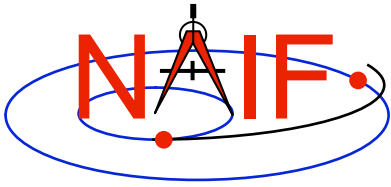




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Motivation for Developing SPICE

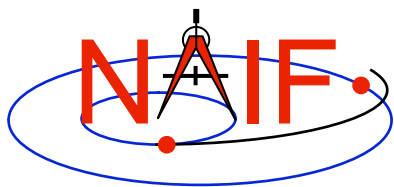
September 2009



Why Did NAIF Build SPICE?

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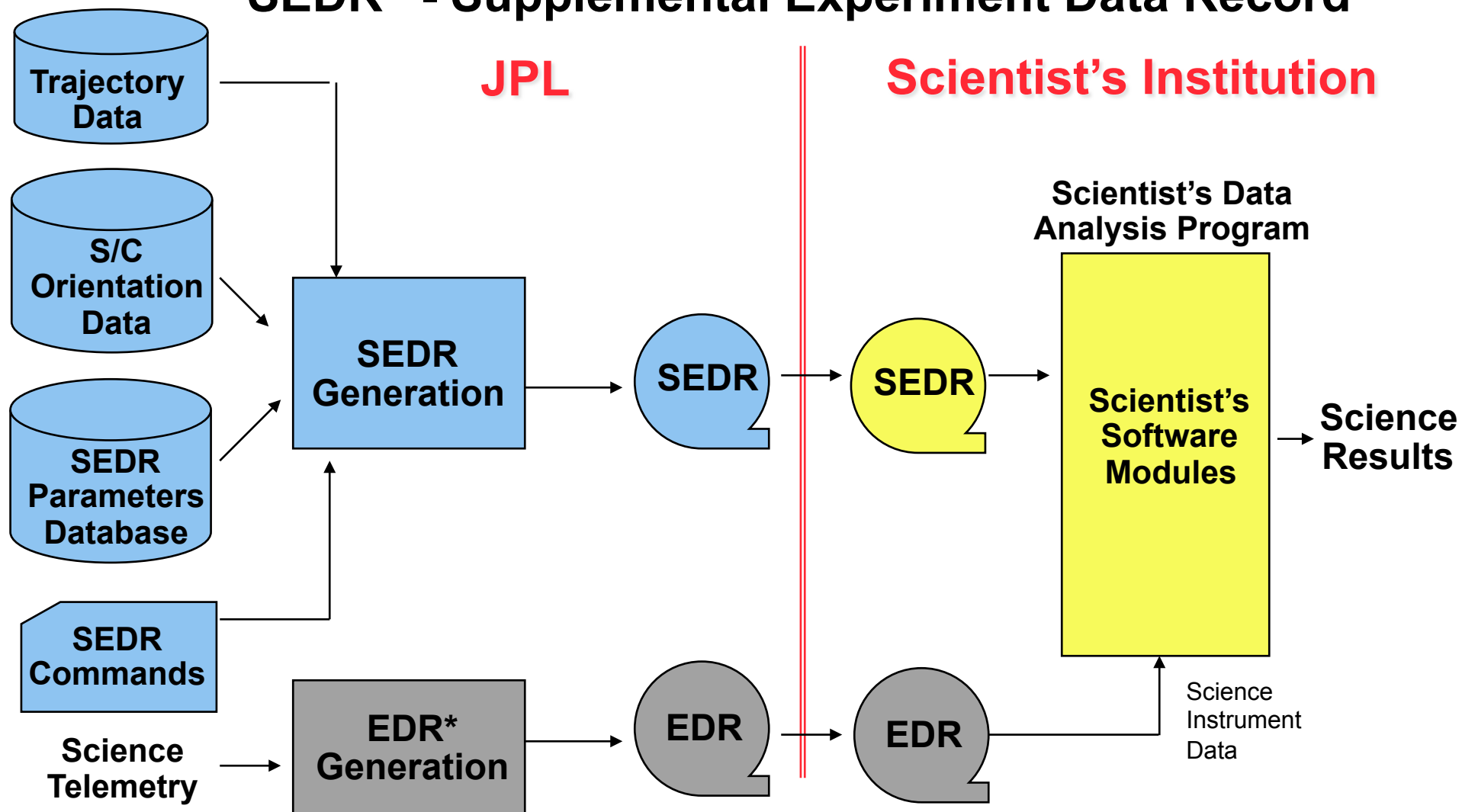
- **Scientists said they would like to:**
 - use common tools and methods throughout a project's lifecycle, and for all projects (national and international)
 - understand the calculations and transformations used to produce observation geometry data
 - be able to produce custom geometry calculations themselves, whenever and however they want
 - have the ability to revise the fundamental data and software tools used to produce their own observation geometry data

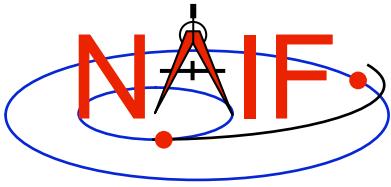


What Existed Prior to SPICE ?

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“SEDR” - Supplemental Experiment Data Record

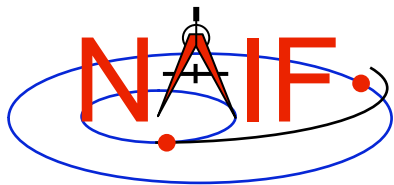




SEDR System Characteristics

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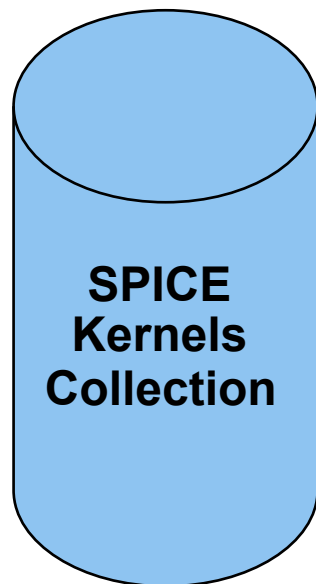
- **The SEDR Generation program was built and operated at JPL**
 - **Scientist's requirements on SEDR had to be provided long before launch**
 - » **Late or post-launch updates were hard/expensive to accommodate**
 - **Difficult to change WHAT gets computed**
 - **Difficult to change HOW items are computed (algorithms, parameters)**
 - **Difficult to change TIMEs at which items get computed**
 - **Generally only one SEDR file produced for each period of time**
 - » **Result: the scientist can't get better ancillary data if/when better inputs (e.g. spacecraft trajectory or orientation) are determined**
 - **SEDR generation was done "in the blind"**
 - » **Operators were not familiar with processes used to make the inputs**
 - » **Operators were not familiar with scientist's processing schemes**
 - » **Result: SEDR may not optimally meet science team's expectations**
 - **SEDR system was not exportable to other institutions**



The SPICE Idea

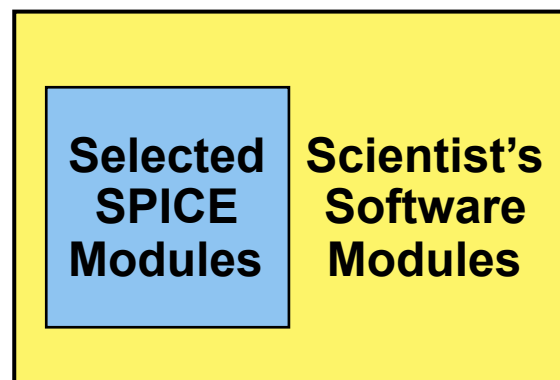
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**Any Mission
Operations Center**



Scientist's Institution

**Scientist's Data
Analysis Program**



**Wonderful
Science
Results**

**Science
Telemetry**



SPICE Benefits vs. SEDR

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- **The customer has great flexibility in deciding:**
 - what observation geometry parameters are computed
 - at what times or at what frequency these parameters are computed
 - for what time span these parameters are computed
 - electing if/when to re-do parameter computations using new (better) or otherwise different kernels or other data as inputs
- **The customer also has:**
 - common tools and methods that can be reused on many tasks
 - good visibility into algorithms and data used in geometry calculations
- **The flight project operations center can:**
 - concentrate on producing better kernel data, rather than on producing lots of SEDRs and frequently updating the SEDR software
- **The SPICE process may be replicated anywhere**



SPICE Detriments vs. SEDR

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- End users ("consumers") must do some non-trivial programming to read SPICE kernels and compute whatever is needed
- If the mission operations center is other than JPL, the appropriate project folks need to learn how to produce SPICE kernels
- In some areas of SPICE the offering of choices to allow correct handling of different situations may present complexity that is unwarranted for "simple" problems