Writing an Icy (IDL) Based Program

January 2020
Undefined variables are displayed in red
Results are displayed in blue
First, let's go over the important steps in the process of writing an Icy-based program and putting it to work:

- Understand the geometry problem.
- Identify the set of SPICE kernels that contain the data needed to perform the computation.
- Select the SPICE APIs needed to compute the quantities of interest.
- Write and compile the program.
- Get actual kernel files and verify that they contain the data needed to support the computation for the time(s) of interest.
- Run the program.

To illustrate these steps, let's write a program that computes the apparent intersection of the boresight ray of a given CASSINI science instrument with the surface of a given Saturnian satellite. The program will compute:

- Planetocentric and planetodetic (geodetic) latitudes and longitudes of the intercept point.
- Range from spacecraft to intercept point.
- Illumination angles (phase, solar incidence, and emission) at the intercept point.
We want the boresight intercept on the surface, range from s/c to intercept, and illumination angles at the intercept point.

**When?** TIME (UTC, TDB or TT)

**On what object?** satnm

**In what frame?** fixref

**For which instrument?** instnm

**For what spacecraft?** scnm

**Using what model?** setupf
Time transformation kernels
Orientation models
Instrument descriptions
Shapes of satellites, planets
Ephemerides for spacecraft, Saturn barycenter and satellites.
Which Kernels are Needed?

Data required to compute vectors, rotations and other parameters shown in the picture are stored in the SPICE kernels listed below.

Note: these kernels have been selected to support this presentation; they should not be assumed to be appropriate for user applications.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Kernel Type</th>
<th>File name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>time conversions</td>
<td>generic LSK</td>
<td>naif0009.tls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CASSINI SCLK</td>
<td>cas00084.tsc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>satellite orientation</td>
<td>CASSINI PCK</td>
<td>cpck05Mar2004.tpc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>satellite shape</td>
<td>CASSINI PCK</td>
<td>cpck05Mar2004.tpc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>satellite position</td>
<td>planet/sat</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>planet barycenter position</td>
<td>ephemeris SPK</td>
<td>020514_SE_SAT105.bsp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>spacecraft position</td>
<td>planet SPK</td>
<td>981005_PLTEPH-DE405S.bsp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>spacecraft orientation</td>
<td>spacecraft SPK</td>
<td>030201AP_SK_SM546_T45.bsp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>instrument alignment</td>
<td>spacecraft CK</td>
<td>04135_04171pc_psiv2.bc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>instrument boresight</td>
<td>CASSINI FK</td>
<td>cas_v37.tf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Instrument IK</td>
<td>cas_iss_v09.ti</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The easiest and most flexible way to make these kernels available to the program is via cspice_furnsh. For this example we make a setup file (also called a “metakernel” or “furnsh kernel”) containing a list of kernels to be loaded:

Note: these kernels have been selected to support this presentation; they should not be assumed to be appropriate for user applications.

\begindata

KERNELS_TO_LOAD = ('naif0009.tls', 'cas00084.tsc', 'cpck05Mar2004.tpc',
'020514_SE_SAT105.bsp', '981005_PLTEPH-DE405S.bsp',
'030201AP_SK_SM546_T45.bsp', '04135_04171pc_psiv2.bc',
'cas_v37.tf', 'cas_iss_v09.ti')

\begintext

and we make the program prompt for the name of this setup file:

read, setupf, PROMPT='Enter setup file name > '
cspice_furnsh, setupf
Programming Solution

• Prompt for setup file (“metakernel”) name; load kernels specified via setup file. (Done on previous chart.)

• Prompt for user inputs required to completely specify problem. Obtain further inputs required by geometry routines via Icy calls.

• Compute the intersection of the boresight direction ray with the surface of the satellite, presented as a triaxial ellipsoid.

If there is an intersection,

• Convert Cartesian coordinates of the intersection point to planetocentric latitudinal and planetodetic coordinates
• Compute spacecraft-to-intercept point range
• Find the illumination angles (phase, solar incidence, and emission) at the intercept point

• Display the results.

We discuss the geometric portion of the problem first.
Compute the intercept point (point) of the boresight vector (insite) specified in the instrument frame (iframe) of the instrument mounted on the spacecraft (scnm) with the surface of the satellite (satnm) at the TDB time of interest (et) in the satellite’s body-fixed frame (fixref). This call also returns the light-time corrected epoch at the intercept point (trgepc), the spacecraft-to-intercept point vector (srfvec), and a flag indicating whether the intercept was found (found). We use "converged Newtonian" light time plus stellar aberration corrections to produce the most accurate surface intercept solution possible. We model the surface of the satellite as an ellipsoid.

\[
cspice_sincpt, 'Ellipsoid', satnm, et, fixref, 'CN+S', scnm, iframe, $\text{insite}, \text{point}, \text{trgepc}, \text{srfvec}, \text{found}
\]

The range we want is obtained from the outputs of cspice_sincpt. These outputs are defined only if a surface intercept is found. If found is true, the spacecraft-to-surface intercept range is the norm of the output argument srfvec. Units are km. We use the Icy function cspice_vnorm to obtain the norm:

\[
cspice_vnorm( srfvec )
\]

We'll write out the range data along with the other program results.
Compute the planetocentric latitude ($pclat$) and longitude ($pclon$), as well as the planetodetic latitude ($pdlat$) and longitude ($pdlon$) of the intersection point.

```c
if ( found ) then begin
    cspice_reclat, point, r, pclon, pclat

    ;; Let re, rp, and f be the satellite's longer equatorial
    ;; radius, polar radius, and flattening factor.
    re = radii[0]
    rp = radii[2]
    f = (re - rp) / re;

    cspice_recgeo, point, re, f, pdlon, pdlat, alt
```

The illumination angles we want are the outputs of `cspice_ilumin`. Units are radians.

```c
    cspice_ilumin, 'Ellipsoid', satnm, et, fixref, 'CN+S', scnm, $
    point, trgepc, srfvec, phase, solar, emissn
```
;; Compute the boresight ray intersection with the surface of the
;; target body.

cspice_sincpt, 'Ellipsoid', satnm, et, fixref, 'CN+S', scnm, $
   iframe, insite, point, trgepc, srfvec, found

;; If an intercept is found, compute planetocentric and planetodetic
;; latitude and longitude of the point.

if ( found ) then begin
   cspice_reclat, point, r, pclon, pclat
   ;; Let re, rp, and f be the satellite's longer equatorial
   ;; radius, polar radius, and flattening factor.
   re  =  radii[0]
   rp  =  radii[2]
   f   =  ( re - rp ) / re;
   cspice_recgeo, point, re, f, pdlon, pdlat, alt

   ;; Compute illumination angles at the surface point.

cspice_ilumin, 'Ellipsoid', satnm, et, fixref, 'CN+S', scnm, $
   point, trgepc, srfvec, phase, solar, emissn

   ...
The code above used quite a few inputs that we don't have yet:

- TDB epoch of interest (\textit{et});
- satellite and s/c names (\textit{satnm}, \textit{scnm});
- satellite body-fixed frame name (\textit{fixref});
- satellite ellipsoid radii (\textit{radii});
- instrument fixed frame name (\textit{iframe});
- instrument boresight vector in the instrument frame (\textit{insite});

Some of these values are user inputs; others can be obtained via Icy calls once the required kernels have been loaded.

Let's prompt for the satellite name (\textit{satnm}), satellite frame name (\textit{fixref}), spacecraft name (\textit{scnm}), instrument name (\textit{instnm}) and time of interest (\textit{time}):

```plaintext
read, satnm, PROMPT='Enter satellite name > '
read, fixref, PROMPT='Enter satellite frame > '
read, scnm, PROMPT='Enter spacecraft name > '
read, instnm, PROMPT='Enter instrument name > '
read, time, PROMPT='Enter time > '
```
Then we can get the rest of the inputs from Icy calls:

To get the TDB epoch \((et)\) from the user-supplied time string (which may refer to the UTC, TDB or TT time systems):

\[
cspice_str2et, \text{time}, et
\]

To get the satellite’s ellipsoid radii \((\text{radii})\):

\[
cspice_bodvrd, \text{satnm}, "RADII", 3, \text{radii}
\]

To get the instrument boresight direction \((\text{insite})\) and the name of the instrument frame \((\text{iframe})\) in which it is defined:

\[
cspice_bodn2c, \text{instnm}, \text{instid}, \text{found}
\]

\[
\text{if ( NOT found ) then begin}
\]

\[
\text{print, } "\text{Unable to determine ID for instrument: }, \text{instnm}\text{\"}
\]

\[
\text{return}
\]

\[
\text{endif}
\]

\[
cspice_getfov, \text{instid}, \text{ROOM}, \text{shape}, \text{iframe}, \text{insite}, \text{bundry}
\]
Getting inputs: summary

;; Prompt for the user-supplied inputs for our program
read, setupf, PROMPT='Enter setup file name > '  
cspice_furnsh, setupf

read, satnm , PROMPT='Enter satellite name > '  
read, fixref , PROMPT='Enter satellite frame > '  
read, scnm   , PROMPT='Enter spacecraft name > '  
read, instnm , PROMPT='Enter instrument name > '  
read, time   , PROMPT='Enter time            > '

;; Get the epoch corresponding to the input time:
cspice_str2et, time, et

;; Get the radii of the satellite.
cspice_bodvrd, satnm, "RADII", 3, radii

;; Get the instrument boresight and frame name.
cspice_bodn2c, instnm, instid, found
if ( NOT found ) then begin
   print, "Unable to determine ID for instrument: ", instnm
return
endif

cspice_getfov, instid, ROOM, shape, iframe, insite, bundry
### Display results

**Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility**

```plaintext
;; Display results. Convert angles from radians to degrees for output.
print
print, 'Intercept planetocentric longitude (deg): ', $
cspice_dpr()*pclon
print, 'Intercept planetocentric latitude (deg): ', $
cspice_dpr()*pclat
print, 'Intercept planetodetic longitude (deg): ', $
cspice_dpr()*pdlon
print, 'Intercept planetodetic latitude (deg): ', $
cspice_dpr()*pdlat
print, 'Range from spacecraft to intercept point (km): ', $
cspice_vnorm(srfvec)
print, 'Intercept phase angle (deg): ', $
cspice_dpr()*phase
print, 'Intercept solar incidence angle (deg): ', $
cspice_dpr()*solar
print, 'Intercept emission angle (deg): ', $
cspice_dpr()*emissn
endif else begin
print, 'No intercept point found at ' + time
endelse
END
```
Complete the program

To finish up the program we need to declare the variables we've used.

- We'll highlight techniques used by NAIF programmers
- Add remaining IDL code required to make a syntactically valid program

```idl
PRO PROG_GEOMETRY

ROOM  = 10L
setupf = ''
satnm  = ''
fixref = ''
scnm  = ''
instnm = ''
time  = ''
R2D   = cspice_dpr()
```
Complete source code - 1

Naval and Ancillary Information Facility

;; Prompt for the user-supplied inputs for our program.
read, setupf, PROMPT='Enter setup file name > '  
cspice_furnsh, setupf
read, satnm, PROMPT='Enter satellite name > '  
read, fixref, PROMPT='Enter satellite frame > '  
read, scnm, PROMPT='Enter spacecraft name > '  
read, instnm, PROMPT='Enter instrument name > '  
read, time, PROMPT='Enter time > '  

;; Get the epoch corresponding to the input time:
cspice_str2et, time, et

;; Get the radii of the satellite.
cspice_bodvrd, satnm, 'RADII', 3, radii

;; Get the instrument boresight and frame name.
cspice_bodn2c, instnm, instid, found
if ( NOT found ) then begin
    print, "Unable to determine ID for instrument: ", instnm
    return
endif
cspice_getfov, instid, ROOM, shape, iframe, insite, bundry
;; Compute the boresight ray intersection with the surface of the target body.
cspice_sincpt, 'Ellipsoid', satnm, et, fixref, 'CN+S', scnm, $
   iframe, insite, point, trgepc, srfvec, found

;; If an intercept is found, compute planetocentric and planetodetic latitude and longitude of the point.
if ( found ) then begin
   cspice_reclat, point, r, pclon, pclat
   ;; Let re, rp, and f be the satellite's longer equatorial radius, polar radius, and flattening factor.
   re = radii[0]
   rp = radii[2]
   f = ( re - rp ) / re
   cspice_recgeo, point, re, f, pdlon, pdlat, alt

   ;; Compute illumination angles at the surface point.
cspice_ilumin, 'Ellipsoid', satnm, et, fixref, 'CN+S', scnm, $
      point, trgepc, srfvec, phase, solar, emissn

   ;; Display results. Convert angles from radians to degrees for output.
   print
   print, 'Intercept planetocentric longitude (deg): ', $
      R2D*pclon
print, 'Intercept planetocentric latitude (deg): ', R2D*pclat
print, 'Intercept planetodetic longitude (deg): ', R2D*pdlon
print, 'Intercept planetodetic latitude (deg): ', R2D*pdlat
print, 'Range from spacecraft to intercept point (km): ', cspice_vnorm(srfvec)
print, 'Intercept phase angle (deg): ', R2D*phase
print, 'Intercept solar incidence angle (deg): ', R2D*solar
print, 'Intercept emission angle (deg): ', R2D*emissn
endif else begin
    print, 'No intercept point found at ' + time
delse

;; Unload the kernels and clear the kernel pool
   cspice_kclear
END
Though IDL functions in a manner similar to interpreted languages, it does compile source files to a binary form.

Ensure that both the Icy Toolkit, and an IDL installation are properly installed. IDL must load the Icy DLM, icy.dlm/icy.so(dll) to compile those scripts containing Icy calls. IDL loads DLMs from default locations and from the current directory when the user ran IDL. The user may also explicitly load a DLM with the `dlm_register` command.

Now compile the code.
IDL> .compile prog_geometry.pro

% Compiled module: PROG_GEOMETRY.
It looks like we have everything taken care of:

- We have all necessary kernels
- We made a setup file (metakernel) pointing to them
- We wrote the program
- We compiled the program

Let's run it.
Running the program

Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility

Terminal Window

IDL> prog_geometry
Enter setup file name > setup.ker
Enter satellite name > PHOEBE
Enter satellite frame > IAU_PHOEBE
Enter spacecraft name > CASSINI
Enter instrument name > CASSINI_ISS_NAC
Enter time > 2004 jun 11 19:32:00

Intercept planetocentric longitude (deg): 39.843719
Intercept planetocentric latitude (deg): 4.1958778
Intercept planetodetic longitude (deg): 39.843719
Intercept planetodetic latitude (deg): 5.0480106
Range from spacecraft to intercept point (km): 2089.1697
Intercept phase angle (deg): 28.139479
Intercept solar incidence angle (deg): 18.247220
Intercept emission angle (deg): 17.858309
• Latitude definitions:
  – Planetocentric latitude of a point P: angle between segment from origin to point and x-y plane (red arc in diagram).
  – Planetodetic latitude of a point P: angle between x-y plane and extension of ellipsoid normal vector N that connects x-y plane and P (blue arc in diagram).