

Consider the equation for anomalous change in velocity with MSE 1.43.

$$1. f = \kappa V \left(\frac{R_E}{R_E + 1} \right)^\beta |\cos(2I)|^\gamma \sin(2\phi)$$

We propose an improved equation of the form

$$2. \Delta V = c_1 f + c_2 g$$

Suppose the function g is a linear combination of 6 predictors. Predictor coefficients are computed via regularised least-squares regression of 6 anomaly cases and 3 null cases, minimising

$$3. \frac{1}{18} \sum_{i=1}^9 (\Delta V_i - \beta_0 - x_i^T \beta)^2 + \lambda \sum_{j=1}^6 |\beta_j|$$

However, all coefficients beta(i) go to 0. Repeating for square inverses of all predictors, non-zero betas are assigned to altitude and azimuthal velocity.

Regarding azimuthal velocity, consider the equation for drag force.

$$4. F_d = \frac{1}{2} \rho u^2 C_D A \propto u^2 \rho \quad \rightarrow \Delta V = c_1 f + c_2 \cdot \frac{1}{F_d} = c_1 f + c_2 u^{-2} \rho^{-1}$$

We hypothesise that the satellite experiences some anomalous atmospheric drag. A basic model of altitude-dependant atmospheric density is given.

$$5. \rho = \rho_0 e^{-\frac{h}{H}} \propto e^{-h}$$

However, exponential dependance is implausible; the proposed equation blows up. The MSIS-E-90 atmospheric model is an empirical alternative modelled approximately as follows.

$$6. \rho = 7 \cdot 10^7 \cdot h^{-7.2} \propto h^{-7.2}$$

Substituting the expressions for ρ and u into 2) and solving for c1 and c2 via multiple linear regression yields

$$7. \Delta V = 0.771 \cdot u^{-2} \cdot h^{7.2}$$

with c1 set to 0 and MSE of 24.99. Significant MSE increase suggests a fluid density dependance on some unexpected phenomenon. We propose that satellites experience enhanced drag when passing through high density plasma “patches” found in the polar ionosphere (80-1000km). Hosokawa et al report (fig. 1)

$$8. \text{Intensity} \propto x \rightarrow \rho \propto x$$

Rewriting ρ in terms of satellite inclination I (fig. 2)

$$9. \rho \propto x = \cos(I)$$

Substituting the new expression for q into 2) and solving for c_1 and c_2 via multiple linear regression yields

$$10. \Delta V = 1.0885 \cdot \left[\kappa V \left(\frac{R_E}{R_E + 1} \right)^\beta |\cos(2I)|^\gamma \sin(2\phi) \right] - 13.3416 \cdot [u^{-2} \cdot \cos^{-1}(I)]$$

with MSE 0.7796.

Constants

R_E = Radius of Earth

I = Orbital Inclination

β = LASSO coefficients

x_i = predictors

λ = regularization parameter

ΔV = anomalous velocity change

$\beta = 21.8739$

C_D = drag coefficient

A = cross-sectional area

ρ = fluid density

u = velocity

H = earth scale height

$\kappa = 16.2247e-6$

$\gamma = 1.1537$