their dependence on variations in external drivers.

## 62 **1. Introduction**

63 Volatiles and refractories are subject to different loss and source processes, and each provides  
64 different insights on the behavior of the exospheres of such species. Calcium and magnesium, for  
65 example, are predominantly ejected via micrometeoroid impact vaporization (probably in  
66 molecular compounds) and (to a lesser extent) sputtering; therefore, they are species of interest  
67 to study the exospheric response to micrometeoroid flux (**Chapter by Janches**). On the other  
68 hand, helium is an element of predominantly solar wind origin that has been detected at both  
69 Mercury and the Moon. As such, it offers the opportunity to study the response to the same  
70 external driver (solar wind flux) of two very different exospheres: one (Mercury's) embedded in  
71 its own magnetosphere; the other (the Moon's) directly exposed to solar wind bombardment  
72 except for  $\sim 1/6$  of its orbit when the solar wind is effectively shielded by the Earth's magnetotail.  
73 In this regard, it is fortunate that the two most prominent surface-bounded exospheres in the  
74 inner Solar System for which we have measurements are so different, as they highlight the  
75 relative importance of different source and loss processes. We discuss volatiles and refractories  
76 in Sections 2 and 3, respectively. Section 4 discusses the "missing" species, i.e. those for which a  
77 detection has been expected in these exospheres but so far have not been achieved. Section 5  
78 briefly discusses ions and Energetic Neutral Atoms, as they also play an important role in  
79 determining the loss rate and composition of a surface-bounded exosphere. Section 6 recaps the  
80 overall discussion. Future considerations for needed laboratory measurements, modeling  
81 improvements, and further observations are summarized in Section 7. Species with different  
82 volatility, such as the alkalis Na and K and OH/H<sub>2</sub>O, are discussed within the **chapters by**  
83 **Leblanc** and **Schörghofer**, respectively.

## 84 **2. Volatiles**

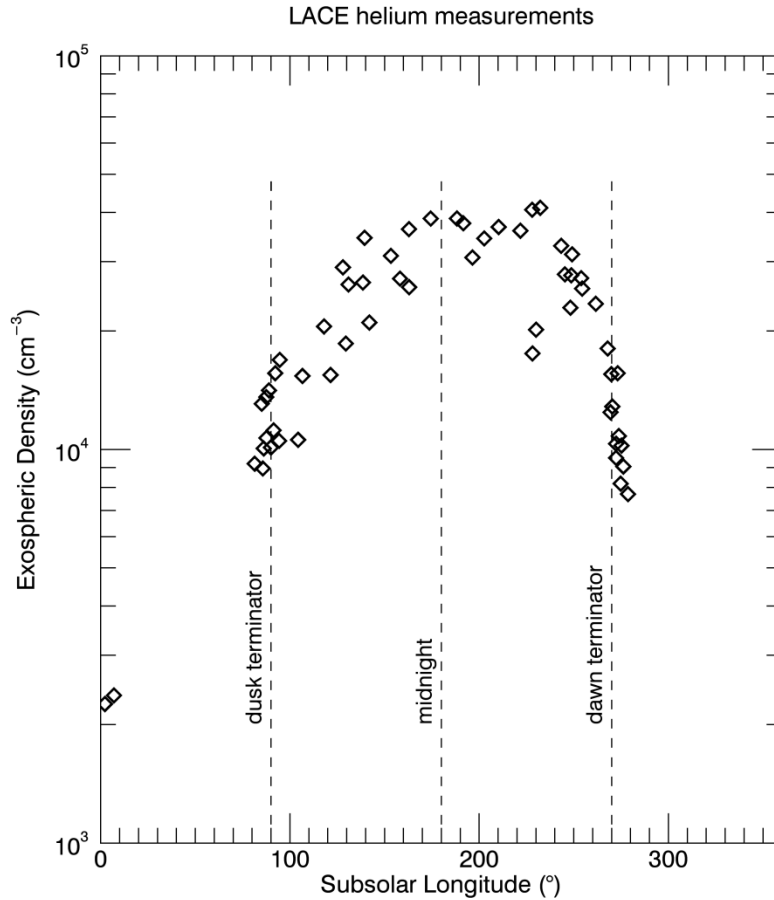
85 This section discusses the species with the highest volatility (and hence mobility), including the  
86 two most prominent noble gases, helium (Subsection 2.1) and argon (Subsection 2.2). These are  
87 the species for which a solid database of observations exists (for helium at both Mercury and the

88 Moon), and they represent endogenic species ( $^{40}\text{Ar}$  much more than  $^4\text{He}$ ). Argon, in particular, is  
89 important in studying how surface-bounded exospheres are shaped by temporary cold trapping.  
90 Subsection 2.3 closes with a discussion of other volatiles, most of which give insights into how  
91 the exosphere reacts to the variations in the solar wind.

## 92 **2.1 Helium**

93 Helium ( $^4\text{He}$ ) has been detected on both the Moon and Mercury. In both cases, the dominant  
94 source of exospheric helium is implantation of solar wind alpha particles ( $\text{He}^{++}$ ) on the surface  
95 and their subsequent release into the exosphere as neutrals.

96 On the Moon, helium was one of the first exospheric species discovered by the Lunar  
97 Atmosphere Composition Experiment (LACE) mass spectrometer deployed during the Apollo 17  
98 mission (Hoffman et al., 1973). The measurements, taken during nine lunations at nighttime  
99 (during the day, LACE counts were overwhelmed by outgassing from the instrument itself),  
100 showed an increase of exospheric surface density from dusk up to ~2 AM local time (peak of ~3  
101  $\times 10^4 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ ), followed by a decrease towards dawn (see Figure 1).



102

103 **Figure 1. Exospheric number densities for  $^4\text{He}$  measured at the lunar surface by the LACE mass spectrometer (Apollo 17)**  
 104 **during nine lunations in 1972 and 1973. Subsolar longitudes are angles from the subsolar point. The two points at noon**  
 105 **represent sporadic checks when the instrument was briefly turned on at noon. Adapted from Hoffman et al. (1973).**

106 This profile was predicted by Hodges & Johnson (1968) and explained as a result of helium  
 107 atoms not adsorbing even at the cold lunar nighttime surface. As a result, the exospheric density,  
 108  $n$ , is inversely proportional to the surface temperature  $T$ :  $n \sim T^{-5/2}$  (Hodges & Johnson, 1968).  
 109 Correlation between the helium exospheric density measured by LACE and the geomagnetic  
 110 index (a proxy for solar activity) revealed that alpha particles from the solar wind are the main  
 111 source of lunar  $^4\text{He}$  (Hodges & Hoffman, 1974). These particles continuously bombard the lunar  
 112 surface unimpeded by a magnetosphere except for when the Moon is inside the Earth's  
 113 magnetotail (during  $\sim 2$  days around full moon), become neutralized, and finally are released as  
 114 neutrals into the exosphere. LACE observations were adequately described by an exospheric  
 115 model in which helium atoms are in thermal equilibrium with the lunar surface and where  
 116 gravitational escape is the dominant loss process, with photoionization being a secondary but  
 117 non-negligible loss process (e.g. Hodges, 1973).

118 On Mercury, helium was detected by the UltraViolet Spectrometer (UVS) aboard Mariner 10  
 119 (Broadfoot et al., 1974) through observation of the 58.4 nm resonant scattering emission line

120 (HeI). The vertical column density above the subsolar point was  $7 \times 10^{11} \text{ cm}^{-2}$  for a derived  
121 subsolar exospheric surface density of  $4.5 \times 10^3 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ . The altitude profile observed above the  
122 subsolar point could be explained by a relatively simple exospheric model that assumes complete  
123 saturation of Mercury's surface with helium and a full thermal accommodation with the surface.  
124 However, observations taken close to the terminator could not be explained by the same model  
125 (Broadfoot et al., 1976).

126 The fact that at the Moon helium could be reasonably explained by a full thermal  
127 accommodation with the surface, whereas at Mercury this appeared not to be the case, was  
128 interpreted to originate from the poor knowledge of the gas-surface interaction. The exchange of  
129 energy between exospheric atoms and an airless body's surface is described by the  
130 accommodation coefficient  $\alpha$  (e.g. Hunten et al., 1988):

$$\alpha = \frac{E_{out} - E_{in}}{E_T - E_{in}}$$

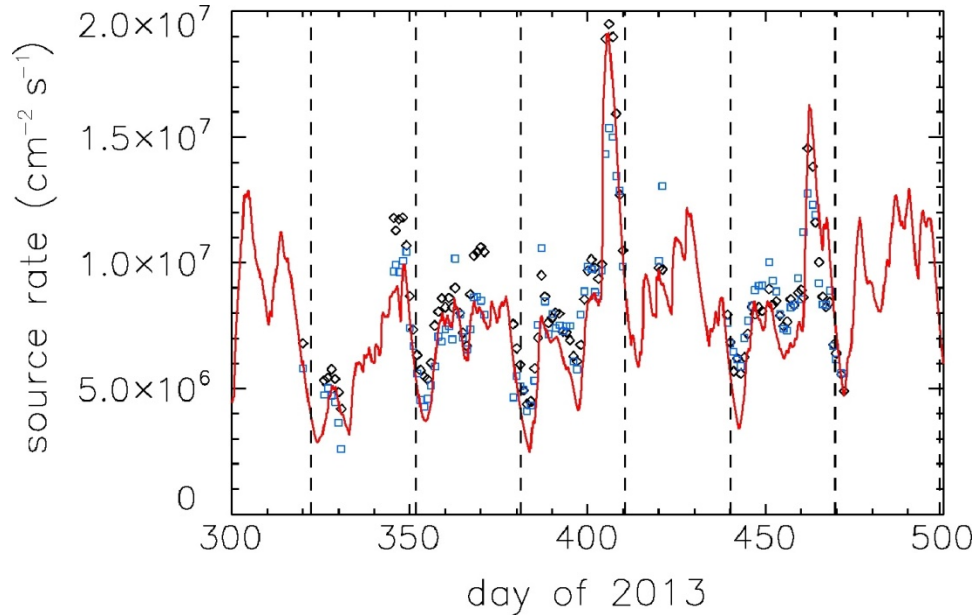
131 where  $E_{out}$  is the energy of the atom or molecule after the collision,  $E_{in}$  is its energy prior to the  
132 collision, and  $E_T$  is the energy of the atom in thermal equilibrium with the surface. When  $\alpha =$   
133  $1.0$ ,  $E_{out} = E_T$  and the atom leaves the surface with an energy corresponding to thermal  
134 equilibrium with the surface. In this case, the surface temperature is what controls the energy of  
135 the atoms, and therefore the structure (and escape) of the exosphere. Larger hop length on hotter  
136 surfaces implies that non-adsorbable species will accumulate in the nightside exosphere.  
137 Conversely, with  $\alpha < 1.0$  the exosphere is less dependent on the surface temperature. Early  
138 modelers of the lunar exospheres (Hartle & Thomas, 1974; Hodges, 1975) used  $\alpha = 1.0$  on the  
139 assumption that the lunar surface is saturated with helium, an assumption based on results from  
140 the Apollo 11 Solar Wind Composition experiment (Bühler et al., 1969), which measured the  
141 solar wind flux impacting the Moon. This experiment revealed that this flux was high enough to  
142 establish saturation within just tens of thousands of years (Banks et al., 1970). When the Mariner  
143 10 observations were published, Hartle et al. (1975) proposed that the mismatch between model  
144 and observations at terminator could be caused by not knowing the surface temperature close to  
145 the terminator with sufficient accuracy, perhaps owing to shadows cast by nearby reliefs (micro-  
146 shadows cast by grains, or macro-shadows cast by ridges and crater rims): if  $\alpha = 1.0$  and the  
147 surface temperature (and thus  $E_T$ ) is not known accurately, then  $E_{out}$  is poorly constrained. This  
148 would also explain why the altitude profiles above the subsolar point, where the temperature was  
149 better constrained, were better explained by the model. However, Shemansky & Broadfoot  
150 (1977) and Smith et al. (1978) noted that the atom-surface interaction involves single phonon  
151 collisions rather than multiple ones, and that  $\alpha$  depends on the Debye characteristic temperature  
152 of the surface lattice. Therefore, they postulated that full thermal accommodation was not  
153 justified. As such, helium is an important species for studying the gas-surface interaction in  
154 exospheres of airless bodies.

155 Helium is lost primarily via thermal escape. Simulations of the lunar exospheric helium by  
156 Hodges (1977a, 1978) that included solar radiation pressure and the gravitational attraction of the  
157 Sun and the Earth (besides that of the Moon) supported the existence of a vast helium corona  
158 around the Moon. This corona may extend to tens of lunar radii and is populated by satellite  
159 helium atoms whose periapsis is higher than the highest peak on the Moon; hence, they spend  
160 their entire lifetime in orbit until they are photoionized (after ~6 months). Some of these atoms  
161 may even reach the Earth's exosphere, suggesting the possibility of the existence of a "shared  
162 exosphere" between the Moon and the Earth.

163 Up to 10% of the lunar helium measured by LACE is not accounted for by the solar wind  
164 (Hodges, 1975). Hodges (1977b) proposed that this is endogenic lunar helium, coming from the  
165 radioactive decay of thorium and uranium within the lunar mantle and crust (Kockarts, 1973) and  
166 finding its way to the exosphere via cracks or fissures (Killen, 2002), the same way  $^{40}\text{Ar}$  does  
167 (see Section 2.2). The outgassing rate of endogenic  $^4\text{He}$  would then constrain the amount of  
168 radioactive elements in the lunar crust. The challenge is how to distinguish it from the dominant  
169 background, i.e., the solar-wind-derived helium. This intriguing topic has been addressed by  
170 spacecraft that detected helium in recent years. The Lyman Alpha Mapping Project (LAMP;  
171 Gladstone et al., 2010a) far-ultraviolet (FUV) imaging spectrograph onboard the Lunar  
172 Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO; Chin et al., 2007) made the first spectroscopic detection of  
173 helium, by observing the HeI emission line at 58.4 nm (Stern et al., 2012). The retrieved surface  
174 densities (obtained around dusk local time) were somewhat lower than those from LACE.  
175 Subsequent observations confirmed the 4.5-day decay constant (Feldman et al., 2012). In  
176 particular, the helium density was observed to decrease as soon as the Moon entered the Earth's  
177 magnetotail, and was thus shielded from the solar wind bombardment. Helium was measured in  
178 situ again by the Neutral Mass Spectrometer (NMS; Mahaffy et al., 2014) onboard the Lunar  
179 Atmosphere and Dust Environment Explorer (LADEE; Elphic et al., 2014). During LADEE's 7-  
180 month mission, NMS measured helium atom densities at a few tens of km altitude around the  
181 equator (Benna et al., 2015; see also Figure 7). At the same time, the twin spacecraft ARTEMIS  
182 (Acceleration, Reconnection, Turbulence and Electrodynamics of the Moon's Interaction with  
183 the Sun; Angelopoulos, 2011) was measuring the flux of solar wind alpha particles around the  
184 lunar environment. Therefore, Benna et al. (2015) could make a direct comparison between the  
185 direct source (solar wind alpha particles) and the resulting neutrals (helium atoms, measured by  
186 NMS), and found a positive correlation between the two. They also derived a value for the  
187 helium source rate that is not accounted for by the solar wind alpha particles and interpreted it to  
188 be the endogenic population mentioned by Hodges (1977b):  $(1.5\text{-}2.0) \times 10^6 \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ , or about 15-  
189 20% of the solar wind alpha particles influx, slightly higher than Hodges' estimate.

190 Later, the same two datasets were compared by Hurley et al. (2016) with LAMP surface  
191 densities derived from the HeI emission line. The three datasets, which offered three different  
192 "views" of the lunar helium (in situ measurements of neutral atoms and solar wind alpha  
193 particles, and remote sensing measurements of neutral atoms), agreed well with each other (see

194 Figure 2). The derived endogenic source rate, however, was considerably higher than previous  
 195 estimates and consistent with the one derived by Grava et al. (2016) using targeted LRO off-  
 196 nadir observations with LAMP: 35-40% of the solar wind. Clearly more observations are needed  
 197 to constrain this important source rate.



198  
 199 **Figure 2.** Three different datasets (neutral helium measured in situ by LADEE/NMS: black diamonds; neutral helium  
 200 measured remotely by LRO/LAMP: blue squares; solar wind alpha particles measured in situ by ARTEMIS/ESA: red  
 201 line) show strongly correlated source rates between solar wind alpha particles and lunar exospheric helium. Vertical lines  
 202 indicate times of full moon, when the geomagnetic tail effectively shields the Moon from the solar wind. Reproduced from  
 203 Hurley et al. (2016).

204 Recently, LAMP carried out a more extensive atmospheric campaign to map the lunar helium  
 205 over several latitudes, longitudes, and local times, comparing the column densities with  
 206 ARTEMIS solar wind alpha particles. The result of this multi-year long campaign, with more  
 207 than 170 orbits, points to an endogenic source rate of  $1.49 \pm 0.08 \times 10^6 \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ , or about 19% of  
 208 the solar wind (Grava et al., 2020), in agreement with the LADEE/NMS measurements and  
 209 slightly higher than the estimates of Hodges (1977b) based on the amount of thorium and  
 210 uranium within the crust estimated by Taylor & Jakeš (1974) and on the assumption that the  
 211 outgassing rate is the same as that for  $^{40}\text{Ar}$  (6% of the total production). The discrepancy might  
 212 mean that this assumption is wrong (helium is more volatile so its outgassing rate might be  
 213 higher) or that the outgassing of helium is sporadic, like that of  $^{40}\text{Ar}$ . Grava et al., (2020) also  
 214 found that the same dataset can be adequately reproduced by an exospheric model that assumes  
 215 full thermal accommodation ( $\alpha = 1.0$ ).

216 Finally, the mass spectrometer CHACE (CHandra’s Altitudinal Composition Explorer; Sridharan  
 217 et al., 2010) onboard the Moon Impact Probe (MIP) of the Chandrayaan-1 spacecraft (Goswami  
 218 & Annadurai, 2009) attempted the first measurement from a spacecraft of the lunar helium  
 219 dayside exosphere, but was able to place only an upper limit of  $800 \text{ cm}^{-3}$  (Das et al., 2017). This



220 low value arises from the combination of several factors: the observations were on the dayside  
221 (where the surface density is lowest), obtained during the magnetotail passage of the Moon  
222 (when the solar wind — the main source of helium — is deflected by Earth's magnetosphere and  
223 thus has no access to the lunar surface), and close in time to the minimum solar wind flux of  
224 cycle 24.

225 An isotope of helium of great interest is  $^3\text{He}$ , a potential clean energy source. Being scarce in the  
226 Earth's atmosphere and mantle yet abundant on the Moon, where it is delivered by the solar  
227 wind, it has gained attention particularly in recent times thanks to the renewed interest in lunar  
228 exploration. Thus far the only measurements are those from the surface. The  $^3\text{He}$  content in  
229 returned lunar samples correlates well with  $\text{TiO}_2$  content and maturity index  $I_s/\text{FeO}$  (Jordan,  
230 1989). Taking into account the estimated solar wind flux on the Moon, the correlation coefficient  
231 between the measured  $^3\text{He}$  content and the  $\text{TiO}_2$  content, the solar wind flux, and the maturity  
232 parameter in the nine Apollo soil samples studied is 0.944 (Johnson et al., 1999). A similar  
233 value, 0.938, was found in 25 Apollo soils by Fa & Jin (2007). These authors estimated the  $^3\text{He}$   
234 content on the surface of the Moon as  $C(^3\text{He}) = 0.56 * S(\text{TiO}_2) * (F/OMAT) + 1.62$ , where  $C(^3\text{He})$   
235 is in ppb,  $S(\text{TiO}_2)$  is the  $\text{TiO}_2$  content in wt%,  $F$  is the normalized solar flux, and  $OMAT$  is the  
236 maturity index taken from Lucey et al. (2000).

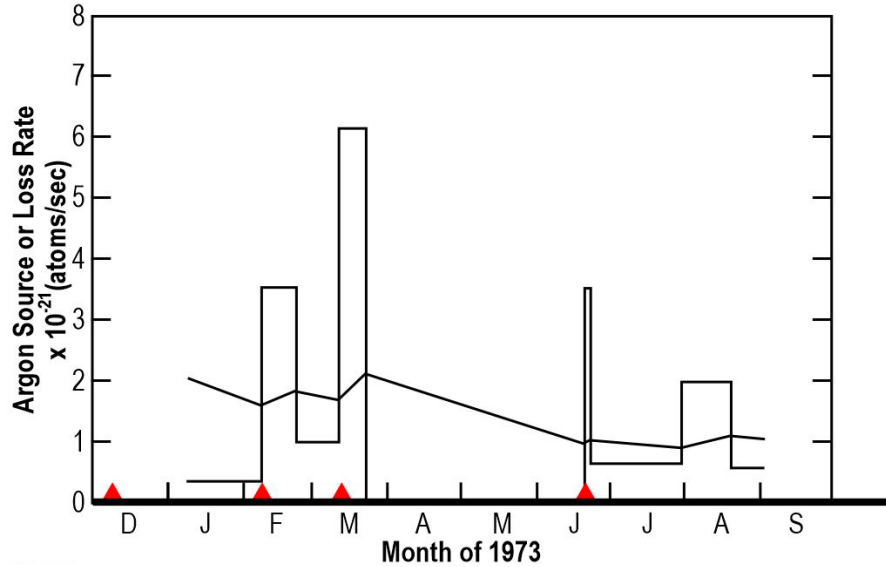
237 A physically plausible model of the observed correlation between  $^3\text{He}$  content,  $\text{TiO}_2$  content,  
238 solar wind flux, and soil maturity in returned lunar samples was developed by Shkuratov et al.  
239 (1999). In the returned lunar samples,  $^3\text{He}$  and  $^4\text{He}$  are stable at least at room temperature,  
240 meaning that these isotopes are strongly bounded in the regolith and have a high activation  
241 energy of diffusion in the soil.  $^3\text{He}$  and  $^4\text{He}$  are mainly delivered to the regolith by the solar  
242 wind, so that the content of these isotopes on the surface of the Moon should be correlated with  
243 the solar wind flux. The  $^3\text{He}$  atoms implanted into the regolith by the solar wind are captured in  
244 traps located in vacancies of the crystal grid. This means that the  $^3\text{He}$  content in the soil increases  
245 with increasing concentration of such traps. The degree of damage of the crystal lattice (soil  
246 maturity) increases with exposure to the solar wind bombardment, and thus with increasing age  
247 of the samples. The concentration of  $^3\text{He}$  traps depends on the soil maturity and on the volume  
248 fraction of minerals with a high content of vacancies (Scherzer, 1983). Experimental works show  
249 that irradiation of ilmenite ( $\text{FeTiO}_3$ , the main carrier of Ti on the surface of the Moon) by solar  
250 wind particles leads to the appearance of radiation-induced defects in the lattice, which are able  
251 to trap solar wind ions (Scherzer, 1983). Ilmenite is considered to be the most effective He  
252 trapper among main lunar minerals because it has a high concentration of vacancies.  
253 Incidentally,  $\text{OH}/\text{H}_2\text{O}$  content on the surface of the Moon is also correlated with  $\text{TiO}_2$  content  
254 (Wöhler et al., 2017), providing additional evidence that the  $\text{FeTiO}_3$  content is the main factor  
255 controlling the behavior of many volatiles on the surface of the Moon.

256 Maps of the  $^3\text{He}$  content on the lunar surface were calculated using the strong correlations  
257 between the  $^3\text{He}$  content and normalized solar wind flux at the point of collection of lunar  
258 samples, the  $\text{TiO}_2$  content, and optical maturity in returned lunar samples. Maps from different

259 authors are similar (Johnson et al., 1999; Fa & Jin, 2007; Kim et al., 2019). In general, the  $^3\text{He}$   
260 content is higher in the maria than in the highlands. The  $^3\text{He}$  content in low-Ti maria such as  
261 Mare Frigoris, Mare Imbrium, and Mare Serenitatis is also low, consistent with the  $\text{TiO}_2$ - $^3\text{He}$   
262 relationship mentioned earlier. A moderately high  $^3\text{He}$  content of 10–15 ppb is predicted in  
263 Oceanus Procellarum, the Apollo basin, Mare Orientale, Mare Fecunditatis, Mare Crisium, Mare  
264 Moscoviense, and Mare Marginis (Kim et al., 2019). The highest  $^3\text{He}$  concentrations of up to  
265 about 24 ppb are predicted for Ti-rich parts of Oceanus Procellarum, Mare Fecunditatis, Mare  
266 Tranquillitatis, Mare Crisium, Mare Marginis, and Mare Moscoviense (Kim et al., 2019). Hence,  
267 the expected  $^3\text{He}$  content on the Moon is highest in the western maria. One could therefore  
268 expect an enhancement in exospheric helium there. However, no such enhancement could be  
269 detected by either LRO/LAMP (Grava et al., 2020) or LADEE/NMS (Benna et al., 2015). It is  
270 noteworthy that LADEE/NMS did detect an enhancement in argon, another endogenic element,  
271 in the same region (western maria). A “helium bulge” would be difficult to detect from a single  
272 spacecraft, owing to the randomness of the outgassing location and owing to the large scale  
273 height and hop length of helium atoms. LAMP is not able to distinguish between  $^3\text{He}$  and  $^4\text{He}$ ,  
274 and LADEE/NMS did not detect it. However, a mass spectrometer such as LEMS (Benna et al.,  
275 2020), deployed at the lunar surface, would be able to distinguish between the two helium  
276 isotopes.

## 277 **2.2 Argon**

278 Argon ( $^{40}\text{Ar}$ ), like helium was discovered by LACE during the Apollo 17 mission. As opposed to  
279 the most common isotope,  $^{36}\text{Ar}$ , which comes from the solar wind,  $^{40}\text{Ar}$  is an endogenic species,  
280 a byproduct of the radiogenic decay of  $^{40}\text{K}$  within the lunar crust, which is released into the  
281 exosphere following diffusion, melting by impacts, or grinding of rocks (Killen, 2002). In fact,  
282 spikes in lunar argon-40 density measured by LACE occurred soon after high-frequency  
283 teleseismic events, or shallow moonquakes, recorded by the Apollo seismometers (Nakamura,  
284 1977; Hodges, 1977b; see also Figure 3).

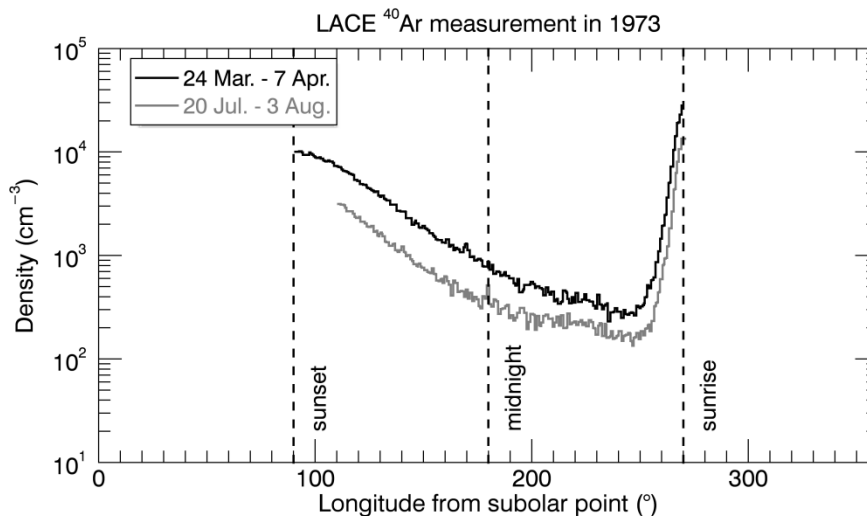


285

286 **Figure 3. Peaks in exospheric source rate of  $^{40}\text{Ar}$  measured by LACE (histogram) occurred soon after moonquakes**  
 287 **recorded by the Apollo seismometers (red triangles). The black line is the argon exospheric loss rate. Adapted from**  
 288 **Hodges (1977).**

289 Shallow moonquakes, which probably occur a few tens of km below the surface (Hodges, 1981;  
 290 Killen, 2002), may perturb the upper crust allowing the pockets of gas trapped in voids to diffuse  
 291 out into the exosphere.

292 The diurnal profile of  $^{40}\text{Ar}$  resembles that of a species that condenses at the cold nighttime  
 293 surface and is then released at dawn (Figure 4).



294

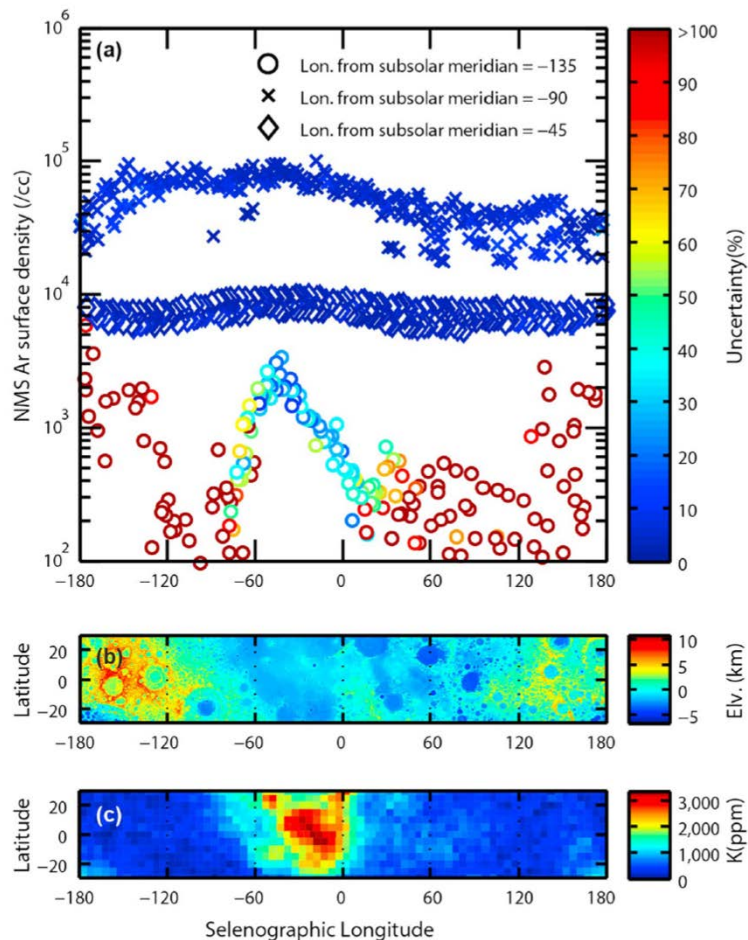
295 **Figure 4. The diurnal profiles obtained four months apart (four lunations) by LACE in 1973. Measurements were made**  
 296 **from dusk (90° subsolar longitude) to dawn (270° subsolar longitude). Adapted from Hodges (1975).**

297 This kind of behavior was not expected from a noble gas. The exospheric model that best  
 298 reproduced LACE observations required a heat of adsorption  $Q$  for  $^{40}\text{Ar}$  on the lunar surface of

299  $\sim 6500 \text{ cal mol}^{-1}$ , much higher than the value derived by adsorption experiments of  $^{40}\text{Ar}$  on glass  
300 ( $\sim 3800 \text{ cal mol}^{-1}$ ; Clausing, 1930). The heat of adsorption factors into the equation for the  
301 residence time of argon-40 atoms in a grain:

$$t_{res} = \frac{C}{T^2} \exp\left(\frac{4.19 \cdot Q}{RT}\right)$$

302 where  $Q$  is the heat of adsorption,  $C$  is a constant (expressed in  $\text{s K}^{-2}$ ),  $R$  is the gas constant,  $T$  is  
303 the surface temperature (in K), and 4.19 is the conversion factor between calories and Joules.  
304 Hodges (1980) attributed this very high value of  $Q$  for argon-40 (compared to laboratory  
305 measurements) to the high cleanliness of soil grains, which have been exposed for billions of  
306 years to the solar wind. Because it sticks efficiently to the cold lunar surface,  $^{40}\text{Ar}$  can be trapped  
307 in Permanently Shaded Regions (PSRs), areas at the lunar poles that never receive direct  
308 sunlight. The facts that argon is an endogenic gas, sticks at the surface, and can be deposited in  
309 PSRs where it can reside undisturbed for billions of years (Watson et al., 1961a,b; Arnold, 1979)  
310 make it a valuable species for studying the behavior of other molecules (most notably, water)  
311 that are difficult to measure ( $^{40}\text{Ar}$  has been detected even at tens of km of altitude by  
312 LADEE/NMS). Grava et al. (2015) estimated that, during LACE measurements ( $\sim 9$  months),  
313 1,900 kg of  $^{40}\text{Ar}$  were deposited in PSRs poleward of  $85^\circ \text{ N/S}$ , corresponding to 30% of the  
314 surface-ejected quantity, and that permanent cold trapping is a sink process for the exospheric  
315  $^{40}\text{Ar}$  comparable in magnitude to photoionization and charge exchange with solar protons.  
316 Roughly four decades later,  $^{40}\text{Ar}$  was detected again in the lunar exosphere by LADEE/NMS,  
317 which confirmed the exospheric surface density but also revealed a bulge in exospheric density  
318 above Oceanus Procellarum (Benna et al., 2015; see also Figure 5). This area (KREEP terrane) is  
319 rich in  $^{40}\text{K}$ , as measured by Lunar Prospector (Jolliff et al., 2000), and thus it is postulated that an  
320 enhanced diffusion of radiogenic gases occurs there. Two independent and concurrent  
321 simulations gave contradictory results, however. Hodges & Mahaffy (2016) found that the argon-  
322 40 bulge can be explained by a lower activation energy in that region and a very high activation  
323 energy ( $\sim 24,000 \text{ cal mol}^{-1}$ ) everywhere else. On the other hand, Kegerreis et al. (2017) found that  
324 the bulge can be explained by an enhanced outgassing rate in that region (the western maria).  
325 Modeling LADEE/NMS data, they found that, in general,  $^{40}\text{Ar}$  has higher exospheric densities  
326 above maria, compared to highlands. This second explanation agrees with the hypothesis that  
327 circular fault systems around impact basins (with which the western maria are replete) are the  
328 regions where deep moonquakes are more likely to occur (Runcorn, 1974).



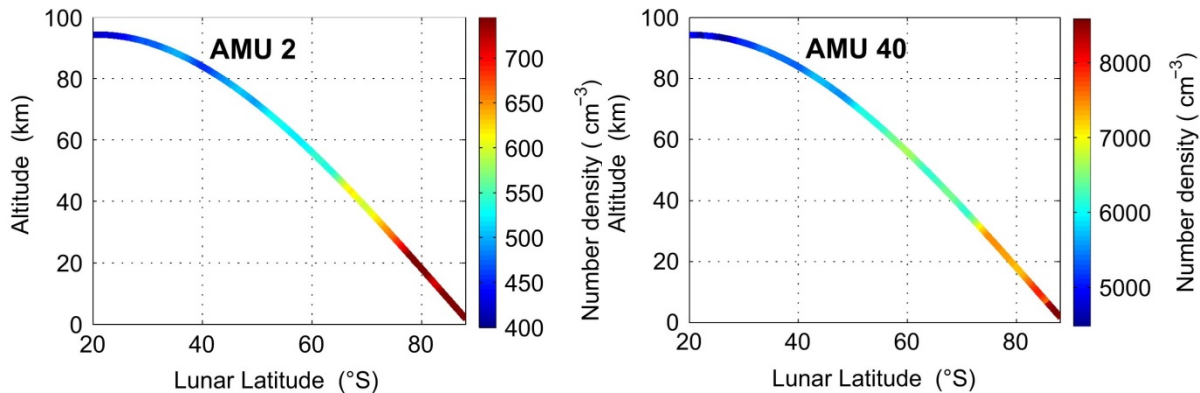
329

330 **Figure 5. Exospheric densities of  $^{40}\text{Ar}$  measured at dawn (circles in top panel) are greatest above the western maria**  
 331 **(middle panel), which are rich in KREEP elements, particularly  $^{40}\text{K}$  (bottom panel), which is the radioactive parent of**  
 332  **$^{40}\text{Ar}$ . Reproduced from Benna et al. (2015).**

333 Not all the argon atoms are readily desorbed at dawn. Some of them are temporarily sequestered  
 334 at depth (where they arrived after diffusing downwards during the lunar night) and are released  
 335 much later (mid-day). This mechanism, proposed by Kegerreis et al. (2017), could explain the  
 336 slight time delay from dawn of the peak  $^{40}\text{Ar}$  exospheric density recorded by LACE and LADEE  
 337 without requiring the high activation energy all over the lunar surface proposed by Hodges &  
 338 Mahaffy (2016). Interestingly, a similar mechanism (the “thermal pump”) has been proposed for  
 339 other species – most notably water – at the Moon (Schörghofer & Taylor, 2007; Schörghofer &  
 340 Aharonson, 2014), Mercury (Siegler et al., 2011), and Mars (Mellon & Jakosky, 1993). It is  
 341 therefore reasonable to expect that other species can behave the same way. Finally, the adsorbing  
 342 behavior of  $^{40}\text{Ar}$  is such that it makes possible the creation of seasons. Data from LADEE/NMS  
 343 were interpreted to be the result of seasonal migration of argon from one winter pole to the other  
 344 (Hodges & Mahaffy, 2016; see also [chapter by Teolis](#)).

345 Argon was also detected by CHACE on its route to crash landing into a lunar south polar crater.  
 346 Thampi et al. (2015) showed densities measured from 100 km altitude at 20° N latitude (~5,000

347  $\text{cm}^{-3}$ ) to  $\sim 10$  km altitude at the south pole ( $8,000 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ ). This was the first detection in the polar  
 348 regions (Figure 6).



349  
 350 **Figure 6. Number densities of  $\text{H}_2$  and  $^{40}\text{Ar}$  measured by CHACE onboard Chandrayaan-1 from the  $\sim 100$  km altitude**  
 351 **above the subsolar point to the surface close to the poles. Reproduced from Thampi et al. (2015).**

352 Argon has not been detected at Mercury. The Mariner 10 UVS placed only an upper limit of  $6.6$   
 353  $\times 10^6 \text{ cm}^{-3}$  (Shemansky, 1988), from the difficult-to-observe emission doublet at 104.8 and 106.7  
 354 nm. The Mercury Surface, Space ENvironment, GEOchemistry, and Ranging (MESSENGER)  
 355 spacecraft (Solomon et al., 2007) did not carry a neutral mass spectrometer, and the bandpass of  
 356 the primary exospheric instrument, the Mercury Atmospheric and Surface Composition  
 357 Spectrometer (MASCS; McClintock & Lankton, 2007) UV spectrograph did not include the  
 358 wavelength of the  $^{40}\text{Ar}$  emission lines. In fact, the only way neutral argon-40 has been detected  
 359 in exospheres so far is in situ mass spectrometry (LACE and LADEE/NMS at the Moon).  
 360 Although Flynn (1998) claimed a detection of the argon doublet at the Moon from the  
 361 ORPHEUS-SPAS II satellite, this detection was soon dismissed by Parker et al. (1998). Part of  
 362 this spectroscopic non-detection can be explained by the extremely low  $g$ -factor of argon, of the  
 363 order of  $10^{-8}$  photons  $\text{atom}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$  (the  $g$ -factor  $g$  is the number of solar photons resonantly scattered  
 364 by each argon atom each second, and in an optically thin exospheres it relates the observed  
 365 intensity  $I$  with the column density  $N$  with the formula  $I = g \cdot N$ ). Even considering the relatively  
 366 high surface density at the Moon ( $\sim 30,000 \text{ cm}^{-3}$  at dawn), the expected brightness would be only  
 367  $\sim 0.1$  Rayleighs ( $1 \text{ R} = 10^6/4\pi$  photons  $\text{cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1} \text{ sr}^{-1}$ ; Hunten et al., 1956). Though challenging,  
 368 LAMP should have been able to detect it (Stern et al., 2012). Instead, LAMP could only place an  
 369 upper limit for  $^{40}\text{Ar}$  of  $2.3 \times 10^4 \text{ cm}^{-3}$  (Cook et al., 2013). The LAMP non-detection of argon so  
 370 far remains an outstanding issue. At Mercury, Killen (2002) estimated the column abundance of  
 371  $^{40}\text{Ar}$  of  $5 \times 10^8 - 2 \times 10^9 \text{ cm}^{-2}$  based on diffusion from anorthite in the top 25 km and a  
 372 photoionization lifetime of 3.5 days at perihelion and 8 days at aphelion. This estimate of column  
 373 density would make  $^{40}\text{Ar}$  one of the most abundant species in Mercury's exosphere, but it is  
 374 considerably lower than the estimated upper limit on argon column abundance of  $5 \times 10^{12} - 6 \times$   
 375  $10^{13} \text{ cm}^{-2}$  from the UV spectrometer onboard Mariner 10 (Broadfoot et al., 1976).

376 At the Moon, LACE detected the less abundant isotope  $^{36}\text{Ar}$ , which is of solar wind origin.  
377 LACE showed a sunrise peak similar to  $^{40}\text{Ar}$  in time but 10 times lower in density:  $3 \times 10^3 \text{ cm}^{-3}$   
378 (Hoffman et al., 1973). This value of 10 for the ratio  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{36}\text{Ar}$  in the lunar exosphere is in  
379 contrast with the near equality of the two isotopes in returned soil samples (Table 3 in Yaniv &  
380 Heymann, 1972). Therefore, the soil is not saturated with  $^{36}\text{Ar}$ , which means that the solar wind  
381 flux of  $^{36}\text{Ar}$  is permanently trapped. Excess of so-called “parentless”  $^{40}\text{Ar}$  in returned lunar  
382 samples, compared to expectations from solar wind composition and in situ decay of  $^{40}\text{K}$ , was  
383 suggested by Heymann & Yaniv (1970) to be of exospheric origin. This hypothesis was  
384 confirmed by Manka & Michel (1970), whose simulations showed that about 10% of the  
385 exospheric argon ions ( $^{40}\text{Ar}^+$ ) are driven back towards the Moon instead of being entrained in the  
386 interplanetary magnetic field. These ions are then implanted into the lunar soil. Because these  
387 ions impact the lunar surface with energy of  $\sim 1 \text{ keV}$ , much lower than that of solar wind  $^{36}\text{Ar}$   
388 ions ( $\sim 36 \text{ keV}$ ), they are not implanted as deeply as  $^{36}\text{Ar}^+$ . Manka & Michel (1970) note that for  
389 this reason the  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{36}\text{Ar}$  ratio should vary with location: higher in surfaces parallel to the ecliptic  
390 plane (where mostly of these  $^{40}\text{Ar}^+$  ions impact); lower in surfaces facing the solar wind (which  
391 is rich in  $^{36}\text{Ar}$ ). The ratio  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{36}\text{Ar}$  therefore offers the opportunity to study the amount of time a  
392 rock has been exposed to the surface and which orientation it had.

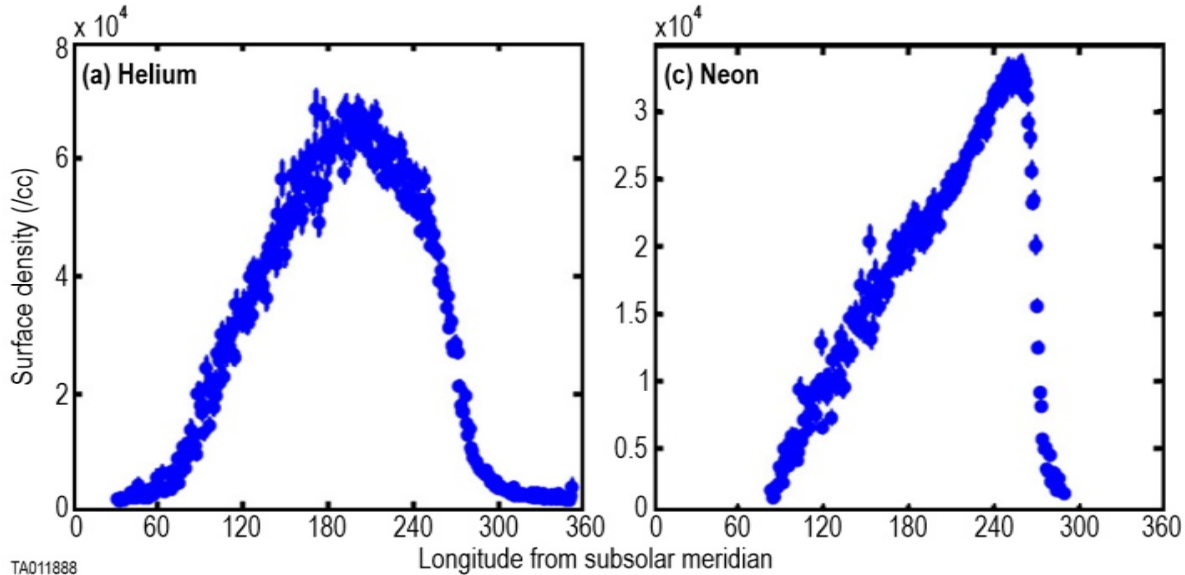
### 393 **2.3 Other volatiles**

394 Compared to the noble gases discussed above (argon and helium), far fewer observations exist of  
395 other volatile species. LACE made tentative detections of neon and methane, but those  
396 detections could barely be sifted out from contaminants. Recently, Killen et al. (2019) took  
397 advantage of the restoration of LACE neon data on NASA’s PDS archive and were able to model  
398 its behavior (Subsection 2.3.1). Methane was detected by LADEE/NMS, and Hodges (2016)  
399 showed that it can help understand the recycling of solar wind carbon at the Moon (Subsection  
400 2.3.2). Hydrogen was detected at both Mercury and the Moon, but in different forms (molecular  
401 at the Moon, atomic at Mercury – see Subsection 2.3.3). Radon and polonium, two more species  
402 indicative of radioactivity in the interior of the Moon, were detected by the Apollo orbiters and  
403 by Lunar Prospector (Subsection 2.3.4). For several other species, LRO/LAMP provided more  
404 stringent upper limits for their lunar exospheric surface densities, most of them several orders of  
405 magnitude lower than previous estimates (Cook et al., 2013).

#### 406 **2.3.1 Neon**

407 Neon ( $^{20}\text{Ne}$ ) was predicted to be the most abundant gas of solar wind origin in the lunar  
408 exosphere (Hinton & Taesch, 1964). Indeed, it was one of the first species indirectly detected in  
409 the lunar exosphere – as an ion – by the series of Suprathermal Ion Detector Experiment (SIDE)  
410 detectors deployed during the Apollo 12, 15, and 16 missions (Benson et al., 1975, Freeman &  
411 Benson, 1977). Subsequently, it was detected in neutral form by LACE (Hoffman et al., 1973).  
412 These instruments reported surface densities of  $\sim 10^5 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ , confirming  $^{20}\text{Ne}$  as one of the most  
413 abundant species in the lunar exosphere. However, the  $^{20}\text{Ne}$  signature observed by LACE was  
414 attributed subsequently to  $\text{H}_2^{18}\text{O}$  (Hodges et al., 1973), so these measurements were not

415 considered further. Later, neon was measured by CHACE, the quadrupole mass spectrometer  
 416 onboard Chandrayaan-1. The geometry of this spacecraft, en route to its impact point near the  
 417 lunar South Pole, allowed it to measure neon in the dayside and over different ranges of latitudes.  
 418 The number density reported varied from  $\sim 2,000 \text{ cm}^{-3}$  at the equator at 100 km altitude to  
 419  $\sim 10,000 \text{ cm}^{-3}$  at the poles close to the surface (Das et al., 2016). Subsequently (although results  
 420 were published earlier), the LADEE/NMS also detected neon (Benna et al., 2015). During its 7-  
 421 month long mission timeline, NMS reported neon densities slightly lower than those of helium,  
 422 with peak density at dawn ( $2.0\text{-}3.5 \times 10^4 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ ; see Figure 7).



423 TA011888  
 424 **Figure 7. Surface densities for  $^4\text{He}$  (left) and  $^{20}\text{Ne}$  (right) inferred from LADEE/NMS measurements at altitude. These**  
 425 **panels show the different behavior of these two species, mainly attributed to their different scale height. Adapted from**  
 426 **Benna et al. (2015).**

427 The NMS diurnal profile show a steady increase in  $^{20}\text{Ne}$  exospheric density from dusk to dawn, a  
 428 sign of its non-condensable nature, but the exospheric density peak was recorded  $10^\circ$  ( $\sim 1$  hour in  
 429 local time) before dawn, instead of  $\sim 2$  AM local time in the case of helium. The difference in the  
 430 two diurnal profiles is the result of the different scale height of the two species, and therefore of  
 431 their different spatial extent. There is an inconsistency between  $^{20}\text{Ne}$  exospheric densities  
 432 reported in the literature. The NMS surface densities (inferred from orbit) were an order of  
 433 magnitude greater than the upper limits obtained remotely by LAMP from the emission line at  
 434  $63.0 \text{ nm}$  ( $4.4 \times 10^3 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ ; Cook et al., 2013), but lower than those reported in situ by LACE ( $1.1 \times$   
 435  $10^5 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ ; Hodges et al., 1974). Recently, LACE Ne data were restored, validated, and re-  
 436 analyzed by Killen et al. (2019), which corrected the  $^{20}\text{Ne}$  measurement, considered to be  
 437 contaminated by fluorine, using the  $^{22}\text{Ne}$  mass bin, supposed to be uncontaminated, and the  
 438 known isotopic ratios of neon. This re-analysis reported much lower surface densities than those  
 439 from Hodges et al. (1974):  $(1.5\text{-}4.5) \times 10^3 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ . One possible explanation of the discrepancy is  
 440 that the value for Ne reported by Benna et al. (2015) was measured during a Coronal Mass  
 441 Ejection (CME) passage (7-27 February 2014), which entails an enhancement in solar wind flux

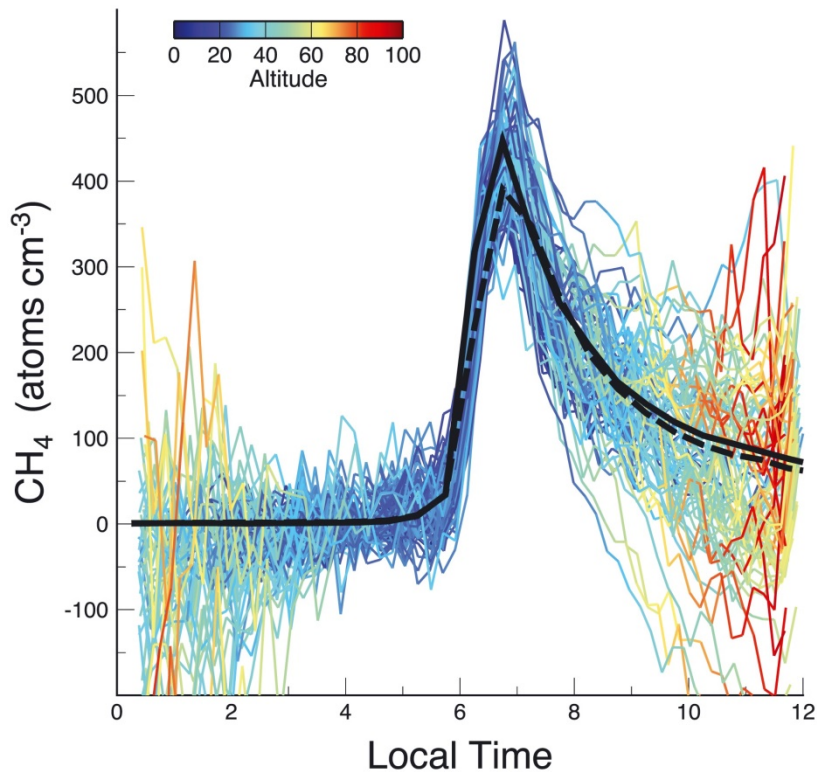


442 compared to the nominal conditions. If the lifetime of neon is the predicted 100 days for  
443 photoionization (Huebner & Mukherjee, 2015), the exospheric density would be determined by  
444 the averaged solar wind influx during the previous three months. Simulations of the neon density  
445 using the photoionization lifetime of 100 days (and nominal solar wind conditions) reproduce  
446 LACE measurements, but are twice those from LADEE, taken during a CME. In order to  
447 reproduce the estimated surface density of Ne at the morning terminator of  $(2.0-4.5) \times 10^3 \text{ cm}^{-3}$   
448 by LAMP and  $(1.5-4.5) \times 10^3 \text{ cm}^{-3}$  from the re-analyzed LACE data, a lifetime of 4.5 days is  
449 required (Killen et al., 2019). Furthermore, the reanalyzed LACE data indicate that the global  
450 diurnal distribution of Ne can vary over a lunar day, which is also consistent with a shorter  
451 lifetime than 100 days. The discrepancy between the data sets and the lifetimes is unresolved and  
452 requires further measurements.

453 At Mercury, Mariner 10 provided an upper limit for neon of  $3 \times 10^{13} \text{ cm}^{-3}$  (Broadfoot et al.,  
454 1974), from the 73.6 nm emission line. If correct, this would imply that Ne is the most abundant  
455 species in Mercury's exosphere. Because MESSENGER/MASCS did not have the capability of  
456 measuring the 73.6 nm line of Ne, there is currently no reliable measurement of Ne at Mercury.

### 457 **2.3.2 Methane and other carbon-bearing species**

458 Methane ( $\text{CH}_4$ ) has been detected in the lunar exosphere by LADEE/NMS. Hodges (2016)  
459 reported observations taken close to the dawn terminator, where exospheric densities peak at a  
460 value of 400-450  $\text{cm}^{-3}$  at 12 km altitude (see Figure 8).



461

462 **Figure 8. Methane number density measured by LADEE/NMS (colored lines) referenced to a common altitude of 12 km,**  
 463 **around dawn. Black lines are exospheric simulations of methane. This figure shows the pronounced sunrise bulge in**  
 464 **exospheric density, indicative of a species that condenses on the cold nighttime surface. Reproduced from Hodges (2016).**

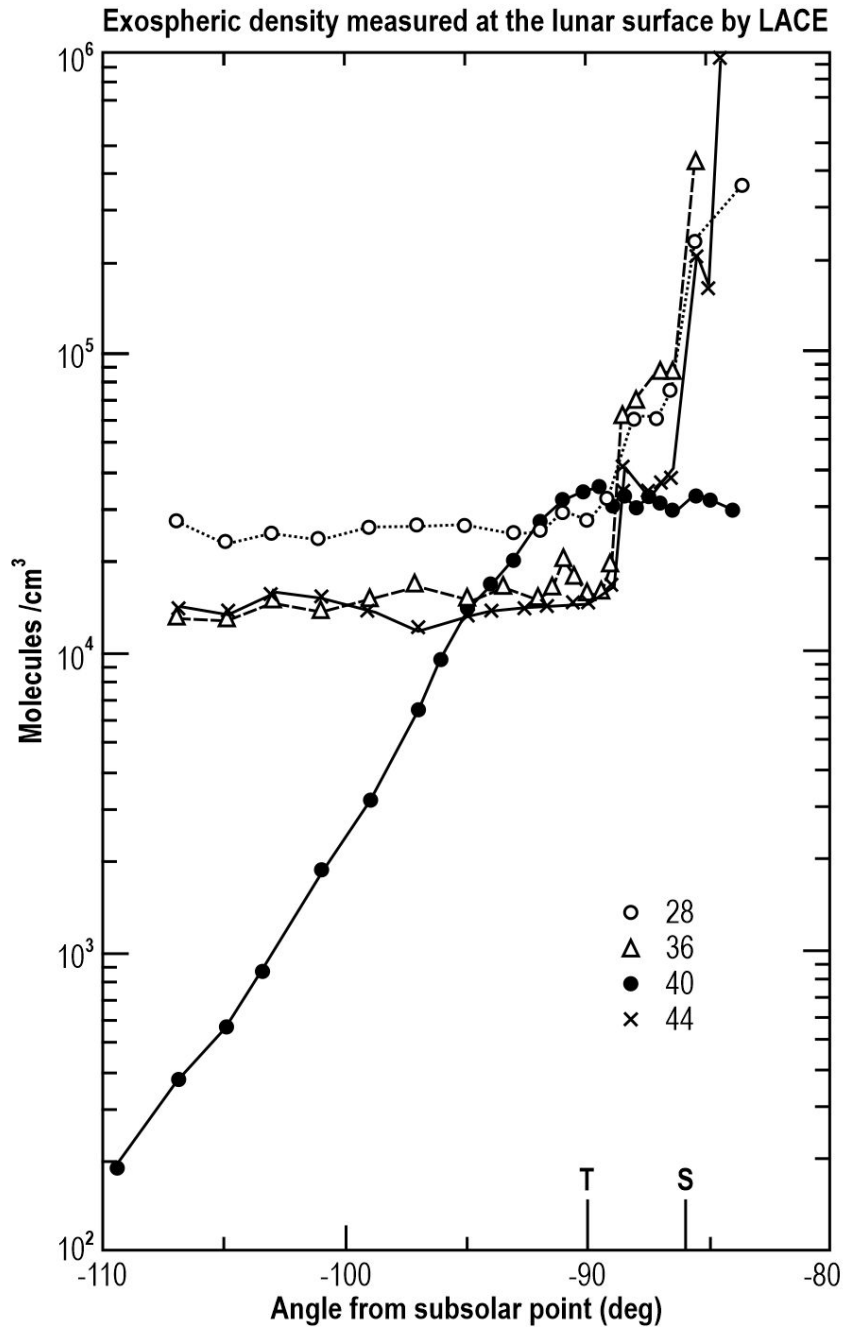
465 The diurnal profile reveals that CH<sub>4</sub>, like <sup>40</sup>Ar, also adsorbs temporarily at the cold nighttime  
 466 surface. However, the high activation energy (higher than that of argon) means that there is a  
 467 delay of ~1 hour in morning release (~7 AM, instead of ~6:30 AM for <sup>40</sup>Ar).

468 Analysis of LADEE/NMS data (Hodges, 2016) revealed that methane plays a role in the  
 469 recycling of solar wind carbon nuclei impacting the lunar surface (as was suggested 40 years  
 470 earlier by Hodges, 1976), which then are lost from the exosphere owing to the low  
 471 photoionization lifetime of CH<sub>4</sub> (1 day). The delivery of solar wind C to the Moon is substantial:  
 472 8 tons/year (Hodges, 1976). Because C abundance in returned samples (100 ppm, mostly in CH<sub>4</sub>,  
 473 CO, and CO<sub>2</sub>) is less than the saturation level from the solar wind influx (200 ppm; Bibring et  
 474 al., 1974) and is uniform over the maximum depth probed (250 cm), and because the reworking  
 475 depth of the regolith owing to micrometeoroid gardening is just 10 cm in 10<sup>9</sup> years (Gault et al.,  
 476 1974; Costello et al., 2018), it was proposed that the carbon influx must be balanced by a  
 477 substantial exospheric loss in molecular compounds, especially on the dayside (from the analogy  
 478 with helium). The most probable candidates are CH<sub>4</sub>, CO, and CO<sub>2</sub>. These three species were not  
 479 detected during the nighttime by LACE, most likely because of adsorption at the surface and low  
 480 exospheric density (LACE minimum threshold was ~100 cm<sup>-3</sup>; Hoffman et al., 1973). But  
 481 around dawn LACE recorded peak concentrations at mass bins 28 (CO, but also possibly N<sub>2</sub>) and

482 44 (CO<sub>2</sub>) of  $10^2$ - $10^3$  cm<sup>-3</sup> close to dawn, with molecules coming from the hot dayside and  
483 traveling back towards the night (Hoffman & Hodges, 1975; see also Figure 9).

484 Hodges (2016) estimated the methane escape rate to be  $1.5$ - $4.5 \times 10^{21}$  s<sup>-1</sup>, equivalent to 25-76%  
485 of the global carbon influx. This can be compared with solar carbon escape of  $3.4 \times 10^{21}$  s<sup>-1</sup>,  
486 obtained separately by analyzing Apollo samples. This led Hodges (2016) to propose that “a  
487 significant fraction of C that enters the exosphere as methane escapes as CO”. In fact,  
488 exothermic reactions between solar wind C and the lunar soil would lead to the creation of CO,  
489 whose lifetime against photoionization is nine times that of CH<sub>4</sub> and thus would constitute an  
490 even more substantial exosphere than methane itself. LADEE/NMS, which is about four orders  
491 of magnitude more sensitive to ions than neutrals, did not detect CO, but it detected CO<sup>+</sup>  
492 (Halekas et al., 2015). The detection of CH<sub>4</sub> and carbon ions (C<sup>+</sup> and CO<sup>+</sup>), briefly discussed in  
493 Section 5.1, highlights the existence of a carbon cycle at the Moon.

494 Other species have been tentatively detected by LACE, as shown in Figure 9. Mass 28 could be  
495 either N<sub>2</sub> or CO. Neither of those adsorbs at equatorial cold nighttime surface temperatures, so  
496 no pre-dawn enhancement is expected. But CO<sub>2</sub> (mass 44) does adsorb at those temperatures, so  
497 it is surprising not to see the pre-dawn enhancement at mass 44 which is seen in <sup>40</sup>Ar, another  
498 condensable species. From this lack of pre-dawn enhancement, Hoffman et al. (1973) estimated  
499 the dawn exospheric density of CO<sub>2</sub> to be  $3 \times 10^3$  cm<sup>-3</sup>.



500

501 Figure 9. LACE exospheric density at the surface from four masses. Masses 40 and 36 are interpreted to be argon. Mass  
 502 28 could be N<sub>2</sub> or CO. Mass 44 could be CO<sub>2</sub>. This species is expected to adsorb at the lunar surface, so the lack of such a  
 503 bulge at dawn is surprising. T indicates terminator; S indicates sunrise (delayed from the terminator by ~8 hours because  
 504 of the mountains to the West of the Taurus-Littrow valley). Adapted from Hoffman et al. (1973).

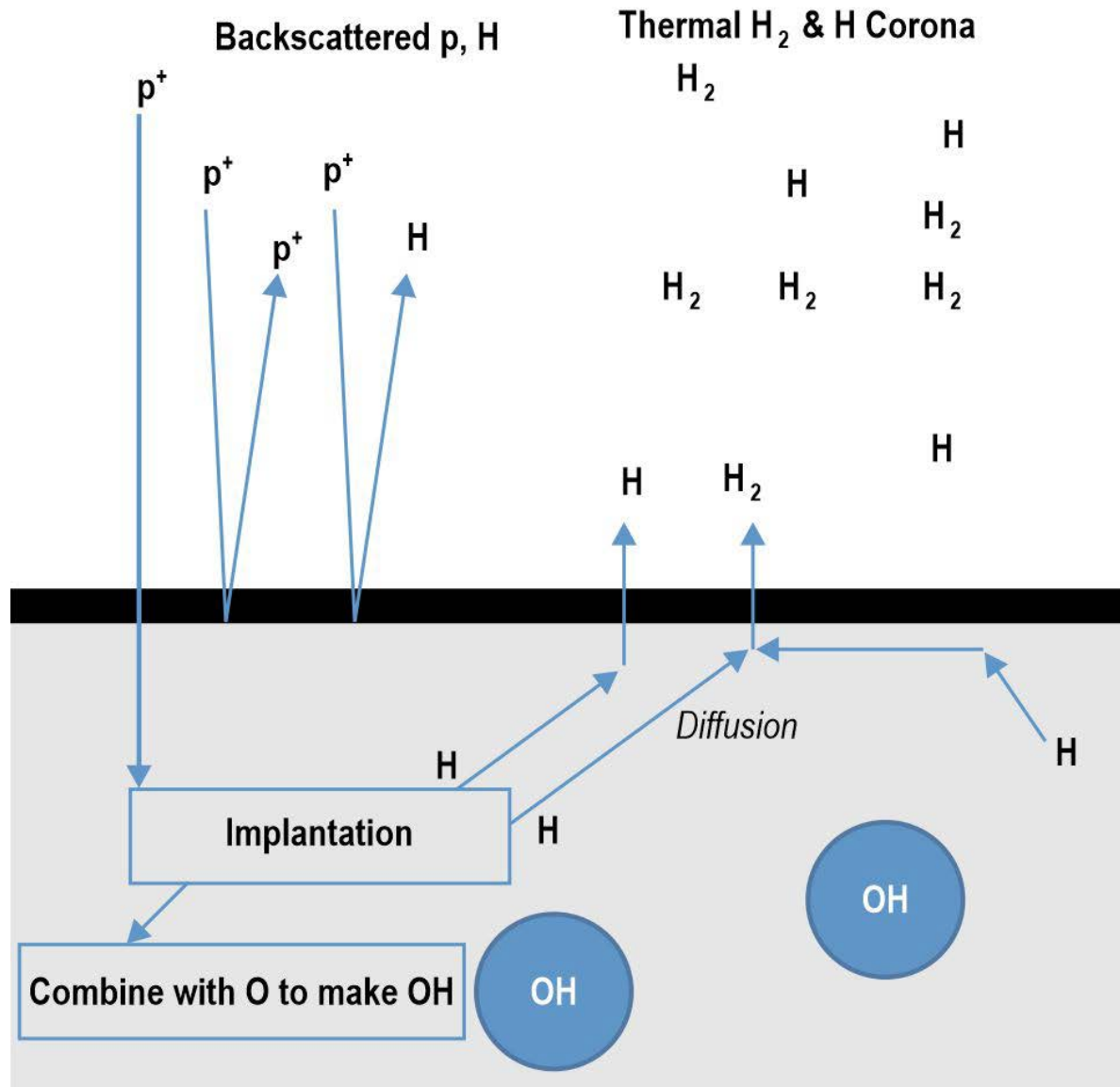
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506

507 **2.3.3 Hydrogen**

508 Given that ~96% of the solar wind is composed mainly by protons, it was assumed that the Moon  
509 had a substantial dayside exosphere of hydrogen (at least  $3 \times 10^3 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ , according to Hartle &  
510 Thomas, 1974). It was therefore surprising that the Apollo 17 UVS spectrometer onboard the  
511 command module did not detect any hydrogen: Fastie et al. (1973) placed an upper limit for H  
512 (from the Lyman-alpha emission line at 121.6 nm) of  $10 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ , and for H<sub>2</sub> (from the Lyman and  
513 Werner bands in the FUV) of  $1.2 \times 10^4 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ . Feldman & Morrison (1991) later revisited the  
514 UVS upper limit on H<sub>2</sub> to be  $9 \times 10^3 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ . It was then speculated by Hodges (1973) that the  
515 reaction of solar wind protons with the lunar surface led to the formation of H<sub>2</sub>.

516 Molecular hydrogen is released into the exospheres of the Moon and Mercury by a process  
517 referred to as recombinative desorption (e.g. Starukhina, 2006), which involves the diffusion to  
518 the surface of either bound H atoms released by chemical sputtering (Johnson & Baragiola,  
519 1991; Crider & Vondrak, 2002), or freshly implanted H atoms (see Figure 10).



520

521 **Figure 10. Mechanism (recombinitive desorption) for the creation of H and H<sub>2</sub> exospheres at the Moon or Mercury from**  
 522 **solar wind protons and previously implanted H atoms. The diffusion rate depends on the temperature, whereas the**  
 523 **implantation rate depends on the solar zenith angle. Reproduced from Tucker et al. (2019).**

524 The global content of H<sub>2</sub> is balanced by the source of incoming solar wind protons, diffusion and  
 525 formation of H<sub>2</sub> in the surface, and the lifetime of H<sub>2</sub> against thermal (Jeans) escape. The lifetime  
 526 of H<sub>2</sub> against photoionization ( $\sim 10^7$  s) is several orders of magnitude larger than thermal escape  
 527 (Johnson, 1971; Hodges, 1974). Because H<sub>2</sub> has a short thermal escape lifetime (hundreds of  
 528 seconds for subsolar temperatures) compared to the orbital time of the Moon and Mercury, its  
 529 global distribution is expected to vary directly with changes in the incident proton flux.

530 The discovery of widespread distribution of H<sub>2</sub>O/OH water on the lunar dayside by different  
 531 instruments – Chandrayaan-1/M<sup>3</sup> (Pieters et al., 2009), EPOXI/Deep Impact (Sunshine et al.,  
 532 2009), Cassini/VIMS (Clark, 2009), LRO/LAMP (Hendrix et al., 2019), and the SOFIA airborne

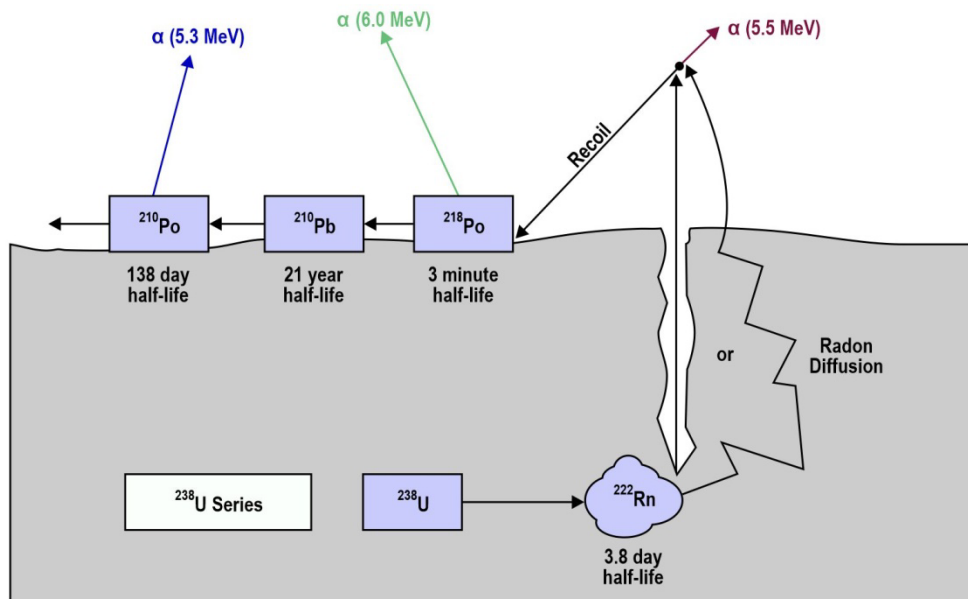
533 telescope (Honniball et al., 2020) – has intensified the debate about the importance of the solar  
534 wind in the formation of lunar water (see [chapter by Schörghofer](#)) through reactions between  
535 solar wind protons and oxygen (of which the lunar surface is replete). The Lunar Crater  
536 Observation and Sensing Satellite (LCROSS) experiment provided additional insight. Molecular  
537 hydrogen was detected among the species in the plume following the impact of the LRO Centaur  
538 rocket stage in the Permanently Shaded Region (PSR) of Cabeus crater. It was determined that  
539 the detected H<sub>2</sub> was not the result of photodissociation of water, but was promptly formed by the  
540 impact via combination of two H atoms (Gladstone et al., 2010b; Hurley et al., 2012a). The  
541 discovery of energetic neutral hydrogen atoms and solar wind protons backscattered from the  
542 lunar surface (see Section 5) led Hodges (2011) to postulate that the majority of solar wind  
543 protons (98.5%) escapes the Moon as energetic neutral H, a negligible fraction (0.5%) is released  
544 as neutral H, and the remaining 1% is simply backscattered as ions. This work discarded the  
545 hypothesis that molecular hydrogen was an important constituent of the lunar exosphere.  
546 However, H<sub>2</sub> was finally detected by LRO/LAMP on the Moon for the first time (Stern et al.,  
547 2013), from the Lyman and Werner bands. It took almost 4 years of twilight observations to  
548 build enough signal-to-noise: the spacecraft must be illuminated but the instrument must look at  
549 the dark lunar nightside to reduce the background; this geometry only occurs for a few minutes  
550 each orbit, near the poles and the terminator, except for when the spacecraft is orbiting along the  
551 terminator, but this geometry only occurs for a few days twice a year. The LAMP-derived global  
552 H<sub>2</sub> surface density was  $1200 \pm 400 \text{ cm}^{-3}$  (Stern et al., 2013). Modeling of LAMP observations by  
553 Hurley et al. (2017) showed that solar wind chemical sputtering is the dominant source of lunar  
554 exospheric H<sub>2</sub>, over micrometeoroid impacts and direct physical sputtering. Molecular hydrogen  
555 was also detected by the CHACE mass spectrometer onboard Chandrayaan-1, which provided  
556 the first detection of H<sub>2</sub> on the dayside. The density was observed to vary in latitude, from  $\sim 400$   
557  $\text{cm}^{-3}$  at  $\sim 100 \text{ km}$  above the equator to  $\sim 800 \text{ cm}^{-3}$  at polar latitudes close to the surface (Thampi et  
558 al., 2015; see also Figure 6). The lower densities probably reflect the fact that CHACE  
559 observations were carried out when the Moon was inside the geomagnetic tail, which shields the  
560 Moon from the solar wind. The LAMP observations showed a dawn/dusk asymmetry in surface  
561 density:  $1,000 \pm 500 \text{ cm}^{-3}$  at dusk and  $1,400 \pm 500 \text{ cm}^{-3}$  at dawn (Stern et al., 2013). This  
562 asymmetry was reproduced by the model of Tucker et al. (2019) which showed that the  
563 exospheric concentration of H<sub>2</sub> is increasingly limited by H atom surface diffusion within the  
564 subsurface for activation energies  $> \sim 0.52 \text{ eV}$ . They showed that the variations, over a lunar day,  
565 of the rates of diffusion, which depends on temperature, and implantation, which depends on  
566 solar zenith angle, combine to give a slight increase of H<sub>2</sub> near dawn compared to dusk.  
567 Moreover, using the averaged data of the solar wind flux incident on the surface in and out of the  
568 magnetotail, Tucker & Farrell (2019) showed that the H<sub>2</sub> exospheric density decreases by an  
569 order of magnitude when in the magnetotail, a finding consistent with CHACE observations.

570 Considering the release of H<sub>2</sub> from Mercury to be similar to the Moon, exospheric models have  
571 been used to estimate the global surface concentration (Killen & Ip, 1999) and altitude profiles of  
572 density (Wurz & Lammer, 2003). All models agree that H<sub>2</sub> should be one of the most abundant

573 species in Mercury’s exosphere, with surface densities on the order of  $10^7 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ . However, at the  
 574 time of writing there are no published observational data of  $\text{H}_2$  in Mercury’s exosphere. Atomic  
 575 hydrogen (H) has been detected at Mercury by Mariner 10’s UVS (Broadfoot et al., 1976) and  
 576 MESSENGER/MASCS, thanks to the bright Lyman-alpha emission line (121.6 nm; McClintock  
 577 et al., 2008). Mariner 10 observations revealed two populations, one “hot” at 420 K and one  
 578 “cold” at 110 K. Work is in progress to model these two populations discovered by Mariner 10  
 579 and integrate them with MESSENGER observations, which show a morning enhancement in H  
 580 above the dayside compared to the afternoon, as well as little emission from H on the nightside  
 581 (Hurley et al., 2018). It is important to keep in mind that these Lyman-alpha observations are  
 582 difficult to analyze owing to the substantial background, from both interplanetary hydrogen  
 583 atoms resonantly scattering solar photons and from dayside scattering of solar H Lyman alpha  
 584 photons.

### 585 2.3.4 Radon and Polonium

586 Detections of alpha particles resulting from the decay of radon ( $^{222}\text{Rn}$ ) and its radioactive product  
 587 polonium ( $^{210}\text{Po}$ ) were made by the alpha particle mass spectrometers onboard the Apollo 15 and  
 588 16 command module orbiters (Gorenstein et al., 1973; Bjorkholm et al., 1973). Because radon is  
 589 short-lived (half-life of 3.8 days), it represents another evidence that the Moon is actively  
 590 outgassing radiogenic elements from its interior. Radon comes ultimately from the radioactive  
 591 decay of  $^{238}\text{U}$ , and  $^{210}\text{Po}$  is one of its radiogenic daughters (see Figure 11).



592  
 593 **Figure 11. Scheme of radon decay, with alpha particle energies pertaining to each product. The short half-life of radon**  
 594 **makes it a useful species to constrain regions of active outgassing. Adapted from Lawson et al. (2005).**

595 Because  $^{210}\text{Po}$  derives from  $^{222}\text{Rn}$  through the intermediate long-term decay of  $^{210}\text{Pb}$ , the two  
 596 species constrain degassing over two different time scales: detection of alpha particles from  
 597 radon indicates that the outgassing must have happened in the past few days, whereas detection



598 of alpha particles from polonium indicates an outgassing that occurred decades earlier. Friesen &  
599 Adams (1976) showed that radon atoms don't migrate directly from grains, where they are  
600 formed, to the void, but are carried by other radiogenic elements, for example  $^4\text{He}$  and  $^{40}\text{Ar}$ ,  
601 during outgassing events. Such events may arise from tidal triggering of fault systems around  
602 maria (Runcorn, 1977). Also, radon's behavior after it is vented into the lunar exosphere mimics  
603 that of other condensable species, with ballistic random hops between one encounter with the  
604 surface and the next. The hop length is proportional to the temperature of the surface, so colder  
605 surface temperatures results in higher exospheric densities. If radon is vented into the cold  
606 nighttime surface, where the temperature is below its freezing point (211 K), it can be adsorbed  
607 until dawn, when it is promptly released similar to  $^{40}\text{Ar}$  (Heymann & Yaniv, 1971; Lambert et  
608 al., 1977).

609 Enhancements of alpha particles from radon were detected above the edges of lunar maria  
610 (Gorenstein & Bjorkholm, 1973), whereas enhancements of alpha particles from polonium were  
611 reported by the Apollo 16 alpha particle spectrometer near Grimaldi crater and the edge of Mare  
612 Fecunditatis (Bjorkholm et al., 1973). In a subsequent reanalysis of both spectrometers,  
613 Gorenstein et al. (1974) found enhancements of  $^{210}\text{Po}$  over edges of all observed maria except  
614 Serenitatis.

615 Other measurements of alpha particles were made by the Alpha Particle Spectrometer (APS)  
616 onboard Lunar Prospector (LP). When LP visited the Moon three decades after the Apollo  
617 measurements, it did not detect enhancements of  $^{210}\text{Po}$  alpha particles above some regions where  
618 detections were made by the Apollo orbiters, such as the Grimaldi crater (Lawson et al., 2005).  
619 LP/APS detected enhancements of  $^{210}\text{Po}$  alpha particles only above a few maria edges, in  
620 contrast with Apollo 15 and 16. One of the few regions that provided an enhancement of  
621 polonium in LP/APS data was the Mare Serenitatis, which in contrast was one of the few maria  
622 edges without a radon enhancement in the Apollo alpha particle spectrometer data (Gorenstein et  
623 al., 1974). This could mean that the radon release mechanism had abated from the Apollo era to  
624 LP measurements and/or that other regions have become (more) active (Lawson et al., 2005).  
625 Both the Apollo and LP alpha particle spectrometers reported radon release events at Aristarchus  
626 plateau (Gorenstein & Bjorkholm, 1973; Lawson et al., 2005), which is rich in thorium and  
627 uranium. The Selenological and Engineering Explorer (SELENE; Sasaki et al., 2003) spacecraft  
628 also carried an alpha-ray detector (Nishimura et al., 2006), which reported enhancements in  $^{210}\text{Po}$   
629 over Aristarchus, Imbrium, Serenitatis, and Moscoviencia maria despite instrument problems  
630 (Kinoshita et al., 2012).

### 631 **3. Refractories**

632 Because of their much stronger bonds with the surface, refractory species are released into the  
633 exosphere by more energetic processes than the volatiles discussed earlier. Such processes  
634 include micrometeoroid impact vaporization (which peaks near dawn) and sputtering from solar  
635 wind and planetary ions. The escape processes for these species are also different. Whereas for

636 light gases such as hydrogen and helium the gravitational (Jeans) escape dominates,  
637 photoionization and, to a lesser extent, charge exchange with solar wind ions (mostly protons)  
638 and electron impact ionization, are important loss mechanisms for refractories, even though a  
639 significant fraction of refractory species ejected by ion sputtering and impact vaporization has  
640 sufficient speed to directly escape. As for the volatiles, we concentrate here mostly on species  
641 that have been detected – all at Mercury (McClintock et al., 2018; Killen et al., 2018).

### 642 3.1 Calcium

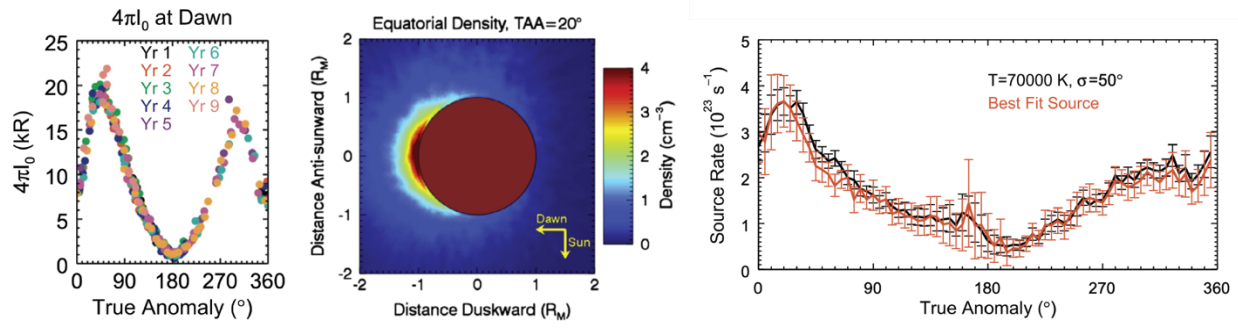
643 Calcium was first discovered in Mercury's exosphere above the polar regions, through high-  
644 resolution observations from the Keck telescope of the emission line at 422.7 nm (Bida et al.,  
645 2000). MESSENGER/MASCS also observed the Ca emission line at 422.7 nm (McClintock et  
646 al., 2008). It was immediately recognized that the calcium in Mercury's exosphere exhibited very  
647 high energies, with a scale height consistent with a temperature  $> 20,000$  K (Killen et al., 2005).  
648 Burger et al. (2012), using Monte Carlo simulations of the MASCS data, determined the Ca  
649 distribution was consistent with thermal temperatures of as much as  $70,000$  K (6 eV). Such high  
650 energies are necessary to loft the calcium to the high altitudes at which it is observed before it  
651 becomes ionized. This conclusion results from the very short photoionization lifetime of the  
652 calcium atoms, less than one hour at Mercury's heliocentric distances (Huebner et al., 1992).  
653 Killen (2016) suggested that the large scale height of calcium must result from non-thermal  
654 processes. Specifically, that calcium is ejected from Mercury's surface by impact vaporization in  
655 molecular form and subsequently dissociated by an energetic process such as photodissociation  
656 or electron-impact dissociation. The molecular compounds most likely involved are  $\text{Ca(OH)}_2$ ,  
657  $\text{CaOH}$ , and/or  $\text{CaO}$  (Killen et al., 2005; Berezhnoy and Klumov, 2008; Berezhnoy, 2018). Using  
658 simple photolysis models, Berezhnoy (2013) estimated that the additional energy imparted to Ca-  
659 bearing products is 0.6 eV,  $< 0.04$  eV, and  $< 0.6$  eV for photolysis of  $\text{CaO}$ ,  $\text{CaOH}$ , and  $\text{Ca(OH)}_2$ ,  
660 respectively. The photolysis steps are:

- 661 1.  $\text{Ca(OH)}_2 + \gamma = \text{CaOH} + \text{OH}$
- 662 2.  $\text{CaOH} + \gamma = \text{CaO} + \text{H}$  or  $\text{CaOH} + \gamma = \text{Ca} + \text{OH}$
- 663 3.  $\text{CaO} + \gamma = \text{Ca} + \text{O}$

664 Therefore, it seems that even formation of Ca atoms via three steps of photolysis of  $\text{Ca(OH)}_2$ ,  
665  $\text{CaOH}$ , and  $\text{CaO}$  is unable to produce Ca atoms hotter than about 1.2 eV (the sum of the three  
666 imparted energies). This is significantly lower than the 6 eV obtained by Burger et al. (2012).  
667 Another possible precursor molecule is  $\text{CaS}$ . Pfleger et al. (2015) have considered another  
668 process to generate energetic calcium: sputtering by solar wind ions precipitating at high  
669 latitudes through the magnetic cusps. They found that the Ca exospheric density produced by ion  
670 sputtering during nominal solar wind conditions can reach values of  $1 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ , not insignificant  
671 when compared to the  $1\text{-}4 \text{ cm}^{-3}$  estimated by Burger et al. (2014). The density can reach even  
672 higher values than that if extreme solar events (like coronal mass ejections or high-speed  
673 streams) increase the area available to solar wind precipitating ions. Although considered to be a

674 secondary process compared to impact vaporization and subsequent photodissociation, ion  
675 sputtering, which at Mercury predominantly occurs at high latitudes, can contribute to the  
676 calcium exosphere detected above Mercury's poles by ground-based observations.

677 The MESSENGER observations confirmed that Mercury's calcium exosphere is centered on the  
678 dawn hemisphere and extends anti-sunward of the terminator, consistent with impact  
679 vaporization, which peaks at dawn (Pokorný et al., 2018) and indicating that the energization  
680 process is probably not photodissociation (Burger et al., 2012). Seasonal variations of the  
681 calcium exosphere were modeled by Burger et al. (2014) and subsequently used to determine  
682 that the calcium exosphere can be explained by an impact vaporization source centered at dawn.  
683 An excess of calcium near  $TAA = 20^\circ$  was detected seasonally in the MESSENGER data and is  
684 likely due to the intersection of Mercury's orbit with that of the comet 2P/Encke (Killen & Hahn,  
685 2015; TAA = True Anomaly Angle is Mercury's angle, along its orbit, from perihelion). Further  
686 modeling of the comet 2P/Encke dust torus and its evolution under forces such as Poynting-  
687 Robertson drag confirmed the correlation between the position of the calcium excess and the  
688 comet Encke dust orbit relative to Mercury's (Christou et al., 2015). Considering different  
689 exosphere generation and loss mechanisms, Plainaki et al. (2017) performed simulations of the  
690 Ca and CaO neutral environment using the 3-D Monte Carlo exospheric model of Mura et al.  
691 (2009). They found that the simulated morphology of the Ca exosphere is consistent with the  
692 available MESSENGER observations. According to Plainaki et al. (2017), the generation of a  
693 seasonal asymmetric CaO exosphere is expected, with the maximum surface release being on the  
694 dawnside-nightside hemisphere, near the equator, because there is where the comet stream  
695 particles preferentially impact the planet's surface according to the model by Christou et al.  
696 (2015). In addition, an exospheric energetic Ca component, derived from the dissociative  
697 ionization and neutralization of CaO, is expected above the same region. The spatial distribution  
698 of the thermal Ca exosphere generated by photoionization of the CaO molecules in sunlight is  
699 expected to be asymmetric, exhibiting local maxima near the dawn region. Burger et al. (2014)  
700 found noticeable differences between the seasonal behavior of calcium and sodium. The Ca  
701 exosphere presents a fairly stable year-to-year seasonal dependence, with emission (density)  
702 peaks always occurring at dawn near the equator (see Figure 12).



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Figure 12. (left) Intensity at the surface over Mercury dawn determined from exponential fits to MESSENGER/MASCS limb profiles. Different Mercury years are indicated by different colors. (center) Ca density in Mercury's equatorial plane at Mercury true anomaly = 20° based on the simple dawn-centered model of Burger et al. (2014) ( $T = 70,000$  K,  $\sigma = 50^\circ$ , source rate =  $3.7 \times 10^{23} \text{ s}^{-1}$ ). (right) Comparison of the source rate determined at all true anomalies using the simple model shown in the center panel to the best-fit source rate at each true anomaly. The simple model works remarkably well. Adapted from Burger et al. (2014).

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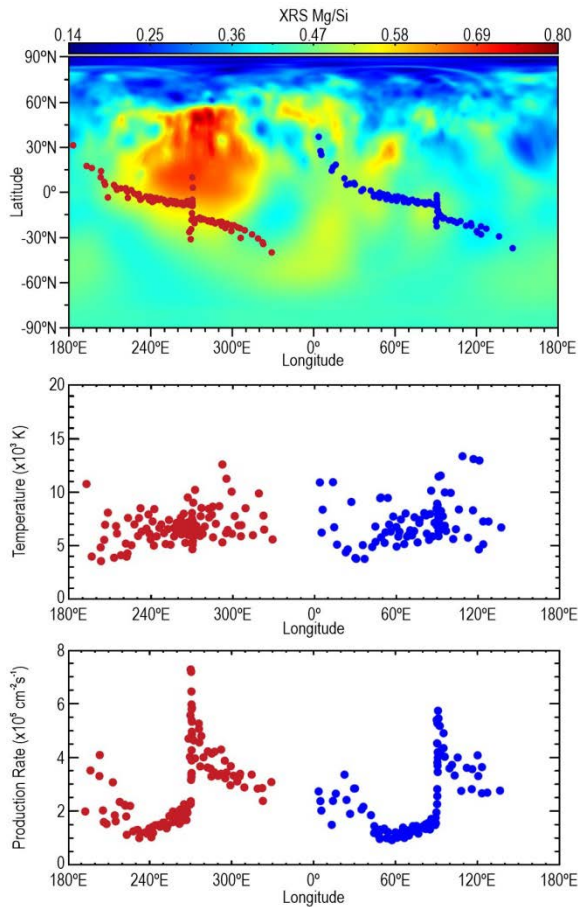
Thus far, no detection of exospheric calcium has been made at the Moon. The upper limit of the Ca column density in the lunar exosphere is estimated as  $9.2 \times 10^7 \text{ cm}^{-2}$  (Flynn & Stern, 1996). It is possible to estimate the theoretical content of atoms of calcium (or other elements) in the exosphere using a stoichiometric model. A stricter upper limit of Ca column density,  $5 \times 10^7 \text{ cm}^{-2}$ , was obtained by Berezhnoy et al. (2014) with observations from the Zeiss telescope in Kabardino-Balkaria, Russia, and the Ca depletion factor relative to Na was estimated as  $> 100$ . This limit is less than that expected from contributions by both impact vaporization and sputtering models (Sarantos et al., 2012). These observations can be explained by condensation of Ca-containing species in impact-produced clouds upon collisions between meteoroids and the Moon (Berezhnoy, 2013).

### 720 3.2 Magnesium

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Magnesium (Mg) was discovered in Mercury's exosphere from the emission line at 285.2 nm during MESSENGER's second flyby (McClintock et al., 2009). Mg was found at high distances from the planet and high altitudes. Sarantos et al. (2011), analyzing the MASCS flyby data, found that the Mg exosphere is consistent with two populations: a hot component ( $T > 20,000$  K) and a colder component ( $T < 5,000$  K). MESSENGER orbital data analyzed by Merkel et al. (2017) showed that there is an enhancement in the exospheric Mg in the morning (6 — 9 AM local time) near perihelion, that the bulk temperature is  $\sim 6,000$  K, at times as low as  $\sim 3,700$  K or as high as  $\sim 10,400$  K, and that the production rate is strongest in the morning on the inbound leg of the orbit, i.e. TAA  $> 180^\circ$ . Although Merkel et al. found occasional temperatures  $> 10,000$  K, consistent with the hotter component observed during the flybys (Sarantos et al., 2011), no observations from the orbital phase confirmed the colder component, although the lower end of the Merkel et al. temperatures ( $\sim 3700$  K) is close to the upper end of the Sarantos et al. colder component ( $\sim 5,000$  K).

734 In a follow-up paper, Merkel et al. (2018) showed that the Mg column density is greatest over  
 735 the Mg-rich terrain as measured by MESSENGER's X-Ray spectrometer (XRS; Schlemm et al.,  
 736 2007). Merkel et al. (2018) concluded that the main Mg source process is impact vaporization.  
 737 However, the temperature as inferred from the scale height is almost twice that expected from  
 738 impact vaporization. Figure 13 summarizes the Merkel et al. (2018) findings. Namely, the Mg  
 739 source rate is higher for those years when the Mg-rich terrain is exposed at dawn at perihelion,  
 740 compared to those years when the antipodal terrain is exposed at dawn at perihelion (because of  
 741 the 3:2 spin-orbit resonance, a given longitude is exposed at a given local time every other year;  
 742 Domingue et al., 2007). This is the first time that a direct link between the composition of  
 743 Mercury's surface and that of the exosphere has been established.



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745 **Figure 13. Summary of MESSENGER/MASCS observations of Mg over two Mercury years. Top: MASCS observations**  
 746 **(circles, color coded by Mercury year) over a Mg/Si elemental weight ratio composite map derived from**  
 747 **MESSENGER/XRS measurements (Weider et al., 2015). Middle: temperature fit (using the model of Chamberlain, 1963)**  
 748 **to MASCS observations. It shows how the temperature from the emission lines (4,000-8,000 K) is independent on the year.**  
 749 **Bottom: the retrieved production rate of Mg. It shows how observations in red (years when the Mg-rich terrain is exposed**  
 750 **at dawn at perihelion) are consistent with a higher production rate than observations in blue (years when the terrain**  
 751 **antipodal to the Mg-rich terrain is exposed at dawn at the perihelion). Adapted from Merkel et al. (2018).**

752 As with calcium, it is clear that at times an energetic process like ion sputtering or dissociation of  
 753 a molecular precursor is responsible for ejection of Mg into the exosphere, but at other times

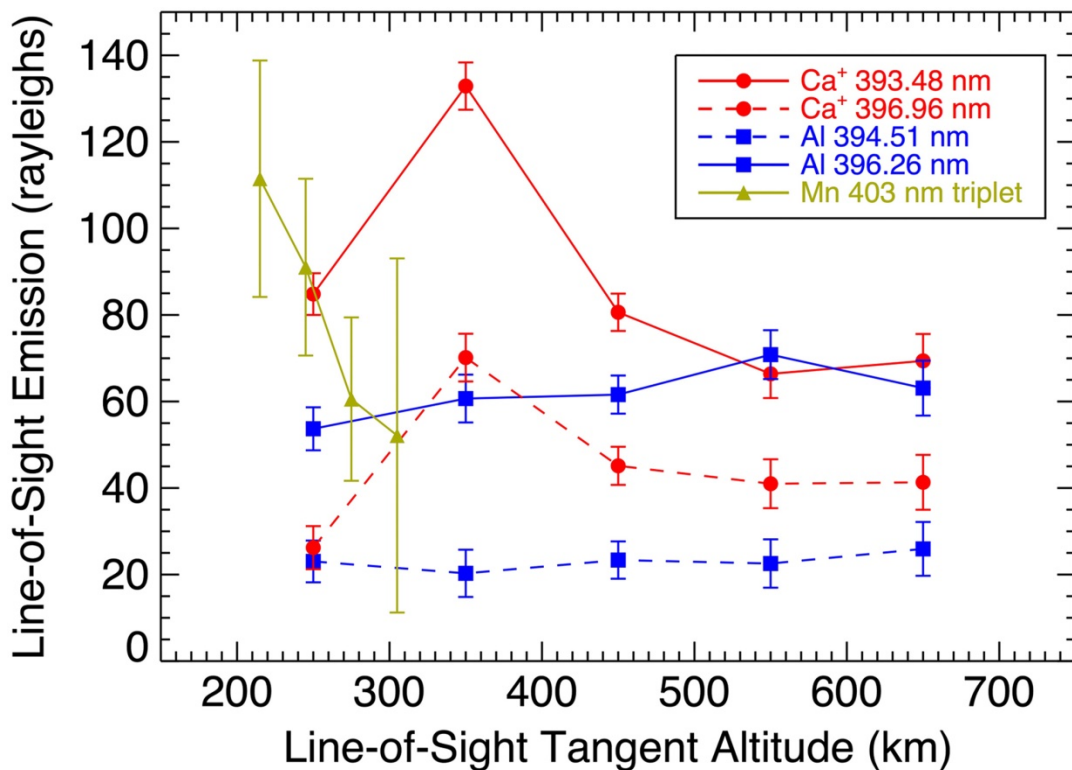
754 impact vaporization dominates. Although the spatial distribution of Mg is not consistent with an  
755 ion-sputtering source, a portion of the atomic Mg could be from dissociation of a precursor  
756 molecule, similar to Ca. Quenching theory predicts that meteoroid bombardment is an effective  
757 source of MgO, Mg, and MgOH in the exosphere of Mercury (Berezhnoy, 2018). The energy of  
758 Mg atoms produced via photolysis of MgO and MgOH is estimated as 0.4 eV and < 0.6 eV,  
759 respectively (Berezhnoy, 2013). Agreement between observed and theoretical column density of  
760 Mg atoms from photolysis and impact vaporization ( $2 \times 10^9 \text{ cm}^{-2}$ ; Merkel et al., 2018) suggests  
761 that meteoroid bombardment is the main source of Mg atoms in Mercury's exosphere  
762 (Berezhnoy, 2018).

763 There has been no detection of Mg in the lunar exosphere. The upper limit of the intensity of the  
764 MgI 285.2 nm emission line in the lunar exosphere was estimated as 53 Rayleighs,  
765 corresponding to an exospheric surface density of Mg of  $6,000 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ , whereas the theoretical  
766 value from stoichiometric models is estimated as 476 R (Stern et al., 1997). LRO/LAMP placed  
767 an even stricter upper limit for the Mg surface density of  $3.4 \text{ cm}^{-3}$  near the terminator from the  
768 emission line at 182.8 nm (Cook et al., 2013). This value is slightly higher than that predicted by  
769 considering only sputtering as a source of Mg atoms in the lunar exosphere ( $1.0 - 1.5 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ ; Wurz  
770 et al., 2007), whereas the expected near-surface density from impact vaporization was estimated  
771 to be  $5 \text{ cm}^{-3}$  (Sarantos et al., 2012). The difference between the stoichiometric model and  
772 observations can also be explained by less effective delivery of Mg atoms than Na atoms to the  
773 exosphere during meteoroid bombardment owing to condensation of Mg-containing species in  
774 collisions between meteoroids and the Moon (Berezhnoy, 2013). However, it must be recognized  
775 that there is a substantial stoichiometric discrepancy between e.g. Na and O in Mercury's  
776 exosphere. This discrepancy calls into question whether or not this is a viable assumption to  
777 estimate densities for certain species.

### 778 **3.3 Other refractories (Al, Fe, Mn)**

779 A handful of other refractory species have been detected at Mercury by ground-based or  
780 MESSENGER observations. Aluminum (Al) and iron (Fe) were discovered using the Keck  
781 telescope (Bida & Killen, 2011), and subsequently manganese (Mn) was discovered by  
782 MESSENGER/MASCS (Vervack et al., 2016). Whereas the Keck observations only detected a  
783 single line of Al, MESSENGER definitively confirmed the presence of the weaker ground-based  
784 detection by observing both lines of Al near 394-396 nm (Vervack et al., 2016). However,  
785 MESSENGER did not confirm the detection of Fe despite searches for several Fe lines. Al and  
786 Mn were only sporadically observed by MESSENGER, but there was a correlation between the  
787 TAA of the Encke-related peak in Ca and the TAA at which MESSENGER observed Al and Mn  
788 that suggests these two weakly emitting species may also be related to the comet Encke dust trail  
789 (Vervack et al., 2016). If this is the case, we might expect that the release of these species is  
790 dominated by meteoroid impact vaporization as with Ca, and that there might be an association,  
791 in part, with a molecular origin. Bida & Killen (2017) showed that Fe in Mercury's exosphere  
792 increases with altitude, which is evidence for a molecular origin of the neutral atomic species,

793 similar to Ca. On the other hand, in the ground-based observations, Al shows a more normal  
 794 exponential decrease (Bida & Killen, 2017), consistent with a hot exosphere (6,000 – 8,000 K)  
 795 like that of Mg but not as extreme as that of Ca. Given that impact vaporization is expected to  
 796 produce a plume at ~3,500 K (e.g. Berezhnoy & Klumov, 2008), some additional process is  
 797 necessary to result in a > 6,000 K exosphere. In contrast, the MESSENGER observations showed  
 798 that Al may exhibit a flat to increasing profile with altitude, similar in structure to that found by  
 799 Bida & Killen (2017) for Fe and thus suggesting a molecular species may be involved.  
 800 MESSENGER observations of Mn show a completely different altitude distribution from that  
 801 observed for Al and Ca<sup>+</sup> (see Figure 14). Given that the Al and Mn were observed at TAA  
 802 roughly consistent with the comet Encke dust trail crossing, this different altitude structure may  
 803 suggest a cometary origin for Mn, or at least a very different process for releasing Mn from  
 804 Mercury’s surface (Vervack et al., 2016). However, both the ground-based and MESSENGER  
 805 datasets probed the pre-dawn region of the exosphere where the effects of the planet’s shadow  
 806 must be taken into account for the proper interpretation of any observations. Therefore, models  
 807 need to be constructed to investigate the true profiles for all of these species.



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 809 **Figure 14.** Line-of-sight tangent altitude profiles of Mn, Al, and Ca detected by MESSENGER/MASCS (spacecraft  
 810 motion during the measurement of these profiles means they are not strictly radial profiles). The peculiar altitude profile  
 811 of Mn, different from that of Ca<sup>+</sup> or Al even though observed with similar geometry, when coupled with the timing in  
 812 Mercury’s true anomaly angle, suggests that the Mn may be of cometary origin owing to a possible association with the  
 813 comet 2P/Encke dust trail. Reproduced from Vervack et al. (2016).

814 Considering meteoroid bombardment as a source of Fe, Al, and Mn atoms in Mercury’s  
 815 exosphere, the main Fe-, Al-, and Mn-containing species delivered to the exosphere via impacts

816 are Fe, FeO, AlOH, AlO, Al(OH)<sub>2</sub>, and Mn (Berezhnoy, 2018). The theoretical column density  
817 of impact-produced Fe atoms,  $1.2 \times 10^9 \text{ cm}^{-2}$ , agrees well with the observed column density ( $8.2$   
818  $\times 10^8 \text{ cm}^{-2}$ ; Bida & Killen, 2017). However, photolysis of FeO leads to production of Fe atoms  
819 with energy of about 0.3 eV (Chestakov et al., 2005). This is significantly lower than the typical  
820 energy of Fe atoms observed in Mercury's exosphere (~1 eV; Bida & Killen, 2017). This  
821 difference in energy of Fe atoms can be explained if Fe atoms are delivered to Mercury's  
822 exosphere mainly by several steps of photolysis of impact-produced FeOH and Fe(OH)<sub>2</sub>  
823 molecules and its photolysis products. The theoretical column density of photolysis-generated Al  
824 atoms, about  $10^6 \text{ cm}^{-2}$  (Berezhnoy, 2018), is significantly lower than the observed value,  $7.7 \times$   
825  $10^7 \text{ cm}^{-2}$  (Vervack et al., 2016). Such a low theoretical column density of Al atoms is explained  
826 by the effective condensation of Al-containing species during the expansion of impact-produced  
827 vapor. The theoretical column density of impact-produced Mn atoms during quiet times is about  
828 half the observed value, about  $3 \times 10^7 \text{ cm}^{-2}$  (Berezhnoy, 2018). This difference can be explained  
829 by an increased flux of impactors during the MESSENGER observations owing to timing of the  
830 observations and Mercury's crossing of the comet Encke dust trail. It is expected that the initial  
831 temperature of impact-produced Mn atoms is about 3,000 K because Mn is produced mainly in  
832 the form of atoms during impact events (Berezhnoy, 2018). However, the temperature of Mn  
833 atoms in Mercury's exosphere has not yet been measured.

#### 834 **4. Missing species**

835 There are several species that are expected to be present in the exospheres of the Moon and  
836 Mercury, some in quantities that should have been detected by the past or current instruments,  
837 but were not. On the Moon, these include for example nitrogen (N<sub>2</sub>), carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>),  
838 magnesium, and calcium. The last two of these, plus mercury (Hg) and carbon monoxide (CO)  
839 were detected by LAMP in the LCROSS impact plume, as species permanently trapped within  
840 the Permanently Shadowed Region (PSR) of Cabeus crater and released by the impact  
841 (Gladstone et al., 2010b). For some of the other species, LRO/LAMP provided more stringent  
842 upper limits for the lunar exosphere, most of them several orders of magnitude lower than  
843 previous estimates (Cook et al., 2013).

844 Lithium (Li) is the third most abundant alkali element in the Solar System after Na and K. The  
845 average content of Na, K, and Li in norites in returned lunar samples is equal to 3,000, 1,500,  
846 and 12.3 ppm, respectively (Lodders & Fegley, 1998). The value of the g-factor for the Li 670.8  
847 nm emission lines ( $16 \text{ photons atom}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$  at 1 AU; Sullivan & Hunten, 1964), is higher than that  
848 of either the Na 589.0 nm or K 769.9 nm resonance lines. This relatively bright emission rate  
849 should favor the search for Li in the exospheres of the Moon and Mercury. However, Li has not  
850 been detected so far at either Mercury or the Moon. Several factors decrease the content of  
851 exospheric Li atoms. Its photoionization lifetime for quiet Sun, 5100 s, is much shorter than that  
852 of sodium (Na),  $1.4 \times 10^5 \text{ s}$ , and potassium (K),  $3.7 \times 10^4 \text{ s}$  (Huebner & Mukherjee, 2015).



853 Lithium is a light element, and as such it has a faster escape rate from the exosphere (especially  
854 at the Moon) in comparison with heavier Na and K atoms.

855 Spectroscopic searches for Li emission lines at 670.88 nm in the exosphere of Mercury were  
856 performed by Sprague et al. (1996) and by Doressoundiram et al. (2009), who reported upper  
857 limits for the zenith column density of Li atoms of  $8.4 \times 10^7 \text{ cm}^{-2}$  and  $4 \times 10^7 \text{ cm}^{-2}$ , respectively.  
858 This column density can be compared to typical Na zenith column densities,  $1.5 \times 10^{11} \text{ cm}^{-2}$   
859 (Potter & Morgan, 1985) to give a Li/Na ratio on the order of  $10^{-4}$ . The Li content on the surface  
860 of Mercury is still unknown, so theoretical estimates of Li content in Mercury's exosphere are  
861 absent. On the Moon, the upper limit of zenith column density of Li atoms in the exosphere is  
862  $1.1 \times 10^6 \text{ cm}^{-2}$ , from Flynn & Stern (1996). These authors also reported upper limits of intensities  
863 of resonance lines of other alkali atoms (230 R for Rb at 780.0 nm and 520 R for Cs at 852.1  
864 nm), without converting them to zenith column densities owing to the lack of reliable g-factors.  
865 The observations of Flynn & Stern (1996) were performed 20" above the subsolar point near  
866 quarter Moon at the most suitable conditions to search for photon-desorbed exospheric atoms.  
867 The theoretical intensity of the Li emission lines at 670.8 nm in that region is estimated at 46 R,  
868 using a Li-Na stoichiometric model. The assumptions of this model are that the temperature of  
869 Na and Li atoms is the same (1,000 K) and that the physical parameters of Na and Li atoms in  
870 the exosphere and on the surface of the Moon (sticking coefficients, thermal evaporation rates,  
871 accommodation coefficients, diffusion coefficients) are the same. Differences in photoionization  
872 rates of Na and Li are also taken into account. However, the observed upper limit of the intensity  
873 of the Li 670.8 nm emission lines is only 17 R (Flynn & Stern, 1996). Thus, one can tentatively  
874 conclude that the behavior of Li in the exosphere of the Moon is different from that of Na. An  
875 upper limit of Li zenith column density above the north pole of the Moon during the activity of  
876 the 2009 Perseid meteor shower is estimated as  $4.9 \times 10^6 \text{ cm}^{-2}$  (Berezhnoy et al., 2014). The  
877 depletion factor of Li in the lunar exosphere in comparison with Na is found to be  $> 1.6$ .

878 The behavior of Li during collisions of meteoroids with the surface of the Moon has been studied  
879 theoretically through quenching theory of the chemical composition of impact-produced vapor  
880 clouds. Impacts of meteoroids lead to delivery of LiOH, Li, LiO, and LiCl to the exosphere of  
881 the Moon (Berezhnoy, 2013). LiOH is the main Li-containing impact-produced compound at  
882 temperatures of quenching of chemical reactions  $< 3,700 \text{ K}$ , typical for collisions of meteoroids  
883 exceeding 3 cm in radius. Photolysis lifetimes of LiO and LiCl at 1 AU for quiet Sun are equal to  
884 28 and 225 s, respectively, whereas typical velocities of Li atoms produced upon LiO and LiCl  
885 photolysis are calculated as 2.6 and 3.8 km/s, respectively (Valiev et al., 2020). The LiOH  
886 photolysis lifetime at 1 AU for quiet Sun is estimated as 900 s, and the typical energy of Li  
887 atoms produced upon LiOH photolysis is estimated as 1.8 eV (Berezhnoy, 2013). Therefore,  
888 photolysis lifetimes of the main Li-containing impact-produced species are shorter than or  
889 comparable to typical ballistic flight times of these species ( $\sim 10^3 \text{ s}$ ). This leads to effective  
890 photolysis of impact-produced Li-containing species during the first ballistic flight and therefore  
891 to enhancement of hot photolysis-generated Li atoms in the exospheres of the Moon and

892 Mercury during periods of active meteoroid bombardment. Such hot Li atoms could be detected  
893 during future observations of Li in the lunar exosphere.

894 Sulfur (S) is also expected to be present in Mercury's exosphere, especially above the hollows  
895 and the Mg-rich areas, but it was not seen in the MESSENGER/MASCS spectra, most likely  
896 owing to its small g-value. The sulfur surface abundance was published for some regions  
897 (Weider et al., 2015) and appears to be correlated with regions where Mg and Ca are also  
898 enhanced. Moreover, S is enhanced over its average abundance by up to a factor of 5 in the Mg-  
899 rich region (30° - 60° N, 240°-300° E). In fact, it is speculated that the "light blue" regions  
900 surrounding the hollows are sulfur-containing volatiles (Nittler et al., 2011). Hollows are rare in  
901 the Caloris Basin (Thomas et al., 2014), where the surface concentration of S is also low (Weider  
902 et al., 2015). Theoretical estimates of the S column density in Mercury's exosphere ( $6 \times 10^7 \text{ cm}^{-2}$   
903 from Wurz et al., 2010;  $10^9 \text{ cm}^{-2}$  from Berezhnoy, 2018;  $2 \times 10^{10} \text{ cm}^{-2}$  from Morgan & Killen,  
904 1997; and  $2 \times 10^{13} \text{ cm}^{-2}$  from Sprague et al., 1995) are inconsistent. Recent laboratory  
905 experiments suggest that photon-stimulated desorption of S from MgS, a proxy for the global  
906 form of S on Mercury's surface, may provide a global, additional source of S at low altitudes of  
907 Mercury's exosphere (Schaible et al., 2020).

908 Doressoundiram et al. (2009) reported upper limits for the Mercury's exosphere of silicon (Si) of  
909  $5 \times 10^{10} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ ) from the European Southern Observatory – New Technology Telescope in La  
910 Silla, Chile. An upper limit of Si from the Moon from Flynn and Stern (1996) appears to have  
911 been obtained using an excited line (390.6 nm) that is not expected to be populated (Sarantos et  
912 al., 2012).

913 Oxygen (O) represents a quandary. The published Mariner 10 results provide a generous upper  
914 limit for the O column density (emission line at 130.4 nm) of  $\sim 10^{11} \text{ cm}^{-2}$  (Broadfoot et al., 1974),  
915 on par with that of sodium. However, no oxygen emission at the 130.4 nm line (or the forbidden  
916 line at 135.6 nm) was detected with MESSENGER/MASCS, despite its higher sensitivity  
917 compared to the Mariner 10 UVS (Vervack et al., 2016). Column densities reported by Mariner  
918 10 would have been detected by MASCS without difficulty. Vervack et al. (2016) proposed three  
919 explanations: the oxygen exosphere was significantly more abundant in 1974 than today; the  
920 Mariner 10 "detections" were only upper limits; or the Mariner 10 observations were somehow  
921 in error. On the Moon, oxygen has long eluded detection, both from mass spectrometers and  
922 from spectrographs. Hodges et al. (1974) noted that the absence of O and O<sub>2</sub> in the lunar  
923 exosphere from the LACE mass spectrometer is understandable, if we consider that the Moon is  
924 less than fully oxidized, even though O is one of the major constituents of the lunar surface.  
925 LACE upper limits for molecular oxygen (O<sub>2</sub>) in the lunar exosphere were  $100 \text{ cm}^{-3}$  (Hoffman &  
926 Hodges, 1975), which is roughly the sensitivity threshold of LACE (Hoffman et al., 1973).  
927 Oxygen has been detected on the Moon (Vorburger et al., 2014), but only as energetic sputtered  
928 species (see Section 5.2). The derived exospheric surface density ( $11 \text{ cm}^{-3}$  at the subsolar point)  
929 is consistent with the LRO/LAMP upper limits (Cook et al., 2013) and predictions based on solar  
930 wind sputtering (Wurz et al., 2007).

931 A number of metallic constituents of the lunar exosphere were expected to be identified by the  
932 LADEE mission according to pre-flight calculations (Sarantos et al., 2012). Preliminary  
933 detections of Ti, Mg, and Al in the lunar exosphere were reported by Colaprete et al. (2016a)  
934 from the LADEE Ultraviolet/Visible Spectrometer (UVS; Colaprete et al., 2014). Line strengths  
935 of Ti and Mg decrease shortly after full moon, indicative of a dependence on solar wind. Line  
936 strengths of Al show a correlation with Geminids meteoroid stream, indicative of a meteoroid  
937 impact vaporization source. However, no density or column abundances have been derived to  
938 date from LADEE/UVS. The upper limit for exospheric surface density of Al from LRO/LAMP,  
939  $1.1 \text{ cm}^{-3}$  (Cook et al., 2013), is close to the range predicted by considering sputtering as the main  
940 source of Al atoms in the lunar exosphere:  $0.5 - 1.5 \text{ cm}^{-3}$  (Wurz et al., 2007), but is lower than  
941 the density expected from impact vaporization (Sarantos et al., 2012). The efficiency of delivery  
942 of Al and Fe atoms to the lunar exosphere during meteoroid bombardment is not as high as that  
943 for alkali elements Li, Na, and K owing to condensation of Al- and Fe-containing species during  
944 expansion of impact-produced cloud and formation of slowly photolyzed Al-containing species  
945 in the impact vapor (Berezhnoy, 2013).

## 946 **5. Ions and ENAs**

947 Ions and Energetic Neutral Atoms (ENAs) are important to infer loss rates, interaction between  
948 the surface and the solar wind, and even properties of the neutral exospheres.

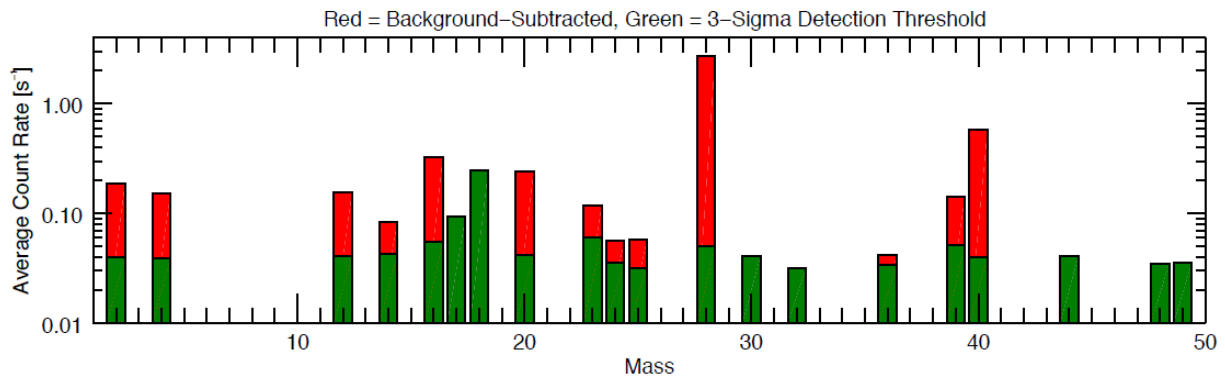
### 949 **5.1 Ions**

950 Ions offer the opportunity to study the primary loss process of exospheric neutrals (with the  
951 exception of H and He, which escape predominantly with the Jeans mechanism), i.e. photo-  
952 ionization, electron-impact excitation, and charge-exchange with the solar wind ions (mainly  
953 protons). As Hartle & Killen (2006) have pointed out, with proper modeling tools it is possible to  
954 backtrace the ion to its origin at the surface, provided that the solar wind velocity and the  
955 interplanetary magnetic field are known. This is the technique used for example to infer  
956 exospheric properties from measurements of the lunar ionosphere (e.g. Poppe et al., 2013).

957 Ions of lunar origin have been measured on the surface by the SIDE detectors (Section 2.3.1), in  
958 lunar orbit by instruments onboard SELENE, Chang'E-1, LADEE, and ARTEMIS (e.g. Yokota  
959 et al., 2014; Saito et al., 2010a; Wang et al., 2011; Halekas et al., 2011, 2012, 2013, 2016; Poppe  
960 et al., 2012, 2016), and at more distant locations by instruments on board the WIND and AMPTE  
961 spacecraft (Mall et al., 1998; Hilchenbach et al., 1991). Detections or inferred detections to date  
962 include  $\text{H}_2^+$ ,  $\text{He}^+$ ,  $\text{C}^+$ ,  $\text{O}^+$ ,  $\text{Ne}^+$ ,  $\text{Na}^+$ ,  $\text{Al}^+$ ,  $\text{CO}^+/\text{Si}^+/\text{N}_2^+$ ,  $\text{K}^+$ ,  $\text{Ar}^+/\text{Ca}^+$ , and  $\text{Fe}^+$ . The relative  
963 abundance of even the most common ion species remains in doubt, in part owing to the different  
964 observation geometries, but also to ambiguity regarding the source of the ions.

965 Ions around the Moon come both from ionization of exospheric neutrals and directly from the  
966 surface (Yokota et al., 2009; Tanaka et al., 2009). The interactions of solar photons, solar wind  
967 ions, and interplanetary dust with the regolith can all lead to emission of both ions and neutral

968 particles (Elphic et al., 1991; Madey et al., 1998). SELENE, Chandrayaan-1, and ARTEMIS  
 969 detected low-energy protons reflected from the lunar surface. These measurements showed that  
 970 between 0.1% and 1.0% of the incoming solar wind protons are backscattered (Saito et al., 2008;  
 971 Lue et al., 2014, 2018).  $H_2^+$  was detected by LADEE/NMS (Halekas et al., 2015) and Solar Wind  
 972 Ion Detectors (SWID) onboard Chang'E-1 (Wang et al., 2011). Recent analyses of SELENE data  
 973 also reveal  $C^+$ , apparently derived from the lunar surface (Yokota et al., 2020) and hinting at the  
 974 importance of a carbon cycle at the Moon (see also Section 2.3.2). LADEE/NMS, which  
 975 observed low-energy ions produced locally in the exosphere, found the highest fluxes (in order)  
 976 for  $CO^+/Si^+/N_2^+$ ,  $Ar^+/Ca^+$ ,  $O^+$ , and  $Ne^+$  (Halekas et al., 2015; see Figure 15).

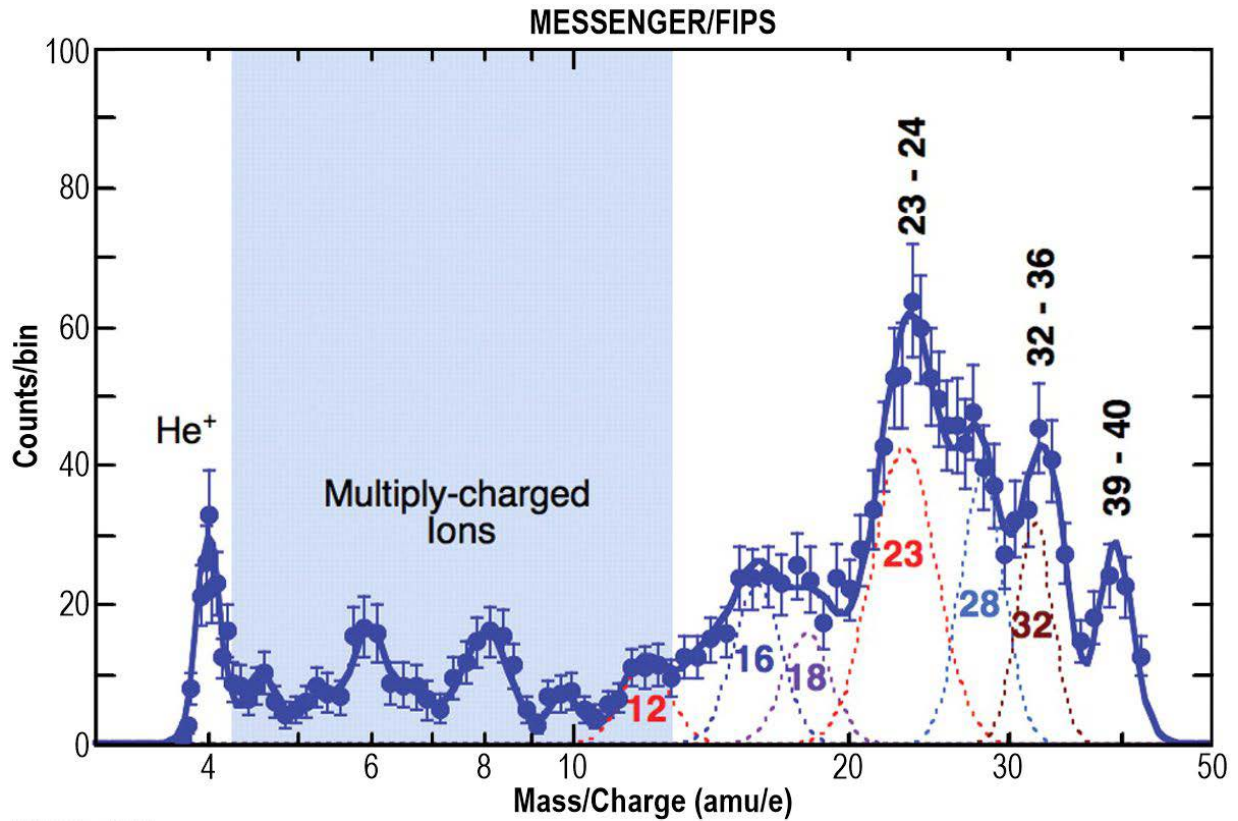


977  
 978 **Figure 15. Mass spectrum of lunar ions detected by ARTEMIS. Candidates for the substantial peak at  $m/q = 28$  are  $N_2^+$ ,**  
 979  **$Si^+$ , and  $CO^+$ , with the latter one being the most plausible given the lower photo-ionization yields of the other two.**  
 980 **Adapted from Halekas et al. (2015) with the addition of  $O^+$  signal at mass 16.**

981 The  $Ar^+$  and  $Ne^+$  signals appear consistent with neutral composition data that reveal high  
 982 abundances of these noble gases (Benna et al., 2015). However, the peak at 28 amu remains  
 983 puzzling, with  $CO^+$  the most plausible species (as noted in Section 2.3.2, neutral CO is difficult  
 984 to measure owing to the instrumental background of LADEE/NMS). Neutral CO has not been  
 985 identified in the lunar exosphere or in lunar polar deposits (where it could be released by  
 986 micrometeoroid impacts or solar wind ion sputtering), but it is a byproduct of exothermic  
 987 reactions involving solar wind C and the surface (Hodges, 2016), and, as mentioned in Section  
 988 2.3.2, could represent a more substantial exosphere than  $CH_4$  (which peaks at a few hundreds of  
 989  $cm^{-3}$ ). Moreover, since CO can photodissociate to form  $O^+$  and  $C^+$ , its presence may help explain  
 990 the surprising detections of those two ions (also observed by other lunar missions), otherwise  
 991 difficult to reconcile with spectroscopic limits of their neutral counterparts (Cook et al., 2013 and  
 992 Section 4). SELENE detected  $O^+$  ions with energy 1-10 keV only when the Moon was in Earth's  
 993 plasma sheet: Terada et al. (2017) concluded that these are terrestrial oxygen ions transported to  
 994 the Moon by Earth's wind, reminiscent of the "shared" Earth-Moon neutral exosphere mentioned  
 995 in Section 2.1.

996 At Mercury, like on the Moon, ions of planetary origin come primarily from photoionization of  
 997 exospheric neutrals and directly through surface processes (Killen et al., 2007). Most  
 998 observations of Mercury planetary ions come from MESSENGER's Fast Imaging Plasma

999 Spectrometer (FIPS), part of the Energetic Particle and Plasma Spectrometer (EPPS; Andrews et  
 1000 al., 2007). MESSENGER reported  $\text{He}^+$ ,  $\text{O}^+$  and  $\text{Na}^+$  on essentially every one of the >4,100 orbits  
 1001 as well as in the initial flybys (Zurbuchen et al., 2008; 2011; see Figure 16).



1002  
 1003 **Figure 16.** Mass spectrum of ions detected at Mercury by FIPS during MESSENGER's first flyby (January 2008).  
 1004 Multiply charged ions (such as  $\text{O}^{++}$ ,  $\text{Si}^{++}$ , and  $\text{Mg}^{++}$ ) are observed mostly below  $m/q \sim 12$ , even though  $\text{Fe}^{++}$  is observed at  
 1005  $m/q = 28$ . Dashed curves are Gaussian fits to the major peaks, and the solid blue curve is their sum. Adapted from  
 1006 Zurbuchen et al. (2008). Reprinted with permission from AAAS.

1007 Two of these ions,  $\text{O}^+$  and  $\text{Na}^+$ , are reported as part of mass per charge ( $m/q$ ) groups, the  $\text{O}^+$   
 1008 group ( $m/q$  16-20) and the  $\text{Na}^+$  group ( $m/q$  21-30), owing to the low resolution of the FIPS  
 1009 instrument. These ions are concentrated in several regions of Mercury's magnetosphere,  
 1010 primarily the cusps and central plasma sheet (Raines et al., 2013). In the central plasma sheet,  
 1011 their density has been estimated at  $0.1 - 1.0 \text{ cm}^{-3}$  (Gershman et al., 2014), which is only about  
 1012 10% of the  $\text{H}^+$  number density but up to 50% of the mass density there. Cusp densities have not  
 1013 been published but appear to be at least as high. One of the most surprising results from the first  
 1014 planetary ion measurements was the high energy of planetary ions in the northern  
 1015 magnetospheric cusp, with ions of energy  $>1 \text{ keV}$  being regularly observed (Raines et al., 2014).  
 1016 That study also reported the first indications of ions upwelling in the cusp, possibly owing to  
 1017 solar wind sputtering there. MESSENGER observed planetary ions throughout the  
 1018 magnetosphere as well as in the magnetosheath and beyond the bow shock, though lower in  
 1019 numbers than the cusp or plasma sheet. Thermal ions were not observed directly ( $\sim 1 \text{ eV}$ ) as the

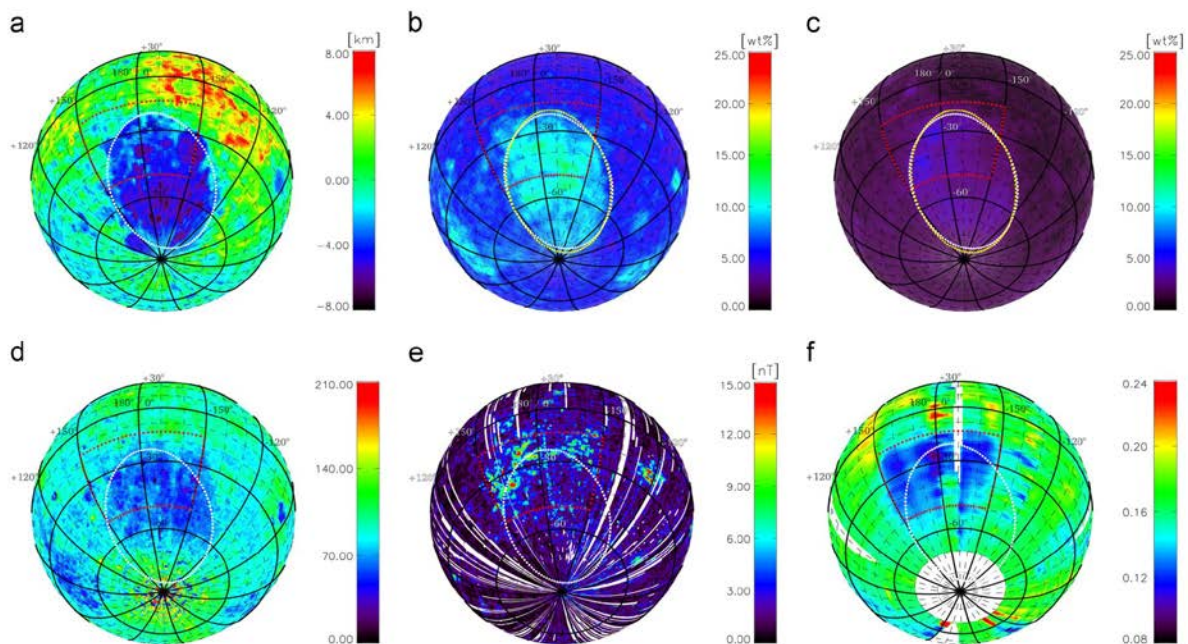
1020 lower energy bound of the MESSENGER instrument was about 50 eV (Andrews et al., 2007).  
1021 Calcium ions ( $\text{Ca}^+$ ) have been detected by MESSENGER/MASCS (Vervack et al., 2010, 2016)  
1022 through emission in the 393.5 and 397.0 nm lines but not with FIPS because of its low mass  
1023 resolution and possible overlap with other ions such as  $\text{K}^+$ . MASCS observed  $\text{Ca}^+$  emission in  
1024 two instances. The first was during MESSENGER's third flyby, when emission was observed in  
1025 the region tailward of the near-planet reconnection line (x-line; Vervack et al., 2010). This  
1026 implies that a convection mechanism in the magnetosphere may be at play. The similarity  
1027 between Ca and  $\text{Ca}^+$  line of sight column densities for this observation was a surprise, because  
1028 the two species have very different velocities ( $\text{Ca}^+$  100s of km/s; Ca: few km/s). The second  
1029 instance was during the same observations in which MASCS detected Al and Mn (see Figure  
1030 14), suggesting that there might be a connection to the enhanced neutral Ca abundances  
1031 MESSENGER observed during the interaction of Mercury with comet Encke dust.

1032 Despite Mercury's planetary magnetic field, solar wind ions and electrons can still impinge on its  
1033 surface, precipitating through the cusps, causing ion sputtering and electron-stimulated  
1034 desorption (ESD). Early in the MESSENGER mission, the average precipitation flux was  
1035 estimated at  $4 \times 10^8 \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$  (Winslow et al., 2014). This estimate was consistent with one made  
1036 of precipitation through very small magnetic structures, termed plasma filaments, as they crossed  
1037 over the cusp in magnetospheric convection (Poh et al., 2016). With the full mission dataset  
1038 available, Raines et al. (2016) computed the proton precipitating flux from each individual cusp  
1039 crossing of MESSENGER, finding values ranging from  $10^4 \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$  to  $10^8 \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$  and that the  
1040 flux varies considerably on spatial scales of only a few hundred kilometers. The behavior and  
1041 effect of the solar wind precipitation has been modeled extensively (Kallio & Janhunen, 2003;  
1042 Massetti et al., 2007; Benna et al., 2010). It has been difficult to make a definite link between  
1043 precipitation and exospheric production in observations, due at least in part to the dynamic  
1044 nature of Mercury's magnetosphere (Milillo et al., 2005), but several studies have provided  
1045 indications of this connection. Orsini et al. (2018) showed that episodic enhancements in ground-  
1046 based observations were associated with a passing Coronal Mass Ejection (CME). Jasinski et al.  
1047 (2020) showed that short-term enhancements in Na-group ions outside Mercury's bow shock  
1048 could be most logically explained by an episodic and local enhancement in the Na exosphere.  
1049 Raines et al. (2017) attributed a large but delayed increase in  $\text{He}^+$  to a several-day enhancement  
1050 in the He exosphere, which in turn resulted from the impact of a CME particularly enriched in  
1051  $\text{He}^{2+}$ , contrary to what was reported at the Moon, where the exospheric helium density measured  
1052 by LADEE/NMS increased promptly with the passage of a CME (Hurley et al., 2016; see Figure  
1053 2, where the passage of the CME is visible in the peak near day 400). Prior to MESSENGER, it  
1054 was thought that the extreme solar wind environment at Mercury could lead to the stripping  
1055 away of the entire dayside magnetosphere, causing direct bombardment by the solar wind across  
1056 the full dayside surface (e.g. Slavin et al., 2007) like on the Moon. Following MESSENGER, it  
1057 became clear that this was a much rarer condition, as Mercury's planetary field would react via  
1058 magnetic induction to counteract the effects (Slavin et al., 2014; Jia et al., 2019). However, a  
1059 small number of "disappearing dayside magnetosphere" events were observed (Slavin et al.,

1060 2019; Winslow et al., 2020), where the closed field region of Mercury's dayside magnetosphere  
1061 was reduced below the altitude of the MESSENGER spacecraft (275-400 km). During these  
1062 events, substantial portions of Mercury's dayside surface may have been subjected to  
1063 bombardment by solar wind plasma from Mercury's magnetosheath. Sun et al. (2020), reported  
1064 an analogous event on Mercury's nightside, where the central plasma sheet may have been  
1065 forced down to the nightside surface, from its normal position at hundreds km away.

## 1066 5.2 ENAs

1067 Energetic Neutral Atoms (ENAs) are another useful tool to study the structure of the exosphere  
1068 and its relationship with the surface. ENAs are solar wind ions that are backscattered as neutrals  
1069 from the lunar surface with about 10% of the original particles' energy. Traveling at about 140  
1070 km/s (~100 eV) and being neutrals, ENAs travel in straight trajectories. Therefore, it is possible  
1071 to trace detected ENAs back to their place of origin (much more easily than for ions) and to build  
1072 a map of locations where ENAs are reflected (e.g. Vorburger et al., 2015; Lue et al., 2016; see  
1073 Figure 17).



1074  
1075 **Figure 17.** This composite image illustrates how ENA reflection (map in panel f) is predominantly correlated with lunar  
1076 magnetic anomalies at the surface (see magnetic field at 30 km altitude from Lunar Prospector in panel e), rather than  
1077 with topography (Clementine laser altimeter data in panel a), surface composition (Lunar Prospector gamma-ray  
1078 spectrometer measurements of Fe and Th in panels b and c, respectively), or albedo (Clementine spectral reflectance  
1079 mosaic at 750 nm in panel d). ENAs are therefore a useful tool for studying the exosphere-surface interaction, particularly  
1080 on magnetic anomalies. Adapted from Vorburger et al. (2015).

1081 With the ENAs mainly originating in the solar wind (see below for an exception example), most  
1082 ENAs consist of hydrogen atoms. Interstellar Boundary Explorer (IBEX) made the first detection  
1083 of energetic neutral hydrogen at the Moon. IBEX measurements were consistent with 10% of  
1084 solar wind protons being converted in energetic neutral hydrogen atoms and reflected back with

1085 a broad energy range, in any case lower than the solar wind's ~1 keV (McComas et al., 2009).  
1086 The Chandrayaan-1 Energetic Neutral Atom (CENA), part of the Sub-keV Atom Reflecting  
1087 Analyzer (SARA; Barabash et al., 2009) onboard Chandrayaan-1, also detected energetic neutral  
1088 hydrogen atoms, and the inferred fraction of solar wind protons reflected as such was higher:  
1089 ~20% (Wieser et al., 2009; Futaana et al., 2012).

1090 Helium is the second most abundant element in the solar wind (~3.8%), surpassed only by  
1091 hydrogen (~96%) – see e.g. Table 1 in Von Steiger (2000). It is therefore expected that the total  
1092 backscattered lunar ENA flux also includes reflected He particles. Indeed, in 2014, CENA  
1093 measured for the first time alpha particles backscattered from the lunar surface as helium ENAs  
1094 (Vorburger et al., 2014). The characteristic energy of the helium ENAs is roughly four times the  
1095 characteristic energy of the hydrogen ENAs, agreeing with particle reflection theory. The  
1096 measured helium to hydrogen ratio in the CENA mass spectra equaled  $0.37 \times 10^{-3}$ .  
1097 Unfortunately, CENA's geometric factor (detection efficiency) for helium has not been  
1098 accurately determined, making it difficult to convert the measured He/H ratio into the He/H ratio  
1099 actually present in the reflected ENAs. Based on experience with ENA instrumentation, though,  
1100 the Vorburger et al. (2014) estimate that the actual He content is 10 times higher than  
1101 determined, implying a He backscatter ratio of 1.4% (compared to the H reflection ratio of 16%).

1102 Chandrayaan-1/CENA also measured lunar surface sputtered oxygen ENAs for the first time  
1103 (Vorburger et al., 2014). These oxygen atoms do not originate in the solar wind, but are ejected  
1104 from the topmost surface layer as the surface is irradiated with solar wind ions. Having  
1105 characteristic energies of a few eV (compared to backscattered particles, which have  
1106 characteristic energies of ~100 eV; [chapter by Wurz](#)), these particles are on the lower end of the  
1107 energy range covered by ENA detectors. Nevertheless, a clear, persistent oxygen signal was  
1108 observed in the CENA mass spectra, amounting to ~20-40% of the backscattered hydrogen ENA  
1109 flux. Inferred surface and column densities were on the order of  $\sim 10^7 \text{ cm}^{-3}$  and  $\sim 10^{13} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ ,  
1110 respectively. The Advanced Small Analyzer for Neutrals (Wieser et al., 2020a) onboard the  
1111 Yutu-2 rover of the Chang'E-4 mission also detected ENAs of mass larger than 4 amu at the  
1112 lunar surface, highly variable in abundance and confined to energies below 100 eV (Wieser et  
1113 al., 2020b). Whereas this is most probably also sputtered oxygen, the authors note that better  
1114 statistics and more observations are needed for further characterization.

## 1115 **6. Summary**

1116 We have discussed here species that represent the extrema of volatility (mobility) in surface-  
1117 bounded exospheres in the inner Solar System. Each type of species adds a piece to the puzzle of  
1118 the complex interaction between the airless bodies and the external environment (solar wind,  
1119 meteoroids, and solar photons). Both the volatiles He and H<sub>2</sub> shed light on the solar wind's role  
1120 in refilling the lunar exosphere, but each offers its own unique perspective on the exosphere  
1121 production: H<sub>2</sub> addresses the important aspect of what fraction of the lunar water is of solar wind  
1122 origin; whereas He is a useful species to understand the still poorly known gas-surface



1123 interaction. Argon ( $^{40}\text{Ar}$ ), radon, and to a lesser extent helium, offer the tantalizing opportunity to  
1124 quantify the amount of radiogenic elements of internal origin actively outgassing at present. On  
1125 the other end of the range of mobility, refractories inform us of the importance of energetic  
1126 processes (micrometeoroid impact vaporization and ion sputtering) in refilling the exosphere.  
1127 Other chapters with connections to the topics discussed here are those on micrometeoroid impact  
1128 vaporization (Janches), on particles and photons as drivers (Wurz), and on surface-exosphere  
1129 interaction (Teolis). Table 1 contains the list of species detected so far at the Moon or at  
1130 Mercury.

1131 We did not discuss asteroids. Although the presence of comae (and even of collisional  
1132 atmospheres close to the nuclei) is well established for comets (and beyond the scope of this  
1133 paper), for asteroids, which potentially represent the largest family of surface-bounded  
1134 exospheres, the observations are still inconclusive. Morgan & Killen (1998) predicted that  
1135 detection of coroneae of two important species, Na and OH, around asteroids would be extremely  
1136 challenging but not impossible from a spacecraft. There are active asteroids, also called “main-  
1137 belt comets”, which spew dust grains when they are close to perihelion (see review by Jewitt,  
1138 2012), and recently the Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security,  
1139 Regolith Explorer (OSIRIS-Rex; Loretta et al., 2017) has even detected cm-sized rocks being  
1140 flung from asteroid Bennu (Loretta et al., 2019), but there is a dearth of measurements  
1141 regarding their exospheres. One exception is Ceres, for which there are detections of exospheric  
1142 water-group species, including emission lines of hydroxyl (OH) at 309 nm (A’Hearn and  
1143 Feldman, 1992) and water ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) at 556.936 GHz (Küppers et al., 2014). However, the cases of  
1144 non-detection of water-group species are just as numerous (Rousselot et al., 2011, 2019; Roth et  
1145 al., 2016; Roth, 2018). Right now there is no clear explanation for the origin of Ceres’ transient  
1146 exosphere: sublimation rates from the known distribution of surface ice patches is two orders of  
1147 magnitude lower than the water production rate derived from the observations (Landis et al.,  
1148 2019). Villarreal et al. (2017) showed a correlation with solar energetic particle events, but ion  
1149 sputtering is not enough effective (Küppers, 2019).

1150 The Rosetta mission, while en route to comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko, performed flybys  
1151 of two asteroids: Steins (~6 km size) and Lutetia (~100 km size). Predictions of the exosphere of  
1152 Steins and Lutetia were made by Schläppi et al. (2008) based on solar wind sputtering and  
1153 impact vaporization, respectively. They predicted that a sputter-derived exosphere dominates  
1154 over an impact vaporization-derived exosphere and that magnesium would be the dominant  
1155 exospheric species after oxygen. They predicted that these detections would be challenging for  
1156 the ion mass spectrometer ROSINA (Rosetta Orbiter Spectrometer for Ion and Neutral Analysis;  
1157 Balsiger et al., 2007), but not impossible, at least at Lutetia. But ROSINA did not detect signs of  
1158 their putative exospheres (Jäckel et al., 2010). Spacecraft outgassing, even after years of  
1159 interplanetary travel, turned out to be a source of background gas contaminating the tenuous  
1160 exospheric signal (Schläppi et al., 2010). ROSINA placed an upper limit for water of  $\sim 3.5 \times 10^3$   
1161  $\text{cm}^{-3}$  from a closest approach distance of ~3,000 km (Altwegg et al., 2012). Rosetta’s UV

1162 spectrograph Alice (Stern et al., 2007) also did not detect an exosphere around Lutetia (Stern et  
 1163 al., 2011).

1164 **Table 1** List of confirmed detections of neutral volatiles and refractories at the Moon and Mercury. We report here either  
 1165 surface number density (from in situ mass spectrometry) or column density (from spectroscopic observations). Values of  
 1166 densities in *italic* correspond to extrapolation at the surface from remote sensing or in-orbit mass spectrometer  
 1167 measurements, and they involve the convolution with an exospheric model.

Species	Mercury	Moon	Reference
<sup>36</sup> Ar	-	$4 \times 10^3 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ at dawn	Hoffman et al. (1973)
<sup>40</sup> Ar	-	$4 \times 10^4 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ at dawn	Hoffman et al. (1973)
He	<i><math>4.5 \times 10^3 \text{ cm}^{-3}</math> at the subsolar point*</i>	$3 \times 10^4 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ at dawn <sup>+</sup>	*Broadfoot et al. (1976) +Hoffman et al. (1973)
Ne	-	$(3-110) \times 10^3 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ at dawn	Hodges et al. (1974) Killen et al. (2019)
Al	$(1.9-7.7) \times 10^7 \text{ cm}^{-2}$	-	Bida & Killen (2017) Vervack et al. (2016)
Mg	$(1-8) \times 10^9 \text{ cm}^{-2}$ at 500 km above the dayside	-	McClintock et al. (2008)
Mn	$4.9 \times 10^7 \text{ cm}^{-2}$	-	Vervack et al. (2016)
Fe	$8.2 \times 10^8 \text{ cm}^{-2}$	-	Bida & Killen (2017)
Ca	$(4-18) \times 10^7 \text{ cm}^{-2}$ (tangent)	-	Bida et al. (2000)
O	<i><math>7 \times 10^3 \text{ cm}^{-3}</math> at the subsolar point (tentative)*</i>	$11 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ at the subsolar point <sup>+</sup>	*Broadfoot et al. (1976) +Vorburger et al. (2014)
CH <sub>4</sub>	-	<i><math>450 \text{ cm}^{-3}</math> at dawn</i>	Hodges (2016)
H	<i><math>8 \text{ cm}^{-3}</math> at subsolar point (thermal)</i> <i><math>80 \text{ cm}^{-3}</math> at subsolar point (non-thermal)</i>	-	Broadfoot et al. (1976)
H <sub>2</sub>	-	<i><math>1.2 \times 10^3 \text{ cm}^{-3}</math></i>	Stern et al. (2013)

1168

## 1169 7. Future steps

1170 Despite the abundant progress made so far in the field of tenuous atmospheres, both  
 1171 observational and theoretical, several uncertainties still hamper our understanding of the inner  
 1172 Solar System exospheres and their interaction with the external drivers and the surface. For  
 1173 example, the column abundances that have been published so far using different observational  
 1174 techniques vary by orders of magnitude, and further observational, modelling, and laboratory  
 1175 advancements are needed. Here we briefly illustrate each of them.

### 1176 7.1 Remote and in situ measurements

1177 The exospheres of Mercury and the Moon are notoriously difficult to study from the ground  
 1178 owing to several reasons: the extremely bright background from sunlight scattered from the  
 1179 surface and, in the case of Mercury, also the proximity to the Sun, which makes it visible for one

1180 hour at most during twilight. Nonetheless, ground-based observations have been for most of the  
1181 time the only way to discover important exospheric species and to study how exospheres vary  
1182 both in space and time due to variations in the external drivers. For example, observations of  
1183 exospheric sodium (and to a lesser extent potassium) from ground-based telescopes have proven  
1184 an essential tool to study source and loss process in the exosphere of both Mercury and the Moon  
1185 (Potter & Morgan, 1988, 1997; Tyler et al., 1988). Unfortunately, several of the species  
1186 discussed here (Li, Mg, Ne, Ar) cannot be easily observed – or cannot be observed at all – from  
1187 the ground. But for the few refractories that have been detected from the ground (Ca, Fe, Al),  
1188 there is the need to perform additional observations to better understand their source and loss  
1189 processes. For example, observations with adequate temporal coverage (observations over  
1190 several consecutive nights) of calcium are needed to better constrain the dependence on the  
1191 external drivers (micrometeoroid flux, solar energetic particle events, etc.). More precise line  
1192 width measurements provide a more accurate temperature measurement of such gases.

1193 At Mercury, the BepiColombo mission (Benkhoff et al., 2010), composed of two orbiters, the  
1194 Mercury Planetary Orbiter (MPO) and the Mercury Magnetospheric Orbiter (MMO, also known  
1195 as Mio), will provide a much anticipated comprehensive in situ study of its exosphere. In  
1196 particular, the SERENA (Search for Exospheric Refilling and Emitted Natural Abundances) suite  
1197 of instruments (Orsini et al., 2010) onboard MPO will make in situ measurements of neutrals and  
1198 ions in Mercury’s environment. This suite of instruments will provide much needed constraints  
1199 on the high-energy processes (micrometeoroid impact vaporization, ion sputtering) that refill  
1200 Mercury’s exosphere. Spectra obtained by the PHEBUS (Probing of Hermean Exosphere By  
1201 Ultraviolet Spectroscopy; Chassefière et al., 2010; Quémerais et al., 2020) ultraviolet  
1202 spectrograph onboard MPO will be useful to supplement the mass spectrometer measurements  
1203 for species (such as argon) ejected with low energy, and thus unable to reach the periapsis of 400  
1204 km of BepiColombo/MPO. PHEBUS large bandpass (55 to 315 nm) will allow it to detect  
1205 several important species, like He, H, Mg. Complementing SERENA and PHEBUS, the Mercury  
1206 Plasma Particle Experiment (Saito et al., 2010b) onboard Mio will directly measure charged  
1207 particles in the exosphere and magnetosphere to quantitatively investigate generation  
1208 mechanisms of the exosphere of each element. Thanks to the low-altitude orbit of MPO, regional  
1209 and/or local time dependence of generation, escape, and circulation of heavy elements at the  
1210 planet will be examined, together with observations from the Mercury Imaging X-ray  
1211 Spectrometer (Fraser et al., 2010) and the Mercury Gamma and Neutron Spectrometer  
1212 (Mitrofanov et al., 2010), both onboard MPO. These instruments will measure the elemental  
1213 surface composition of Si, Al, Fe, Mg, Ca, S, Ti, Cr, Mn, Na, K, P, Ni, U, Th, Cl, O, H and  
1214 possibly C. as described in Milillo et al. (2020). Finally, the Mercury Dust Monitor (Kobayashi  
1215 et al., 2020) onboard MMO will provide measurements of dust impacts to the planet’s surface,  
1216 much needed in order to constrain source processes of refractories. The synergy, unprecedented  
1217 in Mercury exploration, of so many instruments in deriving important properties of the planet’s  
1218 surface, exosphere, and magnetosphere will benefit future exospheric models (Milillo et al.,  
1219 2020).

1220 Regarding the Moon, great benefits would be achieved from orbiters, which would uncover  
1221 temporal and spatial dependencies of exospheric abundances. This is especially critical in these  
1222 times of renewed interest in lunar exploration. An assessment of the lunar exospheric  
1223 composition is needed before it becomes forever changed: in a tenuous surface-bound exosphere  
1224 like that on the Moon, every landing adds significant amounts of exogenic gases (Prem et al.,  
1225 2020). As an example, each Apollo mission briefly doubled the mass of the lunar atmosphere  
1226 (Vondrak, 1974, 1992). Mass spectrometers can detect gases whose emission lines are too weak  
1227 to be promptly detected by a spectrograph. For example, measuring the diurnal Ne abundance  
1228 could resolve the discrepancy about its lifetime (Section 2.3.1). A measurement of  $^{40}\text{Ar}$ , coupled  
1229 with the measurement of the ionized component ( $^{40}\text{Ar}^+$ ), providing the loss rate for this element  
1230 (photo-ionization and electron impact ionization being the major loss processes), would constrain  
1231 the abundance of  $^{40}\text{K}$  within the crust and thus have important implications for the formation of  
1232 the Moon (as well as that of Mercury). As LRO, SELENE, and LADEE have demonstrated,  
1233 ultraviolet and visible spectrographs, especially onboard orbiters, also have proven useful to  
1234 detect species over disparate locations and local times, uncovering temporal and spatial evolution  
1235 of tenuous exospheres. There are plans to carry mass spectrometers on the lunar surface again,  
1236 almost five decades since Apollo 17. Thanks to NASA's Commercial Lunar Payload Services  
1237 program, mass spectrometers (such as LEMS; Benna et al., 2020) will be deployed at the lunar  
1238 surface. A network of mass spectrometers at different locations on the lunar surface will measure  
1239 more gases than is possible from orbit, and will monitor their local time dependence (and thus  
1240 their interaction with the lunar surface).

1241 Regarding ions, published mass composition measurements made around the Moon display little  
1242 consistency as to the ion species present or the relative abundance of different ions in the lunar  
1243 exosphere. In part, this results from the wide range of ion mass composition measurement  
1244 techniques utilized at the Moon, and the very different observational geometries employed by the  
1245 various missions. In addition, there have been very few studies of the long term variability of ion  
1246 composition around the Moon, which would provide a window on both the variability of the  
1247 neutral exosphere and that of the ionization and transport mechanisms. Therefore, there is real  
1248 value in performing ion composition measurements over a long duration, from a consistent  
1249 observational platform. This science topic may be addressed at least in part by NASA's  
1250 HERMES (Heliophysics Environmental and Radiation Measurement Experiment Suite) and  
1251 ESA's ERSA (European Radiation Sensors Array) suites of plasma instruments planned to fly on  
1252 the Lunar Gateway.

## 1253 **7.2 Laboratory measurements**

1254 As mentioned earlier, one of the biggest unknowns in the understanding of airless bodies'  
1255 exospheres is their interaction with the surface. To this regard, more laboratory experiments on  
1256 gas-surface interaction are needed, for example studies on thermal desorption rates of argon and  
1257 other adsorbers (e.g. Bernatowicz & Podosek, 1991; Dohnálek et al., 2002; Patrick et al., 2015),  
1258 necessary, for example, to refine the residence time of atoms on regolith grains. Also needed are

1259 experiments that refine the yields, cross sections, and threshold energy for photon-stimulated  
1260 desorption (e.g. Schaible et al., 2020) and electron-stimulated desorption (e.g. McLain et al.,  
1261 2011).

1262 The dissociation cross sections of possible precursor molecules of Ca and Mg need to be  
1263 measured or theoretically derived. These precursor molecules include CaO, CaOH, Ca(OH)<sub>2</sub>,  
1264 CaS, MgO, MgOH, and MgS. These cross sections are particularly useful in understanding, for  
1265 example, Mercury's calcium exosphere and its extremely hot temperature (thousands of K). The  
1266 energies distributions of the resultant atomic species should be derived. Rough estimates of  
1267 photolysis lifetimes, as well as energy and velocity distributions of photolysis-generated metal  
1268 atoms, need to be carried out using correlations between molecular properties of well-studied  
1269 atmospheric species (e.g. Berezhnoy, 2010). Complex modern *ab initio* models of photolysis  
1270 currently have been applied only to diatomic molecules containing alkali metals (Valiev et al.,  
1271 2020). Such models should be further developed for application to photolysis of polyatomic  
1272 species including Ca, Mg, Al, and Fe. Moreover, a refinement of photoionization cross sections  
1273 should be made for several atomic species, especially Ca, Ne, and Ar.

1274 Finally, the renewed interest in the lunar exploration (like the NASA program Artemis)  
1275 represents a compelling opportunity to bring back samples from previously unexplored regions  
1276 of the Moon. For example, the ability to quantify the <sup>3</sup>He and <sup>4</sup>He content in new lunar samples  
1277 would allow us to improve our knowledge regarding correlation between the <sup>3</sup>He and <sup>4</sup>He  
1278 content and properties of the lunar regolith. This would lead to better constraints of <sup>3</sup>He and <sup>4</sup>He  
1279 content on the surface of the Moon on a global scale.

### 1280 **7.3 Simulations**

1281 Monte Carlo simulations of the lunar and Mercury's exospheres are usually the best at  
1282 reproducing the dependence of the exospheres from several parameters (solar radiation pressure,  
1283 different source processes at the surface, ionization and charge-exchange on the dayside).

1284 Recent works have illustrated the need for more accurate simulations of the surface-exosphere  
1285 interaction in airless bodies. For example, Sarantos & Tsavachidis (2020) showed that the  
1286 mobility of alkalis (Na and K) on the surface of regolith grains on both the Moon and Mercury  
1287 reduce the overall desorption of these species from these grains. On the Moon, this effect might  
1288 explain why the sodium exosphere reacts more slowly to the changes of the micrometeoroid flux  
1289 compared to potassium, because the latter, being more massive than the former, has an overall  
1290 reduced surface mobility, and therefore a higher chance to be photodesorbed. At Mercury this  
1291 surface-diffusion dependence of photodesorption rate might explain the peak post-noon in the  
1292 sodium exosphere at aphelion, which is not explained by models that assume that alkali atoms do  
1293 not move on the grains. Such approach should be applied to other species, notably to another  
1294 alkali element, lithium. Models should also include the temporary sequestration of adsorbed  
1295 atoms in the subsurface. As discussed in Section 2.2, Kegerreis et al. (2017) showed that this  
1296 process, by which argon atoms migrate downwards during the night and are released during the

1297 day later than dawn, can explain the half-an-hour delay in the sunrise exospheric density bulge  
1298 measured by both LACE and LADEE.

1299 Simulations of the lunar and Mercury's exospheres should be run using the most-up-to-date  
1300 information on the surface composition, including its surface variation (as was done e.g. in  
1301 Colaprete et al., 2016b), using new information on the influx of micrometeorites and cometary  
1302 material (Pokorný et al., 2018) and including their spatial and temporal variability (Pokorný et  
1303 al., 2019).

1304 Topography plays an important role in the transport of volatiles in airless bodies (e.g. Hodges,  
1305 2011; Prem et al., 2018), and as such it should be included in exospheric models. It also affects  
1306 the surface temperature. For example, it has been shown that the roughness of the lunar surface,  
1307 casting both micro- and macro-shadows, affects the diurnal temperature profile, especially at the  
1308 terminators, such that it deviates from a simple function of latitude and local time (Hurley et al.,  
1309 2015). Therefore, one should include more accurate temperature maps, such as those from  
1310 LRO's Diviner radiometer (Williams et al., 2017). At Mercury, these maps will eventually be  
1311 produced by the MERTIS radiometer onboard BepiColombo/MPO (Hiesinger et al., 2010) but  
1312 there are already robust models for its surface temperature, validated by lunar parameters (Bauch  
1313 et al., 2021).

1314 Space weathering should also be included in exospheric modeling, to study how long ice frosts  
1315 can reside in PSRs without being disturbed. For example, micrometeoroid bombardment, while  
1316 being one of the source processes of surface-bounded exospheres, can also act as a loss process,  
1317 especially for frost deposits in a PSR. This process also affects the lateral and vertical  
1318 distribution of cold-trapped volatile deposits, as studies on micrometeoroid bombardment on  
1319 water ice have shown (e.g. Crider & Vondrak, 2003; Hurley et al., 2012b). Moreover, photo-  
1320 destruction of adsorbed atoms or molecules by cosmic rays and Lyman-alpha photons from  
1321 interplanetary hydrogen resonantly scattering sunlight should also be included (e.g. Morgan &  
1322 Shemansky, 1991).

1323 New simulations should be done for ion sputtering loss rates using updated models of the ejecta  
1324 angular and velocity distributions from experiments (like the SDTRimpSP code; Eckstein et al.,  
1325 2007) and measurements of the solar wind and Mercury's magnetosphere that will be provided  
1326 by BepiColombo.

1327 For Mercury, a reanalysis should be made of interplanetary dust and its spatial and temporal  
1328 variability due to Mercury's orbital parameters. This is especially true for the origin of  
1329 refractories in Mercury's exosphere. The existence and importance of nano-dust should be  
1330 considered. Studies of the equilibrium condensation of dust particles were previously performed  
1331 using limited thermochemical databases including mainly metal oxides. Adding silicate and non-  
1332 silicate minerals to such thermochemical databases would allow us to study equilibrium  
1333 condensation of species containing refractory elements during impact events in greater detail.

1334 Laboratory and theoretical studies of kinetics of formation of dust particles during impact events  
1335 are also required for estimates of quenching parameters of condensation in impact-produced  
1336 clouds.

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