

Om agnim ile purohitan yajnasya devam rtvijam hotaram ratnadhatamam Rig Veda, I, 1

AGILE in orbit

M. Tavani on behalf of the AGILE Team

TeV Particle Astrophysics Conference Venezia, Aug. 31, 2007

AGILE in orbit...

- ASI Scientific Mission dedicated to gamma-ray and X-ray astrophysics
- First 1830 orbits, August 31, 2007.
- Healthy Scientific Instrument
- Satellite Commissioning Phase completed (May-June)
- Science verification phase and in-orbit calibrations (July-September)
- Very promising scientific performance



Scientific Institutes involved in the development of AGILE

- INAF-IASF Milano
- INAF-IASF Bologna
- INAF-IASF Roma
- INFN- Sez. Trieste
- INFN- Sez. Roma I
- INFN- Sez. Roma II
- Università di Trieste
- Università di Roma "Tor Vergata"
- Università "La Sapienza"
- CIFS Consorzio Interuniversitario per la Fisica Spaziale (Torino)













The AGILE Instrument

The most compact and low-power Instrument ever developed in High Energy Astrophysics:

- 1. Detector volume: ~ 0.25 m³
- 2. Detector mass: ~ 120 kg
- 3. Detector power consumption: ~ 60 W
- 4. Complex data acquisition system:
 - 1. 36.864 Silicon Tracker (gamma-ray imager) channels
 - 2. 6.144 Super-Agile (hard X-ray imager) channels
 - 3. 60 Mini-Calorimeter channels
 - 4. 15 AC channels
 - 5. 27 FPGA's
 - 6. 1 DSP

AGILE: inside the cube...

ANTICOINCIDENCE INAF-IASF-Mi (F.Perotti)

HARD X-RAY IMAGER (SUPER-AGILE)

INAF-IASF-Rm (E.Costa, M. Feroci)

GAMMA-RAY IMAGER SILICON TRACKER INFN-Trieste

(G.Barbiellini, M. Prest)

(MINI) CALORIMETER

INAF-IASF-Bo, Thales-Alenia Space (LABEN)

(G. Di Cocco, C. Labanti)

The challenge of AGILE...

- Optimal gamma-ray imaging PSF (30 MeV-30 GeV) and large FOV (~2.5 sr) combined with simultaneous hard X-ray imaging (18-60 keV, ~1 sr FOV).
- Microsecond time-tagging (PPS) and wide GRB search dynamic range (18 - 60 keV, 0.3-10 MeV)
- The most compact instrument ever built for high-energy astrophysics above 30 MeV, combining 3 different detectors with no interference, 27 FPGA's.

all this with...

only ~100 kg of Payload

only ~100 W of PL absorbed power

• only 350 kg of satellite...

AGILE scientific goals

- cover ¼ of the entire gamma-ray sky with good sensitivity and excellent angular resolution.
- combine a gamma-ray imager and a hard Xray imager for simultaneous long-timescale observations.
- use microsecond time tagging of gammarays for ultra-fast timing studies of cosmic phenomena.

After the first 4 months with preliminary data:

- AGILE demonstrates the covering of ~ 1/4 of the entire gamma-ray sky with nominal sensitivity.
- AGILE shows a nominal performance of all its detectors. In particular, its gamma-ray and hard X-ray imagers are working together as expected.

Summary

- The Instrument
- Early and preliminary data
- First GRBs
- First blazar detections
- The AGILE scientific program

The AGILE instrument

- AC
- Super-Agile (18-60 keV)
- Silicon Tracker (30 MeV-30 GeV)
- Mini-Calorimeter (0.350 100 MeV)





Super-Agile: INAF-IASF Roma (Costa, Feroci et al.)



SA Pencil Beam Calibration



Super-Agile Field of View (~1 sr) (on-axis 1-day sensitivity: ~10 mCrab @18 keV)



SA GRB pre-launch testing (IABG, Munich)

θz

+3.663

+3.663

-0.504

-0.513



2 7370 •

-7.486 -11.527 -11.527

θχ

-7.492

Analysis **On-board Software Ground Software On-board Software**

Ground Software





SILICON TRACKER





PHOTAG TESTBEAM - INFN TS/IFC MI

AGILE Tracker trays (INFN-Ts, G. Barbiellini, M. Prest et al.)



The AGILE Tracker (INFN-Ts, G. Barbiellini, M. Prest et al.)

IN ANTINA MARCHINE

gamma-ray detected by the AGILE Tracker



Mod. 4



The AGILE Mini-Calorimeter (Thales-Alenia Space – Laben, scient. supervision by G. Di Cocco, C. Labanti et al.)

MCAL GRB search testing (Tortona, June 2006) BURST simulator SIT 1024 ms 120 2 100 80 Counts . . 60 40 Pre-burst BURST Post-burst 20 00 300 50 100 150 200 250 Time bin 100 ma BSTART BSTOP

MCAL BURST "imaging" capabilities



Top view of MCAL planes of 3 bursts obtained with the burst simulator and a 25µCi ¹³⁷Cs source exposed for a total time of 18 seconds, after background subtraction (burst: run 13643, background: run 13642, FFT in IABG, 5/3/2007). This type of positional signature is the one expected for solar flares.

MCAL BURST Spectrum



Red line: spectrum of a burst obtained with the burst simulator and a 25µCi ¹³⁷Cs source exposed for a total time of 6 seconds. Black line: background spectrum (burst: run 13643, background: run 13642, FFT in IABG, 5/3/2007). Error bars are 3σ . Sensitivity below 300 keV is achieved.

MCAL BURST background-subtracted spectrum



Burst spectrum shown in previous page after background subtraction (burst: run 13643, background: run 13642, FFT in IABG, 5/3/2007).

AGILE Sensitivity





AGILE-GRID angular response vs. EGRET






Gamma-ray source positioning (example: off-axis AGN)







Orbital requirements for AGILE

- Low-Earth Orbit, h = 550 km
- Quasi equatorial, α < 3°
- minimize particle background
- use of the ASI Malindi ground station



PSLV C8:



LATITUDE(deg)

AGILE orbital parameters

Semi-major axis: 6922.5 km (± 0.1 km) Requirement: 6928.0 ± 10 km

Inclination angle: 2.48° (±0.04°) Requirement: < 3°

Eccentricity: 0.002 (±0.0015) Requirement: < 0.1°



- Perfect launch of the AGILE satellite by ISRO from the SHAR base (Chennai), April 23, 2007
- The AGILE orbit is the best for gamma-ray astrophysics
- Average height: 540 km
- Inclination angle: 2.48 degrees
- Low particle background !

In-orbit background analysis (preliminary results)

- proton background as expected (and measured by PAMELA)
- electron/positron background lower by a factor of 2-3 compared to pre-launch expectations





Anti-Coincidence in orbit data



AGILE Anti-Coincidence Data: a very stable orbit





MCAL Scientific Ratemeters integrated light curve (E>650 keV, time bin 10 s)

First gamma-ray detected in orbit with the nominal GRID trigger configuration (May 10, 2007)









AGILE GRID photon events



GRID OBS during the SAA



ALBEDO FILTERING IS CRUCIAL !!!

Events with E>100 MeV

Orbit 242, May 10, 2007



Silicon Tracker performance

- no post-launch degradation of performance
- Optimal analog threshold level, even better than on the ground
- Stable configuration

AGILE Tracker efficiency (0-9 degrees) (physical calibration)

ORBITAL CONTACT NUMBER	TR-FEE Threshold (and strip- mask)	TM TYPE	Pull- X	Pull-Z	% EVT < 3 CL	% C3 < 100 ADC	Single track efficiency (detection in the 3rd plane out of 4 aligned planes with the other 3 planes with detected hits)	
Run 11119 (IAGB, Munich)	7 (6)	phys	16.7	16.2	1%	0%*	Efficiency -Z 0.97 +/- 0.02 Efficiency- X 0.95 +/- 0.02	
253	20 (6)	phys	16.7	16.7	1.50%	0.20%	Efficiency -Z 0.83 +/- 0.03 Efficiency -X 0.80 +/- 0.03	
510	6 (6)	phys	18.1	17.4	5%	2.30%	Efficiency -Z 0.97 ± 0.01 Efficiency -X 0.96 ± 0.01	
522	5 (7)	phys	17	17.4	13%	2.50%	Efficiency -Z 0.97 ± 0.01 Efficiency- X 0.96 ± 0.02	
535 (FVC – 1 plane)	5 (8)	phys	17	17.2	7.50%	2%	Efficiency -Z 0.98 ± 0.03 Efficiency -X 0.95 ± 0.03	

AGILE and GLAST are different...

- Size, cost, SMEX vs. Observatory
- Mission profile, orbit-background
- Analog signal, FEE, Tracker structure
- Hard X-ray + gamma-ray imagers
- Calorimeter as independent GRB detector
- GRB search with dynamic range, from sub-ms to tens of seconds
- AGILE optimized near 30 MeV-1 GeV, GLAST in the range 1-100 GeV

AGILE main science topics

- Active Galactic Nuclei
- Gamma-Ray Bursts
- Pulsars
- TeV sources
- SNR and origin of cosmic rays
- Diffuse Galactic gamma-ray background
- Unidentified gamma-ray sources
- Microquasars
- Galactic Neutron Stars and Black Holes
- Fundamental Physics: Quantum Gravity

Some action...

AGILE HISTORY IN ORBIT (May 10 – Jul. 21, 2007)

	DATE	
1	early May	PL turn-on, PL overall checking, no HW PL malfunctioning
2	early May	Particle background checking, AC tests
3	May 10	GRID telemetry successful check: 10 Hz, albedo filtering test
4	end of May	First GRID maps, large field of view, 120 degree diameter
5	May 23-24	First Vela PSR detection in a few orbits, positive check of ${\rm A}_{\rm eff}$
6	May 30	GRID threshold at S=5
7	early June	Solar flares detections by AC
	June 8-20	Super-A setting and tuning
8	June 22	GRB detected at 80 deg. off axis by AC/MCAL/Super-A RMs
9	June 29	First Super-A source detected: GX 301-2
	July 2	ASI-ASDC Meeting: large FOV GRID imaging
	July 2-8	SW patch loading and PPSE checks, coarse pointing
10	July 9-13	GRID detection of 3C 279 (3.5 days)
11	July 13	Super-A detection of Vela X-1
12	July 16-18	Super-A detection of multiple X-ray sources (Cen X-3,)

AGILE HISTORY IN ORBIT (July 24 – Aug. 31, 2007)

	DATE	
13	July 24	AGILE first repointing to 3C454.3 (following an optical flare): pointing centroid at 36 degrees
14	July 24, 11:24pm	Detection of the first GRB by Super-A, no detection by GRID and MCAL, a "no-high-energy" burst, first two AGILE GCNs
15	July 25	Preliminary evidence of significant gamma-ray emission from 3C 454.3
16	July 27	Strong gamma-ray flare of 3C454.3 confirmed, Astron.Telegr.
17	July 27	AC localization of a strong flare from SGR 1806-20
18	August	Vela PSR off-axis calibration
19	August	Several off-axis GRBs
20	Aug. 27-31	First observation of the Galactic Center Region

AGILE coarse pointing, 22-23 May 2007



AGILE May 23-24 exposure in "Coarse Pointing"



May 21-22, 2007 orbits from 000400 to 000409

Exposure in the field of the Vela PSR in Coarse Pointing

"Sliced exposure": it requires a careful data treatment !



Coarse Pointing Exposure - Contacts 400-409

! VELA PSR ! (E > 100 MeV)



Smoothed map



Galactic latitude

AGILE fine pointing, May 24-June 4, 2007 Commissioning phase



AGILE FINE POINTING





Vela PSR gamma-ray detection by AGILE




X Pixels

The AGILE first detection of gamma-ray pulsations from the Vela PSR

orbits 441-452, about 170 counts

Consistent with the measured spin rotation period of P=89 msec.





Vela PSR light curve (E>300 MeV), 12 day integration, (calibration observation block no.1, July, 13-24). 1 ms time bins.



AGILE fine pointing, May 24-June 4, 2007 Commissioning phase





AGILE-GRID (75°x30°), orbits 549-590, preliminary cuts



Vela Region, 80 orbits, preliminary cuts, (120°x50°)



E > 200 MeV

E > 400 MeV

E > 1 GeV

AGILE fine pointing, June 8–10, 2007 Commissioning phase : *the "empty" field*



AGILE detection of the natural γ-ray background (Tortona, 29 December 2006)





Commissioning phase : *the Cygnus region* coarse pointing, orbits 747-790



Cygnus Region (120° x 90°)

orbits 747-790, coarse pointing, preliminary cuts



AGILE Commissioning phase Cygnus + Vela Regions

orbits 549-590 + 747-790, preliminary cuts



Super-Agile imaging

Super-Agile first source detection, June 28, 2007: GX 301-2 On-ground Imaging: first light (orbit 935)



Super-Agile detection of X-ray pulsations from GX 301-2 (orbit 1464)



On-ground Imaging: first steps towards longer integrations (orbits 935-940)



X Direction

Z Direction

First Super-A multiple source detection (orbit 1190, Jul. 14, 2007)



First AGILE multifrequency campaign

- July 9-13, 2007
- "empty field", in reality containing very famous quasars, Virgo region
- 3C 273 and 3C 279 near on-axis



Campagna MW Virgo

Observatory	PI, Observer or Contact	3 C273	3 C279	3C454.3
AGILE	AGILE Team- M. Tavani / P. Giommi	July 9-12	July 9-12	No
Chandra	Ann Webzle	July 10@21:23, 2ksec	July 11@17-41, 2bsec	July 11@20:38, 20sec
RXTE	Public- Ann Wehrle	July 8 (x2), 10,12	July 8,10,12	No
(RXTE- unrelated private program)	(Al Marscher)	(July 7,9,11)	(July 7,9,11)	(10)
switi	Public Ann Wehrle	XRT, UVOT grism 2 ksec/day July 7-13	XRT, UVOT filters 4 Issec/day July 8-14	XRT, UVO T filters 2 liser July 11 only
Spitzer	Ann Wehrle	July 10 @ 22:02 UT	July 11 ⊚17:50 UT	July 11@20:55 UT
Pomona College, CA optical	Alma Zook and students	Various filters July 8-13	Various filters, July 8-13	Various filters, July 8-13
Colgate University, NY optical	Tom Balonek	R band, nightly, ongoing program	R band, nighfly, ongoing program	R band, nightly, ongoing program
Palomar Observatory, CA	Ann Wehrle (remoie)	BVRI nightly	BVRI nighfly	BVRI nighfly
REM Chile, optical	Gino Tosti (remote)	Nightly, ongoing program	Nightly, ongoing program	Nightly, ongoing program
SMA (requested)	Mark Gurwell (remote)	uniaeun	unknown	unknown
GTN anateurs (requested)	Gordon Spear and Ann Wehrle	unknown	unknown	unknown

Stefano Vercellone

AGILE GRID detection of 3C 279 ! (9-13 July, 2007)



0.2

3C 279 detected in 3.5 days at 5 sigma

> (likelihood analysis)



First GRBs...

GRB 070622: our first GRB



MCAL light curves of the orbit 843 GRB



GRB 070622 (June 22, 2007) turns out to be at about 80 degrees off axis !



Burst detected at about 80° off-axis

MCAL detection of GRB 070714b



AGILE MCAL detection of GRB070714b





GRB direction provided by SWIFT: >140° off-axis!

MCAL detection of GRB070717



GRB 070724B: first burst in the AGILE FOV

- Promptly detected by Super-A [GCN Circ. n. 6668, Feroci et al.]
- No signal in the MCAL and the Tracker [GCN Circ. n. 6670, Chen et al.]
- "No-high-energy burst" as confirmed by Konus-Wind and Suzako

Super-AGILE X-ray sky image of GRB 070724B (18-60 keV)





Super-A position consistent with IPN (figure courtesy of V. Pal'shin and IPN Team)



GRB 070824: burst at ~50° off axis

detected by Super-A in 1-coordinate

strong signal in the MCAL

 marginally detected by the Tracker near the Earth's limb


GRB 070824



GRB 070825: burst at ~80° off-axis

no detection by Super-A

 strong signal in the MCAL (up to 20 MeV)

event rate increase in the Tracker



GCN/KONUS GRB20070825 01:55:42.624 UT 50-200keV 200 150 Counts/64mSec 100 50 abba οt -10 10 40 0 20 30 Sec 0.35-0.7 MeV 20 40 Time (1.024 s bin) 2.5 - 5.5 MeV 20 ain

Time (1.024 s bin)



AGILE ON-BOARD DATA PROCESSING & GRB SEARCH



Silicon Tracker:	36844 canali	OBT (rispetto all`UTC): $\Delta t < 2\mu s$
Super-AGILE:	6144 canali	Marcatura temporale – GRID: $\Delta t < 2\mu s$
Mini-Calorimetro:	60 canali	Marcatura temporale – SA, MCAL: $\Delta t < 5 \mu s$
Anticoincidenza:	16 canali	Ricostruzione d`assetto: ~ 1arcmin.

AGILE GRB ON-BOARD SEARCH PROCEDURE



Alerts for GRB and other transients: AGILE Fast Link (ORBCOMM)



AGILE detects the strongest gamma-ray flare from 4C 454.3

- AGILE repointing following the optical flaring alerts (July 19-20)
- Start: Jul. 24, 4:30 pm
- End: Jul. 30, 12:00am
- Early detection already after the first orbits
- July 26, ~ 5 sigma.
- July 27, further tests, detection firmly established, Astron.Telegram n. 1160.
- Aug. 2, total period significance: 10 sigma, new Astron. Telegram n. 1167.

"blink... and you will miss it..."

???

REM data (G. Tosti et al.)



REM data (G. Tosti et al.)

3C 454.3 2006-2007 (REM)





AGILE Mission Board

PI: M. Tavani (Chair) Co-PI: G. Barbiellini ASI Representative: P. Giommi ASI Representative: S. Colafrancesco ASI Mission Director: L. Salotti

AGILE Mission Director:

L. Salotti

New gamma-ray data

- Aug. 27-31, 2007, I= 330, b = 10
- First view of the Galactic Center region





AGILE data flow at ASDC



Quicklook analysis results

- Available to the community on the AGILE Team and ASDC web sites

 Current pointing details
- Announcement of flaring source activity:
 - Source name or position
 - -1-3 day reaction

AGILE Quicklook analysis results, check

http://agile.iasf-roma.inaf.it

http://asdc.asi.it

AGILE Science Program 2007-2008

AGILE Pointing Plan

- Cycle-1 (December, 2007 - December, 2008)

• AGILE Guest Observer Program (Cycle-1)

- Announcement of Opportunity to be issued in September, 2007.
- Deadline: end of October, 2007.

• AGILE Science Workshops:

- September/early October, 2007 Mini-Workshop
- December, 2007/early January 2008 Conference
- Spring 2008 Workshop

- ...

Conclusions

- The AGILE scientific performance in orbit is nominal
- X-ray and gamma-ray data on Galactic and extragalactic sources
- Optimized for transient sources
- AGILE Cycle-1 program to start in December

2 gamma-ray missions in orbit in 2008:

wonderful !