



# Economics of Cold Spray-Cost Analysis



***TECHNOLOGY DRIVEN. WARFIGHTER FOCUSED.***

**Dennis Helfritch**  
**DSI at Army Research Laboratory**

- 1. Define coating dimensions (area, thickness)**
- 2. Define operating conditions (pressure, temperature, etc.)**
- 3. Define material characteristics (particle size, melting point, etc.)**
- 4. Calculate deposition efficiencies**
- 5. Input costs rates (powder, gas, labor)**
- 6. Calculate cost**

- Classical isentropic gas dynamics (adiabatic, frictionless)
- Particles do not influence gas conditions

$$\frac{A_1}{A_2} = \frac{M_2}{M_1} \left\{ \frac{1 + [(\gamma - 1) / 2] M_1^2}{1 + [(\gamma - 1) / 2] M_2^2} \right\}^{\frac{(\gamma + 1)}{2(\gamma - 1)}}$$

Isentropic flow  
area/Mach number  
relationship

$$m \frac{dV_p}{dt} = C_D (\pi / 8) \rho_g d^2 (V_g - V_p)^2$$

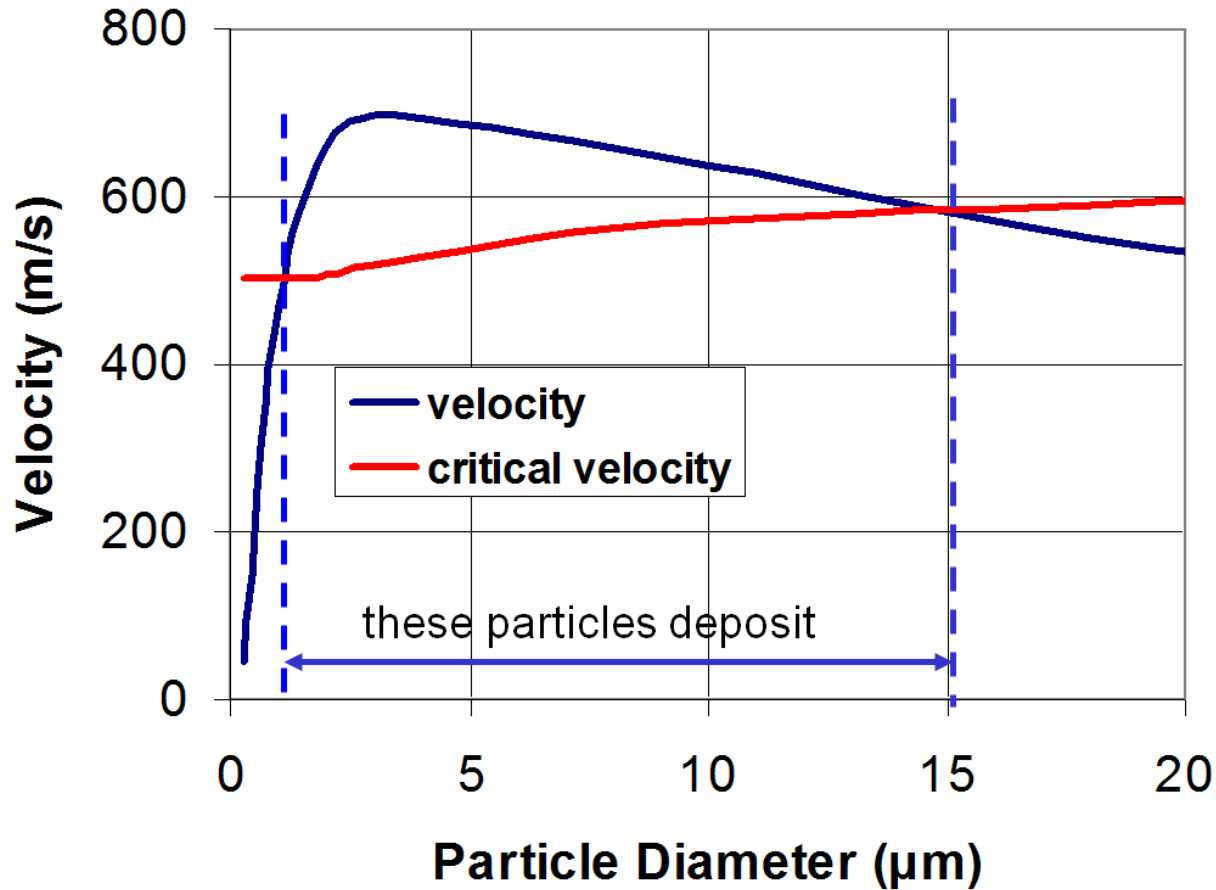
Particle drag/velocity  
relationship

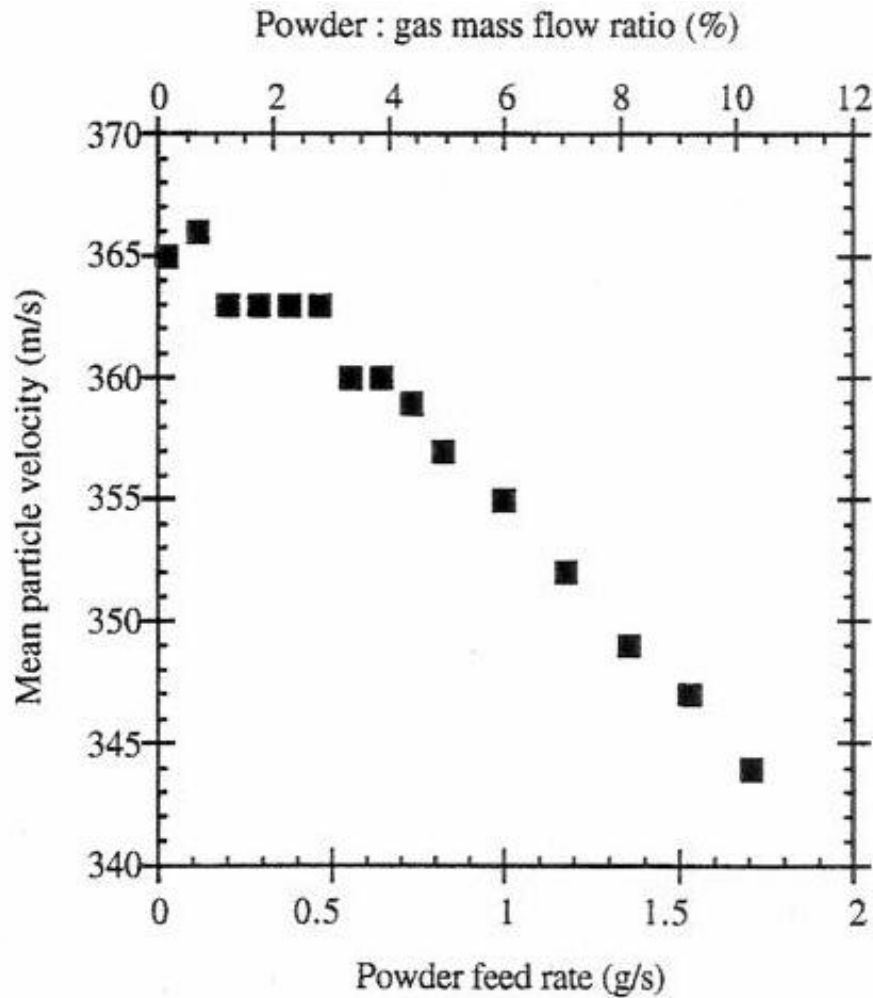
$$c_p \frac{dT_p}{dt} = (N_u k / d_p) (A_p / m) (T_g - T_p)$$

Particle temperature/gas  
temperature relationship

$$V_{crit} = \sqrt{\frac{4F_1 \sigma_{TS} \left(1 - \frac{T_i}{T_m}\right)}{\rho} + F_2 C_p (T_m - T_i)}$$

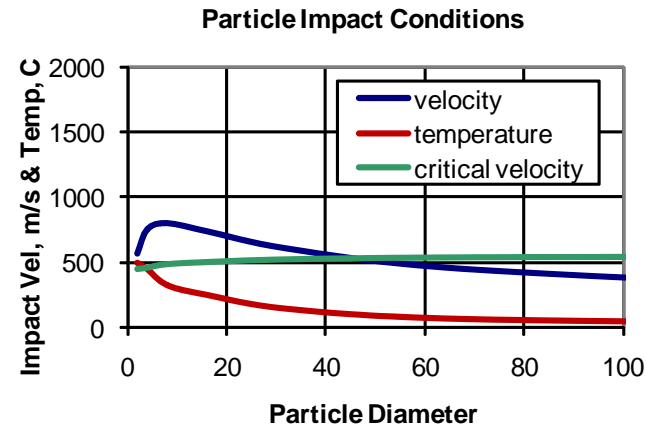
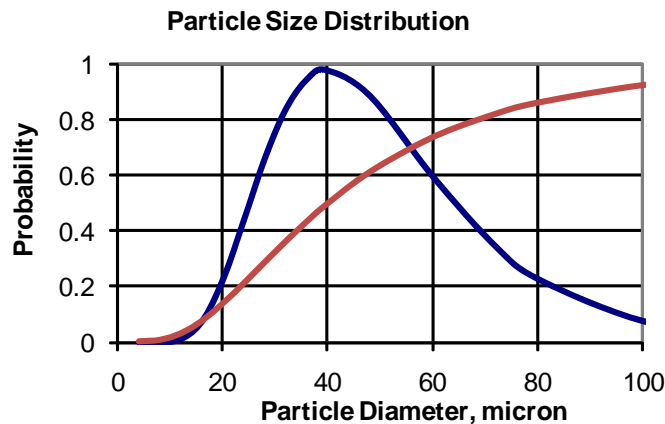
Critical velocity for  
deposition





Copper particles in air from Gilmore, et al, JTST, 1999

throat diameter	2.7	mm	area	144	sq inch
nitrogen (0) helium (1)	0		thickness	20	mil
feed rate	10	pound/hour	overspray	10	%
raster speed	400	mm/sec	time for completion	0.4	hours
increment	1	mm	number layers	6.7	
gas temp after heating	500	degree C	powder usage	4.3	pounds
compressed gas pressure	500	psig	electricity usage	15.9	kWhr
geometric mean diameter	40	micron	powder cost/wt	200	\$/pound
standard deviation	1.5		nitrogen cost/SCF	0.4	\$/100 SCF
shape factor	1.2		helium cost/SCF	20	\$/100 SCF
material density	8.9	gm/cc	set-up time per piece	0.10	hours
melting point	1453	degree C	hourly labor rate	125	\$/hr
specific heat	450	J/kg-K	powder cost	\$861	
ultimate stress	195	Mpa	gas cost	\$5	
gas flow	47.8	SCFM	labor cost	\$66	
wt% powder to gas	4.5	%	unit cost	\$934	
deposition efficiency	23.9	%			



1. Use nitrogen when spraying inexpensive powders
2. Use helium when spraying expensive powders
3. Use the highest possible feed rate
4. Use powders with small diameter particles
5. A narrow particle size distribution (small SD) is best
6. Irregularly shaped particles are better than spherical



"WELL, MAYBE UMPTEEN ZILLION WAS TOO GENERAL A COST ESTIMATE."