

Recent results from the Dawn Framing Camera

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Abstract

The NASA Dawn spacecraft is on its way to rendezvous with Vesta in 2011 [1]. On board is the Framing Camera (FC), a multispectral imager that is a German contribution to the mission. With one clear and seven color filters it is well equipped to study the geology and mineralogy of Vesta.

A recent Mars fly-by, which put the spacecraft on track for the asteroid encounter, provided an excellent opportunity to calibrate the instrument. Unfortunately, a spacecraft safing event prevented the vast majority of the planned images to be transmitted back to Earth. We present our Mars data set and discuss its implications for the calibration of the camera.

In addition, we present the results of a recent stray light campaign that used the Sun as a stray light source. The FC was designed to minimize out-of field stray light, and we confirm that its contribution to our images is expected to be very small. The FC is in excellent health, and we continue our efforts to characterize the instrument to prepare for the Vesta campaign.

Bibliography

References

- [1] Russell, C.T. et al. (2007) *Earth Moon Planet*, 101, 65–91.

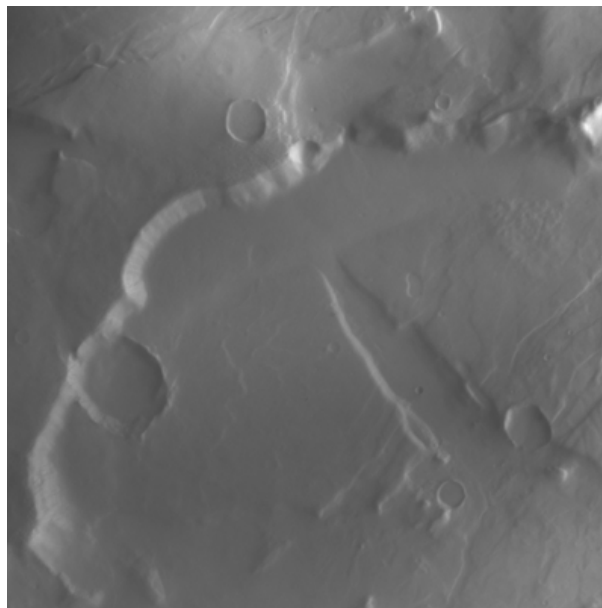


Figure 1: A Framing Camera image of the Martian surface taken through the 965 nm narrow band filter.