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iXblue

Quantum systems for positioning and inertial navigation

LP2N
Institut d'Optique d'Aquitaine
33400 TALENCE.



CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

iXblue in France

750+ employees



135M€+ turnover



Founded in 2000



9 industrial sites



100% R&D and Production in France

Lannion
Specialty Fibers
Accelerometers
Navigation

Brest
Underwater Acoustic Positioning

Talence
Cold quantum
Quantum

Pessac
Gravimeters
Space optics

Bonneuil-sur-Marne
Motion Simulators & Stabilized platforms

Saint-Germain-en-Laye
Headquarters
Navigation

Besançon
Integrated Optics

Six-Fours-Les-Plages
Artificial Intelligence
Robotics

La Ciotat
Sonars
Sea Operations
Shipyard

μQUANS
Recent acquisition

✓ Cold atoms in Bordeaux

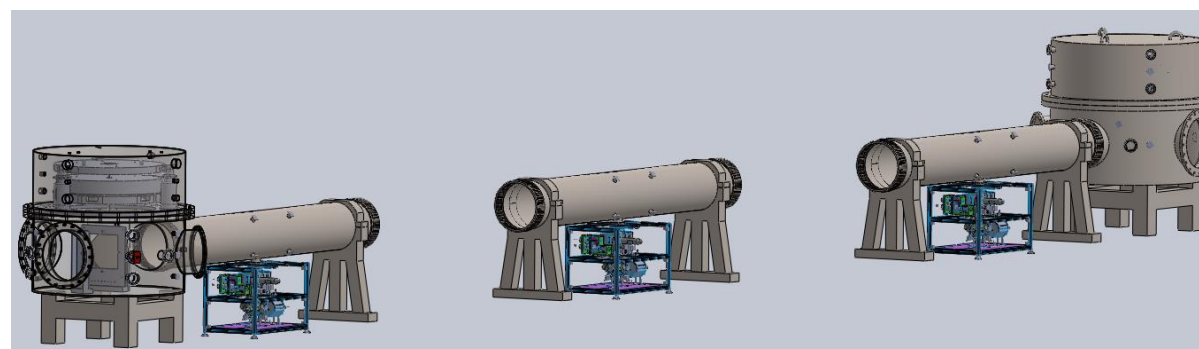
✓ Key words:

⇒ Matter waves

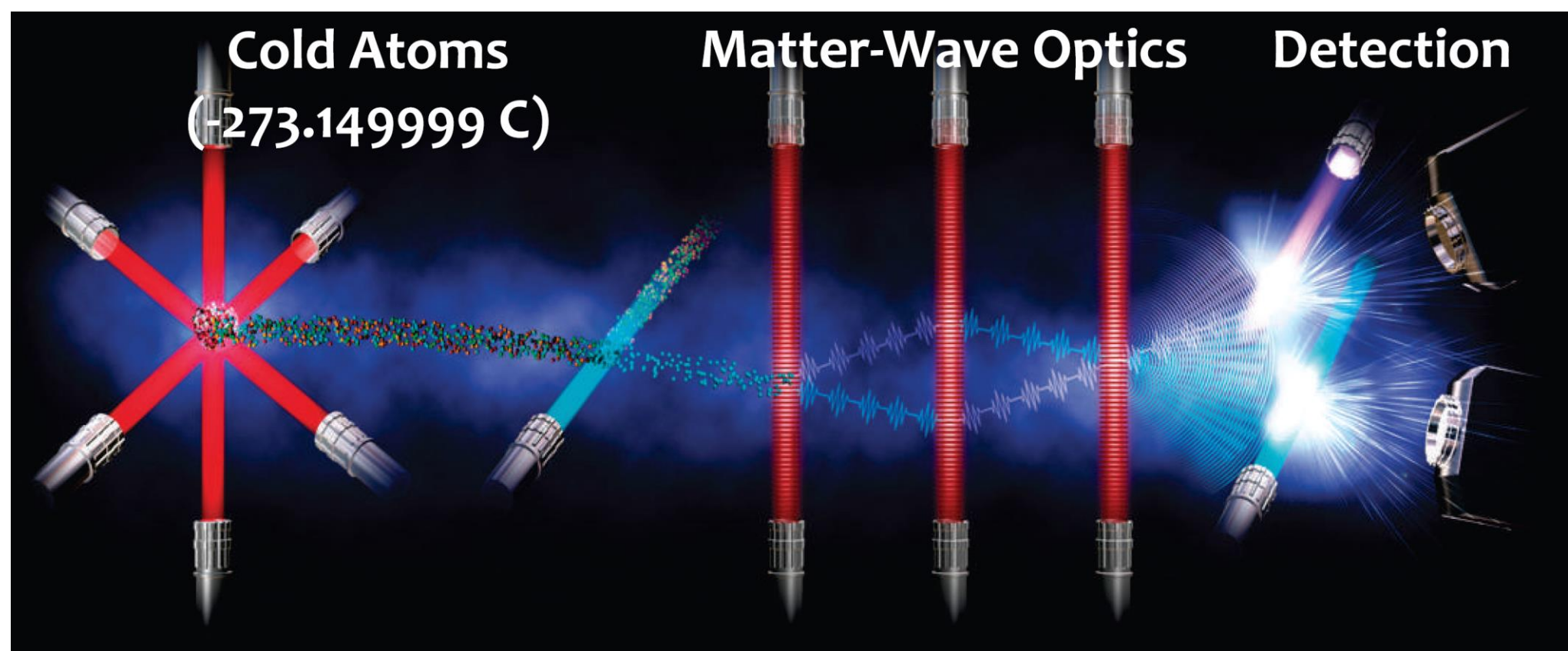
⇒ Cold atom interferometry

⇒ Quantum simulation

⇒ Quantum metrology

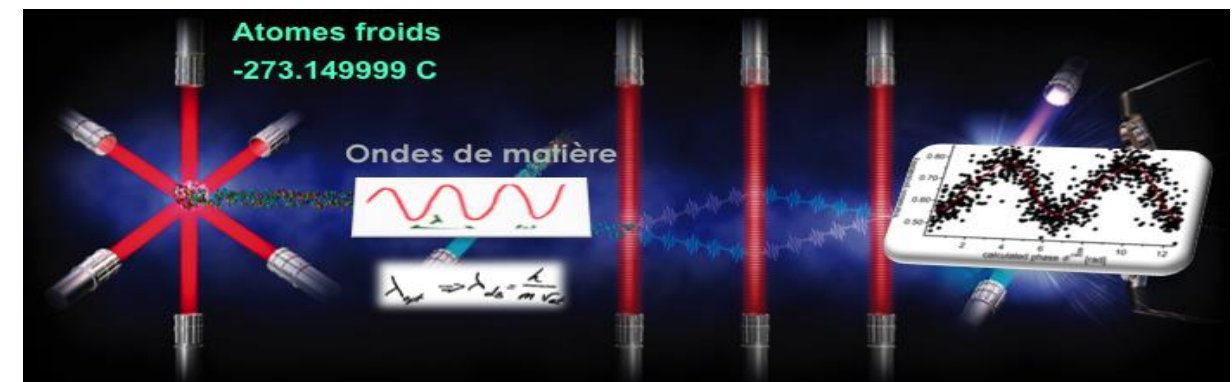


- Cold atoms ($T \sim \mu\text{K}$) are free-falling under vacuum.
- Acceleration is measured by imprinting the phase of a laser on the atomic wavepackets at 3 different times.

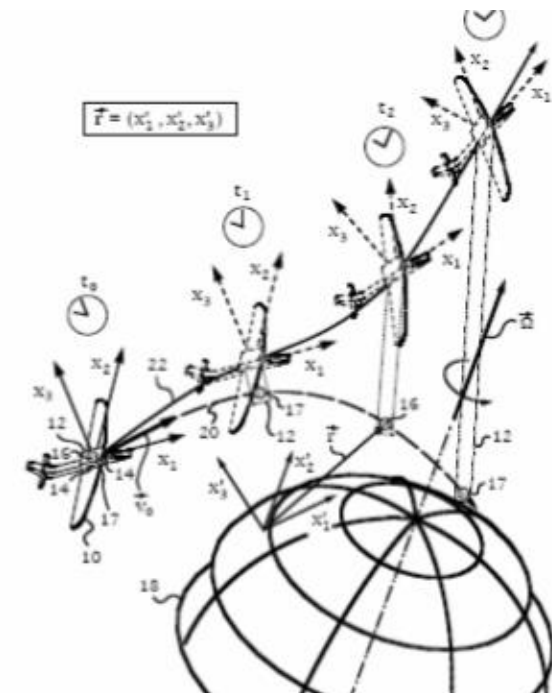


- ✓ Cold atoms: high sensitivity, high accuracy, high stability
- ✓ Joint Laboratory (Inertial Quantum Sensors for Position and Navigation)

➤ Institut d'Optique: atom interferometry

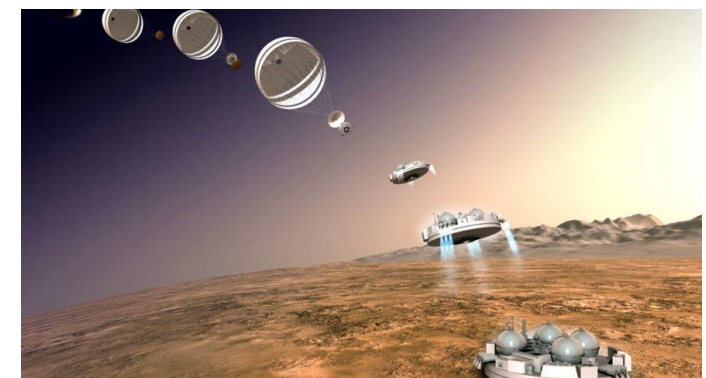
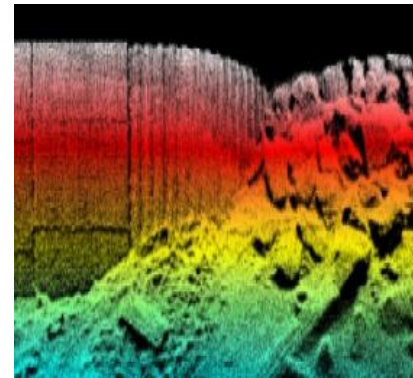


➤ iXBlue: optical gyroscopes, photonics and inertial navigation



Applications

- Land and sea mapping
- Space
- Geophysics survey
- Defense
- Autonomous vehicle



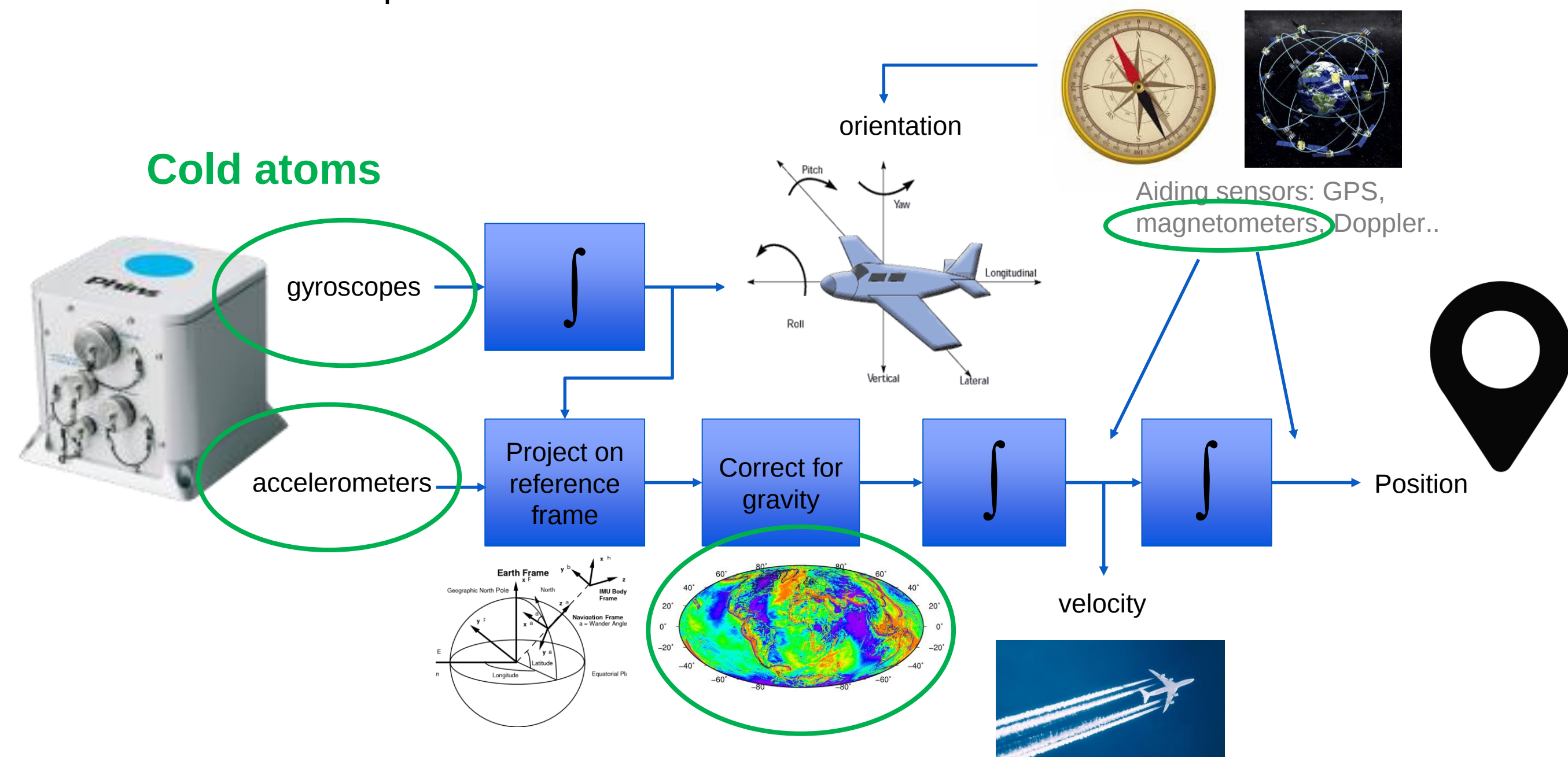
Advantages

- Autonomous system
- Higher resolution than GNSS
- Orientation and velocity information

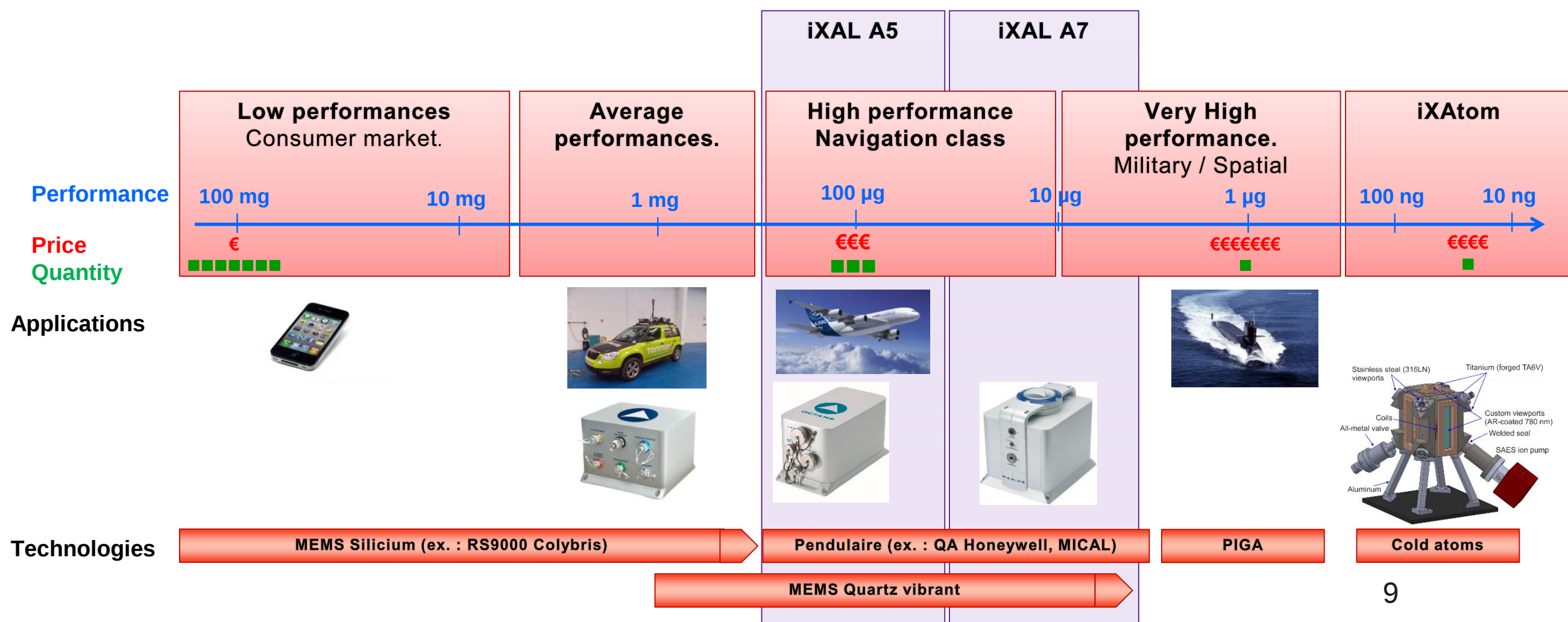


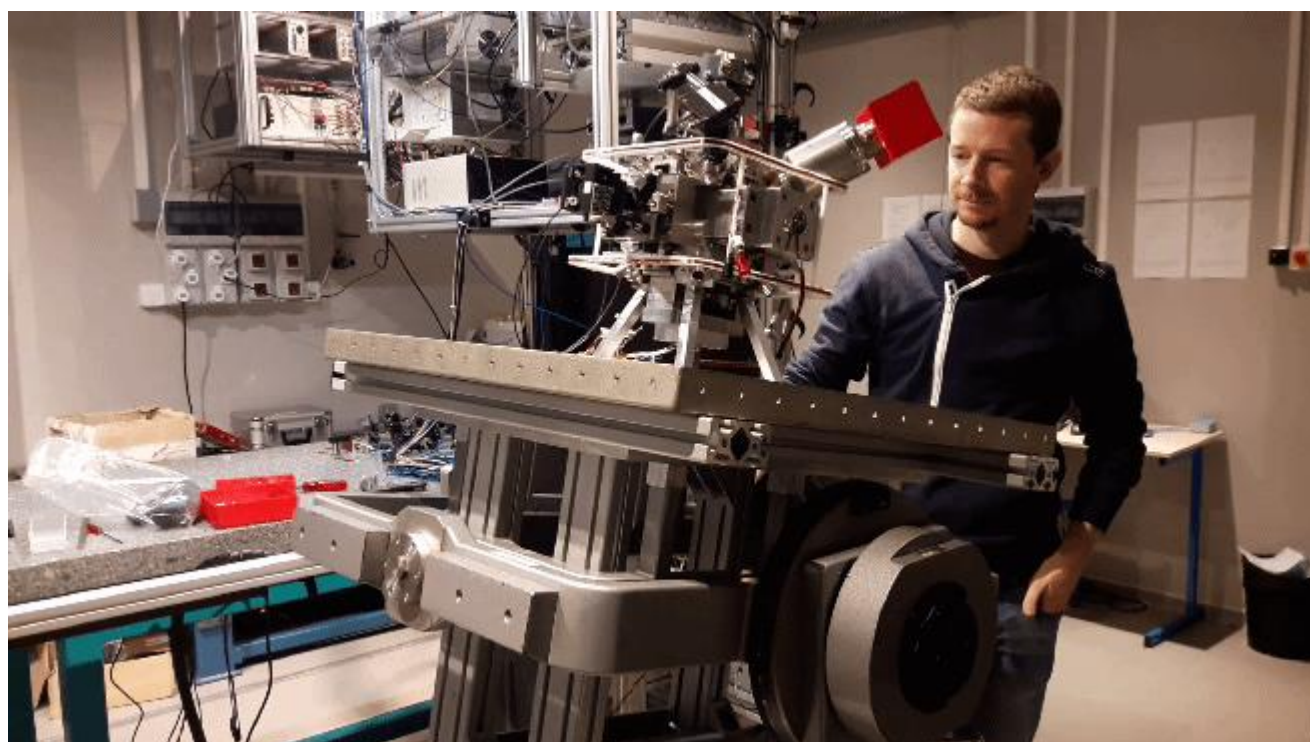
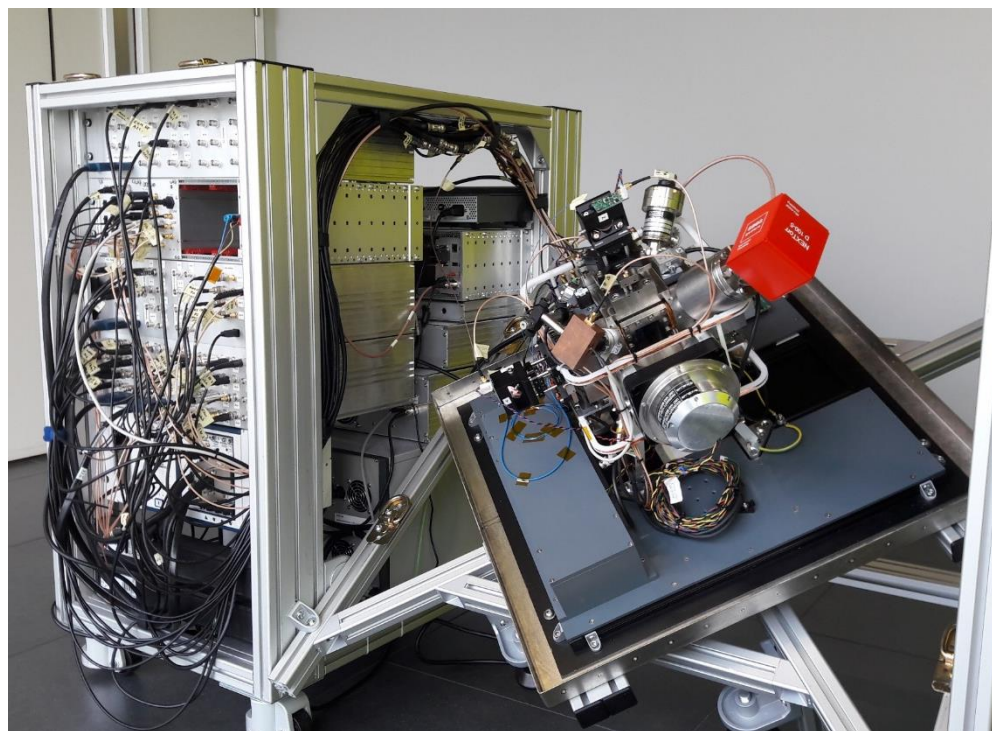
- Autonomous and quiet

Cold atoms



- Long term goal: “GNSS-free” navigation
- Bias free accelerometer
- Ultra high performance



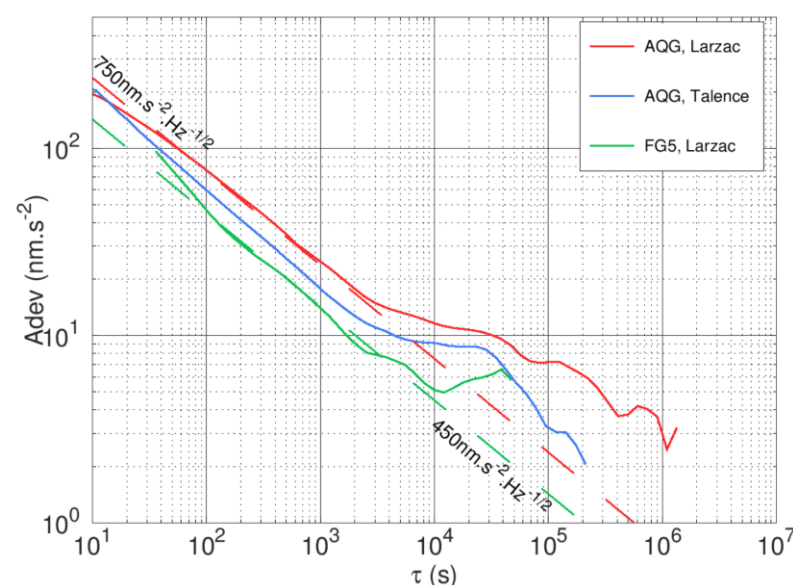


Ideal platform to tackle three main challenges of strapdown cold atom sensors:

- Multi-axis measurement
- Vibrations
- Rotations

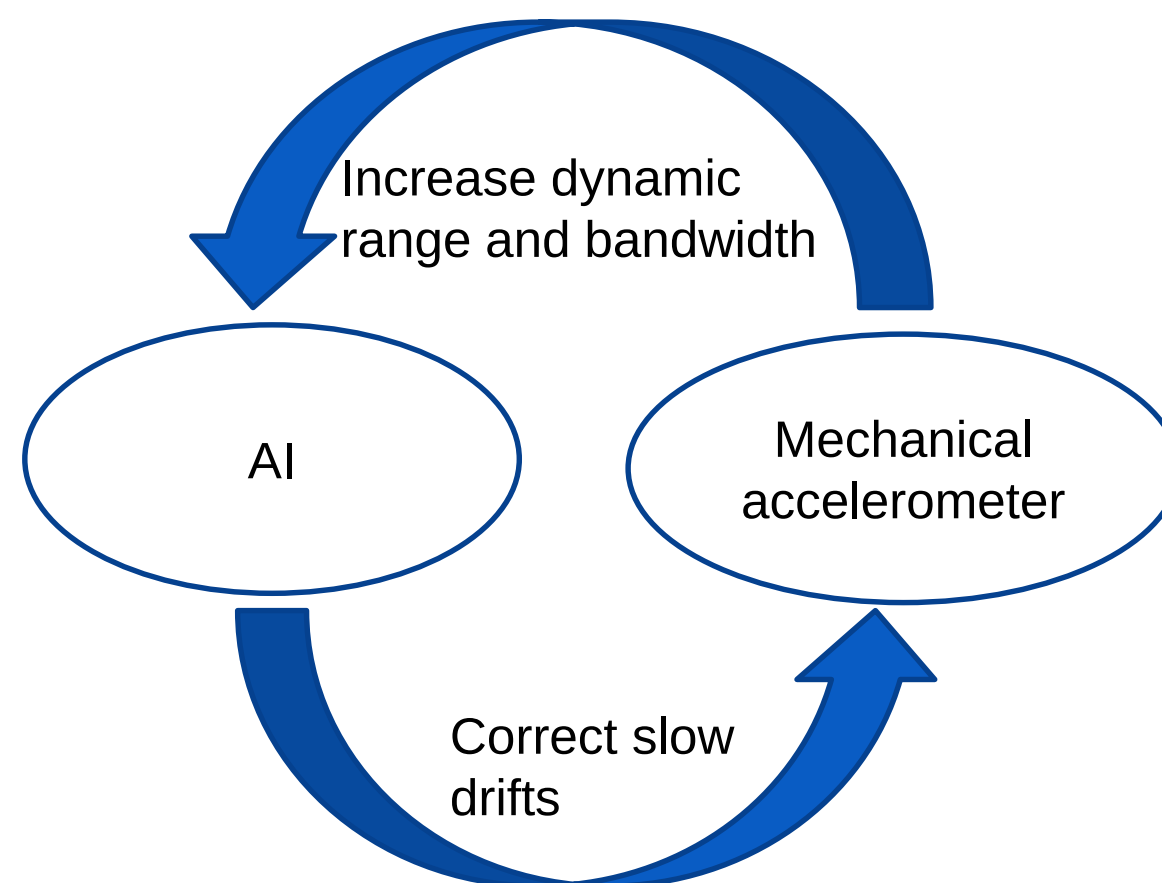
REAL TIME COMPENSATION OF VIBRATIONS AND ROTATIONS

Large sensitivity
Very good stability



V. Menoret *et al*, Sci. Rep **8**,12300 (2018)

Dead times
Low data rate
Limited dynamic range

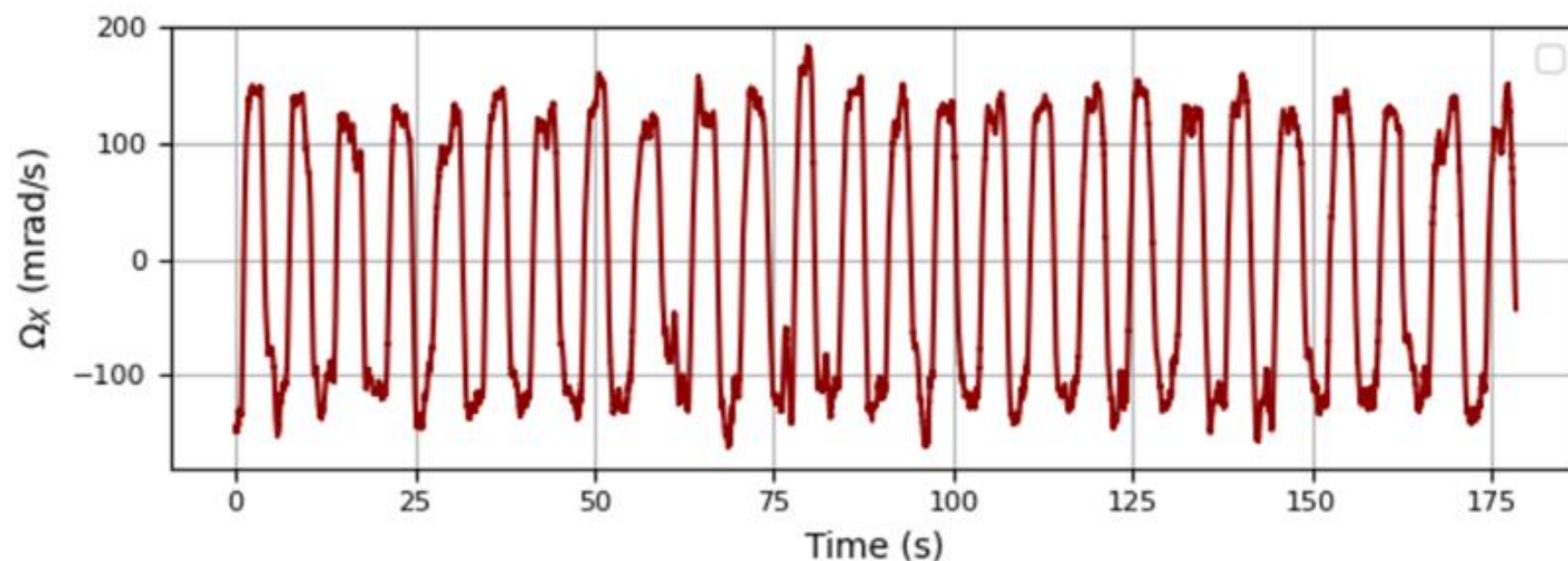


Large bandwidth
No dead time
Linear response

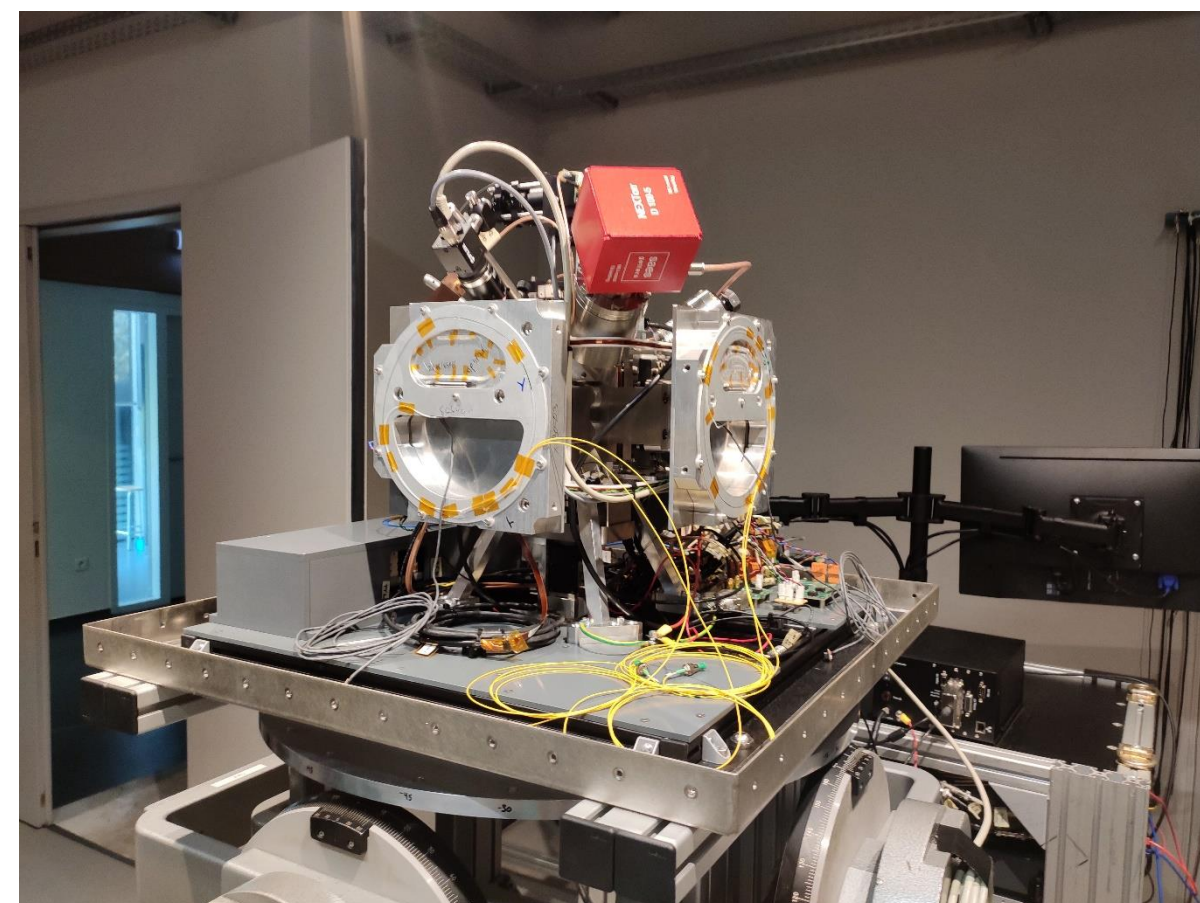


Bias drifts



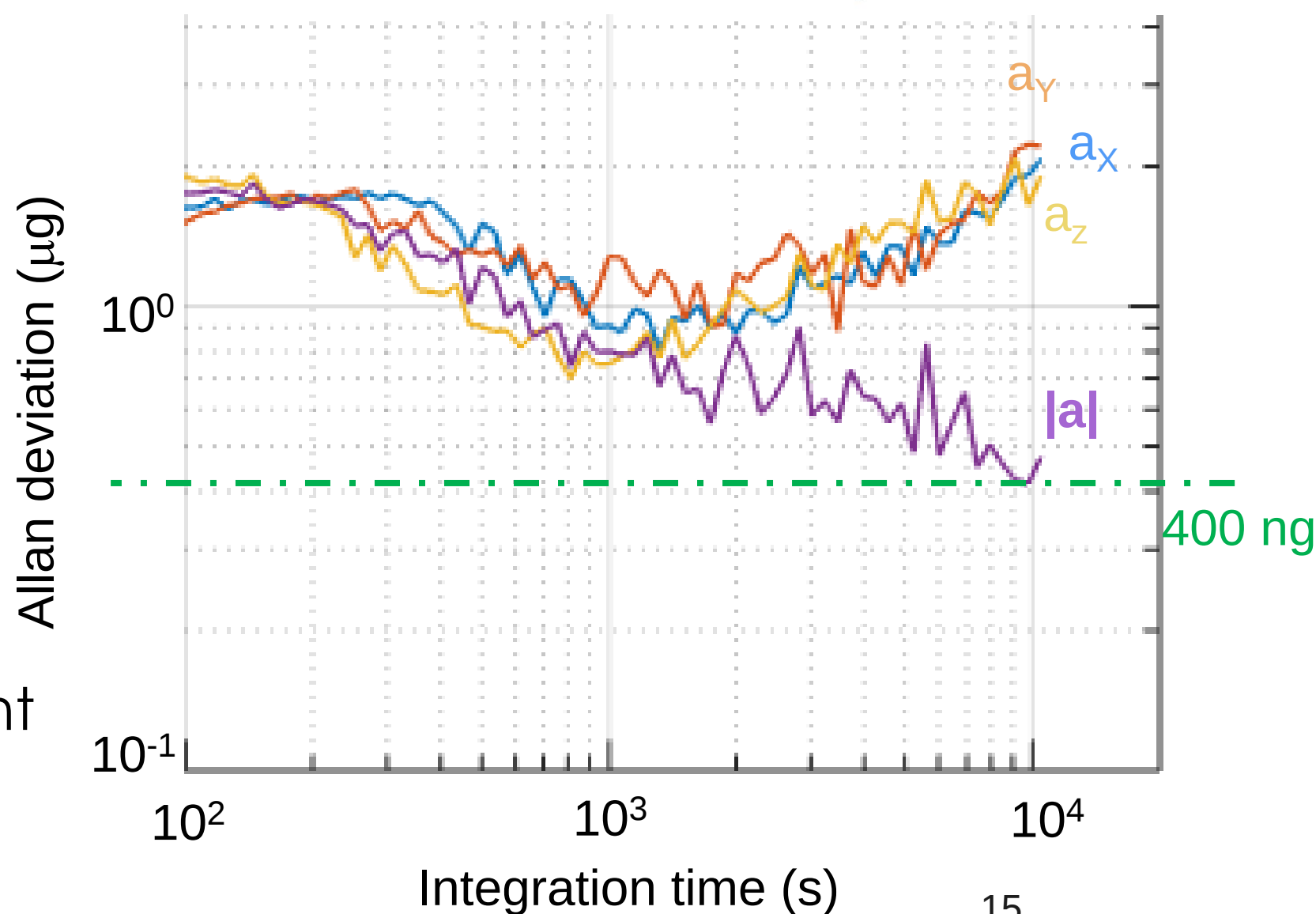
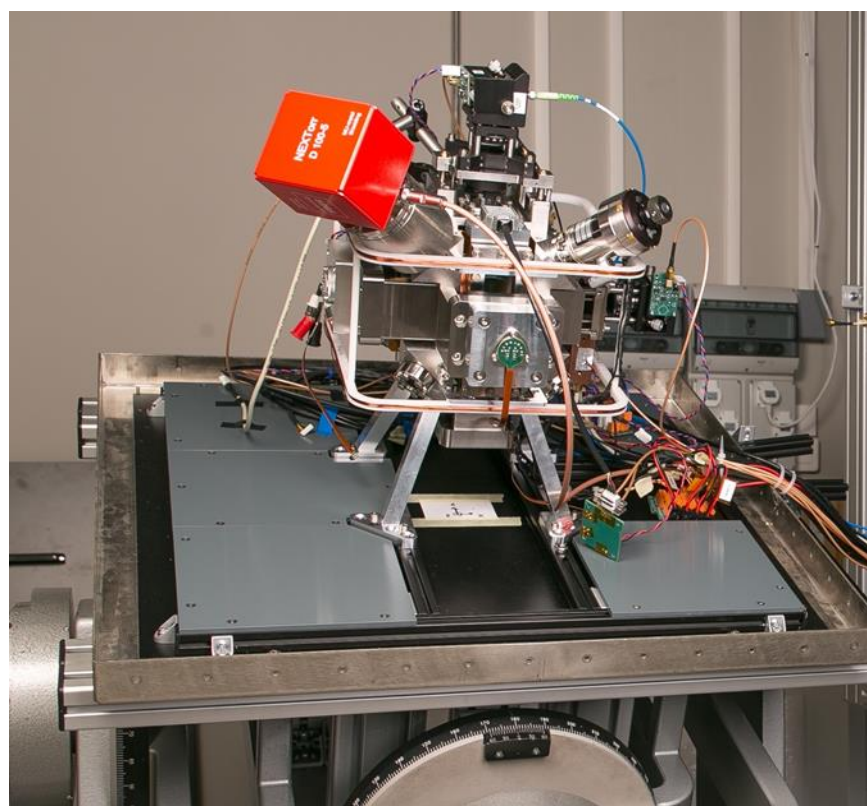


- ❑ Rotation rate measurement with Fiber-Optics Gyroscopes
- ❑ **Real-time** correction (FPGA) of the mirror orientation with a piezo tip-tilt stage



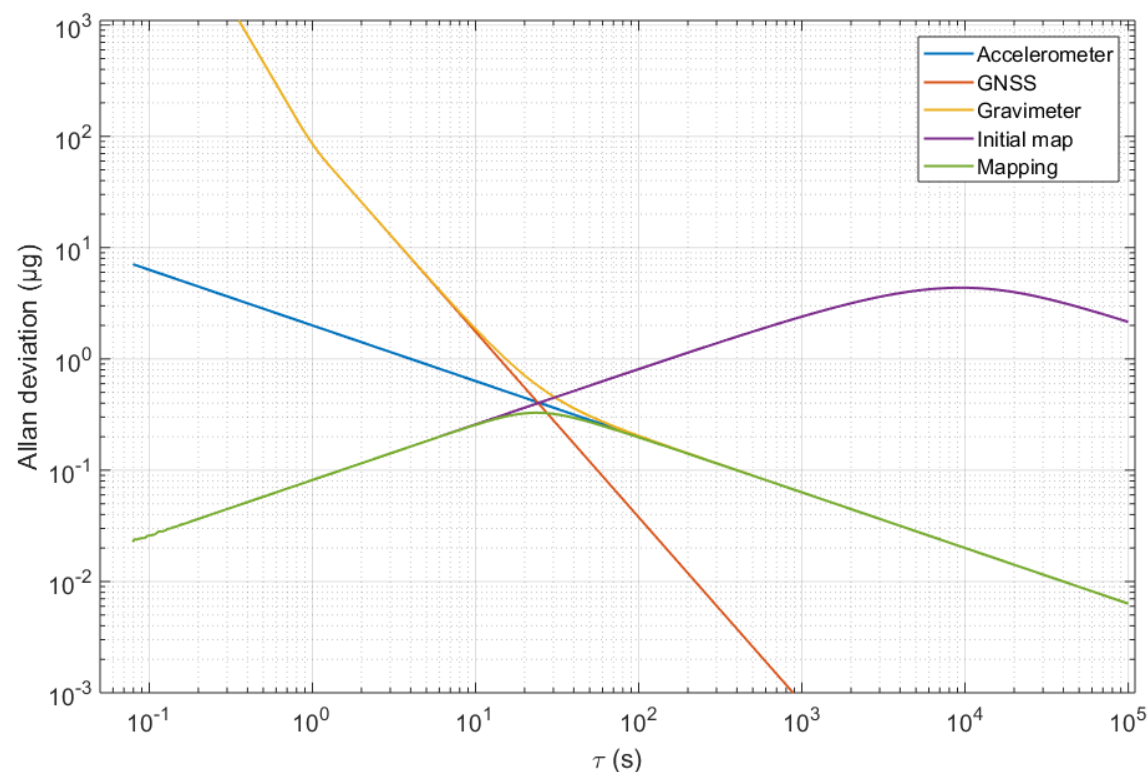
3D “STRAPDOWN” ATOM ACCELEROMETER FOR GRAVITY MAPPING/MATCHING

- Alternative measurement of the **three** axes ($\theta_{x,y,z} \sim 45^\circ$ with the vertical) and the norm of the vector $|\mathbf{g}|$
- Tilt of the experiment is drifting $\delta\theta \sim 6 \mu\text{rad}$ over 10 hours



- Simultaneous measurement possible

TO BE PUBLISHED



-GNSS signal provides direct position information with a position (white) noise σ_z $g = (\ddot{x}_{GNSS} - a_{acc})$

- Initial gravity map EGM2008 characterized by an error standard deviation $\sigma_{m,i}$ and a correlation length L_{corr} .

$$v = 2m/s \quad \sigma_n = 2 \mu g / \sqrt{Hz} \quad \sigma_{m,i} = 5 \mu g$$

$$L_{corr} = 10 km \quad \sigma_z = 1 mm / \sqrt{Hz}$$

➤ **Perfect accelerometer: 370 ng with a correlation length of 100 m**

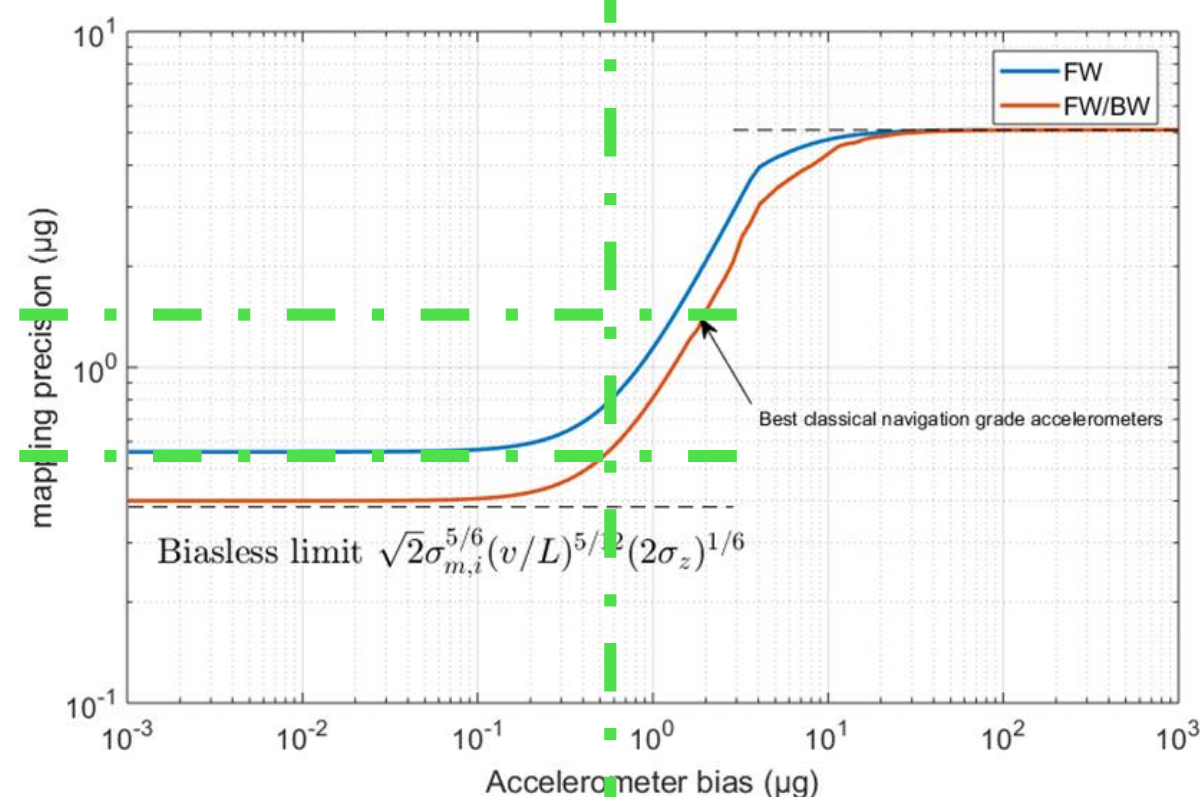
Performances of our hybrid accelerometer:

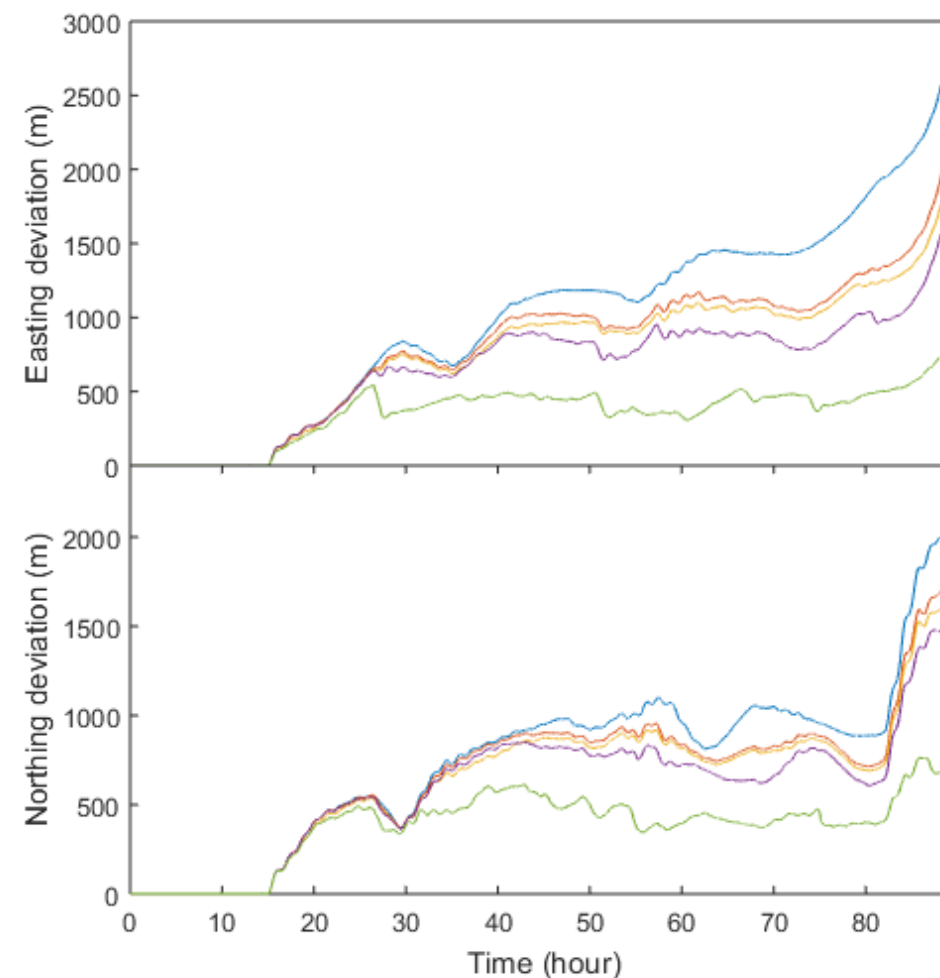
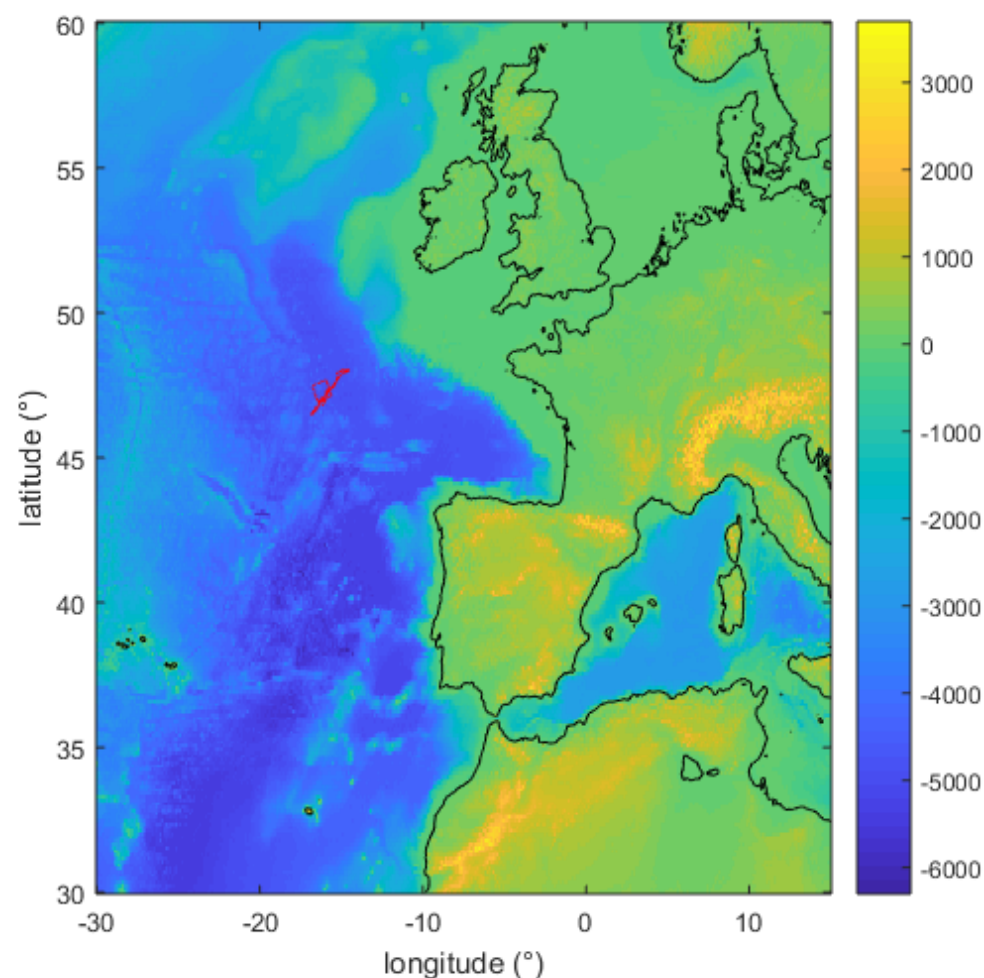
Long term stability: 200 ng

Bias uncertainty: 700 ng (vertical axis 500 ng)

Goal : 500 ng (calibration improvement)

gain





	Gravity Matching		Accelerometer	Gravity map
Blue	No		Classical	EGM2008 (5 μ g)
Red	Yes		Classical	EGM2008 (5 μ g)
Yellow	Yes		Quantum	EGM2008 (5 μ g)
Purple	Yes		Classical	Improved map (1 μ g)
Green	Yes		Quantum	Improved map (1 μ g)

It requires a better map to benefit from the absolute character of the quantum accelerometer

- ✓ 3D strapdown atom interferometer: from the laboratory to the first industrial prototype
- ✓ Proof of concepts for real time compensation of vibrations and rotations
- ✓ Classical/quantum sensors hybridization
- ✓ Tests on the field (onboard)
- ✓ Exploration of « not so mature » technology: atom chips, ultra-cold atoms, 3D atom interferometry, miniaturized laser source



Starting a gyroscope activity

First gyroscope prototype

gyroscope on the field

Navigation

2016

2020

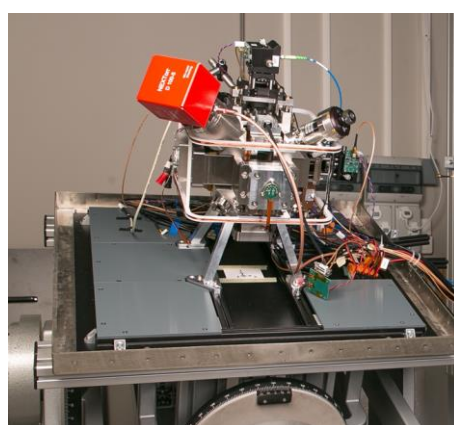
2023

2025

2030

2035

Bias free 3D accelerometer

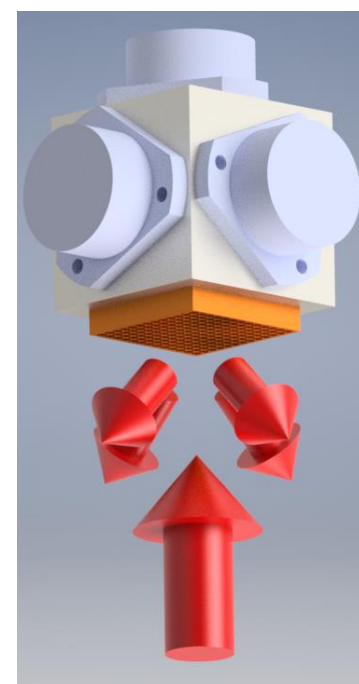


Bias free 3D accelerometer on the field



**Gravity mapping
Gravity matching
Navigation**

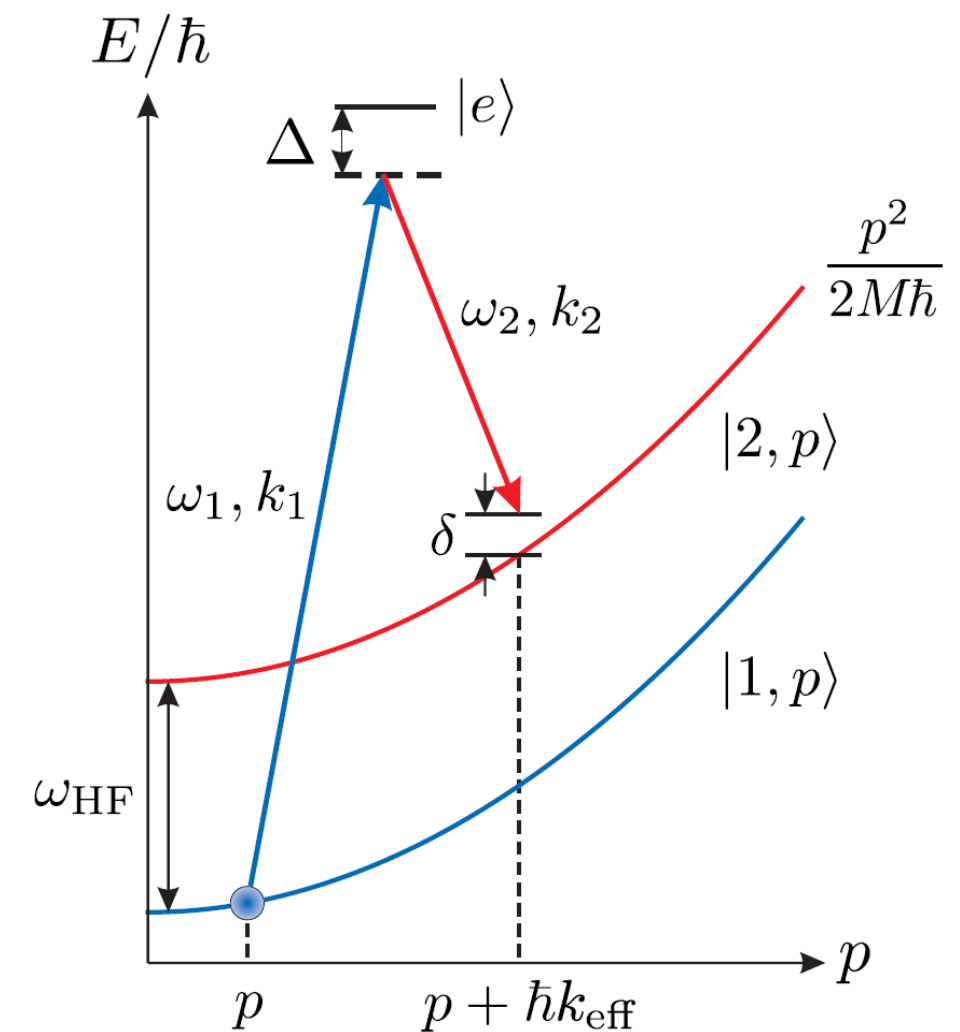
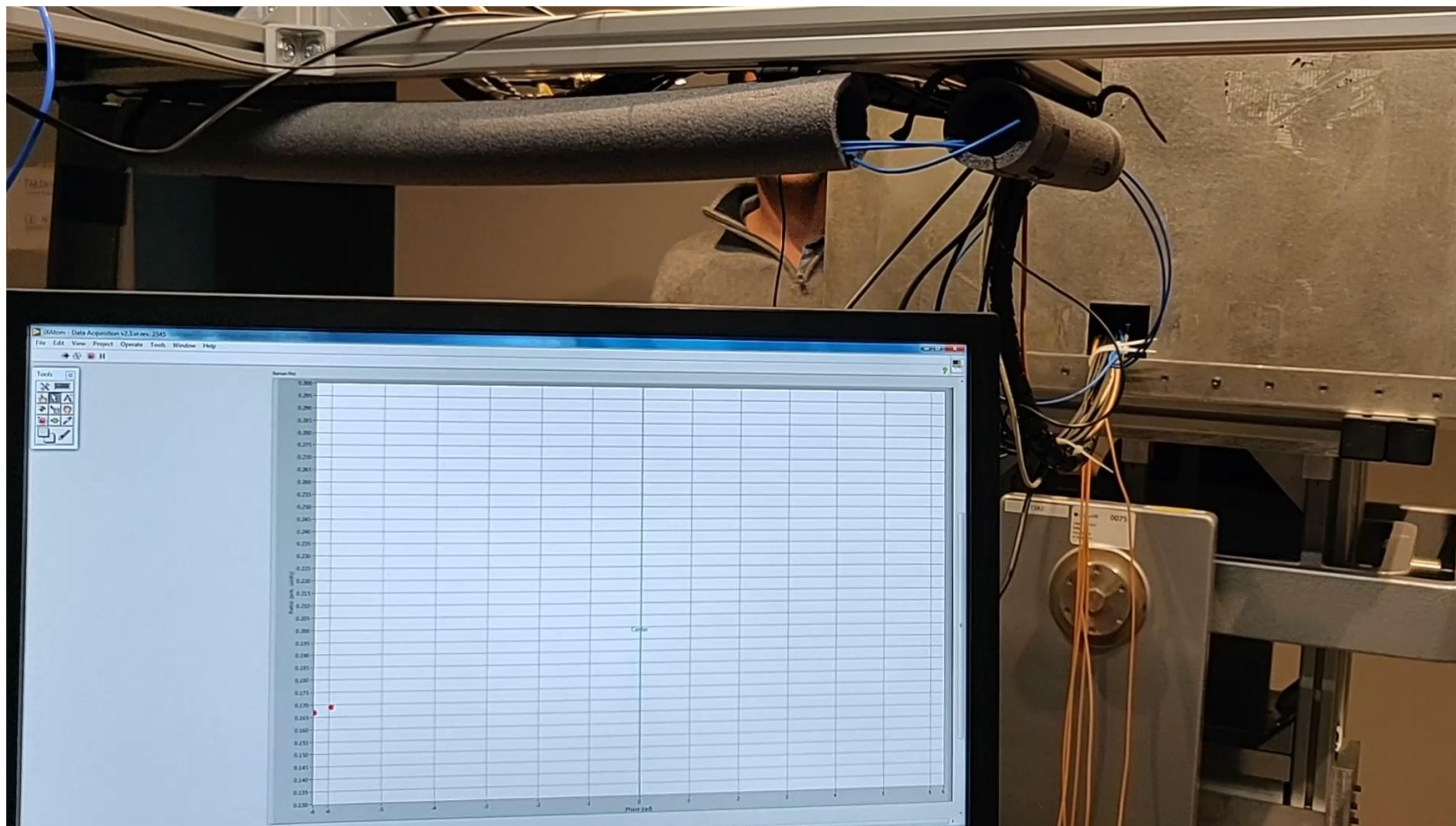
Miniaturized accelerometer



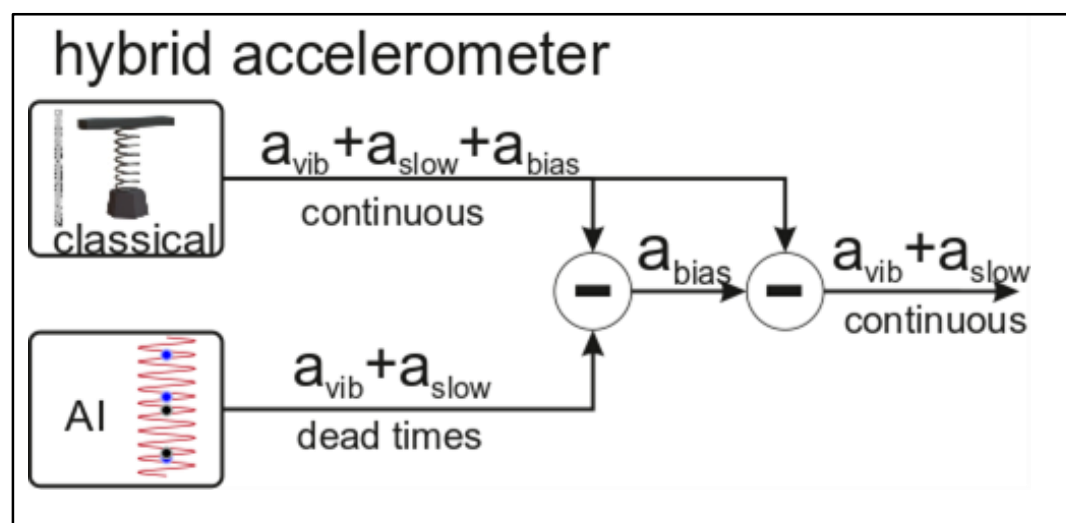
First Space atom accelerometer

Space applications



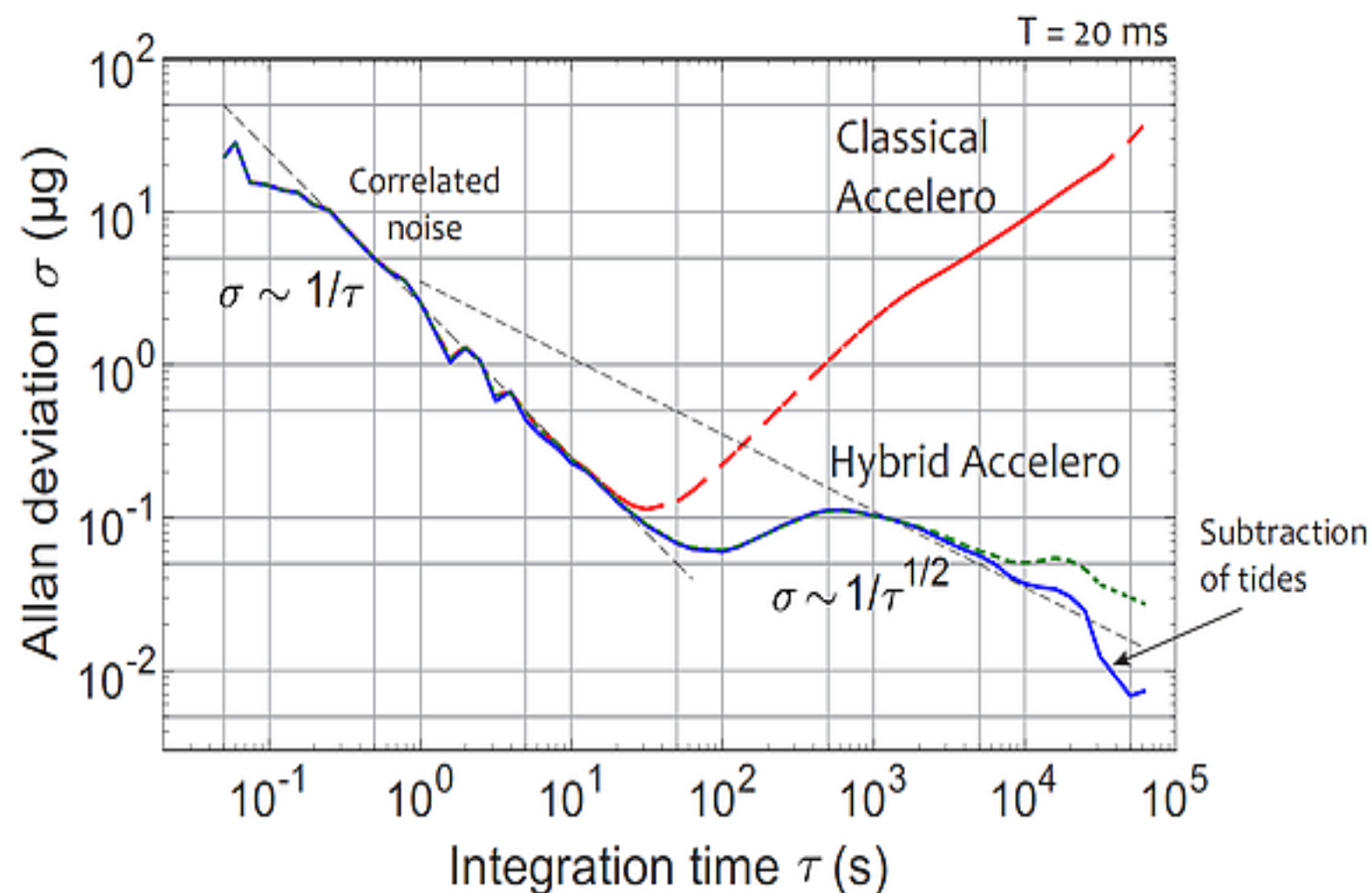


$$\delta_D = k_{eff} g \cos \theta(t) T^2 \quad \text{corrected in real time!}$$



- Bias subtracted from the classical accelerometer output

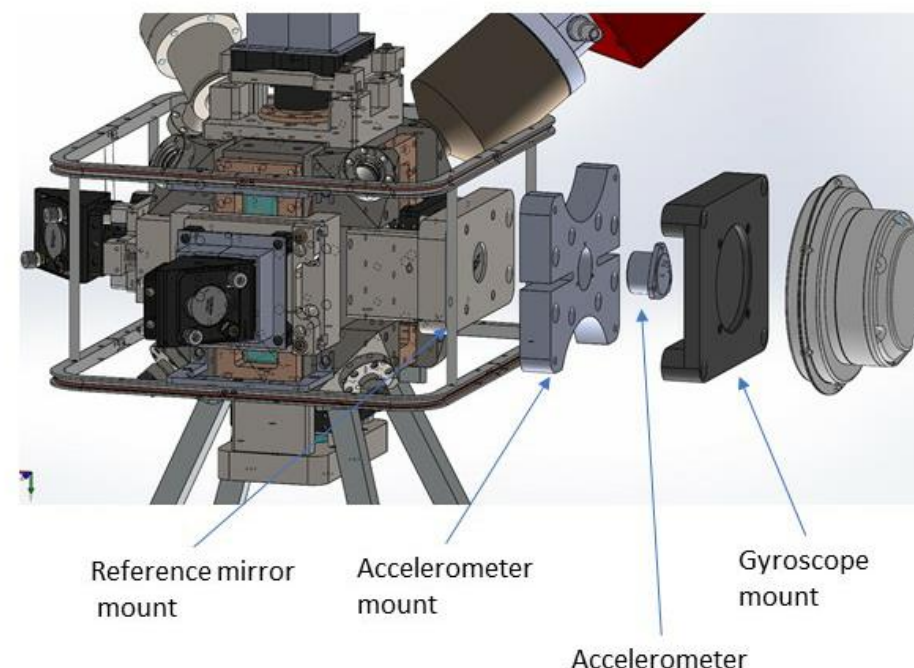
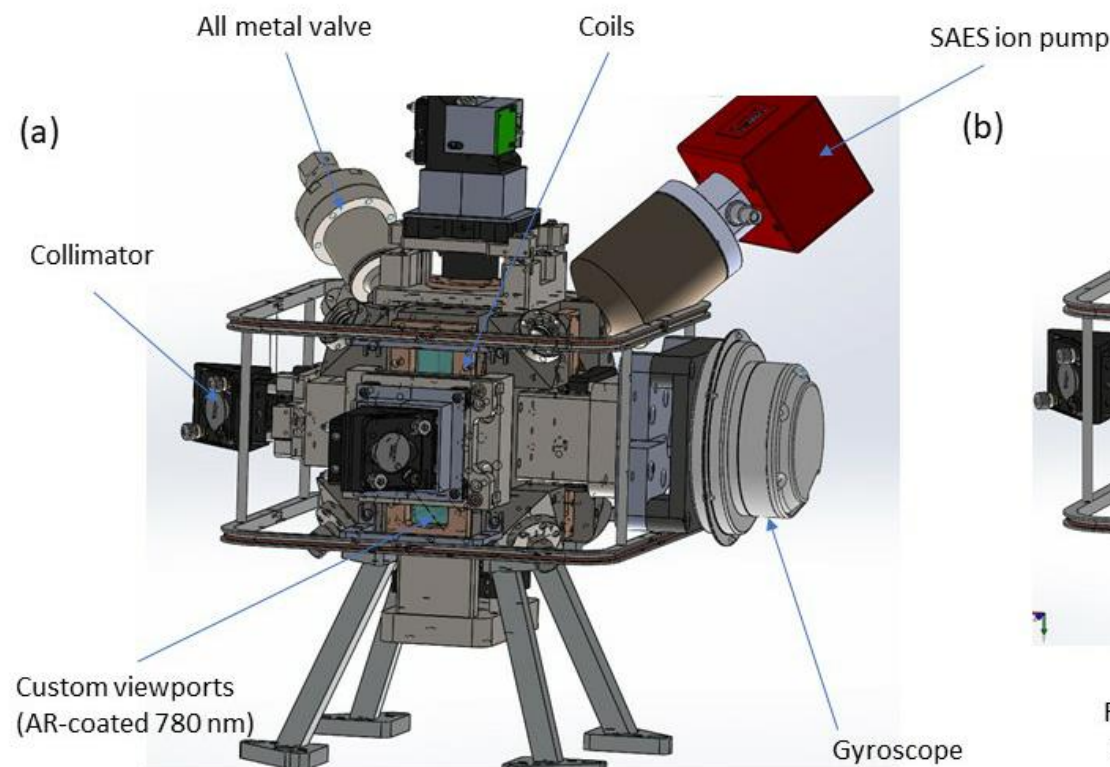
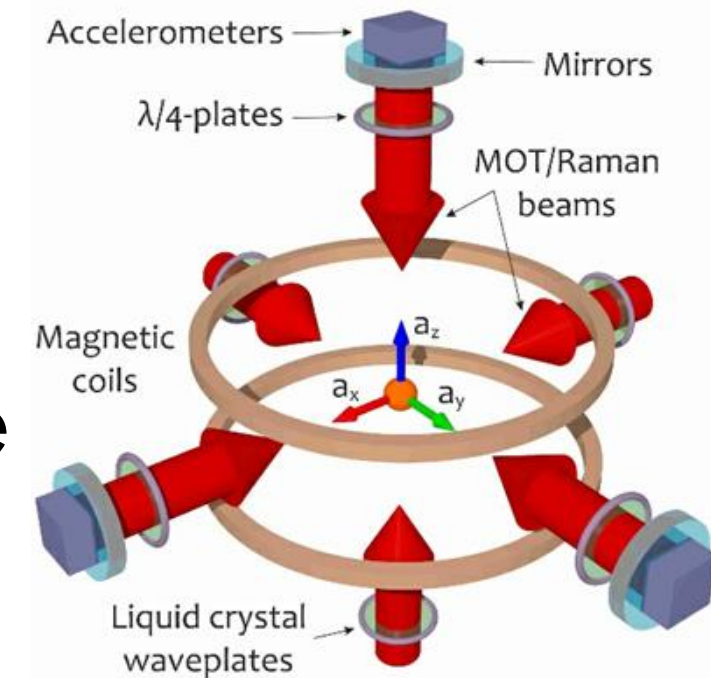
- Hybrid sensor:
 - High bandwidth
 - Stability ~ 10 ng
 - Sensitivity (long-term): $3,2 \mu\text{g}/\sqrt{\text{Hz}}$



P. Cheiney et al, *Phys. Rev. Applied* **10**, 034030 (2018)

REAL TIME COMPENSATION OF ROTATIONS

- ✓ Use the same beam for cooling and the Raman atom interferometer along the 3 axes
- ✓ Compact sensor head using state of the art technology



- Lagrangian for a body undergoing rotations and linear accelerations

$$L(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{v}) = \frac{1}{2} M (\mathbf{v} + \boldsymbol{\Omega} \times \mathbf{r})^2 + M \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{r}$$

- Evaluate interferometer trajectories and insert into Roura model:[Roura2014]

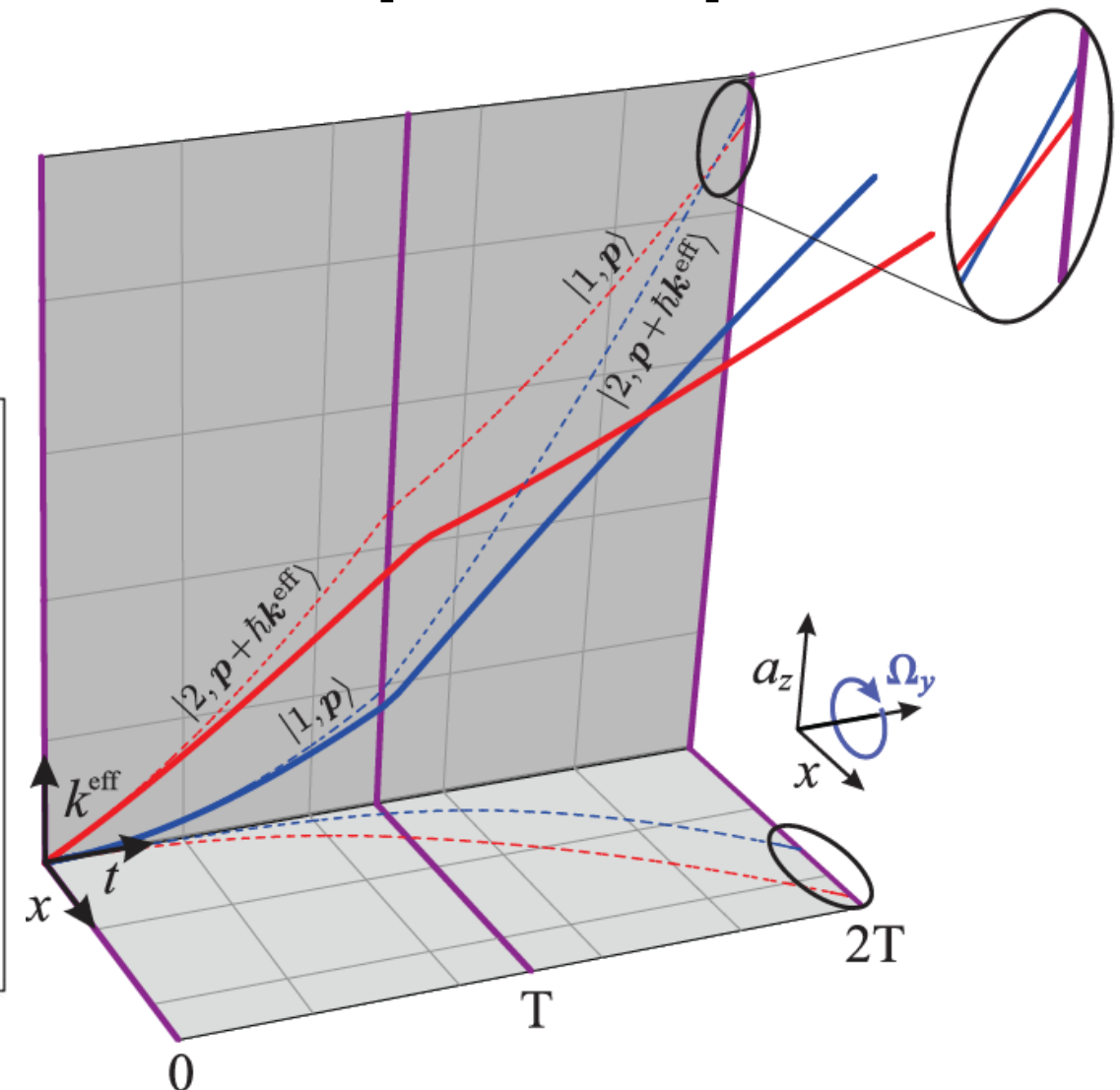
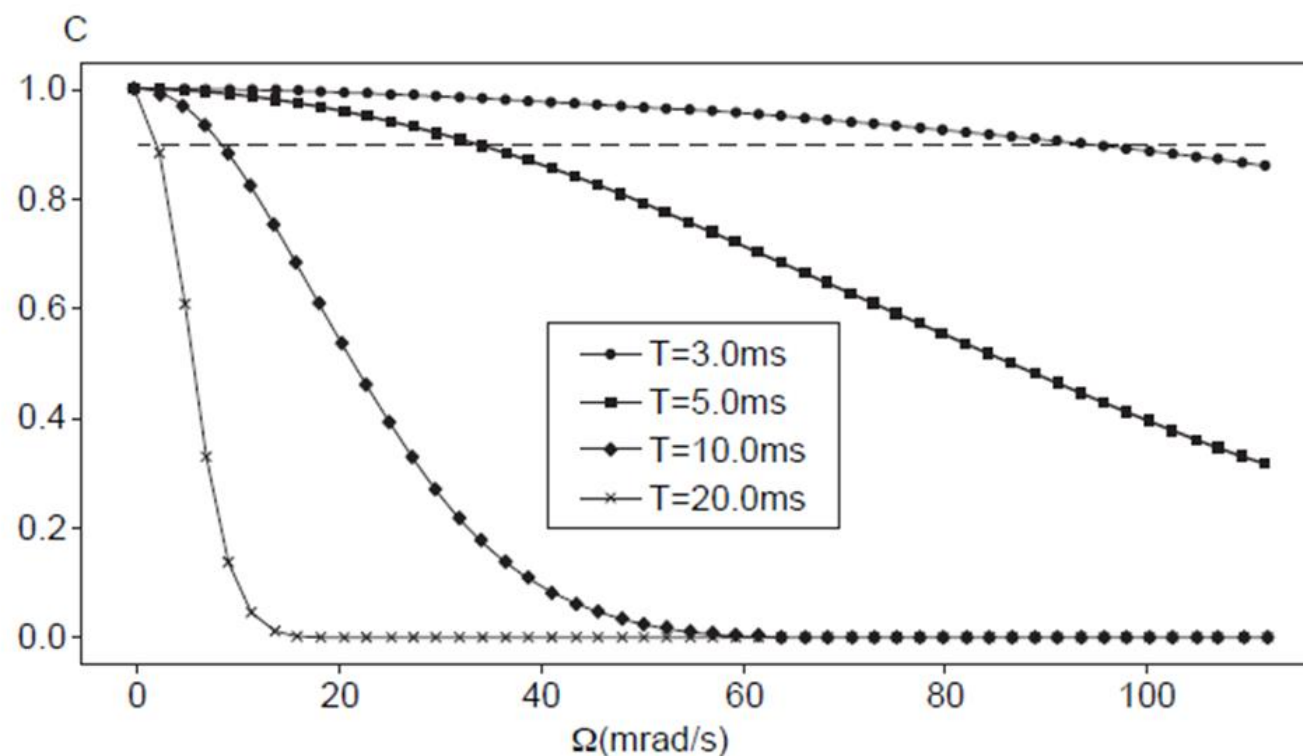
$$C \sim \exp \left[- (k_{\text{eff}} \sigma_v T)^2 (|\boldsymbol{\Omega}_T| T)^2 \right]$$

Velocity spread

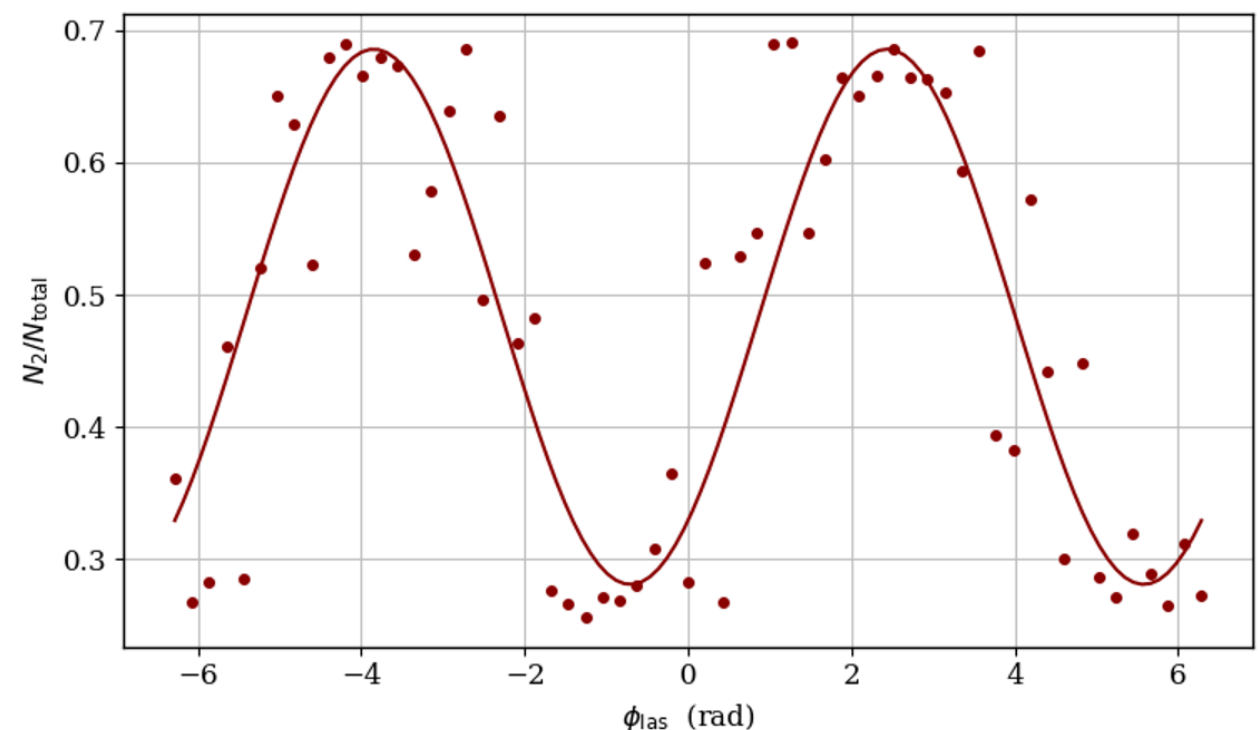
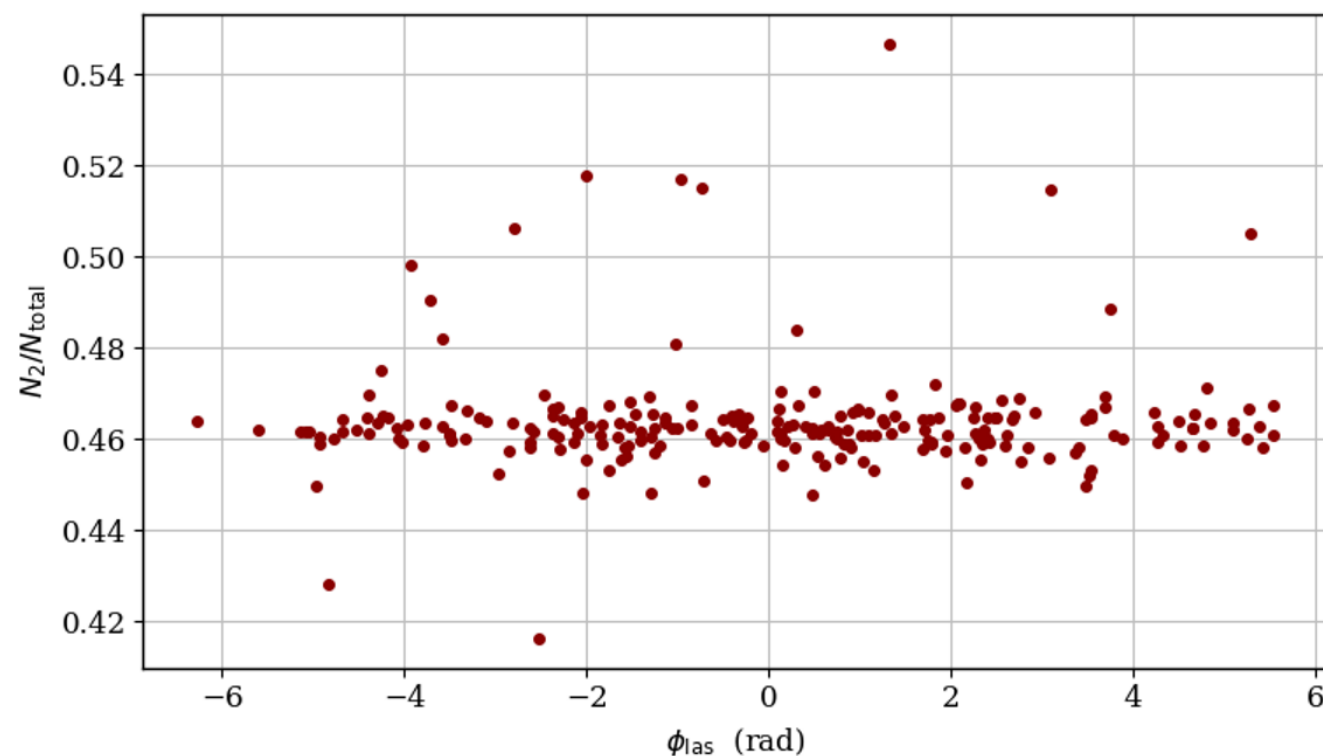
Interrogation time

Rotation rate

transverse to $\mathbf{k}_{\text{eff}}$



- ❑ Full contrast retrieval for any rotation rate and interrogation time
- ❑ **Visible fringes without additional phase correction for:**
 - Rotation rates up to 100 mrad/s
 - Interrogation times up to 10 ms



- ❑ Next step: real time correction of the residual Coriolis phase