

# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	1
1.1	History of Ballooning	1
1.1.1	Advent of Balloons	1
1.1.2	First Uses for Scientific Observation	3
1.1.3	The Age of Modern Scientific Ballooning	5
1.2	Overview of Balloons	9
1.2.1	Stratospheric Balloons	9
1.2.2	Rubber Balloons	11
1.2.3	Planetary Balloons	12
1.3	Remarkable Characteristics of Scientific Ballooning	12
References		14
<b>2</b>	<b>Engineering Fundamentals of Balloons</b>	15
2.1	Buoyant Force and Attainable Altitude of Balloons	15
2.1.1	Principle of Buoyancy	15
2.1.2	Effect of Buoyancy from a Gas	16
2.1.3	Attainable Altitude	17
2.2	Balloon Configurations	19
2.2.1	Historical Background and Overview of Problems	19
2.2.2	Natural-Shape Balloon Concept	24
2.2.3	Expansion of Design Concepts for Balloons with Load Tape	34
2.3	Balloon Systems	44
2.3.1	Zero-Pressure Balloons	45
2.3.2	Super-Pressure Balloons	48
2.3.3	Special-Purpose Balloons	51
2.4	Motion of Balloons	53
2.4.1	Balloon Flight Model	55
2.4.2	Vertical Motion of Balloons	58
2.4.3	Horizontal Motion of Balloons	65
2.4.4	Balloon Heat Balance	66
References		74

<b>3</b>	<b>Stratospheric Balloons</b>	77
3.1	The Earth's Atmosphere	77
3.1.1	The Composition of the Atmosphere	77
3.1.2	Vertical Structure	78
3.1.3	Hydrostatic Equilibrium	79
3.1.4	Meridional Distribution of Temperature	82
3.1.5	Meridional Distribution of Zonal Winds	83
3.1.6	Waves in the Atmosphere	86
3.2	Balloon System Configurations	90
3.2.1	Balloon Configurations	90
3.2.2	Suspension System	93
3.2.3	Basic On-Board Equipments	98
3.2.4	Optional Equipments	101
3.3	Ground Facilities	104
3.3.1	Launch Site	104
3.3.2	Communication Facilities	105
3.3.3	Other Facilities and Equipments	109
3.4	Launch and Flight	110
3.4.1	Acquisition and Use of Meteorological Data	110
3.4.2	Injection of Lifting Gas and Balloon Launch	115
3.4.3	Flight Control	122
3.4.4	Flight Control Apparatus	125
3.4.5	Flight Termination and Payload Recovery	130
3.4.6	Long-Duration Flight Technology	131
3.4.7	Flight Safety and Security	135
3.5	The Manufacture of Balloons	137
3.5.1	Film Materials	137
3.5.2	Design	141
3.5.3	Manufacturing Process	142
3.5.4	Structural Strength	146
3.5.5	Quality Control	149
3.6	Rubber Balloons Used for Meteorological Observations	151
3.6.1	Outline of Meteorological Rubber Balloons	151
3.6.2	Ascent Speed of Rubber Balloons	154
3.6.3	Achievable Altitudes of Rubber Balloons	155
3.7	Utilization of Balloons	156
3.7.1	Scientific Observations	156
3.7.2	Engineering Experiments	161
3.7.3	Routine Meteorological Observations	163
	References	171
<b>4</b>	<b>Planetary Ballooning</b>	173
4.1	Atmospheres of Planets	173
4.1.1	Atmospheres of Terrestrial Planets	173
4.1.2	Atmospheres of Jovian Planets	176

4.2	Background of Planetary Ballooning .....	177
4.2.1	Characteristics of Planetary Balloons .....	177
4.2.2	History of Planetary Ballooning .....	178
4.2.3	Peculiarities of Planetary Balloons .....	178
4.3	Examples of Planetary Balloons .....	179
4.3.1	Venus Balloons .....	179
4.3.2	Mars Balloons .....	188
4.3.3	Other Balloons .....	190
4.4	Scientific Observations Through Planetary Ballooning .....	190
4.4.1	Photographic and Spectroscopic Observation of Planetary Surfaces .....	191
4.4.2	Meteorological Observation .....	191
4.4.3	Measurement of Atmospheric Components .....	191
4.4.4	Measurement of Remnant Magnetism .....	192
4.4.5	Observation of Lightning and Radar Exploration .....	192
	References .....	192
<b>5</b>	<b>The Future of Scientific Ballooning .....</b>	<b>195</b>
5.1	Future Trends in Balloon Technology .....	195
5.1.1	Payload Weight, Flight Duration, and Flight Altitude .....	195
5.1.2	Long-Duration Balloon Flight Technology .....	196
5.1.3	Control of Flight Path .....	196
5.1.4	Applications to Information Networks .....	196
5.1.5	Planetary Balloons .....	197
5.2	Future Trends in Balloon Applications .....	198
5.2.1	Increasing the Scale of Experimental and Observation Systems .....	198
5.2.2	The New Role of Balloons in the Satellite Era .....	198
5.3	Effects of Balloon Technology on Other Fields .....	200
5.3.1	Linkage with Airship Technology .....	200
5.3.2	Applications to Space Structures .....	200
5.3.3	Applications to Ground Structures .....	201
	References .....	202
	Table Talk 1: How Archimedes Demonstrated the Existence of Buoyant Force .....	18
	Table Talk 2: Another Natural-Shape Balloon Formulation .....	43
	Table Talk 3: Balloon Recovery in Japan is Hard Work .....	136
	Table Talk 4: Leave it up to the Wind when Flying, Leave it up to the Feet when Manufacturing .....	150
	Table Talk 5 Tateno Aerological Observatory: Making a Mark on History .....	170
	Table Talk 6: Where Research is Presented .....	201
	<b>Appendices .....</b>	<b>205</b>
	<b>Abbreviations .....</b>	<b>209</b>
	<b>Index .....</b>	<b>211</b>