

Leading the Way in Propulsion for 25 Years



PROPULSION RESEARCH CENTER
THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA IN HUNTSVILLE



<http://prc.uah.edu>



Propulsion Research and Academic Programs² at the University of Alabama in Huntsville

Dr. Robert A. Frederick, Jr.

Director, UAH Propulsion Research Center
Professor of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering

Dr. Phillip M. Ligrani

Eminent Scholar in Propulsion
Professor of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering

Dr. Dale Thomas

Eminent Scholar in Systems Engineering
Professor of Industrial and Systems Engineering

The University of Alabama in Huntsville

<http://prc.uah.edu>



Objectives:

- Present PRC Progress and Achievements

Scope:

- PRC Metrics
- Academic Programs
- Research Capabilities/Achievements 2016-17
- Future Directions



The University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) 4



UAH Research Institute Groundbreaking

Major General Francis Morrow, Dr. Werner von Braun, Research Institute Director John Patterson, and Alabama Governor, John Patterson
December 20, 1962

- 1961, Alabama legislature granted \$3 million to seed the UAH Research Institute which grew into the University of Alabama in Huntsville
- 1991, UAH Forms a Propulsion Research Center which focuses propulsion activities into one research business unit
- 2016, PRC 25th Anniversary



- 2016, UAH Achieves
 - Over 80 million/year in research expenditures
 - 40 Ph.D.'s. and 350 Master's students
 - Top 10 Federally-funded Aero and Astro Engineering

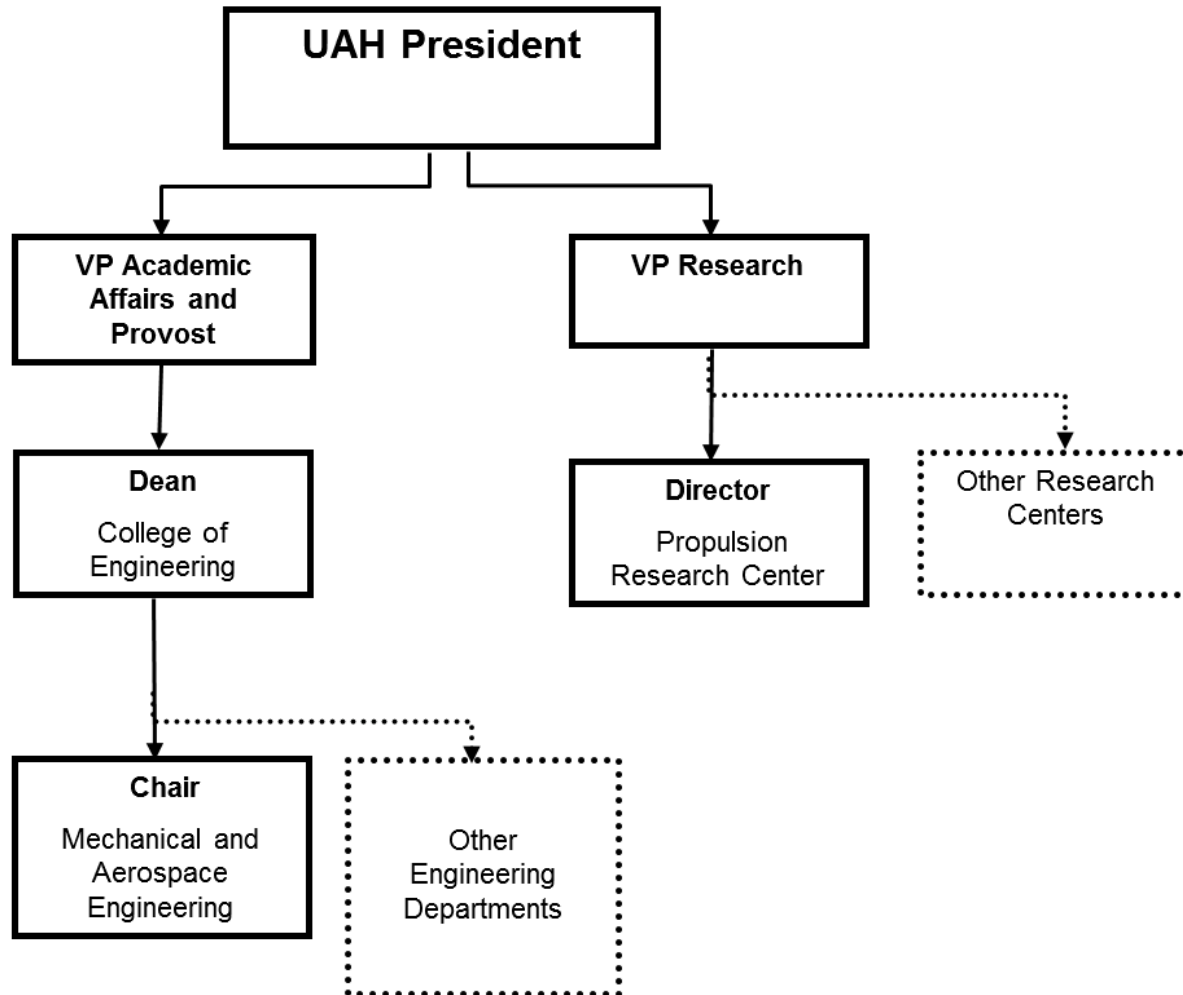


Mission and Strategy

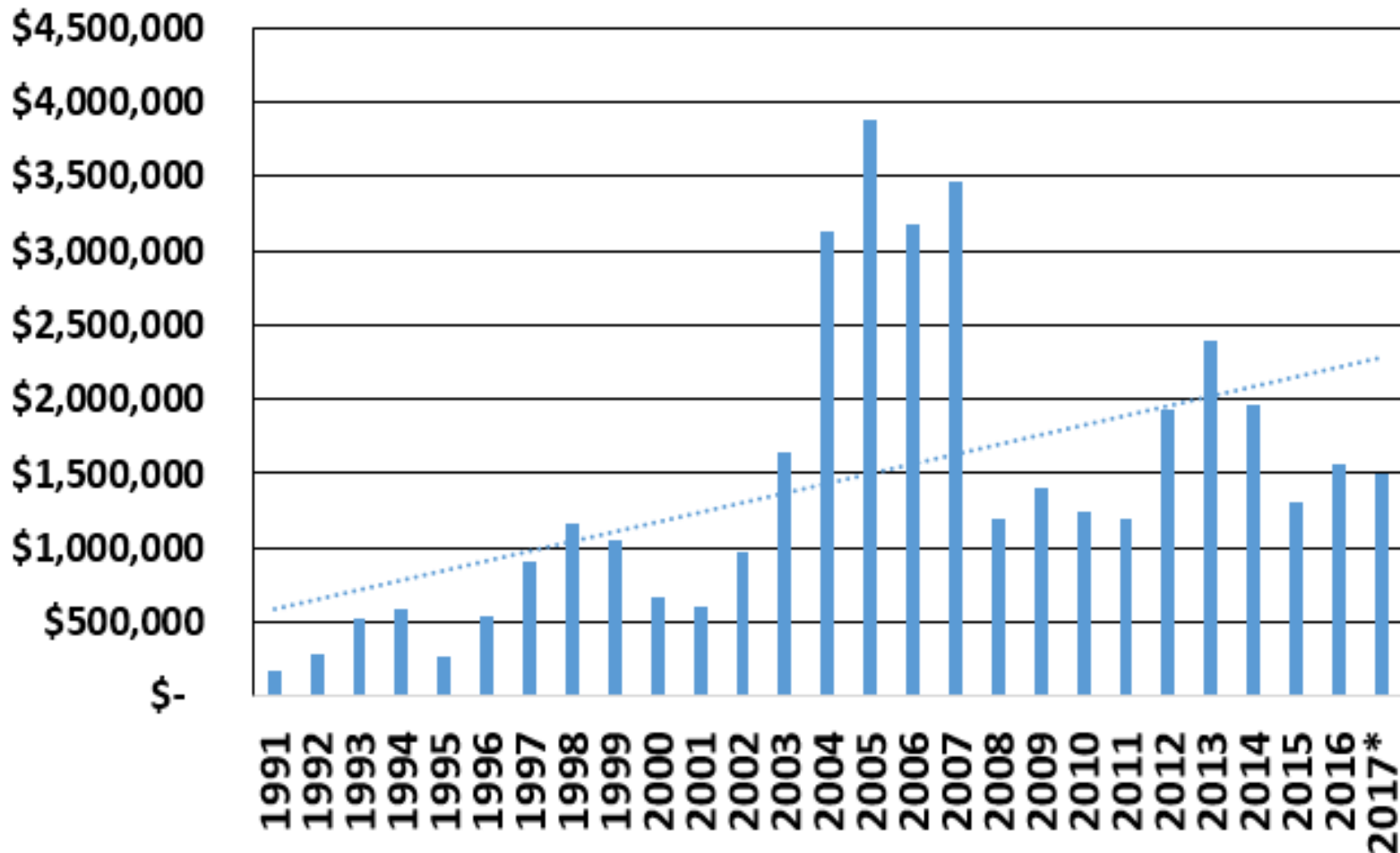
- The PRC was established to provide an environment that connects the academic research community with the needs and concerns of the propulsion community, while promoting an interdisciplinary approach to solving propulsion problems.
- Collaborative Research Groups: Academia, Industry, Government
- Integrate a High-Quality Education with Scholarly Research Activity
 - Seek those externally funded efforts that would provide graduate students with material for theses and dissertations
 - Provide hands-on research opportunities and laboratories for the students
 - Develop new courses in propulsion and energy



Administrative Organization



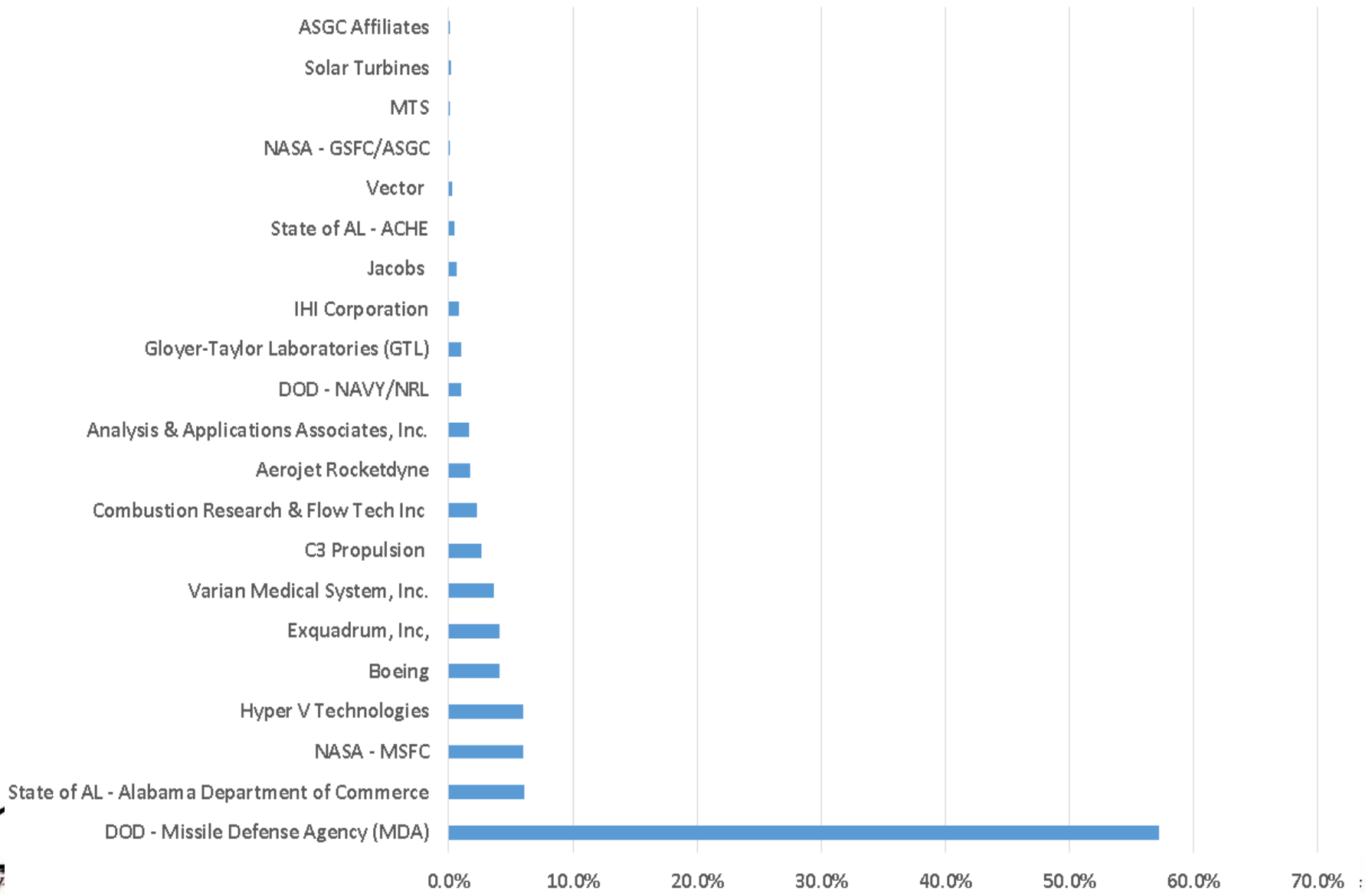
PRC Expenditure History



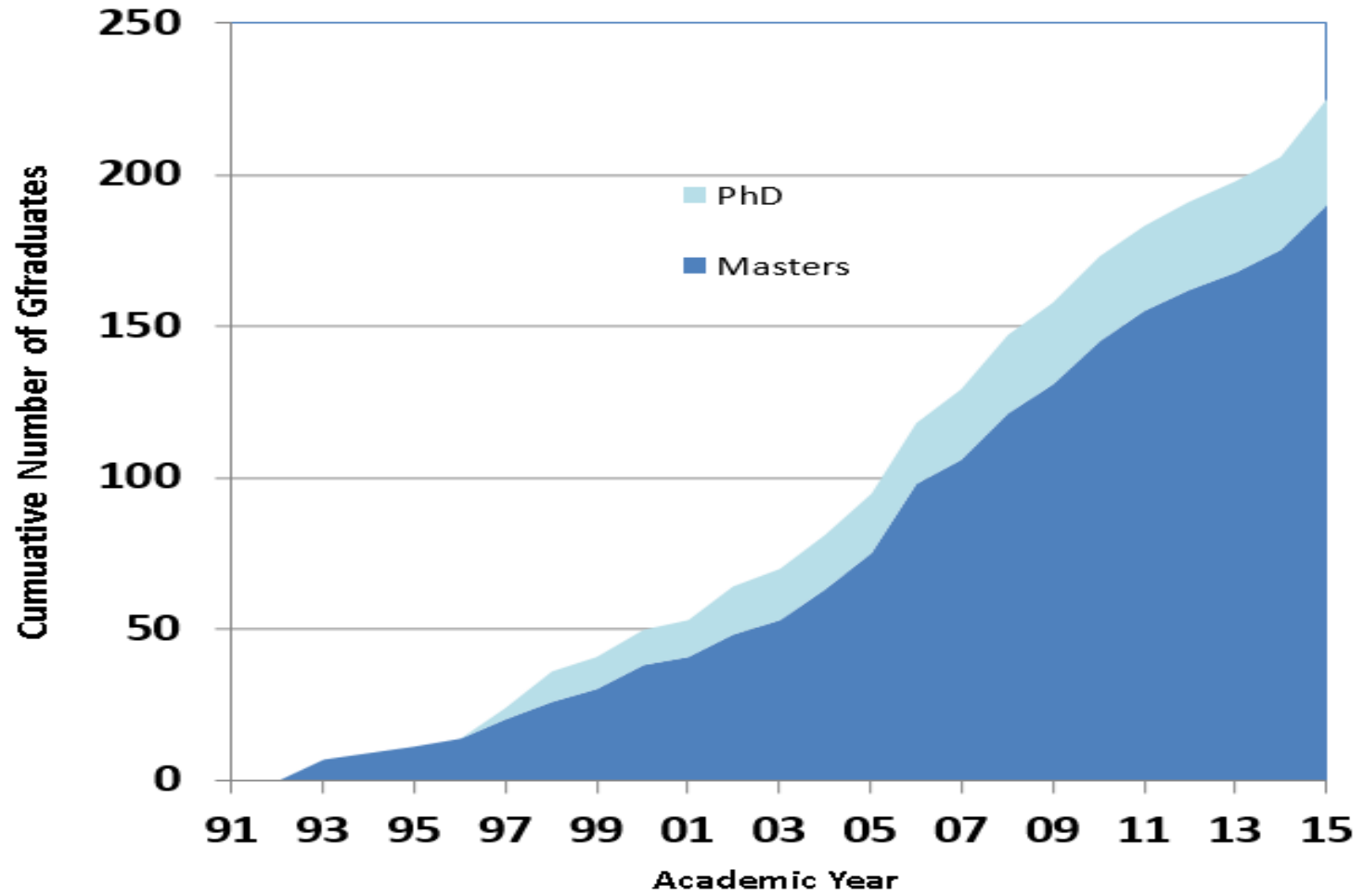
Total expenditures rose from \$1.308 million (FY15) to \$1.563 million (FY16). The research expenditure numbers do not include cost shares, internal university administrative funds, or UAH Foundation investments into the PRC



Expenditure Distribution 2016-17



PRC Advanced Degrees Supported



The UAH Aerospace Program

Department of Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering

- BS in Aerospace Eng. and Mechanical Eng.
- MS and PhD in ME and Aerospace Systems Engineering.
- Expanded from 950 (AY15) to 1068 (AY16) total MAE undergraduates with anticipated 1200 (AY17)
- ME and Aero graduate students decreased from 170 (AY15) to 150 (AY16). Many are part-time and working at the Arsenal or Cummings Research Park
- 20 tenure-track faculty, 4 non-tenure-track faculty members, and several part-time instructors teaching in the Mechanical and Aerospace degree programs
- Among the top 10 federally-funded Aero and Astro Engineering Programs
- Contact:

Dr. Keith Hollingsworth

keith.hollingsworth@uah.edu

Chair: Dept. of Mech. and Aero. Eng.



UAH Propulsion and Energy Courses

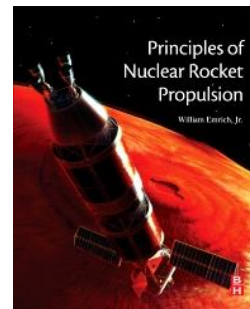
Dual-Level Undergrad/Graduate	AY 15-16	AY 16-17
MAE 343 – Compressible Aerodynamics		79
MAE 420/520 – Compressible Aero	49	
MAE 440/540 – Rocket Propulsion I	55	34
MAE 441/541 – Airbreathing Propulsion	17	38
MAE 444/544 – Intro. To Electric Prop.	22	0
MAE 468/568 – Eleme. of Spacecraft Des.	48	61
MAE 493/593 – Rocket Design	28	19
MAE 495/595 – Intro. To Nuclear Prop	0	21
TOTAL	219	252

MAE Graduate-Level	AY 15-16	AY 16-17
MAE 620 – Compressible Flow	21	11
MAE 640 – Rocket Propulsion II	0	21
MAE 633 – Tactical Missile Design I	0	0
MAE 644 – Adv. Solid Rocket Propulsion	22	0
MAE 645 – Combustion I	6	0
MAE 681 – Missile Trajectory Analysis	0	0
MAE 745 – Combustion II	0	0
MAE 795 – ST: Intro to Fusion Propulsion;	11	0
MAE 695/795 – ST Adv. Readings in Prop.	7	3
MAE 695 – Comb. Instability in Solid Rockets	15	0
MAE 695 – Liquid Rocket Engineering	20	0
TOTAL	102	35

Liquid Rocket Engineering



- **Liquid Rocket Engineering and Solid Propellant Instability Courses Added**
- **25 UAH Grad students and 15 Professional Development students participated**
- **5-Days of Intensive Lectures**
- **3 weeks of Additional Homework and Projects**



Principles of Nuclear Rocket Propulsion
1st Edition
Author: Dr. William Emrich, Jr.



UAH Propulsion Research Center

Prof. R. Frederick, PhD, Director

Prof. D. Thomas, PhD, Associate Director

<http://www.uah.edu/prc>



A. Edmondson, MBA
Research Prog. Administrator/Budget Analyst
D. Battle SS4; M. Kitts, PRA; J. Prince SS3

Eminent Scholar In Propulsion
Prof. P. Ligrani, PhD

Aerospace Propulsion and Systems Integration Strategic Planning

Prof. D. Thomas, PhD, Eminent Scholar in Systems Engineering

Prof. P. Collopy, PhD, Chair of ISEEM Department

Prof. S. Mahalingam, PhD, Dean of the College of Engineering

Propulsion Laboratory and Safety

Dr. D. Lineberry, PhD, Laboratory Operations

T. Hall, Test Engineer

Energy & Power Systems

Prof. Phillip Ligrani, PhD

Fusion Propulsion & Power

Prof. J. Cassibry, PhD

Plasmas & Combustion

Prof. G. Xu, PhD

Computational Modeling

Prof. S. Rani, PhD

Aerospace Materials & Structures

Prof. G. Nelson, PhD

Propellants & Energetics

Prof. R. Frederick, PhD

Propulsion System Technology Test-bed

D. Lineberry, PhD

J. Blackmon, PhD
P. Collopy, PhD
K. Frendi, PhD
C. Kang, PhD
S. Mahalingam, PhD
G. Nelson, PhD
S. Rani, PhD
C. Sautter, PhD (RI)

D. Copeland, GRA; P. McInturf, GRA; C. Ren, GRA; Z. Ren, GRA; M. Su, GRA; M. Suzuki, GRA; S. R. Vanga, GRA

M. Anderson, UGA; A. Click, UGA; D. Corey, UGA; A. Miller, UGA; R. Petrimoux, UGA; W. Pico, UGA; D. Ritchie, UGA

R. Cortez (RI)
W. Seidler, PhD

T. Englestad, PTGS
P. Giddens, OCE
D. Hewitt, PTGS
S. Kumar, GTA
M. Rodriguez, PTGS
K. Schillo, GRA
R. Tackett, PTGS
B. Taylor, PTGS
B. Winterling, GRA

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K. Frendi, PhD

R. Dextre, PTGS
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E. Hopping, GRA
W. Manneschildt, GRA
P. Salvador, GRA

N. Latan, UGA
N. Mann, UGA

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K. Frendi, PhD
V. K. Gupta, PhD (PDF)
C. Kang, PhD
S. Mahalingam, PhD
S. Ravindran, PhD
B. Shotorban, PhD

R. Dhariwal, GRA
V. Rani, GTA
A. Wilson, GTA

K. Hazell, PhD
M. Lin, PhD
C. Sautter, PhD (RI)
J. Schneider, PhD
G. Wang, PhD

J. Buckley, GRA
R. Chow, GRA
J. Indeck, GRA
D. Kodell, GTA
Z. Meyers, GRA

G. Andrew, UGA
M. Frederick, UGA
A. Minor, UGA

J. Baird, PhD
M. Banish, PhD
J. Blackmon, PhD
D. Lineberry, PhD
G. Xu, PhD
V. Braswell, OCE
S. Williams, OCE

C. Blankenship, PTGS; K. Bluestone, PTGS; C. Freeman, PTGS; A. Hiatt, GRA; R. Hicks, GRA; D. Jones, GRA; S. Kumar, GTA; N. McFerrin, GRA; A. Patel, GRA; R. Pereira, GTA; I. Rando, GTA; B. Winterling, GRA

J. Agnew, UGA
A. Creech, UGA

B. Landrum, PhD
P. Ligrani, PhD
G. Wang, PhD

E. Tingley, GTA
M. Duchock, UGA
T. Ueno, UGA

GRA=Graduate Research Assistant; GTA=Graduate Teaching Assistant; OCE=On-Call Employee; PTGS=Part-Time Graduate Student; PRA=Propulsion Research Assistant; RI=Research Institute; SS3=Student Specialist III; SS4=Student Specialist IV;

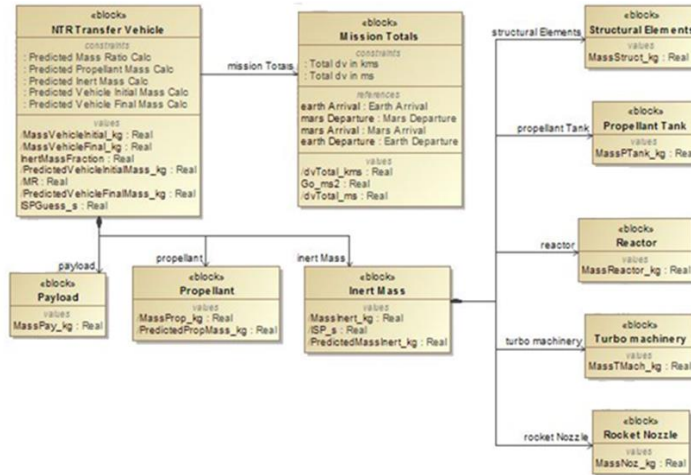
UGA=Undergraduate Assistant

06/21/2017



Propulsion Systems Integration

SysML Block Definition Diagram of Nuclear Thermal Propulsion Powered Transfer Vehicle



Complex Systems Integration Laboratory



Expertise and Areas of Application:

Development of systems models which incorporate advanced propulsion technologies and scientific principles. Mission simulation to identify and resolve system integration issues and facilitate planning for technology infusion into operational system.

Recent Highlights:

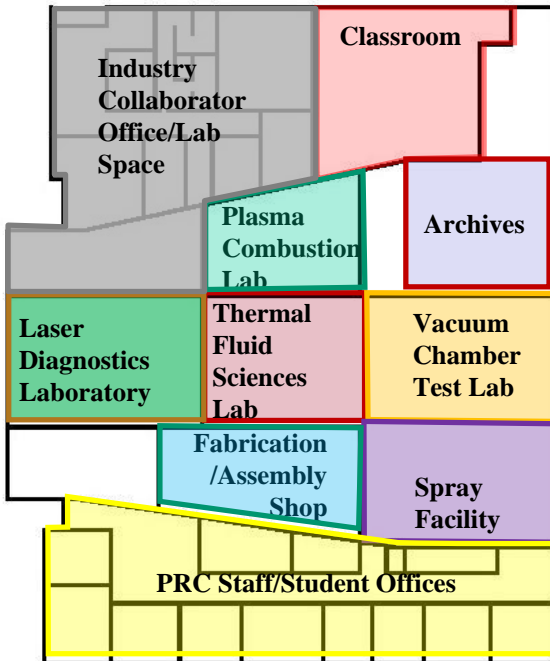
- Systems Modeling for Nuclear Thermal Propulsion Powered Space Transportation Vehicle, NASA Marshall Space Flight Center

Contact:

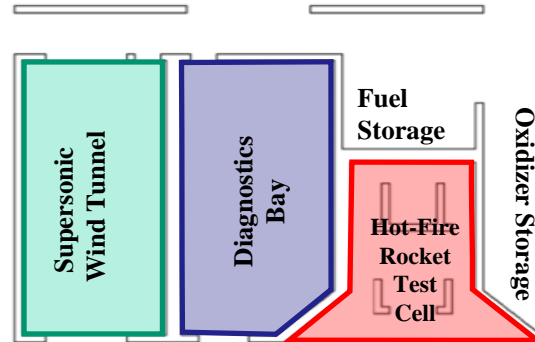
- Dale Thomas, dale.thomas@uah.edu

Propulsion Laboratories

PRC Labs at the Johnson Research Center



PRC's Propulsion Test Facility



OTHER PRC	Location
High-Pressure Solid Propellant Lab	Material Science Building
Solar Thermal Lab	Blackmon Hall
Other UAH	Location
Adaptive Structures Lab	UAH Technology Hall
Advanced Manufacturing Processes Laboratory or AMPL	Aerophysics Research Center, Redstone Arsenal
Charger One - Fusion Propulsion	Aerophysics Research Center, Redstone Arsenal
Complex Systems Integration Laboratory (CSIL)	UAH VBH
Mechanical of Materials Under Extreme Environments	UAH Optics Building
Transport, Reaction, and Energy Conversion Lab	UAH Shelby Center



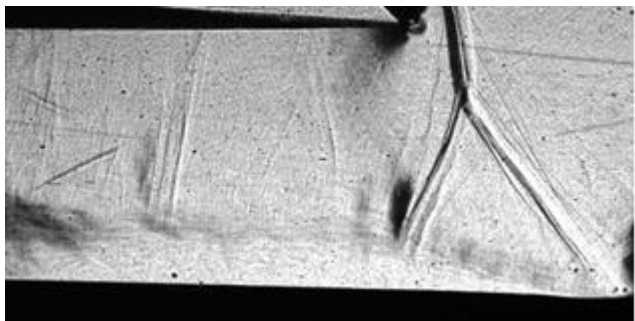
Energy and Power Systems

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Sponsors: National Science Foundation, Solar Turbines Inc., IHI Corp., Alabama Innovation Fund, OVPRED of UAH, Arnold Engineering Development Center

Contact: Dr. Phil Ligrani: pml0006@uah.edu

Schlieren flow visualization image showing normal shock wave, including lambda foot, and separated turbulent boundary layer. Flow direction is from right to left. Choking flap is oriented at 3.7 degrees, and test section inlet Mach number is 1.54.



Research activities consider supersonic flows, flows and heat transfer within air breathing engine components, heat transfer augmentation technologies, and micro-scale and millimeter-scale flows, including the effects of elastic turbulence, and micro-scale slip from rarefaction.

Expertise and Areas of Application

• **Supersonic Flow and Shock Wave Interaction Investigations**

• **Elastic Turbulence Investigations**

• **Double Wall Cooling Investigations**

• **Surface Roughness Effects on Impingement Array Surface Heat Transfer**

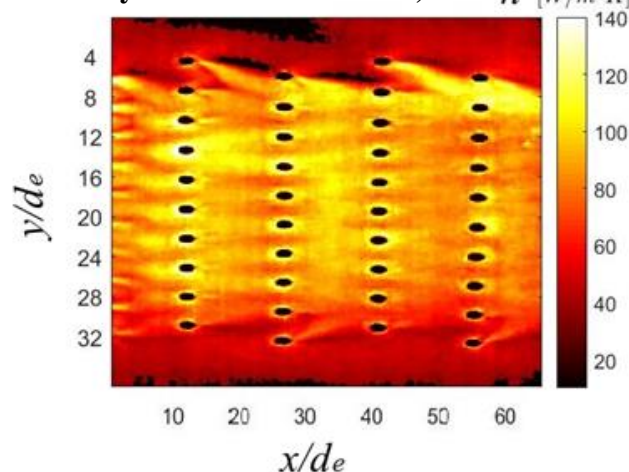
• **Internal Passage Heat Transfer Augmentation Methods and Associated Unsteady Flow Structural Characteristics**

• **Second Law Losses Around a Turbine Guide Vane**

• **Unsteady Milliscale Impingement Jets and Associated Vortices for Surface Heat Transfer Augmentation**

• **Dean Flow Dynamics and Cell Separations in Low-Aspect Ratio Spiral Microchannels**

Surface, local heat transfer coefficient variation for hot side of effusion plate for BR=7.4 and mainstream Reynolds number of 142,000. h [W/m^2K]



Fusion Propulsion Research

Round trip to Mars in 7 months (20 year development time)

Charger 1, 567 kJ pulsed power system

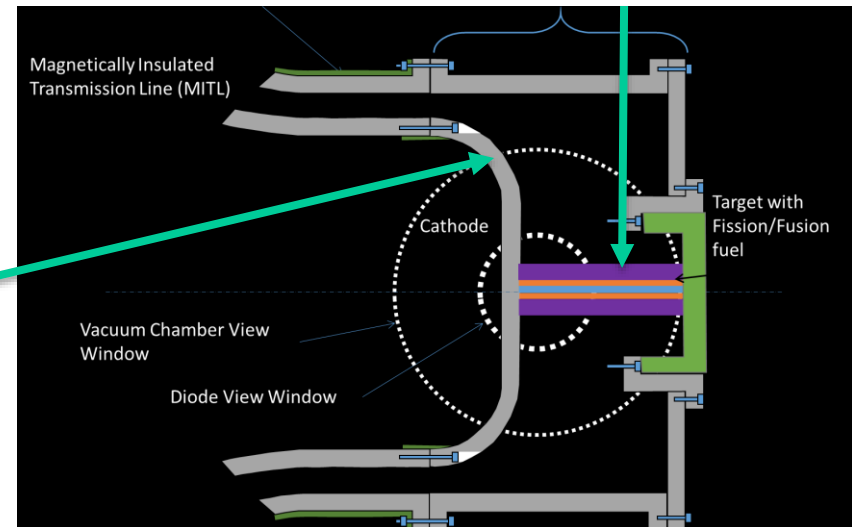


Front end of Charger 1



Expertise and Areas of Application

Advanced propulsion using fusion and fission/fusion hybrid technologies. Charger 1 delivers a pulse of 10^6 Volts at $\sim 2 \times 10^6$ Amps to an electrical load. We are studying the use of lithium deuteride as the main fuel for the target.



Recent Highlights in :

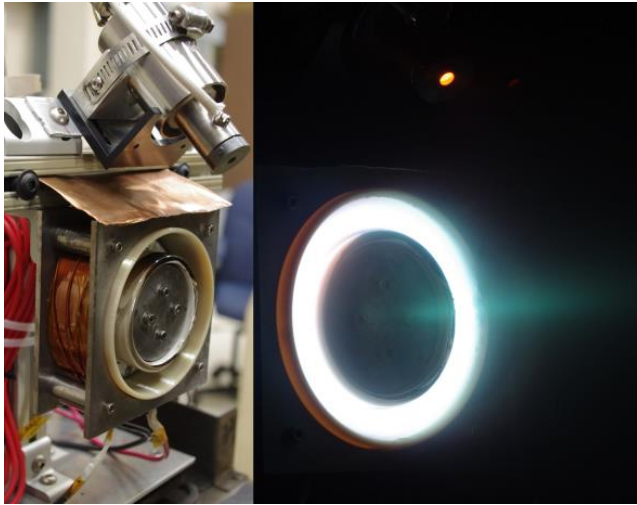
- Delivery of system from L3, DTRA
- Refurbishment of 200 custom resistors, AL DOC
- Control system and Trigger systems, NASA MSFC
- Water deionization and oil systems, The Boeing Company

Contacts:

- Dr. Jason Cassibry, Jason.Cassibry@uah.edu
- Dr. William Seidler, was001@uah.edu

Plasma and Combustion

Small Hall thruster with 3D printed parts



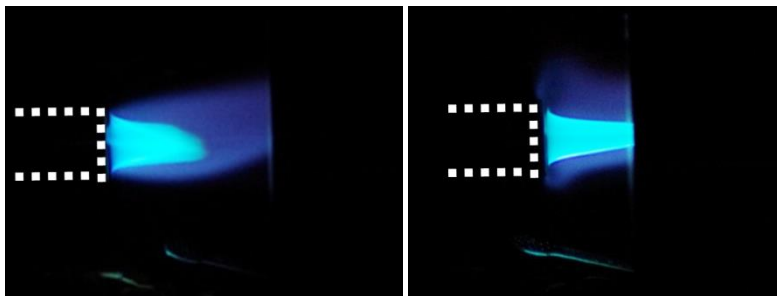
Expertise and Areas of Application

The three research directions include space electric propulsion, plasma-assisted combustion, and high-pressure microplasmas. Applications of the latter two include high efficiency low emissions engines, and plasma treatment of living tissue. Our research is experimental in nature operating at low and high pressure with rf, dc, and microwave power sources for plasma generation in a range of environments.

Recent Highlights

- 1st demonstration of electric field instability damping
- 1st Hall thruster with 3D printed parts
- Microplasma for diode laser gain project, SMDC
- 3D printing for Hall effect thruster project, NASA

Active damping of Rijke tube thermacoustic instability with electric field



Contact:

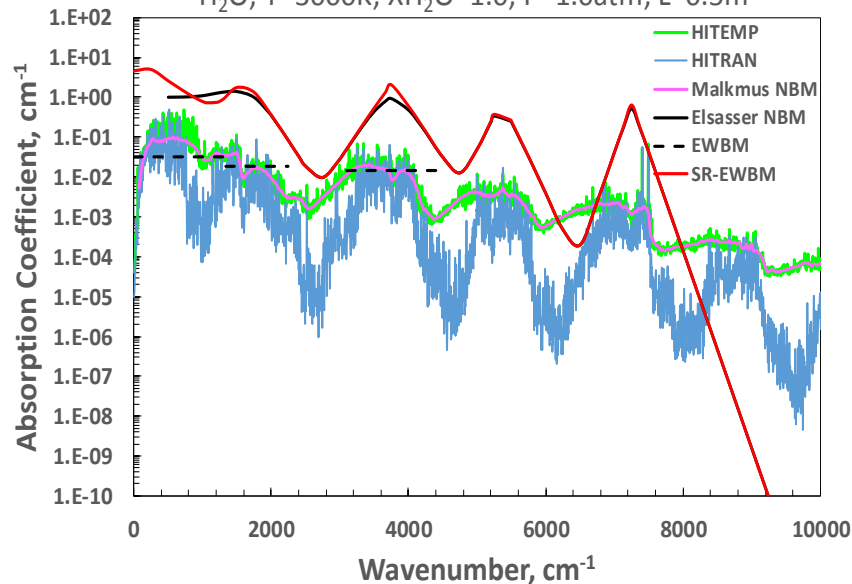
- Gabe Xu, gabe.xu@uah.edu

Computational Modeling

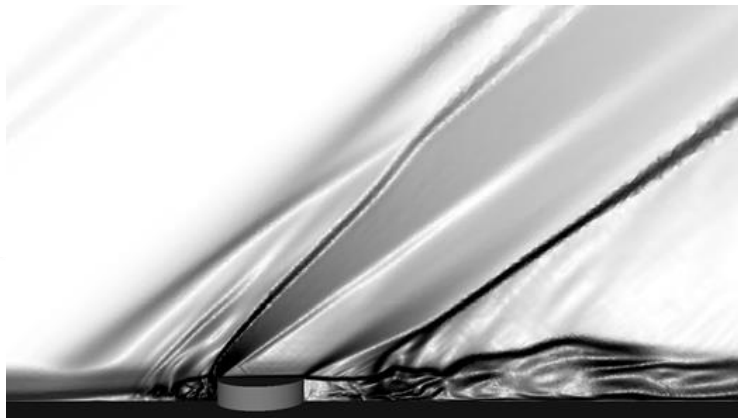
Line-by-line Absorption Coefficients

Absorption Coefficient vs Wavenumber

H₂O; T=3000K; XH₂O=1.0; P=1.0atm; L=0.5m



Supersonic Flow Past a Surface Mounted Protuberance



Expertise and Areas of Application

Research expertise in computational modeling includes: applied computational fluid dynamics, computational transport phenomena, combustion, radiative heat transfer, acoustics, fluid-structure-acoustic Interactions, and fluid flow control

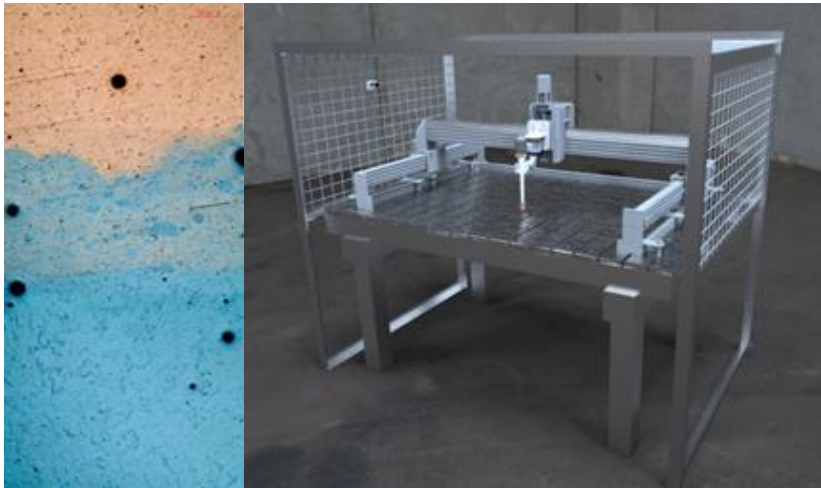
Recent Highlights

- Spatial and Orientational Dynamics of Non-Spherical Particles in Turbulent Flows through Heterogeneous and CPU+GPU Supercomputing – Sponsor: UAH
- Multi-Scale Modeling of Radiative Heat Transfer in Hypersonic Flows – Sponsor: NASA EPSCoR
- “A Variable Step-size Control for Long Time Transient Simulation of Cryogenic Heat Transfer Problems Using Generalized Fluid System Sim. Program (GFSSP)-Sponsor: NASA MSFC
- Impact of Hypersonic Flight Environment on Electro-Optic/Infrared (EO/IR) Sensors- Sponsor: Analysis and Applications Associates, Inc.

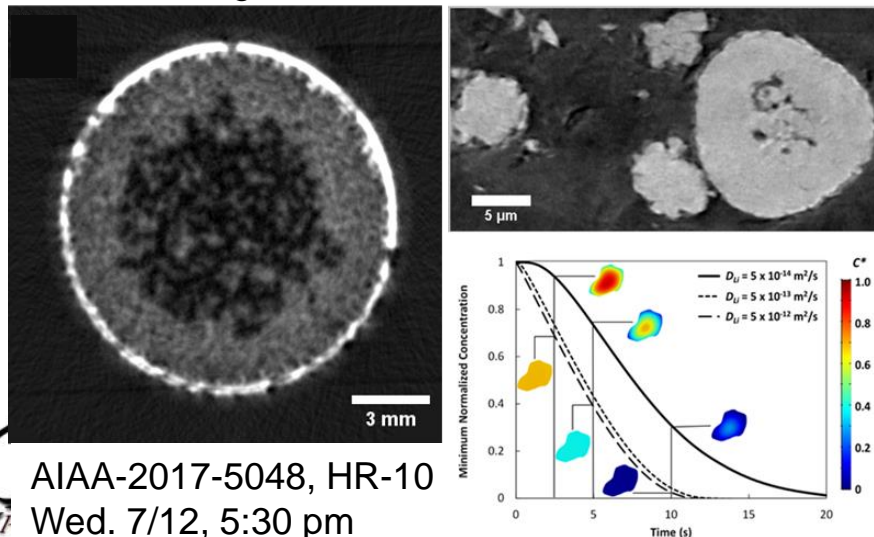
Contacts:

- Sarma Rani sarma.rani@uah.edu
- Kader Frendi kader.frendi@uah.edu
- S.S. Ravindran ravinds@uah.edu

Cu-Inconel free form AM sample (left) and free form AM system developed in UAH Senior Design (right)



X-ray image of a porous hybrid motor (left) and Li-ion cathode image data with FEA model results (right)



Expertise and Areas of Application

- Additive manufacturing of metals and alloys
- Materials for energy conversion and storage
- Material functionality under extreme environments
- Optical and X-ray imaging for materials characterization
- Multiscale materials characterization and analysis (mechanics, transport, multiphysics)

Recent Highlights:

- NASA and Navy STTRs supporting free form or direct metal deposition printing (Schneider)
- Continuum level, transient heat transfer modeling of AM builds
- NSF supporting X-ray studies of Li-ion battery microstructure and degradation (Nelson)
- Spectroscopic X-ray imaging of high capacity alloy anodes for Li-ion batteries (Nelson)
- Kinematic, kinetic, and dynamic descriptions of failure in critical structural materials (Hazeli)

Contacts:

- Dr. George Nelson, george.nelson@uah.edu
- Dr. Judy Schneider, judith.schneider@uah.edu
- Dr. Kavan Hazeli, kavan.hazeli@uah.edu

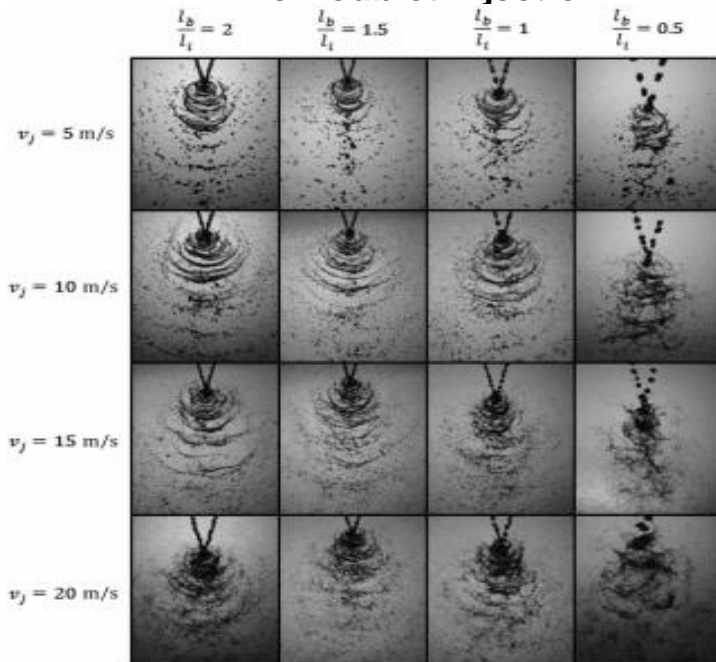
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Wed. 7/12, 5:30 pm

Propellants and Energetics

ESP Electrical Response Experiment



Effect of Jet Breakup Length on Like Doublet Injection



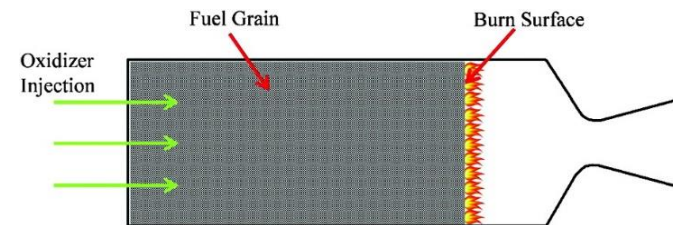
Expertise and Areas of Application

The Propellants and Energetics area includes research into solid propellants, hybrid rocket fuels and oxidizers, gas and liquid rocket engines, injectors, micro thrusters. Areas of application include controllable solid rockets, self-pulsation of swirl-coaxial injectors, gas generator propellants, and modeling of electrolytic combustion.

Recent Highlights:

- Electric Solid Propellant Experiments - MDA
- Electrolytic Combustion Modeling – MDA
- Impinging Injector Study – Alabama Space Grant
- Self-Pulsation of Swirl Coaxial Inj.–Von Braun Fellowship
- Porous Hybrid Rocket Motors – SMDC/SMART Fellowship

Porous Hybrid Rocket



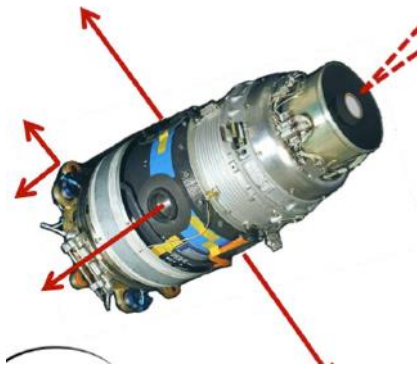
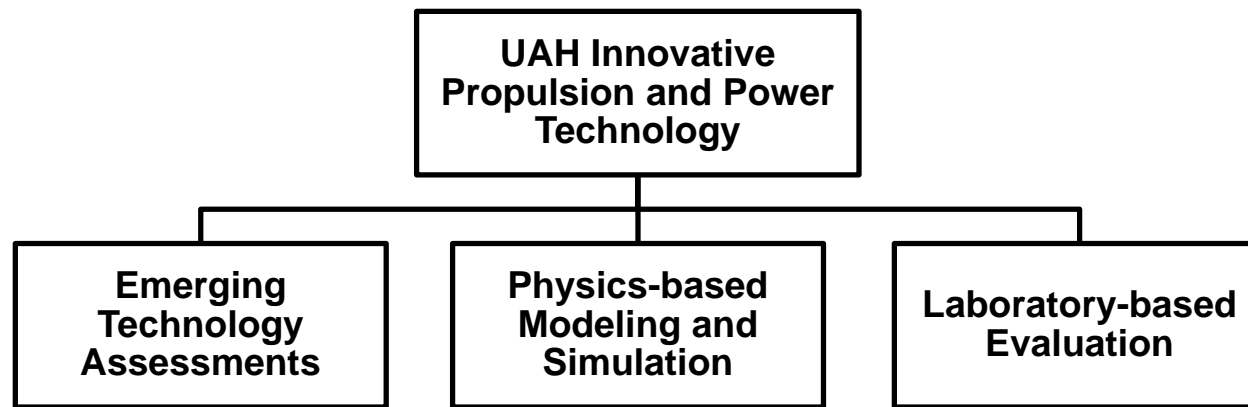
Contact: Robert Frederick Robert.Frederick@UAH.edu

2016 Ph.D's

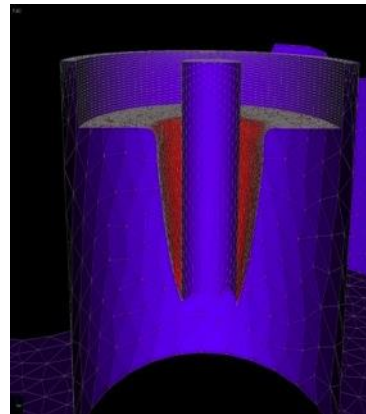
Dr. Chad Eberhart,

Dr. Matthew Hitt, and Dr. Brian Sweeney

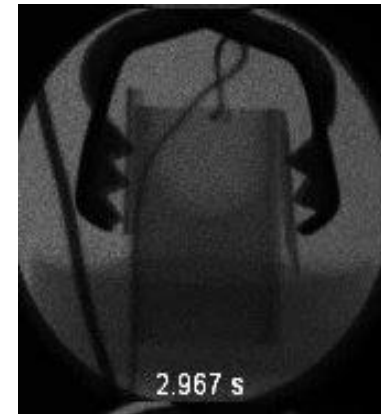
UAH Missile Defense Agency Program



Divert Propulsion for Kill Vehicle



Controllable Solids Advanced Simulation



Controllable Solids X-Ray Movies

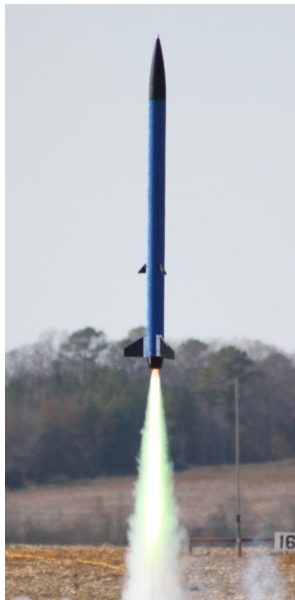
Propulsion System Technology Testbed



LOX – RP Engine
on Test Stand



AM Aft injected
Vortex Hybrid
Engine



UAH Student Launch
Team



Expertise and Areas of Application

Research in this area includes highly-instrumented assessment of combustors and components in solid, hybrid, gas, and liquid propellant systems with application-oriented propellants and operating conditions. Extensive experience in custom built sounding rockets and payload integration.

Recent Highlights:

- Ground testing of LOX, N₂O, RP-1, and methane propellants, AP composite solid rocket motors, and HTPB based, plastic, and paraffin hybrid motor grains.
- Design, fabrication, and testing of additive manufactured components in rocket engines
- Active roll/counter roll control on sounding rocket flight using aerodynamic surfaces
- Upper stage engine LRE igniter design and characterization
- Investing \$500K in Test Stand upgrades

Recent Customers:

Gloyer-Taylor Laboratories, NASA MSFC, Vector Space Systems, C3 Propulsion, and the Missile Defense Agency.

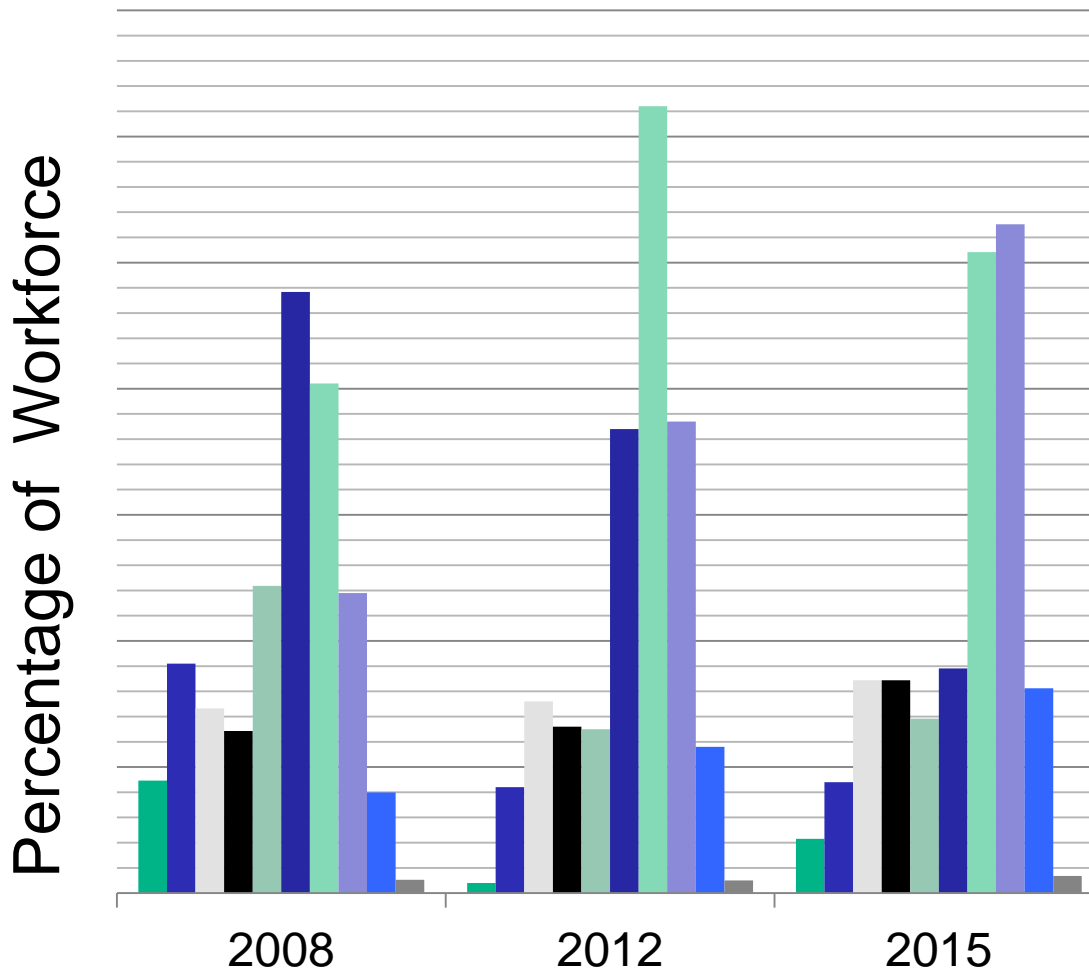
Contact: David Lineberry
David.Lineberry@uah.edu





A PURRPOSE AND STRATEGY FOR THE FUTURE

Propulsion Workforce is Aging



- Workforce is Aging
- Downsizing exacerbates proportion of older workforce
- Young workforce presently underrepresented (< 30 age group reduced from 14% to 6.5%)
- Recognize necessity of ensuring skills, knowledge & experience transfer to a younger workforce

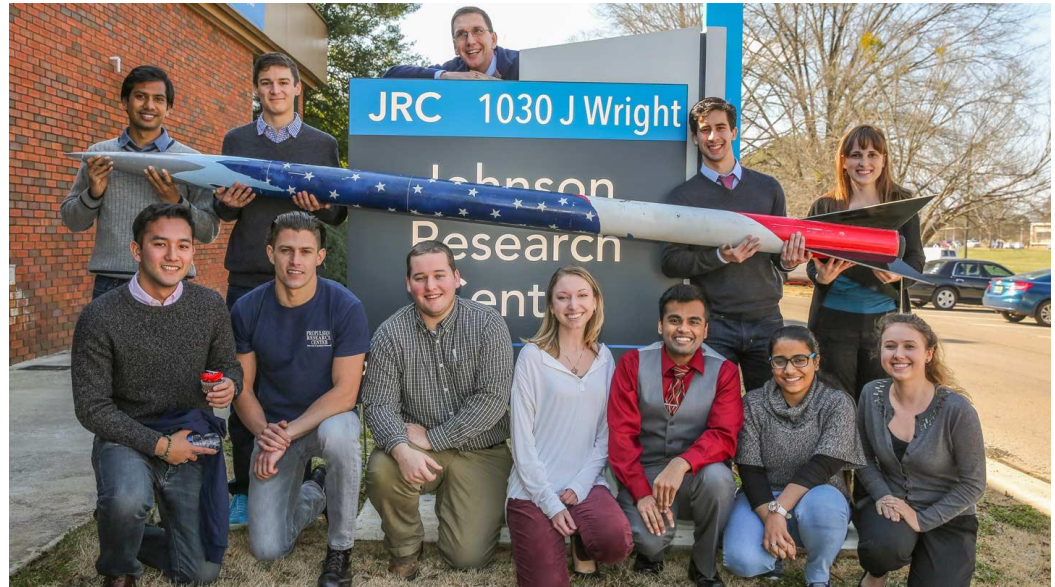
Emphasis on Relationships

- *“Keep relationships more important than tasks or problems...”*

Dr. Robert Frederick,
PRC Director

- *“The reputation of the center will, in large part, be established by the students we produce,” and our mission is to, “to provide an environment that connects communities.”*

Dr. Clark. Hawk
PRC Founding Director



Strategies for PRC Growth

- Teambuilding/Alliances
 - Build Relationships with Faculty and Students and Invest in Their Success
 - Build Alliances with Government and Regional Universities
 - Produce International-Class Graduates
- Research Growth Areas
 - Propulsion Test Capability for MDA Systems – Dr. David Lineberry
 - Supersonic Wind Tunnel - Dr. Phil Ligrani
 - UAH Charger One, Fusion Propulsion Research – Dr. Jason Cassibry
 - Additive Manufacturing of Propulsion Components – Dr. Judy Schneider
 - Propulsion Systems Engineering Research – Dr. Dale Thomas
 - Energy Storage Technologies – Dr. George Nelson



UAH Propulsion Research Center

Mission

PRC connects the Academic Research Community with Industry & Government to advance basic science and technology development related to propulsion and energy.



PRC Strategic Vision 2020

The PRC will be a major generator of talent and innovative solutions in propulsion and energy related technologies.

Contact:

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Leading the Way in Propulsion for 25 years





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S. Ravindran, PhD
B. Shotorban, PhD

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V. Rani, GTA
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GRA=Graduate Research Assistant; GTA=Graduate Teaching Assistant; OCE=On-Call Employee; PTGS=Part-Time Graduate Student; PRA=Propulsion Research Assistant; RI=Research Institute; SS3=Student Specialist III; SS4=Student Specialist IV;

UGA=Undergraduate Assistant

06/21/2017

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