Data Processing Levels (for PDS 2010)

Background

PDS and its data providers have used both the CODMAC and NASA systems to describe data processing level, sometimes in the same data set; this has led to confusion. In developing PDS4, the Data Design Working Group (DDWG) has determined that a simpler system, relying on only a few categories, is sufficient. The categories may be visualized as the most primitive bit stream from an instrument that can be stored in a PDS data archive format, that bit stream converted to physical units, and 'derived' or 'higher order' products.

Policy

PDS adopts the following terms (and abbreviations) for broadly classifying archival data according to processing level. When making such classification, data providers will select the most appropriate term, then elaborate on processing in accompanying documentation.

Raw (RAW): Original data from an instrument. If compression, reformatting, packetization, or other translation has been applied to facilitate data transmission or storage, those processes will be reversed so that the archived data are in a PDS approved archive format.

Reduced (RDC): Data that have been processed but may not have been transformed to physical units.

Calibrated (CLB): Data converted to physical units. The conversion from raw to calibrated data must be described completely in documentation.

Derived (DRV): Results which have been distilled from one or more calibrated data products (for example, maps, gravity or magnetic fields, or ring particle size distributions).