

# Landing humans on Mars:

ENTRY, DESCENT AND LANDING  
Mark Paton 16.01.07

MTSU for Irving et al. (2006)

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Planet mass A+B (kg).....  
Planet radius (m).....  
Lander area (m2).....  
Lander mass (kg).....  
Lander fuel (kg).....  
Lander thrust (N).....  
Lander isp (s^-1).....  
Lander rocket descent altitude st  
Lander target touchdown speed (m/  
Shield area (m2).....  
Shield mass (kg).....  
Shield L/D.....  
Shield angle of attack for L/D..  
Shield nose radius (m).....  
Shield release event.....  
Shield release time (s).....  
First chute area (m2).....  
First chute mass (kg).....  
First chute deploy speed (m/s)..  
Second chute area (m2).....  
Second chute mass (kg).....  
Second chute deploy speed (m/s)..  
Second chute release altitude (m)  
TOTAL MASS AT ENTRY (kg).....  
Entry speed (m/s).....  
Entry angle (deg).....  
Entry height (m).....  
Maximum simulation time (big time  
Time step size for trajectory cal  
Do you want data saved?.....  
Specific heat ratio.....  
Atmosphere gas constant.....  
Upper limit of atmosphere sect  
L 0.....  
L 1.....  
L 2.....  
L 3.....  
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L 14.....  
L 15.....  
L 16.....  
L 17.....  
L 18.....  
L 19.....  
L 20.....  
L 21.....
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Mark Paton  
Finnish Meteorological Institute



ILMATIETEEN LAITOS

[www.fmi.fi/research\\_space/space.html](http://www.fmi.fi/research_space/space.html)



## Virtual prototyping of a piloted Mars lander

## ISDC Dallas 2007

# landing humans on Mars:

## Virtual prototyping of a piloted Mars lander

A. Piloted Landers 1950s onwards

B. Tools for virtual prototyping

1. Mars Local-Area Model (MLAM)

2. Aerobrake 2D (A2D)

3. The Orbiter space flight simulator (Orbiter)

C. A piloted Mars Lander

1. Virtual prototyping the mission (Orbiter)

2. EDL system design (A2D / Orbiter)

3. The effect of Mars winds (A2D / MLAM)

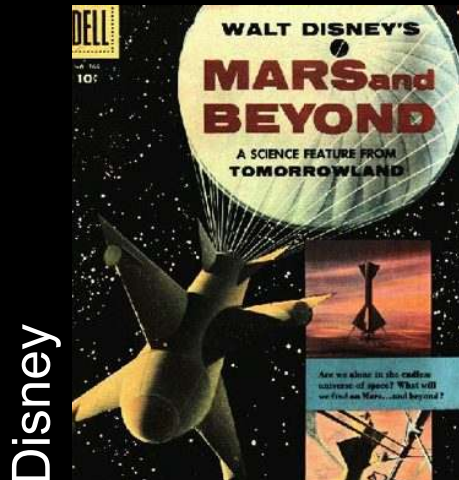
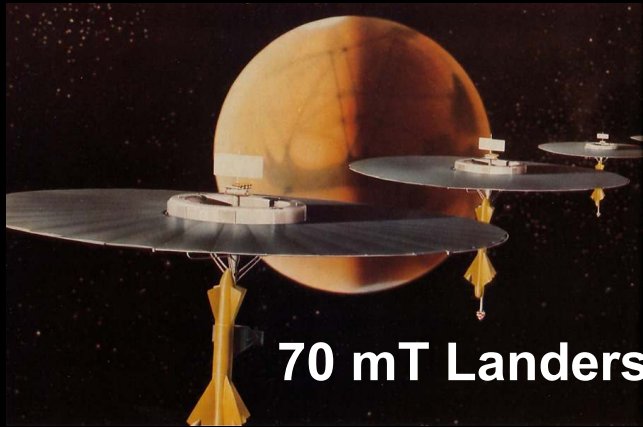
} Also see  
Irving et al.  
(2006)

**NEW!**

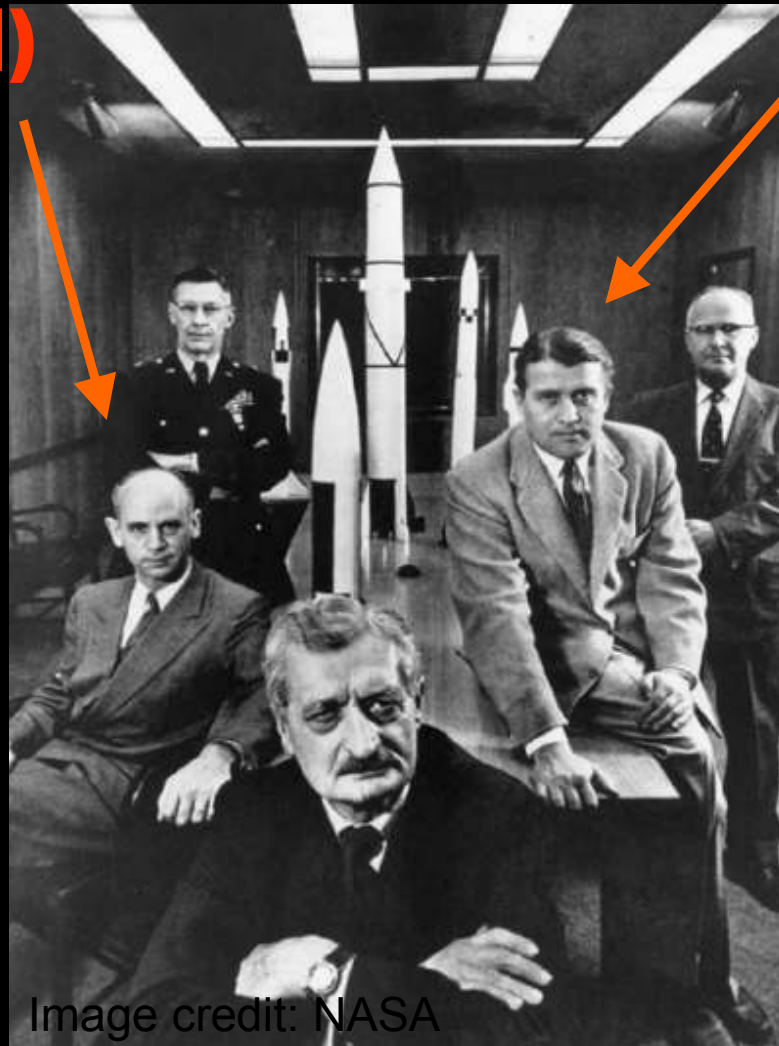
**A. Piloted landers 1950s onwards**

# landing on Mars 1950s style: Thinking big!

## Stuhlinger (1954)



Parachutes and retro rockets



## Braun (1952)

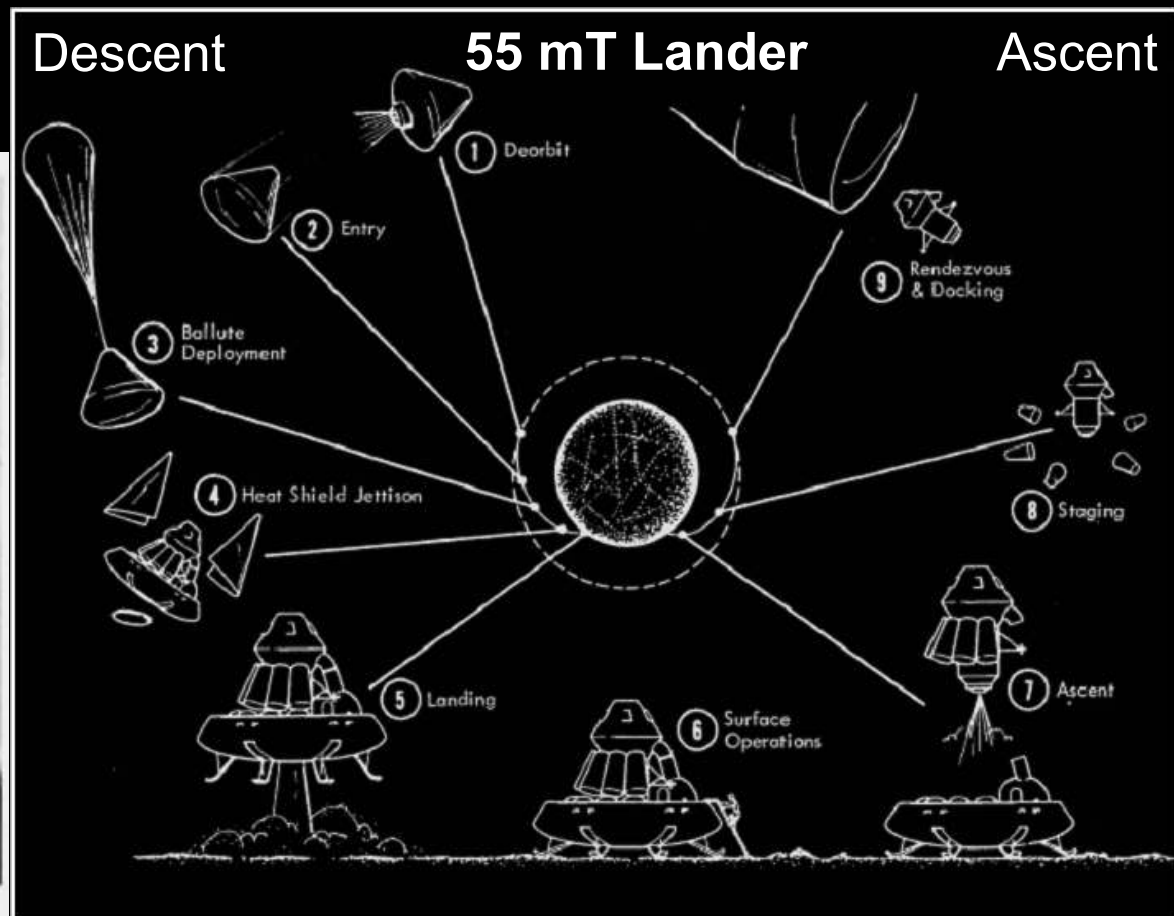
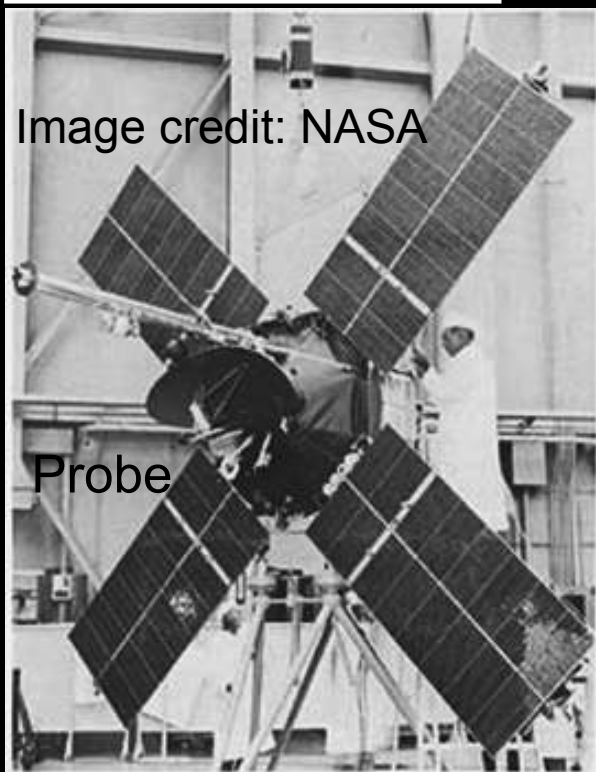
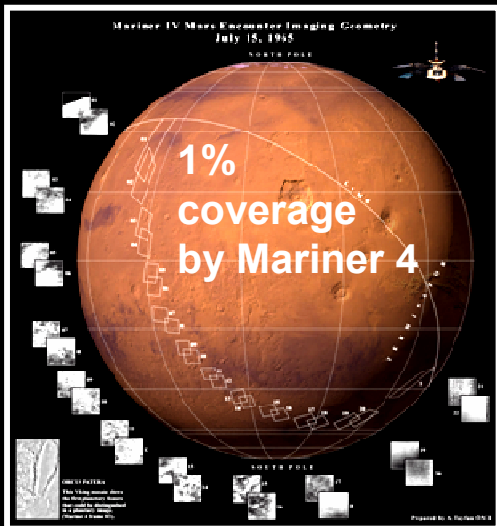


177 mT Gliders  
Reach half-way  
around Mars!

Paintings by  
Chesley Bonestell

Surface pressure of Mars was thought to be 10x higher than that measured by Viking in the 1970s. Braun's gliders are too small. Stuhlinger's approach resembles more recent Lander designs.

# Mission planning 1960s: Rise of the robots



**Mariner 4 (1964)**

**Boeing Company (1968)**

In 1965 Mariner 4 measured the density of the Martian atmosphere and found it to be 100x less dense than Earth. These findings were used in the design of a Lander (by North American Rockwell) for the Boeing 1968 study.

# Mission plannings 1970s/1980s: The case for Mars



Image credit: NASA

## **Viking (1976)**

Viking 1 & 2 analysed the composition of the Martian environment and found it to be rich in resources.

CfM II plans for a permanent Martian base using cyclers and reusable shuttles. Refueling using In-situ Resource Utilization (ISRU).

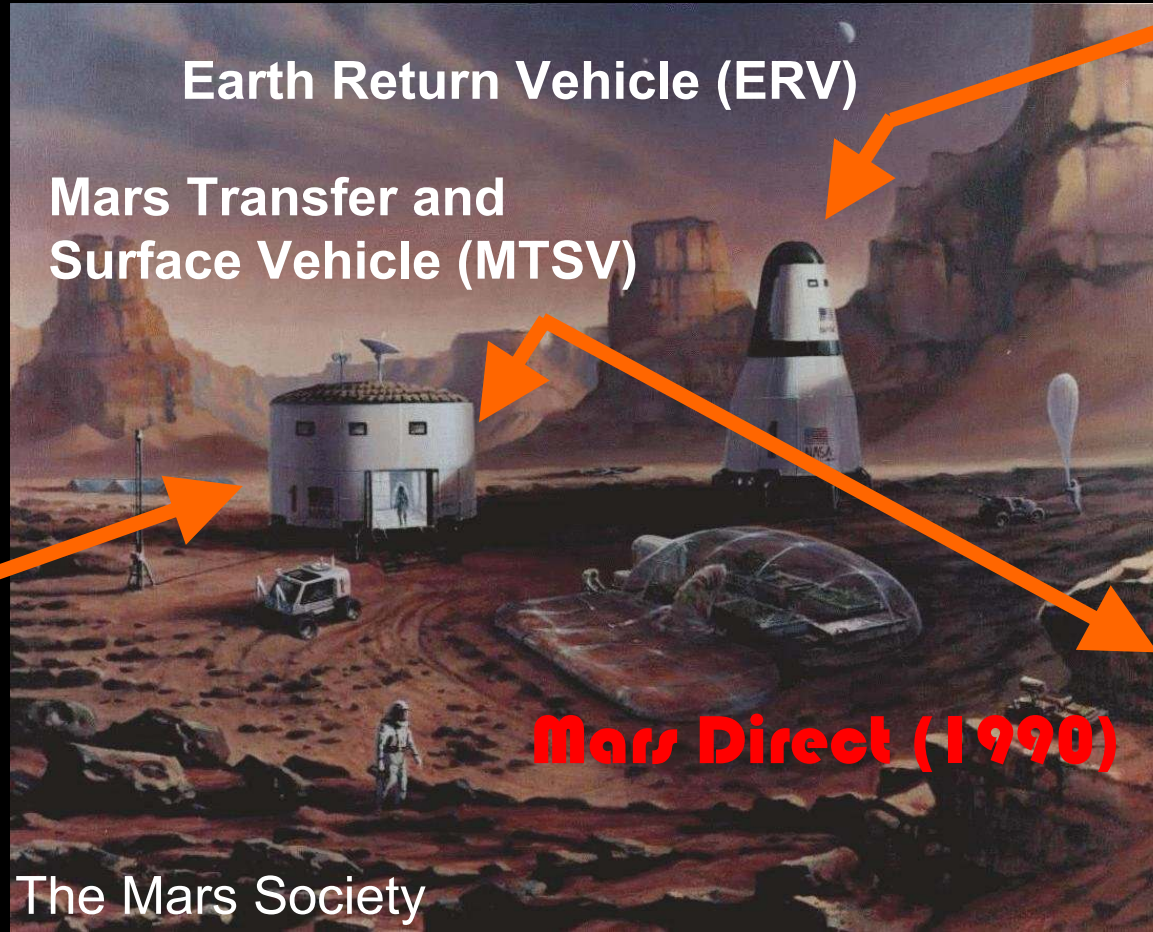
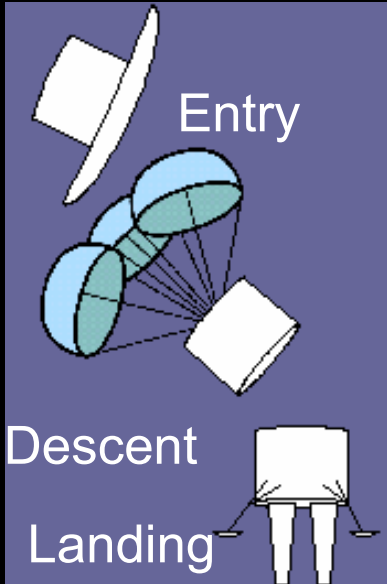
## **The Case for Mars II (1984)**



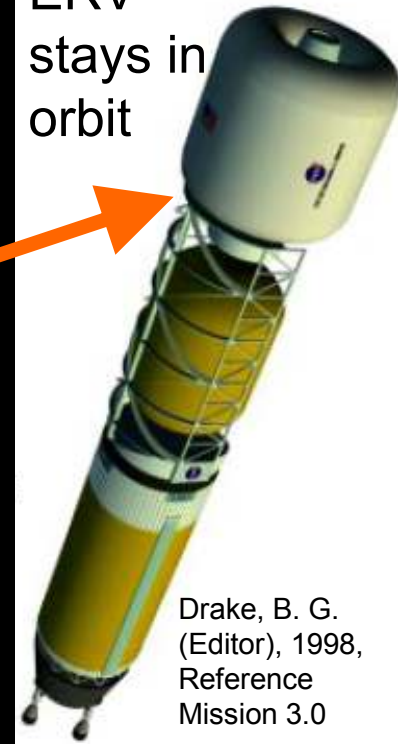
Painting by Carter Emmart

# Mission planning 1990s: Reference Missions

Blunt body EDL?



ERV stays in orbit



**NASA  
DRM 3.0  
(1998)**



**Slender body**

Many approaches to landing on Mars. Direct to Mars, Earth orbit assembly, direct entry, entry from orbit (aerocapture or propulsive?), ISRU, Earth return from Mars surface or Mars orbit? Nuclear propulsion? A question of mass? What is the mass of the EDLS? EDLS is an unknown.....

# Mission planning in the naughties: Starting the simulation



## **Mars Desert Research Station**      **All Terrain Vehicles for exploring**

The Mars Society has two operation analogue stations, F-MARS and MDRS (shown here). The aim of these stations is to optimise the productive exploration of Mars by humans. Conduct useful field research to understand geology, biology and environmental conditions on Earth and on Mars. Generate public support for sending humans to Mars. These stations can also help to define the mass requirement for a surface mission (i.e the payload....the Lander).



# Section A: conclusions + new questions

- Early Mars Lander design were heavily influenced by our knowledge of the Mars atmosphere. Landers only stayed on the surface for a short time.
- These days missions designs for landing humans on Mars are dependant on ISRU. The drive for cost effectiveness dictates long stays on the surface.
- There are a number of EDLS proposed to get humans onto the surface and have not been fully described. All require landing large mass and pin-point targeting.
- Work is ongoing to define the surface mission with analogue simulations but what about the design of Entry, Descent and Landing systems to get there in the first place?
- EDL systems are being investigated by several workers e.g. Braun et al.

## Question 1

What about integrating the Lander and EDLS with the rest of the mission? How useful is virtual prototyping (experimenting using computer simulations)?

## Question 2

What about realistic EDL scenarios for piloted Landers? What can that tell us? Poorly understood Martian weather (dust storms) plays havoc with Lander EDLS.....what simple but practical investigations can be made to begin to understand Martian weather?

## **B. Tools for virtual prototyping**

# What is virtual prototyping?

- Firstly a virtual prototype is a computer simulation of a system with a degree of functional realism. Here the system(s) are those of the Mars Lander (heat shield, parachutes etc).
- Virtual prototyping is the process of using this prototype for test and evaluation of specific characteristics of a design. In this case it is landing on Mars!
- Virtual prototyping can, to varying degrees, replace costly and time consuming real world tests

# Virtual prototyping tools

## Results and feedback flow diagram

**Mars local-Area Model**

Data input for Aerobrake 2D (surface temperature and pressure, atmosphere temperature, wind speed)

**Aerobrake 2D**

Trajectory plan, Entry descent and Landing System

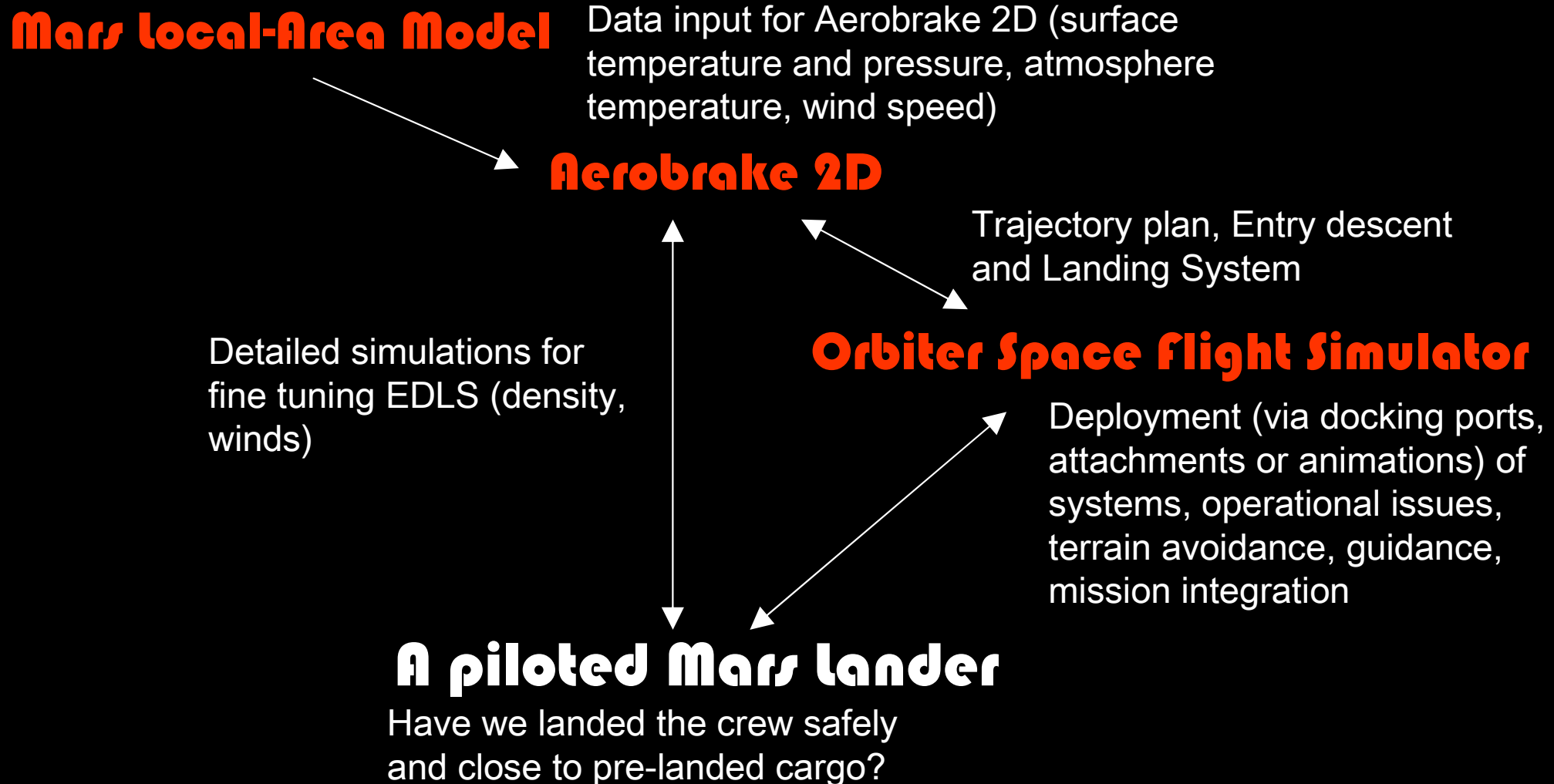
**Orbiter Space Flight Simulator**

Deployment (via docking ports, attachments or animations) of systems, operational issues, terrain avoidance, guidance, mission integration

Detailed simulations for fine tuning EDLS (density, winds)

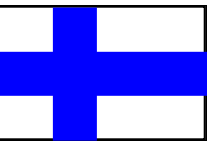
**A piloted Mars lander**

Have we landed the crew safely and close to pre-landed cargo?

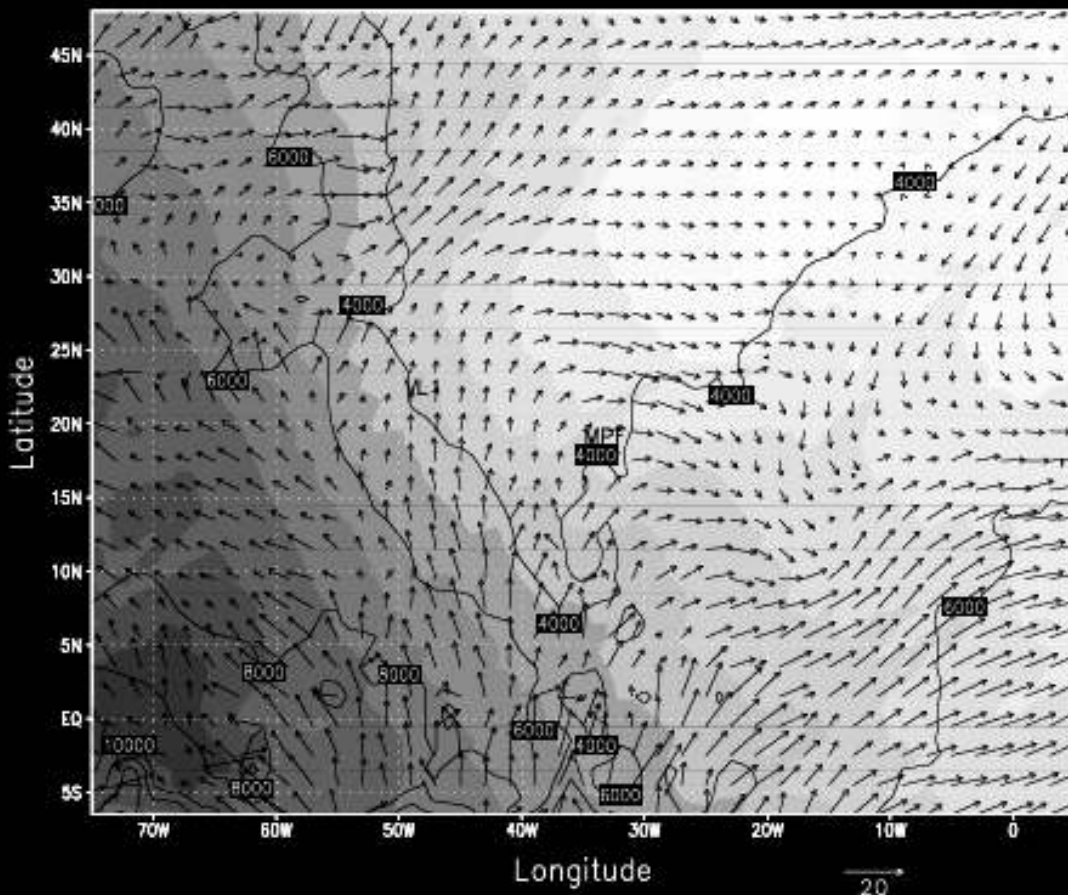
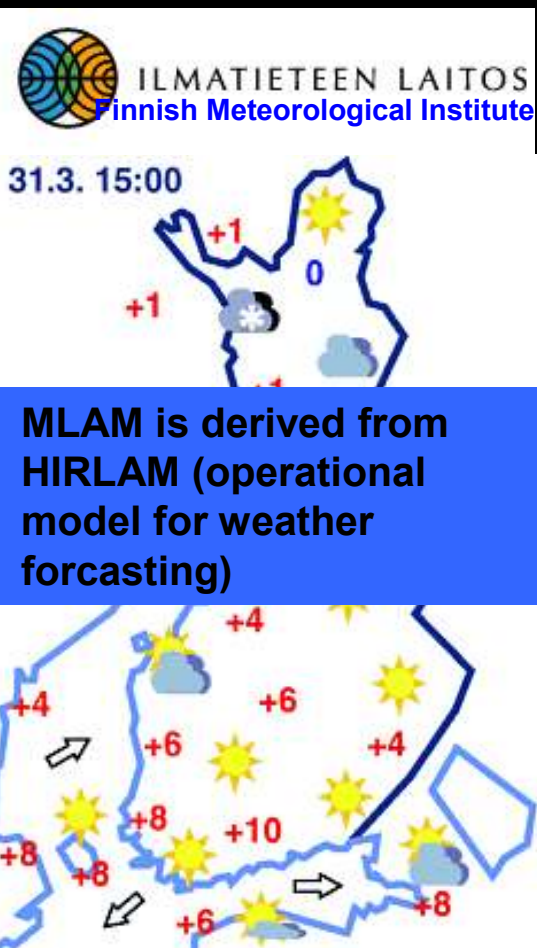


# Mars local-area Model

- MLAM is a mesoscale atmosphere simulation for Mars
- It has been developed jointly by the University of Helsinki and the Finnish Meteorological Institute (also in Helsinki)
- It is derived from an operational model used for weather prediction on Earth (HIRLAM)
- Numerically solves fundamental thermal and mechanical equations for each atmospheric gridbox
- The grid covers part of the globe (several 1000s km) and boundary conditions are obtained from Global Circulation Models (GCMs)
- MLAM surface and atmospheric data can be viewed by an earth science data graphics package called the Grid Analysis and Display System (GrADS)
- Wind speed, for example, is output as vector pairs, one south to north, labelled  $v$ , the other west to east, labelled  $u$ . The data can be output into a text file if necessary using a specially written script.
- MLAM has been checked against meteorological measurements made on Mars by the Vikings and Pathfinder. Also recently MLAM output has been compared to TES data (surface temperature) from Mars Global Surveyor and found to be in good agreement.



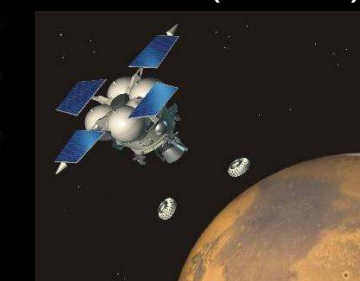
# Mars Local-Area Model



Viking (NASA)



Phoenix (NASA)



MetNet (FMI, BSC, IKI)

Figure 1: A MLAM forecast of ground temperature (greyscale; in K) and 1.5 m level winds (arrows; in m/s; the arrow below the image denotes 20 m/s) over topography (contours; in m from Mars' lowest elevation) in the VL1 and MPF landing region (the landing sites are marked with "VL1" and "MPF"). Season is summer solstice ( $L_s = 90^\circ$ ) and local time is 1100 at  $0^\circ\text{W}$  (0900 at  $30^\circ\text{W}$  — the MPF longitude). (Silli et al., 2005)

# Aerobrake 2D (A2D)

## FORTRAN PROGRAM

### Features:

Multi-level (vertical) atmosphere only limited by available data (temperature, winds)

Rotation of the atmosphere.

Aeroshell, parachutes, heat shield release, powered descent.

Varying lift and drag controlled by Mach number and/or guidance computer commands (from real flights)

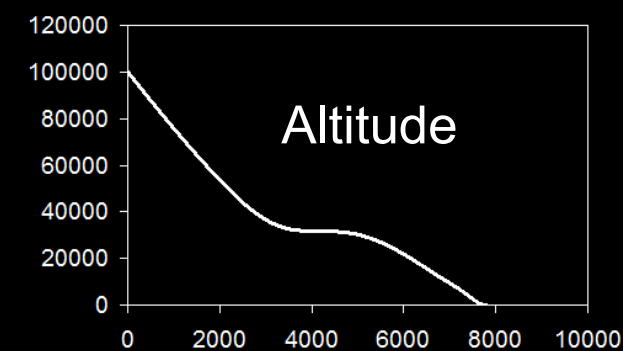
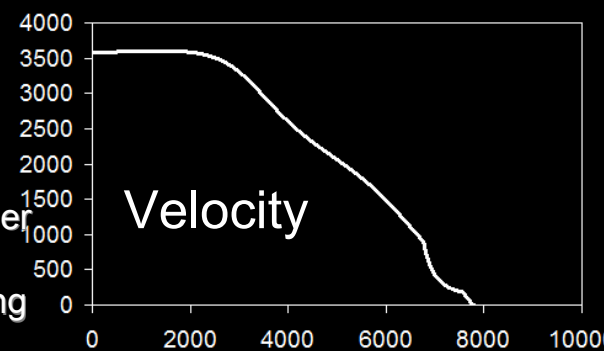
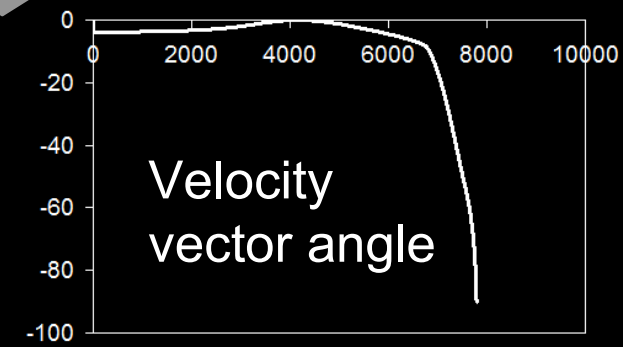
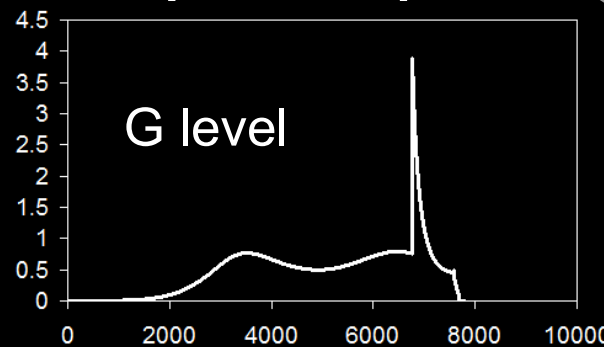
```

C:\Documents and Settings\paton\Desktop\EDL new 110307\EDL2.exe
ENTRY, DESCENT AND LANDING
Mark Paton 16.01.07

MTSU for Irving et al. (2006)

Planet mass Ae+B (kg)..... 6.41854172E+023
Planet radius (m)..... 3389920.
Lander area (m2)..... 16.
Lander mass (kg)..... 38000.
Lander fuel (kg)..... 8000.
Lander thrust (N)..... 500000.
Lander isp (s^-1)..... 379.918427
Lander rocket descent altitude start (m)..... 1500.
Lander target touchdown speed (m/s)..... 2.
Shield area (m2)..... 242.
Shield mass (kg)..... 5800.
Shield L/D..... 0.300000012
Shield angle of attack for L/D..... 0.
Shield nose radius (m)..... 0.375
Shield release event..... 5.
Shield release time (s)..... 0.200000003
First chute area (m2)..... 0.
First chute mass (kg)..... 100.
First chute deploy speed (m/s)..... 0.
    
```

### Output examples



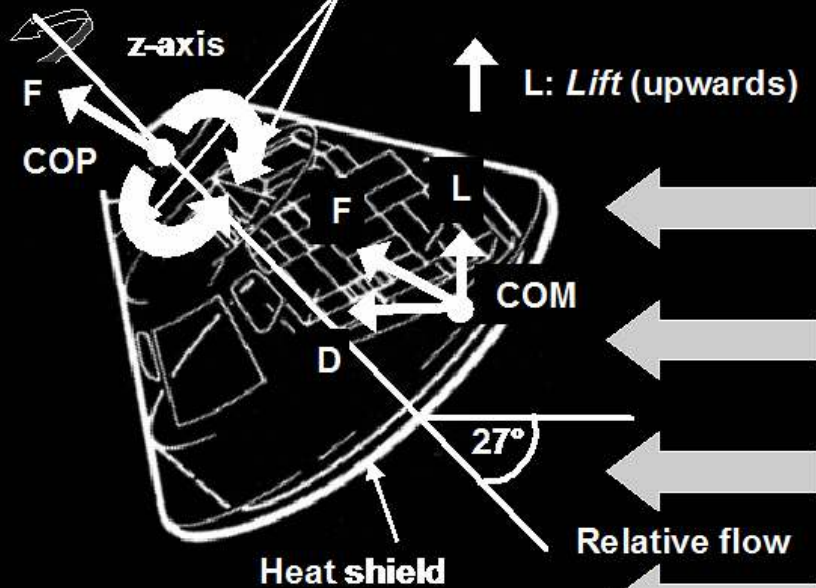
A2D simulates the motion of an object under gravitational and aerodynamic forces in a two dimensional plane. Suitable for setting up EDL trajectories in a 3D simulator such as Orbiter or even to investigate real EDL trajectories (like the effect of winds which Orbiter does not simulate)

- A2D has been developed since 2004
1. Bridges et al., 2004, A very public fireball
  2. Paton, M. D., 2005, Penetration of NEOs and other Solar System bodies, PhD thesis
  3. Irving et al., 2006, VP of human Mars Missions using the Orbiter space flight sim.

# Validation: flying Apollo style

Rotation around z axis for steering

Restoring moments provide stability



**The capsule can fly!**

COM

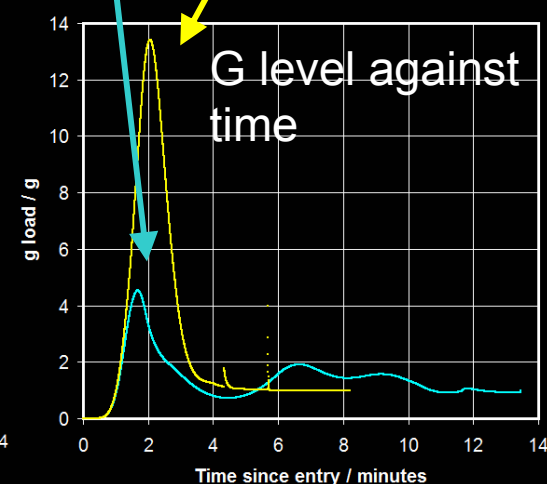
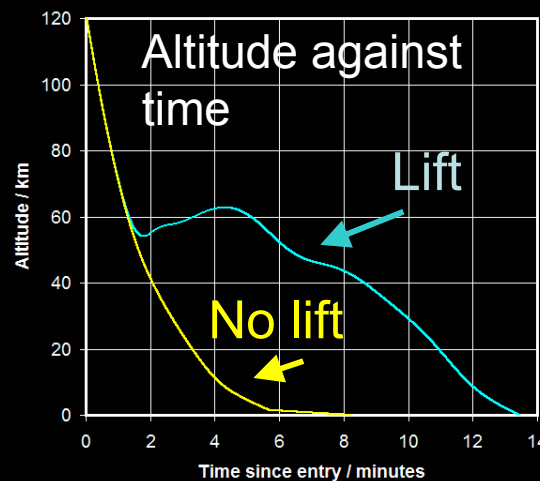
Lift upwards

Lift left

Lift right

Trajectory with no lift

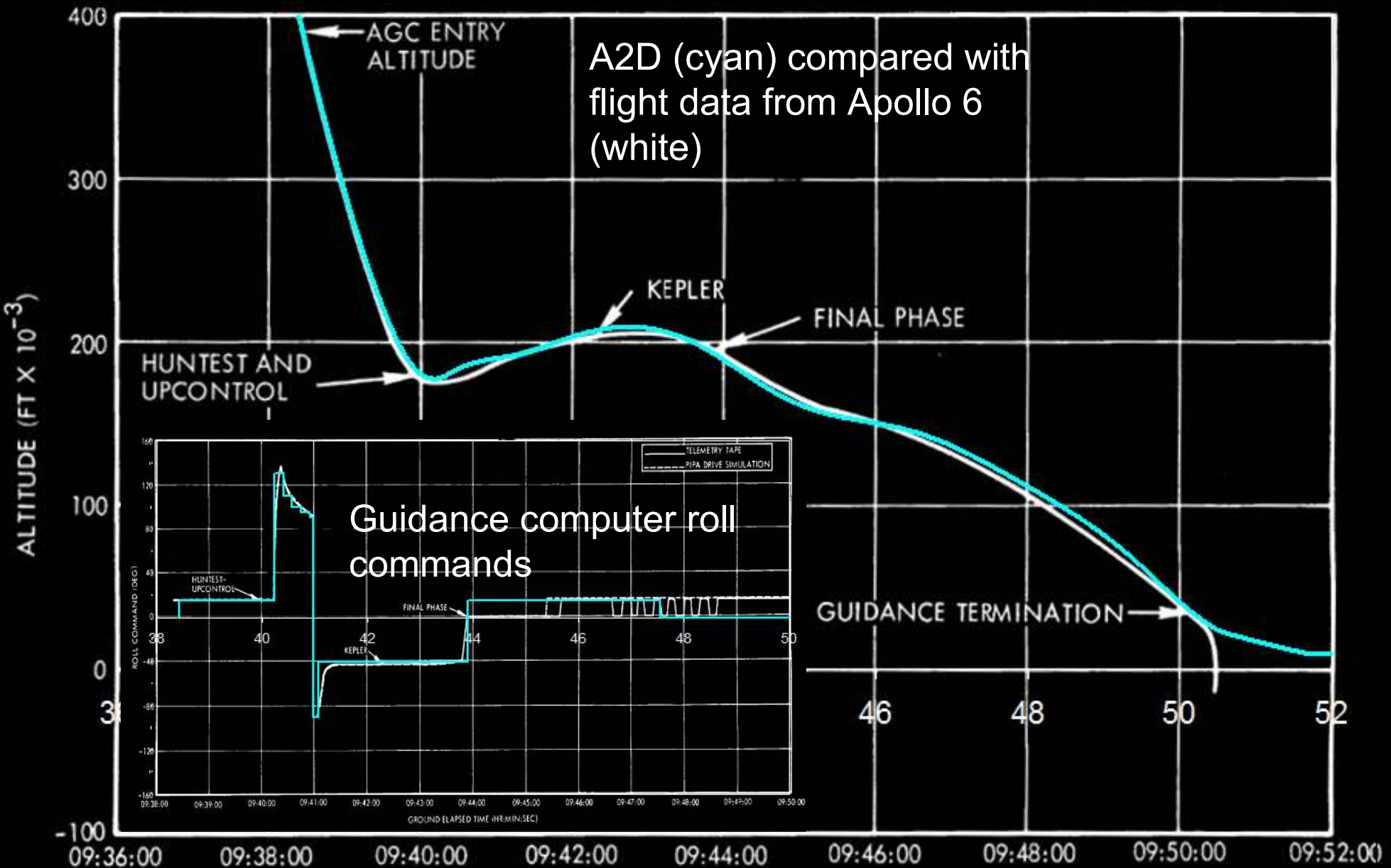
Trajectory with lift / steering



The Apollo CM was chosen over Mars entry probes for validation as the Earth's atmosphere is more stable and well known than Mars. Also for Apollo there are extensive simulations and flight data easily accessible on the internet.

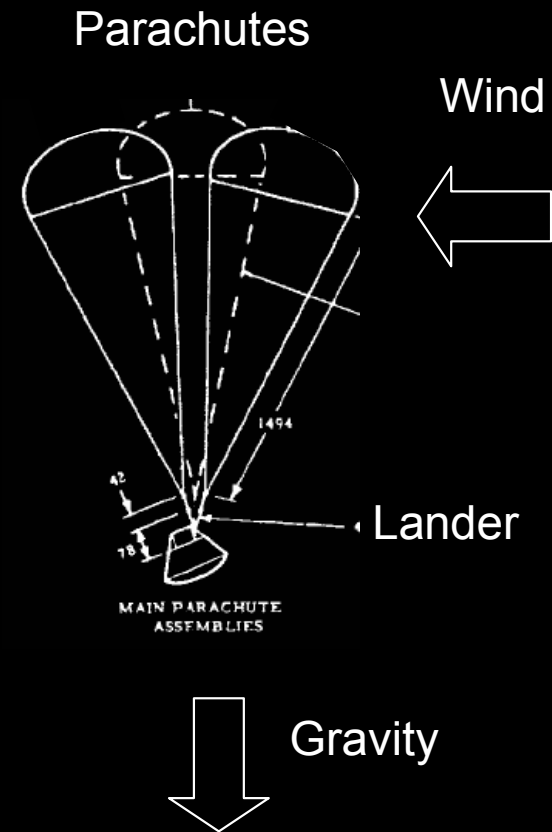
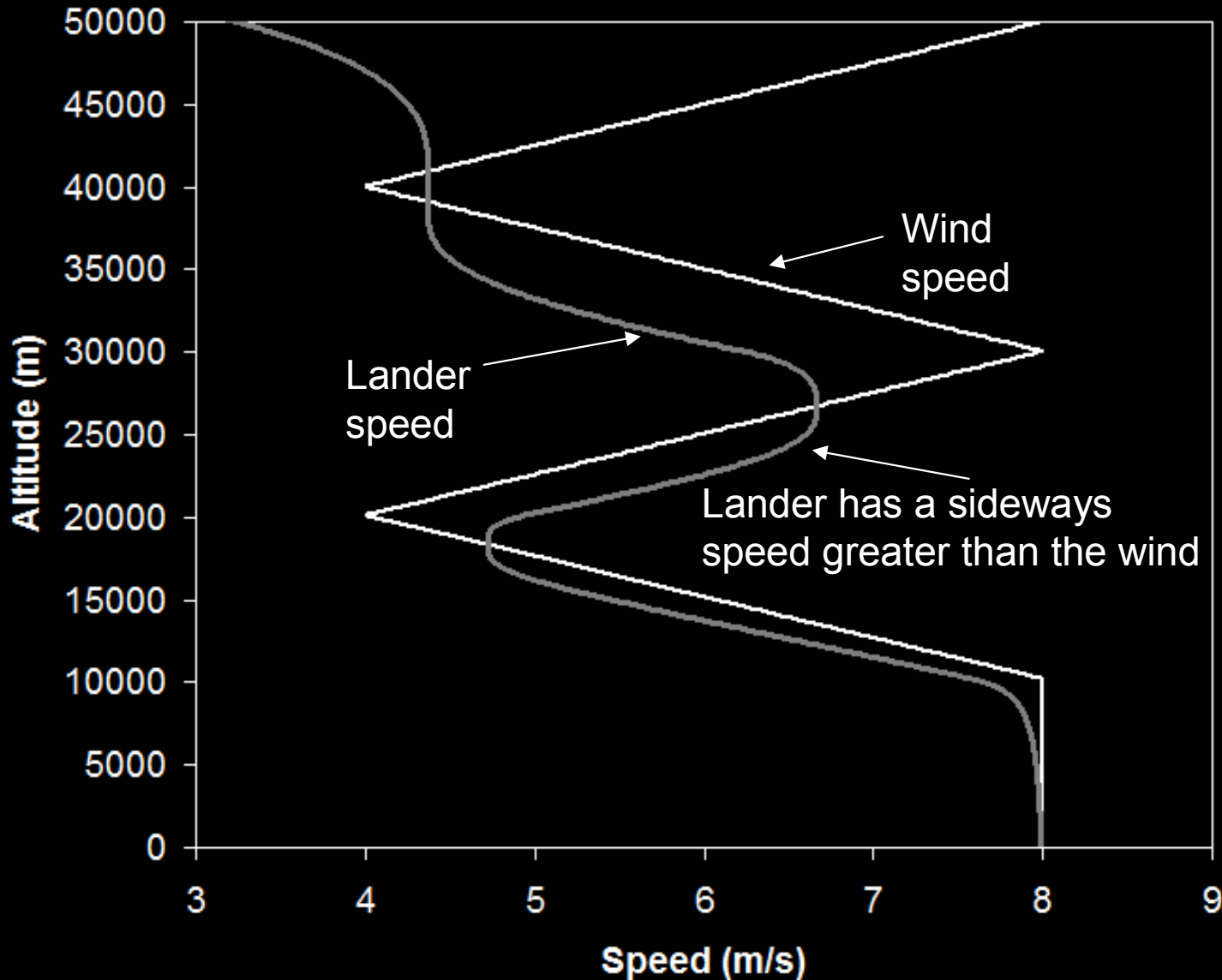


# Validation: A2D compared with reconstructed Apollo 6 flight data



# Winds in A2D: Just checking.....

Lander is dropped from an altitude of 100 km with parachutes deployed. The winds vary from 8 to 4 metres per second in a zig-zag fashion (white). The wind blows the Lander sideways at a speed (grey) depending on how the wind speed is changing.



# Orbiter space flight simulator

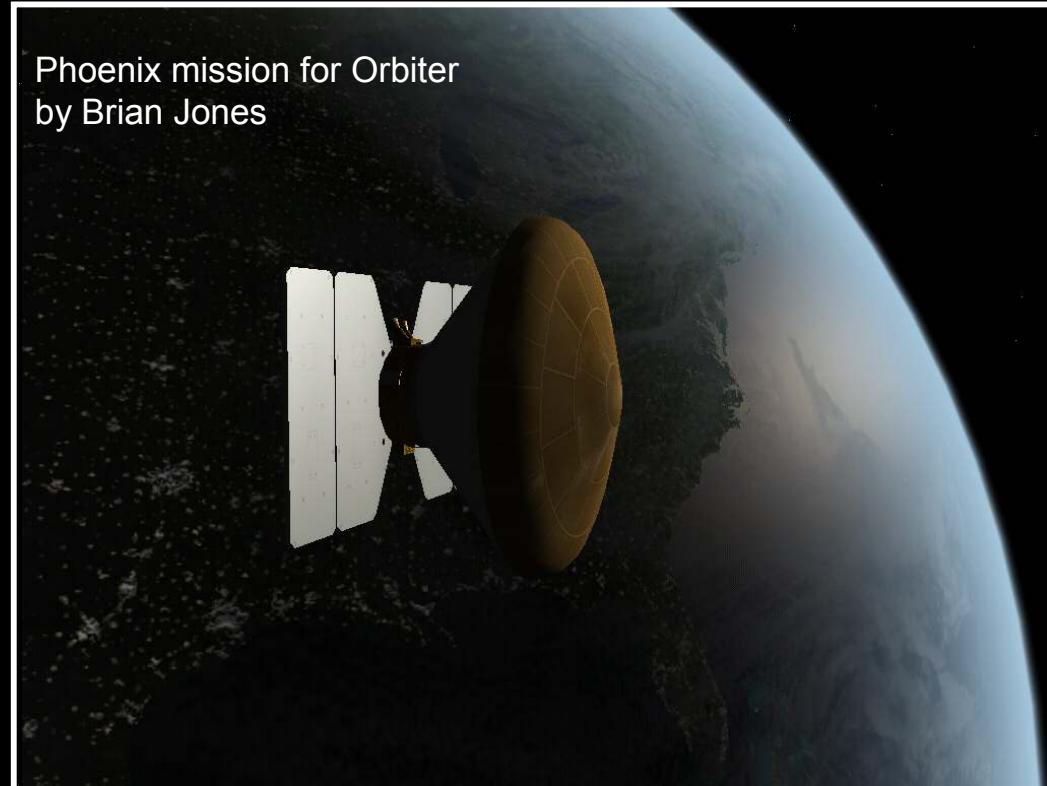
- Orbiter is a real-time space flight simulator – it features
- Modeling of atmospheric flight (launch and reentry), sub-orbital, orbital and interplanetary missions
- Newtonian mechanics, rigid body rotation, static atmospheric flight model
- Planet positions from public perturbation solutions; time integration of state vectors or osculating elements
- Developed since 2000 as an educational and spacecraft simulation tool (Schweiger, 2004 & 2006)
- Includes a versatile API and SDK to allow users to create "add-ons" that expand Orbiter's capabilities in many ways
- Completely new spacecraft, propulsion systems, flight instruments, etc can be defined and flown
- Orbiter is freeware, courtesy of its author Dr. Martin Schweiger (University College London). [www.orbitersim.com](http://www.orbitersim.com)

# Orbiter space flight simulator

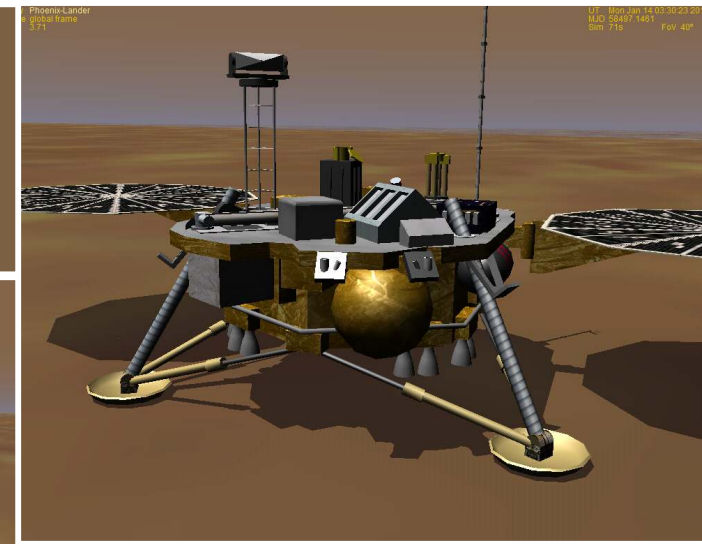
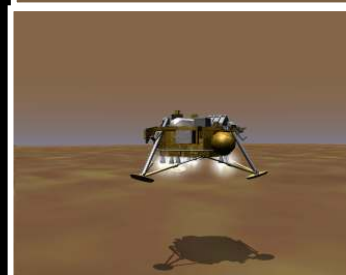
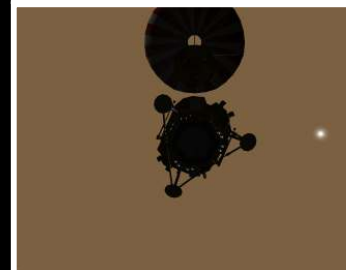
Deltaglider model by Roger "Frying Tiger" Long.  
Instrument panels by Martin Schweiger



Phoenix mission for Orbiter  
by Brian Jones



Screen shots from the Orbiter space flight simulator. Above shows a view from inside the cockpit of a fictional spacecraft called the Deltaglider, which is provided with the Orbiter base package. The view also shows the blue oceans of Earth and some white streaks of clouds and on the horizon is a band of atmospheric haze. The virtual cockpit is interactive; buttons can be activated with the mouse. To the right are screen shots from the Phoenix mission in Orbiter. The mission can be simulated from launch to touchdown on Mars.



# Section B: summary

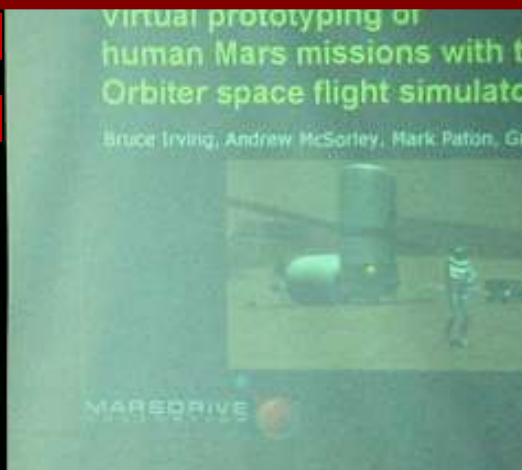
- Reliable models of the Martian atmosphere and weather exist. MLAM can be used to provide atmospheric data for EDL simulations.
- A simple 2D EDL tool (A2D) can provide useful information for prototyping landing systems and assessing deflection by the wind.
- The Orbiter space flight simulator is a great tool for prototyping spacecraft missions and trying out landing scenarios on Mars.

**C. A piloted Mars lander**

# **I. Virtual prototyping the mission (Orbiter space flight simulator)**

# Mars Society Conference 2006

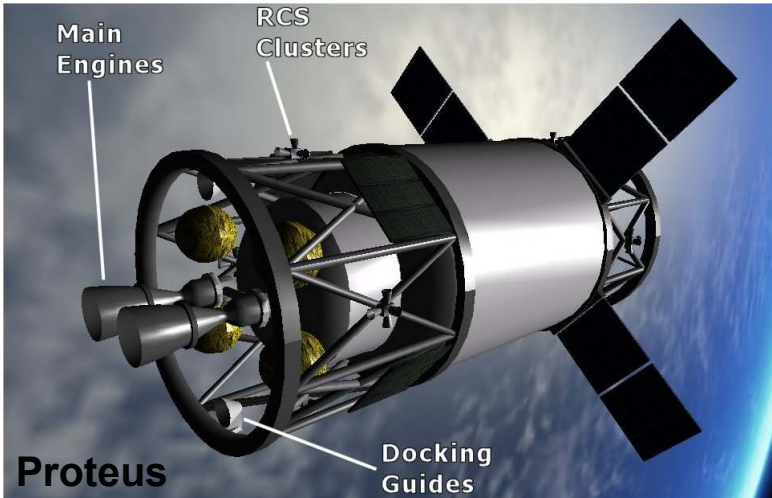
**Bruce Irving:  
JPL Solar System Ambassador 2007**



**Ariane 5 modifications, Proteus booster model, interplanetary navigation by Andrew McSorley**



These models are based on vehicles described in the Mars for Less mission (Bonin, 2006), similar to Mars Direct but using MLLVs and Earth orbit assembly

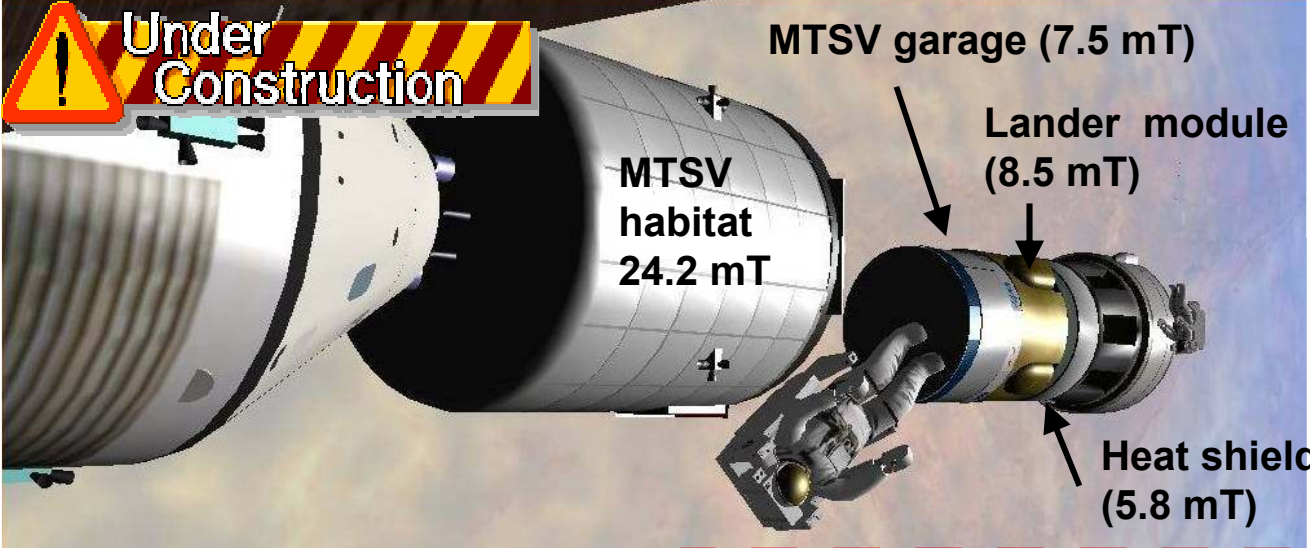


Original A5 by Thomas Ruth



Korou by "Papyrus" & "Mustard"

**Under Construction**



**MTSV model and EDL by Mark Paton**



# The MTSV and booster stack

Solar panels for powering the Proteus during assembly in Earth orbit.

Original MFL rigid heat shield removed and replaced with an inflatable one

Retractable solar panels. They can also rotate around the central beam to present the maximum area to the Sun.

Solar panel cables for support during artificial gravity generation and while on the surface of Mars.

Thermal tiles for heat management during atmosphere entry

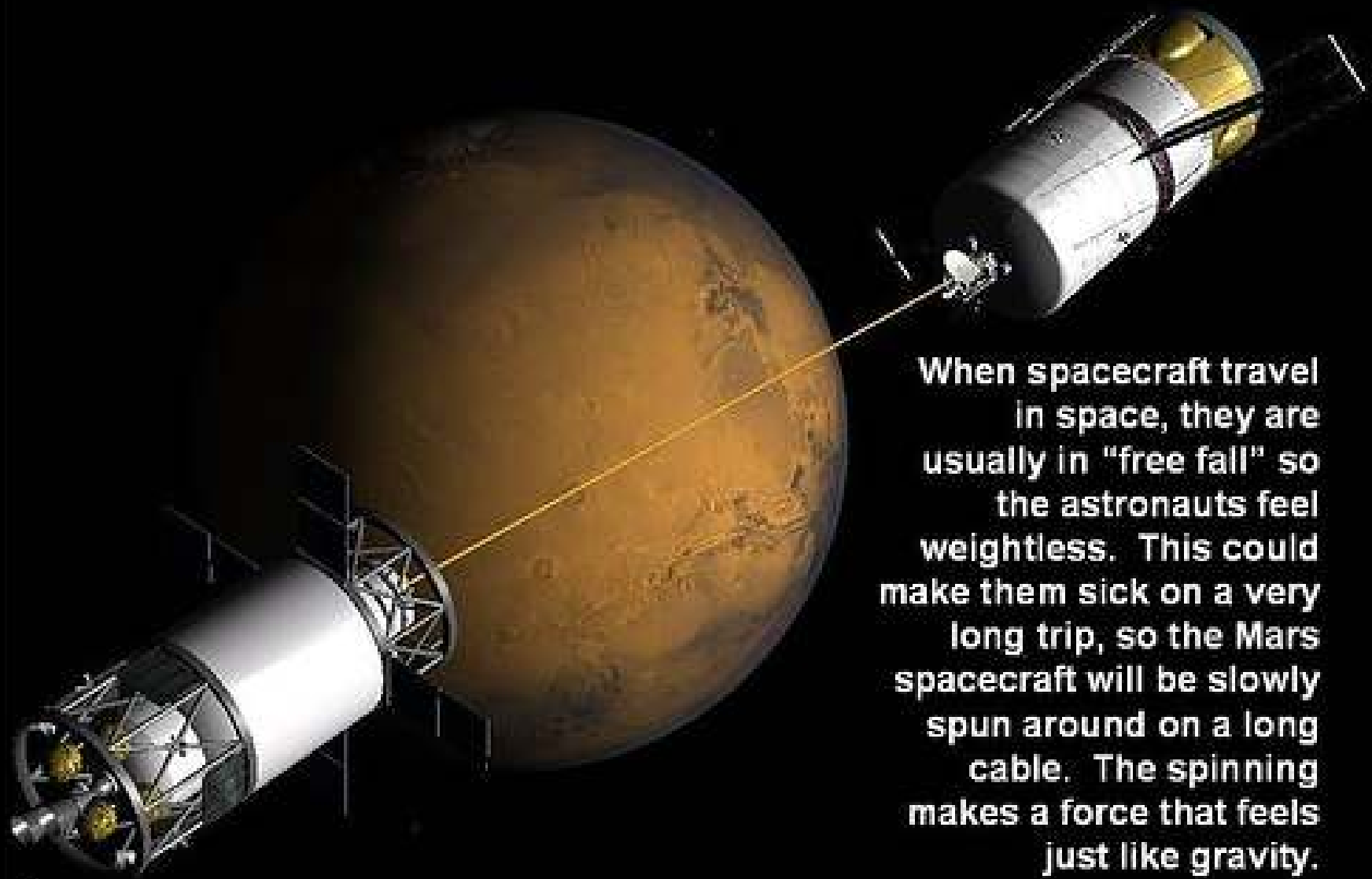
Two high-gain antenna (stowed)

MTSV (mass: 46 mT)

Blue cylinders are the parachute canisters

CEV by Francisdrake

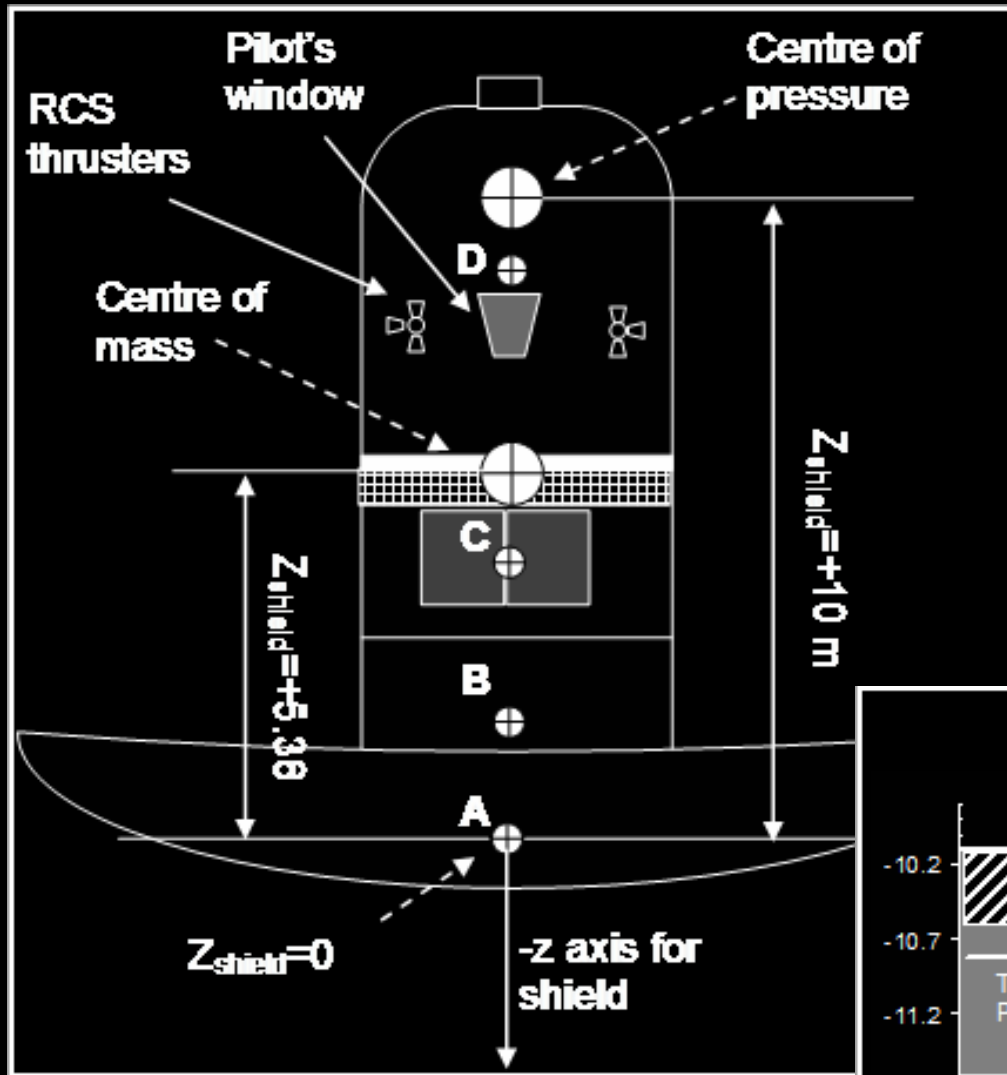
# Arrival at Mars.....



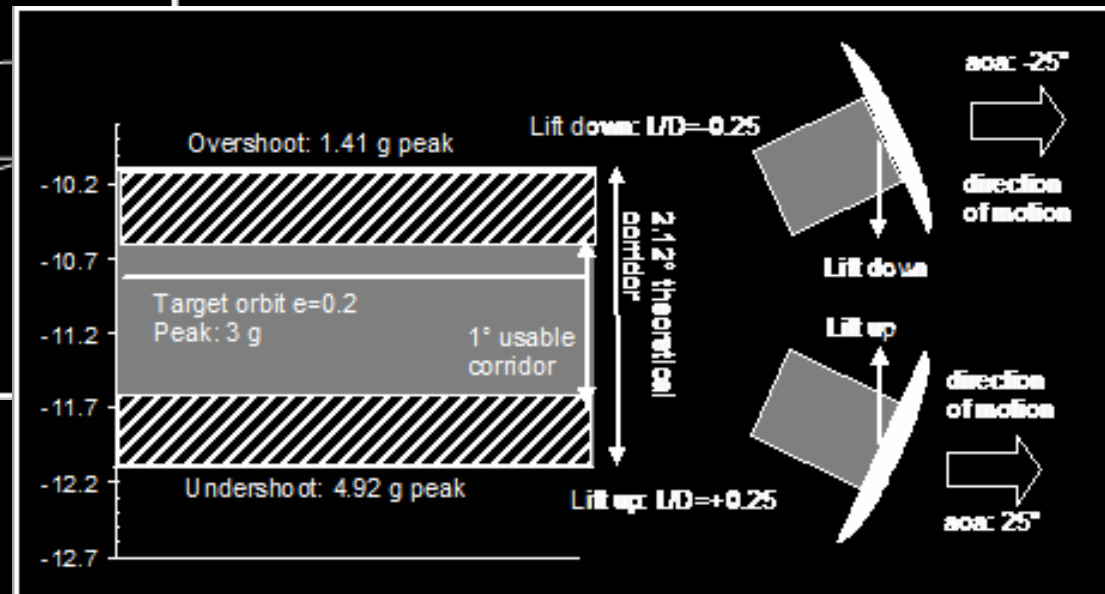
When spacecraft travel in space, they are usually in "free fall" so the astronauts feel weightless. This could make them sick on a very long trip, so the Mars spacecraft will be slowly spun around on a long cable. The spinning makes a force that feels just like gravity.

## **2. EDL *system design* (A2D / Orbiter)**

# Aerodynamic model



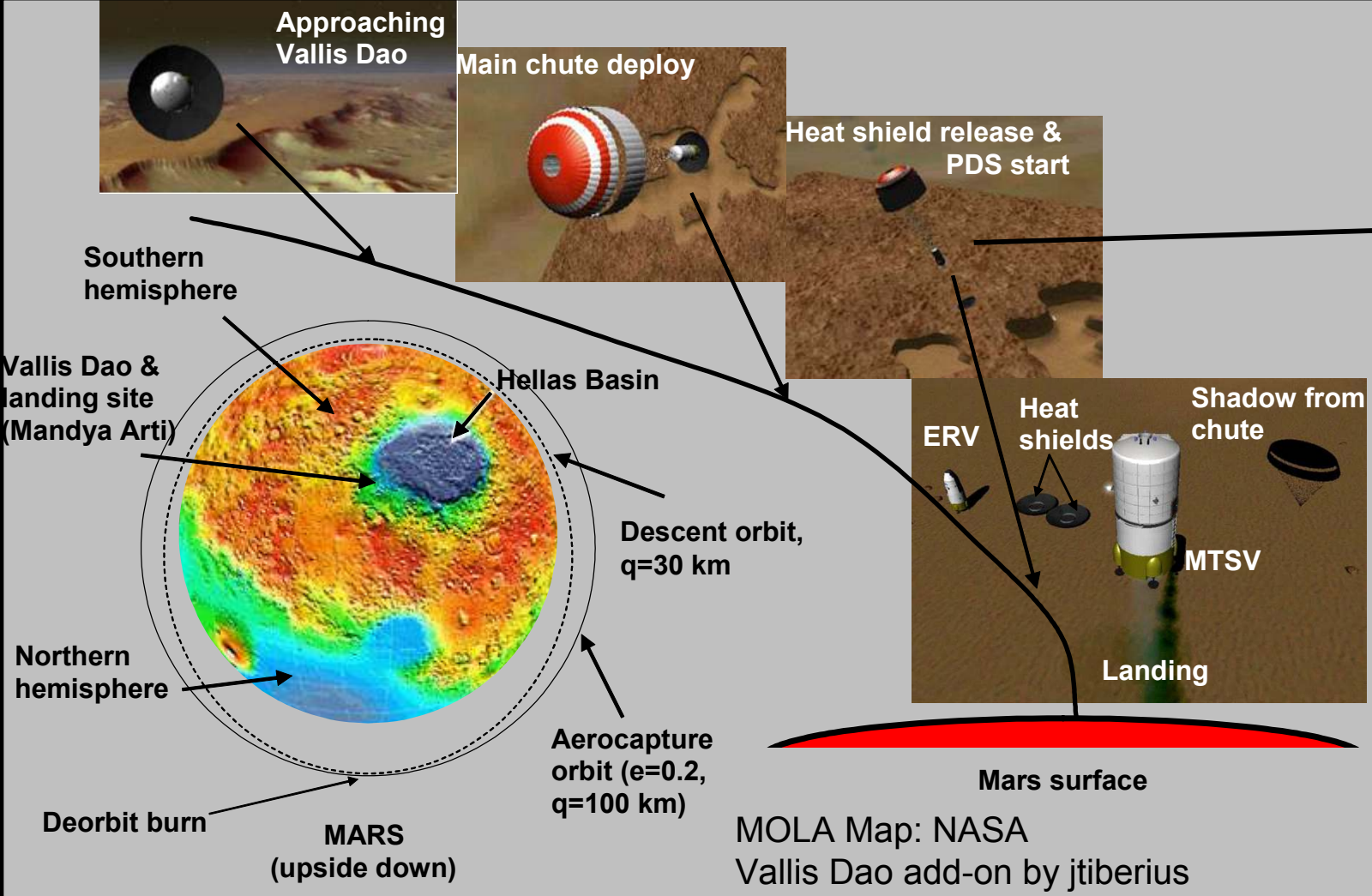
- Trial aerocapture flights in Orbiter highlighted the necessity that the centre of pressure should be behind the centre of mass (left). The trial flights were set up using A2D.
- A2D was used to determine the width of the aerocapture corridor (below) and establish that an Apollo type heat shield (L/D of 0.3) could be used with an area of  $\sim 250\text{ m}^2$



- Ballistic coefficient  $\sim 200\text{ kg/m}^2$
- Heating low enough for inflatable? Maybe!

There may be less mass to launch.....but a large mass to land!! Bit tricky. ☺

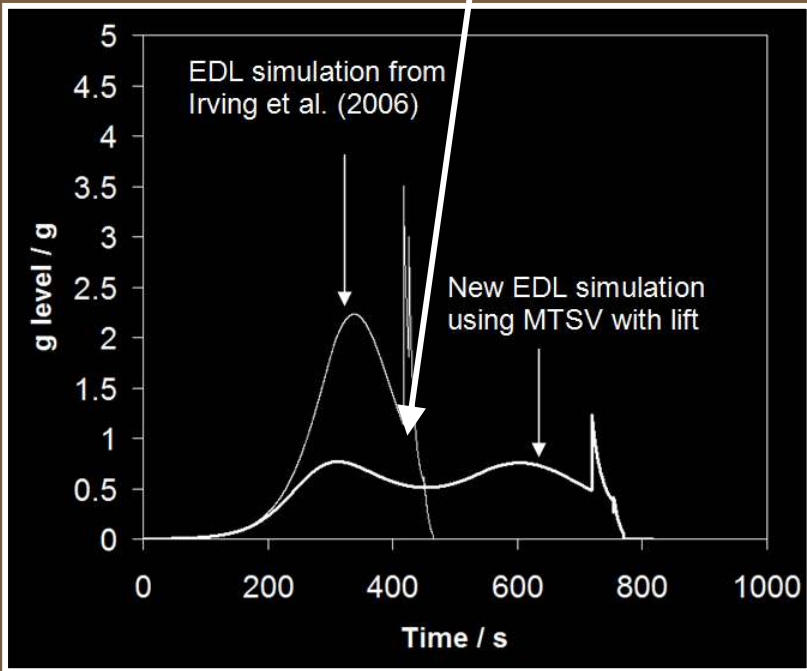
# EDL design for a piloted lander



- Many trajectories first run in A2D (ballistic:  $L/D=0$ )
- Entry numbers for successful EDL then transferred to Orbiter

# Transition from entry to landing, a bit dangerous, not much time

We are here



Parachute:  
effective area 1050 m<sup>2</sup>

X D = 132.9kN

y

D = 37.67kN

## Virtual prototyping result:

It was found (using Orbiter & A2D), for positive separation of the heat shield, a combination of drag from the parachute and engine thrust had to be applied to the Lander.

• A2D used for planning EDL in Orbiter



• 6 mT inflatable heat shield

16 m diameter heat shield:  
effectiver area 242 m<sup>2</sup>

# Conclusions 1

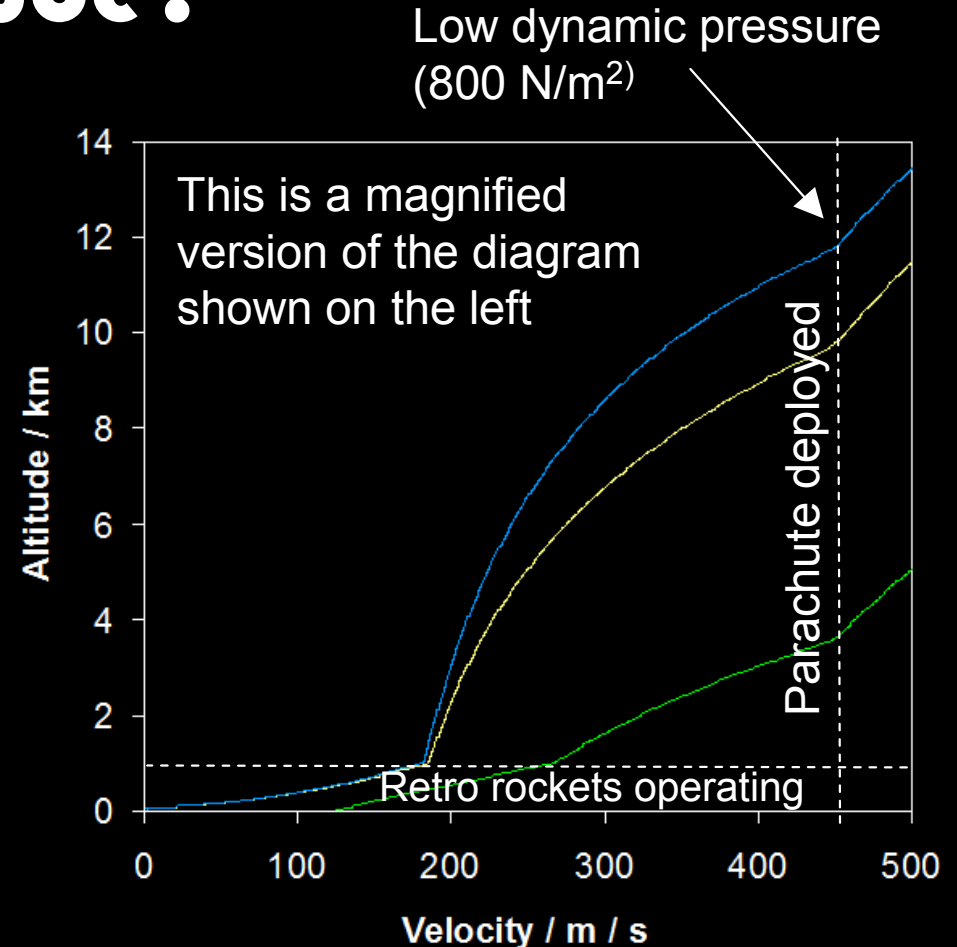
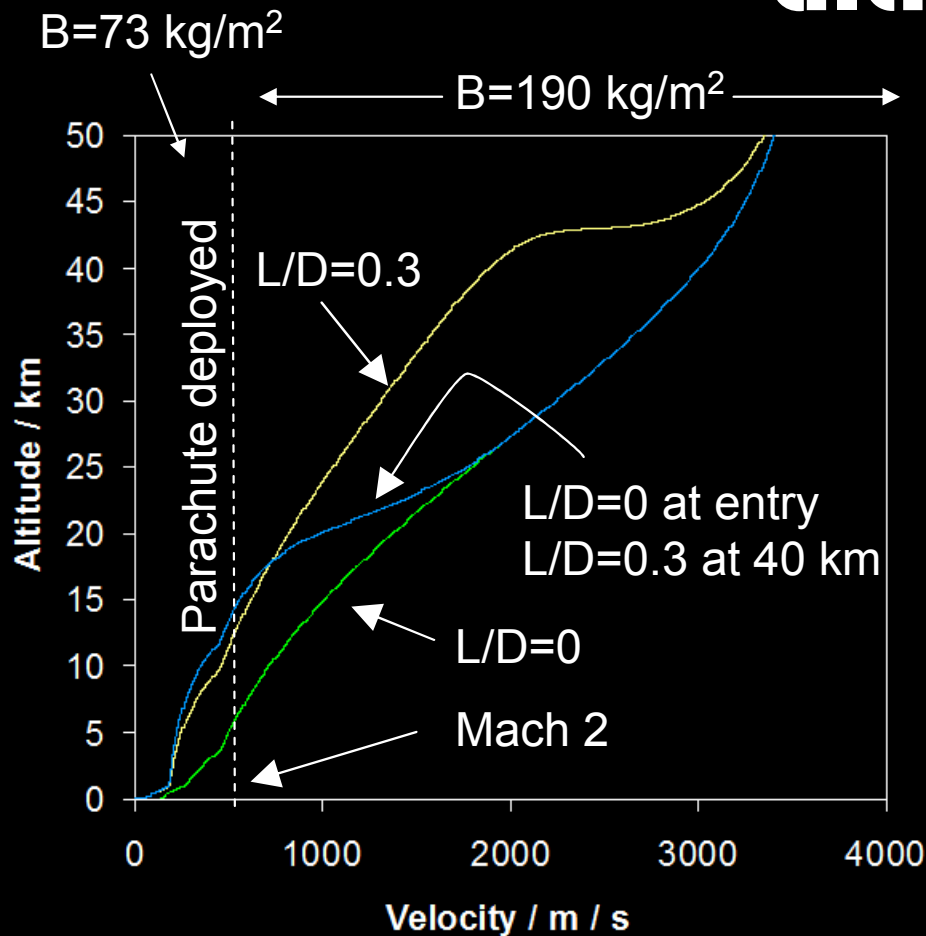
- As reported by Irving et al. (2006) shadowing of the solar panels by the large heat shield was seen to be a problem. The proposed solution was to use an inflatable shield.
- Also an inflatable heat shield offers a mass advantage over a rigid heat shield
- Another thing.....during the VP work it was found that retro engines had to be fired to pull the Lander off the shield
- So virtual prototyping really helped identify problem areas especially with design of the Lander, its EDLS and its influence on other phases of the mission

# **3. The effect of Martian winds (A2D / MLAM)**



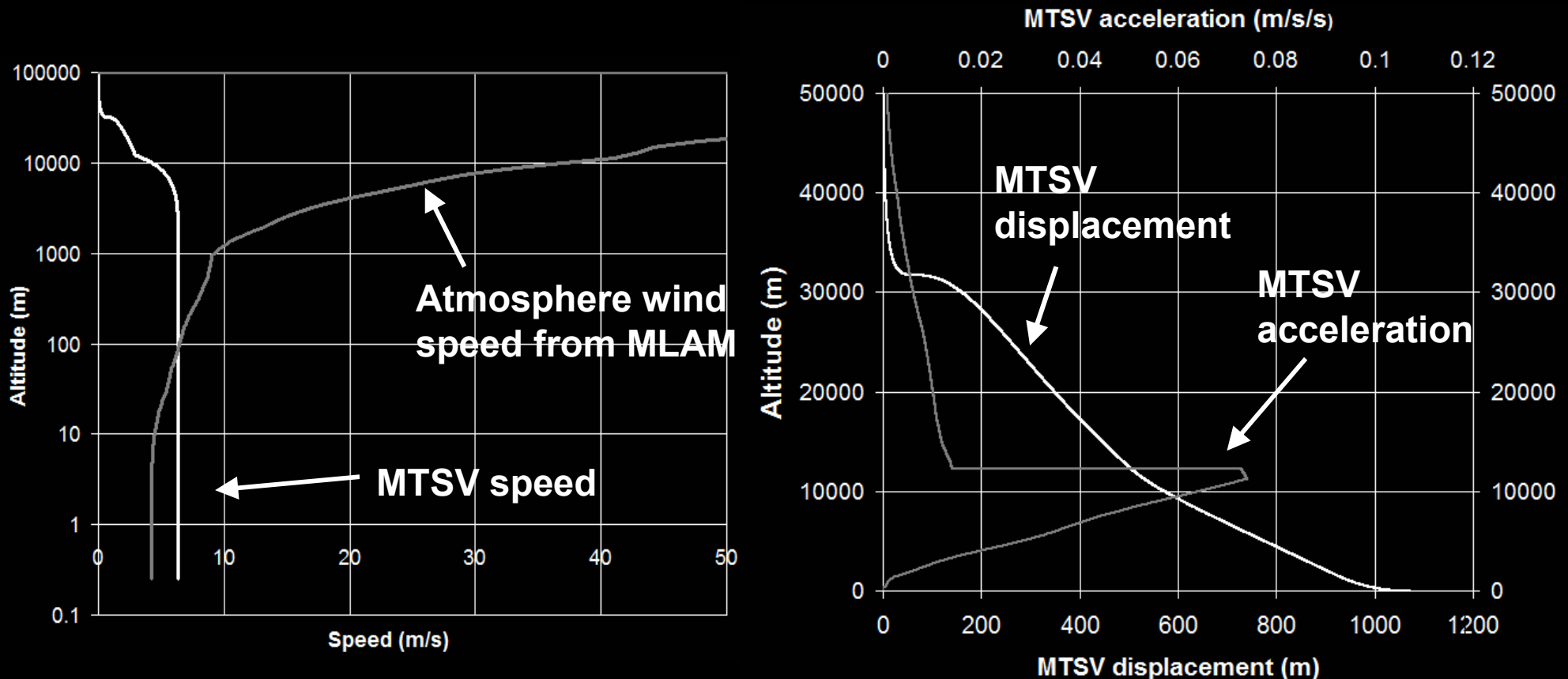


# What's the Parachute deployment altitude?



The left and right diagram show velocity-altitude plots for three identical MTSVs (46 mT at entry). One of them has vertical lift (yellow) another has zero lift (green) and another (blue) switches over from zero vertical lift to a vertical  $L/D$  of 0.3 after reaching an altitude of 40 km. The "switching on" of vertical lift (using bank modulation...) sends the MTSV into a region of low dynamic pressure and thermal heating (i.e. low Mach) suitable for the use of a Viking Lander type parachute. Here however the parachute is much larger at 30 m in diameter. The atmosphere model used here is based on that measured during entry of the Viking 1 Lander.

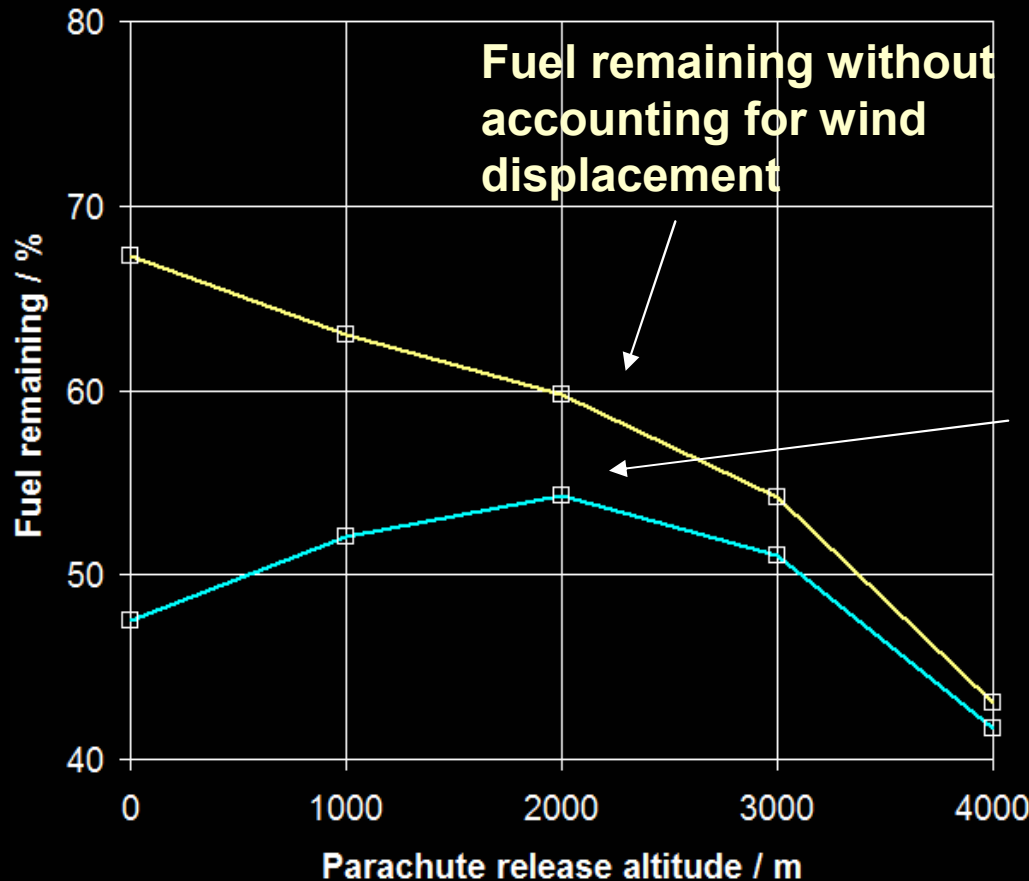
# Displacement by Martian winds (MLAM & A2D)



- Lander is displaced about 1 km to the side
- Winds are slower than the Lander sideways speed at the surface
- A L/D of 0.3 provides adequate control authority to compensate for wind drag during hypersonic entry. So..displacement on the parachute ~300 m.

# Parachute release altitude (MLAM & A2D)

This chart is derived from A2D trajectory experiments. The MTSV is landed at  $2 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  on the surface. The parachute release altitude is varied and the percentage of fuel left is noted.



Fuel remaining calculated from the amount fuel used to correct for cross range displacement by a wind acting normal to the Lander's descent trajectory

- The optimal release altitude (in this case) is 2000 m
- The fuel saving is less than 1 mT or about 20 s of hover time
- Other wind profiles will probably produce similar results but the Martian winds need to be characterised somehow

# Conclusions 2

- Preliminary detailed simulations using A2D and MLAM suggest fuel used during powered descent can be minimised by choosing an optimum parachute (or other large decelerator) release altitude
- This then provides a practical and useful reason for characterising the Martian winds at low altitude (using MLAM)
- Wind displacement is an issue for landing robotic Landers with pin-point accuracy

# Putting it all together: landing on Mars

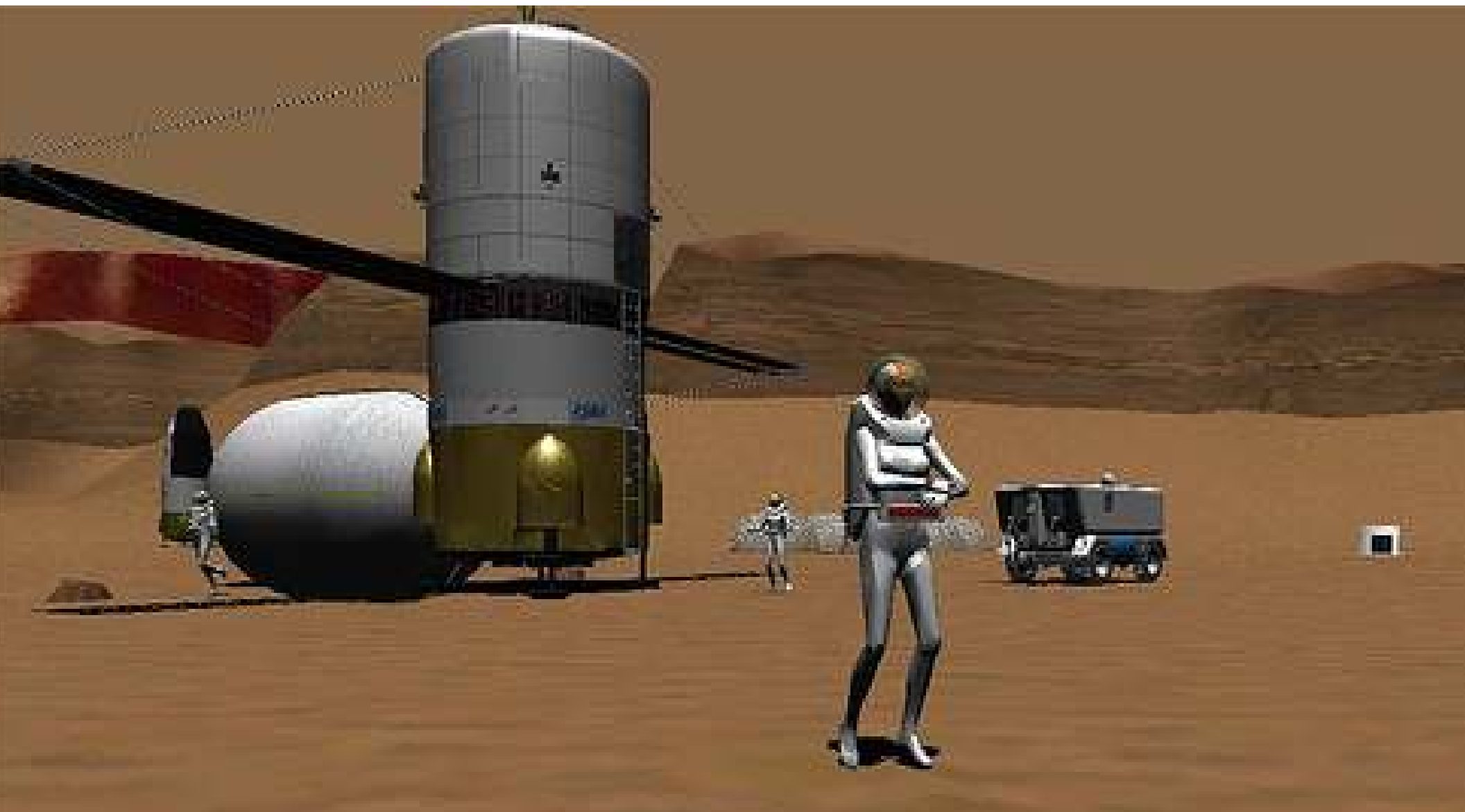
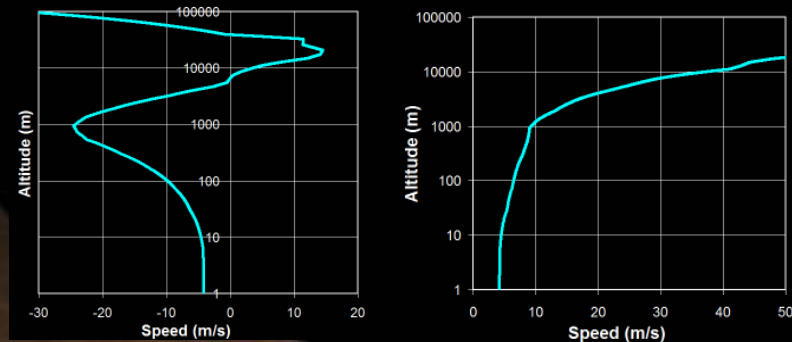


Image from Irving et al. (2006)

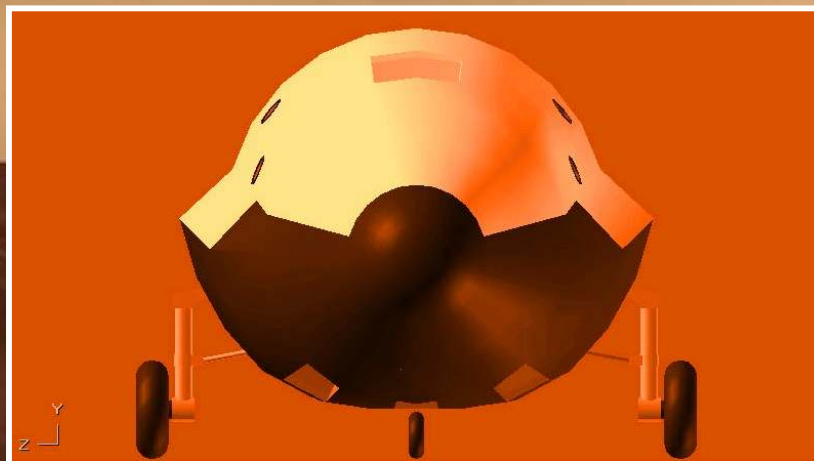
# landing on Mars: a description

1. Solar panels and antennas are retracted. Entry into the atmosphere is at an altitude of 100 km and a speed of 3.5 km/s. The MTSV has a mass of 46 metric tons.
2. **An Apollo type Earth-entry guidance system compensates for atmospheric uncertainties and winds.**
3. Maximum deceleration is just under 1 g and occurs 5 minutes after entry. Soon after the MTSV rolls over to increase the vertical lift. The crew watch craters and other features of the Hellas Basin rotate into view as the g levels ease off.
4. **The MTSV levels out at 40 km and travels over a distance of 300 km in 3 minutes**
5. At 8 minutes after entry the MTSV resumes its plunge towards the surface.
6. **Another deceleration peak occurs at 10 minutes after entry. Two minutes later at an altitude of 10 km a 30 m DGB parachute is fired out the back of the MTSV and the chute inflates in less than a second. A jolt is felt by the crew. Speed is 0.45 km/s.**
7. The MTSV slowly turns from a flight path angle of about 45 degrees into a vertical descent. The valley walls of Vallis Dao loom in the distance.
8. **The heat shield is released at an altitude of 1.5 km and immediately afterwards the retrorockets are ignited and pull the Lander off the shield. This is also the start of the powered descent phase. Soon after the parachute is released so as to minimise the displacement by the wind and preserve fuel.**
9. The Earth Return Vehicle and cargo is targeted and adjustments are made using rockets to bring the crew within 100 m.
10. **The final ton of fuel is eaten into as the Lander softly touches down throwing up clouds of red dust past the crew's window. Fourteen minutes after entry into atmosphere 34 metric tons of Lander and 4 human beings are on the surface of Mars.**
11. Solar panels and antennas are redeployed.

# future works



- "Atmospheric modeling for realistic EDL scenarios" – poster at IPPW-5, France June 2007
- Identify altitudes to release large aerodynamic decelerators to optimise fuel use during powered descent
- Virtual prototyping of biconic Landers to investigate EDLS



**Background image  
credit: NASA**

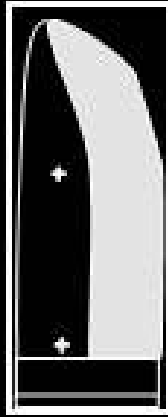
**Model developed by Andrew McSorley**

# Lessons learned: higher lift...

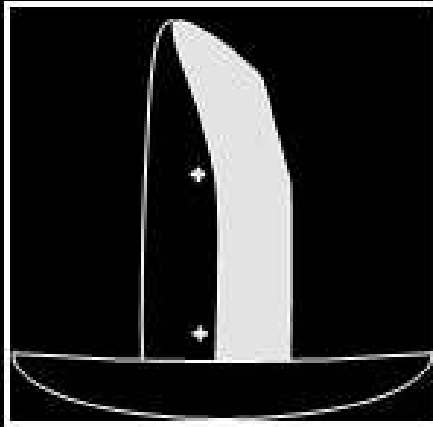
Light weight aerocapture heat shield to give a good payload advantage. Can be used without interfering with descent heat shield TPS. Descent heat shield can be released before PDS. Good payload efficiency. Easy to expose descent engines and landing gear.

Low L/D, a guidance algorithm and an accurate IMU can reduce error to  $<1$  km at chute deploy. Also take care designing in lift at the expense of drag area (Braun & Manning, 2006).

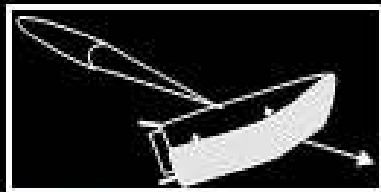
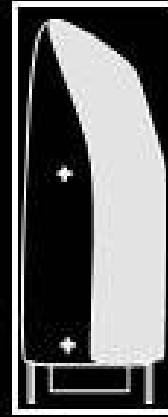
1. Interplanetary



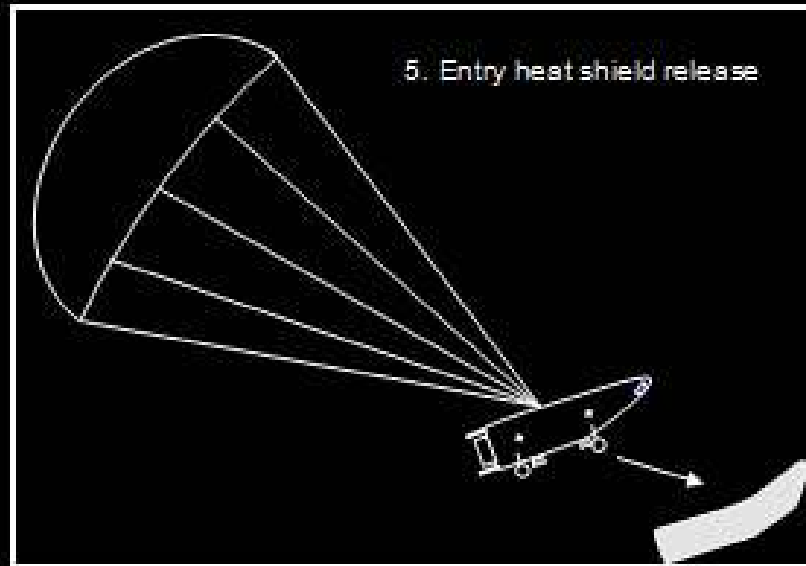
2. Aerocapture



3. Atmosphere entry

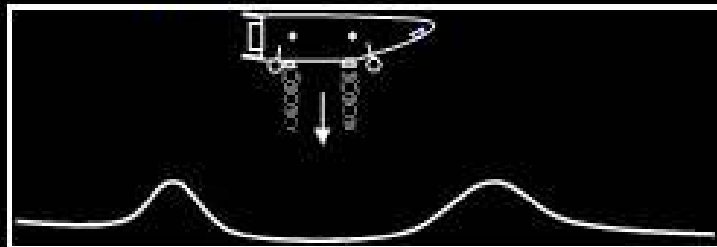


4. Main parachute deployment



Long biconic shape has mass disadvantage over squat Mars Direct design type. ~few (2?) mT

6. Powered descent



7. Pin-point landing





# Acknowledgements

Thanks to the **Space Division, fmi** and **Walter Schmidt** for supporting this work. **Janne Kauhanen** for exporting MLAM data into a text file for me and answering numerous questions about MLAM. **Sini Merikallio** for providing images of her time at MDRS and her interest in this work. **Bruce Irving** for starting all this with the virtual prototyping paper and presentation at the Mars Society conference. **Andrew McSorley** for encouragement and assistance during the model building phase of the VP project. **Grant Bonin** for letting us play around with his Mars for Less mission. **The Open University** for use of a personal computer, for initial prototyping, and for the use of other supporting facilities. **Catherine Maguire** for being human (and an engineer), "getting" the VP stuff and for invaluable e-mails of support. **Seth Hollingshead** for inviting me onto the Mars Direct for Orbiter group. **Urwumpe** on the Orbiter web forum for supplying me with a crucial piece of information on how the Apollo CM flies. And **Martin Schweiger** for the amazing Orbiter space flight simulator!

**Thankyou very much for your attention** 😊

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