

Solid Propellant Additive Manufacturing

Preliminary Design Review



Customer:

Special Aerospace Services
(SAS)

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Agenda

- Project Overview
 - Project Motivation
 - CONOPs
 - FBD
 - Baseline Design
- Evidence of Baseline Feasibility
 - Thermal Model
 - Safety Analysis
 - Powder Bed Design
 - Software and Component Integration
 - Structural Testing
- Status Summary

Definitions

- Grain - the cross-sectional geometry of solid propellant
- FDM - Fused Deposition Modeling
- SLS - Selective Laser Sintering
- Propellant Cake - a disk of solid rocket motor propellant
- SRM - Solid Rocket Motor
- SOH - State of Health
- PWM - Pulse Width Modulation



Project Overview



Project
Overview

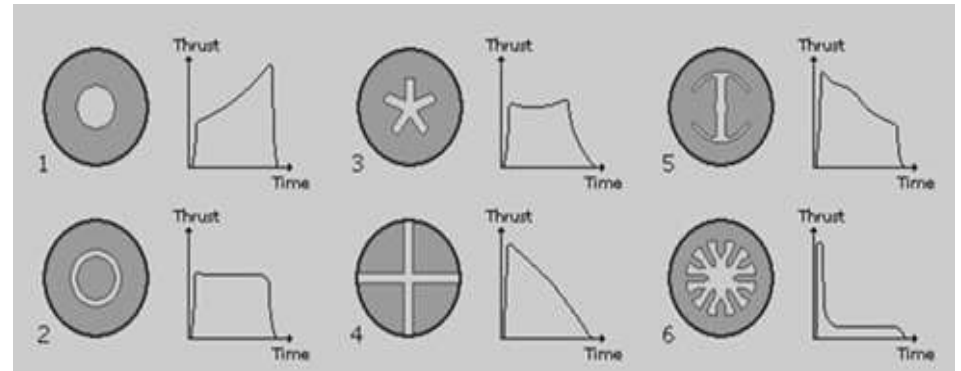
Baseline
Feasibility

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Motivation

- Traditional Casting Limitations:

- Limited number of grain shapes
- Air Bubbles in cast
- Nonuniform setting



Example Grain Shapes and Thrust Profiles¹

- 3D printing can improve the traditional casting method:

- Produce complex grain shapes and new thrust profiles
- Does not need to manufacture a different cast for each design

Solid Rocket Composite Propellant: Sucrose - KNO_3

Melting Points:

- Sucrose: $\sim 186\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$
- KNO_3 : $\sim 333\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$
- Propellant Auto-Ignition $\sim 400\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$

Propellant Composition:

- Fuel = Sucrose (35% by mass)
- Oxidizer = KNO_3 (65% by mass)



Potassium Nitrate Powder²



Sucrose Powder³

Reason for choosing Sucrose- KNO_3

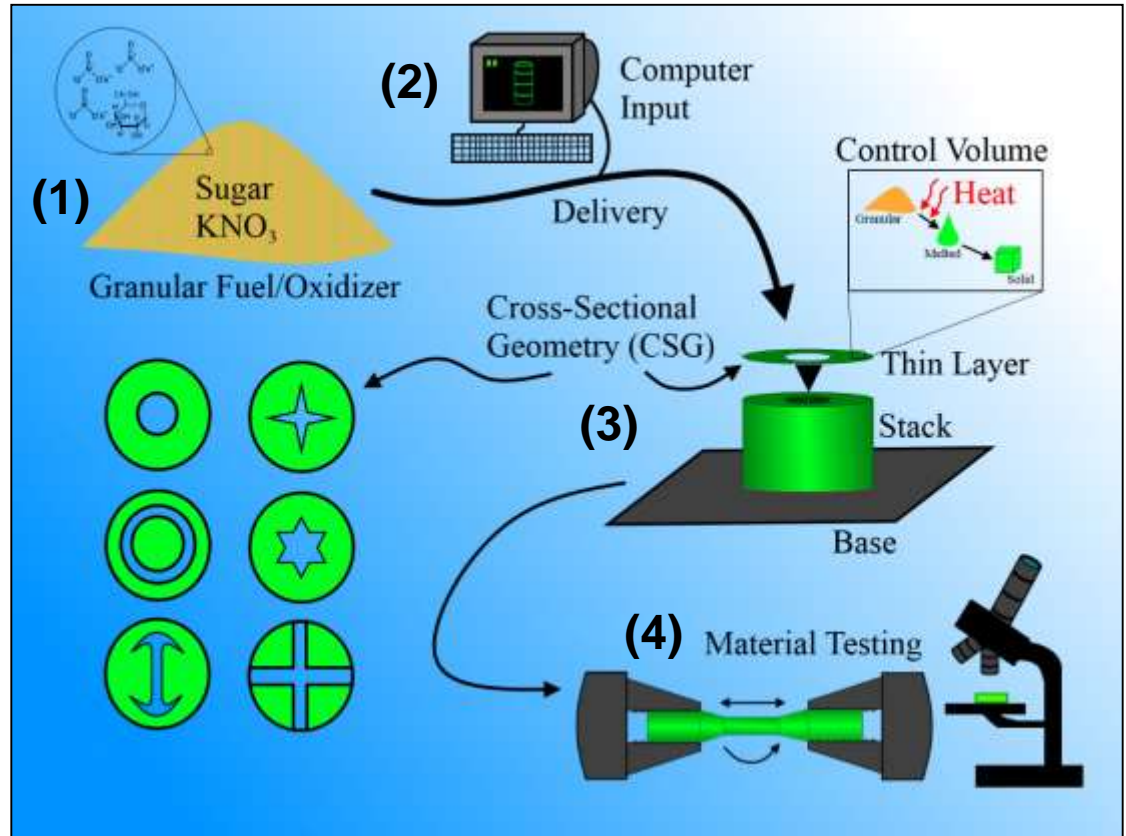
- Safer than other solid rocket fuel (non-explosive)
- Easy to obtain
- Not restricted by the International Traffic in Arms Regulation (ITAR)

Project Statement

Design and integrate **an additive manufacturing system** such that it will print Sucrose-potassium nitrate solid rocket propellant and **compare the mechanical characteristics** of the printed propellants to those manufactured by the traditional casting method.

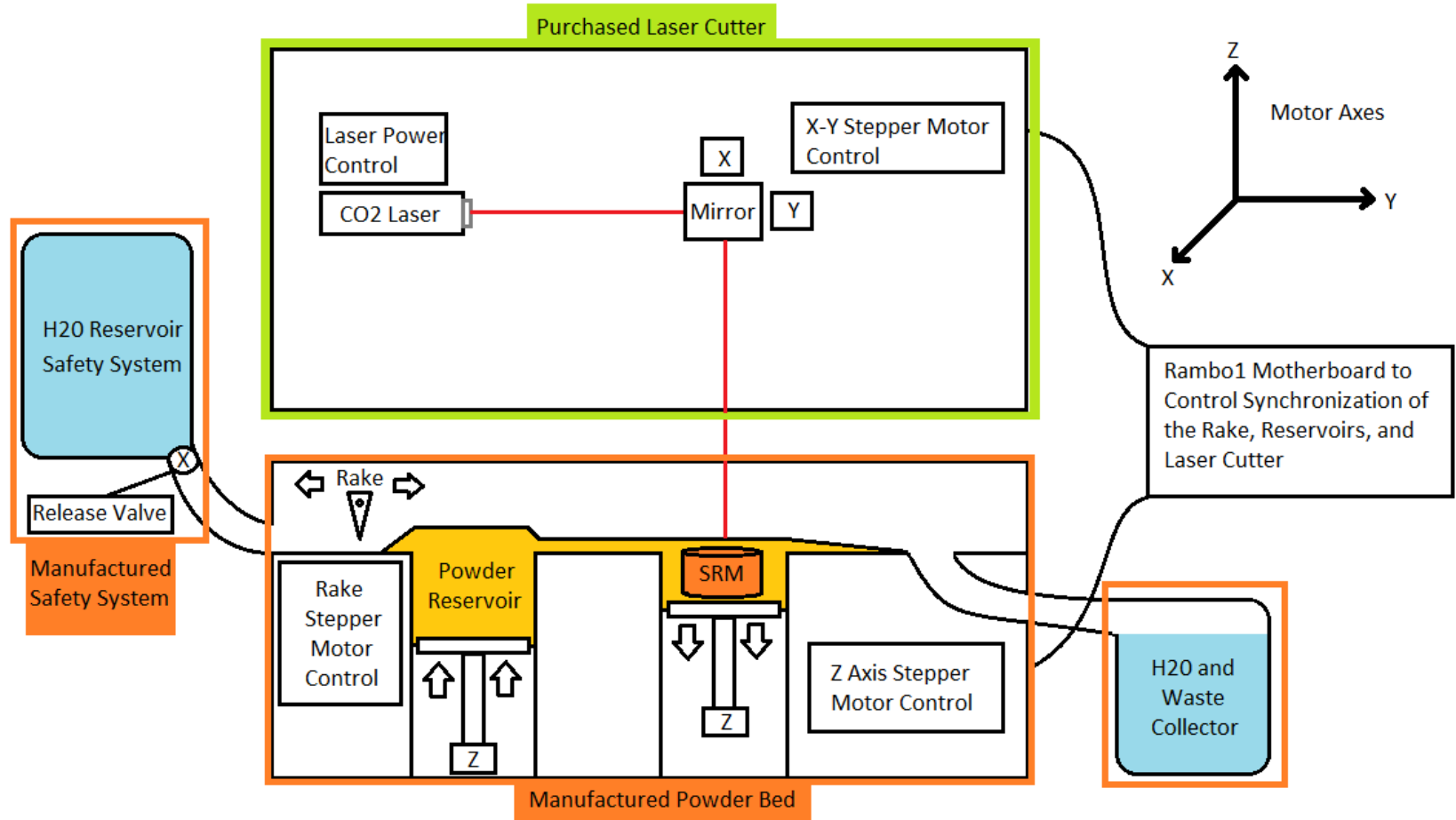
Full Project Concept of Operations

- 1) Mix KNO_3 and sucrose for printing
- 2) Upload CAD file of desired grain shape to printer
- 3) Print desired cross section layer by layer
- 4) Remove finished motor from printer bed and conduct material testing

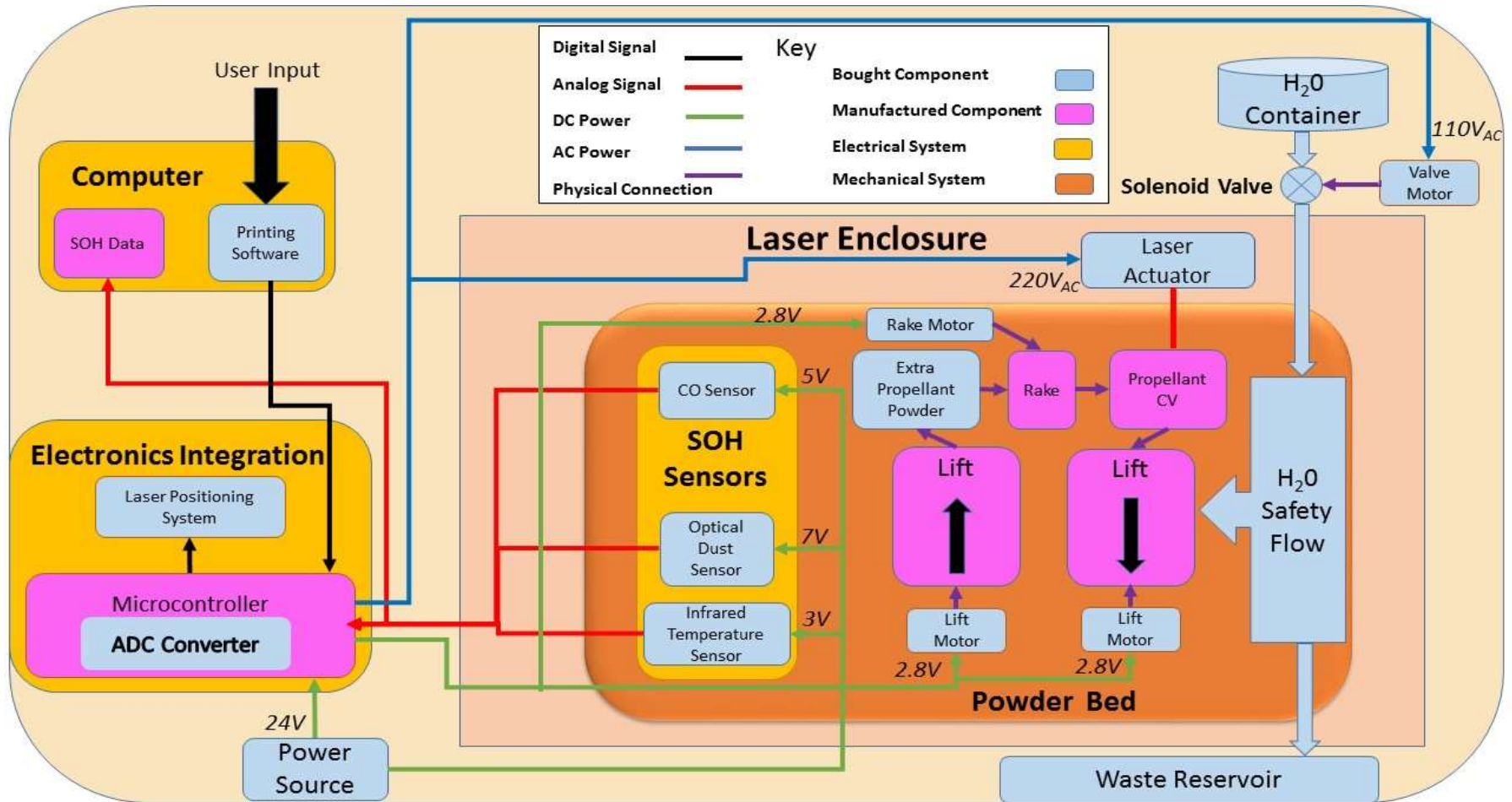


Project CONOPs Diagram

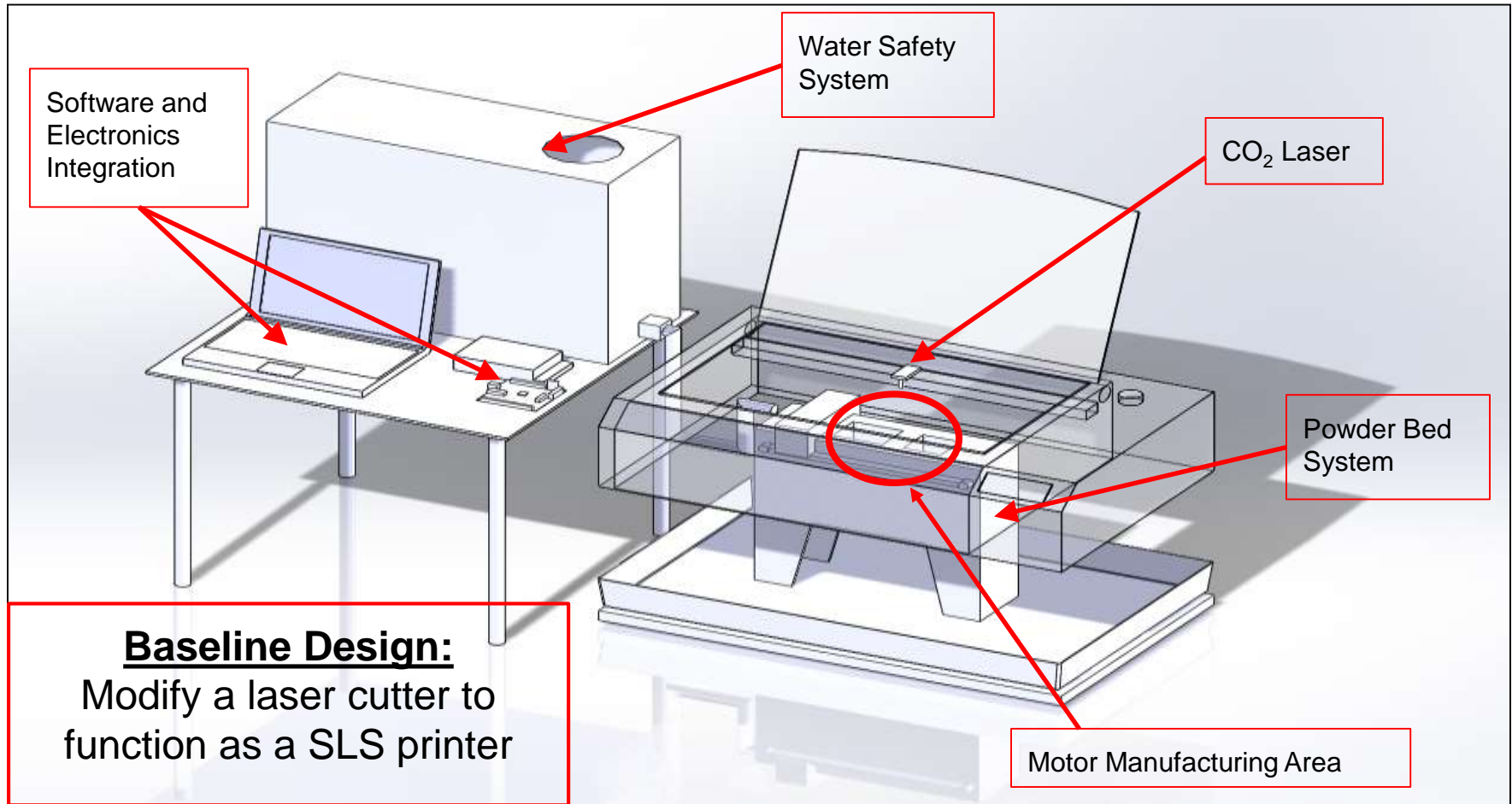
Printer Concept of Operations



System Functional Block Diagram



Baseline Design Overview



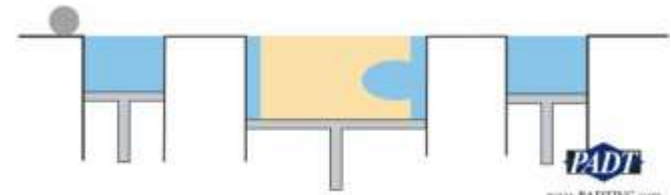
What is Selective Laser Sintering?

- Selective Laser Sintering (SLS) is a type of Additive Manufacturing which sinters/melts a powder with a laser

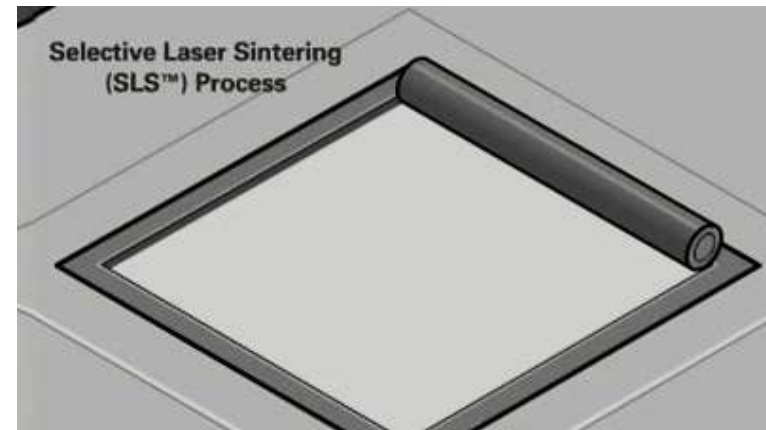
SLS Operation:

1. A CAD file is uploaded to the printer
2. The printer uses a CO₂ laser to heat a specified cross-sectional area of the powdered material
3. The heated material binds together forming a solid
4. The powder bed is then lowered by one layer thickness
5. A new layer of powder material is then swept on top of the previously fused layer

Selective Laser Sintering (SLS)



SLS Process (Profile View)⁴



SLS Process (Top View)⁵



Baseline Requirements

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Functional Requirements

Designation	Requirement Description
FR 1	The project shall produce a printer capable of automated 3D additive manufacturing .
FR 2	The rocket propellant shall be a solid composite propellant consisting of oxidizer and fuel .
FR 3	The printer shall have a mechanism to transport the mixed fuel and oxidizer to the manufacturing area.
FR 4	The printed propellant properties shall be compared to traditionally cast propellant material properties.
FR 5	Safety shall be the primary concern in every aspect of the project.

Design Requirements

Parent Functional Requirement	Design Requirements
FR 1	<p>1.1: The printer shall have a functional 3D positioning system.</p> <p>1.2: The printer shall be capable of manufacturing user-defined designs given a .step file input.</p> <p>1.3: Each layer of manufactured material shall bond to the previous and following layer (when applicable).</p>
FR 2	<p>2.1: The fuel and oxidizer shall be mixed into a homogeneous mixture prior to manufacturing.</p> <p>2.2: The fuel shall be composed of potassium nitrate and sucrose.</p>



Design Requirements Contd.

Parent Functional Requirement	Design Requirements
FR 3	3.1: The printed layer of propellant shall be no more than 1.0 mm. 3.2: Each layer shall have a tolerance of $\pm 30\%$.
FR 4	4.1: The following properties of additively manufactured propellant and cast propellant shall be measured: density, tensile strength, crush strength, and energy released during combustion.
FR 5	5.1: The energy released during combustion of the propellant shall be measured. 5.2: The chemical species created as reactants during combustion of the propellant shall be identified 5.3: The printer design shall include a fire-extinguishing safety system.



Design Requirements Contd.

Parent Functional Requirement	Design Requirements
FR 5	<p>5.4: The project shall produce a thermodynamic model to predict temperature distribution of the propellant during manufacturing to within 10 C⁰.</p> <p>5.5: The 3D printer shall have a State of Health System capable of measuring the propellant temperature to within 5 C⁰.</p> <p>5.6: The State of Health System shall be capable of cutting off power to the laser if a propellant temperature of over 350 C⁰ is detected</p> <p>5.7: The State of Health System contain the following sensors for redundancy: Carbon Monoxide sensor, Temperature sensor, Optical Dust sensor.</p>

Critical Project Elements for SLS

Critical Project Element (CPE)	Description
CPE #1: Thermal Model	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety • Laser requirements
CPE #2: Safety Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire risk • Prevention
CPE #3: Powder Bed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Layer thickness • Motor control
CPE #4: Software and Electronics Integration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electronics system design • Software integration
CPE #5: Material Testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Necessary tests • Machinery

Printing Method Trade Study

Methods compared in trade study

- Fused Deposition Modeling (FDM)
- Stereolithography (SLA)
- Selective Laser Sintering (SLS)

METHOD NAME					
Parameter Score	5	4	3	2	1
<i>Cost (\$)</i>	0 - 1,000	1,000 - 2,000	2,000 - 3,000	3,000 - 4,000	4,000 - 5,000
<i>Number of Modifications</i>	Zero	0 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20
<i>Technology Readiness Level (TRL)</i>	Actual system proven successful through mission operations under actual operating mission conditions		Components have been integrated and validated in the system operation environment to a high fidelity level.		Basic principles observed and reported. Lowest level of TRL, basic research and paper studies have been performed.
<i>Safety (Temp)</i>	System temperature never goes over autoignition temperature of 400°C		System temperature is capable of exceeding autoignition temperature		System is capable of exceeding autoignition temperature. Temperature cannot be controlled to within 50°C.

Trade Study Results

Winner: Selective Laser Sintering (SLS)

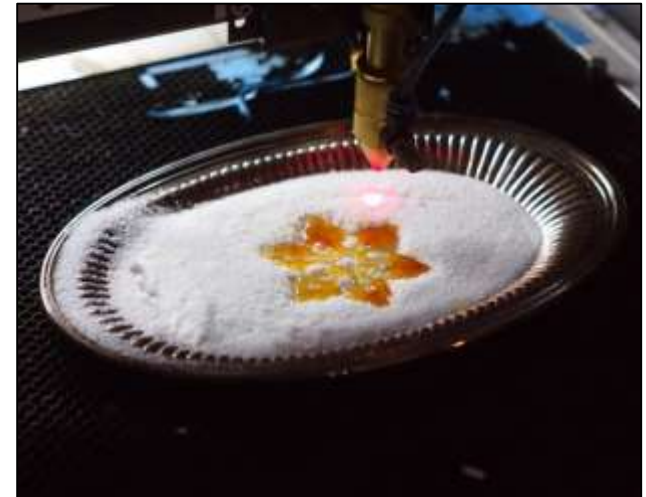
- TRL: Multiple demonstrations of feasibility with sugar as printed material
- Safety: Energy output of laser can be finely tuned to avoid combustion
- Modifications: Fewer modifications than standard FDM printers to convert a laser cutter

Functional Requirement:

FR 1: The project shall produce a 3D printer capable of automated additive manufacturing.



Maker Faire mascot sugar model⁶



SLS printing pure sucrose⁷



CPE #1: Thermal Model

Project
Overview

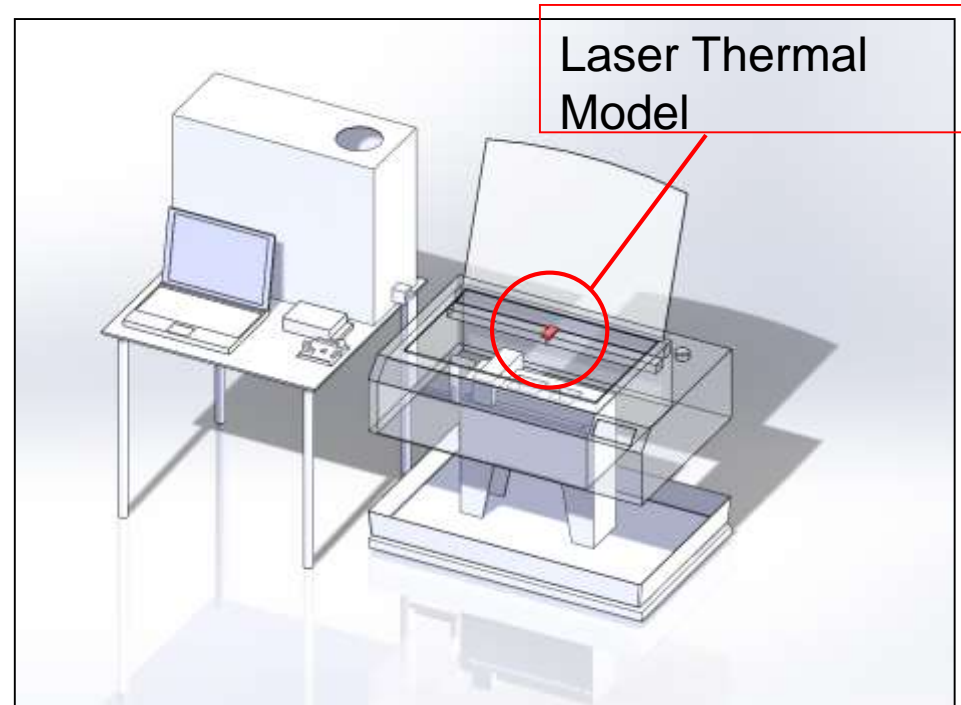
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CPE #1: Thermal Model Design

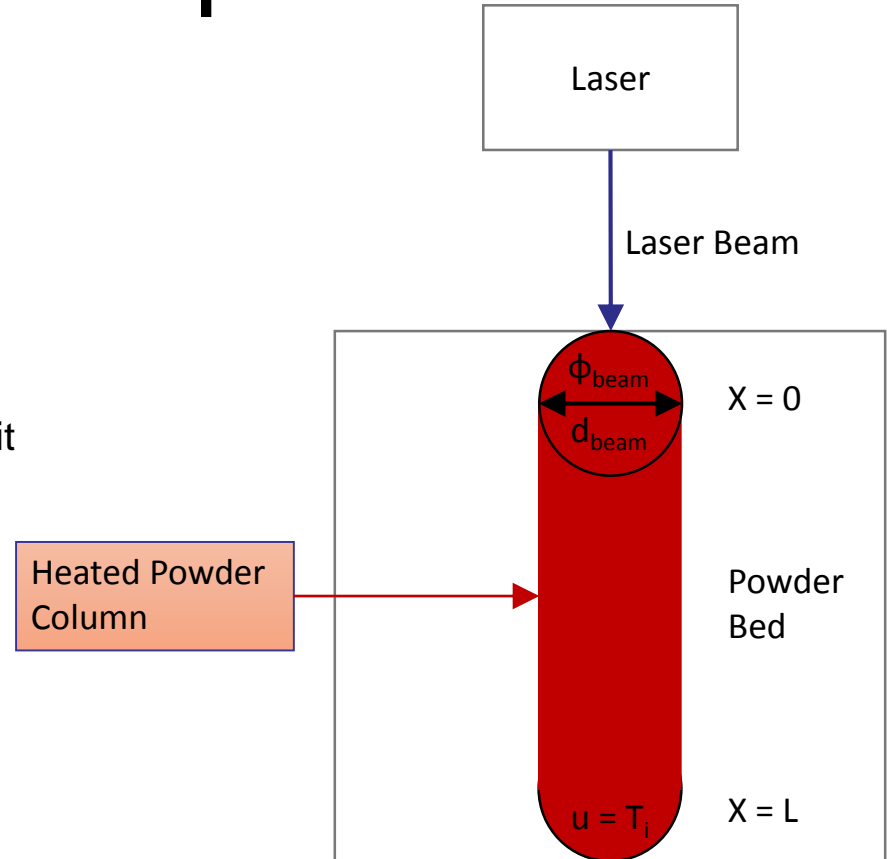
- A thermal model is essential in determining the power and safety of the SLS printer
 - It ensures feasibility of the laser sintering complete layers of sucrose
 - It allows calculation of laser power restrictions and safety margins to prevent autoignition



Baseline Design: Laser Location

CPE #1: Assumptions

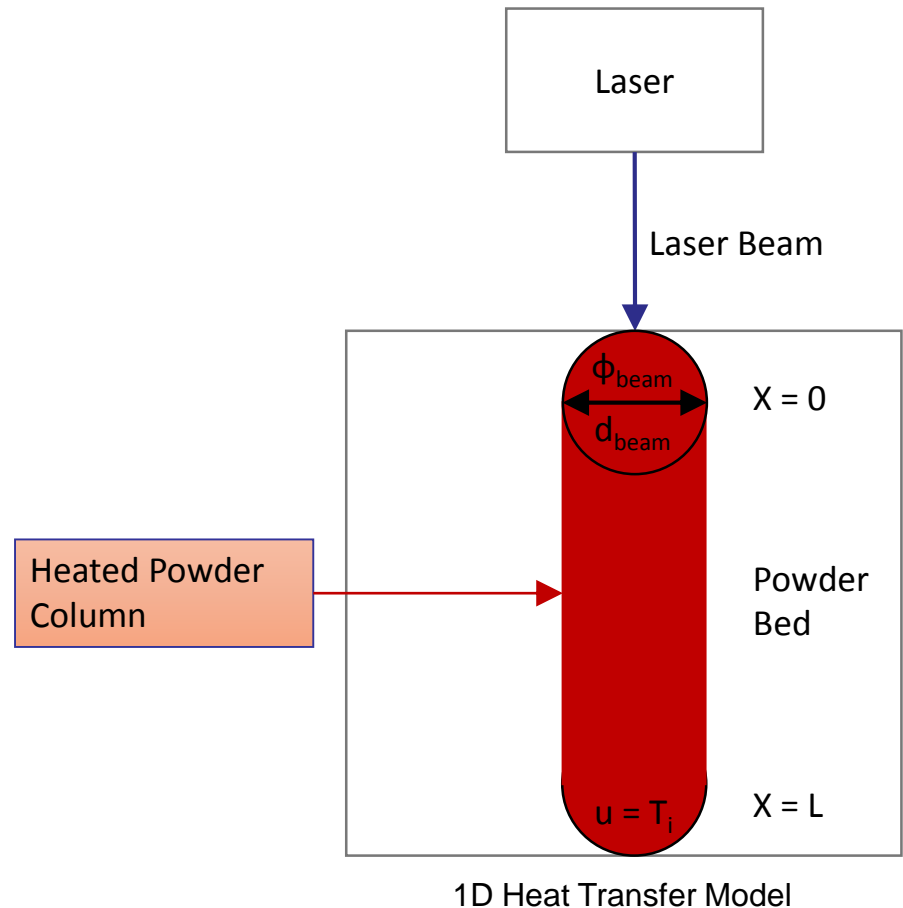
- Heat transfer modeled as a 1D rod
 - Only area in laser beam is heated (Diameter = beam width)
 - No heat is transferred to surrounding powder
- Reaches steady state instantaneously
 - Flux is assumed to be total energy per unit area of laser pulse
- Powder mixture is modeled as a solid
- Initial condition: uniform temperature throughout powder, T_i
- Boundary conditions:
 - Bottom of powder bed is forced to be T_i
 - Top of powder bed experiences constant heat flux, Φ_{beam}



1D Heat Transfer Model

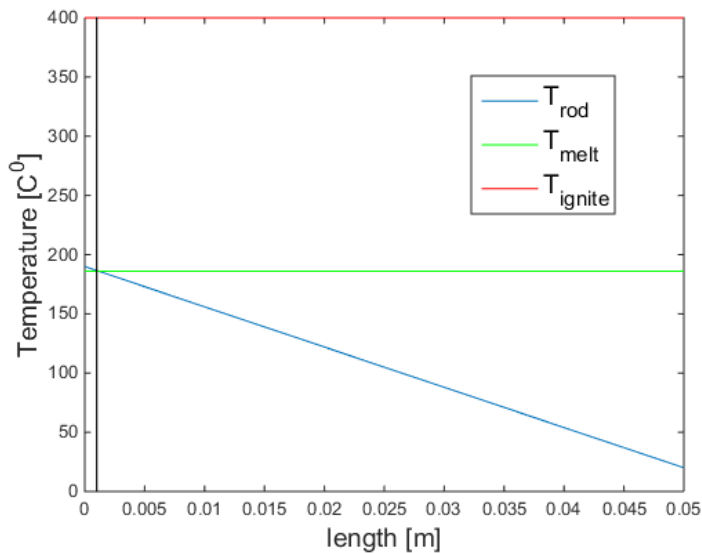
CPE #1: Values Used in Model

- $d_{\text{beam}} = 0.1 \text{ mm}$
- $\Delta t = 1 \text{ ms}$
- $L = 0.05 \text{ m}$
- $K_0 = 0.502 \text{ W/(m}\cdot\text{k)}$
 - Weighted average by mass of K_0 of sucrose and KN0_3
 - 35% Sucrose, 65% KN0_3
 - K_0 for KN0_3 is $0.691 \text{ W/(m}\cdot\text{K)}$
 - K_0 for Sucrose is $0.151 \text{ W/(m}\cdot\text{K)}$
- $T_i = 20 \text{ C}^0$ and 100 C^0
- Φ_{beam} varies proportionally with P_{beam}
 - P_{beam} is a design parameter

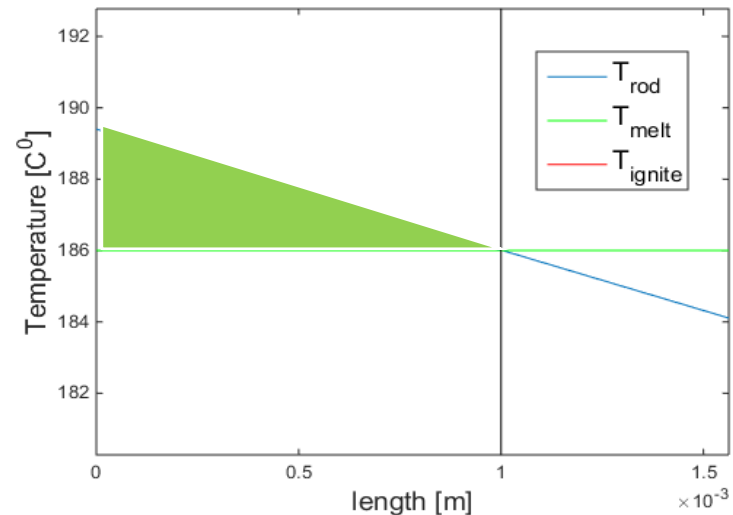


CPE #1: Results of Room Temp Powder Bed (20 C⁰)

- $P_{\text{beam}} = 13.4 \text{ mW}$
- $\Phi_{\text{beam}} = 1.7 \text{ kJ/m}^2$
- Green region = molten propellant
- Take-away: **sintering without propellant ignition is feasible**



Powder Temperature



Molten region

CPE #1: Conclusions & Future Tasks

- Conclusions:
 - Achieve sintering with safety margin of about $\sim 200^{\circ}$ C
 - Need to reduce power of 40 W laser for safe sintering
 - Laser system viable for sintering
- Future Tasks:
 - Develop time dependent heat transfer model
 - Find more accurate value of K_0
 - Characterize reflectivity of Propellant powder
 - Create more accurate model of beam power
 - Develop model of heat transfer through a powder



Thermal Model Requirements Fulfillment

Functional Requirement:

FR 5: Safety shall be the primary concern in every aspect of the project.

Design Requirement:

DR 5.4: The project shall produce a thermodynamic model to predict temperature distribution of the propellant during manufacturing.

Baseline Design:

Complete the thermal model and implement power correction on laser output





CPE #2: Safety Design

Project
Overview

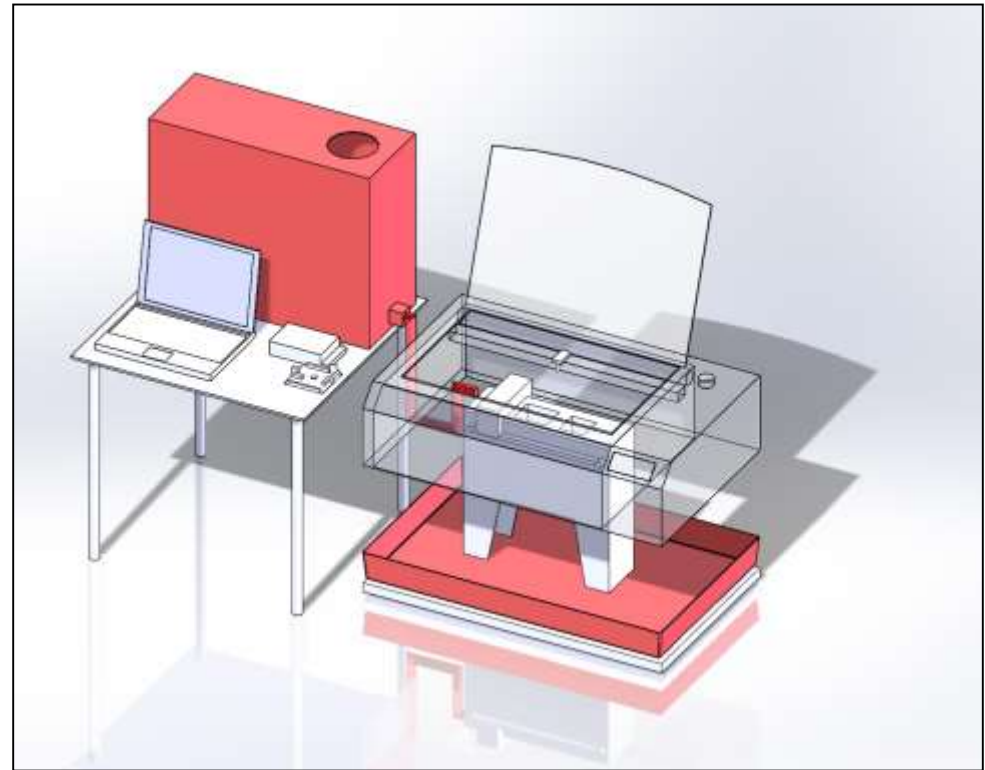
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CPE #2: Safety Design

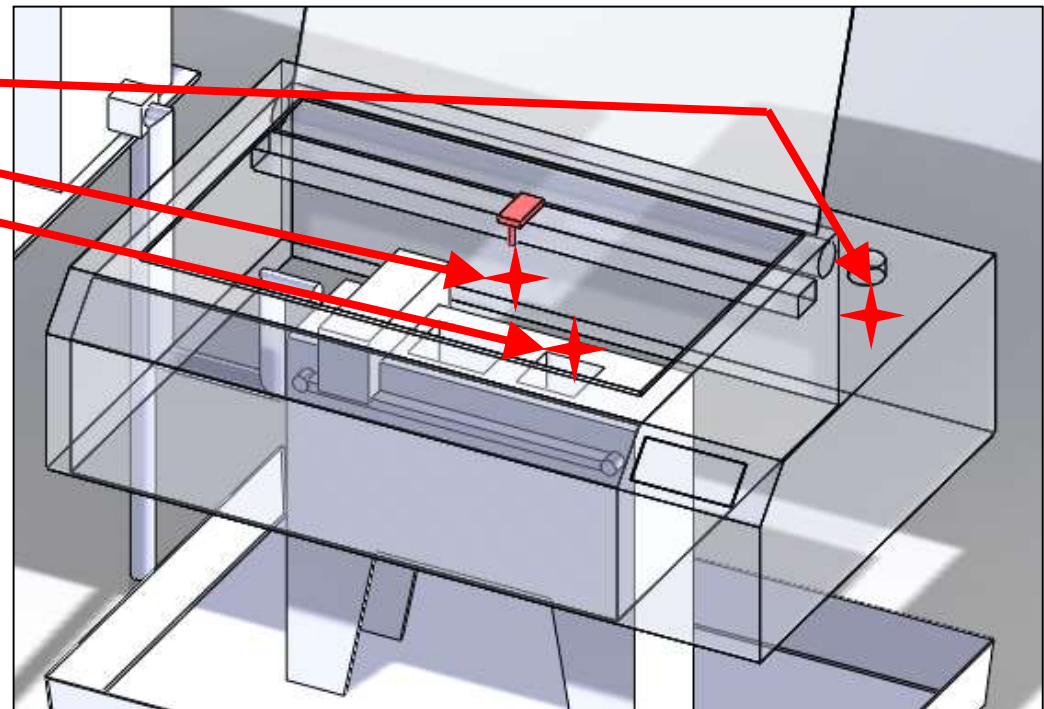
- Team will have training in HazMat Disposal and Laser Safety
- Low Chance of Combustion (From Heat Model)
- “State of Health” System monitors Powder Bed
- Integrated Extinguishing Mechanism



Baseline Design: Safety System

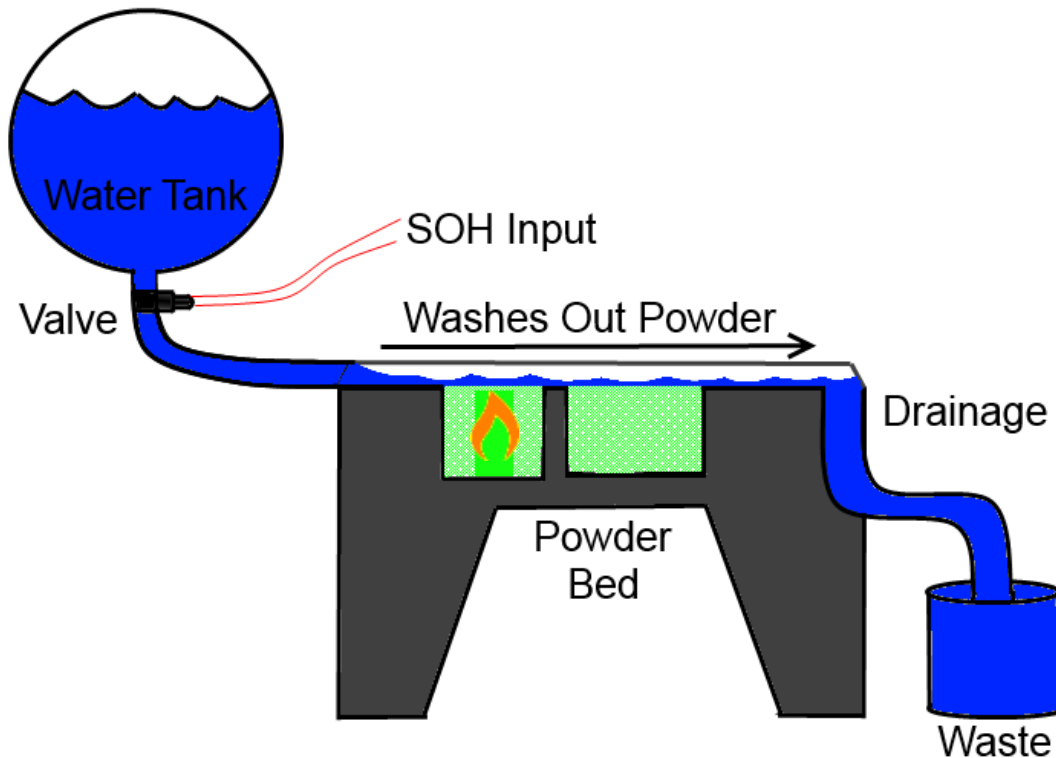
CPE #2: State of Health System

- Three Sensors:
 - Optical Dust Sensor
 - Infrared Thermometer
 - Carbon Monoxide Sensor
- Emergency Response:
 - Cut power to laser diode
 - Activate release valve for H2O reservoir



Baseline Design: SOH System Location

CPE #2: Water Safety System



Water Safety Concept of Operations

- Water dilutes powder and flushes into waste container
- Total Energy Release of Entire Powder Bed: **1.7 MJ**
- Required Volume of [Water Reservoir](#) for $\Delta T = 20^\circ$: **50 L**
- Container dimensions:
 - 0.62m x 0.39m x 0.22m
- Safety Factor: **2.4**

Safety Requirements Fulfillment

Functional Requirement:

FR 5: Safety shall be the primary concern in every aspect of the project.

Design Requirement:

DR 5.4: The project shall produce a thermodynamic model to predict temperature distribution of the propellant during manufacturing to within 10 C⁰.

DR 5.5: The 3D printer shall have a State of Health System capable of measuring the propellant temperature to within 5 C⁰.

DR 5.6: The State of Health System shall be capable of cutting off power to the laser if a propellant temperature of over 350 C⁰ is detected

DR 5.7: The State of Health System contain the following sensors for redundancy: Carbon Monoxide sensor, Temperature sensor, Optical Dust sensor.

Baseline Design:

Implement SoH sensors with emergency relief reservoir of water



CPE #3: Powder Bed



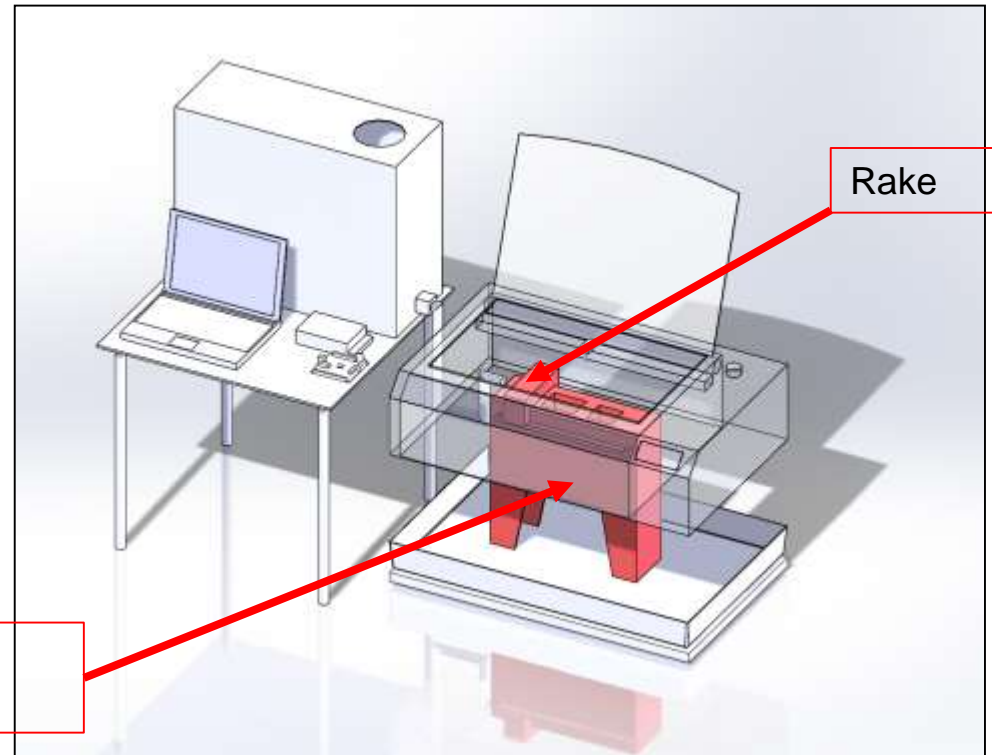
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CPE #3: Powder Bed

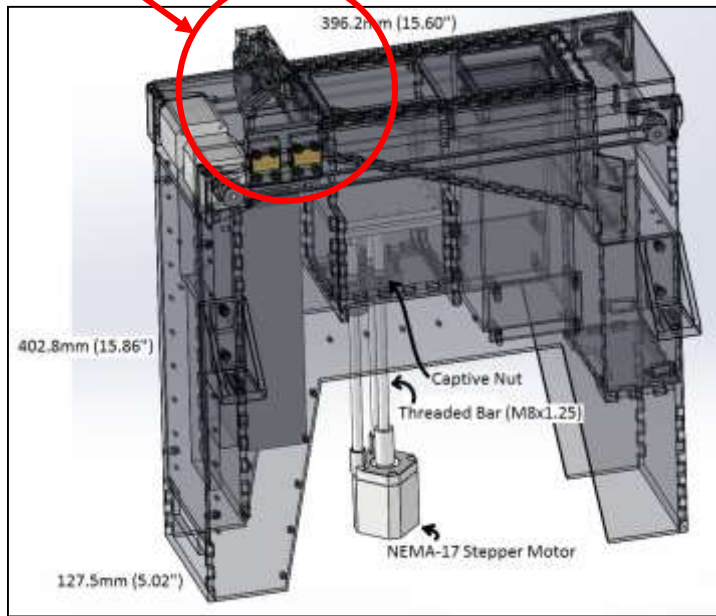
- Holds printed product and powdered propellant
- Consistently spreads the powder across the bed
- Contain surplus powder



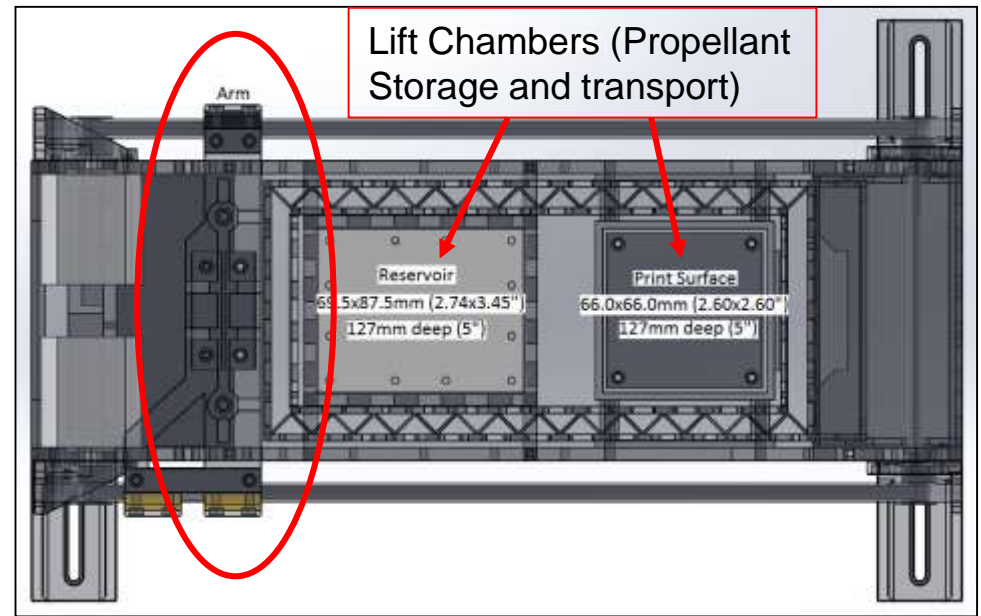
Baseline Design: Powder Bed System

CPE #3: Powder Bed Components

Motorized Rake



Powder Bed Mechanical Design²¹



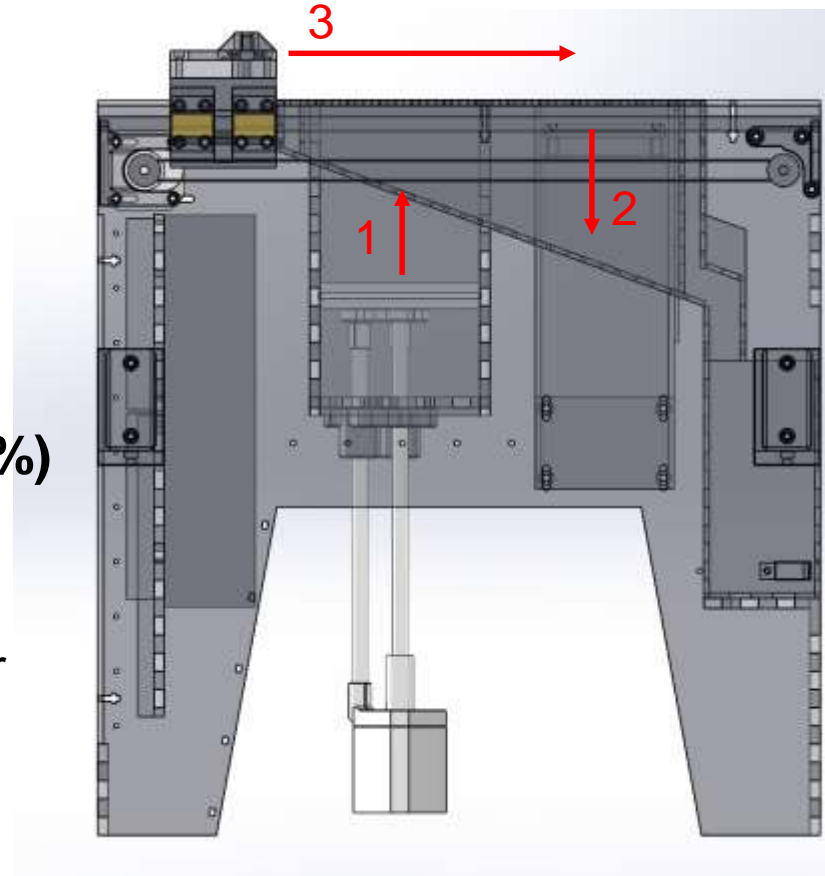
Powder Bed Aerial View²¹

Lift Feasibility: Resolution

$$\Delta Z = \frac{\theta_{rot} P}{360^\circ}$$

- θ_{rot} = Motor rotation ($1.8^\circ \pm 5\%$)
- P = Thread pitch (1.25mm)
- ΔZ = **Vertical travel ($0.004\text{mm} \pm 5\%$)**

1. Powder Reservoir
2. Print Surface
3. Arm/Rake



Powder Bed Requirements Fulfillment

Functional Requirement:

FR 3: The printer shall have a mechanism to deliver the mixed fuel and oxidizer to the manufacturing area.

Design Requirement:

DR 3.1: The printed layer of propellant shall be no more than 1.0 mm.

DR 3.2: Each layer shall have a tolerance of $\pm 30\%$.

Baseline Design:

Manufacture using a pre-existing open source design – R2 Module



CPE #4: Software and Electronics Integration

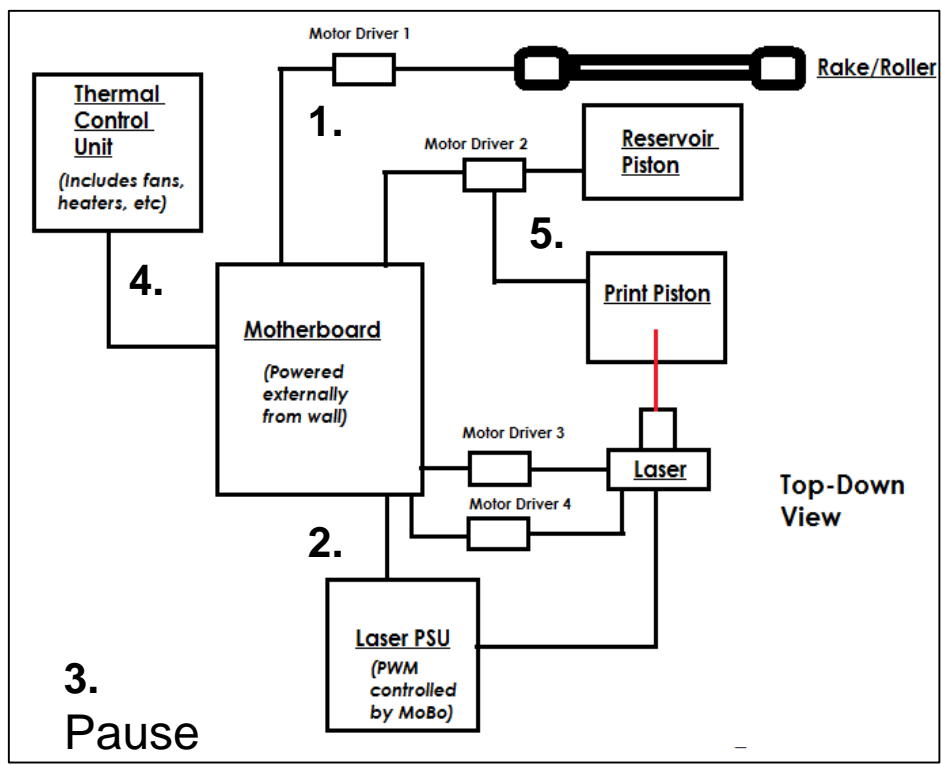
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CPE #4: Software Integration



Software Integration Diagram

SLS Printer Software Control

1. Rake motor activated to spread powder
2. Laser cutter activated for a single cut
3. Wait 2 minutes to allow layer to cure
4. Thermal control sensors checked
5. Activate reservoir piston motors
 - a. Powder reservoir moves up
 - b. Print bed moves down
6. Repeat loop until propellant is completely manufactured

CPE #4: RAMBo Board

- Used for integration with Computer Numerical Control (CNC) machines
- Programmable using Arduino software
- Laser pulse rate 0.125 mHz
- Arduino-mega clockrate is 16 mHz

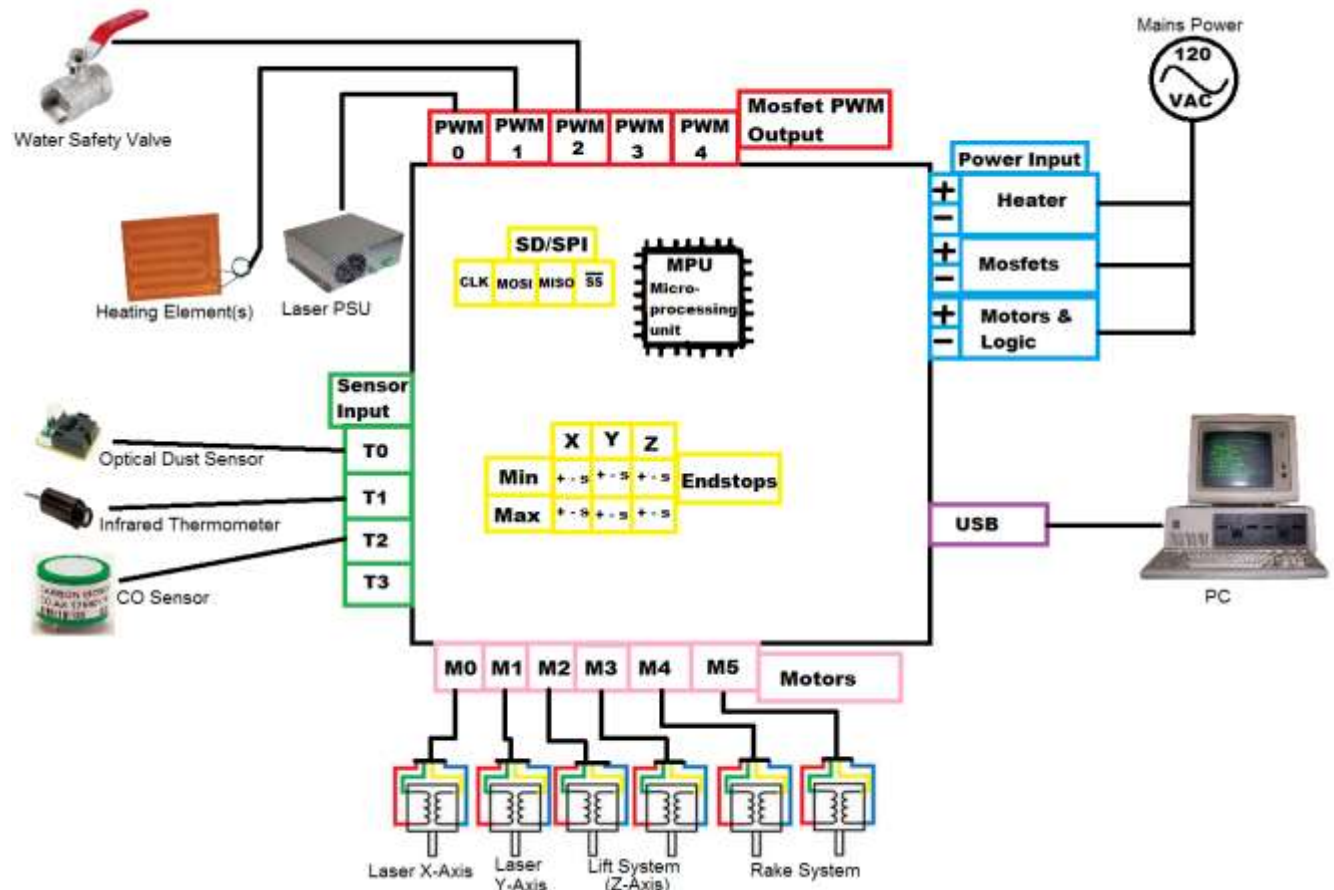


Diagram of RAMBo Board Layout



CPE #5: Material Testing

Project
Overview

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CPE #5: Propellant Structural Testing

- Common Tests in Industry
 - Tension, Torsion, Compression, Shear, Fracture Toughness, Stiffness, Creep, and Temperature Cycling
 - Intended to assure safety and performance
- SPAM Testing
 - Stress/Strain curves, Poisson's Ratio, Fracture Toughness, Critical Crack Length, Young's Modulus

stress: $\sigma = F/A$

strain: $\epsilon = \Delta L/L$

CPE #5: Propellant Material Testing



Instron machine⁸

Alternate Test Apparatus Configurations		
Tension	Compression	Fracture Toughness

Fracture Toughness Diagram⁹

Material Testing Requirements Fulfillment

Functional Requirement:

FR 4: The printed propellant properties shall be compared to traditionally cast propellant properties.

Design Requirements:

DR 4.1: The additively manufactured propellant and cast propellant shall each be characterized by density, tensile strength, crush strength, and energy release.

Baseline Design:

Material testing through accessible or analogous machinery



Status Summary



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Critical Project Element Feasibility Review

CPE	Critical Proofs of Feasibility		
	Metric	Result	Safety Factor or Error Margin
SLS Method (Thermal Model)	- Maximum Operating Temperature Below 400°C	- Maximum Operating Temperature 200°C	2
Safety Design	- Energy release from propellant ignition can be contained (1.7MJ)	- Water safety system can contain any energy release (4.1MJ)	2.4
Powder Bed	- Lift and Rake assembly can transport a mass of 2.5Kg to print area	- Powder Bed motors use 0.43 Nm - 0.0273 Nm of torque is required	15.75
Software and Electronics Integration	- Software can be modified and/or is available as Open Source - Motherboard has sufficient functionality	- Software is Open Source (RepRap) - 6 motor pin outs available, designed for SLS manufacturing	N/A
Material Testing	- Motors can be safely tested for structural performance	- 72.1MPa axial loading before predicted auto-ignition, axial loading will be applied up to 24.0MPa if needed	3

Budget Analysis

- Budget is driven by cost of laser cutter
- Because laser power is not imperative to system functionality, lower power lasers can be used (40W instead of 60-80W) and money can be saved
- Budget Margin **35%**

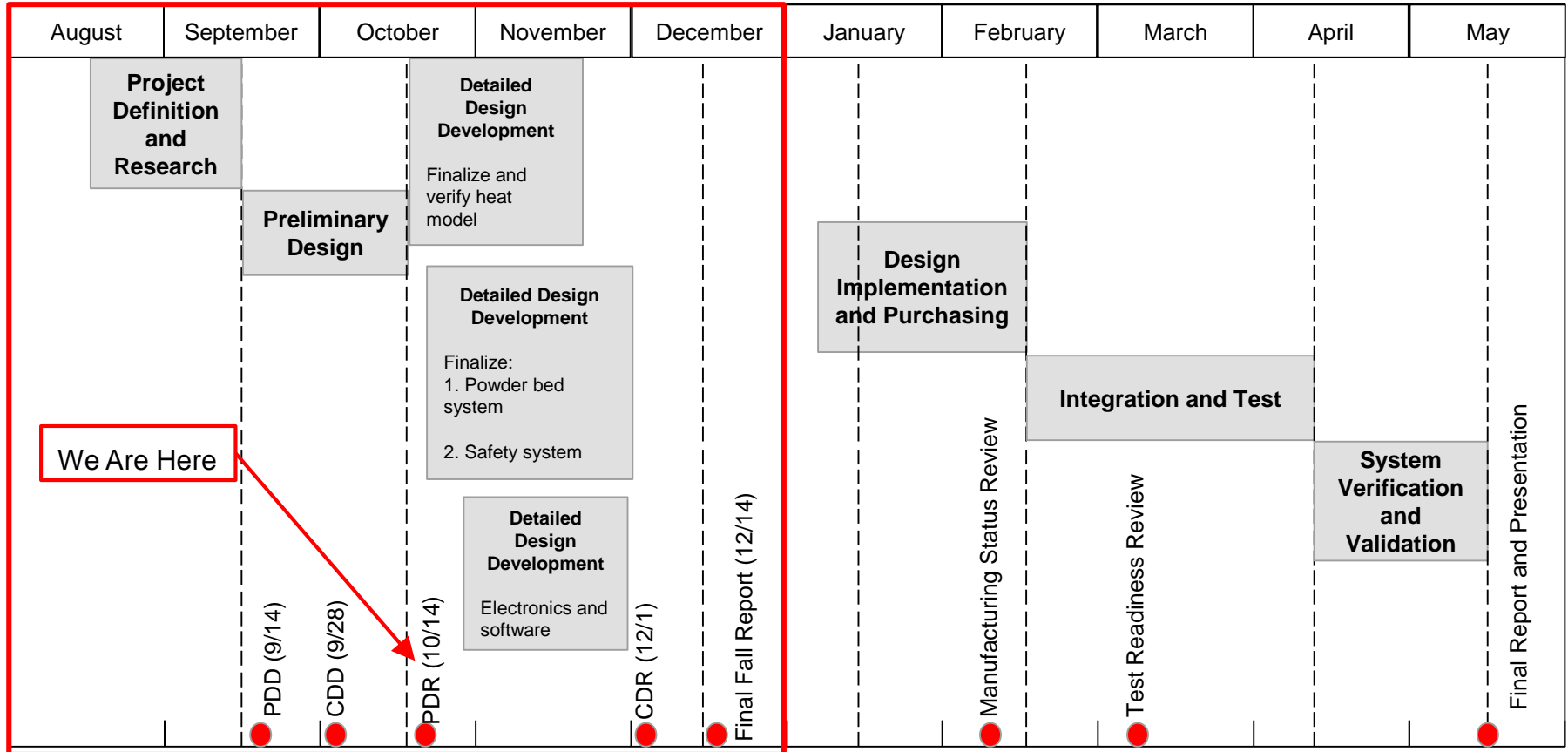
System	Cost
Laser Cutter (CNC 40 Watt CO2) *Free Shipping	\$2,200.00
Powder Bed	\$220.00
Propellant Raw Materials (Sugar and KNO3)	\$400.00
Safety Equipment	\$200.00
Integration Hardware and Electronics	\$230.00
Grand Total	\$3,250.00

Steps in Moving Forward

- Compile safety documentation before testing and manufacturing
- Testing to verify mathematical models
 - Laser tested on melting sucrose
 - PWM control tested for a laser diode
- Compile list of individual powder bed components and corresponding manufacturing material
- Software and Electronics Integration
 - Timing of mechanical components/trade-offs
 - Automated powder bed control
 - Water safety system software design and circuit integration

Schedule Timeline (Overall Project)

Fall Semester



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Backup Slides



Agenda

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Backup Slides

Sugar-based rocket fuel

FDM

SLA

Trade Study

CPE #1

CPE #2

CPE #3

Testing

Risk Matrix



Manufacturing Sugar Based Solid Rocket Fuel

Traditional Method: Casting

1. Mix KNO_3 and Sucrose powder into homogeneous mixture
2. Heat mixture on stove top for ~20-30 min
3. Pour molten mixture into a cast
4. Let propellant set for several hours



Casted Propellant Curing in Mold¹⁰



Casted Propellant Showing Grain Shape¹¹

Sugar Properties Table

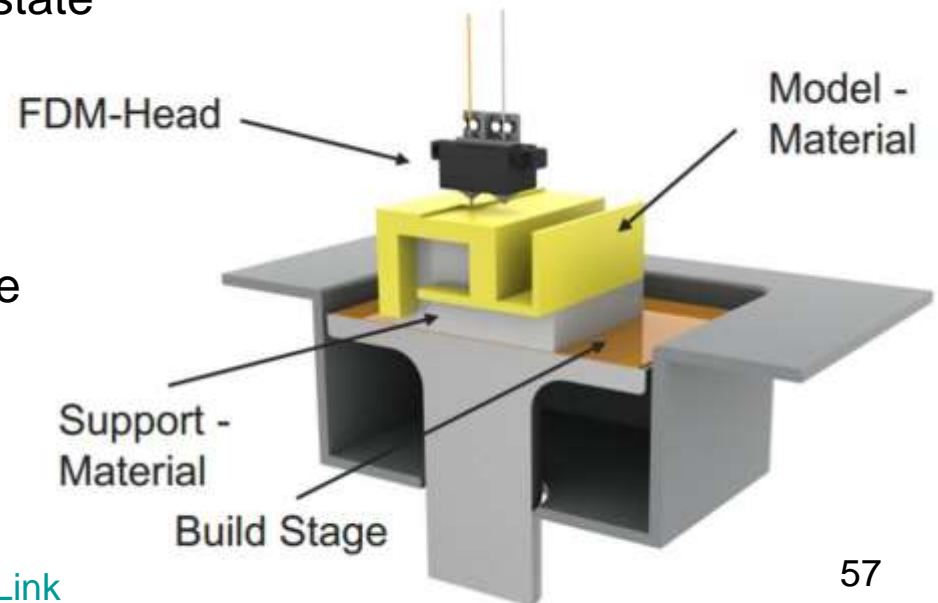
	Sucrose	Sorbitol	Dextrose
Chemical Formula	$C_{12}H_{22}O_{11}$	$C_6H_{14}O_6$ [1]	$C_6H_{12}O_6$
Molecular Weight (g/mole)	342.3	182.2 [1]	180.16
Melting Point (C.)	185 (d)	110-112 [2]	146 (d) [3]
Density (g/cm ³)	1.581	1.489	1.562
Enthalpy of Formation (kJ/mol)	-2221.2	-1353.7	-1274.5
Enthalpy of Formation (cal/gram)	-1549.9 [4]	-1774.8 [4]	-1689.7 [4]
Appearance	white granular or cohesive powder	white granular or cohesive powder	dry white powder

FDM - Fused Deposition Modeling

The material is melted and extruded onto the print surface by the nozzle. The nozzle, print surface, or both may move.

Not feasible

- propellant cannot be held in molten state without decomposing ^[2]
- maximum ~30min of pliability
- additional safety concerns holding propellant at high temps for extended periods under pressure



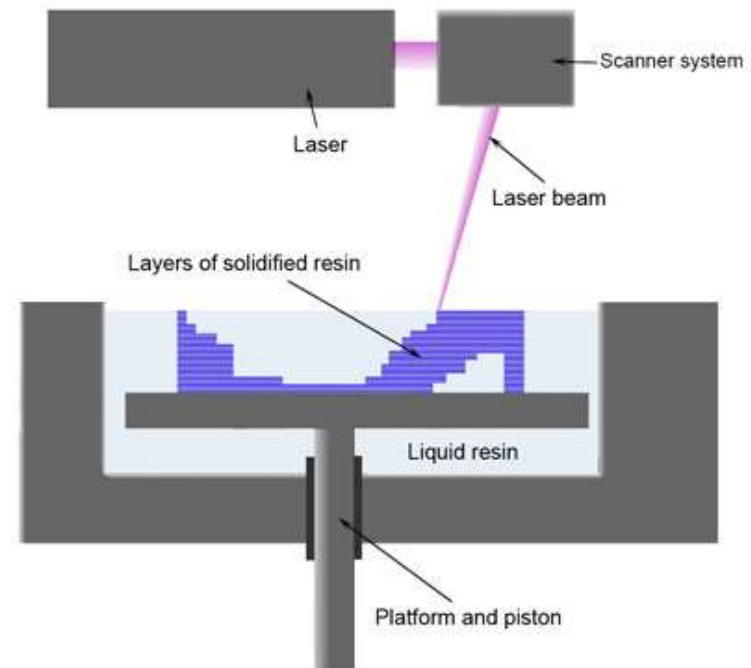
[Link](#)

SLA - Stereolithography

Focus a beam of ultraviolet light on a vat of photopolymer.
The beam cures each layer of the resin onto a moveable platform.

Not feasible

- photoresin is prohibitively expensive
- photopolymer is the only possible fuel
- No time to test/too much research



[Link](#)

Baseline Design Trade Study

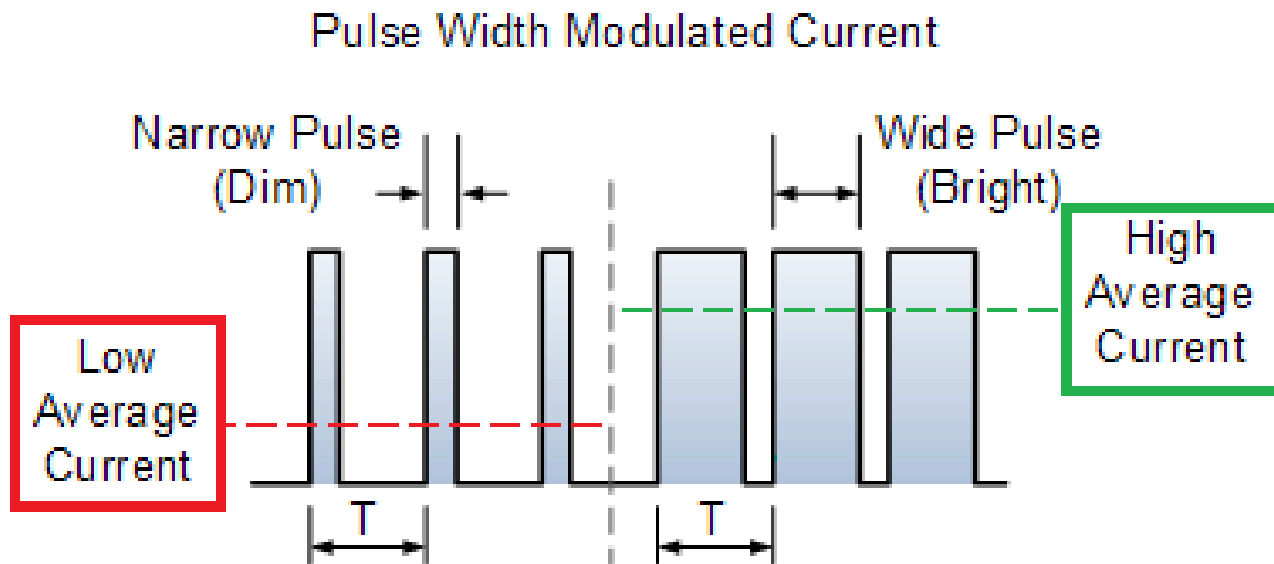
Design Decision: Modify Laser Cutter Machine

- Laser must be integrated and calibrated by the team
- Print chamber must be designed and fabricated
- Higher cost
- Team must design and build system around safety requirements

		Lulzbot	Laser Cutter
Metric	Weight	Score	Score
Laser	25%	3	5
Print Chamber	10%	0	3
Safety	25%	2	4
Est. Cost	15%	2	3
Est. Time	10%	0	2
Precedent	15%	2	4
Weighted Total:	100%	1.85	3.8

CPE #1: Thermal Model - Software

Laser power output can be tuned with Pulse Width Modulation (PWM)



CPE #1: Heat Transfer Model

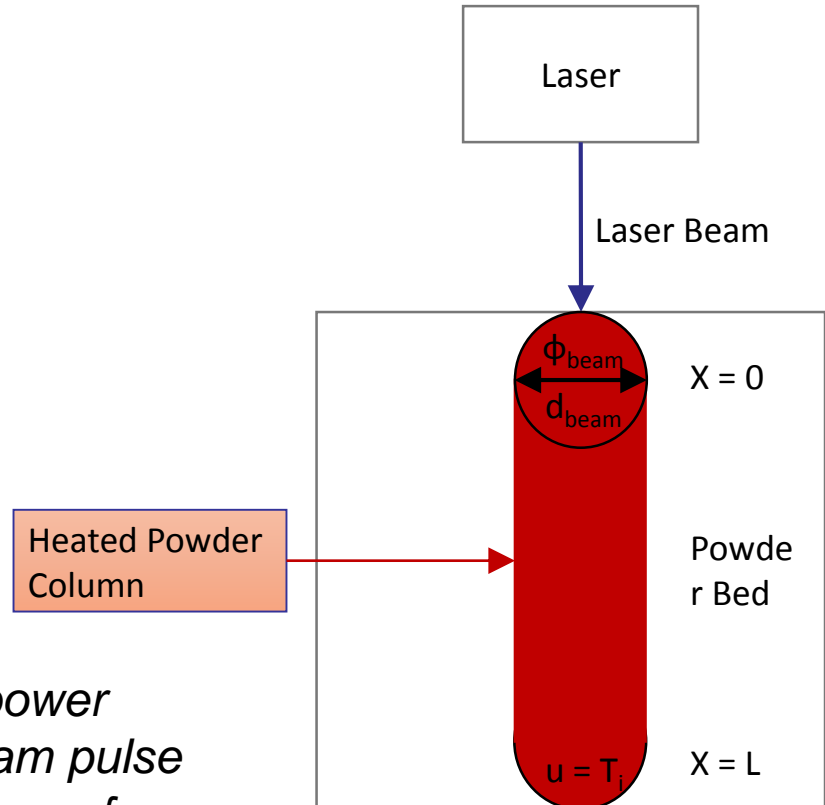
- Boundary conditions:
 - $\partial_x u(0, t) = \frac{\phi_{beam}}{K_0}$
 - $u(L, t) = T_b$
- Initial condition:
 - $u(x, 0) = T_b$
- Solution to heat equation:

$$u(x) = \frac{\phi_{beam}}{K_0} (L - x) + T_b$$

$$\phi_{beam} = \frac{P_{beam} \Delta t}{\pi \frac{d^2}{4}}$$

Where:

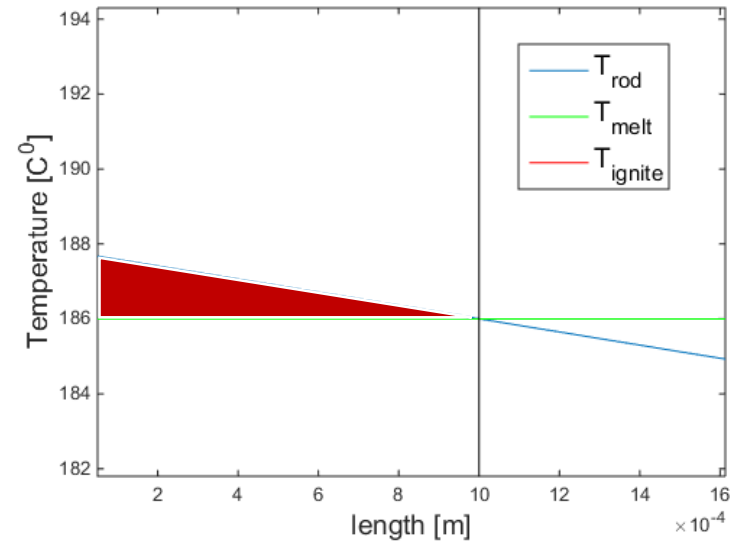
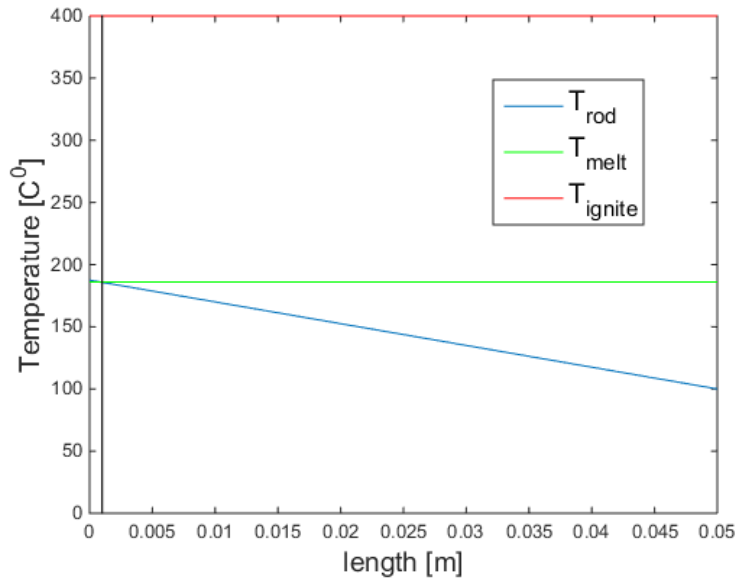
- K_0 = thermal resistivity
- L = length of "rod"
- ϕ_{beam} = heat flux of beam
- d = beam diameter
- P_{beam} = beam power
- Δt = time of beam pulse
- $u(x)$ = temperature of rod in C^0



CPE #1: Results for the 100 C⁰ Powder Bed

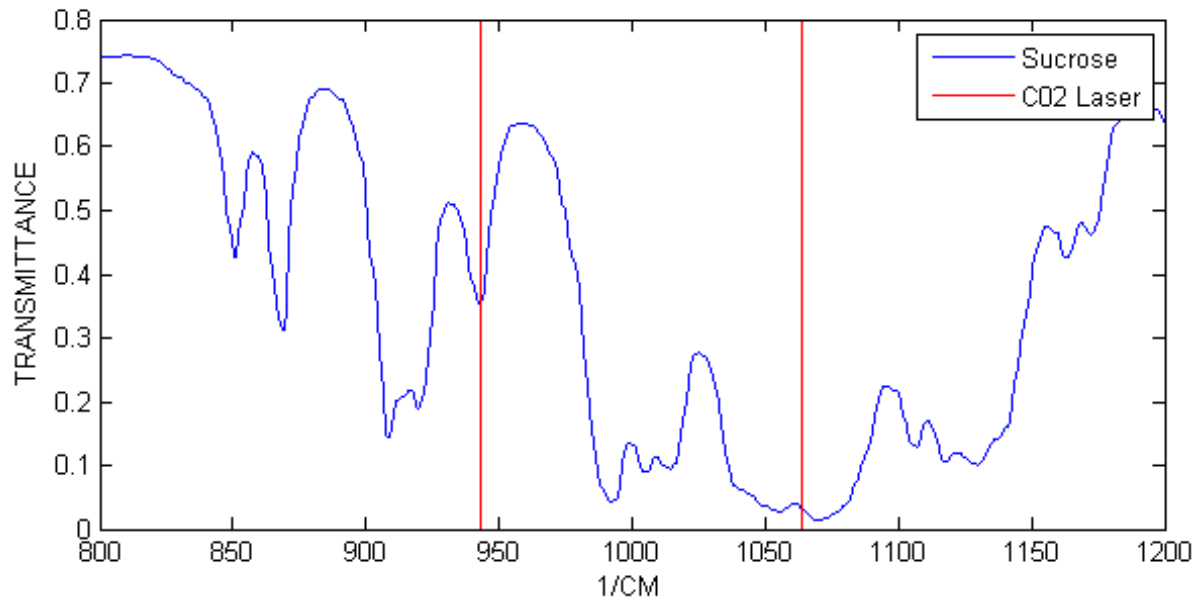
$P_{\text{beam}} = 6.92 \text{ mW}$
 $\Phi_{\text{beam}} = 0.88 \text{ kJ/m}^2$

- Red region = melted powder

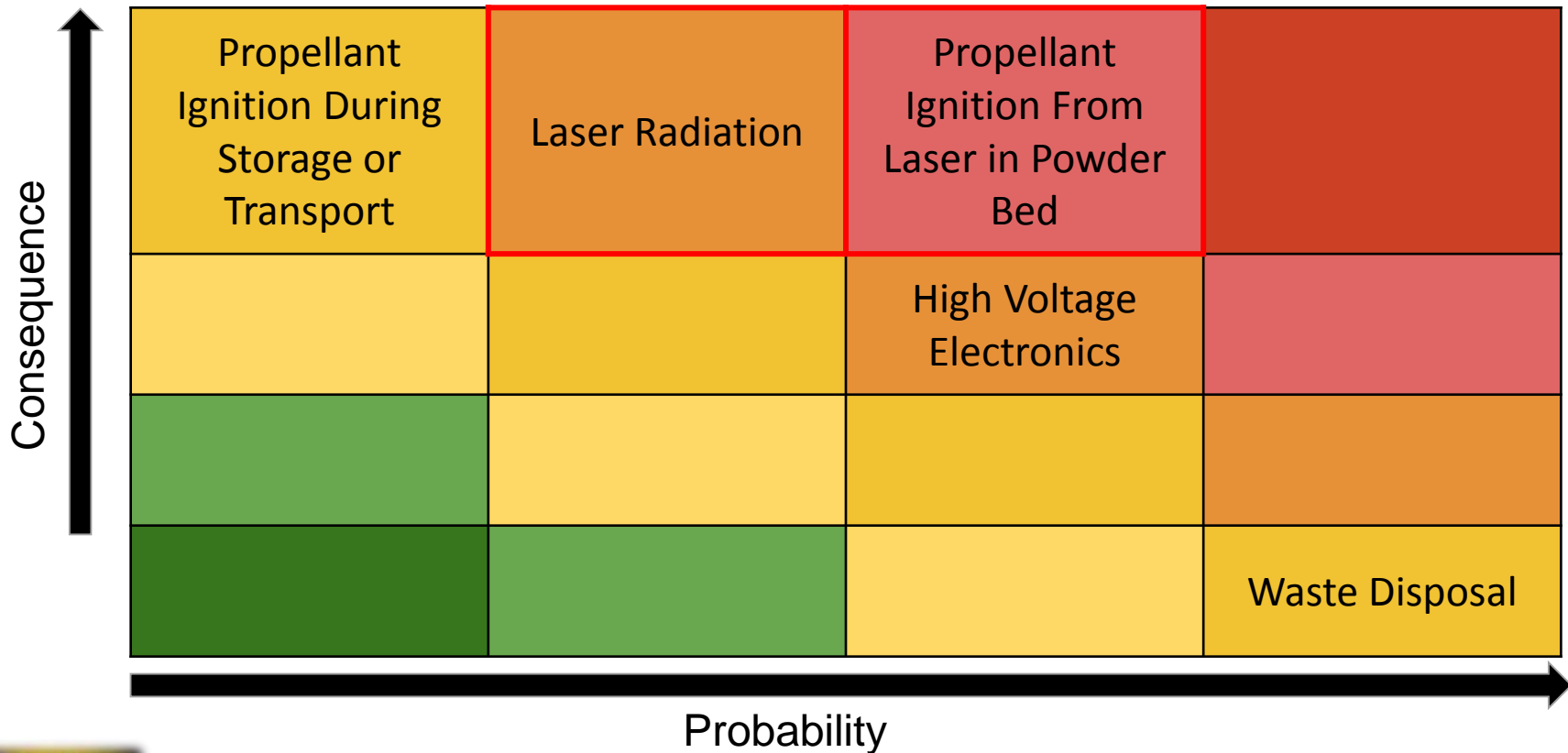


CPE #1: Laser Wavelength Selection

- Most Common: CO₂ Lasers
- Two Main Wavelengths: 94,000 and 106,000 Angstroms
- Sucrose absorbs ~95%



CPE #2: Safety Design - Risks



Energetic Material Safety

Detonation \neq Deflagration

- Deflagration \sim low velocity burn rate
- Detonation \sim supersonic shock front propagation

Example of Detonation: TNT burns at **5.8 km/s**^[17]

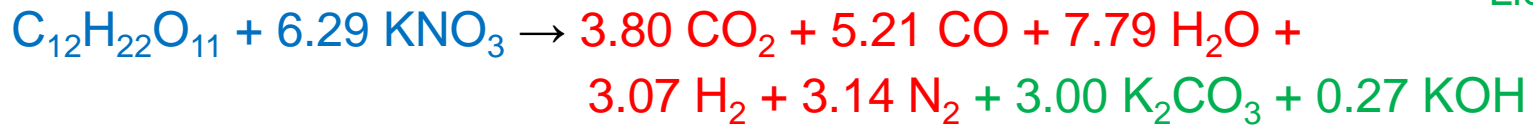
Example of Deflagration: Sugar propellant burns at **386 mm/s**^[2]

Therefore, we make a couple more assumptions:

- The propellant will only deflagrate and not detonate during the manufacturing process (powder held at standard conditions: 1 atm, 25 °C)
- Deflagration occurs uniformly

Chemistry Calculations

Key:
 Solid
 Gas
 Liquid



Heat:

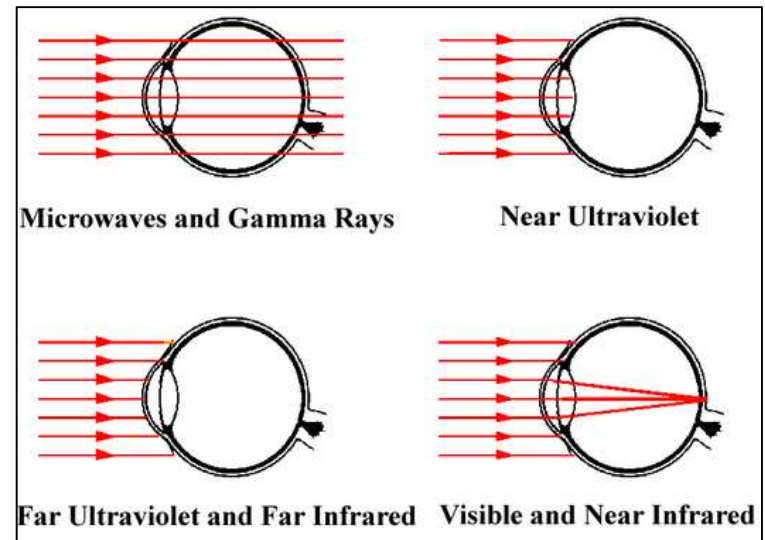
- Calculate Energy Release of Reaction using Specific Enthalpy
 - Per Gram: 1.231 kJ
 - Total Powder Bed: 1.737 MJ
- Products Assumed to be at STP
 - Upper Bound on Energy

Gas Volume:

- Calculate Volume of Gaseous Products
 - Per Gram: 321.7 cm³
 - Total Powder Bed: 0.454 m³

CPE #2: Laser Safety

- CO₂ Lasers operate on the infrared wavelength spectrum (they are not visible to the naked eye)
 - Retinal burns and/or blindness can occur
- All team members will complete training:
 - OSHA General Industry (29 CFR 1910) and Construction Industry (29 CFR 1926) training requirements for Laser Safety
- Laser-Safe Facilities:
 - Prof. Starkey's Lab (will need to confirm)
 - JILA (Joint Institute for Lab Astrophysics) operates lasers



Facilities

Propellant Storage:

- Fuel and oxidizer materials will be stored separately in locker
- When fuel-oxidizer material has been mixed it will be disposed of at any RCRA waste approved facility
 - Option: Hazardous Waste Disposal in Boulder County

System Storage:

SLS system must be stored in a facility that is approved for the systems
40Watt CO₂ laser

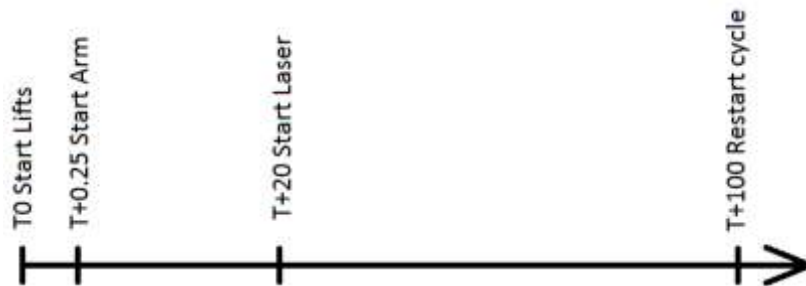
On Campus Laser Facility Options:

- Dr. Ryan Starkey's Lab
- Joint Institute for Lab Astrophysics (JILA) facility

Cycle Time Profile

3 Major 'Phases'

- Activate Lifts
- **Activate** Arm
- **RUn** Lasers



NEMA-17 RPM: 20-200

- Torque loss with high RPM

$$T_{lift} = \frac{\Delta Z}{P\omega_{lift}}$$

- P = Thread pitch (1.25mm)
- ω_{lift} = Rotation speed (1/3 rps)
- ΔZ = Vertical distance (0.1mm)
- T_{lift} = Time to lift (0.24 sec)**

$$T_{arm} = \frac{\omega_{arm}\Delta X}{\pi r}$$

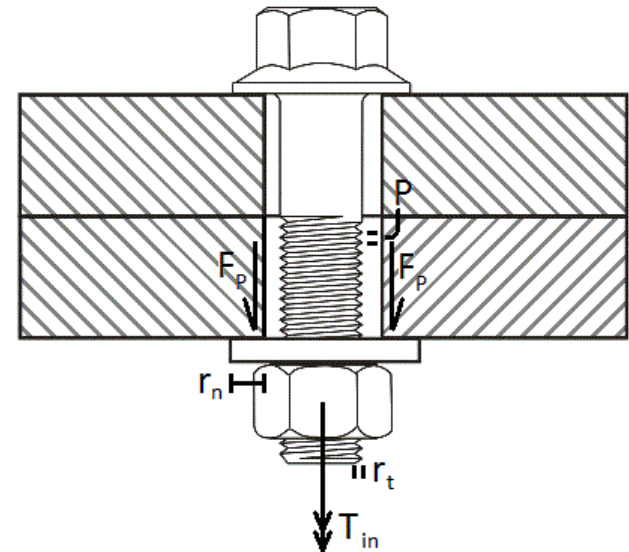
- r = Radius of wheel (5mm)
- ΔX = Travel distance (230mm)
- ω_{arm} = Rotation speed (4/3 rps)
- T_{arm} = Time to sweep (19.53 sec)**

CPE #3: Powder Bed Feasibility

The Motosh Equation^[10,11]

$$T_{in} = F_p \left[\frac{P}{2\pi} + \frac{\mu_t r_t}{\cos(\beta)} + \mu_n r_n \right]$$

- F_p = Load on nut (~2.5kg, 24.525N)
- P = Thread pitch
- $\mu_{t/n}$ = Coef. of friction of thread surface
- $r_{t/n}$ = Radius of thread surface contact
- β = Half angle of thread (30°)
- T_{in} = Torque to spin nut (0.0273Nm)



Parameters for the Motosh Equation¹²

Max torque of chosen motor: 0.43Nm

Testing Safety

Thermoelastic stress analysis

$$\Delta T = - T_0 \alpha / (\rho c_p) \Delta \sigma_{kk}$$

Assume:  Temperature increase due to plane stress

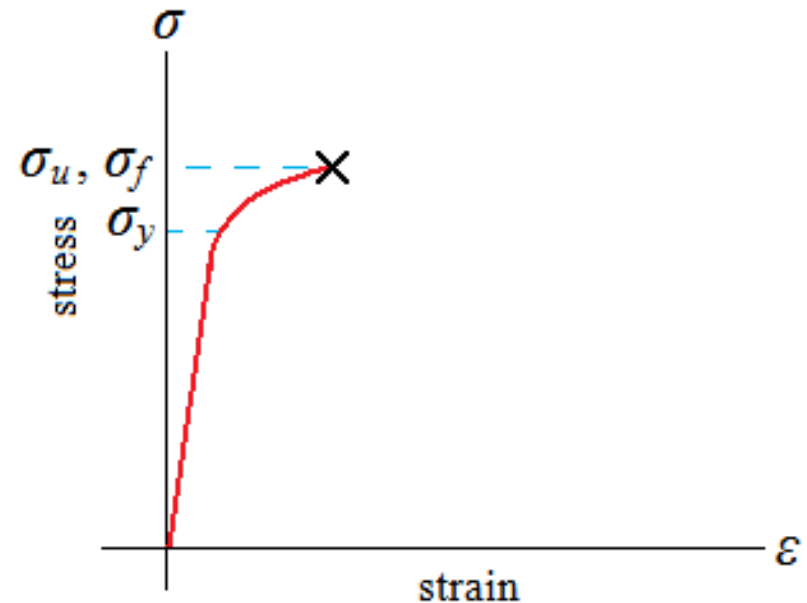
- $\rho = 1000 \text{ kg/m}^3$
- $c_p = 3.89 \text{ kJ/kg}$
- $T_0 = 293 \text{ K}$
- $\alpha = 70 \text{ e}^{-6} \text{ m/m/K}$

$\Delta \sigma_{kk} = \sigma_{kk} = 72.1 \text{ MPa}$ to cause auto-ignition

Approx. 2x ultimate strength of concrete.

Tensile Testing

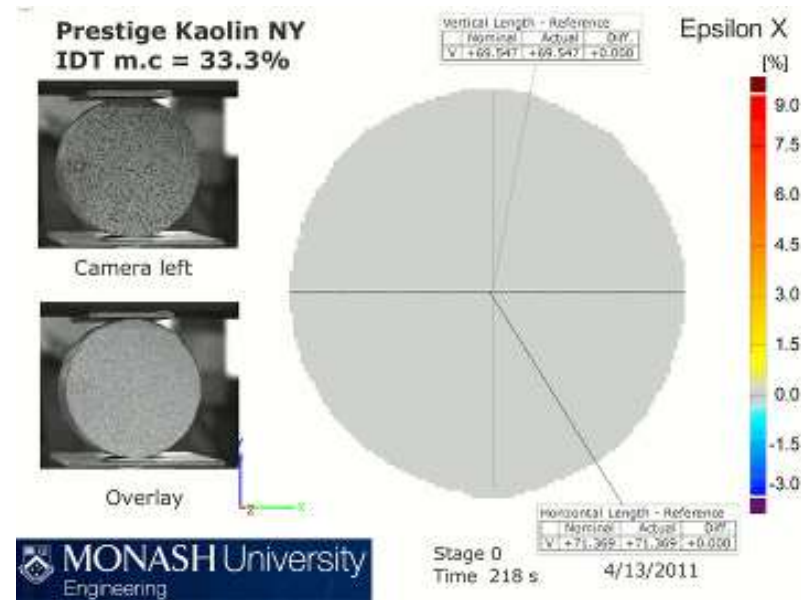
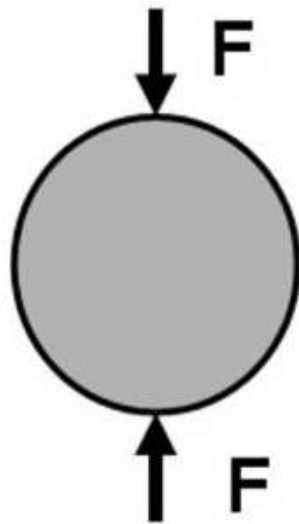
- Dogbone of both cast and printed propellant
- Brittle material cannot interface with the Instron
 - Dip ends in epoxy resin to avoid crush
- Test to failure
- Stress versus Strain curve reveals:
 - material classification
 - yield strength: σ_y
 - ultimate strength: σ_u
 - Poisson's Ratio: $\nu = -\epsilon_t/\epsilon$
 - expect $\sim 1/3$ for brittle material
 - Young's Modulus: $E = \sigma/\epsilon$



Stress-Strain Diagram [8]

Indirect Tensile Testing

- Propellant is loaded diametrically
- The loading causes a tensile deformation perpendicular to the loading direction

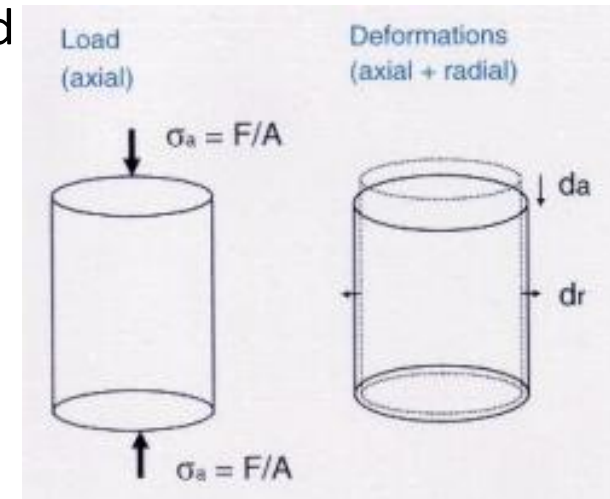


Load Induced Cracking from Indirect Tensile Test [22]

[Link](#)

Uniaxial Compression Test

- Specimen is loaded axially until failure using the loading platens
- Deformation measurement equipment is attached around the specimen
- Radial and axial strain vs axial stress data is recorded
- Volumetric strain and crack volume strain vs axial stress data is also recorded
- Safety note
 - Estimated stress of 72.1 MPa before reaching auto-ignition temperature



Compression Test [24]

Fracture Toughness

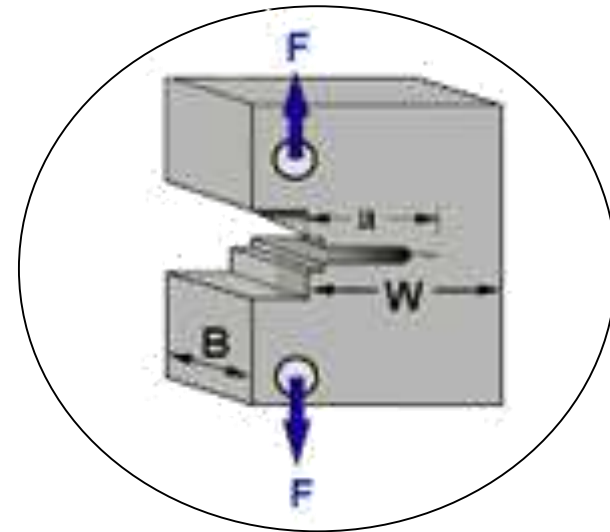
Which propellant is more resistant to crack propagation?
 Which has the shorter critical crack length?

$$K_{Ic} = \sigma(\pi a \beta)^{1/2}$$

- Expect $\sim 25 \text{ MN/m}^{1/2}$

$$B \geq 2.5(K_{Ic}/\sigma_y)^2$$

- for best results

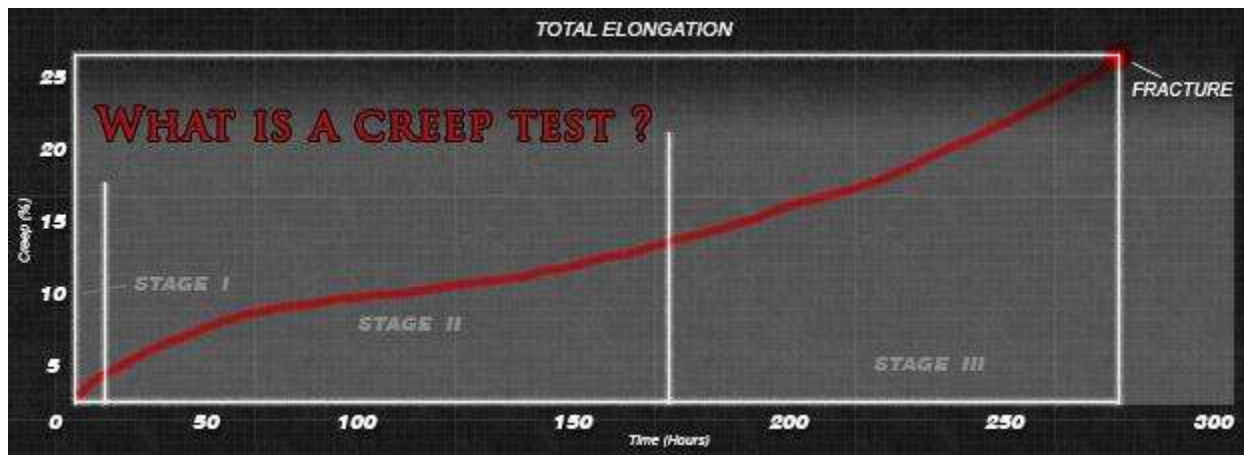


Fracture Toughness Sample [13]

- Pre-crack the sample and tensile test to failure

Creep Testing

- High temperature progressive deformation at constant stress
- Strain is recorded
 - Stage 1: non steady rate of creep
 - Stage 2: steady state creep
 - Stage 3: creep rate accelerates as cross sectional area decreases due to necking of the specimen



What is a Creep Test? [23]

[Link](#)

Project Risk Matrix

