



Estimates of the Orbiter RSI Thermal Protection System Thermal Reliability

By P. Kolodziej

BiblioGov. Paperback. Book Condition: New. This item is printed on demand. Paperback. 24 pages. Dimensions: 9.7in. x 7.4in. x 0.1in. In support of the Space Shuttle Orbiter post-flight inspection, structure temperatures are recorded at selected positions on the windward, leeward, starboard and port surfaces. Statistical analysis of this flight data and a non-dimensional load interference (NDLI) method are used to estimate the thermal reliability at positions where reusable surface insulation (RSI) is installed. In this analysis, structure temperatures that exceed the design limit define the critical failure mode. At thirty-three positions the RSI thermal reliability is greater than 0.999999 for the missions studied. This is not the overall system level reliability of the thermal protection system installed on an Orbiter. The results from two Orbiters, OV-102 and OV-105, are in good agreement. The original RSI designs on the OV-102 Orbital Maneuvering System pods, which had low reliability, were significantly improved on OV-105. The NDLI method was also used to estimate thermal reliability from an assessment of TPS uncertainties that was completed shortly before the first Orbiter flight. Results from the flight data analysis and the pre-flight assessment agree at several positions near each other. The NDLI method is also effective...



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