



# High performance CdTe based imaging-spectrometers for space-science and societal applications

24<sup>th</sup> IEEE Real Time Conference  
ICISE, Quy Nhon, Vietnam  
April 22, 2024

O. Limousin, on behalf of ALB3DO lab  
Research Director at CEA, Astrophysics Division, France

# Thanks for your invitation in Vietnam ...



## Special thanks to

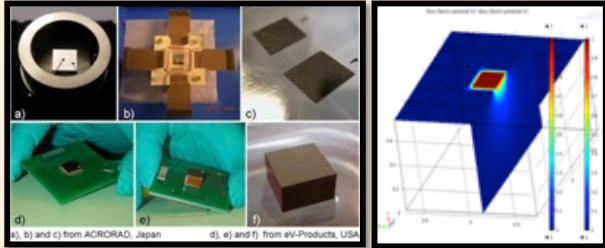
- Patrick Le Du
- Martin Grossmann Handschin
- Masaharu Nomachi
- David Abbott
- Real Time 2024 organizers



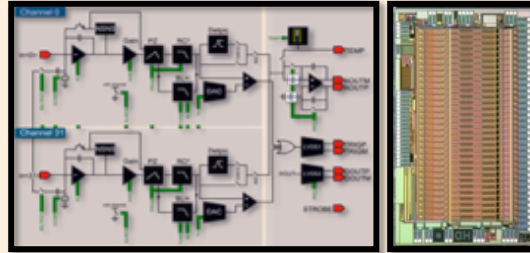
# Who are we?



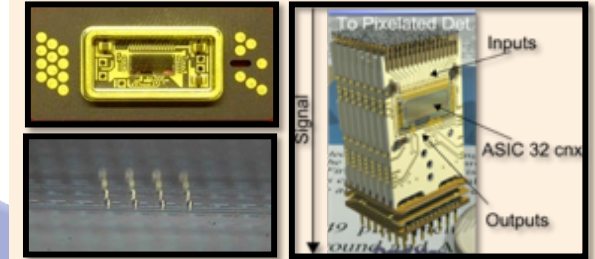
## CdTe detectors design, modelisation and simulations



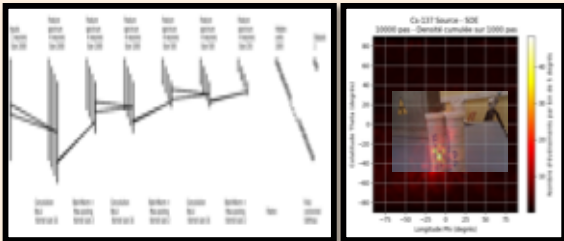
## ASIC, Design, tests



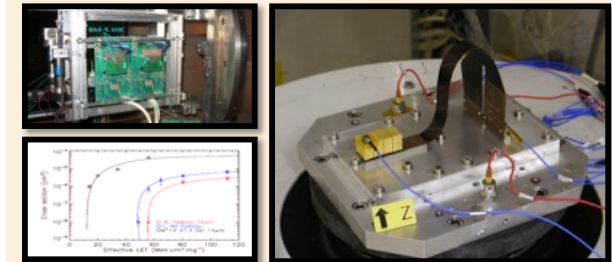
## Hybridization



## Data Analysis methods And reconstruction



## Space Qualification



## Experimentation



## System

Production	Production	Head - Fab - AIT	DAQ - Architecture - Firmware - Wlx management	IHM - Commandes - Visu - Optical 3D camera
Tests physiques	Design Mask	Head -ASIC -CdTe -Shield	DAQ - Design - Data format - Data analysis on the fly	Algorithmes - S/C -> parameters - Calib -> ECC - Spectro -> Spect-ID - Mask -> deconv. - Complet -> SPB

April 22, 2024

**Our motivation (obsession...) is**

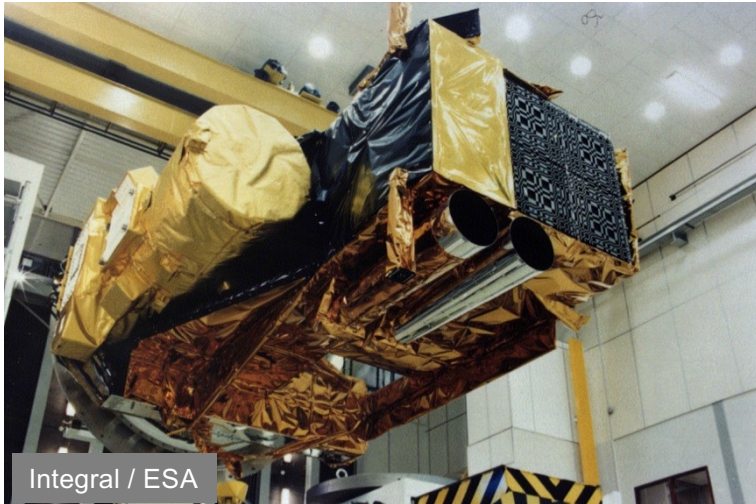


*Sensitivity*

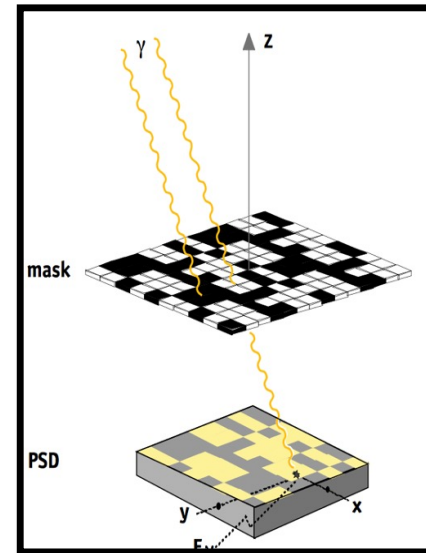
In Hard X-rays



# Imaging spectroscopy for astrophysics

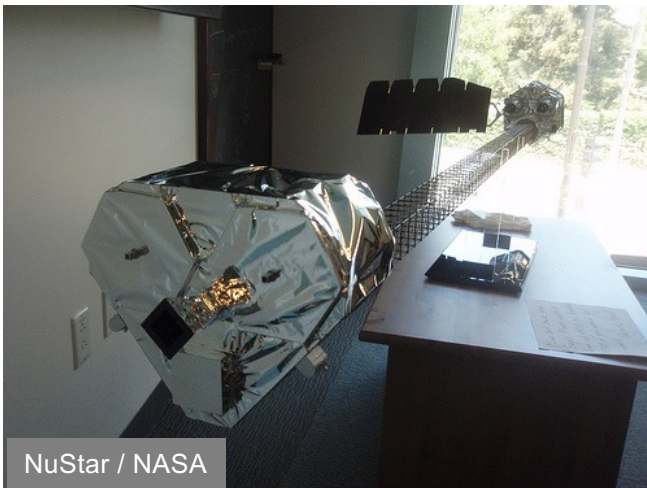


Integral / ESA



## Coded Mask:

- Wide FoV
- Modest Angular resolution
- High Dynamic range in E
- Limited sensitivity



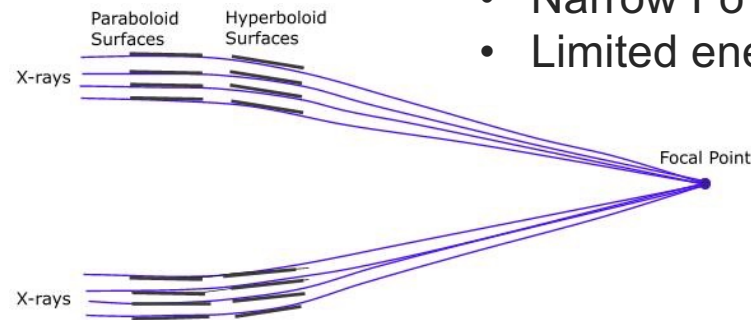
NuStar / NASA



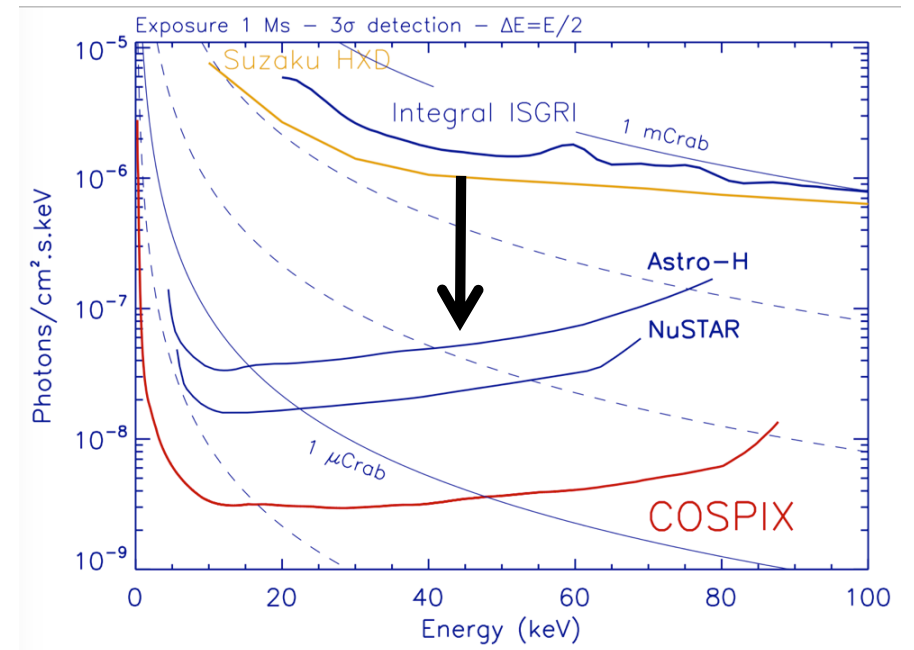
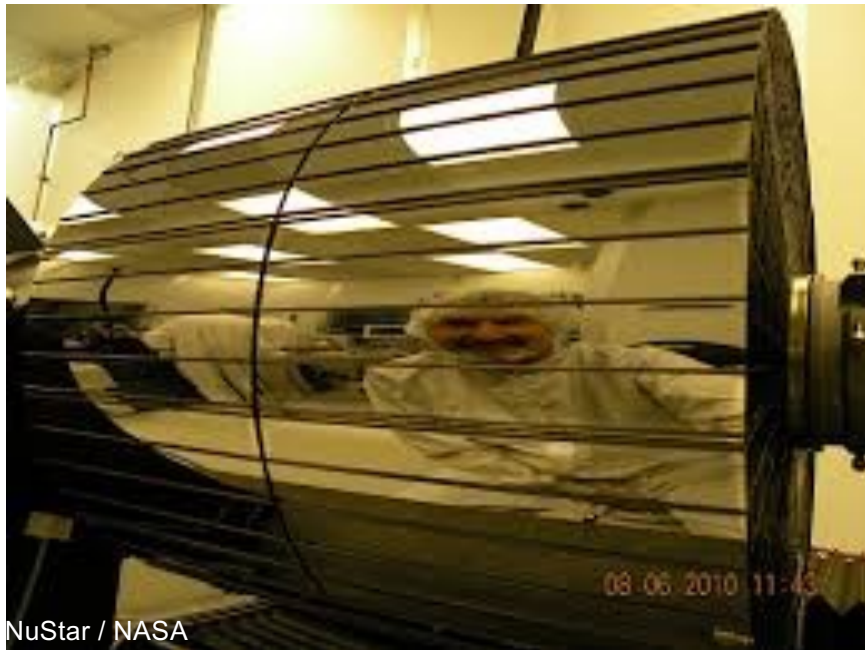
Astro-H / JAXA

## Grazing incidence mirrors

- High Angular resolution
- Narrow FoV
- Limited energy range



# Imaging spectroscopy for astrophysics



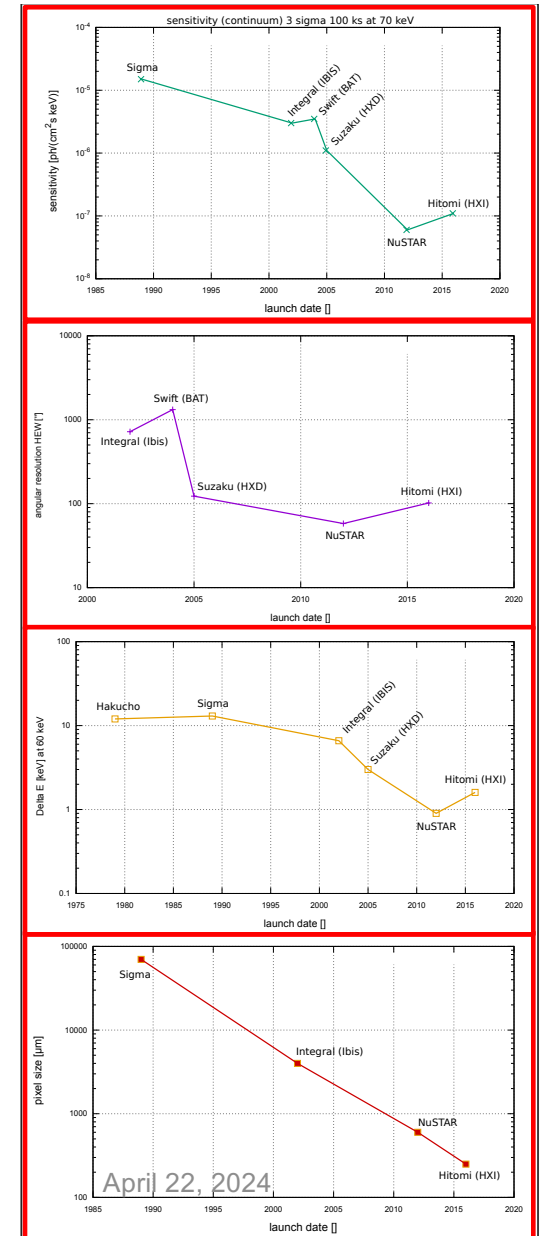
*Huge constraints on the detector design*  
**Use of CdTe HXR detectors**

# Trends is as usual ... smaller is better

Most progress in sensitivity in HXR will come from direct focusing/imaging, and good observing conditions

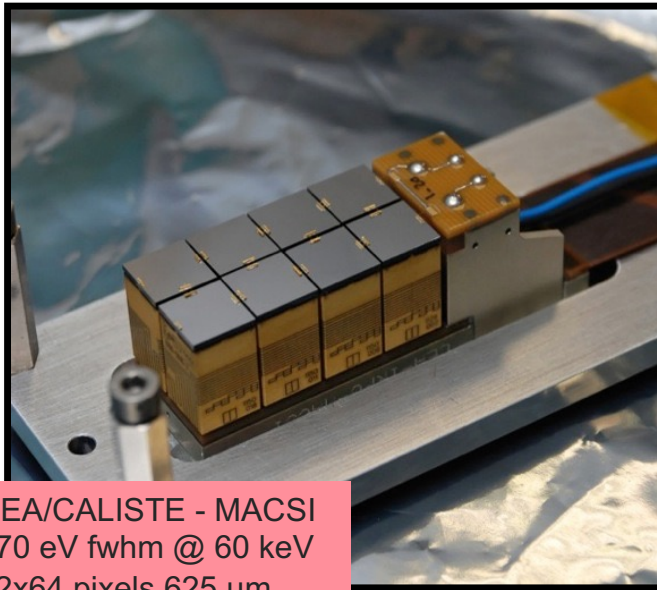
Anyhow ... all HXR instruments need detectors with:

- High spatial resolution
- High efficiency
- High speed
- High stability
- High reliability
- High dynamic
- Low noise
- Low threshold
- Low mass
- Low volume
- Low Power



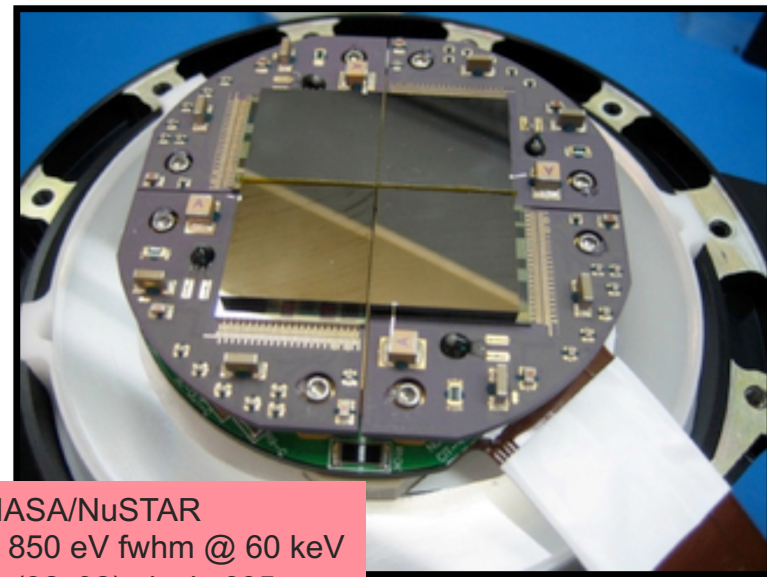
# A Worldwide challenge for CdTe and CZT detectors

## Fine pitch



CEA/CALISTE - MACSI  
670 eV fwhm @ 60 keV  
32x64 pixels 625  $\mu\text{m}$

Limousin+14



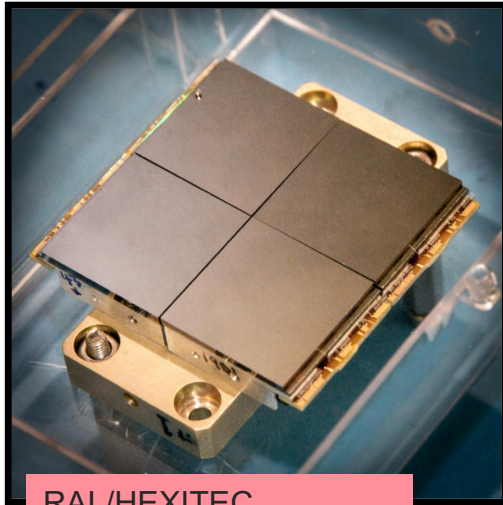
NASA/NuSTAR  
~ 850 eV fwhm @ 60 keV  
4x(32x32) pixels 605  $\mu\text{m}$

Harisson+13



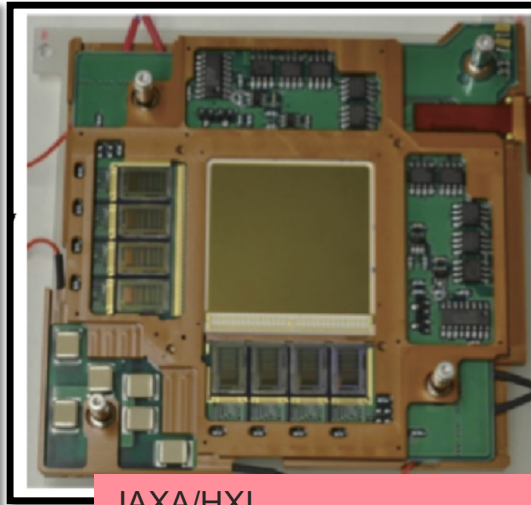
# A Worldwide challenge for CdTe and CZT detectors

Very Fine pitch



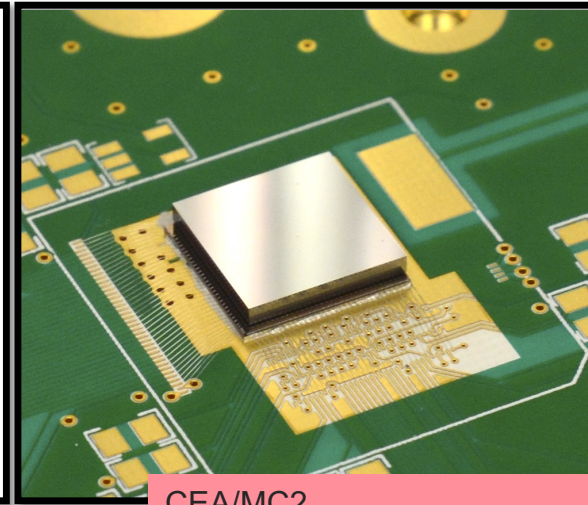
RAL/HEXITEC  
~1 keV fwhm @ 60 keV  
4x(80x80) pixels 250  $\mu$ m

Jowitt+21



JAXA/HXI  
~2 keV fwhm @ 60 keV  
128x128 pixels 250  $\mu$ m

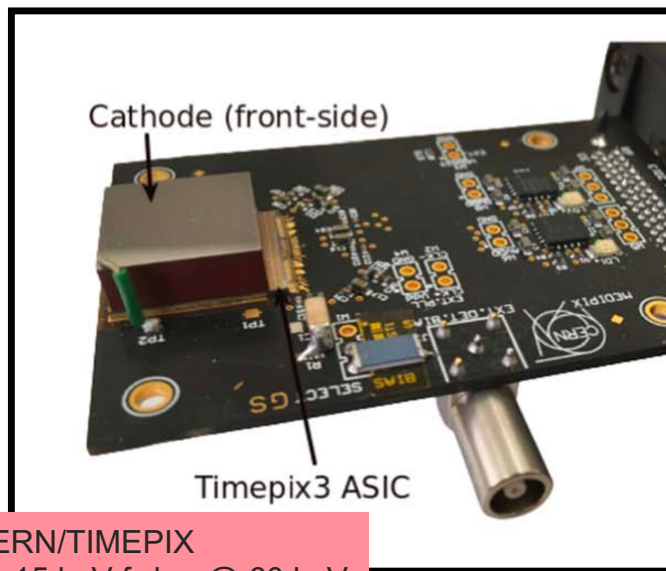
Hagino+21



CEA/MC2  
~ 0.95 keV fwhm @ 60 keV  
32x32 pixels 250  $\mu$ m

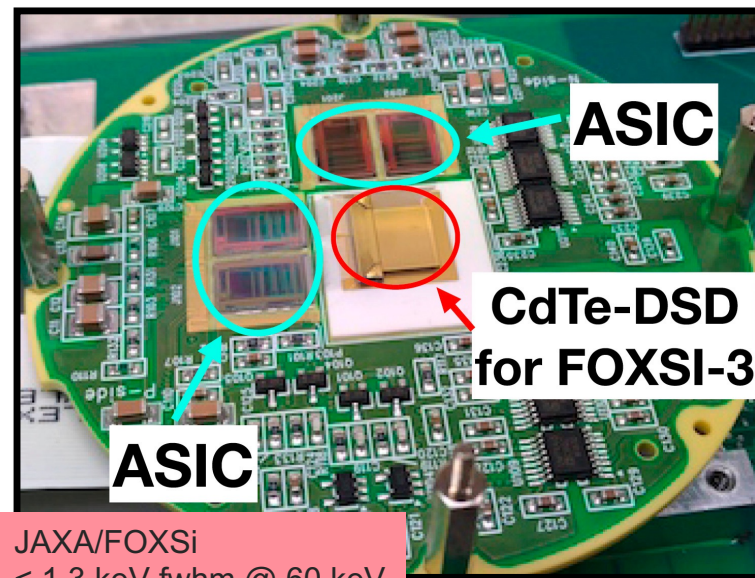
Allaire+23

# A Worldwide challenge for CdTe and CZT detectors



CERN/TIMEPIX  
~8-15 keV fwhm @ 60 keV  
(26x256) pixels 55 $\mu$ m

Smolyanskiy+24



JAXA/FOXSI  
< 1.3 keV fwhm @ 60 keV  
128x128 pixels 60  $\mu$ m

Furukawa+19

# 3D approach / CdTe Schottky: main properties

## Imaging a PSF with

1 cm<sup>2</sup> monolithic CdTe

16 x 16 pixels

625 μm pitch, 100 μm interpixel gap

Guard is 20 μm width

1mm thick for hard X-Ray domain is fine

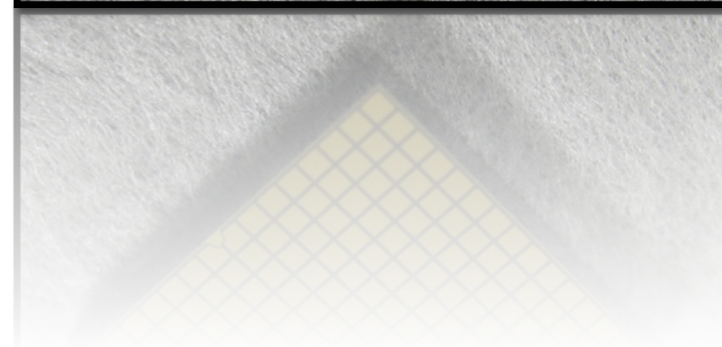
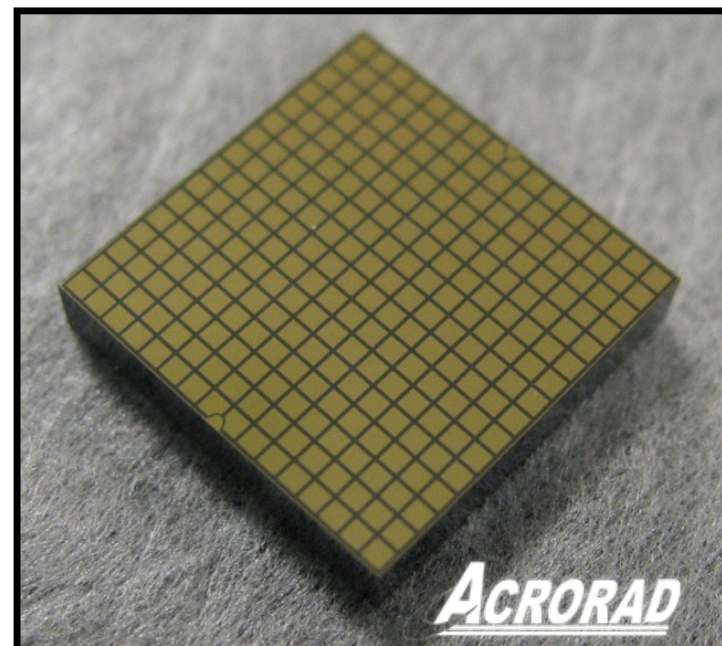
## Measuring the energy accurately

Al Schottky contacts

Low leakage current (< 1pA at 0°C / 300V)

Detector stray capacitance is very low (<50 fF)

Complete charge collection



# 3D approach / IDeF-X HD ASIC main properties

Full custom ASIC (family) developed at CEA

CMOS AMS 0.35  $\mu\text{m}$ , Area: 5.8 x 2.5  $\text{mm}^2$

32 channels

Individual tunable threshold

Tunable shaper and gain

Base line holder

Absolute on-chip thermal sensor

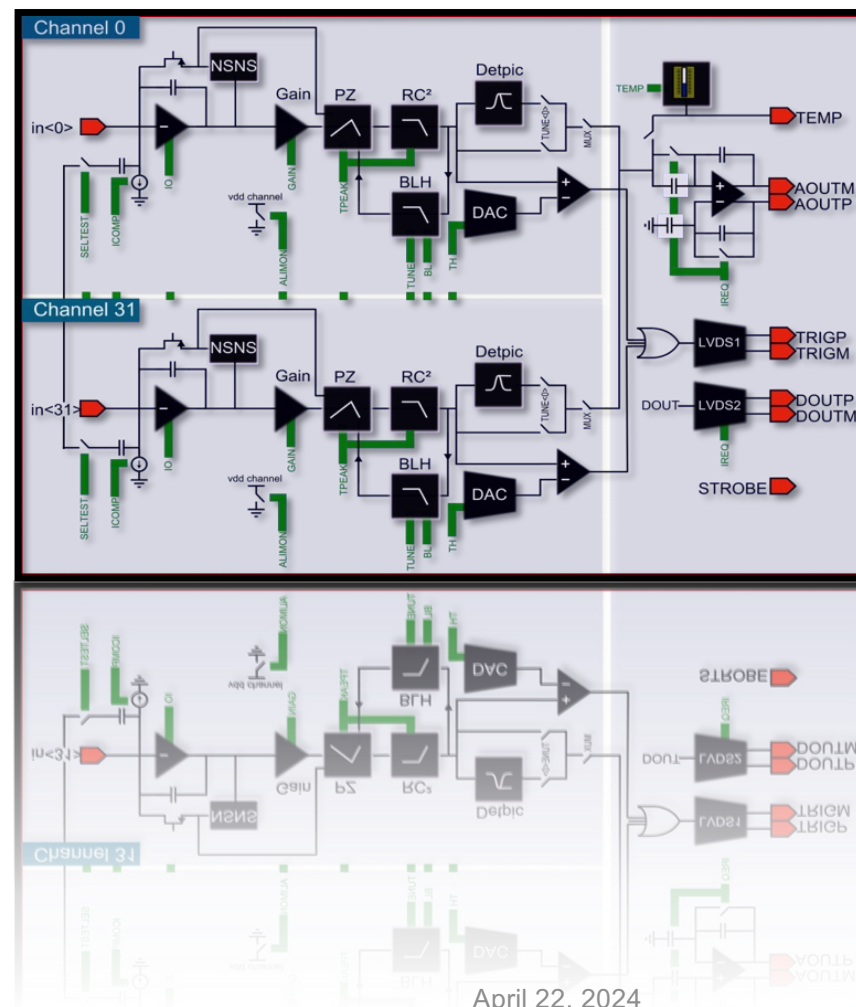
800  $\mu\text{W}/\text{channel}$

Multi ASIC digital interface

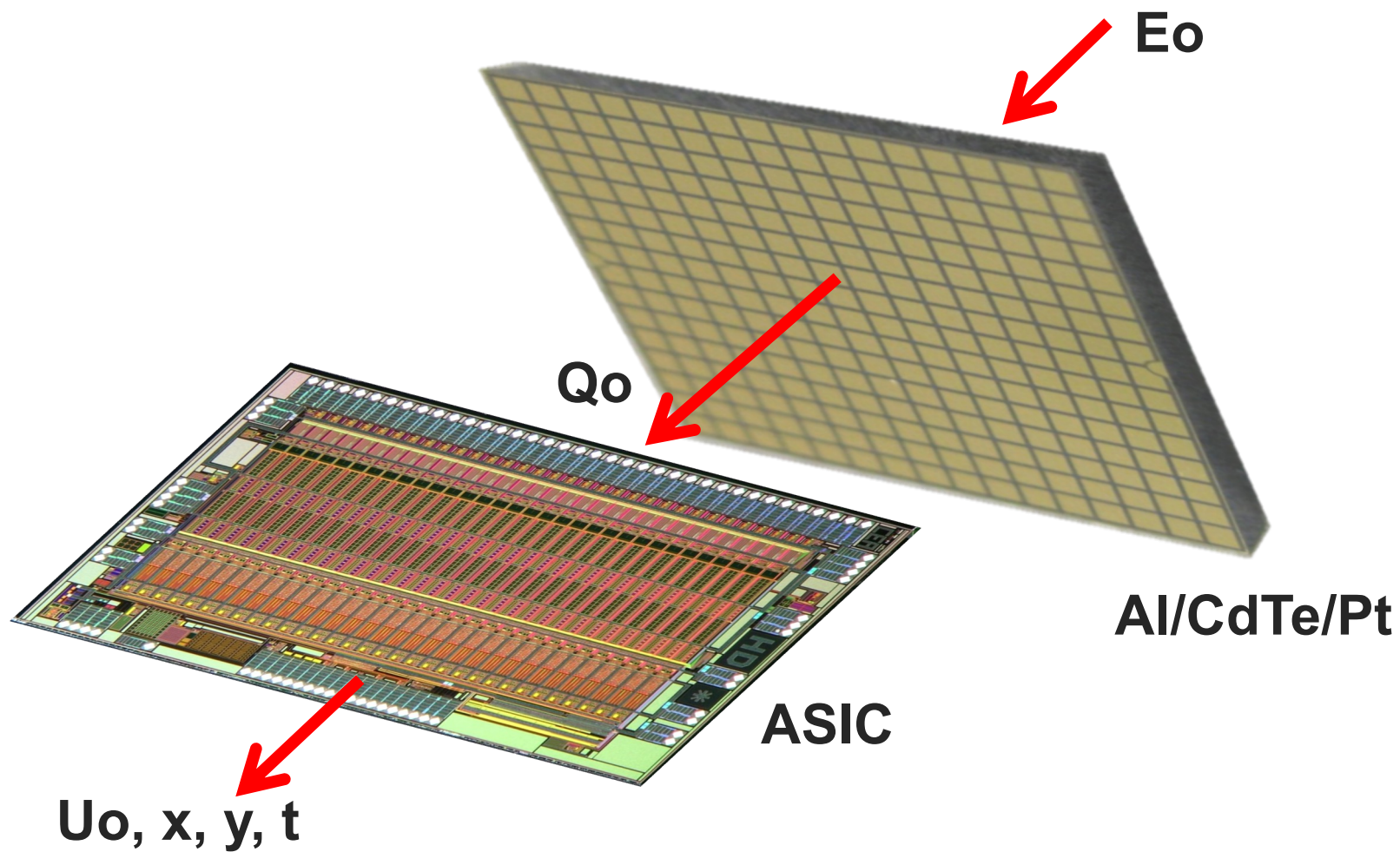
High impedance output buffers

Radiation hard ( $> 100$  krad, Latch up free)

## Low noise down to 33 el. rms floor



# 3D approach / Vertical Interconnexion concept



# 3D approach / Caliste HD: hybridization technology

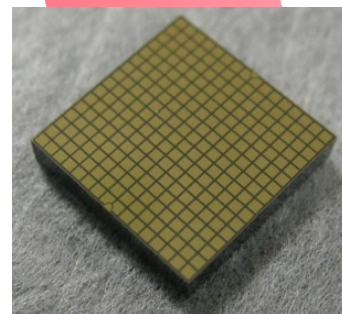
**IDeF-X HD ASIC**  
32 analog channels



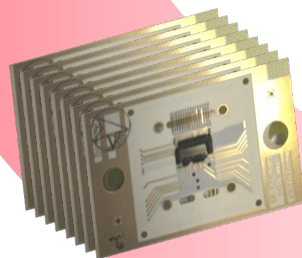
Mounting on PCB



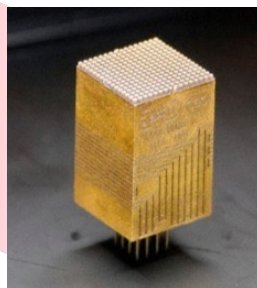
**CdTe 256-pixel detector**  
Schottky type



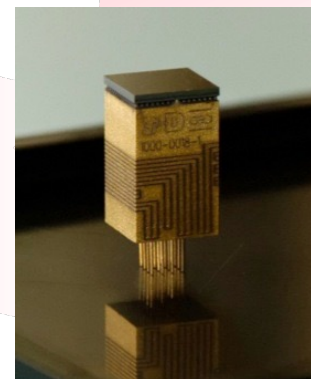
**8 ASIC stack**  
perpendicular to the  
detection surface



Top surface  
preparation

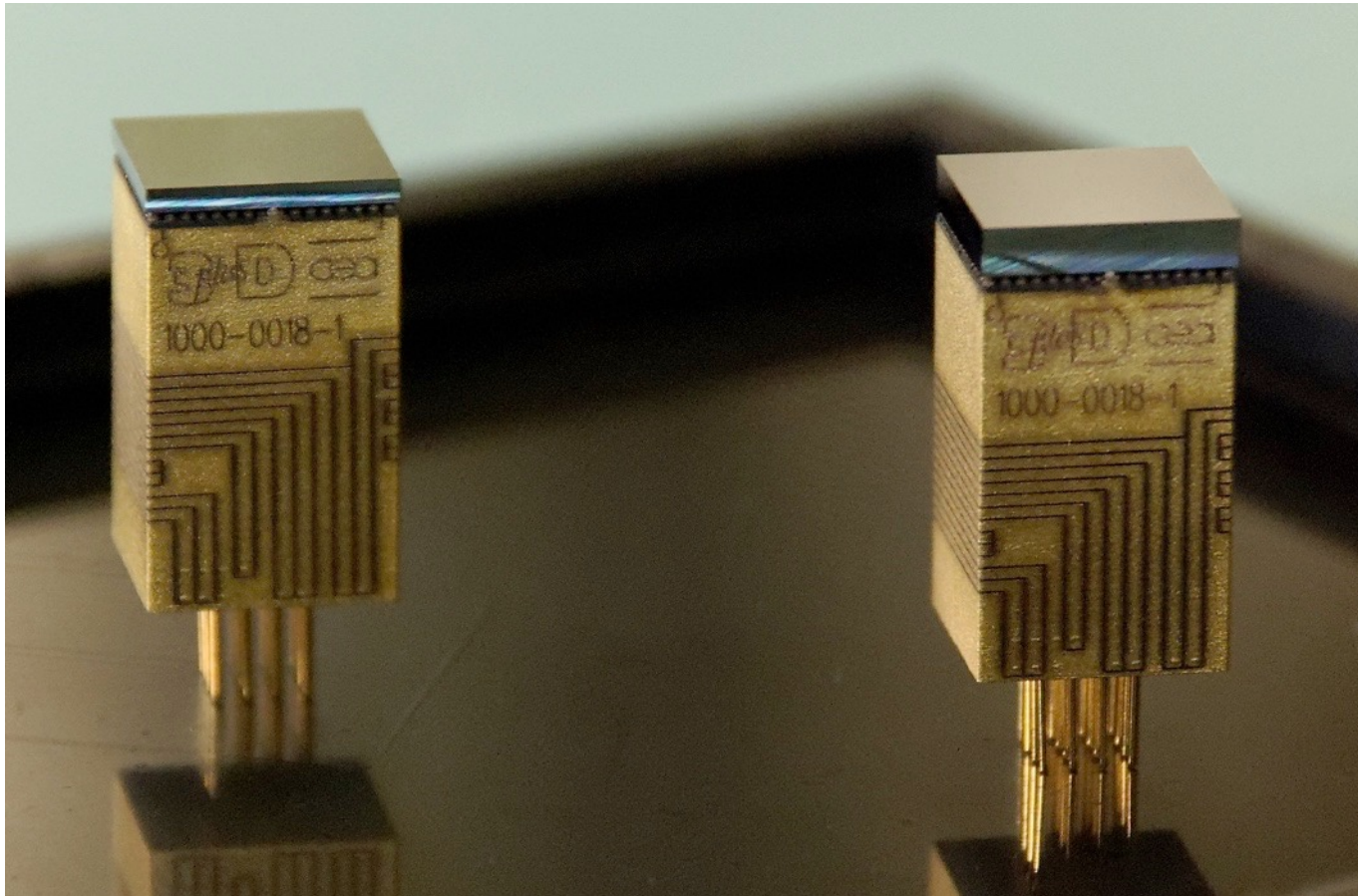


**Electrical body**  
with a 4 x 4 pin grid array



**Caliste-HD camera**

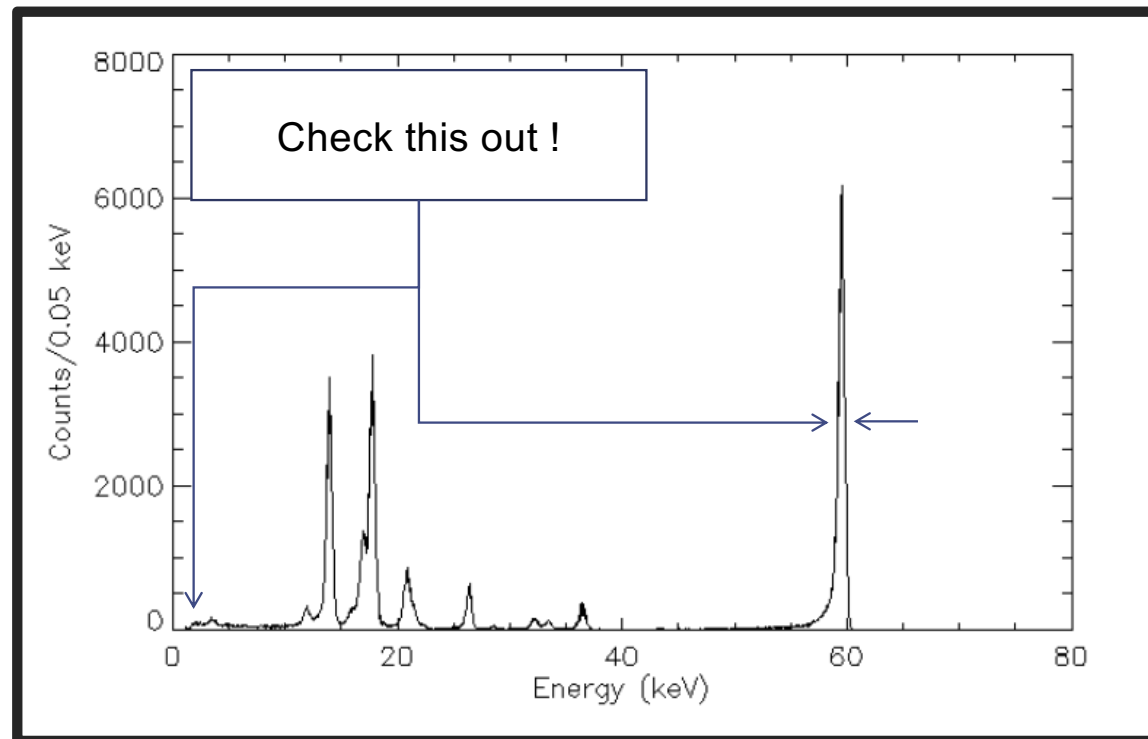
## 3D approach / Caliste concept



**Caliste-HD, 1 and 2mm thick CdTe crystals, 256 pixels, 625 $\mu$ m pitch**

# 3D approach / Caliste-HD spectral response

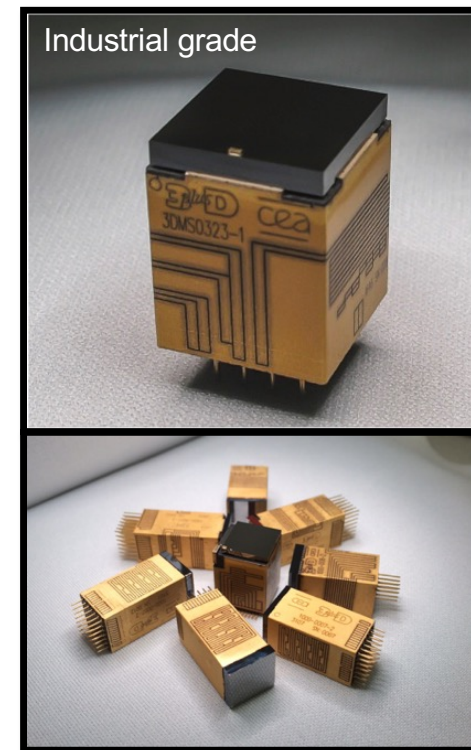
- -4°C / 400V
- **256 pixels** 562 eV FWHM at 13.9 keV
- **666 eV FWHM at 59.5 keV**
- **1.2 keV low threshold**
- **1 MeV dynamic range**





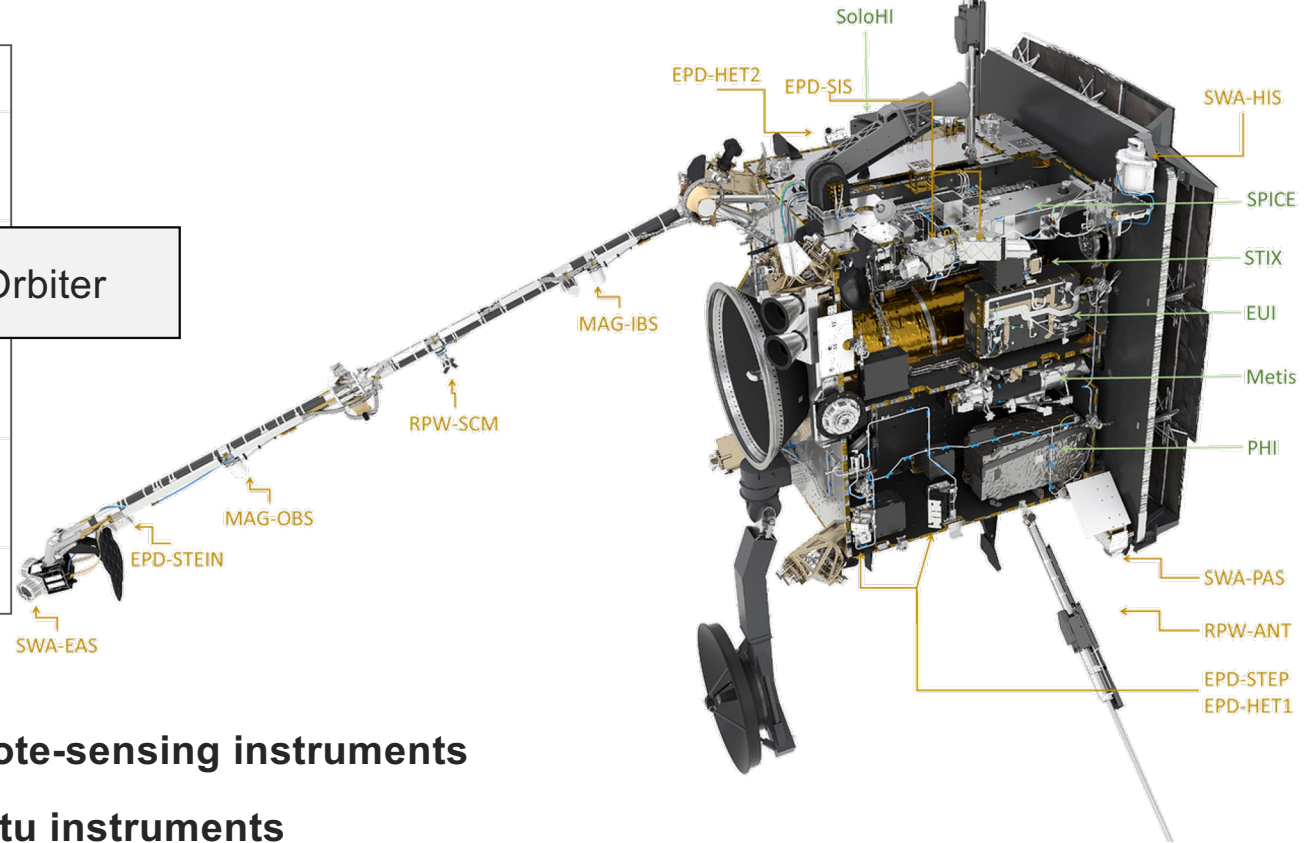
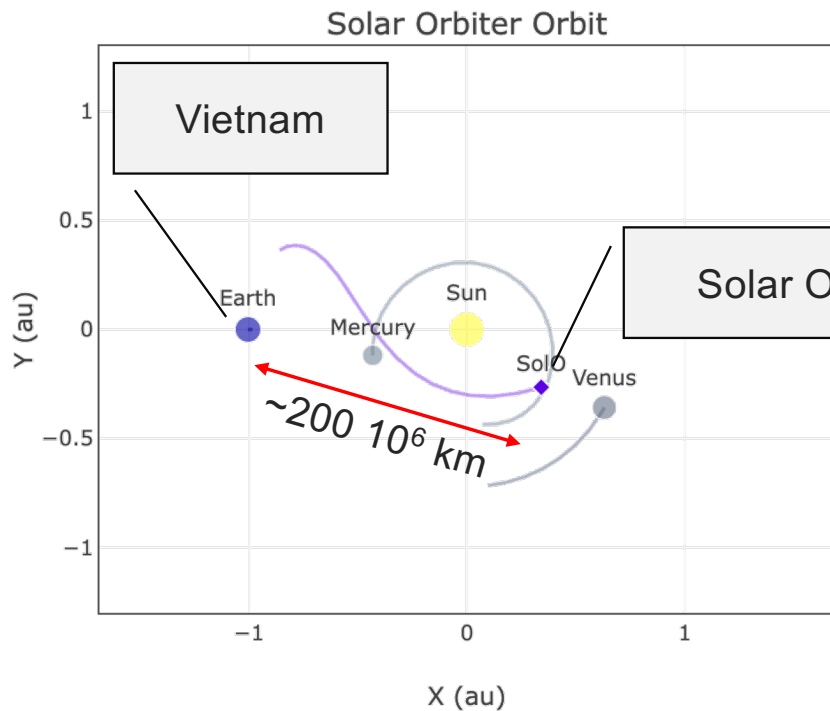
# Caliste SiP 3D Modules family so far

Parameters	Caliste-64	Caliste-256	Caliste-HD	Caliste-SO	Caliste-O
Years of development	2005-2007	2008-2009	2010-2011	2011-2013	2014-2017
Pixel array	8 × 8	16 × 16	16 × 16	4 × 3	16 × 16
Pixel pitch	900 μm	580 μm	625 μm	2150/4550 μm	800 μm
Guard ring width	900 μm	100 μm	20 μm	500 μm	500 μm
Front-end electronics	IDeF-X V1.1 (16 channels)	IDeF-X V2 (32 channels)	IDeF-X HD (32 channels)	IDeF-X HD (32 channels)	IDeF-X HD (32 channels)
Number of ASIC	4	8	8	1	8
Interface	7 × 7 PGA	7 × 7 PGA	4 × 4 PGA	2 × 10 SOP	7 × 7 PGA
Power consumption	200 mW	800 mW	200 mW	20 mW	200 mW
Energy range (keV)	2 to 250	1.5 to 250	1.5 to 1000	1.5 to 1000	1.5 to 1000
Energy resolution (FWHM at 60 keV)	900 eV	860 eV	670 eV	1000 eV	1000 eV
Dimensions w/o CdTe (mm <sup>3</sup> )	10×10×18.6	10×10×20.7	10×10×16.5	11×12×15.65	15×15×16.5
CdTe or CZT Dimensions (mm <sup>3</sup> )	10×10×(0.5 – 2)	10×10×(0.5 – 2)	10×10×(0.5 – 2)	10×10×1	15×15×(0.5-2)
Radiation Hardness					
TID (krad)	>300	>300	>300	>300	>300
SEU (MeV.cm <sup>2</sup> .mg <sup>-1</sup> )	~9	~9	~9	~9	~9
SEL (MeV.cm <sup>2</sup> .mg <sup>-1</sup> )	12	56	>110	>110	>110

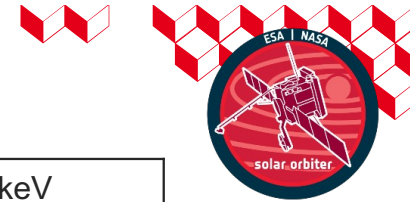




# Application in Space for Solar Eruptive events observations



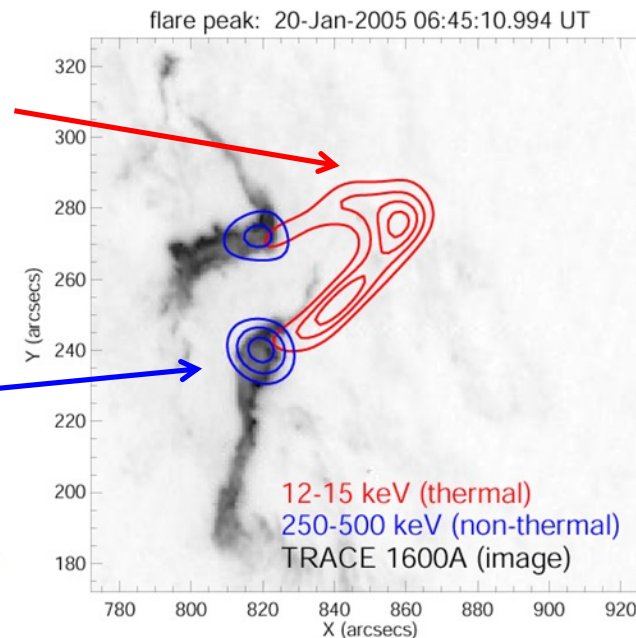
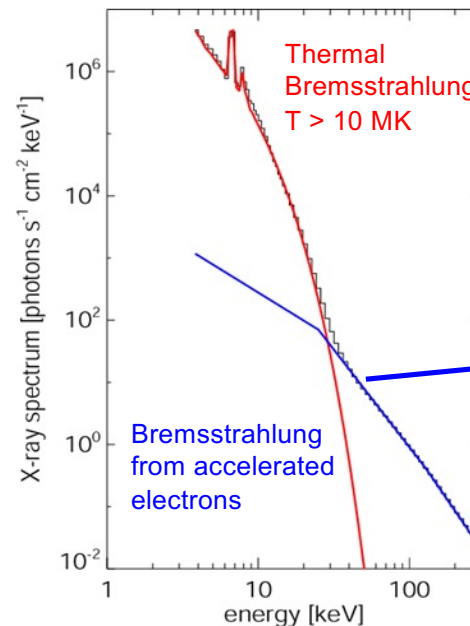
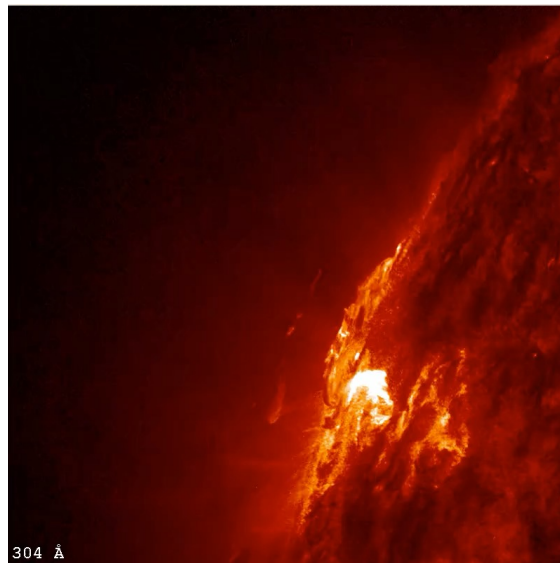
- 6 remote-sensing instruments
- 4 in-situ instruments



# STIX Science goals

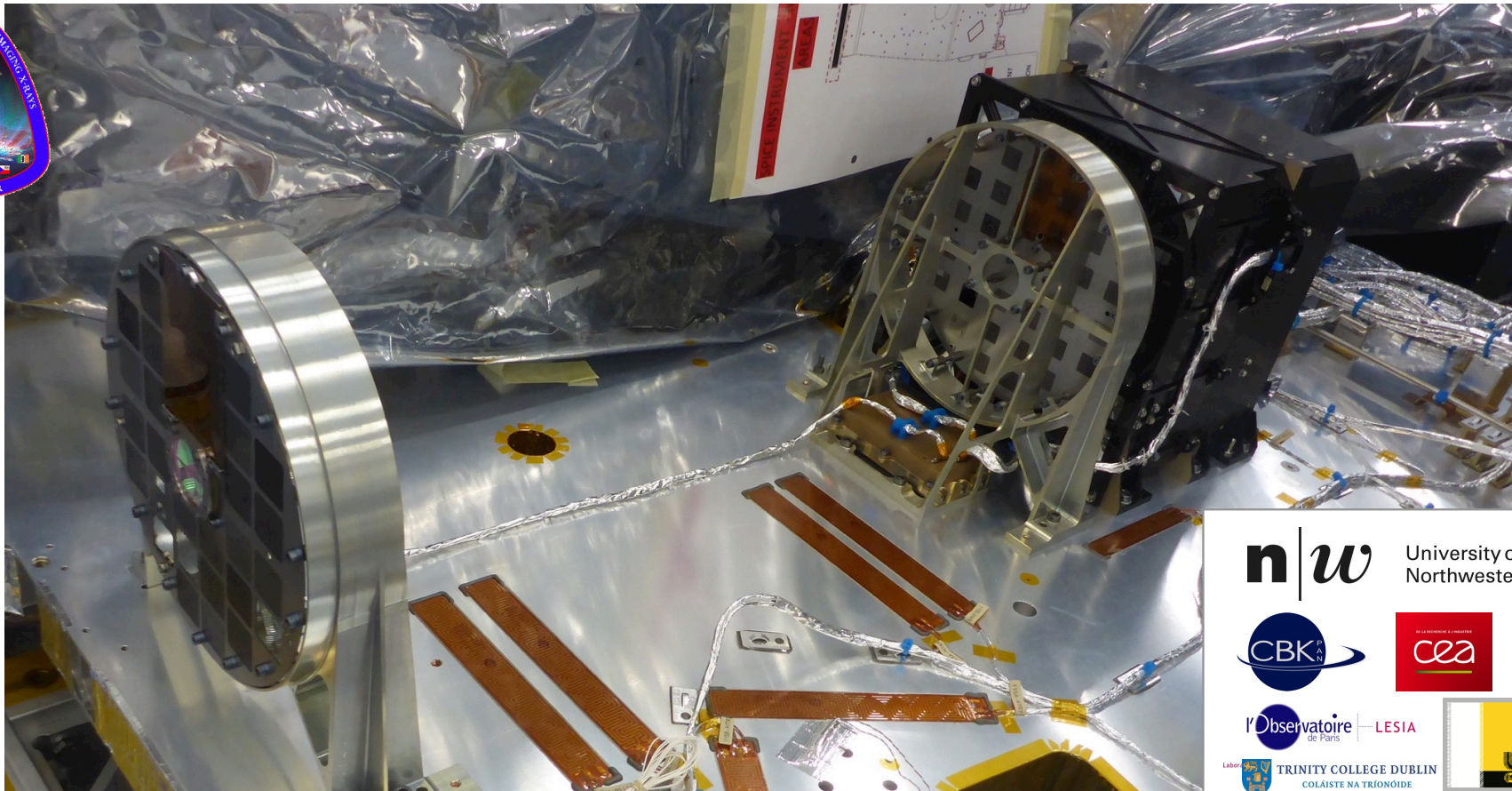
- ▶ **STIX: Spectrometer Telescope Imaging X-rays**
- ▶ **By detecting X-rays from 4 to 150 keV, STIX determines the intensity, the location, the timing, the spectra of accelerated electrons near the Sun.**

Energy range	4-150 keV
Angular resolution	7" to 180"
Spectral resolution	~1 keV @ 6 keV
Time resolution	down to 0.1 s
FOV	2° x 2°



Hard X-ray Spectrum and Image from RHESSI

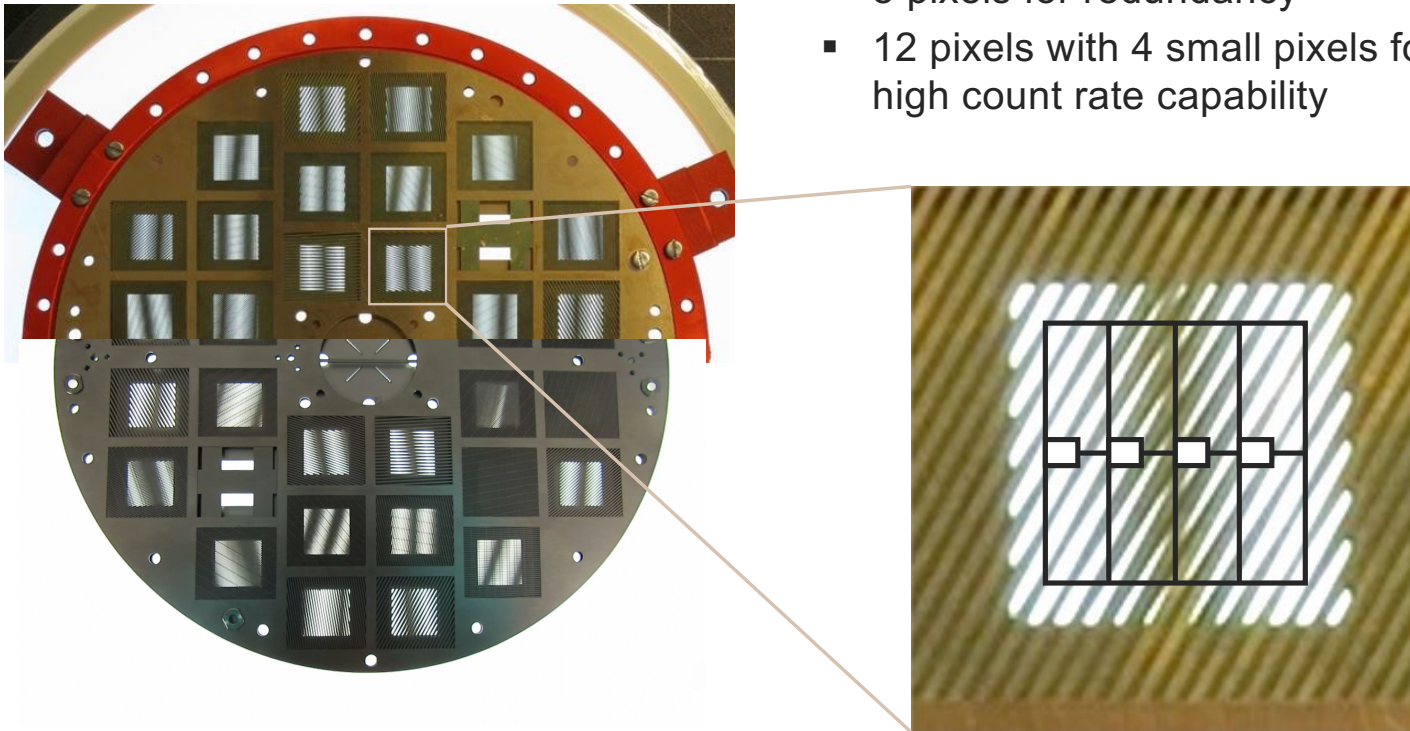
# Application in Space for Solar Eruptive events observations



# Imaging technique: Fourier Imaging Spectroscopy

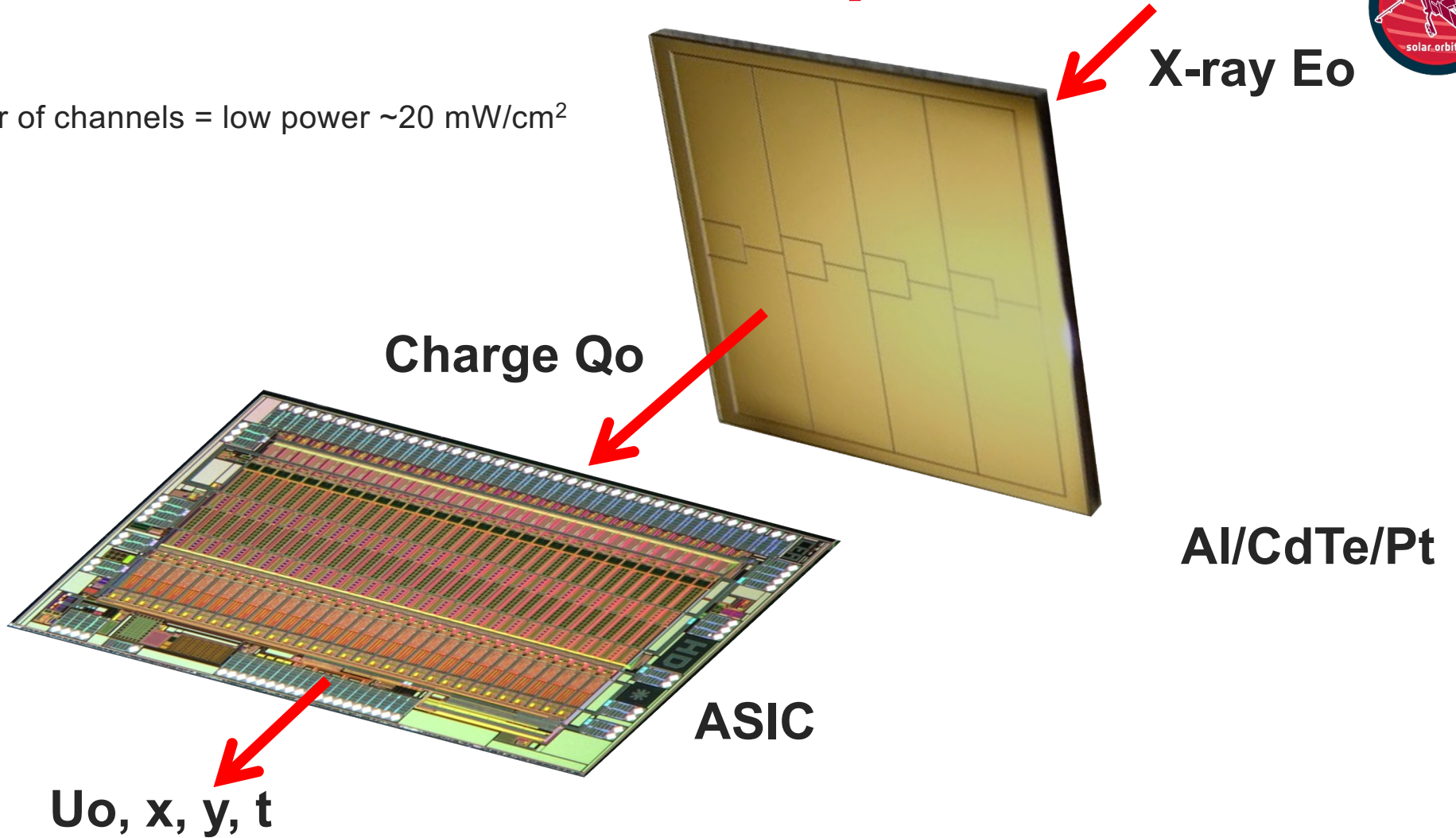


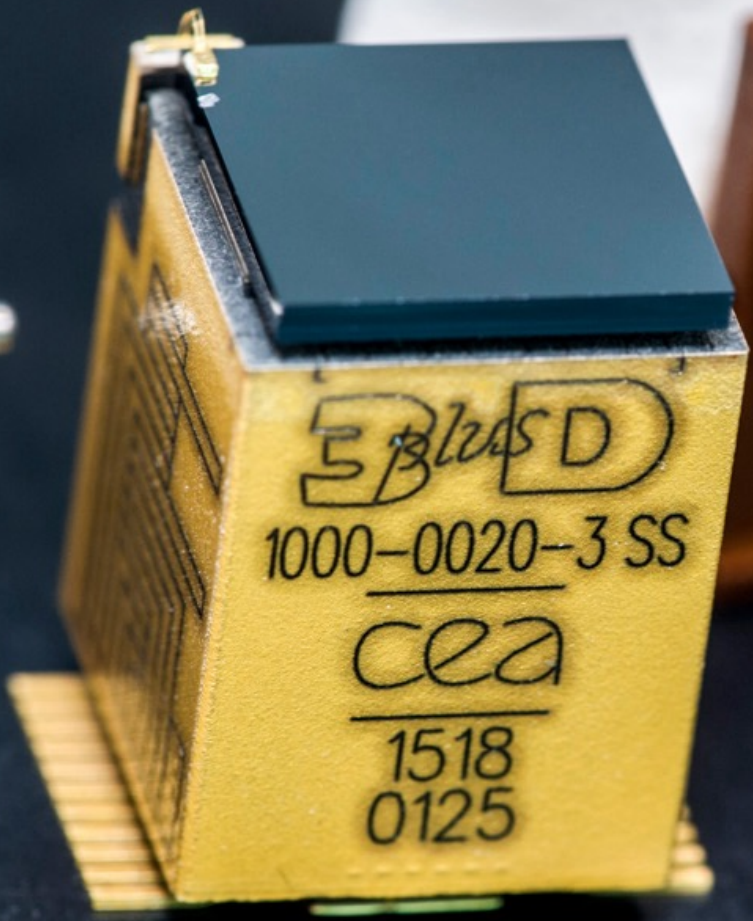
- 4 bands to measure the amplitude and the phase of the visibility
- 8 pixels for redundancy
- 12 pixels with 4 small pixels for high count rate capability



# Vertical Interconnexion concept

Small number of channels = low power  $\sim 20 \text{ mW/cm}^2$



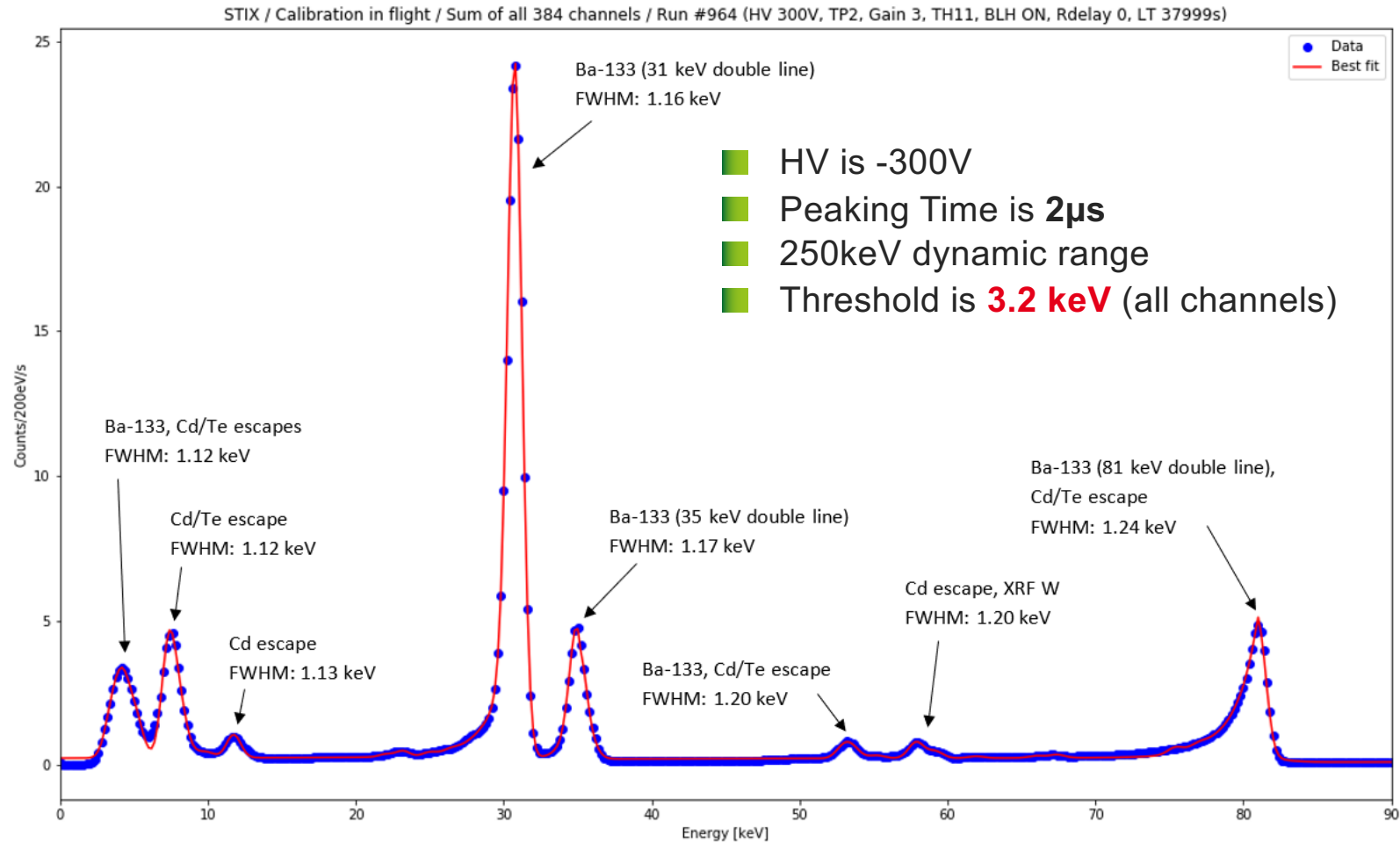








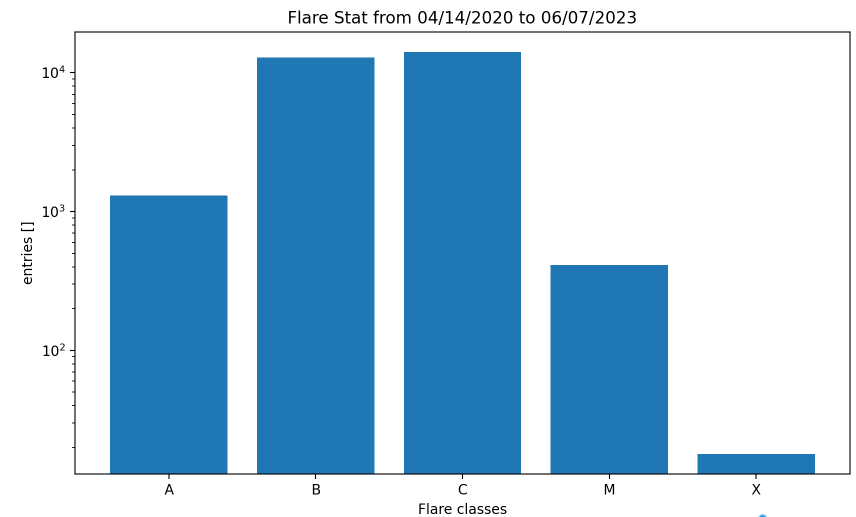
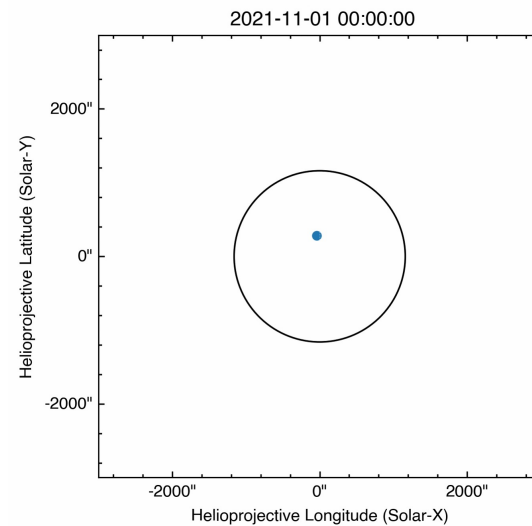
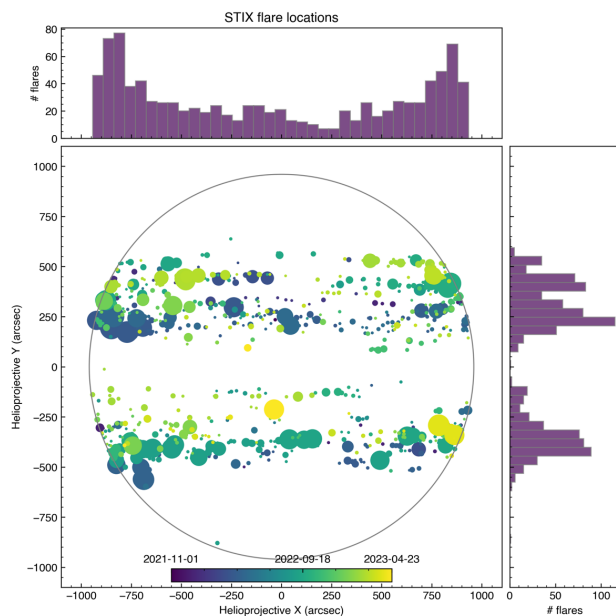
# Performance in flight on board Solar Orbiter





# STIX successfully operating 24/7 since 2021

## 50,000+ Flares since then



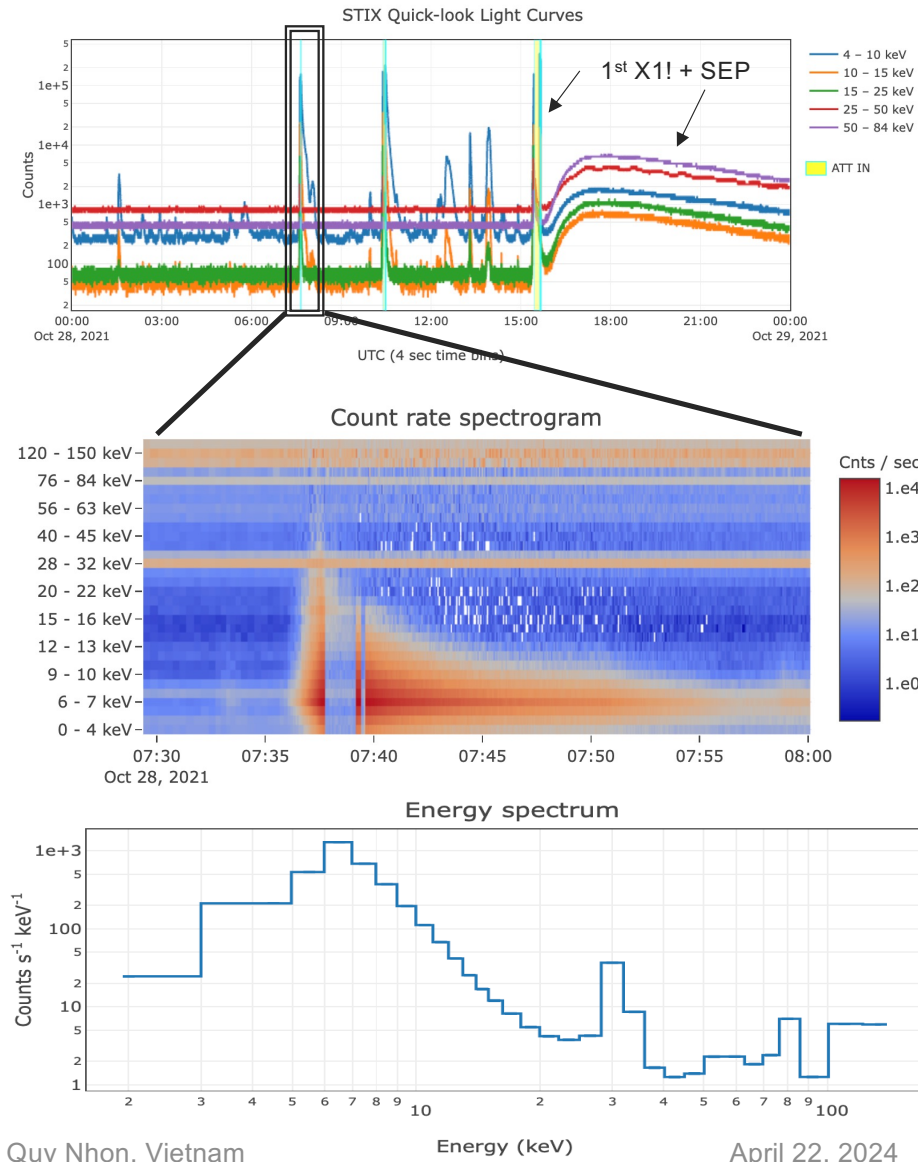
\*courtesy of Laura Hayes, ESA

My favorite ones ...



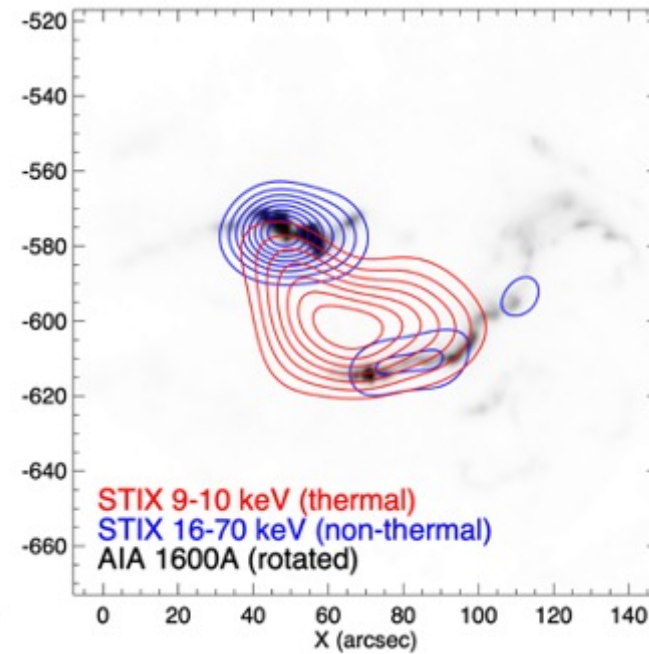
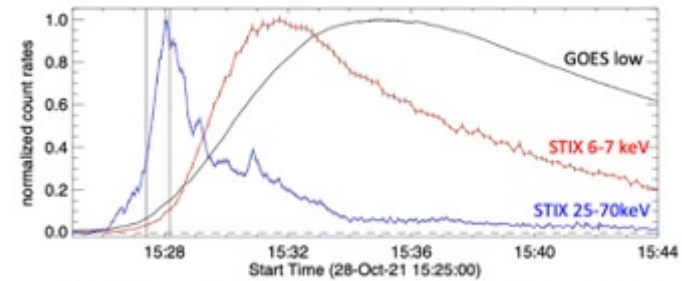
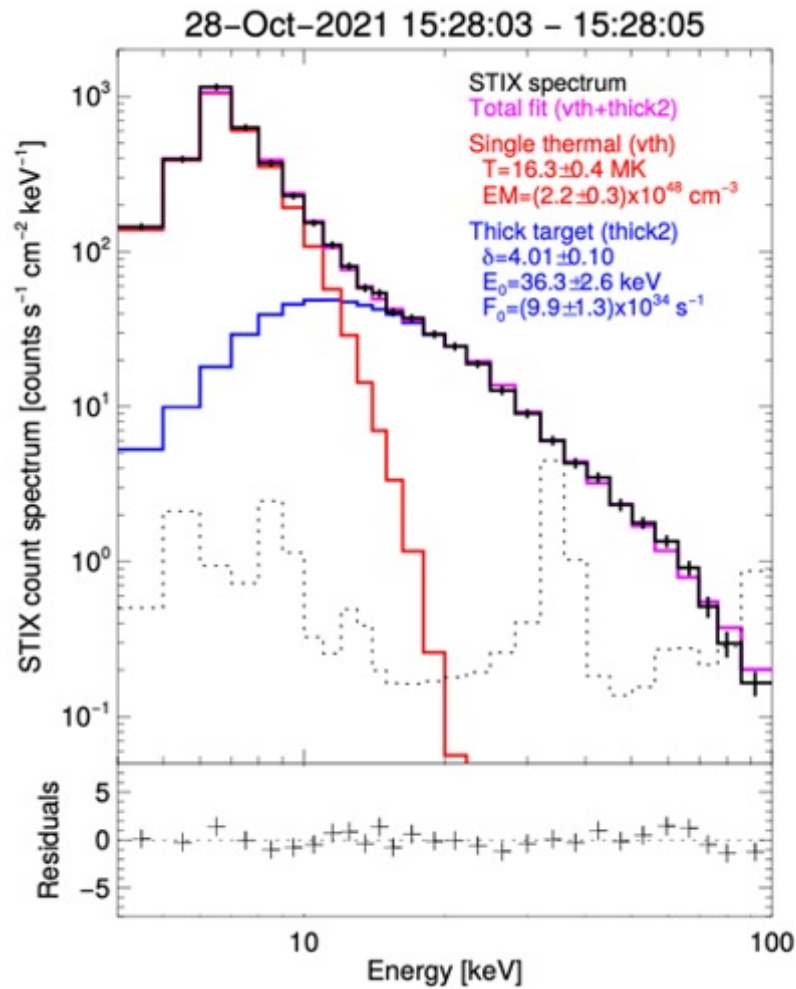
# STIX Operation mode

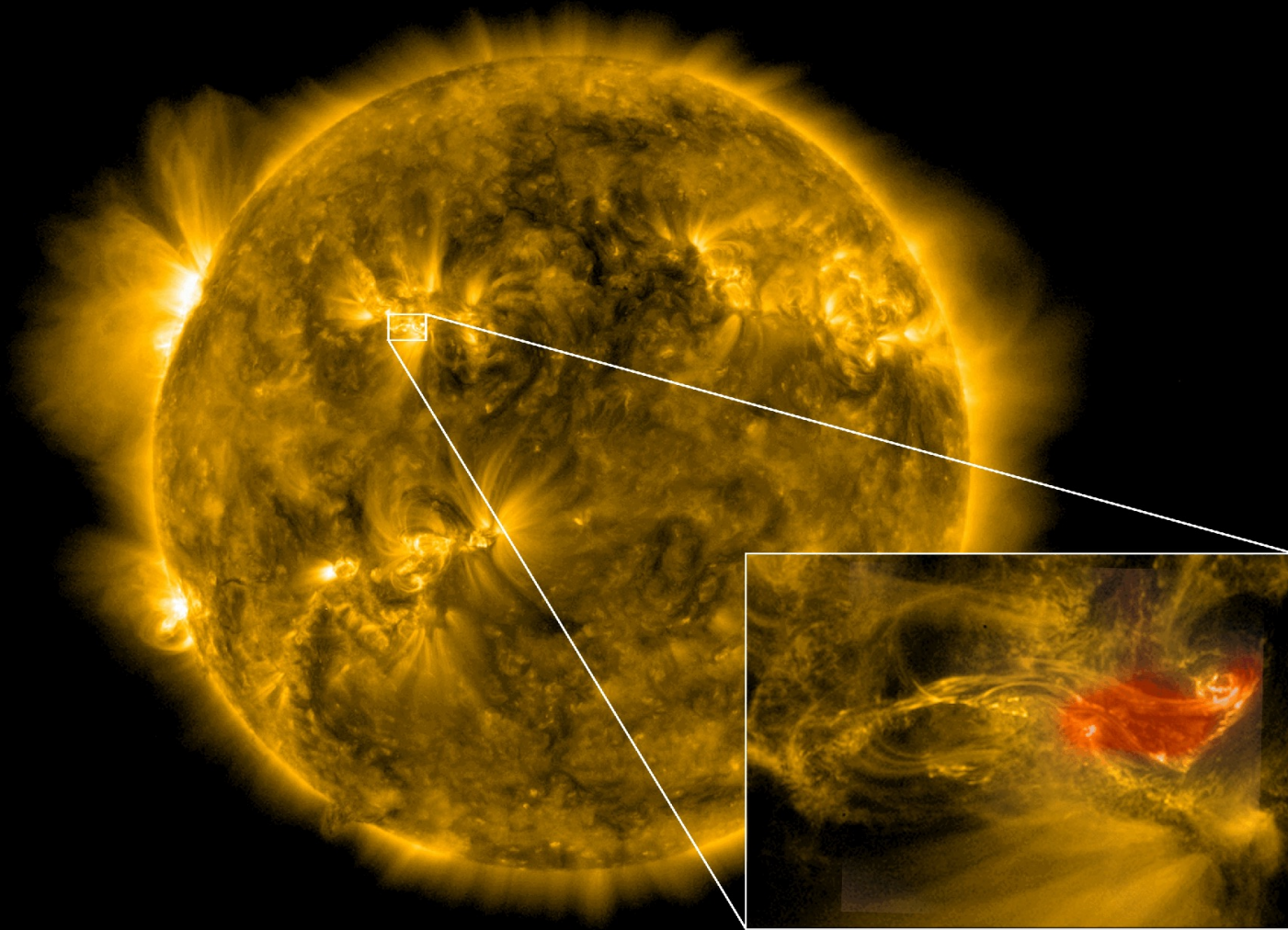
- Quick-Looks are sent down automatically
  - Select Event period of time
  - Energy range
  - Time resolution
  - Data type (Full or spectrograms)
  - Send the data request (Weekly)
- Internal memory of STIX holds up to ~6 months of data
- Be patient ... (6 weeks approx.)
  - Take your data
  - Play with it!





# Performance in flight on board Solar Orbiter





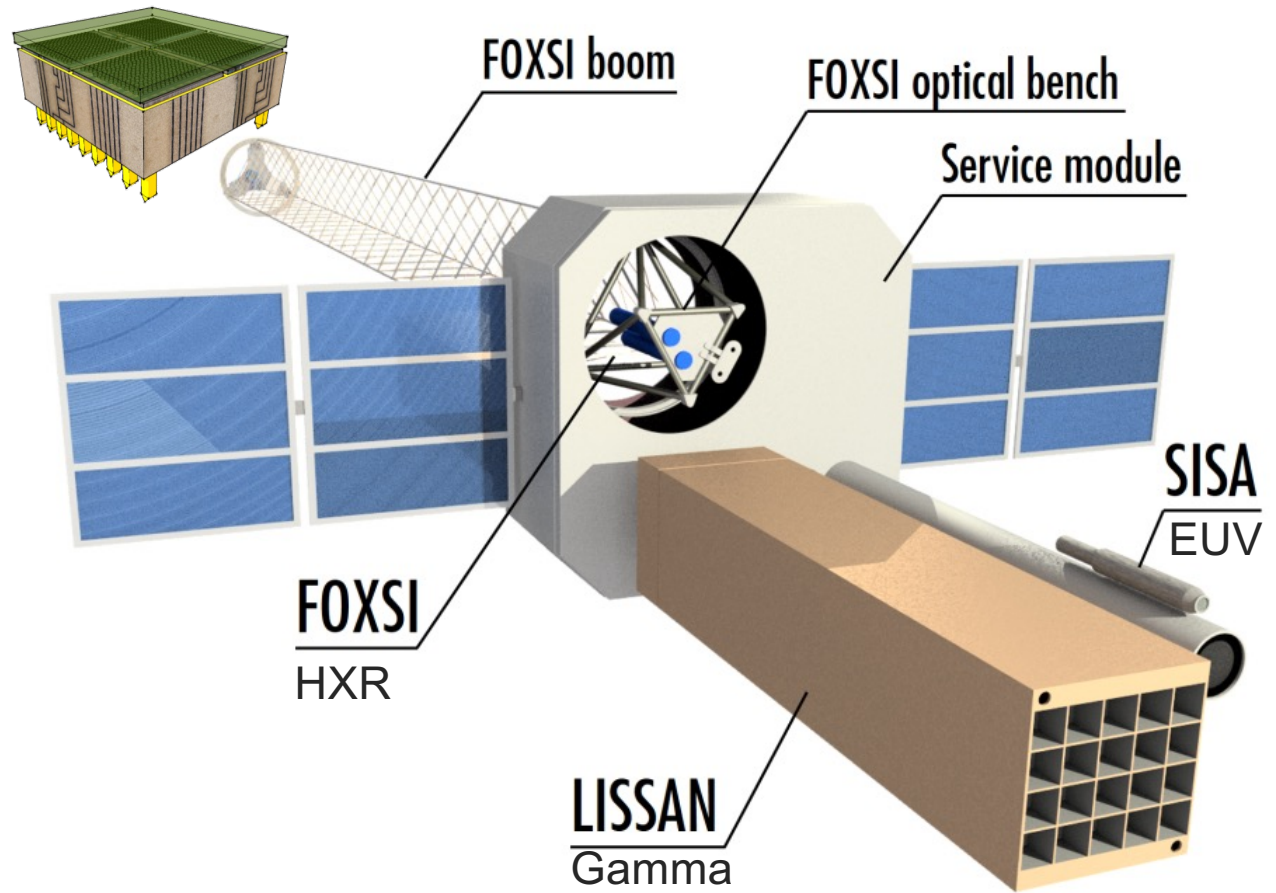
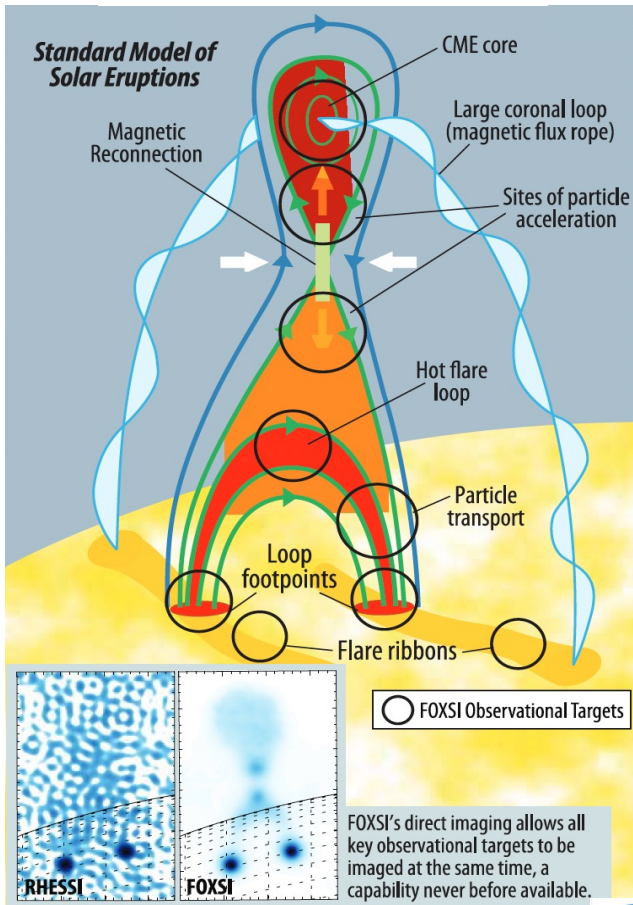
EUI/FSI 174 Å

EUI/HRI 174 Å  
STIX 5-9 keV  
STIX 16-50 keV

*STIX Team / Andrea Battaglia, FHNW/ETH*

April 22, 2024

# What should we do next for space science: SPARK



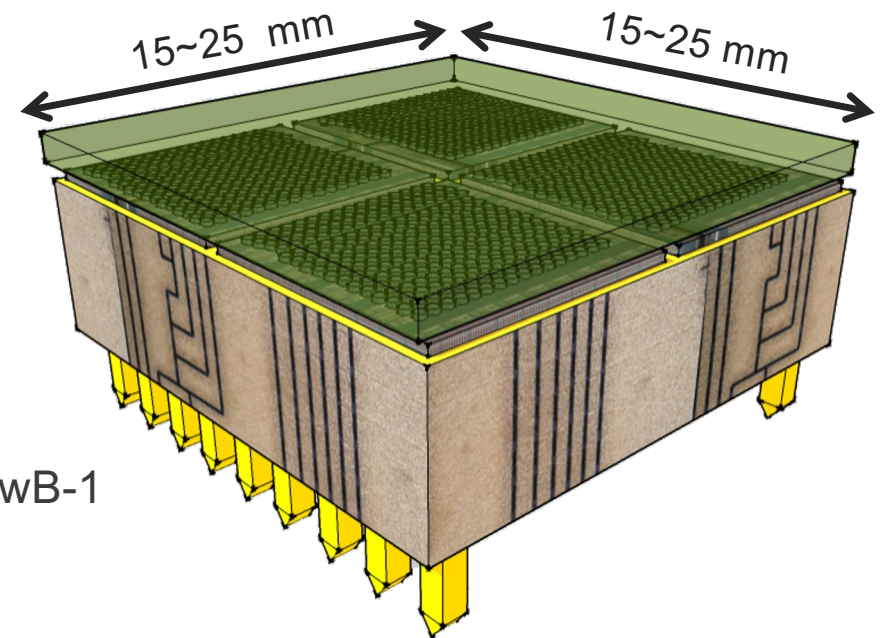
Courtesy of Steven Christe, NASA/GSFC



# Caliste-MC2 concept

- Reach the Fano limit for ultimate energy resolution
- Smaller pixels (Pay attention to spilt events .... ~100-200  $\mu\text{m}$  minimum)
- Larger area
- Higher counting rate capability
- **More advanced packaging**
- **More advanced embedded functions**

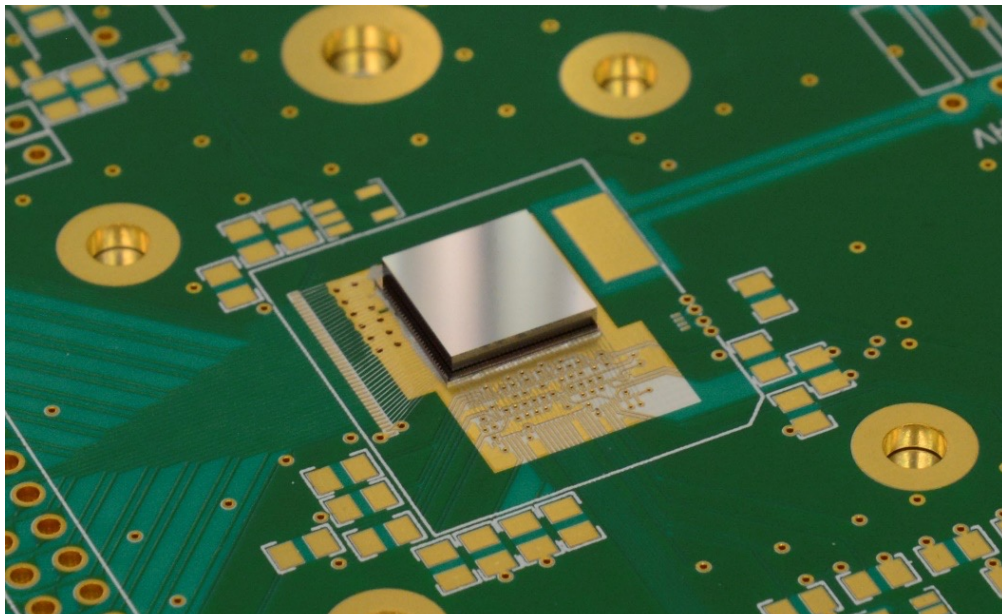
- 3D integration
- Modular approach,  $(64 \text{ to } 96)^2$  fine pitch CdTe
- Flip chipped to a mosaic of 2D-ASIC  $D^2R_x$
- Stacked to a
  - Fully parallel high speed A/D converter – OwB-1
  - Filter stage
  - I/O's



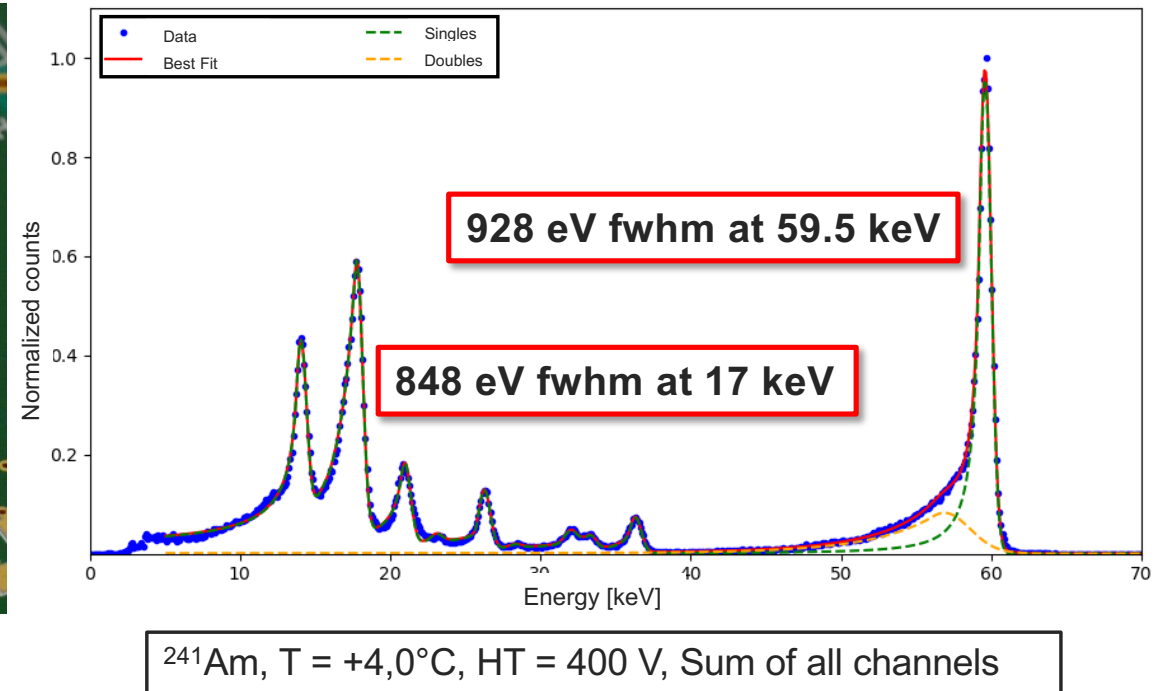
# Detector performance demonstration



Allaire+23



Caliste-MC2-1K prototype (flat configuration)

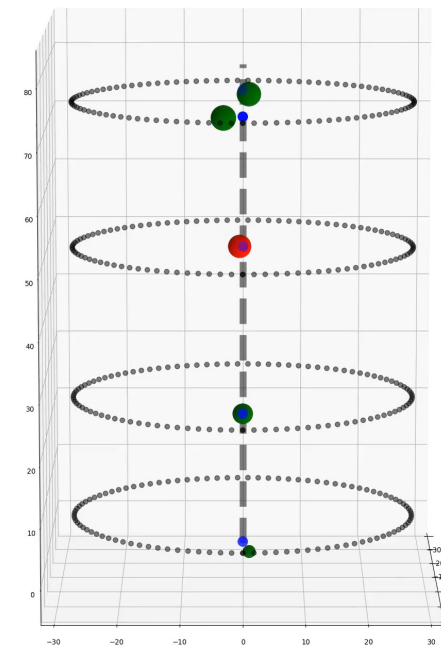
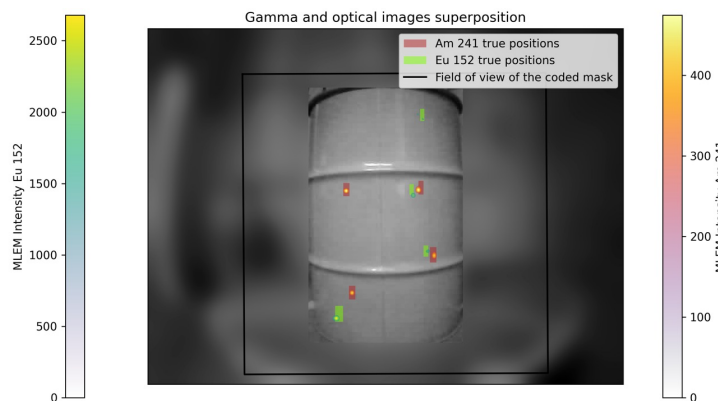
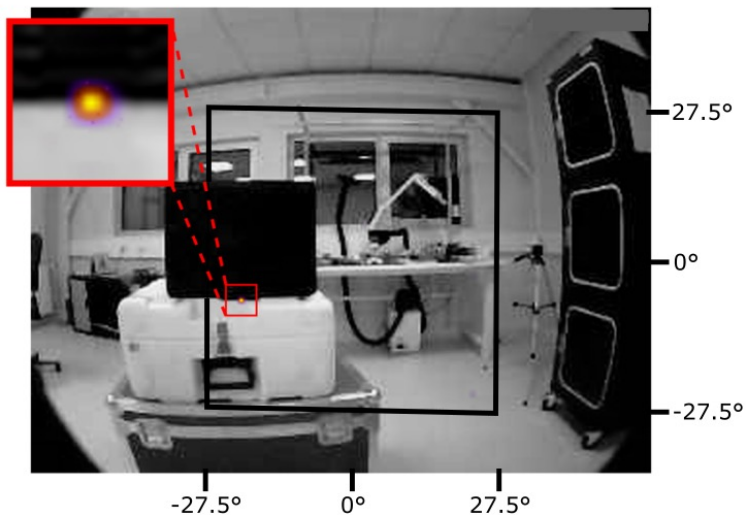




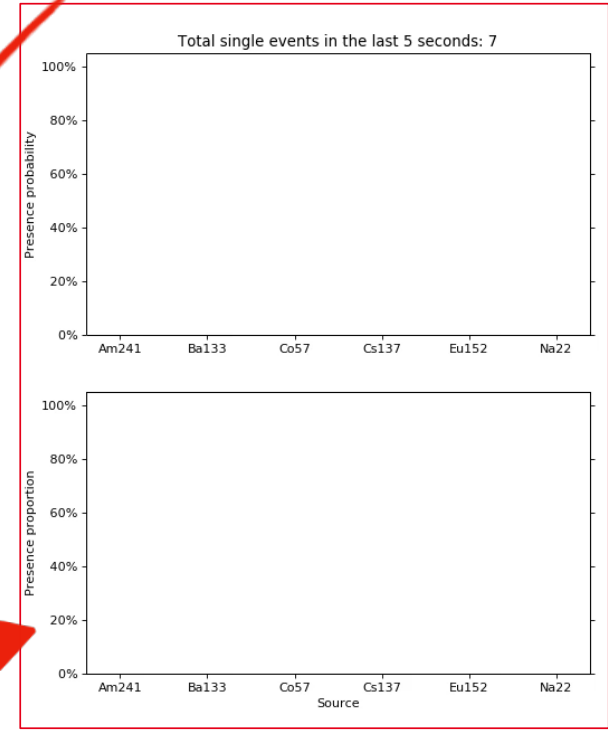
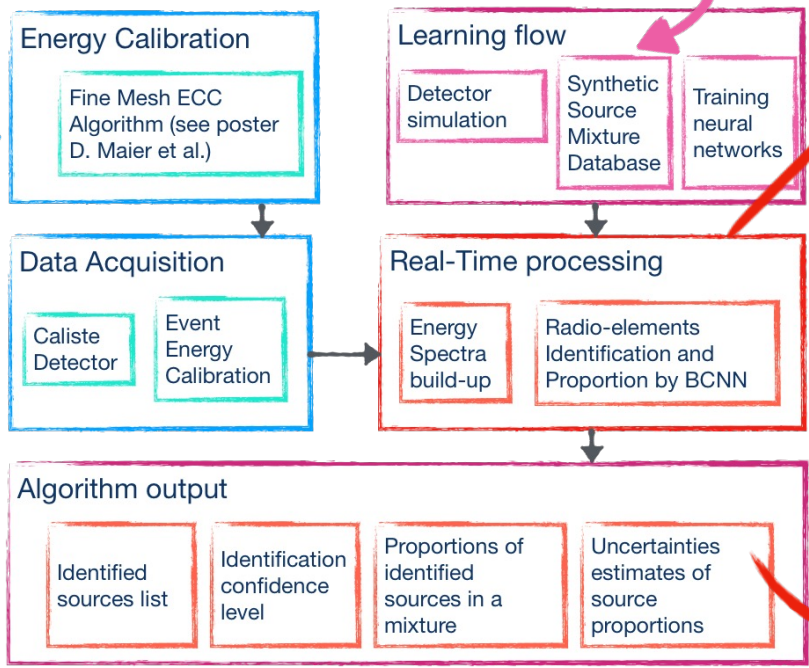
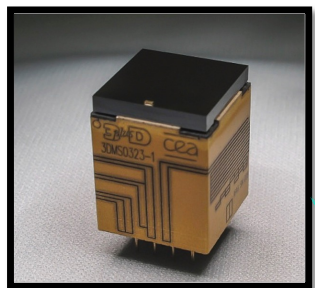
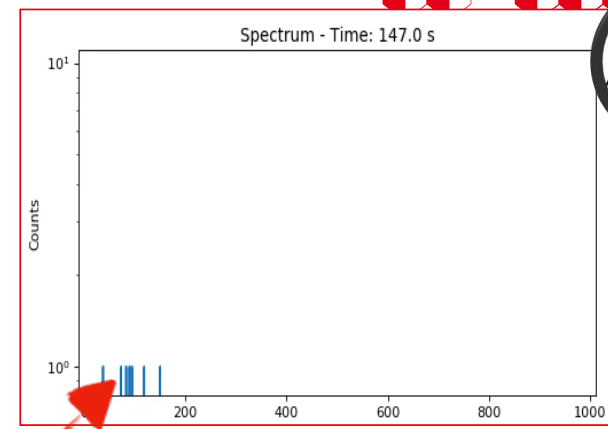
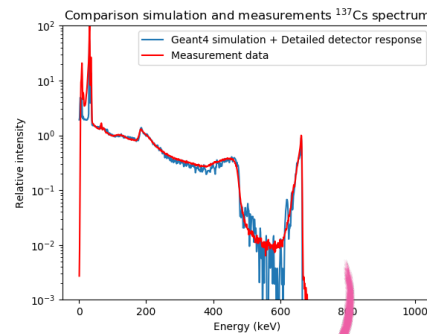
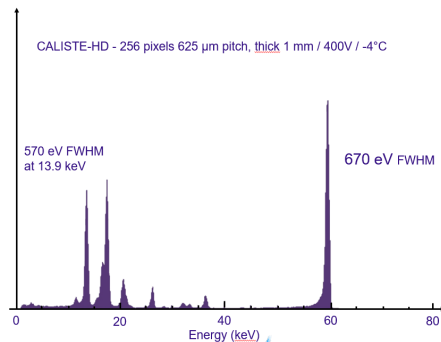
# Spid-X Gamma camera for nuclear monitoring



**Spid-X Industrial demonstrator  
Caliste-O technology embedded**



# Spid-X for nuclear monitoring



Thank you so much!

