

MarsSI: Martian surface data processing Information System

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Abstract

We designed a distributed information system called MarsSI to manage orbital data from martian orbiters. The application easily and rapidly allows the user to process data from these orbiters and to download scientifically ready-to-use products of Mars surface. The application also allows DTM computation from CTX and HiRISE images. This application is open to the scientific community and can be found at this address: <http://emars.univ-lyon1.fr>

The creation of an account is required, for that email Loïc Lozac'h : loic.lozach@univ-lyon1.fr

1. Introduction:

Geological investigations of planetary surfaces are based on the exploitation of orbital data and often acquired with different remote sensing instruments. For Mars, for instance, the number of missions and instruments and the size of the datasets are so important that even at the scale of a single scientific team, an information system to manage data is more and more required.

The creation and exploitation of a database of Mars surface is part of the e-Mars project funded by the European Research Council (ERC), the aim of which is to decipher the geological evolution of the planet from the combination of martian orbital data. We have designed a distributed information system called MarsSI to manage data from the four following Martian orbiters: Mars Global Surveyor (MGS), Mars Odyssey (ODY), Mars Express (MEX), and Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter (MRO). MarsSI allows the user to select footprints of the data from a web-GIS interface and download them to a storage server. Then the user can process raw data via automatic calibrations and finally acquire “ready-to-use” data of Mars surface. “Ready-to-use” means that the data are ready to be visualized under GIS or remote sensing softwares. An automatic stereo-restitution pipeline producing high resolution Digital Terrain Models (DTM) is also available.

2. Application architecture:

MarsSI is a 3-tiers web application based on Geomajas [1] framework. The web-tier is coded with Google Web Toolkit (GWT) [2] libraries. The services-tier is based on Spring [3] framework and provides the functionalities determined by the user’s needs. It communicates with the web-tier via Geomajas command pattern, and with the data-tier via Spring’s Data Access Object (DAO) pattern. The data-tier is a PostgreSQL [4] database storing the input/output entities needed in the workflow of the application’s services. It also stores Mars imagery footprint’s geometry and attributes thanks to PostGIS [5] functionalities.

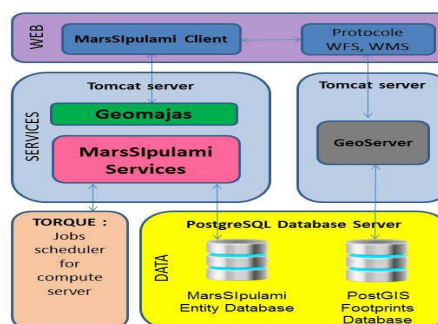


Figure 1: MarsSI architecture.

The basic workflow is the following: the footprints provided by the NASA Planetary Data System (PDS) are published in WFS protocol from the PostGIS database by GeoServer [6]. Geomajas makes them visible on screen via its web-GIS interface. The user is allowed to do searches and selections with the different GIS tools provided by Geomajas, and then the MarsSI Services creates jobs on user’s demand. Those jobs scheduled are and launched by TORQUE [7] on the compute cluster. These jobs can call any software installed on the compute cluster (ISIS3, IDL/ENVI, AMES Stereo Pipelines...). Both server-side and client-side have been simultaneously developed, they are adjustable so that the application can be regularly upgraded with new instrument data or new processing pipelines.

3. Functionalities:

MarsSI is divided in two parts, a map view and a workspace view.

Data selection: The map view shows a map of Mars with the common GIS tools (zoom, identifying, measurement, selection and search), a layer view to show/hide on map the footprints available, and a table in which the user can add the selected footprints. This table shows image's information as name, geometry, status and link to its PDS on-line label file.

Data processing: The workspace view (Figure 2) is divided in 5 tabs: cart view, download view, calibration view, projection view and stereo-restitution view. The cart view allows the user to check the localization of the added footprints on a map, to know the status of the data that are being processed and to copy the ready-to-use data to a personal ftp account on the storage server.

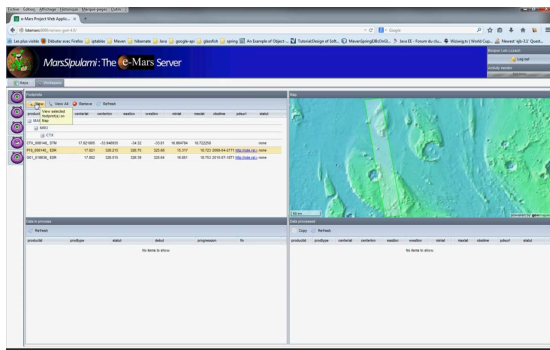


Figure 2: MarsSI user interface – workspace view

If the data are not already stored on the local server, they appear in the download view, and the user can launch the download from the PDS server. Once the download is accomplished, the data appear in the calibration view. Once the calibration is done, the data appear in the projection view. The user can now launch the map-projection of the data.

To date, MarsSI handles CTX, HiRISE and CRISM data of MRO mission, HRSC and OMEGA data of MEX mission and THEMIS data of ODY mission. CTX, HiRISE and THEMIS raw data are processed with ISIS3 functions. CRISM images are processed with the CRISM Analysis Toolkit (CAT) and OMEGA data are processed with IDL pipelines (team released pipeline).

Stereo-restitution: The stereo-restitution pipeline is functional for HiRISE and CTX images. CTX and HiRISE possible DTM footprints are computed, according to the following constraints: image couples with 60% width-overlapping and a minimum deviation of 10° in emission angle. It is user's responsibility to check the quality of the stereo pairs, thanks to their PDS on-line label files. Then, the user can choose one or several stereo footprints from the map view and they appear in the stereo-restitution view. If the raw image couple is not stored on the local server, MarsSI automatically adds the 2 images to the user's cart and ask him to process the data before launching the stereo-restitution application. A script inspired from Zack Moratto's blog [8] has been written. This script uses the NASA Ames Stereo Pipeline toolkit to process the stereo images and automatically obtain DTM.

4. Conclusion

The teamwork engaged under the e-Mars project has allowed the creation of an application that fully matches the needs of our team of martian geologists, allows the integration of new data processing chains, and offers standardized and distributed storage/compute resources. The application has also been designed to deal with other planetary targets. The next step of MarsSI, the martian surface database application, will be to open up to the martian community.

Acknowledgements:

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References:

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- [2]<http://www.gwtproject.org/> GWT website
- [3]<http://spring.io/> Spring website. [4]<http://www.postgresql.org/> PostgreSQL website. [5]<http://postgis.net/> PostGIS website. [6]<http://geoserver.org/> Geoserver website. [7]<http://www.adaptivecomputing.com/products/open-source/torque/> Torque website. [8] MORATTO Z., Automatic production of HiRISE DEMs, 26 November 2012, <http://lunokhod.org/?p=856>.