

## MICROSCOPE status, mission definition and recent instrument development

#### P. Touboul

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"The ratio of the masses of two bodies is defined in two ways which differ from each other fundamentally,..., as the reciprocal ratio of the accelerations which the same motive force imparts to them (inert mass),..., as the ratio of the forces which act upon them in the same gravitational field (gravitational mass). The equality of these two masses, so differently defined, is a fact which is confirmed by experiments...

The possibility of explaining the numerical equality of inertia and gravitation by the unity of their nature, gives to the general theory of relativity, according to my conviction, such a superiority over the conception of classical mechanics..."

A. EINSTEIN The Meaning of Relativity, Princeton,



## THE MICROSCOPE MISSION

SELECTED IN CNES NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM with ESA COOPERATION

**CNES SMALL SATELLITE MISSION** 

ESA THRUSTERS

MISSION PROPOSED BY ONERA (Pi) & OCA (Co-Pi) with ZARM (Co-I)

Jan – April 2006 : Preliminary Design Review of the Instrument, the Satellite, the Mission (End of Phase B)

Launch expected in 09-10 depending on Feeps.

## Thanks

to Gilles Métris and his team (OCA), to Hans Dittus and his team (ZARM), to Jean Bernard Dubois and his team (CNES), to Davide Nicolini and his team (ESA) to GREX for scientific supports, exchanges and emulations

Activities supports and Funding from CNES and Institutes

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Courtesy CNES









## **Equivalence Principle**

- Quantum Theory, Standard Model Electromagnetism, Strong & Weak Nuclear Force
- Geometric Theory of Gravitation, GR
- → Super Symmetry requires new particles...
- → Super String Theory, Branes... requires new field...
- $\Rightarrow$  Galaxy rotation  $\rightarrow$  Dark matter ? 25%
- $\Rightarrow$  Universe Expansion acceleration  $\rightarrow$  Dark Energy ? 70%

Domain of validity for current theories to be always confirmed more accurately

#### Many proposed space experiments:

- Lorentz Invariance test :PHARAO, LATOR,...
- Post-Newtonian Parameters accurate determination : GPB, PHARAO,...
- Determination and observation of relativistic effects : GPB, LISA, ASTROD, ...
- Stability of 'Constants'

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$$\delta = \frac{m_{g2}}{m_{I2}} - \frac{m_{g1}}{m_{I1}}$$

Equivalence Principle Tests (by UFF test) directly verify a fundamental basis of our present Gravity knowledge & may confirm dilaton existence

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## A Mission concept relying on best current technologies and models



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## GOCE FM tests in lab. (Jul 06)







Noise FM03 Axis Z

**GOCE ESA mission :** 

• 6 Electrostatic accelerometers for the full tensor gravity gradiometer Tests on horizontally controlled table



## A Mission concept relying on best current technologies and models



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## A family of space accelerometers

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## A Mission concept relying on best current technologies and models



### CNES micro satellite



ONERA Accelerometer ZARM drop tower

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OCA Space Geodesy & Astrometry





## A Mission concept relying on best current technologies and models



### CNES micro satellite

OPE

**ESA FEEP** 



ONERA Accelerometer ZARM drop tower

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March

April

SCOPE

February



## **MICROSCOPE Test Principle**

- Earth : Gravity Source
- Two pairs of masses

made of different composition in free fall

- Test: Pt/Ti
- Reference : Pt/Pt
- Maintained on the same orbit (<10<sup>-11</sup>m) by electrostatic forces
  - → Test measurement
- •Low noise:

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- Long duration integration (>20 orbits)
   & numerous measures
- Drag compensated satellite
- Very clean thermal environment
- •EP violation signal well defined
  - •Phase: attitude wrt position in orbit
  - •Frequency:  $f_{orb} + f_{spin}$







## The Orbit



#### **Pointing**

•Inertial or rotating satellite : 2 spin freq. :  $(\pi + 1/2) f_{orb} \& (\pi + 3/2) f_{orb}$ •Finely controlled requiring Attitude Estimator from SST & Instrument data, up to a few 0.1 µrad : sensitive to S/C thermal behavior

#### **HELIOSYNCHRONOUS**

- Thermal stability
- Maxi power with less solar panels (stiff S/C : high frequency modes)
- No eclipse during measurement phase

#### **QUASI-CIRCULAR & POLAR**

• Eccentricity < 5.10<sup>-3</sup>

To limit Earth gravity gradient (Egg) @ f<sub>EP</sub>

• Known better than 5. 10<sup>-5</sup>

To correct measurements from Egg effects

#### Satellite altitude

• 730 or 790 km : Larger signal Less radiation (electronics) Higher f<sub>orb</sub> (to 1400 km : No eclipse, Less thermal disturbance)

•Position to be known from 7 m, 14 m to 100m (for Earth gravity gradient corrections)



## Electric Propulsion System : Baseline Configuration for the drag-free control





4 Electric Propulsion Subsystem Assembly, Cluster of 3 FEEP thrusters Cesium FEEP

=> Specific constraints & Electrostatic Discharge risk

- EPS total mass = 41 kg
- Average power ~100 W (@ 30 μN)
- *Maximum power* = 4 x 53 *W* = 212 *W*

EPS:	ESA
EPSA: PPCU: NA: PMD: LOM:	ALTA (prime) Galileo Avionica AAS Proel Astrium SAS Contraves Space

Drag free system specs :  $3.10^{-10}$  ms<sup>-2</sup>Hz<sup>-1/2</sup> along 3 axes  $10^{-12}$  ms<sup>-2</sup> @ f<sub>FP</sub>

## **Alternate Solutions**



#### Indium FEEP :

Interest:

- low interaction with water vapor
- tested

Drawbacks:

limited thrust (50  $\mu$ N)  $\Rightarrow$  clusters

⇒ weight and power very high for microsatellite



back-up with double solar panels

Proportional cold gas thruster :

Interest :

• relatively simple  $\Rightarrow$  reliability

 reduced power consumption 50 W (reduced solar panel area : x 0.6)
 <u>Drawbacks:</u> small lsp ⇒ mass increase : + 20kg



### **Instrument Description**

 2 identical instruments cores, Sensor Units (SU) =
 2 Electrostatic Differential Accelerometers Each = 2 Inertial sensors with two concentric masses

#### 2 identical Front End Electronics Units (FEEU)

- Low noise/ High stability Analog Electronics
- 2 X 6 electrostatic channels + measurements

#### 2 Interface Control Unit (ICU) stacked

- Digital Logics and Electronics 1 DSP + 2 FPGA
- Power Control Unit with very stable secondary voltages (+/-45V, +/-15V,+5V, + 3.3V)

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Control laws, S/C data bus interfaces

360 x 348 x 180 mm<sup>3</sup> x 20kg

274×171×90 mm<sup>3</sup> x 3.5kg x 2

255 x 200 x 110 mm<sup>3</sup> x 7kg

### **Sensor Head Technology**





SIO<sub>2</sub> material
Optical grinding
Ultrasonic machining
Gold coating by RF diode sputtering
Clean room integration
High vacuum housing and magnetic shielding
micrometer, arc second accuracies



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## Sensor Unit



#### Challenging new technology :

- Cylindrical Shapes (mass, electrodes)
- Accuracy of mass and electrode cylinder geometries
- -2 concentric sensors & Relative positioning and centering
- -Ultra-vacuum technology for connectors and gaskets
- Blocking mechanism
- -Integration procedures





## **Instrument Development**

Vibration tests for design assessment Integration process development

#### Lab model : Electronics

- Analog sensing and control
- 300 V to 800 V for 1g levitation



#### Lab model : Sensor core

• 1 test-mass in silica (15g)

Electrostatic control loop for coupling and stiffness assessment

2006





## **SU Prototype, production**

#### Integration procedures

- > 5µm diameter gold wires, implementation.
- Silica parts, positioning and alignment.
- Blocking forces, adequate.

#### Vibrations

- > Resonances identified at specific vibration frequencies (  $\approx$  700 Hz)
- Blocking mechanism compatible with the up- dated vibration levels

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Blocking mechanism tank successfully tested with over- pressure of 100bars



## **Front End Electronics Unit**

FEEU: accurate analog electronics functions

- test mass position sensing
- actuations
- reference voltages generation
- HK data measurement

#### Budget :

- Volume : 274×171×89.50 mm<sup>3</sup>
- Mass (EM) : 3.045 kg
- Power : 6.4 W







6 capacitive position sensors 5×10<sup>-19</sup> F/Hz<sup>1/2</sup>



6 pairs of Drive Voltage Amplifiers 2×10<sup>-7</sup> V/Hz<sup>1/2</sup>

-Re solution - H dat -Di wit drift

-Reference voltage sources (Vp, Vd) - Housekeeping data

-Digital interface with ICU (FPGA, drivers)<sub>R</sub> A

## **Performance drivers (1/3)**

$$\vec{\Gamma}_{app,k} \approx \frac{\vec{F}_{ng}}{M_{l}} + \frac{M_{g}}{M_{l}} \cdot \vec{g}(O_{sat}) - \frac{m_{gk}}{m_{k}} \cdot \vec{g}(O_{sat}) + ([T] - [In]) \cdot \overrightarrow{O_{k}O_{sat}} \qquad \text{sensor}$$

$$\vec{\Gamma}_{app,d} = 1/2 \cdot (\vec{\Gamma}_{app,1} - \vec{\Gamma}_{app,2}) \qquad \text{Differential sensor}$$

$$\text{Gravity gradient} \qquad \vec{\Gamma}_{app,d} \approx 1/2 \cdot (\delta \cdot \vec{g}(O_{sat}) + ([T] - [In]) \cdot \vec{\Delta})$$

$$\text{Instrument model} \qquad \vec{\Gamma}_{meask} \approx \vec{K}_{0,k} + M_{k} \cdot \vec{\Gamma}_{app,k} + \sum_{l=x,y,z} (u_{l} \cdot (K_{2} \cdot \vec{\Gamma}_{app,k}) \cdot u_{l}) \cdot u_{l} + \vec{\Gamma}_{n,k}$$

- S/C position tracking (Doppler) : < 23m, < 23m, 100m accuracy @ fep
- Attitude Control :
  - •Pointing : 10<sup>-3</sup> rad with variations
  - •Angular velocity variations
  - •Angular accelerations variations

< 24 µrad (inertiel) & 0.4 µrad (spin) @ fep

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- < 2.5 10<sup>-9</sup> rad/s (spin) @ fep
- < 2.3 10<sup>-11</sup> rad/s<sup>2</sup> (inertial)
- &1.5 10<sup>-11</sup> rad/s<sup>2</sup> (spin) @ fep

• Drag-Free Control : <  $3.10^{-10}$  ms<sup>-2</sup>Hz<sup>-1/2</sup> noise and <  $10^{-12}$  ms<sup>-2</sup> variations @ fep

Results from definitions and simulations presented at Cnes satellite PDR



Instrument characteristics and in-orbit calibration :

- Resolution : < 10<sup>-12</sup>ms<sup>-2</sup>Hz<sup>-1/2</sup> and 10<sup>-9</sup>rads<sup>-2</sup>Hz<sup>-1/2</sup>
- Stability of sensitivity : < 6.8 10<sup>-8</sup> sine (FEEU thermal effect) and 1.2 10<sup>-5</sup> Hz<sup>-1/2</sup> @ fep
- SF matching : < 1.5  $10^{-4}$ with stability : < 0.3  $10^{-8}$  sine (SU thermal effect) and 3.10<sup>-6</sup> Hz<sup>-1/2</sup> @ fep
- Alignment matching : < 5.10<sup>-5</sup> rad
  - with stability : <1.5 10<sup>-9</sup> rad sine (SU thermal effect) and 3.10<sup>-7</sup> rad Hz<sup>-1/2</sup> @ fep

Results from instrument & satellite definitions and simulations presented during instrument & mission PDR

## **Performance drivers (3/3)**

#### **Experiment Environment**

**Magnetic :** 

- •< 10<sup>-4</sup>Am<sup>2</sup> variations @ fep to 0.3 m
- •Test-mass magnetic susceptibility :

 $X_{P \ t \ alloy} = 2.8 \ 10^{-4}$ ;  $X_{Ti \ alloy} = 7.1 \ 10^{-5}$ 

•Shield from magnetic field and gradients, Obtained through Supranister case & INVAR SU tight housing (Tests realized in CNES and in ONERA lab.)

#### **Self-gravity :**

- •Variations of the self-gravity gradient specified < 10<sup>-11</sup>s<sup>-2</sup>
- •Thermo-mechanics Finite Element Models
- + Temperature fluctuations → 10 less gradients on the masses

#### **Thermal accommodation :**

- •1mK @ fep on SU at the unit interface
- •10mK/m @ fep on SU at the unit interface
- •10 mK @ fep on FEEU at the unit interface
- •1 K @ fep on ICU at the unit interface



Magnetic property characterized in Cnes lab



## Specific double insulation Payload Case for integration in the satellite



Thermal stability of SU & FEEU with passive insulation and anti-Sun radiator





CNES Thermal model being integrated before tests

## **Instrument Thermal Model**



From interface Temperature to relevant Temperature : Photons/Molecules therrmalized on gold coated silica surrounding masses Temperature filtered out @  $f_{EP}$  by a factor 5



### **Temperature fluctuation Impact (SU)**

**Radiation pressure :** < 3.2 10<sup>-16</sup> ms<sup>-2</sup> (worst case<sup>\*</sup> @ fep)

Difference of forces exerted on each test-mass by photons pressure when temperature difference varies on each side in regards to mass  $(\Delta T_{si})$ 

**Radiometer effect : < 2.2 10<sup>-16</sup> ms<sup>-2</sup> (worst case<sup>\*</sup> @ fep)** 

Difference of forces exerted on each test-mass by residual gas pressure Pg when temperature difference varies on each side in regards to mass ( $\Delta T_{si}$ )

#### **Outgassing :** < 2.5 10<sup>-17</sup> ms<sup>-2</sup> (worst case<sup>\*</sup> @ fep)

Difference of forces exerted on each test-mass by variation of gaz pressure  $\Delta Pg$  induced by the outgassing of the gold coated silica parts

 $\Delta P_g \propto \frac{\Delta \text{grad} T_{\text{Si}}}{T^2} \qquad \left| \Gamma_n = \frac{1}{m} \Delta P_g S \right|$ 

#### **Gold Wire stiffness** : thermal stability < 1.7 10<sup>-15</sup>ms<sup>-2</sup> (worst case @ fep)

Electrical link between mass and Voltage Reference :  $5\mu m \phi$  wire when temperature varies, Young Modulus varies

*Worst case \*: lower density mass & inertial pointing (lower f<sub>EP</sub>, thus less thermal filtering)* 

#### ep) sidual aas pressure Pa w

$$\Gamma_{n} = \frac{1}{m} \left( P_{g} \frac{\Delta T_{Si}}{T} \right) S$$

$$\Gamma_{n} = \frac{1}{m} k_{\text{wire}} x_{0} \left( \frac{1}{E} \frac{\partial E}{\partial T} \right) \Delta T_{\text{Si}}$$

$$O \text{ N E R A}$$





## FEEU THERMAL VACUUM TESTS



factor 2 expected

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**Temperature Fluctuation Impact :major effects** 

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#### **Electrostatic stiffness & bias force :**

Thermal stability < 1.8  $10^{-15}$  + 1.10<sup>-15</sup> ms<sup>-2</sup> (worst case @ fep)

 Bias due to geometrical dissymetry (Cylindricity, electrode geometry,...) or to electrical dissymmetry (capacitive sensor position offset A<sub>CSoffset</sub>, ...)

$$\Delta Bias \approx A_{geometry} \left[ \frac{\Delta_{cylind}}{gap} \right] \frac{\partial \left( V_p^2 + V_d^2 \right)}{\partial T} \Delta T_{FEEU}$$

$$\Delta Bias \approx \left(\frac{\partial \omega_{elec}^2}{\partial T}\right) \Delta T_{FEEU} \Delta_{CSoffset}$$
Electrosta tic  
stiffness variation s

#### Scale factor stability :

 $< 6.5 \ 10^{-6} \ {\rm K}^{-1}$  , effect depending on S/C drag compensation system performance

- Due to Vp stability (40 $\mu$ V/K) and to ADC reference source stability (30 $\mu$ V/K)
- Interest of thermal insulation of these circuits wrt unit interface
- Interest of regulated power line and steady power consumption

Thermal variations mainly due to Reference Voltage source : being improved by an expected factor 4 with up-dated components

$$\left(\frac{\partial V_p}{\partial T}\right) = 40\,\mu\,V\,/\,K$$

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## **Mission Performances :**

### Rotating satellite session : $f_{EP} = (\Pi + 3/2) f_{orb} \sim 8 \cdot 10^4 Hz$



|--|

- •Bias : 18, noise : 17, sf : 1
- Temperature sensitivity : 30 + 3 ; thermal gradient sensitivity : 3
- •Magnetism : 2

Major terms

Random	ms <sup>-2</sup> /Hz <sup>1/2</sup>	
Coriolis (differential mode)	5.12 E-13	Invar thermal fluctuations
PM Motion (differential mode)	3.11 E-13	Positioning Instabilities
Accelerometer measurement noise	1.34 E-12	Mass Damping
Bias sensitivity to thermal gradient variation	3.75 E-13	Radiation & Radiometer

Tone @ fep	ms <sup>-2</sup>	
Coriolis (differential mode)	1.71 E-15	Invar thermal fluctuations
PM motion (differential mode)	1.04 E-15	Positioning Instabilities
PM position (differential mode)	8.68 E-16	[T–Ω <sup>2</sup> ]
Bias sensitivity to thermal gradient variation	1.25 E-15	Radiation & Radiometer

#### Budget

Total random errors :  $B = 1.6 \ 10^{-12} \ ms^{-2}/Hz^{-1/2}$ integration duration :  $T_i = 20$  orbits @ h = 730 km4 major tone errors :  $D = 4.9 \ 10^{-15} \ ms^{-2}$  $(D = 2.5 \ 10^{-15} \ ms^{-2} \ with quad. sum)$ 

$$\eta = \frac{\sqrt{D^2 + \frac{B^2}{T_i}}}{g(H)} = 0.9 \times 10^{-15}$$

Value compatible with the specification :  $1 \times 10^{-15}$  per session At least 50 sessions during the 1 year mission ONERA

## Conclusion



Payload & Satellite definition achieved PDRs conclude with no mission stopping items

but 6-12 months needed more to assess FEEP or other solution, Instrument :

SU definition can be still optimized :

for resistance to vibration : according to selected launcher requirements for thermal stability : SU Temp. gradient can be improved & ref. voltage source can be more thermally insulated

Error analysis to be completed with experimental results and correlation analysis

#### End 2006 : Payload key point before QM production

2007 : QM production & tests 2008 : FM production & tests 2009 : FM qualification & delivery

*End 2006 : Mission Performance key point* Mid 07 : Propulsion System Review 2007, 2009 : satellite development

#### Launch date : 2009-2010 depending on Propulsion System delivery





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