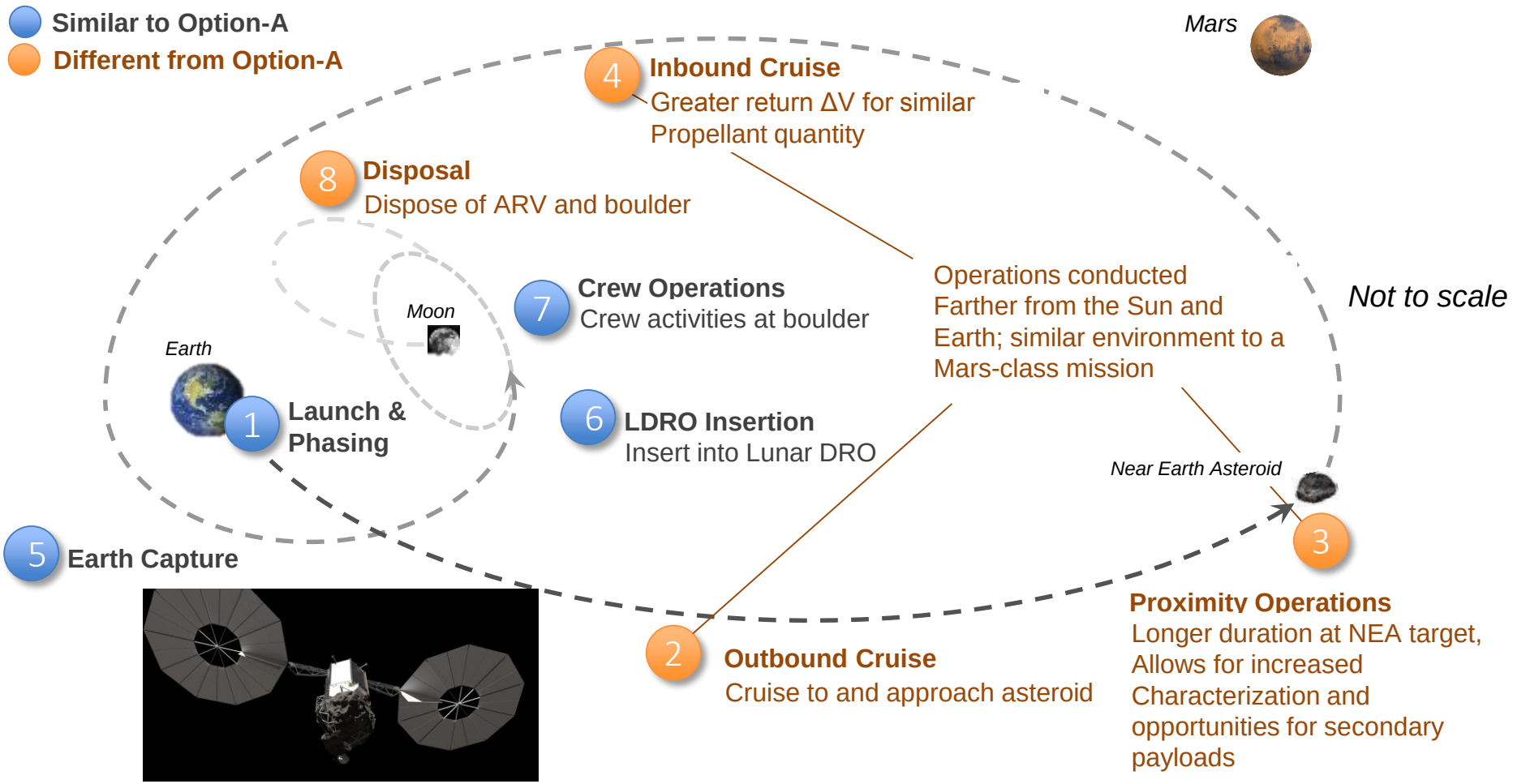
National Aeronautics and Space Administration

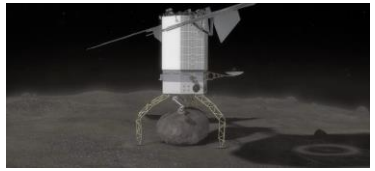
Relative Terrain Imaging Navigation for the Asteroid Redirect Robotic Mission (ARRM)

Cinnamon Wright, John Van Eepoel, Andrew Liounis
Michael Shoemaker, Keith DeWeese, Kenny Getzandanner

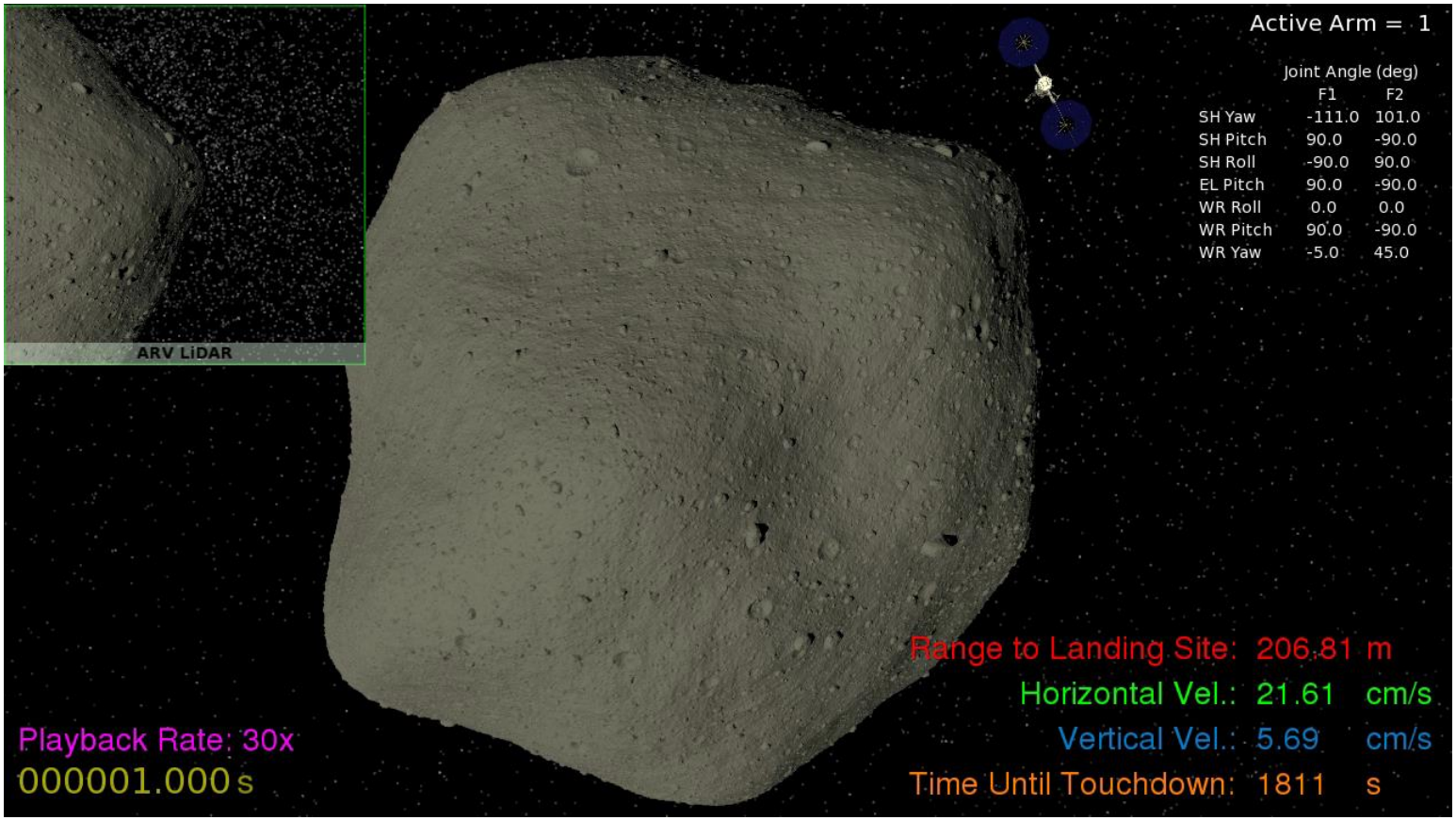
Asteroid Redirect Mission (ARM) Concept



- Planned launch in December 2020 : Arrival at EV5 in October 2022 : Return to Earth (with boulder) in late 2025
- Light times necessitate autonomous landing, boulder retrieval and ascent

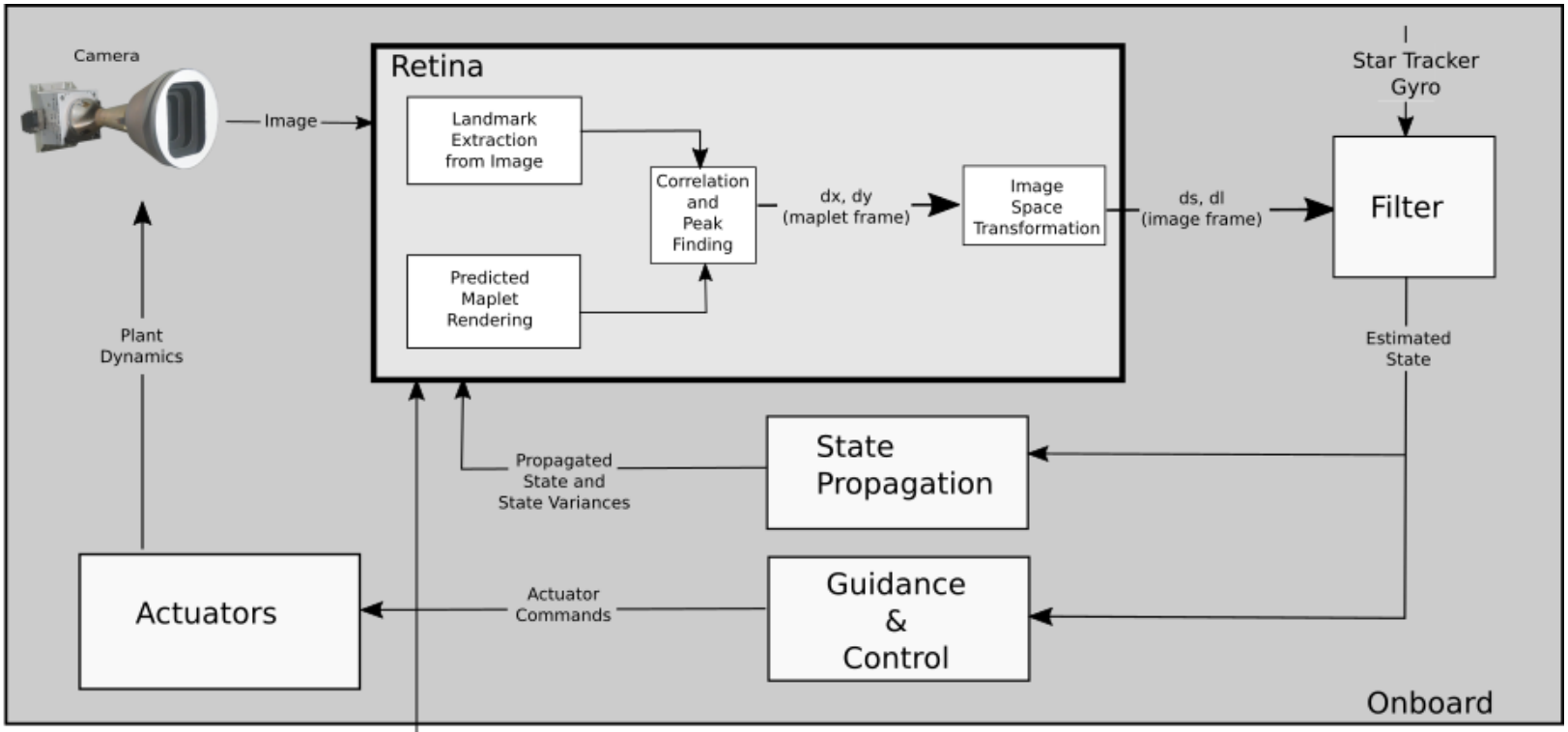


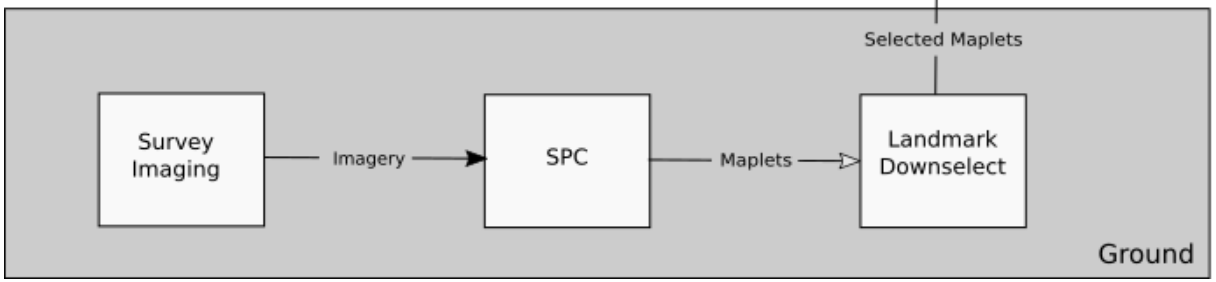
ARRM Proximity Operations

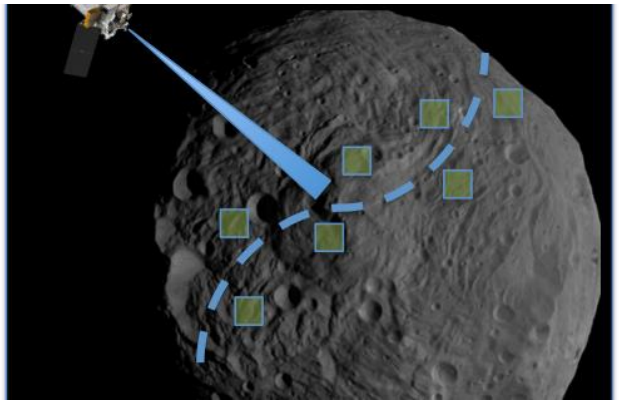


- Key Events in Proximity Operations
  - Transition from the 5 km hold point to 200 m waypoint on pre-defined burn
  - 200 m waypoint to 50 m also performed on a pre-defined burn
  - 50 m to 20 m descent and asteroid spin rate matching performed with closed loop control
  - No thrusting towards surface after 20 m

ARRM Proximity Operations GNC Architecture

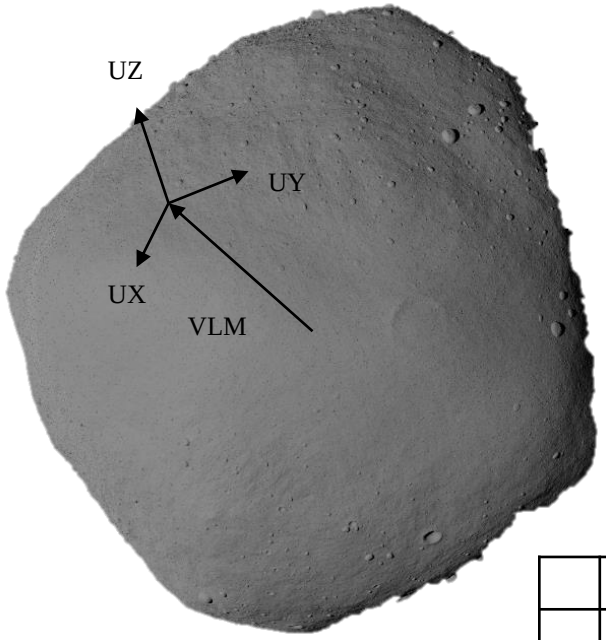


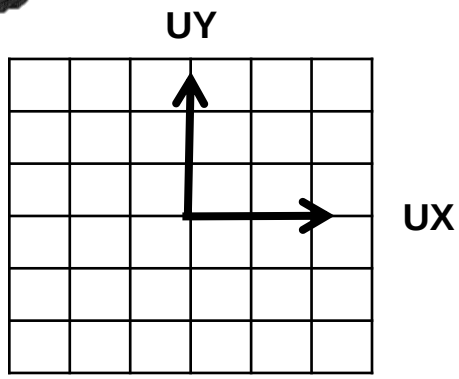


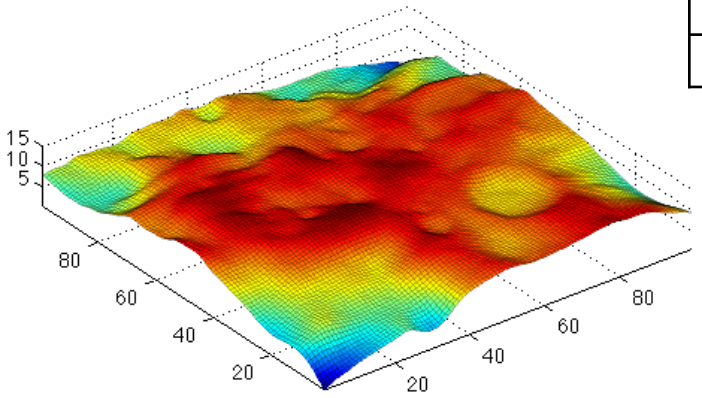


Retina Algorithms: Maplet Preprocessing

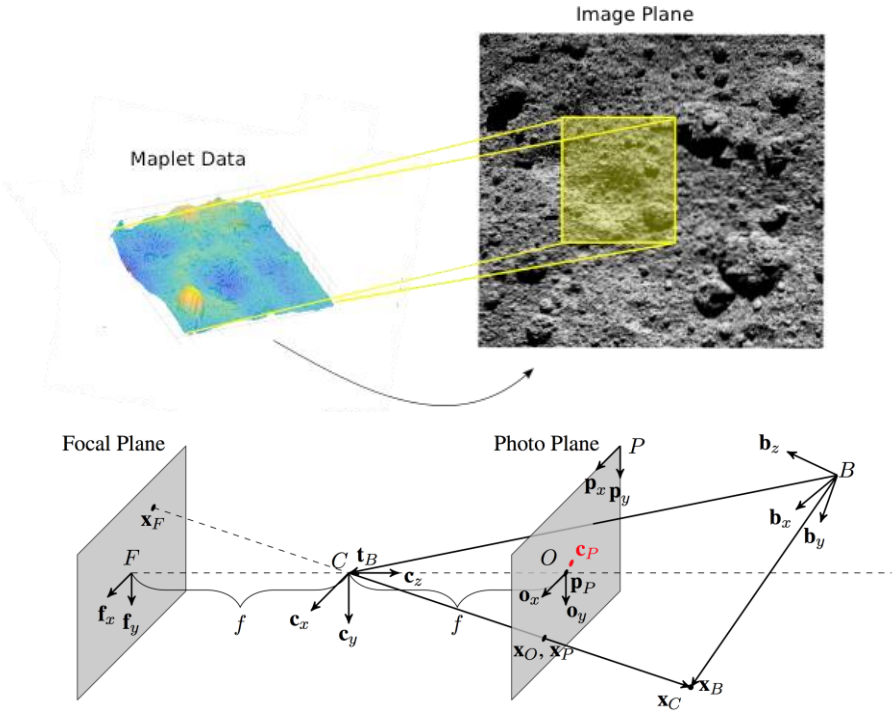
- Landmark
  - Body-fixed surface location
- Maplet
  - Local coordinate system and *n x n* grid centered on a landmark
  - Contains height and albedo data
  - Also called a digital elevation map (DEM)
- Tesselation
  - Process of converting maplet into triangles in an efficient manner for intersection testing
  - Surface normal data also computed
  - Albedo data also preserved

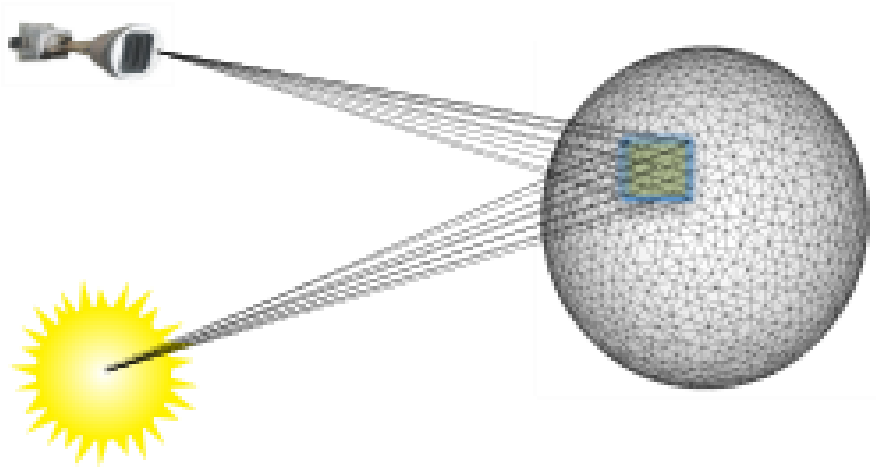






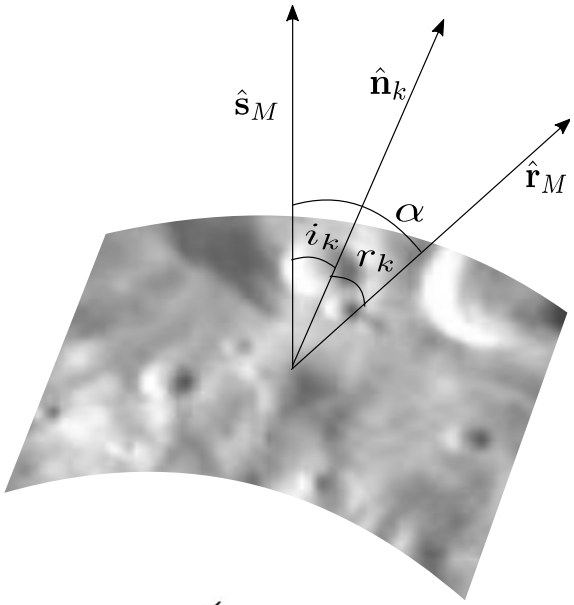
Retina Algorithms: Predicted Image Generation





- Camera Model used to project maplet data onto image plane
  - First done to determine range of pixels to render
  - Second to project rays from camera focal plane to the maplet surface
- Rays that intersect surface geometry are then tested for a path to the Sun
- Use of several acceleration techniques used in ray tracing make the implementation tractable for an embedded system

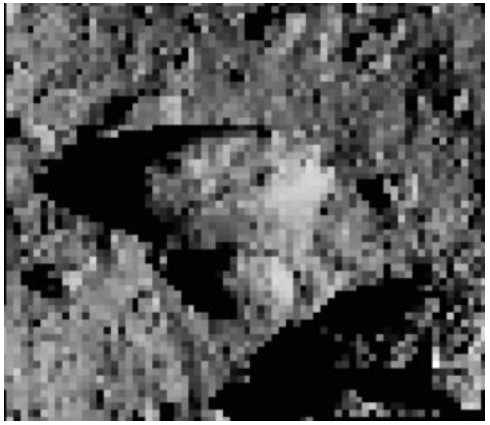
Retina Algorithms: Illumination Model



- Definitions
  - $\hat{\mathbf{n}}_k$ - surface normal
  - $\hat{\mathbf{s}}_M$ - vector to the Sun
  - i_k - angle to the Sun
  - $\hat{\mathbf{r}}_M$ - vector to vehicle
  - r_k - reflectance angle
  - α - phase angle

Synthetic Image

Predicted Image



$$I_k = a_k \left((1-\beta)\cos(i_k) + \beta \frac{\cos(i_k)}{\cos(i_k)+\cos(r_k)} \right)$$

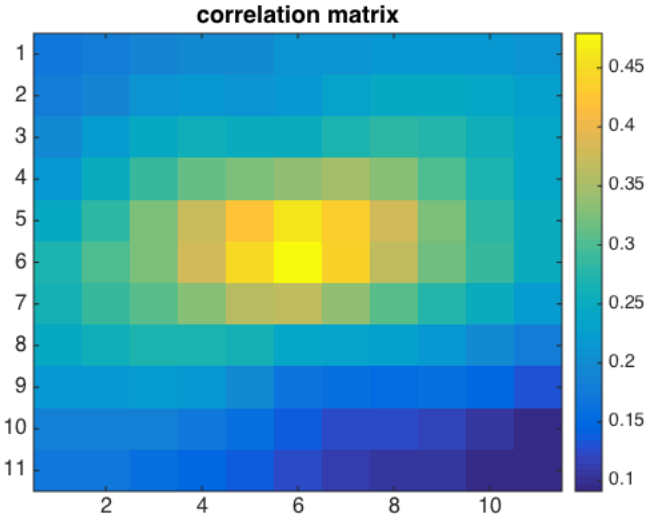
$$\beta = \exp^{(-\alpha/\alpha_0)}$$

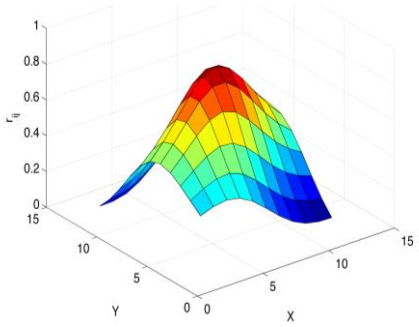
- The illumination model above is from McEwen 1991
- Beta is a weighting term to mix the Lambertian and Lommel-Seeliger components of the model
  - The weighting factor, α_0 is chosen from experience.
- The images at right show good agreement between a synthetic image and one rendered with Retina

Retina Algorithms: Cross Correlation

$$C = \frac{\frac{1}{N}\sum_{i=1}^{k}\sum_{j=1}^{l}\left(\mathbf{I}_p(i,j)\mathbf{I}_e(i,j)\right) - \mu_p\mu_e}{\left(\mu_{p_2} - \mu_p^2\right)\left(\mu_{e_2} - \mu_e^2\right)}$$

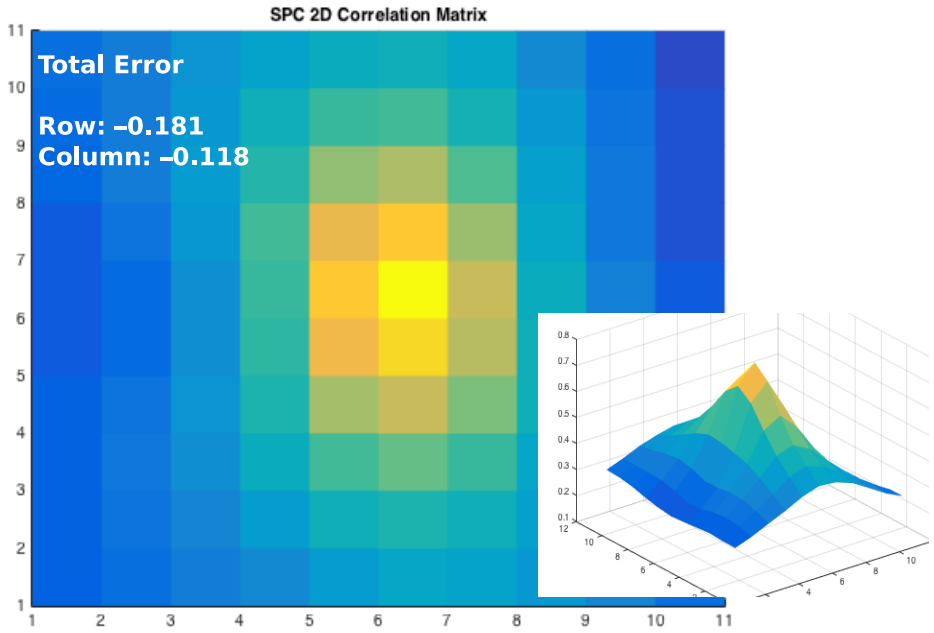
- *i* is the row in the image, *j* is the column
- $\mathbf{I}_p$ is the predicted image pixel at row *i*, col *j*
- $\mathbf{I}_e$ is the pixel value in the real image
- μ_p is the mean of pixels in the predicted image
- μ_e is the mean of pixels in the real image
- μ_{p_2} is the variance of pixels in the predicted image
- μ_{e_2} is the variance of pixels in the real image

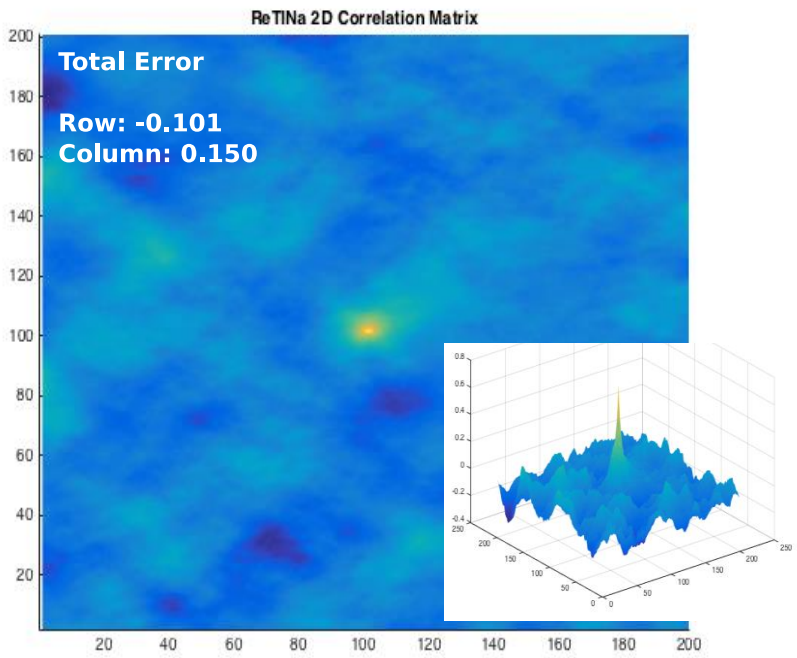




- Uses Pearson moment correlation
  - Other correlation methods are being explored to ensure robust performance.
- Correlation matrix created by shifting predicted image
  - Magnitudes of shift determined by filter covariance

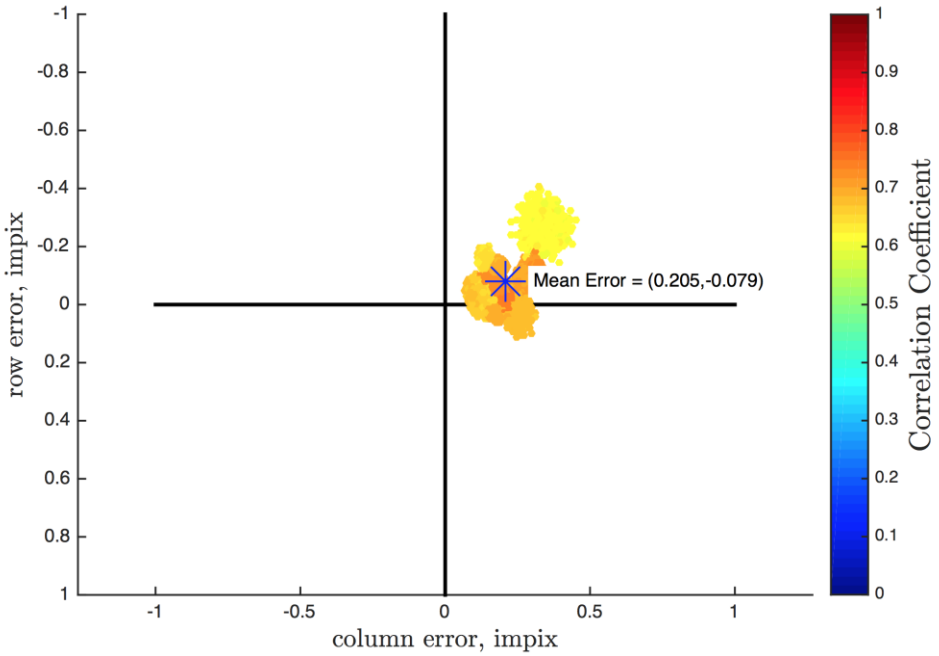
Retina Algorithms: Sub-Pixel Peak Finding

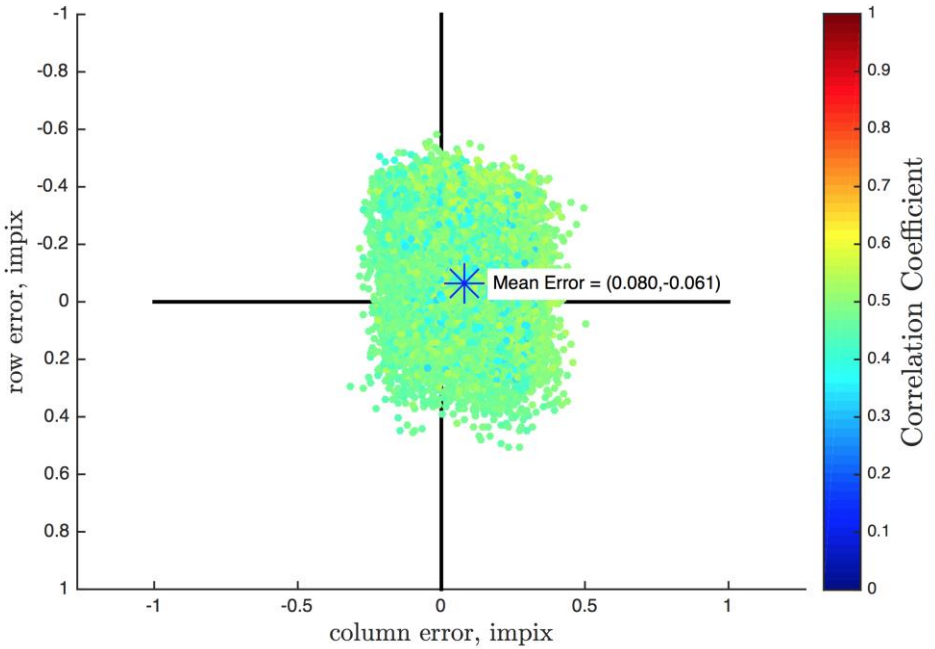




- Comparison of correlation peak finding in SPC and Retina
  - This example had no offset applied so truth is Row = 0.0, Column = 0.0
- Retina peak finding is a 3x3 grid that is linearly interpolated to find the peak to sub-pixel accuracy
  - Current SPC implementations fit a paraboloid to the correlation surface
- Results obtained in Monte Carlo analysis show lower errors with linear peak finding.

Retina Performance





- Performance between SPC and Retina obtained for the ARRM descent from 50 m to 10 m
- Perturbations applied include
  - Position, attitude, camera parameters (focal length, distortion, etc), landmark knowledge, landmark resolution, knowledge of Sun direction
- Retina more robust because
  - Registered every case while SPC did not
  - SPC shows a bias for this scenario – investigating cause

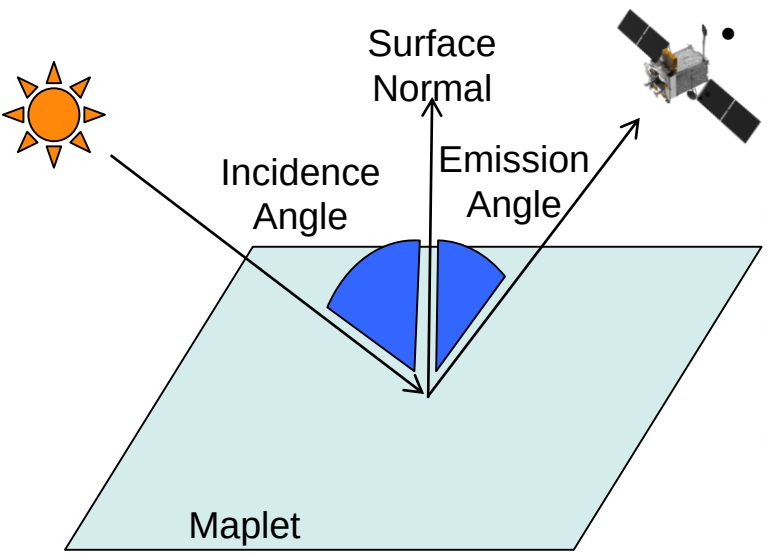
Future Work

- Further testing implementation on SpaceCube 2.0
  - Testing with 1 MP 10-bit depth images to utilize existing FlatSat
  - Will test with higher resolution imagery to compare performance to the expected performance presented here
- Refine acceleration needs for current implementation
- Exploring improved correlation algorithms
- Continue assessing performance of Retina on additional scenarios

Questions

Backup

Retina Algorithms: Illumination Model



- Definitions
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  - r_k is the emission angle
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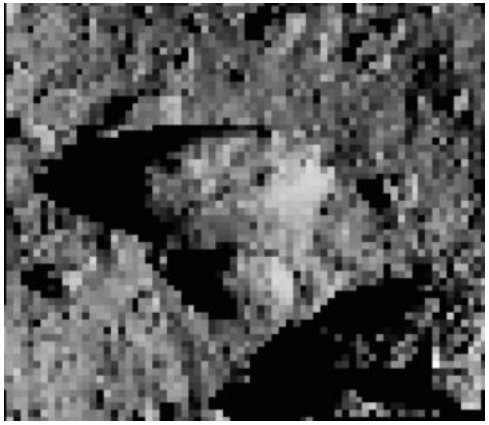
Retina Image