

Satellite Periods

The period of a satellite is the time taken for an artificial satellite or a natural celestial body to make a full orbit around the planet or star it is orbiting.

There are 2271 artificial satellites orbiting our Earth (not including all space debris that orbits the Earth too) and the altitude of each satellite affects the size of its period.

For example, the International Space Station orbits at an average altitude of 400km above the Earth, this means that the period of the ISS is 92.65 minutes.

If a satellite is further away from the earth then it will take a longer time to completely orbit the Earth, this is because it has a larger distance to travel compared to a satellite at a lower altitude from than it.