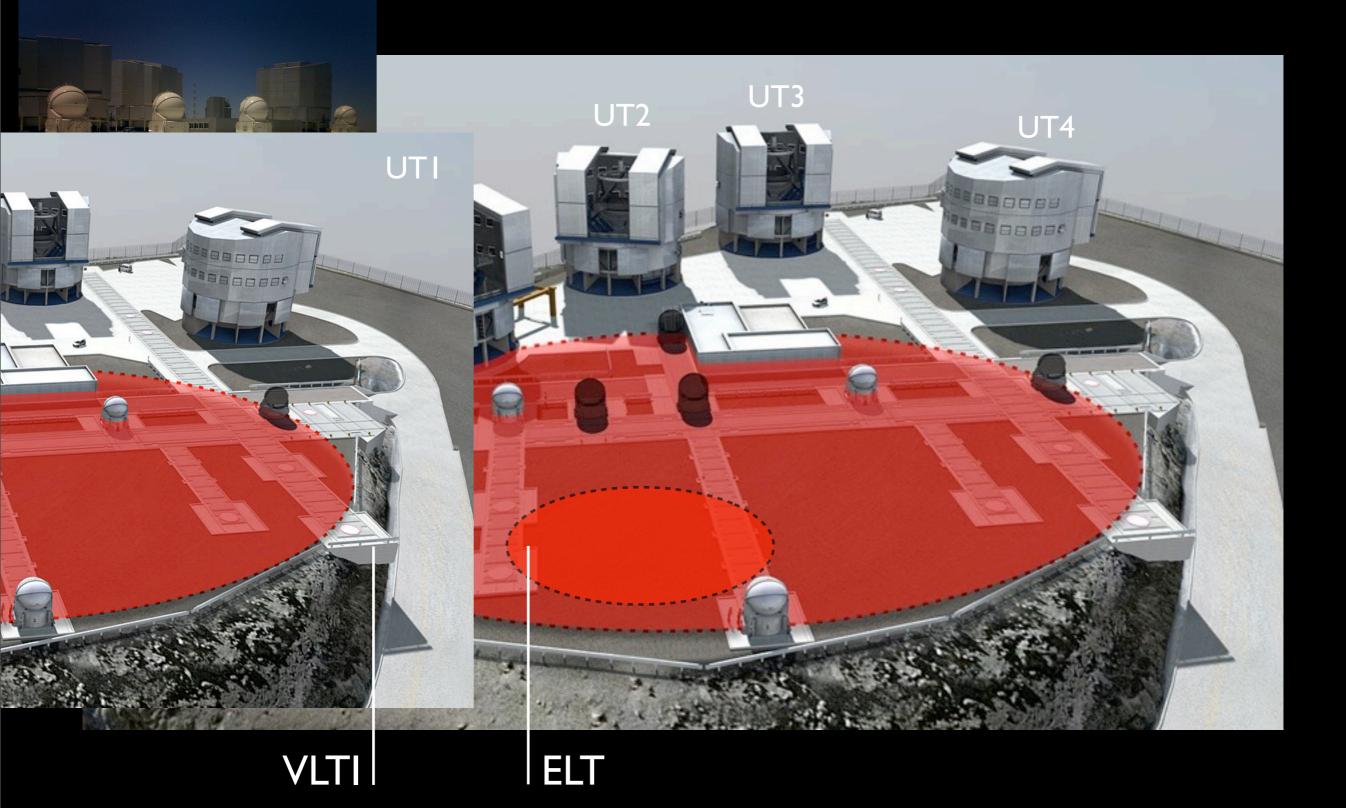


PIONIER

JB Le Bouquin, Lazareff, Berger, Zins, Traub, Millan-Gabet ... for the full PIONIER team



The Very Large Telescope Interferometer

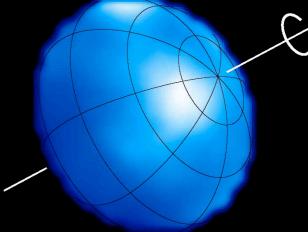


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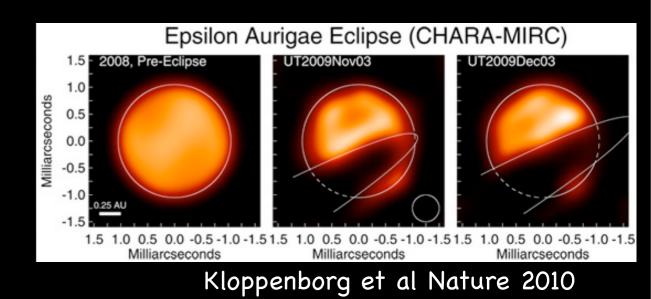
Context in 2009

- Astrophysical topics requesting CHARA Interferometer matastes aspeared reliant a lesis Blacking 2057 ronomy
 - Astrophysical topics requesting only
 Next-generation projects planned for 2014
- Optatedetong Bastern wand MATISS) interferometry is an important
- taplace: interferometry is an important
 - Expertise and interest in imaging
- Cuintenfesensitivity sets Test telesoppes that the she that the permission of the second se physicable physical desult from considerably improving

Imaging through aperture
Room for a fast project
Imaging through aperture The principle opticity operiture synthesis is steel at spring 2009. complex phenomenons



Monnier et al Science 2007



The PIONIER proposition to ESO

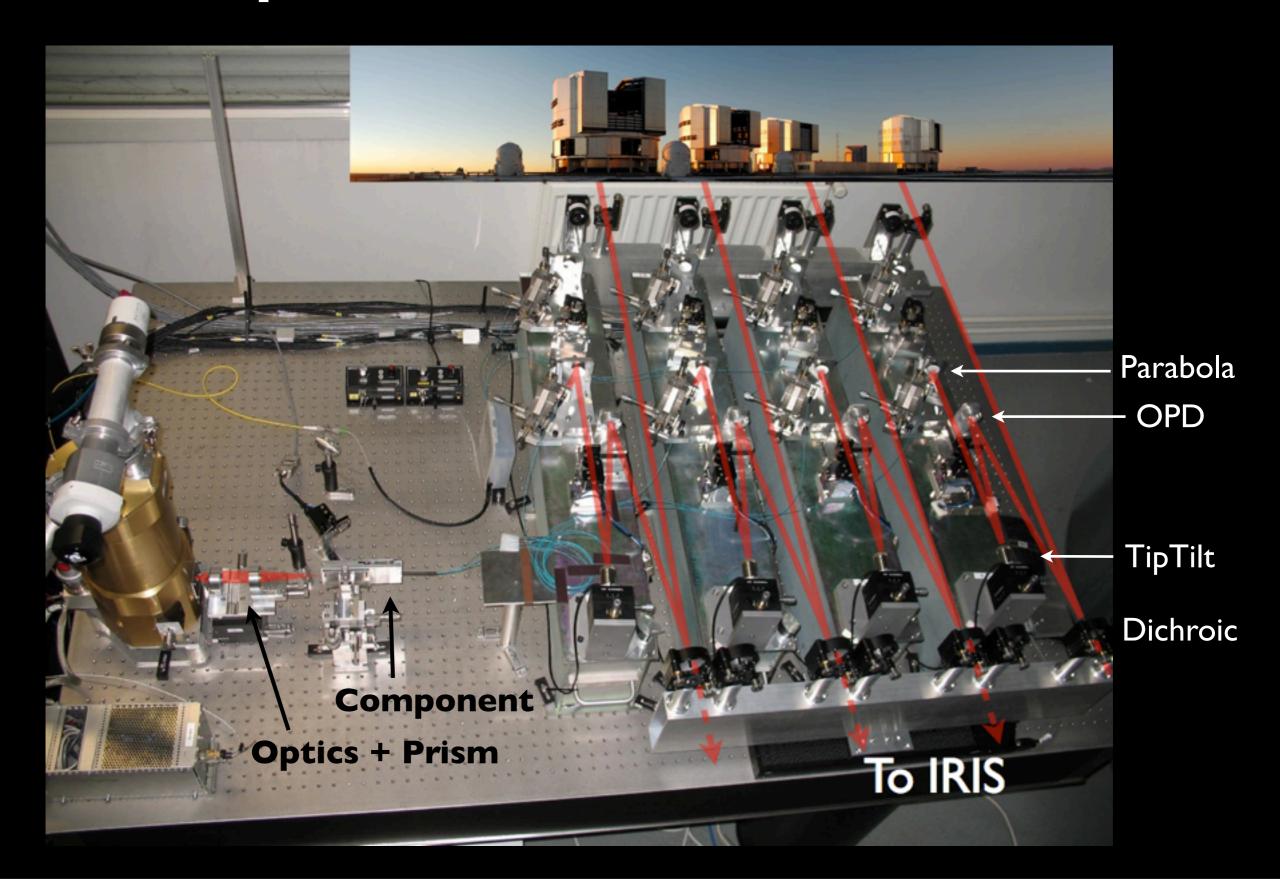
Proposition made in 2009 by the LAOG :

- Build an instrument to combine the light of 4 telescopes of VLTI, using the *visitor-instrument* framework.
- On sky by end of 2010, with only few days of commissioning.
- Exploit this instrument with few weeks per semester over the 2011-2014 periods.

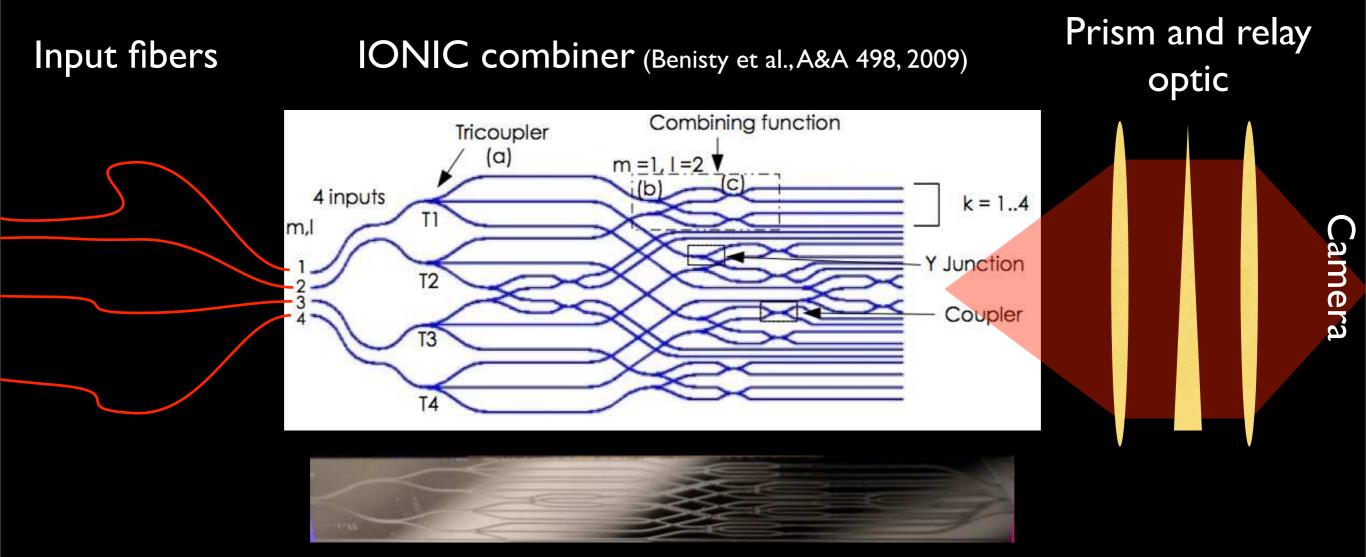
Funding and collaboration

- First: Local funding (UJF), and then national (CNRS, INSU, ANR)
- Camera from W. Traub and R. Millan Gabet (JPL).
- Integrated optics component is direct heritage from 10 years of local research in instrumentation (CNRS, INSU, ANR).

Description of the instrument



The IONIC 4 beam combiner (where the real show takes place)



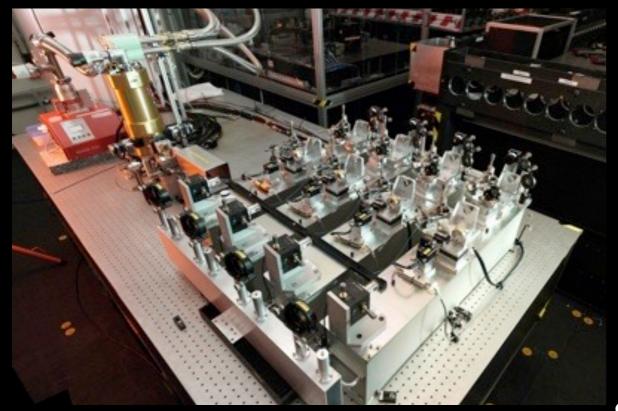
IONIC is a collaboration between LAOG and CEA/LETI. This component is the result of more than 10 years of laboratory research (LAOG and LETI) and sky validations (IOTA, VLTI)... and numerous PhD students !

First lights and first fringes : October 25, 2010

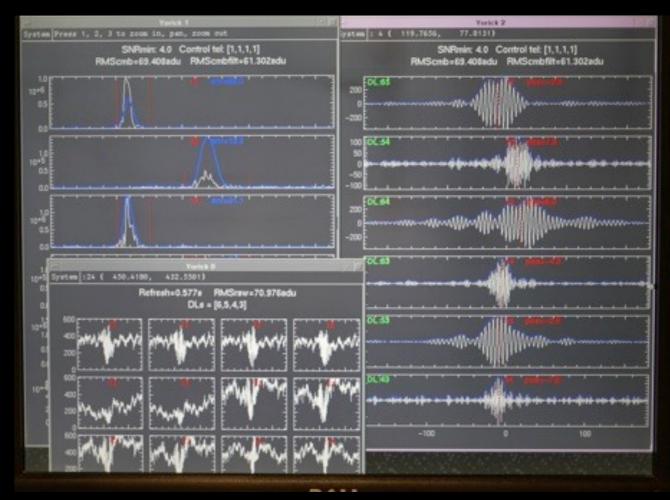




PIONIER at VLTI

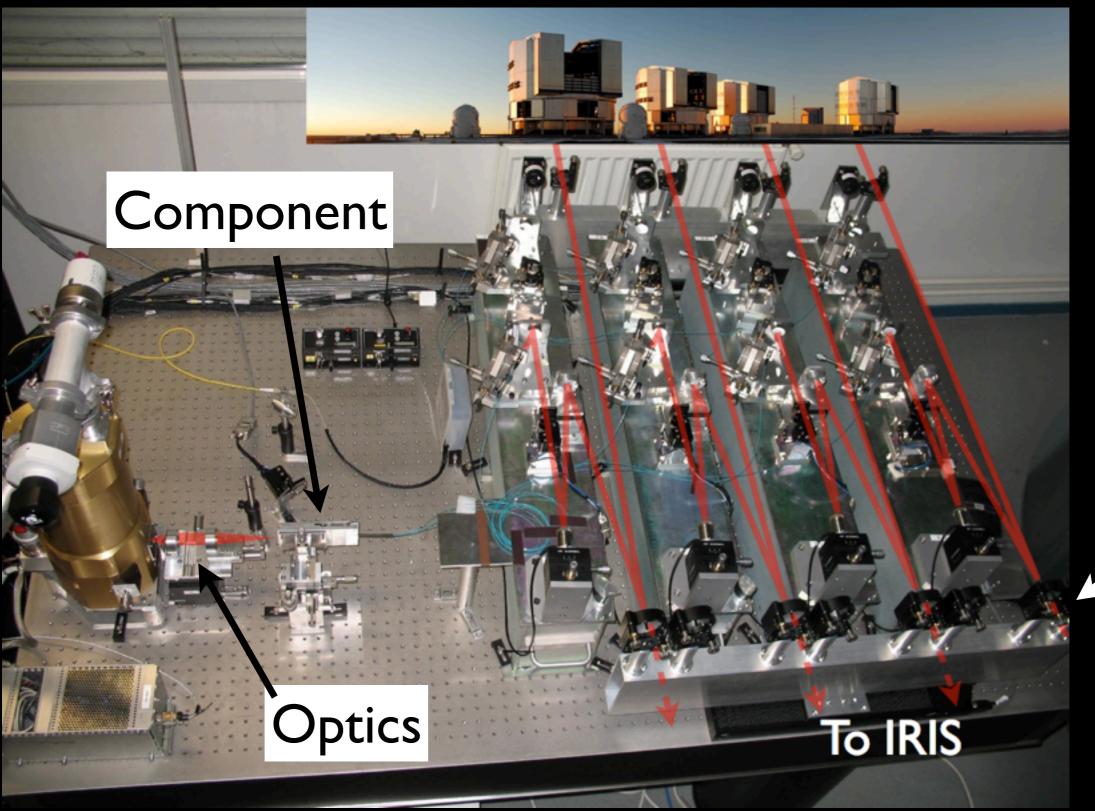


 PIONIER has been commissioned and is working in the H-band



- Commissioning : October, 20-24 2010
- Science since November 2010 (3 runs in P86)
- 25nights scheduled in P87

Extension to the K-band



Dichroics

Extension to the K-band

- ANR EXOZODI
 - Dichroic (15 keuros) + travels ? Already ordered.
 - Postdoc position related to FLUOR/PIONIER observations
 + observing missions
- Other aspects
 - Component (30 keuros)
 One already available from internal research (not so good transmission). Looking for a new one
 - Optics (10 keuros)
 From other funding of PIONIER, design on-going.
- Timeline for K-band implementation
 - Commissioning in October 2011 (I week)
 - So first proposals in March 2011
 - On-going discussion with ESO to secure the comm. time.



PIONIER ... some pictures

JB Le Bouquin, Lazareff, Berger, Zins, Traub, Millan-Gabet ... for the full PIONIER team



Integration at LAOG : January - September 2010









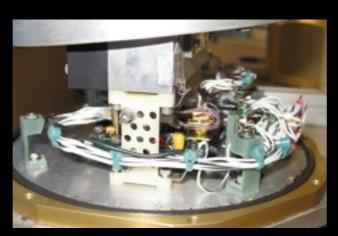
Electronic



Project Management + Administration



Two interventions on the camera dewar ... stress !!



Software / Control



Packing and departure to Chile - October 2010







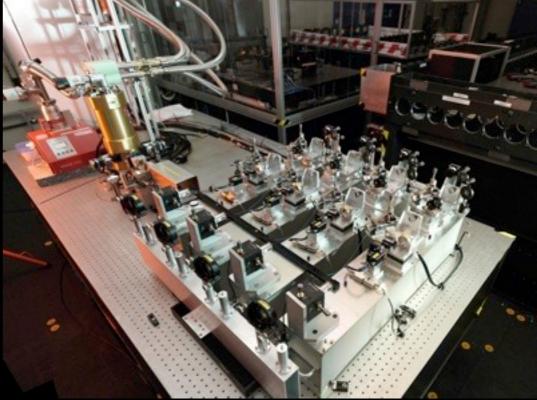


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Installation on site : October, 20-24 2010

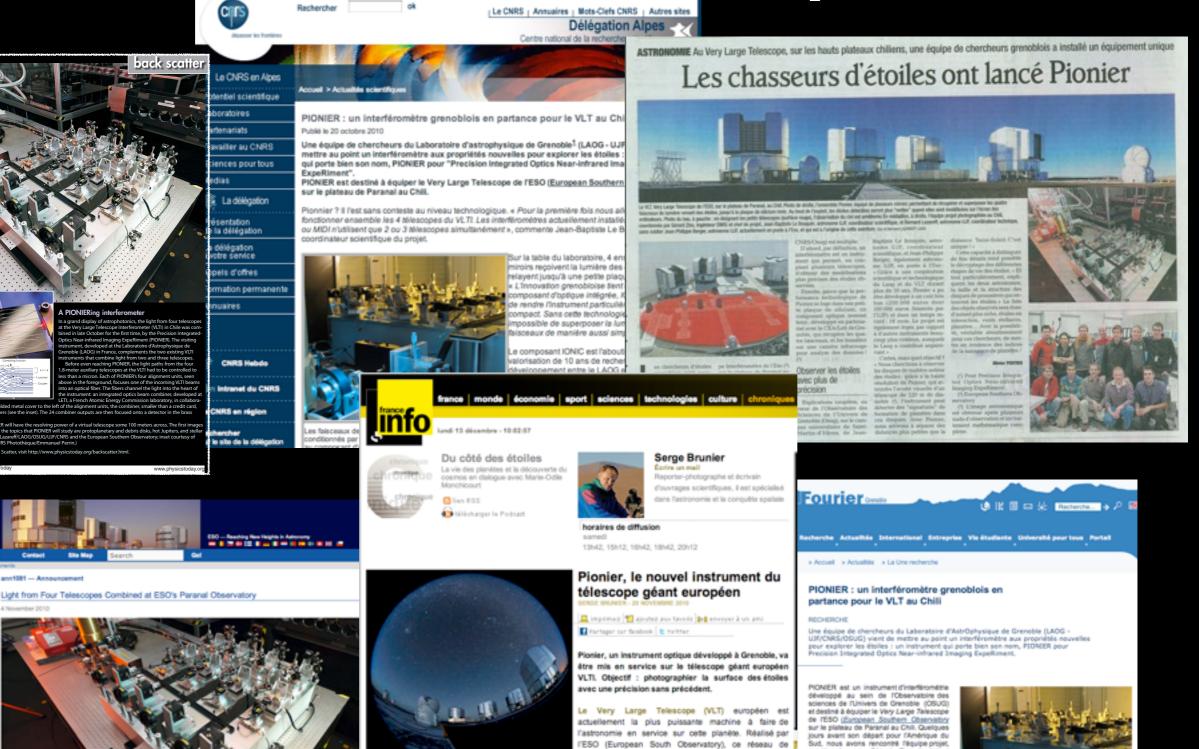






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PIONIER in the press



Light coming from the four 1.8-metre Austiliary Telescopes at the European Southern Observatory's Very Large Telescope Interferometer (VLT) based in Personal, Chile, has been successfully combined for the frectime using a new visiting instrument called PONER (1). This is an important step towards unleasing the full potential of the VLTI to use multiple telescopes together to reveal free detail in distant objects. A joint team from Grenoble LAOG (2) and ESO achieved this very challenging that of engineering only mani sullad

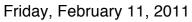
télescopes est installé au sommet du Cerro Paranal, à 2550 m d'altitude, dans le désert d'Atacama, au Chill. Làhaut, sur une plate forme de deux hectares, se déploient quatre télescopes de 8,2 m de diamètre, plus guatre





coordonnele par Gérard Zins, Ingénieu CNRS et chef de projet, Jean-Bap Bouquin, Astronome UJF, coort coordinateur scientifique, et Bernard Lazareff, Astronome coordinateur technique, sans oublie -Philippe Berger, Astronome UJR Jean-Philippe Berger, Astronome UJF, actuellement en poste à IESO, et qui est à Torigine de cette aventure

11.16



Airg at ESC

PIONIER - DRS

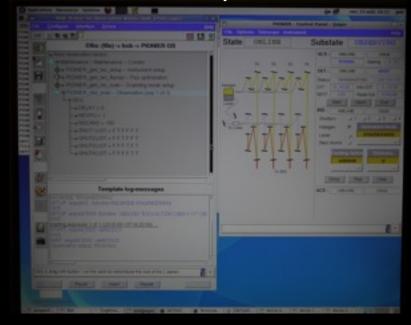
JB Le Bouquin for the PIONIER team



Preparation and Observation : an ESO look and feel

- PIONIER is visitor instrument, and therefore is not obliged to follow the ESO flow... but we tried to stick on it !
- Use p2pp, BOB, VLT-software...
- Observations at Paranal are supported by an ESO astronomer, in charge of VLT-I only (actually JP. Berger).
- ESO pay one travel from Europe per run.
- Limited support from ESO for the hardware side (N2 filling only), no intervention on the instrument.
- PIONIER observer should be aware of all aspect of observation: alignment, operation, drs, better to be 2 persons.

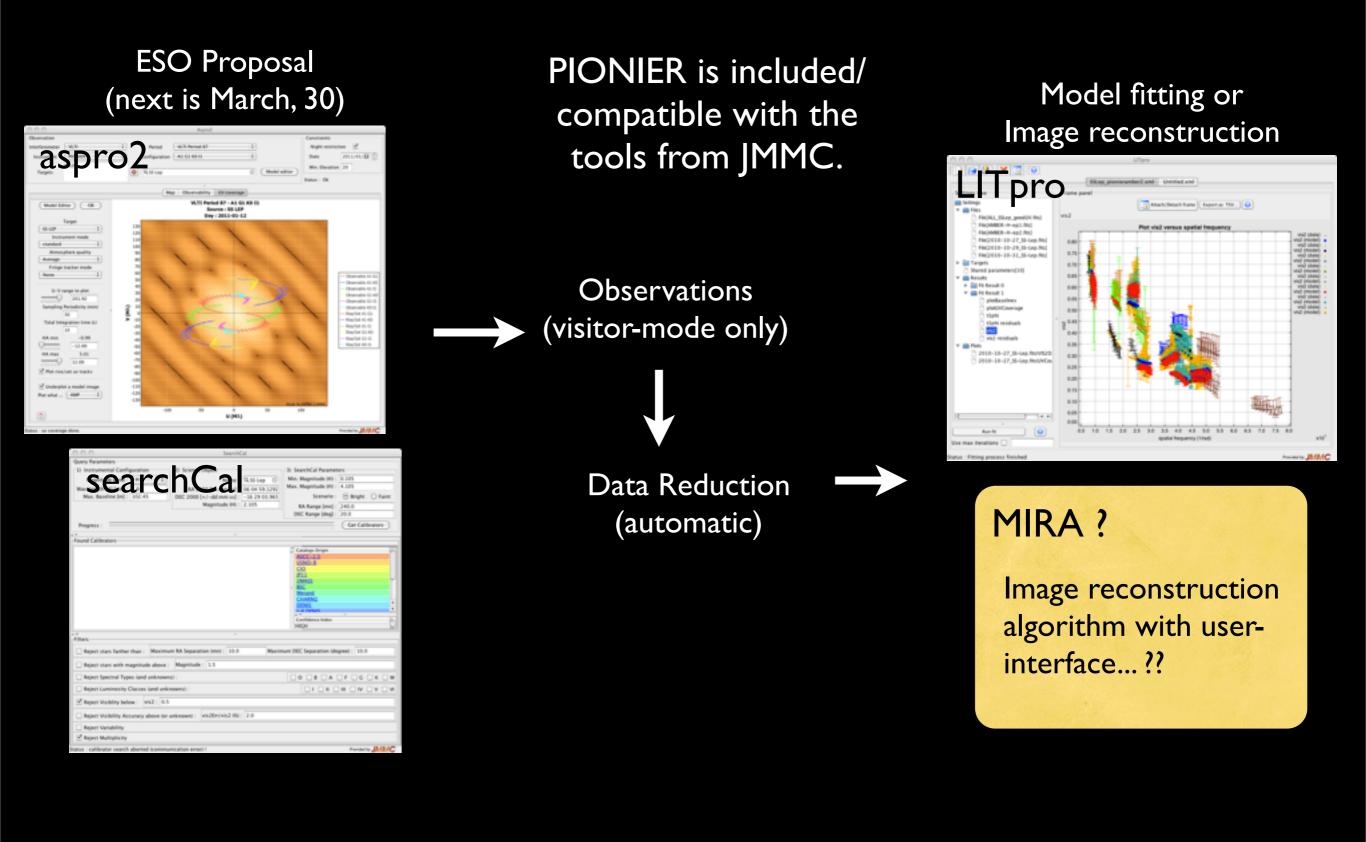
Control panels



Happy observer

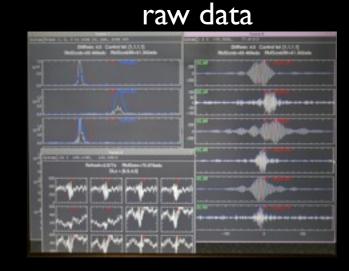


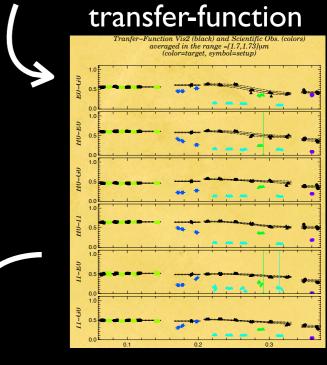
PIONIER is in the data-flow of optical interferometry



Existing Pipeline

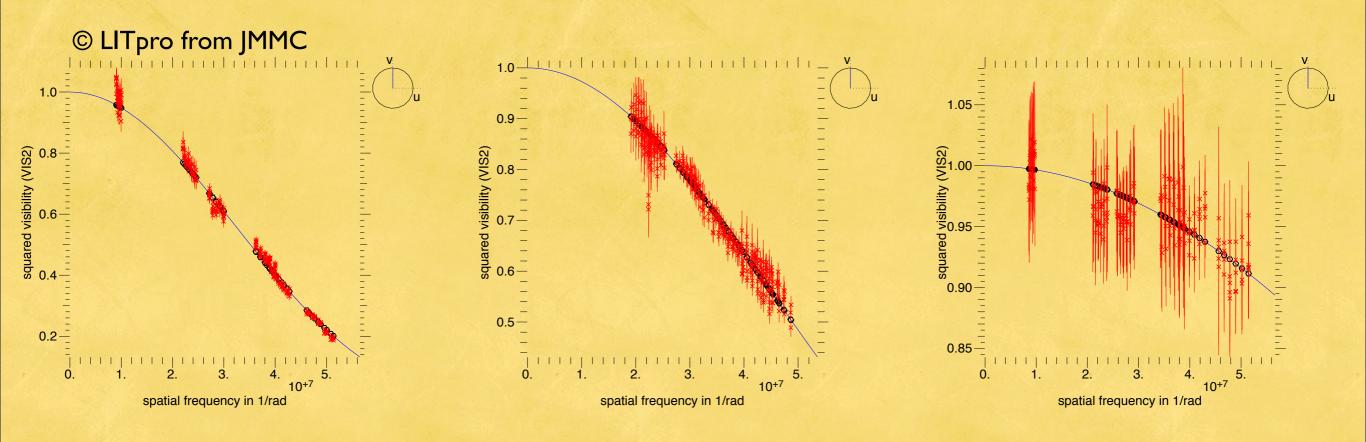
- Data are transferred from *wpnr* to the laptop of the observer.
- Current pipeline process the data from RAW until final, calibrated, science-ready OIFITS files (IAU standard for interferometry).
- Kappa-matrix, dark and fringe data are associated *automatically*.
- Diameters of calibration stars are recovered automatically from the JMMC catalogue => almost no-user interaction.
- Run in real-time : science-ready data can be analyzed ~10min after observation => real-time decisions.
- The spectral calibration is currently not (fully) implemented in the pipeline.







Some diameters

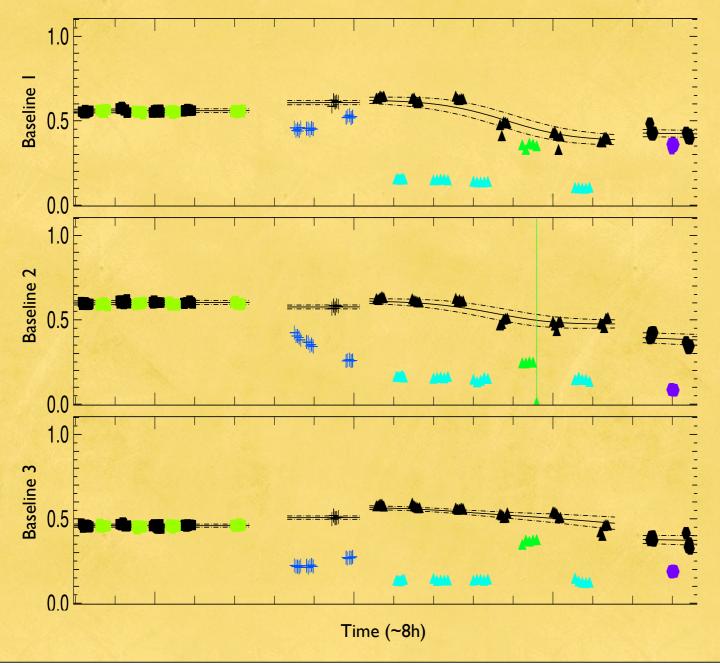


80-Cet - M0III H=1.4 3.02 mas $\Rightarrow 3.017 +/- 0.01 \text{ mas}$ HIP114421 - K2III H=1.73 2.28 mas \Rightarrow 2.175 +/- 0.02mas SAO 111120 - G5V H=3.0 0.96 mas $\Rightarrow 0.77 +/- 0.1 \text{ mas}$

Precision visibility: work in progress

PIONIER uses a FLUOR-like method to form and analyze the fringes (scanning method), and therefore it should achieve a similar precision on $v2 \sim 1\%$.

Tranfer–Function Vis2 (black) and Scientific Obs. (colors) averaged in the range =[1.7,1.73]µm (color=target, symbol=setup)



Current performances are at \sim 5% when everything is OK, and sometimes \sim 20%.

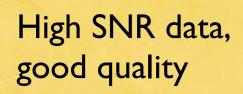
First tests show that PIONIER is not affected by biases related to low SNR.

Possible origins of limitations:

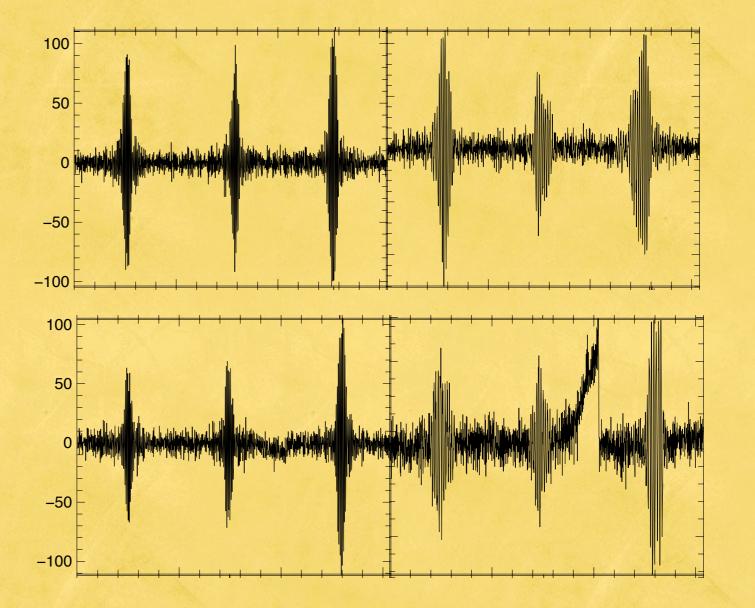
- vibrations in the PIONIER piezo (being investigated)
- vibrations in the ATs
- detector weird effects...
- next runs are focused on finding a setup for best calibration.

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Detector is not fully understood



High SNR data, detector saturation ?



PICNIC camera is used in a special way (non-destructive up-the-ramp mode), in order to achieve sufficient frame rate and good noise... but we are strongly limited by the detector dynamic.

PIONIER DRS - summary

- PIONIER has a fully integrated data-flow, from observation preparation to data-analysis.
- Current version of the DRS is a "robust but non-accurate" way. It is not tuned for high visibility.
- We may face issues that are not only DRS limitation : work should be done in the data acquisition chain (detector readout mode) and perhaps hardware (piezo).
- Similar concept than FLUOR, so the PIONIER DRS can (more) benefit from experience learned at FLUOR... we should discuss !!
- Next PIONIER run (in few days) is dedicated to define the best instrumental setup to make precise visibility.