The SPEXone polarimeter for the NASA PACE mission

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Goal: Provide measurements of aerosol properties needed to advance quantification of aerosol radiative forcing







Needed (globally):

✓ Direct effect:

AOD, SSA, phase function, aerosol above clouds

✓ Indirect effect:

Aerosol: Number, size, shape, height, RRI Cloud: Size, CDNC, phase, height

 ✓ Source determination: Complex refractive index, size







Multi-angle spectropolarimetry between 385 – 770 nm



5 instantaneous footprints ; Simultaneous pushbroom measurement of radiance and polarization

Flight direction



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Parameter	Specification		
Spatial resolution (sampling)	5X5 km ² (2.5X2.5 km ²)		
Spectral resolution radiance	~2-4 nm		
Spectral resolution polarization	10 nm @ 385 nm 45 nm @ 770 nm		
Radiometric uncertainty	< 2%		
Polarimetric uncertainty	< 0.003		



Spectral modulation: Polarization encoded in radiance spectrum



Highly accurate and robust

Snik et al. (2009)





SPEX Hyperspectral Radiance and Polarization Measurements



Angular versus Spectral Information

(Keeping total number of measurements constant)



- 5 viewing angles needed.
- After that point adding wavelengths helps slightly more than adding angles.
- Results confirmed by later studies (Wu et al., 2015; Xu et al., 2017)



Focus on Polarimetric Accuracy



band-MAP: Generic instrument with 13 angles, 3MI spectral bands (for comparison) Fine (BB) particles

Hasekamp et al., JQSRT, 2019





SPEXone Milestones October 2019 launch -38 months





SPEXone instrument status

- Parts coming in; System Integration Review held October 21st
- Opto-mechanical integration @SRON
- System integration and test @ADSN
- Calibration @SRON



PMO assembly



Spectrometer housing Lucassen



ICU Hyperion



Grating assembly



Freeform mirrors TNO



Detector module 3Dplus

Performance Modeling

SNR for dark ocean at SZA=70°



Stray light for swath with 50% bright cloud and 50% dark ocean at SZA-70°



For most challenging case factor 10 correction is needed. For the vast majority a factor 5 is sufficient.

Aerosol retrieval from multi-angle polarimetry

SRON Aerosol Retrieval Algorithm:

	r _{eff}	V _{eff}	m _r	mi	Ν	f _{sph}		
fine mode						Х		
coarse mode								
Other	Aerosol layer height, surface BDRF parameters							
Derived	AOT, SSA, phase function							

References: Hasekamp et al, JGR, 2011 Stap et al., AMT, 2015 Wu et al., AMT, 2015; GRL, 2016 Lacagnina et al., JGR, 2016;2017 Fu & Hasekamp, AMT, 2018 Schepers et al., JQSRT, 2016

Direct radiative effect from PARASOL



CDON Processing time per pixel: ~2.5 s (SPEXone) / ~0.5 s (POLDER)

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Smit, Rietjens, et al., Applied Optics, 2019



SPEX airborne aerosol retrievals



PACE synergetic science



- Unprecedented information on aerosol absorption.
- Unprecedented information on aerosol type and size.
- Unprecedented capability on aerosol above cloud retrievals.
- Simultaneous aerosol and cloud measurements for indirect effect studies.
- Unprecedented passive remote sensing of aerosol layer height
- Unprecedented capability for atmospheric correction ocean color remote sensing.