Spacecraft Sensors and Actuators

Space System Design, MAE 342, Princeton University Robert Stengel

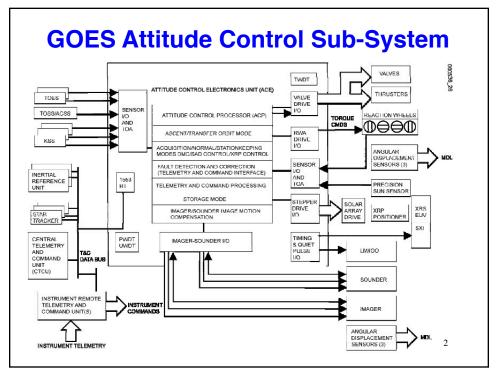
- Attitude Measurements
- Attitude Actuators
- Translational Measurements
- Mechanical Devices

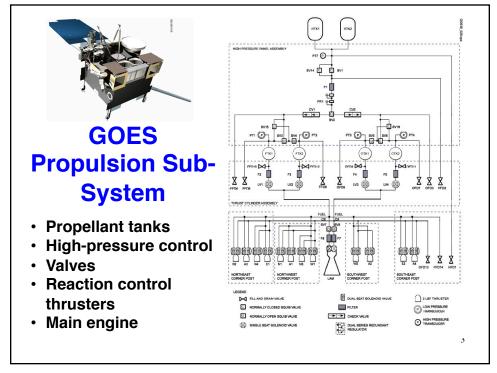


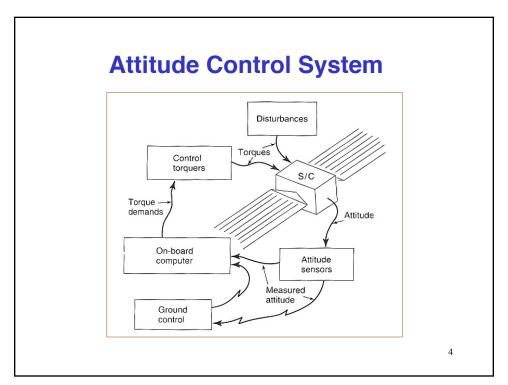


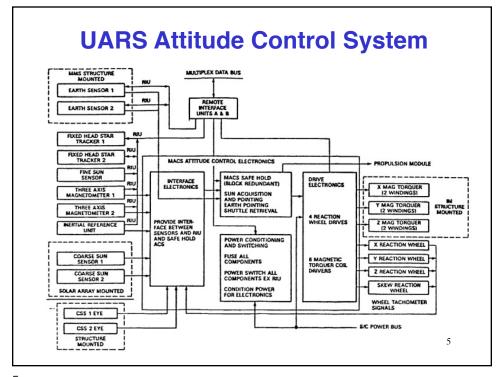
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Attitude Measurements

- Measurement of an angle or angular rate of the spacecraft with respect to a reference frame, e.g.,
 - Earth's magnetic field
 - Magnetometer
 - Direction to the sun
 - · Sun sensor
 - Earth's shape
 - · Earth horizon sensor
 - Inertial frame of the universe
 - · Star sensor
 - Gyroscopes
- Mission requirements dictate spacecraft sensor configuration

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Potential Accuracies of Attitude Measurements

Potential accuracy
1 arc second
1 arc minute
6 arc minutes
1 arc minute
30 arc minutes
6 arc minutes

Note: This table gives only a guideline. The GPS estimate depends upon the 'baseline' used (see text).

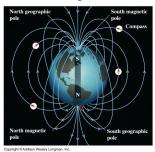
Fortescue

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Magnetometer

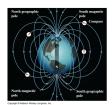
- · lonized gas magnetometer
- · Flux gate magnetometer
 - Alternating current passed through one coil
 - Permalloy core alternately magnitized by electromagnetic field
 - Corresponding magnetic field sensed by second coil
 - Distortion of oscillating field is a measure of one component of the Earth's magnetic field





- Three magnetometers required to determine direction of planet's magnetic field vector and magnitude of the field
- Two uses: <u>exploratory</u> measurements of unknown fields, and spacecraft <u>attitude measurement</u> for known fields

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Body Orientation from Magnetometer

- Earth's magnetic field vector, b_i, function of spacecraft position, (x, y, z)
- Body orientation vector, b_B, related to b_I by
 - rotation matrix, H_B, from inertial to body frame and
 - calibration rotation matrix, S

$$\mathbf{b}_{B} = \mathbf{S}_{mag} \mathbf{b}_{mag}$$

$$\mathbf{b}_{I} = \mathbf{H}_{B}^{I} \left[\mathbf{b}_{B} (x, y, z) + \text{error} \right]$$

$$\mathbf{S}_{mag} \left(\varepsilon_{1}, \varepsilon_{2}, \varepsilon_{3} \right) = \text{calibration rotation matrix}$$

$$\mathbf{H}_{B}^{I} = \text{body to inertial rotation matrix}$$

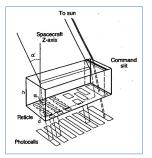
- Estimation of yaw, ψ , pitch, θ , and roll, ϕ , angles requires additional information
 - Equation has 2 degrees of freedom, but there are 3 unknowns

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Single-Axis Sun Sensor

$$\tan \alpha = d / h$$

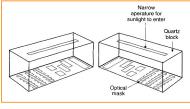
 $\sin \alpha' = n \sin \alpha$ (Snell's law)
 $n = \text{index of refraction}$

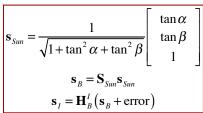


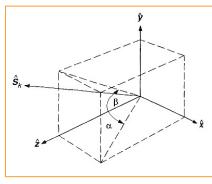
- Transparent block of material, known refractive index, n, coated with opaque material
- · Slit etched in top, receptive areas on bottom
- Sun light passing through slit forms a line over photodetectors
- Distance from centerline determines angle, α
- With index of refraction, n, angle to sun, α , is determined
- · Photodetectors provide coarse or fine outputs

Dual-Axis Sun Sensors

Orthogonal sun sensors determine direction (two angles) to the sun







Two measurements, three unknowns

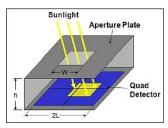
Three-axis attitude determination requires additional information 11

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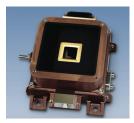
Dual-Axis Sun Sensors

Dual single-axis detection Four-quadrant detection





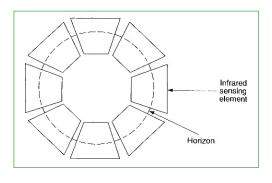


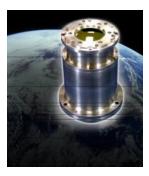


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Static Earth Horizon Sensor

- · Infrared sensing
- Field of view larger than the entire earth's edge (limb)
- Determines local vertical: provides orientation with respect to the nadir



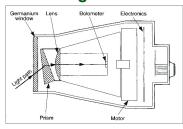


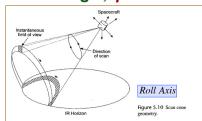
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Scanning Earth Horizon Sensor

- · Spinning assembly identifies light and dark IR areas
- Width of light area identifies width angle, η





 $\Omega = \omega_{scanner} (t_{LOS} - t_{AOS})$: Width angle $t_{LOS/AOS}$: Time of loss/acquisition of signal

 $\cos \rho = \cos \gamma \cos \eta + \sin \gamma \sin \eta \cos (\Omega/2)$

ho : Earth angular radius

 γ : Half-cone angle

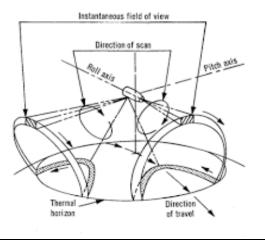
 η : Scanner nadir angle

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Fortescue

Dual Earth Horizon Sensor Measures roll and pitch angles, more precise nadir angle



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Star Tracker/Telescope

- Coarse and fine fields field of view
- Star location catalog helps identify target
- Instrument base must have low angular velocity

(x, y) location of star on focal plane determines







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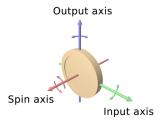
Typical Spacecraft Sensor Suites

- Most precise measurements (e.g., scientific satellites, lunar/deep space probes)
 - star trackers
- Moderate accuracy requirements
 - coarse digital sun sensors
 - horizon sensors
 - magnetometers
- · Spinning satellites
 - single-axis sun sensors
 - magnetometers
 - horizon sensors
- High-altitude (e.g., geosynchronous) satellites
 - optical sensors
 - gyroscopes

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Mechanical Gyroscopes



Body-axis moment equation

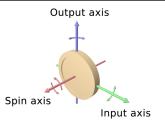
Angular momentum:
$$\mathbf{h}_{B} = \mathbf{I}_{B} \mathbf{\omega}_{B}$$

$$\dot{\mathbf{\omega}}_{B} = \mathbf{I}_{B}^{-1} \left(M_{B} - \tilde{\mathbf{\omega}}_{B} \mathbf{I}_{B} \mathbf{\omega}_{B} \right)$$

- Assumptions
 - Constant nominal spin rate, ω_m about z axis
 - $-I_{xx} = I_{vv} << I_{zz}$
 - Small perturbations in ω_x and ω_y

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Gyroscope Equations of Motion



Linearized equations of angular rate change

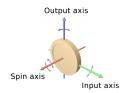
$$\begin{bmatrix} \Delta \dot{\omega}_{x} \\ \Delta \dot{\omega}_{y} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} I_{xx} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & I_{yy} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & I_{zz} \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} M_{x} \\ M_{y} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -\omega_{z_{o}} & \Delta \omega_{y} \\ \omega_{z_{o}} & 0 & -\Delta \omega_{x} \\ -\Delta \omega_{y} & \Delta \omega_{x} & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} I_{xx} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & I_{yy} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & I_{zz} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \Delta \omega_{x} \\ \Delta \omega_{y} \\ \omega_{z_{o}} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \Delta \dot{\omega}_{x} \\ \Delta \dot{\omega}_{y} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} [M_{x} - \omega_{z_{o}} (I_{zz} - I_{yy}) \Delta \omega_{y}] / I_{xx} \\ [M_{y} - \omega_{z_{o}} (I_{xx} - I_{zz}) \Delta \omega_{x}] / I_{yy} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

or

$$\begin{bmatrix} \Delta \dot{\omega}_{x} \\ \Delta \dot{\omega}_{y} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \omega_{z_{o}} (I_{yy} - I_{zz}) / I_{xx} \\ \omega_{z_{o}} (I_{zz} - I_{xx}) / I_{yy} & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \Delta \omega_{x} \\ \Delta \omega_{y} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} M_{x} / I_{xx} \\ M_{y} / I_{yy} \end{bmatrix}$$

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Gyroscope Natural Frequency

Laplace transform of dynamic equation

$$\begin{bmatrix} s & -\omega_{z_o} (I_{yy} - I_{zz})/I_{xx} \\ -\omega_{z_o} (I_{zz} - I_{xx})/I_{yy} & s \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \Delta\omega_{y}(s) \\ \Delta\omega_{y}(s) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} M_{x}(s)/I_{xx} \\ M_{y}(s)/I_{yy} \end{bmatrix}$$

Characteristic equation
$$\Delta(s) = s^2 + \omega_{z_o}^2 \left(\frac{I_{zz}}{I_{xx}} - 1 \right)^2 = 0$$

Natural frequency, ω_n of small perturbations

$$\omega_n = \omega_{z_o} \left(\frac{I_{zz}}{I_{rx}} - 1 \right) \quad rad \, / \sec$$

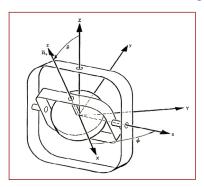
Example

$$\omega_{z_o} = 36,000 \text{ rpm} = 3,770 \text{ rad/sec}$$

$$\text{Thin disk: } \frac{I_{zz}}{I_{xx}} = 2$$

$$\omega_n = 3,770 \text{ rad/sec} = 600 \text{ Hz}$$

Two-Degree of Freedom Gyroscope

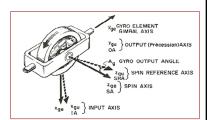


- Free gyro mounted on gimbaled platform
- · Gyro "stores" reference direction in space
- Angle pickoffs on gimbal axes measure pitch and yaw angles
- Direction can be precessed by applying a torque

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Single-Degree of Freedom Gyroscope

 Gyro axis, ζ, constrained to rotate with respect to the output axis, y, only



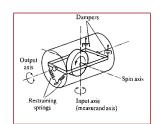
$$\begin{bmatrix} \Delta \dot{\theta} \\ \Delta \dot{\omega}_{y} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \Delta \omega_{y} \\ (h_{rotor} \Delta \omega_{x} + M_{y_{control}}) / I_{yy} \end{bmatrix}$$

- "Synchro" measures axis rotation, and "torquer" keeps Δψ small
- Torque applied is a measure of the input about the x axis

$$M_{y_{control}} = k_{\theta} \Delta \theta + k_{\omega} \Delta \omega_{y} + k_{c} \Delta u_{c}$$

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Rate and Integrating Gyroscopes



- Large angle feedback produces a rate gyro
 - Analogous to a mechanical spring restraint
- Large rate feedback produces an integrating gyro
 - Analogous to a mechanical damper restraint

$$\Delta \dot{\omega}_{y_{SS}} = 0 = \left(h_{rotor} \Delta \omega_{x_{SS}} + k_{\theta} \Delta \theta_{SS}\right) / I_{yy}$$
$$\Delta \theta_{SS} = -\frac{h_{rotor}}{k_{\theta}} \Delta \omega_{x_{SS}}$$

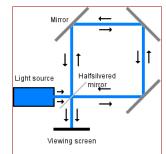
$$\Delta \dot{\omega}_{y_{SS}} = 0 = \left(h_{rotor} \Delta \omega_{x_{SS}} + k_{\omega} \Delta \omega_{y_{SS}}\right) / I_{yy}$$
$$\Delta \omega_{y_{SS}} = -\frac{h_{rotor}}{k_{\omega}} \Delta \omega_{x_{SS}}$$
$$\Delta \theta_{SS} = \Delta \phi_{SS}$$

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Optical Gyroscopes

- Sagnac interferometer measures rotational rate, Ω
 - $\Omega = 0$, photons traveling in opposite directions complete the circuit in the same time
 - Ω ≠ 0, travel length and time are different
- On a circular path of radius R:



$$\begin{split} t_{CCW} &= \frac{2\pi R}{c} \bigg(1 - \frac{R\Omega}{c} \bigg); \quad t_{CW} = \frac{2\pi R}{c} \bigg(1 + \frac{R\Omega}{c} \bigg) \\ \Delta t &= t_{CW} - t_{CCW} = \frac{4\pi R^2}{c^2} \Omega = \frac{4A}{c^2} \Omega \end{split}$$

c:speed of light; R:radius; A:area

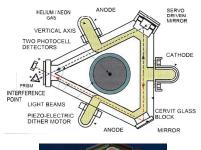
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Ring Laser Gyro

- Laser in optical path creates photon resonance at wavelength,
- Frequency change in cavity is proportional to angular rate
- Three RLGs needed to measure three angular rates

$$\Delta f = \frac{4A}{\lambda P} \Omega$$

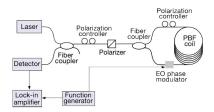
P: perimeter length





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Fiber Optic Gyro





- Photon source and sensor external to fiber optics
- Length difference for opposite beams, ΔL

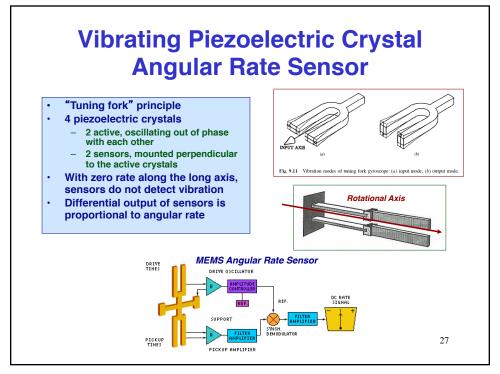
A: included areaN: number of turns

Phase difference proportional to angular rate

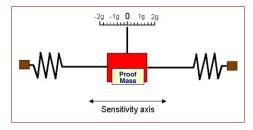


$$\Delta L = \frac{4AN}{c}\Omega$$

$$\Delta \varphi = \frac{8\pi AN}{\lambda c} \Omega$$



Spring Deflection Accelerometer

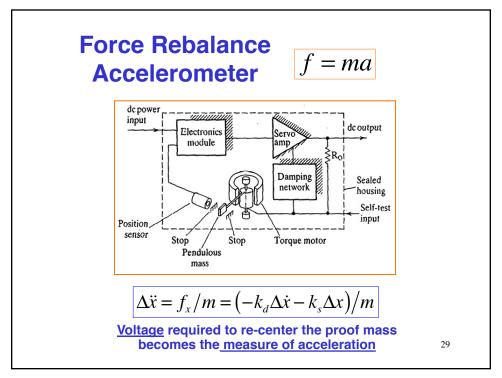


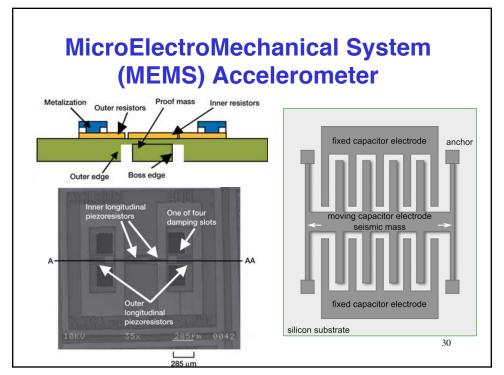
$$\Delta \ddot{x} = -k_s \Delta x / m$$

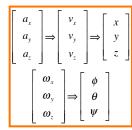
$$\Delta x = \frac{m}{k_s} \Delta \ddot{x}$$

- · Deflection is proportional to acceleration
- · Damping required to reduce oscillation

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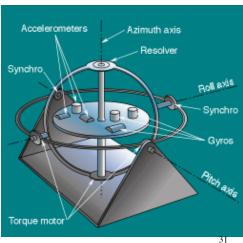




- 3 accelerometers
- 3 rate or rate-integrating gyroscopes
- Platform orientation "fixed" in space
- Vehicle rotates about the platform
- **Need for high precision** instruments
- Drift due to errors and constants of integration
- Platform re-oriented with external data (e.g., GPS)

Inertial Measurement Units

Gimbaled Physical Platform



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Gimbal-less Physical Platform

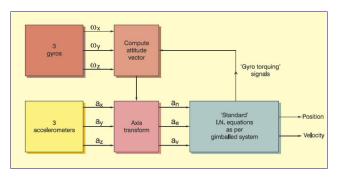
- Air bearing floats platform in lieu of gimbals
- Peacekeeper IMU*
- · Reduced errors due to fluidic suspension
- Instruments subjected to low dynamic range, allowing high precision

*IEEE Control Systems Magazine, 2/08



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Strapdown Inertial Measurement Units



- Rate gyros and accelerometers rotate with vehicle
- High dynamic range of instruments is required
- Inertial reference frame is computed rather than physical
- Use of direction cosine matrix and quaternions for attitude reference

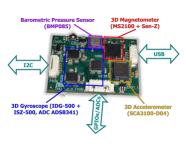
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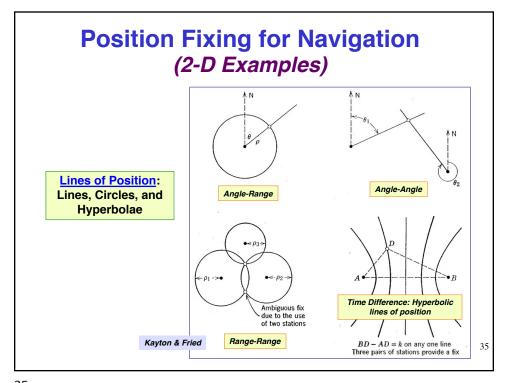
MicroElectroMechanical (MEMS) Strapdown Inertial Measurement Units

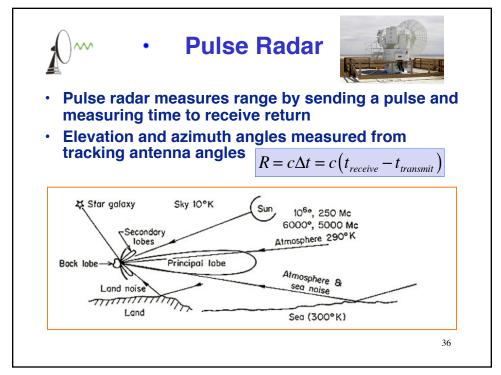
- · Less accurate than precision physical platform
- High drift rates
- Acceptable short-term accuracy
- Can be integrated with magnetometer and pressure sensor, updated with GPS

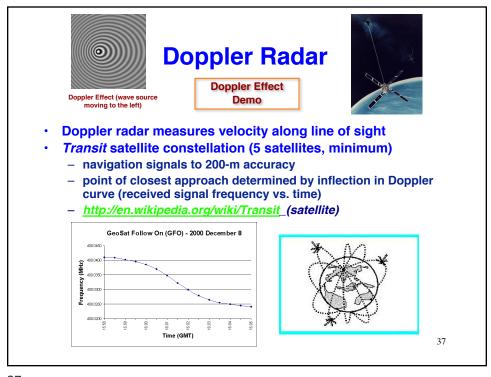


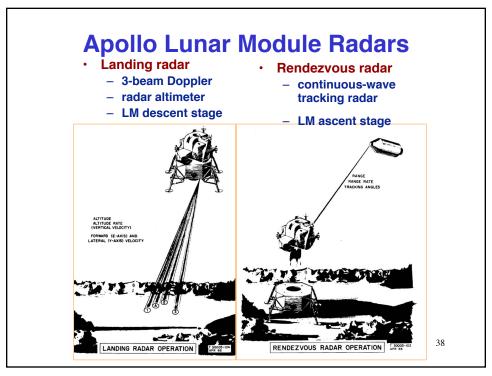


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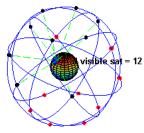








Global Positioning System



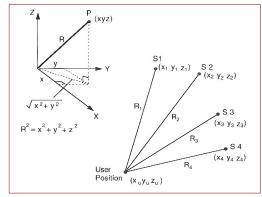
- Six orbital planes with four satellites each
 - Altitude: 20,200 km (10,900 nm)
 - Inclination: 55 deg
 - Constellation planes separated by 60 deg
- Each satellite contains an atomic clock and broadcasts a 30-sec message at 50 bps
 - Ephemeris
 - ID
 - Clock data
 - Details of satellite signal at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gps
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v_6yeGcpoyE

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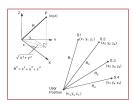
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Position Fixing from 4 GPS Satellites

 Pseudorange estimated from speed of light and time required to receive signal



User clock inaccuracy produces error, $C_u = c\Delta t$



Position Fixing from Four GPS Satellites

$$R_{1} = \sqrt{(x_{1} - x_{u})^{2} + (y_{1} - y_{u})^{2} + (z_{1} - z_{u})^{2}} = R_{1_{p}} + C_{u}$$

$$R_{2} = \sqrt{(x_{2} - x_{u})^{2} + (y_{2} - y_{u})^{2} + (z_{2} - z_{u})^{2}} = R_{2_{p}} + C_{u}$$

$$R_{3} = \sqrt{(x_{3} - x_{u})^{2} + (y_{3} - y_{u})^{2} + (z_{3} - z_{u})^{2}} = R_{3_{p}} + C_{u}$$

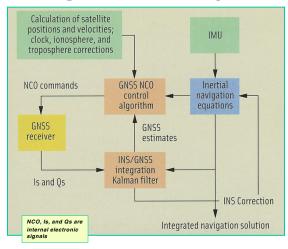
$$R_{4} = \sqrt{(x_{4} - x_{u})^{2} + (y_{4} - y_{u})^{2} + (z_{4} - z_{u})^{2}} = R_{4_{p}} + C_{u}$$

- Four equations and four unknowns (x_u, y_u, z_u, C_u)
- · Accuracy improved using data from more than 4 satellites

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Integrated Inertial Navigation/GPS System



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Angular Attitude Actuators

Internal Devices

Momentum/reaction wheels
Control moment gyroscope
Nutation dampers

External Devices

Magnetic coils
Thrusters
Solar radiation pressure

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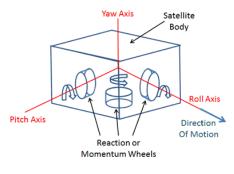
Momentum/Reaction Wheels

Flywheels on motor shafts

Reaction wheel *rpm* is varied to trade angular momentum with spacecraft for control

Three orthogonal wheels vary all components of angular momentum Fourth wheel at oblique angle would provide redundancy



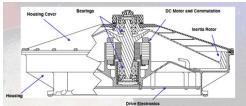


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Momentum/ Reaction Wheels

 Momentum wheel operates at high rpm and provide spin stability (~dual-spin spacecraft) plus control torques



- Reaction wheel rpm is low, varied to trade angular momentum with the spacecraft for control
 - Three orthogonal wheels vary all components of angular momentum
 - Fourth wheel at oblique angle provides redundancy

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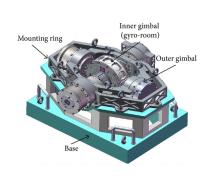
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Control Moment Gyroscope

Gyros operate at constant rpm

Small torque on input axis produces large torque on output axis, modifying spacecraft momentum

One or two degrees of freedom

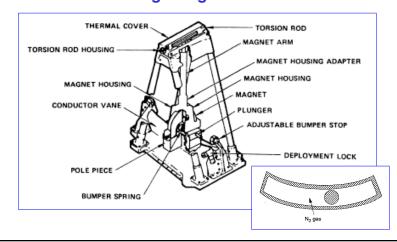




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Nutation Dampers

- Nutation dampers dissipate angular energy
 - Eddy current on a conducting pendulum in a magnetic field
 - Mass moving in a gas or viscous fluid



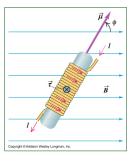
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Magnetic Torquers

$$\mathbf{m} = N I A (\mathbf{i} \times \mathbf{B})$$

 Current flowing through a loop generates a magnetic torque through interaction with the Earth's magnetic field N: number of loops
I: current
A: included area of loops
i: unit vector along coil axis
B: local flux density







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Reaction Control Thrusters

- Direct control of angular rate
- Unloading momentum wheels or control-moment gyros
- Reaction control thrusters are typically on-off devices using
 - Cold gas
 - Hypergolic propellantsCatalytic propellant

 - Ion/plasma rockets

- Specific impulse
- Propellant mass
- Expendability

Apollo Lunar Module RCS







Thrusters commanded in pairs for pure couple

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Reaction Control Thrusters Monopropellant Hydrazine Cold Gas Thruster (used with inert gas) **Thruster** Hypergolic, Storable **Bipropellant Thruster** 50

Solar Radiation Pressure Control Panels

Solar radiation pressure
Vanes deflected differentially
Analogous to aerodynamic control surfaces
Long moment arm from center of mass

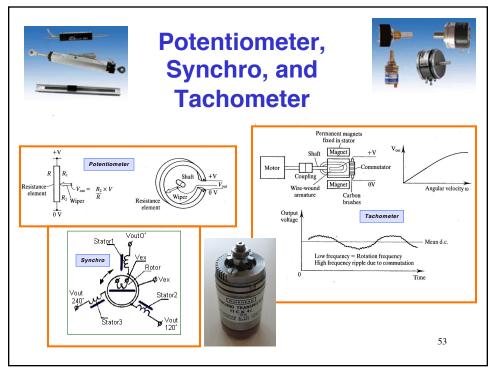


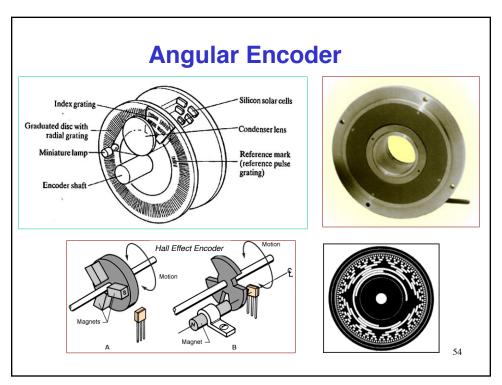
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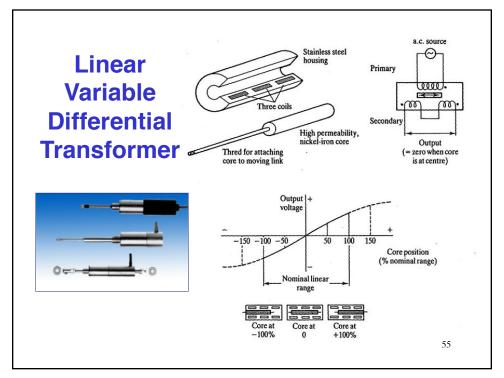
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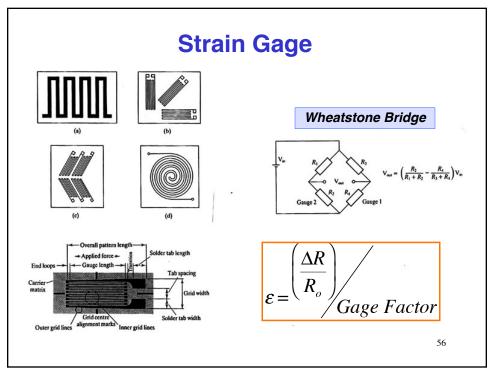
Sensors and Actuators for Spacecraft Mechanisms

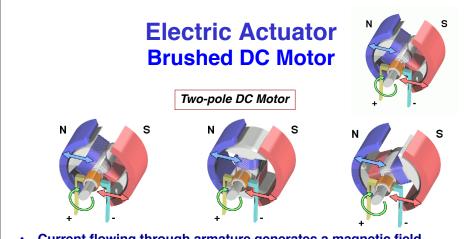
52









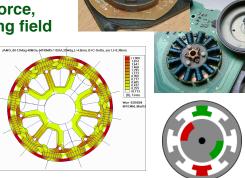


- Current flowing through armature generates a magnetic field
- Permanent magnets torque the armature
- When armature is aligned with magnets, commutator reverses current and magnetic field
- Multiple poles added to allow motor to smooth output torque and to start from any position

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Electric Actuator Brushless DC Motor

- Armature is fixed, and permanent magnets rotate
- **Electronic controller** commutates the electromagnetic force, providing a rotating field
- **Advantages**
 - Efficiency
 - Noise
 - Lifetime
 - Reduced EMI
 - Cooling
 - Water-resistant

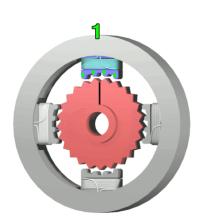




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Electric Actuator Stepper Motor

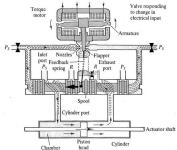
- Brushless, synchronous motor that moves in discrete steps
- Precise, quantized control without feedback
- Armature teeth offset to induce rotary motion



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59

Hydraulic Actuator Torque Make responding to change in



Used principally for launch vehicle thrust vector and propellant control

Not widely used on spacecraft

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Ball/Roller Screw Linear Actuator

Transforms rotary to linear motion





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Next Time: Electrical Power Systems

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Supplemental Material

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Control-Moment Gyro Flywheel on a motor shaft RPM is fixed, axis is rotated to impart torque