

Some Thoughts on Career Paths and Rocket Science

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Abstract

The talk is divided into two parts. The first part focuses on career development in aerospace industry and talks about career paths for new engineers, desired skills and traits for these positions, and what companies look for when hiring new employees fresh out of college. The second part of the talk is an overview of liquid propellant rocket engines using the Space Shuttle Main Engine as an example of these high performance, high power density propulsion systems. A brief discussion of possible research topics for future propulsion system development will also be presented.