

Boost-Phase Defense Timeline

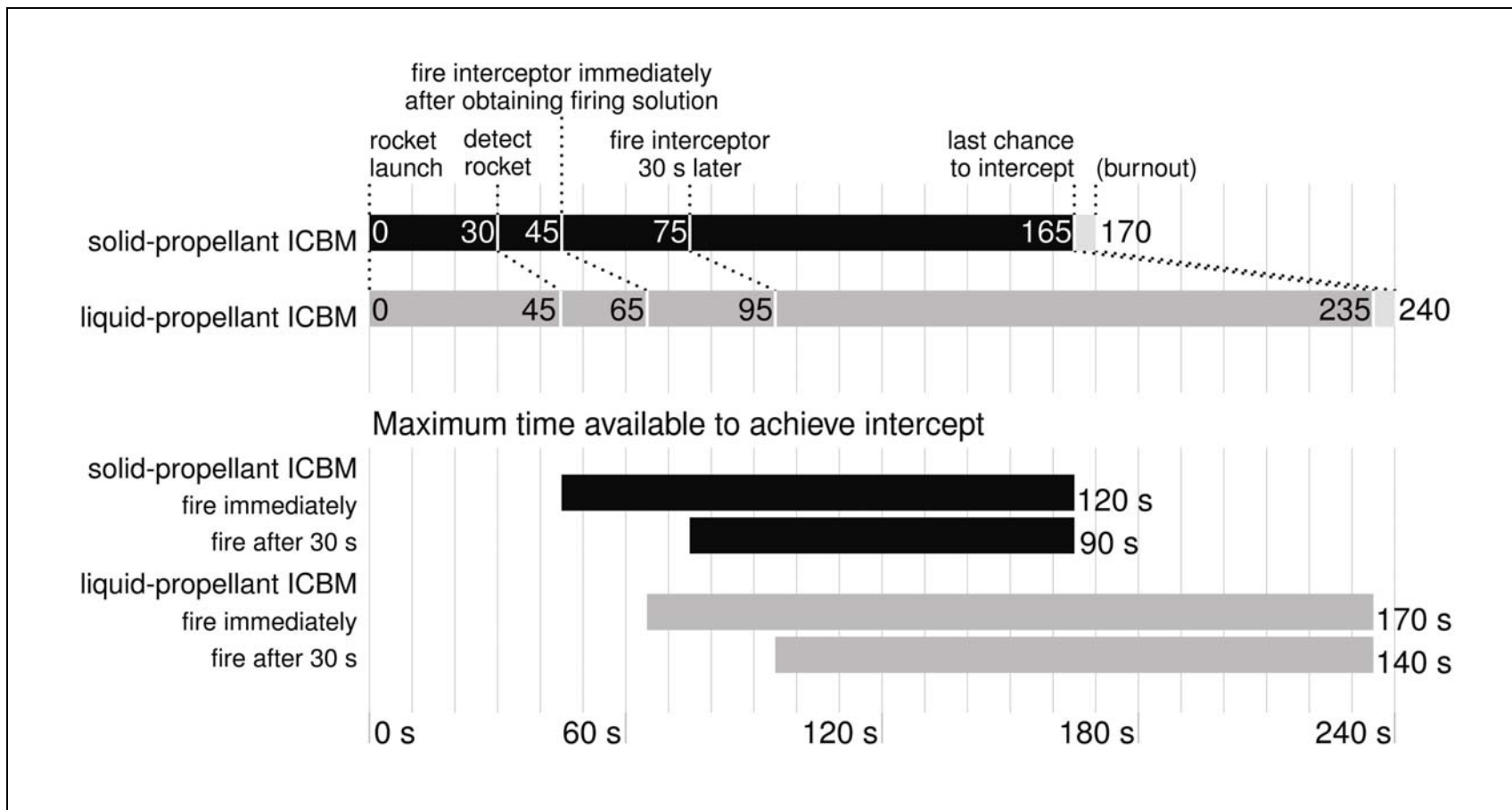


Figure 2.2: ICBMs would need to be engaged on a very compressed timeline. The upper half of the figure shows the stages of the intercept process for both solid- and liquid-propellant ICBMs launched from Iran. The right hand end of the solid bars indicates when the ICBM stops burning. The last chance for intercepting the ICBM is five seconds before that, as indicated.

In the lower half of the figure, the lengths of the solid bars show how long the interceptors have to reach the ICBM, from interceptor launch to intercept. The left hand end shows the earliest possible launch of the interceptor after the ICBM launch taking into account the time needed for tracking the ICBM, determining a firing solution, and deciding whether to intercept.