Characterizing Jupiter’s energetic (>15 MeV) particle environment with the Juno MAG investigation’s micro Advanced Stellar Compass


Publication date:
2019

Document Version
Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

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Citation (APA):
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EGU2019-6614

NASA's Juno mission entered into polar orbit about Jupiter on July 4th, 2016. Since then 17 science orbits have been completed, systematically mapping the 3D magnetosphere of Jupiter for the first time. Located on the tip one of Juno's three solar arrays, the Magnetic Field Experiment carries an absolute altitude reference sensor, the fully autonomous “micro Advances Stellar Compass” (µASC) designed and built at the Technical University of Denmark.

µASC’s Advanced Observational Capabilities:
- Designed and produced by the Measurement and Instrumentation Systems (DTU Space)
- One of the most successful star tracker worldwide
- Autonomously calculates altitude based on all bright stars in the CHUs Field of View
- Absolute accuracy of < 1 arc second
- Operating on many satellite missions without a single hardware or functional failure

µASC's Calibration:
The µASC response to the high energy irradiation is fully calibrated using 1-2 MeV electron and 30-200 MeV proton irradiation with varied incidence angle, flux, dose rate, temperature, TID, and DDD doses.

Image analysis. Deposited energy:
A track left by an energetic particle that hit the CCD is ~50 pixels long (~0.7 mm or 160 µg/cm²) and has 4 or 5 splits due to recoil nuclei produced by the incident particle in silicon. Estimation of the primary energy of a particle that could traverse at least 0.7 mm in Si behind the heavy shielding will involve the transport flux modelling for the µASC, the calibration curves of the CCD and inflight image analysis.

Observations:
The wiggle plot below shows Juno’s position in magnetic coordinates (Rho, Z) in [R_J]. In the trace of the orbit, the flux measured by the µASC is displayed with a color scale. The major Jovian moons radial distance have been also added in the plot in addition to the model of the magnetodisc.

Juno’s crossing of the magnetic field lines which intersect the Jovian moon orbits is shown. These crossings are correlated with observations of the µASC particle counter.

Jupiter’s particle environment:

- Model of the Jupiter’s high energy radiation environment
- Better constrains on the Jupiter’s current sheet
- Magnetic footprint of the Jupiter’s inner planet


European Geosciences Union, Vienna, Austria, 07th – 12th April 2019

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