Gaia status

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Gaia Summary

- Gaia: science with 1 billion objects in three dimensions
- ESA corner stone mission building on the Hipparcos heritage
- Astrometry, Photometry and Spectroscopy
- Satellite, including the payload, by industry, management and operations by ESA and data processing by scientists (DPAC)
- Launch 19 December 2013 with Soyuz from Kourou
- Commissioning formally completed 18 July 2014
- 5 years of operations in L2
- First intermediate data release summer 2016, but Science Alerts started







Gaia Summary

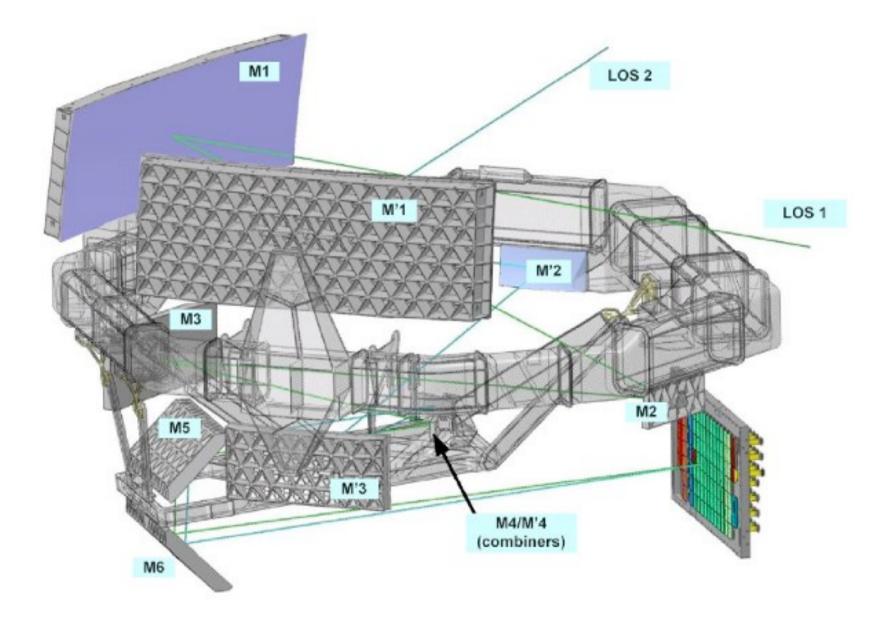
Science topics

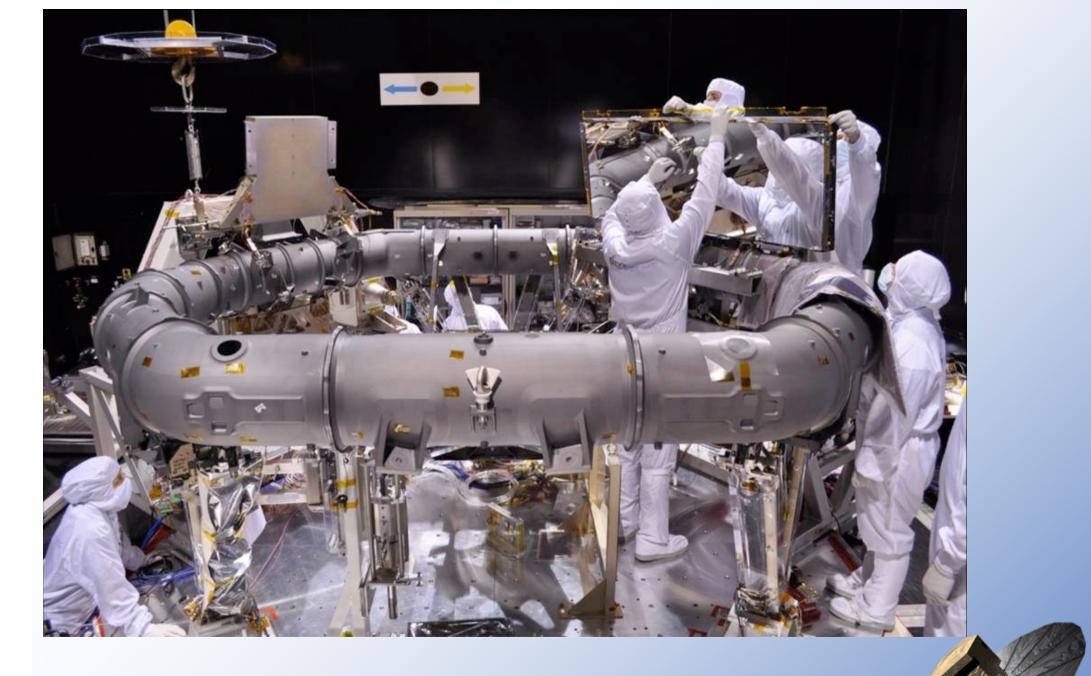
- Structure and dynamics of the Galaxy
- The star formation history of the Galaxy
- Stellar astrophysics
- Binaries and multiple stars
- Brown dwarfs and planetary systems
- Solar system
- Galaxies, Quasars and the Reference Frame
- Fundamental physics: General relativity



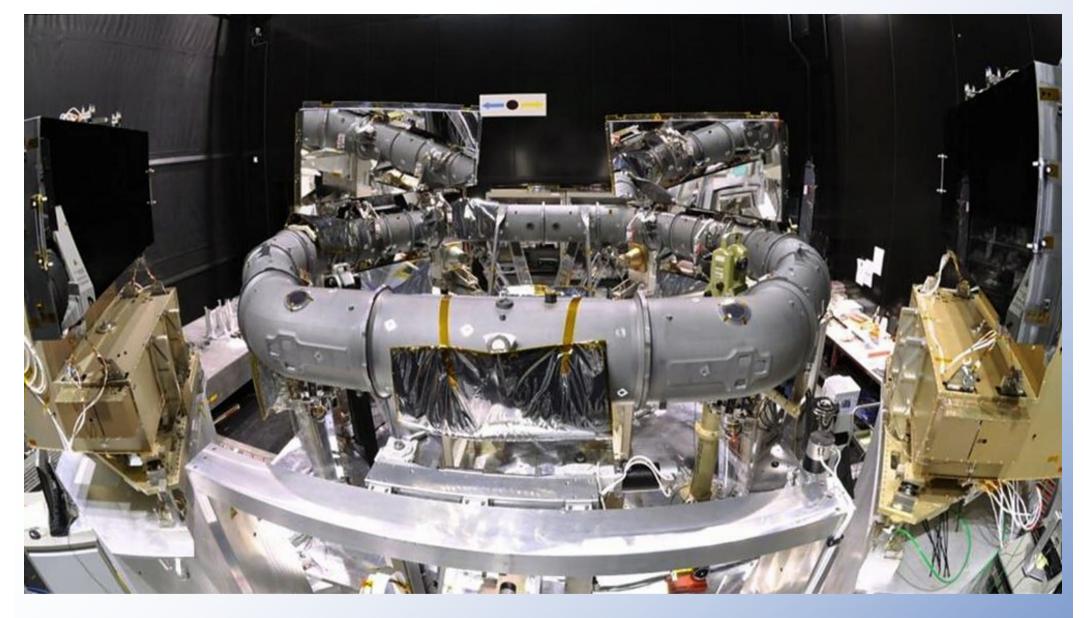


Payload and Telescope







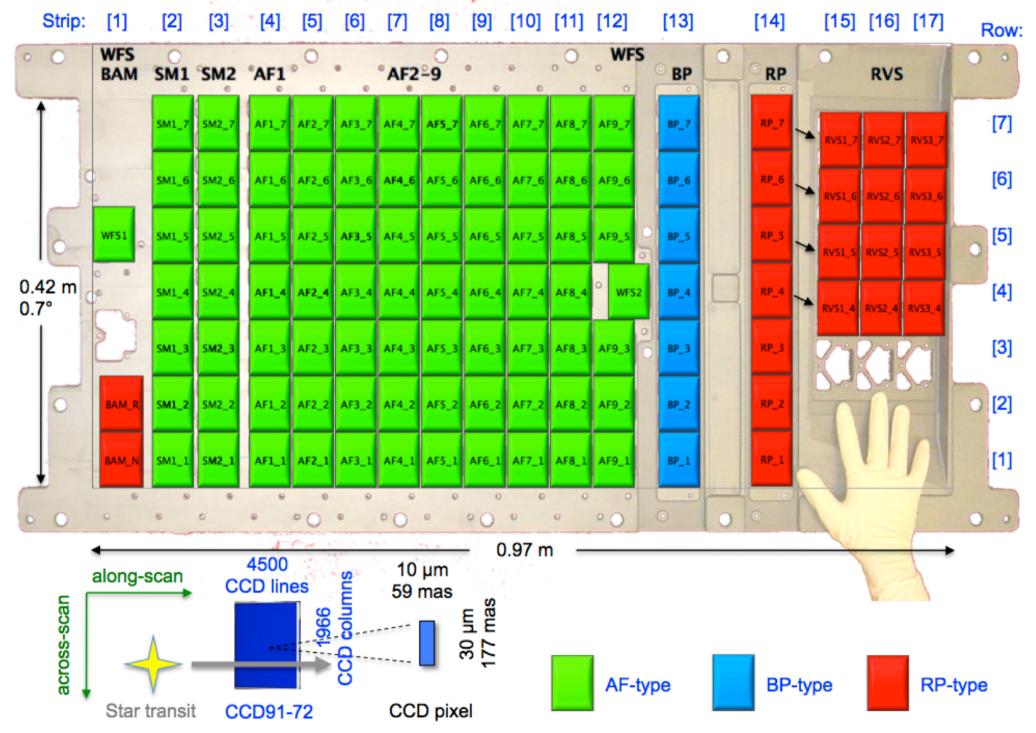


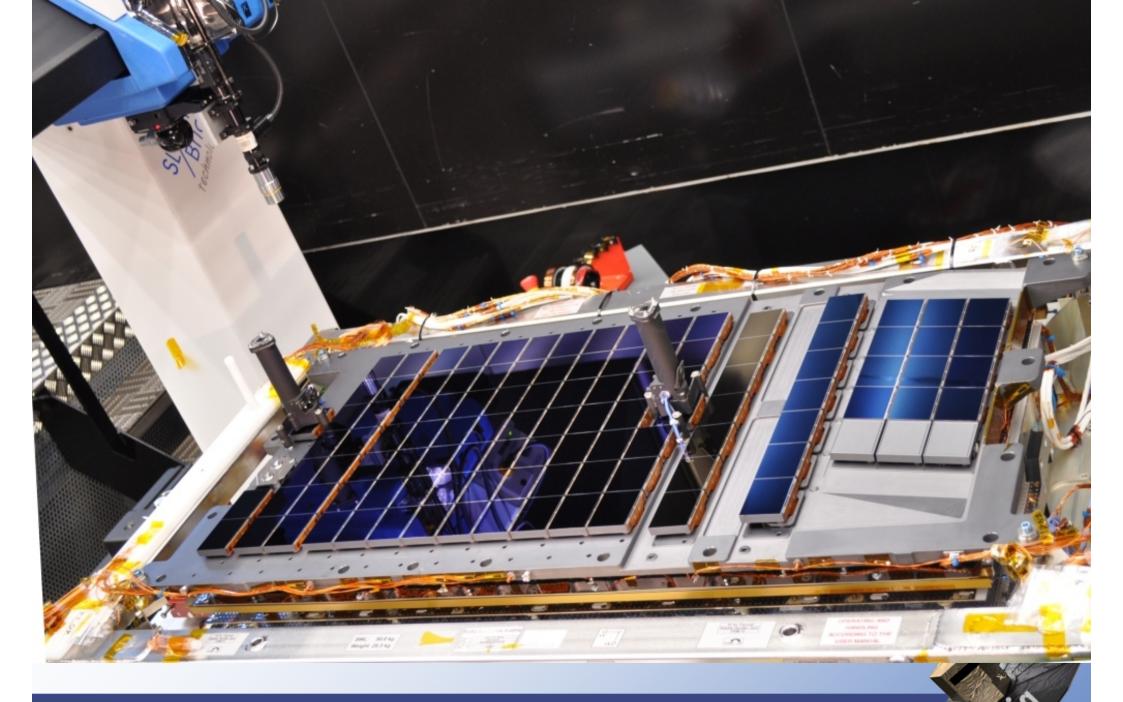




Focal Plane

Figure courtesy Ralf Kohley









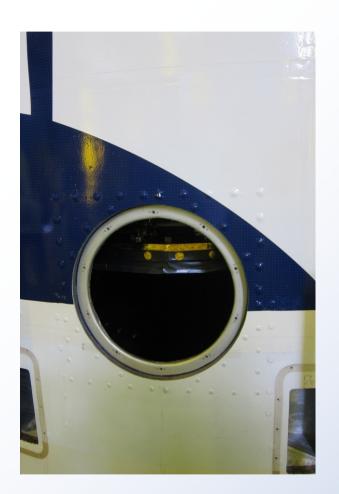
Gaia integration on Fregat







Gaia inside the fairing





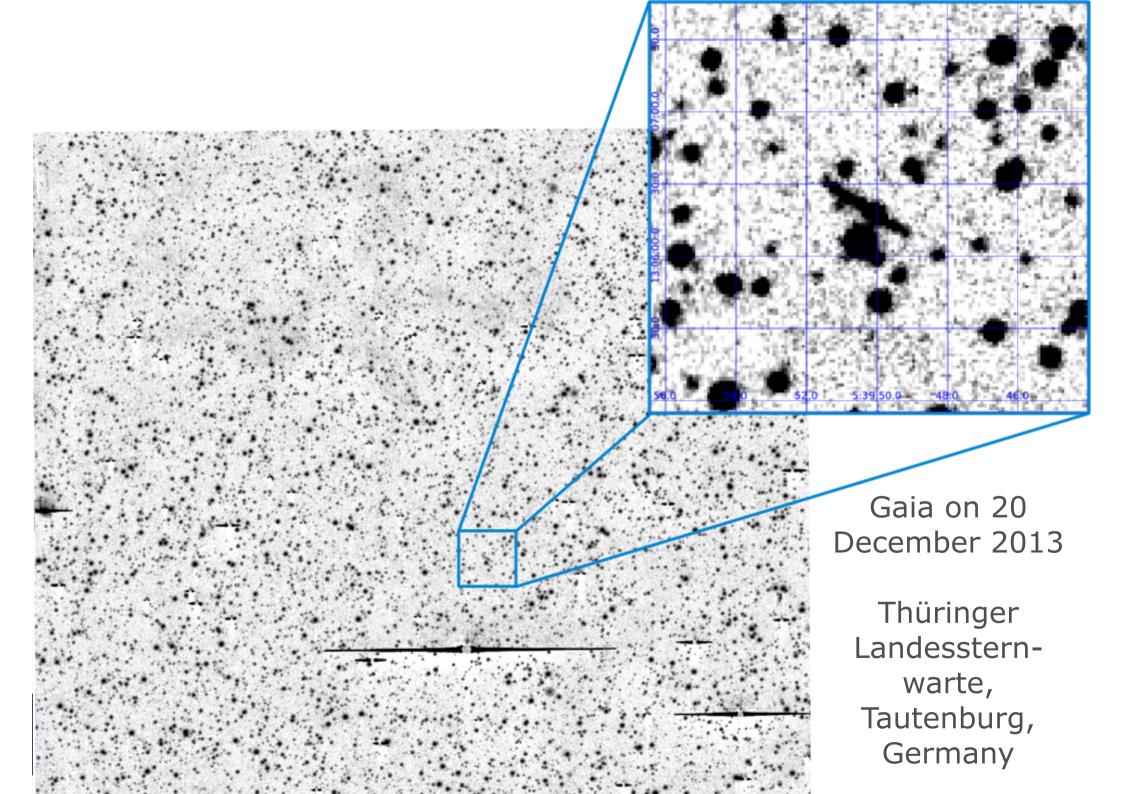




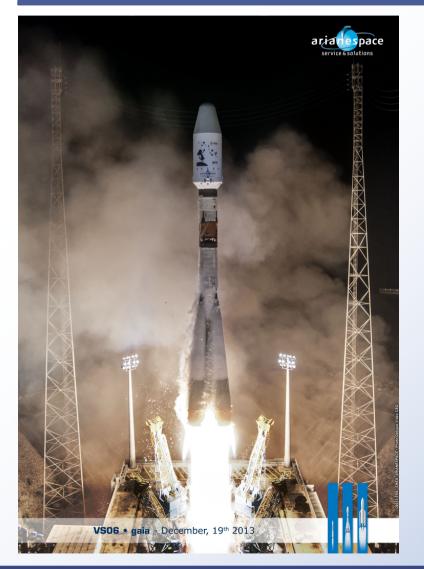








LEOP

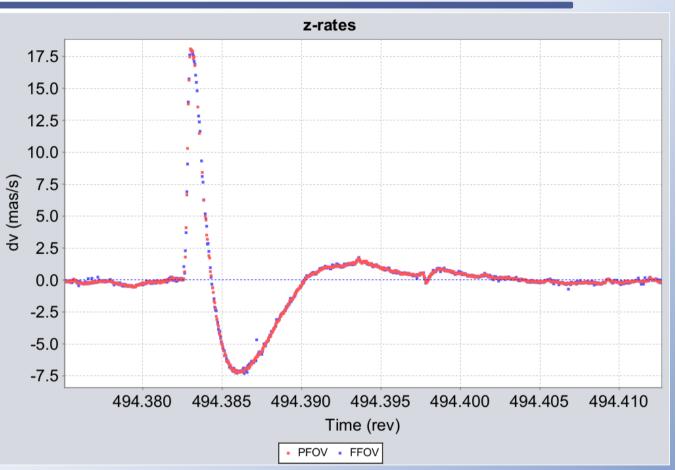


- After launcher separation automatic sequence:
 - transmitter, gyroscopes, Payload module bipod release, CPS priming, thermal control configuration
- Acquisition of Sun pointing attitude
- Sunshield deployment
- Start of Payload decontamination
- Star tracker switch-on and preparation for day-2 manoeuvre
- Day-2 trajectory correction

Commissioning results

- Micro propulsion system working well
- Attitude and Orbit Control System working well
- Phased Array Antenna operating with healthy link budget
- Clock working at required accuracy
- 106 CCDs, electronics, data acquisition and storage all functioning





Micro-meteoroid hit example. Figure by F. van Leeuwen

Moving object "detection"

 Solar system object detection 4997 Ksana (V=18.5 mag)

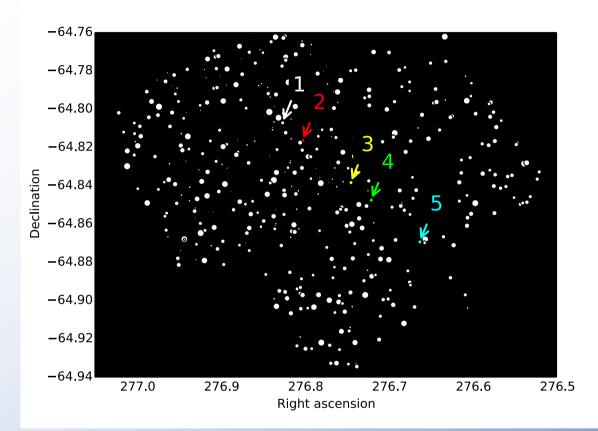
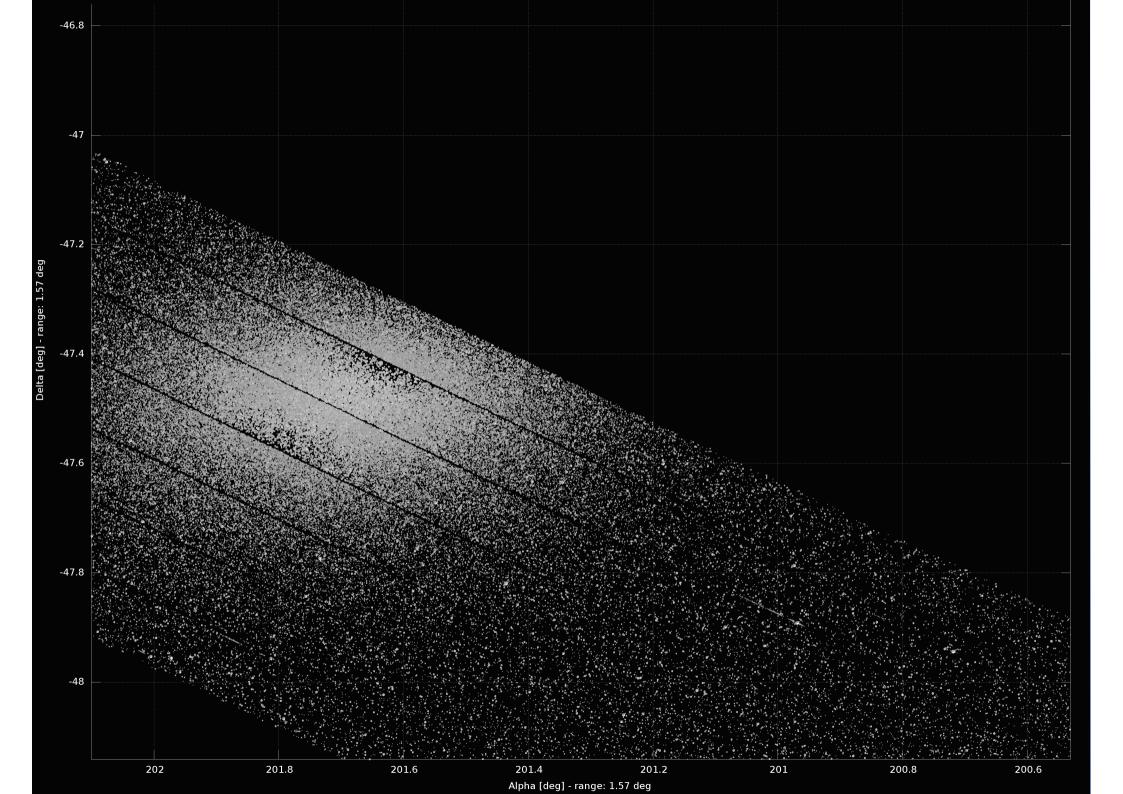


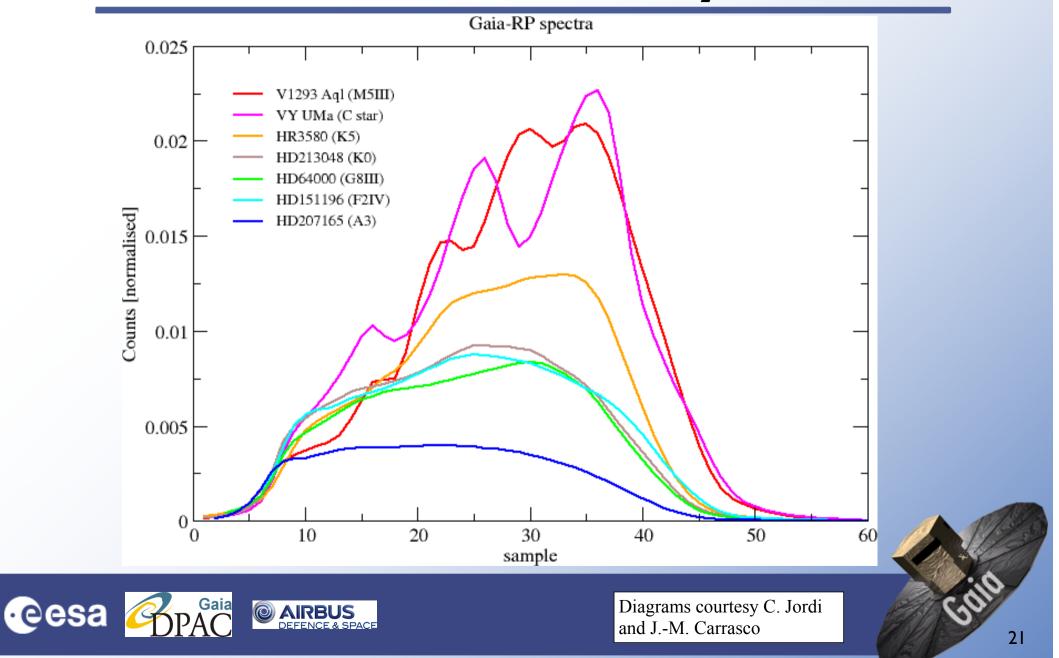
Image courtesy of Paolo Tanga



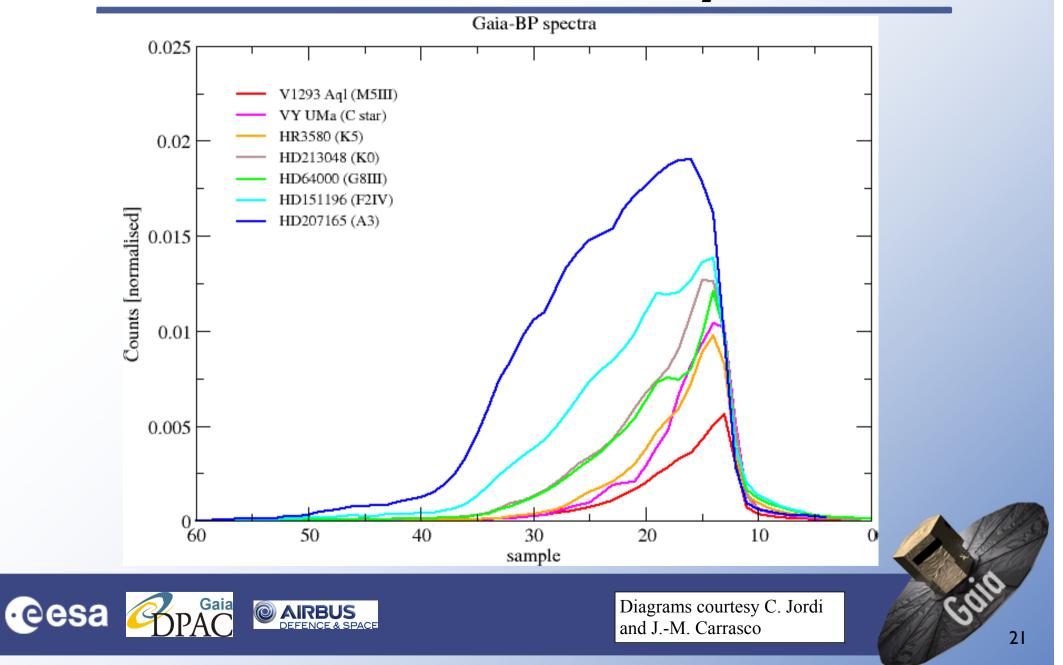


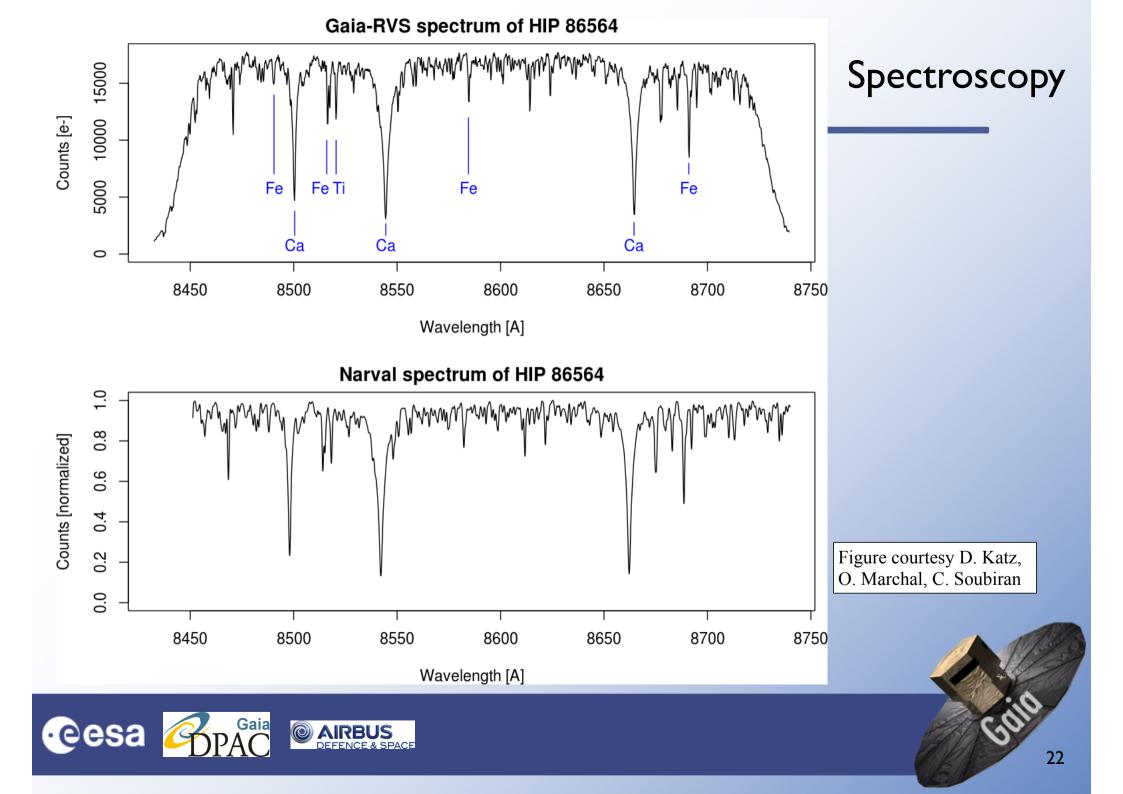


Photometry



Photometry





Unwanted surprises

- Stray light both from astronomical sources and the Sun
 - Sun stray light paths not yet identified
 - Impacts faint sources and especially in spectroscopy
- Transmission loss due to continuing contamination of mirrors by water
 - Water source not yet exhausted with maximum contamination rate about I mmag/day
- Basic Angle variation larger than expected



Next steps

- Stray light
 - Current work on edge effects of the Sun shield
 - On-board s/w modification under development for spectroscopy
- Contamination
 - A new decontamination procedure has been executed involving a short heating of mirrors (executed 22-23 September) => full transmission recovery and now monitoring
 - Re-focus 24 October and now monitoring
- Basic Angle variation larger than expected
 - Analysis of dedicated measurements have verified Basic Angle variation being true
 - Working group established to chase the root cause of the variations



Scientific performance

For unreddened Solar type (G2V) star

| (parallax) | (BP/RP integrated) | Spectroscopy (radial velocity) 1 km/s | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|---|--|--|
| <i>5-14</i> μ as | 4 mmag | | | |
| 25 µas | 5 mmag | 13 km/s | | |
| 540 μas | 60 (RP) – 80 (BP) mmag | | | |
| | 25 µas | 25 μas 5 mmag | | |

Calculations by: Airbus DS, D. Katz, C. Jordi, L. Lindegren, J. de Bruijne



Scientific performance

For unreddened Solar type (G2V) star

- Single epoch precisions for BP integrated photometry
 - 0.01 mag reached at G=15.0 mag
 - 0.1 mag reached at G=17.8 mag
- Single epoch precisions for RP integrated photometry
 - 0.01 mag reached at G=16.0 mag
 - 0.1 mag reached at G=18.8 mag

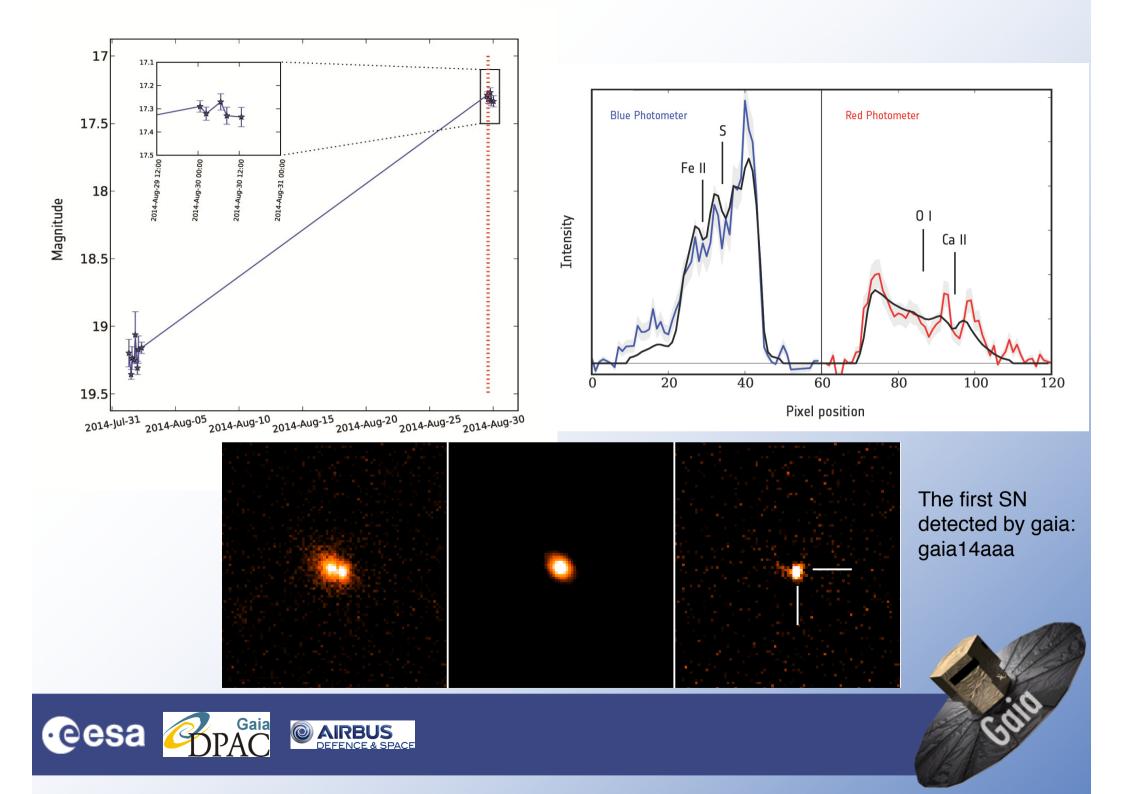
Calculations by: Airbus DS, D. Katz, C. Jordi, L. Lindegren, J. de Bruijne



Time Line

- Routine phase started with 28 days of Ecliptic Pole Scanning
- Now operating in optimised Nominal Scanning Law
- Activities to be finished:
 - Magnitude limits for astrometry and photometry
 - Currently -∞ 2 3 6 20 21 mag
 - Magnitude limit for spectroscopy
 - Currently 2-3 16.2 mag
 - Decontamination as needed followed with focus check
 - Completion of BA and stray light WG tasks and possible follow-up
 - Sort out ground station time for larger amounts of telemetry
- Consolidate intermediate release schedule for summer 2016 and early 2017





Alerts

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- Agreed approach for photometric alerts
 - Make science alert public to the whole world even in validation phase (with appropriate caveats)
 - Caveat I: validation phase thus many false alarms may be triggered
 - Ensure partner observatories conducting follow-up
 - Caveat 2: well prepared affiliated units will do follow-up work
- SSO FUN approach?

| | | | | gaia.ac.uk | | | | | Ċ | |
|----------|------------------|---|----------------|------------|------------|-----|-----|-----|--------|-------------|
| | | Gaia DPAC Wiki RSS | SD MyPortal ov | nCloud MAS | Flexi Time | IAU | EAS | ADS | SIMBAD | Astrome |
| Gaia > 0 | Gaia Science Ho | omepage | | Gaia-F | UN-SSO-3 | | | | Photo | metric Scie |
| Column | Name | Description | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Name | GaiaYYnnn | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | UTC timestamp | The time of the triggering datapoint (not the date we notice it). | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | RA | Right Ascension (ICRS, decimal degrees, note the comment on systematics above). | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | Dec | Declination (ICRS, decimal degrees). | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | AlertMag | Alert magnitude. | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | HistMag | Historic magnitude. | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | HistStdDev | Historic standard deviation. | | | | | | | | |
| 8 | Class | To begin with, we will classify everything as 'unknown'. As we learn more, this will start as a manual best-guess classification and should be treated with suspicion (until we begin running classification software.) | | | | | | | | |
| 9 | Comment | Time permitting we may add contextual information here. | | | | | | | | |

The table can by sorted by Name, UTC timestamp, RA, Dec and AlertMag - click column heading to sort.

| Name 🚽 | UTC timestamp | RA | Dec | AlertMag | HistMag | HistStdDev | Class | Comment |
|-----------|----------------------------|-----------|----------|----------|---------|------------|---------|--|
| Gaia14adg | 2014-11- 06 16:55:39 | 177.63660 | -2.10474 | 18.94 | 19.50 | 0.04 | unknown | On top of SDSS starformi galaxy z=0.156 |
| Gaia14adf | 2014-11- 11 16:37:00 | 182.37337 | 20.10370 | 18.08 | 18.76 | 0.04 | unknown | Starforming galaxy in SDS z=0.06. Transient could b ~0.8 arcsecs away from nucleus. |
| Gaia14ade | 2014-11- 11 08:25:59 | 357.71672 | 28.98319 | 17.78 | 19.30 | 0.13 | unknown | very blue star: CV? |
| Gaia14add | 2014-11- 11 04:44:38 | 182.15532 | 11.99387 | 17.70 | 18.71 | 0.04 | unknown | QSO at z=0.36. Brightenin of 1 mag |
| Gaia14adc | 2014-11- 06 02:55:24 | 316.06927 | 51.32732 | 15.92 | 18.10 | 0.06 | unknown | Very red spectrum, possi Mira |
| | 2014-10- | | | | | | | Near SDSS galaxy SDSS |





Columns

