


Note (for any problem that needs it) Universal gas constant, $\hat{R} = 8314 \text{ J/kmol-K}$.

(Picture from <http://www.boeing.com/defense-space/space/propul/SSME.html>)

1. A rocket nozzle is designed to produce 3.82 MN of thrust in vacuum, using an $\text{H}_2\text{-O}_2$ propellant combination that has a vacuum specific impulse, $I_{sp} \equiv \tilde{\tau}/\dot{m}g_o = 480 \text{ s}$. The mean molar mass of the propellant is 15 kg/kmol , and the ratio of specific heats $\gamma = 1.18$. The stagnation pressure in the combustion chamber is 19.8 MPa , and the stagnation temperature is 3400 K . Assume an ideal nozzle.
 - a. Estimate the mass flow rate of propellant and the throat area.
 - b. If the nozzle has an exit area ratio $A_e/A_t = 72$, estimate the pressure at the exit plane, and the sea level thrust produced by the engine.
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2. A rocket engine uses a propellant with a mean molar mass of 21.9 kg/kmol and ratio of specific heats $\gamma = 1.23$. The stagnation pressure at the inlet to the nozzle is 2.15 MPa and the stagnation temperature is 2860 K . The rocket nozzle is to be designed for operation at sea level ($p_a = 101 \text{ kPa}$). The design thrust is 1500 N with a nozzle efficiency $\eta_n = 0.96$.
 - (a) Calculate the propellant mass flow rate needed to obtain the design thrust.
 - (b) Calculate the required throat area.
 - (c) Calculate the required nozzle exit area.
 3. A rocket engine uses a $\text{H}_2\text{-O}_2$ mixture as a propellant. The mean molar mass of the propellant is 11.58 kg/kmol with ratio of specific heats $\gamma = 1.20$. The stagnation pressure at the throat of the nozzle is 8.26 MPa and the static temperature at the throat is 3305 K . The throat area $A_t = 750.4 \text{ cm}^2$. The ratio of the exit plane area to the throat area is 39.8 and the static pressure at the exit plane of the nozzle is 18.1 kPa .
 - (a) Calculate the mass flow rate of propellant through the nozzle.
 - (b) Calculate the vacuum thrust of the rocket motor.
 - (c) If the flow is assumed isentropic from combustion chamber to the nozzle throat, and the ratio $A_c/A_t = 3.24$, where A_c is the area of the combustion chamber, estimate the Mach number at the exit of the combustion chamber.