Abstract

Marshall Space Flight Center’s Space Environments Team is committed to applying the latest research in space weather to NASA programs. We analyze data from an extensive set of space weather satellites in order to define the space environments for some of NASA’s highest profile programs. Our goal is to ensure that spacecraft are designed to be successful in all environments encountered during their missions. We also collaborate with universities, industry, and other federal agencies to provide analysis of anomalies and operational impacts to current missions. This presentation is a summary of some of our most recent applications of space weather data, including the definition of the space environments for the initial phases of the Space Launch System (SLS), acquisition of International Space Station (ISS) frame potential variations during geomagnetic storms, and Nascap-2k charging analyses.

The MSFC Space Environments Team performs spacecraft charging and radiation analysis for programs with a wide range of design complexity and mission scope. Some of the current and past projects we have supported include:

- **James Webb Space Telescope (JWST)** – Low energy radiation and spacecraft charging section of environment definitions, Nascap-2k surface charging analysis, distant magnetostatic plasma environments characterization and analysis, LE-Charged Particle Environment Model, and internal charging assessments.
- **Chandra X-Ray observatory** – Radiation transport model (design and construction), Chandra Radiation Model (operations planning), and radiation environment anomaly assessments.
- **Constellation** – Design Specification for Natural Environments (DSNE) document.
- **NASA Launch Services Program** – Radiation and spacecraft charging assessments.
- **Space Launch System (SLS) and Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle (MPCV)/Orion** – DSNE.
- **International Space Station (ISS)** – Nascap-2k surface charging analysis, plasma environment and auroral charging characterization, FPAU operations, and plasma and radiation anomaly assessments.
- **Space Transportation System (Shuttle)** – Radiation environment characterization and effects analysis.
- **Crew Rescue Vehicle** – Environment specification for design.
- **Space Launch Initiative** – Environment specification for design.
- **Solar B** – Radiation effects analysis.
- **Solar Sail** – Nascap-2k surface charging analysis, interplanetary radiation environment characterization and radiation dose evaluations.
- **Microwave Anisotropy Probe (MAP)** – Nascap-2k surface charging analysis.
- **Earth Observing System (EOS)** – Aura: Nascap-2k surface charging analysis.
- **Edison Demonstration for SmallSat Networks (EDSN)** – Nascap-2k surface charging and radiation transport analyses.
- **LDCM** – Nascap-2k surface charging analysis, auroral charging environment assessments.
- **Sound NPP** – Surface and internal charging assessment.

The tools we use to conduct our analysis include Nascap-2k, NUMIT (MSCF version), Trapped Proton Model 1 (TPM-1), AP8/AER, AP8/AER, SIRM, SHIELD2E2, NOVICE, and CREAM96 as well as in-house developed custom charging and radiation codes.

We use data from a variety of operational and research spacecraft as inputs to our models including Chandra, GOES, POES, DMSP, STEREO, ACE, SOHO, LANL, GPS, IMP8, POLAR, Wind, and COSMIC.

The Space Environments Team uses Nascap-2k along with satellite environment data and material definitions to generate Nascap-2k charging analyses for spacecraft designs ranging from simple to very complex.

### Charging analyses

- **Charging analysis for James Webb Space Telescope (JWST)** in an interplanetary environment.
- **Charging analysis for LDCM** in an auroral environment.
- **Charging analysis for Edison Demonstration for SmallSat Networks (EDSN)** in an auroral environment.

The ISS space environment community monitors near real-time space weather data from NASA, NOAA, and ESA sources to determine solar wind disturbance arrival times at Earth likely to be geoeffective (including coronal mass ejections and high speed streams associated with coronal holes). The Floating Potential Measurement Unit (FPMU) on board the ISS is activated in order to measure ISS frame charging as the vehicle passes through regions of precipitating auroral electrons.

The SLS Program is developing a heavy-lift launch vehicle to enable traveling to multiple destinations such as low Earth orbit, asteroids, the moon, Lagrange points, and ultimately for missions to Mars. The system will be flexible and include multiple launch vehicle configurations. The SLS will carry cargo, crew and science missions to deep space. The MSFC Space Environments team has defined the design environments required for the SLS missions. The environments that have been defined for SLS include LEO/ISS, GEO, Intercalary, Lunar Orbit, Lunar Surface, NEA, Mars Orbit, and Mars Surface.

**Figures 1-3** are examples of the data used to define the environments for the SLS program. All data shown is specific to an orbit of 500 km at 53.6° inclination. The full specification is documented in the Design Specification for Natural Environments (DSNE). (1) Daily TID inside shielding from trapped radiation belt protons and electrons. (2) SPE peak rate LET flux inside shielded aluminum shield thicknesses as a function of LET. (3) Integral proton fluxes of an SPE and of the nominal and peak trapped protons.

Acknowledgements

We thank Los Alamos National Laboratory for use of the geostationary orbit electron data. POES electron records are provided courtesy of NOAA’s National Geophysical Data Center. Nascap-2k is developed by Space Applications International Corporation (SAIC) of San Diego, CA. FPMU was built by Space Dynamics Laboratory of Logan, UT, on contract to NASA JSC.

**Contact Information**

Emily Willis (emily.willis@nasa.gov), Rob Suggs (rob.suggs@nasa.gov), MSFC Space Environments Team Lead.