



Project GECKO

GENERIC CANSAT KIT ONE

Space Team of the
Vienna University of Technology

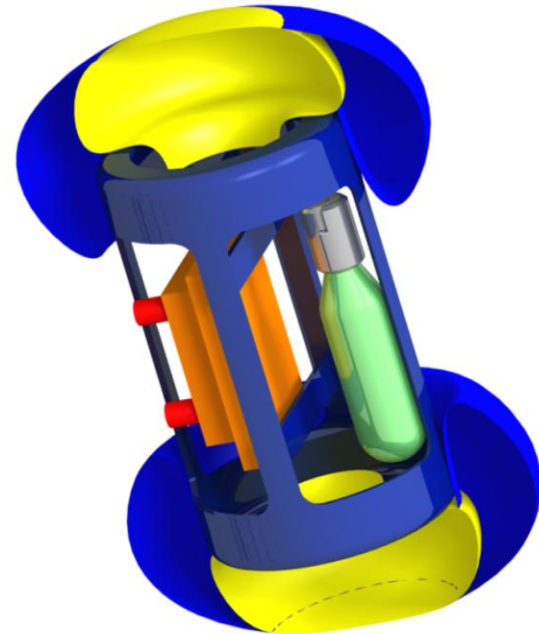
*"To boldly go where no
student has gone before."*

Goals

- **Create a modular, easily modifiable platform for CANSAT missions**
- **Design modules which can be used in a strictly volume/weight-constrained CANSAT and the harsher environment of the Space Team Rocket 01**
- **Land safely using an airbag**

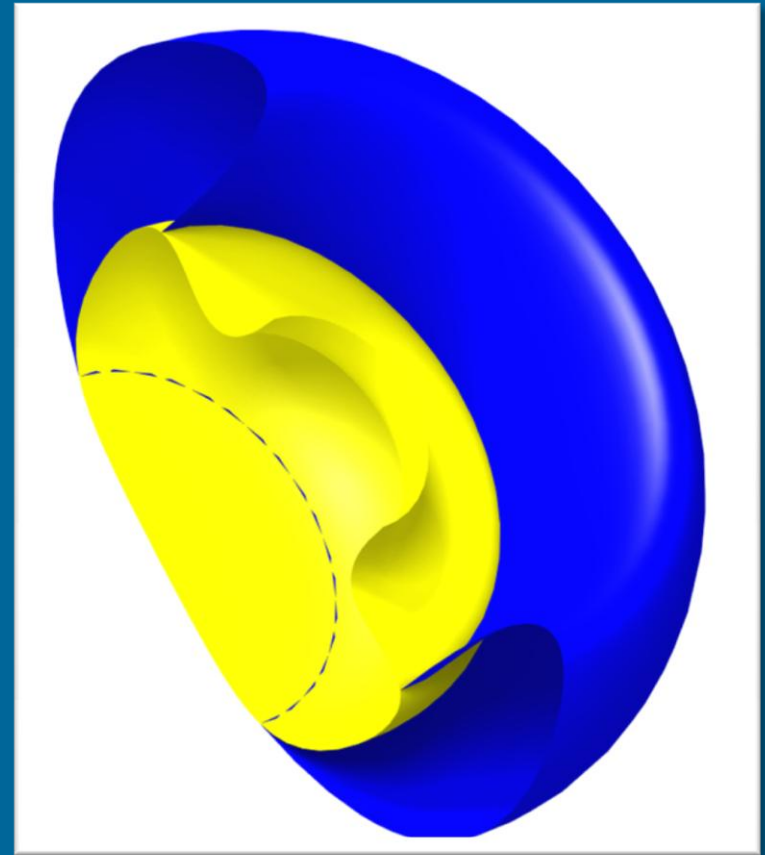
Mechanical Concept

- Sideways descent possible for increased sensor area towards the ground
- Empty volume from top to bottom for big mission-specific modules
- Composite housing for lightweight purposes



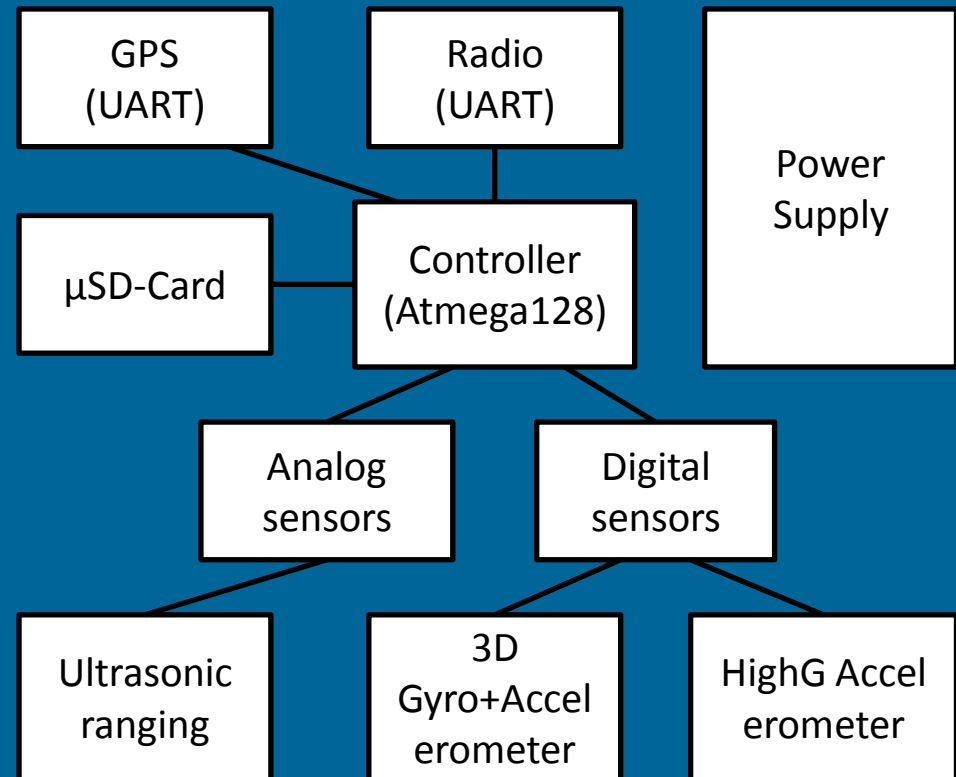
▪ Airbag

- Bar-Bell shape prevents ground collision of the CANSAT while minimizing internal airbag-volume
- Pressure supply with NO₂ gas cartridge
- Deployment via fast-melting membrane



Electrical Concept

- **Central controller provides a multitude of digital interfaces and data storage for maximum versatility**
- **I²C-Bus and SPI-Bus easily extensible**



▪ Controller

- ATmega128 provides a low-power 16MHz μ C-solution with enough processing power for most missions
- data storage provided by a MicroSD-slot for several GB of nonvolatile memory and fast refitting



■ GPS

➤ Navilock NL-550:

integrated antenna

high sensitivity

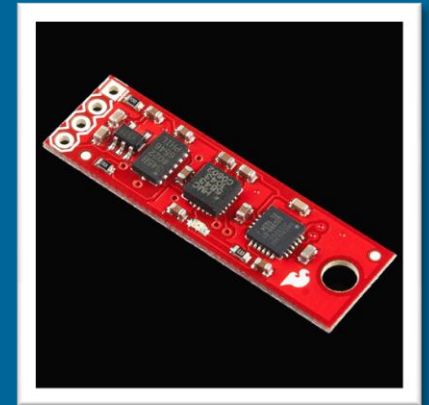
4Hz RS-232 data output

- Position data to be transmitted via telemetry to aid in recovery



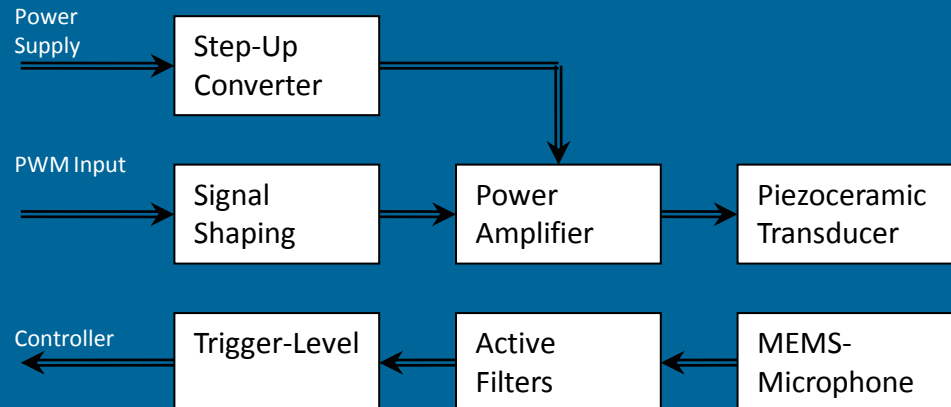
▪ Sensors

- **3D Accelerometer + 3D Gyroscope**
Accurate measurement of the CANSATs orientation and acceleration to measure the forces during descent and landing
- **3D Magnetometer**
to compensate for drift-effects
- **High-G Accelerometer**
Detailed measurement of the forces during ground impact and parachute deployment



▪ Sensors

- **Ultrasonic Ranging Distance measurement based on time-of-flight of echo**
- **Trigger-Level TOF measurement provides a more compact, although less accurate, implementation than correlative methods**



Measurements

➤ During Flight:

GPS + Low-Bitrate Accelerometer/Gyroscope
Measurements via telemetry

➤ Post Flight:

Detailed analysis of the forces during parachute
deployment and during the airbag landing

➤ Analysis:

will be done in MATLAB, visualisation will utilize
LabVIEW and <Google Earth>

Current Status

Controller:

working prototype

GPS:

working prototype

Ultrasonic Ranging:

testing transceivers

Airbag:

prototyping