

Typical selection criteria for the re-entry vehicle type and shape

- Maximum deceleration (depends on ballistic factor C_B and glide ratio L/D)
- Cross-range capability (depends on glide ratio L/D)
- Variability of Landing site location (depend on L/D and maximum allowable g)
- Complexity (winged vehicles are most complex, ballistic capsules least complex)
- Expendable versus reusable design
- Cost (complex, reusable design means high development cost, expendable design means high operational cost)