

Special Issue

Space Propulsion: Advances and Challenges

Message from the Guest Editors

A major function of space propulsion systems is to accelerate spacecraft by producing a propulsive force (thrust) or a change in velocity (delta-V) by ejecting propellant mass at a high speed into the air or space based on Newton's laws of motion. This plays an important role in acceleration, attitude control, drag make-up, and orbit transfer maneuvers of spacecraft. The various types of space propulsion systems can be defined depending on what kind of energy source is used and how the energy is generated to provide thrust. At present, chemical and electric propulsion systems are the preferred types of systems for various spacecrafts. Applications of space propulsion can be classified into three different categories: escape propulsion (from Earth's surface to its orbit), in-space propulsion (in Earth's orbit), and deep space propulsion (from Earth's orbit to outer space). This Special Issue invites contributions relating to recent advances and challenges for space propulsion technologies. Submissions welcome a whole range of space propulsion topics.

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