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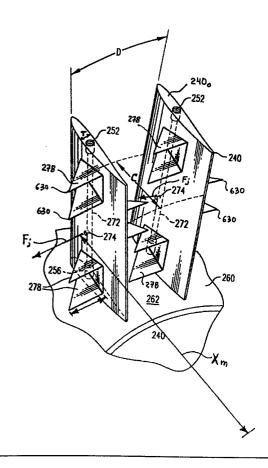
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(57) Abstract

Fuel air mixing apparatus, and a method for design and operation of fuel-air mixing apparatus. An axial inlet air fan provides inlet air to an annular passageway having therein fuel supply structures through which fuel such as low pressure natural gas is injected. Vortex generators on the fuel supply structures create vortices to mix the inlet air with the injected fuel. Mixing is provided according to a pre-selected formula to control the ratio of transverse momentum to axial momentum, to thoroughly mix the fuel and the air, so as to provide a uniformly mixed inlet gas stream. This stream is fed to an unshrouded ramjet inlet which captures and compresses the mixed inlet gas stream by utilizing inlet structures and an adjacent housing sidewall structure. Fuel is oxidized in the combustion chamber(s) to produce expanding combustion gases. Such gases escape out through a ramjet nozzle, acting against outlet structures and an adjacent housing sidewall, rotating the ramjet at supersonic velocities, and producing shaft energy. Efficient mixing of the oxidant and fuel prior to entry into the ramjet combustor, and the short residence times in the combustion chamber, minimize the formation of undesirable oxides of nitrogen.



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER PC 7 F02K7/00 F02K A. CLAS F02K7/10 F23R3/28 F02C3/16 F02C6/20 F23R3/12 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC **B. FIELDS SEARCHED** Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 FO2K FO2C F23R Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category ' Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. Ε EP 0 936 406 A (GEN ELECTRIC) 1-24 18 August 1999 (1999-08-18) abstract; figures 2,3 χ US 2 770 501 A (H. COANDA) 1 - 3213 November 1956 (1956-11-13) the whole document X US 4 887 425 A (VDOVIAK JOHN W) 1 - 2419 December 1989 (1989-12-19) the whole document 47-65 Υ WO 98 27330 A (LAWLOR SHAWN P) 47-65 25 June 1998 (1998-06-25) the whole document -/--Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. X Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents: "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance invention "E" earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention citation or other special reason (as specified) cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed in the art. "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 2 May 2000 09/05/2000 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentiaan 2 NL – 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31–70) 340–2040, Tx. 31 651 epo ni, Fax: (+31–70) 340–3016 Argentini, A

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