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Gravity Probe B Relativity Mission
GP-B Policy and Directive
for Science and Engineering Data Security

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Science Working Group Approval:

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GP-B Policy and Directive for Science and Engineering Data Security

1 Introduction

GP-B is potentially an earth shaking experiment. It is essential that we avoid misunderstandings and missteps in the public release of data. To insure credibility, we want to prevent disclosure of erroneous or misleading results or conjectures. At the same time it is important to set a date when all data and information is freely available to any interested party and to provide for the authorized release of data that has been thoroughly analyzed for credibility and accuracy. It is also critical that Stanford and NASA work closely together to insure that the Program's science and engineering status information is not disclosed prematurely or outside of pre-agreed channels.

2 Scope

This policy applies to all people associated with, or having direct access to data and results. This includes Stanford, as well as all subcontractors, consultants, advisors, and reviewers of the program. NASA, as sponsor of the GP-B research, has access to the GP-B data in accordance with the GP-B contractual provisions. NASA employees having access to the GP-B data will be subject to the internal NASA rules and regulations governing data security.

This policy shall stay in force until final results have been publicly released according to the GP-B Data Management Plan. (Approximately 12 months after mission complete). At that point all raw data and the official reduced results will be publicly released.

3 Agreements and Authority

The governing agreement on the release of information pertaining to the GP-B Program is the GP-B Public Affairs Plan (as of September 2003). As stated therein (page 12) "All formal issuances of information -- including news releases, fact sheets, status reports and other information products -- will be fully coordinated through GP-B program officials and the GP-B Program PAO at MSFC and NASA HQ prior to release." The Program shall follow the protocols established in the PA for the formal release of information.

The primary authority on data security at Stanford is the PI, Francis Everitt. He in turn will delegate certain responsibilities to a formally designated Science Working Group (SWG), chaired by the Science and Engineering Data Security Officer (SEDSO). This individual will be Dr. George (Mac) Keiser.

4 Data and Results to be Protected

All raw and processed engineering and science data derived from GP-B.

Levels of Sensitivity

Sensitivity Level A (SLA)

The most sensitive category. This will include the final frame-dragging, and geodetic parameters, as well as confirmation of the bending of starlight. In addition all variance estimates for these quantities.

Sensitivity Level B (SLB)

All quantitative data/analysis that relates to gyro readout, telescope readout, position readout and star proper motion, except that designated level SLA.

Sensitivity Level (SLC)

All data/analysis results except those considered SLA or SLB.

Sensitivity Level (SLD)

Other Engineering Data

Determination of Sensitivity Level

Specific data and results to be included in each level will be recommended by the security officer and approved by the SWG.

5 Access**Granting Access**

Access to each level will be granted to individuals after recommendation by the SEDSO and approved by the PI. All individuals so designated will be required to complete Data Security Training and to sign a document indicating that they understand the policy and will abide by the direction it contains.

Maintaining Access Lists

The SEDSO will maintain an up to date list of those granted access.

6 Protection

It is incumbent upon the GP-B Team and persons granted access to data to ensure protection of data. This includes:

Physical Protection

Computers, paper, and disks etc.

Data Link Protection

Access to networks etc.

Password Protection

Frequently changed, long passcodes.

Verbal and Discussion Protection

Discussions limited to closed offices, never in hallways etc.

7 Release of Data

Release of Data shall proceed in accordance with the GP-B Publicity and Publication Policy.

8 Penalties for Violation

Willful or negligent violation of this directive will be grounds for immediate denial of access to all sensitive GP-B information. In addition, for Stanford employees and contractors, violation may be the basis for a recommendation of dismissal.

9 Termination of this Directive

This directive shall be in effect until the final results have been publicly released according to the GP-B Data Management Plan and/or the GP-B Public Affairs Plan or until modified by the PI and SWG.