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PHYSICAL SCIENCE LABORATORY

NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY

University Park, New Mexico

THE DESIGN AND PERFORMANCE

OF

MODEL 2.041 QUADRALOOP TELEMETRY ANTENNAS

FOR

THE NASA JAVELIN, FLIGHT 12.03

6 May 1964

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ABSTRACT

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The electrical characteristics of the Model 2.041 Quadraloop two element arrays used on the Javelin 12.03 are presented. One array is tuned to 231.4 Mc/sec and the other array is tuned to 240.2 Mc/sec. Both arrays are used for telemetry.

Impedance and radiation pattern data are presented when a Fiberglas nose cone is mounted over the antenna arrays.

Author

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration at Goddard Space Flight Center requested the Physical Science Laboratory of New Mexico State University to develop two telemetry antenna systems for the Javelin 12.03. One system is to be tuned to 231.4 Mc/sec and the other system to be tuned to 240.2 Mc/sec. Both telemetry antenna systems will radiate primary data from lift-off to fourth stage burnout and secondary data from fourth stage burnout to reentry. During the primary data period, a Fiberglas nose cone will be in place over the payload where the antennas are to be mounted and during the secondary data period the Fiberglas nose cone will be removed and a probe will be erected. Radiation pattern measurements will be made to determine if the radiation level is high enough to obtain good telemetry data. This report describes the Model 2.041 Quadraloop which is used to meet the antenna system requirements.

2.0 ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS

The design of the Model 2.041 Quadraloop Antenna (Fig. 1) has been discussed in another report. 1

2.1 Impedance

2.1 1 Single Antenna Impedance

The impedance versus frequency curves of a single antenna for each of the fundamental frequencies are shown in Figs. 2 and 3.

2.1.2 Array Impedance

The impedance versus frequency curves for each array are shown on Figs. 4 and 5. As shown on the impedance curves the center frequency of each array is less than a 1.5:1 VSWR.

2.2 Array Harness and Array Phasing

The array harnesses and phasing for each antenna system are shown in Figs. 6 and 7.

The relative phase between antennas in an array is 180° where the low serial number antenna is 0° and on the end of the $\lambda/2$ cable.

2.3 Radiation Patterns

To determine effects on the radiation characteristics with and without Fiberglas cover, two sets of radiation patterns were measured with configurations shown in Figs. 8 and 9.

The 231.4 Mc/sec antenna array was connected to the transmitter and the rf power was received by an eight-turn right circular helix antenna.

Eecause the frequency difference between antenna systems is small, only the 231.4 Mc/sec array was measured.

A spherical coordinate system (Fig. 10) fixed with respect to the antenna is used to define the patterns.

The radiation patterns for the Javelin with the Fiberglas nose cone are shown in Figs. 11 through 29 and the power contour plot in Fig. 30.

The radiation patterns for the Javelin without the Fiberglas nose cone are shown in Figs. 31 through 49 and the power contour plot in Fig. 50.

2.4 Radio Frequency Breakdown

In Fig. 51 a curve is shown which is representative of the Model 2.041 Quadraloop. The data were obtained by testing a single antenna in a vacuum chamber in which ions were introduced. The curve shows the initiation and termination of breakdown as a function of altitude and power.

3.0 CONCLUSIONS

Construct 4

The Model 2.041 used as described above gives adequate coverage during the primary and secondary periods of data transmission. With the nose cone mounted the gain at $\theta = 180^{\circ}$, $\phi = 0^{\circ}$ is -3 db with respect to a Stoddart half-wave dipole. Without the nose cone and with a probe erected, the gain at $\theta = 180^{\circ}$, $\phi = 0^{\circ}$ is +3 db.









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FIG. 4 - MODEL 2.041 IMPEDANCE ARRAY AT 231.4 MC/SEC

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FIG. 5 - MODEL 2.041 IMPEDANCE ARRAY AT 240.2 MC/SEC

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FIG. 6 - DRAWING OF ARRAY HARNESS FOR 231.4 MC/SEC

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Probe mounted six inches from the forward end. When the nose cone is in place, the probe lays against support arm.

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FIG. 10 - COORDINATE SYSTEM FOR MODEL 2.041 QUADRALOOP ARRAY



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FIG. 30 - POWER CONTOUR PLOT FOR JAVELIN 12.03 WITH FIBERGLAS NOSE CONE MOUNTED

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> FIG. 50 - POWER CONTOUR PLOT FOR JAVELIN 12.03 WITH FIBERGLAS NOSE CONE REMOVED AND PROBE ERECTED

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