



Overview of the Mars Science Laboratory Entry, Descent, and Landing Instrumentation (MEDLI) Project with an Emphasis on Thermal Analysis and Testing



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- Overview of MEDLI
- Summary of MEADS Developmental Arc-Jet Testing to Date
- Thermal Analysis, MEADS and SSE
 - Summary of MEADS Thermal Analysis
 - SSE Thermal Analysis
 - Pre-Launch Case
 - Cold Cruise Case
 - Hot Operating Case (Entry)
 - Current Challenges
- Open Issues and Future Work



What is MEDLI and Why is it Important?



- Instrumentation suite to be installed on the heatshield of the Mars Science Laboratory (MSL) entry vehicle, scheduled to launch in 2009
 - To measure aerothermal environments, sub-surface heatshield material response, vehicle orientation, and atmospheric density
 - Current aeroheating uncertainties are greater than 50% on the MSL heatshield, primarily due to a lack of relevant flight data
- Main objective is to obtain valuable atmospheric entry measurements that will benefit future Mars missions
 - Validation of aerothermal, aerodynamic, atmospheric, and TPS response models
 - Help to quantify design uncertainties and identify driving risks for future missions
- The MEDLI suite consists of three main subsystems
 - MEDLI Integrated Sensor Plug (MISP)
 - Mars Entry Atmospheric Data System (MEADS)
 - Sensor Support Electronics (SSE)



Overview of the MSL Entry Vehicle



- The MSL EDL system is a new architecture based on Viking heritage technologies, but designed to meet the challenges of landing a greater entry mass than any previous Mars entry vehicle to within 10km of the desired landing site
- MSL will fly the largest aeroshell, generate the highest hypersonic lift-to-drag ratio, and deploy the largest Disk-Gap-Band supersonic parachute of any previous Mars mission





MSL Entry, Descent, and Landing (EDL) Timeline



 Transient analysis begins at Cruise Stage Separation (CSS) & ends at Heat Shield Separation (HSS)





MEDLI Science Objectives



Aerothermal / TPS

- Verify transition to turbulence
- Determine turbulent heating levels
- Determine recession rates and subsurface material response of ablative heatshield at Mars conditions

Technical Objectives	Location									
Technical Objectives	ті	T2	T3	T4	T5	T6	T 7			
Basic Aeroheating	х	x	x	x	x	x	x			
Stagnation Point Heating	х			х						
Turbulent Leeside Heating		х	х		х	x	x			
TPS Recession Rate		х	х		х	x	x			
Windside Heating										
Augmention	X			X						
TPS Total Recession		x	х		х	х	х			
Subsurface Material Resp.	x	х	х	x	x	x	x			
Turbulent Transition		x	x			x	x			

7 Integrated Sensor Plugs (T#) 7 Pressure Ports (P#)



Aerodynamics / Atmosphere

- Separate aero from atmosphere
- Determine density profile (vertical and gravity waves) over large horizontal distance
- Isolate wind component
- Confirm aero at high angles of attack

Technical Objections	Location								
Technical Objectives	P1	P 2	P 3	P 4	P5	P6	P7		
Basic Pressure Dist.	х	х	х	х	х	х	х		
Angle of Attack	х	х	х	х	х				
Angle of Sideslip				х		х	х		
Dynamic Pressure	х	х							
Mach Number	х	x							



MEDLI Subsystems



MEDLI Integrated Sensor Plug (MISP)

- Instrumented plug made from heatshield TPS material
- Includes four embedded thermocouples and one Hollow aErothermal Ablation and Temperature (HEAT) recession sensor





Mars Entry Atmospheric Data System (MEADS)

 Series of through-holes, or ports, that connect via tubing to pressure transducers mounted on the heatshield interior

Sensor Support Electronics (SSE)

 Electronics that condition sensor signals, provide power to MISP and MEADS, and interface to the MSL data acquisition system









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MEADS Developmental Arc-Jet Testing: Overview



- Objectives
 - Determine an acceptable pressure port diameter for through-hole in SLA-561V TPS material
 - Demonstrate pressure measurement capability
 - Quantify possible effects of through-hole on bondline temperature
 - Quantify possible effects of pyrolysis gases on pressure readings
 - Determine whether or not a sleeve to line the through-hole in the TPS is necessary (and validate sleeve material, if necessary)
- Two 2-week test entries were completed at Boeing's Large Core Arc Tunnel (LCAT) facility in St. Louis, MO
 - Phases I & II combined: 22 runs, 38 models tested
 - Huels-type arc heater facility, 4-inch exit diameter nozzle
 - Flow-field probes verified test conditions (heat flux and stagnation pressure)



Overall View

MEADS Developmental Arc-Jet Testing: Model Design and Test Conditions

 Models were designed and built in a collaborative effort between NASA LaRC and NASA Ames

 Test conditions were designed to encompass all potential environments to which MEADS will be exposed, including margin

Summary of Target Test Conditions							
Hot Wall Heat Flux (W/cm ²)	Stagnation Pressure (atm)						
60	0.15						
60	0.25						
100	0.15						
100	0.25						
115	0.15						
115	0.25						
130	0.2						
140	0.15						

MEADS Developmental Arc-Jet Testing: In-Test Photo Sequence

Images shown are representative, and are not intended to reflect results of a particular test run

MEADS Developmental Arc-Jet Testing: Model Evaluation

Visual Inspection

Pre-test

Post-test

Boroscopy

Note: Still images shown at ~ 8mm depth

Pre-test

Post-test

Sectioning

Note: Measurements of centerline recession, char depth, pyrolysis depth, and final curvature were taken from sectioned samples

Images shown are representative, and are not intended to reflect results of a particular test run

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MEADS Developmental Arc-Jet Testing: Test Data

MEADS Developmental Arc-Jet Testing: Conclusions

- All primary objectives were met
 - No discernable degradation of port shape at SLA interface for each diameter
 - Demonstrated ability to measure pressure in SLA-561V
 - The amount of surface recession observed was minimal and will not invalidate pressure measurements
 - The bondline temperature for any model never exceeded the maximum allowable temperature
 - Presence and/or difference in length of the sleeve lining the ports did not contribute to the integrity of the pressure measurements made in-test
 - Pyrolysis did not show a measurable effect on the measurements at tested conditions

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- Initial concern: Can MEDLI survive the cruise phase of the mission without the use of survival heaters?
 - Several MEADS transducers are located in the colder regions of the aeroshell; these regions will get much too cold for the electronics to survive
 - This prompted a design change: All signal conditioning electronics move to the SSE; only nontemperature sensitive components are left in the transducer heads
 - Thermal analysis focus shifted to the SSE
 - When placed at the nominal location, the SSE reached steady-state temperatures that were too cold to allow electronics survival
 - No heater power is available due to MSL power budget constraints; SSE relocated and coated in black anodize to take advantage of radiative heating from the Radioisotope Thermoelectric Generator (RTG)
 - In new location, there was a concern that the SSE may exceed maximum allowable temperatures either on the launch pad or during EDL
- Design changes that affected thermal analysis (other than those imposed by it)
 - SSE-to-aeroshell interface mounting scheme (still TBD due to structural concerns)
 - Cable harnessing
- One of the largest uncertainties/biggest changes throughout was the constant updating of thermal boundary conditions as MSL completed various phases of their work

- Manufacturer specified temperature range is -300 ℃ to 200 ℃
 - Transducer heads assumed to reach steady-state heatshield temperature during cruise; coldest prediction is -120 °C including margin
- Preliminary analyses have been completed; detailed analyses are not required at this time
 - Before completion of arc-jet testing, there was a concern that tube inserted into TPS may adversely affect MSL bondline temperature
 - Analysis to predict the temperature profile through the tube during EDL as well as the temperature change of the transducer heads for calibration purposes completed for one MEADS location
- Boundary Conditions
 - Conductive heating from heatshield through G10 standoffs, stainless steel A-286 bolts, stainless steel 304 pressure tube, and electrical wires
 - Radiative heating from estimated ambient node (estimated high emissivity for conservatism)
 - Assumes good thermal contact at fastened locations

MEADS Thermal Analysis: Results Summary

- Approximate worst-case hot location (P4) ٠
- Tube inlet temperature profile provided by Roger Giellis (LM)
 - Heat flux profile scaled for nose location (peak=130W/cm²)
- Initial transducer temp based on predicted steady-state worst case hot temperature of the heatshield at the P4 location

- Transducer temperature rise of ~5℃
 - Max temp of ~-10 °C for these conditions
 - Max temperature change through pressure tube of ~70 ℃

- The purpose of this analysis is not to predict exact temperatures the system will reach; rather it
 is to determine the bounds of the system (i.e., temperatures it will not fall below or exceed)
- Rover not included in model due to significant distance from SSE
 - Sensitivity studies performed with the cruise model showed that the inclusion of the Rover in the model made no significant difference in the results
- Operational Limits (specified by manufacturer): -55 ℃ to 125 ℃
- Cabling
 - All cabling is tied down every 6" along the heatshield under MLI blanket
- Emissivities
 - External Single-Layer Insulation (SLI), $\varepsilon = 0.10-0.02$ (varies for worst-case hot vs. worst-case cold)
 - Internal Multi-Layer Insulation (MLI), ε* = 0.02-0.05 (varies for worst-case hot vs. worst-case cold)
 - SSE $\varepsilon = 0.8-0.95$ (anodized aluminum finish, varies for worst-case hot vs. worst-case cold)
 - MMRTG ε = 0.85, Internal MLI top surface ε = 0.7 (IOM-3547/T&SE 001-2006, 2/15/07)
- Temperature dependant material properties were used (except for thermocouple materials)

Component	Material	Source
SSE case	Al 6061-T6	Windchill Database
Screws	SS A286	Knovel, Mil Handbook 5H
Electronics Fasteners	SS HS 188	Knovel, Mil Handbook 5H
Standoffs & Washers	G10	NIST
TSPs	Copper	Patran Library
	Chromel	Matweb
Thermocouples	Alumel	Matweb

SSE Thermal Analysis: Thermal Model in MSC/Patran

SSE Thermal Analysis: Thermal Model in MSC/Patran, MMRTG

- MMRTG is modeled as a simple surface for the purpose of a radiation view-factor analysis
- JPL provided temperature profiles and physical dimensions

SSE Thermal Analysis: Initial Trade on Location

 After accounting for model uncertainty and adding margin, the only acceptable SSE location was found to be underneath the RTG

SSE Thermal Analysis: Temperature Boundary Condition Sources

- JPL CFD analysis provided predictions for ambient environment in the vicinity of the SSE while on the launch pad
- JPL System Level Thermal Model (Tony Paris & Frank Kelly)
 - Provided temperature maps for MMRTG, internal MLI blanket, and SSE surroundings
 - Results generated were intended for use as inputs for LM's detailed aeroshell model, and were biased to be the worst-cold and worst-hot case for the aeroshell
- LM Aeroshell Thermal Model (Roger Giellis & Mike Connelly)
 - Provided temperature predictions for the heatshield (at SSE insert) based on inputs from JPL's system level thermal model

SSE Thermal Analysis: Environments, Pre-Launch

- JPL's CFD analysis provided predictions of the temperature of the convecting air in the vicinity of the SSE
- Given current baseline design and no failures, recommended model uncertainty is 20 ℃ worst-case

Predictions provided by Pradeep Bhandari, JPL

SSE Thermal Analysis: Summary of Pre-Launch Case

80.0

79.7

°C

- Steady-state analysis to show that the SSE will not exceed its maximum allowable temperature if left on the launch pad for an extended period of time
- Does not include internal SSE components (non-operational)
- Inputs to SSE model include JPL recommended uncertainty
- Entire MMRTG is assumed to be at the fin root temperature
- Heatshield temperature is assumed to be equal to that of the circulating air
- Heat transfer coefficient assumed is on the low end of the range of accepted natural convection coefficients (h = 5 W/m2-K)
- SSE ε = 0.95 in order to maximize heating from RTG
- Radial contact resistance at bolted interface is infinite (energy is only transferred vertically through bolt/washer/standoff stack-up), to minimize amount of energy loss from the SSE to the heatshield

JPL Predictions (°C) Including +20°C for Uncertainty					SSE Predictions (°C)				
		Ambient	Ambient		MEDLI	MEDLI	Allowable	Qualification	
Heat Shield	RTG	Radiation	Convection	MLI	Model Predict	Uncertainty	Flight Temp.	Temp.	
75	135	70	75	80	80	5	85	105	

SSE Thermal Analysis: Environments, Cruise Hot & Cold

 Images shown are representative of thermal environments provided by MSL for use as boundary conditions for the SSE thermal model

Predictions provided by Roger Giellis & Mike Connelly (LMSSC), Tony Paris & Frank Kelly (JPL)

SSE Thermal Analysis: Summary of Cold Cruise Case

- Steady-state analysis to show that the SSE will not fall below its minimum allowable temperature during cruise, without the use of survival heaters
- Does not include internal SSE components (non-operational)
- Inputs to SSE model include JPL and LM recommended uncertainty
- SSE ε = 0.8 in order to minimize heating from RTG
- Radial contact resistance at bolted interface is low to maximize amount of energy loss from the SSE to the heatshield

JPL Predictions (°C) Including -10°C for Uncertainty							SSE Predictions (°C)			
Heat Shield	RTG (mapped)			Ambient		MEDLI	MEDLI	Allowable	Qualification	
(LM)	Fin Root	Fins	Side Cover	Top Cover	Radiation	MLI	Model Predict	Uncertainty	Flight Temp.	Temp.
-95	90	45	-25	5	-30	0	-30	-5	-35	-50

°C

SSE Thermal Analysis: Summary of Entry Case

- EDL Analysis is comprised of two parts
 - Mars Approach: Steady-state analysis to determine the worst-case hot temperature of the SSE at the start of EDL
 - Used as a conservative start temperature for EDL analysis
 - Modeling approach the same as cruise cold case
 - EDL: Transient analysis to determine whether or not the SSE will exceed maximum allowable temperatures during EDL
 - Includes a representation of the internal SSE components (powered on during EDL)
 - Entire MMRTG is assumed to be at the fin root temperature
 - Radiative cooling inside the chassis is neglected
- Inputs to SSE model include JPL and LM recommended uncertainty
- SSE ε = 0.95 in order to maximize heating from RTG
- Radial contact resistance at bolted interfaces is infinite (energy is only transferred vertically through bolt/washer/standoff stack-up), to minimize amount of energy loss from the SSE to the heatshield

Summary of Part 1: Mars Approach Hot Case, Steady-State

	SSE Prediction (°C)						
Heat Shield		RTG (m	napped)		Ambient		MEDLI
(LM)	Fin Root	Fins	Side Cover	Top Cover	Radiation	MLI	Model Predict
-7	138	90	35	55	25	46	39

SSE Thermal Analysis: Environments

- MMRTG begins to heat up at HRS vent
- Heatshield temperature profile at SSE insert was provided by LM detailed aeroshell model
- Temperatures are conservatively assumed to increase linearly
 - MLI & Ambient assumed to increase by a total of 100 °C from worst-case hot initial temperatures before HRS vent

SSE Thermal Analysis: Thermal Model in MSC/Patran, Electronics

- Chassis, MMRTG, and surroundings are modeled the same as in steady-state cases
- Components that dissipate significant amounts of power were modeled at the board level
- Conduction through components and to boards was modeled as a resistive network

Engineering boards are shown. Layout differs slightly from flight board design (in thermal model).

SSE Thermal Analysis: Entry Results

- Hottest component is the voltage regulator on the digital board
 - Results shown are for nominal power and component size
 - Trades have been performed on power dissipation and component size
- Boundary temperatures are shown for reference

SSE Thermal Analysis: Results Summary

Below is a summary of the predicted SSE temperatures for the 2 steady-state analysis cases

	SSE Predictions (°C)								
Analysis	MEDLI	MEDLI	Allowable	Qualification					
Case	Model Predict	Uncertainty	Flight Temp.	Temp.					
Pre-Launch	80	5	85	105					
Cold Cruise	-30	-5	-35	-50					

Operational Limits: -55C to 125C

- Maximum predicted component temperature during atmospheric entry operation with nominal power dissipation and component size = ~90 ℃ (95 ℃ AFT, 100 ℃ FA, 115 ℃ Qual/PF)
- With the given assumptions, MEDLI's electronics will perform as expected during all phases of the MSL mission

Open Issues & Future Work

- Open Issues
 - Finalization of design for digital board to get better definition of voltage regulator power dissipation
 - Possible change to SSE/heatshield interface due to structural concerns
 - Possible TPS change
 - Possible switch to alternate trajectory

• Future Work

- Potential arc-jet shear testing of SLA-561V
- Continue to refine thermal model; remain current as prediction updates and/or design changes occur
- Perform small-scale thermal vacuum testing (bell jar) to verify SSE predictions
 - Cold start-up
 - Hot operation
- Provide formal definition of SSE and MEADS temperature limits to MSL

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BACKUP

Calculation of Flight Acceptance and Qualification/Protoflight Temperatures

SSE Thermal Analysis: Thermal Model in MSC/Patran, Cabling

- All electrical wires are modeled as perfectly insulated 6" wires, with the end of the wires held to a constant temperature to simulate the wire being tied down securely to the heatshield
 - The only heat transfer is conduction through the copper wire from the SSE to the heatshield
 - Radiation losses are not modeled (studies showed the effects to be minimal)

SSE Thermal Analysis: Thermal Model in MSC/Patran, Cabling

- Due to concern that this model was too conservative (did not account for electrical insulation and its potential thermally insulating benefits), a study was performed to determine the effectiveness of the electrical insulation as a thermal insulator
- A total thermal resistance value was calculated based on the assumed electrical insulation design shown below. An analogy to electrical resistance helps to clarify the methodology used.

2007

SSE Thermal Analysis: Thermal Model in MSC/Patran, Cabling

- Wire reaches heatshield temperature after about 5.5" of length
 - Original model provided a reasonable representation of the heat loss through the electrical wiring
- This approach simplifies the model and helps to avoid longer run times due to complex meshing of very small wires, since groups of wires can be modeled as a bundle.

- A sensitivity study showed that adding an extra layer of thermal insulation (0.25" thick pyrogel blanket) at one tie-down provides nearly a 50% decrease in the heat loss through the wire
 - Thermal insulation is not included in the nominal design; but was analyzed as an option if needed

SSE Thermal Analysis: Thermal Model in MSC/Patran, Electronics

Calculation of circuit board material properties

Note that thermal conductivity calculations are independent of board length and width

Stackup (4 layer PCBs) Total thickness = 62 mil	k _{in-plane equiv} (W/m-K)	k _{normal equiv} (W∕m-K)	Cp _{equiv} (J/kg-K)	Mass (gm)
3-oz copper				
Rest of thickness is FR4	27.4	0.32	673	160

SSE Thermal Analysis: Thermal Model in MSC/Patran, Electronic

Calculation of chip to board thermal resistance

Illustrations from Tory Scola, NASA LaRC

 $\begin{array}{l} t_{\text{polyimide}} = \text{top polyimide thickness} \\ t_{\text{viaCu}} = \text{thickness of via plating} \\ n_{\text{vias}} = \text{number of vias} \\ A_{\text{via}} = \text{area of 1 via} \\ A_{\text{polyimide}} = \text{Area of polyimide under chip} \\ L_{\text{pin}} = \text{length of pin} \end{array}$

n = number of pins

 $A_{pin} = cross sectional area of 1 pin$

$$A_{via} = \frac{\pi}{4} \left[d_{via}^{2} - (d_{via} - 2 \cdot t_{via} C_{u})^{2} \right] \qquad A_{polyimide} = A_{chip} - n_{vias} \frac{\pi}{4} d_{via}^{2}$$

$$\theta_{1via} = \frac{t_{top \ polyimide}}{k_{Cu} * A_{via}} \qquad \qquad \theta_{pins} = \frac{L_{pin}}{n * k_{pin} * A_{pin}} \qquad \qquad \theta_{top \ polyimide} = \frac{t_{top \ polyimide}}{k_{polyimide} * A_{polyimide}}$$

$$\theta_{cb} = \theta_{bondlayers} + \left[\frac{1}{\theta_{toppolyimide}} + \frac{n_{vias}}{\theta_{1via}} + \frac{1}{\theta_{pins}}\right]^{-1}$$

	Component	Power (W)	Mass (kg)	θ _{jc} (°C/W)	θ _{cb} (℃/W)
	A/D Converter	0.095	0.0031*	2.44	8.8
Analog Board	(+) Voltage Regulator, TO-39 case	0.06	0.0031*	21	18.93
	(-) Voltage Regulator, TO-39 case	0.13	0.0031*	12	18.93
	FPGA	2	0.0202	0.5	0.647
Digital Board	Voltage Regulator, TO-39 case	0.5/1.1	0.0031	15	18.93
	DC/DC Converters	1.2	0.03	8.33	0.922

*Assumption