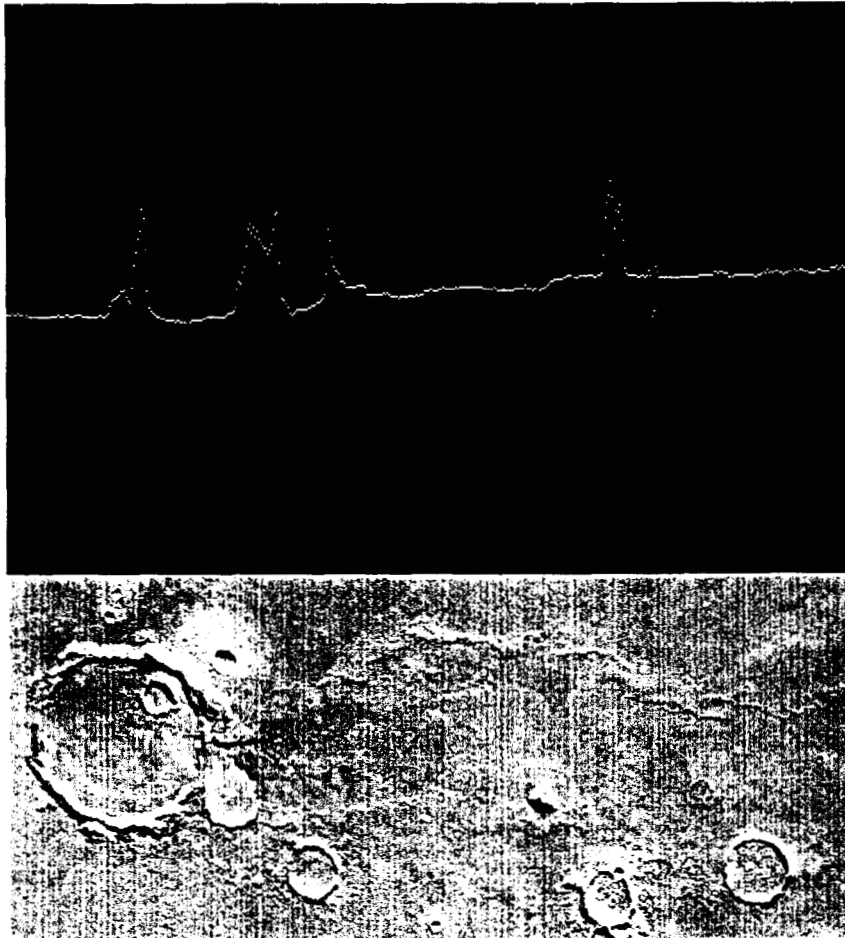


## MOLA: the Future of Mars Global Cartography

T. C. Duxbury<sup>1</sup>, D. E. Smith<sup>2</sup>, M. T. Zuber<sup>3</sup>, H. V. Frey<sup>2</sup>, J. B. Garvin<sup>2</sup>, J. W. Head<sup>4</sup>, D. O. Muhleman<sup>5</sup>, G. H. Pettengill<sup>3</sup>, R. J. Phillips<sup>6</sup>, S. C. Solomon<sup>3</sup>, H. J. Zwally<sup>2</sup>, W. B. Banerdt<sup>1</sup>

The MGS Orbiter is carrying the high-precision Mars Orbiter Laser Altimeter (MOLA) which, when combined with precision reconstructed orbital data and telemetered attitude data, provides a tie between inertial space and Mars-fixed coordinates to an accuracy of 100 m in latitude / longitude and 10 m in radius (1 sigma), orders of magnitude more accurate than previous global geodetic / cartographic control data. Over the 2 year MGS mission lifetime, it is expected that over 30,000 MOLA Global Cartographic Control Points will be produced to form the basis for new and re-derived map and geodetic products, key to the analysis of existing and evolving MGS data as well as future Mars exploration.



<sup>1</sup>Jet Propulsion Laboratory, <sup>2</sup>Goddard Space Flight Center,  
<sup>3</sup>Massachusetts Institute of Technology, <sup>4</sup>Brown University.,  
<sup>5</sup>California Institute of Technology, <sup>6</sup>Lunar and Planetary Science  
Institute