

Rocket

Rocket mass is m . Because the rocket ejects the exhaust, the rocket loses mass.

At time t , the rocket's momentum is $P_x = mV_x$.

At time $t+dt$, the rocket's momentum is $P_x = (m+dm)(V_x+dv_x)$

where dm is the change in its mass and dv_x is the change in its velocity. Since the rocket is losing mass, dm is negative. Thus, the mass of the fuel/exhaust is $-dm$ and it has a velocity $V_x - V_{\text{exhaust}}$ where V_{exhaust} is the exhaust velocity relative to the rocket.

The total momentum is

$$\begin{aligned}
 P_x(t+dt) &= P_{\text{rocket}} + P_{\text{exhaust}} \\
 &= (m+dm)(V_x+dv_x) + (-dm)(V_x - V_{\text{exhaust}}) \\
 &= mV_x + m dv_x + \cancel{dm V_x} + \underbrace{dm dv_x}_{\text{negligibly small}} - \cancel{dm V_x} + dm V_{\text{exhaust}}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\approx mV_x + m dv_x + dm V_{\text{exhaust}}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 P_{f_x} - P_{i_x} &= mV_x + m dv_x + dm V_{\text{exhaust}} - \cancel{mV_x} \\
 &= m dv_x + dm V_{\text{exhaust}}
 \end{aligned}$$

For the rocket in space, with negligible external forces

$$\vec{F}_{\text{net}} = 0$$

$$\vec{p} \equiv \text{constant} \quad \text{and} \quad \Delta \vec{p} = 0$$

$$m dv_x + dm v_{\text{exhaust}} = 0$$

$$m dv_x = -dm v_{\text{exhaust}}$$

$$\frac{dm}{m} = - \frac{dv_x}{v_{\text{exhaust}}}$$

$$\frac{dm/dt}{m} = - \frac{dv_x/dt}{v_{\text{exhaust}}}$$

$$\frac{\dot{m}}{m} = \frac{-\dot{v}_x}{v_{\text{exhaust}}}$$

$$\dot{m} v_{\text{exhaust}} = -m \dot{v}_x$$

$$\underline{m \dot{v}_x} = -\dot{m} v_{\text{exhaust}}$$

define as thrust so

$$\boxed{\text{thrust} = -\dot{m} v_{\text{exhaust}}}$$

Note that \dot{m} is negative so thrust is in +x direction.

$$\int_{m_0}^m \frac{dm}{m} = \int_{v_{x0}}^{v_x} \frac{-dv_x}{v_{\text{exhaust}}}$$

$$\ln m \Big|_{m_0}^m = - \frac{v_x}{v_{\text{exhaust}}} \Big|_{v_{x0}}^{v_x}$$

$$\ln(m) - \ln(m_0) = -\frac{(V_x - V_{x0})}{V_{\text{exhaust}}}$$

$$\ln(m_0) - \ln(m) = \frac{V_x - V_{x0}}{V_{\text{exhaust}}}$$

$$\ln\left(\frac{m_0}{m}\right) = \frac{V_x - V_{x0}}{V_{\text{exhaust}}}$$

$$V_x = V_{x0} + V_{\text{exhaust}} \ln\left(\frac{m_0}{m}\right)$$

Velocity is in terms of the ratio of initial mass to

"current" mass. If you know the rate that mass is lost, you can calculate the velocity at time t .

$$\dot{V}_x = -\frac{\dot{m} V_{\text{exhaust}}}{m} = \frac{\text{thrust}}{\text{mass}}$$