Small-satellite enabled science in Heliophysics within Italy’s Roadmap towards Space Weather Science

Christina Plainaki and the ASI Space Weather Working Group

COSPAR Symposium on “Space Weather and Small Satellites” Vienna 11 February 2019
Outline

• Introduction: *why use small satellites to monitor Space Weather*

• Space Weather science possibilities with small satellites
  • Charged particle detection
  • ENA detection
  • X-Ray polarimetry for Solar Flares
  • Further possibilities

• Italy’s Roadmap towards Space Weather Science: *a brief presentation*
Space weather is the physical and phenomenological state of natural space environments.

The Space Weather discipline aims, through observation, monitoring, analysis and modeling, at understanding and predicting the state of the Sun, the interplanetary and planetary environments, and the solar and non-solar driven perturbations that affect them; also, at forecasting and now-casting the possible impacts on biological and technological systems.

Lilensten & Belehaki 2009
Space weather is the **physical** and **phenomenological state of natural space environments**.

To understand Space Weather observations we need to understand in a quantitative way the interactions between space environments and the planetary body in question.

**Solar System Exploration** is the key.

Exploring our planet’s magnetosphere we get hints on how fundamental processes related to photon and particle radiation work.

To improve our ability to predict Space Weather we need to study the **Science** behind **circumterrestrial** and **Planetary Space Weather**.

*How and with what timescales the energy is transferred, stored and released within a system?*
Small satellites offer the chance to follow a multi-point observation approach

Constellations of small satellites for the study of Space Weather

CubeSats constellation for the study of Space Weather

New innovative concepts and new technologies need to be projected and tested
Space Weather with Small Satellites

Multi-point observation **approach** in Space Weather

**Main goal:** to promote original interdisciplinary scientific research in the field of Space Weather

**How:** by exploring original, innovative, and low-cost ways to provide Space Weather measurements

**Add-on value:** an important opportunity to educate next generations of Space Weather scientists and aerospace engineers

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**Constellations of small satellites for the study of Space Weather**

**Technological and scientific **plus**

- particle instruments and imaging instruments are on different s/c (i.e. s/c requirements are eased)
- interference among instruments on the same s/c is limited
- lower cost integration and testing
- lower schedule risk

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**Strategic interest**

Constellation units can be distributed so that different space agencies can contribute with their own CubeSat and/or payload

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**Critical issues**

- payload miniaturization
- advance subsystem technologies
- flight demonstrations of new technologies, capabilities and applications for small spacecraft
- advance the state-of-the-art
A multi-point observation approach in Space Weather, based on different space observatories, can be always integrated with additional payload instruments onboard new small satellites to address further scientific goals and needs in the field.
Small-satellite enabled instrumentation within Italy’s Roadmap towards Space Weather
Charged particles with Small Satellites

PAN/Mini-PAN: Penetrating particle Analyzer(s)

Magnetic spectrometers for deep space application aimed to make ground-breaking measurements crucial for space science and interplanetary exploration: composition and energy spectra in the 10(100) MeV 5(20) GeV energy range

Innovative design based on the heritage of AMS: permanent magnets & silicon detectors successfully operated in LEO to measure particle fluxes in “standard” conditions, fast TOF + pixel detectors to count and identify particles in high rate mode (SEP events).

Team: Switzerland (UniGE, PI), Italy (INFN/Univ. Perugia), Czech Republic (CTU Prague)

Silicon detectors & tracker from Italy

Key points:

- Modular concept to be adapted for different available upload masses (5-20 Kg)
- Covering the energy (and time) gap between low energy detectors (eg. ULYSSES, VOYAGER, SOHO, ACE, GOES..) operating in deep space and high energy spectrometers (PAMELA, AMS) operating in LEO.
Deep space mission: low energies, $E - dE/dx$ technique, Cherenkov, no $e^+/e^-$ separation

LEO CR mission: higher energies, spectrometers $e^+/e^-$ separation

PAN/Mini-PAN: covering a gap in energy/time
Charged particles with Small Satellites

PAN: Penetrating particle ANalyzer

an energetic particle detector for deep space application based on an innovative concept, aiming to make ground-breaking measurements crucial for space science and interplanetary exploration.

**Goal:** to precisely measure and monitor over at least one full solar cycle (~11 years) the spectra, composition, and incoming direction of highly penetrating particles (from ~100 MeV/nucleon up to ~ 20 GeV/nucleon)

- Light weight (20 kg) low power (20 W) spectrometer with permanent magnet
- 4 Halbach permanent magnet sectors, each \( \varphi = 10 \) cm, \( L = 10 \) cm, provide a dipole magnetic field of \( \sim 0.2 \) Tesla, total weight \( \sim 11 \) kg

PI: X. Wu (University of Geneva)
Lead Scientists:
B. Bertucci – University of Perugia; G. Ambrosi – INFN Perugia, Italy

**Measure particles coming in from both ends (symmetric)**
Mini-PAN for Space Weather *Small Satellite missions*?

- Smaller device for in-situ radiation measurement and monitoring
- 2 Halbach permanent magnet sectors, each $\phi = 5$ cm, $L = 5$ cm, provide a dipole magnetic field of $\sim 0.4$ Tesla, magnet weight $\sim 2$ kg, total $< 5$ kg
- GF: $\sim 6.3$ or $2.1$ cm$^2$sr (x2 for isotropic sources), for crossing 1 or 2 sectors

Addition of a few layers of Si detectors would allow to measure 10 MeV – 20 MeV particles with the classical $\Delta E$ – $E$ method ($\sim 2.4$ mm of Si) $\rightarrow$ full range energetic particle monitor

It can be further simplified with only one-side sensitive
## Team

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name and Institution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project leader</td>
<td>Elisabetta De Angelis (INAF-IAPS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Alessandro Mura (INAF-IAPS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experimental Team</td>
<td>Rosanna Rispoli (INAF-IAPS), Nello Vertolli (INAF-IAPS), Fabrizio Nuccilli (INAF-IAPS), Carlo Lefevre (INAF-IAPS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Micro Pattern Gas Detector</td>
<td>Federico Pilo (INFN Pisa)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Giovanni Bencivenni (INFN Frascati)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Marco Poli Lener (INFN Frascati)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Carlo Avanzini (ex-INFN, consultant)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Guido Castellini (ex-CNR, consultant)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Imaging the Earth’s environment via ENA: Space Weather applications**

**SWEATERS**

(Space WEATHer Ena Radiation Sensor)
Remote sensing of *Energetic Neutral Atoms* (ENA) in the Earth’s environment has been proven to be a *successful technique* able to provide detailed information on the ring current and the shock front plasma population at energies below 100 keV.

ENA detection is the only way to *globally view* the ring current and shock-front population dynamics.

The SWEATERS concept is based on a cluster of platforms equally distributed around the Earth as *multiple vantage point* system for ENA imaging of various magnetospheric regions like ring current, shock front and high latitude plasma populations.

The *SWEATERS sensor* is an innovative philosophy of ENA detection based on the idea to have an ENA instrument able to detect particles in a *large energy range* (few keV-100keV) with a very compact system, based on MPGD technique (Micro-Pattern Gas Detector).

**Figure**: ENA emissions as detected from high distance on the equatorial plane (from dawn, left) and from the pole (right), outcoming from modeled plasma distributions during a magnetic storm occurred in 1998, day 267. *(Fok et al., 2017 AGU Fall Meeting)*
X-ray polarimetry of solar flares
Berrilli F, Soffitta P., Costa E.

Due to energetic events such as solar flares, the Sun is an astrophysical source with an **intense emission of x-rays.** Their characterization will advance our understanding of the dynamics of the magnetic fields in the ARs of our star.

Magnetic reconnection is the cause of the sudden release of energy in flares and it is responsible for the acceleration of particles, including the downward beaming and the upward solar wind.

The **X-ray solar polarimeter (XSPO)** Instrument - Gas Pixel Detector (GPD)

The GPD is a gas-filled detector devoted to study the polarization of x-ray radiation and it was developed by INFN/Pisa in collaboration with INAF-IAPS.

It exploits the dependence of the photoelectric cross section to the polarization of photons to perform the **polarimetric measurement.**

Observation and simulation of the dynamic termination shock. White contours show the coronal HXR source at 15–25 keV. The electrons produce a HXR source in the shock downstream region (blue shadowed region). Credits Chen et al., 2015
Heritage ADAHELI +

Adaheli +

**ADvanced Astronomy for HELIophysics**

Francesco Berrilli (PI)  
University of Rome Tor Vergata (UTOV)

Paolo Soffitta (Co-PI)  
INAF Institute for Space Astrophysics and Planetology (IAPS)

Marco Velli (Co-PI)  
Università degli Studi di Firenze I-50125 Firenze

Bando Piccole Missioni Scientifiche  
Phase A study completed in 2008

Proposal for Small class mission  
Cosmic Vision 2015-2025

**Industrial team:**

Prime Contractor

[Logos of industrial partners]
ADAHELI+ will address key questions concerning the physics of the Sun, photosphere and chromosphere.

**Understanding the Sun** → understanding various process in modern astronomy
Provide a detailed observation and deeper understanding of the MHD processes (accretion disk/jet systems, X-ray, pulsars, stellar flare and γ-ray burst sources).

**Studying the Sun** → explain measurements of Sun-like stars for detection of habitable exo-planets around them.

The investigations include Near Infrared (NIR) spectropolarimetric imaging of the 3d solar atmosphere and X-ray measurements.

The mission is conceived as an innovative and very focused Space Observatory for NIR multiline imaging, coupled with an ancillary solar flares X-ray polarimeter.
The mission ADAHELI+ carries two scientific payloads:
* The NIR telescope
* The X-ray polarimeter

The NIR telescope is equipped with a panoramic interferometer based on a Fabry-Peròt etalon used in tandem configuration → it combines high-spectral resolution with short exposure times.

The main task of the feasibility study of optics is to find configuration able to achromatize the instrument and to make it more compact.
Other possibilities based on current heritage

some examples

Payload miniaturization; demonstrations of new technologies, capabilities and applications for small spacecraft, advancing of the state-of-the-art → work on going
**HIGH ENERGY PARTICLE DETECTOR (HEPD) FOR CSES MISSION**

**Instrument:** High Energy Particle Detector (HEPD-02 for CSES-02)

**Developers:** INFN, University of Trento, University of Rome Tor Vergata, University of Naples, University of Turin

**PI:** Piergiorgio Picozza, National Institute for Nuclear Physics (INFN)

**Deputy PI:** Roberto Iuppa, University of Trento

**Mission:** China Seismo-Electromagnetic Satellite (CSES)

**Countries:** China, Italy, Austria

**Satellites:** CSES-01 (launched Feb. 2018), CSES-02 (launch 2021)

**Objectives:** Study of Litosphere-Ionosphere-Magnetosphere Coupling (LAIC), Solar Physics and Space Weather through concurrent measurements of 9 different instruments including an Italian particle detector (HEPD).

**Heritage:** HEPD-01 on-board CSES-01, PAMELA, AMS-02

**Industrial contribution:** Italian Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) involved in the development.

HEPD is designed to provide good **energy** and **angular resolutions** for electrons in the energy range 3 to 100 MeV and for protons in the energy range 30 to 200 MeV.

HEPD-02 will measure **increases of electron and proton fluxes** due to **short-time perturbations of the radiation belts** caused by solar, terrestrial and anthropic phenomena.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operating parameter</th>
<th>Specification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operating temperature</td>
<td>-10 °C - +45 °C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data budget</td>
<td>≤100 Gb/day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mass budget</td>
<td>≤ 45 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy range (electron)</td>
<td>2 MeV ÷ 100 MeV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy range (proton)</td>
<td>30 MeV ÷ 200 MeV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angular resolution</td>
<td>at least 8° at E &gt; 5 MeV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy resolution</td>
<td>at least 10% at E~5 MeV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power Budget</td>
<td>≤ 45 W</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**ELECTRIC FIELD DETECTOR (EFD) FOR CSES MISSION**

**Instrument:** Electric Field Detector (EFD-02 for CSES-02)

**Developers:** INFN-Rome Tor Vergata & INAF-IAPS

**PI:** Piergiorgio Picozza, National Institute for Nuclear Physics (INFN)

**Deputy PI:** Piero Diego, National Institute for Astrophysics (INAF)

**Mission:** China Seismo-Electromagnetic Satellite (CSES)

**Countries:** China, Italy, Austria

**Satellites:** CSES-01 (launched Feb. 2018), CSES-02 (launch 2021)

**Objectives:** Study of Lithosphere-Ionosphere-Magnetosphere Coupling (LAIC), Solar Physics and Space Weather through concurrent measurements of 9 different instruments including an Italian particle detector (HEPD).

**Heritage:** Engineering Model for CSES-01 developed by research groups of INFN - Division of Rome Tor Vergata and INAF - Institute for Space Astrophysics and Planetology (IAPS).

**Industrial contribution:** Italian Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) involved in the development.

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**EFD measures** electric field between DC-3.5 MHz in 5 bands to identify the different contribution to ionospheric anomalies by separating external (Space Weather) from internal ones (LAIC).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Band</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Frequency Band</th>
<th># Channels</th>
<th>Sampling Frequency</th>
<th>Resolution (bit)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ULF*</td>
<td>wave</td>
<td>0 – 100 Hz</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>240 Hz</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELF</td>
<td>wave</td>
<td>13 Hz – 2 kHz</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4.8 kHz</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VLF</td>
<td>wave + FFT</td>
<td>1 kHz – 50 kHz</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>120 kHz</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VLF2*</td>
<td>wave + FFT</td>
<td>21 kHz – 100 kHz</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>240 kHz</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HF</td>
<td>FFT</td>
<td>21 kHz – 3.5 MHz</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12 MHz</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Italy’s Roadmap towards Space Weather Science
(brief presentation)
The ASI Space Weather Working Group (ASI SW WG, or “Gruppo di Lavoro Nazionale su Space Weather”) was officially established on 13 April 2018 with the purpose to coordinate and promote activities related to Space Weather science.

The current composition of the ASI SW WG is the following (in alphabetical order):

1. Antonucci Marco, Aeronautica Militare Italiana
2. Bemporad Alessandro, INAF-OATo
3. Berrilli Francesco, UNITOV
4. Bertucci Bruna, UNIPG
5. Castronuovo Marco, ASI/EOS
6. De Michelis Paola, INGV
7. Giardino Marco, ASI/SSDC
8. Iuppa Roberto, UNITRENTO
9. Laurenza Monica, INAF-IAPS
10. Marcucci Federica, INAF-IAPS
11. Messerotti Mauro, INAF-OATs
12. Narici Livio, UNITOV
13. Negri Barbara, ASI/EOS
14. Nozzoli Francesco, INFN-TIFPA
15. Orsini Stefano, INAF-IAPS
16. Plainaki, Christina, ASI/URS, Group Coordinator
17. Romano Vincenzo, INGV

The Italian Space Weather Community (SWICO) is vastly represented within the WG hence contributing at large in the creation of the Roadmap’s first version.
The ASI SW Working Group has recently created “Italy’s Roadmap towards Space Weather Science”, envisioning the development of a prototype of a National Scientific Space Weather Data centre.

This Roadmap provides a general perspective of the development of Space Weather activities in Italy. It is therefore a proposal for a long-term strategy.

In the context of this strategy, ASI aims to assess, as a first step, the possibility to develop a National Scientific Space Weather Data Center in ASI/SSDC, to encourage synergies between different science teams.

The ASI SW Working Group is currently developing a “Roadmap Implementation plan” taking into account all required scientific, technological and programmatic activities.

**Overall scope and main points**

We aim to achieve a better understanding of space weather phenomena that would allow the future development of reliable nowcast and forecast services.
Italy’s Roadmap towards Space Weather

The Roadmap brings together all key constituents of the Space Weather system

- Research
- Partnerships
- Challenges
- Communication
- Payload development
- Networks
- Collaboration
- Challenges
- Coordination
- Synergies
- Observations
- Challenges
- Interdisciplinarity
- Models Evaluation
- Standardized metrics
- Data harmonization
- Services and Operations

Credit: Christina Plainaki, ASI - Italy
Italy’s Roadmap towards Space Weather

The Roadmap brings together all key constituents of the Space Weather system

- Research
- Payload development
- Partnerships
- Challenges
- Communication

- Networks
- Collaboration
- Challenges
- Accelerate progress

- Observations
- Recommendations
- Synergies
- Coordination

- Challenges
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- Models Evaluation
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- Data harmonization

Credit: Christina Plainaki, ASI - Italy
Italy’s Roadmap towards Space Weather

The Roadmap brings together all key constituents of the Space Weather system

Recommendations

- Research
- Partnerships
- Challenges
- Communication
- Payload development

Observations

- Networks
- Collaboration
- Dissemination

Challenges
- Interdisciplinarity
- Models Evaluation
- Standardized metrics
- Data harmonization

Services and Operations

- Coordination
- Synergies
- Dissemination

Accelerate progress

The whole scheme is intended in the frame of a collaborative environment for research and technology development

Credit: Christina Plainaki, ASI - Italy
Space weather scientific research in Italy has been focused in the following fields:

- Solar Physics
- Solar-Terrestrial Physics
- Geomagnetism
- Physics of the Ionosphere
- Planetary Space Weather
- Galactic Cosmic Ray Physics
- Study of technological and biological impacts of space weather
Experience of the Italian Space Weather Community

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- Galactic Cosmic Ray physics
- Ground-based instrumentation
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- Physics of the Ionosphere
- Planetary Space Weather
- Study of technological and biological impacts of space weather
- Galactic Cosmic Ray physics

Laboratories and facilities
Experience of the Italian Space Weather Community

Space weather scientific research in Italy has been focused in the following fields:

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- Solar-Terrestrial Physics
- Geomagnetism
- Physics of the Ionosphere
- Planetary Space Weather
- Galactic Cosmic Ray Physics
- Study of technological and biological impacts of space weather

Space Weather Service development
Development of a national scientific space weather data centre

ASPIS Vision

Key Goal

to disseminate high-quality interdisciplinary Space Weather data to support scientific research in the field.

To increase the excellence in circumterrestrial and planetary Space Weather research motivating the development of solutions to current science challenges.

ASPIS, with the support by the scientific Space Weather community, aims at being
• a reference point for data analysis activities and joint investigations
• a node joining research activities of at least seven science communities interested in Space Weather
Development of a national scientific space weather data centre

ASPIS Science Objectives

• to provide **efficient storage, sophisticated organization**, and **explanative visualization** of interdisciplinary Space Weather data and to offer user friendly data access and related documentation;
• to provide **first-order products** derived from the original data to be further used in scientific Space Weather models;
• to **coordinate interdisciplinary data products** that can potentially provide relevant inputs for advanced scientific Space Weather models;
• to provide **test-beds for forecasting models** to be run on historical data;
• to promote education and awareness in Space Weather;
• to maintain a **long-term close relationship** with the **Italian scientific community** through the continuous update of the ASPIS representatives on the national Space Weather activities and through the organization of dedicated Space Weather workshops and meetings
Roadmap Recommendations

Development of a national scientific space weather data centre

Asi SPace weather InfraStructure

ASPIS

Framework with the logical associations corresponding to the proposed roadmap for national space weather research

- Space data of Italian property/co-property
- Ground-based data obtained through facilities of different institutes

The National facilities providing the ASPIS data will be responsible for the acquisition and delivery of high-reliable and quality controlled data

ASPIS will be responsible for handling the data (e.g. images, spectra, fluxes).
Roadmap Recommendations

Development of a national scientific space weather data centre

Asi SPace weather InfraStructure

Framework with the logical associations corresponding to the proposed roadmap for national space weather research

• Data organization and display
• 1rst or 2nd order science products
• Tools for joint investigations
• Documentation

The National facilities providing the ASPIS data will be responsible for the acquisition and delivery of high-reliable and quality controlled data

ASPIS will be responsible for handling the data (e.g. images, spectra, fluxes).
Asi SPace weather InfraStructure

Development of a national scientific space weather data centre

Framework with the logical associations corresponding to the proposed roadmap for national space weather research

Strong link between ASPIS and Scientific Research

Cha. Plainaki, 11 Feb 2019
Development of a national scientific space weather data centre

Asi SPace weather InfraStructure

Framework with the logical associations corresponding to the proposed roadmap for national space weather research

- Strong link between ASPIS and Scientific Research
- Contribution to the definition of Observation Requirements in a continuous and coherent way

Small-satellite enabled science in Heliophysics within Italy’s Roadmap towards Space Weather Science

Chr. Plainaki, 11 Feb 2019
Development of a national scientific space weather data centre

Asi SPace weather InfraStructure

Framework with the logical associations corresponding to the proposed roadmap for national space weather research

Scientific community

- Scientific Research
- Challenges and Scientific Objectives
- Observations requirements
- Ground-based data
- Space-based data
- Data center

Industry

Data

free dissemination

Scientific community

- Model Implementation
- Data Analysis
- Science Products

Society Users

Space Weather Services

Space Weather operations

Feedback for model improvements

Strong link between ASPIS and Scientific Research

Contribution to the definition of Observation Requirements in a continuous and coherent way

Small-satellite enabled science in Heliophysics within Italy’s Roadmap towards Space Weather Science

Chr. Plainaki, 11 Feb 2019
Roadmap Recommendations

Asi SPace weather InfraStructure

Development of a national scientific space weather data centre

Framework with the logical associations corresponding to the proposed roadmap for national space weather research

Although ASPIS will not include any operational function, it can serve as a reference point for operational services.
Thank you for your attention