

# Autonomous Pose Estimation for In-Orbit Self-Assembly of the Intelligent Self-powered Modules

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Dr. Craig I. Underwood and Dr. Phil L. Palmer

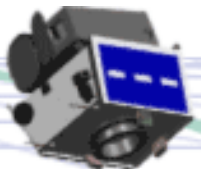
*Surrey Space Centre*

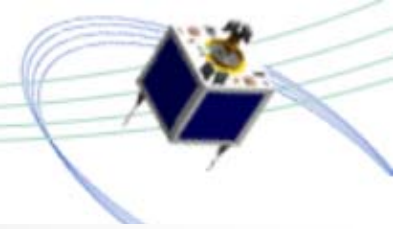
*University of Surrey*

*23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference on Small Satellites*

*Logan, Utah*

*August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009*





## Intelligent Self-powered Modules (ISM)

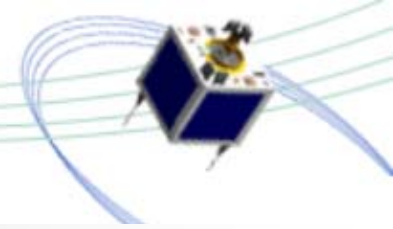
- Motivation
- Applications
- ISM Mission Scenario

## ISM Docking

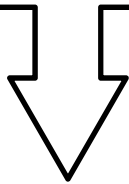
- Electromagnetic Flat Docking System
- Torque/Force Model

## ISM Pose Estimation

- Relative Position
- Relative Attitude
- Results

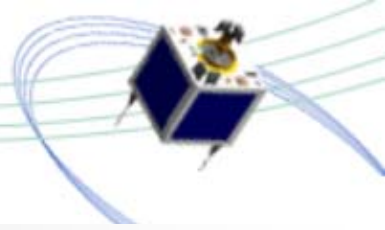


- Small, light and cost- efficient satellites
- Large space structures
- Interchangeability, upgrading and maintenance in orbit

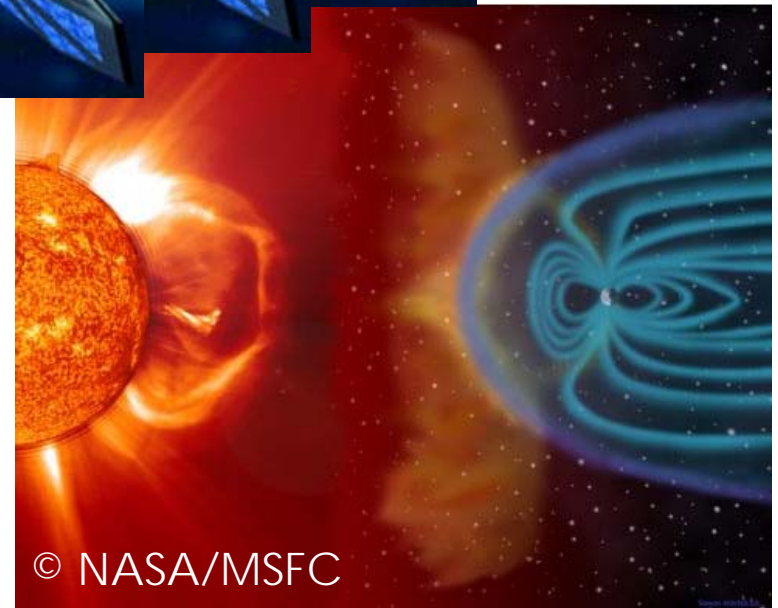
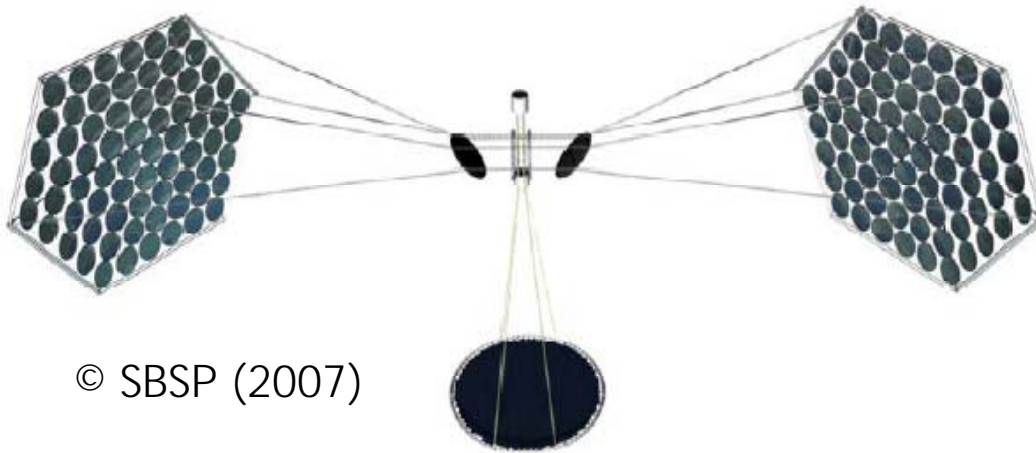


In-orbit assembly  
of modular spacecraft



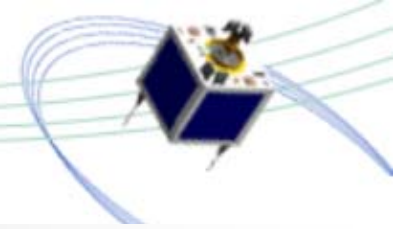


- Multiple Spacecraft Docking Missions:
  - magnetic shielding
  - large telescopic mirrors
  - large solar panels.

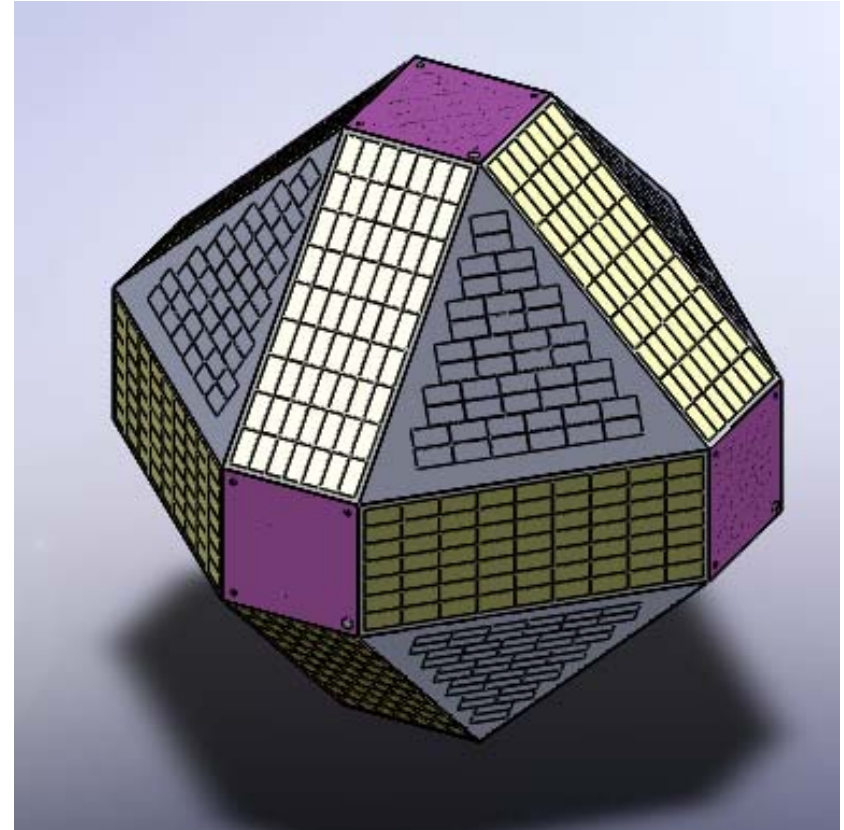


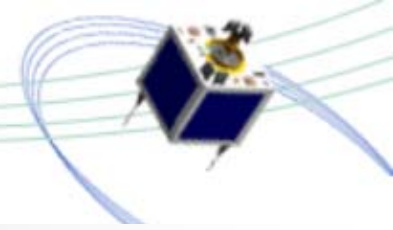


# Intelligent Self-powered Modules (ISM)

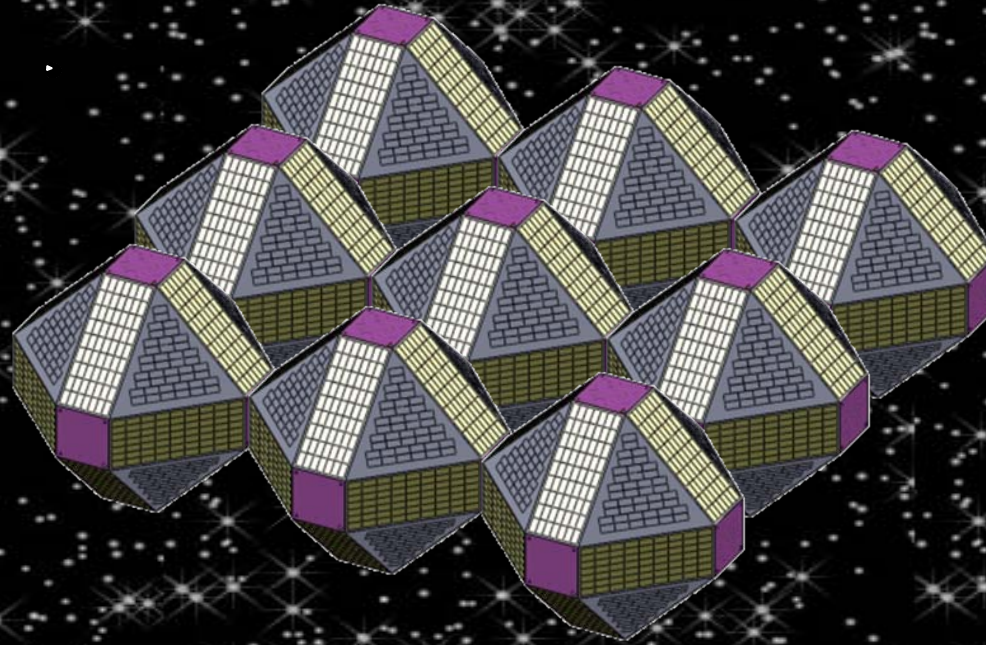


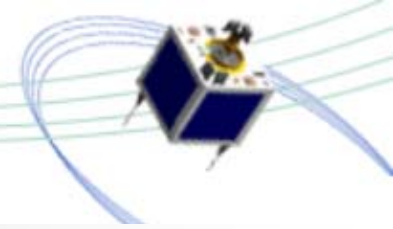
- Cubic Core  
--> Electronics
- Electromagnetic  
Flat Docking System
- Solar cells





- other –satellite
- 





## Intelligent Self-powered Modules (ISM)

- Motivation
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## ISM Docking

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- Torque/Force Model

## ISM Pose Estimation

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## Docking Systems

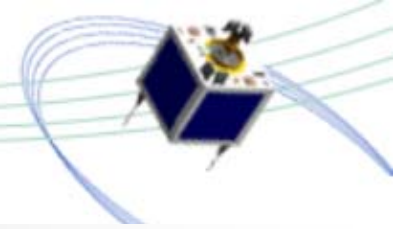
### Cone / Probe

- Requires fine alignment
- Smooth contact
- Plume impingement effects.

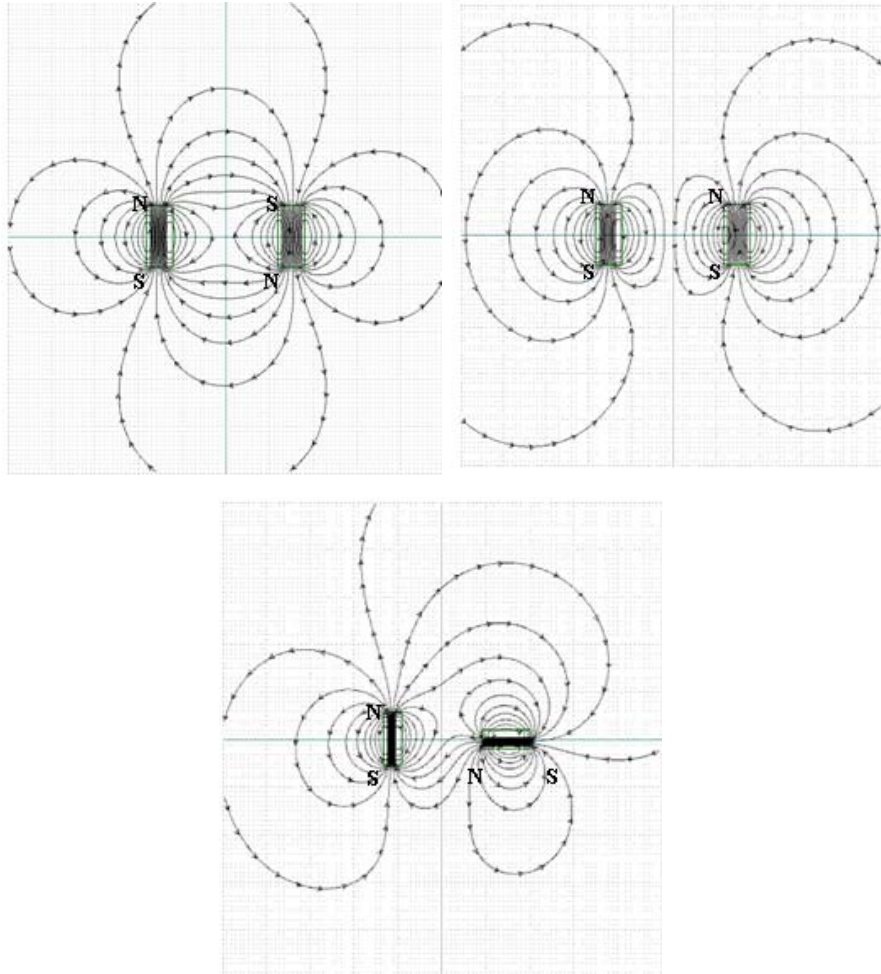
### Propellant-less

- capture using EM forces
- Controlled contact
- No extra propellant
- No plume impingement effects.

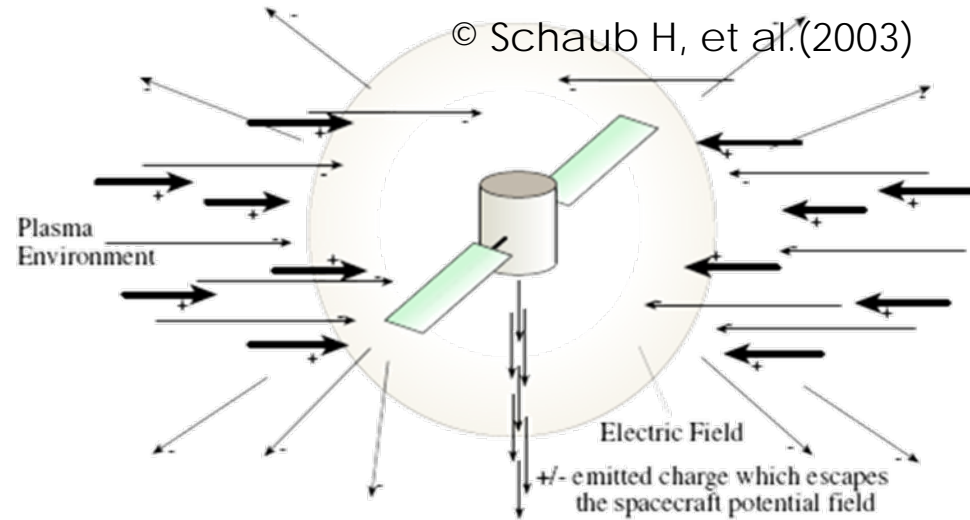




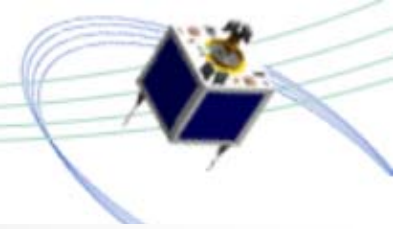
## Electro-magnetic Forces



## Electro-static Forces

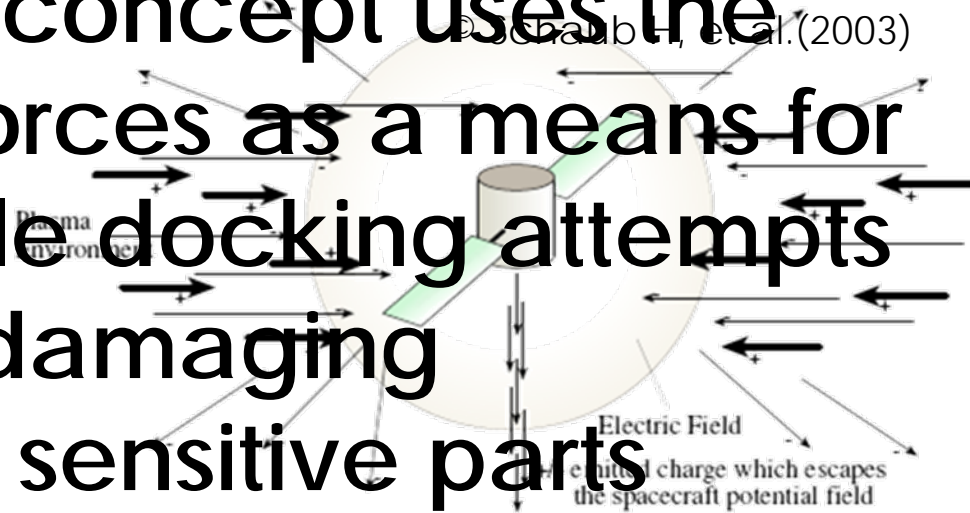
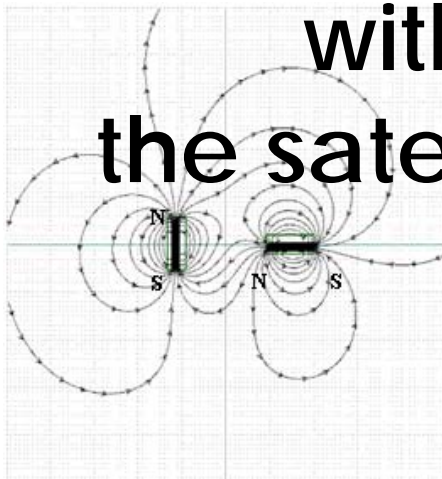
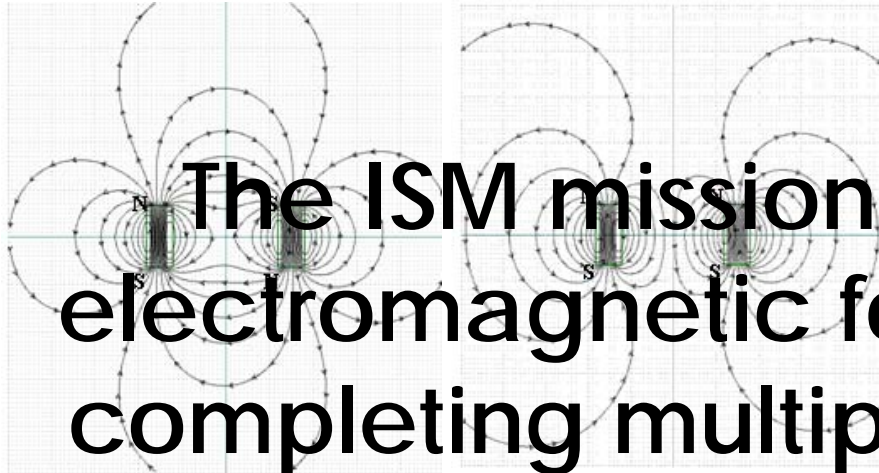


# Propellant-less Docking



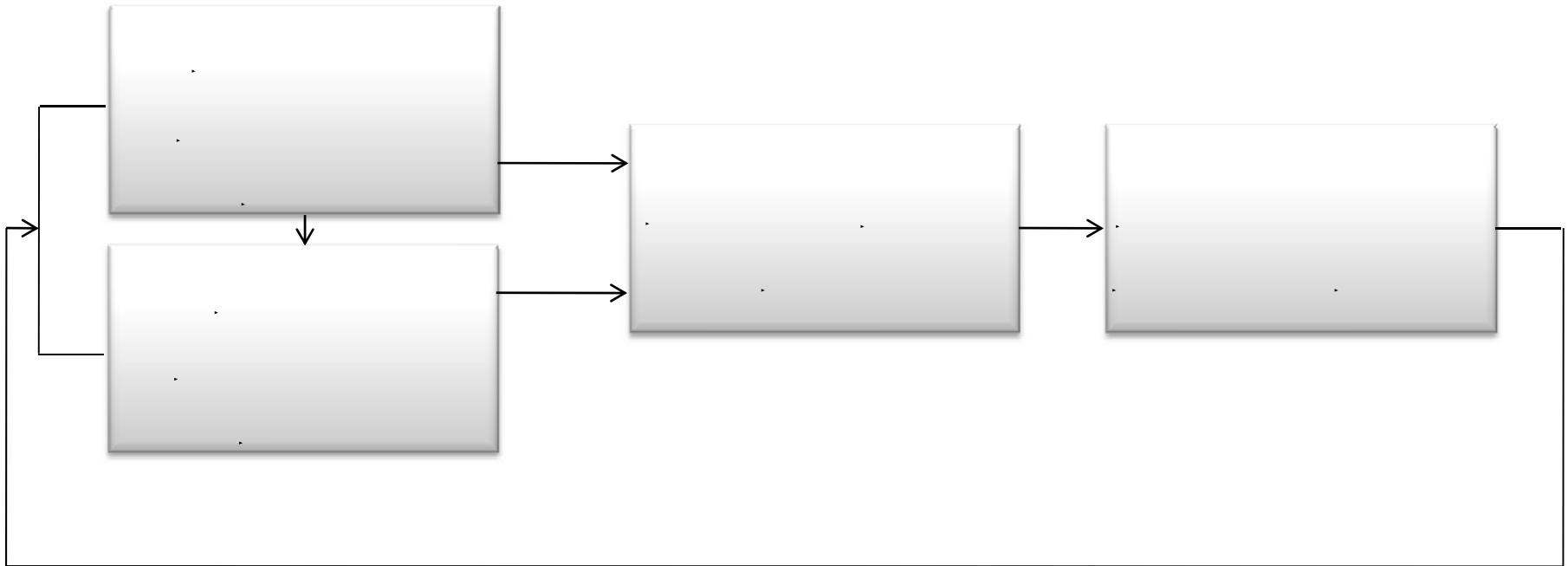
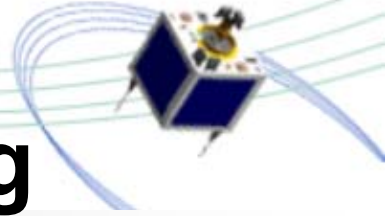
Electro-magnetic Forces

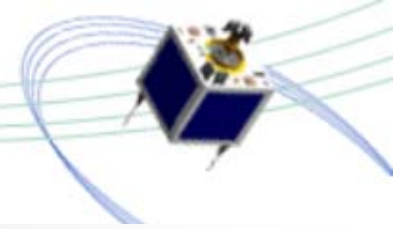
Electro-static Forces



The ISM mission concept uses the electromagnetic forces as a means for completing multiple docking attempts without damaging the satellites' sensitive parts

© Schaub H, et al. (2003)





## Intelligent Self-powered Modules (ISM)

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- Applications
- ISM Mission Scenario

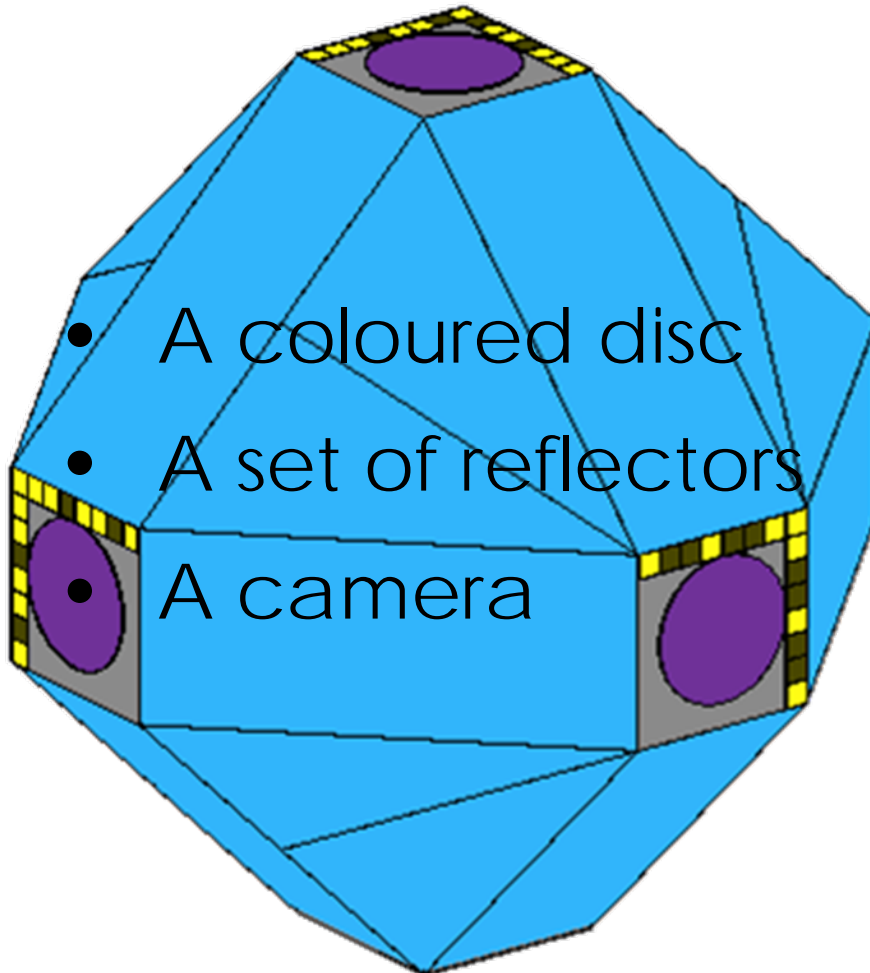
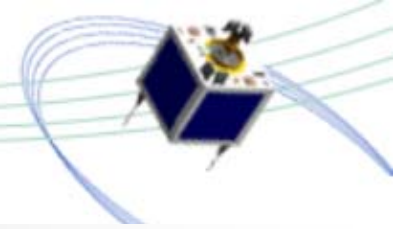
## ISM Docking

- Electromagnetic Flat Docking System
- Torque/Force Model

## ISM Pose Estimation

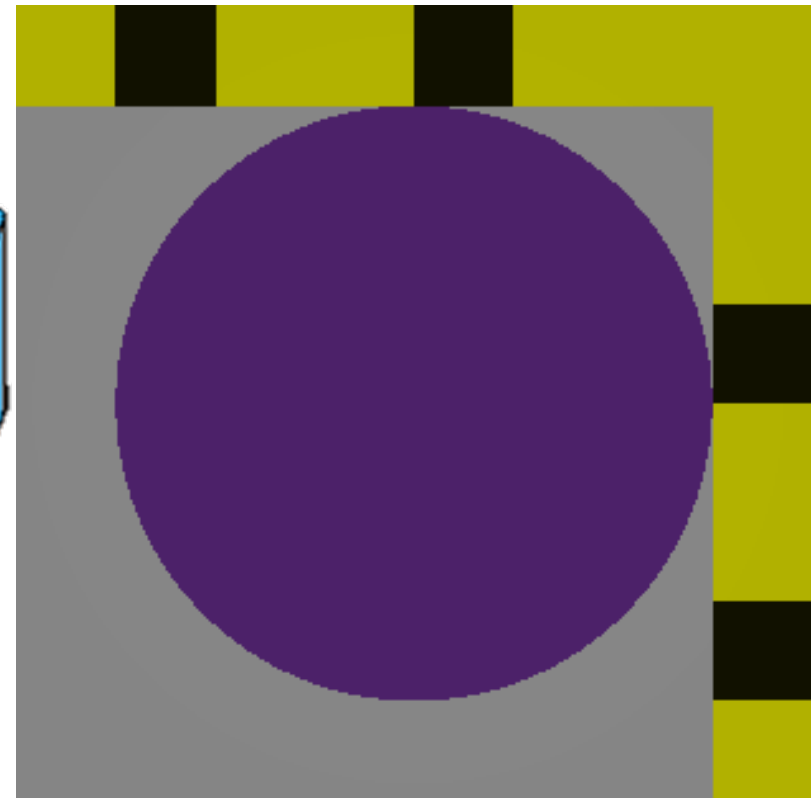
- Relative Position
- Relative Attitude
- Results



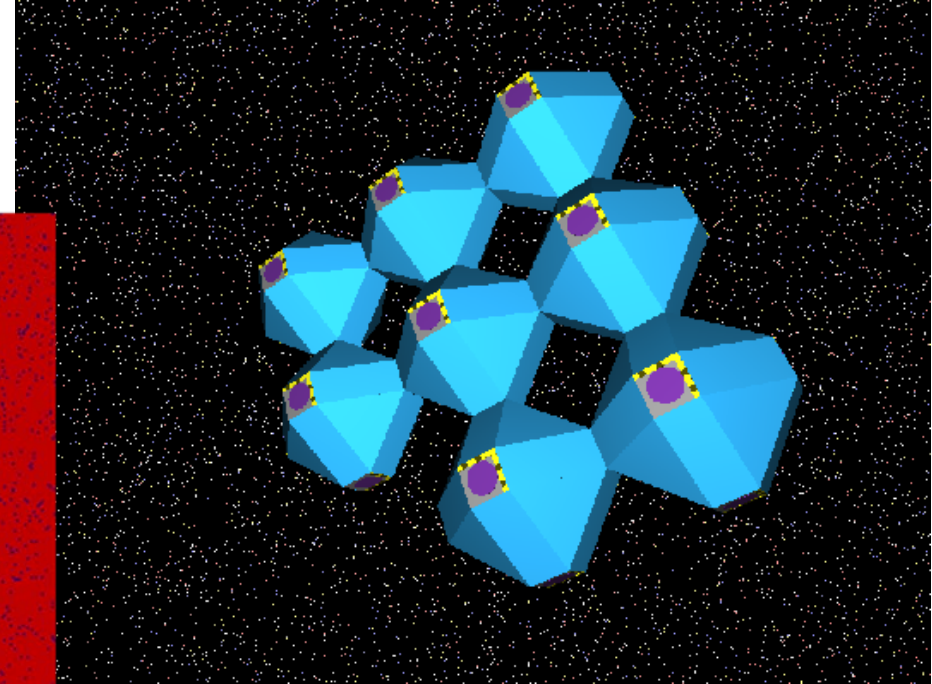
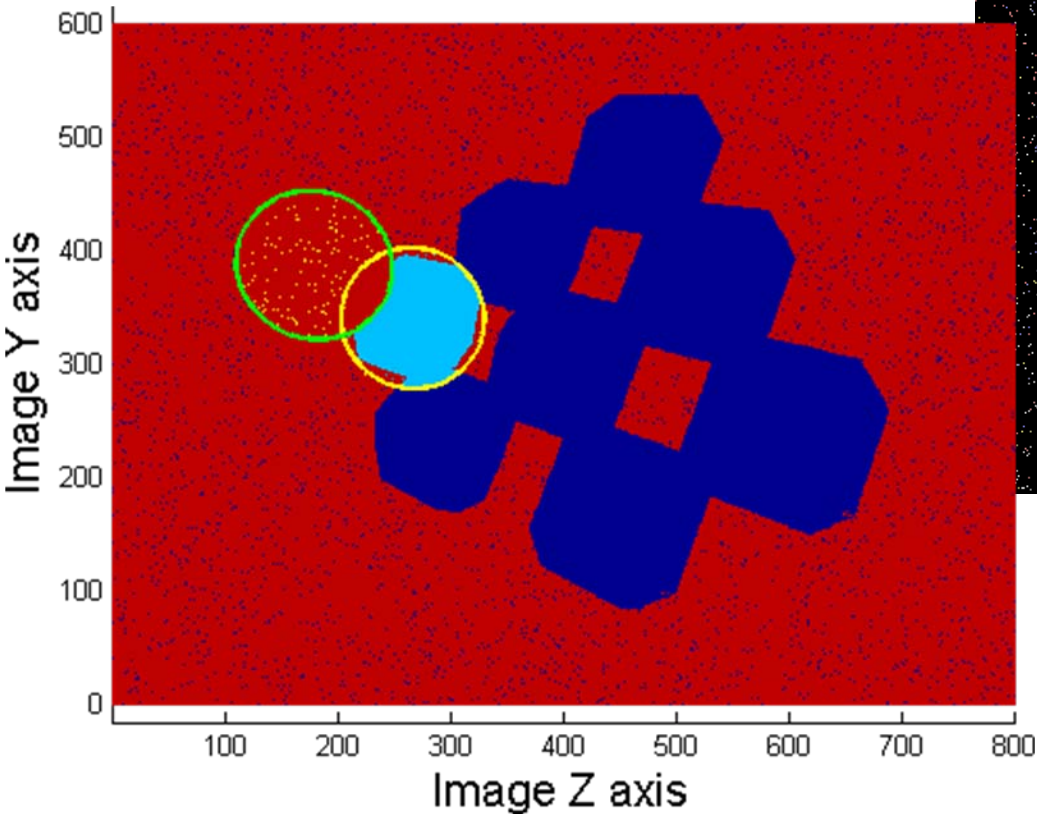
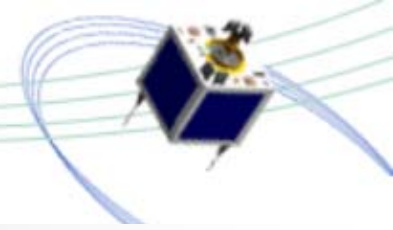


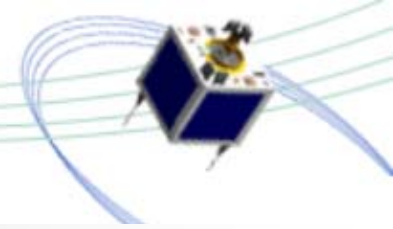
- A coloured disc
- A set of reflectors
- A camera

ISM body structure



ISM axial facet



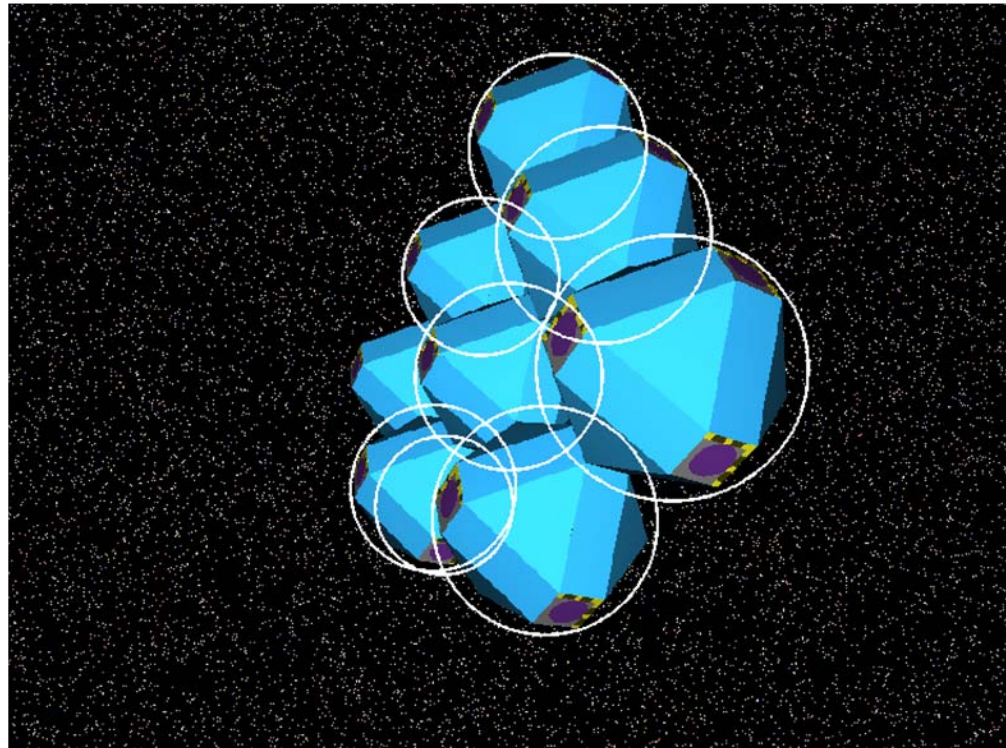


False estimates

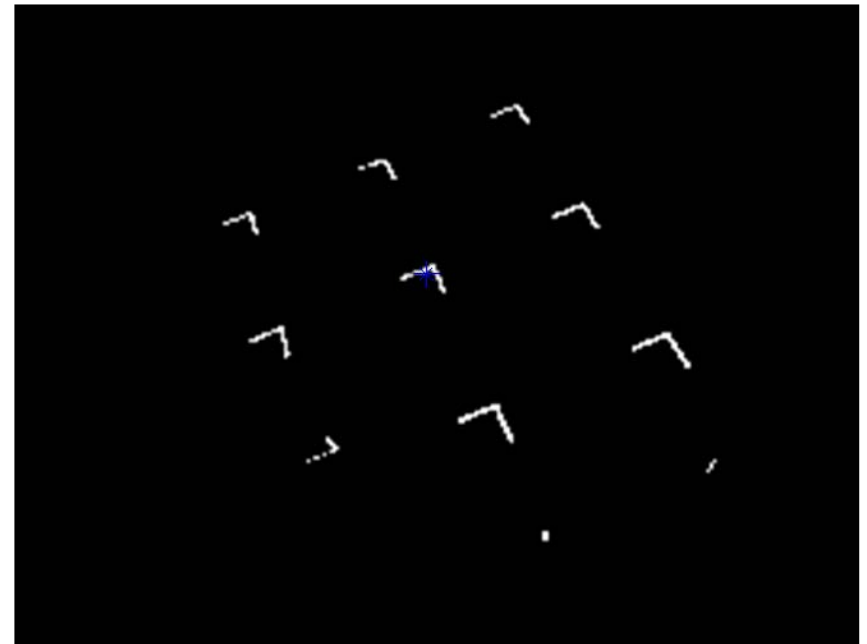
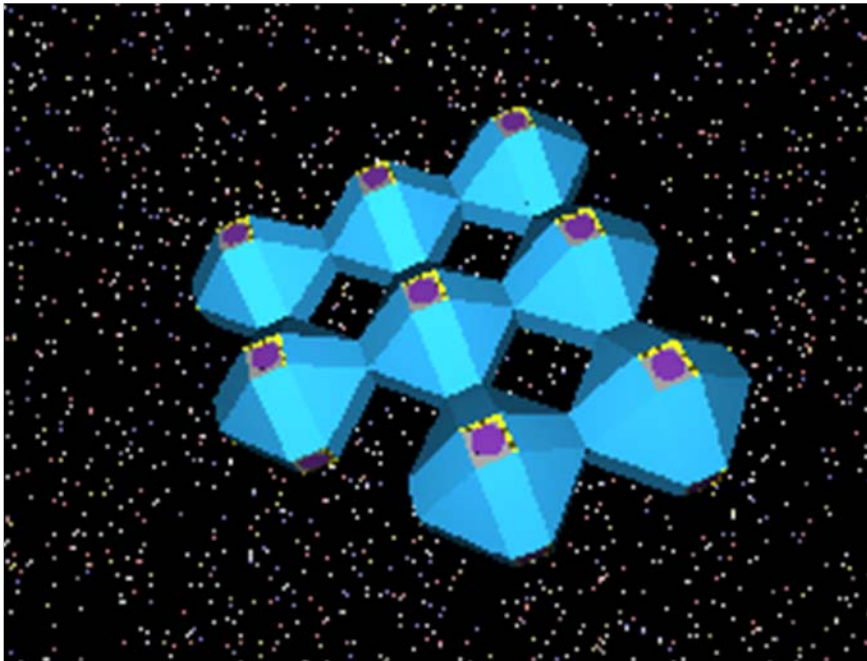
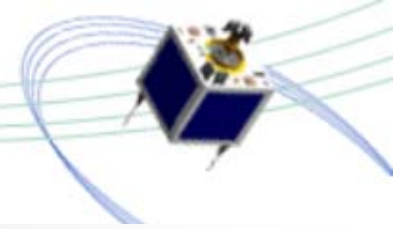
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Partial occlusion



# Relative Attitude

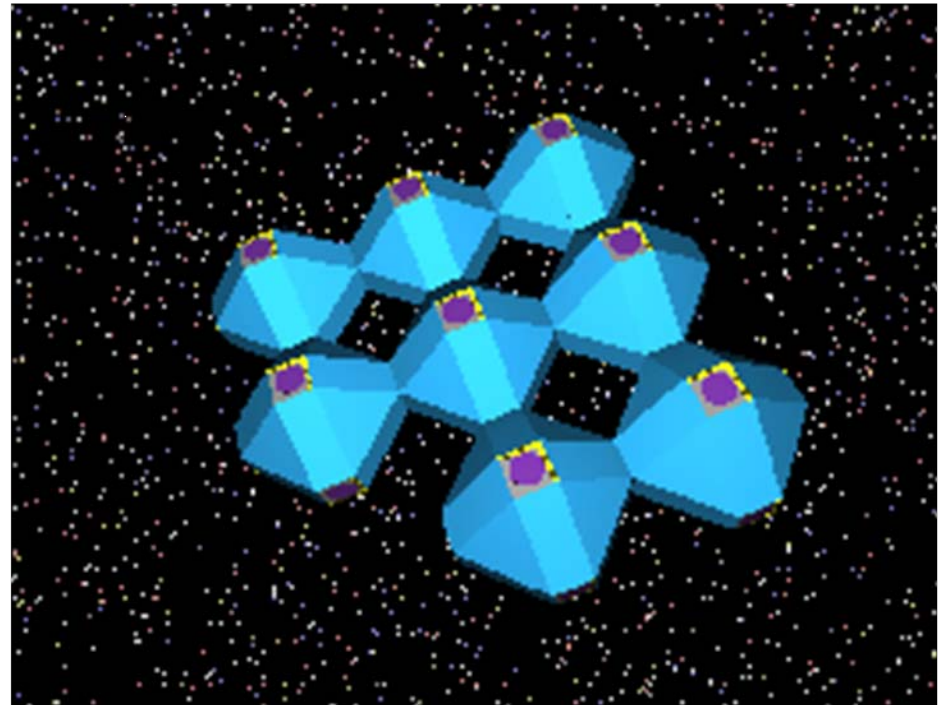


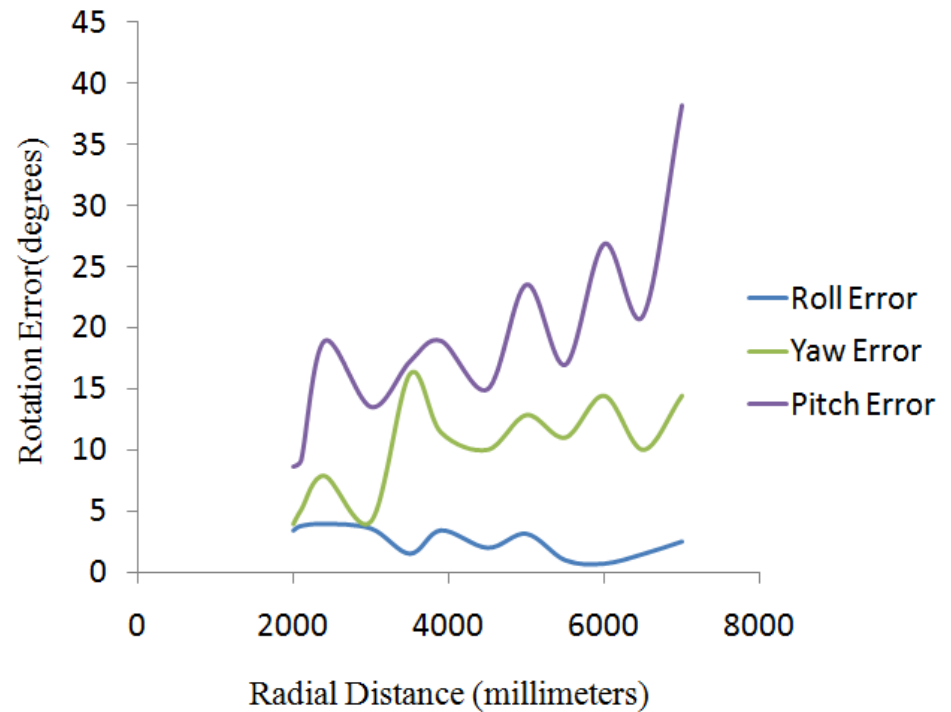
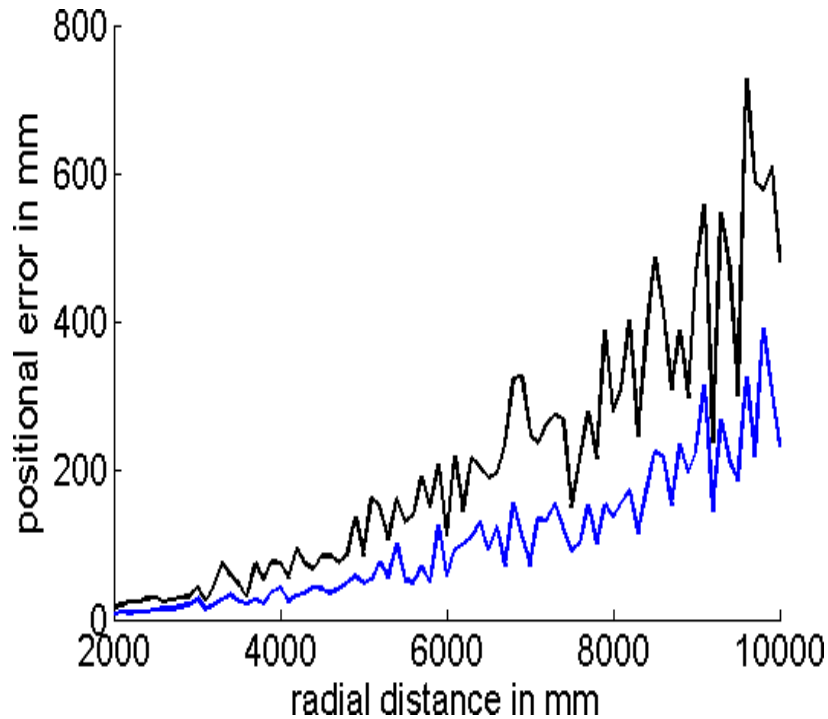
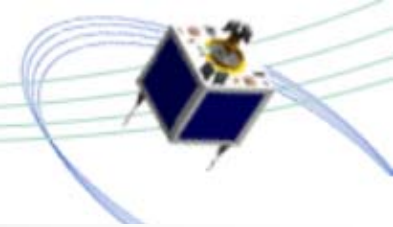


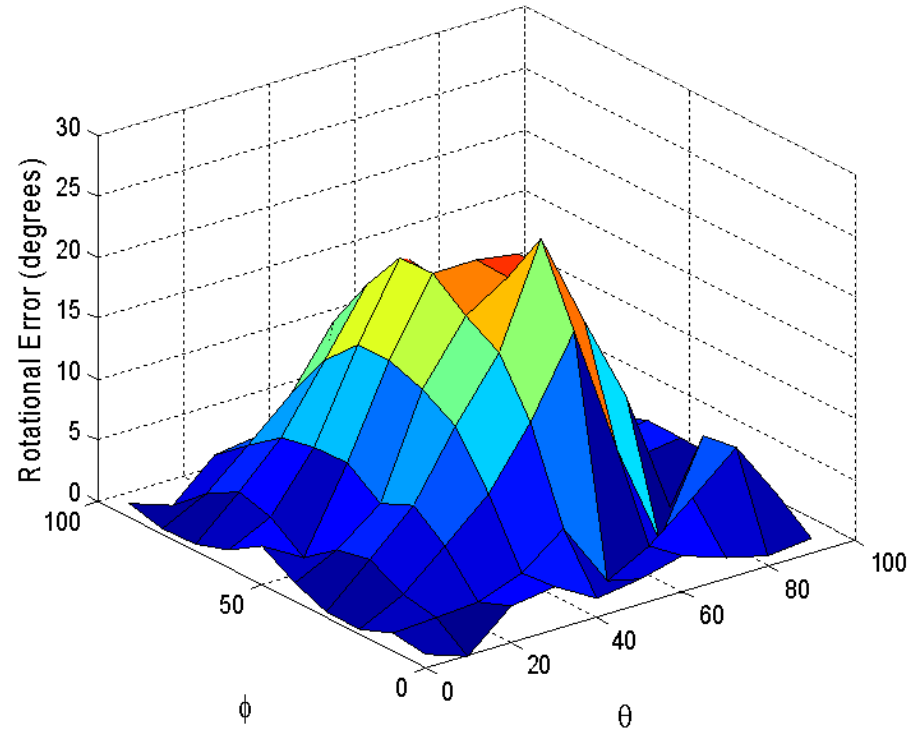
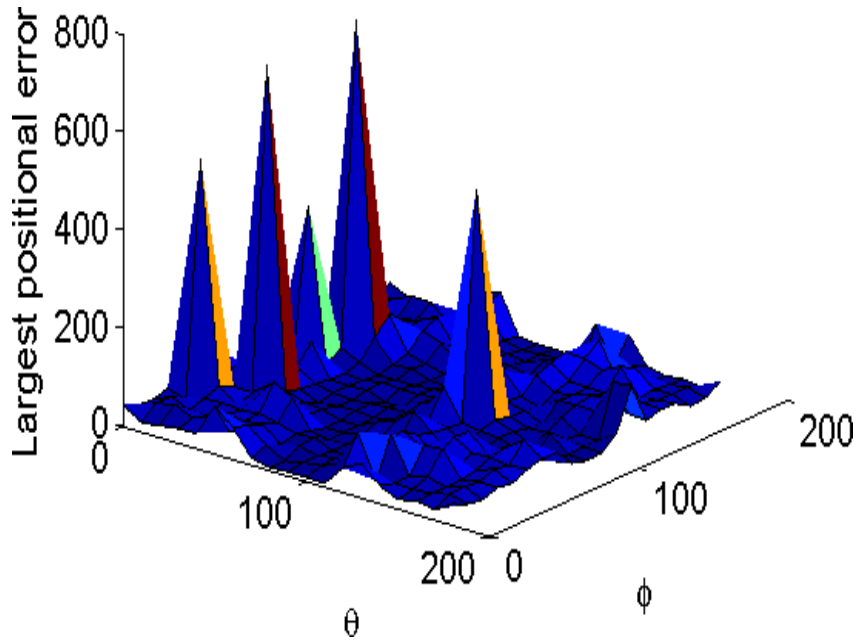
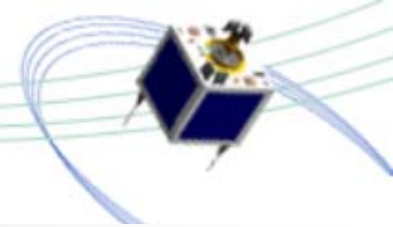
# Facet detection

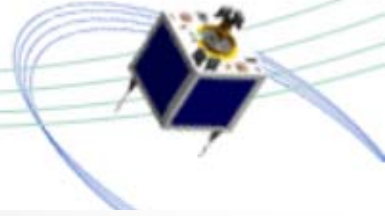


Facet	Facet Code
+X	11111111
-X	11101101
+Y	11011011
-Y	11001001
+Z	10110111
-Z	10100101









- The pose of a neighbouring ISM structure was determined
  - Relative position - - - > passive
  - Relative attitude - - - > active
- Algorithm tested on a 3-by-3 structure
- Accuracy depends on the camera specifications





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THANK YOU!