

INTEGRAL follows a highly elliptical 72-hour orbit with an apogee of about 150000 km and a perigee of a few thousand km. The orbit evolves periodically with time. After the launch the perigee height increased for the first few years from ~9000 to ~12500 km with subsequent descent while the apogee decreased from ~154000 to ~150000 km. During October 2011, INTEGRAL has reached a perigee height of only 2756.4 km, the lowest point in its orbit since October 2002. In the coming years the orbit will again circularize somewhat, reaching a perigee height of close to 10000 km in late 2015. The evolution of the INTEGRAL orbit is shown in Figure 3.

Integral Perigee and Orbital Inclination Evolution Until 2020

