

Science Mission Directorate **Mission Extension Paradigm**

June 29, 2016

We assume that the conditions for mission extensions, issued in January 1994, and subsequently elaborated in the SMD Management Handbook (October 2013), will apply well into the future. According to these instructions, budgets for mission extensions beyond the prime mission lifetime will support:

- Bare-bones mission operation and science operations: Compared to the prime mission phase, a significantly higher risk and lower data collection efficiency will be accepted during any mission extension, and this portion of the MO&DA budget for the extended phase shall have a funding level lower than that during the prime mission phase;
- Bare-bones data handling, including low-level processing and basic archiving: Compared to the prime mission phase, fewer services will be offered to Guest Observers and Guest Investigators who are assumed to have become more knowledgeable during the mission's prime phase, and this portion of the MO&DA budget for the extended phase shall also have a funding level lower than the equivalent portion during the prime mission phase;
- Minimal science data analysis to maintain understanding of the instrument performance, to monitor progress toward accomplishing the objectives of science observations, and to involve the science community in formulating the mission observing program to make the best scientific use of NASA's operating missions; however, no funds will be available in this "minimal-science analysis mode" for detailed analysis, data fitting, modeling, and interpretation; and
- For science data archive centers: basic, bare-bones operation, including data ingest and validation, distribution of science data and software products, and other value added services.