

## CSM RCS Design Considerations & Failure Modes



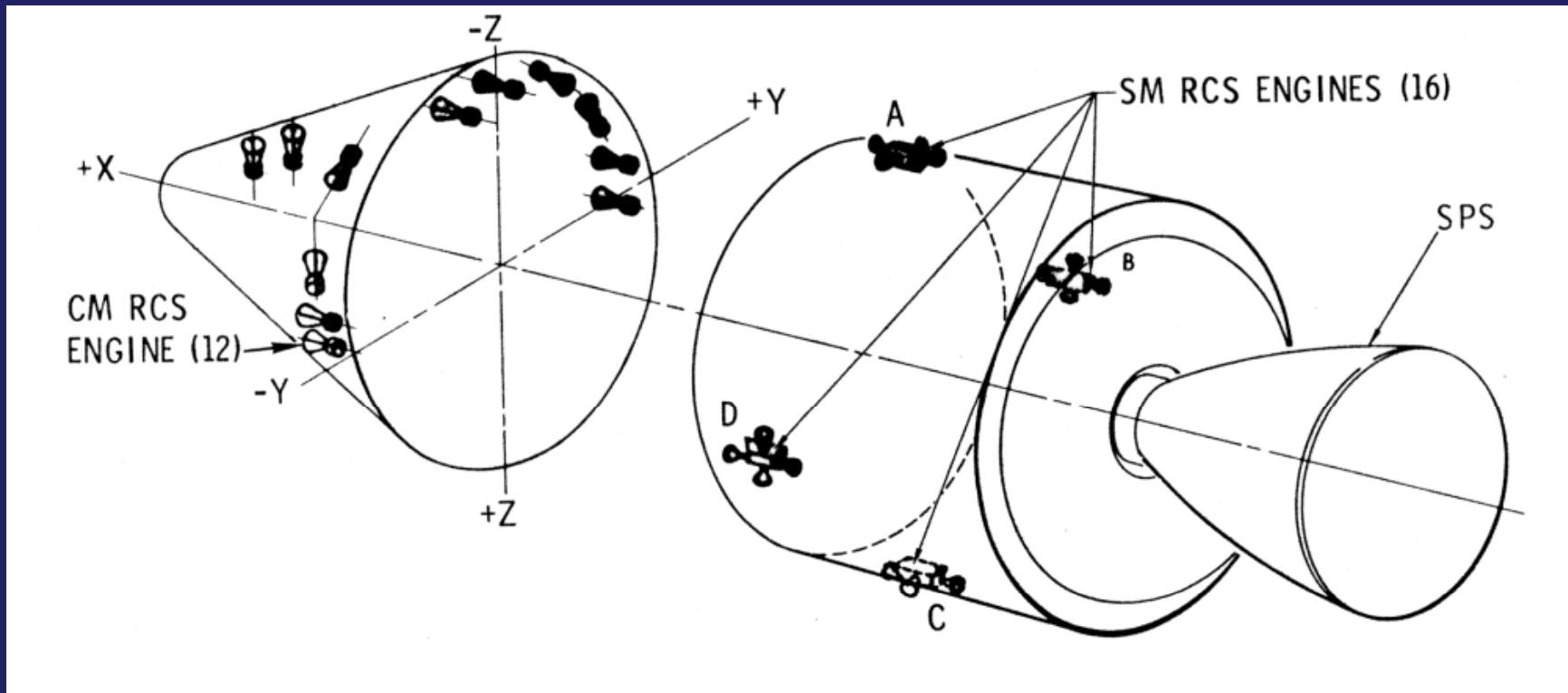
## Lesson Objectives

- ❑ Define major Command and Service Module (CSM) design considerations
- ❑ List Command Module (CM) RCS failures and lessons learned
- ❑ List Service Module (SM) RCS failures and lessons learned

For more information about CSM RCS system please see

[http://modspops.jsc.nasa.gov/mod/DA4/CxTraining/Apollo/Apollo%20Wiki/CSM%20Reaction%20Control%20System%20\(RCS\).aspx](http://modspops.jsc.nasa.gov/mod/DA4/CxTraining/Apollo/Apollo%20Wiki/CSM%20Reaction%20Control%20System%20(RCS).aspx)

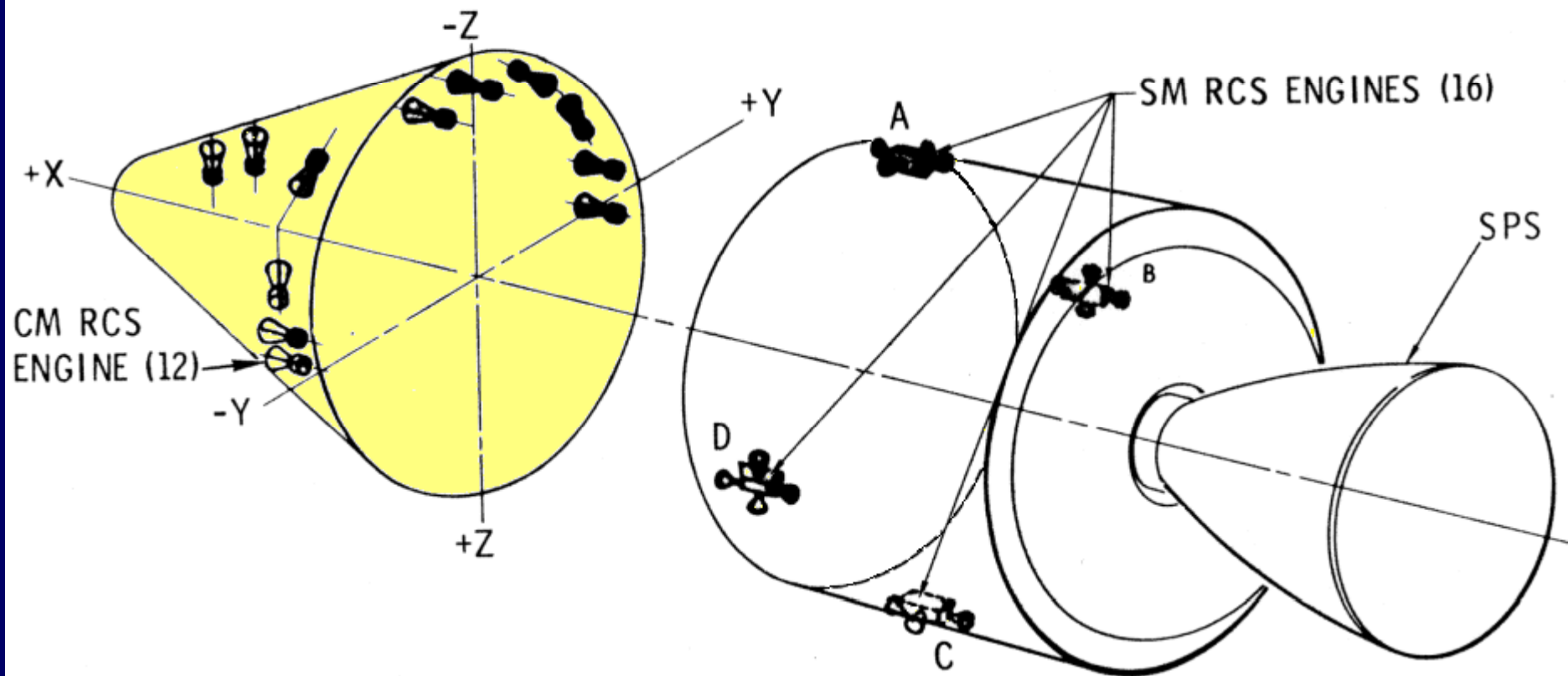
# CSM RCS Overview



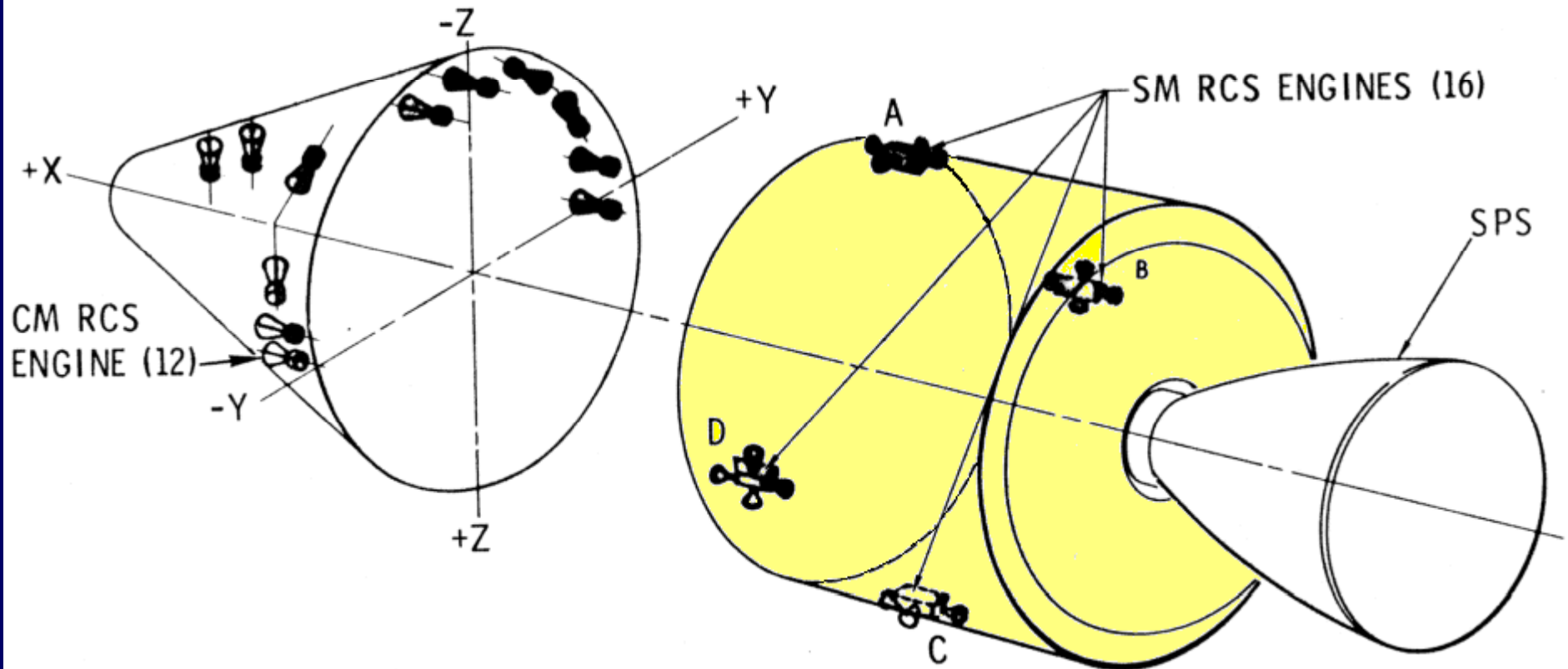
# CSM Design Considerations



# CM Design Considerations



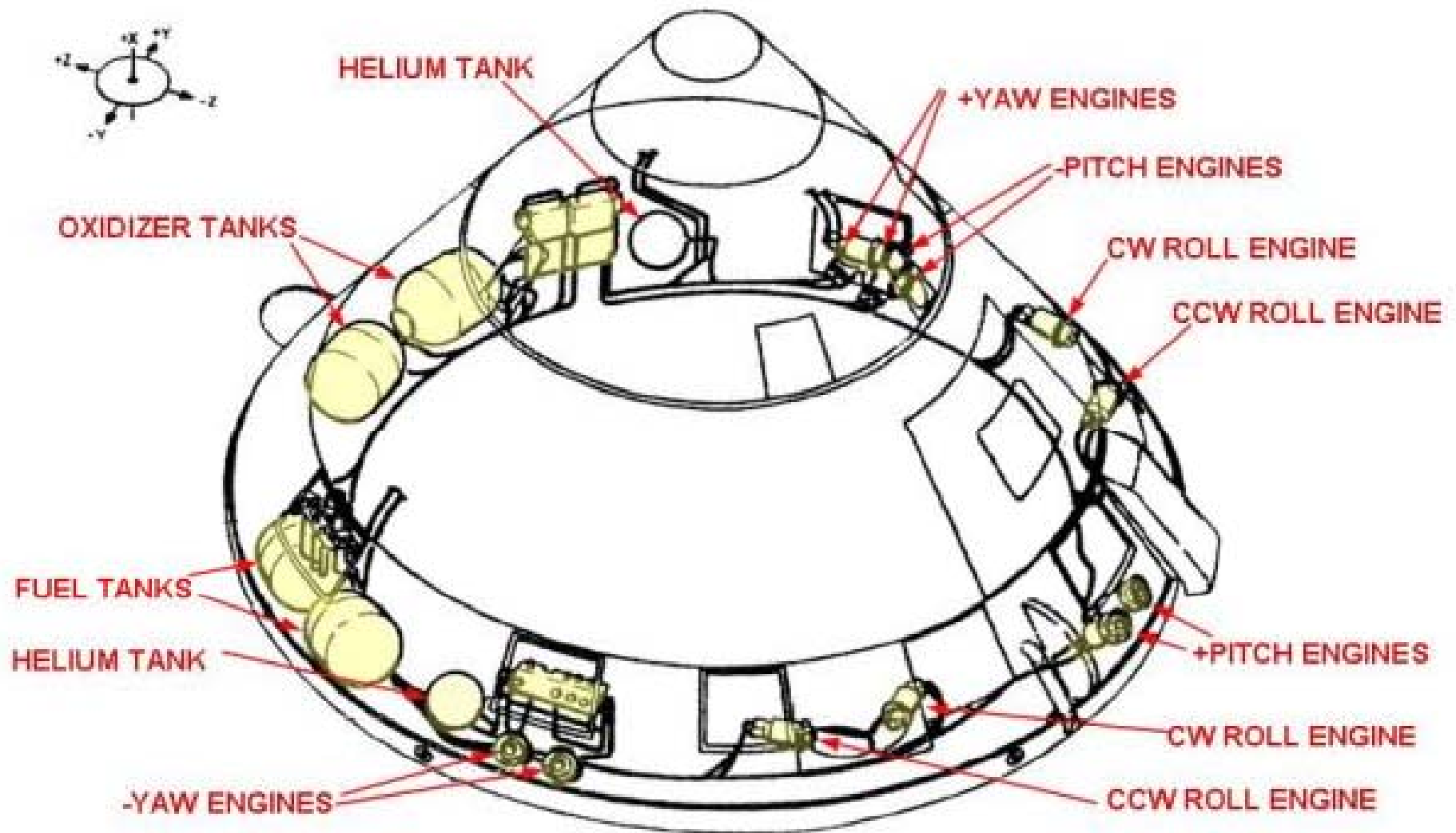
# SM Design Considerations



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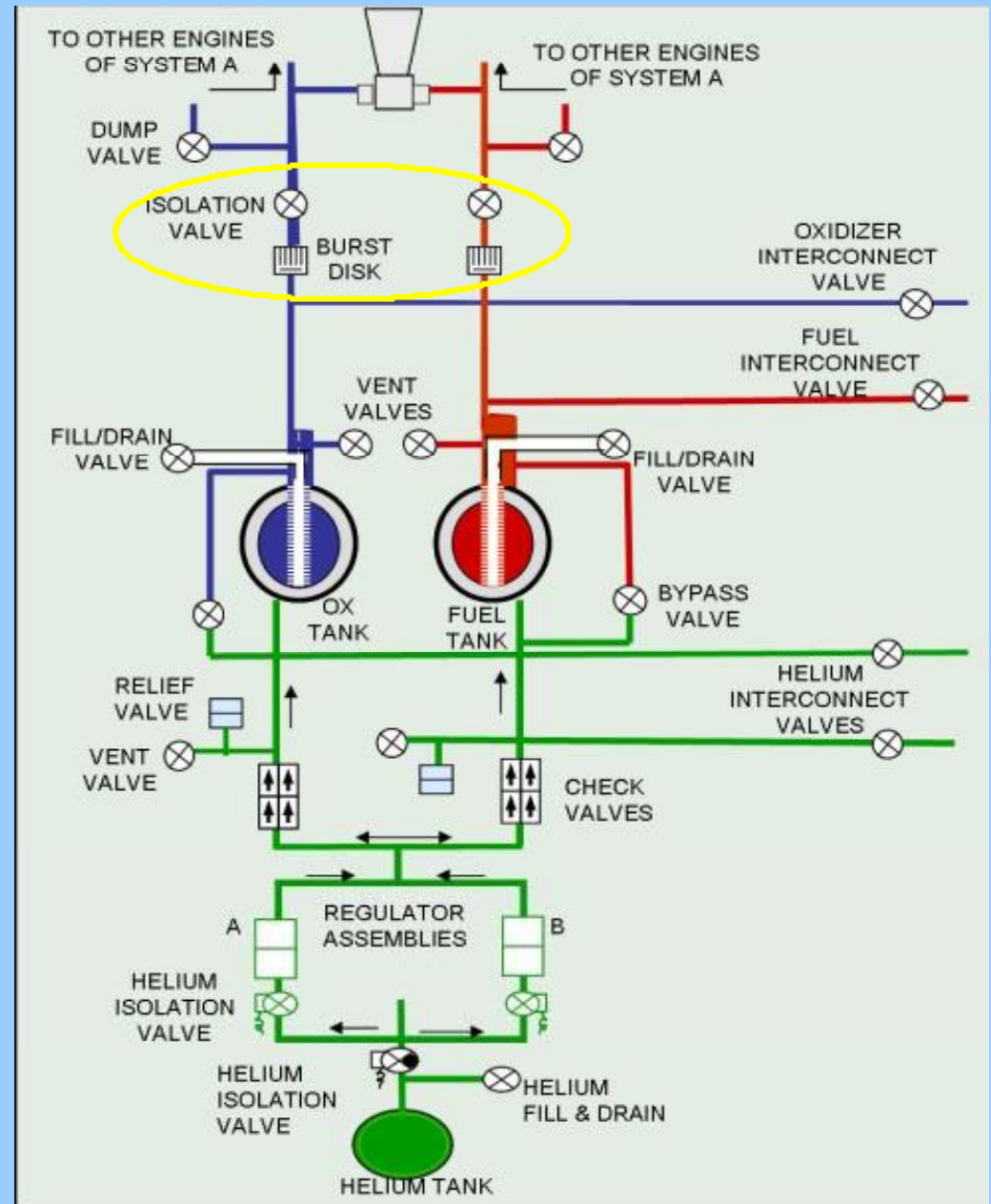
# CM Failures and Lessons Learned





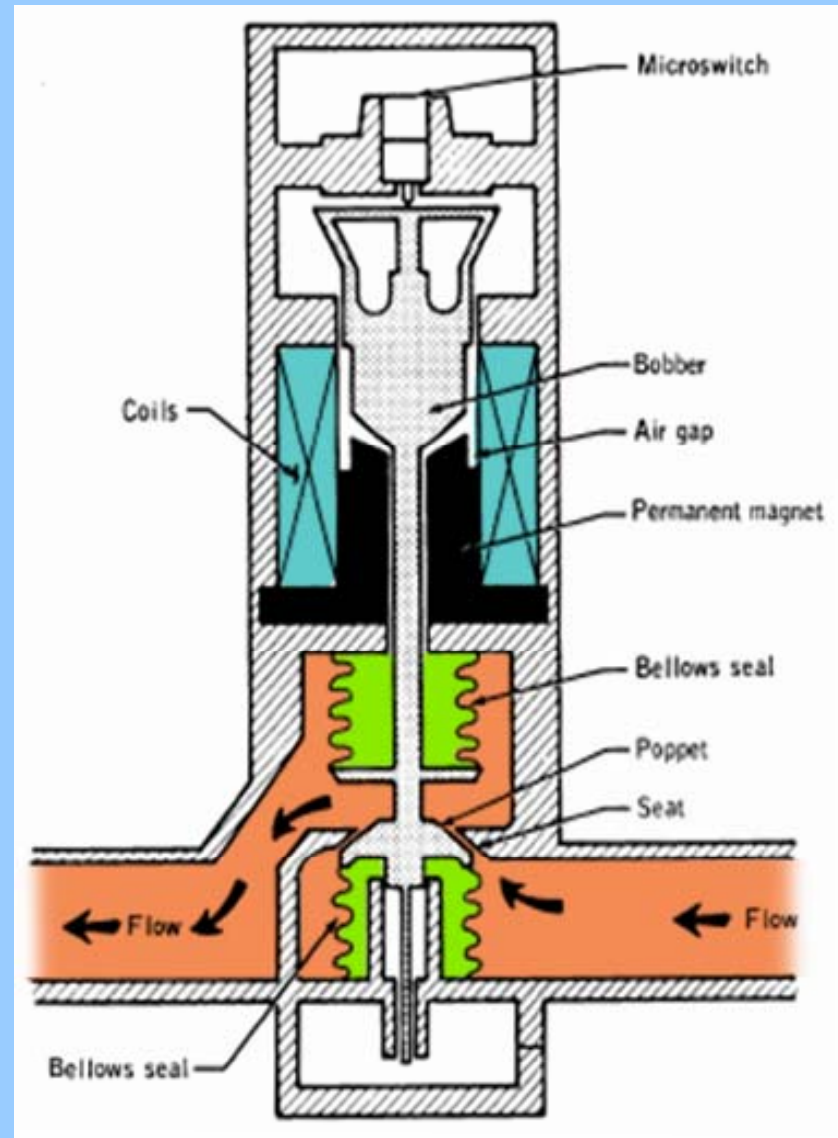
## CM Propellant Isolation Valves

- ❑ Apollo 7 - damaged bellows
- ❑ Apollo 10 - ruptured oxidizer burst diaphragm
- ❑ Apollo 12 - damaged bellows
- ❑ Apollo 13 - fuel valve coil miswiring



## CM Propellant Isolation Valve Lessons Learned

- ❑ Proper procedures
- ❑ Caution notes and leak checks
- ❑ Resistance checks

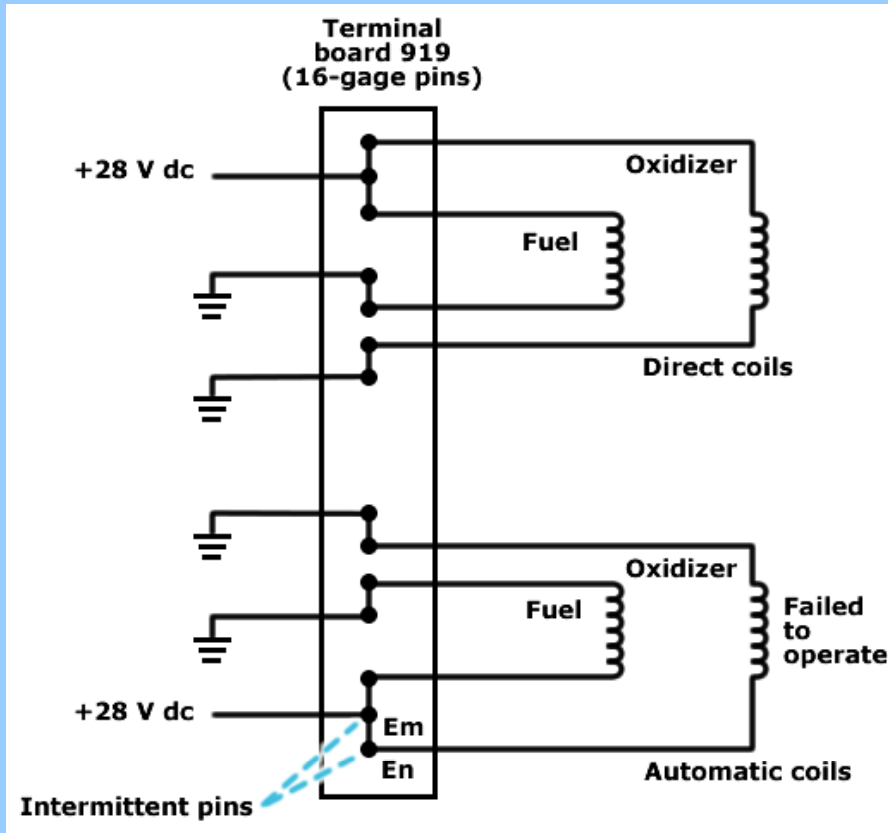


Isolation Valve

## CM Helium Manifold

- ❑ Anomaly: Helium manifold pressure drop discovered before launch of Apollo 10; no measurable leak was found
- ❑ Conclusion: Fuel leg helium manifold was indeed leaking but at an acceptable rate for the mission
- ❑ Solution: Pressurized system to 100psi 30 days prior to launch to insure detection of any leak

## CM Automatic Coil



Terminal board schematic for minus-yaw engine

- ❑ Anomaly: Faulty terminal board sending erratic firing signals through automatic coils
- ❑ Conclusion: Two loose pins causing intermittent continuity to coils
  - Found in all pre-November 1967 terminal boards
- ❑ Solution: No corrections made since terminal boards did not affect circuits that jeopardized crew



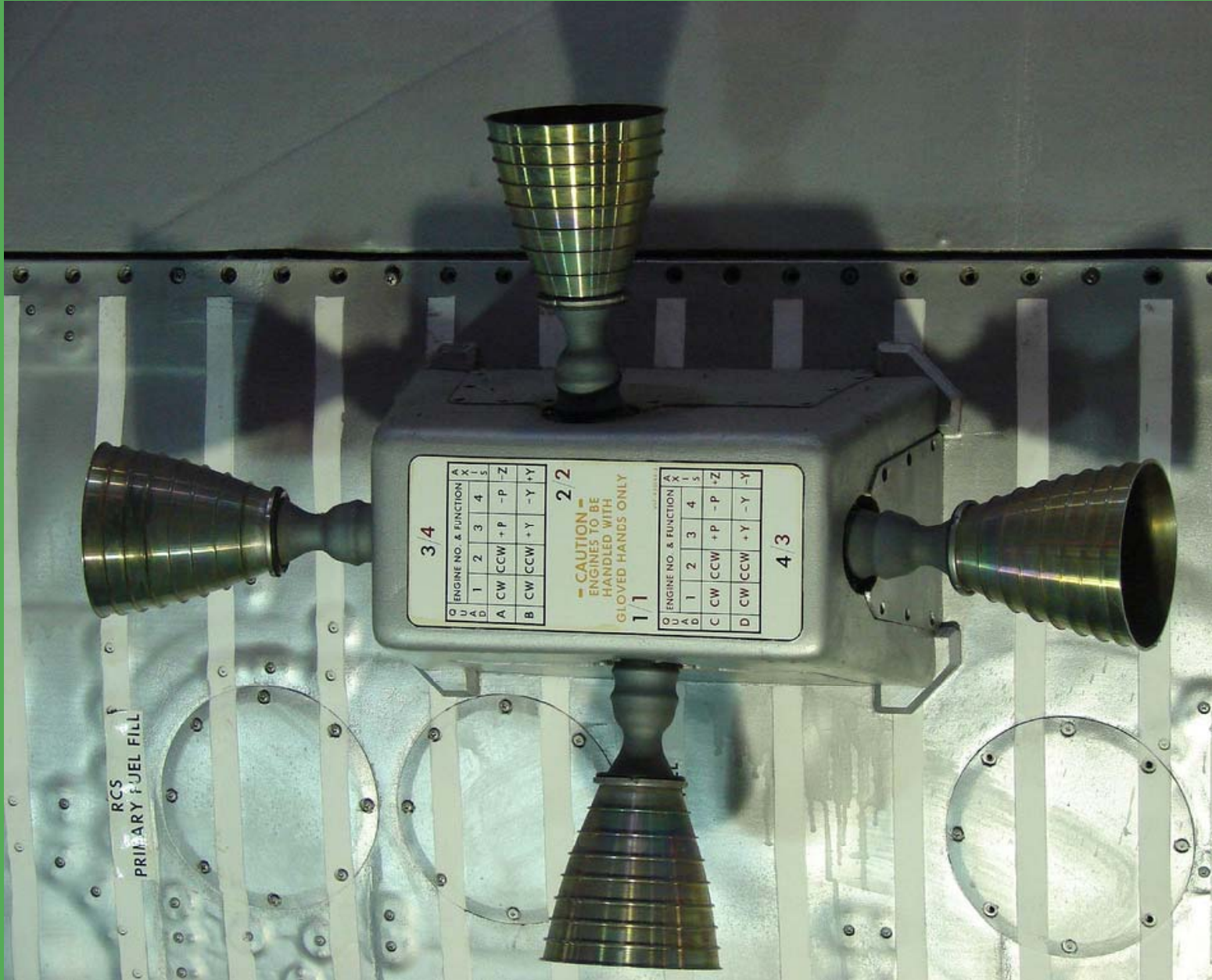
## CM Propellant Dump

- ❑ Apollo 15 - Deflated parachute due to CM RCS depletion firing
  - Correction:  
Procedures changed to allow propellant to remain onboard at landing
- ❑ Apollo 16 – Small burn holes caused by yaw engine firings
  - Tests determined maximum pressure and planned for on-the-water operation of the system if required

## Lesson Objectives

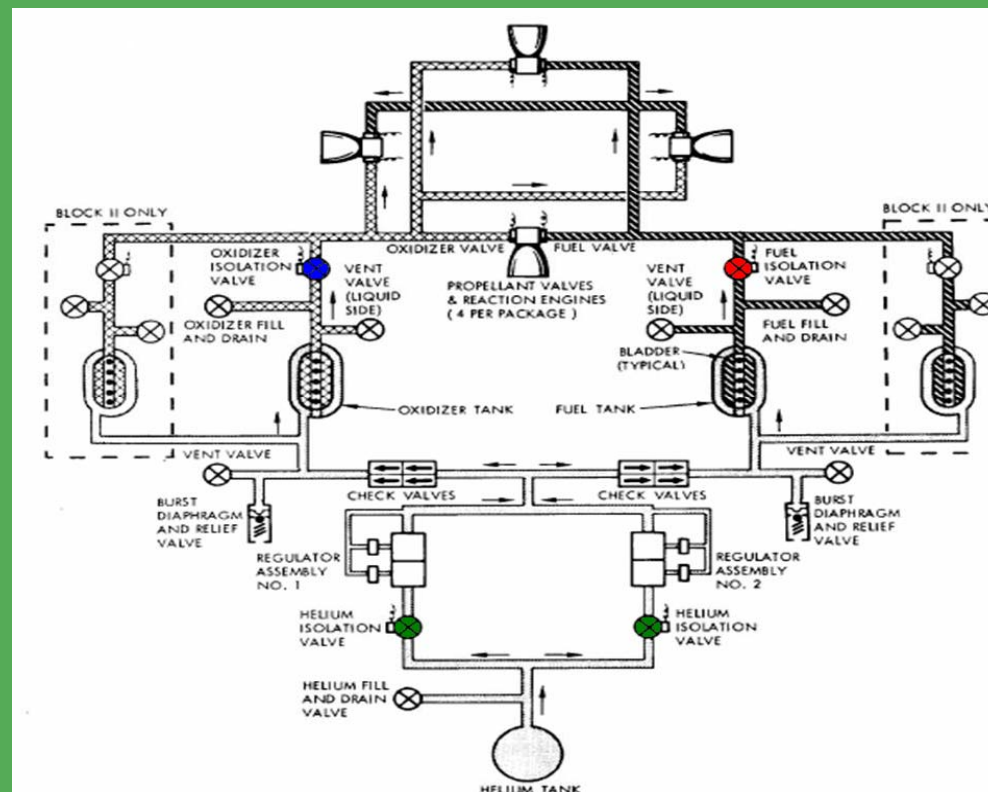
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# SM RCS Failures and Lessons Learned

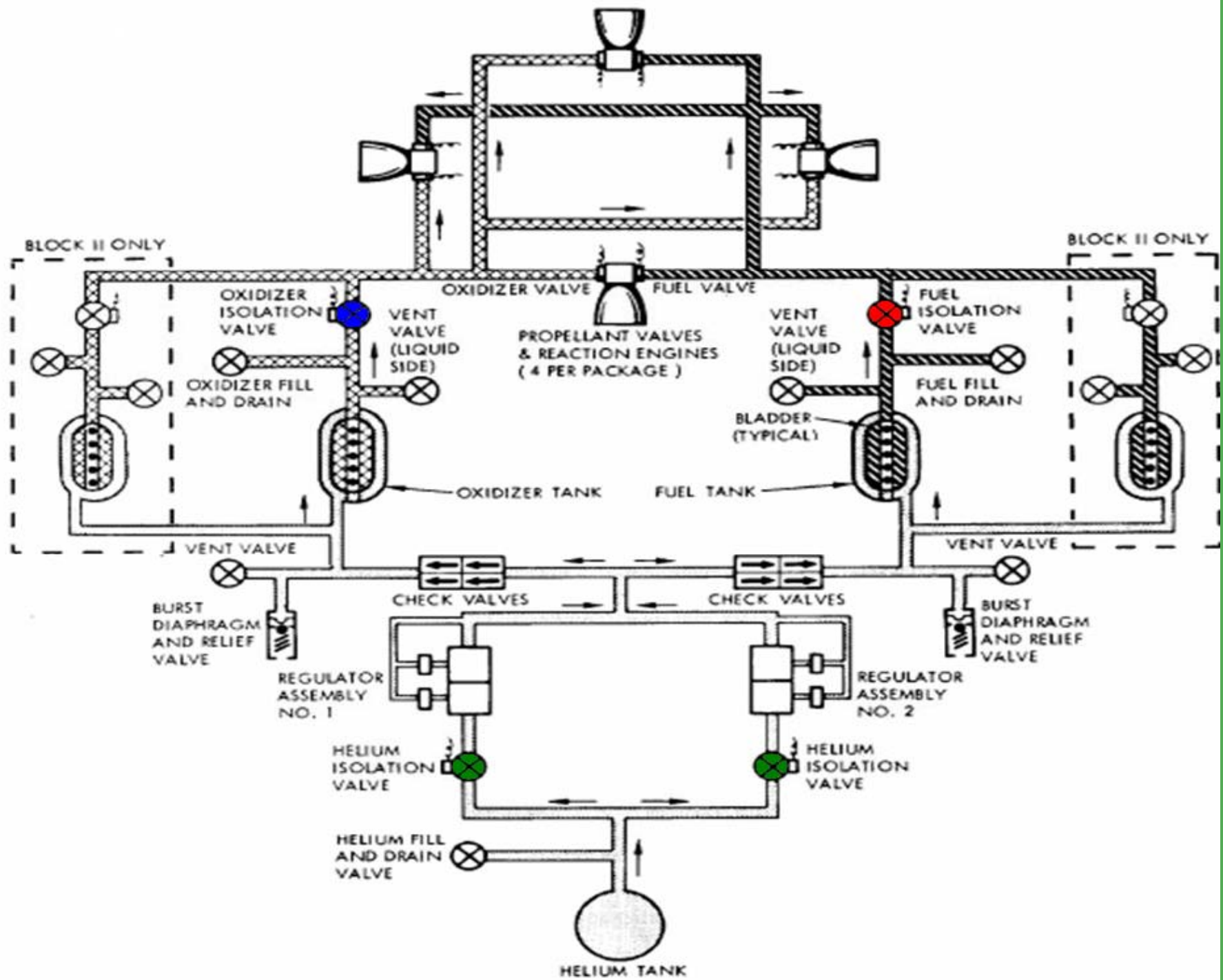


## SM Isolation Valves

- ❑ Apollo 9 - Valves shocked closed
- ❑ Apollo 11 - Valves closed during CSM separation from S-IVB
- ❑ Apollo 13 – Valves closed due to oxygen tank anomaly
- ❑ Apollo 15 - Degaussed magnets due to reversed polarity





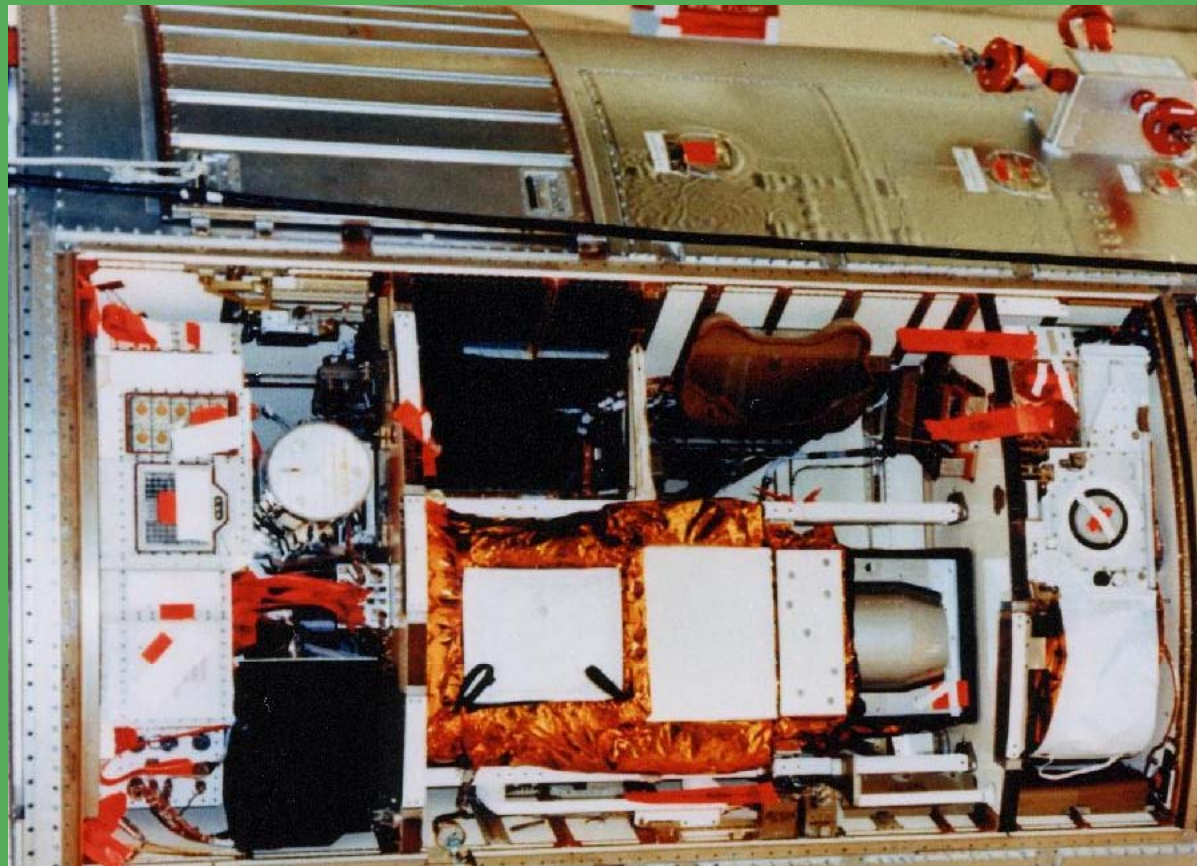


## SM Isolation Valve Lessons Learned

- ❑ Apollo Operations Handbook changed to insure that the crew would check isolation valves after separation and reopen any that closed
- ❑ A test was performed on all post-Apollo 15 flights to verify acceptable valve latching forces

## SM Manifold

- ❑ Apollo 12: Helium manifold pressure transducer malfunction
- ❑ Apollo 14: Oxidizer manifold pressure out of nominal limits



## Summary

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## References

- Apollo Mission Reports 6-17
- Apollo Experience Report – Command and Service Module Reaction Control Systems

*Use References link below for more information*