# SPHiNX – A GRB polarimeter





Partikeldagarna 2017

- Nirmal Iyer On behalf of the SPHiNX collaboration

#### InnoSat – 2



A satellite platform for the next "Innovativa Forskningsatellit".

- Call for proposal by the Swedish National Space Board (SNSB).
- Satellite platform provided by OHB Sweden

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A satellite platform for the next "Innovativa Forskningsatellit".

### Swedish National Space Board (SNSB) OHB Sweden



	Standard Platform
Orbit	540 km altitude, 53° inclination
Mass	25 kg
Power	30 W
Data	150 Mbyte / contact
Pointing	
Accuracy	0.1°
Knowledge	0.01°

What 'Innovativa forskning' can we do ?

- Polarisation studies in high energy X-rays
- > Bright sources
- Not very strict pointing constraints





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# Gamma Ray Bursts !!



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### What 'Innovativa forskning' can we do ?

devil in the details



#### Gamma Ray Bursts





Prompt emission

KTH VETENSKAP OCH KONST



Figure from Borgonovo+ 2007

 Multiple competing models which explain the gamma ray spectrum and time variations

### **Prompt Emission**

## Synchrotron / Inverse Compton / Photospheric





Figure from Gehrels+ 2007

### Polarisation studies of Prompt emission





Figure made from data in Toma+ 2009



Science Case

- Polarisation measurements of the prompt gamma ray emission to learn more about the emission mechanisms
- Satellite Opportunity
- InnoSat-2 platform provided by SNSB

Can we put the two together ??

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> SPHiNX (Satellite Polarimeter for High eNergy X-rays)





Can we put the two together ??



Monte Carlo simulations - Geant4



Monte Carlo simulations – Geant4



- Source photons
  - Spectrum and duration from Fermi,
  - polarisation fraction 100%, polarisation angle random value
- Background photons (unpolarised) / particles
  - Cosmic X-ray Background spectrum
  - > Albedo photons from Earth's atmosphere
  - Trapped and albedo particles (protons, electrons and positrons)
- Analyse modulation curves to get performance for 100% case
- Extrapolate the performance to the polarisation fraction in different models.

- Results from the proposed design
  - > We expect to detect / see ~ 200 GRBs in the two year mission lifetime





- Results from the proposed design
  - > We expect to detect / see ~ 200 GRBs in the two year
  - The sensitivity (minimum detectable polarisation fraction) for these 200 GRBs gives ~ 80 GRBs with MDP < 0.3 !</p>















# And we can do more !

Additional diagnostics

- Simultaneous spectral measurement correlations
- Simultaneous lightcurve measurements



Prompt localisation







SPHiNX (Satellite Polarimeter for High eNergy X-rays)

- Proposal Phase A/B1 submitted to SNSB.
- > Three competing missions DICE, SIW and SPHiNX





Stop here











Modu





POLAR



GAP





#### **Backup Slides**

#### Plastic scintillator (Eljen Technology)



#### Photomultiplier (Hamamatsu)









SiPHRA ASIC (IDEAS) Incoming: x-ROC ASIC (weeroc)





Table	21	
GRB	polarization	measurements.

Pub Date	GRB	Instrument	Energy (keV)	п	Refs.
2004	GRB 021206	RHESSI	150-2000	80% ± 20%	Coburn and Boggs (2003)
2004	GRB 021206	RHESSI	150-2000	< 4.1%	Rutledge and Fox (2004)
2004	GRB 021206	RHESSI	150-2000	41 <sup>+57</sup> %	Wigger et al. (2004)
2005	GRB 930131	CGRO/BATSE	20-1000	(35–100%) <sup>a</sup>	Willis et al. (2005)
2005	GRB 960924	CGRO/BATSE	20-1000	(50–100%) <sup>a</sup>	Willis et al. (2005)
2007	GRB 041219a	INTEGRAL/SPI	100-350	98% ± 33%	Kalemci et al. (2007)
2007	GRB 041219a	INTEGRAL/SPI	100-350	96% ± 40%	McGlynn et al. (2007)
2009	GRB 041219a	INTEGRAL/IBIS	200-800	43% ± 25% <sup>b</sup>	Götz et al. (2009)
2009	GRB 061122	INTEGRAL/SPI	100-1000	< 60%	McGlynn et al. (2009)
2011	GRB 100826a	IKAROS/GAP	70–300	27% ± 11% <sup>c</sup>	Yonetoku et al. (2011b)
2012	GRB 110301a	IKAROS/GAP	70–300	$70\% \pm 22\%$	Yonetoku et al. (2012)
2012	GRB 110721 a	IKAROS/GAP	70–300	80% ± 22%	Yonetoku et al. (2012)
2013	GRB 061122	INTEGRAL/IBIS	250-800	> 60%	Götz et al. (2013)
2014	GRB 140206a	INTEGRAL/IBIS	200-800	> 48%	Götz et al. (2014)
2016	GRB 151006a	Astrosat/CZTI	100-300	-	Rao et al. (2016)

<sup>a</sup> Albedo polarimetry. <sup>b</sup> Variable П. <sup>c</sup> Variable position angle.