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Attorney Docket No. 82581

SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR ESTIMATING PERFORMANCE OF A CLOSED CYCLE THERMAL PROPULSION SYSTEM

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

BE IT KNOWN THAT WILLIAM A. GIROUARD, citizen of the United States of America, employee of the United States Government and resident South Dartmouth, County of Bristol, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, has invented certain new and useful improvements entitles as set forth above of which the following is a specification:

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1	Attorney Docket No. 77972		
2			
3	SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR ESTIMATING PERFORMANCE OF A		
4	CLOSED CYCLE THERMAL PROPULSION SYSTEM		
5			
6	STATEMENT OF GOVERNMENT INTEREST		
7	The invention described herein may be manufactured and used		
8	by or for the Government of the United States of America for		
9	governmental purposes without the payment of any royalties		
10	thereon or therefor.		
11			
12	CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION		
13	Not applicable.		
14			
15	BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION		
16	(1) Field of the Invention		
17	The present invention relates generally to systems and		
18	methods for closed cycle thermal propulsion systems and, more		
19	particularly, to methodology for estimating performance,		
20	including off-design performance, for closed cycle thermal		
21	propulsion system.		
22	(2) Description of the Prior Art		
23	Closed cycle thermal propulsion systems are well known and		
24	may often be utilized to propel torpedoes through the water.		
25	Generally, design parameters for the propulsion systems of		
26	torpedoes are based on assumptions such as, for instance,		
27	anticipated torpedo speed and range as well as the anticipated		

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torpedo length and diameter. Prior to the present invention, there was no available means to determine how the torpedo would perform based on off-design criteria, e.g., if various kinematic maneuvers were made, different speeds utilized, different torpedo lengths and diameters were used, and so forth. Such capability may be of particular use for special mission requirements that may utilize existing equipment.

8 Various inventors have attempted to solve related problems 9 as evidenced by the following patents, without providing the 10 solutions taught hereinafter.

U.S. Patent No. 5,291,390, issued March 1, 1994, to Nobuyasu 11 Satou, discloses a control apparatus for a mechanical device 12 including a control element for receiving a reference input 13 signal and supplying an operating signal to the mechanical 14 device, a main feedback element for detecting the control signal 15 and supplying the detected control signal to the control element, 16 and an auxiliary feedback element for detecting the operating 17 signal to be supplied to the mechanical element and supplying the 18 detected operating signal to the control element. The control 19 element produces the operating signal based on the reference 20 input signal, the control signal supplied from the main feedback 21 element, and the operating signal supplied from the auxiliary 22 feedback element to regulate the control speed such that hunting 23 in the control apparatus does not occur. 24

U.S. Patent No. 5,117,635, issued June 2, 1992, to Alfred Blau, discloses a unique arrangement of components comprising an open Rankine cycle power system for underwater application. The

arrangement features a high energy density steam generator, a 1 turbine, pumps and other apparatus to provide and control the 2 flow of a seawater working fluid and the use of a mixing 3 condenser the spent steam. The mixing condenser uses droplets of 4 seawater to condense the steam exhausted from the turbine. 5 Alternatively, the steam may be introduced into a pool of water 6 in the mixing condenser by means of a bubble device. The mixing 7 condenser also provides a preheated feedwater supply for the 8 boiler. This system facilities the packaging of power sources an 9 order of magnitude more powerful than current sources. Moreover, 10 this system can be installed in current vehicles. 11

U.S. Patent No. 4,991,530, issued February 12, 1991, to Alan 12 D. Rathsam, discloses a fin apparatus for controlling heat flux 13 distributions in a heated body, such as a torpedo. The torpedo 14 may have inner and outer spaced apart shells with a predetermined 15 ratio of conducting and nonconducting fins affixed to the shells 16 in the space there between. In a torpedo it is desirable to 17 establish the ratio so that heat will be distributed form the 18 outer skin of the torpedo shell to improve laminar stability in 19 the boundary layer as the torpedo travels through the water. 20

U.S. Patent No. 4,846,112, issued July 11, 1989, to Buford et al., discloses an ullage compensator for a stored chemical energy power propulsion system. With the invention, at least one moveable wall is provided within a reactor having a chamber which is moveable between a first position at which the chamber has a maximum reaction volume to a second position at which the reaction chamber has a minimum volume. A force is applied to the

moveable wall by a bellows to cause the wall to project into the chamber in response to the force when a reaction is occurring within the chamber. The invention eliminates damage to the interior surface of the chamber and the inlet port(s) for introducing an oxidant into the chamber with sustains the reaction caused by direct contact with a gaseous oxidant which causes the reaction.

U.S. Patent No. 4,680,934, issued July 21, 1987, to Keith E. 8 Short, discloses a construction including a housing having an 9 interior wall, defining a chamber with at least one oxidant 10 inlet, in which weight, noise and response difficulties in 11 boilers utilized in torpedoes are eliminated. A pluarality of 12 working fluid conduits each have an inlet and an outlet exterior 13 of the housing and heat exchange section within the chamber. 14 Each heat exchange section is a plural convolution coil and the 15 individual convolutions of each conduit are interleaved with the 16 individual convolutions of the other conduits. Valves control 17 the flow of working fluid through at least some of the conduits 18 independently of the others. 19

U.S. Patent No. 4,658,589, issued April 21, 1987, to Thomas 20 A. Sutrina, discloses an ejection system including a steam 21 ejector having a steam nozzle aligned with a diffuser which 22 defines an outlet from the ejection system. The ejector has an 23 inlet to the interface of the nozzle and the diffuser. Α 24 normally closed, non-condensable flow control valve has an outlet 25 connected to the ejector inlet and an inlet adapted to be 26 connected to a working fluid flow path of a Rankine cycle 27

apparatus. A motor is provided for selectively operating the flow control valve. A steam generating reaction chamber is in fluid communication with the steam nozzle and first and second pressure vessels are provided and adapted to contain a different reaction. A valve controls fluid communication between the pressure vessels and the reaction chamber.

U.S. Patent No. 4,637,213, issued January 20, 1987, to 7 Lobell et al., discloses an arrangement for a thermal, steam-8 powered engine in a submarine vehicle, for example a torpedo. Α 9 condenser is so arranged as to separate the exhaust from the 10 engine into a condensable exhaust fraction and into a non-11 condensable exhaust fraction. A compressor, which is connected 12 to the engine for the purpose of silencing, is so arranged as to 13 compress only the non-condensable exhaust fraction which, after 14 compression is discharged through an exhaust outlet into the 15 surrounding sea water. The condenser is in the form of a sleeve 16 which for silencing purpose encloses both the engine and the 17 compressor. A sound-deadening gap is arranged between the 18 condenser and the hull of the vehicle. 19

U.S. Patent No. 4,598,552, issued July 8, 1986, to Kent 20 Weber, discloses an energy source for a closed cycle engine 21 including a boiler having a working fluid chamber in heat 22 exchange relation with a reaction chamber. A closed flow path 23 loop including a turbine receives working fluid from the fluid 24 chamber, provides a power output and returns the fluid to the 25 chamber. Lithium is reacted with water in the reaction chamber 26 to generate heat for heating the working fluid and hydrogen. 27

1 Oxygen, obtained by decomposition of sodium superoxide elsewhere 2 in the system, is fed to the reaction chamber and combined with 3 the hydrogen to provide water and additional heat for the working 4 fluid.

5 U.S. Patent No. 4,597,345, issued July 1, 1986, to Resser et 6 al., discloses a communications link between a submarine and a 7 torpedo secured within launch tube flooded with seawater. A 8 transmit/receive light beam pair propagating through the water 9 provides the high bandwidth data channels between the tube wall 10 and the adjacent torpedo hull for two-way communication.

The above patents do not disclose a method for estimating 11 off-design operating parameters including steady state operating 12 characteristics for closed cycle thermal propulsion systems. For 13 instance, the above patents do not teach determining propellant 14 consumption for a torpedo as a result of various kinematic 15 maneuvers. As another example, the above patents do not teach 16 how to estimate total torpedo run time if the torpedo speeds, 17 lengths, diameter, and so forth are altered from the orginial 18 Consequently, there remains a long felt but unsolved 19 design. need for improved determination of torpedo characteristics that 20 may be utilized to define weapon design options in fulfill future 21 mission effectiveness requirements. Those skilled in the art 22 will appreciate the present invention that addresses the above 23 and other problems. 24

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Accordingly, it is an objective of the present invention to provide an improved system and method for determining performance characteristics of propulsion systems.

5 Another objective is to provide a system and method as 6 aforesaid which may be utilized to determine off-design 7 characteristics of a closed cycle thermal propulsion system.

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8 A further objective is to provide a system and method as 9 aforesaid whereby propellant consumption for a torpedo may be 10 determined as a result of various kinematic maneuvers.

These and other objectives, features, and advantages of the 11 present invention will become apparent from the drawings, the 12 descriptions given herein, and the appended claims. However, it 13 will be understood that the above listed objectives and 14 advantages of the invention are intended only as an aid in 15 understanding aspects of the invention, and are not intended to 16 limit the invention in any way, and do not form a comprehensive 17 list of objectives, features, and advantages. 18

In accordance with the present invention, a system is 19 provided for a method for determining one or more off-design 20 performance characteristics for a closed cycle thermal propulsion 21 system which may comprise one or more steps such as, for 22 instance, providing design characteristics of the closed cycle 23 thermal propulsion system, inputting off-design requirements for 24 the closed cycle thermal propulsion system, and determining the 25 one or more off-design performance characteristics of the closed 26 27

cycle thermal propulsion system in response to the off-design
requirements.

The off-design requirements may comprise one or more legs of 3 a route for a vehicle powered by the closed cycle thermal 4 propulsion system, and providing a speed and time duration for 5 each of the one or more legs wherein the method may comprise 6 determining propellant consumption for the one or more legs. The 7 method may be utilized in the case wherein a different speed is 8 utilized for each of at least two legs. The method may further 9 comprise determining total run time in response to the off-design 10 requirements. 11

12 The off-design requirements may also comprise vehicle 13 configurations of different lengths and diameters powered by the 14 closed cycle thermal propulsion system.

In one preferred embodiment, the may further comprise 15 iteratively determining off-design turbine parameters such as 16 parameters related to off-design turbine efficiency. The method 17 may further comprise determining propellant consumption rate at 18 an off-design speed. Moreover, the method may further comprise 19 determining parameters related to steam flow rate at an off-20 design speed and/or determining the propellant consumption rate 21 for the off-design speed by utilizing the steam flow rate at the 22 off-design speed. 23

In other words, a method is provided that may comprise one or more steps such as, for instance, providing design characteristics of the closed cycle thermal propulsion system comprising a design for a vehicle powered by the closed cycle

1 thermal propulsion system and/or determining the one or more 2 performance characteristics of the closed cycle thermal 3 propulsion system in response to one or more off-design speeds 4 for the vehicle.

5 Other steps may comprise determining a turbine working fluid 6 flow rate at the one or more off-design speeds and/or utilizing 7 the turbine working fluid flow rate to determine propellant 8 consumption at the one or more off-design speeds.

Thus, the method may also comprise providing design 9 characteristics of the closed cycle thermal propulsion system, 10 inputting off-design requirements that may comprise one or more 11 legs of a route for a vehicle powered by the closed cycle thermal 12 propulsion system, and providing an off-design speed and a time 13 duration for each of the one or more legs, then determining the 14 one or more off-design performance characteristics of the closed 15 cycle thermal propulsion system in response to the off-design 16 requirements. 17

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

A more complete understanding of the invention and many of the attendant advantages thereto will be readily appreciated as the same becomes better understood by reference to the following detailed description when considered in conjunction with the accompanying drawing wherein corresponding reference characters indicate corresponding parts throughout several views of the drawings and wherein:

27

FIG. 1 is a block diagram schematic showing a prior art closed cycle thermal propulsion system for which off-design operation characteristics may be determined in accord with the present invention;

5 FIG. 2 is a graph that shows a selected velocity versus time 6 for various legs of a route taken by a vehicle;

FIG. 3 is a flow chart for a methodology that may utilize the velocity versus time information as shown in FIG. 2 for determining if propellant exhaustion occurs during the route and, should the fuel be exhausted, at which point in the route this occurs; and

FIGS. 4A and 4B are a flow chart of a preferred subroutine for use in making preferred calculations for each leg of the route analyzed in the method of FIG. 3.

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DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

17 The present invention provides methods for estimating the 18 steady-state off-design performance of a torpedo with a closed 19 cycle thermal propulsion system. The present invention may be 20 used for estimating performance as to the effect of design 21 changes including vehicle configurations of variable length and 22 diameter.

23

The present may be utilized to calculate propellant consumption for a torpedo resulting from various kinematic maneuvers. Design speed and range can be varied, and the consumption of propellants may be computed for variable vehicular

speeds, such as, for instance, off-design speeds down to 35% of design speed. For instance, utilizing the present invention, one can estimate the total run time resulting form various torpedo speed changes and/or other torpedo changes.

Referring now to the figures and, more particularly to FIG. 5 1, there is shown a block diagram for a prior art closed cycle 6 thermal propulsion system 10 which is similar to that used in a 7 U.S. Navy torpedo. System 10 incorporates the heat of reaction 8 of energy source 12 for a steam Rankine cycle which may utilize 9 sulfur hexafluoride (SF₆) and molten lithium, and/or other fuels. 10 The so-produced chemical reaction is contained in boiler 14. 11 Boiler 14 transfer the heat of reaction to working fluid 16. In 12 a preferred embodiment, water may be the system working fluid, 13 although other working fluids could also be utilized. Working 14 fluid 16 absorbs energy as it flows through the tubes and turns 15 to steam. Boiler (reactor) 14 size is determined by the amount 16 of fuel (lithium) needed to generated sufficient energy to 17 satisfy the mission requirement. From boiler 14, the steam 18 proceeds through the turbine prime mover 18 and then flows to 19 hull condenser 20 located in the skin of the torpedo. Condenser 20 20 consists of a condensing portion and subcooling portion. Each 21 portion consists of longitudinal slots. Heat rejection from 22 condenser 20 passes to the seawater around the torpedo. Upon 23 leaving condenser 20, the flow goes through the feedwater pump 22 24 for pressurization back to boiler 14. 25

26 The present invention may be utilized to determine27 propellant consumption for a torpedo with a closed cycle thermal

propulsion system resulting from various kinematic maneuvers.
For instances, the present invention allows one to estimate
torpedo endurance for a varying velocity/time profile, e.g., the
velocity/time curve 24 shown in FIG. 2.

FIG. 3 provides a flow chart for a main routine 30 which may 5 be utilized for inputting the different velocities and/or 6 different time durations in legs (1), (2), ...(J), respectively 7 designated curve segments, 32,34a and 36 of the routine as shown 8 in FIG. 2. The present invention therefore permits calculation 9 of the propellant consumption rate based on legs 32, 34 and 36. 10 This permits calculations based upon run times with different 11 time durations of a plurality of legs. 12

The input requirements preferably include design speed and 13 range, as shown at input box 76 of subroutine 50 of FIGS. 4A and 14 4B, and also preferably include a predefined time increment used 15 to update the coordinates of the vehicle, the average speed over 16 this time increment, and the length and diameter of the torpedo. 17 The latter two terms are needed to determine the propulsive power 18 requirement at the desired design speed, as discussed hereinafter 19 by calculating the shaft horsepower as indicated by software 20 module 38, comprising steps 78, 80 and 82, which may be 21 calculated by means known in the art. A counting parameter, as 22 indicated at 40 and 41 in subroutine 50, may be used to designate 23 the first time module 38 is called. During operation of module 24 38, the initial amount of lithium and SF₆ are calculated. 25 Thereafter, module 38 may be omitted when subroutine 50 is called 26 27

1 from main routine 30 and the amount of lithium and SF_6 remaining 2 after the previously investigated leg of the route is utilized.

An iteration process, as indicated at software module 42, is 3 used to compute the inlet turbine pressure within a preferred 4 accuracy, e.g., 5 psia. Subroutine also checks to see if fuel 5 exhaustion occurs during the leg as indicated at 44 and 46. If 6 fuel exhaustion occurs, the program stops, as indicated at 48 in 7 subroutine 50 and 51 in routine 30 (this is what is meant by the 8 END symbol 51 in FIG. 3). Otherwise, program control continues 9 back to the main routine 30 whereupon the present invention 10 continues making the desired estimations for any remaining legs 11 that are left in the torpedo's run profile, e.g., the 12 velocity/time information curve of FIG. 2. 13

Thus, input to main routine 30 comprises information 14 concerning the various legs as listed at input box 53 of FIG. 3, 15 which may include data such as velocity/time curve 24 information 16 of FIG. 2. Main routine 30 makes computations using subroutine 17 50 for each leg starting with the first leg counted by program 30 18 as indicated at 55 and 57, until all legs are computed as 19 indicated at 59, assuming sufficient initial fuel is available so 20 that fuel exhaustion does not occur. If fuel exhaustion does 21 occur, the relative time and/or geographical position within the 22 leg may be determined, if desired. As well, additional fuel 23 requirements could be determined and/or other information may be 24 provided. 25

26 Subroutine 50 of the present invention is utilized to make 27 turbine efficiency estimates beginning at module starting point

1 52 when utilizing module 42. Particulars of a preferred2 embodiment of the invention are provided as follows:

For variable speed operation, the efficiency of the prime 3 mover (assumed to be a turbine) has to be determined as a 4 function of vehicular speed. The following expressions are used 5 to obtain partial admission efficiency, $\eta_{t},$ of a single stage 6 impulse turbine as a function of off-design speed through a 7 trial-and-error solution of inlet turbine pressure. At design 8 speed, turbine inlet conditions such as pressure and temperature 9 are assumed as indicated at 54 in software module 42. For 10 instance, turbine inlet conditions may be assumed to be 1000°F, 11 1000psia, and exhaust pressure is 15 psia. 12

13 The partial-admission efficiency relation, known to those of 14 skill in the art, can be written:

(1)

$$\eta_{t} = \frac{1 + K \left(1 - \frac{s}{a}\right)}{1 + K} \eta_{u} - \frac{f P \eta_{n}}{\sin \alpha} \left(\frac{U}{c_{1}}\right)^{3} \left(\frac{C}{s}\right) \left(\frac{s}{a}\right)$$

16

15

17	where	K=rotor velocity ratio
18		C=rotor disk width
19		s=rotor blade spacing
20		a=nozzle arc width
21		f=mixing flow coefficient
22		P=leakage factor
23		η_u =full-admission turbine efficiency
24		U=turbine blade velocity
25		C_1 =theoretical spouting velocity at nozzle exit

 α =nozzle angle

1 - 2

 $\eta_n = nozzle$ efficiency

The turbine efficiency, $\eta_{\text{t}},$ as indicated at 56, can also be 3 expressed: 4

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 $\eta_t = \frac{GHP}{\Delta h_w}$ where w is the steam flow rate, $\Delta h_{\rm s}$ is the isentropic change in enthalpy across the turbine as indicated at 58, and GHP is the

gross horsepower, which is equal to the sum of the shaft 8 horsepower, accessory horsepower, and condensate pump horsepower. 9 Using perfect gas relationships $\Delta h_{\mathtt{B}}$ and w can be expressed 10

in the following way: 11

> $\Delta h_s = c_p T_o \left[1 - \left(\frac{p}{p_o} \right)^{\frac{k-1}{k}} \right]$ (3)

To= turbine inlet temperature where 13 po= turbine inlet pressure 14 p= ambient pressure 15 c_p= specific heat at constant pressure 16 k= ratio of specific heats for the working fluid 17 18 and

$$w = A_t P_o g \frac{\sqrt[k]{\left(\frac{2}{k+1}\right)^{\frac{k+1}{k+1}}}}{\sqrt{gkRT_o}}$$

(4)

(2)

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At= nozzle throat area 1 where q= gravitational acceleration 2 R= gas constant 3 It is also assumed that the turbine speed, N, is directly 4 proportional to the vehicular speed, that is: 5 (5)N = mV6 7 m= constant of proportionality 8 where V= vehicular speed 9 The theoretical spouting velocity is written: 10. $c_1 = \sqrt{2g\Delta h}$ (6) 11 Knowing the rotor blade diameter, the velocity ratio U/c_1 can be 12 calculated. 13 Thus, through a trail-and-error solution, as indicated at 14 test and loop sequence 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, the off-design inlet 15 turbine pressure based on the above equations, η_t as a function 16 of the ratio of off-design vehicular speed over design vehicular 17 speed (V/V_D) can be obtained. It is assumed that a partial 18 admission turbine of this general size and type would have its 19 peak efficiency at a velocity ratio of approximately 0.35 as 20 indicated at 69, 70 and 71. If the off-design parameters are out 21 of the range for consideration as indicated at 73, then the 22 subroutine ends as indicated at 75. 23 In a preferred embodiment of the invention, a determination 24 of propellant consumption rate at off-design speed may be made as 25 indicated 74. In order to determine the propellant consumption 26

rate as a function of vehicular speed, the initial amount of
lithium and SF₆ as indicated at 78 has to be determined from
predefined design parameters such as speed and range as indicated
at input box 76.

5 The steam flow rate required through the turbine is 6 dependent upon the thermodynamic conditions existing across it. 7 At design speed, where the turbine inlet conditions are 1000°F, 8 1000psia, and exhaust pressure is 15 psia, the isentropic change 9 in enthalpy is:

$$\Delta h = 1505.1 - 1082.0 = 423.1 \frac{btu}{lbm} \tag{7}$$

11 The design steam flow rate, as indicated at 80, can be 12 calculated from equation (2):

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$$w = \frac{GHP_D}{\Delta h_s \eta_{t_D}} \tag{8}$$

14 where GHP_D and η_{tD} are the gross horsepower and turbine 15 efficiency at design speed, respectively.

The gross horsepower at design speed is calculated, as indicated at 82, by summing the propulsive power, and estimating the accessory load and the condensate power needs. The condensate pump horsepower, PHP, is given by:

 $PHP = \frac{w\Delta p}{\rho\eta_p} \tag{9}$

where Δp = the pressure difference across the pump (equal to turbine inlet pressure plus a friction loss in the boiler tubing minus condenser pressure) water density

1	η_p = pump efficiency \approx 0.66
2	NOTE: The friction loss in the boiler tubing was
3	assumed to be 300 psia.
4	The necessary heat transfer rate to the working fluid is:
5	$Q = w \Delta h_b \tag{10}$
6	where Δh_b is the boiler enthalpy change.
7	The energy released per pound of reactants, assuming $1300^{\circ}F$
8	products, is approximately 5600Btu/lb. Assuming 95% reaction
9	efficiency, the required quantity of reactants is:
10	$W_{p} = \frac{Qt}{(0.95)(5600)} \tag{11}$
11	where W_p = weight of lithium and SF ₆
12	t= desired run time
13	For off-design speeds, the steam flow rate is determined in
14	the following manner. The turbine efficiency for the desired
15	off-design speed is obtained by the method explained previously.
16	Using the above equations, the necessary turbine inlet pressure
17	is obtained by a trial-and-error solution and the appropriate
18	steam flow rate is thus determined.
19	Since the boiler discharge temperature is assumed to be
20	approximately constant, the difference between Δh_b at design
21	speed and Δh_b at off-design speed is small enough to be
22	neglected. The propellant consumption rate, W_p , is given by:
23	$W_{p} = \frac{\Delta h_{b}}{(5600)(0.95)}(w) \tag{12}$
24	Knowing $\Lambda h_{\rm b}$ at design speed, $w_{\rm p}$ is only a function of w.

This procedure can be used as a subroutine to determine the 1 amount of lithium and SF6 used after some designated time 2 increment, as indicated at 86. It should be pointed out that 3 steady-state and not transient conditions are considered. As an 4 example, if the main computer program contained the velocity vs. 5 time profile of the torpedo, i.e., the graph 24 shown in Figure 6 2, the subroutine could be used to estimate fuel consumption for 7 each leg and if exhaustion of lithium and SF $_6$ occurs during that 8 leg. 9

In summary, off-design characteristics are input into main 10 routine 30 at input box 53 and may comprise velocity/time 11 information as indicated in FIG. 2. For each leg of a proposed 12 new route for a vehicle powered by a closed cycle thermal 13 propulsion system, main routine 30 calls subroutine 50. During 14 the first iteration, design characteristics such as design steam 15 flow rate and available fuel are calculated using module 38. 16 After the first iteration, it is not necessary to calculate this 17 information. Module 42 utilizes an iterative technique to 18 calculate off-design performance such as off-design turbine 19 efficiency and off-design steam flow rates. This information may 20 then be utilized to determine fuel consumption rates for off-21 design parameters. For instances, given a proposed route for a 22 torpedo having a plurality of legs with each leg at a different 23 off-design speed and for a determined time period, the present 24 invention can determine if sufficient fuel is available to 25 complete the proposed route. Thus, one significant advantage of 26 the present invention is that knowing the velocity vs. time 27

profile of the torpedo, one can determine when exhaustion of lithium and SF6 occurs. The present invention can also be used for making performance estimations for off-design vehicle configurations of variable length and diameter.

While the program can be implemented using a general purpose 5 computer programmed, it will be understood for purposes of this 6 application that a computer may also comprise a microprocessor, a 7 programmable integrated circuit, a microcomputer, processor, or 8 any suitable programmable computer. It will be appreciated by 9 those skilled in the art that the invention could also be 10 implemented with special purpose hardware, with program routines 11 or logical circuit sets performing as processors. Such routines 12 or logical circuit sets which may also be referred to as 13 processors or the like. 14

15 Therefore, it will be understood that many additional 16 changes in the details, materials, steps and arrangement of 17 parts, which have been herein described and illustrated in order 18 to explain the nature of the invention, may be made by those 19 skilled in the art within the principle and scope of the 20 invention as expressed in the appended claims.

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SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR ESTIMATING PERFORMANCE OF A CLOSED CYCLE THERMAL PROPULSION SYSTEM

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention permits determination of steady-state 7 off-design performance characteristics of a vehicle, such as a 8 torpedo, powered by a closed cycle thermal propulsion system. 9 The method may be utilized to determine propellant consumption 10 for a torpedo resulting from various off-design kinematic 11 Total run time may be calculated in response to a maneuvers. 12 plurality of torpedo speed changes and/or torpedo configurations 13 of variable torpedo length or torpedo diameter. The present 14 invention may be utilized to define weapon design options for 15 existing or future underwater weapons with mission requirements 16 different from those for which the weapons were originally 17 18 designed.









