













Propellants	
 Propellants are the materials that are combusted by the engine to produce thrust. 	
 Bipropellant liquid rocket systems consist of a <i>fuel</i> and an oxidizer. They are the most common due to their high performance, but are more complex. 	
 Several propellants can be used singularly as monopropellants (i.e. HTP, N₂H₄, UDMH), which release energy when they decompose either when heated or catalyzed. 	
 The mission / requirements of the vehicle will directly effect the selection of propellants and configuration (power cycle) of the propulsion system(s). 	
 The primary propellant types to be discussed are: 	
- Storable	
 Space Storable 	
– Cryogenic	1
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Density vs. I_{sp}

- Liquid bipropellant combinations offer a wide range of performance capabilities.
- Each combination has multiple factors that should be weighed when selecting one for a vehicle.
 - Performance (I_{sp})
 - Density (higher is better)
 - Storability (venting?)
 - · Ground Ops (hazards?)
 - Etc.

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- One of the more critical trades is that of performance versus density.
- LO₂/LH₂ offers the highest I_{sp} performance, but at the cost of poor density (thus increasing tank size).
- Trading I_{sp} versus density is sometimes referred to as comparing "bulk impulse" or "density impulse".

 As an example, the densities and I_{sp} performance of the following propellant combinations will be compared.

·	Density (g/ml)	Density (Ib/ft ³)
Hydrogen	0.07	4.4
Methane	0.42	26.4
RP-1	0.81	50.6
Oxygen	1.14	71.2

Pc = 300 psia expanded to 14.7 psia	MR (O/F)	l _{sp} (sec)
LO,/LH,	3.5	3470
LO,/CH	2.33	263¤
LO ₂ /RP-1	2.4	263m
	(1) SC	(2) FC

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Single Chamber Tripropellant	Staged Combustion, Dual Preburner	Staged Combustion, Single Probumer	Gas Generator	Expander	Tsp∙off
Highest integrated performance available (closed cycle). Maximizes propellant bulk density and Isp.	High performance (closod cycle). Vary attractive for reusable applications. Eastier MR and thrust level threating characteristics.	High performance (closed cycle). Simplier than mult preburner options to left. Very attractive for reusable applications	Simple cycle, low production costs, easier to develop	High roliability, benign failure modes (containted), simple cycle	Simple cycle with fewer parts, lower production costs, caster maintainability
Most difficult to develop. Will be very expensive. Production cost makes reusable applications mandatory. Vehicle mus be very performance driven such as SST O.	More difficult to develop than single PB. Tends to be very expansive. Failure modes tend to be more involved. Producton coatmakos reusable applications almost mandatory.	More difficult to develop Tends to be more expensive, Failure modes tend to be more involved.	Lower performance because of open cycle. Performance level makes this unattactive for most reusable applications.	Limited to LOXAH2 propellants only, Limited performance because of heal transfer limitations	Hot gas duct that leps of from the MCC and mixes diffuent fuel to regulate gas temperature. Lower performance (Open cycle)
Reusable SSTO.	Booster or upperstage, reusablo rockets	Booster or upperstage, reusable or expendible rockets (May depend on propellant choices)	Booster or upper stage, expendible reckets	Booster or upperstage, reusable or expendible rockets	Booster or upper staga, axpandibla rockets

J-2X: Adding a New Member to the Family				
	Alegenter			
	1960-1970	1965-1971	1996-2001	2006-
Configurati	on J-2	J-2S	X-33	J-2X
Thrust	230 klb	265 klb	261 klb	294 klb
lsp	425 sec	436 sec	419 sec	448 sec
Mass	3,492 lb	3,800 lb	7,500 lb	5,450 lb
Length	116 in	116 in	79 in	185 in
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NASA	J-2X Basic S	Statistics	
	 Cycle Thrust, vac Isp, vac (min) Pc MR AR (geometric) Weight (max) Secondary Mode MR Secondary Mode PL Restart Service Life Starts Service Life Seconds Length (max) Exit Dia. (max) 	•English GG 294 klbs 448 s 1,337 psia 5.5 94.4 5,450 lbs 4.5 82% 1 8 2,600 s 185 in 120 in	•Metric GG 1308 kN 448 s 9.218 MPa 5.5 94.4 2472 kg 4.5 82% 1 8 2,600 s 4.699 m 3.048 m
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