SPACE PROPULSION SYMPOSIUM (C4) Interactive Presentations (IP)

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CONCEPT AND DEVELOPMENT OF USING HYDROGEN PER OXIDE AS A PROPELLEANT

Abstract

Hydrogen Peroxide has a long history in the space industry and was even used in the Reaction Control System (RCS) for the X-15. Some view hydrogen peroxide as an unstable and dangerous propellant but when handled properly, it is safer than most other options. High-concentration hydrogen peroxide (H2O2 hereafter) propulsion system is chosen in this research because H2O2 is ITAR-free, nontoxic and easy to produce. As the components designed for either cold gas or hydrazine propulsion system are not suitable for H2O2 propulsion system. The requisite environmental tests are scheduled to be performed in the future. Moreover, an air-bearing thrust stand (ABTS) and a real-time data acquisition control system (DACS) were implemented to assess the performance of the proposed H2O2 propulsion system. By measuring the distance that the thrust stand has travelled in a given time, the thrust force can be derived from the kinematics equation. To validate the feasibility of the approach, it is scheduled to assess the performance of a cold gas (N2) propulsion system prior to the H2O2 propulsion system.