Chapter 7 - Data Return

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Introduction to Chapter 7

This chapter is a report on the NIMS data return for the In-Flight Load (IFL). The IFL was the time period between J0 and G1 when the NIMS phase2 RAM software was first loaded from the ground and tested.

After the phase2 software was loaded, three OPCAL sequences were performed and returned in realtime. These OPCALs were used to verify that the software had loaded properly and to also test the new phase2 capabilities, such as real-time data return, wavelength editing and mirror blocking.

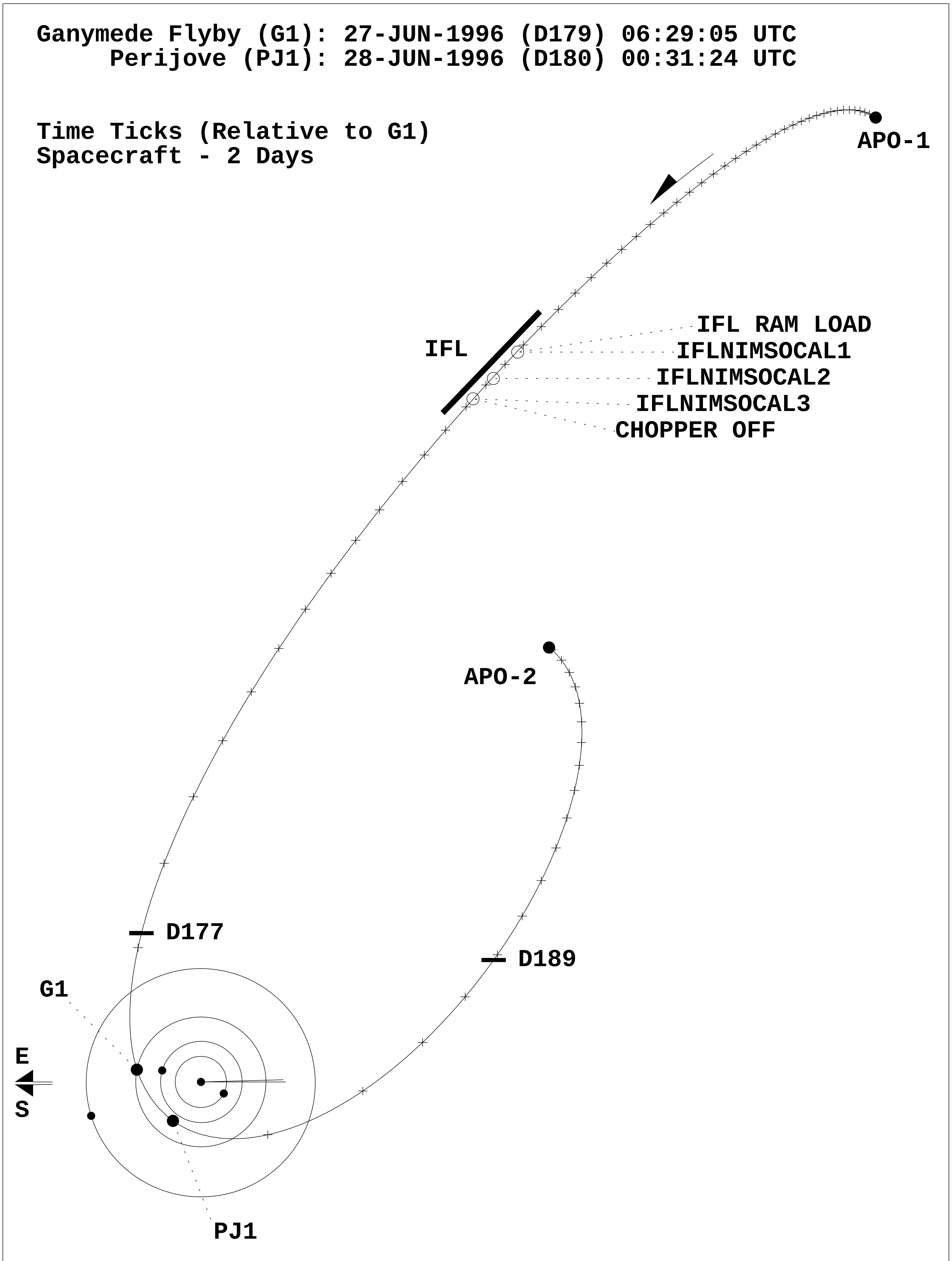
The new Galileo Ground Data System (GDS) and AMMOS were also tested in preparation for Orbital Operations as well as the MIPS real time data processing. This tested the entire ground path from DSN Station to UDR to Tube.

The plot on the page 3 shows the geometry of the NIMS IFL observations using a north trajectory pole projection.

The text on pages 4 gives a brief discussion of the NIMS data files. Additional information about NIMS data formats, data types, data labels and data access is given on pages 5 and 6.

The text on page 7 is a guide to understanding the NIMS MASK.

NIMS IN-FLIGHT LOAD (IFL)



G1 North Trajectory Pole View, Apoapsis to Apoapsis

NIMS - FEL - 10/16/98

NIMS Archived EDRs and CUBEs

The NIMS data are stored in EDRs (Experimental Data Records) produced by JPL-MIPS (Multi-mission Image Processing System). The NIMS Phase2 EDR is described in the NIMS EDR SIS (Software Interface Specification) Number 232-08. The same information is available in both human and machine-readable form in the PDS (Planetary Data System) structure files EDRHDR.FMT and EDRDATA.FMT in the LABEL directory of the NIMS EDR CD-ROM. Each observation has at least one EDR. The EDR file name is derived from the 12 character observation name plus a single character which allows an observation to be broken up into multiple EDRs. The EDRs have a Vicar label, followed by a PDS/ISIS label, binary header records and the data records. For archiving on CD-ROM, the Vicar labels are detached from the EDR (but kept separately on CD) and the file is renamed so as to conform to the 8.3 DOS file-naming convention. The 8.3 EDR name consists of a 2 character orbit identifier, a single character target identifier, a 3 digit counter and the suffix EDR. For example, the MIPS EDR G1GNGLOBAL01A.1 becomes G1G001.EDR. More information about NIMS EDRs can be found in the VOLINFO.TXT file on the EDR CD-ROM.

NIMS EDR data typically require considerable processing before they are readily amenable to science analysis. Normally, the EDRs are processed into spectral image cubes by one of several sets of software. MIPS systematically processes the EDRs into CUBEs (band sequential image files) and MASKs (spatial/spectral summary images) which are distributed on the NIMS CUBE CD-ROMs. Information about the structure of the NIMS CUBEs can be found in the VOLINFO.TXT file on the CUBE CD-ROM. The name of the CUBE file is derived from the input EDR filename. For archiving on CD-ROM, the CUBE files are renamed so as to conform to the 8.3 DOS file-naming convention. The 8.3 CUBE name consists of a 2 character orbit identifier, a single character target identifier, a 3 digit counter, a single character cube-type identifier, a single character data unit-type (DN, radiance or IOF) and the suffix QUB. For example, the MIPS IOF radiance cube for the observation G1GNGLOBAL01A.1 (G1G001) becomes G1G001CR.EDR. The summary MASKs on the CD-ROM have the same 6 character name as the EDR name with the suffix JPG or GIF to denote its graphics format.

NIMS Data Format - Data types - Data Labels - Data Access

Data Format

All data files have PDS labels. The raw data (EDR) file contains time-sequential, 16 bit integers. Reduced data files (TUBES and CUBES) may be viewed as images or spectra. They contain VAX real numbers, are band sequential (BSQ - the images are stacked in band order) and have geometry information appended as backplanes after the last NIMS band.

Data Types

Mask files contain summary images (3 band BSQ) and spectra of up to six selected regions that provide a quick indication of data location, data quality and spectral content. A Guide to understanding the NIMS mask is available.

Cube files contain data that have been projected and resampled. The core data are BSQ - spatial in the first two dimensions, and spectral in the third. Cubes of the satellites are projected in point-of-view, and, with few exceptions have no photometric correction applied. Cubes of Jupiter are (generally) projected as simple cylindrical. Cubes of Europa, Ganymede, and Callisto have been despiked. The cubes are available both in radiance and I/F (intensity divided by flux) form.

Tube files contain data in (almost) time order and normally have a NIMS-related 20 pixel spatial dimension (20 x n or n x 20). Projection coordinates are contained in backplanes, but the data have not been resampled. The data are in units of radiance and no despiking has been applied. All data in cubes are also available in tube form. Some data (such as spatially undersampled data) appear in tube form only.

A spike file contains a list of pixels that have been identified as spikes, but not replaced, in the tube. Spike files can be used to remove spikes from both tube and EDR files.

EDR files contain the most primitive form of the data available. They should be used only for advanced data analysis. The format is complex and the files do not form images or spectra without prior processing.

NIMS Data Format - Data types - Data Labels - Data Access

Data Labels

A data label (PDS form) is attached to the front of each file (except masks, which have an attached VICAR label and a detached PDS label). The labels are in ASCII keyword=value format and contain pointers to various data objects in the file, descriptions of the data objects and descriptions of the observation associated with the file. A history object in similar format follows and describes the processing steps that produced the file. Much of this information is necessary for understanding and viewing the cube. In particular, the label contains the offset to the cube, the dimensions of the cube, axes labels, and explicit wavelength information.

Data Access

Software for processing this data is called ISIS and is available for DEC VAX VMS, SUN Solaris, DEC Alpha Digital Unix, Silicon Graphics Unix and PC LINUX systems. The Unix versions are available from the USGS Astrogeology team. Images from NIMS cubes and tubes can be viewed with any image display program which allows an offset from the beginning of the file to the selected image. Packages tested include ISIS, VICAR, ENVI, SAO IMAGE, and NASAVIEW. ISIS and ENVI (and soon NASAVIEW) additionally display spectra. The ISIS viewer is named CV (UNIX) or QL3 (VMS).

Labels may be displayed with some editors (eg DOS edit), and with most "type" and "search" functions. Some editors do not recognize the PDS line termination conventions. The label may be listed by the ISIS function LHLIST (VMS) or LABEL (UNIX).

Software for converting EDRs to cubes exist in both ISIS (DEC VAX VMS) and VICAR (DEC Alpha VMS) versions only. A primitive list of values in an EDR may be obtained with the program EDRDMP2.

Understanding the NIMS Mask

The NIMS mask is designed to provide a quick summary of the contents of a NIMS data cube (or tube). It displays a view of both the spatial and spectral content of the data.

The mask has four regions. Starting from the upper left and proceeding clockwise: a spatial display; six or fewer representative spectra; annotation; and a spectral histogram.

The spatial display of an observation which has been projected and resampled (a cube) has a maximum size of 600x600 pixels. This is overlaid with surface coordinates and is embedded in a 700x700 grid of pixel coordinates. It is accompanied by two 1-dimensional histograms describing the raw image and the image stretched for display. The data image can range from a simple combination of up to 3 NIMS bands displayed in the RGB planes, to complicated arithmetic functions of NIMS bands displayed in the RGB planes. (The formulas appear as annotation below the histograms.) The graphics directly below the image show the input and output data histograms for the three color planes. The "shortest" color for each bin displays in front. The image also contains from one to six numbered rectangles, which show the from which averaged spectra (displayed on the right) were taken.

The spatial display of an observation in time sequence (a tube) is a graphic showing a footprint of the observation over a grid of surface coordinates on the target body. Numerals 1-6 on the graphic mark the locations of the average spectra displayed on the right.

The spectra to the right of the image may display either BDRF or radiance (or both). If both are displayed, then a vertical "radiance fence" line will appear where the breakpoint occurs. This permits display of both atmospheric data, which have significant reflectance and thermal components, and I/F satellite surface data which have strong absorptions at longer wavelengths (such as water spectra.) The spectra are labelled with wavelength in microns and location in both pixel and latitude-longitude space.

The annotation provides information about the observation, including its name, a brief description, its geometry, instrument and projection parameters. TCA is the time from Galileo’s closest approach to the target body.

The 2-dimensional spectral histogram in the lower left corner shows the number of pixels at a given radiance for each wavelength. If a surface contains spatial mixtures with significantly different spatial fractions for several components, the spectra of the components will be evident in this display.