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Soviets Renew Interest in Lunar Landing Studies: In a recent issue of a Soviet periodical, two papers related to the landing and lift-off sequence of a lunar spacecraft are presented. The authors determine the magnitude and direction of the vehicle thrust required to optimize

the trajectory down from and back to lunar orbit.
[REDACTED]

Comment: These articles are indicative of the renewed Soviet interest in the execution of a lunar landing and recovery. Skepticism about the success of such a mission appears to have disappeared in the wake of the US Apollo accomplishments. In the past, Soviet investigations on the dynamics of lunar landings have been notably absent from the referenced periodical, which is the leading open publication on space sciences in the USSR.

The relevance of the computation of optimal thrusting programs is that, although such programs are usually too complex to be implemented in the actual system, they provide a standard with which to compare the expected effectiveness of suboptimal but less complex actual control programs.
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