

1 **Data Repository materials.**

2

3 **1. Methods.**

4

5 **a. Determination of layer orientations.** 1m-resolution stereo terrain models were produced from
6 High-Resolution Imaging Science Experiment (HiRISE) images, using the method of Kirk et al.
7 (2008), and best-fitting planar layer orientations were calculated via linear regression of points
8 along bedding contacts (procedure of Lewis et al., 2006). To confirm that our procedure is
9 measuring layers within the mound, and is not biased by surficial weathering textures nor by the
10 present-day slope, we made measurements around a small reentrant canyon incised into the SW
11 corner of the Gale mound. Within this canyon, present-day slope dip direction varies through 360°,
12 but as expected the measured layer orientations dip consistently (to the W).

13

14 **b. MarsWRF simulations of Gale Crater.** MarsWRF (Toigo et al., 2012) is the Mars version of
15 planetWRF (Richardson et al., 2007), an extension of the widely-used Weather Research and
16 Forecasting model. To produce the wind analysis shown in Figure DR1, MarsWRF was run as a
17 global model at 2° resolution, with three increasingly high-resolution domains “nested” over Gale
18 Crater to increase the resolution there to ~4 km. Each nested domain is both driven by its parent
19 domain, and feeds information back to the parent domain, while also responding to surface
20 variations (e.g. topography, albedo) at the higher resolution of the nest.

21

22 **c. Assessment of alternative mechanisms for producing outward dips.** Few geologic processes
23 can produce primary outward dips of $(3\pm 2)^\circ$ (Figures 1, 2). Spring mounds lack laterally
24 continuous marker beds of the >10 km extent observed (Anderson & Bell, 2010). Preferential

25 dissolution, landsliding/halotectonics, post-impact mantle rebound, and lower-crustal flow can lead
26 to postdepositional outward tilting. On Early Mars, isostatic compensation timescales are $\ll 10^6$ yr.
27 In order for postdepositional mantle rebound to produce outward tilts, the mound must have
28 accumulated at implausibly fast rates. Mars' crust is constrained to be $\lesssim 90$ km thick at Gale's
29 location (Nimmo & Stevenson, 2001), so lower-crustal flow beneath 155km-diameter Gale would
30 have a geometry that would relax Gale Crater from the outside in, incompatible with simple
31 outward tilting. Additionally, Gale is incompletely compensated (Konopliv et al., 2011) and
32 postdates dichotomy-boundary faulting, so Gale postdates the era when Mars' lithosphere was
33 warm enough for crustal flow to relax the dichotomy boundary and cause major deformation (Irwin
34 & Watters, 2010). Any tectonic mechanism for the outward dips would correspond to ~ 3 -4 km of
35 floor uplift of originally horizontal layers. This is comparable to the depth of a fresh crater of this
36 size and inconsistent with the current depth of the southern (mound-free) half of the crater if we
37 make the reasonable approximation that wind cannot quickly erode basalt. Tectonic doming would
38 put the mound's upper surface into extension and produce extensional faults (e.g., p.156 in Melosh,
39 2011), but these are not observed. Preferential dissolution leaves karstic depressions (Hovorka,
40 2000), which are not observed at Gale. Landsliding/halotectonics can produce deformed beds in
41 layered sediments on Earth and Mars (e.g. Metz et al., 2010, Hudec & Jackson 2011). These sites
42 show order-unity strain and contorted bedding, but the layers near the base of the mound show no
43 evidence for large strains at kilometer scale, except for a possible late-stage landslide on the
44 mound's north flank (Anderson & Bell, 2010).

45
46 **d. Scaling sediment transport.** Conservation of sediment (Anderson, 2008) in the atmospheric
47 boundary-layer can be written as:

48
$$dz/dt = D - E = CWs - E$$

49 Here C is volumetric sediment concentration, W_s is settling velocity, and E is the rate of sediment
50 pick-up from the bed. In aeolian transport of dry sand and alluvial-river transport, induration
51 processes are weak or absent and so the bed has negligible intergrain cohesion. C tends to E/W_s
52 over a saturation length scale that is inversely proportional to W_s (for $dz/dt > 0$) or E (for $dz/dt < 0$).
53 This scale is typically short, e.g. ~ 1 - 20 m, for the case of a saltating sand on Earth (Kok et al.,
54 2012). Our simplifying assumption that $D \neq f(x)$ and therefore $C \neq f(x)$ implies that this saturation
55 length scale is large compared to the morphodynamic feedback of interest. For the case of net
56 deposition ($dz/dt > 0$) this could correspond to settling-out of sediment stirred up by dust storms
57 (e.g. Vaughan et al., 2010). These events have characteristic length scales $> 10^2$ km (Szwast et al.,
58 2006), larger than the scale of Gale's mound and justifying the approximation of uniform D . For
59 the case of net erosion ($dz/dt < 0$), small E implies a detachment-limited system where sediment
60 has some cohesion. The necessary degree of induration is not large: for example, 6-10 mg/g
61 chloride salt increases the threshold wind stress for saltation by a factor of e (Nickling, 1984). Fluid
62 pressure alone cannot abrade the bed, and the gain in entrained-particle mass from particle impact
63 equals the abrasion susceptibility, $\sim 2 \times 10^{-6}$ for basalt under modern Mars conditions (Bridges et al.,
64 2012) and generally $\ll 1$ for cohesive materials, preventing runaway adjustment of C to E/W_s .
65 Detachment-limited erosion is clearly appropriate for slope-wind erosion on modern Mars (because
66 sediment mounds form yardangs and shed boulders, indicating that they are cohesive/indurated),
67 and is probably a better approximation to ancient erosion processes than transport-limitation (given
68 the evidence for ancient shallow diagenesis, and soil crusts; e.g., McLennan & Grotzinger, 2008).
69
70 **e. Reference parameter choices.** Coriolis forces are neglected because almost all sedimentary
71 rock mounds on Mars are equatorial (Kite et al., 2012). Additional numerical diffusivity at the 10^{-3}
72 level is used to stabilize the solution. Analytic and experimental results show that in slope-wind

73 dominated landscapes, the strongest winds occur close to the steepest slopes (Manins & Sarford,
74 1987). L will vary across Mars because of 3D topographic effects, and will vary in time because of
75 changing atmospheric density. Ye et al. (1990) find $L \sim 20\text{km}$ for Mars slopes with negligible
76 geostrophic effects, and Eq. 49 in Magalhaes & Gierasch (1982) gives $L \sim 25\text{ km}$ for Gale-relevant
77 slopes. Simulations of gentle Mars slope winds strongly affected by planetary rotation suggest $L \sim$
78 $50\text{-}100\text{ km}$ (e.g., Savijärvi & Siili, 1993). Entrainment acts as a drag coefficient, $\sim 0.02\text{-}0.05$ for
79 Gale-relevant slopes (e.g. Horst & Doran, 1986), suggesting $L = 20\text{-}50\text{ km}$ for a 1km -thick cold
80 boundary layer. Therefore we take $L \sim 10^{1-2}\text{ km}$ to be reasonable, but with the expectation of
81 significant L/R variability, explored in the next section.

82

83 **2. Sensitivity tests: controls on mound growth and form.** To confirm that our results do not
84 depend on idiosyncratic parameter choices, we carried out a parameter sweep in α , D' , and R/L
85 (Figure DR2). Weak slope dependence ($\alpha = 0.05$) is sufficient to produce strata that dip toward the
86 foot of the crater/canyon slope (like a sombrero hat). Similarly weak *negative* slope dependence (α
87 $= -0.05$) is sufficient to produce concave-up fill. At low R/L (i.e., small craters) or at low α , D'
88 controls overall mound shape and slope winds are unimportant. When D' is high, layers fill the
89 crater; when D' is low, layers do not accumulate. When either α or R/L or both are ≥ 1 , slope-wind
90 enhanced erosion and transport dominates the behavior. Thin layered crater floor deposits form at
91 low D' , and large mounds at high D' . If L is approximated as being constant across the planet, then
92 R/L is proportional to crater/canyon size. There is net aggradation everywhere for small R/L ,
93 although a small moat can form as a result of relatively low net aggradation near the crater wall.
94 For larger R/L , moats form, and for the largest craters/canyons, multiple mounds can form
95 eventually because slope winds break up the deposits. This is consistent with data, which suggest a
96 maximum length scale for mounds (Figure DR3). Small exhumed craters in Meridiani show

97 concentric layering consistent with concave-up dips. Larger Meridiani craters, together with the
98 north polar ice mounds, show a simple single mound. Gale and Nicholson Craters, together with
99 the smaller Valles Marineris chasmata, show a single mound with an undulating top. The largest
100 canyon system on Mars (Ophir-Candor-Melas) shows multiple mounds per canyon. Gale-like
101 mounds (with erosion at both toe and the summit) are most likely for high R/L , high α , and
102 intermediate D' (high enough for some accumulation, not so high as to fill the crater; Figure DR2).

103 U_o is set to zero in Figure 3. Sensitivity tests show that for a given D' , varying U_o has little
104 effect on the pattern of erosion because spatial variations are still controlled by slope winds.
105 Equation (3) implies the approximation $E \sim \max(U)^\alpha \sim \sum U^\alpha$, which is true as $\alpha \rightarrow \infty$. To check
106 that this approximation does not affect conclusions for $\alpha = 3-4$ (Kok et al., 2012), we ran a
107 parameter sweep with $E \sim (U_+^\alpha + U_-^\alpha)$. For nominal parameters (Figure 3), this leads to only minor
108 changes in mound structure and stratigraphy (e.g., 6% reduction in mound height and <1% in
109 mound width at late time). For the parameter sweep as a whole, the change leads to a slight
110 widening of the regions where the mound does not nucleate or overfills the crater (changing the
111 outcome of 7 out of the 117 cases shown in Figure DR2). The approximation would be further
112 supported if (as is likely) there is a threshold U below which erosion does not occur. If MSL shows
113 that persistent snow or ice was needed as a water source for layer cementation (Niles & Michalski,
114 2009; Kite et al., 2012), then additional terms will be required to track humidity and the drying
115 effect of föhn winds (e.g. Madeleine et al., 2012).

116 These sensitivity tests suggest that mounds are a generic outcome of steady uniform deposition
117 modified by slope-wind enhanced erosion and transport for reasonable Early Mars parameter
118 values.

119

120 **Data Repository References**

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159 **Data Repository Table 1: Layer orientation measurements**

Lat	Lon	Z (m)	Dip (°)	Dip Az (°)	HiRISE Image ID
-5.022347	138.394900	-3263.1	3.53	30.68	PSP_008437_1750
-5.023877	138.392660	-3201.9	2.52	62.01	PSP_008437_1750
-5.015876	138.386310	-3216.9	2.1	94.68	PSP_008437_1750
-5.015508	138.387020	-3201.4	7.31	41.72	PSP_008437_1750
-4.998358	138.391680	-3554.2	2.06	54.81	PSP_008437_1750
-5.003035	138.387800	-3429.9	0.43	-21.29	PSP_008437_1750
-5.004517	138.379910	-3425.8	5.04	89.54	PSP_008437_1750
-5.004179	138.379580	-3434.5	3.79	70.24	PSP_008437_1750
-4.997492	138.392530	-3583.8	4.65	51.98	PSP_008437_1750
-5.012374	138.396710	-3421.5	4.14	47.28	PSP_008437_1750
-5.031424	138.395590	-3290.1	4.07	40.92	PSP_008437_1750
-5.030106	138.396180	-3308.2	2.55	76.18	PSP_008437_1750
-5.03171	138.393740	-3260.1	3.24	43.31	PSP_008437_1750
-5.035189	138.392050	-3176.3	2.07	75.25	PSP_008437_1750
-5.035062	138.391700	-3173.3	2.21	86.77	PSP_008437_1750
-4.685812	137.494850	-4098.5	3.34	148.1	ESP_023957_1755
-4.684778	137.491970	-4103.8	3.98	174.47	ESP_023957_1755
-4.689331	137.480520	-4101.3	6.06	132.82	ESP_023957_1755
-4.659387	137.533150	-4120.3	6.48	114.03	ESP_023957_1755
-4.65886	137.537400	-4108.2	0.5	13.56	ESP_023957_1755
-4.662119	137.535520	-4073.1	3.9	-149.05	ESP_023957_1755
-4.664102	137.525670	-4127.1	7.16	130.19	ESP_023957_1755
-4.663656	137.524870	-4138.3	4.83	152.05	ESP_023957_1755
-4.665528	137.526530	-4101.2	4.59	-153.08	ESP_023957_1755
-4.676802	137.506150	-4083.2	2.32	83.97	ESP_023957_1755
-4.672137	137.510280	-4128	3.24	91.62	ESP_023957_1755
-4.871501	137.270980	-3849.6	1.09	10.19	PSP_001488_1750
-4.871837	137.266710	-3857.7	5.19	85.97	PSP_001488_1750
-4.872691	137.270730	-3833.2	2.61	-51.44	PSP_001488_1750
-4.917952	137.284340	-3513.9	6.78	136.55	PSP_001488_1750
-4.831027	137.330630	-3768.9	2.16	140.09	PSP_001488_1750
-4.828565	137.330360	-3792.5	2.65	143.84	PSP_001488_1750
-4.846642	137.303380	-3802.8	4.38	124.94	PSP_001488_1750
-4.845724	137.303070	-3815.7	4.51	111.27	PSP_001488_1750
-4.845501	137.304420	-3799.2	2.34	79.11	PSP_001488_1750
-4.863885	137.332420	-3507.1	2.04	132.56	PSP_001488_1750
-4.93696	137.311640	-3278.4	3.74	129.01	PSP_001488_1750
-4.938936	137.309840	-3287.6	4.46	119.79	PSP_001488_1750
-4.920126	137.322160	-3290.9	1.79	134.69	PSP_001488_1750
-4.922859	137.317020	-3306.6	4.2	160.7	PSP_001488_1750
-4.901912	137.338220	-3265.6	4.87	-174.83	PSP_001488_1750

-4.892401	137.332800	-3389.9	6.71	117.93	PSP_001488_1750
-4.863151	137.342100	-3464.4	5.66	105.35	PSP_001488_1750
-4.779928	137.409690	-3656.9	3.69	167.09	PSP_009149_1750
-4.777029	137.405330	-3736.8	2.13	168.14	PSP_009149_1750
-4.75303	137.438670	-3810.7	6.07	128.67	PSP_009149_1750
-4.752131	137.438100	-3823.7	5.92	123.62	PSP_009149_1750
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-5.341016	137.209820	-2891.2	2.58	135.34	ESP_012907_1745
-5.337968	137.210930	-2796.8	4.54	151.03	ESP_012907_1745
-5.377012	137.207730	-2879.1	1.63	165.41	ESP_012907_1745
-5.384663	137.190610	-3005.3	4.73	156.7	ESP_012907_1745
-5.413138	137.185680	-2848.5	4.57	133.72	ESP_012907_1745
-5.40772	137.197850	-2779.3	4.05	158.01	ESP_012907_1745
-5.392686	137.208330	-2756.1	10.83	163.21	ESP_012907_1745
-5.371398	137.174520	-3359.7	6.02	159.19	ESP_012907_1745
-5.342561	137.176890	-3130.9	6.76	160.11	ESP_012907_1745
-5.458482	137.183800	-2752.8	2.49	142.76	ESP_012907_1745
-5.459221	137.188840	-2674.5	3.58	162.7	ESP_012907_1745
-5.460307	137.188440	-2696.5	3.97	166.94	ESP_012907_1745
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-5.390219	137.191070	-2988.8	2.6	144.9	ESP_012907_1745
-5.411481	137.194250	-2811.9	2.09	146.02	ESP_012907_1745
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-5.598681	138.339300	-2856.2	1.26	116.18	ESP_014186_1745
-5.584488	138.338620	-2705.9	2.25	-69.68	ESP_014186_1745
-5.584654	138.354940	-2710	2.45	-82.66	ESP_014186_1745
-5.605716	138.360870	-2907.7	0.3	-175.97	ESP_014186_1745
-5.570108	138.366460	-2674.6	5.23	-61.61	ESP_014186_1745
-5.572424	138.360000	-2589.6	2.17	-86.77	ESP_014186_1745
-5.588566	138.326250	-2685.2	2.6	-27.67	ESP_014186_1745
-5.580666	138.333270	-2681.5	1.76	-81.46	ESP_014186_1745
-5.534321	138.325470	-2424.8	4.35	-117.38	ESP_014186_1745
-5.542813	138.327860	-2454.8	3.37	-104.06	ESP_014186_1745
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-5.566658	138.288200	-2644.4	1.15	74.46	ESP_014186_1745
-5.581102	138.309950	-2667.3	1.06	-65.97	ESP_014186_1745

161 **Data Repository Figure Captions**

162

163 **Figure DR1.** Annual maximum wind speed (m/s) within Gale Crater from MarsWRF simulations,
164 showing that the strongest winds within the crater are associated with steep slopes. Black
165 topography contours are spaced at 500m intervals. The winds are extrapolated to 1.5m above the
166 surface using boundary layer similarity theory (the lowest model layer is at ~9m above the
167 surface).

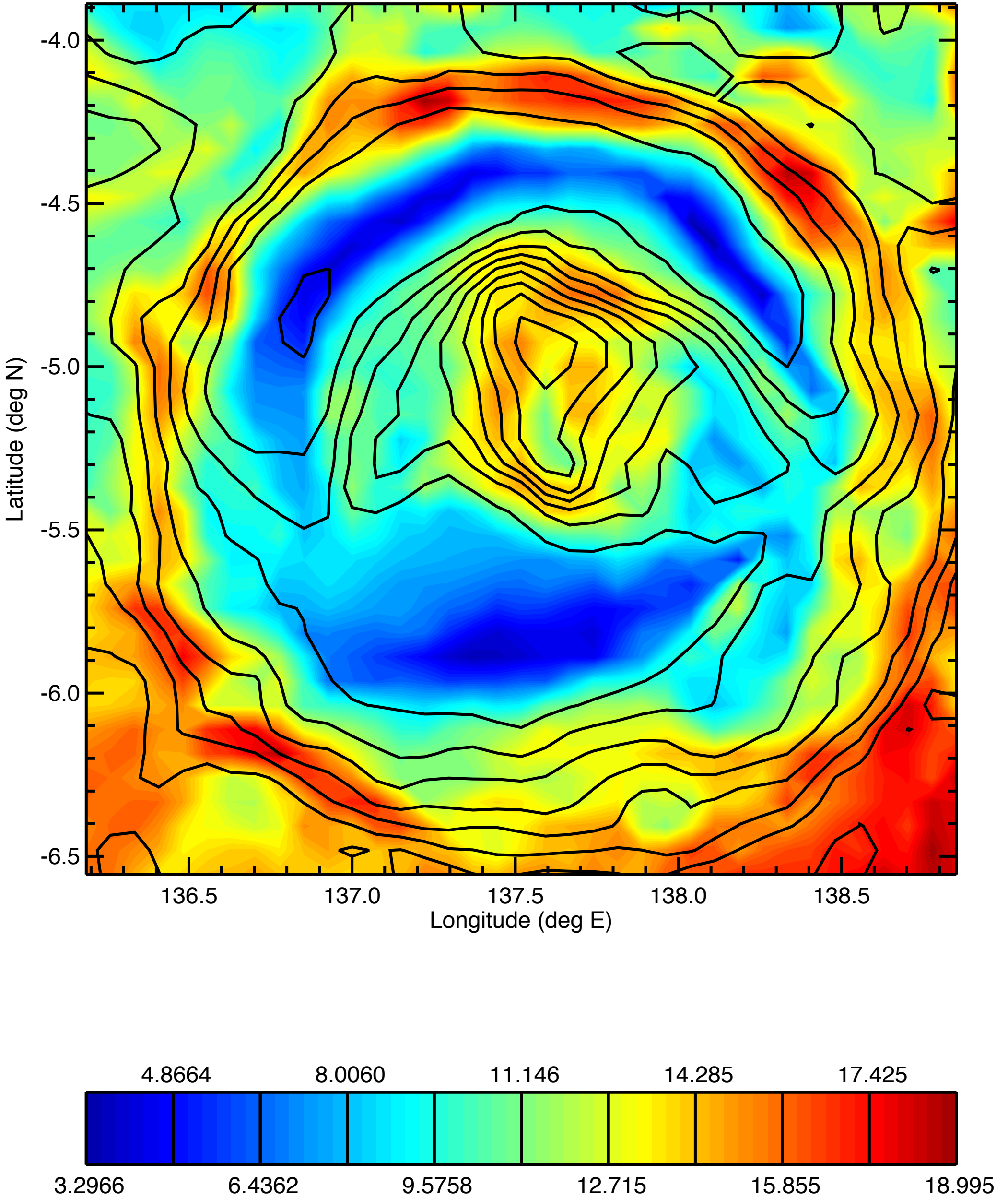
168

169 **Figure DR2.** Overall growth and form of sedimentary mounds – results from a model parameter
170 sweep varying R/L and D' , with fixed $\alpha = 3$. Black square corresponds to the results shown in more
171 detail in Figure 3. Symbols correspond to the overall results:– no net accumulation of sediment
172 anywhere (blue open circles); sediment overtops crater/canyon (red filled circles); mound forms
173 and remains within crater (green symbols). Green filled circles correspond to outcomes where
174 layers are exposed at both the toe and the summit of mound, similar to Gale.

175

176 **Figure DR3.** Width of largest mound does not keep pace with increasing crater/canyon width,
177 suggesting a length threshold beyond which slope winds break up mounds. Blue dots correspond to
178 nonpolar crater data, red squares correspond to canyon data, and green dots correspond to polar ice
179 mound data. Gray vertical lines show range of uncertainty in largest-mound width for Valles
180 Marineris canyons. Blue dot adjacent to “G” corresponds to Gale Crater. Craters smaller than 10km
181 were measured using Context Camera (CTX) or HiRISE images. All other craters, canyons and
182 mounds were measured using the Thermal Emission Imaging System (THEMIS) global day
183 infrared mosaic on a Mars Orbiter Laser Altimeter (MOLA) base. Width is defined as polygon area
184 divided by the longest straight-line length that can be contained within that polygon.

Maximum wind speed



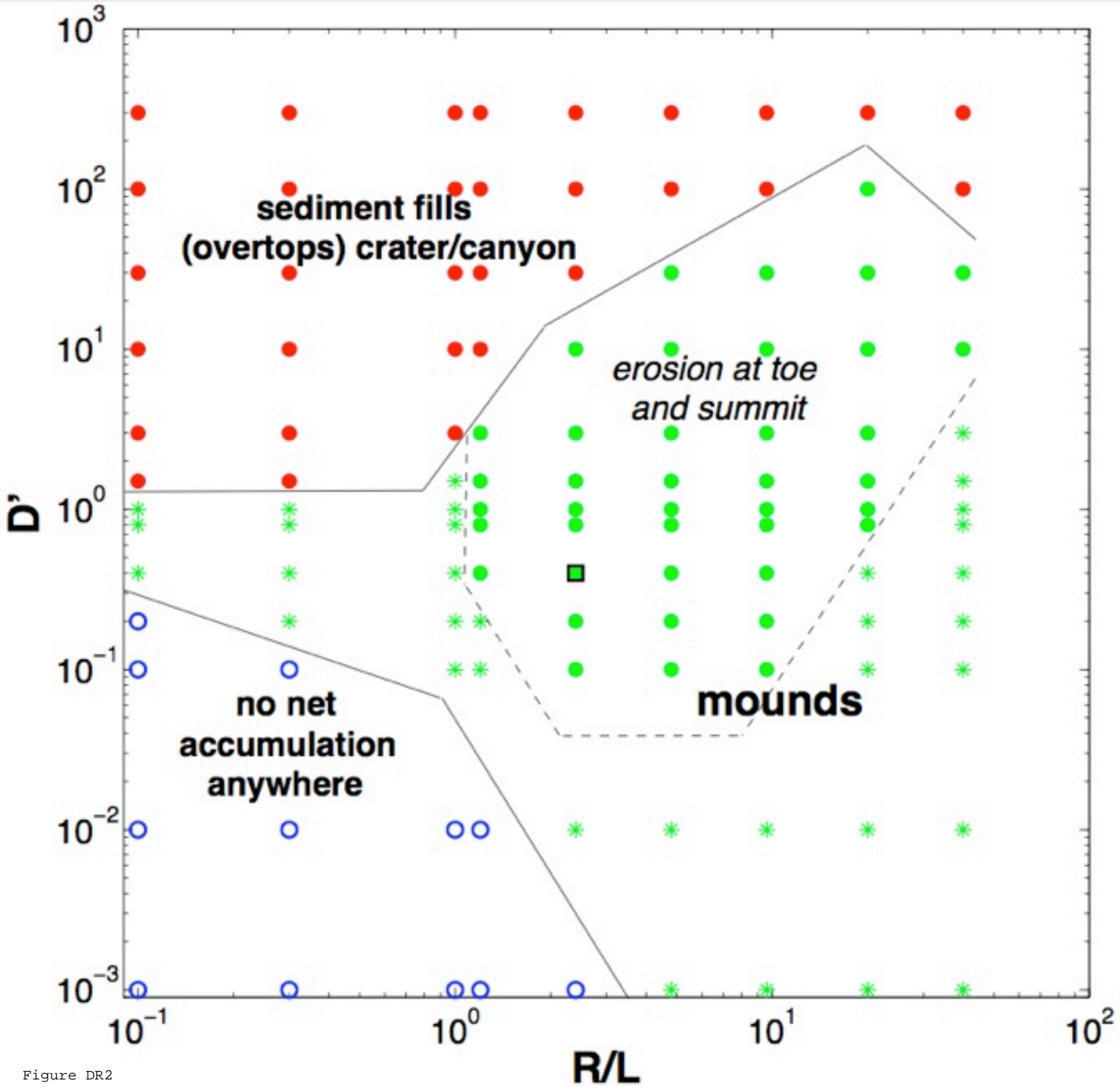


Figure DR2

Figure DR3

