

MRO HiRISE Entry, Descent, and Landing (EDL) Imaging

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3	Background: Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter	
4	HiRISE payload	
5-7	Phoenix EDL imaging	
8-9	MSL EDL imaging	
10	InSight EDL imaging	
11	Spacecraft considerations	
12-14	HiRISE considerations	
15-17	Planning considerations	
18	Summary	



Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter (MRO)

- Launched 2005
- ~300km altitude, sun-synchronous ~3pm LMST orbit
- ~113min orbital period
- ±30° off-nadir rolls
- Built by Lockheed-Martin, managed by JPL



MRO Instruments

Hirise	High Resolution Imaging Science Experiment	Imager,~30cm/pix res
СТХ	Context Camera	Imager, ~6m/pix res
MARCI	Mars Color Imager	Imager, ~km/pix res
CRISM	Compact Reconnaissance Imaging Spectrometer for Mars	Imaging spectrometer in VNIR, IR
MCS	Mars Climate Sounder	Sounder in thermal IR
SHARAD	Shallow Radar	HF radar, ~10m vertical subsurface res
Electra	telecom package	UHF Relay





High Resolution Imaging Science Experiment (HiRISE)

- Designed and built by Ball Aerospace
- Operated by University of Arizona Lunar and Planetary Lab, Alfred McEwen, Principal Investigator
- 50cm telescope aperture
- 14-CCD array with 1.0 µrad IFOV
- ~30 cm/pix max resolution
- Pushbroom imager
- Line integration timing matched to orbital ground speed ~3.2 km/s







Phoenix Mars Lander





Phoenix Mars Lander





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Phoenix Mars Lander



May 25, 2008

MRO altitude: ~310 km MRO roll angle: large (> 60°) MRO-PHX distance: 760 km

PHX altitude: ~13 km PHX parachute: ~10m diameter

Taken 20s after parachute deploy, ~3 mins prior to landing

127000 line image



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Mars Science Laboratory (MSL)





Mars Science Laboratory (MSL)



August 5, 2012

MRO altitude: ~270 km MRO roll angle: smaller (near typical imaging) MRO-MSL distance: 340 km

MSL altitude: ~ 7 km MSL parachute: ~16m diameter

Taken 1 min prior to landing

85000 line image



InSight Lander imaging attempt



November 26, 2018

MRO altitude: ~270 km MRO roll angle: large (> 60°) MRO-InSight distance: 900 km

InSight altitude: ~ 5 km InSight parachute: ~11m diameter

Taken ~2 min prior to landing

30000 line image



Spacecraft considerations

Imaging is <u>not</u> the primary requirement or concern for MRO EDL support.

- Orbit
 - Phase earlier or later for MRO-target visibility
- Relay support
 - Electra UHF link, nadir pointing
 - Must slew to maintain Electra boresight angle within 30° for EDL and post-EDL
- Power
 - Solar array pointing for acceptable power levels
- Spacecraft slew rate limits
- Instrument sun safety



HiRISE considerations

Downtrack sub-satellite (nadir) velocity

Crosstrack direction, 20000 pix max



HiRISE focal plane has:

- 10 Red (550-850nm) CCDs which span full width
- 2 NIR (800-1000nm) CCDs in the center
- 2 BG (400-600nm) CCDs in the center





HiRISE considerations

HiRISE is a pushbroom type sensor

- For Mars surface imaging: line integration timing matched to orbital ground speed
- For off-planet imaging: must match line integration timing to spacecraft slew rate



CCD charge transfer Time Delay Integration (TDI) greatly improves SNR

- Motion must be stable
- Motion of target of interest must be in the correct direction





HiRISE considerations

While a very long, high resolution image would give us the best chance of capturing the entering spacecraft:

HiRISE is temperature limited

- A long powered-on duration will safe HiRISE
- HiRISE has an ideal temperature range to avoid bit flips (too low) and safing (too high)
- Temperature predictable

HiRISE is data volume limited

- Overflowing the onboard SSR will safe HiRISE
- Reading out data while acquiring from the same CCD will lose data
- No longer a practical concern for a single, compressed image







Planning considerations

- MRO executes observations in two-week cycles
- Planning begins ~3 weeks prior to execution for ~4 weeks of activity

Planning week	Nominal MRO plannir	ng cycle
1	JPL, flight, systems block out relay passes and spacecraft activities for both cycle weeks	
2	Science Operations Teams plan rolled observations for both cycle weeks	
3	Science Operations Teams plan nadir observations for cycle week 1	
4	Science Operations Teams plan nadir observations for cycle week 2	Cycle week 1 executes on board
5		Cycle week 2 executes on board



Planning considerations

- MRO executes observations in two-week cycles
- Planning begins ~3 weeks prior to execution for ~4 weeks of activity

Planning week	Nominal MRO planni	Nominal process is based on Mars
1	JPL, flight, systems block out relay passes and spacecraft activities for both cycle weeks	surface targets ↓ Non-Mars targets
2	Science Operations Teams plan rolled observations for both cycle weeks	require <u>special</u> sequence planning
3	Science Operations Teams plan nadir observations for cycle week 1	and <u>testing</u>
4	Science Operations Teams plan nadir observations for cycle week 2	Cycle week 1 executes on board
5		Cycle week 2 executes on board



Planning considerations

- EDL imaging activities do not follow the typical MRO planning timeline
- Like other off-Mars imaging opportunities, they are built into special sequences which must undergo rigorous testing before commanding





Summary

- HiRISE has completed three very different EDL imaging attempts so far
 - Phoenix EDL: executed as planned, first of its kind
 - MSL EDL: executed as planned, clear image
 - InSight EDL: executed as planned, saturated image
- HiRISE EDL imaging opportunities are driven by MRO support requirements
 - Electra relay is primary consideration
 - Slew capability, sun safety
- HiRISE is optimized for Mars surface, not Mars incoming spacecraft
 - Line time must be matched to steady spacecraft slew rate
 - Slew direction must match TDI lines and be stable
- HiRISE is limited by temperature and data volume







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