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Advantage of Ethanol fuel for Gas Generator Cycle Air Turbo Ramjet Engine

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Abstract

Performance analyses of Gas Generator cycle Air Turbo Ramjet (GG-ATR) engine are conducted to investigate the feasibility of ethanol fuel, as comparing Liquefied Hydrogen (LH₂), Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), and n-C₁₂H₂₆. Liquefied Oxygen(LOX) is considered as an oxidizer. Gas generator combustion temperature and compressor pressure ratio are selected as the analytical parameters, which are varied from 900 to 1700 K and from 2.0 to 4.0, respectively.

In general, specific impulses of light molecule weight fuels, such as LH₂ and LNG are higher than those of large molecule weight fuel. For storable fuel, Isp of ethanol is larger than that of n-C₁₂H₂₆ when gas generator temperature is less than 1300K, although specific heat release of ethanol is only two thirds of n-C₁₂H₂₆ heat release. The main chemical species of n-C₁₂H₂₆ gas generator (GG) combustion gas are CH₄ and CO. On the other hand, ethanol GG combustion gas is mainly composed of H₂ and CO, resulting smaller molecular weight than n-C₁₂H₂₆. These characteristics contribute to larger Isp of ethanol than n-C₁₂H₂₆ and indicate the feasibility of ethanol to GG-ATR engine fuel.

Keywords

Air Turbo Ramjet Engine, Supersonic UAV, Gas Generator, Ethanol

NOMENCLAUTURE

A	= Cross section area, m^2
C^*	= characteristic velocity as represent in eq.(4), m/sec
C_0	= Spouting velocity at turbine nozzle, m/sec
C_p	= Heat Capacity at constant pressure, J/(kg K)
F	= Thrust, N
f	= ratio of propellant to air in eq.(3)
g	= gravity acceleration ($=9.80665 m/s^2$)
H	= Altitude
h	= specific heat release of fuel, J/(kg K)
I_{sp}	= Specific Impulse, sec
M	= Flight Mach number
\dot{m}	= Mass flow rate, kg/sec
N	= Rotational speed, rpm
N_s	= Specific rotational speed
p	= Static pressure, Pa
P	= Total pressure, Pa
R	= Gas constant, J/(kg K)
r_{OF}	= Oxidizer-to-Fuel Ratio at gas generator
T	= Temperature, K
U	= Circumferential speed of turbine blade, m/sec
V	= Velocity, m/sec
ε	= Nozzle Expansion Ratio
η	= Efficiency
η_{C^*}	= C^* efficiency at ram combustor
γ	= Specific Heat Capacity Ratio
π	= pressure ratio at engine component

Subscript

air	airflow
atm	atmospheric condition

<i>comp</i>	Compressor
<i>cor</i>	Corrected value
<i>de</i>	On-design condition
<i>ext</i>	exit condition
<i>GG</i>	Gas Generator
<i>nozzle</i>	nozzle
<i>ram</i>	Ram combustor
<i>SLS</i>	Sea level static condition
<i>throat</i>	Turbine nozzle throat
<i>turb</i>	turbine

1. Introduction

An air turborocket (ATR) engine is expected as a propulsion engine for a future spaceplane or a hypersonic vehicle. There are two types of ATR engines, one is an expander cycle ATR (ATREX) engine (Ref.1) and the other one is gas-generator cycle ATR (GG-ATR) engine (Refs.2-7). The latter one is often called as Air Turborocket engine. However, it is called as GG-ATR engine in the present study. The studies of GG-ATR engine have been done by many researchers. Bussi et. al. conducted the analysis of on- and off-design performances for hydrogen fueled GG-ATR engine. They highlighted the turbomachinery characteristics of GG-ATR engine in their analysis (Ref.3). Christensen analyzed flight vehicle capabilities in conjunction with propulsion performances, comparing GG-ATR engine with a solid rocket motor (SRM) and a turbojet engine. ATR powered vehicle has nearly double the range of a SRM powered vehicle and the same range with two thirds flight time of a turbojet powered vehicle (Ref.4). Moreover, the subscale supersonic unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) project is proceeding at Aerospace Plane Research Center(APReC), Muroran Institute Technology, Japan and GG-ATR engine is assumed for its propulsion engine (Ref.8). Figure 1 indicates the schematic of GG-ATR engine and Figure 2 shows the GG-ATR engine for the supersonic UAV, which is developed in Muroran Institute of Technology. Different from a conventional turbojet engine, compressor discharged air is not utilized to drive a turbine, but fuel riched gas-generator (GG) combustion gas is used. GG combustion gas mixes with air and burn at a ram combustor after driving the turbine. The ram combustor gas temperature is depended on the ratio of GG combustion gas to air flow rate and possibly exceeds temperature at a turbojet afterburner. Thus, greater thrust per frontal area can be expected than the turbojet engine with afterburner. In addition, a turbine inlet gas temperature or a GG combustion temperature is determined by oxidizer-to-fuel ratio at GG and not affected by flight speed, which means the GG-ATR engine can operate from sea-level static condition to high velocity condition (up to Mach 4). Those

characteristics give a very unique operation to GG-ATR engine. The drawbacks of GG-ATR engine is that not only fuel but also oxidizer must be onboard, resulting of lower specific impulse (Isp) than the conventional turbojet engine.

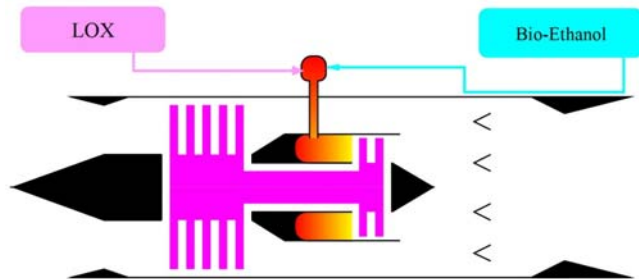


Figure 1 Schematic of GG-ATR engine



Figure 2 GG-ATR Engine developed in
Muroran Institute of Technology

Therefore, selection of a fuel and oxidizer is very crucial for GG-ATR engine performance. If the oxidizer is not employed, solid propellant or mono-propellant can be candidates for GG-ATR engine application (ref.4). The solid propellant ATR can be throttled by gas generator (GG) valve, which is located at upstream of turbine nozzle, and is difficult to shut down completely. Throttling of the solid propellant GG is associated with two-throats-in-series problem. The GG valve controls the gas flow rate and the GG pressure, which affects on the burning rate of solid propellant significantly. The throat of GG valve has mechanical moving parts and is always exposed on high temperature GG combustion gas during ATR engine operation, resulting of the difficulties of thermal design of the GG valve. On the other hand, typical monopropellants are hydrazine or monomethyl-hydrazine (MMH). Those monopropellants are thermally decomposed by catalyst, which are exothermic reactions. Turbine inlet temperature is determined by the rates of those thermal decomposition reactions, which are usually controlled by catalyst. Unfortunately, hydrazine and MMH are very toxic and have handling difficulties.

Because of aforementioned reasons, solid propellant and monopropellant are excluded from our GG-ATR engine application. Therefore, liquid bipropellant is considered as the favorable candidate for our engine. The previous studies mainly focused on liquefied hydrogen (LH2) fuel because LH2 has highest heat release and is the most promising fuel for an aerospace vehicle. However, LH2 has difficulties to handling and needs larger volume of a propellant tank because of its low density. Aviation kerosene and ethanol are high density, storable and easy handling. On the other hand, soot formation in the gas generator can be serious problem for kerosene fuel. Authors consider that ethanol would be utilized as fuel for GG-ATR engine, because ethanol is expected to have less soot formation than kerosene. However, ethanol has only two-thirds specific heat release of kerosene. The specific heat

release of fuel is very important parameter for a turbojet engine because turbojet combustor gas is burnt under fuel-lean condition and mainly composed of air. High specific heat release of fuel can reduce fuel flowrate to obtain maximum allowable turbojet combustor gas temperature. That improves specific impulse, I_{sp} or specific fuel consumption of turbojet engine. On the other hand for GG-ATR engine, high C_p GG combustion gas is more favorable for GG-ATR engine, rather than high specific heat release of fuel, because the high C_p GG combustion gas can produce larger turbine work and reduces its flowrate required to drive the turbine, resulting of higher I_{sp} . This characteristic is indicated that possibility of ethanol fuel for GG-ATR engine application. The purpose of the present study to evaluate ethanol fueled GG-ATR engine by parametric analyses with GG combustion temperature T_{GG} , and compressor pressure ratio, π_{comp} and gains an insight into the feasibility of ethanol fuels for GG-ATR engine.

2. Analytical Methods

2.1 GG-ATR engine performance and propellants

Performance of air breathing engine is usually evaluated by specific thrust and specific impulse (Isp). The specific thrust means thrust produced by per unit mass airflow rate and Isp is thrust per unit mass flow rate of propellant. Specific thrust is very important parameter for engine designers to determine an engine size. Specific thrust and Isp are represented by the following equation (1) and (2), respectively.

$$\frac{F}{\dot{m}_{air}} = (1 + f) \eta_{C^*} \sqrt{2 C_{p,ram} T_{ram} \left(1 - \left(\frac{P_{nozzle}}{P_{nozzle}} \right)^{\frac{\gamma_{nozzle}-1}{\gamma_{nozzle}}} \right)} - V + \frac{(P_{nozzle} - P_{atm}) A_{nozzle}}{\dot{m}_{air}} \quad (1)$$

$$I_{SP} = \left(1 + \frac{1}{f} \right) \frac{\eta_{C^*}}{g} \sqrt{2 C_{p,ram} T_{ram} \left(1 - \left(\frac{P_{nozzle}}{P_{nozzle}} \right)^{\frac{\gamma_{nozzle}-1}{\gamma_{nozzle}}} \right)} - \frac{V}{f g} + \frac{(P_{nozzle} - P_{atm}) A_{nozzle}}{\dot{m}_{air} f g} \quad (2)$$

where f is the Propellant-to-Air Ratio (PAR).

$$f = \frac{\dot{m}_{GG}}{\dot{m}_{air}} = \frac{C_{p,Air} T_{T,Air} \left(\pi_{comp}^{\frac{\gamma-1}{\gamma}} - 1 \right)}{\eta_{comp} \eta_{turb} C_{p,GG} T_{GG} \left(1 - \pi_{turb}^{\frac{\gamma_{GG}-1}{\gamma_{GG}}} \right)} \quad (3)$$

Propellant-to-Air Ratio of a GG-ATR engine is corresponded to Fuel-to-Air Ratio of a conventional turbojet engine. Different from the turbojet engine, not only mass flow rate of fuel, but also that of oxidizer must be included in consideration for GG-ATR performance analysis. To avoid confusion, the term of Propellant-to-Air Ratio is used in the present study, rather than Fuel-to-Air Ratio. PAR is derived from compressor-turbine power balance and plays very crucial role in Isp. The lower PAR is, the higher Isp can be obtained. In addition, PAR can

be varied with types of fuel and oxidizer. Possible oxidizers for GG-ATR are liquefied oxygen (LOX), dinitrogen tetroxide (N_2O_4), hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2) and nitric acid (HNO_3). Among them, LOX is selected as the oxidizer in the present study because it is the most widely used one. For fuels, liquefied hydrogen (LH2), liquefied natural gas (LNG), ethanol and normal- dodecane ($n-C_{12}H_{26}$) are the objects of investigation. LH2 is one of the most ideal fuels for the aerospace vehicles because its high specific heat release. On the other hands, the drawbacks of LH2 are its low density, difficulties of storage, cryogenic fluid. These disadvantages lead to larger propellant tank volume, high cost and handling difficulties.

LNG is also cryogenic fluid, but can be stored at higher temperature (110K) than LH2. In addition, LNG has larger density than LH2. The main constituent of LNG is CH_4 and the other constituents of LNG are light hydrocarbon species such as ethane and propane. Chemical constituents of the natural gas are different from its production area. In the present study, the chemical constituents of LNG are considered to be 88 volumetric percent of CH_4 , 9 percent of C_2H_6 and 3 percent of C_3H_8 . Those fractions are same as the natural gas produced in Hokkaido, Japan.

$n-C_{12}H_{26}$ is liquid fuel at room temperature and has high density ($750-790 \text{ kg/m}^3$). Different from cryogenic fuel, $n-C_{12}H_{26}$ is easy handling. $n-C_{12}H_{26}$ is one of the main constituents of aviation kerosene, such as JP-8 or Jet A-1. For GG-ATR application, JP-4 fuels had been utilized with H_2O_2 oxidizer (Ref.5). $n-C_{12}H_{26}$ is surrogate fuel for aviation kerosene in the present study because its chemical elements and specific heat release are very similar to aviation kerosene.

Ethanol is considered as fuel for author's GG-ATR engine because it is storable, high density and less soot formation in gas generator. Ethanol has been hardly utilized for aerospace fuel except for some rocket fuel applications because of its two-thirds heat release of aviation kerosene. However, the ratio of hydrogen atoms to carbon atoms (H/C ratio) in the ethanol molecule is 3 whereas about 2 for aviation kerosene. This means GG combustion gases for ethanol contain more H_2 than $n-C_{12}H_{26}$ because it is usually burned in fuel rich condition. Higher fraction of hydrogen in GG combustion gas reduces its molecular weight. This means that more available work can be extracted from turbine driving gas and improvement of Isp can be expected.

2.2 Turbomachinery and Gas Generator characteristics for on-design condition

As indicated in eq.(3), turbomachinery and GG operations determine PAR. The gas generator combustion temperature, T_{GG} , is selected from 900K to 1700K by an increment of 200K in the present study. With the specified P_{GG} , an oxidizer to fuel ratio (O/F) is determined by chemical equilibrium calculation to reduce T_{GG} to the specified value.

The computational code for GG-ATR engine performance is developed by the author, including chemical

equilibrium calculation. The chemical equilibrium calculation of the present code is thoroughly validated by comparison with Chemical Equilibrium Application by Gordon and McBride (Ref.9). The chemical compositions, heat capacity, $C_{P,GG}$ and molecular weight, $M_{w,GG}$ of the GG combustion gas can be also obtained by this chemical equilibrium calculation. Figure 3 shows the O/F ratio at GG for $\pi_{comp} = 2.5$. LH2 has the largest O/F ratio among 4 fuels and ranges from 0.914 to 1.865 while that of ethanol ranges from 0.133 to 0.780.

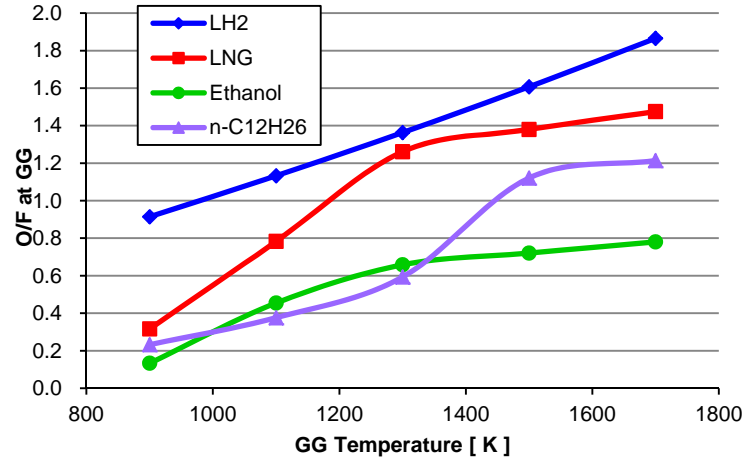


Figure 3 Oxidizer-to-Fuel ratios at GG for $\pi_{comp}=2.5$

Compressor pressure ratio, π_{comp} , is assumed as 2.0, 2.5, 3.0 and 4.0, while π_{comp} of author's GG-ATR engine is equal to 2.5 in on-design point condition. Adiabatic efficiency of compressor η_{comp} , is fixed to 78.1 percent in the present analysis. This compressor efficiency is also equal to that of author's GG-ATR engine compressor, which is evaluated by CFD. Specific compression work can be simply determined by those conditions. Turbine expansion ratio, π_{urb} is fixed to 5.0 in on-design point condition, which is also same as that of GG-ATR engine in Muroran Institute of Technology. If π_{comp} becomes higher, π_{urb} should be also higher because turbine exit pressure must be higher than the ram combustion pressure. Therefore, the GG pressure, P_{GG} is linearly proportional to compressor pressure ratio, π_{comp} . Values of P_{GG} and π_{comp} are listed in Table.1 in the section 2.4. Higher π_{urb} is preferable in view of engine performance, however, requires higher P_{GG} . Therefore, π_{urb} of 5.0 is reasonable level.

Turbine efficiency is depended on the velocity ratio, U/C_0 , where U and C_0 are circumferential turbine blade velocity and spouting gas velocity from turbine nozzle, respectively (Ref.10). The turbine efficiencies in the present analysis use 0.9 times of the empirical data described in reference 10, which is indicated in Figure 4. The turbine for the present GG-ATR engine is considered to be the impulse turbine, because molecular weight of turbine driving gas is smaller than air, resulting of greater C_0 . This fact means that the turbine of the GG-ATR engine is similar to that of a rocket turbopump rather than a conventional turbojet engine. The spouting velocity

C_0 is largely depended on the sonic speed of GG combustion gas and becomes greater for small molecular weight. The circumferential turbine blade velocity U is fixed to 288.5 m/sec and spouting Mach number at turbine nozzle is 1.2. Those values are also same as the GG-ATR engine in Muroran Institute of Technology. In the case of $T_{GG} = 1100\text{K}$, typical turbine efficiencies at the design condition for LH2 are calculated as about 46 percent and about 70 percent for other 3 fuels. The turbine efficiency of the author's GG-ATR engine by CFD analysis is also indicated in Fig.4. CFD analysis of turbine flow is conducted by the commercial CFD software FINETM/ Turbo and Spalart Allmaras turbulence model is employed. In the on-design point condition of this GG-ATR engine, the rotational speed of turbine is 58000 rpm. The turbine inlet temperature and pressure are 1100K and 1.35MPa, respectively. For CFD analysis in Fig.4, the specific rotational speed of the turbine blade is ranged from 40 to 105 percent of the on-design point condition speed. The turbine inlet pressure is ranged from 0.60MPa to 1.35MPa, where is assumed to be the actual operational range of the author's GG-ATR engine. CFD results in Fig.4 indicate that turbine efficiency is almost solely depended on the velocity ratio, U/C_0 and agree with the empirical turbine efficiency curve.

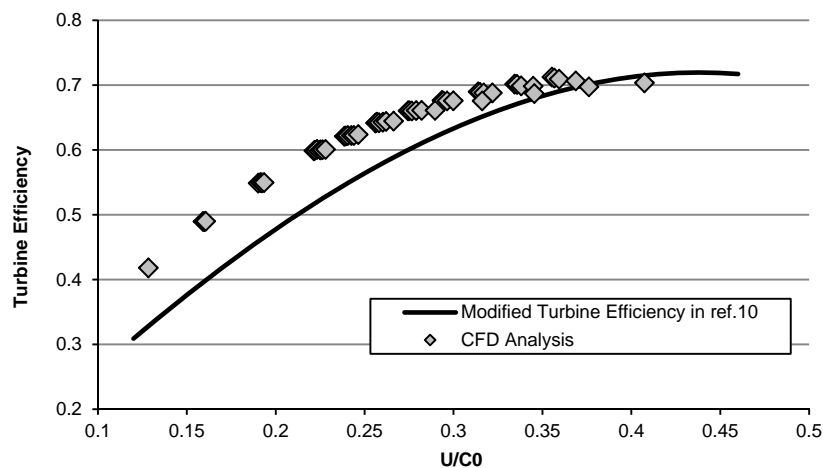


Figure 4 Turbine Efficiency Curve for the Present GG-ATR Engine Analysis

Christensen describes that turbine expansion flow should be treated as chemical equilibrium condition, while chemical frozen condition is identical to chemical equilibrium (Ref.6). In the present study, turbine expansion is considered as chemical frozen flow because of simplicity. Sullerey et. al. also adopted chemical frozen flow treatment and can obtain reasonable results (Ref.7).

2.3 Off-Design Condition for Turbomachinery and Gas Generator

Off design performance analysis is also treated in the present paper, and those analysis conditions are based on the on-design conditions as described in the previous section. For the analytical conditions of compressor,

corrected air flow rate is linearly proportional to corrected rotational speed of turbomachinery, N_{cor} , and specific compressor work is proportional to the square of the rotational speed. Thus, this leads the following relation between N_{cor} and π_{comp} . (ref.11)

$$N_{cor}^2 \propto \left(\pi_{comp} \right)^{\frac{\kappa-1}{\kappa}} - 1 \quad (4)$$

The turbine nozzle flow is considered to be choked at turbine nozzle. Therefore, the following relation can be established between mass flow rate of GG combustion gas, \dot{m}_{GG} , and the gas generator pressure, P_{GG} .

$$\frac{\dot{m}_{GG} C_{GG}^*}{P_{GG}} = \left(\frac{\dot{m}_{GG} C_{GG}^*}{P_{GG}} \right)_{de} = A_{throat} \quad (5)$$

$$C_{GG}^* = \sqrt{\frac{RT_{GG}}{\kappa_{GG}} \left(\frac{\kappa_{GG} + 1}{2} \right)^{\frac{\kappa_{GG} + 1}{\kappa_{GG} - 1}}} \quad (6)$$

where A_{throat} and C_{GG}^* are turbine nozzle throat area and characteristic velocity at the turbine nozzle, respectively. A_{throat} is constant in both of on- and off- design conditions. As well as on-design condition, compressor work must be equal to the turbine work in off-design condition.

Based on equation (4) to (6), off-Design analysis procedures are done as follow.

1. Flight Mach number, altitude and actual rotational speed, N , are specified at first. N_C can be reduced. The compressor inlet conditions are calculated by air intake performance analysis, which is described in the next section.
2. π_{comp} and corrected air flow rate, m_{cor} , are determined by N_C and the compressor work can be determined.
3. The velocity ratio U/C_0 is given from N . The turbine efficiency, η_{turb} , is given from Fig.4. Turbine expansion ratio, π_{turb} , is assumed to be 5. GG combustion gas flow rate, \dot{m}_{GG} , and GG combustion pressure, P_{GG} , are determined by iterative procedure to satisfy compressor-turbine power balance and equation (6). The initial values of P_{GG} for iterative procedure are given by Table.1, which are also same as the maximum values of P_{GG} .
4. During this iterative procedure, P_{GG} must be less than its maximum value. If not, actual rotational speed, N , is reduced. Moreover, the turbine exit pressure, $P_{turb,ext}$, must be more than the ram combustor pressure, P_{ram} . If not, π_{turb} is reduced to be P_{GG}/P_{ram} .
5. Calculation is completed if the absolute relative approximate error of P_{GG} is less than 10^{-5} .

Figure 5 show the C_{GG}^* at the gas generator of those 4 fuels for $\pi_{comp} = 2.5$ as functions of T_{GG} . The conditions in Fig.5 are sea level static condition and the actual rotational speed, N , is on-design condition speed. C_{GG}^* of LH2 exceeds 2000 m/sec and has the highest among them because of its light molecular weight. C_{GG}^* of the other 3

fuels are ranged from 860 to 1500 m/sec

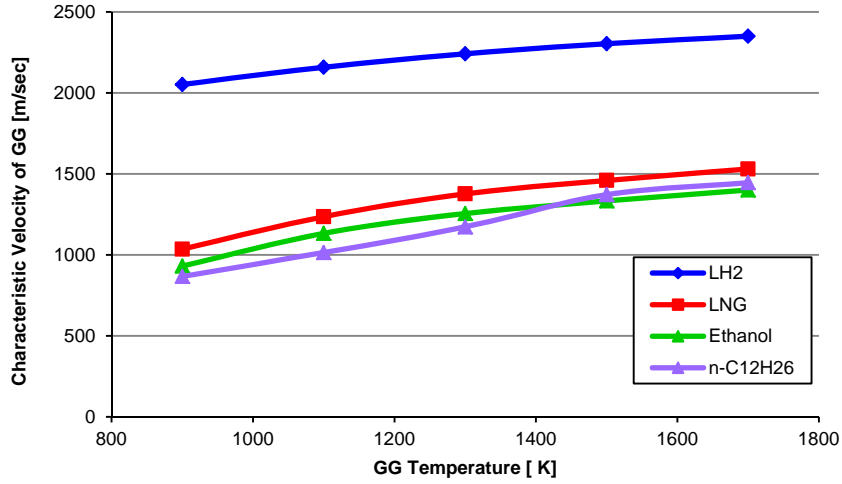


Figure 5 Characteristic Velocity at Gas Generator for $\pi_{comp} = 2.5$

2.4 Stationary components of GG-ATR engine analysis

Stationary component performances such as an intake duct, a ram combustor and a nozzle must be included in engine performance evaluation. The total temperature, $T_{T,atm}$ and pressure, $P_{T,atm}$, of the incoming air are given by static temperature, pressure and flight Mach number. The ram recovery of the air intake, π_{intake} , and the duct pressure recovery, π_{duct} , must be taken into account for total pressure at the compressor inlet. The ram recovery of the intake is expressed by MIL-E-5008B and the total pressure recovery at the duct, π_{duct} , is given as 0.96 and constant for on- and off-design condition analysis.

No heat losses are assumed from the ram combustor, the nozzle and the intake duct. Ram combustor temperature, T_{ram} , is evaluated by chemical equilibrium calculation under constant enthalpy-pressure condition. The pressure in the ram combustor, P_{ram} is given as the compressor exit pressure with 3 percent of total pressure loss. The initial enthalpies for the ram combustion are defined on the basis of the compressor exit temperature for air, and the turbine exit temperature for GG combustion gas. The third term in eq.(1) and (2) are the contributions due to the pressure difference. The pressure difference on the nozzle exit plane is depended on P_{ram} , the atmospheric pressure p_{atm} , and the nozzle expansion ratio, ε . In the present analysis, ε is varied with π_{comp} as listed in Table.1 to eliminate the effect of pressure differences due to π_{comp} . Under conditions of ε listed in table.1, the static pressure at the nozzle exit is approximately 40 kPa abs. in the sea-level static condition. This static pressure level is nearly equal to the limit to confine flow separation in the nozzle at the ground level. For those nozzle expansion ratios in table.1, the ram combustor gas can exhaust from the nozzle with optimum expansion at Mach 1.3 and 11km altitude. This flight condition is the typical transonic one. Therefore, nozzle expansion ratios listed

in Table.1 are reasonable in the view of practical application.

Table. 1 Nozzle expansion ratio ε and P_{GG} with π_{comp} .

π_{comp}	ε	P_{GG} [MPa]
2.0	1.40	10.8
2.5	1.60	13.5
3.0	1.75	16.2
4.0	2.10	21.6

Nozzle expansion flow is treated as chemical frozen flow for simplicity, which underestimates specific thrust and Isp. However, C^* efficiency, η_{c^*} at the throat of the ram combustor is assumed as 100 percent. Theoretical C^* is defined as equation (8).

$$C^* = \sqrt{\frac{RT_{ram}}{\kappa_{ram}} \left(\frac{\kappa_{ram} + 1}{2} \right)^{\frac{\kappa_{ram} + 1}{\kappa_{ram} - 1}}} \quad (8)$$

where κ_{ram} is the specific heat capacity ratio of the ram combustor gas. C^* efficiency, η_{c^*} is defined as the ratio of the actual characteristic velocity to theoretical ones. This assumption overestimates specific thrust and Isp. Those two assumptions are balanced each others.

2.5 Code Validation with Experimental Data of Air Turbo Ramjet Engine

The analytical code developed by the author is validated by comparison with the experimental data of Air Turbo Ramjet engine, which is obtained by Lilley et. al. (Ref.12). Hydrazine fueled monopropellant gas generator is equipped in their ATR engine, which utilized the catalyst to decompose hydrazine exothermically. In their test program, five different engine configurations were tested and the original engine configuration is designated as Build 1. The latest configuration in their program was designated as Build 5, which employs the improved ram combustor mixer. The analytical code is compared with the experimental result of Build 5 configuration in ref.12. The rotational speed of their ATR engine is 68000 rpm in on-design condition. The analytical results by the present code and the experimental data in ref.12 are compared in the range from 40000 to 68000 rpm, where specific rotational speed, N_S , is corresponded from 0.588 to 1.0.

The catalytic decomposition of hydrazine (N_2H_4) is done by two part reactions. The first part is exothermic reaction which all of N_2H_4 decomposes into N_2 and NH_3 . Some of NH_3 is converted into N_2 and H_2 by the endothermic secondary reaction. Conversion ratio of NH_3 into N_2 and H_2 determines turbine inlet temperature. Turbine inlet temperature is also given in ref.12. The catalytic decomposition process of N_2H_4 cannot be calculated by chemical equilibrium analysis, which is based on the Gibbs free energy minimization.

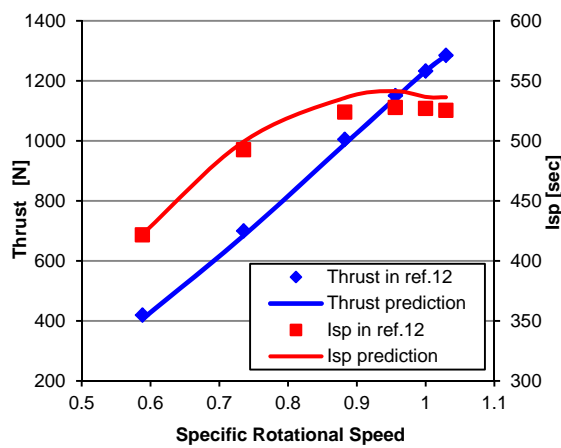


Figure 6 Analytical and Experimental Thrust and Isp of Hydrazine Fueled GG-ATR engine

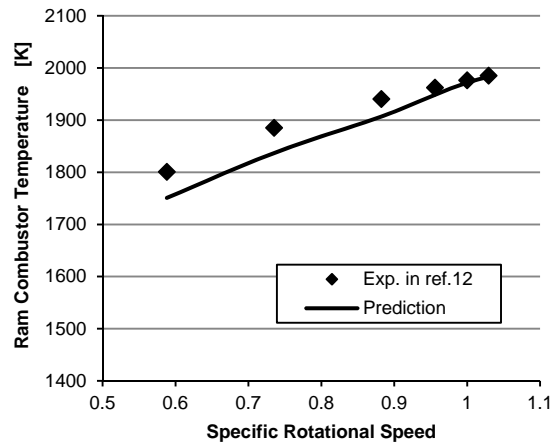


Figure 7 Analytical and Experimental Ram Combustor Temperature of Hydrazine Fueled GG-ATR engine

Figure 6 indicates thrust and Isp of hydrazine fueled ATR engine and compares the experimental and analytical results. The engine operation conditions, such as compressor pressure ratio, π_{comp} , compressor efficiency, η_{comp} , turbine expansion ratio, π_{turb} , turbine efficiency, η_{turb} , and turbine inlet temperature are described in ref.12 and those data are utilized in the present analysis. In ref.12, combustion efficiency at the ram combustor, η_{ram} is defined as the ratio of the experimental to theoretical temperature rise at the ram combustor. The present code validation also considers the combustion efficiency at the ram combustor. Unfortunately, ram combustor pressure ratio, π_{ram} , is not described in ref.12. If π_{ram} is assumed to be 0.88, which means the ram combustor pressure loss is assumed to be 12 percent of total pressure, the analytical predictions of thrust and Isp by the present code indicate good agreement with the experimental data as shown in Fig.6. Figure 7 indicates the analytical prediction and experimental data of the ram combustor temperature, T_{ram} .

For both of Isp and T_{ram} , the maximum errors between the analytical prediction and experimental data are less than 2.7 percent. The maximum error of thrust prediction is about 3.1 percent. Although thrust and Isp can be affected by π_{ram} , T_{ram} is nearly independent to π_{ram} and analytical T_{ram} agree well to the experimental ones. Therefore, the comparisons of analytical prediction to the experimental data in Fig.5 and Fig.6 show good accuracy of the present analytical code.

3. Analytical Result and Discussion

3.1 Specific Thrust and Ram Combustor Temperature

The influences of T_{GG} and P_{GG} on specific thrust and ram combustor temperature, T_{ram} , are investigated in this section. Although the extreme high T_{GG} condition is unrealistic because of excessive heat load on a turbine blade,

it is necessary to investigate in higher T_{GG} conditions to explore the thermodynamic mechanism of GG-ATR engine cycle.

Figure 8 indicates the specific thrusts for $\pi_{comp} = 2.5$ and 4.0 as functions of T_{GG} . As shown in Fig.8, LNG, Ethanol and n-C₁₂H₂₆ have the maximum specific thrust concerned with T_{GG} while specific thrust of LH2 is monotonically decreased as T_{GG} increases. For $\pi_{comp} = 2.5$, the maximum specific thrusts of LNG and ethanol exist at $T_{GG} = 1100\text{K}$ and that of n-C₁₂H₂₆ does at $T_{GG}=1300\text{K}$. For $\pi_{comp} = 4.0$, the maximum specific thrusts for those 3 fuels shift to higher T_{GG} than those for $\pi_{comp} = 2.5$. Specific thrust of LH2 is the largest among those 4 fuels except for some conditions. Specific thrusts of n-C₁₂H₂₆ and ethanol are contrastive with each other. For ethanol, the maximum specific thrust is located at $T_{GG} = 1100\text{K}$ while it is at $T_{GG}= 1300\text{K}$ or 1500K for n-C₁₂H₂₆. Specific thrust of ethanol is superior to n-C₁₂H₂₆, when T_{GG} is less than around 1300K , however, it turns to be smaller than n-C₁₂H₂₆ if T_{GG} exceeds this temperature. Specific thrusts of LNG have intermediate characteristics between ethanol and n-C₁₂H₂₆. Considering practical application of GG-ATR engine, lower T_{GG} is preferable because thermal limit of turbine blade material. Moreover, it is very difficult to provide film or transpiration cooling system to the turbine of GG-ATR engine because coolant for those cooling system is usually air and GG combustion gas is fuel-rich one. The limitation of T_{GG} may be less than 1100K without turbine cooling.

Figure 9 show the effect of π_{comp} on specific thrust. The larger π_{comp} is, the greater specific thrust can be obtained. For $T_{GG} = 1100\text{K}$, the differences of the specific thrusts among those 4 fuels become greater as π_{comp} is increased. The specific thrust of n-C₁₂H₂₆ is the smallest among them when π_{comp} is more than 2.5. For $T_{GG} = 1700\text{K}$, the specific thrusts for those 4 fuels extend in parallel as π_{comp} is increased. Ethanol has the smallest specific thrust among 4 fuels.

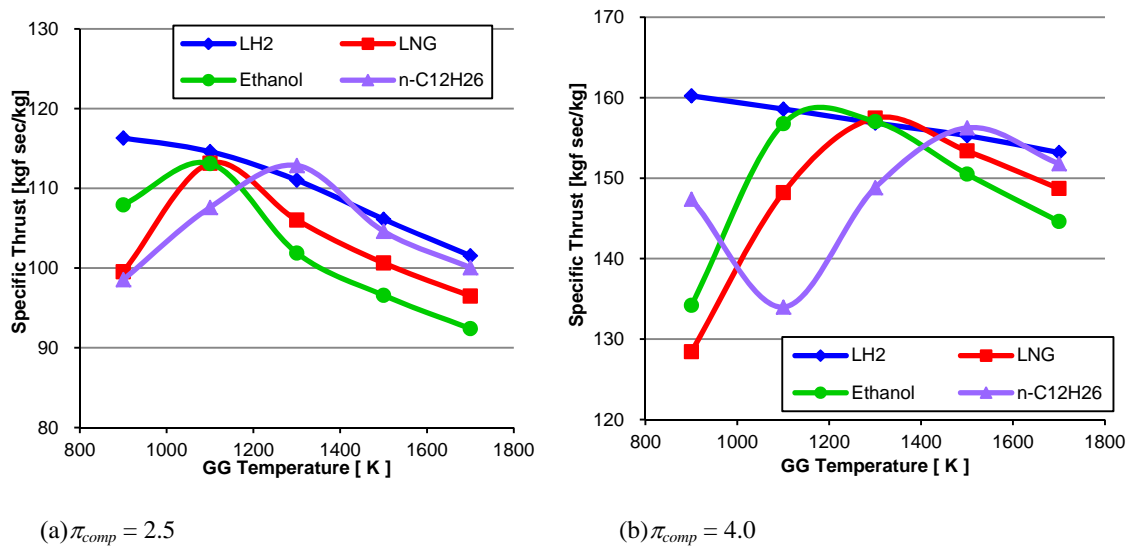
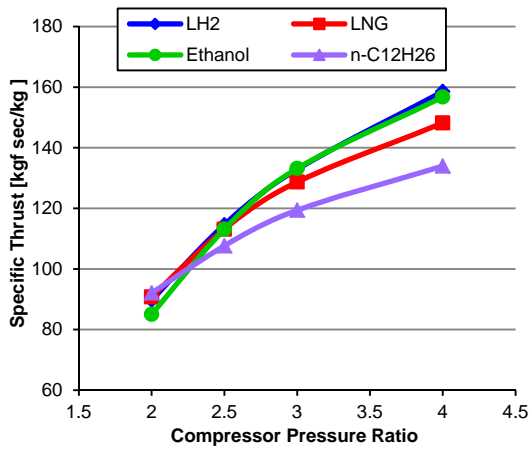
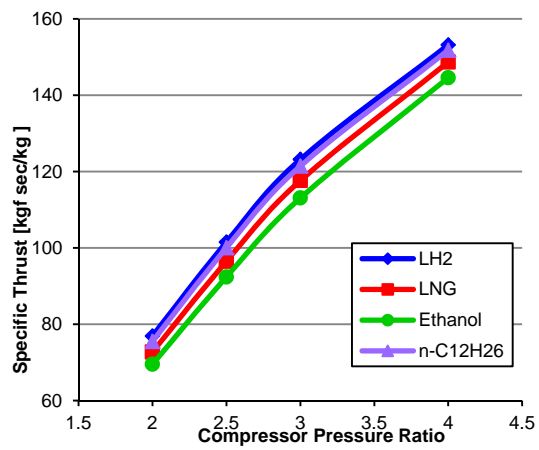


Figure 8 Specific thrusts as functions of T_{GG} for $\pi_{comp} = 2.5$ and 4.0

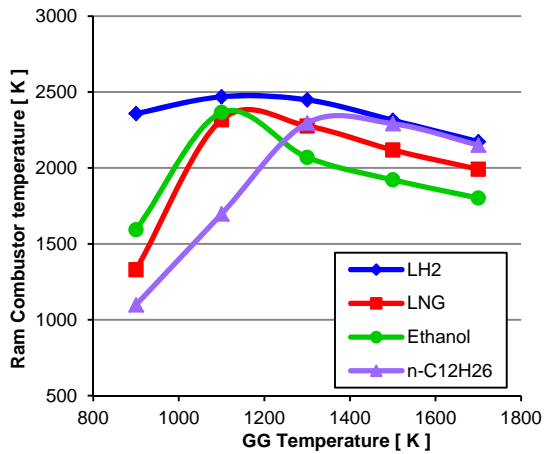


(a) $T_{GG}=1100K$

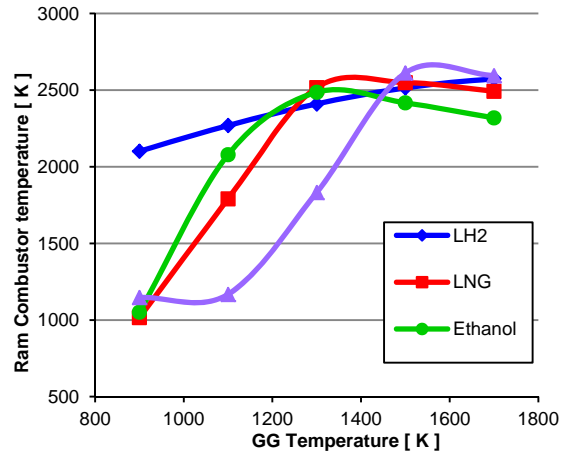


(b) $T_{GG}=1700K$

Figure 9 Specific thrusts as functions of π_{comp} for $T_{GG}=1100K$ and $1700K$



(a) $\pi_{comp} = 2.5$



(b) $\pi_{comp} = 4.0$

Figure 10 Ram Combustor Temperature T_{ram} as functions of T_{GG} for $\pi_{comp} = 2.5$ and 4.0

Figure 10 shows the ram combustor temperature, T_{ram} , as functions of T_{GG} for 4 fuels. π_{comp} are equal to 2.5 and 4.0. T_{ram} of those 4 fuels have the maximum values with T_{GG} . The mixing of GG combustion gas with the air is largely affected on the combustion efficiency and the ram combustor temperature, T_{ram} . Low mixing efficiency can decrease them, resulting of lower thrust and Isp. Mixing processes at the ram combustor are similar to that at an afterburner of turbojet engine. In the previous studies of combustion efficiencies at the ram combustor or the afterburner, reference 13 discusses about the combustion efficiency at the afterburner of TF30-P-3 turbofan engine, which is ranged from 68 to 91 percent. In Lilley's ATR engine test in ref.12, combustion efficiency at the ram combustor is about 80 percent. Therefore, those experimental studies imply that the combustion efficiency more than 90 percent requires very sophisticatedly designed mixer in the ram combustor. However, the present analysis focuses on the propellant characteristics and considers that mixing processes are depended on fluid dynamic

characteristics in the ram combustor, rather than chemical properties of propellants. Thus, it is assumed that mixing of GG combustion gas mix with the air is ideally completed. The maximum T_{ram} in Fig.10 indicates that stoichiometric combustion occurs at the ram combustor. Stoichiometric combustion in the ram combustor is depended on PAR in eq.(3), or the ratio of the combustible gas in GG combustion gas and the air. Both of T_{GG} and π_{comp} largely influence on PAR, which determines whether the ram combustion is fuel-rich or fuel lean conditions. Higher π_{comp} increase compression work, which requires higher T_{GG} or larger GG combustion gas flow rate. GG combustion gas is always burned in fuel-rich condition; therefore, the amounts of combustible gas species are decreased in the GG combustion gas if T_{GG} become higher. For those 4 fuels, T_{GG} with the maximum T_{ram} , move from lower side to higher side as π_{comp} increase.

The ram combustor gas is burned under fuel rich condition for lower T_{GG} than the maximum T_{ram} condition. On the other hand, fuel lean combustion is done for higher T_{GG} than the maximum T_{ram} . In the case of $\pi_{comp} = 2.5$, the maximum T_{ram} is located at $T_{GG}=1100\text{K}$ for LH2, LNG and ethanol and $T_{GG}=1300\text{K}$ for n-C₁₂H₂₆. As mentioned previously, applicable T_{GG} should be less than 1100K. If gas generator would be operated in the condition of $T_{GG}=1100\text{K}$, the ram combustion is done under nearly stoichiometric condition for LH2, LNG and ethanol and high T_{ram} can be achieved. However, for n-C₁₂H₂₆, the ram combustion is done under fuel rich condition, thus T_{ram} is significantly less than other 3 fuels. Low T_{ram} deteriorates specific thrust and Isp. This means that n-C₁₂H₂₆ fueled ram combustion gas contains unburned combustible gas and exhaust from the nozzle, which does not contribute to thrust production. If those combustible gases are burned and utilized to produce thrust, additional oxidizer needs to be injected into the ram combustor.

As comparing Fig.8 with Fig.10, higher T_{ram} roughly leads to larger specific thrust. However, T_{ram} is not always proportional to specific thrust. For example, in the case of $\pi_{comp} = 4.0$, the specific thrust of LH2 is monotonously decreased as T_{GG} is increased while T_{ram} is monotonously increased. The key factors to determine the specific thrust are T_{ram} , PAR and the heat capacity at constant pressure in ram combustor, $C_{P,ram}$. If T_{GG} is lower, PAR is increased as indicated in eq.(3). Larger PAR causes fuel rich combustion in the ram combustor and increases $C_{P,ram}$ because light molecular weight species are much contained in the ram combustor gas. Even if T_{ram} is reduced by larger PAR, the term of $C_{P,ram}T_{ram}$ is nearly constant and ranged from 4.80MJ/kg to 4.94MJ/kg, where T_{GG} is from 900K to 1700K. In addition, larger PAR at lower T_{GG} can contribute to increase the specific thrust as indicated in eq.(1). That is why specific thrust and T_{ram} of LH2 show the contrary behaviors in Fig.8 and Fig.10. Another remarkable disagreement of specific thrust and T_{ram} is those of n-C₁₂H₂₆ for $\pi_{comp}=4.0$ and $T_{GG}=900\text{K}$. The specific thrust of n-C₁₂H₂₆ in this condition is apparently greater than that at $T_{GG} = 1100\text{K}$, however, T_{ram} at $T_{GG}=1100\text{K}$ is nearly equal to T_{ram} at $T_{GG}=900\text{K}$. As well as the above mentioned case, PAR become larger at $T_{GG}=900\text{K}$. In addition, if PAR is too large, the ram combustion is inclined to fuel-rich condition,

resulting of reduced T_{ram} . The mass flow rate of the GG combustion gas is increased and contributes to increase specific thrust. Those results indicate that the specific thrust of GG-ATR engine involves T_{ram} , PAR and $C_{P,ram}$ complicatedly.

3.2 Analyses of Isp and GG combustion gas for GG-ATR engine

Specific impulse, Isp, is one of the most important parameter to evaluate aerospace propulsion performance. GG-ATR engine also has a tradeoff between specific thrust and Isp as well as other aerospace propulsion engines. From the viewpoint of engine design, Isp should be at the maximum while meeting various design constraints, such as the engine size, thrust level and life time.

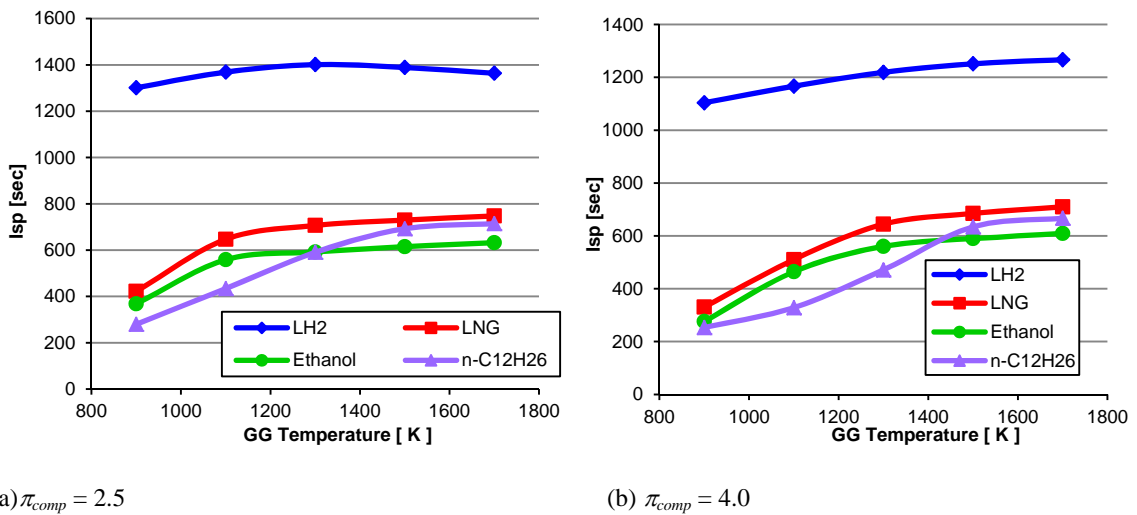


Figure 11 Specific Impulse of GG-ATR engine as function of T_{GG} for $\pi_{comp} = 2.5$ and 4.0

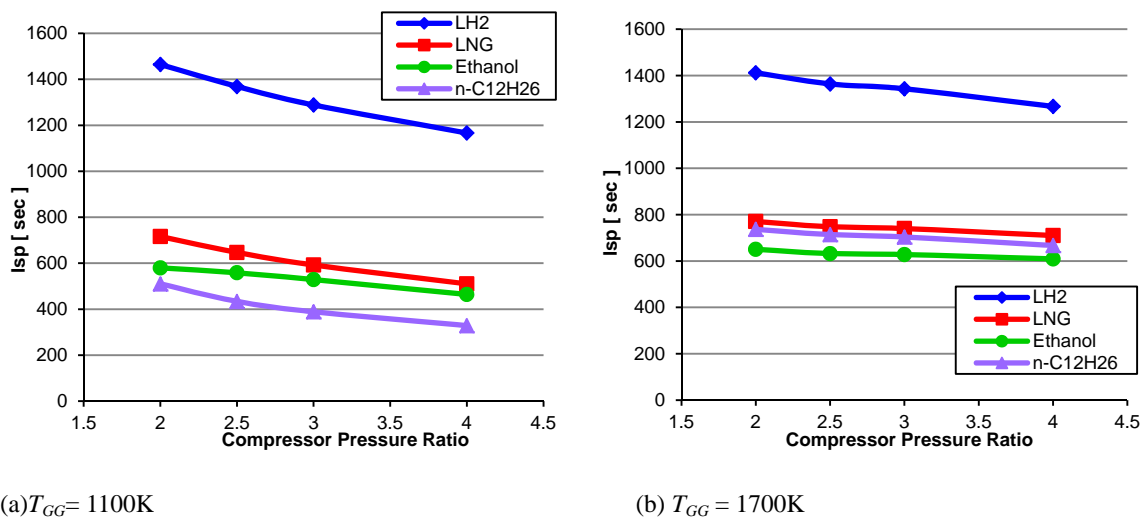


Figure 12 Specific Impulse of GG-ATR engine as function of π_{comp} for $T_{GG} = 1100K$ and 1700K

Figure.11 shows Isp of GG-ATR engine as functions of T_{GG} , for $\pi_{comp} = 2.5$ and 4.0 and Figure 12 indicates

those as functions of π_{comp} for $T_{GG} = 1100\text{K}$ and 1700K . In Fig.11, Isp for LNG, ethanol and n-C₁₂H₂₆ are monotonically increased as T_{GG} increases. On the other hands, Isp of LH2 has the maximum value where T_{GG} is 1300K for $\pi_{comp} = 2.5$. In Fig.12, Isp is inversely proportional to compressor pressure ratio, π_{comp} . Isp at $T_{GG}=1100\text{K}$ is more rapidly decreased than at $T_{GG}=1700\text{K}$, as π_{comp} increases.

LH2 has the highest Isp among those fuels and LNG has the second highest one. For storable fuel, Isp of Ethanol is higher than n-C₁₂H₂₆ when T_{GG} is less than 1300K . This tendency is also appeared in Fig.12. Isp of ethanol is greater than n-C₁₂H₂₆ for $T_{GG} = 1100\text{K}$ in any π_{comp} conditions. On the other hand, for $T_{GG} = 1700\text{K}$, ethanol has lower Isp than n-C₁₂H₂₆ for $T_{GG} = 1700\text{K}$. The magnitude order of Isp mainly depends on T_{GG} rather than π_{comp} . T_{GG} should be less than 1100K because of thermal limitation of turbine blade. It is very surprising that ethanol is superior to n-C₁₂H₂₆ for practical application of GG-ATR engine, although ethanol has only two-thirds specific heat release of n-C₁₂H₂₆. Specific heat release of fuel is crucial to Isp of rocket and aero- engine. Actually, Isp is proportional to specific heat release for a conventional turbojet or a turbo fan engine (ref.14). That is one of the reasons that ethanol has been hardly used for aero-engine fuel. However, the results in Fig.11 and 12 indicate that GG-ATR engine is not subject to this proportional relation and ethanol is promising fuel for GG-ATR engine. This characteristic of GG-ATR engine is quite different from a conventional turbojet engine. To investigate the mechanism of Isp of those 4 fuels, propellant-to-air ratio, PAR for $\pi_{comp} = 2.5$ and 4.0 are shown in Figure.13, as functions of T_{GG} . In general, all of PAR are inversely proportional to T_{GG} . As compared to Isp in Fig.11, the larger PAR is, the greater Isp can be obtained. As same as Isp in Fig.11, the results of PAR also show the reversal behaviors between ethanol and n-C₁₂H₂₆ around $T_{GG} = 1300\text{K}$ and 1500K , in Fig.13. This reversal behavior of PAR affects on that of Isp.

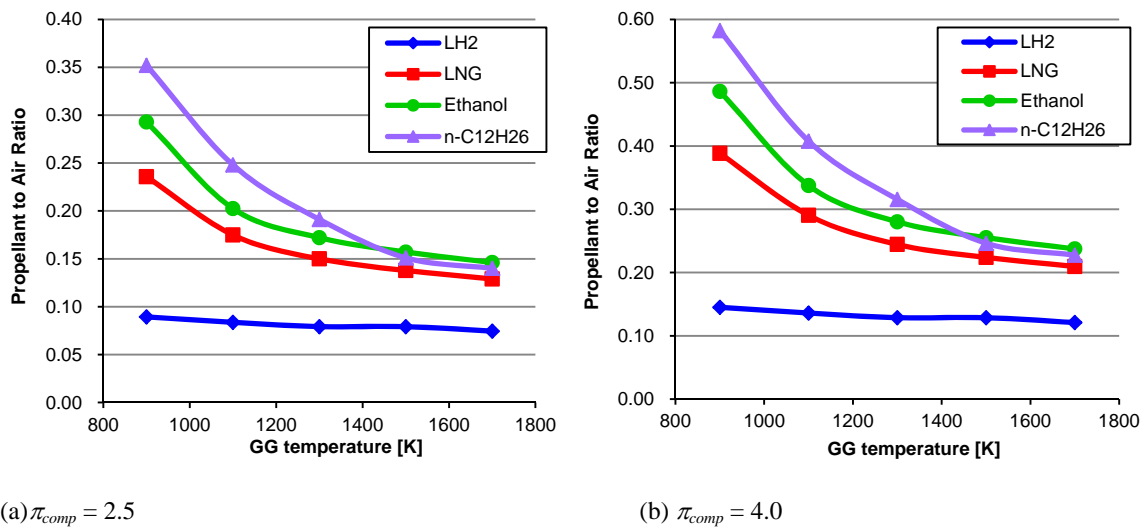
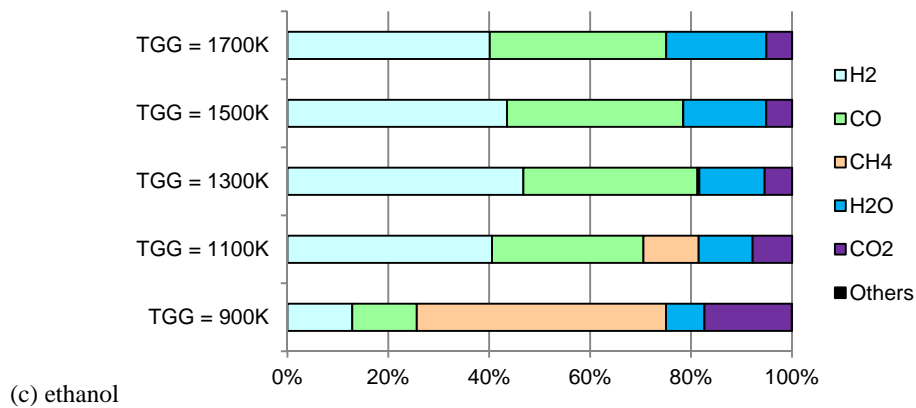
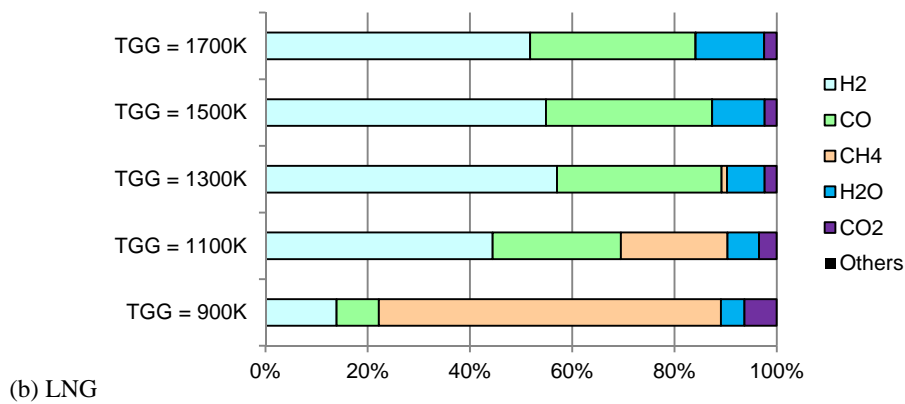
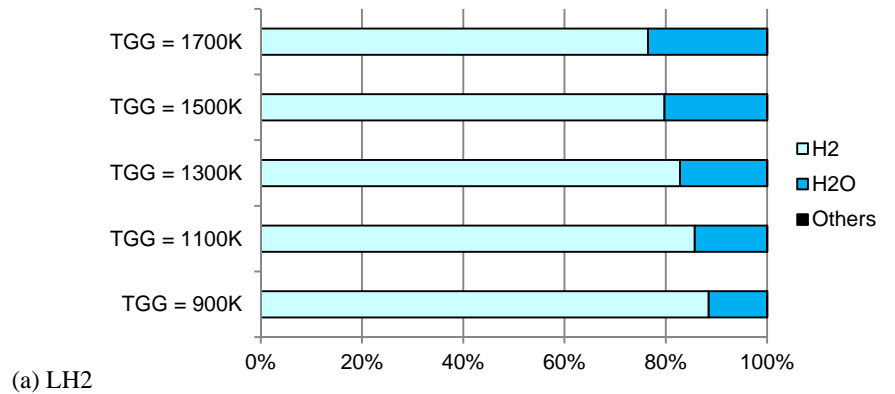


Figure 13 Propellant-to-Air Ratio for $\pi_{comp}=2.5$ and 4.0

The chemical compositions of GG combustion gas are also investigated to clarify those reversal manners. Figure 14 indicates the mole fractions of GG combustion gases for $\pi_{comp}=2.5$. Chemical equilibrium calculations for GG combustion make clear that the main chemical species of those gases are H_2 , CO , CH_4 , H_2O and CO_2 in the cases of hydrocarbon fuels, while those are composed of H_2 and vapor for LH2. LH2 has the highest mole fraction of H_2 in those 4 fuels and it is nearly equal to 80 percent or more. LNG has the second highest mole fraction of H_2 . The mole fraction of H_2 for LH2 is decreased as T_{GG} becomes higher. The presence of H_2 in GG combustion gas contributes to high C_p , and therefore, plays a major role in reducing PAR.



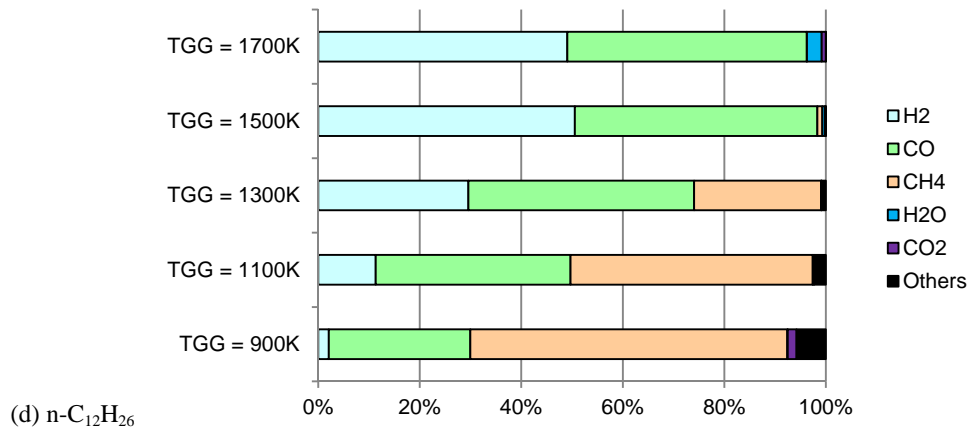


Figure 14 Chemical compositions of GG combustion gas for $\pi_{comp} = 2.5$

In the cases of LNG and ethanol, the mole fraction of H₂ at $T_{GG}=900\text{K}$ is much lower than LH₂, however, those are increased to about 40 percent at $T_{GG}=1100\text{K}$ and reach to the maximum at $T_{GG}=1300\text{K}$, which are equal to 57 and 46.7 percent for LNG and ethanol, respectively. The mole fractions of CH₄ are 66.9 percent and 49.4 percent at $T_{GG}=900\text{K}$ for LNG and ethanol, respectively. They are dramatically decreased as T_{GG} increases and disappeared at $T_{GG} = 1300\text{K}$. The combustible gas species in GG gas are H₂ and CO when T_{GG} is more than 1300K. Total amounts of mole fractions of H₂O and CO₂ are about 10-15 percent for LNG and about 20 percent for ethanol. The amounts of species other than H₂, CO, CH₄, H₂O and CO₂ are negligible.

For n-C₁₂H₂₆, the chemical species in the GG combustion gas are almost same with those for LNG and ethanol, however, the temperature dependencies of those chemical species are different from them. At $T_{GG}=900\text{K}$, only 2.0 percent mole fraction of H₂ is contained in GG combustion gas. The mole fraction of H₂ remains to 11.3 percent at $T_{GG}=1100\text{K}$ and 29.6 percent at $T_{GG}=1300\text{K}$, which is lower than that of ethanol. However, it comes up to 50.6 percent at $T_{GG}=1500\text{K}$. This H₂ mole fraction exceeds that for ethanol at the same T_{GG} . The mole fraction of CH₄ is 62.5 percent at $T_{GG}=900\text{K}$ and reduce to 47.7, 25.0 and 0.01 percent at $T_{GG}=1100$, 1300 and 1500K, respectively. At $T_{GG}=1500\text{K}$, more than 98 mole percent of GG combustion gas are H₂ and CO. Chemical species other than H₂, CH₄, CO, H₂O and CO₂ are heavy hydrocarbon species, such as C₂H₄, C₂H₆, benzene, toluene, styrene, naphthalene and biphenyl. Total amount of those species are 5.7 percent by mole at $T_{GG}=900\text{K}$ and 2.2 percent at $T_{GG}=1100\text{K}$.

The reversal characteristics of Isp and PAR at $T_{GG}=1300\text{K}$ in Fig.11 and 13 are caused by the change of chemical species distribution. Under $T_{GG}=1300\text{K}$, the chemical species in GG combustion gas of n-C₁₂H₂₆ are mainly heavier molecules, CO and CH₄, resulting of larger molecular weight of GG combustion gas. On the other hand, GG combustion gas of ethanol contains more H₂ than n-C₁₂H₂₆, which means smaller molecular weight of GG combustion gas. GG combustion gas with low molecular weight provides turbine work more efficiently. Therefore, turbine work of ethanol can be extracted from GG combustion more efficiently than that of n-C₁₂H₂₆. If

T_{GG} is more than 1500K, GG combustion gas of n-C₁₂H₂₆ has mainly H₂ and CO. Especially, the presence of H₂ in GG combustion gas of n-C₁₂H₂₆ is more than that of ethanol and can reduced its molecular weight, resulting of larger turbine work. That is the reason why Isp and PAR of ethanol are reversed with those of n-C₁₂H₂₆ at $T_{GG}=1300K$.

Generally speaking, LH2 has the highest Isp and the largest specific thrust among 4 fuels. LNG has the second highest Isp. As previously mentioned, those two cryogenic fuels have low density and difficulties of handling. Considering of the drawbacks of cryogenic fuels, storable fuels are preferred. If storable fuel would be employed for GG-ATR engine, ethanol is considered to be more promising fuel than aviation kerosene because Isp of ethanol is superior to that of n-C₁₂H₂₆ when T_{GG} is under 1300K. T_{GG} should be lower than this temperature due to thermal limitation of turbine blade.

3.3 Thermal Efficiency of GG-ATR engine

Besides of specific thrust and Isp, thermal efficiency is also the parameter to evaluate propulsion performance. The thermal efficiency of GG-ATR engine is defined as equation (9).

$$\eta_{th} = \frac{\dot{m}_{Air} \left[(1+f) \frac{V_{ext}^2}{2} - \frac{V^2}{2} \right]}{\dot{m}_{fuel} h} = \frac{(1+f) \frac{V_{ext}^2}{2} - \frac{V^2}{2}}{\frac{f}{1+r_{OF}} h} \quad (9)$$

where h and r_{OF} are specific heat release of fuel and oxidizer to fuel ratio at gas generator, respectively. f is PAR defined in eq.(3). This definition of thermal efficiency is similar to that of a conventional turbojet engine, however, PAR in eq.(9) includes the oxidizer flow rate. The denominator of the equation (9) indicates specific heat release of fuel. As mentioned previously, fuel of GG-ATR engine burns in two stages. At the first stage, the fuel is burnt in the gas generator and its thermal energy is utilized to drive the turbine. Secondary, the rest of fuel is burnt with air at the ram combustor. For both combustion, the fuel reacts with oxygen, therefore, h can be evaluated as the specific heat release of fuel and oxygen combustion.

Figure 15 indicates thermal efficiency of GG-ATR engine at sea level static condition for $\pi_{comp} = 2.5$ and 4.0, respectively. The rotational speed of the engine is the on-design condition speed. The higher T_{GG} condition, the greater thermal efficiency can be achieved. In the case of $\pi_{comp} = 2.5$, Ethanol has the largest thermal efficiency and LNG has the second largest among those 4 fuels for T_{GG} more than 1100K. However, for LNG, ethanol and n-C₁₂H₂₆, thermal efficiency is significantly decreased at $T_{GG}=900K$. Figure 16 shows H₂ and CO mole fraction in the ram combustor gas. If the ram combustion is done at fuel rich condition, mole fractions of those species increase. Existences of H₂ and CO in the ram combustor gas indicate that unburned fuel is remained. Those

unburned fuel make thermal efficiency reduced. Generally, H_2 and CO mole fractions for $\pi_{comp} = 4.0$ are greater than those for $\pi_{comp} = 2.5$. The result in Fig.15 can explain why the reason the highest thermal efficiency of ethanol as indicated in Fig.15. For T_{GG} more than 1100K, H_2 and CO mole fractions for ethanol are less than those for other 3 fuels.

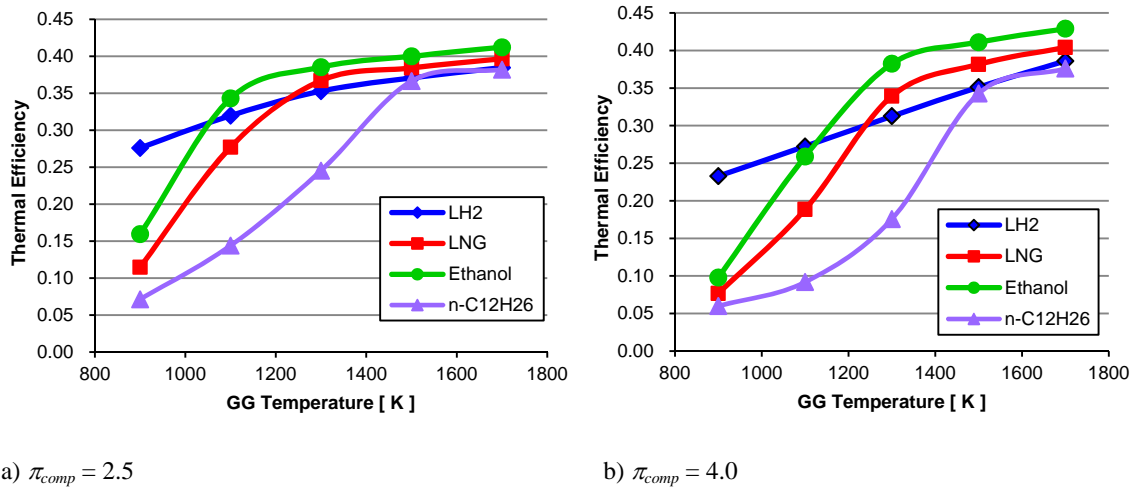


Figure 15 Thermal efficiency of GG-ATR engine for $\pi_{comp} = 2.5$ and 4.0 .

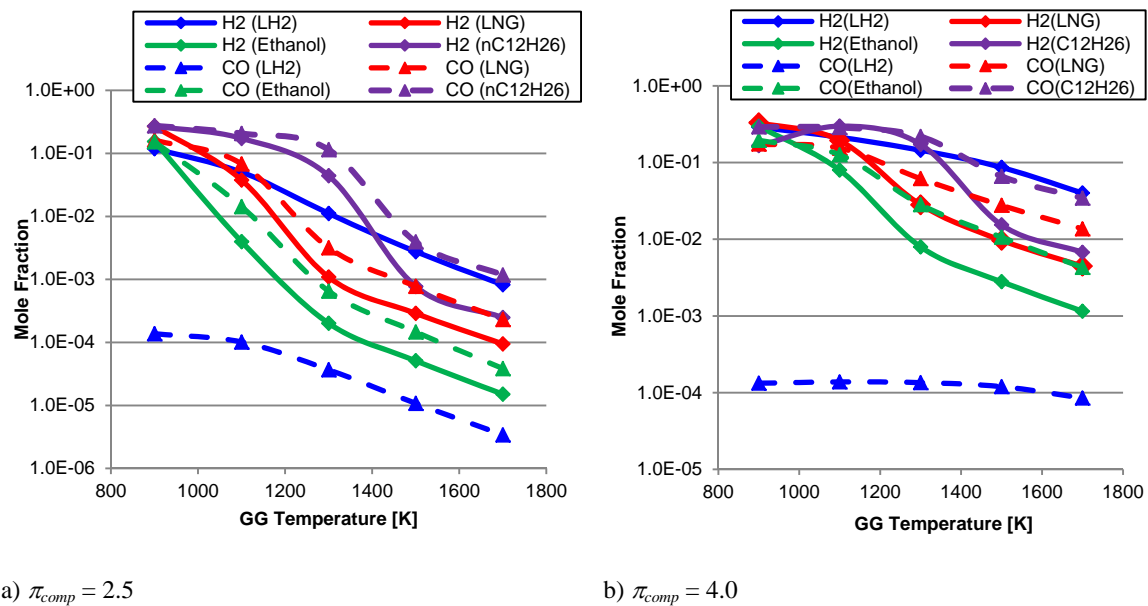


Figure 16 Mole Fraction of H_2 and CO in Ram Combustor for $\pi_{comp} = 2.5$ and 4.0 .

3.4 Off-Design Performances of GG-ATR engine

The previous sections discuss only analytical results in on-design condition and can indicate the ethanol superiority to $n-C_{12}H_{26}$ for lower T_{GG} condition. However, the advantage of ethanol fuel should be verified in off-design conditions. In the present section, π_{comp} and T_{GG} are fixed to 2.5 and 1100 K, respectively. Those are

assumed to be actual conditions of π_{comp} and T_{GG} for the author's GG-ATR engine. Figure 17 and 18 show the specific thrust and Isp as functions of specific actual rotational speed, N_s , at sea level static condition, respectively. The specific thrust of ethanol is more rapidly decreased than other 3 fuels. As N_s decrease less than 0.8, Isp of ethanol is reduced and nearly equal to that of n-C₁₂H₂₆. The superiority of ethanol to n-C₁₂H₂₆ is valid only at N_s greater than 0.85.

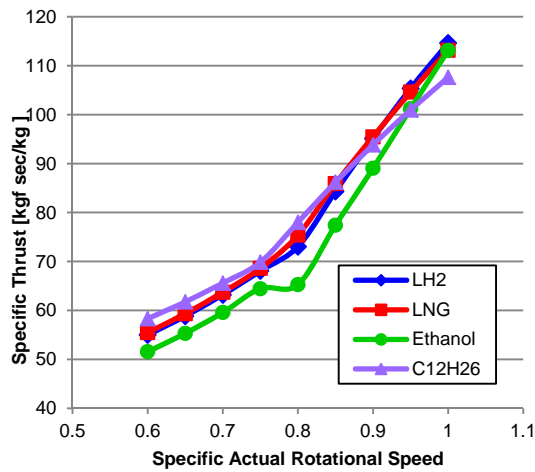


Figure 17 Specific Thrusts as function of N_s

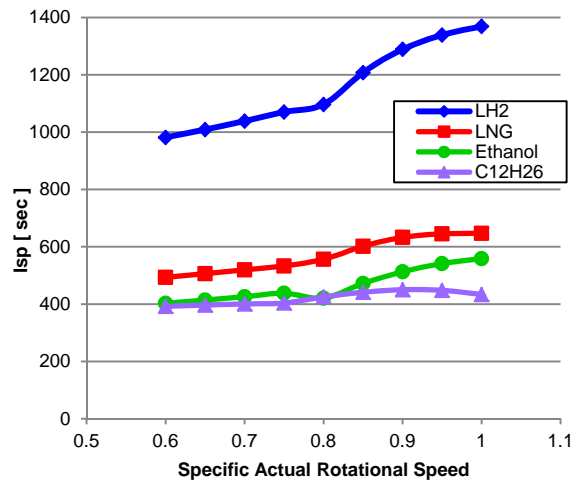


Figure 18 Isp as function of N_s

Figure 19 shows the ram combustor temperature, T_{ram} , at sea level static condition as function of N_s . T_{ram} of ethanol is monotonically decreased as N_s increases, while, that of n-C₁₂H₂₆ is monotonically increased. As discussed about T_{ram} in Fig.10, ram combustion of n-C₁₂H₂₆ for $N_s = 1.0$ is fuel-rich condition. As N_s is reduced, the compressor pressure ratio, π_{comp} , is decreased. This situation leads the ram combustion of n-C₁₂H₂₆ from fuel-rich to stoichiometric condition. On the other hand, the ram combustion of ethanol for $N_s=1.0$ is fuel lean condition. The reduction of N_s lets the ram combustion to be in further fuel lean condition. Those are the reason that the superiority of ethanol to n-C₁₂H₂₆ is disappeared for N_s less than 0.8.

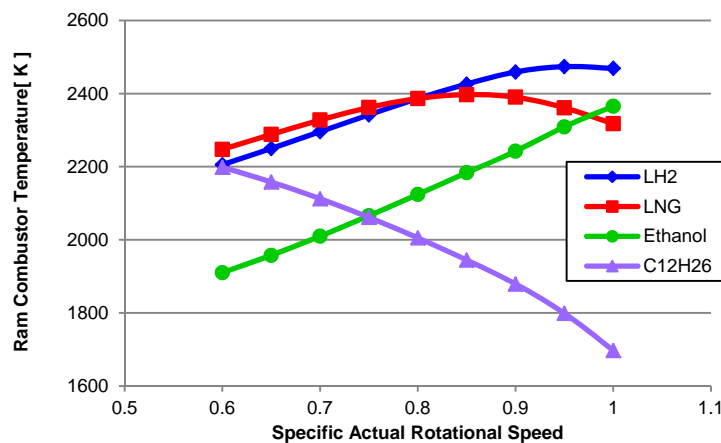


Figure 19 Ram Combustor Temperature as function of N_s at Sea level static condition

To investigate flight capability of GG-ATR engine, it is necessary to evaluate its performance along the flight trajectory. Figure 20 shows the expected flight trajectory of the supersonic UAV at Muroran Institute of Technology. This UAV is planning to take off at Mach 0.3 and travel along the 25 kPa constant dynamic pressure trajectory in more than Mach 0.7.

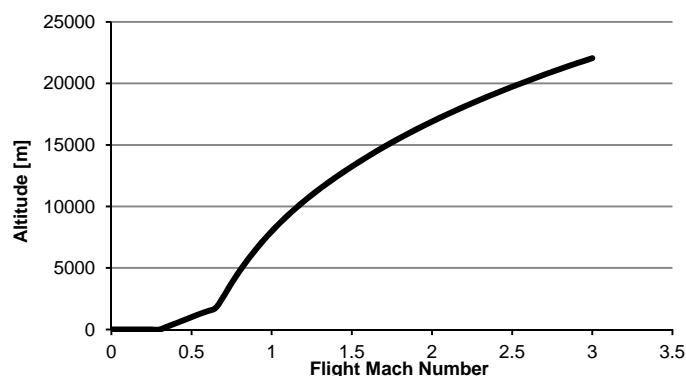


Figure 20 Expected Flight Trajectory of Supersonic UAV at Muroran Inst. of Tech.

The specific thrust and Isp along this trajectory are shown in Figure 21 and 22, respectively. In those figures, the actual rotational speed, N , keeps to on-design condition speed along this trajectory. O/F ratio at the gas generator is also constant because T_{GG} should keep constant. π_{comp} and T_{GG} are 2.5 and 1100 K at Mach 0.0, respectively, however, π_{comp} is varied with the flight condition. Both specific thrust and Isp are maximum from Mach 1.5 to 2.0. The magnitude relations of specific thrust and Isp among those 4 fuels are almost invariant along the flight trajectory.

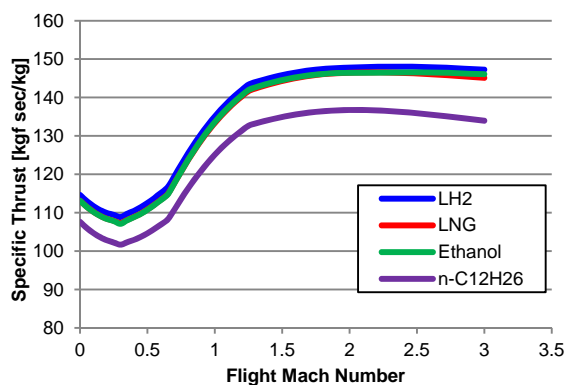


Figure 21 Specific Thrust along Flight Trajectory

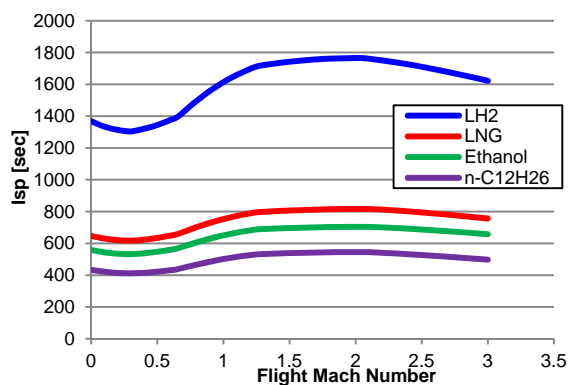


Figure 22 Isp along Flight Trajectory

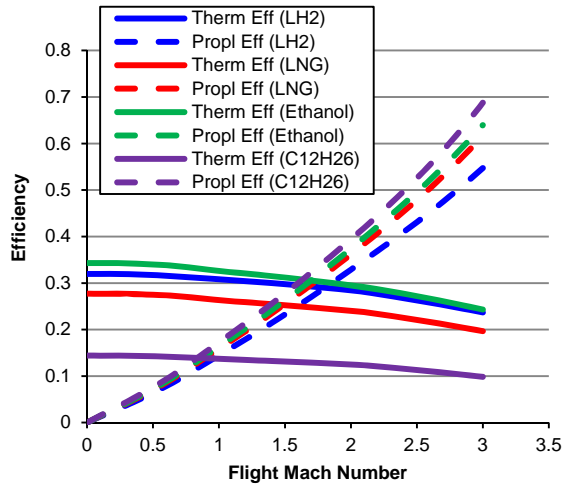


Figure 23 Thermal and Propulsive Efficiencies along Flight Trajectory

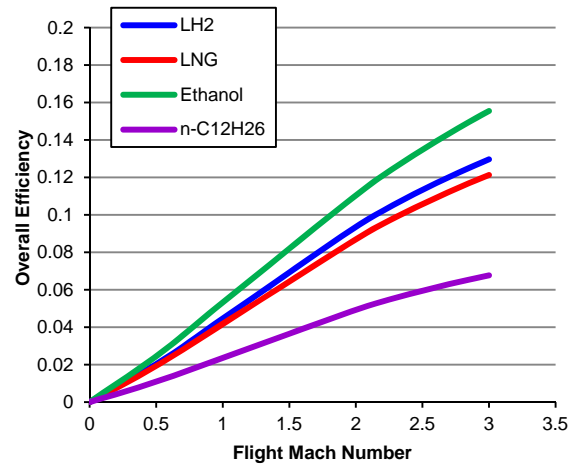


Figure 24 Overall Efficiency along Flight Trajectory

Finally, thermal, propulsive and overall efficiencies of GG-ATR engine along this flight trajectory are shown in Figure 23 and 24. As shown in Fig.15, Figure 23 also shows that thermal efficiency of $n\text{-C}_{12}\text{H}_{26}$ is significantly lower than other 3 fuels for $\pi_{comp} = 2.5$ and $T_{GG} = 1100\text{K}$. On the other hand, ethanol has the largest thermal efficiency among those 4 fuels as well as Fig.15. The thermal efficiencies in Fig.23 largely affects on the overall efficiencies in Fig.24. Thus, ethanol has the largest overall efficiency among those 4 fuels. Those results also imply the superiority of ethanol fuel to $n\text{-C}_{12}\text{H}_{26}$ for GG-ATR engine fuel.

4. Conclusion

Propulsion performance analyses are conducted for GG-ATR engine to investigate preferable propellant. In the present study, LH2, LNG, ethanol and $n\text{-C}_{12}\text{H}_{26}$ are the object of investigation while LOX is specified to the oxidizer. The results are summarized as follow.

1. Specific thrusts are roughly proportional to the ram combustor temperature, T_{ram} . In the case of $\pi_{comp}=2.5$, the maximum specific thrust of ethanol exists at $T_{GG}=1100\text{K}$ and that for $n\text{-C}_{12}\text{H}_{26}$ exists at $T_{GG}=1300\text{K}$, where stoichiometric combustion is considered to be occurred. T_{GG} should be less than 1100K, because of thermal limitation of turbine blade. In such T_{GG} condition, ethanol has larger specific thrust than $n\text{-C}_{12}\text{H}_{26}$.

2. LH2 has the highest Isp among those 4 fuels and LNG has the second highest one. For storable fuels, ethanol has higher Isp than $n\text{-C}_{12}\text{H}_{26}$ for T_{GG} less than 1300K, although ethanol has only two-thirds of specific heat release of $n\text{-C}_{12}\text{H}_{26}$. Ethanol is storable and easy handling fuel. T_{GG} should be less than 1100K, due to thermal limitation of turbine blade. Thus, ethanol is more promising fuel than aviation kerosene for GG-ATR engine from the viewpoint of practical application. Moreover, the thermal efficiency of ethanol fuel is the greatest among those 4 fuels in on-design point condition.

3. At $T_{GG} = 1500\text{K}$, main chemical species of GG combustion gas for n-C₁₂H₂₆ are H₂ and CO. H₂ mole fraction of it reaches to more than 50 percent, which is higher than that for ethanol at the same T_{GG} condition. High H₂ concentration in GG combustion gas plays role in reducing its molecular weight and increase Isp. However, at $T_{GG} = 1100\text{K}$, GG combustion gas for n-C₁₂H₂₆ are mainly composed of CH₄ and CO. H₂ mole fraction contains only 11.3 percent in GG combustion gas, while those for ethanol are more than 40 percent. These facts indicate that PAR of ethanol is lower than that of n-C₁₂H₂₆, resulting of higher Isp of ethanol.

4. The off-design analysis reveals that Isp of ethanol at sea-level static condition is nearly equal to that of n-C₁₂H₂₆ when specific actual rotational speed, N_s , is less than 0.8. In on-design point condition, ram combustion of n-C₁₂H₂₆ is highly fuel rich condition, however, it becomes to stoichiometric combustion for low N_s condition, resulting of improvement of Isp. On the other hand, in the flight condition, Isp of ethanol fueled GG-ATR engine is superior to that of n-C₁₂H₂₆ along the expected flight trajectory, if $N_s = 1.0$. In addition, overall efficiency of ethanol fueled GG-ATR engine is the greatest among 4 fuels along this flight trajectory. This fact also indicates the superiority of ethanol to n-C₁₂H₂₆ for GG-ATR engine application.

Conflict of interest statement

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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