

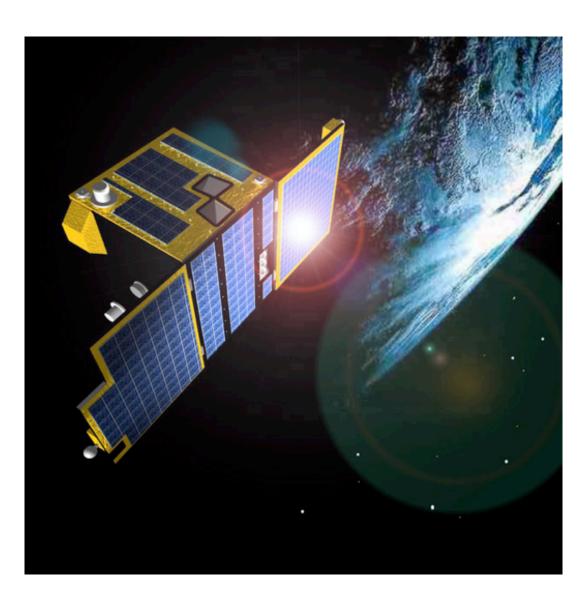
Automation and Flexibility at the PROBA2 Science Centre

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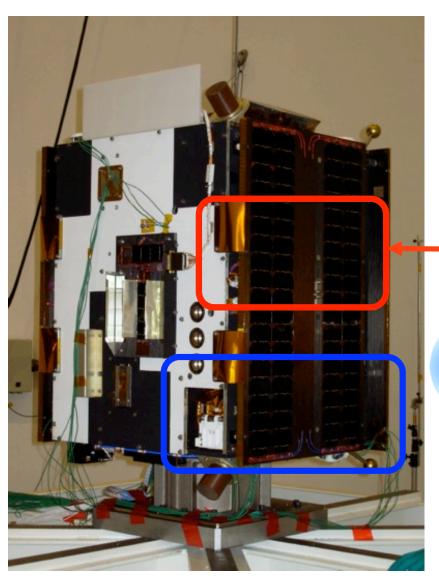
The PROBA2 Science Centre (P2SC) is a small-scale science operations centre supporting the Sun observation instruments onboard PROBA2: the EUV imager SWAP and large-yield radiometer LYRA. PROBA2 is one of ESA's small, low-cost Projects for On-board Autonomy (PROBA) and part of ESA's In-Orbit Technology Demonstration Program. The P2SC is hosted at the Royal Observatory of Belgium, co-located with both Principal Investigator teams. The P2SC tasks cover science planning, instrument commanding, instrument monitoring, data processing, support of outreach activities, and distribution of science data products. PROBA missions aim for a high degree of autonomy at mission and system level, including the science operations centre. The autonomy and flexibility of the P2SC is reached by a set of web-based interfaces allowing the operators as well as the instrument teams to monitor quasi-continuously the status of the operations, allowing a quick reaction to solar events. In addition, several new concepts are implemented at instrument, spacecraft, and ground segment level allowing a high-degree of flexibility in the operations of the in- struments. We present the key concepts of the P2SC, emphasising the automation and the flexibility achieved in the commanding as well as the data processing chain.

What is PROBA2?

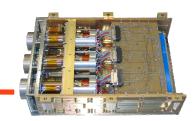


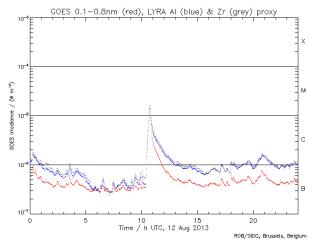
- Project for Onboard Autonomy (PROBA)
 spacecraft, part of ESA's in-orbit Technology
 Demonstration Program.
- micro-sat launched in 2009, LEO sunsynchronous
- 4 scientific instruments

Solar Payload of PROBA2



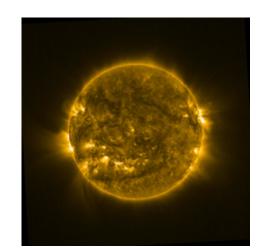


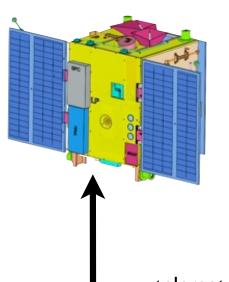






coronal EUV imager





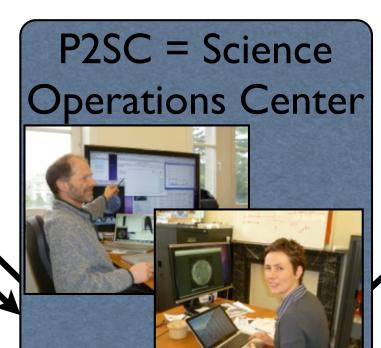
What is the PROBA2 Science Center?

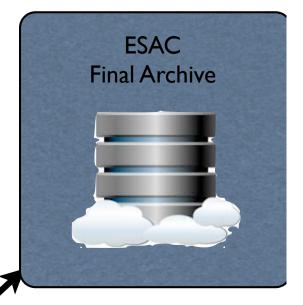
telemetry

ESA Redu= Misson Operations Center



instrument commanding & telemetry

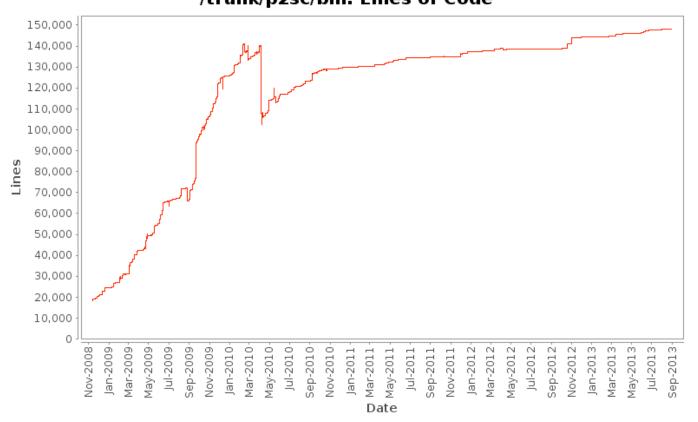




science products

P2SC development





ROB, Brussels (B)

TCD, Dublin (I)

KULeuven, Leuven (B)

ESTEC, Noordwijk (NI)

on average, 18 scientists from 4 institutes programmed 200 lines of code in 650 files in about 2 years (excluding external libraries, configuration files, duplications)



Use Cases

software development



Commissioning review

Requirements

system validation tests

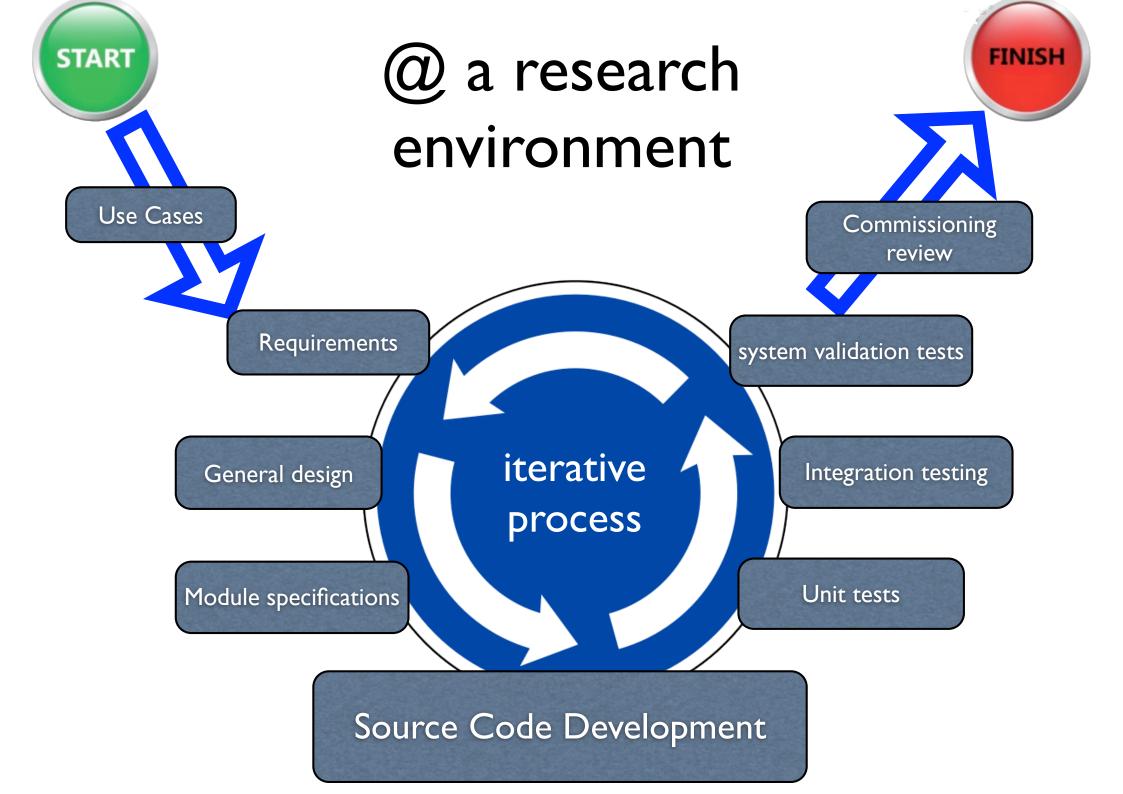
General design

Integration testing

Module specifications

Unit tests

Source Code Development



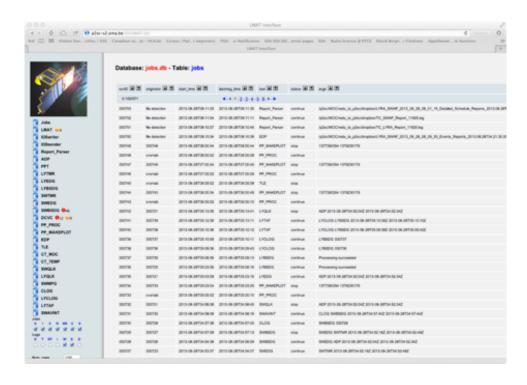
Examples of automation and flexibility

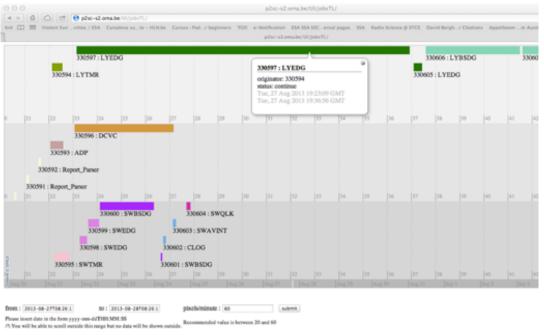
- work flow management tool
- Automated rule-based cross-validation of operational data
- fully automatic FITS generating pipelines & catalogs
- flexible commanding of instruments at SOC through meta-language

All processes report to a Workflow manager

- triggers each module when needed
- collects errors, warnings, progress messages
- shows overviews of what is going on

web-based
workflow manager
allows to run the
P2SC from
anywhere, anytime



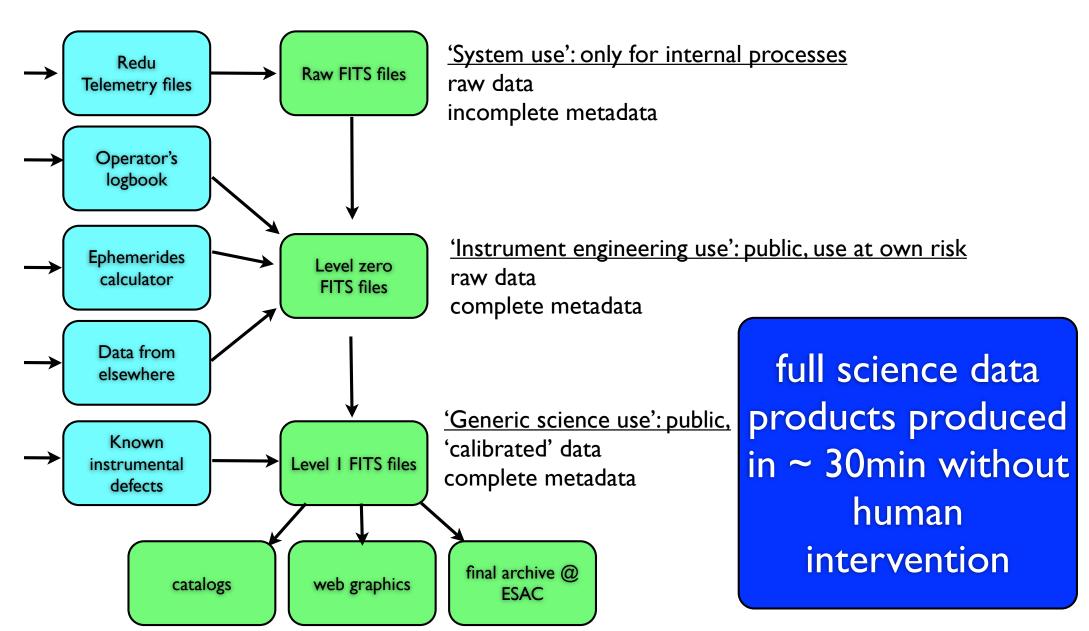


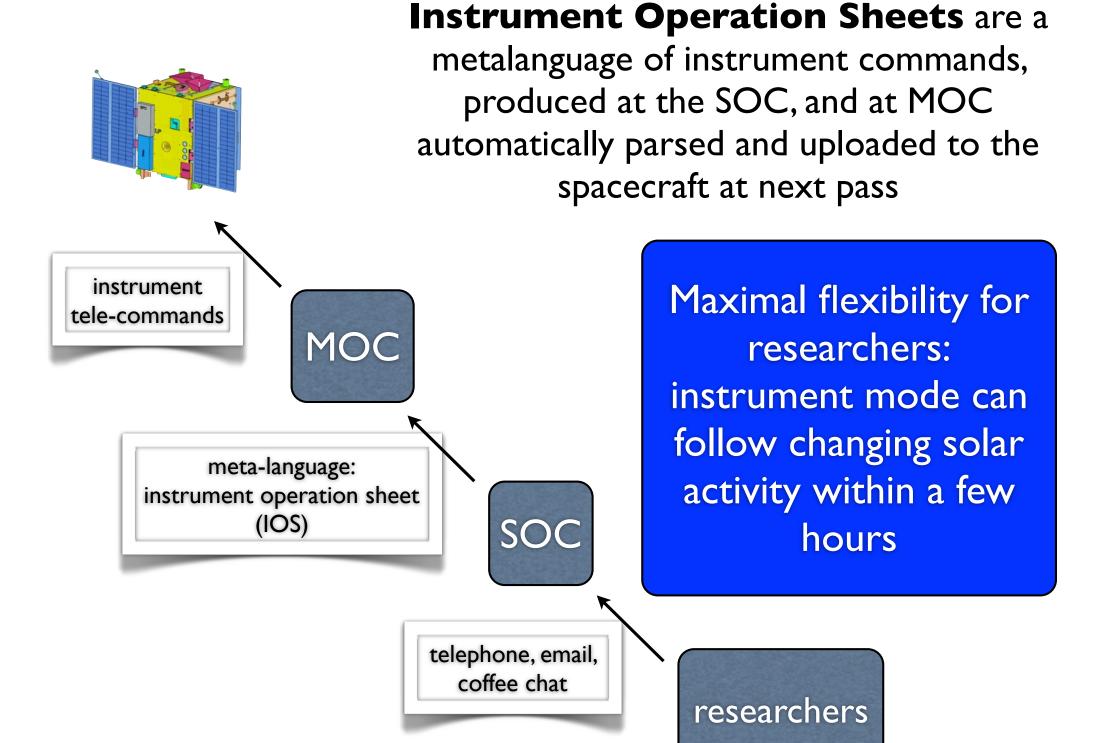
Automated rule based cross validation of operational data

- checks if incoming housekeeping data are within limits
- checks if incoming housekeeping data are consistent with commanding
- checks if incoming observations are consistent with commanding
- checks if statistics of processes are 'normal'

A 'virtual operator' does all the routine work, only noteworthy events are presented to the human operator

Fully automated production of science data products

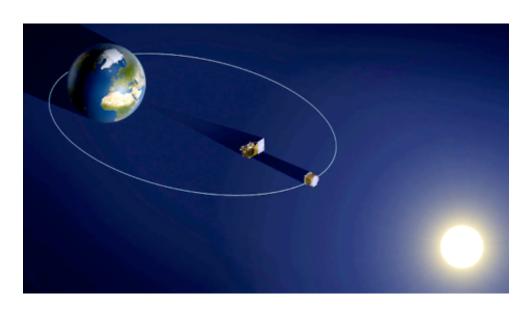




Some lessons learned

- direct instrument commanding has been very useful, the use of a meta-language has complications
- virtualization of P2SC servers has been useful for having test & development copies but an optimized design of the lay-out of the virtual servers was nontrivial
- software development by scientists resulted in the use of many different programming languages. Well defined interfaces to the workflow manager were important.

To do: Science centers for PROBA3 and for the EUI instrument onboard Solar Orbiter



Talk at this conference:

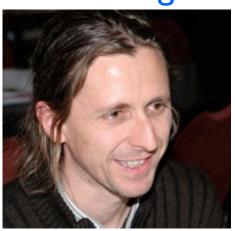
"Design exercise: the EUI data center at the Royal Observatory of Belgium" by Cis Verbeeck



Want to know more?

- read the paper: Zender 2013, Solar Physics
- visit us at: http://proba2.oma.be or http://sci.esa.int/proba2
- email us: swap_lyra@oma.be
- talk to us at this conference

David Berghmans



Joe Zender



Cis Verbeeck

