

AN OVERVIEW OF THE GRAVITY PROBE B PROGRAM



C.W. Francis Everitt and the Gravity Probe B Team

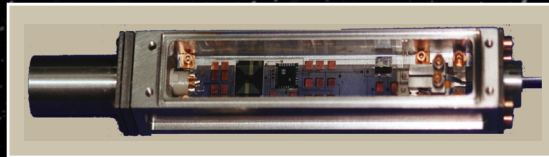
Missions Operations Center



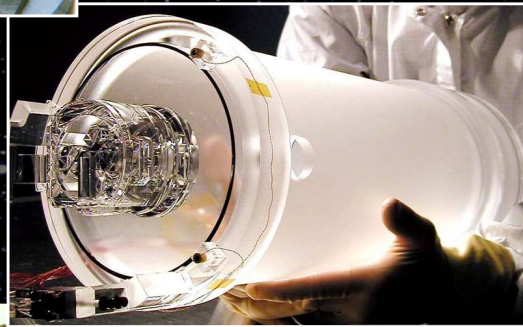
Detector Package



SQUID sensor and package



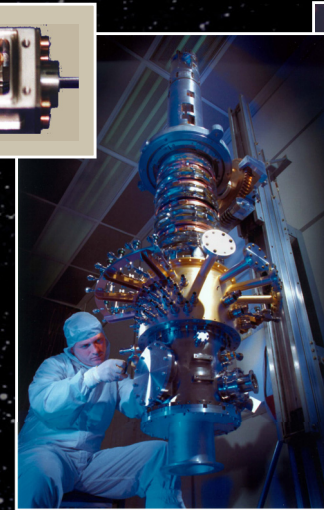
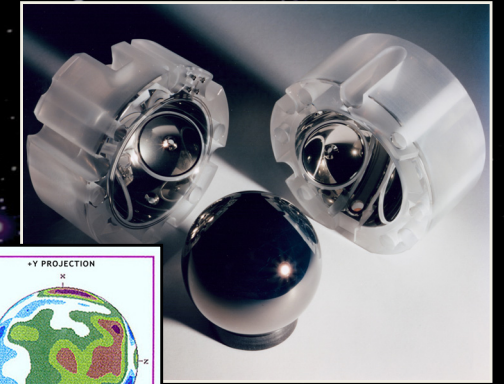
Guide Star tracking telescope



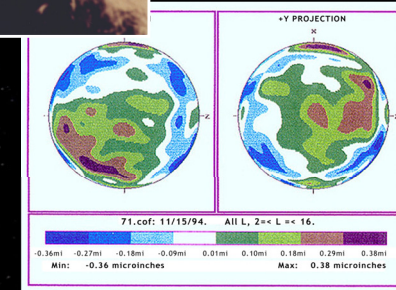
World's roundest spheres



Gyroscope and housing



Probe during assembly



Rotor topology

Launch: 20 April 2004



Initial Orbit Checkout (IOC): 128 days
Science Phase: 353 days
Post-experiment tests: 46 days



Vehicle on Booster



645-gallon Dewar

Guide Star
IM Pegasi
HR8703

Geodetic Precession:
6,606 marc-sec/year
in orbital plane

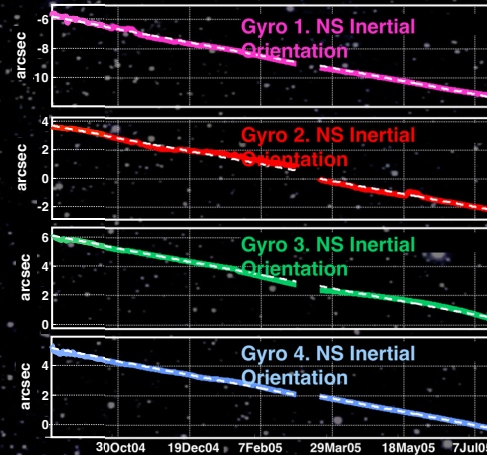
Frame Dragging Precession:
39 marc-sec/year
in Equatorial plane

642 kilometers
(~400 miles)



GP-B Team Receives NASA Award, 2005

First results – Geodetic Precession



$$\Omega = \frac{3GM}{2c^2 R^3} (\mathbf{R} \times \mathbf{v}) + \frac{GI}{c^2 R^3} \left[\frac{3R}{R^2} (\boldsymbol{\omega} \cdot \mathbf{R}) - \boldsymbol{\omega} \right]$$

