



## **Development of a cloud-tracking tool for VIRTIS-Venus Express images**

**D. Luz** (1,2), D. Berry (3), M. Roos-Serote (2), R. Hueso (4) and the VIRTIS team

(1) LESIA-Observatoire de Paris; (2) Observatório Astronómico de Lisboa; (3) Universidade de Évora; (4) Universidad del País Vasco/EHU

The Venus Express mission, to be launched in November 2005 and due to arrive at its destination in April 2006, will investigate the atmosphere of Venus in great detail. One of the main objectives of the VIRTIS instrument investigations is to address the topic of atmospheric dynamics, and in particular atmospheric super-rotation, waves and the polar vortices. With the aim of constructing global maps of the winds we have started developing a tool for cloud tracking in future VIRTIS images. Given the high data volume expected, an automated procedure capable of enhancing and analysing a sequence of images with minimal user interaction will be an important asset. We shall give an overview of the methods involved and of the current status of the project.

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