Information Technology

Planetary Data Systems (PDS) Imaging Node Atlas II
NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, California

The Planetary Image Atlas (PIA) is a Rich Internet Application (RIA) that serves planetary imaging data to the science community and the general public. PIA also utilizes the USGS Unified Planetary Coordinate system (UPC) and the on-Mars map server.

The Atlas was designed to provide the ability to search and filter through greater than 8 million planetary image files. This software is a three-tier Web application that contains a search engine backend (MySQL, JAVA), Web service interface (SOAP) between server and client, and a GWT Google Maps API client front end. This application allows for the search, retrieval, and download of planetary images and associated meta-data from the following missions: 2001 Mars Odyssey, Cassini, Galileo, L.CROSS, Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter, Mars Exploration Rover, Mars Express, Magellan, Mars Global Surveyor, Mars Pathfinder, Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter, MESSENGER, Phoenix, Viking Lander, Viking Orbiter, and Voyager.

The Atlas utilizes the UPC to translate mission-specific coordinate systems into a unified coordinate system, allowing the end user to query across missions of similar targets. If desired, the end user can also use a mission-specific view of the Atlas. The mission-specific views rely on the same code base.

This application is a major improvement over the initial version of the Planetary Image Atlas. It is a multi-mission search engine. This tool includes both basic and advanced search capabilities, providing a product search tool to interrogate the collection of planetary images. This tool lets the end user query information about each image, and ignores the data that the user has no interest in. Users can reduce the number of images to look at by defining an area of interest with latitude and longitude ranges.

This work was done by Alice Stanboli and James M. McAuley of Caltech for NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory. For more information, contact iaoffice@jpl.nasa.gov.

This software is available for commercial licensing. Please contact Dan Broderick at Daniel.F.Broderick@jpl.nasa.gov. Refer to NPO-47820.

Automatic Calibration of an Airborne Imaging System to an Inertial Navigation Unit
NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, California

This software automatically calibrates a camera or an imaging array to an inertial navigation system (INS) that is rigidly mounted to the array or imager. In effect, it recovers the coordinate frame transformation between the reference frame of the imager and the reference frame of the INS.

This innovation can automatically derive the camera-to-INS alignment using image data only. The assumption is that the camera fixates on an area while the aircraft flies on orbit. The system then, fully automatically, solves for the camera orientation in the INS frame. No manual intervention or ground tie point data is required.

This work was done by Adnan I. Ansar, Daniel S. Clouse, Michael C. McHenry, Dimitri V. Zarzhitsky, and Curtis W. Paddock of Caltech for NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory. For more information, contact iaoffice@jpl.nasa.gov.

This software is available for commercial licensing. Please contact Dan Broderick at Daniel.F.Broderick@jpl.nasa.gov. Refer to NPO-48755.

Translating MAPGEN to ASPEN for MER
Faithful translation is achieved from mixed-domain representations into the ASPEN Modeling Language.
NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, California

This software translates MAPGEN (Europa and APGEN) domains to ASPEN, and the resulting domain can be used to perform planning for the Mars Exploration Rover (MER). In other words, this is a conversion of two distinct planning languages (both declarative and procedural) to a third (declarative) planning language in order to solve the problem of faithful translation from mixed-domain representations into the ASPEN Modeling Language.

The MAPGEN planning system is an example of a hybrid procedural/declarative system where the advantages of each are leveraged to produce an effective planner/scheduler for MER tactical planning. The adaptation of the
same domain to an entirely declarative planning system (ASPEN) was investigated, and, with some translation, much of the procedural knowledge encoding is amenable to declarative knowledge encoding.

The approach was to compose translators from the core languages used for adapting MAPGEN, which consists of Europa and APGEN. Europa is a constraint-based planner/scheduler where domains are encoded using a declarative model. APGEN is also constraint-based, in that it tracks constraints on resources and states and other variables. Domains are encoded in both constraints and code snippets that execute according to a forward sweep through the plan. Europa and APGEN communicate to each other using proxy activities in APGEN that represent constraints and/or tokens in Europa. The composition of a translator from Europa to APGEN was fairly straightforward, as APGEN is also a declarative planning system, and the specific uses of Europa for the MER domain matched ASPEN's native encoding fairly closely.

On the other hand, translating from APGEN to ASPEN was considerably more involved. On the surface, the types of activities and resources one encodes in APGEN appear to match one-to-one to the activities, state variables, and resources in ASPEN. But, when looking into the definitions of how resources are profiled and activities are expanded, one sees code snippets that access various information available during planning for the moment in time being planned to decide at the time what the appropriate profile or expansion is. APGEN is actually a forward (in time) sweeping discrete event simulator, where the model is composed of code snippets that are artfully interleaved by the engine to produce a plan/schedule. To solve this problem, representative code is simulated as a declarative series of task expansions.

Predominantly, three types of procedural models were translated: loops, if-statements, and code blocks. Loops and if-statements were handled using controlled task expansion, and code blocks were handled using constraint networks that maintained the generation of results based on what the order of execution would be for a procedural representation.

One advantage with respect to performance for MAPGEN is the use of APGEN’s GUI. This GUI is written in C++ and Motif, and performs very well for large plans.

This work was done by Gregg R. Rabideau, Russell L. Knight, Matthew Lenda, and Pierre F. Malague of Caltech for NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Further information is contained in a TSP (see page 1).

The software used in this innovation is available for commercial licensing. Please contact Dan Broderick at Daniel.F.Broderick@jpl.nasa.gov. Refer to NPO-48597.

Support Routines for In Situ Image Processing
NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, California

This software consists of a set of application programs that support ground-based image processing for in situ missions. These programs represent a collection of utility routines that perform miscellaneous functions in the context of the ground data system. Each one fulfills some specific need as determined via operational experience. The most unique aspect to these programs is that they are integrated into the large, in situ image processing system via the PIG (Planetary Image Geometry) library. They work directly with space in situ data, understanding the appropriate image meta-data fields and updating them properly. The programs themselves are completely multithreaded; all mission dependencies are handled by PIG.

This suite of programs consists of:
- marschaiv: Generates a linearized, epipolar aligned image given a stereo pair of images. These images are optimized for 1-D stereo correlations.
- marscheckcm: Compares the camera model in an image label with one derived via kinematics modeling on the ground.
- marschkov: Checks the overlaps between a list of images in order to determine which might be stereo pairs. This is useful for non-traditional stereo images like long-baseline or those from an articulating arm camera.
- marscoordintrans: Translates mosaic coordinates from one form into another.
- marsdiscompare: Checks a Left→Right stereo disparity image against a Right→Left disparity image to ensure they are consistent with each other.
- marsdiswarp: Takes one image of a stereo pair and warps it through a disparity map to create a synthetic opposite-eye image. For example, a right eye image could be transformed to look like it was taken from the left eye via this program.
- marsfieldfinder: Finds fiducial markers in an image by projecting their approximate location and then using correlation to locate the markers to subpixel accuracy. These fiducial markets are small targets attached to the spacecraft surface. This helps verify, or improve, the pointing of in situ cameras.
- marsinvrange: Inverse of marsrange — given a range file, re-computes an XYZ file that closely matches the original.
- marsproj: Projects an XYZ coordinate through the camera model, and reports the line/sample coordinates of the point in the image.
- marsprojf: Given the output of marsfieldfinder, projects the XYZ locations and compares them to the found locations, creating a report showing the fiducial errors in each image.
- marsrad: Radiometrically corrects an image.
- marsrel: Updates coordinate system or camera model labels in an image.
- marsxyz: Given a stereo pair, allows the user to interactively pick a point in each image and reports the XYZ value corresponding to that pair of locations.
- marsnormosaic: Extracts a single frame from a mosaic, which will be created such that it could have been an input to the original mosaic. Useful for creating simulated input frames using different camera models than the original mosaic used.
- mersinverter: Uses an inverse lookup table to convert 8-bit telemetered data to its 12-bit original form. Can be used in other missions despite the name.

This work was done by Robert G. Deen, Oleg Pariser, Mathew C. Yeates, Huyen H. Lee, and Jean Lorre of Caltech for NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Further information is contained in a TSP (see page 1).

This software is available for commercial licensing. Please contact Dan Broderick at Daniel.F.Broderick@jpl.nasa.gov. Refer to NPO-47728.