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# NASA's Mars Rover Curiosity Observes Thinning Atmosphere

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Submitted by [Avinash Tripathi](#) on Tue, 04/09/2013 - 10:46 [Science](#) [TNM](#) [United States](#) [NASA](#)



A recent research from NASA's Mars rover Curiosity shows how Mars has changed but still it's very much active. It has been said by the team that they feel that the red planet has apparently lost a significant proportion of its original atmosphere after gas escaped from the top of its atmosphere.

"We found arguably the clearest and most robust signature of atmospheric loss on Mars", said Sushil Atreya, a SAM co-investigator at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. It has been stated after examining an atmosphere sample last week with Curiosity's Sample Analysis at Mars (SAM) instrument. The results showed clearly some significant results in context of isotopes of argon in the Martian atmosphere.

It was found that the Martian atmosphere contains almost four times as much of a lighter stable isotope (argon-36) as compared to a heavier one (argon-38). It is believed that these new developments have clearly pacified doubts raised about the ratio in the Martian atmosphere from 1976 measurements from NASA's Viking project.

It has been also said that the temperatures have also gone up consistently since the measurements were started some eight months ago. It is strongly believed that these are the first systematic measurements of humidity on Mars.

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