



#### Navigation and Atmospheric Profiling Based on GNSS Technologies for Nanosatellite Missions

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#### **GNSS Radio Occultations**



- LEO GNSS receiver measures "excess phase delay" due to ionosphere and/or neutral atmosphere
- Vertical profiles of atmospheric and ionospheric parameters are derived using specialized GNSS receivers onboard low-Earth orbiters



#### **Radio Occultation Retrievals**

- Clock errors can be removed by differencing
- Precise orbits LEO estimated (10 cm position)
- Remaining phase error is a result of the atmosphere only
- With knowledge of satellite geometry, total bending of the ray can be determined and converted into index of refraction
- Reliable dual frequency signals are required





# **RO Missions**

- Several successful microsatellite missions: CHAMP and COSMIC
- GPS-only receivers
- Dual receiver configuration: 1) precise orbit determination and 2) radio occultation observations
- Radiation-hardened receivers







#### **GPS Observations**





#### **Temperature Retrieval**



**Electron Density** 

CHAMP

12

14

x 10<sup>4</sup>

10

8

# Ionosphere Retrieval

-2

-4

0

2

4

Electron density [el/cm<sup>3</sup>]

6

350





PLAN

## **Nanosatellite Platform? CanX-2**

- Single GPS card (not space-hardened, COTS)
- Intermittent receiver operation (limitation!)
- Single antenna configuration
- Raw data collected and post-processed







# **Opportunities: New Signals**

• GPS: New signals L2C (2014) and L5 (2015)



Block IIR-M

- Galileo: Triple frequency observations, 30 satellites (2014)
- Compass: Multi-frequency, 30 MEO + 5 GEO (2015)
- GLONASS: To be maintained at 24 satellites

Must be ready to exploit new developments

# **GPS-Only**





#### **Multi-GNSS**



# **Opportunities: Software Rx**

- UofC GSNRx<sup>™</sup> software
  - Vector-based tracking algorithms
  - Ultra-tight integration (+ IMUs) with open-loop tracking
  - Robust phase tracking
  - Multi-frequency/multi-system (GPS, GLONASS, Beidou, Galileo)
- Compiles in Microsoft Visual C++ and runs in Windows 32-bit DOS console
- Can be modified for space applications and phased array antenna processing

# **Opportunities: Expertise**

- Canada second-largest exporter of GNSS technologies (products and services) worldwide
- Calgary-based NovAtel world leading GNSS manufacturer (Galileo rx)
- Excellent HQP training in academic sector (UofC, UNB, York U)
- Expertise primarily in ground-based technologies
- Exploit the Canadian advantage to develop spacebased capacity



# Why Nanosatellites?

- Twenty+ satellites can instantaneously image Earth's neutral atmosphere and ionosphere
- International movement to exploit small satellites for RO missions
- Adequate GNSS technology can be developed for nanosatellite applications
- Beneficial to have access to nanosatellite platform for testing and demonstration of software rx methods



# **Capacity-Building**

- In-house capabilities for flexible processing: multisystem capabilities and retrieval methods
- Enhance Canadian academic and industry expertise
- Become the go-to country for nanosatellite navigation and GNSS RO methods
- Technology transfer and commercialization opportunities (e.g. VAPR, TECMODEL)





#### **Current Status**

Signal	Status within GSNRx <sup>™</sup>
GPS Signals	
L1 C/A	Acquire, Track and Navigation Solution
L1C	Work is ongoing
L2C	Acquire, Track and Navigation Solution
L5	Acquire, Track and Navigation Solution
Galileo Signals	
E1b/c	Acquire, Track and Navigation Solution
E1a	Acquire and Track
E5a	Acquire, Track and Navigation Solution
E5b	Acquire and Track
GLONASS Signals	
L1 C/A	Acquire, Track and Navigation Solution
L2 C/A	Acquire, Track and Navigation Solution

#### **Orbit Determination**



Studies ongoing with partner CSA in joint project

