

Planck unveils the Cosmic Microwave Background



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Lessons Learned from Planck

Jan Tauber Leiden Observatory International Conference

CMB@60

Accademia delle Scienze di Torino 28-30 May 2025

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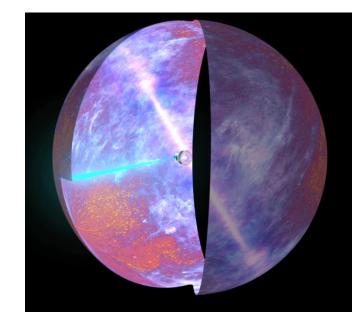


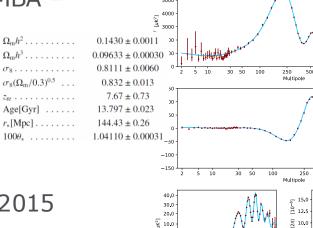


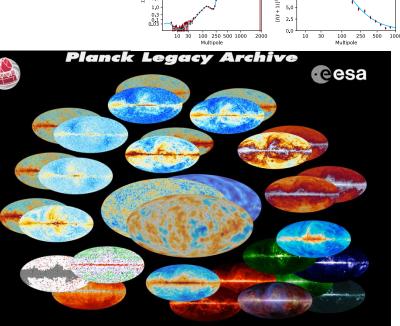
Planck - overview



- First proposals COBRAS & SAMBA in 1993
- Start of Planck in 1996
- Launch in May 2009
- Operations Aug 2009- Oct 2013
- First data release March 2013
- Second data release Feb July 2015
- Legacy data release: 2018-2020









Planck payload: 1990's technology





Lessons learned from a space mission ?



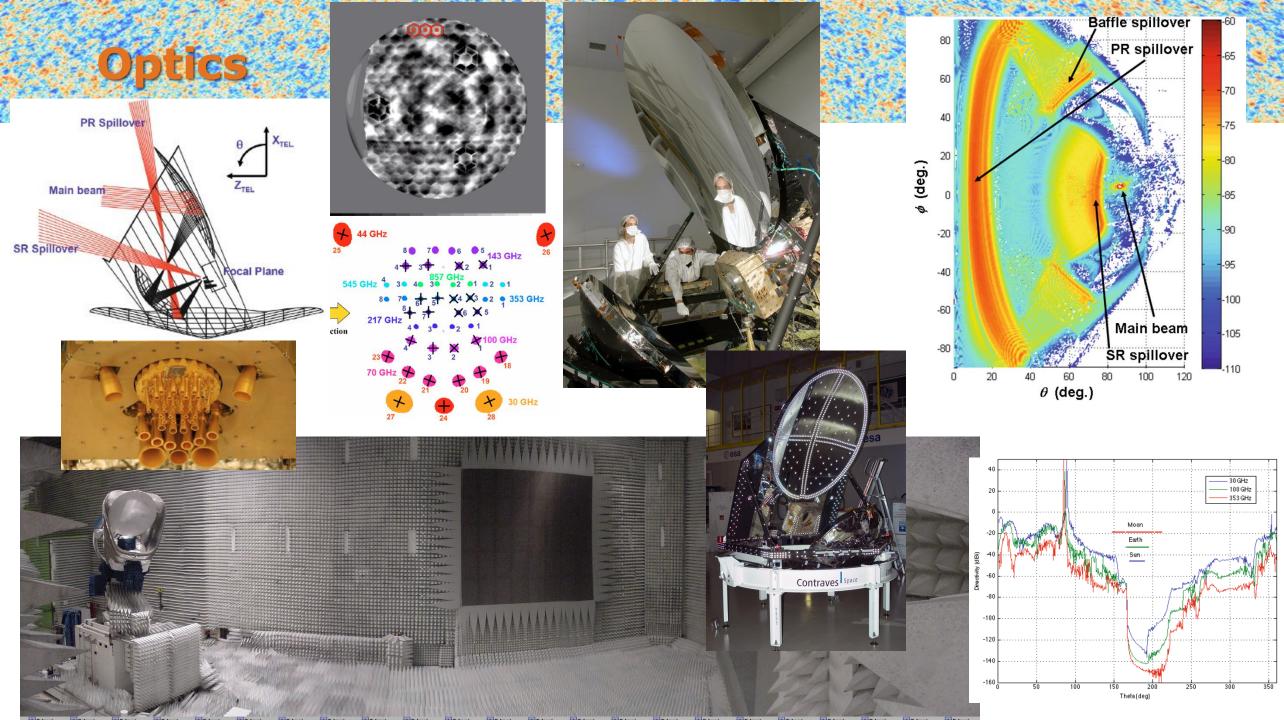
https://www.cosmos.esa.int/web/planck/lessons-learned

- Payload: 1990's technology
 - Cryogenic Focal plane <100 detectors
 - Cryogenic CFRP telescope
 - Bespoke 4-stage cooling system
- Operations
- Data processing
- Scientific analysis
- Management approach

Particularities of space science:

- High risk aversion
- Very long timeline
- Intricate relations between funding agencies, industry, and science
- Very large international scientific collaboration
 Prepared by Jan Tauber SCI-S/2016.236/Jt SCI-S/2016.236/Jt SCI-S/2016.236/Jt SCI-S/2016.236/Jt





Optics Lessons Learned



- Extremely challenging requirements, performance, knowledge
 - Different quality metrics: engineering data processing science analysis
- Demonstrate performance
 - Modelling
 - Language (radio/ir/optical; science/eng)
 - Coordinate systems polarization
 - Including all elements in the optical chain
 - Tools require engineering expertise (GRASP, Code V, ASAP, Zemax, ...)
 - Computing power: never enough
 - Extrapolation
 - How much is really needed ?
 - Assessing uncertainties
 - Ground measurement
 - reproducing the flight situation (cryogenic testing) impossible
 - Combining modelling with ground testing data: requires engineering/physics understanding
- Understand the uncertainties towards the actual in-flight performance
 - Estimation uncertainties
 - Operational aspects, e.g. scanning, pointing

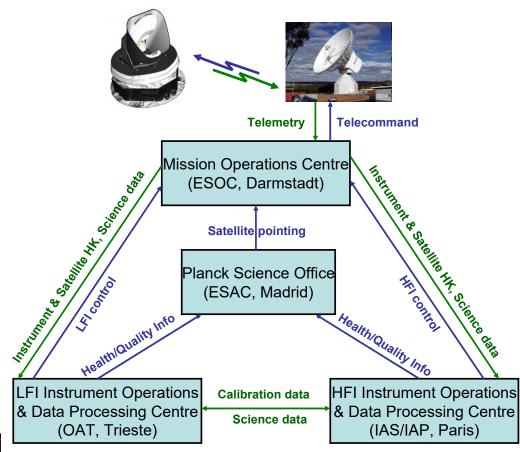
Optics Lessons Learned



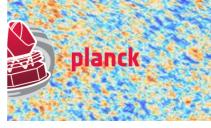
- Flight performance estimation will result from a combination of modelling and ground testing
 - A single team to oversee this system-level effort from Day 1
- Develop the means to measure the performance in flight and use this knowledge in the data processing and scientific analysis
 - Dedicated measurements are likely needed

Operations





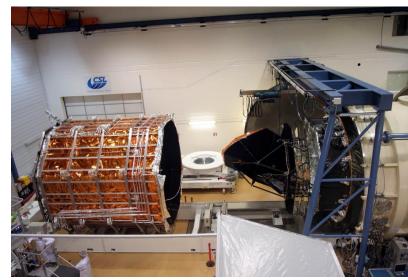




 Autonomous ops

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- Initially planned for two all-sky surveys
- Goal: maintain instrument stability



Operations Lessons Learned



- Operations start long before launch
 - "smooth transition between phases"
 - Ground testing teams transition to flight operations teams
 - Tools, procedures, and data transition from Ground to Space systems
- Survey ops = simple ops ?
 - Decentralized teams means lots of interfaces
 - Formal vs informal interfaces (file vs human)
 - Performance verification in space can be quite complex
 - Payload and satellite intricately intertwined
 - Contingency planning can be a system driver
 - simpler to plan for longer ops ?
 - Survey ops *not necessarily simple* ops !



- Ground testing is key preparation for flight operations
 - Spend as long as possible on system-level ground ops
 - Ensure the ground testing tools and teams transition "smoothly" into flight ops
- Formal interfaces are often cumbersome but important
- the **human** interfaces have to work well
- Plan well in advance for all kinds of operations (perfo verif, contingency,...)



- Where many entities and teams are involved, information has to be closely managed
 - Formal systems are needed to record status and uncover problems: meetings, reporting, reviewing, etc – based on *documents*
 - Informal systems are used for short-time-scale exchange of info: human, meetings, email, wiki, etc
- A good balance has to be found to ensure no useful information is lost
- A system to manage documentation must be implemented which allows information to be found !
 - Widely accepted and used
 - Widely available secrecy must be minimal

Data management



- Useful data is being generated long before operations begin
- It must remain available throughout the life of the mission
 - A common Archive should be developed which is used by all parties from an early time
- "Understanding the data" is fundamental to doing good science
 - Scientific analysis is an integral part of understanding
- (Internal & External) Science data products must be well defined, documented and produced on a clear schedule known to all parties
 - As data processing advances, the data processing cycle becomes very long
 - Detailed documentation of all iterations is needed

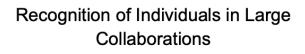
Information and Data management Lessons Learned



- Information and Data exchanges, storage, and distribution must be actively managed from an early time
 - This requires significant dedicated effort

Péople management

- This is the hardest problem of all !
- Experiments like Planck are made up of a huge number of semiindependent teams of people with widely varying objectives, expertises, timelines, obligations, needs, wishes, and expectations
- Some kind of hierarchy of decision making is needed to manage this
 - Usually this is determined by top-level formal relationships ("contractual" & financial obligations)
 - Must be streamlined yet effective
- Success in people management is critical to mission success
 - Obligation to cater to the needs of young scientists
- As for Info & Data management, People management requires a lot of dedicated effort



planck

Summary Report 12-05-2022

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> Astroparticle Physics European Consortium https://www.appec.org



