

Polarimeter to Unify the Corona and Heliosphere

NFI Instrument Status Overview

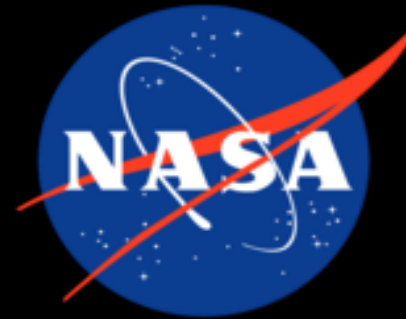
Robin Colaninno

NFI Instrument Lead

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This work is supported by NASA



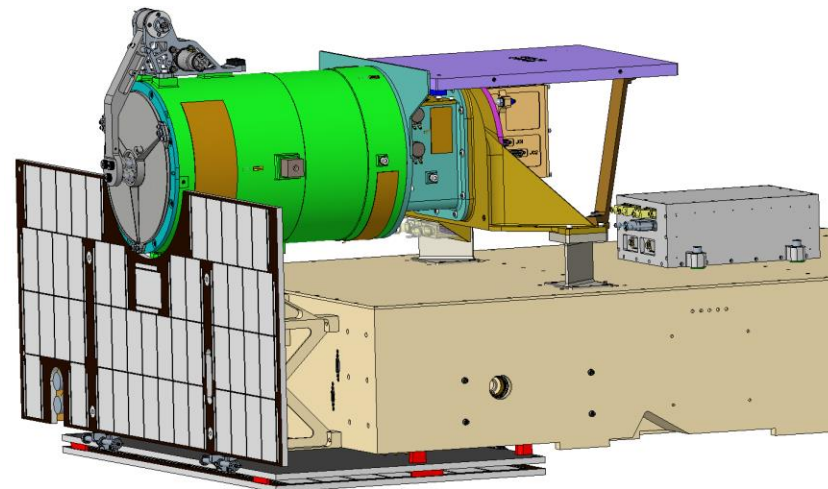
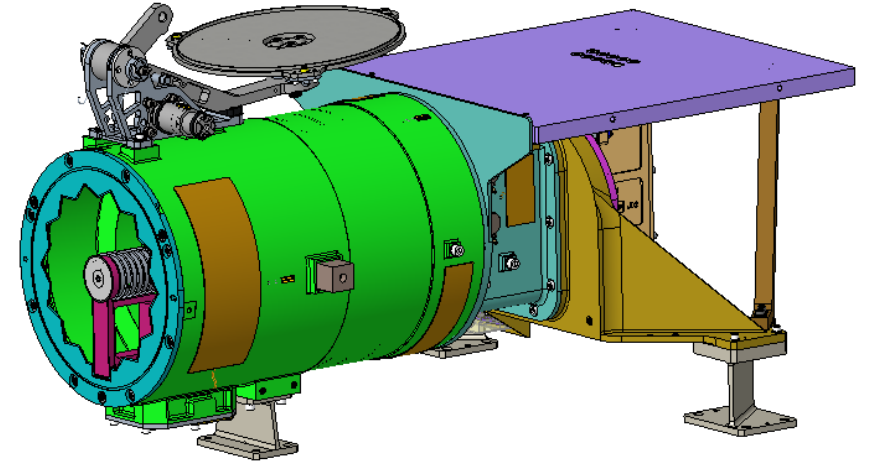
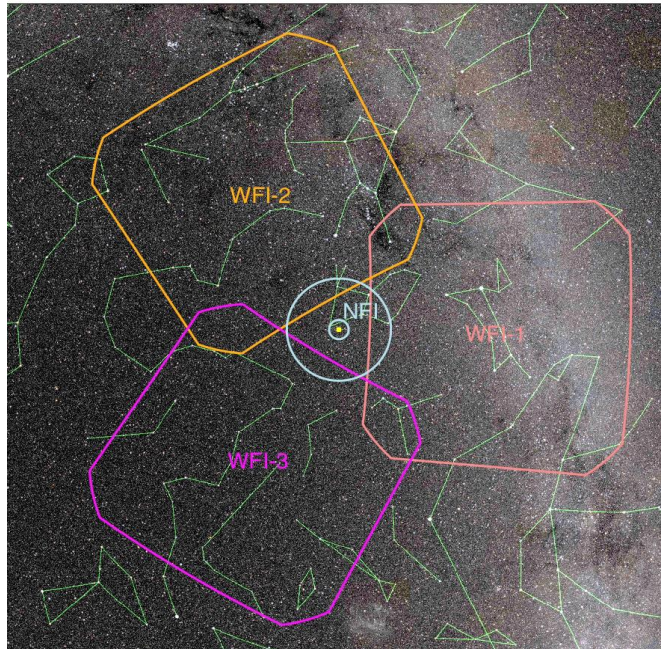
PUNCH 6 Science Meeting
February 25-26, 2025
San Luis Obispo, CA





NFI Overview

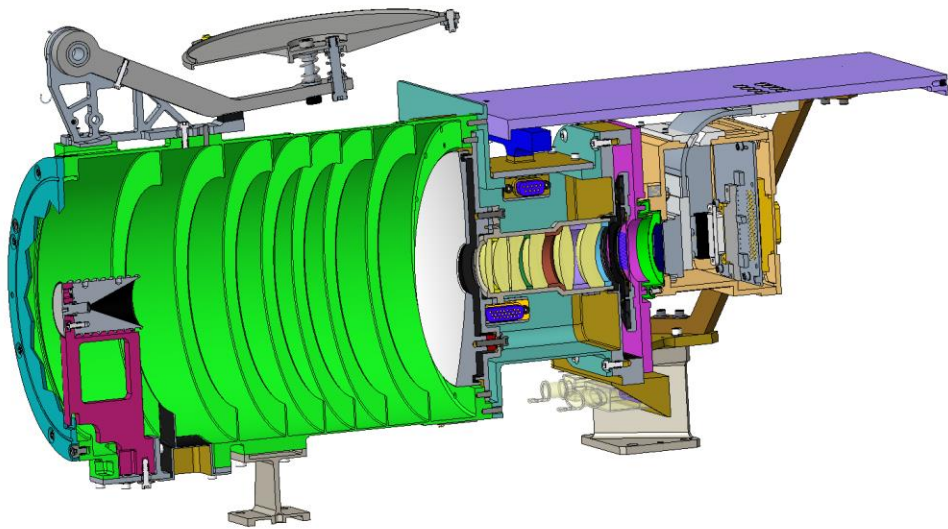
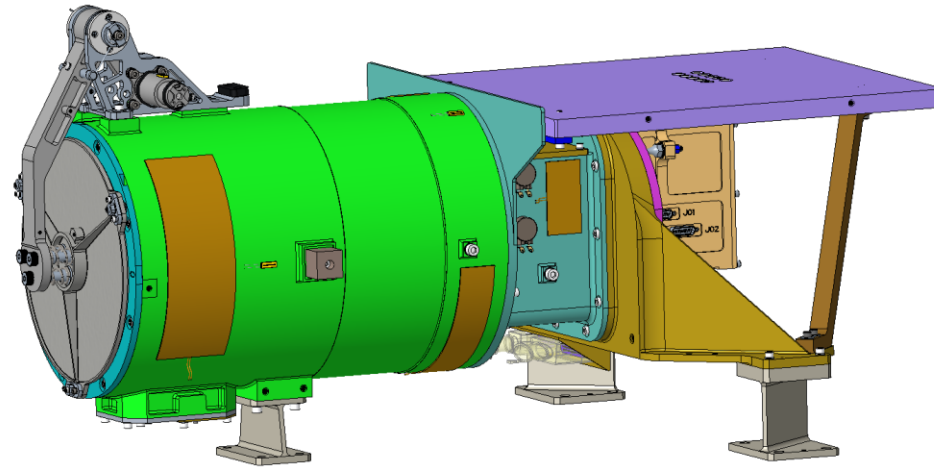
- Combined NFI & WFI FOV provide first:
 - Wide-field, polarimetric, high resolution views of corona-solar wind transition
 - NFI: 6 -30 R_{\odot} , WFI: 20-180 R_{\odot}
- Provides high spatial/temporal resolution in the inner FOV
 - 1 observatory in polar orbit
 - Continuous 4 min observing cadence



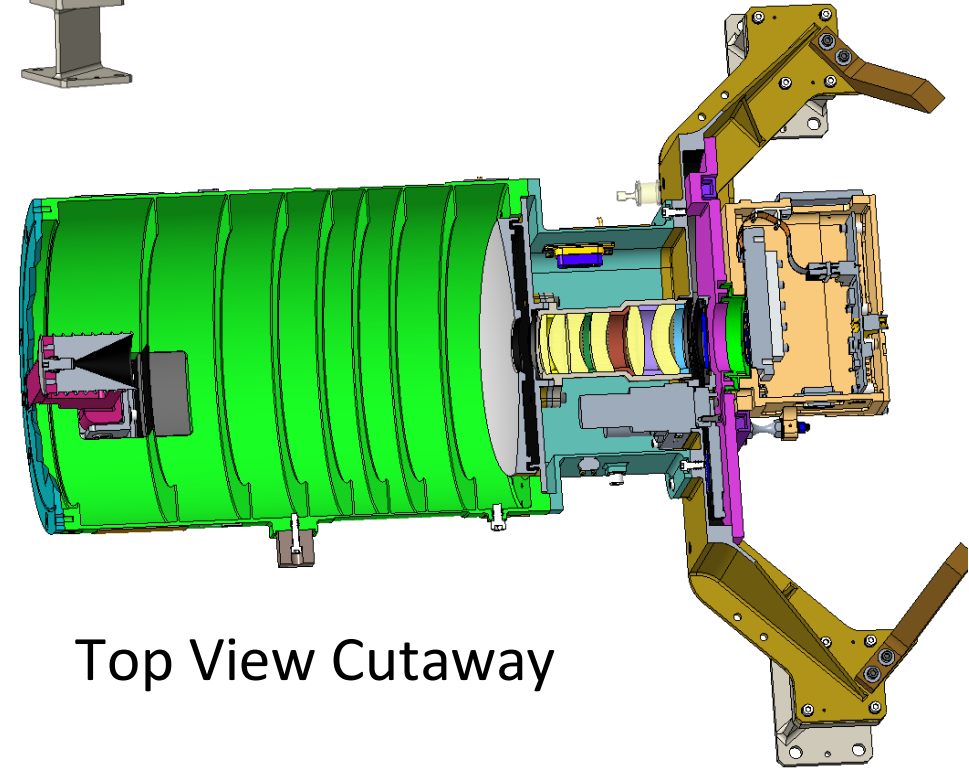


NFI Instrument Layout

Side View



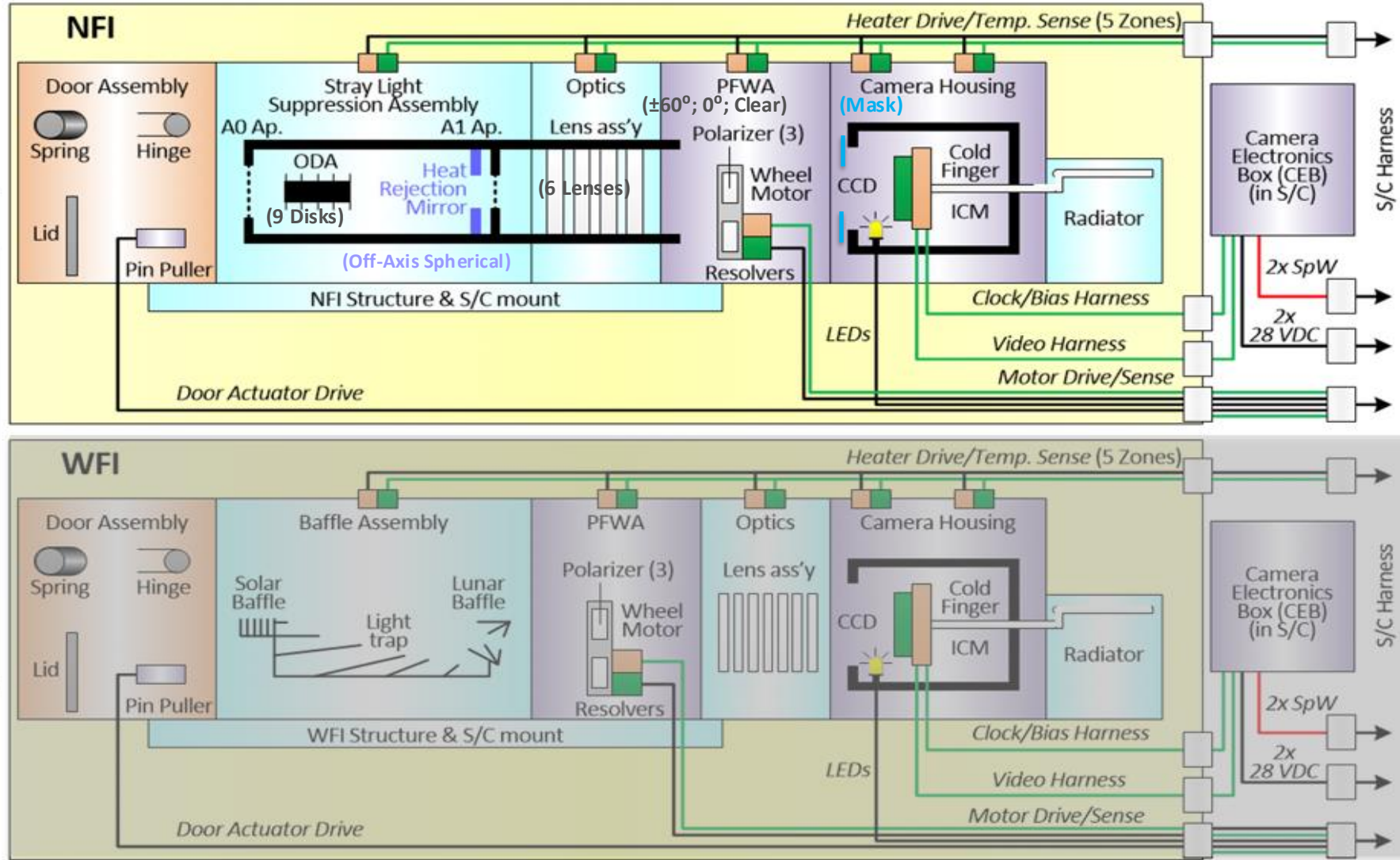
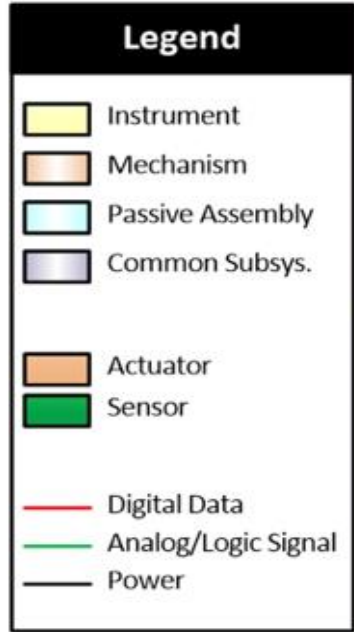
Side View Cutaway



Top View Cutaway



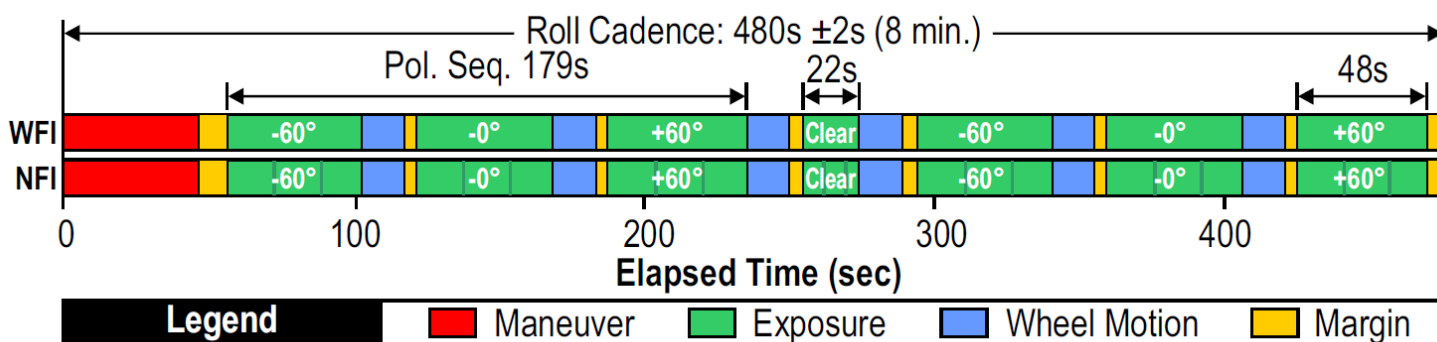
NFI Physical Block Diagram





NFI Observing Plan

- Conops common to WFI & NFI
- Two sets of polarization sequences per 8 min roll cadence
- Each image a summation of 3 exposures



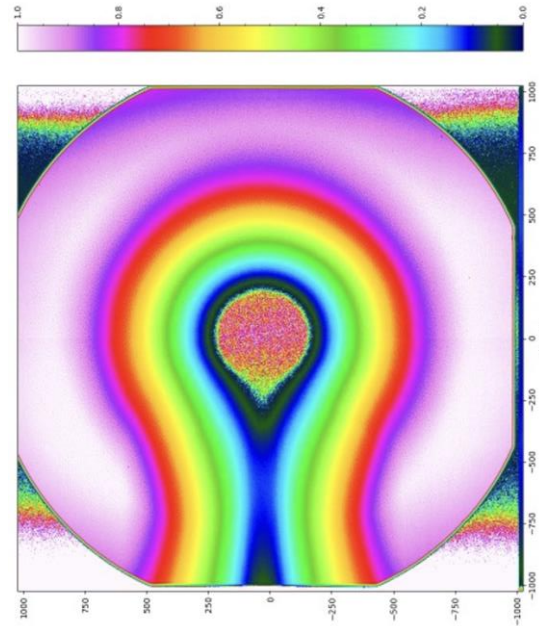
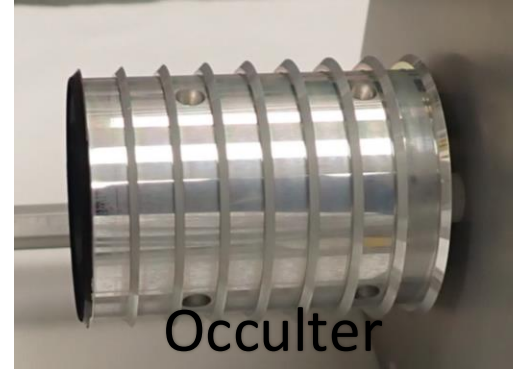
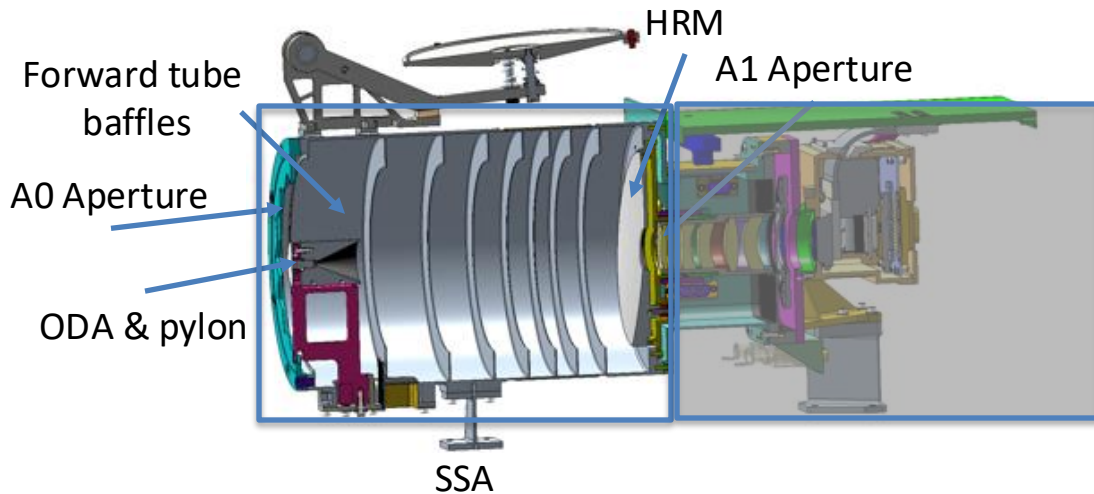
PUNCH Observing Sequence Schedule			
Time (s)	Length + margin	NFI Action	WFI Action
0	47+4	Roll & set PFW to -60°	Roll & set PFW to -60°
51	48+1(*)	Expose 3x13s at -60°	Expose 45s at -60°
98	15+5	Set PFW to 0° & settle	Set PFW to 0° & settle
118	48+1(*)	Expose 3x13s at 0°	Expose 45s at 0°
165	15+5	Set PFW to 60° & settle	Set PFW to 60° & settle
185	48+1(*)	Expose 3x13s at 60°	Expose 45s at 60°
232	15+5	Set PFW to CL & settle	Set PFW to CL & settle
252	22+1(*)	Expose 3x5s at CL	Expose 19s at CL
273	15+5	Set PFW to -60° & settle	Set PFW to -60° & settle
293	48+1(*)	Expose 3x13s at -60°	Expose 45s at -60°
340	15+5	Sep PFW to 0° & settle	Sep PFW to 0° & settle
360	48+1(*)	Expose 3x13s at 0°	Expose 45s at 0°
407	15+5	Set PFW to 60° & settle	Set PFW to 60° & settle
427	48+1(*)	Expose 3x13s at 60°	Expose 45s at 60°
474	1 to 11	Sync for next roll	Sync for next roll

(*) 2-second overlap with following event

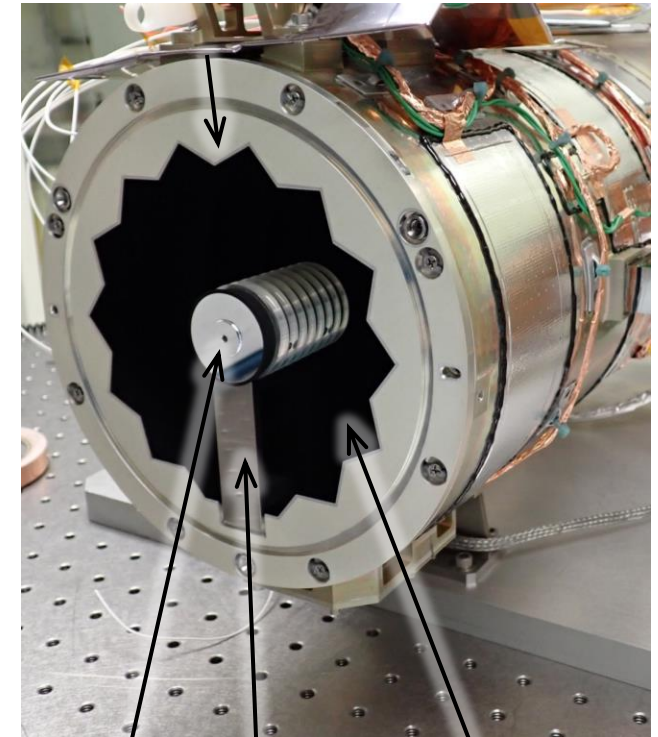


NFI Stray-Light Suppression Assembly (SSA)

- SSA design has:
 - Occulter Disk Assembly (ODA) & pylon
 - Forward tube baffles
 - Front aperture A0
 - Heat Rejection Mirror (HRM)
 - Entrance aperture A1
- Vignetting from the ODA ends at $21.9 R_{\odot}$
 - Optimized for the coronal brightness gradient and overlap with the WFI FOV



A0 Aperture

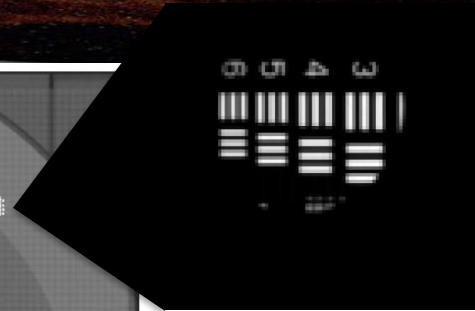
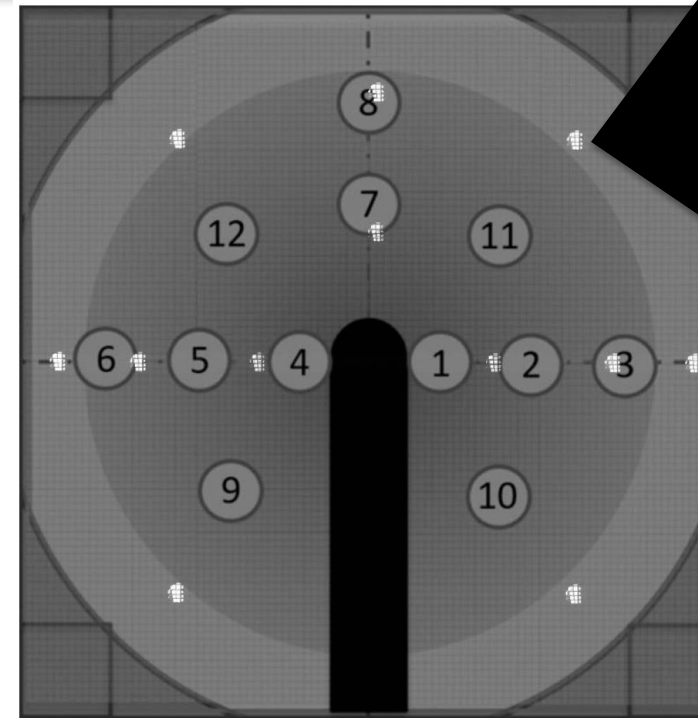




NFI Optical Lens Assembly (OLA)

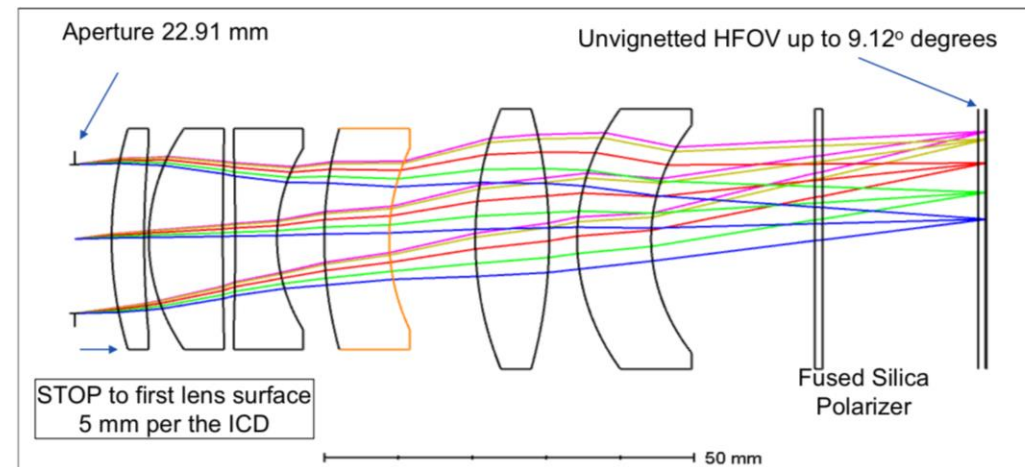
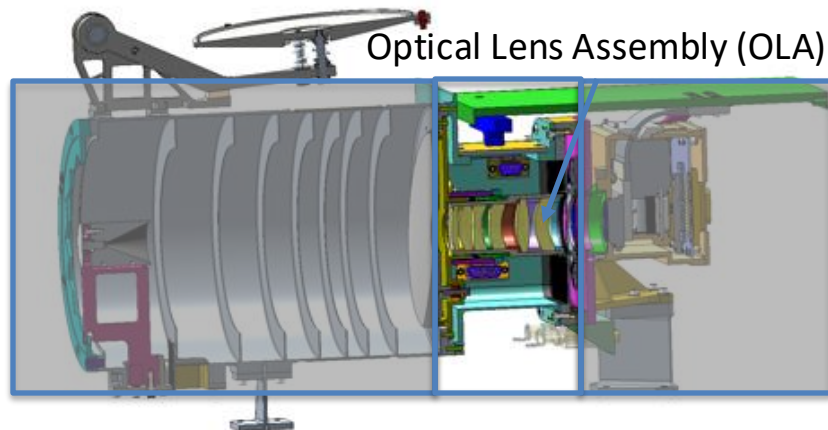
NFI Optical Parameters

Parameter		units
FOV	6.0 - 36	R_{\odot}
Number of lenses	6	elements
Aperture	22.91	mm
Focal length	103.08	mm
Plate scale	0.55	mm/deg
f/#	4.5	
Spectral range	447 - 764	nm
Resolution	93	arcsec



NFI resolution measured over FOV.

MTF 0.419 at 93 arcsec.

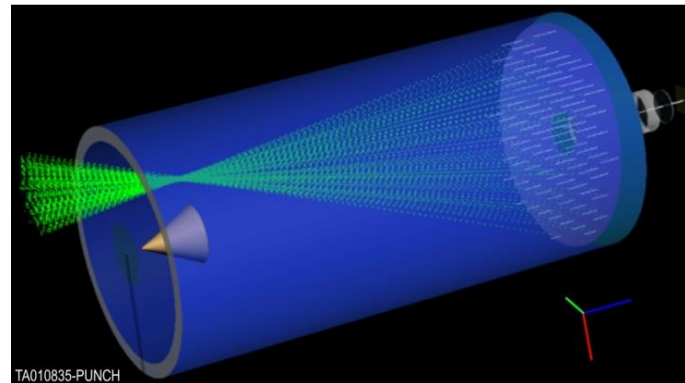
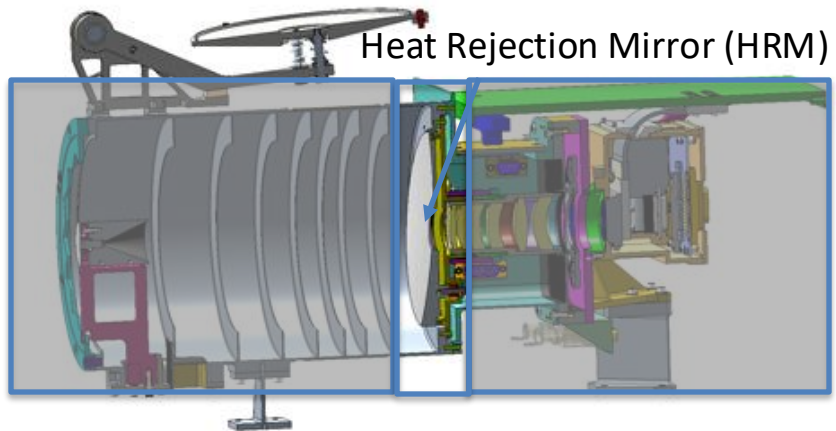
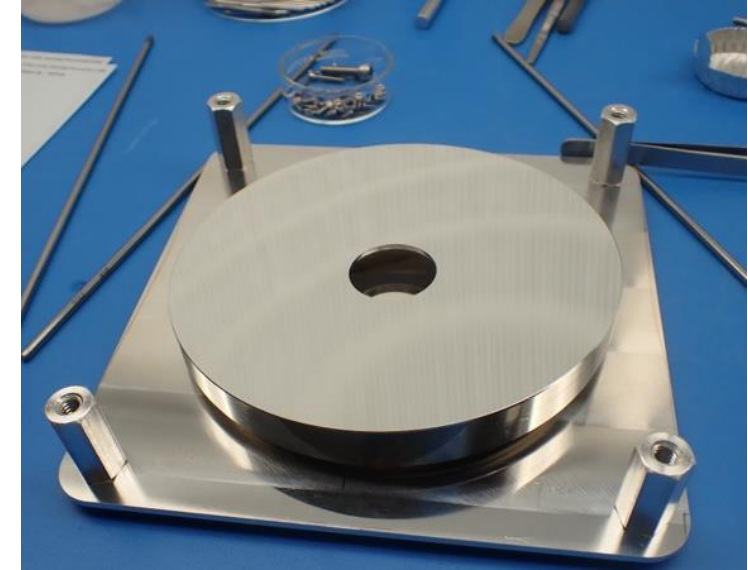




NFI Heat Rejection Mirror

- Minimizes scattered light in SSA and heating of instrument
 - Off-centered, parabolic mirror
 - 255-mm focal length
 - Creates an image of the Sun opposite the occulter pylon
 - Scatter due to surface imperfections 8.8×10^{-12} CBE+C

HRM



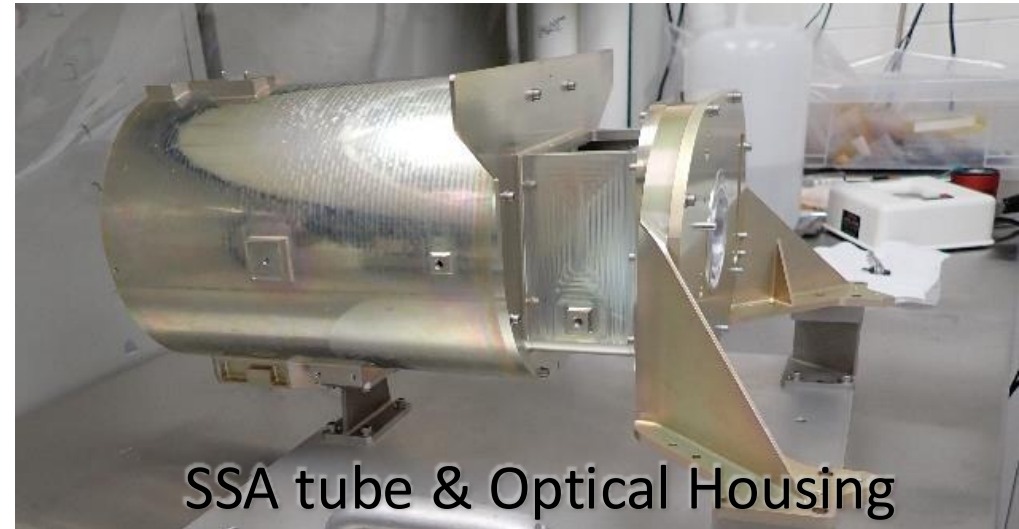
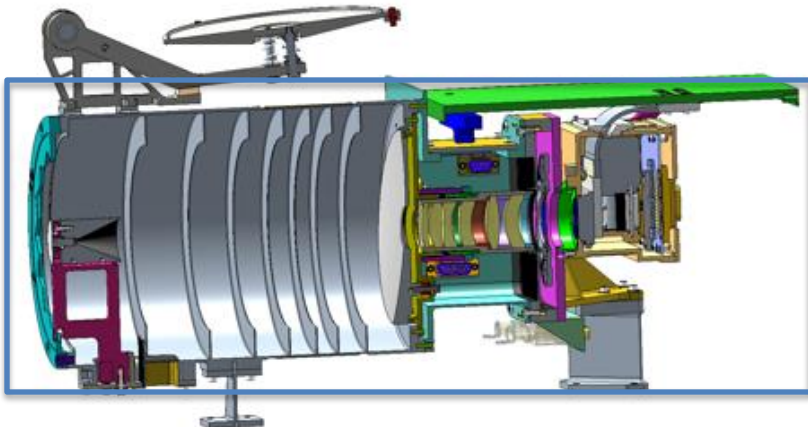
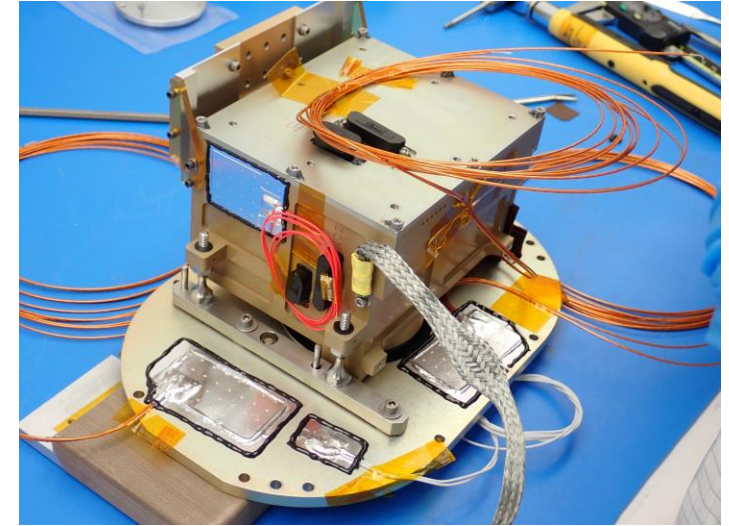
HRM Focal Point



NFI Structure

- Aluminum tube construction
- Three piece design
 - SSA tube, optical housing, camera box
- Alignment determined by shims at the interfaces
- NFI Structure mounts to S/C via 3-point Ti kinematic mount
 - Thermally isolated from S/C
 - Provides alignment with S/C

FM camera box

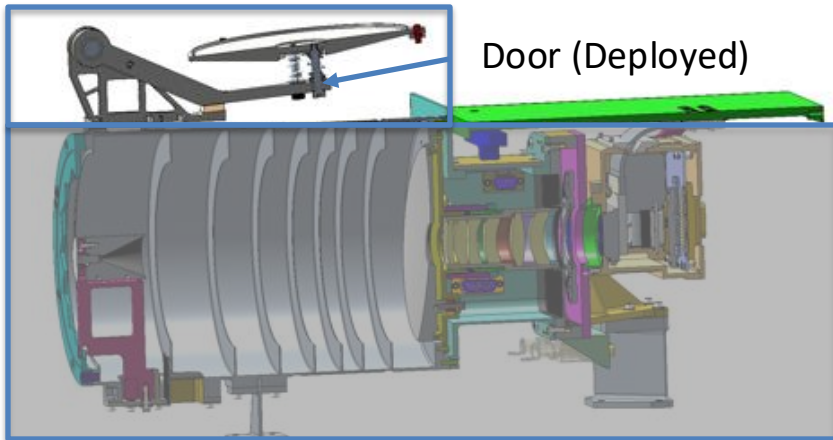


SSA tube & Optical Housing

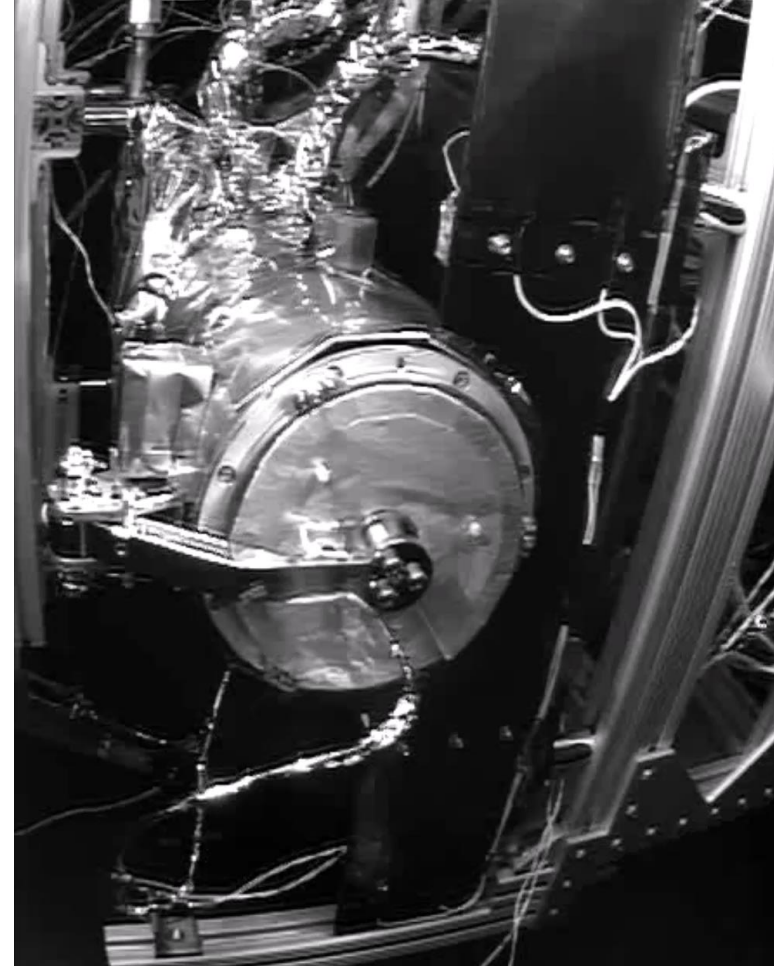


NFI Door

- Single one-time-open door
 - Provides contamination protection during S/C I&T, launch and early operations
 - All elements behind A0 for clear 180° field of regard
- Paraffin Wax Resettable Pin-Puller
 - Common to NFI and WFI



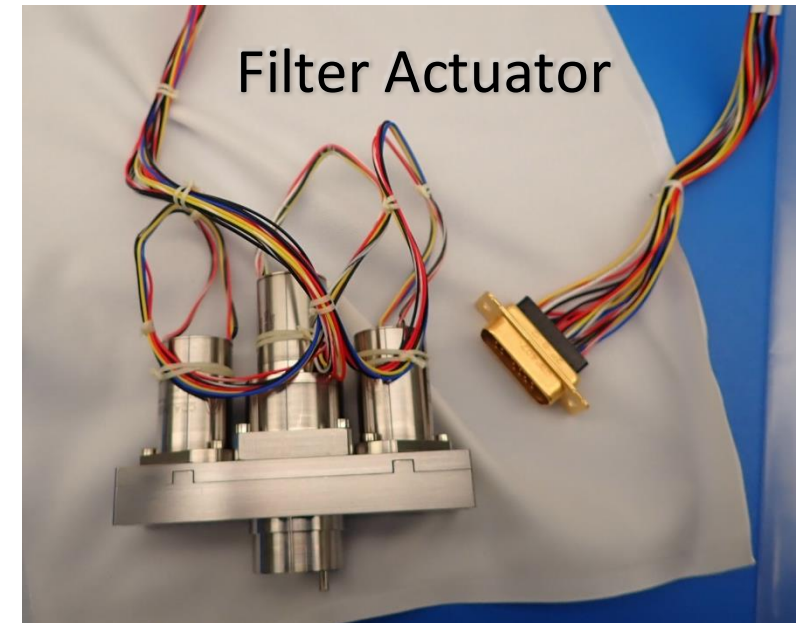
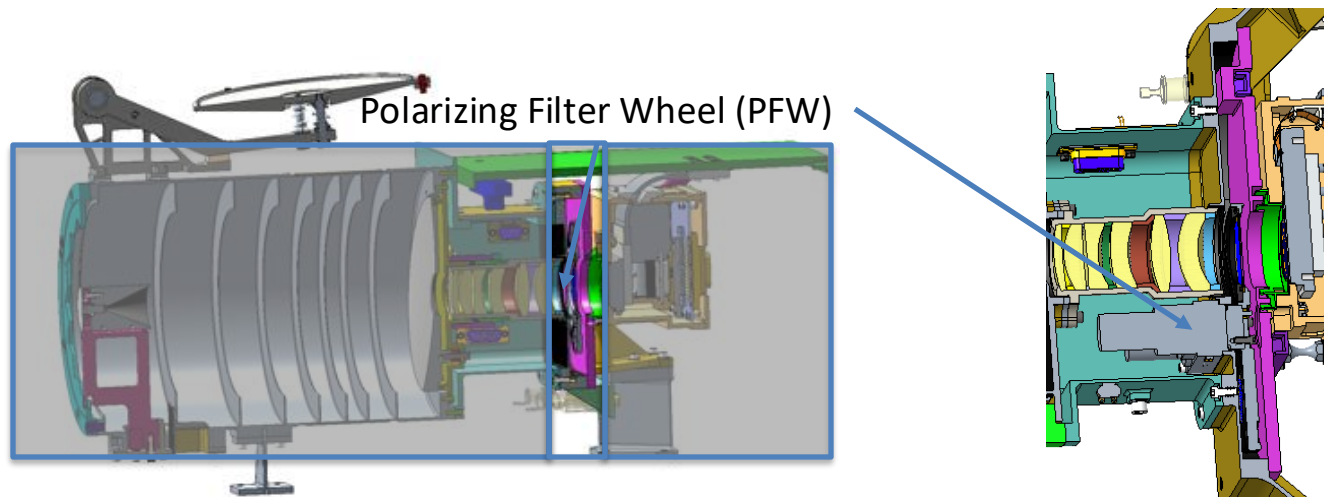
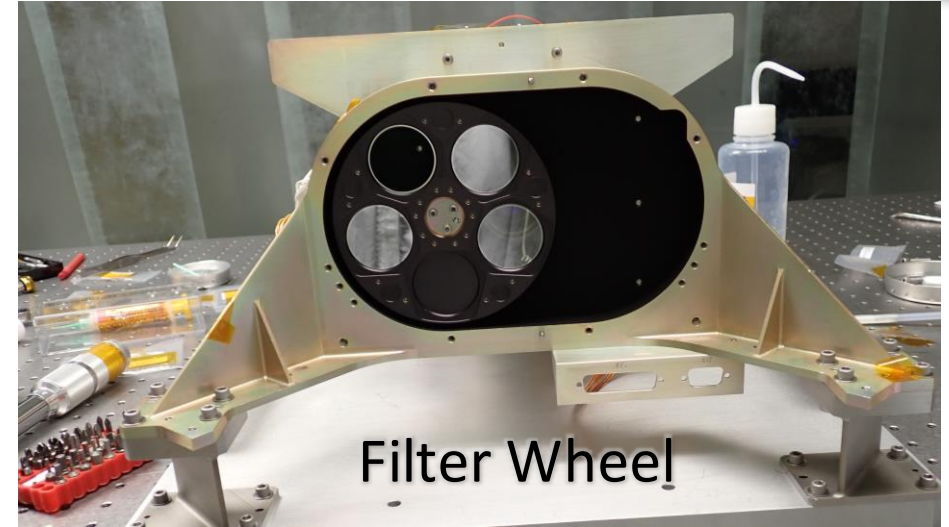
Door TVAC Test





Polarizing Filter Wheel (PFW)

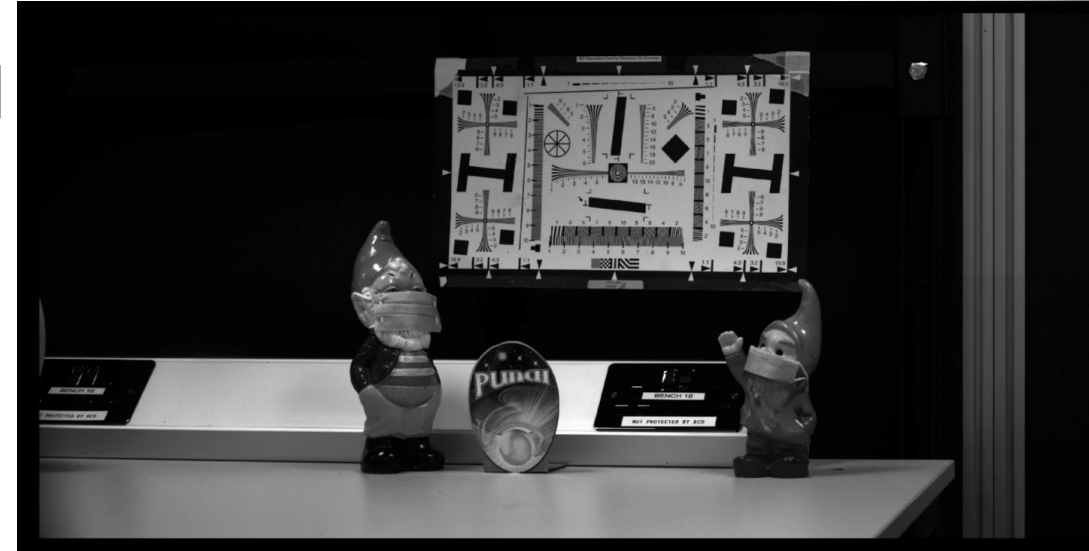
- PFW is common to WFI & NFI
- Provided by NRL to NFI & WFI
- 5-position filter wheel
 - Filters: -60° , 0° , $+60^\circ$ linear polarizers
 - Clear glass (optical focus consistency)
 - Blank (for Safing, Stim LED lamp)
- Linear Polarizers
 - Al nanowire lithographically applied to glass
 - Superior contrast ratio ($>1000:1$) and transmittance ($>85\%$)



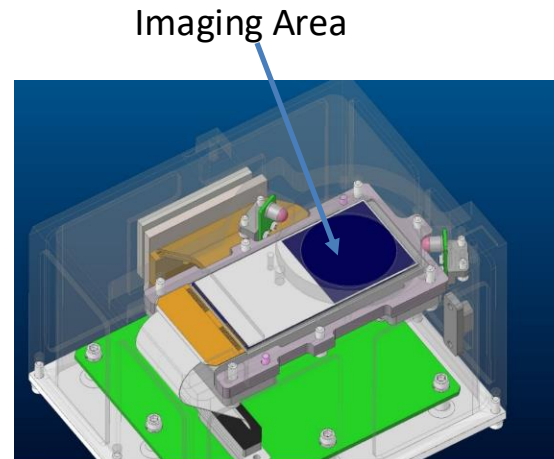
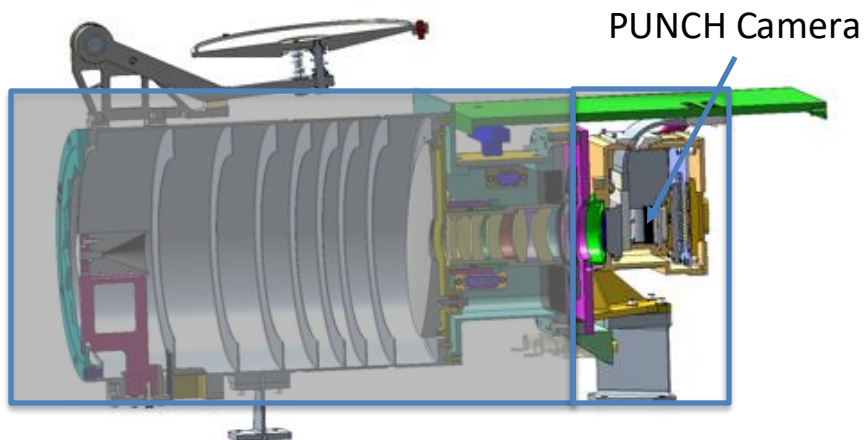


PUNCH Camera

- Camera system identical in WFI & NFI
- Build by RAL, STEREO Heritage
- Teledyne-E2V CCD
 - 2k x 2k Imaging Area
 - 2k x 4k pseudo-charge-transfer CCD



PUNCH EM CCD - full-frame readout with frame-transfer storage area 4200 x 2148 pixels

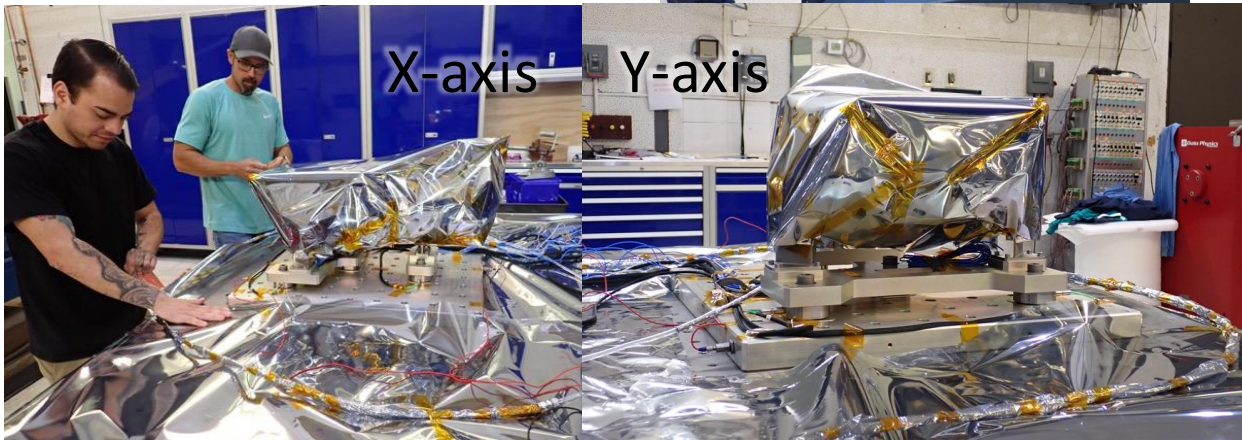




Environmental Testing

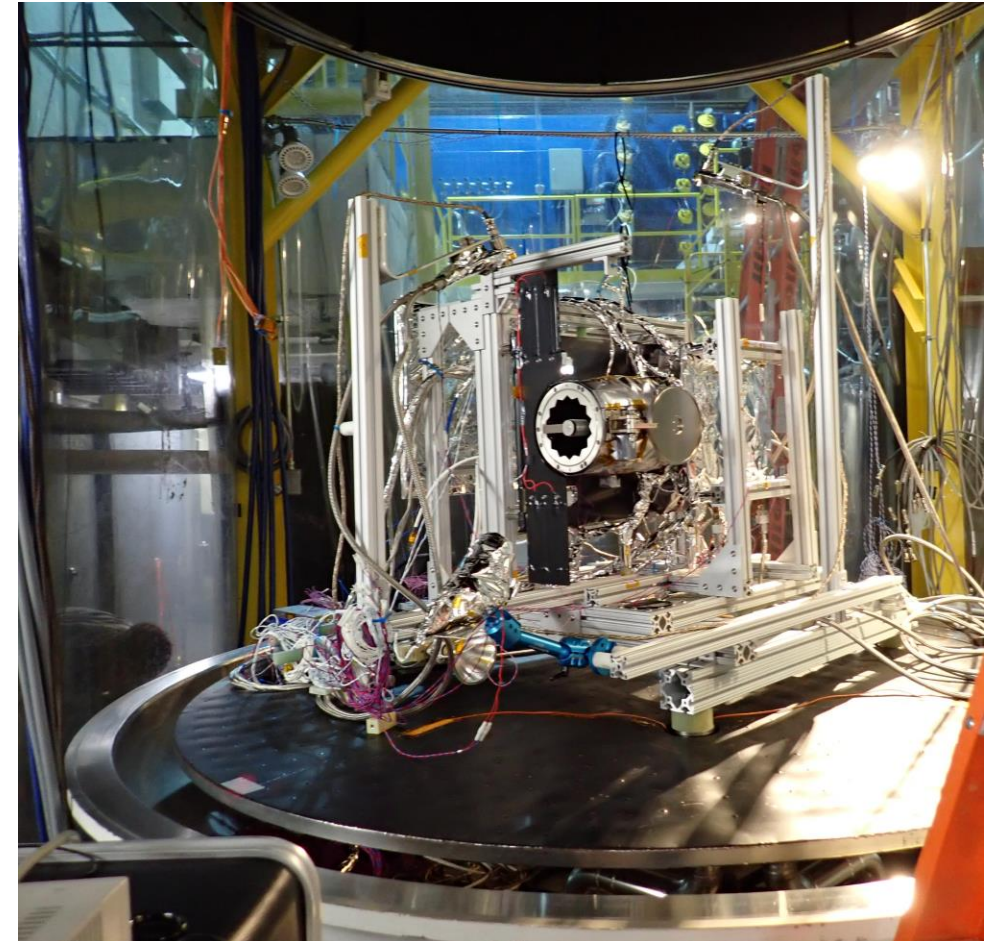
- Vibration Testing

- Simulates vibrations seen at launch
- Each axis of the instrument is tested independently



- Thermal Vacuum Testing

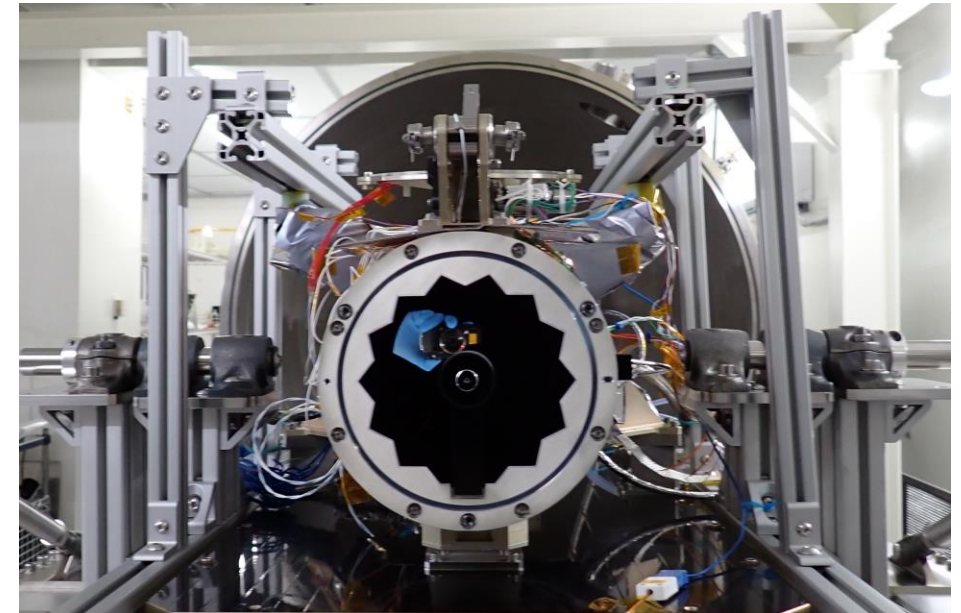
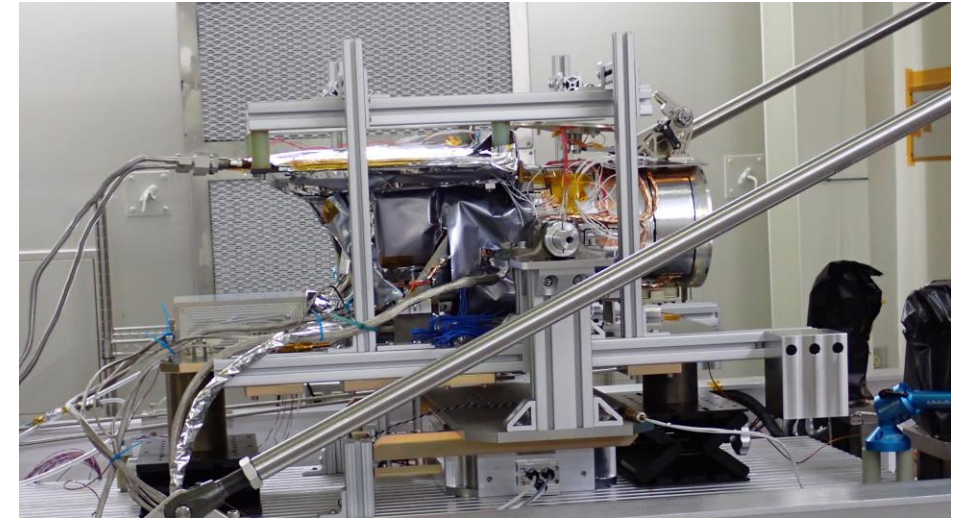
- Simulates the temperatures seen on-orbit in vacuum





Pre- & Post-Environmental Testing: SCOTCH Testing

- Optical Testing of Complete instrument
 - In vacuum at operational temperatures
 - Solar simulator provides collimated light





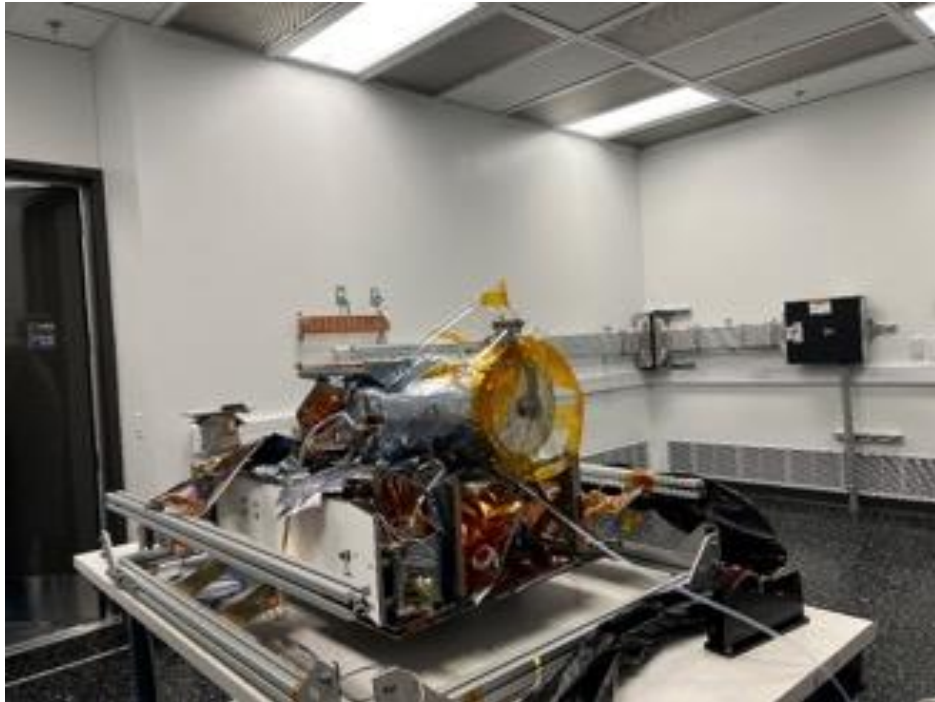
Instrument Delivery SwRI San Antonio





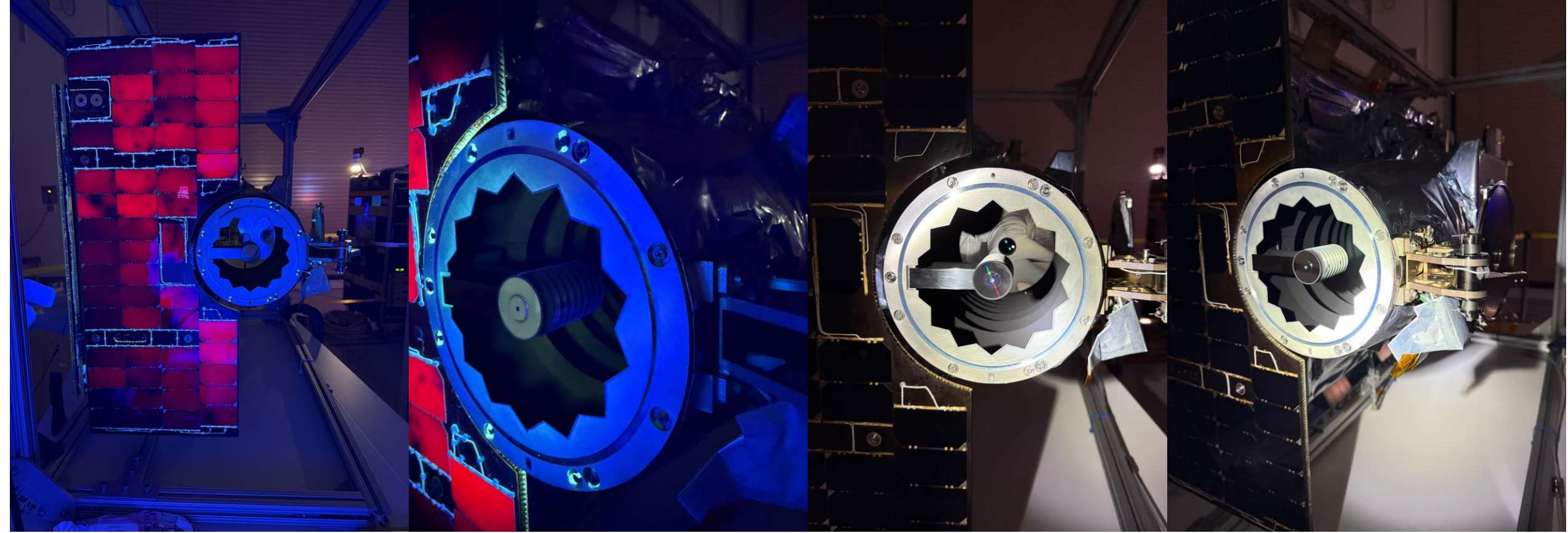
NFI Spacecraft Integration

- NFI was integrated onto a PUNCH Spacecraft
- PUNCH-NFI-Spacecraft successfully completed Vibration, Shock and Acoustic testing
- PUNCH-NFI-Spacecraft is in Thermal Vacuum (TVAC) testing





Launch Site Contamination Inspection





Summary

- NFI meets the driving requirements and Science Objectives
- NFI was successfully delivered to the PUNCH mission for Spacecraft integration and environmental testing
- NFI is ready for launch!

GO NFI
GO PUNCH

