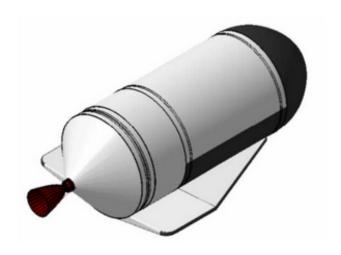


# GREDER Green RE-usable DEbris Remover



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### Chapter 1

### Introduction

Ever since the launch of Sputnik 1, the first artificial satellite in October 1957, the number of satellites launched has sharply risen and as of 2020, thousands of satellites are orbiting around the Earth. However, each of every one of those spacecrafts will eventually see their mission being stopped, usually due to a lack of resources from the satellite itself as it reaches the end of its life.

Those who are at the end of their lives will turn into a simple uncontrolled object that keeps orbiting around the Earth and should be avoided as another functioning satellite could take their slot as some of the most important orbits around our planet are starting to get overcrowded and the demand keeps rising.

Moreover, such uncontrolled objects in space can become dangerous as collisions could potentially happen and at such high velocity, those can heavily damage other spacecrafts and create even more debris.

As public awareness grows towards the space debris problem, our mission, Green Debris Remover (GREDER), is looking to contribute to a solution to this problem in a particular orbit, the geo stationary orbit, which is particularly overcrowded due to the many different kinds of satellite operating there.

### Chapter 2

### Schedule

At the start of the project a dedicated group meeting was performed in order to agree on a common project sequence, tasks and challenges as well as work distribution. This group meeting was deemed essential to structure the work packages and to achieve a consolidated baseline for the whole project including time line.

The result is a complex MS project Gantt diagram, which can be found in Annex 1.

#### 2.1 Initial Schedule

The first version of the schedule starts with a project Kick-Off in October which is afterwards followed by a short planning phase. In this planning phase issues as scheduling, work distribution and scope of the project were addressed.

Subsequently, the definition phase started. Within this phase, the vehicle requirements were defined and the mission was planned, calculated and visualized in MATLAB. The outcomes of the definition phase are the boundary requirements which are set to provide a frame for both: the vehicle itself as well as the propulsion system. The requirements were defined at the beginning of the project and were verified after project completion.

Upon definition of the boundary requirements, the specification phase started. Within this phase, different propellant combinations were identified, discussed and compared. Additionally a first mass budget was calculated. The result of this phase is the system specification.

The sequence of the project includes several presentations. The first one was performed in October for a quick overview on the project planning. The second one after the boundary requirements and system specification was set. After this presentation, the vehicle and

sub system design phase started. This phase included major parts of the work packages including propulsion system design with all sub-assemblies as RACS/ACS, propellant tanks, feeding and pressurization system, turbo pumps, catalyzer, engine, injector and nozzle. The outcome of this phase is a preliminary vehicle design and sub system design which was presented in the mid-term presentation.

As a last major work package the simulation phase started. The whole system was simulated including all sub systems and additionally the complex H2O2 decomposition regulation. The final presentation was performed after all tasks were completed and the simulation was finalized.

An overview the compressed initial schedule is shown in Figure 2.1. The detailed Gantt schedule can be found in Annex 1.

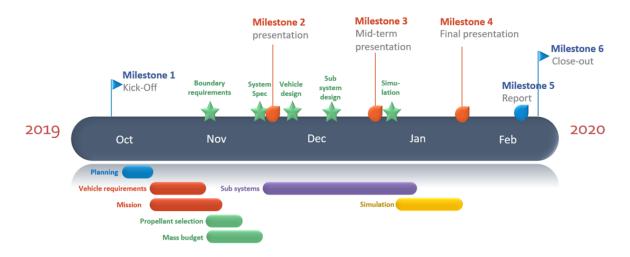


Figure 2.1: Initial schedule

#### 2.2 Final schedule – comparison as planned and as achieved

As usual in project management and project work, not all milestones were achieved in time. As it is shown in the compressed final schedule in Figure 2.2, the finalized vehicle design, the finalized sub-system design and the corresponding simulation shifted within the project schedule (Figure 2.2, shown in red). Nevertheless all work packages have been successfully completed until Milestone 4, the final presentation.

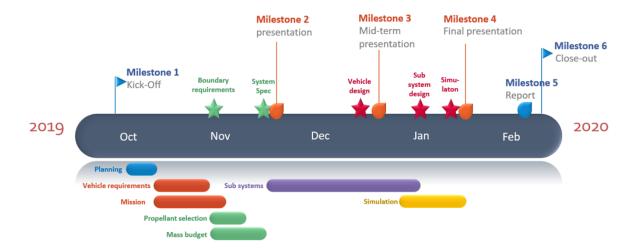


Figure 2.2: Final schedule - comparison as planned and as achieved

# Chapter 3

# Requirements

The top level requirements for the vehicle and propulsion system are divided in three categories: operation, environment and vehicle. The operation requirements are related to the propulsion system and its applicability for the planned missions. The environmental requirements are defined to ensure that both the vehicle and propulsion system is capable of operating and sustaining during launch, mission and in space environment. The scope of the vehicle requirements is to cover the major parts of the planned mission as refuel-ability, aero braking or accuracy.

#### TL-1 Provide sufficient thrust for completion of the mission profile including a safety margin TL-2 Re-ignitable at least 1000 times TL-3 Service life time of at least 100 missions or 25 years in orbit TL-4 Ignition and functional reliability shall be higher than 99,5% Environment TL-5 Withstand the launch phase TL-6 Operate in vacuum TL-7 Operate in an ambient temperature range of 1K to 5K TL-8 Withstand the temperature gradients resulting from areas turned towards or away TL-9 Sustain space-related radiation throughout it's complete life time TL-10 Withstand debris impact of under 1cm diameter with a max relative speed of 15 km/s Vehicle TL-11 The engine shall be the main propulsion system of a GEO satellite recovery vehicle TL-12 Refuelable between missions TL-13 Perform aerobrake maneuvers in Earth's atmosphere. TL-14 Control flight path in Earth's atmosphere using non-propulsive flight control systems TL-15 Remain within the ARIANE 6/Falcon 9 payload launch capabilities to LEO. TL-16 Remain on it's guided trajectory with less than 0.1% deviation.

Operation

Table 3.1: Requirements for the vehicle

# Chapter 4

# Specification

### 4.1 Satellite catching process

#### 4.1.1 Choice of the process

In order to catch and de-orbit a satellite in GEO, we considered the following usable tools:

- Net
- Harpoon
- Claw
- Magnet

Other solutions such as towing the satellite or simply removing them from GEO were not considered as they either did not fit our program or would create too much strain on our spacecraft.

We then took a closer look at the feasibility of each solution and compared the advantages and disadvantages:

Solution	${f Advantages}$	Drawbacks	Feasibility
Net	Cheap, simple, low mass	Slow, hard to handle	Yes (JAXA, ESA)
Harpoon	Fairly cheap	Can create more debris	Yes (ESA)
Claw	Safer	Mechanical, moving parts	WIP (CleanSpace One)
Magnet	Adjustable, no moving parts	Higher mass, needs power	Research State

As the main focus of our mission is reliability and re-usability, we made the choice of using magnets to catch and hold the satellite we would like to de-orbit.

#### 4.1.2 Magnetic solution

Even though we decided that we would use magnets, we needed to make sure it was feasible and to lower the drawbacks related to this solution as much as possible. The first precision we need to make is that we will be using electromagnets in order to regulate the intensity of the current in the coil of it, thus, modulating the attraction force so the contact between our spacecraft and the satellite will not be made at high velocity, avoiding damages and space debris creation.

Even though it is still at the state of research, we believe that using electromagnets as our catching solution is realistic as both ESA (with ISAE SupAero) and the NASA have been considering and studying this solution since 2017.

However, as a matter of complexity, we will have to make assumptions in order to simplify the problem. The objective in this part is to prove that, with assumptions, this solution can be applied to our mission and to find the required energy to both catch and hold the satellite until its release.

#### Assumptions

In our calculations, we assumed that:

- 1. We can consider the magnetic circuit between GREDER and the nozzle of the satellite is a closed one (no air gaps)
- 2. About 0.1% of the satellite's mass is magnetically operable
- 3. Mutual attraction is relatively low compared to the magnetic force
- 4. Residuals in the alloy of the magnets' cores are neglectable

#### 4.1.3 Sketching and Calculations

Using the first assumption, we can use the formula for the magnetic force in a magnetic circuit with no air gap:

$$F = \frac{(\mu NI)^2 A}{2\mu_0 L^2} \tag{4.1}$$

With:

- $\mu$  the magnetic permeability of the core of our magnet (determined by the alloy)
- N the number of turns of the coil around the core
- I the current running through the coil

- A the cross section area of the core
- $\mu_0$  the magnetic constant
- L the length of the mean magnetic circuit

In order to have a good balance between thermal properties and magnetic properties we decided to use an alloy made of 90% of iron and 10% of cobalt for our core. We decided to use this alloy as iron has the best magnetic properties (high relative magnetic permeability) and added cobalt as it has a higher Curie Temperature than iron but has a lower relative magnetic permeability.

In terms of magnet design, we chose to use a squared cross section of  $5cm \times 5cm$  for the magnet core and with a length of 15cm, made of an iron-cobalt alloy and a copper coil around it. We decided to have 135 turns of the coil around the core with a coil diameter of 1mm in order to not have the wire revolutions stuck to each other. We also want to run a current of 10A through the coil.

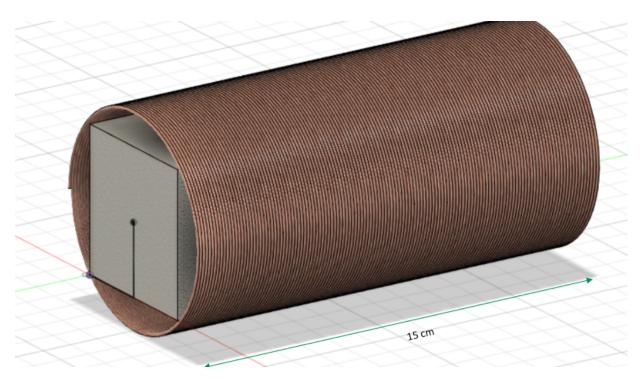


Figure 4.1: CAD of a catching magnet

With those design choices we get the following parameters while taking into consideration that there should not be any kind of residuals in the core alloy:

• 
$$\mu_0 = 4\pi \times 10^{-7} \ H/m$$

• 
$$\mu = \left(\frac{\mu_{iron} + \mu_{cobalt}}{2}\right) \times \mu_0 = 5.868 \times 10^{-3} \ H/m$$

- N = 135 turns
- I = 10 A
- $A = 25cm^2 = 2.5 \times 10^{-3} m^2$
- $\rho_{core} = \rho_{iron} \times 0.9 + \rho_{cobalt} \times 0.1 = 7.9726 \ g/cm^3$
- $\rho_{coil} = \rho_{copper} = 8.96 \ g/cm^3$

We then need to find the length L of the mean magnetic circuit. In order to do so, we decided to start the catching sequence at 10 m from the satellite and that the target has an exploitable nozzle of 40 cm of diameters which is realistic for spacecrafts in the mass range of 3 500 kg. We could then sketch the catching sequence as so (not to scale):

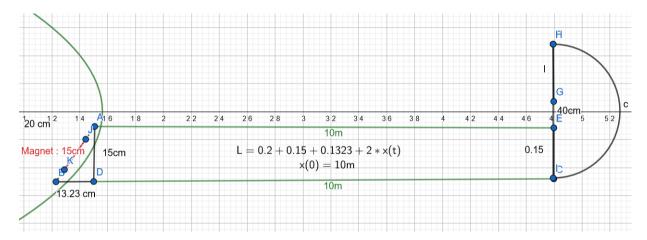


Figure 4.2: Catching sequence (not to scale)

We can then have the length L as a function of the distance between the tip of our spacecraft and the nozzle of our target. As a result we can proceed to find the feasibility of our solution with this magnet design by finding the time it would require at this state to attract the target. However, in this case, the current modulation when the target is close has not been modeled due to its complexity.

Considering that the force will be on one axis only and  $m = 0.001 \times m_{target} = 3.5 \ kg$ :

$$\vec{F} = m\vec{a} \tag{4.2}$$

$$\frac{(\mu NI)^2 A}{2\mu_0 L(x)^2} = m \times \ddot{x} \tag{4.3}$$

$$\frac{(\mu NI)^2 A}{2\mu_0 [0.2 + 0.15 + 0.1323 + 2x(t)]^2} = m\ddot{x}(t)$$

$$\frac{(\mu NI)^2 A}{2\mu_0 [0.4823 + 2x(t)]^2} = m\ddot{x}(t)$$
(4.4)

$$\frac{(\mu NI)^2 A}{2\mu_0 [0.4823 + 2x(t)]^2} = m\ddot{x}(t) \tag{4.5}$$

The catching time can then be found using ode45 on Matlab:

```
clearvars; clc;
    catchtime = 1;
2
   x0 = 10;
3
    while 1
        [t,x] = ode45(@f3,[0:1:catchtime], [x0; 0; 0; 0]);
5
            if (x(catchtime ,1) >= 2 * x0)
6
                break
            else
                 catchtime = catchtime +1;
9
            end
10
   end
11
```

And the function used for the *ode* solver :

```
function [Xdot] = f3(t, X)
mu = 5.686e-3; mu0 = 4 * pi * 10 ^(-7);
N = 135; I = 10; A = 0.05 ^ 2; m = 3500;
x = X(1); y = X(2); vx = X(3); vy = X(4);
Fmag = (mu * N * I) ^2 * A / (2 * mu0 * (2 * norm(X(1:2)) + 0.4823) ^ 2);
Xdot = [vx; vy; 0.001 * Fmag / m; 0];
end
```

We then get a catching time of 812 seconds. As a result, we can determine the energy required to operate the magnets as well as their masses and volumes. We are considering a holding time for approximately half an hour and we also need to verify that the magnets will be able to hold the target while we are de-orbiting.

### 4.2 Propellant selection

### 4.3 Mass analysis

#### 4.4 Mass Budget - First Iteration

Before actually going into our mass budget, we wanted to get a reference idea for the propellant mass so that we would be sure to be able to achieve our  $\Delta v$ . In order to get this, we decided to find a relation between the usable propellant mass and the mass of the rest as a ratio. This is then fixed and will also allow us to know roughly how much propellant we need depending on the dry mass. Let  $m_{UP}$  be the mass of usable propellant. Moreover, we would be aiming for a total initial mass of roughly 20 to 25t on our last iteration. This first iteration was done with another magnet design, presented in November which consisted in two large discs of 600 kg each and have then been abandoned for the second iteration.

#### 4.4.1 Coefficients & Masses after steps

Considering that ISP = 295s and annotating  $\frac{m_{UP_i}}{m_{total_i}} = K_i$  with i the burn number :

Step	Required $\Delta v$ in $m/s$	$K_i$	Mass after step
1	2802.4	0.620	$0.38 \ m_{initial}$
2	1342.2	0.371	$0.239 m_{initial}$
3	522.9	0.165	$0.200 m_{initial}$
Satellite caught	NA	NA	$0.2m_{initial}+3500$
4	1487.8	0.402	$0.1196 m_{initial}+2093$
Satellite release	NA	NA	$0.1196m_{initial}$ - $1407$
5	5.3	0.002	$0.1194m_{initial}$ - $1404.186$
6	72.4	0.0247	

#### 4.4.2 Global equation between $m_{UP}$ and $m_{initial}$

Step	$rac{m_{UP}}{m_{initial}}$	Bias due to debris
1	0.620	0
2	0.141	0
3	0.039	0
4	0.0804	1407
5	0.00024	-2.814
6	0.00295	-36.68
TOTAL	0.88359	+1369.506

We then get our general relation between the usable propellant mass and the initial mass

$$m_{prop} = 0.88359 m_{init} + 1369.506$$

And as  $m_{initial} = m_{UP} + m_{rest}$ :

$$m_{prop} = \frac{1}{0.11641} \left[ 0.88359 m_{rest} + 1369.506 \right]$$

 $m_{rest}$  includes the dry mass and the propellant required for the ACS.

#### 4.4.3 First iteration of mass budget

#### Sub systems

Contributor	Mass in kg
$\overline{ ext{EPS}}$	=
Fuel cells	165.6727
H2 for fuel cell (tank included)	10
Cables	20
$\operatorname{GNC}$	5
Batteries	61.3333
Actuators (for flaps)	10
Servos	1
On board computer	5
Telecommunications	10
Thermal control	10
$\mathbf{ACS}/\mathbf{RCS}$	-
Reaction wheels	106
ACS (without propellant)	36.16
$\underline{Total}$	440.166

#### Payload

Contributor	Mass in kg
Magnet	1200

#### Structure

Contributor	Mass in kg
Hull	509

Contributor	Mass in kg
Wing	54
Engine	60
Engine frame	51
Connectors	25
Tanks	350
Heat shield	472
$\underline{Total}$	1521

#### Others

Contributor	Mass in kg
Catalyzer	10
Lines	25
ACS including Propellant	672
Non usable propellant (Residuals, transient, etc.)	200
Helium (including tank)	30
$\underline{Total}$	937

We then get

$$m_{rest} = m_{Subsystems} + m_{Payload} + m_{Structure} + m_{Others} = 4098.166kg$$

Which, with the previously obtained equation:

$$m_{UP} = 42~870.926kg$$

As the mixture ratio is MR = 7.07 and  $m_{UP} = m_{UF} + m_{UOP}$ 

$$m_{UsableFuel} = \frac{m_{UP}}{1 + MR} = 5 \ 312kg$$
 
$$m_{UsableOxidizer} = MR \times m_{UsableFuel} = 37 \ 559kg$$

#### Results

We can sum this first iteration up with the following table:

Contributor	Mass (kg)
Structure	1 521
Magnets	1 200
Sub Systems	440.166
Tank Pressurization	30
Engine	60
Catalyzer	10
Lines	25
Dry mass	3 286.166
Non usable propellant	200
ACS/RCS Propellant	142.12
Usable propellant	42 870.926
Total initial mass	46 969.092

This first initial mass is way over what we are targeting and there are many parameters to be refined during the next iteration.

#### 4.5 Mass Budget - Second iteration

After refining multiple parameters and fixing others to get more accurate values, we went into the second iteration of our mass budget. Having our  $I_{SP}$  changed also required another iteration in our calculation formula between the usable propellant mass the the rest of the mass.

#### 4.5.1 Coefficients & Masses after steps

Considering that ISP=315s and annotating  $\frac{m_{UP_i}}{m_{total_i}}=K_i$  with i the burn number :

Step	Required $\Delta v$ in $m/s$	$K_i$	Mass after step
1	2802.4	0.596	$0.404 \ m_{initial}$
2	1342.2	0.352	$0.261792m_{initial}$
3	522.9	0.156	$0.221m_{initial}$
Satellite caught	NA	NA	$0.221 m_{initial}+3500$
4	1487.8	0.382	$0.137 m_{initial}+2163$
Satellite release	NA	NA	$0.137m_{initial}$ - $1337$
5	5.3	0.0017	$0.1368 m_{initial}$ - $1334.73$
6	72.4	0.023	

#### 4.5.2 Global equation between $m_{UP}$ and $m_{initial}$

Step	$\frac{m_{UP}}{m_{initial}}$	Bias due to debris
1	0.596	0
2	0.142	0
3	0.041	0
4	0.084	1337
5	0.0002	-2.273
6	0.0032	-30.699
TOTAL	0.8664	+1304.028

This time our equation between those two masses is given by

$$m_{UsableProp} = \frac{1}{0.1336} \left[ 0.8664 m_{rest} + 1304.028 \right]$$
 (4.6)

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#### 4.5.3 Second iteration of mass budget

As our way of presenting our first iteration of the mass budget didn't seems clear enough to us, we decided to present it in another, more logical way : **Structure** 

Contributor	Mass (kg)
Hull	192
Tanks (including non usable propellant)	700
Wings	136
Lines	60
Connectors	16
$H_2$ tank	12
Structure	1 116

#### Electrical related contributors

Contributor	Mass (kg)
Batteries	241
Fuel cells	202
On Board Computer	5
Cables	20
$H_2$ for fuel cells	5
Wing actuators	10
Telecommunications	10
GNC	5
Thermal Control	10
Magnets (Payload)	25.65
Electrical related contributors	533.65

#### ACS and RCS

Contributor	Mass (kg)
Thrusters	36
$H_2O_2$	90
Reaction wheels	106
ACS & RCS	232

#### Propulsion

Contributor	Mass (kg)
Engine	93
Turbopumps	25
Pressurization $(He)$	1.3
Catalyzer	30
Propulsion	149.3

With those tables, we can deduce  $m_{rest}$ :

$$m_{rest} = m_{Structure} + m_{Elec} + m_{ACS\&RCS} + m_{Propulsion}$$
 (4.7)

$$m_{rest} = 2\ 030.95kg \tag{4.8}$$

Thus,

$$m_{UsableProp} = \frac{1}{0.1336} \left[ 0.8664 m_{rest} + 1304.028 \right]$$
 (4.9)

$$m_{UsableProp} = 22 \ 931kg \tag{4.10}$$

$$m_{Fuel} = \frac{m_{UsableProp}}{MR + 1} \tag{4.11}$$

$$m_{Fuel} = 2841.6kg (4.12)$$

$$m_{Ox} = m_{UsableProp} - m_{Fuel} (4.13)$$

$$m_{Ox} = 20\ 089.89kg \tag{4.14}$$

$$m_0 = 24 \ 962.41kg \tag{4.15}$$

In this second iteration with a better  $I_{sp}$  and refined values for all of the contributors, we have a large improvement as our initial mass decreased drastically.

#### 4.6 Frozen information

After our second iteration of the mass budget, we decided to make a list of the fixed values that we will work around in our further design.

#### 4.6.1 Frozen points

- We will do 20 aerobrakes
- We will have a separate tank design
- $\bullet$   $H_2O_2$  will be pressurized by its decomposition
- The decomposition control will be managed by rotation of the spacecraft
- ACS/RCS Layout similar to the Space Shuttle
- $H_2O_2$  catalyzers separate
- $\bullet$   $H_2O_2/O_2$  separation via thermodynamic properties
- $H_2/O_2$  will be used in fuel cells to produce energy

Data	Value	Unit
Empty raw mass	2 031	kg
Usable propellant	22 931	kg
Total mass	24 962	kg
Flowrate	10	kg/s
Rocket diameter	2	m
$I_{sp_{vacuum}}$	335	s
Thrust $F = \dot{m}I_{sp}g_0$	32863.5	N
Mixture Ratio	7.07	-
Wall thickness	TBA	m
$H_2O_2$ internal pressure	1.35	bar

#### 4.7 Mass Budget - Final iteration

As the fixed  $I_{sp}$  has been refined as well as other parameters, we went into our final iteration of the mass budget with the same process as the two previous ones.

#### 4.7.1 Coefficients & Masses after steps

Considering that ISP=335s and annotating  $\frac{m_{UP_i}}{m_{total_i}}=K_i$  with i the burn number :

Step	Required $\Delta v$ in $m/s$	$K_i$	Mass after step
1	2802.4	0.574	$0.426 \ m_{initial}$
2	1342.2	0.335	$0.283 m_{initial}$
3	522.9	0.148	$0.241m_{initial}$
Satellite caught	NA	NA	$0.221 m_{initial}+3500$
4	1487.8	0.364	$0.153 m_{initial}+2226$
Satellite release	NA	NA	$0.153m_{initial}$ -1274
5	5.3	0.0016	$0.1528 m_{initial}$ - $1271.96$
6	72.4	0.0218	

#### 4.7.2 Global equation between $m_{UP}$ and $m_{initial}$

Step	$\frac{m_{UP}}{m_{initial}}$	Bias due to debris
1	0.574	0
2	0.143	0
3	0.042	0
4	0.088	1274
5	0.0002	-2.038
6	0.0033	-27.73
TOTAL	0.8505	+1244.232

Thus,

$$m_{UsablePropellant} = \frac{1}{0.1495} [0.8505 m_{rest} + 1244.232]$$

#### 4.7.3 Detailed contributors

#### Structure

Contributor	Mass (kg)
Hull	192
$\operatorname{Tanks}$	700
Wings	136
Lines	70
Connectors	16
Brackets	35
$H_2$ Tanks	12
Structure	1161

#### Electrical systems

Contributor	Mass (kg)
Batteries	369.03
Fuel cell	202
OBC	10
Cables	57
$H_2$ for fuel cells	5
Wing actuators	10
Data transmission	20
GNC	10
Thermal control	20
Magnets	25.65
Electrical systems	728.68

#### Attitude control

Contributor	Mass (kg)
Thrusters	36
$H_2O_2$ for the ACS	90
Reaction wheels	106
Attitude control	232

#### Propulsion

Contributor	Mass (kg)
Engine	93
Turbopumps + Electric motors	180
He for pressurization	1.3
Catalyzer	40.86
Propulsion	315.16

### $4.7.4 \quad Final \ mass \ budget$

Contributor	Mass (kg)
Structure	1161
Electrical systems	728.68
Attitude control	232
Heat shield	360
Propulsion	315.16
$m_{rest}$	2796.84
$m_{UP}$ with a 5% performance window	25 508
$m_{Fuel}$	3160
$m_{Ox}$	22 347
Initial wet mass	28 304

# 4.8 Simulation concept

# Chapter 5

# Design of propulsion systems

- 5.1 System conceptualization
- 5.2 Subsystem design
- 5.2.1 Regenerative cooling
- 5.2.2 Catalyzer

Besides the advantages of  $H_2O_2$  there is one major drawback that we have take into account. This drawback is that  $H_2O_2$  needs to be decomposed in  $O_2$  and  $H_2O$  in order to react with RP-1.

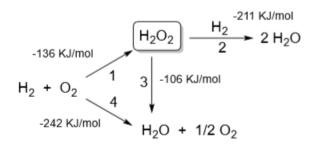


Figure 5.1:  $H_2O_2$  chemical decomposition process

This decomposition is natural but at a low rate whereas we need a very high decomposition rate in order to feed the combustion chamber and sustain a proper flame. This decomposition is an exothermic decomposition. That's why we need a catalyser.

This catalyser needs to be placed between the turbo pump and the injectors. It allows to decompose the  $H_2O_2$  at the last time.

The way a catalyser works is pretty simple; the  $H_2O_2$  goes through a catalyst bed of silver pellets, reacts and generates heat. Why silver? We chose silver because is the mostly used catalyser for  $H_2O_2$ . However, a lot of other different material exists, like Platinum, Manganese or even Gold but these materials are rarely used due to their cost and also the fact that they need to be made in complex alloy in order to optimize the reaction.

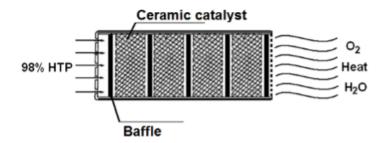


Figure 5.2: Example of catalyst bed

The figure above shows basically how a catalyser works. To have an idea of the shape of ours we just have to swap the ceramic catalyst by silver catalyst. So, it will be a steel cylinder filled with small spherical silver pellet separated by some baffles (silver grid mesh).

An important characteristic of the catalyser is the pressure drop it creates. This pressure drop influences the whole feeding system, the turbo pump sizing and even the injector design. that's why we need to characterize the pressure drop created by the catalyser. In order to do so, we are going to use the Ergun equation for packed bed reactor:

$$\frac{\Delta p}{L} = 151.2 \frac{\mu}{d^2} \frac{(1-\epsilon)^2}{\epsilon^2} u + 1.8 \frac{\rho}{d} \frac{1-\epsilon}{\epsilon^3} u^2$$

With  $\mu$  the dynamic viscosity,  $\epsilon$  the porosity, d the pellet diameter,  $\rho$  the density, L the length of the bed and u the velocity.

In this equation we need some important component such as  $\epsilon$ . The porosity is complicated to compute and need to be model. According to a recent research we determined a porosity of 0.3802 with a pellet diameter of 5mm.

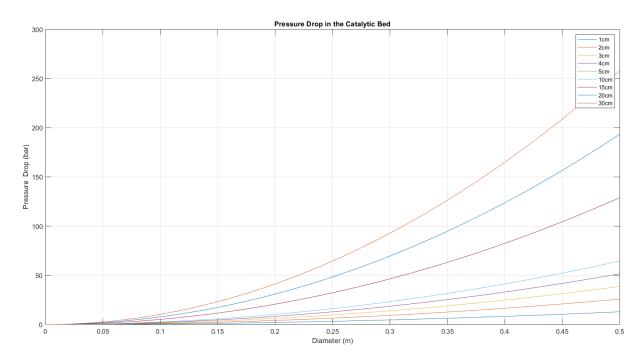


Figure 5.3: Pressure drop depending on the size of the catalyst bed

We see on the graph that the pressure drop rise quickly with the size of the bed. So we need to limit the size of our catalyser in order to not oversize the turbo pump. To do so, we chose to limit our pressure drop to around 30 bars. Finally we obtain a cylinder of 20 cm of diameter and 20 cm of length.

This geometry allows the catalyser to provide a sufficient decomposition rate, a "contained" pressure drop and size. It also generates a great heat as high as 1000K at the exit of the catalyst bed.

#### 5.2.3 Injectors

#### 5.2.4 Feeding system

After having designed most of our propulsion system. We need to carefully link them by designing our feeding system. The biggest challenge is to create a system that will both fit in our spacecraft and deliver the right amount of propellant from the tanks to the engine through our different, required other subsystems.

The general pressure loss in a system is given by:

$$\Delta P = K \frac{\rho}{2} w^2$$

With K depending on the type of change in system geometry as follow:

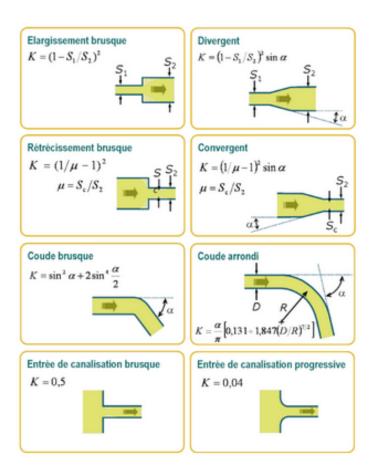


Figure 5.4: K values for geometry changes

In our case, we will use the progressive line entering loss K=0.04 and the bends  $K(\alpha)=\sin^2(\alpha)+2\sin^4\left(\frac{\alpha}{2}\right)$ . Another K will also be used for the entrance of the injector, which will be specified later on.

For manufacturing costs and simplicity purposes, we choose to only use 45° bends which will result in  $K_{bends} = 0.5429$ .

With that and the length measurements in mind, we designed the following feeding system layout for which we will then calculate the pressure variations along it:

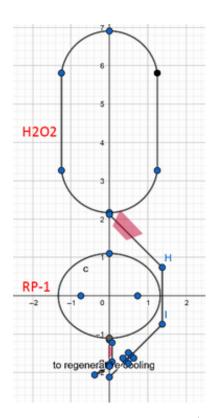


Figure 5.5: Feeding system layout (To scale)

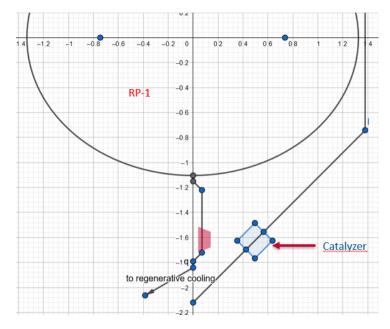


Figure 5.6: Feeding system layout - Zoomed (To scale)

#### Line diameters

In order to choose our line diameters, we can first use our volume flow and then get the line area from it and then at the end, the line diameter.

Fuel

$$\dot{V}_f = \frac{\dot{m}_f}{\rho_f} = 0.0015298m^3/s \tag{5.1}$$

$$A_{line_f} = \frac{\dot{V}_f}{w_f} = 5.21 \times 10^{-5} mm^2 \tag{5.2}$$

$$d_{line_f} = 2\sqrt{\frac{A_{line_f}}{\pi}} = 8.1447mm \tag{5.3}$$

As we are trying to insure a high injection velocity and to insure a certain margin in pressure and velocity, we will choose a line diameter of 7 mm for the fuel feeding system. Oxidizer

$$\dot{V}_o = \frac{\dot{m}_o}{\rho_o} = 0.006042m^3/s \tag{5.4}$$

$$A_{line_o} = \frac{\dot{V}_o}{w_o} = 0.000275mm^2 \tag{5.5}$$

$$d_{line_o} = 2\sqrt{\frac{A_{line_o}}{\pi}} = 18mm \tag{5.6}$$

In this case, we will choose a line diameter of 15 mm for the oxidizer.

#### Fuel feeding system

The following items in our fuel feeding system will cause pressure drops:

• Tank exit: K = 0.04

•  $4 \times 45^{\circ}$  bends : K = 0.5429 for each

• Friction coefficient : f = 0.02

• Regenerative cooling :  $\Delta P = 0.25$  bar

• Fuel injection :  $\Delta P = 9.3843$  bars

With our current layout, we have 5 straight lines which will cause pressure losses on the fuel side. Three of them are before the turbopump which is placed at the end of the third straight section, right before the third bend. We consider a velocity of 8 m/s before the turbopumps and of  $v_{inj} = 29.363$  m/s after. The line loss for each section is given by :

$$\Delta P = \frac{810}{2} w^2 \times 0.02 \times \frac{L_{section}}{0.007}$$

- 1. First section  $(L_{section} = 0.05m)$ :  $\Delta P = 0.037029$  bar
- 2. Second section  $(L_{section} = 0.1m)$ :  $\Delta P = 0.074057$  bar
- 3. Third section  $(L_{section} = 0.5m)$ :  $\Delta P = 0.37029$  bar
- 4. Fourth section  $(L_{section} = 0.1m)$ :  $\Delta P = 0.997699$  bar
- 5. Fifth section  $(L_{section} = 0.05m)$ :  $\Delta P = 0.49884$  bar

There are also two different values for the bend losses depending on the position of the bend (before or after the turbopump), we have 2 of each:

- $\Delta P_{before} = 0.14072$  bar
- $\Delta P_{after} = 1.8957$  bar

The tank exit loss is:

$$\Delta P_{exit} = K_{exit} \times \frac{\rho_F}{2} \times 8^2 = 0.010368 \text{ bar}$$

#### Oxidizer feeding system

The following items in our oxidizer feeding system will cause pressure drops:

- Tank exit : K = 0.04
- 4 × 45° bends : K = 0.5429 for each
- Straight line losses :  $\Delta P = \frac{\rho}{2} w^2 f \frac{L}{D}$
- Friction coefficient : f = 0.02
- Catalyzer :  $\Delta P = \text{bars}$
- Oxidizer injection :  $\Delta P = 4.9599$  bars

On this part of the feeding system, we also have 5 sections and 4 bends of 45° each. We also consider a velocity of 8 m/s before the turbopump and 21.971 m/s after. However, due to the larger distances (due to our tank layout), the turbopump's position in the feeding system is different and is now positioned after the first bend, right at the beginning of

the second straight line. This results in 3 bends being at high velocity and 1 at relatively slower velocity.

Here, each straight line loss section is given by:

$$\Delta P = \frac{1450}{2} w^2 \times 0.02 \times \frac{L_{section}}{0.015}$$

With:

- 1. First section  $(L_{section} = 0.05m)$ :  $\Delta P = 0.030933$  bar
- 2. Second section  $(L_{section} = 1.95m)$ :  $\Delta P = 9.0992$  bars
- 3. Third section  $(L_{section} = 1.4836m)$ :  $\Delta P = 6.9228$  bars
- 4. Fourth section  $(L_{section} = 1.15m)$ :  $\Delta P = 5.3662$  bars
- 5. Fifth section  $(L_{section} = 0.6m)$ :  $\Delta P = 2.7997$  bars

For the bends, we have:

- $\Delta P_{before} = 0.2519 \text{ bar (1 of them)}$
- $\Delta P_{after} = 1.0614$  bar (3 of them)

The tank exit loss is:

$$\Delta P_{exit} = K_{exit} \times \frac{\rho_o}{2} \times 8^2 = 0.01856 \text{ bar}$$

#### 5.2.5 Turbo pumps

As most of our subsystems have a defined pressure drop due to their specific design, we have made the choice to use this feeding system design with all losses included to then design our turbopumps to have a pressure rise in accordance with our pressure requirements. We chose to go with electrically driven turbo pumps as we have a good amount of electrical power since we use fuel cells in our spacecraft.

Our respective turbopump required created pressures are :

- Fuel side :  $\Delta P_{T_f} = P_{Chamber} + \Delta P_{feeding_f} + \Delta P_{inj_f} + \Delta P_{Regenerative\ cooling} P_{Tank_f}$
- Oxidizer side :  $\Delta P_{T_o} = P_{Chamber} + \Delta P_{feeding_o} + \Delta P_{inj_o} + \Delta P_{Catalyzer} P_{Tank_o}$

Thus,

$$\Delta P_{T_f} = 54.395 \text{ bars} \tag{5.7}$$

$$\Delta P_{T_o} = 102.28 \text{ bars} \tag{5.8}$$

#### 5.2.6 Pressure evolution summary

#### Fuel side

Contributor	Pressure Drop (bars)	Pressure at the end of this part (bars)
Tank	NA	1.3
Tank exit	0.010368	1.29
First section	0.037	1.253
First bend	0.14	1.113
Second section	0.074	1.039
Second bend	0.14	0.899
Third section	0.37	0.529
Turbo pump	54.395 (Rise)	54.924
Third bend	1.8957	53.0283
Fourth section	0.997	52.0313
Fourth bend	1.8957	50.1356
Fifth section	0.499	49.6366
Cooling	0.25	49.3866
Injection	9.38	40.0066
Combustion chamber	NA	40.0066

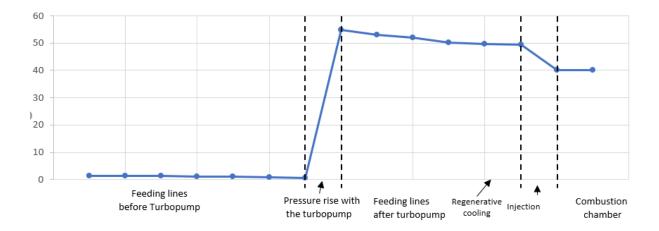


Figure 5.7: Pressure evolution on fuel side (bars)

#### Oxidizer side

Contributor	Pressure Drop (bars)	Pressure at the end of this part (bars)
Tank	NA	1.3
Tank exit	0.010368	1.29
First section	0.031	1.259
First bend	0.25	1.009
Turbo pump	102.28 (Rise)	103.289
Second section	9.09	94.199
Second bend	1.06	93.139
Third section	6.9228	86.2162
Third bend	1.06	85.1562
Fourth section	5.366	79.7902
Fourth bend	1.06	78.7302
Fifth section	2.7997	75.9305
Catalyzer	30.95	44.9805
Injection	4.96	40.0205
Combustion chamber	NA	40.0205

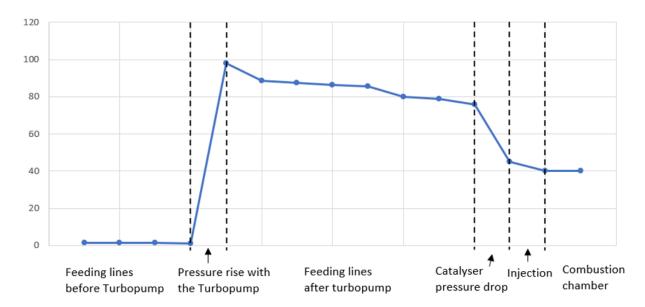


Figure 5.8: Pressure evolution on oxidizer side (bars)

### 5.3 Design review

# Chapter 6

# Simulation

- 6.1 Subsystem simulation
- 6.2 System simulation
- 6.3 Simulation preparation and execution
- 6.4 Simulation review

# Conclusion

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# Annexes

Annex I - Gantt Diagramm

