

# The International Lunar Resource Prospecting Campaign (ILRPC): Growing the Collaboration

C.R. Neal<sup>1</sup>, A. Abbud-Madrid<sup>2</sup>, J.D. Carpenter<sup>3</sup>, T. Chakraborty<sup>4</sup>, A. Colaprete<sup>5</sup>, B. DeWitt<sup>6</sup>, B. Ehlmann<sup>7</sup>, C.D. Espejel<sup>8</sup>, K. Hadler<sup>9</sup>, D. Heather<sup>3</sup>, C.A. Hibbitts<sup>10</sup>, K. Kim<sup>11</sup>, J. Kleinhenz<sup>12</sup>, S. Li<sup>13</sup>, M. Link<sup>14</sup>, M. Ohtake<sup>15</sup>, G. R. Osinski<sup>16</sup>, N. Petro<sup>17</sup>, A. Salmeri<sup>18</sup>, G.B. Sanders<sup>19</sup>, with R. Patterson<sup>20</sup>, H.C. O'Brien<sup>19</sup>, L. Galien<sup>1</sup>, & J. Valenciano<sup>1</sup>.

1 = University of Notre Dame, IN, U.S.A.

2 = Colorado School of Mines, CO, U.S.A.

3 = European Space Agency, ESTEC, Netherlands

4 = Space Applications Centre, ISRO, Ahmedabad, India

5 = NASA Ames Research Center, CA, U.S.A.

6 = Lunar Station, Cambridge MA 02142, U.S.A.

7 = CalTech, Pasadena CA 91125 U.S.A.

8 = iSpace Europe, Inc., 1811 Luxembourg, Luxembourg

9 = Director of ESRIC, 41 Rue du Brill, Luxembourg

10 = Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Lab, MD, U.S.A.

11 = KIGAM, Daejeon, Republic of Korea

12 = NASA Glenn Research Center, OH 44135, U.S.A.

13 = University of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI 96822, U.S.A.

14 = Luxembourg Space Agency, 2449 Luxembourg,  
Luxembourg

15 = University of Aizu, Tsuruga, Fukushima, 965-8580, Japan

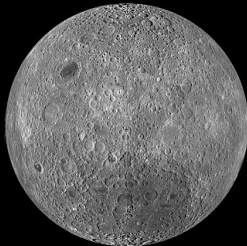
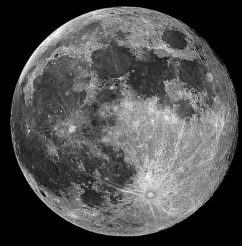
16 = University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario N6A 5B7,  
Canada

17 = NASA GSFC, Greenbelt MD 20771 U.S.A.

18 = Lunar Policy Platform, 22 Calle De Valdesangil, Spain

19 = NASA Johnson Space Center, TX 77058, U.S.A.

20 = Astralytical Consulting, U.S.A.



# Motivation – Artemis Architecture Segments (from Jerry “Magnum” Sanders)



## HUMAN LUNAR RETURN

Initial capabilities, systems, and operations necessary to reestablish human presence and initial utilization (e.g., science) on and around the Moon.



**Demonstrate ISRU**

*Locate Resources*



*Map Resource Reserves*

**Utilize ISRU**

## FOUNDATIONAL EXPLORATION

Expansion of lunar capabilities, systems, and operations supporting complex orbital and surface missions to conduct utilization (e.g., science) and Mars-forward precursor missions.

## SUSTAINED LUNAR EVOLUTION

Enabling capabilities, systems, and operations to support regional and global utilization (e.g., science), economic opportunity, and a steady cadence of human presence on and around the Moon.

## HUMANS TO MARS

Initial capabilities, systems, and operations necessary to establish human presence and initial utilization (e.g., science) on Mars and continued exploration.



**Demonstrate &  
Utilize ISRU**

# Motivation – Artemis Architecture Definition Document 2023



## The current Architecture document states:

P. 22 of the PDF: *“To minimize the risk to the Artemis campaign and ISRU product customers, NASA and its partners must plan a transition of Earth-delivered to ISRU-derived products, along with adequate resource mapping and demonstration of the ISRU processes and product quality.”*

P. 145 of the PDF: *“The shift from reconnaissance, initial resource assessment, and sampling to resource reserve estimation, acquisition, and processing occurs in this segment [Foundational Evolution].”*

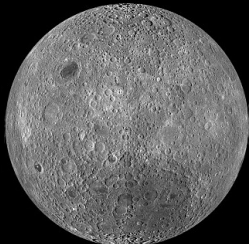
# HOW?

<https://www.nasa.gov/moontomarsarchitecture-architecturedefinitiondocuments/>



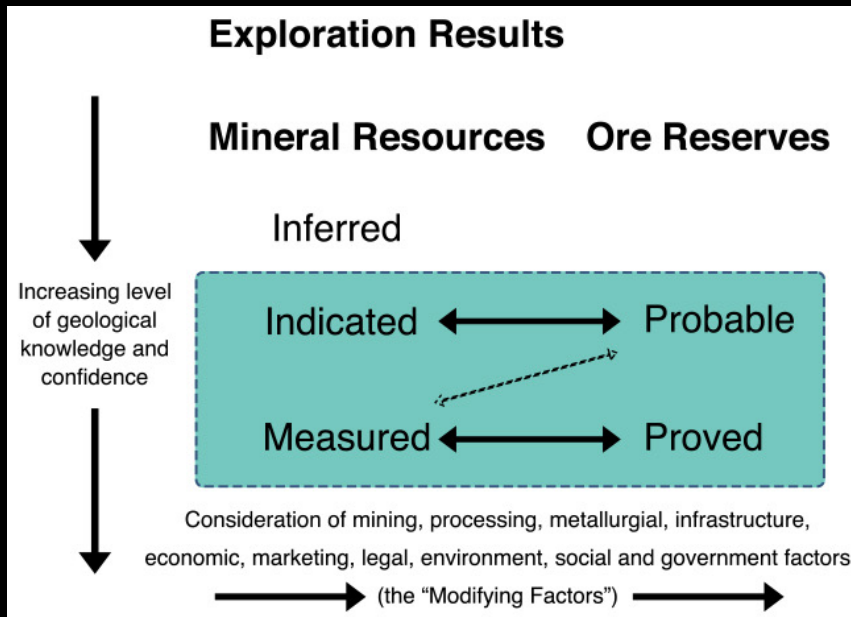


# Resources vs. Reserves

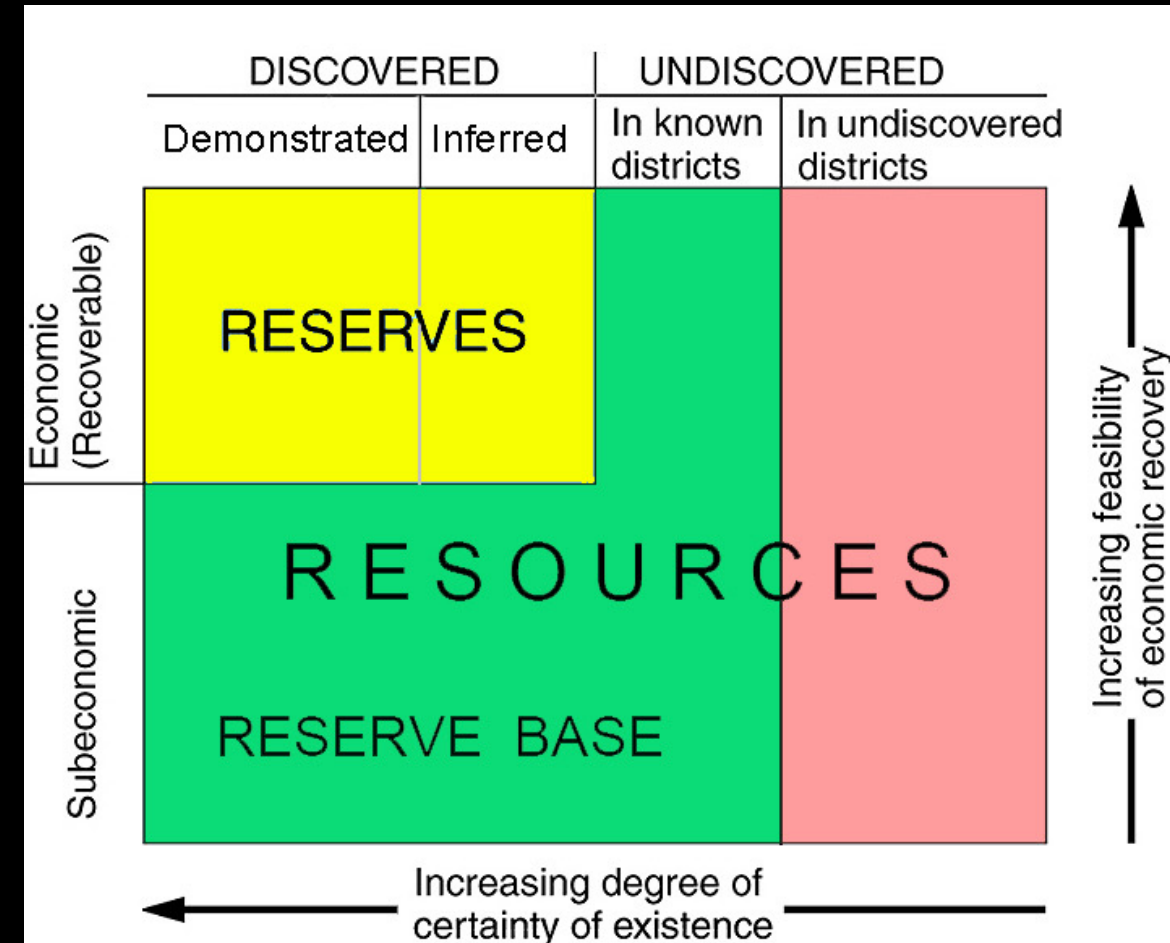


**Resource**: A concentration of natural materials in/on the crust such that economic extraction is feasible.

**Reserve**: A portion of a resource from which a usable mineral or energy commodity can be **economically and legally** extracted.



**For the Moon, initial exploration results require more granular data**

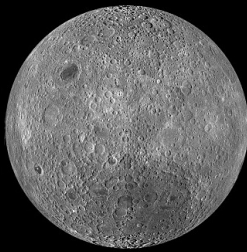


Cannon & Britt (2020) Icarus 347, Article 113778





# Resources vs. Reserves

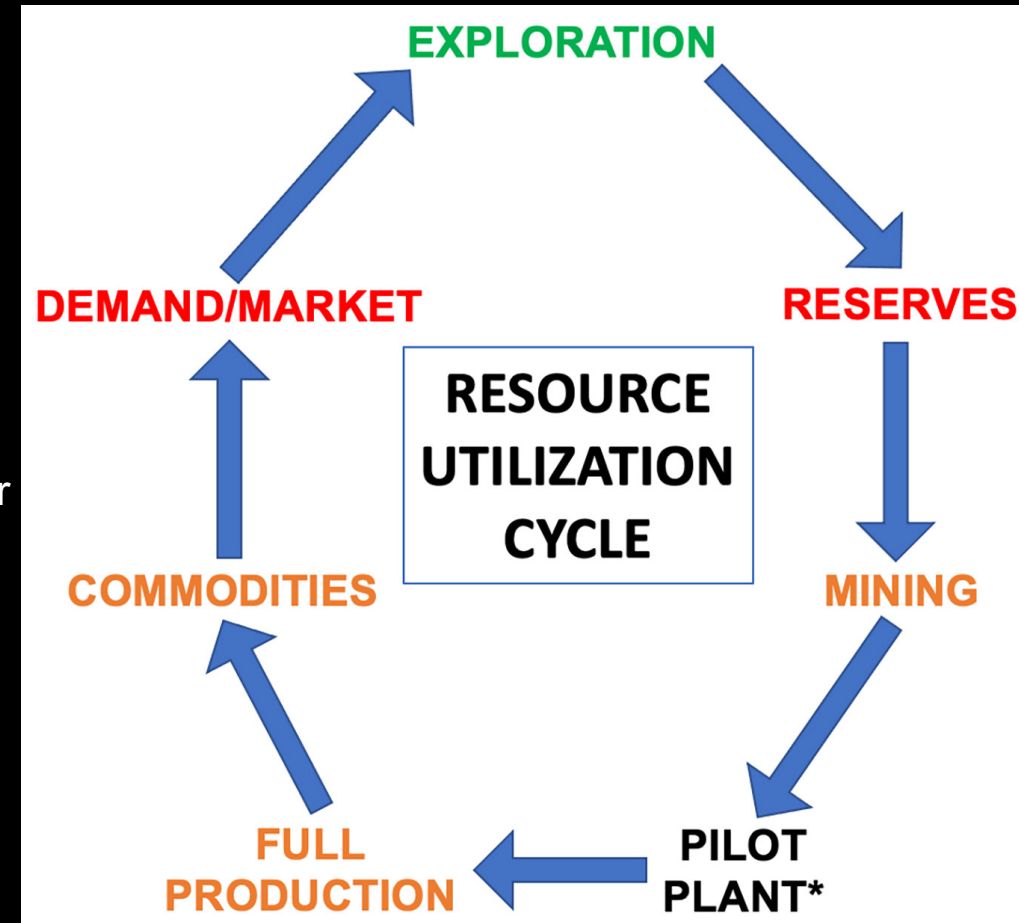


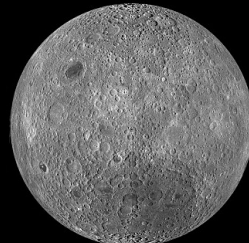
Road-blocks in the ISRU value chain:

Reserve Potential  $\longleftrightarrow$  Demand/Market(s) (Customers)

Ground-truth Data & Demand/ Market(s) need to be obtained/ established to understand if lunar resources are reserves.

- Kleinhenz et al. (2020) Lunar Water ISRU Measurement Study (LWIMS) NASA/TM-20205008626
- Kleinhenz (2022) ISRU Potential Water Mine Site Preliminary Evaluation for NASA Artemis Campaign.  
[https://isruinfo.com/public/index.php?page=srr\\_22](https://isruinfo.com/public/index.php?page=srr_22)
- Espejel et al. (2023) Lunar Ore reserves standards 101 (LORS-101), in: V. Badescu, et al. (Eds.), Handbook of Space Resources, Springer, 2023, pp. 999–1022.
- Brown et al. (2022) Resource potential of lunar permanently shadowed regions. *Icarus* **377**, Article 114874.





# Acta Astronautica 214 (2024) 737–747

## <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.actaastro.2023.11.017>

Table 1: Datasets for lunar volatile resource evaluation			
Dataset	Specific Data	Use	Measurement
Composition	Concentration of the resource Concentration & composition of impurities	Evaluate potential investment needed for refining the product	Required Fidelity?
Form	Cement in pore space; Layers; Irregular blocks; Loose ice grains with regolith	Develop efficient extraction techniques	
Distribution	Horizontal Vertical	Variability needs to be documented to understand the volume of the resource	
Geotechnical	Torque and power required for any drills to penetrate the deposit; Energy required to move loose regolith; Hardness of the deposit;	Understand the effort required to mine the deposit and investment needed in developing extraction capabilities.	
Near-surface Regolith Stratigraphy	Buried and surface rock populations Ice block/layer distribution	Will impact the extractability of the regolith resource	
Accessability	Traverse paths;	Ease of accessibility has an impact on cost of developing robotic miners.	

Data types needed for understanding if lunar resources are reserves.

### Required Fidelity:

- **Thoroughness** of coverage
- **Accuracy** of surface & subsurface measurements (e.g., +/- 5% for species  $\geq 0.5$  wt.%)
- **Coordination** between surface missions (easily comparable data sets – could VIPER be the benchmark?)
- Many of these new data types would need to be taken via surface mobile assets.
- BUT the 10 most promising sites for polar volatiles cover an area  $>6,000$  km<sup>2</sup> [Brown et al., 2022, Icarus 377,114874]

Acta Astronautica 214 (2024) 737–747

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

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The Moon needs an international lunar resource prospecting campaign

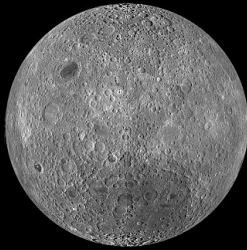
Clive R. Neal<sup>a,\*</sup>, Antonino Salmeri<sup>b</sup>, Angel Abbud-Madrid<sup>c</sup>, James D. Carpenter<sup>d</sup>, Anthony Colaprete<sup>e</sup>, Karl A. Hibbitts<sup>f</sup>, Julie Kleinhenz<sup>g</sup>, Mathias Link<sup>h</sup>, Gerald Sanders<sup>i</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering & Earth Sciences, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN 46556, USA  
<sup>b</sup> Lunar Policy Platform, 22 Calle De Valdesangil, Spain  
<sup>c</sup> Center for Space Resources, Colorado School of Mines, Golden CO 8040, USA  
<sup>d</sup> European Space Agency, European Space Research and Technology Centre, Keplerlaan 1, 2201AZ, Noordwijk, the Netherlands  
<sup>e</sup> Space Science Division, NASA Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, Mountain View, CA 94035, USA  
<sup>f</sup> Johns Hopkins University – Applied Physics Laboratory, 11100 Johns Hopkins Rd., Laurel, MD 20723, USA  
<sup>g</sup> NASA – Glenn Research Center, 21000 Brookpark Rd, Cleveland, OH 44135, USA  
<sup>h</sup> Luxembourg Space Agency, 19-21 Boulevard Royale, 2449 Luxembourg, Luxembourg  
<sup>i</sup> NASA – Johnson Space Center, 2101 E NASA Pkwy, Houston, TX 77058, USA

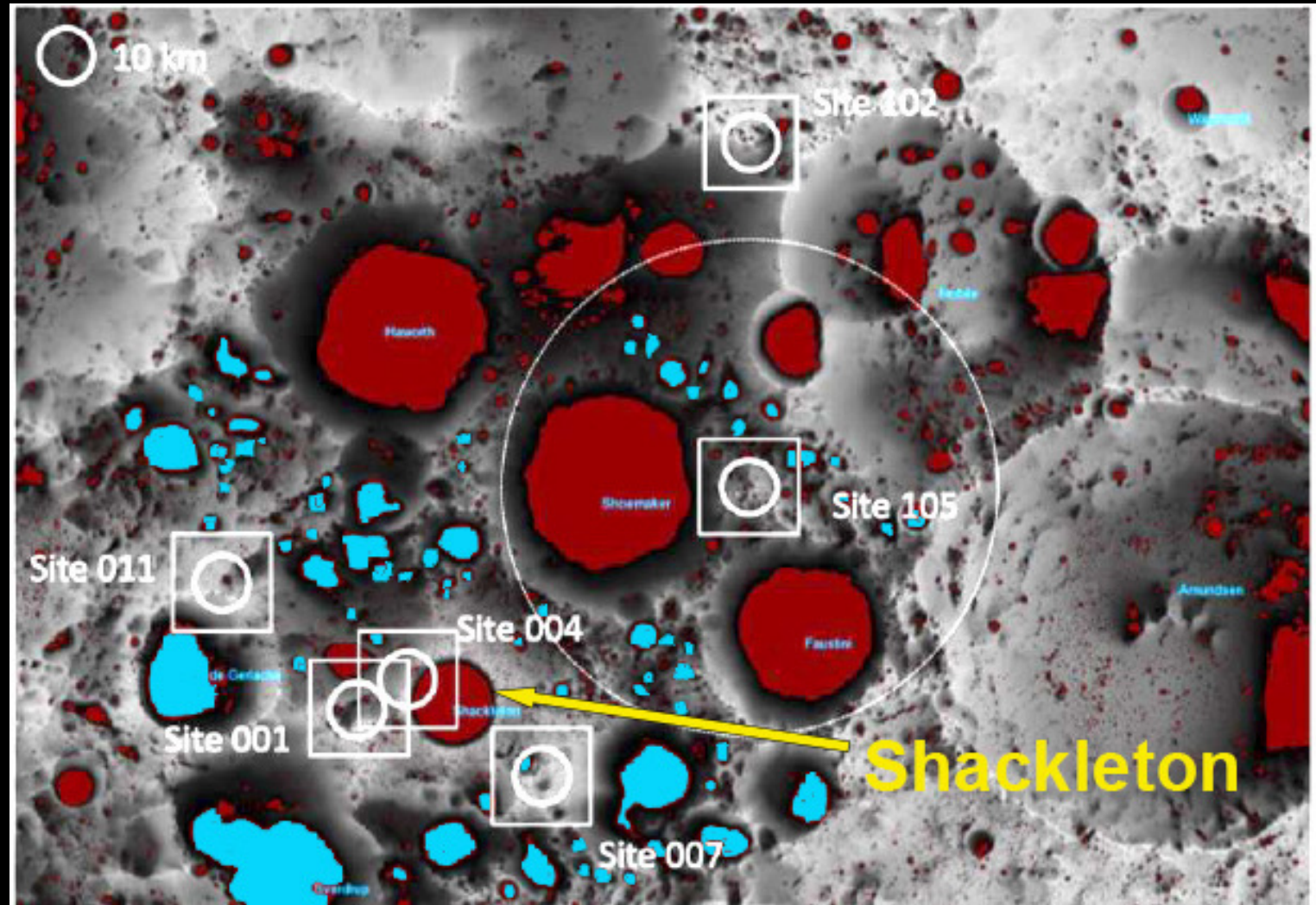




# The Way Forward



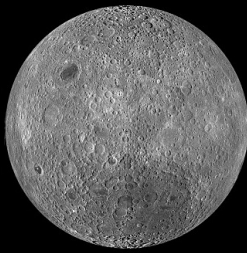
- Focus on south pole volatiles in PSRs ( $\pm 5\%$  on species  $\geq 0.5$  wt.%)
- Use existing data sets to define targets
- Conduct sensitivity analyses on combined data set results to inform future measurement needs
- Focus on **small-to-medium PSRs** – more accessible(?)
- "Close" to Artemis sites of interest





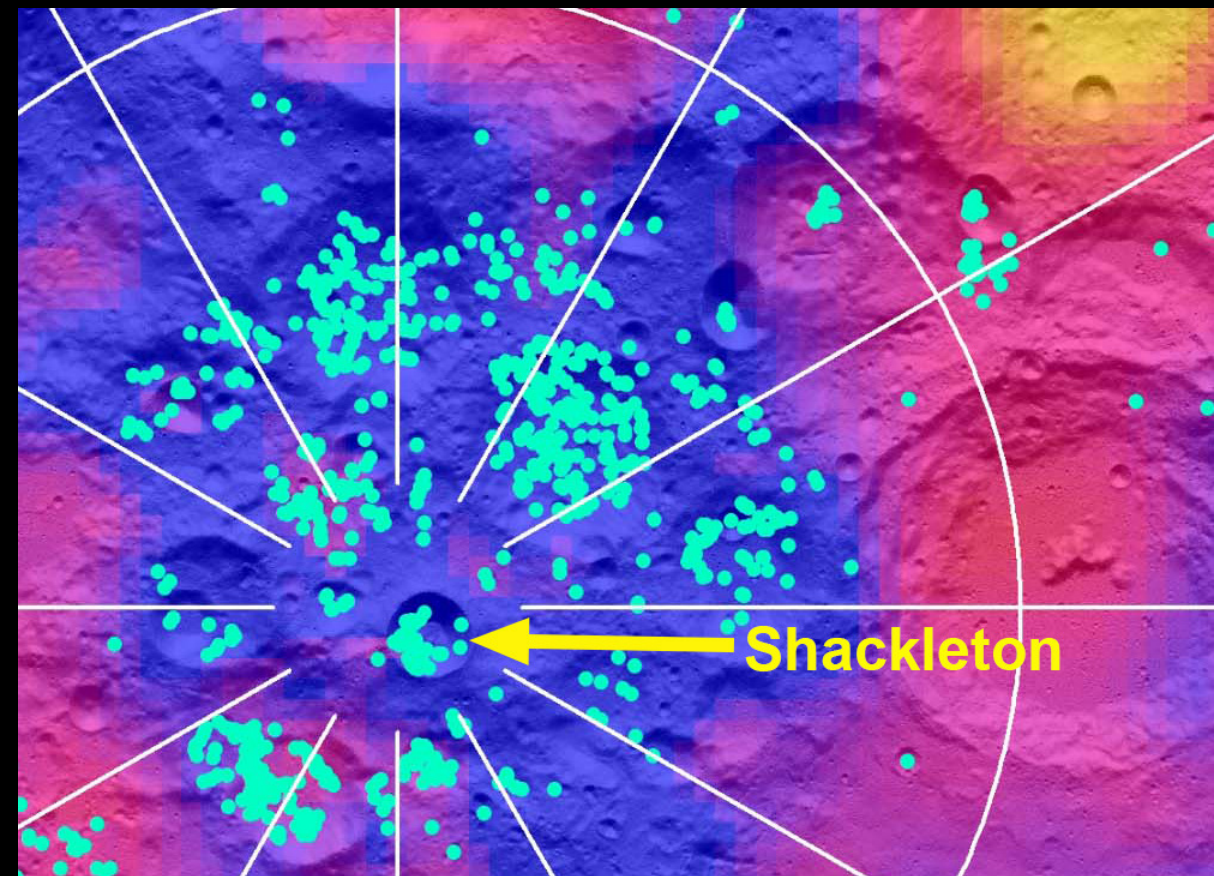
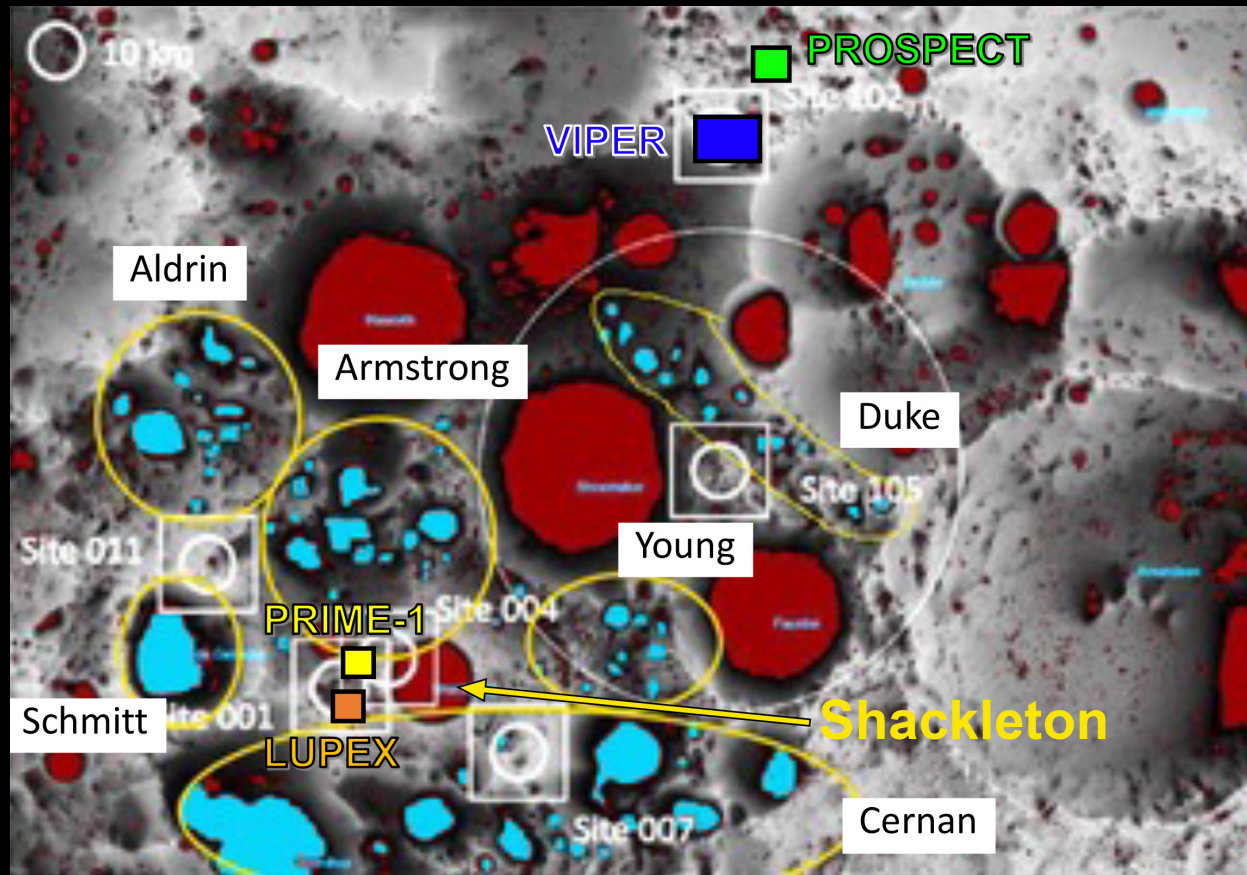


# The Way Forward



South Pole PSR Map<sup>1</sup> with proposed Artemis landing sites and targets for orbital data gathering & ground-truthing (blue).

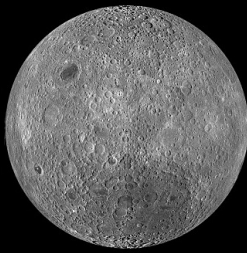
Surface water ice<sup>2</sup> overlain on Lunar Prospector neutron data (cooler colors represent buried H)<sup>3</sup>, adapted from Li et al.<sup>4</sup>.



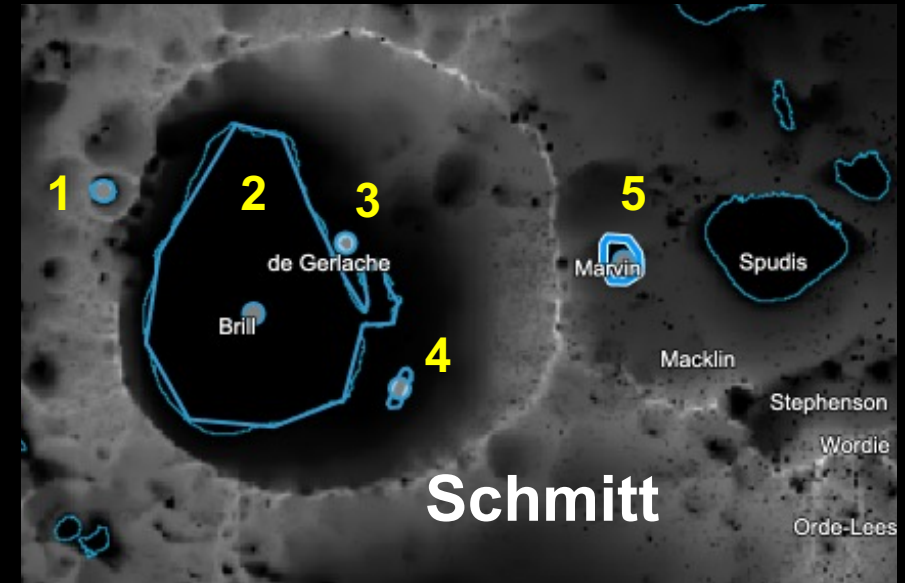
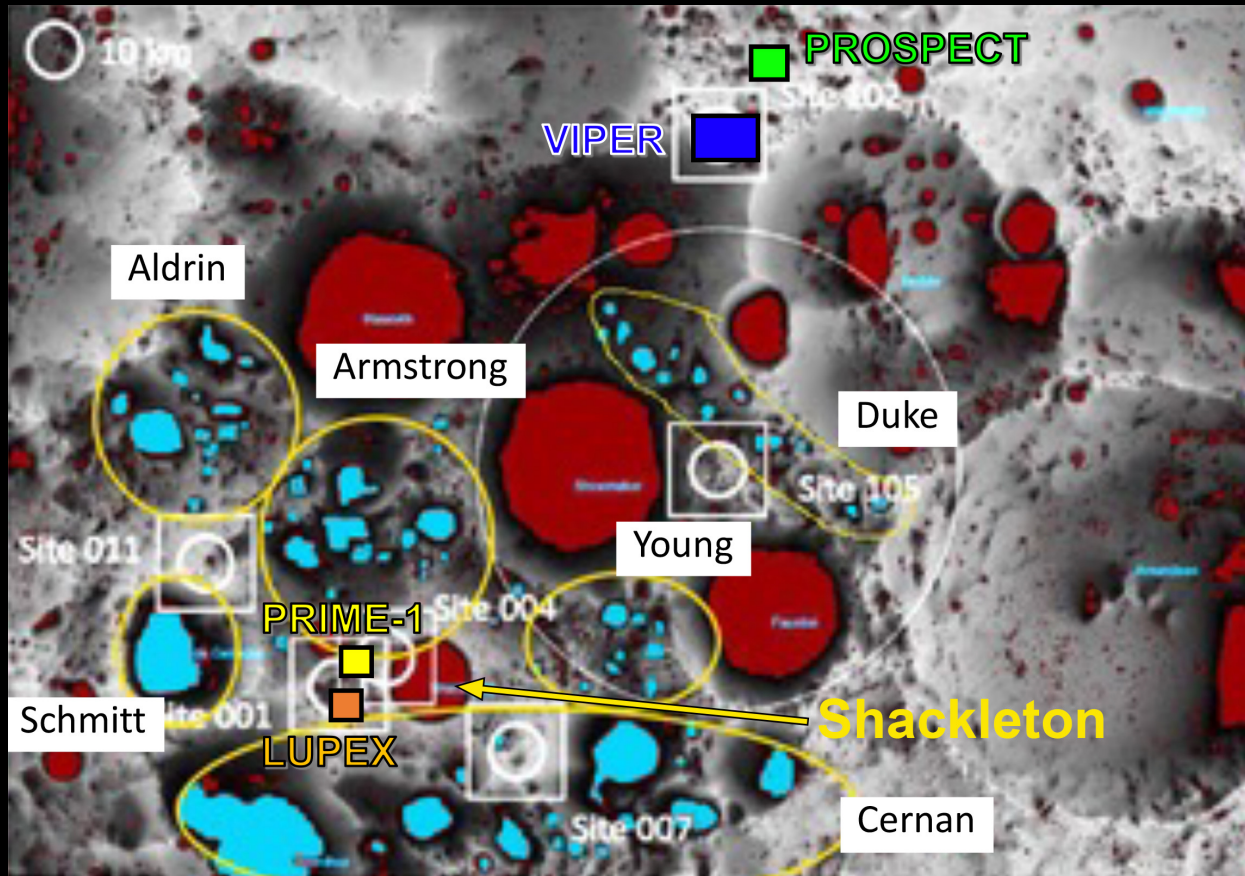




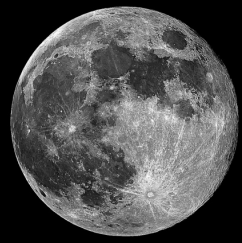
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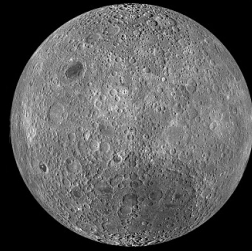
Example: "Schmitt" area




#	Latitude	Longitude	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Name
1	-87.9518	276.06422	1.677	
2	-88.3084	267.67894	229.654	de Gerlache
3	-88.5209	273.69554	0.953	
4	-88.6278	259.86796	2.354	
5	-89.1669	273.61880	6.406	Marvin



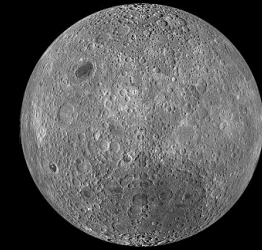
# Coordinating an International Lunar Resource Prospecting Campaign



- **Campaign** = series of missions. Expensive!
- **21<sup>st</sup> Century renaissance for the Moon!**
  - 27 lunar missions, 4 lander **failures**
- Between now and the end of the decade – **30** robotic lunar missions are funded and under development, and **16** more have been proposed, but not yet funded.
- **Coordinate existing missions** rather than starting new mission lines.

	NAME	Mission Type	Agency/Company	LAUNCH DATE
	SMART-1	Orbiter/Tech. Demo.	ESA	27 Sept 2003
	ARTEMIS	Orbiters	NASA	17 Feb 2007
	SELENE	Orbiter	JAXA	14 Sept 2007
	Chang'e 1	Orbiter	CNSA	24 Oct 2007
	Chandrayaan-1	Orbiter	ISRO	22 Oct 2008
	LRO	Orbiter	NASA	18 June 2009
	LCROSS	Impactor	NASA	18 June 2009
	Chang'e 2	Orbiter	CNSA	1 Oct 2010
	GRAIL	Orbiters	NASA	10 Sept 2011
	LADEE	Orbiter	NASA	7 Sept 2013
	Chang'e 3	Lander/Rover	CNSA	1 Dec 2103
	Chang'e 5 TI	Tech. Demo.	CNSA	23 Oct 2014
	Queqiao	Comm. Sat.	CNSA	21 May 2018
	Chang'e 4	Lander/Rover	CNSA	7 Dec 2018
	<b>Beresheet</b>	<b>Lander</b>	<b>Spacell</b>	<b>22 Feb 2019</b>
	Chandrayaan-2	Orbiter/ <b>Lander</b>	ISRO	22 July 2019
	Chang'e 5	Sample Return	CNSA	23 Nov 2020
	KPLO	Orbiter	KARI	4 Aug 2022
	Artemis 1	Orbiter	NASA	21 Nov 2022
	<b>HAKUTO-R-1</b>	<b>Lander/Rover</b>	<b>iSpace</b>	<b>11 Dec 2022</b>
	Chandrayaan-3	Lander/Rover	ISRO	14 July 2023
	<b>Luna 25</b>	<b>Lander</b>	<b>Roscosmos</b>	<b>10 Aug 2023</b>
	SLIM	Lander	JAXA	6 Sept 2023
	<b>Peregrine 1</b>	<b>Lander</b>	<b>Astrobotic</b>	<b>8 Jan 2024</b>
	Odysseus	Lander	Intuitive Machines	15 Feb 2024
	Queqiao-2	Comm. Sat.	CNSA	20 Mar 2024
	Chang'e 6	Sample Return	CNSA	3 May 2024





# Coordinating Ongoing & Scheduled Missions

## Orbital Missions

- Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (**LRO** - U.S.A.)
- Korean Pathfinder Lunar Orbiter (**KPLO** aka **Danuri** – Korea)
- Chandrayaan-2 (India)
- Lunar Trailblazer (U.S.A.)

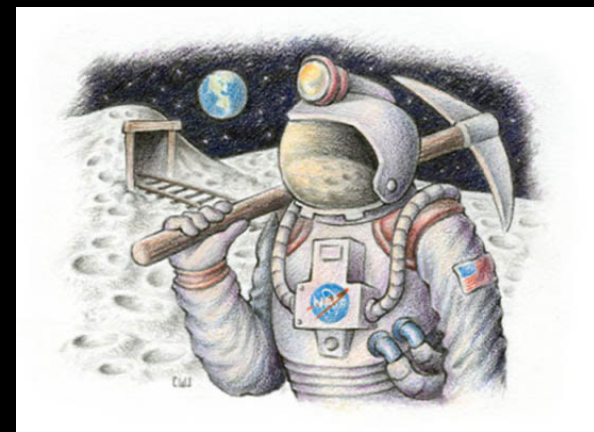
## Other Relevant Planned missions

China: Chang'e 7, 8

Russia: Luna 26, 27

## Surface Missions (lander & rover)

- Volatiles Investigating Polar Exploration Rover (**VIPER** – U.S.A.)
- Polar Resources Ice Mining Experiment-1 (**PRIME-1** – U.S.A.)
- Package for Resource Observation and in-Situ Prospecting for Exploration, Commercial exploitation and Transportation (**PROSPECT** – European Space Agency)
- Lunar Rover Mission (Canada)
- LUnar Polar EX mission (**LUPEX** – Japan & India)





# Coordinating Ongoing & Scheduled Missions: Integrating Data

Brown et al. (2022) Resource potential of lunar permanently shadowed regions [DOI: 10.1016/j.psc.2022.114874](#)

## DATASET

Diviner annual maximum bolometric temperature	240
LRO Diviner average bolometric winter temperature	240
LRO Diviner ice depth stability number	240
LRO LAMP FUV off-band/total flux ratio	240
LRO LOLA active pixel count	500
Chandrayaan-1 gamma-ray spectrometer data	280
LRO Mini-RAM neutron spectrometer data	150 & 30
LRO Mini-RAM neutron spectrometer data	~10,000
LRO Mini-RAM neutron spectrometer data	15,000 to 45,000
LRO Mini-RAM neutron spectrometer data	10 to 40

Conduct sensitivity analyses on combined data  
set results to inform future measurement needs

PSRs – data also available for smaller PSRs

Integration from different missions requires collaborations:  
NASA, European Space Resources Innovation Centre (ESRIC),  
Academic Institutions, Mining Industry



# Coordinating Ongoing & Scheduled Missions: Integrating Data

## KPLO:

- ShadowCam – 1.7 m/pixel;
- Gamma Ray Spectrometer – 70,000 &

## Chandrayaan-2:

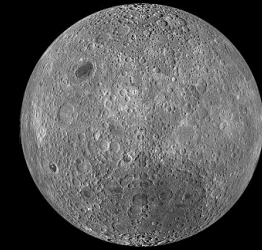
- Dual Frequency Synthetic Aperture Radar (DFSAR) – collects data of the lunar surface at ~0.5 m/pixel. Cited by Kumar et al., 2022, Adv. Space Res. 71, 1000-1010.

## Lunar 7:

- Hyperspectral and Minerals Moon Mapper (HVM<sup>3</sup>) – 50-90 m/pixel.
- Lunar Thermal Mapper (LTM; a multispectral thermal infrared imager to measure temperature, composition, and thermophysical properties) – 40-70 m/pixel.

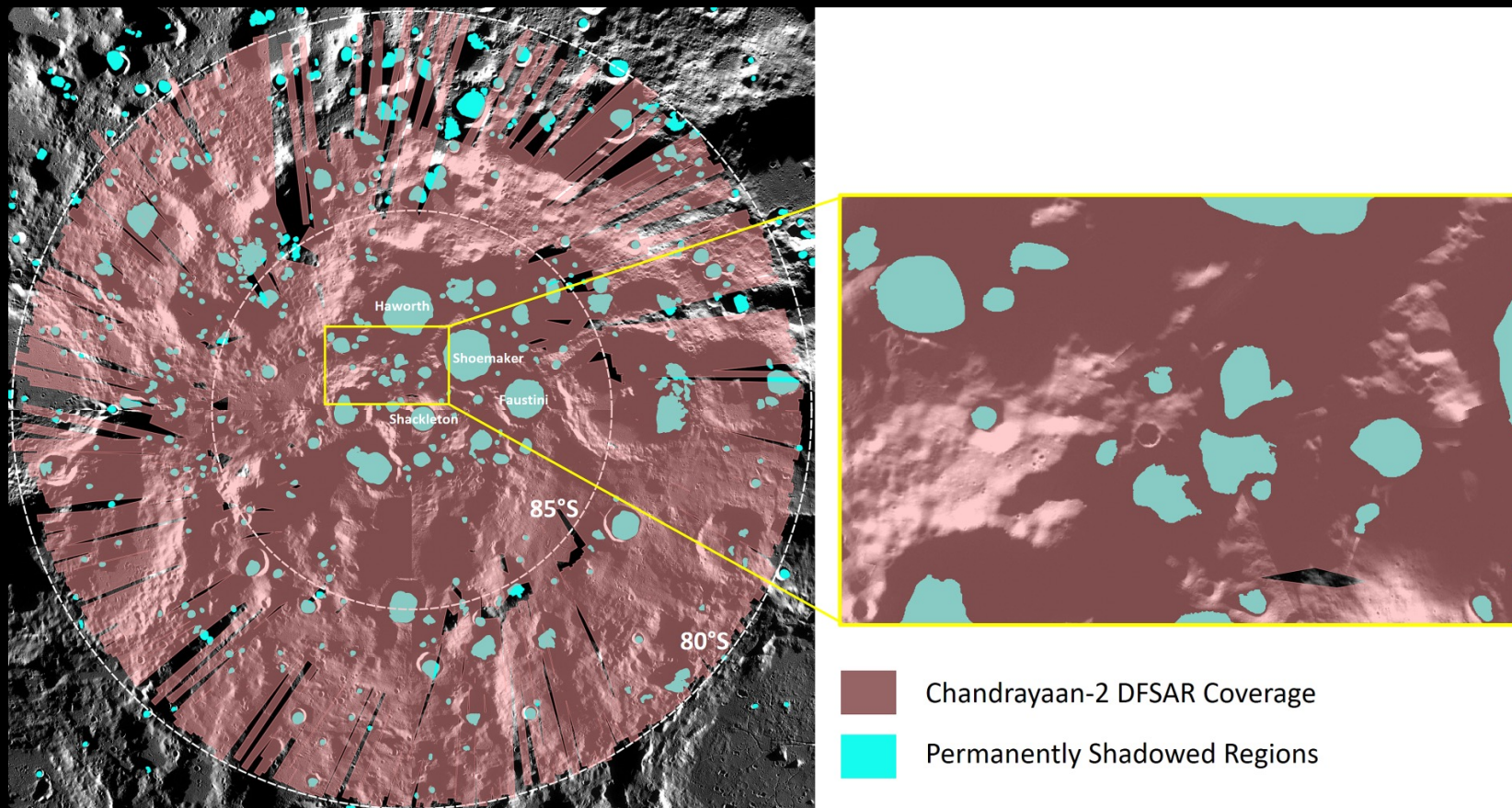
Conduct sensitivity analyses on combined data  
set results to inform future measurement needs

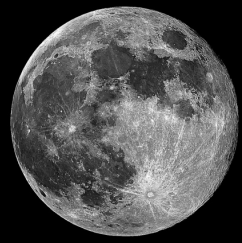




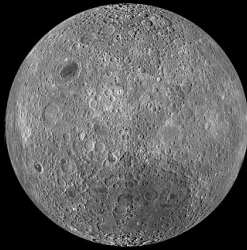
# Coordinating Ongoing & Scheduled Missions: Integrating Data

March 2023 Chandrayaan-2 DF-SAR coverage of the south pole





# The Way Forward: Policy Recs.



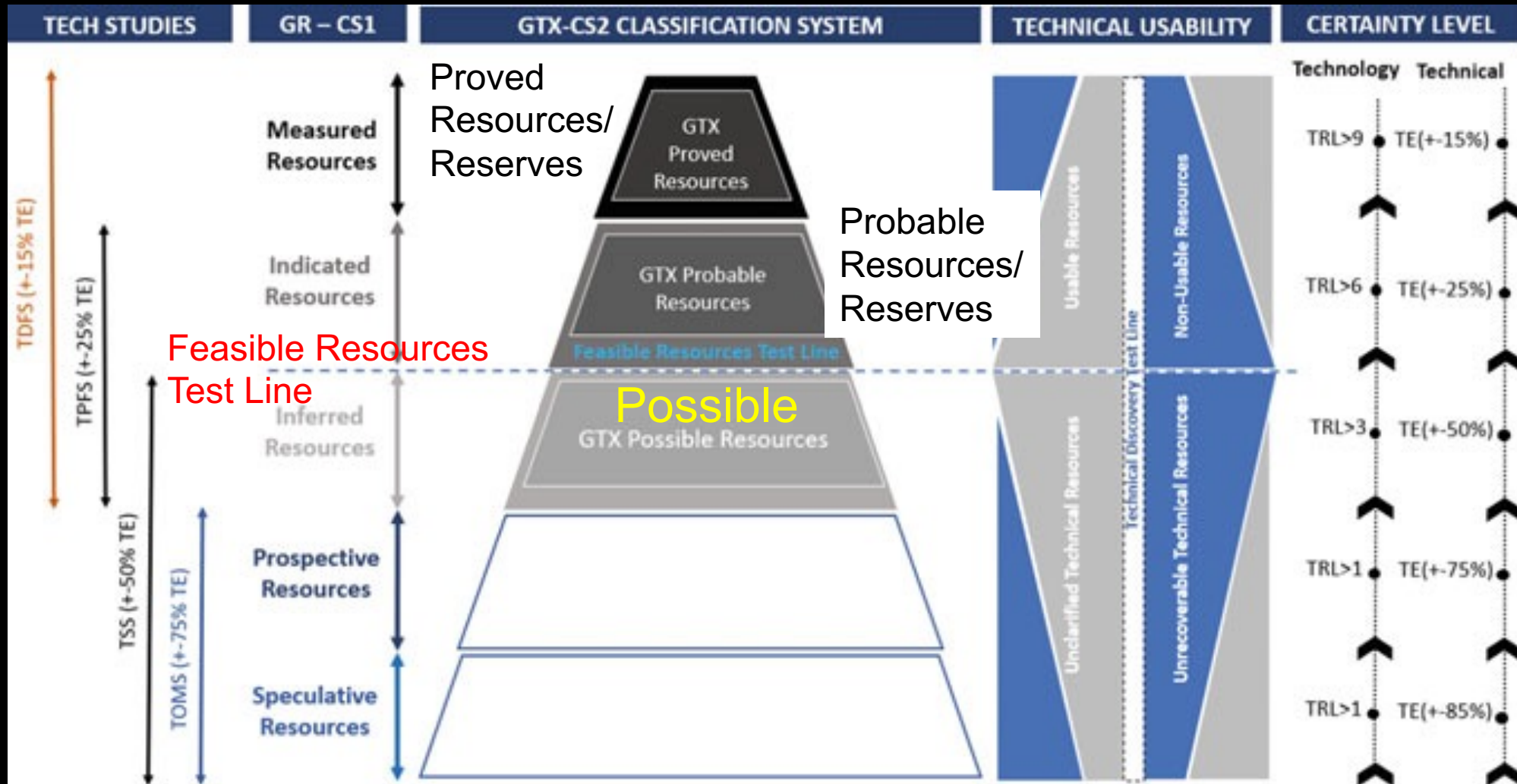
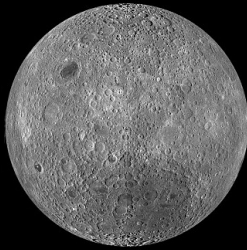
ILRPC opportunity to test the applicable legal framework and be intentional about setting precedents positively shaping the conduct of lunar (and space) resource activities in accordance with the Outer Space Treaty.

**We suggest the following three features:**

- **Organize the campaign as an international joint venture:** Define an incremental set of mission goals building on one another, to allow for inclusive and diverse participation, based upon objective criteria, with international cooperation being a preferential factor.
- **Adopt a multi-purpose data policy:** Foresee different levels of access to different datasets, depending on the contributions provided and including at least one level of open access available to the broader science community.
- **Develop shared standards:** Invite participants to develop and respect shared standards for prospecting lunar resources and evaluating their potential as lunar reserves.



# Resources vs. Reserves

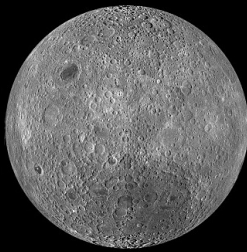


Espejel C.D., Casanova, S. Saydam, Lammy J.-A. (2023) Lunar Ore reserves standards 101 (LORS-101), in: V. Badescu, et al. (Eds.), Handbook of Space Resources, Springer, pp. 999–1022.





# Resources vs. Reserves



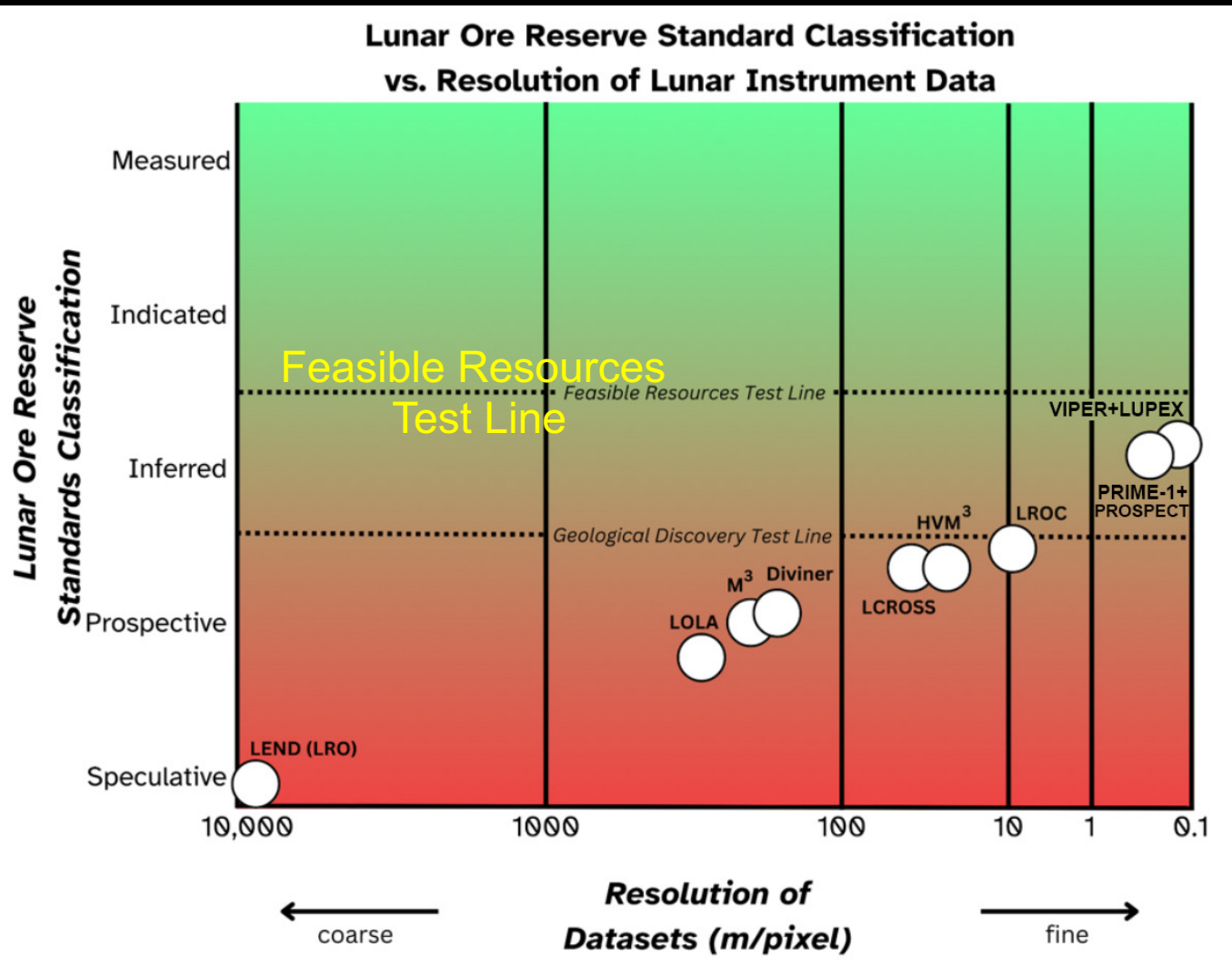
Current landed missions

- VIPER
- PROSPECT
- PRIME-1
- LUPEX

Will not yield “Indicated Resources” or “Probable Reserves”.

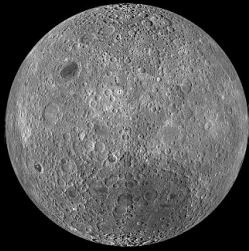
More needs to be done.

Patterson R, O'Brien H., Galien L., Vaenciano J., Neal C.R. (2024) Examining the Reserve Potential of Lunar Polar Volatiles. Space Resources Roundtable, Colorado School of Mines; 4-7 June 2024

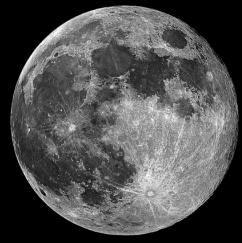




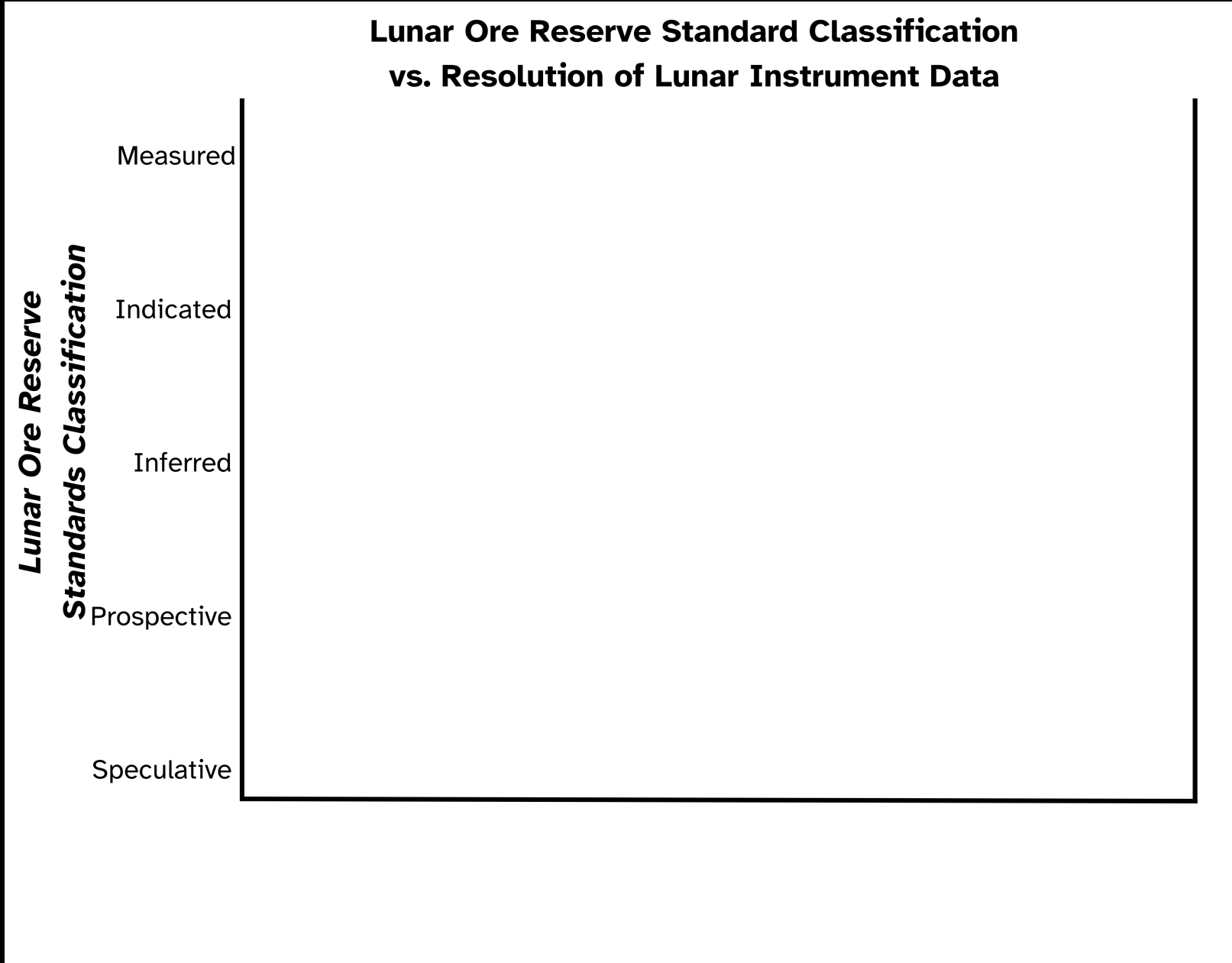
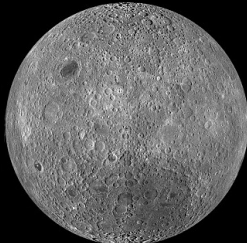
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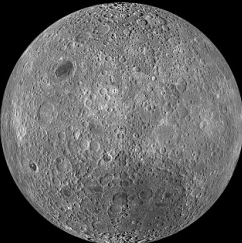
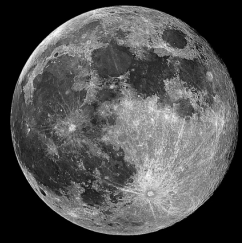


There is more to come.....

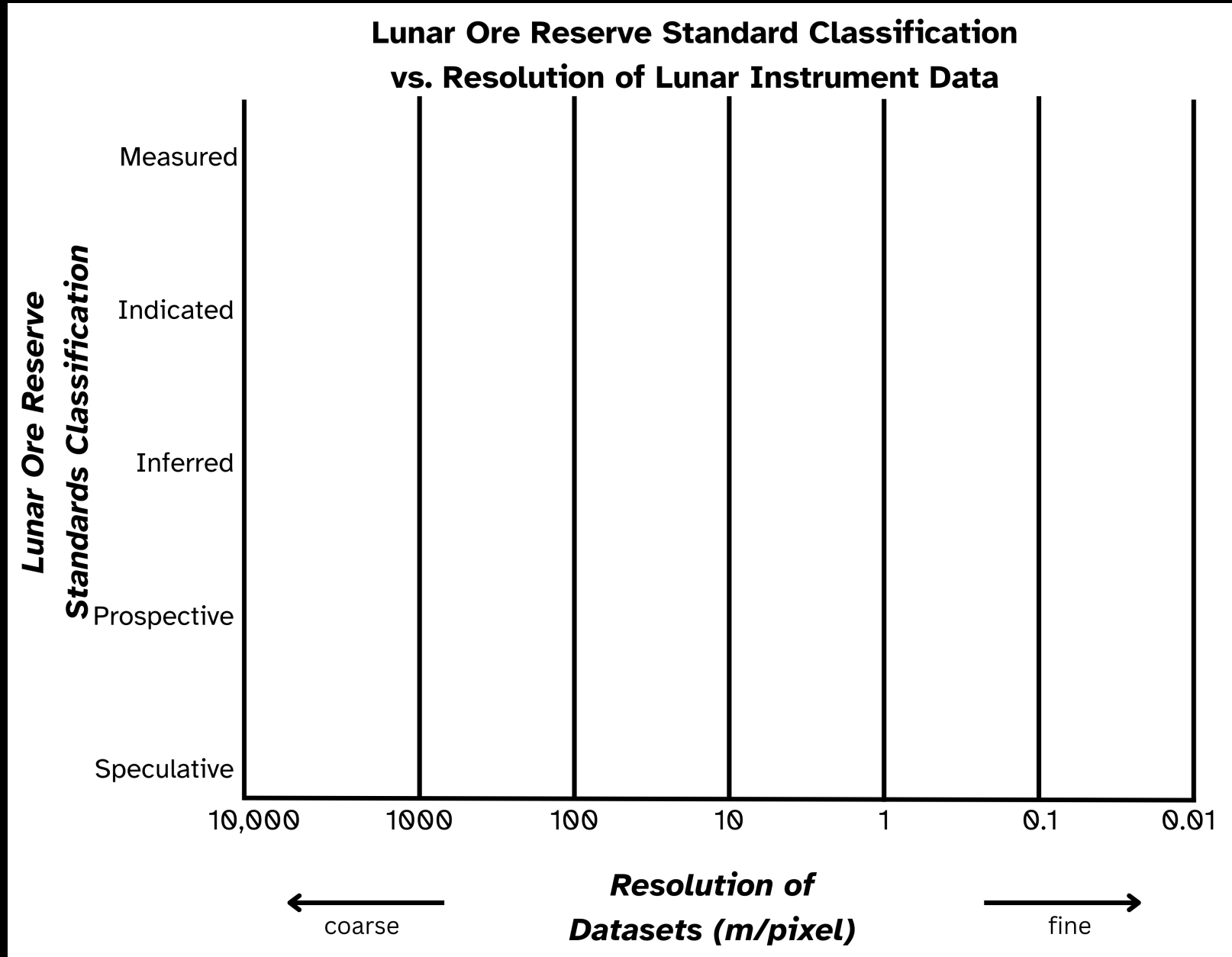


# LORS Classification vs. Resolution of Lunar Data

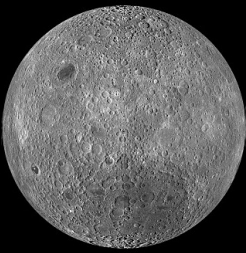
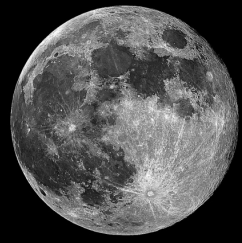




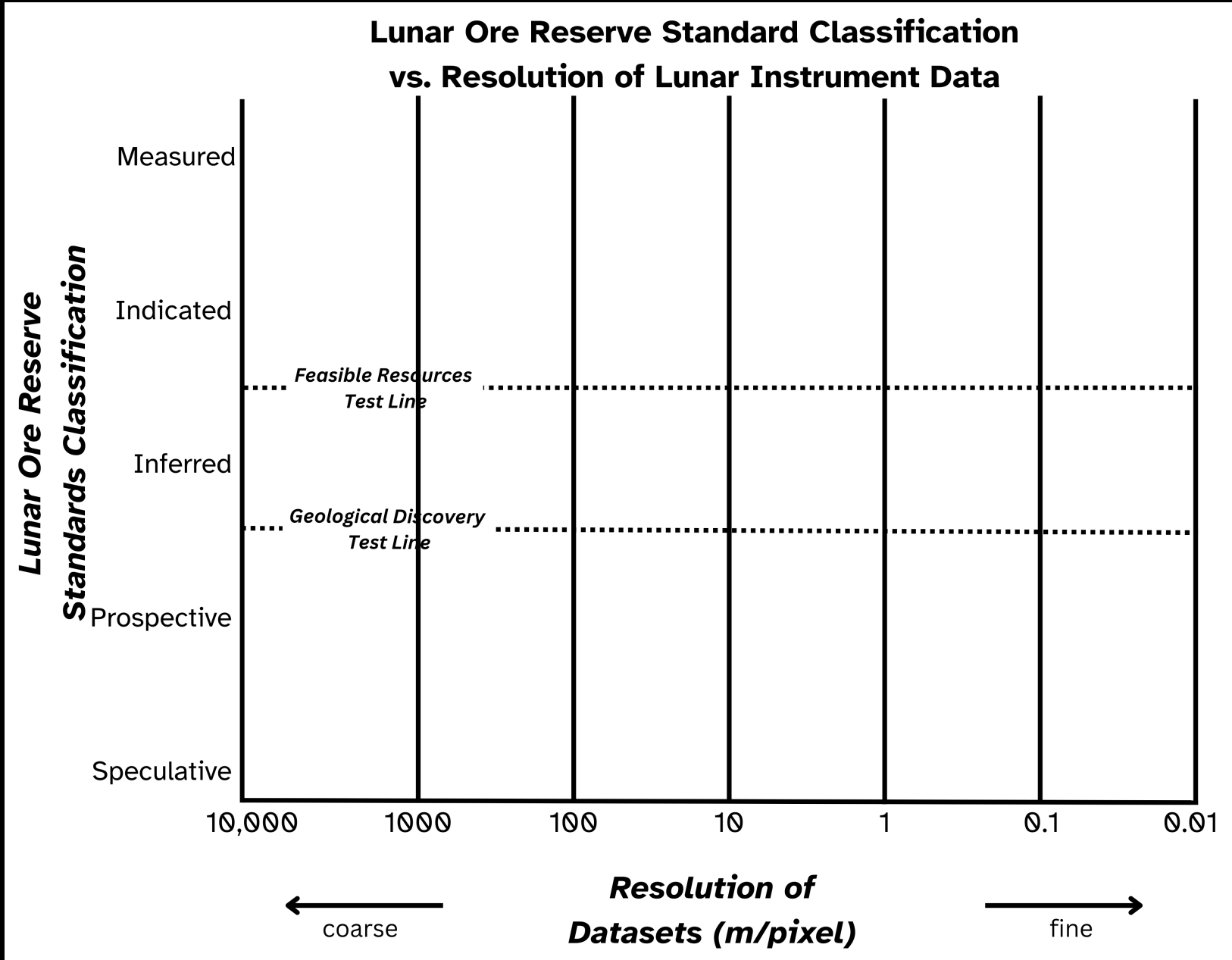
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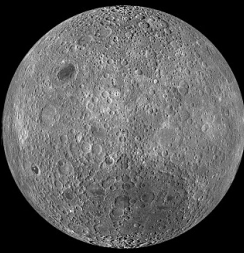
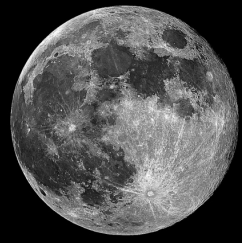




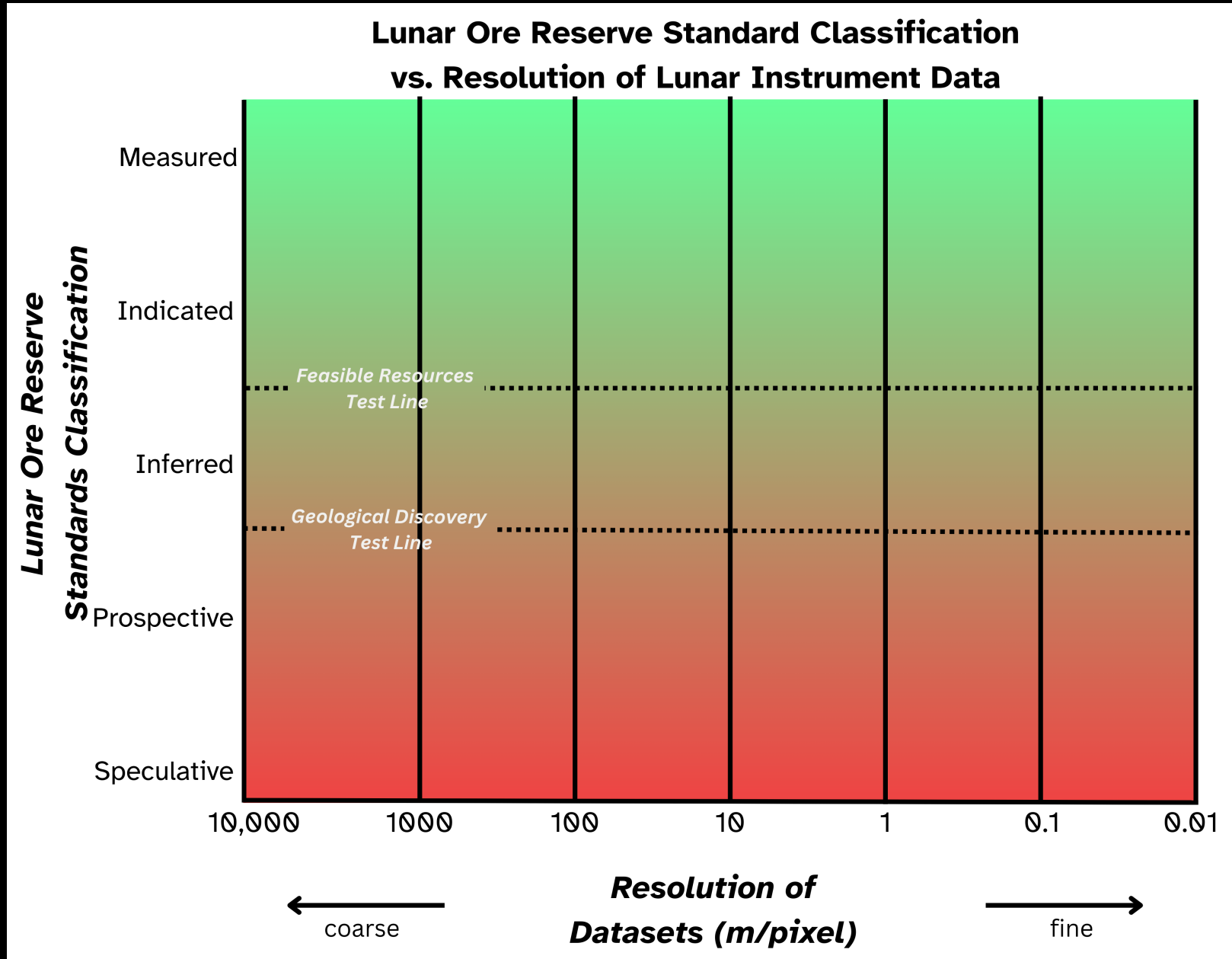


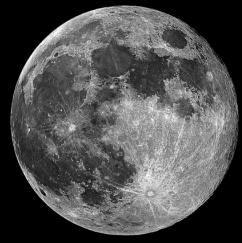
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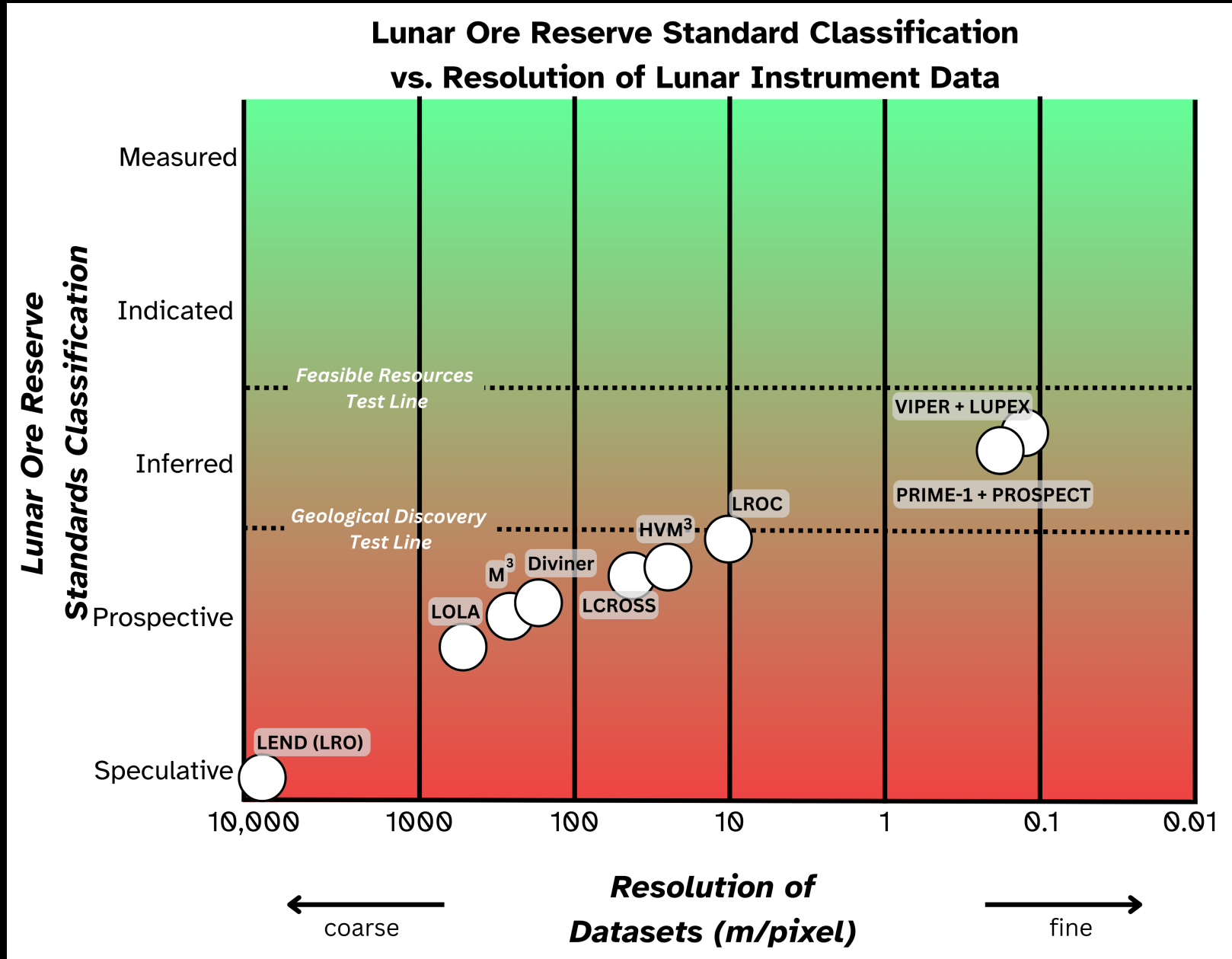
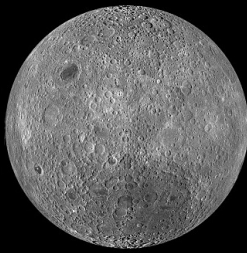


# LORS Classification vs. Resolution of Lunar Data

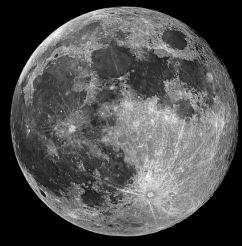




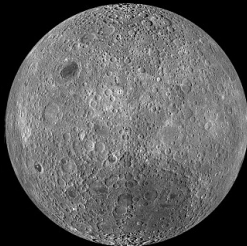
# LORS Classification vs. Resolution of Lunar Data



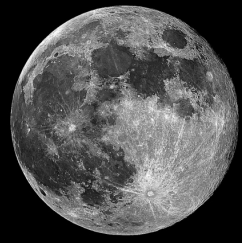




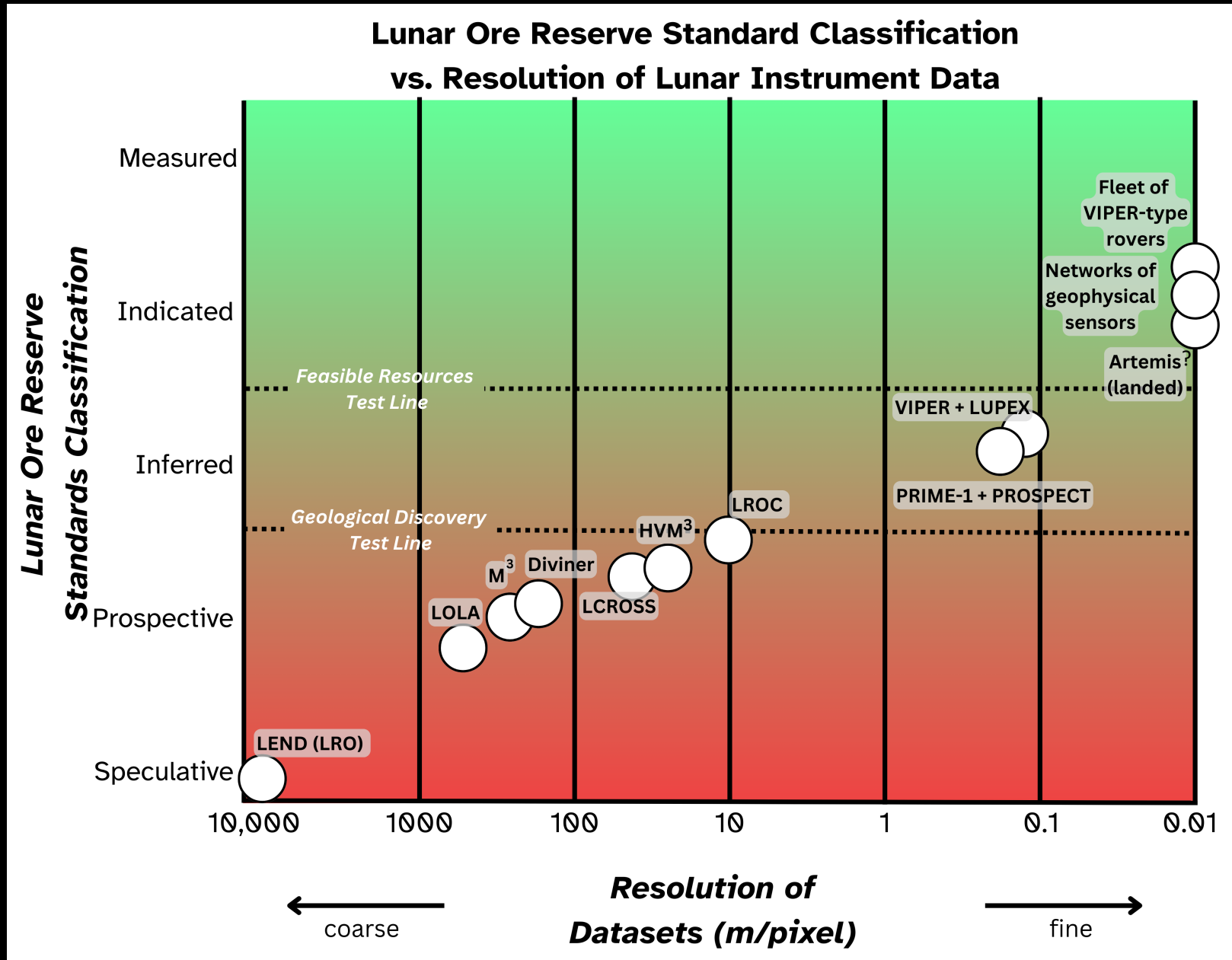
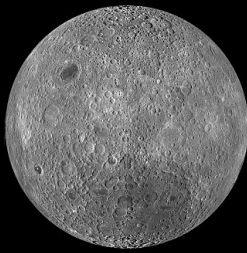
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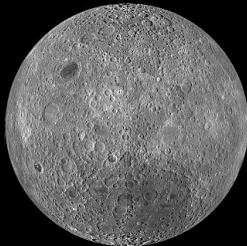
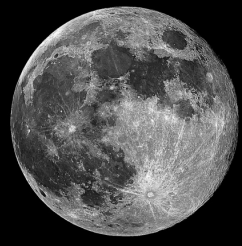


What would it take to cross  
the *Feasible Resources Test Line*?



# LORS Classification vs. Resolution of Lunar Data





# Find us at the posters tonight!

Examining the Reserve Potential of Lunar Polar Volatiles

Hannah O'Brien & Ruby Patterson, NASA JSC & Astralytical Consulting