

# Data Science and Computing on the Path to Autonomy

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***Astroinformatics 2019, Caltech, Pasadena***

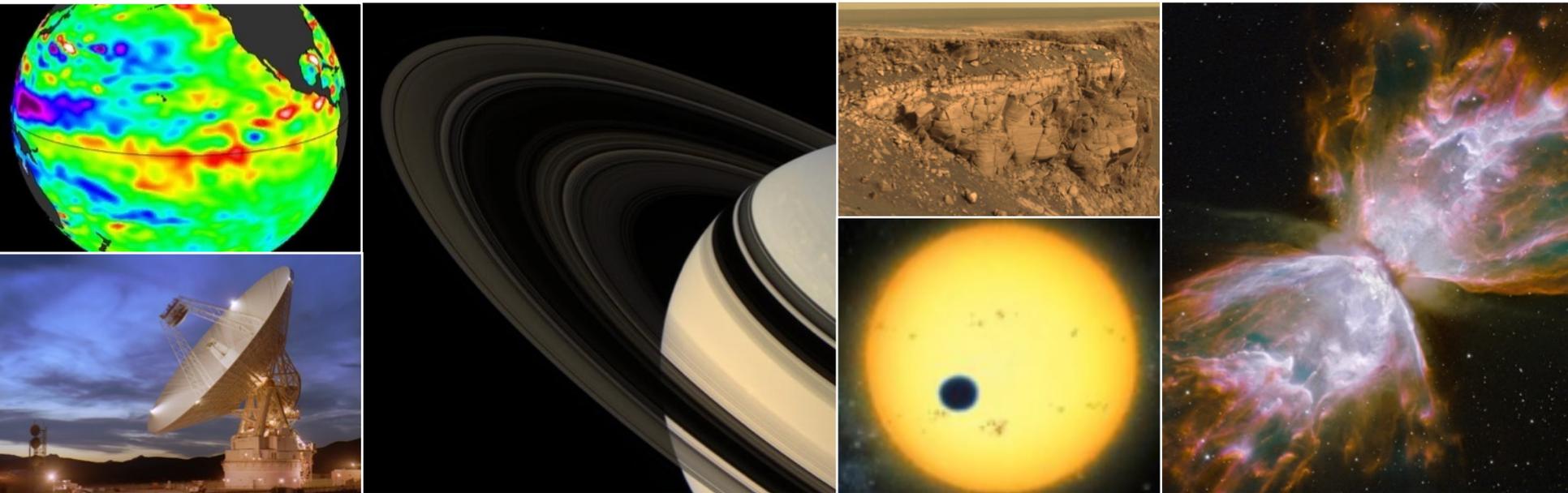
June 26, 2019



# JPL's Mission for NASA

## Robotic Space Exploration

Earth Science • Mars • Solar System • Astrophysics • Exoplanets • Interplanetary network



Our mission has introduced unique challenges for protecting space system assets and information

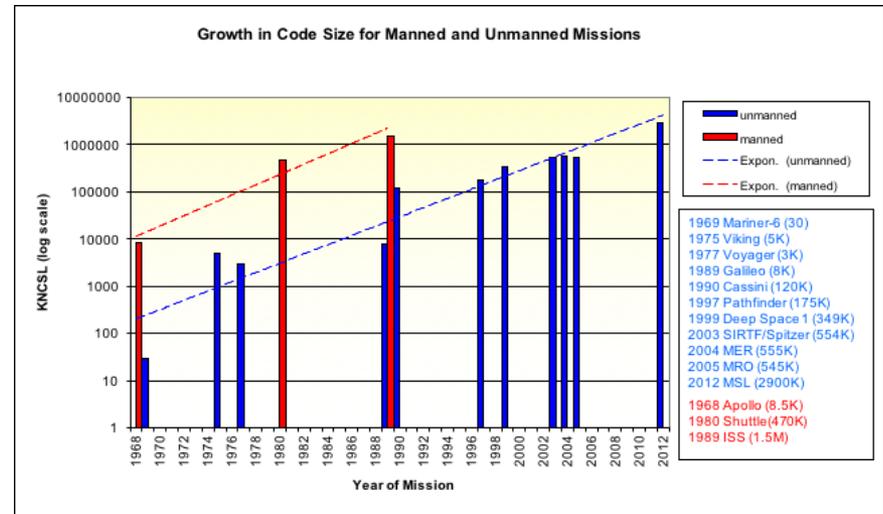
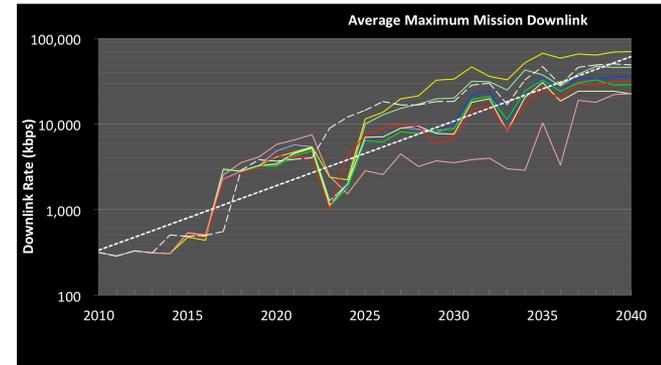
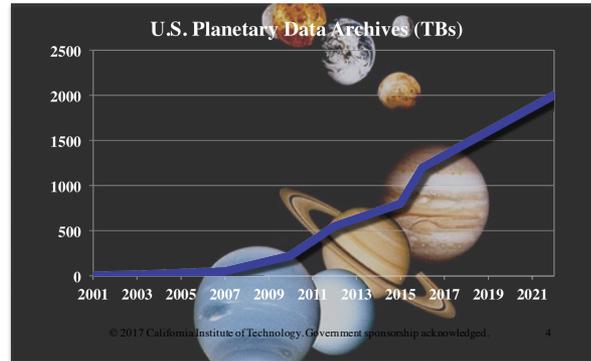


# Data Challenges for Space Systems

# Scaling Pressures for NASA Missions

Increasing...

- *data rates*
- *data variety and complexity*
- *data distributed across silos*
- *challenges in data analysis*
- *data set sizes*
- *software complexity*



Emerging data science capabilities are critical to addressing these challenges

# Data Lifecycle Model for NASA Missions

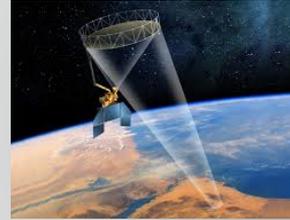
From Onboard Computing to Scalable Data Analytics

## Emerging Solutions

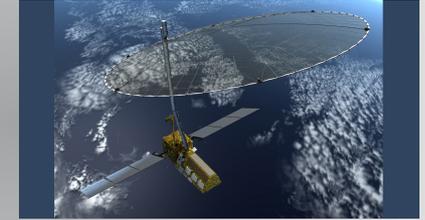
- *Next-Generation Flight Computing*
- *Onboard Data Analytics*



*Observational Platforms and Flight Computing*



SMAP (Today): 485 GB/day



NISAR (2020): 86 TB/day

**Scaling Pressures Expose the Need for an Integrated End-to-End Data and Computational Architecture**

## Emerging Solutions

- *Intelligent Ground Stations*
- *Agile Mission Operations*



*Ground-based Mission Systems*

## Emerging Solutions

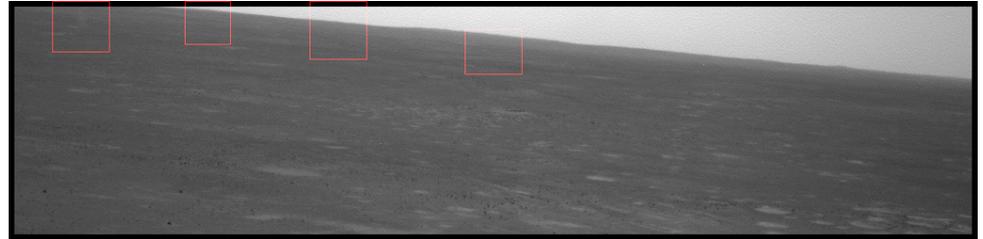
- *Data-Driven Discovery from Archives*
- *Scalable Computation and Storage*



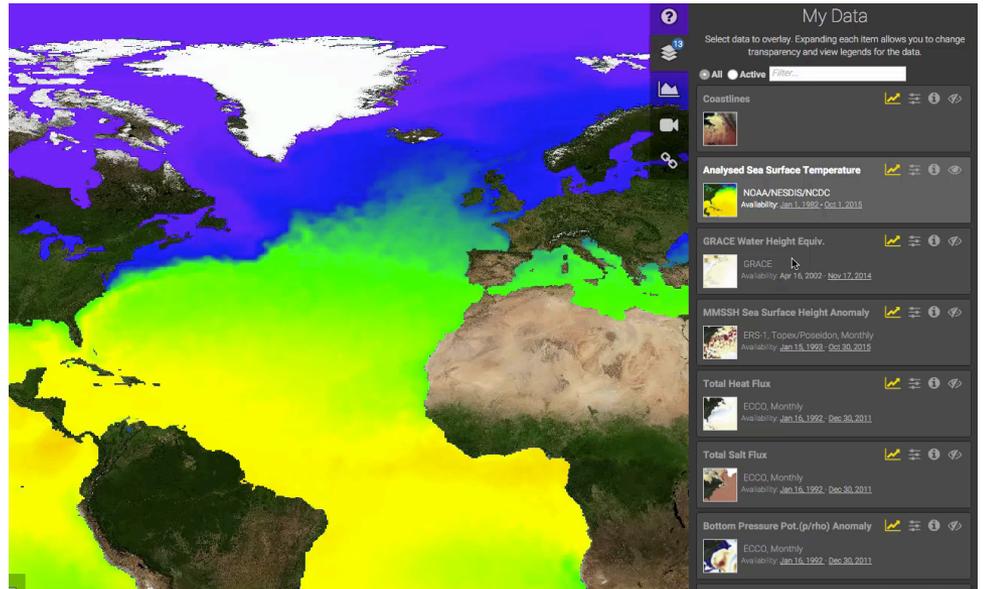
*Interactive Analytics and Visualization and Decision Support*

# Opportunities Enabled by Data Science

1. Support scalability to capture and analyze NASA observational data
2. Apply data-driven approaches across the entire data lifecycle
3. Increase access, integration and use of highly distributed archival data
4. Increase data science services for on-demand, interactive visualization and analytics



Using ML to track events on Mars



Interactive Visualizations



# **Interoperable Ground Data Systems and Archives**

# An Analytics-Driven Ground Environment

## Intelligent Ground Stations



### Emerging Solutions

- *Anomaly Detection*
- *Combining DSN & Mission Data*
- *Attention Focusing*
- *Controlling False Positives*

## Data-Driven Discovery from Archives



### Emerging Solutions

- *Automated Machine Learning - Feature Extraction*
- *Intelligent Search*
- *Integration of disparate data*

**Technologies: Machine Learning, Deep Learning, Intelligent Search, Data Fusion, Interactive Visualization and Analytics**

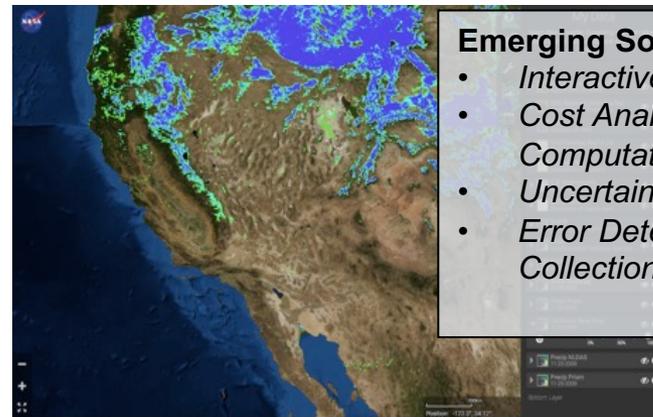
## Agile MOS-GDS



### Emerging Solutions

- *Anomaly Interpretation*
- *Dashboard for Time Series Data*
- *Time-Scalable Decision Support*
- *Operator Training*

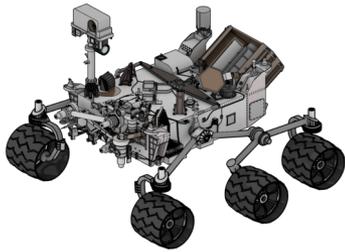
## Data Analytics and Decision Support



### Emerging Solutions

- *Interactive Data Analytics*
- *Cost Analysis of Computation*
- *Uncertainty Quantification*
- *Error Detection in Data Collection*

# ORCHIDS Infusion Pathways



## Mars Science Laboratory (MSL)

- Full engineering data system tracking
  - Commanding, telemetry, event monitoring, DSN monitoring, planning, scheduling, team staffing, vehicle parameters...
- Knowledge capture tool for human reporting
- Multi-subsystem in-flight data trending
- Anomaly investigations



## Europa Clipper

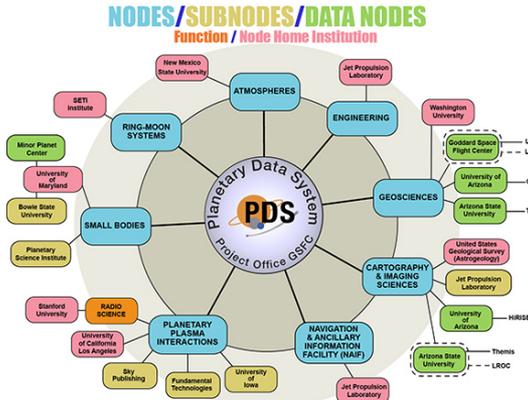
- Time correlation between science and engineering products
- Human knowledge capture
- Multi-instrument anomaly investigations



## Mars 2020

- Active learning of anomalies - humans 'on the loop'
- Increased data exploration capabilities in the mission operations environment
- Knowledge playback and training

# NASA Archives: Access to Data\*



Planetary Science

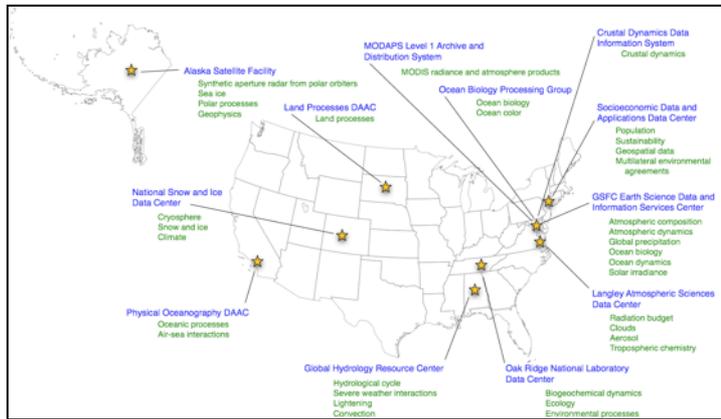
Highly distributed/federated  
 Collaborative  
 Information-centric  
 Discipline-specific  
 Growing/evolving  
 Heterogeneous  
 International Standards &  
 Interoperability



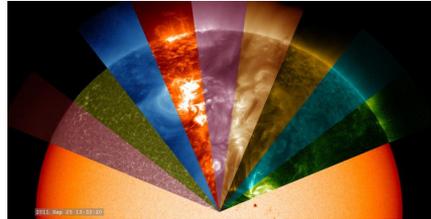
Multiple Data Centers



Astronomy



Earth Observation



Multiple Data Centers

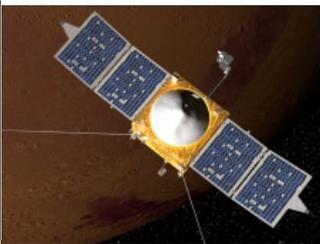
Heliophysics

\* Petascale environment that is moving to an exascale requirement

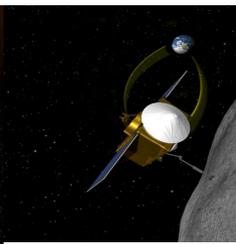
# International Planetary Data Alliance: Building a World-wide Planetary Data Ecosystem



LADEE  
(NASA)



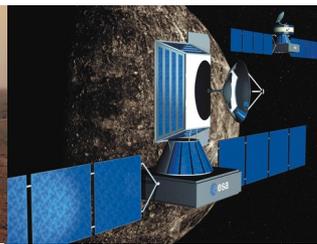
MAVEN  
(NASA)



Osiris-Rex  
(NASA)



ExoMars  
(ESA/Russia)



BepiColombo  
(ESA/JAXA)



Mars 2020  
(NASA)



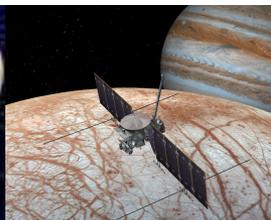
Psyche  
(NASA)



InSight  
(NASA)



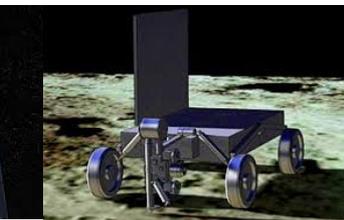
JUICE  
(ESA)



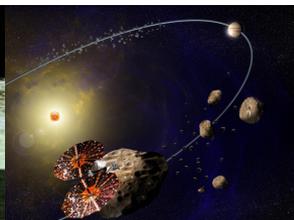
Europa  
(NASA)



Hyabusa-2  
(JAXA)



Chandrayaan-2  
(ISRO)



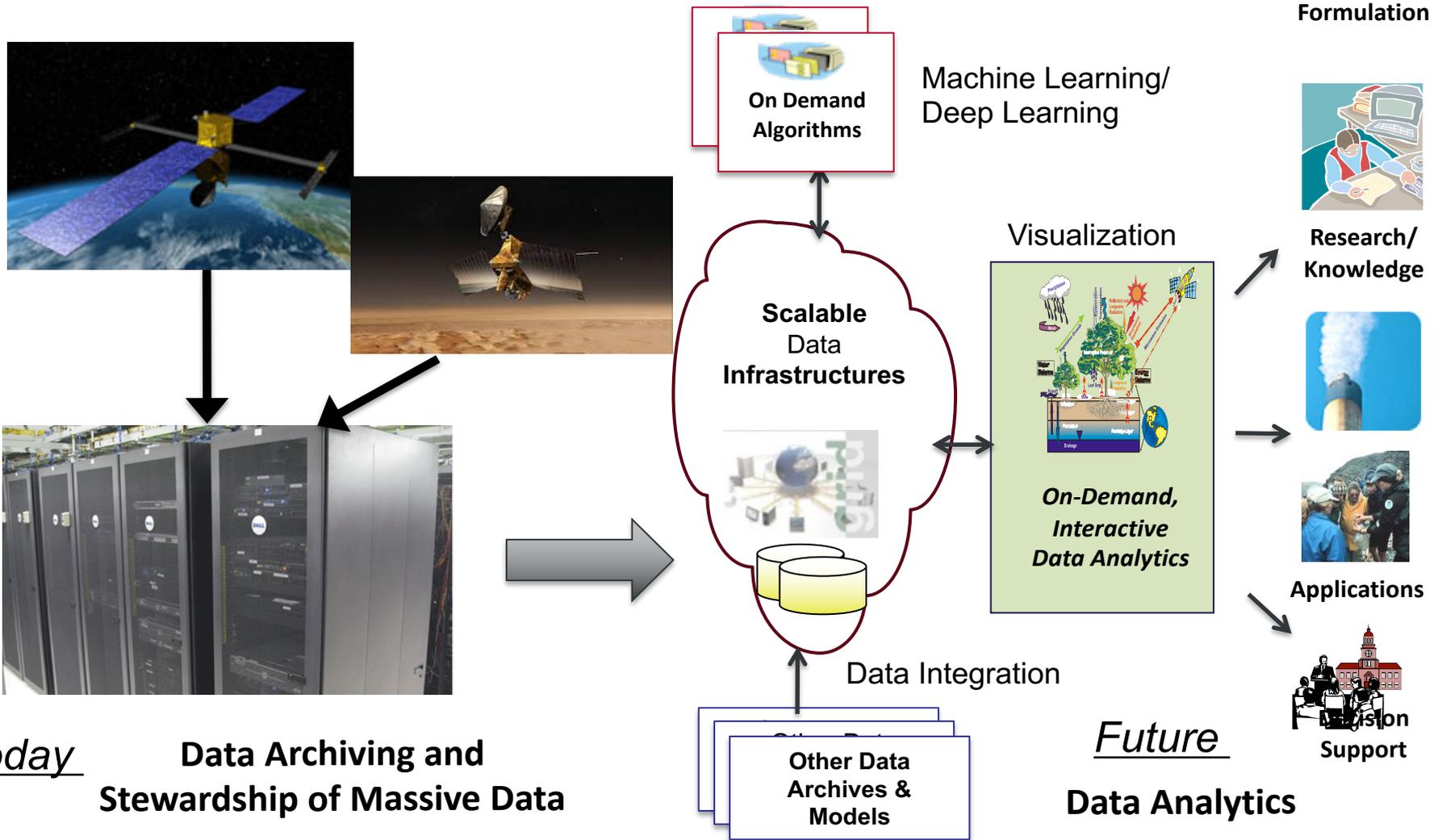
Lucy  
NASA

Endorsed by the **International Planetary Data Alliance** in July 2012 –  
<https://planetarydata.org/documents/steering-committee/ipda-endorsements-recommendations-and-actions>



# Shifting toward Data Analytics

# Expanding to Data-Driven Analytics



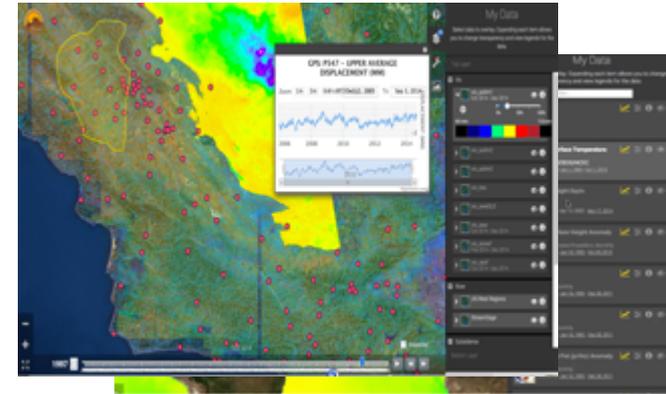
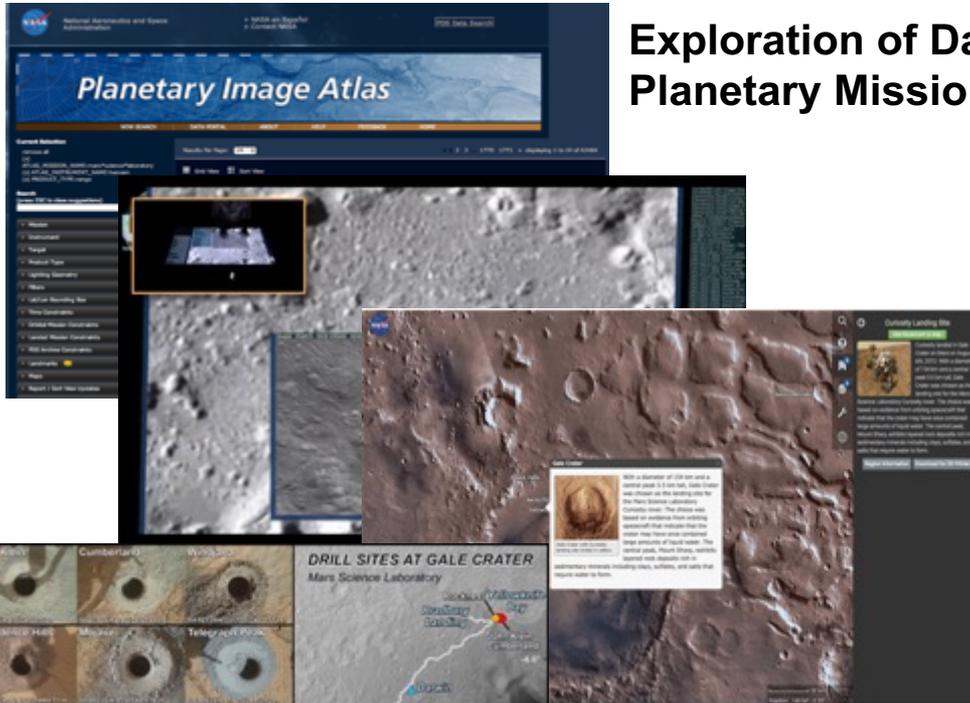
Reducing Data Wrangling: “There is a major need for the development of software components... that link high-level data analysis-specifications with low-level distributed systems architectures.”

*Frontiers in the Analysis of Massive Data*, National Research Council, 2013.

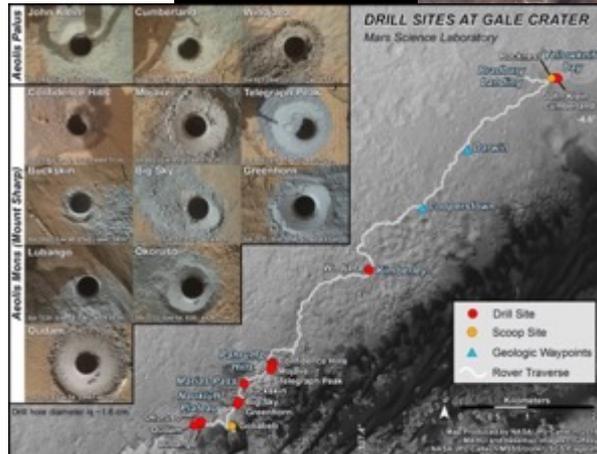
# Interactive Analytics for Data Exploration

Examples: Hydrology and sea level rise

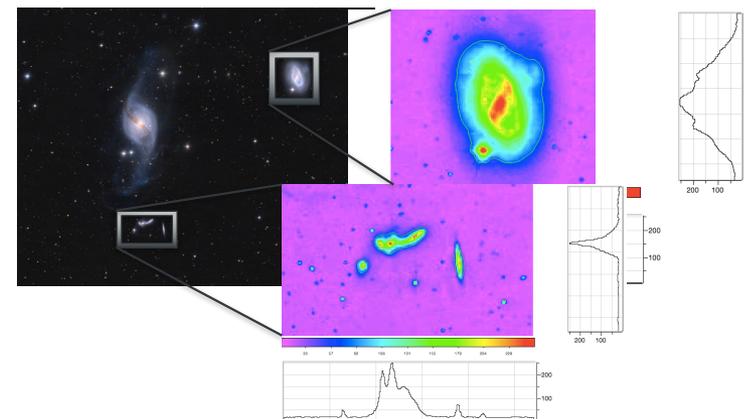
Exploration of Data from Planetary Missions



Analysis of Earth and Climate Science Observations and Models

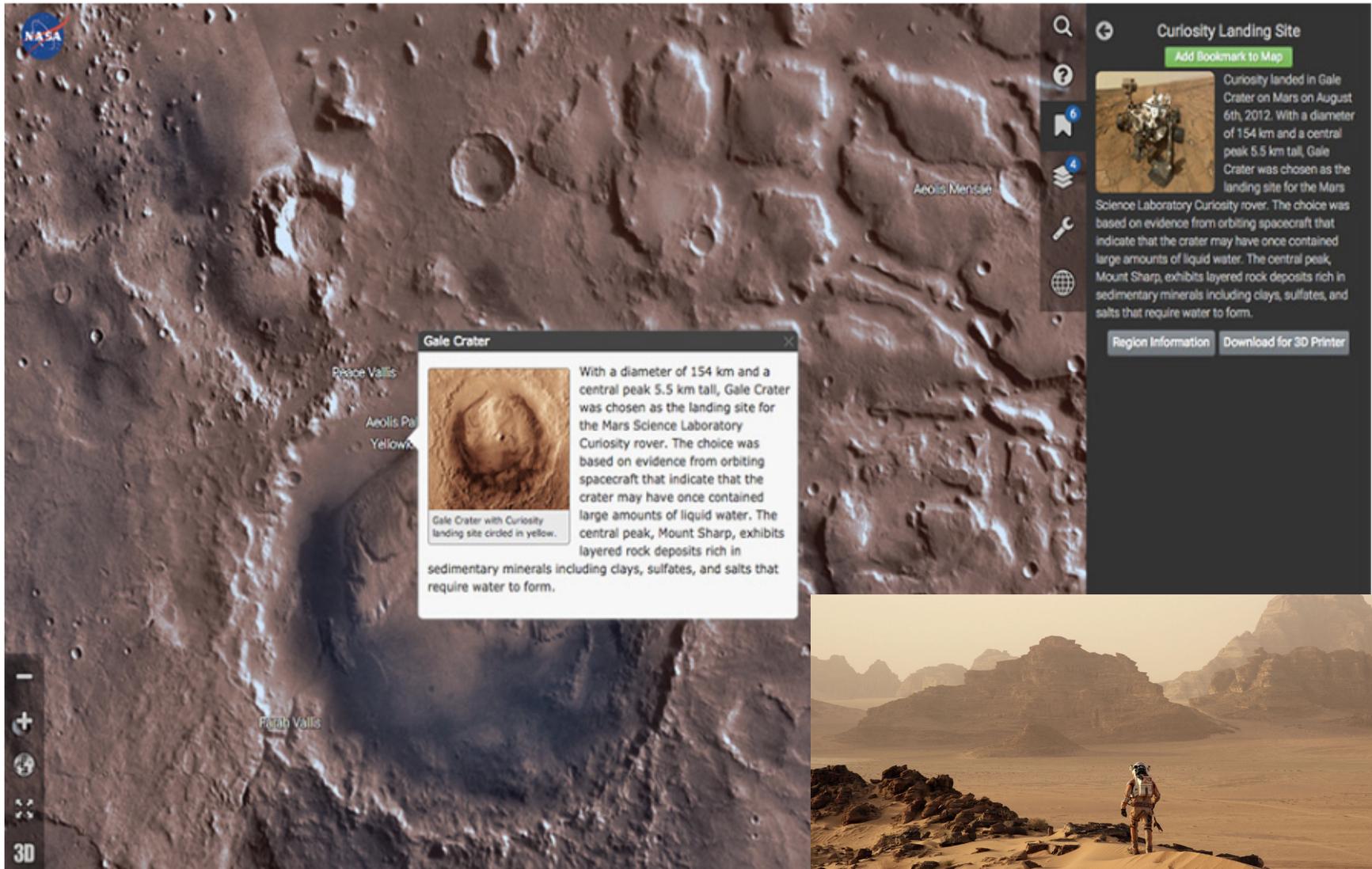


Examples: Planetary Image search, Mars and Moon surface navigation, feature extraction from Planetary images.



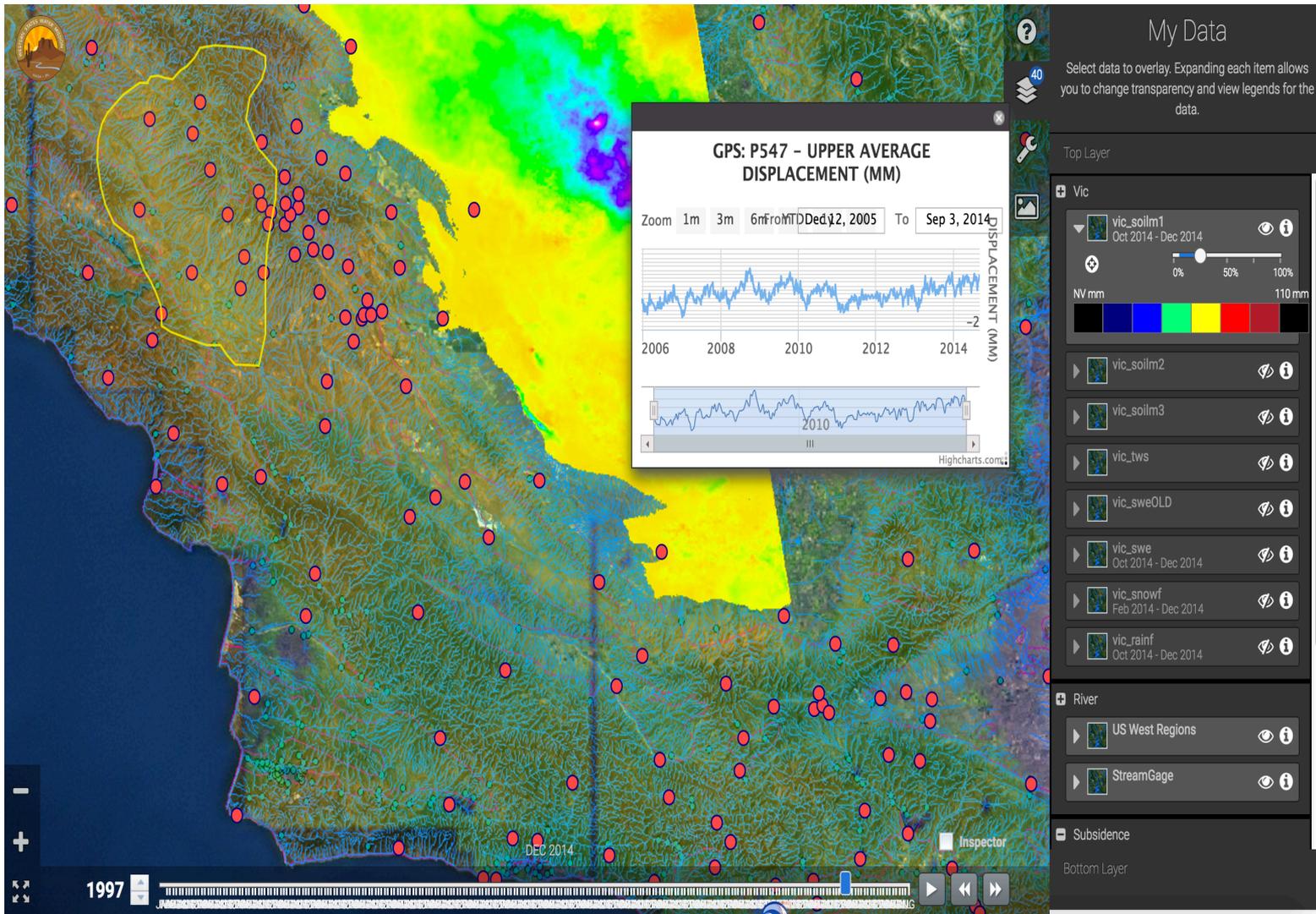
Classification and Analysis of Transient Events in Astronomy

# Mars Trek: The Google Earth of Mars



Credit: Emily Law, Shan Malhotra

# WaterTrek: Interactive Analytics for Western States Water Analysis





# **Computing, Autonomy and Analytics at the Far Edge**

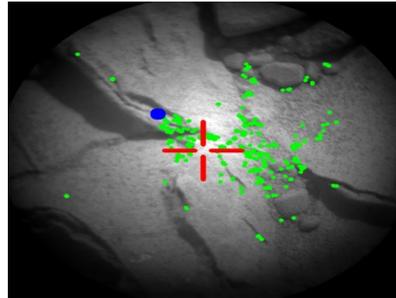
# The Need for Autonomy



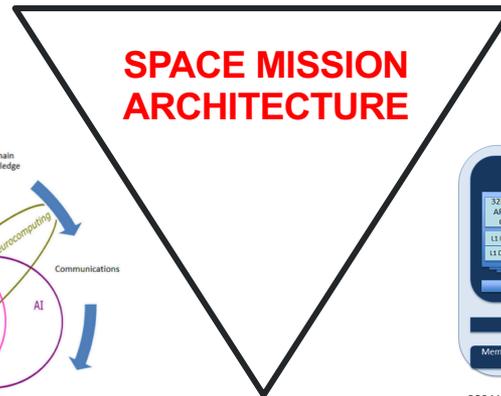
Autonomy enables pioneering missions to:  
Explore new destinations and increase  
science yield, robustness, operability



# Enabling Onboard Autonomy Through Data Science and Computing

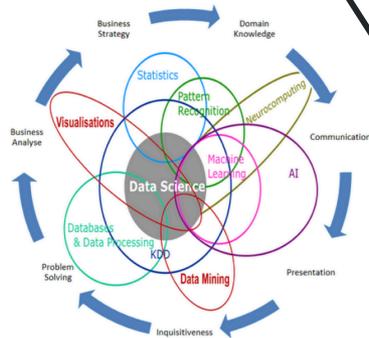


Onboard Autonomy

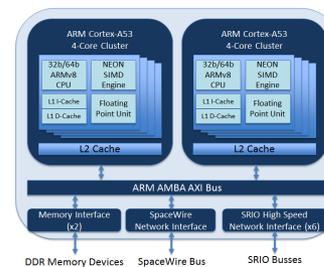


**Capabilities:**

- Data Analytics
- Scalable Data Services
- Data Processing
- Data Integration



Data Science



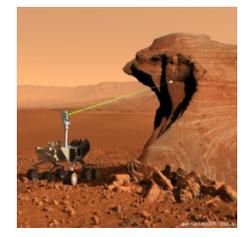
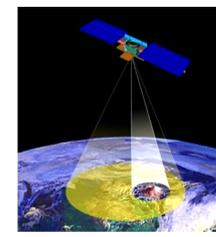
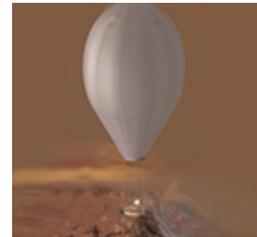
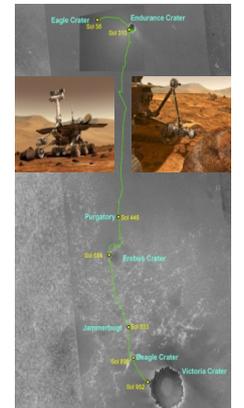
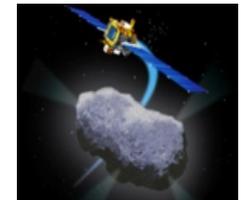
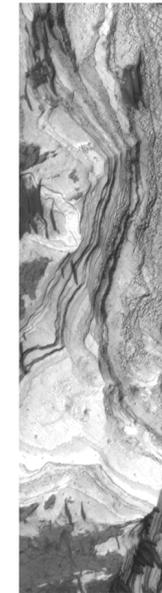
High Performance Spaceflight Computing

**Capabilities:**

- Processors
- Memory
- Energy Mgmt
- Fault Tolerance

# Future NASA Needs for Space-Based Computing

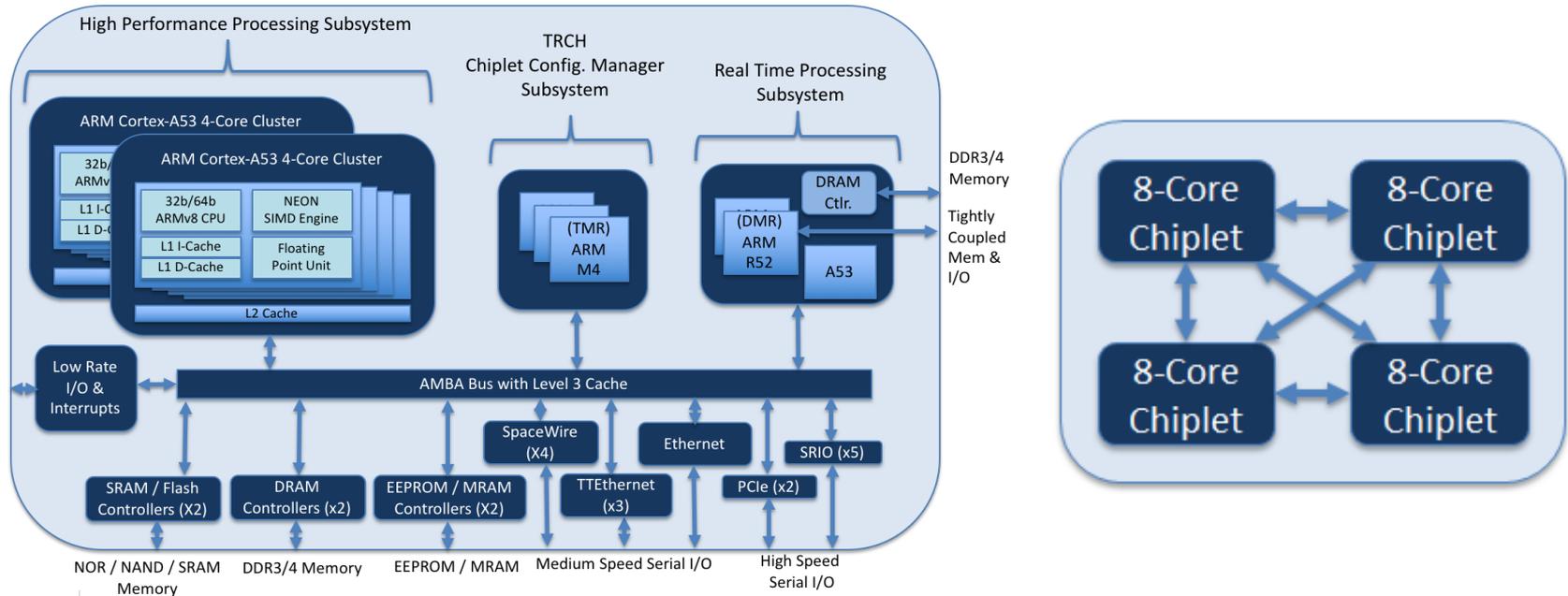
- Space-based computing has not kept up with the needs of current and future missions
- NASA has some unique requirements
  - Deep space, long duration, robotic and human missions
  - Higher performance, smaller spacecraft
    - Onboard science data processing
    - Autonomous operations
  - Extreme needs for low power and energy management, efficiency, fault tolerance and resilience



# NASA Flight Computing Drivers

Computation Category	Mission Need	Objective of Computation	Flight Architecture Attribute	Processor Type and Requirements
<b>Vision-based Algorithms with Real-Time Requirements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Terrain Relative Navigation (TRN)</li> <li>• Hazard Avoidance</li> <li>• Entry, Descent &amp; Landing (EDL)</li> <li>• Pinpoint Landing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct safe proximity operations around primitive bodies</li> <li>• Land safely and accurately</li> <li>• Achieve robust results within available timeframe as input to control decisions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Severe fault tolerance and real-time requirements</li> <li>• Fail-operational</li> <li>• High peak power needs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hard real time / mission critical</li> <li>• Continuous digital signal processing (DSP) + sequential control processing (fault protection)</li> <li>• High I/O rate</li> <li>• Irregular memory use</li> <li>• General-purpose (GP) processor (10's – 100's GFLOPS) + high I/O rate, augmented by co-processor(s)</li> </ul>
<b>Model-Based Reasoning Techniques for Autonomy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mission planning, scheduling &amp; resource management</li> <li>• Fault management in uncertain environments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contingency planning to mitigate execution failures</li> <li>• Detect, diagnose and recover from faults</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High computational complexity</li> <li>• Graceful degradation</li> <li>• Memory usage (data movement) impacts energy management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soft real time / critical</li> <li>• Heuristic search, data base operations, Bayesian inference</li> <li>• Extreme intensive &amp; irregular memory use (multi-GB/s)</li> <li>• &gt; 1GOPS GP processor arrays with low latency interconnect</li> </ul>
<b>High Rate Instrument Data Processing</b>	High resolution sensors, e.g., SAR, Hyper-spectral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Downlink images and products rather than raw data</li> <li>• Opportunistic science</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distributed, dedicated processors at sensors</li> <li>• Less stringent fault tolerance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soft real time</li> <li>• DSP/Vector processing with 10-100's GOPS (high data flow)</li> <li>• GP array (10-100's GFLOPS) required for feature ID / triage</li> </ul>

# HPSC – Reinventing the Role of Computing in Space



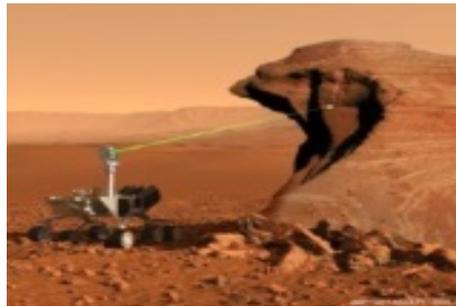
- **HPSC** offers a new **flight computing architecture** to meet the future needs of NASA missions.
- Providing on the order of **100X the computational capacity of current flight processors for the same amount of power**, the multicore architecture of the HPSC chiplet provides **unprecedented flexibility** in a flight computing system.
- By enabling the operating point to be set dynamically, **trading among needs for computational performance, energy management and fault tolerance**.
- **HPSC has been conceived to be highly extensible**. Multiple **chiplets can be cascaded together** for more capable computing, or HPSC can be **configured with specialized co-processors** to meet the needs of specific payloads and missions.
- **HPSC is a technology multiplier**, amplifying existing spacecraft capabilities and enabling new ones.
- The HPSC team anticipates that the chiplet will be **used by virtually every future space mission**, all benefiting from more capable flight computing.

# HPSC – Mission Infusion Framework

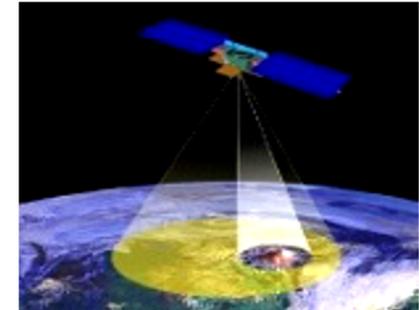
- NASA will develop HPSC-based, flight-qualified, single board computers (SBCs), ready for infusion into missions
  - Develop a NASA SBC reference design
  - Integrate the board with at least one set of flight-ready system software
  - Demonstrate flight readiness of the single board computer
  - Fund industry to develop standards-based HPSC SBCs



**Deep Space**



**Surface Systems**



**High Data Rate Instruments**



**Landing Systems**



**Human Spaceflight**

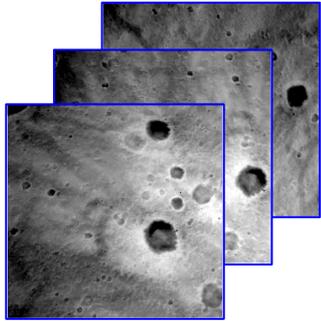


**CubeSats, SmallSats**

# Entry, Descent and Landing

## *Terrain Relative Navigation and Hazard Avoidance*

visible descent imaging



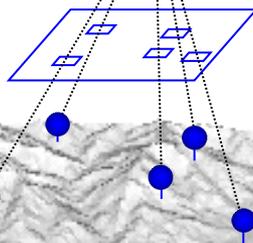
### Flight Deployed

- **2003 Mars Exploration Rover:** lander descent imagery used to estimate and control horizontal velocity (150 x 20km)
- **2011 Mars Science Laboratory:** closed-loop GNC to guide EDL toward pre-determined landing site - 7 Minutes of Terror (20 x 7km)

### Research and Development

- Perception-rich TRN & hazard avoidance for pin-point landing (100m)

**Terrain Relative Navigation**  
image landmark matching

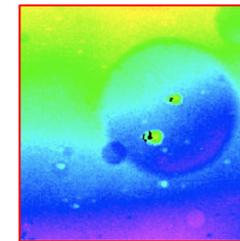


**Velocimetry**

image feature tracking



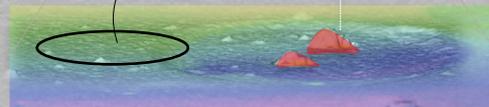
**Altimetry**  
narrow beam  
lidar



lidar terrain  
mapping

**Hazard  
Detection**

wide beam lidar



# Surface Mobility

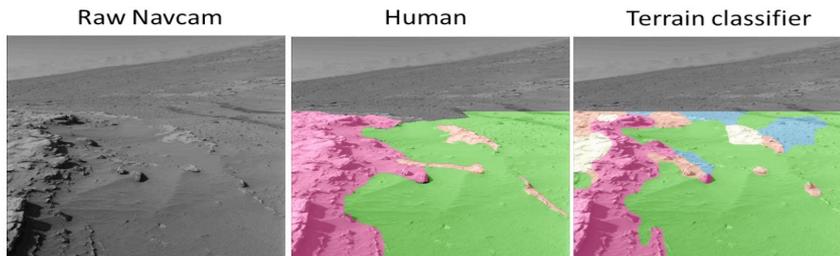
## *Mars Rover Navigation*

### Flight Deployed

- **1996 Mars Pathfinder:** obstacle avoidance with structured light
- **2003 Mars Exploration Rover:** obstacle avoidance with stereo vision; pose estimation and slip detection with visual odometry; goal tracking
- **2011 Mars Science Laboratory:** enhanced obstacle avoidance, visual odometry and goal tracking

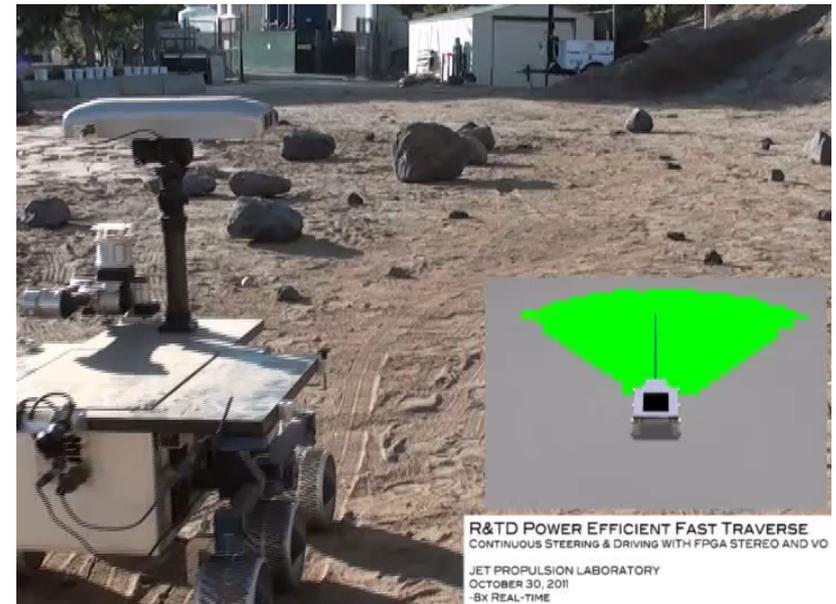
### Research and Development

- Enhanced hazard detection, traversability analysis and motion planning for Mars 2020 and beyond



Terrain Classification

Athena



Fido

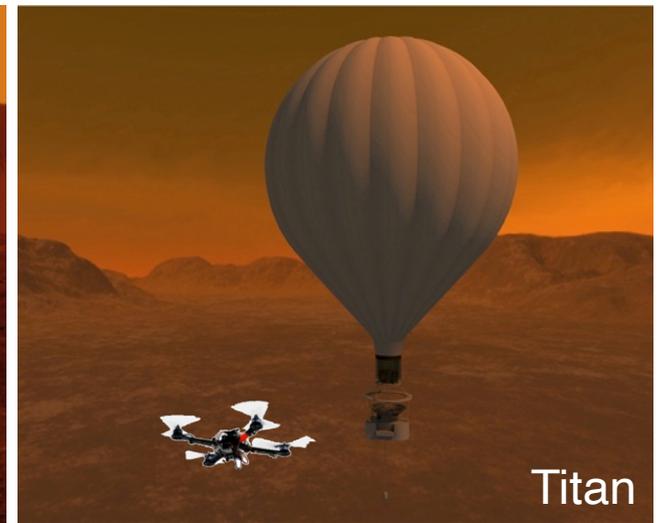
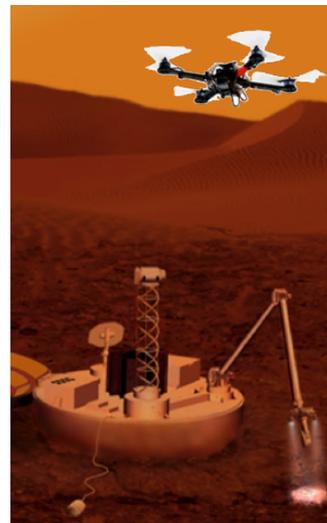
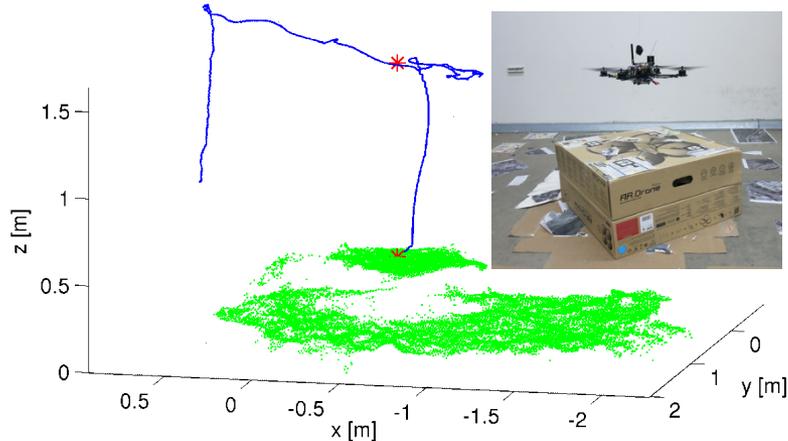


# Above-Surface Mobility

## *Rotorcraft and Balloon Mobility Research*

### Research and Development

- **Multiple applications:** (a) terrestrial (defense, intelligence, commercial, and science) and (b) planetary (Mars, Titan, and Venus)
- **Capabilities:** visual-inertial localization combines images with IMU for better estimate; autonomous landing with obstacle avoidance



# Onboard Data Product Generation

## *Dust Devils on Mars*

Dust devils are scientific phenomena of a transient nature that occur on Mars

- They occur year-round, with seasonally variable frequency
- They are challenging to reliably capture in images due to their dynamic nature
- Scientists accepted for decades that such phenomena could not be studied in real-time



*Spirit Sol 543  
(July 13, 2005)*

New onboard Mars rover capability (as of 2006)

- Collect images more frequently, analyze onboard to detect events, and only downlink images containing events of interest

Benefit

- < 100% accuracy can dramatically increase science event data returned to Earth
- *First notification includes a complete data product*

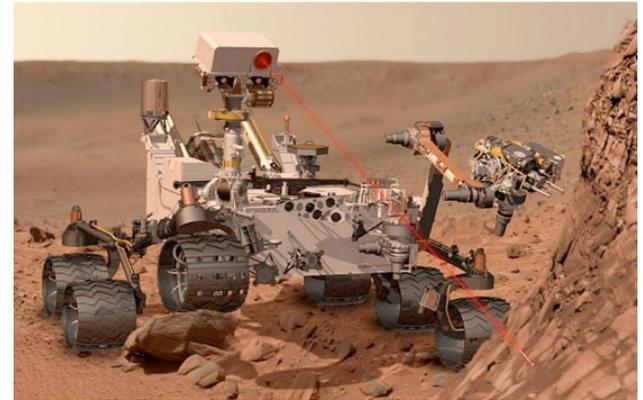


# AEGIS Automated Targeting System

## (Autonomous Exploration for Gathering Increased Science)

### Description

- Intelligent targeting and data acquisition by
  - analyzing images of the rover scene
  - identifying high-priority science targets (e.g., rocks), *and*
  - taking high quality data of these targets autonomously with no ground communication required



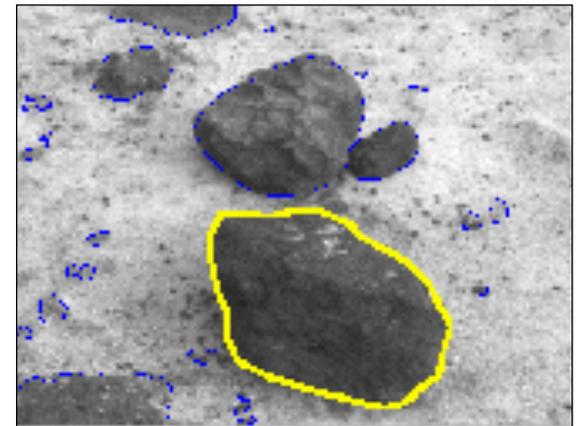
### Benefits

- New way of autonomously collecting rover science data

### Status

#### Missions Deployed

- Mars Exploration Rover (MER) Mission
  - Found crater ejecta, outcrop, boulders, ...
- Mars Science Laboratory (MSL) Curiosity Rover
  - Acquires data for ChemCam laser spectrometer
  - Planned for M2020
- Winner of 2011 NASA Software of the Year Award



# Partnering

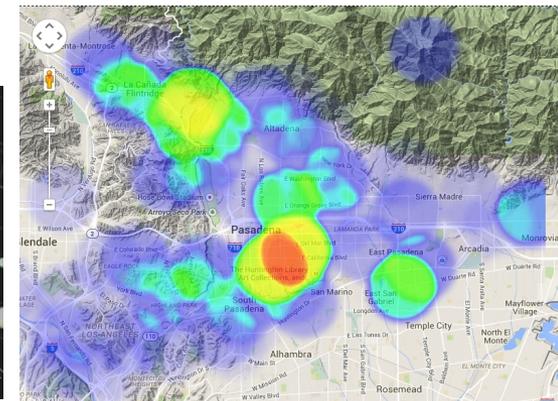
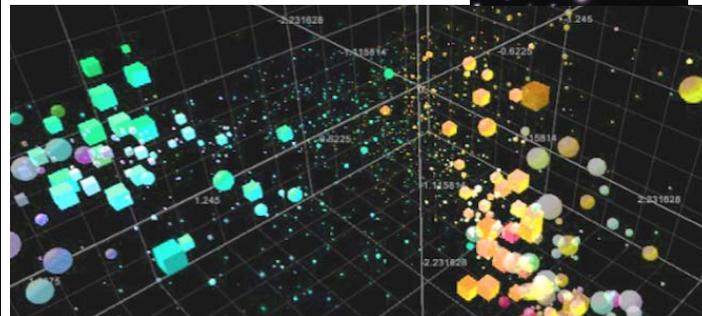
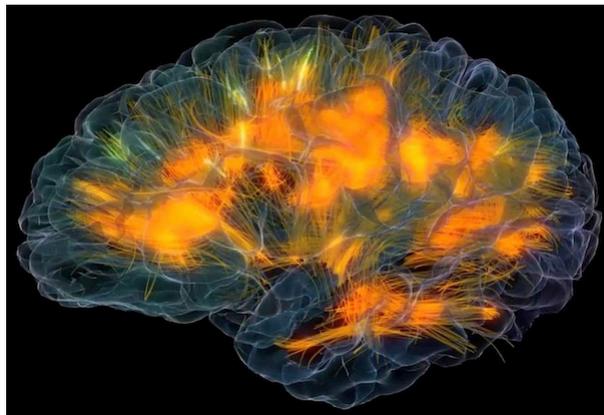


# Caltech-JPL Partnership in Data Science

Center for Data-Driven Discovery on campus/Center for Data Science and Technology at JPL

From basic research to deployed systems ~10 collaborations

Leveraged funding from JPL to Caltech; from Caltech to JPL



# JPL Data Science Partnering Strategy

Universities

Caltech



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA



Non-NASA partnerships



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY



National Institutes of Health

Open Source

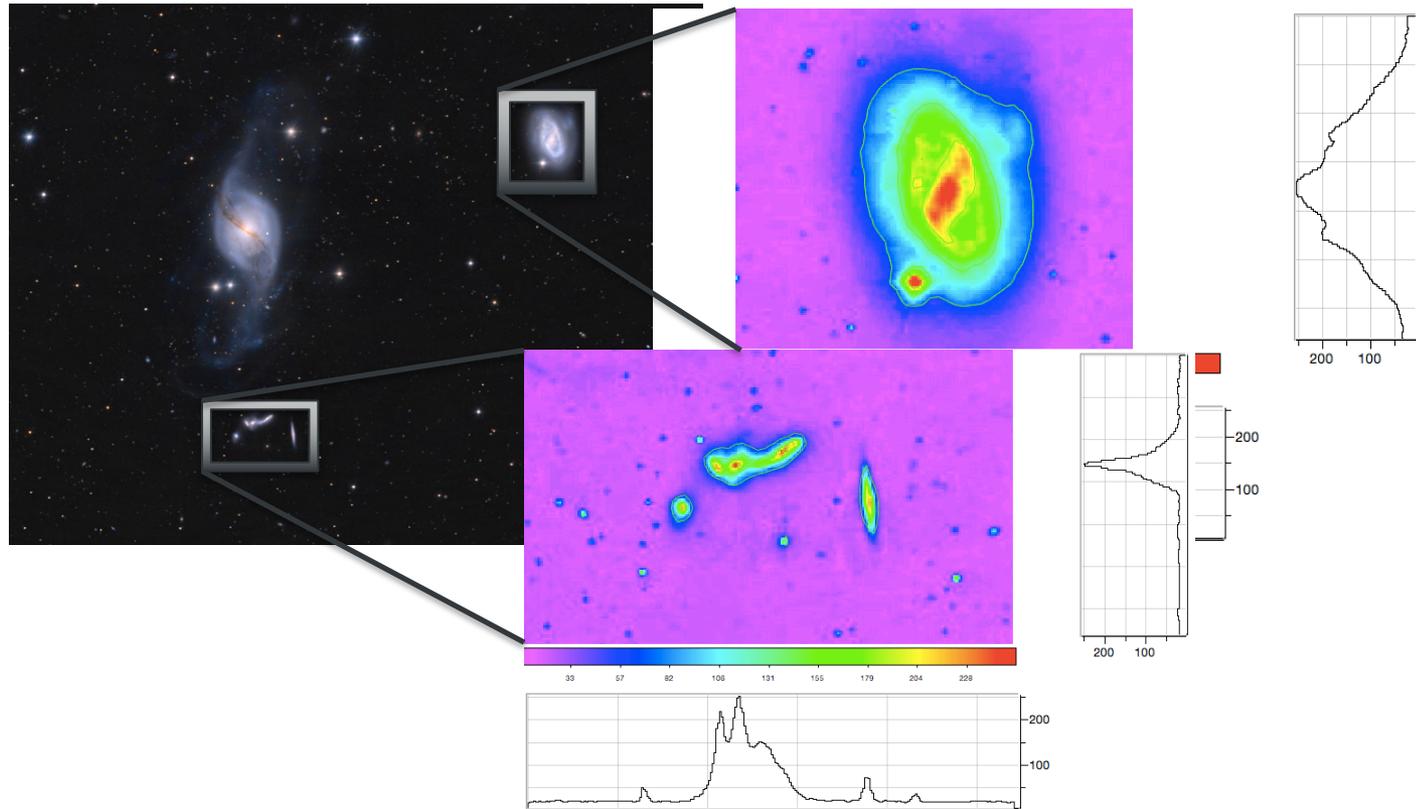


Commercial



# Methodology Transfer

*From Astrophysics...*

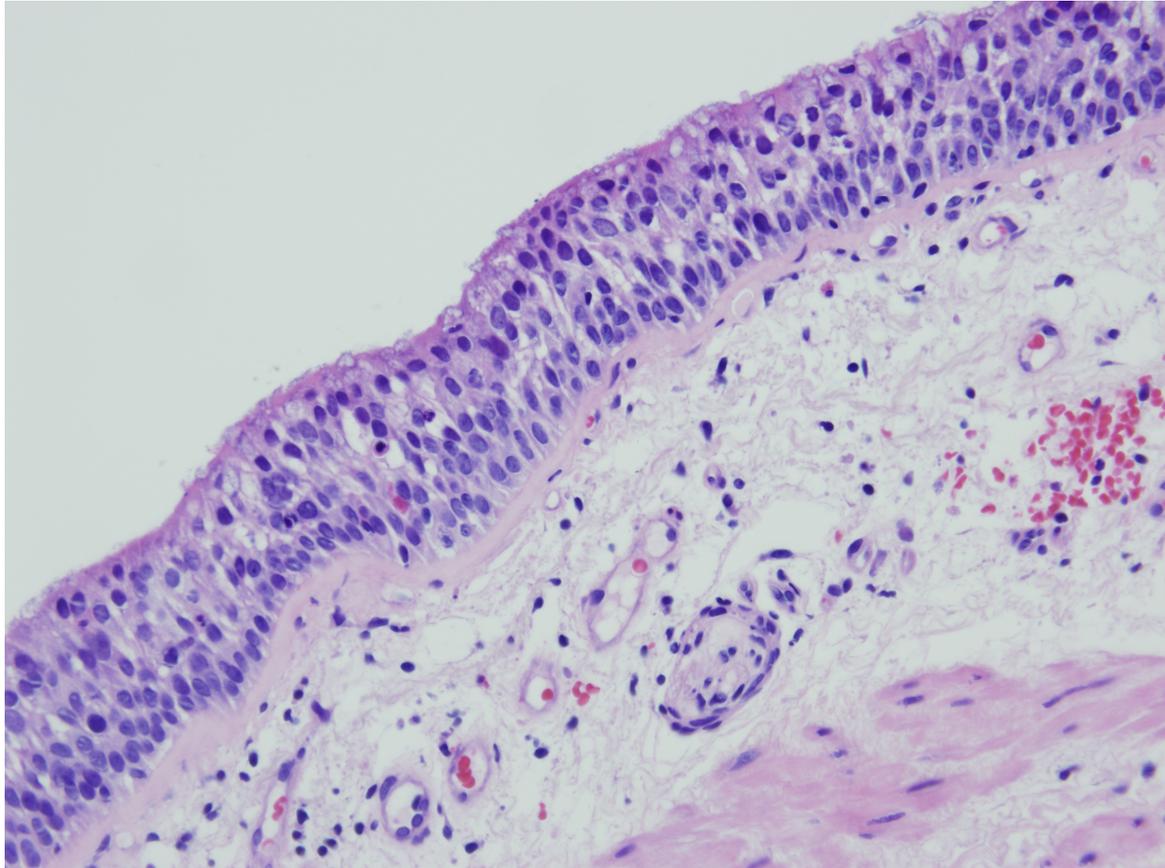


Description: Detecting objects from astronomical measurements by evaluating light measurements in pixels using intelligent software algorithms.

Image Credit: Catalina Sky Survey (CSS), of the Lunar and Planetary Laboratory, University of Arizona, and Catalina Realtime Transient Survey (CRTS), Center for Data-Driven Discovery, Caltech. 32

# Methodology Transfer

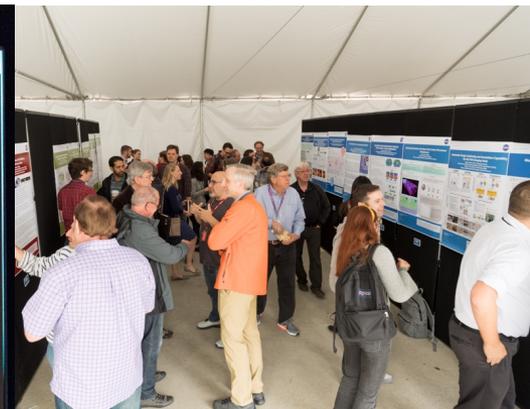
*...to Biomedicine*



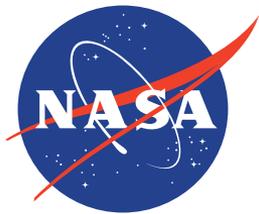
Description: Detecting objects from oncology images using intelligent software algorithms transferred to and from space science.



# **An Emerging Community of Practice**



2 Keynotes (Johns Hopkins, Caltech)  
6 JPL Talks, 96 Posters, and live demos across JPL  
Over 1000 attendees  
...an emerging community of practice



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