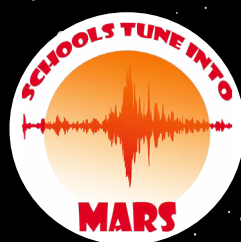


Raport despre

**INTEGRAREA
REZULTATELOR unei
MISIUNI
SPAȚIALE în
LECTIILE STEM**



Despre proiectul Schools Tune Into Mars (STIM)

Obiectivul general al proiectului Schools Tune Into Mars (STIM) este de a furniza materiale didactice pentru lecții inovatoare legate de subiecte din domeniul Științelor Pământului și ale Spațiului, în general, și al planetologiei, în particular. Resursele ce stau la baza proiectului s-au bazat pe cele mai recente descoperiri din cercetarea spațială și noi abordări în educație, venind în întâmpinarea nevoilor profesorilor și oferind oportunități de dezvoltare profesională prin mai buna înțelegere și utilizare a unor concepte științifice specifice planetologiei și seismologiei planetare.

Proiectul STIM reunește o rețea de școli și organizații interesate de cercetarea și educația bazată pe cercetările spațiale și studii legate de planeta Marte. Astfel, STIM oferă îndrumări suficiente și adecvate pentru susținerea activităților inovatoare dezvoltate ca parte a unui proces de co-creație între cercetători și profesori.

Schools Tune Into Mars a fost inițiat ca un proiect cu mulți beneficiari finanțat prin Programul Erasmus +, un parteneriat coordonat de Liceul Internațional Valbonne din Franța, European Schoolnet din Belgia, Asociația "Española para la Enseñanza de las Ciencias de la Tierra" din Spania și Institutul Național pentru Fizica Pământului din România.

Mai multe activități complementare vor fi dezvoltate ca parte a proiectului STIM ce urmăresc în final realizarea:

- Unui document bazat pe resursele STIM (activități practice, activități bazate pe datele înregistrate pe Marte, experimente și webinarii dedicate profesorilor) susținut de un studiu care vizează evaluarea necesității și oportunității acestora pentru profesori.
- Un ghid didactic care să sprijine utilizarea resurselor din misiunile spațiale în școală
- Un curs online gratuit (MOOC), intitulat "Bring Mars missions into the classroom", care oferă instruire online profesorilor pentru a utiliza materiale didactice inovatoare bazate pe misiunile spațiale pe Marte în sălile de clasă.
- Recomandări pentru crearea unei rețele Mars-Edu care să faciliteze colaborarea inovatoare pe termen lung pe subiecte educaționale legate de cercetarea spațială și misiunile pe Marte..

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06560 Valbonne
France

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Cuvinte cheie: știință, misiune spațială, planetologie comparată, date din cercetare.

Autori: Dragos Tătaru (Institutul Național de Cercetare-Dezvoltare Pentru Fizica Pământului), Fatima Moujdi-Menaug (Lycée International de Valbonne), Fanny Bouvet (Lycée International de Valbonne), Noëlle Billon și Agueda Gras-Velazquez (European Schoolnet).

Colaboratori: Xavier Juan (AEPECT) și Anna Anglisano (AEPECT).

Design/DTP: Mattia Gentile (European Schoolnet)

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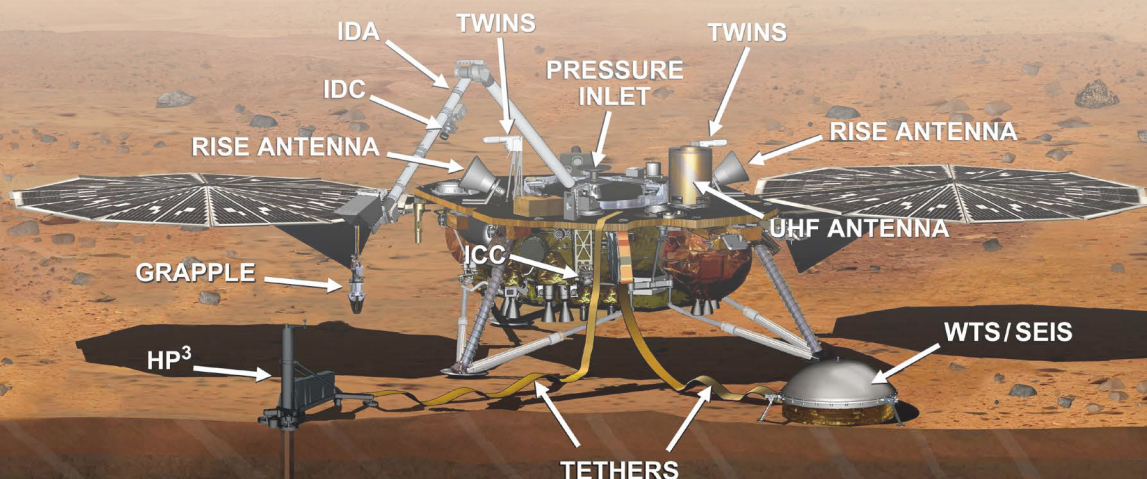
Rezumat

Pentru a sprijini cadrele didactice în dezvoltarea abilităților STEM în rândul elevilor, ce le vor fi atât de necesare în viitorul apropiat, proiectul School Tune Into Mars (STIM) a fost conceput pentru a îmbunătăți predarea eficientă și de calitate a disciplinelor STEM în învățământul gimnazial. De asemenea, își propune să sporească cunoștințele, abilitățile și interesul tinerilor europeni pentru educația STEM prin furnizarea de materiale didactice legate de subiecte STEM și dezvoltate în urma unui proces de co-creație între cercetători și profesori, în cadrul unor teme precum seismologia planetară, geologie, geofizică, științele Pământului și Spațiului. Obiectivul principal al STIM este să implice elevii și profesorii în investigații științifice reale și autentice.

Pentru a atinge aceste obiective, activitățile STIM sunt construite în jurul rezultatelor misiunii spațiale InSight care are drept scop „Descoperirea structurii interioare a planetei Marte cu scopul de a înțelege mai bine planeta Pământ” și care a oferit o oportunitate unică de a dezvolta un program științific specific care ar putea fi pe deplin integrat în școlile europene și extins ulterior. InSight¹, prescurtarea pentru „Explorarea interioară folosind investigații seismice, geodezice și transportul de căldură”, este o misiune din cadrul Programului de cercetare al NASA dedicat misiunilor științifice foarte specifice ce abordează și caută răspunsul la întrebări critice din domeniul planetologiei și studiului Universului.

Utilizarea rezultatelor unei misiuni spațiale în clasă, cum ar fi cele ale InSight, promovează implementarea „învățării bazate pe proiecte”, definită ca „un model pentru activitatea din clasă ce se îndepărtează de practicile de lecții scurte, centrate pe profesori și în schimb accentuează activitățile de învățare care sunt pe termen lung, interdisciplinare, centrate pe elevi și integrate în problemele și practicile din lumea reală” (Holbrook, 2007)².

Acest raport este de fapt primul rezultat al proiectului STIM și conține o colecție cu 23 de activități practice, activități de calcul și experimente, șase webinarii și trei filme de promovare (EduTeasers - sunt scurte videoclipuri educative înregistrate cu cercetători pentru a prezenta anumite activități) dedicate învățământului gimnazial, dezvoltate de parteneri, pe baza ultimelor rezultate publicate din misiunile Marte, în special InSight. Toate au fost dezvoltate în urma unor colaborări strânse între cercetători și profesori. Resursele educaționale au fost completate cu materiale de instruire pentru profesori - prezentate și în acest raport - ca suport pentru activitățile școlare legate de InSight.



- 1 Misiunea InSight încearcă să descifreze cum un corp de rocă se formează și evoluează într-o planetă telurică, cercetând structura interioară și compoziția planetei Marte. Misiunea își propune să determine, rata activității tectonice marțiene și a impactului meteoritic.
- 2 Jack Holbrook & Miia Rannikmae (2007) The Nature of Science Education for Enhancing Scientific Literacy, International Journal of Science Education, 29:11, 1347-1362, DOI: 10.1080/09500690601007549

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Introduceren

ARGUMENTARE

Rezultatele la nivel global ale sondajului recent cuprins în studiul: Tendințe în Studiul Internațional la Matematică și Științe (TIMSS, 2015) au arătat rezultate slabe în performanțele și realizările elevilor în disciplinele științelor din majoritatea țărilor Uniunii Europene. La nivel gimnazial, în ceea ce privește evoluția nivelului de referință al UE pentru 2020 de mai puțin de 15%, rezultatele PISA arată că UE a rămas în urmă atât în domeniul științelor cât și al matematicii și a făcut un pas înapoi în comparație cu rezultatele PISA din 2012. Din 2003 până în 2013, numărul de angajați în profesiile STEM (știință, tehnologie, inginerie și matematică) a crescut cu 12%, iar până în 2025, este de așteptat să crească cu încă 13% (EU Skills Panorama 2014)¹, totuși cererea în creștere pentru aceste profesii nu este însoțită de recrutare, fiind semnalate dificultăți importante în majoritatea țărilor UE. Deoarece tehnologiile joacă un rol din ce în ce mai important în toate domeniile muncii și vieții cotidiene, competențele și abilitățile STEM de nivel superior devin o normă.

Pentru a sprijini cadrele didactice în dezvoltarea abilităților STEM ale elevilor, necesare în viitorul apropiat, proiectul Schools Tune Into Mars (STIM) a fost conceput pentru a îmbunătăți predarea eficientă și de calitate a disciplinelor STEM la nivel gimnazial și pentru a spori cunoștințele, abilitățile și interesul pentru aceste discipline în rândul tinerilor europeni, oferind materiale didactice de înaltă calitate ce abordează diferite teme din disciplinele STEM, precum și îndrumări adecvate pentru a susține activitățile inovatoare dezvoltate ca parte a unui proces co-constructiv între cercetători și profesori atingând subiecte precum seismologia planetară, geologia, geofizica, științele Pământului și Spațiale. Obiectivul principal al STIM este, de asemenea, implicarea studenților și profesorilor în investigații științifice actuale și autentice.

Pentru a atinge aceste obiective, STIM a fost construit în jurul rezultatelor misiunii spațiale InSight², Descoperind structura interioară a planetei Marte pentru a înțelege mai bine planeta Pământ” oferind o oportunitate unică de a dezvolta un program științific specific ce ar putea fi complet integrat în școlile europene și extins ulterior. Utilizarea rezultatelor misiunii spațiale în clasă, cum ar fi InSight, promovează implementarea „învățării bazate pe proiecte”, definită ca „un model pentru activitatea din clasă ce se îndepărtează de practicile de lecții scurte, centrate pe profesor și în schimb accentuează activitățile de învățare pe termen lung, interdisciplinare, centrate pe elev și în care sunt integrate probleme și practici din lumea reală” (Holbrook, 2007)³.

În plus, predarea despre misiunile spațiale în sălile de clasă facilitează elevilor mai buna înțelegere a progresele tehnologice înregistrate în domeniul Științei Pământului. Înțelegerea acestor transformări este esențială pentru capacitatea elevilor de luare a deciziilor.

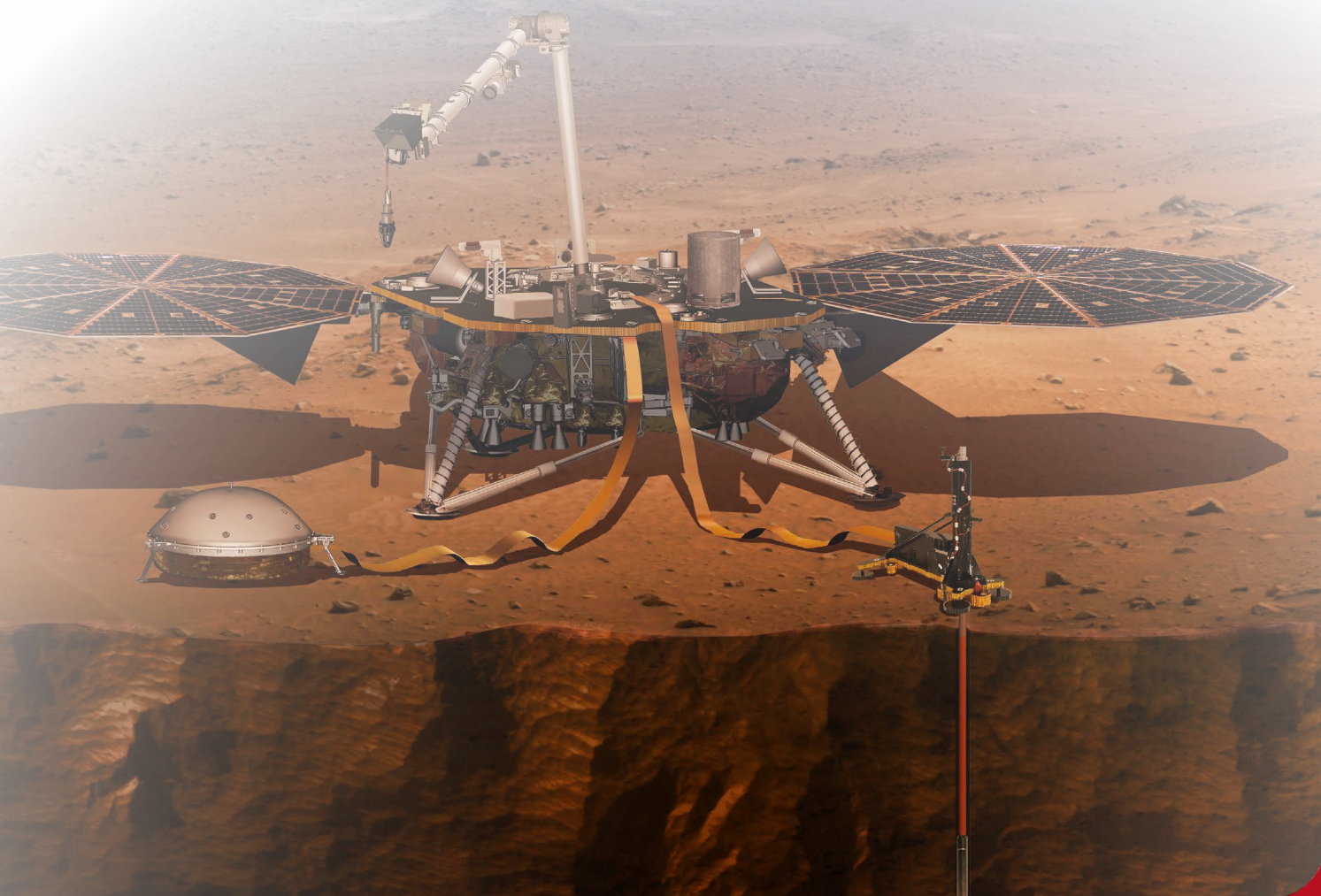
De fapt, geologia este studiul Pământului – a istoriei și evoluției acestuia de 4,5 miliarde de ani. Geologii studiază de asemenea unele probleme contemporane, cum ar fi energia, apa și resursele mineralele, mediul, schimbările climatice și hazardele naturale importante precum alunecările de teren, vulcanii și cutremurele. Analiza „comparativă” a Pământului și a planetei Marte permite o mai bună înțelegere a modului în care legile fizice și chimice universale au stat la baza creării mediului înconjurător.

- 1 EU Skills Panorama (2014). Analiza abilităților STEM realizată de ICF și Cedefop pentru Comisia Europeană (https://skillspanorama.cedefop.europa.eu/sites/default/files/EUSP_AH_STEM_0.pdf)
- 2 Misiunea InSight încearcă să descifreze cum un corp de rocă se formează și evoluează într-o planetă telurică, cercetând structura interioară și compoziția planetei Marte. Misiunea își propune să determine, rata activității tectonice marțiene și a impactului meteoritic.
- 3 Jack Holbrook & Miia Rannikmae (2007) The Nature of Science Education for Enhancing Scientific Literacy, International Journal of Science Education, 29:11, 1347-1362, DOI: 10.1080/09500690601007549

OBIECTIVELE RAPORTULUI

Acest raport este de fapt primul rezultat al proiectului STIM ce cuprinde o colecție de 23 de activități practice, activități bazate pe calculator și experimente, șase webinarii și trei filme de prezentare (EduTeasers), dezvoltate pentru profesorii de gimnaziu. Partenerii STIM au dezvoltat acest set de resurse STEM pentru profesori, în diverse formate (de exemplu, activități interactive, activități ce presupun manipularea și vizualizarea datelor înregistrate pe Marte, experimente și webinarii) și care pot fi utilizate direct în sala de clasă. Aceste resurse au fost dezvoltate ținând cont de rezultatele unui sondaj realizat pe un număr mare de profesori din trei țări europene (România, Franța și Spania). Sondajul online și față în față (realizat în cadrul atelierelor), a vizat evaluarea nevoilor și așteptărilor profesorilor cu privire la teme din domeniul complex precum Științele Pământului și Spațiului sau planetologie, a căror înțelegere corespunzătoare presupune expertiza transdisciplinară (geologie, geofizică, chimie, biologie, informatică, etc). Această metodă de predare integrată a subiectelor științifice este prezentă în aria curriculară a multor țări europene și, prin urmare, necesită o pregătire reală a cadrelor didactice care să le permită înțelegerea necesară pentru a transmite elevilor aceste concepte.

Rezultatele sondajului sunt prezentate în prima parte a raportului, incluzând și informații despre atelierelor desfășurate cu profesorii cu scopul de a valida rezultatele studiului. A doua parte a raportului se concentrează pe colecția de resurse ce au fost dezvoltate în relație cu rezultatele sondajului, folosind date noi colectate de misiunea spațială InSight - NASA și ca rezultat a colaborării dintre cercetători și profesori. Resursele educaționale au fost completate cu materiale de instruire pentru profesori – prezentate, de asemenea, în acest raport pentru a-i sprijini în realizarea la clasă a activităților propuse. De exemplu, pentru a bună înțelegere a seismologiei planetare, geologiei, geofizicii, Științelor Pământului și Spațiului și pentru a avea feedback direct din partea utilizatorilor finali (9 profesorii din învățământul secundar) s-au realizat webinarii pentru profesori și elevi. De asemenea, au fost realizate de către cercetători o serie de videoclipuri scurte pe teme legate de misiunea InSight, acțiunile și rezultatele STIM, explicând pe scurt elevilor subiecte de cercetare și alte descoperiri interesante.



1. Analiza de nevoi și maparea așteptărilor beneficiarilor

CONTEXT ȘI ABORDARE

Scopul principal al proiectului este să dezvolte resurse STEM care să încurajeze utilizarea datelor din cercetare, programelor de calculator și activităților practice ca instrumente de învățare.

Prin urmare, obiectivul sondajului a fost să identifice categoriile principale de profesorii interesați și care sunt nevoile lor de dezvoltare profesională pe temele propuse (planetologie și seismologie planetară). De asemenea, a fost posibil să se determine poziționarea acestor metode de predare în programele oficiale și, astfel, să se ghideze mai bine dezvoltarea tuturor resurselor STEM.

Cu acest scop a fost utilizată o abordare în două etape:

1. Crearea unui sondaj online
2. Organizarea de ateliere de lucru pentru a colecta feedback direct de la profesori

1.1 SONDAJUL ONLINE

Sondajul, efectuat în perioada octombrie 2018-februarie 2019 s-a adresat principalului grup țintă interesat de STEM - profesori de gimnaziu ce predau științe și care:

- au participat deja ca beneficiari la alte proiecte / inițiative STEM,
- nu au participat niciodată ca beneficiari în alte proiecte / inițiative STEM

192 de profesori din Franța, România și Spania au completat chestionarul online conceput în colaborare de către toți partenerii proiectului și ținându-se cont de caracteristicile specifice sistemelor educaționale naționale (cum ar fi numele disciplinelor științifice, constrângerile profesorilor etc.). Rezultate sunt prezentate în Figura 1.

Chestionarul a fost tradus în toate limbile naționale ale partenerilor (franceză, română și spaniolă), plus engleză, și a fost făcut disponibil prin intermediul instrumentului online SurveyMonkey. Sondajul este inclus ca Anexa 1 a acestui raport.

Rezultatele sondajului sunt împărțite în trei secțiuni.

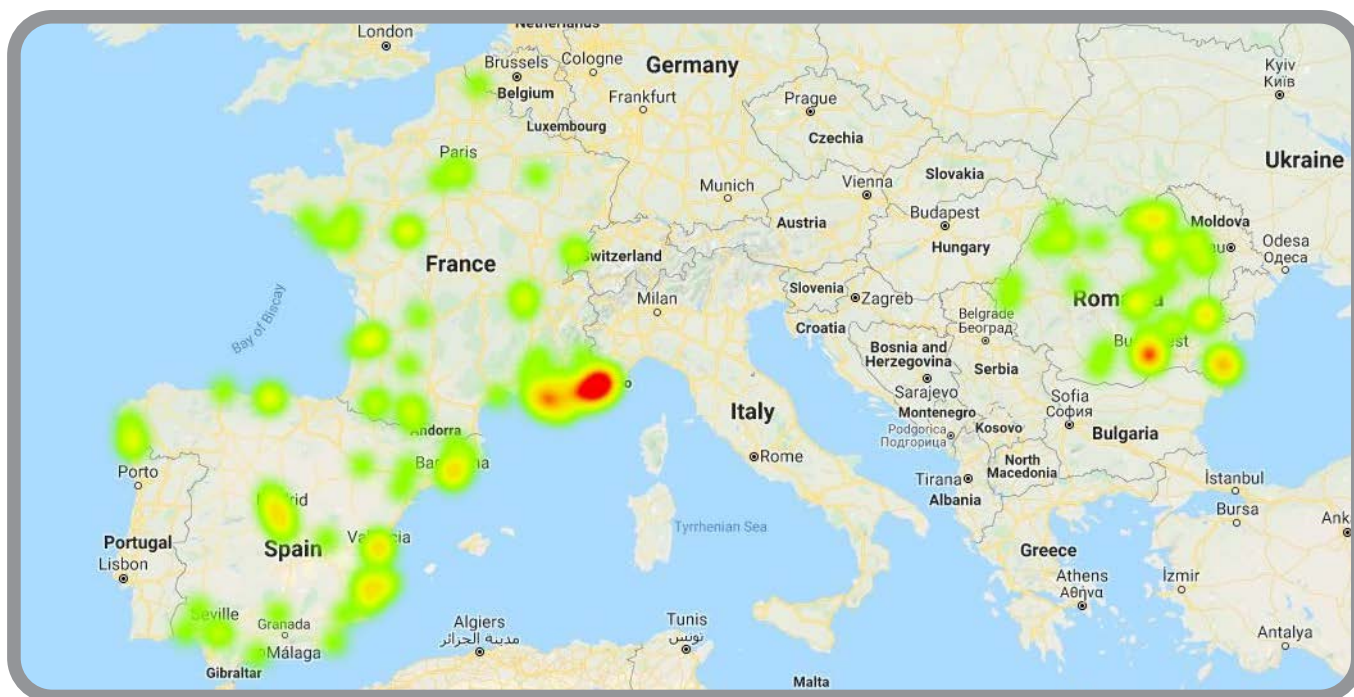


Figura 1: Locațiile de unde provin respondenții

a) Descrierea eșantionului

În primul rând, respondenților li s-au solicitat o serie de informații demografice (țară, oraș, unitatea școlară unde predau, etc) și despre profilul profesional (disciplină predată). S-a încercat acoperirea cât mai bună cu răspunsuri, la nivelul național al parteneriatului proiectului,

deoarece accesul la formare și dezvoltare profesională este foarte diferit pentru regiuni diferite. Prin acest sondaj consorțiul a dorit să identifice și să ofere profesorilor din regiunile cele mai defavorizate oportunitatea de a participa la acțiunile proiectului și, astfel, informația să ajungă prin intermediul profesorilor la elevii din aceste zone.

Perioada petrecută la catedră (vechimea în muncă a respondenților) a variat între 12 luni la 25 de ani cu o medie de 10 ani. Disciplinele predate de profesorii care au răspuns la sondaj au fost fizica, biologia, știința, chimia și / sau TIC. Dintre cei 192 de profesori, 41% erau bărbați și 59% femei. Rezultatele studiului au indicat că niciunul dintre respondenți nu predat geologia ca disciplină separată. Cei mai mulți profesori au integrat științele Pământului în predarea biologiei, chimiei sau fizicii.

Profesorii de liceu (57%, vârsta elevilor între 15-18 ani) au fost cei mai interesați de subiectele STIM. Acest lucru era previzibil, deoarece învățământul liceal este nivelul educațional la care disciplinele încep să abordeze subiecte legate de planetologie, sistemul solar, structura internă a planetelor, etc. Cu toate acestea, profesorii din învățământul gimnazial (30%, elevi cu vârste cuprinse între 11-14 ani) au considerat că subiecte precum cele abordate în STIM pot fi utilizate dacă sunt adaptate la acest nivel. Școlile din învățământul gimnazial încorporează concepte / conținut depre Științele Pământului în cadrul cursurilor lor de științe generale.

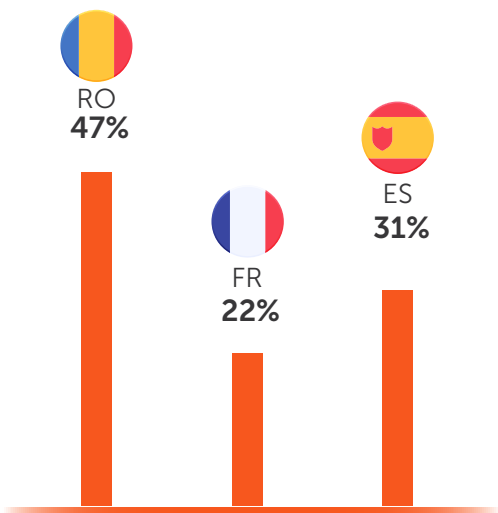


Figura 2: Descrierea eșantionului: numărul de răspunsuri pe țară

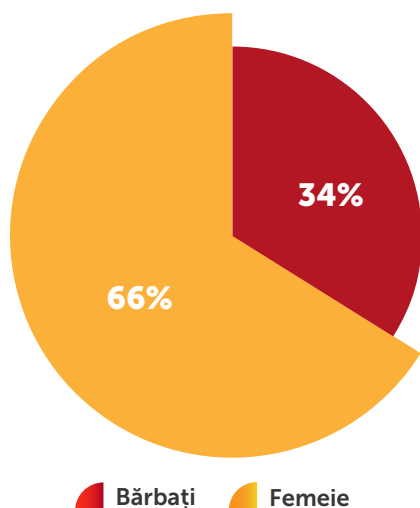


Figura 3: Descrierea eșantionului: Genul respondenților

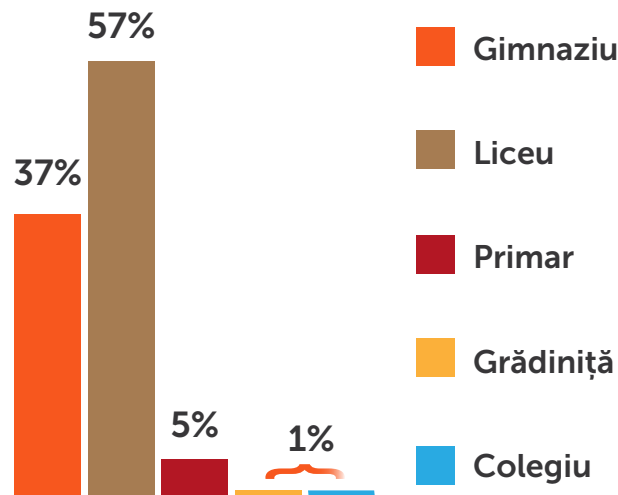


Figura 4: Descrierea eșantionului: Nivel educațional

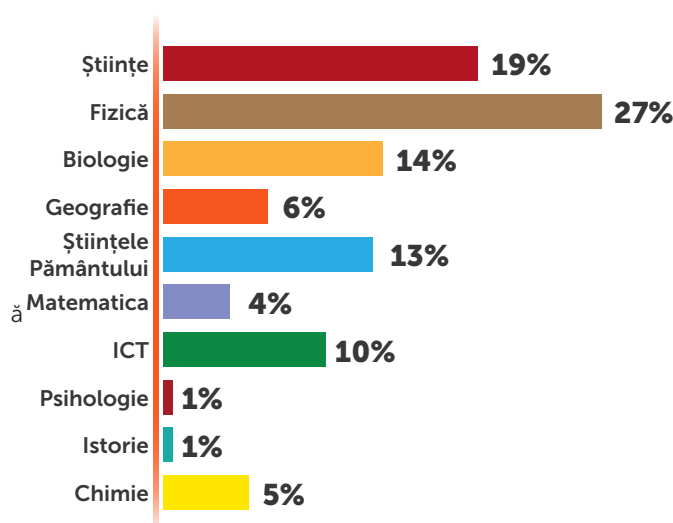


Figura 5: Descrierea eșantionului: materiilor predate de respondenți

b) Evaluarea relevanței subiectelor STIM

După cum se arată în figurile de mai jos sondajul a constatat că, în general, deși profesorii au dispus de metode științifice pentru a preda concepte din științele Pământului (61%), aproape 30% nu au abordat și concepte mai specializate, cum ar fi planetologia. Aceste concepte necesită o abordare diferită, mai apropiată de cea a unui cercetătorului, care investighează, folosește metode prin încercări și erori, modelează și exploatează datele de observație integrând metode din mai multe discipline pe care inevitabil trebuie să le stăpânească la un anumit nivel.

Prin urmare, rezultatele au confirmat că profesorii au nevoie de o pregătire științifică mai aprofundată pentru a-și consolida cunoștințele, dar și de fișe de activități care să îi ajute să transmită aceste informații elevilor lor.

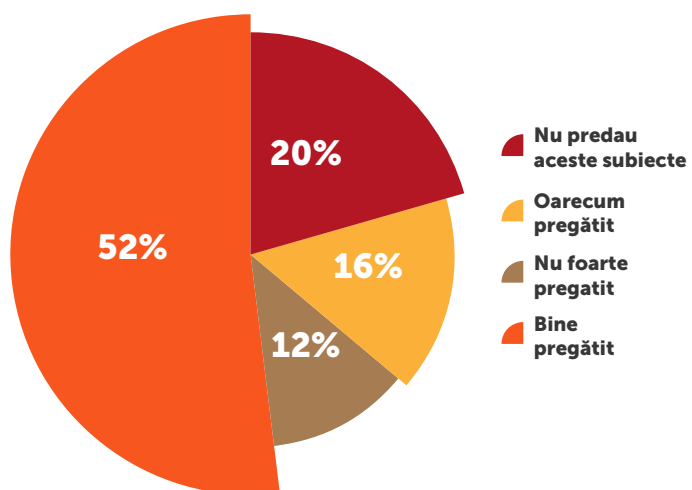


Figura 6: nivelul de încredere al respondenților în ceea ce privește predarea Științele Pământului - dinamica și procesele fizice

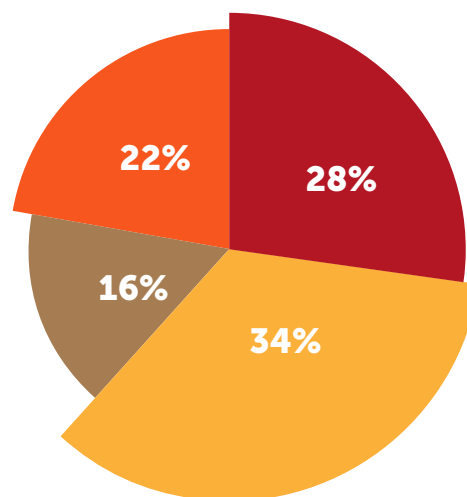


Figura 9: nivelul de încredere al respondenților în ceea ce privește predarea clasificării și structurii materiei

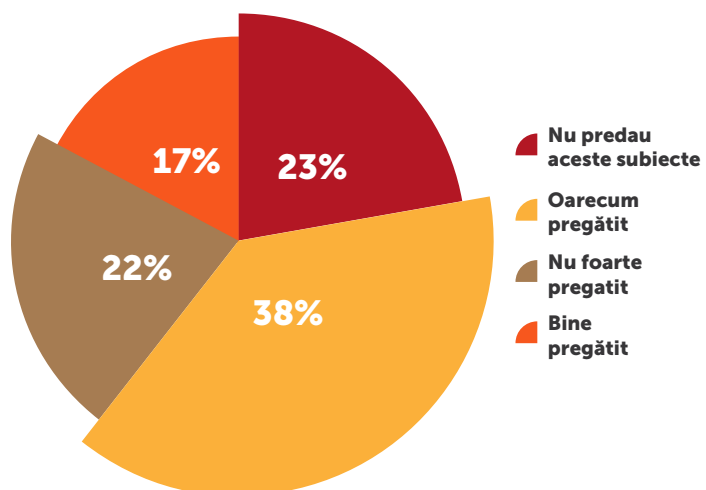


Figura 7: nivelul de încredere al respondenților în ceea ce privește predarea subiectelor legate de planetologiei

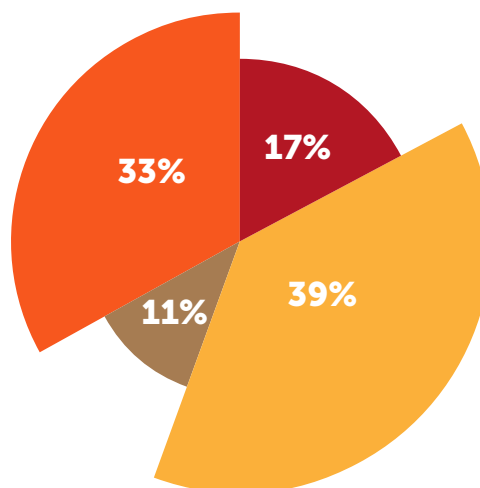


Figura 10: nivelul de încredere al respondenților în ceea ce privește predarea fizicii, tipurilor de energie, sursele de energie, conversia între tipurile de energie

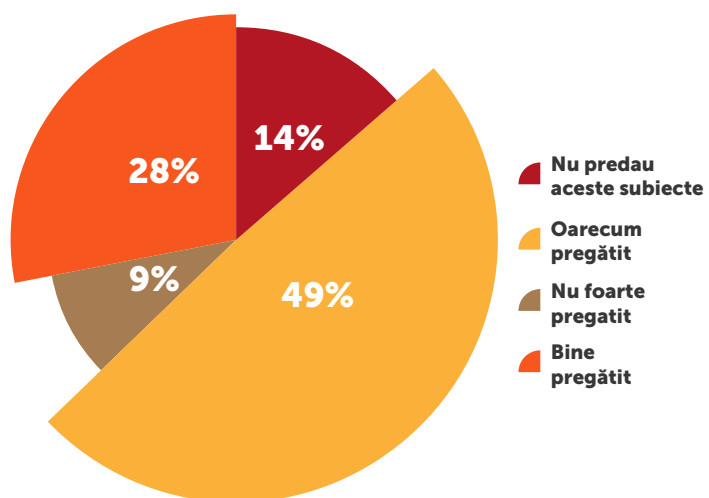


Figura 8: nivelul de încredere al respondenților în ceea ce privește predarea subiectelor legate de sistemul solar și univers

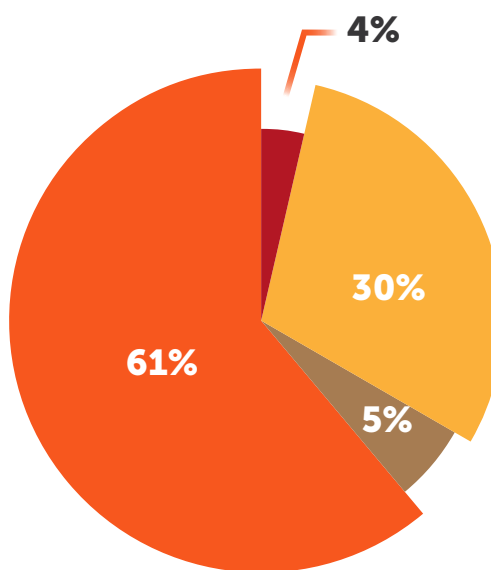


Figura 11: nivelul de încredere al respondenților cu privire la predarea prin metode științifice și de investigare

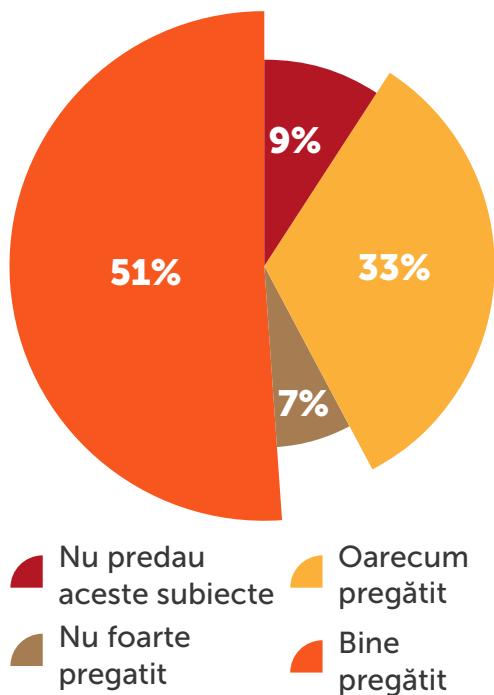


Figura 12: nivelul de încredere al respondenților în ceea ce privește predarea problemelor de mediu și resurselor naturale

Rezultatele sondajului au confirmat nevoia cadrelor didactice de instruire pe teme ce necesită cunoștințe și abilități pentru a înțelege concepte științifice dificile, folosind o abordare interdisciplinară (fizică, matematică, geștiințe, tehnologie etc.) și a le transmite ulterior elevilor. Respondenții au fost cei care au validat metodele de instruire planificate pentru proiectul STIM: ateliere (53%) și module online (de exemplu, MOOC - 30%):

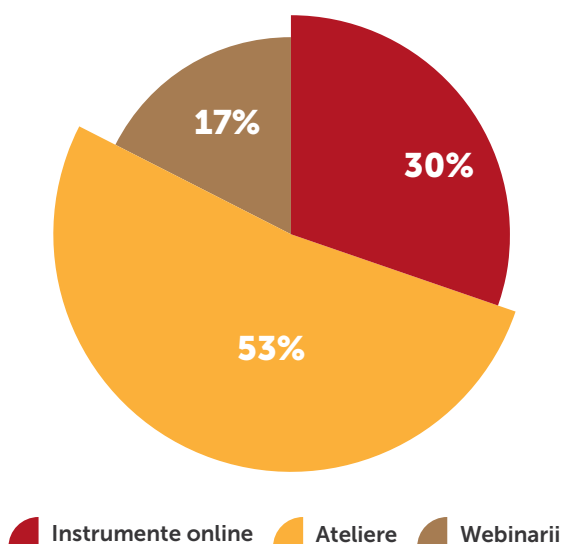


Figura 13: Metoda de instruire preferată pentru dezvoltare profesională

c) Factorii motivaționali pentru instruirea colaborativă și implicarea în STIM

Ultimul set de întrebări vizează identificarea factorilor care îi motivează pe profesori să se alăture proiectelor sau să implementeze activități STEM în sala de clasă și în afara acesteia.

Analizând răspunsurile, în ceea ce privește motivația de a implementa activități STIM, 30% au menționat dorința de a promova gândirea critică în rândul elevilor și 21% au menționat dorința de a spori interesul elevilor și motivarea lor pentru a acumula noi informații. 19% au menționat că activitățile STIM ar putea fi utilizate pentru a proiecta sau implementa un curriculum inovator. Resursele STIM îndeplinesc așteptările curriculumelor oficiale atât pentru predarea Științelor Pământului, cât și pentru predarea altor discipline, inclusiv dezvoltarea abilităților transversale. Într-adevăr, posibilitatea de a conecta diferite discipline pentru a răspunde la o întrebare complexă va permite elevilor să fie mai bine pregătiți să înțeleagă realitatea complexă și astfel să poată urma în viitor cariere STEM.

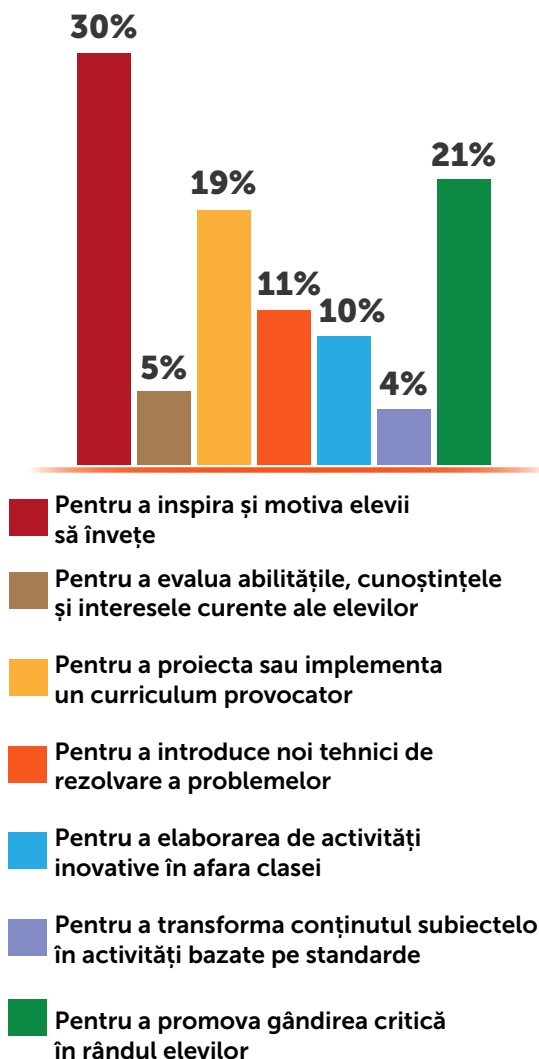


Figura 14: factori de motivație pentru implementarea activităților STIM în clasă

1.2 ORGANIZAREA DE ATELIERE DE LUCRU PENTRU A COLECTA FEEDBACK DIRECT DE LA PROFESORI

Partenerii au organizat în această perioadă patru ateliere pentru profesorii din învățământul gimnazial, ceea ce a oferit oportunitatea de a valida rezultatele sondajului online. Activitățile au vizat colectarea feedback-ului direct de la profesori cu privire la nevoile lor de cunoaștere și înțelegere a seismologiei planetare și, de asemenea, să ghideze parcursul de dezvoltare al tuturor resurselor STIM.

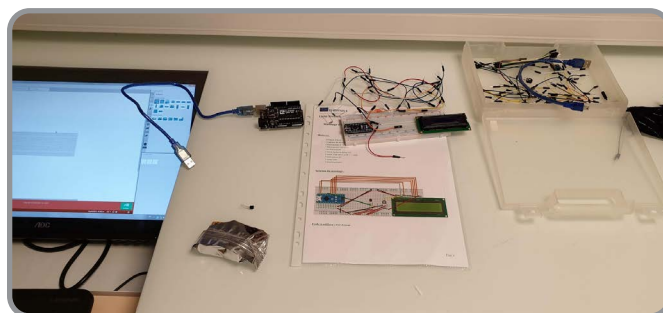
Feedback-ul direct al profesorilor participanți la ateliere a ajutat la definirea nevoilor acestora. Formatorii au prezentat ideile principale ale proiectului STIM și obiectivele activităților și metodele inovatoare propuse. Având în vedere statusul activităților, feedback-ul solicitat a fost, în principal unul calitativ, legat de relevanța subiectelor propuse în contextul curricular și de adaptare a acestora la nivelul educațional căruia li se adresează.

Din feedback-ul colectat în urma celor patru evenimente la care au participat 151 de cadre didactice, concluziile pot fi rezumate astfel:

- subiectele abordate în activitățile STIM au un puternic caracter interdisciplinar care le fac utile și posibila se regăsi atât în contextul educației formale cât și informale;
- metodele combinate utilizate sunt mai aproape de ceea ce se definește a fi educația în viitor, un mix de metode experimentale, activități practice și investigații complexe;

- toate activitățile sunt concepute în jurul unor teme antrenante și relevante pentru elevii din școala gimnazială, posibil a fi folosite pentru a completa programa școlară. Mai mult, majoritatea activităților îi determină pe cursanți să analizeze și să proceseze volume semnificative de informații;
- majoritatea activităților promovează implicarea elevilor prin învățare activă (predarea cu tehnologii, discuții integrate în prelegeri, activități practice și evenimente de învățare experiențială).

Imagini de la cele patru ateliere organizate ce ilustrează activitățile derulate:



16-17 ianuarie 2019, Sophia Antipolis, Franța - INSIGHT EDUCATION SCIENTIX Workshop – un subset de activități STIM au fost prezentate și testate de 65 de profesori participanți din Franța, Spania, Portugalia, Haiti, Grecia.



12-30 august 2019: Atelier de lucru pentru cadrele didactice participante la Școala de Vară de Știință și Tehnologie, România - activitățile STEM au fost testate de 25 de profesori de științe; subiectele abordate vizau caracteristicile planetelor telurice.

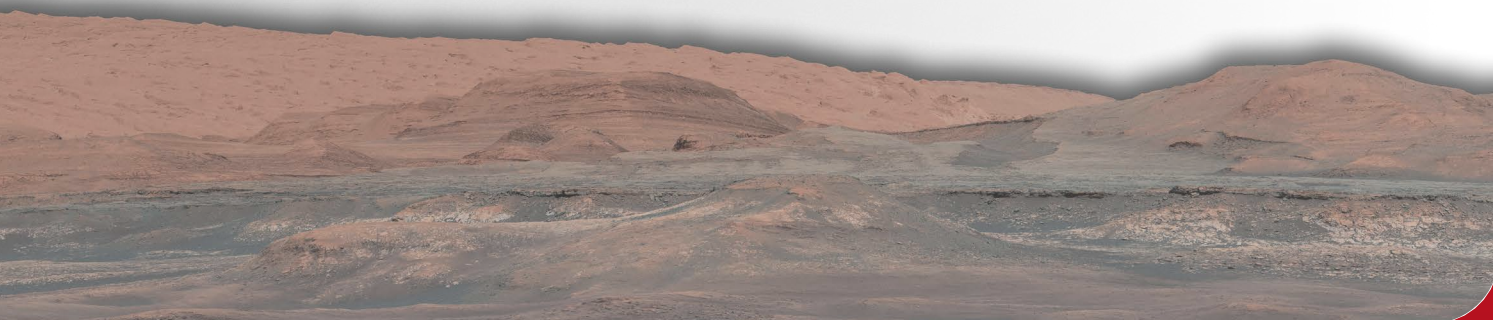


Pe 12 și 13 iunie 2019 a avut loc o sesiune de testare a activităților STEM la agenția spațială franceză, CNES, din Toulouse. Activitățile STIM care prezintă metode de analiză a planetelor telurice au fost prezentate și testate de cei 22 de profesori participanți.



În 28 și 29 septembrie 2019, la Lycée de la mer din Bassin d'Arcachon, a avut loc seminarul Calisph'air organizat de CNES. Activitățile STIM au fost testate de către 38 de profesori de științe, subiectele abordate fiind geodinamica internă a planetei Marte vs. Pământ.

La aceste ateliere au participat profesori de diferite discipline, cercetători și inspectori școlari (care fac parte din comitetul consultativ al proiectului nostru).



2. Pachet de resurse STIM

Resursele STIM pot fi considerate o colecție de activități STEM pe teme legate de misiunea InSight. Acestea presupun o abordare interdisciplinară și își propun să dezvolte abilitățile de investigare ale elevilor și capacitatea acestora de a contextualiza concepte științifice în situații reale. Activitățile nu se desprind de subiectele științifice clasice ci se diferențiază de modelul tradițional de învățare. [Nistor, A., Gras-Velazquez, A., Billon, N. & Mihai, G. (2018). Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Education Practices in Europe. Scientix Observatory report].

Resursele STIM au fost dezvoltate de către partenerii proiectului pentru a încuraja utilizarea datelor de cercetare InSight cu ajutorul unor programe de calcul și analiză dedicate în activități practice concepute ca și contexte de învățare.

Activitățile au fost propuse ținând cont de subiectele principale abordate (sistemul solar, planete, structură internă, senzori, monitorizare, parametri atmosferici, expediții spațiale etc.), disciplinele pentru care acestea sunt relevante (de exemplu științe, fizică, geografie, geologie, astrofizică, tehnologii etc.), formatul optim (practice, experimente, fișe de lucru etc.) și expertiza partenerilor (cercetători și profesori).

METODA ȘTIINȚIFICĂ UTILIZATĂ PENTRU DEZVOLTAREA RESURSELOR STIM

Toate activitățile au fost concepute utilizând tiparul unei cercetări științifice (Figura 15), astfel încât elevii să se poată pune în postura unui cercetător și să dobândească această abordare esențială pentru rezolvarea problemelor complexe, posibil a fi reactivată de către elevi și în alte contexte ale vieții cotidiene.



Figura 15: Etapele unei cercetări științifice utilizată și pentru dezvoltarea activităților STIM

Resursele STEM și demersul științific propus a fost o invitație pentru profesori și elevii lor să participe la această aventură științifică și tehnologică de explorare a planetelor telurice Marte și Pământ, în căutarea originilor și recreerea etapelor lor de evoluției.

Fiecare resursă STIM a fost descrisă folosind un format predefinit (fișe de lucru), care a ajutat la menționarea principalelor atribute precum și enumerarea materialelor necesare realizării activităților. Acestea au fost detaliate pas cu pas, completate și cu materiale video (webinari înregistrate, tutoriale și exemple de activități) precum și link-uri către resurse suplimentare, permițând profesorilor să-și definească nivelul de implementare, de la cel de bază la unul avansat, de la informații de sine stătătoare până la activități integrate

CATEGORII DE RESURSE

Pentru a studia o planetă și să seismologie planetară, să activeze și să împărțiți în cinci categorii tematice, așa cum se arată în următoarele două pagini:

Tema	Descriere	Activități
<p>Caracteristicile planetelor telurice</p> <p>Tip: experimente</p>	<p>Această categorie cuprinde un set de patru experimente care explică diferențele dintre interiorul planetelor (telurice), analizând modul în care acestea se răcesc (viteza cu care se disipează căldura), precum și influența pe care o are prezența sau absența câmpului magnetic asupra formării și evoluției lor. Elevii vor folosi microcontrolere și senzori de temperatură pentru a măsura fluxul de căldură. A cincea activitate s-a concentrat pe relațiile spațiale dintre diferitele planete din sistemul solar.</p>	<p>Activitatea 1 - Model de răcire al planetelor telurice</p> <p>Activitatea 2 - Măsurarea fluxului de temperatură</p> <p>Activitatea 3 - Câmpul magnetic</p> <p>Activitatea 4 - Mișcarea de convecție din manta</p> <p>Activitatea 5 - Cât de mare este sistemul nostru solar?</p>
<p>Atmosfera planetelor telurice</p> <p>Tip: activități bazate pe date de observație</p>	<p>Acest grup de activități a permis elevilor să descopere vremea marțiană care, la fel ca pe Pământul cuprinde multe tornade și vânturi puternice, care transportă aerosolii pe câțiva kilometri.</p> <p>Zi de zi, mișcările atmosferice modelează suprafața planetei Marte și a Pământului. Elevii vor înțelege din datele analizate și modelele observate că schimbările climatice se datorează variațiilor orbitale de la nivel planetar.</p>	<p>Activitatea 6 - Zgomotul seismic atmosferic</p> <p>Activitatea 7 – Principalele tipuri de aerosolii și impactul lor climatic pe Pământ</p> <p>Activitatea 8 – Principalele tipuri de aerosolii și impactul lor climatic pe Marte</p> <p>Activitatea 9 - Variațiile zilnice de temperatură pe Marte</p> <p>Activitatea 10 - SEIS, un seismometru securizat</p> <p>Activitatea 11 - Instrumente pentru măsurarea vitezei vântului marțian</p>
<p>Geomorfologia pe Marte vs. Pământ</p>	<p>Folosind datele colectate de toate misiunile marțiene, cercetătorii pot compara geodinamica externă a planetei Marte și a Pământului. Aceste activități permit elevilor să tragă concluzii cu privire la factorii responsabili de modificările geomorfologice survenite. Elevii vor utiliza informațiile din imaginile satelitare și experimente care să confirme ipotezele formulate.</p>	<p>Activitatea 12 - Apa sărată - sursa formării canioanelor: știință sau farsă?</p> <p>Activitatea 13 - Peisaje modelate de tornadele de praf</p> <p>Activitatea 14 - Comparație între vulcani: de ce are o planetă mai mică un vulcan mai mare?</p>
<p>Geologia pe Marte vs. Pământ</p>	<p>Geofizicienii dețin o tehnică de investigare importantă ce le-a permis timp de câteva decenii să exploreze interiorul Pământului și să înțeleagă structura acestuia. Această tehnică este cunoscută sub numele de seismologie. Activitățile din această categorie pun în discuție specificul metodelor seismologice de investigație utilizate de cercetători pe Marte și Pământ și explică cum pot fi utilizate datele de observație din misiunea InSight,</p>	<p>Activity 15 - Cum putem estima epicentrul unui cutremur de pe Terra cu o singură stație seismică</p> <p>Activitatea 16 - Localizați un cutremur de pe Marte utilizând un singur seismometru</p> <p>Activitatea 17 - Bile de plastilină: cum putem explora interiorul planetei Marte?</p>

Tema	Descriere	Activități
<p>Misiunea spațială pe Marte</p>	<p> aici incluzând și studiul parametrilor atmosferici și influența variațiilor acestora asupra mișcărilor telurice analizate prin metode seismologice.</p> <p>În aceste trei activități, elevii vor învăța cum să planifice o lansare pe orbită și să utilizeze concepte avansate de algebră pentru a determina următoarea fereastră de lansare a unei nave spațiale cu scopul de a explora Planeta Roșie, precum și a-și imagina un sistem absorbant de șocuri pentru a proteja capsulele spațiale și astronauții atunci când aterizează pe suprafața unei planete.</p>	<p>Activitatea 18 - Bile de plastilină: analiza comparativă a planetelor</p> <p>Activity 19 - The seismogram: a complex signal</p> <p>Activity 20 - Atmospheric parameters and impact on seismic records</p> <p>Activity 21 - Căderea oului</p> <p>Activity 22 - Călătorind spre Marte</p> <p>Activity 23 - Energia Solară, o sursă sustenabilă de energie</p>

ACTIVITĂȚI STIM REALIZATE

În urma rezultatelor sondajului, au fost dezvoltate 23 de activități în limba engleză și traduse în toate cele trei limbi ale partenerilor (română, spaniolă și franceză).

Au fost realizate de către cercetători și formatori din domeniul planetologiei șase webinaruri menite să explice profesorilor metodologiile puse în practică prin activități și conceptele complexe necesare a fi pe deplin înțelese pentru a preda aceste activități elevilor.

Resursele au fost împărțite în cele cinci categorii descrise mai sus și sunt disponibile pe site-ul Insight.oca.eu ca parte a unei hărți cu activități prezentată în Figura 16 de mai jos

Cele 23 de activități dezvoltate sunt rezumate mai jos:

Caracteristicile planetelor telurice

Activitatea 1 - Model de răcire pentru planete telurice | Activități practice

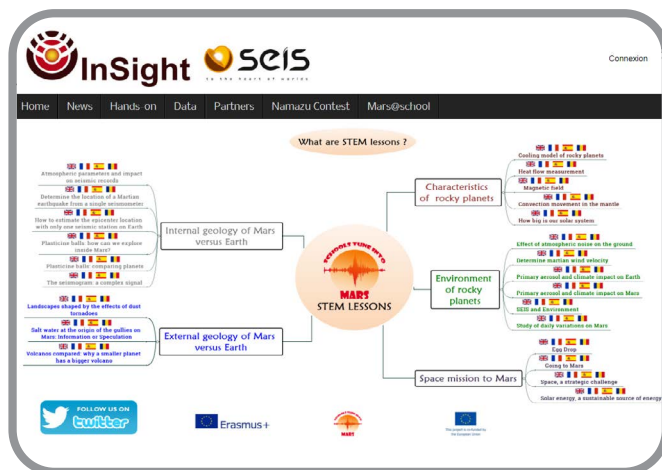
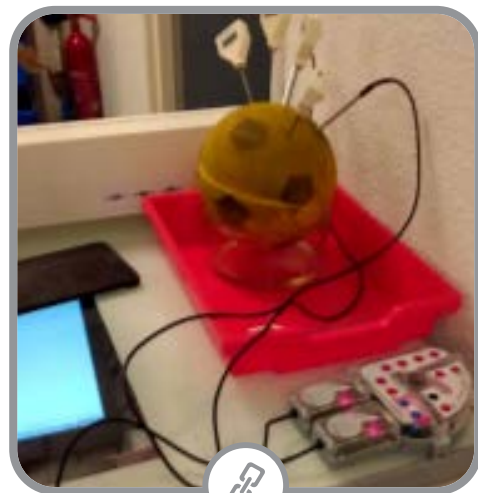
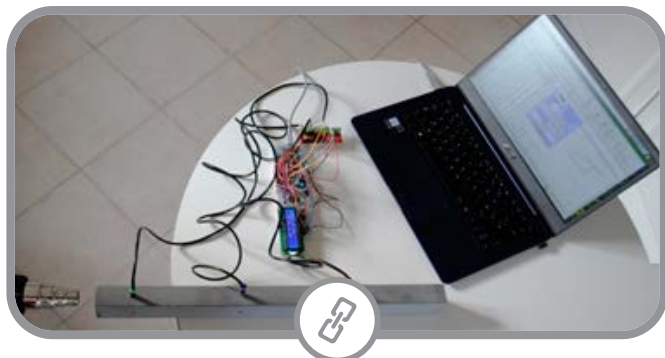


Figura 16: Harta activităților publicată pe site-ul web Insight.oca.eu

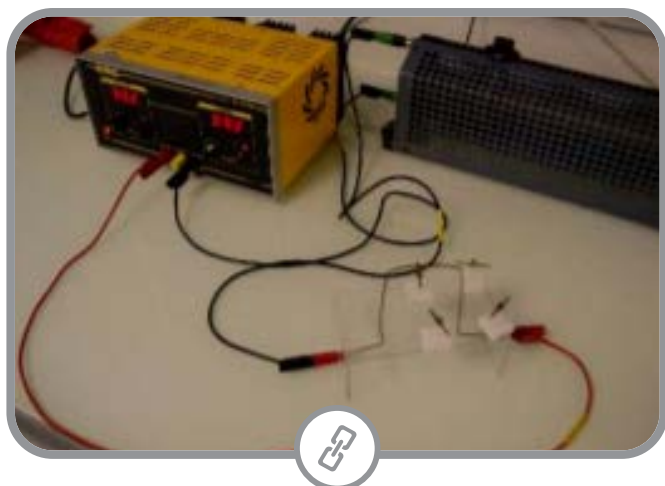
Când toată energia din faza de formare a fost transformată în căldură, planeta începe să se răcească disipându-și căldura internă spre suprafață. Unul dintre obiectivele InSight este să determine cantitatea de căldură care continuă să se degaje la suprafața marțiană (fluxul termic). Utilizând o modelare experimentală urmată de analiza matematică a rezultatelor, elevii au aflat despre fluxul termic, disiparea căldurii și gradientul geotermic (mai multe informații în Anexa 2).

Activitatea 2 - Măsurarea fluxului de temperatură | Activități practice



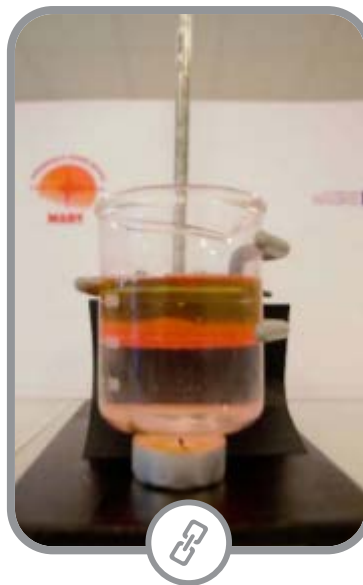
Ce mecanisme determină disiparea căldurii interne a planetei Marte și a Pământului? Pe Pământ, gradientul de temperatură este obținut prin măsurarea directă a temperaturii la diferite adâncimi în foraje sau puțuri de mină. Odată ce acest gradient este cunoscut iar conductivitatea termică a rocilor este determinată, oamenii de știință pot estima fluxul de temperatură într-un punct de pe suprafață. Aceasta este ceea ce misiunea InSight va face pe Marte cu instrumentul cunoscut sub numele de HP. În această activitate, elevii au putut înțelege fenomenul convecției termice prin măsurarea conductivității termice a rocilor folosind trei senzori de temperatură, o sursă de încălzire și un dispozitiv de înregistrare a datelor (mai multe informații în Anexa 3).

Activitatea 3 - Câmpul magnetic | Activități practice



Care este mecanismul căruia i se datorează disiparea rapidă a căldurii interne a planetei Marte? Magnetometru InSight Fluxgate (IFG), este primul magnetometru care va înregistra datele magnetice direct de pe suprafața marțiană. Dispariția câmpului magnetic al lui Marte ar putea explica pierderea de căldură mult mai rapidă în comparație cu planeta Pământ. Elevii au putut afla cum un câmp electric poate crea un câmp magnetic și care este rolul câmpului magnetic al unei planete telurice (scutul Pământului). Elevii au generat și modelat un câmp magnetic folosind curent electric și au observat ce se întâmplă atunci când apropie firul de pilitura de fier (mai multe informații în Anexa 4).

Activitatea 4 - Mișcarea de convecție din manta | Activități practice



Dacă un corp este răcit în partea inferioară și încălzit în partea superioară, materia mai densă se va concentra în partea de jos și cea mai puțin densă în partea de sus. Care sunt mecanismele care determină disiparea căldurii interne a lui Marte și a Pământului? Acest proces este cunoscut sub numele de convecție termică, iar studenții vor efectua un experiment care explică diferitele tipuri de convecție ce stau la baza disipării căldurii din interiorul unei planete telurice (mai multe informații în Anexa 5).

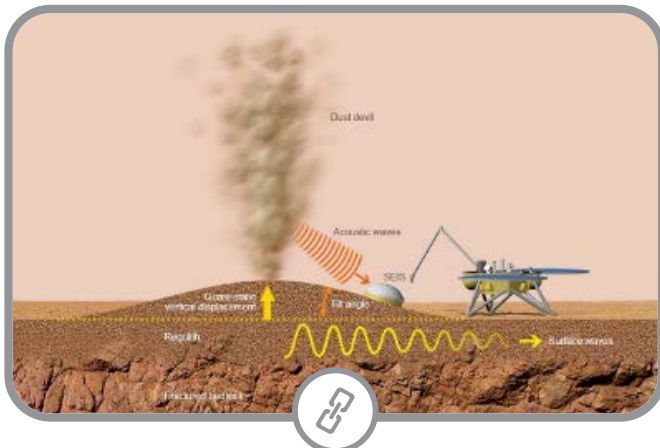
Activitatea 5 - Cât de mare este sistemul nostru solar? | Activități practice



Distanțele dintre diferitele planete din sistemul nostru solar sunt atât de mari încât, pentru mulți elevi, este foarte dificil să le compare cu distanțele la care ne raportăm în viața noastră de zi cu zi. Această activitate a fost menită să îmbunătățească conștientizarea elevilor în legătură cu relațiile spațiale dintre diferitele planete din sistemul solar, concentrându-se în special pe Marte și Pământ. Elevii au folosit obiecte din viața de zi cu zi pentru a calcula și ilustra distanțele relative între planetele sistemului solar (mai multe informații în Anexa 6).

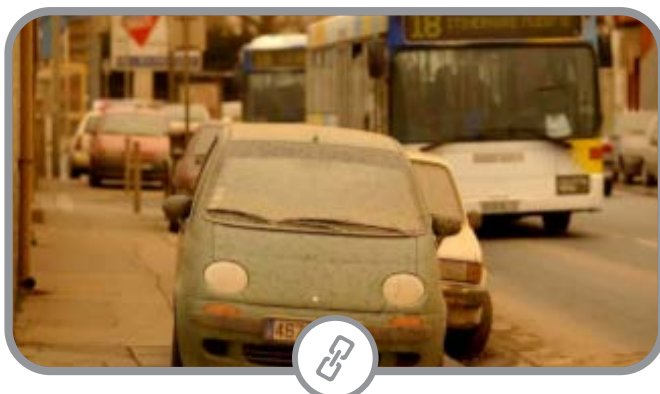
Atmosfera planetelor telurice

Activitatea 6 - Zgomotul seismic ambiental | Experiment



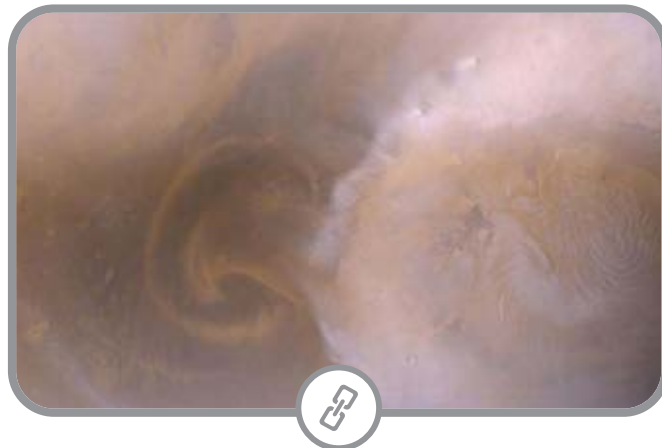
Sursa secundară de zgomot microseismic ambiental este de cele mai multe ori una locală: locul de aterizare a navei Insight este afectat de rafale de vânt sau de formarea unei tornade de praf. În ambele cazuri, aerul marțian exercită o forță asupra solului: în sus în caz de scădere a presiunii și în jos în caz de creștere a presiunii. Elevii testează dacă o simplă scădere a presiunii poate provoca o deformare a solului detectabilă cu ajutorul instrumentelor de măsură a mișcării suprafeței planetei, deși acest tip de deformare este insesizabilă cu ochiul liber (mai multe informații în Anexa 7).

Activitatea 7 - Aerosolii primari și impactul climatic asupra Pământului | Experiment



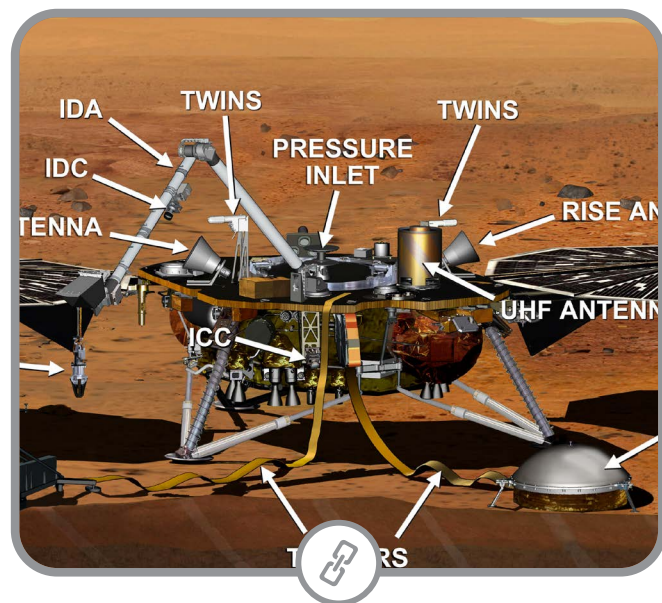
Folosind un exemplu din viața noastră (ploaie „murdară”) și studiul unui eșantion de test, elevii au descoperit care este aerosolul primar și au studiat impactul asupra climei, atât în aer cât și pe suprafața Pământului. Elevii au determinat optic grosimea particulelor din eșantionul de test extras cu un fotometru pentru a determina natura lor și, prin urmare, impactul lor asupra climei. Aceștia ar putea apoi să stabilească dacă dispersiile majore de particule au potențialul de a influența în mod semnificativ clima Pământului (mai multe informații în Anexa 8).

Activitatea 8 - Aerosolii primari și impactul climatic asupra lui Marte | Experiment



Știm că și aerosolii naturali pot avea un impact asupra climei. Pe Marte, ca și pe Pământ, particulele minerale sunt în suspensie. Impactul radiativ al unui aerosol depinde de natura suprafeței de bază. Putem determina dacă transportul prafului mineral marțian are o influență asupra climei? (mai multe informații în Anexa 9).

Activitatea 9 - Variații zilnice de temperatură pe Marte | Date



Pe suprafața lui Marte, putem întâlni condiții de vară: 20 °C, briza alizeelor ... Dar noaptea valorile temperaturii scad cu câteva zeci de grade și până dimineața se pastrează condițiile de îngheț cu temperaturi de până la -100 °C. De fapt solul marțian, care este uscat și granular, nu poate stoca decât foarte puțină căldură. Inerția sa termică este foarte mică în comparație cu cea a Pământului și a oceanelor sale. Lander-ul InSight este echipat cu o stație meteo (APSS, Auxiliary Payload Sensor Suite). Cum ne poate ajuta analiza datelor climatice să ne îmbunătățim cunoștințele despre perturbațiile meteorologice atât pe Marte, cât și pe Pământ? Elevii vor folosi un cod Python pentru a colecta și analiza datele înregistrate, vor afișa informațiile pe care

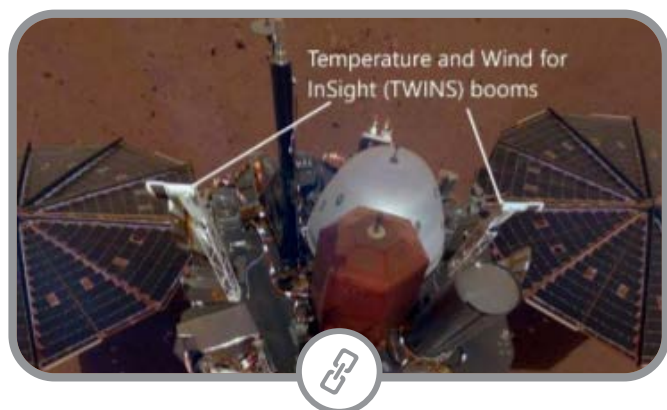
le-au putut colecta despre perturbațiile meteorologice și vor compara și interpreta rezultatele obținute pe Pământ cu cele obținute pentru Marte (mai multe informații în Anexa 10).

Activitatea 10 - SEIS, un seismometru securizat



Pământul și Marte sunt două planete telurice foarte similare. Unii chiar le numesc planete „gemene”. Cu toate acestea oamenii de știință insistă să acopere seismometrul trimis pe Marte cu o cupolă protectoare, practică nefolosită în mod uzual pe Pământ. De ce oare? Scopul acestei activități este de a determina diferența dintre atmosfera și mediul planetei Marte de cele ale Pământului și de a identifica de ce construcția landerului a avut nevoie de materiale rezistente, testate în mod repetat în condiții extreme pe Pământ. Elevilor li s-a cerut să scrie o lucrare științifică despre specificul planetei Marte și Pământului, în care să cuprindă argumentele oferite de oamenii de știință pentru a explica procesul responsabil de pierderea unei mari părți a atmosferei de pe Marte. De aici ei trebuie să deducă argumentele pe care cercetătorii responsabili de misiunea InSight le-au avut în vedere atunci când au dezvoltat instrumente de măsurare foarte rezistente, capabile să funcționeze chiar și în medii ostile (mai multe informații în Anexa 11).

Activitatea 11 - Instrumente pentru măsurarea vitezei vântului marțian | Experiment

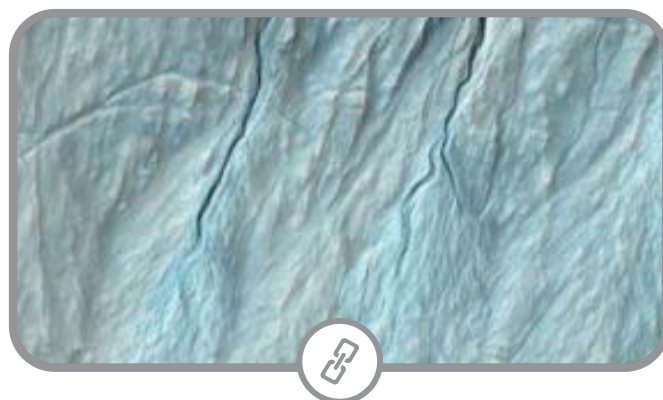


Pe Pământ, senzorii folosiți pentru măsurarea forței și direcției vântului sunt de două tipuri: senzori mecanici cu un anemometru și o giruetă sau senzori cu ultrasunete.

Cum putem determina viteza vântului marțian chiar și într-un mediu atât de ostil? Pentru InSight inginerii au ales senzorii de temperatură și vânt - TWINS - care înregistrează temperatura aerului, viteza vântului și direcția cu o frecvență de două măsurători pe secundă. Elevii vor utiliza senzori similari pentru măsurarea vântului și a temperaturii, vor determina direcția vântului și crea o bază de date cu datele măsurate (mai multe informații în Anexa 12).

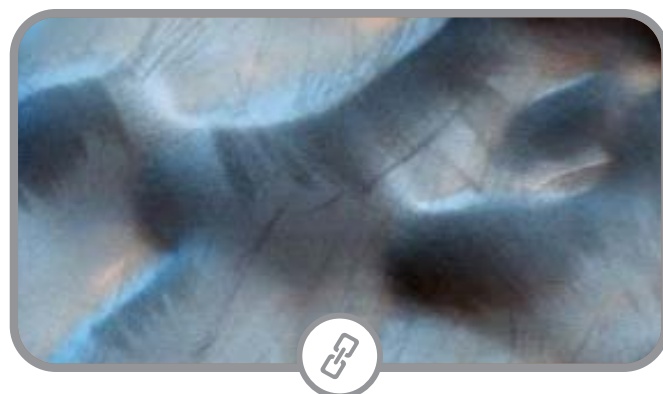
Geomorfologia planetei Marte vs Pământ

Activitatea 12 - Apa sărată - sursa formării canioanelor: știință sau farsă? | Activități practice



Oamenii de știință consideră că procesul de lichefiere a solului a fost responsabil pentru apariția canioanelor pe Marte, adică un proces prin care sărurile absorb vaporii atmosferici de apă atunci când temperatura și umiditatea sunt concomitent ridicate. Se pare că procesul care permite formarea canioanelor pe Marte nu se datorează curgerii „apei sărate”, ci pare să fie de altă natură. Cum se formează canioanele pe Pământ și pe Marte? Erodabilitatea solului este aceeași? Elevii au analizat documentele disponibile și protocolul de modelare a procesului de formare a canionului pe Pământ (Eroziune - Transport - Depozitare) și au formulat o ipoteză plauzibilă pentru formarea canioanelor pe Marte (de exemplu, variații sezoniere ale presiunii globale) (mai multe informații în Anexa 13).

Activitatea 13 - Peisaje modelate de tornadele de praf | Experiment



Landerul InSight a înregistrat o tornadă care a curățat praful acumulat pe panourile lui solare imediat după aterizarea pe suprafața marțiană. Elevilor li se va explica care sunt legile fizice ce guvernează mișcarea maselor de aer, adică convecția atmosferică, dar și procesul care stă la baza formării vârtejurilor de praf, principalele surse ale formării urmelor de pe solul planetei, vizibile din satelit și atât de reprezentative pentru Marte. Există un astfel de fenomen pe Pământ? Elevii au realizat un experiment pentru a sublinia mișcarea maselor de aer (mai multe informații în Anexa 14).

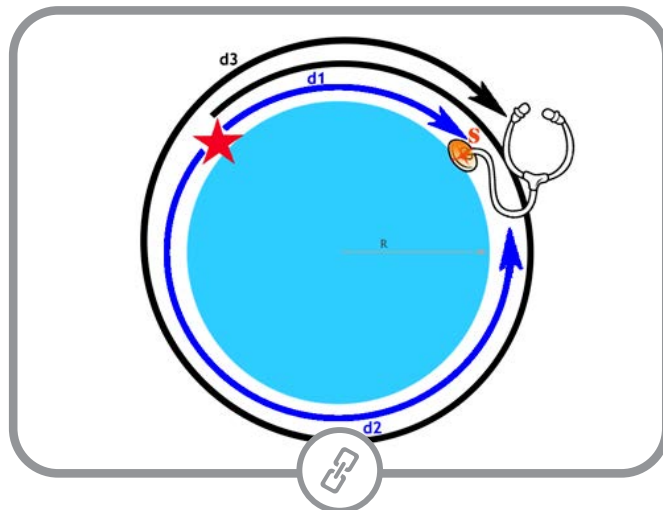
Activitatea 14 - Comparație între vulcani: de ce are o planetă mai mică un vulcan mai mare? | Activități practice



Mărimea și forma unui con vulcanic de pe Pământ permite vulcanologilor să extragă multe informații despre evoluția vulcanului, precum și despre compoziția și alte proprietăți fizice ale magmei (ex: vâscozitatea) din care s-a format. Mulți elevi știu că un vulcan de pe planeta Marte, Muntele Olympus, este cel mai mare munte din sistemul solar, sau cel puțin cel mai înalt vulcan al său. Cum putem măsura și compara dimensiunile celor mai înalți vulcani de pe ambele planete, Mauna Kea pe Pământ și Olympus pe Marte? Printr-o serie de calcule simple, elevii vor afla despre dimensiunea celor mai mari munți ai planetelor. Din volumul, compoziția și densitatea lor, pot calcula mărimile lor. Apoi vor elaborat ipoteze pentru a explica diferențele de dimensiuni, care îi vor ajuta să înțeleagă mai bine dinamica unei planete cu plăci tectonice care se deplasează pe un strat vâscos (astenosferă) în comparație cu alta, fără plăci tectonice active în prezent (mai multe informații în Anexa 15).

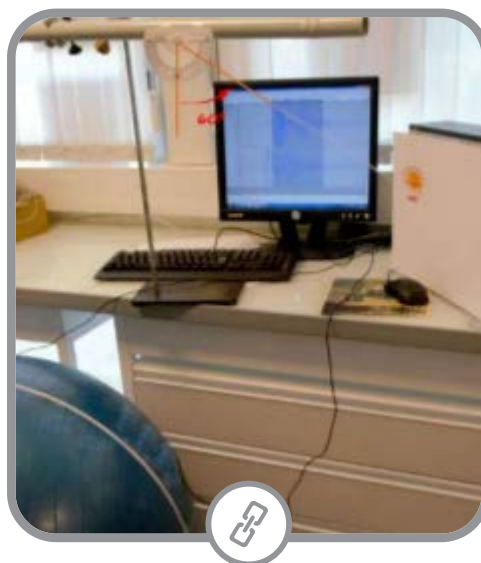
Geologia planetei Marte vs Pământ

Activity 15 - Cum putem localiza epicentrul unui cutremur de pe Terra cu o singură stație seismică



Pe Pământ, unde există mii de stații seismice instalate, folosim înregistrări de la minim trei stații seismice pentru localizarea epicentrului unui cutremur. Pe Marte, există un singur senzor seismic pentru a detecta și utilizabil pentru a localiza epicentrul unui cutremur. De aceea, elevii vor încerca să localizeze un cutremur folosind date înregistrate la o singură stație seismică. Au aflat despre undele Rayleigh, au estimat azimutul și au analizat rezultatele folosind un software dedicat (Seisgram) (mai multe informații în Anexa 16).

Activity 16 – Localizați un cutremur pe Marte utilizând un singur seismometru | Date & Experiment



Misiunea InSight își propune să localizeze cutremurele de pe Marte folosind un singur seismometru. Teoretic, oamenii de știință speră să înregistreze mai multe trenuri de unde care corespund aceluiași cutremur sau impact, pe motiv că Marte are o rază mai mică și o compoziție mult mai densă.

Elevilor li s-a explicat cum se poate identifica cu un singur seismometru sursa undelor seismice, fie că vorbim de un impact de meteorit sau de un cutremur și să simuleze propagarea acestui tren de unde folosind un model teoretic. (mai multe informații din Anexa 17).

Activitatea 17 - Bile de plastilină: cum putem explora interiorul planetei Marte? | Activități practice

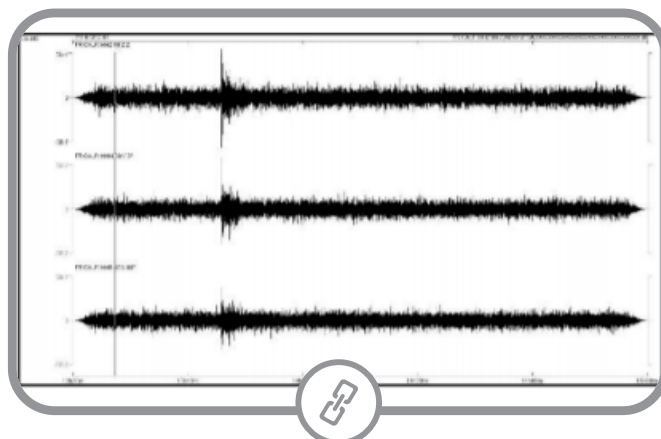


În ultimele secole, mulți geologi au studiat structura internă a Pământului. Pe lângă observarea rocilor de la suprafața Pământului, analizarea și testarea acestora prin diferite metode, a fost dezvoltată o gamă largă de instrumente pentru a afla mai multe despre structura Pământului. Odată dovedit că metodele directe (ex:forajele) au limitări clare (ex: adâncimea de penetrare), oamenii de știință s-au concentrat pe dezvoltarea unor metode indirecte (ex: metodele geofizice). Elevii au trebuit să se confrunte cu o dilemă și li s-a solicitat să se gândească la o ipoteză care să se potrivească realității (cum pot două sfere care arată la fel la exterior să aibă proprietăți fizice diferite în ceea ce privește masa și densitatea?) (Mai multe informații din Anexa 18).

Activitatea 18 - Mingi de plastilină: compararea planetelor | Activități practice

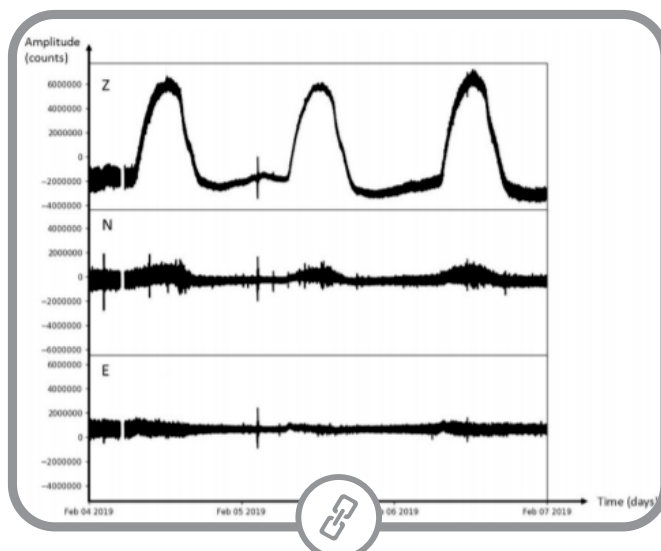
Această activitate urmează a se desfășura după activitatea „Cum putem explora interiorul planetei Marte”, unde elevii au aflat despre diferitele metode utilizate pentru studierea structurii interne a unei planete. Pe parcursul acestei activități au fost dezvoltate două aspecte legate de studiul structurii interne a unei planete: distribuția maselor în interiorul acesteia și prezența sau absența unui magnetism general. Elevii au trebuit să propună o ipoteză și să o discute cu colegii, sugerând metode de testare a acestei ipoteze și să înțeleagă cum aceste proprietăți permit sau nu o distincție între Pământ și Marte, apoi calculează densitatea diferitelor bile de plastilină și le compară pentru a decide care dintre acestea modelează cel mai bine Pământul, respectiv Marte (mai multe informații în Anexa 19).

Activitatea 19 - Seismograma: un semnal complex | Date



Mișcarea solului este rezultatul sosirii la suprafață a mai multor unde, fiecare având propria frecvență. În absența undelor seismice, semnalul continuu înregistrat la suprafața solului de către seismometre reprezintă zgomotul seismic ambiental. Când se înregistrează un cutremur, undele seismice sunt clar identificate în raport cu zgomotul seismic de fond. Uneori, aceste unde fuseseră înregistrate, dar nu erau perceptibile. Cunoscând domeniul de frecvență al undelor seismice, este posibil să identificați și izolați un cutremur “ascuns” în zgomotul seismic. Studenții vor folosi programul Seisgram pentru a analiza înregistrările seismice, a estima un interval de frecvență specific pentru diferite tipuri de unde seismice și vor folosi filtre adecvate pentru a identifica semnalul util (mai multe informații în Anexa 20).

Activitatea 20 - Parametrii atmosferici și impactul variațiilor lor asupra înregistrărilor seismice | Date

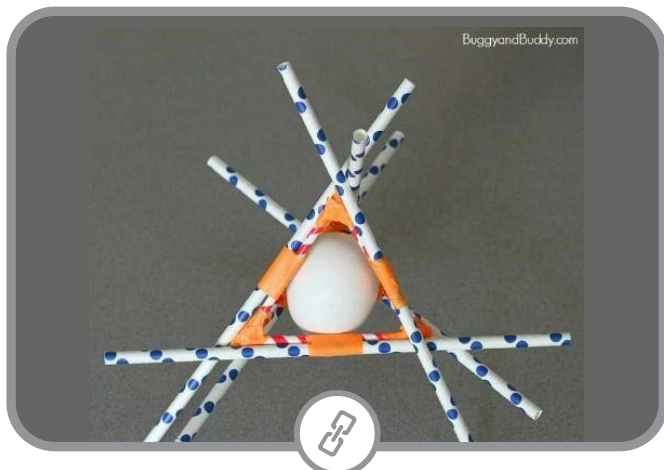


O stație seismică este proiectată pentru a detecta mișcarea solului infinitesimal. Dispozitivele sale electronice ce înregistrează mișcarea solului pot fi afectate de parametrii atmosferici ce caracterizează mediul de înregistrare. Am propus seismograme în care semnalul continuu nu este uniform: zi după zi se observă maxime înregistrate.

Cum putem filtra zgomotul seismic detectând variații atmosferice în semnal? Elevii au fost nevoiți să analizeze și să descrie semnalele continue, să găsească un parametru fizic care poate să inducă o modificare a semnalului și să găsească un eveniment ce se deosebește de variațiile zilnice (mai multe informații în Anexa 21).

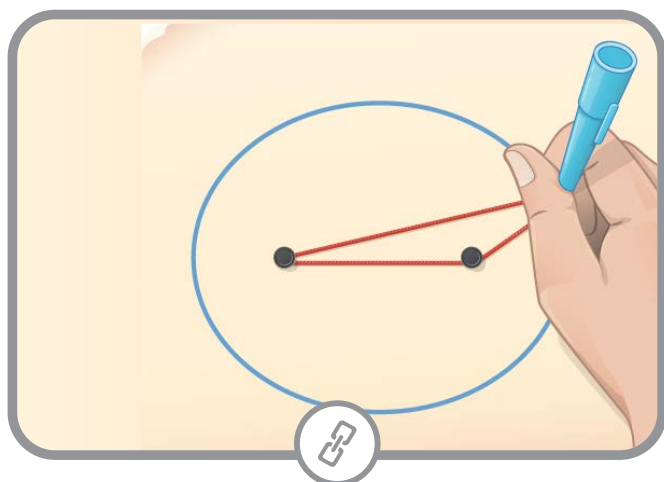
Misiunea spațială pe Marte

Activitatea 21 - Căderea oului | Activități practice



Activitățile de inginerie oferă copiilor șansa să dezvolte abilități de investigație necesare pentru rezolvarea unor probleme și de observație, să lucreze cu instrumente și materiale interesante și captivante și să învețe cum să lucreze ca membru al unei echipe. Când aruncați ceva, acesta cade pe pământ. Acest lucru se datorează faptului că este atras de gravitația Pământului. Unele lucruri cad mai repede decât altele din cauza rezistenței aerului. Elevii au încercat să arunce o bucată de hârtie și o piesă Lego pentru a vedea care cade mai repede și, de asemenea, au încercat și cu un ou (mai multe informații în Anexa 22).

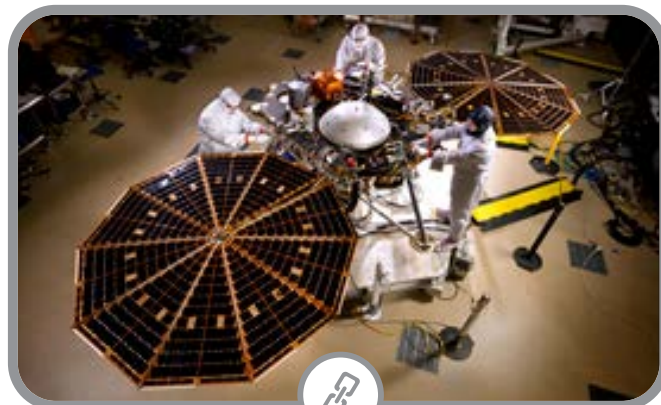
Activitatea 22 - Călătorind spre Marte | Activități practice



Elevii au fost nevoiți să calculeze poziția relativă a Pământului față de Marte, ce corespunde orbitei optime pe care o navetă spațială o poate parcurge cu un consumul de energie minim. Folosind date despre poziția planetară

și concepte algebrice avansate, ei vor putea determina următoarea oportunitate de lansare către Marte (mai multe informații în Anexa 23).

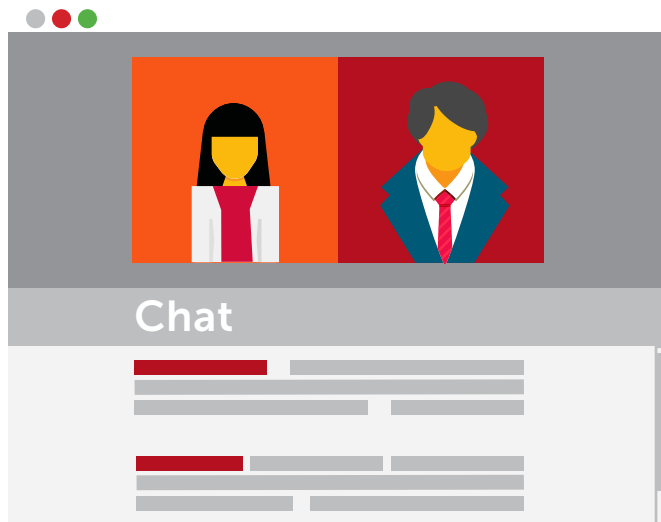
Activitatea 23 - Energia solară, o sursă sustenabilă de energie



NASA folosește mai multe tehnologii pentru a furniza energia necesară explorării spațiale. Fiecare tehnologie îndeplinește cerințele pentru diferite tipuri de explorare. Această metodă de învățare bazată pe rezolvarea de probleme a explorat modul în care panourilor solare pot fi folosite ca sursă de energie. În cadrul activității, elevii au învățat concepte de bază legate de energie, transformarea energiei, electricitate și circuite (mai multe informații în Anexa 24).

WEBINARIILE PENTRU PROFESORI

O serie de șase webinarii au fost susținute pentru cadrele didactice în activitatea O1, concepute pentru a explica mai bine metodologiile propuse și pentru a permite participanților să se familiarizeze mai bine cu subiectul. Abstractele webinarilor sunt prezentate pe pagina următoare iar înregistrările video se găsesc pe pagina web Insight.oca.eu⁴:



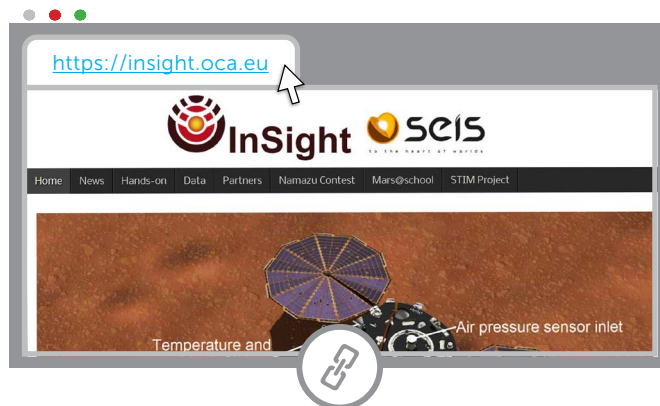
4 <https://insight.oca.eu/fr/stim-resources>

Subiect	Abstract
InSight mission – trecut și prezent	Webinar 1: În acest webinar introductiv a fost prezentat un istoric al misiunilor spațiale pe Marte și importanța acestora pentru societate. Au fost introduse și explicate succint principalele experimente care vor introduce tematica elevilor din învățământul gimnazial pentru a facilita înțelegerea scopului și obiectivelor misiunii InSight și cum pot aceste resurse ajuta profesorii să facă lecțiile de știință mai captivante pentru elevi.
Seismologia și structura planetelor telurice	Webinar 2: Seismologia reprezintă studierea mișcării solului ce conține informații despre falie, propagarea undelor seismice și comportamentul solului. Mișcarea solului diferă de la un cutremur la altul, iar studierea seismelor oferă informații din adâncime până la suprafață. Undele seismice pot fi generate de mai multe surse cum ar fi mișcarea tectonică sau impactul meteoritelor. Acestea sunt principalele surse de unde seismice și pe Marte. Acest webinar a explicat modul în care studiul structurii interne a planetei Marte i-ar putea ajuta pe cercetători să înțeleagă de ce astăzi este o planetă rece și cu o suprafață deșertică. Seismometre educaționale și experimente simple au fost propuse pentru a ilustra această prezentare.
Structura internă a planetelor telurice: o privire către Pământ	Webinar 3: Misiunea InSight a făcut posibilă instalarea seismometrului SEIS pe Marte. Seismologii explorează interiorul altor planete pentru a înțelege mai bine Pământul. Dar cum pot determina oamenii de știință implicați epicentrul unui cutremur sau impactul unui meteorit utilizând un singur seismometru? Acesta a fost subiectul acestei sesiuni.
Explorări ulterioare	Webinar 4: Folosind datele colectate de misiunile marțiene, oamenii de știință pot acum compara geodinamica planetei Marte cu cea a Pământului. Acest studiu permite tragerea unor concluzii cu privire la factorii responsabili de geomorfologia suprafețelor lor. Cum pot elevii utiliza date satelitare și experimentat pentru a confirma ipotezele formulate?
Marte ne poate învăța multe despre scenariile trecute și viitoare despre propria noastră planetă.	Webinar 5: Lander-ul InSight a pornit sonda HP care măsoară fluxul de temperatură al planetei Marte. Datele colectate vor permite oamenilor de știință să studieze disiparea căldurii din nucleul marțian. În această activitate, elevii au experimentat funcționarea sondei HP și au colectat date pentru a le utiliza..
Creează-ți propriile scenarii de învățare	Webinar 6: În acest webinar de final am planificat împreună și am prezentat diferite scenarii de învățare despre modul în care profesorii ar putea aduce misiunile spațiale marțiene sub forma unor activități captivante în sala de clasă.

EDUTEASERS

IAu fost înregistrate videoclipuri scurte cu cercetători pentru a introduce anumite activități și pentru a spori motivația elevilor de a se implica în activități.

Aceste videoclipuri sunt disponibile pe site-ul [Insight.oca.eu](https://insight.oca.eu) și prezentate sumar după cum urmează.



Philippe Lognonné: profesor de Geofizică și Științe Planetare, Universitatea din Paris Diderot - Investigator principal, instrumentul SEIS de la InSight (NASA), introduce misiunea Mars Insight și obiectivele sale științifice. Ce se ascunde în adâncul planetei Marte? Cum s-a format Planeta Roșie? Ce ne poate învăța Marte despre propria noastră planetă Pământ? Primele răspunsuri sunt acum disponibile datorită aterizării pe Marte, explorării structurii interioare folosind investigații seismice, geodezice și transfer de căldură. Cu seismometrul și instrumentele sale de măsurare a temperaturii, InSight investighează dinamica profundă a planetei Marte, ajutându-i pe oamenii de știință să descopere ce se află în miezul său și cum putem afla mai multe despre Formarea și evoluția corpurile telurice din întregul sistem solar.

Julien Balestra: Doctor în seismologie, inginer cercetător la IDEX „Observatorul EduMed” Universitatea Côte d’Azur (UCA) explică activitățile din domeniul geodinamicii interne, în special legate de studiul seismologiei pe Pământ și Marte. Elevii vor descoperi modul în care oamenii de știință utilizează datele seismice primite de pe Marte. Acest Eduteaser introduce modul în care studiul structurii interne a lui Marte ar putea ajuta cercetătorii să înțeleagă de ce Marte este o planetă rece și deșertică



Dragos Tataru: seismolog la Institutul Național de Fizică a Pământului, România prezintă în acest Eduteaser trecutul, prezentul și perspectivele misiunilor planetare cu accent pe investigațiile geofizice. Detalii despre formarea și evoluția timpurie a Pământului rămân încă puțin cunoscute. Prin urmare, investigațiile privind structurile interioare ale altor planete din sistemul solar sunt de mare interes. Cum a ajutat într-adevăr seismologia schimbarea perspectivei despre Științele Pământului și informațiile pe care le-am aflat despre Pământ? Acest scurt videoclip provoacă discuții despre unele misiuni planetare, în special despre InSight și seismometrul InSight dar și alte posibile instrumente seismice din sistemul nostru solar.

Concluzii

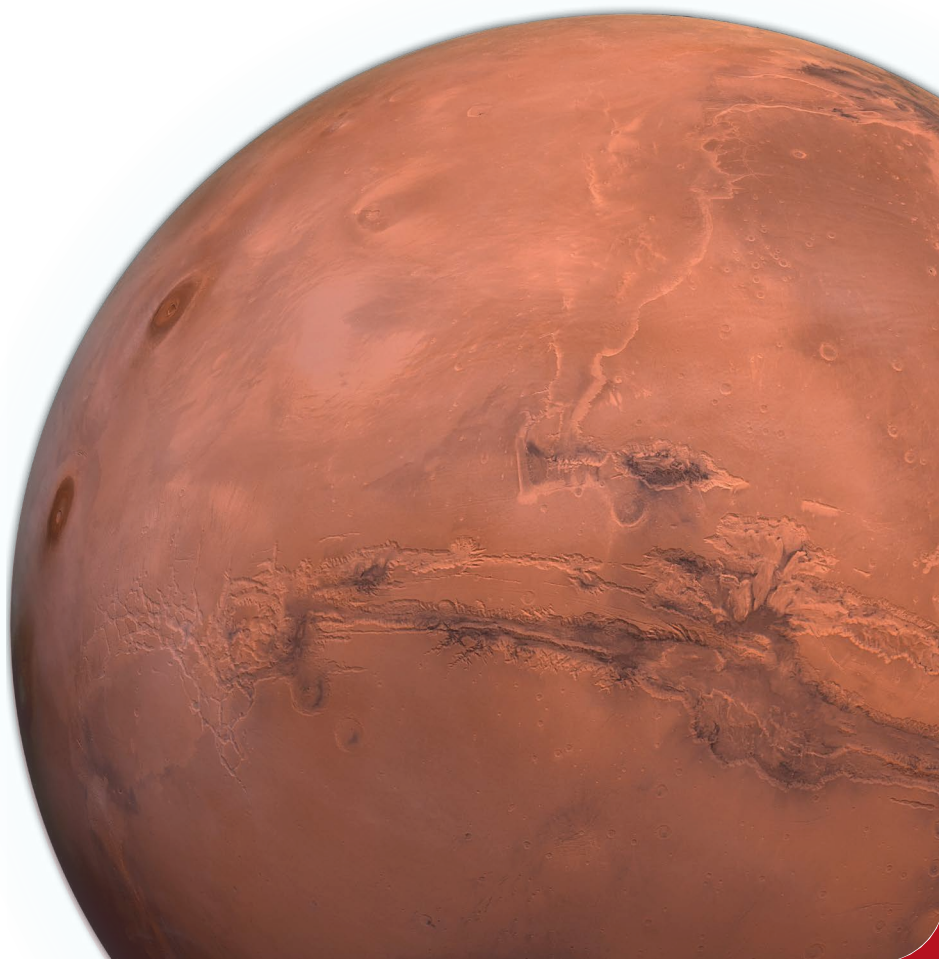
Resursele STIM contribuie la dezvoltarea profesională a cadrelor didactice pe tematici precum Pământul, universul și planetologia, făcând posibilă implementarea abordărilor științifice autentice în sălile de clasă.

Toți elevii, indiferent de alegerea lor în carieră, ar trebui să poată identifica și înțelege impactul științei asupra societății și asupra mediului. Societățile moderne sunt profund transformate de știință și de aplicațiile sale tehnologice precum controlul riscurilor naturale și tehnologice, protecția mediului și comunicarea (transport, schimb de informații). Elevii trebuie să înțeleagă aceste transformări pentru a lua decizii în cunoștință de cauză.

Resursele STIM dezvoltate în prima fază a proiectului și care constituie nucleul prezentului raport, au fost concepute pe modelul materialelor instructiv-educative care se potrivesc cu această nouă viziune asupra educației științifice, unul dintre mecanismele cheie pentru crearea de experiențe de învățare de înaltă calitate dedicate elevilor. 23 de activități au fost dezvoltate și grupate pe cinci teme majore, însoțite de șase webinarii și 3 scurte videoclipuri de promovare care își propun atragerea elevilor către Științele Pământului și ale Spațiului prin punerea în valoare a datelor de observație înregistrate pe Marte și pe Pământ.

Colaborarea dintre profesori - cercetători - formatori a dus la o abordare cu adevărat inovatoare, interdisciplinară capabilă să explice concepte științifice dificil de înțeles precum cele legate de seismologia planetară și să faciliteze o mai bună înțelegere de către oameni a mediului complex în care noi trăim.

A doua fază a proiectului va fi dedicată elaborării unui ghid didactic care să reunească toate instrumentele, metodele și materialele necesare implementării activităților STEM. Un curs de tip MOOC (Massive Online Open Course) va fi dezvoltat ce va cuprinde patru module de instruire online, fiecare dintre acestea abordând problema dintr-o perspectivă diferită: știință, educație, experimentare și transfer. Aceste module vor fi dezvoltate pentru a oferi cadrelor didactice cunoștințele și abilitățile necesare pentru a preda concepte științifice dificile și a le face accesibile studenților lor. Noi date de cercetare și videoclipuri scurte realizate de cercetători vor fi realizate și integrate pentru a motiva elevii să se implice în acest proces de învățare. În cele din urmă, al patrulea modul va permite profesorilor să își dezvolte și să prezinte propriile lor scenarii de predare testate în clasă.



Bibliografie

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Anexele

Annex 1



STIM needs assessment & opportunity mapping

This survey is part of a project Erasmus+ - School Tune into Mars (STIM) that aims to

- provide pedagogical materials with high-quality inspirational lessons related to STEM subjects
- provide adequate guidance and underpin innovative activities that are developed in a co-constructive process between researchers and teachers

The objective of the survey is to get the opinion of the science teachers in order to be better able to address their needs and interest and to improve the development of the projects.

The data collected will be deleted after 36 months

The survey is addressed to different profiles:

- IF YOU TEACH & PARTICIPATE AS A USER IN PROJECTS/INITIATIVES. First, we ask for some demographic variables. Secondly, we ask you about your participation in projects/initiatives. Finally, we ask you a sets of questions about your possible motivations: those that lead you to join projects or to implement activities

- IF YOU TEACH BUT YOU ARE NOT A USER IN PROJECTS/INITIATIVES. In addition to some demographic variables, we ask you - with the option of a free text - about the factors that motivate you

The last day of receipt of surveys is 28th of February

The estimated duration is about 10 minutes.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND COLLABORATION

Data collection and processing

The data collected through this survey will be used strictly in line with the objectives defined above. This questionnaire is supported by Schools Tune Into Mars, a project financed by the Erasmus + programme and coordinated by the Lycée International de Valbonne (LIV) in collaboration with EUN Partnership AISBL, the Asociación Española para la Enseñanza de las Ciencias de la Tierra (AEPECT) and the National Institute for

Earth Physics (NIEP). All anonymous data collected via this survey will be made freely available online (open access). If they wish, participants can provide their name and email at the beginning of the survey, only if they are interested in providing follow-up information which would lead to participating to a focus group and activities related to the project. The Lycée International de Valbonne (LIV) is the controller of this personal data. This information will not be shared outside the Lycée International de Valbonne (France) and partners of the project mentioned above (for example, your name and e-mail address will not be shared with external partners), and it will be used only according to the purposes declared and will be deleted at the end of 2020. If you have any questions regarding this survey, please contact Fatima Moujdi (Fatima.Moujdi@ac-nice.fr).

Email address:*

Last Name:*

First Name:

Gender:*

School (institution):*

Location (TOWN):*

Location (COUNTRY):

Section I - Academic and professional backgrounds

1. Educational level you teach (multiple choice)*
 - a. Secondary
 - b. Highschool
 - c. Other
2. You are a.....teacher (multiple choice)*
 - a. Science
 - b. Physics
 - c. Chemistry
 - d. Biology
 - e. Geography
 - f. Geology
 - g. Earth Science
 - h. Other

3. What is the highest level of formal education you have completed (single choice)?
 - a. Bachelor’s degree or equivalent
 - b. Master’s degree or PhD
 - c. Other

4. By the end of this school year, how many years will you have been teaching altogether (short answer - number format validation)?

Section II - Motivation for participation

1. How well prepared do you feel you are to teach...(multiple choices one per line)*

	I do not teach these topics	Not well prepared	Some what prepared	Well prepared
earth science – earth’s features and physical processes?				
earth science – the solar system and the universe?				
Planetary science (planetology)				
chemistry – classification and structure of matter?				
physics – types of energy, sources of energy, conversion between energy types?				
environmental and resource issues?				
scientific methods and inquiry skills?				
.....				

2. Preferred Method of Professional Development Training (multiple choices)*
 - a. On-Line Modules
 - b. Workshops
 - c. Webinars

4. Which would be the main motivation to implement STIM activities in class (multiple choices)*
 - a. Motivate students to learn
 - b. Assess students’ current skills and knowledge
 - c. Design or implement a challenging curriculum

- d. Including problem solving techniques
 - e. Design appropriate out-of-class assignments and activities
 - f. Translate subject matter content into standards-based activities
 - g. Promote critical thinking
 - h. Other
3. Have you ever implement activities starting from topics presented in STIM project (for more details about STIM project and topics please access the links published at the end of the questionnaire)*
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Other

5. Would you be willing to implement activities / use resources developed in the STIM project in class? If yes, in what form?* (multiple choice question)

- a. No
- b. YES/in extra-curricular activities
- c. YES/in activities complementary to compulsory courses
- d. YES/in In a dedicated science class
- e. YES/in Optional school curriculum
- f. YES/in Other

.....

LINKS

<https://twitter.com/STIMerasmus>

<http://www.scientix.eu/projects/project-detail?articleId=777418>

The personal data collect will be used only for:

- assessing the needs and opportunity of implementing STIM activities
- better configure the intellectual outputs of the project
- contacting to share the results and propose further involvements in the project activities

Consent By consenting to this privacy notice you are given us the permission to process your personal data specifically for the purposes identified.

Disclosure Project partner institutions will not pass on your personal data to third parties without first obtaining your consent.

Disclaimer

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the European Union

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Cooling model for rocky planets

1. Introduction & Problem

The internal heat of a rocky planet comes first of all from the energy accumulated during the accretion phase, then from the formation of the iron core and finally from the radioactivity of the uranium, thorium and potassium present in the mantle.

When all the energy from the formation phase has been converted into heat, the planet begins to cool down.

Pb: What happens to the heat from the formation phase of a rocky planet?

2. Age of students

15 -17 years

3. Objectives

Show that the planet cools down by dissipating its internal heat up to and through the surface.
Experimental modelling and mathematical exploitation of results

4. Primary subjects

Mathematics – Physics – Earth Sciences.

5. Additional subjects

Geography – Computer Science

6. Time required

2hrs

7. Key terms

Geothermal gradient, heat flow, heat dissipation.

8. Background

Excel spreadsheet - Python

9. Materials

- 'Pétanque' ball
- Saucepan of boiling water
- Foam football
- 4 temperature sensors
- Computer with software
- Excel

10. Procedures

- Modelling internal heat dissipation (heat flow):

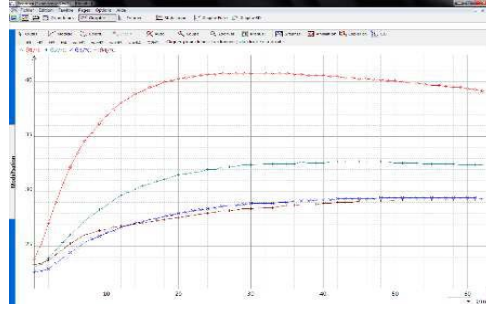
One of InSight's missions is to determine the amount of heat that continues to escape from its surface (heat flow).

- Push 4 temperature sensors through the surface of a foam football and make sure they are at depths of 1 cm, 2 cm, 3 cm and 4 cm.
- Dip a pétanque ball in boiling water then place it inside the football.
- Close the foam football tightly (to limit the loss of heat).
- Note the temperature reading on the screen every minute for one hour.

Modelling:



Temperature change profile versus depth using a Spreadsheet Graph:



- Mathematical evaluation of measured heat flow data

We are looking for a possible relationship between time t and temperature T .

When the relationship is "affine", it means $T = a + bt$, so we talk about a **linear regression**.

Even if there is a relationship, the data measured do not usually match this relationship perfectly.

First study: Using a spreadsheet to determine a relationship between time t and temperature T

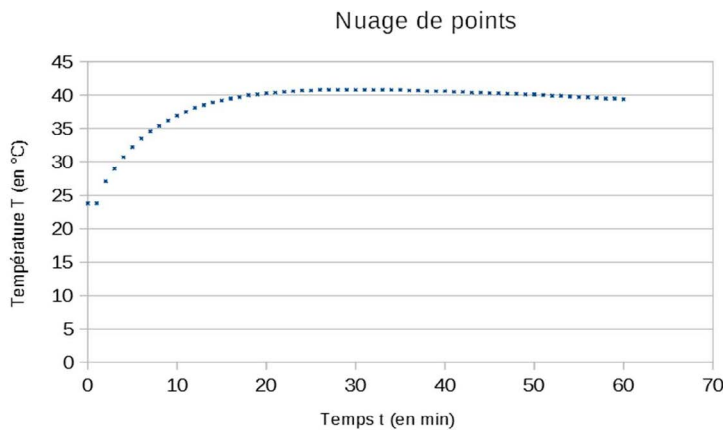
We are going to study the thermal probe database for a specific depth.

In this example, the thermal probe depth is 5 cm.

1) Open the file **Insight_Mars_Hp3.ods** or **Insight_Mars_Hp3.xlsx** containing the measurement data.

2) Copy the database **time t** and **corresponding temperatures T** to a spreadsheet.

Represent this database with a point cloud graph.



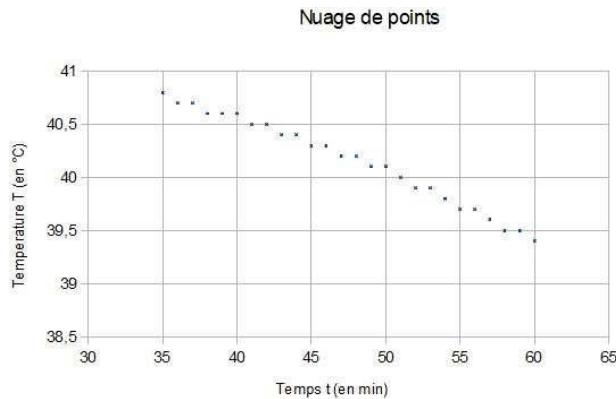
	A	B	C
1	temps	Prof 5 cm	
2	En min	en °C	
3			
4	0	23,8	
5	1	23,8	
6	2	27,1	
7	3	29	
8	4	30,7	
9	5	32,2	
10	6	33,5	
11	7	34,6	
12	8	35,4	
13	9	36,2	
14	10	36,9	
15	11	37,5	
16	12	38,1	
17	13	38,5	
18	14	38,9	
19	15	39,2	
20	16	39,5	
21	17	39,7	
22	18	40	
23	19	40,1	
24	20	40,3	
25	21	40,4	
26	22	40,5	

The second part of the curve, which reflects the cooling process (like on Earth and Mars) appears to be expressed as a straight line.

We will study how to determine this straight line and whether our data fits it.

3) In this example, measurements start at time $t=35'$.

Represent the database $\{(t_i, T_i), i = 35, \dots, 60\}$ with a spreadsheet.



Looking for an affine relationship between two variables t and T means looking for a straight line which best fits this scatter graph.

The least squares method is used to find the line of best fit through an equation:

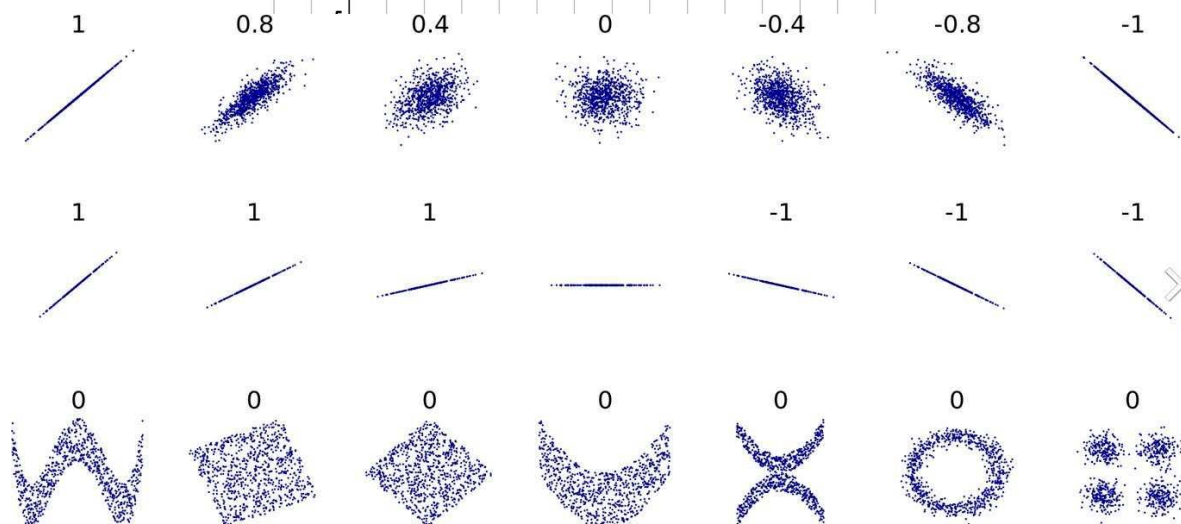
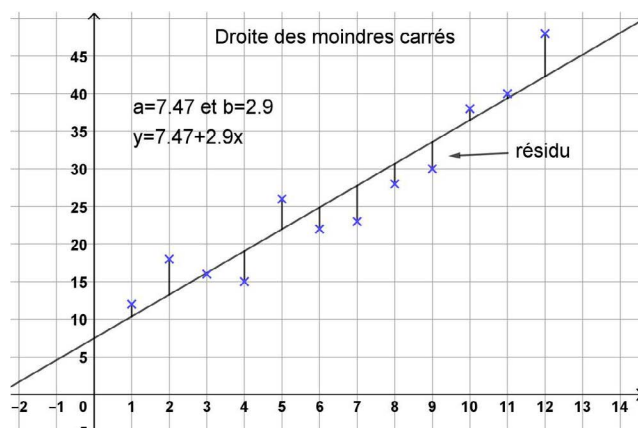
$y = a + bt$ with a and b which minimise the sum of squares:

$$\sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - (a + bt_i))^2$$

This straight line, which is considered to be the only one like it, is called the least squares regression line.

The idea is to determine a straight line which minimises the summed measurement of a range between the points of the scatter graph and the points with the same abscissa on this line.

The smaller the measurement, the closer to all the points of the scatter graph will be the straight line and the better the fit.



Source : https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pearson_product-moment_correlation_coefficient

We do not intend to study the minimisation of the range in this activity.

We call real number r the "linear correlation coefficient", defined by: $r = \frac{\sigma_{t,y}}{\sigma_t \sigma_y}$

With $\sigma_{t,y} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (t_i - \bar{t})(y_i - \bar{y})$, $\sigma_t = \sqrt{\left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (t_i - \bar{t})^2\right)}$

$$\sigma_y = \sqrt{\left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \bar{y})^2\right)}$$

\bar{t} and \bar{y} represent the average of t_i and y_i , $\bar{x} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n t_i$ And $\bar{y} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n y_i$

The coefficient will reveal whether the fit is relevant or not, and give information on the scatter graph according to the value of r :

We will use the following numerical criteria using r^2 :

- if $0,75 \leq r^2 \leq 1$ then there is a good linear correlation between Y and t
- if $0,25 \leq r^2 \leq 0,75$ then there is a weak linear correlation between Y and t
- if $0 \leq r^2 \leq 0,25$ then there is a poor linear correlation between Y and t

4) Calculate coefficient r with the data temperature at a depth of 5cm.

(Caution: the Y coordinates correspond to the temperature values, T)

We are going to see whether such a straight line exists during the cooling process, which in our case took between 35 min and 60 min.

Complete the spreadsheet in order to determine the value of r and r^2 :

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
1					$t_i - \bar{t}$	$T_i - \bar{T}$	$(t_i - \bar{t})^2$	$(T_i - \bar{T})^2$	$(t_i - \bar{t})(T_i - \bar{T})$	$\sigma(t,T)$	$\sigma(t)$	$\sigma(T)$	Coefficient de corrélation r	Valeur de r^2
2	temps En min	Prof 5 cm en °C												
3			Calcul de la moyenne \bar{t} des temps t											
4	0	23,8												
5	1	23,8												
6	2	27,1	Calcul de la moyenne \bar{T} des températures T											
7	3	29												

If the fit is relevant, we continue...

5) If the fit is relevant, the linear regression line $y = a + bt$ can be found by calculating numbers a and b with the formula:

$$b = \frac{\sigma_{t,y}}{\sigma_t^2} \quad \text{and} \quad a = \bar{y} - b\bar{t}$$

Calculate the numbers a and b and the equation of the linear regression line fitting this scatter graph.

The existence of such a relationship between time t and temperature T at each point in time reveals the existence of thermal conductivity proper to its environment, here the foam football.

Continuation:

Let us pool the results found by each group in charge of the study for a particular depth.

We will highlight a relationship between time and heat exchange between two heat sensors.

Second study: Using Python software to determine a relationship between time t and temperature T .

We are going to study the thermal probe database for a depth of 5 cm.

We are looking for a possible relationship between time t and temperature T with the Python software and we will limit ourselves to studying linear fit.

- 1) Run the **Pyzo** software and **copy** files **Temps.csv** and **Temperature.csv** to the directory where the Python program is saved.
- 2) The following code is used to transform the csv file into a list under Python.

```

1 import csv
2
3     # Les fichiers csv doivent être stockés dans le même repertoire que les fichiers python sauvegardés
4
5     # Code pour convertir le fichier Temps.csv en fichier utilisable par Python à fournir aux élèves
6
7 with open("Temps.csv") as f:
8     Temps = list(csv.reader(f))
9 var_list = []
10 list_tot = []
11 for i in range(0, len(Temps)):
12     var_list = Temps[i]
13     var_list = list(map(int, var_list))
14     list_tot = list_tot + var_list
15 Temps = list_tot
16
17     # Code pour convertir le fichier Temperature.csv en fichier utilisable par Python à fournir aux élèves
18
19 with open("Temperature.csv") as f:
20     Temperature = list(csv.reader(f))
21 var_list = []
22 list_tot = []
23 for i in range(0, len(Temperature)):
24     var_list = Temperature[i]
25     var_list = list(map(float, var_list))
26     list_tot = list_tot + var_list
27 Temperature = list_tot
28
29 from math import sqrt

```

The study of Python functions Map and Open is not the subject of this activity.

The time database is stored in the list "**Temps**" (**Time**).

The temperature database is stored in the list "**Temperature**".

We want to edit a program giving:

- correlation coefficient r for the range of time starting at n min and ending at 60 min (n corresponds to the time the cooling regime is reached)
- coefficients a and b of the regression line being sought if the fit is relevant

To do this, we have to determine all the elements necessary for these calculations.

(The calculation formulas are recalled on the last page)

After copying the previous code into the program, proceed as follows:

```
def equation_moindre_carre(n):
```

- 3) a) Complete this program to calculate the average:

- of time \bar{t} noted "moyenne_t"

- of temperature \bar{T} noted "moyenne_T"

- Complete this program to obtain a list giving values $t_i - \bar{t}$ noted "ecart_t"
- Complete this program to obtain a list giving values $T_i - \bar{T}$ noted "ecart_T"
- Complete this program to obtain a list giving values $(t_i - \bar{t})^2$ noted "carre_ecart_t"
- Complete this program to obtain a list giving values $(T_i - \bar{T})^2$ noted "carre_ecart_T"
- Complete this program to calculate $\sigma_{t,T}$ noted "Sigma_t_T"
- Complete this program to calculate σ_t noted "Sigma_t"
- Complete this program to calculate σ_T noted "Sigma_T"
- Complete this program to calculate the value of r when $n=41$.
Is the fit relevant?

4) Determination of the equation for the least squares regression line:

- Complete this program to calculate value a .
- Complete this program to calculate value b .
- Complete your program so that it displays the equation for this line.

Formula:

$$\bar{x} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n t_i \quad \bar{y} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n y_i \quad \sigma_t = \sqrt{\left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (t_i - \bar{t})^2\right)} \quad \sigma_y = \sqrt{\left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \bar{y})^2\right)}$$

$$\sigma_{t,y} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (t_i - \bar{t})(y_i - \bar{y}) \quad r = \frac{\sigma_{t,y}}{\sigma_t \sigma_y}$$

The equation of the linear regression line is: $y = a + bt$ with: $b = \frac{\sigma_{t,y}}{\sigma_t^2}$ and $a = \bar{y} - b\bar{t}$

The following numerical criteria will be used using r^2 :

- if $0,75 \leq r^2 \leq 1$ then there is a good linear correlation between Y and t
- if $0,25 \leq r^2 \leq 0,75$ then there is a weak linear correlation between Y and t
- if $0 \leq r^2 \leq 0,25$ then there is a poor linear correlation between Y and t

11. Discussion of the results and conclusions

We have just shown that rocky planets dissipate their internal heat up to and through the surface, which leads to their cooling.

Scientists have proposed models showing how Earth's internal heat can be dissipated by convection, thermal conduction, volcanism, plate tectonics, etc. On Mars, heat dissipation is due largely to significant volcanism and probably more gradually by "convection".

We will explore these processes in the following activities (2, 3 and 4).



Heat flow measurement

1. Problem : What mechanisms cause the internal heat dissipation of Mars and Earth?

Hypothesis: It is hypothesised that for a solid and rigid planet, heat is transferred to the surface by thermal conduction.

2. Age of students: 14 -17 years

3. Objective:

To Understand the phenomenon of thermal conduction.

4. Primary subjects:

Mathematics – Physics – Earth Sciences.

5. Additional subjects:

Computer Science (Arduino)

6. Time required : 2hrs

7. Key terms :

Geothermal gradient, heat flow, heat dissipation, conductivity.

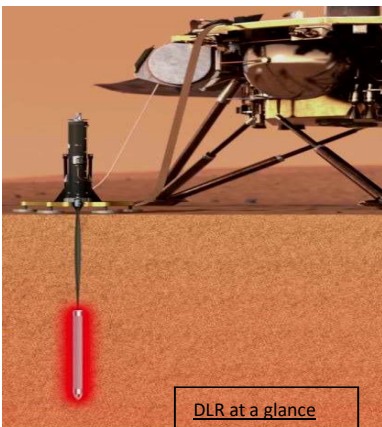
8. Background :

On Earth, the temperature gradient is obtained by directly measuring the temperature at different depths in boreholes or mine shafts. This is what the InSight mission to Mars will do with its Heat flow and Physical Properties Package, an instrument known as HP3.

Once this gradient is known and the thermal conductivity of the underlying rocks is determined, scientists can deduce the heat flow at a point on the surface.

To determine the thermal conductivity of rocks, they are sampled in wells and measured in the laboratory.

On Mars, the heat flow will be measured by HP3, also known as the "mole":



Every 50 cm, the probe emits a hot pulse and its sensors monitor changes in this thermal pulse over time.

If the crust material is a good heat conductor, such as metal, the pulse will quickly disappear.

If it is a bad conductor, like glass, the pulse will cool down slowly. This tells scientists how quickly the temperature increases with depth and how heat circulates inside Mars.

The heat wave emanating from the mole's heating sheath will spread through the Martian soil, allowing scientists to determine the thermal conductivity of the regolith. Measurements should be accurate, even if the soil is not very conductive. The daily attenuation of the daytime temperature wave will provide HP3 with another way to characterise the ground's thermal conductivity.

9. Materials :

<u>Modelling the thermal conductivity of a rock:</u>	<u>Modelling with temperature sensors like HP3:</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Basalt rock sample - Paraffin pellet - Flat heater 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 bars of rock (basalt - granite) - Heat gun. - T° Sensors - Arduino and PC

10. Procedures :

Modelling the thermal conductivity of a rock :



- Attach a sample of rock to the support (basalt, granite...)
- Place paraffin pellets (3 to 5 depending on the length of the rock sample) on the rock, spacing them about 1.5 cm apart
- Light the candle and adjust the height so that the free end of the rock is over the flame.
- Observe.

Result:

The pellet just above the candle melts first and then the other pellets melt successively.

Modelling with temperature sensors like HP3:



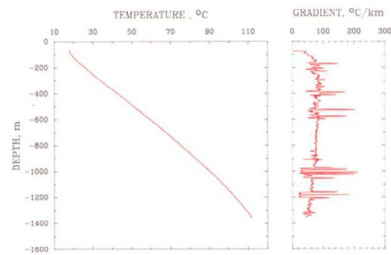
On the screen, we can follow the temperature increase for each sensor and see the heat propagate from one side of the rock to the other without moving any material.

We observe heat propagation from one side to another without any displacement of material. This heat transfer depends on the thermal conductivity of the material passed through.

Type of material	Thermal conductivity (W/m/K)
Basalt	2.5
Granite	2.7
Peridotite	4.2 to 5.8
Limestone	1.7 to 3.3
Silver	420
Water	6

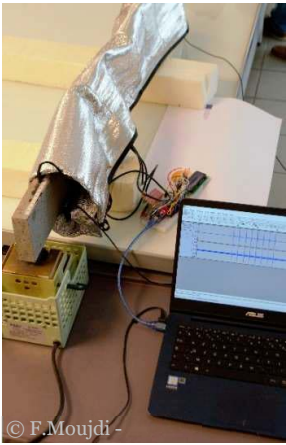
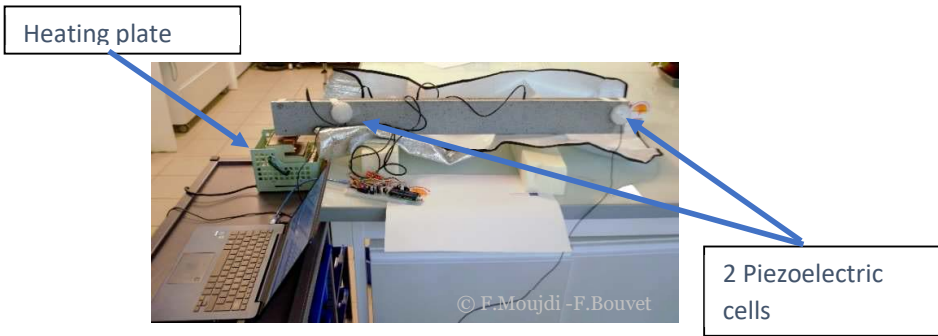
Fourier's law:

$$q = -K \frac{dT}{dz}$$



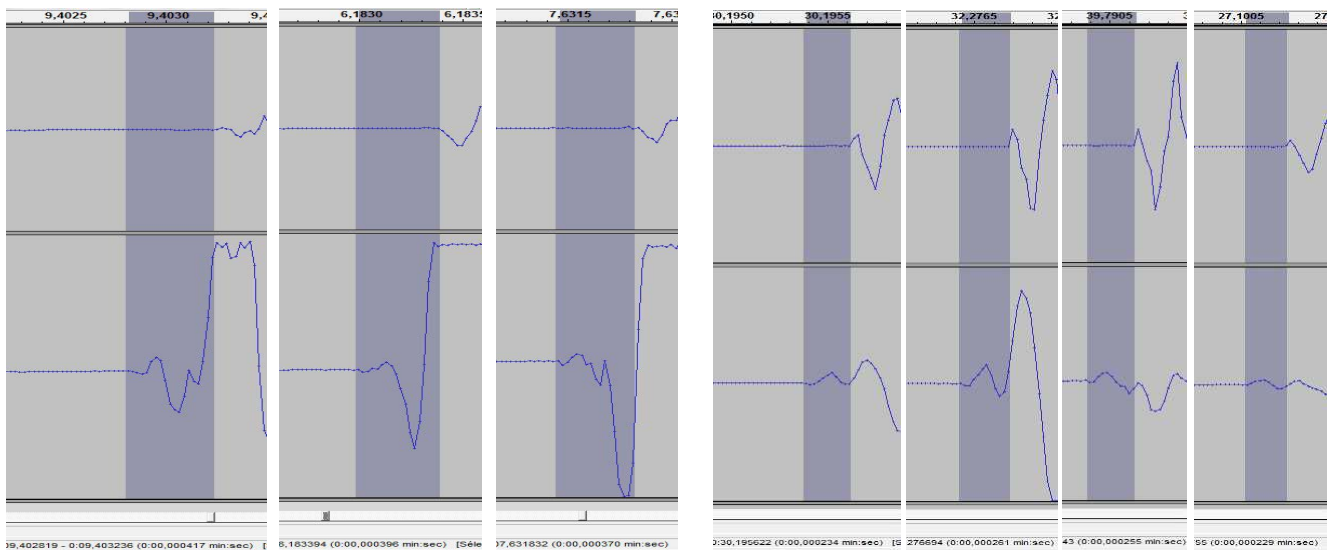
We know the conductivity of rocks studied in the laboratory. Once the thermal gradient measured on Mars is known, geophysicists will be able to deduce the heat flow, i.e. the amount of (thermal) energy that passes through a unit of surface per unit of time (unit = J/s/m² or W/m²). Fourier's law explains that heat flow is the opposite of the product of the thermal conductivity of rocks by the temperature gradient.

Modelling with temperature sensors such and 2 piezoelectric cells :



Ambient temperature in the rock : 18,5°C

T1= 63,13 °C, T2 = 22.81°C, et T3= 20,38°C



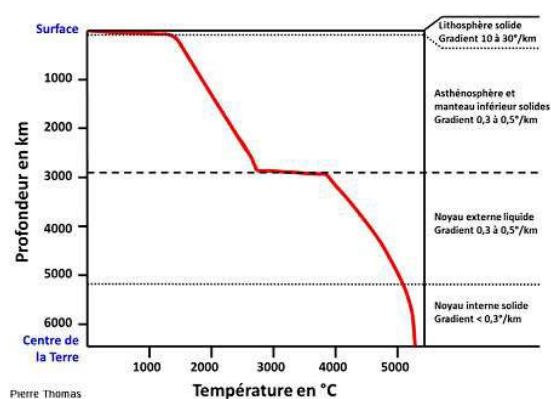
The propagation velocity of the seismic waves can be calculated in these two assemblies. The influence of temperature on wave propagation and the characteristics of the rock traversed can be determined.

11. Discussion of the results and conclusions

On Earth, internal heat is evacuated by **conduction** near the surface. But deeper down, another process known as **convection** explains heat transfer.

Using seismological data, combined with contributions from laboratory studies on the physical characteristics of terrestrial minerals subjected to high pressure and high temperature (diamond anvil cell studies), scientists have modelled the evolution of temperature versus depth.

Evolution of the Earth's internal temperature as a function of depth:



Droits réservés - © 2014 Pierre Thomas

This is what the scientists of the InSight mission are trying to do.

13. Follow-up activities

Note the temperature data from the HP3 instrument and compare it with terrestrial data to determine the type of rock that constitutes the depths of Mars.

14. Explore More (additional resources for teachers)

- https://www.seis-insight.eu/fr/?option=com_content&view=article&id=175:les-autres-instruments&catid=54:la-mission-insight&lang=fr-FR

- <http://planet-terre.ens-lyon.fr/article/chaleur-Terre-geothermie.xml>

- The Red Planet: "Histoire d'un autre monde" Belin – François Forget, François Costard, Philippe Lognonné



Magnetic Field

1. Problem:

What is the mechanism behind the rapid dissipation of Mars' internal heat from the Earth ?

Hypothesis: the disappearance of Mars' magnetic field could explain its much faster heat loss than that of the planet Earth.

2. Age of students: 15 -17 years

3. Objective:

Show how an electric field can create a magnetic field and power it. and Show the role of the magnetic field of a rocky planet (earth shield).

4. Primary subjects:

Mathematics – Physics – Earth Sciences.

5. Additional subjects:

Computer science: satellite image processing with the free QGis software

6. Time required: 2hrs

7. Key terms:

Magnetic field – Electric field.

8. Background:

The magnetic field of a telluric planet is created by movements in its iron core, which is both fluid and a good conductor of electricity. Scientists hypothesise that convection within the liquid core generates an electric current which, in turn, produces a magnetic field: this is known as the "dynamo" effect.

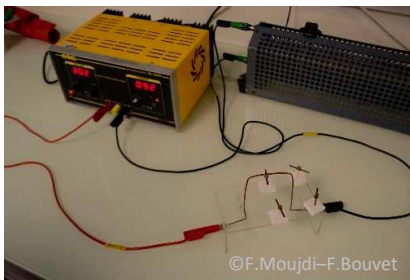
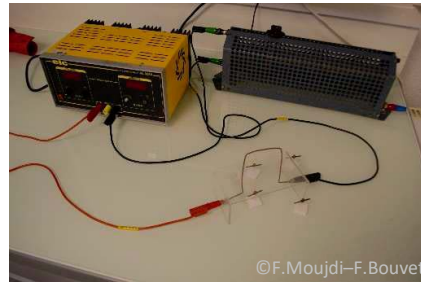
9. Materials:

Magnetic field modelling:	Remanent magnetic field modeling:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A power supply - Copper wire - A piece of plexiglass (about 10 cm x 10 cm) - 4 small compasses - Iron filings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Basalt sample - Compass - 1 small compass

10. Procedures:

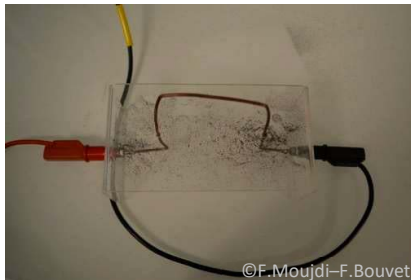
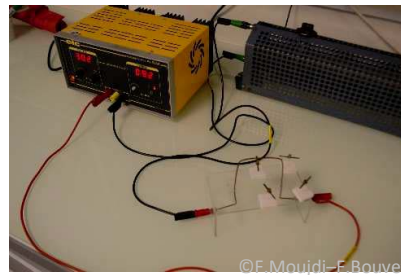
Magnetic field modelling:

No electric current; the compass needles are aligned with the Earth's magnetic field.



The electric current creates a magnetic field around the wire.

When the direction of the current is reversed, the magnetic field changes direction.



When the operation is repeated with the iron filings, they form a pattern of concentric circles around the wire.

On Mars, just after accretion (4.45 billion years ago), the planet had a liquid core hot enough for convection movements to generate a magnetic field like on Earth.

Mars Global Surveyor has detected the remains of an old magnetic field. Like the Earth, Mars has a magnetic crust producing strong magnetic anomalies.

Earth	Mars
<p>The magnetic field's strength varies from 20 μT at the magnetic equator to 70 μT at the magnetic poles (Langlais et al.[2010]).</p> <p>This magnetic field has been present since 4.5 Ma. It is variable over time and is known to have undergone polarity reversals.</p> <div data-bbox="204 564 715 763" style="text-align: center;"> </div> <p>On Earth, lava magnets in the opposite direction to the current magnetic field have been discovered, indicating that the Earth's magnetic field has already undergone several polarity inversions in the past.</p>	<p>The MGS spacecraft identified traces of remanent magnetization at the surface and up to 400 km above and an equatorial surface field ranging from 20 to 65 nT (Langlais et al.[2010]). It produced the first complete map of the global crustal magnetic field of Mars.</p> <div data-bbox="804 510 1348 750" style="text-align: center;"> </div> <p>FIGURE 1.11 – Composante radiale du champ magnétique crustal de Mars (Langlais et al. [2010]).</p> <p>These traces of magnetization indicate the presence of a magnetic field. In addition, the orientation of these magnets shows that the magnetic field has lasted long enough to have undergone an inversion of the magnetic poles.</p> <p>The most magnetized regions are concentrated in the former southern highlands, indicating that the magnetic field was present for about 500 million years (Stevenson[2001]).</p>

11. Discussion of the results and conclusions

These results allow us to understand the genesis of a telluric planet's magnetic field. Scientists assume that convection movements within the liquid core (the heat from the iron core rises until it reaches the boundary with the mantle, cools on contact with it, drops back into the core and heats up, etc.) generate an electric current which in turn produces a magnetic field: this is the dynamo effect.

Accidentally created magnetic microfields in the environment produce the electric current which, in turn, produces a global magnetic field.

The absence of a magnetic field maintained by an internal dynamo that has not worked for a long time and the absence of a thick atmosphere have made our neighbour a cold and arid world whose surface is subjected to the harmful bombardment of cosmic rays.

13. Follow-up activities

The InSight mission has embarked an InSight Fluxgate magnetometer (IFG), which will be the first magnetometer to record magnetic data directly from the Martian surface. It is sensitive to 0.1 nano-Tesla. Once the data have been received, we may observe the remnants of a former magnetic field on Mars and compare them to the data from other missions.

14. Explore More (additional resources for teachers)

- "Terre à cœur ouvert" Pour la Science No. 67 April – June 2010

- Mars "Histoire d'un autre monde" Belin – François Forget, François Costard, Philippe Lognonné



Convection movement in the mantle

1. Problem :

What are the mechanisms that cause the internal heat dissipation of Mars and Earth?

Hypothesis: It is assumed that the transport and evacuation of heat is carried out by convection.

2. Age of students 14 -17 years

3. Objectives:

Explain the different types of convection that cause heat dissipation in a rocky planet

4. Primary subjects

Mathematics – Physics – Earth Sciences.

5. Additional subjects

Computer science: Arduino code

6. Time required _2hrs

7. Key terms:

Convection



8. Background:

If a body is cooled from below and heated from above, the dense areas will be at the bottom and the less dense areas at the top. This is a stable situation that will not generate any movement. If, on the other hand, a body is heated from below and cooled from above, the dense areas will be at the top, and the less dense areas at the bottom. The cold material at the top will tend to sink and the warm, slightly less dense material at the bottom will tend to rise. This process is known as thermal convection.

9. Materials

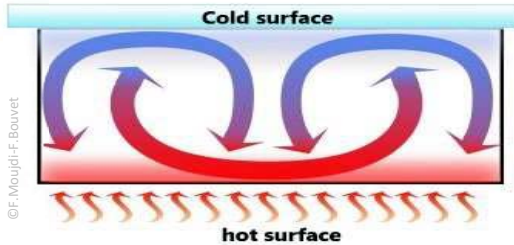
Single-layer convection modelling	Two-layer convection modelling
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Beaker - Oil - Chalk - Colouring agent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Beaker - Oil - Coloured water

10. Procedures

Single-layer convection modelling	Two-layer convection modelling
<p>The bottom of the heated container is hotter than the oil. The heat is transmitted to the oil, which gradually heats up.</p> <p>As soon as it is a little warmer and less dense than the material above, it starts to rise. As it rises, it no longer receives heat, so its temperature remains almost constant. When it reaches the top, it loses some of its heat, and sinks to the bottom without cooling down during the descent.</p> 	<p>If two immiscible fluids are put in a container (water at the bottom, and oil above), and heated from below, the water is subject to convection, heating the oil from below. The oil then also enters the convection process.</p> <p>This is referred to as "two-stage convection".</p> 

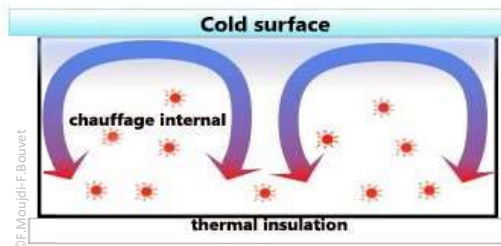
11. Discussion of the results and conclusions

Convection can take place in three possible cases:

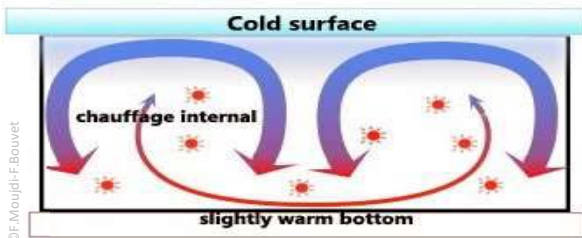


Red hot spots are produced in the material. Only the cold layer dives because it is denser.

The dense, cold layer at the top sinks while the warmer layer rises. Between the two moving layers, the material moves little and keeps a constant



This case models the mantle where the surface is slightly heated. The core releases little heat compared to the mantle's radioactivity, which releases more heat



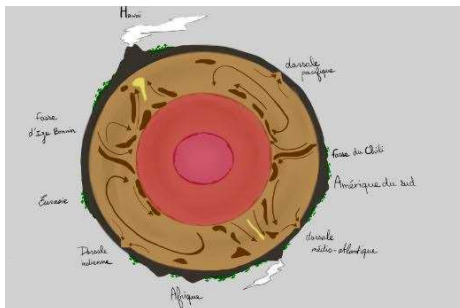
For the first 2 billion years, there was major convection in the Martian mantle, as evidenced by the planet's giant volcanoes.

Gradually, however, the most radioactive elements disappeared from the mantle, either by disintegration or because they rose into the crust with the lava.

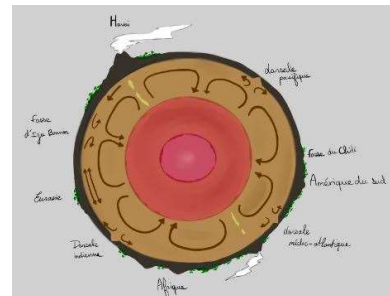
The convection didn't stop completely, though. The crust that trapped the radioactive elements now acts as a blanket heating up the mantle. By surrounding itself with an increasingly thick shell, Mars has confined its mantle under a layer of rigid, insulating materials known as the lithosphere. Mars probably still has a very hot mantle and a liquid core. The InSight mission will provide us with more information about the structure of Mars.

On Earth, nearly 40% of heat production has been concentrated in the continental crust. Scientists are divided between two models of convection:

1 convection layer :



2 convection layers :



Convection in the mantle (Silver, Carlson, Nicolas) La planète Terre Ophrys

12. Explore More (additional resources for teachers)

- "Terre à cœur ouvert" Pour la Science No. 67 April – June 2010
- Mars "Histoire d'un autre monde" Belin – François Forget, François Costard, Philippe Lognonné



How big is our Solar System

1. Introduction & Pb

The distances among the different planets of our Solar System are so enormous that for many students it's very difficult to compare them with the daily life distances they are used to. This activity is intended to improve the awareness of the students about the spatial relationships among the different planets in the Solar System, focusing especially in Mars and the Earth. Students will use daily life objects; this allows them to make ratio calculations. Before starting the activity, it could be useful if the students have already done the activity "Take a selfie with Mars". So, they can use the planets they have created themselves according to a fixed scale.

2. Age of students 12 - 16 years

3. Objectives

Students can:

- calculate the relative distances among the planets of the Solar System
- understand how big these distances are
- calculate distances in relation to the scale of the planets
- develop communication abilities
- (optional) use TIC to produce a semiautomatic method to calculate the distances between the model of the planets

4. Primary subjects

Earth Science

Mathematics

5. Additional subjects

Physics

6. Time required

"45 minutes + 15 minutes preparing the models"

7. Key terms.

Earth, Mars, Jupiter, planet distances, scale measurements

8. Materials

- Measuring tape (40 - 200m aprox.)
- Computer with the Google Earth™ software or similar that allows to measure distances

- Cardboards or (alternatively) balloons
- Scissors, ruler, pencil
- (optional): computer with a spreadsheet software

9. Background

Using models is a good strategy to improve the ability of students to be aware of absolute and relative distances among planets. Relating models made of daily materials (balloons) with the real world (the planets) is a bridging activity.

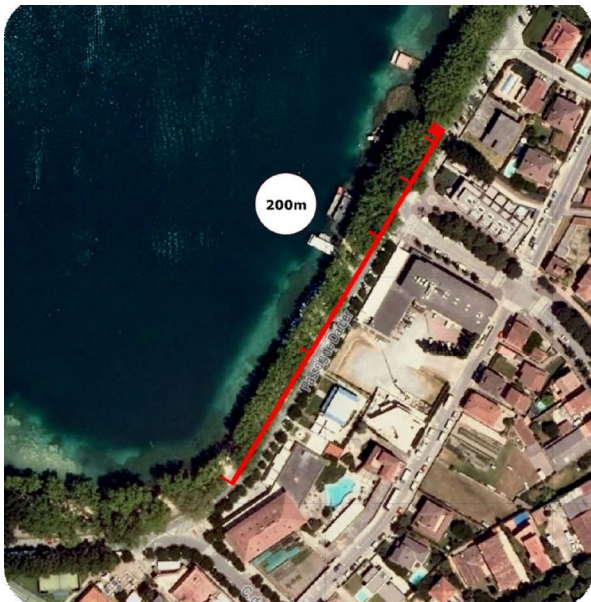
The table below shows the measurements to scale that the students may need to complete the activity:

	average orbit distance (km)	equatorial circumference (km)
Mercury	57909227	15329
Venus	108209475	38024
Earth	149598262	40030,2
Mars	227943824	21296,9
Jupiter	778340821	439263,8
Saturn	1426666422	365882,4
Uranus	2870658186	159354,1
Neptune	4498396441	154704,6
Sun		4370005,6

Data from <https://solarsystem.nasa.gov/>

10. Procedures

NOTE: The distances between planets are very big, take it into account to make a model in real scale.



OPTION A : (a combination with Take a selfie with Mars)


If the students have pairs of planets in real scale which they have done with balloons. Let them to calculate the real distance between the pair of planets that they have made during the activity. If the distances and spaces in the school allow you to make previous made planets in the real distance, do it.

It is easy to work with internal planets. This is so because the distances between them are shorter than for external planets. For example: if the students take a 9cm of circumference as planet Earth and a 5cm of circumference as Mars, the real distance between them is 170m. On the other hand, if they use similar size external planets, the distance between them would have to be much higher. For example: with a 7cm of circumference as Uranus, and a 6,8 cm of circumference as Neptune, they would have to place them 700m apart one from the other.

OPTION B:

Using a school corridor of which you know its length (for example 40m) the sizes of the planets would be extremely small. In this case, you couldn't use the balloons model because of its extremely small size, You should use cards with a design of the planet to scale, Students should calculate it by hand or using an excel table. Students could make cards with the scale planet and some information about it. After this process, cards can be fixed on the corridor walls.

Students can work in groups to make the planet cards and explain their planet characteristics to other students.

Mercury	
Planet Profile	Facts About the Planet
Diameter: 4,879 km Mass: 3.29×10^{23} kg (0.06 Earths) Moons: None Orbit Distance: 57,909,227 km (0.39 AU) Orbit Period: 88 days Surface T°: -173 to 427°C First Record: 14th century BC	Mercury does not have any moons or rings. Mercury is the smallest planet. Mercury is the closest planet to the Sun. Your weight on Mercury would be 38% of your weight on Earth. A day on the surface of Mercury lasts 176 Earth days. A year on Mercury takes 88 Earth days. It's not known who discovered Mercury.
 <p>Source: NASA/Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory/Carnegie Institution of Washington</p>	Size of the planet in real scale of this solar system: Scaled diameter: X,XXmm

11. Discussion of the results and conclusions

Students understand the relative distances of the planets in the solar system. This gives them a better understanding of the solar system as a whole.

Cooperation and teamwork are also encouraged.

12. Follow up activities

If you want to try the option A of the procedures, you should do "Take a selfie with Mars" activity before. Nevertheless, these two activities are independent from each other

13. Explore More (additional resources for teachers)

<https://solarsystem.nasa.gov/planets/overview/>

<https://space-facts.com/planets/>

Atmospheric seismic noise

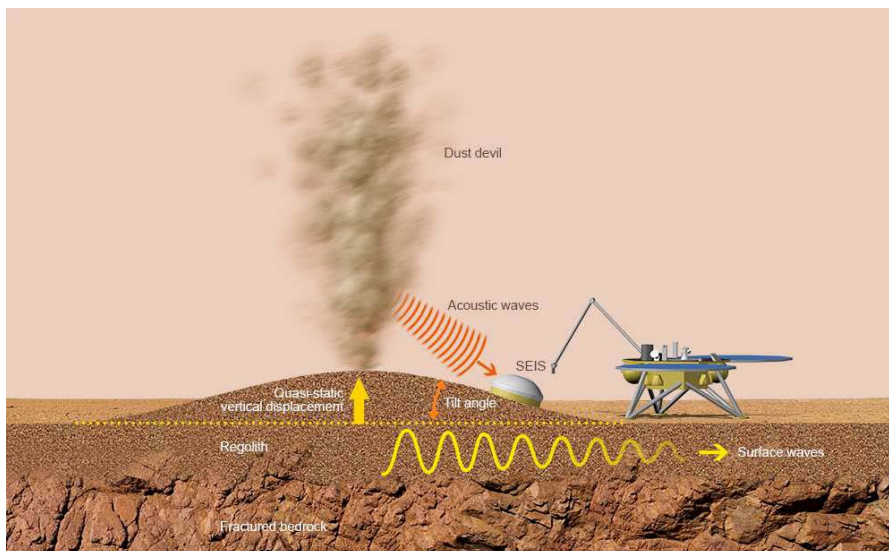
1. Introduction & Pb

The secondary source of atmospheric micro seismic noise is produced by local noise sources: the landing site is affected by gusts of wind or the oncoming of a dust whirlwind near the lander.

In both cases, Martian air exerts a force on the soil: upwards in case of a drop-in pressure, downwards in case of overpressure.

A 10 m dust whirlwind thus causes a drop in the pression on soil of the same proportion as that of a small car blown off the surface

Static deformation of the surface of the planet will have an impact on the seismometer and particularly on the pendulums that measure horizontal and vertical movement. Although soil has a downward movement, the dominant effect is that of lateral movement, that can be detected by SEIS sensors.



Simulation of ground deformation around the InSight lander (© IPGP/David Ducros)

2. Age of students 15 - 17 years old

3. Objectives

Let's determine if a simple drop in pressure can cause a soil deformation effect detectable by accelerometers, although this type of deformation isn't visible to the naked eye.

4. Primary subjects

Earth Science- physic

5. Additional subjects

Arduino

6. Time required 2H

7. Key terms.

Accelerometer - Seismogram - Propagation waves - Atmospheric movements.

8. Background

The Martian air, by constantly moving around the Martian globe, is able to excite the planet, and make it vibrate like a bell, at very specific frequencies.

Geophysicists call this phenomenon the "hum" of the planet, a kind of persistent hum, which only long-period sensitive seismometers like SEIS can hear.

Despite the fact that this haunting murmur can be considered as a parasitic background noise, it is of particular interest to geophysicists. Thanks to it, it will be possible to probe the surface layers of the Martian soil, at depths ranging from several tens of metres to several hundred kilometres (access to the mantle), even in the absence of earthquakes.

9. Materials

A soft elastic ball, such as a fitness ball of 250 cm in diameter

An Arduino type UNO

A MPU5060 accelerometer, a BME280 pressure sensor, connected to a predefined UNO

A PC with the PLX-DAQ-v2.11 file available

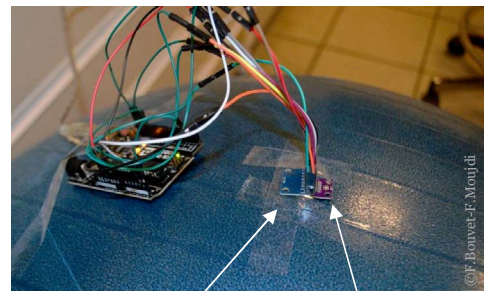
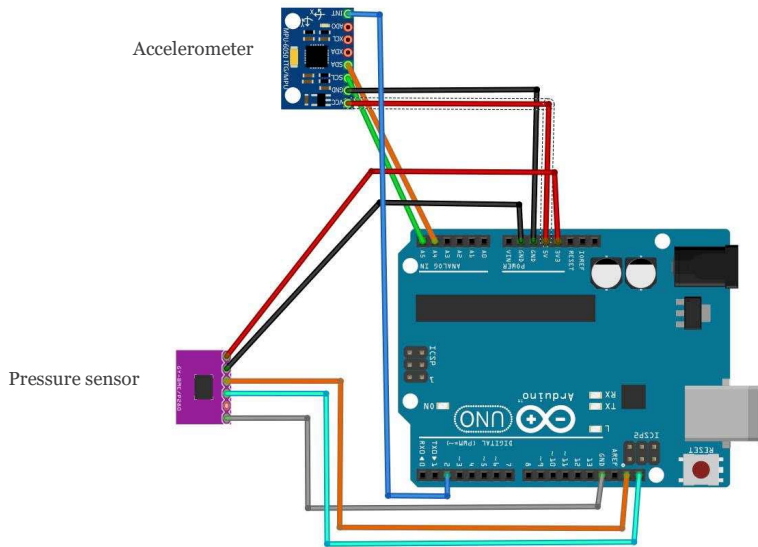
A 1600W hair dryer

10. Procedures

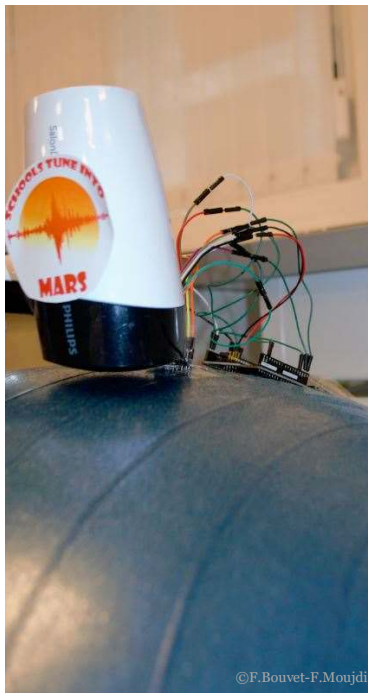
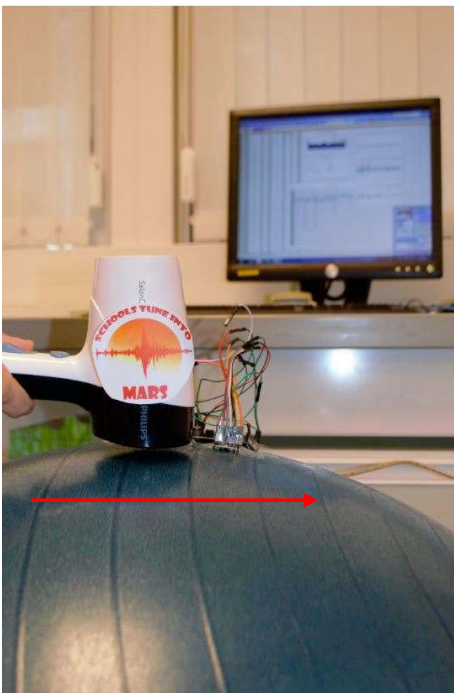
Place the fitness ball on the polystyrene bars in order to avoid any kind of contact with the soil

Firmly attach the accelerometer and the pressure sensor using adhesive tape

Hold the hair dryer's air outlet in a vertical position towards the fitness ball and blowing upwards without touching it.

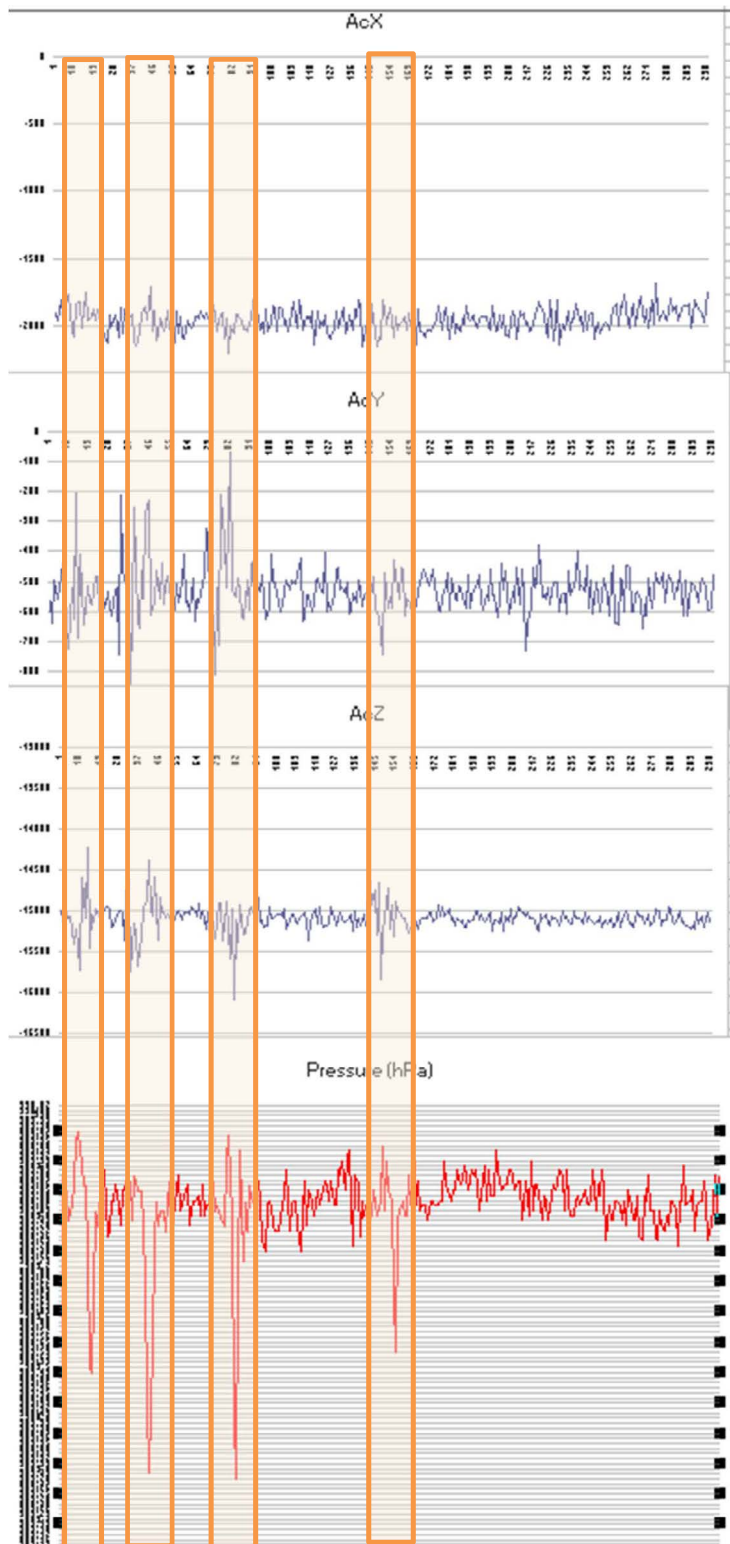


Accelerometer Pressure sensor



Move around the hair dryer without touching the fitness ball, but keep it close while maintaining a constant distance.

Obtained results:



Enclosed in boxes are the recordings of the successive passages of the hair dryer above the sensors.

We can observe a movement throughout the surface at low pressure.



This project is co-funded by the European Union

Primary aerosols and climatic impact on Earth

1. Introduction & Pb



In March 2018 a strange phenomenon takes place in Russia and on the whole Eastern Europe : Orange snow covers the ski slopes.

We can frequently see coloured snow layers in the French Alps during winter and so-called muddy rains to the delight of car wash workers.



In Marseille, the road, cars and buses are covered in sand.

– Maxppp

<https://www.francebleu.fr/infos/climat-environnement/la-provence-touchee-par-des-pluies-de-sable-1459761392>

A skier in Sochi, Russia.

<https://www.parismatch.com/Actu/Environnement/Pourquoi-il-est-tombe-de-la-neige-orange-en-Russie-1486670>

Let's try to explain the phenomena.

2. Age of students 15 – 17 years

3. Objectives

Using a fact of life and the study of a test sample, we will discover what a primary aerosol is and study its impact on the climate whether it is suspended in air or back on the Earth's surface.

First, we will try to determine the optical thickness of the particles in the test sample extracted with a photometer in order to determine their nature and therefore their impact on the climate.

We can then establish if major dispersals of particles have the potential to significantly influence Earth's climate.

4. Primary subjects

Physics – Earth Science – technology

5. Additional subjects Programming Arduino

6. Time required 2hrs

7. Key terms.

Aerosols, albedo, absorbance.

8. Materials

- Step 1

- A sample of damp dustfall, for this example particles in suspension collected from the orange snow in the Southern Alps.
- A Calitoo
- Two transparent containers
- A 12 V lamp placed in a holder
- A PC with Calitoo software installed

- Step 2

- A sample of damp dustfall, for this example particles in suspension collected from the orange snow in the Southern Alps.
- A digital light meter
- Two transparent containers
- A 12 V lamp placed in a holder

9. Background

The Calitoo is a photometer that determines the level of aerosols present in the atmosphere and characterizes their size distribution (smoke, polluting gases, ice crystals, dust).

The Calitoo measures the optical thickness of the atmosphere at different wavelengths: blue (465nm), green (540nm) and red (615nm).

Scientists define an aerosol as a suspension of particles in the atmosphere. These particles are made up of solid and/or liquid substances. Mineral or organic, composed of living matter (pollens...) or not, large or fine, suspended particles constitute an extremely heterogeneous set of pollutants whose size varies from a few tenths of nanometers to a hundred micrometers.

The albedo of the Earth-atmosphere system is the fraction of solar energy that is reflected back to space. Its value is between 0 and 1, and the more reflective a surface is, the higher its albedo. The elements that contribute most to the Earth's albedo are clouds, snow and ice surfaces and aerosols. For example, the albedo of fresh snow is 0.87, which means that 87% of the energy is reflected by this type of snow.

10. Procedures

- Setting up the Calitoo arrangement:





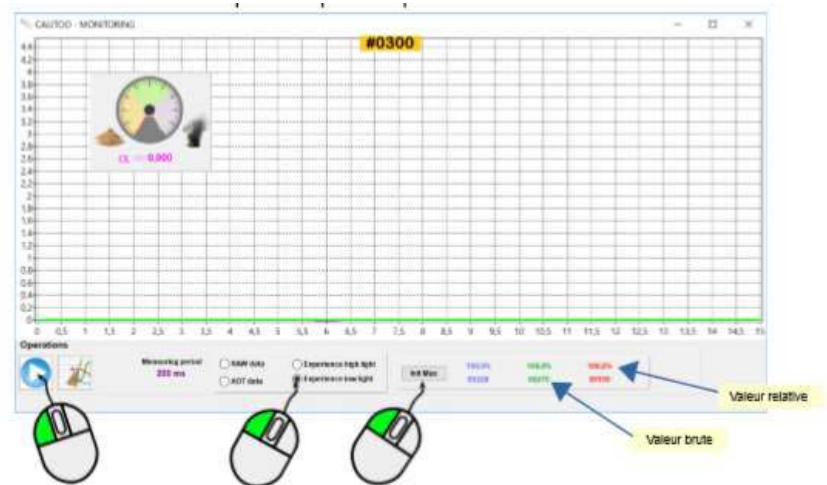
- Initialising the measurement functions

The initial step of the simulation is setting the base level. That is the equivalent of an aerosol-free atmosphere and hence we need to measure the luminous flux through a container filled with pure water.

In the monitoring module, select

- Low light experiment, then in order to start the measurements, click on the blue round icon in the bottom left corner.

Place the container filled with pure water and turn on the light. Click on [Init Max] button to start the program and set the base level.



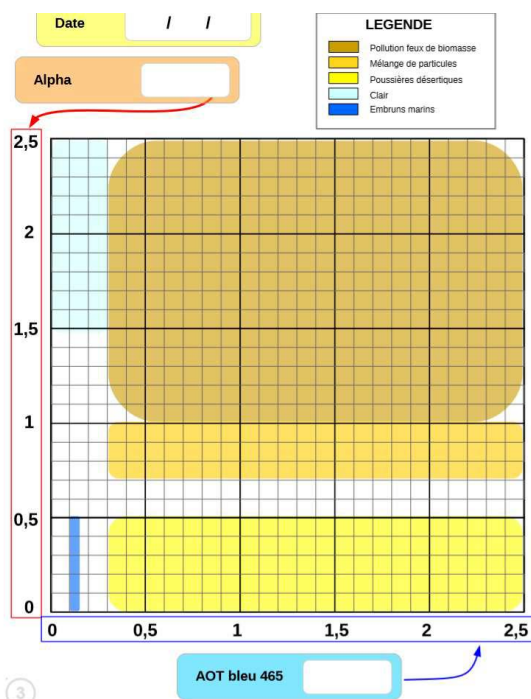
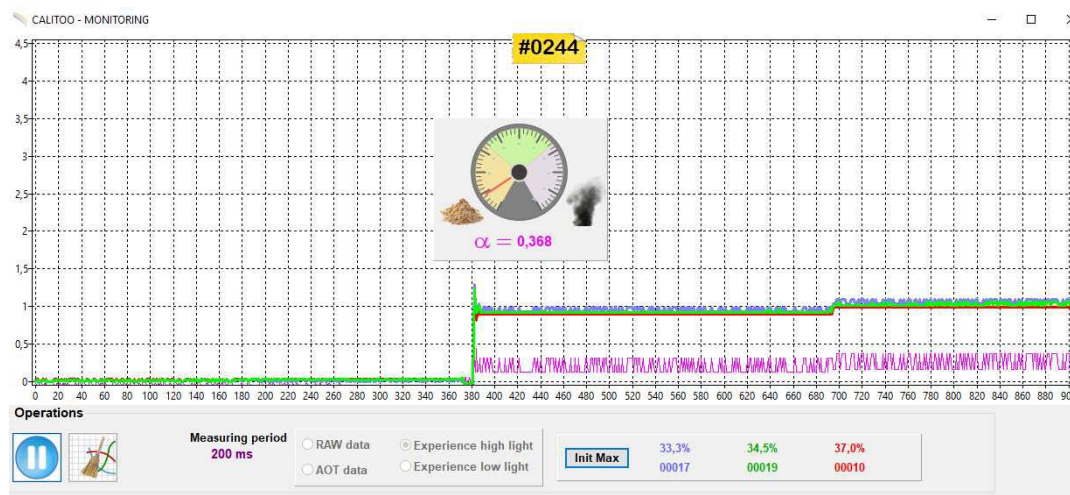
- Experiment using our sample of particles collected from orange snow.

Replace the pure water container by a container carrying the particles in suspension.

Outcome :

The blue, green and red curves are visually close.

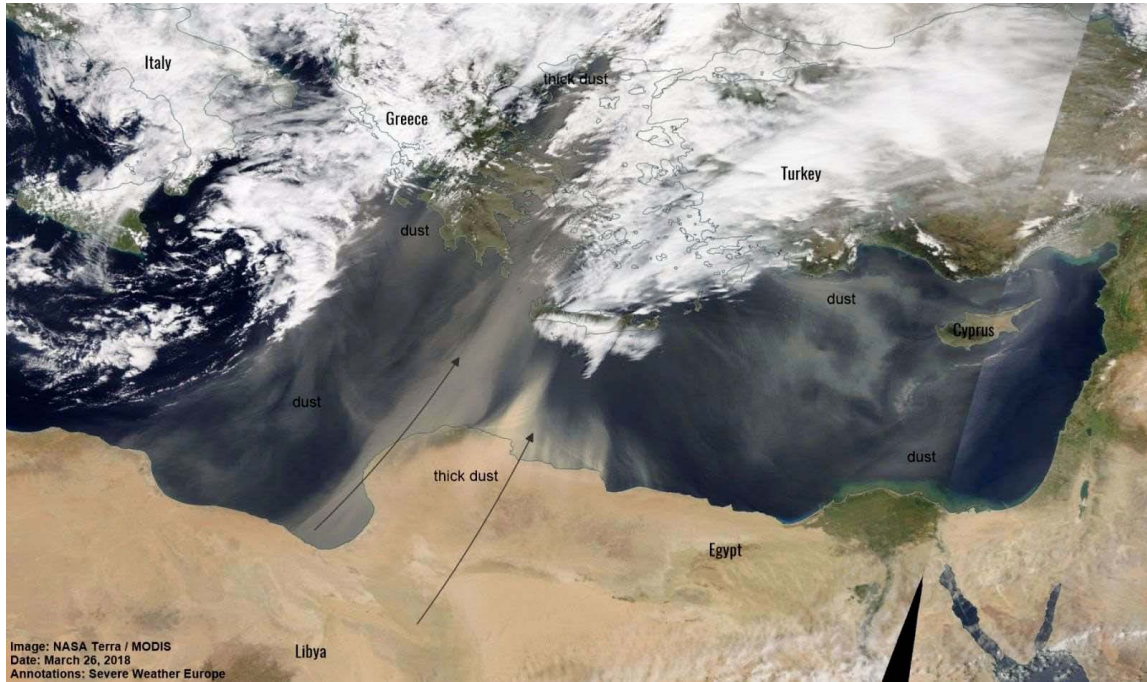
- The particle gauge indicator points to the mass of sand which shows detection of large particles.
- The Angström exponent (Alpha) is feeble, a clear sign of a preponderance of large particles.



We therefore suppose that these particles are particles of sand but our hypothesis must overlap with weather data.

http://www.calitoo.fr/uploads/documents/fr/usermanual_fr.pdf

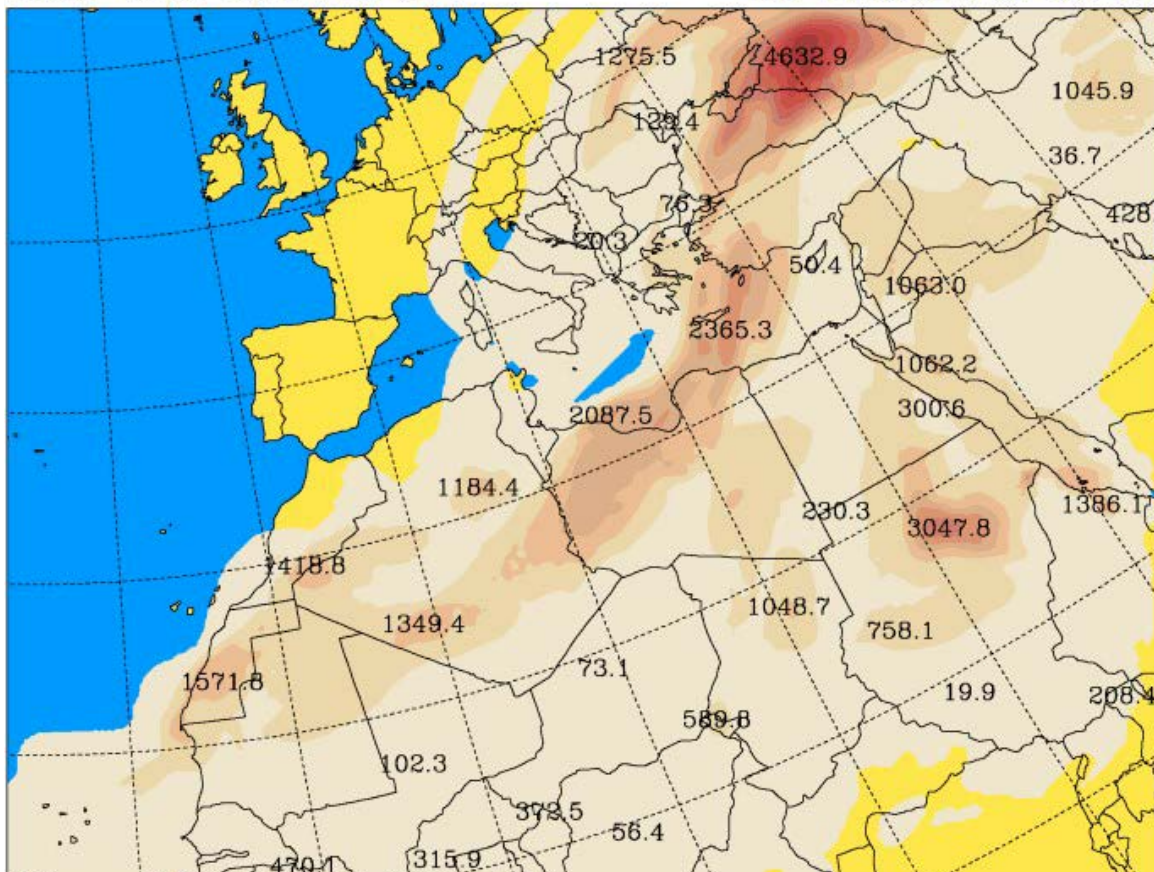
A weather map study and satellite images from 26 and 27/08/2018 data corresponding to snowfalls in Sotchi validate the hypothesis.

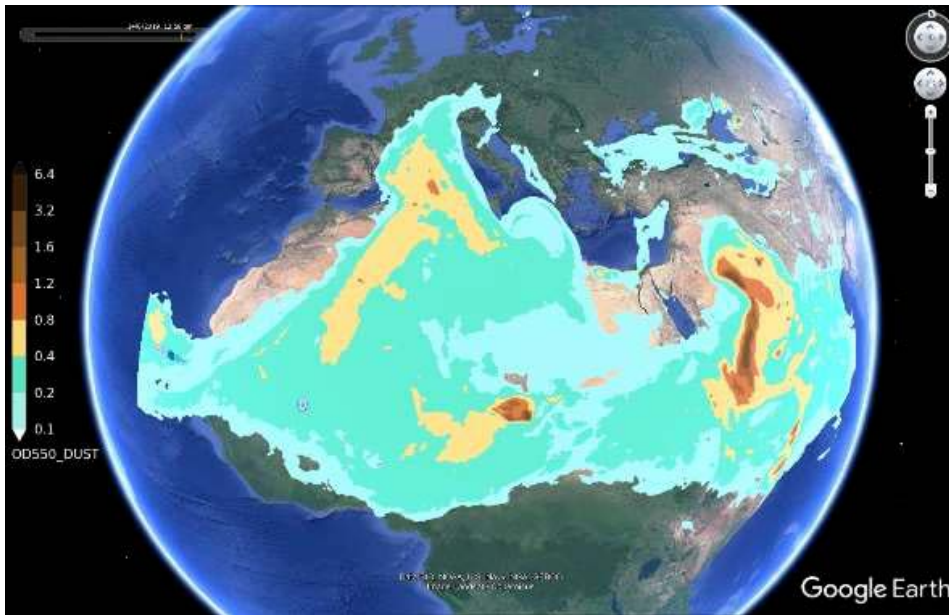


Nasa Terra / MODIS satellite image of the Mediterranean, March 26. Credit: Severe-weather.eu.

University of Athens (AM&WFG)
Total Dust Load (mgr/m^2)

SKIRON Forecast
Tue 27.03.18 at 00 UTC





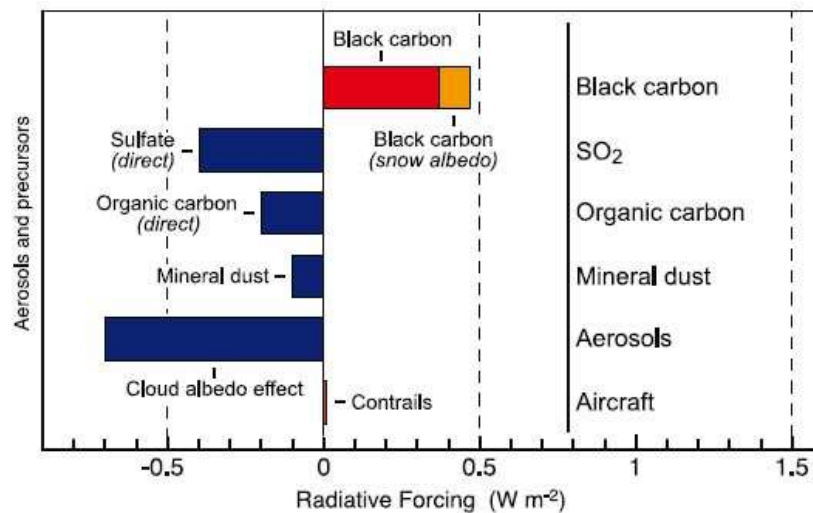
We can also observe that the South of France is frequently affected by desert dust outbreaks

<https://dust.aemet.es/forecast>

- What are the effects of these mineral particles on the climate ?

When the particles in the air are aerosols

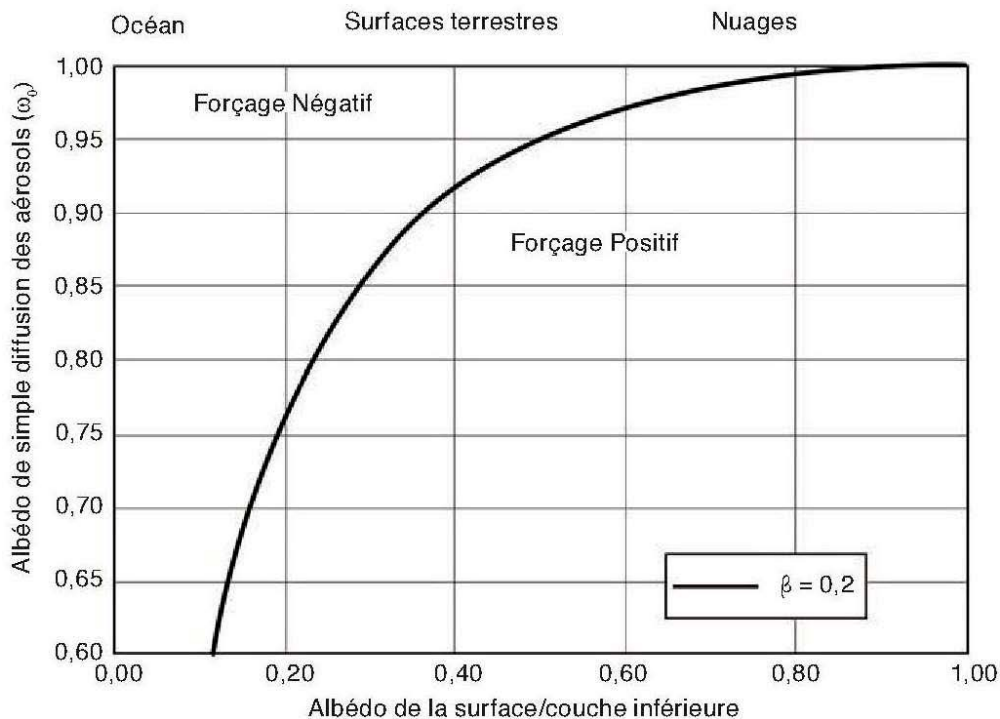
The assessment of the global impact of aerosols as a whole is easier and provides more consistent values than if we think of particles individually. Scientists try however to quantify the radiative forcing of each type of aerosols. For example, we have the following estimations for the mean radiative forcing of different aerosols classes :



Radiative forcing by different aerosol classes (source : *GIEC, 4ième rapport, chp. 2, 2007*).

It is indeed extremely difficult to establish a radiative impact of mineral dust particles as it was shown that a great deal of factors has an influence, such as cloud formation and also the altitude of the cloud ceiling and the altitude of the dust layer, the size of dust particles and their optical depth.
Radiative forcing by mineral dust aerosols: Sensitivity to key variables H. Liao J. H. Seinfeld

Moreover, the radiative impact of an aerosol depends on the nature of the underlying surface, for example "above dark surfaces such as the ocean, the aerosols whether absorbant or not will always cause an increase in the albedo and thus a negative forcing (cooling effect). For surfaces that are more reflective, like desert surfaces ($\rho_s = 0,5$), the aerosol's effect will be very significant for its absorptive capacity : a ω_0 albedo lower than 0,95 will suffice for creating an warming effect on the climate."

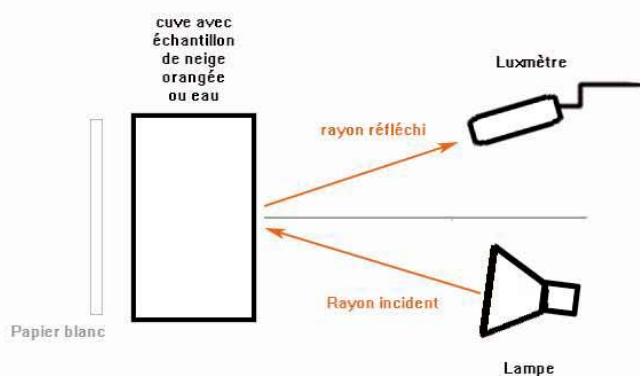


*Didier Tanré, Physicist,
 Research director at CNRS,
 LOA, Villeneuve d'Ascq.
<https://books.openedition.org/editions-cnrs/11354>*

- Let's see if our desert dust particles extracted from orange snow can modify the surface albedo locally.

The albedo of the Earth-atmosphere system is a fraction of the solar radiation reflected back into space.

We will hence measure the luminous intensity reflected by a white surface and then the luminous intensity reflected by a white surface covered by sand particles.





Outcome :

Be careful: As a luxmeter we used here a photoresistance mounted on an Arduino board, the measured value has no unit! This is a purely indicative value.

No sand particles: 10:51:13.092 -> Valeur luminosité = 916

With sand particles: 10:52:41.037 -> Valeur luminosité = 897

The amount of reflected light decreases with desert dust

The colour of the snow therefore reduces its albedo and temporarily promotes an increase in ground temperature and accelerates snowmelt.

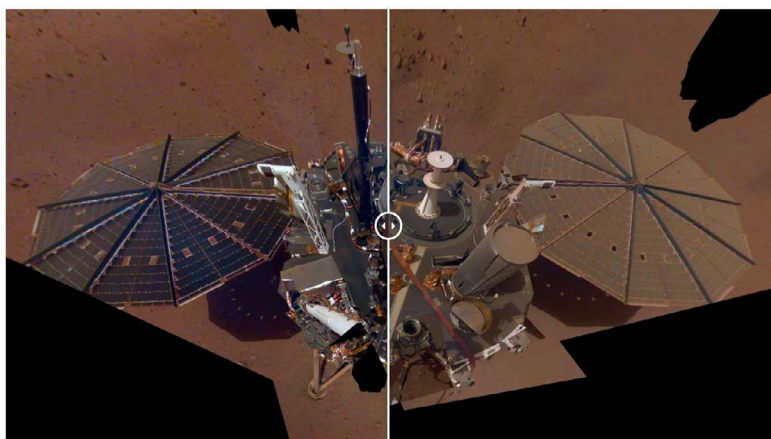


Primary aerosol and climatic impact on Mars

1. Introduction & Pb

We know that even natural aerosols can have an impact on the climate.

On Mars as on Earth mineral particles are suspended as shown by the selfies of insight.



We can see on these insight selfies that mineral dust has settled on the Lander. This can also be set in motion again by atmospheric turbulences such as dust devil as evidenced by sudden variations in the efficiency of solar panels.

Selfie d'Insight fait Dec. 6, 2018

NASA/JPL-Caltech

Selfie d'Insight fait May. 6, 2019

In the same way, satellite images confirm that there are large-scale phenomena in March involving the suspension of mineral particles in the atmosphere.

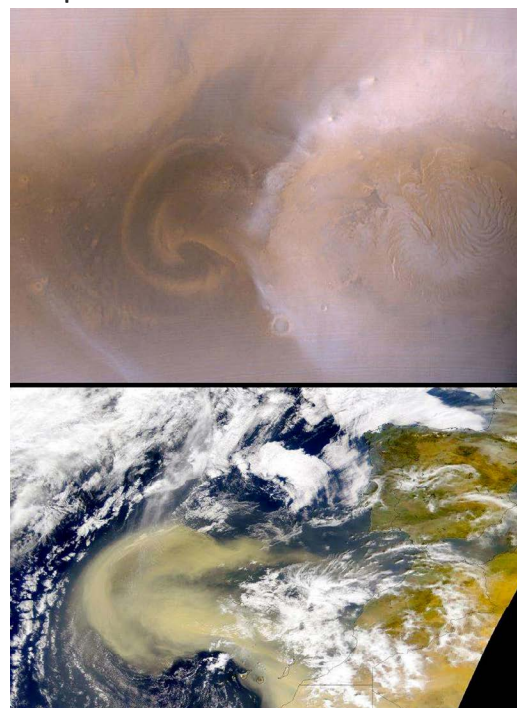
Pb: How can the transport of aerosols impact the climate of a planet?

In this picture, we compare a recent dust storm on Mars with a storm that occurred earlier this year on Earth.

The top image shows a dust storm from the North Martian Pole observed on August 29, 2000. The storm moves like a front, outward from a central "jet", and marginal "eddies" can be observed. In this image, it extends about 900 km from the seasonal ice cap of the North Pole. The area on the right side of the image of Mars includes the North Pole. The bottom image shows a ground dust storm on February 26, 2000. This storm extends about 1800 km (1100 mi) off the coast of northwestern Africa, near the Earth's equator.

Both images are displayed at the same scale; 4 km (2.5 mi) per pixel

<https://www.jpl.nasa.gov/spaceimages/details.php?id=PIA02807>



2. Age of students: 15 – 17 years

3. Objectives

Determine whether the transport of Martian mineral dust has an influence on the climate

4. Primary subjects

Physics – Earth Science

5. Additional subjects

6. Time required: 2h

7. Key terms.

Aerosols, albedo.

8. Materials

- Mesurim
- A luxmeter
- Two transparent polystyrene containers
- A 12 V lamp placed in a sleeve

9. Background

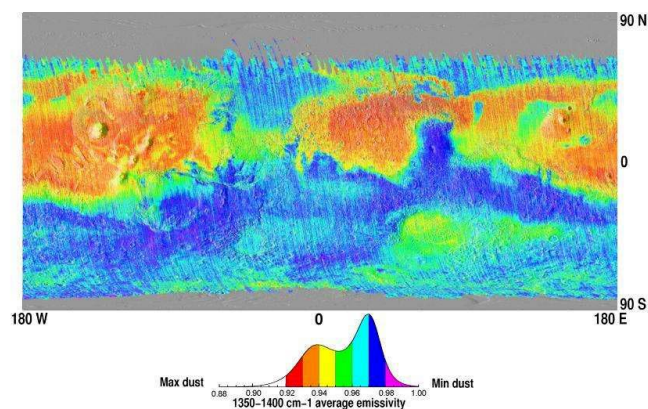
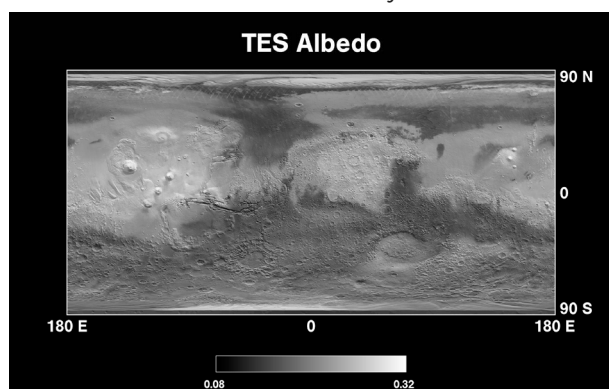
Scientists define an aerosol as a suspension of particles in the atmosphere. These particles are made up of solid and/or liquid substances. Mineral or organic, composed of living matter (pollens...) or not, large or fine, suspended particles constitute an extremely heterogeneous set of pollutants whose size varies from a few tenths of nanometers to a hundred micrometers.

The radiative impact of an aerosol will depend on the nature of the underlying surface.

10. Procedures

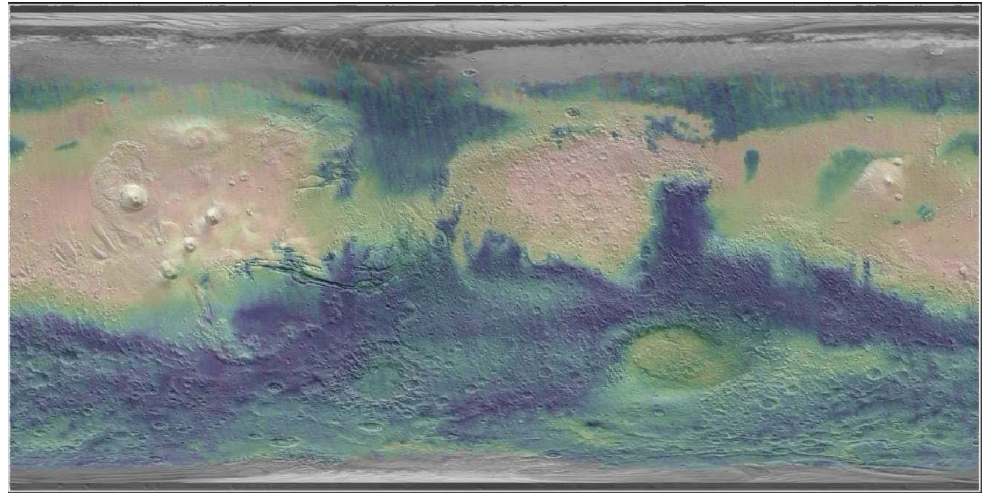
- We will first try to find out if the albedo differences can be explained by a difference in the composition of the Martian ground.

We will compare a map of the global albedo of Mars and the distribution of sand. To do this we will use mesurim and the overlay function.



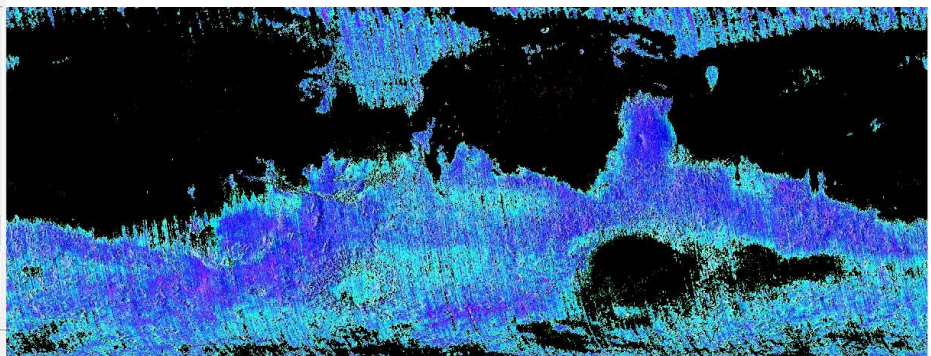
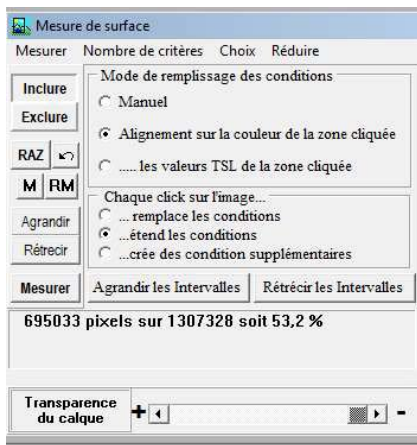


Open "albedo.jpeg" and "dust.jpeg" in mesurim.
 Then in Image choose to overlay image as shown opposite
 Adjust the opacity to make it easier to read.



We immediately see a correlation between albedo and the presence of sand.

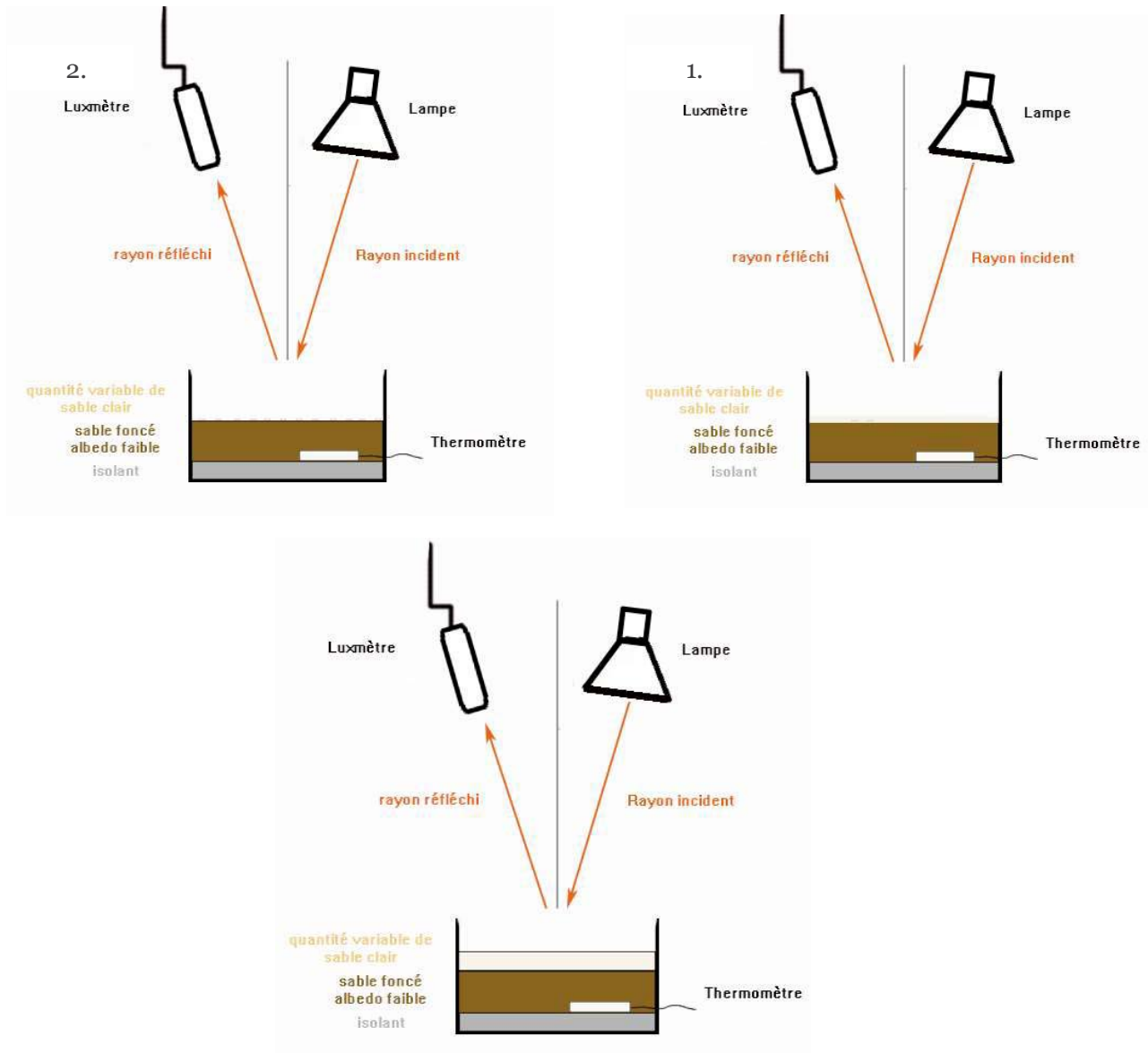
If we evaluate, with Mesurim, the surface of the ground covered by sand on the Martian planisphere we can see that it occupies about 50% of the total surface for which we have data.



Dust transport could have an impact on the thermal inertia of areas with a lower albedo that represent a large surface area of the planet.

- Let's try to model the deposition coating of mineral particles with a high albedo from ground to lower albedo.

Compare the temperature evolution of the following three assemblies over an equivalent time period: Attention the total quantity of dust must be equivalent for each experiment

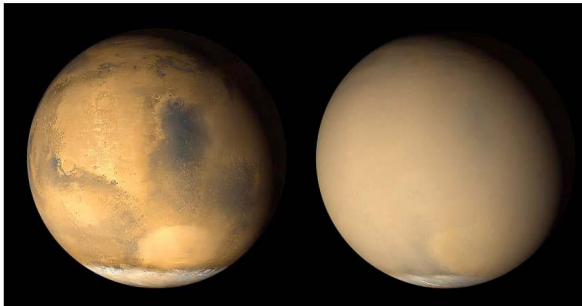


11. Discussion of the results and conclusions

There is a decrease in the heat absorbed by the ground but only if the quantity of light sand completely covers the dark ground and over a large thickness (Figure 3.) a simple under-powdering (Figure 2.) is not sufficient to have an effect on the temperature even if there is an increase in reflected light.

So only an accumulation of a large quantity of mineral matter could have an influence on albedo and therefore the inertia of the of the planet.

Source : <http://www.mars.asu.edu/~ruff/DCI/2001JE001580.pdf>



However, it has been observed that Global Sandstorms could occur on Mars, following which variations in albedo can be observed for one year following this storm.

Two images taken in 2001 by NASA's Mars Global Surveyor orbiter camera show a dramatic change in the appearance of the planet as the dust cloud raised by the storm in the south spread around the world. The images were taken about a month apart.

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/263856153_Mars_surface_albedo_and_changes

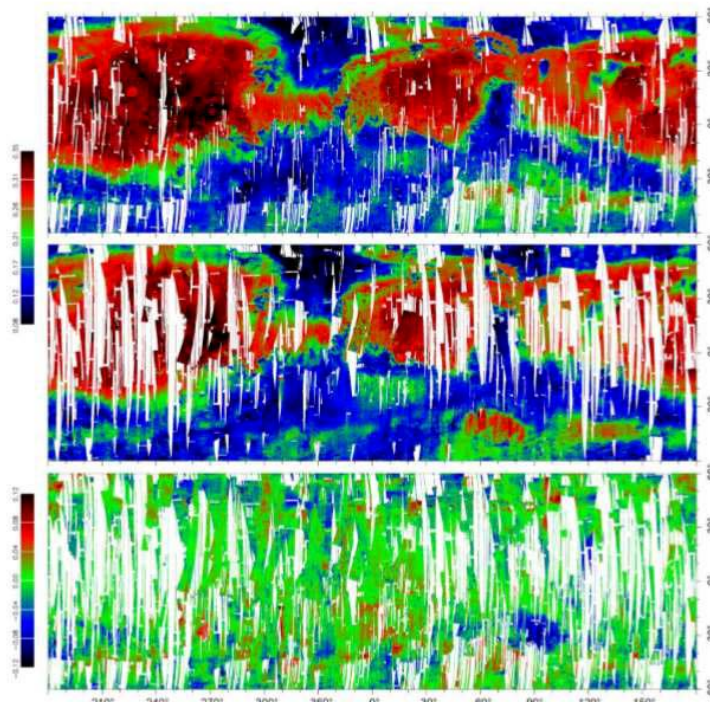


Figure 9: (top) albedo map prior to the MY28 GDS (orbits ≤ 4463 ; data from MY26 L_s 330° to MY 28 L_s 265°: 86% coverage). (middle) albedo map after the MY GDS (orbits ≥ 4758 ; data from MY 28 L_s 315° to MY 30 L_s 135°: 74% coverage). (bottom) difference albedo map (middle – top; 63% coverage). Quality level # 1 (Table 1) is used. Bright areas or brightening ≥ 0.04 are in red, dark areas or darkening ≤ -0.04 are in blue. Intermediate albedo and stable areas are in green.

12. Explore More (additional resources for teachers)

- https://www.researchgate.net/publication/263856153_Mars_surface_albedo_and_changes

- Arduino

Daily temperature variations on Mars

1. Introduction & Pb

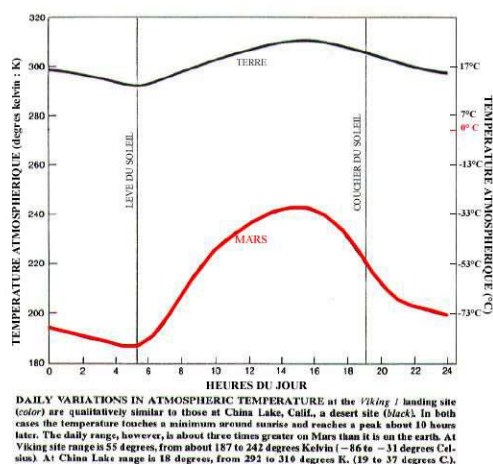
On Mars' surface, we can find summer trends: 20 °C, the breeze of trade winds... But starting with the onset of night, temperature values plummet by several tens of degrees and freezing conditions reaching – 100 °C will prevail until the morning after. In fact, Martian soil, dry and granular, can store only very little heat. Its thermal inertia is very small compared to that of the Earth and its oceans. The atmosphere being thin, temperature variations are more significant.

On Earth, daily temperature variations are less pregnant than those on Mars.

Chart of day-night temperatures of telluric planets:

Planet	T day (°C)	T night (°C)
Mercury	430	-170
Venus	460	450
Terra	15	5
Mars	-23	-93

Comparison between the daily variations of the atmospheric temperature on Viking 1 site and those of a terrestrial desert site (China Lake, California) :



Case 2 shows a minimal temperature at sunrise.

Daily thermal fluctuations are 3 times stronger on Mars than on Earth.

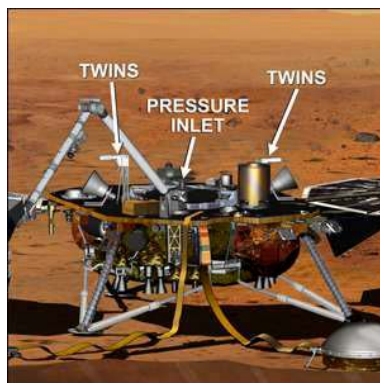
Source: Reserved rights - © 1979
According to Ryan et Henry, JGR

The InSight lander is equipped with a comprehensive weather station (APSS, Auxiliary Payload Sensor Suite).

The various sensors on this station (temperature, weather vane, anemometer, barometer and magnetometer) play a crucial role in the interpretation of data provided by InSight's seismometer SEIS, but also in enhancing the knowledge about Martian weather and its current climate. The knowledge acquired will help us to get a better grasp of weather perturbations on our planet Earth.

The ultrasensitive air-inlet pressure sensor of the APSS weather station installed on the deck of InSight (© NASA/JPL-Caltech/IPGP/Philippe Labrot).

This pressure sensor is ultrasensitive, meaning it is capable to react to variations of pressure at an order of dozen microPascals (i.e. 10^{-7} mbars). It's installed on the lander's deck, underneath the Wind and Thermal Shield (WTS).



NASA/JPL-Caltech - http://photojournal.jpl.nasa.gov/figures/PIA17358_fig1.jpg

TWINS sensors (Temperature and Wind Sensors for InSight) are thermal anemometers. There are two of them on the deck. The data is recorded at a maximum rate of one per second.

At a rate of 2 times per second, they record air temperature and also wind speed and direction, all this during the entire duration of the mission, that is a Martian year, equivalent to two terrestrial years.

The data that scientists obtain on a regular basis will allow us to better understand the phenomena linked to weather on Mars.

Pb: How can the analysis of meteorological data help us enhance our knowledge on weather perturbations on Mars, as well as on Earth ?

2. Age of students 15 – 17 ans

3. Objectives

Using a Python data processing script, show the information we can collect from the weather perturbations such as the diurnal cycle, the passing of a Dust Devil...

4. Primary subjects

Mathematics – Physics – Python Programming

5. Additional subjects

Earth Science

6. Time required 3hrs

7. Key terms

Geothermal gradient, heat flow, heat dissipation.

8. Materials

- Computer with software
- Excel – Python

9. Background

Thermal inertia of the soil, the rotational period and the atmosphere are the main parameters that control the day-night temperature disparity of a planet.

The **moving average** is a type of statistical average value used to analyse arrays of data, most frequently temporary arrays by removing the temporary fluctuations so that we can highlight longer term trends. This average value is called *moving average* because it is continuously recalculated, using for each rendition a subset of elements in which the newest element replaces the oldest one or is added to the subset.

This type of average value is generally used as a data processing method.

10. Procedures

- On Earth :

You have at your disposal, in « csv » format, the data corresponding to 9/7/2019 (cf csv data sheet) downloaded from the meteo website « WillyWeather » on China Lake Acres site (environment similar to that of Mars).

1. You will have to represent the Temperature, Pressure and Wind Speed plots provided to you in Python script.

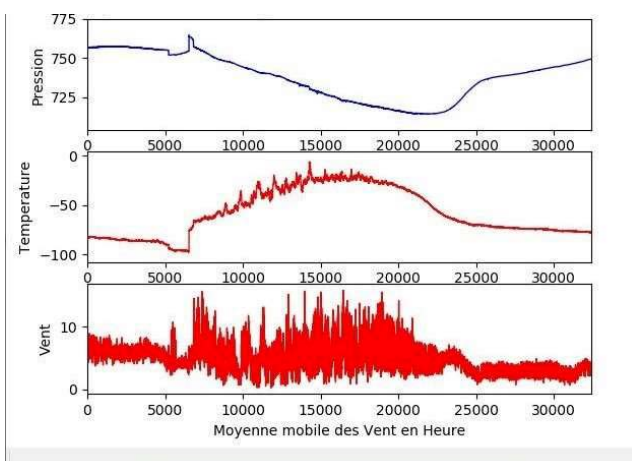
- On Mars :

You have at your disposal, in « csv » format, the meteorological data corresponding to the 15th day of the InSight mission (cf csv data sheet).

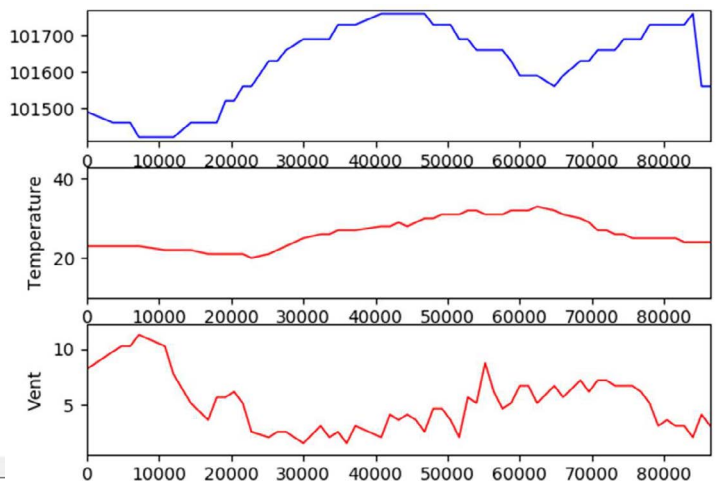
2. You will be asked to represent the plots for the parameters provided to you in Python language.

Expected Results :

On Mars



On Earth



Time : second – Temperature : K – Wind Speed : m/s – Pressure : Pa

3. Compare and interpret the results obtained for Earth with those obtained for Mars.

We can distinguish significant temperature fluctuations on Mars, growing from -83°C (at night) to 13°C (during day) that correspond to the diurnal cycle of Mars. In contrast, fluctuations in day-night temperatures on Earth are less significant (from 23°C to 32°C). The same goes for pressure.

In order to conduct a sharper study from the data, scientists need to take measurements less « polluted » by irregular values that re-enforce these exceptional phenomena such as dust devils and so on.

We will therefore use particular statistically obtained mean values that allow us to interpret the values with the purpose of excluding the so-called **aberrant** values (values distant from other observations made on the same phenomenon). These statistical mean values represent the «**moving average** or **rolling/running average** ».

Simple moving averages on 3 values, for a series of 9 measurements.

Mesures	2	3	5	8	8	7	8	5	2
Moyenne glissante	néant	$(2 + 3 + 5)/3$ 3,3333	$(3 + 5 + 8)/3$ 5,3333	$(5 + 8 + 8)/3$ 7	$(8 + 8 + 7)/3$ 7,6666	$(8 + 7 + 8)/3$ 7,6666	$(7 + 8 + 5)/3$ 6,6666	$(8 + 5 + 2)/3$ 5	néant

Source : https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moyenne_mobile

In our particular case, the values being related to the atmospheric domain, we will use a « moving average on 6 hours, 8 hours and 12 hours » for Temperature and Pressure values, the same as computing the average values from 0h00 to 8h00, from 1h00 to 9h00, from 2h to 10h00 and so forth...

As our data recordings cover 3 days, we will thus be able to measure the maximum and minimum value of the rolling average to get an idea on the thermic amplitude for a Martian day, etc...

The purpose of using a rolling average is to interpret the potential accidental deviations (twist devil, ...).

Operating mode for plotting the moving averages :

- Lists and operations made on the lists
- Curve plots

1) a) Write the **average** function (`List_of_numbers`) that allows you to obtain the mean value of a list of numbers.

Bonus) Write the **modified_average(List_of_numbers)** function that allows you to compute the mean value without the need for the **sum** function available in Python.

2) Write the **List_extract(p, n, List_of_nbrs)** that allows you to extract a list of a given **n** size starting from a given rank **p**.

3) a) Write the **Compute_Moving_Average (n, List)** function that allows you to obtain the list of moving averages on a **n** range of values of a given list.

- b) Provide the list of moving averages on a range of 8 values on the data recorded:
- i) time values
 - ii) temperature values
 - iii) pressure values
 - iv) winds

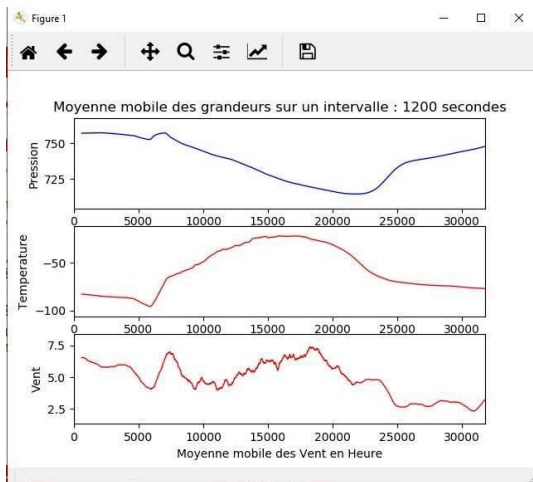
4) a) Write the **Moving_Average(n, List1, List2, List3, List4)** function that will display the temperature, pressure and wind speed mean values depending on the average time, on a range of 8 time values.

(We take into account the following correlations `List1=Time` `List2=Temperature` `List3=Pressure` `List4=Wind`)

b) Modify the **least_square_regression(n)** function code to assess the possible correlation between the two averaged physical quantities, Temperature and Pressure.

Colour code of graphs isn't required and will be provided in the student file

Plot obtained with a moving average for 20' of Martian data values:

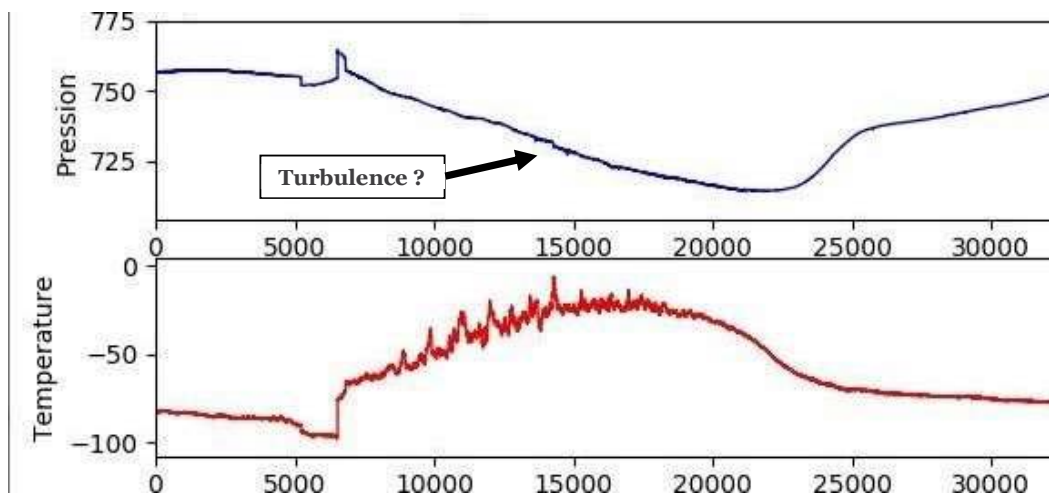


We can observe on the 'Pressure on Mars' plot large scale waves known as « thermal tides ».

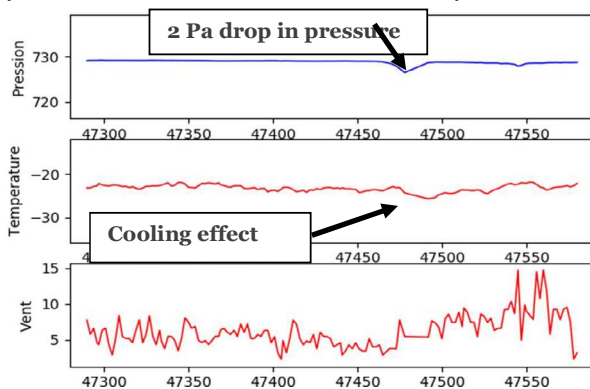
Basically, thermal tides are global-scale waves generated by fluctuations in the regular day-night cycle in the Sun's heating of atmosphere (insolation). These waves are displayed on wind components and they evolve with local solar time.

We observe a significantly marked diurnal cycle and violent winds up until sunrise. They are due to the cooling T° close to the ground during the night.

We observe on the Martian data plot (below) two perturbations that could be local «dust devil » whirlwinds, but we should carry out a more precise sampling in order to make sure of their presence:



Sampling on 250 seconds of Martian data isolating the Dust-related data we observed in the previous plots:

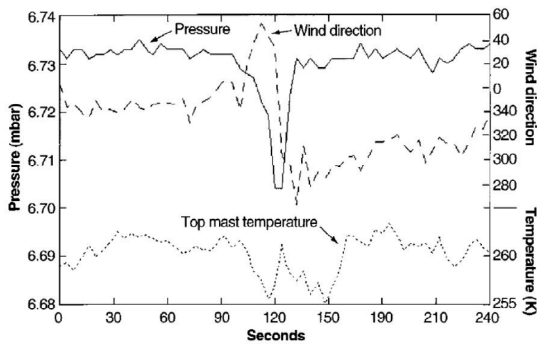


The thermal tides in the atmosphere of the planet Mars have a much higher amplitude than that of the Earth because thermal forcing is very strong due to the infrared absorption of atmospheric CO₂, the absorption of infrared radiation emitted by the surface and the fact that the atmosphere on Mars is thinner.

The effect that atmospheric tides have on zonal and meridian average flow is therefore of great significance in the Martian atmosphere.

Comparison of the results obtained with data downloaded from Pathfinder website defining a Dust on Mars :

Pressure (hPa), wind (m/s) et temperature (K) measurements available on the Pathfinder site:



The data sampling rate is 4s. A dust devil passing through at cyclostrophic balance above the lander is reflected in a 2.5 Pa dew point depression and a decrease in temperature of approximately 5K. Wind's characteristic circulation was also recorded by the anemometers on Pathfinder, however the calibration issues didn't make possible to have an accurate measurement of the fluctuating wind amplitude. Image by Schofield et al. [1997].

Source : Thesis by M. Aymeric Spiga « Mesoscale dynamic model of the Martian atmosphere: defining a meteorological model and analyse of

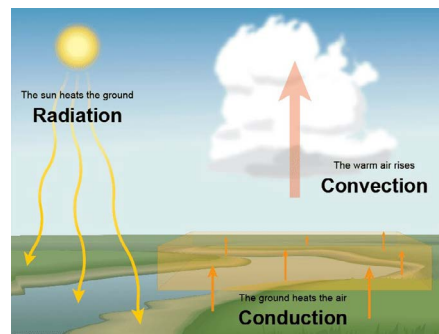
observations made by OMEG/Mars Express »

Modelling the physical phenomena at the root of local whirlwind formation:

In an arid area, air close to soil surface is heated in a different manner. The heat will be transferred vertically by the radiation to a layer of colder dry air and will undergo an upward thrust according to Achimedes' principle and reach convection.

The arrival of a horizontal transport of air mass will generate a rotation in the air which will then confine all the dust in its proximity.

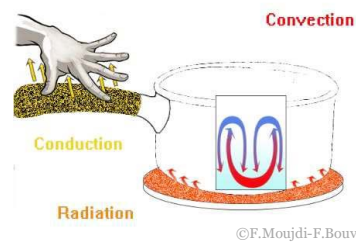
The altitude and diameter of a a whirlwind depends on the air's instability and dryness.



Source : <https://www.thoughtco.com/what-is-convection-4041318>

Plan three simple experiments to get a model for each heat transfer method: Convection – Conduction – Radiation. You can only use the materials provided for you.

convection	Conduction	Radiation
the movement caused within a fluid by the tendency of hotter and therefore less dense material to rise, and colder, denser material to sink under the influence of gravity, which consequently results in transfer of heat.	the process by which heat or electricity is directly transmitted through a substance when there is a difference of temperature or of electrical potential between adjoining regions, without movement of the material.	the emission of energy as electromagnetic waves or as moving subatomic particles, especially high-energy particles that cause ionization.



11. Discussion of the results and conclusions

Martian weather resembles that of Earth in many ways. It is basically abundant in storms, tornadoes, dust...

And yet, Mars sets itself apart from planet Earth. Martian atmosphere is in fact not so thick, the phenomenon of diurnal wind variation, of so little significance on Earth, is identified by the great fluctuations in the day-night cycle.

The analysis of meteorological data allowed us to discover weak signals in the large-scale cosmic structure (thermal tides) and fast signals in the local scale (whirlwinds and convective turbulence).

En effet, les oscillations diurnes de la température et du vent à la surface excitent indirectement toutes les autres couches de l'atmosphère. Ce qui entraîne la vibration de la couche atmosphérique martienne ou plus exactement propage des ondes de de fréquence diurne (une oscillation par jour) appelée « onde de marée thermique ». Ces oscillations diurnes vont interagir avec les autres vents et influencer la circulation atmosphérique qui sera enregistrée inévitablement par le sismomètre SEIS.

In fact, diurnal variations of temperature and wind values found at the horizon indirectly stimulate other layers of the atmosphere. Which therefore stimulates the vibration of the Martian atmosphere or more precisely propagates waves of diurnal frequency (one amplitude per day) called « atmospheric thermal tides». These diurnal oscillations will interact with other winds and have an effect on atmospheric circulation inevitably captured by SEIS.

Once the data is continuously collected, meteorologists responsible for this mission will have to separate the thermal tides from the data provided by InSight's seismometer SEIS.

12. Explore More (additional resources for teachers)

- "Planet Mars" : Edition Belin – François Forget, François Costard – Philippe Lognonné
- M. Aymeric Spiga's Thesis « Mesoscale dynamic model of the Martian atmosphere: defining a meteorological model and analyse of observations made by OMEG/Mars Express »

Annex 11



SEIS, a securely-packed seismometer

1. Introduction & Pb

In 2018, NASA sent a new lander on Mars to explore for the first time the « depths » of the planet. To successfully carry out the mission that plans to record the seismic activity, meteorite impacts and thus determine the planet's internal structure: the robot is equipped with an ultrasensitive, but impervious seismometer called SEIS, constructed by CNES (The National Centre for Space Studies from Toulouse in partnership with IPG (Paris Global Institute)).



In order to shield the seismometers from the environment, seismologists placed them in basements on Earth.

But to ensure SEIS' protection from the Martian environment, scientists designed a double protection: a Wind and Thermal Shield (WTS). To check its thermal resistance, the equipment was put in ovens and tested in high temperature conditions (up to 60 °C), before being placed in compounds that had glacial temperatures, down to -75°C.

Philippe Laudet, SEIS project manager at CNES

The Earth and Mars are greatly similar rocky planets. Certain people even call them « twin » planets.

Pb: Yet why do scientists insisted to cover the seismometer with a protection dome?

2. Age of students: 14 – 16 years

3. Objectives

The purpose of this activity is to determine how Mars' atmosphere and environment differ from those of the Earth and why the lander's construction needed really solid instruments to be tested repeatedly in extreme conditions on Earth?

4. Primary subjects

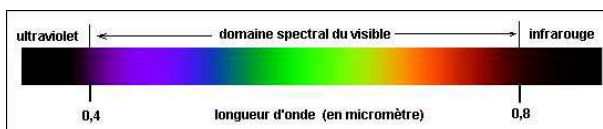
Chemistry – Earth Sciences

5. Additional subjects

6. Time required 1h30

7. Key terms

Atmosphere – Gas – Carbon cycle – Radiation balance – Solar radiation – Infrared.



8. Materials:

Atmospheric composition of the planets in the Solar System	Modelling of the Radiation balance of a planet	Modelling of the effect of variations in solar radiation on a planet	Modelling of the movement of air masses
- « Solar System» software : https://www.pedagogie.ac-nice.fr/svt/productions/systeme-solaire/	- Lab plate - Insulator - Thermometer - Glass	- Lamp - Planisphere - Plate pierced by holes	- Incense burner - Cold plate - Support stand - Black sheet of paper

9. Background

Solar radiation has a spectral range of ultraviolet radiation with wavelength below 0.4 mm and a range of infrared with wavelength greater than 0.8 mm.

Greenhouse gases (water vapour, carbonic acid gas, methane...) are basically transparent in the solar beams (visible light spectrum) and opaque in the infrared light emitted by the Earth. Heating is thus averted.

10. Procedures

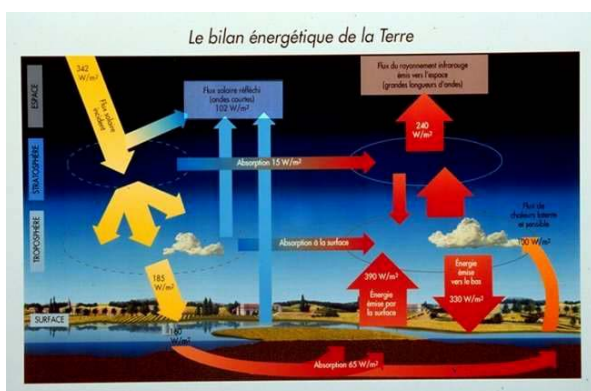
You will have to write a scientific paper on the specifics of Mars and of the Earth, in which you will integrate the arguments given by scientists to explain the process responsible for the loss of a great part of the atmosphere on Mars which would partly explain its hostile environment.

Lastly, you will deduce the arguments that scientists responsible for the InSight Mars mission took into consideration when developing very resistant measuring instruments to withstand the hostile environment of Mars.

I. The atmosphere of rocky planets in the solar system:

1. Fill in the following table using « The solar system » software.

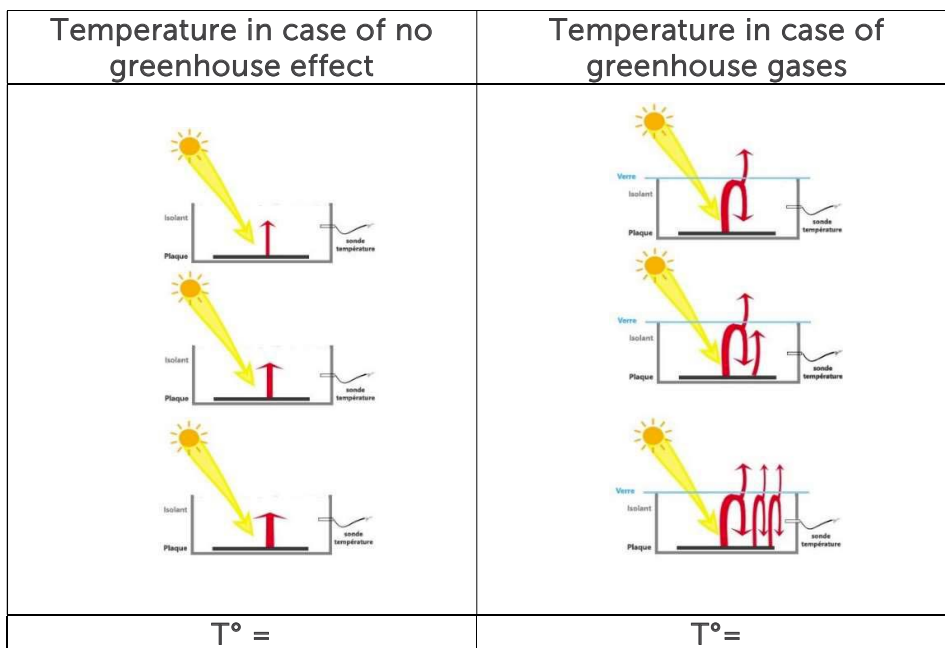
	Thickness	Main components of the atmosphere	Water's states of matter	Presence of Ozone
Earth				
Mars				



Mars has only half of the isolation on Earth. The atmosphere's composition (95% CO₂) makes it transparent in the visible light. The atmosphere is therefore heated by the incident visible light and cooled down by the thermal infrared emission. The radiation flux emitted by the surface in infrared light is partly absorbed by the atmosphere. The greenhouse effect has a very low amplitude on Mars: 5K due to low pressure and narrowness of the absorption/emission of CO₂.

Image source: (CNES, scarab site): <http://scarab.cnes.fr:8020/>

2. Modelling of the Radiation balance of a planet with and without the greenhouse effect:



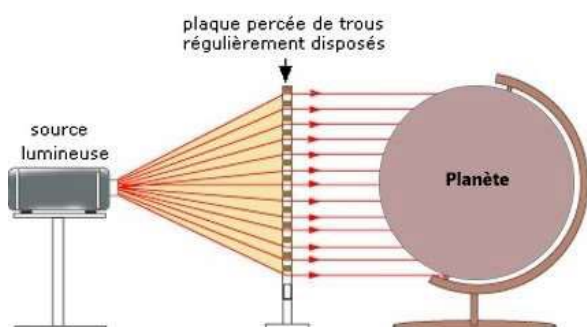
The plate that is exposed to the sun heats up. It receives energy from the Sun, therefore its T° increases. It will thus emit more radiation and will lose more energy in return. The surface of glass allows the solar radiation to go through and absorbs all the infrared radiation. Glass therefore absorbs all the infrared radiation emitted by the plate and warms up. While it's warming up, the surface itself emits more infrared radiation and its temperature will increase up until the surface will lose as much energy as it receives. The radiation that is emitted upwards by the glass is lost and the radiation emitted downwards is absorbed by the plate. The plate now receives more radiation than it loses, hence its temperature will increase until the loss of energy will be equal to the amount of energy received by the plate. We reach a balance, in which the temperature of the plate is higher than in the no-glass setup: that is the greenhouse effect.

II. Circulation of wind on Earth and on Mars:

Atmospheric circulation on Earth and on Mars is governed by the same laws. Thermal contrasts in the atmosphere are interpreted as a large amplitude oscillation of pressure with altitude. Air masses from high pressure areas (warm regions) are drawn to areas of low pressure (cold areas). They are set in motion and generate winds. We will plot the factors responsible for wind formation.

1. Thermal contrasts:

Solar radiation generates atmospheric circulation by creating contrasts in temperature. For the same pressure value on the surface we will find more air at higher altitudes because warm air masses take up more volume.

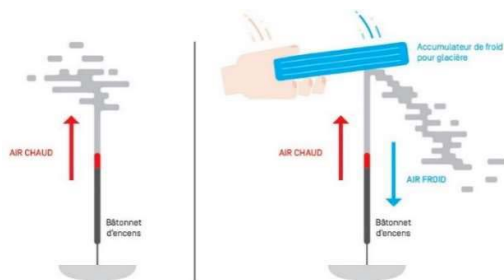


Tropical regions receive a greater amount of solar irradiation per unit area than polar regions.

On Earth, the average gap between two areas remains constant over time, there is thus a transfer of energy from the equator to the poles. This transfer is maintained by the two types of circulation of fluids of the planet, that is the atmosphere and the oceans. The thermal contrast on Earth therefore takes place at low atmospheric pressure warmer in the sub-tropics than to the poles.

Whereas on Mars, the thermal contrast happens between the warm spring/summer hemisphere and cold autumn/winter hemisphere. Except during the equinox when the two poles, North and South, are cold.

- **Meridional circulation:**



We observe a meridional flow circulation driven by the differences in temperature and thus in the density of air (warm air dilates and goes up). Oscillations of atmospheric pressure are caused by this type of circulation.

Collective work "SVT, Cycle 4" 'Réseau Canopé', 2017

This flow transports hot air in the direction of the poles at high altitude and the cold air masses are transported towards the equator at low altitude levels on Earth: we mention Hadley Cells named after the English physicist (1735). This movement of warm and cold air masses generates winds.

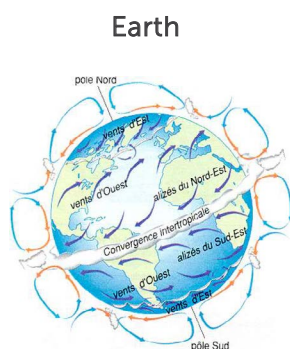
On Mars, there is a single Hadley cell that joins the hemispheres together by transiting the equator.

2. **Planetary rotation:**

Air masses movement is also affected by the planetary rotation.

The rotation speeds of Mars and of the Earth as well as seasonal variations of insolation are identical, hence the similar meteorology.

As a matter of fact, we discover « jet stream » that meander round the planet from west to east in the southern and northern middle latitudes; the trade winds between the Tropics...



Source: eduscol.education.fr

11. Discussion of the results and conclusions

Earth's atmosphere is very different from the atmosphere of Mars: in terms of composition, thickness, radiation balance...

Earth absorbs a greater amount of energy that it reflects back in the atmosphere, the system pulls energy. Or, in the case of Mars, the radiation balance is negative and the planet losses energy. Thermal contrast is more significant on Mars than on Earth. The environmental conditions on Mars are: significant thermal gaps and violent winds.

Scientists had to design the SEIS seismometer both ultrasensitive and especially ultra-resilient to withstand the hostile environment of Mars characterised by extreme temperature oscillations, but also violent winds, atmospheric perturbations...

12. Explore More (additional resources for teachers)

- <https://planet-terre.ens-lyon.fr/article/td-cycle-du-carbone2.xml>
- "Planet Mars", François Forget – François Costard – Philippe Lognonné, Belin Edition
- Paper in 'Sciences and Avenir' « Solar flares : why would they be devastating for our planet », by [Erwan Lecomte](#) on [25.07.2014](#)
- Collective work « SVT, Cycle 4 » Canopé Edition Agir, 2017

Annex 12



Instruments to measure the speed of the Martian wind

1. Introduction & Pb

On Earth, the sensors used in the Météo-France network to measure wind force and direction are two types: mechanical sensors with a cup anemometer and a weather vane, and ultrasonic sensors.

Mechanical sensor Déolia 96



Ultrasonic sensor



For the Insight sensor, engineers chose TWINS (Temperature and Wind Sensors for InSight) sensors, very similar to the REMS (Rover Environmental Monitoring Station) sensors used for the Curiosity Rover, which has been operating since 2012 inside the Gale impact crater



TWINS sensors from the InSight weather station (© NASA)



NASA/JPL-Caltech

InSight has two sensors called « Twins ». They register air temperature, windspeed and wind direction 2 times per second. These data are recorded throughout all the mission, which will take one Martian year, equal to two terrestrial years

Pb : How can we determine the speed of the Martian wind despite a hostile environment?

2. Age of students 13-15 years

3. Objectives

The objective is to determine how the Twins sensors of the Insight probe work and why scientists need to know precisely the wind direction and the continuous temperature.

4. Primary subjects

Earth Sciences - Physics - Computer Science

5. Time required 2hrs

6. Key terms

Anémomètre - Météorologie

7. Materials

- Hot wire anemometer sensor



The sensor's analog output OUT provides a tension value that we can correlate with windspeed as follows :

$$V_{ent_{ms}} = 0,44704 \times \left(\frac{(V_{OUT} - V_{sansVent})}{(3,038517 \times (temp_C)^{0,115157})} \right)^{3,009364} \times 0,0087288$$

In case of a room temperature of 25°C, the website indicates a value $V_{no\ wind} = 1,3692\ V$. We can compare this value with that of our set up

TEMP sensor's output measures the ambient temperature.

$$T_{mp} = \frac{(V_{TEMP} - 0.400)}{0.0195}$$

V_{OUT} is the tension measured in volts at the OUT output of the sensor

$V_{no\ wind}$ is the tension measured in volts when the sensor is sheltered from the wind (for example, by a bell)

$Temp_C$ is the temperature of the room measured in °C

$V_{wind_{ms}}$ est is the wind unit measured in m/s

To follow windspeed evolution, we will connect the sensor with an Arduino

8. Background

Assembling a sensor and simple programming Arduino.

9. Procedures

The Lander Insight is equipped with anemometers without mechanical parts to avoid wear problems (due to temperature differences, among other things).

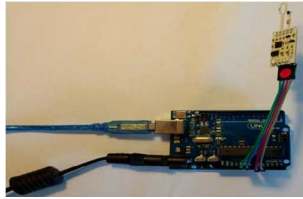
We will use similar sensors for wind measurement and temperature measurement.





It is a hot wire anemometer: a resistance is heated by a 12V power supply, the higher the temperature of the wire the higher its electrical resistance. The wind will cool the resistance, it is this drop in temperature that makes it possible to know the wind speed.

To follow the evolution of the wind speed and temperature we will connect the sensor to an arduino

1. Setting up the first sensor

The cable connection for one cable is depicted in the picture below



Sensor	Wire color in the image	Arduino
GND		GND
+12 V		Vin
OUT		A0
TEMP		A1

Below is the software that obtains the windspeed and temperature values in a Serial Monitor.

```

TP1
const int OutPin = A0; // La sortie OUT du capteur sur la sortie analogique A0
const int TempPin = A1; // La sortie TEMP du capteur sur la sortie analogique A1
const int VSV = 284; // Valeur de la tension OUT en absence de vent
int OUT1;
int TMP1;
int ventmsl; // valeur du vent en m/s
int temp1; // valeur de la température en °C

void setup() {
  Serial.begin(9600);
}

void loop() {
  // lecture des variables issues du capteur
  OUT1 = analogRead(OutPin);
  TMP1 = analogRead(TempPin);

  //Utilisation des formules pour donner les mesures en m/s et °C
  ventmsl = int(pow((((float)OUT1 - VSV) / 85.6814), 3.36814) / 0.44704); //conversion de la valeur du capteur en m/s
  temp1 = int((((float)analogRead(TMP1) * 5.0) / 1024.0) - 0.400) / .0195);

  //affichage dans le moniteur des valeurs
  Serial.print(" Le vent est de ");
  Serial.print(ventmsl);
  Serial.print(" m/s et la température est de ");
  Serial.print(temp1);
  Serial.println(" °C");
  }
  
```

We then obtain

```

19:18:29.042 -> Le vent est de 0 m/s et la température est de 25 °C
19:18:29.108 -> Le vent est de 0 m/s et la température est de 25 °C
19:18:29.174 -> Le vent est de 0 m/s et la température est de 25 °C
19:18:29.241 -> Le vent est de 0 m/s et la température est de 25 °C
19:18:29.307 -> Le vent est de 0 m/s et la température est de 25 °C
10:10:00.240 -> Le vent est de 0 m/s et la température est de 25 °C
  
```

2. Setting up the second sensor:

The set-up of the second sensor is similar to the first example. Presented below is the assembly diagram and the corresponding set up.

To obtain information from the second sensor, 2 new OUT2 et TMP2 variables need to be created which will further be integrated in the same way as in the previous software.

The layout in the serial monitor is similar to the previous example:

```
//affichage dans le moniteur série des valeurs
Serial.print(" Vent mesuré par capteur 1 : ");
Serial.print(ventms1);
Serial.print(" m/s et Vent mesuré par capteur 2 : ");
Serial.print(ventms2);
Serial.println(" m/s");
delay(1000);//pause d'une seconde
Serial.print(" température du capteur 1 : ");
Serial.print(temp1);
Serial.print(" ° c et celle du capteur 2 : ");
Serial.print(temp2);
Serial.println(" °C");
delay(1000);//pause d'une seconde
```

In no-wind conditions we obtain from the serial monitor the following :

```
18:09:19.514 -> température du capteur 1 : 24 ° c et celle du capteur 2 : 24 °C
18:09:20.507 -> Vent mesuré par capteur 1 : 0 m/s et Vent mesuré par capteur 2 : 0 m/s
18:09:21.534 -> température du capteur 1 : 24 ° c et celle du capteur 2 : 24 °C
18:09:22.527 -> Vent mesuré par capteur 1 : 0 m/s et Vent mesuré par capteur 2 : 0 m/s
18:09:23.554 -> température du capteur 1 : 24 ° c et celle du capteur 2 : 24 °C
18:09:24.548 -> Vent mesuré par capteur 1 : 0 m/s et Vent mesuré par capteur 2 : 0 m/s
```

3. Determining the direction

Now that the 2 sensors are set up, it's interesting to compare the windspeed values and find out the direction of the wind.

To do this, we will consider that the sensor 1 is placed to the left on the station and the sensor 2 to the right.

We will make a simple comparison between the sensor 1 output and the sensor 2 output. Below is the part of the software that compares the values and displays the dominant windspeed.

```
// comparaison des sorties OUT des 2 capteurs]
if (OUT2 > OUT1) {
  Serial.print("Le vent vient de la droite et il vaut : ");
  ventms2 = int(pow((((float)OUT2 - VSV) / 85.6814), 3.36814) / 0.44704); //conversion de la valeur du capteur en m/s
  Serial.print(ventms2);
  Serial.println(" m/s");
} else {
  Serial.print("Le vent vient de la gauche et il vaut : ");
  ventms1 = int(pow((((float)OUT2 - VSV) / 85.6814), 3.36814) / 0.44704); //conversion de la valeur du capteur en m/s
  Serial.print(ventms1);
  Serial.println(" m/s");
}
delay(1000);//pause d'une seconde
```

We will then determine the direction of wind and categorize wind data into 3 groups:

- Strong wind,
- Medium wind
- Feeble wind

In order to do this, we will obtain the maximum of windspeed achievable with our set up. This value will be memorized as a MaxWind constant and will help compare values.

- If the wind measured is lower than 33 % of MaxWind, we will then display "the wind is feeble"
- If the wind measured is lower than 66 % of MaxWind, we will then display "the wind is medium"
- If the wind measured is higher than 66 % of MaxWind, we will then display "the wind is strong"

Here is an exemple :

```
void loop() {
  // lecture des variables issues du capteur
  OUT1 = analogRead(OutPin1);
  OUT2 = analogRead(OutPin2);

  // comparaison des sorties OUT des 2 capteurs pour déterminer le vent dominant
  if (OUT2 > OUT1) {
    VentDom = OUT2;
    Serial.print("Le vent vient de la droite.");
  } else {
    VentDom = OUT1;
    Serial.print("Le vent vient de la gauche.");
  }

  // comparaison du vent dominant avec ventMax
  if (VentDom < 0.33 * ventMax) {
    Serial.print("Le vent est faible");
  } else if (VentDom < 0.66 * ventMax) {
    Serial.print("Le vent est moyen");
  } else {
    Serial.print("Le vent est fort");
  }
  delay(1000); // pause d'une seconde
}
```

10. Discussion of the results and conclusion

The determination of wind speed on Earth as well as on Mars is a determining factor in meteorology. This measurement can be made using different instruments depending on the accuracy of the measurement, the environment...

Seismologists on land do not need to equip seismic stations with meteorological stations because seismometers are stored in cellars protected from atmospheric disturbances.

On the other hand, the interaction of the Martian atmosphere with the ground leaves its mark on seismic recordings.

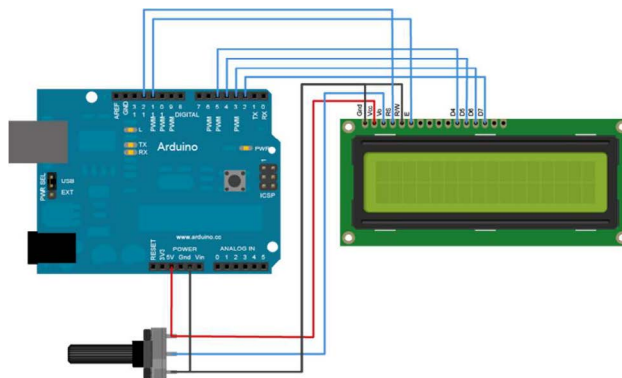
That's why the engineers designed and placed a weather station on the Lander Insight and placed the SEIS seismometer under a wind protection shield, the WTS, which effectively blocks most wind effects, but cannot completely cancel them out. We will therefore be able to record these gusts of wind and by combining the data from the WTS station and the SEIS recordings learn more about the Martian environment.

11. To follow up activities

Using an LCD display

If we use a computer to visualize wind speed, we can have the messages obtained on an LCD display rather than have them on the Arduino serial monitor. This can be easily obtained, as in the picture below, with an Arduino development environment. The example is available if we open the suggested software in File>examples>LiquidCrystal>Display.

Set up with an LCD:



After having « HelloWorld » displayed, we can use the screen layout connected to our software.

The difference is in the displayed sequence, instead of Serial.print () we use lcd.print()

```

void loop() {
  // lecture des variables issues du capteur
  OUT1 = analogRead(OutPin1);
  OUT2 = analogRead(OutPin2);
  //On va d'abord effacer tout les caractères sur l'écran:
  lcd.clear();
  lcd.setCursor(0, 0); //ici, on se positionne en haut à gauche de l'écran

  // comparaison des sorties OUT des 2 capteurs pour déterminer le vent dominant
  if (OUT2 > OUT1) {
    VentDom = OUT2;
    lcd.print("Vent de droite");
  } else {
    VentDom = OUT1;
    lcd.print("Vent de gauche");
  }

  lcd.setCursor(0, 1); //On se place sur la deuxième ligne
  // comparaison du vent dominant avec ventMax
  if (VentDom < 0.33 * ventMax) {
    lcd.print("vent faible");
  } else if (VentDom < 0.66 * ventMax) {
    lcd.print("vent moyen");
  } else {
    lcd.print("vent fort");
  }
  delay(1000); //pause d'une seconde
}

```

12. Follow up activities (additional resources for teachers)

- Météo France : <http://www.meteofrance.fr/prevoir-le-temps/observer-le-temps/moyens/les-stations-au-sol>
- Météo à l'école : <https://www.infoclimat.fr/pedagogie/>
- Site Arduino



Saltwater - the source of ravines on Mars : Info or Hoax?

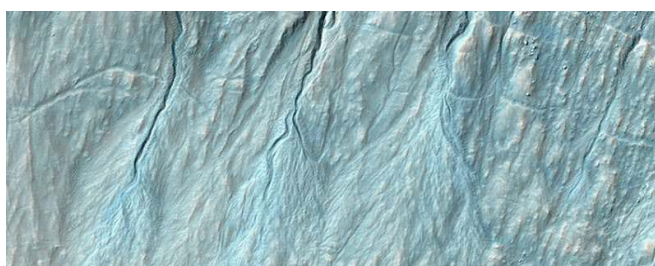
1. Introduction & Problem

Scientists believed that the process of soil liquefaction was responsible for the occurrence of ravines on Mars. That is, a process throughout which salts absorb atmospheric water-vapours when both temperature and humidity are elevated at the same time.

Such surface activity is also detected in the Antarctic, where similar water remnants are formed by trickling down brines on a shallow depth. But the night is a lot more cold on Mars than in the Antarctic and the active layer of ground that isn't freezing is a lot more shallow. This process, combined with the rarefied Martian air, can result in solely unnoticeable water quantities, certainly not enough for forming currents along the escarpment.

It seems that the process allowing ravines to be formed on Mars isn't due to the trickling of «saltwater », but to another aspect.

Mars



A New Gully Channel in Terra Sirenum
Source: NASA/JPL/University of Arizona

Earth



Gully erosion in mudstones, PACA region
Source: www.lithotheque.ac-aix-eille.fr/Affleurements_PACA

How are ravines formed on Earth and on Mars ? Is soil erodibility the same ?

2. Age of students 13 - 15

3. Objectives

Explain ravine shaping on Earth and Mars and determine the soil erodibility factor (also known as the k-factor) and explain the sediment transport and deposition process.

4. Primary subjects

Physics – Geoscience - Chemistry

5. Additional subjects

6. Time required: 2h

7. Key terms

Ravine – Erosion – Soil erodibility factor – Sediment transport and deposition

8. Materials

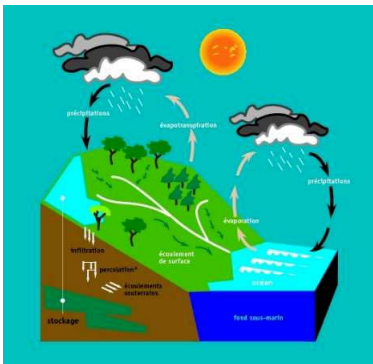
Ravine creation on Earth	Franklin Flask	Image processing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Laboratory basin sink - Water - Wedge - Sand 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One Franklin flask (laboratory vessel) - Water - Arduino Temperature Sensor - Hot plate - Laboratory stopper - Support stand 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Qgis software - Satellite Images obtained from Hirise

9. Background

The fundamentals of the hydrologic cycle and CO2 cycle on Earth.

10. Procedures

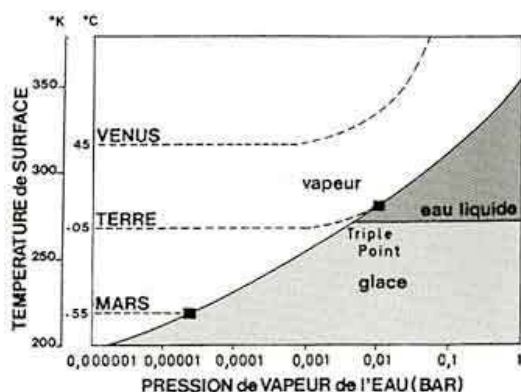
On Earth :

Hydrologic Cycle	<u>Ravines on Earth simulation:</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Simulation protocol, in A. Prost, <i>The Earth, 50 experiments to discover our planet</i>, Belin, 1999. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 – Equally spread the sand in the basin sink (0,2 mm) and level the surface. 2 – Give the bowl a slight slope by placing a wedge on one side. 3 – Place the hose at the highest point of the bowl. 4 – Gently turn on the tap and lead the water jet to the bottom of the basin (downstream) : the trickle of water infiltrates in the sand. Increase water flow until water stays on the surface.
<p>Source : Water Cycle on Earth (© DocSciences – P. Veyret)</p>	<p>Author : (Van Vliet-Lanoë, 2005)</p>

1. Use the available documents and the modeling protocol for the process of ravine formation on Earth (Erosion – Transport - Deposition)

On Mars :

Pressure-Temperature phase diagram for water and the position of planets:



Author : (Van Vliet-Lanoë, 2005)

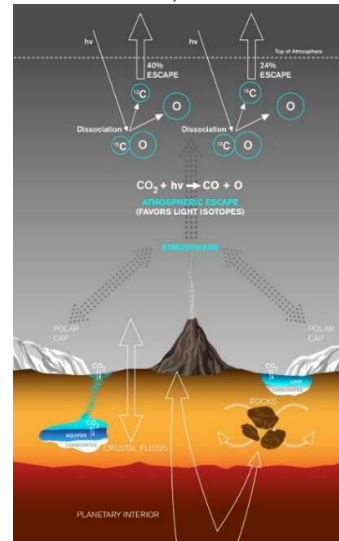
Tens of thousands of such ravine formations, having at times the length of many kilometers, cross slopes situated at Mars' mid-latitudes. Their formation involved great quantities of liquid, which are very hard to explain. But the planet's atmospheric pressure is so low that any pure surface water inevitably freezes, evaporates or quickly boils. In fact, temperature and pressure conditions (see phase P° and T° diagram for water) are really close to pure water's critical point.

Isn't actually water that digs ravines on Mars? What is in fact the factor responsible for this process?

Martian atmosphere composition and Earth's atmosphere composition:

Gas	Mars (%)	Earth (%)
CO2	95,97 %	0,035 %
Ar	2 %	0,93 %
N2	1,89 %	78 %
O2	0,146 %	20,6 %
CO	557 ppmv	0,2 ppmv
H2O (varying)	0,021 %	0,4 %
O3 (varying)	0,01 – 5 Dobs	300 Dobs

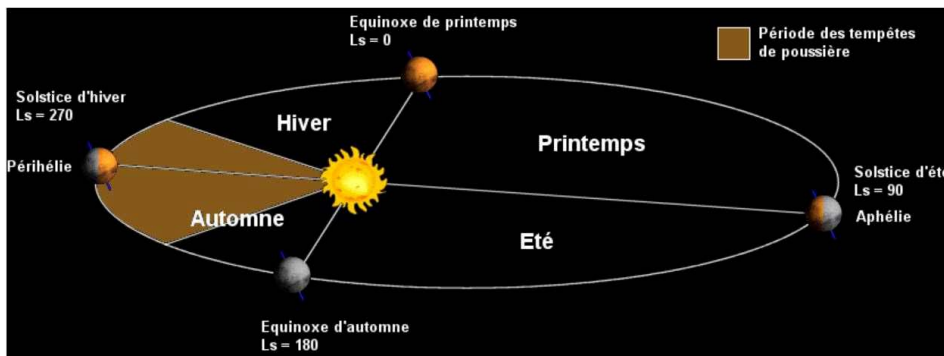
CO2 cycle on Mars :
 Source : doc. Lance Hayashida/Caltech



2. Formulate a plausible hypothesis:

Hypothesis : CO2 could be responsible for ravine creation on Mars.

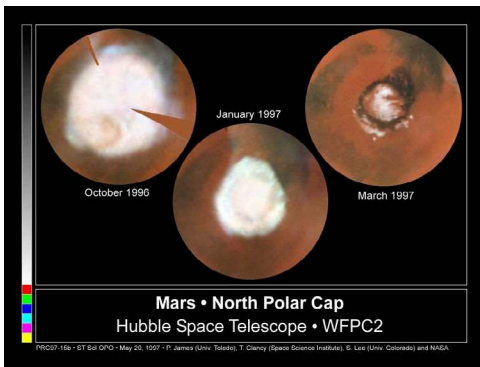
Distribution of seasons during a Martian year:



Sl : means Solar Longitude, measured using angles. One Martian year equals 360 degrees, i.e. one complete rotation around the Sun.

One degree in solar longitude matches the angle between the planet and the Sun on the day of Boreal spring equinox.

Photo Credit: © Philippe Labrot, according to the Dynamic Meteorology Laboratory diagram. Little by little by Calvin J. Hamilton



These white polar caps fluctuate in size depending on seasons. Towards the end of summer, only the so called **permanent** or **residual** polar caps remain, formed of "eternal ice fields". The surfaces of white polar caps grow in autumn and winter as they restore and surround by a layer of frost, frost that undergoes condensation in autumn and winter and then sublimation in spring and summer. We thus refer to them as **temporary or seasonal caps**.

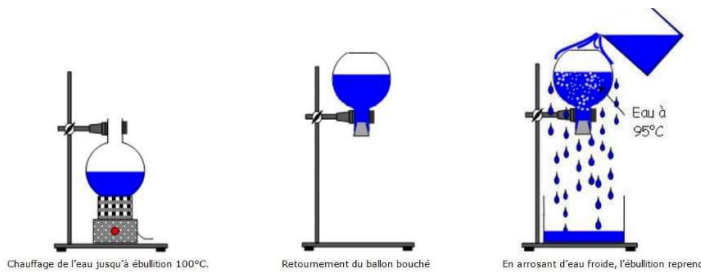
Droits réservés - © 1996-1997 Phil James (Univ. Toledo), Todd Clancy (Space Science Inst., Boulder, CO), Steve Lee (Univ. Colorado), NASA

There is also the **seasonal variation of global surface pression**. Whenever there is a large residual cap to the north or to the south (winter and summer solstices), the pression is 75 Pa times weaker than the anual mean value. In absence of residual nothern or southern polar caps (spring and autumn equinoxes), the global pressure is 75 Pa times stronger than the mean value. This variation of 150 Pa between the equinox and solstice (25% of the average pression) shows that 25% of atmospheric CO2 undergoes condensation and transforms into dry ice during winter and sublimates back the following spring. This transfer of 25% atmosphere between the north and the south that takes place 2 times during a martian year could be the cause of peculiar and generalized storms.

CO2 behaves differently on Mars because of T° and P° values.

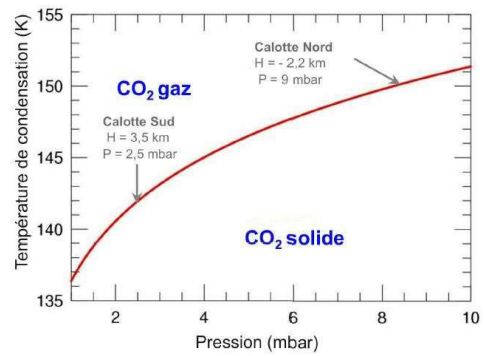
Franklin Flask Experiment

We will experiment with changes in the status of a chemical species, in this case water, to show students the effect of T° and P° on these changes.



Source : <https://applilocale.ac-besancon.fr/geogebra/labo/films/franklin/bouillant.htm>

Phase diagram for CO₂



H : average elevation of the surface

P : equilibrium surface pressure

Source : Thesis « Seasonal condensates on Mars » Florence Grisolle.

Frost occurs when the temperature of air falls below -125°C, temperature at which CO₂ changes its state of matter in this range of pressure.

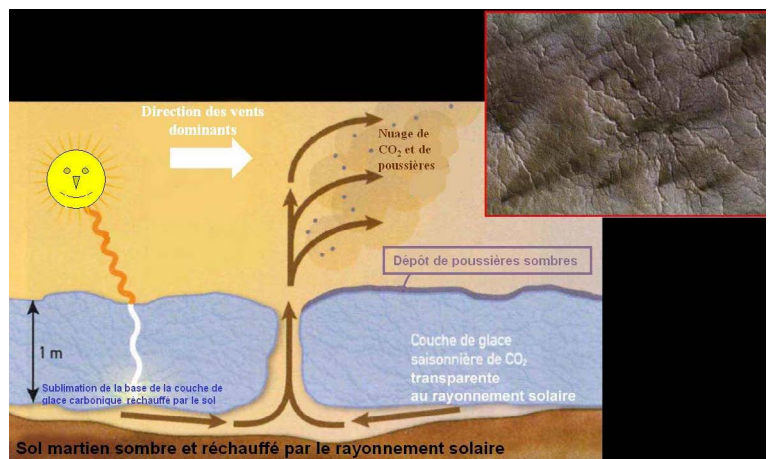
Temporary caps, thin layers of frost, seem mainly formed of dry ice (carbon dioxide ice). But what do those dry ice caps become and what do they transport?

In winter, a layer of carbonic frost forms on the martian regolith. During spring, this layer that is translucent to solar rays is heated from its base.

The ice sublimates: i.e. transitions directly to the gas phase. Gaseous CO₂, trapped underneath the ice layer, is dispersed into regolith pores where the pression increases. The pression can then generate the fracturing of the top ice layer and the swift decompression of the regolith made of broken rock and dust drifted CO₂ thus allowing the drainage of a part of soil by digging a network of channels more or less convergent (woven meshes).

Dust brought to the surface will be deposited in the surrounding area, shaped by the dominant winds. (les éventails).

Source : <https://planet-terre.ens-lyon.fr>



Rights reserved - © 2003 Piqueux et al. ;NASA/JPL/University of Arizona

To exemplify the phenomenon : Present the sequence of images using Qgis software. You can open these image from a Qgis rendered file and thus overlay the layers to see the evolution of woven webs.

End of Winter	Start of Spring	Middle of Spring	End of Spring	Start of Summer	Summer

This sequence is a part of a December 2007 AGU presentation : "Spring at the South Pole of Mars". The sequence of events is studied in a series of images taken during spring and summer in the southern hemisphere and depicts the sublimation of a specific woven web.

End of Winter: We zoom on a single "web". There is a bunch of channels radially organized on the surface, covered by a slab of seasonal translucent carbon dioxide ice (dry ice).

The "date" is Ls = 181.1 (Ls being the unit of time on Mars : at Ls = 180, the Sun crosses the Equator to the south ; at Ls = 270, the Sun reaches its southernmost latitude and Summer begins.)

Start of Spring: obtained at Ls = 195,4. Four dust winds escaped from the woven channels. Translucent ice is warmed from the ground up and evaporated under the seasonal frost layer. Gas finds a weak spot and escapes to the top of the frost layer, transporting the surface dust across the ice. Dust is then swept away by the dominant wind.

Middle of Spring: calculated at Ls = 199,6. The dust is stuck in the channels.

End of Spring: obtained at Ls = 226 shows that the winds' direction changed, that the existing "fan system" is now elongated and an increasing number of new dust winds (**éventails**) originate from the channels as the frost layer gets thinner.

Start of Summer: established at Ls = 233,1, when a great part of surface frost disappears. The channels are translucent because the Sun shines more directly on their walls. A slim layer of darker dust can be seen on the bottom of the largest channels.

Middle of Summer: calculated at Ls = 325,4, in the middle of austral summer. All seasonal ice disappeared. It's obvious that the channels were dug in the surface and not into the seasonal frost layer. The dust storms **eventails** disappeared, meaning that they no longer contrast with the surface material from which they originated. The surface material is dirt solidified by iced water covered by a layer of approximately 5 cm of dried out silt, which is redistributed every season within this process of **éventail** creation and transport.

Written by: Candy Hansen (12 December 2007) – **Source :** NASA/JPL/University of Arizona

11. Discussion of the results and conclusions

Water is the factor of erosion in the case of ravine creation on Earth; on Mars, that factor is CO₂. This activity allows students to understand that the action of chemical species depend on Temperature and Pressure values.

It is important that students develop a sense of critical thinking so that they remain unbiased and inquiring with every paper published in the scientific field.

Science is not a fixed discipline, it rather evolves depending on technological and scientific progresses.

12. Follow up activities

Show the effect of erosion by CO₂-enriched water: Karst landforms



Source : http://www.lithotheque.ac-aix-marseille.fr/Affleurements_PACA/13_allauch/carte_geologique_allauch250.htm

—Massive coherent, non-porous carbonate rocks form **rocky slopes** in the geological landscape. **Vertical limestone walls** and **talus slopes of marly limestone** are displayed in an alternate matter. These rocks are deeply **eroded** by the water flow and form the so called Pepino hills or **Lapiaz: grooves** with a **circular shape** formed on tilted slopes. The dissolution process is also the starting process for **rock shelter** formation or **glacial potholes** carved into the rocky bed of a **watercourse**. The erosion is caused by rock blocks transported by **temporary water flows**.

— Limestone erosion helps **enlarge vertical or tilted** joints that affect limestone bedding plane. The phenomenon causes rock blocks to **detach** from cliffs and **collapse** at the bottom of bedding planes.

—The karst erosion depicted here formed under a vegetation cover, as water rich in carbon dioxide percolates the soil and slowly dissolves the chalk to give it the characteristic shaping of calcareous massifs. Nowadays, this chemical erosion has little to no effect on the rock outcrops.

13. Explore More (additional resources for teachers)

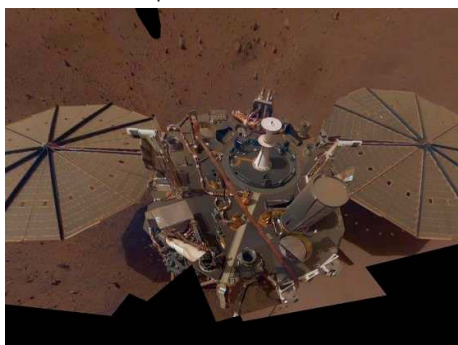
- <https://www.uahirise.org/>
- <https://applilocale.ac-besancon.fr/geogebra/labo/films/franklin/bouillant.htm>
- <http://www.lithotheque.ac-aix-marseille.fr>
- A. Prost, *La Terre, 50 expériences pour découvrir notre planète*, Belin, 1999.
- <https://planet-terre.ens-lyon.fr/>



Landscapes shaped by dust tornadoes

1. Introduction & Pb

Mars InSight lander captured a wind tornado that cleared the dust that has been piled on the lander's solar panels since its arrival.



« On the 1st of February 2019, two solar panels of the InSight lander that investigate the geology of planet Mars regained their previous power. This event was associated to a wind tornado which lifted a part of the dust particles covering the panels. It isn't an isolated event on Mars, but it is the first time this has been studied having complete meteorological parameters. »

***Source :** Sciences and the future « A Martian passing dust wind swept over the pannels of InSight's solar pannels »*

Source : NASA/JPL-Caltech

The meteorological station APSS (Auxiliary Payload Sensor Suite) recorded a maximum wind speed of 45km/h. As the same time as the dust devil, there was a 13% drop of in atmospheric pression. According to the scientists in charge of the sensor, those conditions are consistent with the passing of a so-called "dust devil".

These tornadoes leave highly visible traces of their crossing on the Martian landscape and thus contribute to the particular geomorphology of the planet Mars, which is not the case on Earth.

Traces left by Dust Devils in the Richardson crater :



The dunes in the image are situated 72° to the south; on Earth, they would have been beyond the Antarctic circle. Due to their position being too close to the pole, enormous temperature variations appear throughout the Martian year. The image on the left was captured at the vernal equinox in the Southern Hemisphere which marks the end of summer and the beginning of fall.

There are still many visible **whirlwind traces**, displayed as subtle intersecting lines, but they will gradually be covered anew by the dry ice layer as austral winter settles in.

NASA/JPL/University of Arizona

Pb : How do these Dust Devil form on Mars ? Is there such a phenomenon on Earth?

2. Age of students: 13 – 15 years

3. Objectives

Understanding the physical laws that govern the movement of Air Masses, i.e. atmospheric convection. But also the process underlining Dust Devils' formation to further deduct the causes of traces left on the soil so representative of the planet Mars.

4. Primary subjects

Physics –Earth Sciences

5. Additional subjects

6. Time required: 2h

7. Key terms.

Dew point depression – Atmospheric convection –

8. Materials

Dust vortex modeling

- Incense
- Plexiglass sheet
- Candle
- Ice cube tray

Pressure sensor (see: Arduino Technical Data Sheet)

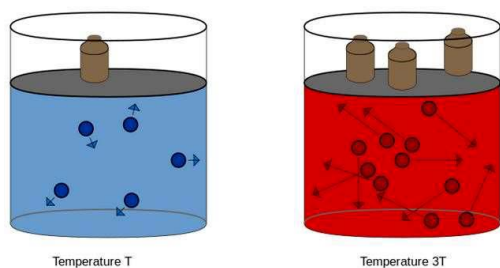
9. Background

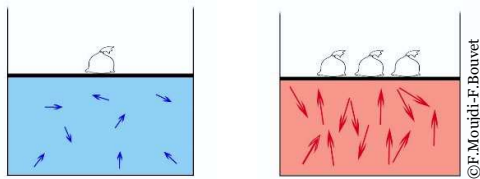
Displacement of stable air masses by atmospheric convection :

The ratio between pressure values and temperature values (Gay-Lussac's Law) underlying the atmospheric convection principle:

French chemist and physicist Louis Joseph Gay-Lussac (1778-1850) proved that there is a connection between the pressure and temperature values of a gas. For a constant volume and a given quantity of a gas, he observed that pressure of a given gas increases directly with the absolute pressure of the gas and vice versa. The mathematical relationship he deduced from his experiments is called Gay-Lussac's law.

« **Gay-Lussac's law** describes the relation between the pressure and the temperature of a gas. It stipulates that, for a constant volume, pressure of a given quantity of gas is directly proportional to the absolute temperature of the gas. »





According to this kinetic-molecular theory of gases, an increase in temperature should cause an increase in the kinetic energy of particles.

The molecular collision risk is higher, which causes a change in pressure. If volume of the gas remains constant, its pressure will increase.

10. Procedures

Same as on Earth, winds on Mars are powered by solar thermal energy. Observations made by the Viking landers show that atmospheric dust particles on both Mars and Earth can be lifted by dust storms. These phenomena can reach significant dimensions. A tornado draws in the surrounding air masses and concentrates them in its core.

Amazonis Planitia



A large dust whirl projects a serpentine shadow on the Martian soil.

The photo covers an 644m wide area. The North is facing upwards. The dust wind reaches 800m altitude and 30m in diameter.

A westerly breeze half as high as the dust whirl produced a slight curve in the middle. The photo was taken when the planet is at its aphelion (farthest point from the Sun).

Satellite: Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter

Copyright: NASA/JPL-Caltech/University of Arizona

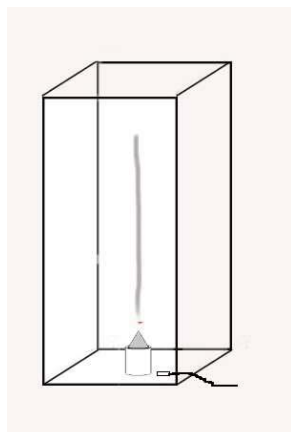
The same phenomenon happens on Earth, generally during summer. A dust devil is formed from the soil up when certain criteria is met. Dust tornadoes are whirlwinds of air masses entraining dust particles.

Air masses dynamics model :

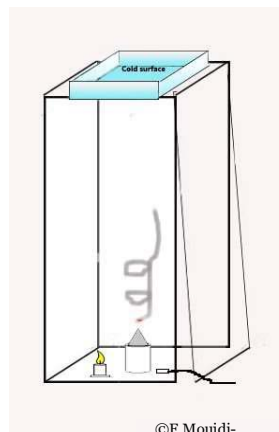
Conduct the following experiment to emphasize the movement of air masses.

P° sensor on the inside and on the outside :

Without external disturbing factor



With external disturbing factor



1. Write down the results :

	Experiment 1		Experiment 2	
	T=0	T=3'	T=0	T=3'
Pression inside the tube				
Pression outside the tube				
Interpretation of laboratory results				

2. Using the obtained results, **explain** the phenomenon that took place during the experiment and what exactly allowed the movement of warm air masses.

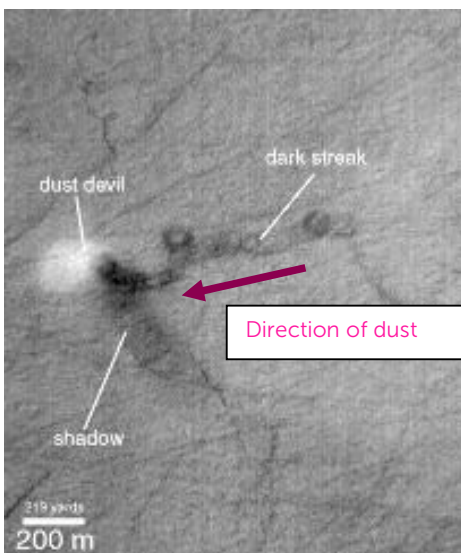
I. Tornado in action :

We have just shown that the ascent of hot air is the trigger of a tornado. This updraft also allows horizontal rotations to become vertical because of the tangential shear of vertical winds.

Afterwards, when the tornado is produced, air rises to its core, generating the violent suction of surrounding air and sustains the dew point depression.

When a dust devil travels on the surface of Mars, it can gather and disrupt the detached dust layers, leaving behind darker trails.

Dust in action, photographed on orbit by MGS on 11/12/1999 :



- **Dark streak:** The trace left by the passing of dust (70m wide) that swept the thin layer of clear dust particles covering the soil. Its sinuous form and dark color make the trace highly visible.
- **Dust devil:** Dust cloud
- **Shadow:** The shadow of the tornado on the soil.

Reserved rights- © 2004 NASA/JPL/Malin Space Science Systems

11. Discussion of the results and conclusions

Dust devils on Mars are created in the same way they occur on Earth. The soil gets warmer during the day and heats the air just above the surface (through radiation). The mass of hot air rises and the colder mass of air above falls, thus creating vertical convection cells. A horizontal burst of wind will swirl the convection cells, which will then create a dust whirlwind.

Tornadoes that bring dust with them will contribute to the shaping of Martian landscape, leaving traces behind.

But these traces will gradually be covered once again by dry ice during austral winter. Mars' appearance changes depending on the season.

12. Follow up activities

- <https://visionscarto.net/once-upon-a-thirst>

13. Explore More (additional resources for teachers)

- <https://planet-terre.ens-lyon.fr/article/mars-2005-04-13.xml>

- https://www.nirgal.net/mars_science_atm.html

Volcanos compared: why a smaller planet has a bigger volcano?

1. Introduction & Pb

The size and shape of a volcanic cone on the Earth allows the volcanologists to learn many things of the

history of the volcano as well as to know about the composition and other related physical properties of the magma that originated it, as for instance, its viscosity.

Many students know that a volcano on the planet Mars, Olympus Mons, is the biggest mountain in the Solar System, or at least, its highest volcano. Its size (almost 22,000 m high) more than doubles the highest mountain on the Earth: another volcano located in Hawaii (Mauna Kea, 10,000m high).



Figure 1: Olympus Mons
© NASA

2. Age of students 16 to 18 years old.

3. Objectives

Through this activity, students can:

- compare the sizes of the two planets (Earth and Mars);
- compare the sizes of the highest volcanoes on both planets, Mauna Kea on Earth and Olympus Mons on Mars;
- be aware that Olympus Mons is not only the biggest volcano in the Solar System, but also its biggest mountain;
- make calculations to calculate the volume, mass, density and weight of the two volcanoes;
- compare the eruptions of both volcanoes and to understand that both are shield volcanoes formed by lavas with a basaltic composition.

4. Primary subjects

General science, Geology, Maths, Physics, Geometry

5. Additional subjects

Arts (drawing)

6. Time required 30 minutes plus 30 minutes more for the "Follow up activities"

7. Key terms

Volcanoes, basalt, shield volcanoes, volume, density, gravity, weight, scale, equivalence of units, asthenosphere, deformation

8. Materials

- graph paper,
- ruler,
- compass,
- pencil

9. Background



Figure 2: Olympus Mons compared to France. Published under Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International

Many students find difficult to compare the dimensions of the different planets in the Solar System, as well as the relative size of the volcanos of both planets.

Through a series of simple calculations, they learn about the size of its biggest mountains. From its volume, composition and density, they can calculate their respective weights.

They can produce, then, theories to explain the differences in size as well as to better understand the dynamics of a planet with tectonic plates moving upon a plastic asthenosphere compared to another one with no active tectonic plates in the present.

10. Procedures

Before starting the activity, ask the students to use an engine search (i.e. Google™) in order to find out which are the biggest mountains on Earth and Mars as well as its dimensions (height and maximum diameter).

Their results should be:

PLANET	MOUNTAIN	TYPE	HEIGHT	DIAMETER
Earth	Mauna Kea (Hawaii)	Volcano	about 9,100m*	about 180km*
Mars	Olympus Mons	Volcano	about 25,000m*	about 600km*

*Results may differ from one source to another because of the *reference surface* to calculate the height as well as the shape of the basis that is not circular and therefore the measure of the diameter approximates the *mean diameter*.

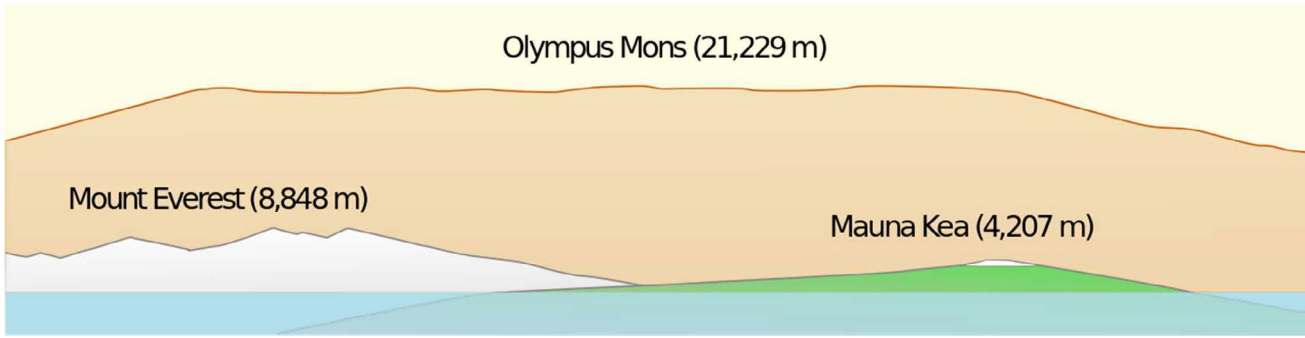


Figure 3: Olympus Mons compared to Mount Everest and Mauna Kea. Published under Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International

Now give them a graph paper and ask them to represent a cross section of both volcanoes.

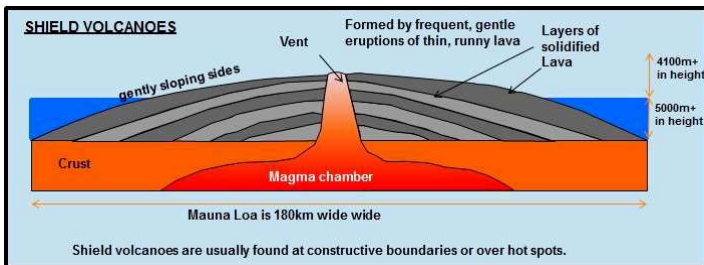
Scales suggested are: - horizontal: 1:2,500,000;

- vertical: 1:1,000,000.

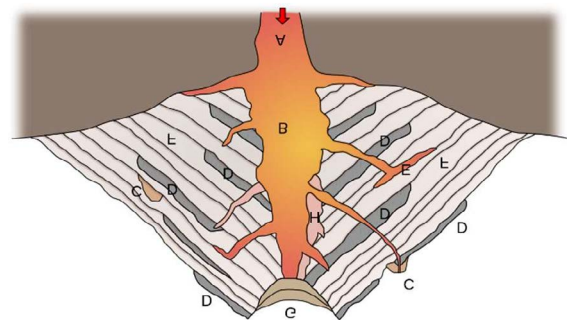
Then, ask the students to calculate the tangent of the slopes of both volcanoes using the following formula:

$$\text{Tangent} = \text{height} / \text{radius}$$

It is expected both results to be quite similar. As the Mauna Kea is a typical shield volcano formed by runny, basaltic high temperature lavas, with low angle slopes, we can find out that Olympus Mons is a Martian shield volcano also formed by basalt type lavas. The samples analysed in Mars confirm this theory.



Shield volcano (Wikimedia commons)



Stratovolcano (Wikimedia commons)

Figure 5: A shield volcanoes compared to a stratovolcano.

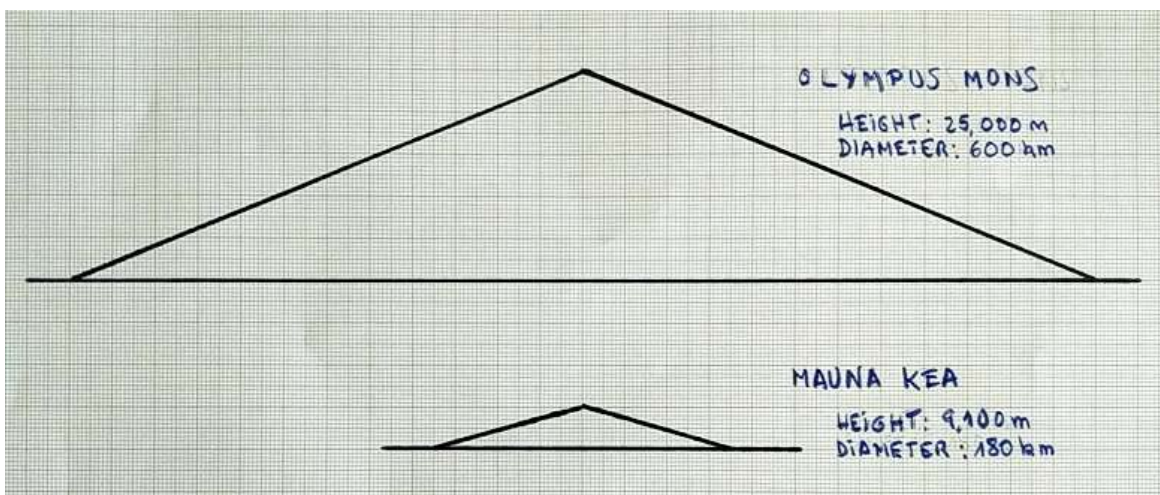


Figure 6: The two volcanoes plotted on a graph paper. Scales: horizontal 1:2,500,000; vertical: 1:1,000,000 Drawing: Xavier Juan

11. Discussion of the results and conclusions

A final discussion about the results should lead to the question: why Mars (a smaller planet than the Earth) has such an enormous volcano compared to the Earth volcanoes?

Possible answers are:

- *In Hawaii, the movement of the Pacific plate upon a unmovable plume causes the formation and extinction of successive volcanoes that don't have time enough to grow very high.*
- *In Mars an unmovable plume feeding the volcano for a long time causes a higher volcanic building.*
- *A lower gravity in Mars seems to favour a higher volcanic activity.*

12. Follow up activities

Calculating the volume of the two volcanoes:

Accepting that the approximate shapes of the two volcanoes is a cone, and knowing its height and radius, students could calculate both volumes by using the formula:

$$V = \frac{1}{3} \pi r^2 h$$

Where r is the radius of the base and h , the height of the cone.

Calculating the mass of the two volcanoes:

Now, knowing the volume of both volcanoes and the average density of basalt (about $3,000 \text{ kg/m}^3$), the students should be able to calculate the mass of the two volcanoes by using the following formula:

$$\rho = m / V$$

where ρ is the density, m the mass and V the volume.

Calculating the weight of the two volcanoes:

Now, provided that the average gravity is for the Earth and Mars (9.8 m/s^2 and 3.7 m/s^2 , respectively), pupils should be able to calculate the weight of both volcanoes:

$$W = mg$$

Where W is weight, m the mass and g the acceleration of gravity.

Discussing the results:

Knowing the weight of Mauna Kea upon the Earth crust and Olympus Mons upon Mars, ask the students to propose explanations for the fact that the Earth's crust is depressed around Mauna Kea because of its weight and that there's no evidence of such a sinking of Mars surface around Olympus Mons.

Possible answers are:

- The pressure (= weight (force) / surface) is less on Mars than on the Earth.
- As the outer layer of the Earth (lithosphere) is broken in several tectonic plates, the Pacific plate behaves apart from the rest of plates to the pressure caused by Mauna Kea.
- Mauna Kea is not a single volcano in the Hawaii area, but one of a complex of volcanoes with a resulting weight bigger than the one that they have calculated.
- In the Earth, the existence of a plastic layer below the lithosphere (asthenosphere) allows the Pacific plate deformation because of the weight of the Hawaii volcanoes. This is not the case for Mars where it seems that there's not a plastic layer like in the Earth.

All the possible answers could be true but, probably, the most significant is the absence of asthenosphere in Mars

13. Explore More (additional resources for teachers)

NASA Mars Exploration Program: <https://mars.nasa.gov/>

A flight simulation over Olympus Mons : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OTazRNGXSC8>

Olympus Mons (*largest volcano in the solar system!*): <https://mars.jpl.nasa.gov/gallery/atlas/olympus-mons.html>



How to estimate epicenter location with only one seismic station on Earth

1. Introduction & Pb

Usually, students work on epicenter location by using origin time of the earthquake and arrival time of seismic waves. With records from three seismic stations, it is possible to estimate the epicenter location.

On Mars, there is only one sensor to detect and to estimate the epicenter location. We propose here to invite students to estimate the epicenter of the Mw 9.0 Tohoku-Oki earthquake (Mars 11, 2011, Japan), with only one seismic station.

2. Age of students 15 – 17 years

3. Objectives

Use an approach similar to that used by researchers working on the mission insight to estimate the epicenter location of an earthquake with only one record from a three-components seismic station.

4. Primary subjects

Physics – Earth Science

5. Additional subjects

6. Time required: 2h

7. Key terms

Rayleigh waves, Epicentral distance, azimuth

8. Materials

Supports used :

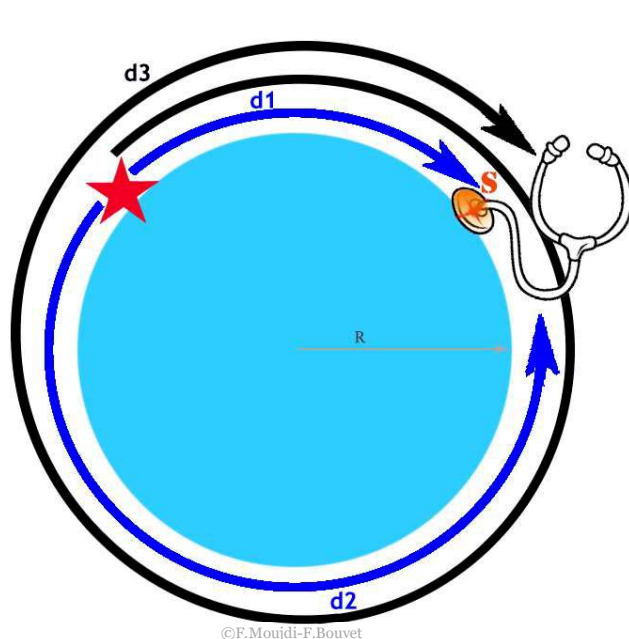
- Data from RESIF network
- SeisGram2K80_ECOLE© : To download free of charge from the Edumed website: <http://edumed.unice.fr/fr/tools-lab>

Data :

- The Mw 9.0 Mars 11, 2011 Tohoku-Oki earthquake (Japan), recorded at the station CALF (Observatoire de la Côte d'Azur, Calern, France).

9. Background

- Rayleigh waves detection:
 - o They are low periods waves, the associated arks are longer than arks from body waves. They're also higher in amplitude.
 - o If the earthquake has sufficient energy, the surface wave can pass several times at the station: packs of longer period signal can appear in the signal.



»s (Fig. 1)

$$distance_{(source/station)} = \frac{t_3 - t_2}{2} \cdot \frac{2\pi R}{t_3 - t_1}$$

Figure 1. Theoretical approach to estimate an epicentral distance from Rayleigh waves. White star seismic source. Black inverted triangle: Seismic station. d_1 : shortest distance between the source and the station. d_2 : longest distance between the source and the station. d_3 : travel along the d_1 distance plus a complete rotation around the planet. t_1 : arrival time of Rayleigh waves after the propagation along d_1 . t_2 : arrival time of Rayleigh waves after the propagation along d_2 . t_3 : arrival time of Rayleigh waves after the propagation along d_3 . R : radius of the planet.

10. Procedures

Students are then invited to pick Rayleigh waves from the Tohoku-Oki earthquake, recorded at the station CALF.

- pick of the three arrival times, and compute of the epicentral distance.

Here, the automatic tool provided by SeisGram2k is not used. Students read arrival times and compute manually the distance to the epicenter from the formula in Figure 1.

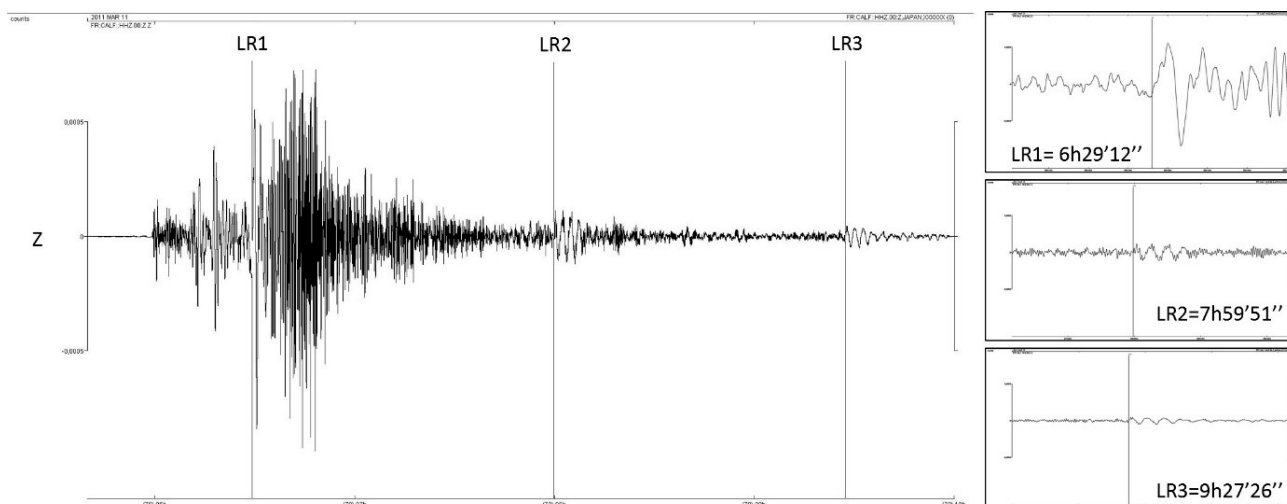


Figure 2. Pick of the three passage of Rayleigh waves (Tohoku-Oki earthquake) at the station CALF. Right column: zoom of each pick, with the observed arrival times (UTC).

10. Discussion of the results and conclusions

In this case, the epicentral distance computed is equals to 9841 km.

- Estimate the backazimuth.

The epicentral distance computed previously indicate that the epicenter is on a circle, which the radius is equals to 9841 km. Two parameters are required to find the correct position on this circle: the azimuth, and the backazimuth. The azimuth gives the direction of the first ground motion in the horizontal plane at the station, positive clockwise. The backazimuth gives the sense where the epicenter is. The polarity of the P wave from the vertical component is required: i) if the polarity is positive, the first motion is upwards, the backazimuth is equals to the azimuth plus 180° ; ii) if the polarity is negative the first motion is downwards, the backazimuth is equals to the azimuth.

SeisGram2k allows to determine the azimuth value, with the rotation tool. It's possible to virtually rotate the geographical frame and to compute amplitudes in the new frame. By rotating the frame, amplitude of the P wave vary between two maxima, passing by a null value, on each component. The rotation value which allows to cancel the P wave on the East component give the azimuth: the motion is only in the North direction of the new geographical frame.

a. Detect the first P waves on each horizontal components.

Use zoom tool of seismogram to select a time windows adapted to highlight the first P wave. The increase/decrease amplitude tool could be used.

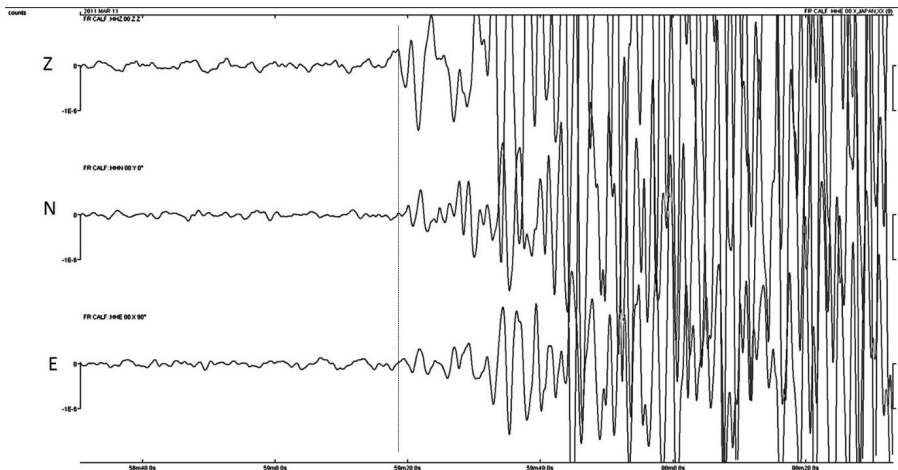


Figure 3. Records of the Tohoku-Oki earthquake. Vertical black dashed line: pick of the P wave. E: East component. N: north component. Z: vertical component.

b. Rotate horizontal component (clockwise) to cancel the P wave on the East component

In this case, a rotation equals to $+30^\circ$ allows to cancel the P wave amplitude on the East component. The first motion is in a direction equals to $+30^\circ$ (clockwise) from the North in the real geographic frame: it's the value of the azimuth.

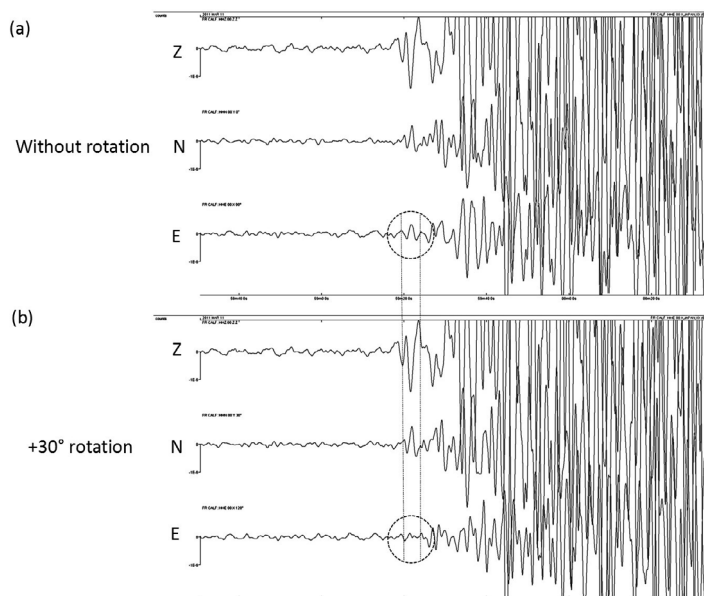


Figure 4. Records of the Tohoku-Oki earthquake. (a) Raw seismograms. Black dashed ellipse: identification of the P wave from the east component. (b) Seismograms after a rotation equals to $+30^\circ$: the P wave amplitude is canceled. E: East component. N: north component. Z: vertical component.

c. Estimate the backazimut value from the P wave polarity on the vertical component

In this case, the P wave is downwards on the vertical component (Fig. 3): the backazimut is equals to the azimuth.

Information file in SeisGram2K indicate an azimuth equals to 329.5° . This azimuth is corresponding to the direction at the epicenter from the geographic North to the station: it is equals to the angle between the geographical north minus the backazimuth (counter-clockwise).

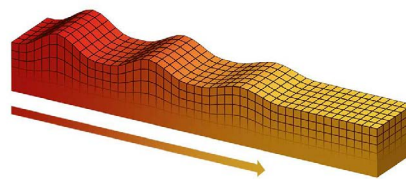
Determine the location of a Martian earthquake from a single seismometer

1. Introduction & Pb

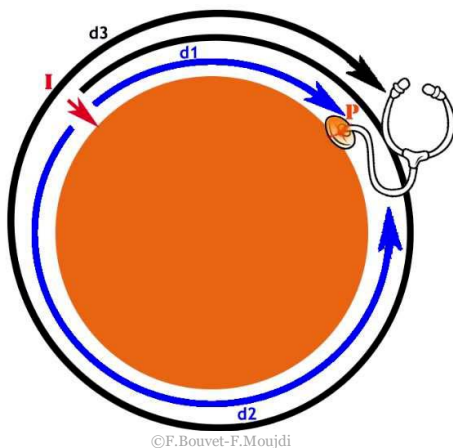
Let's try to understand how with a single seismometer it will be possible to locate the origin of seismic waves created by a meteorite impact or an earthquake.

Theoretically, Mars having a small perimeter, scientists hope to record several wave trains, shifted in time corresponding to the same earthquake or impact.

The waves that can circle the planet several times are the Rayleigh surface waves.



Principe de déplacement d'une onde de surface
(© IPGP/David Ducros).



©F.Bouvet-F.Moujdi

I: point of impact, origin of the seismic wave.

P: seismometer

T₁: the time taken by seismic waves to travel the distance **d₁**

T₂: the time taken by seismic waves to travel the distance **d₂**

T₃: the time taken by seismic waves to travel the distance **d₂+2d₁** or **d₃**

2. Age of students 15 – 17 years

3. Objectives

The Insight mission aims to locate an earthquake on Mars using a single seismometer.

In this activity, students will use experimentation to better understand the scientific approach used by researchers to estimate the location of an epicentre of an earthquake with the recording of a single seismometer.

In our experiment we will use a piezo cell to simulate the work of the SEIS instrument.

4. Primary subjects

Physics – Earth Science – Mathematics

5. Additional subjects

6. Time required: 2h

7. Key terms.

Epicenter, surface waves, frequency, seismogram

8. Materials

- A pilates balloon, perimeter 250 cm
- Audacity 1.2.6
- 1 piezo cell
- 2 polystyrene bars
- 1 tape measure
- 1 ball of 11,5g and 1,4cm suspended from a 1m wire fixed to a protractor

9. Background

The notions of seismic wave propagation, the origins of an earthquake.

10. Procedures

Place the balloon on the polystyrene bars to avoid any contact with the ground

Tape a piezo cell onto the balloon

Determine a striking zone 93cm from the piezo cell

Hang the protractor so that the ball is level with the hitting area.

Let's experiment with a model to better understand the theory

Detail of the experimental device

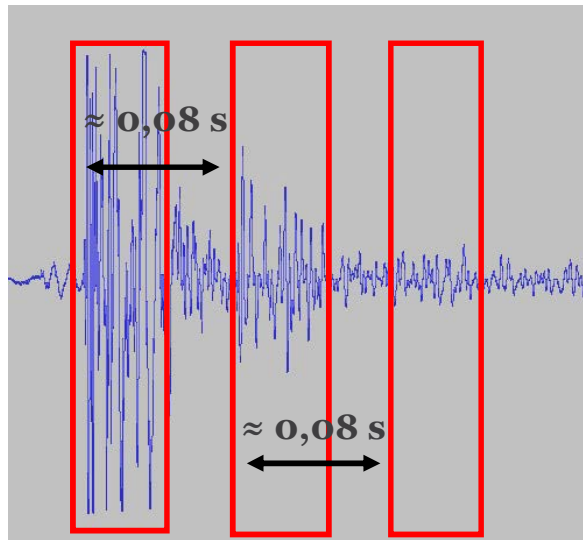


Make several successive recordings with impacts of constant intensity. To do this, move the ball so that the wire faces an angle of 50° with the vertical.

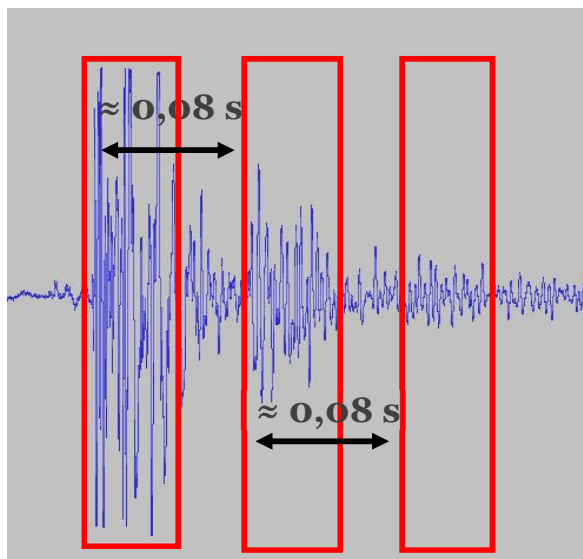
Let's analyze the results obtained:

Several wave trains are observed as predicted by the scientists' simulations. Let's determine the time elapsed between the different wave trains.

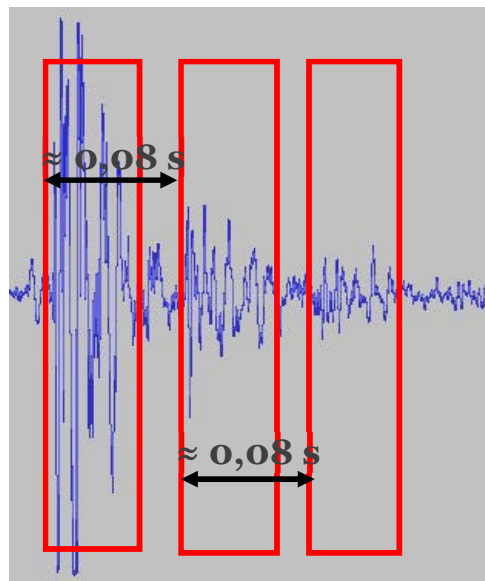
Record 1



Record 2



Record 3



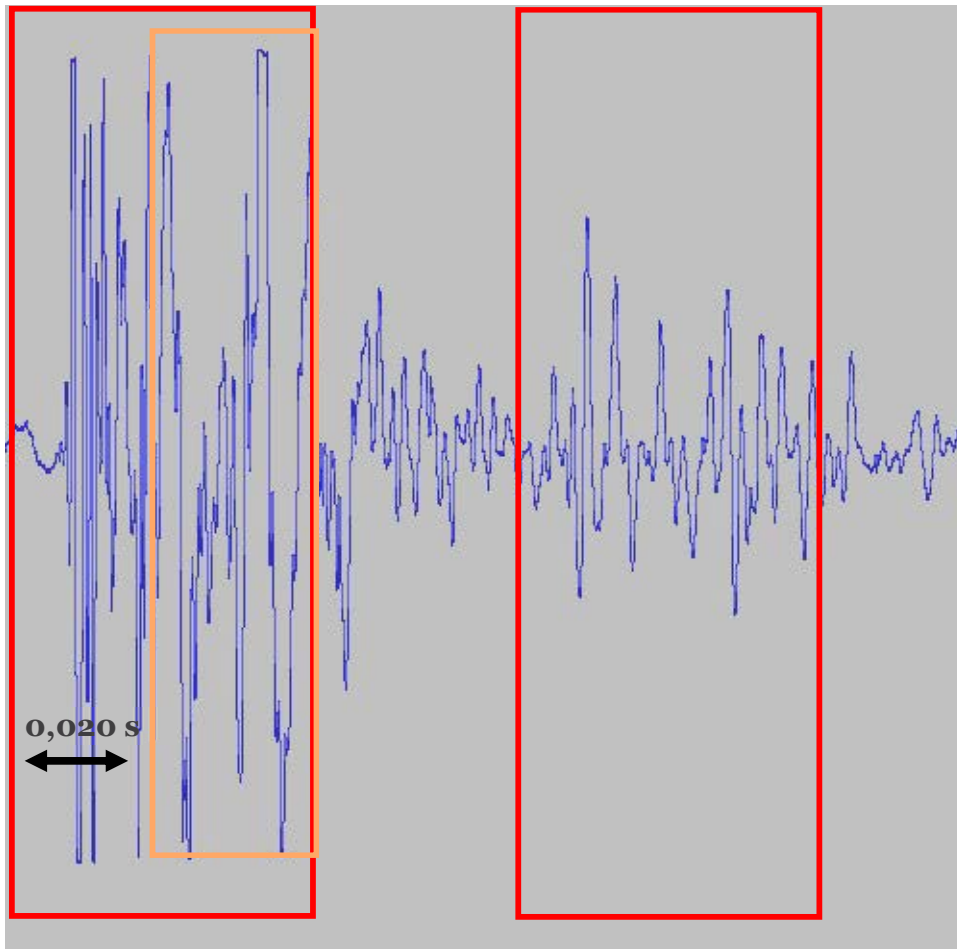
From the obtained results, let us assume that the time elapsed between each wave train corresponds to the time taken by the latter to complete a complete balloon revolution d_2+d_1

We can therefore determine an approximation for the speed of wave propagation on the surface of the balloon.

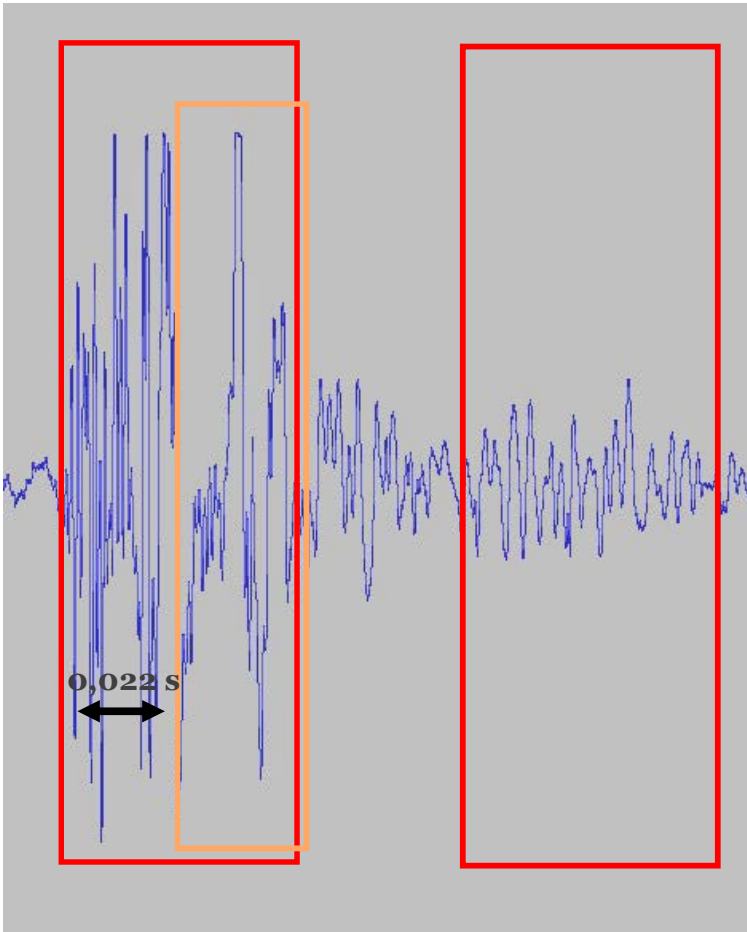
$$\begin{aligned} V &= d / t = (d_1+d_2) / t \\ &= 250 / 0,08 = 3125 \text{ cm.s}^{-1} \end{aligned}$$

Let's take a closer look at the first. We are trying to find out if the waves that travelled the distance d_2 were detected by the piezo.

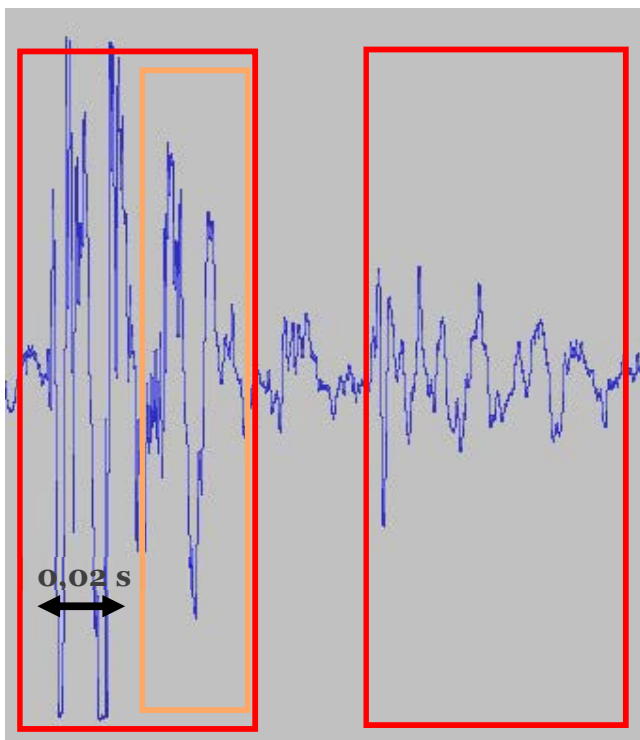
Record 1



Record 2



Record 3



Let us suppose that this signal corresponds to the waves that travelled the distance d_2 .

We can estimate an impact area.

$$d_2 - d_1 = \Delta t \times V$$

$$d_2 - d_1 = 0,02 \times 3125 = \underline{62,5 \text{ cm}}$$

$$d_1 = (250 - 62,5) / 2 = \underline{93,75 \text{ cm}}$$

11. Discussion of the results and conclusions

The distance between the seismometer and the earthquake source, the time of the earthquake, and the average speed at which waves travel over the planet's surface can be estimated by combining the arrival times of waves R1, R2 and R3. Earthquakes of magnitude 4.5 or greater are relatively rare events on Mars, but geophysicists estimate that over the duration of the mission (one Martian year, or two terrestrial years), it should be possible to observe between about 3 and 5.

It is important to note that the effectiveness of the techniques that will be implemented for the InSight mission has been validated on Earth with data from unique stations. (cf: activity on the study of earthquakes on Earth from a single seismometer). These have led to the discovery of one of the Earth's internal structure models commonly used by geophysicists (PREM) with acceptable error bars.

However, there are unknowns, and the validity of the technique summarized above cannot be confirmed until scientists receive and analyze records from Mars.

12. Follow up activities

On the Moon geophysicists were astonished to discover that the lunar crust caused enormous diffraction of the seismic waves, preventing the existence of surface waves. Since the Martian crust, just like the lunar crust, was exposed to a massive bombardment of asteroids early on in the formation of the solar system, its pulverised nature and numerous craters, especially in the planet's southern hemisphere, could also cause seismic waves to be diffracted; seriously complicating analysis.

13. Explore More (additional resources for teachers)

- <https://www.seis-insight.eu/en/public-2/martian-science/seismic-activity>

- The geology of Mars, edited by Mary Chapman



Plasticine balls: how can we explore inside Mars?

1. Introduction & Pb

During the latest centuries, many geoscientists have been working to unveil the internal structure of the Earth. Apart from observing the rocks on the Earth surface and analysing and testing them using different methods, a wide range of tools to find out how it is the structure of the Earth have been developed.

In 1970, the Kola Superdeep Borehole failed to reach the depth it had been designed for: to drill a hole 15 km deep in the Kola Peninsula (ancient USSR). This deepest hole drilled in the Earth reached a depth of 12,262 metres. So, the geoscientists don't have direct access to any rock below this depth.

Once proven that direct methods like drilling the Earth could not provide information about the internal structure of the whole Earth (its radius being of about 6,400 km), the scientists focused on improving even more the indirect methods that had already being developed since the 19th Century. Refining these techniques and making them more precise has been a major contribution to our current knowledge of the internal structure of the Earth as well as the dynamic processes that take place deep in our planet.

These methods include:

- Calculating the average density of the Earth by knowing its mass and volume.
- Studying the seismic waves that travel through its layers every time an earthquake takes place anywhere on the Earth.
- Studying and analysing the meteorites falling on the Earth surface.
- Studying the general Earth's magnetic field and what causes it.
- Studying how the Earth spins (its rotational inertia).

2. Age of students 14 to 18 years old

3. Objectives

Students can:

- propose hypothesis and discuss them with the rest of students
- suggest methods for testing these hypothesis
- suggest which of these could be useful to probe the Earth
- suggest which of these could be used to probe Mars with the available technology

4. Primary subjects

- Earth science
- Physics
- Maths

5. Additional subjects Technology

6. Time required 30 minutes

7. Key terms

Internal structure, Earth, Mars, scientific hypothesis, testing, probing, density, seismic waves, magnetism, spheres, meteorites.

8. Materials

- plasticine™ of two colours
- small bar bearings
- several toothpicks
- a Magnaprobe™
- scale (optional)
- slide gauge (optional)

9. Background

Students have to face a problem when they are given two clay ball of the same size but different weight. They are asked to provide hypothesis that could fit with the fact that two spheres that look externally the same (apart from their colour) have a very different physical properties (mass and, therefore their density).

Then they are asked to suggest methods to test what is the internal structure of both balls and to decide which of those could be useful when studying the internal structure of a planet like the Earth or Mars.

10. Procedures

Give to every group of three students two plasticine balls of different colours but the same size and ask them if they feel any difference between the two balls. They easily realize that the weight, and therefore, the density is different.



Figure 1: Two balls: the same size, different weight. Green lighter, red heavier

Ask them to suggest hypothesis that could explain the difference between the two balls. They can provide five different solutions:

- the two balls are made of two types of plasticine with different densities
- one of the balls has something heavier inside
- one of the balls has something lighter inside
- the density of one of the balls increases gradually as you go deeper in it
- the density of one of the balls decreases gradually as you go deeper in it

(The right answer is the that the heavier one contains a ball bearing inside)

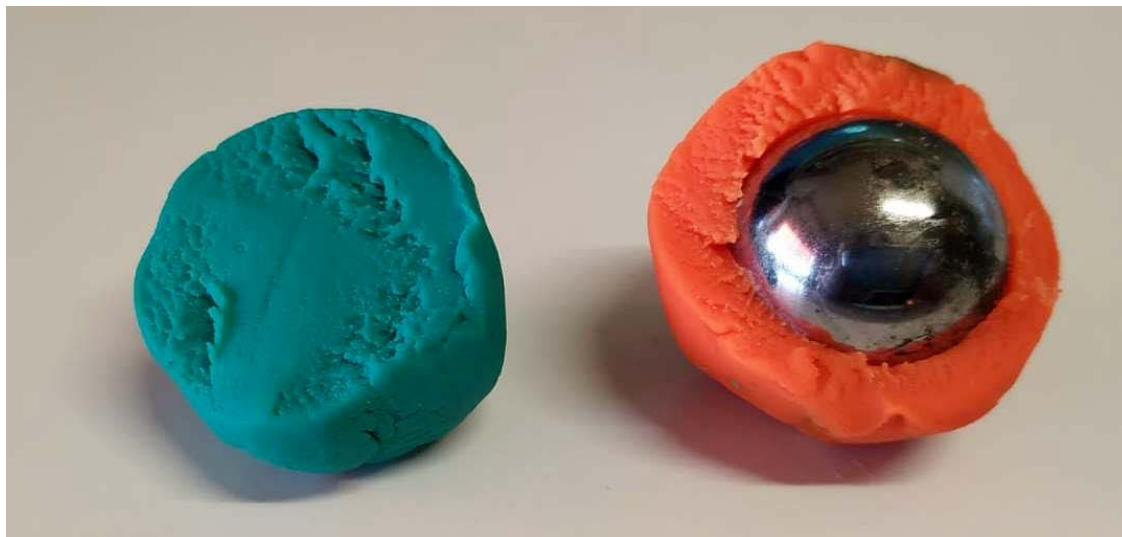


Figure 2: The two balls cut to show their internal structure: green, pure Plasticine™; red ball bearing inside.

Now ask them how, with all the apparatus and technologies available in the Earth, could they test which is the difference between the two balls.

Possible answers:

- weighting the two balls (with a scale) and calculating their density
- drilling them (with toothpicks, for example)
- testing its magnetism (with a small compass)
- using X-rays
- ultrasounds (like the one used to see embryos inside the uterus)
- electromagnetic resonance (EMR) like the ones used in many hospitals
- ionising radiation (alpha, beta or gamma radiation)
- how the Earth spins

Then, ask the students which of these methods are suitable for studying the internal structure of the Earth.

Possible answers:

- weighting the two balls (with a scale) and calculating their density. *Yes, astronomical calculations allow scientists to know the mass of the Earth and, knowing the Earth radius, its possible to calculate the volume, and therefore, the density of the Earth.*

- drilling them (with toothpicks, for example). *Not much, as we have not been able to drill more than 13 km deep.*
- testing its magnetism (with a small compass). *Yes, there's a general magnetic field in the Earth, related with its outer (liquid) and inner (liquid) iron core. It can be detected with a compass.*
- using X-rays. *No, they can't penetrate the Earth.*
- ultrasounds (like the one used to see embryos inside the uterus). *No, they can't penetrate the Earth. However, infrasounds or seismic waves can penetrate the Earth and provide a very useful information about its layers as well as their physical state (solid or fluid).*
- electromagnetic resonance (EMR) like the ones used in many hospitals. *No, they can't penetrate the Earth*
- ionising radiation (alpha, beta or gamma radiation). *No, only gamma radiation can penetrate a few meters into concrete.*
- How the Earth spins. *Yes, the way the Earth spins suggest a denser core inside it.*

Now provide the students with two more clay balls of different colours: one lighter than the lighter they already have (with a ball of expanded polystyrene, EPS, inside) and another one the same weight as the heavier they already have (with a magnet bar inside).

Ask them to order them by increasing density; the results should be:

1. EPS core
2. Plasticine™ core
3. Ball bearing and magnet cores (approximately the same density)

Now, ask them which of these four should be the less suitable to model the internal structure of a planet. (Answer: 1 and 2, as usually, gravity pushes the heaviest materials to "sink" deep in the core of the planets).

Provide them with a small compass and ask them which of the balls 3 or 4 fits better with the internal structure of the Earth and which fits better with Mars. (Answer: *the one with the magnet inside fits better with the model of the Earth as our planet has a general magnetic field related to a liquid iron outer core, while Mars seems to have an iron core but completely solid and, therefore it has no general magnetic field*)

11. Discussion of the results and conclusions

Students can compare the physical properties both of Earth and Mars, discuss which methods are the best to study them, which are available in each planet and compare the degree of knowledge about the internal structure of the Earth and Mars.

12. Follow up activities

Students can use an Internet search engine to research for the equipment of the probe Insight landed on Mars. From this information they can discuss which of the methods suggested for studying the internal structure of the Earth could apply in Mars according with this equipment.

They can also, using a scale and a slide gauge, calculate the density of the four spheres knowing that the formula to calculate the volume of a sphere is:

$$V = \frac{4}{3} \cdot \pi \cdot r^3$$

... and that the density (D) is:

$$\rho = \frac{m}{V}$$

13. Explore More (additional resources for teachers)

- This activity has been developed from the Earthlearningidea “From clay balls to the structure of the Earth” in www.earthlearningidea.com.
- <https://www.nasa.gov/>. Official website of the National and Aeronautics Space Administration (NASA)
- All the relevant information about InSight Mission in <https://www.nasa.gov/feature/jpl/for-insight-dust-cleanings-will-yield-new-science> .



Plasticine balls: comparing planets

1. Introduction & Pb

This activity is intended to be carried out after “Activity 4A. How can we explore inside Mars” in which pupils have learned about the different methods for studying the internal structure of a planet. Nevertheless, this activity can be carried out individually and completely apart of the other one.

Two aspects of the study of the internal structure of a planet have been developed along this activity: the distribution of masses inside it and the presence or absence of a general magnetism.

2. Age of students 14 to 18 years old

3. Objectives

Students can:

- propose hypothesis and discuss them with the rest of students
- suggest methods for testing these hypothesis
- understand how these properties allow or not to distinguish between the Earth and Mars
- calculate the density of different clay balls and compare them
- decide which ball models better the Earth and Mars

4. Primary subjects

- Earth science
- Physics
- Maths

5. Additional subjects

Technology

6. Time required 20 minutes

7. Key terms.

Internal structure, Earth, Mars, scientific hypothesis, testing, probing, density, magnetism, spheres, meteorites.

8. Materials

- plasticine™ of different colours
- small bar bearings
- magnets
- small balls of Expanded Polystyrene (EPS)
- a Magnaprobe™
- scale

9. Background

Students are given four plasticine balls of different colours and they are informed about the composition of the four balls.

They have to decide which of the four balls models better the features (distribution of masses and magnetism) of the two planets, Mars and the Earth.

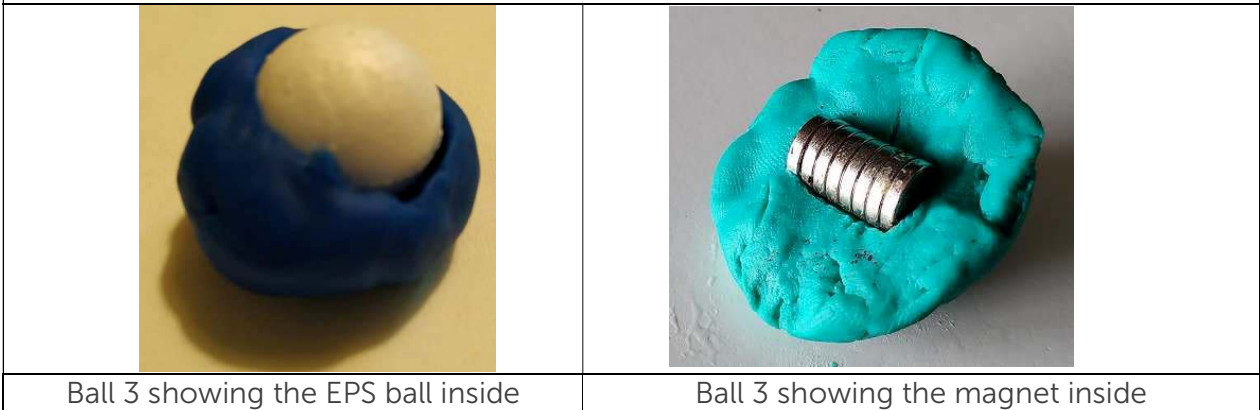
10. Procedures

Provide your students with the four balls but without telling them which colour each sphere is. The four spheres are approximately the same size and their respective composition is:

- *sphere 1*: all of it is made of pure Plasticine™
- *sphere 2*: the Plasticine™ ball contains a ball of Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) inside
- *sphere 3*: contains a ball bearing inside it
- *sphere 4* contains a magnet weighting about the same as the ball bearing of sphere 3



Balls 1 and 3 (green and red) as used in the Activity 3



Ball 3 showing the EPS ball inside

Ball 3 showing the magnet inside

Now, ask them which of the four balls fit better with what is expected about the distribution of layers in any planet and which of the four fit better with the internal structure of the Earth and of Mars respectively.

(The right answer is the that the heavier one contains a bar bearing inside)

Now ask them how, all the apparatus and technologies available in the Earth, could they test which is the difference between the two balls.

Possible answers:

- weighting the two balls (with a scale) and calculating their density
- drilling them (with toothpicks, for example)
- testing its magnetism (with a small compass)
- using X-rays
- ultrasounds (like the one used to see embryos inside the uterus)
- electromagnetic resonance (EMR) like the ones used in many hospitals
- ionising radiation (alpha, beta or gamma radiation)
- How the Earth spins

Then, ask the students which of these methods are suitable for studying the internal structure of the Earth.

Possible answers:

- weighting the two balls (with a scale) and calculating their density. *Yes, astronomical calculations allow scientist to know the mass of the Earth and, knowing the Earth radius, its possible to calculate the volume, and therefore, the density of the Earth.*
- drilling them (with toothpicks, for example). *Not much, as we have not been able to drill more than 13 km deep.*
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- How the Earth spins. *Yes, the way the Earth spins suggest a denser core inside it.*

Now provide the students with two more clay balls of different colours: one lighter than the lighter they already have (with a ball of expanded polystyrene, EPS, inside) and another one the same weight as the heavier they already have (with a magnet bar inside).

Ask them to order them by increasing density; the results should be:

1. EPS core
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Now, ask them which of these four should be the less suitable to model the internal structure of a planet. *(Answer: 1 and 2, as usually, gravity pushes the heaviest material to "sink" deep in the core of the planets).*

Provide them with a small compass and ask them with of the balls 3 and 4 fits better with the internal structure of the Earth and which fits better with Mars. *(Answer: the one with the magnet inside fits better with the model of the Earth as our planet has a general magnetic field related to a liquid iron outer core, while Mars seems to have an iron core but completely solid and, therefore it has no general magnetic field)*

11. Discussion of the results and conclusions

Students can compare other physical properties both of Earth and Mars, discuss which methods are the best to study them, which are available in each planet and compare the degree of knowledge about the internal structure of the Earth and Mars.

12. Follow up activities

Students can, also, using a scale and a slide gauge, calculate the density of the four spheres knowing that the formula to calculate the volume of a sphere is:

$$V = \frac{4}{3} \cdot \pi \cdot r^3$$

... and that the density (D) is:

$$\rho = \frac{m}{V}$$

13. Explore More (additional resources for teachers)

- This activity has been developed from the Earthlearningidea "From clay balls to the structure of the Earth" in www.earthlearningidea.com.
- <https://www.nasa.gov/>. Official website of the National and Aeronautics Space Administration (NASA)
- All the relevant information about InSight Mission in <https://www.nasa.gov/feature/jpl/for-insight-dust-cleanings-will-yield-new-science>.



The seismogram: a complex signal

1. Introduction & Pb

The ground motion is the result of arrivals of many waves, which have their own frequency. Seismometers record ground motion continually and this continue signal, without arrival of seismic waves, is considered as the ambient seismic noise.

When an earthquake is well recorded, seismic waves are clearly identified relative to the continue seismic noise. But sometimes, these waves had been recorded, but they are not perceptible. Knowing frequencies ranges of seismic waves, it is possible to find an hidden earthquake in the seismic noise.

2. Age of students 15 – 17 years

3. Objective

Filtering a seismogram with adapted bandwidth to observe seismic waves.

4. Primary subjects

Earth science - Physics

5. Additional subjects

Informatics: Audacity software

6. Time required 2hrs

7. Key terms

Wave – Frequency - Seismograms

8. Materials

Supports used:

- Data from RESIF network
- SeisGram2K80_ECOLE© : To download free of charge from the Edumed website: <http://edumed.unice.fr/fr/tools-lab>

Data:

- The Mw 4.8 January 1, 2019 earthquake (Greece), recorded at the station CALF (Observatoire de la Côte d'Azur, Calern, France).
- The Mw 6.3 December First, 2018 earthquake (Indonesia), recorded at the station CALF.

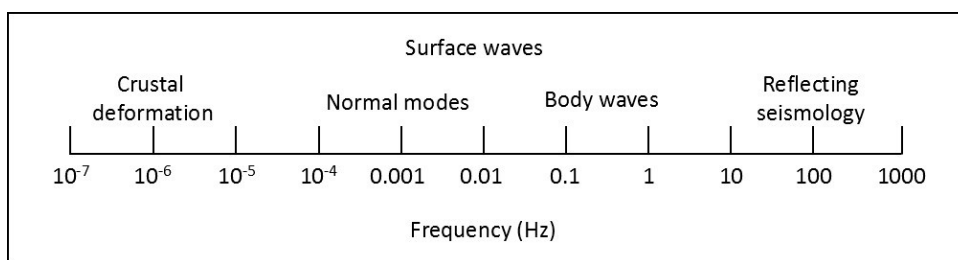
9. Background Seismogram2K -

10. Procedures

Step one: processing of the Greek earthquake to display P waves

The raw seismograms are extractions of continuous seismic signal where seismic waves should be perceptible. On each component, no seismic waves are observable. Related to the magnitude (M_w 4.8) and the epicentral distance (15.87°). By considering an average P wave velocity of 8 km/s (related to the epicentral distance), first P wave should arrive on 11:45:43 a.m.

By providing the following frequencies scale to students, they can estimate a specific frequencies range for body waves.

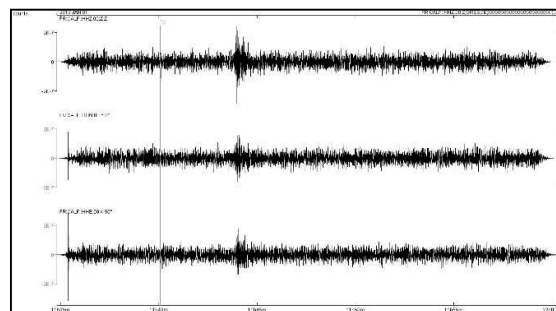
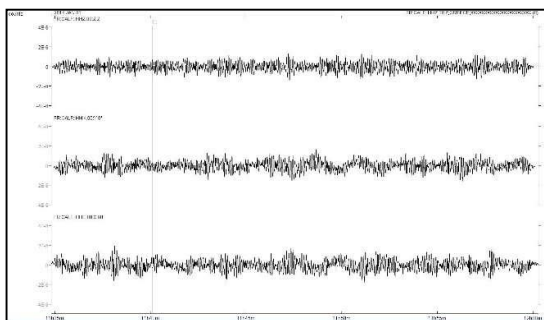


This scale (from Stein and Wysession, 2013) is an indicative scale. Student can observe that the body waves frequencies spread out from values lower than 0.01 Hz and upper than 1 Hz.

Exercise: test different bounding values for a bandpass filtering in order to highlight seismic waves.

In this case, the lower value for a bandpass filtering must be greater than or equal to 1 Hz. The greater value has no influence on the emergence of seismic waves.

Results:



Step two: processing of the Indonesian earthquake to display P waves

As previously, no seismic waves are observable in raw data.

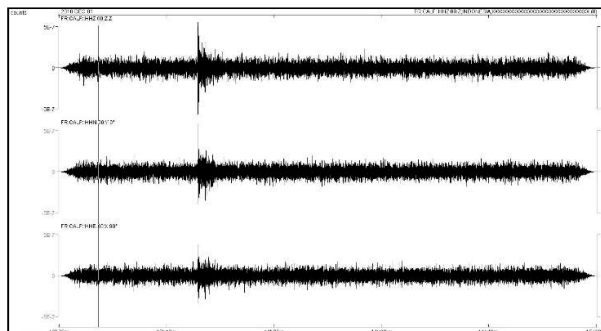
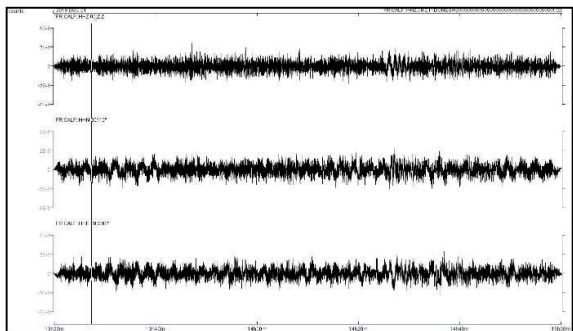
Exercise: students are again asked to found adapted values for bandpass filtering which allow highlighting seismic waves.

In this case, the lower value for bandpass filtering to display P wave can be greater than or equal to 0.5 Hz.

First conclusion: although seismic waves are not observable in seismograms, they can be highlighted with an adapted processing. These two steps show that P waves are easily observable in frequencies range greater than 1 Hz.

But what about S waves and surface waves ?

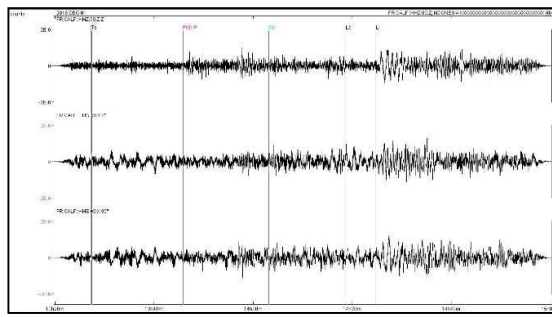
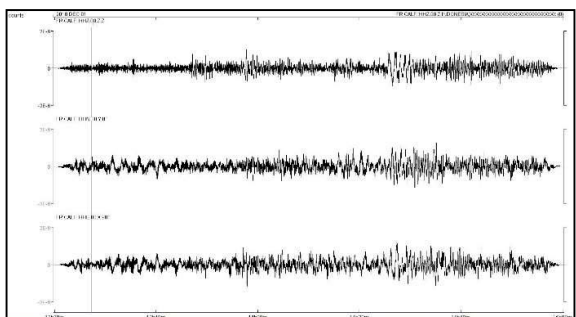
Results:



Step three: processing of the Indonesian earthquake to display P, S and surface waves

Exercise: students are asked to find adapted values in order to highlight P, S, and surface waves.

In this case, range values between 0.01 and 0.1 Hz allows displaying body and surface waves. Pick of theoretical arrival times with SeisGram2K allows to easily identify the different waves packs. For this teleseismic event P waves are in fact PKIKP waves, and S waves are SS waves. Rayleigh waves are well displayed and easily identifying.



11. Discussion of the results and conclusions

Seismograms contain a large frequency content, and seismic waves could be hidden in the seismic noise, on Earth as on Mars. Scientists will have to process future data with accuracy in order to detect waves from future impacts and marsquakes.

Main conclusion:

Seismograms contain a large frequency content, and seismic waves could be hidden in the seismic noise, on Earth as on Mars. Scientists will have to process future data with accuracy in order to detect waves from future impacts and marsquakes.



Atmospheric parameters and impact on seismic records

1. Introduction & Pb

A seismic station is designed to detect infinitesimal ground motions. Its electronic devices can be impacted by ground motions, and also by atmospheric parameters. We proposed here seismograms where the continuous signal is not flat: day after day big daily arks are observed.

2. Age of students 15 – 17 years

3. Objective

Filter seismic noise by detecting atmospheric variations in the signal

4. Primary subjects

Earth science - Physics

5. Additional subjects

Informatics: SeisGram2K80_ECOLE©

6. Time required 2hrs

7. Key terms

Seismograms – Frequency - Waves

8. Materials

Supports used:

- Data from RESIF network
- SeisGram2K80_ECOLE© : To download free of charge from the Edumed website: <http://edumed.unice.fr/fr/tools-lab>

Data:

- Continuous seismic signal from February 3 to February 7, 2019, recorded at the station MYLF (Forcalquier, Alpes de Haute Provence, Observatoire de la Côte d'Azur).

9. Background

Using the SeisGram2K80_ECOLE© software

10. Procedures

Step one: Analysis of the continuous signal.

Students have to describe continuous signals from the picture in Figure 1.

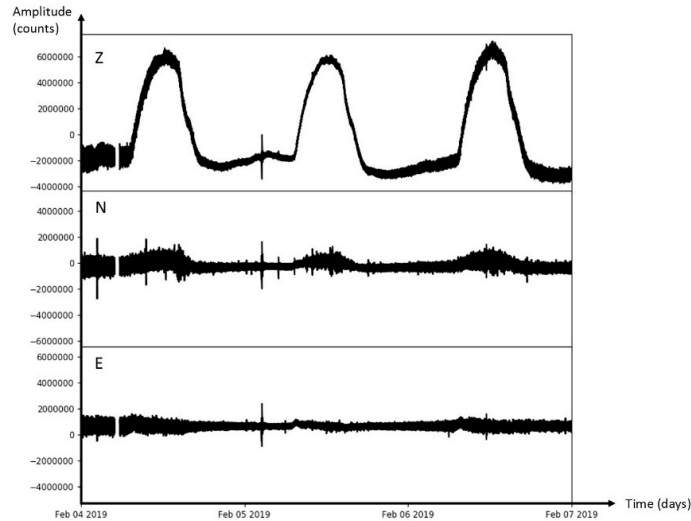


Figure 1. Records from the station MLYF (from February 4 to February 7, 2019). E: East component. N: North component. Z: vertical component.

In this case, students must highlight that the signal from the Z component is clearly daily disturbed: each day, the signal form an ark which increase till midday, and decrease after. This phenomenon is also observed in signal from the north component. The East component seems less impacted.

Step two: Find a physical parameter which can induce this drift of the continuous signal.

The seismogram from the vertical component can be used to ease analyse the continuous signal.

Step three: Find remarkable event except the daily arks.

In this case, an earthquake is recorded on 02h29m06s.

But in this continuous signal four others earthquakes are recorded (Fig. 2).

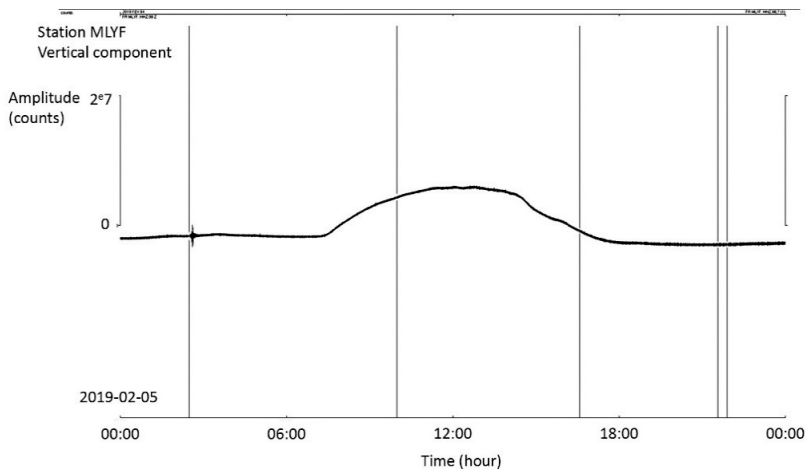


Figure 2. Continuous signal from the station MLYF (February 5, 2019). Vertical black lines: pick of earthquakes recorded this day.

Step four: Observation of these earthquakes

With SeisGram2K and the zoom and scroll tools, try to identify seismic waves recorded at each pick marker on Figure 2, and find the corresponding earthquake in Table 1.

time	Latitude (deg)	Longitude (deg)	Depth (km)	Magnitude
02/05/2019 02:23:20	44.623	6.999	5.22619	1.10
02/05/2019 02:59:21	44.620	6.996	5.90243	0.98
02/05/2019 03:14:54	44.627	6.995	3.97904	1.05
02/05/2019 03:24:12	44.632	6.994	4.50887	0.67
02/05/2019 03:30:24	44.622	7.002	5.23938	0.78
02/05/2019 03:46:13	44.631	7.004	5.74260	0.99
02/05/2019 06:40:26	44.321	7.203	2.69562	0.89
02/05/2019 11:08:10	43.431	6.337	3.15283	1.66
02/05/2019 16:33:52	43.600	5.367	0.00	2.20
05/02/2019 02:19:15	44.510	10.100	22.00	2.3
05/02/2019 06:54:58	43.420	12.470	9.00	2.1
05/02/2019 08:30:59	45.860	7.050	2.00	3.1
05/02/2019 08:31:00	45.850	7.080	10.00	3.1
05/02/2019 09:02:50	45.840	7.030	5.00	2.4
05/02/2019 09:52:45	45.970	6.970	8.00	3.0
05/02/2019 09:55:54	45.880	7.040	8.00	1.5
05/02/2019 11:47:51	44.440	12.190	32.00	2.2
05/02/2019 21:32:59	46.030	5.600	5.00	3.4
05/02/2019 21:52:57	45.980	5.580	10.00	3.2

Table 1. Catalog of seismicity on February 5, 2019 (From the catalog of European Mediterranean Seismology Center and the catalog of the laboratory Géoazur). The covered area is centered on the Region PACA, and North Italy.

11. Discussion of the results and conclusions

Meteorological parameters can have an influence if the sensors is not well isolated from its close environment. On Mars, the seismometer SEIS is protected by a dome against atmospheric activity as daily variation of the temperature and the wind. This dome could withstand squalls of 216 km/h and should even be able to survive winds of 360 km/h (<https://www.seis-insight.eu/en/public-2/seis-instrument/wts>).

Annex 22



Egg drop

1. Introduction & Pb

The landing phase of a probe is one of the most critical phases of a mission. This is why scientists model these phases in the laboratory before launching. We will take the case of the InSight mission that landed on Mars a few months ago.

To survive the intense friction forces that characterize entry into the atmosphere, the InSight probe is protected by a large diameter heat shield. The latter is covered with tiles made of a special material, which will absorb the impressive amount of energy due to the resistance of the atmosphere to the passage of InSight.

After atmospheric entry, the second stage of InSight's landing consists of a parachute descent. The latter will be deployed at an altitude of about 9 kilometres.

Finally, at an altitude of about 1.3 kilometres, while still flying at a speed of 224 kilometres per hour, InSight separated from its parachute, and found itself in free flight, falling like a rock towards the rusty surface of Mars and quickly moving away from the rear shield it had left behind (and to which the parachute had remained attached).

But very quickly, half a second after this event, the landing gear turns on its retrorockets, to brake and stabilize.



Drawing showing the InSight probe during the final (propelled) stage of landing on the equatorial plain of Elysium.

(© IPGP/Manchu/Bureau 21).

Engineering activities give kids a chance to develop problem solving and observations skills, to work with interesting and engaging tools and materials, and to learn how to work as a member of a team. When you drop something, it falls to the ground. This is because it is pulled by the gravity of the Earth. You'll notice that some things drop faster than others, this is because of air resistance. Try dropping a piece of paper and a lego brick. Which drops the fastest?

2. Age of students 6-17 years

3. Objectives

- Describe and define material properties.
- Identify the forces of gravity, drag, and the term air resistance
- Design and build a system that will protect an egg from a 1-meter drop.

4. Primary subjects Physics

5. Additional subjects

6. Time required

1 hour

7. Key terms.

design process, landing, egg drop competition

8. Materials

eggs
big zip bags
cotton-wool
pencils/paper or computer
any construction materials from students' homes

9. Background

When you drop something, it falls to the ground. This is because it is pulled by the gravity of the Earth. You'll notice that some things drop faster than others, this is because of air resistance. Try dropping a piece of paper and a lego brick. Which drops the fastest?

If you tried dropping paper and a lego brick or similar, the paper should have dropped to the floor more slowly than the brick, this is because the paper has a larger surface area, so has to push against more air as it drops, which means the air resistance is greater and it drops more slowly.

You need to create something that can absorb the energy the egg gathers as it accelerates towards the ground. A hard surface will crack the egg so you have to think carefully about how you can protect it. Something that will cushion the egg at the end of its fall is a good place to start, you want the egg to decelerate slowly so it doesn't crack or smash all over the ground. You'll need to run a few trials so have some eggs.

10. Procedures

The idea is to wrap the egg in a layer of cotton-wool that will protect it from landing. Put the egg wrapped in cotton-wool in a zippered bag and allow it to fall from about 1 m high. If the cotton layer is thin the egg will crack.

11. Discussion of the results and conclusions

After the experiment, analyze your data. In an egg drop project, you will determine how well your design performed. If the egg broke after the first drop, you know that revisions need to be made. However, this does not mean the experiment was a bad one. In science, all results are good results, because all results offer an opportunity to learn. When something goes wrong or does not work the way it is expected, it provides a chance to find out why and correct it. If an egg breaks, look at the data, assess the performance of your design and use it to figure how it can be made better.

12. Follow up activities

13. Explore More (additional resources for teachers)

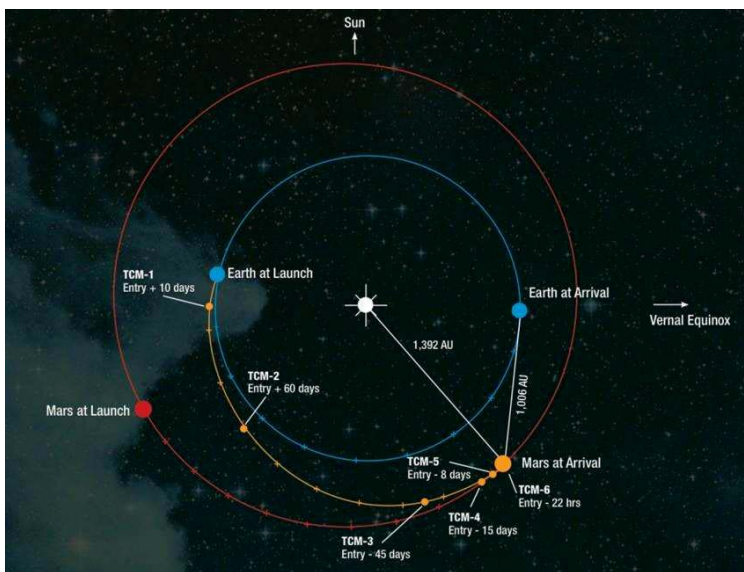
STEM activities websites

- <https://www.seis-insight.eu/fr/public/la-mission-insight/atterrissage>
- "Mars in a minute" du Jet Propulsion Laboratory (© JPL-Caltech/IPGP).

Going to Mars

1. Introduction & Pb

Finding the relative position of Earth and Mars which correspond to the optimal spacecraft travel path in terms of energy consumption, using planetary position data and advanced algebra concept, all in order to determine the next launch opportunity to Mars.



Orbit followed by the InSight probe between Earth and Mars (© NASA)

2. Age of students 15-17 years

3. Objectives

The objective is to determine the next launch window to Mars from the relative position of Earth and Mars that corresponds to the optimal trajectory of the spacecraft in terms of energy consumption and using planetary position data and the concept of advanced algebra.

4. Primary subjects

Mathematics - Physics – Earth and Space Science

5. Additional subjects

6. Time required

30 min – 1 hour

7. Key terms.

Orbits, Earth, Mars, space missions, launch windows, graph

8. Materials

Calculator, push-pins, graph paper, quadrille ruled, planetary heliocentric longitudes data sheet

9. Background

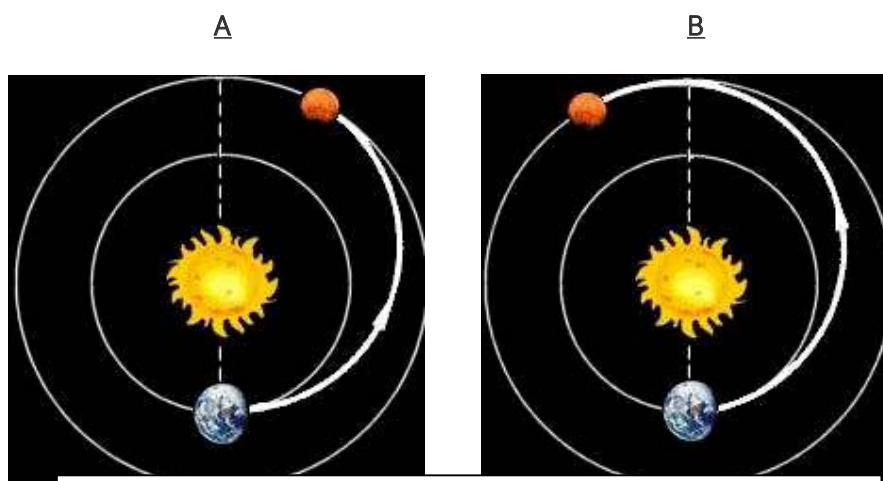
To get a spacecraft from Earth to any planet, you need to consider the curved travel path resulted as a combination of spacecraft velocity and planet gravitational pull. To get the most from this scenario scientists need to “work” with these forces and travel as much as possible with engines off, so lowering the cost of the mission.

As in many similar scenarios (e.g: passing a ball to a running football teammate) what essentially need to be considered is the initial impulse given to the spacecraft (the launch equivalent to the ball throw) the position of the targeted planet in any moment (described by its orbit) and then the gravitational pull.

Even if the spacecraft could take a variety of curved paths from the launching point to the landing planet, one is considered to be the most efficient in terms of energy consumption - Hohmann transfer orbit.

In the case of Earth to Mars travel path, the Hohmann transfer is an elliptical orbit with the sun at one focus of the ellipse that intersects the orbit of the target planet. Launch occurs when Earth is at Hohmann perihelion (the point of the Hohmann orbit that is closest to the sun). Arrival occurs when Mars is at Hohmann aphelion (the point of the Hohmann orbit that is farthest from the sun).

This is a simple explanation for a far more complex scenario where scientists need to take into account a variety of parameters that are more or less constant. What need to be clearly understood is that a specific launching time window have to be calculated and validated through multiple simulation way before the launching. This will allow a proper launch window, so the spacecraft will arrive in the planet’s orbit just as the planet arrive at the same place.



In A, the respective positions of Mars and Earth at the time of launch. In B, the respective positions of Mars and Earth during landing (Crédit photo : © Philippe Labrot).

10. Procedures

Students will be explained that a space station must have an elliptical trajectory around the sun to reach the same point at the same time as the planet Mars. What they should do next is to figure out what the launch time should be so that this intersection will take place.

Students will be explained that the most efficient orbit from the point of view of energy consumption needed for the trip must be calculated, called the Hohmann transfer, in which the spacecraft will travel half of one orbit about the sun, leaving Earth at the orbit's perihelion and arriving at Mars (or any outer planet) at the orbit's aphelion.

Bring into discussion the Kepler's Second Law also tells us that planets travel at different rates of speed in their elliptical orbits, moving faster when they are closer to the sun and slower when they are farther from the sun.

To make possible the complex mathematical task of launching a spacecraft while considering the orbital dynamics of the planets, mention to students three assumptions, actually some unrealistic simplifications but that will allow us a sufficiently accurate calculation of the launch window

The orbits of Earth and Mars are circular and centered on the sun. (Earth's orbit is more circular than Mars' orbit, but they are both slightly elliptical.)

Earth and Mars travel at constant speeds. (They do not. See Kepler's Second Law).

The orbits of Earth and Mars are in the same plane. (They are close but slightly out of plane with one another).

Explain to students the concept of heliocentric longitude. Just as longitudes on Earth measure position with respect to a fixed point (the prime meridian), heliocentric longitudes measure position in space along the ecliptic with respect to the vernal equinox.

Knowing that Earth is, on average, 1 astronomical unit (AU) from the sun and Mars is, on average, 1.52 AUs from the sun have students find the length of the semi-major axis of the transfer orbit in astronomical units (AU).

Using the string and pushpins have students draw the assumed-circular orbits of Earth and Mars about the sun, and the approximation of the Hohmann transfer orbit on graph paper

Determine the period of the Hohmann transfer orbit and then the travel time to Mars along this orbit using Kepler's Third Law (Law of Harmony)

Kepler's Third Law states that the square of the period of any planet is proportional to the cube of the semi-major axis of its orbit. An equation can represent this relationship:

$P^2 = ka^3$ with k being the constant of proportionality

Using Earth as an example, we can measure P in years and a in astronomical units so $P = 1$ year and $a = 1$ AU. Thus, $P^2 = ka^3 \rightarrow k=1 \Rightarrow P^2 = a^3$

$P^2 = (1.26 \text{ AU})^3 \Rightarrow P \sim 1.41 \text{ years} \sim 517 \text{ days}$

The full period of this Hohmann transfer orbit is 517 days. Travel to Mars encompasses half of one orbit, so approximately 259 days.

Considering the daily motions of Earth and Mars, compute the ideal relative position of both planets during the launch.

1 Mars revolution = 687 days $\Rightarrow 0.524$ degrees/day $\Rightarrow 136$ degree/259 days

To calculate the position of Mars at the time of launch, subtract the amount of its motion during the spacecraft's travel time (136 degrees) from its point of arrival (180 degrees). $180 \text{ degrees} - 136 \text{ degrees} = 44 \text{ degrees}$.

Using the planetary heliocentric longitudes, approximately when is the next opportunity for a launch to Mars?

11. Discussion of the results and conclusions

What happens if the estimation of the launching window is shorter or longer than it should be? Can we estimate an average length?

Do you know how these launching windows have been calculated in the early times of space missions?

12. Follow up activities

Make a short python script that will subtract heliocentric longitudes for Earth and Mars to simplify launch window calculations.

13. Explore More (additional resources for teachers)

Stomp Rockets Activity

<https://www.jpl.nasa.gov/edu/teach/activity/stomp-rockets/>

When Computers Were Human <https://www.jpl.nasa.gov/edu/news/2016/10/31/when-computers-were-human/>

Mars in a Minute Video Series <https://www.jpl.nasa.gov/edu/teach/activity/mars-in-a-minute/>

Acknowledge This activity was inspired from the JPL Education Program



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the European Union

Solar energy, a sustainable source of energy

1. Introduction & Pb

NASA uses several different technologies for providing energy for space exploration. Each technology meets the requirements for different types of exploration. For space exploration close to the Sun (near the inner planets—Mercury, Venus, Earth, and Mars), solar power with battery backup is often an optimal option. This problem-based learning PBL will explore the use of solar panels as a power source. In the process, students will learn core classroom concepts related to energy, energy transformation, electricity, and circuits.

Solar cell technology is improving rapidly. The solar cells used on the ISS are about 12 percent efficient. Those developed for the Mars Rovers are about 26 percent efficient. Current solar cells have higher efficiency. The students will have to do some research to determine the efficiency. When NASA engineers plan a mission, they have to know all the specifications for all of the components, and the components have to be space tested. Sizes, electrical characteristics, masses, and connections must be known at the beginning of the planning. Since a mission might take 10 years to plan and construct, equipment might be 10 or more years “outdated.” Your students will have to work with the same restrictions. They will be required to use solar cells that are currently available. They will have to research current technology.

NASA's InSight lander, which touched down on Mars Nov. 26 and successfully extended its large solar arrays hours later, is already setting records. During its full first day on the Red Planet, the solar-powered lander generated more electrical power in one day than any previous Mars vehicle has, mission team members said. "It is great to get our first 'off-world record' on our very first full day on Mars," Tom Hoffman, InSight project manager at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in California, said in a statement. "But even better than the achievement of generating more electricity than any mission before us is what it represents for performing our upcoming engineering tasks," Hoffman added. "The 4,588 watt-hours we produced during sol 1 means we currently have more than enough juice to perform these tasks and move forward with our science mission." The 4,588 watt-hours InSight generated on its first sol, or Martian day, from solar power is well over the 2,806 watt-hours generated in a day by NASA's Curiosity rover, which runs on a nuclear system called a radioisotope thermoelectric generator. Coming in third was the solar-powered Phoenix lander, which generated around 1,800 watt-hours in a day, according to NASA officials.

2. Age of students

15-17 years

3. Objectives

1. Given solar cells or panels, students list variables that affect the operation of solar panels and explain how these variables affect the power production of solar panels.
2. Through computer simulations or laboratory investigations with electricity, students create parallel and series circuits, calculate power, and apply this knowledge to solve a theoretical problem.

3. By analyzing the power requirements of their own homes, students design a solar system that could supply the power to their home.

4. Using their own models, students propose and defend a design to provide power for a Martian research habitat for six explorers.

4. Primary subjects

Mathematics - Physics – Earth and Space Science

5. Additional subjects

Computer Science

6. Time required

1 hour – 2 hours

7. Key terms

Solar panels, Solar energy, Earth, Mars, space missions

8. Materials

Solar panel. Solar charger (optional). Voltmeter. Calculator. Red, Green, and Blue transparency film. Electrical wire to connect solar cell and the electric devices. Notebooks and pencils. 12v bulb and battery (optional).



9. Background

A number of variables affect solar cell operation. Students will brainstorm, predict, and test variables in **Activity 1: Investigating Solar Cells**. The critical variables that affect solar cell performance—other than the efficiency of the cell itself—affect the intensity of light on the solar cell.

There are several factors that affect intensity:

Blocking - Natural conditions can block solar radiation from reaching the solar cells. Earth's atmosphere can partially block incoming solar radiation. The amount of light reaching Earth above the atmosphere is about 1366 Watts per square meter. When the Sun is directly overhead at the Equator, the intensity of solar radiation reaching Earth's surface is between 800 and 1,000 Watts per square meter. On the Moon and on Mars, solar panels can be blocked by dust. It was expected that the solar panels on the NASA Mars Rovers would become covered with dust and cease to provide energy for the systems. A chance dust devil swept the panels clean. Dust devils occur frequently enough on Mars that Rover panels are kept relatively clean.

Angle - The angle between the Sun and the solar panel is critical. The intensity of light is measured in Watts (power) per square meter. You can experimentally quantify how the angle changes the intensity. Hold a flashlight directly above a sheet of graph paper. The light source is at 90° to the paper. Count the number of squares illuminated. Keep the flashlight at the same distance from the paper, but tilt the flashlight so that it is at an angle to the paper. This represents a lower Sun angle. Count the squares illuminated again. More squares will be illuminated at the lower angle. The power of the light stays the same, but the area lit increases as the angle gets lower. When the same amount of power is spread over a larger area, the intensity decreases. The 23.5° tilt of the Earth's axis determines the angle of sunlight. The Sun is overhead in June in the Northern Hemisphere at the Tropic of Cancer at 23.5° N. latitude. The Sun is overhead in January in the Southern Hemisphere at the Tropic of Capricorn at 23.5° S. The GEMS (Great Explorations in Math and Science) Guide, *The Real Reasons for the Seasons*, could be used during this lesson to help students understand how the tilt of the Earth's axis affects the light intensity and the seasons. The axis of Mars is tilted at 25°, so very similar conditions prevail on Mars except the year is longer and each season is longer than Earth's. During the winter on Mars, the Rovers are parked on the slope of a hill to point the solar panels more directly at the Sun. As the International Space Station orbits Earth, the solar panels can be rotated to point more directly at the Sun. At times, the entire space station is pointed in a different direction to improve the angle between the panels and the Sun. For more information see:

What are ISS Attitudes? http://spaceflight.nasa.gov/station/flash/iss_attitude.html.

Distance from the Sun - As you know, the further you are from a light source, the dimmer (less intense) the light is. Students can confirm this experimentally and discover that the intensity (I) of light is inversely proportional to the square of the distance (r) from the light source ($I \propto 1/r^2$). You will need a light bulb, a meter tape measure, and a light intensity probe. In a dark room, measure the intensity of light at 10 cm, 20 cm, 40 cm, and 80 cm from the light. Plot Intensity versus distance. If you plot this curve on a graphing calculator, you can also obtain the equation for the curve. The intensity decreases because the light spreads out farther away from the source. The Sun emits light energy in all directions. The light of the Sun is spread out over the surface of an imaginary (hollow) sphere with its center at the Sun. The farther the sphere is from the Sun, the bigger the sphere is and the more surface it has (surface area of a sphere = $4\pi r^2$). So, the power (energy per second) emitted by the Sun as light spreads over the surface of this imaginary sphere. Close to the Sun, the sphere is small. There is a lot of power per square meter (Intensity). Farther away, the sphere is big. There is less power per square meter. There is an equation that lets us calculate the intensity of light at a distance from a light source.

The equation is: **Intensity = Power/(4πr²)** But how can you measure the power of the Sun at its source? You can't. However, scientists have measured the intensity of light at Earth and we know the distance from the Sun to Earth. The intensity of sunlight outside the Earth's atmosphere is 1366 Watts/m² (It varies slightly with solar output). The distance (r) from the Sun to Earth is 150,000,000 km (kilometers). If you substitute these values into the equation above and solve for Power, the value for the power of light from the Sun is 384.6 x 10²⁴ Watts (Joules/second). Now we can use this value for Power in the equation above and calculate the intensity of light at Mars. The average distance from the Sun to Mars is 227,900,000 km. You can calculate that the intensity of light at Mars is 589.2 W/m². That is less than half of the intensity at Earth!

But wait! The orbit of Mars is less circular than Earth's orbit. It is more elliptical. At perihelion (closest to the Sun), Mars is 206,600,000 km away from the Sun, and the intensity is calculated to be 717.1 W/m². At aphelion (farthest from the Sun), Mars is 249,200,000 km away from the Sun, and the intensity drops to 492.9 W/m².

These differences could be significant to the design of a solar energy system.

You will have to judge whether your students will be able to understand the math involved.



Crédit : Lockheed Martin



NASA/JPL-Caltech/Lockheed Martin

Activity 2: Solar Panels on Earth.

SOLAR ELECTRICITY Solar energy can also be used to produce electricity. Two ways to make electricity from solar energy are photovoltaics and solar thermal systems. The word photovoltaic comes from the words photo meaning light and volt, a measurement of electricity. Photovoltaic cells are also called PV cells or solar cells for short. You are probably familiar with photovoltaic cells. Solar-powered toys, calculators, and roadside telephone call boxes all use solar cells to convert sunlight into electricity. Solar cells are made of two thin pieces of silicon, the substance that makes up sand and the second most common substance on earth. One piece of silicon has a small amount of boron added to it, which gives it a tendency to attract electrons. It is called the p-layer because of its positive tendency. The other piece of silicon has a small amount of phosphorous added to it, giving it an excess of free electrons. This is called the n-layer because it has a tendency to give up electrons, a negative tendency. When the two pieces of silicon are placed together, some electrons from the n-layer flow to the p-layer and an electric field forms between the layers. The p-layer now has a negative charge and the n-layer has a positive charge. When the PV cell is placed in the sun, the radiant energy energizes the free electrons. If a circuit is made connecting the layers, electrons flow from the n-layer through the wire to the p-layer. The PV cell is producing electricity--the flow of electrons. If a load such as a lightbulb is placed along the wire, the electricity will do work as it flows. The conversion of sunlight into electricity takes place silently and instantly. There are no mechanical parts to wear out. Compared to other ways of producing electricity, PV systems are expensive. It costs 10-20 cents a kilowatt-hour to produce electricity from solar cells. On average, people pay about eight cents a kilowatt-hour for electricity from a power company using fuels like coal, uranium or hydropower. Today, PV systems are mainly used to generate electricity in areas that are a long way from electric power lines.

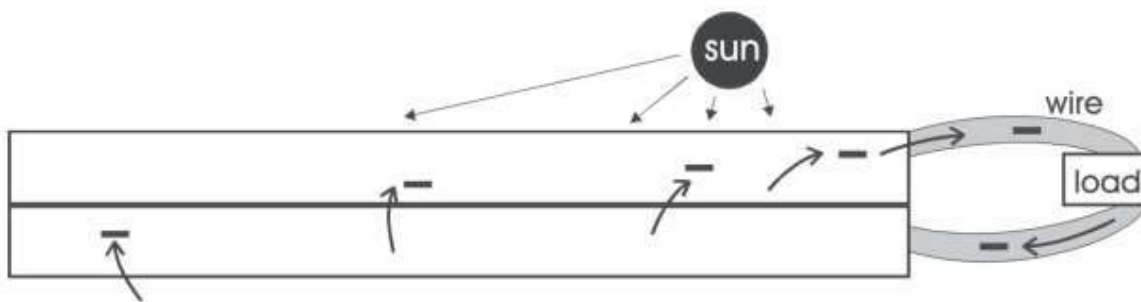
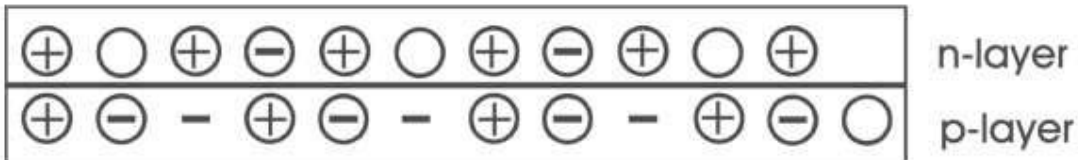
PHOTOVOLTAIC CELL

⊕ proton

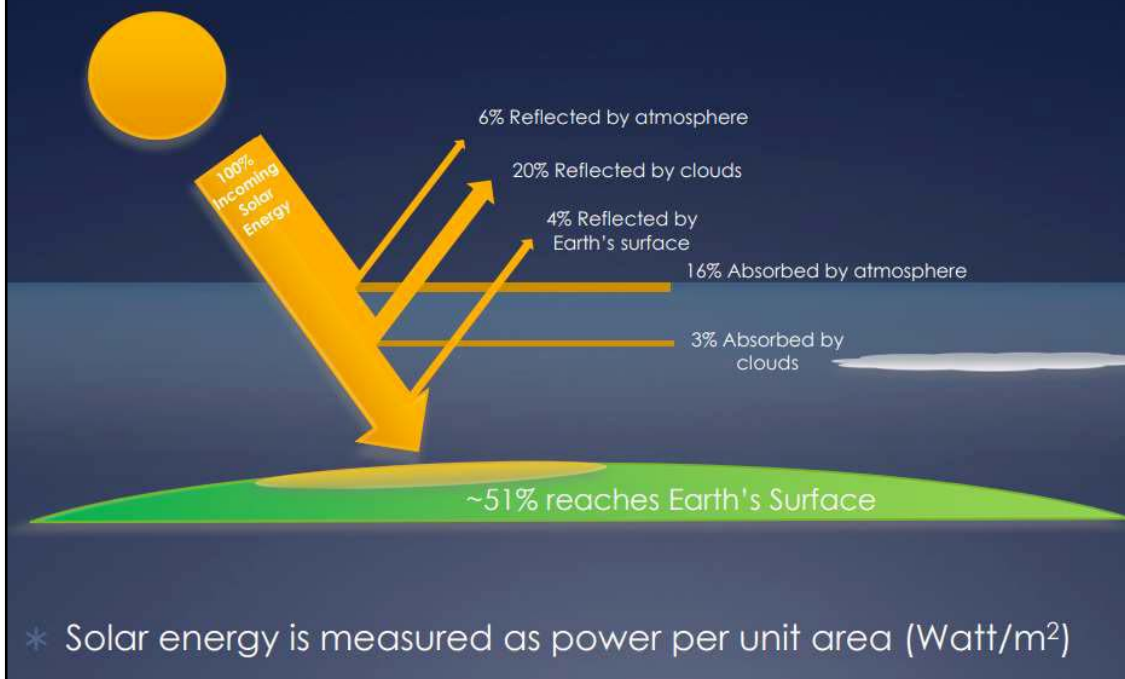
⊖ tightly-held electron

— free electron

○ can accept an electron

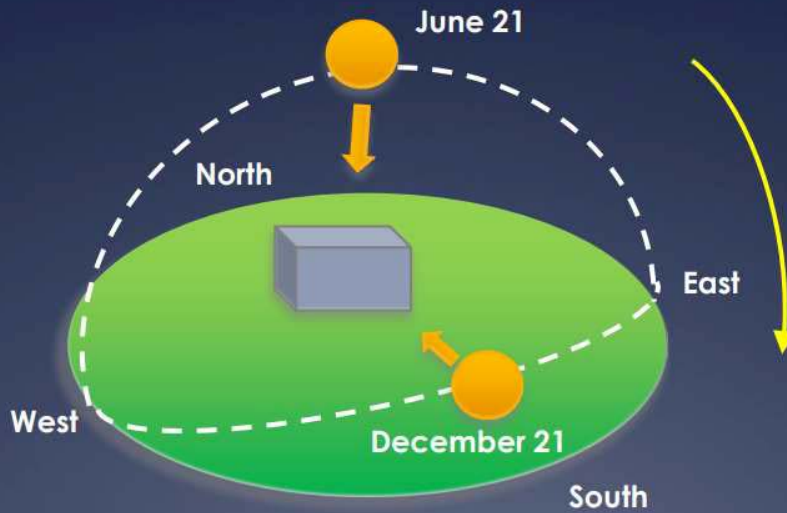


About half of the incoming solar energy reaches Earth



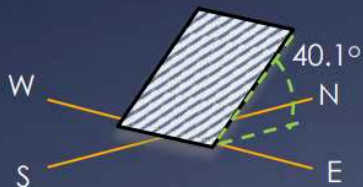
...and time

- * The location of the sun in the sky changes with the time of day AND the time of year



How much solar energy do we have access to?

- * First we need to know how to setup our flat plate solar module, such as a solar water heater
- * The solar module should be oriented South at an angle from the horizontal equal to the LATITUDE of solar collection (your location)

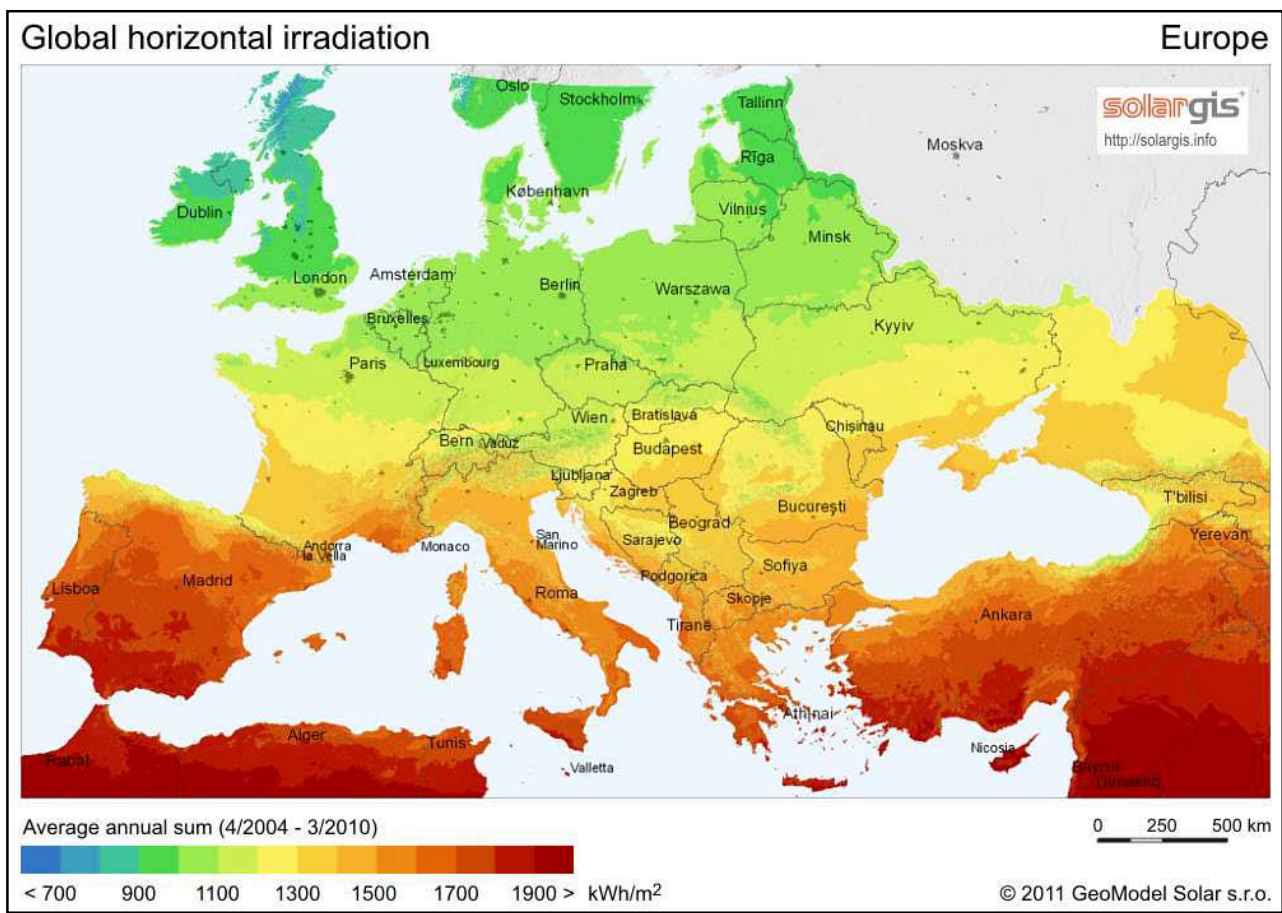


Example: Latitude of Boulder, Colorado is 40.1° so solar water heater is 40.1° from the ground facing South

- * Find Location and determine Latitude

- * We will use





10. Procedures

Activity 1: Investigating Solar Cells.



Questions (students will answer these questions after doing the investigation)

1. What happened when you covered part of the solar cell with black paper? Why?

.....

.....

.....

2. What is the relationship between the amount of solar cell that is covered and the functioning of the powered electrical devices? Explain.

.....

3. How did the colored transparencies affect the solar cells ability to function?

.....

4. What happens when you connect in series multiple solar panels compared with the initial specifications of one solar panel? What about connecting them in parallel?

.....

Activity 2: Solar Panels on Earth.

- On the map find your location and determine what color your area corresponds to. Use the Legend to find out the energy range in "kWh/m²/Day" from the "average annual sum kWh/m²". Once you have the range, you will average the highest and lowest values on the range to get your energy estimate. For example, in France, the range is 2.7 – 4.4 kWh/m²/Day, the average value is 3.55 kWh/m²/Day.

Energy range for your location: _____ kWh/m²/Day

Average energy: _____ kWh/m²/Day

- Next, find the amount of solar energy available per unit area of your solar module (for example, a solar water heater), which depends on the time you expose your module to the sun. If you want to test your solar water heater for 1 hour, your duration of sun exposure is '1 hour' (this can be less than one if you test for less than an hour → 45 minutes = 0.75 hours). If you do not already have these values for a solar module, just use the following example values.

Duration of sun exposure: _____ hours (example: 1 hour)

Now you will need to find the energy in units of Watt-hours/m², referred to as 'insolation':

(kWh/m²/day) x (1 day/24 hours) x (duration of sun exposure [hours]) x (1000 Wh/1 kWh) =

(__ kWh/m²/day) x (1 day/24 hours) x (__ hours) x (1000 Wh/1 kWh) =

_____ Watt-hours/m²

- To find the solar energy used by your solar module you will also need its surface area (m²). Say you have a solar water heater that is 1 meter by 1.5 meters, the surface area would be 1.5 m² (you may need to convert feet to meters).

Solar module surface area: _____ m² (example: 1.5 m²)

Next, you need to use your surface area and **insolation** value to find out how much energy enters your solar module. This incoming energy is called **heat energy (Q_{in})** and is in units of Watt-hours:

$$Q_{in} = [\text{Insolation (Watt-hours/m}^2)] \times [\text{Surface Area (m}^2)]$$

$$Q_{in} = (\text{_____ Watt-hours/m}^2) \times (\text{_____m}^2)$$

$$Q_{in} = \text{_____ Watt-hours}$$

- What would be the **'tilt angle'** of your solar module? Why do you want your solar module to face south?

.....

- How do you think the amount of solar energy available in Arizona for the same month would compare to the value for your location? (Hint: check out the maps, you don't need to calculate anything https://www.nrel.gov/gis/images/solar/solar_ghi_2018_usa_scale_01.jpg) What about the solar energy available in Alaska? In which location (Arizona or Alaska) would it be easier for engineers to use the solar energy available for heating or electricity?

.....

11. Discussion of the results and conclusions

How does dust affect solar panels on Mars?

How are the scientists dealing with this challenge?

What really happened on Mars with the Insight Lander's solar panels?

What can and can't be done for future space missions in this matter?

12. Follow up activities

Challenge: Solar Energy for Moon and Mars. Working in small groups, students will choose either the Moon or Mars as the location for a NASA research habitat. Each group will estimate the requirements for the research habitat using what is known about home power requirements and the power requirements for the ISS. Then, each group will propose a design for a solar energy system to meet the energy requirements. This activity could be used as an assessment.

13. Explore More (additional resources for teachers)

Solar Maps

These solar maps provide average daily total solar resource information on grid cells.

<https://www.nrel.gov/gis/solar.html>

<https://earsc-portal.eu/pages/viewpage.action?pagelId=16548947>

TeachEngineering is a digital library comprised of standards-based engineering curricula for K-12 educators to make applied science and math come alive through engineering design.

<https://www.teachengineering.org/>

<https://www.nasa.gov/>

Acknowledge This activity was inspired from the JPL Education Program & TeachEngineering



Project Partners



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