# **Northrop Grumman Two-Stage Supersonic Sounding Rocket**

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#### **ALI NORTHERN ARIZONA**

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# **Project Description**

- Our team is working on a two-stage supersonic rocket made from composite materials. We aim to reach an altitude of 40,000 feet while maintaining a speed of Mach 2, all while carrying a payload of 10 pounds. If our project is successful, other capstone projects will have the chance to implement improvements.
- **Stakeholders**

Northrop Grumman – \$7,000





# **Customer Requirements (CRs)**

#### ▪ **CR1- Develop a two-stage launch vehicle.**

- The vehicle will be a two-stage rocket, requiring an initial booster that detaches after use to optimize flight time and speed. Once the first stage is ejected, the second stage will continue the flight.
- **CR2- Use of a specific stage separation device.**
	- The client requests that the team use a particular separation method previously discussed. Details on this system are proprietary to Northrop Grumman and cannot be included in the report.

#### ▪ **CR3- The vehicle will be constructed of composite materials.**

- The client prefers the vehicle to be made from a composite material due to its strength and lightweight properties. They also want this composite material to be reusable.
- **CR4- Vehicle will reach an altitude of at least 40,000 ft AGL (Above Ground Level).**
	- The client requires the vehicle to reach a fixed altitude of 40,000 feet. The chosen launch site has an altitude ceiling of 48,000 feet above sea level.

- **CR5- Final launch vehicle will be required to carry a maximum 10 Lb payload that will fit within a 6" diameter bay**
	- A key client requirement is that the vehicle includes a payload bay with a 6-inch diameter and the capability to carry at least a 10-pound payload. This is essential, as the vehicle is intended for research purposes.
- **CR6- Vehicle required to reach a maintain over Mach 2 or roughly 1500 mph and maximize time spent at that speed or greater.**
	- A major client requirement is for the vehicle to not only reach Mach 2 (approximately 1,500 mph) but also to maximize the time spent at this speed or higher. Achieving such speeds will introduce compressible flow dynamics and non-linear effects.
- **CR7- Acceleration of the vehicle needs to meet a minimum of 12g's.**
	- The force acting on the vehicle at launch should result in at least 12g acceleration.
- **CR8- Vehicle trajectory will be simulated in Rocksim.**
	- The vehicle's trajectory should be modeled in RockSim, a rocket simulation application that allows users to set parameters to predict various measurements for the vehicle.
- **CR9- Vehicle required to use commercial rocket motors.**
	- The team must utilize solid fuel commercial rocket motors for easy vehicle replacement and reuse.
- **CR10- Recovery of entire launch vehicle for reuse.**
	- The client requests that the entire vehicle design be reusable after each launch, except for the motors.

# **Engineering Requirements (ERs)**

#### ▪ **ER1- Max Velocity – Mach 2 or 1500 mph**

- The vehicle's velocity refers to its speed in flight. The main engineering goal is to reach Mach 2 (1,500 mph) and maintain it for at least 30 seconds.
- The requirement is a two-sided constraint influenced by body size, with other factors also affecting vehicle velocity. Every rocket part impacts velocity, as added or removed weight will change it.

#### ▪ **ER2- Separation Event – Successful or unsuccessful separation**

- The project requires a simple yes or no on whether the separation works with the chosen device. It's not focused on designing a separation system, but the vehicle needs two stages.
- This requirement presents a one-sided constraint, as the only factor affecting the separation event is the separation device and method. Nothing else influences the separation event.

#### ▪ **ER3- Altitude – 40,000 ft AGL (Above Ground Level)**

- Altitude is a critical engineering requirement, as the team is responsible for ensuring the vehicle achieves the client's target of 50,000 feet, which is the maximum elevation allowed at the selected launch site.
- This requirement is a two-sided constraint; weight and speed impact the vehicle's altitude. Changing weight or fins will affect the altitude it can reach.

#### ▪ **ER4- Payload Weight – 10lbs**

- The client requires the research vehicle to sustain supersonic flight with a 10 lbs. payload and safely return to the ground. The exact payload is unknown, but the vehicle must maximize the weight it can carry while maintaining supersonic flight.
- This requirement is a one-sided constraint that cannot change due to the client's needs. This goal is fixed and will only influence other requirements, rather than being adjustable.

#### ▪ **ER5- Cost of production - \$7000 USD**

- The client wants a cost-effective vehicle that can be reused and built more without high expenses. The project budget is approximately \$7000; staying within this limit will fulfill this engineering requirement. Building the vehicle for less will result in an even better outcome.
- This requirement is a one-sided constraint since we can't design specifically for low production costs. We can focus on using affordable materials and parts, but production costs don't significantly impact this project.

#### ▪ **ER6- Reusable – more than 1 use**

 The requirement will be evaluated based on how many uses the vehicle can withstand before major maintenance or replacement is needed. The team can only launch the final product once or twice. If the vehicle shows minimal damage post-launch, they will estimate its total usable lifespan.

#### ▪ **ER7- Payload Volume – 282.7 in^3**

- The client prioritized payload weight over volume and did not specify a volume requirement. The team assumes a 10 lbs. payload is under 10 inches tall. Success is defined as reaching 282.7 in $^3$  in volume.
- This is a two-sided constraint because the team's engineering capabilities influence the lightweight constraint. It can be affected by other requirements, making it more complex than a one-sided constraint.

### **QFD**

QFD below shows some older requirements set, but the team found they were able to reduce the body diameter and increase the size of the motors

> • positively affected all the ERs and CRs making the goals set more attainable

#### Body Ranking System

- 9 Strong
- 3 Moderate
- $\cdot$  1 Weak
- 0 -- None



# **Background and Benchmarking**

### **Wildman Jr Kit:**

- Pros:
	- Small diameter
	- **Low cost**
	- **Simple design**
- Cons:
	- No payload capability
	- **Doesn't meet our requirements**



Figure 1: Wildman two stage rocket kit [1]

### **Hyimpulse: Commercial launch provider**

- Pros:
	- **Exceeds requirements**
	- **Recoverable** rocket and payload
- Cons:
	- **Expensive**
	- Requires large team and ground support equipment



Figure 2: Hyimpulse sounding rocket [2]

### **Functional Decomposition**



### **Designs Generated**



### **Pugh Chart**



# **Pugh Chart Results**







### **Decision Matrix**



# **Final Design**

- Pros
	- Balanced weight distribution
	- Simple aerodynamic body
	- Simplified Avionics and Recovery systems
	- Easily manufacturable
	- Best performance





### **Engineering Calculations: Separation Sys.**

- Conditions of Separation
	- Altitude = 9500 ft
	- Velocity =  $430$ mph (630.67ft/s)
- Holding Strength:
	- 10.12lbf  $*$  6 = 60.72lbf  $\geq W_1$  = 13.01lbf
- Assisted Separation Strength:
	- F = - $kx$  = -4.9lbf/in(-2.54in) $\rightarrow$  12.446lbf
	- Number of Springs (3)  $\rightarrow$  37.34lbf

![](_page_12_Figure_9.jpeg)

### **Engineering Calculations: Nose Cone**

*Fineness ratio* = 
$$
\frac{L}{D}
$$
 =  $\frac{26}{6.25}$  = 4. 16: 1

![](_page_13_Figure_3.jpeg)

### Fineness Ratio **Stagnation Temperature**

$$
T_{stag}
$$
  
=  $T_s \left(1 + \frac{\gamma - 1}{2} * Ma^2\right)$   

$$
T_s = 215K
$$
  

$$
\gamma = 1.4
$$
  

$$
Ma = 2
$$
  

$$
T_{stag} = 387 K
$$

Typical cure temperatures for carbon fiber prepregs ~ 250 °F or 350 °F, therefore a resin system that is cured at 350 °F would be preferred

# **Engineering Calculations: Fin Drag**

• Used the Drag Force formula:

$$
D = \frac{1}{2}\rho v^2 C_d A,
$$

- Variables:
- $C_d = 0.005$
- $V = Mach 2 = 1535 (mph) = 686 (m/s)$
- $A = 26$  (in^2) = 0.103226 (m^2)
- $P = 8.80349*10^{2}$  (kg/m<sup>2</sup>3) = 0.0880349 (kg/m<sup>2</sup>3)

![](_page_14_Figure_8.jpeg)

- Answer:
- $D = 10.7 N = 2.403$  (lbf) (Individual fin)
- D tot = 10.7 N  $*$  8 = 85.53 (N) = 19.23 (lbf) (total of all fins)
- Assumptions: Coefficient is of a flat plate at turbulent flow, the density of air is at an elevation of 20,000ft, the area used is the planform area. Some error due to compressiblility at Mach 2.

### **Engineering Calculations: Rocksim Simulations**

![](_page_15_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_15_Picture_9.jpeg)

### **Engineering Calculations: RASAero Simulations**

![](_page_16_Figure_1.jpeg)

#### Predicted Performance

- Flight Altitude • 31,774 ft AGL
- Velocity
	- Mach 2.015
- Acceleration
	- $\cdot$  431.9 ft/s<sup>1</sup>2
- Flight Time
	- 256 Seconds

### **Failure Modes and Effective Analysis (FMEA)**

![](_page_17_Picture_258.jpeg)

### **Gantt Chart (1st Semester)**

![](_page_18_Picture_12.jpeg)

![](_page_18_Picture_13.jpeg)

# **Gantt Chart (1st Semester) Cont.**

![](_page_19_Picture_12.jpeg)

![](_page_19_Picture_13.jpeg)

![](_page_19_Picture_14.jpeg)

### **Gantt Chart (2nd Semester)**

![](_page_20_Picture_12.jpeg)

![](_page_20_Picture_13.jpeg)

# **Gantt Chart (2nd Semester) Cont.**

![](_page_21_Picture_12.jpeg)

![](_page_21_Picture_13.jpeg)

### **Gantt Chart (2nd Semester) Cont.**

![](_page_22_Picture_12.jpeg)

![](_page_22_Picture_13.jpeg)

# **Bill of Materials (BOM)**

![](_page_23_Picture_8.jpeg)

# **Bill of Materials (BOM)**

![](_page_24_Picture_8.jpeg)

![](_page_25_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_25_Picture_61.jpeg)

# **Manufacturing Process**

![](_page_26_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_26_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_26_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_26_Picture_4.jpeg)

![](_page_26_Picture_5.jpeg)

![](_page_26_Picture_6.jpeg)

![](_page_26_Picture_7.jpeg)

### **Manufacturing Process Cont.**

![](_page_27_Picture_1.jpeg)

### **Top Level Testing**

![](_page_28_Picture_115.jpeg)

# **Detailed Testing Plan**

![](_page_29_Picture_109.jpeg)

### **Procedures**

#### **Assembly prep at Launch site:**

- 1. Set the Altimeter and GPS prior to putting the vehicle together completely.
- 2. Inspect all connections of the vehicle to ensure connections are secure. Should be done with the required tool.
- 3. Prep the propellant to be inserted into the motor casing.
- 4. Insert propellent into the motor casing into the main vehicle motor.
- 5. Insert propellent into the motor casing of the booster stage.
- 6. Depending on if the motor casing is not inserted into the rocket, insert motor casings into each stage of the vehicle. Securing the motor casing by screwing it in.
- 7. Ensure igniter is connected to the flight computer and the motor on both stages.
- 8. Ensure there is no play in the fin canister assembly
- 9. Connect both stages at the separation device connections.

#### **Pre-flight setup**

- Assemble and secure the launch tower.
- 2. Ensure rail is secured to the launch tower.
- Ensure rail connectors are secured tightly to the launch vehicle.
- 4. Connect the launch vehicle by the rail connectors to the launch tower.
- 5. Visually check to make sure the launch vehicle has no anomalies on the rocket body. All fins are connected securely.
- 6. The launch vehicle should be angled 90 degrees from the ground, aligning with azimuth.
- 7. The launch vehicle should be resting on the blast plate of the tower.

![](_page_30_Picture_19.jpeg)

# **Procedures (Cont.)**

### **Launch**

- 1. Turn on and connect to flight computers and GPS.
- 2. Last visual inspection of the launch vehicle.
- 3. Retreat to a minimum safe distance of 1,000 ft or 300m.
- 4. Before launch, check to see if vehicle is connected to device running the flight computers.
- 5. Last visual inspection of minimum safe distance red zone. Radius of 1,000 ft or 300m.
- 6. Last visual inspection of near by air space. If there is a visible entity within the air space wait to launch.
- 7. After all last check and visual inspection, launch vehicle is ready.

![](_page_31_Picture_9.jpeg)

![](_page_32_Picture_0.jpeg)

Will updated with Launch Photo

### **Results/Goals**

• The vehicle is expecting to reach 30,000ft AGL, reach Mach 2.0, and have a separation event. Along with return to the ground safely with not damage. The result should be successfully reached, both flight simulation software used show all flight goals being achieved and vehicle being recovered safely with no damage.

![](_page_33_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_33_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_33_Picture_111.jpeg)

# **Specification Sheet Preparations (CRs)**

![](_page_34_Picture_113.jpeg)

### **Specification Sheet Preparations (ERs)**

![](_page_35_Picture_158.jpeg)

### **Future Works**

- Future Launches with Updated Payloads
- Higher Impulse Motors for Different Flight Profiles
- Implement Different Separation Systems
- Test Active Aero Control Systems
- Design Composite Filament Winder for Tube Construction
- Simplify Fin Canister Hardware

# **Literature Review (Avery)**

#### Literature Review: Staging

- Books:
	- J. D. Anderson, *Fundamentals of Aerodynamics*, 6th ed. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill Education, 2017.
	- Chandler Karp, A., & Jens, E. T. (2024). *Hybrid Rocket Propulsion Design Handbook* (First edition.). Academic Press. Chapter 10 p 232
	- D. P. MISHRA, *Fundamentals of Rocket Propulsion*. Boca Raton, FL: CRC PRESS, 2020.
- Articles:
	- L. Zhu, J. Song, B. Hu, and Z. Xu, "Numerical Investigation on the Interaction between Rocket Jet and Supersonic Inflow," *Journal of Physics: Conference Series*, vol. 2460, no. 1, p. 012066, Apr. 2023. doi:10.1088/1742-6596/2460/1/012066
	- O. Eryilmaz and E. Sancak, "Effect of Silane Coupling Treatments on Mechanical Properties of Epoxy Based High-Strength Carbon Fiber Regular (2 x 2) Braided Fabric Composites," *Polymer Composites*, vol. 42, no. 12, pp. 6233–6954, Dec. 2021. doi:https://doi.org/10.1002/pc.26311
- Website:
	- R. Nakka, "Fins for Rocket Stability," Richard Nakka's Experimental Rocketry Site, http://www.nakkarocketry.net/fins.html (accessed Feb. 5, 2024).

# **Literature Review (Austin)**

#### Literature Review: Rocket Design

#### Books:

- *Rocket Propulsion*. Laxmi Publications Pvt Ltd, 2016.
	- Basic rocket design textbook, goes into fundamentals of rocket science
- F. R. (Feliks R. Gantmakher, L. M. Levin, and E. T. J. Davies, *The flight of uncontrolled rockets*. Oxford, England: Pergamon Press, 1964.
	- Trajectory textbook for uncontrolled flight, will be useful in simulating vehicle in our Matlab code.

#### Articles:

- G. Srinivas and M. V. S. Prakash, "Aerodynamics and flow characterisation of multistage rockets," *IOP conference series. Materials Science and Engineering*, vol. 197, no. 1, pp. 12077-, 2017, doi: 10.1088/1757-899X/197/1/012077.
	- Covers aerodynamics on two-stage launch vehicle configurations
- A. Okninski, "Multidisciplinary optimisation of single-stage sounding rockets using solid propulsion," *Aerospace science and technology*, vol. 71, pp. 412–419, 2017, doi: 10.1016/j.ast.2017.09.039.
	- Can be used to optimize the second stage to get maximum performance

#### Dissertations:

- Z. Doucet, "Multistage 2-DOF Rocket Trajectory Simulation Program for Freshmen Level Engineering Students," ProQuest Dissertations Publishing, 2019.
	- Reference for trajectory simulation in our matlab code requirement

#### Websites:

- "Glenn Research Center," NASA, <https://www1.grc.nasa.gov/> (accessed Feb. 4, 2024).
	- Overall source for fundamental rocketry

# **Literature Review (Koi)**

#### Literature Review: Aerodynamics and rocket design

- Books:
	- W. H. Dorrance, *Viscous hypersonic flow : theory of reacting and hypersonic boundary layers*. Mineola, New York: Dover Publications, Inc, 2017.
		- This book has equations and information on how to try and calculate for hypersonic aerodynamics. Focuses on drag and friction of the rocket.
	- Sutton, *Rocket Propulsion Elements*. John Wiley & Sons, 2001.
		- This book is fundamental information on how to calculate rocket motor propulsion. Along with rocket fundamentals.
- Articles:
	- A. Iyer and A. Pant, "A REVIEW ON NOSE CONE DESIGNS FOR DIFFERENT FLIGHT REGIMES," *International Research Journal of Engineering and Technology (IRJET)*, vol. 07, no. 08, pp. 3546–3554, Aug. 2020, Available: <https://www.irjet.net/archives/V7/i8/IRJET-V7I8605.pdf>
		- Information and guidance on which designs of nose cones affect supersonic flight. Along with design benefits and disadvantages of each design with calculations.
	- A. Mishra, K. Gandhi, K. Sharma, N. Sumanth, and Y. Krishna. Teja, "CONCEPTUAL DESIGN AND ANALYSIS OF TWO STAGE SOUNDING ROCKET," *International Journal of Universal Science and Engineering*, vol. 07, pp. 53–73, Aug. 2021.
		- Information on general two stage rocket design and analysis. Used to understand how to fundamentally build two stage rockets.
	- P. Davies *et al.*, "Preliminary design and test of high altitude two-stage rockets in New Zealand," *Aerospace Science and Technology*, vol. 128, pp. 107741–107741, Sep. 2022, doi: [https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ast.2022.107741.](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ast.2022.107741)
		- **·** Information on how to design a high altitude two stage rocket. In depth procedures and calculations.
	- P. Żurawka, N. Sahbon, D. Pytlak, M. Sochacki, A. Puchalski and S. Murpani, "Multi-objective optimization of a fin shape for a passive supersonic rocket stage," *2023 IEEE Aerospace Conference*, Big Sky, MT, USA, 2023, pp. 1-12, doi: 10.1109/AERO55745.2023.10115859.
		- **·** Information on how to design rocket fins. Rocket some information on rocket fin design for supersonic applications.

### **Literature Review (Lindsey)**

#### Literature Review: Nose Cone Design

- Books/Chapters:
	- o A Kanni Raj, "A C F D Applied Computational Fluid Dynamic Analysis of Thermal and Fluid Flow Over Space Shuttle Or Rocket Nose Cone".Createspace Independent Publishing Platform, 2016.
		- Analyses thermal and fluid flow over a rocket nose cone to assess what kind of nose cone would be better able to withstand high temperatures that are generated from aerodynamic heating.
	- o Eugen Sänger, "Rocket Flight Engineering". 1965.
		- Discusses all components of rocketry, some chapters focusing on nose cone design best for supersonic flight.
- Papers:
	- o B. Mathew, O. Bandyo, A. Tomar, A. Kumar, A. Ahuja, and K. Patil, "A review on computational drag analysis of rocket nose cone." Available: [https://ceur-ws.org/Vol-](https://ceur-ws.org/Vol-2875/PAPER_11.pdf)[2875/PAPER\\_11.pdf](https://ceur-ws.org/Vol-2875/PAPER_11.pdf)
		- Identifies various nosecone shapes and their characteristics at different Mach numbers to determine best used for minimizing drag and heat generation.
	- Airesearc, E. Perkins, L. Jorgensen, and S. Sommer, "NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR AERONAUTICS INVESTIGATION OF THE DRAG OF VARIOUS AXIALLY SYMMETRIC NOSE SHAPES OF FINENESS RATIO 3 FOR MACH NUMBERS FROM 1.24 TO 7.4." Available: <https://ntrs.nasa.gov/api/citations/19930091022/downloads/19930091022.pdf>
		- Determine best nose cone shapes for various Mach numbers with a fineness ratio of 3.
	- o M. Ajuwon et al., "Optimization Design of Rocket Nosecone for Achieving Desired Apogee by Empirical Research and Simulation-BasedComparison." Available: <http://ieworldconference.org/content/SISE2020/Papers/Ajuwon.pdf>
		- Determine best nose cone shapes for various Mach numbers with a fineness ratio of 3.
- Online Resources:
	- o "Richard Nakka's Experimental Rocketry Site," [www.nakka-rocketry.net.](http://www.nakka-rocketry.net/) [https://www.nakka-rocketry.net/RD\\_nosecone.html.](https://www.nakka-rocketry.net/RD_nosecone.html)
		- An overview of nose cone components and terms for better understand of design.

![](_page_41_Picture_0.jpeg)

### Thank you! Questions?

![](_page_41_Figure_2.jpeg)

# **THANK YOU**

#### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

![](_page_42_Picture_2.jpeg)

### **SCAN ME**