

# MICROGRAVITY MACHINE

## Design Review 6





# TEAM 511



Samuel Duval

*Propulsion Engineer*



Pedro Siman

*Recovery Engineer*



Thomas Lenz

*Test & Systems  
Engineer*



Collin Gainer

*Aero Design  
Engineer*



John  
Tietsworth

*Controls Engineer*

Samuel Duval

# Sponsor and Advisor



Dr. Mohd  
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College of  
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Mike Conroy

**Florida Space  
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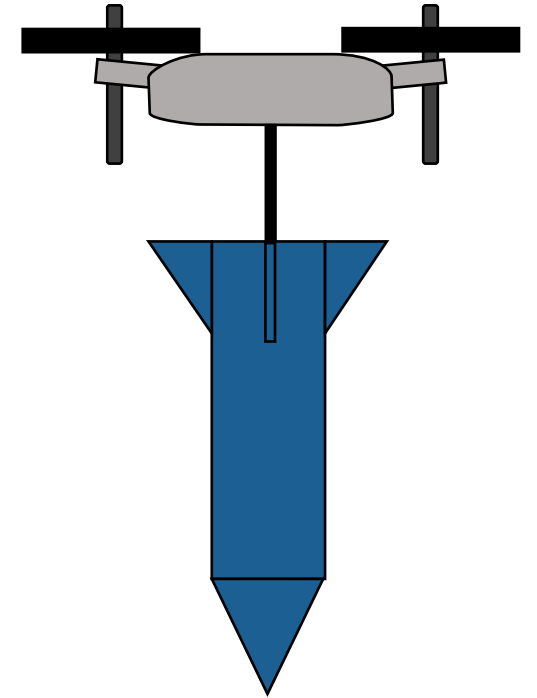
Dr. Shayne  
McConomy

**FAMU-FSU  
College of  
Engineering**

Samuel Duval

# Project Objective

The objective of the project is to design a reproducible system that can be dropped, achieve microgravity during its descent, and be safely recovered for reuse.



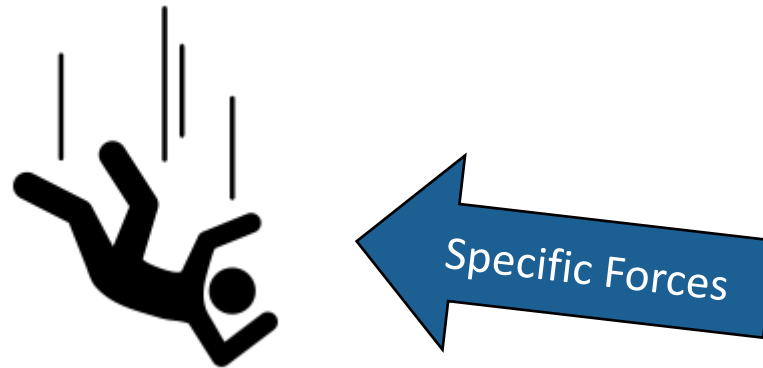
Samuel Duval



# What is Microgravity?

$$\vec{F}_{Specific} = \frac{\sum \vec{F}_{nongravitational}}{m} \approx 0 \frac{m}{s^2}$$

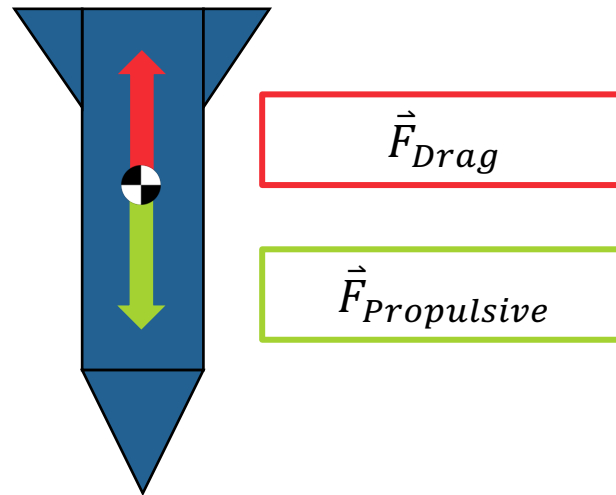
What does an accelerometer measure?



Samuel Duval

# Achieving Freefall

$$\vec{F}_{Specific} = \frac{\vec{F}_{Propulsive} - \vec{F}_{Drag}}{m} \approx 0 \frac{m}{s^2}$$



Samuel Duval



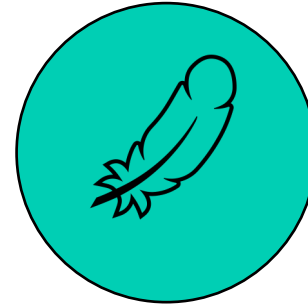
# Key Goals



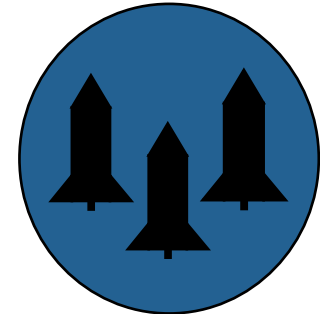
Microgravity



Recoverable



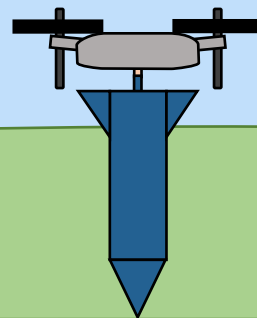
Meet weight requirements



Reproduceable

Pedro Siman

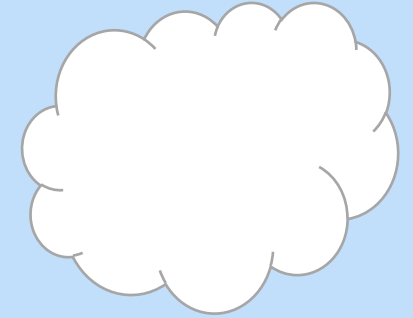
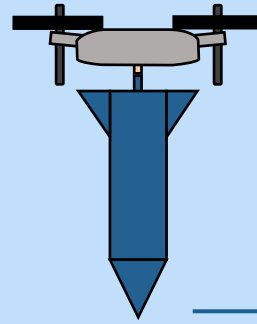
# Competition Day



Pedro Siman



# Competition Day



900 ft (275m)

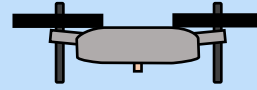


$$\vec{a} = 9.81 \frac{m}{s^2}$$

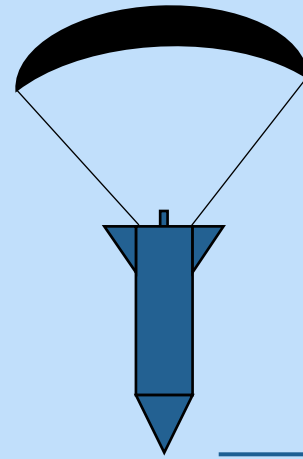
Metric	Target
Time to Detect Disconnection	0.1s
Degrees of Freedom	1
Acceleration	$9.81 \frac{m}{s^2}$
Final Velocity	$5 \frac{m}{s}$

Pedro Siman

# Competition Day



Metric	Target
Time to Detect Disconnection	0.1s
Degrees of Freedom	1
Acceleration	$9.81 \frac{m}{s^2}$
Final Velocity	$5 \frac{m}{s}$

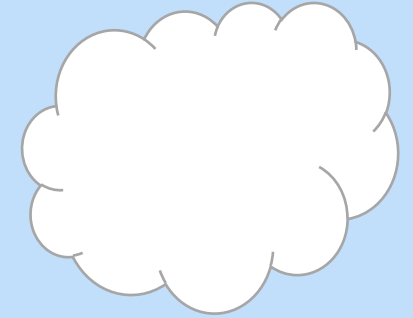
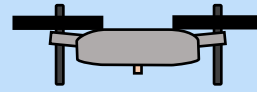


~650 ft (200m)

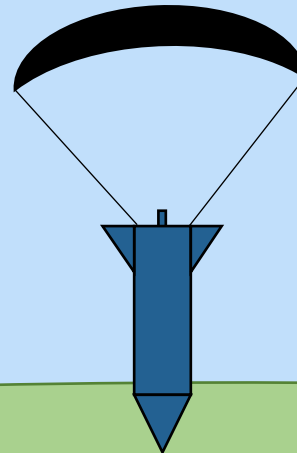
Pedro Siman



# Competition Day



Metric	Target
Time to Detect Disconnection	0.1s
Degrees of Freedom	1
Acceleration	$9.81 \frac{m}{s^2}$
Final Velocity	$5 \frac{m}{s}$

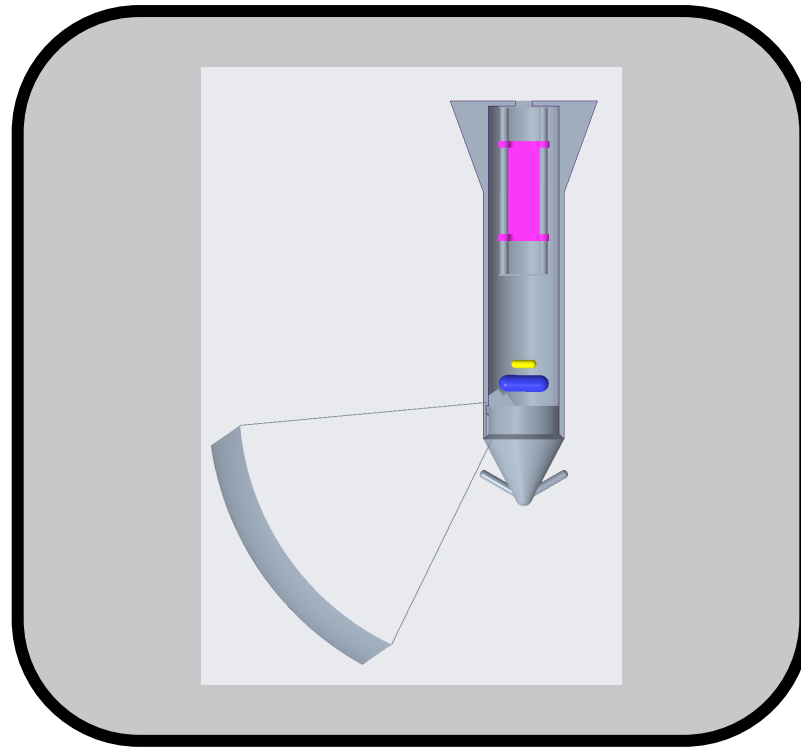
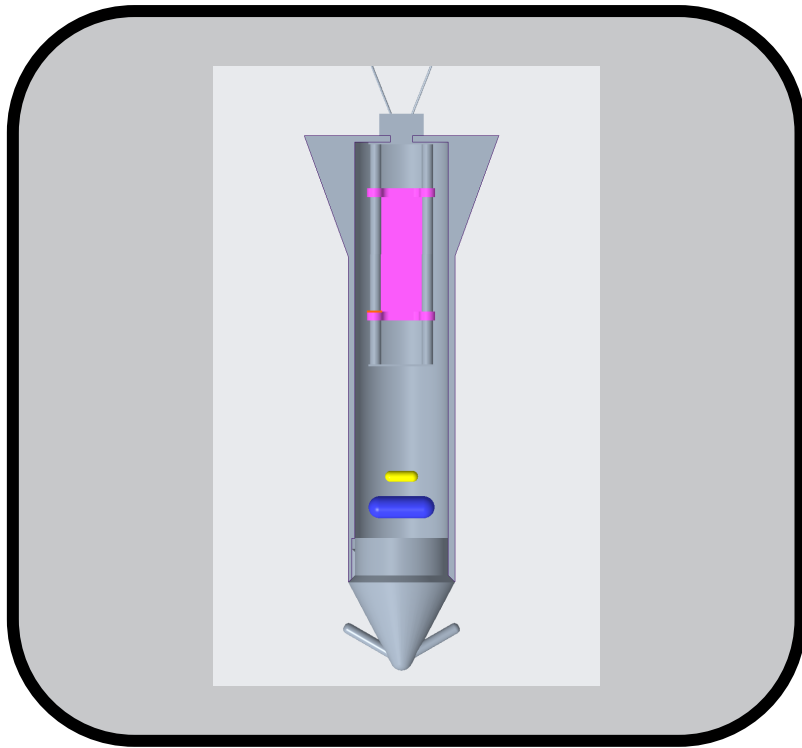


$$\vec{V}_f = 5 \frac{m}{s}$$

Pedro Siman



# Concept Generation

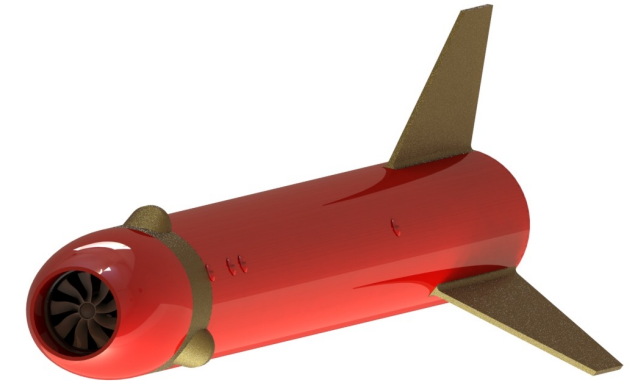


Pedro Siman



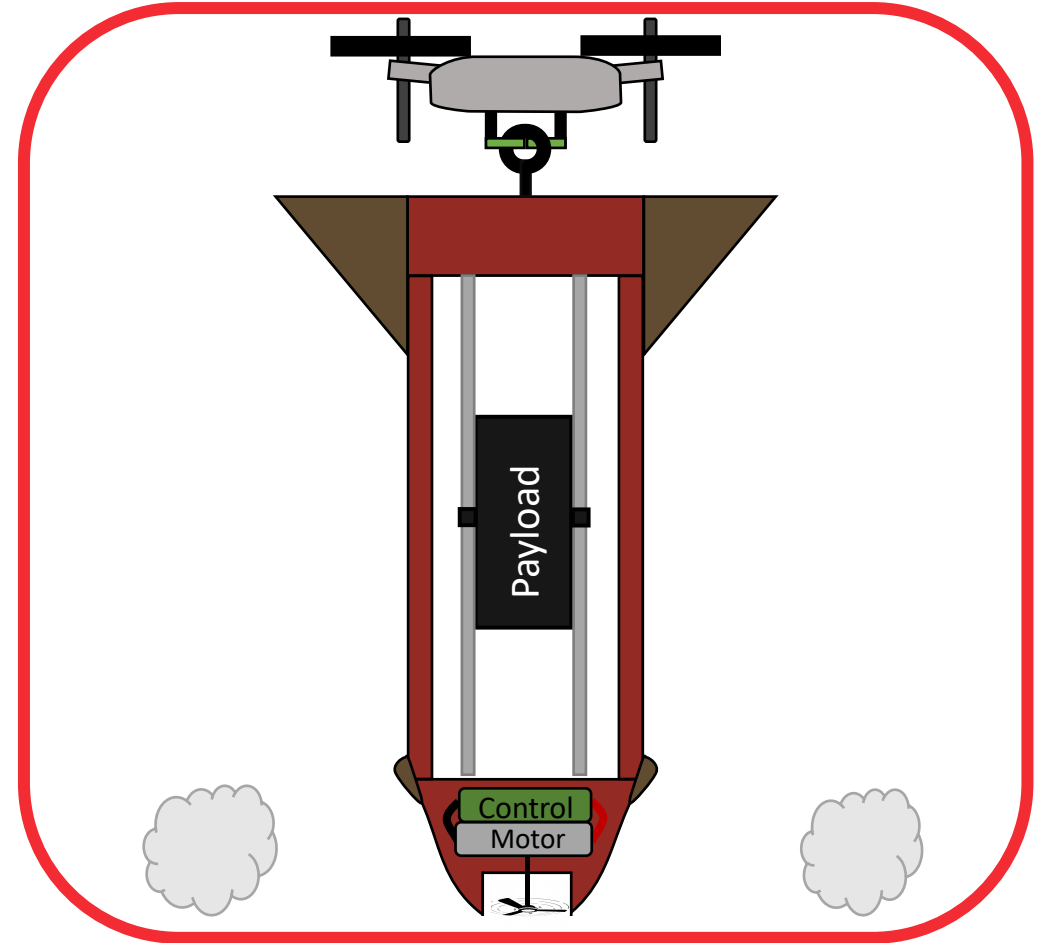
# Concept Generation

**ICARUS**



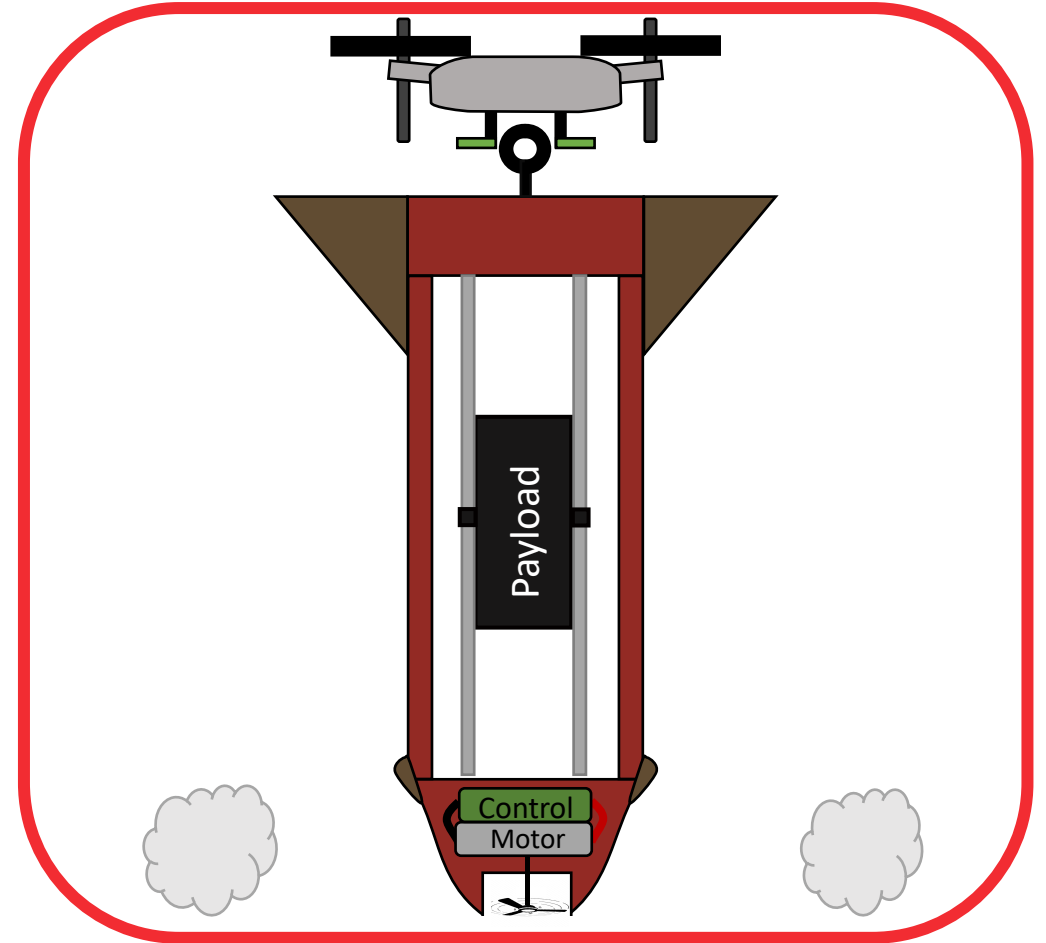
Pedro Siman

# Selected Design: ICARUS



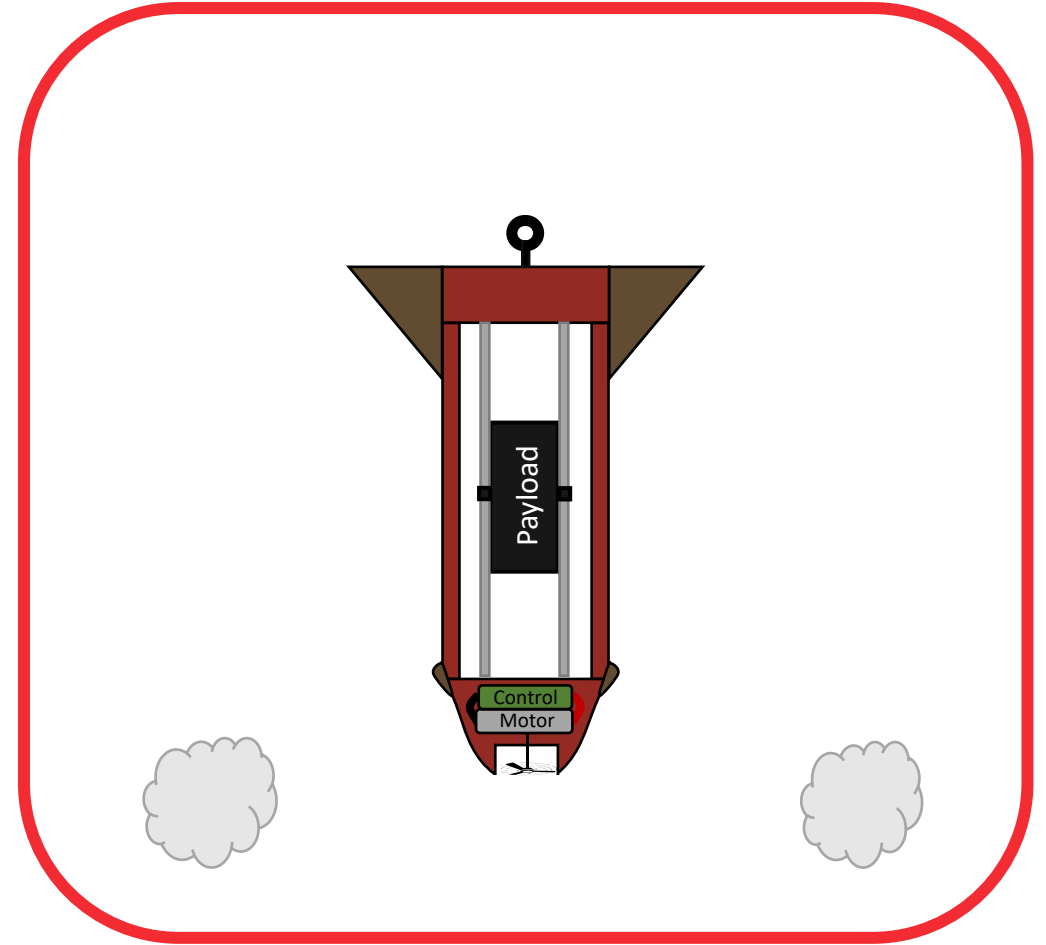
Collin Gainer

# Selected Design: ICARUS



Collin Gainer

# Selected Design: ICARUS



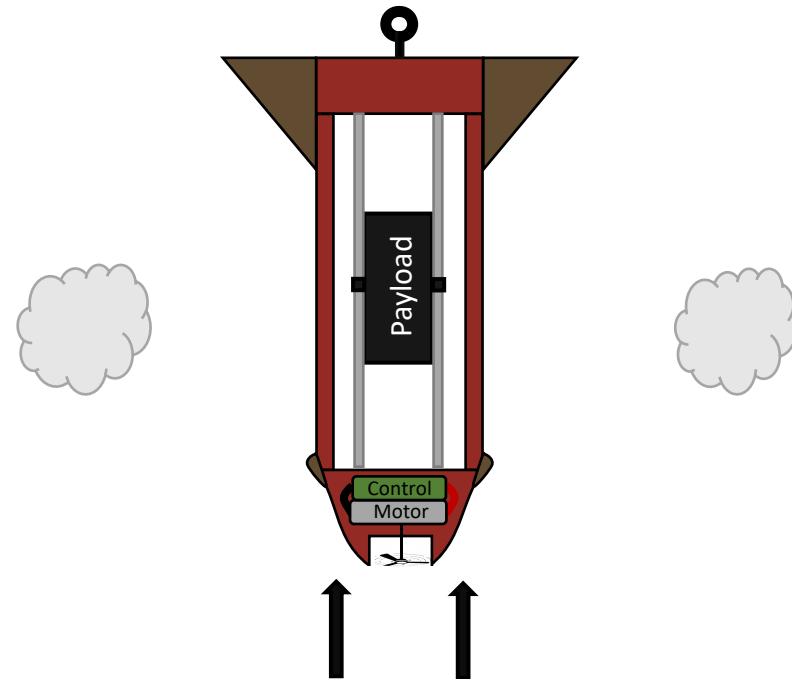
Collin Gainer



# Selected Design: ICARUS



Drag forces act on the body  
as velocity increases

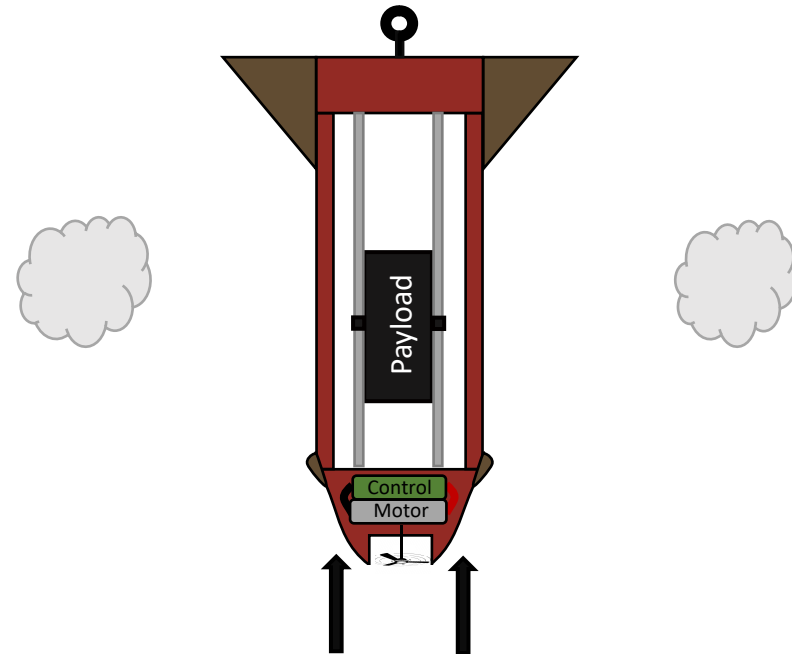


Collin Gainer

# Selected Design: ICARUS

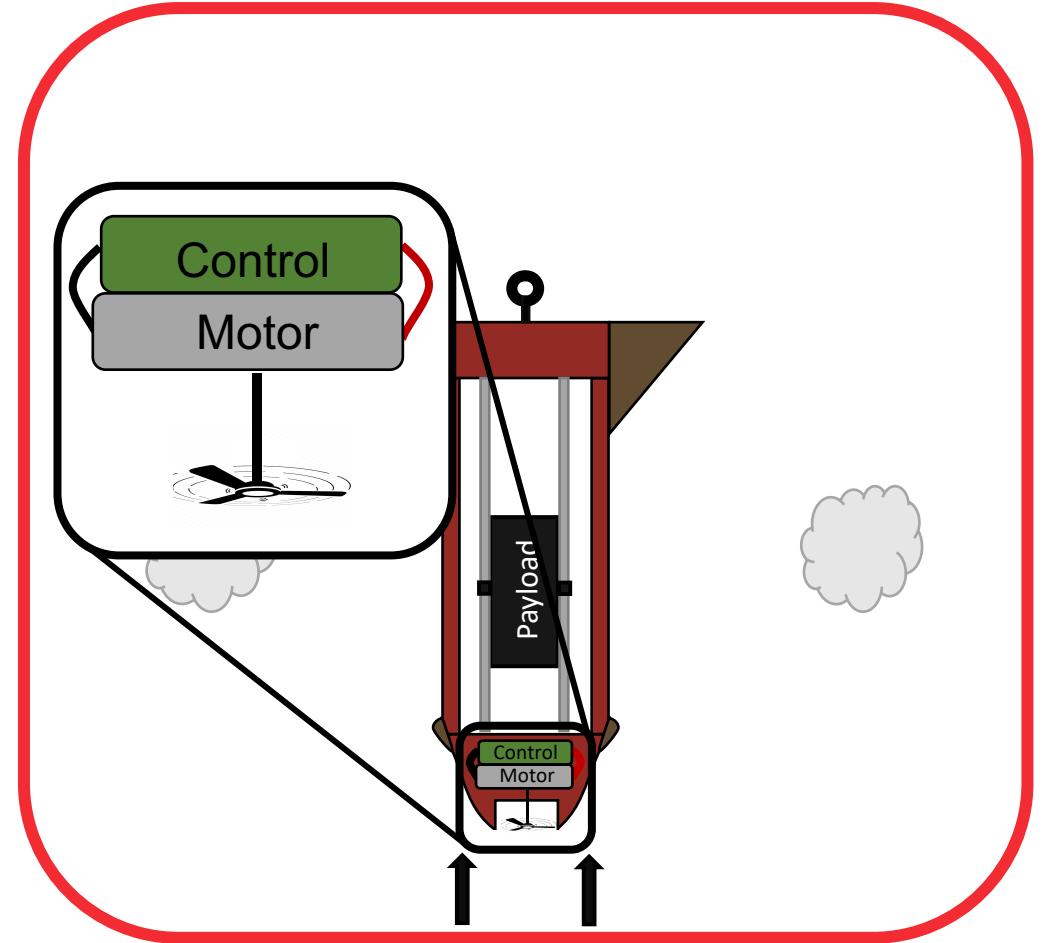


Payload slides along rails in the body



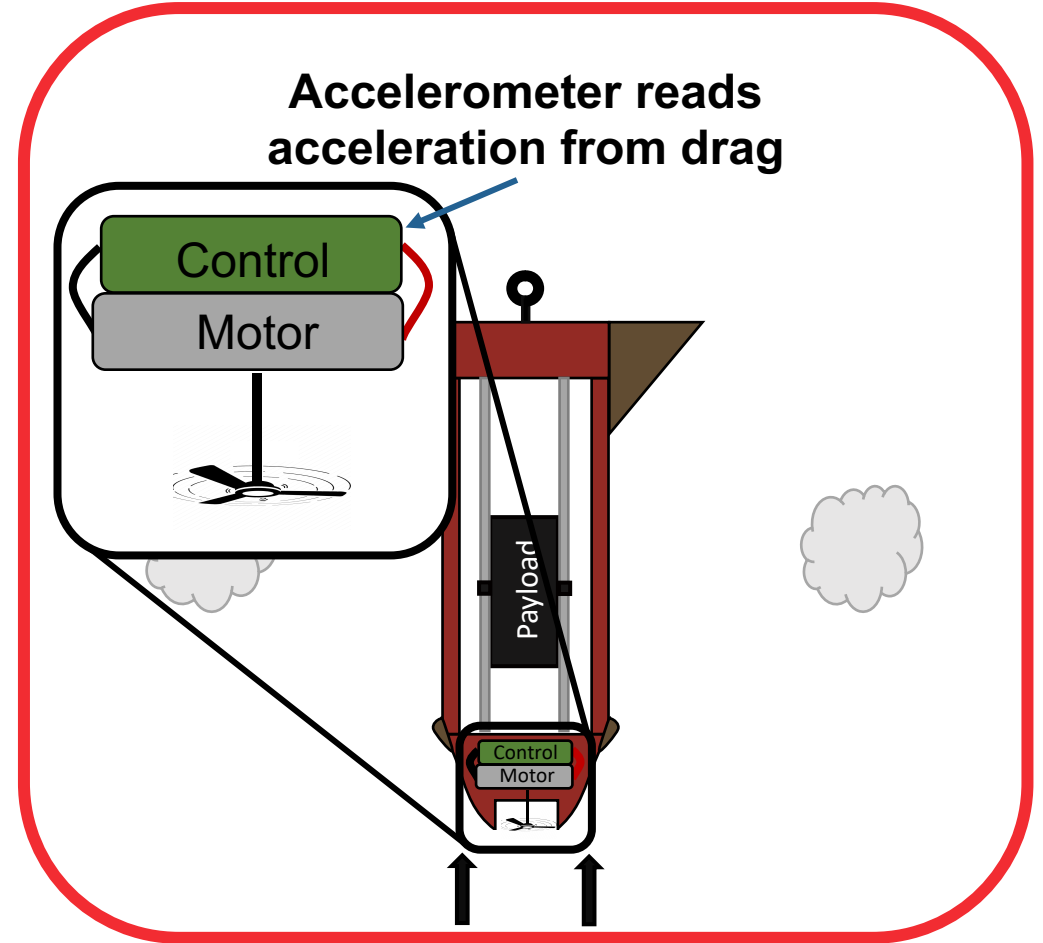
Collin Gainer

# Selected Design: ICARUS



Collin Gainer

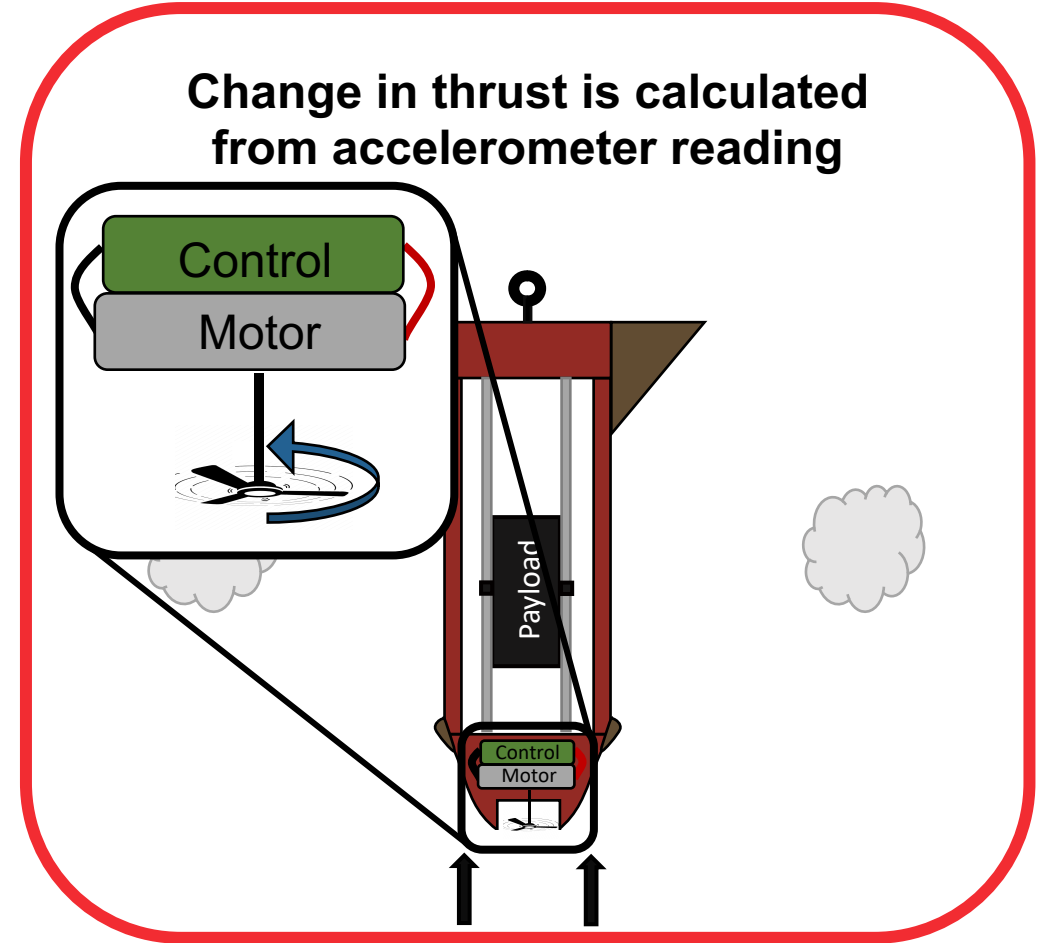
# Selected Design: ICARUS



Collin Gainer



# Selected Design: ICARUS

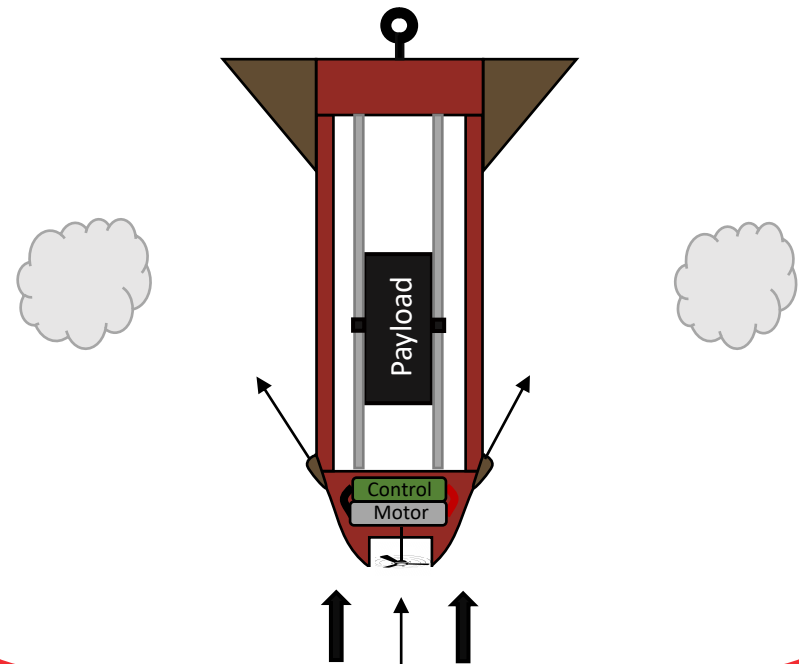


Collin Gainer

# Selected Design: ICARUS



Air is pulled in by the fan and expelled from nozzles

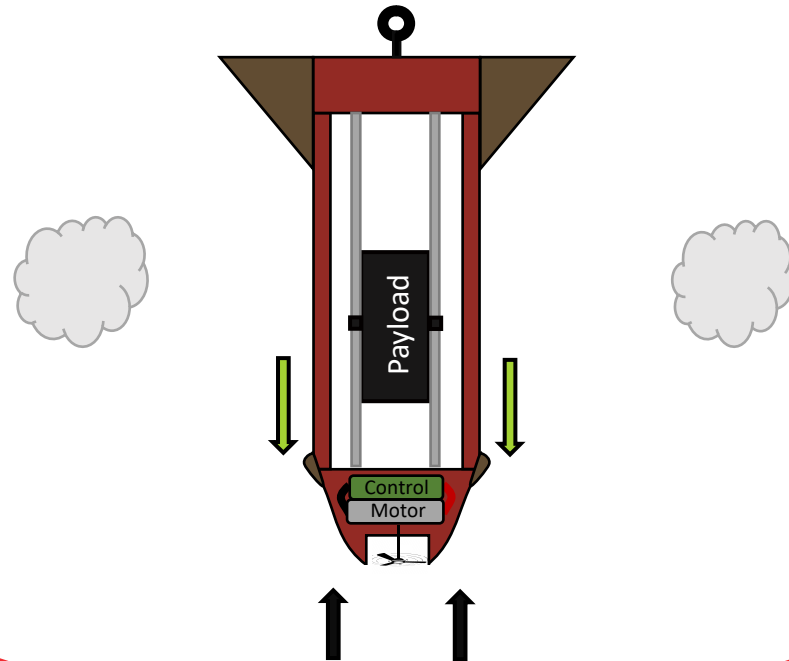


Collin Gainer

# Selected Design: ICARUS



Propulsive forces cancel out drag forces

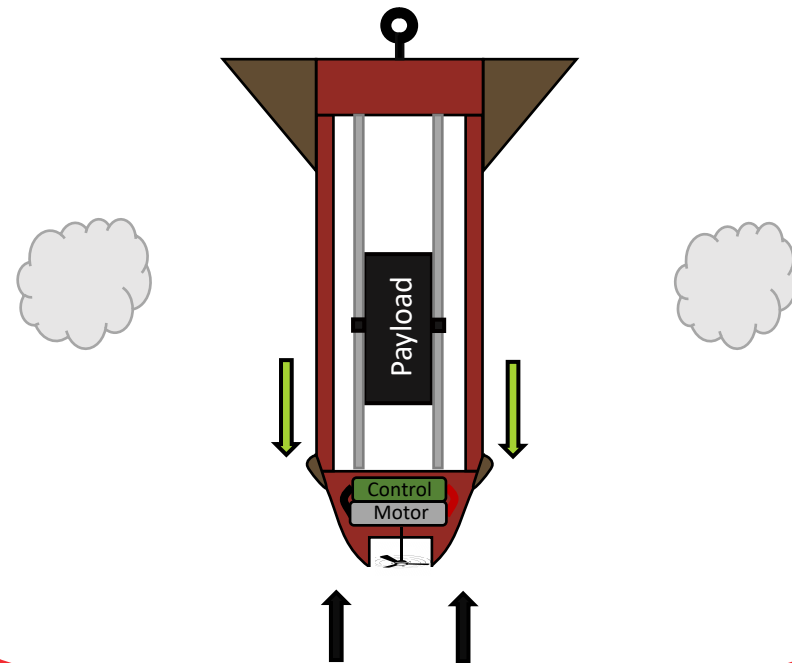


Collin Gainer

# Selected Design: ICARUS

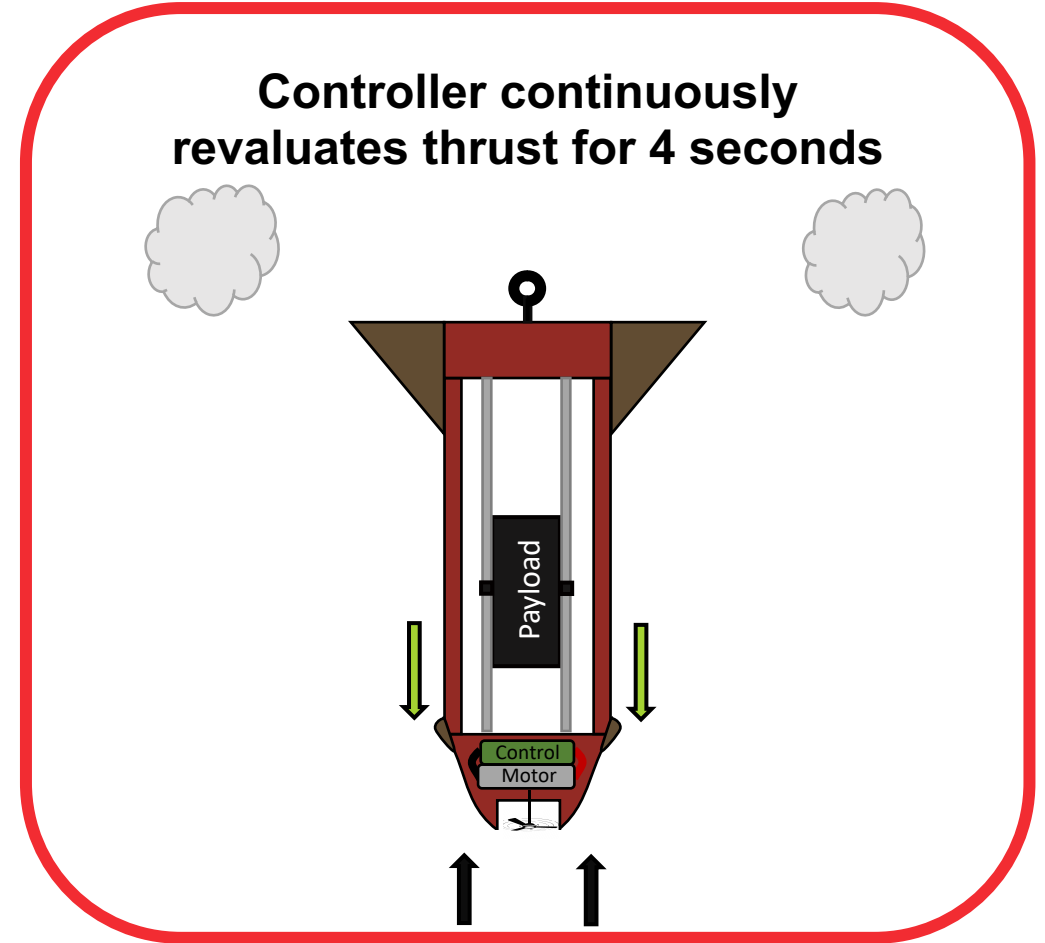


Controller continuously reevaluates thrust for 4 seconds



Collin Gainer

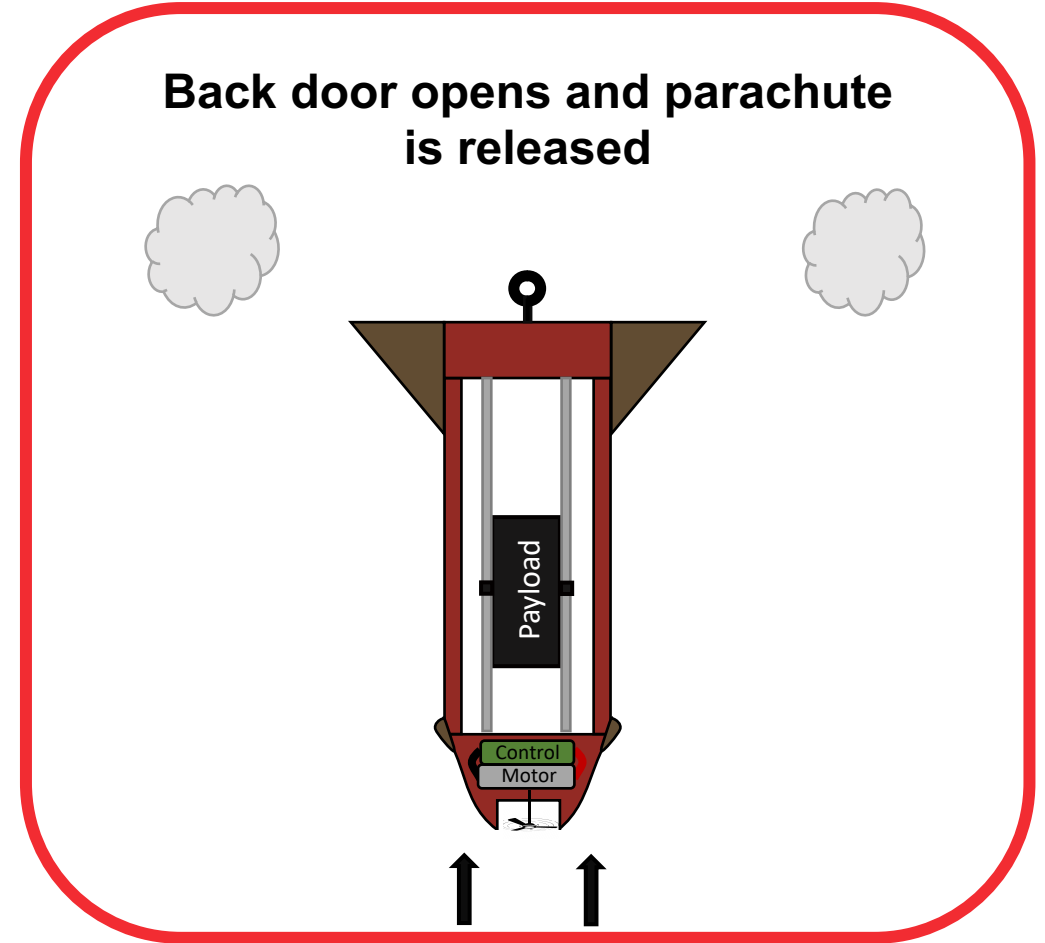
# Selected Design: ICARUS



Collin Gainer

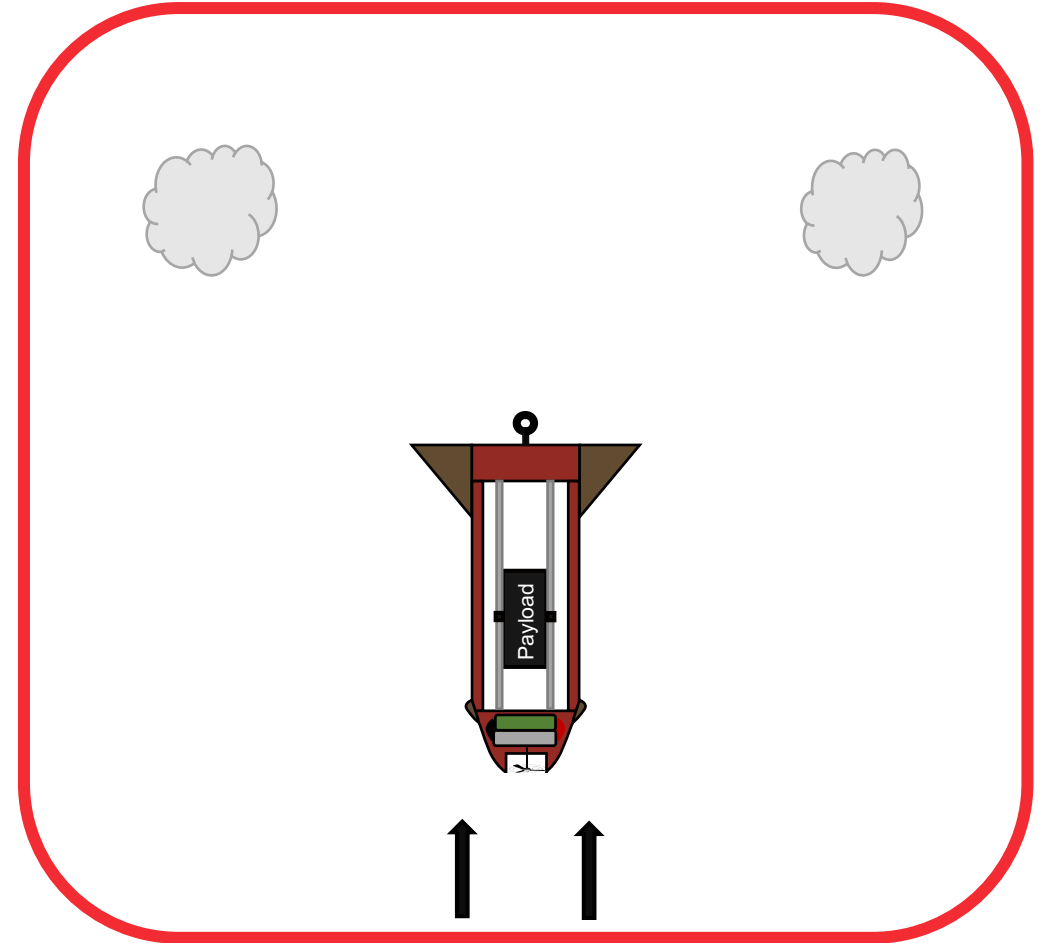


# Selected Design: ICARUS



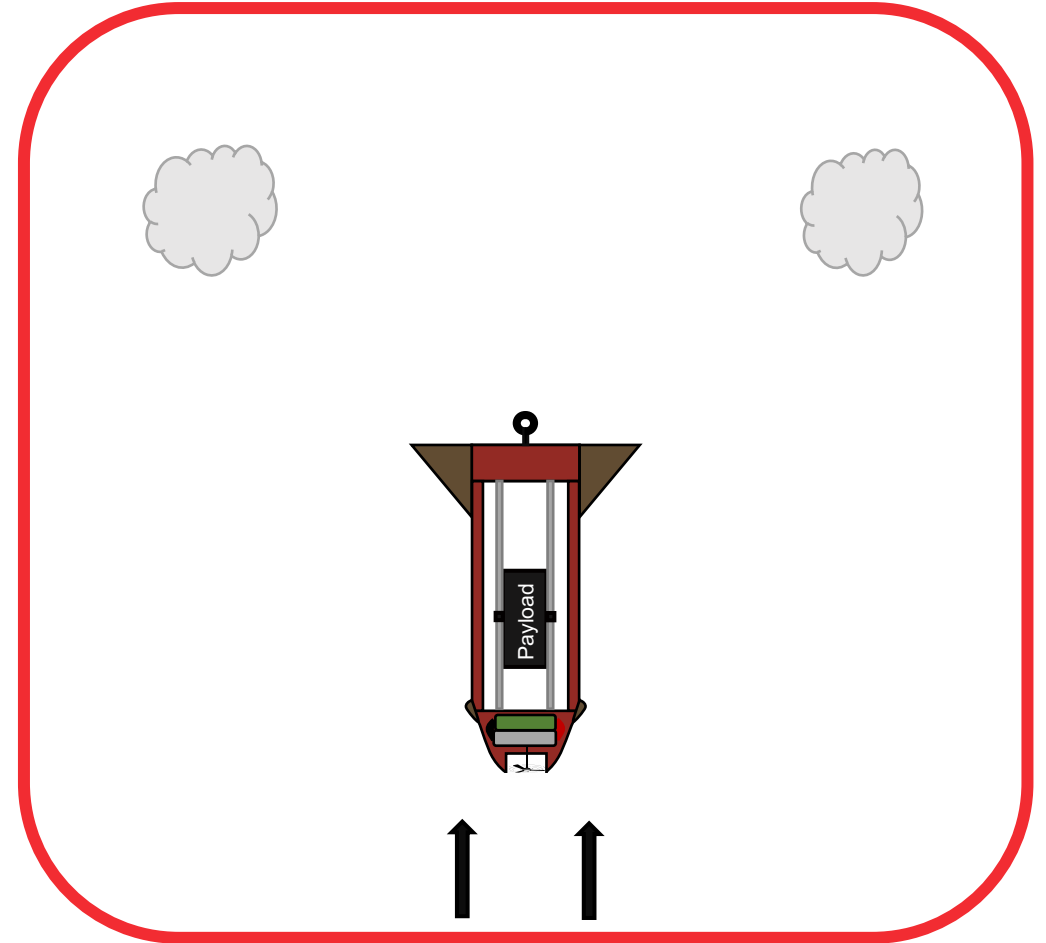
Collin Gainer

# Selected Design: ICARUS



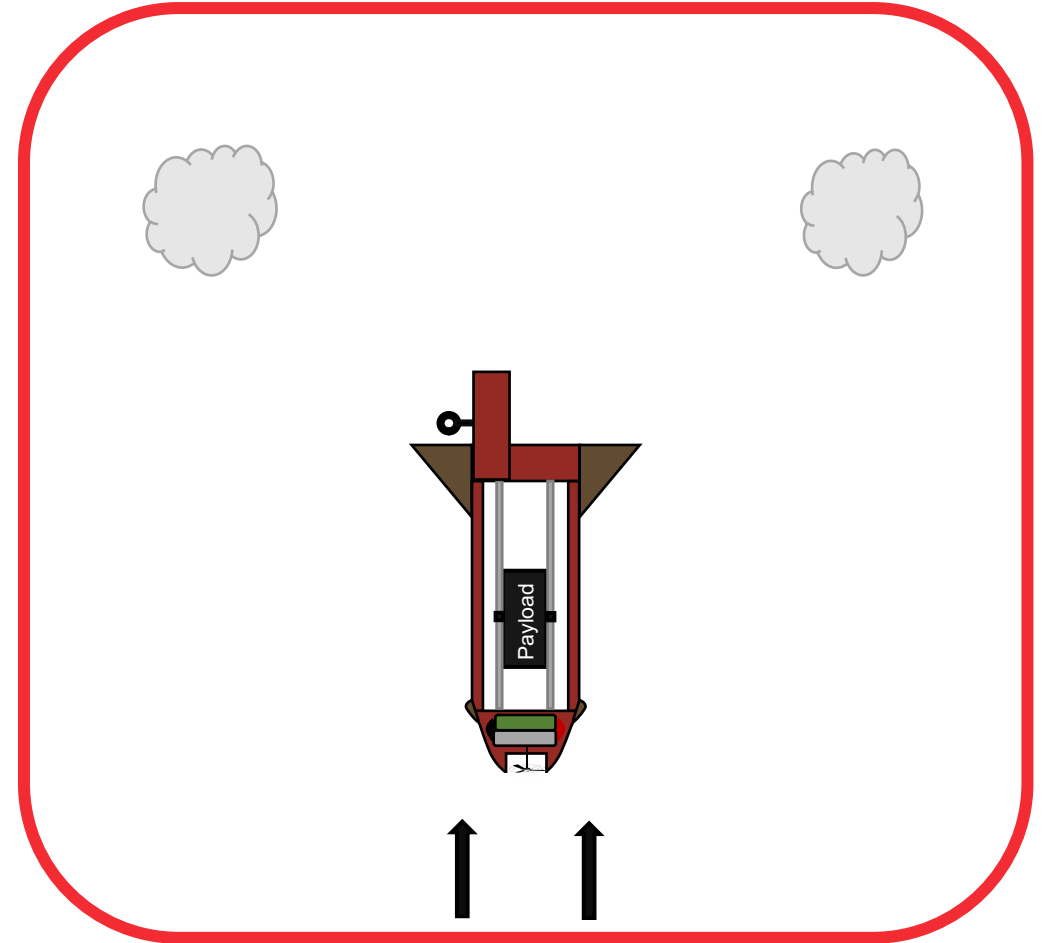
Collin Gainer

# Selected Design: ICARUS



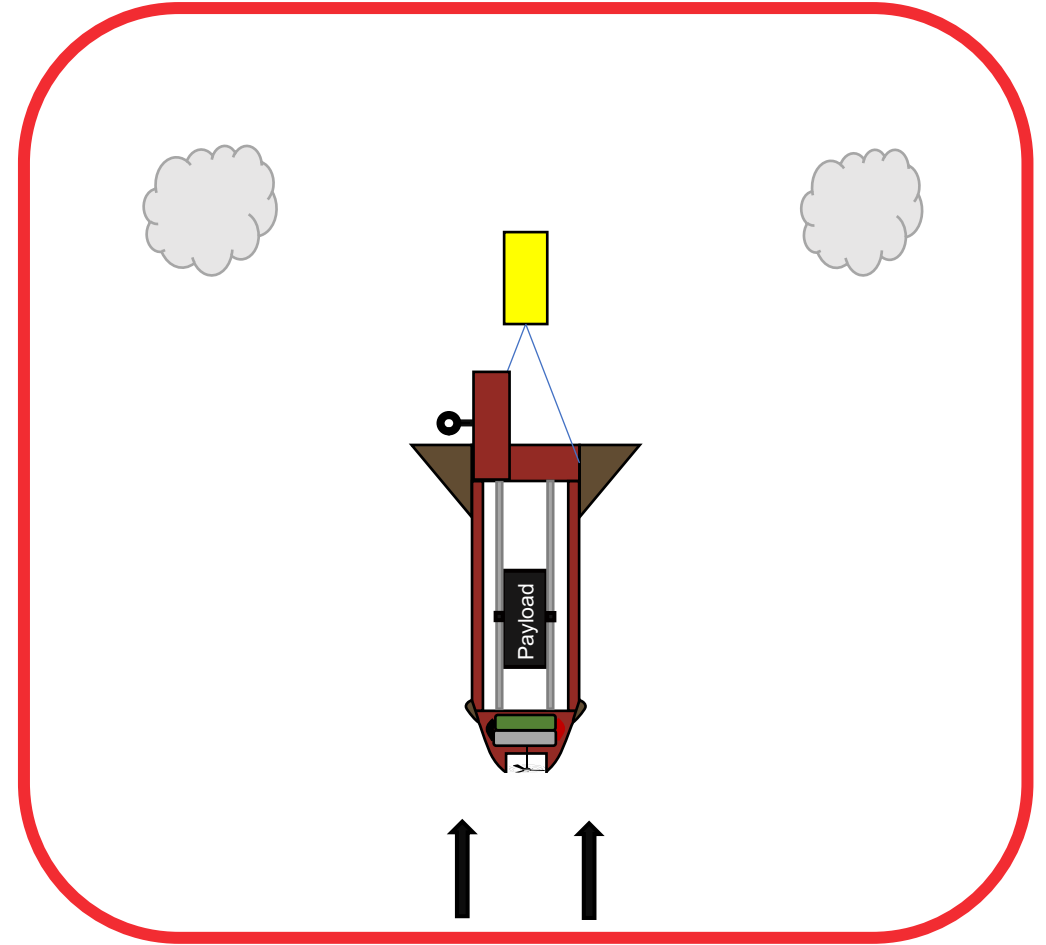
Collin Gainer

# Selected Design: ICARUS



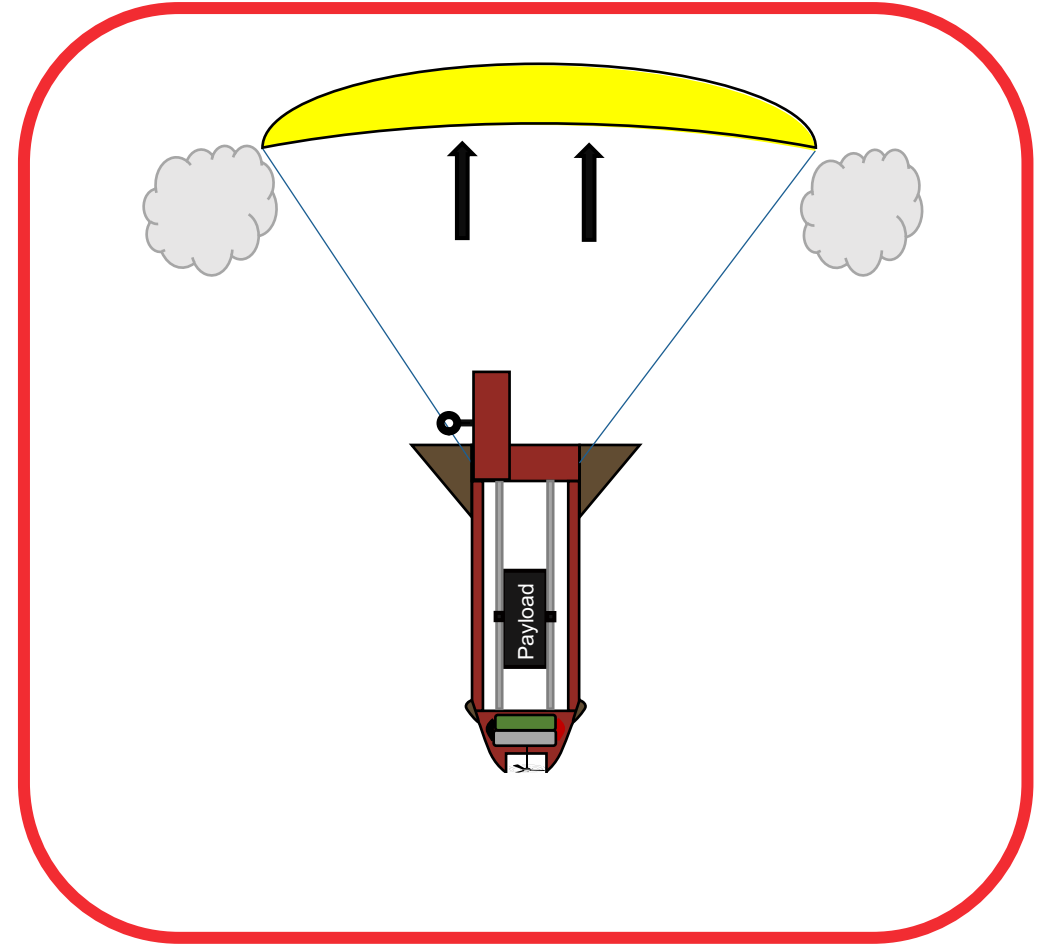
Collin Gainer

# Selected Design: ICARUS



Collin Gainer

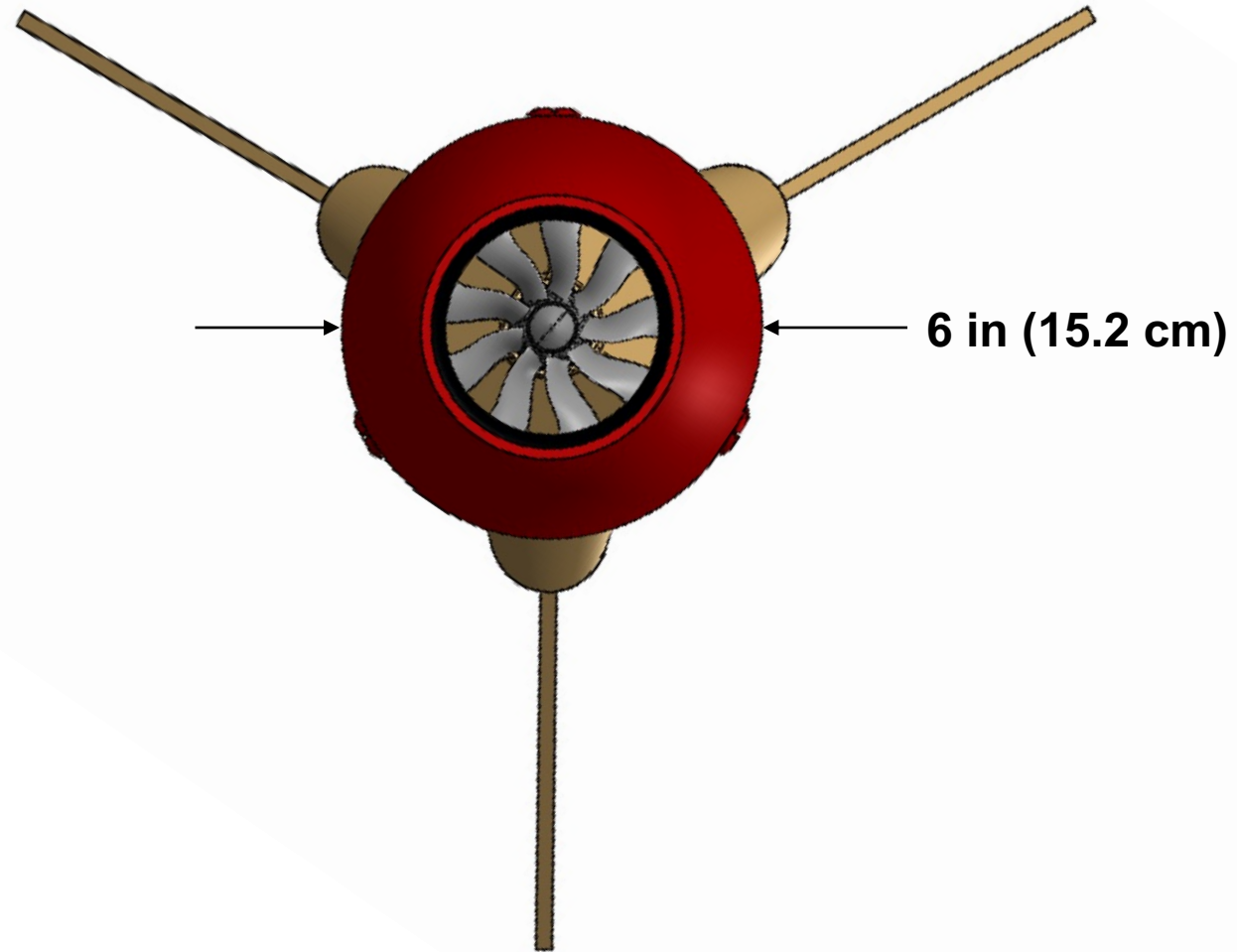
# Selected Design: ICARUS



Collin Gainer



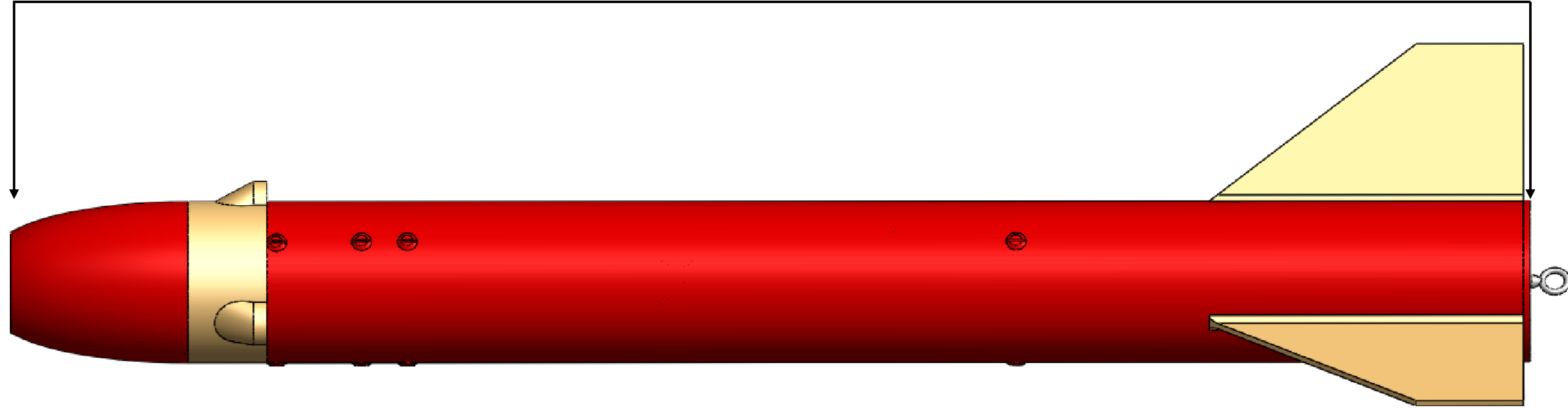
# Front View



Collin Gainer

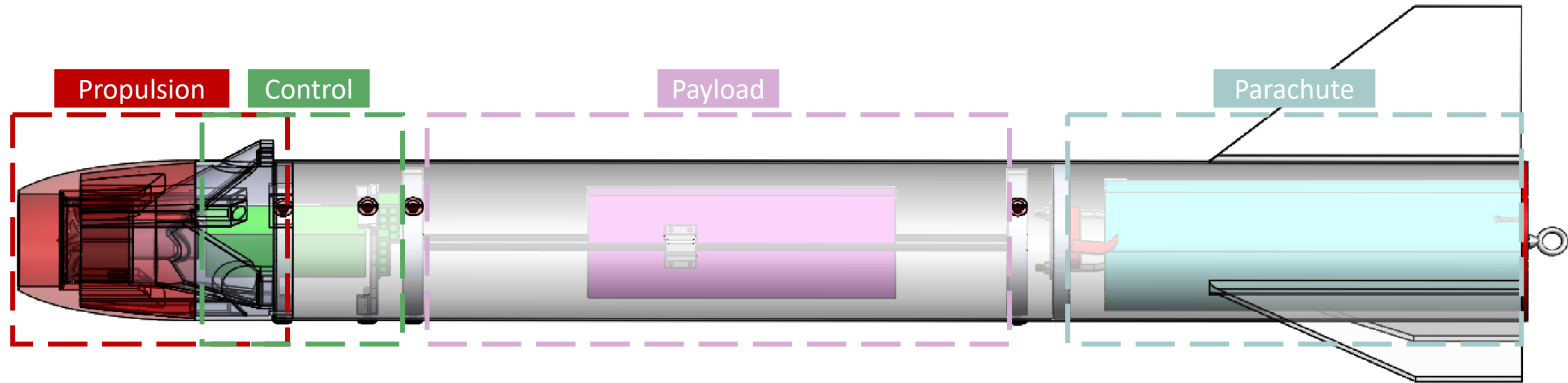
# Side View

5.5 ft (1.68 m)



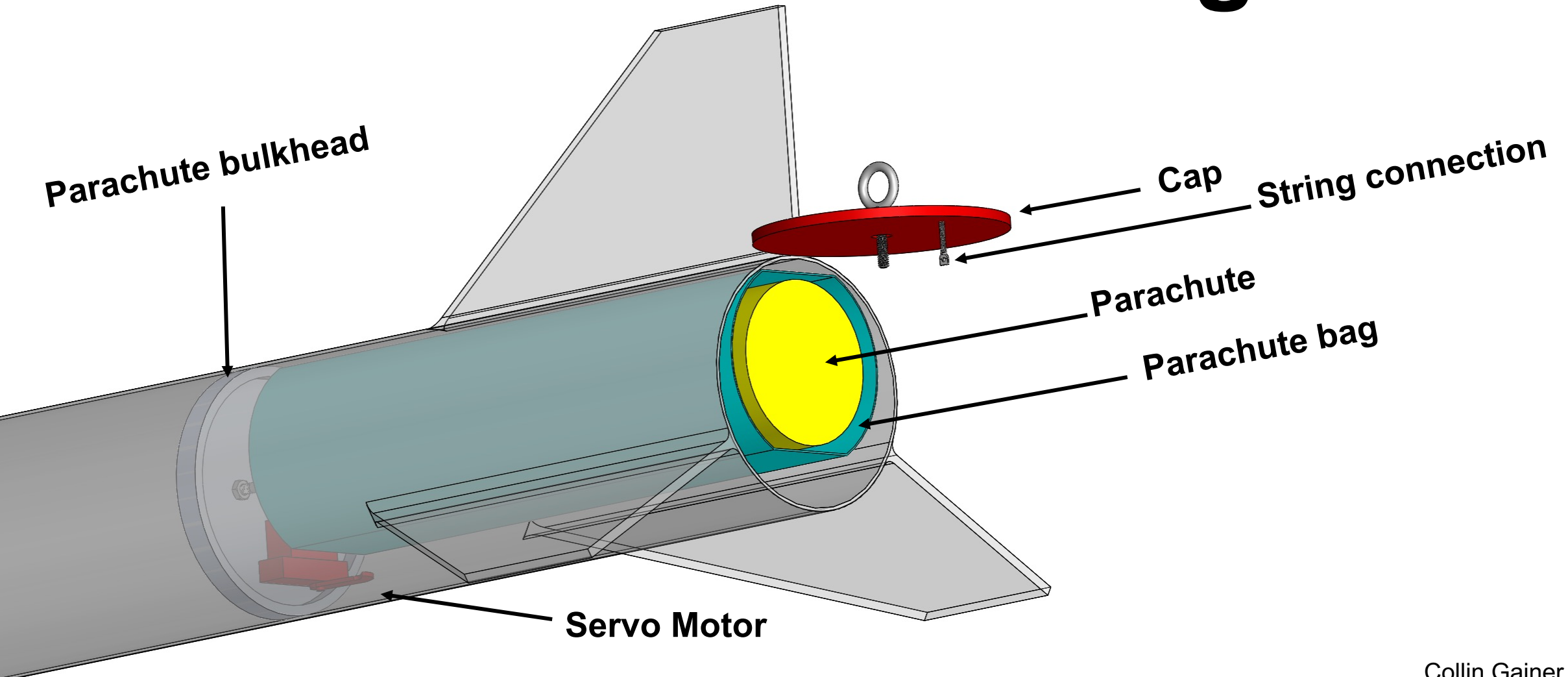
Collin Gainer

# Side View



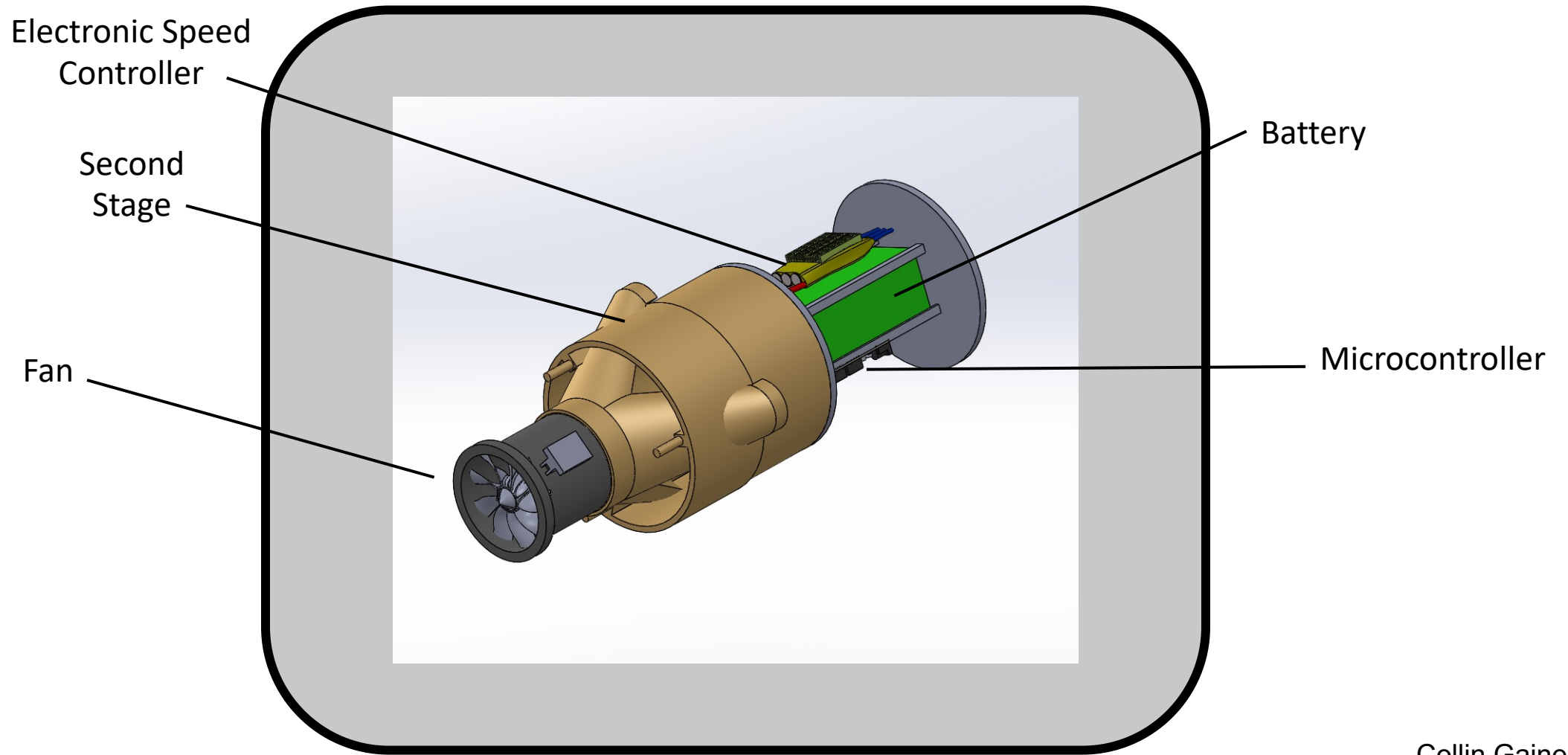
Collin Gainer

# Parachute Storage



Collin Gainer

# Propulsion System



Collin Gainer

# Uncontrolled Simulation

1<sup>st</sup> portion: Vehicle falls under gravity with drag acting on it.

2<sup>nd</sup> portion: Vehicle slows after parachute is released

$V \approx 4 \text{ m/s}$  0.5 s after the parachute is opened

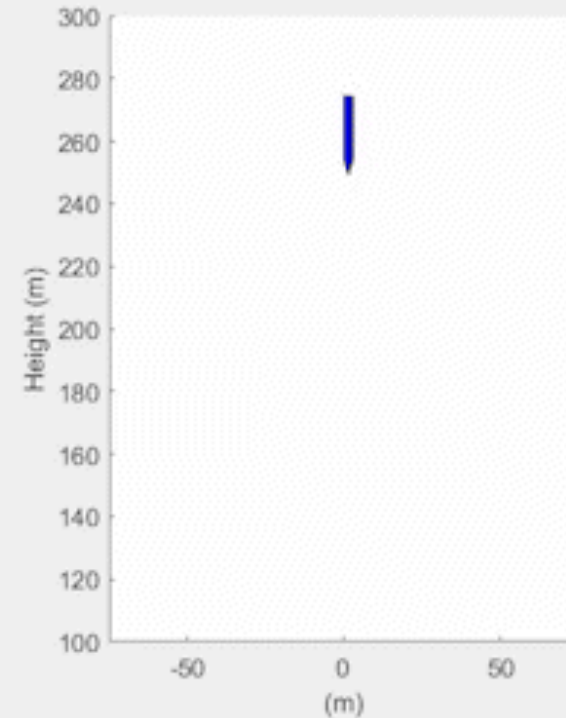
John Tietsworth

# Uncontrolled Simulation

1<sup>st</sup> portion: Vehicle falls under gravity with drag acting on it.

2<sup>nd</sup> portion: Vehicle slows after parachute is released

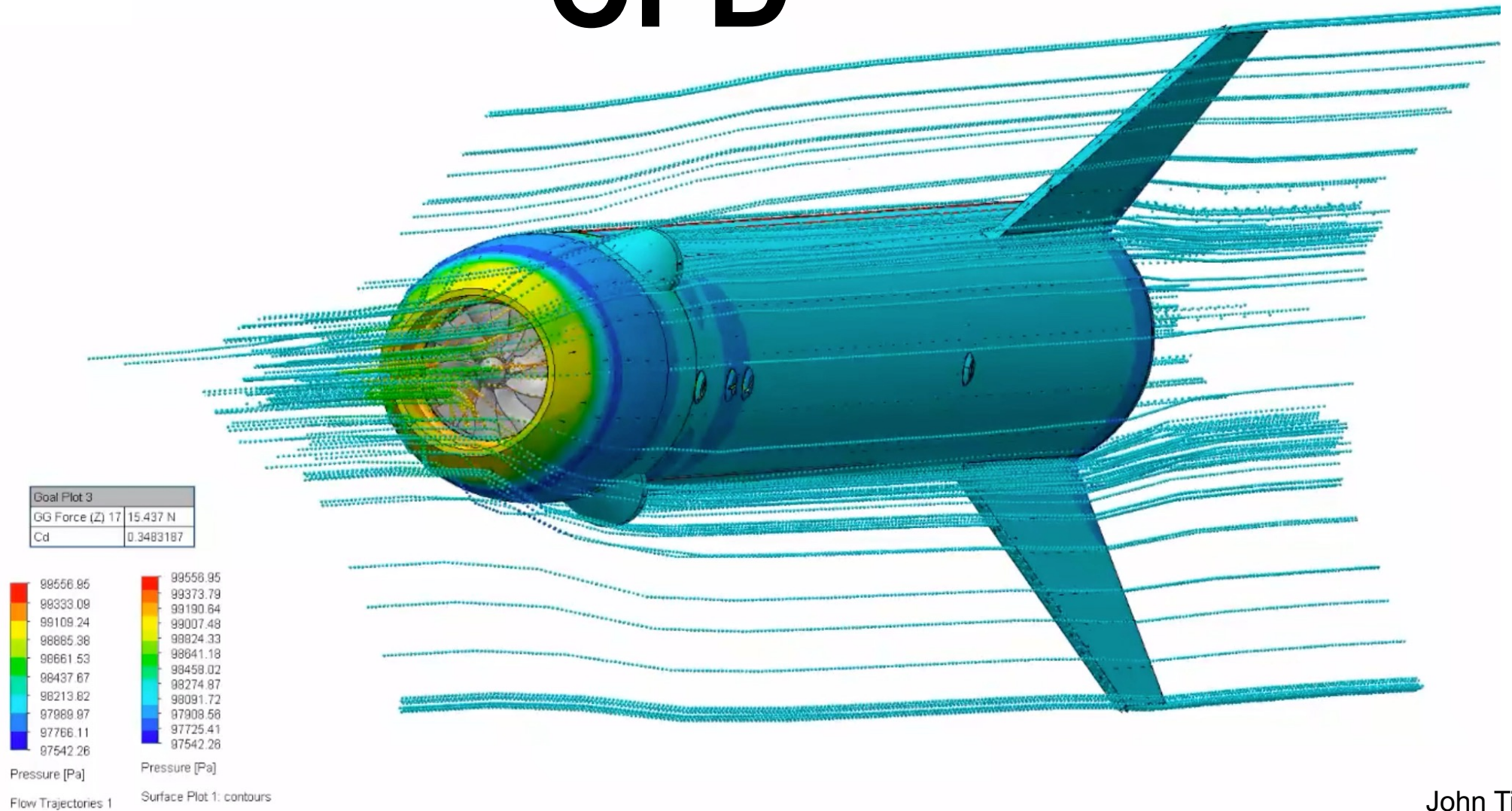
$V \approx 4 \text{ m/s}$  0.5 s after the parachute is opened



John Tietsworth

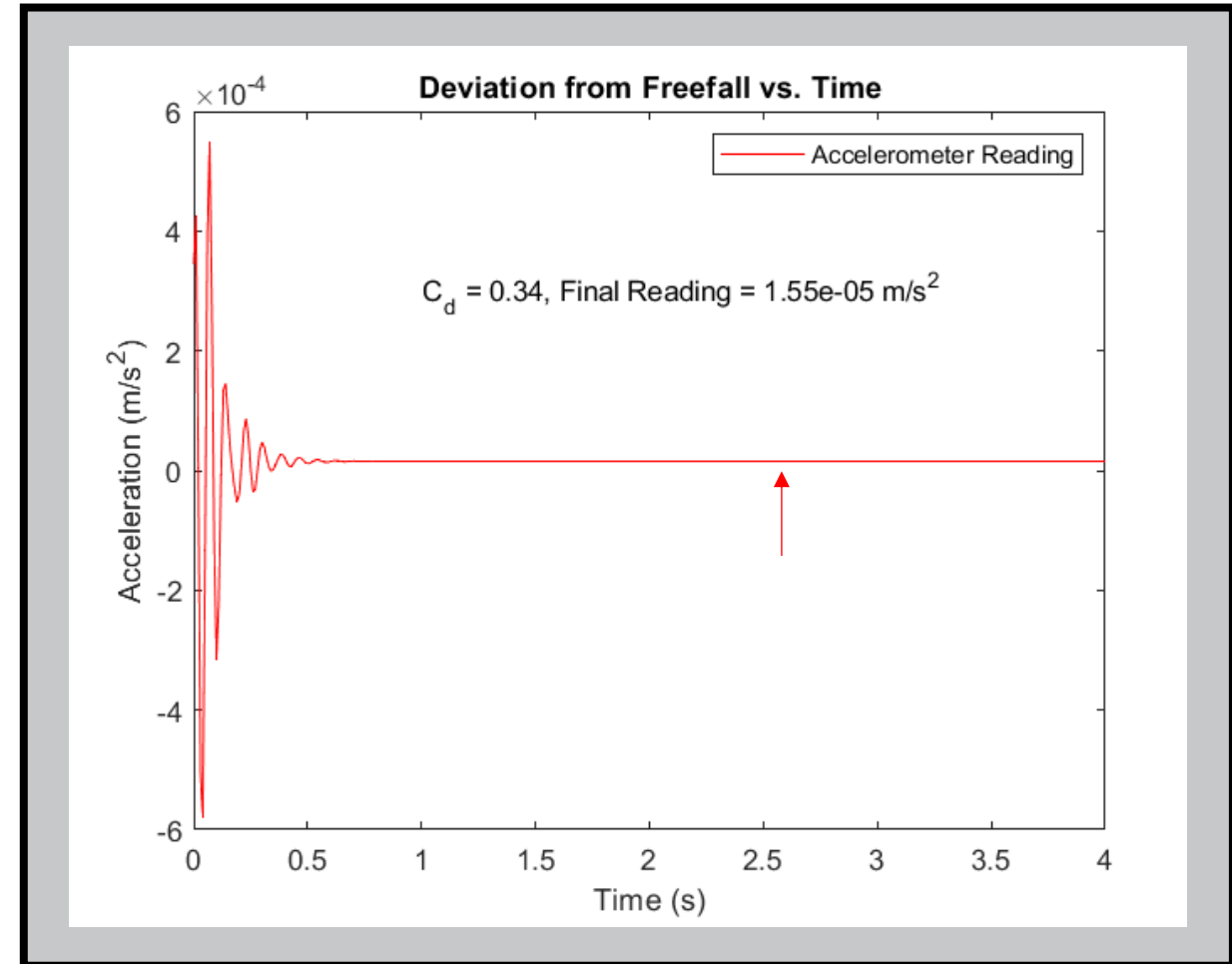
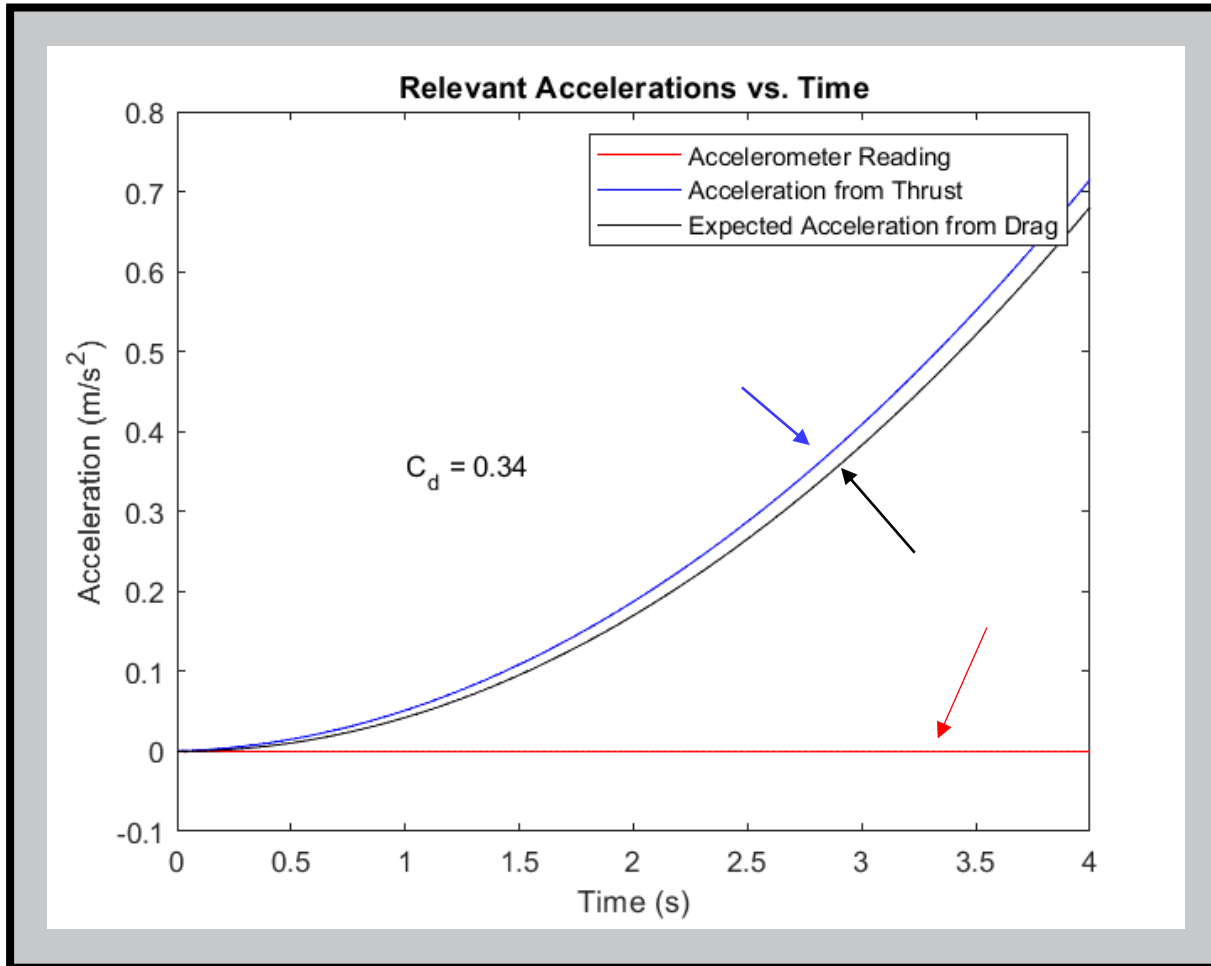


# CFD



John Tietsworth

# Controlled Simulation (PID)



John Tietsworth

# Chosen Microcontroller



FireBeetle ESP32

- 240 MHz
- Dual core processing

Compared to Arduino Mega

- 15x faster computation

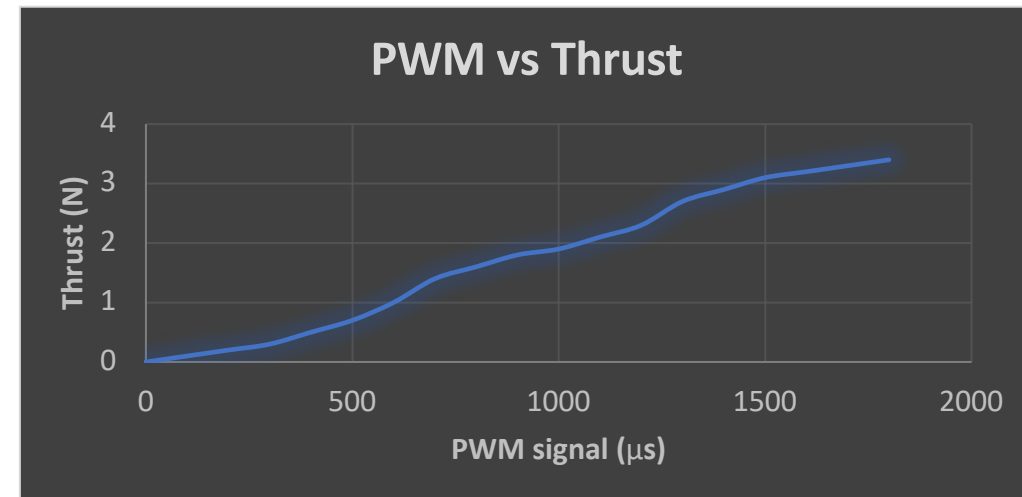
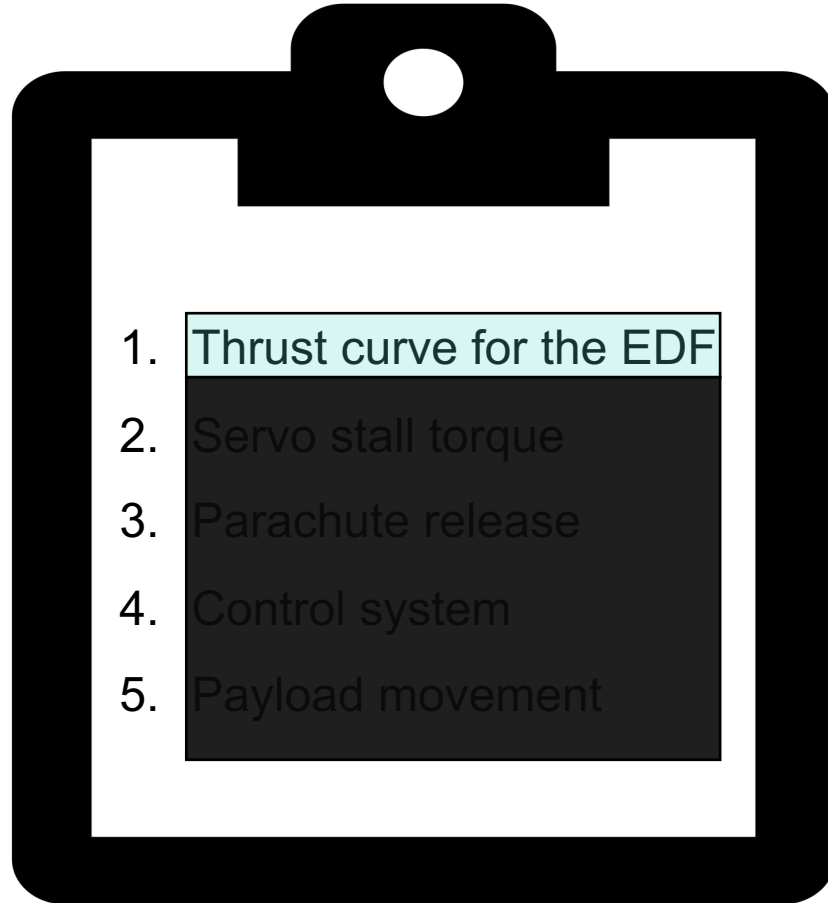
Samuel Duval

# Testing Plans



Samuel Duval

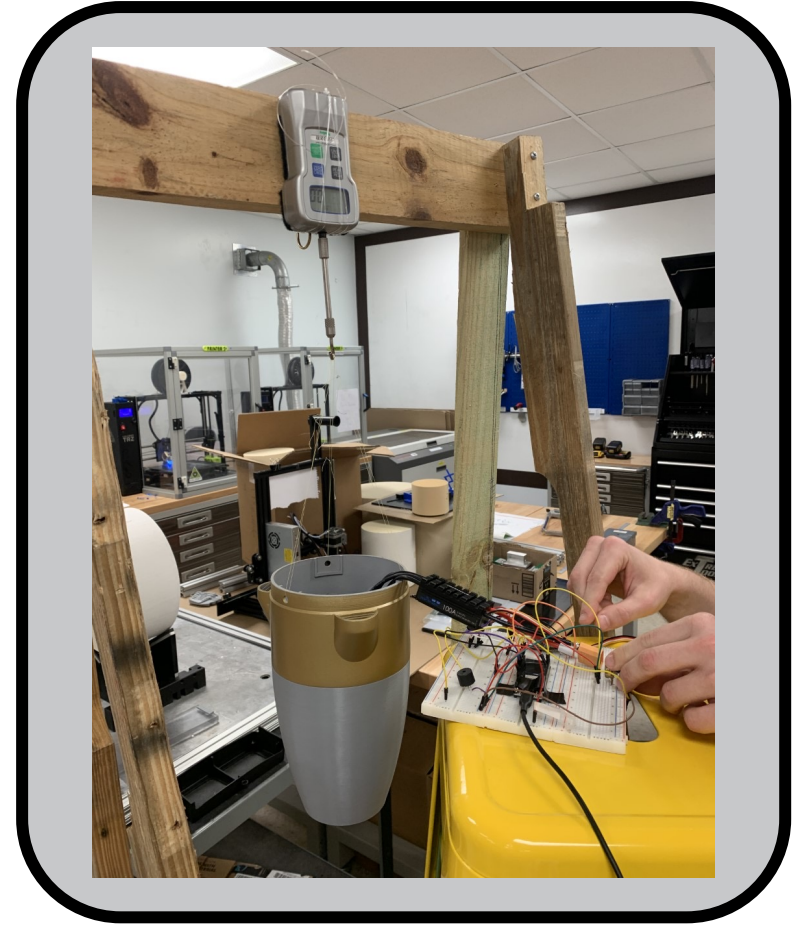
# Testing Plans



Samuel Duval



# Thrust Testing - BUILD



Samuel Duval

# Thrust Testing - Adaptation



Samuel Duval



# Thrust Testing Results

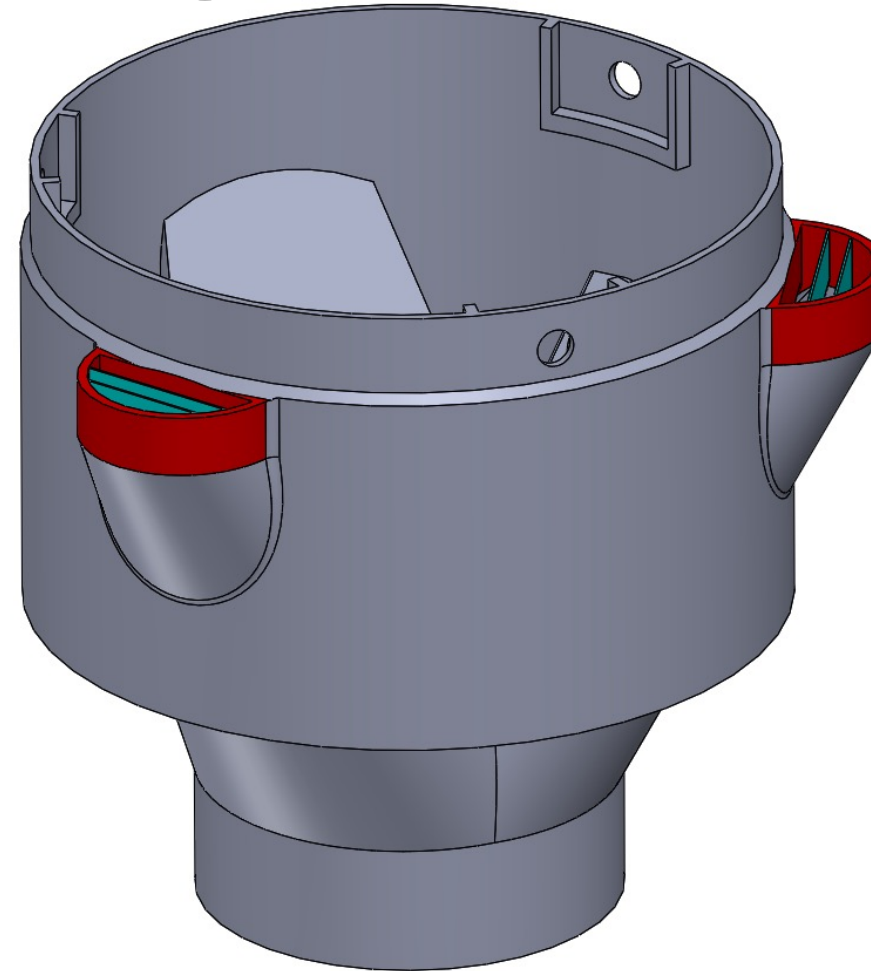
Max Drag	15.4 N
Max Fan Thrust	28 N
Duct Iteration	Maximum Trust

John Tietsworth



# Thrust Testing Results

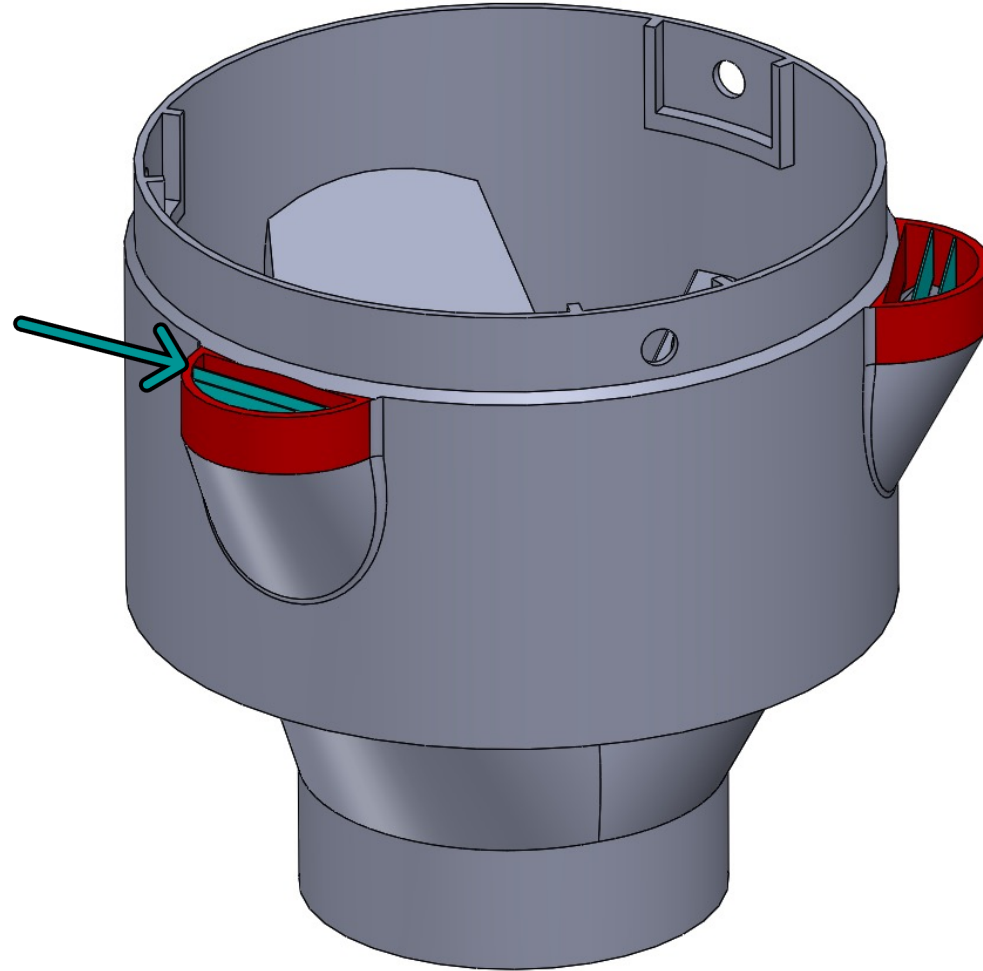
Max Drag	15.4 N
Max Fan Thrust	28 N
Duct Iteration	Maximum Trust
1	7 N



John Tietsworth

# Thrust Testing Results

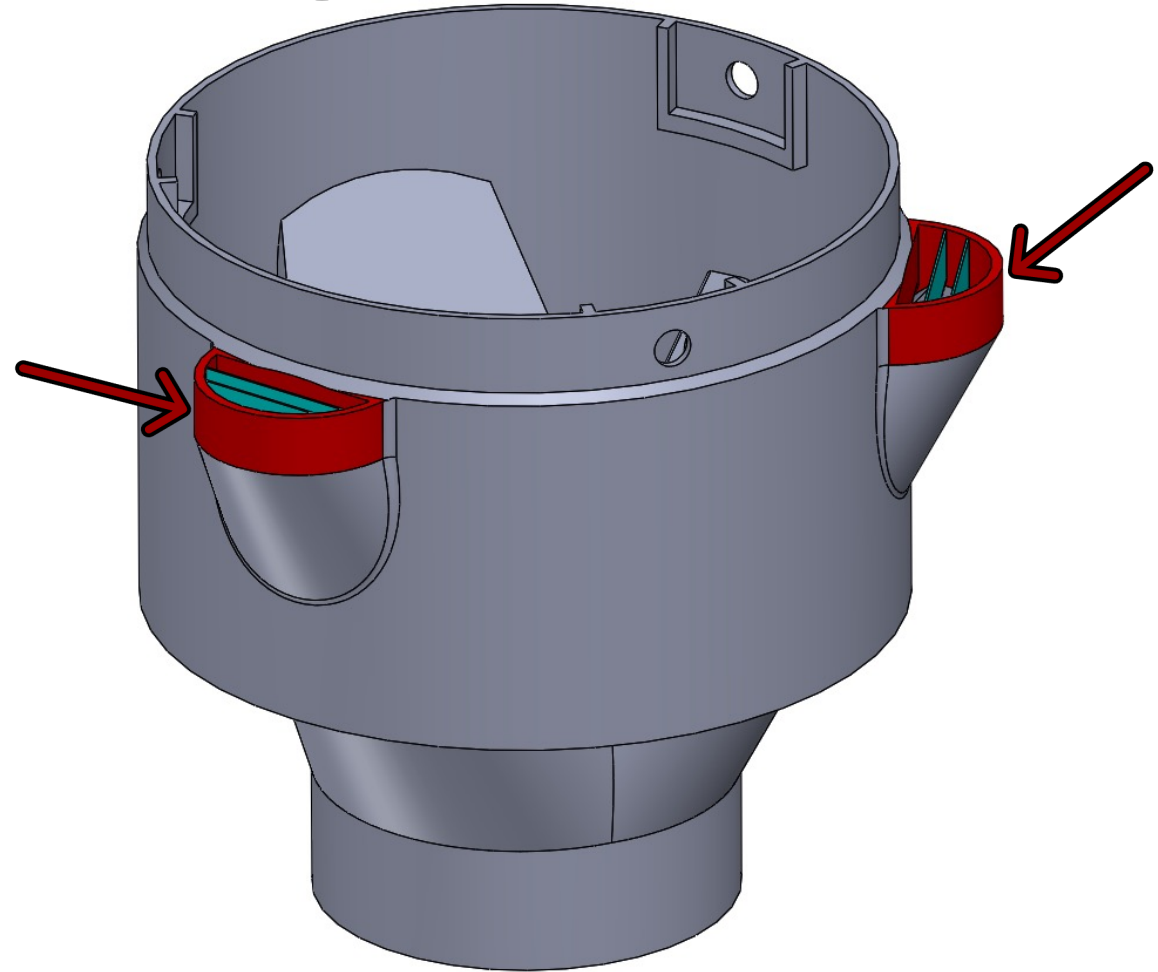
Max Drag	15.4 N
Max Fan Thrust	28 N
Duct Iteration	Maximum Trust
1	7 N
2	8.2 N



John Tietsworth

# Thrust Testing Results

Max Drag	15.4 N
Max Fan Thrust	28 N
Duct Iteration	Maximum Trust
1	7 N
2	8.2 N
3	8.6 N

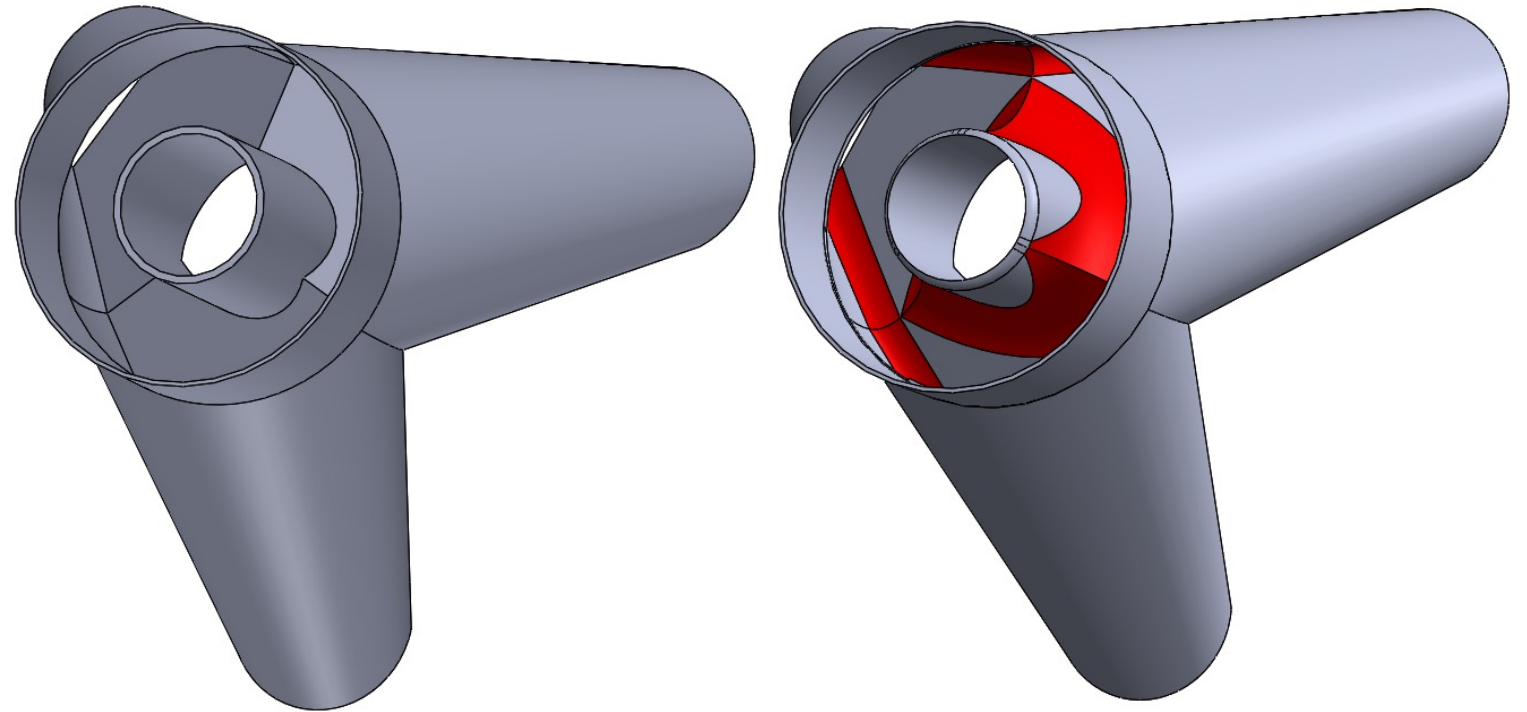


John Tietsworth

# Thrust Testing Results

Max Drag	15.4 N
Max Fan Thrust	28 N

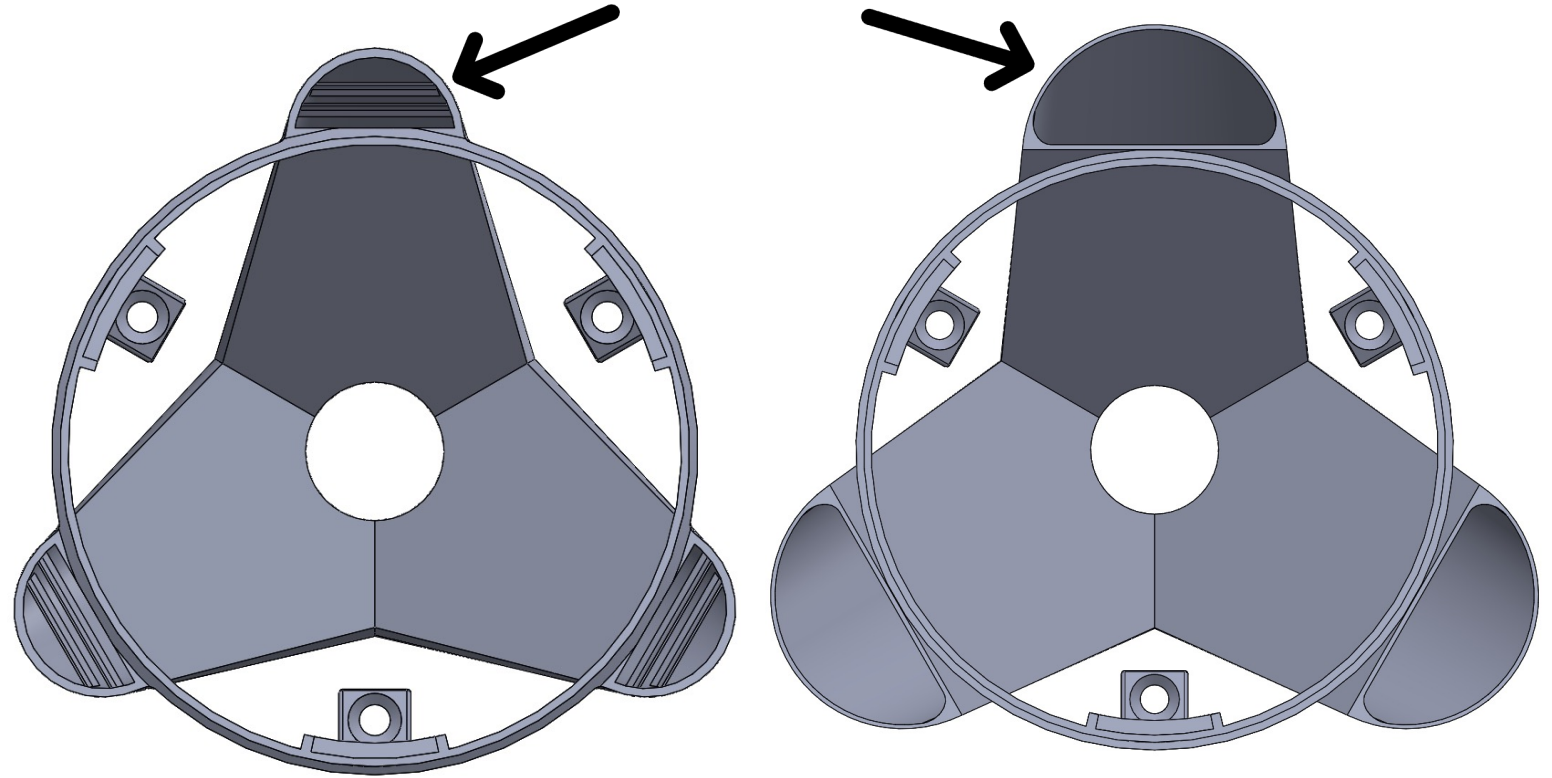
Duct Iteration	Maximum Thrust
1	7 N
2	8.2 N
3	8.6 N
4	11 N



John Tietsworth

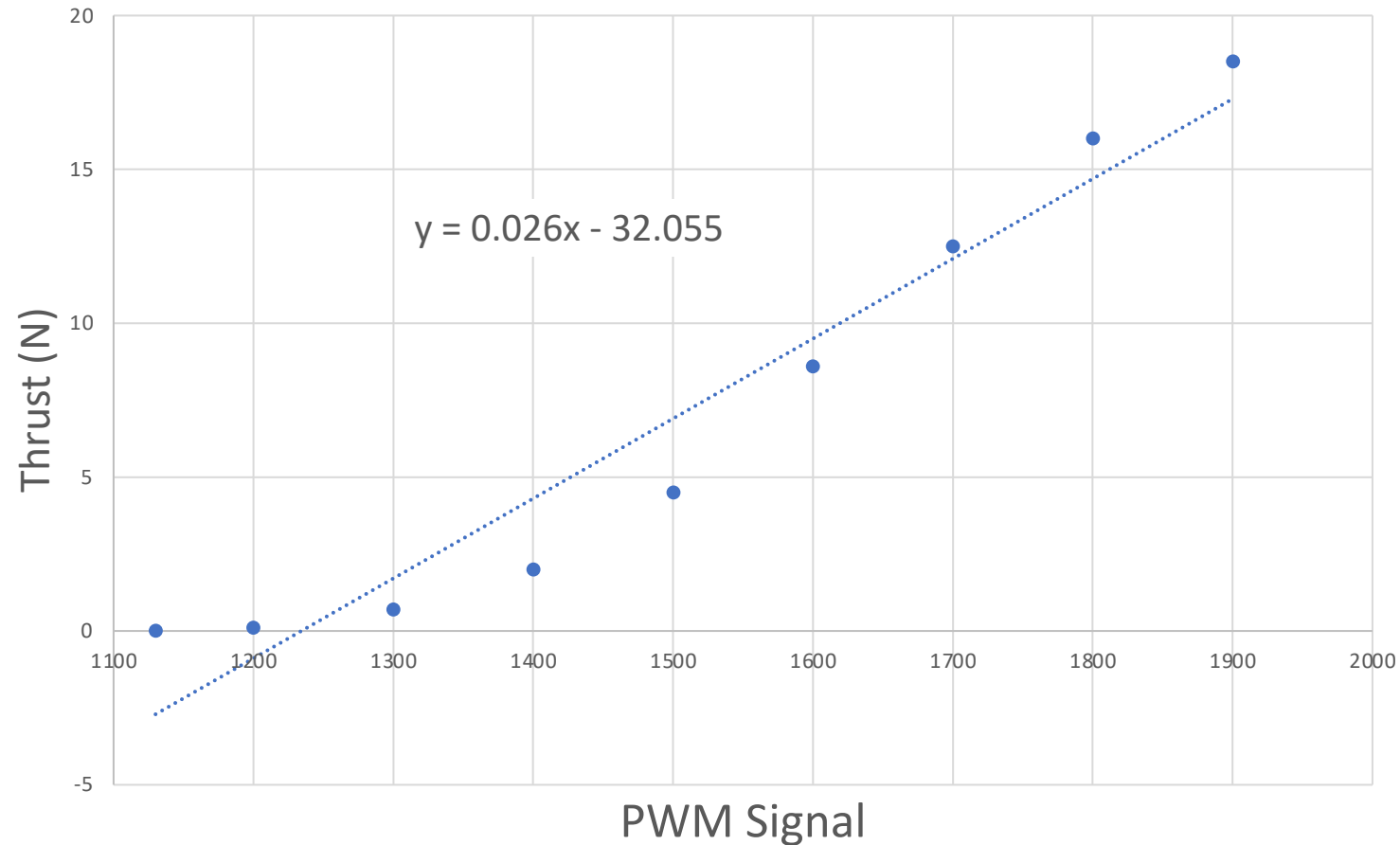
# Thrust Testing Results

Max Drag	15.4 N
Max Fan Thrust	28 N
Duct Iteration	Maximum Trust
1	7 N
2	8.2 N
3	8.6 N
4	11 N
5	18.5 N



John Tietsworth

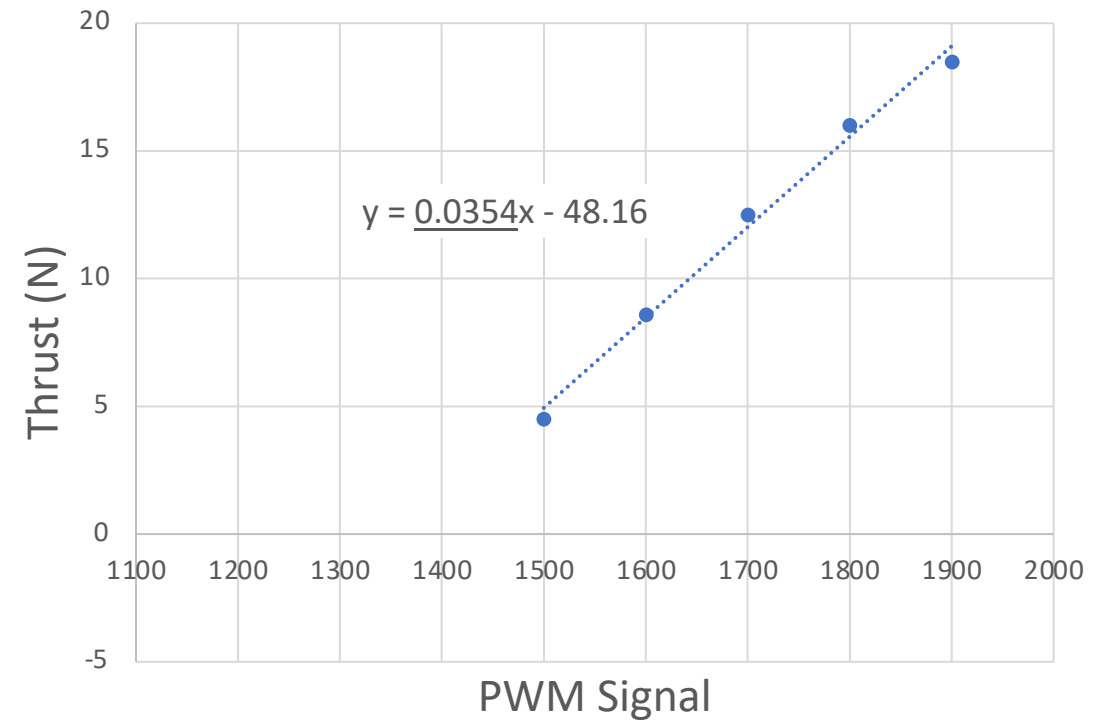
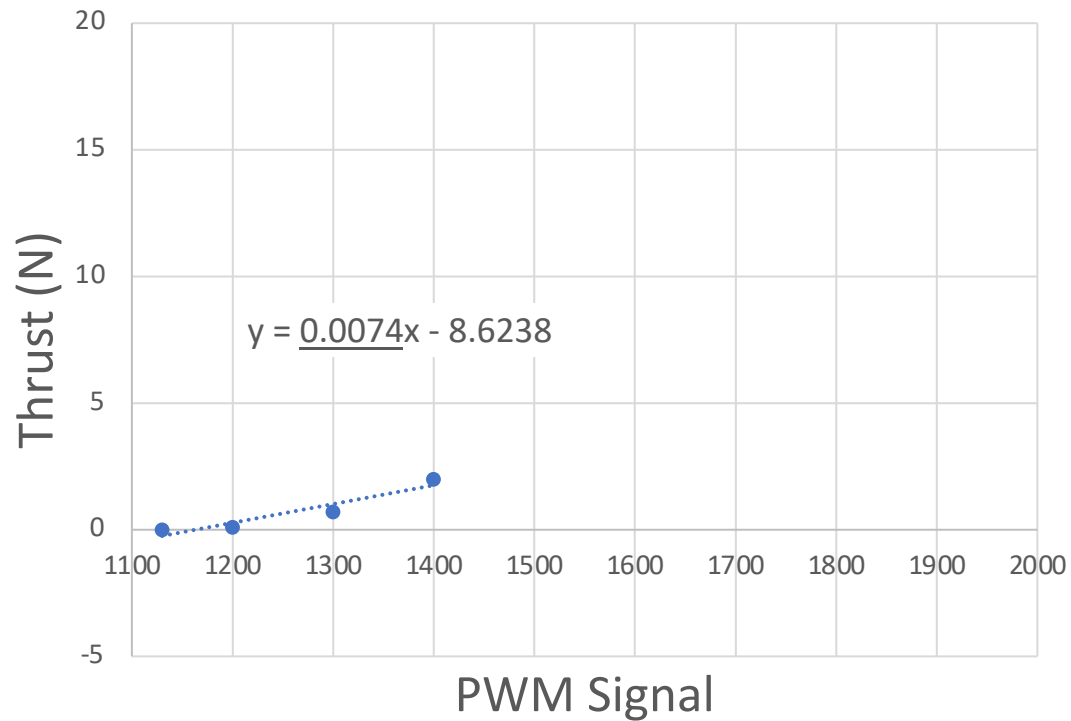
# PWM Signal vs. Thrust



John Tietsworth



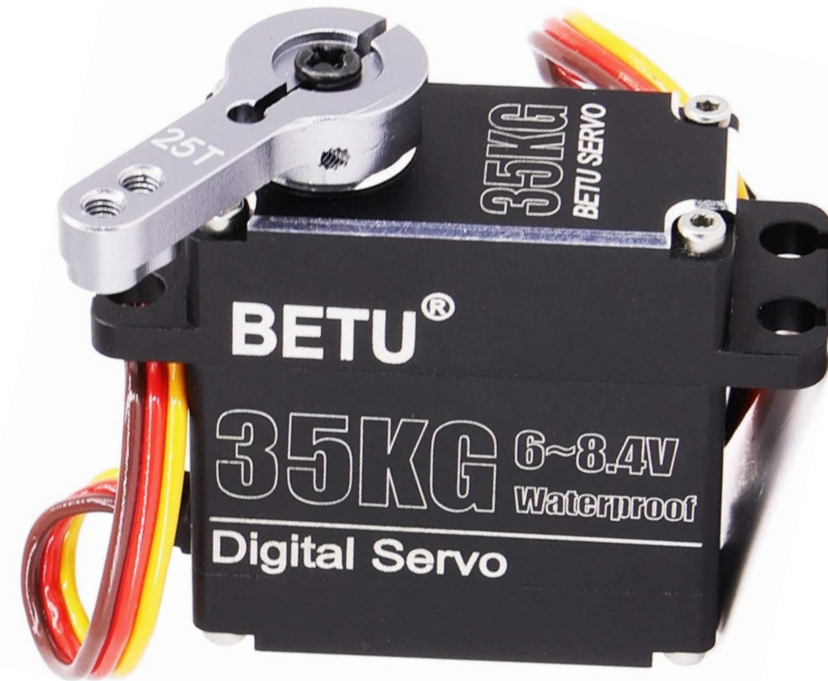
# PWM Signal vs. Thrust



John Tietsworth

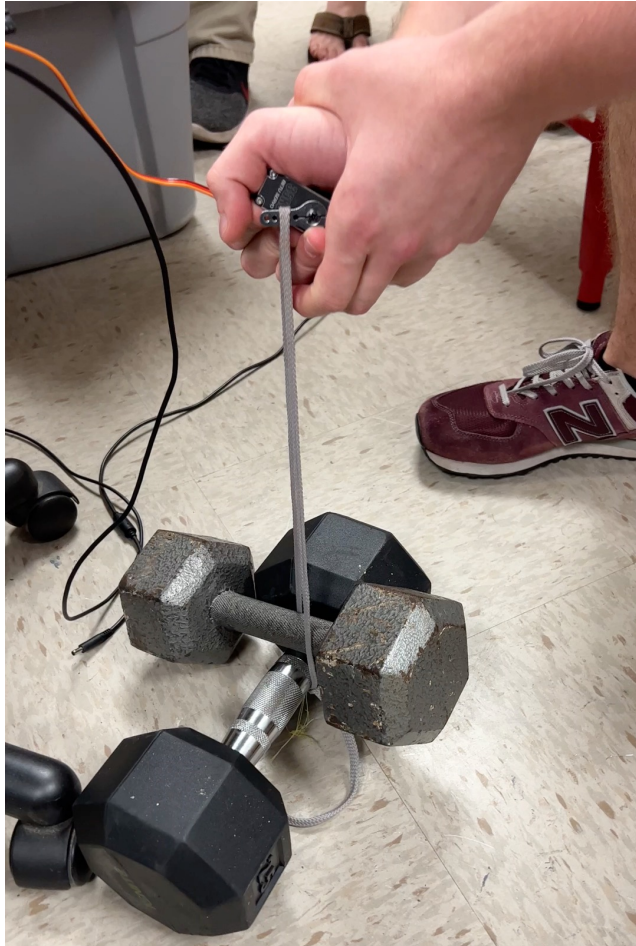
# Testing Plans

1. Thrust curve for the EDF
2. Servo stall torque
3. Parachute release
4. Control system
5. Payload movement



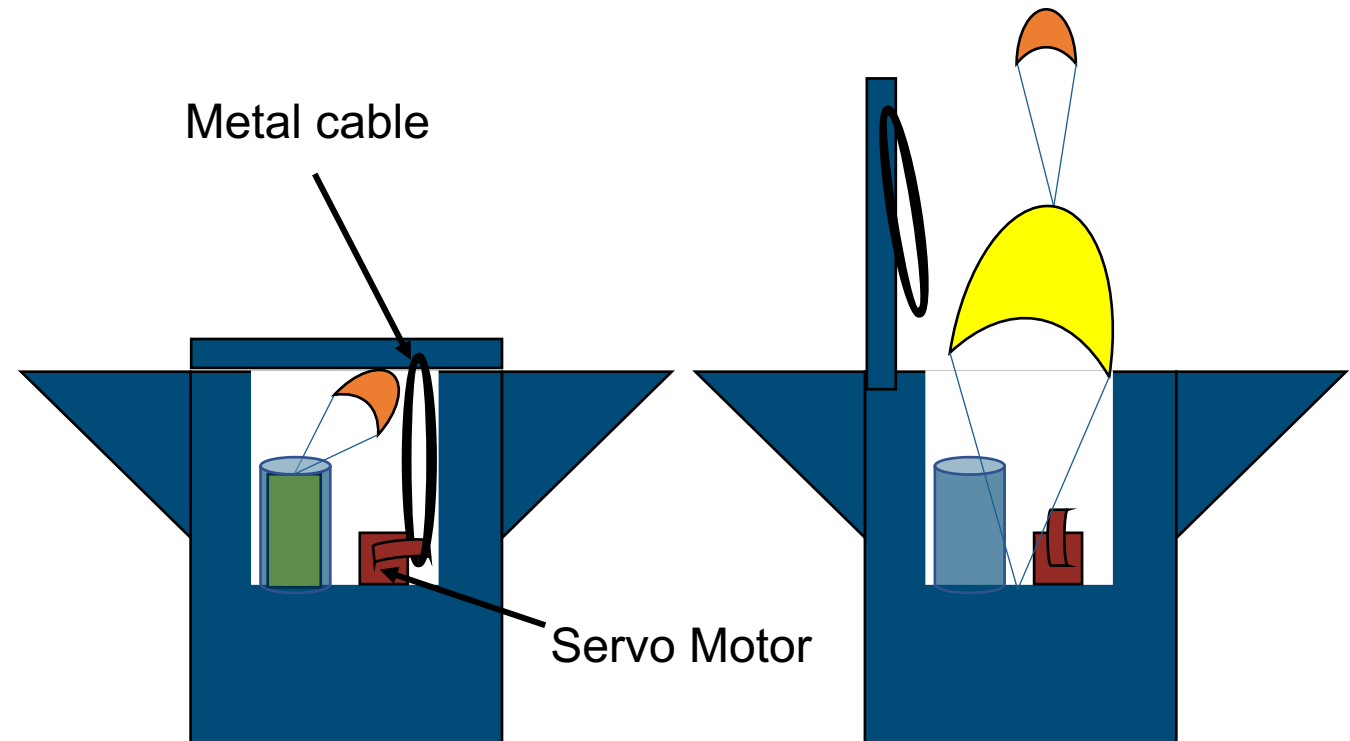
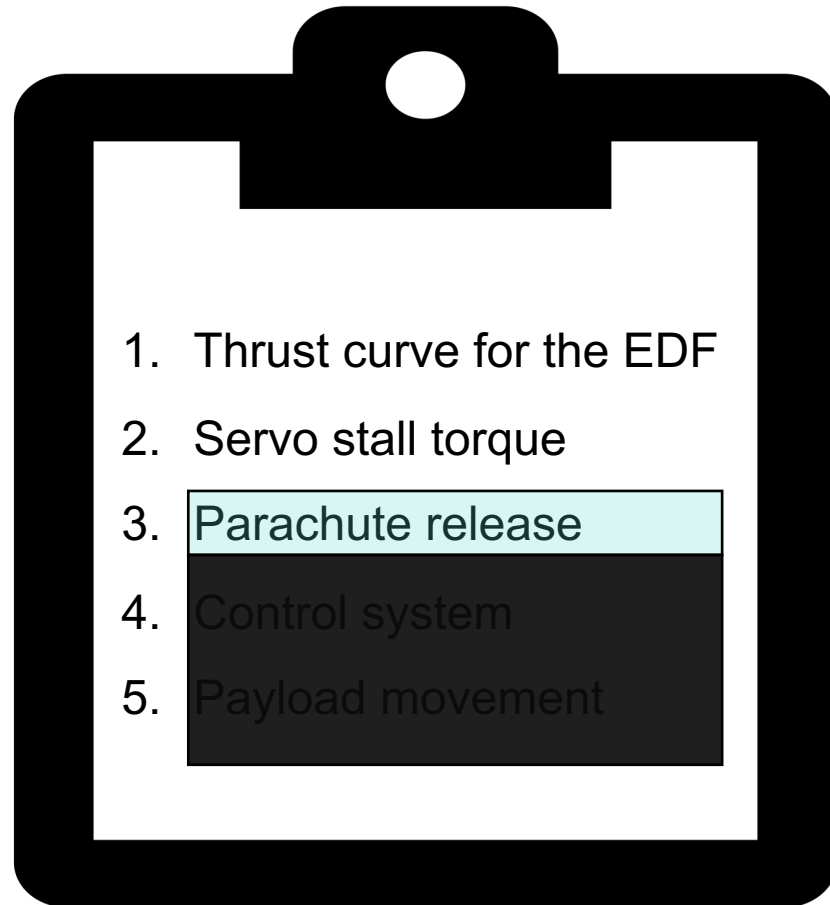
Thomas Lenz

# Servo Testing Results



Thomas Lenz

# Testing Plans



Thomas Lenz

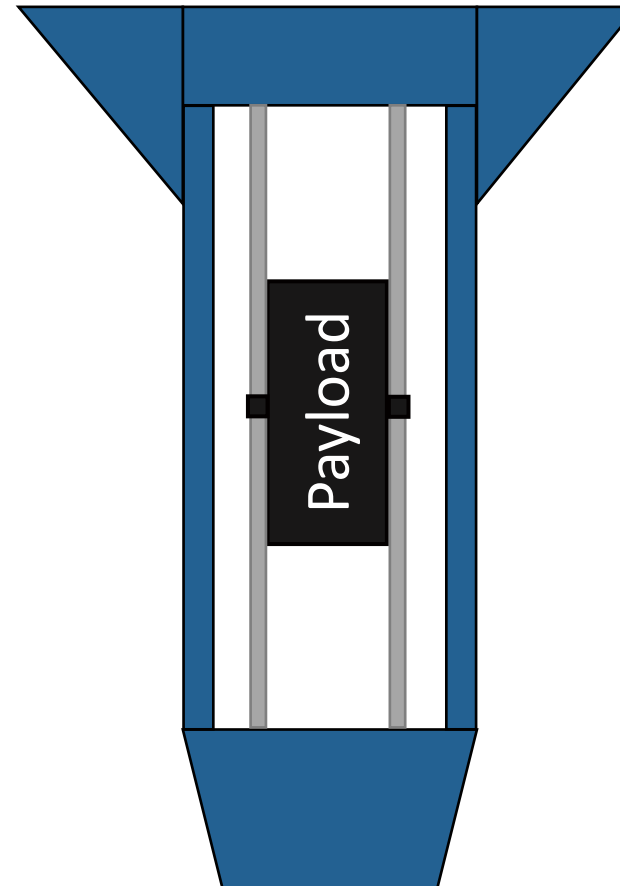
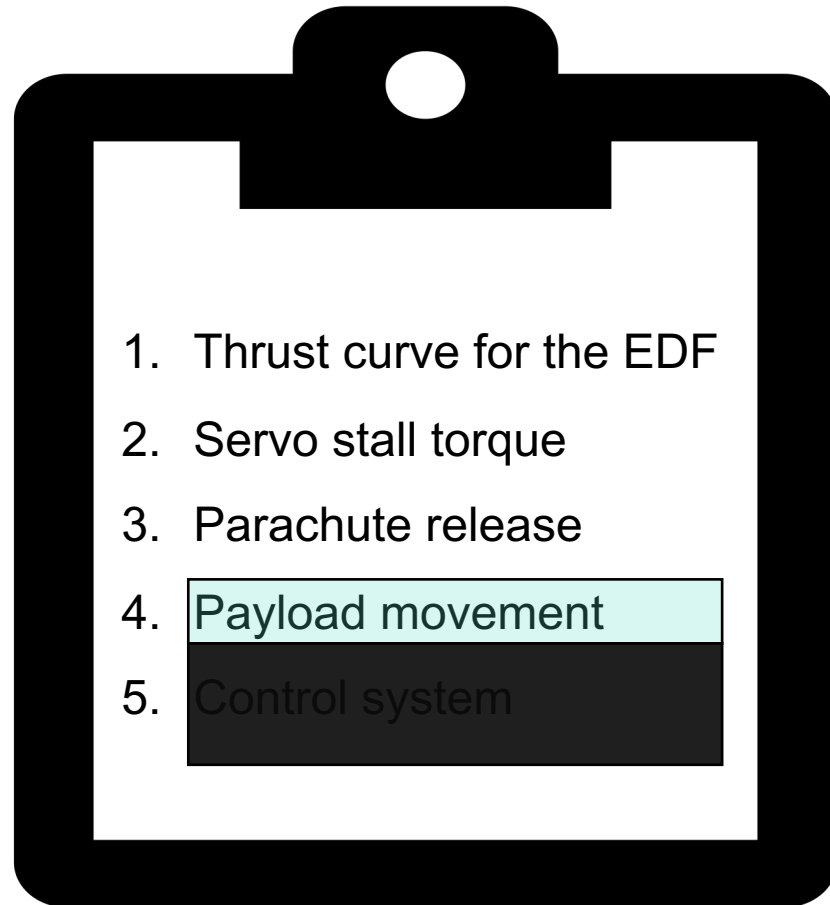


# Parachute Testing Results



Thomas Lenz

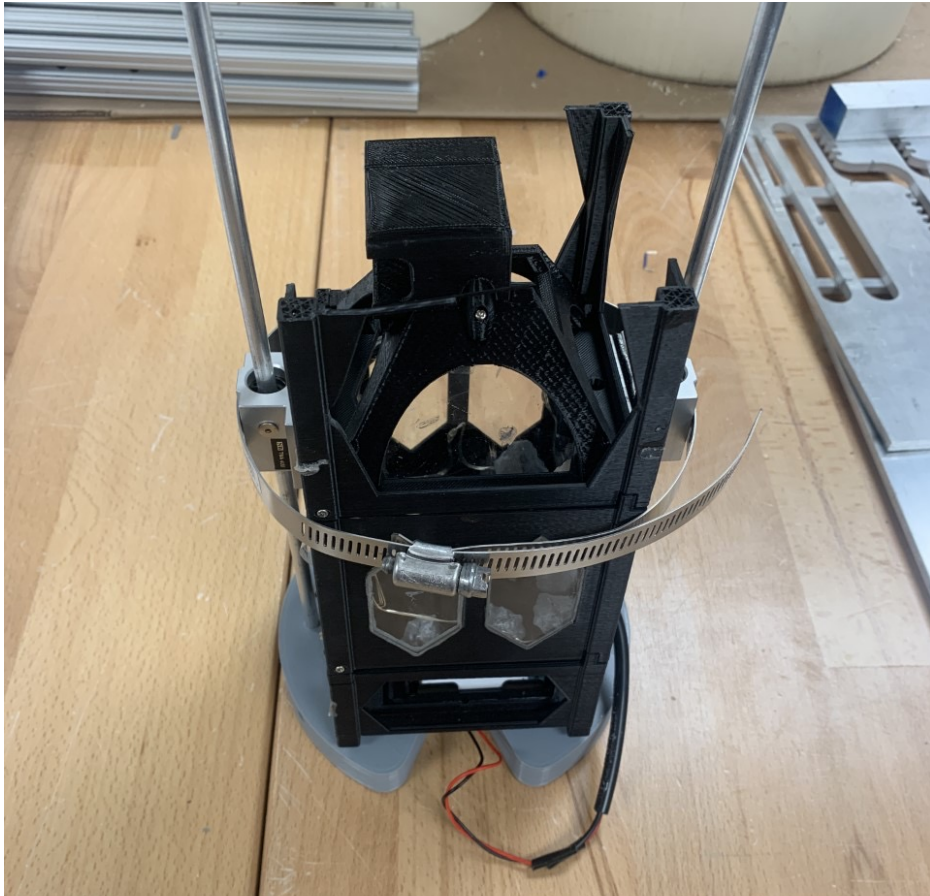
# Testing Plans



Thomas Lenz



# Payload Testing Results

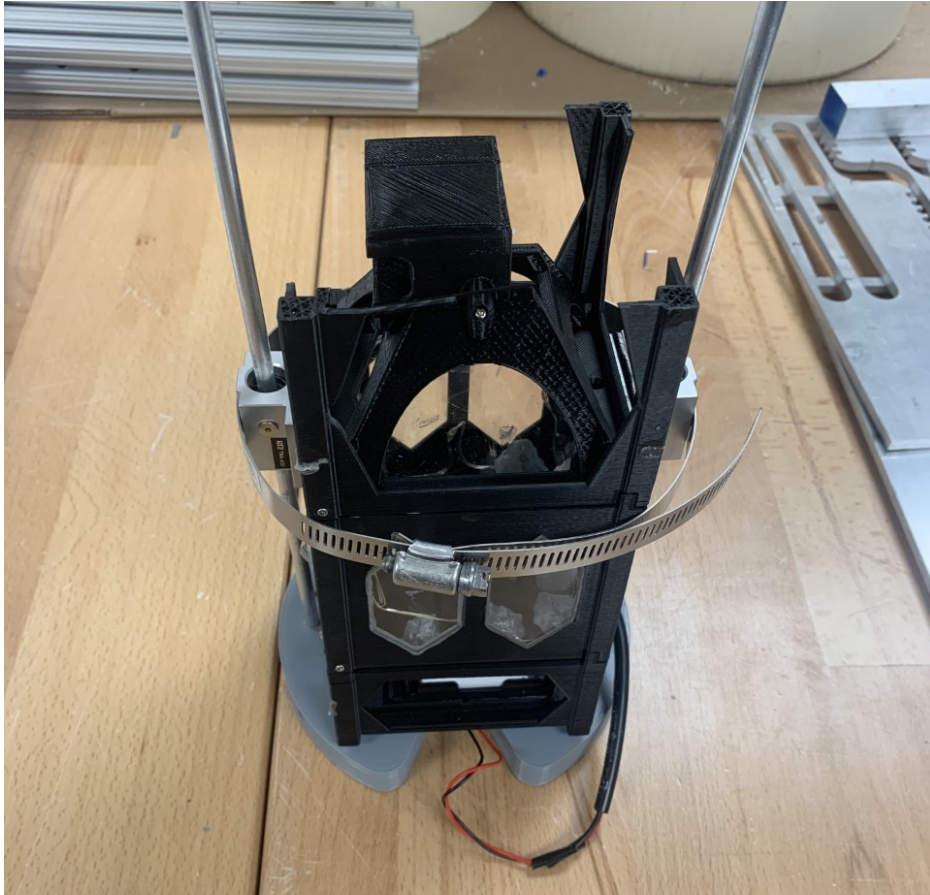


Bearings and Payload Caps Aligned

Thomas Lenz



# Payload Testing Results



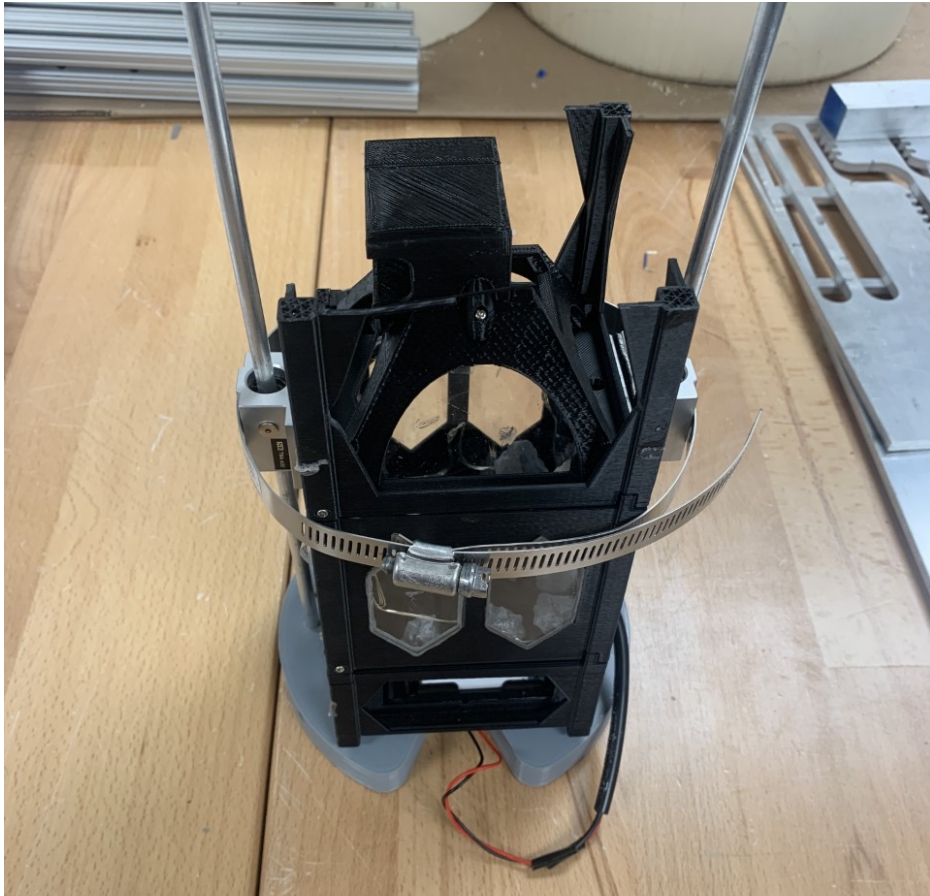
Bearings and Payload Caps Aligned



Carbon Fiber Rods

Thomas Lenz

# Payload Testing Results



Bearings and Payload Caps Aligned



Carbon Fiber Rods

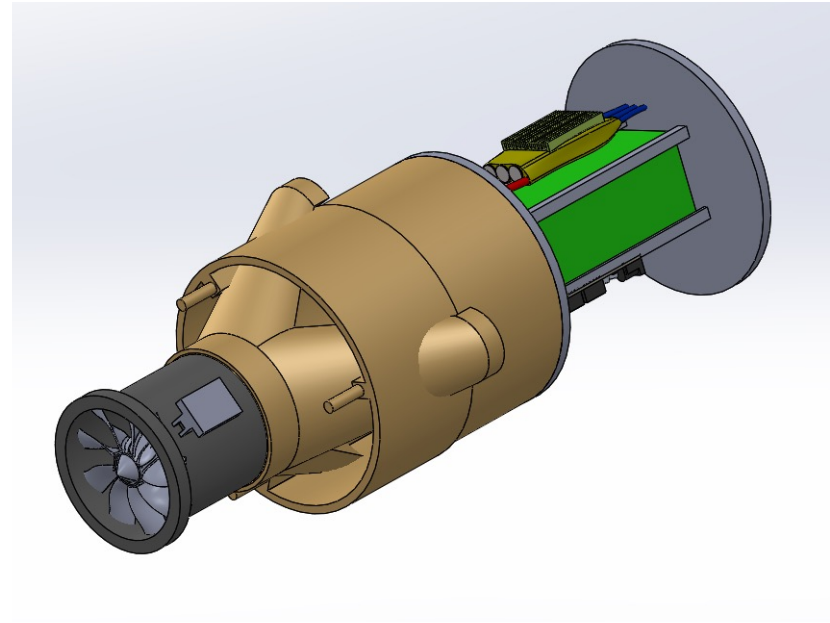


Aluminum Rods

Thomas Lenz

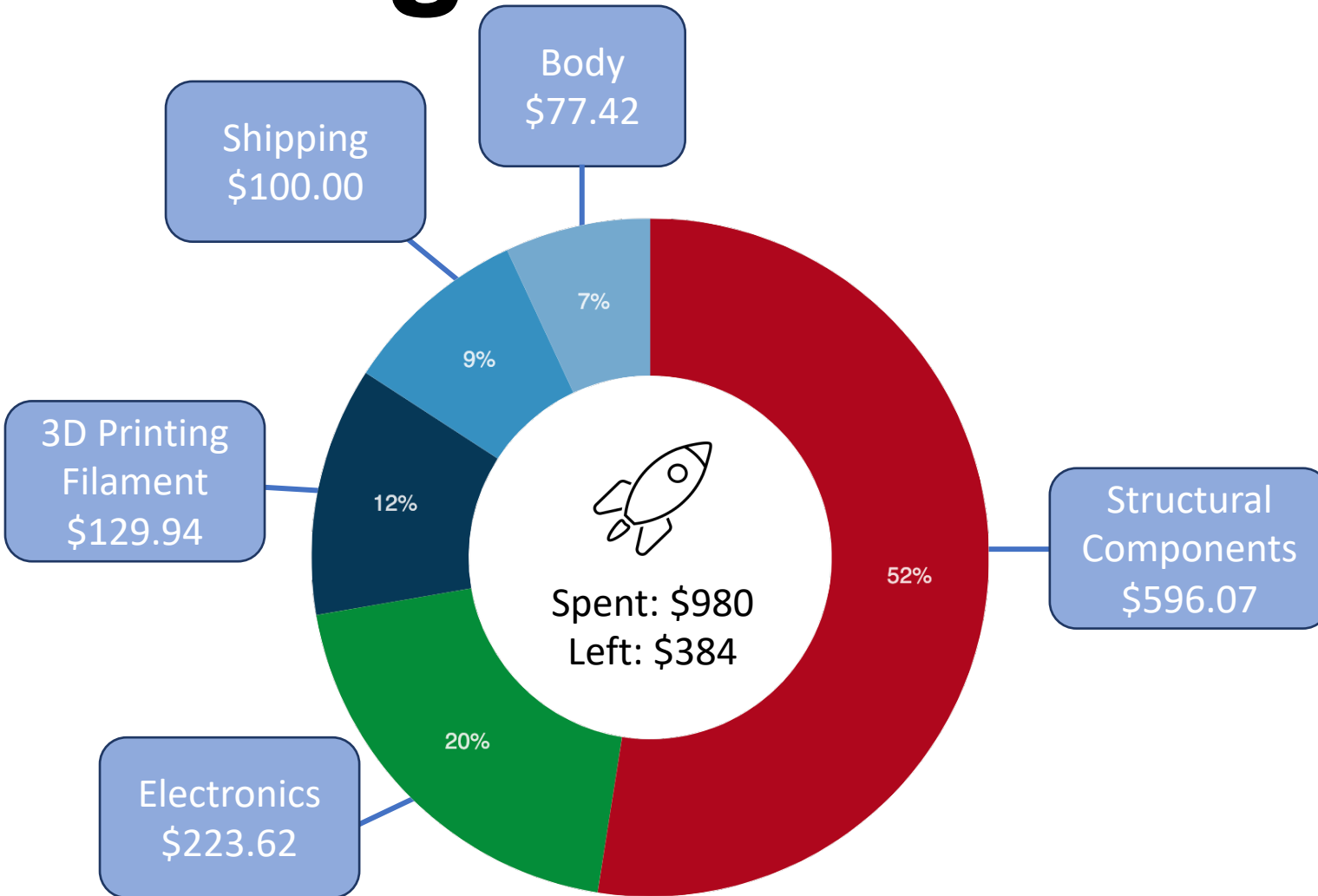
# Testing Plans

1. Thrust curve for the EDF
2. Servo stall torque
3. Parachute release
4. Payload movement
5. Control system



Thomas Lenz

# Budget



3D Printing Filament



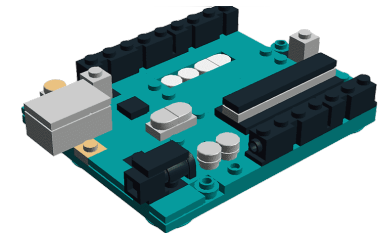
Body



Shipping



Electronics



Structural Components



Thomas Lenz

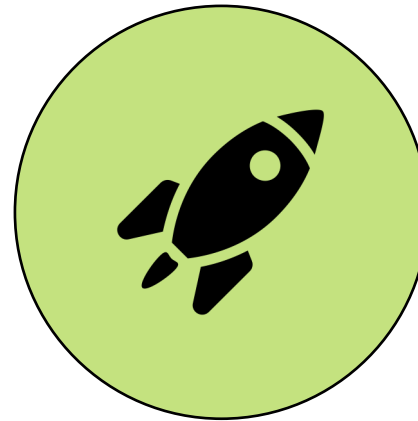
# Future Work



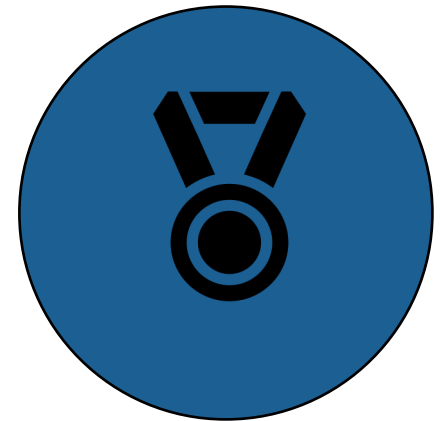
CONTINUE TESTING



ASSEMBLY



FULLSCALE TESTS



COMPETITION

Thomas Lenz

# Lessons Learned

**Lesson 1**

**Lesson 2**

**Lesson 3**

**Lesson 4**

**Lesson 5**

**Lesson 6**

Thomas Lenz

# Lessons Learned

**Double check test conditions  
before running test**

**Lesson 3**

**Lesson 5**

**Lesson 2**

**Lesson 4**

**Lesson 6**

Thomas Lenz

# Lessons Learned

**Double check test conditions  
before running test**

**Lesson 3**

**Lesson 5**

**Expect setbacks**

**Lesson 4**

**Lesson 6**

Thomas Lenz



# Lessons Learned

**Double check test conditions  
before running test**

**Acquire parts ASAP**

**Lesson 5**

**Expect setbacks**

**Lesson 4**

**Lesson 6**

Thomas Lenz

# Lessons Learned

**Double check test conditions  
before running test**

**Acquire parts ASAP**

**Lesson 5**

**Expect setbacks**

**Test parts when first  
acquired**

**Lesson 6**

Thomas Lenz

# Lessons Learned

**Double check test conditions  
before running test**

**Acquire parts ASAP**

**Double check tolerances  
before printing**

**Expect setbacks**

**Test parts when first  
acquired**

**Lesson 6**

Thomas Lenz

# Lessons Learned

**Double check test conditions  
before running test**

**Acquire parts ASAP**

**Double check tolerances  
before printing**

**Expect setbacks**

**Test parts when first  
acquired**

**Research parts before  
purchasing**

Thomas Lenz

# References

Images:

<https://thekidshouldseethis.com/post/feathered-fighter-jets-peregrine-falcons>

[https://www.esa.int/ESA\\_Multimedia/Images/2007/11/Zero-G\\_Airbus\\_A300\\_for\\_parabolic\\_flights](https://www.esa.int/ESA_Multimedia/Images/2007/11/Zero-G_Airbus_A300_for_parabolic_flights)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sounding\\_rocket](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sounding_rocket)

[https://www.esa.int/ESA\\_Multimedia/Images/2017/03/ZARM\\_s\\_Drop\\_Tower\\_in\\_Bremen](https://www.esa.int/ESA_Multimedia/Images/2017/03/ZARM_s_Drop_Tower_in_Bremen)

<https://www.hitec.uni-hannover.de/en/large-scale-equipment/einstein-elevator/>

<https://www.hitec.uni-hannover.de/en/large-scale-equipment/einstein-elevator/events-and-media/>

Further Readings:

<https://www.gozerog.com/>

[https://www.nasa.gov/mission\\_pages/sounding-rockets/missions/index.html](https://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/sounding-rockets/missions/index.html)

<https://www.zarm.uni-bremen.de/en/drop-tower/general-information.html>

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[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4aCMDQsx740&ab\\_channel=TomScott](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4aCMDQsx740&ab_channel=TomScott)

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