



## Anomaly and Interference Detection for Space Radios and Iris

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#### **Overview**

- Recent updates to the Iris Deep Space Transponder
- NASA STD-1006
- Iris I/Q recording capability
- Anomaly and interference detection method & evaluation



## The Iris Transponder

- Iris is a CubeSat/SmallSat compatible transponder developed by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA's) Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) as a low volume and mass, lower power and cost, software/ firmware defined telecommunications subsystem for deep space. Iris is manufactured and fabricated by Space Dynamics Laboratory.
- Iris is a deep-space transponder targeted for NPR 7120.8 technology demonstrations and Class-D space flight projects, utilizing COTS-grade components.
- Iris' features include ~0.5 U volume, 0.86 kg mass, 35 W DC power consumption when fully transponding at 3.8 W radio frequency output (12.6 W DC input for receive only), and interoperability with NASA's Deep Space Network (DSN) at X-Band frequencies (7.2 GHz uplink, 8.4 GHz downlink) for command, telemetry, and navigation.
- Iris V2.1 is designed with an environmentally robust architecture including radiation tolerant parts needed for deep space missions with durations of a few years and thermal management needed for navigation tracking sessions of several hours.



- MarCO (May 2018)
- LICIACube (November 2021)
- Artemis-1 (June 2022)
  - Bio Sentinel
  - CuSP
  - NEAScout
  - Lunar ICECube
  - LunaH-Map
  - ArgoMoon
- CAPSTONE (May 2022)
- Lunar Flashlight (NET 2022)
- Janus (August 2022)
- D2S2 (NET 2022)
- Lunar Trailblazer (NET 2023)
- ispace lunar lander (2024)
- Solar Cruiser (2025)
- LEMS

#### **Recent Updates to Iris**

- One-way ranging capability with Chip Scale Atomic Clock (CSAC)
- Carrier acquisition improvements
  - FFT-based carrier acquisition
    - Acquisition of carriers > 150KHz away from best lock frequency
  - Multi-stage carrier acquisition
    - · Large carrier tracking loop BW followed by narrow carrier tracking loop BW
  - Carrier can be acquired in < 1 second generally</li>
    - Extremely useful during testing due to not requiring DSN and GSE to perform sweep
- CCSDS SDLS authenticated uplink encryption
  - AES256 Decryption capability
- SpaceWire C&DH interface implementation
- LDPC Coding on Downlink (1/2, 2/3, 4/5, 7/8)
- Pulse Shaping for meeting NTIA and SFCG Spectrum Masks
  - GMSK coming soon.
- Many improvements to the demodulation chain
  - Implementation loss down to ~0.5dB.





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# NASA STD-1006 "Space System Protection Standard"

- All projects established after February 2019 are required to comply
- Intended to ensure NASA missions are resilient to threats
  - Command link jamming/intrusion
  - GPS jamming/spoofing
  - Cyber exploitation
- Describes 6 Space System Protection Requirements (SSPRs)
  - 1. Command stack encryption
  - 2. Backup command link protection
  - 3. Command link critical project information (CPI) protection
  - 4. Positioning, Navigation, and Timing (PNT) Resilience
  - 5. Interference Reporting
  - 6. Interference Reporting Training

"Missions should incorporate autonomous telemetry monitoring to support operational teams in the detection of unexpected command link energy, unexpected loss of GPS satellite solutions, and other unexplained interference events."

Office of the NASA Chief Engineer SPACE SYSTEM PROTECTION	NASA-STD-1006 w/CHANGE 1: ADMINISTRATIVE/ EDITORIAL CHANGI 2020-11-05 Approved: 2019-10-25
SPACE SYSTEM PROTECTION :	Approved: 2019-10-29
SPACE SYSTEM PROTECTION	STANDARD

https://standards.nasa.gov/standard/oce/ nasa-std-1006-wchange-1

#### Anomaly and interference detection



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## Iris I/Q Recorder

- This task added open-loop I/Q recording capability to the Iris firmware
- Firmware appears to be ready, software component to transfer samples to C&DH is WIP





Recording of 1 MHz ranging signal + carrier.

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## Anomaly and interference detection method

This task evaluated an anomaly detection technique in simulation for three different interferers:

#### Constant tone:

- This can be benign interference (selfinterference from instruments and switching power supplies).
- Perhaps easiest for an adversary to make (constant modulus, etc.).
- Linear chirp:
  - Power supplies change tone patterns as load changes and as they age.
  - Covers wider BW while still being simple to produce
- Band-limited (colored) noise:
  - Less structured, difficult to mitigate, but possibly harder to make (requires back-off from PA of jammer)



#### Anomaly and interference detection method

- Main idea:
  - Training: Learn the covariance matrix of non-anomalous data, R<sub>c</sub>
  - Inference: Whiten the observation with  $R_c$ , compute power of whitened sequence, apply threshold
- Training:
  - Obtain N vectors of non-anomalous data

$$\boldsymbol{x}_{c}^{(n)} = \left[ x_{c}^{(n)}[1], x_{c}^{(n)}[2], \dots, x_{c}^{(n)}[M] \right]^{T}, n \in \{1, \dots, N\}$$

• Compute estimate of the covariance matrix

$$\boldsymbol{R}_{c} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^{N} \boldsymbol{x}_{c}^{(n)} \left( \boldsymbol{x}_{c}^{(n)} \right)^{*}$$

- Inference:
  - Compute power of whitened observation:

$$p_w = \left\| \boldsymbol{R}_c^{-1/2} \boldsymbol{x} \right\|_2^2$$

where  $x = [x[1], x[2], ..., x[M]]^T$  is the vector of recorded I/Q samples

Apply threshold

$$p_w \leq \frac{1}{\gamma}$$
 no anomaly anomaly present

#### **Assessment of Performance:** $P_t/P_i$ ratio



- Performance can be characterized in terms of P<sub>t</sub>/P<sub>i</sub> (ratio of desired signal power to interference power).
- We can assess (it is helpful to make such assessments per interferer waveform):
  - The probability of being able to detect an interferer for various  $P_t/P_i$  ratios (Using ROC curves)
  - The BER/damage to the communication link for various  $P_t/P_i$  values
- No assumptions are made regarding the location/source of the interferer or its actual absolute power level

#### **Assessment of Performance: ROC curves**



#### **Assessment of Performance: AUC**



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interferer

desired signal

#### **Assessment of Performance: SNR Loss**

- Can use theory to predict BER for given SNR  $P_t/N_0$
- Can estimate BER using Monte-Carlo simulation for a given interferer &  $P_t/P_i$
- Define SNR Loss = (theoretical SNR at  $P_t/N_0$ ) – (theoretical SNR for estimated BER)
- Intuition: How much will the interferer hurt our communication system's performance before we can accurately detect it?



#### Example:

- Define AUC = 0.9 as sufficiently accurate detection performance
- At  $\frac{P_t}{N_0} = 60$  dB-Hz, the tone and chirp interferer cause an SNR loss of approx. 1 dB before achieving AUC = 0.9
- The noise interferer causes an SNR loss of approx. 2.5 dB

#### Conclusion

- Overview of recent features added to the Iris transponder
- On-board anomaly and interference detection can aid in NASA STD-1006 SSPR 5 compliance
- Two major goals
  - Incorporation of I/Q recorder into Iris firmware
  - Characterization of training-based anomaly detection method to detect tone, chirp, and noise interferers
- I/Q recorder Firmware is ready for Iris
- Proposed anomaly detection method was simulated
- Detector performance is a function of base SNR  $P_t/N_0$  and signal-tointerference power ratio  $P_t/P_i$



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