

Equations

Stages of Flight:

1. Liftoff and Powered Flight
2. Coasting Flight
3. Descent
 - a. With Parachute
 - b. Other Recovery Methods

Key for all equations (unless otherwise mentioned):

\vec{T} : Thrust Vector

\vec{F}_D : Drag Force Vector

\vec{a} : Acceleration Vector of the Rocket

\vec{g} : Acceleration Vector of the Earth's Gravity

m : Current Mass of the Rocket

t : Time Elapsed since Launch

θ : Angle of the Current Heading

General Equations

Thrust Vector Function

$$\vec{T}(m, t) = \vec{v}(t) \frac{dm}{dt}$$

where,

\vec{v} : Velocity Vector of the Exhaust, measured relative to the Rocket

$\frac{dm}{dt}$: The Mass Flow Rate of Exhaust

Drag Force Vector Function

$$\vec{F}_D(t) = \frac{1}{2} \rho (\vec{v}(t)^2) C_D A$$

where,

ρ : Density of Air at current Height

\vec{v} : Velocity Vector of the Rocket

C_D : Drag Coefficient of the Rocket

A : Area of the Orthographic Projection of the Rocket, projected from immediately in front of the rocket

Acceleration Vector Function (during Liftoff and Powered Flight)

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{a}_x(m, t) &= \frac{\vec{F}_x(m, t)}{m} = \frac{(\vec{T}(m, t) - \vec{F}_D(t)) \sin \theta - m \vec{g}}{m} \\ \vec{a}_y(m, t) &= \frac{\vec{F}_y(m, t)}{m} = \frac{(\vec{T}(m, t) - \vec{F}_D(t)) \cos \theta}{m} \end{aligned}$$

Acceleration Vector Function (during Coasting Flight)

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{a}_x(m, t) &= \frac{-\vec{F}_D(t) \cos \theta}{m} \\ \vec{a}_y(m, t) &= \frac{-\vec{F}_D(t) \sin \theta - m\vec{g}}{m}\end{aligned}$$

Acceleration Vector Function (During Descent with a Parachute)*

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{a}_x(m) &= \frac{\vec{F}_W - \vec{F}_D}{m} \\ \vec{a}_y(m, t) &= \frac{m\vec{g} - \vec{F}_D}{m}\end{aligned}$$

[In this specific case, the drag is directed upwards due to the Parachute]

where,

\vec{F}_W : Force Vector on the Rocket due to Wind

Equations for Descents using other Recovery Methods have to be derived based on the Recovery Method used

* May not be correct

References

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