

Contents

<i>List of Illustrations</i>	xii
<i>List of Tables</i>	xvii
<i>Preface</i>	xix
<i>Acknowledgment</i>	xxiii
1 Introduction	1
1.1 Introduction	1
1.2 Classification of Spacecraft Environments	2
1.3 Spacecraft Orbits and the Ambient Space Environment	3
1.4 Spacecraft Systems	5
1.5 Interactions between the Environment and a Spacecraft	6
1.6 Historical Review of Spacecraft–Environment Interactions	11
1.6.1 The Dawn of the Space Age to 1970	11
1.6.2 The Decade of the Seventies	12
1.6.3 The Decade of the Eighties	13
1.6.4 The Nineties	14
1.7 Purpose of the Book	14
2 Fundamental Length, Time, and Velocity Scales	16
2.1 The Concept of a Distribution Function	16
2.1.1 The Maxwellian Equilibrium Distribution Function	19
2.1.1.1 Properties of the Maxwellian Distribution Function	20
2.2 Typical Spacecraft Length and Velocity Scales	24
2.3 Neutral Gas Scales	25
2.3.1 Collision Mean Free Path and Knudsen Number	25
2.3.2 Speed Ratio	27
2.4 Plasma Scales	28

2.4.1 Basic Particle Motion in Constant Electric and Magnetic Fields	28
2.4.2 Debye Length and Natural Plasma Frequencies	30
2.4.3 Speed Ratios	35
2.5 Radiation Invariants	35
2.5.1 Adiabatic Invariants	35
2.5.1.1 B-L Coordinates and the Concept of Rigidity	37
2.5.2 Linear Energy Transfer Distance	40
3 The Ambient Space Environment	44
3.1 Influence of the Sun	44
3.1.1 Solar-Cycle Effects	46
3.1.2 Solar and Geomagnetic Indices	46
3.1.3 Short-Term Events	48
3.2 The Neutral Atmosphere	49
3.3 The Plasma Environment	53
3.3.1 The Geomagnetic Field	53
3.3.1.1 The External and Disturbance Fields	58
3.3.2 Low Earth Orbit	59
3.3.3 Polar Orbits	62
3.3.4 The Geosynchronous Plasma Environment	65
3.4 The Radiation Environment	70
3.4.1 Energetic Particle Radiation	71
3.4.1.1 Trapped Radiation	71
3.4.1.2 Cosmic Rays	75
3.4.1.3 Solar Proton Events	77
3.4.2 Electromagnetic Radiation	79
3.4.2.1 Electromagnetic Radiation at Radio Frequencies	80
3.4.2.2 Visible and Infrared	80
3.4.2.3 UV, EUV, and X Rays	81
3.5 The Macroscopic Particle Environment	82
3.5.1 The Physics of Macroscopic Particles	83
3.5.2 Meteoroid Models	85
3.5.2.1 Cometary Meteoroids	86
3.5.2.2 Asteroidal Meteors	89
3.5.3 Space Debris	90
3.5.4 Gabbard Diagrams for Satellite Fragmentation	92
3.6 Man-Made Environments	95
3.6.1 Exoatmospheric Nuclear Detonations	95
3.6.1.1 Event Morphology	95

<i>Contents</i>	vii
3.6.1.2 The Prompt Environment	95
3.6.1.3 Debris Environment	96
3.6.2 Nuclear Power Sources	97
3.6.2.1 Radioisotope Thermoelectric Generators (RTGs)	97
4 Neutral Gas Interactions	100
4.1 Neutral Gas Flow Around a Spacecraft	100
4.2 Atmospheric Drag	108
4.2.1 Drag and Lift on a Flat Plate at Angle of Attack β	111
4.2.2 Drag on a Sphere	113
4.2.3 Effect of Atmospheric Variability on Drag	114
4.2.4 Satellite Lifetime and Orbit Determination	116
4.3 Contamination	117
4.3.1 Modeling of Contamination	123
4.3.2 Thruster Contamination	128
4.3.3 The Shuttle Neutral Environment	132
4.4 Erosion by Atomic Oxygen	132
4.5 Glow	137
5 Plasma Interactions	142
5.1 Spacecraft–Plasma Interactions	142
5.2 Spacecraft Surface Charging and Current Collection	143
5.2.1 Current Sources to a Spacecraft	145
5.2.1.1 Current from the Ambient Plasma	145
5.2.1.2 Photoelectric Currents	146
5.2.1.3 Backscattered and Secondary Electrons	148
5.2.1.4 Effect of Magnetic Fields on Current Collection	152
5.2.1.5 Artificial Current and Charge Sources	154
5.2.2 General Probe Theory	154
5.2.2.1 The Thin-Sheath Limit	158
5.2.2.2 The Thick-Sheath Limit	162
5.2.3 Spacecraft Potentials at GEO	167
5.2.3.1 Barrier Potentials	175
5.2.4 Potentials, Anomalies, and Arcing on GEO Spacecraft	177
5.3 Plasma Flow Around a LEO Spacecraft	180
5.3.1 The Plasma Wake Structure of a LEO Spacecraft	181
5.3.2 Current Collection in Flowing Magnetoplasmas	187
5.3.3 Spacecraft Potentials at LEO and Polar Orbits	190
5.3.4 Particle-Beam Effects on Spacecraft Potentials	191
5.3.5 Potential Distribution on LEO Solar Arrays	192

5.4 Spacecraft Arcing	195
5.4.1 Arcing on High-Voltage LEO and Polar Spacecraft	195
5.5 Electrodynamic Tethers	199
5.6 Plasma Sources on Spacecraft	203
5.6.1 Plasma Contactors	203
5.6.2 Electric Propulsion Engines	206
6 The Space Radiation Environment	208
6.1 Introduction	208
6.2 Radiation Interactions with Matter	208
6.2.1 Single-Particle Interactions	209
6.2.1.1 Photon Interactions	210
6.2.1.2 Charged-Particle Interactions	211
6.2.1.3 Neutron Interactions	214
6.3 Modeling the Effects of Shielding	215
6.3.1 Solar-Array Degradation	223
6.3.2 SEUs Due to Heavy Ions	223
6.4 Radiation Charging of Dielectric Materials	229
6.4.1 Physics of Radiation-Induced Charging	230
6.4.2 Experimental Evidence for Radiation-Induced Bulk Discharges	232
6.5 Radiation Environment Estimates	233
6.5.1 Example: The Clementine Program	233
6.5.1.1 AE8 and AP8 Radiation Dosage Results	234
6.5.2 Example: Jovian Model Application	240
6.5.3 Heinrich Flux Estimates	242
6.5.4 CRRES Results	244
7 Particulate Interactions	250
7.1 Particle Impacts on Spacecraft	250
7.1.1 Hypervelocity Impacts and Shielding Theory	251
7.1.1.1 A Real Case: Multisurface Shield for Propellant Tanks	259
7.1.1.2 Meteoroid Failure Probability Calculations	261
7.1.1.3 Helium Tanks	263
7.1.1.4 Propellant Tanks	264
7.1.1.5 The δ Correction Factor	267
7.2 Scattering of EM Radiation from Particles	269
8 The State of the Art	271
8.1 Review of the Intellectual State of the Art	271
8.1.1 Neutrals	271

<i>Contents</i>	ix
8.1.2 Plasmas	272
8.1.3 Radiation	273
8.1.4 Particulates	273
8.2 Review of the State of Current Engineering Practices	274
8.2.1 Interaction Modeling Codes	274
8.2.2 Ground-Based Experimental Capabilities	275
8.3 Future Trends in the Practice of Spacecraft–Environment Interactions	275
8.3.1 High-Reliability Missions	276
8.3.2 Class C Programs	277
8.3.3 Class D Programs	277
8.3.4 Summary	279
References	281
Index	291