#### Seminar 5

# Antecedents to the Apollo Program Rocket Propulsion and Staging

FRS 148, Princeton University
Robert Stengel

- The Satellite Decision
- "A New Era of History" and a Media Riot
- The Birth of NASA

# Chemical Rocket Fundamentals Multi-Stage Rockets

... the Heavens and the Earth, Ch 5 to 7 Understanding Space, Sec 14.2

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## The Satellite Decision

## Eisenhower and the Cynical Critic





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## President Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1953-61

"The Chance for Peace" Address American Society of Newspaper Editors April 16, 1953

http://www.eisenhower.archives.gov/all\_about\_ike/speeches/chance\_for\_peace.pdf

"IN THIS SPRING of 1953 the free world weighs one question above all others: the chance for a just peace for all peoples....

...another recent moment of great decision.... that yet more hopeful spring of 1945, bright with the promise of victory and of freedom.... a just and lasting peace....

This common purpose lasted an instant and perished. The nations of the world divided to follow two distinct roads. The United States and our valued friends, the other free nations, chose one road. The leaders of the Soviet Union chose another....

We are ready, in short, to dedicate our strength to serving the needs, rather than the fears, of the world....."



## The Killian Report (1954)

- Period I (54-55)
  - Vulnerability to attack
  - Lack of reliable warning
  - Inadequate air defense
  - Growing Soviet bomber force
- Period II (56-60)
  - Great offensive advantage of US
  - Opportunity for diplomatic initiatives
- *Period III (60-?)* 
  - Rapid increase in Soviet bombers
- Period IV (--)
  - Mutually assured retaliation and destruction

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#### DEW Line and the CIA's U-2

- Need for warning and surveillance
- Secret overflights of the Soviet Union







http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Space\_policy\_of\_the\_United\_States | 6

#### Post-World War II US Rocketry

- 1945-54: Von Braun team to US Army
  - (V-2 + JPL 2<sup>nd</sup> stage) flies to space
  - Satellite launch studies
  - Redstone missile based on V-2
  - · Viking scientific sounding rocket
- 1954: Recognition of need for military surveillance satellites







#### Post-World War II US Rocketry

- 1955: Decision to launch "civilian" satellite during International Geophysical Year
  - · Political implications of overflight
  - No concern to be 1<sup>st</sup> to
  - Project Orbiter based on Redstone
  - Project Vanguard based on Viking





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#### IGY, Politics, and Defense



- USSR and US stated intent to orbit a satellite
- Proposed US scientific satellite launchers
  - Redstone
  - Vanguard
  - Atlas
- What led to the choice of Vanguard for IGY?
- Which were more important to US: military or scientific satellites?

#### Post-World War II US Rocketry

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### Ike's Policies and Style

- Budget surplus
  - Sound economy
  - adequate defense
  - unmortgaged future
- Dominant boss, but seen as slothful and senile
- Fiscally conservative, but challenged by need for progress
- "... get the Federal Government out of every unnecessary activity."
- Sputnik demanded a response in kind
- Eisenhower space policy: sufficiency not superiority

# Post-World War II Intermediate-Range and Inter-Continental Ballistic Missiles









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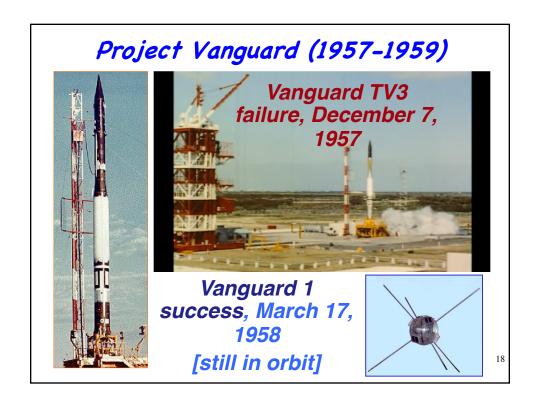
# Post-WW II Science Fact and Fiction Catalyzed human imagination





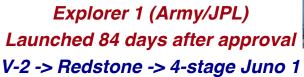
"A New Era of History" and a Media Riot





# Project Orbiter Resurrected (January 31, 1958)





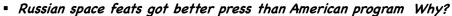


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# Cuter Belt 12,000 = 25,000 miles GPS Satellines 12,500 miles GROSynchronous Orbit (CSO) NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory 22,000 miles Discovered by Explorer 1 Van Allein Probe-B

## Frenzy and Realpolitik

- Eisenhower: affable but simple?
- Rise of LBJ as Senate Majority Leader
  - What did he know about space?
- Public response to Sputniks
- LBJ "scoops people like peanuts"
- The space race was "on"



- Bureaucratic response,
- Frenzy, journalistic excess
- Academics supported increased support for education!
- Rockefeller admonition
- Politics and publicity
- Sputnik as a "durable permacrisis" Eisenhower on the defensive

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# Sputnik 3, May 15, 1958



IGY Geophysical payload, R-7 launcher 1,327 kg

#### The Birth of NASA

National Defense Education Act (1958), National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958

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# Research, Development, and Education

- NSF supposed to support basic science, diminishing the role of DOD and AEC
  - but NSF was not given an adequate budget
- <u>1957</u>: Scientists advise Ike that R&D should be funded by the military
  - WHICH scientists?
- Presidential Assistant for Science and Technology
- NDEA of 1958 designed as a stopgap, following GI Bill
- Attacks on Dewey's "Progressive Education"
- Some Southerners advocated increased educational support but feared forced integration

#### Technology vs. Politics?

- Former Harvard president Conant
  - "What will be needed is not more engineers and scientists but ... political leaders of wisdom, courage, and devotion"
  - . Eisenhower agreed
  - Then-current Harvard president Pusey disagreed
- Concern for ability to deliver nuclear weapons
- NACA slumping by mid-50s
- USAF took the lead in "X-Plane" programs
- Little NACA funding for space as late as 1955
  - "Skeptical, conservative, and reticent," von Karman
- NACA budget shrank steadily after WWII
  - no powerful allies
  - channeled only 2% of its budget to contractors
- Military pleased to take up the slack
  - Army and Navy were racing to launch the first satellite
  - where was the Air Force?
- President's Science Advisory Committee (PSAC): 2 goals in space
  - exploration
  - control (of what?)
- 1957: NACA space budget increased by 20%, a timid US response to Sputnik

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#### Struggle Among Government Agencies

- Sentiment for AEC to take the lead
- 15-year plan, booster development by ABMA (von Braun),
  - cognizance for JPL
- USAF: X-15, Atlas, Thor, Agena for WS-117L
- Navy: Vanguard and Polaris
- Killian (MIT president), President's Science Advisory Committee (PSAC)
- Congress's influence on space policy
- Major goals of spaceflight seen as scientific and political, favoring civilian agency for non-military goals But NACA was too small
- National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958 split responsibilities between the new NASA and DOD Did not commit US to a space race
- USAF was not happy about the split, even rallied existing NACA to its side regarding R&D responsibilities NACA reluctant to take quasi-military responsibilities
- Different bills in House and Senate committees, have to be resolved

#### 1958 State of the Union Address

- Communist imperialism still the threat
- No "call to arms" but waging total cold war



- 7 points:
  - defense reorganization
  - accelerated R&D
  - mutual aid to allies
  - increased trade with allies
  - scientific cooperation with allies
  - increased investment in education and research
  - supplemental appropriations for defense

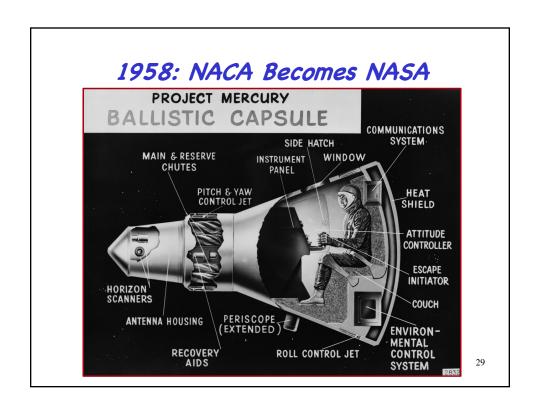
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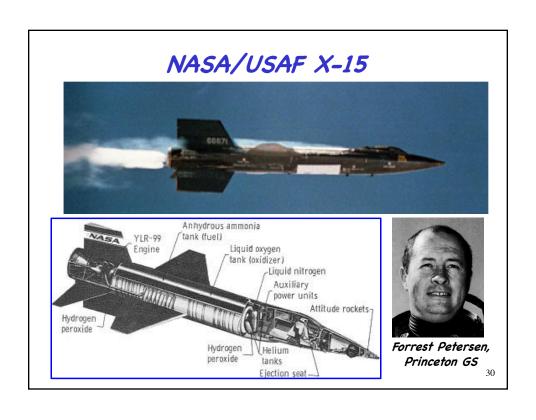
#### NACA Rocket X-Planes

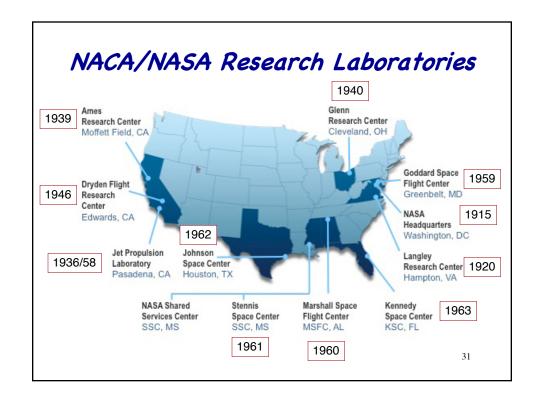








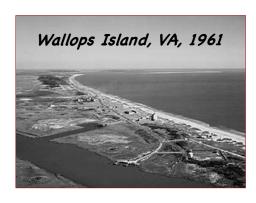




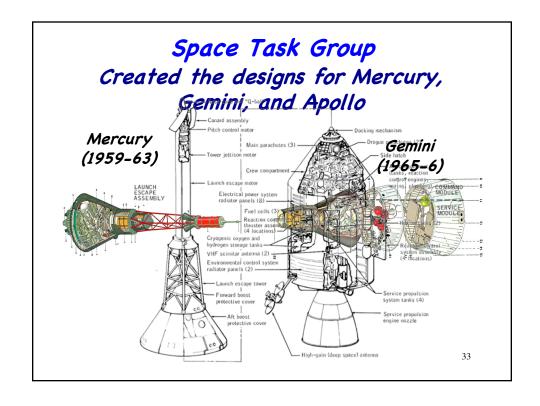
## Human Space Flight

■ NACA Langley <u>Pilotless</u> Aircraft Research Division evolved to the ...

■ NASA Space Task Group







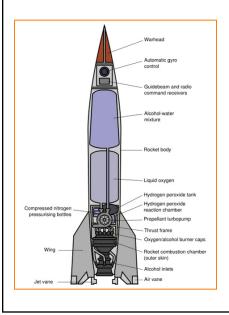
# Space Task Group became the NASA Manned Spacecraft (Johnson Space) Center, Houston



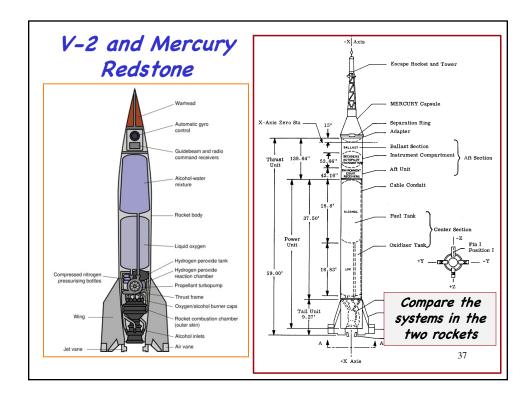
# Rocket Propulsion and Staging

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# Single-Stage Launch Vehicle Systems



- Propulsion and Power
  - -Main engines
  - Turbo-pumps
  - -Batteries, fuel cells
  - -Pressurizing bottles
- Structure
  - -Skin, frames,
  - -Propellant tanks
  - -Fins, control surfaces
  - -Heat shield, insulation
- Electronics
  - Computers
  - -Sensors and actuators
  - Transmitters and receivers
  - Transponders
- Payload



### Chemical (Thermal) Rockets



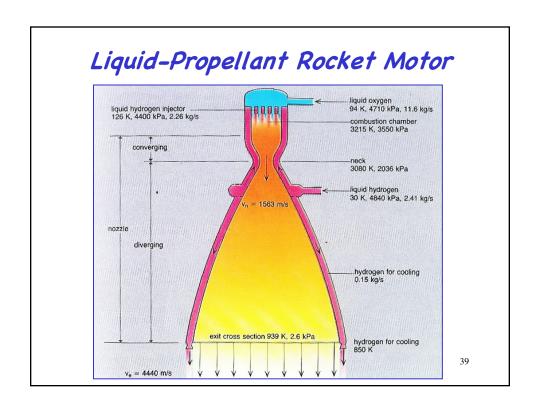
- Liquid/Gas Propellant
  - -Monopropellant
    - Catalytic ignition
    - Chemical decomposition
  - -Bipropellant
    - Separate oxidizer and fuel
    - Hypergolic (spontaneous) ignition
    - External ignition
    - Storage
      - Ambient temperature and pressure
      - Cryogenic
      - Pressurized tank
  - Throttlable
  - -Start/stop cycling

#### • Solid Propellant

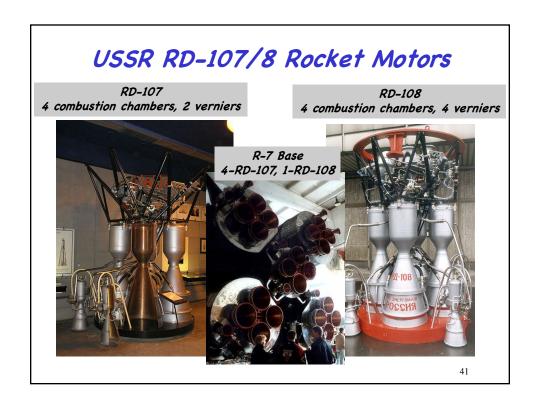
- -Mixed oxidizer and fuel
- -External ignition
- -Burn to completion

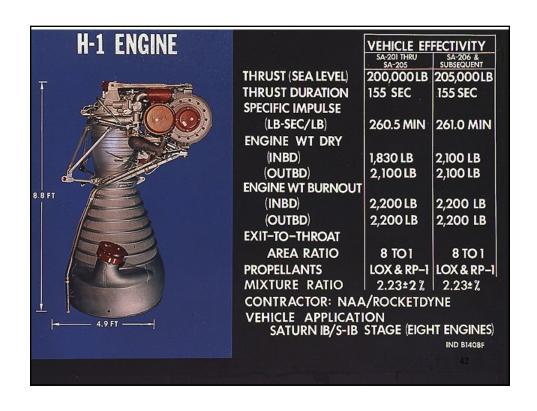
#### • Hybrid Propellant

- -Liquid oxidizer, solid fuel
- Throttlable
- -Start/stop cycling

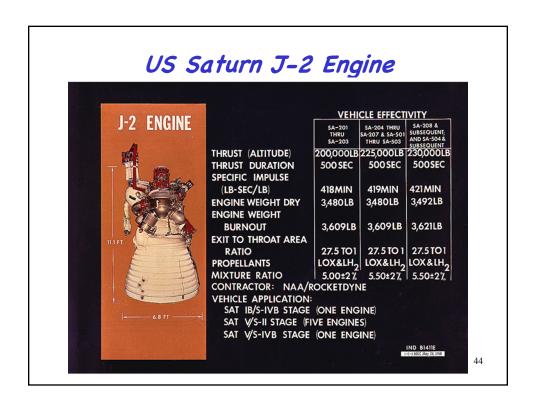


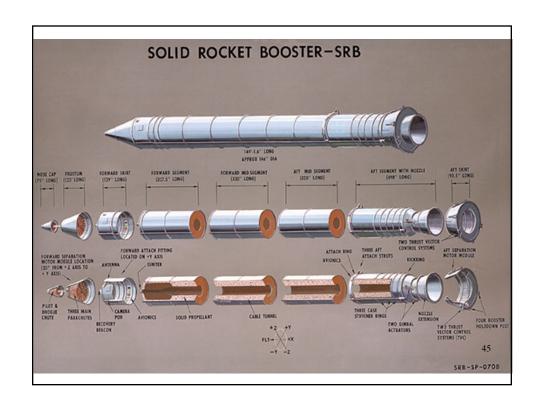




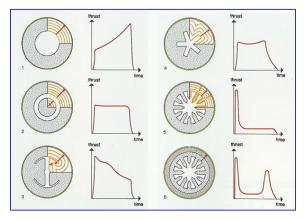








## Solid-Propellant Rocket Grain and Thrust Profile

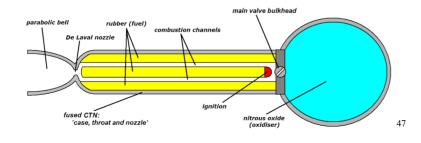


Thrust is proportional to burning area
Rocket grain patterns affect thrust profile
Propellant chamber must sustain high pressure and temperature
Environmentally unfriendly exhaust gas

# Hybrid-Fuel Rocket Motor

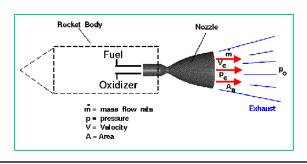


- SpaceShipOne motor
  - Nitrous oxide
  - Hydroxy-terminated polybutadiene (HTPB)
- Issues
  - Hard start
  - Blow back
  - Complete mixing of oxidizer and fuel to completion



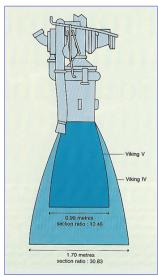
#### Rocket Thrust

Thrust = 
$$\dot{m}_{propellant}V_{exhaust} + A_{exit}\left(p_{exit} - p_{ambient}\right)$$
  
 $\triangleq \dot{m} \ c_{eff}$   
 $c_{eff} = \frac{Thrust}{\dot{m}} =$ Effective exhaust velocity  
 $\dot{m} \equiv$ Mass flow rate of on - board propellant



#### Rocket Nozzles

- Expansion ratio, A<sub>e</sub>/A<sub>t</sub> , chosen to match exhaust pressure to average ambient pressure
  - Ariane rockets: Viking V for sea level, Viking IV for high altitude
- Rocket nozzle types
  - DeLaval nozzle
  - Isentropic expansion nozzle
  - Spike/plug nozzles
  - Expansion-deflection nozzle



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## Specific Impulse

$$I_{sp} = \frac{Thrust}{\dot{m} g_o} = \frac{c_{eff}}{g_o}, \quad Units = \frac{m/s}{m/s^2} = s$$

 $g_o \equiv Gravitational \ acceleration \ at \ earth's \ surface$ 

g<sub>o</sub> is a normalizing factor for the definition Chemical rocket specific impulse (vacuum)

> Solid propellants: < 295 s Liquid propellants: < 510 s

• Space Shuttle Specific Impulses

- -Solid boosters: 242-269 s
- -Main engines: 455 s
- -OMS: 313 s
- -RCS: 260-280 s

# Specific Impulse

• Specific impulse is a product of characteristic velocity, c\*, and rocket thrust coefficient, CF

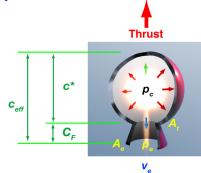
$$I_{sp} = \frac{Thrust}{\dot{m} g_o} = \frac{c_{eff}}{g_o} = C_F c */g_o = \frac{V_{exhaust}}{g_o}$$

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# Specific Impulse



- Characteristic velocity is related to
  - combustion chamber performance
  - propellant characteristics
- Thrust coefficient is related to
  - nozzle shape
  - exit/ambient pressure differential





when  $C_F = 1$ ,  $p_e = p_{ambient}$ 



#### Rockets 101

- Initial mass:
  - Payload
  - Structure, Systems
  - Rocket motors
  - Propellant
- Final mass:
  - Initial mass less propellant
- Final velocity depends on <u>mass</u> ratio, initial to final mass, µ

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## The Rocket Equation

Ideal velocity increment of a rocket stage,  $\Delta V_I$  (gravity and aerodynamic effects neglected)

Acceleration = 
$$\frac{dV}{dt} = \frac{Thrust}{m} = \frac{\dot{m} c_{eff}}{m} = -\frac{\frac{dm}{dt} I_{sp} g_o}{m}$$

$$\int_{V_{i}}^{V_{f}} dV = -I_{sp} g_{o} \int_{m_{i}}^{m_{f}} dm / m = -I_{sp} g_{o} \ln m \Big|_{m_{i}}^{m_{f}}$$

$$(V_f - V_i) \equiv \Delta V_I = I_{sp} g_o \ln \left(\frac{m_i}{m_f}\right) \equiv I_{sp} g_o \ln \mu$$

# Ratios Characterizing a Rocket Stage

Mass ratio

$$\mu = \frac{m_{initial}}{m_{final}}$$

Payload ratio (as large as possible)

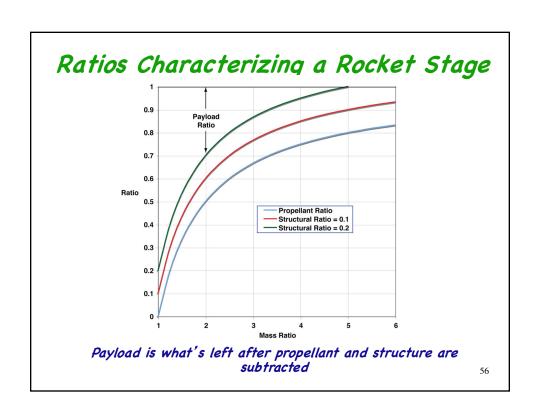
Structural ratio (typically 0.1 - 0.2)

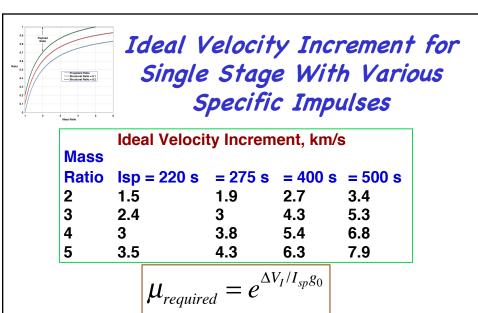
Propellant ratio

For a single stage

$$\lambda = \frac{m_{payload}}{m_{initial}}$$
 $\eta = \frac{m_{structure/engine}}{m_{initial}}$ 
 $\varepsilon = \frac{m_{propellant}}{m_{initial}} = \frac{\mu - 1}{\mu}$ 

$$\lambda + \eta + \varepsilon = 1$$





Single stage to orbit with payload  $(\Delta V_{\tau} \sim 7.3 \text{ km/s})$ ? Not easy.

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# Required Mass Ratio for Various Velocity Increments

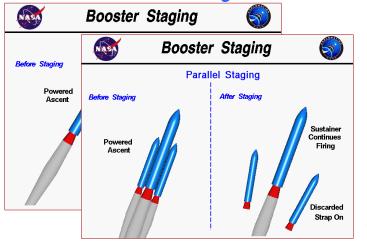
 $\mu_{required} = e^{\Delta V_I/I_{sp}g_0}$ 

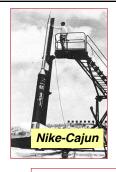
	Required Mass Ratio			
Ideal Velocity	-			
Increment, km/s	lsp = 240 s	= 400 s		
7	19.6	6.0		
8	29.9	7.7		
9	45.7	9.9		
10	69.9	12.8		
11	106.9	16.5		
12	163.5	21.3		

... and there are velocity losses due to gravity and aerodynamic drag



Final mass can be reduced by getting rid of structure when no longer needed





# Ideal Velocity Increment of a 2-Stage Rocket

$$\Delta V_I = \left(I_{sp}\right)_1 g_o \ln\left(\frac{m_i}{m_f}\right)_1 + \left(I_{sp}\right)_2 g_o \ln\left(\frac{m_i}{m_f}\right)_2$$

$$\triangleq g_o \left[\left(I_{sp}\right)_1 \ln \mu_1 + \left(I_{sp}\right)_2 \ln \mu_2\right]$$

μ<sub>i</sub> is the <u>mass ratio</u> of the j<sup>th</sup> stage

## Ideal Velocity Increment for a Multiple-Stage Rocket

• Ideal velocity increment of an n-stage rocket

$$\Delta V_I = g_o \sum_{j=1}^n (I_{sp})_j \ln \mu_j$$



• Optimal ideal velocity increment with equal specific impulses

$$\Delta V_I = I_{sp} g_o \ln(\mu_1 \bullet \mu_2 \bullet \dots \mu_n) \equiv I_{sp} g_o \ln(\mu_{overall})$$
$$= I_{sp} g_o \ln \mu^n$$

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# Required Mass Ratios for Multiple-Stage Rockets

- Staging reduces mass ratios to achievable values
- With equal specific impulses for each stage

	Required Mass Ratio					
Ideal Velocity	Single Stag	je	Two Stages		Three Stages	;
Increment, km/s	Isp = 240 s	= 400 s	Isp = 240 s	= 400 s	Isp = 240 s	= 400 s
7	19.6	6.0	4.4	2.4	2.7	1.8
8	29.9	7.7	5.5	2.8	3.1	2.0
9	45.7	9.9	6.8	3.1	3.6	2.1
10	69.9	12.8	8.4	3.6	4.1	2.3
11	106.9	16.5	10.3	4.1	4.7	2.5
12	163.5	21.3	12.8	4.6	5.5	2.8

# Overall Payload Ratio of a Multiple-Stage Rocket

$$\lambda_{overall} = \frac{\left(m_{payload}\right)_{n}}{\left(m_{initial}\right)_{1}} = \frac{\left(m_{payload}\right)_{n}}{\left(m_{initial}\right)_{n}} \bullet \frac{\left(m_{payload}\right)_{n-1}}{\left(m_{initial}\right)_{n-1}} \bullet \dots \frac{\left(m_{payload}\right)_{1}}{\left(m_{initial}\right)_{1}} = \lambda_{1} \bullet \lambda_{2} \bullet \dots \lambda_{n}$$

Feasible design goal: Choose stage mass ratios to maximize overall payload ratio

Scout 63

## Scout Launch Vehicle

• Liftoff mass = 16,450 kg

<b>Typical Figures</b>
for Scout

	Isp, s, vac	Mass	<b>Payload</b>
Stage	(SL)	Ratio	Ratio
1 (Algol)	284 (238)	2.08	0.358
2 (Castor)	262 (232)	2.33	0.277
3 (Antares)	295	2.53	0.207
4 (Altair)	280	2.77	0.207

- Overall mass ratio = 34
- Overall payload ratio = 0.00425 = 0.425% (67-kg payload)



Structural	Impact
Ratio	Range, km
0.123	~60
0.152	~250
0.189	~2500
0.154	Orbit
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# Payload Ratios of a Two-Stage Rocket

• For equal specific impulses

$$\Delta V_I = I_{sp} g_o \left[ \ln \mu_1 + \ln \mu_2 \right]$$
$$= I_{sp} g_o \left[ \ln \mu_1 \mu_2 \right] = I_{sp} g_o \left[ \ln \mu_{overall} \right]$$

• Payload ratios for different structural ratios

$$\lambda_1 = \frac{1}{\mu_1} - \eta_1 = \frac{1 - \mu_1 \eta_1}{\mu_1}; \quad \lambda_2 = \frac{1 - \mu_2 \eta_2}{\mu_2}$$

Propulsion and Staging Considerations http://www.princeton.edu/~stengel/Prop.pdf

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# Maximum Payload Ratio of a Two-Stage Rocket

• Overall payload ratio

$$\lambda_{overall} = \lambda_1 \lambda_2 = \frac{(1 - \mu_1 \eta_1)(1 - \mu_2 \eta_2)}{\mu_{overall}}$$

• Condition for a maximum with respect to first stage mass ratio

$$\frac{\partial \lambda_{overall}}{\partial \mu_{1}} = \frac{\left(-\eta_{1} + \frac{\mu_{overall}\eta_{2}}{\mu_{1}^{2}}\right)}{\mu_{overall}} = 0$$

# Maximum Payload Ratio of a Two-Stage Rocket

#### Stage mass ratios

$$\mu_1 = \sqrt{\mu_{overall} \frac{\eta_2}{\eta_1}}; \quad \mu_2 = \sqrt{\mu_{overall} \frac{\eta_1}{\eta_2}}$$

#### Optimal payload ratio

$$\lambda_{overall} = \frac{1}{\mu_{overall}} - 2\sqrt{\frac{\eta_1 \eta_2}{\mu_{overall}}} + \eta_1 \eta_2$$

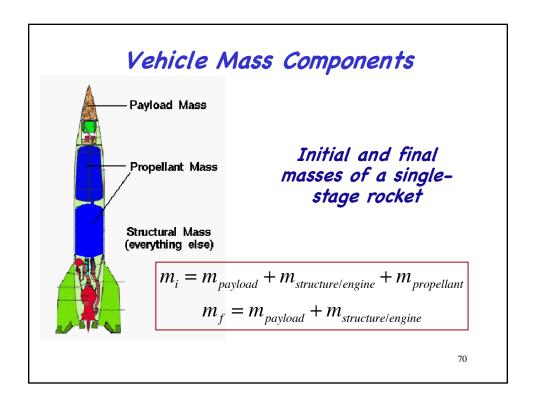
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#### Next Time:

#### Apollo & the Space Race:

... The Heavens and the Earth, Ch 10, Part 3 Conclusion A Man on the Moon, Ch 1 to 3, Part 1 Interplanetary Travel: Understanding Space, Ch 6, Sec 7.1, 7.2

# Supplemental Material



# Typical Values of Specific Impulse

- Chamber pressure = 7 MPa (low by modern standards)
- Expansion to exit pressure = 0.1 MPa

Liquid-Fuel Rockets			
•			VIsp, kg-
Monopropellant		lsp, s	s/m^3 x 10^3
Hydrogen Peroxide		165	238
Hydrazine		199	201
Nitromethane		255	290
Bipropellant			
• •			VIsp, kg-
Fuel	Oxidizer	lsp, s	s/m^3 x 10^3
Kerosene	Oxygen	301	307
	Flourine	320	394
	Red Fuming		
	Nitric Acid	268	369
Hydrogen	Oxygen	390	109
	Flourine	410	189
	Nitrogen		
UDMH	Tetroxide	286	339



•		VIsp, kg-
Double-Base	lsp, s	s/m^3 x 10^3
AFU	196	297
ATN	235	376
JPN	250	405
Composite		
JPL 540A	231	383
TRX-H609	245	431
PBAN (SSV)	260	461

Hybrid-Fuel Rocket			
Fuel	Oxidizer	lsp, s	
HTPB	N2O	250	

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# Rocket Characteristic Velocity, c\*

$$c^* = \frac{1}{\Gamma} \sqrt{\frac{R_o T_c}{M}}$$

where

$$\Gamma = \sqrt{\gamma} \left( \frac{2}{\gamma + 1} \right)^{\frac{\gamma + 1}{2(\gamma - 1)}}$$

 $R_o = universal\ gas\ constant = 8.3 \times 10^3\ kg\ m^2/s^2\ ^\circ K$ 

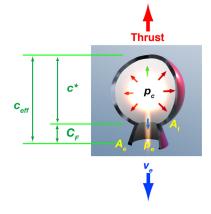
 $T_c = chamber\ temperature, °K$ 

M = exhaust gas mean molecular weight

 $\gamma$  = ratio of specific heats ( $\sim 1.2-1.4$ )

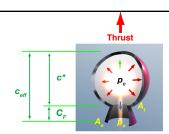
# Rocket Characteristic Velocity, c\*

$$c^* = \frac{p_c A_t}{\dot{m}} = \text{exhaust velocity if } C_F = 1$$



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# Rocket Thrust Coefficient, C<sub>F</sub>



$$C_F = \frac{Thrust}{p_c A_t}$$
where

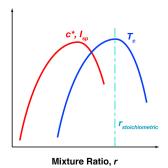
Thrust =  $\lambda \dot{m} v_e + A_e (p_e - p_{ambient})$  $\lambda = reduction \ ratio \ (function \ of \ nozzle \ shape)$ 

$$C_{F} = \lambda \Gamma \sqrt{\left(\frac{2\gamma}{\gamma - 1}\right) \left[1 - \left(\frac{p_{e}}{p_{c}}\right)^{(\gamma - 1)/\gamma}\right]} + \left(\frac{p_{e} - p_{ambient}}{p_{c}}\right) \frac{A_{e}}{A_{t}}$$

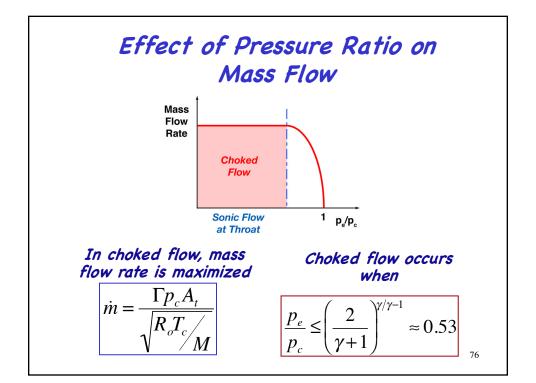
• typically,  $0.5 < C_F < 2$ 

# Mixture Ratio, r

- Stoichiometric mixture: complete chemical reaction of propellants
- Specific impulse maximized with lean mixture ratio, r (i.e., below stoichiometric maximum)

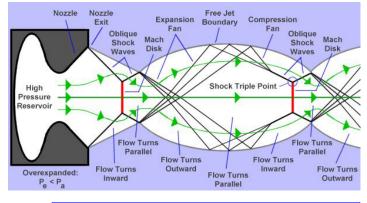


$$r = \frac{\dot{m}_{oxidizer}}{\dot{m}_{fuel}}; \quad \dot{m}_{fuel} = \frac{\dot{m}_{total}}{1+r}; \quad "leaner" < r < "richer"$$



#### Shock Diamonds

When  $p_e \neq p_a$ , exhaust flow is over- or underexpanded Effective exhaust velocity < maximum value





https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qiMSko4HBe8

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# Volumetric Specific Impulse

Specific impulse

$$\Delta V_{I} = I_{sp}g_{o} \ln \mu = I_{sp}g_{o} \ln \left(\frac{m_{final} + m_{propellant}}{m_{final}}\right) = I_{sp}g_{o} \ln \left(1 + \frac{m_{propellant}}{m_{final}}\right)$$

$$=I_{sp}g_{o}\ln\left(1+\frac{Density_{propellant}\bullet Volume_{propellant}}{m_{final}}\right)$$

$$\approx g_o I_{sp} \left( \frac{\rho_{propellant} \bullet Volume_{propellant}}{m_{final}} \right) = g_o \left( I_{sp} \rho_{propellant} \right) \frac{Volume_{propellant}}{m_{final}}$$

Volumetric specific impulse portrays propellant density as well as performance

$$VI_{sp} \triangleq I_{sp} \rho_{propellant}$$

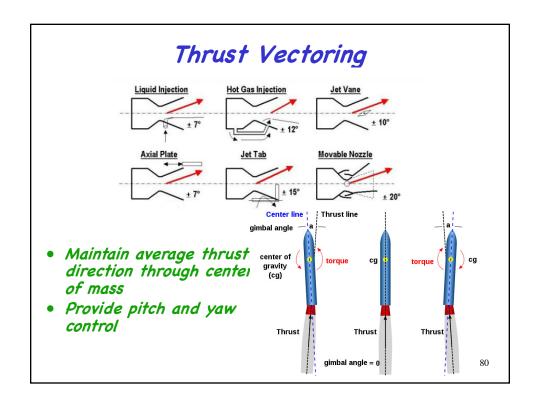
# Volumetric Specific Impulse

• For <u>fixed volume and final mass</u>, increasing volumetric specific impulse increases ideal velocity increment



	Density,	Isp, s,	VIsp, s,	lsp, s,	VIsp, s,
	g/cc	SL	SL	vac	vac
LOX/Kerosene	1.3	265	345	304	395
LOX/LH2 (Saturn V)	0.28	360	101	424	119
LOX/LH2 (Shuttle)	0.28	390	109	455	127
Shuttle Solid Booster	1.35	242	327	262	354

- Saturn V Specific Impulses, vacuum (sea level)
  - -1st Stage, 5 F-1 LOX-Kerosene Engines: 304 s (265 s)
  - -2<sup>nd</sup> Stage, 5 J-2 LOX-LH2 Engines: 424 s (~360 s)
  - -3rd Stage, 1 J-2 LOX-LH2 Engine: 424 s (~360 s)



# Strap-On Boosters • High volumetric specific impulse is desirable for first stage of multi-stage rocket • Strap-on solid rocket boosters are a cost-effective way to increase mass and payload ratios

