

Search Strategy Applicable for Breakup Fragments in the Geostationary Region

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<https://doi.org/10.15017/1398351>

出版情報 : 九州大学, 2013, 博士 (工学), 課程博士
バージョン :
権利関係 : 全文ファイル公表済

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学位の種類	博士 (工学)
学位記番号	工博甲第2264号
学位授与の日付	平成25年9月24日
学位授与の要件	学位規則第4条第1項該当 工学府 航空宇宙工学専攻
学位論文題目	Search Strategy Applicable for Breakup Fragments in the Geostationary Region (静止軌道領域における破砕由来スペースデブリの効率的な探索方法に関する研究)
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論 文 内 容 の 要 旨

This dissertation proposes an effective search strategy applicable for fragmentation debris generated by energetic breakups of large space objects, e.g., satellites and rocket upper-stages, in the geostationary region. There are two definitive breakups in the geostationary region whose occurrences were occasionally confirmed by observations soon after the breakups. Past observation campaigns for the geostationary region have been found thousands of uncatalogued space objects, which may be associated with breakups. Moreover, it is confirmed that some of large space objects in the geostationary region have experienced unintended orbital change, i.e., orbital anomaly, that might be associated with breakup. Thus, search for the fragmentation debris will directly contribute to verify relations between uncatalogued space objects, breakups, and suspected orbital anomalies for the better understandings of current situations in the geostationary region.

The search strategy to be proposed in this dissertation utilizes orbital debris modeling techniques that describe debris generation and orbit propagation. The orbital debris modeling can predict behaviors of individual and group of fragmentation debris at breakups and also at observations. The search strategy, thus, enables effective observation planning, sensitive detection, straightforward origin identification, and breakup event characterization.

This dissertation introduces five principal roles required for the search strategy and verifies the roles in each chapter. The second chapter formulates the search strategy based on orbital debris modeling techniques. The third chapter addresses the deterministic origin identification of fragmentation debris, which enables simultaneous search for multiple breakup events and identification of unconfirmed breakups. The fourth chapter addresses the probabilistic origin identification of fragmentation debris, which enables characterization of breakup scale and improvement of orbital debris modeling in the search strategy. The fifth chapter formulates breakup event characterization methodologies including fragmentation profile assessment and breakup scale assessment. The breakup scale assessment is demonstrated by applying a Bayesian approach combined with the probabilistic origin identification technique. The sixth chapter addresses unconfirmed breakup identification by evaluating uncertainties of unconfirmed breakups, and by applying the deterministic origin identification technique.

Along with theoretical confirmations of the search strategy to be addressed in each chapter, this dissertation also conducts empirical confirmations of the search strategy. The empirical confirmations utilize ground-based optical measurement techniques, which is a common approach for the geostationary objects observation. Optical sensor to be used consists of a small aperture telescope ($\leq 1\text{m}$) equipped with a charge coupled device camera. Through the theoretical and empirical confirmations from the second chapter to the sixth chapter, this dissertation will finally establish the effective search strategy that contributes to define current situation in the geostationary region.

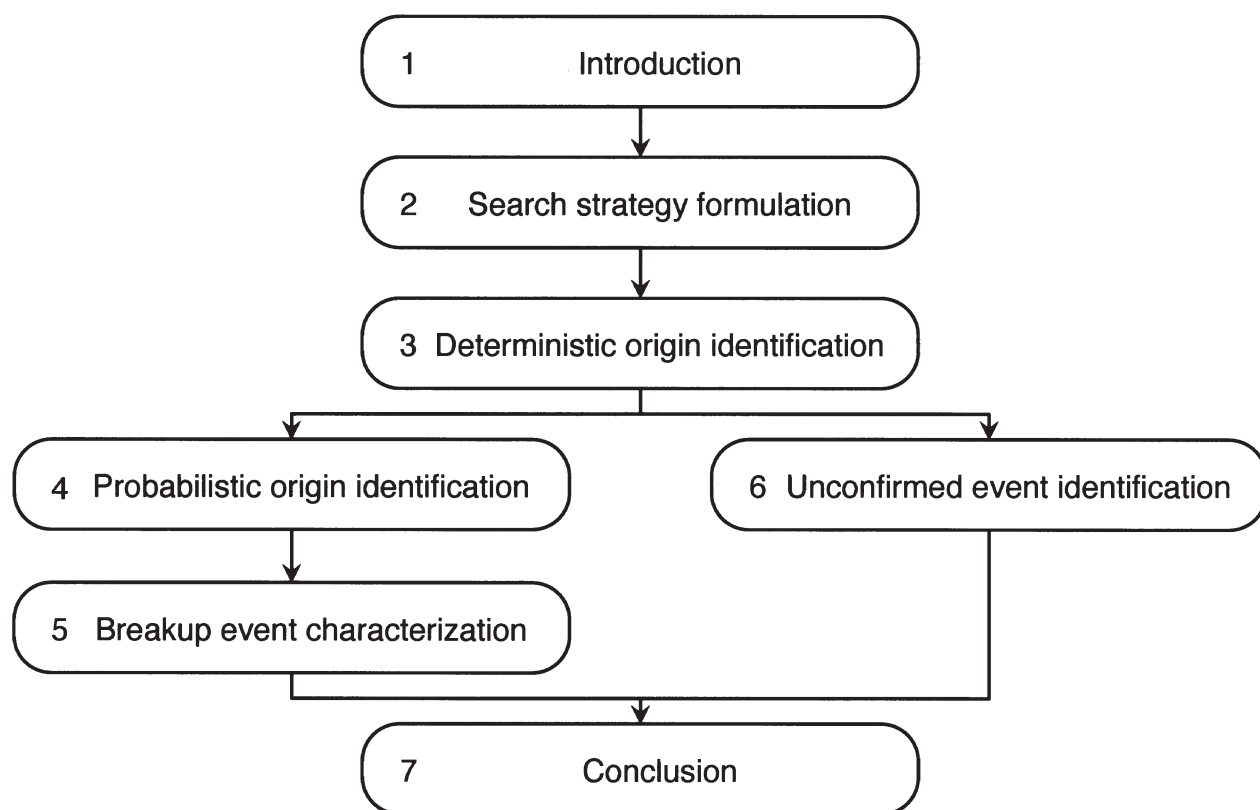


Figure 1. The structure of the dissertation.

論文審査の結果の要旨

本研究は、任意観測領域を任意時刻に通過する破片群の存在確率および移動量を推定することにより、未知スペースデブリ探索の効率化を図る手法、また、任意観測領域を任意時刻に通過する破片群の移動量が破碎現象毎に識別可能な固有の特徴を利用することにより、未知スペースデブリの起源を確率論的に同定する手法を新たに構築したことで、未知スペースデブリと既知の破碎現象あるいは破碎現象と疑われている軌道異常とを効率的に関連づける起源同定と観測計画の立案を可能にしたという観点から、宇宙状況の認識、破碎現象の検証、宇宙環境の解明・保全、並びに安心・安全な宇宙活動に資する、宇宙工学上重要な成果を得たものとして価値ある業績であると認める。