COLOUR AND STEREO SURFACE IMAGING SYSTEM ON THE EXOMARS TRACE GAS ORBITER: POTENTIAL COLOUR DATA PRODUCTS AND THEIR USE FOR SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATIONS. L.L. Tornabene[1], N. Thomas[2], G. Cremonese[3], M. Almeida[2], S. Douté[4], P. Grindrod[5], R. Heyd[6], A. Luchetti[3], A. McEwen[6], M. Pajola[3], J. Perry[6], E. Pilles[1], A. Pommerol[2], M.R. Read[2], F. Seelos[7], and J. Wray[8] and the CaSSIS science & ops teams, [1]CPSX, Earth Sci., Western University, London, Canada (ltornabe@uwo.ca), [2]Physikalisches Institut, Univ. Bern, Bern, Switzerland, [3]INAF, Osservatorio Astronomico di Padova, Padova, Italy, [4]Laboratoire de Planétologie de Grenoble, Saint Martin-d'He`res, France, [5]Earth Sci., Natural History Museum, London, UK, [6]LPL, Univ. of Arizona, Tucson, AZ, [7]JHU/APL, Laurel MD, [8]Earth & Atmos. Sci., GIT, Atlanta, GA.

Introduction: The Colour and Stereo Surface Imaging System (CaSSIS) is a full-colour visible to near-infrared (VNIR) bi-directional pushframe stereo camera onboard the ExoMars 2016 Trace Gas Orbiter (TGO). As of April 2018, CaSSIS is providing images generally >8 km wide and ~30-40 km long, with four broadband colour filters spanning ~500 to 950 nm (**Table 1.**); images are <5 m/px at the highest possible un-binned resolution and from TGO's nearly circular ~360 km x 420 km orbit. The orbit is inclined by 74° to the equator [1] and is not Sun-synchronous. CaSSIS can therefore image sites at different times of day, covering a wider range of observation geometries over all Martian seasons, including very low phase for optimal surface colour/spectral contrast. CaSSIS also has fixed pointing at ~10° off nadir and a rotation mechanism that is used to acquire stereo images in a single pass over the target [1]. TGO is currently permitted to roll up to a maximum of 5° to facilitate the targeting of key locations on the surface by CaSSIS.

Table 1 CaSSIS Bands

Band# / Name	Band Centre	Bandwidth	[1]Colour
0 / Synthetic "Blue"	*"475.0" nm*	*N/A*	*Blue*
1 / BLU	499.9 nm	118.0 nm	Blue-Green
2 / PAN	675.0 nm	229.4 nm	Orange-Red
3 / RED	836.2 nm	94.3 nm	NIR
4 / NIR	936.7 nm	113.7 nm	NIR

[1]Based on band centre wavelength

Here we present a summary and a few examples of suggested CaSSIS colour data products useful for scientific investigations. This work is contributing to the final selection of products for public release.

CaSSIS Imaging: As noted in [1], CaSSIS is a pushframe imager. The CaSSIS detector was a spare of the one used in the SIMBIOSYS instrument for BepiColombo. The device has a hybrid CMOS architecture and allows for direct pixel read-out at a rapid imaging frequency. However, there are data transfer rate restrictions between the detector, the proximity electronics and the digital processing module that limit the total number of pixels that can be transferred within the time between the frames. If the altitude is high enough, the ground-track velocity is lower and the timing to obtain a full 4 colour image with full swath can be achieved. However, at the nominal altitude, a down-selection is required. This is a consequence of several aspects in the final hardware performance, including a higher than expected overhead on the internal SpaceWire links and the need for adequate overlap between the framelets (~10%) to ensure complete coverage along the swath-length. As a result, planners must switch off colour filters and/or reduce the swath-width size from the maximum value of 2048 px to maintain a continuous colour swath and reduce the readout to a rate that can be handled. Hence, many CaSSIS images are 3-colour (with a 0-30% width-reduction in one of the 3 filters) with fewer images taken with all 4 colours (with a 30-50% width-reduction in 3 of the filters). Because the optimum frame repetition frequency is dependent upon the ground-track velocity (and therefore a function of altitude) imaging limitations are minimized when TGO is near or at apoapsis in its orbit, and most severe near periapsis. One way to prevent excluding a colour filter is to take a stereo observation where all four are acquired between the two images in the pair (*e.g.*, **PAN**, **BLU**, ***NIR** on the 1st half, **PAN**, **BLU**, ***RED** on 2nd). While this imaging mode offers a promising solution, the reconstruction of a 4-band image cube with a filter observed from a different observation geometry presents radiometric and geometric challenges that are still under investigation. As such, we are still looking into alternate imaging modes and their colour data products to assess their usefulness given the imaging limitations of CaSSIS.

Suggested Colour Data Products: CaSSIS colour data products were initially assessed as part of a study on simulated CaSSIS image cubes [see 2-3], and recently re-evaluated after the team collected a sufficient number of actual CaSSIS observations.

Simple combination products. Colour combinations with CaSSIS order the available colours from long to short wavelengths in R-G-B, such as **NPB**, **RPB**, **NRB** and **NRP** (see **Fig. 1**). Here **BLU**, **PAN**, **RED**, **NIR** are abbreviated as **B**, **P**, **R**, **N** when expressed as colour image combinations for the R-G-B channels. **NPB** and **RPB** provide colour images that can be used with, and are similar in appearance to, the IRB colour images from HiRISE [*e. g.*, 4]. Due to the near-simultaneous acquisition of stereo pairs by CaSSIS, colour anaglyphs are also being successful produced where two or more colours are acquired for both halves of the stereo pair.

A simulated 'True Colour' Product. A CaSSIS image with only two filters (*i.e.*, specifically **PAN** and **BLU**) may be used to synthesize an additional colour, in this case a synthetic 'blue' band ('**sB**'), to produce an R-G-B combination that simulates a true colour image (**Fig. 1**). This is accomplished in a similar fashion as the HiRISE RGB product [4] by combining the orange-red (**P**), blue-green (**B**), and the calculated '**sB**' band in R-G-B (*i.e.*, **PBsB**).

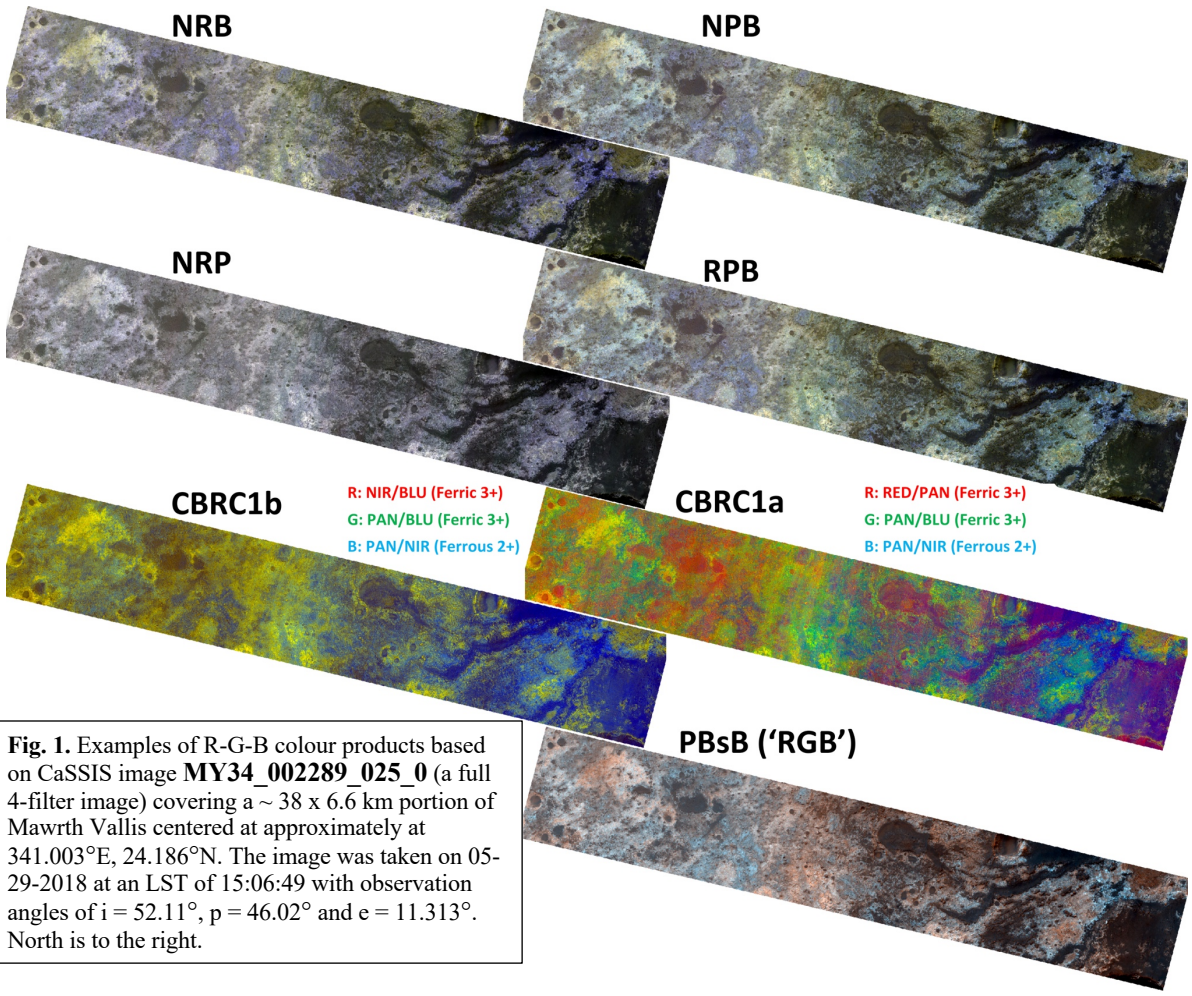

Fig. 1. Examples of R-G-B colour products based on CaSSIS image **MY34_002289_025_0** (a full 4-filter image) covering a ~ 38 x 6.6 km portion of Mawrth Vallis centered at approximately at 341.003°E, 24.186°N. The image was taken on 05-29-2018 at an LST of 15:06:49 with observation angles of i = 52.11°, p = 46.02° and e = 11.313°. North is to the right.

Advanced colour products: Band ratio and spectral parameters. Based on the sensitivity of the CaSSIS filters to the presence, and even absence, of Fe-bearing species [1,2], several band ratios and spectral parameters (and their alternates) are recommended and summarized in Table 3. in [2]. Colour Band Ratio Composites (**CBRCs**) [see 2] based on a 4-filter image (1a), and an alternate based on only 3-filters (1b), are shown in **Fig. 1**. Spectral parameters for highlighting the presence of frost or ice, and atmospheric phenomena captured in CaSSIS images are also suggested and discussed in [2] but are not shown here.

Inter-instrument colour products. CaSSIS colour information can be combined with the spatial information of a greyscale HiRISE RED mosaic image providing much higher spatial scales at 25–50 cm/px. A Gram-Schmidt spectral pan-sharpening algorithm, one similarly used to produce simulated CaSSIS images [see 2], has provided excellent results in this regard that will extend both CaSSIS and HiRISE science goals and investigations.

As demonstrated in [2], the CaSSIS bandpass information can be used to synthesize radiometrically comparable color information from CRISM. These CaSSIS-compatible CRISM products will continue to be used to provide a radiometric link between the color/spectral information in the two datasets, and thereby inform on the spectral and mineralogical interpretation of CaSSIS color variability.

Observation and Product IDs. CaSSIS has adopted a general observation/product ID convention as such: ***MY-aaa_bbbbbb_ccc_d***, where: **a** = Mars Year of observation; **b** = TGO orbit number; **c** = the angle between the ascending node and the s/c at the time of acquisition (in degrees) that approximates the location of the target on the surface; **d** = 0, 1 or 2 (0 = individual or non-stereo observation; 1= 1st look stereo image; 2nd look stereo image) [*e.g.*, the ID **MY34_002289_025_0_NPB** describes an individual (non-stereo) observation taken in Mars Year 34, on orbit 2289, at 25 degrees past the ascending node and that combines the **NIR**, **PAN** and **BLU** filters in R-G-B].

References: [1] Thomas, N. et al. (2017) Space Sci. Rev., 212, 1897. [2] Tornabene, L.L. et al. (2018) *Space Sci. Rev.*, 214, 18. [3] Tornabene L. et al. (2016) *LPS 47*, Abstract #2695. [4] Delamere A. et al. (2010), *Icarus*, 205, 38-52.

Acknowledgements: We thank the spacecraft and instrument engineering teams for the successful completion of the instrument. CaSSIS is a project of the Uni. Bern and funded through the Swiss Space Office via ESA's PRODEX programme. The instrument hardware development was also supported by the Italian Space Agency (ASI) (ASI-INAF agreement no.I/018/12/0), INAF/Astronomical Observatory of Padova, and the Space Research Center (CBK) in Warsaw. Support from SGF (Budapest), the Uni. Arizona Lunar and Planetary Laboratory, and NASA are also gratefully acknowledged. The lead author acknowledges support from the Canadian Space Agency (CSA), and the NSERC DG programme.