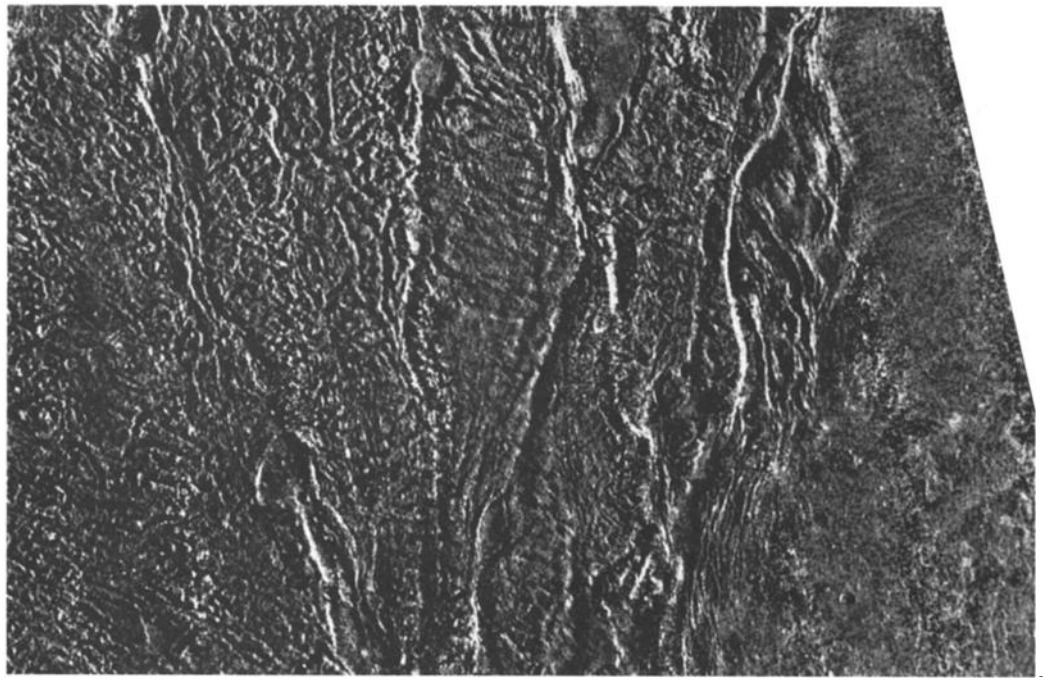

Fig. 12*a*. Venera image of region in eastern Tellus Regio thought to represent deformation due to gravitational relaxation. Image is centered on 38.5°N, 87.5°E.

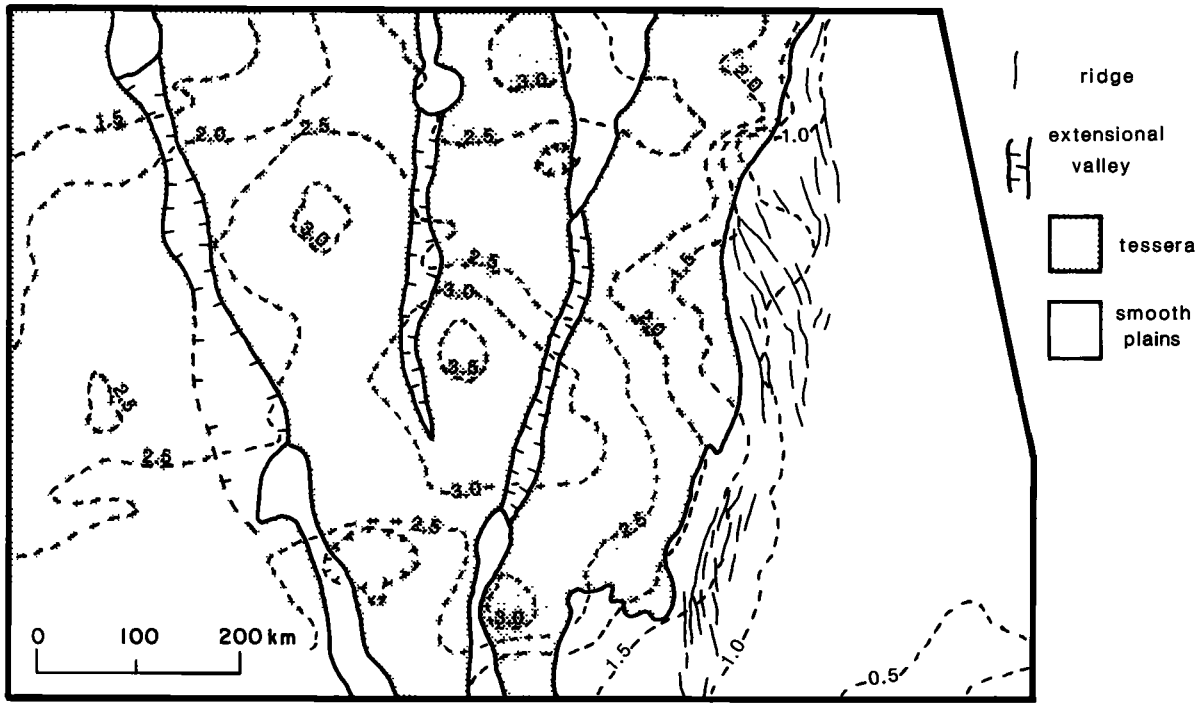

Fig. 12*b*. Sketch map of eastern Tellus Regio showing major troughs in the tesserae, interpreted as extensional features, and plains ridges, interpreted as compressional features. Dashed lines are topographic contours taken from Venera 15/16 data. Contour interval is 500 m. Asymmetric appearance of plains ridges may be due to layover and/or foreshortening, indicating topographic slopes of near to or greater than 10°.

correlation with topography are not generally observed in the three major types of tessera terrain. These three processes may operate on Venus and may even have formed some small areas defined as tessera terrain but they do not appear to dominate the formation of tessera terrain.

Horizontal convergence and crustal thickening, as exemplified by the formation of terrestrial orogenic belts and venusian mountain belts, are consistent with the basic