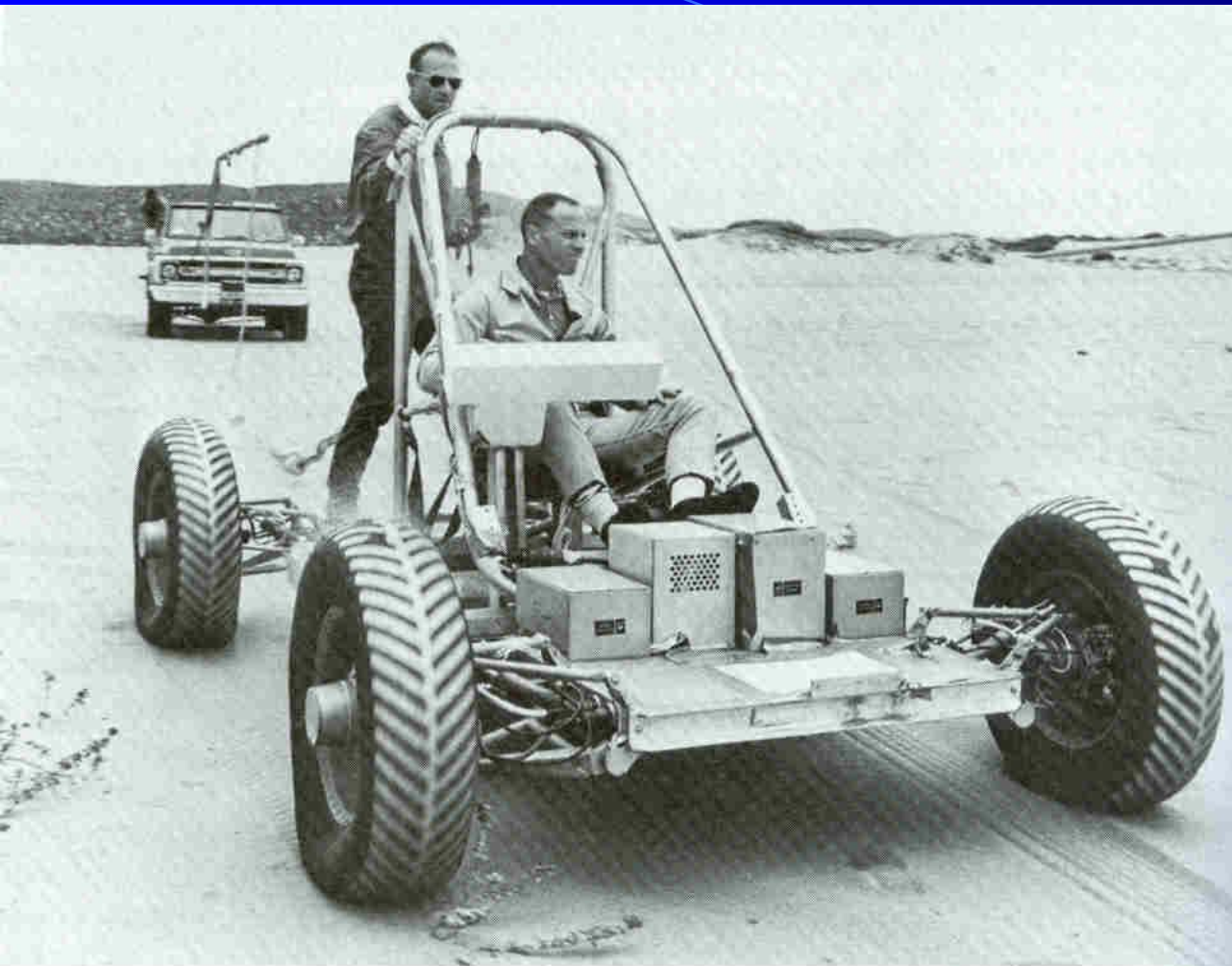


Power

Joseph T. Wunderlich, Ph.D.



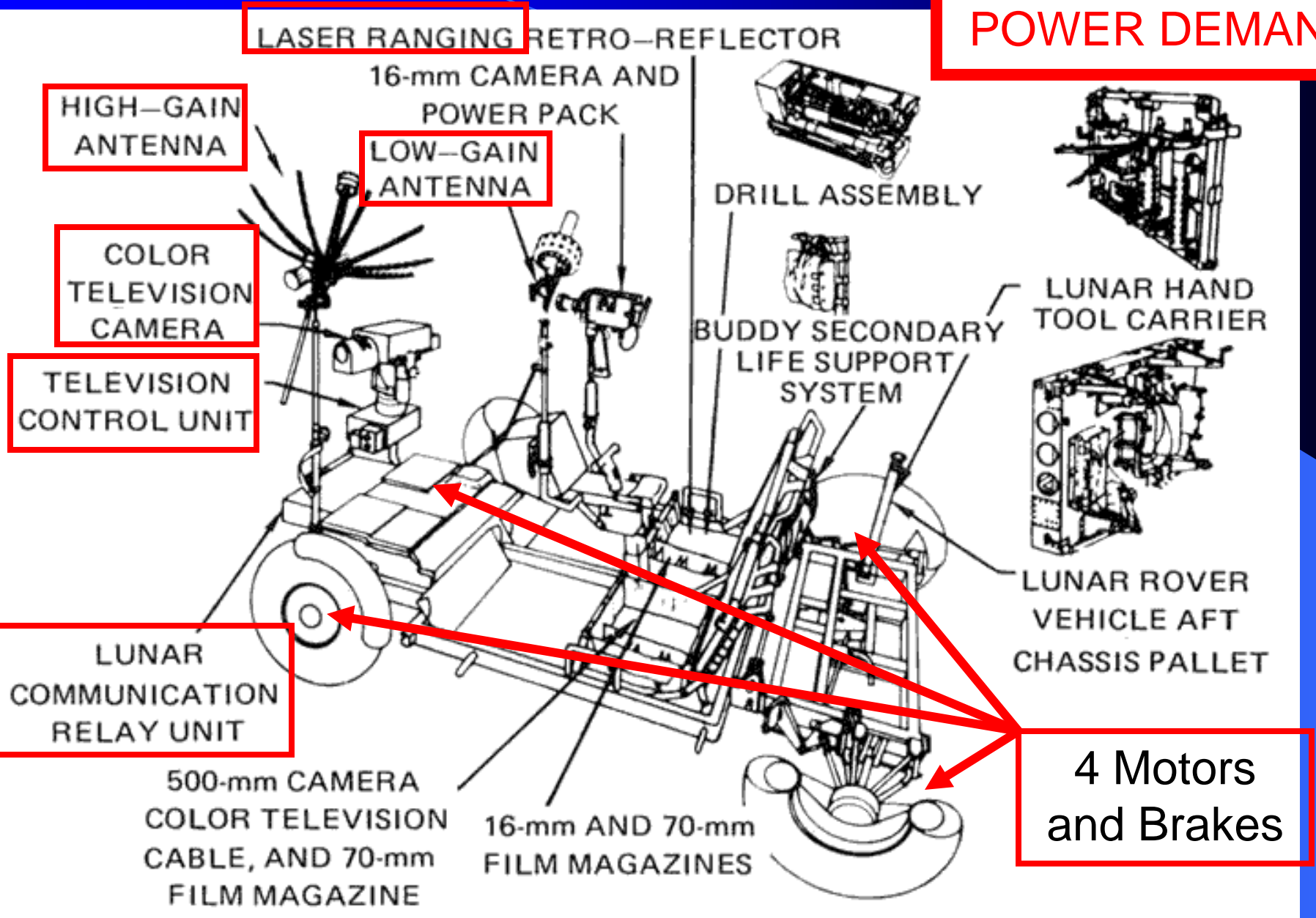
Subsystems Validation

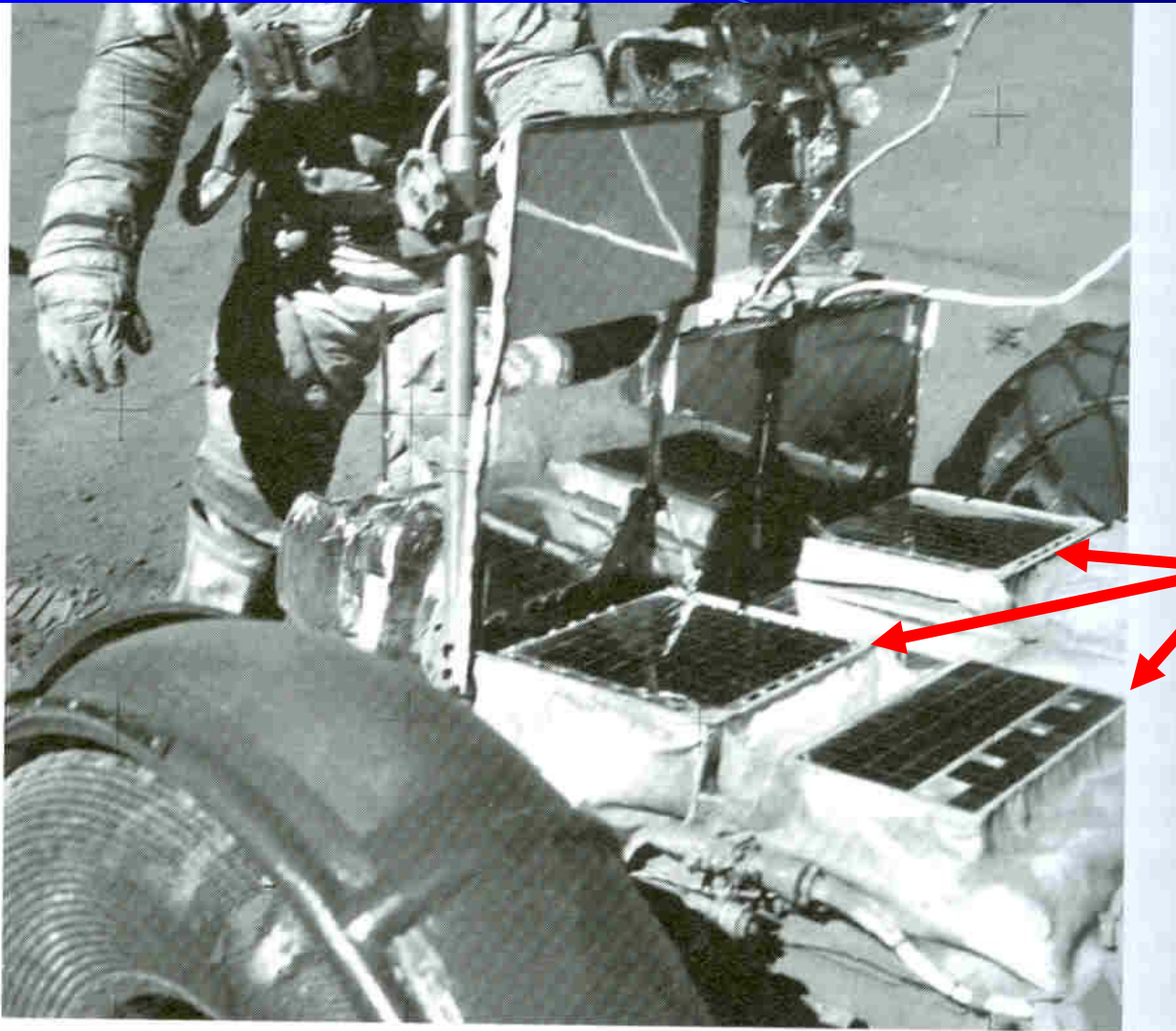
GM-DRL was responsible for the Mobility and Electrical Power Subsystems of the LRV. The company built this test mule to validate early hardware designs. This vehicle received its electrical power via a cable from the truck following behind. Astronaut Jack Lousma drives, with astronaut Gerald Carr (standing). Both men would later fly on Skylab missions. (Courtesy: NASA/MSFC)

"Lunar Roving Vehicle" (LRV)

ELECTRICAL POWER

POWER DEMAND





POWER
SUPPLY
(STORAGE)

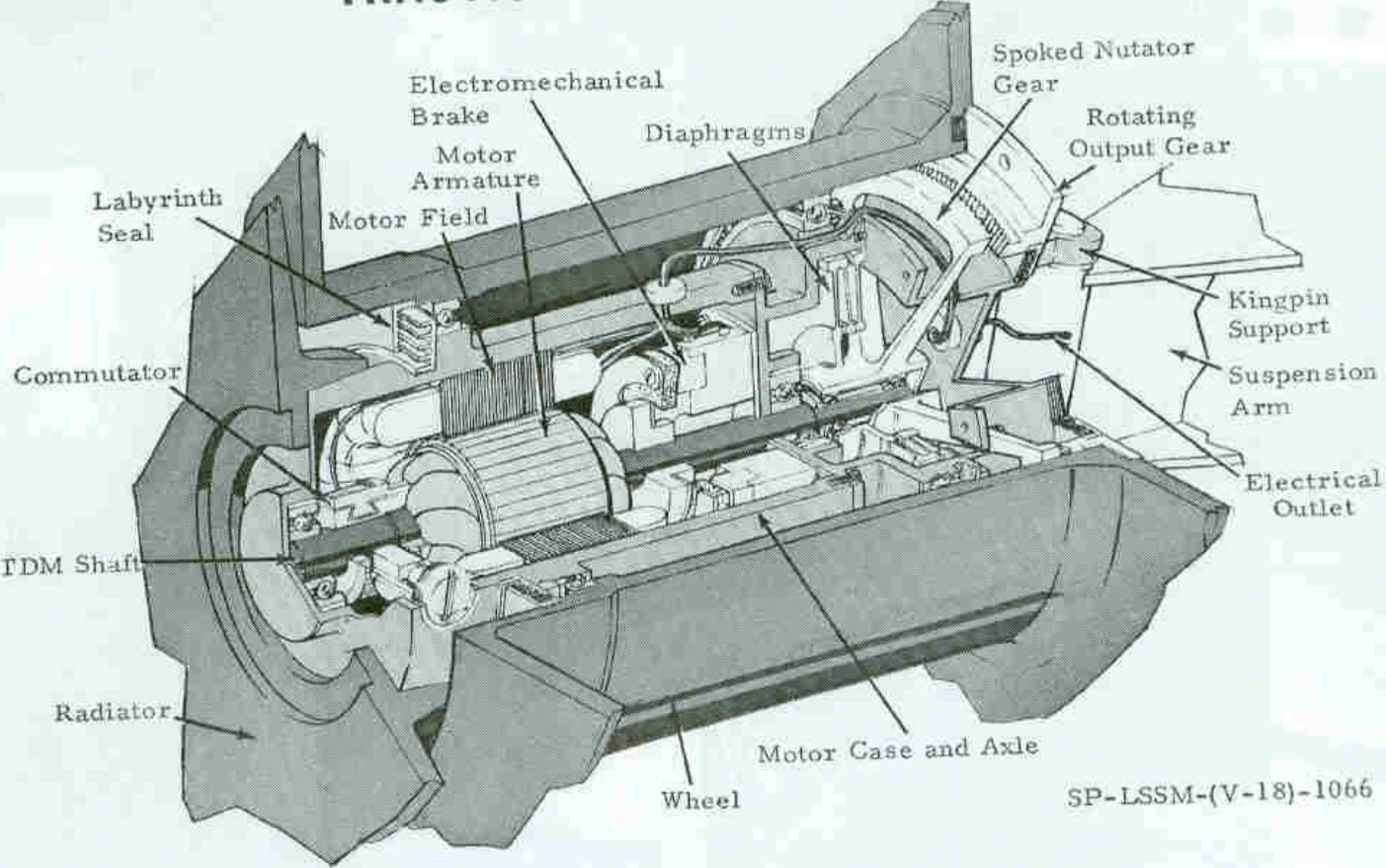
NO
GENERATION

Young photographed Duke near the front of the LRV at the end of EVA-3. Both battery covers are open and the radiators are clearly visible. (NASA)

“Lunar Roving Vehicle” (LRV)

- ELECTRICAL POWER
- HARDENING FOR SPACE

TRACTION DRIVE MECHANISM

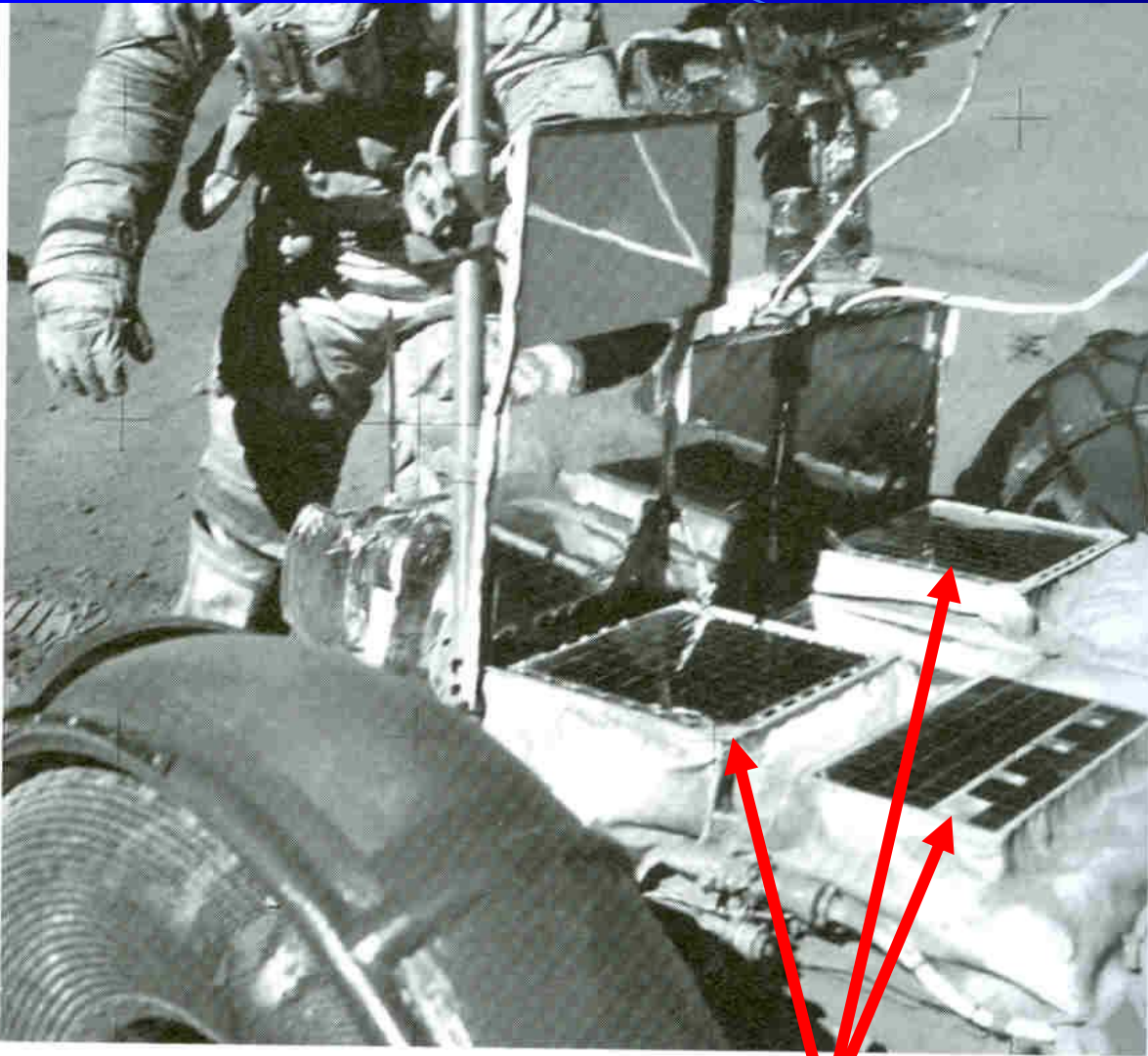


Motors

Each of the four traction drive motors had a rated output of 0.25 horsepower, with a combined output of one horsepower for the LRV. The drives were completely sealed to prevent damage from lunar dust. (NASA/MSFC)

“Lunar Roving Vehicle” (LRV)

- ELECTRICAL POWER
- HARDENING FOR SPACE

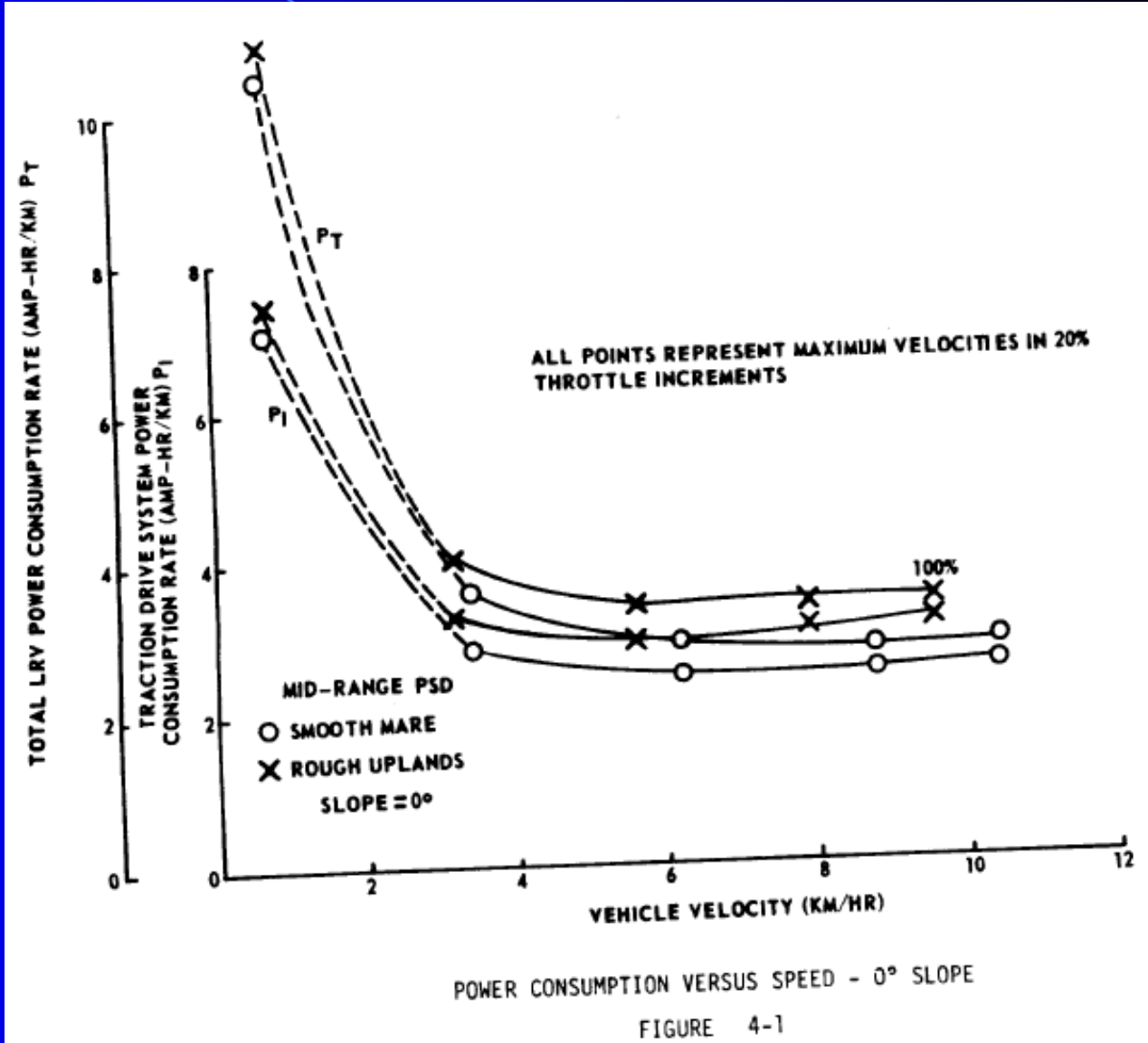


Young photographed Duke near the front of the LRV at the end of EVA-3. Both battery covers are open and the radiators are clearly visible. (NASA)

"Lunar Roving Vehicle" (LRV)

ELECTRICAL POWER

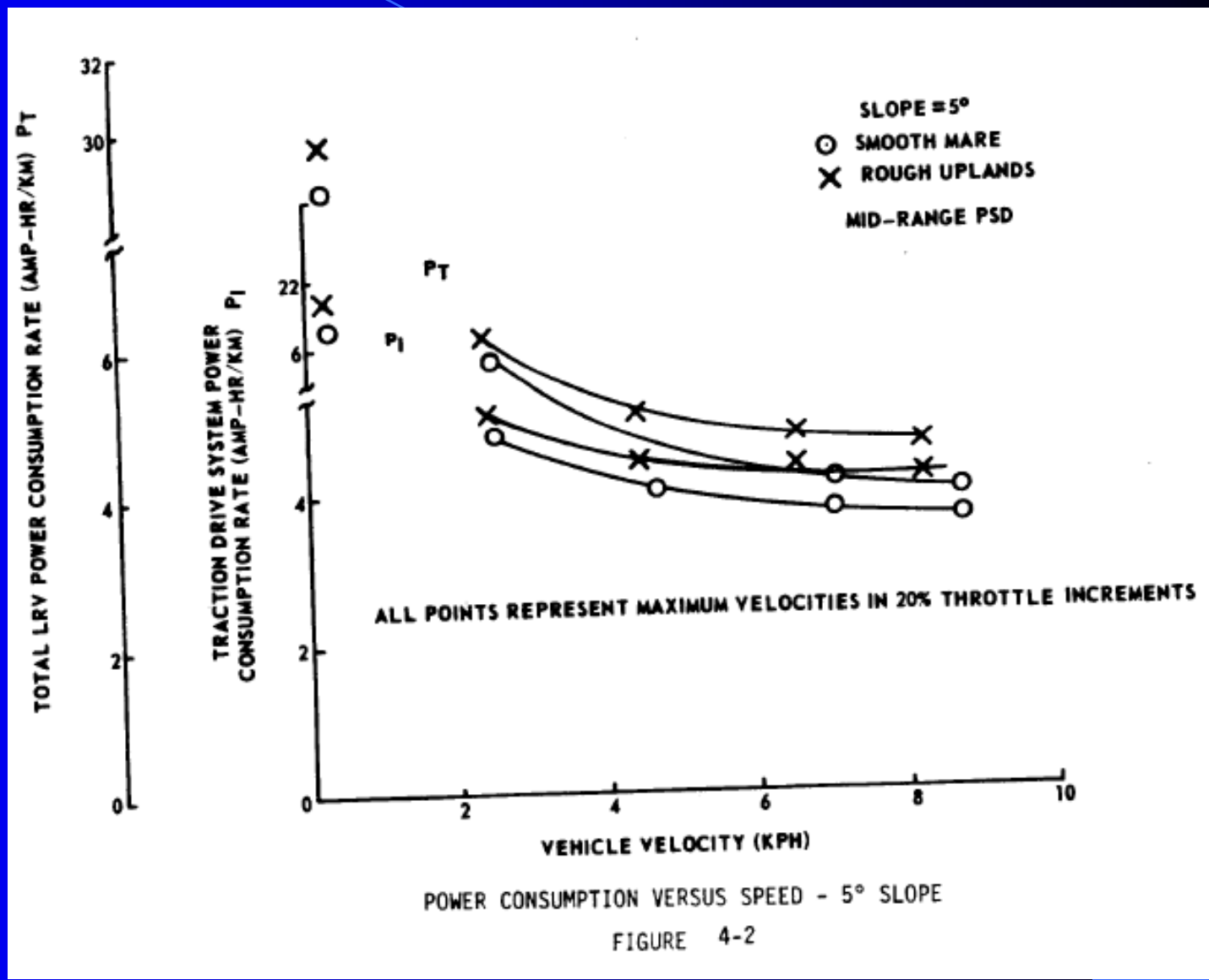
Extensive TESTING



"Lunar Roving Vehicle" (LRV)

ELECTRICAL POWER

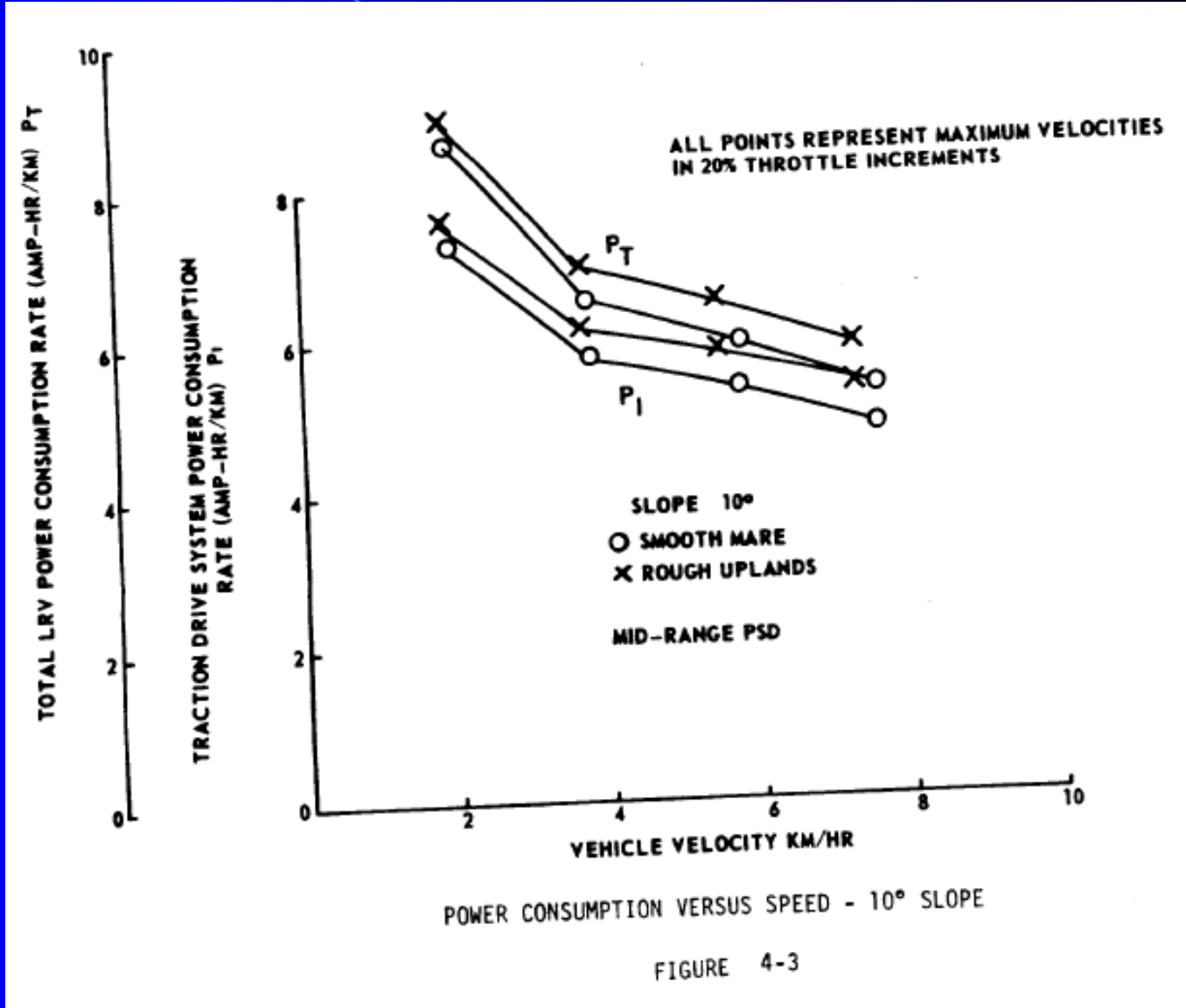
Extensive TESTING



"Lunar Roving Vehicle" (LRV)

ELECTRICAL POWER

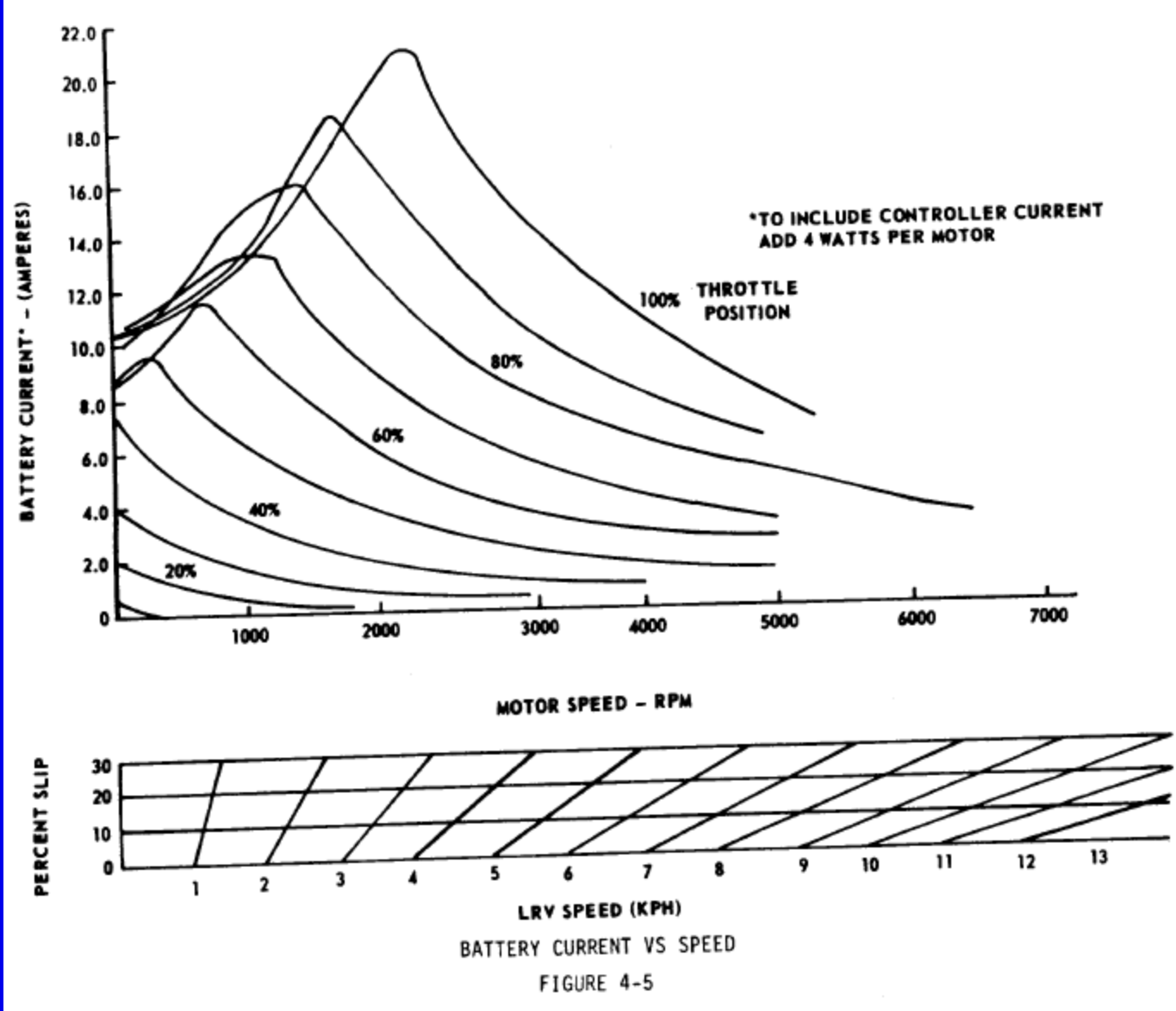
Extensive TESTING



"Lunar Roving Vehicle" (LRV)

ELECTRICAL POWER

Extensive TESTING

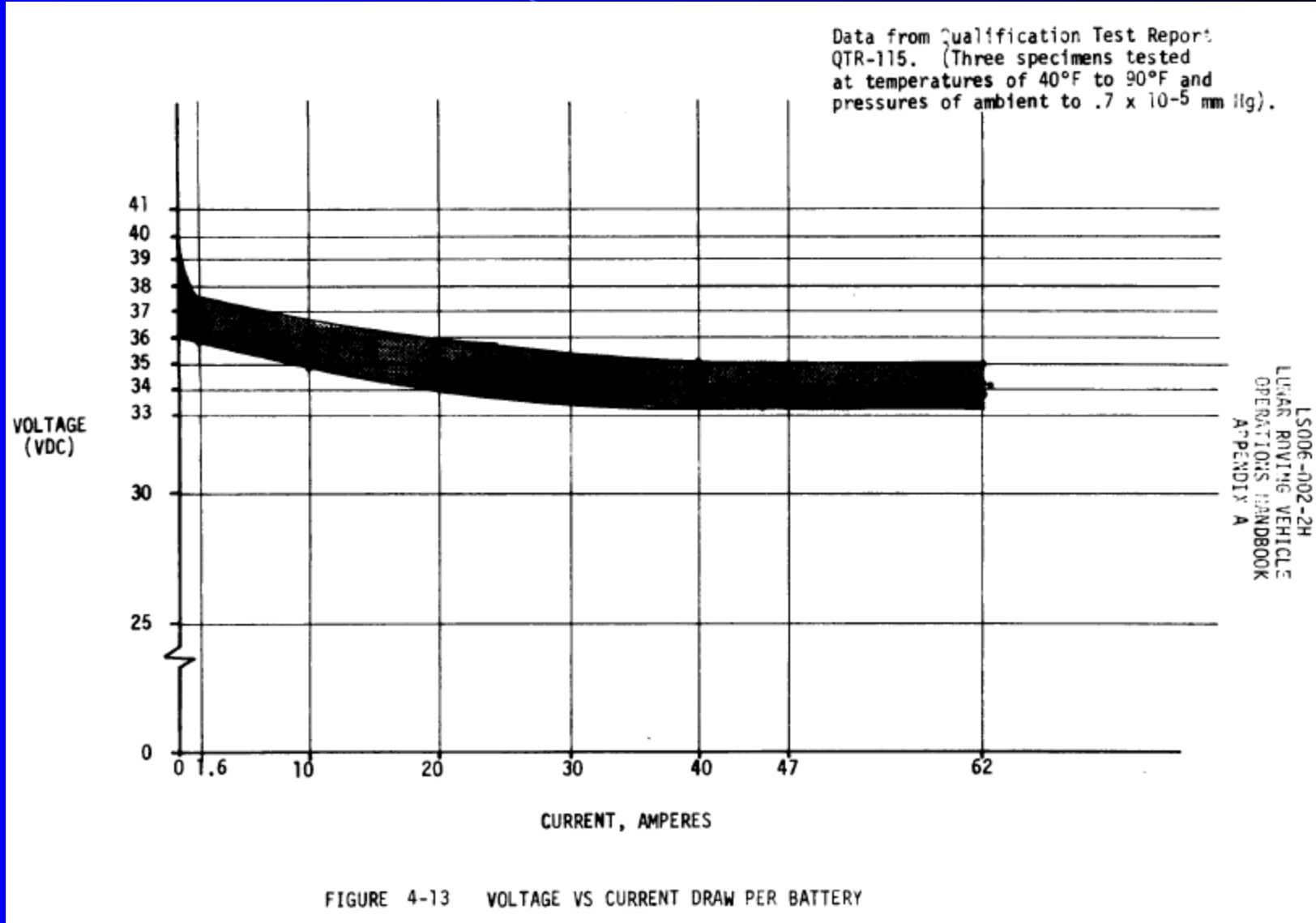


SOURCE: Boeing Company and NASA (1971) [LRV operations handbook, appendix A performance data](#). Document LS006-002-2H.

"Lunar Roving Vehicle" (LRV)

ELECTRICAL POWER

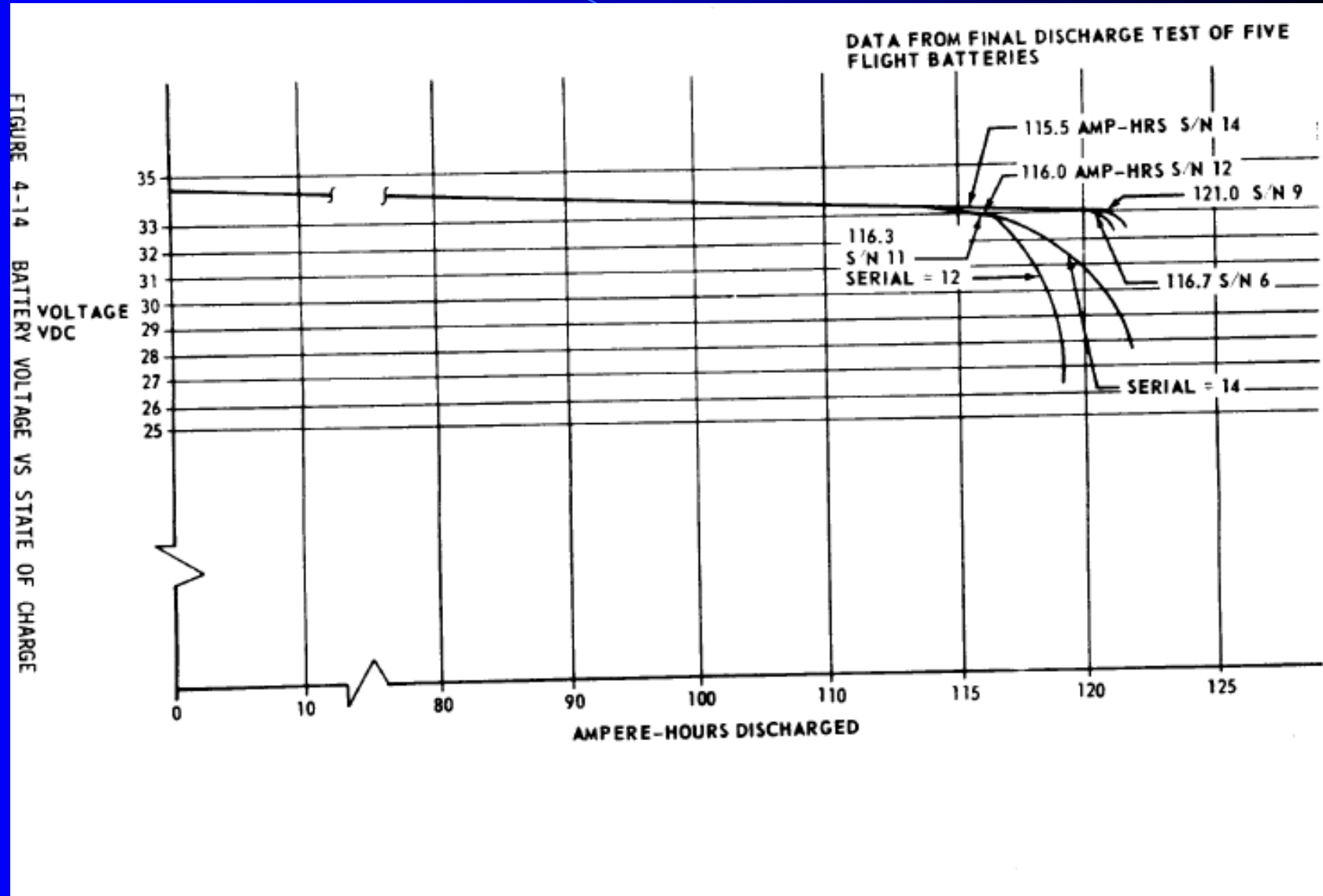
Extensive TESTING



"Lunar Roving Vehicle" (LRV)

ELECTRICAL POWER

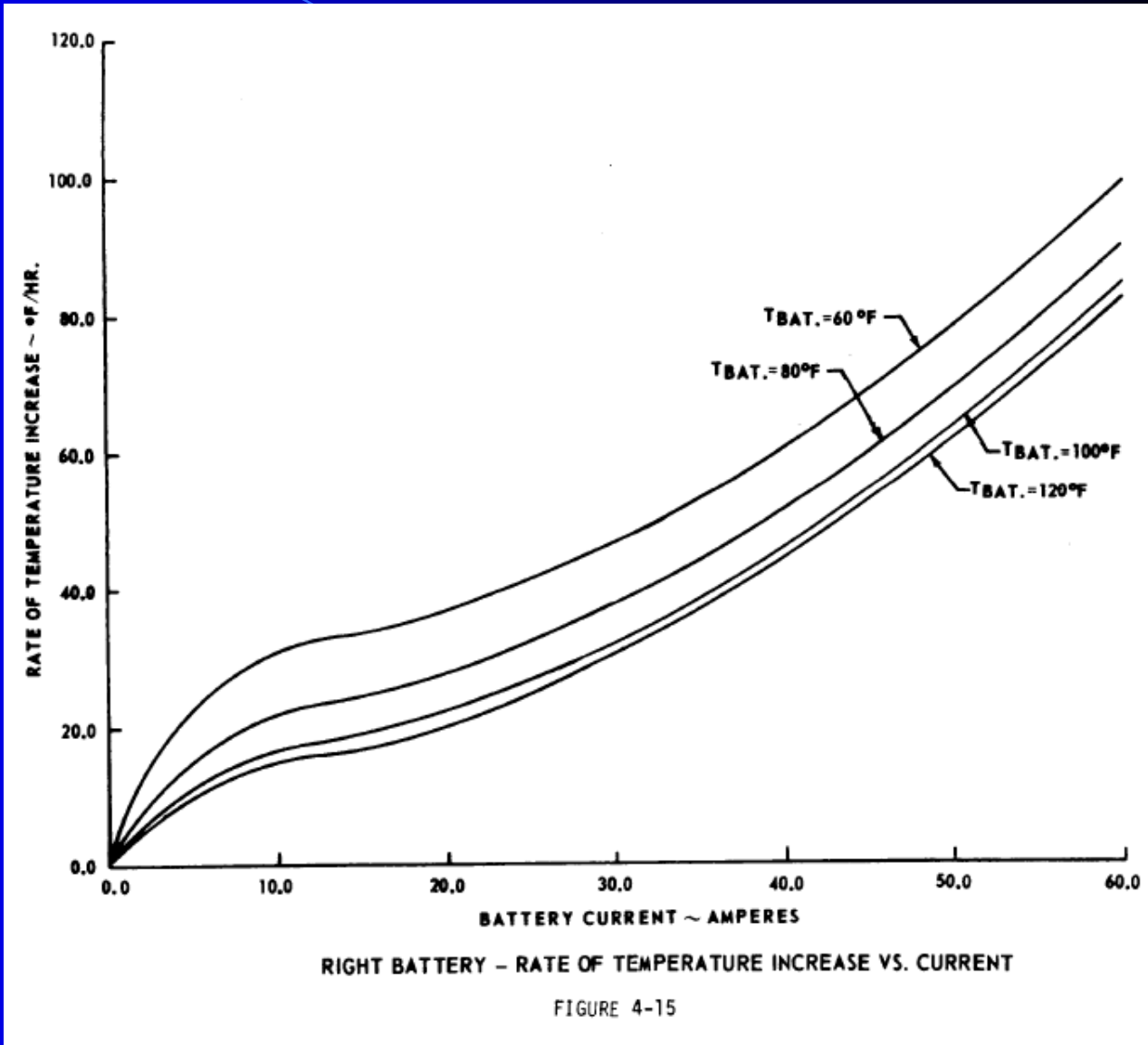
Extensive TESTING



“Lunar Roving Vehicle” (LRV)

ELECTRICAL POWER

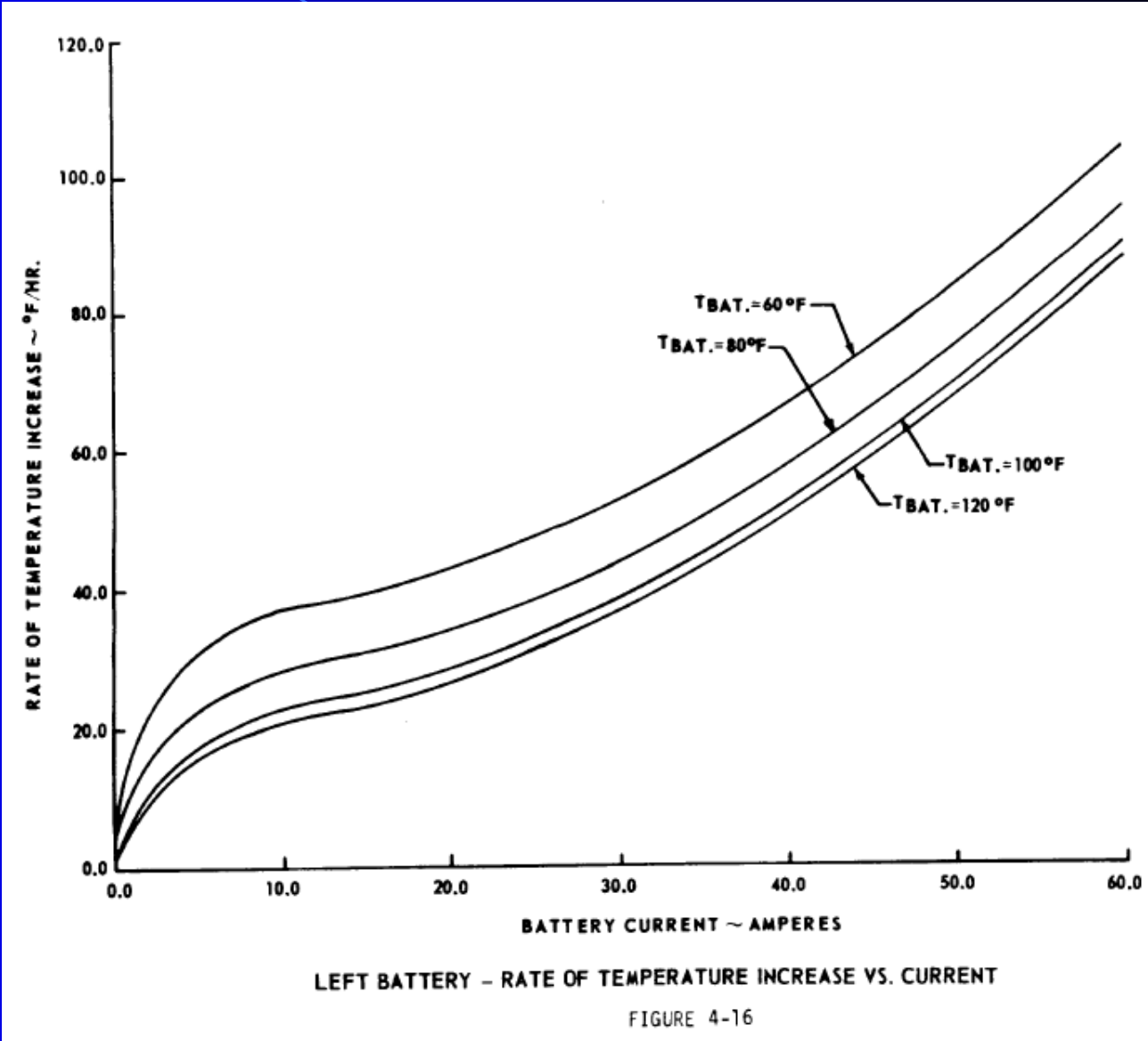
Extensive TESTING



“Lunar Roving Vehicle” (LRV)

ELECTRICAL POWER

Extensive TESTING



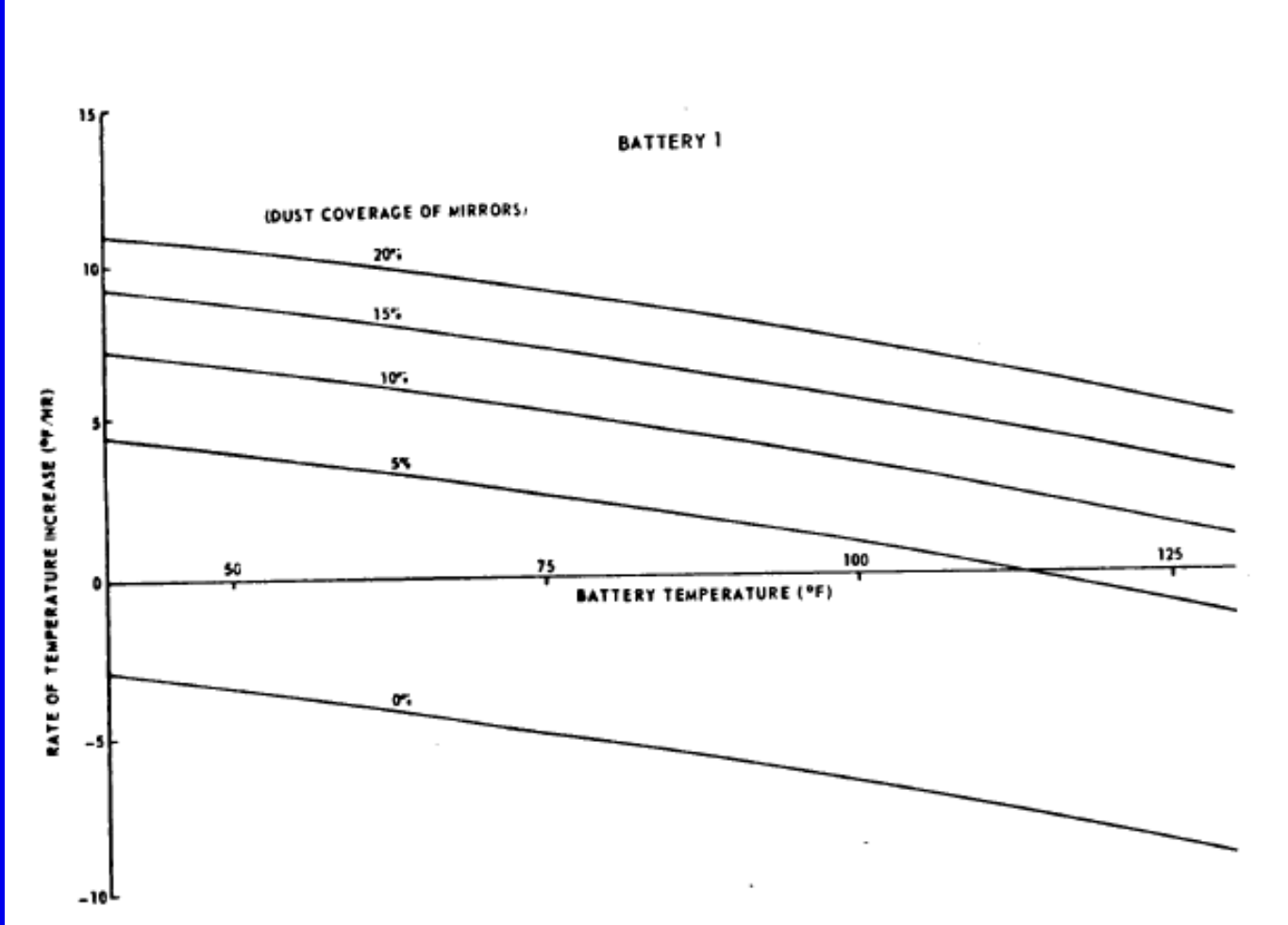
LEFT BATTERY - RATE OF TEMPERATURE INCREASE VS. CURRENT

FIGURE 4-16

“Lunar Roving Vehicle” (LRV)

ELECTRICAL POWER

Extensive TESTING



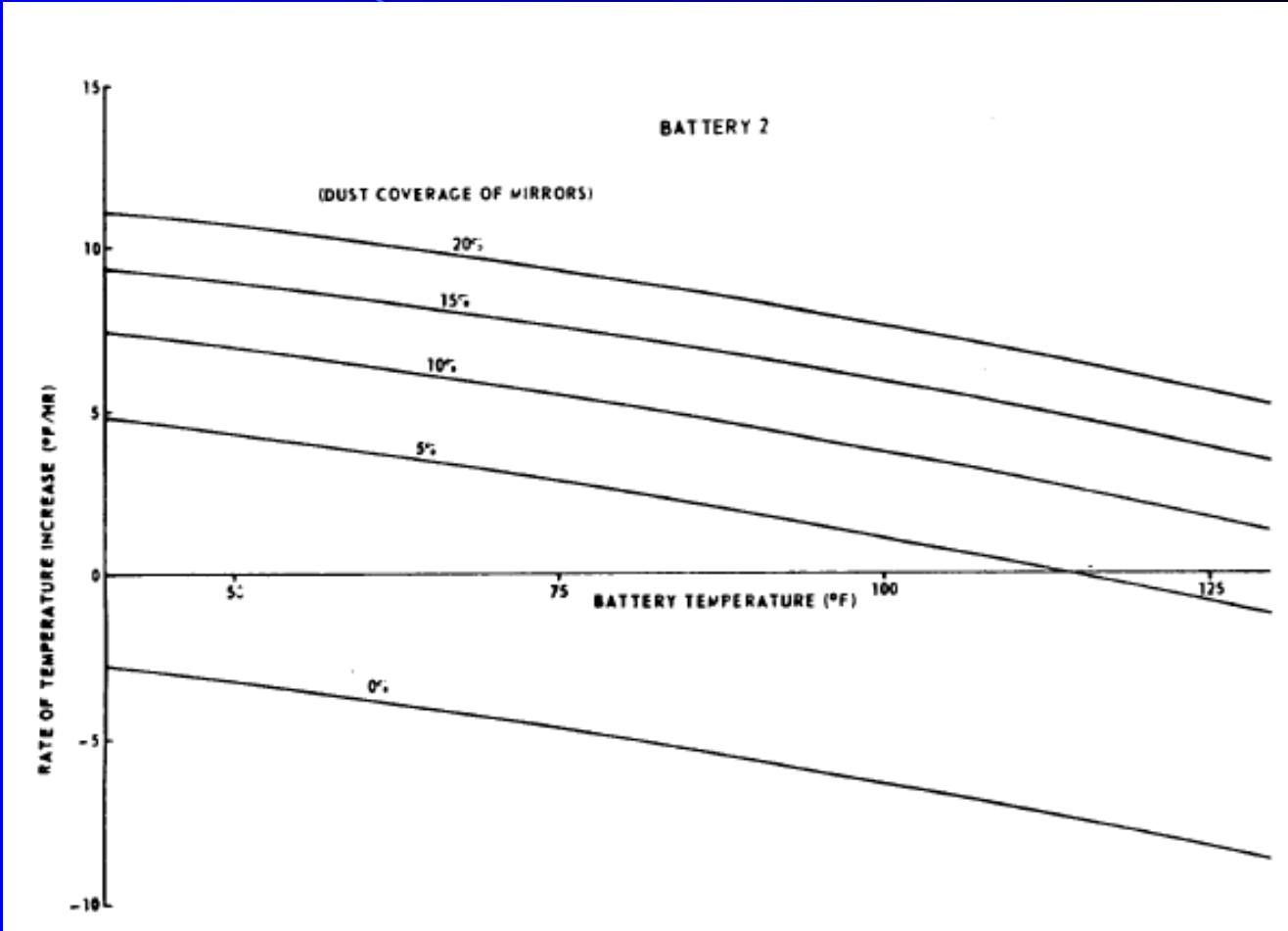
LEFT BATTERY-RATE OF TEMPERATURE INCREASE VS BATTERY TEMPERATURE (DUST COVER OPEN)

FIGURE 4-17

“Lunar Roving Vehicle” (LRV)

ELECTRICAL POWER

Extensive TESTING



RIGHT BATTERY-RATE OF TEMPERATURE INCREASE VS BATTERY TEMPERATURE (DUST COVER OPEN)

FIGURE 4-18

"Lunar Roving Vehicle" (LRV)

ELECTRICAL POWER

Extensive TESTING

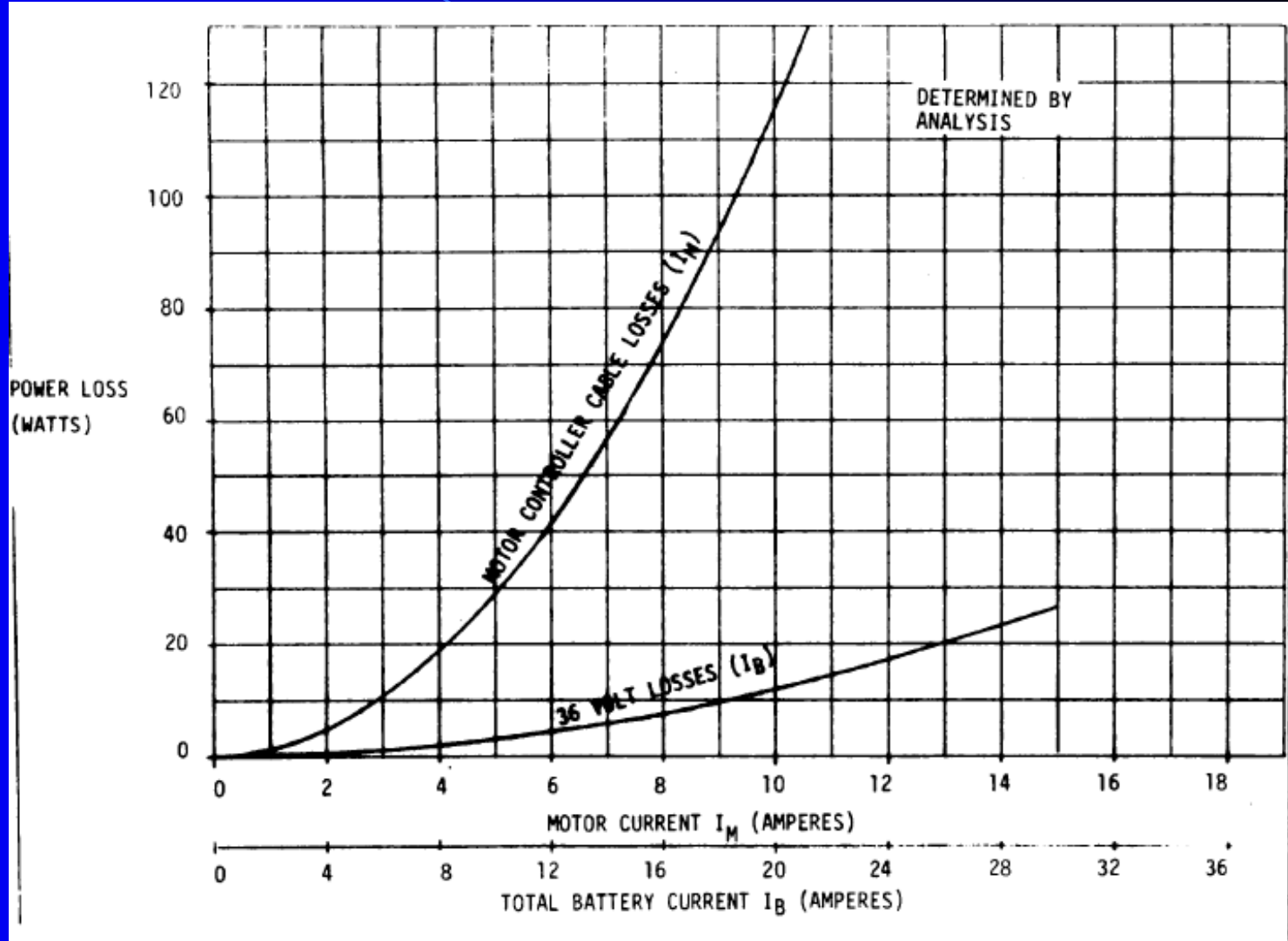


FIGURE 4-19 DISTRIBUTION LOSSES

"Lunar Roving Vehicle" (LRV)

ELECTRICAL POWER

Extensive TESTING

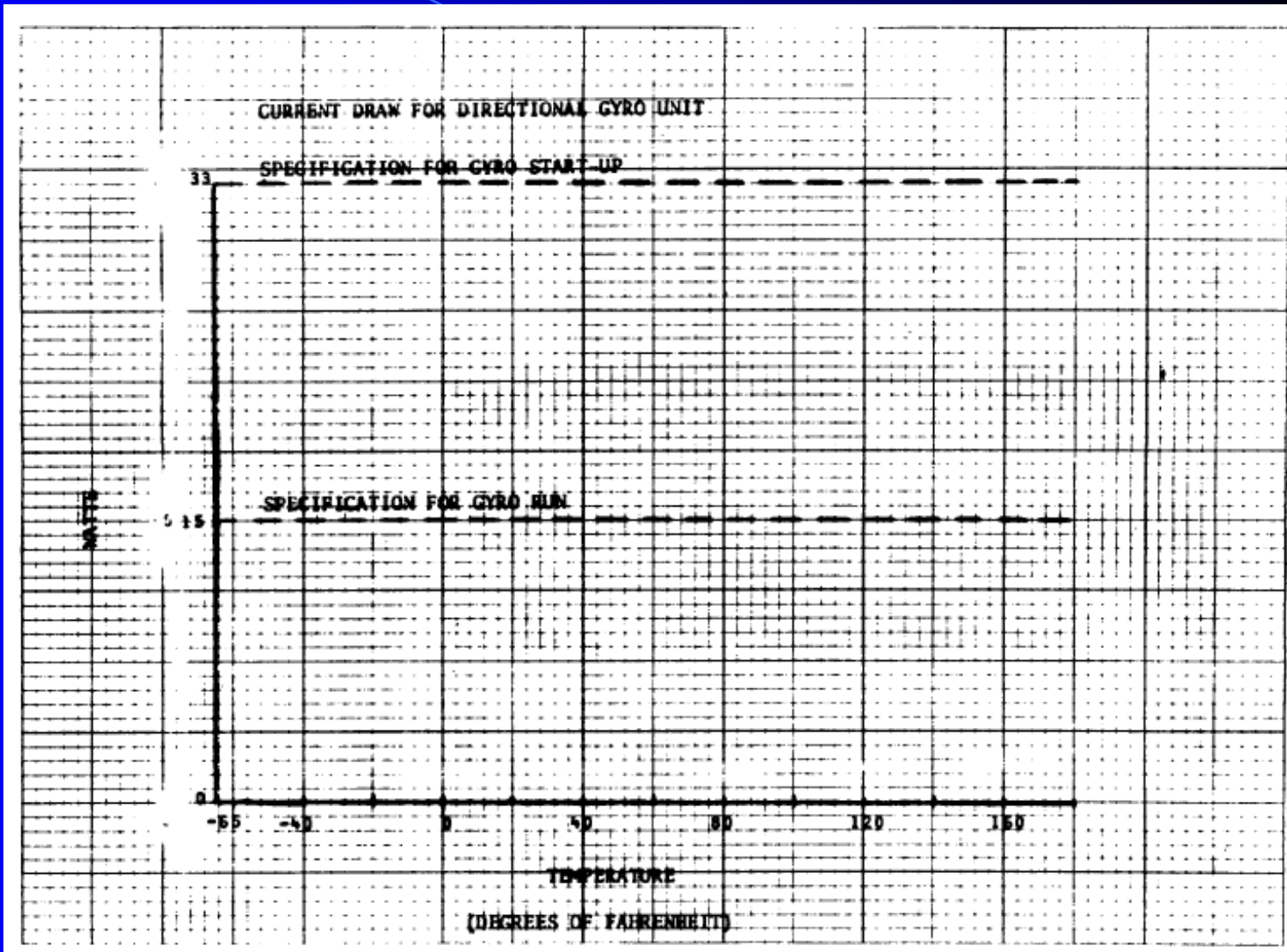
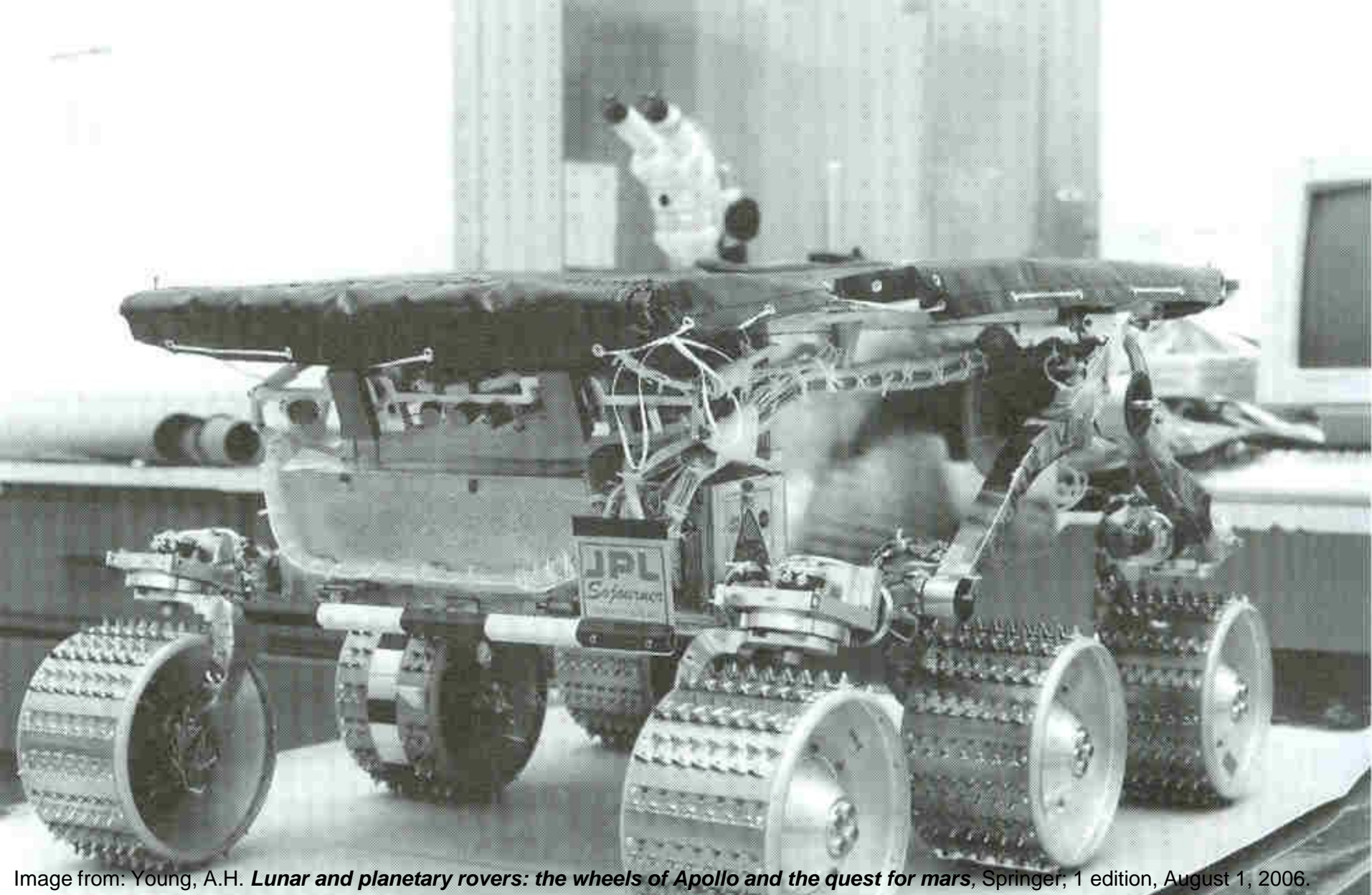


FIGURE 4-20 DGU POWER CONSUMPTION

Mars Rovers

Mars Pathfinder "Sojourner"

ELECTRICAL POWER

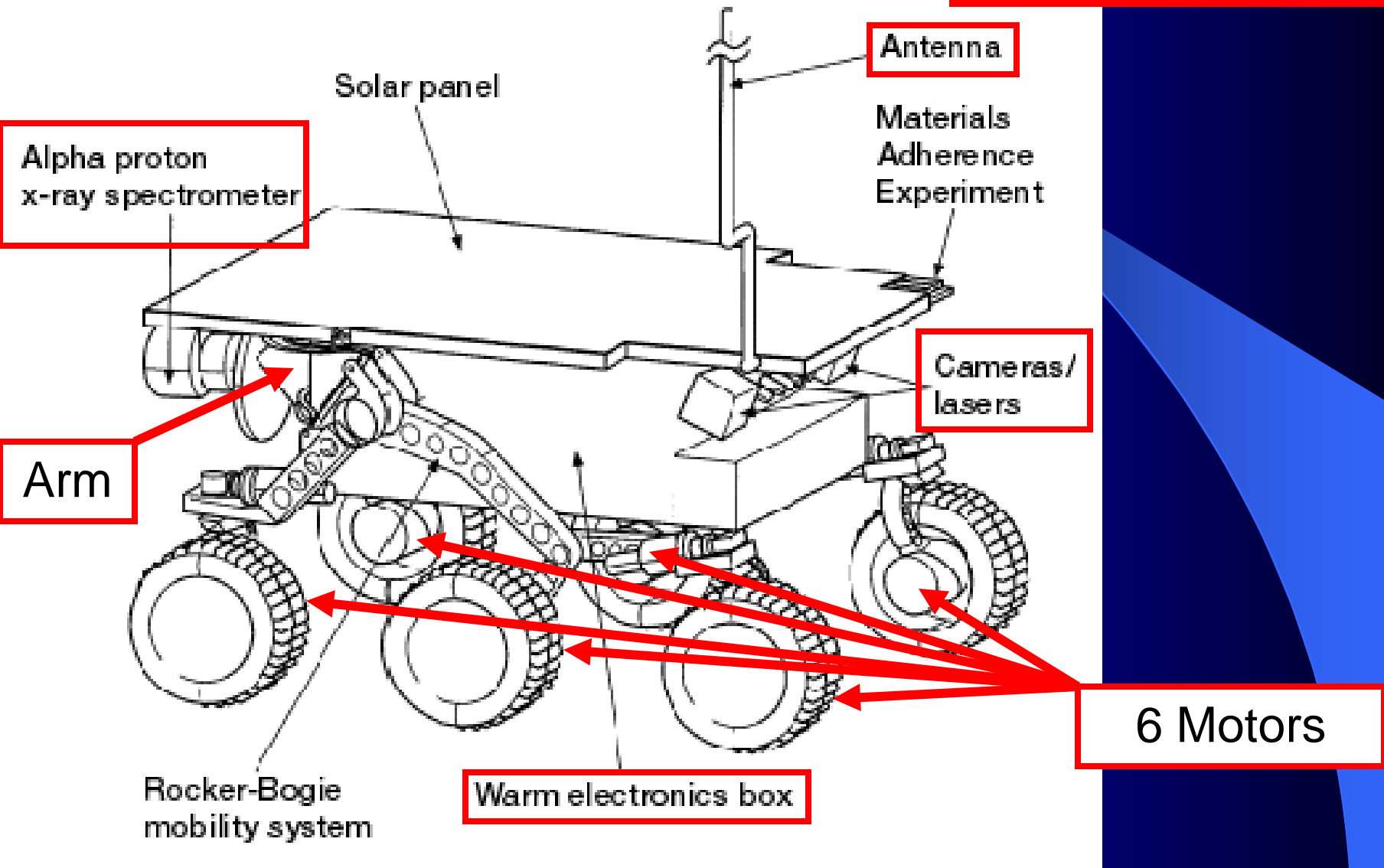


Mars Rovers

Mars Pathfinder "Sojourner"

ELECTRICAL POWER

POWER DEMAND

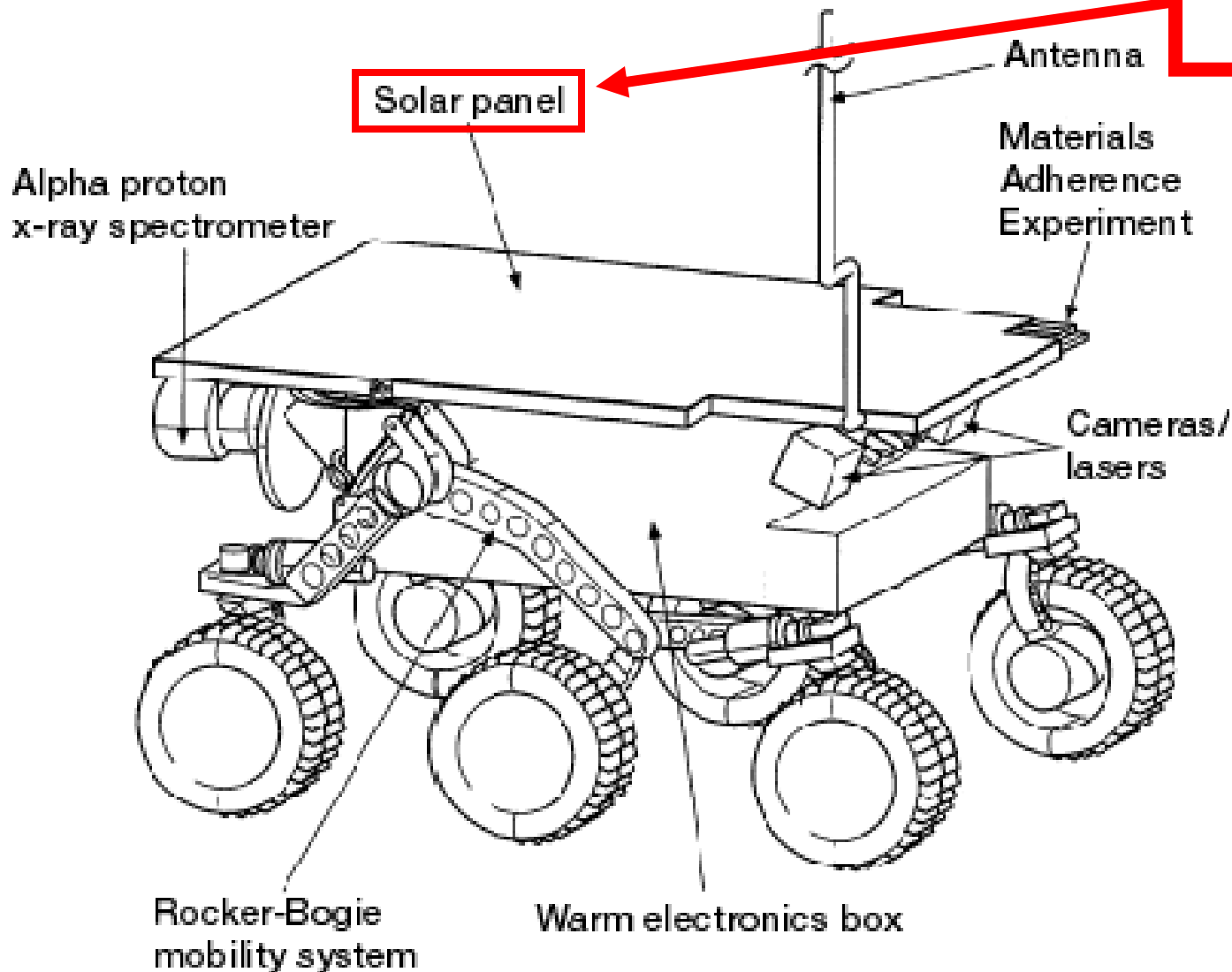


Mars Rovers

Mars Pathfinder "Sojourner"

ELECTRICAL POWER

**POWER
GENERATION**



ELECTRICAL POWER

SOLAR POWER GENERATION

DISTANCES FROM SUN:

To Moon = ~1 AU (Astronomical Unit)

To Mars = 1.524 AU

To Europa = ~5.203 AU



ELECTRICAL POWER

SOLAR POWER GENERATION

DISTANCES FROM SUN:

To Moon = ~1 AU (Astronomical Unit)

To Mars = 1.524 AU

To Europa = ~5.203 AU

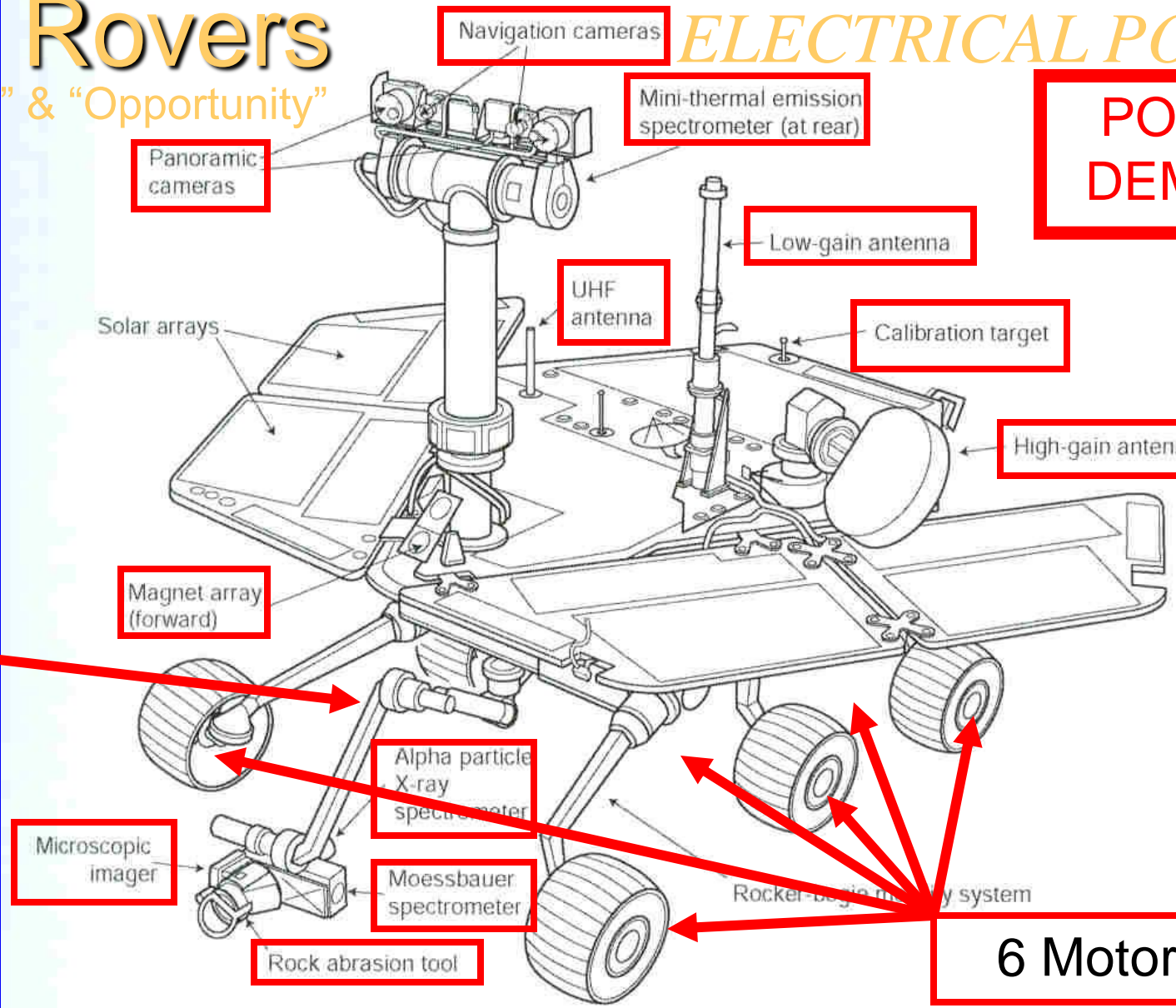


Mars Rovers

"Spirit" & "Opportunity"

ELECTRICAL POWER

POWER DEMAND



Arm

6 Motors

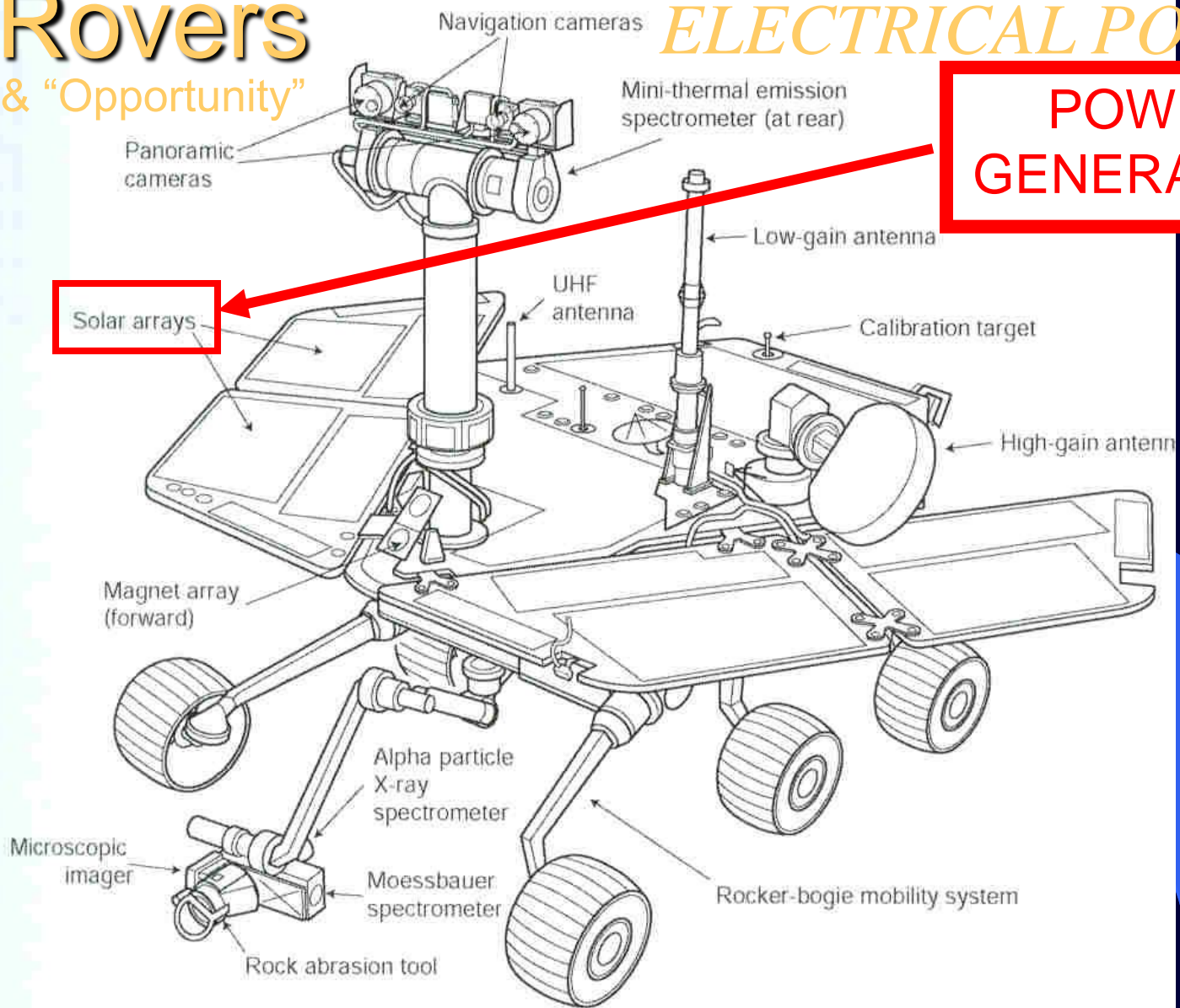
This illustration shows key components of the MER rover from the top but does not show the bulk of the electronic equipment inside the body of the rover. (NASA/JPL)

Mars Rovers

“Spirit” & “Opportunity”

ELECTRICAL POWER

POWER GENERATION



This illustration shows key components of the MER rover from the top but does not show the bulk of the electronic equipment inside the body of the rover. (NASA/JPL)

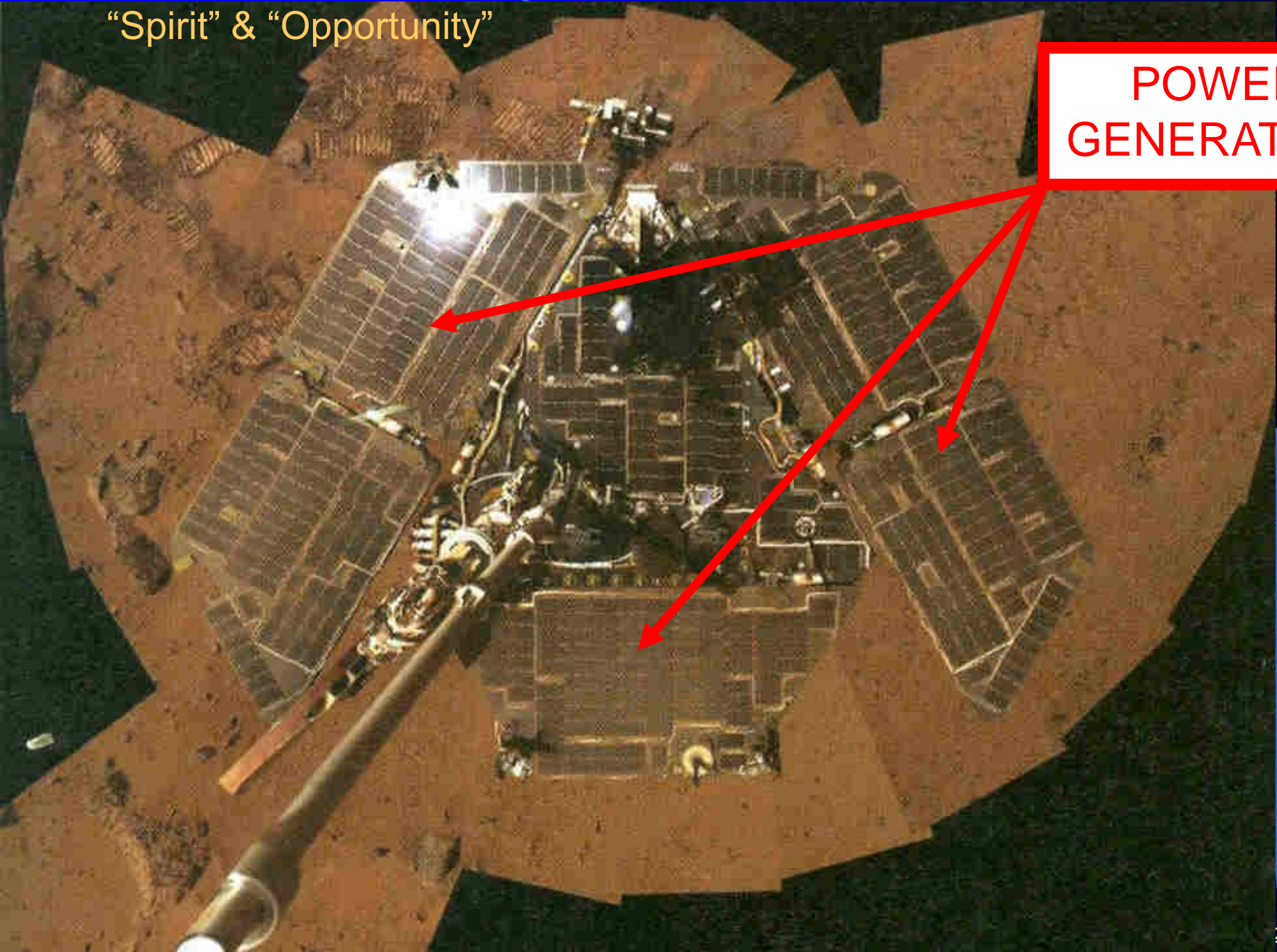
Mars Rovers

“Spirit” & “Opportunity”

ELECTRICAL POWER

2004

**POWER
GENERATION**

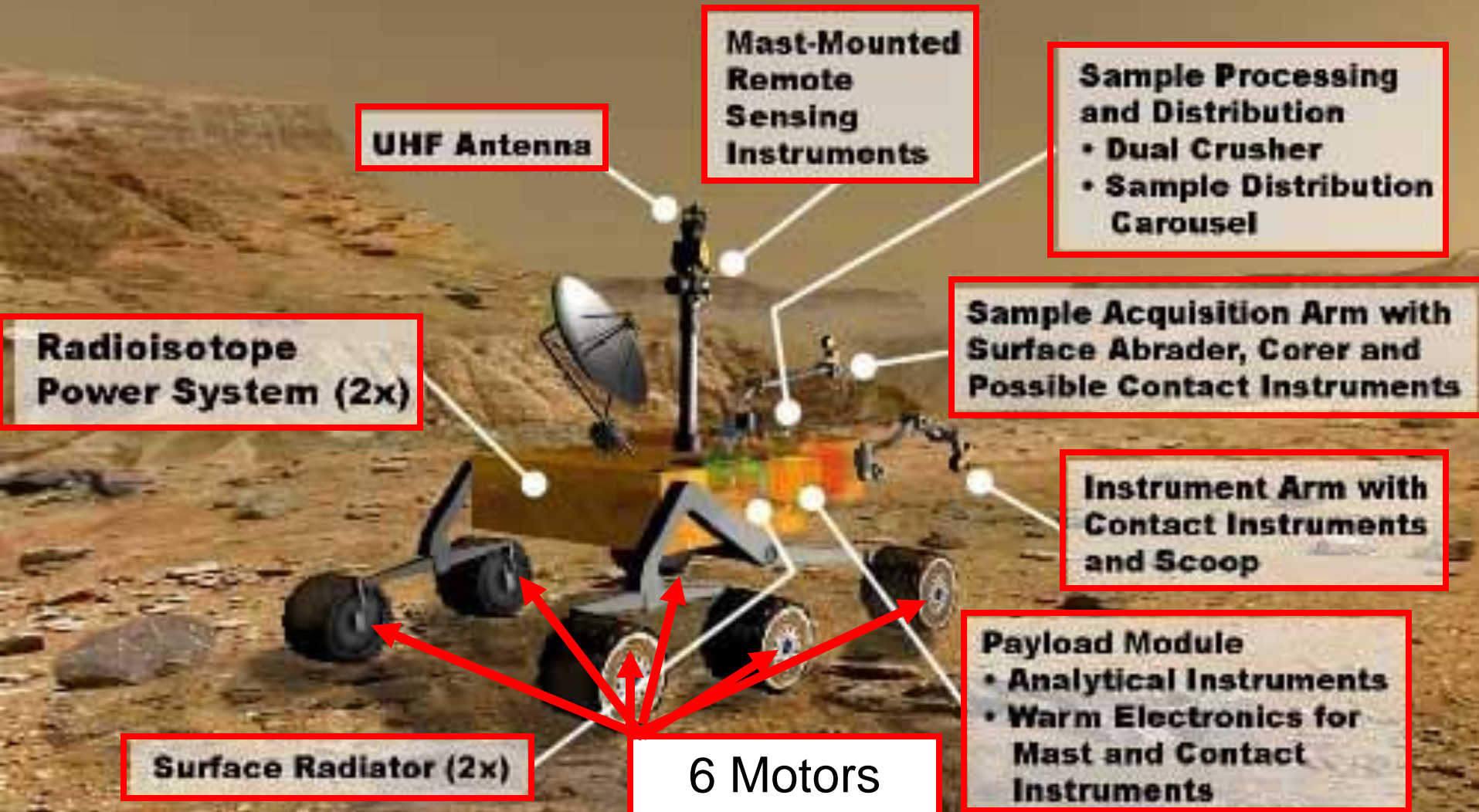


Mars Rovers

Mars Science Lab

ELECTRICAL POWER

POWER DEMAND



ELECTRICAL POWER

SOLAR POWER
GENERATION
POTENTIAL OK

DISTANCES FROM SUN:

To Moon = ~1 AU (Astronomical Unit)

To Mars = 1.524 AU

To Europa = ~5.203 AU



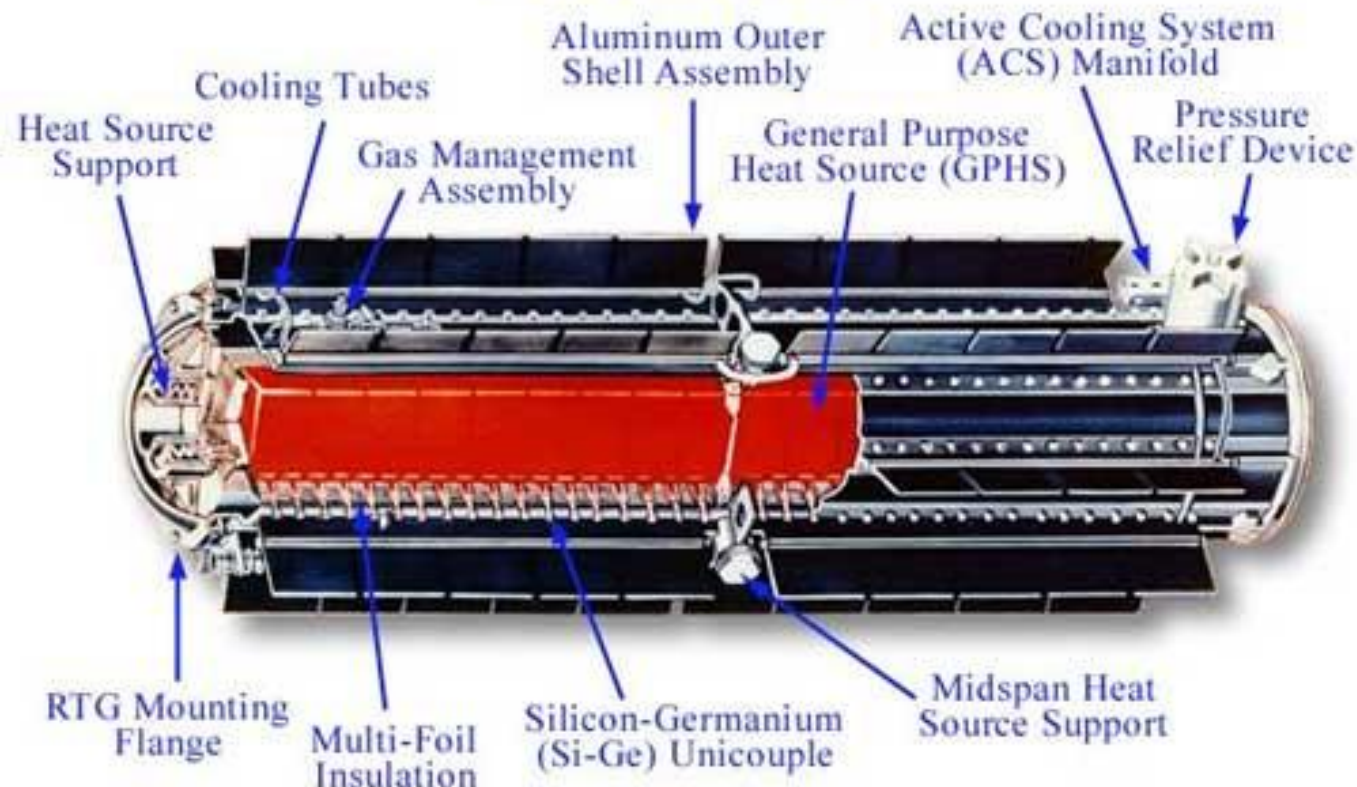
Mars Rovers

Mars Science Lab

ELECTRICAL POWER

Nuclear Power

GPHS-RTG



Nuclear not dependent on Martian day and seasons that effect solar collection

And there is no need to worry about rover path as a function of obtaining best solar angles

Europa Rover

ELECTRICAL POWER

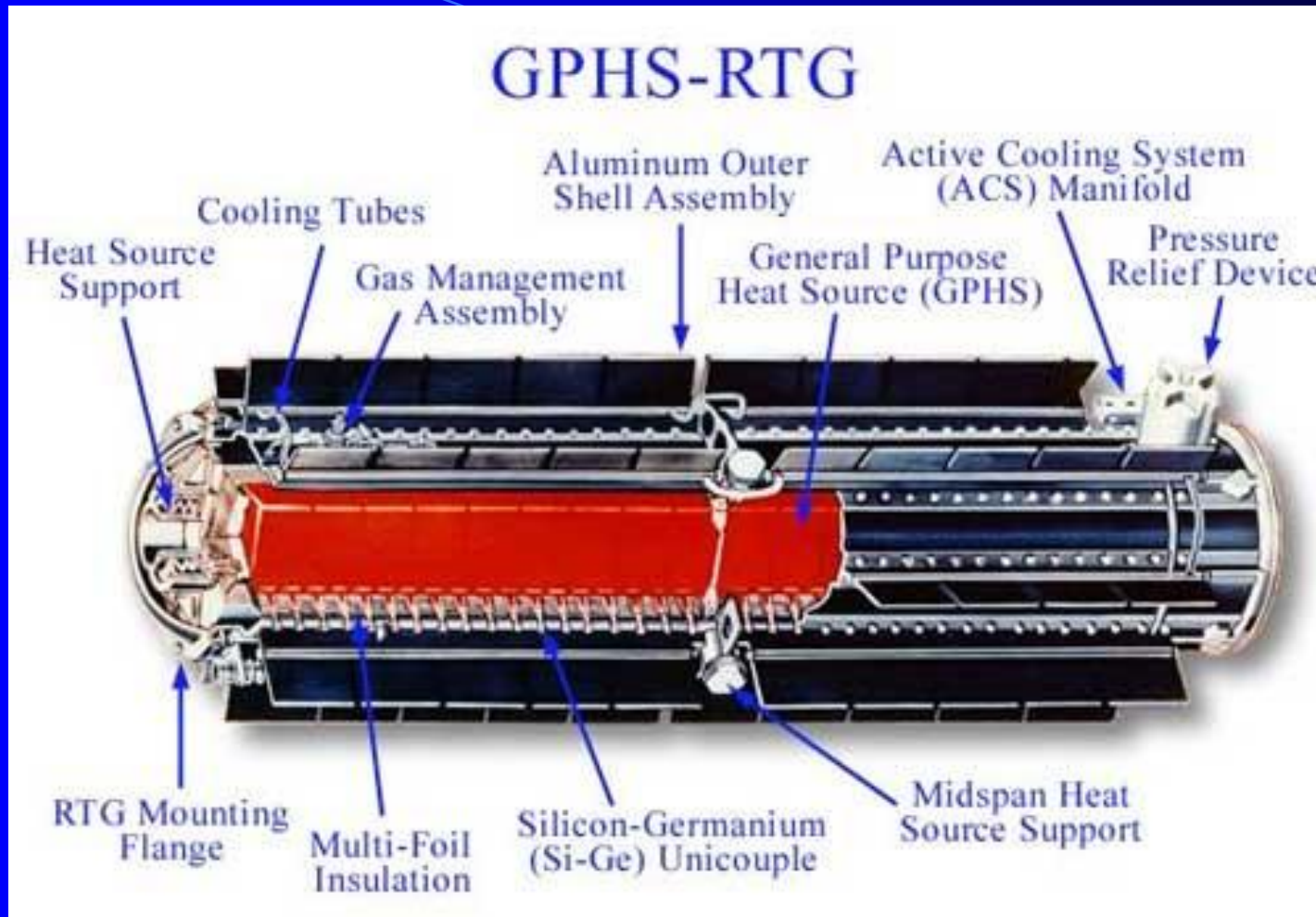
SOLAR POWER GENERATION
WOULD BE DIFFICULT

DISTANCES FROM SUN:

To Moon = ~1 AU (Astronomical Unit)
To Mars = 1.524 AU
To Europa = ~5.203 AU

Optional course project Concept Paper
See course [syllabus](#) for details





See more on these small nuclear power sources (**Radioisotope Thermoelectric Generators**) used in space exploration since 1961 at:

http://solarsystem.nasa.gov/multimedia/downloads/Standard_RPS_Report_Final_011205.pdf