

Liquid Rocket Engine Sizing LPL Crash Course Lecture Series

By: John Targonski April 27, 2018





Topics to Cover

- Introduction
- Propellants
- Nozzle Sizing
- Chamber Sizing
- Jessie & James Example

This lecture will be focused on application and minimal theory will be discussed

-Assuming Knowledge of basic thermodynamics, fluid dynamics, and converging/diverging nozzles



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Ideal Rocket Equation



mf = full mass M = instantaneous mass of rocket me = empty mass u = velocity of rocket mp = mass of propellant t = time $F = net force = thrust = m V_{eq}$ lsp = specific impulse V_{eq} = equivalent engine exhaust velocity = lsp g_{0} Newton's second law of motion: $\frac{d M u}{dt} = F = V_{eq} \frac{d m p}{dt}$ $M du + u dM = V_{eq} dmp$ Assume we move with rocket --> u = 0 $M du = -V_{eq} dM$ Mass of rocket varies with time: $du = -V_{eq} \frac{dM}{M}$ M(t) = me + mp(t) dM = - dmp $\Delta u = -V_{eq} \ln (M)$ me MR = propellant mass ratio = $\frac{mf}{me}$ $\Delta u = V_{eq} \ln \left(\frac{mt}{me}\right) = V_{eq} \ln MR = Isp g_o \ln MR$



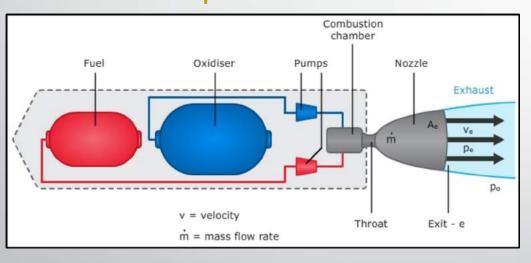
From https://spaceflightsystems.grc.nasa.gov/education/rocket/rktpow.html



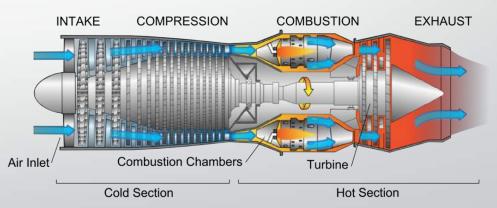
Introduction

Difference between a rocket and jet engine?

Rocket Propulsion



Air-Breathing Propulsion



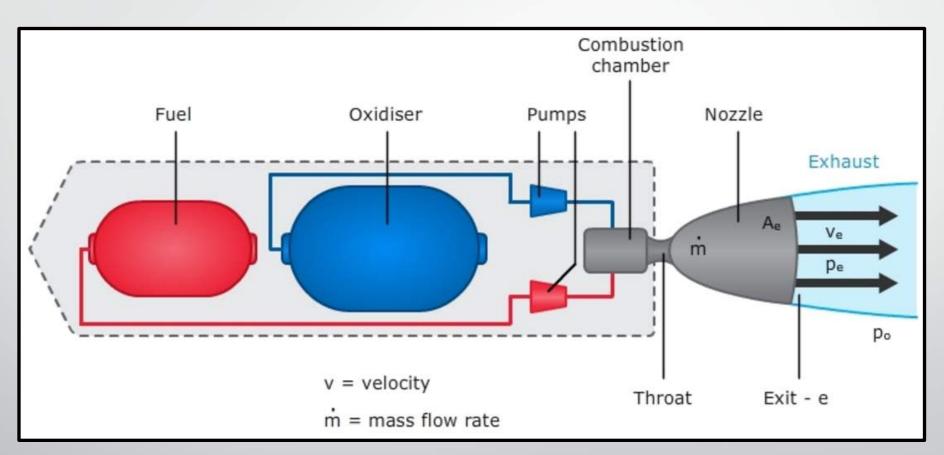
Rockets need to bring their full stock of propellant with them (Fuel and Oxidizer)

Air-breathing propulsion pulls oxidizer in from the environment





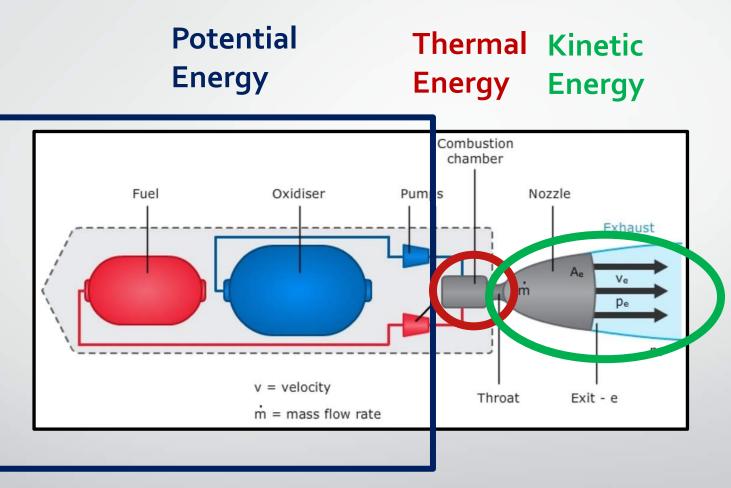
Basic Rocket Architecture



From https://www.grc.nasa.gov/www/k-12/rocket/lrockth.html



Thrust Generation



Rocket Engines generate thrust by taking potential energy (propellants), converting that to thermal energy (combustion chamber), and converting that into kinetic energy (nozzle)

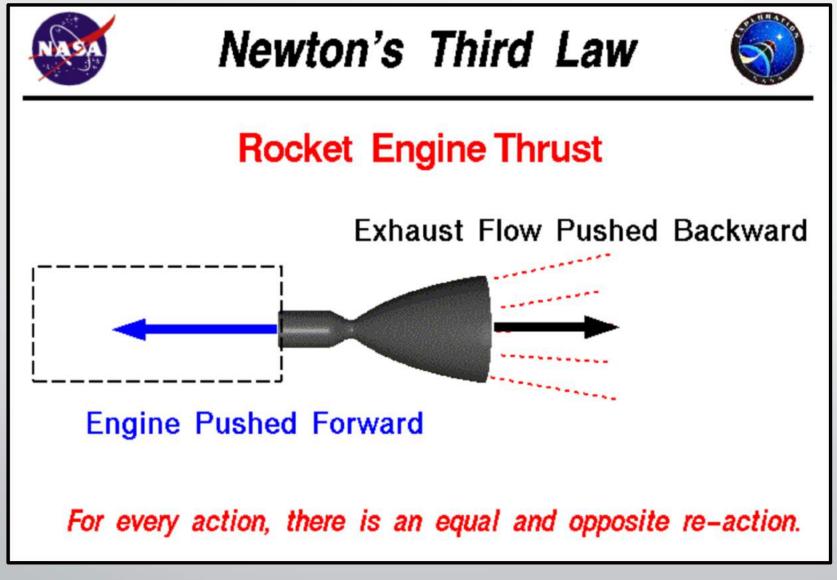


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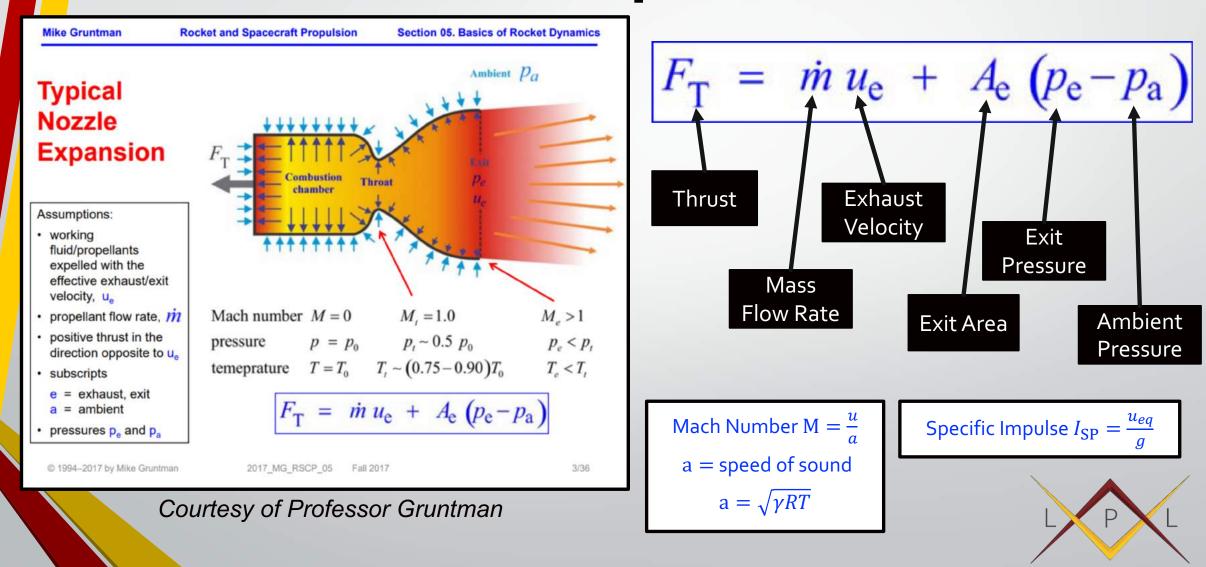


From https://spaceflightsystems.grc.nasa.gov/education/rocket/newton3r.html

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Thrust Equation



Specific Impulse (ISP)

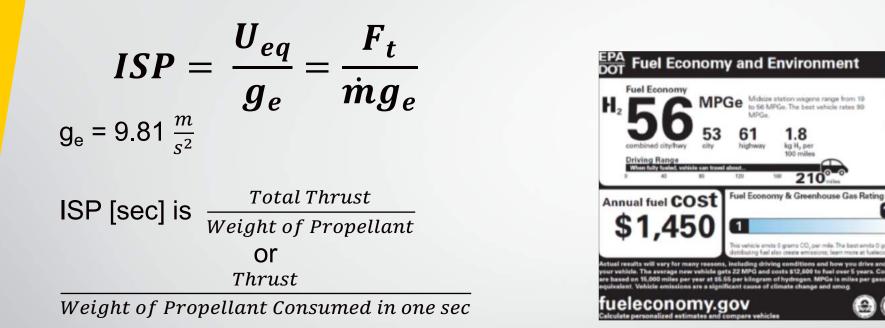
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Hydrogen Fu Cell Vehic

H

You Save

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Think of ISP like you do for gas mileage for a car How efficient is your conversion of propellant energy to spacecraft impulse?
Higher ISP the better rocket engine performance ISP is a function of chemistry

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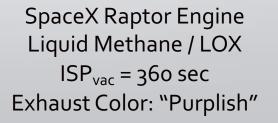
ISP of Various Propellants

Chemistry	ISP [sec]
Solids	220-300
Monopropellant	150-230
Liquid Hydrocarbon	250-350
Liquid Hydrogen / LOX	450



Saturn V F1 Engine RP-1/LOX ISP_{vac} = 300 sec Exhaust Color: "Yellowish"







Space Shuttle Main Engine Liquid Hydrogen / LOX ISP_{vac} = 450 sec Exhaust Color: "Clear"



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Design Choices

Which Propellants?

- Not going to cover in this lecture
- Considerations include:
 - Storability
 - Cryogenic?
 - Toxic?
 - Stability
 - Heat Transfer Properties
 - Density
 - Freezing Point
 - Contained Energy





Thermodynamics

Not covered fully in this lecture

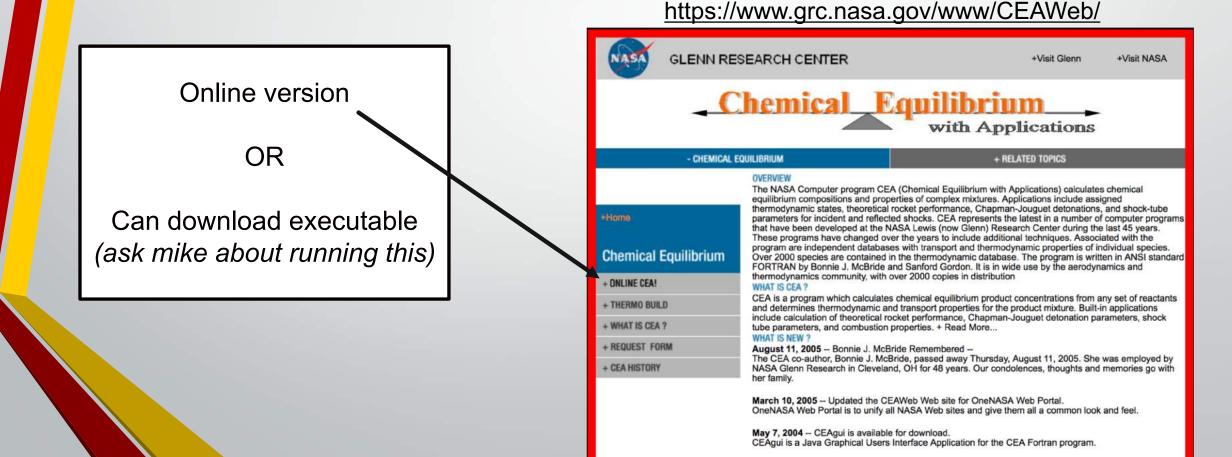
- Thermodynamics will tell us:
 - Chamber temperature
 - Combustion gas specific heat
 - Combustion gas ratio of specific heats
 - Much more....
 - How do we practically determine thermodynamic properties at LPL?
 - NASA CEA





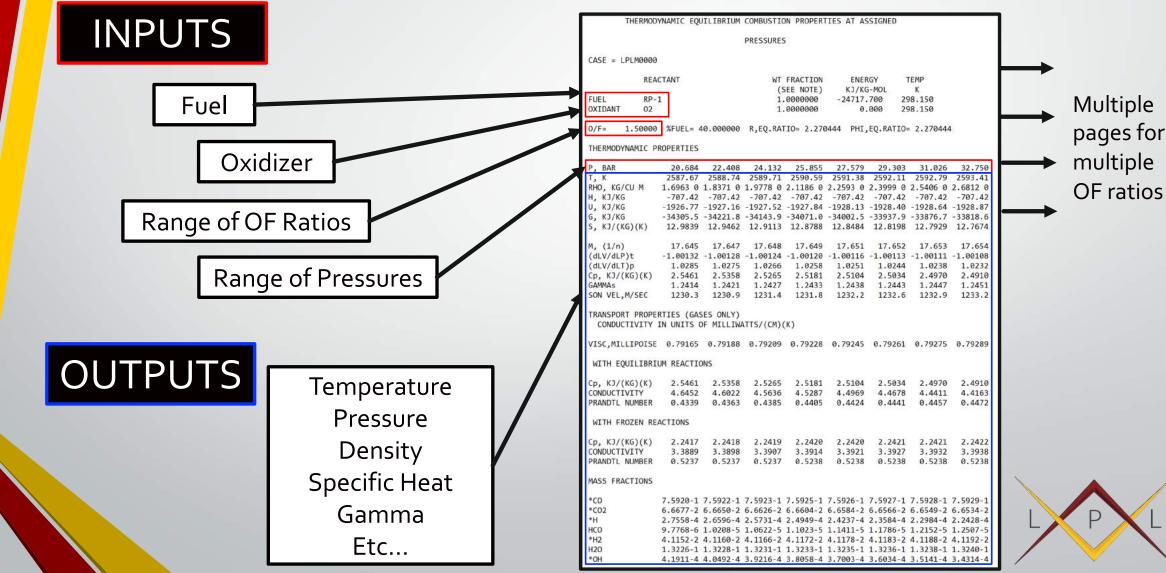
NASA CEA

- Software used to determine thermodynamic properties of combustion gases
- Interpolates from lookup tables (that's why it's so quick!)





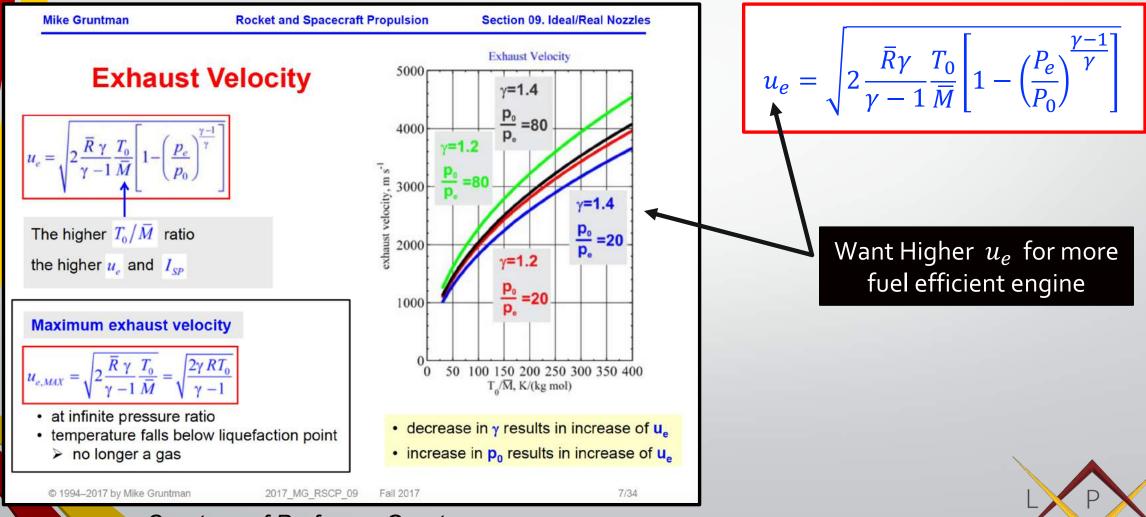
NASA CEA



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Exhaust Velocity

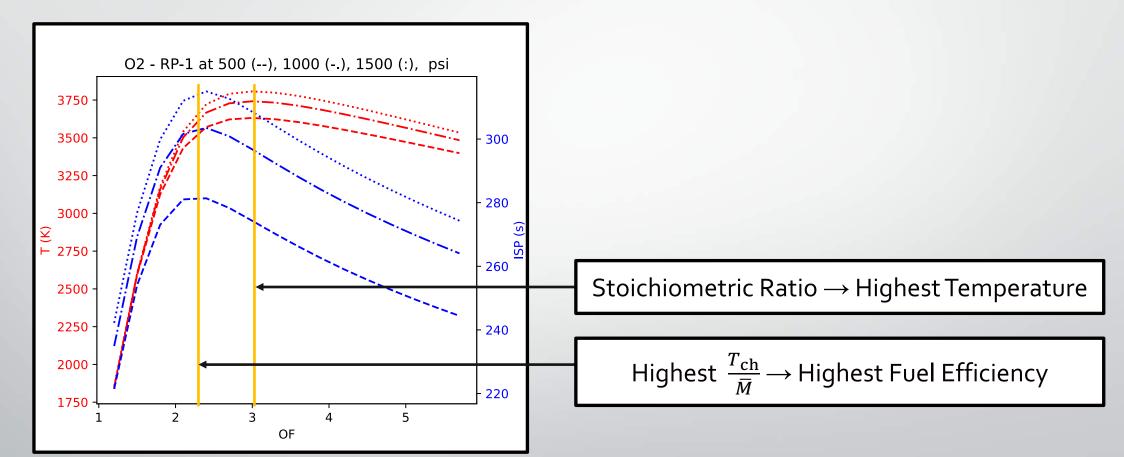


Courtesy of Professor Gruntman

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CEA Results



From LPL's CEA Execute & Read code





Design Choices

What Pressure?

Higher Pressure \rightarrow Higher ISP

- \rightarrow Higher Stress \rightarrow More Engine Weight
 - \rightarrow More Feed System Weight
- \rightarrow Higher Temperature \rightarrow More Cooling

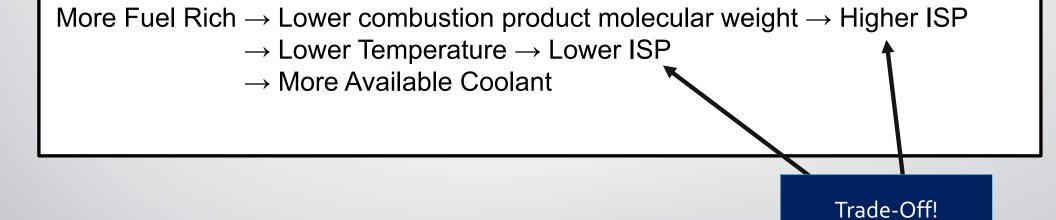




Design Choices

What OF Ratio?

Usually fuel rich to some degree





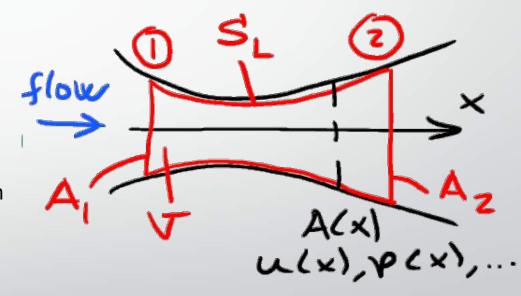


Nozzle Flow

Assumptions:

Quasi-1D Steady Isentropic Flow

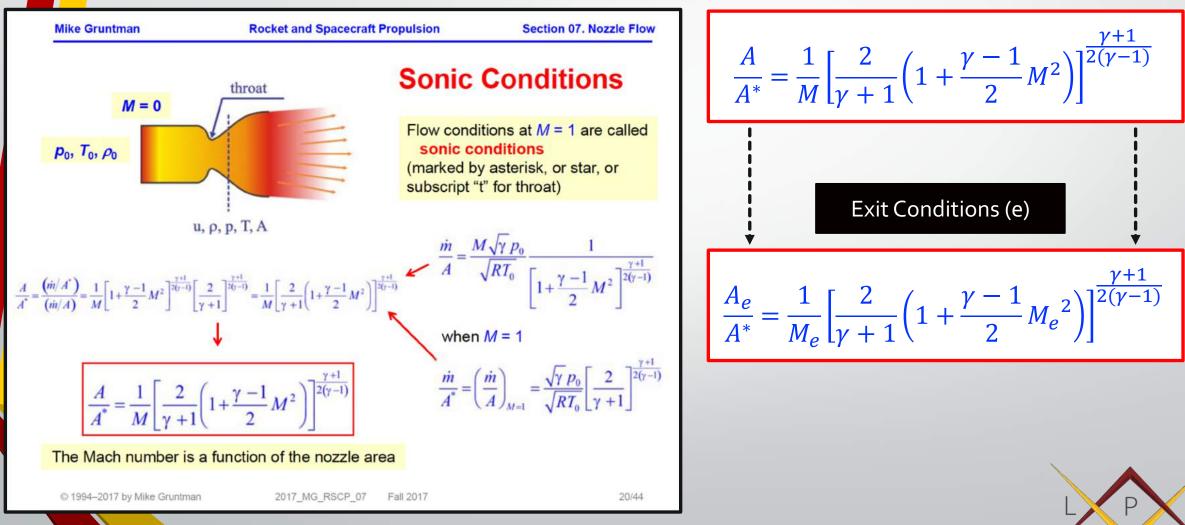
<u>Quasi</u> – Involves a slowly varying cross section <u>1D</u> – flow properties are only changing in one dimension Flow properties are uniform across each cross section <u>Steady</u> – Flow is not changing in time <u>Isentropic</u> – Flow is adiabatic and reversible







Nozzle Flow

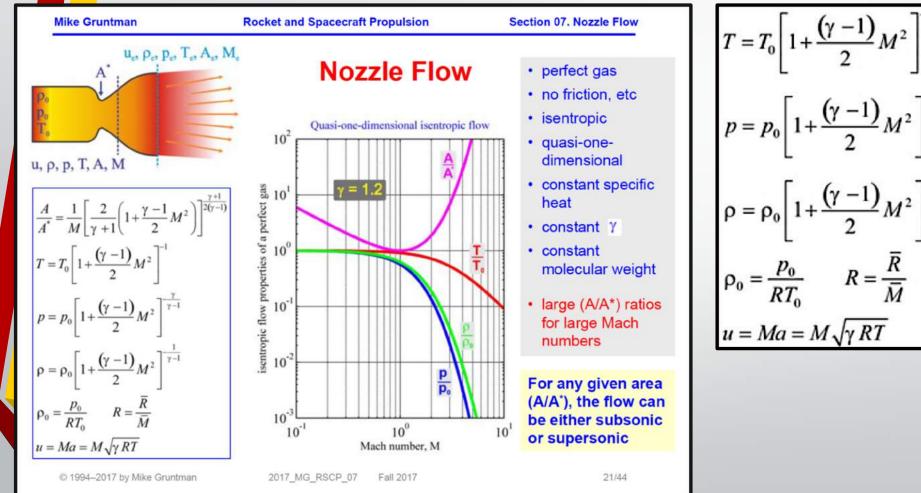


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Nozzle Flow



Courtesy of Professor Gruntman

 $p = p_0 \left[1 + \frac{(\gamma - 1)}{2} M^2 \right]^{-\frac{\gamma}{\gamma - 1}}$ $\rho = \rho_0 \left[1 + \frac{(\gamma - 1)}{2} M^2 \right]^{-\frac{1}{\gamma - 1}}$ $\rho_0 = \frac{p_0}{RT_0} \qquad R = \frac{\overline{R}}{\overline{M}}$ $u = Ma = M\sqrt{\gamma RT}$



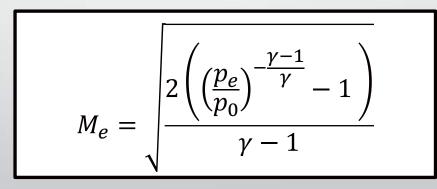


Nozzle Flow

Use to determine Throat Area

$$A^* = \frac{\dot{m}}{P_0} \sqrt{\frac{T_0 R}{\gamma}} \left(1 + \frac{\gamma - 1}{2}\right)^{\frac{\gamma + 1}{2(\gamma - 1)}}$$

Assuming Optimum Expansion at sea level







Chamber Sizing

We now know:

- Nozzle Throat Area
- Nozzle Exit Area

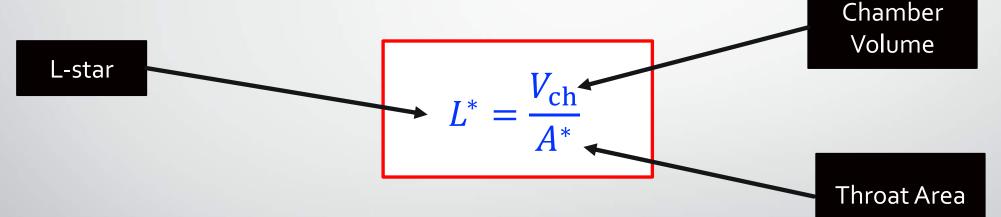
But how big should the combustion chamber be?





Chamber Volume

- Traditional Chamber Sizing Method:
- Use Characteristic Chamber Length, L* (L-star)

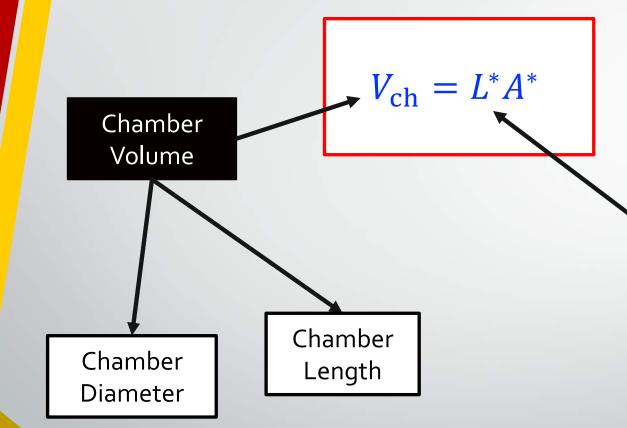


- Review L-star for past/ current engines which:
 - Are in the same size-class as engine to be designed
 - Use the same propellants as the engine to be designed





Chamber Geometry



Propellant Combination	L*, cm
Nitric acid/hydrazine-base fuel	76-89
Nitrogen tetroxide/hydrazine-base fuel	76-89
Hydrogen peroxide/RP-1 (including catalyst bed)	152-178
Liquid oxygen/RP-1	102-127
Liquid oxygen/ammonia	76-102
Liquid oxygen/liquid hydrogen (GH ₂ injection)	56-71
Liquid oxygen/liquid hydrogen (LH ₂ injection)	76-102
Liquid fluorine/liquid hydrogen (GH ₂ injection)	56-66
Liquid fluorine/liquid hydrogen (LH ₂ injection)	64-76
Liquid fluorine/hydrazine	61-71
Chlorine trifluoride/hydrazine-base fuel	51-89

From <u>http://www.braeunig.us/space/propuls.htm#engine</u>



Chamber Geometry

Chamber diameter & length:

Long/ narrow chamber \rightarrow Faster gas flow \rightarrow More pressure losses due to friction \rightarrow More heat transfer to chamber walls

 \rightarrow More surface area to cool (bad)

Short/ fat chamber \rightarrow More hoop stress \rightarrow Thicker/ heavier walls





Engine Design Cheat-Sheet

 $V_{\rm ch} = L^* A^*$



J&J Design & Analysis Engine & Injector Sizing



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Single Engine Design Point

Design Point J&J	Thermochemistry
$\dot{M}_{TOT} = 1.15 \ kg/s$	From NASA CEA
OF ratio= 1.875	Chemistry: Kerosene/Gaseous Oxygen (GOX)
$P_c = 6.895 MPa, (1000 psi, 69 bars)$	$T_c = 3266 K$, (5418 °F)
$P_e = 101352.9 Pa (14.7 psi, 1.01325 bars)$	$\overline{M} = 20.05 \ kg/kmol$
$L^* = 1.27 m$, (50 inches)	$\gamma = 1.187$



J&J Design & Analysis Engine & Injector Sizing Single Engine Propellant Mass Flow Rates

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$\begin{aligned} \frac{\dot{m}_o}{\dot{m}_F} &= 1.875 \\ \dot{m}_o + \dot{m}_F &= 1.15 \ kg/s \\ \dot{m}_F &= 1.15 \ - \dot{m}_o \frac{\dot{m}_o}{1.15 - \dot{m}_o} \ 1.875 \\ \dot{m}_o &= 1.875(\ 1.15 \ - \dot{m}_o) \end{aligned}$

$$\dot{m}_F = 0.4 \text{ kg/s}$$

 $\dot{m}_o = 0.75 \text{ kg/s}$

• •

$$A^* = \frac{\dot{M}_{TOT}}{P_0} \sqrt{\frac{T_0 R}{\gamma} \left(1 + \frac{\gamma - 1}{2}\right)^{\frac{\gamma + 1}{2(\gamma - 1)}}}$$
$$A^* = \frac{1.15}{6.895 \, MPa} \sqrt{\frac{(3265.5)(414.66)}{1.187} \left(1 + \frac{1.187 - 1}{2}\right)^{\frac{1.187 + 1}{2(1.187 - 1)}}}$$

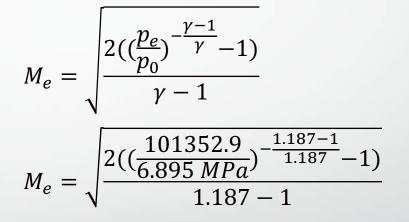
 $A^* = 300.4 \ mm^2$, (0.466 $inch^2$)



J&J Design & Analysis Engine & Injector Sizing Single Engine Throat Diameter

$$D^* = 2\left(\frac{A^*}{\pi}\right)^{0.5}$$
$$D^* = (2)\left(\frac{3E-4}{\pi}\right)^{0.5}$$

Exit Mach Number



D^{*} = 0.0195 m (0.770 inch)

 $M_e = 3.178$



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J&J Design & Analysis Engine & Injector Sizing Single Engine Exit to Throat Area Ratio

$$\frac{A_e}{A^*} = \frac{1}{M} \left[\frac{2}{\gamma+1} \left(1 + \frac{\gamma-1}{2} M^2 \right) \right]^{\frac{\gamma+1}{2(\gamma-1)}}$$

$$\frac{A_e}{A^*} = \frac{1}{3.178} \left[\frac{2}{1.187 + 1} \left(1 + \frac{1.187 - 1}{2} \left(3.178 \right)^2 \right) \right]^{\frac{1.187 + 1}{2(1.187 - 1)}}$$

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Exit Velocity

$$u_e = \sqrt{2\frac{\bar{R}\gamma}{\gamma - 1}\frac{T_0}{M}\left[1 - \left(\frac{p_e}{p_0}\right)^{\frac{\gamma - 1}{\gamma}}\right]}$$

$$u_e = \sqrt{2 \frac{(8314)(1.187)}{1.187 - 1} \frac{3265.5}{20.05} \left[1 - \left(\frac{101352.9}{6.895 \, MPa}\right)^{\frac{1.187 - 1}{1.187}}\right]}$$

$$\frac{A_e}{A^*} = 9.1041$$

 $u_e = 2889.31 \, m/s$, (6464.8 mph)



J&J Design & Analysis Engine & Injector Sizing Single Engine Specific Impulse

$$Isp = \frac{u_{eq}}{g}$$
$$Isp = \frac{2889.311}{9.8}$$

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Thrust

 $F_T = \dot{m}u_e + A_e(p_e - p_a)$

 $F_T = (1.15)(2889.31) + 0.0027(101352.9 - 6.895 * 10^6)$

$$Isp = 294.5 sec$$
 $F_T = 3.32 \text{ kN} (747 \text{ lbf})$



J&J Design & Analysis Engine & Injector Sizing Single Engine Chamber Volume

 $V_{ch} = L^* A^*$

 $V_{ch} = (1.27)(3.004 * 10^{-4})$

 $V_{ch} = 381.5 \ cm^3$, (23.28 inch³)

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Propellants	Characteristic Length (L*)	
	Low (m)	High (m)
Liquid fluorine / hydrazine	0.61	0.71
Liquid fluorine / gaseous H ₂	0.56	0.66
Liquid fluorine / liquid H ₂	0.64	0.76
Nitric acid / hydrazine	0.76	0.89
N2O4 / hydrazine	0.60	0.89
Liquid O ₂ / ammonia	0.76	1.02
Liquid O ₂ / gaseous H ₂	0.56	0.71
Liquid O ₂ / liquid H ₂	0.76	1.02
Liquid O ₂ / RP-1	1.02	1.27
H ₂ O ₂ / RP-1 (including catalyst)	1.52	1.78

How to determine characteristic length



J&J Design & Analysis Engine & Injector Sizing Single Engine Chamber Length

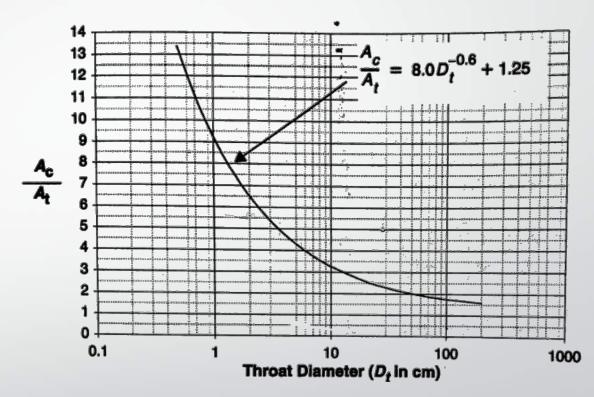
 $A_{t} = 3E - 4 m^{2}, (0.466 inch^{2})$ $D_{t} = 1.96 cm, (0.77 inch)$ $\frac{A_{c}}{A_{t}} = 8D_{t}^{-0.6} + 1.25$ $\frac{A_{c}}{A_{t}} = (8)1.96^{-0.6} + 1.25$ $\frac{A_{c}}{A_{t}} = 6.59$ $A_{c} = 0.002 m^{2}, (3.10 inch^{2})$ $L_{c} = \frac{V_{c}}{A_{c}}$ $L_{c} = \frac{3.815 E - 4 m^{3}}{0.002 m^{2}}$ $L_{c} = 0.19 m (7.51 inch)$

Use as a starting point. Ended with:

 $L_C = 0.17 m (6.58 inch)$ $D_C = 54 mm (2.125 inch)$

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Chamber Sizing



Chamber Book "spaghetti" Chamber Volume 23.28 *inch*³ *Chamber Length:* **7.51**" *Chamber Diameter:* **1.96**"

Chamber "Pancake" Chamber Volume 23.28 *inch*³ Chamber Diameter: **4"** Chamber Length: **2.43"**

Chamber Actual

Chamber Volume 23.28 *inch*³ Chamber Diameter: **6.58**" Chamber Length: **2.125**"



J&J Design & Analysis Engine & Injector Sizing Single Engine Nozzle Length (Conical) **USC**Viterbi

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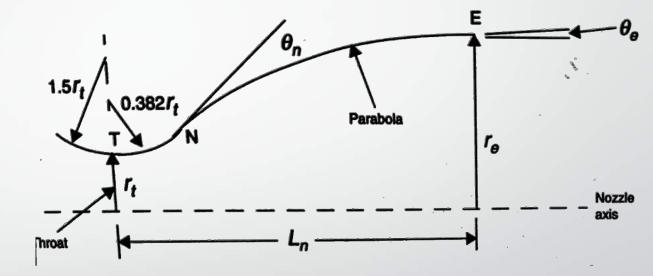


Diagram is for a parabola shaped nozzle. J&J used this diagram for sizing the converging & diverging part of the nozzle



 $L_n = \frac{D_e - D_t}{2tan\theta_{cn}}$ Where L_n =conical nozzle length D_t =nozzle throat diameter θ_{cn} = nozzle cone half angle (15°) $L_n = \frac{0.059 - 0.02}{2tan(15°)}$

 $L_n = 2.87 in (72.8 mm)$

J&J Design & Analysis Engine & Injector Sizing Summary of Engine Specifications



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Single Engine Static Fire

Propellant	Kerosene	Gaseous Oxygen
OF ratio	1.875	
М _{тот}	1.15 kg/s	2.5 lbm/s
P _c	6.895 MPa	1000 psi
P _e	101352.9 Pa	14.7 psi
<i>L</i> *	1.27 m	50 inches
D *	19.6 mm	0.770 inch
T _c	3266 K	5418 °F
A *	0.3004 mm ²	0.466 inch ²
<i>A</i> / <i>A</i> *	9.1041	
Isp	294.5 <i>s</i>	
F _T	3.32 kN	750 lbf
V _{ch}	381.5 cm ³	23.286 inch ³
L _c	0.17 m	6.58 inch
D _c	54 <i>mm</i>	2.125 inch
L _n	72.8 mm	2.87 inch
T _w	3.81 mm	0.15 inch





Thanks!



