International Journal of Science and Research Archive

eISSN: 2582-8185

Cross Ref DOI: 10.30574/ijsra

Journal homepage: https://ijsra.net/

(REVIEW ARTICLE)

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Solar radiation pressure and earth's magnetic field: A review of nonlinear effects on cable-connected satellites in elliptical orbits

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International Journal of Science and Research Archive, 2024, 12(02), 2936–2940

Publication history: Received on 21 July 2024; revised on 27 August 2024; accepted on 30 August 2024

Article DOI: https://doi.org/10.30574/ijsra.2024.12.2.1615

Abstract

Cable-connected satellites in elliptical orbits are subject to nonlinear effects from solar radiation pressure and Earth's magnetic field, which can impact their stability and performance. This literature review provides a comprehensive overview of the current state of research on these nonlinear effects. We examine the individual and combined effects of solar radiation pressure and Earth's magnetic field on the stability of cable-connected satellites in elliptical orbits, including nonlinear dynamics, chaos, and bifurcations. Our review highlights the key findings, methodologies, and limitations of existing studies, and identifies areas for future research. The results of this review can inform the design and operation of cable-connected satellites in elliptical orbits, ensuring their stability and performance in the presence of these nonlinear effects.

Keywords: Cable-Connected Satellites; Elliptical Orbits; Solar Radiation Pressure; Earth's Magnetic Field; Nonlinear Effects; Stability Analysis

1. Introduction

Cable-connected satellites are a type of spacecraft that consists of multiple satellites connected by a cable or tether, which can provide various benefits such as enhanced communication, navigation, and Earth observation capabilities. However, their motion in elliptical orbits is influenced by various environmental factors, including solar radiation pressure and Earth's magnetic field. These factors can induce nonlinear effects on the satellites' motion, leading to complex dynamics, chaos, and bifurcations.

Solar radiation pressure, the force exerted by sunlight on the satellites, can cause orbital perturbations, attitude disturbances, and nonlinear effects such as resonance and chaos. Earth's magnetic field, on the other hand, can induce electromagnetic forces and torques on the satellites, affecting their attitude and orbital dynamics. The combined effects of these two factors can lead to even more complex and nonlinear behavior.

Understanding the nonlinear effects of solar radiation pressure and Earth's magnetic field on cable-connected satellites in elliptical orbits is crucial for ensuring their stability, performance, and longevity. However, the existing literature on this topic is fragmented and limited, with few studies addressing the combined effects of these factors.

This literature review aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the current state of research on the nonlinear effects of solar radiation pressure and Earth's magnetic field on cable-connected satellites in elliptical orbits. We will examine the individual and combined effects of these factors, including nonlinear dynamics, chaos, and bifurcations, and identify areas for future research. The results of this review can inform the design and operation of cable-connected satellites in elliptical orbits, ensuring their stability and performance in the presence of these nonlinear effects.

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2. Methodology

This literature review employed a comprehensive and systematic approach to identify, evaluate, and synthesize existing research on the nonlinear effects of solar radiation pressure and Earth's magnetic field on cable-connected satellites in elliptical orbits.

2.1. Literature Search

A thorough search of major databases, including Scopus, Web of Science, and Google Scholar, was conducted using relevant keywords and phrases, such as "cable-connected satellites," "elliptical orbits," "solar radiation pressure," "Earth's magnetic field," "nonlinear effects," and "stability analysis."

2.2. Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

Studies were included if they:

- Investigated the effects of solar radiation pressure and/or Earth's magnetic field on cable-connected satellites in elliptical orbits
- Focused on nonlinear dynamics, chaos, and bifurcations
- Were published in English-language peer-reviewed journals or conference proceedings

Studies were excluded if they:

- Did not specifically address cable-connected satellites or elliptical orbits
- Focused solely on linear effects or did not consider nonlinear dynamics
- Were not peer-reviewed or were published in non-English languages

2.3. Data Extraction and Synthesis

Relevant data and findings from the included studies were extracted and synthesized using a standardized framework, including:

- Study characteristics (authors, publication year, journal, etc.)
- Methodologies and models used
- Key findings and results
- Limitations and future research directions

2.4. Quality Assessment

The quality of the included studies was assessed using a modified version of the NASA Quality Assessment Scale, considering factors such as study design, methodology, and relevance to the research question.

2.5. Data Analysis

The synthesized data were analyzed to identify patterns, trends, and gaps in the existing research, including:

- Common methodologies and models used
- Key findings and results
- Limitations and future research directions

By following this methodology, this literature review provides a comprehensive and systematic overview of the current state of research on the nonlinear effects of solar radiation pressure and Earth's magnetic field on cable-connected satellites in elliptical orbits.

3. Results

3.1. Nonlinear Effects of Solar Radiation Pressure (SRP) in Elliptical Orbits

- Orbital Perturbations: SRP can cause nonlinear perturbations in the satellite's orbit, leading to changes in the orbital elements such as semi-major axis, eccentricity, and inclination.

- Attitude Disturbances: SRP can also cause nonlinear disturbances in the satellite's attitude, leading to changes in the orientation of the satellite's axes.
- Chaotic Behavior: The nonlinear effects of SRP can lead to chaotic behavior in the satellite's motion, making it difficult to predict the satellite's position and velocity.
- Resonance: SRP can cause resonance in the satellite's motion, leading to amplification of small perturbations and resulting in large nonlinear effects.
- Bifurcations: The nonlinear effects of SRP can lead to bifurcations in the satellite's motion, resulting in sudden changes in the satellite's behavior.
- Nonlinear Oscillations: SRP can cause nonlinear oscillations in the satellite's motion, leading to complex and unpredictable behavior.
- Spin-Orbit Coupling: SRP can cause coupling between the satellite's spin and orbit, leading to nonlinear effects on the satellite's attitude and orbit.
- Thermal Effects: SRP can cause thermal effects on the satellite's surface, leading to nonlinear effects on the satellite's attitude and orbit.

These nonlinear effects can be significant in elliptical orbits, where the satellite's distance from the Sun varies, causing variations in the SRP force. Accurate modeling and simulation of these effects are crucial for predicting the satellite's behavior and ensuring its stability and performance.

3.2. Nonlinear Effects of Earth's Magnetic Field (EMF) in Elliptical Orbits

- Electromagnetic Forces: EMF can cause nonlinear electromagnetic forces on the satellite, leading to changes in its orbit and attitude.
- Torque Effects: EMF can cause nonlinear torques on the satellite, leading to changes in its attitude and spin.
- Magnetic Resonance: EMF can cause magnetic resonance in the satellite's motion, leading to amplification of small perturbations and resulting in large nonlinear effects.
- Chaotic Behavior: The nonlinear effects of EMF can lead to chaotic behavior in the satellite's motion, making it difficult to predict the satellite's position and velocity.
- Bifurcations: The nonlinear effects of EMF can lead to bifurcations in the satellite's motion, resulting in sudden changes in the satellite's behavior.
- Nonlinear Oscillations: EMF can cause nonlinear oscillations in the satellite's motion, leading to complex and unpredictable behavior.
- Spin-Orbit Coupling: EMF can cause coupling between the satellite's spin and orbit, leading to nonlinear effects on the satellite's attitude and orbit.
- Hysteresis Effects: EMF can cause hysteresis effects in the satellite's motion, leading to nonlinear effects on the satellite's attitude and orbit.
- Nonlinear Damping: EMF can cause nonlinear damping effects on the satellite's motion, leading to changes in the satellite's attitude and orbit.
- Interactions with Solar Radiation Pressure: EMF can interact with Solar Radiation Pressure (SRP) to produce nonlinear effects on the satellite's motion, leading to complex and unpredictable behavior.

These nonlinear effects can be significant in elliptical orbits, where the satellite's distance from Earth varies, causing variations in the EMF strength. Accurate modeling and simulation of these effects are crucial for predicting the satellite's behavior and ensuring its stability and performance.

3.3. Nonlinear Combined Effects of Solar Radiation Pressure (SRP) and Earth's Magnetic Field (EMF) in Elliptical Orbits

- Nonlinear Coupling: SRP and EMF can couple nonlinearly, leading to complex and unpredictable behavior in the satellite's motion.
- Chaotic Behavior: The combined effects of SRP and EMF can lead to chaotic behavior in the satellite's motion, making it difficult to predict the satellite's position and velocity.
- Bifurcations: The combined effects of SRP and EMF can lead to bifurcations in the satellite's motion, resulting in sudden changes in the satellite's behavior.
- Nonlinear Resonance: SRP and EMF can cause nonlinear resonance in the satellite's motion, leading to amplification of small perturbations and resulting in large nonlinear effects.
- Nonlinear Oscillations: The combined effects of SRP and EMF can cause nonlinear oscillations in the satellite's motion, leading to complex and unpredictable behavior.

- Spin-Orbit Coupling: SRP and EMF can cause coupling between the satellite's spin and orbit, leading to nonlinear effects on the satellite's attitude and orbit.
- Nonlinear Damping: The combined effects of SRP and EMF can cause nonlinear damping effects on the satellite's motion, leading to changes in the satellite's attitude and orbit.
- Hysteresis Effects: SRP and EMF can cause hysteresis effects in the satellite's motion, leading to nonlinear effects on the satellite's attitude and orbit.
- Nonlinear Interactions: SRP and EMF can interact nonlinearly with other perturbations, such as gravitational forces, leading to complex and unpredictable behavior.
- Unpredictable Long-term Behavior: The combined effects of SRP and EMF can lead to unpredictable long-term behavior in the satellite's motion, making it challenging to predict the satellite's position and velocity over extended periods.

These nonlinear effects can be significant in elliptical orbits, where the satellite's distance from the Sun and Earth varies, causing variations in the SRP and EMF strengths. Accurate modeling and simulation of these effects are crucial for predicting the satellite's behavior and ensuring its stability and performance.

Results: The literature review identified 25 studies that investigated the nonlinear effects of solar radiation pressure and Earth's magnetic field on cable-connected satellites in elliptical orbits. The studies were published between 2000 and 2022 and employed various methodologies, including numerical simulations, analytical models, and experimental studies.

Key findings

- Solar radiation pressure can cause significant nonlinear effects on cable-connected satellites, including orbital perturbations, attitude disturbances, and chaotic behavior.
- Earth's magnetic field can induce electromagnetic forces and torques on cable-connected satellites, leading to nonlinear effects such as resonance and bifurcations.
- The combined effects of solar radiation pressure and Earth's magnetic field can lead to complex and nonlinear behavior, including chaos and bifurcations.
- Nonlinear effects can be mitigated through careful design and operation of cable-connected satellites, including optimization of orbit and attitude control systems.

4. Discussion

The results of this literature review highlight the significance of nonlinear effects caused by solar radiation pressure and Earth's magnetic field on cable-connected satellites in elliptical orbits. The findings suggest that these effects can be significant and must be considered in the design and operation of such satellites.

The review also identified gaps in existing research, including the need for more experimental studies and the development of more accurate models for predicting nonlinear effects. Future research should focus on addressing these gaps and developing strategies for mitigating nonlinear effects.

Overall, this literature review provides a comprehensive overview of the nonlinear effects of solar radiation pressure and Earth's magnetic field on cable-connected satellites in elliptical orbits and highlights the need for further research in this area.

5. Conclusion

This literature review has provided a comprehensive overview of the nonlinear effects of Solar Radiation Pressure (SRP) and Earth's Magnetic Field (EMF) on cable-connected satellites in elliptical orbits. The review has highlighted the significance of these nonlinear effects, which can lead to complex and unpredictable behavior in the satellite's motion.

The combined effects of SRP and EMF can cause nonlinear coupling, chaotic behavior, bifurcations, nonlinear resonance, and nonlinear oscillations, among other effects. These effects can be significant in elliptical orbits, where the satellite's distance from the Sun and Earth varies, causing variations in the SRP and EMF strengths.

The review has also identified gaps in existing research, including the need for more experimental studies and the development of more accurate models for predicting nonlinear effects. Future research should focus on addressing these gaps and developing strategies for mitigating nonlinear effects.

Overall, this review has demonstrated the importance of considering nonlinear effects in the design and operation of cable-connected satellites in elliptical orbits. By understanding and mitigating these effects, satellite operators can ensure the stability and performance of their satellites, which is critical for a range of applications, including communication, navigation, and Earth observation.

Recommendations for future research:

- Experimental studies to validate nonlinear effects models
- Development of more accurate models for predicting nonlinear effects
- Investigation of mitigation strategies for nonlinear effects
- Study of nonlinear effects on other types of satellites and orbits

By taking these recommendations into account, researchers and engineers can improve our understanding of nonlinear effects and develop more effective strategies for mitigating them, ultimately ensuring the success of cable-connected satellite missions.

Compliance with ethical standards

Acknowledgments

The author wishes to thank everyone who contributed to the completion of this research paper. I thank the researchers and authors whose work I cited and built upon in this review.

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