PROTOCALC:
PROTOtype CALibrator for Cosmology

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From Planck to the Future of CMB
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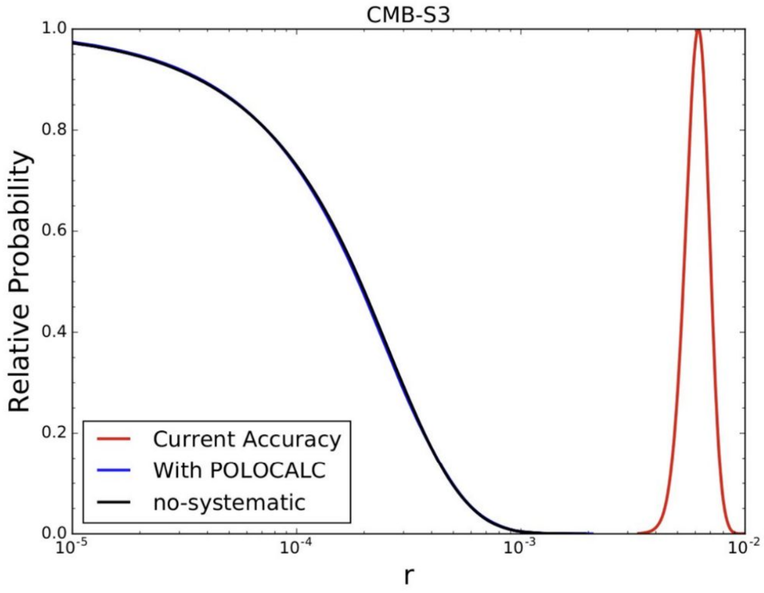
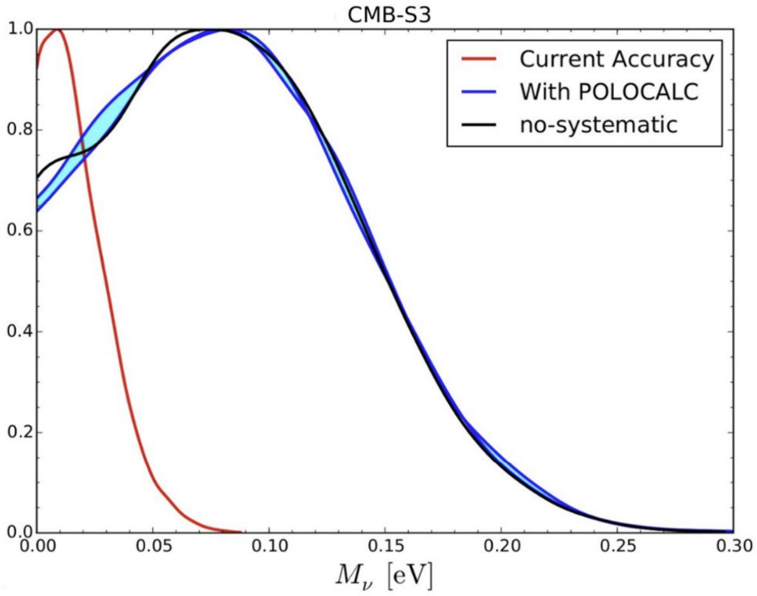
Scientific Background

- The uncertainty in polarization angle for Simons Observatory needs to be lower than 0.2° for the Small Aperture Telescopes in the 90/150 GHz bands to achieve $\Delta r = 2x10^{-4}$ (Abitbol et Al. 2021)
- Best natural calibrator is Tau-A with a polarization angle uncertainty of 0.33° (Aumont et Al. 2019)
- EB nulling techniques assume zero Cosmic Birefringence, however measurements show a non-zero signal and the effect of Cosmic Birefringence can introduce a systematic in the calibration of Polarization Angle (Minami et Al. 2019)

Effect on r bias and Neutrino mass

- Red: 1° accuracy
- Blue: 0.1° to 0.01° accuracy





Nati et Al. 2017

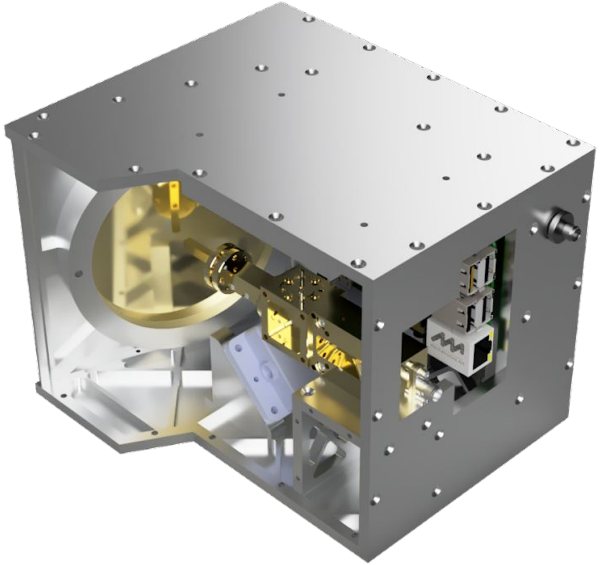
PROTOCALC

PROTOCALC (PROTOtype CALibrator for Cosmology) is a project funded as a Marie-Curie Fellowship under the Horizon-2020 Program. The goal of the project is to develop a 90 GHz polarization calibrator for CMB Telescopes with the following characteristics:

- <0.1° polarization angle accuracy
- Modularity to be easily extendable to other frequencies
- Ability to be flown on a commercial drone

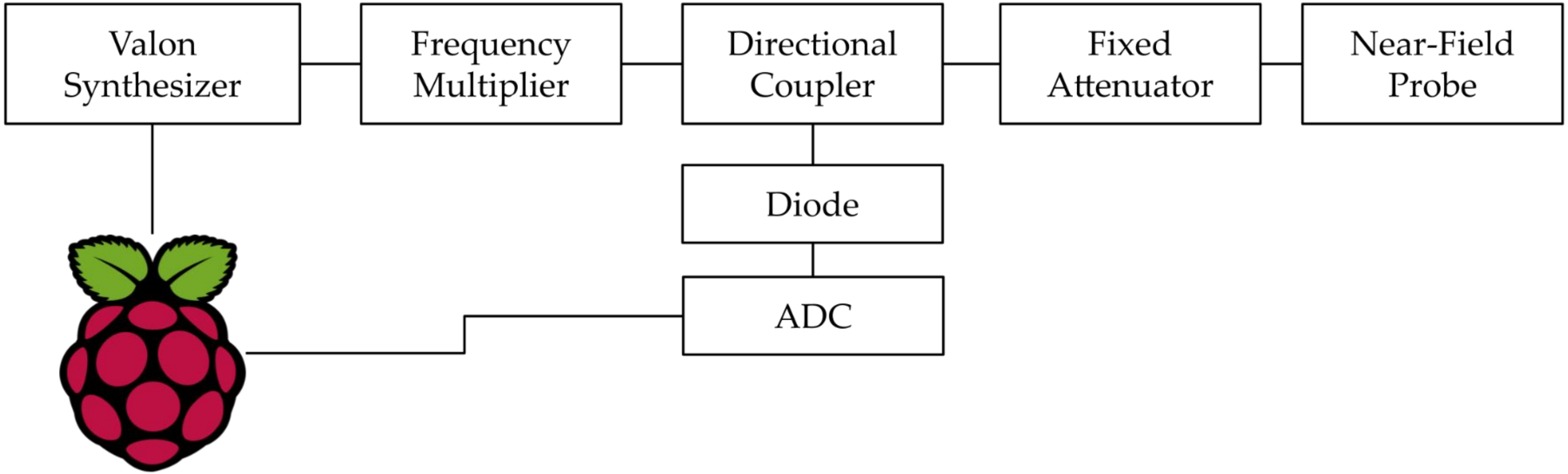
Technical Specifications

- Weight: <1.8 Kg
- Dimensions: 165x130x130 mm
- Power Consumption ~17W
- Controlled by Raspberry Pi
- W-Band Output:
  - Output Power: -18dBm
  - Output Beam: 115x65 deg
- Attitude System:
  - Sony RX0 M2 for Photogrammetry
  - Inclinometer
  - GPS-RTK based on Ublox system



RF Configuration

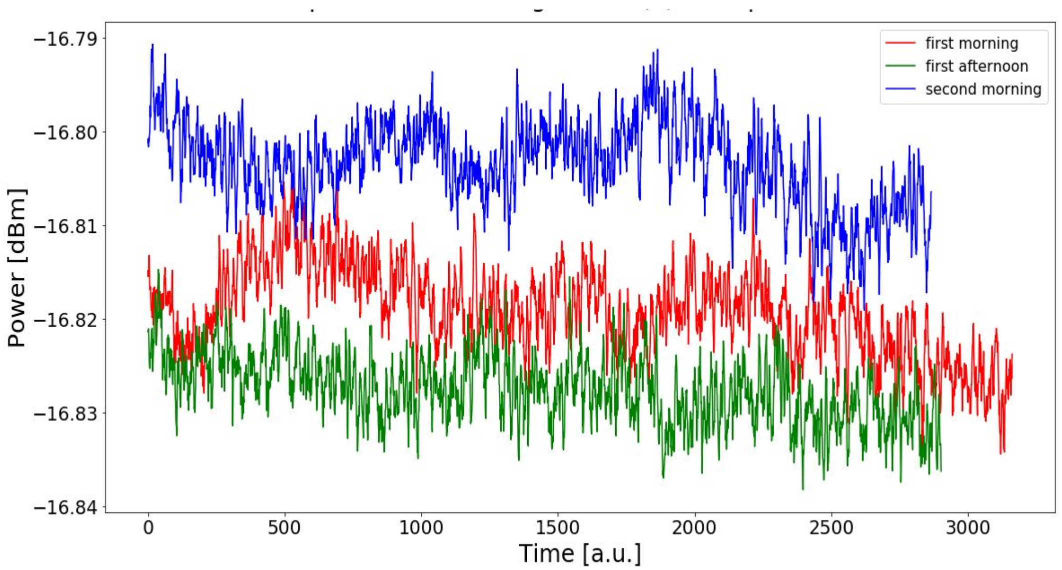
- Frequency generated by a Valon and then Multiplied
- Presence of a Directional Coupler to split the radiation and read it with a diode



In-Lab Calibration: Source

Several tests to calibrate the source in the laboratory

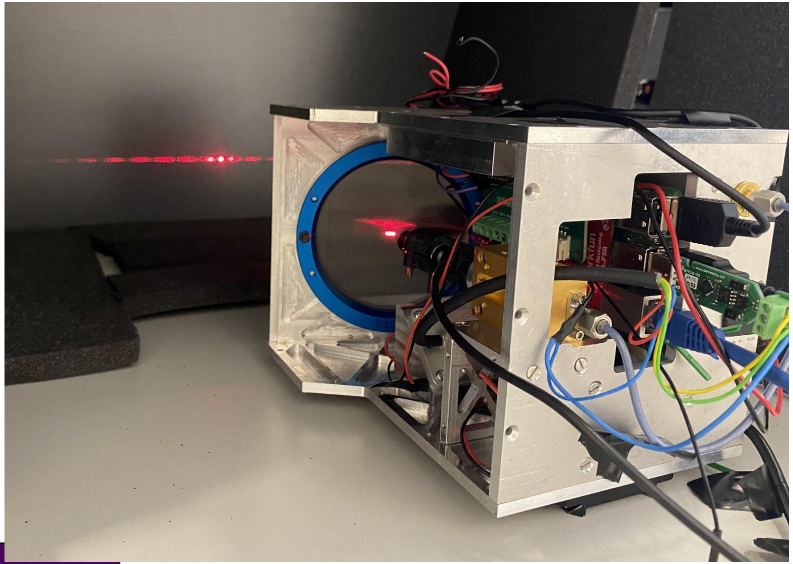
- Frequency Stability of the Source: ~10 kHz @ 90GHz
- Power Stability:
  - Single run ~ 0.01 dBm with a power output of -17dBm
  - Different days ~ 0.03 dBm
- Components characterization at the VNA
- Responsivity of the Diode
- Measure of the Antenna Beam

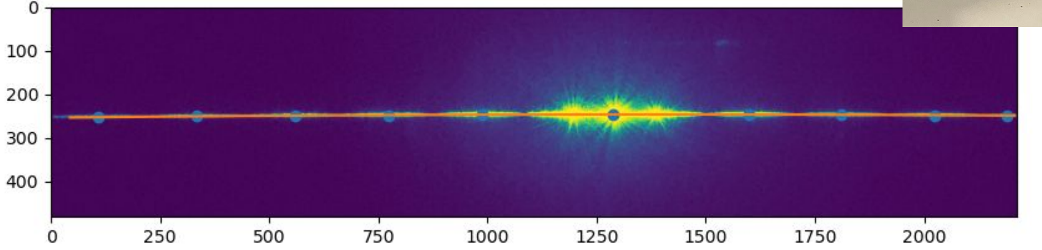


Credits to Giulia Conenna

In-Lab Calibration: Alignment

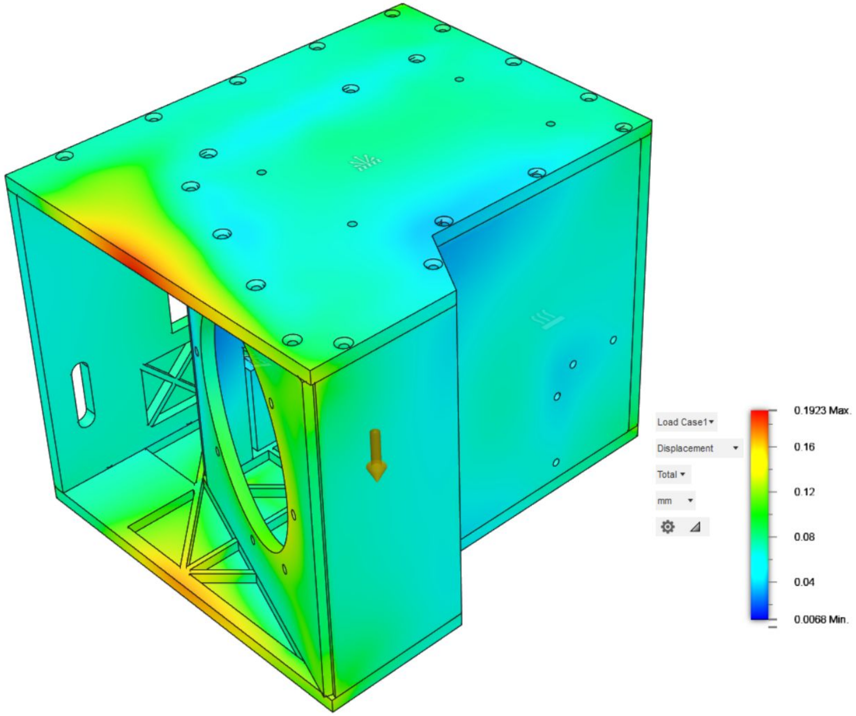
- Use of a Laser to align the polarization grid with the camera and the inclinometer (Felipe Carrero’s Thesis)
- Alignment accuracy <0.06°





Thermal Simulation

- Verify the effect of thermal contraction on the grid to camera and inclinometer alignment
- Lab conditions: 20 C and 1 atm
- Site Condition: 0 C and 0.5 atm
- Relative movements for both < 50μm
- Average Temperature at the Site ~12C, due to the heating coming from the multiplier, the RPi and the Valon



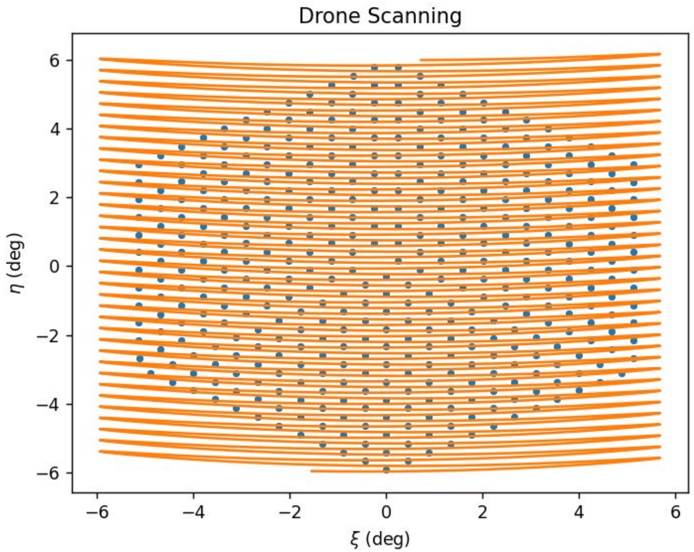
Simulation on Simons Observatory

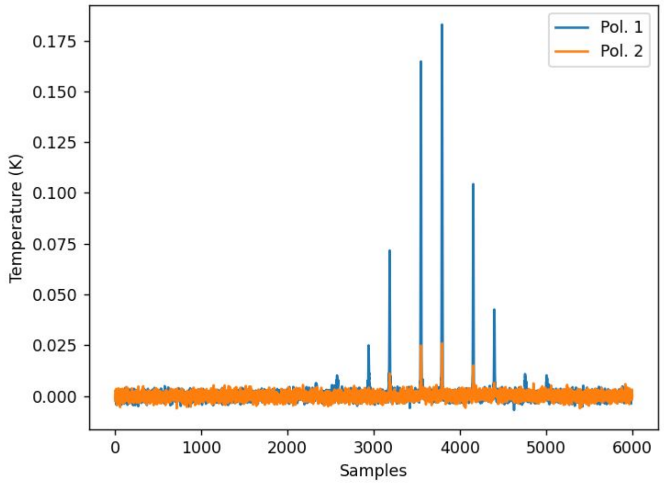
Developed an operator for TOAST 3 (currently part of the Simons Observatory repo *sotodlib*)

- Simulate drone movements
  - Initial position of the drone can be given in Azimuth and Elevation
  - Different Scanning of the drone available
  - Includes sources of error (Position error, wind gusts)
- Simulate the source emission
  - Possibility to use a Top-Hat beam or a Gaussian beam
  - Includes random gaussian noise based on the lab measurements
  - Designed to simulate other sources other than the 90 GHz

Simulation Results

- Drone scan of 7 min on the central array for the SAT (90 GHz channel)
- Telescope scans in Azimuth and Drone in Elevation





Deployment Environment

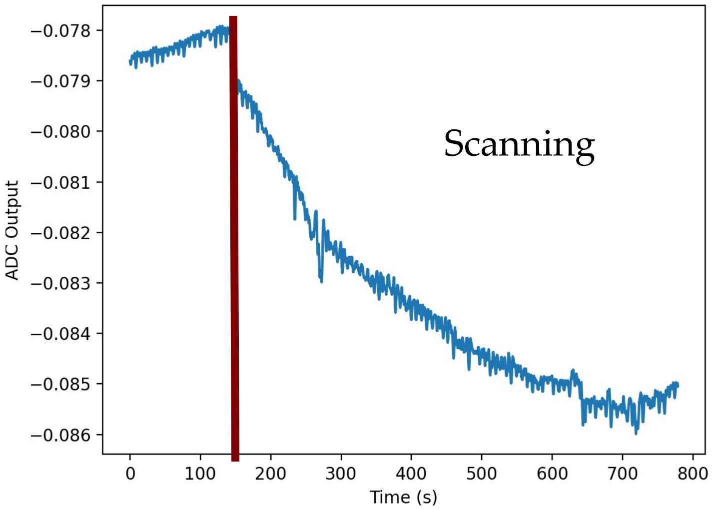
- The calibrator source is installed on a DJI Ronin MX Gimbal
- The Gimbal is installed on a DJI Matrice 600 Pro
- Cerro Toco Site at 5200m
- Environment Temperature ~ 2 C
- Average wind conditions
- Tested at the same time of the 150 GHz source (see Felipe Carrero's Poster)

Flights Information

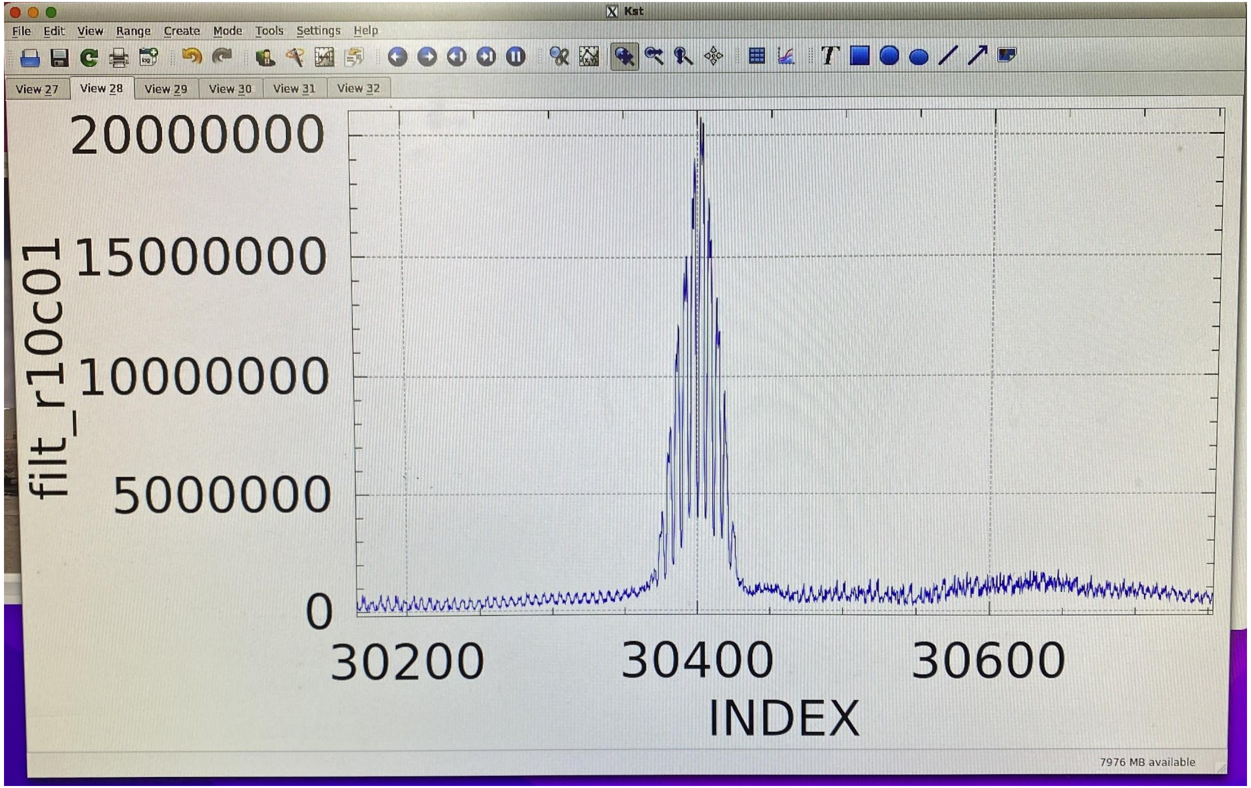
- Max Altitude: 350m with respect to the starting point
- Max Flight Duration: 12min30s
  - 2m30s Ascend
  - 2m30s Discend
- Max of 11 Flights in a day (6 with the 150 GHz source and 5 with the 90 GHz)
- CLASS, ACT and Polarbear-2 Observed the source at the same time
- Multiple Scanning Strategies Tested
  - Raster Scan of the drone (all Telescopes just observing)
  - Drone moving along a meridian on a Sphere centered on CLASS (CLASS moving in Azimuth)
- Source Chopped at 47Hz and kept always on

Flight Analysis

- In Progress
- Quick look at the ADC shows a time constant



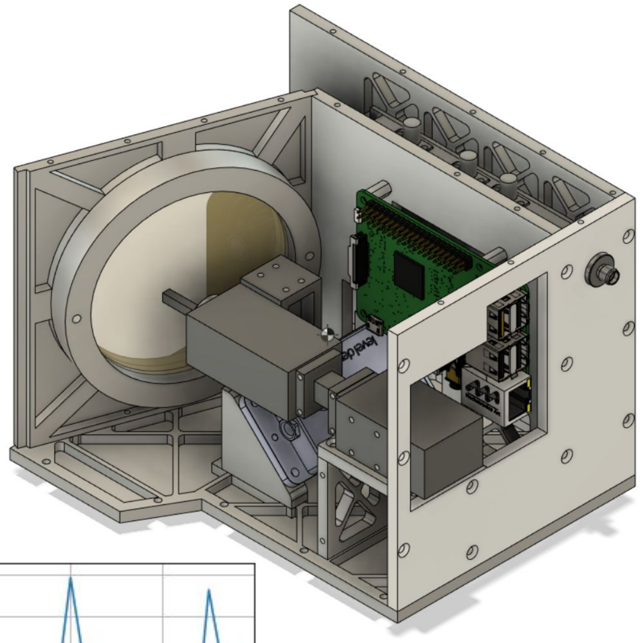
Real Time data



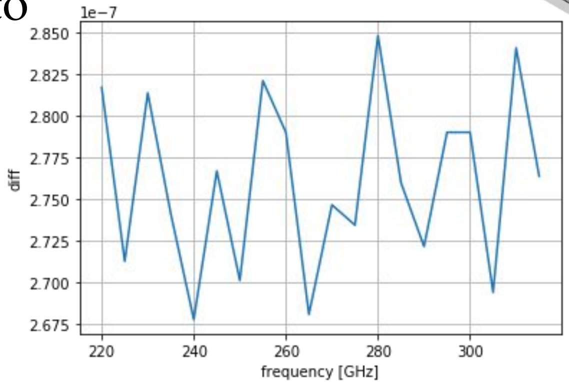
Credits to CLASS

Modularity

- Simply changing the Multiplier Support and the RF chain after the Valon we can extend the frequency capability
- We are collaborating with Josquin Errard at APC to integrate a 225 to 325 GHz source on Board.
- We already performed the in lab source characterization



Credits to Sofia Savorgnano



Future Steps

- Analyze current data
- Based on the experience from the April 2022 Flight in the next version we will have:
    - A different attitude measurement system: gyro+accelerometer instead of a single inclinometer to increase the sampling rate
    - Remove additional weight to extend the flight time
        - Currently studying the eventual switch from Aluminum to 3D printed plastic (possible loss of some modularity)
    - Include a basic telemetry system to control the payload from the ground based on XBEE

Conclusions

This project is still ongoing but:

- The source has been developed and tested. We developed a suite of calibration tests that we performed in laboratory that can easily be replicated
- The source flew for the first time in April 2022 and we are currently analyzing the data
- We have a clear path forward to improve the source and achieve the final goal of the absolute polarization angle accuracy required