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Chemical Propellant

Bhushan Mangesh Borse[1], Ashish R Pande[2], Dhananjay Kailas Ahire[3], Pranav Sanjay Nerkar[4],
[1,2,3,4]Graduate Students,

Department of Aerospace Engineering, School of Engineering & technology, Sandip University, Nashik, Maharashtra, India

Abstract:

Chemical propellants are a type of fuel that are commonly used in rocket engines to provide the thrust necessary for space exploration and satellite launches. They are composed of a mixture of chemicals that react to produce a hot gas, which is then expelled from the engine to generate the required force. An overview of the properties and applications of chemical propellants, including their composition, performance, and environmental impact are provided in this paper. The paper also explores the different types of chemical propellants that are commonly used, such as solid, liquid, and hybrid propellants, and their respective advantages and disadvantages.

Introduction:

The development of chemical propellants revolutionized space exploration, making it possible to achieve higher altitudes and velocities than ever before. Chemical propellants are a type of fuel that undergoes a chemical reaction to produce a large amount of hot gas that is expelled from the engine to generate thrust. These are mostly used in rocket engines and spacecraft propulsion systems, and are critical to the success of space missions. Chemical propellants are a key component in rocket propulsion systems, allowing spacecraft to reach and maintain high speeds and altitudes. A chemical propellant is a mixture of chemicals that undergo a chemical reaction to produce a gas, which is expelled out of the rocket nozzle to create thrust. Chemical propulsion has mostly used in space exploration, including the launch of satellites, human spaceflight missions, and interplanetary exploration. This paper will provide an overview of chemical propellants, their types, characteristics, and applications.

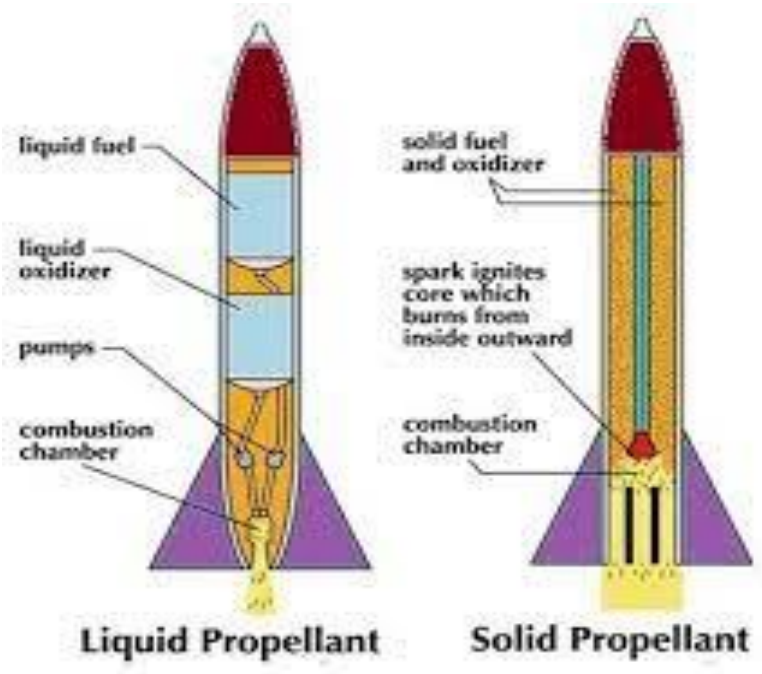
Composition of Chemical Propellants:

Chemical propellants are typically composed of a fuel and an oxidizer, which are mixed together in specific ratios to achieve the desired performance. The fuel is a substance that can undergo a combustion reaction, releasing energy in the form of heat and gas. The oxidizer, on the other hand, provides the oxygen necessary for the combustion reaction to occur. The specific chemical composition of the propellant depends on the type of propellant being.

Types of Chemical Propellants:

There are two main types of chemical propellants: liquid and solid. Liquid propellants are made up of a fuel and an oxidizer that are stored separately and then combined in a combustion chamber to produce thrust. The fuel and oxidizer can be either hypergolic or non-hypergolic. Hypergolic propellants ignite spontaneously upon contact with each other, while non-hypergolic propellants require an ignition source. Liquid propellants can provide high specific impulse (ISP) and can be throttled for precise control. Examples of liquid propellants include liquid oxygen and kerosene, liquid hydrogen and liquid oxygen, and monomethylhydrazine and nitrogen tetroxide.

Solid propellants consist of a fuel and an oxidizer that are combined into a solid mixture, which burns and produces gas when ignited. They are comparatively easy to store and handle, and can be ignited quickly, making them useful for military missiles, launch vehicles, and upper stages. Solid propellants also have the advantage of being able to be shaped into any desired form. However, they cannot be throttled, which limits their use in precise maneuvers. Examples of solid propellants include ammonium perchlorate composite propellant (APCP) and hydroxyl-terminated polybutadiene (HTPB).



Characteristics of Chemical Propellants:

The performance of a chemical propellant is measured by its specific impulse, which is the change in momentum per unit of propellant mass flow rate. Specific impulse is related to the efficiency of the propellant, which is determined by the heat of combustion, the ratio of oxidizer to fuel, and the temperature of combustion. A higher specific impulse indicates a more efficient propellant, which allows the rocket to carry more payload or travel farther.

The choice of propellant depends on the mission requirements, such as the velocity change needed, the duration of the burn, and the operating temperature and pressure. Liquid propellants are typically used for high-thrust, high-specific impulse missions, such as launching a rocket into orbit or traveling to other planets. Solid propellants are used for shorter-duration burns, such as separating rocket stages or adjusting the spacecraft's orbit.

Applications of Chemical Propellants:

Chemical propellants have been used in a wide range of space missions, from launching satellites and humans into orbit to exploring other planets and the solar system at its outer reaches. The Apollo missions to the moon which uses the Saturn V rocket, used a combination of liquid oxygen and kerosene in its first stage and liquid hydrogen and liquid oxygen in its upper stages. The Space Shuttle used a combination of liquid oxygen and liquid hydrogen in its main engines and solid rocket boosters for initial lift-off.

Interplanetary missions, such as the Voyager missions to the outer planets and the New Horizons mission to Pluto, used solid propellant kick motors to provide the final velocity needed to escape Earth's gravity and reach their destination. The Mars Exploration Rovers, Spirit and Opportunity, used a combination of solid rocket motors and liquid propellants to adjust their trajectory and land on the Martian surface.

Conclusion: Chemical propellants have been the workhorse of space

References:

1. "Rocket Propulsion Elements" by George P. Sutton and Oscar Biblarz - This book is considered the go-to reference on rocket propulsion, including chemical propellants. It covers the principles of rocket propulsion, the design of rocket engines, and the selection and performance of propellants.
2. "Chemical Rocket Propulsion: A Comprehensive Survey of Energetic Materials" by Luigi De Luca - This book provides a detailed overview of the chemistry and physics of energetic materials used in chemical rocket propulsion, including solid and liquid propellants, as well as hybrid propulsion systems.
3. "Liquid Rocket Propellants" by J. P. Agrawal - This book focuses specifically on liquid rocket propellants, covering the chemistry and physics of liquid propellants, the design of liquid rocket engines, and the performance characteristics of various liquid propellant systems.
4. "Solid Rocket Propulsion Technology" by G. D. Roy - This book provides an in-depth analysis of solid rocket propulsion technology, including the chemistry and physics of solid propellants, the design of solid rocket motors, and the performance characteristics of various solid propellant systems.
5. Handbook of Chemical Propulsion: Principles, Processes, and Performance" edited by D. Scott Garg and J. William Lee - This book provides a comprehensive overview of the field of chemical propulsion, covering the fundamental principles, manufacturing processes, and performance characteristics of various propellant systems.