CHARA Collaboration Year-Three Science Review



FLUOR technical issues

V. Coudé du Foresto



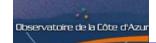






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Camera – short term issues

- On CHARA, FLUOR was using CHARA Classic's NICMOS until Summer 2006
- It was then expected that the IOTA NICMOS camera (originally used by FLUOR 1998-2002) could be assigned to FLUOR:
 - This would enable dual Classic / FLUOR operation
 - CHARA NICMOS optimized for Classic
- But:
 - IOTA NICMOS chip turned out to be dead
 - Replacement chip found at NOAO (thanks Steve!), should be installed soon
 - Performances remain to be evaluated (engineering array?)
 - If positive FLUOR can then be offered again





Camera – longer term perspective

- LESIA to build 2 (possibly 3) clone camera systems
 - One « lab camera » for Persée interferometric nuller bench
 - One « sky camera » for 'OHANA and FLUOR
 - Possibly two sky cameras if budget permits (~250k€ total)
- These systems will be optimized of HAR applications
 - Based on PICNIC array (near-science grade for sky)
 - Low-noise (read and reset), fast readout electronics, windowing options
 - Dedicated electronics (no SIDECAR ASIC) based on 'Ohana solution
 - Digital fast I/O interface
- Gains for FLUOR:
 - Better sensitivity
 - Throughput in spectrally dispersed mode
 - More robust solution than current IOTA NICMOS
- Project timeline:

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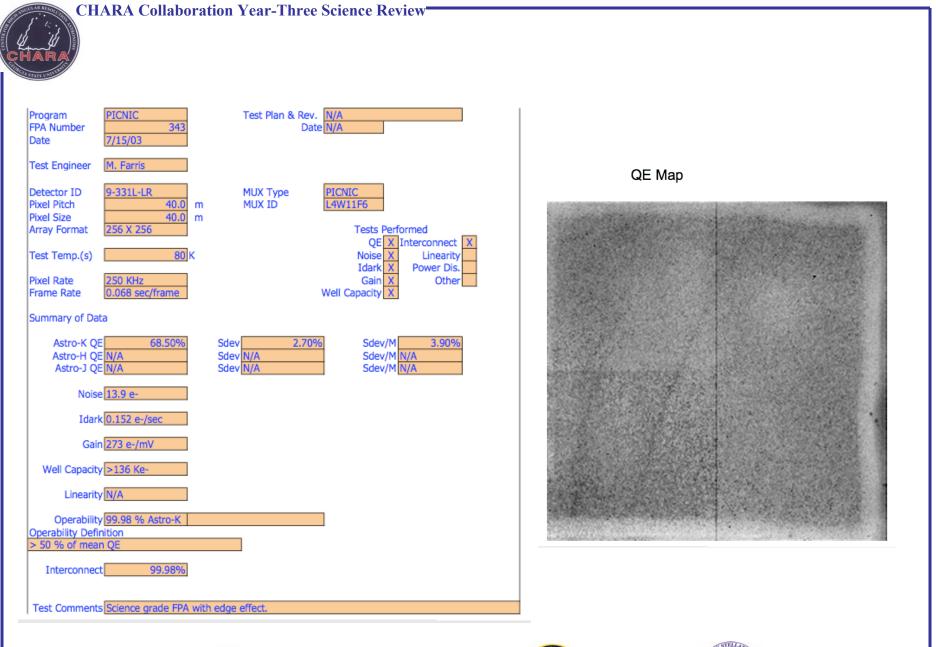
- 11/06: start of project (JM Réess PM, + 2 electronics engineers, + 1 cryogenist)

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LESIA

- 03/07: start procurement of arrays
- 07/07: delivery of arrays
- Autumn 07: commissionning in Meudon
- Winter 08: commissionning at CHARA











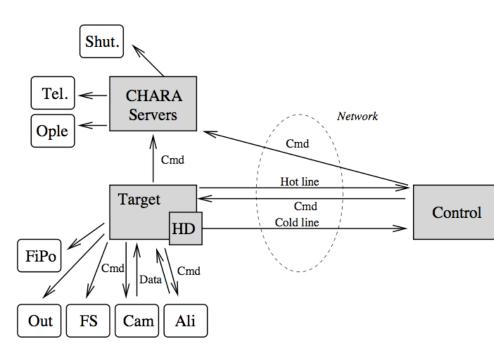


FLUOR control SW overhaul

- Why an overhaul?
 - Current control SW written in LabView:
 - No longer supported for MacOS => migration is needed anyhow
 - Exotic platform in the CHARA environment
 - « Legacy software » => maintenance and upgrade gets more and more difficult
 - New camera will force major SW changes anyhow
 - Not well adapted for remote control



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- Phased approach:
 - First FLUOR G3 to be replaced by Target RT Linux box
 - Then overhaul of FLUOR control GUI
 - Final objective is easy remote operation from Meudon
- Implementation in line with new camera

Observatoire de la Côte d'Azu

• A dedicated SW engineer for this project (A. Sevin)

Figure 1: Design for a futur implementation of the FLUOR control software

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Observatoire

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Other issues

- Trees...
 - At S2 for observations of ζ Lep, γ UMa, β Uma
- Real estate?
 - Need to anticipate changes, if any

