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DARE Science Instrument


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 Institute of Technology*

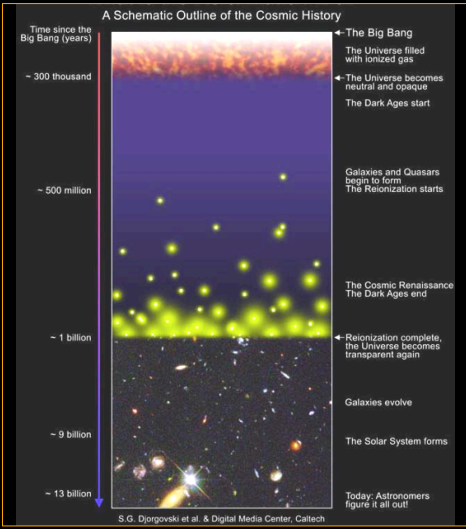
*On behalf of DARE Science Instrument
 team*



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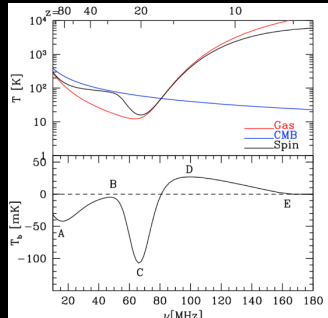
DARE Science Objective






S.G. Djorgovski et al. & Digital Media Center, Caltech


Determine the nature of and epoch of formation for the first luminous sources in the Universe






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Science Traceability Matrix




1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Science Goals	Science Objectives	Observable	Physical parameters	Instrument Functional Requirements	Projected Performance	Mission Functional Requirements (Flag Level)					
		Frequency of onset of rebrightened 21-cm absorption trough	Redshift at which first luminous sources produce a significant Lyman-alpha background	Frequency range	40-120 MHz	40-120 MHz	Orbit around Moon				
		Slope of decaying rebrightened 21-cm absorption trough	Rate at which first stars produce Lyman-alpha photons	Spectral resolution	500 kHz	100 kHz					
		Frequency of the turning point of the maximum absorption of the rebrightened 21-cm line	Redshift at which heating of intergalactic medium becomes significant	Temporal resolution	1 s	1 s	Lifetime = 3 yr				
		Amplitude of maximum absorption in rebrightened 21-cm signal		temporal stability	< 0.5 dB gain variations over 30 min.						
				sensitivity	0.5 mK after 0.5 hr required integration time		Orientation of the spectral lines to at least 1 degree				
		Slope of rebrightened 21-cm background signal at higher frequencies than absorption trough	Rate of heating of the intergalactic medium	selective attenuation of cosmic temperature	T_{21} 3 dB greater than any other contribution to T_{21}						
	Understand the origin and density of the Universe	Determine the nature of and epoch of formation for the first luminous sources in the Universe		interference pattern	Only a single primary lobe over the required frequency range	Only a single primary lobe over the required frequency range					
		Frequency of the turning point at the maximum of the 21-cm signal	Redshift at which gas temperature is much greater than that of the cosmic microwave background, $T_{21} \gg T_{\text{CMB}}$	beam/beam illumination	known to at least 10% for each spectral channel						
				frequency purity	no spurious artifacts exceeding 0.5 mK in a 500 kHz spectral channel						
		Slope of declining emission in 21-cm background	Rate at which the ionizing background increases	being a 3rd-order polynomial to the spectrum	beam resolution no larger than 1 mK during an observation of a 2000 K						



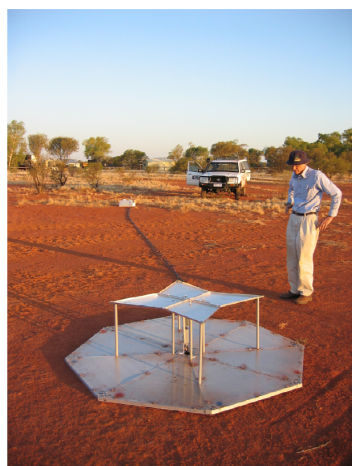
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Heritage

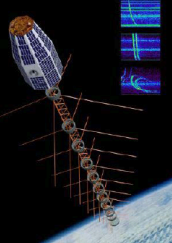


Ground

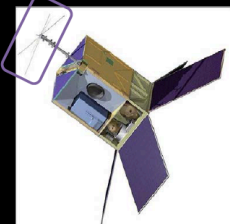
The Experiment to Detect the Global EOR Signature (EDGES)



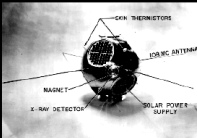
Space




FORTE satellite (LANL)



STPSat-1/CITRIS (NRL)




SOLRAD/GRAB (NRL)

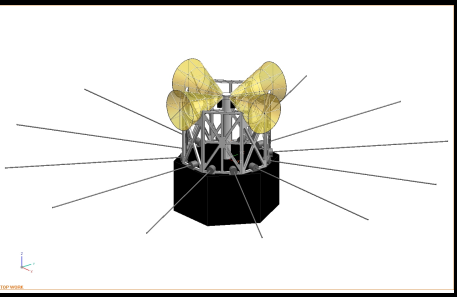



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Science Instrument



- Broadband RF spectrometer
- Important to design as integrated whole, *but* ...
- Illustrate RF signal flow by considering sub-systems
 - Antenna
 - Receiver
 - Digital Spectrometer






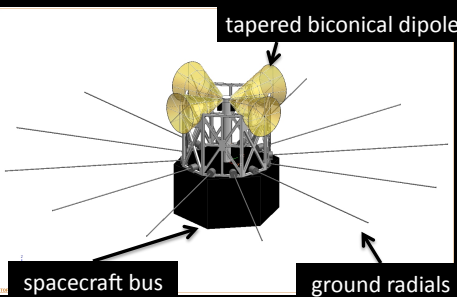
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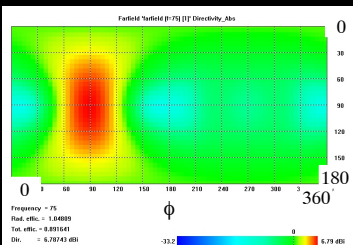
Science Instrument


Antenna




- Tapered biconical dipole topology
 - Low-mass, compact design to cover the frequency range
 - Other topologies would be large, probably requiring deployment
 - E.g., log-periodic
 - Constructed from an internal wire frame covered with knitted gold-plated wire mesh used on deployable communication antennas
 - Dielectric support structure is an Astroquartz/Kevlar fiber and cyanate ester resin composite
 - good thermal stability
 - low RF loss
 - coated by a high resistivity Ge coating to bleed off any solar wind induced charge
- Ground radials improve forward gain
 - Effective as a solid ground plane
 - Far easier to deploy, with demonstrated history
 - 12 radial extensions formed by deployable beryllium copper antenna elements







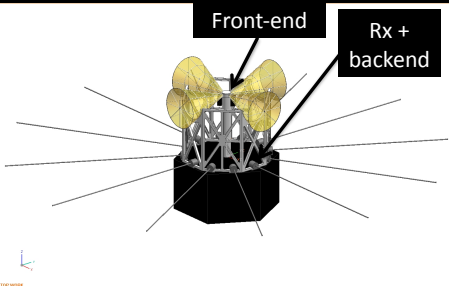
Science Instrument Receiver




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Designs considered

- Single-ended design, with cascaded amplifiers
 - Provides a poor match to the Science Antenna
- Ferrite isolator
 - physically large, may not operate over the entire frequency range
- Balanced design
 - Minimizes the reflection to the Science Antenna
- Balun
 - Uses active elements near the Science Antenna to match its impedance variations
 - considerable ground heritage, but, on a spacecraft, has thermal considerations
- Active isolator
 - Requires an additional ± 12 VDC and qualification of a second amplifier
- Current Feedback Amplifiers
 - Requires qualification of a second amplifier



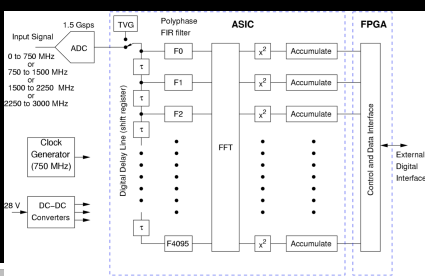


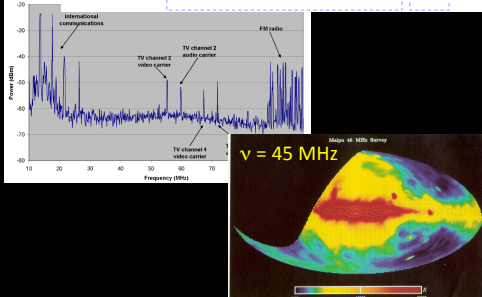
Science Instrument Digital Spectrometer




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- 40-120 MHz with 10 kHz spectral resolution \rightarrow 8k point spectrum
Cf. GUPPI = 4k spectrum over 800 MHz
- Basic design = ADC + polyphase spectrometer
 - Several rad-hard ADCs available
 - Rad-hard Xilinx and Actel FPGAs available
- Data compression not an option
- High bit depth not needed
- Limiting factor is downlink data rate






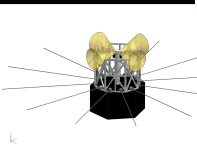
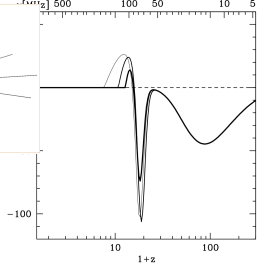


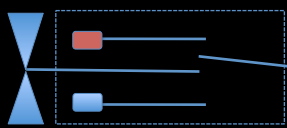
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Calibration

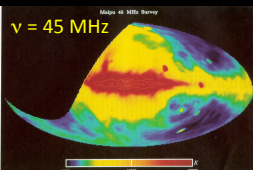



- Based on proven ground-based techniques, viz. EDGES
- Absolute calibration less important than relative spectral calibration
- 3-input switching allows power from antenna to be determined
- Variation of sky temperature also allows antenna to be calibrated




3-input system





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Summary: Science Instrument



- Science requirement dictates broadband RF spectrometer
- Design draws on long ground- and space-heritage
- Implementation at high TRL
- Ready to begin building!

