

Development and science perspectives of the POLAR-2 instrument: a large scale GRB polarimeter

Tuesday 20 July 2021 18:00 (12 minutes)

Despite several decades of multi-wavelength and multi-messenger spectral observations, Gamma-Ray Bursts (GRBs) remain one of the big mysteries of modern astrophysics. Polarization measurements are essential to gain a more clear and complete picture of the emission processes at work in these extremely powerful transient events. In this regard, a first generation of dedicated gamma-ray polarimeters, POLAR and GAP, were launched into space in the last decade. After 5 months of operation, the POLAR mission has detected 55 GRBs, among which 14 have been analyzed in detail, reporting a low polarization degree and a temporal evolution of the polarization angle. Starting early 2024 and based on the legacy of the POLAR results, the POLAR-2 instrument will aim to provide a catalog of high quality measurements of the energy and temporal evolution of the GRB polarization thanks to its large and efficient polarimeter. Several spectrometer modules will additionally allow to perform joint spectral and polarization analyzes. The mission is foreseen to detect about 50 good quality GRBs per year on board of the China Space Station (CSS). The technical design of the polarimeter modules will be discussed in detail, as well as the expected scientific performances based on the first results of the developed prototype modules.

Keywords

Polarimetry, GRB, Instrumentation, Pulsars, Satellite, POLAR-2, Gamma-ray

Collaboration

other Collaboration

POLAR-2

Subcategory

Experimental Methods & Instrumentation

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Session Classification: Discussion

Track Classification: Scientific Field: GAD | Gamma Ray Direct