

# Contents

Foreword	xi
Acknowledgments	xiii
To the Moon by washing machine	xv
<b>1. Apollo in outline</b>	
1.1 The politics of Apollo	1
1.2 The mission	1
1.3 The Moon	2
1.3.1 Apollo's contribution to lunar science	7
1.3.2 The origin of the Moon	10
1.3.3 Moon facts	12
1.4 The immediate future	13
Endnotes	13
	14
<b>2. The best driver in physics</b>	15
2.1 The first voyage to the Moon	15
2.2 On spacecraft and shopping trolleys	15
2.3 The power of imagination	15
2.4 Falling	18
2.5 Forces during liftoff: The astronauts	20
2.6 Forces during liftoff: The spacecraft	23
2.7 Momentum	25
2.8 The physics of rocket motors	27
Endnotes	30
<b>3. Rocketry</b>	31
3.1 Faltering starts	31
3.2 Thrust	32
3.3 Propellant	32
3.4 Applying Newton's laws to spacecraft	34
3.4.1 No gravitational force	36
3.4.2 The effect of gravitational pull: Launch	37
3.5 Real rocket engines	38
3.5.1 Propellant delivery	38
3.5.2 Nozzle design	40
3.5.3 Controlling thrust (throttling)	44
3.6 Staging	44
3.7 Future developments in rocketry	48
3.7.1 Nuclear thermal engines	49
3.7.2 Solar thermal engines	50
3.7.3 Ion drive (electrical propulsion)	51
Endnotes	52
<b>INTERMISSION 1 THE SATURN V BOOSTER ROCKET</b>	55
I1.1 A typical Saturn V launch	58
I1.1.1 Stage details from the press kit issued prior to Apollo 11 launch	60
I1.1.2 Payload capacity (total mass of components above instrument unit)	61
I1.1.3 Saturn V contractors	61
Endnotes	61

## Contents

<b>4. Orbit and trajectories</b>	<b>63</b>
4.1 Hollywood gets it right	63
4.2 Falling again	63
4.3 Orbits	65
4.4 Centripetal forces	67
4.5 Gravity and orbits	69
4.6 Other orbits	71
4.7 Simulating gravity	71
4.8 Changing orbits	73
4.8.1 Hohmann transfers	77
4.9 Flying to the Moon	78
4.10 Missions to Mars	79
4.10.1 Martian transfer orbits	80
Opposition-type transfers	81
Conjunction-type transfers	81
$\Delta V$ versus mission duration	81
4.10.2 Mars launch windows	83
Endnotes	84
<b>INTERMISSION 2 FROM MERCURY TO GEMINI</b>	<b>85</b>
Endnotes	90
<b>5. The Apollo command and service modules</b>	<b>91</b>
5.1 Mission modes	91
5.1.1 The wild side	92
5.2 The command module (CM)	94
5.2.1 Command module construction and heat shields	96
5.2.2 The forward compartment	98
5.2.3 The aft compartment	98
5.2.4 The crew compartment	98
5.2.5 Manoeuvring	102
5.2.6 Docking	102
5.2.7 Re-entry and splashdown	104
5.3 The service module (SM)	106
5.3.1 Design and construction	106
5.3.2 The SPS	107
5.3.3 Fuel cells (Electrical Power System or EPS)	107
5.3.4 Communications	108
Endnotes	109
<b>INTERMISSION 3 INERTIAL GUIDANCE AND COMPUTERS</b>	<b>111</b>
I3.1 The need for a guidance system	111
I3.2 Guidance and control systems	112
I3.3 The Apollo computer	113
I3.3.1 The principle of core memory	115
I3.4 Software	116
I3.4.1 Software engineering 'on the hoof'	116
Endnotes	116
<b>6. The lunar module</b>	<b>117</b>
6.1 Designing the first spacecraft	117
6.2 The ascent stage	117
6.2.1 The environmental control system	122

6.3	The descent stage	124
6.3.1	Powered descent	125
6.3.2	The flying bedstead	126
6.4	Spacesuits	127
6.4.1	Backpacks	127
6.5	The lunar rover	130
6.6	The ascent to orbit	131
	Endnotes	133
		134
<b>INTERMISSION 4 THE THREE 'INGS'</b>		<b>135</b>
I4.1	Eating	135
I4.2	Sleeping	135
I4.3	Excreting	136
	Endnotes	136
<b>7.</b>	<b>The missions</b>	<b>137</b>
7.1	The great tragedy: Apollo 1	137
7.2	Testing phase: Apollos 4–6	139
7.2.1	Apollo 4 launch (November 4, 1967)	139
7.2.2	Apollo 5 launch (January 22, 1968)	139
7.2.3	Apollo 6 launch (April 4, 1968)	140
7.3	The forgotten mission: Apollo 7 (October 11–22, 1968)	141
7.4	The most daring mission: Apollo 8 (December 21–27, 1968)	141
7.5	The LM flies: Apollo 9 (March 3–13, 1969)	143
7.6	The LM's first journey to the Moon: Apollo 10 (May 18–26, 1969)	144
7.7	The landing: Apollo 11 (July 16–24, 1969)	146
7.8	Precision landing and all-weather testing: Apollo 12 (November 14–24, 1969)	148
7.9	The almost tragedy: Apollo 13 (April 11–17, 1970)	152
7.10	Apollo 14 (January 31–February 9, 1971)	155
7.11	Apollo 15 (July 26–August 7, 1971)	157
7.12	Apollo 16 (April 16–27, 1972)	159
7.13	Apollo 17 (April 16–27, 1972)	159
7.14	Apollo-Soyuz (Apollo: July 15–24, 1975; Soyuz: July 15–24, 1975)	162
	Endnotes	163
<b>8.</b>	<b>The space shuttle</b>	<b>165</b>
8.1	Rocket planes	165
8.2	The STS components	166
8.2.1	The orbiter	167
8.2.1.1	The remote manipulator arm	170
8.2.1.2	Thermal protection	171
8.2.2	The external tank	172
8.2.3	The solid rocket boosters (SRBs)	172
8.3	Computer systems	173
8.4	Assembling the space shuttle	173
8.5	Installing the payloads	176
8.6	Launching a shuttle	176
8.7	<i>Challenger</i>	179
8.7.1	Physical causes of the disaster	180
8.7.2	Investigation conclusions	183
8.8	<i>Columbia</i>	183
8.8.1	The mission	184
8.8.2	Launch	184

## Contents

8.8.3	Foam strike	184
8.8.4	Debris loss	185
8.8.5	Re-entry	186
8.8.6	The investigation board	187
8.8.7	Foam loss during launch	188
8.9	Space transportation system (STS) evaluation	189
	Endnotes	190
	<b>INTERMISSION 5 THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION (ISS)</b>	<b>193</b>
9.	<b>From the Moon to Mars</b>	<b>197</b>
9.1	Fifty years of NASA (1969–2019)	197
9.1.1	The post-Apollo years	197
9.1.2	Space shuttles and SEI	199
9.1.3	Faster-better-cheaper	200
9.1.4	The vision	201
9.1.5	Moon to Mars	202
9.2	Orion	203
9.2.1	The service module	203
9.2.2	The crew module	203
9.2.3	The launch escape system	206
9.3	The space launch system	206
9.3.1	Criticisms of SLS and changing NASA opinions	207
9.4	Lunar orbital platform – Gateway	209
9.4.1	Halo orbits	210
9.4.2	Criticism of lunar gateway	211
9.5	On to Mars	211
9.5.1	Mars Direct proposal	211
9.5.1.1	The Mars Direct profile	212
9.5.2	NASA's reaction	213
9.5.3	SpaceX	215
	Endnotes	217
	<b>Appendix 1</b>	<b>219</b>
	<b>Appendix 2</b>	<b>221</b>
	<b>Index</b>	<b>225</b>