



SPACECRAFT ENVIRONMENT INTERACTION

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# SPENVIS Report

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ANALYSIS OF THE CLUSTER-II FM-8 (TANGO) MISSION

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April 4, 2016

## Abstract

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# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Mission Overview</b>	<b>2</b>
2.1	Mission Definition . . . . .	2
2.2	Space Environment . . . . .	3
2.3	Radiation Environment . . . . .	3
<b>3</b>	<b>Numerical Simulations</b>	<b>5</b>
3.1	Environmental flux . . . . .	5
3.2	Lifetime and Performance Degradation . . . . .	5
3.3	Total Dose and Shielding . . . . .	5
3.4	Single Event Upsets . . . . .	6
3.5	Linear Energy Transfer (LET) Spectrum . . . . .	6
3.6	Cross Section and Components Characteristics . . . . .	6
3.7	SEU Estimation . . . . .	6
<b>4</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>9</b>
	<b>References</b>	<b>10</b>
	<b>Appendix</b>	<b>10</b>

# 1 Introduction

Since space applications become more and more important for our everyday life, be it direct-broadcast services, environmental monitoring or even space travel, the understanding of the environment those applications operate in is crucial to ensure proper and smooth functioning.

To improve the understanding of the space environment and to examine different effects of the space environment on a spacecraft, this report will give an in-depth analysis of the Cluster-II Mission, a mission carried out by the European Space Agency (ESA) to study the interaction between the solar wind and the earth's magnetosphere and provide an unprecedented 3D-model of those interactions [? ].

This report is focused especially on the space radiation environment of the Cluster-II FM8 (Tango) satellite, one of the four satellites of the Cluster-II mission, and on the radiation effects on solar arrays and different electronic devices. For analysing the space environment a tool called SPENVIS (Space Environment Information System) developed by ESA is used. SPENVIS is a Web-interface with a powerful backend that provides access to numerical calculations and evaluations of a user-defined orbit or mission. It also provides data on different effects as "[...] cosmic rays, natural radiation belts, solar energetic particles, plasmas, gases, and "micro-particles" [...]" [? ].

To provide an overview over the FM8 Tango Mission, the next chapter will introduce the mission objectives as well as the basic space environment this specific satellite faces. After, different radiation effects are examined and numerical calculations for solar arrays and memory devices are performed, followed by an analysis of their results. [? ].

## 2 Mission Overview

### 2.1 Mission Definition

The Cluster-II Mission is planned and executed by the European Space Agency and was launched on 16th of July 2016. The whole mission consists of four identical spacecrafts flying in a tetrahedral formation in a highly elliptical orbit, where each spacecraft is collecting various data on the space environment with its 11 scientific payload instruments. These in-situ measurements are done to build a very accurate 3D-Model of the earth's magnetosphere and thus to observe the magnetosphere interaction with the solar wind not only in a spatial but also in a temporal resolution.

The main goal of this mission is to examine and gather data especially on the plasma structures in the bow shock region, the magnetopause, polar cusps, the earth's magnetotail and the auroral zone, all of them regions with very interesting properties when it comes to the interaction with solar wind [? ].

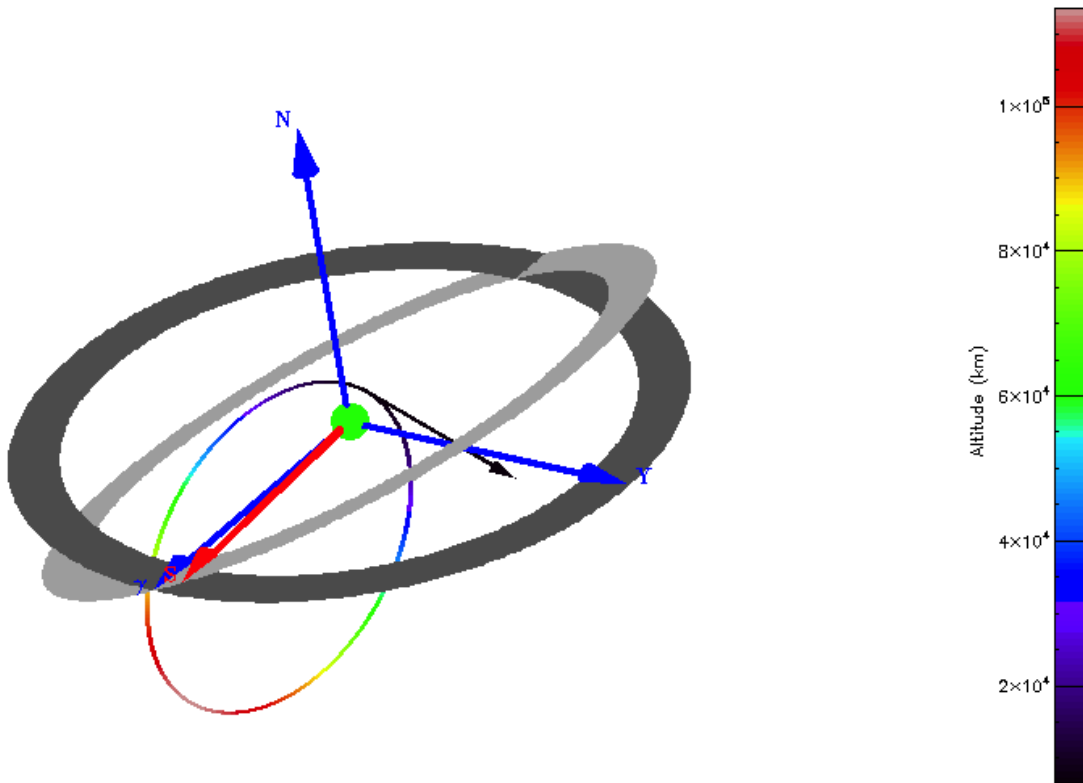


Figure 1: One Orbit of FM-8 Tango, the color bar shows the altitude

To model the Orbit of FM-8 Tango a set of TLE<sup>1</sup> data provided by Celestrak was used [? ].

Figure 1 shows one orbit of FM-8 Tango and indicates the altitude of the orbit. The orbit

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<sup>1</sup>Two Line Element

itself is a retrograde orbit with an inclination of 131.6 degrees. A complete set of TLE data describing all important orbit parameters can be found in the Appendix A.1.

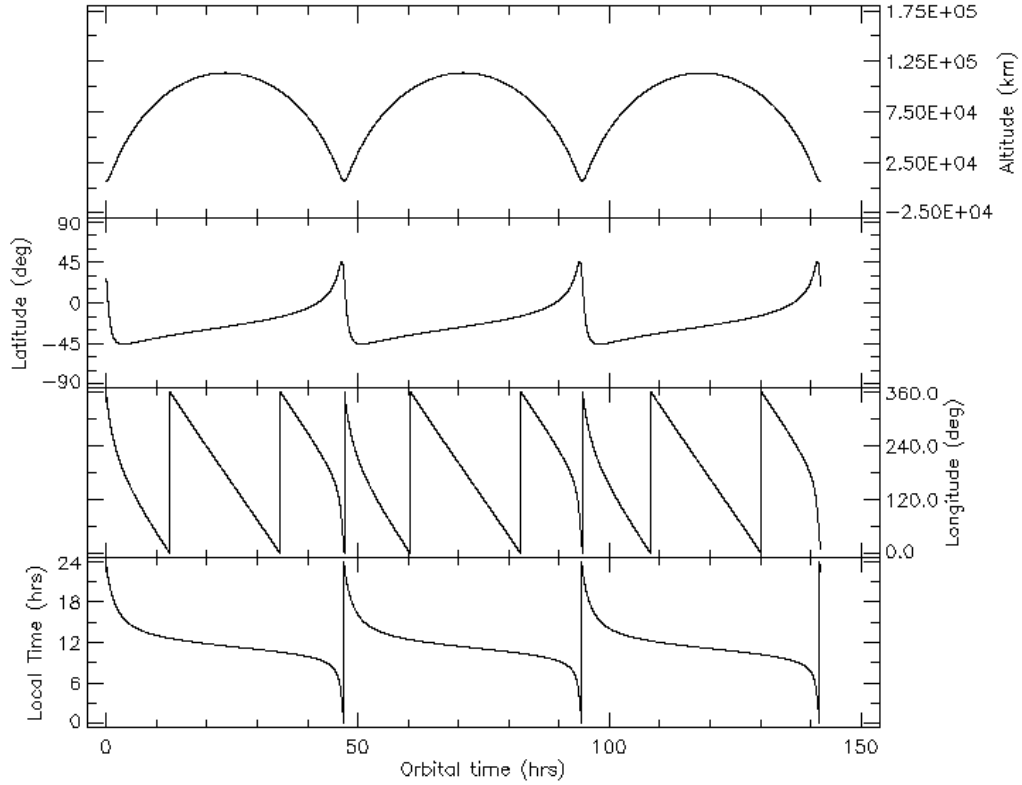


Figure 2: Various Data on 3 orbits of FM8 Tango

## 2.2 Space Environment

The Space Environment of the FM8 Tango Orbit itself is very interesting in terms of radiation and magnetic fields. Due to its highly elliptical orbit, with a perigee at about 28000km and an apogee at about 104000km it crosses the Van Allen radiation belts, which extend from 100km to 65000km, the inner one from 100km up to 1 Earth radius and the outer one from two to six earth radii [? ].

## 2.3 Radiation Environment

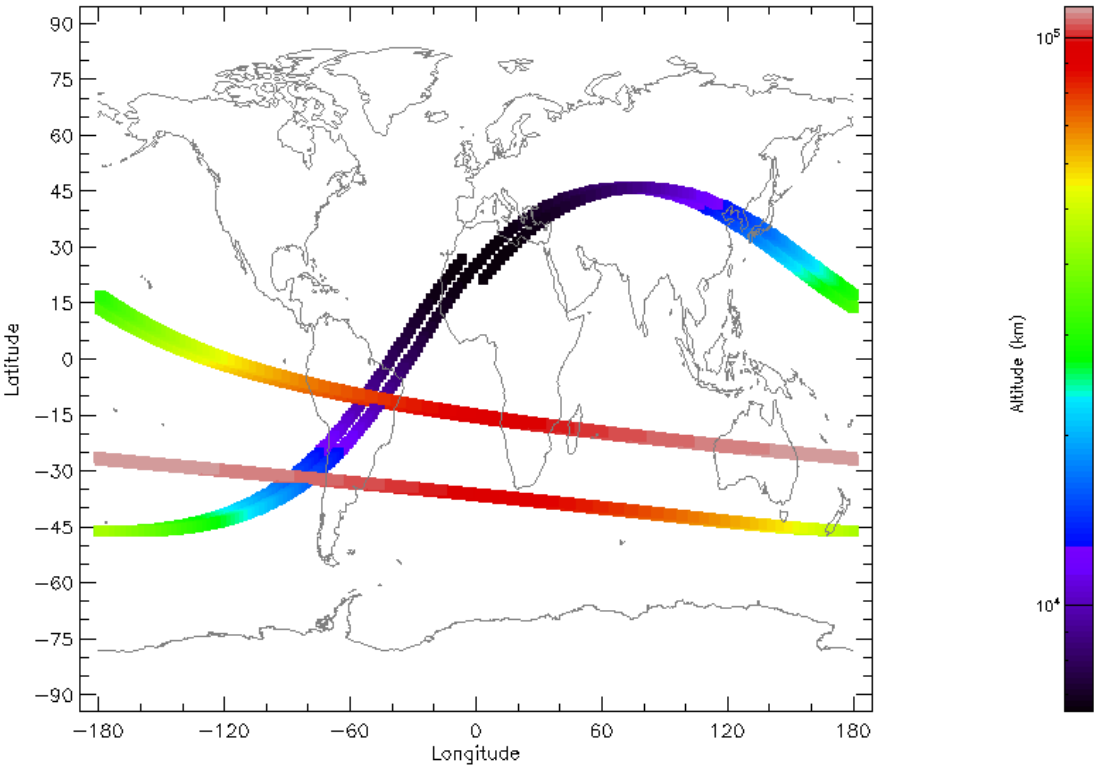


Figure 3: Groundtrack of 2 FM8 Tango Orbits

### 3 Numerical Simulations

#### 3.1 Environmental flux

SPENVIS uses the AP-8/AE-8 model to simulate the trapped proton and electron models, which can simulate the fluxes during solar maximum and minimum.

For the worst-case simulation the solar maximum is considered.

For the protons the number of trapped protons is higher during solar minimum due to the increased scale height caused by the increased UV radiation from the sun, but only for lower altitudes, for this orbit the difference between solar minimum and maximum for the proton flux is negligible, which is not the case for the electrons.

In figures 7 and 6 the integrated fluxes are displayed over the orbit in GEI mode.

The high proton fluxes are expected at perigee, while for the electron flux the highest flux is expected during crossing of the radiation belts (c.f. fig. 8).

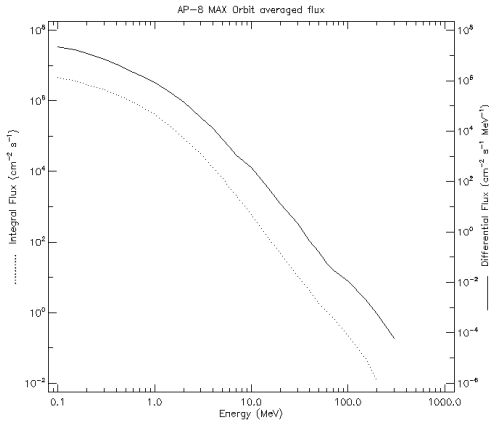


Figure 4: Proton Flux

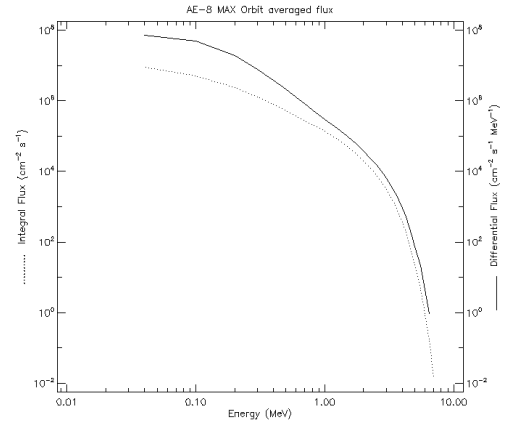


Figure 5: Electron Flux

#### 3.2 Lifetime and Performance Degradation

The satellite is using Azur 3G28 solar cells, with an EOL power of 95% of the BOL power [? ].

Using SPENVIS' MC-SCREAM for solar cells, it was determined that the shielding thickness should be around 230  $\mu\text{m}$  which leaves an EOL powerloss of 3.3%.

#### 3.3 Total Dose and Shielding

The satellite is using a memory device which can withstand a total radiation dose of 25 Krad before failure.

With 1mm of shielding the memory device exceeds its maximum radiation dose with a total dose of 1.5 Mrad, which is about 62 times the maximum allowed dose.

To achieve a maximum dose of 25 Krad or less the shielding has to be increased to a minimum of 5.1mm, which will lead to a maximum dose of 26 Krad.



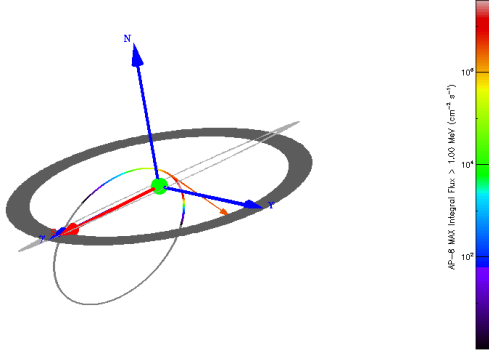


Figure 6: Proton Flux greater than 1 MeV

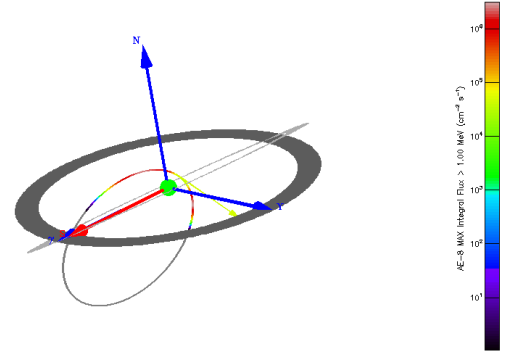


Figure 7: Electron Flux greater than 1 MeV

### 3.4 Single Event Upsets

### 3.5 Linear Energy Transfer (LET) Spectrum

### 3.6 Cross Section and Components Characteristics

### 3.7 SEU Estimation

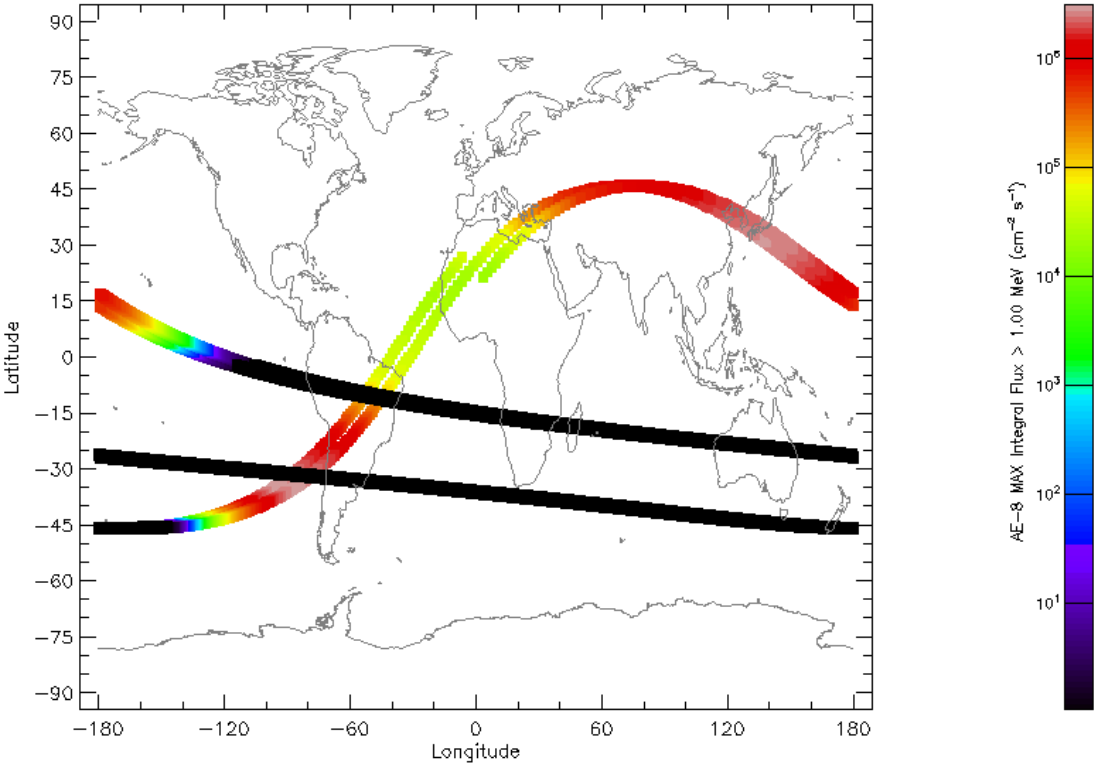


Figure 8: Electron Flux World map

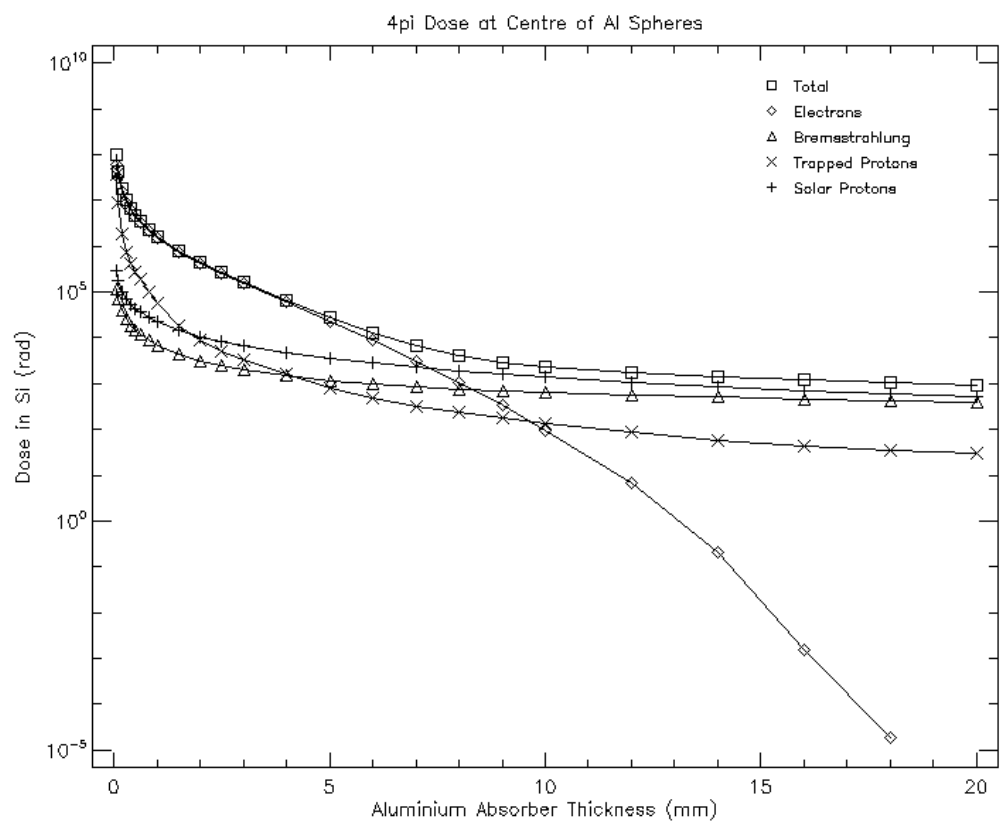


Figure 9: Dose received vs. Shielding in mm

## 4 Discussion

## Appendix

### A.1 Orbital Parameters of Cluster-II FM8 Tango

CLUSTER II-FM8 (TANGO)

```
1 26464U 00045B 16087.81656212 .00000382 00000-0 00000+0 0 9996
2 26464 131.5572 328.3783 5181518 141.3516 0.4910 0.44219885 51441
```

Table 1: Cluster-II Tango Parameters extracted of TLE set

Parameter	Value
Satellite Common Name	CLUSTER II-FM8 TANGO
Satellite Number	26464
Elset Classification	U
International Designator	00
Launch Number of the Year	045
Epoch Year	16
Epoch	87.81656212
BSTAR Drag Term	0.00000382
Inclination (deg)	131.5572
RAAN (deg)	328.3782
Eccentricity	0.5181518
Argument of Perigee (deg)	141.3516
Mean Anomaly (deg)	0.4910
Mean Motion (rev/day)	0.44219885
Rev number at epoch	5144