



# PERFORMANCE OF A 16.6-METER-DIAMETER MODIFIED RINGSAIL PARACHUTE IN A SIMULATED MARTIAN ENVIRONMENT 

by Charles H. Whitlock, Allen B. Henning, and Lucille C. Coltrane

Langley Research Center
Langley Station, Hampton, Va.

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# 16.6-METER-DIAMETER MODIFIED RINGSAIL PARACHUTE IN A SIMULATED MARTIAN ENVIRONMENT 

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## SUMMARY

Inflation, drag, and stability characteristics of a 54.5-foot nominal-diameter (16.6-meter) modified ringsail parachute deployed in the wake of a 15 -foot-diameter (4.6-meter) spacecraft traveling at a Mach number of 1.6 and a dynamic pressure equal to $11.6 \mathrm{psf}\left(555 \mathrm{~N} / \mathrm{m}^{2}\right.$ ) were obtained from the third balloon-launched flight test of the Planetary Entry Parachute Program. After deployment, the parachute inflated rapidly to a full condition, partially collapsed, and reinflated to a stable configuration. After reinflation, an average drag coefficient near 0.6 based on nominal surface area was obtained. During descent, an aerodynamic trim angle was observed in a plane near several torn sails. Amplitude of the trim was approximately $15^{\circ}$ and oscillation about trim was less than $11^{\circ}$.

## INTRODUCTION

The NASA Planetary Entry Parachute Program (PEPP) was established to provide test data on several parachute configurations for applications, such as the Voyager mission. Such applications require performance characteristics in a low-density environment. Large-scale flight testing of parachutes deployed behind blunt bodies at supersonic speeds was undertaken because no test facilities suitable for investigating this application existed. In addition, little confidence existed in extrapolating large-scale parachute characteristics from small-scale parachute data. The combination of parachute size, deployment Mach number, and density environment was outside the limits of applicable experience.

Flight tests which simulate conditions expected in the Martian atmosphere during parachute operation have been conducted with the use of both rocket-launched and balloon-launched spacecraft. (See ref. 1.) Modified ringsail, disk-gap-band, and cross parachutes have been tested. References 2 to 4 present the results presently published
from rocket-launched tests, and references 5 and 6 show the data from the first two flights of the balloon-launched series.

The present document describes the basic test results obtained from the third flight test of the balloon-launched series of the Planetary Entry Parachute Program. Specifically, the inflation, drag, and stability characteristics are presented for a 54.5-foot nominal-diameter (16.6-meter) parachute deployed behind a spacecraft traveling at a Mach number of 1.61 and a dynamic pressure equal to $11.6 \mathrm{lb} / \mathrm{ft}^{2}$ ( 555 newtons $/ \mathrm{m}^{2}$ ). Little analysis is presented in order to expedite publication of the basic data.

A 16-millimeter motion-picture film supplement showing the parachute inflation sequence photographed from onboard cameras is available on loan.

## SYMBOLS

${ }_{2} \quad$ linear acceleration along body longitudinal axis, $g$ units ( $1 \mathrm{~g}=9.807$ meters per second ${ }^{2}$ )
$C_{\text {D,o }} \quad$ drag coefficient, $\frac{\text { Drag }}{\mathrm{q}_{\infty} \mathrm{S}_{\mathrm{O}}}$
$\left(C_{D}, o\right)_{\text {eff }}$ effective drag coefficient, $\frac{2 W}{\rho_{\infty} S_{o} \dot{Z}_{E}{ }^{2}}$
$\mathrm{D}_{\mathrm{O}} \quad$ nominal diameter, $\left(\frac{4}{\pi} \mathrm{~S}_{\mathrm{O}}\right)^{1 / 2}$, feet (meters)
g acceleration due to gravity, feet per second ${ }^{2}$ (meters per second ${ }^{2}$ )
$q_{\infty} \quad$ free-stream dynamic pressure, pounds per foot ${ }^{2}$ (newtons per meter ${ }^{2}$ )
$S_{0} \quad$ nominal surface area of canopy including all openings such as slots and vent, foot ${ }^{2}$ (meter ${ }^{2}$ )

T tensiometer force, lb (newtons)
$t$ onboard time, seconds

W weight, pounds (kilograms)
$\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Y}, \mathbf{Z} \quad$ body-axis system
$\mathrm{X}_{\mathrm{E}}, \mathrm{Y}_{\mathrm{E}}, \mathrm{Z}_{\mathrm{E}} \quad$ earth-fixed axis system


Details of an average gore and the general parachute-payload configuration are shown in figure 1. Average restrained dimensions obtained by measuring each gore in the constructed parachute are presented.

The test parachute was similar to but larger than the system tested in reference 2 and was fabricated in its entirety of dacron materials. The upper four panels were separated by slots and are referred to as rings. The crown includes all rings, slots, and the vent. The lower panels contain additional fullness and are considered as sails. The eighth panel, a sail, was omitted to achieve the desired geometric porosity. The canopy rings and sails were fabricated from 1.9 ounce per square yard ( 65 grams per square meter) dacron cloth of plain weave rather than the 1.0 ounce per square yard ( 34 grams per square meter) material used in the test parachutes of references 4 and 5 . This selection of materials was made in order to avoid the inflation difficulties described in reference 4. The upper edge of panel 1 (the vent edge) was reinforced with three thicknesses of $3 / 4$-inch-wide (1.9-centimeter) 550 -pound (2450-newton) tensile strength
dacron tape. The upper and lower edges of all rings and sails (except at the skirt) were reinforced with $3 / 4$-inch-wide ( 1.9 centimeter) 275 -pound ( 1225 -newton) tensile strength dacron tape. The radial tapes and skirt reinforcement utilized $3 / 4$-inch-wide (1.9-centimeter) 550-pound ( 2450 -newton) tensile strength dacron tape. The suspension lines were constructed of 550 -pound ( 2450 -newton) coreless braided dacron cord. The test parachute was constructed under NASA contract NAS1-6703.

The parachute-payload attachment system consisted of a riser, a tensiometer, and a bridle. The riser was constructed of six layers of $1 \frac{3}{4}$-inch-wide (4.4-centimeter) 7000 -pound ( 31200 -newton) low-elongation dacron webbing. The layers separated into legs at the confluence point and each leg joined nine suspension lines. The bridle was constructed of six layers of 10000 -pound ( 44500 -newton) nylon webbing which separated into legs (two layers each) to form three attachment points on the payload. The riser and bridle were joined by the tensiometer. The weight of the bridle and tensiometer system was 10.5 pounds ( 4.8 kg ).

The parachute was packed to a density of 40 pounds per cubic foot ( 640 kilograms per cubic meter) in a cylindrical dacron bag. The bag was lined with teflon-coated fabric to prevent abrasion. No canopy or suspension line holders or restraints were used inside the deployment bag except for a break line at the apex of the canopy to the top of the bag. Also attached to the top of the bag was a mortar lid, a ballast weight, and a 49-square-foot (4.6-square-meter) drogue parachute. (See fig. 2.) The canopy of the drogue parachute was a 7 foot by 7 foot square ( 2.1 meter by 2.1 meter) constructed of $2 \frac{1}{4}$ ounce per square yard ( 76.2 gram per square meter) nylon cloth. The four suspension lines were nylon tapes 84 inches ( 213 centimeters) in length. The total weight of the bag, mortar lid, ballast, and drogue parachute was approximately 9.0 pounds $(4.1 \mathrm{~kg})$.

The packed parachute, excluding the bridle, tensiometer, mortar lid, ballast, or drogue chute, was subjected to a sterilization heating process which lasted 90 hours. The process consisted of a heat-up period of approximately 30 hours and a constant temperature of $125^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 60 hours. The package was then removed from the oven and allowed to cool to room temperature. This process is representative of part of the sterilization requirements for equipment to be used in planetary entry spacecraft. The packed parachute and deployment bag were subjected to the process so that any degradation of material strength or elastic properties or any deployment problems which may result from planetary entry spacecraft heat sterilization would exist during the PEPP flight test.

## TEST SYSTEM DESCRIPTION

The test system consisted of a 15 -foot-diameter ( 4.6 -meter) spacecraft (see fig. 2) which was lifted to an altitude near 130000 feet ( 39.6 km ) by a 26000000 -cubic-foot balloon system. The balloon system was furnished and launched by the Air Force Cambridge Research Laboratories. The principal components of the spacecraft were an aeroshell, the payload, and the test parachute. In addition, a 49 -square-foot ( $4.6-\mathrm{m}^{2}$ ) drogue parachute was attached to the parachute bag, ballast, and lid-cover assembly. The drogue system was designed to prevent collision of the parachute bag, ballast, and lid cover with the test parachute canopy as had occurred during a previous test (ref. 6).

Onboard instrumentation included five motion-picture cameras, four accelerometers, and a tensiometer. Camera 1 ran at approximately 350 frames per second and viewed the inflation process. Cameras 2 and 3 ran at 16 frames per second; camera 2 was used to determine payload motions from photography of the horizon, and camera 3 photographed the inflation process. The aeroshell cameras (cameras 4 and 5) ran at 64 frames per second and photographed both the inflation process and payload separation from the aeroshell. Deceleration loads were recorded on $\pm 5 \mathrm{~g}$ and $\pm 50 \mathrm{~g}$ longitudinal accelerometers located in the payload. Normal and transverse accelerometers ( $\pm 1 \mathrm{~g}$ ) were also positioned in the payload. A tensiometer ( 0 to 20000 lb ( 0 to 89000 N ) ) was located between the bridle and the riser lines. All accelerometer and tensiometer data were recorded by an onboard tape recorder. Both the tape recorder and camera data were obtained after recovery of the payload and aeroshell. Both the aeroshell and payload contained radar tracking and recovery beacons. Radar and optical tracking data were provided by the White Sands Missile Range.

The aeroshell was a $120^{\circ}$ total-angle blunt cone with a diameter of 15 feet ( 4.6 m ). Its construction was similar to that described in reference 7 except that eight Titan IIC staging rocket motors were substituted in place of the twelve Falcon M58A2 rocket motors used in that test. The purpose of this modification was to provide deployment at supersonic velocities instead of transonic conditions.

The payload configuration resembled a $45^{\circ}$ frustum-cylinder with a diameter ratio of 0.384 . Length and diameter of the cylinder were approximately 3.24 feet ( 0.99 meter) and 1.77 feet ( 0.54 meter), respectively. Mass properties of the suspended payload were Weight . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $466 \mathrm{lb}(211 \mathrm{~kg})$
Center of gravity . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $0.86 \mathrm{ft}(0.26 \mathrm{~m})$
Pitch inertia . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 45.22 slug-ft $^{2}\left(61.27 \mathrm{~kg}-\mathrm{m}^{2}\right)$
Yaw inertia . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $44.76 ~ s l u g-\mathrm{ft}^{2}{ }^{\left(60.65 \mathrm{~kg}-\mathrm{m}^{2}\right)}$
Roll inertia . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $4.96 ~ s l u g-\mathrm{ft}^{2} \quad\left(6.72 \mathrm{~kg}-\mathrm{m}^{2}\right)$

The payload center-of-gravity location is measured rearward from the front of the frustum-cylinder juncture. Parachute bridle attachment points were located radially 0.66 foot ( 0.20 meter) from the longitudinal axis at a station 3.18 feet ( 0.97 meter) from the frustum-cylinder juncture and were equally spaced about the circumference of the payload.

The test parachute was ejected from the aft end of the payload by means of a deployment mortar which was approximately 12 inches ( 30 centimeters) in diameter and 31 inches ( 79 centimeters) in length. The mouth of the deployment bag was inserted in the mortar first and rested on the sabot (ejection piston) at the bottom of the mortar. The mortar cover, which was fastened to the top of the deployment bag, closed the mortar and held the packed parachute in place. The mortar was designed to eject the packed parachute at an initial velocity of 130 feet per second ( 40 meters per second). A circular knife located on the parachute riser was used to cut the deployment bag mouth tie after the bag was ejected from the spacecraft. The test parachute was packed so that the suspension lines deployed first, and then the canopy. When the suspension lines were fully extended, the combined inertias of the mortar cover, ballast, and deployment bag were sufficient to strip the parachute bag from around the canopy. In this test, the process was aided by the drag force produced by the drogue parachute.

The payload was secured inside the aeroshell prior to deployment by an explosive nut. Approximately $1 / 2$ second after mortar fire, the explosive nut was ignited in order to allow separation of the two items. During parachute inflation, the payload was extracted from the rear of the aeroshell, and the parachute-payload combination flew a separate trajectory from the aeroshell. The mission profile is shown in figure 3.

## TEST ENVIRONMENT

The test was conducted over the White Sands Missile Range on August 15, 1967. After launch, the balloon-spacecraft system required approximately $3 \frac{1}{2}$ hours to drift from the launch site at Walker Air Force Base, Roswell, New Mexico, to the release point over White Sands Missile Range. Approximately 3.8 seconds after release, the rocket motors ignited and subsequently propelled the spacecraft to supersonic velocities. Shortly after burnout, deployment occurred when the mortar fired (onboard time, 7.79 seconds). The data period for parachute testing began at this time and extended until $t=161$ seconds.

Atmospheric conditions were obtained near the time of test by means of an Arcasonde sounding rocket flight approximately 1 hour after spacecraft release from the balloon system. Temperature and wind drift were measured. Atmospheric density and pressure deduced from these measurements are presented in figures 4 and 5,
respectively. Wind velocity and direction are presented in figure 6. All atmospheric data were furnished by the White Sands Missile Range.

The flight trajectory was obtained from radar and cinetheodolite tracking data furnished by the White Sands Missile Range. Figure 7 shows the variation of altitude with horizontal range. Figures 8 and 9 present time histories of altitude, velocity, Mach number, and dynamic pressure. Figure 10 shows in detail the Mach number, dynamic pressure, and velocity histories from deployment to 16 seconds, the prime data period prior to apogee. All quantities are correlated to the onboard timer.

## PARACHUTE PERFORMANCE

The objective of the flight test was the determination of inflation, drag, and stability characteristics for the 54.5 -foot-diameter ( 16.6 -meter) modified ringsail parachute. For convenience, each property is discussed separately. A motion-picture supplement is available on loan. A request card and a description of the film will be found at the back of this paper.

## Inflation Characteristics

The inflation sequence was initiated by the mortar firing the packed parachute rearward from the payload. Mortar fire (deployment) occurred at a Mach number of 1.61 and dynamic pressure equal to $11.6 \mathrm{psf}\left(555 \mathrm{~N} / \mathrm{m}^{2}\right)$. The suspension lines strung out until line stretch, at which time the canopy began to emerge from the bag. Stripping of the bag off the canopy was aided by the inflated drogue chute attached to the parachute bag. After the bag stripping was completed, the drogue chute and bag continued rearward while the test parachute inflated to a full condition. During inflation, sufficient drag was developed to extract the payload from the aeroshell just prior to full inflation. After full inflation, the canopy partially collapsed and reinflated to a stable condition. After stable inflation, a felt pad (part of the mortar system) collided with the canopy but did no apparent damage. Shortly thereafter, the parachute bag and drogue chute system collided with the canopy of the test parachute. The collision of the felt pad and bag-drogue-chute combination was caused by the deceleration of the test parachute-payload system after full inflation. Review of ground-track telescope film indicates that the drogue chute opened prior to bag strip and separated from the test parachute a distance of two canopy diameters downstream during test parachute inflation. After full inflation the drogue system closed on the test parachute until collision occurred. The drogue system was designed to have a lower ballistic coefficient ( $W / C_{D, 0} S_{o}$ ) than the test parachutepayload system. The most probable cause for the collision is reduced dynamic pressure in the wake of the test parachute canopy.

Several sails in the test parachute were damaged as the bag and drogue chute passed through the canopy. The drogue chute canopy became tangled in the testparachute suspension lines, and the bag-drogue-chute combination finally came to rest at the confluence point of the test parachute's suspension lines. This condition increased the weight of the descent configuration by $9.0 \mathrm{lb}(4.1 \mathrm{~kg})$.

Times for the significant events were as follows:

| Event | Onboard time, <br> sec | Time from mortar fire, <br> sec |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Mortar fire . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . | 7.79 | 0 |
| Line stretch . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . | 8.45 | 0.66 |
| Estimated bag strip . . . . . . . . . . . . . | 8.73 | 0.94 |
| Payload separation . . . . . . . . . . . . . | 9.04 | 1.25 |
| Full inflation . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . | 9.08 | 1.29 |
| Stable inflation . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . | 10.14 | 2.35 |
| Felt pad collision . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . | 10.16 | 2.37 |
| Bag-drogue chute collision . . . . . . . . . . | 10.34 | 2.55 |
| Drogue chute settled into |  |  |
| confluence point . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . | 12.56 | 4.77 |

Photographs taken by the high-speed ( $\approx 350$-frame-per-second) payload camera are presented in figure 11. Figure 11(a) shows the beginning of inflation, and 11(b) presents the growth to full inflation. Partial collapse and reinflation are shown in figure 11 (c). It is believed that this partial collapse and reinflation process represents the response of the flexible parachute and suspension-line system to the rapidly applied loads. Inflation loads were measured by the two longitudinal accelerometers and the tensiometer. Figure 12 shows the longitudinal accelerations, and figure 13 presents the forces measured by the tensiometer. Figure 14 shows in detail the accelerations recorded during the stretching of suspension lines and the stripping of the bag off the canopy. Growth of the projected area during inflation is depicted in figure 15 . Shown is the ratio of the projected area at time $t$ to the projected area at the time of stable inflation ( $10.14 \mathrm{sec}-$ onds). Full inflation ( 9.08 seconds), partial collapse, and reinflation to a stable configuration ( 10.14 seconds) may be observed. Oscillations beyond 10.34 seconds were caused by the drogue chute becoming tangled in the suspension lines of the test parachute. The mean of the oscillation shows a slight growth in the projected area as time increases; this growth may indicate canopy shape change as the Mach number and dynamic pressure decrease.

## Drag Characteristics

Drag characteristics for the parachute-payload system during deceleration through the Mach number range (prior to trajectory apogee) were determined by using onboard accelerometer and tensiometer data. From accelerometer results,

$$
\begin{equation*}
C_{D, o}=\frac{-W_{\text {total }^{2} l}}{q_{\infty} S_{0}} \tag{1}
\end{equation*}
$$

and

$$
\begin{equation*}
C_{D, o}=\frac{W_{\text {total }}}{W_{\text {payload }}} \frac{T}{q_{\infty} S_{o}} \tag{2}
\end{equation*}
$$

with the use of tensiometer data. The weight of the total system was 549 lb ( 249 kg ) and the weight of the payload was $469 \mathrm{lb}(212 \mathrm{~kg})$. Figure 16 shows the results of these calculations in the form of the variation of $C_{D, 0}$ with Mach number. An average value of 0.6 for $C_{D, o}$ appears appropriate over most of the Mach number range after stable inflation ( $\mathrm{M} \approx 0.95$ ). The oscillations at Mach numbers below 0.9 may be caused by canopy shape distortions which were a result of the drogue chute becoming tangled in the suspension lines of the test parachute. Estimated uncertainty for the drag coefficient is $\pm 0.04$ based on a first-order analysis using 3-percent velocity error, 3-percent density error, and 1-percent accelerometer or tensiometer error.

Values for the "effective" drag coefficient based on vertical velocity were calculated with the use of the following equation:

$$
\begin{equation*}
\left(\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{D}, \mathrm{o}}\right)_{\mathrm{eff}}=\frac{2 \mathrm{~W}_{\text {descent }}}{\rho_{\infty} \mathrm{S}_{0}\left(\dot{\mathrm{Z}}_{\mathrm{E}}\right)^{2}} \tag{3}
\end{equation*}
$$

The weight of the descent system was $558 \mathrm{lb}(252 \mathrm{~kg})$ (payload + test parachute + drogue-chute-bag system). Figure 17 shows the variation of ( $\left.C_{D, 0}\right)_{\text {eff }}$ with altitude. The uncertainty is based on 3-percent $\dot{Z}_{\mathrm{E}}$ error, and 3-percent density error. No consideration was given to possible vertical-wind-draft conditions which may have influenced the data.

## Stability Characteristics

Stability characteristics of the descending parachute system were determined from trajectory and onboard camera data. Photographs from camera 4 (fig. 2) viewing the horizon were analyzed by using the methods of reference 8 extended to the situation of this test. Attitude angles of the payload relative to the local horizon were obtained. The body-axis and Euler angle system shown in figure 18 were used for ease of data reduction. The angle $\psi$ is the azimuth of the body X-axis, and $\theta$ and $\phi$ are measures of the pitching and yawing motions. The resultant angle $\delta$ is the total pitch-yaw
displacement of the longitudinal axis from the local vertical. Time histories of $\theta, \phi$, and $\delta$ depicting the pitching and yawing motions are shown in figure 19. These data are estimated to be accurate within $3^{\circ}$. Observation of the camera 3 film indicated that relative motion in pitch and yaw between the payload and the parachute had a maximum amplitude of less than $1^{\circ}$ at times beyond 40 seconds. Thus, the histories shown in figure 19 are essentially those of the parachute. Figure 20 shows $\delta$ as a function of altitude. In both figures 19 and $20, \delta$ assumes a history which is indicative of aerodynamic trim (approximately $15^{\circ}$ ). Review of the ground telescope film indicates that the canopy did have a trim angle which was phased in a plane which passed through or near gore 40 . As the canopy slowly rolled about the longitudinal axis, a coning motion of the system resulted. One sail was torn in gore 40 and major damage (described subsequently) had occurred in gores 48 and 49. This damage may have caused the apparent aerodynamic trim observed in this flight. The oscillation about trim is probably caused by the wind shears shown in figure 6.

## PARACHUTE STRUCTURAL DAMAGE

Immediately after recovery, the test parachute was examined visually for structural damage incurred during the test. Both major and minor structural damage appeared to have occurred during the flight. For describing the location of the damaged areas, the following system was established. When viewed downward from the top of the canopy, each gore is numbered from 1 to 54 in a clockwise direction. The dark radial strip on the canopy was located in the middle of gore 53 . Beginning at the vent in the middle of the canopy, each panel (rings, sails, and omitted sail) is numbered from 1 to 10 . Panel 8 is the omitted sail and panel 10 is the skirt of the canopy.

The major structural damage incurred during the flight is visible in the photograph shown in figure 21. The photograph was taken by one of the onboard payload cameras at 93.4 seconds (during vertical descent). Shown are damaged panels in gores 40,48 , and 49. Detailed review of the film data shows that panel 7 of gore 40 failed during full inflation and partial collapse of the canopy. Tearing began at 9.06 seconds and was completed at 9.25 seconds. Figure 22 is a sketch showing the details of this failure. This failure appears to be the only major failure incurred during the actual inflation process. The damage in gores 48 and 49 (see fig. 23) was incurred as a result of the collision of the parachute bag system and the canopy after inflation was complete. Panels 6 and 7 failed on impact, and panel 9 damage occurred as the bag and drogue chute passed through the gap. One suspension line in this area was also abraded.

Upon recovery, the parachute was found to have also incurred minor structural damage which was not visible on the in-flight photographs. These failures are summarized in the following table:

TABLE I.- SUMMARY OF MINOR DAMAGE

| Type of damage | Location of damage |
| :---: | :--- |
| Trailing-edge binding loose | Gore 1, panel 10 |
| from radial | Gore 2, panel 7 |
|  | Gore 25, panel 10 |
|  | Gore 30, panel 10 |
|  | Gore 31, panels 6, 7, and 10 |
|  | Gore 32, panel 7 |
|  | Gore 34, panel 7 |
|  | Gore 35, panels 7 and 10 |
|  | Gore 40, panel 10 |
|  | Gore 41, panels 7 and 10 |
|  | Gore 42, panels 7 and 10 |
|  | Gore 43, panel 10 |
|  | Gore 44, panel 10 |
|  | Gore 46, panel 6 |
| Leading-edge binding loose | Gore 7, panel 5 |
| from radial | Gore 8, panel 6 |
|  | Gore 41, panel 9 |
|  | Gore 42, panel 9 |
|  | Gore 43, panel 9 |
| Small holes | Gore 34, panel 7 |
| (diameter less than 3 inches) | Gore 46, panel 10 |
|  | Gore 49, panel 5 |

Detailed review of the film data shows considerable flutter in panels 6, 7, 9, and 10. Examination of the parachute indicates that the leading- and trailing-edge bindings being loose from the radials is a result of inadequate stitching (few cloth failures were involved). Reasons for each of the small holes cannot be established, but loose mortar system parts are the most probable cause for this type of damage.

Neither the major nor the minor structural damage to the test parachute is believed to have significantly affected its inflation or drag characteristics. The openings left by the torn sails were approximately 1 percent of the nominal area. This damage being concentrated in one quadrant of the canopy however may have contributed to the aerodynamic trim observed during descent.

## CONCLUDING REMARKS

Inflation, drag, and stability characteristics of a 54.5-foot nominal-diameter (16.6-meter) ringsail parachute were obtained from the third flight of the balloonlaunched series of the Planetary Entry Parachute Program. Deployment occurred at Mach number 1.6 and at a dynamic pressure of 11.6 psf ( $555 \mathrm{~N} / \mathrm{m}^{2}$ ). After the stretching of the suspension line and the stripping of the bag off the canopy, the parachute inflated rapidly to a full condition. The canopy then partially collapsed and reinflated quickly to a stable condition. After stable inflation, the parachute bag and attached drogue chute collided with and passed through the canopy of the test parachute. Several sails were torn in the test parachute, but this damage did not appear to have a significant effect on its inflation and drag characteristics. After inflation, the ringsail parachute developed an average drag coefficient near 0.6 based on nominal surface area. During descent, an aerodynamic trim angle (approximately $15^{\circ}$ ) was observed. The phasing was such that the trim angle was in a plane which passed through or near the major damaged areas in the canopy. For this reason, it is concluded that the stability characteristics of the parachute may have been affected by the torn sails.

## Langley Research Center,

National Aeronautics and Space Administration,
Langley Station, Hampton, Va., December 18, 1967, 124-07-03-05-23.

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Figure l.- Sketch showing a typical gore and the parachute-payload configuration. The gore dimensions are average measured dimensions. Dimensions are in inches unless otherwise noted.


Figure 2.- Sketch of spacecraft components.



Figure 4.- Atmospheric density.


Figure 5.- Atmospheric pressure.

Figure 6.- Wind-velocity profile in east-west and north-south components.


Figure 7.- Variation of altitude with horizontal range.


Figure 8.- Variation of altitude and velocity with time.


Figure 9.- Variation of Mach number and dynamic pressure with time.

Figure 10.- Variation of velocity, dynamic pressure, and Mach number with time during parachute deployment.


Time $=8.80$ seconds


Time $=8.86$ seconds
(a) Beginning of inflation.

L-67-8735
Figure 11.- Onboard camera photographs.


Time $=8.93$ seconds


Time $=9.00$ seconds

(b) Growth to full inflation.

L-67-8736
Figure 11.- Continued.

(c) Partial collapse and reinflation.

L-67-8737
Figure 11.- Concluded.

Figure 12.- Variation of longitudinal acceleration with time.

Figure 13.- Variation of tensiometer load with time.

Figure 14.- Variation of Iongitudinal acceleration with time during parachute deployment.

Figure 15.- Variation of parachute projected area ratio with time.

Figure 16.- Variation of parachute drag coefficient with Mach number.


Figure 17.- Variation of altitude with effective drag coefficient.


Figure 18.- Body-axis system orientation.



Бәр ' $\phi$


Figure 19.- Variation of $\theta, \Phi$, and $\delta$ with time.


Figure 20.- Variation of $\delta$ with altitude.



Figure 22.- Sketch showing failure of panel 7 in gore 40.


Figure 23.- Sketch of damage from parachute-bag system collision with parachute.

A motion-picture film supplement L-984 is available on loan. Requests will be filled in the order received. You will be notified of the approximate date scheduled.

The film ( $16 \mathrm{~mm}, 4 \mathrm{~min}$, color, silent) shows parachute deployment, inflation, and payload separation.

Requests for the film should be addressed to:
Chief, Photographic Division
NASA Langley Research Center
Langley Station
Hampton, Va. 23365

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Attention: Mr.
Title

| Place |
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Chief, Photographic Division
NASA Langley Research Center
Langley Station
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-National aeronautics and Space aict of 1958

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