



Brij N. Agrawal

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I joined COMSAT at COMSAT Labs In 1969, after completing Ph. D. in Mechanical Engineering from Syracuse University. For two years I worked on Aerosat Program, 1975-77. In 1979 I joined INTELSAT. In 1989 I joined Naval Postgraduate (NPS), Monterey, CA, and am currently Distinguished Professor and Director of Spacecraft Research and Design Center in the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace. I feel I am very lucky that during my professional carrier, I worked with very talented engineers and scientist and learned from them and worked on programs both commercial and DoD satellites. At NPS, I got opportunity to set up Astronautics Group and founded Spacecraft and Research Center. Developed several stat-Of art laboratories. I also founded Adaptive Optics Center of Excellence, funded by AFRL, NRO, and ONR. I am happy that several of my students became program managers of large DoD spacecraft programs. I also got several recognitions like Fellow, American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) and Member if Intranational Academy of Astronautics (IAA). Currently my research areas are Imaging Satellites, High Energy Laser Beam Control, and Artificial Intelligence.

I give credit to my achievements to my first 10 formative years at COMSAT Labs. When I joined COMSAT, I did not know almost anything about satellites. COMSAT Labs provided nurturing environment for learning. I had excellent supervisors, Paul Schrantz, Jim Owens, and Fred Esch. Paul Schrantz as direct supervisor provided great encouragement and support. I am still in regular touch with him. Gary Gordon gave short courses on orbit, thermal control, and reliability. I could not find a book in the library on spacecraft design. So, I started making notes on different spacecraft subsystems. My colleagues were very generous in providing me information as information was mostly in reports. The notes were converted into my first book, Design of Geosynchronous Spacecraft. I did majority of the work while working at COMSAT, mostly on weekends. To my surprise, the book became very popular and was used as a textbook for spacecraft design courses in universities, like MIT, Stanford, UCLA, including NPS. This book helped me to move to academia and get full professor position and leadership role. I could not have done it if I had not worked at COMSAT. I am grateful to my colleagues at COMSAT.

BOOKS

1. Brij Agrawal, "Design of Geosynchronous Spacecraft," Prentice-Hall, May 1986
2. Brij Agrawal and Max Platzter, "Standard Handbook for Aerospace Engineers" McGraw Hill, March 2018