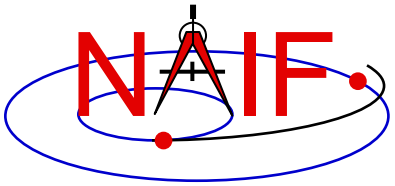


Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility

WebGeocalc (WGC)

https://wgc.jpl.nasa.gov:8443/webgeocalc

January 2018

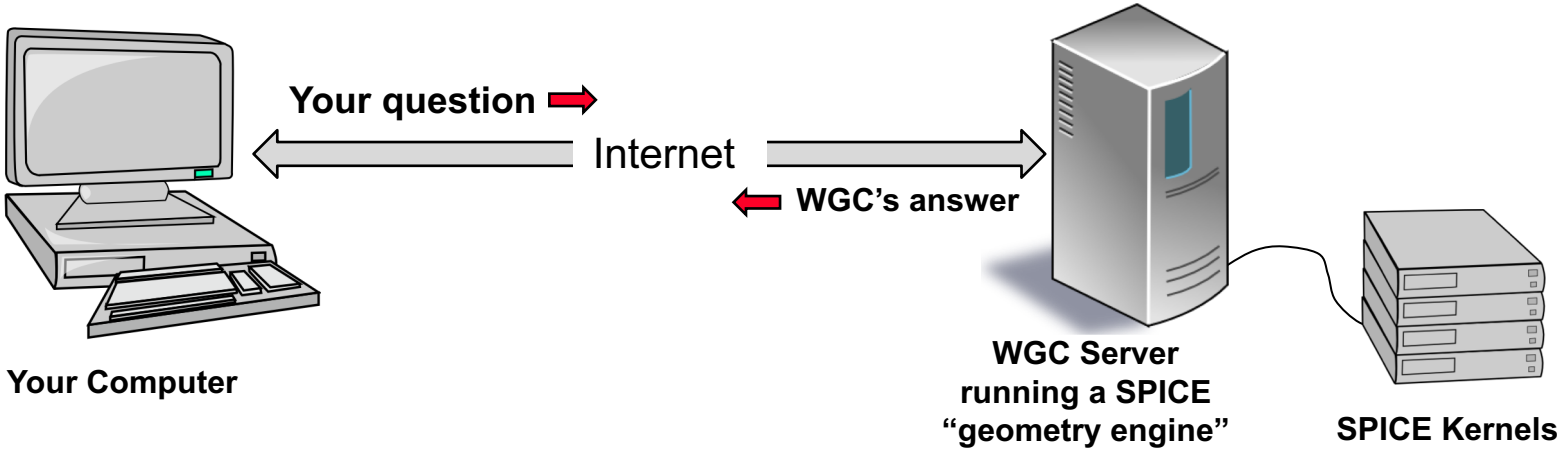
Overview

- **WebGeocalc (WGC) provides a graphical user interface (GUI) to a SPICE server running a geometry computation engine**
  - **The server has access to SPICE kernels**
  - **Using WGC to make observation geometry computations is easier than having to write your own program that incorporates some SPICE Toolkit software**
  - **But WGC computations are limited in scope: the tool cannot do nearly as much as an own-built program that uses SPICE Toolkit APIs**

WebGeocalc

Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility

- **WebGeocalc (WGC) provides a graphical user interface (GUI) to a SPICE geometry engine**
- **The user needs only a computer running a web browser**
  - **The browser connects via Internet to a geometry engine running on a WGC server**
  - **The WGC server has access to a variety of SPICE kernels**



Using WebGeocalc

- **WGC makes it "easy" to do many kinds of SPICE computations**
  - **You need not write a program using SPICE Toolkit software**
  - **Instead, open a web browser and use standard GUI widgets to:**
    - » **read a variety of HELP statements (if just learning to use WGC)**
    - » **select the computation desired**
    - » **select the data to be used in your computation**
    - » **specify the computation details**
    - » **press the "CALCULATE" button**
  - **Your results, possibly including some plots, appear in your browser window**

Computations

Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility

- **Three categories of SPICE computations are possible**

1. **Geometry Calculator**
   - » **Compute a parameter value at a given time, or over a time range**
     - **Example: Compute the angular size of Phobos as seen from the SPIRIT Mars rover from 2009 March 10 12:00:00 to 2009 March 10 14:00:00**
2. **Geometric Event Finder**
   - » **Within a specified time bounds (the confinement window)…**
     - **Find time intervals when a particular geometric condition exists**
       - **Example: Find time intervals when Phobos is occulted by Mars as seen from Mars Odyssey within the period 2010 June 01 to 2010 June 02**
     - **Find time intervals when a geometry parameter is within a given range**
       - **Example: Find time intervals when the spacecraft altitude is between 300 and 400 km**
     - **Find time intervals when a geometry parameter has reached a local or global maximum or minimum**
       - **Example: Find time intervals when the angular separation of a satellite from a planet, as seen from a spacecraft, has reached its minimum value**
3. **Time conversion calculator**
   - » **Convert between various time systems and time formats**

- **See the WGC "menu" on the next page for some details**

Computation Menu*

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Geometry Calculator

State Vector	Position and velocity of target relative to observer.
Angular Separation	Angle between 2 targets as seen from an observer.
Angular Size	Apparent size of a target as seen from an observer, as an angle.
Frame Transformation	Transformation between 2 reference frames.
Illumination Angles	Sunlight incidence, emission, and phase angles at a point on a target body as seen from an observer.
Sub-solar Point	Sub-solar point on a target body as seen from an observer.
Sub-observer Point	Closest point on a target body to an observer.
Surface Intercept Point	Coordinates of the intercept point of a ray in a reference frame, as seen from an observer.
Orbital Elements	Orbital parameters of a target body relative to a central observing body.

Geometric Event Finder

Position Finder	Find time intervals when target coordinate satisfies a condition.
Angular Separation Finder	Find time intervals when the angle between 2 bodies, as seen by an observer, satisfies a condition.
Distance Finder	Find time intervals when the distance between a target and observer satisfies a condition.
Sub-Point Finder	Find time intervals when the sub-observer point on a target satisfies a condition.
Occultation Finder	Find time intervals when a target is occulted by, or is in transit across, another body.
Surface Intercept Finder	Find time intervals when the surface intercept of a ray in a reference frame satifies a coordinate condition.
Target in Field of View	Find time intervals when a target is within the field of view of an instrument.
Ray in Field of View	Find time intervals when a specified ray is within the field of view of an instrument.

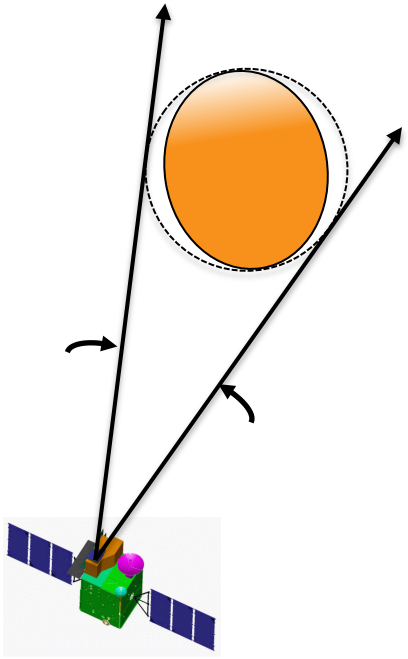
Time Calculator

Time Conversion	Convert time values from one time system to another.

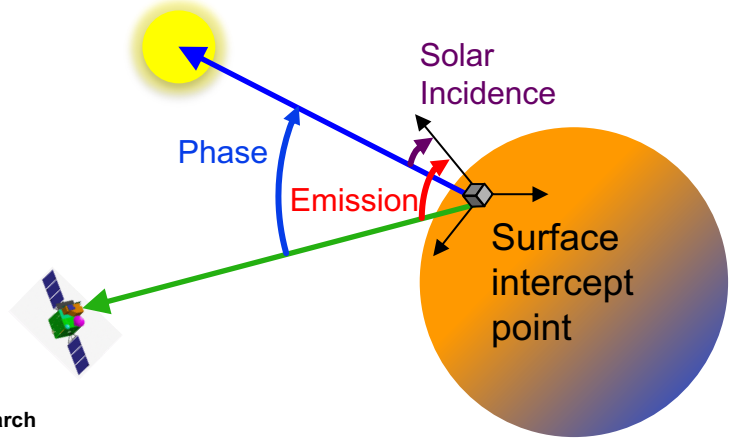
WebGeocalc* Current as of January 2018; more computations may be added if resources permit

Illustrations of Three Available Computations

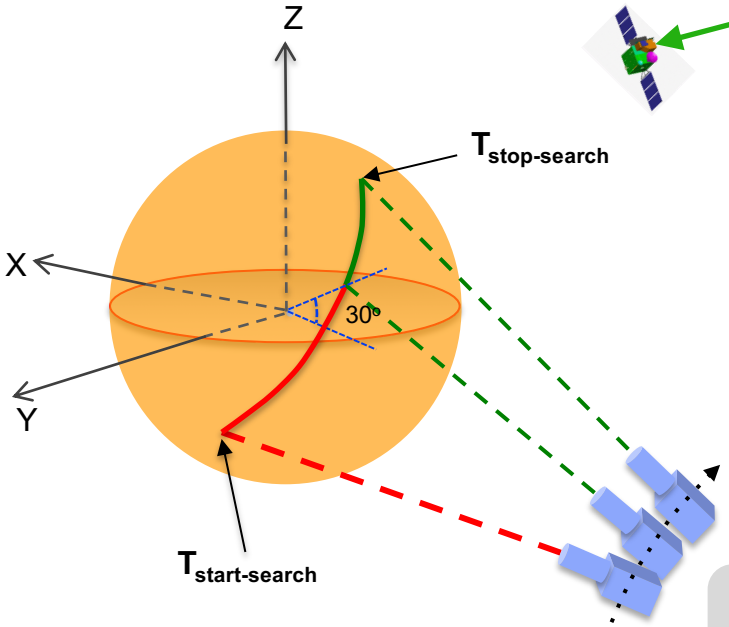
Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility



Angular Size



Illumination Angles



Camera scanning across the planet's surface

The **GREEN** trace shows when the latitude of the instrument boresight surface intercept is greater than 30 degrees, within the time range $T_{start\text{-}search}$ to $T_{stop\text{-}search}$.

Surface Intercept Event Finder

Typical Geometry Calculator Input

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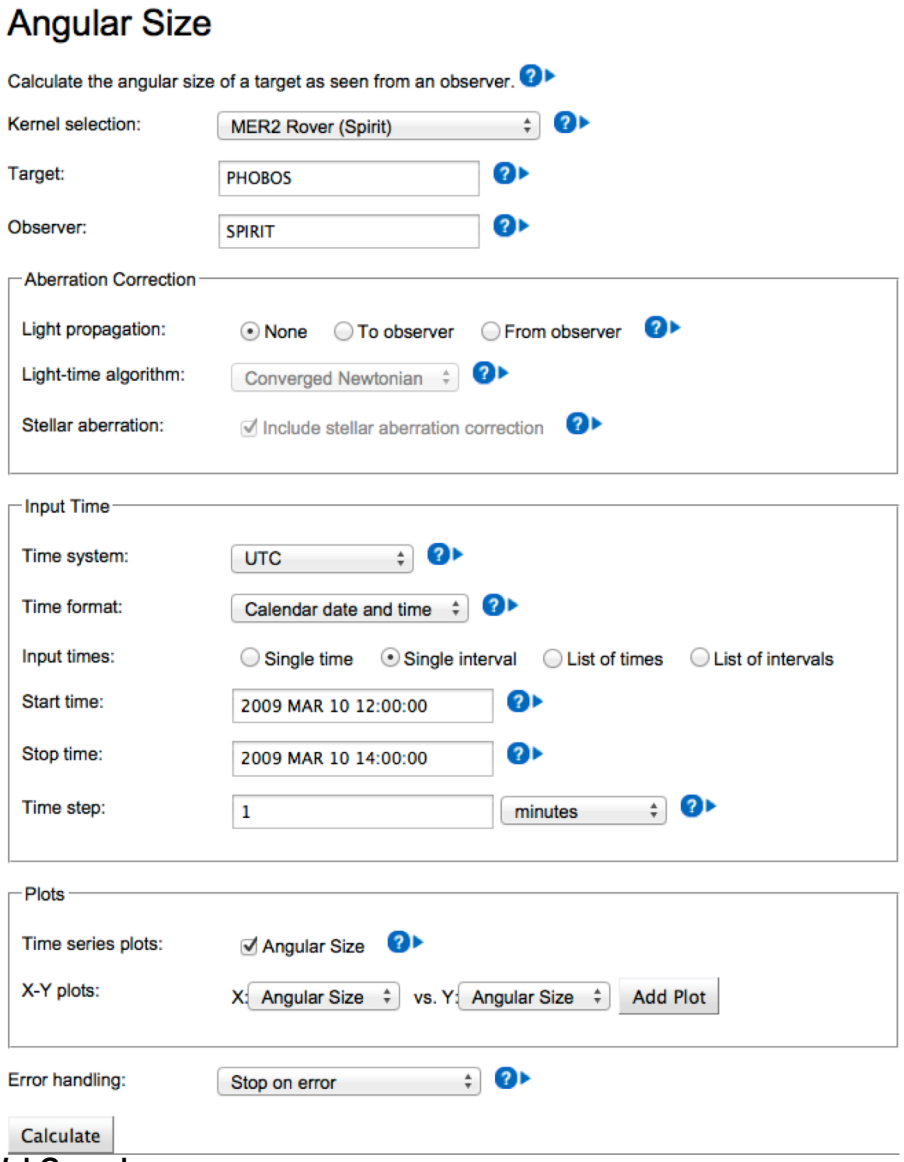

- **Compute the angular size of Phobos as seen from the Mars rover "SPIRIT" over a two hour period on 2009 March 10.**

- **Use typical GUI drop-down menus, fill-in boxes, radio buttons and check boxes to specify the details of the computation you wish to make.**

Typical Geometry Calculator Output

Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility

Input Values

Calculation type	Angular Size
Target	PHOBOS
Observer	SPIRIT
Light propagation	No correction
Time system	UTC
Time format	Calendar date and time
Time range	2009 MAR 10 12:00:00 to 2009 MAR 10 14:00:00, step 1 minutes

Summary of your input

Tabular Results

Click a value to save it for a subsequent calculation.

	UTC calendar date	Angular Size (deg)
1	2009-03-10 12:00:00.000000 UTC	0.20212256
2	2009-03-10 12:01:00.000000 UTC	0.20294481
3	2009-03-10 12:02:00.000000 UTC	0.20377024
4	2009-03-10 12:03:00.000000 UTC	0.20459871
5	2009-03-10 12:04:00.000000 UTC	0.20543007
6	2009-03-10 12:05:00.000000 UTC	0.20626418
7	2009-03-10 12:06:00.000000 UTC	0.20710088
8	2009-03-10 12:07:00.000000 UTC	0.20794000
9	2009-03-10 12:08:00.000000 UTC	0.20878138
10	2009-03-10 12:09:00.000000 UTC	0.20962484
11	2009-03-10 12:10:00.000000 UTC	0.21047019
12	2009-03-10 12:11:00.000000 UTC	0.21131725
13	2009-03-10 12:12:00.000000 UTC	0.21216581
14	2009-03-10 12:13:00.000000 UTC	0.21301567

Angular size of Phobos as seen from the Mars rover "SPIRIT"

Tabular results

Typical Geometry Calculator Plot

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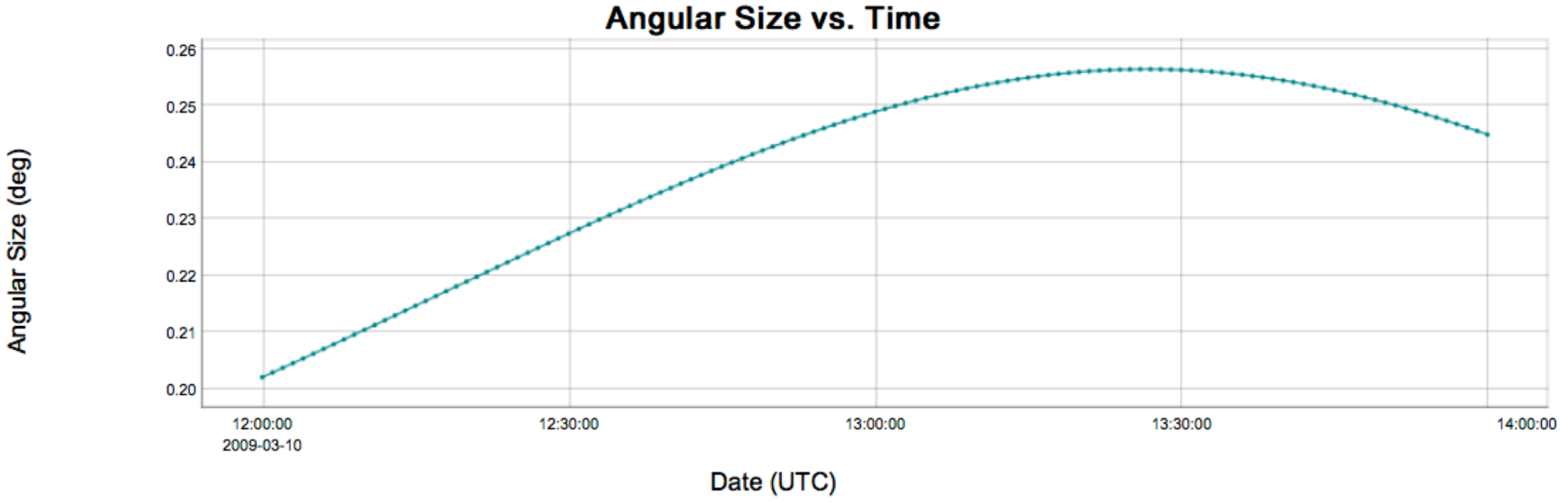
- **Some Geometry Calculator computations offer optional plots**



Angular size of Phobos as seen from the Mars rover "SPIRIT"

Another Geometry Calculator Plot

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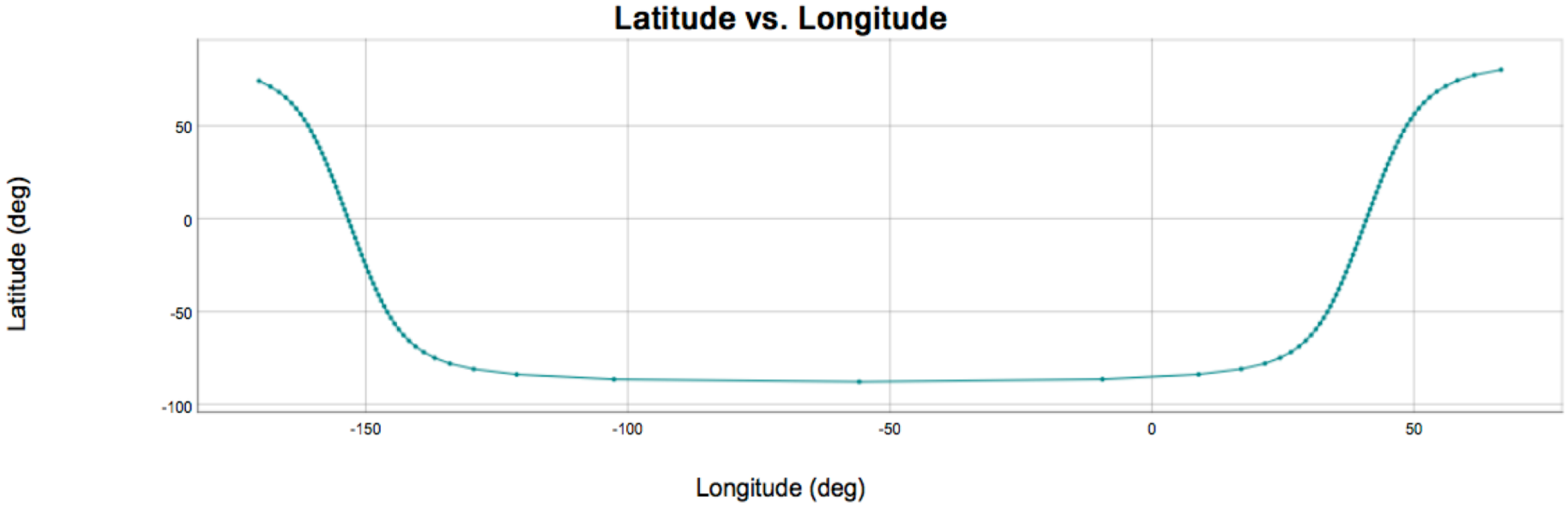
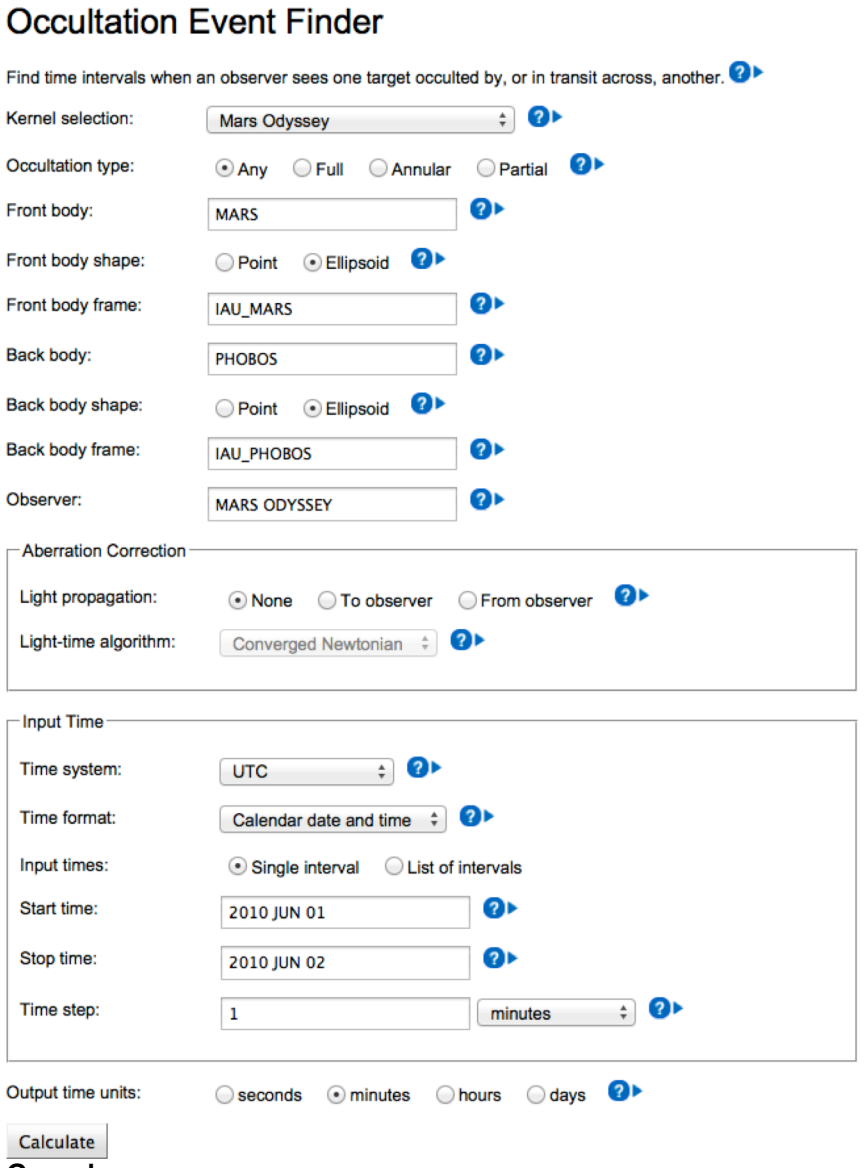
- **Some Geometry Calculator computations offer plots using other than time on the X axis**



Mars Global Surveyor sub-point on Mars
from 2008 JAN 1 00:10:00 to 2008 JAN 1 02:00:00

Typical Geometric Event Finder Input

Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility



- **Find the times when Phobos is occulted by Mars as viewed from the Mars Odyssey spacecraft, during the period 2010 JUN 01 to 2010 JUN 02.**

- **Use typical GUI drop-down menus, fill-in boxes, radio buttons and check boxes to specify the details of the computation you wish to make.**

Typical Geometric Event Finder Output

Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility

Input Values

Calculation type	Occultation Event Finder
Occultation type	Any
Front body	MARS
Front body shape	Ellipsoid
Front body frame	IAU_MARS
Back body	PHOBOS
Back body shape	Ellipsoid
Back body frame	IAU_PHOBOS
Observer	MARS ODYSSEY
Light propagation	No correction
Time system	UTC
Time format	Calendar date and time
Time range	2010 JUN 01 to 2010 JUN 02, step 1 minutes
Output time units	minutes

Summary of your input

Tabular Results

Click a value to save it for a subsequent calculation.

Save All Intervals

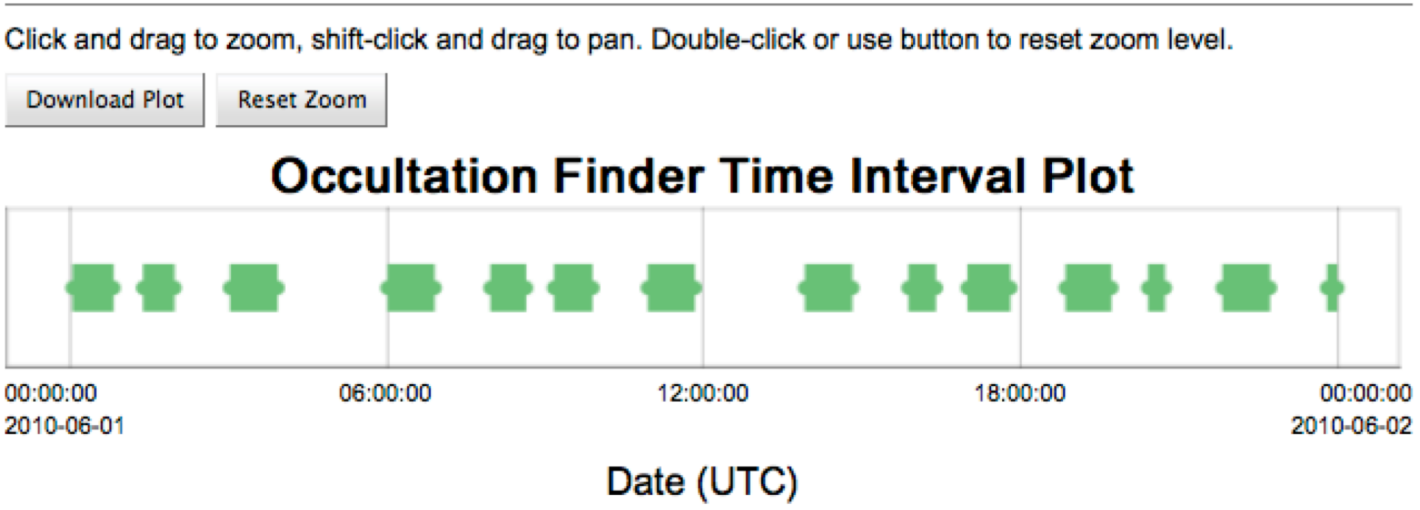
	Start Time	Stop Time	Duration (mins)
1	2010-06-01 00:04:26.021732 UTC	2010-06-01 00:51:10.264641 UTC	46.737381
2	2010-06-01 01:24:29.613301 UTC	2010-06-01 02:00:24.470706 UTC	35.914290
3	2010-06-01 03:03:10.407364 UTC	2010-06-01 03:57:18.126849 UTC	54.128658
4	2010-06-01 06:01:49.736199 UTC	2010-06-01 06:55:34.722424 UTC	53.749770
5	2010-06-01 07:58:43.095947 UTC	2010-06-01 08:39:21.182114 UTC	40.634769
6	2010-06-01 09:10:48.846727 UTC	2010-06-01 09:54:44.492005 UTC	43.927421
7	2010-06-01 10:57:18.630420 UTC	2010-06-01 11:50:49.343214 UTC	53.511879
8	2010-06-01 13:55:36.186600 UTC	2010-06-01 14:49:37.827064 UTC	54.027341
9	2010-06-01 15:53:04.642891 UTC	2010-06-01 16:24:27.068718 UTC	31.373763
10	2010-06-01 17:00:06.149085 UTC	2010-06-01 17:48:55.474342 UTC	48.822087
11	2010-06-01 18:51:22.462322 UTC	2010-06-01 19:43:35.637833 UTC	52.219591
12	2010-06-01 20:25:04.806659 UTC	2010-06-01 20:44:18.076413 UTC	19.221162
13	2010-06-01 21:49:30.099608 UTC	2010-06-01 22:43:34.010176 UTC	54.065176

When is Phobos occulted by Mars as seen from Mars Odyssey?

Tabular results

Typical Geometric Event Finder Plot

- **Geometric Event Finder computations all produce "plots" of the time intervals that satisfy your search computations**



Between June 1, 2010 and June 2, 2010, find times when Phobos is occulted by Mars, as viewed from the Mars Odyssey spacecraft

Example of Time Conversion

Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility

Time Conversion

Convert a spacecraft clock string to UTC

Convert times from one time system or format to another.

Kernel selection: Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter

Input Time

Time system: Spacecraft clock Spacecraft clock ID: -85

Time format: Spacecraft clock string

Input times: (•) Single time ( ) Single interval ( ) List of times ( ) List of intervals

Time: 1/0330220800.000

Spacecraft clock string
Spacecraft clock ticks

Output Time

Time system: UTC

Time format: Calendar (year-month-day)

Custom format:

Calendar (year/month/day)
Calendar (year/day-of-year)
Julian date
Seconds past J2000
Custom format

The output is:
2011-06-20 00:00:00.044032 UTC

Categories of Available Data

- **The JPL/NAIF Group is operating a WGC server**
  - **This server provides access to three categories of SPICE data (kernels)**
    - » **Generic SPICE data, not specifically tied to a single planetary mission**
    - » **Archived SPICE data, from planetary missions that have been formally ingested into NASA's Planetary Data System**
      - **This includes a few non-NASA missions for which NAIF provides a shadow archive**
    - » **Operations SPICE data, for JPL-operated planetary missions, for three ESA planetary missions, and for a few past missions for which an archive does not exist**
      - **This category often includes some predictive data**
      - **This category is the most difficult to use because…**
        - **there are no meta-kernels for these collections**
        - **there is sometimes a large number of kernels from which you must choose the ones needed**
        - **there is little readily available information to help you make your kernel choices**
  - **VERY IMPORTANT: Read the "*About the data*" webpage provided within the tool for details**

Kernel Selection

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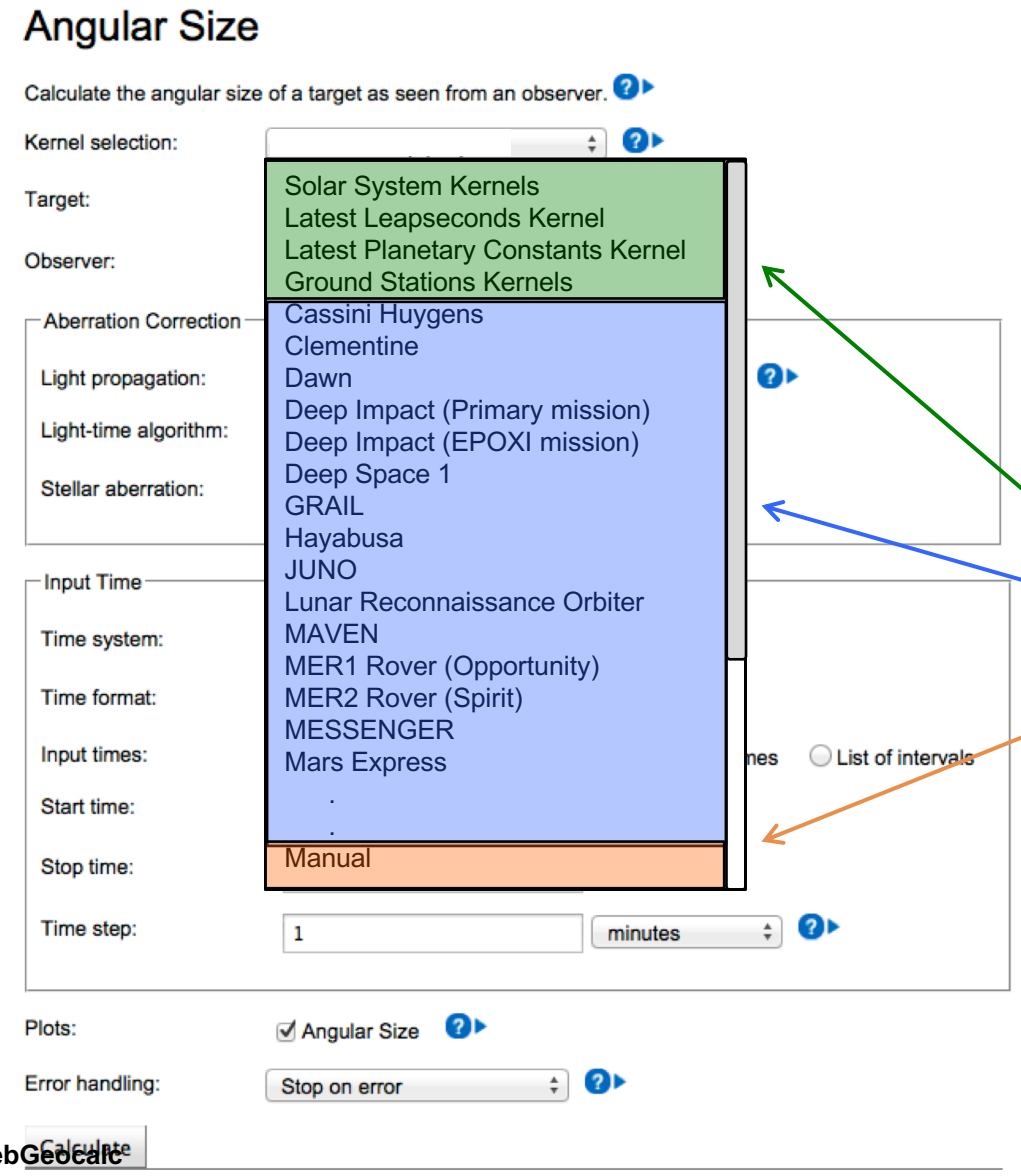

A scrollable drop-down menu is used to select the kernel set(s) to be used in your calculation.

Use the menu to select:

- generic kernel sets

- archived mission kernel sets (includes relevant generic kernels)

- manual selection of individual kernels from operations collections

"Tooltip" Feature

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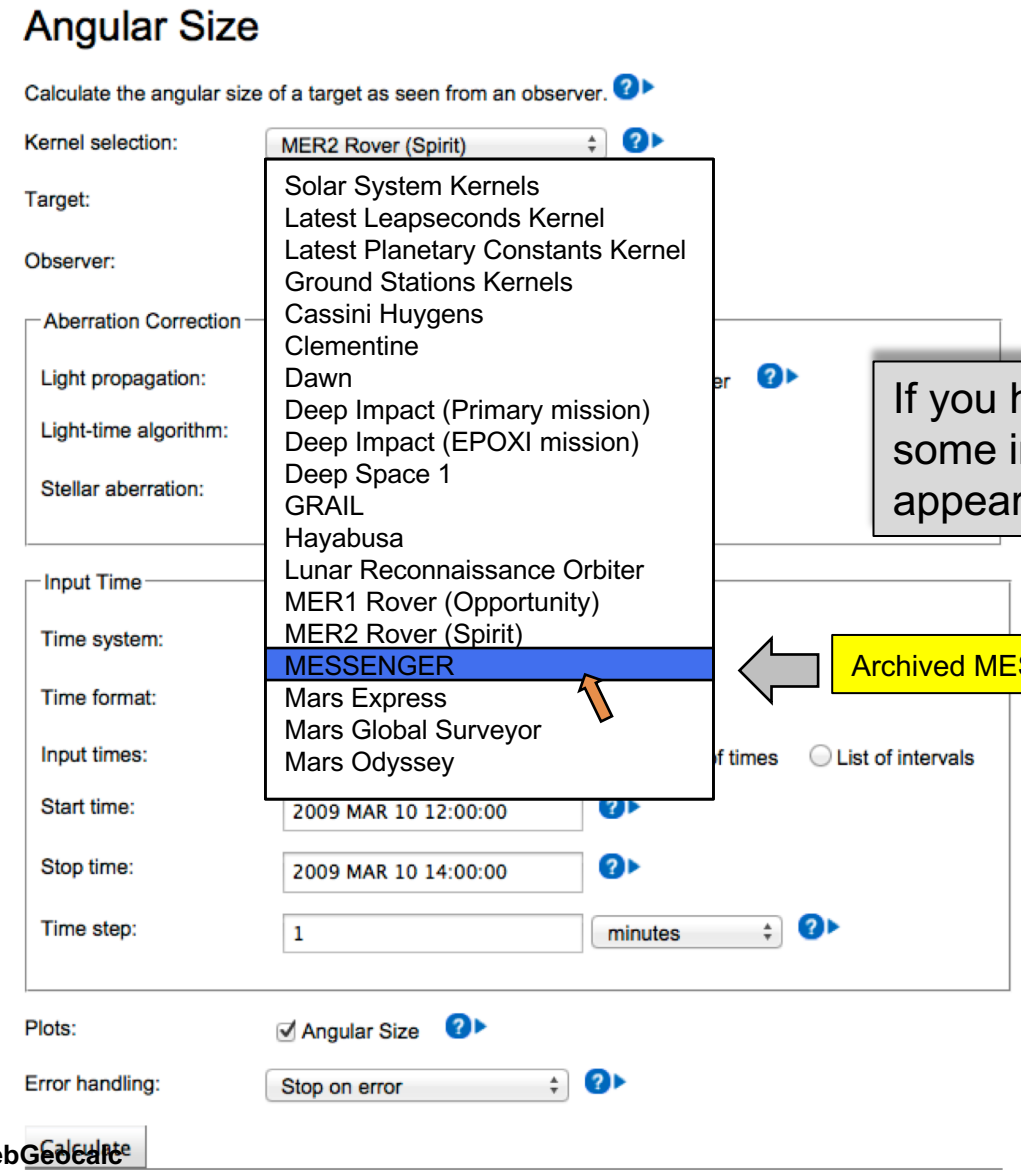

If you hover your cursor over a kernel set name, some information about the kernel set will appear–for example, dates covered by the data.

Archived MESSENGER kernels covering from 2004-08-03 to 2015-04-30

You can hover over the kernel set name in the "Kernel selection" menu, or in the "Kernels Selected" panel.

This feature is **not** available for "Manual" kernel selection.

Auto-complete Feature

- **If you select any kernel set(s) other than "Manual", many of the input widgets will be supplied with the names of all available selections.**
  - **Just start typing the name you want and all items matching what you typed will appear in a drop down menu**
  - **Alternatively, simply type a "blank" and all items available within the kernel set(s) you selected will appear**
- **In the example below, using the Cassini Huygens archive, the user has typed "mi" in the "Target" selection box. The names of the three objects containing those letters are displayed for the user's selection. (All three are satellites of Saturn.)**

Downloading Results

- **You can download tabular results to your computer by clicking the "Download Results" button, then selecting the format desired:**
  - **Excel**
  - **Comma separated values**
  - **Plain text**

- **You can download any plots by clicking on the "Download Plot" button**
  - **Plots are saved in PNG format with a transparent background**
    - » **Easily pasted into a document or presentation**

Saving Results for Use as New Inputs

- **You can save a numeric output, or an event finder interval start or stop time, by clicking on the value**
  - **The saved value will appear in a "Saved Values" panel on the right side of your browser window**
  - **This value can then be dragged to an input widget in a subsequent calculation**

- **You can save a complete set of event finder output interval start and stop times by clicking the "Save All Intervals" button**
  - **These can then be used as part of the input for a subsequent geometric event finder computation if you select "List of intervals" for the "Input times" selection**

Problems Using WGC

- **See the end of the on-line version of this tutorial for examples of typical problems user's have encountered.**

Getting Help

- **WGC users must read the "*About the Data*" web page to understand the kinds of SPICE kernels (data) available to the WGC tool**
- **Most GUI controls have associated HELP text, available by clicking the ? icon**
- **Most computation descriptions have an associated graphic depicting one or more examples of what may be computed**
- **Some GUI controls have a second-level, more extensive help description, available by clicking the "Read more…" text displayed in the first level help**
- **The NAIF Team has limited ability to provide individual help**
  - **Make good use of the HELP panels and other documentation included in WGC**
  - **Look at the SPICE tutorials and documentation available on the NAIF website**
    - **http://naif.jpl.nasa.gov**