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Chaff Aerodynamics

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Abstract: The aerodynamic characteristics of thirteen distinct **chaff** dipole configurations were determined from drop tests of individual elements in a special enclosed test chamber. The dipole motion and trajectory were recorded by multi-image photographs taken by orthogonal still cameras equipped with specially designed synchronized rotating shutters. The dynamic behavior and descent rate of the dipoles was found to depend greatly upon the principal cross-section dimensions of the filaments. Aerodynamic forces and moment coefficients for each dipole configuration were computed from the photographic multi-image motion data using photogrammetric and aerodynamic data reduction programs developed as part of the effort. The resulting aerodynamic coefficient data were successfully correlated with Reynolds number, angle of attack, and various other parameters.

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