

The diagram illustrates the GRACE mission architecture. It features three GPS L1 & L2 satellites in orbit, which provide precise timing and position data to the two GRACE satellites. The GRACE satellites are in a tandem orbit, measuring the distance between them using microwave crosslinks at 24 & 32 GHz. The GRACE satellites also communicate with ground stations on Earth via S-Band TT&C. Ground stations are located at Poker Flat, Spitzbergen, Neustrelitz, and Weilheim. Data is processed at the Raw Data Centre (DLR-DFD) and the Science Data System (CSR/JPL/GFZ). Mission control is located at DLR-GSOC. The mission is supported by NASA Stations LEOP & Contingency (Also McMurdo).

## GRACE Mission

**Science Goals**  
High resolution, mean & time variable gravity field mapping for Earth System Science applications.

**Mission Systems**

**Instruments**

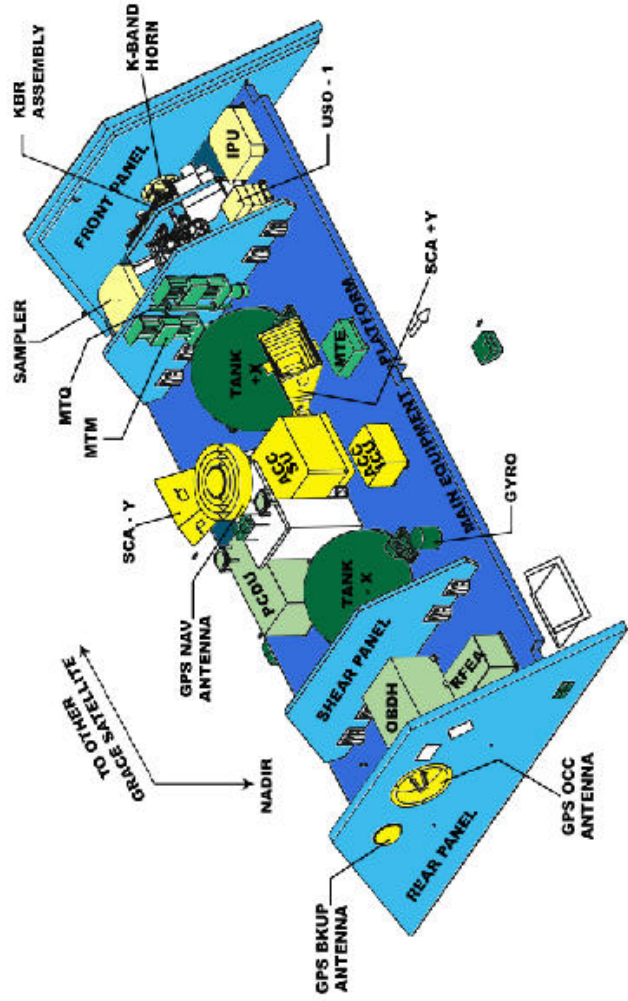
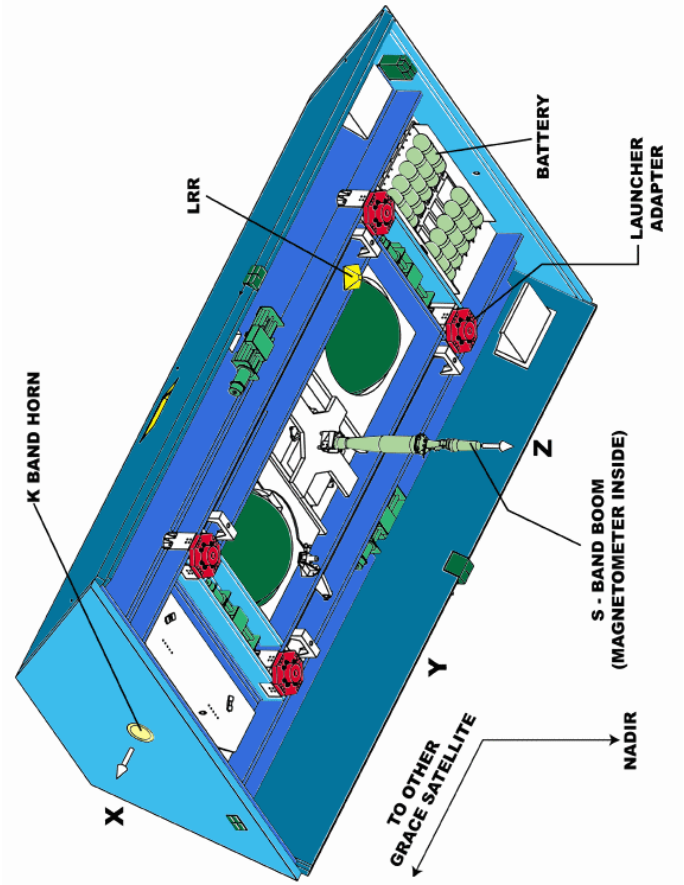
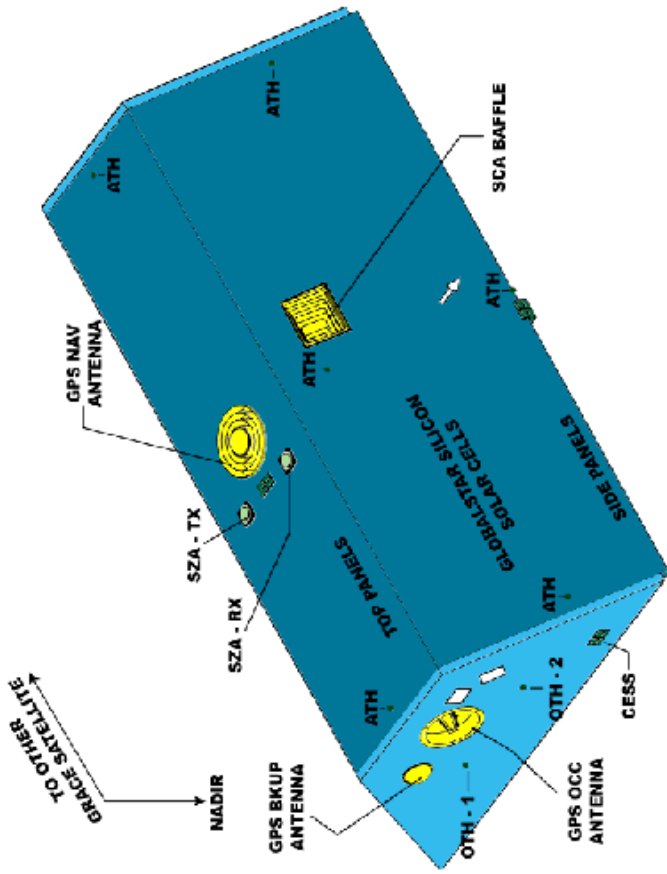
- KBR (JPL/SSL)
- ACC (ONERA)
- SCA (DTU)
- GPS (JPL)

**Satellite** (JPL/DSS)  
**Launcher** (DLR/Eurockot)  
**Operations** (DLR/GSOC)  
**Science** (CSR/JPL/GFZ)

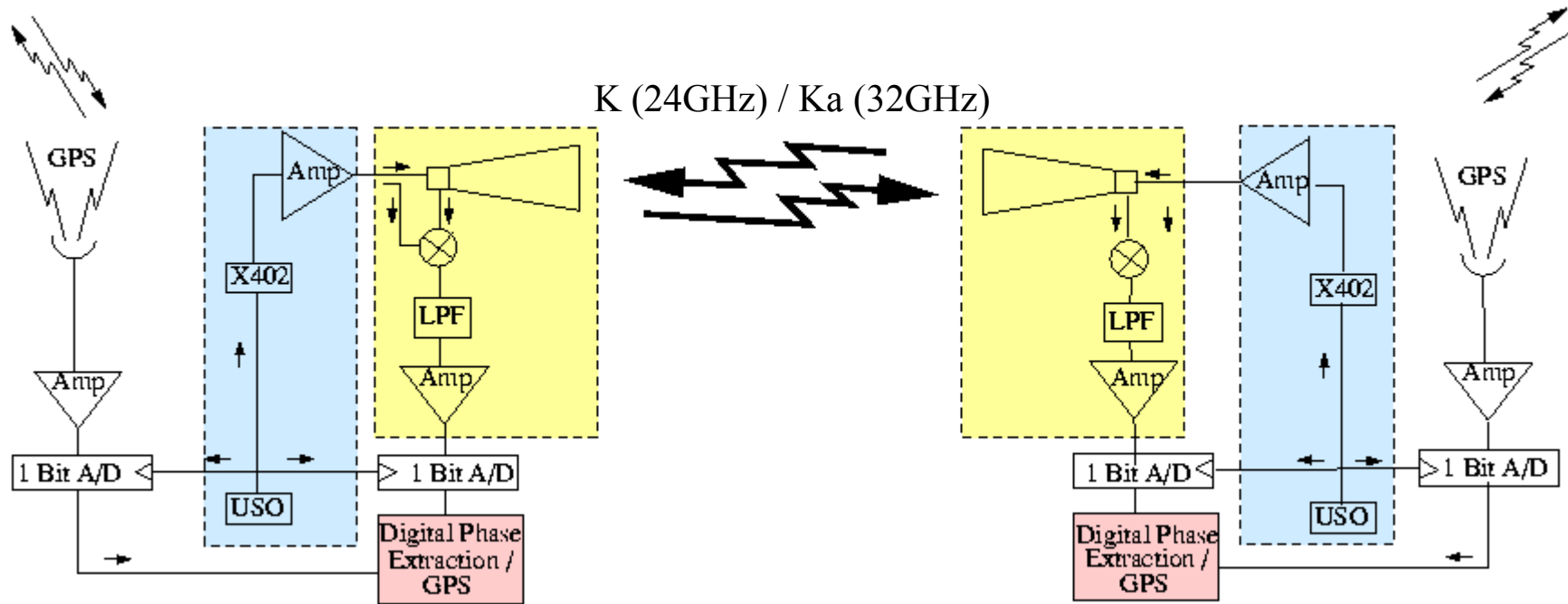
**Orbit**

**Launch:** March 2002  
**Altitude:** 485 km  
**Inclination :** 89 deg  
**Eccentricity:** ~0.001  
**Lifetime:** 5 years  
**Non-Repeat Ground Track**  
**Earth Pointed, 3-Axis Stable**

News: lancé le 17 mars 2002 à 9h21mn TUC depuis Plesetsk sur une orbite à 500 km d'altitude

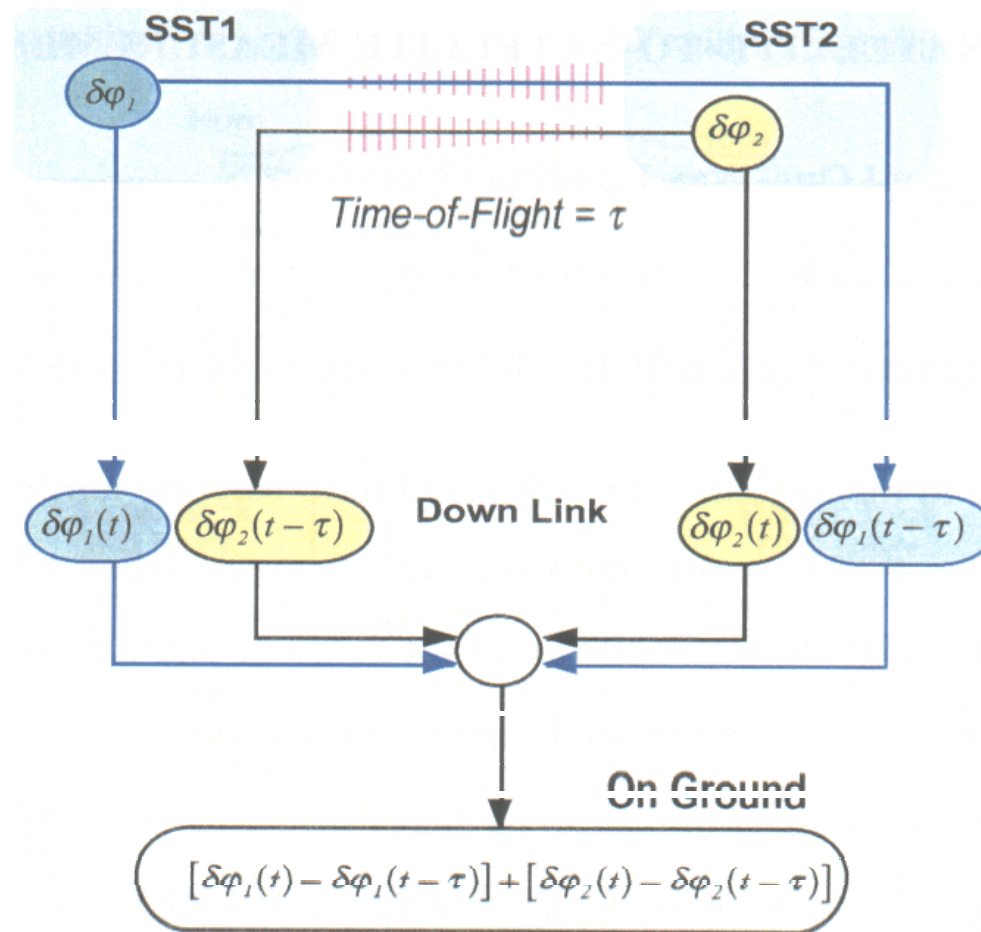


# Microwave ranging system

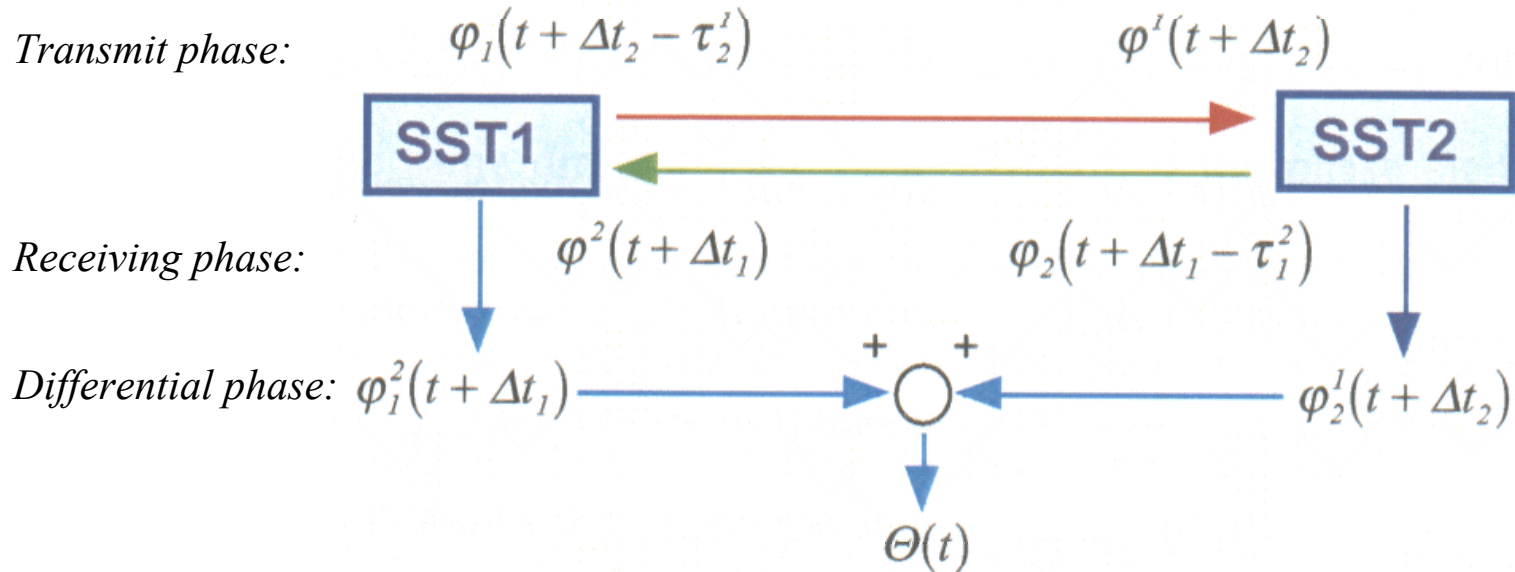


# Dual one-way ranging principle

## Illustration of the oscillator noise reduction



## Dual one-way ranging formulation



*Dual one – way ranging phase measurement :*

$$\begin{aligned}
 \Theta(t) &= \varphi_1^2(t + \Delta t_1) + \varphi_2^1(t + \Delta t_2) \quad t : \text{nominal reception time, } \Delta t : \text{time tag error} \\
 &= \bar{\varphi}_1(t + \Delta t_1) - \bar{\varphi}_2(t + \Delta t_1 - \tau_1^2) + \bar{\varphi}_2(t + \Delta t_2) - \bar{\varphi}_1(t + \Delta t_2 - \tau_2^1) \quad \text{reference frequency} \\
 &\quad + \delta\varphi_1(t + \Delta t_1) - \delta\varphi_2(t + \Delta t_1 - \tau_1^2) + \delta\varphi_2(t + \Delta t_2) - \delta\varphi_1(t + \Delta t_2 - \tau_2^1) \quad \text{phase error} \\
 &\quad + (N_1^2 + N_2^1) + (I_1^2 + I_2^1) + (d_1^2 + d_2^1) + (\varepsilon_1^2 + \varepsilon_2^1) \quad \text{integer ambiguities, iono phase shift,} \\
 &\quad \text{instrument offset, multipath, noise}
 \end{aligned}$$

Phases and phase errors can be linearized as follows:

$$\bar{\varphi}_i(t + \Delta t_i) \approx \bar{\varphi}_i(t) + \dot{\bar{\varphi}}_i(t) \Delta t_i = \bar{\varphi}_i(t) + f_i \Delta t_i$$

$$\bar{\varphi}_i(t + \Delta t_j - \tau_j^i) \approx \bar{\varphi}_i(t) + \dot{\bar{\varphi}}_i(t) \Delta t_j - \dot{\bar{\varphi}}_i(t) \tau_j^i = \bar{\varphi}_i(t) + f_i \Delta t_j - f_i \tau_j^i$$

$$\delta\varphi_i(t + \Delta t_i) \approx \delta\varphi_i(t) + \delta f_i \Delta t_i$$

$$\delta\varphi_i(t + \Delta t_j - \tau_j^i) \approx \delta\varphi_i(t) + \delta f_i \Delta t_j - \delta f_i \tau_j^i$$

They cancel after combining the two phase signals and the dual one-way ranging phase measurement becomes a function of the time-of-flight and other error terms:

$$\begin{aligned} \Theta(t) &= (f_1 \tau_2^1 + f_2 \tau_1^2) + (\delta f_1 \tau_2^1 + \delta f_2 \tau_1^2) \\ &\quad + (f_1 - f_2)(\Delta t_1 - \Delta t_2) + (\delta f_1 - \delta f_2)(\Delta t_1 - \Delta t_2) \\ &\quad + (N_1^2 + N_2^1) + (I_1^2 + I_2^1) + (d_1^2 + d_2^1) + (\varepsilon_1^2 + \varepsilon_2^1) \end{aligned}$$

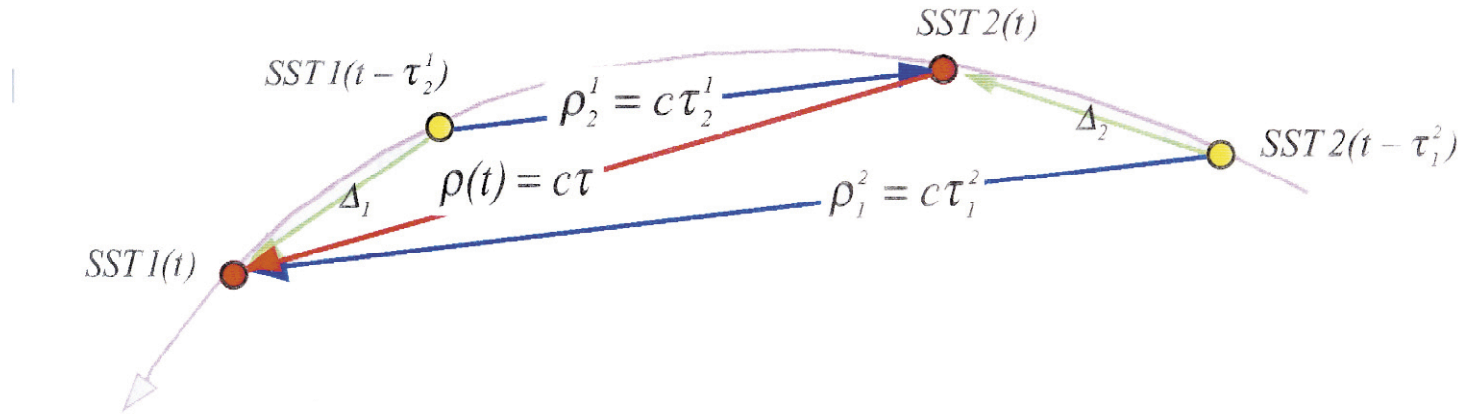
The time-of-flight  $\tau$  (<1ms) corresponding to the instantaneous inter-satellite range at nominal time  $t$  is then computed by algorithm introducing an instantaneous range correction :

$$(f_1 \tau_2^1 + f_2 \tau_1^2) = (f_1 + f_2) \tau - \Delta\Theta_{TOF}(t)$$

The inter-satellite biased range is then computed from the dual one-way phase by multiplying the speed of light and by dividing the sum of the two carrier frequencies:

$$\begin{aligned} R(t) &= \frac{c \Theta(t)}{f_1 + f_2} = \rho(t) - \Delta\rho_{TOF}(t) + c \frac{\delta f_1 + \delta f_2}{f_1 + f_2} \tau \\ &\quad + c \frac{N_1^2 + N_2^1}{f_1 + f_2} + c \frac{I_1^2 + I_2^1}{f_1 + f_2} + c \frac{d_1^2 + d_2^1}{f_1 + f_2} + c \frac{\varepsilon_1^2 + \varepsilon_2^1}{f_1 + f_2} \end{aligned}$$

## Instantaneous range correction



Since the estimation equations utilize the instantaneous range, it is necessary to convert the phase-derived range  $\rho_1^2$  and  $\rho_2^1$  into the instantaneous range:

$$(f_1 \tau_2^1 + f_2 \tau_1^2) = (f_1 + f_2) \tau - \Delta \Theta_{TOF}(t)$$

$$\Delta \rho_{TOF}(t) = c \frac{\delta f_1}{f_1 + f_2} (\Delta_1 - \Delta_2)^T \cdot \hat{e}_{12} - \frac{f_1 - f_2}{f_1 + f_2} (\Delta_2^T \cdot \hat{e}_{12})$$

$$\text{with: } r_1 - r_2 = \rho \cdot \hat{e}_{12} \quad , \quad \rho_2^1 = \rho - \Delta_1^T \cdot \hat{e}_{12} \quad , \quad \rho_1^2 = \rho - \Delta_2^T \cdot \hat{e}_{12}$$

# Measurement errors

## Oscillator noise :

it depends on the oscillator characteristics (quartz crystal oscillator with an Allan variance close to  $10^{-13}$ ) and on the dual one-way filter (function of frequency offset, carrier frequency and separation distance).

## System noise :

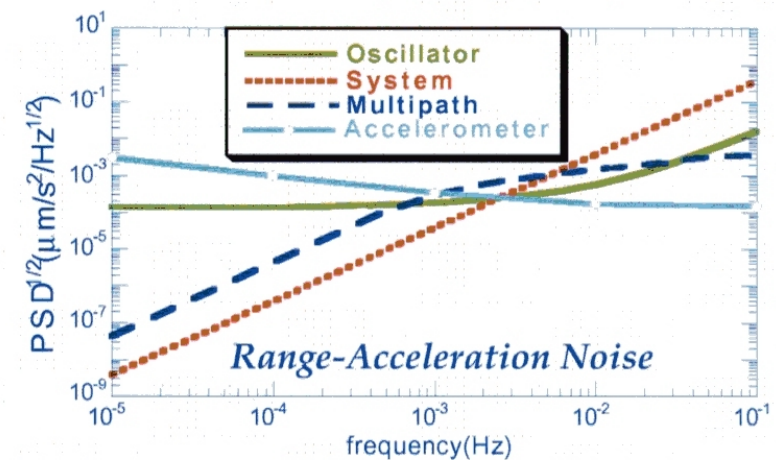
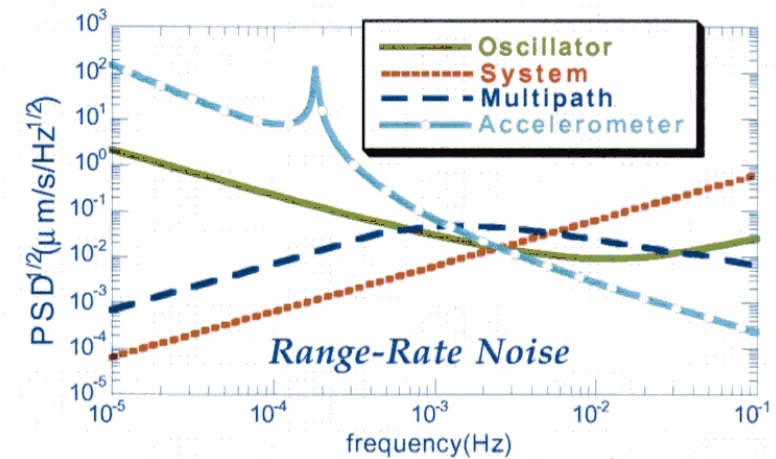
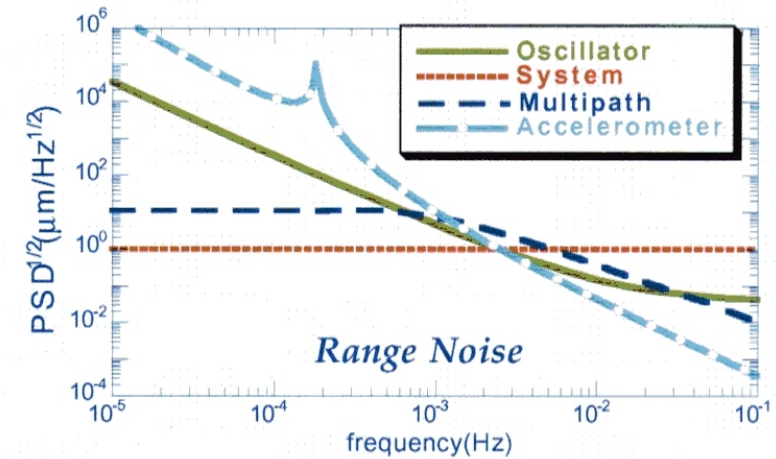
it comes from the receiver subsystem (white noise for the range constant to  $1 \mu\text{m}$ ) and from the time-tag error (less than  $70 \text{ ps}$  when using GPS time-tag corrections).

## Multipath noise :

it is due to the indirect microwave signals which are reflected around the antenna horn. It depends on the reflectivity of the front surface and of the satellite attitude ( $< 0.3 \text{ mrad}$ ).

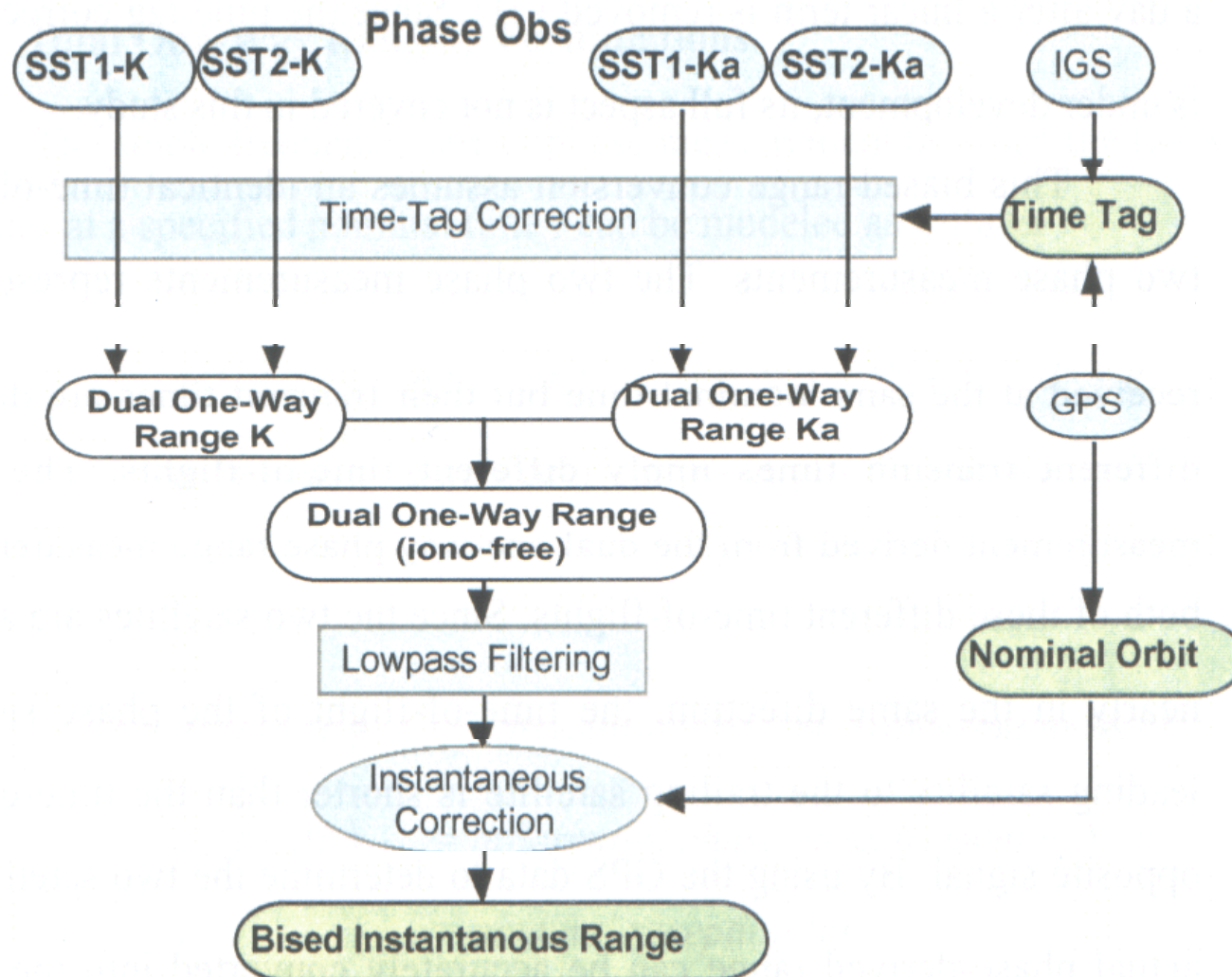
## Accelerometer noise :

the SuperSTAR accelerometer (Onera) has a specification noise of  $10^{-10} \text{ m/s}^2/\text{Hz}^{1/2}$  along R and T and of  $10^{-9} \text{ m/s}^2/\text{Hz}^{1/2}$  along N. Attitude and misalignment errors may be as much as  $0.3 \text{ mrad}$ .

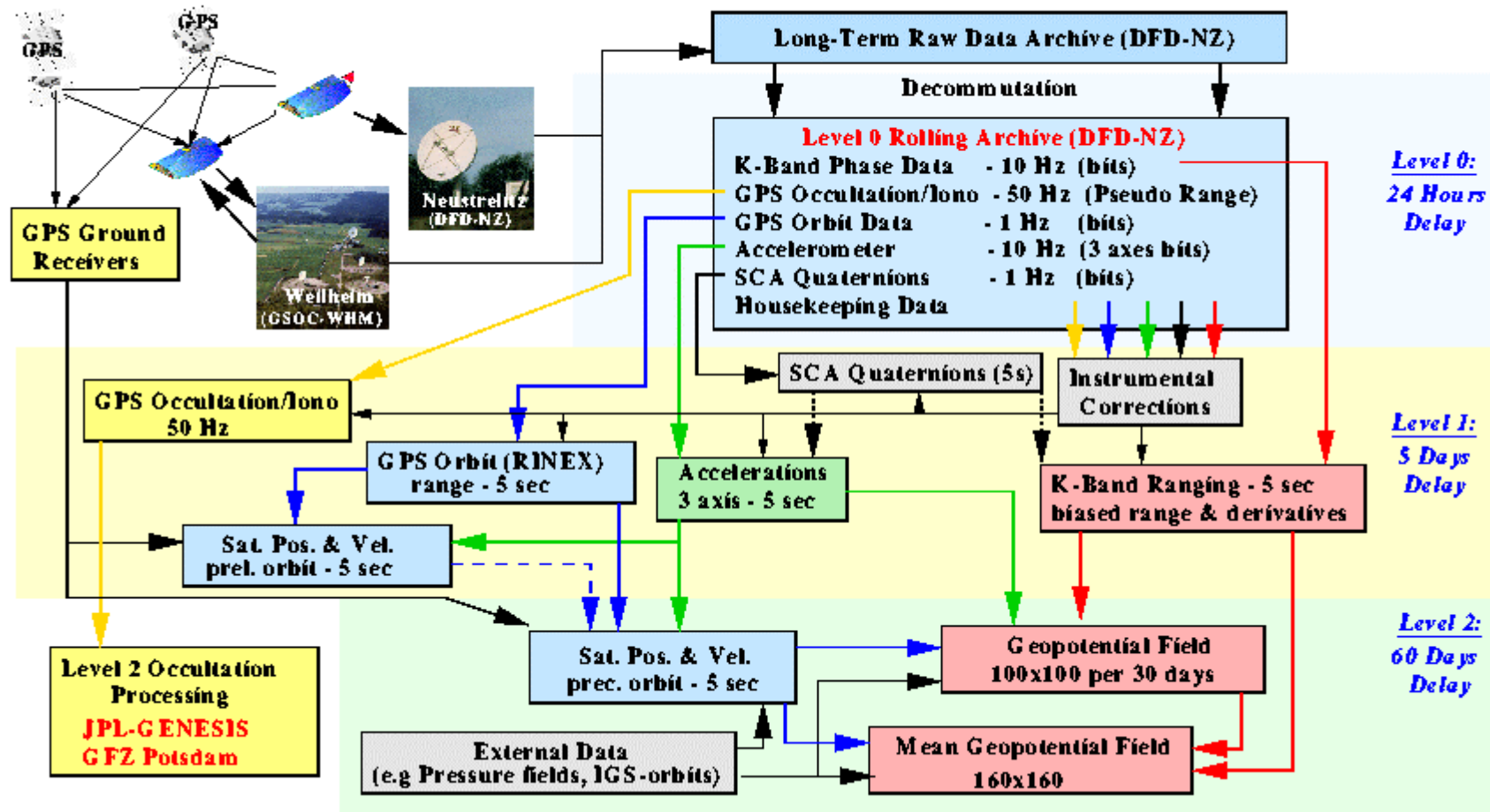




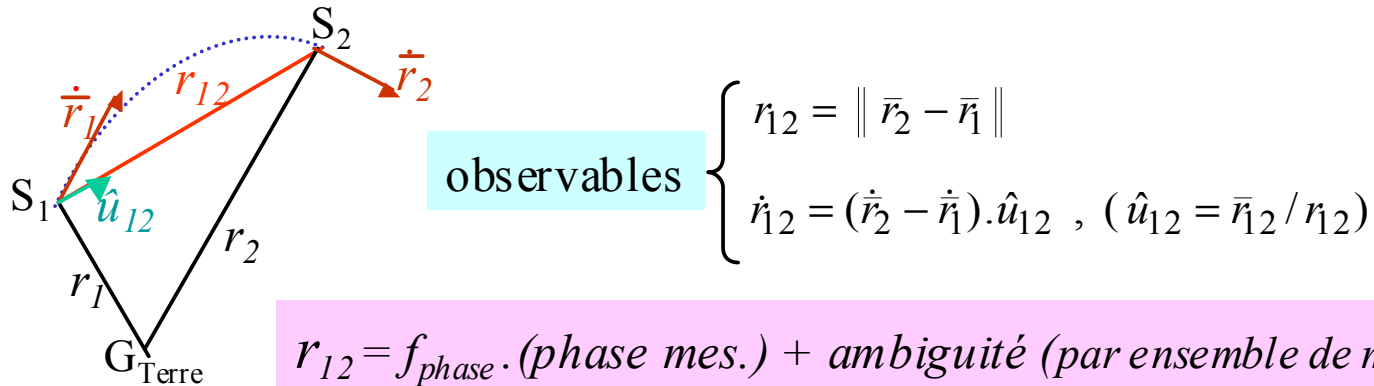
# Pre-processing procedure (JPL)



# GRACE products and data flow



## Exemple d'équations d'observation pour GRACE



Distance

$$r_{12}^{obs} - r_{12}^{calc} \approx dr_{12} = \hat{u}_{12} \cdot (d\bar{r}_2 - d\bar{r}_1)$$

Vitesse

$$\dot{r}_{12}^{obs} - \dot{r}_{12}^{calc} \approx d\dot{r}_{12} = \hat{u}_{12} \cdot (d\dot{\bar{r}}_2 - d\dot{\bar{r}}_1) + \frac{(\dot{\bar{r}}_2 - \dot{\bar{r}}_1) - \dot{r}_{12} \hat{u}_{12}}{r_{12}} \cdot (d\bar{r}_2 - d\bar{r}_1)$$

mesurées

de l'intég. num.

avec

$$d\{\bar{r}_i, \dot{\bar{r}}_i\} = \sum_j \frac{\partial\{\bar{r}_i, \dot{\bar{r}}_i\}}{\partial(PInt_i^j)} \cdot \Delta(PInt_i^j) + \sum_k \frac{\partial\{\bar{r}_i, \dot{\bar{r}}_i\}}{\partial(PExt^k)} \cdot \Delta(PExt^k)$$

pour l'arc {i}

Eq. aux variations  
(intég. num.)

# Expected cumulative geoid error

