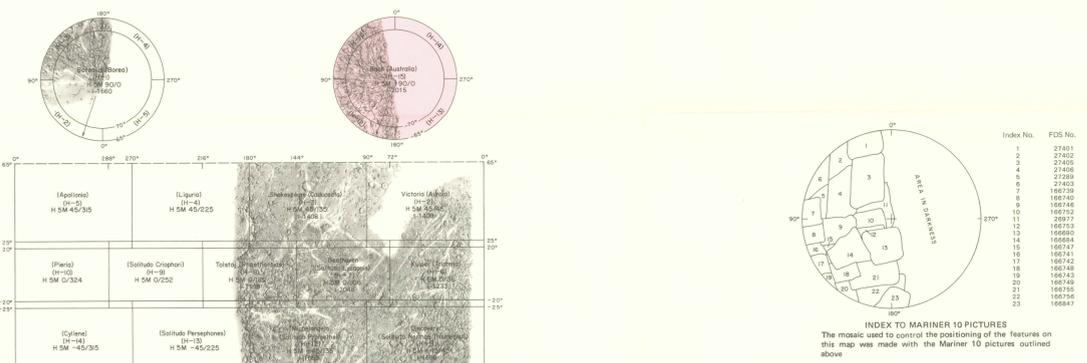
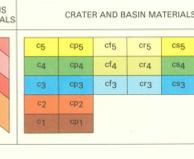


Scale 1:4,290,000 AT 65° LATITUDE  
POLAR STEREOGRAPHIC PROJECTION  
Base from U.S. Geological Survey, 1976. Shaded relief map of the Bach area of Mercury, U.S. Geological Survey Miscellaneous Investigations Series Map I-959  
Manuscript approved for publication, September 23, 1988



ARRANGEMENT OF MAP SHEETS ON MERCURY  
The provisional name "Gomela" was changed to "Borealis" and the provisional name "Titi" was changed to "Totius" by the International Astronomical Union in 1978 (IAU, 1977). These provisional names appeared on earlier editions of this index map and on the shaded relief map of the Totius (H-8) quadrangle. The number preceded by I refers to published geologic map.

CORRELATION OF MAP UNITS



DESCRIPTION OF MAP UNITS

- psv** Very smooth plains material—Most common east of long 70° in depressions within smooth plains material, occurs elsewhere in craters of c<sub>2</sub> to c<sub>4</sub> age. Distinguished by extremely smooth surface and absence of superposed craters. Nearest terminator, relief is more detectable and surface is slightly hummocky. Interpretation: Impact melt in youngest craters or volcanic material in older depressions such as crater floors.
- ps** Smooth plains material—Commonly in c<sub>2</sub> to c<sub>3</sub> craters and widespread to local depressions, particularly east of long 90°. Distinguished by smooth to moderately rough surfaces (appearance rougher near terminator) and low superposed craters (mostly c<sub>2</sub> and c<sub>3</sub> and their secondaries). Associated with scarps and ridges. Interpretation: Impact melt in younger craters and volcanic material in older craters and in extensive intercrater areas.
- psb** Intermediate plains material—Forms large intercrater areas east of long 85° and floors some craters of c<sub>1</sub> to c<sub>3</sub> age; superposed by some c<sub>2</sub> craters and larger c<sub>3</sub> to c<sub>4</sub> craters. Intermediate in texture and crater density between smooth plains and intercrater plains. Moderately rough texture pockmarked by many small craters and secondaries. May be interbedded with ejecta of craters and basins of c<sub>2</sub> to c<sub>4</sub> age. Interpretation: Volcanic materials in c<sub>1</sub> craters and intercrater plains. May be volcanic impact melt with younger craters.
- pi** Intercrater plains material—Forms large tracts exterior to craters, embaying rims of c<sub>1</sub> and c<sub>2</sub> craters. Surfaces are heavily cratered and textured by knobs, ridges, and pits. Superposed craters of many sizes, some aligned in clusters or chains. Age relations to c<sub>1</sub> craters commonly ambiguous. Interpretation: Volcanic. Interbedded with ballisticly emplaced ejecta of c<sub>1</sub> to c<sub>3</sub> craters and basins; overlain by ejecta from craters of all ages.

The Bach region encompasses the south polar part of Mercury poleward of lat 65° S. About half of the region was beyond the terminator during the three Mariner 10 encounters and hence not visible. The entire mapped area was covered by near-vertical photography from the second encounter, and the eastern part, from long 15° to about 110°, was covered by oblique photography from the first encounter. No third-encounter images were acquired. The entire visible area may be viewed stereoscopically by combining images from the first and second encounters taken at different viewing angles or by combining second-encounter images of the same area taken at different viewing angles. These combinations provided excellent qualitative control of topographic relief and a good quantitative photogrammetric base. However, sun elevation angles of the images are limited to less than 25°, and image resolutions are no higher than about 0.5 km per picture element. Therefore, the south polar geologic map reflects mostly large-scale processes and topographic information, whereas other Mercurian quadrangle maps benefit from greater albedo discrimination and, in some cases, higher resolution.

The imaged part of the Bach region covers about 1,570,000 km<sup>2</sup>. Its surface consists of craters of a wide variety of sizes and morphologies, as well as plains units, scarps, and ridges. It includes three double-ring basins that range from 140 to 200 km in diameter: Bach (after which the region is named), Cervantes, and Bernini. Another large crater, Pushkin, is 240 km in diameter and occurs at the map boundary at lat 65° S, long 25°. Both Bach and Bernini display extensive fields of secondary craters. An unusual area between lat 69° and 80° S, and long 30° and 60° consists of young, relatively smooth plains marked by many flat-topped ridges unlike any seen in other areas of Mercury. Scarps similar to Discovery Rupes (in the Discovery quadrangle adjacent to the north) are relatively common throughout the Bach region. The most common terrain units in the region are the plains units, which display a wide range of smaller-crater densities.

STRATIGRAPHY

Superposition relations among craters and basins, and their ejecta, provide the best means of establishing the relative time-stratigraphic order of crater and basin materials. Relative to the Moon, stratigraphic relations among Mercurian craters are more clearly discerned because Mercury has a lower density of large craters (Malin, 1976a), and its enhanced gravitational acceleration has restricted the distribution of ejecta (Gault and others, 1975). These attributes of the Mercurian crater population allow stratigraphic sequences to be constructed over large regions.

The degree of crater degradation is determined by qualitative assessment of their landforms such as rim crests, interior wall terraces and slumps, central peaks, continuous ejecta deposits, and secondary crater fields (see Malin and Dzurisin, 1977; McCauley and others, 1981). To the extent that degradational changes are systematic with increasing age, they can be used to correlate local and regional stratigraphic sequences over the map region. On the basis of this morphologic evaluation, five crater ages are defined and used to make stratigraphic assignments. However, the low sun angle at which images in the region were acquired may make craters appear younger than in other parts of Mercury where images were taken at higher sun angles.

The attributes of the five morphologic classes, as illustrated by McCauley and others (1981) and Leake (1982), are given in the description of map units. However, these attributes are valid only for a given size crater and in a relative sense. A representation (fig. 1) of the classification scheme has two important constraints: (1) A given set of craters, as in a fresh secondary-crater age field, denotes an older age for larger craters than for smaller ones, because the landforms of larger craters take longer to degrade than analogous features of smaller craters. (2) The lines of "constant morphology" converge slightly at larger crater diameters. Thus less morphologic distinction occurs among large craters than among small ones.

Of the region's three double-ring basins, Bach (200 km in diameter) and Bernini (140 km in diameter) are moderately fresh (of c<sub>2</sub> age) and have well-defined secondary-crater fields, whereas Cervantes (200 km in diameter) is degraded (c<sub>3</sub>). The inner rings of the three basins are about half the diameter of the outer rings. Bach's inner ring, the most complete, is open only to the southeast; it consists of an almost continuous series of sharp-crested hills. The area within it and part of the area between it and the outer ring are filled with smooth plains material. The inner rings of Cervantes and Bernini consist of discontinuous, low, rounded hills; Bernini has a small central peak.

As first noted by Gault and others (1975), the continuous ejecta blankets and secondary crater fields surrounding Mercurian craters are smaller than their lunar counterparts, and the boundary between the two features is much less distinct. As a consequence, continuous and discontinuous ejecta are mapped together in the Bach region as "radial facies." With this exception, the morphological elements of Mercurian craters are virtually identical with those on the Moon. Therefore, all of the craters within the Bach region are probably the result of impact by meteorites, small planetesimals, and possibly comets.

PLAINS MATERIALS

About 60 percent of the map area consists of tracts of planar surfaces having a variety of small-scale textures. These tracts range in size from a few square kilometers within craters to areas larger than 10,000 km<sup>2</sup> that surround and separate large counterparts, and the boundary between the two features is much less distinct. As a consequence, continuous and discontinuous ejecta are mapped together in the Bach region as "radial facies." With this exception, the morphological elements of Mercurian craters are virtually identical with those on the Moon. Therefore, all of the craters within the Bach region are probably the result of impact by meteorites, small planetesimals, and possibly comets.

CRATER AND BASIN MATERIALS

[These materials are divided into three associated facies: crater materials, mapped to the break in slope of the exterior rim and including central peak and peak ring materials (in large craters and basins); floor materials, and radial facies. Secondary crater chains are mapped as a distinct unit. Crater morphology is divided into five classes similar to those used in lunar mapping. Classification criteria are also similar, allowing for gravitational differences between the Moon and Mercury, and are virtually the same as those of McCauley and others (1981). Craters smaller than 15 km in diameter are not mapped. Interpretation of craters: Formed by impact, surrounded by ballisticly emplaced ejecta.]

- cs** Material of very fresh craters—Craters characterized by sharp rims, crisp interior floors (for large craters), rays, and very few superposed craters. Unit includes crater floor material except where mapped separately on basis of floor-wall contact and floor morphology.
- csb** Central peak material of c<sub>2</sub> craters—Forms isolated or grouped hills and arcuate ridges that, in larger craters, may be aligned along lineament directions. Interpretation: Highly shocked and deformed country rock elevated during impact.
- csf** Crater floor material of c<sub>2</sub> craters—Hummocky to smooth; very few superposed craters. Interpretation: Impact melt and fallback ejecta.
- cr** Radial facies of c<sub>2</sub> craters—Smooth to hummocky deposits radial to primary crater. Interpretation: Material ejected from c<sub>2</sub> craters during formation; debris followed ballistic trajectories to impact around craters, fragmenting local bedrock and regolith.
- csr** Secondary crater chains radial to c<sub>2</sub> craters—Continuous to discontinuous chains of small craters radial to a primary crater at lat 67° S, long 56°, lying outside its radial facies. Interpretation: Craters formed from material ejected from c<sub>2</sub> craters, as described for radial facies.
- csd** Material of fresh but slightly modified craters—Distinct but visibly modified rims and interior features; well-preserved radial facies around larger craters.
- csa** Central peak material of c<sub>3</sub> craters—Like central peak material of c<sub>2</sub> craters but modified by superposed small impacts and depositional degradation.
- csl** Crater floor material of c<sub>3</sub> craters—Some more hummocky than very smooth or smooth plains materials. Interpretation: Same as crater floor material of c<sub>2</sub> craters.
- crd** Radial facies of c<sub>3</sub> craters—Continuous ejecta blanket beyond exterior rim's break in slope; discontinuous ejecta facies at greater distances. Degraded by smaller impacts (c<sub>3</sub> craters and their secondaries). Interpretation: As for radial facies of c<sub>2</sub> craters but surrounds c<sub>3</sub> craters.
- csm** Secondary crater chain radial to a c<sub>3</sub> crater—Only one mapped (lat 71° S, long 178°); well-preserved radial facies of crater Mariner 10. Interpretation: As for secondary crater chains radial to c<sub>2</sub> craters but secondary crater chains radial to c<sub>3</sub> craters but secondary crater fields absent.
- csn** Material of modified craters—Relatively low, semirounded but continuous rims and subdued interior landforms.
- crs** Central peak material of c<sub>4</sub> craters—Like central peak material of c<sub>3</sub> craters but modified by subsequent impacts, ejecta, and seismic shaking. Partially buried by plains units.
- crf** Crater floor material of c<sub>4</sub> craters—Hummocky.
- crb** Radial facies of Bernini and Bach basins—Continuous ejecta blanket radially striated by crater chains and ridges. Overlies intercrater plains unit and is locally embayed by smooth plains material.
- crs** Secondary crater chains radial to c<sub>4</sub> basins and large craters—Like secondary crater chains radial to c<sub>3</sub> craters but some lie on top of radial facies of c<sub>4</sub> craters, degraded by subsequent impacts.
- cs2** Material of strongly modified craters—Low rims and shallow interior relief. Interior forms scarce; secondary crater fields absent.
- cs1** Central peak material of c<sub>2</sub> craters—Rare. Interpretation: As for central peak material of c<sub>3</sub> craters but severely degraded.
- cs0** Central peak material of c<sub>1</sub> basins and craters—Severely degraded remnants of hills and hummocks in vaguely arcuate to circular arrays. Clearly identified only in Cervantes basin, but materials there can also be interpreted as rim remnants of a nested crater degraded by formation of plains materials. Unit may occur also as extremely degraded mound in crater at lat 68° S, long 68°. Interpretation: As for central peak material of c<sub>2</sub> craters but severely degraded.
- csu** Material of secondary crater chains, undivided—in troughlike, elongated depressions or connected lines of closely spaced small craters. Relation to larger craters can be recognized; age indeterminate. Interpretation: Secondary craters of a primary located past terminator.

STRUCTURE

The map region displays a wide variety of structural features, including lineaments associated with ridges, scarps, and polygonal crater walls. Joint-controlled mass movements are most likely responsible for the polygonal crater-wall segments; segments as long as 100 km suggest that these fractures extend deep into the lithosphere. The most conspicuous trends of these lineaments are east-west (N. 50° W, and N. 40° E, fig. 2). Large ridges and scarps are the most prominent structural features in the low-sun-angle Mariner 10 pictures of the Bach region. They are most numerous between long 0° and 90°, where they have no preferred orientation.

Ridges may have been formed by several processes, including tectonism and extrusion, or they may be buried crater rim segments. Several large ridges may represent uplifted plains materials by normal faulting. Other ridges are arcuate to circular, which suggests that they are segments of old, subdued crater and basin rims. Near Borealis (centered at lat 81° S, long 30°), ridges are domical in cross section and have smooth tops with small irregular or rimless craters along their crests; they appear to overlap both a c<sub>3</sub> and a c<sub>4</sub> crater (FDS 166731). In rim, these ridges are superposed by c<sub>2</sub> craters and ejecta. The ridges may be volcano-tectonic features, composed of extrusives along fissures. However, they are mapped only as ridges because we cannot determine if they are volcanic material that should be mapped as a separate unit or uplifted intercrater plains. These same structures may have been the source of older plains units.

Lobate scarps are the most common structural landforms in the Bach region. Almost all have convex slope profiles, rounded crests, and steep, sharply defined lobes. Three types are seen in the map region: (1) very small (<50 km long, ~100 m high), irregular scarps that commonly include topographically depressed areas; they are restricted to the intermediate and smooth plains units in the eastern part of the map region; (2) small (~100 km long, ~100 m high), arcuate or sinuous scarps, also confined primarily to the intermediate and smooth plains units in the eastern part of the map region; and (3) large (>100 km long, ~1 km high), broadly arcuate but locally irregular or sinuous scarps whose faces are somewhat steeper. Several of these scarps (lat 83° S, long 80°) deform craters and offset preexisting features vertically (FDS 166751). The morphology and structural relations of the scarps suggest that most result from thrust or reverse faults. However, an extrusive origin has been suggested by Dzurisin (1978) for a scarp more than 200 km long that extends from about 70° S to the map border between long 45° and 52°; he based this interpretation on albedo differences between the two sides of the scarp and on partial burial of craters transected by it.

Age relations among structural features are not readily apparent. In the Bach region, the youngest craters cut by a scarp are of c<sub>4</sub> age; the oldest crater to superpose a scarp is a c<sub>3</sub>. These relations suggest that scarp formation occurred in c<sub>3</sub> to c<sub>4</sub> time. Very smooth plains material flanks some scarps and ridges and, if the material is ponded extrusives or mass-wasted products, may postdate the structures. Scarps and ridges are abundant in intercrater, intermediate, and smooth plains units, but they are not embayed by intermediate and intercrater plains materials. These relations suggest that the structures began to form after emplacement of these two oldest plains units. Some of the oldest craters and basins, such as Cervantes, have polygonal shapes at least as marked as more recent craters, suggesting that some structural lineaments are older than c<sub>1</sub> craters.

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About 60 percent of the map area consists of tracts of planar surfaces having a variety of small-scale textures. These tracts range in size from a few square kilometers within craters to areas larger than 10,000 km<sup>2</sup> that surround and separate large counterparts, and the boundary between the two features is much less distinct. As a consequence, continuous and discontinuous ejecta are mapped together in the Bach region as "radial facies." With this exception, the morphological elements of Mercurian craters are virtually identical with those on the Moon. Therefore, all of the craters within the Bach region are probably the result of impact by meteorites, small planetesimals, and possibly comets.

CRATER AND BASIN MATERIALS

[These materials are divided into three associated facies: crater materials, mapped to the break in slope of the exterior rim and including central peak and peak ring materials (in large craters and basins); floor materials, and radial facies. Secondary crater chains are mapped as a distinct unit. Crater morphology is divided into five classes similar to those used in lunar mapping. Classification criteria are also similar, allowing for gravitational differences between the Moon and Mercury, and are virtually the same as those of McCauley and others (1981). Craters smaller than 15 km in diameter are not mapped. Interpretation of craters: Formed by impact, surrounded by ballisticly emplaced ejecta.]

- cs** Material of very fresh craters—Craters characterized by sharp rims, crisp interior floors (for large craters), rays, and very few superposed craters. Unit includes crater floor material except where mapped separately on basis of floor-wall contact and floor morphology.
- csb** Central peak material of c<sub>2</sub> craters—Forms isolated or grouped hills and arcuate ridges that, in larger craters, may be aligned along lineament directions. Interpretation: Highly shocked and deformed country rock elevated during impact.
- csf** Crater floor material of c<sub>2</sub> craters—Hummocky to smooth; very few superposed craters. Interpretation: Impact melt and fallback ejecta.
- cr** Radial facies of c<sub>2</sub> craters—Smooth to hummocky deposits radial to primary crater. Interpretation: Material ejected from c<sub>2</sub> craters during formation; debris followed ballistic trajectories to impact around craters, fragmenting local bedrock and regolith.
- csr** Secondary crater chains radial to c<sub>2</sub> craters—Continuous to discontinuous chains of small craters radial to a primary crater at lat 67° S, long 56°, lying outside its radial facies. Interpretation: Craters formed from material ejected from c<sub>2</sub> craters, as described for radial facies.
- csd** Material of fresh but slightly modified craters—Distinct but visibly modified rims and interior features; well-preserved radial facies around larger craters.
- csa** Central peak material of c<sub>3</sub> craters—Like central peak material of c<sub>2</sub> craters but modified by superposed small impacts and depositional degradation.
- csl** Crater floor material of c<sub>3</sub> craters—Some more hummocky than very smooth or smooth plains materials. Interpretation: Same as crater floor material of c<sub>2</sub> craters.
- crd** Radial facies of c<sub>3</sub> craters—Continuous ejecta blanket beyond exterior rim's break in slope; discontinuous ejecta facies at greater distances. Degraded by smaller impacts (c<sub>3</sub> craters and their secondaries). Interpretation: As for radial facies of c<sub>2</sub> craters but surrounds c<sub>3</sub> craters.
- csm** Secondary crater chain radial to a c<sub>3</sub> crater—Only one mapped (lat 71° S, long 178°); well-preserved radial facies of crater Mariner 10. Interpretation: As for secondary crater chains radial to c<sub>2</sub> craters but secondary crater chains radial to c<sub>3</sub> craters but secondary crater fields absent.
- csn** Material of modified craters—Relatively low, semirounded but continuous rims and subdued interior landforms.
- crs** Central peak material of c<sub>4</sub> craters—Like central peak material of c<sub>3</sub> craters but modified by subsequent impacts, ejecta, and seismic shaking. Partially buried by plains units.
- crf** Crater floor material of c<sub>4</sub> craters—Hummocky.
- crb** Radial facies of Bernini and Bach basins—Continuous ejecta blanket radially striated by crater chains and ridges. Overlies intercrater plains unit and is locally embayed by smooth plains material.
- crs** Secondary crater chains radial to c<sub>4</sub> basins and large craters—Like secondary crater chains radial to c<sub>3</sub> craters but some lie on top of radial facies of c<sub>4</sub> craters, degraded by subsequent impacts.
- cs2** Material of strongly modified craters—Low rims and shallow interior relief. Interior forms scarce; secondary crater fields absent.
- cs1** Central peak material of c<sub>2</sub> craters—Rare. Interpretation: As for central peak material of c<sub>3</sub> craters but severely degraded.
- cs0** Central peak material of c<sub>1</sub> basins and craters—Severely degraded remnants of hills and hummocks in vaguely arcuate to circular arrays. Clearly identified only in Cervantes basin, but materials there can also be interpreted as rim remnants of a nested crater degraded by formation of plains materials. Unit may occur also as extremely degraded mound in crater at lat 68° S, long 68°. Interpretation: As for central peak material of c<sub>2</sub> craters but severely degraded.
- csu** Material of secondary crater chains, undivided—in troughlike, elongated depressions or connected lines of closely spaced small craters. Relation to larger craters can be recognized; age indeterminate. Interpretation: Secondary craters of a primary located past terminator.

STRUCTURE

The map region displays a wide variety of structural features, including lineaments associated with ridges, scarps, and polygonal crater walls. Joint-controlled mass movements are most likely responsible for the polygonal crater-wall segments; segments as long as 100 km suggest that these fractures extend deep into the lithosphere. The most conspicuous trends of these lineaments are east-west (N. 50° W, and N. 40° E, fig. 2). Large ridges and scarps are the most prominent structural features in the low-sun-angle Mariner 10 pictures of the Bach region. They are most numerous between long 0° and 90°, where they have no preferred orientation.

Ridges may have been formed by several processes, including tectonism and extrusion, or they may be buried crater rim segments. Several large ridges may represent uplifted plains materials by normal faulting. Other ridges are arcuate to circular, which suggests that they are segments of old, subdued crater and basin rims. Near Borealis (centered at lat 81° S, long 30°), ridges are domical in cross section and have smooth tops with small irregular or rimless craters along their crests; they appear to overlap both a c<sub>3</sub> and a c<sub>4</sub> crater (FDS 166731). In rim, these ridges are superposed by c<sub>2</sub> craters and ejecta. The ridges may be volcano-tectonic features, composed of extrusives along fissures. However, they are mapped only as ridges because we cannot determine if they are volcanic material that should be mapped as a separate unit or uplifted intercrater plains. These same structures may have been the source of older plains units.

Lobate scarps are the most common structural landforms in the Bach region. Almost all have convex slope profiles, rounded crests, and steep, sharply defined lobes. Three types are seen in the map region: (1) very small (<50 km long, ~100 m high), irregular scarps that commonly include topographically depressed areas; they are restricted to the intermediate and smooth plains units in the eastern part of the map region; (2) small (~100 km long, ~100 m high), arcuate or sinuous scarps, also confined primarily to the intermediate and smooth plains units in the eastern part of the map region; and (3) large (>100 km long, ~1 km high), broadly arcuate but locally irregular or sinuous scarps whose faces are somewhat steeper. Several of these scarps (lat 83° S, long 80°) deform craters and offset preexisting features vertically (FDS 166751). The morphology and structural relations of the scarps suggest that most result from thrust or reverse faults. However, an extrusive origin has been suggested by Dzurisin (1978) for a scarp more than 200 km long that extends from about 70° S to the map border between long 45° and 52°; he based this interpretation on albedo differences between the two sides of the scarp and on partial burial of craters transected by it.

Age relations among structural features are not readily apparent. In the Bach region, the youngest craters cut by a scarp are of c<sub>4</sub> age; the oldest crater to superpose a scarp is a c<sub>3</sub>. These relations suggest that scarp formation occurred in c<sub>3</sub> to c<sub>4</sub> time. Very smooth plains material flanks some scarps and ridges and, if the material is ponded extrusives or mass-wasted products, may postdate the structures. Scarps and ridges are abundant in intercrater, intermediate, and smooth plains units, but they are not embayed by intermediate and intercrater plains materials. These relations suggest that the structures began to form after emplacement of these two oldest plains units. Some of the oldest craters and basins, such as Cervantes, have polygonal shapes at least as marked as more recent craters, suggesting that some structural lineaments are older than c<sub>1</sub> craters.

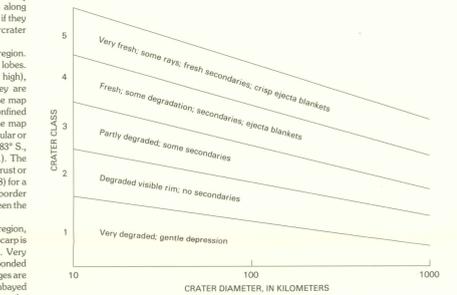


Figure 1. Diagrammatic