Development Status of JAXA's New SLR Station in Tsukuba

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1. Introduction

- 2. Station Design
- 3. Development Status
- 4. Preliminary Results of Laser Ranging
- 5. Summary



Background and Motivation

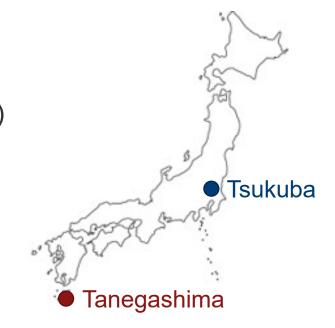
- JAXA had operated Tanegashima Station (GMSL) since 2004
- GMSL was closed on 1st April 2021 due to aging and repeating system failures

- JAXA has developed a new SLR station since 2018
 - To replace GMSL
 - To introduce state-of-the-art SLR technology
- The new SLR station is built in the Tsukuba Space Center (TKSC)
 - Much better accessibility than GMSL because our office is in TKSC
 - Easy to change the H/W configuration for experiments and investigate the cause of a system failure
 - Enhance our knowledge and skills of SLR

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Tanegashima station (GMSL)





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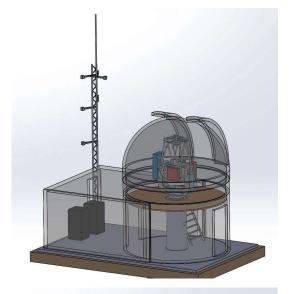
Basic Concept

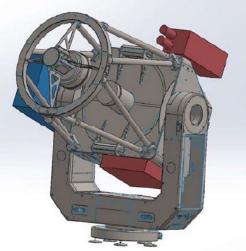


- Tsukuba station is mainly developed by KDK (Japan), TOYO (Japan), and DiGOS (Germany)
- The design is modern and flexible which follows a standardized concept
- Ranging capability is from LEO to GEO
- Key-technology
 - Single-photon mode with 1 kHz repetition rate
 - Two lasers with the wavelength of 532 nm (primary) and 1064 nm (experimental purpose)
 - Piggyback (lasers and detectors are mounted on the telescope) to avoid any Coudé Path
 - Fiber-based calibration system
 - Radar and ADS-B for aircraft detection

Specification







Telescope							
Model	AZ800 (ASA)						
Optical diameter	800 mm						
Laser							
Model	Compiler Compact (Passat)						
Wavelength	532 nm	1064 nm					
Repetition Rate	1 kHz	1 kHz					
Pulse Energy	260 µJ	350 µJ					
Pulse Width	7 ps	8 ps					
Detector							
Model	C-SPAD (Peso Consulting)	PGA-200 (RMY)					
Wavelength	532 nm	1064 nm					
Quantum Efficiency	> 40%	Max 30%					
Single Photon Jitter	< 40 ps	< 100 ps					

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Schedule



	2019			2020			2021			2022				2023			
	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q
Station Design			The construction was suspended due to the coronavirus pandemic														
Development and Construction																	
Acceptance Test																	
Operation								The operation will start from April 2023									

Construction at TKSC – Foundation





Construction at TKSC – Container & Dome

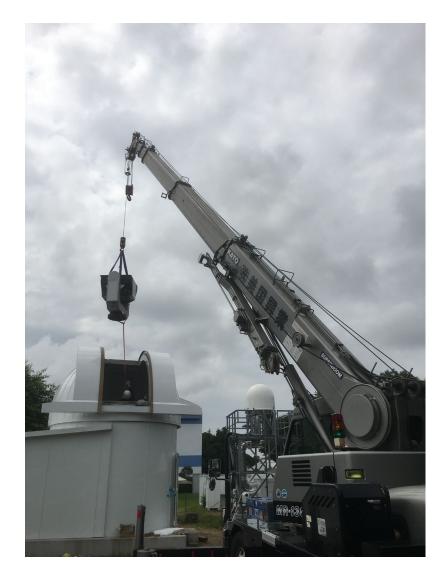






Construction at TKSC – Telescope

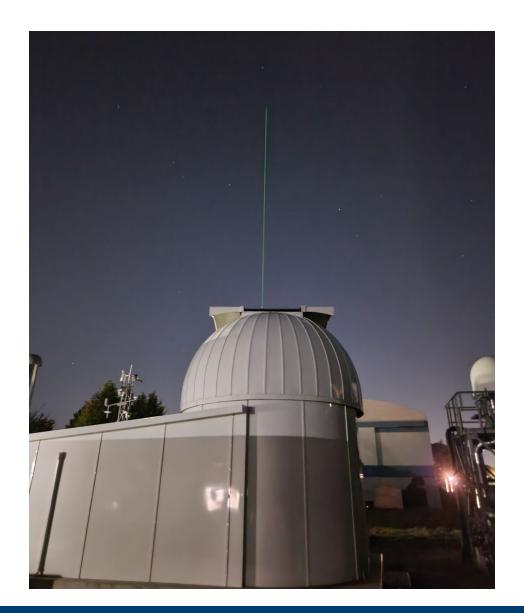






Construction at TKSC – Laser Ranging







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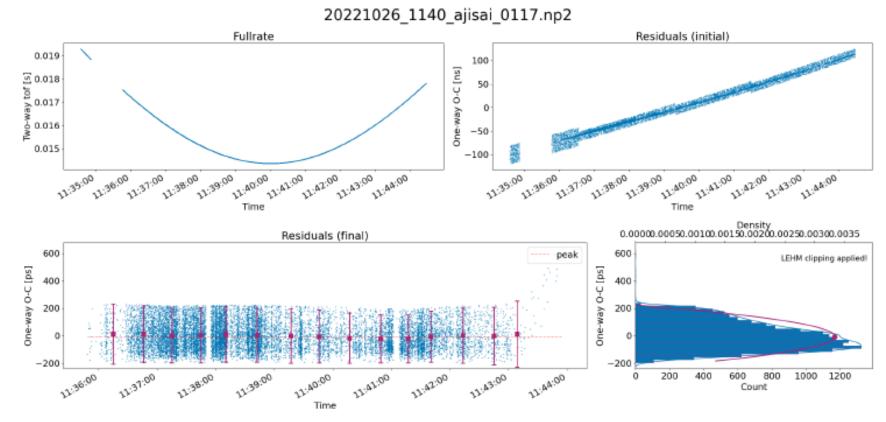
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Example of Ranging Results – Ajisai



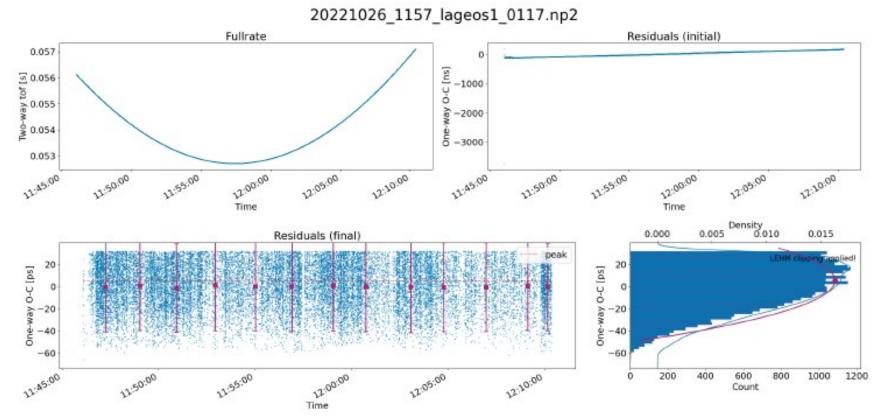
- Wavelength: 532 nm
- Altitude: 1485 km
- RMS: 29.81 mm



Example of Ranging Results – LAGEOS1



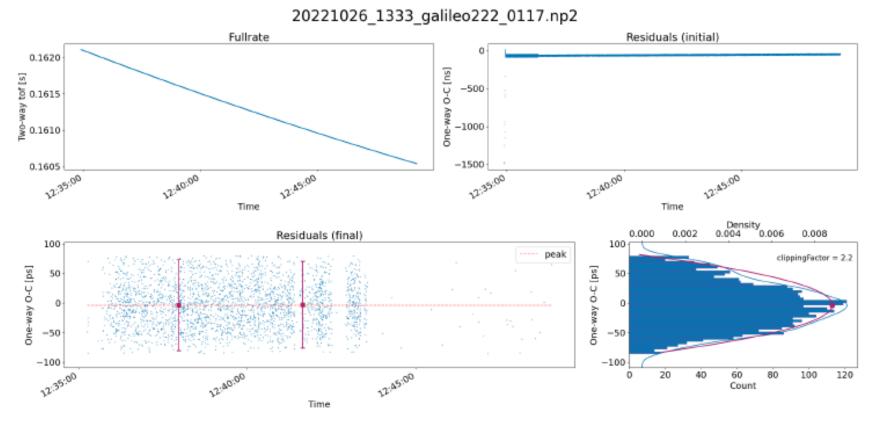
- Wavelength: 532 nm
- Altitude: 5850 km
- RMS: 6.04 mm



Example of Ranging Results – Galileo-222



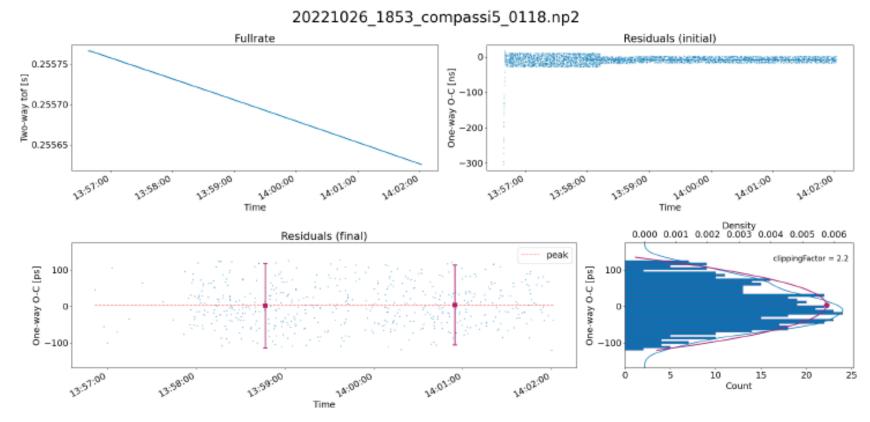
- Wavelength: 532 nm
- Altitude: 23220 km
- RMS: 11.24 mm



Example of Ranging Results – COMPASS-I5



- Wavelength: 532 nm
- Altitude: 35786 km
- RMS: 16.97 mm



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Summary



- JAXA is developing a new SLR station in TKSC (Tsukuba, Japan)
- State-of-the-art SLR technology is introduced
- The construction has finished, and Tsukuba station is undergoing an acceptance test
- Tsukuba station is already able to track some satellite including GEO, but fine tuning remains
- JAXA plans to start the operation of Tsukuba station from April 2023