



University of  
**Strathclyde**  
Engineering

# KNOWN AND UNKNOWN OF SPACE ACCESS

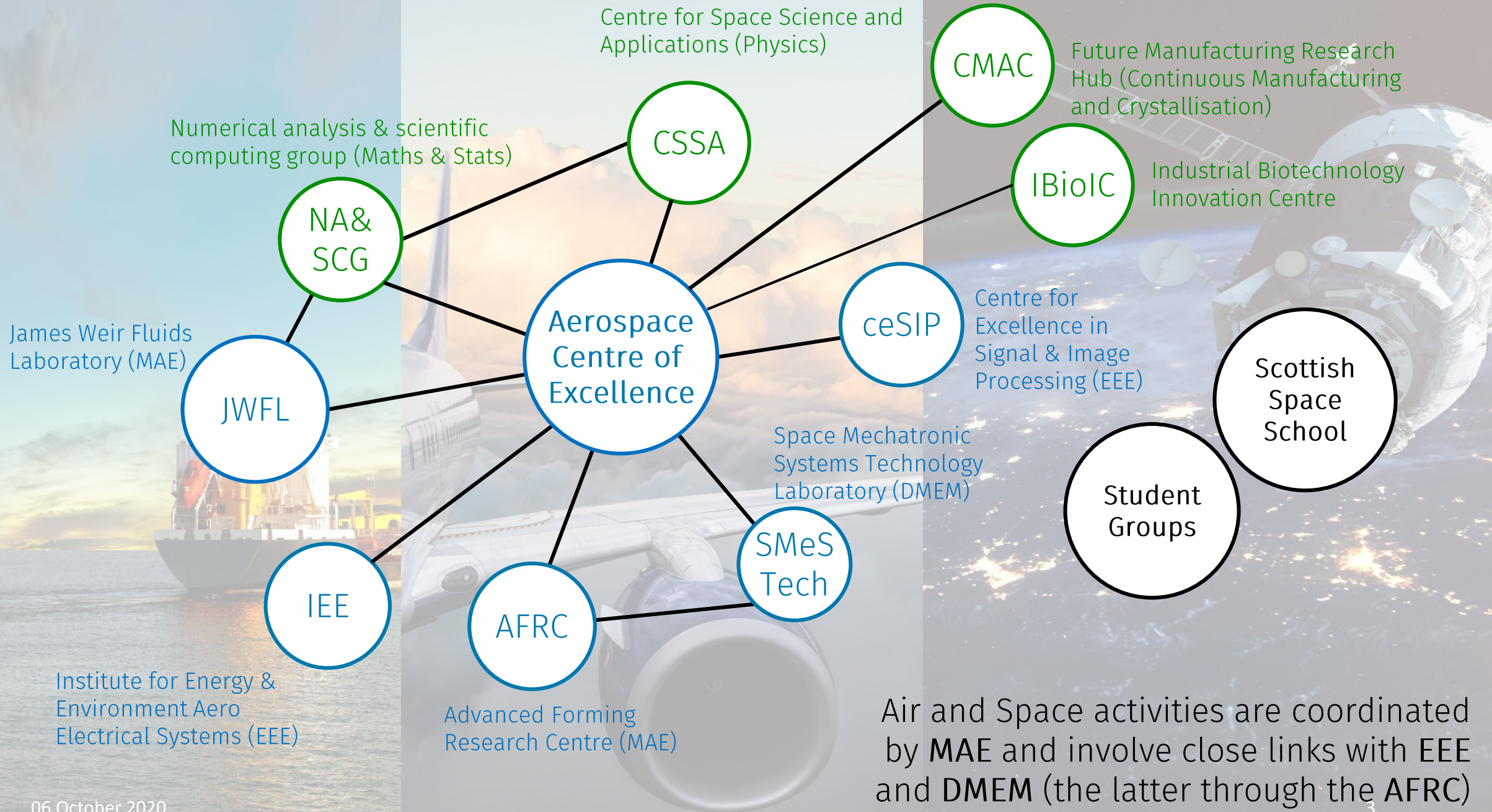
<https://www.strath.ac.uk/engineering/mechanicalaerospaceengineering/aerospacecentreofexcellence>



06 October 2020

# Ocean – Air – Space

## University Strategic Theme



# ACE academics



**Prof. Max Vasile**  
*Space Systems and  
Resilience Engineering*



**Prof. Matthew Cartmell**  
*Nonlinear dynamics  
and Orbital Mechanics*



**Dr. Christie Maddock**  
*Transatmospheric flight  
dynamics and control*



**Dr. Marco Fossati**  
*Multi-physics computational  
aerodynamics*



**Dr. Annalisa Riccardi**  
*Computational Intelligence  
Machine Learning*



**Dr. Stewart Grey**  
*Precise Orbit Determination  
and outreach*



**Dr. Jinglang Feng**  
*Modeling of mechanical and  
dynamical system*



**Dr. Edmondo Minisci**  
*Multidisciplinary Optimisation  
and Evidence Network Models*



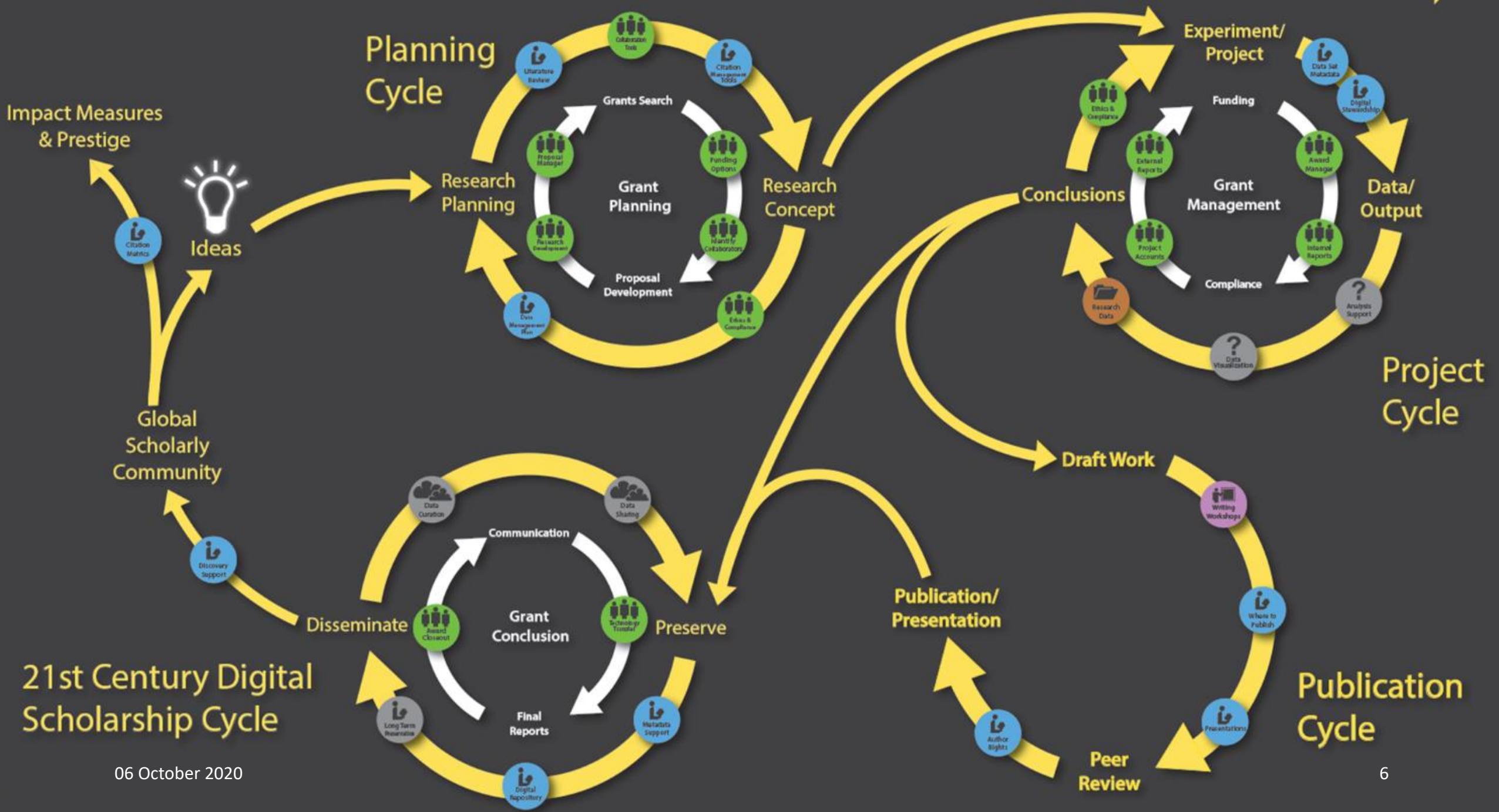
**Dr. Mohammed Afsar**  
*Theoretical Aerodynamics  
and Flow Control*



**Dr. Marcello Lappa**  
*Fluid mechanics instabilities  
and high-temperature flows*

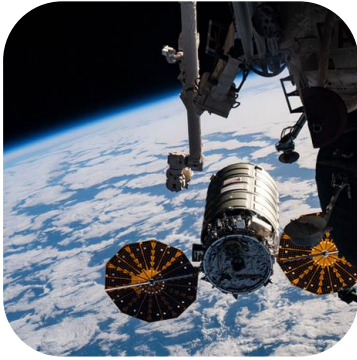


**Dr. Ioannis Kokkinakis**  
*Turbulence and computational  
aeroacoustics*



# Aerospace Centre of Excellence

3 Laboratories, 11 Academics & 40+ Researchers



Advanced Space Concepts  
ASCL



Future Air-Space Transportation  
Technologies FASTT

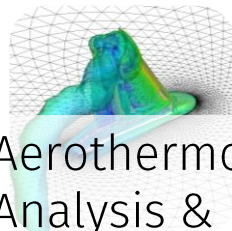


Intelligent Computational  
Engineering ICELab

Flight & Spaceflight Mechanics; Computational & Theoretical Aerodynamics;  
Computational Intelligence; Robotics & Autonomy; Space Systems & Science



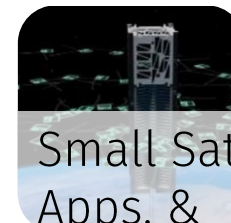
Aerospace  
Transport &  
Sustainability



Aerothermodynamic  
Analysis & Design



Resilience in  
Complex  
Systems



Small Satellite  
Apps. &  
Technology



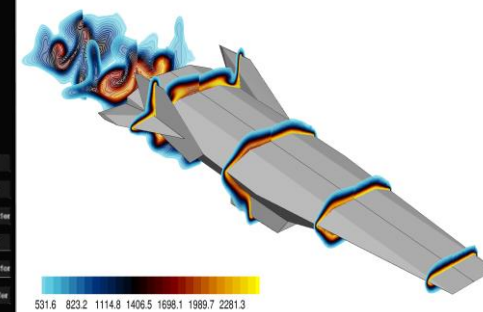
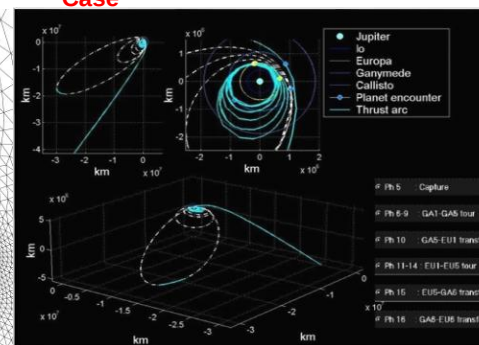
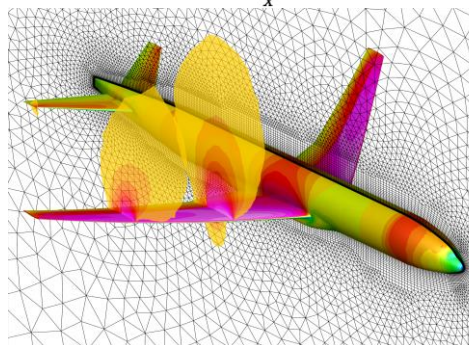
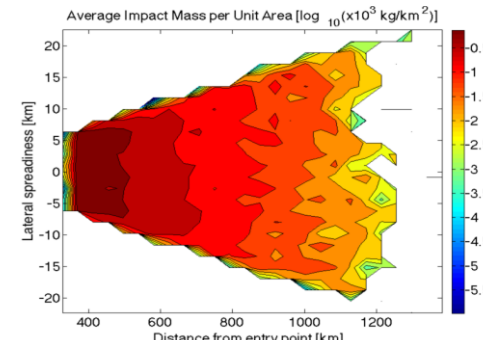
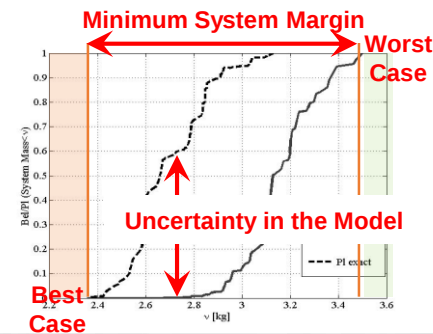
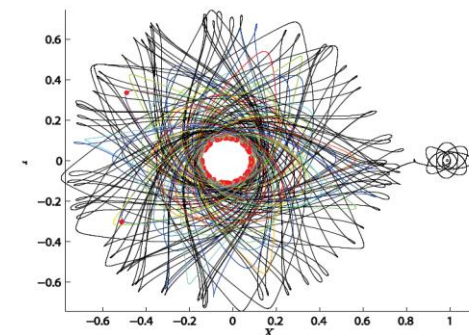
Space Exploration  
&  
Air-space Traffic

# ACE expertise and applications

Mission analysis and design  
Dynamical systems  
Multi-objective optimal control  
Evidence Network Models  
Model predictive control  
Ground impact risk analysis

Computational Aerodynamics ([SU2](#))  
Hypersonic and re-entry  
Transition & aeroacoustics  
Trajectory optimisation  
GNC for ascent and re-entry  
Life cycle analysis  
Sustainability

Concurrent Engineering  
Multidisciplinary design  
Evidence-based optimisation  
Uncertainty Quantification  
Machine learning  
Computational intelligence



# Some numbers and links

- £12M from the European Community (FP7, H2020)
- £400k from the UK Space Agency
- £500k from the European Space Agency
- £200k linked to the Strathclyde DTC in Space Systems with Airbus, Fraunhofer & DSTL
- £250k from KTP and EPSRC

**Overall, ACE is committed to a research activity worth £15M+**



# SMART: Strathclyde Mechanical & Aerospace Research Toolboxes

Open source code repositories on [github.com/strath-ace](https://github.com/strath-ace)



[smart-o2c](#)

Optimisation  
and Optimal  
Control toolbox



[smart-ml](#)

Machine  
Learning  
toolbox



[smart-astro](#)

Astrodynamics  
toolbox



[smart-uq](#)

Uncertainty  
Quantification  
toolbox



[smart-math](#)

Mathematical  
base routines

## Three github organisations

- SMART Teaching Hub
- SMART alpha on strath-ace-labs (internal testing and development)
- SMART on strath-ace (public)



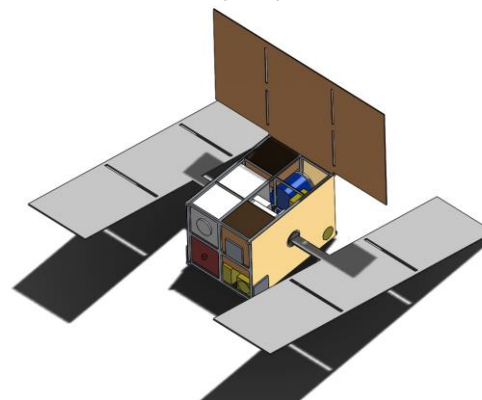
# Concurrent and Collaborative Design Studio



- Unique facility in Scotland
- End-to-end mission and system design
- Allows for remote concurrent engineering
- Advanced tools for mission and system design

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NEOCORE - Nanospacecraft Exploration of Asteroids by Collision and Flyby Reconnaissance



Orbital500 – Horizontal Launch system



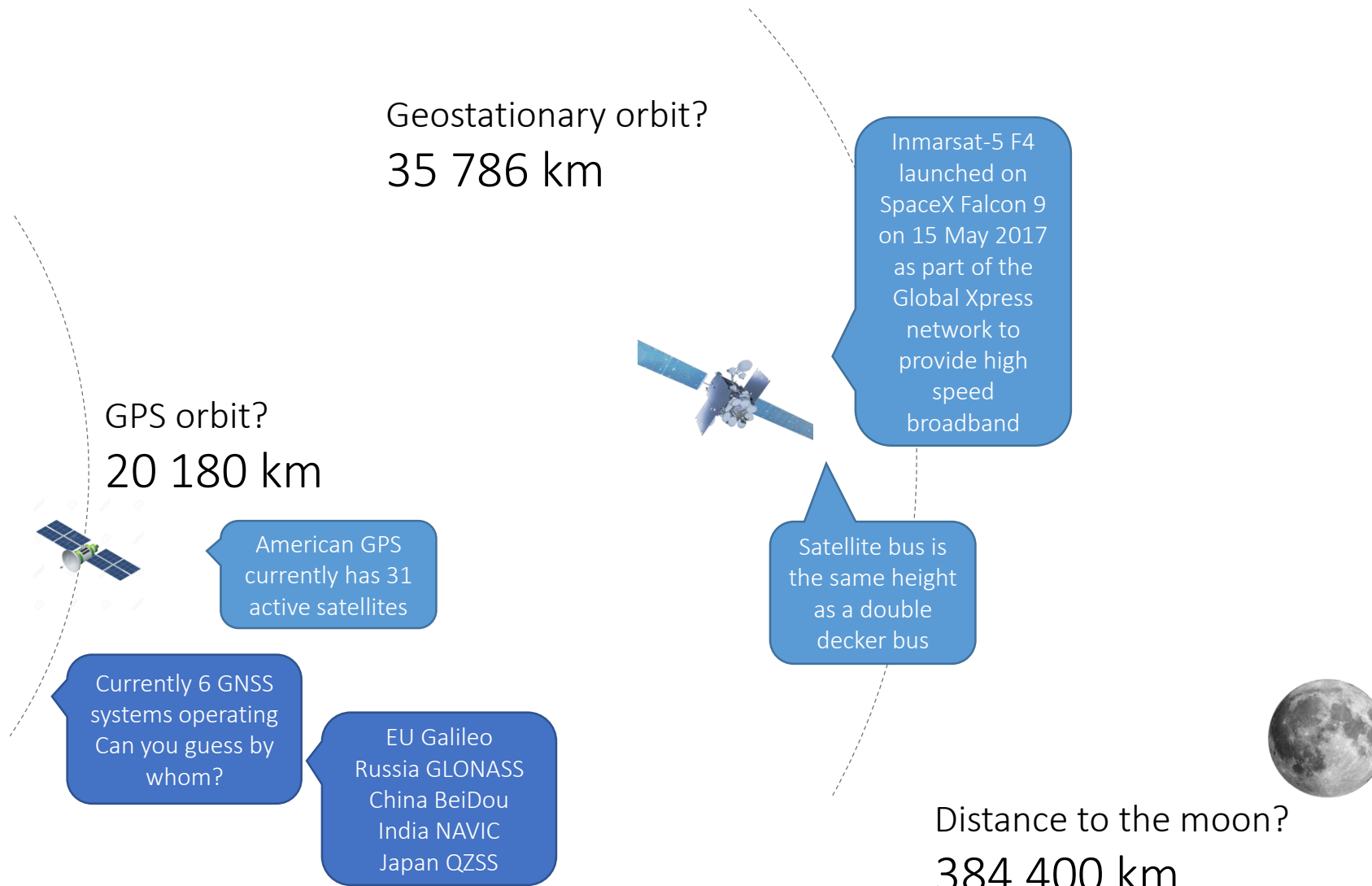
# Where is space?

Earth diameter?  
12 742 km



Low Earth orbit?  
~160-2000 km

Space?  
85-100 km



# How fast do satellites go?

Low Earth orbit  
124-1243 miles  
**17450-14430 mph**  
1h29 – 2h08



You  
**1040 mph**  
23h56

GPS orbit  
12 539 miles  
**8666 mph**  
11h58

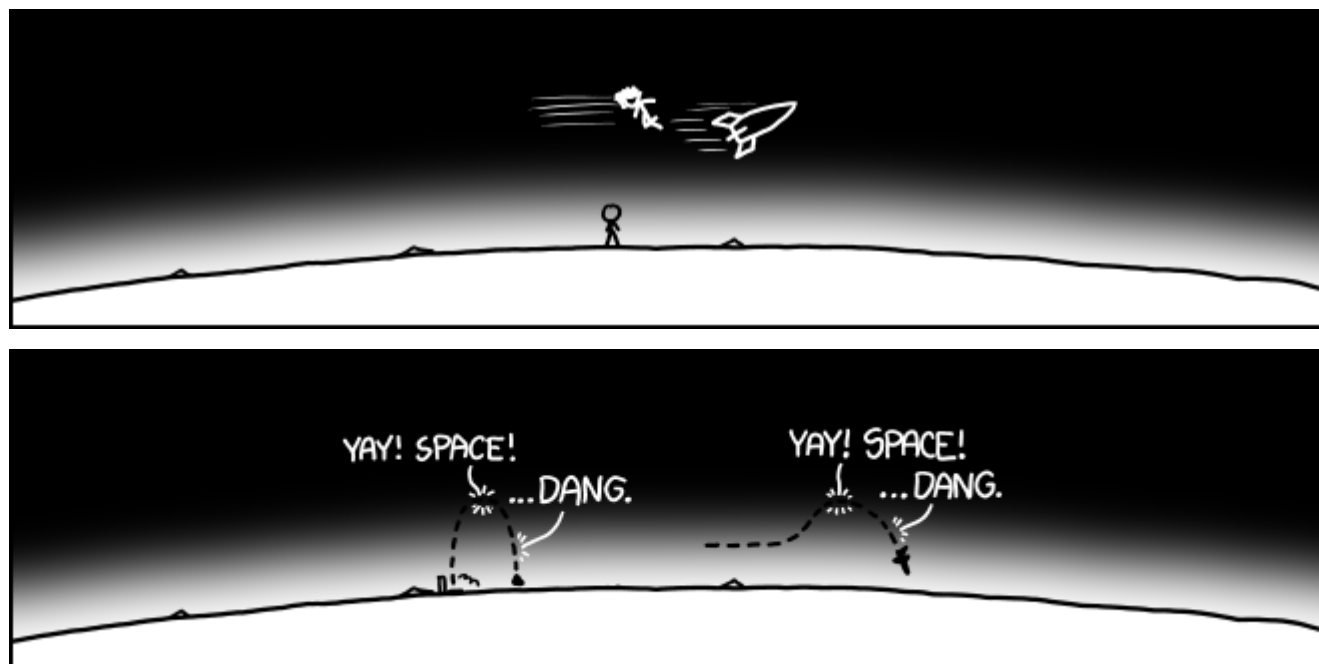


Geostationary orbit  
22 236 miles  
**6935 mph**  
23h56

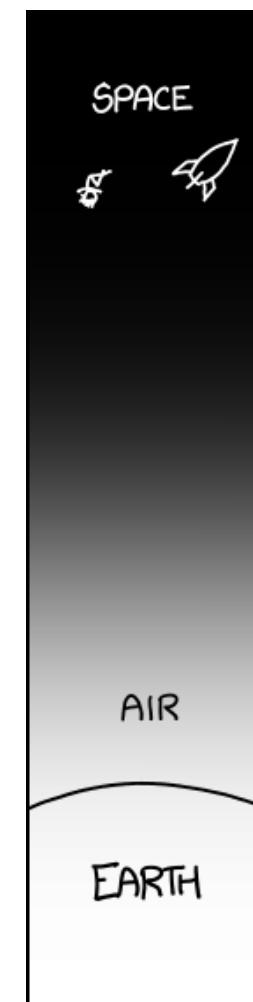


# Why is it hard?

<https://what-if.xkcd.com/58/>



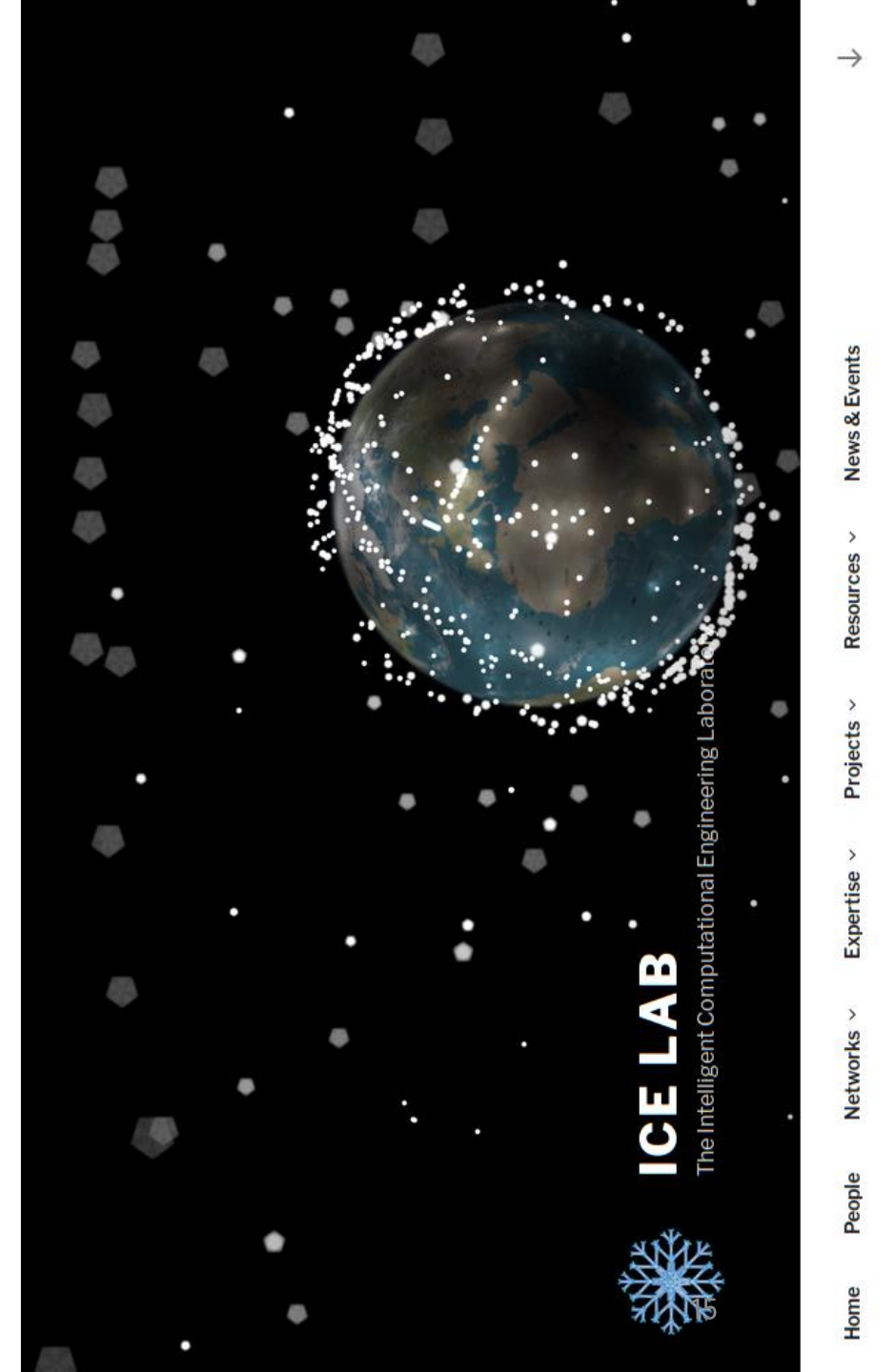
If you fired a rifle from one end of a football pitch, the International Space Station could cross the length of the field (120 yards) before the bullet has travelled 10 yards



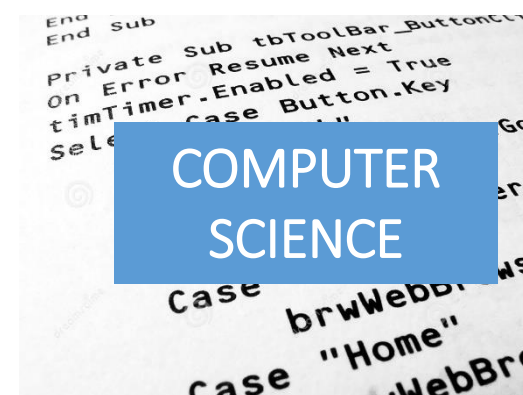
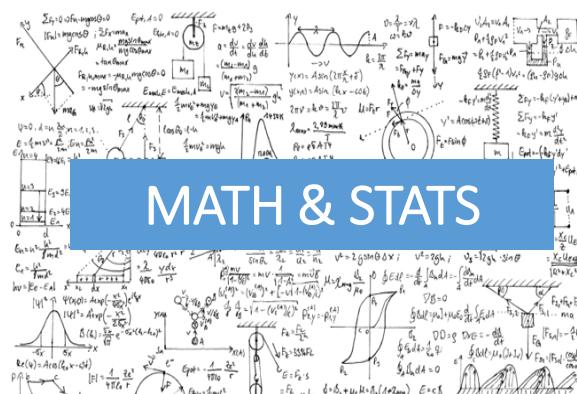
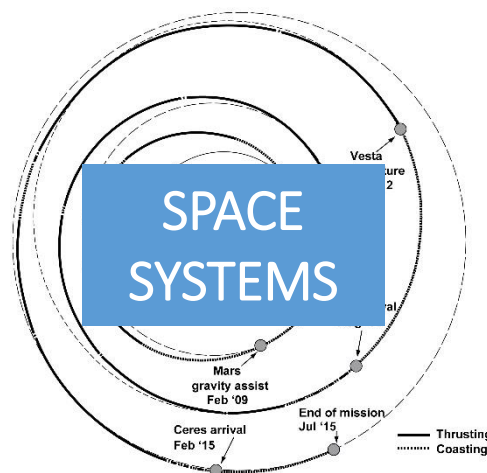
# Intelligent Computation for Engineering ICElab

- Advanced research on Artificial and Computational Intelligence techniques, with particular focus on:
  - Optimisation, optimal control
  - Uncertainty-based multidisciplinary design optimisation, and
  - Machine learning applied to the design and control of complex engineering systems

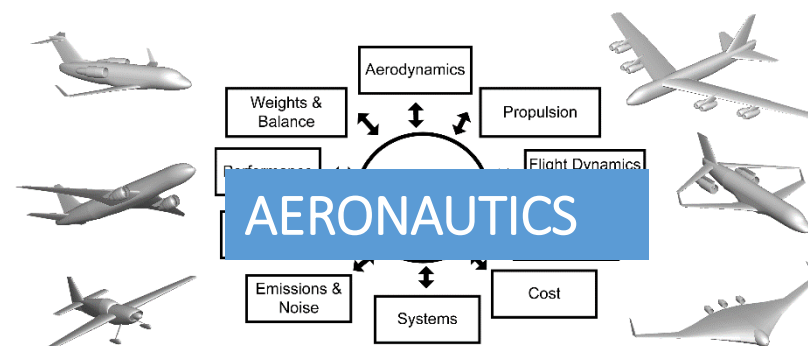
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# Intelligent Computation for Engineering



Multidisciplinary  
Team



# Computational methods vs applications and design

METHODS

APPLICATIONS

UNCERTAINTY  
TREATMENT

TRAJECTORY  
DESIGN

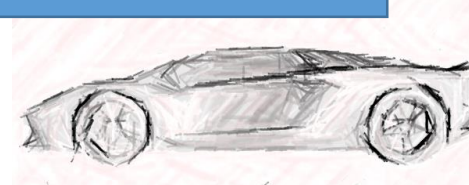
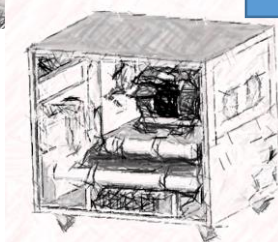
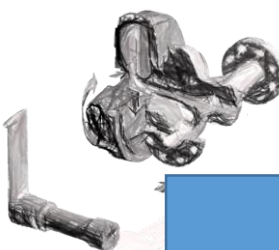
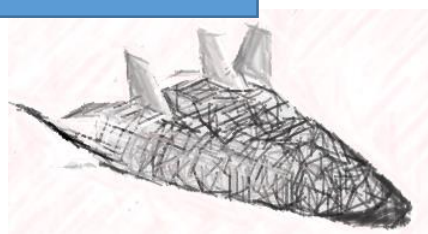
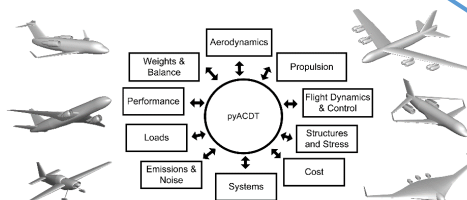
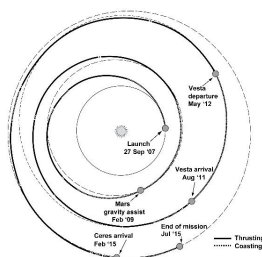
OPTIMISATION

AEROSPACE  
SYSTEM DESIGN

MACHINE  
LEARNING

SHAPE  
OPTIMISATION

SYSTEM DESIGN



# Space Environment Management

Low-cost  
detection and  
tracking (UKSA)



Debris de-  
tumbling and  
disposal with  
lasers (FP7)



Multi-target  
disposal  
exploiting natural  
dynamic (Airbus)



GOCE  
re-entry  
Analysis (ESA)



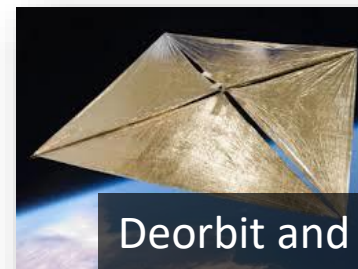
Multi-fidelity re-  
entry analysis and  
design for demise  
(FP7)



Collision  
avoidance  
manoeuvres (FP7)



Deorbit and  
re-entry  
HAMR objects  
(UKSA,H2020)



On-orbit  
servicing  
(H2020)

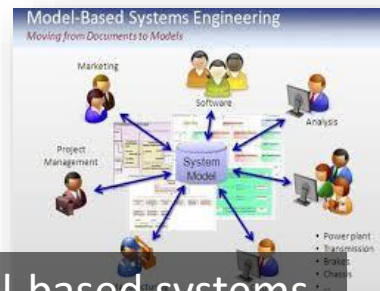


# Resilience in Complex Systems

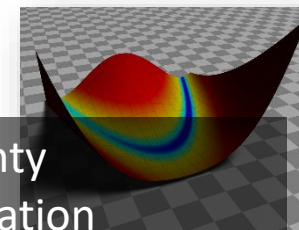
Uncertainty  
quantification in  
complex networks  
(ESA)



Model-based systems  
engineering under  
uncertainty (ESA)



Uncertainty  
Quantification  
(ESA, EPSRC, H2020)



Design for reliability  
and for robustness  
(ESA, EPSRC)



Evidence-based and  
Robust Bayesian  
reasoning (ESA,  
H2020)

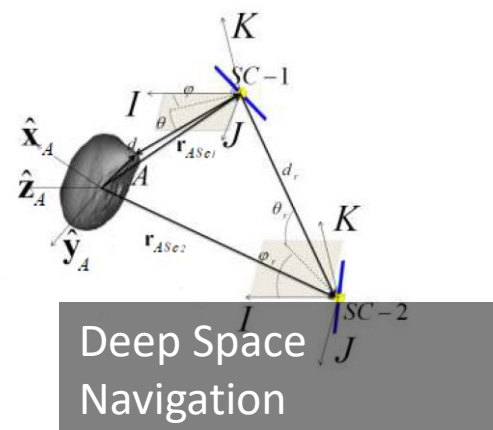
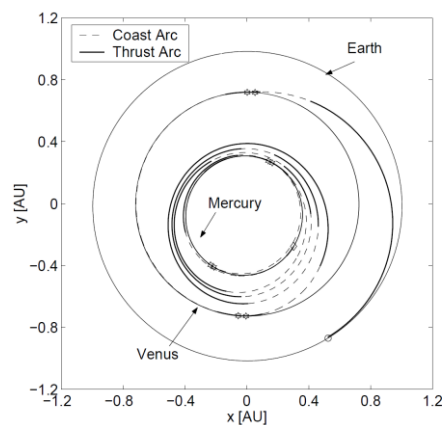


Fault tolerant  
networked systems  
(EPSRC)

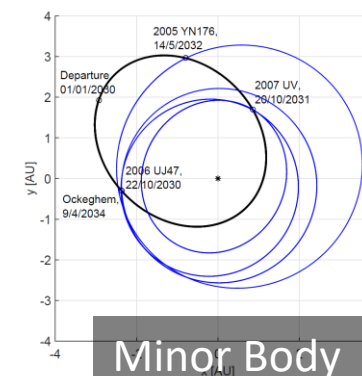


# Space Exploration and Advanced Concepts

Trajectory  
Analysis and  
Design

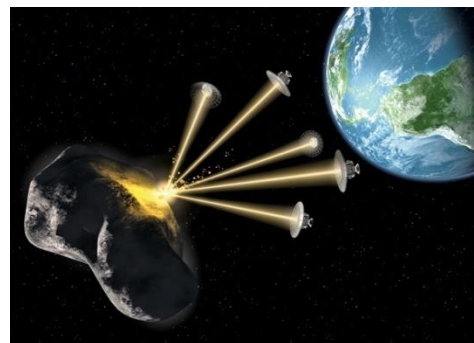


Deep Space  
Navigation

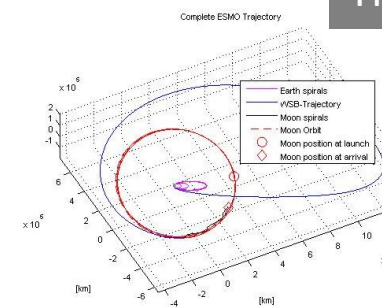


Minor Body  
Exploration

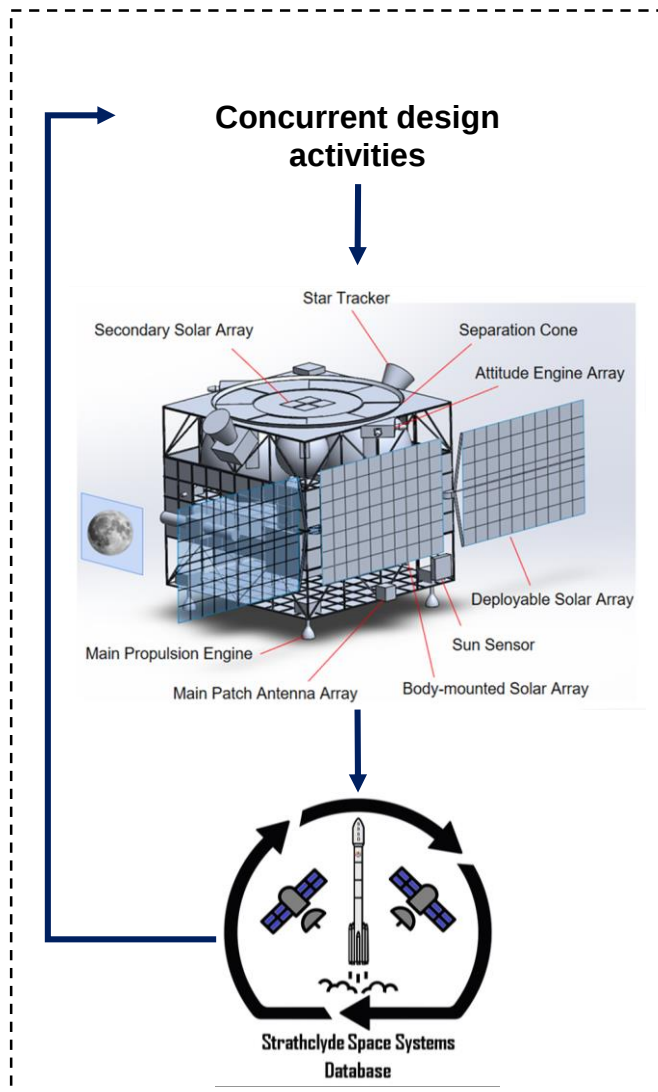
Planetary  
Defence



The Moon



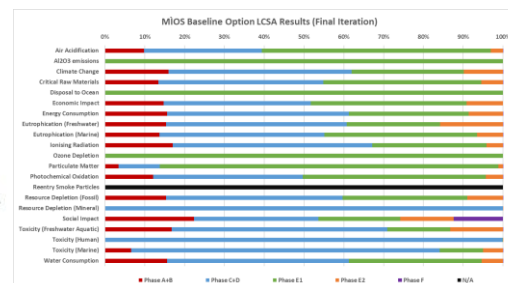
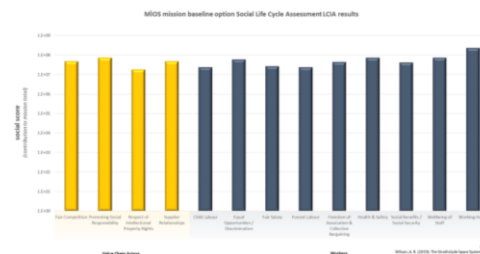
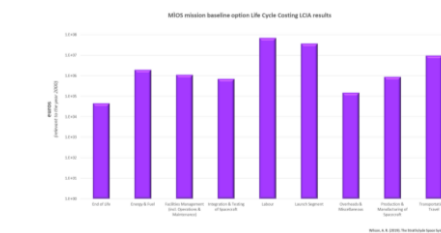
# Life cycle analysis



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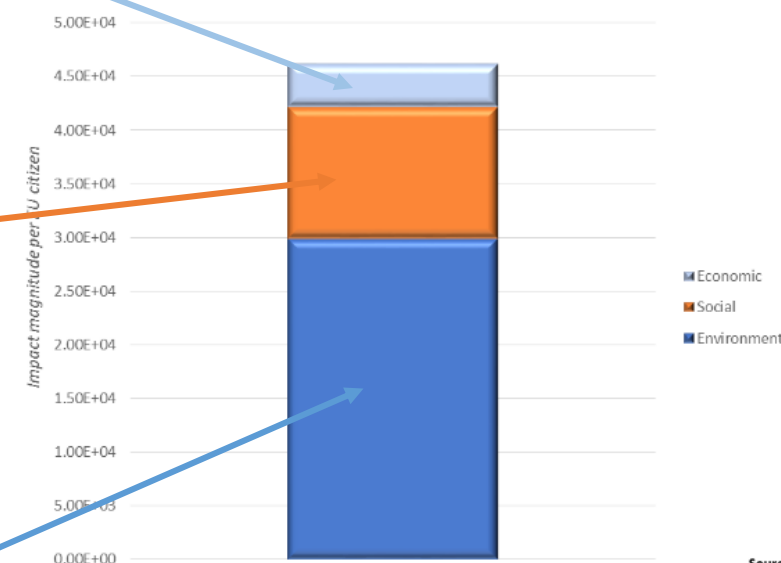


## Life Cycle Sustainability Assessment



Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis (based on Multi-Attribute Value Theory)

**Absolute Single Score Sustainability Results for the MIOS mission**

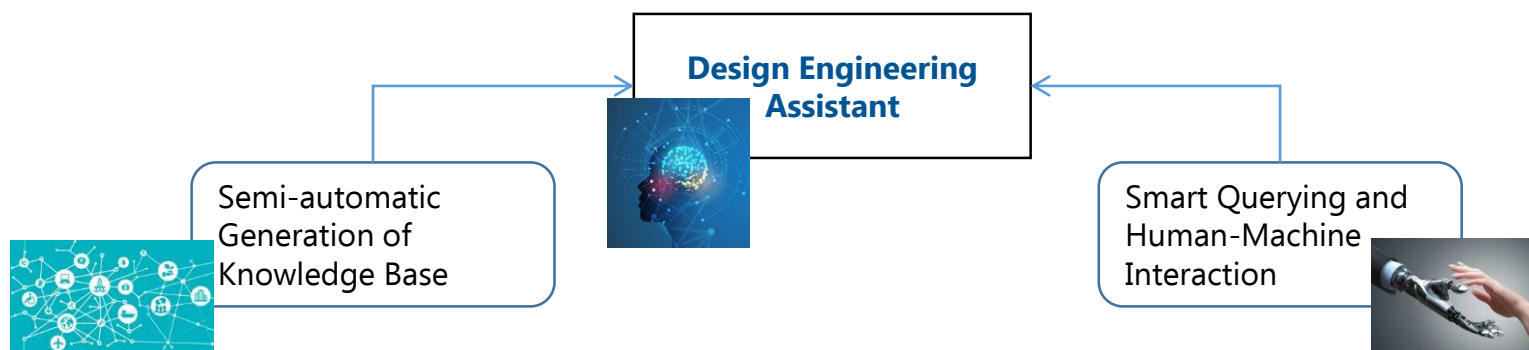


Source:  
Wilson, A. R. (2019). The Strathclyde Space Systems Database version 1.0.0. University of Strathclyde; Glasgow, UK



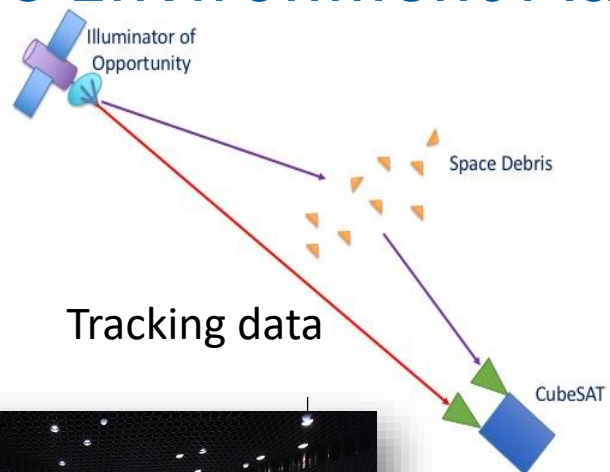
# Design Engineering Assistant (DEA)

- Develop and validate a design engineering assistant for the early phases of system design, leveraging natural language processing, machine learning and knowledge management techniques.

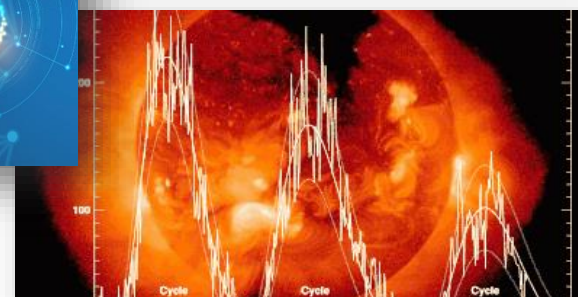


- How to automatically extract and store data collected from years of system design and make it reusable for future work?
- How to use this stored knowledge in a smart way to improve the work of the experts in the preliminary phase of the design with reliable and relevant information (e.g. browsing past lessons-learned, components list or avoiding “reinventing the wheel”)?

# Space Environment Management



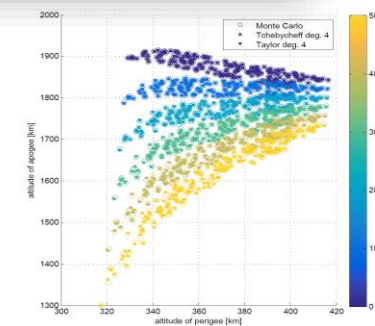
AI for STM



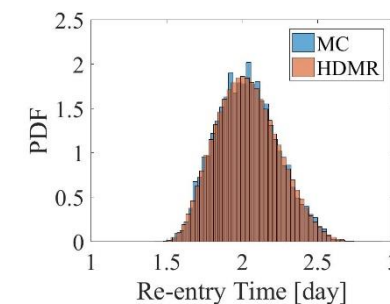
Space weather



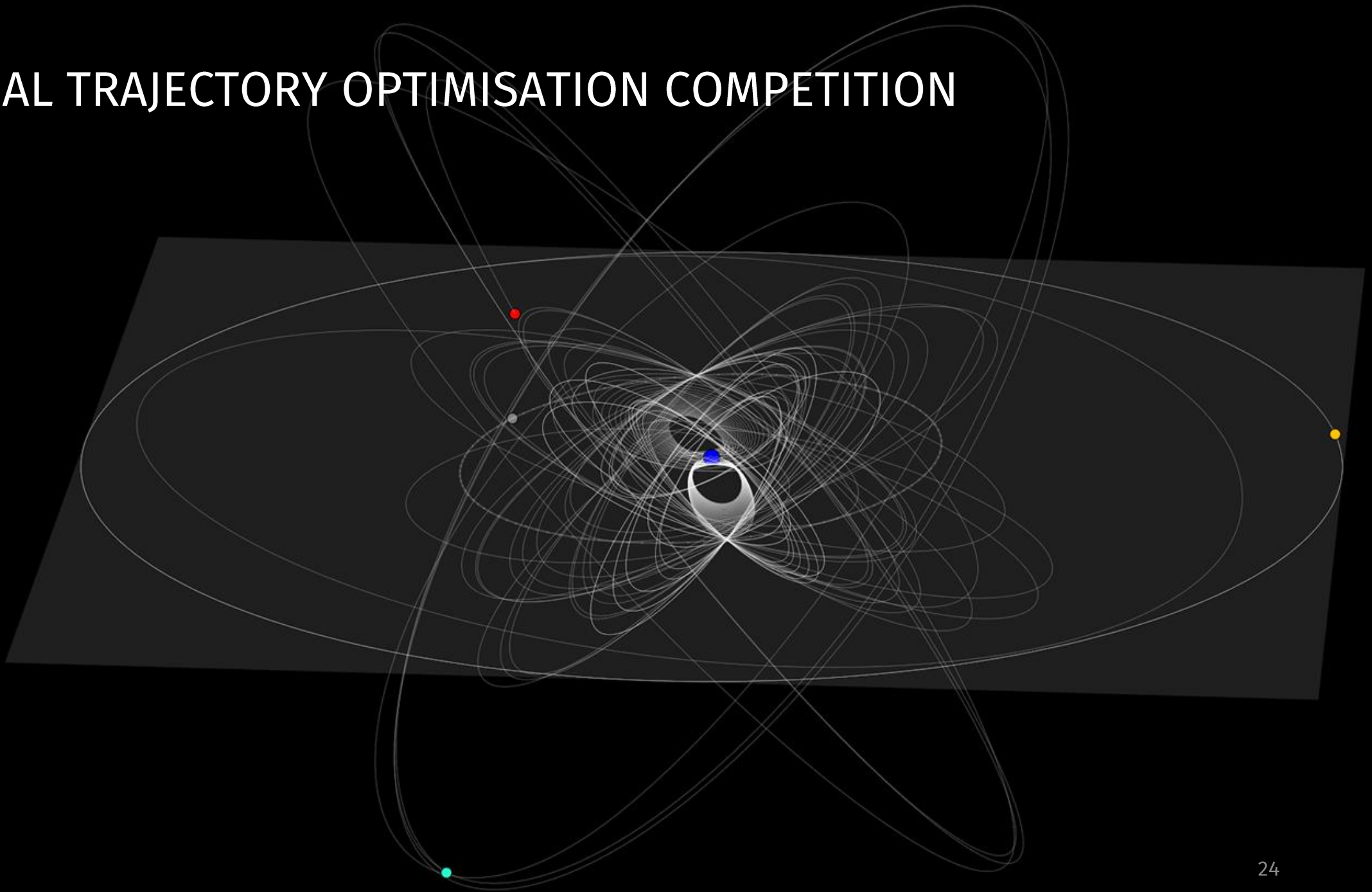
UQ in  
Orbital  
Mechanics



Re-entry  
and  
demise



# GLOBAL TRAJECTORY OPTIMISATION COMPETITION



# Global trajectory optimisation competition

- Initiated in 2005 by the European Space Agency
- Each year is organised by the winner of the previous edition
- It has been defined as the “American Cup of Rocket Science”
- Worldwide competition
- 1 month to solve a complex trajectory optimisation problem with unlimited resources



## This year problem

- Design an impulsive trajectory to deorbit 123 debris around Earth with multiple launches
- Deorbiting → rendezvous with the object + waiting time of 5 days
- Objective function as the sum of the launch cost (linearly increasing with time) and a quadratic mass cost
- Constraints on maximum propellant mass, minimum pericentre, times between launches and times between rendezvous



# Approach

- Combinatorial Optimisation: ad hoc beam search + deep first search for reconstruction of launch sequences
- Continuous optimisation: design of the impulses manoeuvres with MPAIDEA
- Multi-fidelity: mean dynamic with J2 + full dynamic + multiple shooting transcription
- Computational resources (desktops, CCDS computers, access to teaching cluster)

# Results

| Name                      | Submissions | Last Submission           | Best Submission           | Best Score |
|---------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------|
| Jet Propulsion Laboratory | 10          | May 1, 2017, 11:08 p.m.   | May 1, 2017, 11:08 p.m.   | 745        |
| NUDT Team                 | 12          | May 1, 2017, 8:23 p.m.    | May 1, 2017, 8:23 p.m.    | 741        |
| XSCC-ADL                  | 12          | May 1, 2017, 9:14 p.m.    | May 1, 2017, 9:14 p.m.    | 782        |
| Tsinghua-LAD              | 12          | May 1, 2017, 8:45 p.m.    | May 1, 2017, 8:45 p.m.    | 784        |
| NPU                       | 13          | April 19, 2017, 9:40 a.m. | April 19, 2017, 9:40 a.m. | 976        |
| Strathclyde++             | 14          | May 1, 2017, 7:21 p.m.    | May 1, 2017, 7:21 p.m.    | 591        |
| DLR                       | 14          | April 29, 2017, 3:05 a.m. | April 29, 2017, 3:05 a.m. | 552        |
| Missions Learners         | 14          | May 1, 2017, 12:16 p.m.   | May 1, 2017, 12:16 p.m.   | 585        |
| The Aerospace Corporation | 14          | April 27, 2017, 3:22 a.m. | April 27, 2017, 3:22 a.m. | 548        |

| Name                            | Submissions | Last Submission            | Best Submission            | Debris Removed | Best Score       |
|---------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Jet Propulsion Laboratory       | 10          | May 1, 2017, 11:08 p.m.    | May 1, 2017, 11:08 p.m.    | 123            | 751.29036888745  |
| NUDT Team                       | 12          | May 1, 2017, 8:23 p.m.     | May 1, 2017, 8:23 p.m.     | 123            | 786.21626623261  |
| XSCC-ADL                        | 12          | May 1, 2017, 9:14 p.m.     | May 1, 2017, 9:14 p.m.     | 123            | 821.37966296282  |
| Tsinghua-LAD                    | 12          | May 1, 2017, 8:45 p.m.     | May 1, 2017, 8:45 p.m.     | 123            | 829.579877503784 |
| NPU                             | 13          | April 19, 2017, 9:40 a.m.  | April 19, 2017, 9:40 a.m.  | 123            | 878.988216662976 |
| Strathclyde++                   | 14          | May 1, 2017, 7:21 p.m.     | May 1, 2017, 7:21 p.m.     | 123            | 918.98899027729  |
| DLR                             | 14          | April 29, 2017, 3:05 a.m.  | April 29, 2017, 3:05 a.m.  | 123            | 949.853897408352 |
| Missions Learners               | 14          | May 1, 2017, 12:16 p.m.    | May 1, 2017, 12:16 p.m.    | 123            | 968.511366175886 |
| The Aerospace Corporation       | 14          | April 27, 2017, 3:22 a.m.  | April 27, 2017, 3:22 a.m.  | 123            | 1006.88607801668 |
| Team Java                       | 15          | April 27, 2017, 2:37 a.m.  | April 27, 2017, 2:37 a.m.  | 123            | 1022.90631615007 |
| UT Austin                       | 15          | May 1, 2017, 2:52 p.m.     | May 1, 2017, 2:52 p.m.     | 123            | 1046.17873262316 |
| NU Team                         | 16          | April 28, 2017, 8:32 a.m.  | April 28, 2017, 8:32 a.m.  | 123            | 1047.96890007349 |
| ERFAN TEAM                      | 14          | April 30, 2017, 9:14 a.m.  | April 30, 2017, 9:14 a.m.  | 119            | 1107.69367926885 |
| CU Boulder                      | 17          | May 1, 2017, 10:12 p.m.    | May 1, 2017, 10:12 p.m.    | 123            | 1100.84392669373 |
| CAS-MSA                         | 14          | April 28, 2017, 9:43 p.m.  | April 28, 2017, 9:43 p.m.  | 123            | 1182.08320993623 |
| Bruce WORF                      | 18          | May 1, 2017, 7:16 p.m.     | April 28, 2017, 7:16 p.m.  | 123            | 1229.54761168866 |
| RTU-GMR                         | 16          | May 1, 2017, 9:37 p.m.     | May 1, 2017, 9:37 p.m.     | 122            | 1261.75638675867 |
| WebbZoroLabs                    | 16          | April 12, 2017, 6:33 a.m.  | April 12, 2017, 6:33 a.m.  | 123            | 1267.70016923208 |
| WISC-TSU                        | 13          | May 1, 2017, 10:53 p.m.    | May 1, 2017, 10:53 p.m.    | 119            | 1335.52081852397 |
| TYBO                            | 16          | May 1, 2017, 10:21 p.m.    | May 1, 2017, 10:21 p.m.    | 123            | 1336.80902076667 |
| TM                              | 18          | May 1, 2017, 8:55 p.m.     | May 1, 2017, 8:55 p.m.     | 123            | 1490.96590510048 |
| Oskenix                         | 22          | May 1, 2017, 10:28 p.m.    | May 1, 2017, 10:28 p.m.    | 120            | 1493.80678745040 |
| ARDePB                          | 20          | May 1, 2017, 1:01 a.m.     | May 1, 2017, 1:01 a.m.     | 123            | 1512.60176793566 |
| Personal team                   | 23          | April 29, 2017, 3:45 a.m.  | April 29, 2017, 3:45 a.m.  | 123            | 1588.57708966526 |
| UofT and Ontario                | 20          | May 1, 2017, 10:12 p.m.    | May 1, 2017, 10:12 p.m.    | 112            | 1619.13912615576 |
| UPenn                           | 20          | April 23, 2017, 9:43 p.m.  | April 21, 2017, 9:43 p.m.  | 106            | 2364.23216812562 |
| Autonomous Systems              | 19          | May 1, 2017, 6:45 p.m.     | May 1, 2017, 6:45 p.m.     | 88             | 2575.97790011    |
| Team Java                       | 15          | April 27, 2017, 2:37 a.m.  | April 27, 2017, 2:37 a.m.  | 16             | 2882.121669588   |
| Cal Poly SLO                    | 39          | May 1, 2017, 10:44 p.m.    | May 1, 2017, 10:44 p.m.    | 84             | 4667.87680255617 |
| Team Java                       | 15          | April 28, 2017, 4:24 p.m.  | April 28, 2017, 4:24 p.m.  | 57             | 4681.77818625953 |
| Team Java                       | 15          | April 18, 2017, 11:23 p.m. | April 18, 2017, 11:23 p.m. | 18             | 6493.0266656099  |
| National University of Colombia | 2           | April 9, 2017, 9:32 p.m.   | April 9, 2017, 9:32 p.m.   | 7              | 6511.54716790191 |
| MarkedCade                      | 1           | April 30, 2017, 2:33 p.m.  | April 30, 2017, 2:33 p.m.  | 5              | 6594.11056129626 |
| AMSS_SITC                       | 1           | April 29, 2017, 9:33 a.m.  | April 29, 2017, 9:33 a.m.  | 6              | 8619.35890361113 |
| Brown optimizers                | 1           | May 1, 2017, 10:12 p.m.    | May 1, 2017, 10:12 p.m.    | 2              | 8760.2063280231  |

1<sup>st</sup> in Europe and 6<sup>th</sup> behind NASA JPL and China

Very few, if any, of humanity's inventions are designed to withstand equally extreme conditions. Rockets are subjected to awesome g-forces at lift-off, and experience extreme hot spots in places where aerodynamic friction acts most strongly, and extreme cold due to liquid hydrogen/oxygen at cryogenic temperatures. Operating a rocket is a balance act, and the line between a successful launch and catastrophic blow-out is often razor thin.

*- The History of Rocket Science, Aerospace Engineering blog*

## HUMBLE BEGINNINGS...

Rocket propulsion started with the desire to build a pigeon

Roman writer Aulus Gellius tells a story of Archytas, who, sometime around 400 BC, built a flying pigeon out of wood. The pigeon was held aloft by a jet of steam or compressed air escaping through a nozzle.

Three centuries later, Hero of Alexandria invented the aeolipile based on the same principle of using escaping steam as a propulsive fluid.

How do we access space? What are the technologies involved?

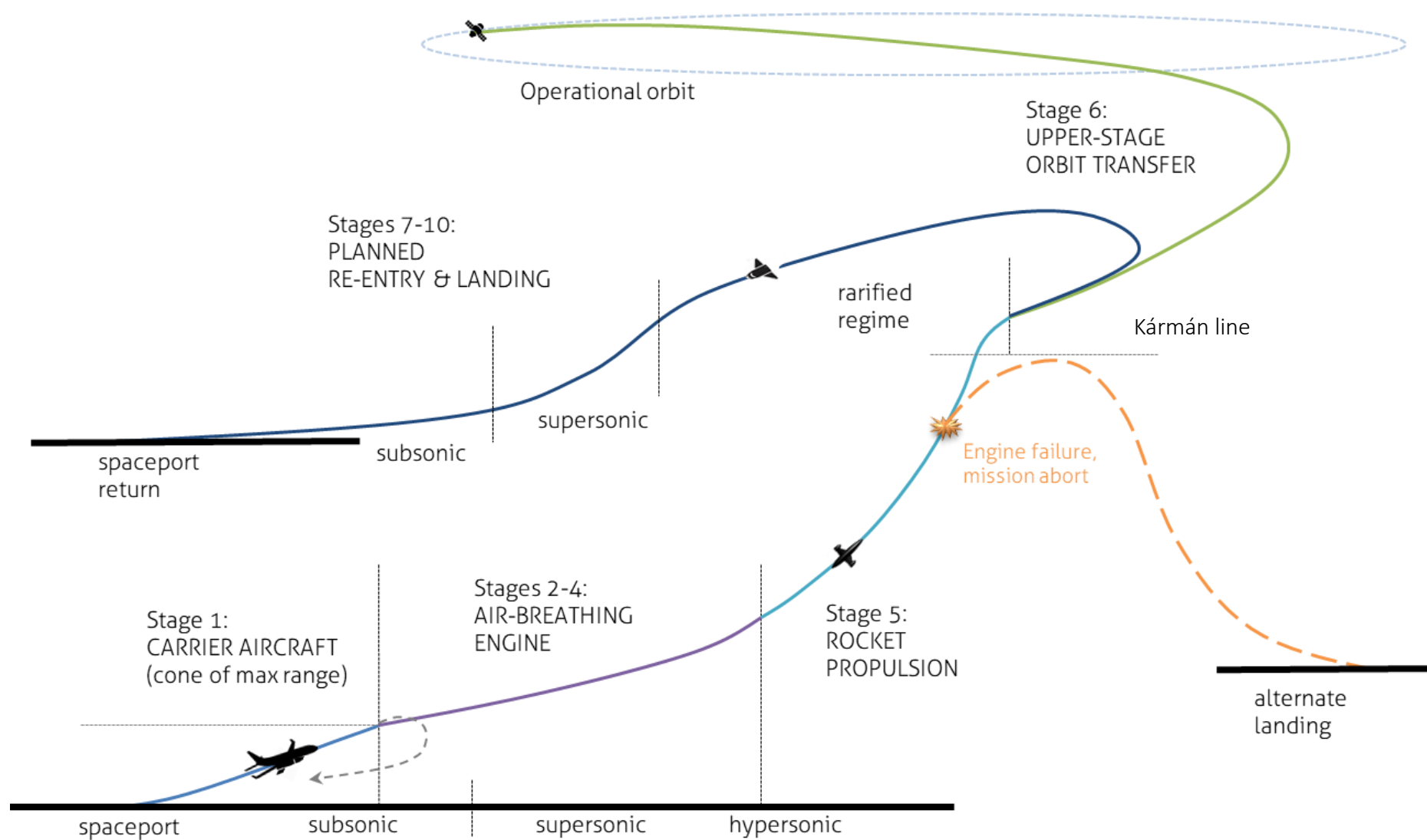
What could the future of space access systems look like?

What technologies do we need to make this happen?

What research do we need to make that happen?

What does the future of all atmospheric transportation look like?

What is state of the launch sector in the UK? What will this look like going forward?



# Defining Terms

Multiple objectives often defined by system/mission requirements

- Min(fuel), min(gtow), max(orbit alt), min(peak heat load, average load), max(reusable), min(variance from uncertainty)

Sets of **nonlinear constraints**: path and boundary, multi-phase trajectories

- Mass drops (stage separations), heating, dynamic pressure, loads, engine operating conditions, control saturation limits
- Geographic limits, landing sites, target orbits

Optimisable parameters: open loop control law, design parameters

- Wing reference area, nose cone radius, dry/wet masses, engine thrust
- Attitude control, thrust control

System & environment models: physics-based, **surrogate models**

- Aerodynamic databases for subsonic, transonic, supersonic in continuum regime (panel + CFD), drag in rarefied regime (gas dynamics)
- Propulsion, aerothermal, atmospheric, mass, cost

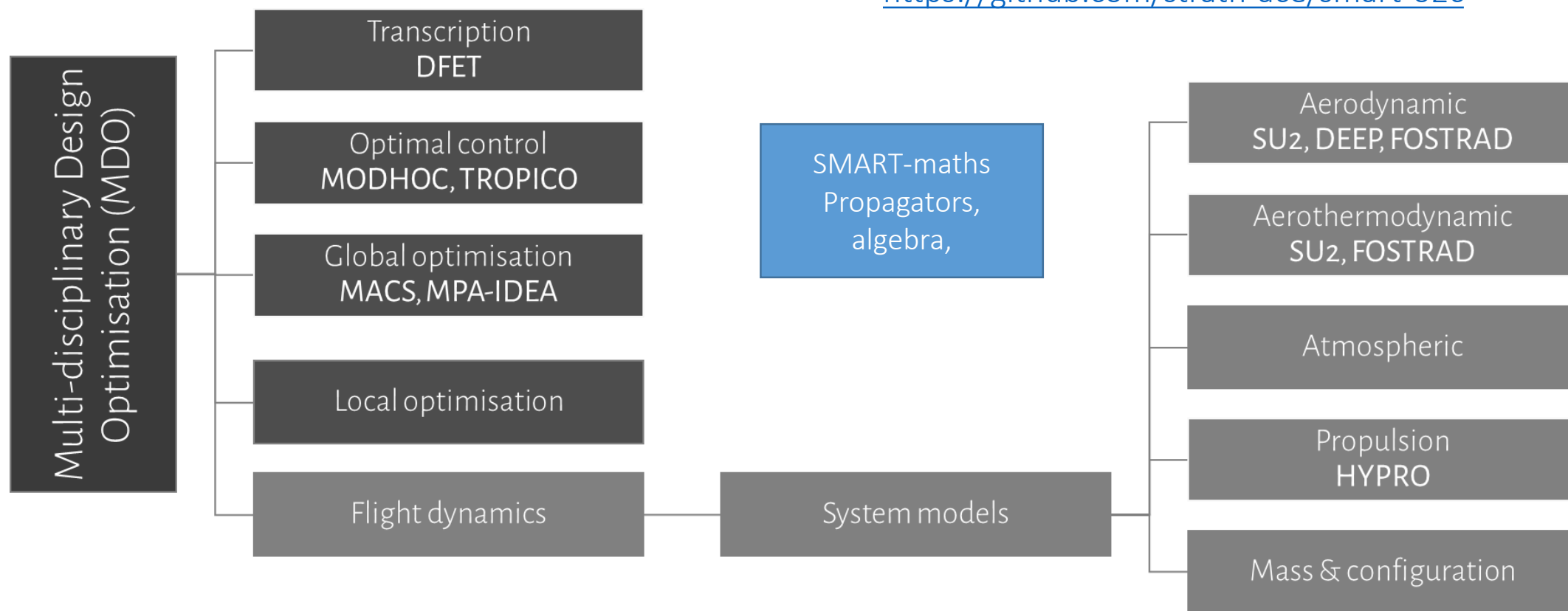
Uncertainty quantification, optimisation under uncertainty

- Epistemic (systemic) and aleatoric (statistical) uncertainty

# Open Access Software

- Strathclyde Mechanical & Aerospace Research Tools (SMART) > in particular optimisation and optimal control (o2c) repo

<https://github.com/strath-ace/smart-o2c>

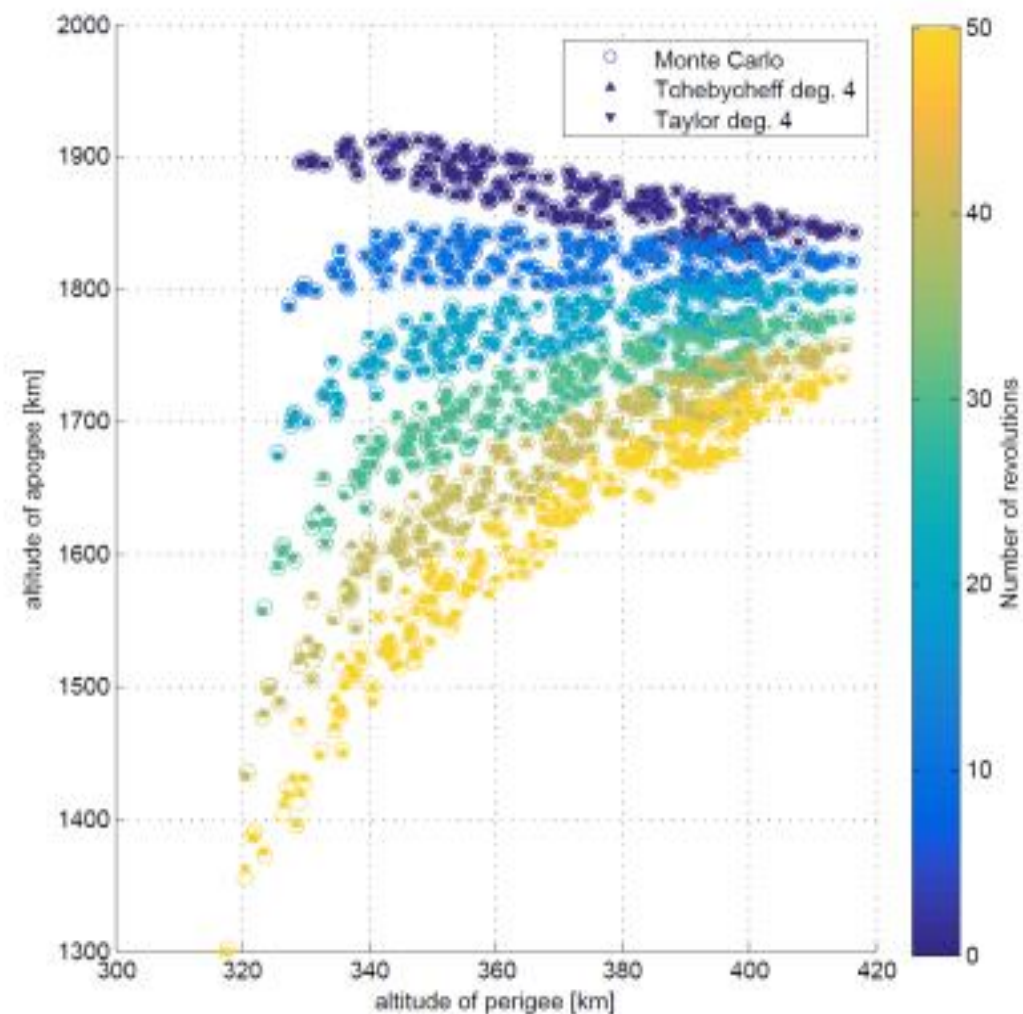


# Re-entry Tracking

- Example of re-entry prediction
- Propagate entire regions through dynamical systems rather than single points
  - Uncertainty quantification of time varying processes, uncertainty propagation in dynamical systems
  - Stochastic optimal control
  - Filtering and state estimation in GNC
  - Propagation of level sets



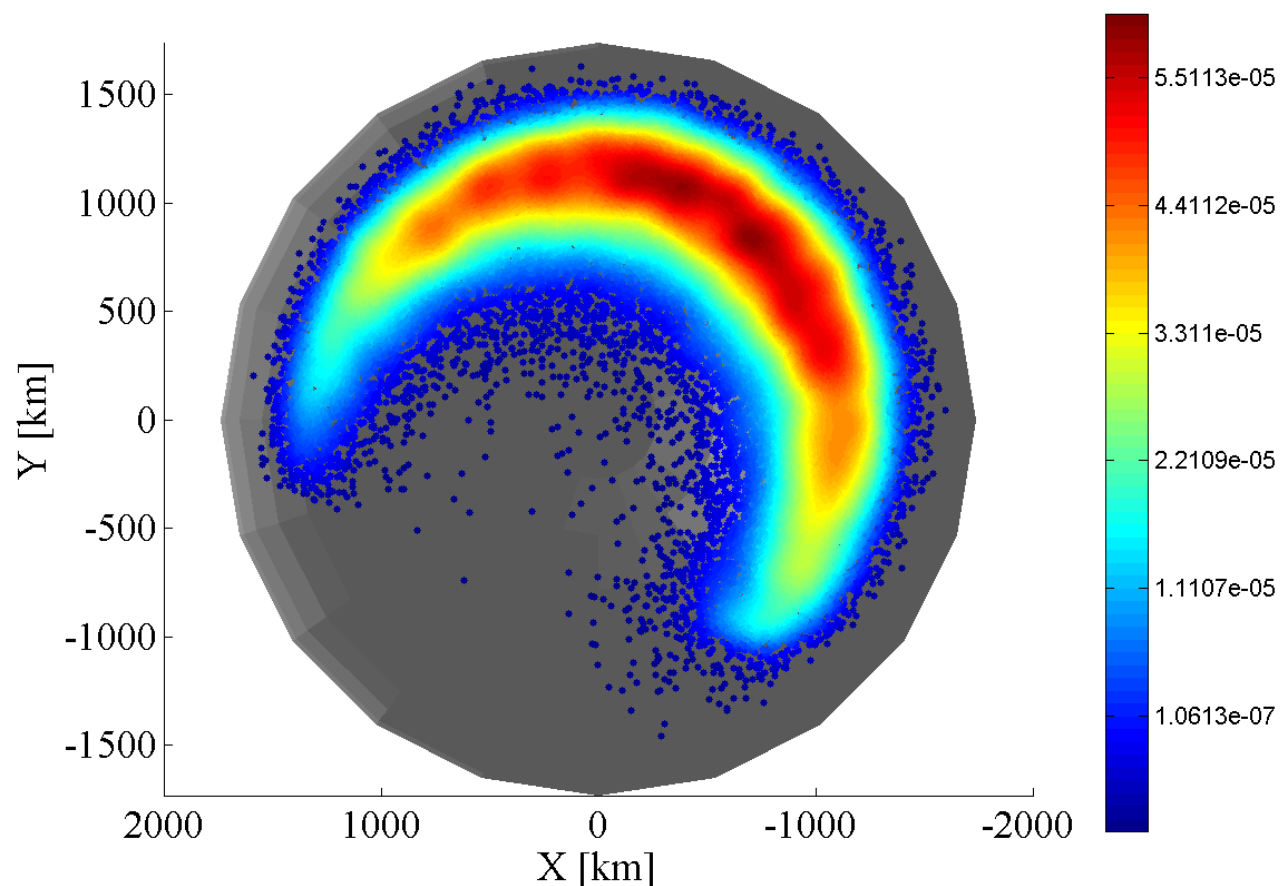
## RE-ENTRY ANALYSIS OF GOCE



# Impact Prediction

- Example of impact prediction, disposal of Gaia to the Moon, subject to uncertainty on the initial conditions
- Impact probability and full trajectory analysis from L1 and L2
- Orders of magnitude faster than Monte Carlo

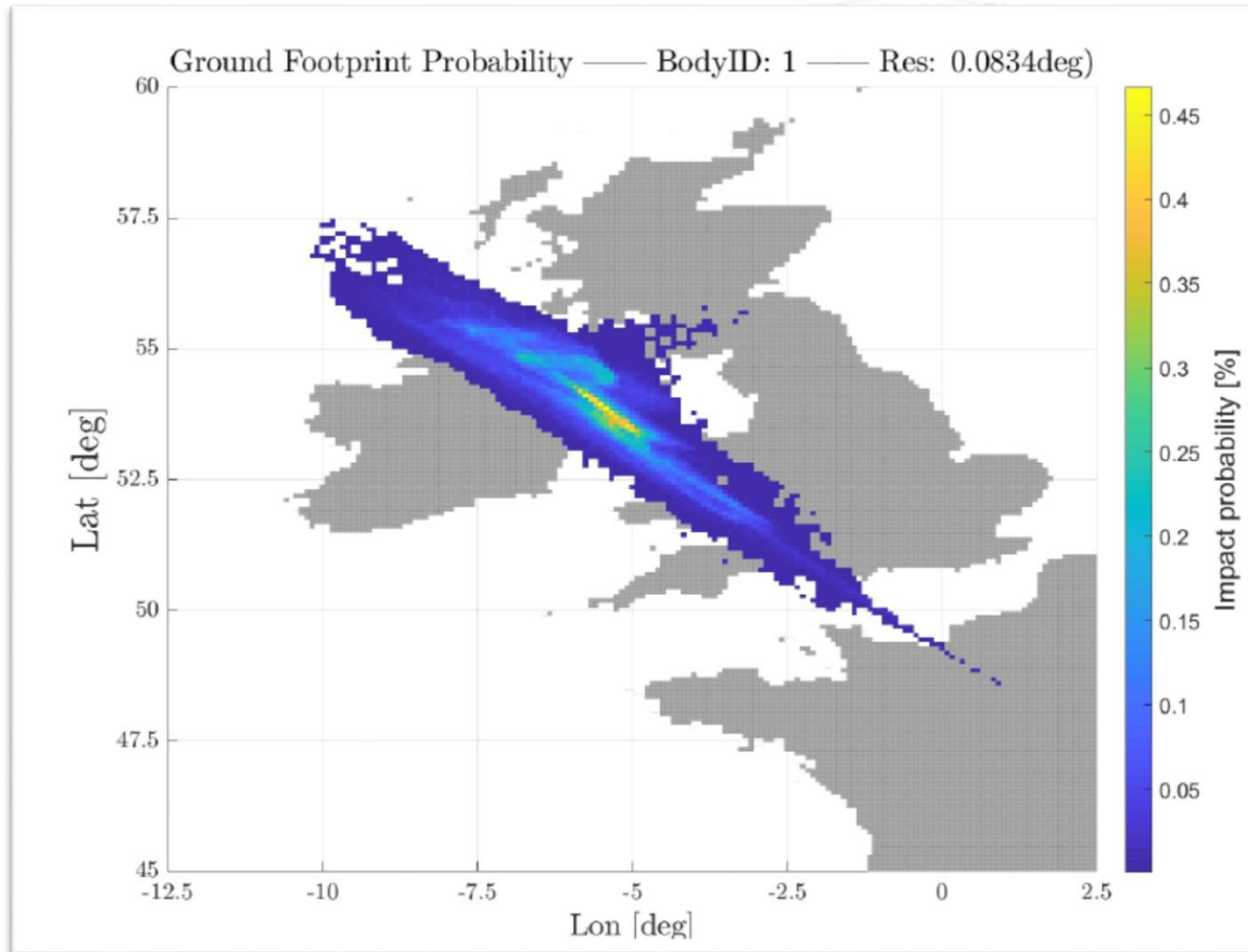
Particles dispersion and density at impact for  
1% manoeuvre error and 5 km dispersion error  
Colourbar represents the probability density



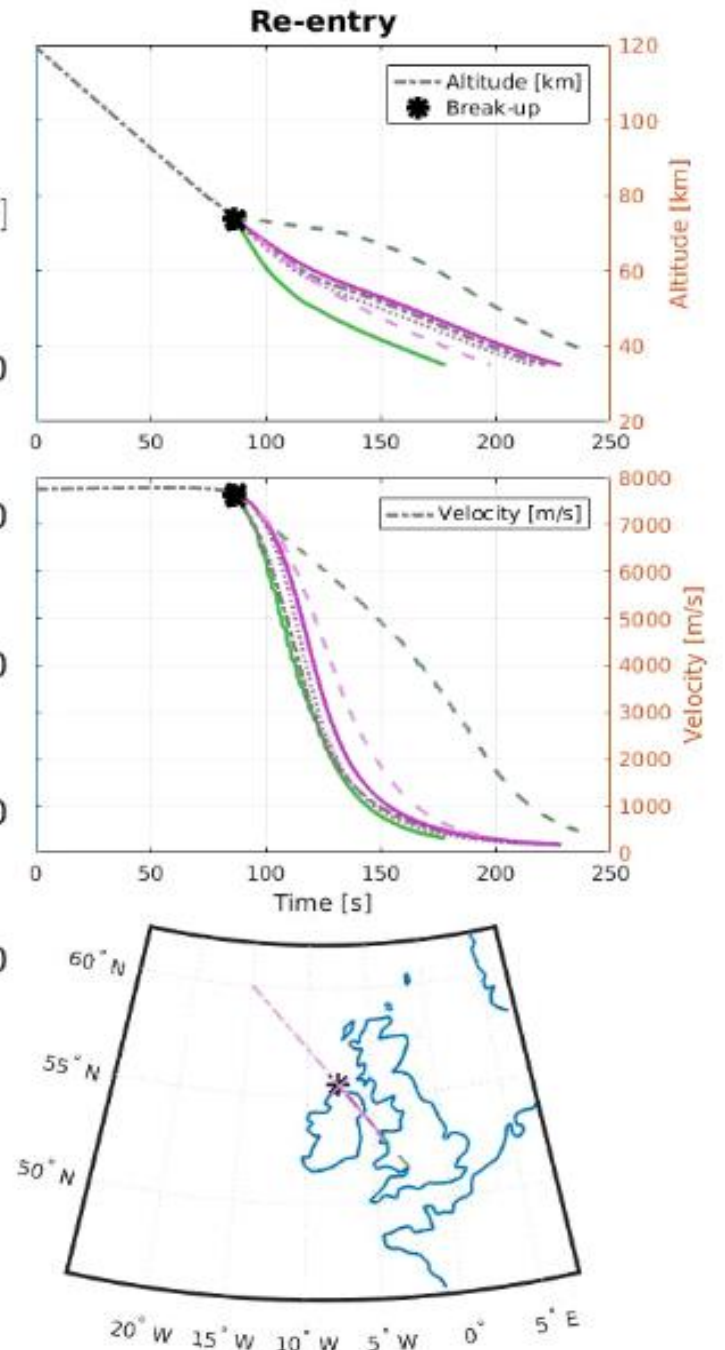
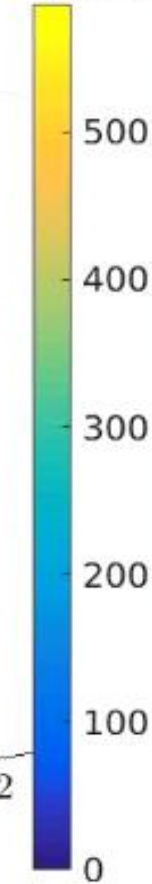
Probabilistic atmospheric re-entry analyses,  
modelling and propagation of fragmentation  
events, including casualty risk

### Mock Satellite Breakup

H = 73.5 km  
time = 87.2s

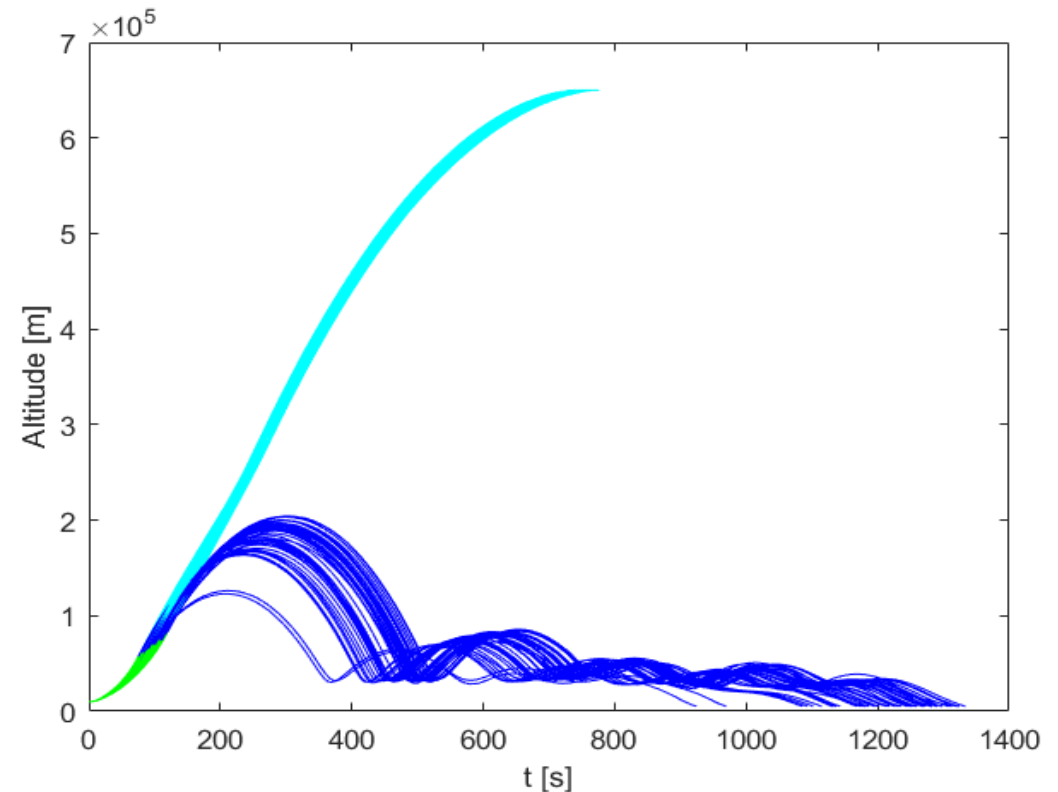
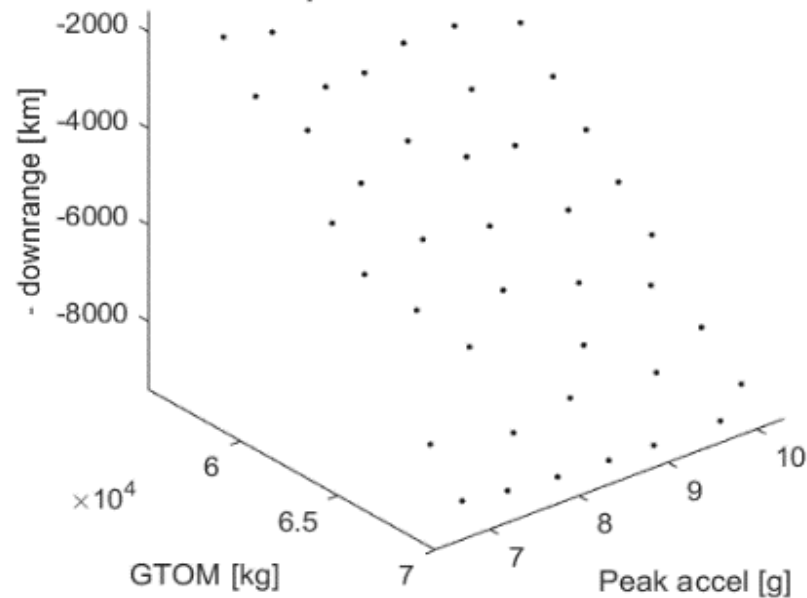


$T_{wall} [^{\circ}C]$



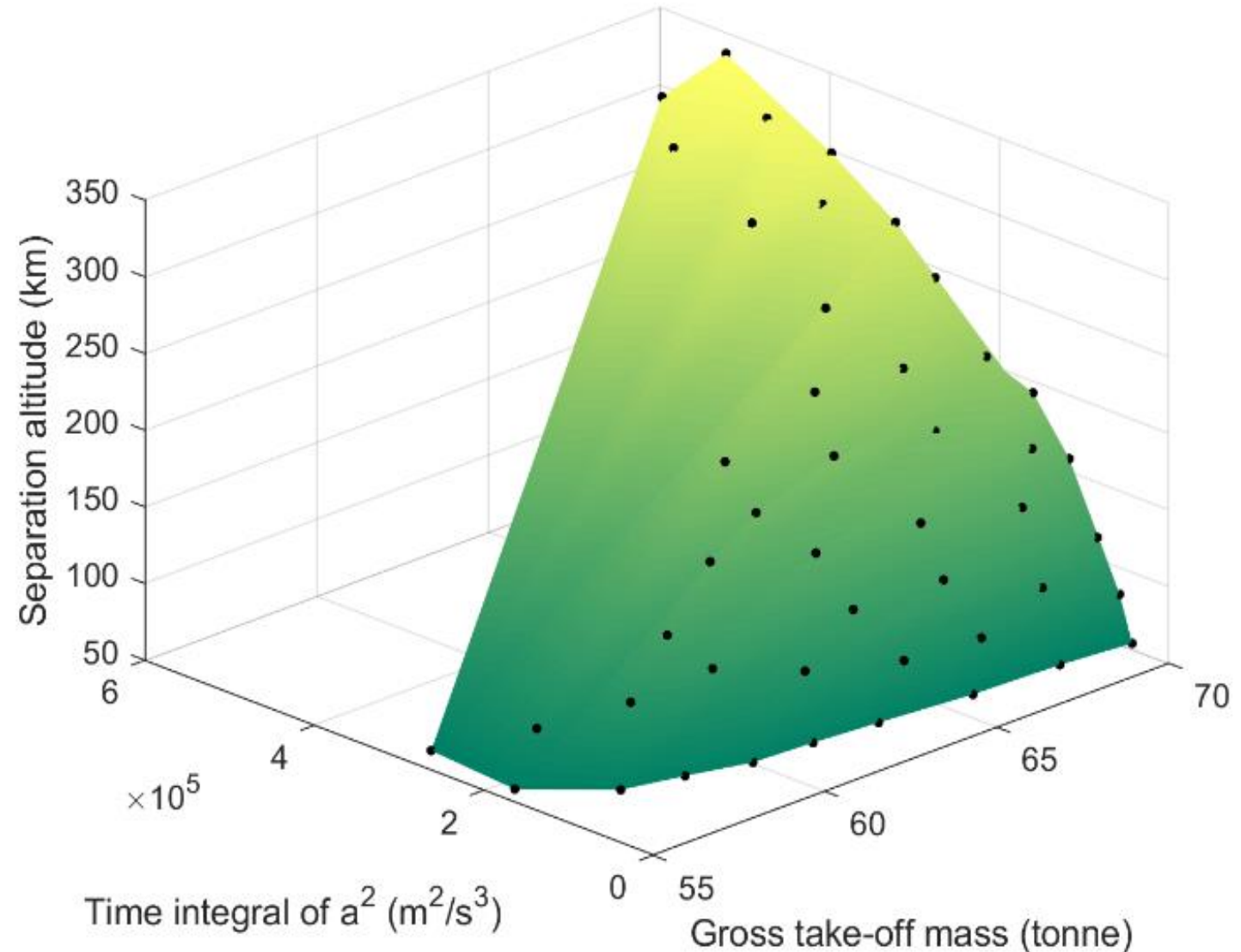
# Case Studies

- Study examined the impact between:
  - downrange glide capability,
  - gross take-off mass (GTOM) of the vehicle, and
  - the total induced accelerations on the centre of mass during flight for two-stage spaceplane system



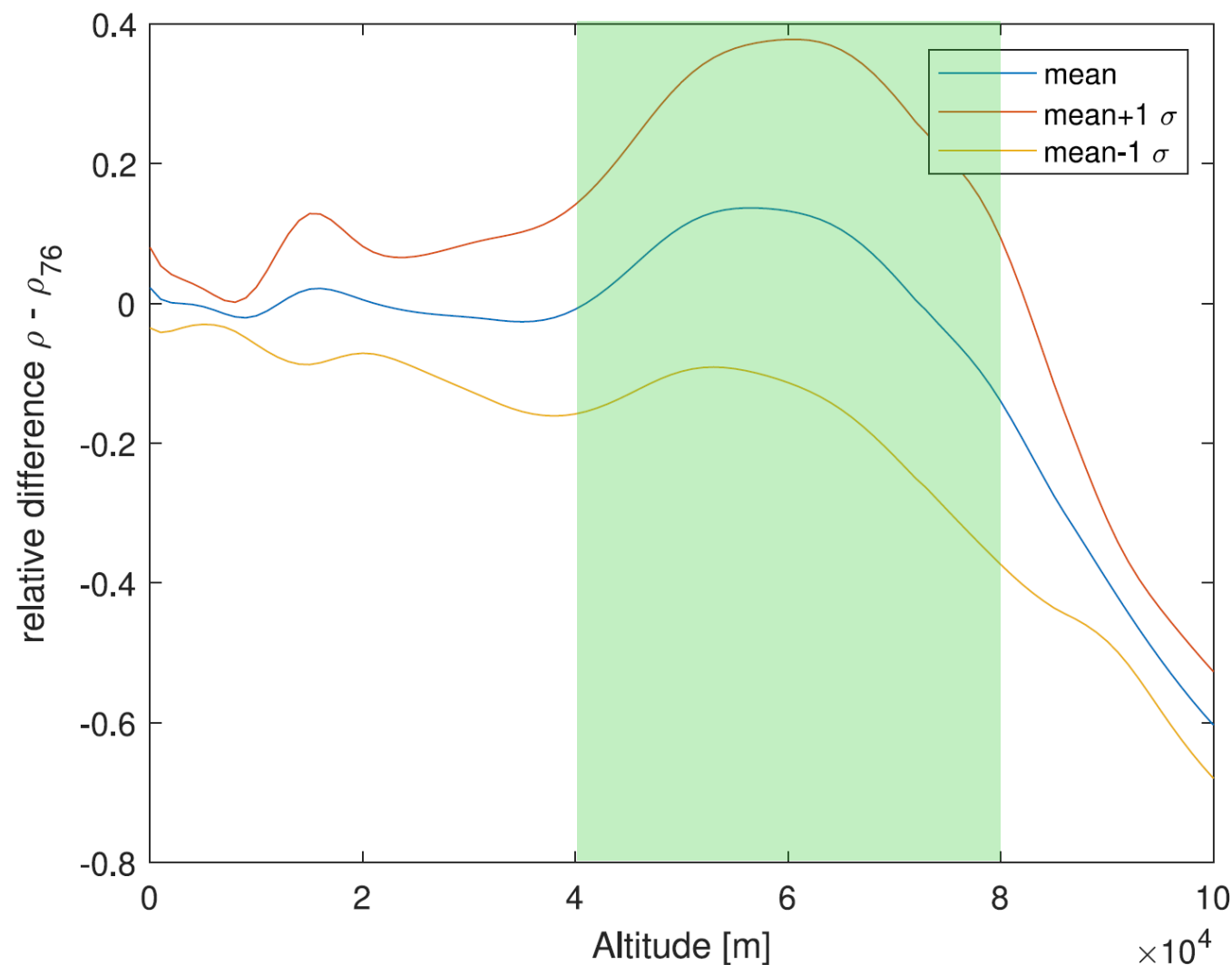
# Case Studies

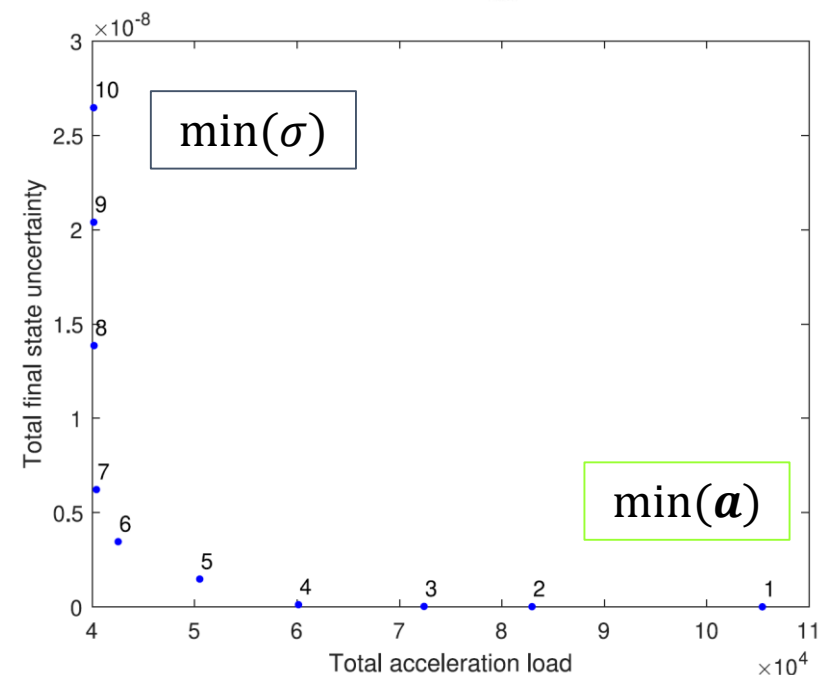
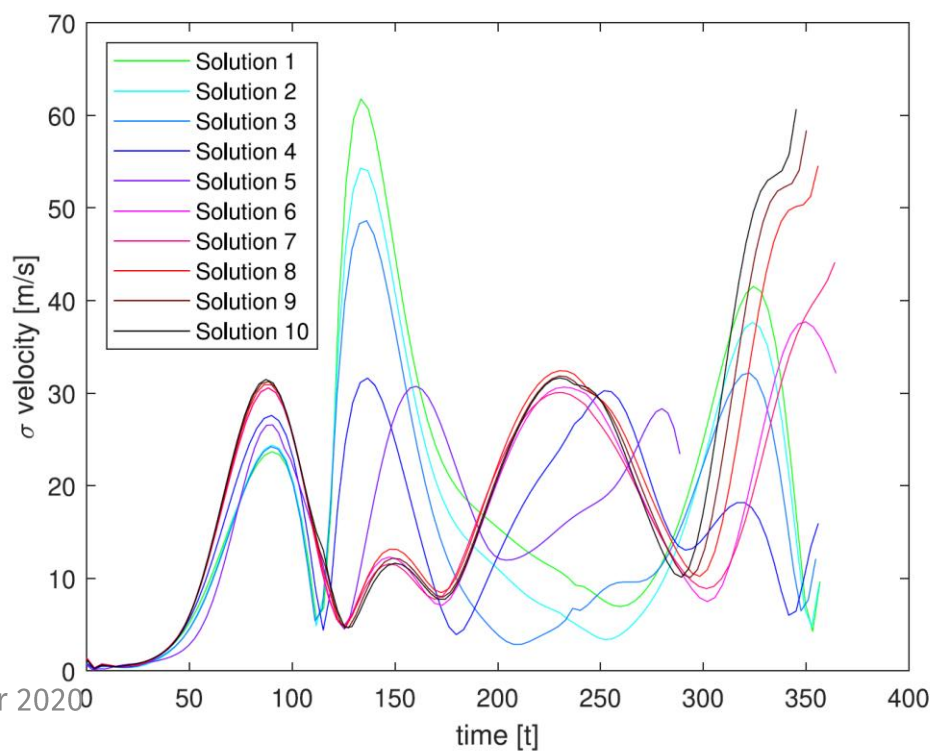
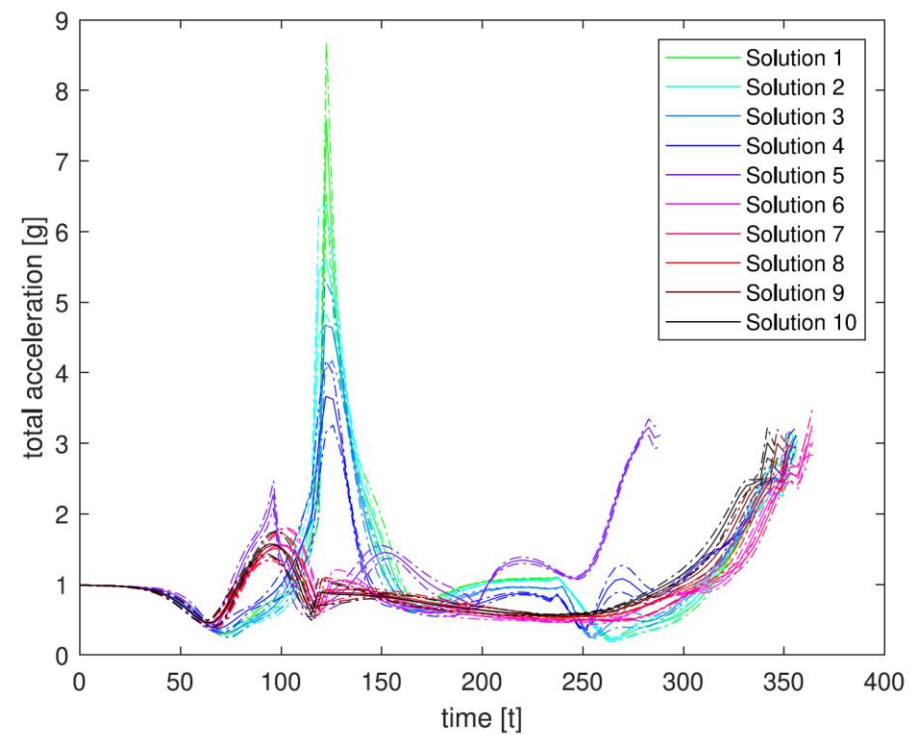
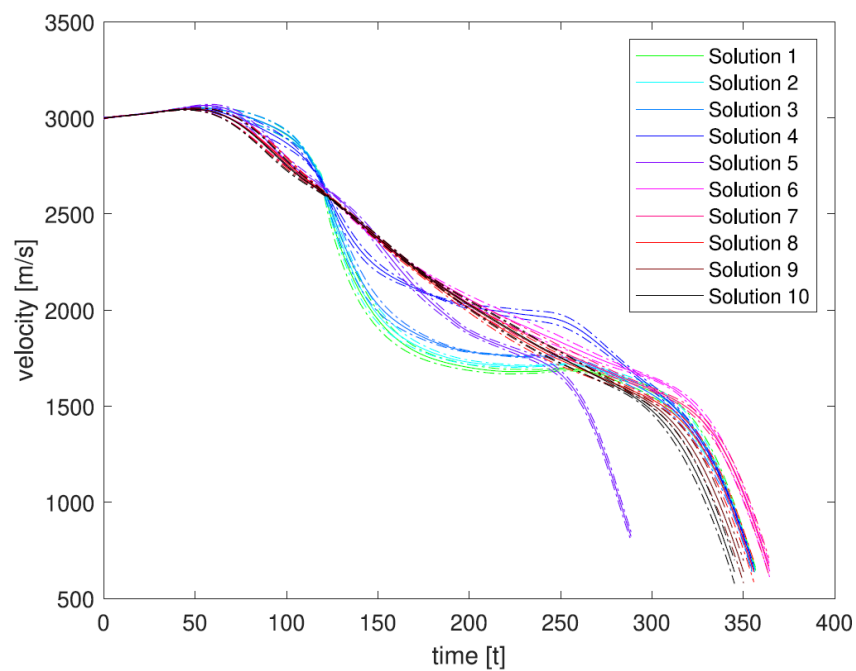
- Trade-off analysis for two-stage system, looking at impact of separation conditions on the vehicle design
  - Discrete control law
  - Times of flight for each stage for ascent, separation, orbital insertion and re-entry
  - Engine sizing for each stage (engine mass, propellant masses, thrust performance)
  - Gross take-off mass



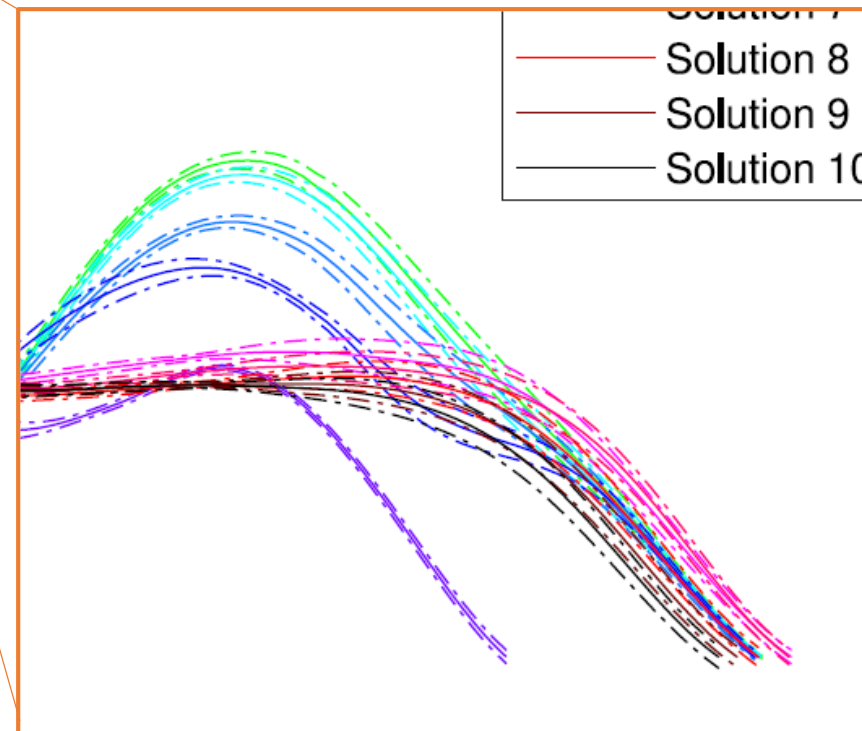
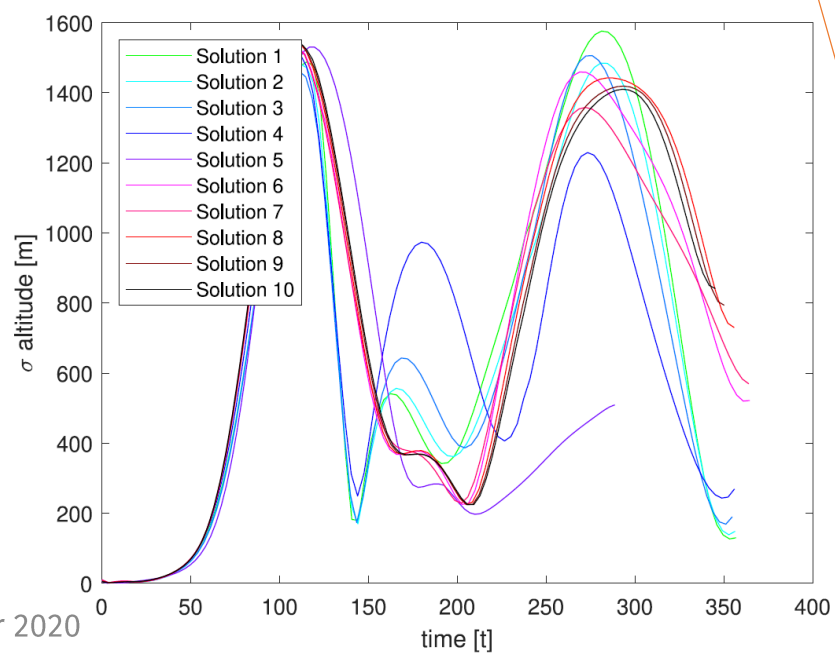
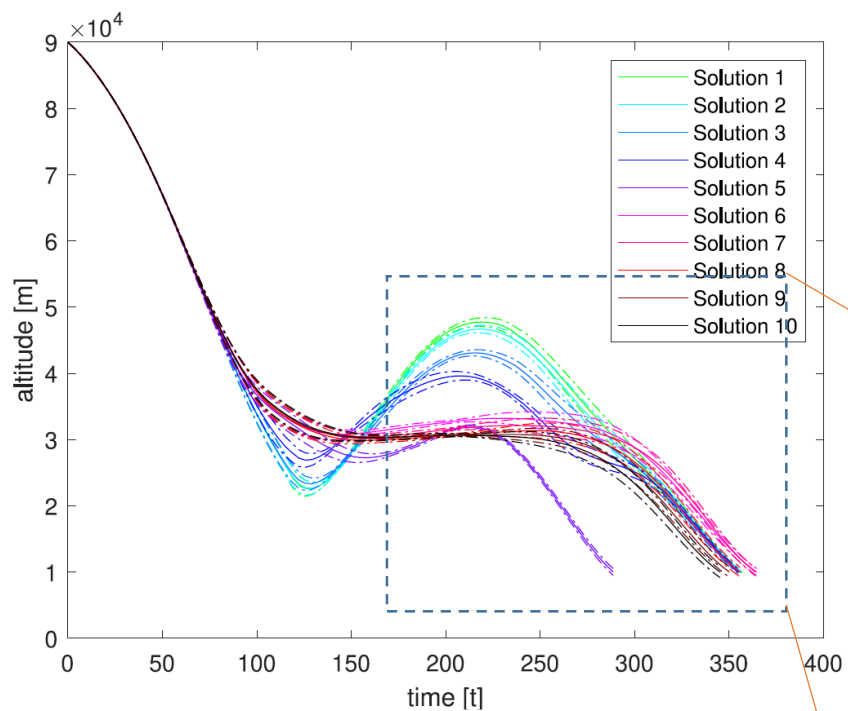
# Case Studies

- Descent guidance strategy for TSTO spaceplane under atmospheric uncertainty
- Model of uncertainty for atmospheric density, largest difference between [40, 80] km





Altitude plots for nominal  
and OOU (dashed)



# Summary

- Universities drive (curiosity led) research, take promising methods and analyse the application to areas of interest (industry/society driven)
- In the UK, space and space access is a critical and growing market, and includes many homegrown, and international launch vehicle developers, operators, regulators, and spaceports
- Numerical analyses, from CI/AI to mathematical theories to computational implementations/processing is crucial to any design, and in particular commercial developments
  - Allows to wider remit to explore reliability and robustness of design options at a system level
  - Not just technical objectives, but cost, development, manufacturing models directly into initial concept design



# University of **Strathclyde** Glasgow