

Jet propulsion



Developed their ideas separately and at the time knew nothing of the other's work

History of Jet Engines

- › Germans were the first to utilize the jet engine as a military tool
- › The jet powered ME-262 was the first jet powered airplane to see combat
- › It had a top speed of 540 mph

Photo Courtesy of Stormbirds. com

History of Jet Engines

- › The SR-71 "Blackbird" set the current speed and altitude record for a jet powered aircraft in 1961
- › Its top speed is still classified but is in excess of 2, 200 mph

Photo Courtesy of NASA

Advantages of Jet Engines

- › High power to weight ratio
- › No reciprocating parts
- › Less parasitic power loss — no need to constantly accelerate and decelerate pistons

Less required maintenance

Disadvantages of Jet Engines

- › The high speeds and high operating temperatures make designing and manufacturing gas turbines complex from both the engineering and materials standpoint
- › These complexities lead to a higher price

Jet engines do not produce high torque levels, which is why they aren't used in automobiles

Review Questions

- › Describe how a rocket or jet engine produces thrust
- › How do Newton's laws relate to jet engine operation
- › Give some examples of jet engine applications
- › When and where were jet engines developed
- › What are some advantages of jet engines
- › What are some disadvantages of jet engines

Types of Jet Engines

Lesson Objectives

- › After to: this lesson students should be able
- › List the six different types of jet engines
- › Describe how each type of engine propels the vehicle it is used in
- › List advantages and disadvantages of each type

Six different types of jet engines

- › Turbojet
- › Turbofan
- › Turboshift
- › Turboprop
- › Pulsejet
- › Ramjet

X-15 with ramjet engine

Photo Courtesy of NASA

Turbojet Engine

- › Thrust produced by gasses expelled from the exhaust nozzle
- › Very noisy
- › Used on high speed aircraft due to its small size

Drawing Courtesy of

Understanding Flight Turbofan i,> Some of the thrust is produced by gasses expelled from the exhaust nozzle just like a turbojet engine i,> Most of the thrust is produced from the large inlet fan i,> The Bypass ratio of a turbofan is typically 8: 1 (eight times more air is bypassed than passes through the compressor and combustion chamber) Drawing Courtesy of Understanding Flight Turbofan Cont' i,> If one wanted to increase thrust you would either have to increase the speed of the air being moved or increase the mass of the air being moved ($\text{Thrust} = \text{Mass} \times \text{Acceleration}$) ... However... i,> It is more efficient to accelerate a larger mass of air to a lower velocity i,> Due to this principle the turbofan is more efficient than the turbojet i,> Due to the lower velocity the turbofan is also significantly quieter than a turbojet i,> Almost all modern commercial aircraft use turbofan engines (excluding the Concord) Turbofan Cont' Turbohaft i,> Exhaust gas is used to turn turbine shaft which is then used to propel the vehicle i,> Exhausted gas produces little thrust because most of the energy is used up by the turbine Drawing Courtesy of [www. aircraftenginedesign. com](http://www.aircraftenginedesign.com) Turbohaft Cont' i,> Because of the high speed (RPM) of a turboshaft engine gear reduction must be used to obtain a usable shaft speed — much like the transmission in your car i,> This gear reduction also produces torque multiplication Drawing Courtesy of [www. aircraftenginedesign. com](http://www.aircraftenginedesign.com) Turboprop i,>A turboprop is essentially a turboshaft engine that is attached to a propeller i,> A propeller is more efficient at low speeds than a turbofan or turbojet Drawing Courtesy of [www. aircraftenginedesign. com](http://www.aircraftenginedesign.com) Pulsejet i,> Doesn't Use a compressor or turbine i,> Doesn't have the ability to produce thrust at low speed (500 mph)

Supercharged or Turbocharged Piston Engine i,> Able to operate at higher altitudes than a naturally aspirated engine i,> Turbocharging or

Supercharging increases the density of the air entering the engine (the engine thinks it is at a lower altitude) ❖→ Still somewhat limited by altitude

❖→ Speed is still limited due to propeller inefficiencies at high speeds (> 500 mph)

Turbojet

- No reciprocating parts
- Thrust is not greatly affected by altitude
- Relatively small frontal area is desirable for high speed (supersonic)
- Relatively high-speed, low-mass of exhaust gasses make the turbojet somewhat inefficient
- High speed exhaust is extremely noisy

Turbofan

- Because the large inlet fan moves a larger volume of air at a lower velocity, the turbofan is more efficient than the turbojet
- Because of the lower exhaust speeds the noise level is greatly reduced
- The large inlet fan creates a large frontal area which negatively affects drag at high speeds (especially supersonic)
- Most effective at speeds below supersonic (Mach .5 — Mach .9)
- However modern fighters are now using state of the art turbofans for supersonic flight

Turboprop

- Propellers are most efficient at low speeds
- Produce greater power than a comparable piston engine with less weight, noise, and maintenance
- More expensive than a piston engine
- Must use a gearbox to reduce the high turboshaft rpm's down to prop rpm's

Turboshaft

- Used in turboprop, helicopter, and land based applications
- Must use a gearbox to reduce rpm's

M-1 Abrams tank — 1500 hp turboshaft engine

Pulsejet

- Relatively inexpensive
- Doesn't have the ability to produce thrust at low speeds

Simple construction

Ramjet

- Only used in extremely high speed applications (mostly military / NASA)
- Only produces thrust at high speeds

SR-71

- No moving parts

X-15 Review Questions

- Which types of engines are least practical at high rpms?
- Which types of engines are least practical at supersonic speeds?
- Which type of engine could be used to power an electrical generator?
- Why is a

turbofan more efficient than a turbojet engine? References
Books
V Ganeshan (Mc Graw Hill)-Third Edition
Understanding Flight by David Andreson and Scott Eberhardt
Websites
How Stuff Works — www.howstuffworks.com
NASA — www.grc.nasa.com
Factors Affecting Fuel Consumption <http://www.jal-foundation.or.jp/>
US Army — www.army.mil
Pratt and Whitney — www.pwc.com
US Air Force — www.af.mil