

Introduction to the Design of Space Mechanisms

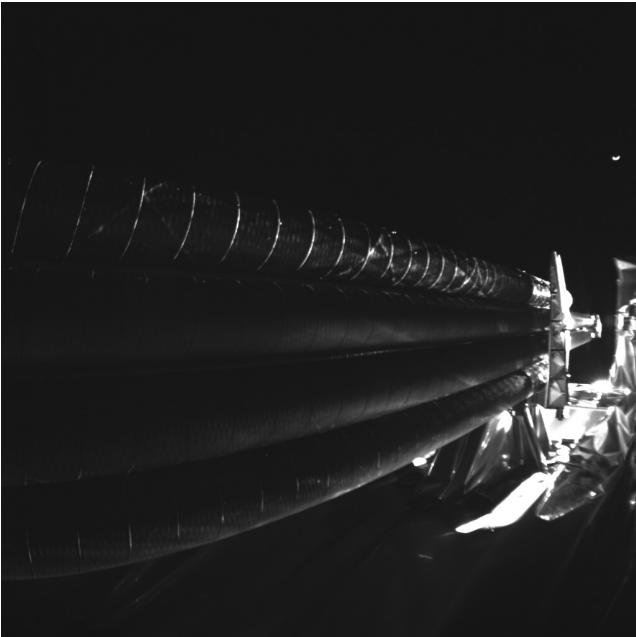
Mini Project
Mechanism Concept
Antenna deployment



Gilles Feusier

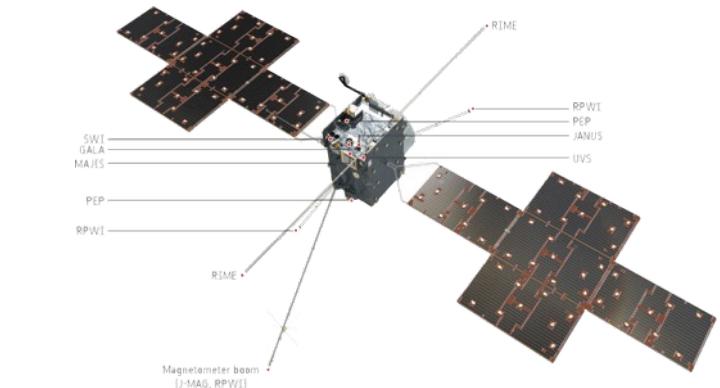
ESA's JUICE (Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer) - issue

Radar for Icy Moons Exploration (RIME)



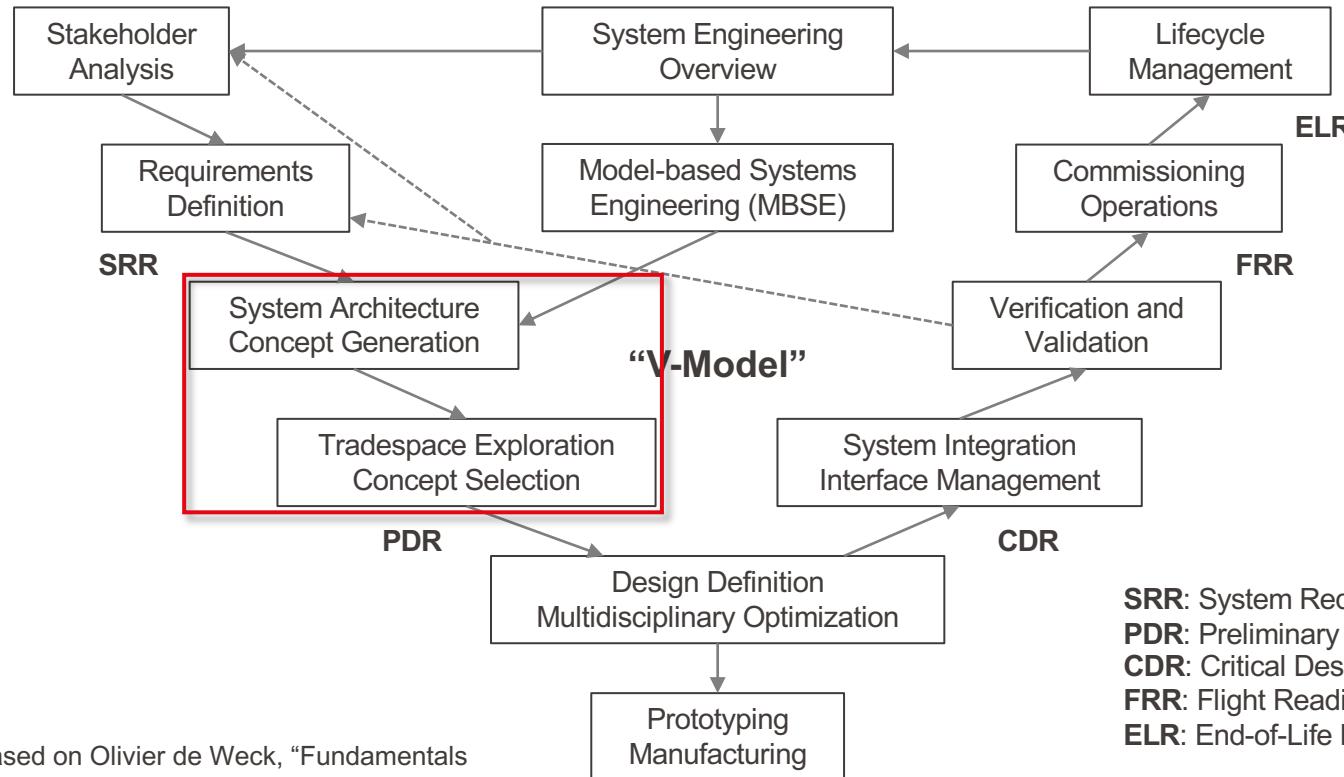
Source: ESA

- **17 April 2023** (three days after the launch): deployment begins
- **12 May 2023**: RIME antenna breaks free



Source: ESA/ATG medialab

The “V-Model” of Systems Engineering



Based on Olivier de Weck, "Fundamentals of Systems Engineering", EPFL ENG-421

SRR: System Requirements Review
PDR: Preliminary Design Review
CDR: Critical Design Review
FRR: Flight Readiness Review
ELR: End-of-Life Review

Note: reviews acc. to ECSS-M-ST-10C Rev. 1

Main Functions

[4.2.3] Mechanical Interfaces

Attach the payload (boom and antenna) to the S/C

[4.1.1.1] Deployment function

The mechanism shall deploy an antenna (cf. Figure 1) from its stowed launch configuration to its deployed configuration

[4.1.1.2] The mechanism shall have one degree of freedom only.

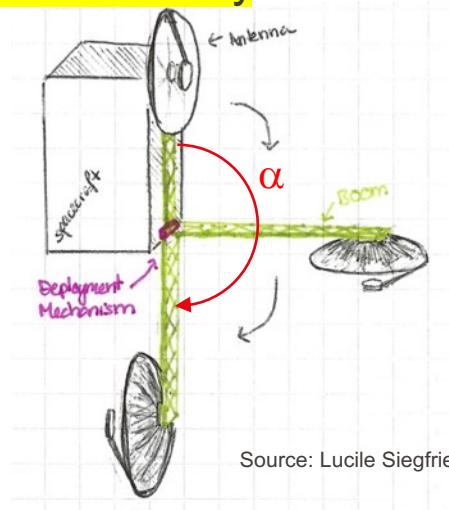
[4.2.4.1] Angular Range of the Deployment

The angular range of the deployment performed by the mechanism shall be $[0^\circ; 180^\circ]$ (angle α on Figure 1)

▪ Other functions

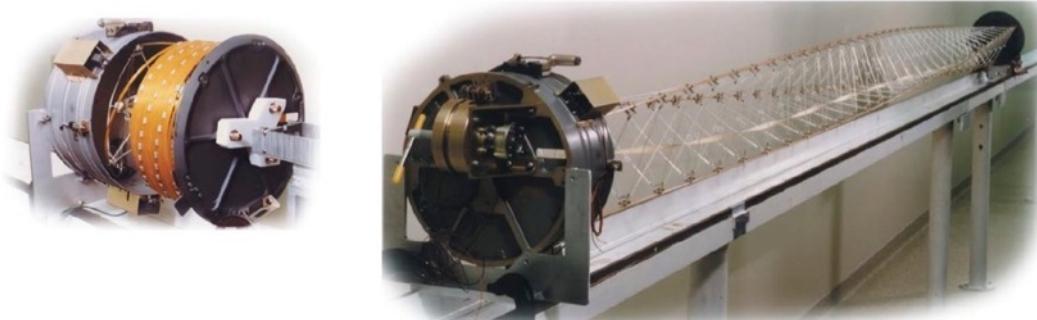
[4.1.1.3] Position measurement function

[4.1.1.4] Position holding function

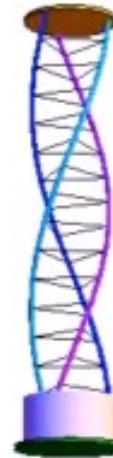


Source: Lucile Siegfried

Other possible architecture (not compliant to req.)



Source: N. Grumman, AstroMast Data-Sheets DS307 and DS407, 2010



Source: Sándor Kabai & Szániszó Bérczi / Wolfram Demonstration Project



Source: NASA/DLR



- [4.2.3.7] Allowed Volume
- [4.2.3.11] Mass
- [4.2.4.5] Angular Position Holding (not powered)
- [4.2.4.7] Telemetry
- [4.2.7.1] Reliability
- [4.2.9.3] Passive Holding redundancy

Ambiguous/Missing

- [4.2.4.1], [4.2.4.5] Deployment angle: any angular position or fixed angle?
- Missing: accuracy of deployment angle (α). Only telemetry is specified.
- [4.1.2.3] Reversibility: in-orbit?
- Cable harness to antenna: missing

Severe, but quite standard:

- [4.3.1.6] Shocks (... 100g/1300Hz, 700g/2000Hz, ...)
- [4.3.1.4] Random vibrations (23.4g_{rms})
- [4.3.2.11] Space thermal environment (qualification: +90 to -30°C)

Other requirements are considered to be standard, including radiation and cleanliness requirements, ...

- I/F
 - Fixed to S/C structure
 - Boom with antenna fixed to the mechanism
 - Electrical harness to antenna: TBD
- Environment
 - Withstand launch loads
 - ...
- Operations
 - Non-operational: Stowed (**secured**) position during storage, launch...
 - Operational: deployment within defined constraints (speed, acceleration, range) => **rotation**
 - Passive: **maintain** the defined (pos. TBD) position during antenna operations
- Telemetry
 - Angular position

Selection of Components

- Rotation = 180°
- Position holding (passive, redundant)
- Telemetry
- Structure

- Rotation = 180°
 - Ball-bearing
- Rotation
 - Actuator: TBD^(*)
- Position holding
 - Latch and end stops?
 - Brake?
 - Nothing else?
- Telemetry
 - Angular encoder
 - Micro-switches (TBC^(*)): status monitoring
- Structure



Selected concept depends on deployment angle and reversibility

^(*) *TBD: To Be Defined, TBC: To Be confirmed*

- Range: $[0;180]^\circ$ [4.2.4.1]
- Maximum rate: $6^\circ/s$ [4.2.4.2]
- Maximum acceleration: 1 rad/s^2 [4.2.4.4]
- Maximum duration: 40s [4.2.4.3]

$$\alpha(t) = \alpha_0 + \omega t + \frac{1}{2} x \dot{\omega} t^2$$

- *Acceleration phase*: $\dot{\omega}_{init} > 0$
- *Constant speed phase (if any)*: $\dot{\omega} = 0$, $\omega = \omega_{constant}$
- ...
- *Deceleration phase*: $\dot{\omega}_{fin} < 0$

- Required torque ?

$$T = I \dot{\omega} \quad \text{with } I = 3.8 \text{ kg} \cdot \text{m}^2 \quad [4.2.3.5]$$

Deployment performances (an example)

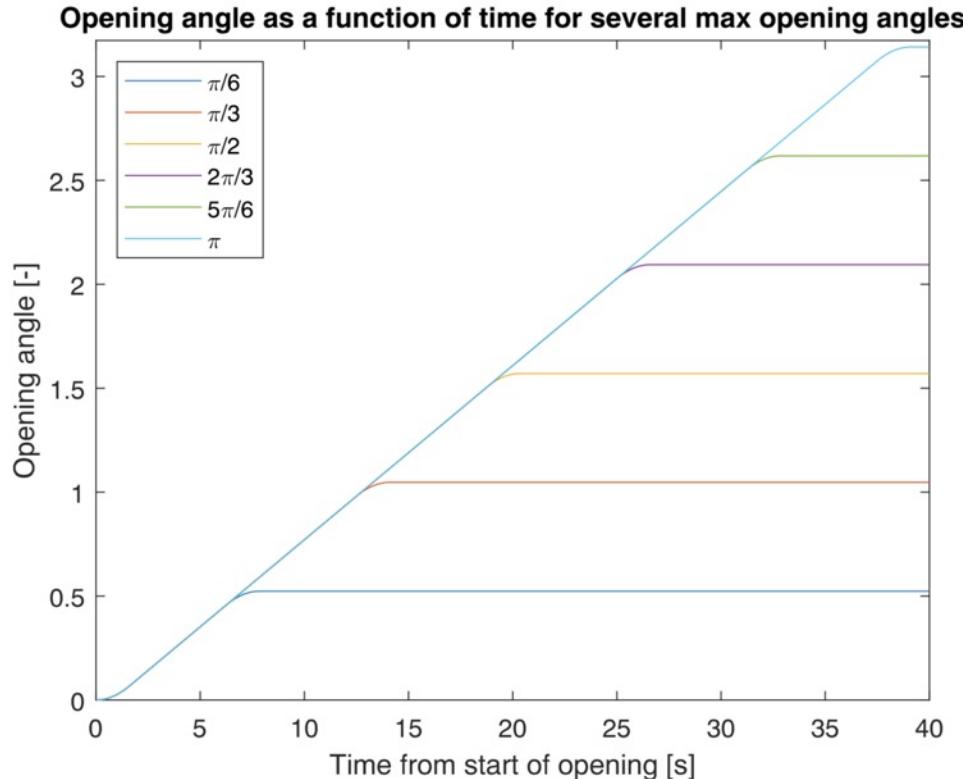


Figure 1: Antenna deployment as a function of time for various target angles.

- Torque margin
 - ECSS-E-ST-33-01C Rev.2 - Mechanisms

Table 4-2: Minimum uncertainty factors for actuation function

Resistive torque or force contributors	Symbol	Theoretical Factor	Measured Factor
Inertia	I	1,1	1,1
Spring	S	1,2	1,1
Magnetic effects	H_M	1,5	1,1
Friction	F_R	3	1,5
Hysteresis	H_Y	3	1,5
Others (e.g. Harness)	H_A	3	1,5
Adhesion	H_D	3	3

T_D : inertial resistance torque
 T_L : deliverable output torque
 (if specified by customer)

$$T_{min} = 2 \cdot [1.1 \cdot I + 1.2 \cdot S + 1.5 \cdot H_M + 3 \cdot F_R + 3 \cdot H_Y + 3 \cdot H_A + 3 \cdot H_D] + 1.25 \cdot T_D + T_L$$

- Example
 - Inertia (e.g.): $T_D = 0.2 \text{ Nm} \Rightarrow 1.25 \times 0.2 = 0.25 \text{ Nm}$
 - Friction: 0.02 Nm per duplex bearing $\Rightarrow 2 \times 3 \times (2 \times 0.02) = 0.24 \text{ Nm}$
 - **Total: 0.49 Nm** (no harness, no spring, only bearing friction ...)

<http://tiny.cc/EE580Q04>



Actuator

- Brushless DC motor
- Stepper motor
- Sealed brushed motor
- ❖ Gear box
- ❖ Complex control electronic (brushless motor, stepper motor)



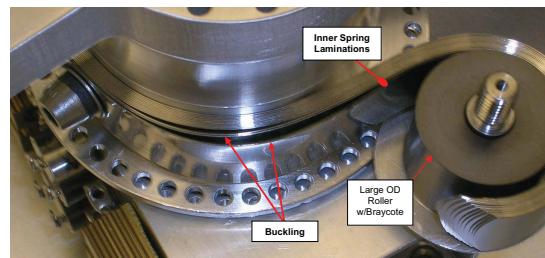
Source: C. Boesch et al., Proceedings of the 13th European Space Mechanisms and Tribology Symposium, 23-25 September 2009

- Spring (passive)
 - Helical torsion spring
 - Constant torque spring
 - ...

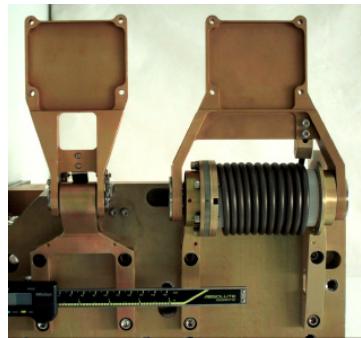
➤ Hold-down device (e.g. pin-puller, shall be resettable)

➤ Damper (deployment rate control)

➤ Resettable: on ground, not in-orbit



Source: J.A. Johnson, Proceedings of the 39th Aerospace Mechanisms Symposium, NASA Marshall Space Flight Center, May 7-9, 2008.



Source: J.I. Bueno et al., Proceedings of the 9th European Space Mechanisms and Tribology Symposium, 19-21 September 2001

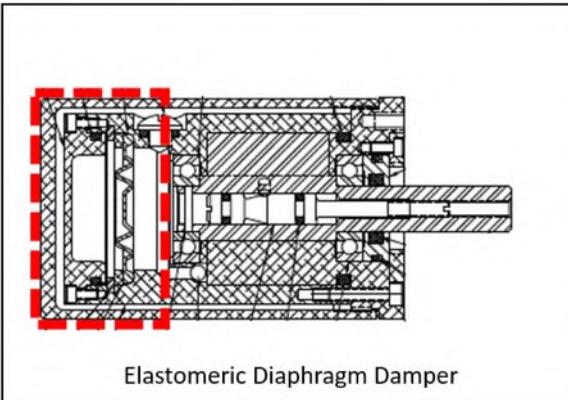
Spring Actuator: acceleration/speed control

- Damper:

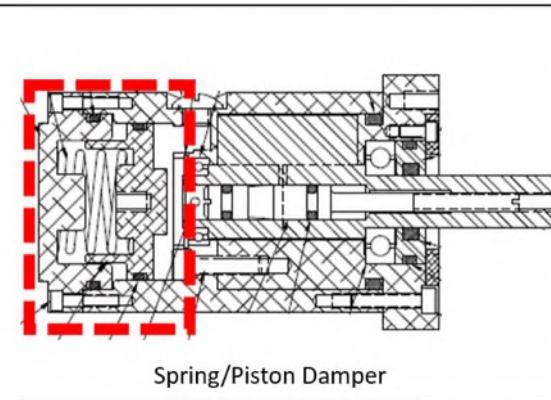
- Eddy current damper
- Viscous damper



Source: CDA InterCorp, USA



Elastomeric Diaphragm Damper



Spring/Piston Damper

Source: P. Lytal et al., Proceedings of the 44th Aerospace Mechanisms Symposium, NASA Glenn Research Center, May 16-18, 2018



Source: W. Mitter et al., Proceedings of the 13th European Space Mechanisms and Tribology Symposium, 23-25 September 2009

Viscous: Flight heritage, but for much larger torque. Not a commercial product. Depends also on full mechanism characteristics. Depends on temperature (thermal control required).

Eddy current: commercial products available



Very critical
Early stage analysis. BBM testing?
Performances to be assessed.
Includes gear box?

Brake?

Source: F.C. Baker et al., Proceedings of the 8th ESMATS, 29 Sept.-1 Oct. 1999

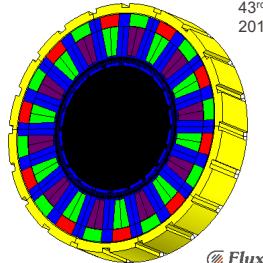


- Mechanical brake

- Shall operate under vacuum and under air
 - Change of tribological characteristics, non-linear
 - Running-in when changing environment?
- Requires an actuator (contact pressure, braking torque force, power)
- Behavior under vibrations?
- Size
- Monitoring the status?
- No (limited) commercial product available



- Other option: reluctance brake
 - Passive or Active



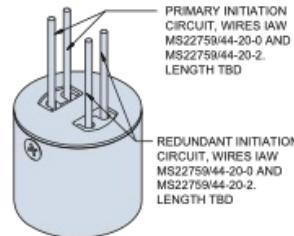
Source: T. Hopper et al., Proceedings of the 43rd AMS, 4-6 May 2016, NASA/CP-2016-219090

Pin-puller

ELECTRICALLY REDUNDANT HOLD DOWN RELEASE MECHANISM, MEDIUM DUTY



How To Order		
Sample Part No.	061	-007
Basic Part No.	Light/Medium Duty HDRM	
Dash No.	Redundant Circuit	



Source: Glenair, Inc

Reset requires the replacement of the initiator

NOK
(reversibility?)



P5 Details

Mass:	1.06 oz [30 g]
Power:	1.25 W @ 0.4 A
Operational Current:	0.4 to 1.5 A
Resistance:	7.7 ± 0.5 Ω @ 23°C
Pull Force:	5 lbf [22.2 N] MIN
Pull Stroke:	0.250 in [6.3 mm] MIN
Axial Load (Actuation):	2 lbf [8.9 N] MAX
Side Load (Actuation):	10 lbf [44.5 N] MAX
Side Load (Non-Actuation):	100 lbf [444.8 N] MAX
Function Time:	130 msec. MAX @ 0.5 A (23°C)
Reusable:	By Manual Reset
Life:	100 Cycles MIN
Operational Temperature:	-65° C to +70° C
Size (max):	D31.75 x 41.275 mm

Source: Ensign-Bickford Aerospace & Defense Company

Can be reset
However T_{op} range
not OK

Check if T_{op}
can be
increased

Angular encoder, switches

Potentiometer



Source: Betatronix



Source: Novotechnik

Optical encoder



Source: Codechamp

Micro-switch



Source: Honeywell

Reed switch



Source: Standex Electronics, Inc.

Resolution: better than 0.01°
(even better than 0.007°)
=> 0.17 mrad

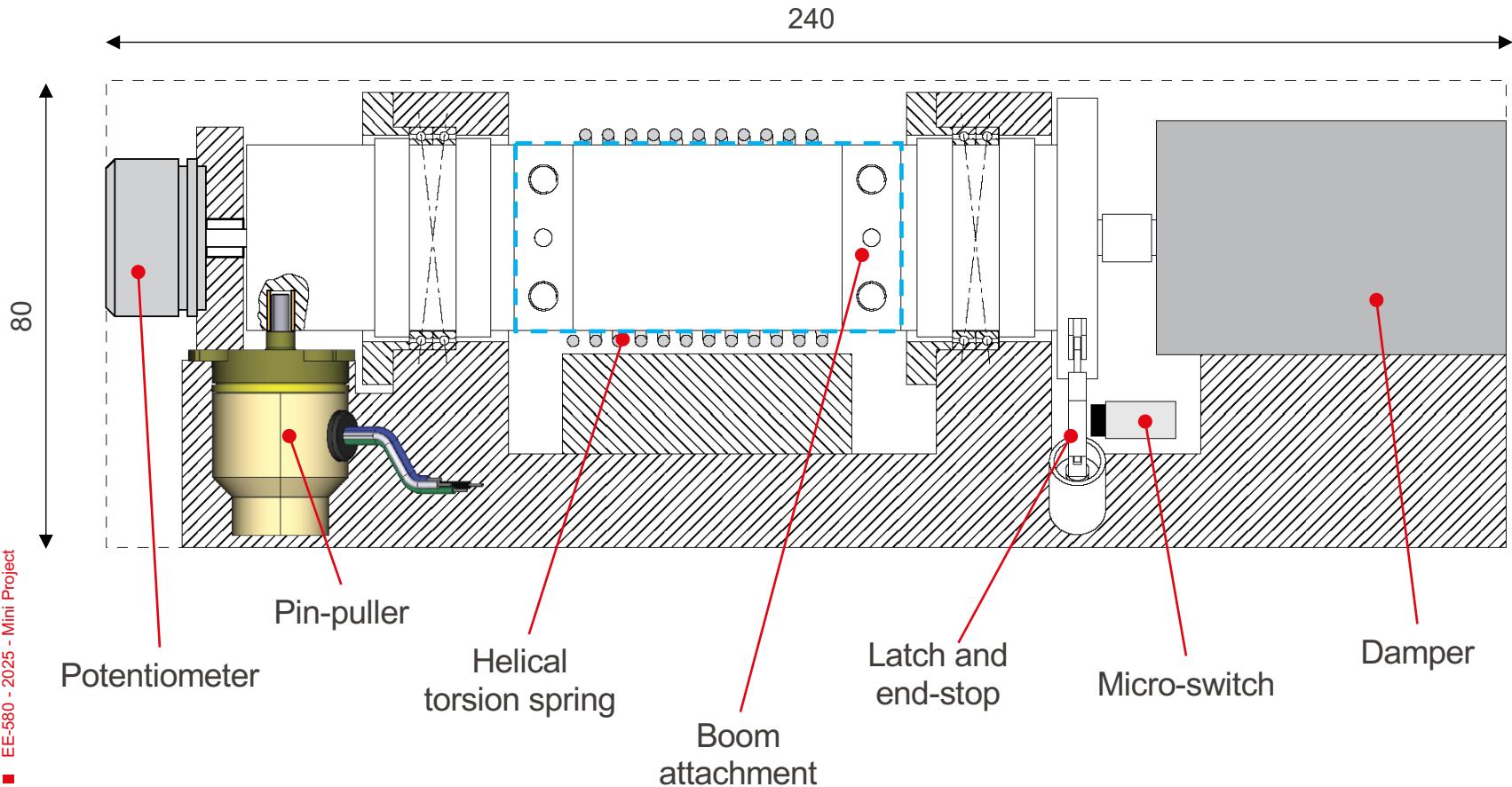
Resolution: 15bits: $\sim 0.011^\circ$
(can reach 23bits, i.e. $0.07 \cdot 10^{-3}$ mrad)
=> 0.19 mrad

Requirement [4.2.4.7]: < 0.2 mrad

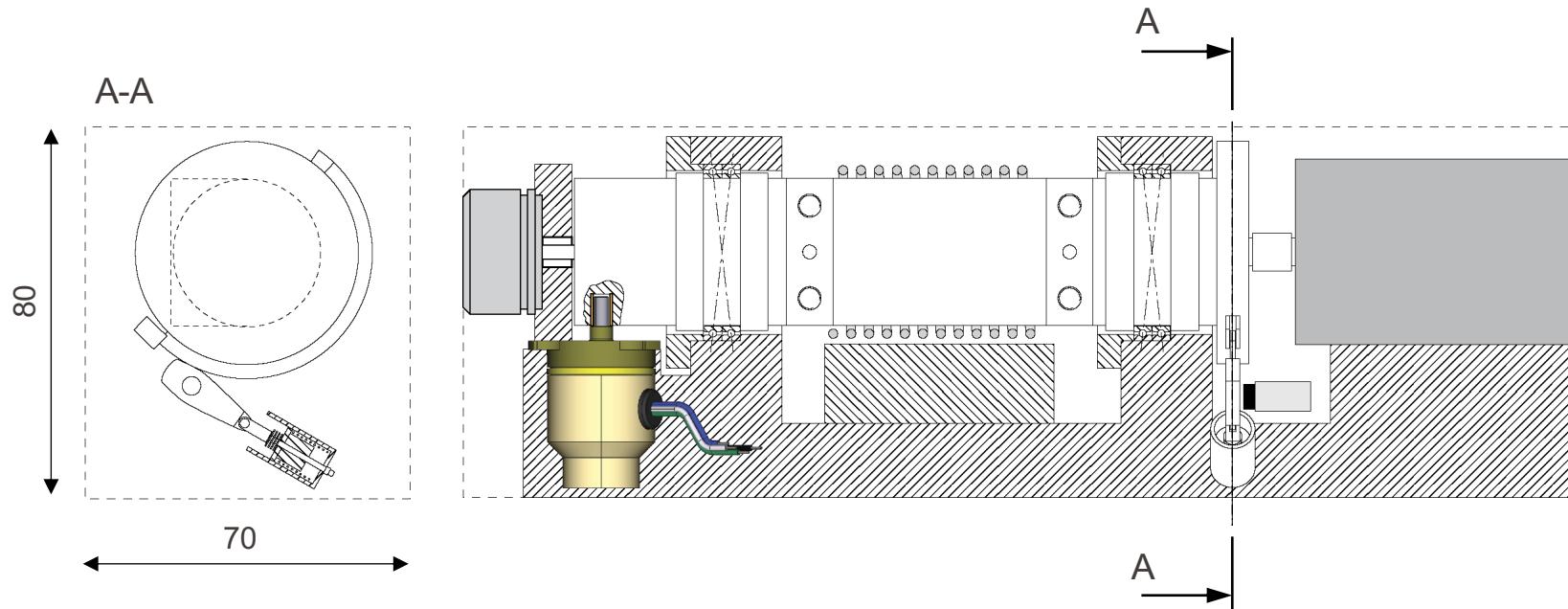
▪ Pugh matrix

		Concept 1	Concept 2	Concept 3	Concept 4
Criteria 1	Mass	+	Datum	-	+
Criteria 2	Size	-		+	-
Criteria 3	Control	S		+	-
Criteria 4	Power	S		+	S
...	...				
$\Sigma+$		1		3	1
$\Sigma-$		1		1	2
ΣS		2		0	1
$\Sigma+ - \Sigma-$		0		2	-1

Concept with spring actuator



Concept with spring actuator

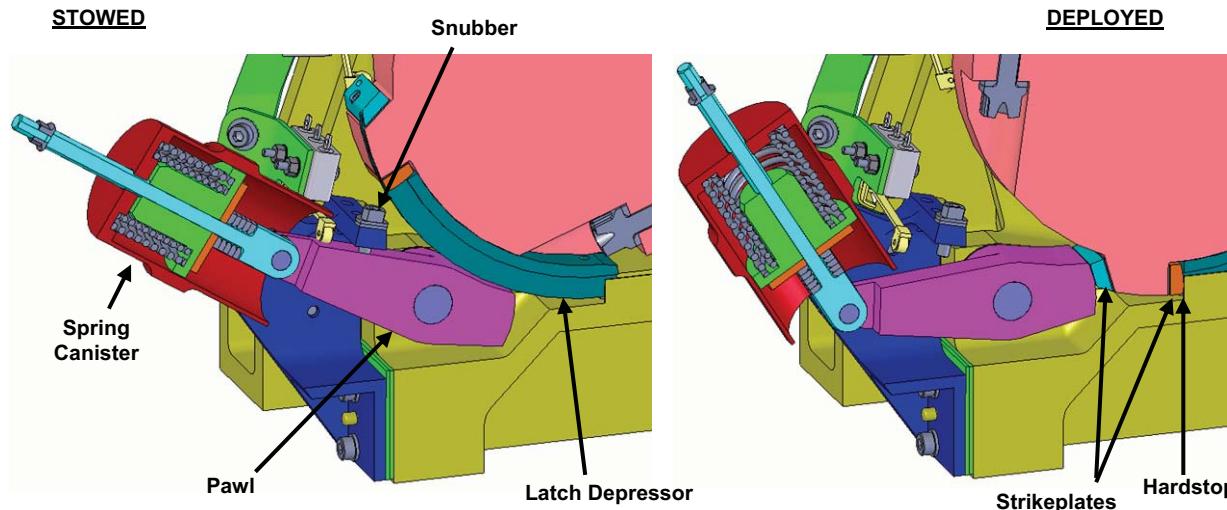


As low force is required, latch maybe simplified

Concept with spring actuator

- Latch concept (example)

From Joel A. Johnson “Development of the Aquarius Antenna Deployment Mechanisms and Spring/Damper Actuator”, Proceedings of the 39th Aerospace Mechanisms Symposium, NASA Marshall Space Flight Center, May 7-9, 2008.



Power budget: selection of cables

Components	Model	# wires	Max I_r [A]	AWG	Length [m]	Total mass [g]
Pin puller	EBAD P5	4	1.5	AWG26	0.2	1.6
End-switch	Honeywell HM	6	<0.001	AWG28	0.2	1.6
Potentiometer	Novotechnik P2500	3	<1·10 ⁻⁶	AWG28	0.2	0.8
Total		$N_{nom} = 13$				

Single wires acc. to ESCC 3901 001

Cable derating: ECSS-Q-ST-30-11C Rev 1 Derating - EEE components

Maximum current for single wire

AWG26 2.5 A

AWG28 1.5 A

Bundle factor K for N wires (derated allowable current: $I_{derated} = K \cdot I_r$):

$N = \lceil 0.5 \times N_{nom} \rceil$ for cold redundancy wires or not in the same bundle $\Rightarrow N = 7$

$3 < N \leq 7$ $K = 1.01 - (0.07 \times N)$ $\Rightarrow K = 0.52$

Derated Current:

AWG26 1.3 A \Rightarrow pin puller **current shall be limited**: OK ($I > 0.4$ A, function time)

AWG28 0.78 A

Components	Model	Quantity	Unit mass [g]	Total mass [g]
Duplex bearing	ADR WAD420	2	15	30
Damper		1	150	90
Pin puller	EBAD P5	1	30	30
End-switch	Honeywell HM	2	10	20
Spring		1	50	50
Potentiometer		1	20	20
Screws	M3x8	50	0.3	15
D-SUB 25		2	12	24
Cables				4
		Total		283
		Contingency	10%	28.3
		Total		311.3

Available for structure and parts (incl. coupling, latch ...): $700 \text{ g} - 311.3 \text{ g} = 388.7 \text{ g}$



Not much. Structure shall be optimized!

Gear-Motor concept: Mars Rover PMA

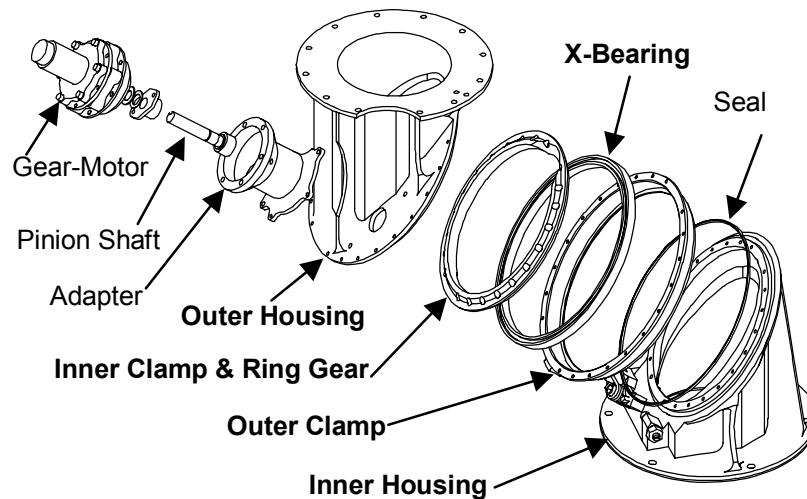


Figure 8: Exploded view of the Mast Deployment Drive

Source: R.M. Warden et al., Proceedings of the 37th Aerospace Mechanisms Symposium, Johnson Space Center, May 19-21, 2004.

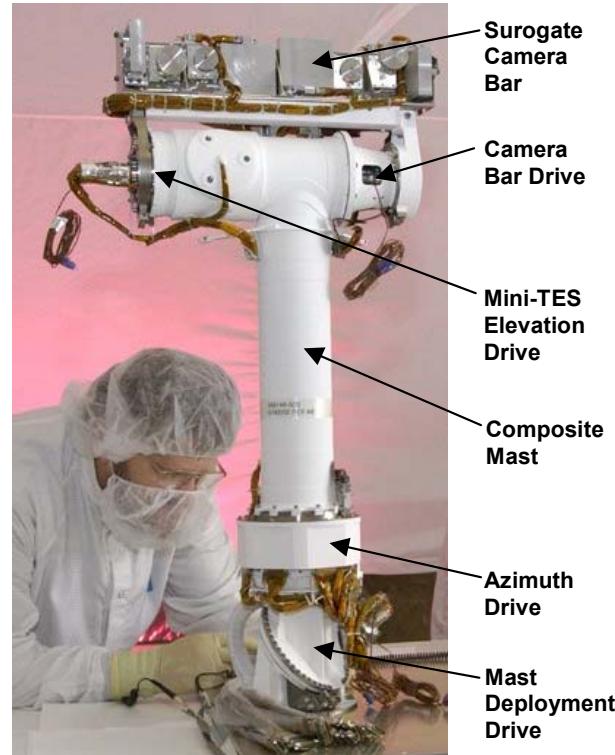
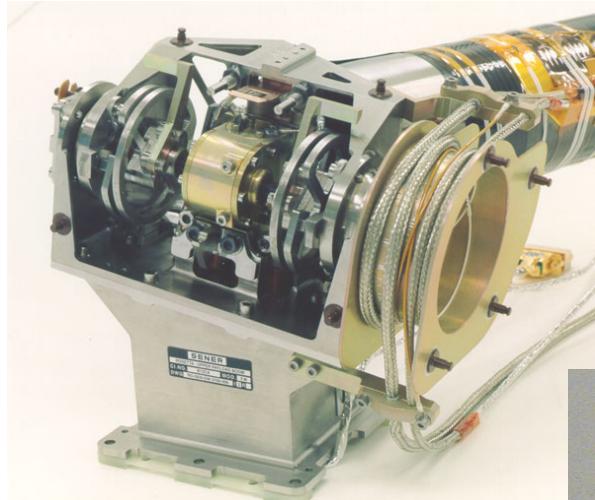
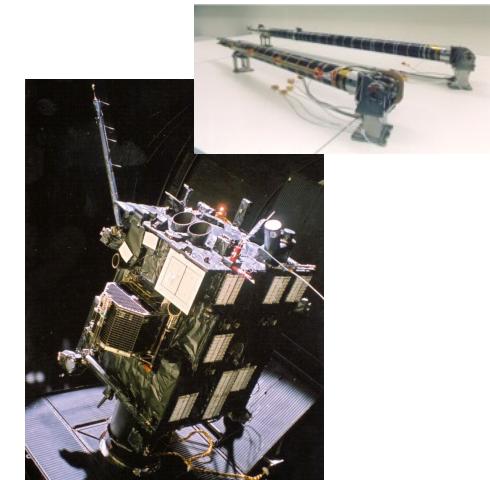
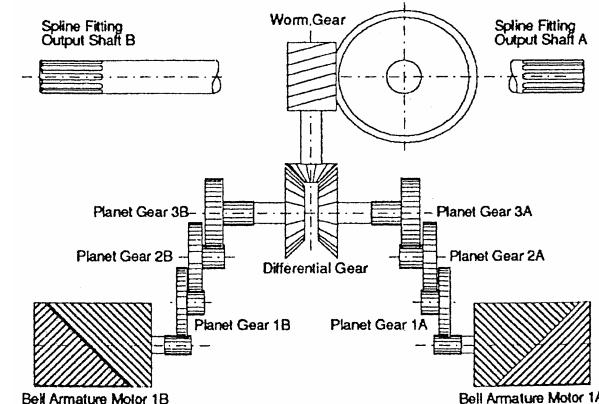
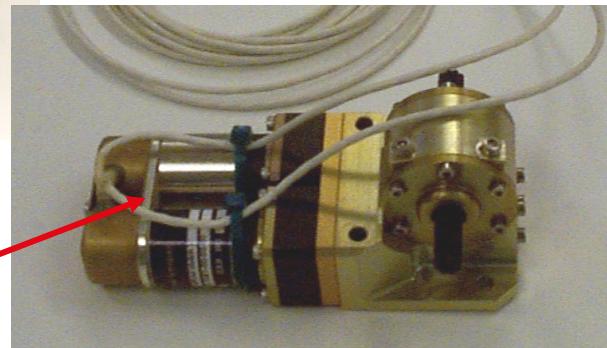


Figure 2. PMA in the Deployed Configuration

Worm Gear concept: Rosetta deployable boom

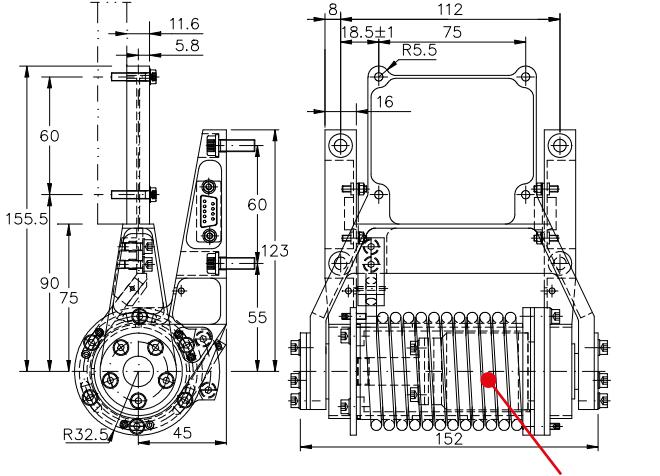


two redundant sealed
brush motors

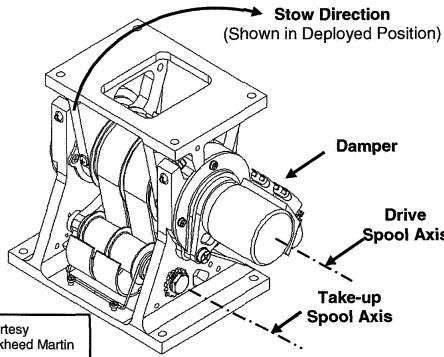


Spring concepts

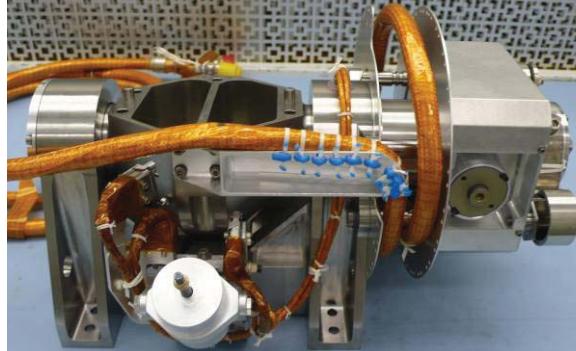
Source: J.I. Bueno et al., Proceedings of the 9th European Space Mechanisms and Tribology Symposium, 19-21 September 2001



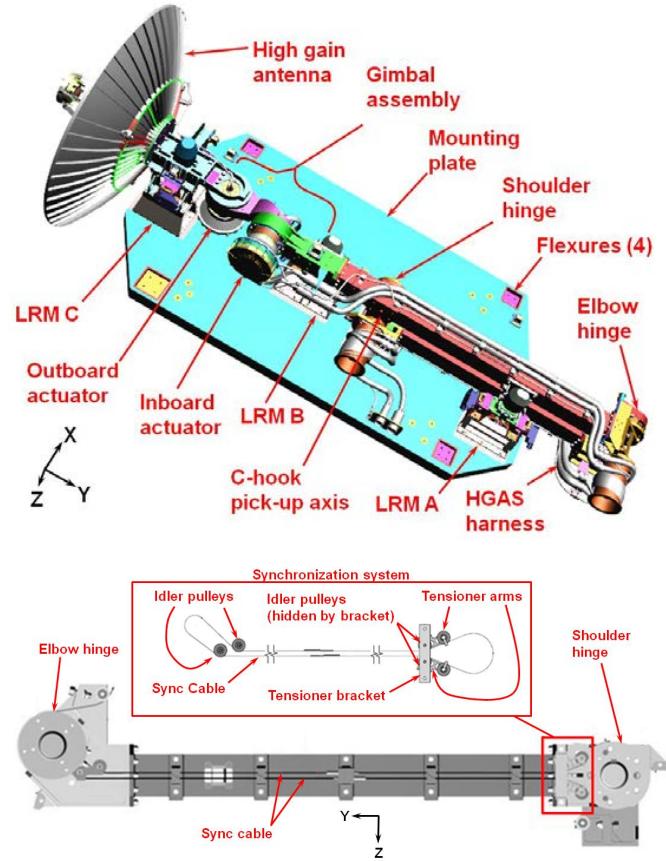
Deployment
Regulator



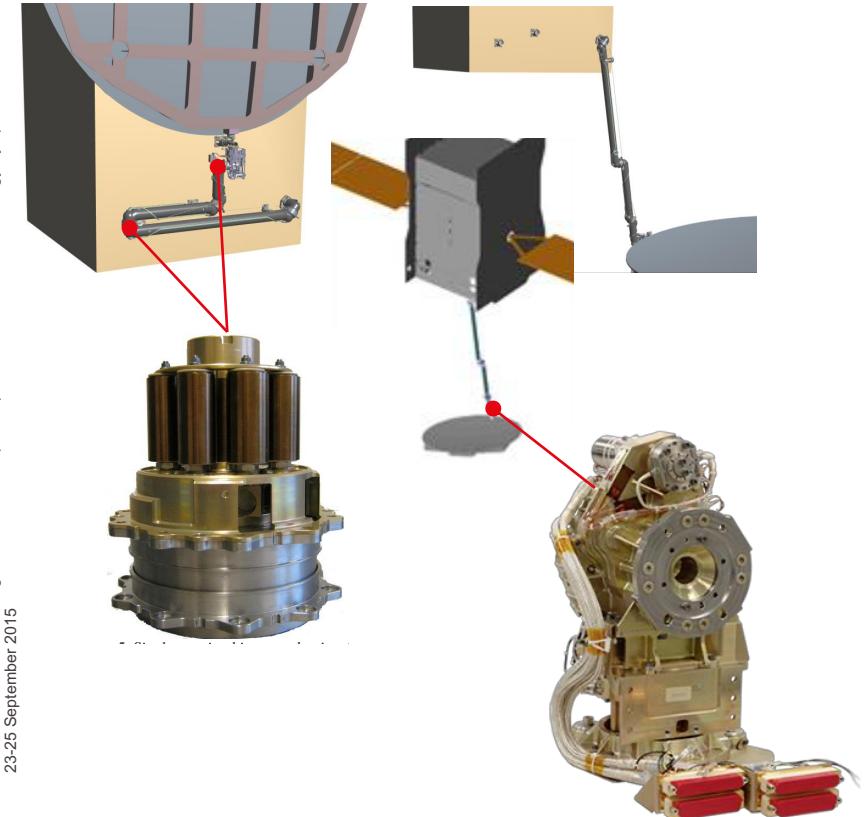
Source: J. A. Johnson, Proceedings of the 38th Aerospace Mechanisms Symposium, NASA Marshall Space Flight Center, May 7-9, 2008



Antenna deployment

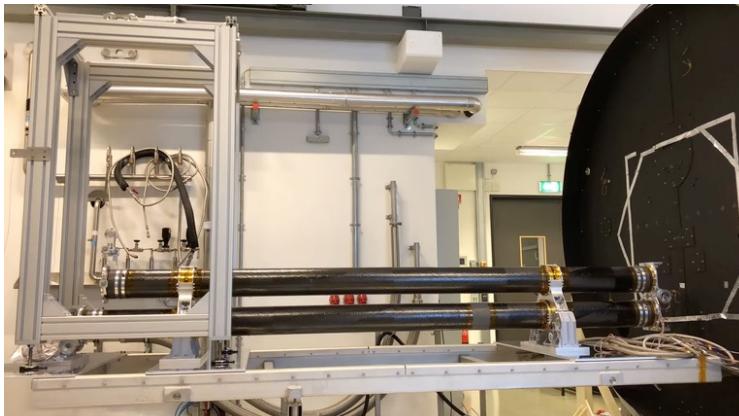
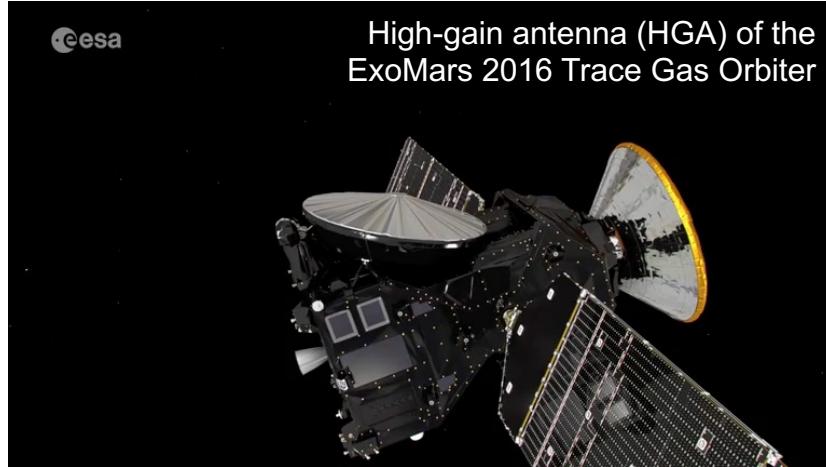
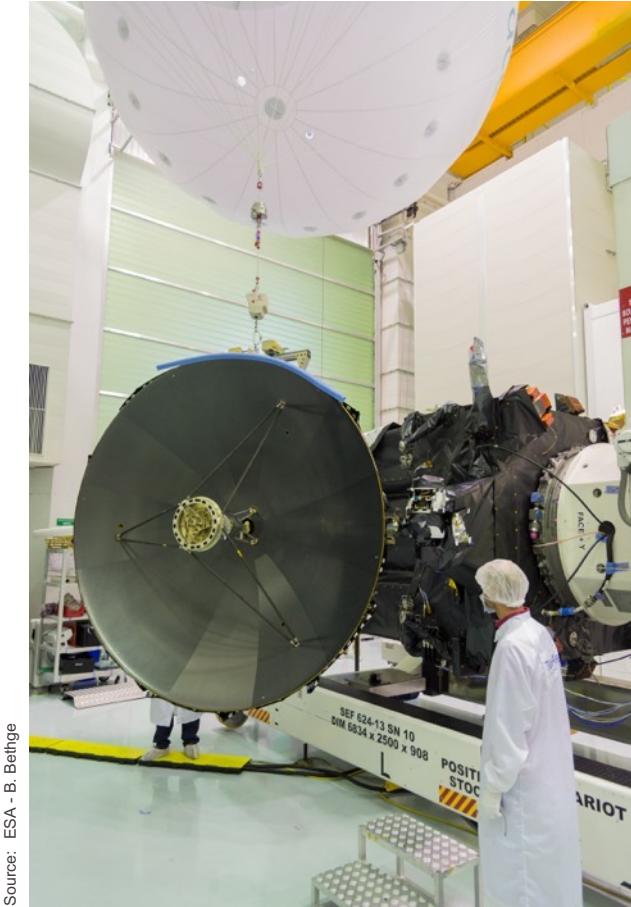


Source: F. Parong et al., Proceedings of the 42nd Aerospace Mechanisms Symposium, May 14-16, 2014



Source: M. Kroon et al., Proceedings of the 16th European Space Mechanisms and Tribology Symposium, 23-25 September 2015

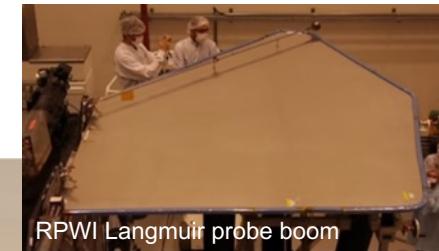
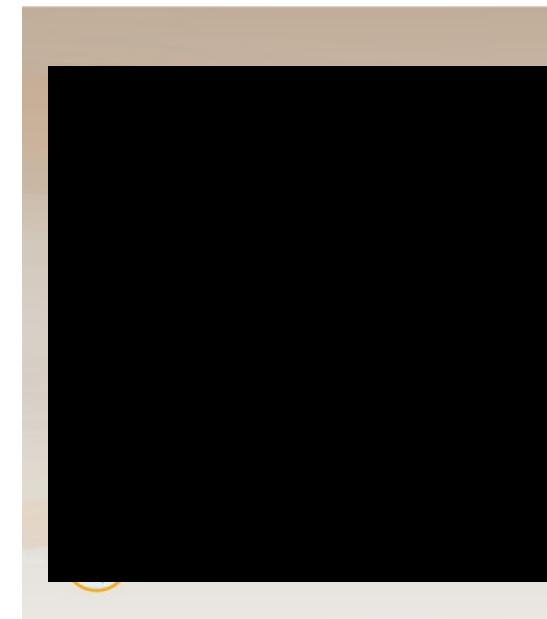
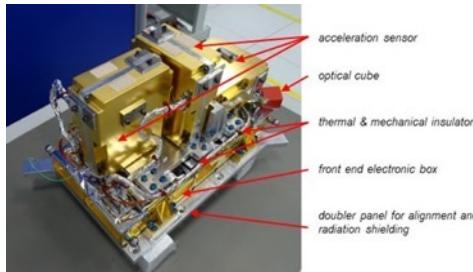
Antenna deployment



Deployment (booms and others)

- **Indirect ways to monitor:** e.g. use of an onboard accelerometer to monitor the deployment of a boom
 - Bandwidth of the accelerometers
 - Comparison between ground and in-orbit values maybe difficult

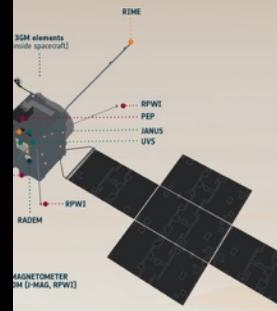
3GM High Accuracy Accelerometer (HAA)



RPWI Langmuir probe boom

sensing, geophysical and in situ payloads ever flown to the NASA. Juice also includes an experiment called PRIDE, which

Experiment



Laser altimeter
[GALA]

Radio science experiment
Gravity & Geophysics
of Jupiter and Galilean Moons

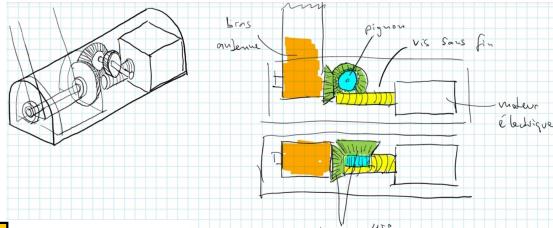
Magnetometer
[J-MAG]

Particle environment package
[PEP]

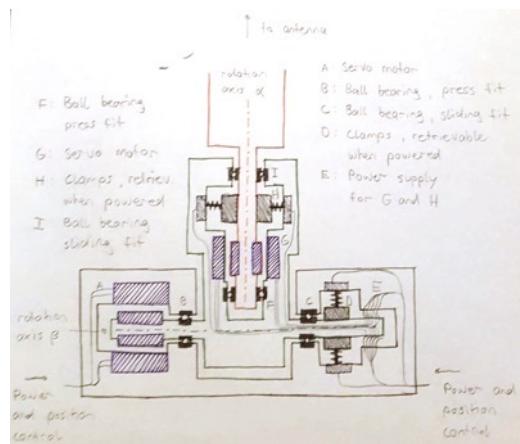
Radio and plasma wave
instrument
[RPWI]

R. Le Letty et al., “*Listening into the JUICE Deployments with the On-Board High-Accuracy Accelerometer*”, Proceedings of the 47th Aerospace Mechanisms Symposium, NASA Langley Research Center, May 15-17, 2024

Student concepts



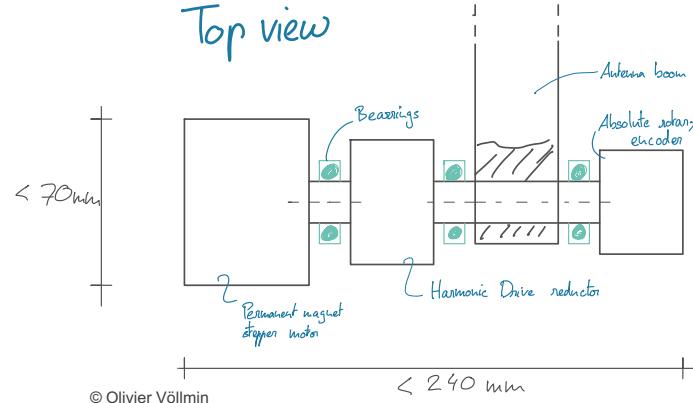
© Thomas Pfeiffer



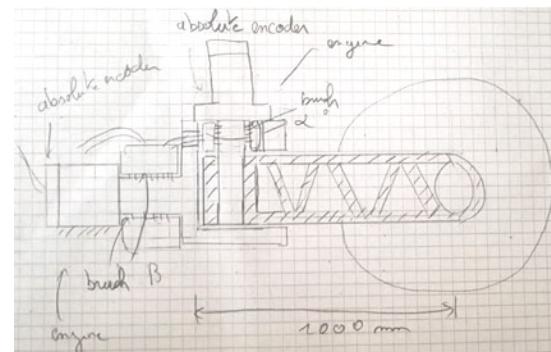
EE-580 - 2025 - Mini Project

© Lukas Stuber

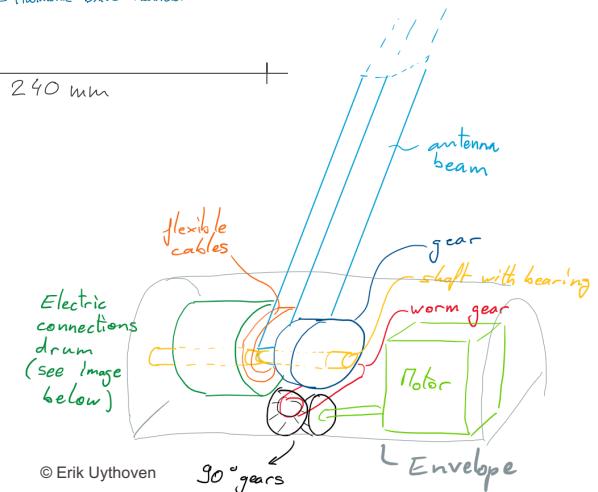
Top view



© Olivier Völlmin

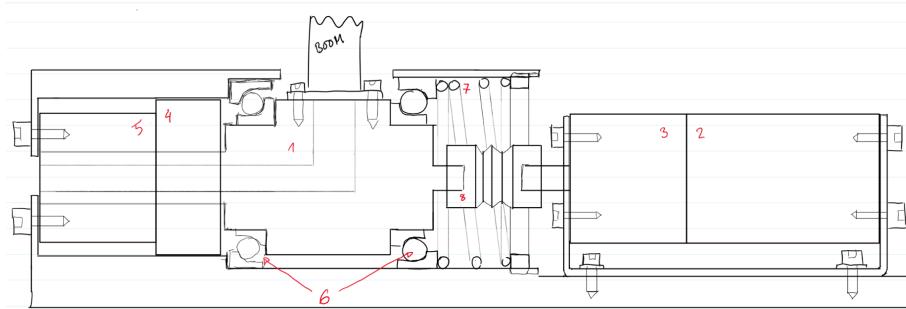


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Student concepts

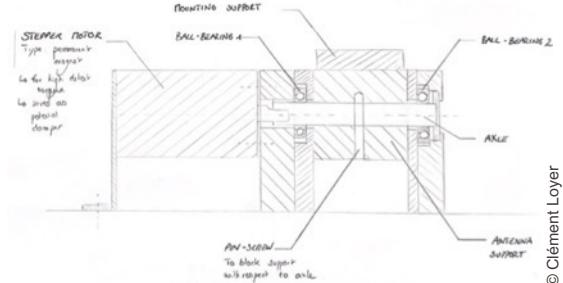


© Michael Biseix

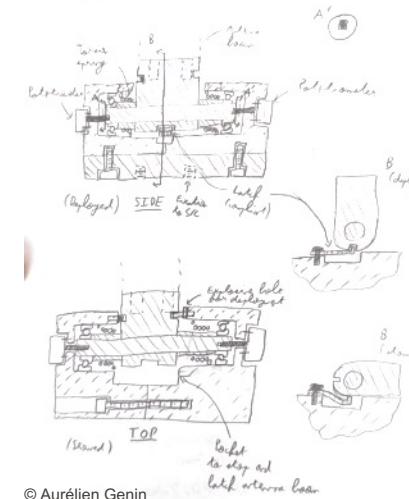
- 1 main shaft - hollow on left for cable passage (& weight)
- 2 electric motor
- 3 planetary reduction gears → reduction chosen to be self-locking
- 4 electromagnetic clutch → default 'engaged'
- 5 16-bit encoder
- 6 oblique ball bearings
- 7 spring to preloaded mechanism
- 8 accordion connector - allow for thermal expansion/contractions

{ redundant passive holding
~ 0.1 mm rad. precision
ensuring axial and radial play}

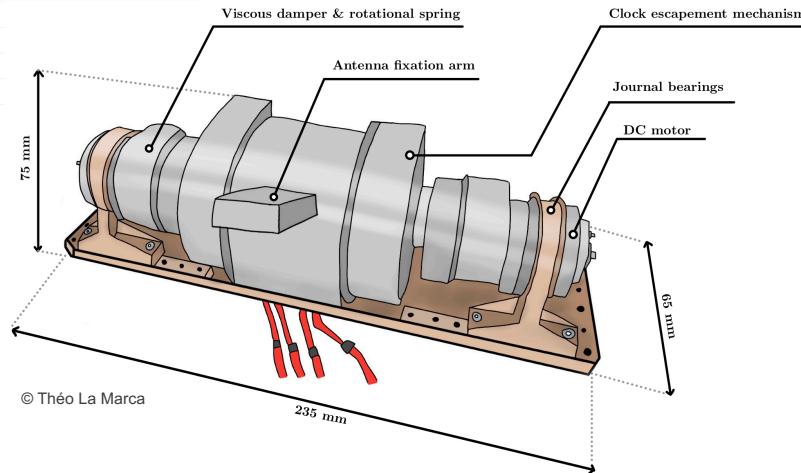
CUT A



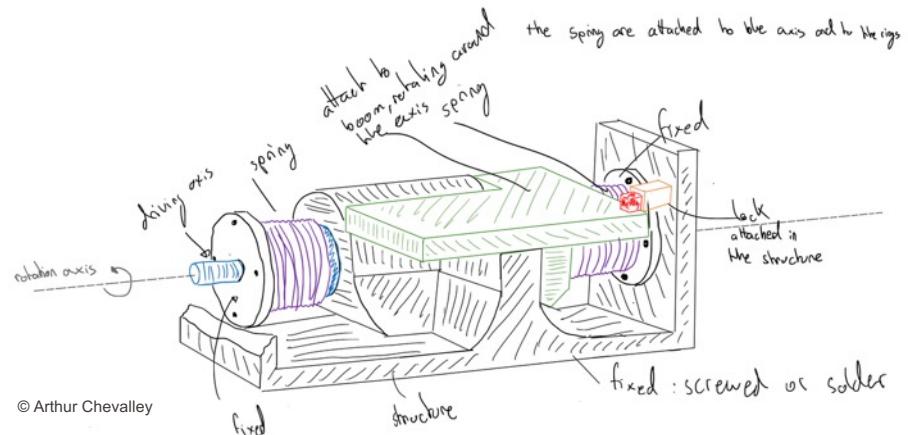
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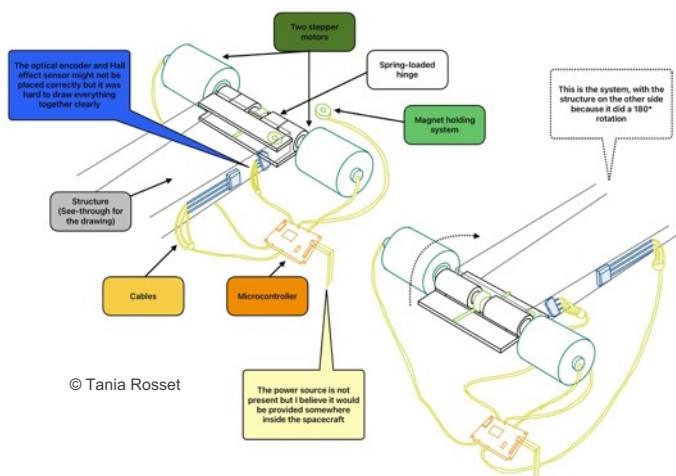
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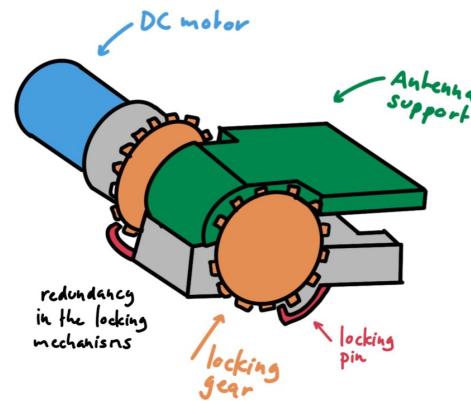
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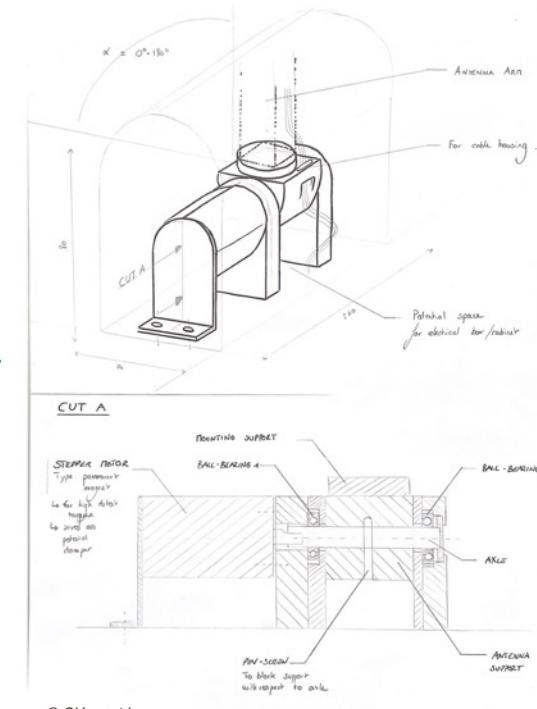
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- Identify the critical and key requirements
- List the functions
- Map the functions to forms (architecture)
 - List of potential components, incl. specifications
- Make preliminary analysis
 - What are the required performances?
 - Pre-sizing of the components
- Selection of concept and components
 - E.g. Pugh matrix, ...
- Sketch your concept(s)
- Make some preliminary budgets (size, mass, power, ...)
- Convince customer, management, ... that you will be able to achieve the requirements, within time and budget

- Theme 7 – Reliability
- Fill the exam schedule on MOODLE (Exams June 27 & 30, July 1)
<https://moodle.epfl.ch/mod/scheduler/view.php?id=1206907>
To be filled until June 6th, 17:00.