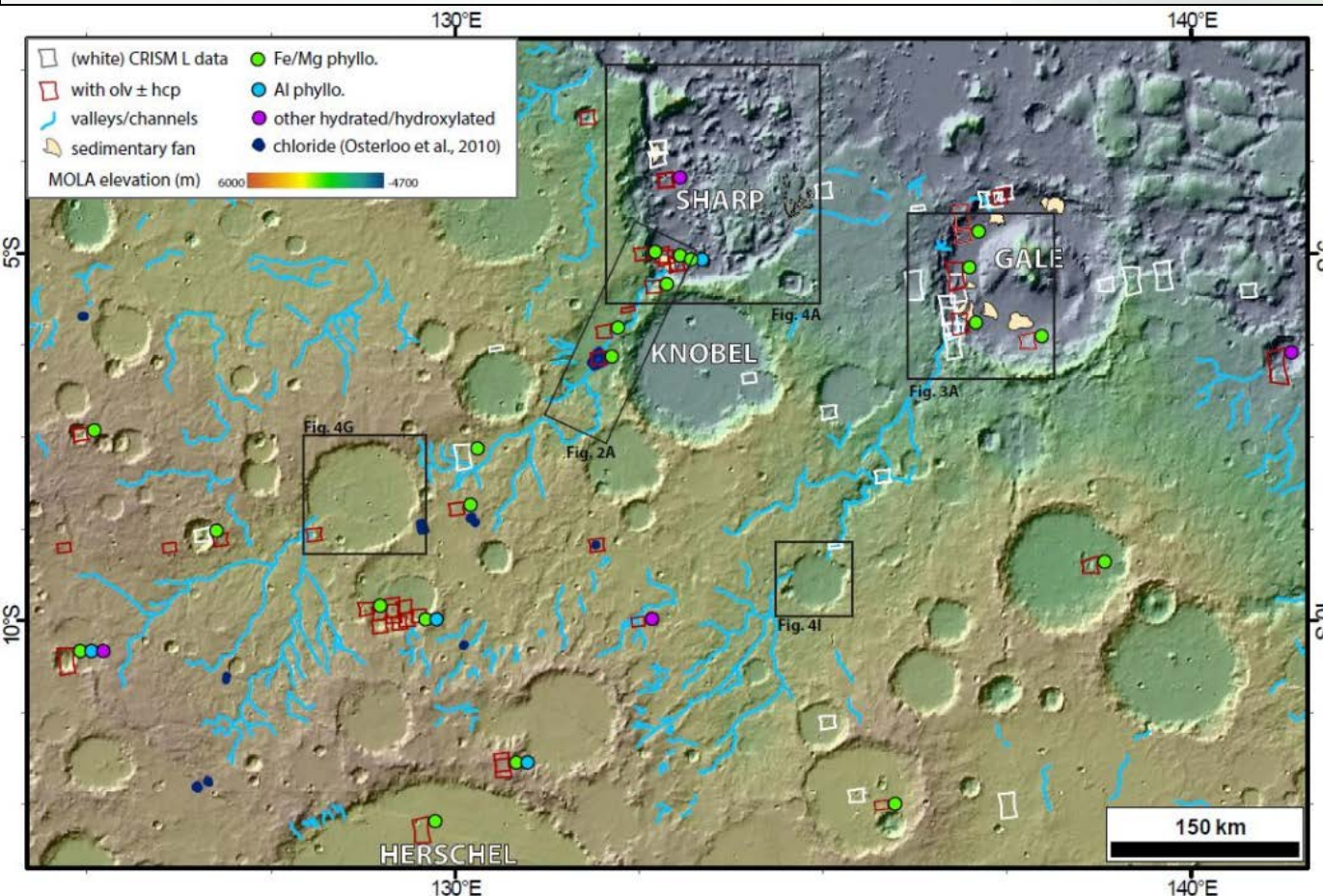


Minerals in Watersheds Around Gale Crater

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The bedrock mineralogy is similar throughout the neighborhood of Gale crater, where the Curiosity rover is exploring, whereas the clay deposits are different in next-door craters.



- These results come from data collected by the CRISM spectrometer on the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter.
- Although mineralogy throughout the region is uniform, fluvial (flowing water) processes in Mars' wetter past deposited the clay minerals within the craters. As Mars dried out, the water flow through these depressions became isolated and salts dissolved in the water were left behind nonuniformly.
- These findings provide a context the geologic history being explored by the Curiosity rover.