Geosci. Instrum. Method. Data Syst. Discuss.,
doi:10.5194/gi-2015-46-RC1, 2016
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Geoscientific Instrumentation Methods and Data Systems Discussions
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Interactive comment on "MAHLI on Mars: lessons learned operating a geoscience camera on a landed payload robotic arm" *by* R. A. Yingst et al.

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Received and published: 22 March 2016

The MSL MAHLI investigation has already provided key observations in understanding the geology of Gale crater on Mars, and this manuscript provides useful summaries of the operational techniques used to enhance science return. However, the paper does not adequately support the conclusion that the camera design has maximized the science return, nor that increased spatial resolution would only marginally improve science return. Certainly the camera design is excellent, but the concluding statements should be revised or more discussion of design alternatives (their pros and cons) should be added to the manuscript.

More specific comments and suggested edits are included in the attached markup.

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Discussion paper

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Please also note the supplement to this comment:
http://www.geosci-instrum-method-data-syst-discuss.net/gi-2015-46/gi-2015-46-RC1-supplement.pdf

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Interactive comment on Geosci. Instrum. Method. Data Syst. Discuss., doi:10.5194/gi-2015-46, 2016.