



Dedicated to innovation in aerospace

**FFT at 100 Msamples/sec with the SkyFFT**

OBDP-2019

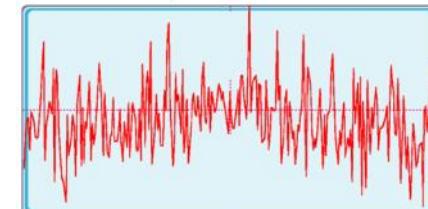
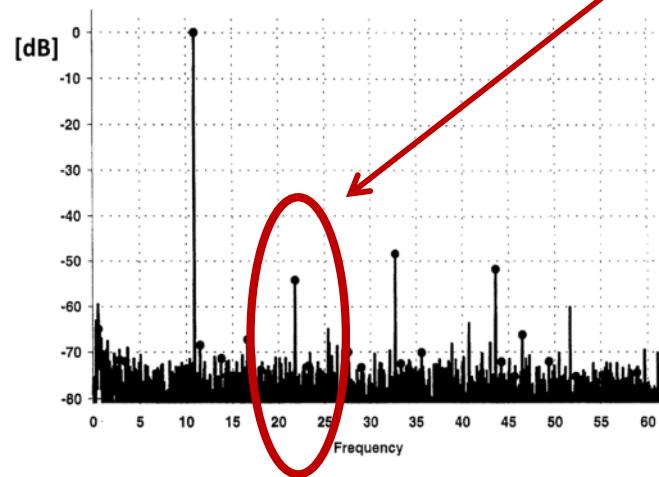
Bert-Johan Vollmuller

27-Feb-2019

# What is the ‘fun’ of Fast Fourier Transform

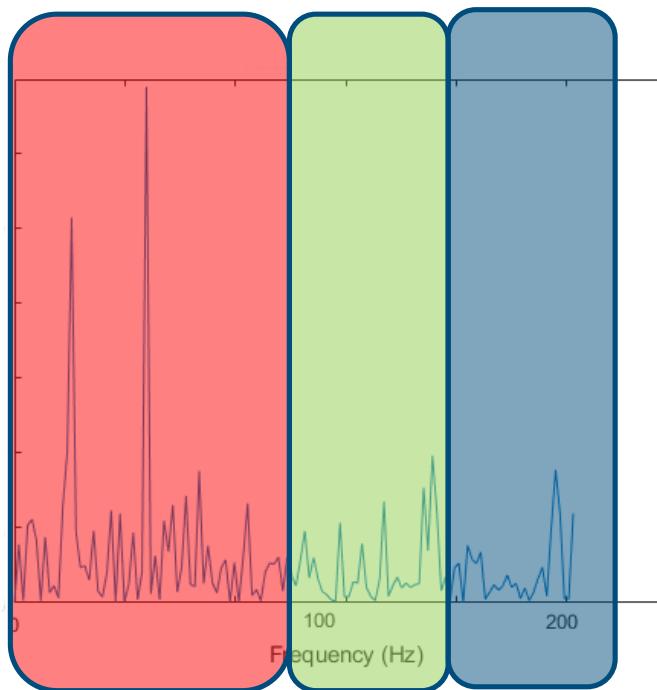
- Tracking of signals...
- Digital filtering
- Spectrum Analysis
- Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) imaging/compression
- Image pattern recognition
- Sonar
- Pulse Compression
- Doppler Processing

This is easier to track than this



# What is the 'fun' of Fast Fourier Transform

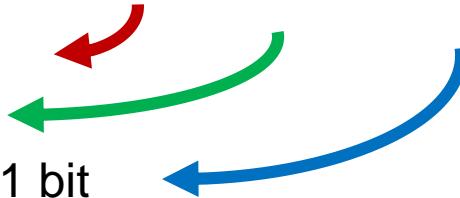
Better data compression



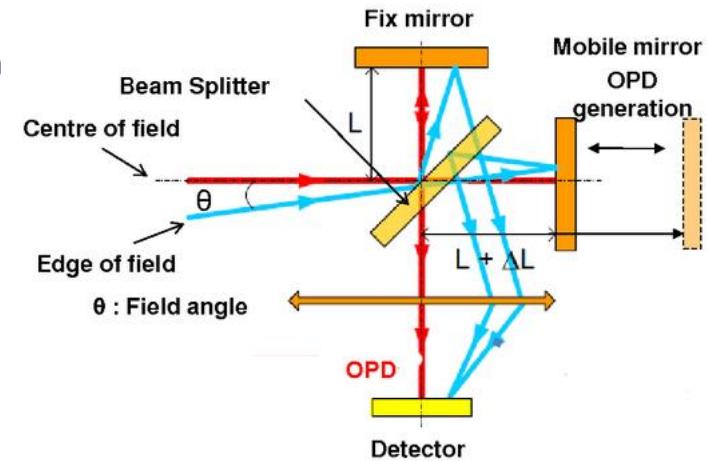
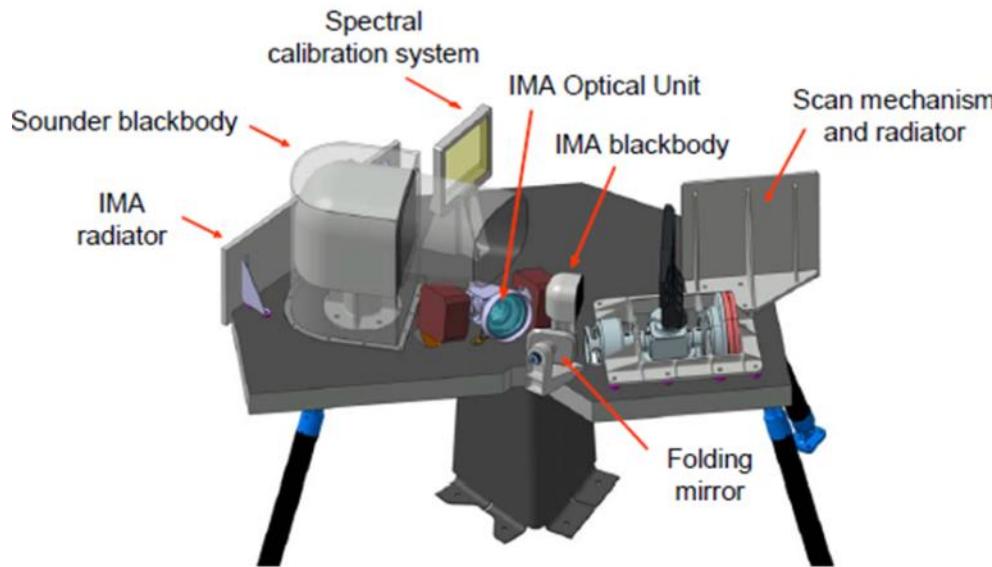
Low frequencies → 4 bits (or more)

Mid frequencies → 3 or 2 bits

High frequencies (oversampling) → 1 bit



Some instruments even *require* FFT in order to be able to operate...



IASI-**ng**



# SkyFFT aka FFTC

Multi Wafer Project 180nm RHA process of Atmel



## Functions:

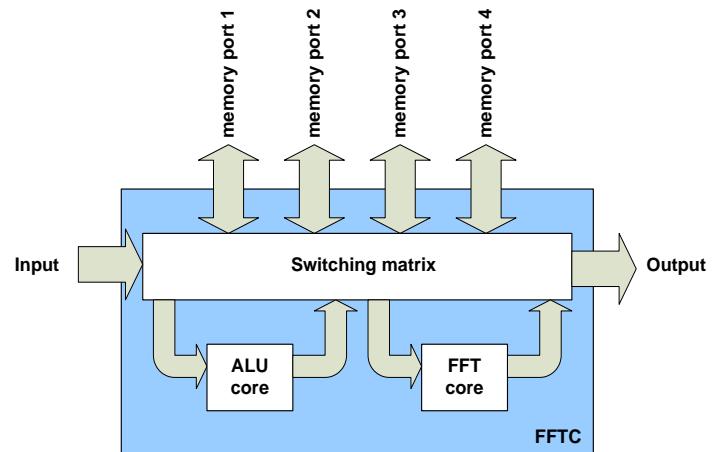
- Full floating point accuracy (32-bits I and 32-bits Q)
- Up to 1024-point **FFT      FFT<sup>-1</sup>**
- With twiddle up to 1 million point **FFT    (or FFT<sup>-1</sup>)**
- Addition, Subtraction, Multiply, Conjugate, Conjugate multiply

## Data formats:

- Floating point I and floating point Q    (or only I)
- 32-bit integer I and 32-bit integer Q    (or only I)
- 16-bit integer I and 16-bit integer Q    (or only I)

## Performance:

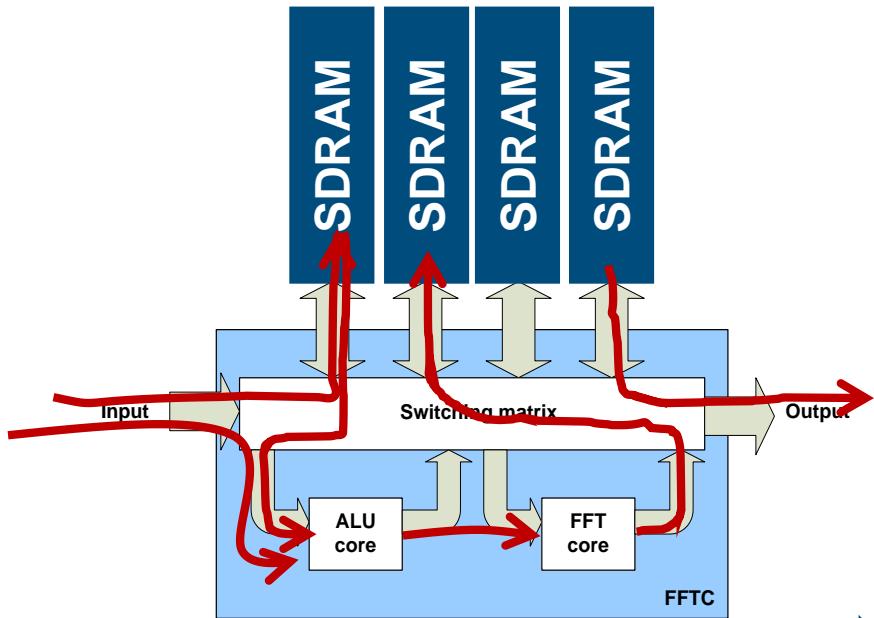
- 1D FFT of 1024 points in 10 us
- Long 1D FFT of 1 million points in 20 ms
- 2D FFT of 1024 x 1024 points in 20 ms





# Comparison

- “Performances of LEON3 IP Core”  
64 byte (512 bit) FFT-operation in 194 us.
- DFT implemented by Spiral  
A 1024-points FFT, 16 bits fixed point  
in Xilinx Virtex-5 QV → approximately 50 Mega-single-samples per sec  
→ approx 20 us
- WvFEv3 FFTcore, developed in 2011  
in space qualified RTAX2000 FPGA  
1024-point FFT in 10.4 ms



\* Load gain factors (or offset)  
Eg after every calibration cycle

\* Combine  
gain factor x data  
fed to FFT core  
store in SDRAM

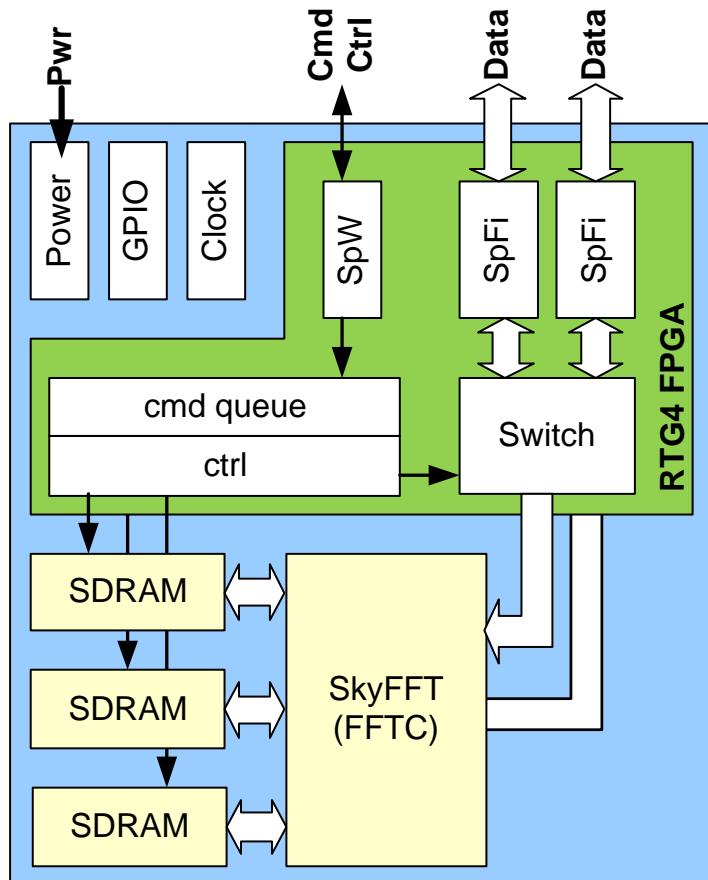
\* SDRAM to output

At the  
same  
time!!

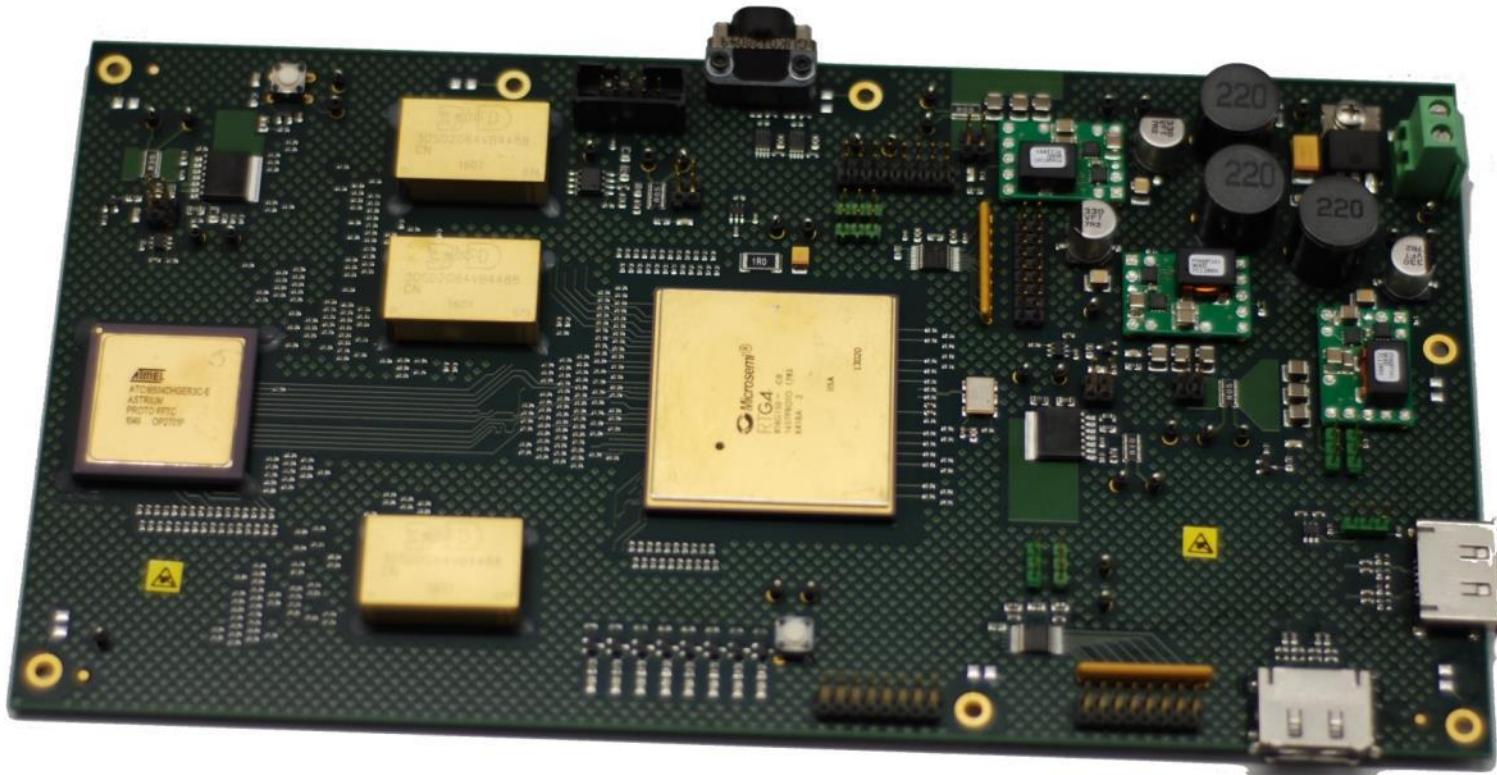
- ➡ Or use twiddle factors for long FFTs
- ➡ Or 2D-FFT operations  
(write horizontal – read vertical)
- ➡ Or FFT → multiply → FFT<sup>-1</sup>

# Elegant Breadboard // EM-model now available

- SkyFFT / FFTC
- MicroSemi RTG4 FPGA
- SDRAM memory of 3Dplus  
2Gbit
- SpaceWire command and control  
200 Mbit/s
- SpaceFibre data interface  
net 2.0 Gbit/s
- RTG4 is approx 10-15% full
- Boards size 245 x 125mm  
(could be reduced to 125 x 125mm)
- Power consumption **8 – 10 Watt**



# Picture of the board





# Conclusion

## FFT processing on-board the satellite

- Now available in rad-hard / rad tolerant technology

# Fully engaged

Netherlands Aerospace Centre

**Ir. G.J. (Bert-Johan) Vollmuller**  
Research & Development Engineer Senior  
Space Applications

**p ) +31 88 511 44 54**

**e ) bert-johan.vollmuller@nlr.nl**

**NLR Amsterdam**  
Anthony Fokkerweg 2  
1059 CM Amsterdam

**p ) +31 88 511 3113 f ) +31 88 511 3210**  
**e ) info@nlr.nl i ) www.nlr.nl**

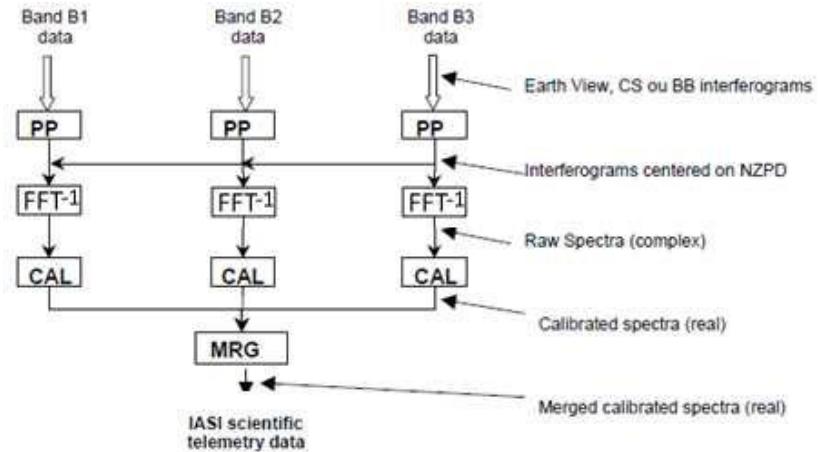
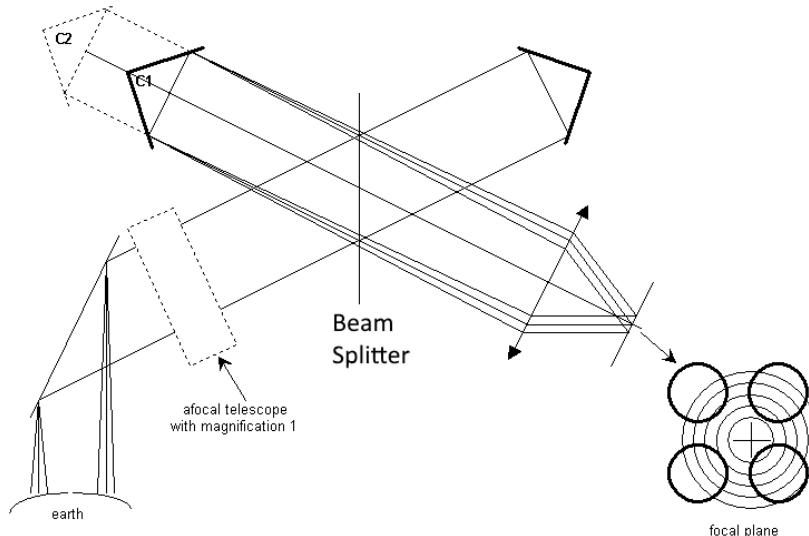
**NLR Marknesse**  
Voorsterweg 31  
8316 PR Marknesse

**p ) +31 88 511 4444 f ) +31 88 511 4210**  
**e ) info@nlr.nl i ) www.nlr.nl**



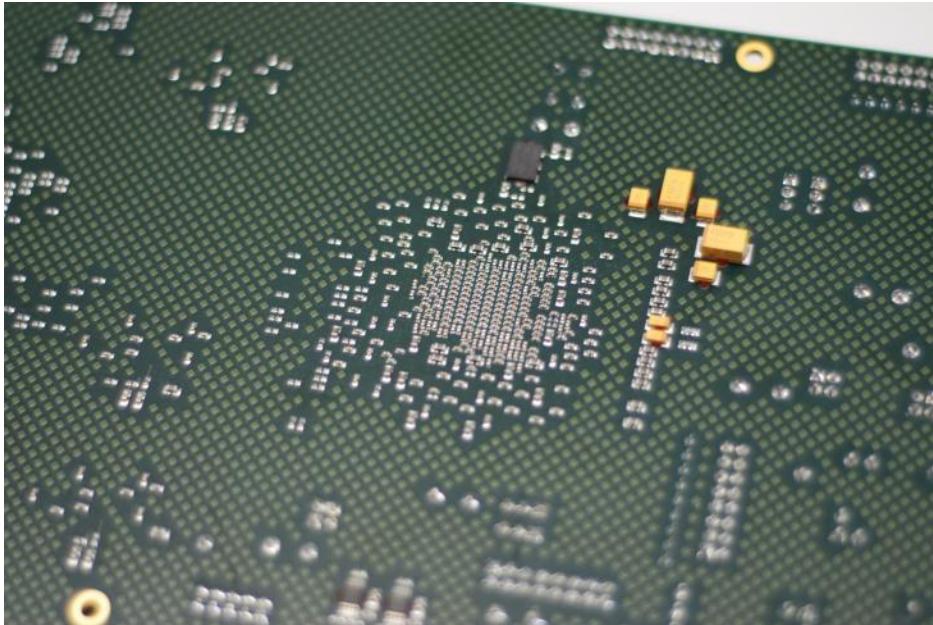
# Michelson Interferometer

Some instruments require on-board FFT



In order to align the fringes, one need on-board calibration that requires FFT

# Pictures of the board



Termination resistors ↑

