

EXPLANATION FOR THE PRELIMINARY TERRAIN ATLAS OF THE LUNAR EQUATORIAL BELT

60°W-60°E, 10°N-10°S

BY

E.A. HOLM, L.C. ROWAN AND J.F. MCCAULEY

1966

I - MARE

IA

I-A MARE, Undifferentiated

General Morphology:

Extensive low plains with low, broad ridges, numerous small craters and occasional rills and domes. Ridges parallel to the terrace-mare contact are discernable. Locally, long ridges and scarps with moderately low, but abrupt, slopes interrupt the mare surface.

Engineering Characteristics:

Smooth and rough maria can be discerned at one-kilometer resolution.

Smoother Mare

a. Slope: $\bar{\alpha}_{AB} \approx 1.00^\circ$; $\sigma_{\alpha} \approx 1.27^\circ$; slope reversal: $\approx 21.0^\circ$
b. Relative relief: no measurements available at the present time.
c. Albedo: generally less than albedo for rougher mare (0.060-0.075).

Rougher Mare
a. Slope: $\bar{\alpha}_{AB} \approx 1.00^\circ$; $\sigma_{\alpha} \approx 1.78^\circ$; $\sigma_{\alpha} \approx 1.27^\circ$ - 2.30° ; slope reversal: ≈ 21.0 - 26.5°
b. Relative relief: $\bar{X} \approx 512$ meters; $\sigma \approx 260$ meters; mode ≈ 475 meters
c. Albedo: 0.060-0.100, with most typical values between 0.060 and 0.080.

IB

I-B Mare, Dark

General Morphology:

General character is similar to smoother I-A, but has a higher frequency of domes and rills and a lower density of craters; low broad ridges are prevalent.

Engineering Characteristics:

a. Slope: $\bar{\alpha}_{AB} \approx 1.00^\circ$; $\sigma_{\alpha} \approx 1.27^\circ$; slope reversal: $\approx 21.0^\circ$
b. Relative relief: no measurements at one-kilometer resolution.
c. Albedo: generally 0.060, but ranges up to 0.075.

II - UPLANDS

IIA

II-A Upland, Plains Areas

General Morphology:

Relatively smooth topography, usually forming plains on terraces marginal to mare; locally occurs as plains on upland or in large depressions, i.e., north of crater Taurus and east of Sinus Aestuum. In places, these plains are undulating terrain interrupted by low, widely spaced hummocks and elongate ridges. The boundary between II-A and other upland units often appears transitional, so that adjacent units are subdivided. Locally, small craters and some elliptical ones are common, as are irregular pits in the Taurus and Theophilus areas. Albedo and crater density characteristically higher than average mare.

Engineering Characteristics:

a. Slope: (highly variable, due to transitional and apparently overlapping relations with adjacent units); $\bar{\alpha}_{AB} \approx 1.00^\circ$ - 1.70° ; $\sigma_{\alpha} \approx 1.30^\circ$ - 2.30° ; slope reversal: ≈ 21.0 - 26.5°
b. Relative relief: no measurements at one-kilometer resolution.
c. Albedo: ranges from 0.070 to 0.130, with most typical values between 0.080 and 0.120.

IBB

II-B Upland, Hummocky to Subdued Topography

General Morphology:

Subdued, undulating topography characterized by low hills and intervening depressions two to four kilometers across, with subdued hummocks and small sharp blocks. In Sinus Medii area, hummocks coalesce into somewhat sinuous, crude braided ridges, one to three kilometers wide and three to 30 kilometers long. Ridges commonly trend various directions about northwest; locally, ridges may have slightly subdued or convex crests. Irregular, slightly elongate or groove-like pits occasionally occur on inter-ridge plains (Julius Caesar area).

Engineering Characteristics:

a. Slope: $\bar{\alpha}_{AB} \approx 1.78^\circ$ - 2.28° ; $\sigma_{\alpha} \approx 2.27^\circ$ - 2.90° ; slope reversal: ≈ 26.5 - 29.5°
b. Relative relief: $\bar{X} \approx 626$ meters; $\sigma \approx 281$ meters; mode ≈ 375 and 375 meters
c. Albedo: 0.070-0.110, with most typical range from 0.080 to 0.090.

IBC

II-C Upland, Hummocky Topography with Moderate Local Relief

General Morphology:

Hummocky surfaces overlying older craters and other original relief; local relief is characteristically marked. In certain areas, such as the north and south of Sinus Medii, II-C areas are regionally tilted. Isolated blocks are common. This unit is generally transitional between upland units.

Engineering Characteristics:

a. Slope: $\bar{\alpha}_{AB} \approx 2.28^\circ$ - 2.90° ; slope reversal: $\approx 29.5^\circ$
b. Relative relief: $\bar{X} \approx 757$ meters; $\sigma \approx 402$ meters; mode ≈ 325 and 325 meters
c. Albedo: highly variable; ranges from 0.060 to 0.160 with most typical values 0.090 to 0.130.

IBD

II-D Upland, rough topography with large variations of local relief and a high incidence of pronounced linear structures

General Morphology:

Most commonly forms rims of high rough terrain bordering larger mare, although large block-like areas of this terrain also occur well within the terrace boundaries; linear structures (lineaments) are common within this terrain type. When marginal to mare, these areas usually are inclined slightly toward mare, although rough upland units with fewer linear structures may intervene between them and mare.

Engineering Characteristics:

a. Slope: $\bar{\alpha}_{AB} \approx 2.28^\circ$ - 2.90° ; slope reversal: $\approx 29.5^\circ$
b. Relative relief: $\bar{X} \approx 757$ meters; $\sigma \approx 402$ meters; mode ≈ 325 and 325 meters
c. Albedo: ranges from .060 to .160 with most typical range from .090 to .130.

wall or slope, floor peaks - may be distinguished. In larger craters, the rim phenomena, hummocky terrain and radial ridge terrain, are distinguishable. In general, the depth ratio of these craters to those in B category is 3 to 2.

III - CRATERS

IIIA

III-A Well-formed craters with or without associated bright rays

General Morphology:

Craters in this group range from ten kilometers in diameter to more than 50 kilometers. Their component terrain features - rim, interior

IIIA1

III-A-1 Wall (interior): undifferentiated

General Morphology:

Generally small craters where the detailed morphology of the walls cannot be discerned at one kilometer resolution.

Engineering Characteristics:

a. Slope: generally greater than 35° degrees.
b. Relative relief: range as a function of crater diameter:

Diameter	X
0-10 km.	920 meters
11-20 km.	1662 meters
21-30 km.	2487 meters
>31 km.	3125 meters

c. Albedo: generally high on these slopes; ranges from 0.100 to 0.160, with most typical range from 0.120 to 0.130.

IIIA2

III-A-2 Wall (interior): terraced or scalloped walls or detached blocks of wall material; well-developed talus

General Morphology:

Interior walls of craters on which either faults or slump produce very rough, irregular slopes, which are either step-like or terraced. Fragmented debris from dust size to large blocks apparently form talus which is deepest and thickest in basal portion of slopes.

Engineering Characteristics:

a. Slope: slope slightly more gentle than III-A-1.
b. Relative relief: similar to III-A-1 but values for the larger diameter typical for III-A-1a.
c. Albedo: generally high on these inner slopes; brightest spots on full-moon surface are inner wall of craters. Albedo ranges from .100 to .160, with typical range from .120 to .130.

IIIA3

III-A-3 Wall (interior): moderately smooth

General Morphology:

Interior walls of craters on which slopes are smooth though standing at high angles.

Engineering Characteristics:

a. Slope: similar to III-A-1 values.
b. Relative relief: similar to III-A-1 values for smaller diameter craters.
c. Albedo: ranges from .100 to .160; most typical range from .120 to .130.

IIIA2

III-A-2 Floor: undifferentiated

General Morphology:

At first of one kilometer resolution, floor apparently smooth, but detailed characteristics indeterminate.

Engineering Characteristics:

a. Slope: no measurements presently available, but appear similar to rougher mare.
b. Relative relief: no measurements presently available.
c. Variable from 0.080 to 0.160 with typical range from 0.120 to 0.130.

IIIA2a

III-A-2a Floor: smooth areas of generally limited extent

General Morphology:

Crater floor varies from smooth or flat to slightly hummocky; in craters larger than 16 kilometers, the surface may be partly hilly.

Engineering Characteristics:

a. Slope: no measurements presently available, but appear similar to II-A.
b. Relative relief: no measurements presently available.
c. Albedo: crater floors of this type vary from moderate to bright, depending on surface materials. Albedo ranges from .080 to .160, with most typical range from .120 to .130.

IIIA2b

III-A-2b Floor: hummocky morphology

General Morphology:

Crater floors with hummocky surfaces apparently due to poorly-sorted debris containing scattered large blocks; in craters over 16 kilometers in size, floor terrain may be hilly and highly complex; some of these floors may be domes.

Engineering Characteristics:

a. Slope: similar to lower II-B values.
b. Relative relief: similar to lower II-B values.
c. Albedo: commonly moderately high due to brecciated and hummocky materials. Albedo ranges from .080 to .160, with most typical range from .120 to .130.

IIIA2c

III-A-2c Peaks: generally located at or near the center of the floor

General Morphology:

Rugged peaks in center of crater, commonly in craters with rim diameter greater than 10 kilometers. Shapes vary, but tend to be elongate with irregular outlines. Peaks may be single or a composite of several peaks along an elongate axis. Surfaces appear extremely rough and extremely steep-sided in some cases.

Engineering Characteristics:

a. Slope: generally greater than 35° degrees.
b. Relative relief: highly variable.
c. Albedo: moderately high to high.

IIIA3

III-A-3 Rim: undifferentiated

General Morphology:

Well-formed craters in which telescopic resolution does not permit determination of detailed morphology on rims of larger craters.

Engineering Characteristics:

a. Slope: highly variable, ranging from values similar to rough mare to values typical for upland, II-B.
b. Relative relief: highly variable, ranging from no discernable relief at one kilometer resolution to a maximum of $\bar{X} \approx 579$ and $\sigma \approx 267$. Relative relief as a function of crater diameter is illustrated by the following ranges:

Diameter	X
10-20 km.	570 meters
21-30 km.	767 meters
31-40 km.	780 meters

c. Albedo: moderate to high, rarely very low where rims are dark materials. Albedo ranges from .060 to .150; most typical range from .100 to .120.

IIIA3a

III-A-3a Rim: hummocky topography, generally proximal to the rim crest

General Morphology:

In larger, well-formed, craters, hummocky terrain occurs near the crest of the rim, usually consisting of rough, irregular hillocks and hummocks. Blocks and angular materials of large size contribute to the roughness of the surface of this terrain.

IIIA3b

III-A-3b Rim: topography consisting of radial ridges and troughs, distal to hummocky area on rim

General Morphology:

Ridges arising from hummocky crest area, which are high and well-defined, but diminish in height away from crater to become anastomosing low ridges which gradually merge with bands of ray materials; inter-ridge grooves which are marked near the crest line gradually decrease in depth and widening until they grade into inter-ray areas.

Engineering Characteristics:

a. Slope: variable, but similar to uplands II-B and II-C.
b. Relative relief: similar to higher values for II-B-C.
c. Albedo: moderate to moderately high. Albedo ranges from .080 to .150 with most typical ranges from .100 to .120.

IIIA3c

III-A-3c Rim: topography consisting of radial ridges and troughs, distal to hummocky area on rim

General Morphology:

Ridges arising from hummocky crest area, which are high and well-defined, but diminish in height away from crater to become anastomosing low ridges which gradually merge with bands of ray materials; inter-ridge grooves which are marked near the crest line gradually decrease in depth and widening until they grade into inter-ray areas.

Engineering Characteristics:

a. Slope: similar to rougher mare or upland, II-B.
b. Relative relief: similar to lower II-B ranges.
c. Albedo: tends to be moderately high but variable in the brighter ranges. Albedo ranges from .060 to .150; most typical range is from .100 to .120.

IIIB

III-B Modified craters, generally of subdued form; includes large and small craters whose rim and inner wall slopes are smoothed and not readily distinguishable

General Morphology:

Includes large and small craters whose rim and inner wall slopes are smoothed and not readily distinguishable. Dominant type of terrain on map carries label; secondary, underlying, type indicated in parentheses. In general, these types of craters, with diameters ranging from 10 to 50 kilometers, have depths which are approximately 2/3 that of III-A craters of the same diameters.

IIIB1

III-B-1 Wall (interior): undifferentiated, but generally smooth

General Morphology:

Topography appears smooth to rough or hummocky; primarily possible composite of landslide, slump or finer extra-crater debris.

Engineering Characteristics:

a. Slope: generally less than 37° degrees from rim crest to floor; one kilometer slope data not presently available.
b. Relative relief: highly variable; following values illustrate range as a function of diameter:

Diameter	X
0-10 km.	856 meters
11-20 km.	1353 meters
21-30 km.	1371 meters
>31 km.	2250 meters

c. Albedo: varies widely on inner wall slopes of any one crater, but, in general, ranges from .110 to .130.

IIIB2

III-B-2 Floor: undifferentiated

General Morphology:

Crater floors whose detailed morphology cannot be determined at one kilometer resolution; may vary from smooth to hummocky, depending primarily on their relative location on either mare or terrace. In general, smooth, rather flat, floors occur in craters less than 16 kilometers in diameter; floors in larger craters vary from partly flat and hilly to hilly; surfaces commonly appear subdued.

Engineering Characteristics:

a. Slope: similar to rougher mare topography and more variable than III-B-2a.
b. Relative relief: no measurements presently available.
c. Albedo: low to moderate, but lacks any wide contrast laterally.

IIIB2a

III-B-2a Floor: smooth areas generally within large, markedly deformed, craters on upland

General Morphology:

Smooth, gently rolling, areas located within large, markedly deformed craters, frequently show subdued and rounded forms.

Engineering Characteristics:

a. Slope: $\bar{\alpha}_{AB} \approx 1.00^\circ$ - 1.20° ; $\sigma_{\alpha} \approx 1.50^\circ$ - 1.83° ; slope reversal: ≈ 22.0 - 24.0°
b. Relative relief: no measurements presently available.
c. Albedo: usually low to moderate, with local contrasts in reflectivity low.

IIIB2b

III-B-2b Floor: rough, marked by slump blocks, hummocks

General Morphology:

Scattered hummocks and clusters of hummocks and some flat surface areas. Difficult to determine whether topography represents original or buried morphology.

Engineering Characteristics:

a. Slope: variable from values similar to II-B to III-B-2a.
b. Relative relief: measurements not currently available, but relief appears similar to lower II-B values.
c. Albedo: similar to III-B-2a, but subject to more abrupt lateral variation, due to hummocks and blocks on the surface.

IIIB2c

III-B-2c Peaks: centrally located, relative relief above crater floor is generally less than those of III-A-2c unit

General Morphology:

Rugged pinnacles with surface probably composed of large blocks with finer debris interstitial or in some places masking rough spots.

Engineering Characteristics:

a. Slope: steep slopes, generally greater than 15° degrees.
b. Relative relief: no measurements available at the present time.
c. Albedo: high to moderate.

IIIB3

III-B-3 Rim: subdued, hummocky topography; on small craters, this topography cannot be fully resolved

General Morphology:

Hummocky topography near crest to subradially lineated morphology on the flanks. Flank areas may be partially inundated by mare material.

Engineering Characteristics:

a. Slope: variable due to modification processes and effects of underlying topography, but generally similar to II-B.
b. Relative relief: range as a function of crater diameter:

Diameter	X
10-20 km.	400 meters
21-30 km.	563 meters
>31 km.	525 meters

c. Albedo: moderate to high with low local contrast, but sharp lateral gradations. In other places, albedo low to moderate with rims cut by faults and lineaments.

IIIC

III-C Crater Fields and Craters: two kilometers or less in diameter

General Morphology:

Small, relatively shallow craters; rims low or lacking, usually elongated by about 1:511 or 2:1; commonly a composite of two rounded craters. Clusters of this type craters are commonly binned. Large ray craters and lie on rims of the latter. Locally round, elliptical or irregularly shaped craters; in places small, steep-sided cones are topped by crater (Julius Caesar area). Engineering characteristics not readily measure at one kilometer resolution.

IV - LINEAR FEATURES

(includes arcuate and elliptical features)

IVA

IV-A Ridges, both linear and sinuous, located within the mare

General Morphology:

Mare ridges are generally of two types: (1) linear ridges which are long, continuous and straight, and (2) sinuous ridges which vary from relatively simple curved types to intricately interlocking and bifurcating systems. Craters occasionally occur along the ridge crest; axial trenches are less common. Locally, the crest-lines are sharp; some are commonly tapered, but in some places may join highland topography.

Engineering Characteristics:

a. Slope: generally similar to rougher mare; $\bar{\alpha}_{AB} \approx 1.00^\circ$ - 1.78° ; $\sigma_{\alpha} \approx 1.27^\circ$ - 2.30° ; slope reversal: ≈ 21.0 - 26.5° . Slope frequency distributions are commonly bimodal.
b. Relative relief: variable; $\bar{X} \approx 462$ meters.
c. Albedo: similar to surrounding mare.

IVB

IV-B Domes, craters indicated where resolvable at approximately one kilometer; some domes appear rough-textured at the limit of telescopic resolution

General Morphology:

Domes, symmetrical to elliptical in shape, generally occur in groups or may be imposed singly on arcuate ridges. The size range within any group is fairly constant. Large domes have low, smooth slopes and are low in proportion to width; some small domes show irregularities on slopes and commonly are higher in proportion to width.

Summit craters, small and large, are present on some of these domes; in places a number of small craters are present on the flanks. Rarely, a dome will exhibit a cleft along the crest, or one trending downslope from a small crater at the upslope end.

Engineering Characteristics:

a. Slope: variable depending on the dome morphology and characteristically bimodal algebraic slope frequency distributions.
b. Relative relief: variable depending on the dome morphology; $\bar{X} \approx 558$ meters.
c. Albedo: ranges from .050 to .060 for domes in western mare, while those in Mare Imbrium area range from .060 to .080.

IVC1

IV-C1 Rills (Rima): linear in mare or upland; generally bounded by clearly-defined walls

General Morphology:

Relatively straight or gently curved narrow trenches, bounded by steep to precipitous walls which, in some places, appear to be fault scarps; locally, small craters are present within the trench. In some rills, floor surfaces are rough, due to talus blocks formed by landslides on walls; in others the floors are smooth.

Engineering Characteristics:

a. Slope: steep; no measurements presently available.
b. Relative relief: highly variable; no measurements presently available.
c. Albedo: generally high on walls, but bottoms may be similar to surrounding terrain.

IVC2

IV-C2 Rills (Rima): sinuous; generally in upland; commonly originate in crater and in places terminate in small bifurcating rills

General Morphology:

Narrow, irregular channels or trenches, with meandering pattern; channels are steep walled, in places vertical. In a few instances, small craters are located within the trench, or may occur at the upslope end of the trench; some rills bifurcate at downslope terminus into several small, shallow rills.

Engineering Characteristics:

a. Slope: highly variable, no measurements presently available.
b. Relative relief: highly variable; no measurements presently available.
c. Albedo: generally higher than surrounding terrain.

IVD

IV-D Plateaus: bounded by escarpments; usually within mare

General Morphology:

Broad, apparently flat, areas which rise above general elevation of mare; may be bounded by escarpments, etc. In some places, by mare ridges. Commonly, plateaus are located within mare ridge systems or may be marginal to terrace areas, with one edge against terrace and with mare ridges or escarpment outlining margin overlooking mare. No detailed engineering characteristics presently available.

IVE

IV-E Escarpments (Rupes)

General Morphology:

Laterally continuous, rather abrupt, slopes of varying lengths; some slope angles are low to moderate, but chain arrangement mark the margin of areas either of higher or lower relative relief, but may outline margin of a sharply uplifted and tilted area. Barbs on symbol point downslope. No detailed engineering characteristics presently available.

IVF

IV-F Trenches

General Morphology:

Broad depressed areas with well-defined and extensive floors; surrounded by escarpments; negative relief