HIGH-RESOLUTION TOPOGRAPHY FROM MESSENGER ORBITAL STEREO IMAGING – THE H7 QUADRANGLE „BEETHOVEN“.

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Introduction: The MErcury Surface, Space ENviorment, GEochemistry, and Ranging (MESSENGER) spacecraft entered orbit about Mercury in March 2011 [1] to carry out a comprehensive topographic mapping of Mercury. Measurements of Mercury’s topography have been made with stereo imaging [2,3], laser altimetry [4,5], limb profiling [6], and radio occultation [7]. We describe the production of a high-resolution digital terrain models (DTM) using stereo photogrammetry [8,9]. In this paper, we describe the H7 quadrangle “Beethoven” (Fig. 1).

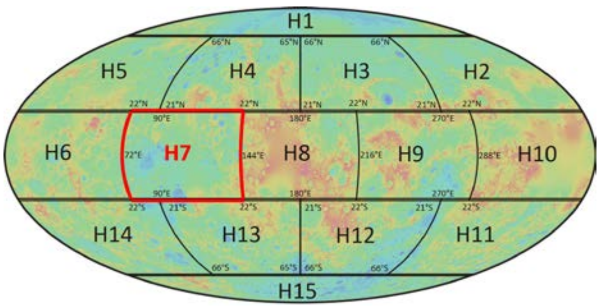

Fig. 1. Mercury’s 15 tiles quadrangle scheme. The selected H7 quadrangle is highlighted in red.

Data: The Mercury Dual Imaging System (MDIS) onboard MESSENGER spacecraft consists of a wide-angle camera (WAC) and a narrow-angle camera (NAC) co-aligned on a pivot platform [10]. In almost 4 years MDIS has acquired more than 200,000 images to map the surface. Owing to MESSENGER’s highly eccentric near-polar orbit, the WAC is primarily used for the northern hemisphere and the NAC to cover the southern hemisphere, respectively.

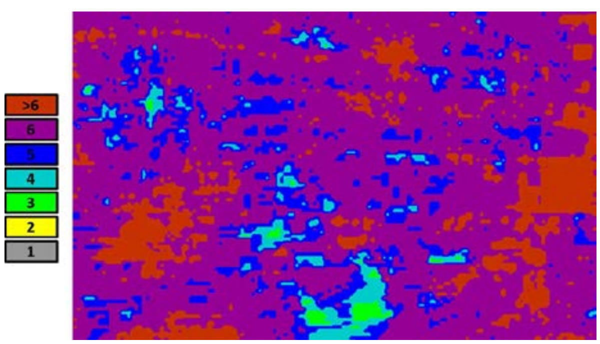

Fig. 1. Stereo coverage of MDIS images having spatial resolutions better than 350 m/pixel. Colors indicate the number of stereo observations.

Those images provide multiple (at least triple) coverage for almost all areas on Mercury at a resolution better than 350 m/pixel.

Stereo Coverage: We have selected about 12,400 images that have resolutions better than 350 m/pixel within the H7 quadrangle area, which extends from 22.5°S to 22.5°N and from 72°E to 144.0°E. Subsequently we applied our stereo conditions (**Table 1**) to compile a stereo coverage map (**Fig. 2**). From this map we identified about 35,000 stereo image combinations consisting of at least three images each.

Parameters	
Differences in illumination	<10°
Stereo angle	15°-55°
Incidence angle	5°-85°
Emission angle	0°-55°
Phase angle	5°-160°

Table 1. Stereo conditions used for stereo processing

Method: The stereo-photogrammetric processing for Mercury is based on a software suite that has been developed within the last decade and has been applied successfully to several planetary image data sets [11-15]. The suite comprises photogrammetric block adjustment, multi-image matching, surface point triangulation, digital terrain model (DTM) generation, and base map production.

Results: Beginning with nominal navigation (pointing and position) data of the selected stereo images, we have collected ~45,000 tie points for navigation data correction using a photogrammetric block adjustment. This improves the three-dimensional (3D) point accuracy from ±920 m to ±50 m. Then 35,000 individual matching runs were carried out to yield ~3.2 billion object points. The mean ray intersection errors of the ground points were ±50 m. Finally, we generated a DTM with a lateral spacing of 192 pixels per degree (~222 m/pixel) and a vertical accuracy of about 35 m (Fig. 3). The H7 DTM covers 7.9% (5.9×10^6 km²) of Mercury’s surface and comprises a total height range of 10.1 km. This model highlights the large basins (Fig. 3), the *Beethoven* basin (~670 km diameter), the *Vivaldi* basin (~210 km diameter), and the *Dürer* basin (~190 km diameter).

Conclusion: This H7 quadrangle DTM will be delivered in begin of March 2017 to the Planetary Data System (PDS). It represents a further element towards a high resolution global shape model of Mercury from stereo-photogrammetry [14].

References: [1] Solomon S .C. et al. (2011) *EPSC-DPS Joint Meeting Abstracts and Program*, Abstract EPSC-DPS2011-430. [2] Oberst J. et al. (2010) *Icarus, 209*, 230–238. [3] Preusker F. et al. (2011) *Planet. Space Sci., 59*, 1910–1917. [4] Zuber, M.T. et al. (2008) *Science, 321*, 77-79. [5] Zuber, M.T. et al. (2012) *Science, 336*, 217-220. [6] Elgner S. et al. (2014) *Planet. Space Sci., 103,* 299-308. [7] Perry M.E. et al. (2011) *Planet. Space Sci., 59,* 1925-1931. [8] Preusker et al. (2017) this issue. [9] Stark et al. (2017) this issue. [10] Hawkins S.E., III, et al. (2007) *Space Sci. Rev., 131*, 247-338. [11] Gwinner K. et al. (2009) *Photogram. Engineering Remote Sensing, 75,* 1127–1142. [12] Gwinner K. et al. (2016) *Planet. Space Sci., 103,* 299-308. [13] Preusker F. et al. (2015) *A&A, 583*, A33. [14] Preusker F. et al. (2017), submitted to *Planet. Space Sci.*. [15] Scholten F. et al. (2012) *JGR*, 117, e00H17.

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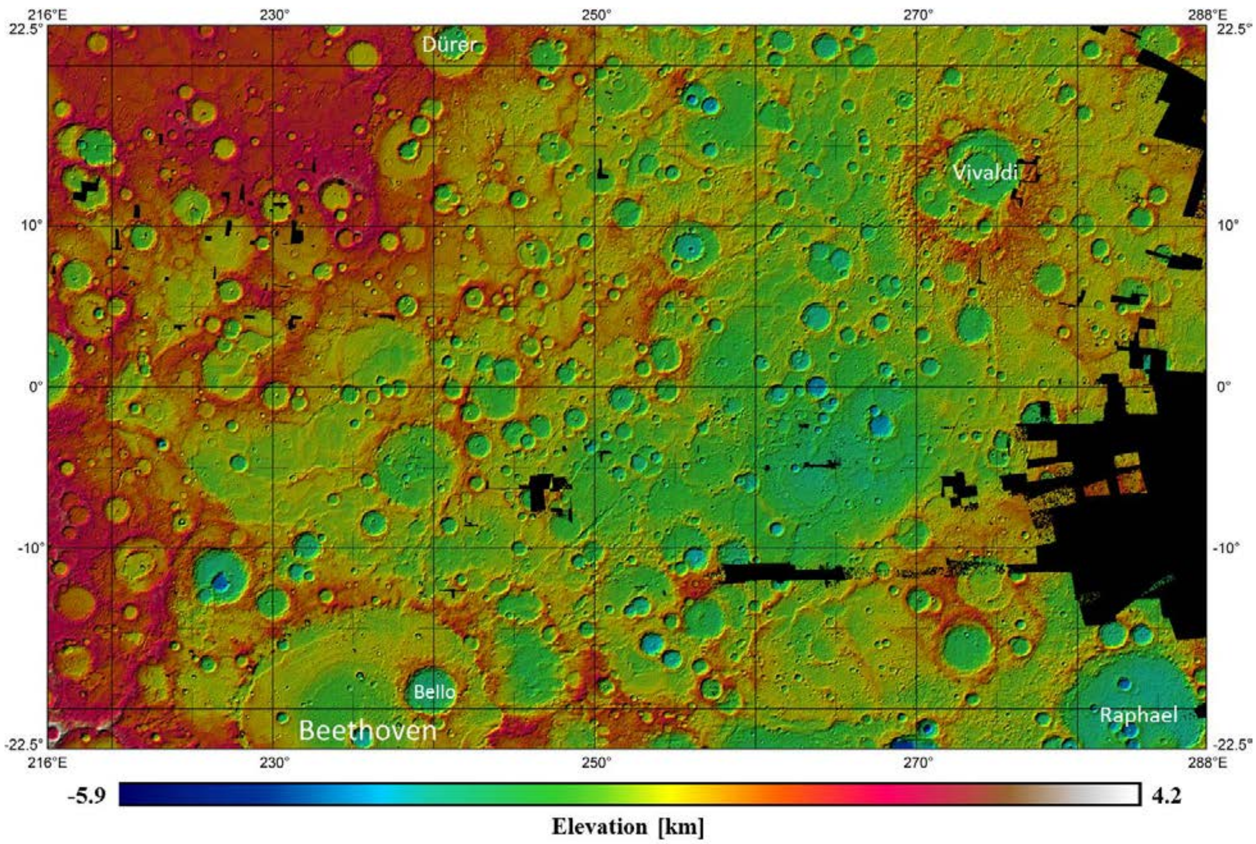

Fig. 2. H7 ("Beethoven") quadrangle DTM (hill-shaded color-coded heights) with a lateral spacing of 192 pixel per degree (~222 m) in Lambert two-parallel (conformal) projection. Black areas are gaps in the current processing stage. Completed version of this model will be available at the time of the conference.