

# Space Instrumentation:

## Measuring Magnetic Fields in Space

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**IGEP**  
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Institut für  
Geophysik und  
extraterrestrische  
Physik

# ... the next 45 Minutes

- The Magnetic field
- Magnetometers:
  - Torsional Magnetometer
  - Fluxgate-Magnetometer
  - Searchcoil Magnetometer
- Magnetometer Calibration
- Magnetic Cleanliness

# The Magnetic field

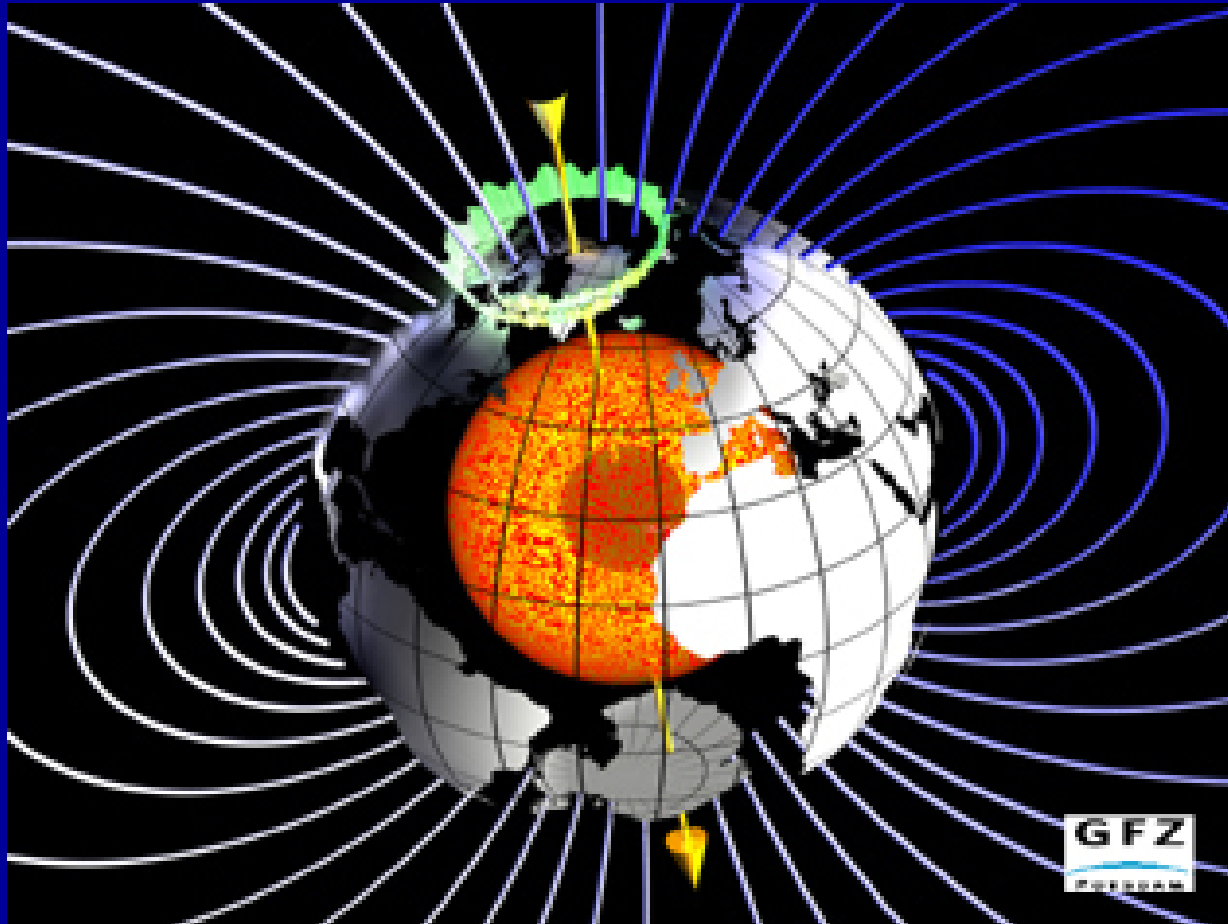
# The Magnetic field

## Maxwell Equations

Name or Description	SI
Faraday's law	$\nabla \times \mathbf{E} = -\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t}$
Ampere's law	$\nabla \times \mathbf{H} = \frac{\partial \mathbf{D}}{\partial t} + \mathbf{J}$
Poisson equation	$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{D} = \rho$
[Absence of magnetic monopoles]	$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0$
Lorentz force on charge $q$	$q(\mathbf{E} + \mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B})$
Constitutive relations	$\mathbf{D} = \epsilon \mathbf{E}$ $\mathbf{B} = \mu \mathbf{H}$

# The Magnetic field

## The pure Earth



# The Magnetic field

## Horizontal and Vertical components



Declination

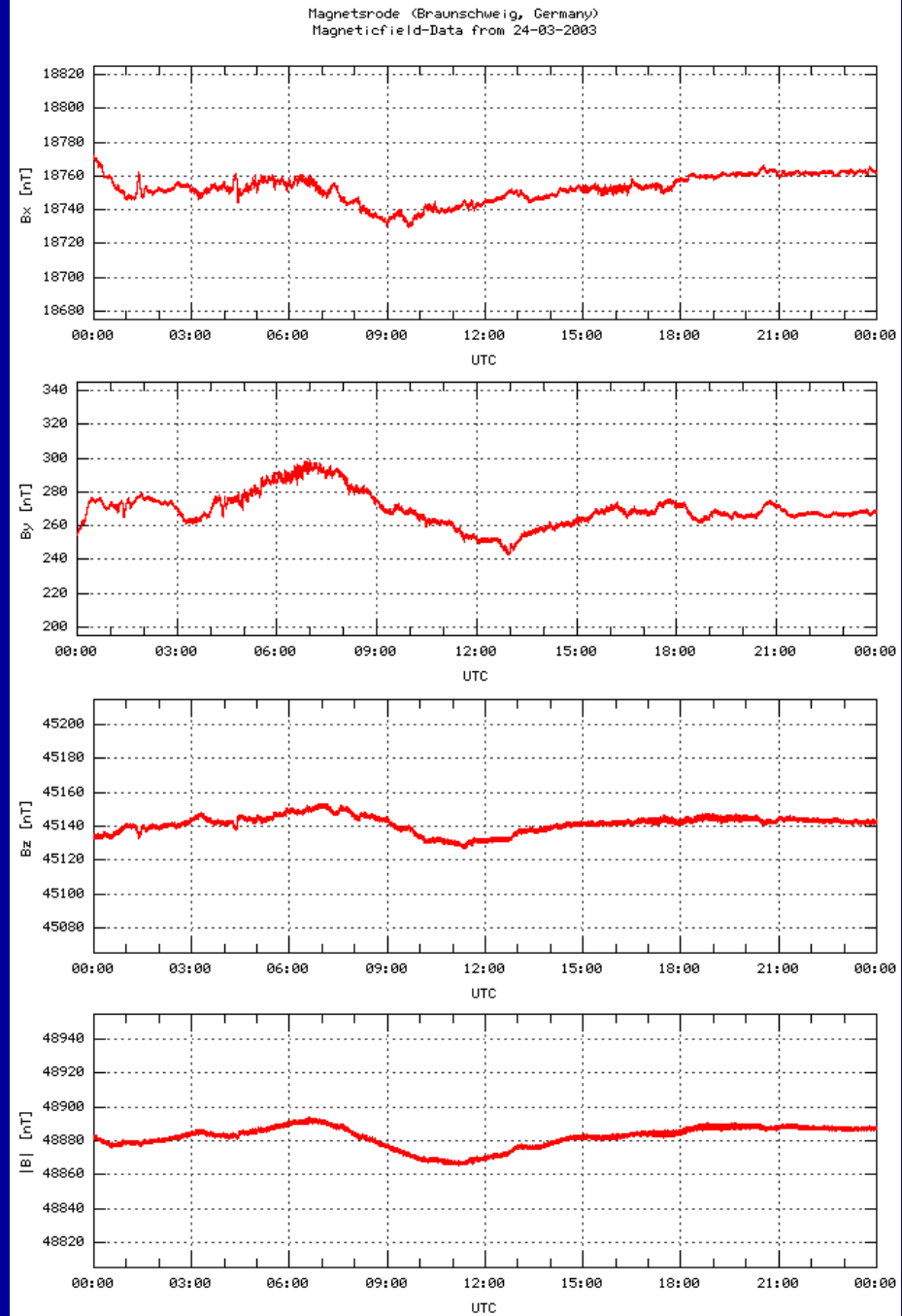


Inclination

# The Magnetic field

## Ground Observations- I

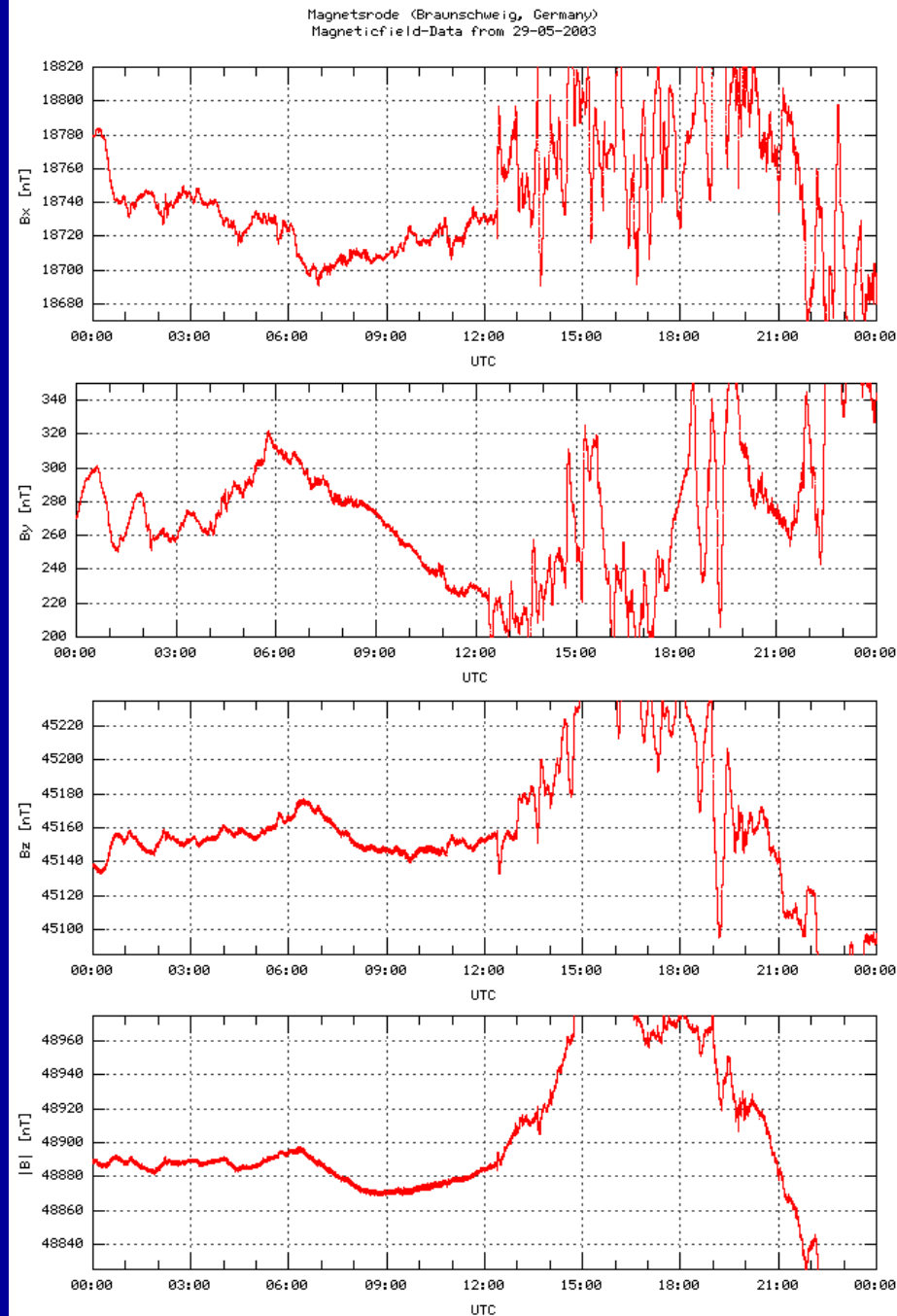
... a calm day



# The Magnetic field

## Ground Observations- II

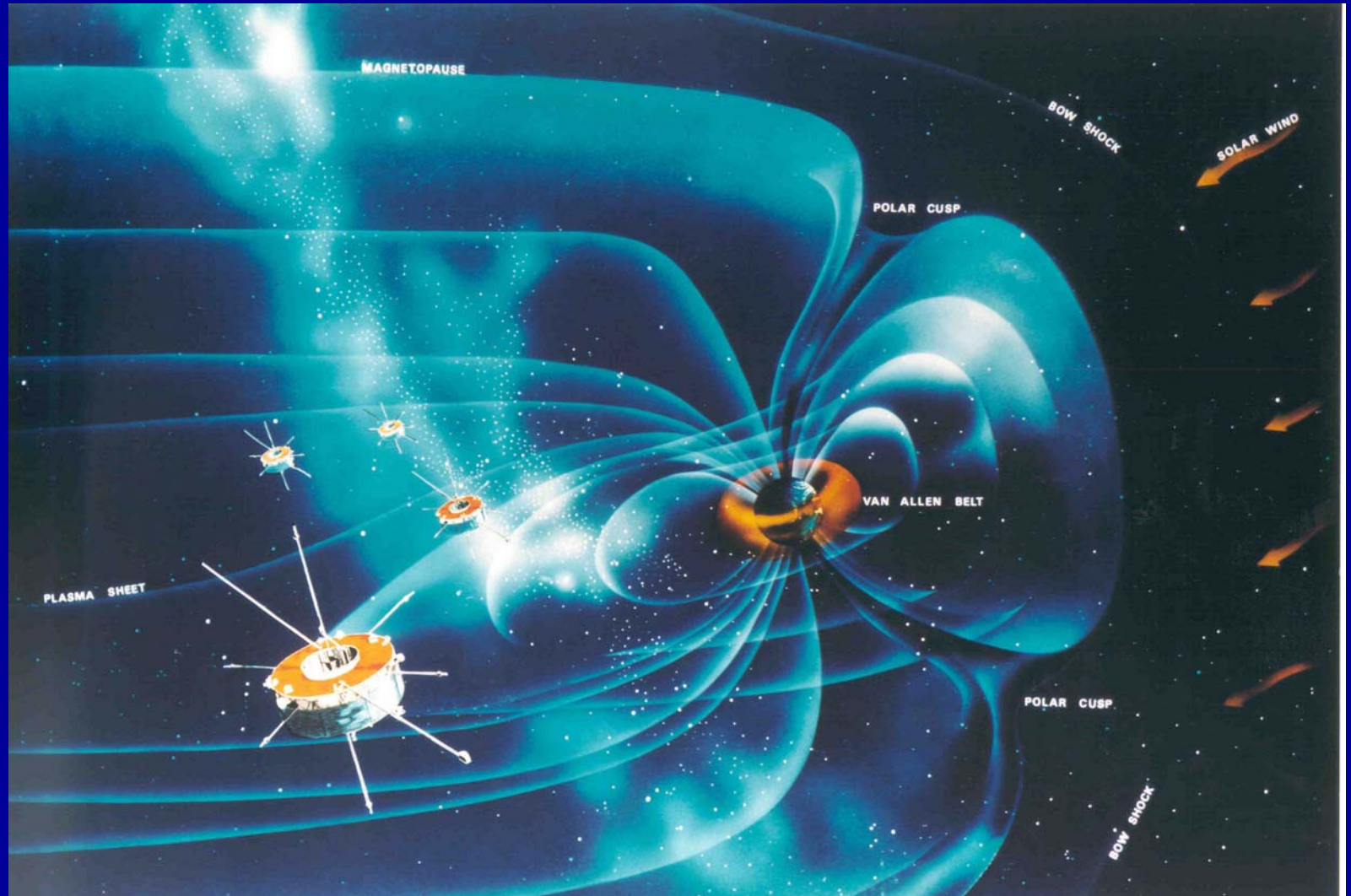
... a disturbed day





# The Magnetic field

## The real Earth



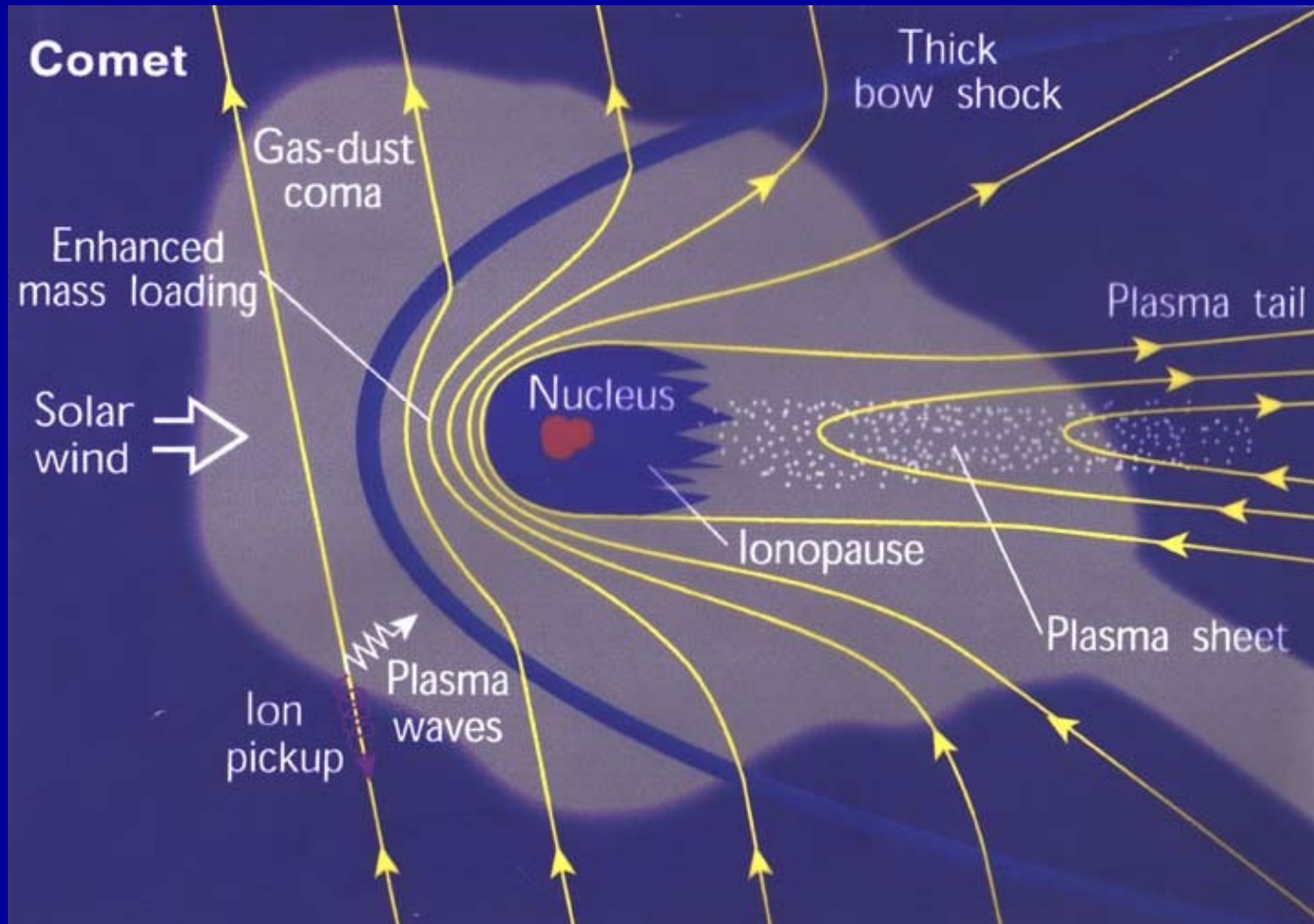
# The Magnetic field

## The Sun



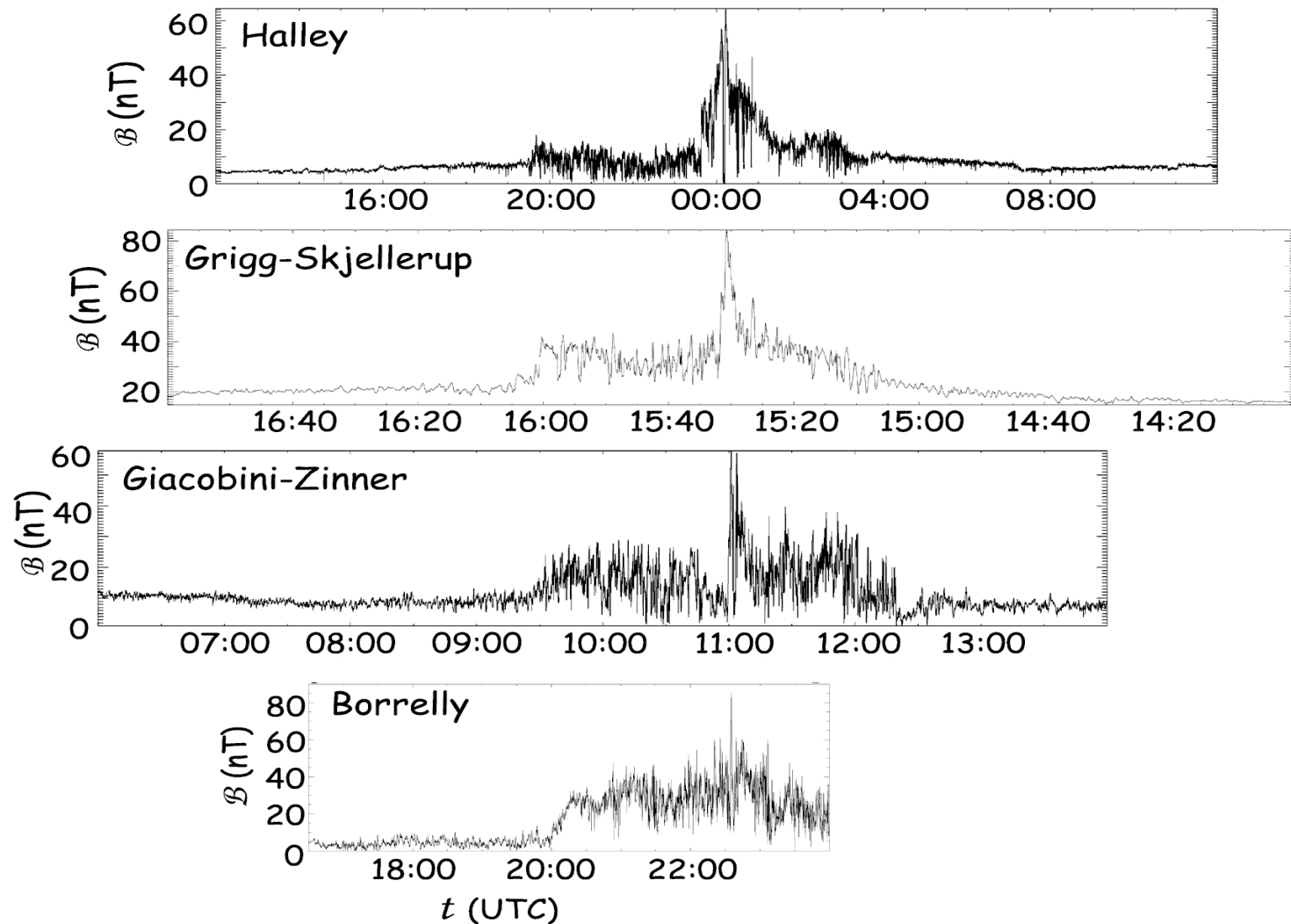
# The Magnetic field

## Comets



# The Magnetic field

## Cometary Structures



# Magnetometers

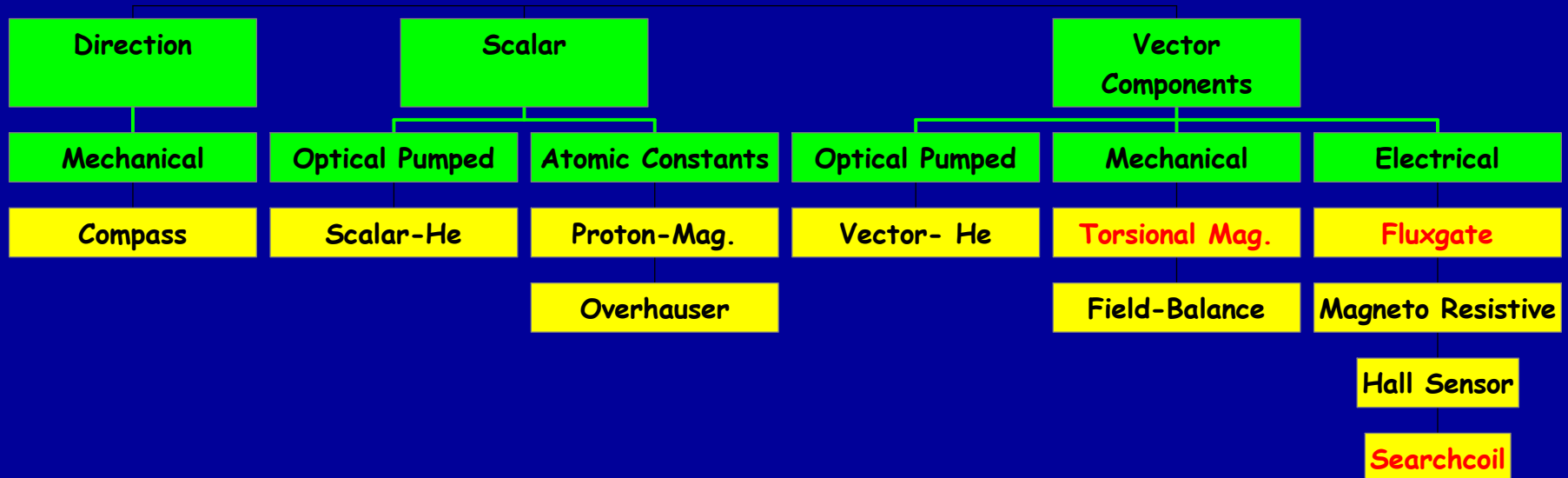
# Magnetometers

## Design Criteria for s/c Magnetometers

- Long term Stability
- Range (SW, Planetary fields)
- Resolution (ADC)
- Vector Rate, TM-Budget
- Filters (Aliasing, Order, Cut off)
- Commanding
- Power & Mass (Size)
- Position

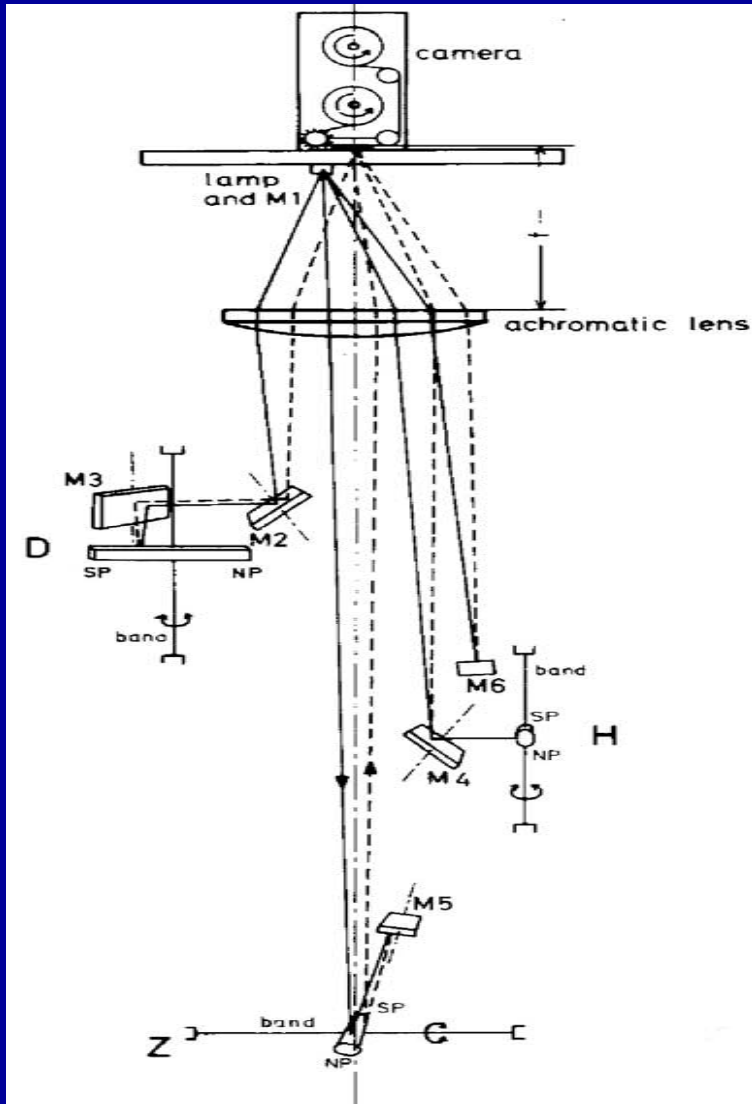
# Magnetometers

## Overview



# Torsional Magnetometer

## A Classical Instrument

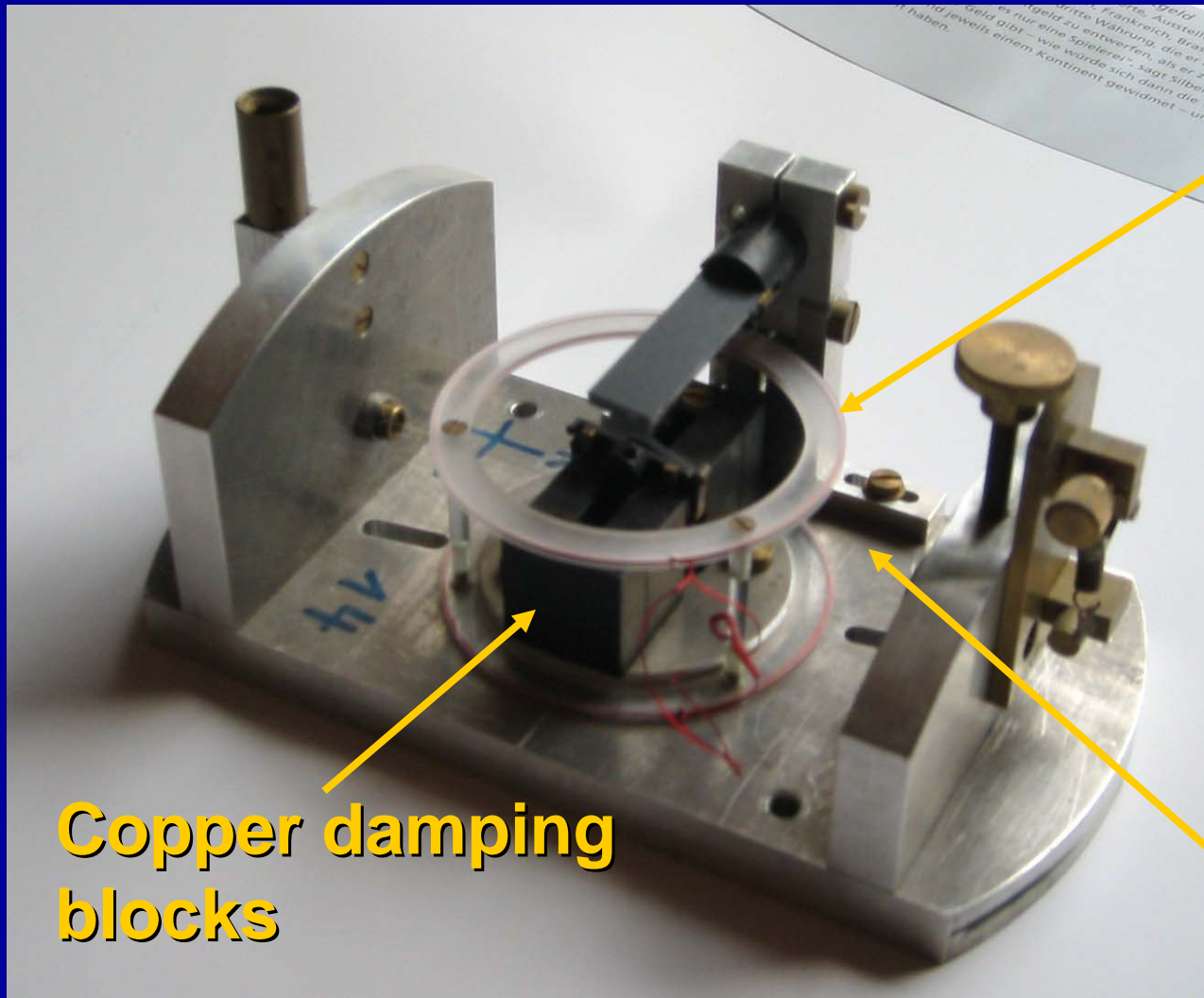


The idea:  
A magnet, suspended by a torsional wire, is rotating under the action of the Earth magnetic field. The rotational position of the magnet is determined by a light pointer and recorded on a normal film



# Torsional Magnetometer

## The z-Component of the Gough-Reitzel Magnetometer



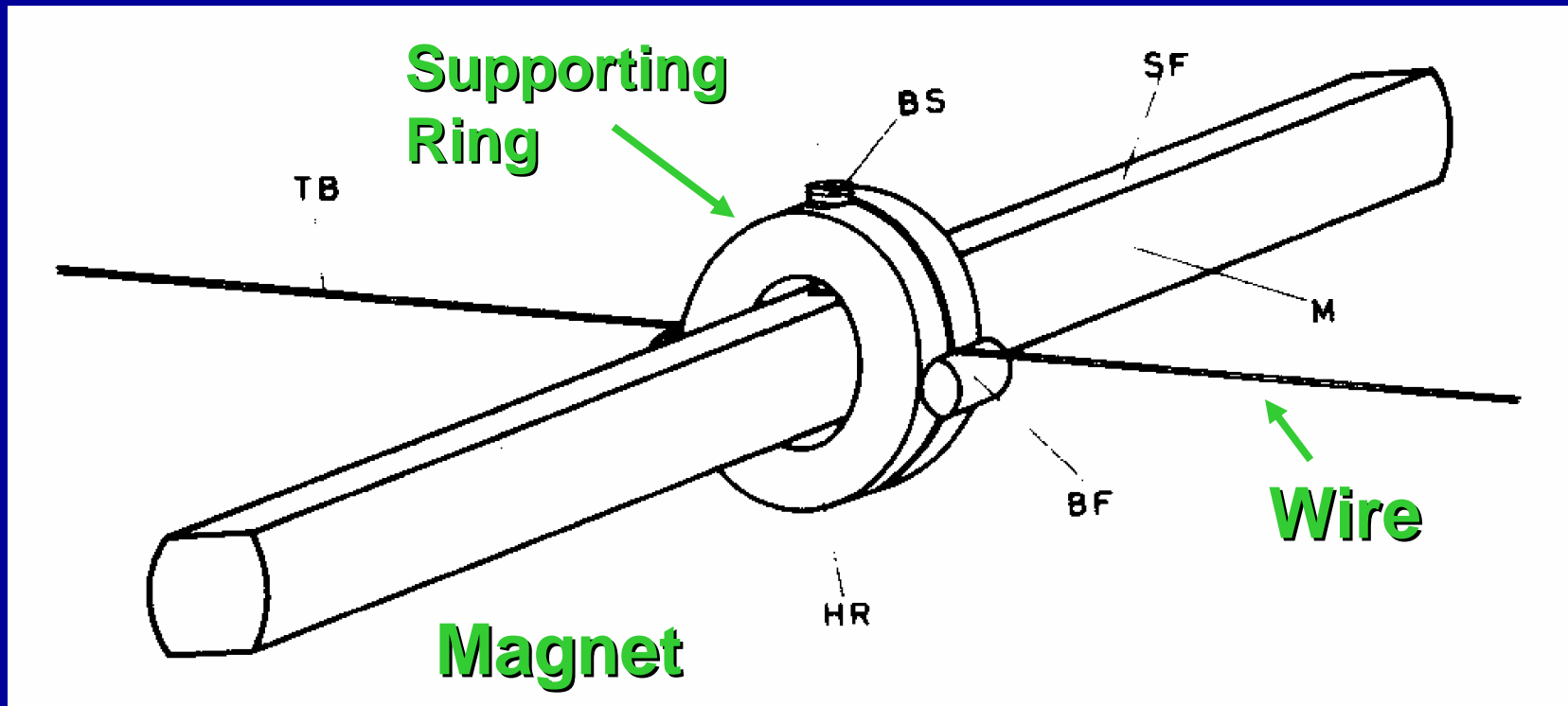
**Helmholtz coil  
for calibration**

**Copper damping  
blocks**

**Suspending  
wire**

# Torsional Magnetometer

## Magnet and Suspending Wire



# Torsional Magnetometer

## Torque Balance for the z-component

The x-axis is aligned with the wire, the z-axis is vertical, and Y completes the system. Thus the torque balance equation reads:

$$M \cdot H_z - D \cdot \alpha = 0$$

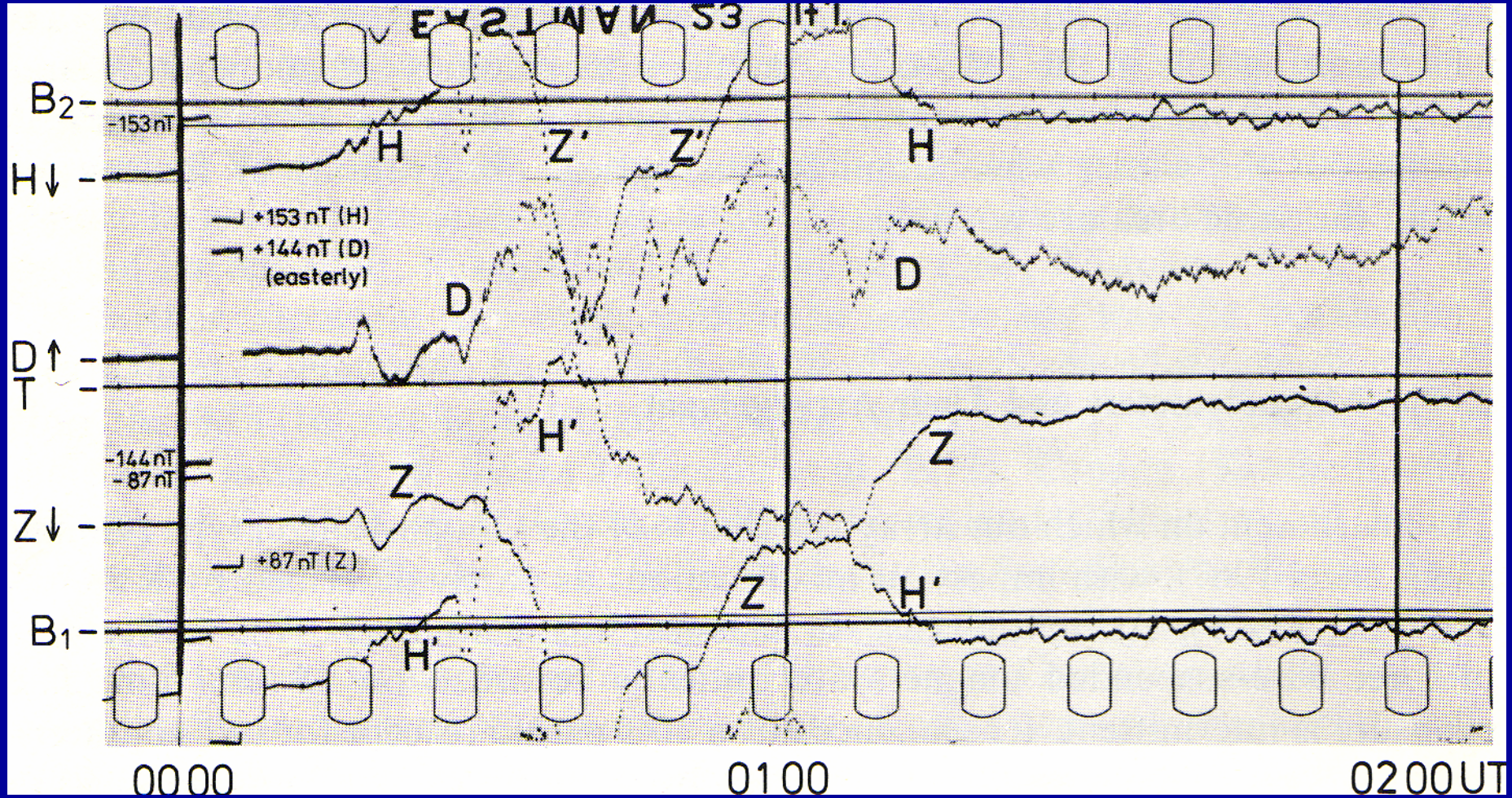
where  $M$  is the magnetic moment,  $H_z$  the vertical component of the field,  $D$  the torsional module, and  $\alpha$  the torsional angle. It follows

$$H_z = \frac{D}{M} \alpha$$

Calibration determines  $D/M$ . Similar equations for  $H_x$  and  $H_y$ .

# Torsional Magnetometer

## A Sample Record



# Torsional Magnetometer

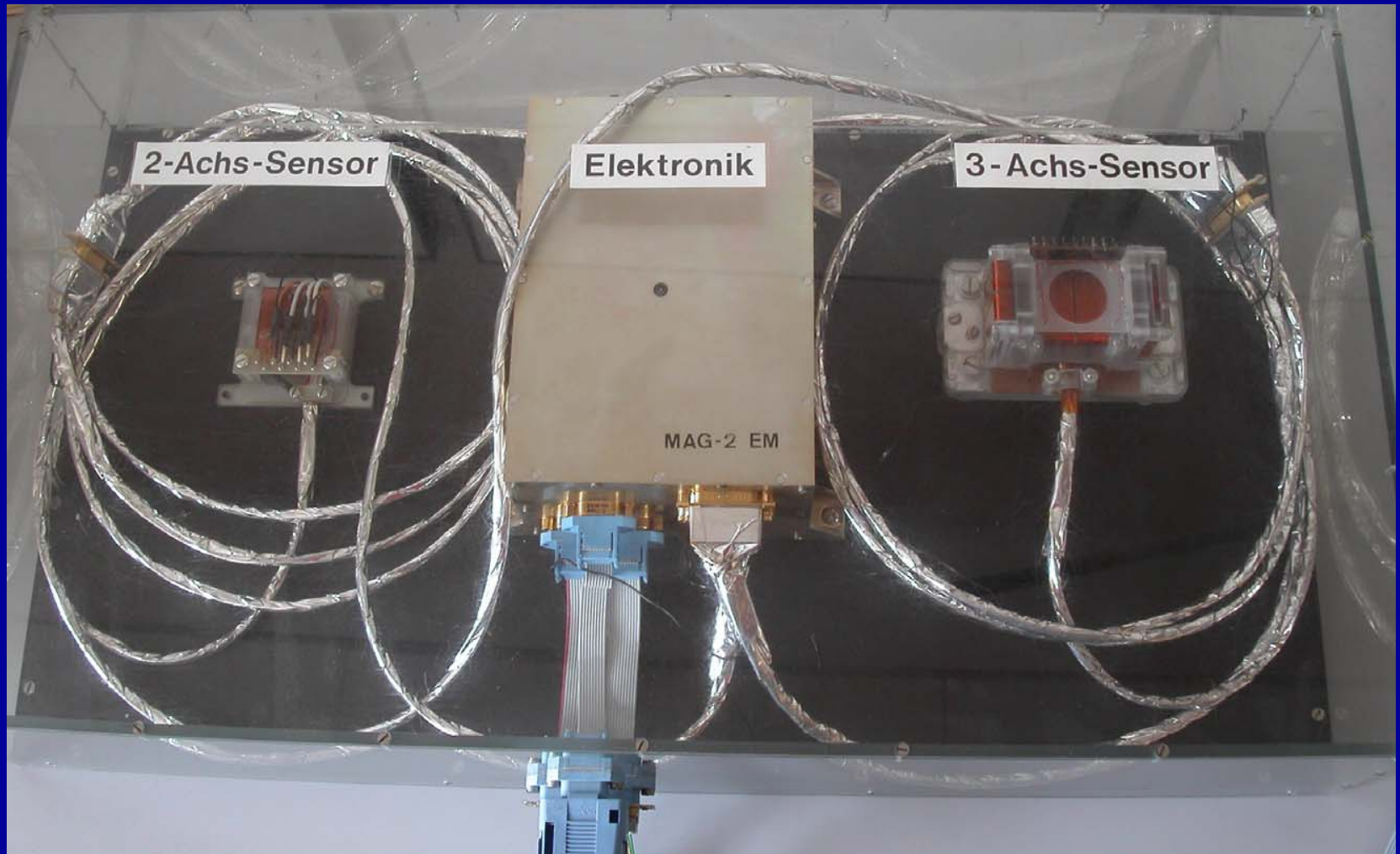
## Characteristics

Weight:	10 kg
Power:	40 mW
Operating period:	70 days
Sampling:	0.2 vectors/s
Resolution:	1 nT
Dynamics range:	1500 nT

# Fluxgate - Magnetometer (FGM)

## Examples

### GIOTTO FGM System



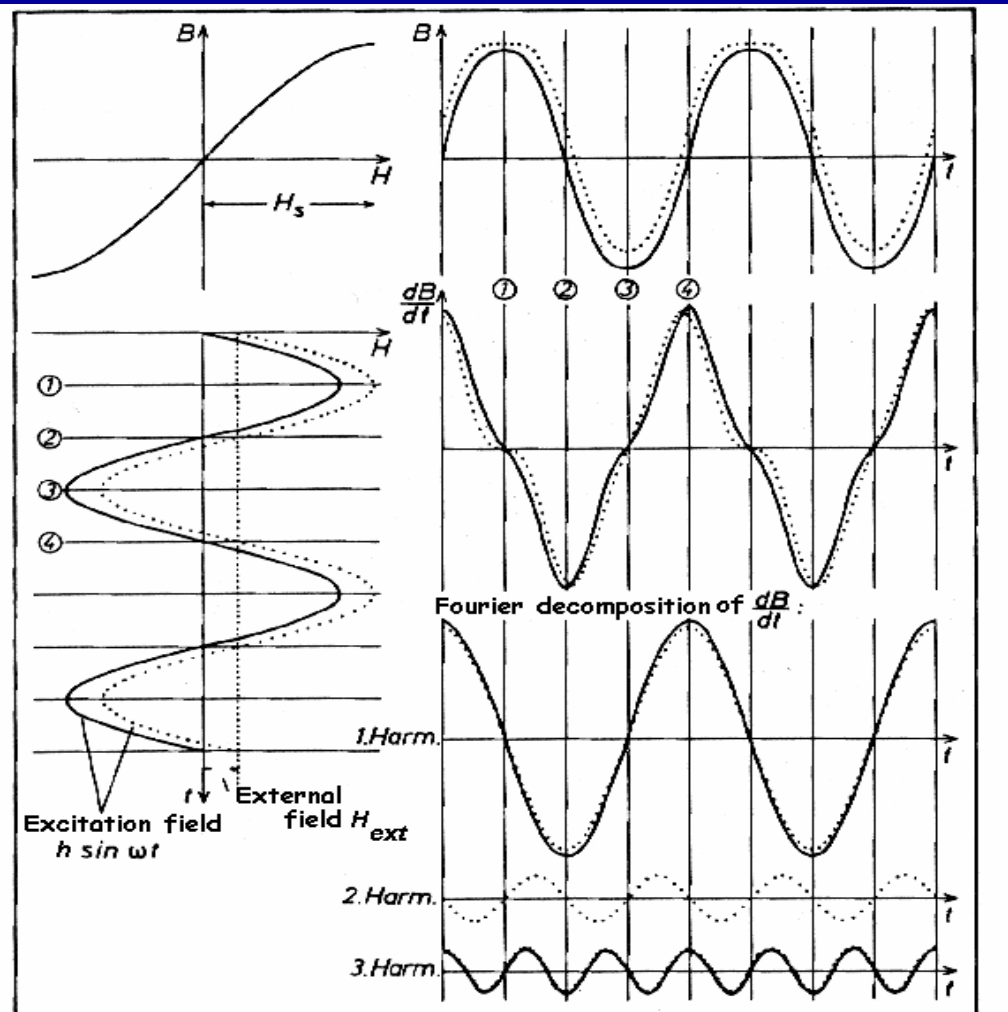
# Fluxgate - Magnetometer (FGM)

## Classification

- Saturated-Core-Magnetometer
- Vector measurements possible
- No absolute measurements
- Temperature Dependency
- Lightweight, compact construction
- Low power consumption
- Qualified for space applications

# Fluxgate - Magnetometer (FGM)

## Characteristic Curve, Excitation and Output Voltage



Characteristic curve:

$$B(H(t)) = 3 H(t) - H^3(t)$$

Excitation:

$$H(t) = H_{ext} + h \sin(\omega t)$$

Induced voltage at the secondary coil:

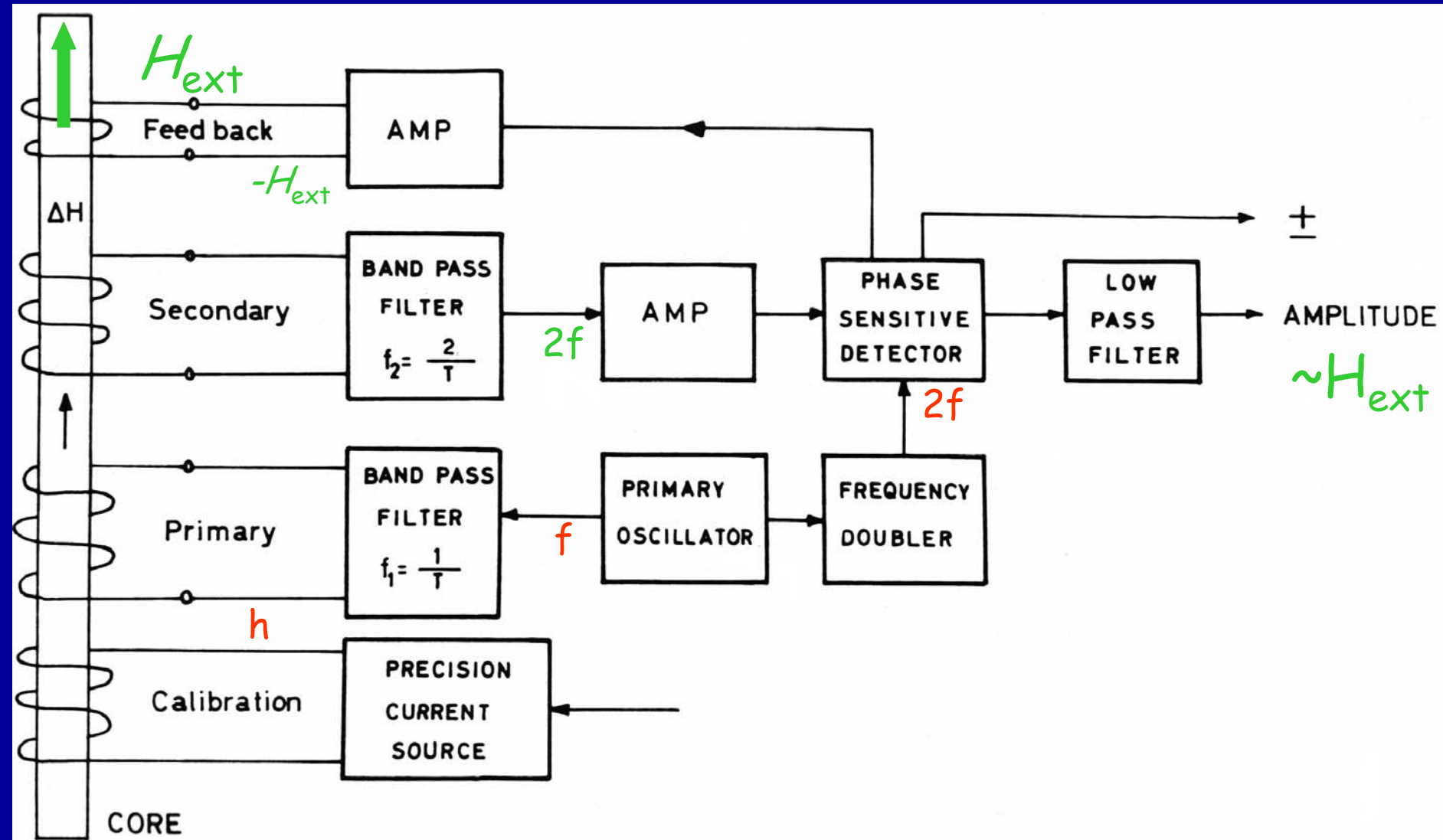
$$U_i \sim dB/dt$$

$$= 3 h (1 - H_{ext}^2 - 1/4 h^2) \omega \cos(\omega t) \\ - 3 H_{ext} h^2 \omega \sin(2 \omega t) \\ + 3/4 h^3 \omega \cos(3 \omega t)$$



# Fluxgate - Magnetometer (FGM)

## Schematic Construction



# Fluxgate - Magnetometer (FGM)

## Functional Principle: Summary

- Non-linear magnetization curve is driven into saturation by periodic excitation ( $f$ )
- Pulsed excitation  $\Rightarrow$  less power consumption
- External field  $\underline{H}_{ext} \Rightarrow (2f)$
- Lock-in ( $2f$ ), PSD, Integration  $\rightarrow$   
 $\langle U_{2f} \rangle \sim B_{ext}$
- Feedback using  $-\langle U_{2f} \rangle \Rightarrow$  Zero field and reduction of non-linearities

# Fluxgate - Magnetometer (FGM)

## Sensor Design

### Problem:

Decoupling of small 2<sup>nd</sup> harmonic from the excitation signal

### Solution:

Suitable sensor geometry for suppression of odd harmonics

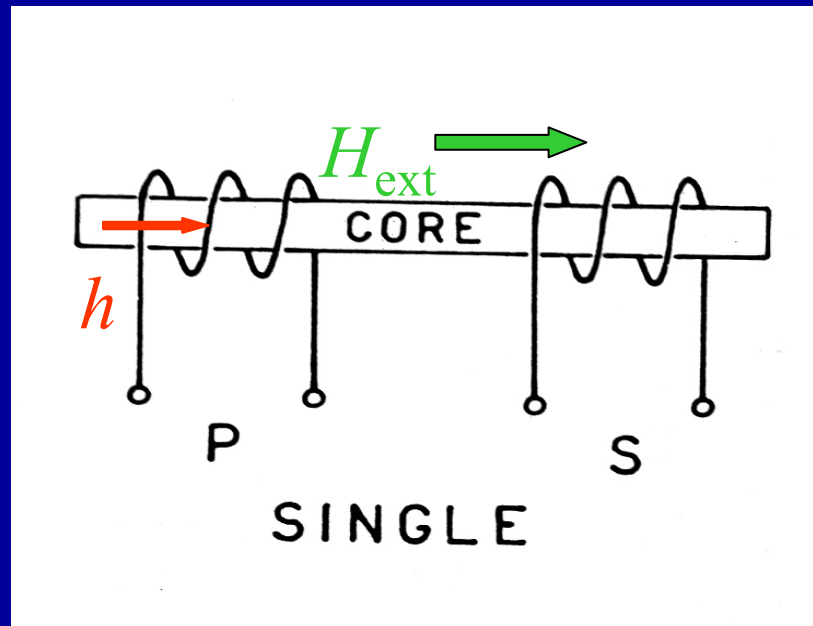
# Fluxgate - Magnetometer (FGM)

## Sensor Design:

### Rod Core

Simple excitation coil, simple secondary coil

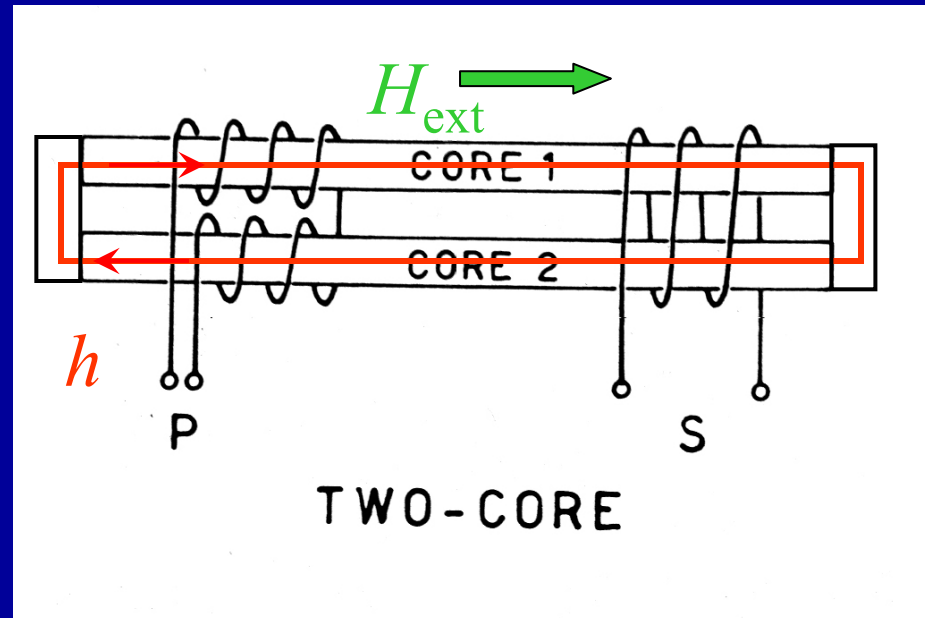
⇒ No suppression of odd harmonics



# Fluxgate - Magnetometer (FGM)

## Sensor Design: Double Rod Core

Two individual excitation coils, common secondary coil  
⇒ Only even harmonics



# Fluxgate - Magnetometer (FGM)

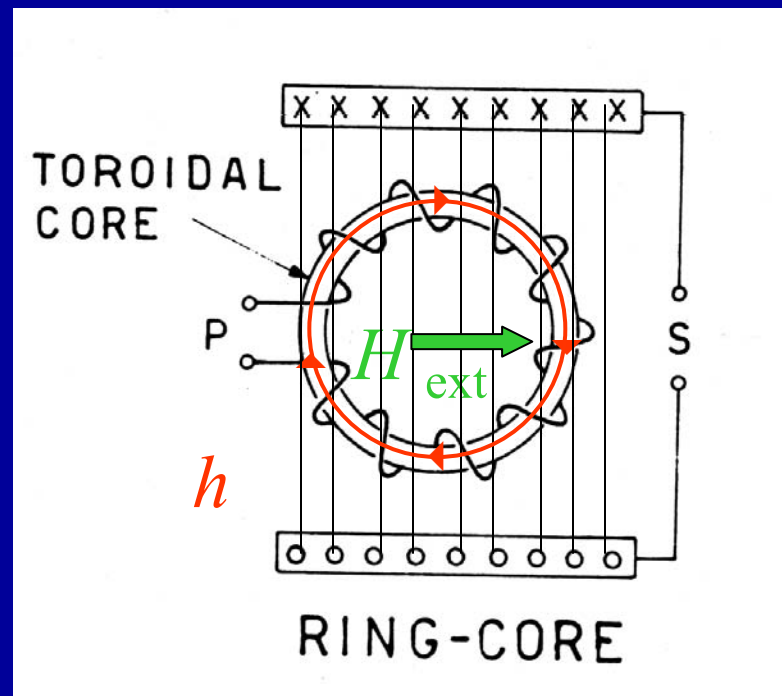
## Sensor Design:

### Ring Core

Further development of the Double Rod Core with same advantages.

Common outer rectangular secondary coil

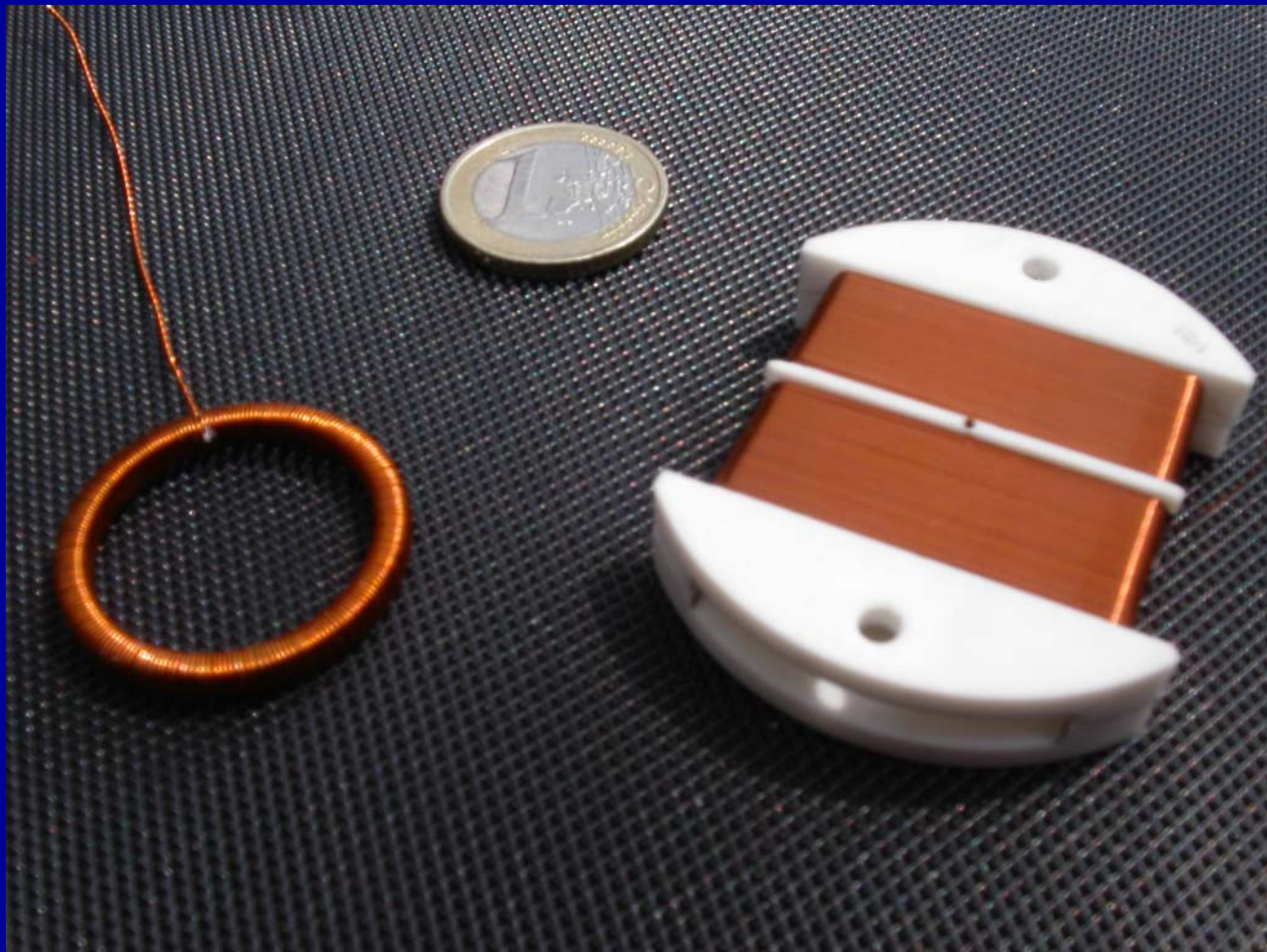
⇒ Only even harmonics



# Fluxgate - Magnetometer (FGM)

## Examples

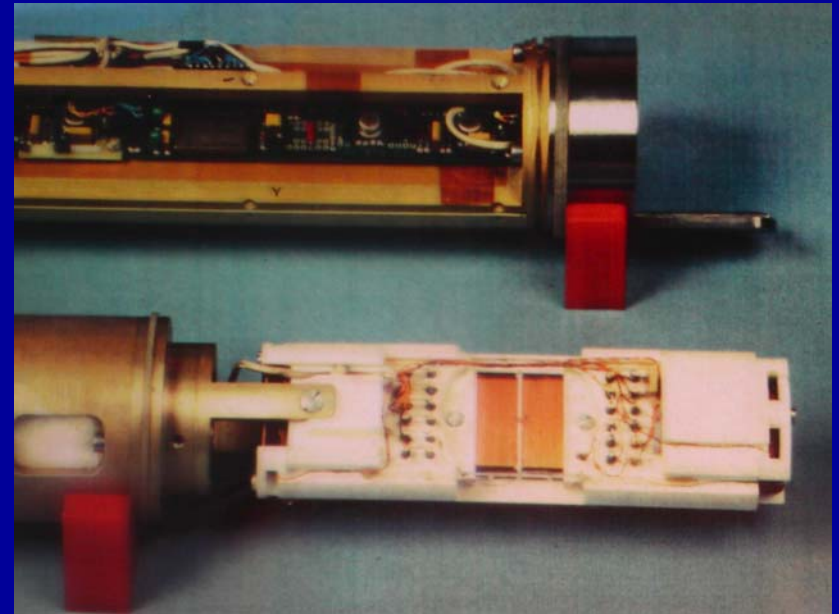
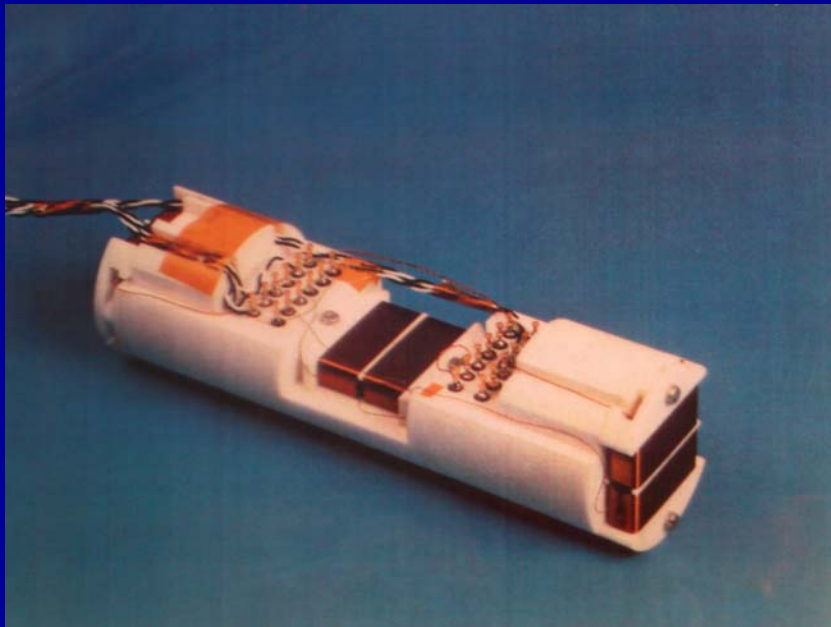
### 1- Axis Ring Core Sensor



# Fluxgate - Magnetometer (FGM)

## Examples

### 3 Axes FGM KTB Borehole Sensor

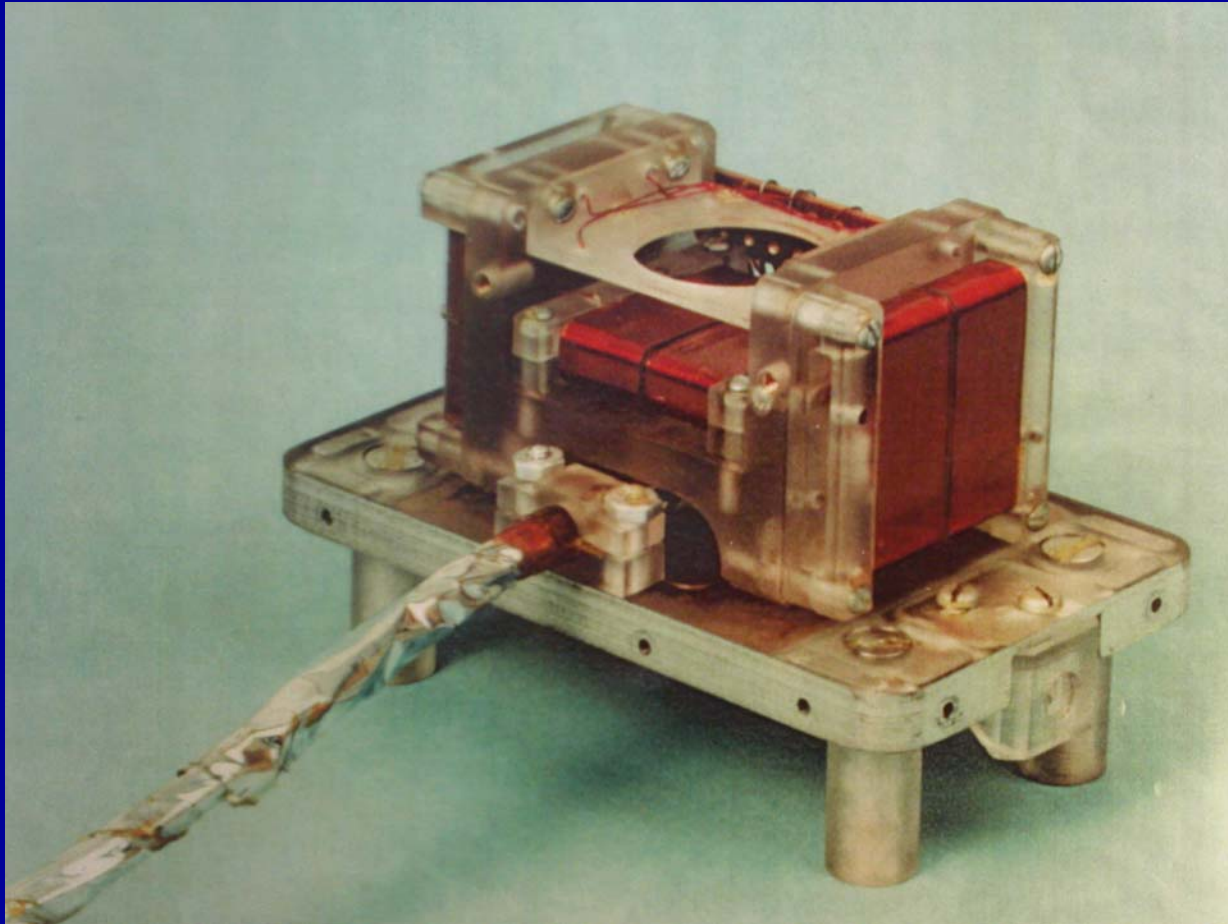




# Fluxgate - Magnetometer (FGM)

## Examples

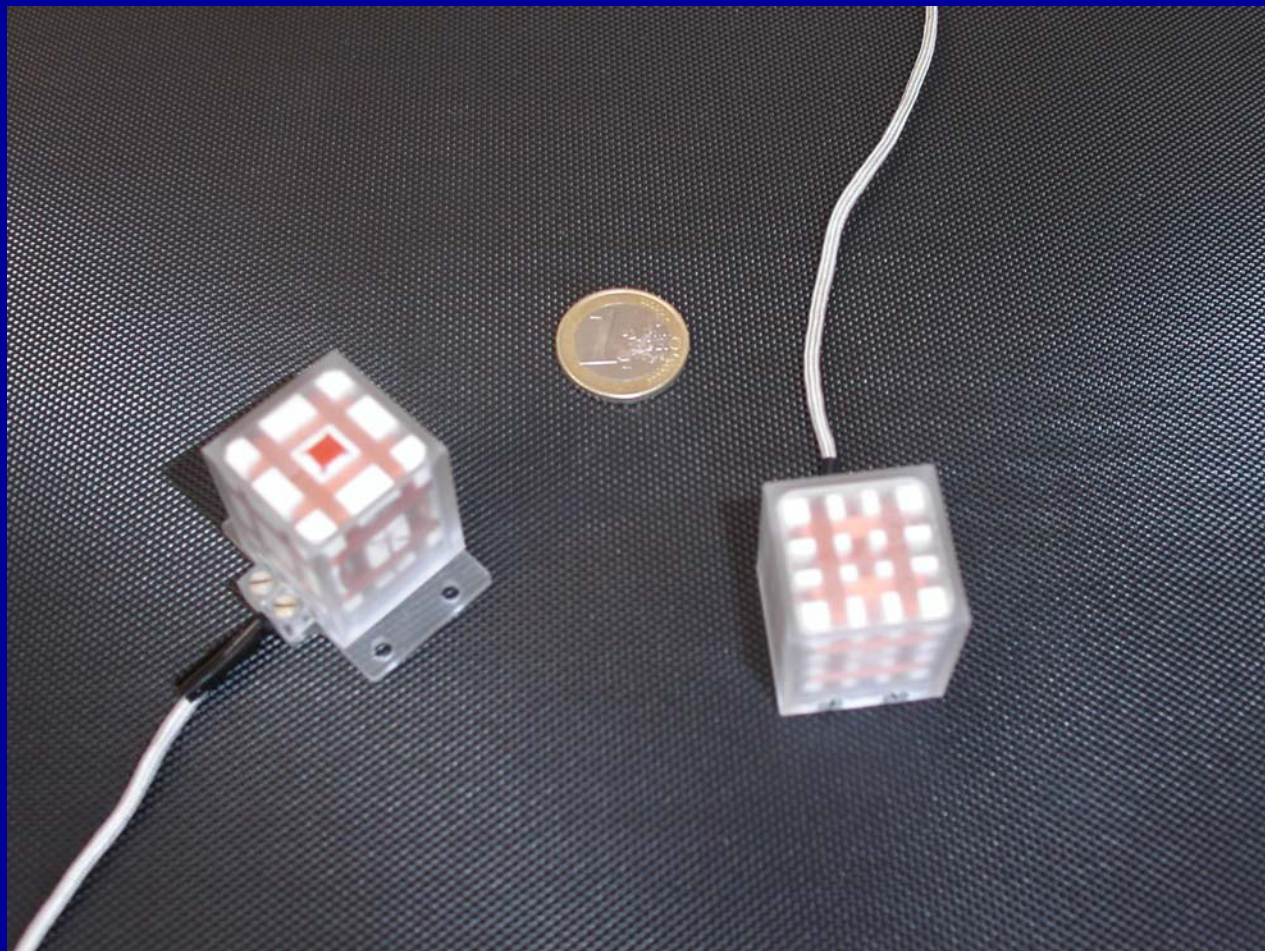
### 3 Axes CLUSTER FGM Sensor



# Fluxgate - Magnetometer (FGM)

## Examples

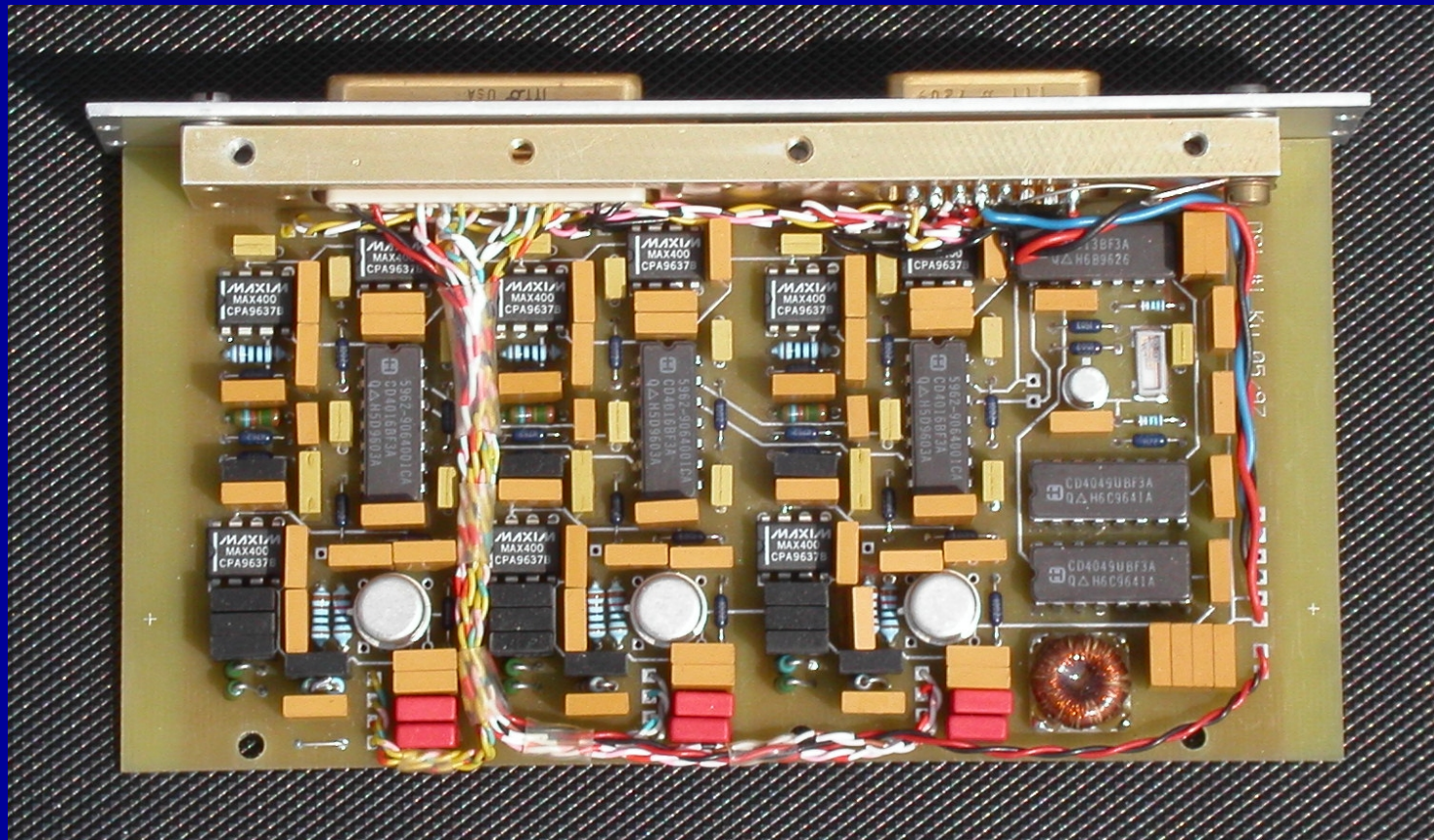
3 Axes ROSETTA / DS 1 FGM Sensors



# Fluxgate - Magnetometer (FGM)

## Examples

### DS 1 FGM Analog Electronics



# Fluxgate Magnetometer (FGM)

## Characteristics

e.g. ROSETTA

Weight (sensor):	30 g
Power:	500 mW
Operating period:	15 years
Sampling:	20 vectors/s
Resolution:	0.04 nT
Dynamics range:	16000 nT

# SearchCoil - Magnetometer Classification

- Induction-Coil-Magnetometer
  - ⇒ AC-field measurements only
- Frequency spectrum    mHz ... MHz
- Vector measurements with 3 orthogonal coils

# SearchCoil - Magnetometer

## Functional Principle

- Induction law:  $\text{rot } \underline{E} = - d\underline{B} / d t$
- Induced Voltage:  $U_{ind} = \int \underline{E} \cdot d\underline{s}$   
 $\Rightarrow U_{ind} = - n d (\underline{E} \cdot \underline{B}_{\perp}) / dt$
- Harmonic fields  $B = \hat{B} \sin(\omega t)$  and constant area  $F$   
 $\Rightarrow \hat{U}_{ind} = n F \omega \hat{B}$

# SearchCoil - Magnetometer

## Characteristics

- Voltage rises linear with frequency & amplitude
- Signal in case of
  - \* rotation of coil in constant field
  - \* fixed coil in time varying field
  - \* temporally varying coil geometry (Temperature!) in constant field

Result: Interpretation in unknown field is difficult if magnetometer (s/c!) is in motion

# SearchCoil - Magnetometer

## Real Sensors-Overview

Application	Axes	Wdgs.	Frequency Range [Hz]	Dimensions l x r [cm]	Sensitivity [ $\mu\text{V}/\text{nT Hz}$ ]
Micro-pulsations	3	200000	1m ...10	200 x 1.25	700
Magneto-telluric (MT)	1	40000	0.3m... 300	120 x 1.15	73
Audio MT	1	10000	1 ... 20k	90 x 1.1	8.6
Helios S/C	3	60000	5 ...2.2k	35 x 0.3	6
Galileo S/C	1	1500	0.1 ... 100k	30 x 0.25	0.18



# SearchCoil - Magnetometer

## Example

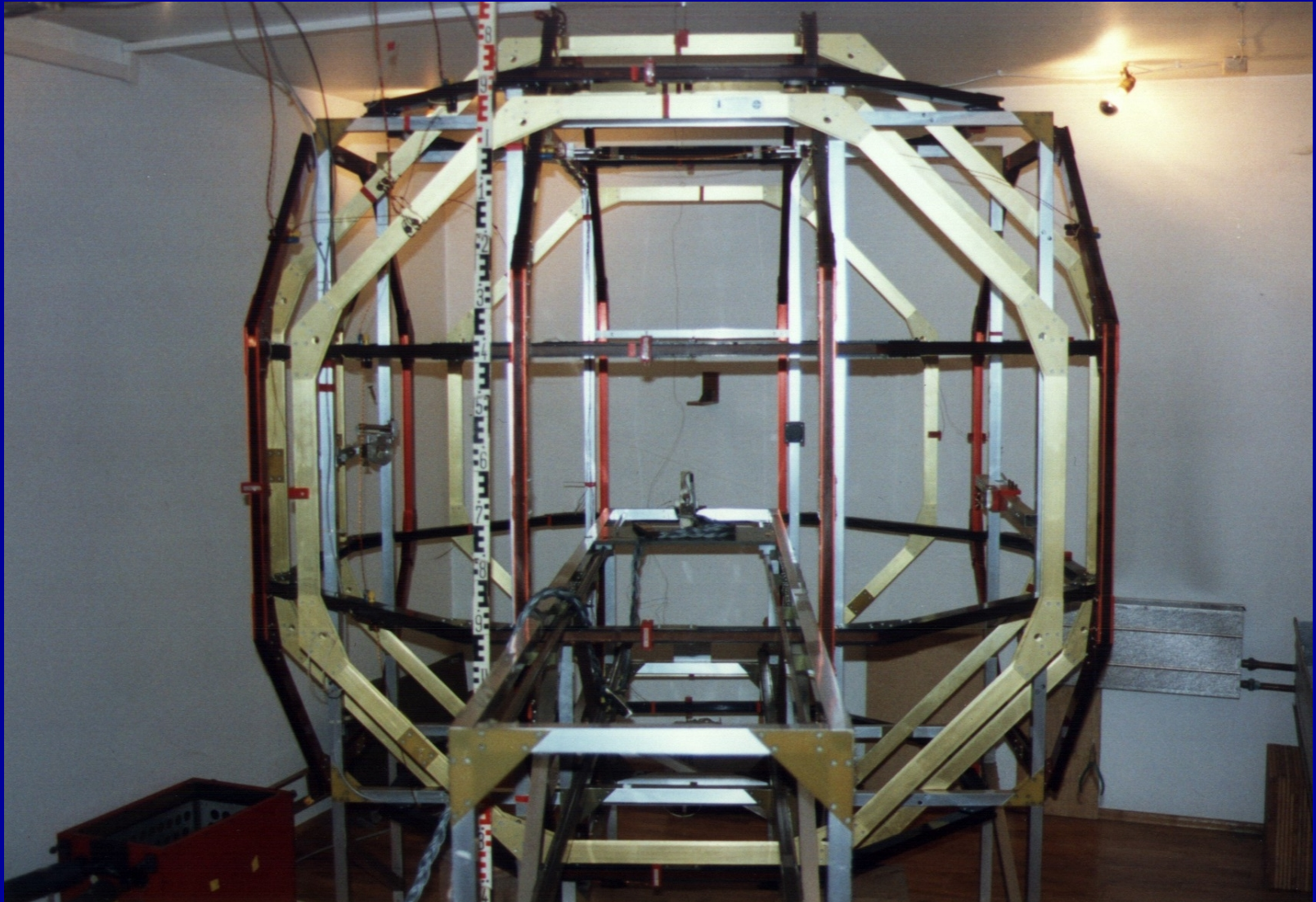
Searchcoils onboard the Helios s/c



# Magnetometer Calibration

# Magnetometer Calibration

## Magnetsrode - MCF



# Magnetometer Calibration

## Magnetsrode - Characteristics

- Compensation: Dynamic
- Field - Range: -100000 nT ... +100000 nT
- Field - Direction: any, 3 components
- Field - Type : DC, AC, Arbitrary
- Field - Sequence: arbitrary, user defined
- Accuracy: < 0.8 nT
- Temperatures: -196°C ... +200°C

# Magnetometer Calibration

## Sensor Model

$$\underline{B}_c = \underline{F}^{-1} \underline{B}_m$$

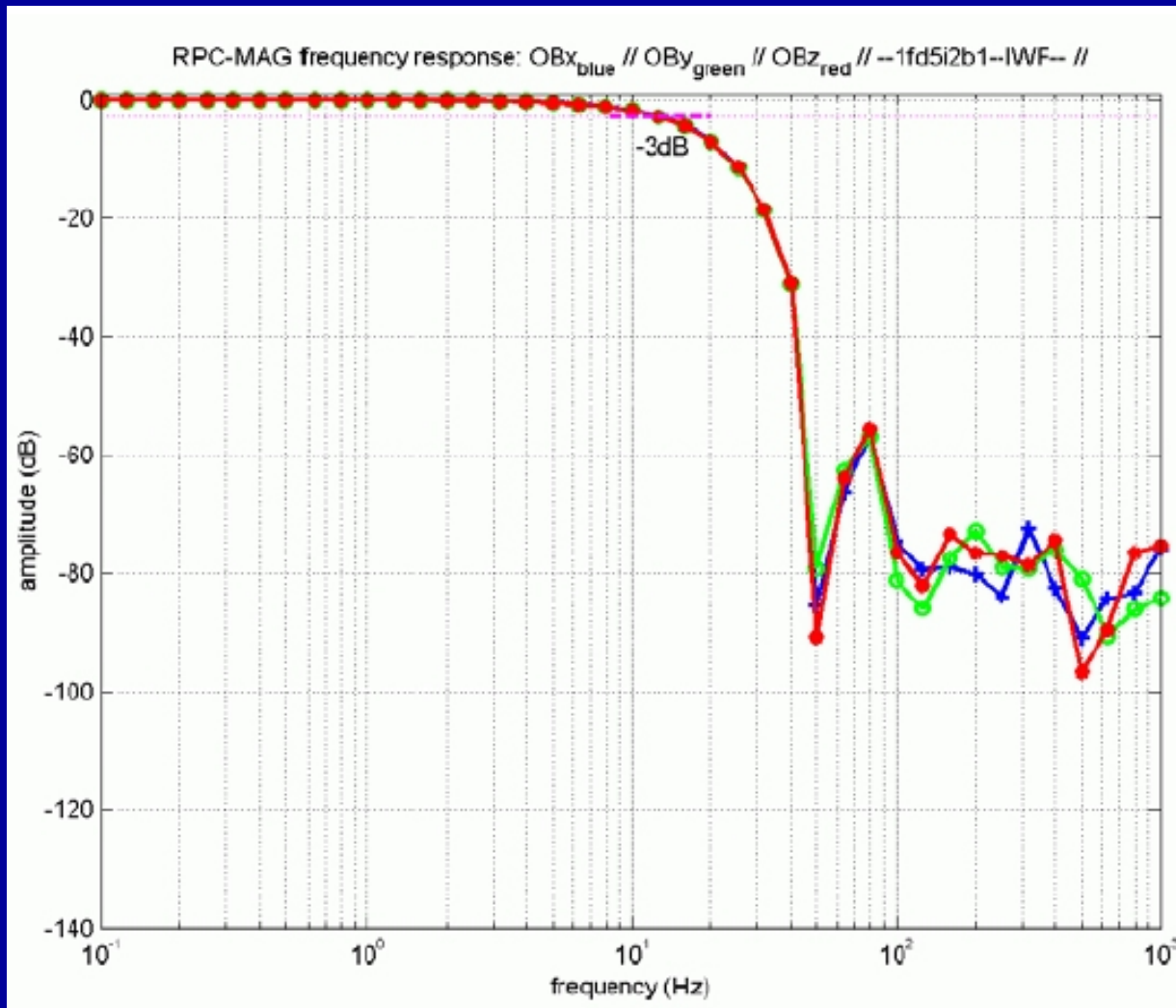
$$\underline{B}_c = \{ \underline{R}^{-1} \underline{M}^{-1} \underline{S}^{-1} \} ( \underline{B}_r - \underline{B}_o - \underline{B}_{res} )$$

# Magnetometer Calibration Parameters

- Sensitivity  $\underline{S} = \{S_{ij}\}$ ,  $S_{ij} = S_{ij}(T)$
- Misalignment  $\underline{M} = \{M_{ij}\}$ ,  $M_{ij} = M_{ij}(T)$
- Offset  $\underline{B}_0 = \{B_{0x}(T), B_{0y}(T), B_{0z}(T)\}$
- Frequency Response

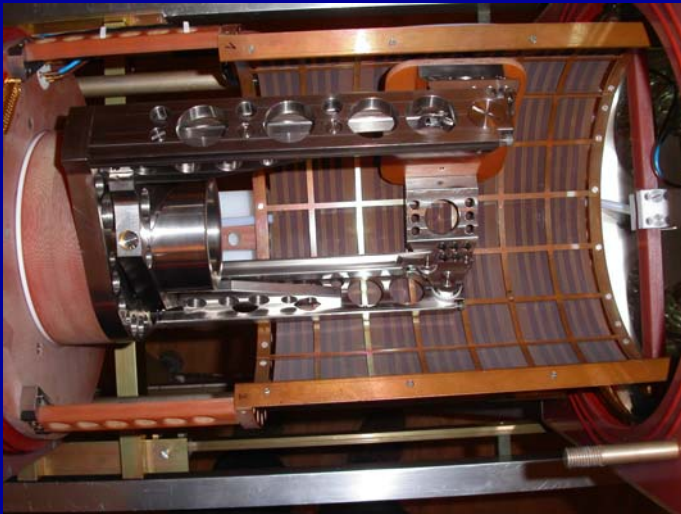
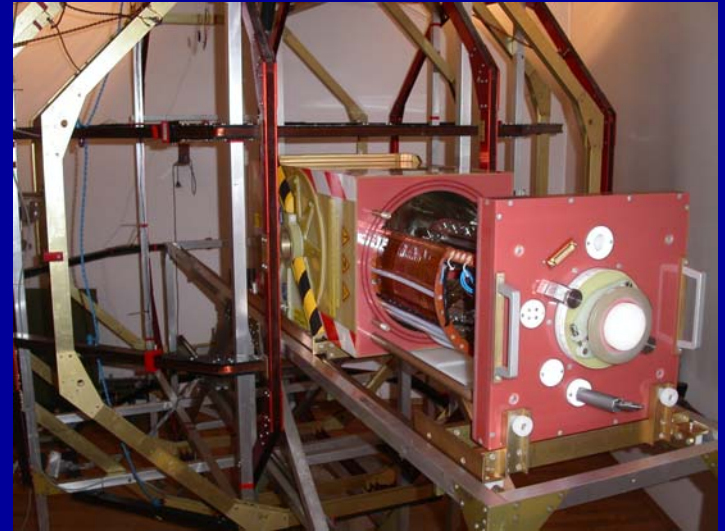
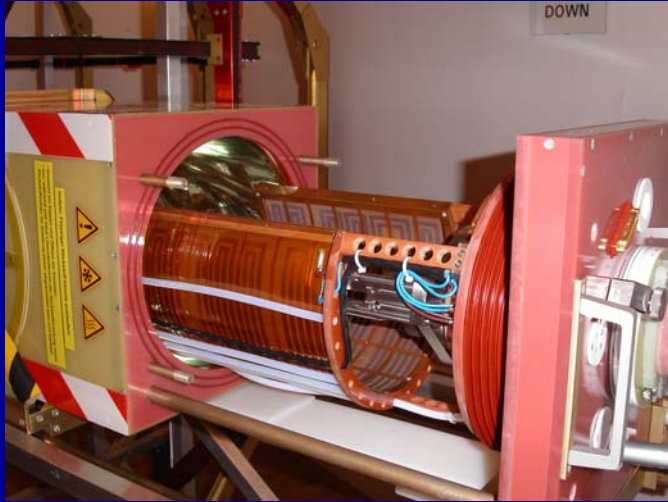
# Magnetometer Calibration

## Frequency Response



# Magnetometer Calibration

## Temperature Behavior





# Magnetic Cleanliness

# Magnetic Cleanliness

## Basic Ideas

- Magnetic properties of the s/c have to be known to perform excellent measurements in space
  - ⇒ Every unit has to be mapped before integration
- S/C is represented by a model of  $n$  Dipoles
- Usage of Compensation-Magnets
  - ⇒ Magnetic field at the location of the MAG can be minimized

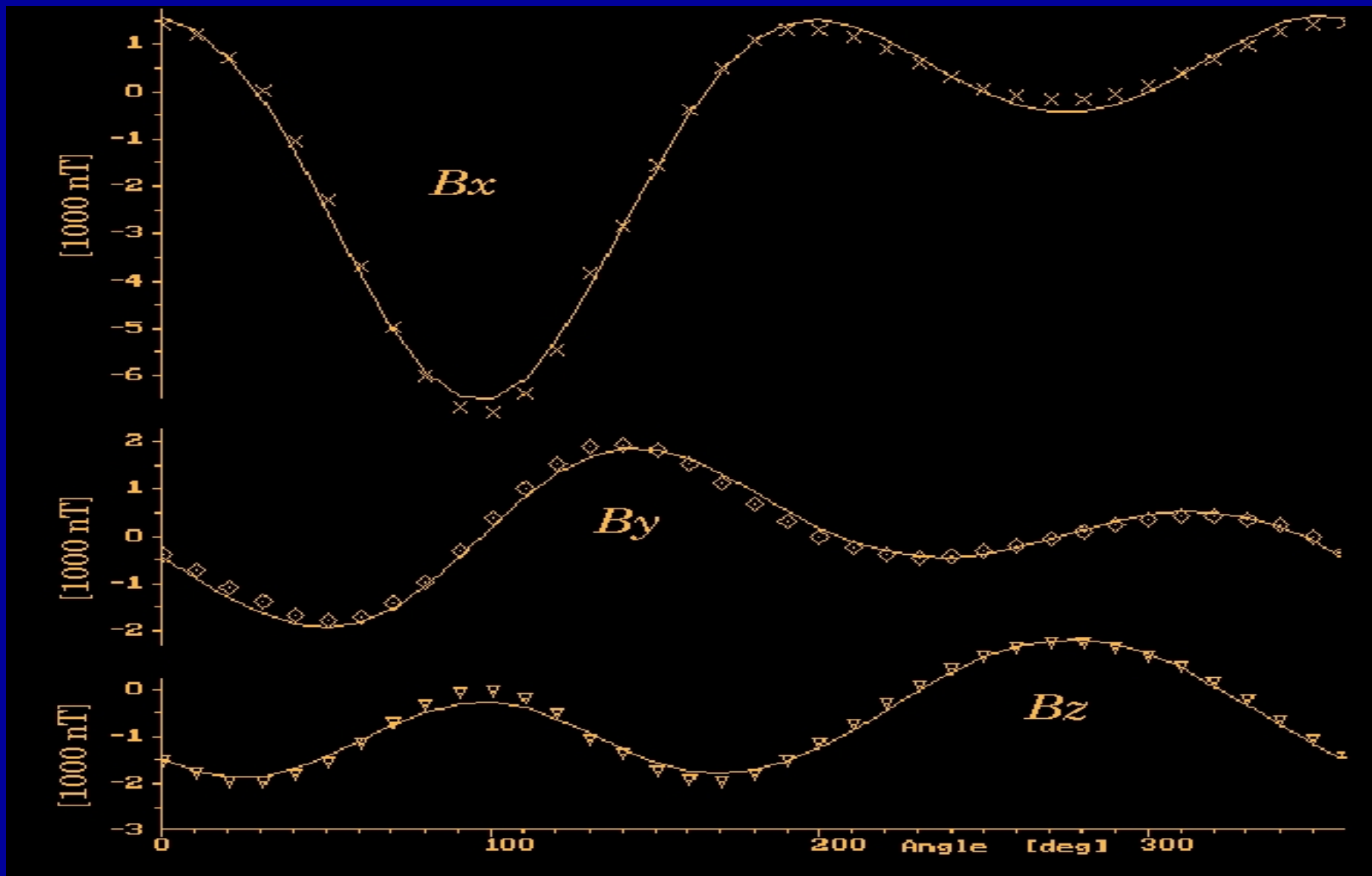
# Magnetic Cleanliness

## A mobile Coil Facility - (MCF)



# Magnetic Cleanliness

## Example: A CLUSTER Thruster



# Magnetic Cleanliness

## Example: A CLUSTER Thruster

REPORT (UNIT LEVEL MODEL)

=====

DUT-NAME: 10 Newton Thruster s/n 485

SCS (Spacecraft Coordinate System)

	Position [cm]			Moments [mAm <sup>2</sup> ]			
	x	y	z	Mx	My	Mz	Mtot
1.	22.18	112.21	85.48	327.53	-384.85	-16.20	505.62
2.	28.47	100.32	86.69	-1105.86	-2189.66	334.80	2475.80
3.	25.90	101.97	86.78	729.64	2505.89	-276.60	2624.57

Total Moment spec: 9.50

Total Moment : -48.68 -68.62 42.00 94.03

Pos FGMO (x,y,z) [cm] : 124.65 -600.19 52.59

Field FGMO spec (x,y,z,tot) [pT]: -0.7 5.2 0.3 5.3

Field FGMO (x,y,z,tot) [pT]: 23.1 -33.0 -14.4 42.8

## Summary

- Magnetic field measurements in space are exciting and interesting due to complex, temporally varying plasma interactions between SW, celestial bodies
- Instrumentation: FGM is standard s/c application (low power, lightweight, reliable, remote controlled, radiation hard, long term stable, high resolution...)
- Careful calibration necessary for serious science
- Extensive Magnetic Cleanliness program guarantees known measurement conditions

## More Information:



- **Modern Magnetic Field Measurement Devices:**  
[ftp://geophys.nat.tu-bs.de/pub/mrode/doc/mag\\_en\\_over.pdf](ftp://geophys.nat.tu-bs.de/pub/mrode/doc/mag_en_over.pdf)
- **Daily Magnetic Field Data:**  
[www.geophys.tu-bs.de/dienste/mrode/daten\\_en.html](http://www.geophys.tu-bs.de/dienste/mrode/daten_en.html)
- **Magnetsrode Calibration Facility:**  
[www.geophys.tu-bs.de/dienste/mrode/magnetsrode\\_en.html](http://www.geophys.tu-bs.de/dienste/mrode/magnetsrode_en.html)