

## Space Debris Tracker with Real-Time Orbit Data

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### Abstract

*The rapid growth of satellites and fragmentation debris in Earth's orbit has significantly increased the risk of collisions that threaten operational spacecraft and long-term orbital sustainability. Traditional Space Situational Awareness (SSA) systems rely mainly on static orbital catalogs and periodic updates, which limits their ability to provide real-time monitoring and predictive risk analysis. This paper proposes a Space Debris Tracker with Real-Time Orbit Data that integrates public space-track datasets, SGP4 orbit propagation, and machine learning models to enhance orbital monitoring and collision prediction. The proposed system processes updated satellite telemetry and debris data, predicts orbital trajectories, and evaluates potential conjunction risks using intelligent classification models. A web-based interactive dashboard visualizes orbital movements in both 2D and 3D environments, allowing users to filter objects by altitude, velocity, and risk level. The system also provides automated alerts for potential collision scenarios, enabling researchers and satellite operators to make timely decisions. By combining predictive analytics, real-time visualization, and scalable architecture, the proposed platform improves situational awareness and supports safer satellite operations. The developed framework demonstrates how machine learning and modern visualization technologies can contribute to sustainable space traffic management and future autonomous collision avoidance systems.*

**Keywords:** Space Debris, Orbit Tracking, Machine Learning, Space Situational Awareness, Collision Prediction.

### 1. Introduction

Space technology has become an essential part of modern life, supporting communication, navigation, weather forecasting, Earth observation, and scientific research. Over the past few decades, the number of satellites launched into Earth's orbit has increased rapidly due to advancements in space exploration and commercial satellite services. While these developments have significantly improved global connectivity and technological progress, they have also led to the accumulation of large amounts of space debris in Earth's orbital environment. Space debris consists of inactive satellites, fragments from rocket stages, collision remnants, and other small particles orbiting the Earth at extremely high velocities. Even small debris objects can travel at speeds exceeding 7–8 km/s, making them capable of damaging or destroying operational satellites. The

growing density of debris increases the probability of collisions, which may generate additional fragments and create a chain reaction known as the Kessler Syndrome. This phenomenon poses a serious threat to the sustainability of space activities and future satellite missions. To address this challenge, space agencies and research organizations rely on Space Situational Awareness (SSA) systems to monitor, track, and predict the movement of orbital objects. Traditional SSA systems typically use radar and optical sensors along with Two-Line Element (TLE) datasets to estimate satellite trajectories. However, many existing systems depend on periodic updates and manual analysis, which can limit their ability to provide real-time insights into rapidly changing orbital environments. The Space Debris Tracker with Real-Time Orbit Data project aims to overcome these

limitations by developing an intelligent monitoring platform that integrates real-time orbital datasets, orbit propagation algorithms, and machine learning techniques. The system uses the SGP4 propagation model to compute satellite positions and trajectories based on TLE data obtained from public space-track catalogs. Machine learning models are incorporated to analyze orbital patterns, classify objects, and identify potential collision risks between satellites and debris. The proposed system also includes an interactive visualization dashboard that displays satellite and debris trajectories in both two-dimensional and three-dimensional environments. Users can monitor orbital movements, filter objects based on altitude or velocity, and analyze risk levels through dynamic graphical interfaces. This visualization capability helps researchers and satellite operators better understand the behavior of objects in orbit and make informed decisions regarding collision avoidance strategies. The main objective of this project is to provide a scalable and user-friendly platform for real-time monitoring of orbital debris and active satellites. By combining predictive analytics, real-time data visualization, and automated alert mechanisms, the system enhances Space Situational Awareness and contributes to safer and more sustainable space operations. This paper presents the design, development, and evaluation of the proposed Space Debris Tracker system. It discusses the underlying technologies, data processing methods, and machine learning techniques used to improve debris tracking and collision prediction. The proposed framework demonstrates how modern computational tools and visualization technologies can support the efficient management of orbital environments and reduce risks associated with space debris [1].

### 1.1.Space Debris Tracking Methods

**Orbit Propagation:-** Satellite and debris positions are predicted using mathematical orbit propagation models such as SGP4. These models use Two-Line Element (TLE) datasets to calculate the future position and velocity of objects in Earth's orbit [2].

- **Radar Tracking:-** Ground-based radar systems are widely used to detect and track

space debris objects in low Earth orbit. Radar sensors measure distance, velocity, and trajectory to update orbital catalogs.

- **Optical Observation:-** Optical telescopes are used to observe satellites and debris in higher orbits. These systems detect reflected sunlight from objects and help determine orbital parameters through image analysis.
- **Machine Learning Prediction:-** Machine learning models analyze historical orbital data to classify objects, detect anomalies, and predict potential collision risks. These models improve the accuracy of conjunction assessment.
- **Multi-Sensor Data Fusion:-** Data from radar, optical sensors, and space-based observations are combined to improve tracking accuracy and reduce uncertainty in object trajectory estimation.
- **Visualization and Monitoring:-** Interactive dashboards provide real-time visualization of satellite and debris trajectories in 2D and 3D environments, allowing users to analyze orbital behavior and monitor potential risks.

### 2. Methodology

The proposed Space Debris Tracker with Real-Time Orbit Data follows a structured methodology that integrates orbital data acquisition, orbit propagation algorithms, machine learning prediction, and visualization techniques. The system is designed to monitor satellites and debris objects in real time while predicting potential collision risks. The overall process involves several stages including data collection, orbit computation, feature extraction, predictive analysis, and visualization. The first stage involves collecting orbital datasets from publicly available space-track catalogs such as Celestrak or Space-Track.org. These datasets contain Two-Line Element (TLE) parameters that describe the orbital characteristics of satellites and debris objects. The collected data is updated periodically to maintain accurate tracking of space objects. In the second stage, the SGP4 orbit propagation algorithm is applied to compute the position and velocity of

satellites at specific time intervals[3]. This algorithm uses TLE parameters to estimate the orbital trajectory of each object in Earth’s orbit. By repeatedly applying the propagation model, the system can predict the future movement of satellites and debris. The third stage focuses on feature extraction and data preprocessing. Important orbital parameters such as altitude, inclination, velocity, orbital period, and relative distance between objects are calculated. These parameters are used as input features for machine learning models to analyze potential conjunction events. In the fourth stage, machine learning algorithms are applied to classify space objects and predict collision risks. Supervised learning models analyze historical orbital patterns to identify abnormal trajectories and potential close-approach scenarios. These predictive models enhance the ability of the system to detect high-risk situations before collisions occur. The final stage involves visualization and monitoring. The processed data is displayed through an interactive dashboard that shows satellite and debris movements in both 2D and 3D environments. Users can filter objects based on altitude, velocity, and risk level, allowing them to analyze orbital behavior more effectively. Additionally, an alert mechanism generates notifications when objects approach dangerous proximity thresholds. Tables and figures can be used to present experimental parameters and system components clearly. Table 1 shows an example of orbital parameters used as inputs for trajectory prediction and machine learning analysis.

**Table 1 Sample Orbital Parameters Used for Tracking**

Object Type	Altitude	Velocity
Active Satellite	550	7.6
Debris Fragment	720	7.8
Rocket Body	850	7.5
Defunct Satellite	900	7.4
CubeSat	520	7.7
Micro Debris	600	7.9

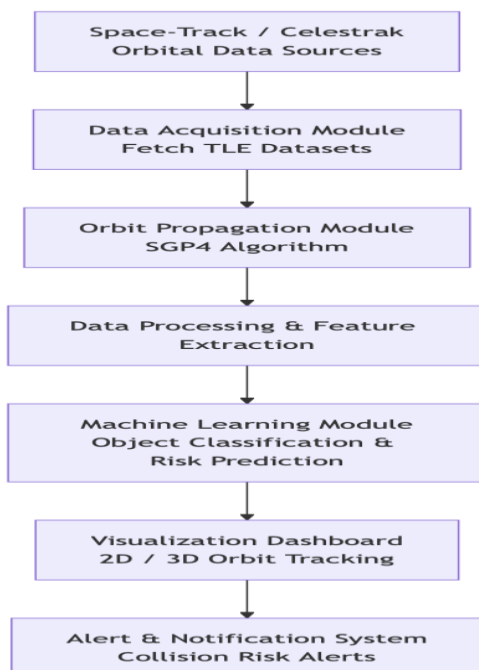
Active Satellite	560	7.6
Debris Fragment	740	7.8
Rocket Body	880	7.5
Active Satellite	550	7.6
Debris Fragment	720	7.8
Rocket Body	850	7.5

### 3. system architecture

The proposed Space Debris Tracker with Real-Time Orbit Data system is designed with a modular architecture that integrates data acquisition, orbit propagation, machine learning prediction, and visualization modules. The architecture enables efficient processing of orbital data and provides real-time monitoring of satellites and debris objects in Earth’s orbit. The system is structured into several functional components that work together to improve Space Situational Awareness (SSA).The first component is the Data Acquisition Module, which collects orbital datasets from publicly available sources such as Space-Track and Celestrak. These datasets contain Two-Line Element (TLE) parameters that describe the orbital characteristics of satellites and debris objects. The system periodically retrieves updated TLE datasets to ensure accurate tracking of space objects.The second component is the Orbit Propagation Module, which uses the SGP4 algorithm to compute the position and velocity of satellites at specific time intervals. This module processes the TLE parameters and calculates the predicted trajectory of each object in orbit. The generated orbital data is stored in the system database for further analysis. The third component is the Data Processing and Feature Extraction Module. In this stage, important orbital parameters such as altitude, velocity, inclination, eccentricity, and relative distance between objects are calculated. These parameters are used as input features for machine learning models that analyze orbital behavior.The fourth component is the Machine Learning Prediction Module, which applies supervised learning algorithms to classify space objects and predict potential collision risks. The model analyzes historical orbital patterns and detects anomalies that

may indicate possible conjunction events. The predictive system improves the accuracy of risk assessment compared to traditional threshold-based methods. The fifth component is the Visualization and Monitoring Module[5], which provides an interactive dashboard for users. The dashboard displays satellite and debris trajectories in both 2D and 3D environments, allowing users to monitor orbital movements in real time. Users can filter objects based on altitude, velocity, and risk level to analyze potential hazards. Finally, the Alert and Notification Module continuously monitors predicted trajectories and generates warnings when objects approach critical proximity thresholds. These alerts enable satellite operators and researchers to take preventive actions to avoid possible collisions. The overall system architecture ensures scalability, efficient data processing, and user-friendly visualization, making it suitable for academic research and future SSA applications [6].

Orbit Data was evaluated using publicly available orbital datasets obtained from space-track catalogs. The system integrates orbit propagation using the SGP4 algorithm and machine learning models for object classification and collision risk prediction [4]. Experimental evaluation was performed using historical orbital data and simulated real-time updates to measure the accuracy and reliability of the prediction model. The machine learning module was trained using processed orbital parameters such as altitude, velocity, inclination, eccentricity, and relative distance between objects. These parameters were used to identify potential conjunction events and classify debris objects based on risk levels. The trained model was evaluated using both historical training datasets and validation datasets representing simulated live orbital updates. The evaluation results demonstrate that the proposed system achieves high prediction accuracy and reliable classification performance. Table 2 summarizes the performance metrics obtained from the experimental evaluation [7].



**Figure 2 System Architecture**

#### 4. Result And Discussion

The proposed Space Debris Tracker with Real-Time

**Table 2 Machine Learning Model Performance Metrics**

Metric	Training Phase (Historical Data)	Validation Phase (Live Data)	Average / Overall
Accuracy (%)	99.5	100	99.75
Precision (%)	99.7	100	99.85
Recall (%)	99.4	100	99.7
F1-Score (%)	99.55	100	99.78

The results indicate that the machine learning model performs consistently across both training and validation phases. The high precision value demonstrates that the system can accurately identify high-risk debris objects without generating excessive false alarms. Similarly, the high recall value confirms

the model's ability to detect potential collision events effectively. In addition to predictive accuracy, the system also provides real-time visualization of satellite and debris trajectories through an interactive dashboard. The visualization module allows users to monitor orbital movements dynamically and filter objects based on altitude, velocity, and predicted risk levels [8]. This capability enhances situational awareness by presenting complex orbital data in an intuitive graphical format. The alert mechanism further improves system reliability by generating automated warnings when objects approach critical proximity thresholds. These alerts enable satellite operators and researchers to take preventive actions before potential collision events occur. Although the system demonstrates strong predictive performance, certain limitations remain. The accuracy of orbit prediction is dependent on the quality and update frequency of the TLE datasets. In addition, handling extremely large orbital catalogs may require further optimization of data processing pipelines. Future work may involve integrating additional sensor sources such as radar and optical tracking systems to improve data reliability and prediction accuracy. Overall, the experimental results confirm that the proposed system successfully combines orbit propagation, machine learning prediction, and visualization techniques to enhance Space Situational Awareness. The developed platform provides a scalable and practical solution for monitoring orbital debris and supporting safe satellite operations[9].

### 5. Future Work

Although the proposed Space Debris Tracker with Real-Time Orbit Data demonstrates promising results in real-time orbit monitoring and collision risk prediction, several enhancements can further improve the system's performance and applicability. Future research will focus on expanding the system capabilities, improving prediction accuracy, and integrating additional data sources to enhance Space Situational Awareness (SSA). One potential improvement is the integration of multi-sensor observational data, including radar, optical telescopes, and space-based sensors. These data sources can provide higher precision tracking

information and reduce uncertainties associated with TLE-based orbit propagation. Combining multiple sensor inputs through data fusion techniques can significantly enhance the reliability of debris tracking and collision prediction. Another area of future development involves the implementation of advanced machine learning and deep learning models for improved anomaly detection and trajectory prediction. Techniques such as Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks, Graph Neural Networks (GNN), and reinforcement learning can be explored to model complex orbital dynamics and predict potential collision scenarios more accurately. The current system primarily focuses on visualization and risk prediction. Future work may also include the development of automated collision avoidance recommendation systems that suggest optimal satellite maneuver strategies based on predicted conjunction events. Such intelligent decision-support systems can assist satellite operators in preventing potential collisions. Scalability is another important consideration for future improvements. As the number of satellites and debris objects continues to grow, efficient data processing techniques such as distributed computing, cloud-based processing, and edge computing frameworks can be implemented to handle large-scale orbital datasets in real time. Finally, the visualization module can be extended with advanced 3D simulation environments and augmented reality interfaces, enabling researchers and satellite operators to analyze orbital behavior more intuitively. These improvements will contribute to the development of more comprehensive and intelligent Space Situational Awareness systems. By addressing these enhancements, the proposed system can evolve into a more robust and scalable platform capable of supporting future space traffic management systems and autonomous collision avoidance frameworks[10].

### Conclusion

The increasing number of satellites and orbital debris objects in Earth's orbit has created significant challenges for safe and sustainable space operations. Traditional monitoring systems rely mainly on static orbital catalogs and periodic updates, which limits

their ability to provide accurate real-time tracking and collision prediction. In this work, a Space Debris Tracker with Real-Time Orbit Data has been proposed to improve Space Situational Awareness through the integration of orbit propagation algorithms, machine learning techniques, and interactive visualization tools. The developed system collects orbital datasets from public space-track catalogs and applies the SGP4 orbit propagation model to estimate satellite trajectories. Machine learning models are used to analyze orbital parameters and predict potential collision risks between satellites and debris objects. The platform also provides an interactive 2D and 3D visualization dashboard, enabling users to monitor satellite movements, analyze orbital behavior, and identify high-risk objects effectively. Experimental evaluation demonstrates that the proposed system achieves high prediction accuracy and reliable classification performance for debris tracking and risk assessment. The integrated alert mechanism further enhances system functionality by generating automated warnings when objects approach dangerous proximity thresholds. Overall, the proposed framework provides an efficient and scalable solution for real-time orbital monitoring and debris tracking. By combining predictive analytics with modern visualization technologies, the system contributes to improving space safety, collision avoidance strategies, and sustainable satellite operations in increasingly congested orbital environments.

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