

# Reflective surface texture through OCAMS and OVIRS on-board OSIRIS-REx: What can shadow effects tell us about the surface of (101955) Bennu?

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## Abstract

Bennu's rough surface is a challenge for radiance modeling of OSIRIS-REx's spectro-photometric and spectroscopic near-infrared data. We developed a technique to model the sub-pixel visible roughness parameters on a facet basis. We presented the first results for different quasi-analytical shadowing models applied to OCAMS and OVIRS data. The ultimate goal is to improve the radiative estimation of roughness for resolved surfaces and provide a roughness map for Bennu.

## 1. Introduction

Since November 2018, the OSIRIS-REx mission has revealed a very rough surface for the asteroid (101955) Bennu, presenting a challenge for photometric modeling. High-resolution images show terrains ranging from multi-size boulders to fine regolith, indicating varied relief distribution at local scale. The general approach to model roughness through reflected light is to use disk-integrated phase curves and approximate the roughness distribution for Gaussian [1,2] or pre-fractal surfaces [3,4]. This approach, however, generally diverges for phase angles larger than  $\sim 50\text{--}60^\circ$  [5] when the body is non-spherical or its reliefs are non-Gaussian [6]. As Labarre et al. [7] have recently shown, many collected rough surfaces also diverge from the Gaussian assumption, motivating us to seek a more generalized approach.

In the scope of OSIRIS-REx mission, Bennu's topography will be determined with precision thanks to an on-board altimeter (OLA [8]) and camera (PolyCam [9]). With accurate topography, we can directly compute the full illumination and observation conditions into the bore-sight of OVIRS [10] and into OCAMS "distanced images". Our ultimate goal is to characterize the roughness

distribution at scale of the smallest surface element in a shape model (the facet), and understand the role of roughness shadow effects in the modeling of reflected radiance.

## 2. Data

We will use X-filter (0.860 microns) MapCam images and OVIRS spectra at the same wavelength from data obtained during the Preliminary Survey phase (distance of  $\sim 20$  km, December, 2018). We aim at determining the roughness map using both instruments.

MapCam is a medium-range camera with four wide-band filters ranging from blue (0.470 microns) to near-infrared (0.860 microns). Its field of view (FOV) is 0.068 mrad [9].

OVIRS is a VIS-NIR point spectrometer ranging from 0.4 to 4.7 microns. Every point spectra is obtained in a circular FOV of 4 mrad [10].

## 3. Methodology

The average single-scattering phase function of Bennu [11] will be used to derive the average roughness slope distribution for a given surface. Then, the methodology consists of the following:

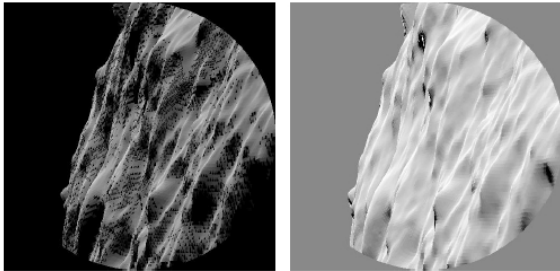
- a) The most precise NAIF SPICE kernels and DTM shape model are ingested into a ray-tracing code for rendering shaded images for Bennu's surface. This make sit possible to discount for the effects of macroscopic shadows, leaving only the sub-facet texture to be modeled [Fig. 1].
- b) Every facet is represented by an average roughness slope distribution [12]. At first, our modeling will be focused on radiative transfer outcomes from random slopes simulated by

Gaussian distribution or pre-fractal properties. Pre-fractal surfaces mimic roughness by reproducing a same given noise into a decreasing self-similarity size scale. These cases already have a quasi-analytical solution [1-4]. In the future goal, we aim obtaining the radiance from any given roughness slope distribution [Fig. 2] by generalizing the Van Ginneken et al. statistical model [2].

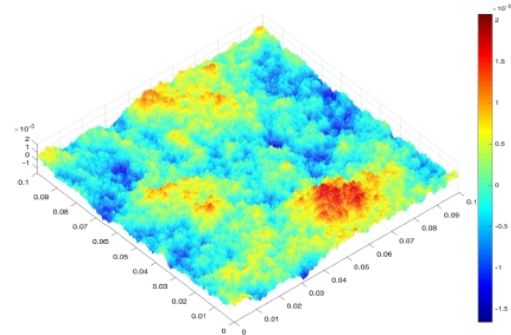
c) The modeled radiance factor (I/F or RADF) from every facet in the FOV is convolved with the instrument efficiency curve per solid angle. This final convolved signal is compared to the image or spectral observations. The L-BFGS-B minimization algorithm [13] is used for inversion and obtaining the best roughness parameters.

## 4. Perspectives

By modeling roughness, we expect to measure the “viewed” sub-facet roughness at different scales and at different instrument settings. This kind of approach has never been applied for space mission data out of Hapke’s photometric modeling scope [14]. A by-product is the composition of a roughness map for the surface of Bennu. Such a map will help us understand the correlations among albedo, visible colors, near-infrared spectra, and temperature.



**Figure 1:** Generated images with Bennu’s surface as “seen” by OVIRS boresight with (a, left) and without (b, right) ray-trace shadowing. We used the Lommel-Seeliger scattering law to model the disk function per facet. Bennu’s surface is represented by a stereo-photo-clinometric shape model of 3 million facets.



**Figure 2:** Example of randomly generated multi-scale relief. The surface is pre-fractal and non-Gaussian. Generated using Hurst coefficient of 0.3 and height scale of 5 mm [4].

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