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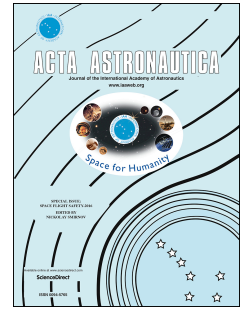
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The Edge of Space: Revisiting the Karman Line

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Abstract

In this paper I revisit proposed definitions of the boundary between the Earth's atmosphere and outer space, considering orbital and suborbital trajectories used by space vehicles. In particular, I investigate the inner edge of outer space from historical, physical and technological viewpoints and propose 80 kilometers as a more appropriate boundary than the currently popular 100 km Von Kármán line.

Keywords: astronautics, Karman line, atmosphere, mesosphere, perigee, boundaries

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