

# AAE 339: Aerospace Propulsion

## HW9: Space Mission Planning

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**Problem 1**

To launch a spacecraft into *geosynchronous* orbit, two-stage rockets use a geostationary transfer orbit (GTO). The rocket's upper stage releases the spacecraft at the apogee of the elliptical orbit, which is tangent to the circular GEO. At that point a propulsive maneuver provided by an apogee system or on-board propulsion slows the spacecraft for transfer to GEO. A common GTO has a perigee of  $h_p = 185$  km and apogee  $h_a = 35,786$  km. Hence, to achieve the GTO, the rocket must achieve a velocity equal to the orbital velocity at perigee,  $v_p$ . Consider a two-stage rocket that is used to deliver a 4500 kg spacecraft ( $m_{PL} = 4500$  kg) into the elliptical transfer orbit. It is launched from Cape Canaveral (latitude =  $27^\circ$  N). Assume the first stage has an average  $I_{sp,1} = 310$  s, and a propellant mass fraction  $\lambda_1 = 0.94$ . The second stage has  $I_{sp,2} = 450$  s, and  $\lambda_2 = 0.92$ . Thrust losses due to gravity, drag, and required steering maneuvers add up to 20% of the ideal mission velocity increment, ie  $\Delta V_{req} = 1.2 \Delta V_{ideal}$ .

- a) Calculate the semi-major axis,  $a$ , the velocity of the rocket at perigee,  $v_p$ , and the velocity increment  $\Delta V_{req}$  required to insert the rocket into the geostationary orbit.

Semi-major axis

$$a = \frac{r_p + r_a}{2} = \frac{(R_\oplus + h_p) + (R_\oplus + h_a)}{2}$$

$$a = \frac{(6371 + 185) + (6371 + 35786) \text{ km}}{2}$$

$$a = 24356.5 \text{ km}$$

velocity at perigee,  $v_p$

$$v_p = \sqrt{\mu \left( \frac{2}{r_p} - \frac{1}{a} \right)}$$

$$\therefore \mu = GM_\oplus \quad G: 6.67 \times 10^{-11} [\text{m}^3 \text{kg}^{-1} \text{s}^{-2}]$$

$$M_\oplus: 5.972 \times 10^{24} [\text{kg}]$$

$$v_p = 10258 \text{ m/s}$$

$\Delta V$  required

from Earth's rotation

$$v_i = \frac{2\pi R_{\oplus}}{T_{rot}} \cos \theta$$

$\therefore T_{rot} : 23 \text{ hrs } 56 \text{ mins } 4 \text{ sec}, \text{ latitude: } \theta = 27^\circ$

$$v_i = 414.3/8 \text{ m/s}$$

then

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta V_{ideal} &= v_p - v_i \\ &= 9843.7 \text{ m/s} \end{aligned}$$

$$\Delta V_{req} = 1.2 \Delta V_{ideal}$$

$$\Delta V_{req} = 11812.44 \text{ m/s}$$

- b) The rocket is designed so that the first stage provides 30% of the required  $\Delta V$  and the second stage provides the rest. Calculate the inert mass and the propellant mass of both stages. The masses of the interstage structure and the payload fairing ( $m = 1000$  kg each) are not included in  $\lambda$  for either stage. Include them in your calculations and assume they are both jettisoned between the end of the first stage burn and the start of the second stage burn. Like the example, start the calculations with the second stage.

### Second Stage

from the ideal rocket equation

$$\Delta V_2 = g_0 I_{sp2} \ln \frac{m_{02}}{m_{f2}} = \Delta V_{req} \times 0.7$$

$$\therefore g_0 = 9.81 \text{ m/s}^2, I_{sp2} = 450 \text{ s}$$

$$\frac{m_{02}}{m_{f2}} = \frac{m_{in2} + m_{p2} + m_{PL}}{m_{in2} + m_{PL}} = \exp\left(\frac{\Delta V_2}{g_0 I_{sp2}}\right)$$

$$\therefore m_{PL} = 4500 \text{ kg}$$

$$m_2 = m_{in2} + m_{02}$$

$$m_{p2} = \lambda_2 m_2$$

$$m_{in2} = (1 - \lambda_2) m_2 = \frac{1 - \lambda_2}{\lambda_2} m_{p2}$$

$$\exp\left(\frac{\Delta V_2}{g_0 I_{sp2}}\right) = \frac{\frac{1 - \lambda_2}{\lambda_2} m_{p2} + m_{p2} + m_{PL}}{\frac{1 - \lambda_2}{\lambda_2} m_{p2} + m_{PL}}$$

Compute using MATLAB (code in Appendix)

$$m_{p2} = 49375 \text{ kg}$$

$$m_{in2} = \frac{1 - \lambda_2}{\lambda_2} m_{p2} = 4137 \text{ kg}$$

First Stage

Similar to second stage

$$\Delta V_1 = Q_3 \Delta V_{req} = g_0 I_{sp1} \ln \frac{m_{01}}{m_{f1}}$$

$$\frac{m_{01}}{m_{f1}} = \frac{m_{in1} + m_{p1} + m_{12} + m_2 + m_{pL}}{m_{in1} + m_{12} + m_2 + m_{pL}} = \exp\left(\frac{\Delta V_1}{g_0 I_{sp1}}\right)$$

$$\therefore m_2 = m_{p2} + m_{in2}$$

$$m_{12} = 2000 \text{ kg}$$

$$I_{sp1} = 310 \text{ s}$$

$$m_1 = m_{p1} + m_{in1}$$

$$m_{p1} = \lambda_1 m_1$$

$$m_{in1} = (1 - \lambda_1) m_1 = \frac{1 - \lambda_1}{\lambda_1} m_{p1}$$

$$\therefore \exp\left(\frac{\Delta V_1}{g_0 I_{sp1}}\right) = \frac{\frac{1 - \lambda_1}{\lambda_1} m_{p1} + m_{p1} + m_{12} + m_2 + m_{pL}}{\frac{1 - \lambda_1}{\lambda_1} m_{p1} + m_{12} + m_2 + m_{pL}}$$

Compute using MATLAB (code in Appendix)

$$m_{p1} = 149525.7 \text{ kg}$$

$$m_{in1} = \frac{1 - \lambda_1}{\lambda_1} m_{p1} = 9544.2 \text{ kg}$$

- c) Calculate the gross lift-off weight (GLOW) of the rocket. Assume  $F/W = 1.3$  to calculate thrust. For convenience, use the average  $I_{sp}$  of the first stage to calculate the propellant flowrate of the first stage engine.

The total mass

$$\begin{aligned} m_{\text{tot}} &= m_1 + m_2 + m_{12} + m_{pl} \\ &= 149525.7 + 9544.2 + 47575 + 4137 + 2000 + 4500 \\ &= 217282 \text{ kg} \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{GLOW} = m_{\text{tot}} g_0 = 2131535.7 \text{ N}$$

$$\text{Thrust} = F_T = \text{GLOW} \times 1.3 = 2770996.4 \text{ N}$$

$\dot{m}_p$ : propellant flow rate

$$g_0 I_{sp1} = \frac{F_T}{\dot{m}_1} \Rightarrow \dot{m} = \frac{F_T}{g_0 I_{sp1}} = 911.1823 \text{ kg/s}$$

**Problem 2**

Read Sections 1 and 2 of the ULA Users Guide <https://www.ulalaunch.com/docs/default-source/rockets/atlasvusersguide2010.pdf>. Determine the minimal Atlas V 400 Series rocket configuration that can meet the requirements of the mission described in Problem 1.

- Using the Atlas V data for the minimal configuration, calculate the propellant mass fractions of each stage, and the ideal  $\Delta V$  (no losses) that is provided by each stage. For the first stage engine, estimate the average specific impulse by using the rule of thumb  $I_{sp,av} = 1/3 I_{sp,SL} + 2/3 I_{sp,vac}$ .
- Calculate the GLOW of this Atlas V rocket (including payload) and its thrust-to-weight at liftoff.

*Mission requirements*

*$m_{PL} = 4500 \text{ kg}$ , GTO Apogee Height = 35786 km, latitude =  $\theta = 27^\circ$*

**Table 2.6-1: Atlas V 400/500 Series and HLV Performance Capabilities Summary**

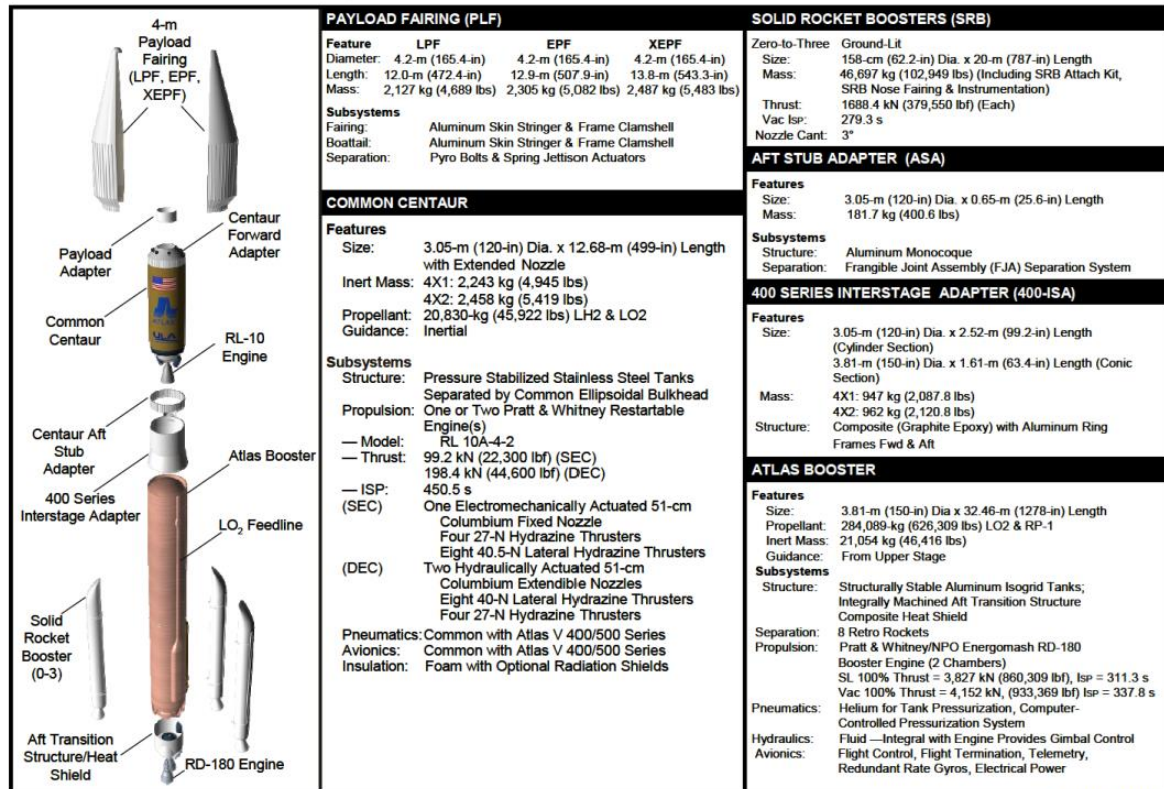
| Orbit Type<br>(ΔV to GSO)  | 400 Series                            |                     |                      |                      | 500 Series                                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    | HLV                  |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
|  | Number of Solid Rocket Boosters       |                     |                      |                      |   |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                      |
|  | 0                                     | 1                   | 2                    | 3                    | 0   | 1                  | 2                  | 3                  | 4                  | 5                  | N/A                  |
|  | Payload Systems Weight (PSW), kg (lb) |                     |                      |                      |   |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                      |
| GTO<br>(1804 m/s)  | 4,750<br>(10,470)                     | 5,950<br>(13,110)   | 6,890<br>(15,180)    | 7,700<br>(16,970)    | 3,775<br>(8,320)                              | 5,250<br>(11,570)  | 6,475<br>(14,270)  | 7,475<br>(16,470)  | 8,290<br>(18,270)  | 8,900<br>(19,620)  | 13,000<br>(28,660)   |
| GTO<br>(1500 m/s)  | 3,460<br>(7,620)                      | 4,450<br>(9,810)    | 5,210<br>(11,480)    | 5,860<br>(12,910)    | 2,690<br>(5,930)                              | 3,900<br>(8,590)   | 4,880<br>(10,750)  | 5,690<br>(12,540)  | 6,280<br>(13,840)  | 6,860<br>(15,120)  | --                   |
| GSO  | --                                    | --                  | --                   | --                   | --  | --                 | 2,632<br>(5,802)   | 3,192<br>(7,037)   | 3,630<br>(8,003)   | 3,904<br>(8,608)   | 6,454<br>(14,229)    |
| LEO<br>I =28.5 deg   | 9,797*<br>(21,598)                    | 12,150*<br>(26,787) | 14,067*<br>(31,012)  | 15,718*<br>(34,653)  | 8,123<br>(17,908)                             | 10,986<br>(24,221) | 13,490<br>(29,741) | 15,575<br>(34,337) | 17,443<br>(38,456) | 18,814<br>(41,478) | 29,400*<br>(64,816)* |
| LEO<br>Sun-sync  | 7,724<br>(17,028)                     | 8,905<br>(19,633)   | 10,290 *<br>(22,687) | 11,704 *<br>(25,803) | 6,424<br>(14,163)                             | 8,719<br>(19,223)  | 10,758<br>(23,717) | 12,473<br>(27,498) | 14,019<br>(30,908) | 15,179<br>(33,464) | --                   |
| Atlas V 400 Series   |                                       |                     |                      |                      | Atlas V 500 Series and HLV                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                      |
| • All Performance is SEC   |                                       |                     |                      |                      | • All Performance is SEC                      |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                      |
| • Quoted Performance is with 4-m EPF   |                                       |                     |                      |                      | • Quoted Performance is with 5-m Short PLF    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                      |
|  |                                       |                     |                      |                      | • HLV LEO Performance is DEC                  |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                      |
|  |                                       |                     |                      |                      | • HLV Quoted Performance is with 5-m Long PLF |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                      |
| * For 400 series, PSW above 9,072 kg (20,000 lb) may require mission-unique accommodations. For 500 series and HLV, PSW above 19,051 kg (42,000 lb) may require mission-unique accommodations. |                                       |                     |                      |                      |   |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                      |
| Notes:   |                                       |                     |                      |                      |   |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                      |
| GTO (1804 m/s): ≥185 x 35,786 km (≥ 100 x 19,323 nmi), Inclination = 27.0 deg, Argument of Perigee = 180 deg, CCAFS  |                                       |                     |                      |                      |   |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                      |
| GTO (1500 m/s): Apogee Height = 35,786 km (19,323 nmi), Argument of Perigee = 180 deg, CCAFS   |                                       |                     |                      |                      |   |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                      |
| GSO: 35,786 km Circular (19,323 nmi Circular), Inclination = 0 deg, CCAFS  |                                       |                     |                      |                      |   |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                      |
| LEO 28.5 deg: 200 km (108 nmi) Circular, CCAFS   |                                       |                     |                      |                      |   |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                      |
| LEO Sun-sync: 200 km (108 nmi) Circular, VAFB  |                                       |                     |                      |                      |   |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                      |
| GCS: Guidance Commanded Shutdown, 2.33 sigma for CCAFS, and for VAFB   |                                       |                     |                      |                      |   |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                      |



The minimal Atlas V 400 Series Pocket  
design is

Atlas V 401

Figure 1.4.1-3: Atlas V 400 Series Launch System



AVUG11\_F010401\_03h

## Masses

$$m_{PL} = 4500 \text{ kg} \quad (\text{from problem 1})$$

$$m_{P2} = 20830 \text{ kg}$$

$$m_{in2} = 2243 + 2458 = 4701 \text{ kg}$$

$$m_{12} = 181.7 + 947 + 962 = 2090.7 \text{ kg}$$

$$m_{P1} = 284089 \text{ kg}$$

$$m_{m1} = 21054 \text{ kg}$$



Propellant Mass Fraction

$$\lambda_1 = \frac{m_{p1}}{m_{p1} + m_{in1}} = 0.9310$$

$$\lambda_2 = \frac{m_{p2}}{m_{p2} + m_{in2}} = 0.8159$$

Isp

$$I_{sp2} = 450.5 \text{ s}$$

$$I_{vac1} = 337.8 \text{ s}$$

$$I_{SL1} = 311.3 \text{ s}$$

$$I_{sp1} = I_{vac1} \times \frac{2}{3} + I_{SL1} \times \frac{1}{3} = 328.97 \text{ s}$$

 $\Delta V$  for each stage

$$\Delta V_2 = g_0 I_{sp2} \ln\left(\frac{m_{02}}{m_{f2}}\right)$$

$$= g_0 I_{sp2} \ln\left(\frac{m_{p1} + m_{p2} + m_{in2}}{m_{p1} + m_{in2}}\right)$$

$$= 5227.8 \text{ m/s}$$

$$\Delta V_1 = g_0 I_{sp1} \ln\left(\frac{m_{01}}{m_{f1}}\right)$$

$$= g_0 I_{sp1} \ln\left(\frac{m_{p1} + m_{p1} + m_{in1} + m_{12} + m_{in2} + m_{p2}}{m_{p1} + m_{in1} + m_{12} + m_{in2} + m_{p2}}\right)$$

$$= 5961.4 \text{ m/s}$$

$$GLOW = m_{tot} g_0$$

$$= (m_{p1} + m_{p1} + m_{in1} + m_{12} + m_{p2} + m_{in2}) g_0$$

$$= 3.3086 \text{ MN}$$

from table

$$\text{Thrust at SL} \Rightarrow F_t = 3827 \text{ kN}$$

$$\frac{F_t}{G_{LOW}} = \frac{3827 \text{ kN}}{3.3086 \text{ MN}} = 1.1564$$

Problem 3

The 4500 kg spacecraft in Problem 1 has its own integrated propulsion system (including propellant) that will be used to provide the necessary  $\Delta V$  for transfer from the elliptical orbit at apogee to GEO. Evaluate two options for propulsion. Option 1 is a bipropellant thruster using nitrogen tetroxide and monomethyl hydrazine (NTO/MMH), with an  $I_{sp} = 340$  s. Option 2 is an electrostatic ion thruster, with  $I_{sp} = 3000$  s. Calculate the  $\Delta V$  required for this maneuver, and the required mass of propellant for each option.

velocity at apogee

$$v_a = \sqrt{\mu \left( \frac{2}{r_a} - \frac{1}{a} \right)}$$

$\mu$ ,  $r_a$ ,  $a$  are same value in problem 1

$$v_a = 1595.3 \text{ m/s}$$

velocity in GEO

$$v_f = \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{r_a}} = 3074.6 \text{ m/s}$$

$$\Delta v_{req} = v_f - v_a = 1479.6 \text{ m/s}$$

Propellant mass

c) NTO/MMH bi-propellant thruster

$$\Delta v = g_0 I_{sp1} \ln \frac{m_0}{m_0 - m_p}$$

$$m_{p1} = m_0 - \frac{m_0}{\exp\left(\frac{\Delta v}{g_0 I_{sp1}}\right)}$$

$$m_0 = 4500 \text{ kg}$$

$$I_{sp1} = 340 \text{ s}$$

$$m_{p1} = 1612.2 \text{ kg}$$

(ii) Electric ion thruster

$$m_{p2} = m_0 - \frac{m_0}{\exp\left(\frac{\Delta v}{g_0 I_{sp2}}\right)} \quad I_{sp2} = 4000 \text{ s}$$

$$m_{p2} = 166.52 \text{ kg}$$

Analysis

Option 2 is preferred over 1 because there is much less propellant used.

## Appendix

```
clear all; close all; clc;
```

### Problem 1

(a)

% Defining Constants

```
G          = 6.67408e-11; % m3 kg-1 s-2
m_e        = 5.972e24; % kg
h_p        = 185000; % m
h_a        = 35786000; % m
R_e        = 6371000; % m
m_pl       = 4500; % kg
Isp_1      = 310; % s
Isp_2      = 450; % s
lambda_1   = 0.94;
lambda_2   = 0.92;
T_loss     = 0.2;
latitude    = 27; % deg
```

% Semi major axis

```
r_p = R_e + h_p
r_a = R_e + h_a
a   = (r_p+r_a)/2
```

% velocity at perigee

```
mu = G*m_e
v_p = sqrt(mu*(2/r_p - 1/a))
```

% Delta V

```
v_i = 465*cos(deg2rad(latitude))
DVideal = v_p - v_i
DVreq = (1 + T_loss)*DVideal
```

(b)

```
m_mid = 2000; % kg
g0     = 9.81; % m s-2
DVreq1 = DVreq*0.3;
DVreq2 = DVreq*0.7;
```

syms m\_p m\_in

```
eqn1 = (m_in+m_p+m_pl)/(m_in+m_pl) == exp(DVreq2/g0/Isp_2);
eqn2 = (1-lambda_2)/lambda_2*m_p == m_in;
sol   = solve([eqn1,eqn2], [m_p,m_in]);
m_p_2 = double(sol.m_p);
m_in_2 = double(sol.m_in);
m_2    = m_p_2 + m_in_2;
```

```

syms m_p m_in
eqn1 = (m_in+m_p+m_2+m_mid+m_pl)/(m_in+m_2+m_mid+m_pl) == exp(DVreq1/g0/Isp_1)
eqn2 = (1-lambda_1)/lambda_1*m_p == m_in
sol = solve([eqn1,eqn2], [m_p,m_in])
m_p_1 = double(sol.m_p)
m_in_1 = double(sol.m_in)
m_1 = m_p_1 + m_in_1

```

(c)

```

m_tot = m_1 + m_2 + m_mid + m_pl
W = m_tot*g0
F = 1.3*W
m_dot = F/(Isp_1*g0)

```

**Problem 2**

(a)

```

% Atlas V 401 masses [kg]
m_p_2 = 20830;
m_p_1 = 284089;
m_in_2 = 4701;
m_in_1 = 21054;
m_1 = m_p_1 + m_in_1;
m_2 = m_p_2 + m_in_2;
m_mid = 2090.7;
m_pl = 4500;

% Isp [s]
Isp_vac = 337.8;
Isp_SL = 311.3;
Isp_1 = 1/3*Isp_SL + 2/3*Isp_vac;
Isp_2 = 450.5;

% Propellant Mass Fractions
lambda_1 = m_p_1/m_1
lambda_2 = m_p_2/m_2

% DeltaV_2
m0_2 = m_pl + m_2
mf_2 = m0_2 - m_p_2
deltaV_2 = g0*Isp_2*log(m0_2/mf_2)

% DeltaV_1
m0_1 = m_pl + m_2 + m_mid + m_1
mf_1 = m0_1 - m_p_1
deltaV_1 = g0*Isp_1*log(m0_1/mf_1)

% GLOW
m_tot = m0_1
W = m_tot*g0

```

```
F = 3.826e6  
FtoW = F/W
```

**Problem 3**

```
v_a      = sqrt(mu*(2/r_a - 1/a))  
v_f      = sqrt(mu/r_a)  
deltaV   = v_f - v_a  
  
% Propellant Mass  
Isp_bi   = 340;  
Isp_ion  = 4000;  
m_p_bi   = m_pl - m_pl/(exp(deltaV/g0/Isp_bi))  
m_p_ion  = m_pl - m_pl/(exp(deltaV/g0/Isp_ion))
```