EFFECTS OF A RETRONOZZLE LOCATED AT
THE APEX OF A 140° BLUNT CONE AT
MACH NUMBERS OF 3.00, 4.50, AND 6.00

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Page 24: Figure 4(f) was printed incorrectly and should be replaced by the attached corrected figure.

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SUMMARY

Some effects of a supersonic retronozzle located at the apex of a 140° spherically blunted cone have been investigated at free-stream Mach numbers of 3.00, 4.50, and 6.00 at angles of attack of 0°, 2°, and 5°. Nozzle thrust was varied over a large range, and surface-pressure distributions and schlieren photographs were obtained. The free-stream Reynolds number varied from about $0.7 \times 10^6$ to $1.0 \times 10^6$ per foot ($2.3 \times 10^6$ to $3.3 \times 10^6$ per meter) as the Mach number was increased from 3.00 to 6.00.

Several distinct types of flow occurred on the cone, including two unsteady-flow regimes and two steady-flow regimes. Generally, the unsteady flows were restricted to low values of nozzle thrust and were observed at all angles of attack. The two steady-flow regimes occurred with increasing nozzle thrust; at the highest test values of nozzle thrust, the condition of no shear-layer reattachment on the cone was approximated. For the steady-flow regimes, the locations of the jet shock, flow interface, and bow shock together with the separation and reattachment pressures were all primarily functions of the nozzle-thrust coefficient. Because of the extensive flow separation and accompanying low pressures on the cone surface, only at the highest thrust values was the total drag (integrated-pressure drag coefficient plus nozzle-thrust coefficient) greater than the jet-off value of integrated-pressure drag coefficient. This result was obtained at all three test Mach numbers.

INTRODUCTION

The use of retrorockets located on the surface of conical aeroshells is one system that may be considered for braking vehicles during their descent through a planetary atmosphere. The use of this type of system requires an understanding of the flow field that results from interaction of retrorocket exhaust with oncoming flow and of the subsequent effects on the entry vehicle.
Reference 1 presents exploratory results in the form of high-speed motion pictures and schlieren photographs to illustrate the effect of forward-facing jets on the bow shock of a blunt body in a Mach 6 free stream for low values of jet-total-pressure ratio. References 2 and 3 present pressure results for forward-facing jets below a Mach number of 3 for flat-faced cylindrical bodies and a blunt body. References 4 to 6 present pressure and force results obtained for blunt bodies with single- and multiple-nozzle configurations.

The present investigation was initiated to study the interaction of a single supersonic jet exhausting from a conical aeroshell. Most of the previous tests were performed for jet flow exhausting from tubes or flat-faced cylinders and do not reflect the interactions of interest for planetary entry vehicles. This investigation also provides experimental results which are very helpful in the development of analytical methods to predict the flow field in the immediate vicinity of a planetary entry vehicle employing retro-rockets. Results were obtained for a single supersonic retrorozzle located at the apex of a $140^\circ$ blunt cone for high jet-total-pressure ratios and for Mach numbers from 3.00 to 6.00. Surface-pressure distributions and schlieren photographs were obtained at angles of attack of $0^\circ$, $2^\circ$, and $5^\circ$.

**SYMBOLS**

- $C_D$ drag coefficient, from integrated pressures at $\alpha = 0^\circ$
- $C_p$ pressure coefficient, $\frac{p - p_\infty}{q_\infty}$
- $C_T$ nozzle-thrust coefficient, $\frac{T}{q_\infty \cdot S}$
- $D_b$ cone-base diameter
- $D_n$ cone-nose diameter
- $d_e$ nozzle-exit diameter
- $H$ distance to flow interface (see fig. 11)
- $h$ jet-shock standoff distance (see fig. 10)
- $l$ bow-shock standoff distance at jet-on conditions at $\alpha = 0^\circ$ (see fig. 12)
- $M$ Mach number

2
\( p \)  static pressure
\( p_t \)  total pressure
\( q \)  dynamic pressure
\( r \)  local radius measured from cone center line
\( S \)  model base area, 0.11 ft\(^2\) (102.19 cm\(^2\))
\( T \)  nozzle thrust, \( \frac{\pi d_e^2}{4} \left( 2q_j + p_j - p_\infty \right) \)
\( \alpha \)  angle of attack
\( \delta \)  bow-shock standoff distance at jet-off conditions at \( \alpha = 0^\circ \) (see fig. 7)

Subscripts:

\( j \)  jet
\( s \)  separation (conditions at orifice 1)
\( r \)  reattachment
\( \infty \)  free stream

APPARATUS AND TESTS

Model

A sketch of the general arrangement of the test model, sting, and nozzle is shown in figure 1, and model details, nozzle details, and orifice locations are shown in figure 2.

The 140° cone model had a spherical nose bluntness \( D_n/D_b \) of 0.50 with a supersonic retronozzle located at the apex. The cone had a sharp shoulder, and the base diameter \( D_b \) was 4.50 inches (11.43 cm). Twelve static-pressure orifices (0.06 inch (0.15 cm) in diameter) drilled perpendicular to the local-surface slope were located along a ray on the upper half of the model (see fig. 2).

The model support sting was made of a hollow steel tube to allow gaseous nitrogen from a supply tank to empty into a plenum ahead of the nozzle (see fig. 1). The area
ratio of the nozzle (ratio of exit area to throat area) was 4.24, and the design Mach number for one-dimensional isentropic flow was 3.00. Cold, gaseous nitrogen at approximately local atmospheric total temperature \(70^\circ F (294^\circ K)\) was used to obtain the exhaust plume. The nozzle was sized to obtain test data up to a thrust coefficient of about 2.

Wind Tunnel

The tests were conducted in a 2-foot hypersonic facility at the Langley Research Center. This wind tunnel, described in reference 7, is an ejector type which provides continuous flow at high Mach numbers and low densities. The average conditions for the present investigation are shown in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(M_\infty)</th>
<th>Stagnation temperature (\text{OF} / \text{K})</th>
<th>Stagnation pressure (\text{lb/ft}^2 / \text{kN/m}^2)</th>
<th>Dynamic pressure (\text{lb/ft}^2 / \text{kN/m}^2)</th>
<th>Static pressure (\text{lb/ft}^2 / \text{kN/m}^2)</th>
<th>Reynolds number per ft / per m</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>100 / 311</td>
<td>696 / 33</td>
<td>119.36 / 5.71</td>
<td>18.95 / 0.91</td>
<td>(0.71 \times 10^6 / 2.33 \times 10^6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.50</td>
<td>300 / 422</td>
<td>2949 / 141</td>
<td>144.43 / 6.92</td>
<td>10.19 / .49</td>
<td>.87 / 2.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.00</td>
<td>300 / 422</td>
<td>6129 / 293</td>
<td>97.82 / 4.68</td>
<td>3.88 / .19</td>
<td>.99 / 3.25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nitrogen Supply

High-pressure gaseous nitrogen was generated by pumping liquid nitrogen to the required storage pressure and converting it from liquid to gas in a steam-actuated heat exchanger. The high-pressure gaseous nitrogen was then stored in a tank farm having a capacity of 800 ft\(^3\) \((22.65 \text{ m}^3)\). Suitable pressure-reducing and pressure-regulating valves were remotely controlled to obtain the nitrogen gas pressure in a manifold outside the test section which, in turn, fed the nozzle plenum chamber in the model. Once the correct pressure was obtained in the manifold, a quick-acting guillotine valve was employed to initiate and terminate the flow to the nozzles. Minor pressure adjustments could be made after initiation of flow through the nozzles.

Instrumentation

The local-cone-surface pressures and the nozzle-plenum pressure were obtained from absolute pressure-measuring transducers. Data were obtained by a high-speed data acquisition system and recorded on magnetic tape. Schlieren photographs were obtained with the use of a 2-\(\mu\)sec flash from a xenon light source.
Tests and Accuracy

Pressure and schlieren data were obtained at free-stream Mach numbers of 3.00, 4.50, and 6.00 at angles of attack of 0°, 2°, and 5°. Since the pressure orifices were located only on the upper surface of the model, the pressure data obtained at \( \alpha = -2° \) and \(-5° \) are plotted at negative values of \( r/D_b \) for \( \alpha = 2° \) and \( 5° \) in figures 3 to 5. The range of \( p_{t,j}/p_{t,\infty} \) varied from jet off to about 250, 70, and 20 at free-stream Mach numbers of 3.00, 4.50, and 6.00, respectively. The surface of the model was smooth; that is, no boundary-layer transition strips were employed, and it is believed that laminar flow existed over the entire model surface at jet-off conditions since the model length was small and the test Reynolds numbers were low.

The maximum Mach number variation in the region of the test model was less than ±0.04, and the angles of attack were accurate to within ±0.1°. Accuracy of the pressure transducers was better than 1 percent of the full-scale range of the gage (2.0 lb/in² (13.8 kN/m²)). The repeatability of the data is indicated in several figures (see figs. 3 to 5). The values of \( p_{t,j}/p_{t,\infty} \) quoted herein are estimated to be accurate within ±2 percent.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Surface-pressure data and schlieren photographs are presented in figures 3 to 5 to illustrate the effects of angle of attack and Mach number for varying jet-total-pressure ratio. Figures 6 and 7 present the effect of Mach number on the surface-pressure coefficient and bow-shock standoff distance for jet-off conditions and \( \alpha = 0° \). The various flow regimes that occurred in the test program are illustrated by the schlieren photographs in figure 8, and figure 9 illustrates the flow phenomena induced by the jet. Figures 10 to 12 present the jet-shock location, flow-interface location, and bow-shock location as functions of Mach number and thrust coefficient. In figure 13, the pressure coefficients at separation and reattachment are shown as functions of Mach number and thrust coefficient. The measured surface pressures were integrated to obtain the drag coefficients at \( \alpha = 0° \), and these integrated-pressure drag coefficients are presented as functions of Mach number and thrust coefficient in figure 14.

Jet-Off Aerodynamics

Pressure coefficients presented in figures 3 to 5 were obtained at angles of attack of 0°, 2°, and 5°. The pressure coefficients for jet-off conditions were higher on the windward surface (negative \( r/D_b \)) than on the leeward surface (positive \( r/D_b \)) at angles of attack of 2° and 5°, as expected. Figure 6 indicates the effects on \( C_p \) of free-stream Mach number for \( \alpha = 0° \). Values of \( C_p \) at \( r/D_b = 0 \) were calculated from...
normal-shock equations, since no data were obtainable because of the nozzle location. These calculated values are denoted in figure 6 by solid symbols. The increase in the pressure-coefficient data with an increase in $M_\infty$ from 3.00 to 6.00 is similar to the trend of the calculated values. At $M_\infty = 4.50$, however, the pressure coefficients generally were less than those at $M_\infty = 3.00$. This result is not understood at present, but a possible explanation is indicated by the schlieren photographs of figure 4, which show weak shock waves from the tunnel nozzle near the cone at $M_\infty = 4.50$. Other characteristics at $M_\infty = 4.50$ appear to have the correct magnitudes, as shown subsequently.

Bow-shock standoff distances referred to the virtual apex of the 140° blunt cone are shown in figure 7 as functions of Mach number. For comparison, the bow-shock standoff distances obtained from the theory of reference 8 are shown for a 140° sharp cone. Both the trend with Mach number and the magnitude of the measured distances are in reasonable agreement with the theory. This agreement suggests that for the amount of blunting $\left(\frac{D_n}{D_b} = 0.50\right)$, the bow-shock standoff distance is primarily a function of cone semiaxial angle.

Jet-On Aerodynamics

Flow observations. From a study of the schlieren photographs in figures 3 to 5 and other schlieren photographs obtained in this investigation, four different flow regimes were observed at $\alpha = 0^\circ$. Similar flow regimes have been observed in other investigations (refs. 1 and 2), but as far as is known, this is the first observation of all four flow regimes during a single investigation. The types of flow that existed were found to be primarily functions of nozzle-exit characteristics (for a fixed-nozzle-geometry thrust coefficient). The four flow regimes are identified in figure 8 and related to $C_T$.

For $C_T = 0.03$ (regime 1; $p_j < p_s$), the flow penetrated forward a short distance from the nozzle exit and the flow field was unsteady. For this regime the local pressure in the vicinity of the nozzle exit was greater than the jet-exit static pressure would be if the nozzle flow were fully expanded, and some flow separation in the nozzle itself probably occurred. The resulting flow unsteadiness is probably related to the unsteady character of the nozzle boundary-layer separation and its effect on the exhaust flow. For $C_T = 0.11$ (regime 2; $p_j \approx p_s$), the jet flow penetrated far upstream and the flow field was unsteady. For this flow regime the local pressure in the vicinity of the nozzle exit was approximately equal to the jet-exit static pressure, the nozzle flow being fully expanded. For $C_T = 0.32$ (regime 3; $p_j > p_s$), the upstream penetration of the jet flow decreased and the flow field was steady. For this regime the nozzle flow was highly underexpanded. Flow reattachment occurred on the outer periphery of the cone. An increase to $C_T = 1.60$ (regime 4; $p_j > p_s$) caused the steady flow field to become large with respect to the nozzle-exit diameter, and the cone was immersed in the wake of the jet flow. Regime 4
has been identified in the literature as the flow regime where the body is completely immersed in a wake-type flow with no shear-layer reattachment occurring on the body (e.g., ref. 9). The schlieren photographs indicate that the condition of no shear-layer reattachment is approximated at the cone shoulder.

A schlieren photograph and a sketch of regime 3 are presented in figure 9 to illustrate the features of the flow fields. (Descriptions of these flow phenomena are given in ref. 1.) Flow phenomena such as the separated-flow region, the jet shock, the interface, and the reattachment shock are shown. The nozzle flow expands from the supersonic exhaust velocity at the nozzle-exit plane to some much higher Mach number, experiences a strong terminal shock and then decelerates subsonically to a mutual stagnation point along the axis, and turns and flows downstream. The oncoming free-stream flow encounters a bow shock, and the recovered stagnation pressure for both flows must be equal. An interface which appears as a thin region in which viscous forces are strong separates the free-stream flow from the nozzle flow. The oncoming free-stream flow undergoes a sudden deceleration and entropy increase through the bow-shock wave and then turns subsonically and flows outward between the bow-shock wave and the interface with a subsequent reacceleration to sonic and supersonic velocities, while the nozzle flow which passes through the jet shock flows outward between the jet shock and the interface. Viscous interaction and mixing between the two gas streams occurs along the interface. The region of separated flow, or dead-air region (recirculation region), is bounded by the cone surface, the jet boundary, and the mixed-flow region, with flow reattachment occurring near the cone shoulder.

Jet shock, flow interface, and bow-shock location at \( \alpha = 0^\circ \). - Figures 10 to 12 present the jet-shock, flow-interface, and bow-shock locations as functions of nozzle-thrust coefficient. The jet-shock location is related to the diameter of the nozzle exit, and the flow-interface and bow-shock locations are related to the diameter of the cone base. These locations were measured from the schlieren photographs taken during the investigation. Increasing the nozzle-thrust coefficient \( C_T \) in the steady-flow regimes results in a forward movement of the jet-shock, flow-interface, and bow-shock locations. The jet-shock location can be seen in figure 10 to be largely dependent on \( C_T \) with little dependence upon free-stream Mach number. Both the interface and bow-shock locations (figs. 11 and 12) are also strongly influenced by \( C_T \); however, some Mach number dependency is indicated for the bow-shock location, as would be expected.

Correlation of pressure data at \( \alpha = 0^\circ \). - The separation pressure coefficient (at orifice 1) and the pressure coefficient at flow reattachment are presented in figure 13 as functions of \( C_T \) for \( \alpha = 0^\circ \). In general, both the separation and reattachment
pressures were correlated by $C_T$ in the steady-flow regime and do not show obvious dependence on any other variables.

**Effect of integrated-pressure drag coefficient.** - Integrated-pressure drag coefficients at $\alpha = 0^\circ$ are presented in figure 14 as functions of $C_T$. The integrated-pressure drag coefficient on the cone $C_D$ (see solid symbols) decreased with increasing $C_T$; this decrease in $C_D$ is associated with the low pressures on the cone surface in the separated-flow region. Integrated-pressure drag coefficient plus nozzle-thrust coefficient $C_D + C_T$ (see open symbols) also initially decreased with increasing $C_T$ (in the unsteady regimes), and a value of $C_T \gtrsim 1.60$ is required to obtain a value of $C_D + C_T$ equal to the $C_D$ alone at jet-off conditions. This result was obtained at all three test Mach numbers. Reference 6 indicates that for $C_T$ above about 2, there is little difference between the total drag ($C_D + C_T$) and the thrust coefficient of the jet alone ($C_T$) for a $120^\circ$ blunt cone at $M_\infty = 2.0$.

**Effect of angle of attack.** - Regions of unsteady flow, similar in character to those for $\alpha = 0^\circ$ previously discussed, were observed at angles of attack of $2^\circ$ and $5^\circ$ by inspection of the schlieren photographs (figs. 3 to 5) at all test Mach numbers and low test values of $p_{t,i}/p_{t,\infty}$. At high test values of $p_{t,i}/p_{t,\infty}$ large regions of flow separation and low pressure coefficients occurred on the leeward surface; somewhat larger pressure coefficients occurred on the windward surface, with flow reattachment occurring near the shoulder of the cone. In the unsteady-flow regimes, surface-pressure coefficients larger than jet-off values occurred on the windward surface at $\alpha = 2^\circ$ and $5^\circ$. The results of reference 10 also indicate reattachment pressures higher than stagnation pressure for a $120^\circ$ blunt cone with a sharp cone-cylinder spike located at the apex.

**CONCLUDING REMARKS**

Some effects of a supersonic retronnozzle located at the apex of a $140^\circ$ spherically blunted cone have been investigated at free-stream Mach numbers of 3.00, 4.50, and 6.00 at angles of attack of $0^\circ$, $2^\circ$, and $5^\circ$. Nozzle thrust was varied over a large range, and surface-pressure distributions and schlieren photographs were obtained. The free-stream Reynolds number varied from about $0.7 \times 10^6$ to $1.0 \times 10^6$ per foot ($2.3 \times 10^6$ to $3.3 \times 10^6$ per meter) as the Mach number was increased from 3.00 to 6.00.

Several distinct types of flow occurred on the cone, including two unsteady-flow regimes and two steady-flow regimes. Generally, the unsteady flows were restricted to low values of nozzle thrust and were observed at all angles of attack. The two steady-flow regimes occurred with increasing nozzle thrust; at the highest test values of nozzle thrust, the condition of no shear-layer reattachment on the cone was approximated. For the steady-flow regimes, the locations of the jet shock, flow interface, and bow shock
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low pressures on the cone surface, only at the highest thrust values was the total drag
(integrated-pressure drag coefficient plus nozzle-thrust coefficient) greater than the jet-
off value of integrated-pressure drag coefficient. This result was obtained at all three
test Mach numbers.

Langley Research Center,
National Aeronautics and Space Administration,
Hampton, Va., August 7, 1970.
REFERENCES


Figure 1.- Sketch of cone showing sting and nozzle arrangement.
Figure 2.- Model details, nozzle details, and orifice locations. (Dimensions are in inches (cm).) $D_b = 4.50$ inches (11.43 cm).
Figure 3.- Pressure distributions and schlieren photographs for varying $p_{t,j}/p_{t,\infty}$. $M_\infty = 3.00$. (Solid symbols indicate repeat data.)
(b) Pressure distribution at $\alpha = 2^\circ$.

Figure 3.- Continued.
Figure 3.- Continued.

(c) Pressure distribution at $\alpha = 5^\circ$.
(d) Schlieren photographs at $\alpha = 0^\circ$. L-70-4747

Figure 3.- Continued.
(e) Schlieren photographs at $\alpha = 2^\circ$. L-70-4748

Figure 3.- Continued.
Jet off

$f_{p_t, j/p_t, \infty}$ = 6.71

$f_{p_t, j/p_t, \infty}$ = 15.96

$f_{p_t, j/p_t, \infty}$ = 45.76

$f_{p_t, j/p_t, \infty}$ = 86.40

$f_{p_t, j/p_t, \infty}$ = 105.19

$f_{p_t, j/p_t, \infty}$ = 164.24

$f_{p_t, j/p_t, \infty}$ = 237.81

$f_{p_t, j/p_t, \infty}$ = 246.09

(f) Schlieren photographs at $\alpha = 50^\circ$.

Figure 3.— Concluded.
Figure 4.- Pressure distributions and schlieren photographs for varying $p_{t,j}/p_{t,\infty}$. $M_\infty = 4.50$. (Solid symbols indicate repeat data.)
(b) Pressure distribution at $\alpha = 2^\circ$.

Figure 4.- Continued.
(c) Pressure distribution at $\alpha = 5^\circ$.

Figure 4.- Continued.
(d) Schlieren photographs at $\alpha = 0^\circ$.  

Figure 4.- Continued.
(e) Schlieren photographs at $\alpha = 20^\circ$. L-70-4751

Figure 4.- Continued.
Jet off

\[ \frac{\rho_t}{\rho_t,\infty} = 1.72 \]
\[ \frac{\rho_t}{\rho_t,\infty} = 2.95 \]

\[ \frac{\rho_t}{\rho_t,\infty} = 6.36 \]
\[ \frac{\rho_t}{\rho_t,\infty} = 11.54 \]
\[ \frac{\rho_t}{\rho_t,\infty} = 16.21 \]

\[ \frac{\rho_t}{\rho_t,\infty} = 26.44 \]
\[ \frac{\rho_t}{\rho_t,\infty} = 51.23 \]
\[ \frac{\rho_t}{\rho_t,\infty} = 63.46 \]

(f) Schlieren photographs at \( \alpha = 5^\circ \).

L-70-4752

Figure 4.- Concluded.
Figure 5.- Pressure distributions and schlieren photographs for varying $p_t,j/p_{t,\infty}$. $M_\infty = 6.00$. (Solid symbols indicate repeat data.)
(b) Pressure distribution at $\alpha = 2^\circ$.

Figure 5. - Continued.
(c) Pressure distribution at $\alpha = 5^\circ$.

Figure 5.- Continued.
Jet off

pt, \( \frac{j}{pt}, \alpha = 0.43 \)

pt, \( \frac{j}{pt}, \alpha = 2.47 \)

pt, \( \frac{j}{pt}, \alpha = 4.52 \)

pt, \( \frac{j}{pt}, \alpha = 6.17 \)

pt, \( \frac{j}{pt}, \alpha = 9.36 \)

pt, \( \frac{j}{pt}, \alpha = 11.78 \)

pt, \( \frac{j}{pt}, \alpha = 13.89 \)

pt, \( \frac{j}{pt}, \alpha = 16.21 \)

(d) Schlieren photographs at \( \alpha = 0^\circ \).

Figure 5.- Continued.
Jet off

$p_t, j/p_t, \alpha = 0.81$

$p_t, j/p_t, \alpha = 1.82$

$p_t, j/p_t, \alpha = 2.86$

L-70-4754

(e) Schlieren photographs at $\alpha = 2^\circ$.

Figure 5.- Concluded.
Figure 6.- Effect of Mach number on pressure distributions. Jet off; $\alpha = 0^\circ$.
(Solid symbols denote calculated values of $C_p$ for normal shock.)
Figure 7.- Bow-shock standoff distance as a function of Mach number. Jet off; $\alpha = 0^\circ$. 

Experiment — Theory (ref. 8)
Figure 8. Typical schlieren photographs which illustrate the flow regimes that occurred. $\alpha = 0^\circ$. 

L-70-4755
Figure 9.- Flow phenomena induced by jet. Regime 3; $\alpha = 0^\circ$. 
Figure 10. - Jet-shock location as a function of thrust coefficient. $\alpha = 0^\circ$. 
Figure 11.- Flow-interface location as a function of thrust coefficient. $\alpha = 0^\circ$. 

$M_\infty$
- 3.00
- 4.50
- 6.00
Figure 12.- Bow-shock location as a function of thrust coefficient. $\alpha = 0^\circ$. 
Figure 13. - Pressure coefficients at separation and reattachment as functions of thrust coefficient. \( \alpha = 0^\circ \).
Figure 14.- Effect of retrothrust on the integrated-pressure drag coefficient. $\alpha = 0^\circ$. 
"The aeronautical and space activities of the United States shall be conducted so as to contribute . . . to the expansion of human knowledge of phenomena in the atmosphere and space. The Administration shall provide for the widest practicable and appropriate dissemination of information concerning its activities and the results thereof."

— National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958

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