











AFRL

Future Technologies - Big Bets

















X-15

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- ★ Joint NACA, USAF, Navy program; North American Aviation selected Sep 55
- ★ 3 flight vehicles produced; 199 flights; 1 fatality
- ★ Conventional aero controls plus reaction control system
- ★ Heat sink structure w/ Inconel X skin; ablative with sealant for high Mach
- ★ Initially 2 XLR-11 engines (16 Klb thrust); later XLR-99 engine (67 Klb thrust)
- ★ First application of hypersonic theory & wind tunnel work to actual flight
- * Max altitude: 354,200 feet on 22 Aug 1963
- * Max Mach: 6.72 on 3 Oct 1967
- ★ Type 4 SBLI w HRE



National Aero Space Plane (NASP)

- ★ Overly ambitious program for HTHL single stage to orbit, 1986 1995
- ★ Highly integrated air breathing propulsion system from SLS to Mach 25
- ★ High reliance on CFD; eliminate wind tunnel testing
- ★ No intermediate demonstrations for key components/subsystems





X-51 Flight Test Summary

Four Powered Flights over Three Years (May '10 – May '13)

First Flight: May 26th, 2010

- 143 seconds of scramjet operation
- Peak Mach of 4.87; 150 nm travelled
- Seal / nozzle breach ended flight early

Second Flight: June 13th, 2011

- Engine "unstarted" nine seconds after scramjet ignition
 Post-flight investigation and ground testing yielded
- several scramjet operability lessons learned

Third Flight: August 14th, 2012

 Run-away control fin actuator and loss of control prior to engine light

Fourth Flight: May 1st, 2013

- Full duration flight: ~209 seconds of scramjet operation and 377 seconds of controlled flight
- Peak Mach of 5.1; ~240 nm travelled in six minutes

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Hypersonics – Basic Features

★ Basic:

 High Mach number flight through atmospheric medium

★ Distinguishing Features:

- ♦ Thin Shock Layer → region between shock wave and vehicle surface
- ♦ Entropy Layer → strong entropy gradients leading to significant vorticity generation and propagation
- \diamond Viscous Interaction \rightarrow standard BLT analysis fails
- ♦ High Temperature Effects
 - 🛪 Thermal & chemical non-equilibrium
- ♦ Possibly Low-Density Flow → Knudsen number



<image>





Heating in Hypersonic Flow * Approximate Heating Formula * Generic approximation resulting from boundary layer theory (similarity analysis) $q_w = \rho_{\infty}^N V_{\infty}^M C$ * Example: Inserting parameters for stagnation point $q_w = \frac{1.83 \times 10^{-8}}{\sqrt{R}} \rho_{\infty}^{\frac{1}{2}} V_{\infty}^3 (1 - \frac{h_w}{h_0}) \frac{W}{cm^2}$

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Things to Note * Understanding the physics of hypersonics is key to technology development * Accurate modeling of relevant physics prevents disasters * Application/mission of a hypersonic system determines relevant physics * Relevant physics in hypersonics strongly influence system design and performance (not to mention cost, operability, ...)





🖌 🛦 🗤 Conceptual Design

Abstract Creation

THE AIR FORCE RESEARCH LABORATORY

Theoretical Drawing

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ent shall be referred to AFRL/RQH.

"Conceptual modelling is the abstraction of a simulation model from the part of the real world it is representing ('the real system'). The real system may, or may not, currently exist. Abstraction implies the need for simplification of the real system and for assumptions about what is not known about the real system. In other words, all simulation models are simplifications of the real world. The *secret to good conceptual modelling is to get the level of simplification correct*, that is, <u>to abstract at the right level</u>."

- Robinson, "Conceptual Modeling for Simulation," Proc. of the 2013 Winter Simulation Conference

- ☆ Conceptual Design has a slightly different meaning from one organization to another. It depends on your purpose for the work
- ★ Generally conceptual design is intended for *design space exploration*, that is testing out multiple options before down-selecting the *system concept*.

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Auss Fidelity Fairness AFRL Fidelity Review Timeframe Weeks (1-4) System Initiation rapid assessment of system architectures (generally no geometry). Conceptual Design Subsystem Pre-Conceptual Months (2-6) 2 Component Conceptual (CoDR) Months (6-18) refined assessment of as-drawn system & subsystem design 3 Preliminary (PDR) Part preliminary assessment of as-drawn system, subsystem & component design Years (1-5) 4 Part Detailed (CDR) detailed assessment of as-drawn system, subsystem, component & part design Years (3-7) 42











Design Considerations

★ Consider two basic types:

- Vehicle placed into orbit with rocket propulsion system, then returns as an unpowered glider.
 - ☆Apollo Command Module.
 - *Space Shuttle, Russian Buran, European Hermes.
- ♦ Vehicle powered by air-breathing propulsion system.
 - ☆NASP, some current TAV's.
 - Trajectory represents a compromise between propulsion requirements & heating.

Design must consider relative importance of hypersonic flow parameters such as physical chemistry, viscous interactions, BL transition, etc.

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Air-breathing Vehicles **★** Vehicle powered by air-breathing propulsion system must consider: *♦Aerothermodynamic environment.* ♦ Propulsion system integration. *♦ Structure and structural dynamics.* ♦ Flight control system integration. **★** Technical problems are multi-disciplinary to first-order! **★** Must integrate highly-coupled interacting elements to achieve desired performance. 2021 50



Design Considerations

- ★ Range \rightarrow cruise efficiency (Breguet factor).
- \star Propulsion \rightarrow specific impulse for various engine cycles, fuel characteristics, etc.
 - ♦ Practical, near term design will likely utilize more than one mode of propulsion to operate efficiently over a wide range of Mach number.

★ Control & Stability

Leads to different shapes at hypersonic speeds

★ Aerothermodynamics:

- Temperature and heating become critical; blunt shapes common (required in some cases)
- Climb, cruise, landing trajectories.
- ♦ Fuel consumption, maximum dynamic-pressure
- Fully coupled interactions between aerodynamic, structural, and propulsive systems Engine-Airframe integration is key
- ♦ Heating: Very severe on ascent and considerable on return (e.g. NASP).

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Design Tools & Process

***** Theoretical Analyses.

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- **★** Computational Fluid Physics.
- **★** Ground-Based Testing & Experimentation.
- ★ Flight Tests (scale models, full-scale).
- ★ Ultimately, only flight of full-scale vehicle at actual conditions provides true representation (expensive, time consuming, and high risk).
- ★ Optimum configuration will require fully integrated multidisciplinary approach.

Recognize the strengths and weaknesses of each tool and range of applicability!

