

#### The Deep Space Gateway Lightning Mapper (DLM):

Monitoring Global Change and Thunderstorm Processes through Observations of Earth's High-Latitude Lightning from Cis-Lunar Orbit 28 February 2018 Timothy Lang, Research Aerospace Technologist, NASA Marshall Space Flight Center

#### Instrument Function Statement and Gateway Usage



| STATEMENT   | INSTRUMENT/CONCEPT DETAILS  |
|---|---|
| FUNCTION STATEMENT  | <ul> <li>Monitor global change and thunderstorm processes through observations of Earth's high-latitude lightning. This instrument will combine long-lived sampling of individual thunderstorms with long-term observations of lightning at high latitudes.</li> <li>How is global change affecting thunderstorm patterns?</li> <li>How do high-latitude thunderstorms differ from low-latitude?</li> </ul> |
| WHY IS THE GATEWAY THE OPTIMAL<br>FACILITY FOR THIS<br>INSTRUMENT/RESEARCH? | <ul> <li>Expected DSG orbits will provide nearly continuous viewing of<br/>the Earth's high latitudes (50 deg and poleward)</li> <li>These regions are not well covered by existing lightning<br/>mappers (e.g., Lightning Imaging Sensor / LIS, or</li> </ul>  |
|   | <ul> <li>Geostationary Lightning Mapper / GLM)</li> <li>Polar, Molniya, Tundra, etc. Earth orbits have significant drawbacks related to continuous coverage and/or stable FOVs</li> </ul>   |

#### **Basic Instrument Parameters**



| PARAMETER              | INSTRUMENT ESTIMATE & ANY COMMENTS  |
|------------------------|---|
| MASS (KG)              | 200 kg  |
| VOLUME (M)             | 1.0 x 1.2 x 1.2 $m^3$ (switch to reflector telescope to reduce physical length)               |
| POWER (W)              | 100 W   |
| THERMAL REQUIREMENTS   | Need facility/orbit details; greatest need - focal plane not overheating; CMOS mitigates this |
| DAILY DATA VOLUME      | 100 GB  |
| CURRENT TRL            | 4 (working prototypes currently in orbit, but need to adapt for increased viewing distance)   |
| WAG COST & BASIS       | \$50M minimum, based on lessons learned from LIS and GLM                                      |
| DURATION OF EXPERIMENT | Open-ended  |
| OTHER PARAMETERS       | N/A   |

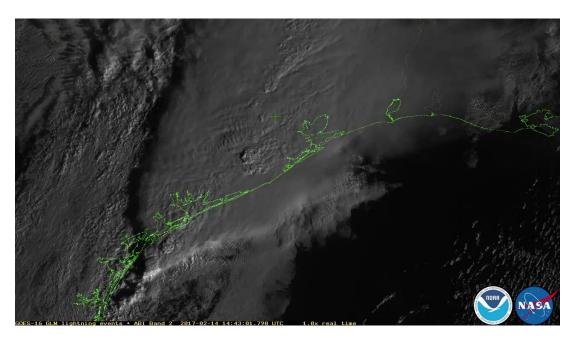
#### Instrument Gateway Usage



| USAGE   | INSTRUMENT REQUIREMENTS & COMMENTS  |
|---|---|
| ORBIT CONSIDERATIONS                              | Most NRHOs are fine, L1 North would be ideal for boreal forest coverage   |
| FIELD OF VIEW REQUIREMENTS                        | Earth in FOV nearly continuously, high pointing accuracy (gimbal system?) |
| REQUIRES USE OF AIRLOCK                           | No  |
| CREW INTERACTION REQUIRED?                        | During install only (a few hours based on ISS-LIS experience)             |
| WILL ASTRONAUT PRESENCE BE<br>DISRUPTIVE?         | Will need technical solution to compensate for micro-vibrations           |
| DOES THE INSTRUMENT PRESENT A RISK<br>TO THE CREW | No  |
| OTHER CONSUMABLES REQUIRED                        | None  |
| SPECIAL SAMPLE HANDLING<br>REQUIREMENTS           | None  |
| NEED FOR TELEROBOTICS?                            | During install only, if astronaut does not manually install               |
| OTHER REQUIREMENTS OF THE GATEWAY?                | Prefer good attitude control  |

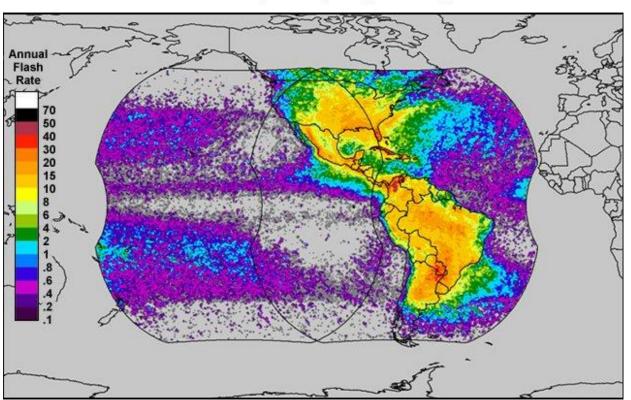


#### GLM Coverage with Lightning Climatology



#### **Geostationary Lightning Mapper**

- Demonstrates feasibility of lightning detection well beyond LEO (>> 50x distance)
- Similar instruments on Chinese FY-4 series, Meteosat 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation
- Poor coverage of upper latitudes

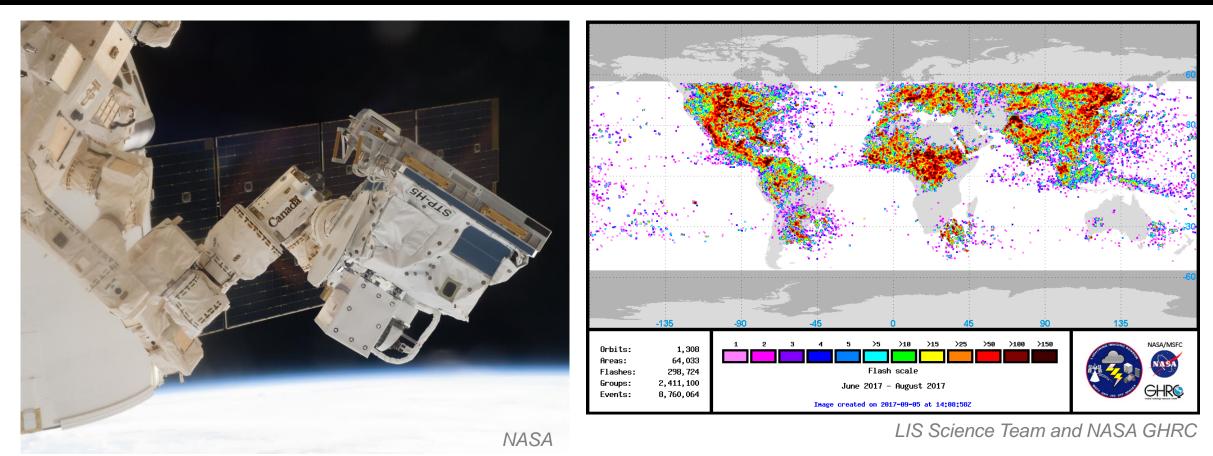


NASA/Goodman et al. 2013

S. J. Goodman et al., The GOES-R Geostationary Lightning Mapper (GLM), Atmospheric Research, Vol. 125–126, 2013, Pages 34-49, ISSN 0169-8095, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.atmosres.2013.01.006.

#### **References and Status of Work in this Field**



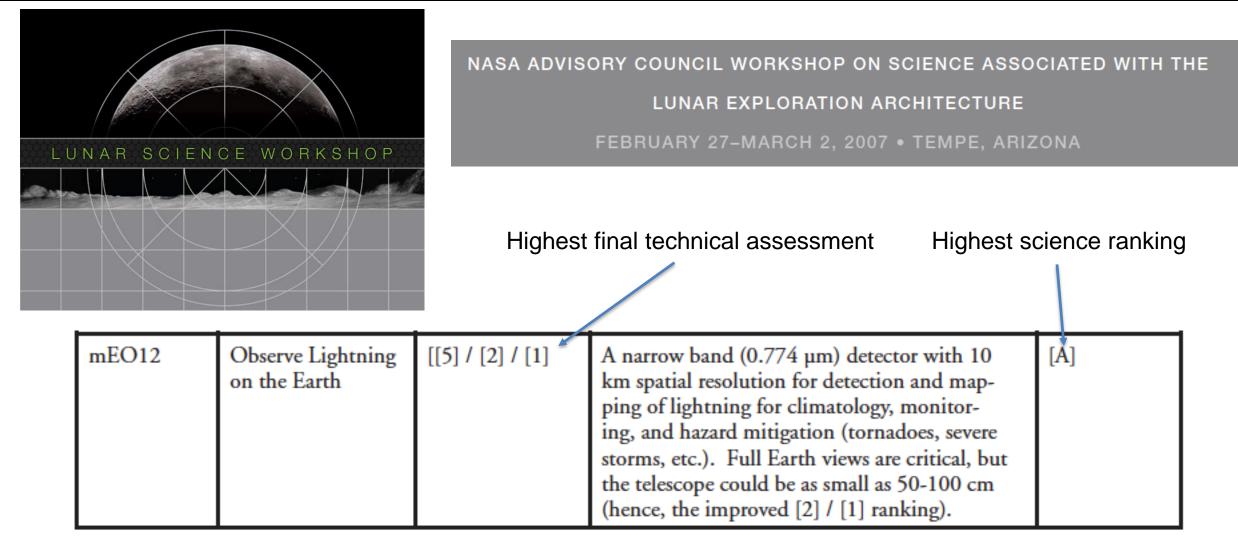


#### Lightning Imaging Sensor (LIS) on the ISS

- Demonstrates feasibility of continuous lightning observations from crew-inhabited platform
- Increased latitudinal coverage from TRMM-LIS, but still poor high-latitude sampling
- Blakeslee et al. (2017; AGU Fall Meeting)

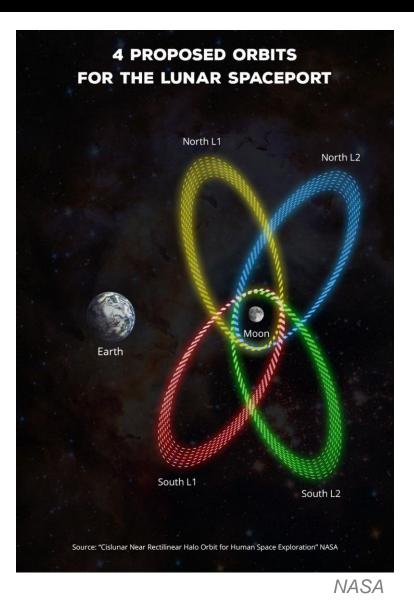
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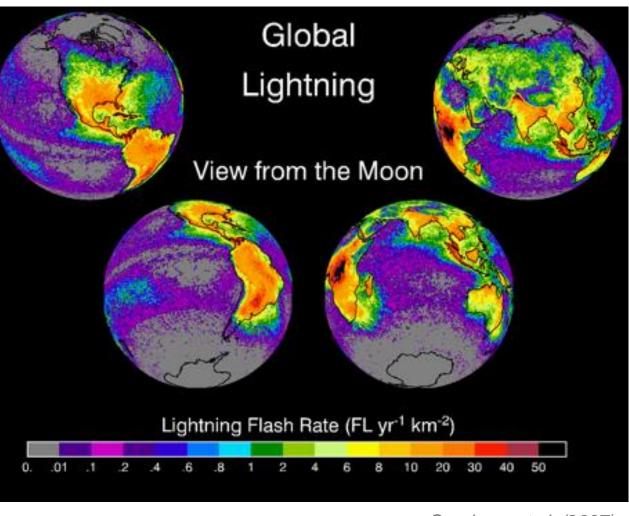




Previous assessments have found high utility and feasibility for lunar-based observations of lightning

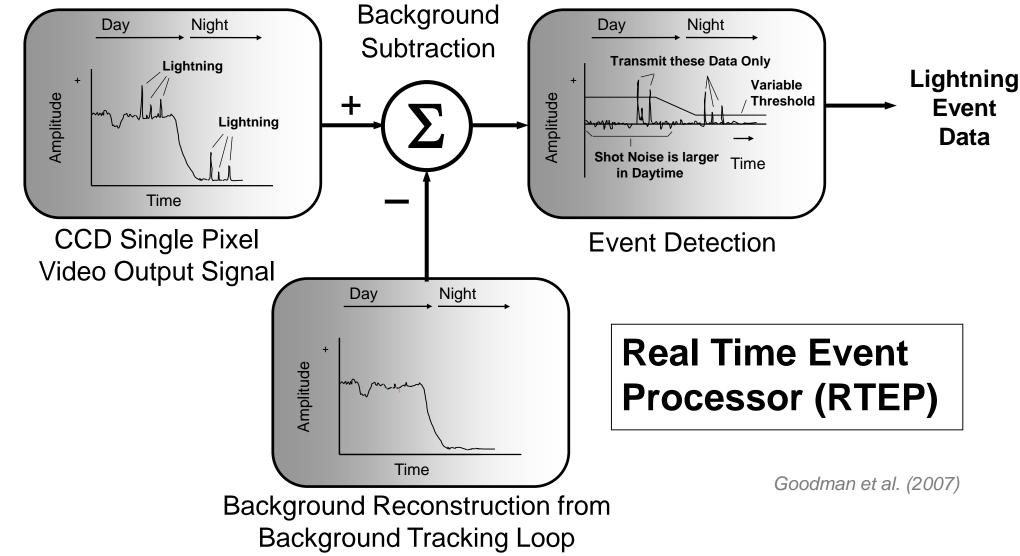








### **Measurement: Background Subtraction & Event Detection**

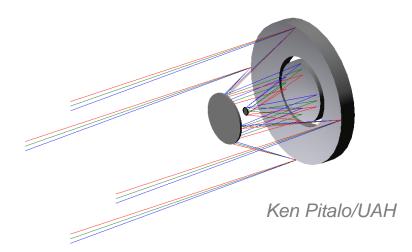




| IFOV                           | 10 km              |  |  |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|--|--|
| CMOS Focal Plane               | 1372 x 1300 pix    |  |  |
| Pixel Size                     | 30 um              |  |  |
| Quantum<br>Efficiency          | .85                |  |  |
| Optical System<br>Transmission | .70                |  |  |
| Filter Center<br>Wavelength    | 777.4 nm           |  |  |
| Filter Bandwidth               | 10 A               |  |  |
| Frame Integration              | 2 ms               |  |  |
| Sample Rate                    | 500 frames per sec |  |  |

#### **Reflector Telescope Concept**

(LIS/GLM measurement heritage - continuous, day/night, storm-scale, near-uniform observation)



Three Mirror Anastigmat: EFL = 1500 mm: F/# = 1.25; Focal Plane Radius = 26.22 mm

Adapted from Goodman et al. (2007)

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#### **Sampling Considerations**

- Assuming orbit locked to moon, Earth phases and relative pointing of poles toward moon will vary monthly/annually
- Enables sampling of diurnal cycle of lightning over a long-term basis
- Enables long-lived sampling of individual thunderstorms (until Earth rotates them out of view)
- Thus, lunar-orbiting instrument can address scientific questions related to both climate **and** storm processes



Stellarium



## Relevance to NASA and 2017 Decadal Survey

- Lightning observations directly address NASA Earth Science focus areas of Weather (including Extreme Events), Climate, and Atmospheric Composition (NO<sub>x</sub> production)
- Decadal Survey puts "Clouds, Convection, and Precipitation" and "Ozone and Trace Gases" in the highest tiers for targeted observations. Lightning data provide quantitative information/context highly relevant to both.
- WMO has declared lightning as a new Essential Climate Variable. Lightning also important for the NCA (*Koshak et al. 2015*).

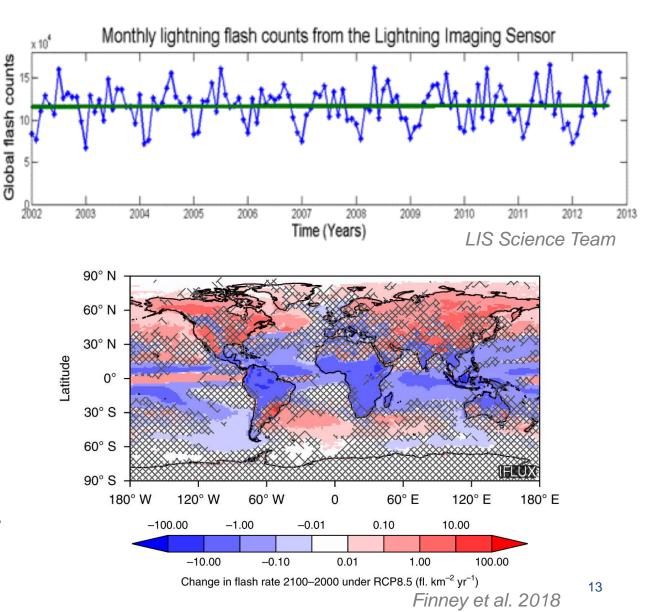
| Targeted<br>Observable                      | Science/Applications Summary   | Candidate Measurement<br>Approach   | Designated | Explorer | Incubation |
|---|--|---|------------|----------|------------|
| Aerosols                                    | Aerosol properties, aerosol vertical<br>profiles, and cloud properties to<br>understand their effects on climate and air<br>quality  | Backscatter lidar and multi-<br>channel/multi-angle/polarization<br>imaging radiometer flown<br>together on the same platform | x          |          |            |
| Clouds,<br>Convection, and<br>Precipitation | Coupled cloud-precipitation state and<br>dynamics for monitoring global<br>hydrological cycle and understanding<br>contributing processes including cloud<br>feedback  | Radar(s), with multi-frequency<br>passive microwave and sub-mm<br>radiometer  | x          |          |            |
| Mass Change                                 | Large-scale Earth dynamics measured by<br>the changing mass distribution within and<br>between the Earth's atmosphere, oceans,<br>ground water, and ice sheets   | Spacecraft ranging measurement<br>of gravity anomaly  | x          |          |            |
| Surface Biology<br>and Geology              | Earth surface geology and biology,<br>ground/water temperature, snow reflectivity,<br>active geologic processes, vegetation traits<br>and algal biomass  | Hyperspectral imagery in the<br>visible and shortwave infrared,<br>multi- or hyperspectral imagery in<br>the thermal IR       | x          |          |            |
| Surface<br>Deformation and<br>Change        | Earth surface dynamics from earthquakes<br>and landslides to ice sheets and permafrost   | Interferometric Synthetic Aperture<br>Radar (InSAR) with ionospheric<br>correction  | x          |          |            |
| Greenhouse<br>Gases                         | CO <sub>2</sub> and methane fluxes and trends,<br>global and regional with quantification of<br>point sources and identification of sources<br>and sinks   | Multispectral short wave IR and thermal IR sounders; or lidar**   |            | x        |            |
| Ice Elevation                               | Global ice characterization including<br>elevation change of land ice to assess sea<br>level contributions and freeboard height of<br>sea ice to assess sea ice/ocean/atmosphere<br>interaction                | Lidar**   |            | x        |            |
| Ocean Surface<br>Winds and<br>Currents      | Coincident high-accuracy currents and<br>vector winds to assess air-sea momentum<br>exchange and to infer upwelling, upper<br>ocean mixing, and sea-ice drift  | Doppler scatterometer   |            | x        |            |
| Gases                                       | Vertical profiles of ozone and trace gases<br>(including water vapor, CO, NO <sub>2</sub> , methane,<br>and N <sub>2</sub> O) globally and with high spatial<br>resolution                                     | UV/Vis/IR microwave limb/nadir<br>sounding and UV/Vis/IR<br>solar/stellar occultation   |            | x        |            |
| Snow Depth and<br>Snow Water<br>Equivalent  | Snow depth and snow water equivalent<br>including high spatial resolution in<br>mountain areas   | Radar (Ka/Ku band) altimeter; or<br>lidar**   |            | x        |            |
| Terrestrial<br>Ecosystem<br>Structure       | <b>3D structure of terrestrial ecosystem</b><br>including forest canopy and above ground<br>biomass and changes in above ground<br>carbon stock from processes such as<br>deforestation and forest degradation | Lidar**   |            | x        |            |
| Atmospheric<br>Winds                        | <b>3D winds in troposphere/PBL</b> for transport of pollutants/carbon/aerosol and  | Active sensing (lidar, radar, scatterometer); or passive imagery  |            | x        | x          |

The National Academies Press



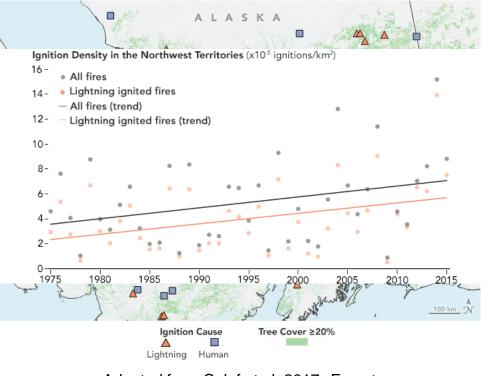
#### **Global Change and Lightning**

- There continues to be fundamental disagreement in the literature about whether lightning will increase or decrease under various warming scenarios (e.g., *Romps et al. 2014*, *Finney et al. 2018*)
- TRMM-LIS showed no significant trend in tropical lightning during its time in orbit
- Recent work suggests lightning maybe be changing in high latitudes in response to warming (e.g., *Veraverbeke et al. 2017*), but we lack good observations in these regions
- Major future impacts on boreal forest fires possible. We need more high-latitude lightning data!





#### **End Users For High-Latitude Lightning Data**



Adapted from Calef et al. 2017, Forests

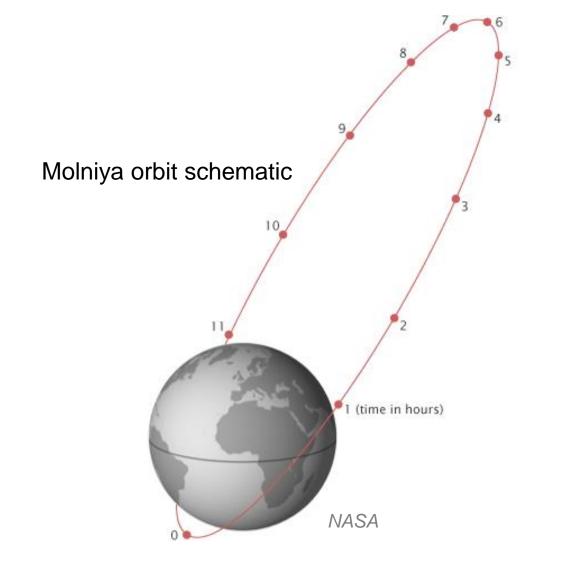


Example of a long duration flash which produces increased fire potential. Video/permissions acquired from Marius Samoila

- Approximately 75% of all wildfires in the high latitudes are due to lightning. GLM and ISS-LIS do not reach high enough in latitude to cover the boreal forests.
- Optical brightness and duration measurements help provide information about how long a lightning flash is in contact with the ground. The duration of this contact determines if a fire will start.

Wildfire Partners: Alaska Fire Service, Bureau of Land Management, Alaska Fire Consortium, Bureau of Indian Affairs, USDA. Other Weather Partners: National Weather Service, Alaska Aviation Weather Unit; DoD Partners: Ft. Greely Testbed





#### Why not Molniya or Tundra?

- FOV and IFOV are not stable due to highly elliptical orbit
- Requires multiple instruments/satellites for continuous coverage of both hemispheres as well as coverage of diurnal cycle



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# Thanks! Any Questions?