CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY JET PROPULSION LABORATORY

F STUDIES

ACK

# **Ballistic Mission Trades**

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# **Consider Ballistic Launches Outward from 1 AU**

- No thermal issues inside of 1 AU
- Limits flyout speed
- Energy gain from Jupiter is significant and a flyby is required
- Multiple kick stages are required
- Where the kick stages are fired can affect the outcome
  - > (1) Use all stages at launch Jupiter flyby is passive
  - > (2) Use only some stages at launch burn at Jupiter periapsis
  - > (3) In any case, launch the stack to C3 > 0 to minimize RPS safety issues

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## **Physics Limits - Distance**

#### Transit times from Earth to 200 AU

- Ballistic trajectories both with and without Jupiter gravity assists
- Optimized gravity assist cuts transit time by factor >2 for C3 < 350 km<sup>2/</sup>s<sup>2</sup>

#### Voyager 1

- > 129.5 AU (18 light hours)
- > 37 years en route
- > C3 ~100 km<sup>2</sup>/s<sup>2</sup>
- > Jupiter and Saturn assists 13 January 2015 Science and Enabling



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#### **Physics Limits - Speed**

- Voyager 1 is the fastest object leaving the solar system
  - > Speed is 3.6 AU per year (17 km/s)
- Twice that speed is 7.2 AU/yr (34 km/s)
  - > Achieved for a launch C3 of 278 km²/s²



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### Launch Vehicles

#### Launch Vehicle Lift Capabilities



Comparison of current and notional launch vehicle capabilities for some of the vehicles usable for high-C3 robotic space missions

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### **Appropriate Kick Stages**

- Staging configurations are mass optimized - at the same specific impulses - for each stage providing the same ΔV
- This implies that higher stages in the stack need to be smaller in order to try to keep the stage effects about the same
- The approach is to minimize risk by using existing hardware, preferably with flight heritage
- The SLS 1B consists of solid strapons, core and an upper-stage EUS (2<sup>nd</sup> stage) which is currently envisioned as using 4 RL-10 engines

Notional: SLS Block 1B Exploration Upper Stage with an Orion capsule following separation from the booster



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#### SLS Core Vehicle ICPS and Caster 30B and SC "stack" = the SLS Payload



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Various Kickstage Combinations Considered Passive Jupiter Flyby

SLS Block 1B with CASTOR-30B and STAR-48B SLS / EUS (2<sup>nd</sup> Stage) / 3<sup>rd</sup> Stage / 4<sup>th</sup> Stage / Payload

SLS Block 1B/EUS w Delta-4 Upper Stage & CASTOR-30B SLS / EUS (2<sup>nd</sup> Stage) / 3<sup>rd</sup> Stage / 4<sup>th</sup> Stage / Payload

SLS / EUS (2<sup>nd</sup> Stage) / 3<sup>rd</sup> Stage / Payload

SLS / EUS (2<sup>nd</sup> Stage) / 3<sup>rd</sup> Stage / 4<sup>th</sup> Stage / Payload

Delta – 4 / STAR 48B / 500 kg spacecraft C3 = 387.1 km<sup>2</sup>/s<sup>2</sup> 24.4 years to 200 AU 8.3 AU per year

- Spacecraft masses of 200 kg to 500 kg considered
- PAM-D2 not a good trade
- 5 stage can fit (in shroud): Delta 4 / CASTOR 30B / STAR-48B
  - > Case not yet studied

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**RLM - 8**