

assignment 4

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1 Can AI be used to understand facts about life on Mars

A.I. is used almost everywhere, one such use of A.I. is to detect and examine life on Mars. Current space exploration missions use AI and machine learning capabilities in many areas of space operations including mission planning and operations, data collection, autonomous navigation and maneuvering, and spacecraft maintenance. Future missions will need to rely on the same. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is training the system of Artificial Intelligence that will aid scientists in their quest to look for signs of ancient life on Mars and other planets. The European Space Agency (ESA) Rosalind Franklin 'ExoMars' rover will be the first to have the new AI system when it leaves for the Red Planet in 2022/2023. One benefit we get by using AI to analyze rocks on Mars and to detect life forms is that it costs a lot of time and money to send the data back to Earth which means scientists can't run as many experiments or analyze as many samples. By using AI to do an initial analysis of the data after it is collected but before it is sent back to Earth, NASA can optimize what we receive, which greatly increases the scientific value of space missions. This software is called MOMA Mars Organic Molecule Analyser. SOME OF THE MAIN AREAS WHERE WE USE AI FOR MARS EXPLORATION • Mission Operations-AI is used for autonomous operations for space missions. Through the European Space Agency's (ESA) technology transfer program, the Italian start-up company, AIKO, developed a software library called MiRAGE that is used to enable autonomous operations for space missions. Using these operations, the spacecraft itself can perform autonomous replanning, detect events (both internal and external), and react accordingly, ensuring fulfillment of mission objectives without the delays introduced by the decision-making process on the ground.⁶ • Data Collection-AI used aboard spacecraft can autonomously detect and characterize features that are nominal, such as typical weather patterns, and differentiate them from unusual patterns like smoke plumes from volcanic activity to create maps and data sets. We can use AI to determine which data sets are important to send to ground segments for processing. We can also use AI technologies to remove data that provides little to no significance. This can ease burdens or constraints

the space-to-ground networks experience with the transmission of large-volume data. • Autonomous Navigation Maneuvering-during Perseverance's arrival to Mars, ground operation communication capabilities do not always allow for continuous human monitoring and operations of the spacecraft. Autonomy in navigation allows for spacecraft to travel through interstellar space and perform complex maneuvers for arriving at and landing on distant celestial objects. Human intervention to control a spacecraft cannot occur in real-time from the ground due to the lag in communications in deep space. Since spacecraft cannot wait for commands in given situations that require immediate determinations, using AI and machine learning facilitates guiding and maneuvering a spacecraft while freeing up human resources for other mission activities.

2 PAST THINGS WHICH AI HAS HELPED IN ASTRONOMY

Enhanced Imagery-using AI • Monitoring the Health of Satellites • Analyzing THE FIRST IMAGE OF BLACK HOLE M87

3 CONCLUSION

Over the last few years we have continued to see a large effort to commercialize space. Artificial intelligence is working to make space commercialization a possibility and to make space a safe environment in which to operate. The various benefits of AI in space all work together to enable further venturing into the unknown. With help of AI the pseudoscience that Life of MARS can be converted into Science.