

The Integral Mission

Peter Kretschmar 40th Saas-Fee Course Les Diablerets 18 March 2010

Talk overview



> Why do we do Gamma-ray astronomy?

Integral the Mission

- History
- Instrument overview
- Coded Mask imaging
- Ground Segment
- AO process and timeline for AO-8
- Proposal types and data rights
- Science with Integral

The future

Why a Gamma-Ray Observatory?





Beyond X-rays: new sources; HE processes; accretion physics; cosmic HE background; GRBs; ...

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Seeing more of the universe



- Observing at higher energies in broad band is essential to understand certain sources.
- Different physical mechanisms can be studied.
- ➤ Heavily enshrouded sources
 become visible in hard X-rays
 → hidden sources found.





Understanding our origins



Observing gamma-ray lines tells us about nucleosynthesis, the creation of the elements in our universe.



Some Integral history



- Fall 1989: Mission proposed to ESA by European and US scientists.
- > **1991:** Endorsed for Phase A study.
- June 1993: Selected as medium-size mission with 4 instruments.
- Shortly afterwards: US and UK withdraw support for main instruments!
 - Complete re-organisation of effort.
- May 1995: Selection of instruments with new organisation.
- **1996:** Ground Segment built up. ISDC installed in Versoix. ISOC set up at ESTEC.
- ... years of development and testing ...













17 October 2002 - LAUNCH!





- Picture-perfect launch with Proton rocket from Baikonur.
- Eccentric 3-day orbit to stay largely out of radiation belts and to allow long observations.
- Spacecraft and instruments working fine from start.
- Full ground segment working from day 1.











European Space Agency

Integral in flight



- **IBIS**: accurate point source imaging. 9°×9° FCFOV. 15 keV – 10 MeV.
- SPI: fine spectroscopy of narrow lines & diffuse emission. 16° FCFOV.
 20 keV to 8 MeV.
- **JEM-X**: X-ray monitor. 5° FOV. 3-35 keV.
- > **OMC**: V-band optical monitor. 5°×5° FOV.





'Seeing' with Coded Masks

- Photons above ~15 keV cannot yet be focused. Other imaging techniques (Compton scattering, tracks) require even higher energies.
 - "Coded Masks" for Integral high energy instruments
 - Drawbacks:
 - \otimes Fills detector plane for a point source \Rightarrow entangled sources!
 - Background relevant in whole detector!

> Advantage:

- $\ensuremath{\textcircled{\circ}}$ Wide fields of view and very good angular resolution.
- ☺ Best energy resolution.





IBIS off-axis shadowgram



SPI mask & detector







European Space Agency

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Coded Mask Image Reconstruction





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A wide-angle view of the sky





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Integral Ground Segment



- Three centres to manage satellite
- ISOC organizes calls for proposals, manages proposals from scientific community and creates observation plan (long- and short-term).
- MOC controls satellite according to planning, receives telemetry via ground stations and monitors satellite & instrument health.
- ISDC receives telemetry, processes the data, monitors instruments, does quicklook analysis and distributes data to users.
- In addition, the four instrument teams continue to be tightly involved for instrument monitoring, calibration & software development.



Sharing time



- At the beginning a fraction of the Integral time was reserved for the instrument teams. Since 2009 all data are open to the scientific community.
- As compensation for the launcher, the Russian community has a guaranteed return of 25% of the Integral time.
- Successful observing proposals have data rights for 1 year, afterwards all data become public. Some observations are immediately public.
- In AO-4 (2006/2007) Key Programmes were introduced: large observing programmes where secondary sources could be attributed to data right proposals.
- Since AO-7 (Oct 2009 Dec 2010) all normal (non ToO) observing proposals are being shared in this way. PIs of observing proposals have data rights to specific sources in field, others are open for proposals.



Two-stage proposal submission per AO





Observing proposal



Approved observing programme

PKS 1329-049



203.0186 - 5.1620 Bianchin

Documentation, exposure maps, ...



0730057 0720003 0720006

AO-8 sequence of events



- > **15 March 2010:** Call for observing proposals
- > 23 April 2010: Deadline for observing proposal submission
- > **1-3 June 2010:** TAC Meeting observing proposals
- > **30 August 2010:** Call for data right proposals
- > 8 October 2010: Deadline for data right proposals
- > mid Nov 2010: TAC (virtual) meetings on data right proposals
- > **1 January 2011:** Start of AO-8 observations



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Proposal types and data rights



Normal proposals & key programmes (stage 1):

- Define region to be observed and observing strategy.
- Main data rights reserved for PI & CoIs for 1 year.
- Secondary sources can be shared by data right proposals.
- > Targets of Opportunity (ToO) proposals submitted in AO call (stage 1):
 - Define trigger conditions, region(s) and observing strategy.
 - All data rights reserved for PI & CoIs for 1 year.

> GRB in FOV (stage 1):

- No dedicated follow-up observations, data right assignment only.
- Data right proposals (stage 2):
 - Define sources and accepted programmes to share.
 - Specific data rights reserved for PI & CoIs for 1 year.

Science with Integral





- Very wide range of scientific topics, e.g., massive stars, galactic compact objects, diffuse emission in the galaxy (nucleosynthesis), AGN, cosmic background, ...
- > Selected science presented later.

Covering the sky





IBIS-ISGRI all-sky survey



- 4th ISGRI catalogue:
 723 sources, >300 more than in 3rd version.
- ~30% not yet identified: AGN? LMXB?
- AGN share increasing strongly, related to sky coverage.





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The future

- Spacecraft, instruments and ground segment are all operating very well. Consumables for >15 years operations.
- ➢ Perigee altitude dropping quickly: ~6000 km end 2009. Predicted minimum ~3000 km in 2011 → Passing through proton belts.
- Approved rolling 4-year mission extension up to end 2012, but need confirmation for 2011/12.
- > Further extensions will need to be very well justified.
- > Extension request is being prepared, MEOR on 1 July.
- SPC decision on confirmation 2011/2012 and further extension to be taken in November.









Bonus Track: Galactic Bulge - The Movie





Kuulkers, 2009