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Developing interoperable data access: a basis for a future virtual observatory of planetology

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Abstract

Planetology includes a set of disciplines dedicated to the study of very different objects: planetary surfaces, interior of planets, oceans, atmospheres, ionised environments of planets and comets, magnetospheres, planetary or cometary dust, rings, small bodies, … Couplings act between these components at various levels. Studying a particular topic often requires to find and to access data coming from several disciplines. This is generally a difficult task for an individual researcher who would be strongly helped by a virtual observatory of planetology. Such an interoperable system will allow first to access globally planetary data products from distributed providers. In a second step, the system will offer not only to access the data products but also to provide on-line services allowing their exploitation and analysis.
In this presentation, we describe the key axis and the development strategy planned in the task-2 of JRA4 of the EUROPLANET RI project. This task is dedicated to the development of interoperable data access which will be the basis of IDIS (Integrated and Distributed Information System), the future virtual observatory of planetology.