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UPPER BOUNDS ON THE FLIGHT SPEED OF HYDROCARBON FUELED SCRAMJET POWERED VEHICLES

Paul J. Waltrup
The Johns Hopkins University
Applied Physics Laboratory
Laurel, Maryland 20723 USA

Abstract

Estimates of upper bounds on flight Mach number for scramjet powered vehicles operating on liquid hydrocarbon fuels are presented. For an axisymmetric missile shaped vehicle, the bounds lie between

Nomenclature

A area
 C_D drag coefficient
 C_{Tg} gross engine thrust
 C_{TN} net vehicle thrust
 E_{r_e} effective fuel ratio
M Mach number
 q dynamic pressure
 p pressure
 α Angle-of-attack
 η_{KE} Inlet kinetic energy efficiency
 η_c Fuel combustion efficiency

Subscripts

c combustor
des design
i inlet geometric
max maximum
ref reference
w wall
0 free-stream
1-5 engine stations (see Fig. 1)

Introduction

From the inception of the supersonic combustion ramjet (scramjet) engine cycle (see Fig. 1) in the late 1950's through the present time, there has been much what the upper Mach number is when gaseous fuel is used. For example, kerosene fueled engines claimed Mach 26) and beyond for hydrocarbon fuels. Subsequent to these early studies, several "modern" studies have been done for hydrogen fueled concepts, primarily for earth-to-orbit space transport systems⁷⁻¹⁰, in which the upper speed bound is somewhat lower, primarily in the Mach 12-16 range. There have also been a number of studies on hydrocarbon fueled missile concepts¹¹⁻¹⁵, but none of these addressed the upper Mach number limit. The purpose of this paper is to present a modern, systematic approach to re-establishing these limits for hydrocarbon fueled

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