Cyclone Global Navigation Satellite System (CYGNSS)

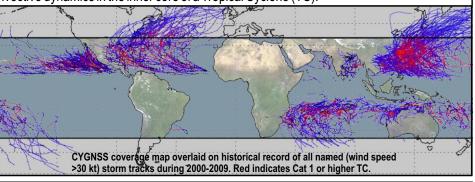
Science Goal and Objectives

The CYGNSS Science Goal is to understand the coupling between ocean surface properties, moist atmospheric thermodynamics, radiation, and convective dynamics in the inner core of a Tropical Cyclone (TC).

Primary Objectives:

- Measure ocean surface wind speed in all precipitating conditions, including those experienced in the TC eyewall
- Measure ocean surface wind speed in the TC inner core with sufficient frequency to resolve genesis and rapid intensification

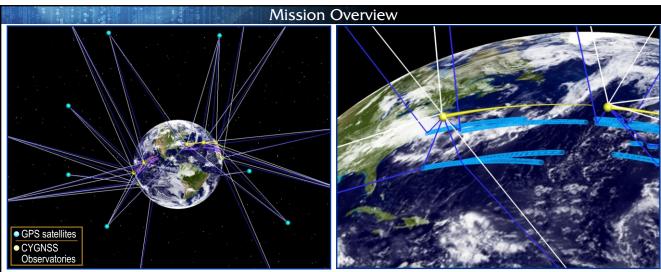
Secondary Science: Support the operational hurricane forecast community by producing and providing ocean surface wind speed data products, and helping them assess the value of these products for use in their retrospective studies of potential new data sources.



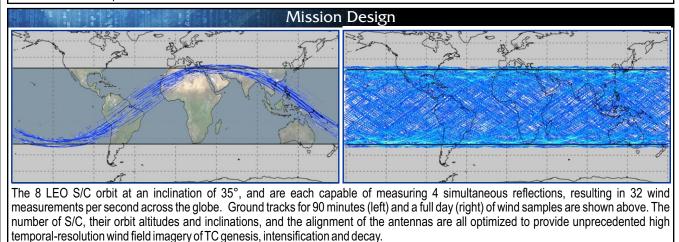
Importance to NASA

Resolve TC inner core dynamics and energetics, leading to fundamental improvements in our understanding of the genesis and intensification processes

 Provide post-QuikScat ocean wind measurement capability recommended by NRC Decadal Survey with enhanced coverage and performance in precipitating and high wind conditions
Initiate an operational hand-off of unique observing capabilities to the operational hurricane forecast community



The CYGNSS mission is comprised of 8 Observatories that receive both direct (white lines) and reflected (blue lines) signals from GPS satellites. The direct signals pinpoint CYGNSS Observatory positions, while the reflected signals respond to ocean surface roughness, from which wind speed is retrieved. GPS bi-static scatterometry measures ocean surface winds at all speeds and under all levels of precipitation, including TC conditions. In the right figure, instantaneous wind samples are indicated by individual blue circles. Five minutes of wind samples are shown.



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