

# Gazebo renders the moon

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# RP Driving ConOps Simulator

## Resource Prospector

Goal: send a rover to the moon to mine volatiles such as hydrogen, oxygen and water

## Simulation

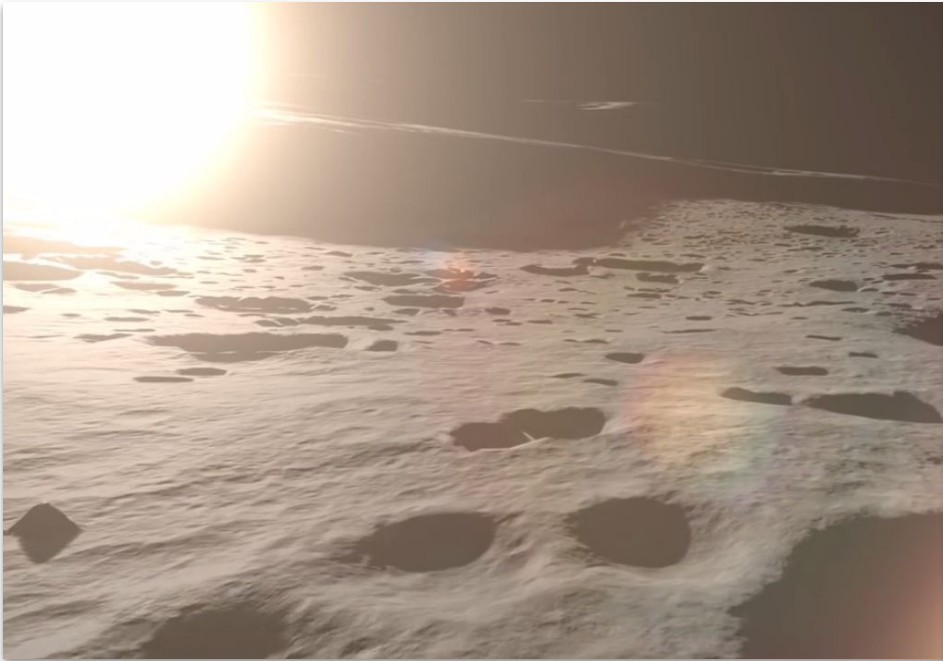
End-to-end lunar rover driving simulation to assist in the development of the RP Driving Concept of Operations

- ROS used to emulate flight software and ground software functionality
- Simulated rover is 4 wheel steer platform scaled to RP rover dimensions with RP chassis and mast





# Visual Simulation



Lunar scene from Gazebo



Lunar scene from Apollo 12 mission

# Large Scale, High Fidelity Terrain Simulation

## Synthetic Terrain Generation

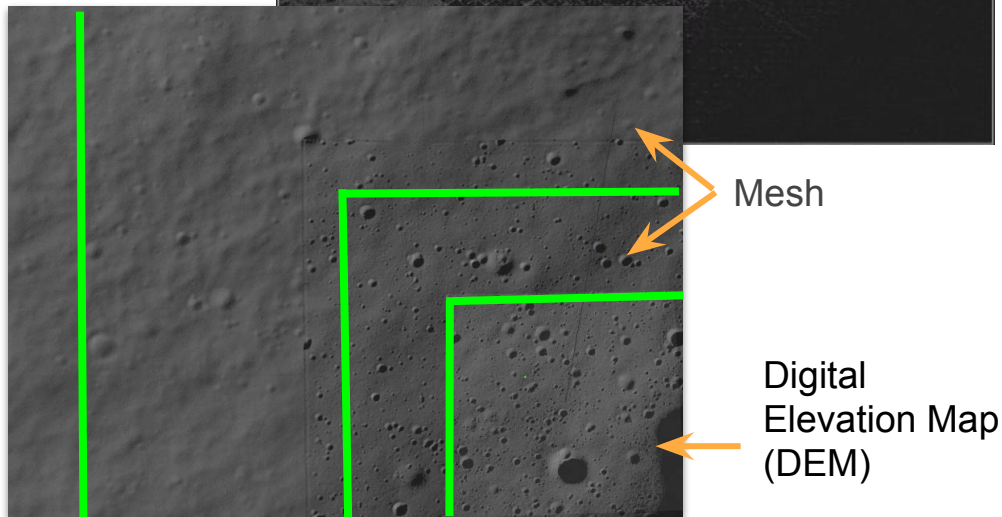
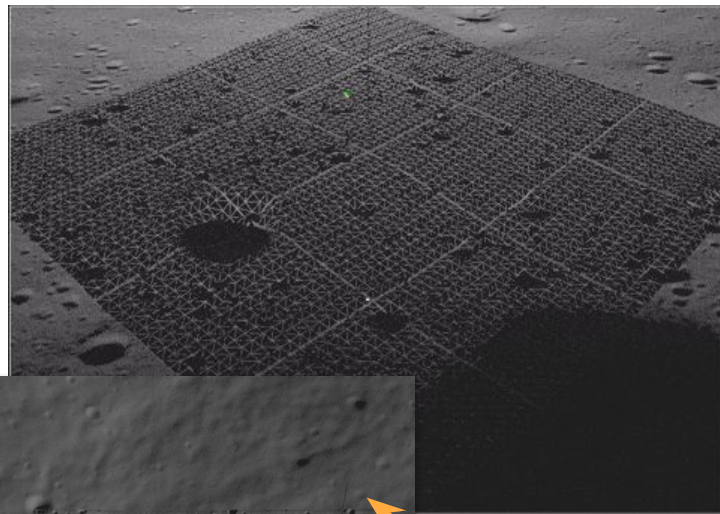
- High resolution (~4cm) to simulate obstacles: positive (rocks), negative (craters)

## Large DEMs rendered too slow in Gazebo

- 8K resolution, 213MB
- load time ~5min

## Improvements

- Enabled caching of terrain data
- Added Level-Of-Details
- Background tiles - coarse meshes
  - 6 layers

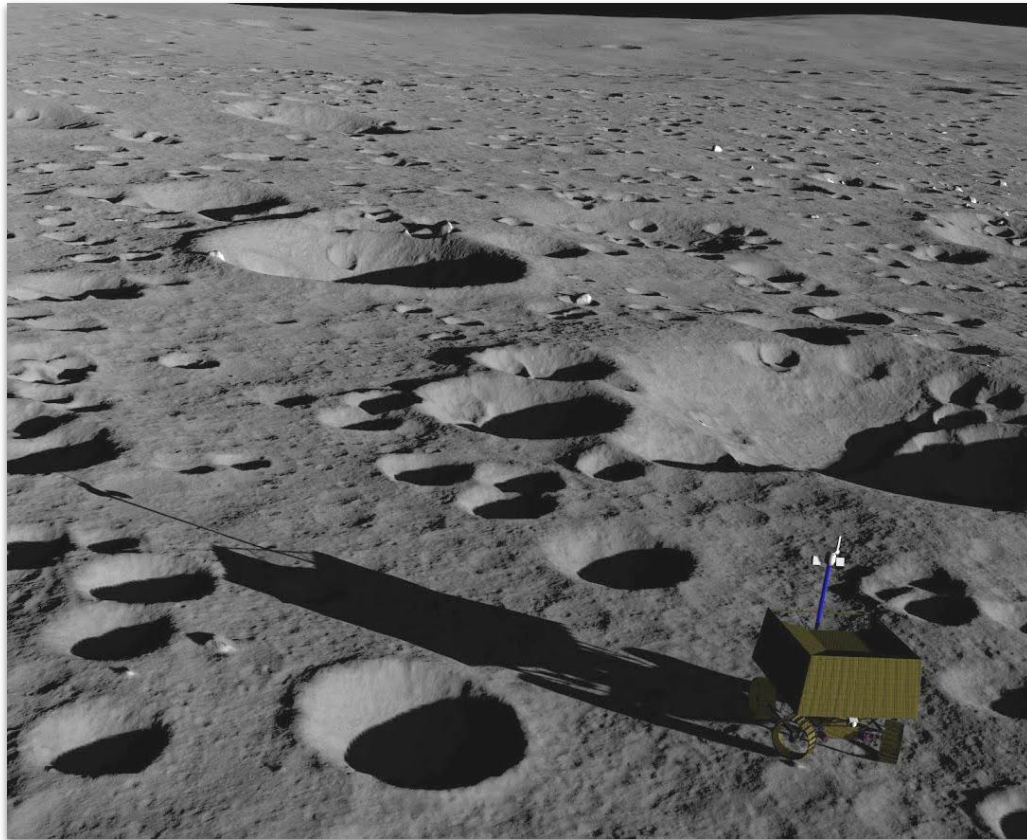




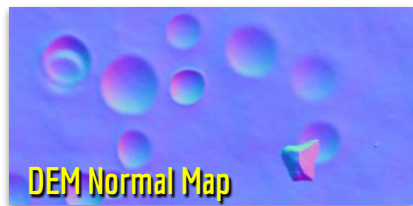
# Lunar Appearance

Default shading model -  
inadequate to model the  
unique reflective properties  
of lunar surface

Added support for applying  
custom shaders to  
heightmaps



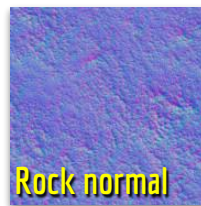
# Terrain Material Shader Components



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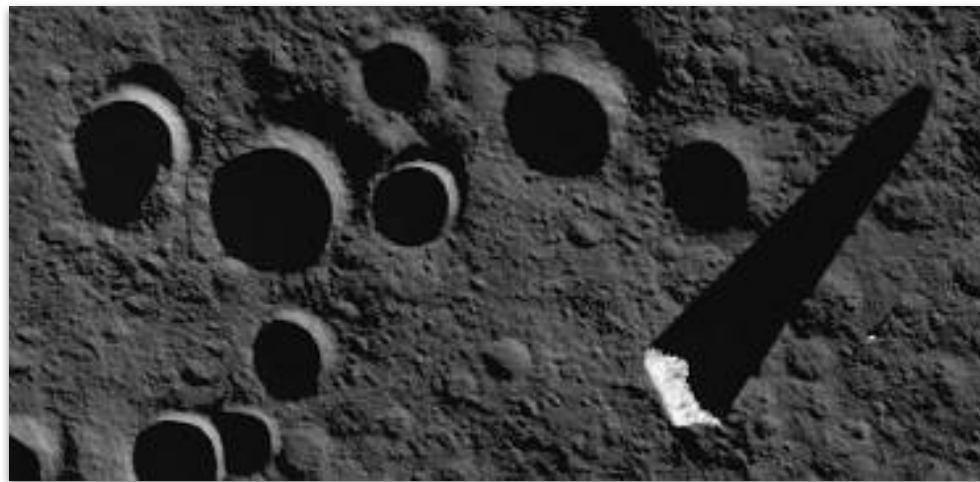
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Real time  
shadows set up  
by Gazebo



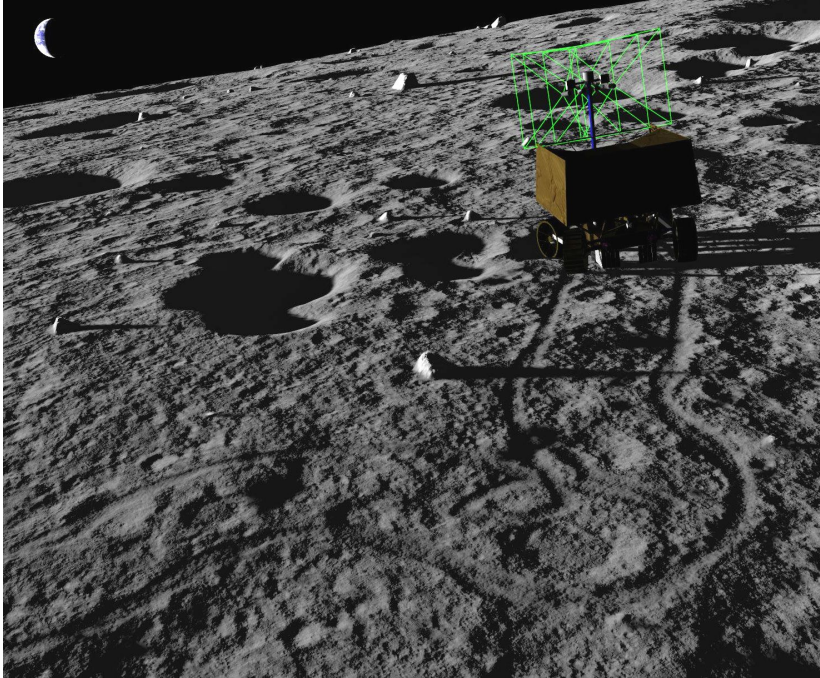
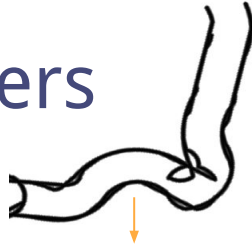
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Hapke Lunar  
regolith  
reflectance  
model

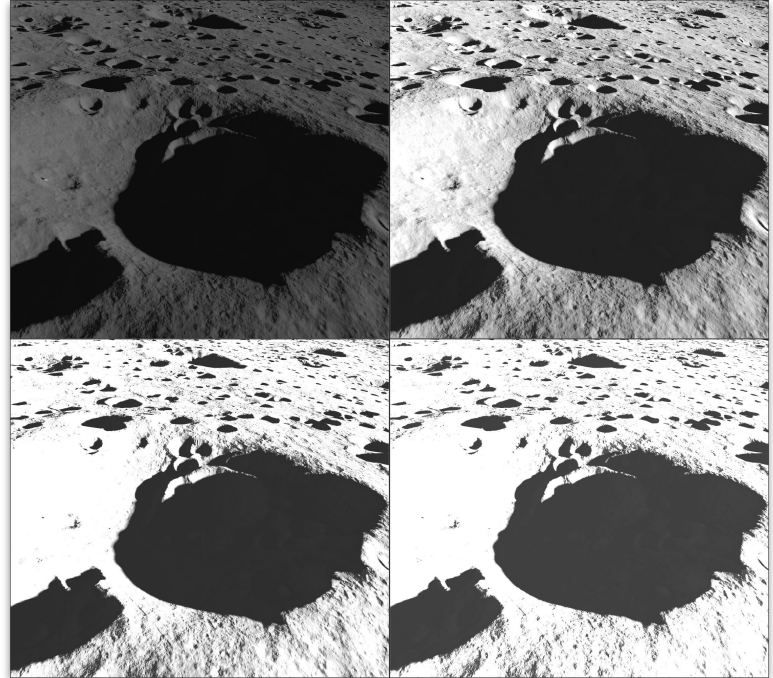


# Shader Parameters

Wheel Tracks Plugin



Camera Exposure





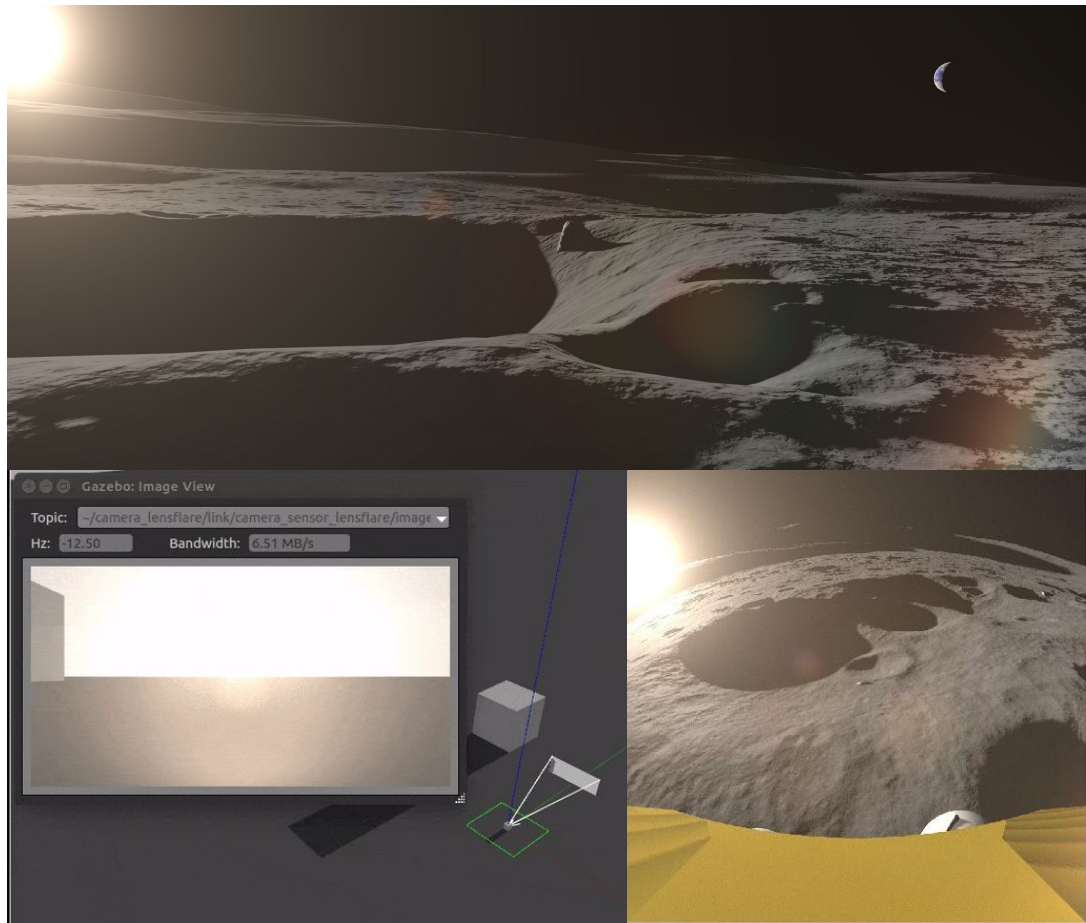
# Lens Flares

Sun is few degrees above horizon at lunar pole

Camera often points at sun or sees long dark shadows

## Implementation

- Post processing effect
- Works with wide angle cameras
- Sparse ray based occlusion checking

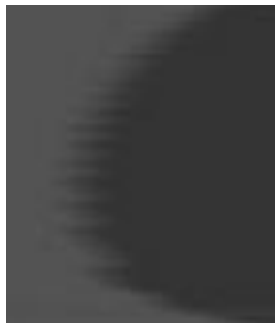


# Real Time Shadows

**Problem:** Poor quality overall  
esp. when camera view angle is  
coincident with light direction

## Improvements

- Override shadow map generation step
- Increased shadow texture resolution
- Hardware Percentage Closer Filtering + Poisson disk blur filter
- Lowered “built-in ambient” light



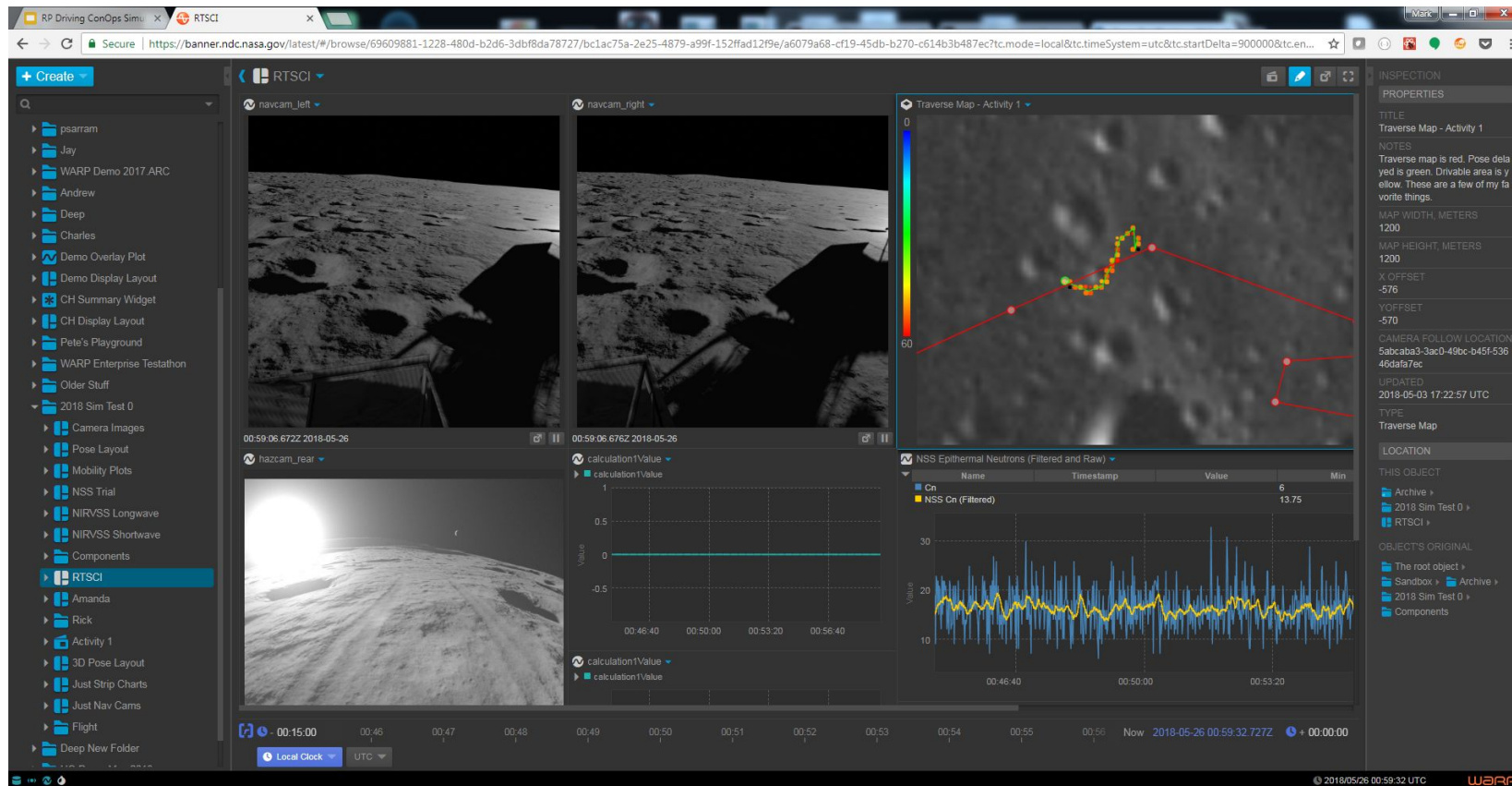
Before

After





# WARP





# Team



**Open Robotics**

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# Questions?

