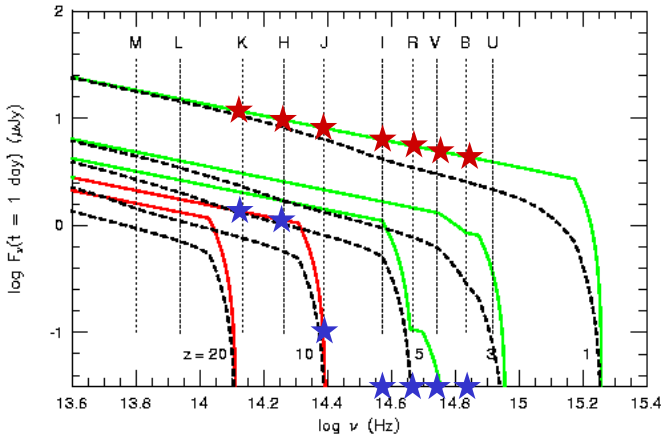
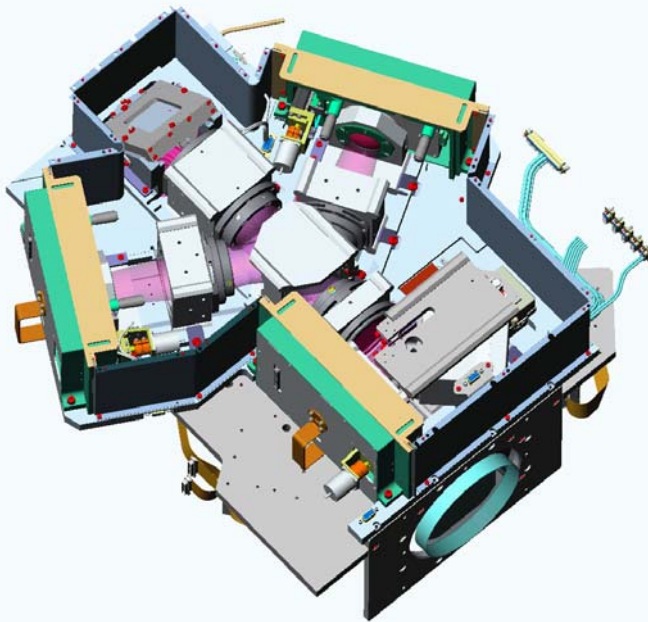


The GROND instrument is being developed at MPE for installation at the MPI/ESO 2.2m telescope on La Silla (Chile) in 2005. The main scientific goal is the rapid identification of high-redshift ( $z > 5$ ) gamma-ray bursts to allow VLT follow-up observations in the same night.



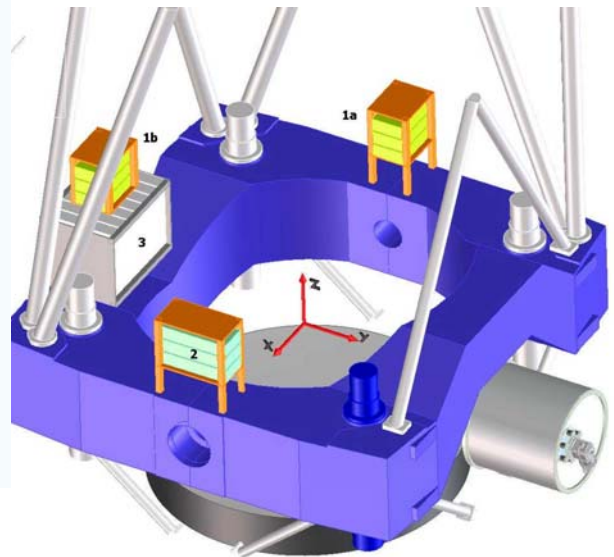
GROND will image the GRB afterglow in 7 colours simultaneously. The GRB distance will be estimated by the photometric redshift algorithm using the Ly- $\alpha$  break.



Near-infrared side of GROND. The entrance window is shown in the lower right, and the visual light is first split off by dichroics on the hidden side of the figure. Light is then deflected in a U-shape up to the infrared side (upper left), and then split into the JHK bands with each having one HAWAII detector (green boxes).



The optical bench of GROND with its other components: the guiding camera (blue) next to the entrance window (lower right), the closed-cycle cooler and the vacuum connectors on the back side.



GROND vessel (grey cylinder at the right) at the 2.2m telescope. Other pieces to be placed onto the center piece are the FIERA (1a/1b) and IRACE (2) detector electronic boxes and the GROND electronics box (3).