

1 Systematic Review of the Technical and Physiological Constraints of
2 the Orion Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle that Affect the Capability of
3 Astronauts to Exercise Effectively During Spaceflight

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8 DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.actaastro.2020.02.038>

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32 **Declarations of interests**

33 Declarations of interest: None.

34

35 **Abstract:**

36 Background: The constraints of the Orion Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle present challenges to the use
37 of current exercise countermeasures necessary to prevent severe deconditioning of physiological
38 systems during microgravity exposure beyond Low Earth Orbit. The purpose of this qualitative
39 systematic review was to determine the technical constraints of the Orion Multi-Purpose Crew
40 Vehicle which may hinder astronauts' capabilities to effectively exercise during long distance
41 spaceflight.

42 Methods: Databases were searched from the start of their records to December 2018. Included
43 documents were quality assessed with the AMSRG quality scoring tool and Thematic Analysis was
44 used to analyse the included documents to assess technical constraints of the Orion Multi-Purpose
45 Crew Vehicle.

46 Results: 19 studies were included in the final review. All identified constraints, other than data
47 transmission limitations, were found to ultimately be a result of the volume and upload mass
48 constraints of the Orion Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle. There was a lack of detailed studies and lack of
49 consistency in specifying spacecraft in the literature that limit the conclusions of this review

50 Conclusion: Space agencies are advised to ensure that information on relevant spacecraft
51 constraints is readily available to researchers. This information should be made accessible in an
52 official published document as opposed to disparate and grey literature, and include quantitative
53 information rather than qualitative summaries.

54

55 **Keywords:**

56 Orion Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle

57 Exercise constraints

58 Spaceflight

59 Astronaut

60

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62 **1. Introduction**

63 The future of human spaceflight will take us beyond Low Earth Orbit (LEO): back to the moon; to
64 asteroids; and, within 30 years by current estimates, to the planet Mars (Kanas, 2013; Williams,
65 Kuipers, Mukai, & Thirsk, 2009). The Orion Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle (MPCV) is the newest
66 generation of exploration class spacecraft that has been planned for use during many of these
67 missions beyond LEO (Thompson et al., 2014). Microgravity exposure during spaceflight beyond LEO
68 presents challenges to the health, safety and performance of astronauts (Harding, Taylor, Takemoto,
69 & Vargis, 2017). Whilst exercise can be used to reduce the adverse effects of microgravity exposure
70 (Perusek et al., 2015), it is not yet fully understood what constraints the MPCV's design may place
71 upon such countermeasures (Anderson & Stambaugh, 2015).

72 Exposure to microgravity during spaceflight results in deconditioning of human physiological systems
73 due to the gravitational unloading of the body (Hargens, Bhattacharya, & Schneider, 2013).
74 Physiological deconditioning may affect crew performance during spaceflight, impacting their
75 capability to perform prolonged or strenuous tasks (Moore, Lee, Stenger, & Platts, 2010). These
76 negative physiological outcomes may become amplified as a result of longer duration spaceflight
77 beyond LEO (Kanas & Manzey, 2008), such as during transit periods to the Moon, Mars, and beyond
78 (Williams et al., 2009).

79 The most frequently used countermeasure for physiological deconditioning is physical exercise
80 (LeBlanc, Spector, Evans, & Sibonga, 2007). In order to reduce physiological deconditioning, it is
81 necessary for astronauts to exercise for up to 2.5 hours per day, 6 days per week (seven days per
82 week for ESA astronauts (Petersen et al., 2016)), including 60 minutes preparation time (Richter,
83 Braunstein, Winnard, Nasser, & Weber, 2017). Current countermeasures are not individually capable
84 of fully protecting the musculoskeletal and cardiovascular systems during long duration spaceflight
85 (Hargens et al., 2013). For example, some astronauts experience more than a 20% reduction in
86 muscle strength during spaceflight (Ploutz-Snyder, Ryder, English, Haddad, & Baldwin, 2015) and
87 astronauts experience monthly bone loss of 1-2% on average (Rittweger, 2019) due to the
88 inadequate effectiveness of current exercise countermeasures (Hargens et al., 2013). While other
89 physiological systems are impacted by microgravity exposure, for example the vestibular system
90 (Hallgren et al., 2015; Van Ombergen et al., 2017), it is unknown if these effects are attenuated by
91 exercise countermeasures (Mulavara et al., 2018) and therefore are outside the scope of this review.

92 The Orion MPCV is the newest generation of capsular exploration class spacecraft that has been
93 designed for missions beyond LEO (Thompson et al., 2014) of up to 21 days (Burns et al., 2013). A
94 number of future spacecraft are planned for spaceflight beyond LEO, although they are still in the

95 early process of development (SpaceX, 2017). The MPCV is already undergoing test flights (Cichan,
96 Norris, & Marshall, 2015), and the first human flight is expected by 2022 (Hambleton, 2018); the
97 current focus of preparing for spaceflight beyond LEO is, therefore, on the MPCV.

98 Relative to orbital space stations and non-capsular spacecraft, the MPCV is constrained by technical
99 limitations that hinder astronauts' capabilities to effectively exercise as a countermeasure to
100 physiological deconditioning (Thompson et al., 2014). Currently there is no publically available
101 synthesis of how these constraints might impact the delivery of exercise countermeasures
102 (Anderson et al., 2015).

103 Previous literature has identified that some limitations of future exploration vehicles include:
104 volume and mass restrictions, which do not provide an adequate area for current exercise
105 countermeasure technologies (De la Torre, 2014) and may limit the storage of consumables such as
106 food and water (Scott, Weber, & Green, 2019); limited electrical power, which will prevent the use
107 of exercise technologies that require a large power supply (Sheehan et al., 2016); logistical
108 constraints, such as the maintenance and repair of exercise devices; operational constraints, such as
109 time allocation for exercises that do not conflict with the crewmembers work (Scott et al., 2019);
110 and life support systems, which will be unable to effectively filter exercise by-products such as heat,
111 water vapour and carbon dioxide produced at their average rates, up to 30 minutes of exercise per
112 person, per 90 minutes (Ryder, Scott, Ploutz-Snyder, & Ploutz-Snyder, 2016). Whilst these limitations
113 have been identified, it is not clear which of these are specifically in reference to the MPCV and
114 similar spacecraft, and which of these are in reference to much larger spacecraft that will not
115 experience the same mass and volume constraints. This is because a majority of the literature in this
116 area refers only to "exploration vehicles" when discussing future spaceflight beyond LEO, rather
117 than specifying a certain spacecraft such as the MPCV (e.g. Richter et al., 2017; Scott, Weber, &
118 Green, 2019). This is problematic because the term "exploration vehicle" can refer to a range of
119 diverse spacecraft including the International Space Station (ISS) (Thompson et al., 2015), the multi-
120 mission space exploration vehicle, and the lunar lander (Metcalf, Peterson, Carrasquillo, &
121 Bagdigian, 2012).

122 The constraints of the MPCV and future spacecraft for long distance spaceflight present challenges
123 to the use of current exercise countermeasures necessary to prevent deconditioning of the
124 musculoskeletal and cardiovascular systems beyond LEO (Perusek et al., 2015). The evidence base of
125 this field must be reviewed to determine the technical limitations of the MPCV and future
126 exploration mission spacecraft, so that future research may be informed on the most effective
127 exercise countermeasures against musculoskeletal and cardiovascular deconditioning with respect

128 to the operational constraints of those vehicles on missions beyond LEO. Systematic reviews form an
 129 essential role within evidence-based research by providing a comprehensive assessment of existing
 130 evidence and identifying gaps or obstacles within the literature to research goals (Robinson,
 131 Saldanha, & Mckoy, 2011). Conducting a systematic review on the technical and physiological
 132 constraints of the MPCV and similar exploration spacecraft will aid in the development of future
 133 research questions and inform the types of questions and research designs necessary to answer
 134 those questions (Robinson et al., 2011), such as determining the most effective exercise
 135 countermeasures that can work within the constraints of the MPCV spacecraft.

136 The aim of this systematic review was to identify the technical constraints of the Orion MPCV or
 137 transferable spacecraft that will have an impact on the capability of astronauts to exercise
 138 effectively during spaceflight.

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140 **2. Material and Methods**

141 **2.1. Search Strategy**

142 A range of terms (mpcv, orion mpcv, exploration vehicle, exercise*, physical exercise, exercise area,
 143 exercise test, test, training, squat, technical constraint*, physical constraint, biomechanical,
 144 modelling, hybrid, lifting kit, grey water, gray water, humidity, oxygen, O2, straps, fire risk, friction,
 145 respiration, volume, energy consumption, stabilization, sweat, gaseous composition, isolation, crew
 146 time, vibration, habitation module) were used in combinations to search the NASA Technical Reports
 147 Server (NTRS), the NASA Life Science Data Archive (LSDA), and the Texas Digital Library (TDL) in
 148 December 2018. The range of search terms for each database were decided by a pre-scoping search
 149 of the literature to ensure that each search would capture the most relevant results possible. The
 150 full search strategy can be seen in Table 1.

151

152 Table 1 Search strategies for NTRS, LSDA and TDL

Search number	Term	Key words in Boolean search format	Reason
NASA Technical Report Server Search Strategy:			
1	Orion MPCV	"MPCV" OR "Orion MPCV"	Locate studies which consider the Orion MPCV

2	Exercise	“Exercise*” OR “Physical Exercise”	To find studies that are related to astronaut exercise and fitness
3	Technical Constraints	“squat” OR “biomechanical” OR “modelling” OR “hybrid” OR “lifting kit” OR "grey water" OR "gray water" OR "humidity" OR "oxygen" OR "O2" OR "Straps" OR "fire risk" OR "friction" OR "respiration" OR "volume" OR "energy consumption" OR "stabilization" OR "sweat" OR “technical constraint”	Limiting search to technical constraints
4	Combined/ Increased sensitivity search	1 AND 2 AND 3	Combined Search.

NASA Life Science Data Archive Search Strategy:

1	MPCV	Orion OR MPCV OR Exploration vehicle	Locate studies which consider the Orion MPCV
2	Exercise	Exercise OR Exercise area OR Exercise test OR test OR Training	To find studies that are related to astronaut exercise and fitness
3	Technical Constraints	Technical constraint OR Sweat OR straps OR Volume	Limiting search to technical constraints
4	Combined/ Increased sensitivity search	1 AND 2 AND 3	Combined Search.

Texas Digital Library Search Strategy:

1	MPCV	"MPCV"	Locate studies which consider the Orion MPCV
2	Exercise	"Exercise*"	To find studies that are related to astronaut exercise and fitness
3	Technical Constraints	"lifting kit" OR "gaseous composition" OR "physical constraints" OR "isolation" OR "volume" OR "crew time" OR "vibration" OR "sweat" OR "technical constraint*" OR "habitation module"	Limiting search to technical constraints
4	Combined/ Increased sensitivity search	1 AND 2 AND 3	Combined Search.

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2.2. Inclusion Criteria

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Any studies that did not meet the inclusion criteria were excluded. No restrictions on language,

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publication date or status were applied. As the Orion MPCV is a very new vehicle and its full

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technical limitations are likely classified within NASA databases (as indicated by pre-scoping of the

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literature) the inclusion criteria is expanded to consider grey literature sources, such as technical

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reports and presentations. The full inclusion criteria are presented in Table 2.

160 Table 2 Inclusion Criteria

<u>P</u> articipants/ <u>P</u> opulations	<u>I</u> ntervention/ <u>I</u> nterest	<u>C</u> ontrol/ <u>C</u> omparison	<u>O</u> utcome Measures	<u>S</u> tudy Types
<p>Orion MPCV or transferable spacecraft.</p> <p>The criteria for vehicles transferable to the Orion MPCV are all human capsular exploration class mission vehicles (Faget et al., 1963).</p> <p>As such, the following spacecraft are considered transferable: Soyuz; Shenzhou; Vostok; Voskhod; Mercury; Gemini; Apollo; SpaceX Dragon V2; Boeing CST-100 Starliner; Federatsiya/Federation; Gaganyaan/ISRO Orbital Vehicle; and Crew Exploration Vehicle (Faget et al., 1963).</p>	<p>Physiological or technical constraints of spacecraft.</p>	<p>No control/comparison as this is not an intervention review.</p>	<p>Prevent or reduce the capability of astronauts to exercise effectively during spaceflight.</p>	<p>All relevant literature of interest to the topic was included in the review.</p>

162 **2.3. Study Selection and Data Extraction**

163 The initial screening of documents, using abstracts and titles, was carried out by the lead author (JL)
164 and a co-author (CM) using the Rayyan systematic review online application (Ouzzani, Hammady,
165 Fedorowicz, & Elmagarmid, 2016). Each author was blinded to the inclusion or exclusion of
166 documents by the other. If it was unclear from the initial screening whether a study met the
167 inclusion criteria, the full text of the document was obtained. Any conflict or uncertainty in study
168 inclusion was discussed once blinded screening had been completed and agreed upon with a third
169 co-author (AW). NVivo 12 (QSR NVivo 12, 2014) was used to extract data from each paper by the
170 lead author (JL) and a sample of this extracted data was assessed by a co-author (BW) to increase
171 reliability. An additional academic colleague (CB) advised and assisted with the extraction of data
172 from NVivo. Any disagreements were discussed until a consensus was reached.

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174 **2.4. Quality Assessment**

175 All relevant documents included in the review consisted of grey literature and technical documents.
176 There is no universally accepted model or method in use for assessing the validity and quality of
177 integrative review data, such as grey literature and technical documents (Russell, 2005). Accordingly
178 a tool developed by the Aerospace Medicine Systematic Review Group at Northumbria University
179 was used to assess the overall quality and rank of evidence compared to other sources of evidence,
180 and to assess the reported content in comparison to an “ideal design” (Laws & Winnard, 2019). The
181 design of the developed tool was based upon a pre-existing evidence levelling system (Cuenca &
182 Crawford, 2011), as well as guidance provided on the quality scoring of integrative literature
183 (Whittemore & Knafl, 2005). It is important to consider here that the method is yet to be validated.

184 The quality scoring tool is split into two sections: ‘Evidence Level’ and ‘Clarity and Consistency’. The
185 evidence level section works on a point scale of 1 to 7, wherein documents are given a score
186 depending on the corresponding evidence level of the document. For example, documents that are
187 meta-analyses receive the highest score of 7, whilst documents that are laws and regulations receive
188 the lowest score of 1. The criteria for the evidence level section, as reproduced from Cuenca et al.
189 (2011), are as follows:

- 190 • Meta-analysis of multiple large sample or small sample randomised controlled studies, or
191 meta-synthesis of qualitative studies with results that consistently support a specific action,
192 intervention or treatment receive a score of 7.

- 193 • Well-designed controlled studies, both randomized and nonrandomized, prospective or
194 retrospective studies, and integrative reviews with results that consistently support a
195 specific action, intervention, or treatment receive a score of 6.
- 196 • Qualitative studies, descriptive or correlational studies, integrative reviews, systematic
197 reviews, or randomized controlled trials with inconsistent results receive a score of 5.
- 198 • Peer-reviewed professional organizational standards, with clinical studies to support
199 recommendations receive a score of 4.
- 200 • Theory-based evidence from expert opinion or multiple case reports, case studies,
201 consensus of experts, and literature reviews receive a score of 3.
- 202 • Manufacturer’s recommendation; anecdotes receive a score of 2.
- 203 • Laws and regulations (local, state, federal; licensing boards, accreditation bodies, etc)
204 receive a score of 1.

205 Section 2, clarity and consistency, involves rating documents on four individual criteria for which a
206 score of 1 is awarded for each criterion met (resulting in a maximum possible score of 4). The criteria
207 assess whether:

- 208 • The factual information of the document is clearly sourced.
- 209 • The methodological information is clearly stated and/or sourced.
- 210 • The information is clearly explained/of clear information value.
- 211 • The information is representative of all available primary sources.

212 The scores for sections 1 and 2 of the quality scoring tool are totalled for a final quality score where
213 a higher score indicates a higher quality document. Two authors (JL and BW) independently quality
214 assessed each included study by means of the quality assessment tool; any disagreements were
215 discussed to reach consensus. If consensus was not possible, a third co-author (AW) was consulted.

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217 **2.5. Data Analysis**

218 As all of the data included in this review were qualitative in nature, qualitative analysis of the
219 systematic review data followed the Braun and Clarke thematic analysis method (Braun & Clarke,
220 2006; Braun, Clarke, Hayfield, & Terry, 2019). Thematic analysis is a data-driven approach that
221 involves a six step processing of qualitative data through systematic identification and organisation
222 to offer insight into themes (patterns of meaning) within a data set (Braun et al., 2019). Analysis
223 further employed methods from thematic synthesis, a shortened three-step version of thematic
224 analysis to the integration of qualitative data in systematic reviews (Thomas & Harden, 2008). While

225 thematic synthesis uses the principles of thematic analysis, it also includes the use of computer
226 software to aid the analysis of qualitative data (Thomas et al., 2008), such as NVivo 12 (QSR NVivo
227 12, 2014). Thematic synthesis has been implemented in a number of previous qualitative systematic
228 reviews (Harden et al., 2006; Harden et al., 2004; Thomas et al., 2007; Thomas et al., 2003) and is a
229 method that allows qualitative synthesis of primary data without compromising the key principles of
230 systematic review research (Barnett-Page & Thomas, 2009; Thomas et al., 2008). While this review
231 has used the full six-stage thematic analysis (Braun et al., 2006), it integrates a thematic synthesis
232 approach to analysis through the use of qualitative data analysis software (QSR NVivo 12, 2014).

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234 **3. Results**

235 A total of 877 documents were identified, including 1 document from the screening of reference
236 lists, which were reduced to 352 after duplicates were removed. 331 documents were excluded after
237 screening of the title and abstracts of the documents were completed. The full text was obtained for
238 the remaining 21 documents, and 2 exclusions were made (Figure 1). The final number of documents
239 included in the review was 19 (see PRISMA diagram below).

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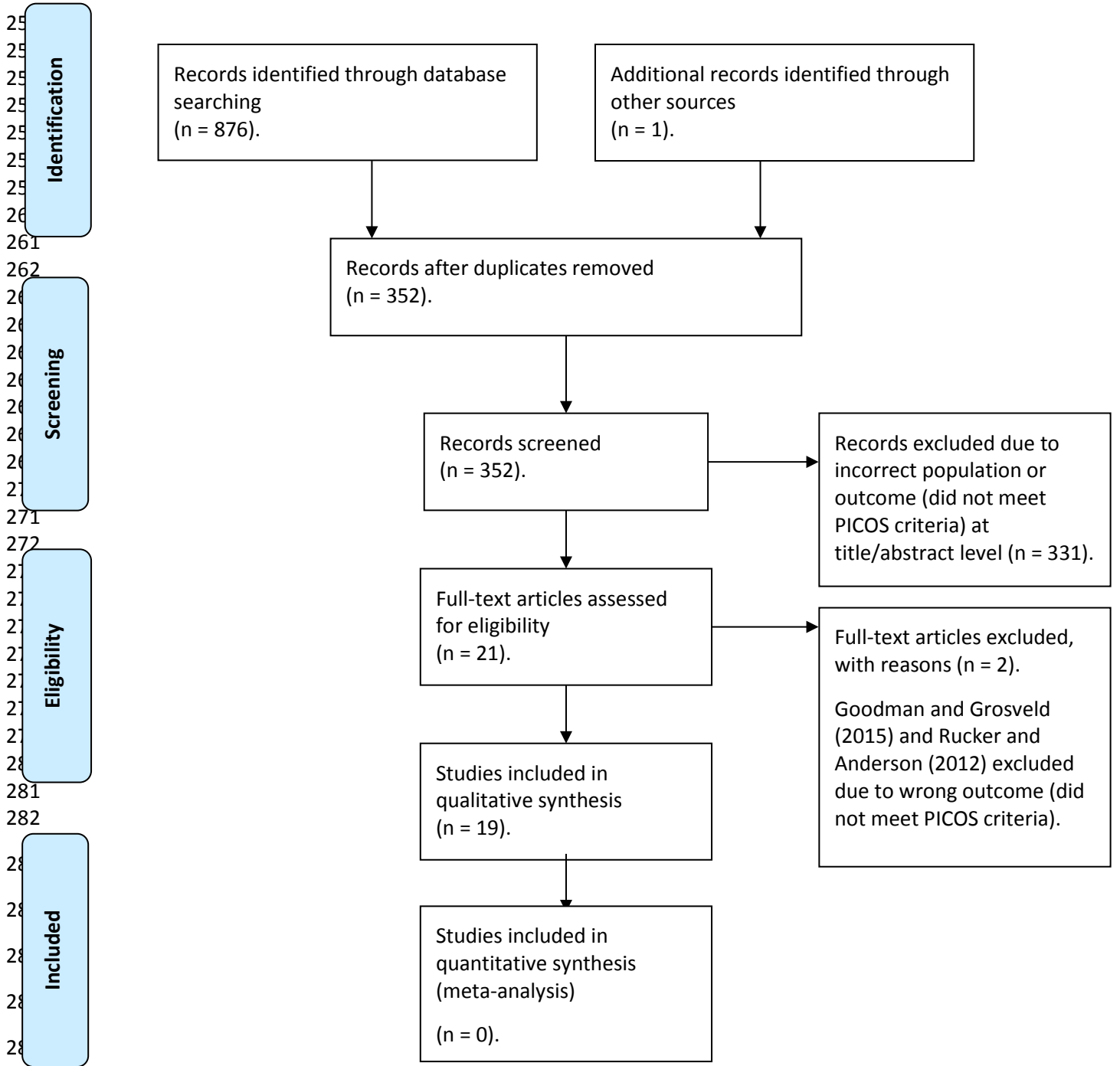
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290 Figure 1 PRISMA flow diagram displaying search and screening results.

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295 **3.1. Characteristics of Included Documents**

296 The characteristics of the included documents are summarised in Table 3. All of the included
297 documents were in English. Of the documents included two were academic/scientific posters, three
298 were conference papers, one was a lab report abstract, one was a conference paper abstract, one
299 was a lab report (cohort study), eight were PowerPoint presentations and three were technical
300 report documents. All 19 of the documents from which data could be extracted were included for
301 thematic analysis. For documents that included no date, or were only abstracts, requests were made
302 for the full paper and/or date, but no responses were received from the authors, with the exception
303 of one. Personal communication with a NASA representative (N. Raimondi, Personal Communication,
304 August 23, 2019) has indicated that for the Ryder et al. (2016) paper, only an abstract was submitted
305 and as such no full paper exists. The information contained within the abstract was still included for
306 thematic analysis.

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309 Table 3 Characteristics of the Included Studies

Author(s)	Document Type	Technical Constraint(s) Reported
Steinberg (2015)	Technical Report	Limited Mass of Spacecraft, Limited Volume of Spacecraft
Funk et al. (n.d)	Conference paper	Limited Mass of Spacecraft, Limited Volume of Spacecraft, Limited Power Usage/Access
Sheehan et al. (2016)	PowerPoint presentation	Limited Mass of Spacecraft, Limited Volume of Spacecraft, Limited Power Usage/Access
Thompson et al. (2015)	Technical report	Limited Mass of Spacecraft, Limited Volume of Spacecraft, Limited Power Usage/Access
De Witt, Caldwell, Fincke, Newby, and Scott- Pandorf (n.d)	Lab report (Cohort Study)	Limited Mass of Spacecraft, Limited Volume of Spacecraft
Downs, Hanson, and Newby (2015)	Technical Report	Limited Mass of Spacecraft, Limited Volume of Spacecraft
Moore, Howard, and Mendeck (2014)	Conference paper	Limited Mass of Spacecraft, Limited Volume of Spacecraft, CO2 Removal Limitations, Heat Generation and Cooling, Humidity and Moisture Control
Perusek et al. (2015)	PowerPoint presentation	Limited Mass of Spacecraft, Limited Volume of Spacecraft, Limited Power Usage/Access
Downs et al. (2017)	PowerPoint presentation	Limited Mass of Spacecraft, Limited Volume of Spacecraft, Limited Power Usage/Access
Thompson et al. (2014)	Conference paper	Limited Mass of Spacecraft, Limited Volume of Spacecraft, Limited Power Usage/Access

Author(s)	Document Type	Technical Constraint(s) Reported
Witt (2016)	PowerPoint presentation	Limited Volume of Spacecraft, Limited Power Usage/Access, Heat Generation and Cooling
Godfrey, Humphreys, Funk, Perusek, and Lewandowski (2017)	PowerPoint presentation	Limited Volume of Spacecraft
Downs (2017)	Academic/Scientific Poster	Limited Volume of Spacecraft, Limited Power Usage/Access
Moore (2016)	PowerPoint Presentation	Limited Volume of Spacecraft, Limited Power Usage/Access, Limited Mass of Spacecraft, Limited Volume of Spacecraft, Limited Power Usage/Access, CO2 Removal Limitations, O2 Consumption Limitations, Heat Generation and Cooling, Humidity and Moisture Control, Noise Generation Limitations, Spacecraft Structural Integrity, Vibration of Exercise Device, Exercise Device Structural Integrity, Isolation of Exercise Device, Stabilisation of Exercise Device
Gallo, Thompson, Lewandowski, and Jagodnik (2016)	PowerPoint presentation	Limited Volume of Spacecraft
Lewandowski et al. (2016)	PowerPoint presentation	Limited Mass of Spacecraft, Limited Volume of Spacecraft, Limited Power Usage/Access
Ryder et al. (2016)	Conference paper (Abstract only)	Limited Volume of Spacecraft, Humidity and Moisture Control, Data Transmission Limitations
Colosky (n.d)	Lab report (Abstract only)	Limited Mass of Spacecraft, Limited Volume of Spacecraft, Limited Power Usage/Access

Author(s)	Document Type	Technical Constraint(s) Reported
Buxton, Kalogera, and Hanson (2017)	Academic/Scientific Poster	Limited Volume of Spacecraft

311 **3.2. Quality Scoring**

312 For Section 1 (evidence level criteria) all 19 documents included for analysis were ranked as theory
313 based evidence, resulting in a quality score of 3. This indicates that all of the studies included were
314 theory-based evidence from expert opinion or multiple case reports, case studies, consensus of
315 experts, and literature reviews.

316 For section 2 (clarity and consistency) only two documents (Thompson et al., 2014; Thompson et al.,
317 2015) received the highest possible score of 4. Six documents received a score of 2 (De Witt et al.,
318 n.d; Downs et al., 2015; Funk et al., n.d; Moore et al., 2014; Ryder et al., 2016; Steinberg, 2015) and
319 the remaining documents received a score of 1 (Buxton et al., 2017; Colosky, n.d; Downs et al., 2017;
320 Downs, 2017; Gallo et al., 2016; Godfrey et al., 2017; Lewandowski et al., 2016; Moore, 2016;
321 Perusek et al., 2015; Sheehan et al., 2016; Witt, 2016).

322 The sum of section 1 (evidence level) and section 2 (clarity and consistency) scores resulted in a total
323 overall quality score for each document; the higher the score, the higher the overall quality of the
324 document. The lowest score of 4 was met by 11 documents (Buxton et al., 2017; Colosky, n.d; Downs
325 et al., 2017; Downs, 2017; Gallo et al., 2016; Godfrey et al., 2017; Lewandowski et al., 2016; Moore,
326 2016; Perusek et al., 2015; Sheehan et al., 2016; Witt, 2016). The highest score was 7 was met by
327 two documents (Thompson et al., 2014; Thompson et al., 2015), with the remaining 6 documents
328 (De Witt et al., n.d; Downs et al., 2015; Funk et al., n.d; Moore et al., 2014; Ryder et al., 2016;
329 Steinberg, 2015) receiving a total score of 5. A summary of the overall quality scores for all
330 documents can be seen in table 4.

331 Table 4 Quality scoring results across all studies, ticks indicate a condition was met, crosses indicate a condition was not met

	Steinberg (2015)	Funk et al. (n.d)	Sheehan et al. (2016)	Thompson et al. (2015)	De Witt et al. (n.d)	(Downs et al., 2015)	Moore et al. (2014)	Perusek et al. (2015)	Downs et al. (2017)	Thompson et al. (2014)	Witt (2016)	Godfrey et al. (2017)	Downs (2017)	Moore (2016)	Gallo et al. (2016)	Lewandowski et al. (2016)	Ryder et al. (2016)	Colosky (n.d)	Buxton et al. (2017)
Evidence Level																			
Meta-Analysis	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Controlled Studies	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Qualitative Studies	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Organisational Standards	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Theory-Based Evidence	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Manufacturer's Recommendation	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Laws & Regulations	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Total Score (Part 1)	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Clarity & Consistency																			
Clearly sourced factual information	X	X	X	✓	X	X	X	X	X	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Clearly sourced methodological information	X	X	X	✓	X	X	X	X	X	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Clearly explained information	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	X	X
Representative of primary sources	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Total Score (Part 2)	2	2	1	4	2	2	2	1	1	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1
OVERALL TOTAL SCORE	5	5	4	7	5	5	5	4	4	7	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	4	4

332 For Section 1 (evidence level) a score of: 7 is given for meta-analysis; 6 is given for controlled studies; 5 is given for qualitative studies; 4 is given for organisational standards; 3 is given for theory based evidence; 2 is
333 given for manufacturer's recommendations; and 1 is given for laws and regulations. For section 2 (clarity and consistency) a score of 1 is given for each criteria met, for a maximum score of 4. Overall total score is
334 the sum of section 1 and section 2 scores.

335 **3.3. Technical Constraints Assessed**

336 A summary of the technical constraints that were reported in each of the documents included in this
337 review is shown in Table 5.

	Steinberg (2015)	Funk et al. (n.d)	Sheehan et al. (2016)	Thompson et al. (2015)	De Witt et al. (n.d)	Downs et al. (2017)	Moore et al. (2014)	Perusek et al. (2015)	Downs et al. (2017)	Thompson et al. (2014)	Witt (2016)	Godfrey et al. (2017)	Downs (2017)	Moore (2016)	Gallo et al. (2016)	Lewandowski et al. (2016)	Ryder et al. (2016)	Colosky (n.d)	Buxton et al. (2017)
Technical Constraints Identified																			
Limited Mass of Spacecraft	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	×	×	✓	×	✓	×	✓	×
Limited Volume of Spacecraft	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Limited Power Usage/Access	×	✓	✓	✓	×	×	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	×	✓	×	✓	×
CO ₂ Removal Limitations	×	×	×	×	×	×	✓	×	×	×	×	×	×	✓	×	×	×	×	×
O ₂ Consumption Limitations	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	✓	×	×	×	×	×
Heat Generation and Cooling	×	×	×	×	×	×	✓	×	×	×	✓	×	×	✓	×	×	×	×	×
Humidity and Moisture Control	×	×	×	×	×	×	✓	×	×	×	×	×	×	✓	×	×	✓	×	×
Noise Generation Limitations	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	✓	×	×	×	×	×
Data Transmission Limitations	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	✓	×	×
Spacecraft Structural Integrity	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	✓	×	×	×	×	×
Vibration of Exercise Device	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	✓	×	×	×	×	×
Exercise Device Structural Integrity	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	✓	×	×	×	×	×
Isolation of Exercise Device	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	✓	×	×	×	×	×
Stabilisation of Exercise Device	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	✓	×	×	×	×	×

341 Thematic analysis of the included documents indicated two major themes thought to impact the
342 capability of astronauts to exercise effectively during spaceflight on-board the MPCV: limited volume
343 of spacecraft; limited mass of spacecraft. Underpinning these two major themes were 10 lower
344 order themes: heat generation and cooling; humidity and moisture control; CO₂ removal limitations;
345 O₂ consumption limitations; volume restrictions on exercise device; exercise device structural
346 integrity; limited power usage/access; noise generation; mass restrictions on exercise device; and
347 spacecraft structural integrity.

348 The 10 lower order themes were organised between two higher order themes: limitations of
349 environmental control and life support systems (ECLSS); constraints upon exercise device/program.
350 A characteristic was identified that described a relationship between some lower order themes. The
351 characteristic “exacerbated by distance from Earth” was identified as impacting four constraints:
352 data transmission limitations; O₂ consumption limitations; exercise device structural integrity; and
353 spacecraft structural integrity. Data transmission limitations was the only lower order theme that
354 was not linked to the two major themes, and was instead solely related to distance from Earth.

355 The thematic map demonstrating the relationship between each technical constraint can be seen in
356 Figure 2. Most of the included documents reported only qualitative data. Any quantitative data that
357 was reported within the included documents is presented in Table 6.

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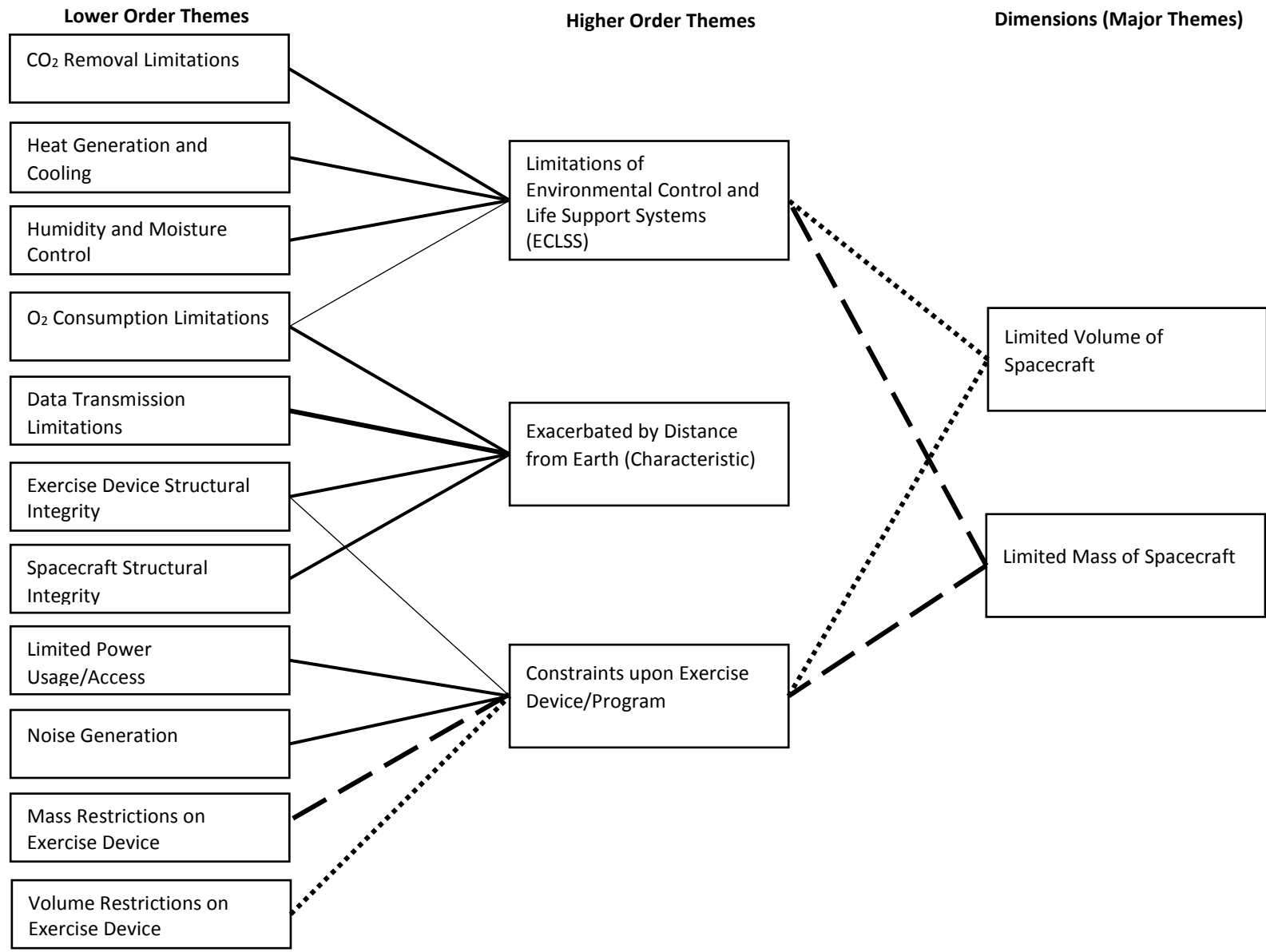


Figure 2 Thematic Map

Dotted lines indicate a relationship with “Limited Volume of Spacecraft”. Dashed lines indicate a relationship with “Limited Mass of Spacecraft”. The thickness of each line indicates the strength of the relationship between themes. “Exacerbated by distance from Earth” is a characteristic which describes links between some technical constraints, but is not linked to the mass and volume of the spacecraft.

Extracted Technical Constraints	Extracted Quantitative Information
Volume Constraints	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5m³/54% (of 9m³ available) habitable volume required for exercise (Moore et al., 2014). • Maximum exercise device dimensions: 34.29cm–53.34cm width x 34.29cm height x 19.05cm depth (Sheehan et al., 2016).
Mass Constraints	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum weight of exercise device must not exceed 10.6kg (Sheehan et al., 2016).
Exercise device structural integrity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exercise device must be capable of producing a resistive load of up to 181.437kg without breaking, buckling or bending, while still meeting the mass and volume restrictions (Sheehan et al., 2016). • For comparison, the “gold standard” exercise device on-board the ISS, ARED, is capable of providing a resistive load of 272kg (Scott et al., 2019).
CO ₂ removal limitations, humidity and moisture control, heat generation and cooling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exercise is limited to 30 minutes for every 90 minute period in order to be able to effectively filter the by-products of exercise (Moore et al., 2014). • Moisture is contributed to the MPCV’s environment due to increased sweating and respiratory rate (exhaling of air at 100% relative humidity) of astronauts during exercise.
Data Transmission Constraints	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A spacecraft in Martian orbit would take up to 25 minutes to receive a one-way communication from ground control on Earth, depending on the current location in space of the two planets (Kanas, 2013; Kanas et al., 2009)

381 **4. Discussion**

382 **4.1. Summary of Evidence**

383 The main finding of this review was that all constraints, other than data transmission limitations, are
384 ultimately a result of spacecraft volume and upload mass constraints. Thematic analysis of the
385 included documents identified the following 11 technical constraints: heat generation and cooling;
386 humidity and moisture control; CO₂ removal limitations; O₂ consumption limitations; volume
387 restrictions; exercise device structural integrity; limited power usage/access; noise generation; mass
388 restrictions; data transmission constraints; and spacecraft structural integrity.

389

390 **4.2. Limitations of Environmental Control and Life Support Systems (ECLSS)**

391 The Environmental Control and Life Support Systems (ECLSS) refers to the technology aboard
392 spacecraft that provides a suitable habitat in which astronauts can survive (Wieland, 1994). ECLSS
393 manages atmosphere composition, temperature, distribution of water, pressure, processing of
394 waste matter, detection and suppression of fires, and any other functions necessary to ensure
395 astronaut survival in outer-space (Wieland, 1994). Thematic analysis of the included documents
396 suggested that technical constraints related to limitations of ECLSS included: limitations to CO₂
397 removal; O₂ consumption; heat generation and cooling; and humidity and moisture control. Four of
398 the included documents (Moore, 2016; Moore et al., 2014; Ryder et al., 2016; Witt, 2016) indicate
399 that the limitations to ECLSS may create limitations for the exercise capability of astronauts.

400 As a countermeasure to musculoskeletal deconditioning, astronauts must exercise for up to 2.5
401 hours a day, six days per week (seven days per week for ESA astronauts (Petersen et al., 2016))
402 including preparation time of 60 minutes (Richter et al., 2017). The current US ISS exercise
403 countermeasures program consists of two sessions per day, including one 30-45 minute aerobic
404 session and one 45 minute resistance session, 6 days per week (Scott et al., 2019). These exercise
405 countermeasures produce CO₂ and heat as by-products (Moore et al., 2014), as well as moisture
406 within the spacecraft due to a raised respiratory rate, exhaled at 100% relative humidity, and the
407 production of sweat (Ryder et al., 2016).

408 Aboard larger spacecraft, like the ISS, ECLSS can effectively filter these by-products of exercise
409 (Moore et al., 2014). On the MPCV and smaller exploration mission spacecraft, by-products of
410 exercise cannot be effectively filtered fast enough to allow more than 30 minutes of exercise every
411 90 minutes (Moore et al., 2014). This would mean the current US ISS exercise countermeasures
412 program would have to be split into 3 sessions per astronaut each day. For an astronaut to meet the

413 current US exercise quota of 90 minutes (2 x 45 minutes) (Scott et al., 2019) on-board the MPCV,
414 where astronauts can only exercise for 30 minutes within a 90 minute period, would take up 4.5
415 hours (270 minutes) in total (i.e. 3 x 90 minutes). Assuming the MPCV was carrying its maximum
416 number of astronauts (four astronauts), it would take 18 hours in total per day (4.5 hours x 4
417 astronauts) for all astronauts to complete their required amount of exercise. During 6 of those 18
418 hours ((90 x 4)/60 = 6), 5m³ of the 9m³ available habitable space would be taken up by exercise
419 (Moore et al., 2014), although this exercise would be discontinuous (30 minutes non-stop, broken up
420 by 60 minute breaks). It is unclear from the included documents how this may impact other mission
421 procedures and tasks, and it may be the case that the limitations of the ECLSS could result in a
422 change in exercise regime on the MPCV compared to the current regime on the ISS. For example, as
423 CO₂ production increases as a result of metabolic demands of the exercising muscles (Phillipson,
424 Bowes, Townsend, Duffin, & Cooper, 1981), intense exercises that produce more CO₂ than the ECLSS
425 can effectively filter may not be possible on-board the MPCV, and so new exercise strategies may
426 have to be developed.

427 The consumption of O₂ during exercise may also present challenges to the ECLSS (Moore, 2016).
428 However, it is difficult to determine exactly how this will occur as none of the documents included in
429 this review provided specific or detailed information as to how O₂ consumption could challenge
430 exercise capabilities. There is evidence that O₂ consumption is higher than at rest, both during and
431 post exercise (Excess Post-exercise O₂ Consumption (EPOC)) for up to 12 hours, the magnitude of
432 which is proportional to the length of the exercise undertaken (Bahr, Ingnes, Vaage, Sejersted, &
433 Newsholme, 1987). The intensity of the exercise undertaken further increases the duration and the
434 magnitude of EPOC (Bahr & Sejersted, 1991). However, the relationship of these variables in relation
435 to resistance exercise remains unclear due to the limited number of studies and difficulties with the
436 quantification of exercise work intensity (Laforgia, Withers, & Gore, 2006). As EPOC comprises at
437 least 6-15% of the net total oxygen cost of an exercise (Laforgia et al., 2006), the length and intensity
438 of any exercise countermeasure will need to be taken into account to ensure that O₂ supplies are
439 capable of supporting not only increased O₂ consumption during exercise but also post-exercise. It
440 may be possible to split exercise up into shorter duration but higher intensity sessions to overcome
441 this limitation, as higher intensity exercises have been shown to be equally or even more effective at
442 building and maintaining aerobic capacity than longer duration exercises (Ryder et al., 2016).
443 However, exercise by-products produced by these exercises must not exceed the limitations of the
444 MPCV's ECLSS.

445 While the included documents have identified that exercise must be limited to 30 minutes per 90
446 minutes in order to effectively filter the by-products of exercise (Moore et al., 2014), they did not

447 indicated any other specific figures as to what the upper limits are for temperature control, humidity
448 and sweat production, or O₂ consumption.

449

450 **4.3. Constraints upon exercise device/program**

451 A number of the constraints identified in this review relate to the exercise device and exercise
452 programme necessary to accomplish exercise during spaceflight. Spacecraft exercise devices are
453 adapted for use in microgravity, such as the Advanced Resistive Exercise Device (ARED) (Loehr et al.,
454 2015; Petersen et al., 2016), to maintain musculoskeletal health (Convertino & Sandler, 1995).
455 Exercise devices typically use a restraint system, such as a harness or bungee that provides a force
456 to keep astronauts attached to the exercise device (De Witt & Ploutz-Snyder, 2014). Constraints
457 related to the higher order theme Exercise Device and Program include: Limited power usage/access
458 (e.g. to power an exercise device (Sheehan et al., 2016)); exercise device structural integrity; volume
459 constraints upon the exercise device; mass constraints upon the exercise device; noise generation
460 constraints; and spacecraft structural integrity.

461 The volume and upload mass constraints of the MPCV provide challenges for the development of
462 effective exercise countermeasures that need to be as effective as pre-existing countermeasures
463 currently used on-board much larger spacecraft such as the ISS (Perusek et al., 2015). The ARED
464 currently stands as the “gold standard” exercise device for use in the space environment to minimise
465 musculoskeletal deconditioning (Downs, 2017). The volume and upload mass constraints of the
466 MPCV mean that ARED (and similar devices) are too large and heavy for use on-board the MPCV
467 (Perusek et al., 2015). The functional requirements of an Orion MPCV exercise device require
468 dimensions of 10.6kg, 34.29cm-53.34cm width x 34.29cm height x 19.05cm depth (Sheehan et al.,
469 2016) and the astronauts will need a space of 5m³ (out of 9m³, 54% of the habitable volume) to
470 accommodate the movements needed for exercise (Moore et al., 2014; Scott et al., 2019). Exercise
471 devices that fit this criteria are under development (Lewandowski et al., 2016). However, there is
472 concern that these devices will be incapable of protecting against musculoskeletal deconditioning to
473 the same extent as current countermeasures (Lewandowski et al., 2016), as they may not be able to
474 provide sufficient load during the performance of resistance and aerobic/anaerobic exercises while
475 meeting the MPCV’s mass, volume and power requirements (Thompson et al., 2015).

476 Upload mass constraints of the MPCV place limitations on the structure and design of exercise
477 devices, which is problematic as the exercise device must be capable of providing sufficient load
478 (181.437kg resistive peak load capability (Sheehan et al., 2016)) during exercises while meeting
479 these mass constraints (Thompson et al., 2015). Current exercise countermeasures, such as ARED,

480 that are not limited by these constraints and are capable of providing greater resistive load (272kg
481 (Scott et al., 2019)) are unable to achieve complete musculoskeletal protection (Thompson et al.,
482 2014). For example, current evidence-based countermeasures are unable to provide complete
483 protection for the lumbopelvic system (Winnard et al., 2017). As of yet there have been no exercise
484 devices identified that are capable of both meeting the volume and mass requirements of the MPCV,
485 and also being able to meet physiological performance parameters (Moore et al., 2014).

486 The limitations to mass and volume become more concerning when it is considered that current
487 countermeasures, including ARED, are incapable of fully protecting against physiological
488 deconditioning during spaceflight (Moore et al., 2014; Winnard et al., 2017). For example, if the
489 musculoskeletal system is too heavily atrophied then it is possible an astronaut on a Mars landing
490 mission, or upon returning to Earth, would lack the strength to open the spacecraft hatch to exit the
491 vehicle (Gernand, 2004). Musculoskeletal deconditioning may further prevent astronauts from
492 completing nominal or emergency activities, and the risk of this occurring increases with longer
493 duration missions (Gernand, 2004). As such, the volume and mass constraints of the MPCV present a
494 major challenge to mission success if a suitable exercise countermeasure cannot be developed that
495 works effectively within the spacecraft's volume and mass constraints.

496 Noise production from training devices is another challenge for exercising effectively on MPCV
497 (Moore, 2016). Astronauts on-board spacecraft experience chronic exposure to noise and vibration
498 (Morphew, 2001). Chronic exposure to noise can cause disruption, interfere with communication,
499 cause damage and pain to the inner ear and, in a worst case scenario, result in hearing loss (Barber,
500 Crooks, & Frstrup, 2010; Connors, Harrison, & Akins, 1985). Noise is of particular concern during
501 spaceflight as noise is amplified within enclosed spaces (Gershon, Qureshi, Barrera, Erwin, &
502 Goldsmith, 2005). While Moore (2016) indicated that noise is a technical constraint that will
503 interfere with astronaut exercise on the MPCV (due to the production of noise in an enclosed space),
504 they do not provide any explicit figures on noise limitations. Previous literature on noise in the space
505 environment indicates that noise during spaceflight should be limited to a maximum of 45 dB
506 (Connors et al., 1985), although it is not clear if this will also apply to the MPCV. On this basis it may
507 be a requirement that exercise device countermeasures intended for use in the MPCV do not result
508 in noise levels above 45 dB.

509 From a psychological perspective, loss or reduction of hearing could result in negative emotional
510 reactions, difficulties in communication (Monzani, Galeazzi, Genovese, Marrara, & Martini, 2008),
511 social isolation, and potentially stigmatisation of affected crew members, resulting in a reduction in
512 crew cohesion, well-being and self-esteem, and an increase in symptoms of anxiety and depression

513 (Tambs, 2004) in crew members with hearing loss. These psychosocial elements of spaceflight can
514 have a range of impacts upon mission success, ranging from decreases in individual performance to
515 the possibility of mission failure (Palinkas, 2007). Therefore, ensuring the auditory health of the crew
516 is of the utmost importance.

517 Power availability is another technical constraint for MPCV exercise devices (Thompson et al., 2015).
518 The most common method of generating electrical power during spaceflight is through the use of
519 solar arrays (Jones & Spence, 2011). The ISS hosts eight solar arrays (Reddy et al., 2008) with the
520 largest, the ISS alpha solar array, being capable of generating 75000 watts (Jones et al., 2011). Given
521 the much smaller size of the MPCV in comparison to the ISS (Perusek et al., 2015), it is likely that the
522 MPCV is not able to generate as much electrical power as the ISS (Rehman, Bader, & Al-Moallem,
523 2007). The lack of power available to the MPCV will, alongside other constraints such as volume and
524 upload mass, prevent the use of currently available exercise countermeasures such as ARED (Downs,
525 2017). While a number of exercise devices are under consideration and designed for use on-board
526 the MPCV (Sheehan et al., 2016) the limited availability of power may impact exercise device
527 capabilities, such as the provision of biofeedback (Winnard, Debuse, et al., 2019). While 11 of the
528 included documents indicate that power limitations will impact astronaut exercise, the amount of
529 power available to run exercise devices has not been quantified in any of the sources analysed in this
530 review. However, the limited availability of a power supply would seem to imply design ramifications
531 for an exercise device and program and raises concerns that exercise devices and programs
532 developed for the MPCV will not be as effective as previous exercise countermeasures such as the
533 ARED (Lewandowski et al., 2016).

534 One further challenge is the structural integrity of the exercise device and spacecraft (Moore, 2016).
535 The exercise device used on board the MPCV must be mounted on an isolation and stabilisation
536 structure that protects the spacecraft, and possibly microgravity research, from vibration while
537 maintaining the necessary stability for exercise (Moore, 2016). The mass restrictions, combined with
538 volume constraints, make it difficult to isolate, stabilise, prevent vibration and keep the spacecraft
539 structurally intact, as such a structure requires more volume and adds more weight to the spacecraft
540 (Moore, 2016). While Moore (2016) identified that such an isolation structure would be needed,
541 they do not give any specific detail on how much volume such a structure would take up, or the
542 mass of such a structure. It is also unclear based upon the included documents if the volume
543 allocated to the exercise device (34.29cm-53.34cm width x 34.29cm height x 19.05cm depth
544 (Sheehan et al., 2016)) includes space for an isolation structure. Moore et al. (2014) reported that
545 structural assessments of the MPCV indicated that while the use of an exercise device may not

546 damage spacecraft structure (such as solar arrays) it may distort spacecraft attitude (orientation).
547 Therefore, the infrequent use of thruster responses may be necessary to maintain course.

548

549 **4.4. Exacerbated by distance from Earth**

550 Data transmission is the only constraint which is limited solely by the 'exacerbated by distance from
551 Earth' characteristic, unlike the constraints discussed previously which are also influenced by the
552 spacecraft upload mass and volume. Data transmission refers to the communication of data
553 (Petersen et al., 2016). In the context of astronaut physiological outcomes, it may refer to data
554 communication such as ground crew providing exercise prescription changes, feedback and coaching
555 (Petersen et al., 2016). The further a spacecraft travels from Earth, the longer it takes for a one-way
556 communication to occur (Kanas, 2013; Kanas et al., 2009). For example, a spacecraft in Martian orbit
557 would take up to 25 minutes to receive a one-way communication from ground control on Earth,
558 depending on the current location in space of the two planets (Kanas, 2013; Kanas et al., 2009). This
559 presents problems for exercise on-board the MPCV during future exploration missions as astronauts
560 will have to act in an autonomous manner during periods in which there is a lack of effective
561 communication with ground control (McGregor, 2013). Data transmission problems, due to a longer
562 distance from Earth, will impact the ability of ground control to real-time monitor (e.g. via video
563 conference) the health and wellbeing of astronauts or to prescribe changes to the exercise programs
564 (McGregor, 2013). A way to address this may be to provide daily or weekly changes (if needed) to
565 exercise prescriptions as opposed to instant feedback.

566 The ECLSS constraint, O₂ consumption, is also exacerbated as a result of increased distance from
567 Earth due to the inability to re-supply critical resources during a long-distance/duration mission
568 beyond the Earth-Moon system (Jones, Hodgson, & Kliss, 2014; Schaezler & Cook, 2015). It could be
569 argued that this constraint is ultimately a result of volume constraints: the small volume available for
570 the MPCV means that more O₂ cannot be taken during a long-distance mission, limiting the ECLSS in
571 its capacity to support exercise requiring higher O₂ consumption (Moore et al., 2014).

572 The structural integrity of the exercise device itself may also be an exacerbated constraint due to the
573 distance from Earth. Due to volume limitations, there is limited space available for an exercise device
574 (Moore et al., 2014). Furthermore, the device must have strong structural integrity in order to
575 prevent it buckling, bending or breaking entirely (Moore, 2016) and to minimise any damage and the
576 necessity of repairs. The latter is important, because as communication delays will also exist on
577 board the MPCV during far-from-Earth voyages, astronauts may lack ground support at times, and
578 being unable to exercise may, in a worst case scenario, result in mission failure (Kanas, 2013; Kanas

579 et al., 2009). The distance from Earth will also impact the structural integrity of the exercise device in
580 so far as it will need to be extremely robust, as if it breaks or needs new parts and cannot be fixed it
581 may not be possible to resupply the spacecraft with a new device from Earth, potentially leading to
582 mission failure (Jones et al., 2014).

583 The limited volume of the spacecraft, at longer distances from Earth, may also have knock-on effects
584 for other spacecraft supplies such as food and water storage (Scott et al., 2019). The limited volume
585 of the vehicles lowers their storage capabilities, while the increased distance from Earth limits or
586 prevents entirely the capacity for resupply (Jones et al., 2014; Scott et al., 2019). As intense exercise
587 requires food to maintain energy balance and water to maintain hydration, the exercise program on-
588 board exploration spacecraft will create a challenge for consumables storage (Scott et al., 2019).
589 Therefore, all of the food and water needed for astronauts to exercise on an exploration mission
590 would need to fit within the limitations of the vehicle's volume requirements. No quantitative details
591 are given within the included literature as to how much volume such storage would take up or how
592 long an exploration mission could occur with the maximum number of food and water supplies, or
593 the rate at which astronauts would consume these supplies.

594 A single astronaut on the ISS consumes 2.49kg of food per day (0.83kg per meal) (Allen & Dubar,
595 2007), and NASA recommends they consume at least 2 litres of fluid per day (Lane & Feedback, 2002).
596 On the MPCV, assuming a crew of four astronauts that were eating three meals per day and
597 following the same exercise countermeasures as the ISS, 209.16kg of food and 168 litres of fluid
598 would be needed for a 21 day mission. A three year mission to Mars, although such a mission is likely
599 to involve additional space (such as a Deep Space Habitat (DSH) (Curley, Stambaugh, Swickrath,
600 Anderson, & Rotter, 2012)), would require 10886kg of food (Allen et al., 2007) and 8760 litres of
601 fluid for a crew of four.

602 There is potential for the use of selective androgen receptor modulators as a countermeasure
603 method that could reduce the need for exercise. As mentioned above, current exercise protocols on-
604 board the ISS are effective, but they require mission hardware with significant mass and volume, in
605 addition to significant crew time. It would be sensible to employ the same countermeasure strategy
606 used to ensure mission bone health, namely develop a pharmaceutical countermeasure that can be
607 used either as an alternative to exercise or as a supplement. It is known that testosterone therapy
608 encourages the growth of muscle tissue (Bhasin et al., 1996), and has been used in men to prevent
609 muscle atrophy associated with cancer, other wasting diseases, and even aging (Hardee & Lynch,
610 2019). NASA has conducted a promising preliminary study in a bedrest analog to determine the
611 utility of low-dose testosterone for men on space missions (Dillon et al., 2018). However,

612 testosterone is an endogenously produced hormone with multiple targets throughout the body, and
613 carries the risk of significant unwanted side effects in men and women. New selective androgen
614 receptor modulators (SARMs) are being developed to specifically target the type of testosterone
615 receptor expressed by muscle cells (Solomon et al., 2018). Several SARMs have been shown to
616 increase muscle mass in various pre-clinical models. Of particular interest is the result of both
617 anabolic and anti-catabolic activity associated with use of SARM S42 in rats and cell culture (Muta et
618 al., 2019). Enobosarm (S22) was shown to increase lean body mass in elderly women, but did not
619 meet desired efficacy goals in trials regarding pelvic floor muscle (Crawford, 2016; Crawford et al.,
620 2016). SARM GSK2881078 has been shown to increase lean body mass in a dose-dependent fashion
621 in both men and women (Neil et al., 2018). With continuing mechanistic studies and clinical trials,
622 the data may show that one or more SARMs may be excellent countermeasure candidates for the
623 muscle loss associated with long duration spaceflight, providing a potential solution to the volume
624 and mass constraints of the Orion MPCV.

625

626 **4.5. Summary of predicted quantified constraints**

627 Not all constraints were quantified in the included documents. All available extracted constraints
628 were reported in the results. Where constraints were not quantified in the included documents,
629 predictions have been made based upon the interpretation and discussion of the thematic analysis.
630 Table 6 in the results section summarised the quantitative data extracted from the included
631 documents. Table 7 presents the predicted additional constraints based on the available
632 information.

633

Table 7 Additional predicted constraints based upon the available information

Additional predicted Technical Constraints	Predicted Quantitative Information
Volume and Environmental Control and Life Support Constraints	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="1178 292 2029 427">• On the MPCV by-products of exercise cannot be effectively filtered fast enough to allow more than 30 minutes of exercise every 90 minutes (Moore et al., 2014). <li data-bbox="1178 456 2029 592">• The US ISS exercise countermeasures program would have to be split into 3 sessions per astronaut each day to be implemented on-board the MPCV. <li data-bbox="1178 620 2029 756">• Meeting the current US exercise quota of 90 minutes (2 x 45 minutes) (Scott et al., 2019) under this regimen would take a single astronaut 4.5 hours in total. <li data-bbox="1178 785 2029 920">• Assuming the MPCV was carrying its maximum number of astronauts (4 astronauts), it would take 18 hours in total per day for each astronaut to complete their required amount of exercise. <li data-bbox="1178 949 2029 1027">• During 6 of those 18 hours, 5m³ of the 9m³ available habitable space would be taken up by exercise (Moore et al., 2014). <li data-bbox="1178 1056 2029 1246">• On the MPCV (assuming a crew of four astronauts that were eating three meals per day and following the same exercise countermeasures as the ISS) 209.16kg of food and 924 litres of water would be needed for a 21 day mission. <li data-bbox="1178 1275 2029 1356">• A three year mission to Mars on the MPCV would require 10886kg of food (Allen et al., 2007) and 48180 litres of water for a crew of 4.

O₂ Consumption Constraints

- O₂ consumption is higher than at rest, post exercise (Excess Post-exercise O₂ Consumption (EPOC)) for up to 12 hours, the magnitude of which is proportional to the length of the exercise undertaken (Bahr et al., 1987).
- EPOC comprises at least 6-15% of the net total oxygen cost of an exercise (Laforgia et al., 2006).

Noise Constraints

- Noise during spaceflight, including exercise, should be limited to a maximum of 45 dB (Connors et al., 1985) to reduce risk of hearing loss (Connors et al., 1985; Morphew, 2001).

635

636

637 **4.6. Space Agency Operational Insights**

638 The discussion of this review has been based upon evidence from publically available grey literature
639 and technical documents, however, personal communications with space agencies suggests that
640 they may be considering additional approaches or changes to an MPCV mission. On-board the ISS
641 exercise occurs 6 days per week (seven days per week for ESA astronauts (Petersen et al., 2016)),
642 lasting approximately 2.5 hours per astronaut (2 x 45 minutes, including preparation time) (Richter
643 et al., 2017). Personal communications with the European Space Agency indicate that MPCV
644 missions, being up to 21 days in length, may implement exercise for 3 days per week rather than 6
645 days per week (A. Frechette, personal communication, August 07, 2019). As such the previous
646 estimate that for 360 minutes per day, 5m³ of the 9m³ available habitable space would be taken up
647 by exercise (Moore et al., 2014) could be reduced to 90-180 minutes per day (as some days will
648 require more than one astronaut to exercise on the same day, if there is a crew of four astronauts),
649 assuming that the exercise schedule still consisted of 90 minutes of exercise per astronaut.

650 Personal communications further indicated that missions to Mars or asteroids are likely to have
651 significantly more power and volume available (A. Frechette, personal communication, August 07,
652 2019). One way that this may be accomplished is if the MPCV were to be attached to a Deep-Space
653 Habitat (DSH) (Curley et al., 2012). During these missions the crew would live within a DSH which
654 would minimise the volume and power constraints of the MPCV in relation to exercise, as the MPCV
655 would only be used to leave/return to Earth, emergency escape, and for exploration excursions for
656 up to seven days (Curley et al., 2012).

657 The European Space Agency's current policy for exercise in the outer-space environment is that it is
658 not necessary for short-duration missions of nine days or less (A. Frechette, personal
659 communication, August 07, 2019). As the MPCV, without a DSH, is designed for missions of up to 21
660 days (Burns et al., 2013) it is the case that currently only the final 12 days out of 21 require exercise
661 countermeasures. A recent systematic review (Winnard, Scott, Waters, Vance, & Caplan, 2019) has
662 found that, based upon bed-rest simulations of microgravity, moderate effects of muscle
663 deterioration were observed after seven days when undertaking no exercise countermeasures. As
664 such it is recommended that the European Space Agency amends policy to necessitate exercise for
665 missions of seven days or more, rather than nine, and that the MPCV is not used for missions longer
666 than seven days unless exercise countermeasures are available in order to reduce risk of injury to
667 the crew involved. As current ISS countermeasures are not usable within the constraints of the
668 MPCV identified within this review (Thompson et al., 2014), new exercise countermeasures will need
669 to be developed that work within these constraints or the MPCV will need to be used in conjunction
670 with a DSH (Curley et al., 2012) with enough space to allow the use of current ISS countermeasures.

671

672 **4.7. Limitations of the systematic review**

673 The lack of detailed studies and lack of consistency in specifying spacecraft in the literature all limit
674 the conclusions of this review. The evidence base that met the inclusion criteria consisted almost
675 entirely of expert testimony and anecdotal evidence, including NASA PowerPoint learning materials,
676 as opposed to detailed controlled trials, detailed technical specifications, engineering manuals,
677 space-agency specified exercise constraints and experimental studies. This means that the technical
678 constraints identified often lacked clear and detailed information as to how they impacted exercise
679 or they lacked a clear empirical source, as demonstrated through quality assessment. Only two of
680 the included documents (Moore et al., 2014; Sheehan et al., 2016) in this review contained
681 quantified information on the technical constraints, and whilst quantitative information has been
682 listed on the mass and volume constraints, load requirements of an exercise device and exercise
683 program duration (Table 5), clear quantitative information is still missing for all remaining technical
684 constraints. In order for the research community to provide informed recommendations about
685 exercise countermeasures, space agencies should ensure that information on relevant spacecraft
686 constraints is clearly available. This information should be made accessible in an official published
687 document as opposed to disparate and grey literature, and include quantitative information rather
688 than qualitative summaries. While it is possible that data exists within internal and classified space
689 agency documents that is not yet publicly available, the present review presents the most
690 comprehensive, state of the art synthesis of the publicly available data and identifies both gaps
691 within this literature and barriers to existing research goals. The repeatable methods provided in this
692 review provide a means by which the review can be updated should data that is not currently
693 publicly available become declassified.

694 Most of the literature on future exploration missions and their constraints do not refer to specific
695 spacecraft (e.g. MPCV), but instead use variations of the term “future exploration vehicles”. This was
696 problematic for the systematic search as such terminology made it impossible to distinguish
697 between larger spacecraft (such as the ISS) and smaller spacecraft (such as the MPCV). To ensure
698 that all literature included was relevant, it was necessary to exclude any sources that did not
699 specifically state the spacecraft it referred to (and as such did not match the inclusion criteria).
700 Unfortunately, this means that it is possible some relevant documents were missed. It is, therefore,
701 recommended that future documents ensure they refer to a specific spacecraft when discussing
702 future exploration spacecraft and/or missions. Gap analysis provides a means by which both the
703 gaps in a research area and the reasons for their existence can be identified and research then
704 designed to fill them (Robinson et al., 2011). The limitations identified in this review provide two of

705 the most present obstacles in developing a more clear understanding of the technical constraints
706 that impact exercise on-board the MPCV.

707

708 **5. Conclusions**

709 This review identified the following technical and physiological constraints of the exploration mission
710 spacecraft: constraints of the environmental control and life support systems (heat generation and
711 cooling, humidity and moisture control, CO₂ removal limitations, O₂ consumption limitations
712 (limiting exercise to 30 minutes in every 90 minute period), constraints upon the exercise device and
713 program (volume restrictions (5m³/54% (of 9m³) habitable volume for exercise space, with
714 maximum dimensions for an exercise device of 34.29cm-53.34cm width x 34.29cm height x 19.05cm
715 depth), exercise device structural integrity, limited power usage/access, noise generation, mass
716 restrictions on exercise device of 10.6kg maximum mass, while providing 181.437kg load, and
717 spacecraft structural integrity) and data transmission limitations.

718 The most frequently reported technical constraint was volume (size/space) constraints (reported by
719 every document), followed by upload mass constraints and power constraints. Thematic analysis of
720 the documents suggest that all constraints, other than data transmission limitations, are ultimately a
721 result of the volume and upload mass constraints, which may explain why volume and mass
722 constraints were the most widely reported constraints throughout the included documents. The
723 findings of this review suggest that the limited volume and upload mass of these spacecraft present
724 the most important challenges to the capability of astronauts to exercise effectively during
725 spaceflight, with almost all other identified technical constraints resulting from the upload mass and
726 volume constraints. While upload mass and volume constraints have been widely reported, the
727 impact they have had on additional factors such as noise generation and the supply of consumables
728 has not. This review has compiled each of these constraints into a single document and highlighted
729 any quantitative information available, as seen in Table 6, in order to aid the development of future
730 research questions and development of exercise countermeasures for exploration spaceflight. The
731 review has further predicted a number of potential constraints based upon the quantitative
732 information available, such as the maximum level of noise the exercise devices can safely produce
733 and the weight of consumables required for a Mars mission, as seen in Table 7. Some constraints
734 (data transmission limitations, O₂ consumption limitations, exercise device structural integrity, and
735 spacecraft structural integrity) were also found to be exacerbated by distance from Earth, indicating
736 that longer distance missions (such as to the Moon) may require further considerations for exercise
737 countermeasures that differ from short distance missions (such as to low Earth orbit). The

738 identification of these technical constraints is an important step for the future recommendation of
739 exercise countermeasures for use on-board the MPCV or transferable exploration class spacecraft
740 and the method given within this review provide a means by which to update this document in the
741 event additional data becomes available. Future research to identify suitable countermeasures
742 should consider if they will work within the context of the constraints identified within this review.

743

744 **Funding**

745 This research did not receive any specific grant or funding from funding agencies in the public,
746 commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

747

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