

Basic Analytical and Numerical Methods for Propulsion and Aerodynamic Analysis of Solid-Propellant Rockets March 22-March 26, 2010

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to provide the rocket scientist/engineer with a sequence of analytical and numerical models from simple to complex to help solve the wide variety of problems that arise in the operation of solid-propellant rocket motors. Emphasis is placed on application rather than theory. The topics include both internal and external rocket environments, many of which also apply to liquid rockets (e.g. propellant combustion, nozzle flow, plume flow, external aerodynamics, and trajectory analysis). The attendee is assumed to have a basic knowledge of fluid mechanics and mathematical analysis. A CD containing Salita's book in both text format (500 pages) and lecture format (850 slides) will be provided.

Lecturer

Dr. Salita has more than 32 years experience modeling phenomena in and around solid-propellant rockets. He obtained a Master of Science degree in Aeronautics and Astronautics from Penn State University in 1967, and a PhD in Aerospace Engineering from the Guggenheim Labs at New York University in 1971. He worked on the Apollo propulsion systems during summer internships at the NASA Manned Spacecraft Center (now JSC) in 1966 and Langley Research Center in 1967. After working in Gas Turbine research for Pratt & Whitney (1972-1976), he joined Thiokol Corporation as Staff Scientist in Fluid Mechanics (1977-1992). From 1993 to 2008 he was a Senior Scientist at TRW/Northrop Grumman Missile Systems. He has developed the first models for many phenomena, including the operation of gas-bag inflators, O-ring erosion in booster joints, O-ring pressurization and activation, slag accumulation, and the size distribution of Al₂O₃ droplets formed from the combustion of aluminized solid propellants. He has chaired JANNAF Workshops in Solid Propellant Ignition, SRM performance, Slag Generation, and Vehicle Staging, and has written numerous papers for AIAA and CPIA. He has been an invited lecturer at AIAA short courses, NASA JPL, NAWC, Hill AFB, Onera, the von Karmen Institute, and the Technion.

Course Schedule

Monday, March 22 (8:00-4:00)

Chapter I: Introduction

What is a Solid-Propellant Rocket Motor?
Parameters Contributing to Thrust and Its Maximization
It All Starts with Chamber Pressure and Temperature
Basic Equations of Rocket Propulsion
Prediction of Vacuum Specific Impulse
Significance of the Pressure Integral
Methods for Determining Flight Performance
Potential Failure Mechanisms
Examples of Rocket Catastrophes

Due to Failed Communication

Deficiencies of Many Analytical Codes

Operation of Computational Codes

Output Post-Processing

The Value of Closed-Form Solutions

Chapter II: Propellant Characteristics

Criteria for Good Solid Propellant

Propellant Ingredients and Formulations

AP Size Distribution

Elemental Mass and Mole Fractions of Ingredients

Propellant Heat of Formation

Mixing of Propellant Ingredients (Processing, Rheology)

Modeling the Flowfield During Propellant Mixing

Modeling the Casting Process

Propellant Burn Rate Law and Modifications

Propagation of Propellant Flaws (Cracks, Debonds, Voids)

Chapter III: Ignition of Solid Propellants

The Ignition Transient Phenomenon

History of Modeling Efforts

Sources of Ignition Transient Data

Lessons from Hoop Strain Gage Data

Grain Preheating and Ignition Criterion

Measured Flame Spreading in Axial Fins

Effect of Water Film on Propellant Surface

Flow Modeling

Volume-Filling Equations of Chamber Pressurization

0D Volume-Filling Model of Motor Ignition (VOLFIL)

Deducing Chamber Temperature History from Known

Pressure History

1D Model of Motor Ignition (SHARPIT)

Sample Case – Space Shuttle Booster

Effect of Grain Overhang, Case Expansion, Joint Rotation

Recommendations for Ignition Modeling

Pyrotechnic Igniters

Tuesday, March 23 (8:00 - 4:00)

Chapter IV: Combustion of Solid Propellants

Validity of Equilibrium Thermochemistry in Chamber

Properties of Two-Phase Mixtures

Equations of Chemical Equilibrium

Curve-Fitting of Thermochemical Properties of Combustion

Species

Simple Example of a Closed Thermochemical Equation Set

Solution Procedure in Equilibrium Thermochemistry Codes

Sample Numerical Solution Using the NASA-Lewis Code

Transport Properties from Kinetic Theory

Equilibrium Surface Thermochemistry (Aerotherm,

NASA-Lewis codes)

Approximate Closed-Form Solution for Chemical

Equilibrium

Shock Jump Relations in Reacting Flow

Chapman-Jouget Detonations

Aluminum Combustion

Size Distributions of Al₂O₃ Droplets in Chamber

Summary of Experimental and Analytical Droplet Size

Studies

Quench Particle Combustion Bomb (QPCB)

Laser Holography and Single Droplet Burning

Dry Bomb and Helium Quench Motor

Chapter IV: Flow in the Combustion Chamber

Propellant Burn Back

Cylindrical, Tapered, Endburning Grains

Radially-Slotted Grains

General 3D Grains with Axial Slots (Fins, Stars)

0D Quasi-Steady Flowfield in a Combustion Chamber

“Ballistician’s Equation”

Effect of Deformation of Pressurized Grain

Characterizing the Scatter in Flight Data

Chamber Blowdown

1D Quasi-Steady Flowfield in a Combustion Chamber

Shapiro Influence Coefficients

Model Deduced from Hoop Strain Gage Data

2D Quasi-Steady Gas Flowfield in a Combustion Chamber

Culick’s Solution in a Cylindrical Chamber

Flow in Cavity Behind Submerged Nozzle Using Water

Analogs

Incompressible and Compressible CFD Simulations

Inhibitor Stubs: Flow/Structure Interaction

3D Quasi-Steady Gas Flowfield in a Combustion Chamber

Effect of Axial Fins, Nozzle Gimbal, Asymmetric Stubs

3D Pressure Oscillations in Combustion Chambers

Theory of Acoustic Oscillations in Cylind Chambers

Oscillations Induced by

Intersegment Slots and Inhibitor Stubs

Propellant Corner and Coupled Sources

Two-Phase Chamber Flow

Droplet Equations of Motion and Their Solution

Slag Generation and Expulsion

Wednesday, March 24 (8:00 - 4:00)

Chapter VI: Nozzle Flow in Solid or Liquid Rockets

Geometry and Contour Optimization of Bell Nozzles

Nozzle Startup Process and Flow Analysis

1D Quasi-Steady Gas Flow in a Bell Nozzle

Perfect-Gas Flowfield

Gas Flowfield Assuming Equilibrium Chemistry

Gas Flowfield Assuming Finite-Rate Chemistry

Dynamics of Al₂O₃ Droplets Passing Through Nozzle

Hermesen’s Correlation for Droplet Size at Exit

2D Nozzle Flow

Transonic Region

Measured in JPL Nozzle

Inviscid CFD Solution for Perfect Gas (NPARC)

Inviscid CFD Solution for Two-Phase Flow (Chang)

Supersonic Region

Method of Characteristics for a Perfect Gas

Numerical Solution from SPP/TD2P for Conical Nozzle

Numerical Solution from TDK for Contoured Nozzle

CFD Solution for Chamber and Entire Nozzle

Nozzle Wall Effects (Flow Separation, Erosion,

Liner Ejection)

3D Nozzle Flow

Chang’s Numerical Solution

Scarfed Nozzles

Thrust Vector Control (Vanes, LITVC)

Chapter VII: Heat Conduction and Material Ablation

Surface Boundary Conditions for Mat'l Heating/Ablation

Convective Heat Flux

Reynolds Analogy

Bartz Semi-Empirical Correlation

Solution of 2D Differential Eqs for Thin Boundary

Layers

Solution of the Integral Eqs for Thin Boundary Layers

Solution of the Parabolized Navier-Stokes Equations

Solution of the Full Navier-Stokes Equations

Radiative Heat Flux

Black Body Radiation

Radiation from Hot Gaseous Species

Radiation from Hot Condensed Species

Closed-Form Solutions for Radiative Heat Flux

in Uniform Cylindrical Media

1D Heat Conduction Solutions

Numerical Solutions (Explicit, Semi-Implicit)

Exact Analytical Solutions

Base Heating

Convective Using CFD

Gas Radiative (Analytical)

Particle Radiative (RMC Code)

2D Heat Conduction (ABAQUS, HEAT2D, HERO2D)

2D/3D Heat Conduction and Radiation SINDA/G

Material Erosion

Ablation Model for Non-Decomposing Materials

Ablation Model for Decomposing Materials

Thursday, March 25 (8:00 - 4:00)

Chapter VIII: Launch Issues for Solid or Liquid Rockets

Diurnal Variation of Solar Heat Flux to a Launch Pad

Near-Fatal Ignition Overpressure During First Shuttle

Launch (STS-1)

Ignition Overpressure During Silo Launch

Vehicle Staging

Volume-Filling and CFD Simulations

Nozzle Sideloads During Staging

Experimental Sideload Data (Subscale, Full-Scale)

Reduction of Nozzle Sideloads Due to Trip Rings

Nozzle Failures Due to Sideload During Startup

Sergeant’s Model of Sideloads During Vehicle Staging

O-Ring Jet-Impingement Erosion (Pre-Challenger)

O-Ring Model of Deformation and Activation

Wind Shear: The Cause of Challenger

and Columbia Accidents?

Chapter IX: Exhaust Plumes from Solid or Liquid Rockets

Low-Altitude (Mixing) Plumes

Characteristics of Mixing Plumes

Measured Centerline and Radial Decay

Measured Droplet Size Distribution

Location of Mach Disk

Thermochemistry in Mixing Plumes

Victor’s Prediction Method for Nearly-Matched Plumes

The JANNAF Standard Plume Flowfield Code SPF-III

Matched Exit and the Effect of Afterburning

Effect of Unmatched and Diverging Nozzle Exit

Effect of Vehicle Velocity and Al₂O₃ Particles

Near-Vacuum (Non-Mixing) Plumes

Method of Characteristics for Perfect-Gas Plumes

Thermochemistry in Near-Vacuum Plumes

Plume Boundaries for Conical Nozzles in Near-Vacuum

Location of Mach Disk

Near-Vacuum Particle Plumes

Hill/Draper Far-Field Plume Flowfield Approximation

Plume Signature

Friday, March 26 (8:00 - 4:00)

Chapter X: Vehicle Aerodynamics

Definition of Vehicle Aerodynamic Coefficients

Analytical Methods

Exact Solution for Supersonic Flow Past a Cone at Zero

Pitch

Numerical Solution for Supersonic Flow Past a Cone at

Non-Zero Pitch

Slender Body Theory

Newtonian Theory

Blunt Cones, Tangent-Ogives, Spheres

Component Buildup Methods:

(Missile DATCOM, AP-98/05)

CFD Methods

Nosetip Start Planes

Supersonic Flow Past a Sphere

Supersonic Inviscid Flow Past Bodies with or w/o Fins

Subsonic/Supersonic Viscous CFD Past Arbitrary Bodies

Aero Coefficients in Free Molecular Flow