







#### Fourth Barcelona TechnoWeek Course on Nanosatellites

Institute of Cosmos Sciences, Barcelona, 17-21 June 2019

## Radiation Aspects

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IEEC



- Telstar 1 satellite was launched on July 10, 1962
- Communications satellite
- Relayed first telephone call tx through space, TV, etc



Telstar 1 (1962)



<sup>2</sup> 4th Technoweek, Radiation Aspects, 18/06/2017, D. Gascón

## Why this talk?

- Telstar went out of service only 4 months later (Nov. 1962)
- Why?
  - Go back in time...
  - 1 day before Telstar was launched
- Starfish prime was a highaltitude nuclear test conducted by the US
- Energized the Earth's Van Allen Belt
- Vast increase in a radiation belt + USSR blasts damaged Telstar electronics
  - <sup>3</sup> 4th Technoweek, Radiation Aspects, 18/06/2017, D. Gascón

 The fleep areased by the explacient

The flash created by the explosion as seen through heavy cloud cover from Honolulu



## Why this talk?

• Hopefully, no more nuclear bomb blasts should happen

- So, are statellites and spacecrafts safe out there?
  - Unfortunately not
  - There are many "natural" radiation sources in space



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Sources of Ionizing Radiation in Interplanetary Space <u>http://photojournal.jpl.nasa.gov/catalog/PIA16938</u>



#### Outlook

## I. Radiation space environment

- II. Radiation effects
- III. Radiation qualification
- IV. Design hardening methodologies for mixed signal circuits

- V. Fault tolerance in digital circuits
- VI. Design hardening at system level



#### **Radiation space environment**

#### High Energy Particle radiation in space



Trapped particles (Van Allen Belt)

mealth What

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Sources of Ionizing Radiation in Interplanetary Space <a href="http://photojournal.jpl.nasa.gov/catalog/PIA16938">http://photojournal.jpl.nasa.gov/catalog/PIA16938</a>



#### Radiation space environment GCR

- Galactic cosmic rays (GCR) are high-energy charged particles that originate outside our solar system.
- Believed to be remnants from supernova explosions.



Image of part of a stellar remnant http://www.eso.org/public/images/eso0923a/

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# Radiation space environment GCR

- GCR properties
- Composed of all naturally occurring elements:
  - 87% protons
  - 12% alpha particles
  - 1% heavier ions
- Energies: up to 10<sup>11</sup> GeV!
- Fluxes: 1 to 10 cm<sup>-2</sup>s<sup>-1</sup>
- Anticorrelated with solar activity
  - High flux during solar low

Radiation Impacts on Satellites due to GCRs and SEPs, M. Xapsos. Space Weather Training for Mission Operators and Engineers NASA/GSFC, 2014

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# Radiation space environment GCR

- GRC radiation is nearly isotropic before magnetosphere
  - But radiation couples to the Earth's magnetic field and its isotropy is not preserved
- Energy spectra tend to peak around 0.3 to 1 GeV/ nucleon.
- Fluxes modulated by magnetic field in sun and solar wind
- <u>Shielding is not effective</u> for GCRs



Energy (MeV/amu) Radiation Impacts on Satellites due to GCRs and SEPs, M. Xapsos. Space Weather Training for Mission Operators and Engineers NASA/GSFC, 2014



# Radiation space environment SEP events

- Major disturbances in interplanetary space and in Earth's magnetosphere
- Energy is released in the form of e, p, heavy ions and electromagnetic radiation
  - We do not consider EM radiation here
- Two types of solar sources to be considered
  - Coronal Mass Ejection (CME)
  - Solar flares

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CME on August 31, 2012 NASA Goddard Space Flight Center



# Radiation space environment SEP events

#### Gradual events: several days

- SEPs accelerated by (coronal and interplanetary) shock waves driven by CMEs
- Protons and heavy ions
  - o Up to 1 GeV/nucleon
  - Typically 0.1 -100MeV/nucleon
  - o Benchmark event: 08/1972
- Impulsive events involve large emission of heavy ions
  - 10s MeV-100s GeV per nucleon
  - 09/1997 and 10/1992
- Dependent on solar cycle



Radiation Impacts on Satellites due to GCRs and SEPs, M. Xapsos. Space Weather Training for Mission Operators and Engineers NASA/GSFC, 2014



#### Radiation space environment Solar wind

- Plasma of charged particles released from the upper atmosphere of the Sun
  - Mostly electrons, protons and alpha particles
  - Energies between 1.5 and 10 keV
  - Density: 1 to 30 particles / cm<sup>3</sup>.
- Variations of solar wind cause disturbation of magnetosphere:
  - Geomagnetic storms



Schematic of Earth's magnetosphere. The solar wind flows from left to right.

- Main effect of solar wind plasma is charging phenomena
  - Beyond the scope of the talk



#### Radiation space environment Radiation belts

#### Particles trapped by planet's magnetic field

- Inner belt
  - Electrons of 100s KeV
  - Protons of 100s MeV
- Outer belt: mainly 1-10 MeV electrons
- Magnetic storms can cause temporary belts
  - Can reach higher energies
- Heavy ions can also be trapped
  - Primary made of light ions with low energies
    - Not problematic for electronics but for astronauts



2 000 - 25 000 mile



nchronous Orbit

Dynamics Observatory 22,000 miles

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## **Radiation effects**

- Ionizing & Non-Ionizing cumulative effects (dose)
  - **Degradation of micro-electronics**
  - Degradation of optical components
  - Degradation of solar cells
- Single Event Effects (SEEs)
  - Data corruption
  - Noise on Images
  - System shutdowns
  - Circuit damage



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NASA-SP- 2000

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Handbook of Space-Radiation Effects on Solar-Cell Power Systems, http://www.dtic.mil/dtic/tr/fulltext/u2/b180707.pdf



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HANDBOOK OF SPACE-RADIATION EFFECTS ON

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

SOLAR-CELL POWER SYSTEMS

William C. Cooley, et al

Washington, D.C.

1963

- Total Ionising Dose (TID)
  - Energy deposited in the electronics by radiation in the form of ionization
  - Dose = energy deposited per unit mass of material in the sensitive volume
  - 1 rad = 100 erg/g
  - Unit: Gray (Gy), 1 Gy = 100 rad
  - Affects all electronics devices
    - Many effects on MOS transistors
    - Decrease output of solar cells...



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- Effects on MOS transistors:
  - Charge trapping in oxides and interfaces
  - Vt shift, change gm, leakage current, noise, ...

#### **CMOS** (complementary metaloxide-semiconductor) transistor

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- TID can electronics withstand depends on the technology
  - Modern CMOS devices above 100's of krad
    - o "Old" echnologies above 180 nm sensitive in 10's krad region
  - CMOS rad hard devices are in the range > 1 Mrad
  - Standard Bipolar can withstand a TID in the range of 10's to 100 krad.
  - AsGa is intrinsically TID hardened: 1 Mrad or even more.
- But there are a lot of dependence factors:
  - Dose rate (there is a low dose rate enhancing for bipolar technologies contrary to high dose rate enhancing for MOS technologies)
  - Bias during and after irradiation
  - Time after irradiation (annealing)
  - Lot to lot dependence



• TID depends on orbit altitude and inclination



E.J. Daly, A. Hilgers, G. Drolshagen, and H.D.R. Evans, <u>Space Environment Analysis: Experience and Trends</u>," ESA 1996 Symposium on Environment Modelling for Space-based Applications, Sept. 18-20, 1996, ESTEC, Noordwijk,



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- Average space distribution of particles is inhomogeneous at LEO (300-5000 Km):
  - The outer electron belt is close to the Earth at high latitudes (polar horns)
  - The region centered on the south Atlantic (South Atlantic Anamoly, SAA) has a high level of trapped particles (electrons and protons)
  - Sats at very low equatorial orbit (300 km) sustain little radiation
  - Sats over 1400 km heavily impacted by proton belt (even more than GEO)
- Shielding is useful @ MEO/GEO (5000-36000 Km) because shielding is very effective for electrons
  - For a 18 years GEO, TID is 100 krad behind 5 mm of aluminium, and 10 krad behind 10 mm.
  - A satellite placed at 2000 km (LEO) of altitude is, for 5 years and behind 10 mm aluminum shielding, in the range of 300 krad.



Examples of proton TID effects on imagers



PLATO e2v CCD270 : image acquired while illuminated by Fe55 X-ray source

#### CTI effects on PLATO (i)







- Non Ionising Energy Loss (NIEL), Displacement Damage (DD)
  - Cumulative damage resulting from displacement of atoms in semiconductor lattice structure causing:
     Exiting Particle

Incident

Particle

- o Carrier lifetime shortening
- o Mobility degradation

- Two metrics used:
  - Displacement Damage Dose: energy going into displaced atoms (nonionizing energy) per unit mass of material in the sensitive volume
  - The displacement damages is often normalized to displacement damages induced by 1 MeV neutron or 10 MeV proton



Interstitial

Vacancy

#### • Non Ionising Energy Loss (NIEL)

- CMOS devices are not affected
- It affects bipolar devices, diodes and solar cells among others:
  - $\circ$  10<sup>15</sup> n(eq 1 MeV).cm<sup>-2</sup> for AsGa
  - $\circ$  10<sup>14</sup> n(eq 1 MeV).cm<sup>-2</sup> for MOS
  - $\circ$  10<sup>12</sup> n(eq 1 MeV).cm<sup>-2</sup> for bipolar
  - 10<sup>11</sup> n(eq 1 MeV).cm<sup>-2</sup> for CCD & optolink
- For LEO between 1400 and 2000 Km the displacement damage is between 10<sup>12</sup> n/cm<sup>2</sup> to 3·10<sup>12</sup>/cm<sup>2</sup>
  - CCD and analog electronics !



Radiation Impacts on Satellites due to GCRs and SEPs, M. Xapsos. Space Weather Training for Mission Operators and Engineers NASA/GSFC, 2014



#### • SEEs may be caused by:

- Direct ionization (usually the case for incident heavy ions)
- Nuclear reaction products (usually the case for incident protons)



M. J. Beck, B. R. Tuttle, R. D. Schrimpf, D. M. Fleetwood, and S. T.Pantelides, "Atomic Displacement Effects in Single-Event Gate Rupture," Nuclear Science, IEEE Transactions on, vol. 55, pp. 3025-3031, 2008

M. J. Beck, Y. S. Puzyrev, N. Sergueev, K. Varga, R. D. Schrimpf, D. M.Fleetwood, and S. T. Pantelides, "The Role of Atomic Displacements in Ion-Induced Dielectric Breakdown," Nuclear Science, IEEE Transactions on, vol.56, pp. 3210-3217, 2009.

https://www.semiwiki.com/forum/content/3646-modeling-analysis-singleevent-effects-see.html?s=ff37d845d8a5f3452af94478045be3b2

- Metric commonly used for heavy ion induced SEE is Linear Energy Transfer (LET)
  - LET: energy lost by ionizing particle per unit path length in sensitive volume
    - Depends on the nature of the radiation and on the material traversed
    - LET units commonly used are MeV·cm<sup>2</sup>/mg: energy lost by the particle to the material per unit path length (MeV/cm) divided by the material density (mg/cm<sup>3</sup>)



- Two parameters are needed to quantify the vulnerability of an electronic device:
  - Threshold LET: if the LET is greater than a threshold, the energy deposition can triggered the effect
  - Cross section: ratio of the number of upsets to the particle fluence
    - To determine the device error rate, integrate the cross section and sensitive device volume with the LET spectrum



#### http://holbert.faculty.asu.edu/eee560/see.html



Single Event Effect can be non-destructive or destructive:



Noise seen on the SOHO/LASCO instrument imager during the November 8-9, 2000 solar particle event

□ Loss of scientific data

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**Destructive event** in a COTS 120V **DC-DC Converter** 

Radiation Impacts on Satellites due to GCRs and SEPs, M. Xapsos. Space Weather Training for Mission Operators and Engineers NASA/GSFC, 2014

□ Noise on images

□ System shutdown

□ Circuit damage





- The associated "iono-current" can induced several effects such as :
  - SEU (Single Event Upset) which is a transient effect, affecting mainly memories (bit flip)
  - SET (Single Transient Effect), transient effect in combinatory logic
  - SEL (Single Event Latch-up), which can destroy the component, affecting mainly CMOS structure
  - SEB (Single Event Burnout), which has destructive impact; affecting mainly power MOSFETS



SEL (Single Event Latch-up)



- Heavy ions environment
  - Remember origin: mainly GCRs
  - GEO orbit corresponds to the maximal constraint
    - o It doesn't benefit of magnetosphere shielding.
    - As the altitude of the orbit decreases, and as the inclination of the orbit decreases to, the magnetosphere shielding is more and more effective



R. Ecoffet. (2007). In-flight Anomalies on Electronic Devices. In R. Velazco (Ed.), *Radiation Effects on Embedded Systems.* 



#### • Protons can produce heavy ions by nuclear reaction

#### Main sources of indirect heavy ions are:

- Proton-emitting solar flares (for geostationary and low polar orbits)
- Trapped protons for medium orbits (MEOs)
- o The SAA for low earth orbits

#### Magnetosphere offers a natural screen against protons

Depends on the type of orbit and the date of the mission



R. Ecoffet. (2007). In-flight Anomalies on Electronic Devices. In R. Velazco (Ed.), *Radiation Effects on Embedded Systems.* 



# Radiation effects Summary

• Spacecraft anomalies due to the space environment

Considering also problems not related with radiation



R. Ecoffet. (2007). In-flight Anomalies on Electronic Devices. In R. Velazco (Ed.), Radiation Effects on Embedded Systems.





• Repartition of radiation spacecraft anomalies



R. Ecoffet. (2007). In-flight Anomalies on Electronic Devices. In R. Velazco (Ed.), Radiation Effects on Embedded Systems.



#### Outlook

- I. Radiation space environment
- II. Radiation effects

# **III. Radiation qualification**

IV. Design hardening methodologies for ASICs and mixed signal circuits

- V. Fault tolerance in digital circuits
- VI. Design hardening at system level



## Radiation qualification Rad hard devices vs COTS

- For many years baseline in space missions has been to use space qualified components
  - So-called "hardened" (or radiation hard) with respect to radiation effects at the design and/or the manufacturing level
- However, there is a strong drive to utilize standard commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) and military devices
  - To minimize cost and development time as compared to radiationhardened devices
  - This is certainly the case for nanosats
- Using COTS components requires
  - 1) Component qualification (this section)
  - 2) Using fault-tolerant techniques to ensure reliability (next sections)





# Radiation qualification Methodology

- The test methodology strongly differs depending on the phenomenon at concern:
  - SEE characterization of devices requires real-time testing under exposure

- o Functional testing mainly
- Particle accelerators
- TiD assessment implies the full parametrical characterization
  - Different step of dose levels received (sequence of irradiation/testing phases).
  - o 60Co sources are used for irradiating
  - Dose rate might be important !
- NIEL or Displacement Damage (DD) testing is quite similar to TiD characterization
  - o Parametrical measurements
  - However, DD testing requires the use of particle accelerators.



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# Radiation qualification Dose Rate effect



Enhanced Low Dose Rate Sensitivity (ELDRS)



A. H. Johnston, IEEE Tran. Nuc. Sci. Vol41, NO 6, December 1994.





# Radiation qualification Standards

• Radiation qualification has been standarized:

Standards	Effect	Parameters of concern	Means	
ESA-SCC 22900.4	TID	Total dose, dose rate	60Co sources	
MIL-STD 883E Method 1019.6	TID	Total dose, dose rate	60Co sources	
ESA-SCC 25100.1	SEE	LET/range (heavy ions), Energy (protons)	Accelerators of particles	
JESD57	SEE	LET/range (heavy ions)	Accelerators of ions (Z>1)	
ESA-SCC 22900.4	DD	Energy	Accelerators of particles (electrons, protons, neutrons)	

Duzellier, S. (2007). Test Facilities for SEE and Dose Testing. In R. Velazco (Ed.), *Radiation Effects on Embedded Systems.* 



- John LLL D W. At

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# Radiation qualification TID testing

- The laboratory dose rates are significantly higher than the actual space dose rates:
  - Testing according to test standards gives conservative estimates of CMOS devices TID sensitivity
    - **TID Radiation Sources and Dose Rates**



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# Radiation qualification Facilities for TID test

### • TID irradiation facilities types:

<b>Radiation type</b>	Main advantages	Main drawbacks
Electrons (accelerator)	High dose rate available Representative of some orbits	Costly Not adequate for low dose rates
Protons (accelerator)	High dose rate available Representative of some orbits	DD contribution Costly
X rays (photons)	High dose rates available Low cost	Dose enhancement effect Not adequate for low dose rates
Cs137 & Co60 sources (gamma rays)	Very large dose rate range Dose uniformity	Heavy shielding necessary Non- dominant in orbit

Duzellier, S. (2007). Test Facilities for SEE and Dose Testing. In R. Velazco (Ed.), *Radiation Effects on Embedded Systems.* 

### • Exhaustive list of facilities (2011):

https://twiki.cern.ch/twiki/pub/FPGARadTol/InformationOfInterest/IrradiationFacilitiesCatalogueRADECS2011.pdf



# Radiation qualification DD test

- Standard method does not yet exist for DD:
  - Modes of degradation are very complex
  - The induced electrical effects are very application dependent,
  - Annealing occurs depending on type of devices and application.
- DD testing is always designed and performed according to specific requirements and applications

However, some recommendations can be provided

species	energy	comment	
proton	50-60 MeV	Representative of "shielded" space environment Good penetration into package and device	
proton	10 MeV	Detector array	
electrons	1-3MeV	Solar cells	

Duzellier, S. (2007). Test Facilities for SEE and Dose Testing. In R. Velazco (Ed.), Radiation Effects on Embedded Systems.

### • Exhaustive list of facilities (2011):

https://twiki.cern.ch/twiki/pub/FPGARadTol/InformationOfInterest/IrradiationFacilitiesCatalogueRADECS2011.pdf



# Radiation qualification SEE test

### • SEEs are typically tested in heavy ions facilities

High Energy (100 MeV/amu)	France – GANIL
Medium Energy (> 10 MeV/amu)	Belgium – CYCLONE / Finland – JYFL
Low Energy (< 10 MeV/amu)	France – IPN / Italy – LNL

- Lasers are a complementary tool to study SEE sensitivity:
  - Focused lasers (< 1 μm) allows for performing localized</li>
  - Correlating a structure or part of a circuit to an observed failure mode
  - Can also be triggered by the test application permitting the temporal characterization of the anomaly



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R. Velazco (Ed.), *Radiation Effects on Embedded Systems, 2007.* 

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### Outlook

- I. Radiation space environment
- II. Radiation effects
- III. Radiation qualification

# IV. Design hardening methodologies for mixed signal circuits

- V. Fault tolerance in digital circuits
- VI. Design hardening at system level



# Design hard. method. Technological aspects

• Design hardening methods for full custom A/D design

- E.g. Application Specific Integrated Circuits (ASICs)
- Even if you don't design at full custom level some technological considerations are useful to choose COTS
  - Commercial ICs, programmable logic, sensors, etc
- CMOS technology is the baseline technology nowadays
  - Dedicated processes for space are only affordable for particular cases
  - Silicon On Insulator (SOI) is sometimes used
    - o Low SEU rates, latch-up free, some concerns on TID
    - o SOI is less readily available, analog IP need to be re-developed
- Dose effects

- Most space missions are limited to 100 krad dose
  - o Below 180 nm CMOS devices TID protection might be limited to screening
- Some long duration, deep space missions are in the Mrad domain, requires special mitigation techniques
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# Design hard. method. Technological aspe<u>cts</u>

- Modern nanometric CMOS technologies are inherently radiation hard at 100 Krad level
  - Insensitive to DD
  - TID effects in SiO2 layers decrease quadratically with the oxide thickness
- Displacement damage is still a concern for
  - Bipolar (or BiCMOS) technologies
  - Optical components
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# Design hard. method. TID hardening @ Mrad level

- But leakage current can still be a problem at Mrad level
  - Oxides < 5 nm are free from dose effects even at Mrad level</li>
  - BUT holes can be trapped in Shallow Trench isolation (STI) placed at the end of the active area (end of n+ region below gate for a NMOS transistor)
  - Positive charges builds up an electric field that ultimately inverts the pdoped silicon underneath the STI
  - Increase in leakage current and finally lost of functionality



Faccio, F. (2007). Design Hardening Methodologies for ASICs. In R. Velazco (Ed.), Radiation Effects on Embedded Systems.



### Design hard. method. TID hardening @ Mrad level

- Solution is to avoid the contact between the STI oxide and any p-doped region
  - Surround completely one of the two n+ diffusions (source or drain) with the thin gate oxide
  - Several layouts are possible, ELT is more used (better compatibility with fabrication rules)

The solid line in each design evidences the end of the active area, or the beginning of the STI oxide



Enclosed Layout Transistor (ELT)

D

S

Faccio, F. (2007). Design Hardening Methodologies for ASICs. In R. Velazco (Ed.), Radiation Effects on Embedded Systems.

Butterfly

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# Design hard. method. SEL hardening

- Hardening against SEL:
  - Reduce the gain of parasitic transistors
  - Reduce the parasitic resistances

Increase distance p to n MOS
 Use guardrings with contact distance < 10 um</li>

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Faccio, F. (2007). Design Hardening Methodologies for ASICs. In R. Velazco (Ed.), Radiation Effects on Embedded Systems.

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# Design hard. method. SEU/SET hardening

- Hardening against SEUs/SETs:
  - Low capacitance nodes are the most sensitive elements (V=Q/C !)
    - The amount of charge need to upset a cell is called the "critical charge"
    - Note that technology down-scaling goes against SEU hardening



have a state of the

- Memory cells and latches are typically the most vulnerable elements
  - Modify the cell layout or architecture to decrease its sensitivity
  - Simplest method of hardening a memory or latch cell is adding some capacitance to the sensitive nodes
  - Radiation environment determines the type of protection
    - Heavy ion environment is very different to proton/electron/neutron environment





### Design hard. method. SEU/SET hardening

- Capacitive hardening against SEU/SET
- Trench capacitors
  - embedded DRAM cells can be used to minimise the area penalty
  - IBM patent







### Transmission gates

- feedback path is cut off during write cycles to reduce the speed penalty
- ST patent



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"Single Event Effect Mitigation in Digital Integrated Circuits for Space", R. Weigand (ESA) TWEPP 2010.

## Design hard. method. SEU/SET hardening



- Resistor Memory Cell
  - H. T. Weaver, C. L. Axness, J. D. McBrayer, J. S. Browning, J. S. Fu, A. Ochoa, R. Koga, "An SEU
     Tolerant Memory Cell Derived from Fundamental Studies of SEU Mechanisms in SRAM," Nuclear
     Science, IEEE Transactions on , vol. 34, no. 6, pp. 1281-1286, Dec. 1987

- HIT = Heavy Ion Tolerant storage cell
  - D. Bessot R. Velazco, "Design of SEU-hardened CMOS memory cells: the HIT cell" RADECS, 1993
- DICE = Dual Interlocked storage CEII
  - R. Velazco, D. Bessot, S. Duzellier, R. Ecoffet, R. Koga, "Two CMOS memory cells suitable for the design of SEU-tolerant VLSI circuits," Nuclear Science, IEEE Transactions on , vol. 41, no. 6, pp. 2229-2234, Dec. 1994.
- Examples of hardened libraries around the world
  - ATMEL MH1RT (350 nm) and ATC18RHA (180 nm) technologies http://www.atmel.com
  - DARE (Design Against Radiation Effects) library for UMC 180 nm and 90 nm (development)
    - o http://microelectronics.esa.int/mpd2010/day1/MPD-IMEC-DARE-30March2010.pdf
  - ST Microelectronics library for 65 nm under development
    - o http://microelectronics.esa.int/mpd2010/day2/DSM65nm.pdf
  - Ramon Chips library for 180 nm Tower Semiconductors (130 nm under development)
    - o http://nepp.nasa.gov/mapId\_2008/presentations/i/05%20-%20Ginosar\_Ran\_mapId08\_pres\_1.pdf
  - Aeroflex (600, 250, 130, 90 nm) http://www.aeroflex.com/RadHardASIC
  - MRC Microelectronics on TSMC (0.35/0.25), UTMC/AMI, HP, NSC, Peregrine
    - o http://parts.jpl.nasa.gov/mrqw/mrqw\_presentations/S4\_alexander.ppt
  - HIREC/JAXXA Fujitsu 0.18, OKI 0.15 SOI (NSREC2005)
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# Design hard. method.

• Example of SEL hardened library designed at ICCUB



"Radiation hard programmable delay line for LHCb calorimeter upgrade" J Mauricio et alt, ,Journal of Instrumentation, Volume 9, January 2014

#### Digital blocks extra design rules:

- 1.  $\geq$  5um between N-DIFF layer and NWELL.
- 2. Guard rings between PMOS and NMOS.





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# Fault tolerance in digital circuits

- We will now focus on design techniques for programable digital circuits (mostly FPGAs)
  - High flexibility and reconfigurability feature
  - Recent devices allow HW/SW co-design embedding microprocessors
- SRAM-based FPGAs can offer an additional benefit for remote missions.
  - In-orbit design changes thanks to re-programmability,
  - Reducing the mission cost by correcting errors or improving system performance after launch
- Flash or Antifuse FPGA can be an alternative in some cases:
  - Neutron and alpha radiation do not have adverse effects on the configuration for some hardened FPGAs
    - https://www.microsemi.com/products/fpga-soc/reliability/see
  - Typically lower performances (# gates and speed) than SRAM-FPGAs



# Fault tolerance in digital circuits Fault tolerant systems in FPGAs

### • SRAM-FPGA configuration can be corrupted by SEUs/SETs

### Example: Xillinx Virtex<sup>®</sup>

- Virtex<sup>®</sup> devices consist of a flexible and regular architecture composed of an array of configurable logic blocks (CLBs)
- Surrounded by programmable input/output blocks (IOBs)
- o The CLBs are interconnected through a general routing matrix (GRM)
- Configuration bitstream: Look-up tables (LUT) and flip-flops, CLBs configuration cells and interconnections:



F. Kastensmidt, R. Reis. (2007). Fault Tolerance in Programmable Circuits, *Radiation Effects on Embedded Systems.* 



## Fault tolerance in digital circuits Fault tolerant systems in FPGAs

• 2 ways to implement fault-tolerant circuits in SRAM- FPGAs:



Systems.

# Fault tolerance in digital circuits FPGA with fault tolerant elements

- Fabrication process-based techniques
  - Epitaxial CMOS processes and advanced process such as SOI
- Design-based techniques
  - Triple modular redundancy (TMR) or SEU hardeneded flip-flops (DICE, etc)

     Also applicable to ASICs
  - Time redundancy
  - EDAC (error detection and correction coding)



- SET at MUX output in CLB could be a problem
  - Even with SEU hard flip-flops (DICE) !
- TMR combined with DICE offers the best protection
  - All logic elements are redundant (x3)
  - A majority voters detects any difference and corrects the errors
  - Clocks (and reset) signals should be skewed because of possible SET in clk/rst

F. Kastensmidt, R. Reis. (2007). Fault Tolerance in Programmable Circuits, Radiation Effects on Embedded Systems.



# Fault tolerance in digital circuits FPGA with fault tolerant elements

### STMR: TMR with triple skewed clock



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# Fault tolerance in digital circuits FPGA with fault tolerant elements

- XOR Parity bits
  - Employed for a long time, also in ground-based computers
  - Error handling: correction/reload by HW state machine or software (reboot)
  - Loss of data, unless redundant data is available elsewhere in the system...



- Use hamming codes or other EDAC codes:
  - Example ACTEL core: www.actel.com/documents/EDAC\_AN.pdf

"Single Event Effect Mitigation in Digital Integrated Circuits for Space", R. Weigand (ESA) TWEPP 2010.



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# Fault tolerance in digital circuits High level techniques

- Architectural techniques require dedicated hardened elements
  - Expensive and long development times
- Alternative is to achieve radiation tolerance using high level synthesis techniques
  - SEU mitigation technique used nowadays to protect designs synthesized in the Virtex<sup>®</sup> architecture is mostly based on TMR combined with scrubbing
    - Reload the bitstream : external oscillator generates the configuration clock that drives the FPGA and PROM that contains the "gold" bitstream.



Figure 10. Triple Modular Redundancy for Xilinx FPGAs.

F. Kastensmidt, R. Reis. (2007). Fault Tolerance in Programmable Circuits, Radiation Effects on Embedded Systems.

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# Fault tolerance in digital circuits High level techniques

• ALL THE LOGIC MUST BE TRIPLICATED FOR SRAM-FPGAS





# Fault tolerance in digital circuits

- Increasing interest for SRAM based RFPGA
  - Lower NRE cost than ASIC
  - In-flight reconfiguration capability
  - High performance and complexity allowing System-On-FPGA
- SEU in configuration memory
  - Affect not only user data or state (as in ASIC) ...
  - ... but alter the functionality of the circuit itself
  - ... turn the direction of I/O pins
- SEU mitigation for reprogrammable FPGA
  - Configuration scrubbing or read-back and partial reconfiguration
  - Triplication of registers and combinatorial logic
  - Voting of logical feedback paths
  - Redundancy for user memory
  - Voting of the outputs
  - Triplication of I/Os

"Single Event Effect Mitigation in Digital Integrated Circuits for Space", R. Weigand (ESA) TWEPP 2010.



# Fault tolerance in digital circuits State of the art

• Some standard rad hard FPGAs

Xilinx	Atmel	Actel (Microsemi)
Virtex <sup>®</sup> -5QV FPGA XQR5VFX130 – 65 nm	ATF280F	RTAX4000
Re-programable	EEPROM	Anti-fuse
Estimated 1,4M gates	280K gates (50% typ. routable)	500k gates

Florent Manni, (CNES-DCT/TV/IN), SEFUW - 15-17/03/2016 - FPGA development flow for future large space FPGA

- Nowadays advanced FPGAs include embedded soft processors, interfaces, peripheral and also high speed digital signal processing application:
  - System on Chip (SoC)
  - Extremely appealing for nanosats: lower cost and flexibility !



# Fault tolerance in digital circuits

#### EYESAT CUBESAT



# Fault tolerance in digital circuits

- The Xilinx Zynq XC7Z030 (28 nm) is a SoC FPGA used as main processing unit for the student nanosatellite Eyesat
  - Zynq component handles both payload and platform functions
  - ARM processor will handle platform and payload software using Time and Space Partitioning (Xtratum)
  - FPGA will handle communication with every equipment (band X, camera, mass memory...)



Florent Manni, (CNES-DCT/TV/IN), SEFUW - 15-17/03/2016 - FPGA development flow for future large space FPGA





### Outlook

- I. Radiation space environment
- II. Radiation effects
- III. Radiation qualification
- IV. Design hardening methodologies for mixed signal circuits

V. Fault tolerance in digital circuits

# VI. Design hardening at system level



# Design hardening at system level RHA methodology

- So far we have been looking the problem at device level
  - Radiation Hardness Assurance (RHA) goes beyond the piece part level
- RHA should consider the space system as a whole:
  - Deals with environment definition
  - Part selection and part testing
  - Spacecraft layout
  - Radiation tolerant design
  - Mission/system/subsystems requirements
  - Mitigation techniques, etc.

Ali Zadeh, ESA, "Radiation Hardness Assurance & Test Facilities", EJSM Workshop ESTEC, 18 to 20 January 2010



# Design hardening at system level RHA methodology

RHA overview



69 *4th Technoweek, Radiation Aspects,* 18/06/2017, D. Gascón Ali Zadeh, ESA, "Radiation Hardness Assurance & Test Facilities", EJSM Workshop ESTEC, 18 to 20 January 2010



# Design hardening at system level RHA simulation

### Detailed radiation "transport" Monte Carlo simulation:

- Particle numbers, species, energy, and direction of propagation
- Accurate part level dose calculation necessary
- Structural and shielding optimization





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# Design hardening at system level RHA methodology





# Design hardening at system level RHA during program life

- Pre Phase A, Phase A (System Requirement Review, SRR)
  - Draft environment definition
  - Draft hardness assurance requirements (top level)
  - Preliminary studies (possible irradiation characterisation of critical components, sensors, etc.)
- Phase B (Preliminary Design Review, PDR)
  - Final environment definition
  - Electronic design approach
  - Preliminary spacecraft layout for shielding analysis
  - Preliminary shielding analysis & hardness assurance requirements update
  - Preliminary Radiation Analysis Report
- Phase C (Critical Design Review)
  - Radiation test results
  - Final shielding analysis & final hardness assurance requirement
  - Final Radiation Analysis Report (including Worst Case Analysis (WCA) and Failure Mode Effect Criticality Analysis (FMECA))
- Phase D
  - Radiation Lot Acceptance Tests (RLAT, typically before MRR)
- Phase E (Utilisation)
  - Failure analysis (Lessons learned)
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Ali Zadeh, ESA, "Radiation Hardness Assurance & Test Facilities", EJSM Workshop ESTEC, 18 to 20 January 2010


# Design hardening at system level Approach for nanosats

- Standarised solutions are probably the path for nanosats
  - Standard platforms: RHA, shielding, etc validated (orbit/app)
- Still one needs to optimize payloads
  - Scrubbing for configuration RAM
  - SEU/SET for FPGAs, ASICs, etc
  - ECC or parity checks (user memories in both ASICs and)
  - SW-implemented fault tolerance (SWIFT)
  - Watchdog timers
  - De-latching for SEL prevention
  - Example: Radiation/Fault Tolerant Space Computer
    - o Zynq device
    - o 1 U form factor
    - Developped by CHREC NSF center

## http://www.spacemicro.com/assets/datasheet s/digital/slices/CSP.pdf

Lausanne, 2016. doi: 10.1109/FPL.2016.7577301

A. Stoddard at al., "High-speed PCAP configuration

SoCs," 2016 26th International Conference on Field

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Programmable Logic and Applications (FPL),

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**CubeSat Space Processor Engineering Model** 



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# Close to end...



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# **Concluding remarks**

- There are no universal recipies to deal with radiation
- You need to study very well your project:
  - Orbit and lifetime
  - Application
  - Platform characteristics
- Trade-off: cost versus hardening
  - Component selection
  - Design: hardening takes resources !
- Design hardening methods have to be adopted
  - At early stage

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Considering the global/system design



# Many references given through the slides and few more next...



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- 2. Alan Tribble : The space environment. Implications for spacecraft design, Princeton University Press (1995)
- 3. Andrew Holmes-Siedle and Len Adams : Handbook of radiation effects., Oxford science publications (1993)
- 4. Maurer et al. (2008). Harsh Environments: Space Radiation Environment, Effects, and Mitigation. Johns Hopkins APL Technical Digest. 28(1).
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- 9. SEFUW\_ SpacE FPGA Users Workshop, 3rd Edition (15-17 March 2016):
- 77 https://indico.esa.int/indico/event/130/overview



## References

## Resources

- 1. ESA Space Environments and Effects Section (TEC-EES):
  - Analysis of space environments and their effects on space systems
  - Website: http://space-env.esa.int/index.php/online-resources.html
- 2. ESA Radiation Effects and Analysis Techniques Section (TEC-QEC).
  - Analysis at component level and radiation testing:
  - Website https://escies.org
- 3. ESA Microelectronics Section (TEC-EDM).
  - Availability of appropriate technologies and development methods.
  - Availability of space-specific standard components and IP.
  - Development support to projects.
  - Analysis and mitigation of SEE at design level.
  - Website: http://www.esa.int/TEC/Microelectronics
- 4. NASA radiation effect & analysis:
  - Website: <u>https://radhome.gsfc.nasa.gov</u>
- 5. SPENVIS: ESA's SPace ENVironment Information System.
  - Space environment and its effects; including cosmic rays, natural radiation belts, solar energetic particles, plasmas, gases, and "micro-particles"
  - Website <a href="https://www.spenvis.oma.be/intro.php">https://www.spenvis.oma.be/intro.php</a>
- 6. SEPEM: ESA's Solar Energetic Particle Environment Modelling Project
  - Website: http://test.sepem.eu

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## SEPEM Project (http://test.sepem.eu)

SEPEM application server ×

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# Thanks a lot for your attention !

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IEEC



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## **Particles in the Heliosphere**



Differential Intensity energy spectra for Oxygen Ions (from Lee, Mewaldt and Giacalone, 2012, Shock acceleration of Ions in the Heliosphere, Space Science Reviews, 173, 247-281)







## USE OF SHALLOW TRENCH ISOLATION TECHNOLOGY

 Use of Shallow Trench Isolation Technology: Shallow trench isolation (STI) allows closer spacing of transistors by eliminating the depletion region at the surface.





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### OBC NINANO

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9 eLosaless Image Compression On The Eye-sat Nanosat»

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# Hypervisor: temporal + spatial partitioning for safety critical applications:

- Strong temporal isolation: fixed duty planner
- Strong spatial isolation: all partitions are executed in a user processor mode
- Basic resource Virtualization: clock and timer, interrupt, memory, CPU
- Real-time scheduling for partitions

Cones Jams

Deterministic hypercalls (hypervisor system calls)

# Easy fault mitigation (DMT or DT2 fault-tolerant architectures) Core 1 I ((n) II ((n) Core 0 II ((n) II ((n) Compare 01 and 01' II ((n) Compare 02 and 02'

Ø ICCL

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«Lossless Image Compression On The Eye-sat Nanosat»

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# Design hardening at system level Fault injection

- Soft Errors caused by particle hits are a serious problem to debug complex digital systems
- Mitigating the transient faults in a cost effective manner
  - Identifying the most sensitive parts of a design
  - Select the most effective solutions
- Fault Injection is a consolidated technique used for the dependability evaluation of computer-based systems



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