



# Hydrogen/Water distribution at Lunar Poles according to LEND / LRO Data

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on behalf of the LEND Team







# LRO Spacecraft Systems Capabilities







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### Lunar Exploration Neutron Detector



#### **LEND Instrument Overview**

LEND consists of nine detectors to measure fluxes of thermal, epithermal, and fast neutrons.









#### **LEND General Properties**

Instrument parameter	LEND
Mass (with MLI, kg)	26.3
Sizes (mm)	460 x 460 x 440
Operational power (W)	8.6
Heating power (W)	3.7
Telemetry rate	3 kbps
Total daily telemetry	250 Mb
Number of commands	7
Energy ranges of neutron measurements	1) < 0.4 eV, 2) 0.4 eV – 1.0 MeV, 3) 1.0 – 15.0 MeV 4) > 15.0 MeV
Time resolution (sec)	≥ 1.0
Spatial resolution (from ~50 km altitude)	Radius ~5 km





# **LEND Instrument Overview**







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Principal scheme of neutron registration by collimated detector









suggested by LEND team from the instrument data analysis, as the best impact target for LCROSS



First results of LEND data analizis and PSR water concentration has been pablished at:

I. G. Mitrofanov, et al.; Science, 2010, Volume 330, Issue 6003, pp. 483



#### Lunar Exploration Neutron Detector





#### Thermal neutrons

#### **Epithermal neutrons**

Fast neutrons

Lunar relief is shown according to LOLA altimetry



LEND maps of epithermal neutrons at North and South poles above 80° latitude



Lunar relief is shown according to LOLA altimetry





#### **Testing PSRs:**

- above ±80° latitude
- with area >  $3.5 \text{ km}^2$
- total observation time >5 s





#### Lunar Exploration Neutron Detector





#### PSR analysis on North pole







1

#### Lunar Exploration Neutron Detector





2 1,8 1,6 1,4 1,2 1 0,8 0,6 0,4 0,2 0

10

#### PSR analysis on South pole



100

1000







### CONCLUSIONS:

- Analysis of LEND data points out that observable effect of extended polar suppressions of emission of lunar epithermal neutrons is not produced by integrated contributions of large Permanently Shadowed Regions (PSRs) with deep local suppressions.
- LEND data shows that Permanently Shadowed Regions with areas > 3.5 km<sup>2</sup> have no appreciable enhancement of Hydrogen in regolith in comparison with illuminated areas at the same latitudes. Many PSRs are shown to have practically the same content of Hydrogen, as the surrounding illuminated areas. The largest enhancement of Hydrogen △ ~ 0.5 wt% of water equivalent is detected for PSR in Cabeus.
- Several local Neutron Suppression Regions (NSRs) were resolved by LEND at illuminated polar area of the Moon. These regions are probably interesting as landing sites.
- LEND data based suggestions for landing sites will be presented today by A. Varenikov.