Magnetometer calibration technique for the ground-based stage of spacecraft system diagnostics

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The article lists empirical techniques for thermal calibration and accounting for intrinsic error in magnetometers used in onboard measurement equipment of modern spacecraft. We developed a mathematical model of magnetometer readings that takes into account current measurement errors and provided a geometrical interpretation of errors. We present the relationship between readings of typical magnetic sensors and ambient temperature. We formulated a thermal calibration technique for instrument readings that ensures instrument accuracy at different temperatures. We introduce an approach to determining a transformation matrix connecting magnetometer coordinate systems that makes it possible to eliminate component positioning errors occurring during magnetometer assembly; we also describe development testing algorithms approved by the core enterprise for gathering data required for implementing the techniques under consideration. We provide the results of calibrating a magnetometer using the techniques developed.

Keywords: magnetometer, thermal calibration, measurement processing, magnetic field

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