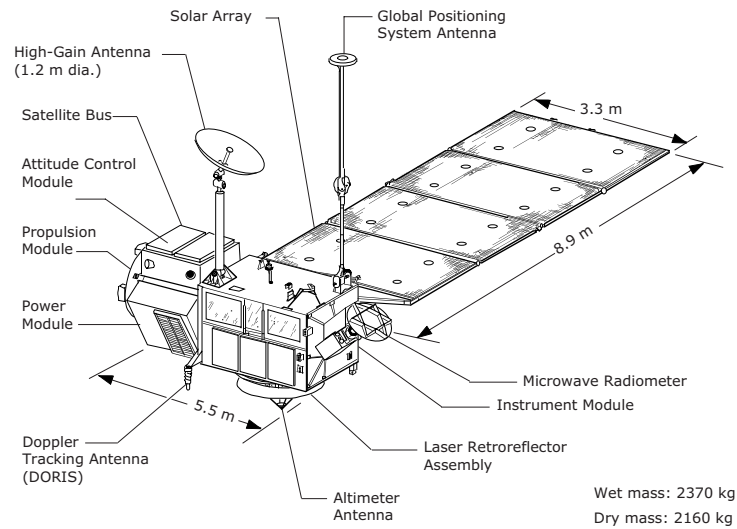
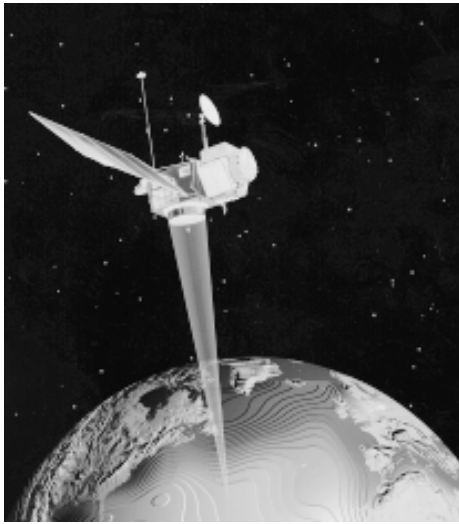


# TOPEX/Poseidon

## Earth's Oceans Topography Experiment



### Objectives

- Six-year global view of Earth's oceans
- Improved understanding of ocean currents
- Improved forecasting of global environment

### Highlights

- U.S.-France (Centre National d' Etudes Spatiales — CNES) program
- Launched August 10, 1992, on Ariane 42P launch vehicle
- Sensors:
  - Altimeters (NASA, CNES)
  - Microwave radiometer (NASA)
  - Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver (NASA)
  - Laser retroreflector (NASA)
  - Doppler tracking receiver (CNES)
- Orbits Earth at 1336-km altitude, 66-degree inclination
- 10-day repeat of ground tracks ( $\pm 1$ -km accuracy)
- Covers 95% of the ice-free oceans every 10 days
- Unprecedented accuracy: sea-level measurements to within 5 cm
- Has measured sea levels, mapped basin-wide current variations, monitored effects of currents on global climate change; studied El Niño phenomenon

