


# Mars Hydrogen Loss: A Template for Exoplanet Escape

**Mike Chaffin**

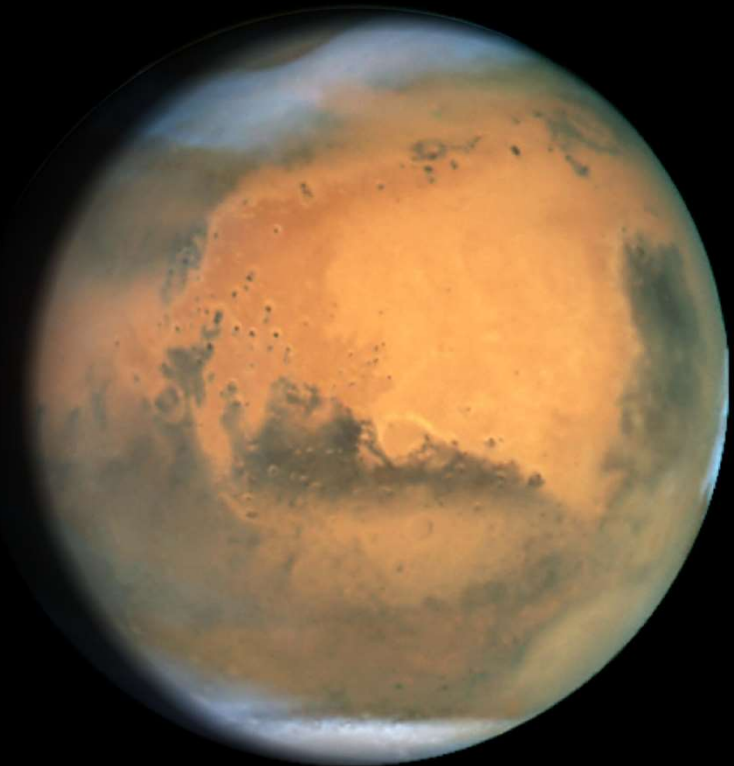
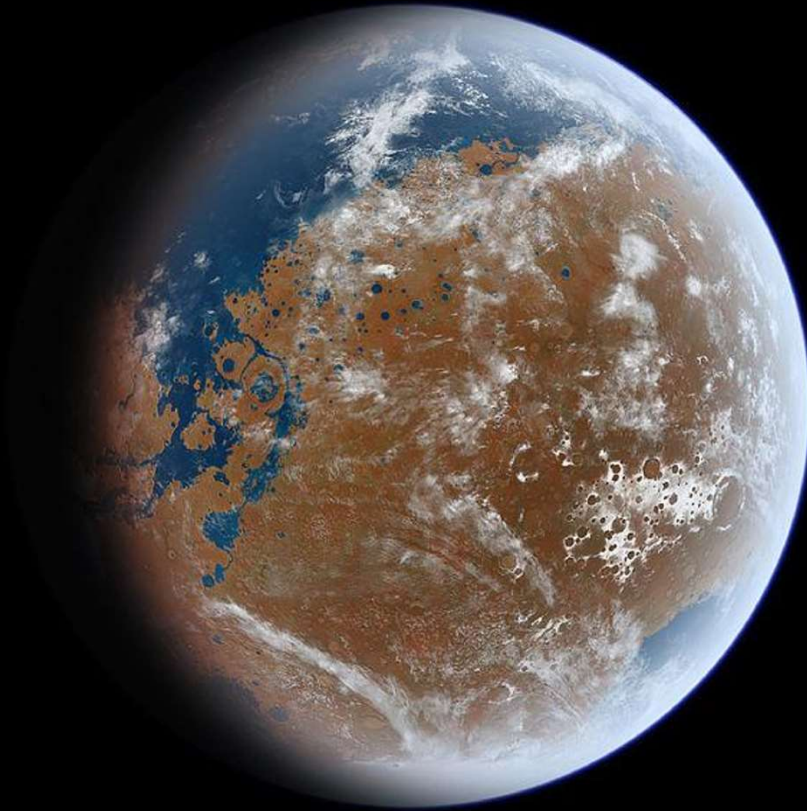
Justin Deighan, Ian Stewart, Nick Schneider, Jean-Yves  
Chaufray,  
Sonal Jain, Ed Thiemann, Majd Mayyasi, John Clarke,  
Matteo Crismani,  
Arnaud Stiepen, Franck Montmessin, Frank Eparvier, Bill  
McClintock, Greg Holsclaw, and Bruce Jakosky

and the MAVEN/IUVS, Mars Express/SPICAM,  
and EMM/EMUS science teams



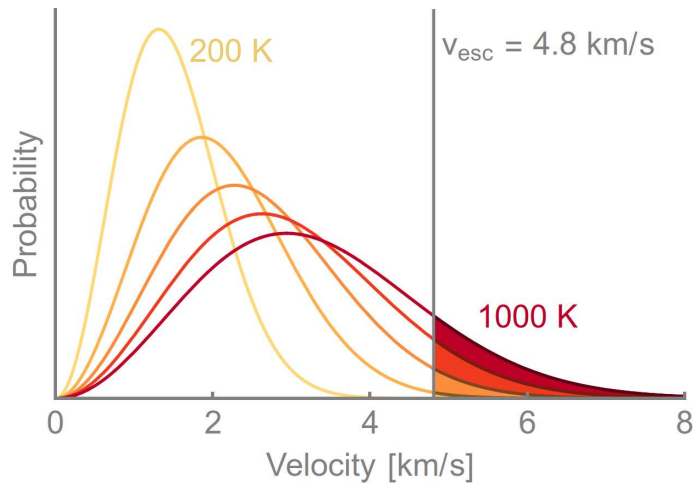
Lyman alpha image of Mars;  
Some of this H is escaping  
[Chaffin+15]

How much water has Mars lost?



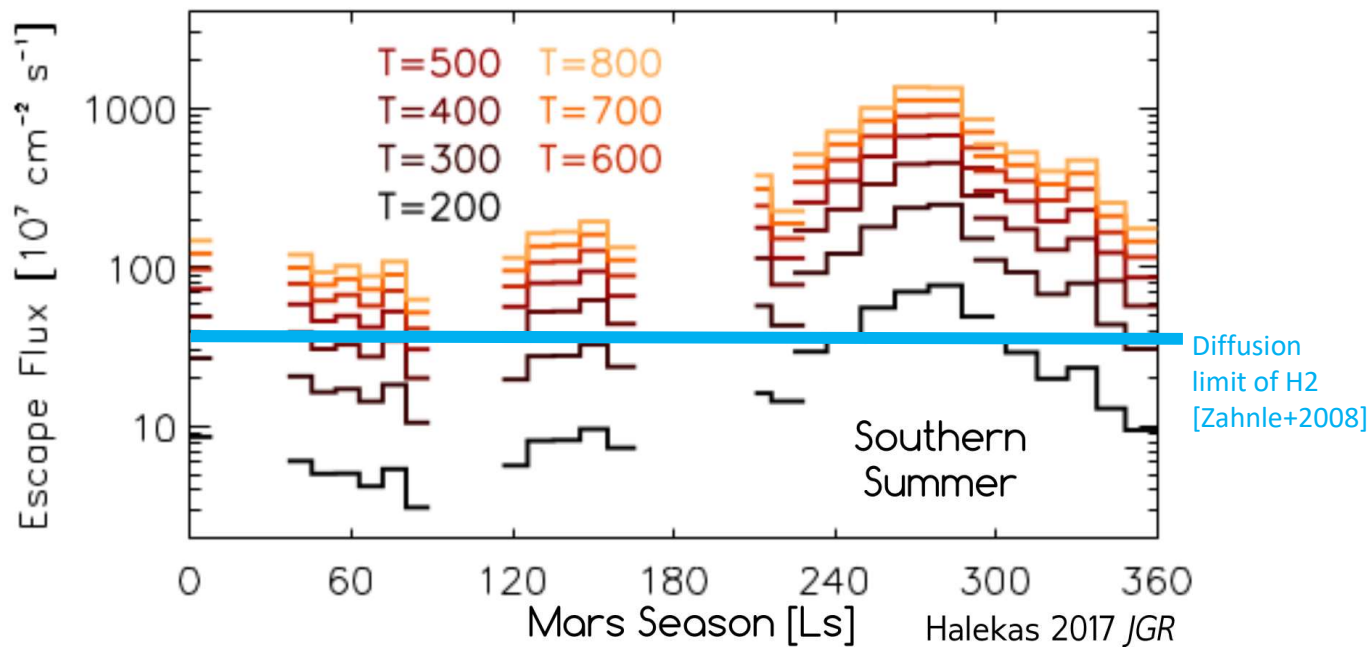
How much H is Mars losing today?

What controls the rate?



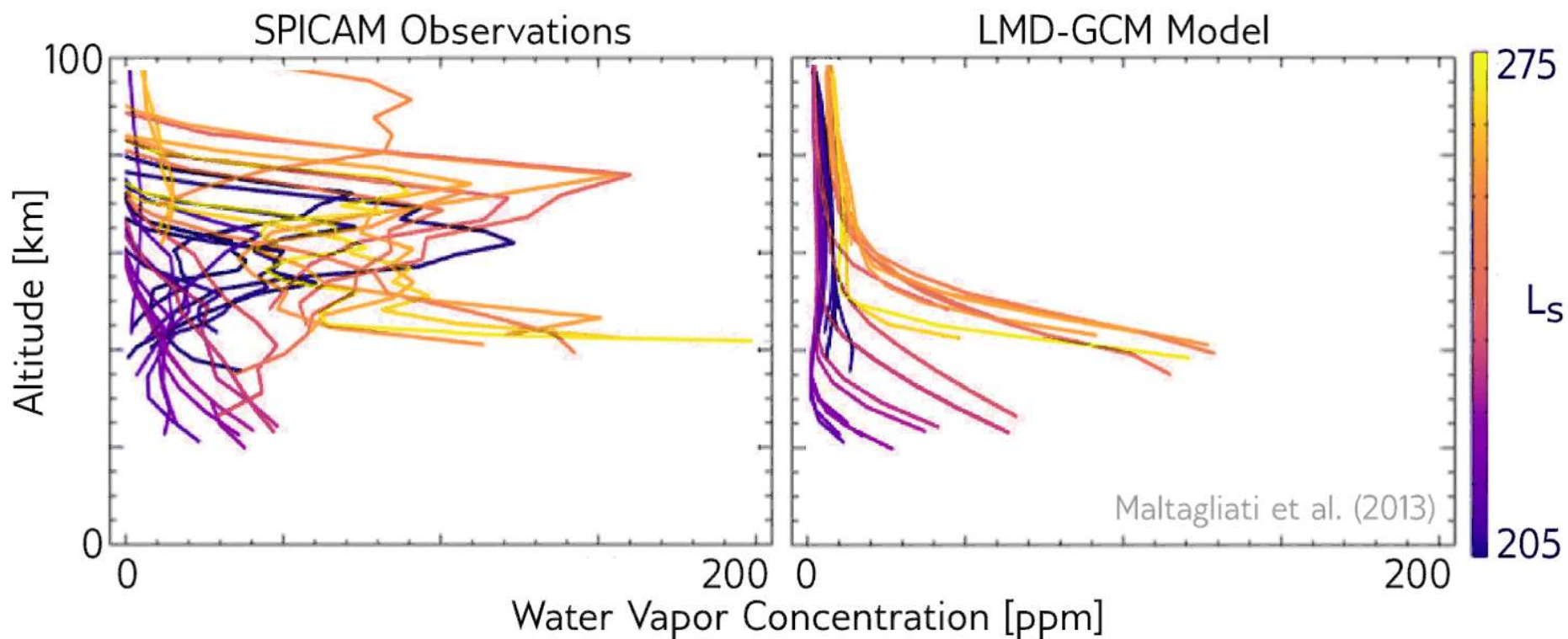
H is escaping from Mars via thermal (Jeans) escape.

Early models of H escape at Mars predicted steady H loss sourced from H<sub>2</sub> diffusion [eg McElroy+1972]



But H Escape varies by >10x with season, requiring a different explanation [Chaffin+14, Clarke+14].

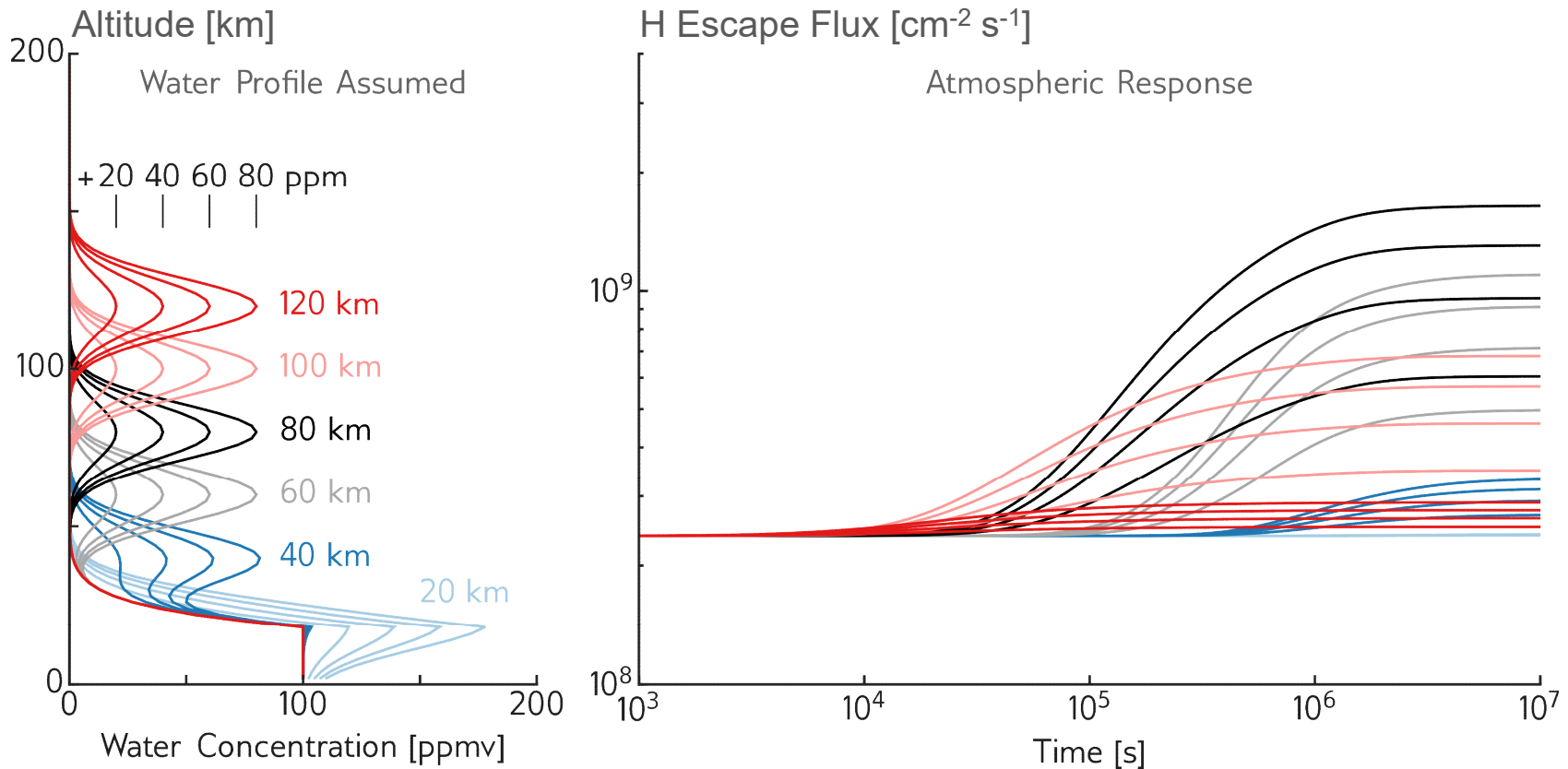
High-altitude water is a likely candidate for powering enhanced H escape.



Observations of high-altitude water exceed model predictions;  
This excess H<sub>2</sub>O can carry water to the upper atmosphere.

Mechanism that carries water to high altitude still unknown.

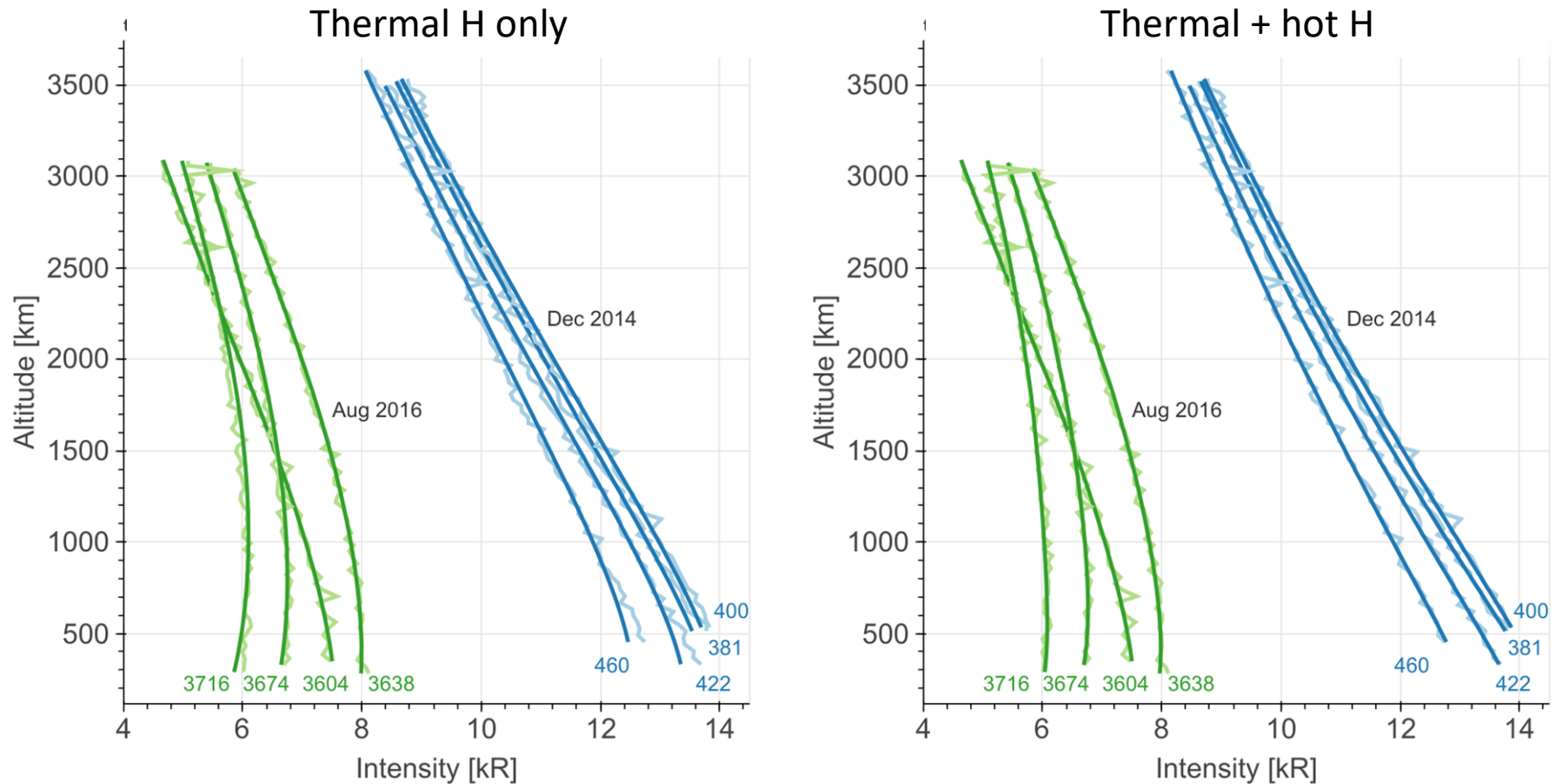
Short-term variability in H escape was thought to be unlikely due to a long-lived H<sub>2</sub> source for escaping H



Chaffin et al. 2017 Nature Geoscience

H escape is enhanced by 5-10x within weeks of adding small amounts of water at high altitude.

# MAVEN H corona profiles require hot H or deuterium

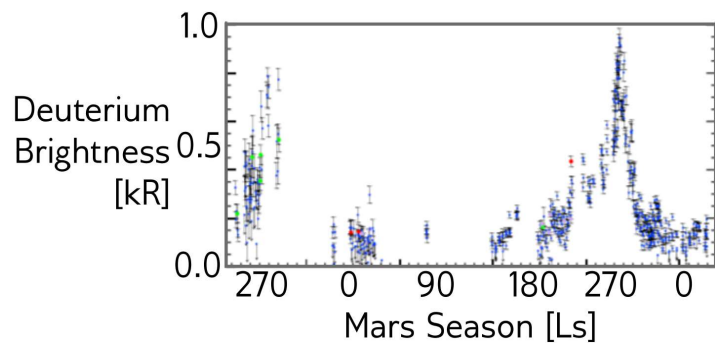


Lyman alpha brightness observations from MAVEN/IUVS  
require nonthermal H escape or significant D. [Chaffin+18, JGR, submitted]

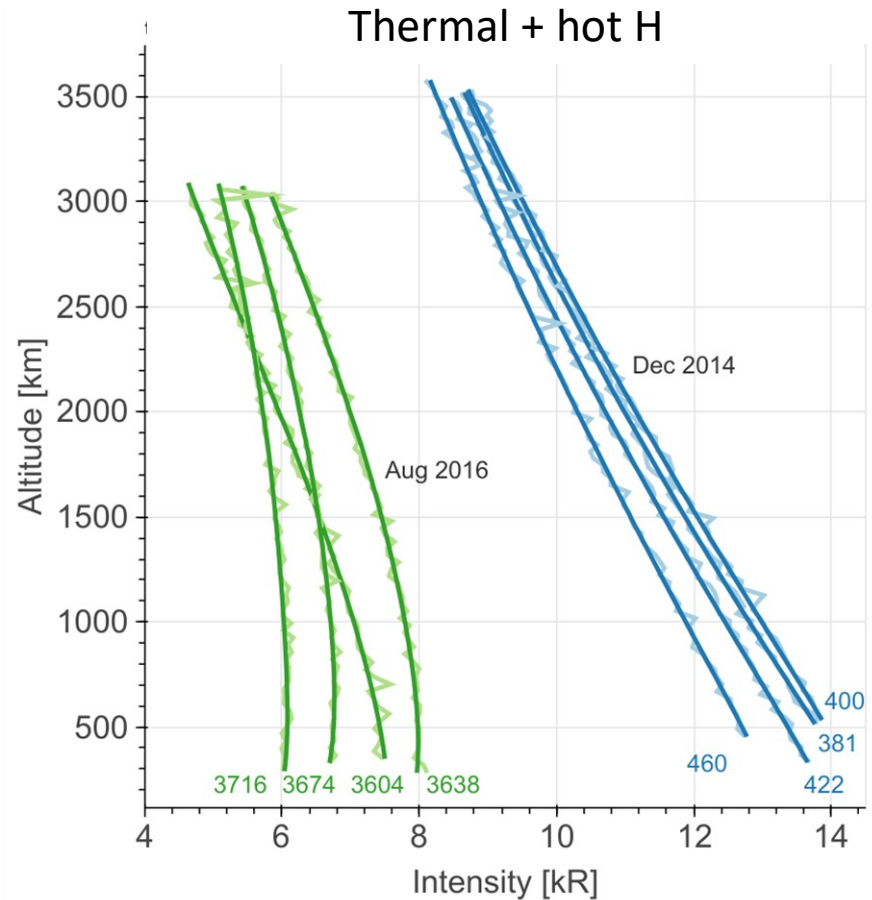
This suggests that Jeans escape is not the complete story even at low mass planets:  
Nonthermal escape at Venus may provide clues for future work [Anderson+1976,Hodges1999]

# MAVEN H corona profiles require hot H or deuterium

1. D and hot H are degenerate, requiring additional constraints.
2. IUVS Echelle measurements of D/H could constrain D [Mayyasi+2017 JGR]

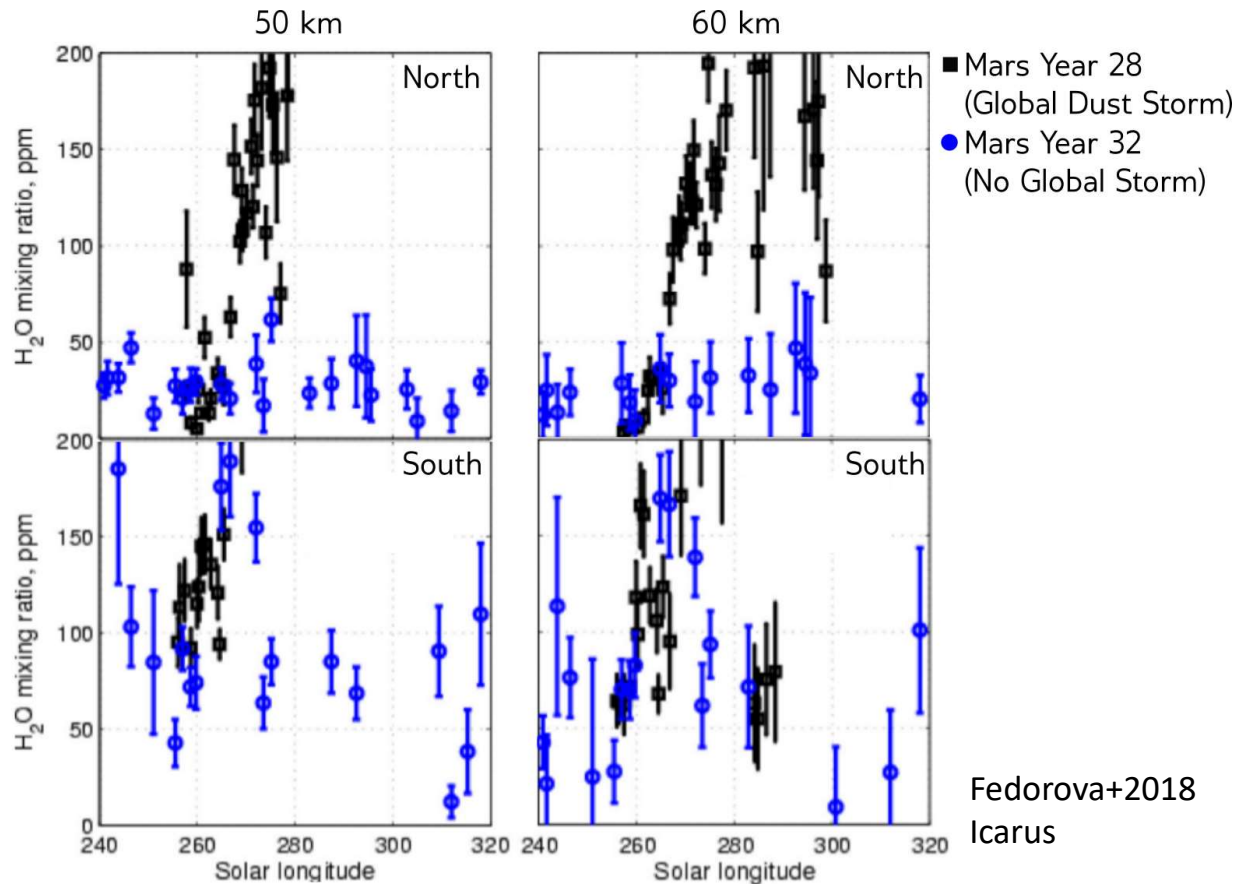


3. Presence of hot H requires heating mechanism, potentially charge exchange--- new modeling required.



# Mars Climate may drive H escape

SPICAM occultations reveal water at high altitude in Southern Summer

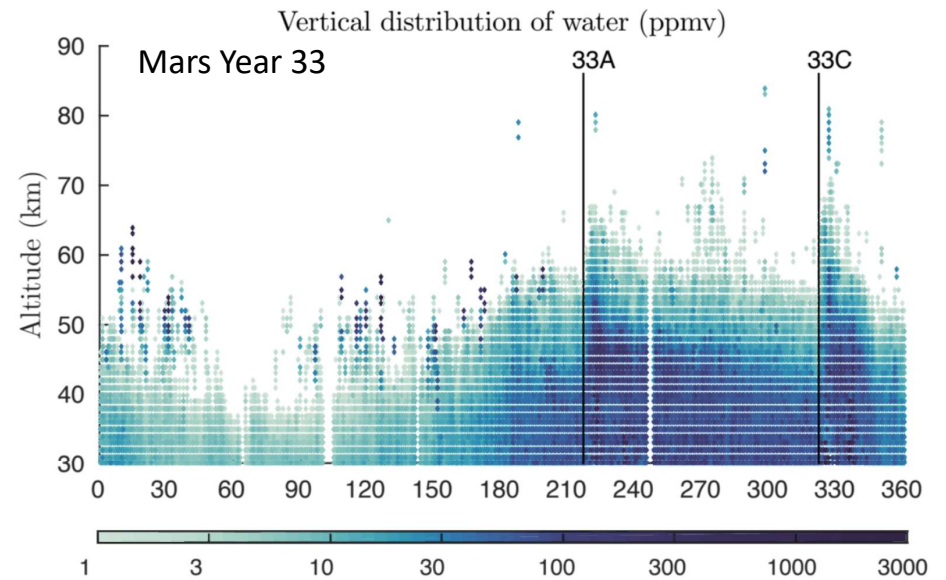
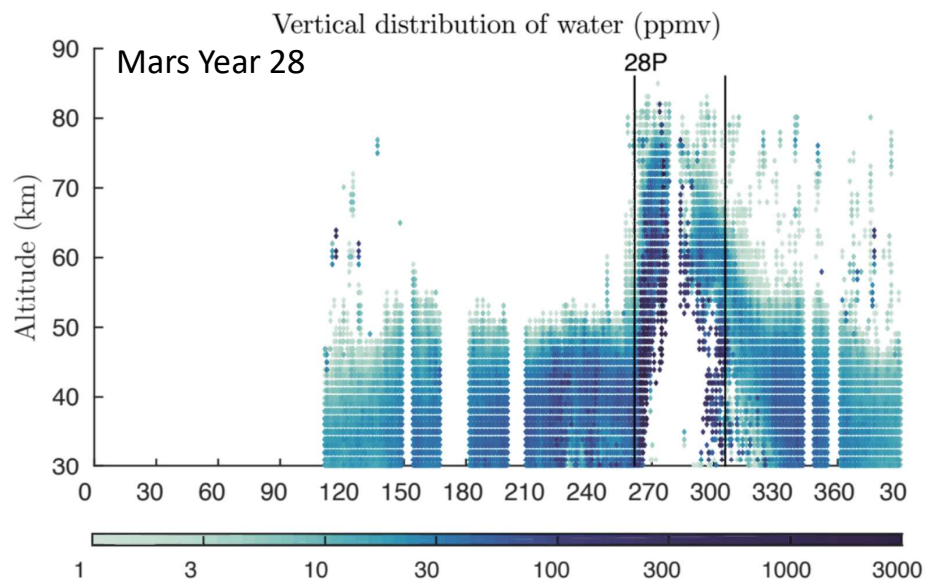


In dust storm years water increase is global, not confined to Southern Hemisphere

No consistent observations of H escape in dust storm and non dust storm years.



MRO/MCS observations indicate  
hygropause is >20 km higher in  
dust storm Mars Year 28



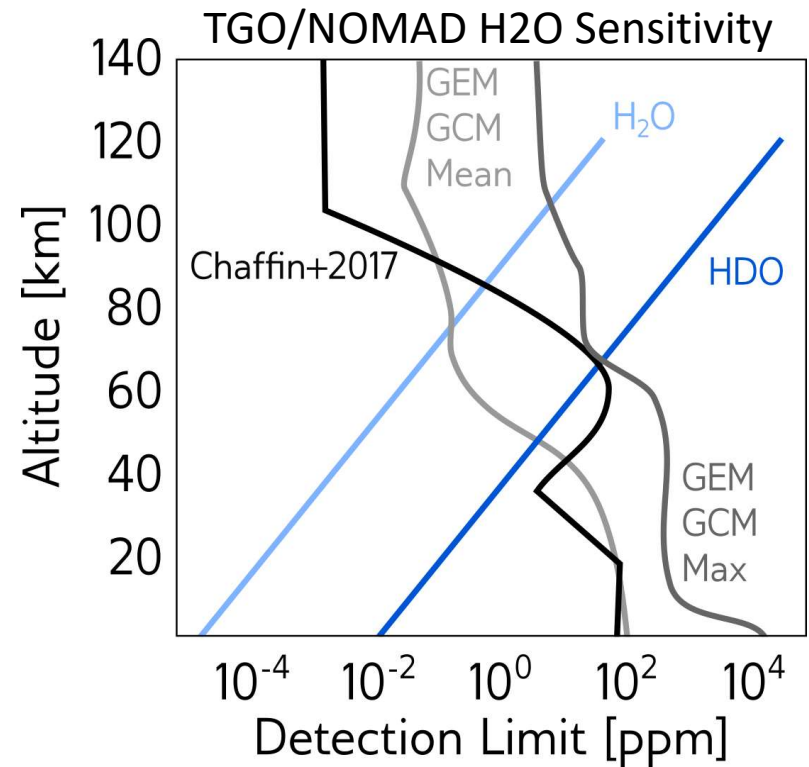
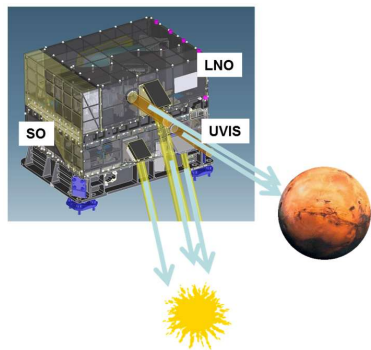
Small Mars-like planets may all have significant  
feedback between climate and escape

Heavens+2018  
(in press,  
Nature Astronomy)

# ESA's Trace Gas Orbiter will observe water to ~100 km, HDO/H<sub>2</sub>O

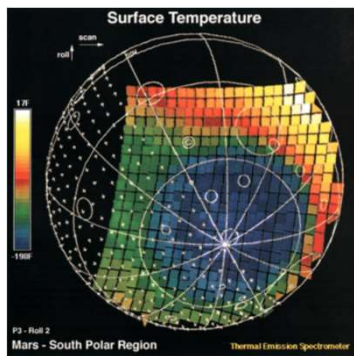
## Chemical composition

- ❖ Detection of a broad suite of trace gases and key isotopes
  - CO<sub>2</sub>, CO, O<sub>3</sub>
  - CH<sub>4</sub> related : CH<sub>4</sub>, <sup>13</sup>CH<sub>4</sub>, CH<sub>3</sub>D, C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub>, C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>, C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>6</sub>, H<sub>2</sub>CO
  - Escape processes : H<sub>2</sub>O, HDO → D/H
  - Volcanism related : SO<sub>2</sub>, H<sub>2</sub>S, HCl



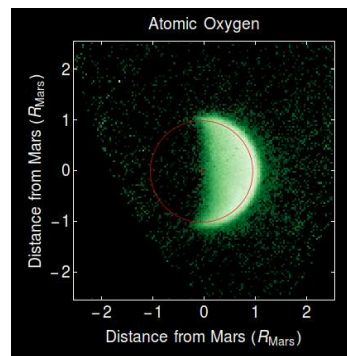
Combined with MAVEN observations of escape, we may be able to observe complete H<sub>2</sub>O → H escape chain.

# Emirates Mars Mission Science



**EMIRS**  
(ASU/MBRSC)

Fourier Transform IR  
Spectrometer



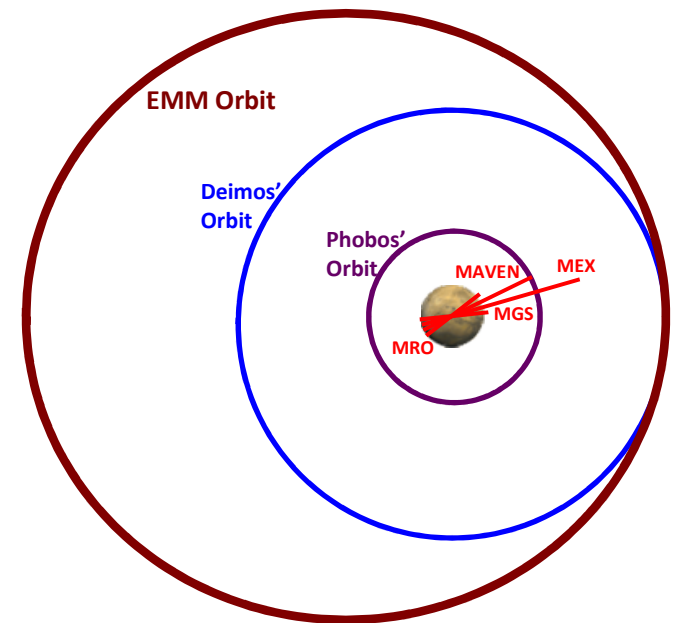
**EMUS**  
(LASP/MBRSC)

Ultra Violet Imaging  
Spectrometer



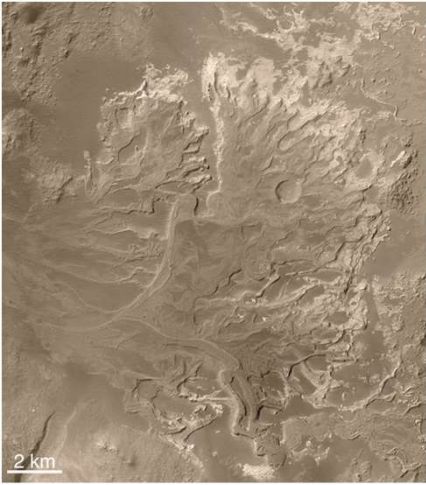
**EXI**  
(LASP/MBRSC)

Imager with 12 MP  
camera with 6 bandpass  
filters (VIS/UV)



EMM will enable weekly monitoring of the Mars atmosphere in 3D, including the H and O corona, lower atmosphere water content, and lower atmosphere temperature profiles.

# Implications



Water at high altitudes can produce enhanced H loss, could explain greater H escape in Mars Southern summer.



Significant D or hot H is present in the Mars corona, requiring additional constraints on loss mechanisms.

Climate controls on high altitude water may control H escape; climate/escape feedback needs to be captured with future observations.