

Impact of space environment on spacecraft and mitigation measures

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Introduction

- Space is more and more crowded as a large number of spacecraft and debris in orbit
- Disastrous space weather often causes satellite anomaly even failure





International cooperations promote the sustainable utilization of outer space



Significant impact of space weather

- Solar storms affect near earth space through three rounds of strikes
- Spacecraft anomaly may caused by single particle, charge discharge, total dose, etc.
- Solar storms often induce the functional failures of spacecraft components, and even lead to total failure(permanent loss of mission)





Significant impact of space weather

- Large flares, strong magnetic storms, intense radiation and other events lead to frequent failures of on-orbit satellites
 - The deployment of giant commercial satellites constellations increases the challenge of space environmental protection







Increasing number of space debris

- Space debris seriously threaten the safety of spacecraft
- Many incidents such as breaking-up, explosion, collision etc. have occurred
- There are more than 900,000 space objects larger than 1cm
 - The density of debris in low-Earth orbit will reach a critical value in decades theoretically







Environmental burden with huge constellations

- Several giant constellation programs have been proposed and being carried out
- Coordination of orbit and spectrum resources will be more difficult
- Frequent orbital maneuvers of satellites will increase the risk of collision
 - Serious space environment events will lead to orbital anomaly of satellites





Reduce the impact of space weather

- China has developed a space weather monitoring and early warning system
- Supported by the monitoring data of Fengyun satellites, Beidou satellites, Meridian Program etc.
 - Provides monitoring and early warning of solar proton events, high-energy electron storms and other events







Reduce the impact of space weather

- Evaluated the impact of strong solar flares to eliminate the launching risk in Tianzhou mission
- Lowers Failure rate of Beidou satellites caused by space environment significantly
- Promotes the construction of satellites such as ASO-S and SMILE
- Undertakes the work of International Space Environment Services (ISES)







Promote space debris mitigation

- The administrative measures for space debris mitigation and protection issued in 2009, revised in 2015
- Regulates China's space launch and the development of microsatellites
- Passivation disposal for the upper stage of rockets in service
- ISO officially released Standards 20893:2021 about debris mitigation proposed by China in 2021







Improve collision management measures

- Enacts laws and policies to proper control the licensing of launch
- The space debris mitigation fulfilment system was designed and implemented
- Disposed multiple events of satellite collision warning effectively
- Participating in international cooperation of space debris observation and collision warning





Environmental risks reduction

Participate in international cooperation

- Active participation in works of COPUOS
- Bilateral or multilateral dialogues of space security and collision avoidance cooperation
- Participating in international joint observation and scientific research under the framework of IADC





Participate in international cooperation

- Undertakes service missions of international space environment organizations such as ISES, IPT-SWeISS, etc.
 - Construction of the International Space Weather Meridian Circle Program
 - Completed joint environmental exploration in Chang'e-4 mission (carrying loads from 4 countries)







Expand space environment data sharing

- Expands the scope and content of global public service products
- Promotes space-based monitoring cooperation and data sharing of space environment
- Researches on technologies such as space weather forecasting, space debris environment modeling, etc.
- Motivates the global utilization of basic data of space environment









International Cooperation

Promote joint action on space environmental events

- Develops global service guidelines, standards, coordination mechanism and disposal process for disastrous space environmental events
- Announces and acts on space environmental risks, guarantee the safety of on-orbit satellites





International Cooperation

Improve regulations of space collision management

- Refines the current guidelines of space debris mitigation in terms of policies, laws, and services
 - Formulates implementation methods in line with national conditions
 - Enhances the effectiveness of the implementation of proposed guidelines and initiatives







Thanks

