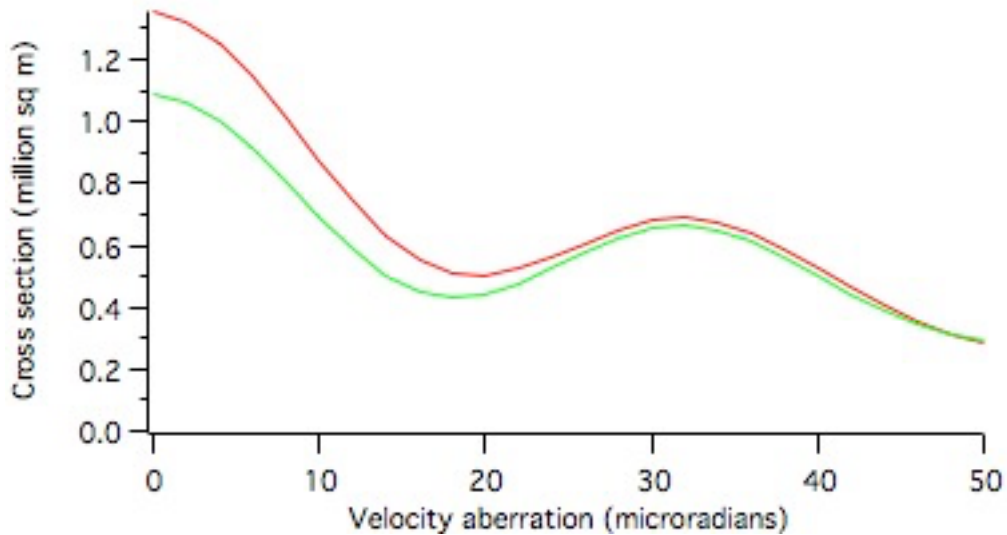


Case 11
Floating mount
Dihedral angle offset 1.25 arcsec

Red = isothermal
Green = with thermal gradient



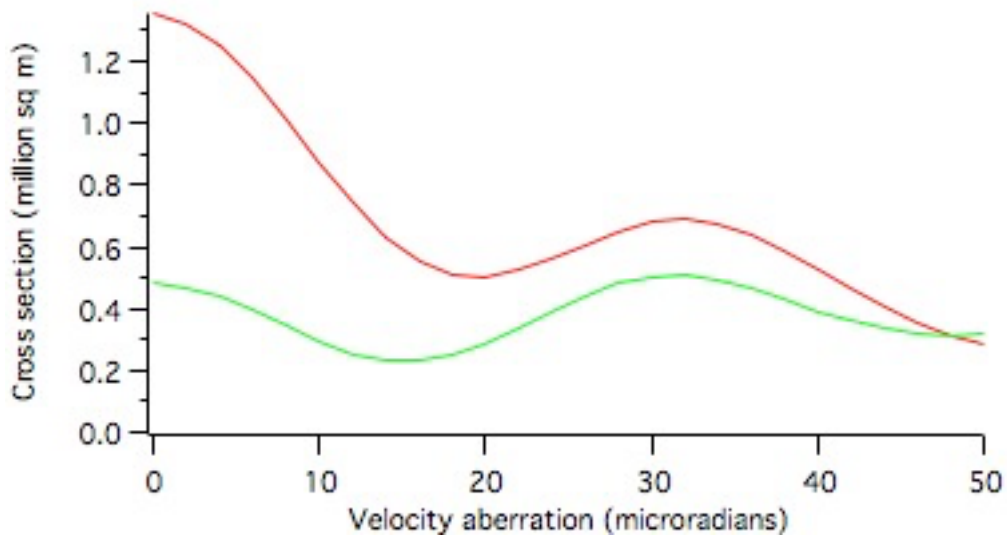
There is a 4 percent change in cross section at 32 microradians. This shows the extraordinary effectiveness of using small cubes with a floating mount to virtually eliminate the effect of thermal gradients.

The isothermal calculation gives the actual performance to a very high degree of accuracy.

Allowing conductive contact between the ring and the cube destroys the advantage of the small cubes as shown in the case below

Case 12
Pressure on the cube
Dihedral angle offset 1.25 arcsec

Red = isothermal
Green = with thermal gradient



There is a 36 percent change in cross section at 32 microradians. This will eliminate the advantage of using the smaller cubes in terms of reducing thermal gradients.

In the design of the LAGEOS cubes the floating mount is essential for reducing thermal degradation of the cubes.