

# Spacecraft Configurations

Space System Design, MAE 342, Princeton University  
Robert Stengel

- Angular control approaches
- Low-Earth-orbit configurations
  - Satellite buses
  - Nanosats/cubesats
  - Earth resources satellites
  - Atmospheric science and meteorology satellites
  - Navigation satellites
  - Communications satellites
  - Astronomy satellites
  - Military satellites
  - Tethered satellites
- Lunar configurations
- Deep-space configurations

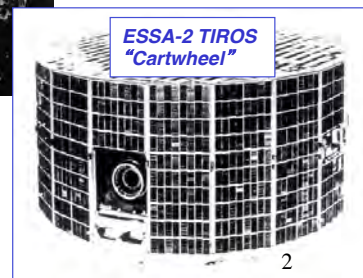
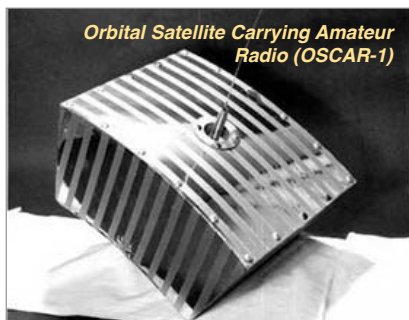


Copyright 2016 by Robert Stengel. All rights reserved. For educational use only.  
<http://www.princeton.edu/~stengel/MAE342.html>

1

## Angular Attitude of Satellite Configurations

- Randomly oriented satellites
  - Angular attitude is free to vary
- Spinning satellites
  - Angular attitude maintained by gyroscopic moment and magnetic coil
  - Axisymmetric distribution of mass, solar cells, and instruments



2

# Attitude-Controlled Satellite Configurations

- **Dual-spin satellites**

- Angular attitude maintained by gyroscopic moment and thrusters
- Axisymmetric distribution of mass and solar cells
- Instruments and antennas do not spin



- **Attitude-controlled satellites**

- Angular attitude maintained by 3-axis control system
- Non-symmetric distribution of mass, solar cells and instruments



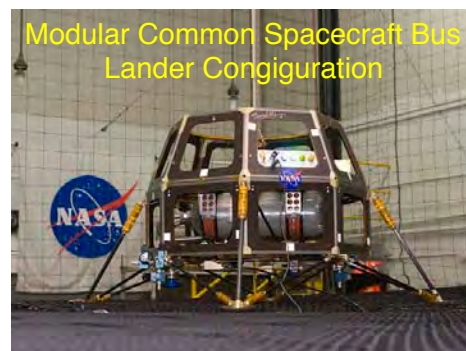
3

## LADEE Bus Modules

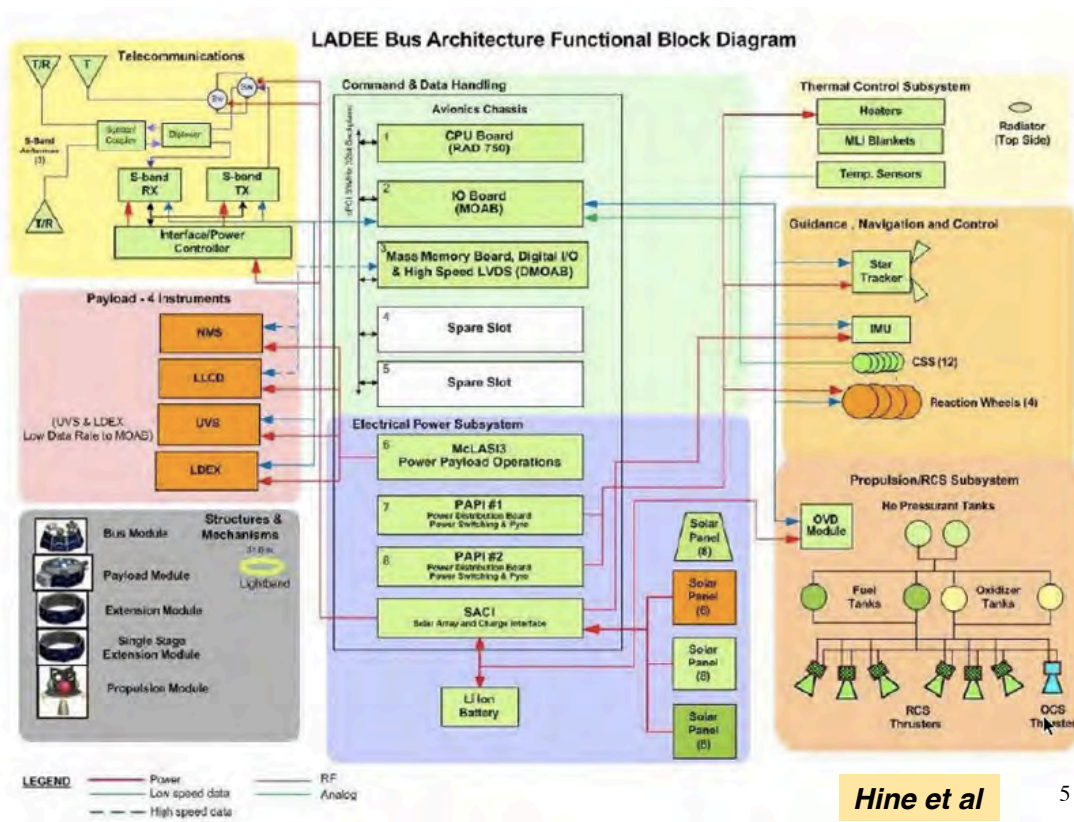


## Satellite Buses

Standardization of common components for a variety of missions



4



Hine et al

5

## Evolution of Lockheed-Martin A2100 Bus

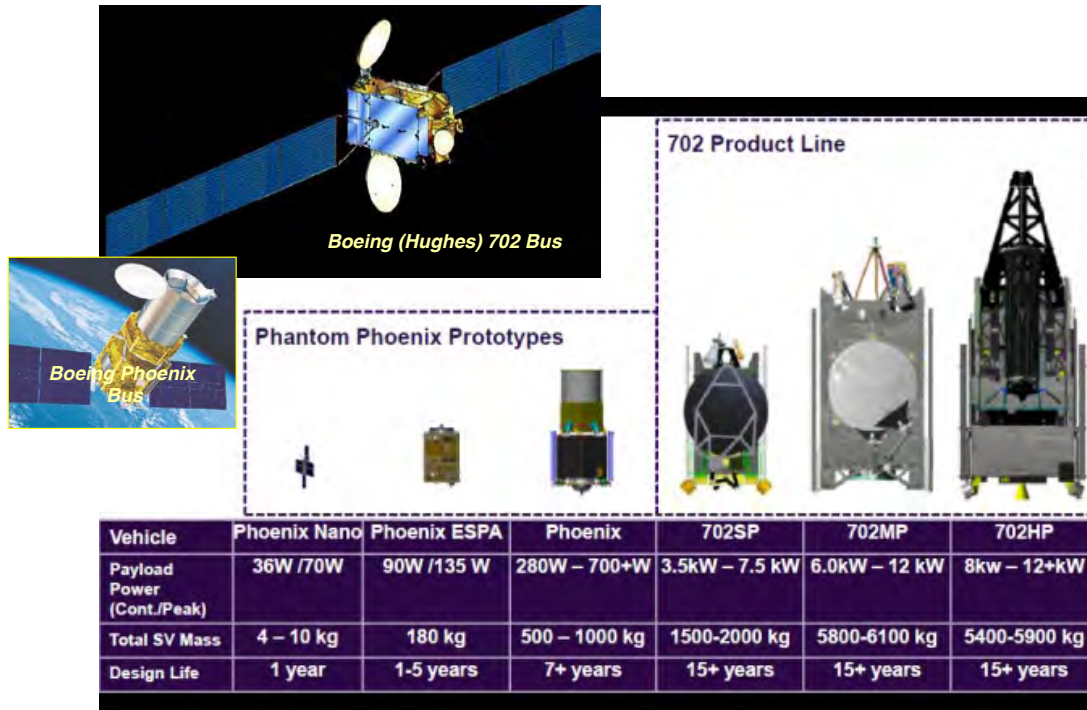
- 1990s to present
- Orbit maintenance with ion engines and hydrazine thrusters
- Bi-propellant liquid apogee motor



6

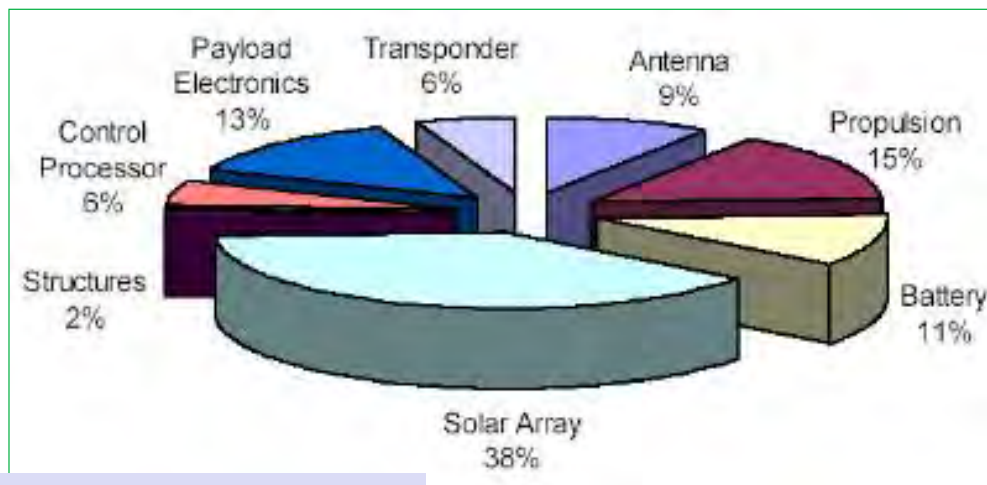


# Satellite Buses



## Bus Reliability Analysis

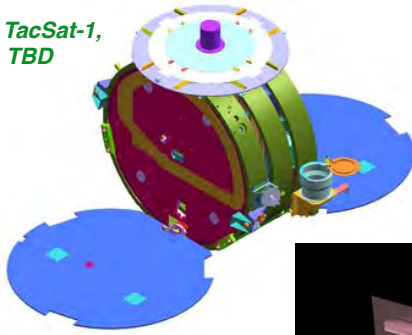
**Percentage of Insurance Claims by Anomaly Type**



Zandbergen: Frost & Sullivan, 2004

# Small Satellite Buses

NRL TacSat-1,  
TBD

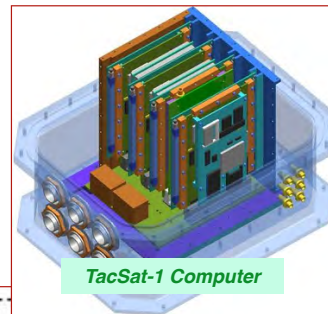


AFRL  
TacSat-2, 2006

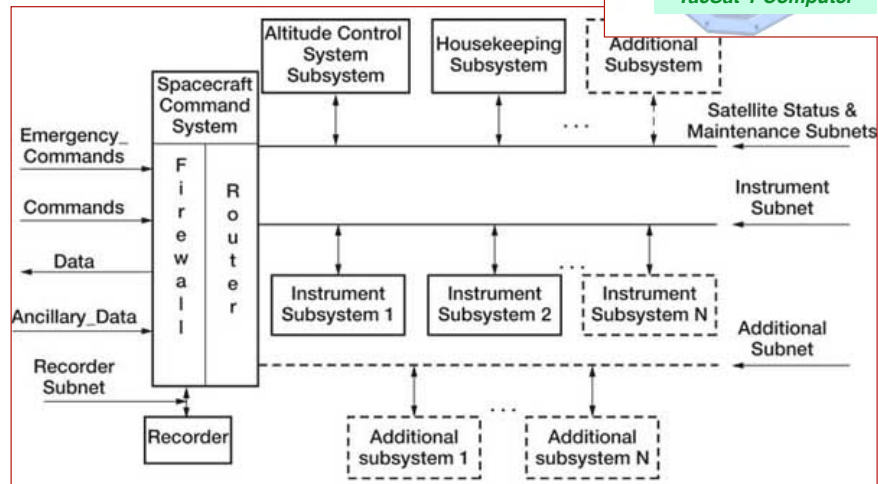


9

## TacSat-1 Linux Instrumentation Bus



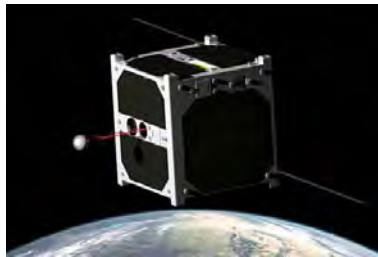
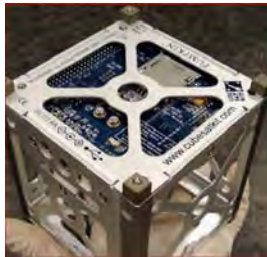
TacSat-1 Computer



10

# CubeSats

- Standardized module
  - 10-cm cube
  - 1 liter volume
  - Maximum mass = 1.33 kg
- Multiple module designs

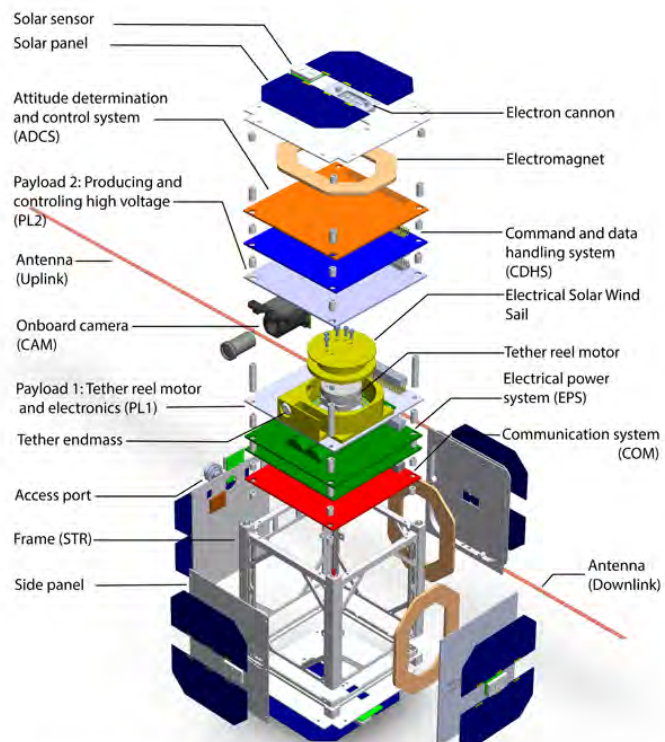
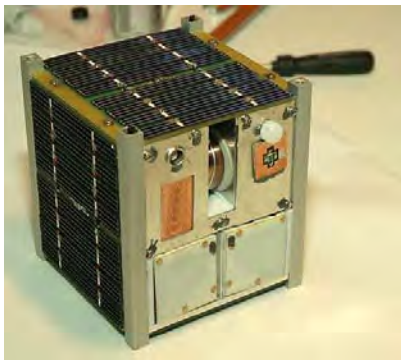


<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cubesat>

<http://www.cubesatkit.com>

11

## CubeSats



The structure of cubesat ESTCube-1

12



# CubeSats

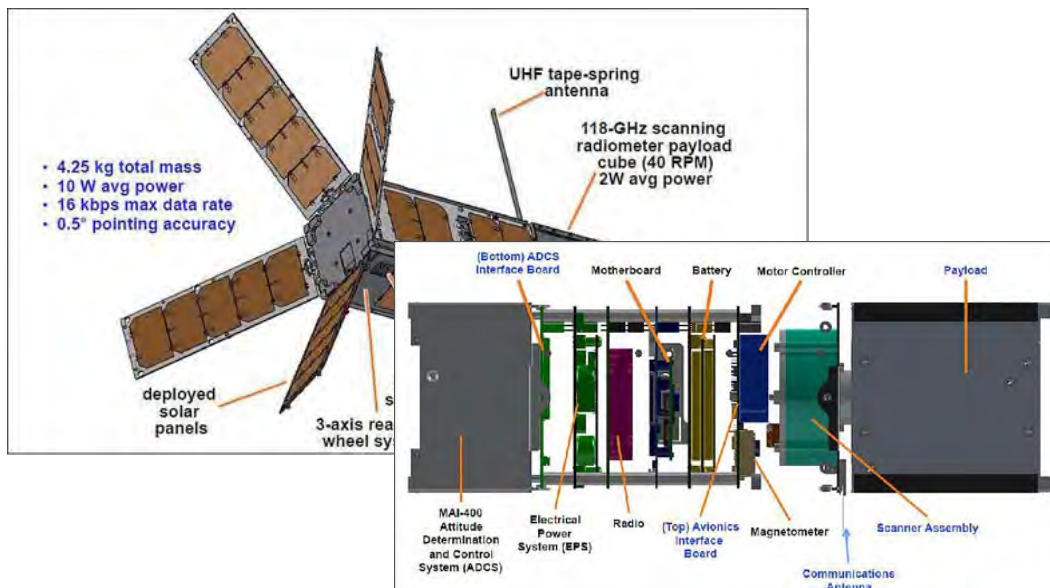
Secondary payloads or launched directly from International Space Station



13

## Micro-MAS 3U CubeSat

<https://directory.eoportal.org/web/eoportal/satellite-missions/m/micromas-1>



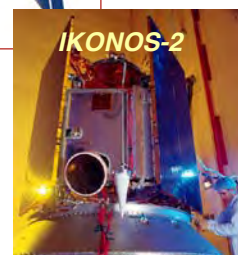
14

# Near-Earth Spacecraft

15

## Earth Observation Satellites

- Mission
  - Determine properties of the earth's land and water features
- Typical instrumentation
  - Multi-spectral imaging (e.g., *Aqua*)
    - Scanning radiometer
    - Spectroradiometer
    - Microwave sounding
    - Infrared sounding
    - Humidity sounding
    - Earth's radiation budget
  - Integration with meteorological satellites
  - Commercial and research operators
  - High-resolution optical imagery

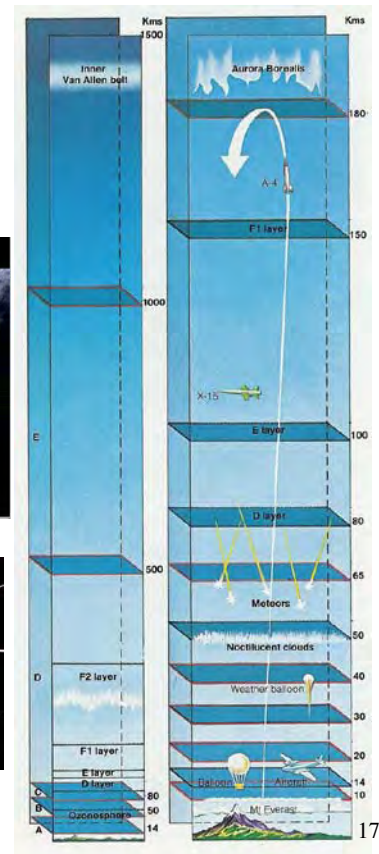


16

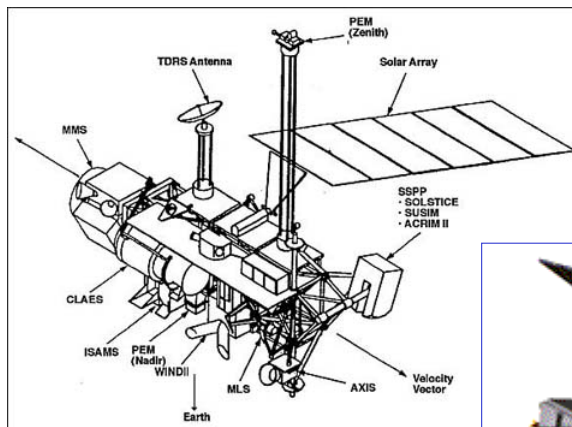


# Atmospheric Science Satellites

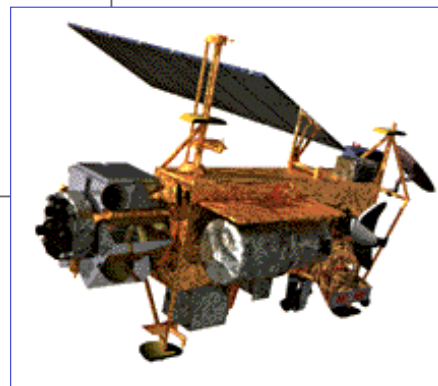
- **Mission**
  - Determine properties of the near-earth environment
- **Typical instrumentation**
  - Direct measurements of the ionosphere
    - Density, temperature, ionic concentrations, cosmic radiation
  - Magnetic and electric fields
  - Multi-spectral transmission measurements through the lower layers
    - Radio
    - Light
  - Spacecraft charging



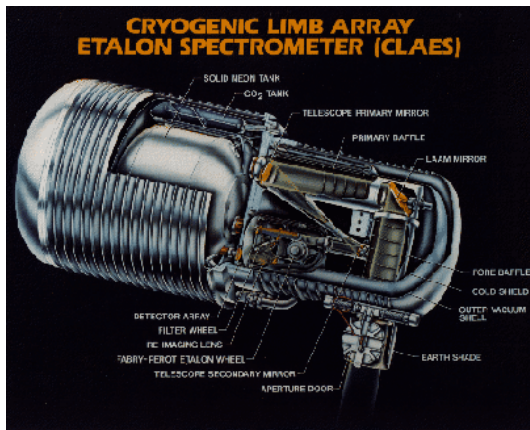
## Upper Atmospheric Research Satellite (UARS)



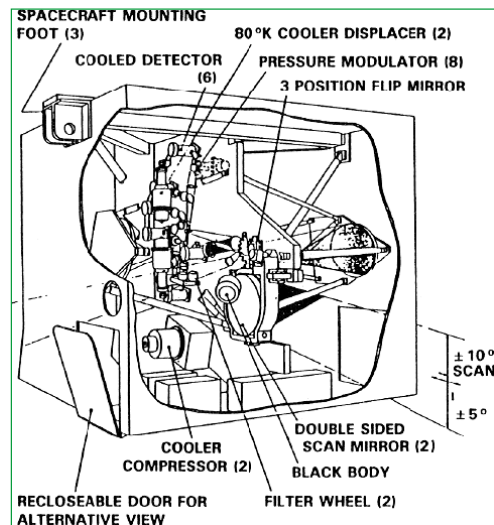
- Launched in 1991
- Deactivated in 2005
- Decayed in 2011
- Orbit altitude: 574 x 575 km
- 5,900 kg
- Power = 1.6 KW



## Two UARS Instruments



- **CLAES:** nitrogen, chlorine, ozone, water, and methane from IR signature
- **Etalon:** Fabry-Perot interferometer measures light wavelengths

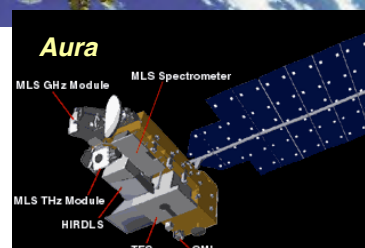
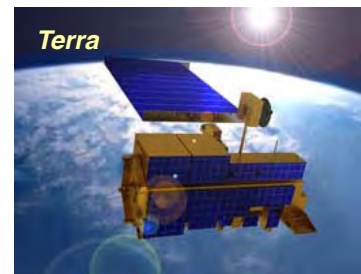


- **IR radiometer:** temperature, water vapor, nitrogen oxides, volcanic aerosols

19

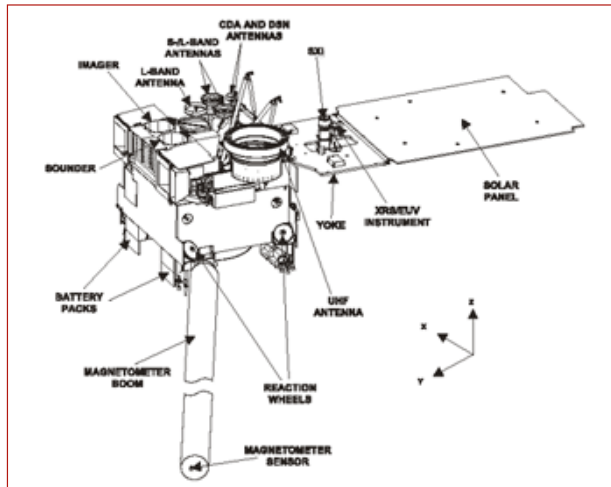
## Earth/Atmosphere Observing Constellation

- Earth Observing System combines data from formation of satellites
- Successors to **UARS**
- Studying ozone, air quality, and climate
  - High-resolution dynamics limb sounder
  - Microwave limb sounder
  - Ozone monitoring instrument
  - Tropospheric emission spectrometer
- “**A-Train**” constellation also includes multi-national **Cloudsat**, **Calipso**, **Metop-1**, and **Parasol** satellites



20

# Meteorology Satellites



- **Mission**
  - Determine global and local weather
- Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellites (GOES), Defense Meteorological Satellite Program (DMSP) spacecraft operated by NOAA
- **Typical instrumentation**
  - Multi-spectral imaging of the atmosphere
  - Data relay from buoys, search & rescue beacons
  - Solar monitoring

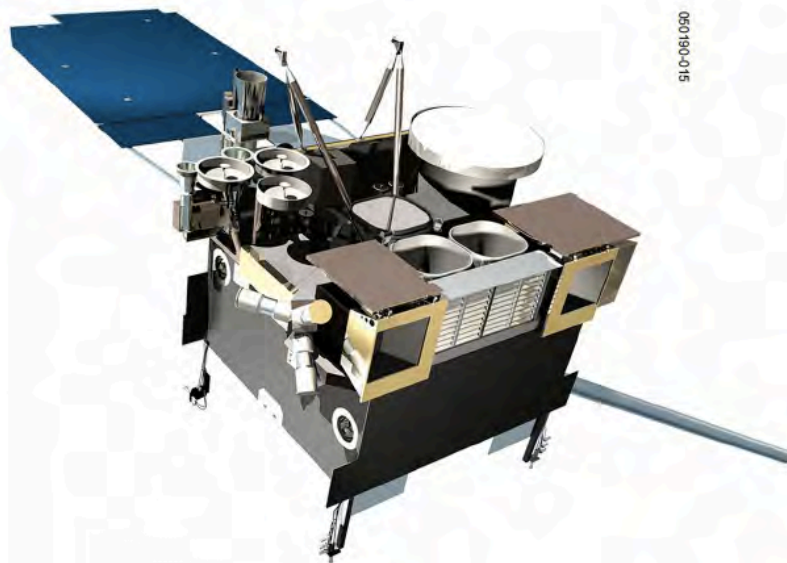


## Evolution of TIROS





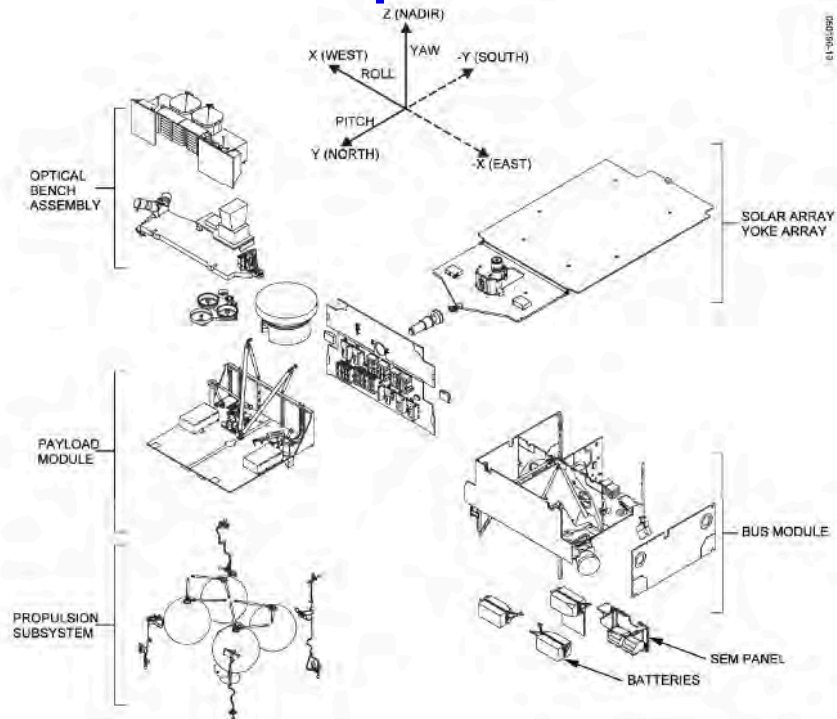
# Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite (GOES-NOP)



[http://goes.gsfc.nasa.gov/text/GOES-N\\_Databook/databook.pdf](http://goes.gsfc.nasa.gov/text/GOES-N_Databook/databook.pdf)

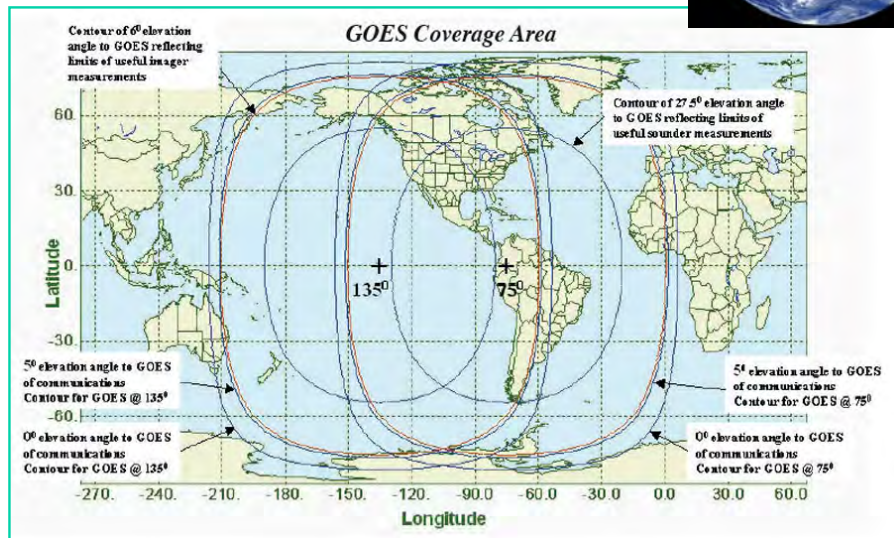
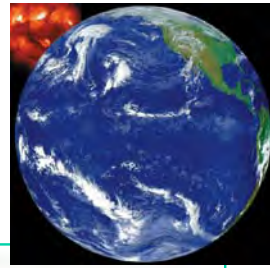
23

## GOES Expanded View



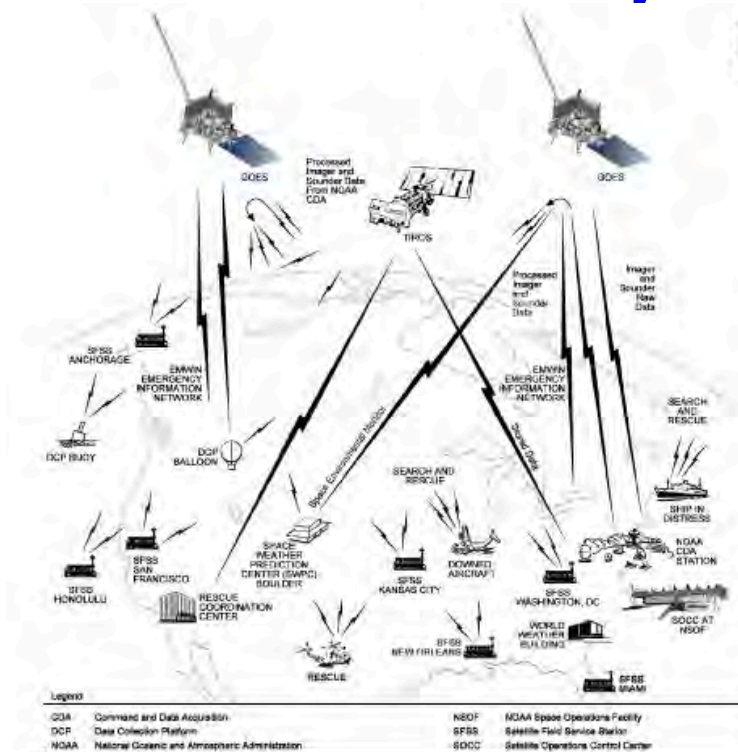
24

# GOES Coverage Emphasizes the Western Hemisphere



25

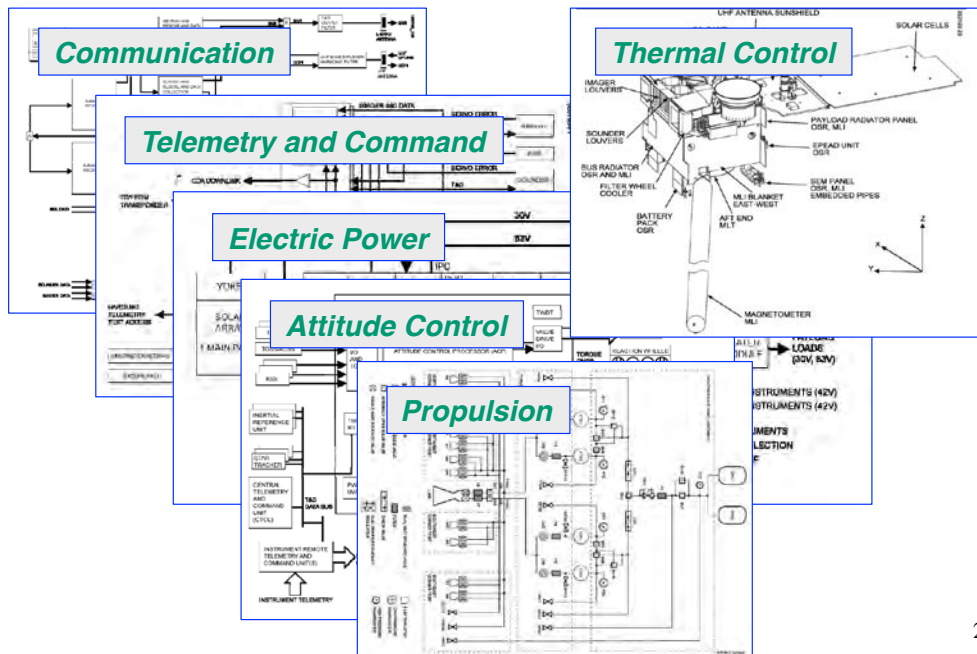
# GOES Weather Watch System



26

# GOES Sub-Systems

(details in future slide sets)



27

## Navigation Satellites

- **Mission**
  - Aid position and velocity determination
- **Global Positioning System (GPS) Implementation**
  - 24 satellites (minimum) in circular, medium earth orbit
  - 6 orbital planes, 55° inclination
  - Atomic clocks provide precise time reference
  - Broadcast ephemeris (i.e., orbital elements)
  - Pseudo-random pulse code
- **GLONASS, Galileo, Compass, DORIS, IRNSS, QZSS**



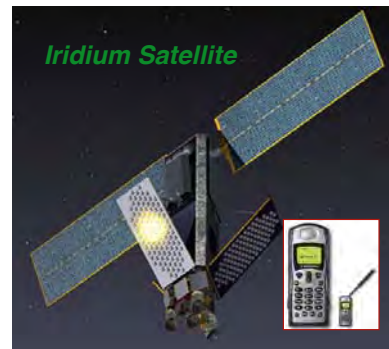
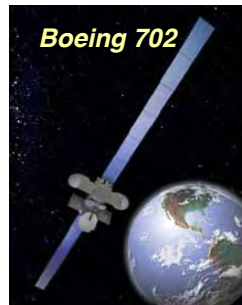
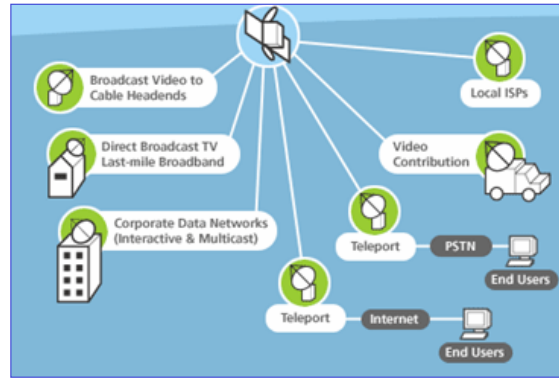
28



# Communication Satellites

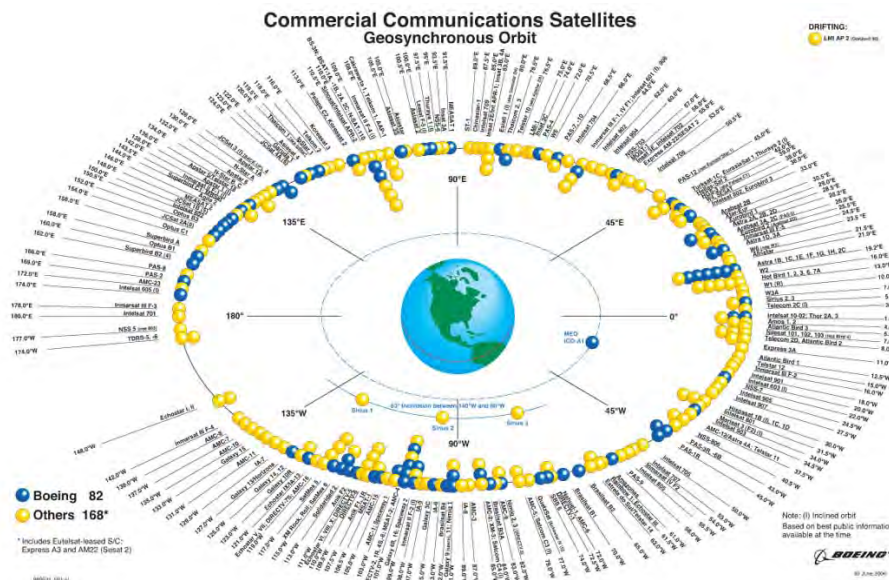
- **Mission**
  - Facilitate global communications
- **Implementation**
  - Transponders with dedicated coverage areas
  - Most satellites are in **geosynchronous orbit**
  - Iridium constellation of 66 satellites in **low earth orbit**
    - Direct connection from satellite to phone

## Iridium Constellation



29

# Geosynchronous Communication Satellites in Orbit, June 2006



30

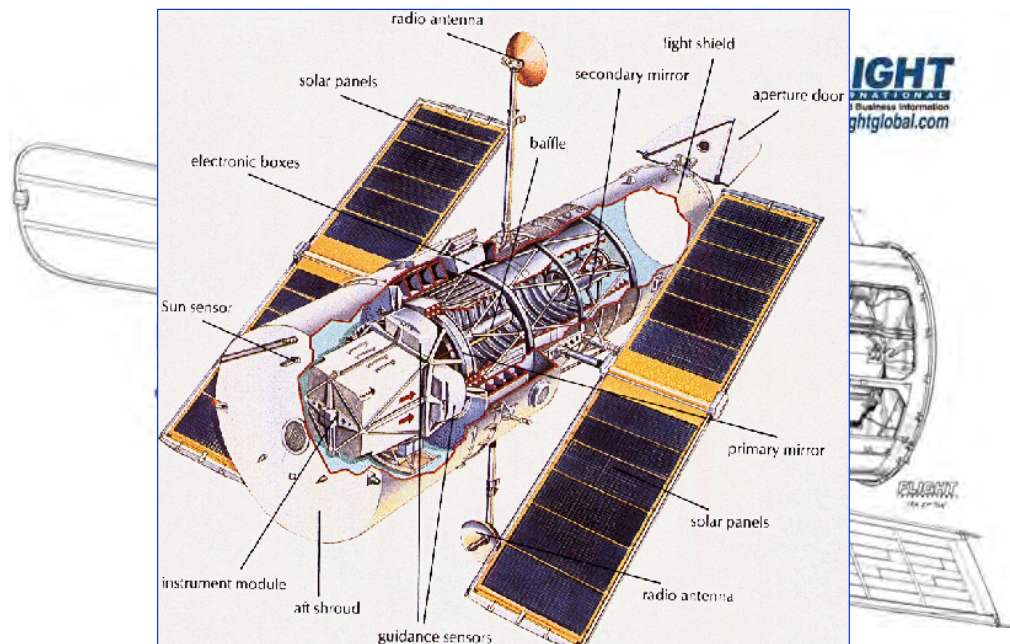
# Astronomy Satellites: Hubble

- Mission
  - Conduct astronomical observations outside the earth's atmosphere
- Typical instrumentation
  - Multi-spectral imaging
  - Hubble Telescope serviced by Space Shuttle missions (590-km orbit)
  - Telescope aberration repaired by astronauts



31

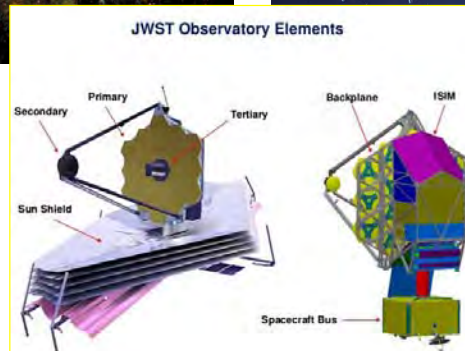
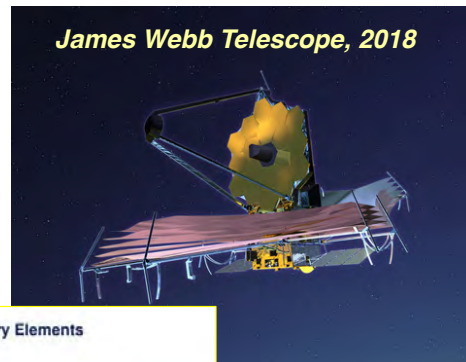
# Astronomy Satellites: Hubble



32

# Astronomy Satellites

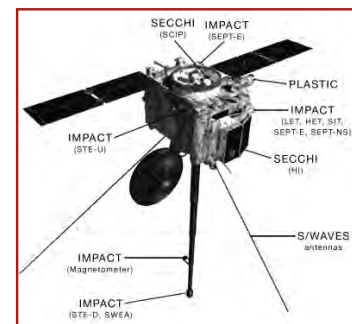
Chandra X-ray observatory (Shuttle launch, 1999)  
James Webb Infrared Telescope to be located at L<sub>2</sub> Lagrange point



33

## STEREO, 2006 (Solar TERrestrial RElations Observatory)

- **Dual satellites**
  - Nearly identical space-based observatories - one ahead of other in Earth orbit
  - Stereoscopic measurements to study the Sun and the nature of its coronal mass ejections, or CMEs.
- **Scientific objectives**
  - Understand the causes and mechanisms of coronal mass ejection (CME) initiation.
  - Characterize the propagation of CMEs through the heliosphere.
  - Discover the mechanisms and sites of energetic particle acceleration in the low corona and the interplanetary medium.
  - Improve the determination of the structure of the ambient solar wind.





# Military Satellites

- **Missions**

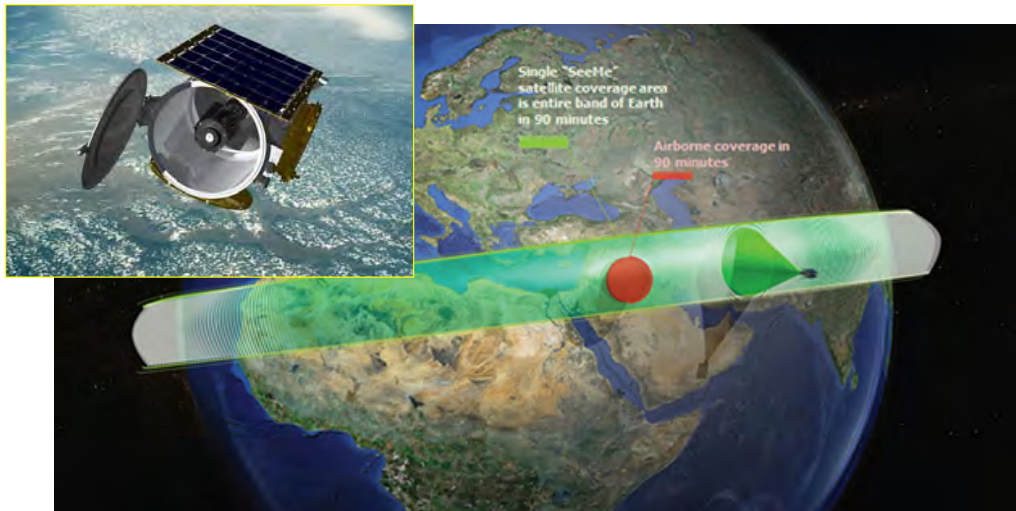
- Secure observations from space
- Early warning
- Reconnaissance
- Intelligence
- Communications
- Navigation
- Weather
- Weaponry



35

## DARPA SeeMe Constellation

- Two dozen small satellites
- Low-altitude orbits, 60-90-day mission duration
- Imaging of remote locations with <90-min delay
- Downlink to handheld units

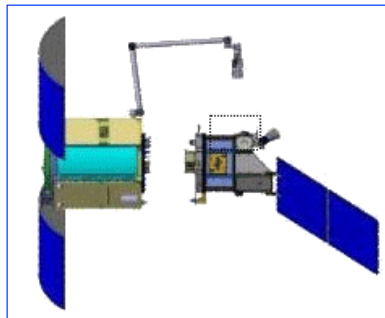


36

# Orbital Express: ASTRO and NEXTSat



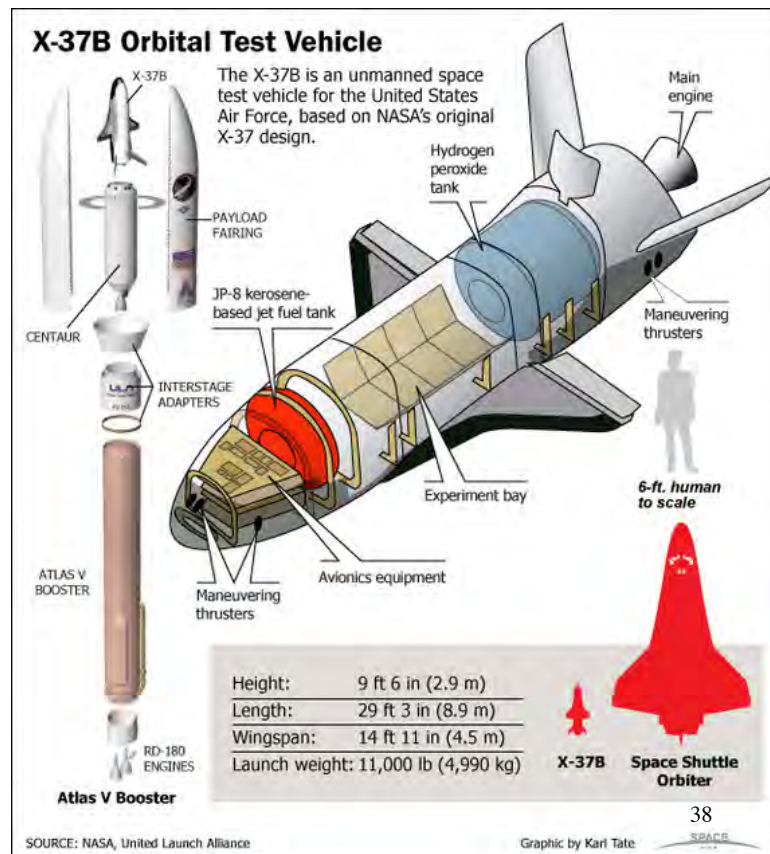
- DARPA, 2007
  - Automatic rendezvous, docking, and undocking
  - On-orbit transfer of replaceable units
  - 6DOF robot arm
  - Video guidance sensor
  - Atlas 5 launch



37

## USAF X-37B

- Reusable experimental/operational vehicle
- Unmanned “mini-Space Shuttle”
- Highly classified project
- Rocketdyne AR2-3 motor
  - $H_2O_2$ /JP-8
  - $I_{sp} = 245$  s



38

# Tethered Satellites



Space Shuttle STS-75 Tethered Satellite Experiment, Feb 1996  
<http://www.nss.org/resources/library/shuttlevideos/shuttle75.htm>

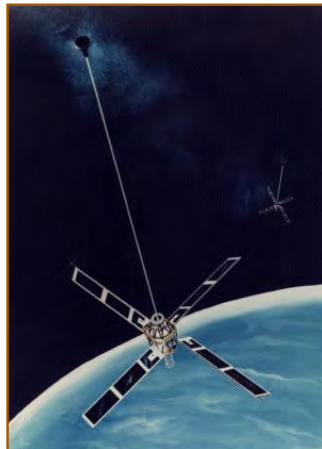
39

# Gravity-Gradient-Stabilized Satellites

*NRL TiPS*



*Transit*



*NASA TSS*

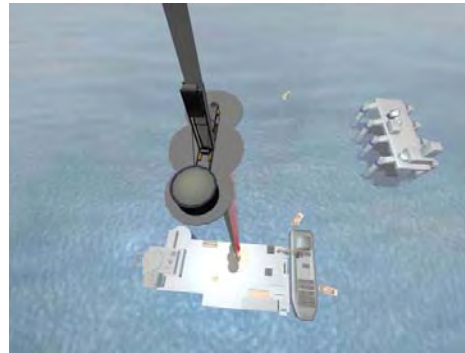
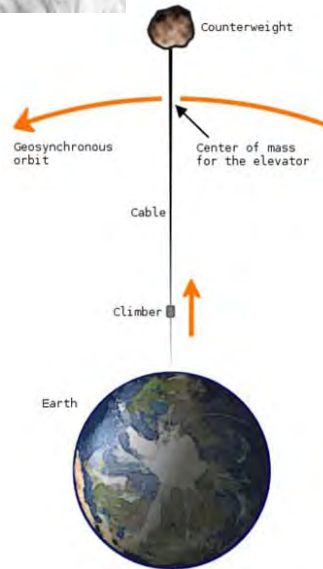


40





## Gravity-Gradient-Stabilized Space Elevator



- Counterweight in geo-stationary orbit
- Earth station moored at the equator

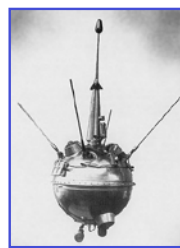
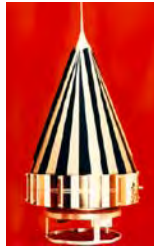
41

## *Lunar Spacecraft*

42

# Robotic Lunar Spacecraft

1959



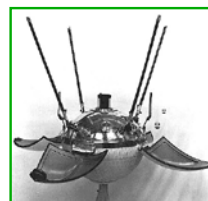
1964



1966



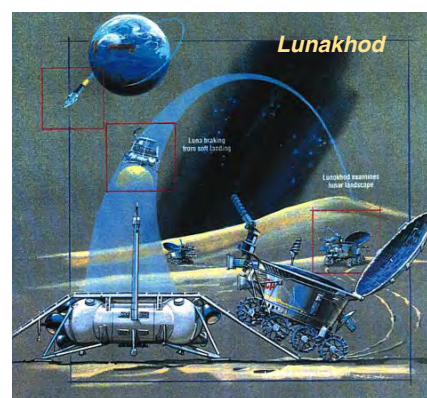
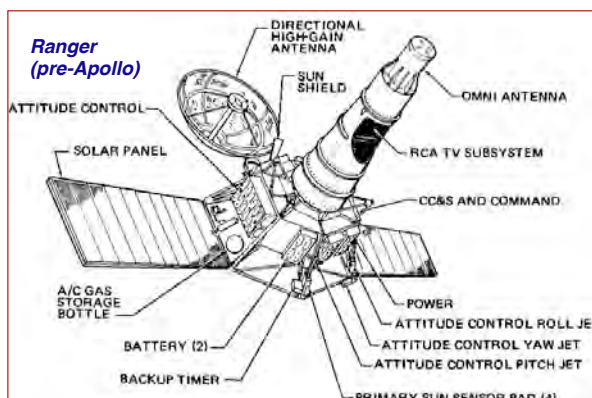
1966



43

## Early Lunar Spacecraft

- Mission
  - Scientific discovery
  - Preparations for human voyages to the moon
- Robotic exploration of the moon
  - [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robotic\\_exploration\\_of\\_the\\_Moon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robotic_exploration_of_the_Moon)



44

# Pre-Apollo Lunar Landers

- **1966: Lunar soft landing**
  - Luna 9
  - Surveyor 1



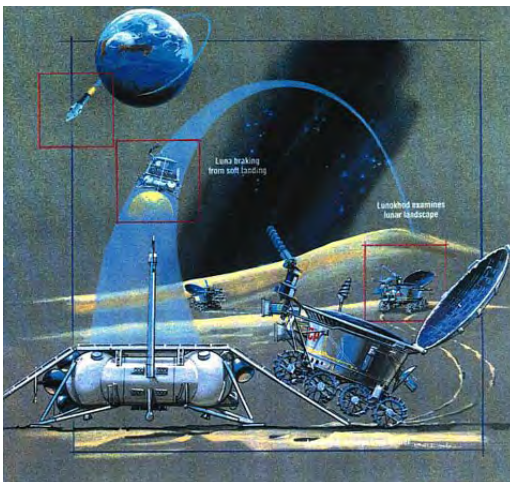
- **1967: Surveyor 3**
  - Surface sampling tool

45

# Russia Perseveres with Robotic Spacecraft

Lunakhod 1, 2  
(1970-73)

Luna 16, 17, 20, 24  
(1970-76)

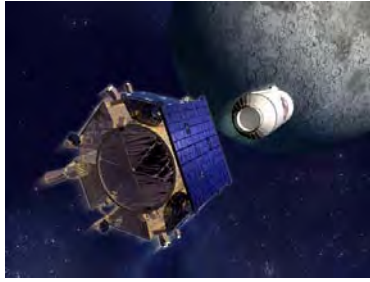


46



# Recent US Spacecraft

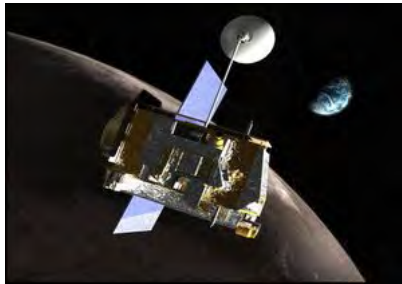
LCROSS



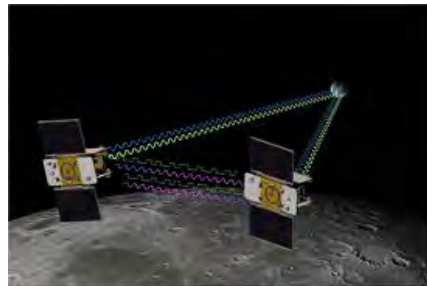
THEMIS/ARTEMIS



Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter



GRAIL

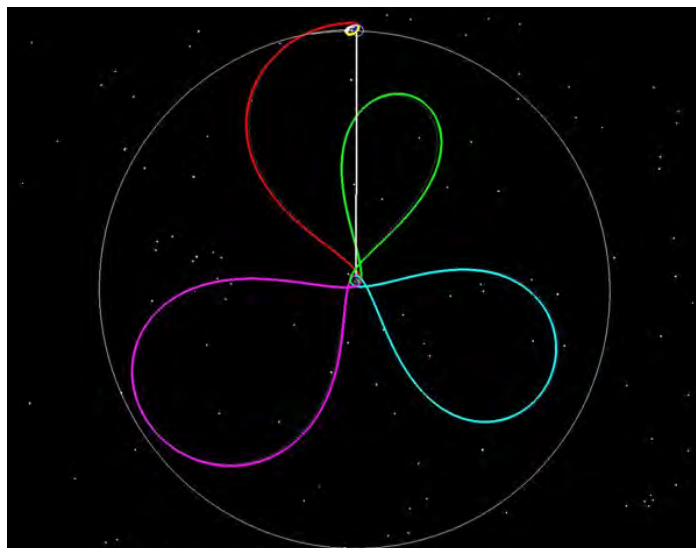


47



## Lunar Atmosphere and Dust Environment Explorer (LADEE), *Sept 7, 2013*

- 30-day transit
- Launched from NASA Wallops Flight Facility
- Minotaur V (from Peacekeeper ICBM)



48

# Chinese, Japanese, and Indian Lunar Exploration Programs

**Chang'e-3 Lander (2013)**



**Jade Rabbit "Yutu" (2013)**



**SELENE-2 (2017)**

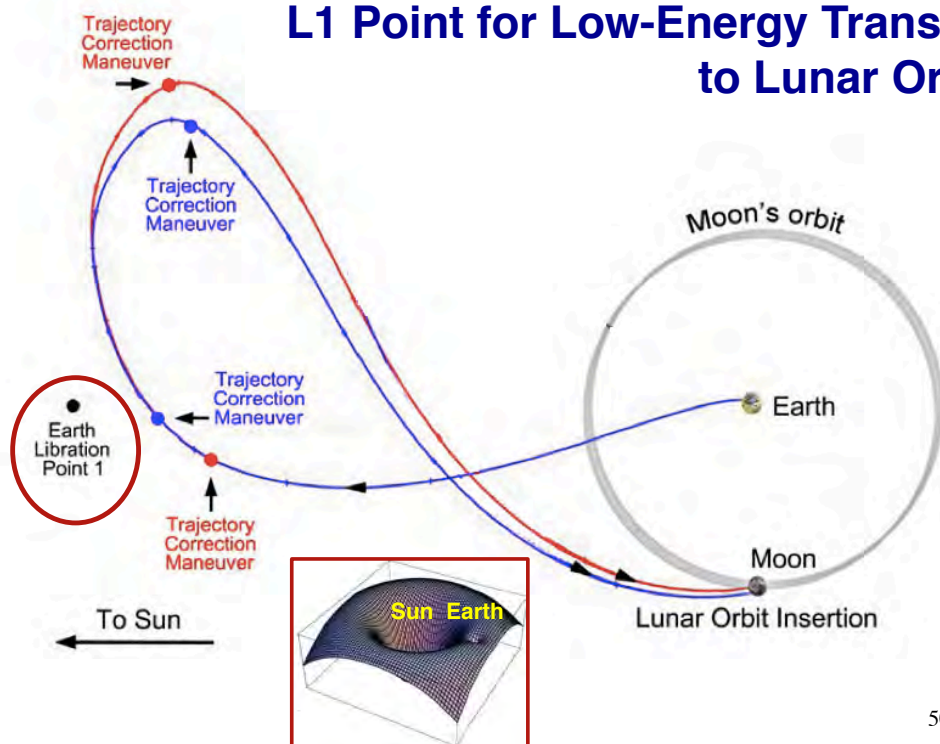


**Chandrayaan-2 (2017)**



49

## GRAIL Spacecraft Used Sun-Earth L1 Point for Low-Energy Transfer to Lunar Orbit



50

# *Solar System Spacecraft*

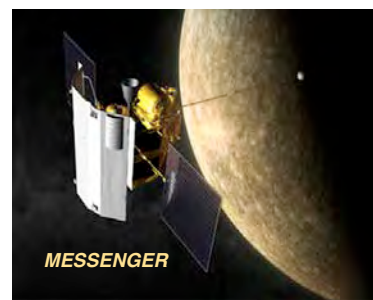
51

## Inner-Solar-System Spacecraft

### • Examples

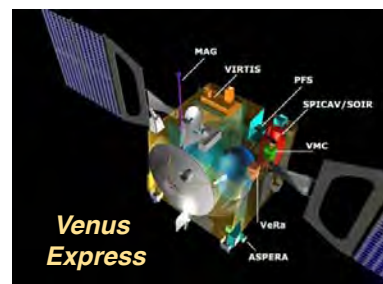
#### –MESSENGER (2004-2011)

- Three fly-bys of Mercury beginning in 2008
- Orbit Mercury for 1 year, 200 x 15,193 km
- Image entire surface of Mercury
- Characterize surface chemistry, geology, and magnetic field



#### –Venus Express (ESA, 2006)

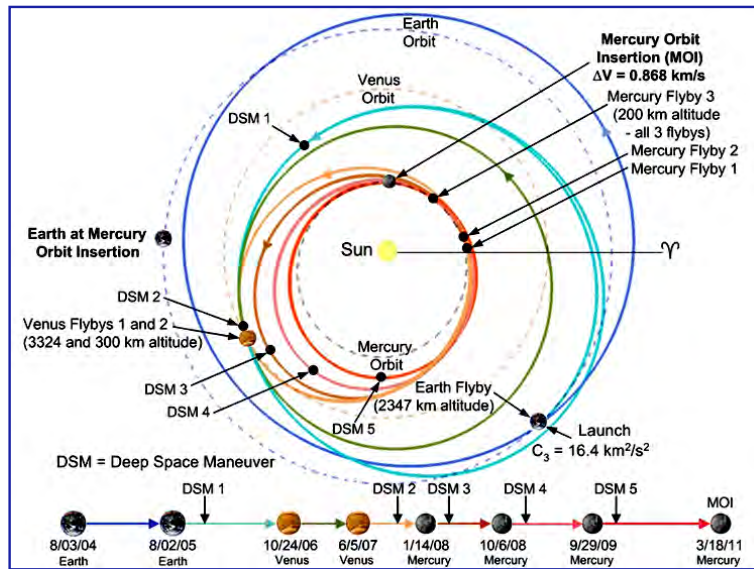
- In orbit about Venus
- Multi-spectral surface mapping
- Measurements of interactions between solar wind and Venusian atmosphere, magnetic field, and temperature profile



52



# MESSENGER Fly-By Trajectories



- **MESSENGER mission**

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y-GALKLHY-s>

53

## Mars Orbiters and Landers

- **Mission**

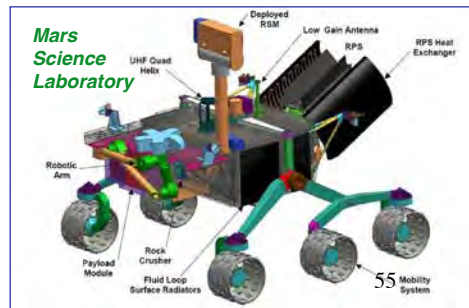
- Determine physical characteristics
  - Search for life
  - Prepare for human exploration



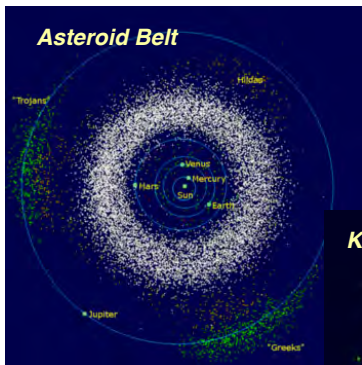
54

# Mars Rovers

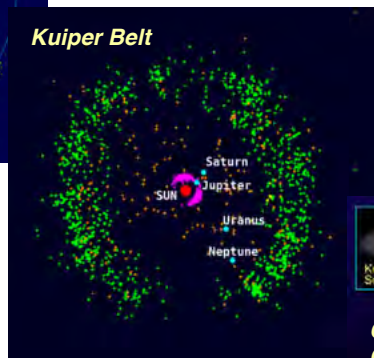
- **Mission**
  - Scientific discovery
  - Search for life
  - Prepare for human exploration
- **Sojourner**
- **Mars Exploration Rovers**
  - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O74DVxfrWkg>
- **Mars Science Laboratory**
  - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=noy8o0IN1fE>



## The Outer-Solar System and Beyond

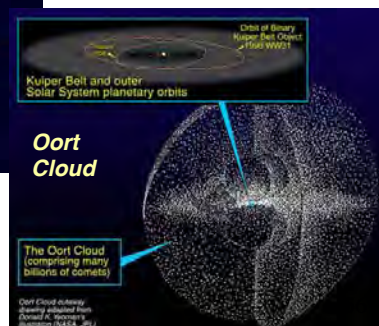


- **Rock and metals**
- **Between Mars and Jupiter**

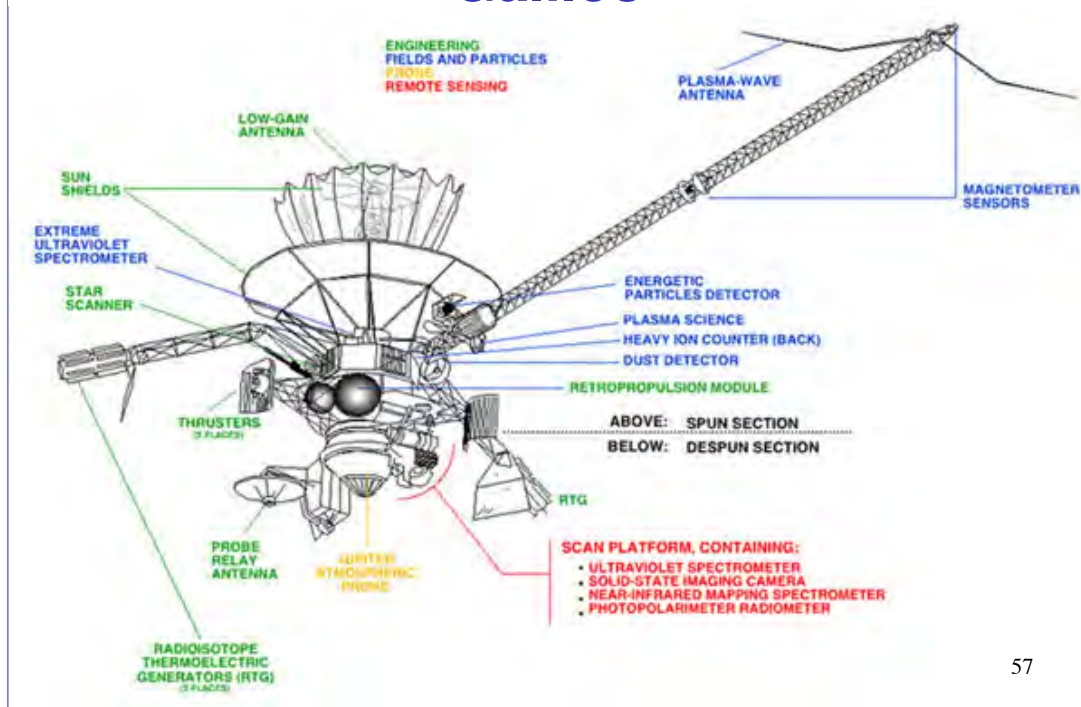


- **Water, ammonia, and methane**
- **Beyond Neptune**

- Postulated home of comets
- $> 50,000$  AU



# Outer-Solar-System Spacecraft: Galileo



57

# Outer-Solar-System Spacecraft: Galileo

- Mission
  - Explore **Jupiter** and its moons
  - Probe Jupiter's atmosphere
  - Launch: October 1989 (Space Shuttle, boosted by Boeing Inertial Upper Stage)
  - Two Earth fly-bys, one Venus fly-by
  - Jupiter arrival: December 1995
  - [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galileo\\_spacecraft](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galileo_spacecraft)



- Mission terminated by 50-km/s descent into Jupiter's atmosphere: September 2003
- First asteroid fly-by (951 Gaspra)
- Discovered first moon of an asteroid, Ida's Dactyl
- Mass = 2,380 kg

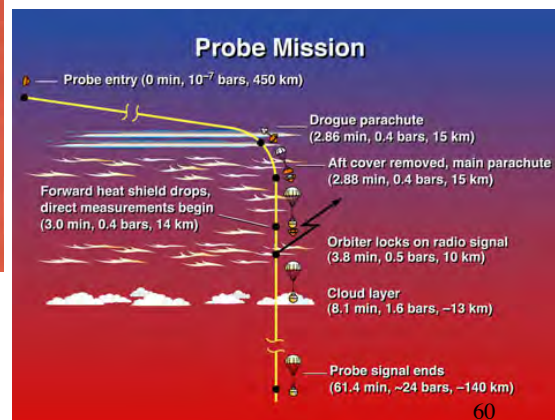
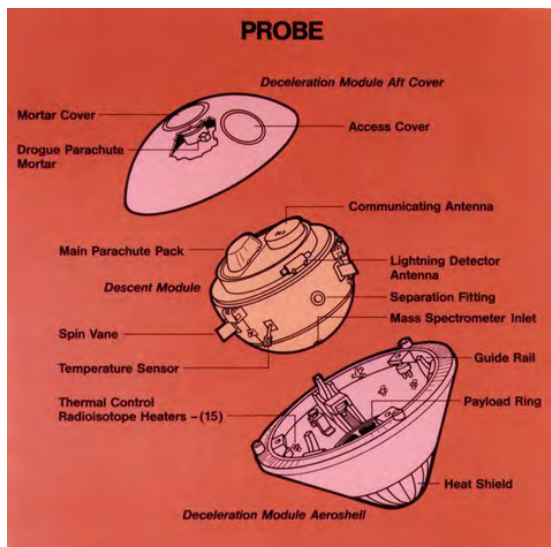
58



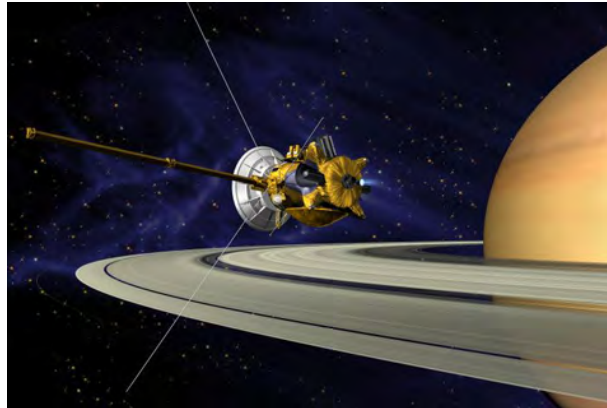
# Galileo's Asteroid Images



# Galileo's Probe



# Outer-Solar-System Spacecraft: Cassini

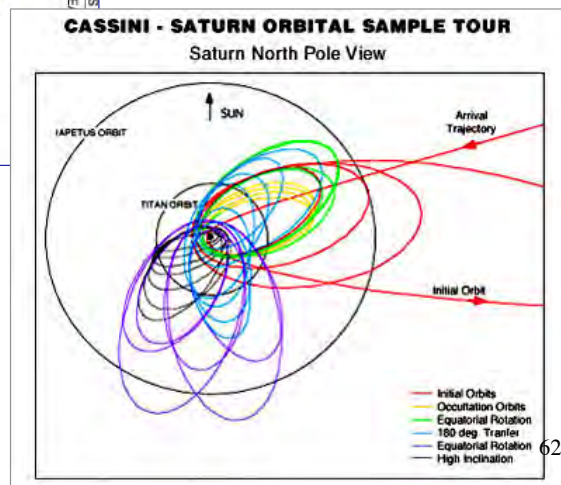
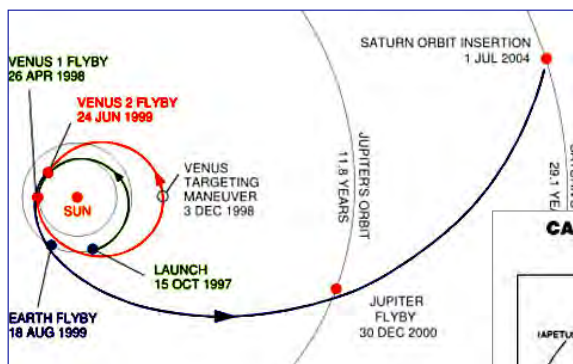


## • Mission

- Explore **Saturn**, its rings, and its moons
- Launch: October 1997 (Titan 4B/Centaur)
- Two Earth fly-bys, one Venus fly-by
- Saturn arrival: July 2004
- Huygens Probe entered atmosphere of Saturn's moon Titan in January 2005
- \$3.26B mission
- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cassini\\_spacecraft](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cassini_spacecraft)

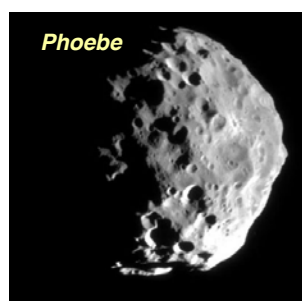
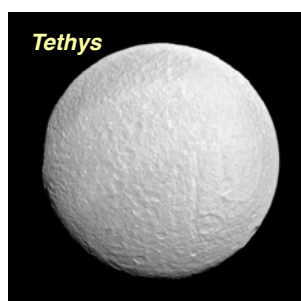
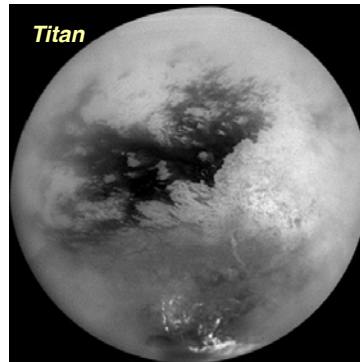
61

# Outer-Solar-System Spacecraft: Cassini



62

# Cassini's Huygens Probe and Moon Images



## Outer-Solar-System Spacecraft: New Horizons

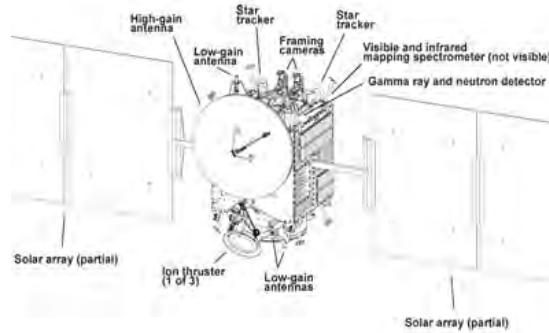
- **Mission duration: 2006-2015+**
- **Destination: Pluto** and its moons
- Radioisotope thermal power generator
- Spin-stabilized in cruise, 3-axis control (hydrazine RCS) for science
- May also fly by Kuiper Belt objects, Trojan asteroids at Neptune's  $L_5$  point
- **Fastest spacecraft to date** ( $V_{earth} = 16.21$  km/s, Atlas 5)
- 546,700-kg initial mass
- Payload = 478 kg
- **Jupiter fly-by adds 4 km/s to speed**
- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New\\_Horizons](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Horizons)





# Outer-Solar-System Spacecraft: Dawn

- Mission duration: 2007-2015
- Orbited both **Vesta** and **Ceres** (“proto-planets”), transit asteroid belt
- Ion thrusters provide  $\Delta V$  of 13 km/s
- Mass = 1,285 kg
- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dawn\\_Spacecraft](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dawn_Spacecraft)



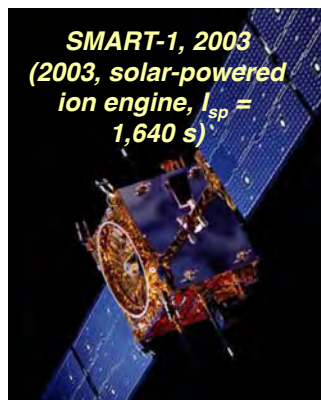
65

*Next Time:*  
*Spacecraft Dynamics*

# *Supplemental Material*

67

## Lunar Spacecraft



[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_future\\_lunar\\_missions](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_future_lunar_missions)

68

# Genesis Spacecraft

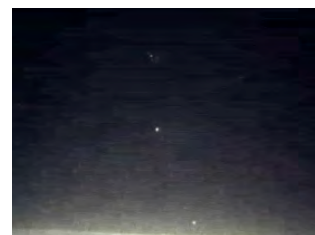
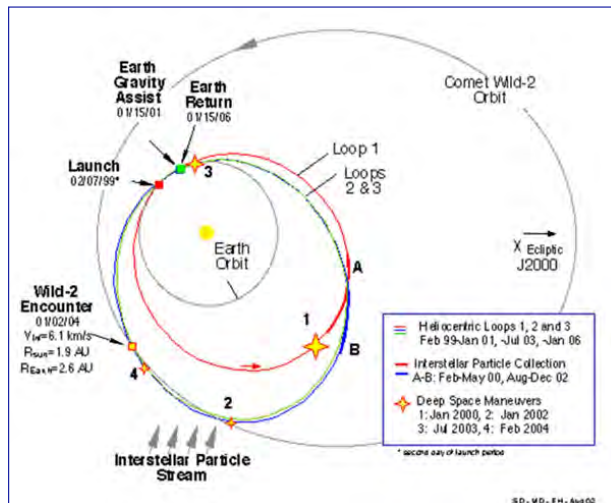
- **Genesis Solar Wind Sample Return**
  - Launch: August 2001
  - Return: September 2004 (parachute did not open)
  - [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genesis\\_spacecraft](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genesis_spacecraft)



69

# Stardust Spacecraft

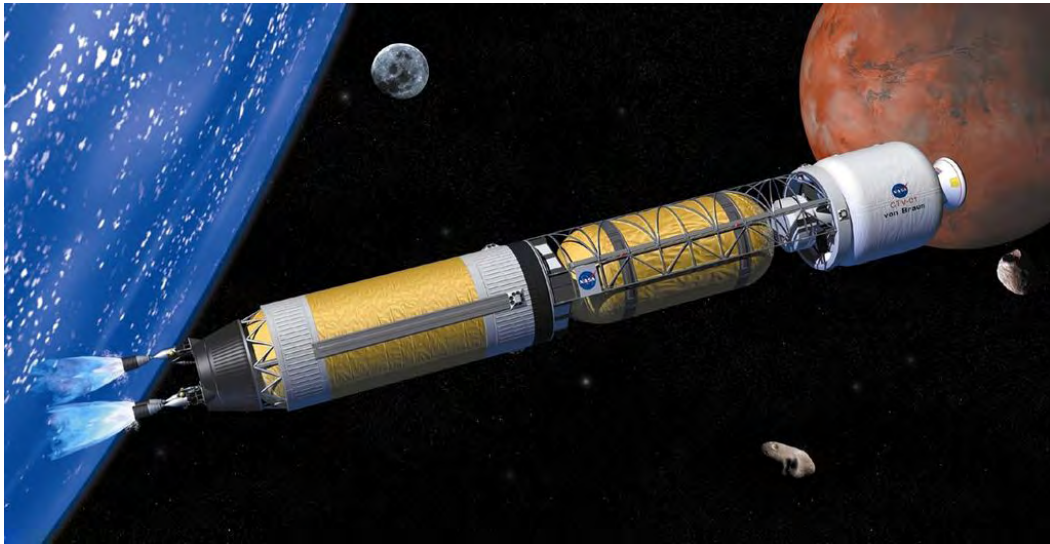
- **Stardust Wild 2 Comet Tail Sample Return**
  - Launch: February 1999
  - Return: January 2006



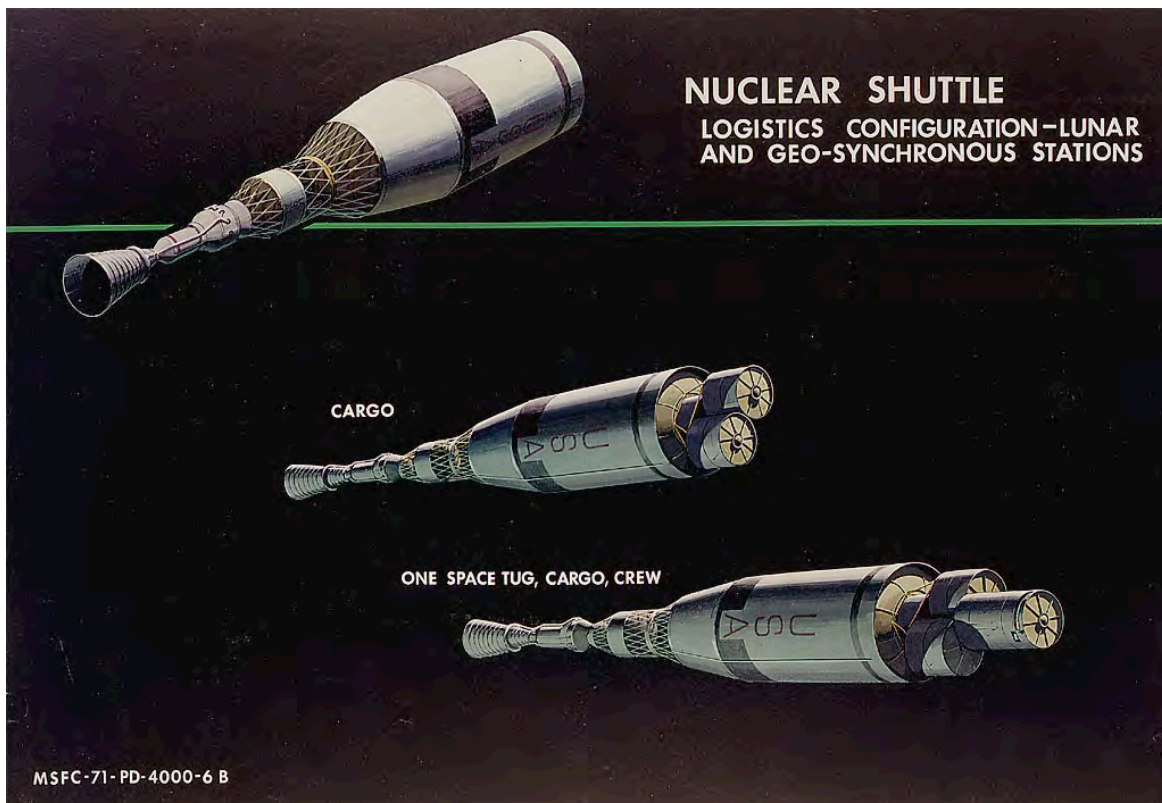
70



# Nuclear-Powered Spacecraft



71



72