

Solid Rocket Motor

Part 1 Introduction

Propulsion

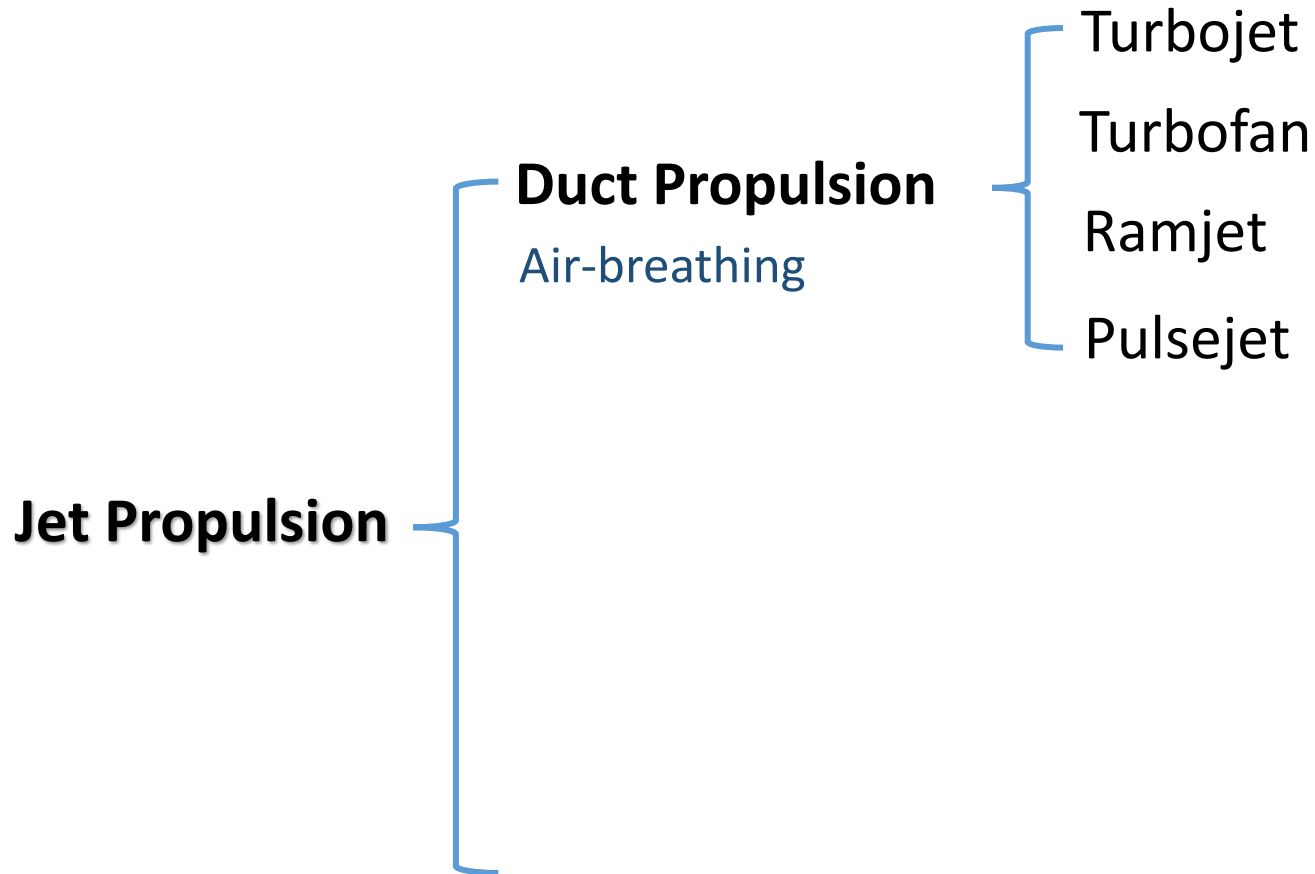
——conception

Propulsion: the act of changing the motion of a body

- Moves bodies
- Changes velocity
- Overcomes retarding forces

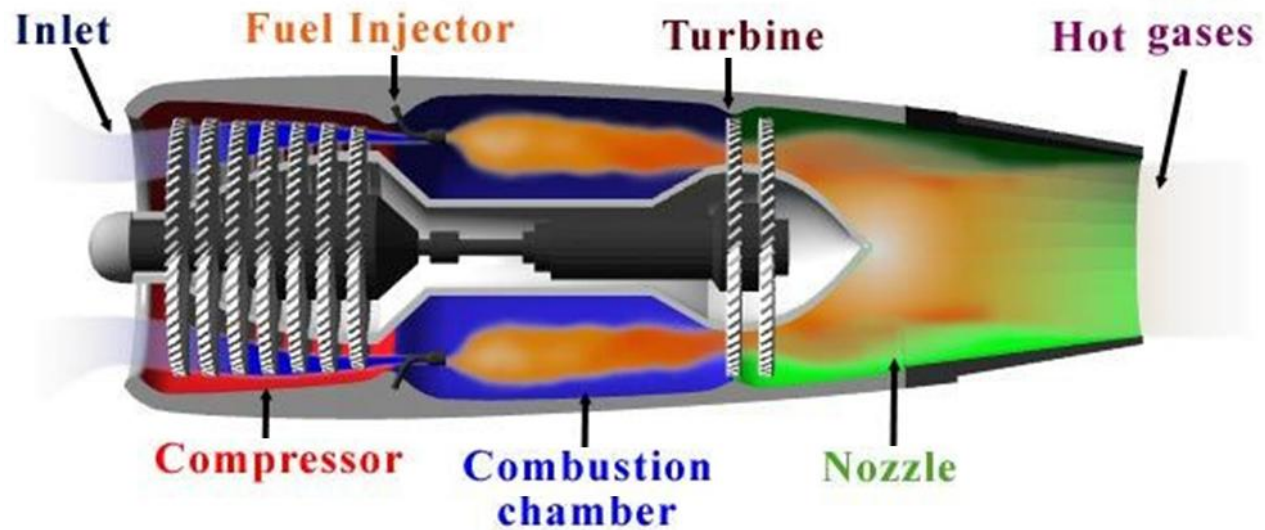


Jet Propulsion : reaction force by the momentum of ejected matter

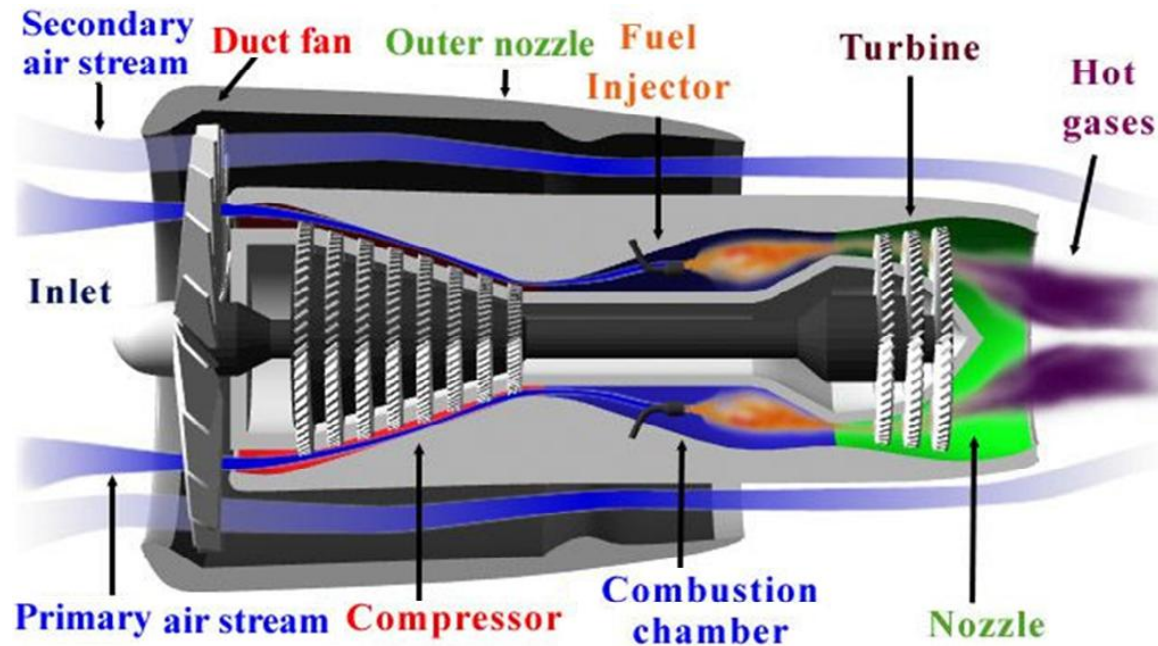


Duct Jet Propulsion

Turbojet



Turbofan

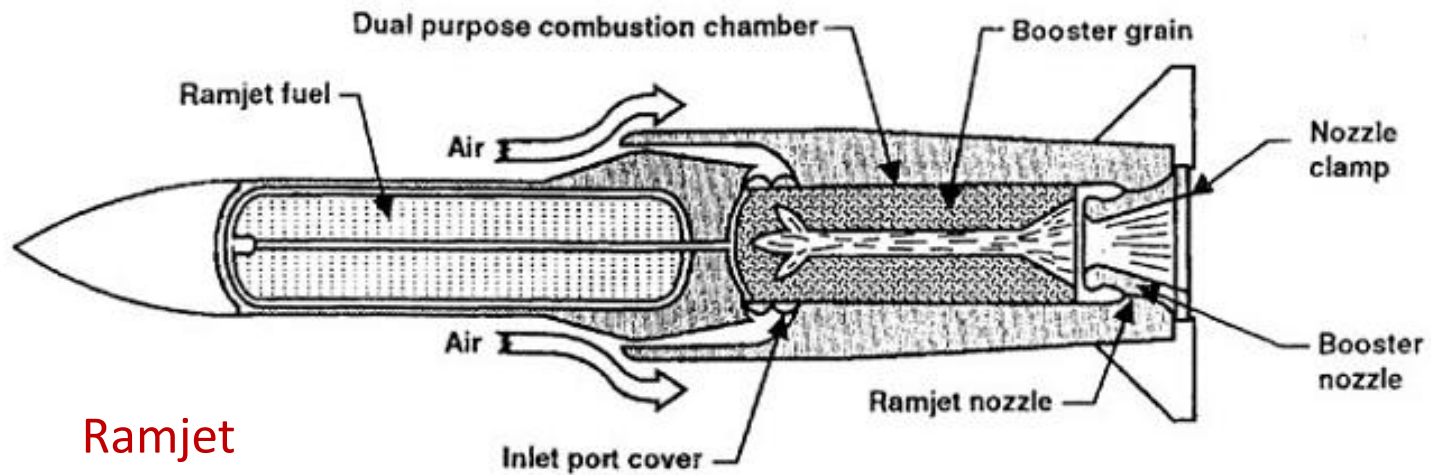


Duct Jet Propulsion

Turbojet

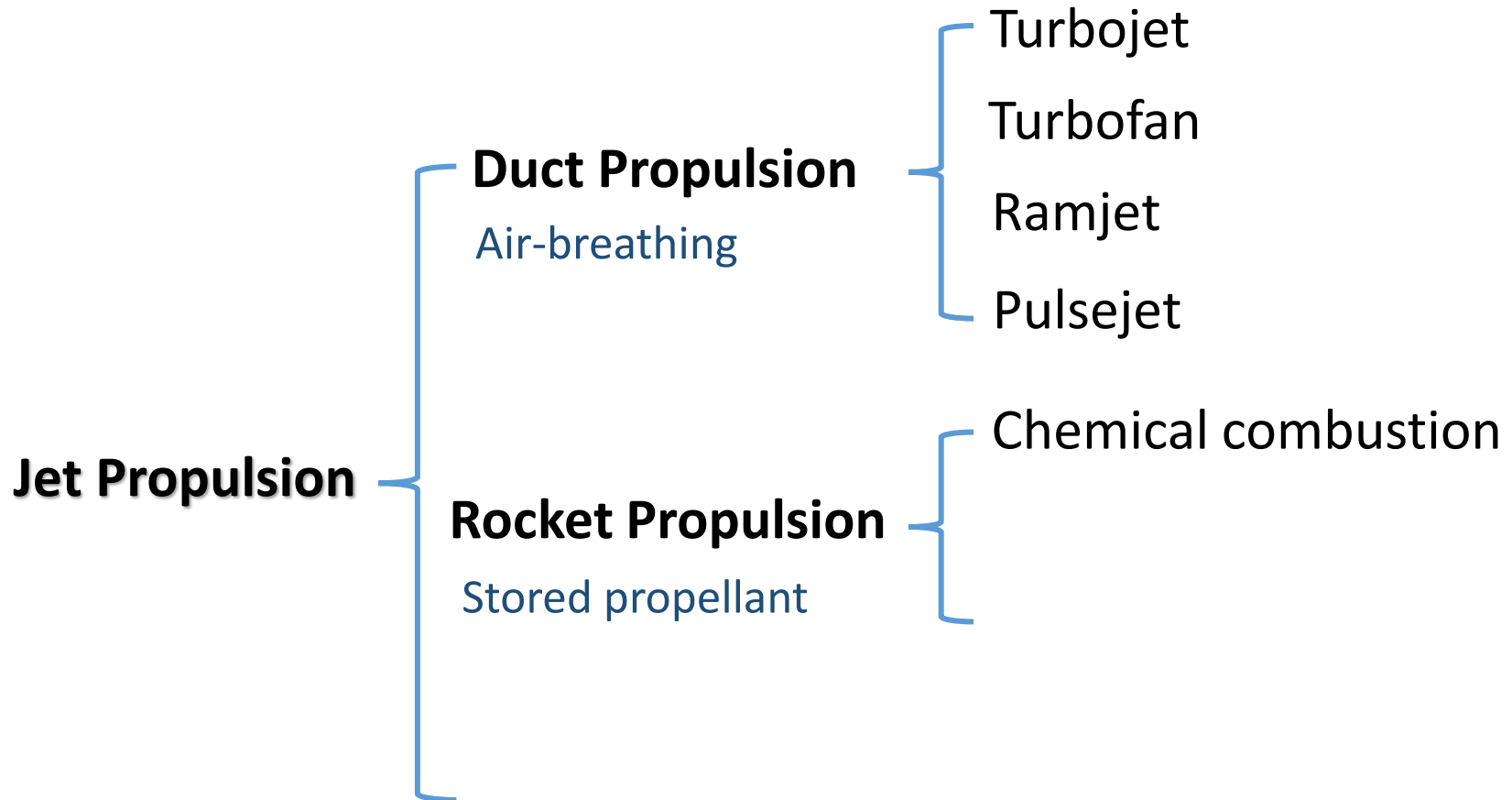


Turbofan



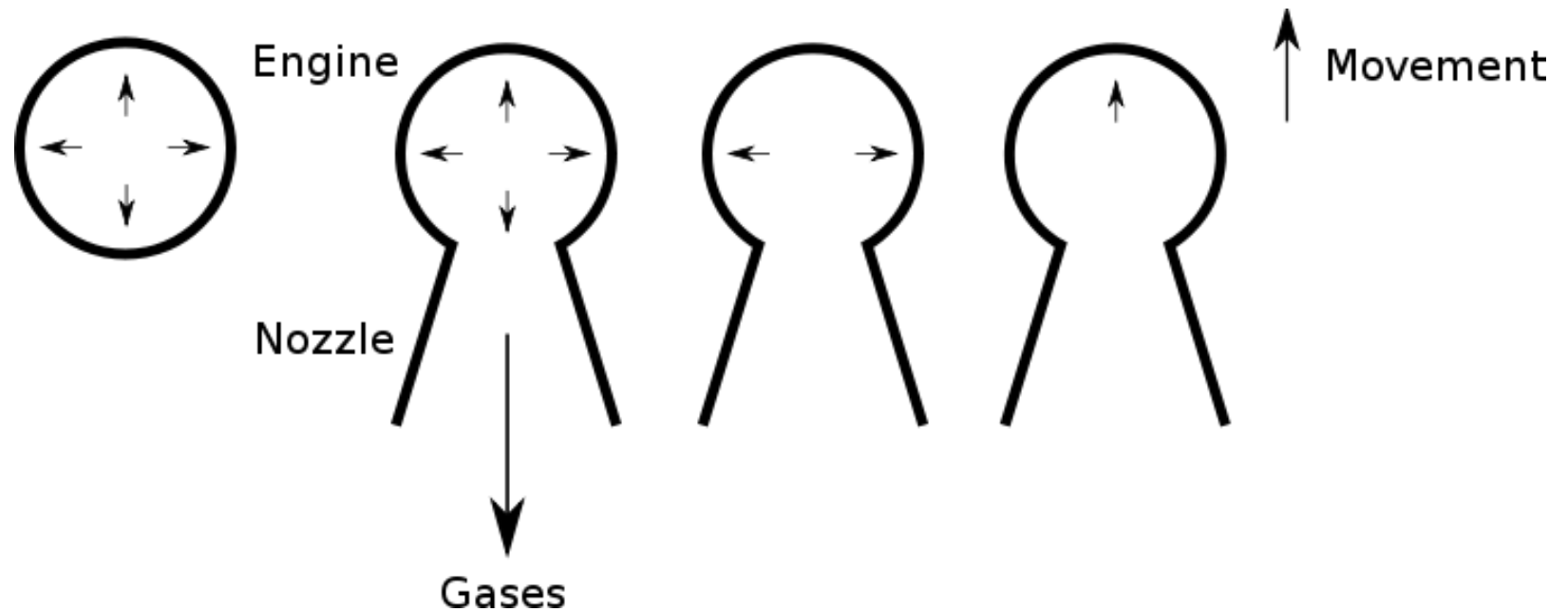
Ramjet

Jet Propulsion : reaction force by the momentum of ejected matter

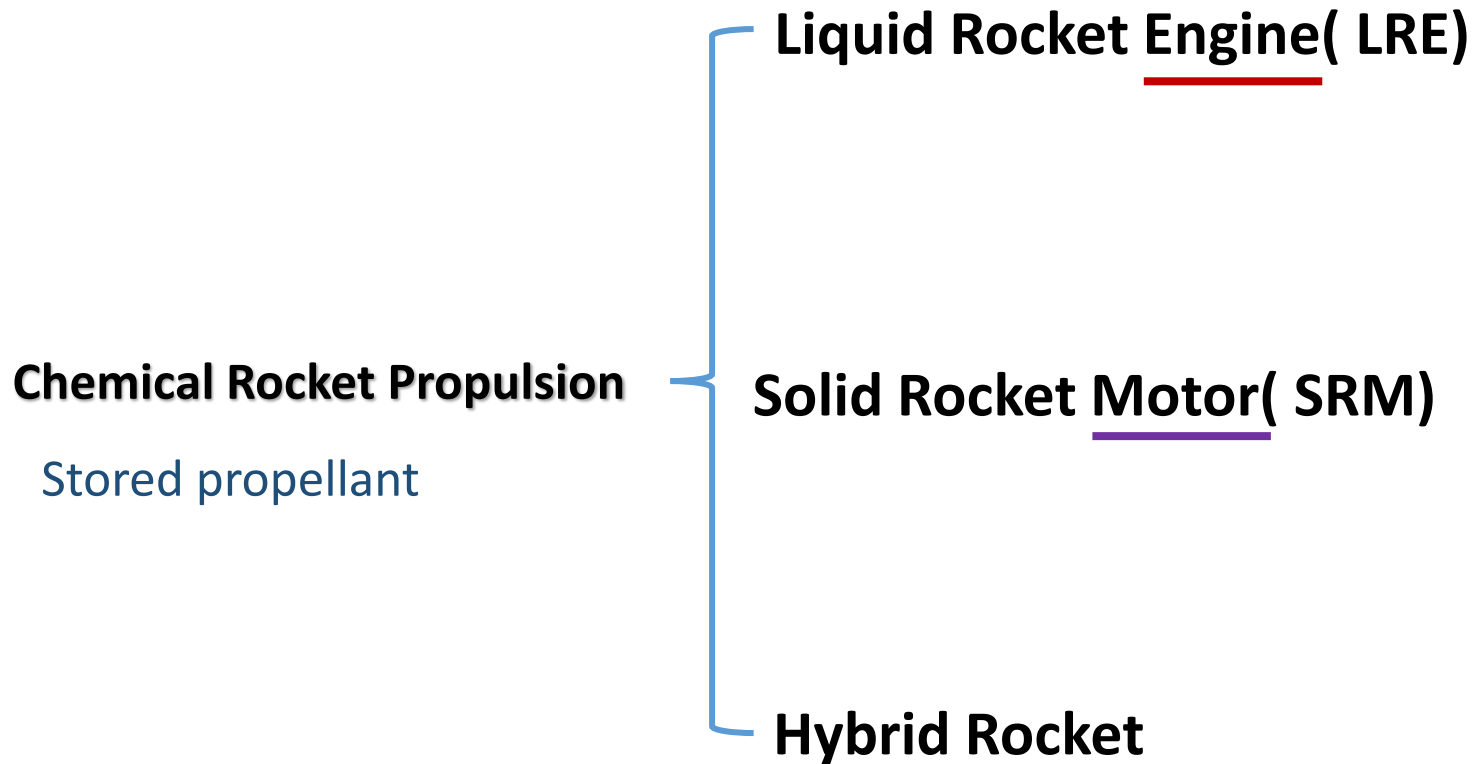


Rocket Propulsion

How rocket works

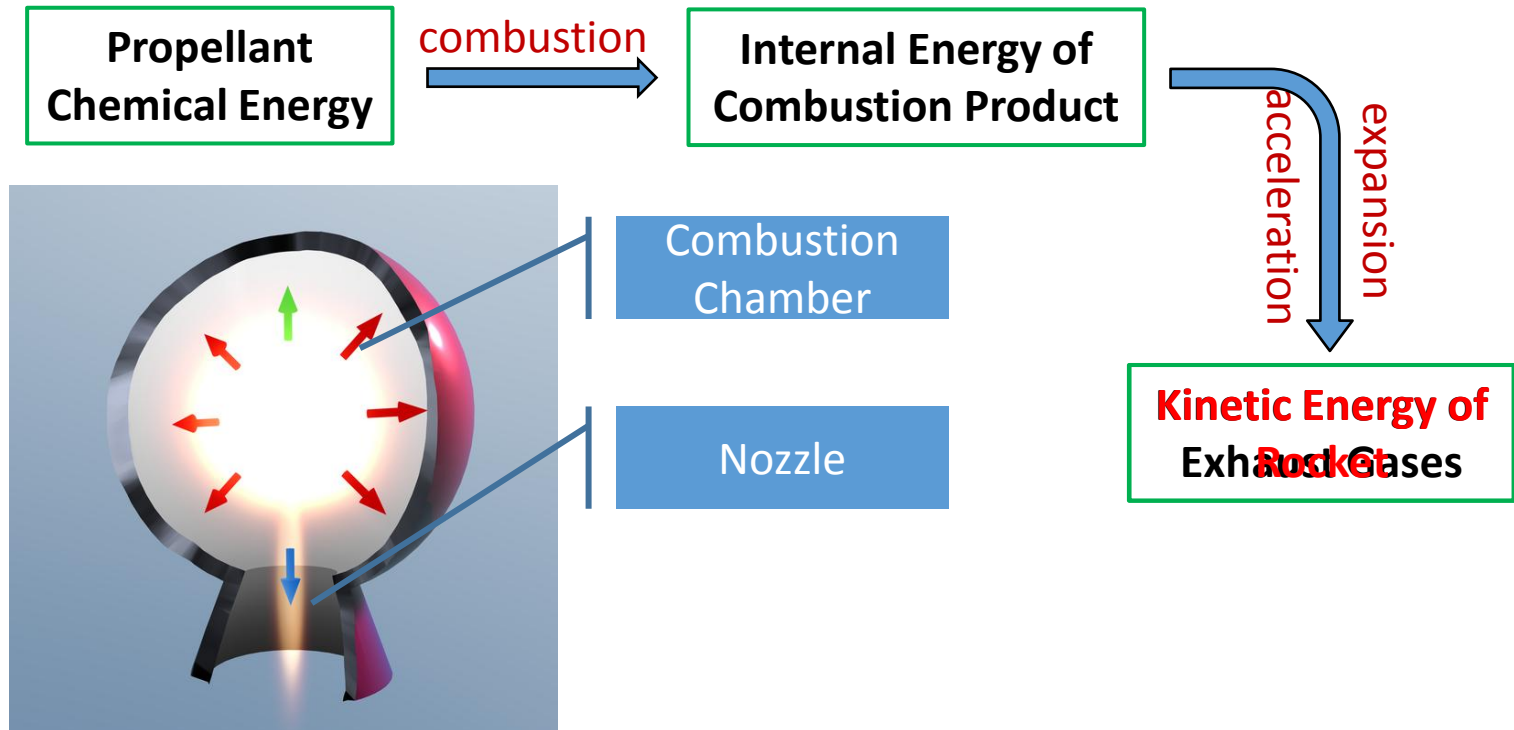


Chemical Rocket Propulsion



Rocket Propulsion

Working Process of Chemical Rocket Propulsion

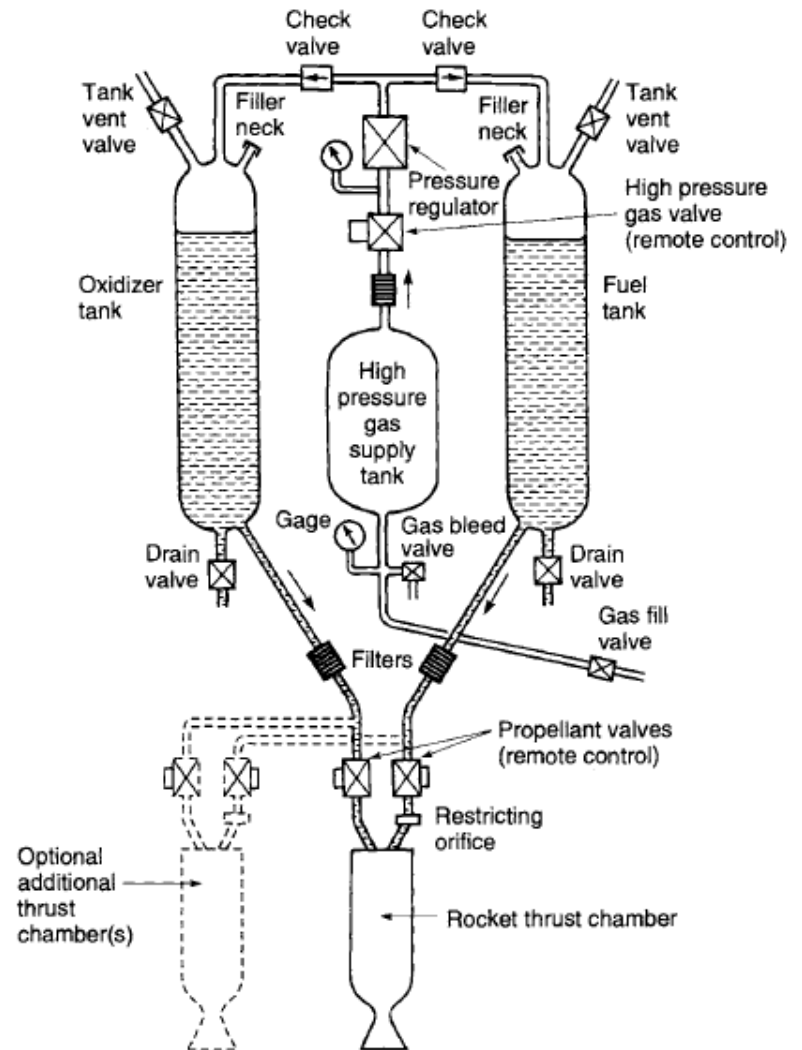
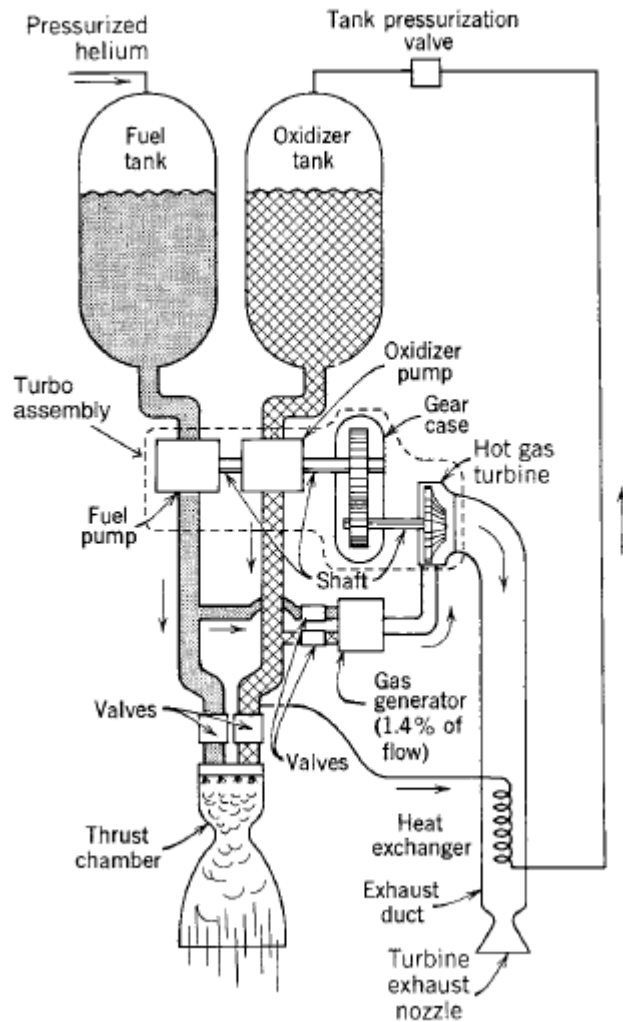


Propellant :

- Chemical energy source
- Working medium (mass)

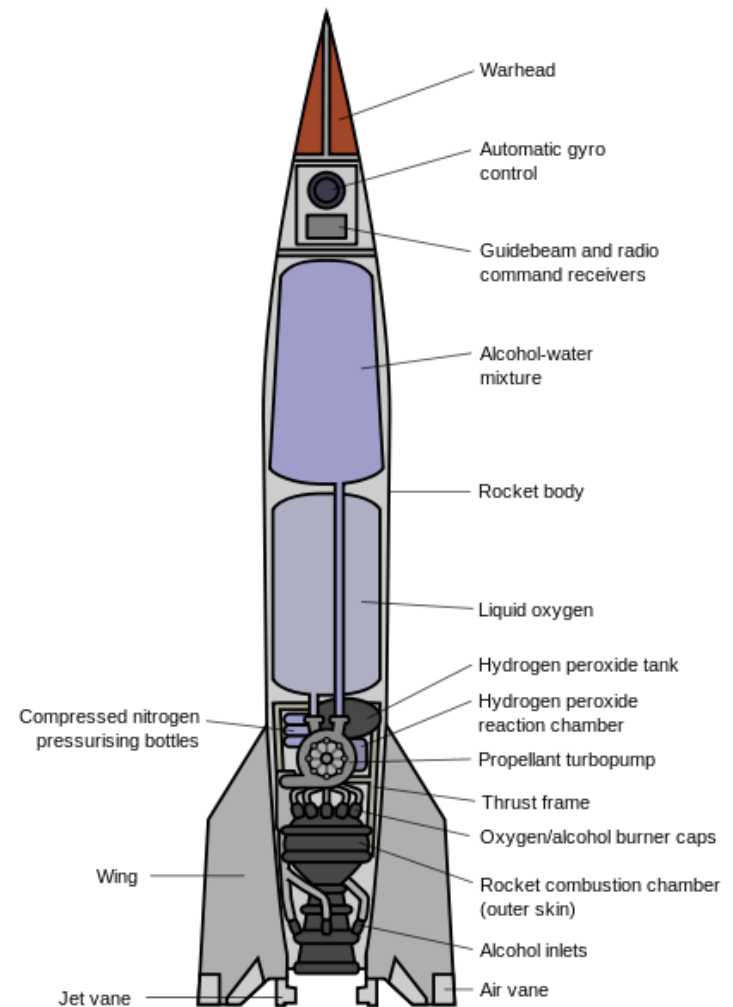
Rocket Propulsion

Liquid Rocket Engine(LRE)



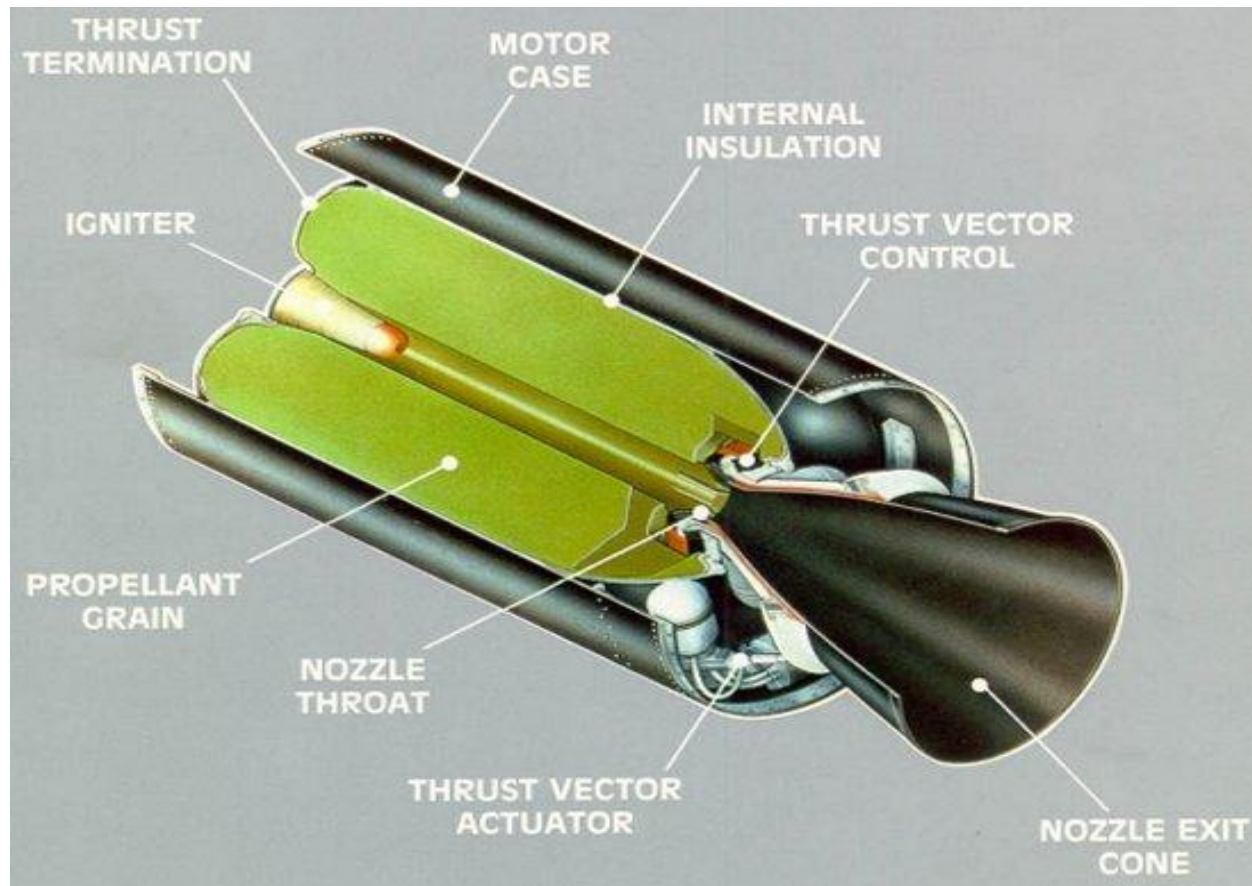
Rocket Propulsion

Liquid Rocket Engine(LRE)



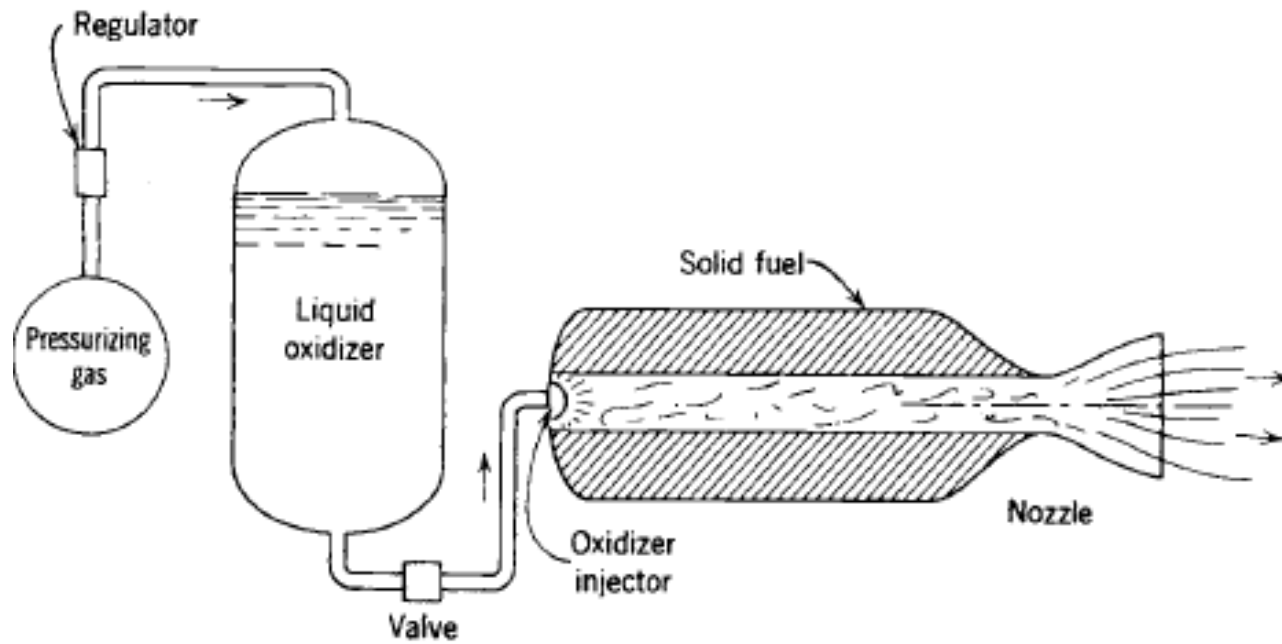
Rocket Propulsion

Solid Rocket Motor(SRM)



Rocket Propulsion

Hybrid Rocket



Rocket Propulsion

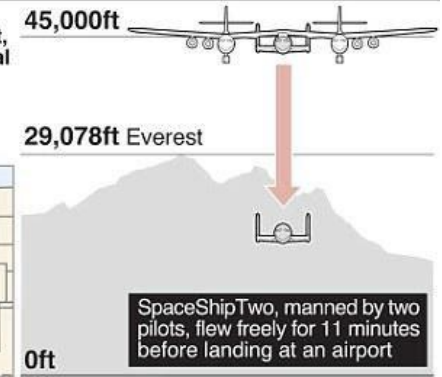
Hybrid Rocket



Virgin Galactic's SpaceShipTwo

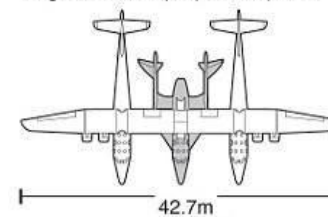
Virgin Galactic's space tourism rocket SpaceShipTwo achieved its first solo glide flight, marking another step in the company's eventual plans to fly paying passengers

SpaceShipTwo was carried aloft by its mothership to an altitude of 45,000 feet and released over the Mojave Desert



Size comparison

VirginMotherShip/SpaceShipTwo WhiteKnight/SpaceShipOne



Length: 60ft

Cabin Diameter: 90ins

Launch altitude: Above 45000ft (14000m)

Pay load: 6 Passenger astronauts, 2 pilot astronauts

Max speed: 2600mph

Rudders: Actuated by pilot's pedals for vehicle yaw control

Elevons: Actuated by pilot's centre stick for vehicle pitch and roll control

Hybrid Rocket System

Oxidizer Tank

TPS: Thermal Protection System

Windows

Entry/Exit: Large cabin door for easy entry and exit on lower left side

Thrusters: To control pitch and yaw of the spaceship in zero gravity

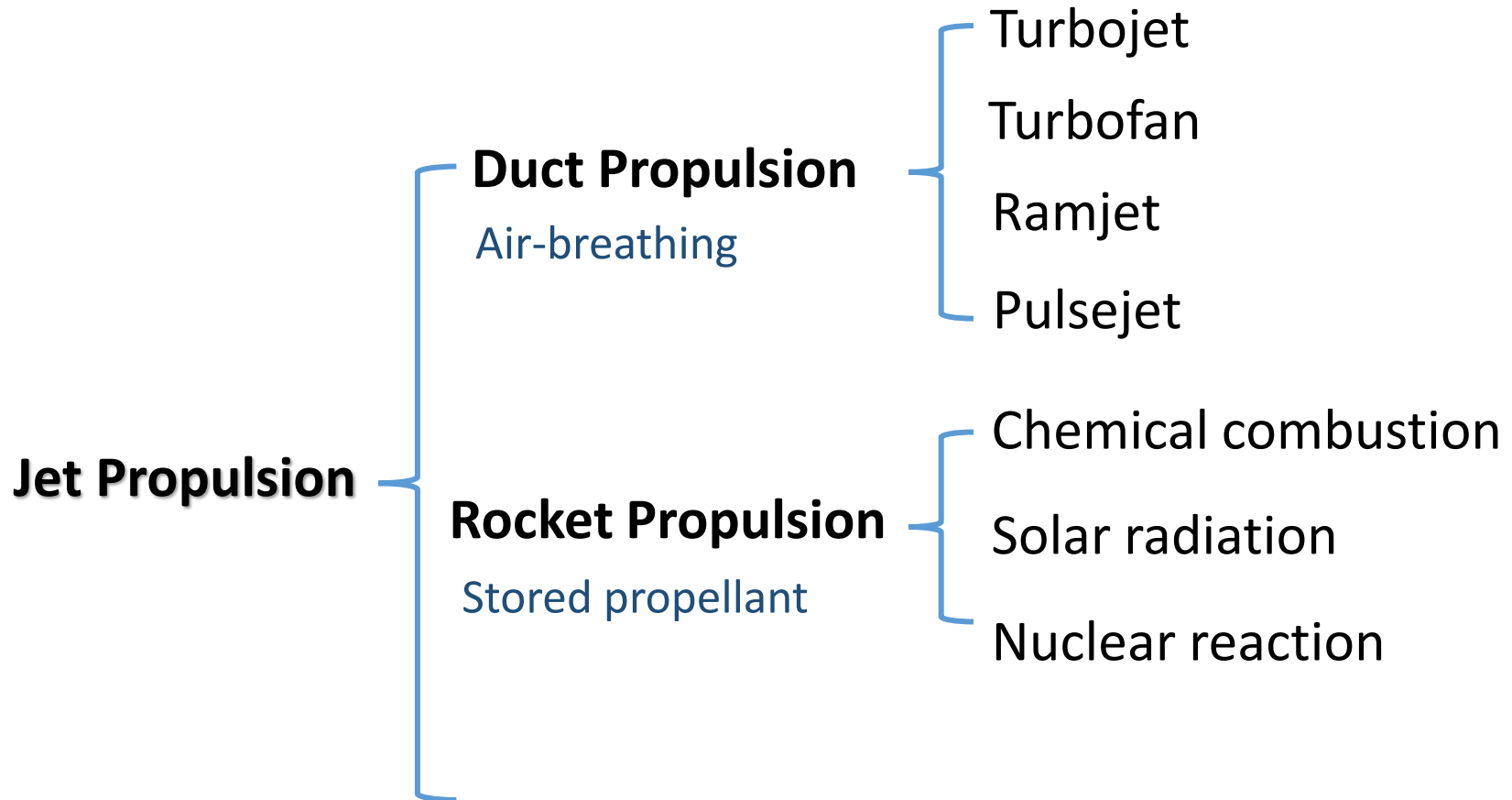
Feather Mechanism: Feather actuation and lock pneumatically operated

Roll Thrusters

TPS

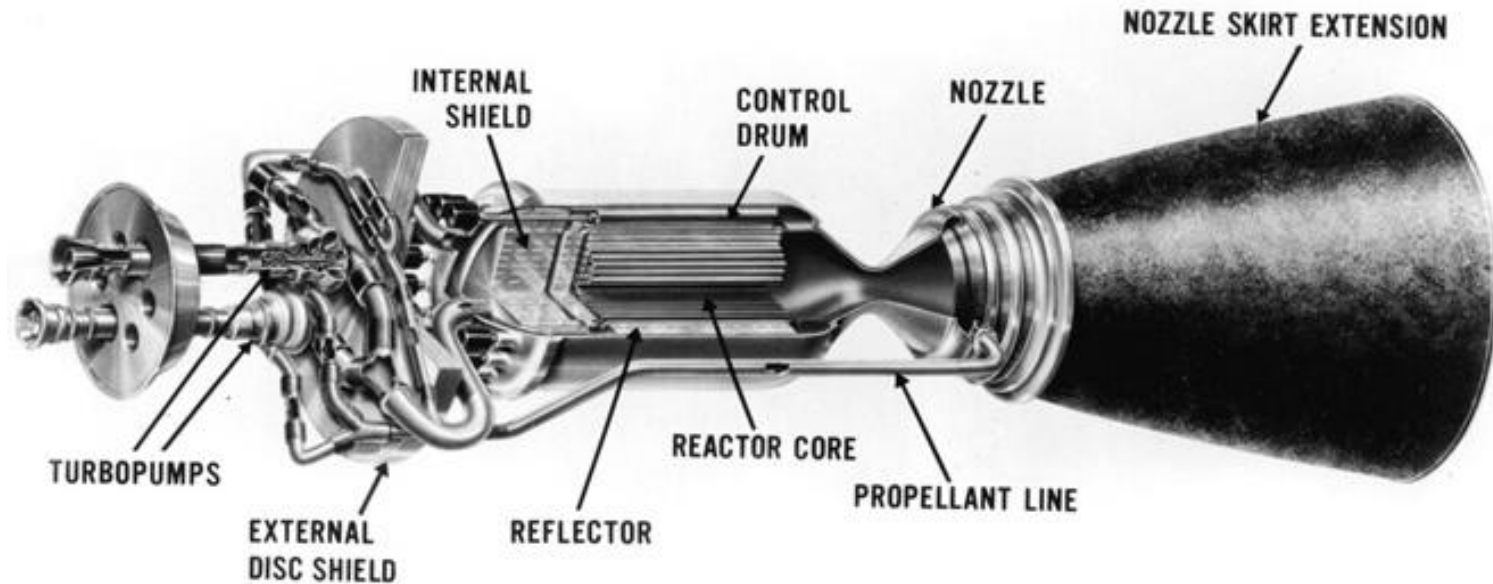
Source: Virgin

Jet Propulsion : reaction force by the momentum of ejected matter



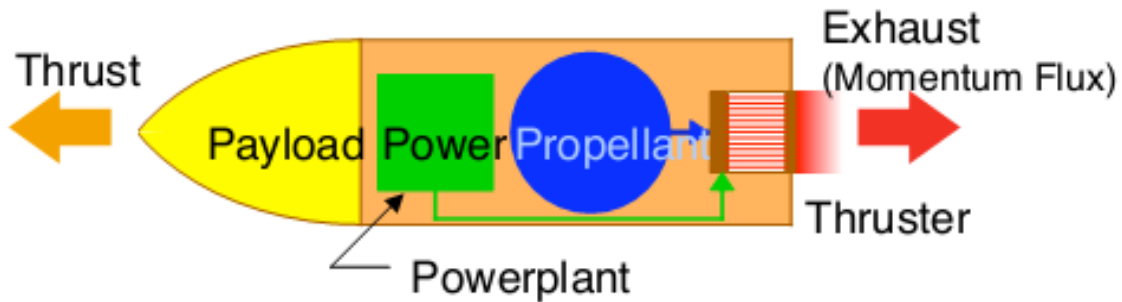
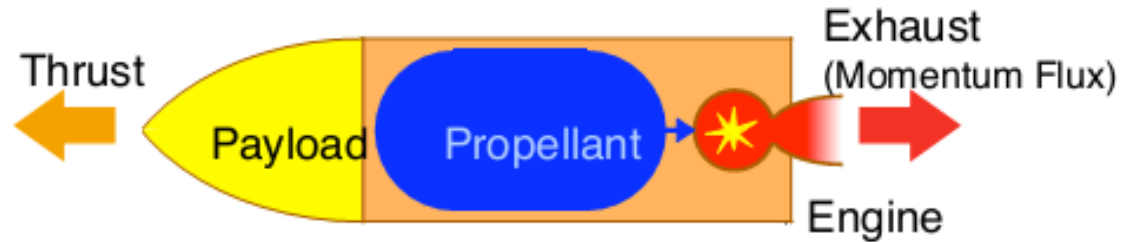
Rocket Propulsion

Nuclear Rocket

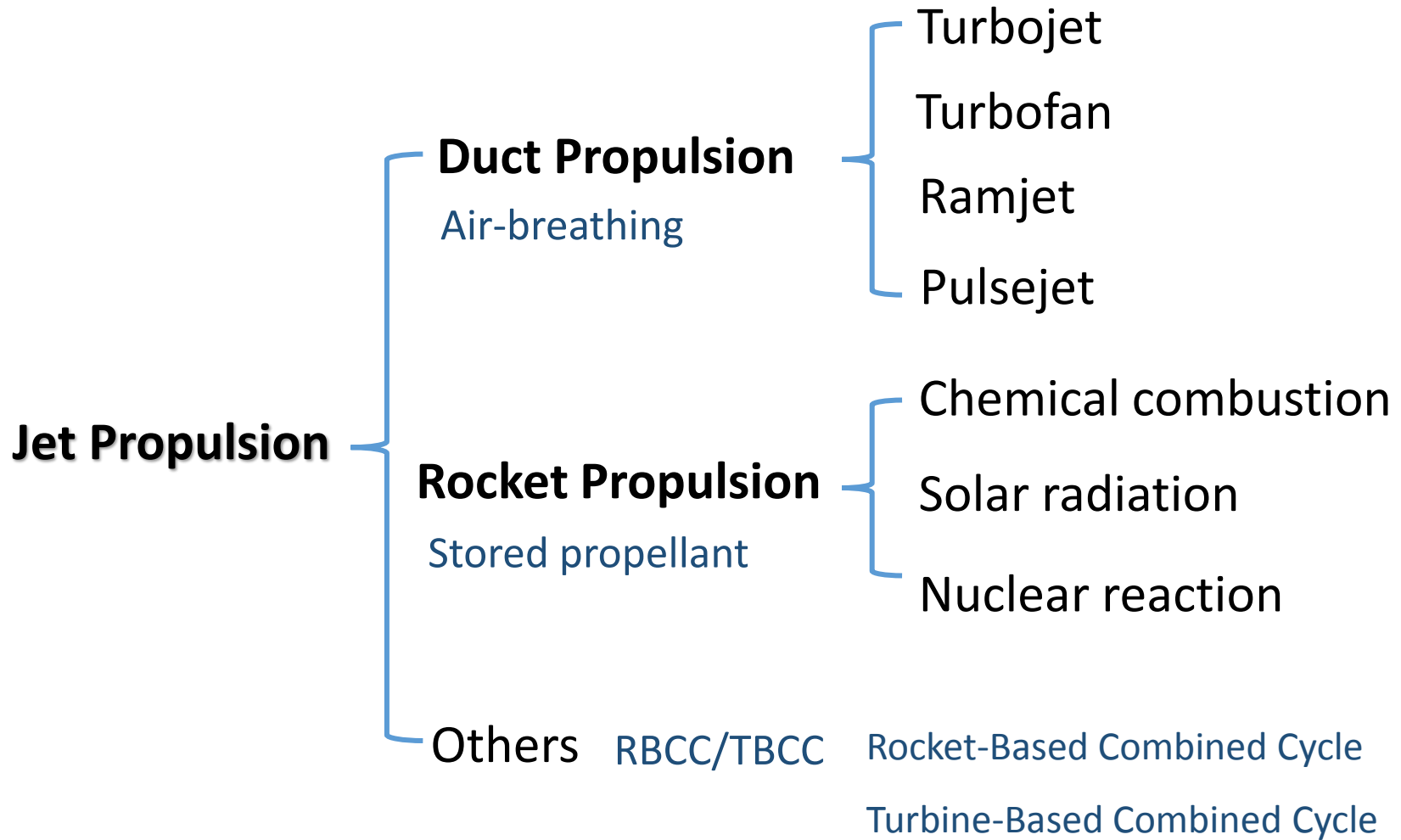


Rocket Propulsion

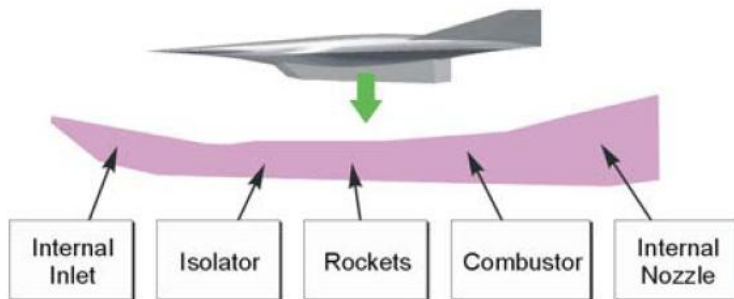
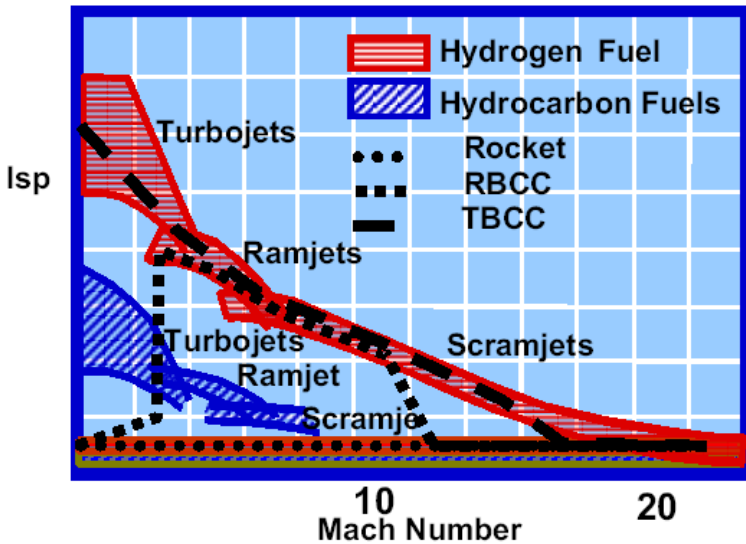
Electric Rocket



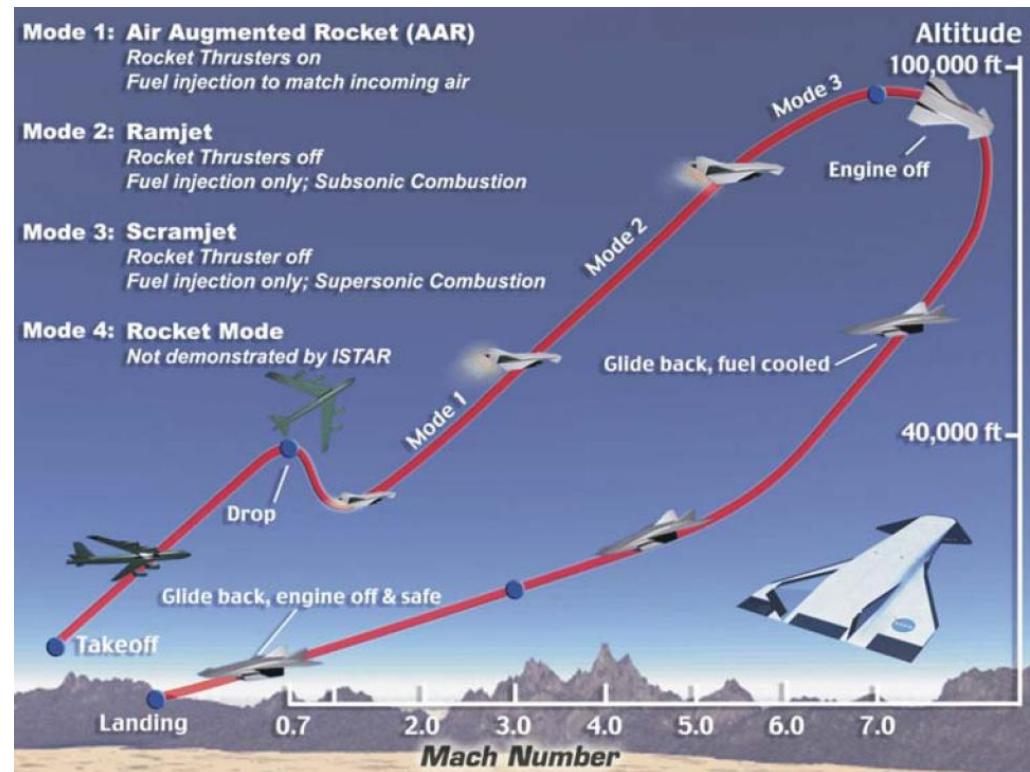
Jet Propulsion : reaction force by the momentum of ejected matter



RBCC —a kind of duct jet propulsion



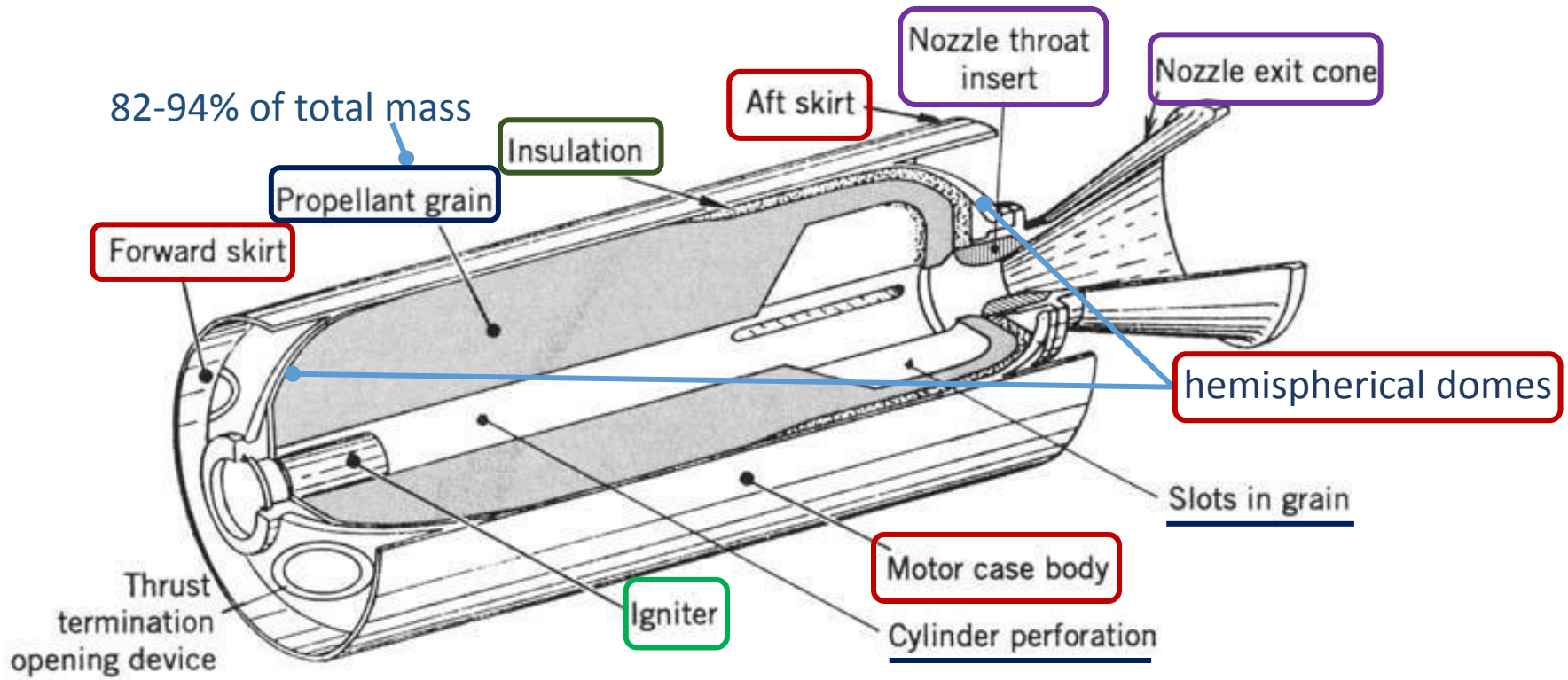
I_{sp} : The total impulse per unit weight of propellant



Solid Rocket Motor

——components and functions

Solid Rocket Motor



■ MOTOR CASE

■ INSULATION

■ IGNITER

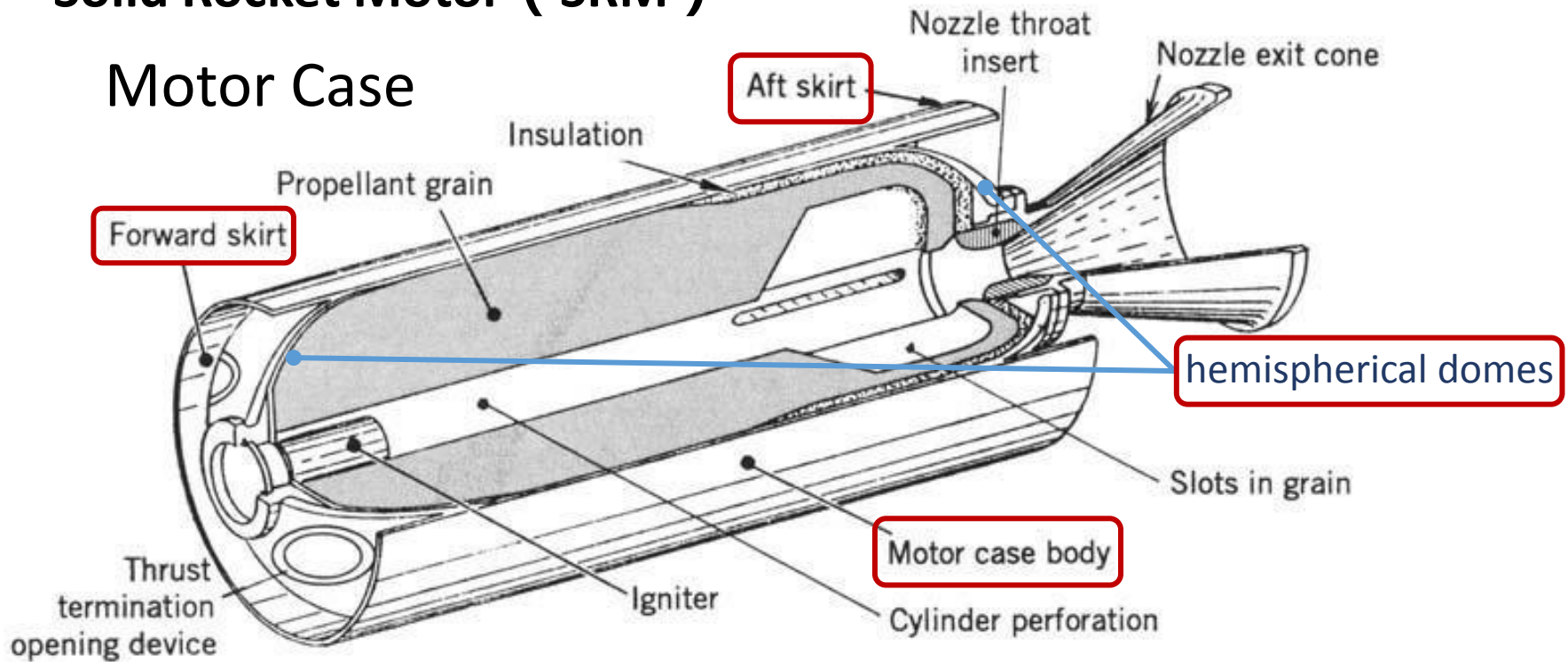
■ PROPELLANT GRAIN

■ NOZZLE

Typical solid propellant rocket motor

Solid Rocket Motor (SRM)

Motor Case



Functions

- containing the propellant grain
- highly loaded pressure vessel
- primary structure of the missile or launch vehicle

MOTOR CASE

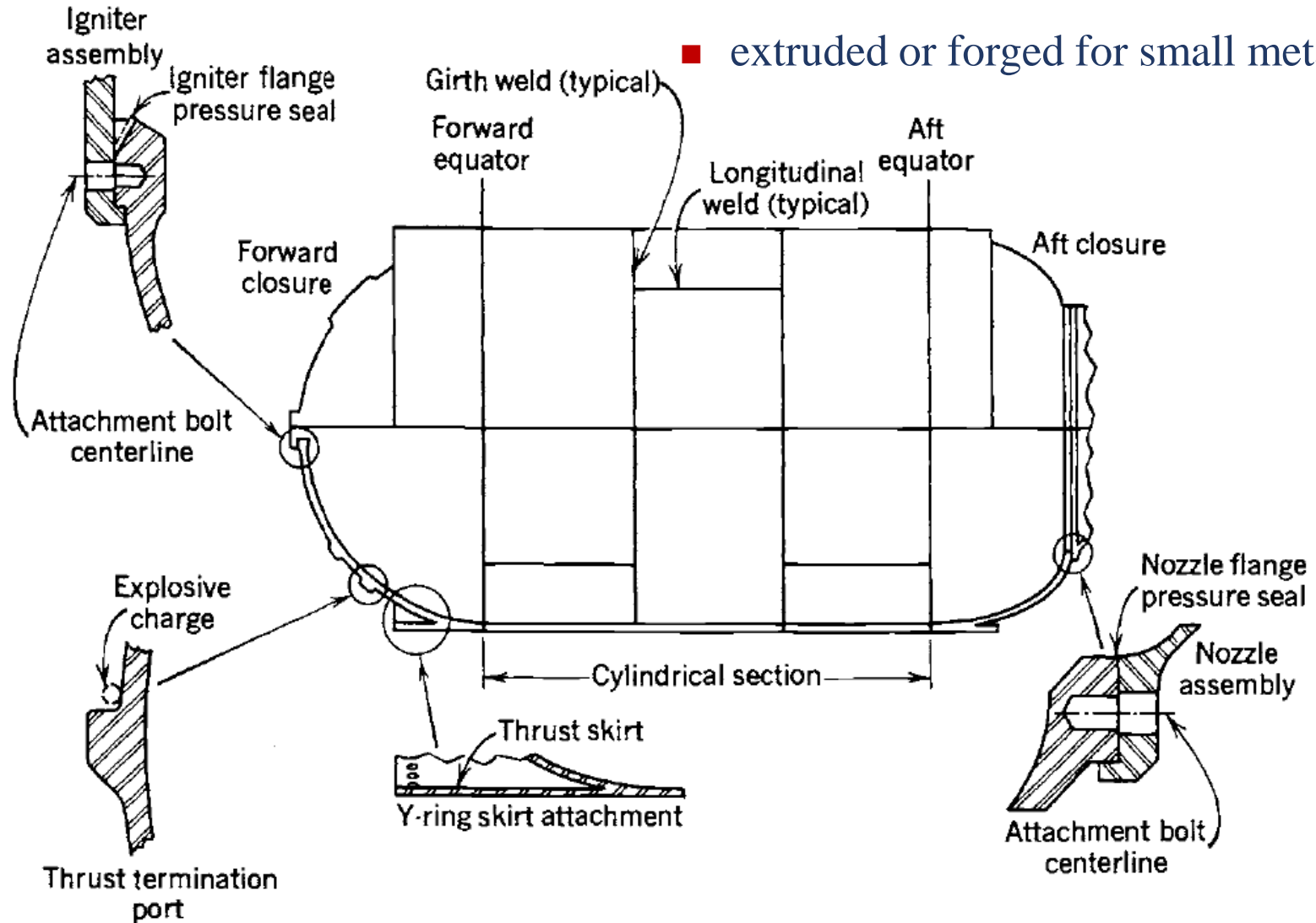
Metal Cases

advantages compared to filament-reinforced plastic cases

- rugged and take considerable rough handling
- reasonably ductile and can yield before failure
- can be heated to a relatively high temperature (700 to 1000°C)
- not deteriorate significantly with time or weather exposure
- easily adapted to take concentrated loads
- Can made in sections for very large and long motors

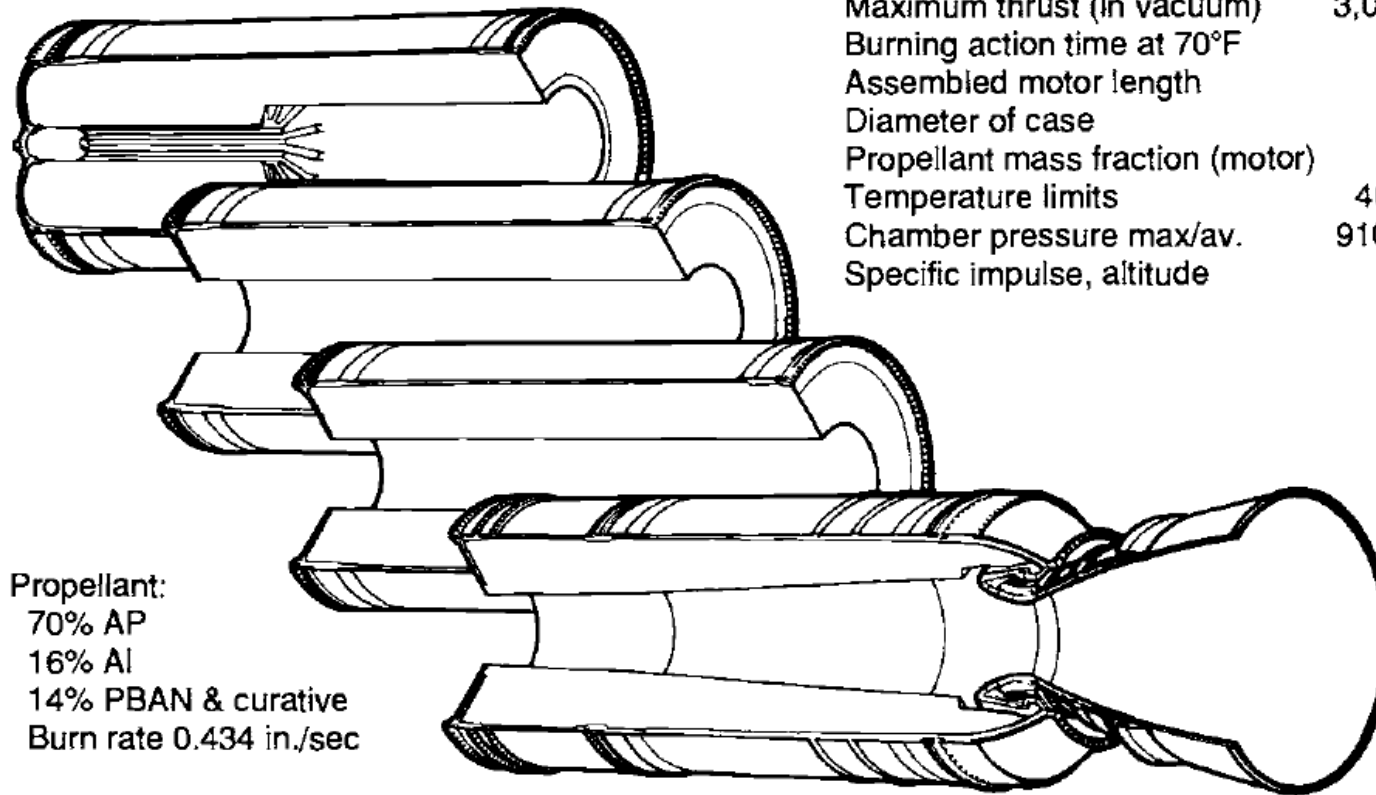
MOTOR CASE — *Metal Cases*

- welded steel for large metal cases
- extruded or forged for small metal cases



Typical large solid rocket motor case made of welded alloy steel

MOTOR CASE — *Metal Cases*

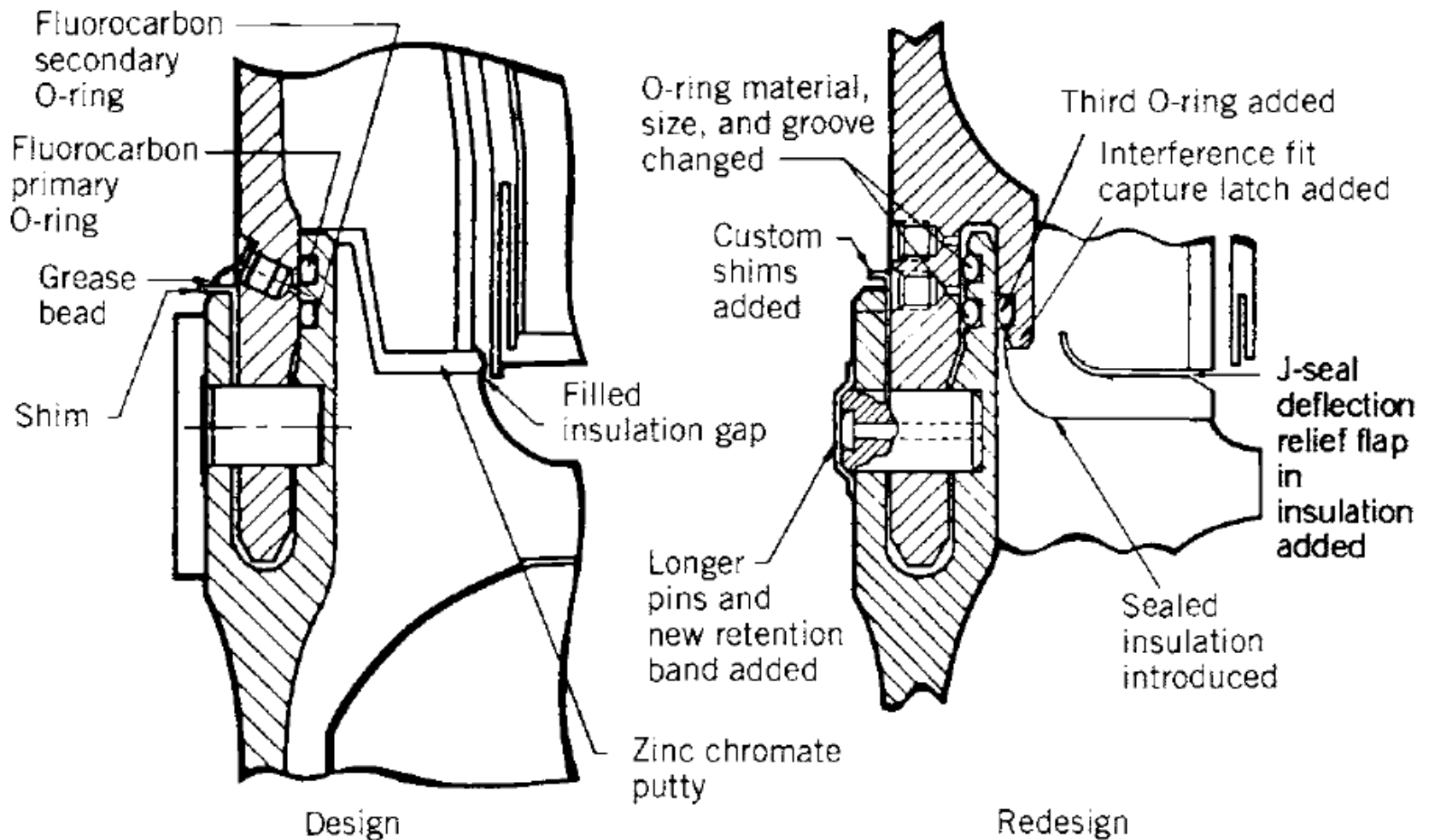


Propellant:
70% AP
16% Al
14% PBAN & curative
Burn rate 0.434 in./sec

Total propellant weight	1,106,280 lbf
Total RSRM weight	1,255,592 lbf
Maximum thrust (in vacuum)	3,060,000 lbf
Burning action time at 70°F	123.7 sec
Assembled motor length	1513 inch
Diameter of case	146 inch
Propellant mass fraction (motor)	88.2%
Temperature limits	40 to 120°F
Chamber pressure max/av.	910/662 psia
Specific impulse, altitude	268.2 sec

Simplified diagram of the four segments of the Space Shuttle solid rocket motor

MOTOR CASE — *Metal Cases*



The joints between segments of the Shuttle solid rocket booster (SRB)

MOTOR CASE

Wound-Filament-Reinforced Plastic Cases

continuous filaments of strong fibers wound in precise patterns and bonded together with a plastic

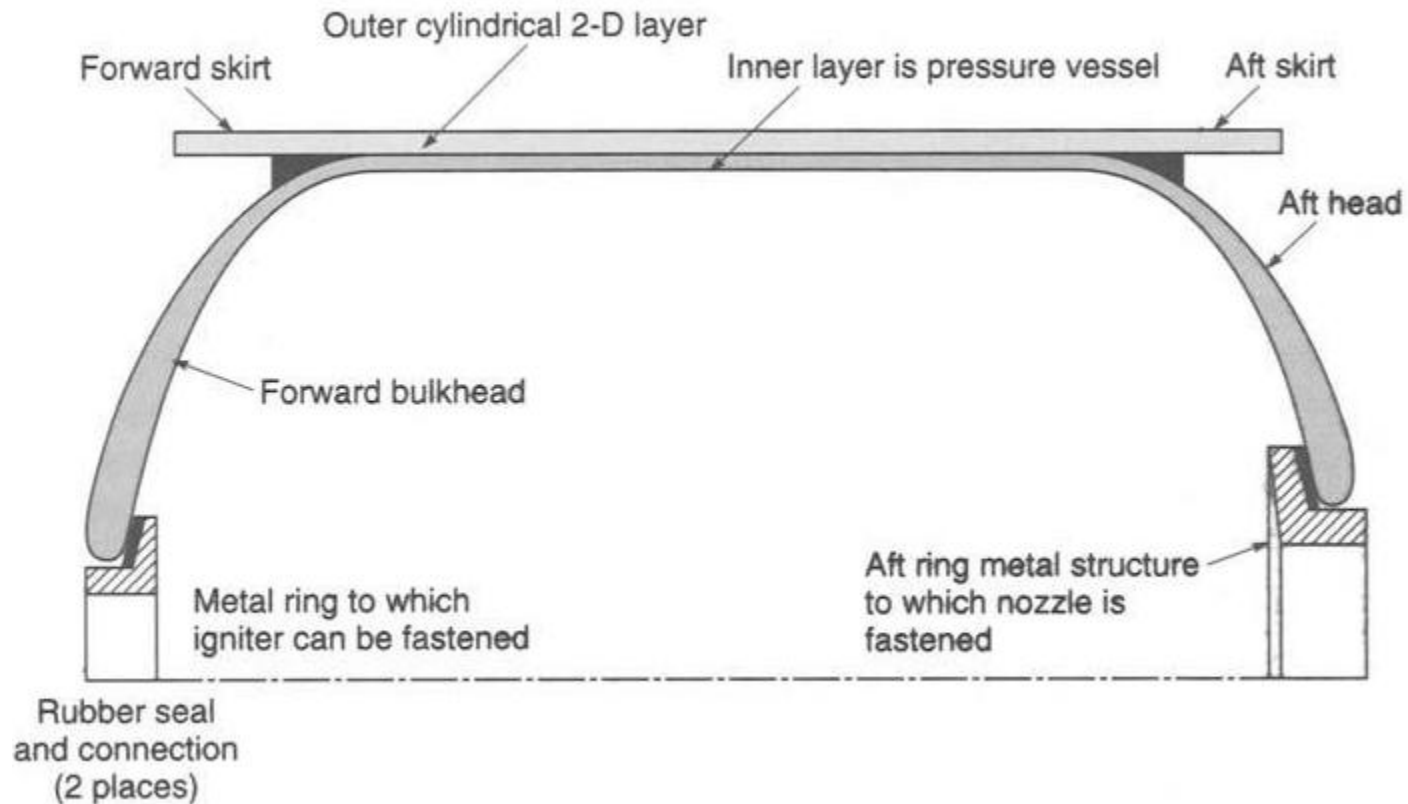
Fibers: very high tension 2400 to 6800 Mpa, but can not withstand shear force

Plastic: binder/matrix to prevent fibers slipping and weakening in shear or bending

- lower weight
- soften when heated above $\sim 180^{\circ}\text{C}$
- need inserts or reinforcements to assemble other components
- thermal expansion higher than metal
- thermal conductivity is much lower

MOTOR CASE

Wound-Filament-Reinforced Plastic Cases



typical design of a filament-wound composite material case

MOTOR CASE

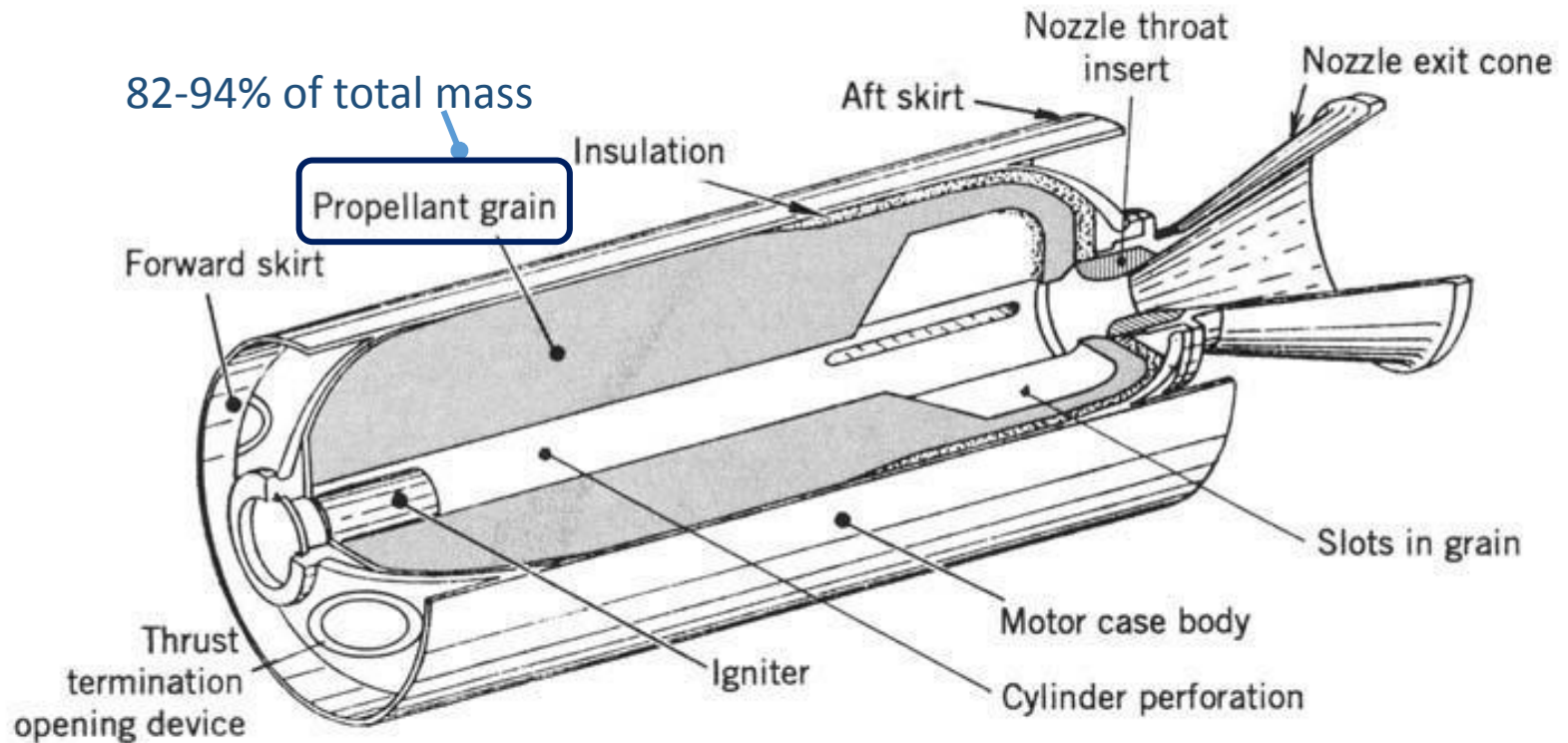
Wound-Filament-Reinforced Plastic Cases



缠绕好的壳体

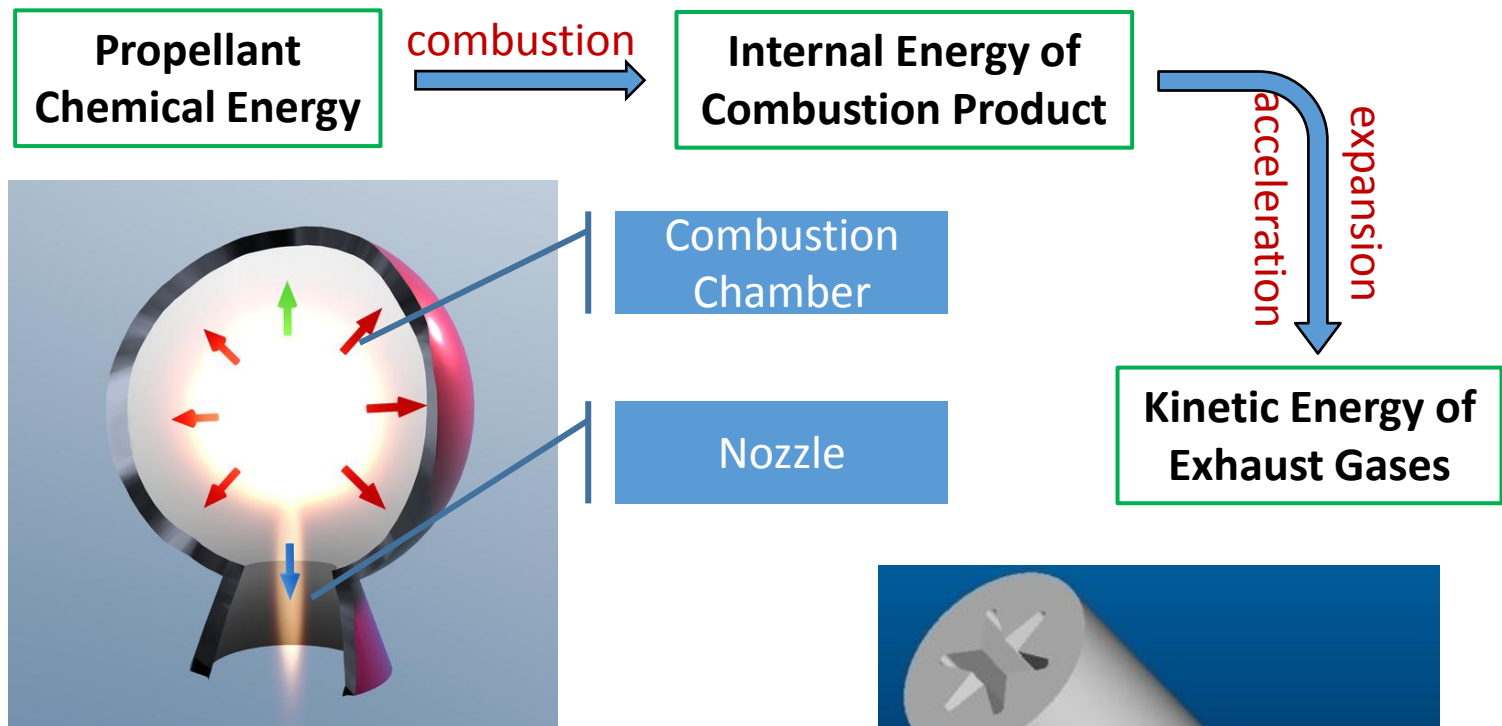
Solid Rocket Motor

Propellant grain



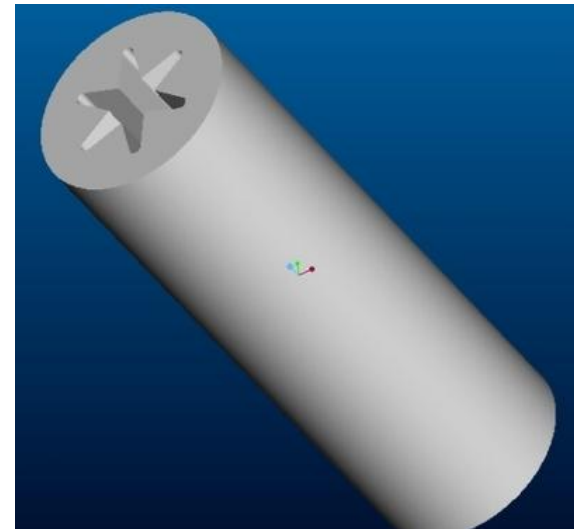
Typical solid propellant rocket motor

PROPELLANT GRAIN



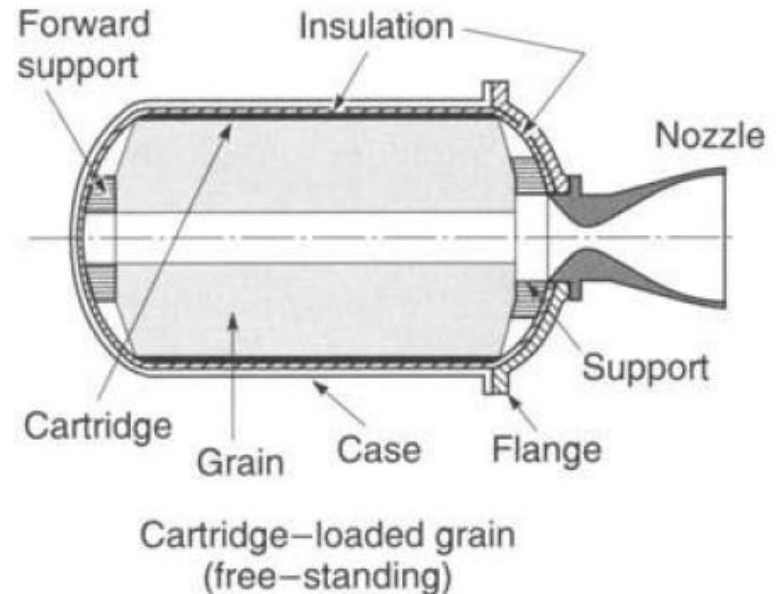
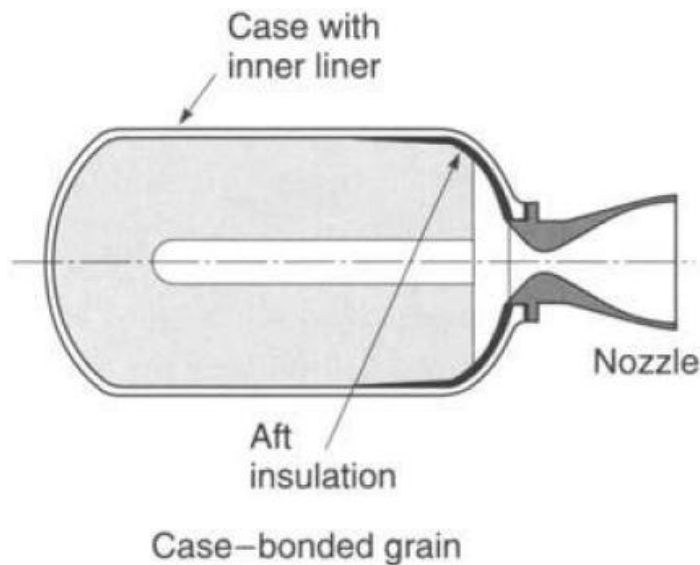
Solid Propellant :

- Chemical energy source
- Working medium (mass)



PROPELLANT GRAIN

- ❑ *rubbery or plastic-like mixture of oxidizer, fuel*
- ❑ *ingredients that have been processed and constitute the finished grain*
- ❑ *the processed but uncured product*
- ❑ *single ingredient, such as the fuel or the oxidizer*



Solid Propellant — *classification*

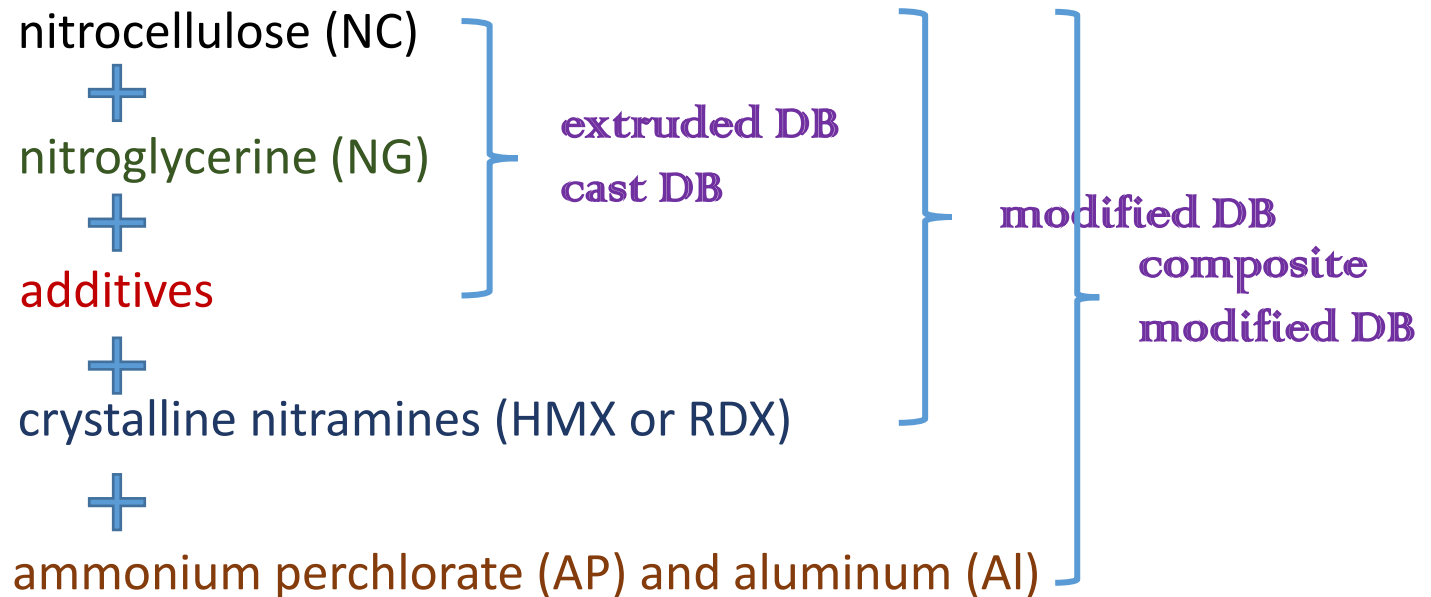
- classified by specific applications
 - space launch booster propellants
 - tactical missile propellants
 - gas generator applications
 - Igniter Propellants
- double-base and composite propellants
 - double-base (DB): *homogeneous propellant*

nitrocellulose (NC)	— <i>solid ingredient</i>	} explosives fuel & oxidizer
+		
nitroglycerine (NG)	— <i>liquid ingredient</i>	
+		
additives	— <i>crystalline nitramines (HMX or RDX)</i>	

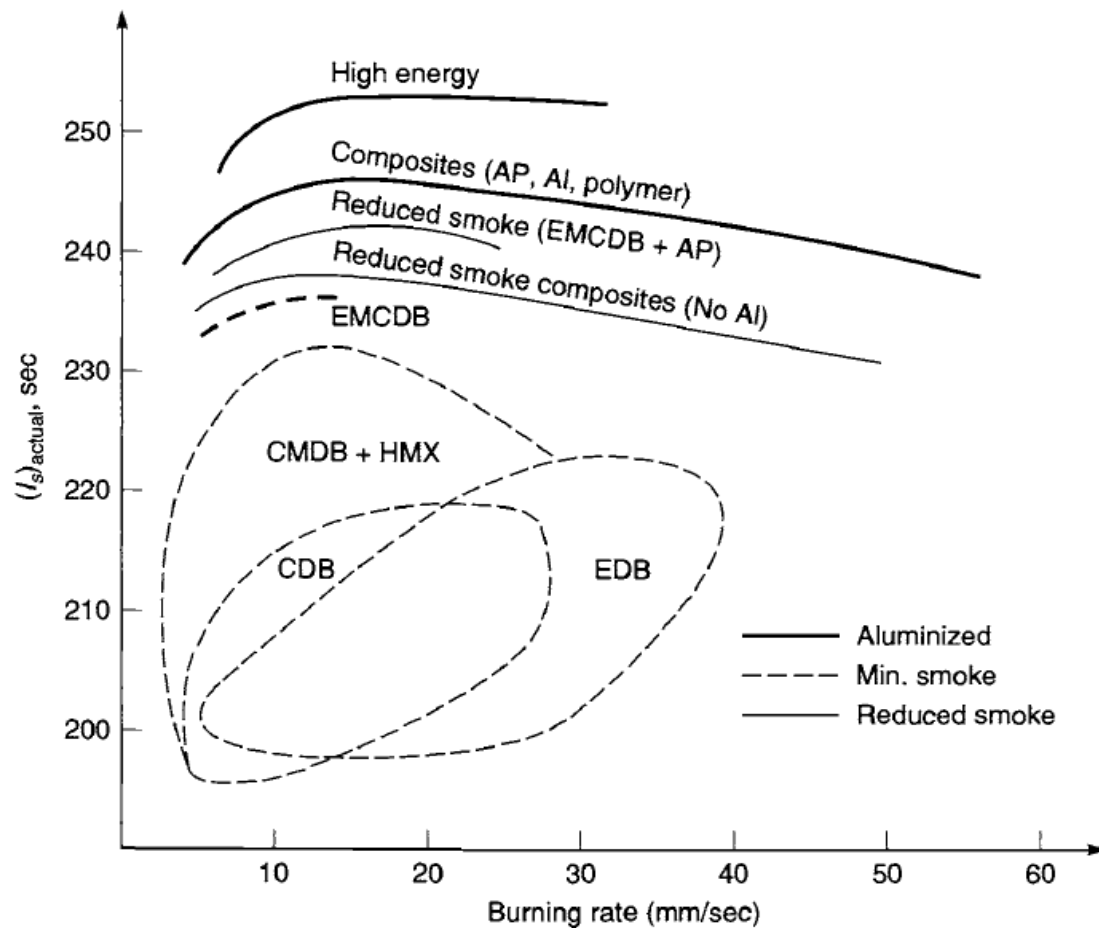
Solid Propellant —*classification*

■ double-base and composite propellants

● double-base (DB): *homogeneous propellant*

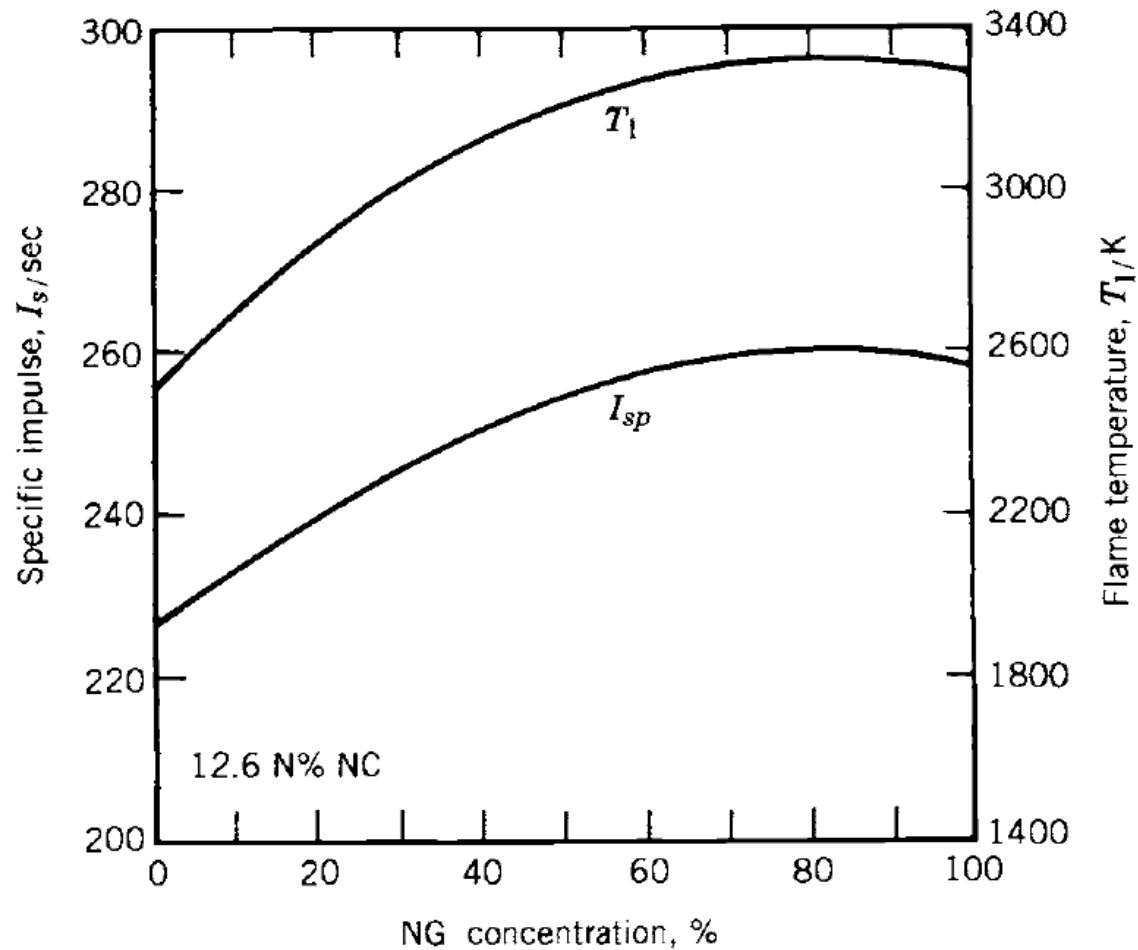


Solid Propellant



Estimated actual specific impulse and burning rate of DB propellant

Solid Propellant



Specific impulse and flame temperature versus nitroglycerine (NG) concentration

Solid Propellant — *classification*

- double-base and composite propellants

- Composite propellants: *heterogeneous propellant*

oxidizer crystal — *ammonium perchlorate (AP)*

+

powdered fuel — *aluminum (Al)*

+

matrix/binder — *synthetic rubber (or plastic)*

- *Conventional composite*

propellant — *AP 60-72%, Al <22%, binder 8-16%*

- *Modified composite propellant*

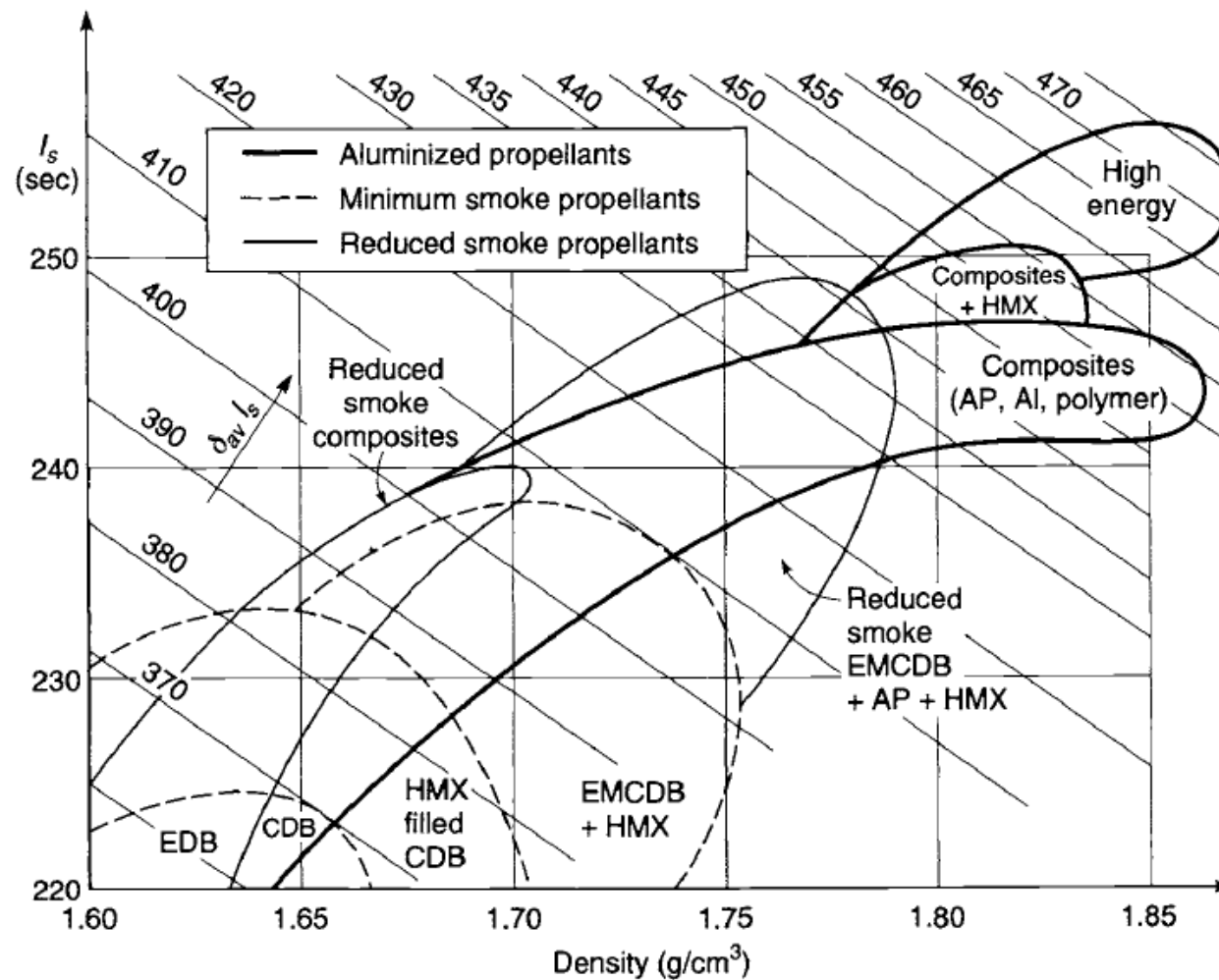
- *energetic nitramine (HMX or RDX)*

- *energetic plasticizer (NG)*

Solid Propellant — *classification*

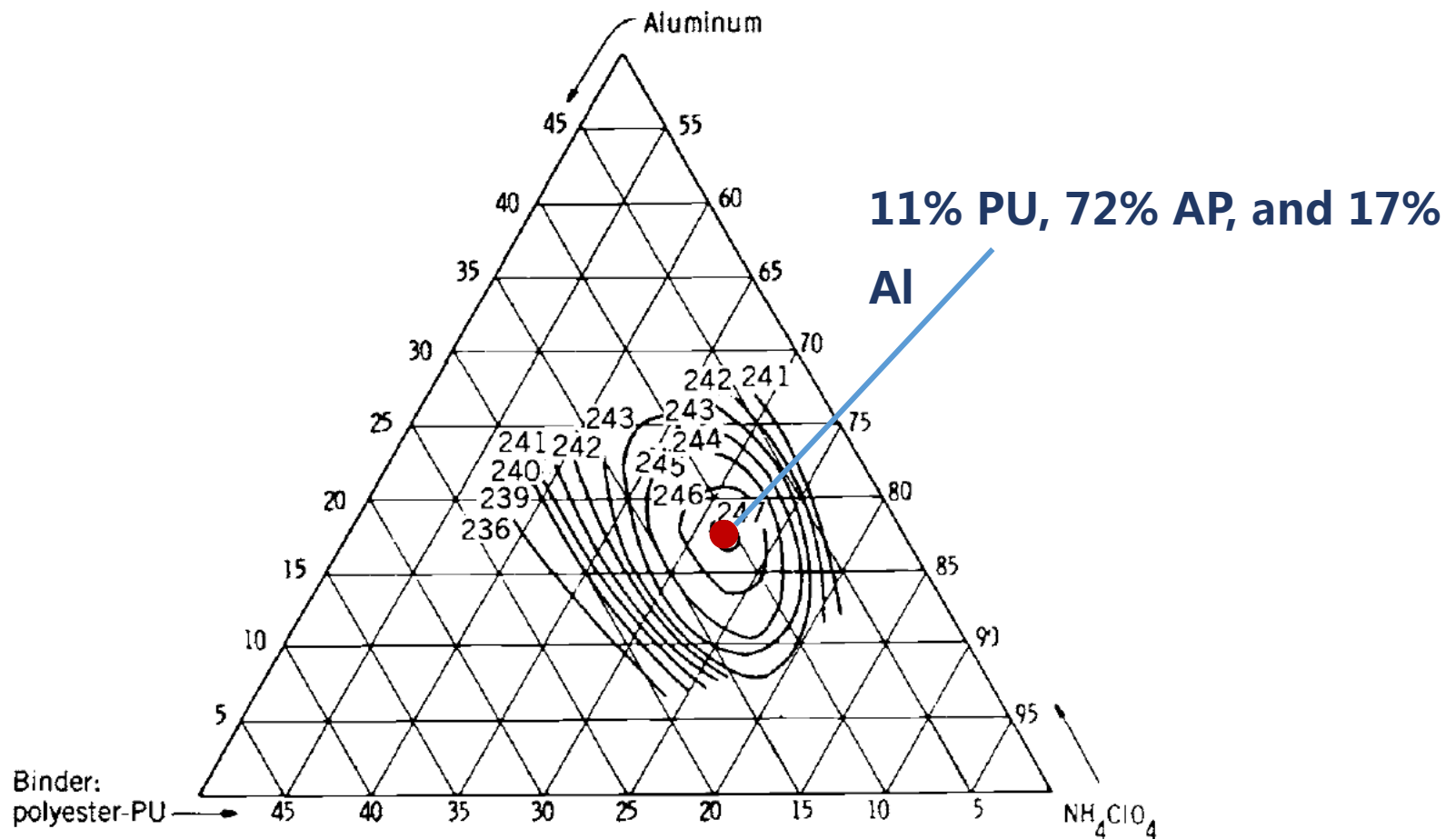
- double-base and composite propellants
 - Composite propellants: *heterogeneous propellant*
 - *Conventional composite propellant*
 - *AP 60-72%, Al <22%, binder 8-16%*
 - *Modified composite propellant*
 - *energetic nitramine (HMX or RDX)*
 - *energetic plasticizer (NG)*
 - *high-energy composite solid propellant*
 - *energetic materials replace organic binder*
 - *HMX replace AP*
 - *lower-energy composite propellant*
 - *ammonium nitrate (AN) as oxidizer crystal*

Solid Propellant —*classification*



Estimated actual specific impulse and specific gravity of composite propellant

Solid Propellant —*classification*



specific impulse for an ammonium perchlorate-aluminum-polyurethane

Solid Propellant —*classification*

- smoke density of the in the exhaust plume
 - smoky, reduced smoke, or minimum smoke
- safety rating for detonation
 - detonable material or as a nondetonable material
- manufacturing processes
 - cast propellant or extruded propellant
- principal ingredien
 - principal oxidizer/fuel/ binder
- toxic and nontoxic

PROPELLANT CHARACTERISTICS

——*desirable propellant characteristics*

- High performance/high specific impulse
 - high gas temperature and/or low molecular mass
- Predictable, reproducible, and initially adjustable burning rate
 - fitting the grain design and the thrust-time requirement
- small burning rate exponent and the temperature coefficient
 - minimum variation in thrust or chamber pressure

$$r = ap_1^n$$

p_1 : chamber pressure in MPa

a : temperature coefficient

n : burning rate exponent or *combustion index*

PROPELLANT CHARACTERISTICS

——*desirable propellant characteristics*

- physical properties
 - adequate strength over operating temperature
- High density : allows a small-volume
- Predictable, reproducible ignition qualities
 - reasonable ignition overpressure
- Good aging characteristics and long life
- Low absorption of moisture
- availability of all raw materials and purchased components
- Low technical risk ■ Non-toxic exhaust gases
- Not prone to combustion instability

PROPELLANT INGREDIENTS

— *more than 200 ingredients have been tried*

MAJOR FUNCTION

Oxidizer
Fuel
Binder
Plasticizer
curing agent
...

seen in Table 12-7 on Page 496-497

■ Inorganic Oxidizers

- Ammonium Perchlorate (NH_4ClO_4)

good compatibility with other ingredients

good performance, quality, uniformity, and availability

- inorganic nitrates: Ammonium Nitrate/potassium nitrate

low-performance

low-cost, low burning rate, smokeless, relatively nontoxic

PROPELLANT INGREDIENTS

■ Inorganic Oxidizers

Oxidizer	Chemical Symbol	Molecular Mass (kg/kg-mol)	Density (kg/m ³)	Oxygen Content (wt %)	Remarks
Ammonium perchlorate	NH ₄ ClO ₄	117.49	1949	54.5	Low n , low cost, readily available
Potassium perchlorate	KClO ₄	138.55	2519	46.2	Low burning rate, medium performance
Sodium perchlorate	NaClO ₄	122.44	2018	52.3	Hygroscopic, high performance
Ammonium nitrate	NH ₄ NO ₃	80.0	1730	60.0	Smokeless, medium performance
Potassium nitrate	KNO ₃	101.10	2109	47.5	Low cost, low performance

PROPELLANT INGREDIENTS

■ Fuels

- Powdered spherical aluminum

small spherical particles (5 to 60 μ m) AP: \sim 600 μ m

composite and composite-modified DB propellant

usually constituting 14 to 20% by weight

oxidized into aluminum oxide in combustion

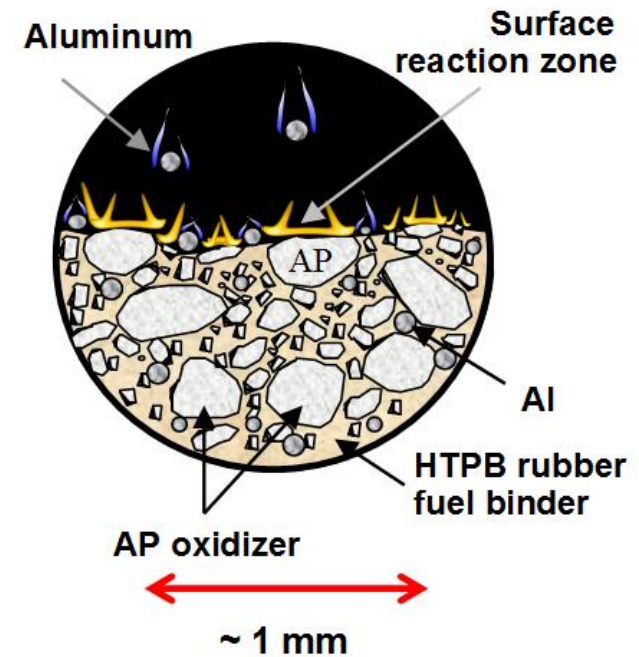
- Boron

high-energy and high melting point (2304 $^{\circ}$ C)

lighter than aluminum

difficult to burn

used in rocket-air-burning engines



PROPELLANT INGREDIENTS

■ Fuels

- Powdered spherical aluminum
- Boron
- Beryllium

burns much more easily than boron

improves specific impulse by about 15 sec

oxide are highly toxic

- aluminum hydride (AlH_3) and beryllium hydride (BeH_2)

high heat release and

gas-volume contribution

Specific impulse gains 10 to 15 sec for AlH_3 and 25 to 30 sec for BeH_2

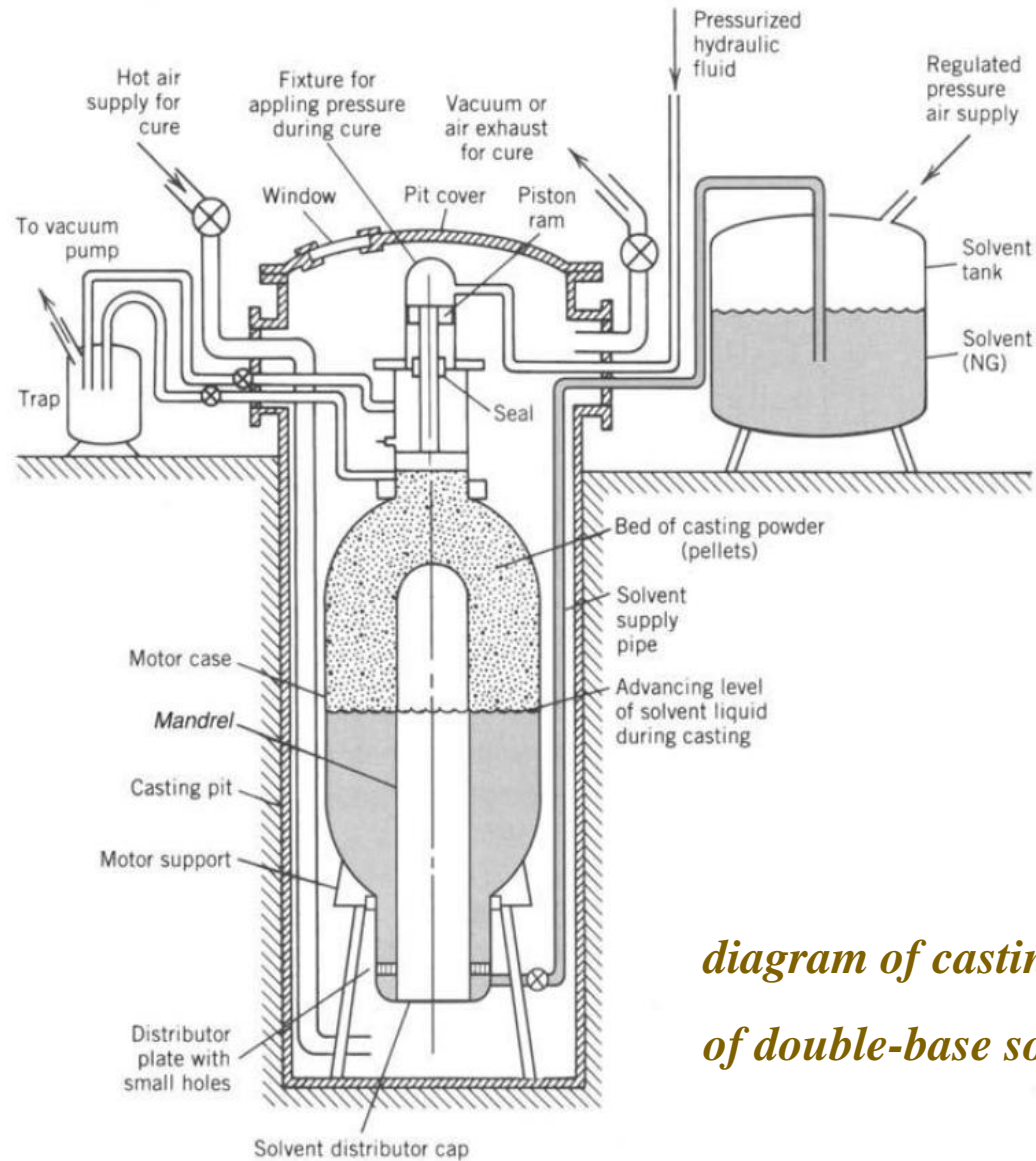
difficult to manufacture

deteriorate chemically during storage

PROPELLANT INGREDIENTS

- Binders *provides the structural glue or matrix*
- Burning-Rate Modifiers *accelerate or decelerate the combustion*
- Plasticizers *low-viscosity liquid, to improve the elongation and processing properties*
- Curing Agents or Crosslinkers
- Energetic Binders and Plasticizers
- Organic Oxidizers or Explosives
- Additives

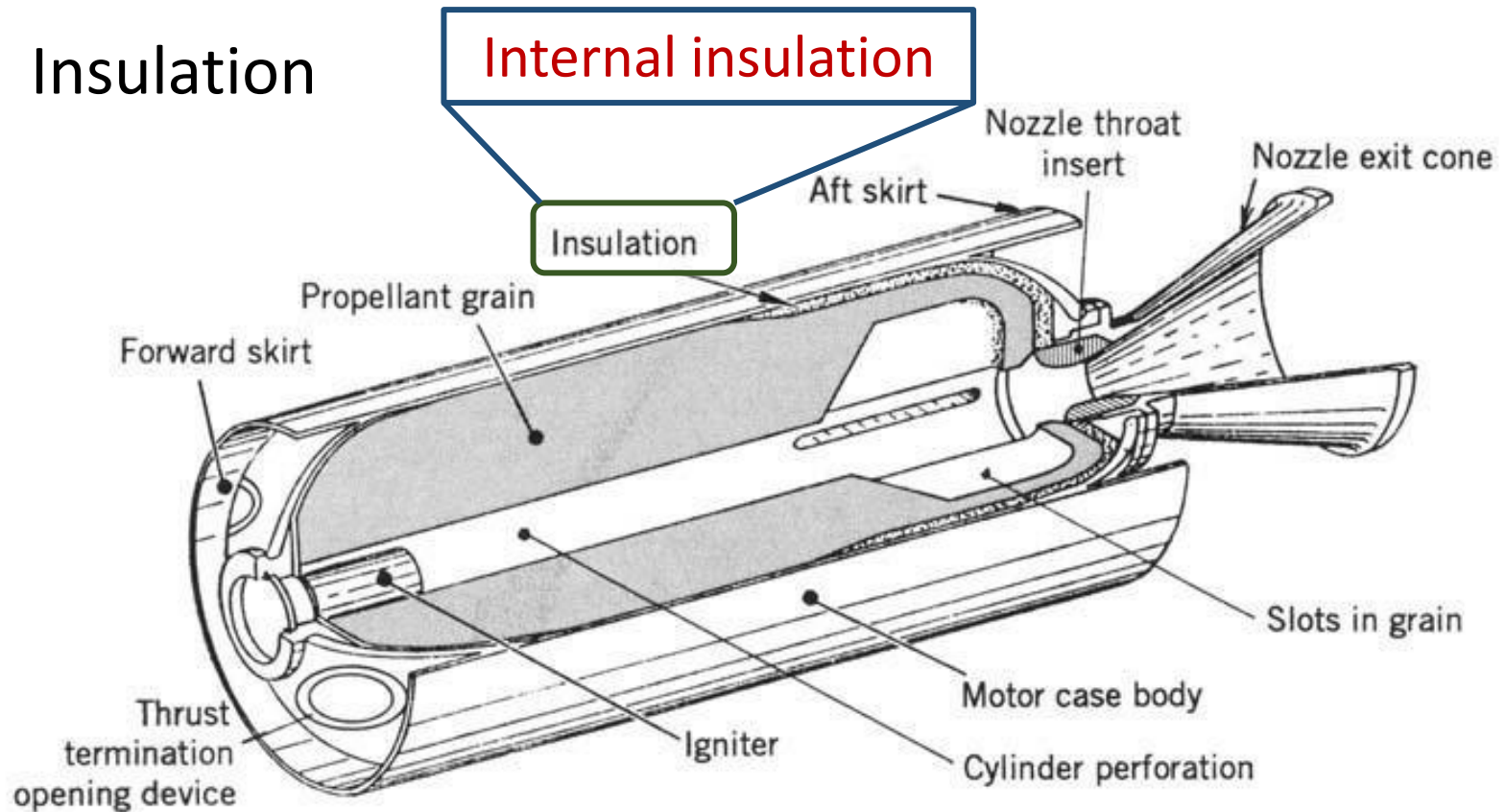
PROPELLANT PROCESSING AND MANUFACTURE



*diagram of casting and curing
of double-base solid propellant*

Solid Rocket Motor

Insulation



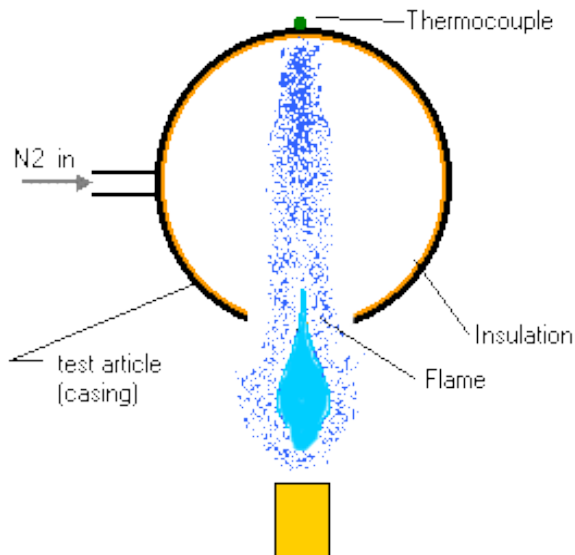
$T_c: 1500 \sim 3500K$

Typical solid propellant rocket motor

Solid Rocket Motor

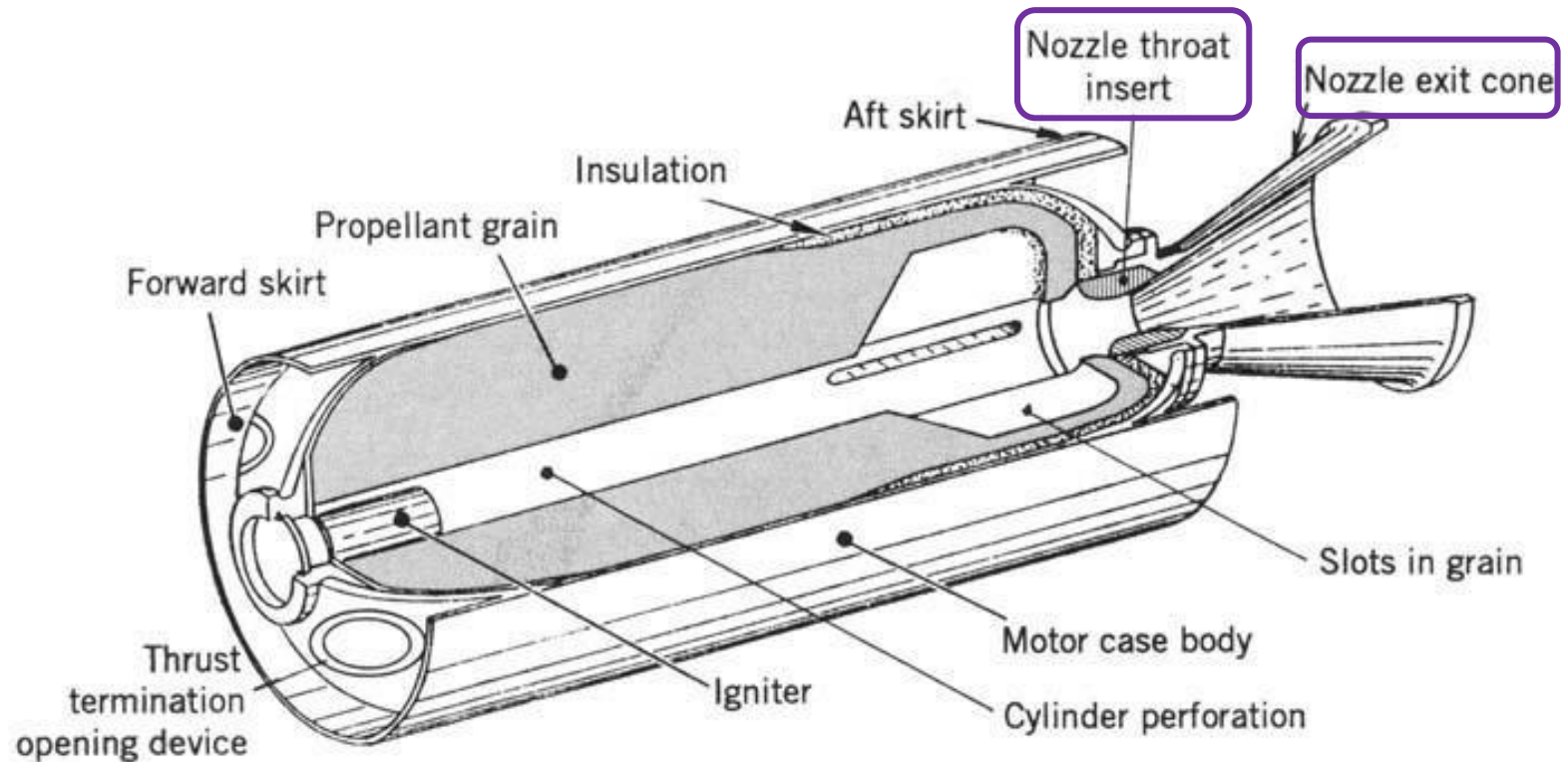
Insulation -Design involves

- Analysis of combustion chamber environment
 - Stagnation temperature
 - Stagnation pressure
 - Propellant gases (material compatibility)
- Selection of insulation material
- Material thickness determination for various areas of the motor case



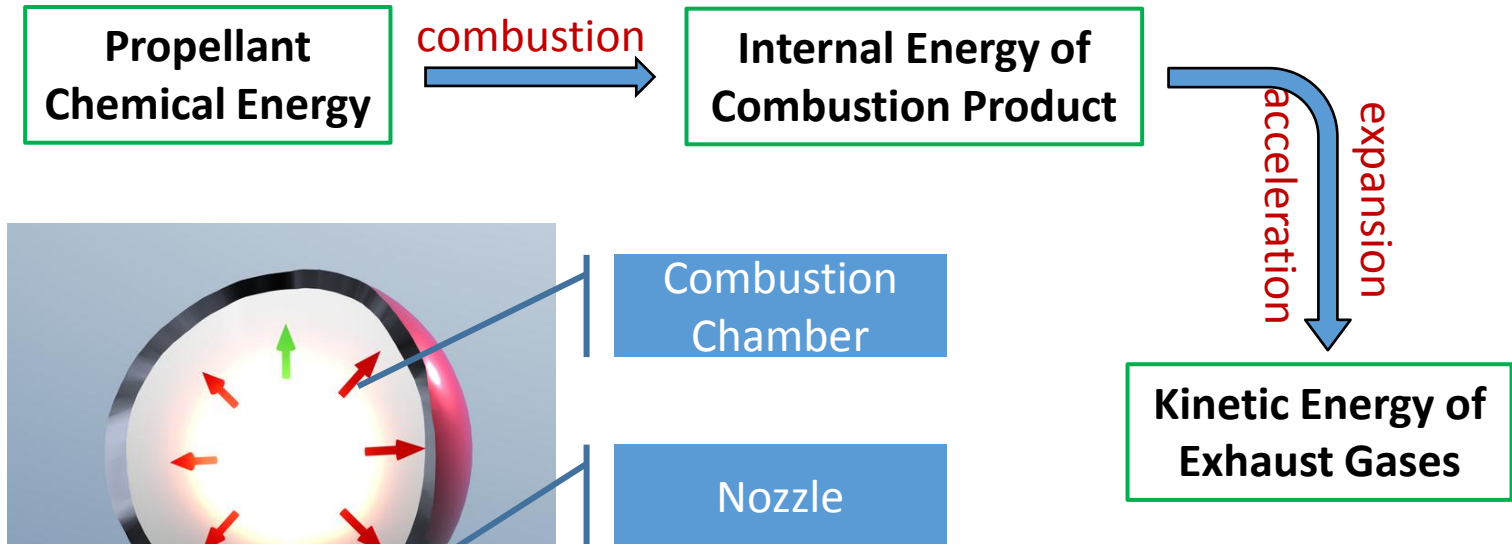
Solid Rocket Motor

Nozzle



Typical solid propellant rocket motor

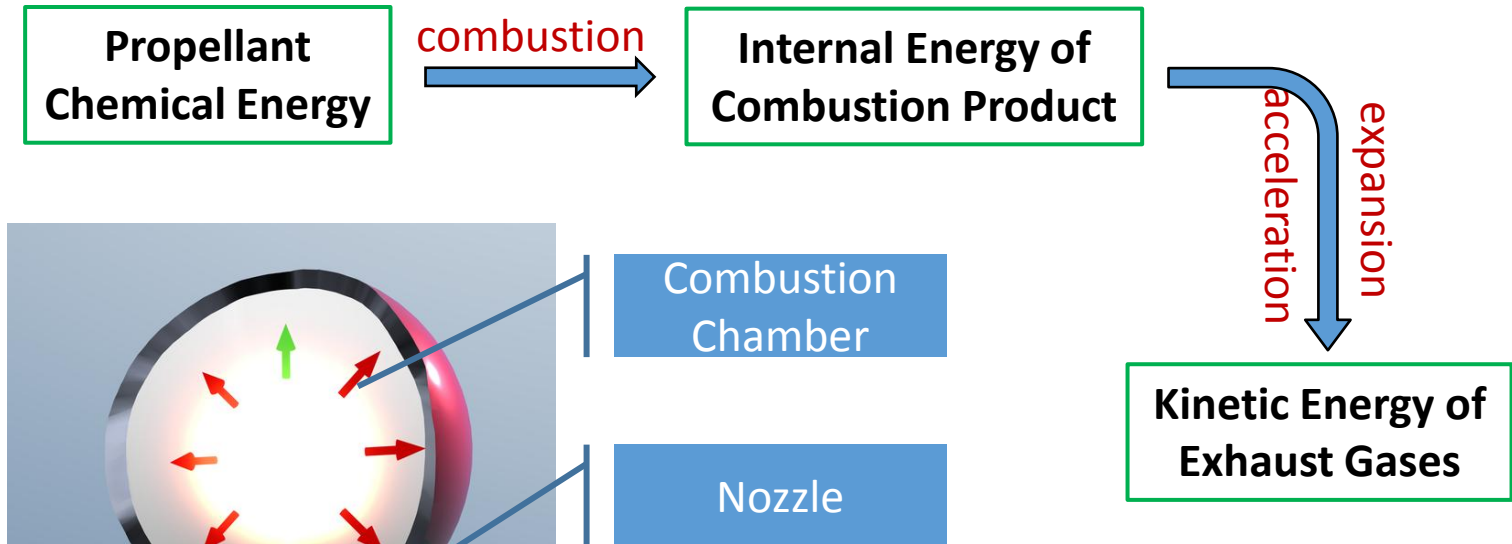
Nozzle



- ✓ Mechanics
- ✓ Thermodynamics
- ✓ Chemistry

■ *expanding and accelerating the combustion gases produced by burning propellants so that the exhaust gases exit the nozzle at hypersonic velocities.*

Nozzle



- ✓ Mechanics
- ✓ Thermodynamics
- ✓ Chemistry

- High heat transfer and erosion
- Throat diameter 0.05~54 in.
- Operating durations less than 1 sec to several minutes

A Typical Rocket Nozzle

-Laval Nozzle

Configuration/three distinct regions :

converging section

- *inlet with subsonic gas flow*
- *subsonic accelerating*

throat (minimum cross section)

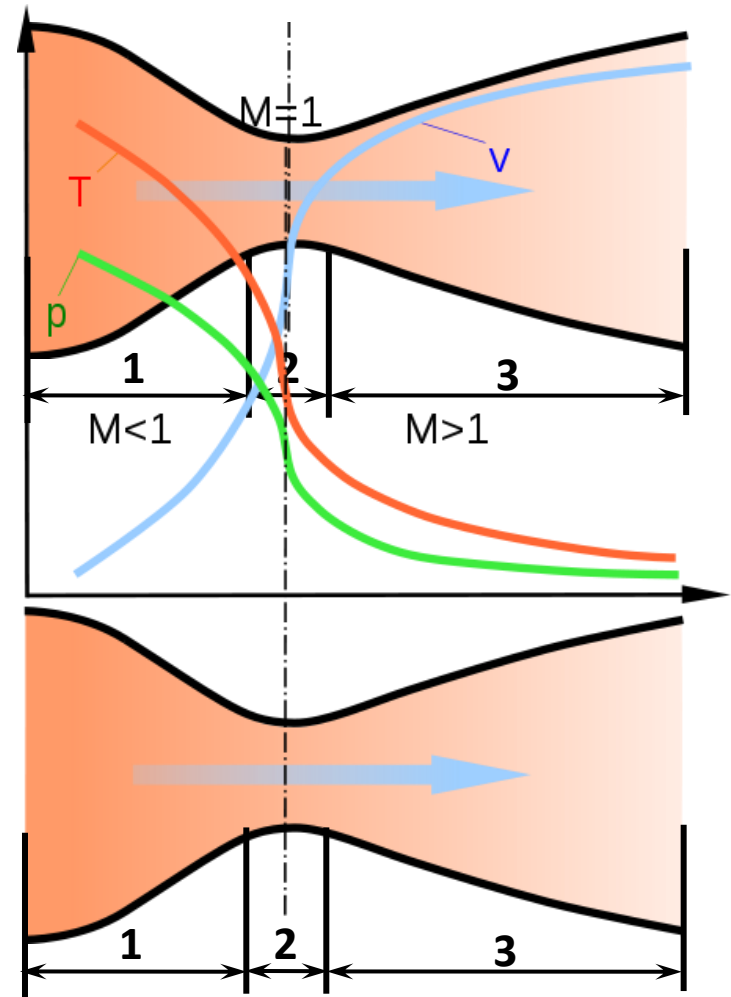
- *maintains chamber pressure and mass flow*

diverging section/cone

- *supersonic accelerating*

area ratios

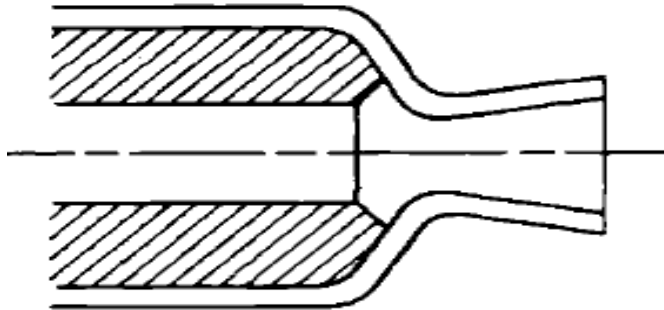
$$\epsilon = A_2/A_t$$



NOZZLES

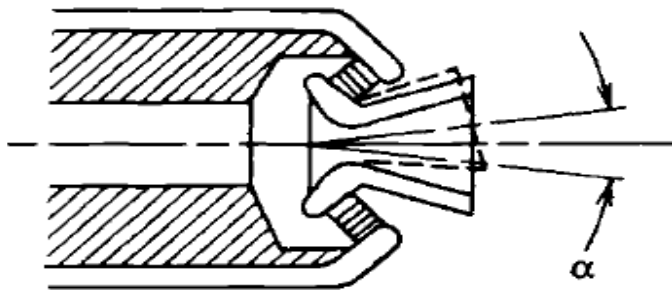
Classificati on

■ Fixed Nozzle



- *simplest*
- *frequently used in tactical weapon*
- *no submerged and thrust vector control*

■ Movable Nozzle (TVC)

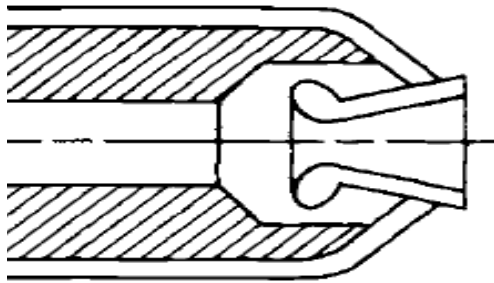


- *Provides thrust vector control*
- *typically submerged*
- *use flexible sealed joint or bearing*
- *primarily used in long-range strategic and large space launch boosters*

NOZZLES

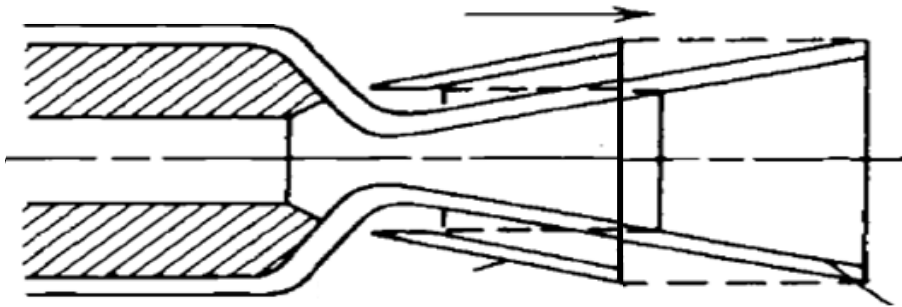
Classificati on

■ Submerged Nozzle



- *reduce the overall motor length*
- *for length-limited applications*
- *submarine-launched strategic missiles*

■ Extendible Nozzle

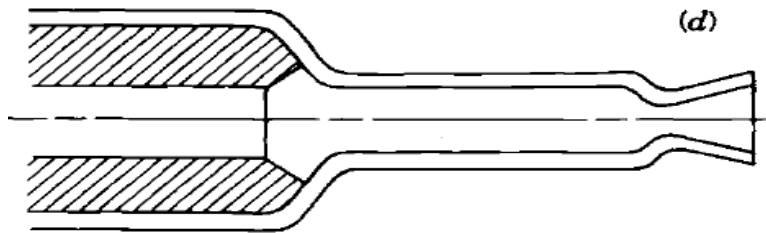


- *used on strategic missile propulsion upper-stage systems and upper stages for space launch vehicles to maximize motor-delivered specific impulse.*

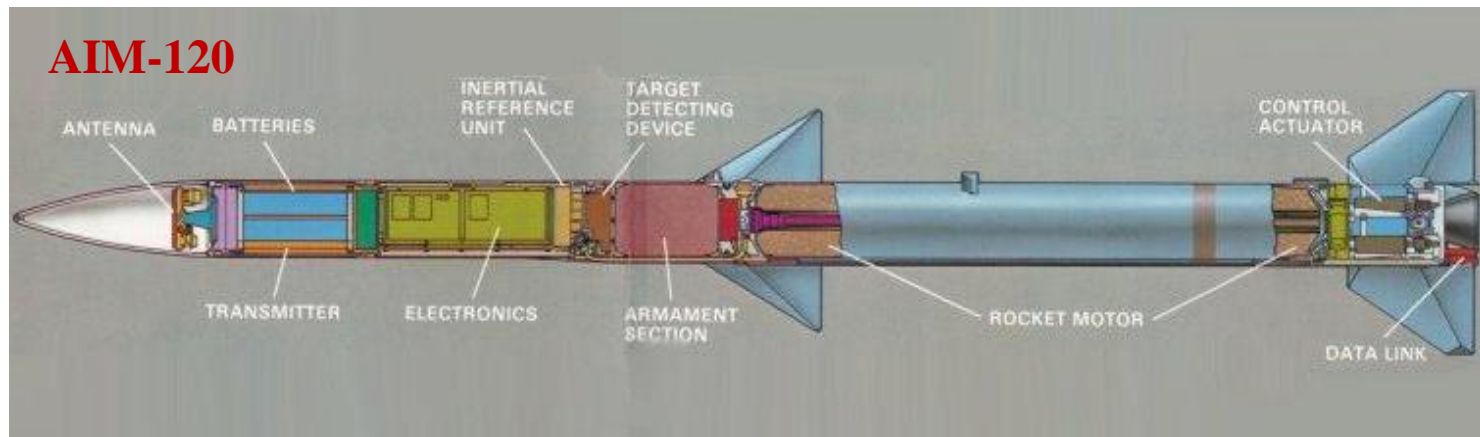
NOZZLES

Classificati on

■ Blast-Tube-Mounted Nozzle



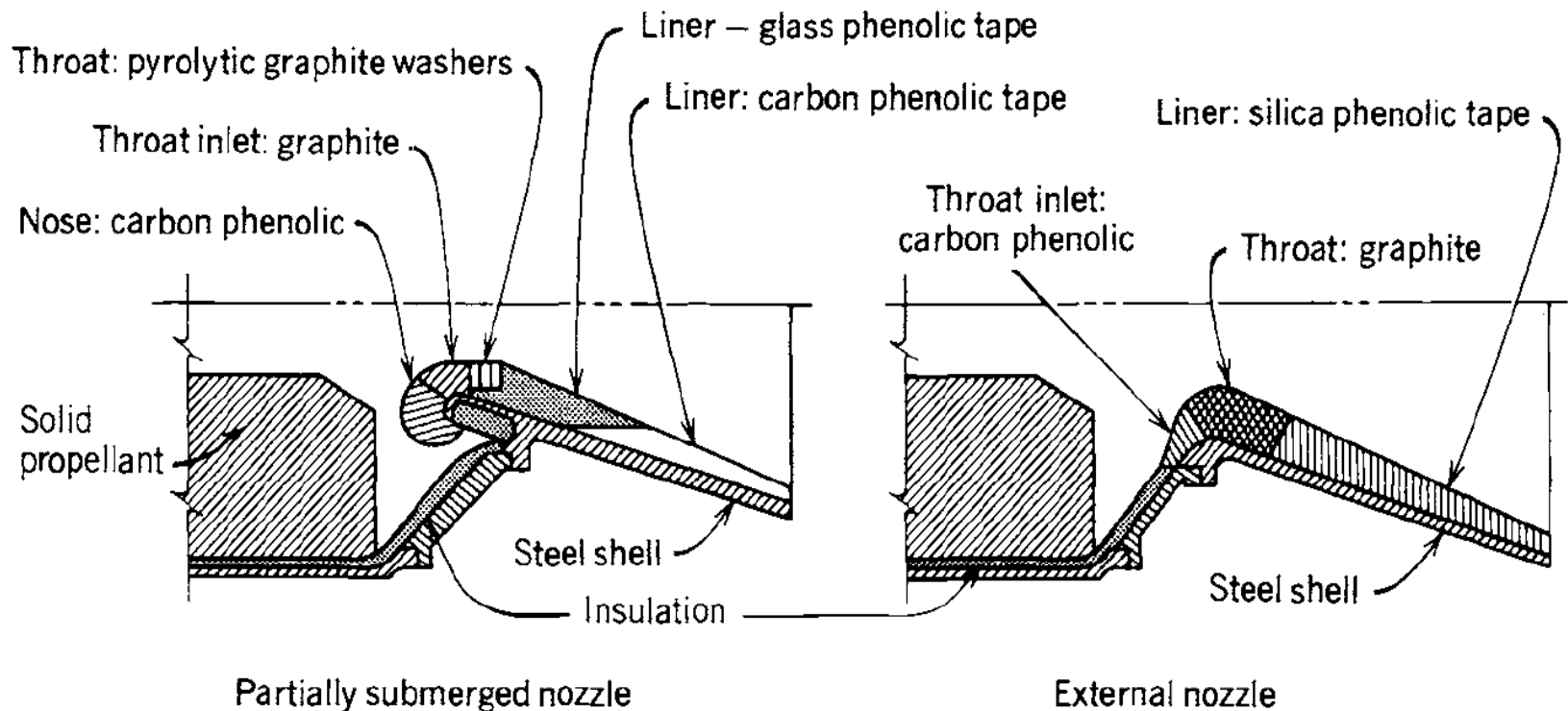
- *allow space for aerodynamic fin actuation or TVC power supply systems*
- *allows rocket motor's CG close/ahead of the vehicle CG*



NOZZLES

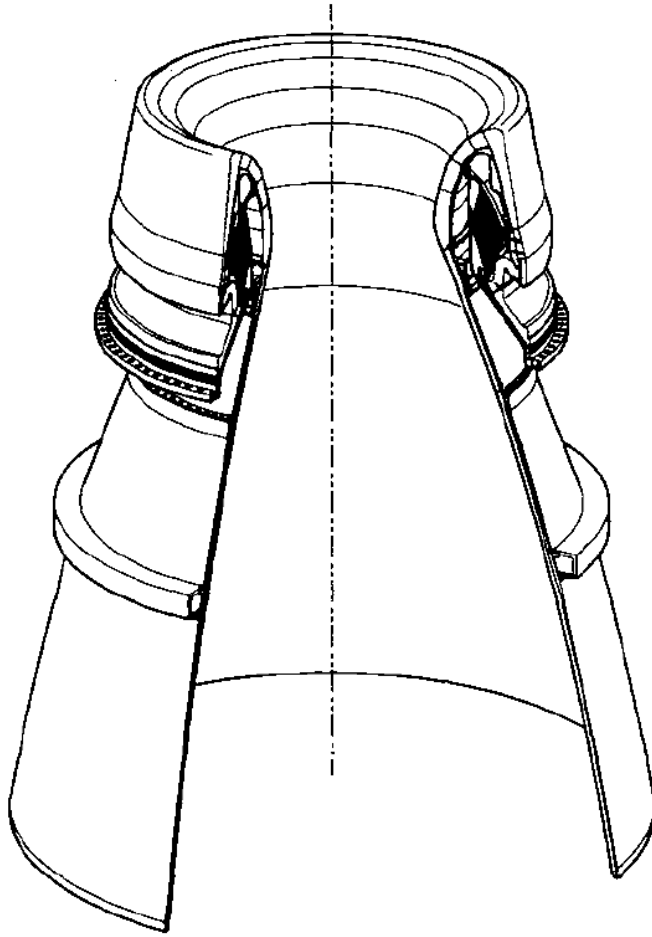
Design and Construction

- Almost all solid rocket nozzles are ablatively cooled
- Use ablative liners to insulate steel or aluminum housings



NOZZLES

Design and

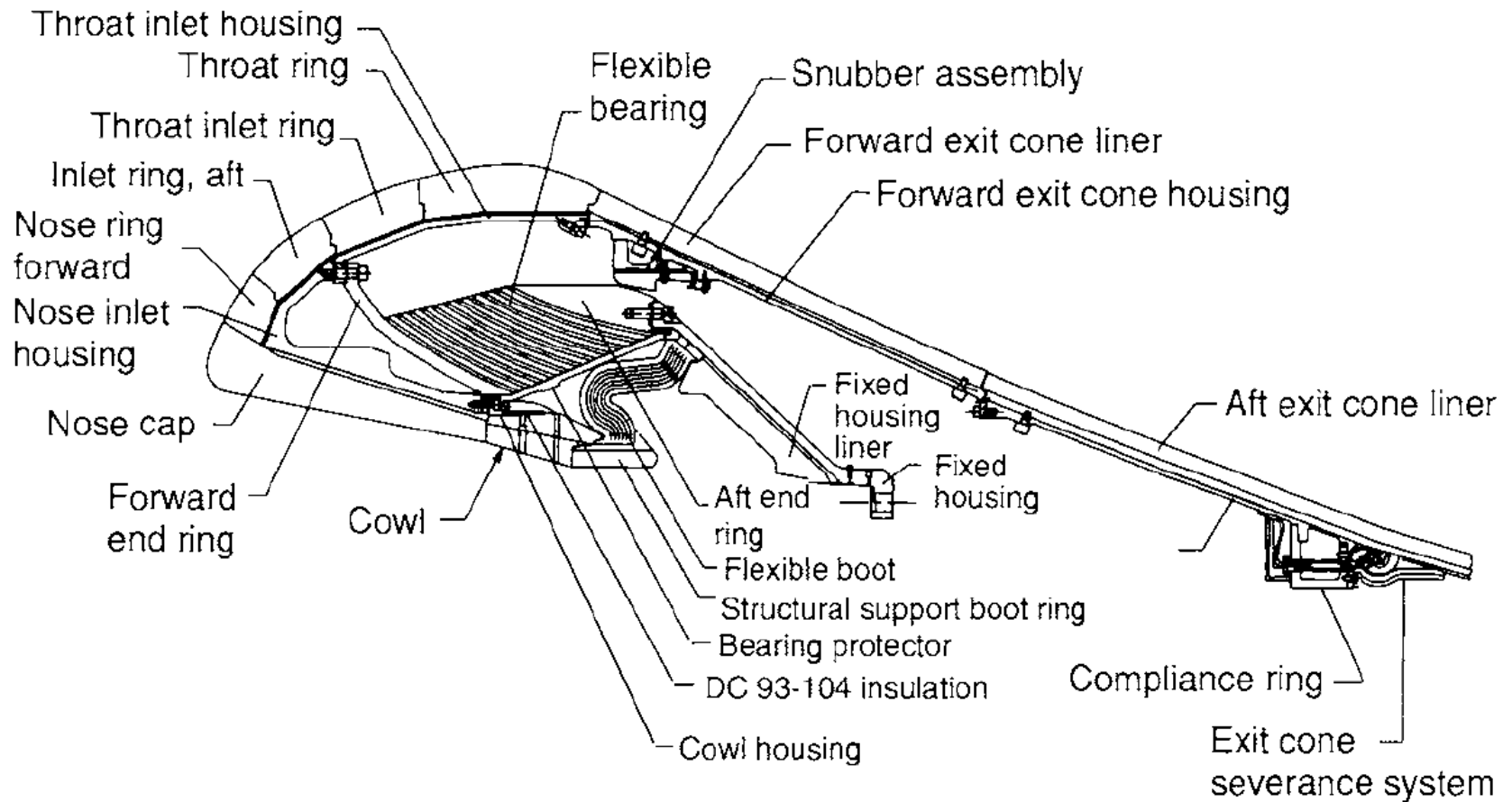


RSRM Nozzle Characteristics

Type	Contoured or bell
Thrust vector control	Flexible bearing
Expansion area ratio	7.72
Throat diameter	53.86 in.
Exit diameter	149.64 in.
Total length	178.75 in.
Nozzle weight	23, 941 lbf
Maximum pressure	1.016 psi
Maximum thrust (vac.)	3, 070, 000 lbf
Burn time	123.7 sec
Materials	
Housings	Steel and aluminum
Liners	Carbon cloth phenolic

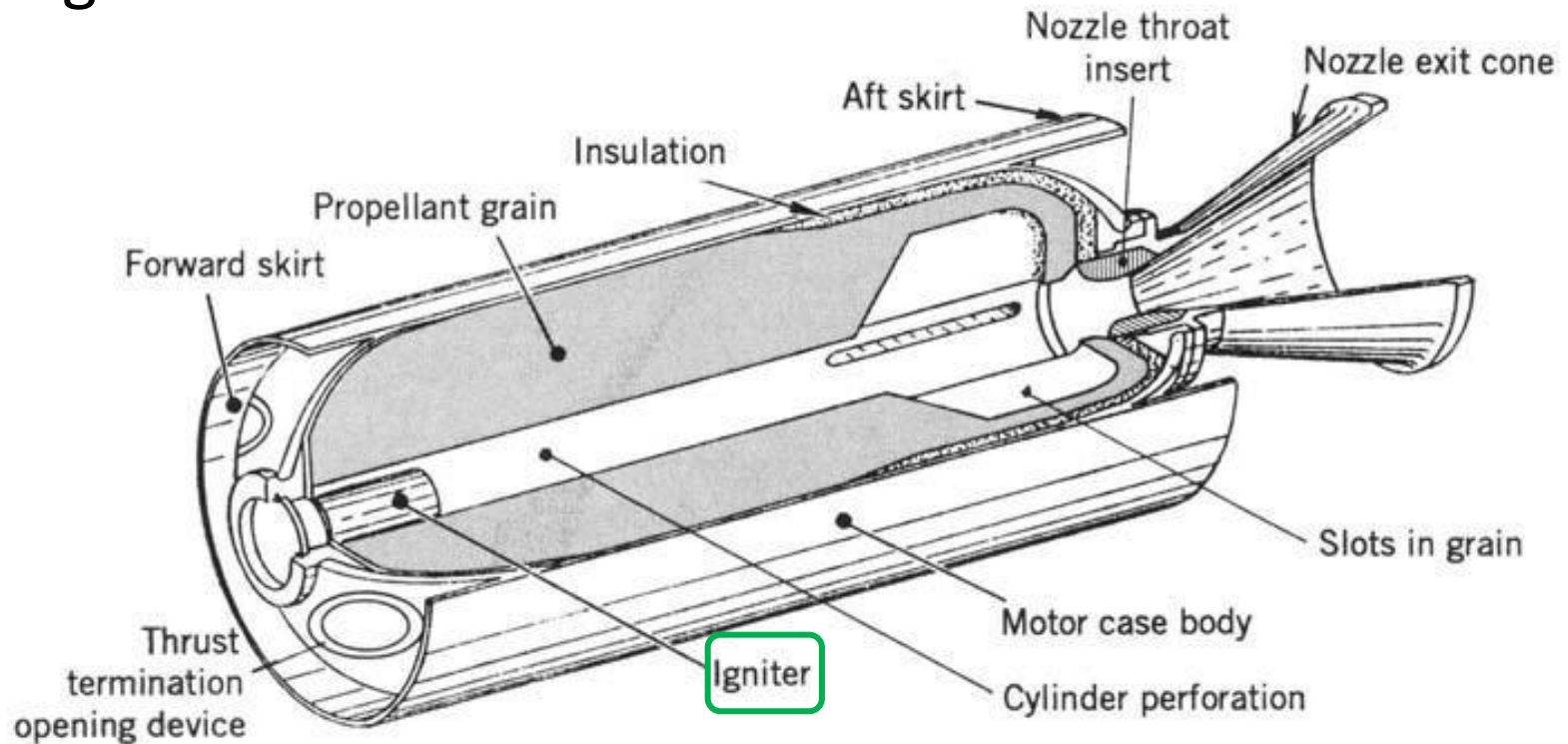
NOZZLES

Design and Construction



Solid Rocket Motor

Igniter



Typical solid propellant rocket motor

IGNITER

function :

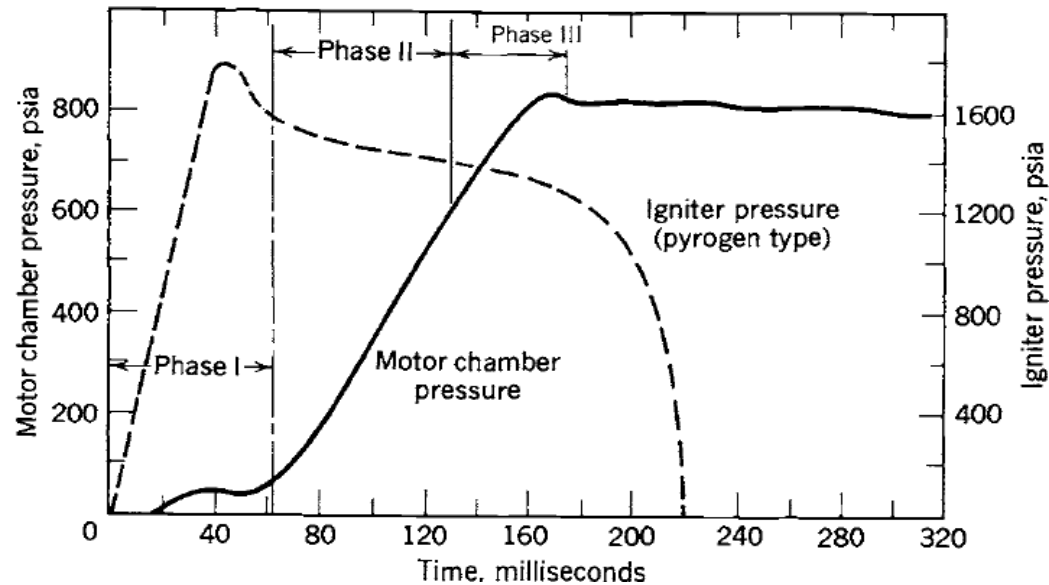
- Initiate propellant grain combustion

process :

- ① receipt of a signal (usually electric)
- ② heat generation (igniter)
- ③ heat transfer from igniter to motor grain surface
- ④ flame spreading over the entire burning surface area
- ⑤ filling the chamber with hot gas and elevating pressure

IGNITER

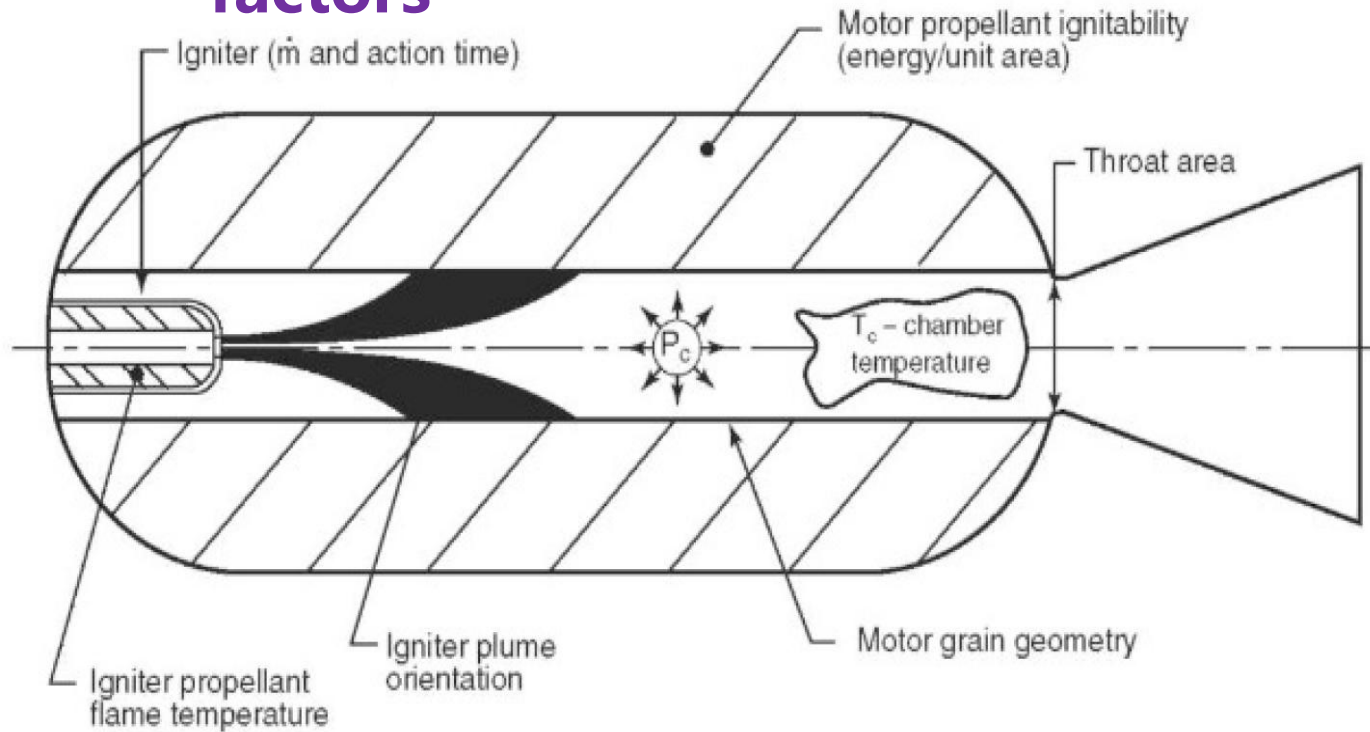
process :



- Phase I :** ignition time lag. The period from the moment the igniter receives a signal until the first bit of grain surface burns.
- Phase II :** flame-spreading interval. The time from first ignition of the grain surface until the complete grain burning area has been ignited.
- Phase III:** chamber-filling interval. The time for completing the chamber-filling process and for reaching equilibrium pressure and flow.

IGNITER

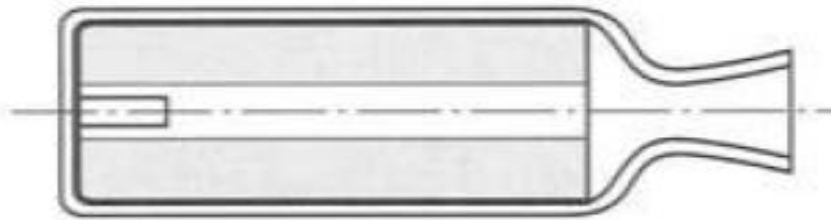
Propellant ignition factors



- igniter location and mass flow rate
- igniter flow impingement on grain surface
- propellant grain geometry
- combustion chamber free volume
- nozzle throat size

IGNITER

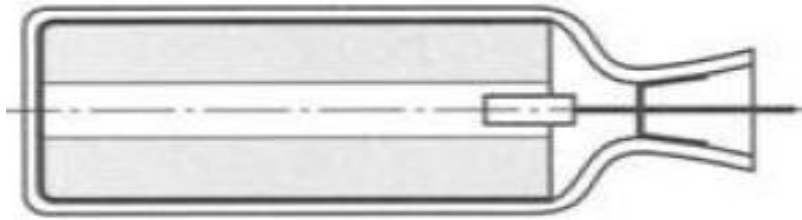
Mounting Location:



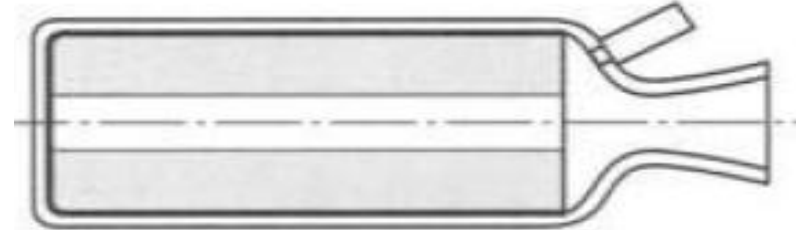
Aft, Internal



Aft, External



Forward, Internal

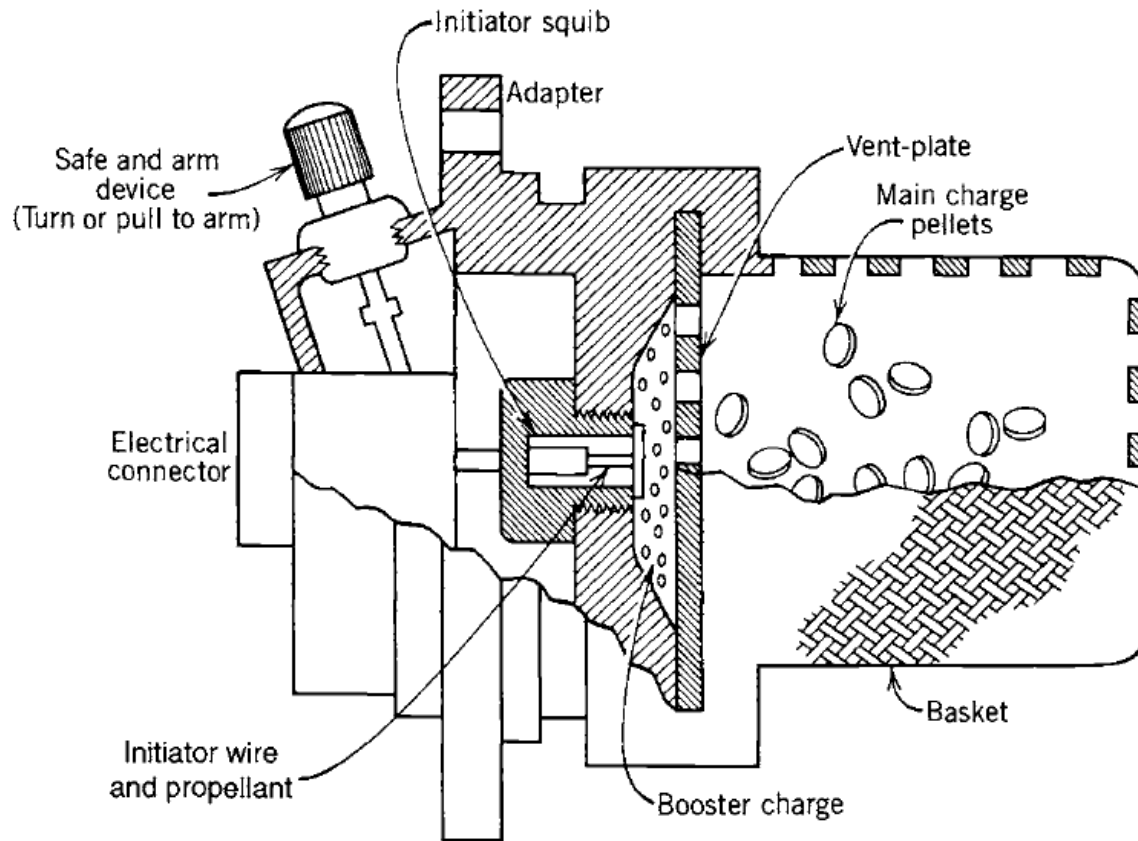


Forward, External

- igniter propellant mass is small ($<1\%$ motor propellant)
- burns at low chamber pressure

IGNITER Pyrotechnic Igniters

using solid explosives or energetic propellant-like chemical formulations

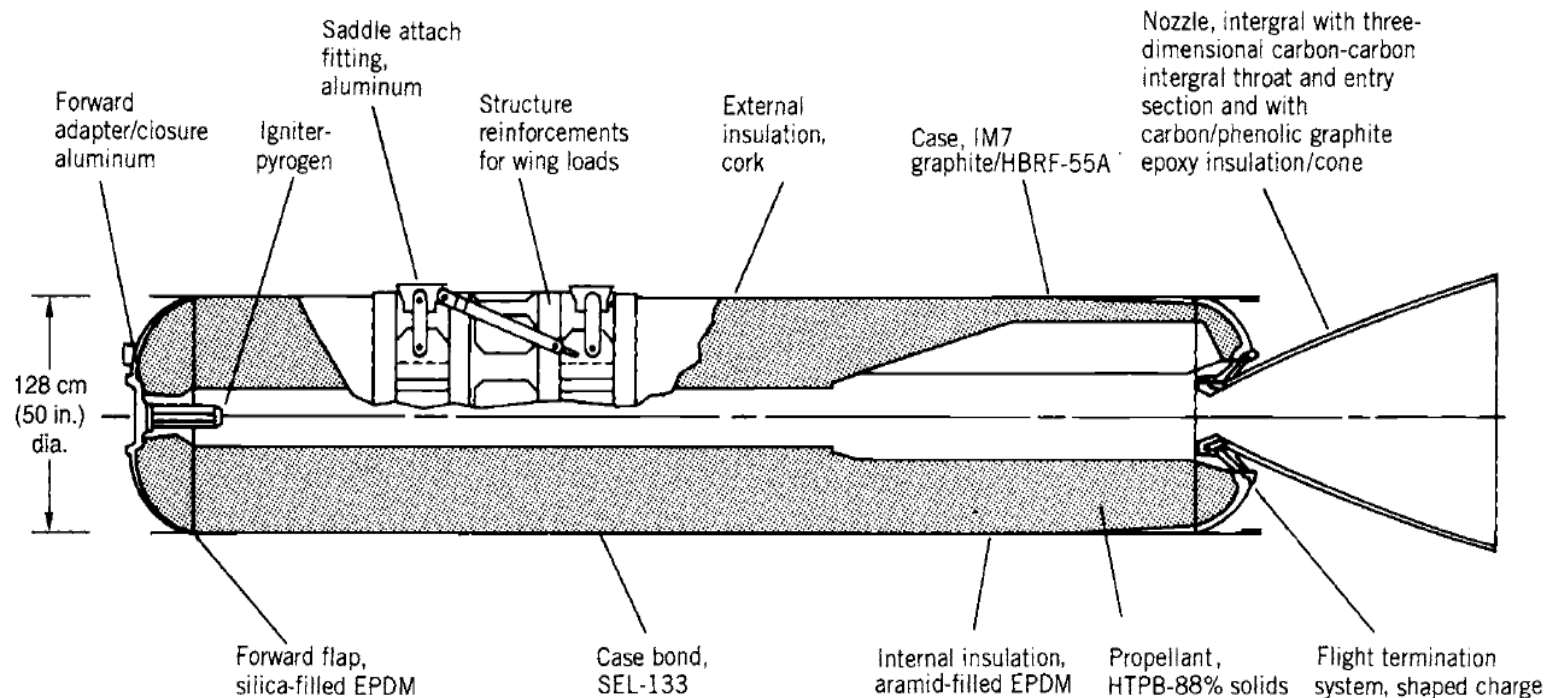


Typical pyrotechnic igniter with three different propellant charges that ignite in sequence

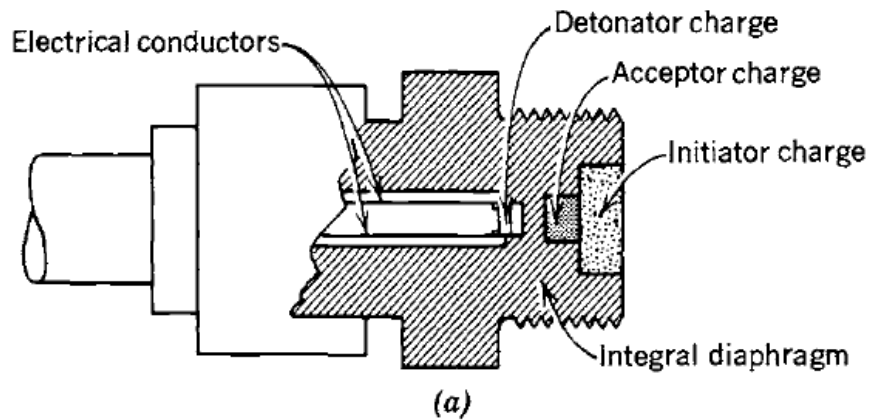
IGNITER

Pyrogen Igniters — *a small rocket motor that is used to ignite a larger rocket motor*

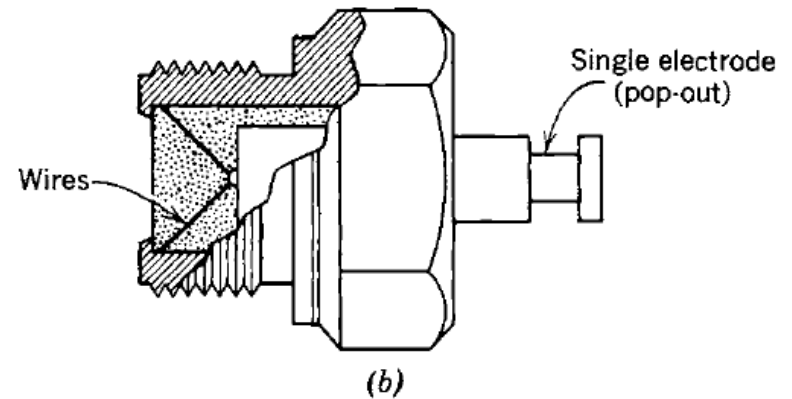
- not designed to produce thrust
- use one or more nozzle
- use conventional rocket motor grain formulations and design technology



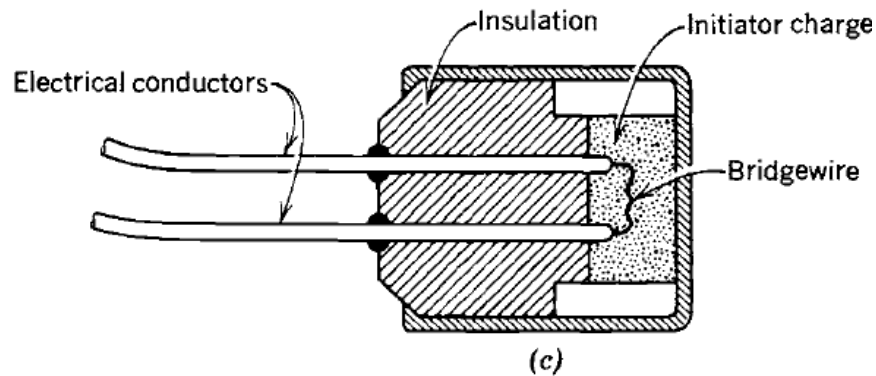
IGNITER electric initiator



integral diaphragm type



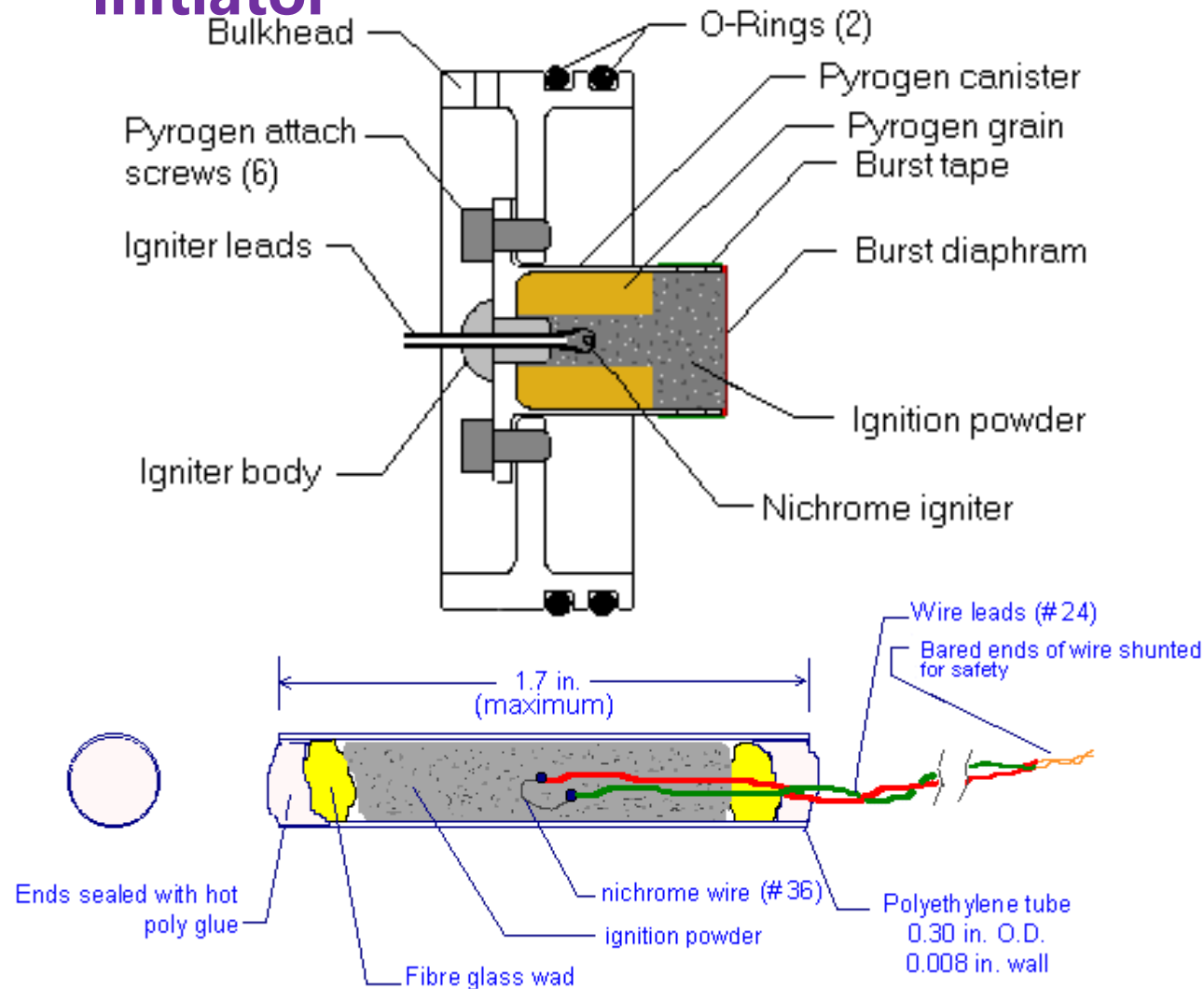
header type with double bridgewire



exploding bridgewire type

Typical electric initiators

IGNITER electric initiator



Rev. 01/05/19

IGNITER **electric** initiator



Mass ratio

$$MR = m_f/m_0$$

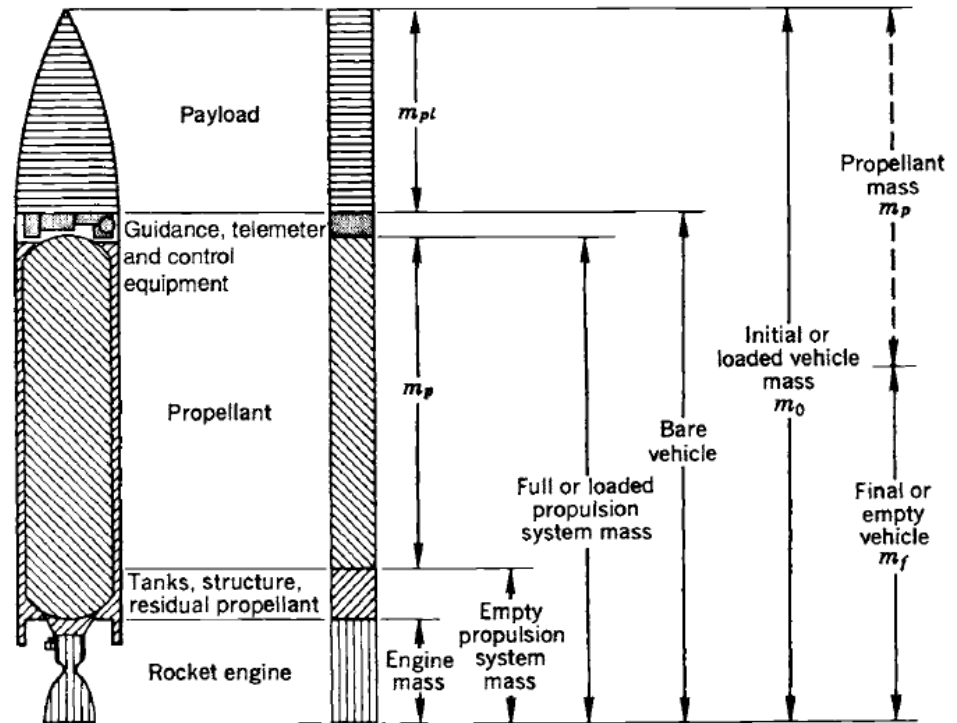
- ◆ range from 60% to less than 10%.

Propellant mass fraction

$$\zeta = m_p/m_0$$

$$m_0 = m_f + m_p$$

$$\zeta = (m_0 - m_f)/m_0 = 1 - MR$$



- ◆ Indicates the quality of the design.

Solid Rocket Motor

——characteristics and applications

Characteristics of **Modern** SRM

- Cast loading case banded grain
- Huge propellant loading, 10s~100s tonnes
- Advantage structural material, with high propellant fraction(>0.9)
- High energy propellant
- High thrust characteristics and accuracy
- Thrust vector control

Characteristics of SRM

——*advantages and disadvantages*

- Simple design (few or no moving parts)*
- Thrust varying from 2N to over 4 MN
- Higher overall density
- long-time storage (5 to 20 years)
- relatively simple, easy to apply and require little servicing
- *Specific impulse slight lower*
- *Cannot be fully checked out prior to use*
- *thrust cannot be randomly varied in flight*

**movable nozzle for thrust vector control*

Application of SRM

Category *Large booster and second-stage motors*

Application ■ Space launch vehicles
 ■ lower stages of long-range ballistic missiles

■ ICBM: Inter-continental ballistic missile

Typical Characteristics

- *Large diameter (~ 48 in.);*
- *L/D of case = 2 to 7;*
- *Burn time $t = 60$ to 120 sec;*
- *low nozzle area ratios (6 to 16)*

Application of SRM

Category *High-altitude motors*

Application

- upper stages of multistage;
- ballistic missiles, space launch;
- space maneuvers

Typical Characteristics

- *High-performance propellant;*
- *large nozzle area ratio (20 to 200);*
- *L/D of case = 1 to 2;*
- *burn time $t = 40$ to 120 sec*

Application of SRM

Category *Tactical missiles*

Application ■ High acceleration
short-range bombardment and antitank missile

Typical Characteristics

- *tube launched, $L/D=4$ to 13;*
- *very short burn time $t=0.25$ to 1 sec;*
- *small diameter (2.75 to 18in.);*
- *some are spin stabilized*

Application of SRM

Category *Tactical missiles*

Application ■ High acceleration
 ■ Modest acceleration

surface-to-air, short-range surface-to-surface, air-to-air missiles

Typical Characteristics

- *small diameter (5 to 18 in.);*
- *$L/D=5$ to 10;*
- *fins or wings;*
- *thrust is high at launch and then is reduced (boost-sustain)*
- *many have blast tubes;*
- *-53 to +71 °C;*
- *high acceleration;*
- *low-smoke or smokeless propellant*

Application of SRM

Category *Ballistic missile defense*

Application ■ Defense against long and medium-range ballistic missiles

Typical Characteristics

- *Booster rocket and a small upper maneuverable stage with multiple attitude control nozzles and one or more side or divert nozzles*

Application of SRM

Category *Gas generator*

Application

- Pilot emergency escape
- push missiles from submarine launch tubes or land mobile canisters
- actuators and valves
- short term power supply
- jet engine starter
- munition dispersion
- rocket turbine drive starter
- automotive air bags

Typical Characteristics

- *low gas temperature ($< 1300\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$);*
- *many different configurations, designs, and propellants;*
- *purpose is to create high-pressure, energetic gas rather than thrust*

Application of SRM

Category	Application
Large booster and second-stage motors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Space launch vehicles■ lower stages of long-range ballistic missiles
High-altitude motors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Upper stages of multistage ballistic missiles, space launch■ space maneuvers
Tactical missiles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ High acceleration■ Modest acceleration
Ballistic missile defense	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Defense against long and medium-range ballistic missiles
Gas generator	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Pilot emergency escape■ push missiles from launch tubes■ actuators and valves■ short term power supply■ jet engine starter■ munition dispersion■ rocket turbine drive starter■ automotive air bags

Classification of SRM

Basis of Classification

Examples of Classification

Application

Diameter/Length

D:0.005-6.6 m; L:0.025 to 45 m

Propellant

Composite / Double-base / Composite-modified double-base

Case design

Steel monolithic / Fiber monolithic / Segmented

Grain configuration

Cylindrical / End-burning / Other configurations

Grain installation

Case-bonded / Cartridge-loaded (free-standing)

Explosive hazard

Class 1.3 / Class1.1

Thrust action

Neutral / Progressive / Regressive / Pulse / Step-thrust

Toxicity

Toxic and nontoxic exhaust gases

Solid Rocket Motor

——Design approach

Solid Rocket Motor Design

Content of SRM Design

□ Preliminary Design

- Select the structure, propellant and case material
- Determine the working pressure, expansion ratio, package size and other design parameters

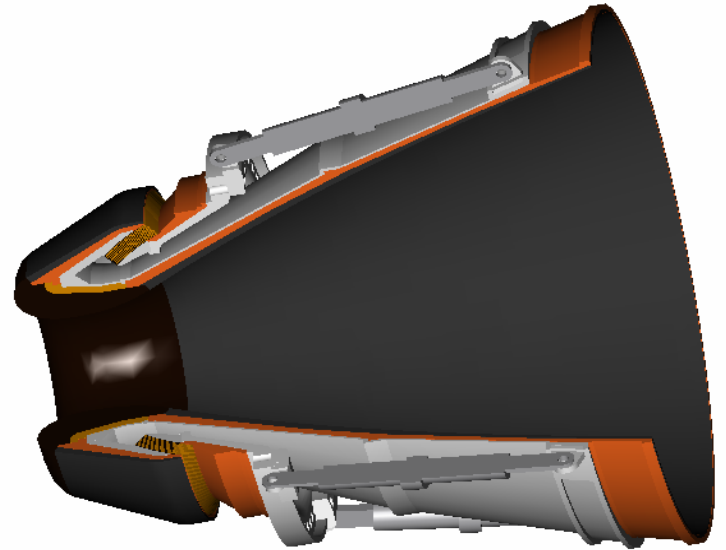
□ Propellant grain Design

- Select the configurations, determine geometry
- Thermodynamic calculation
- Evaluate the internal ballistic performance
- Structural analysis

Solid Rocket Motor Design

Content of SRM Design

- ❑ Combustion chamber Design
 - Case design
 - Internal insulation design
- ❑ Nozzle Design
 - structural design
 - thermal protection design
- ❑ Igniter device Design
 - type and structure selection
 - energy release system design
- ❑ Thrust vector control and termination Design



Solid Rocket Motor

——Development and Future

Development and Future of SRM

- ❑ **High performance, high reliability, long life, low cost**
- ❑ High pressure, improve energy efficiency
- ❑ Improve the propellant mass ratio to 0.93, by advanced materials usage and design optimization
- ❑ Miniaturization, precision thrust vector control
- ❑ High energy, low signal characteristics, environmental friendly propellant
- ❑ Advanced manufacturing process

**THE
END**