



Space It Up! ***SPOKE 2***

ADVANCED DESIGN AND
ANALYSIS OF SPACE MISSIONS
AND SYSTEMS AND INNOVATIVE
DIGITALIZATION - SYSTEM
ENGINEERING AND DIGITAL TWIN

*Speaker: Fabrizio Piergentili (Spoke
Leader)*

***SIU! Days 26-28 January
2026, Florence***



AGENZIA SPAZIALE ITALIANA



Ministero
dell'Università
e della Ricerca



***Spoke Leader:
UNIROMA1***

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Work based on Tasks

Sinergies inter-WP

Plenary Meeting

Work based on Tools

Sinergies intra-WP

4 thematic areas

Tools definition

WHY THIS TABLE?	WHAT TOOL WILL WE HAVE?	HOW DO WE PROCEED?
<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a software tool to predict surface roughness of metallic components produced by AM, as a function of geometry and build direction. Develop a software tool to predict surface roughness of metallic components produced by AM, as a function of geometry and build direction. <p>Participants: Additive Manufacturing Consortium (AMC), Airbus, Boeing, GE, etc.</p>	<p>Tool 1: Development of a software tool to predict surface roughness of metallic components produced by AM, as a function of geometry and build direction.</p> <p>Tool 2: Development of a software tool to predict surface roughness of metallic components produced by AM, as a function of geometry and build direction.</p>	<p>Task 1: Leader: University of Pisa, WP 1.3, WP 1.4, WP 1.5, WP 1.6, WP 1.7, WP 1.8, WP 1.9, WP 1.10, WP 1.11, WP 1.12, WP 1.13, WP 1.14, WP 1.15, WP 1.16, WP 1.17, WP 1.18, WP 1.19, WP 1.20, WP 1.21, WP 1.22, WP 1.23, WP 1.24, WP 1.25, WP 1.26, WP 1.27, WP 1.28, WP 1.29, WP 1.30, WP 1.31, WP 1.32, WP 1.33, WP 1.34, WP 1.35, WP 1.36, WP 1.37, WP 1.38, WP 1.39, WP 1.40, WP 1.41, WP 1.42, WP 1.43, WP 1.44, WP 1.45, WP 1.46, WP 1.47, WP 1.48, WP 1.49, WP 1.50, WP 1.51, WP 1.52, WP 1.53, WP 1.54, WP 1.55, WP 1.56, WP 1.57, WP 1.58, WP 1.59, WP 1.60, WP 1.61, WP 1.62, WP 1.63, WP 1.64, WP 1.65, WP 1.66, WP 1.67, WP 1.68, WP 1.69, WP 1.70, WP 1.71, WP 1.72, WP 1.73, WP 1.74, WP 1.75, WP 1.76, WP 1.77, WP 1.78, WP 1.79, WP 1.80, WP 1.81, WP 1.82, WP 1.83, WP 1.84, WP 1.85, WP 1.86, WP 1.87, WP 1.88, WP 1.89, WP 1.90, WP 1.91, WP 1.92, WP 1.93, WP 1.94, WP 1.95, WP 1.96, WP 1.97, WP 1.98, WP 1.99, WP 1.100.</p> <p>Task 2: Leader: University of Pisa, WP 2.1, WP 2.2, WP 2.3, WP 2.4, WP 2.5, WP 2.6, WP 2.7, WP 2.8, WP 2.9, WP 2.10, WP 2.11, WP 2.12, WP 2.13, WP 2.14, WP 2.15, WP 2.16, WP 2.17, WP 2.18, WP 2.19, WP 2.20, WP 2.21, WP 2.22, WP 2.23, WP 2.24, WP 2.25, WP 2.26, WP 2.27, WP 2.28, WP 2.29, WP 2.30, WP 2.31, WP 2.32, WP 2.33, WP 2.34, WP 2.35, WP 2.36, WP 2.37, WP 2.38, WP 2.39, WP 2.40, WP 2.41, WP 2.42, WP 2.43, WP 2.44, WP 2.45, WP 2.46, WP 2.47, WP 2.48, WP 2.49, WP 2.50, WP 2.51, WP 2.52, WP 2.53, WP 2.54, WP 2.55, WP 2.56, WP 2.57, WP 2.58, WP 2.59, WP 2.60, WP 2.61, WP 2.62, WP 2.63, WP 2.64, WP 2.65, WP 2.66, WP 2.67, WP 2.68, WP 2.69, WP 2.70, WP 2.71, WP 2.72, WP 2.73, WP 2.74, WP 2.75, WP 2.76, WP 2.77, WP 2.78, WP 2.79, WP 2.80, WP 2.81, WP 2.82, WP 2.83, WP 2.84, WP 2.85, WP 2.86, WP 2.87, WP 2.88, WP 2.89, WP 2.90, WP 2.91, WP 2.92, WP 2.93, WP 2.94, WP 2.95, WP 2.96, WP 2.97, WP 2.98, WP 2.99, WP 2.100.</p>

SPOKE 2 PLENARY MEETING



Working session, Spoke 2



1

Synergy mapping

Across Tasks and Work Packages within the Spoke

2

4 thematic areas

Shared framing and definition of common interests

3

Plenary meeting: Rome, December 9th

Work organized in 4 tables (rooms) to coordinate activities

Keywords

DIALOGUE

SINERGY

UPDATES

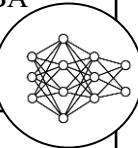
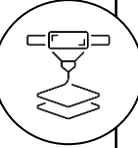
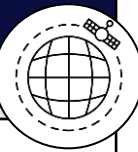
TOOL

OBJECTIVES

SPOKE 2 TOOLS OVERVIEW

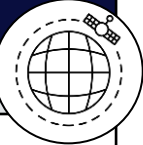
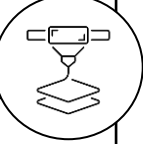
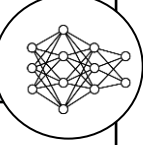

7 tools, grouped in 4 thematic areas

ID	TOOL	WP	PARTNERS
Digital twins for Space Missions			
TOOL1	STAR: Space mission Twin for Architecture Representation	WP 2.2, WP 2.4, WP 2.5	UNIROMA1, UNIPD, UNIPA, POLIMI, POLITO, TELESPAZIO, INRIM, SITAEI
TOOL2	Digital Twin for Lunar Surface exploration scenario	WP 2.4	TELESPAZIO, UNIROMA1
Additive Manufacturing and Modelling for Space Applications			
TOOL3	Defect Modeling and Fatigue Damage Detection in Lattice Structure	WP 2.3, WP 2.4	POLIMI, POLIBA
TOOL4	SHARPEN: preciSe rougHness lAseR-Powder bEd fabrication	WP 2.3	UNIROMA1, POLIMI, POLITO, POLIBA
AI-Driven approaches for Spacecraft Design and Operations			
TOOL5	LLM-Based rag tool for spacecraft preliminary design process	WP 2.4, WP 2.5	TAS-I, UNIROMA1
TOOL6	Software for classification of anthropic areas in Earth Observation images	WP 2.5, WP 2.4	MAPSAT, UNIROMA1
Space Weather impact on Space Missions			
TOOL7	Space Weather Impact on Space Missions	WP 2.2	GSSI+/SISSA, POLITO



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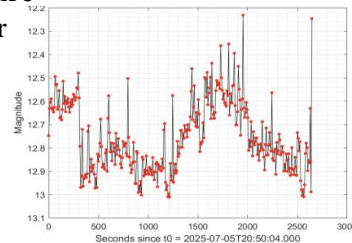
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A multi-level digital twin framework from mission and constellation design down to satellite's subsystems

REFLECTANCE MODULE

Optical signature of the bus under realistic illumination conditions to predict light curves and brightness



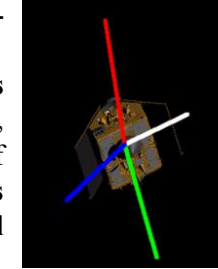
CLOCK ANOMALIES MODULE

Identification of anomalies in atomic clocks, and correlation with environmental parameters (temperature, humidity, etc.)



ATTITUDE MODULE

- Support to what-if analysis
- Rotational dynamics of tumbling objects, including the effects of both external torques and internal perturbations

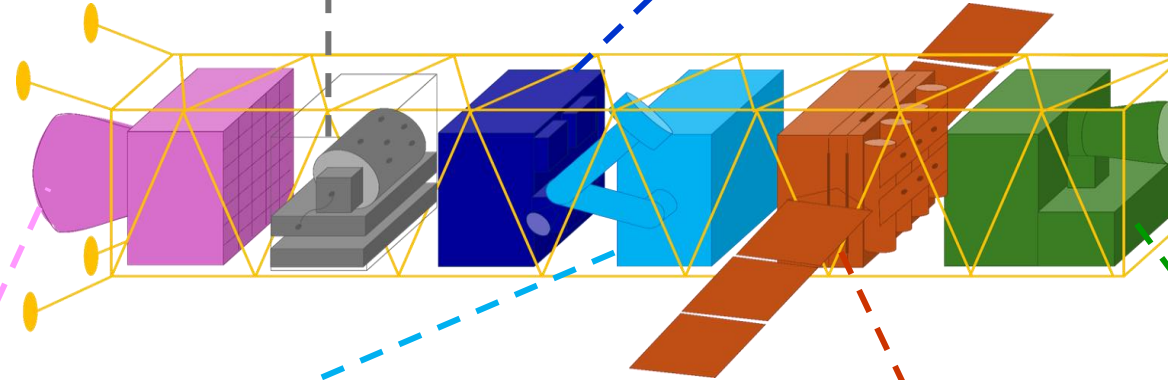
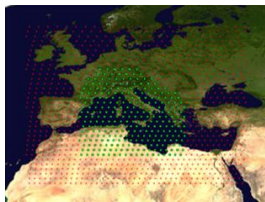


STRUCTURE MODULE

- Multi-fidelity simulation for analysis of space structures
- Degradation of materials and structures subject to thermal cycles and radiation
- Interaction between with the surface of a planetary body
- SHM tool for monitoring the structural health of flexible components

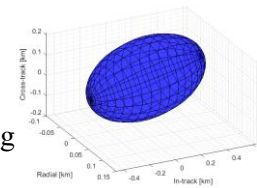
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Optimization and Design of satellite constellations based on customizable mission parameters and sensors benchmarking



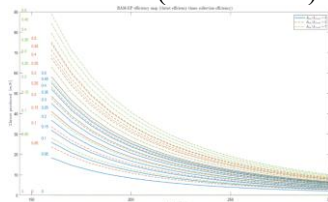
COLLISION AVOIDANCE MODULE

Assessment of conjunction events through covariance-based collision probability estimation, supporting the definition of collision avoidance manoeuvres



ABEP MODULE

Performance and operation of an Air-Breathing Electric Propulsion system for applications in VLEO (160-300 km)



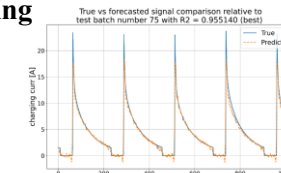
MANIPULATOR MODULE

Design, remote control and training in Manufacturing, Assembly, Integration and Testing activities and in On-orbit Servicing, Assembly, and Manufacturing operations



EPS MODULE

- Batteries State Of Health (SOH) monitoring
- Solar array wing cells degradation monitoring



OBSERVATION MODULE

Simulating the full observation process of a space sensor, enabling performance assessment, trade-off analysis, and synthetic dataset production



LEGGE SPAZIO ITALIA, GIUGNO 2025

Requisiti oggettivi per l'esercizio di attività' spaziali

Sicurezza delle attività' spaziali in tutte le loro fasi e i loro aspetti, dalla **progettazione dell'oggetto spaziale e delle sue componenti** alla gestione delle attività' spaziali

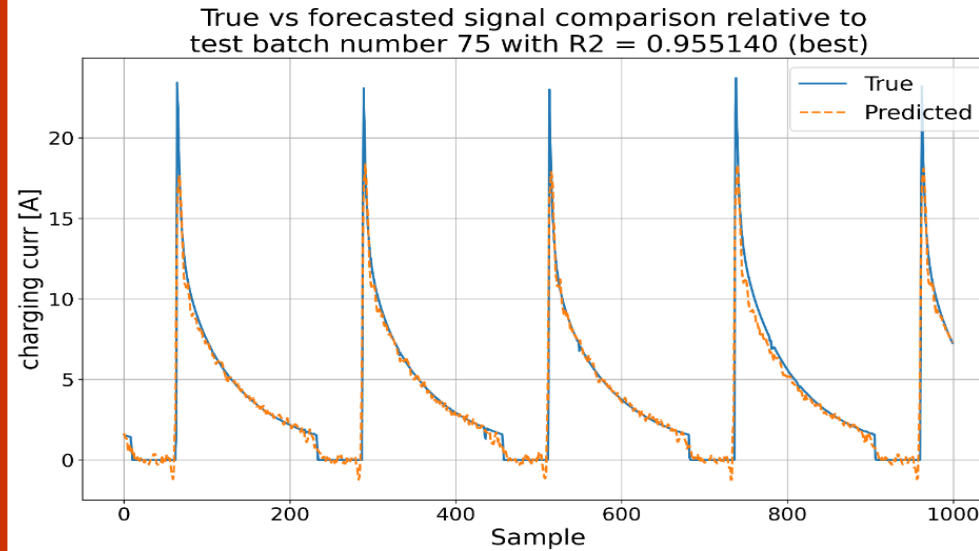
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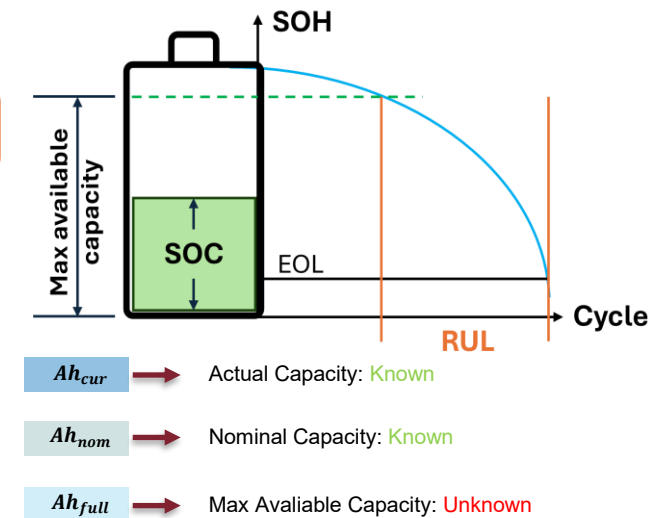
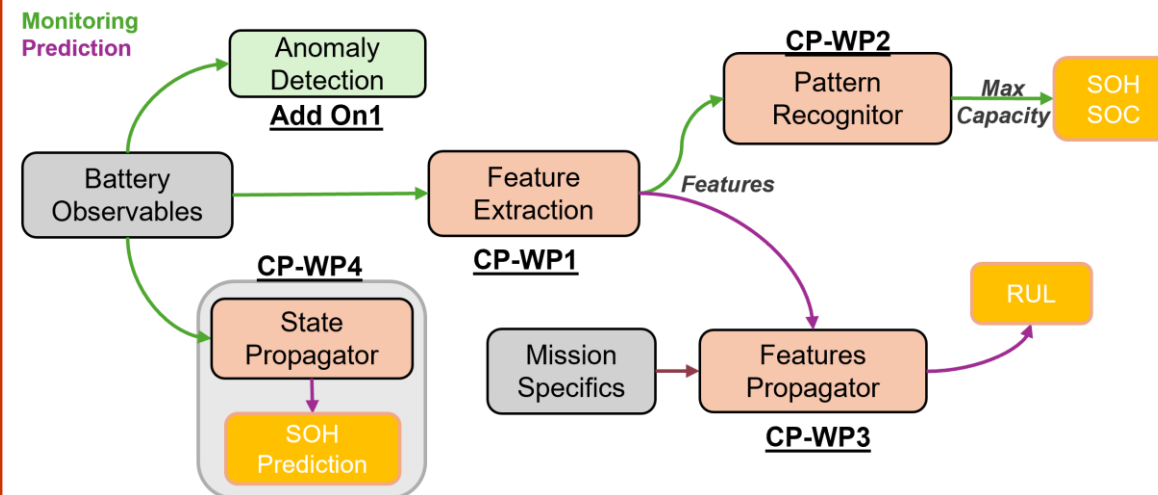
Valutazione relativa all'inquinamento luminoso e radioelettrico prodotto dagli oggetti spaziali e alla mitigazione degli effetti dei detriti spaziali

EPS MODULE Digital Twins for Space Battery Management Systems



Develop a **data-driven framework** to predict Health and **Useful Life**, using **historical telemetry** and **mission requirements**.

This involves linking degradation trends with operational and environmental conditions to **optimize battery sizing**, **improve energy management** and extend the service life of satellites.

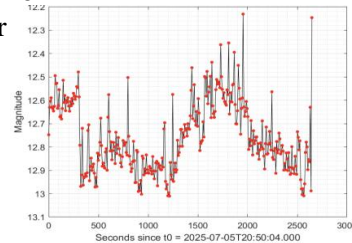


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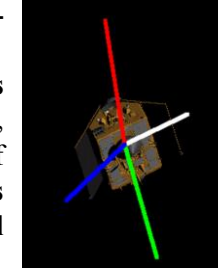
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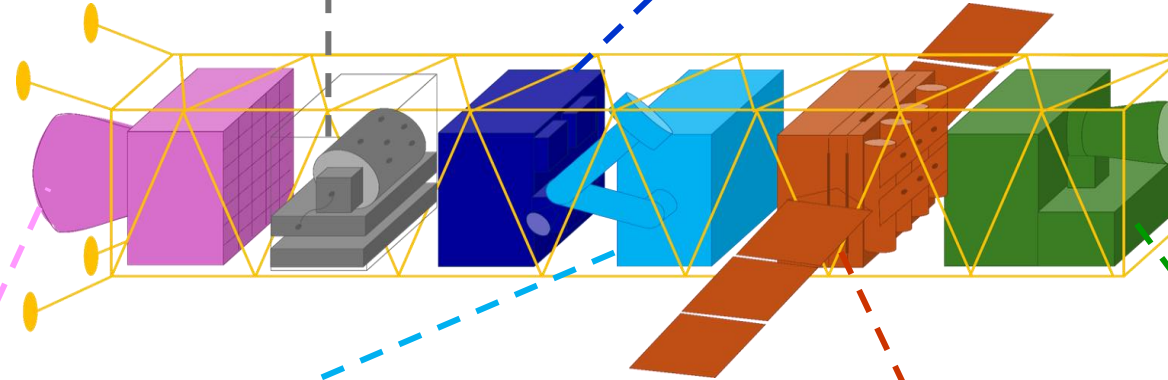
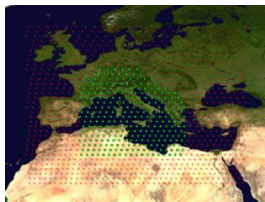


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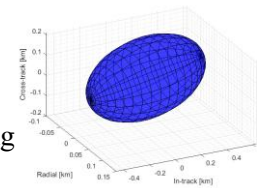
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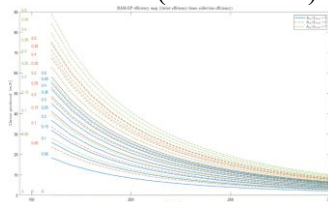
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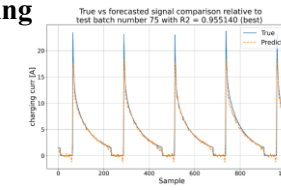
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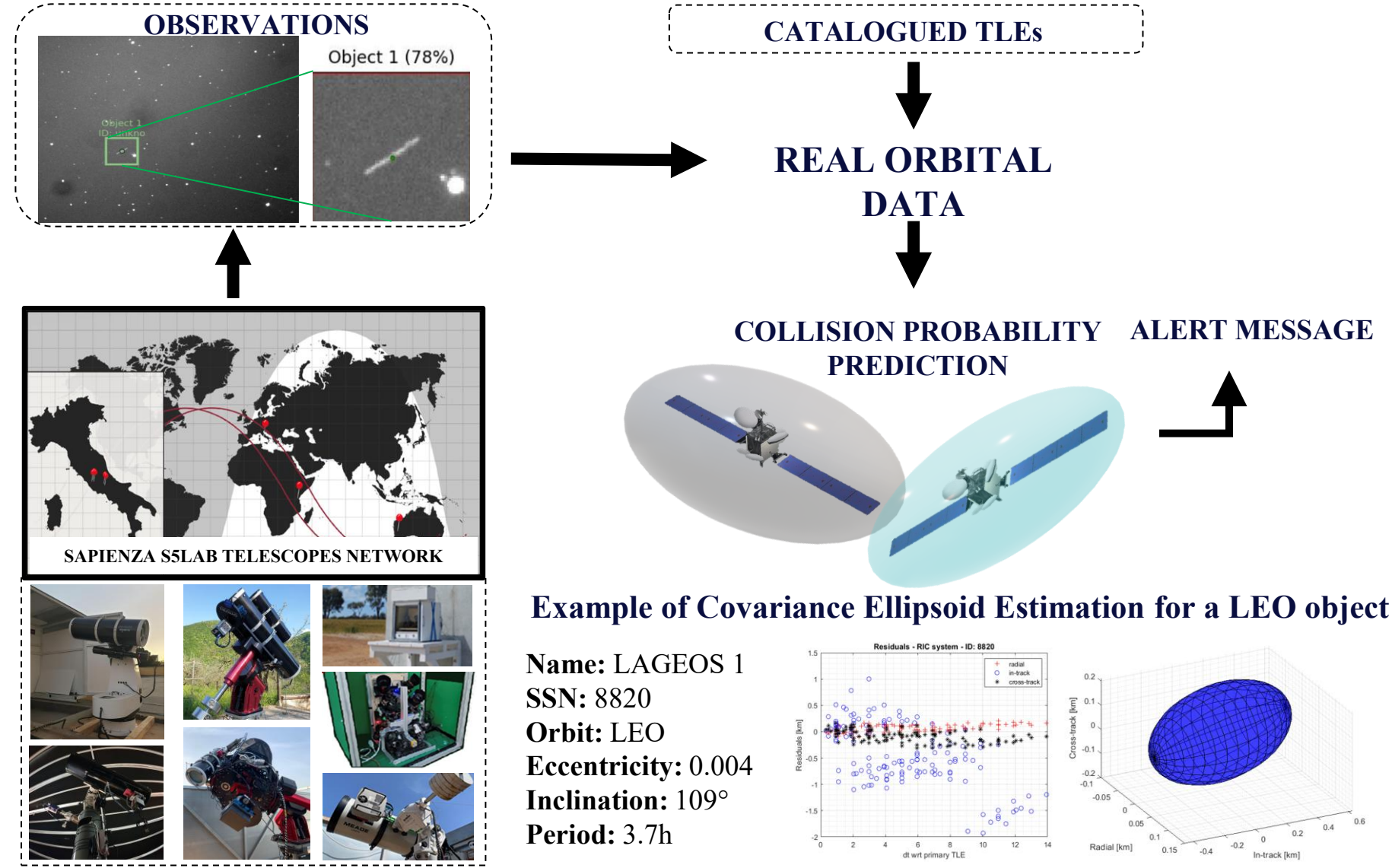
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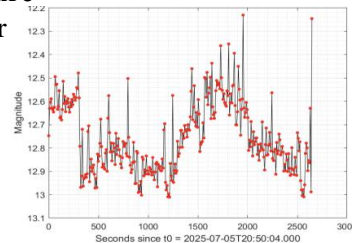


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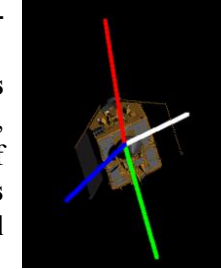
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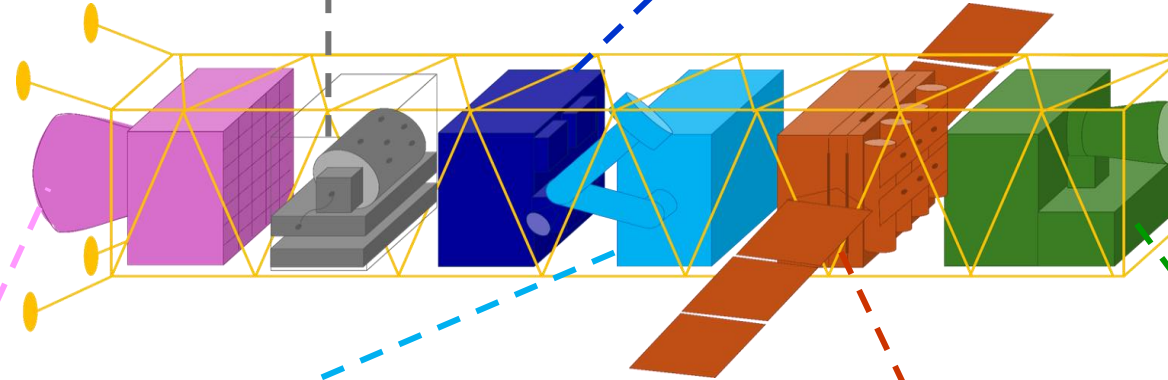
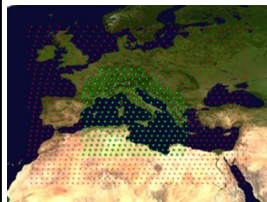


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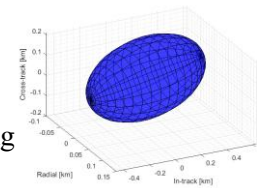
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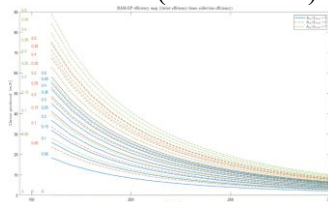
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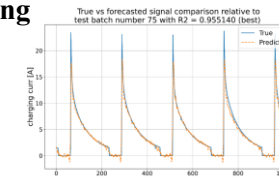
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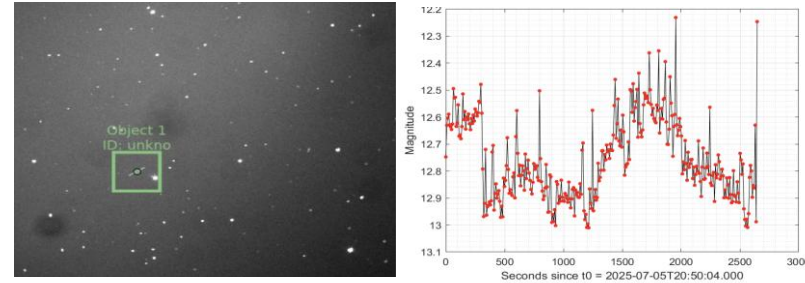
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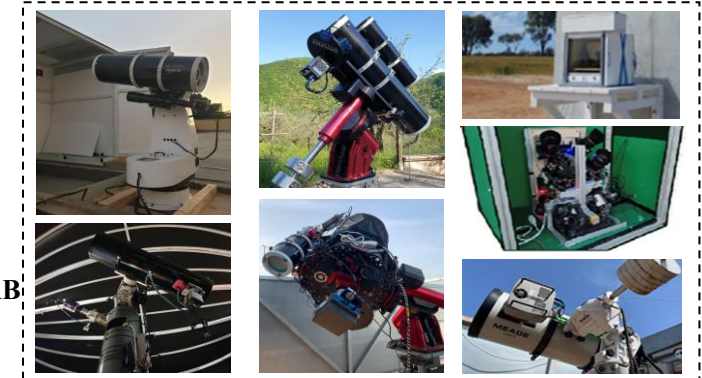
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REFLECTANCE MODULE

OPTICAL OBSERVATION DATA



SAPIENZA S5LAB
TELESCOPES
NETWORK

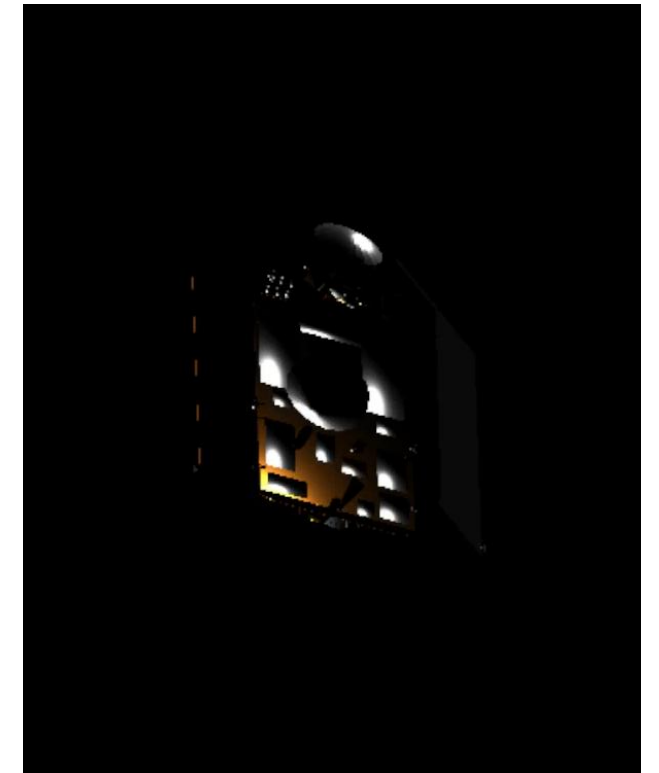
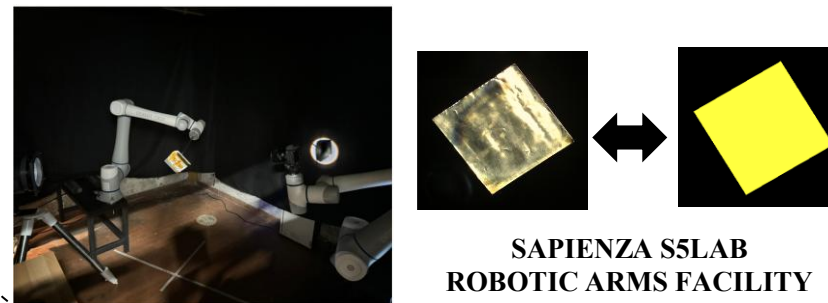


DIGITAL TWIN with BRIGHTNESS PREDICTION CAPABILITIES

Support to:

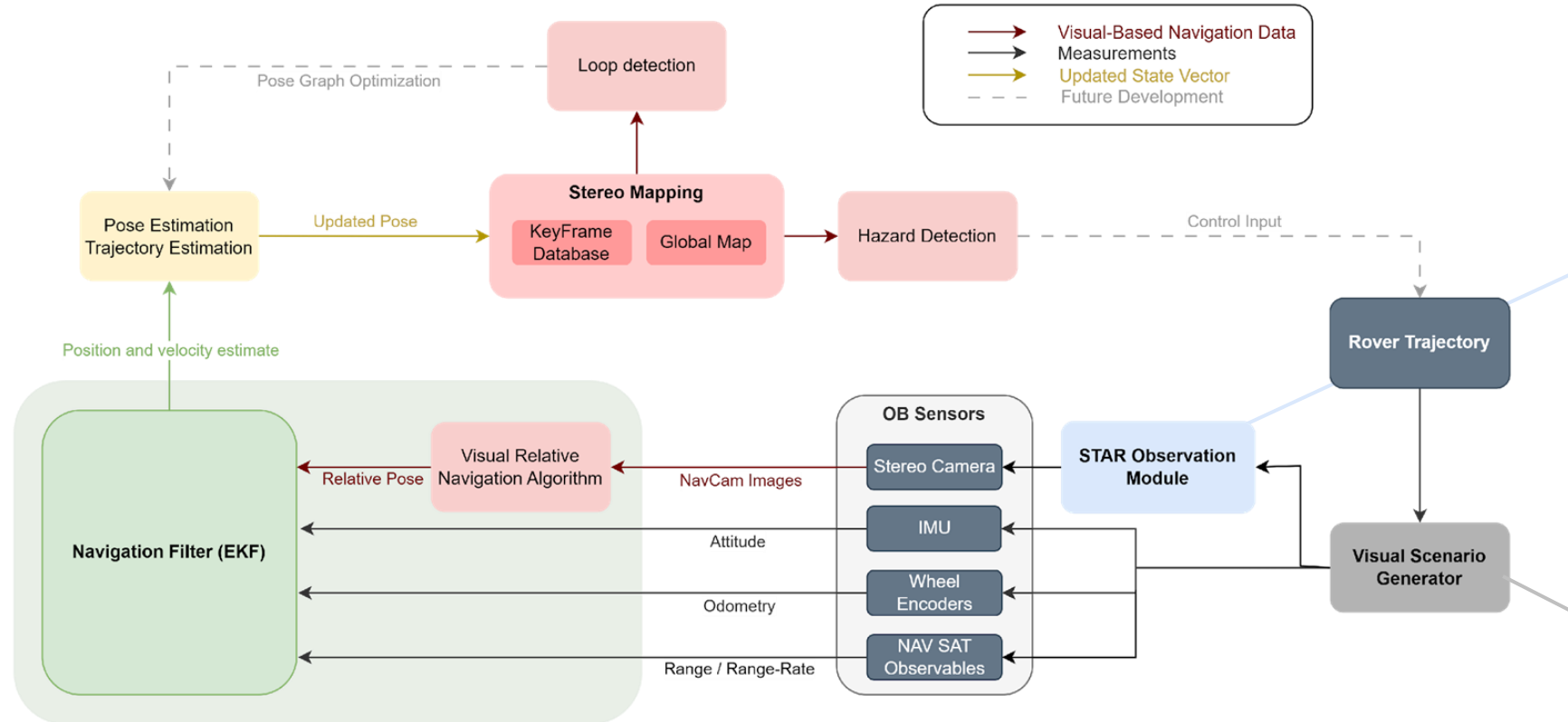
- In-orbit objects, for trackability enhancement
- To-be-launched objects for brightness characterization and models calibration
- Design phase of spacecraft, for better compliance to guidelines

TEST-DERIVED BRIGHTNESS

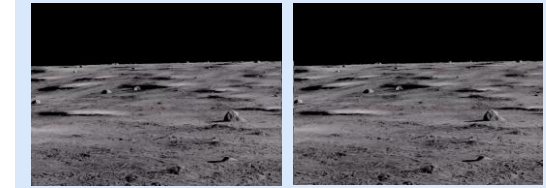


TOOL 2: DIGITAL TWIN FOR LUNAR SURFACE EXPLORATION SCENARIO

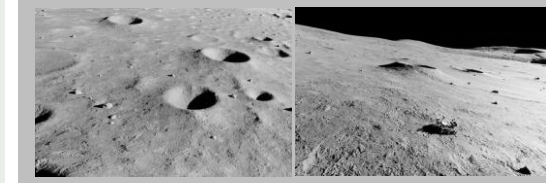
Extension to the STAR Observation Module – Lunar Rover Use Case



STAR Observation module exploited for generating **synthetic images** from the **stereo camera sensor**, which are **input to the optical navigation module**

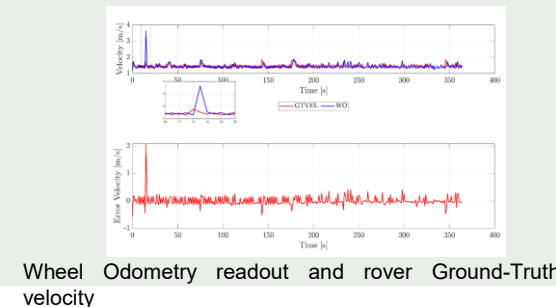


Generation of a **terrain tile with enhanced terrain resolution** (down to cm/px) and **added synthetic terrain features** (rocks, boulders, craters)



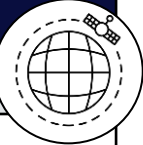
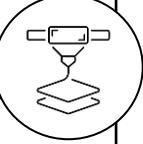
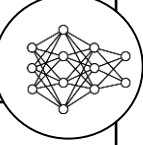

Reliable **state estimation in long-range autonomous navigation** cannot rely on a single sensing modality

Optical navigation, inertial and wheel-encoder data are **combined** in the EKF
Ephemeris from a lunar navigation constellation can be integrated within the navigation filters radio-navigation observables



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Space Weather impact on Space Missions				
TOOL7	Space Weather Impact on Space Missions	WP 2.2	GSSI+/SISSA, POLITO	

TOOL3: DEFECT MODELING AND FATIGUE DAMAGE DETECTION IN LATTICE STRUCTURES

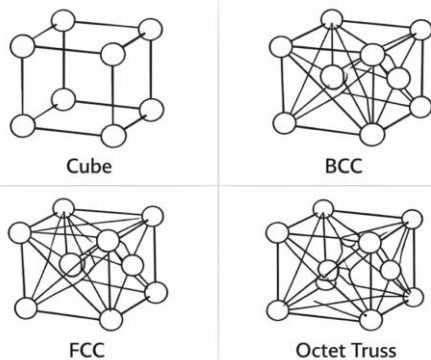
OBJECTIVES:

1. Develop a numerical framework to model the **mechanical response of lattice** accounting for **geometrical and material imperfections**
2. Assess an acoustic-based **Non-Destructive Testing** method to **detect, locate and quantify damage**

Lattice structures

Lattice structures are cellular materials organized in a repetition of a unit cell

Unit Cell Topologies



Properties and applications

The **tunable topology** of lattice structures enables tailored stiffness, energy absorption, damping, permeability and thermal transport for the target application.

- **Isostatic mounting devices** with minimal thermal conductivity
- **Heat pipes** featuring porous lattice wicks to enhance capillary
- **Damping panels** for improved vibration attenuation.
- **Lightweight structural components** with tailored stiffness-to-weight

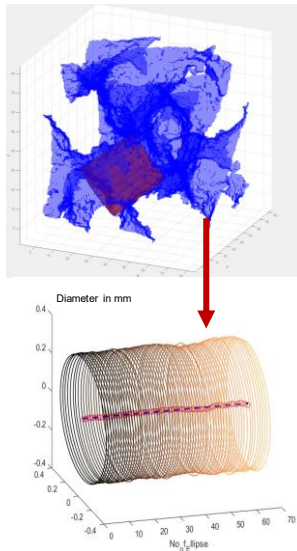
Challenges

Because lattice structures contain **hundreds of unit cells**, two key issues arise:

- **high computational cost** for modeling and simulation
- increased demands on **inspection**, including quality control and damage detection, to reliably assess the manufactured part

Modelling of defects and FE model

Identification of defects from CT scan

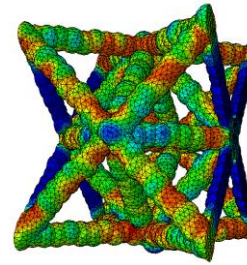


Single strut extracted from the lattice

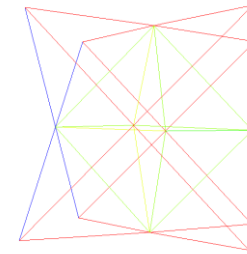
Struts are represented as the **union of multiple spheres**, whose **radius**, **offset**, and **spacing** vary randomly according to statistical distributions derived from CT scans.

Modelling strategy based on:

- 1D elements
- homogenized material including the effect of defects



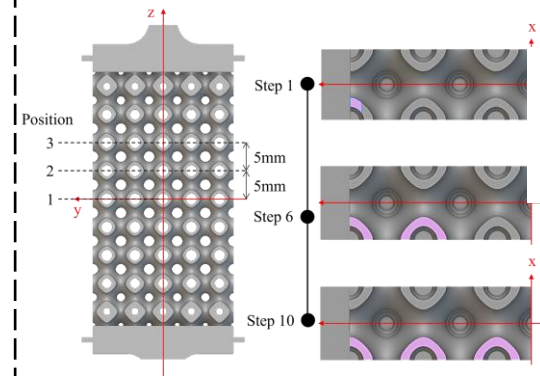
3D octet cell model



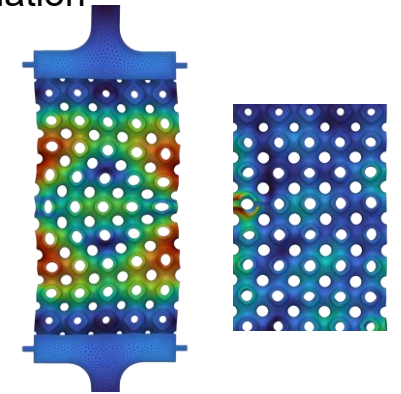
1D octet cell model

Damage Detection

Artificial Neural Network training and validation

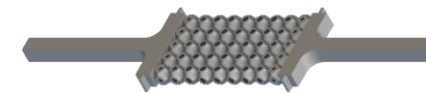


Numerical natural frequencies



Integer Damaged

Experimental Dataset



ART (Acoustic Resonant Testing) for natural frequencies

Pre-fatigue test



Post-fatigue test

Related presentation: Simplified Defect Modeling and Fatigue Damage Detection in Lattice Structures

Related poster: 1) Simplified approach for modeling of defects in lattice structures, 2) Damage Detection in lattice structures using Acoustic Resonance Testing and Numerically-Informed Neural Networks

Davide Lorenzo Cappa, Riccardo Vescovini, Alessandro Levati, Stefano Foletti Politecnico di Milano

TOOL 4: SHARPEN: preciSe roughness lAsER-Powder bEd fabricationN

Why L-PBF?

- Complex geometries
- Strength-to-weight ratio
- Performance enhancement

In the aerospace sector:

- Engine and turbine components
- Optimized structural components and satellite antennas

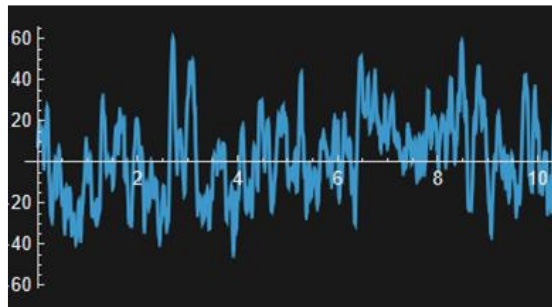


Limitations:

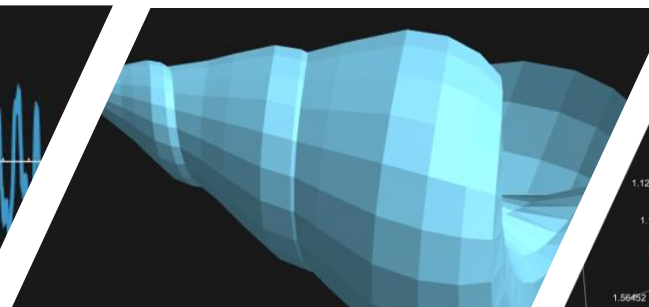
- High surface roughness (generally $Ra > 10 \mu m$)
- Lack of roughness predictive models
- No help tool for visualizing how component design affects the surface quality
- Hard to control metallurgic process which leads to coarse roughness
- Intrinsic surface quality anisotropy
- Low geometrical accuracy

OBJECTIVE: Detailed graphical map of attainable surface roughness on complex geometries fabricated by L-PBF through experimental activities and prediction modelling

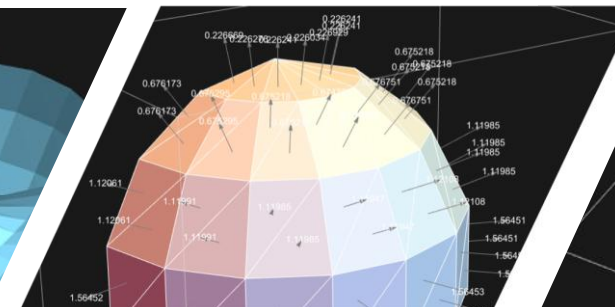
WORKFLOW



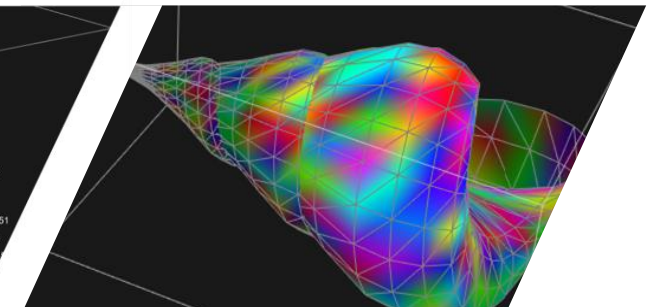
Roughness data



Original 3D model



Vectors calculation



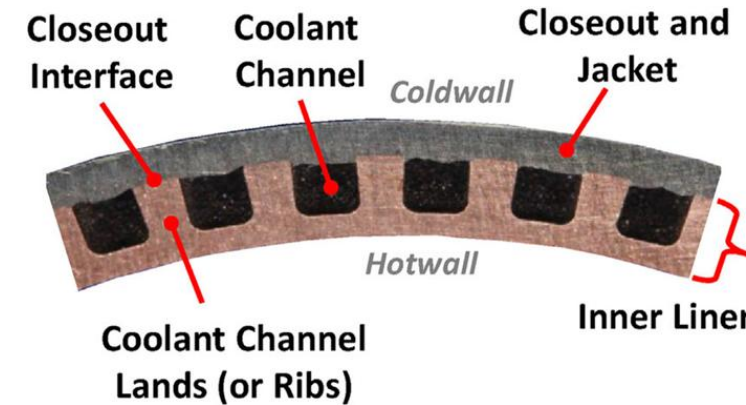
Roughness mapping

Critical example: Thrust Conformal cooling channels

- No support allowed in fabrication

Why L-PBF?

- Internal conformal cooling channels
- Complex paths and cross-sections (variable rib thickness)
- Heat transfer maximization (high roughness may enhance heat transfer)
- Assembly consolidation (elimination of brazing, welding and bolted joints for higher reliability)
- Combustion chamber/nozzle/ cooling channels all integrated possibly in one part
- Reduction of manufacturing steps and costs and procurement times
- Machinability of difficult materials (Nickel, Titanium, Tungsten alloys)



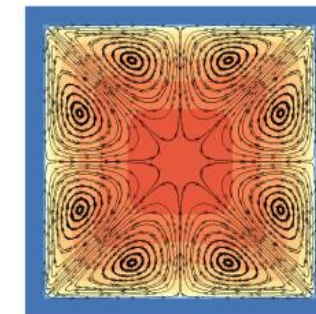
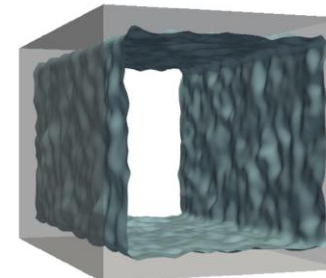
Cooling channel current design



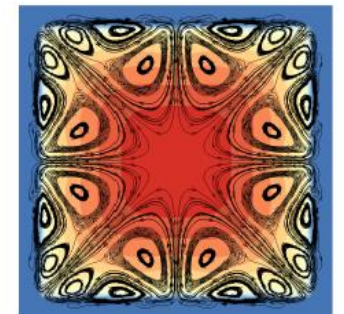
L-PBF Cooling channel example

OBJECTIVES:

- Fabrication of **artifacts** for a measurement campaign to **characterize surfaces quality** produced using L-PBF
- Definition of an experimental activity aimed at creating a **shared database** to be **integrated into CFD codes for cooling channels simulations**



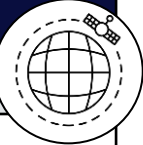
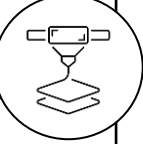
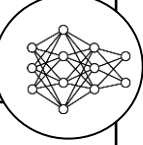

Smooth



Grit-blasted

SPOKE 2 TOOLS OVERVIEW

7 tools, grouped in 4 thematic areas

ID	TOOL	WP	PARTNERS	
Digital twins for Space Missions				
TOOL1	STAR: Space mission Twin for Architecture Representation	WP 2.2, WP 2.4, WP 2.5	UNIROMA1, UNIPD, UNIPA, POLIMI, POLITO, TELESPAZIO, INRIM, SITAEI	
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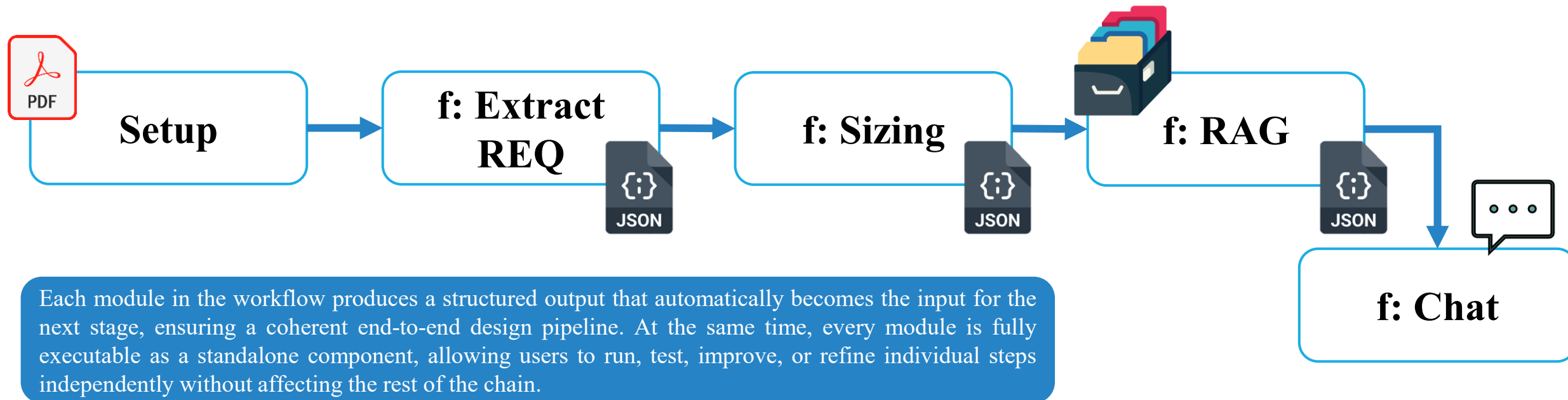
TOOL5: LLM-BASED RAG TOOL FOR SPACECRAFT PRELIMINARY DESIGN PROCESS

OBJECTIVES:

1. **Automatically extract requirements variables and constraints** from technical PDF documents
2. **Retrieve** commercially available components **using the sizing-derived requirements** as queries
3. **Provide an interactive chat** for accessing both datasheet information and extracted requirements

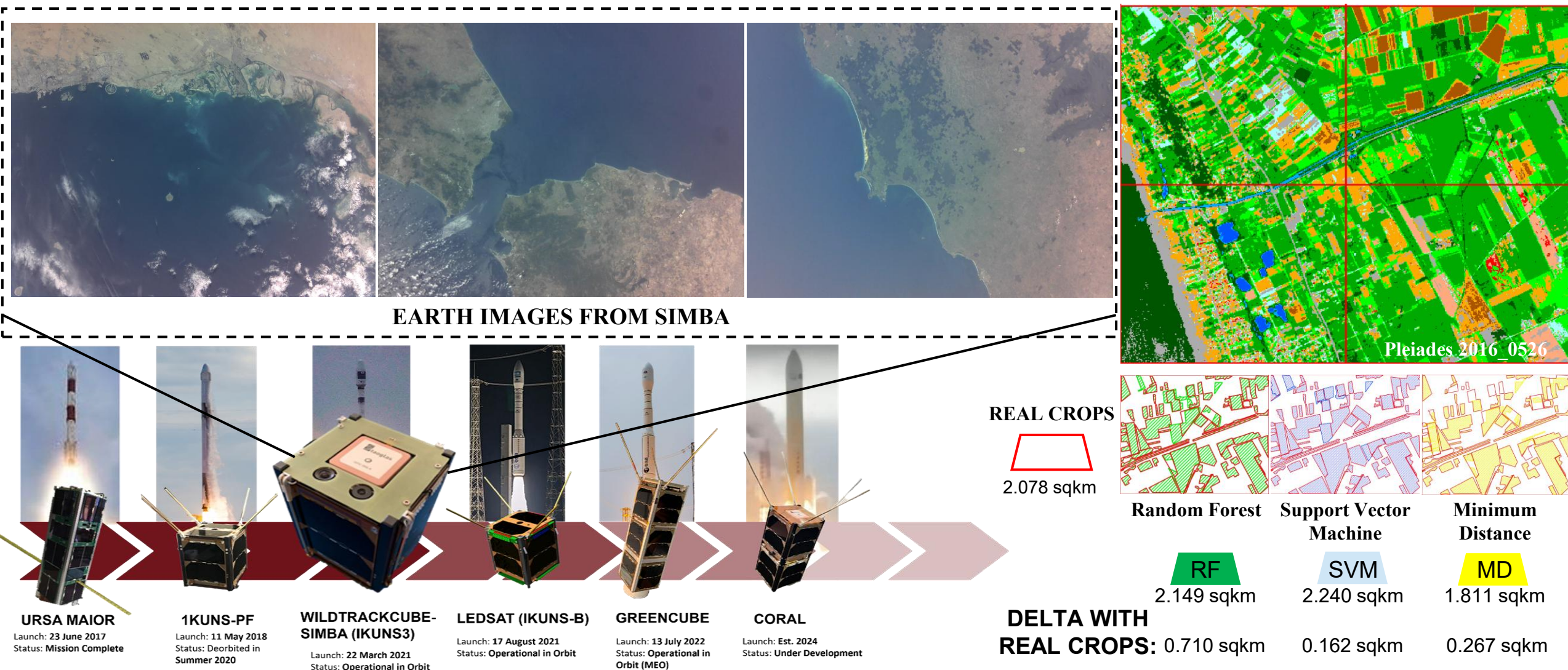
Retrieval Augmentation Generation (RAG)-BASED REASONING SYSTEM

ADVANTAGE: the model is based on updated and specific data, other than the internal knowledge reached through the training



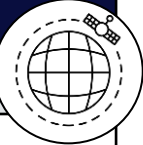
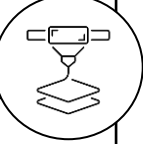
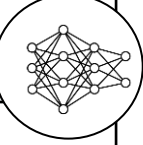

TOOL6: SOFTWARE FOR CLASSIFICATION OF ANTHROPIC AREAS IN EARTH OBSERVATION IMAGES

Comparison among three supervised classification methods for detection and classification of anthropic areas



SPOKE 2 TOOLS OVERVIEW

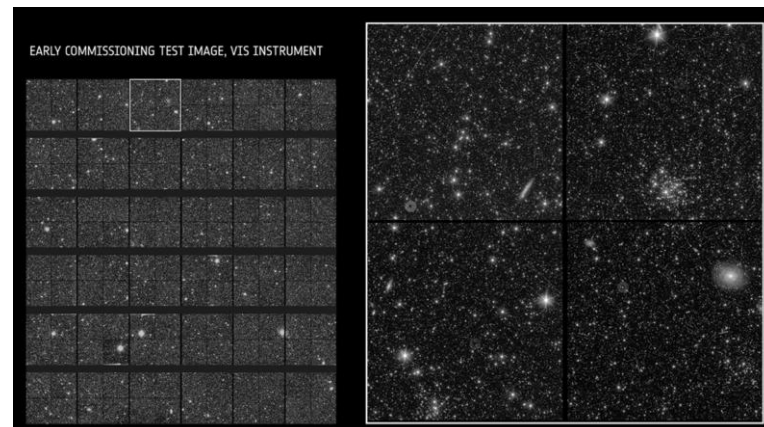
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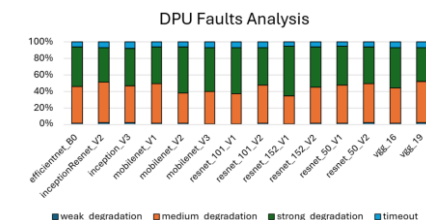
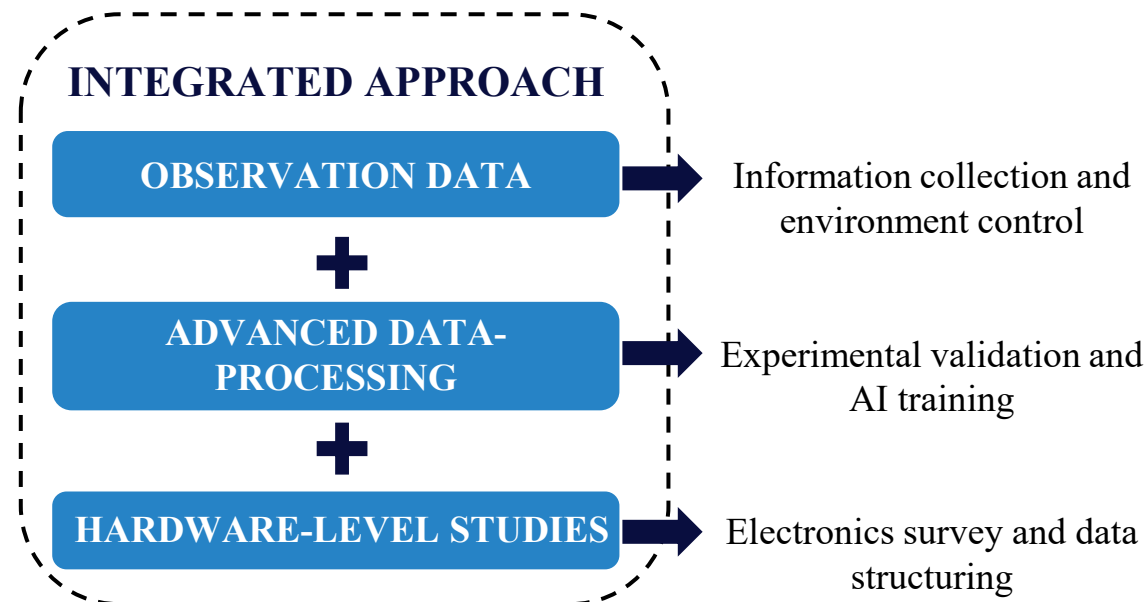
TOOL7: SPACE WEATHER IMPACT ON SPACE MISSIONS

OBJECTIVES:

1. **JOINT SIMULATIONS:** Simulation framework linking spacecraft to interactions with the environment, including space debris, surface charging, material response
2. **SHARED DATA:** Cosmic radiation properties in terms of energy distributions, spatial density, particle types, temporal variability, and dependence on orbit or trajectory
3. **METODOLOGIES:** Documented impact of Space Weather on advanced on-board electronics; Focus on AI-based architectures developed in intra-Spoke synergy



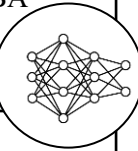
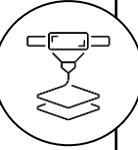
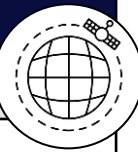
Examples of Data: VIS first-light mosaic with highlighted CR streaks, before/after stack showing CR masking efficiency (>99 % pixel recovery)



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Space It Up!

SPOKE 2

ADVANCED DESIGN AND
ANALYSIS OF SPACE MISSIONS
AND SYSTEMS AND INNOVATIVE
DIGITALIZATION - SYSTEM
ENGINEERING AND DIGITAL TWIN

*Speaker: Fabrizio Piergentili (Spoke
Leader)*

SIU! Days 26-28 January



AGENZIA SPAZIALE ITALIANA



Spoke Leader:
UNIROMA1

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