

For simplicity, we approximate the flow as *isentropic* (negligible friction and other irreversibilities) and *adiabatic* (no heat transfer from the air to the surroundings – insulated duct walls).

Equations for isentropic, compressible, adiabatic flow of an ideal gas:

• For any ideal gas:
$$\frac{\overline{T_0}}{T} = 1 + \frac{k - 1}{2} \operatorname{Ma}^2 \left[\frac{\rho_0}{\rho} = \left(1 + \frac{k - 1}{2} \operatorname{Ma}^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{k - 1}} \right] \left[\frac{P_0}{P} = \left(1 + \frac{k - 1}{2} \operatorname{Ma}^2 \right)^{\frac{k}{k - 1}} \right]$$

• For air $(k = 1.4)$:
$$\frac{\overline{T_0}}{T} = 1 + 0.2 \operatorname{Ma}^2 \left[\frac{\rho_0}{\rho} = \left(1 + 0.2 \operatorname{Ma}^2 \right)^{2.5} \right] \left[\frac{P_0}{P} = \left(1 + 0.2 \operatorname{Ma}^2 \right)^{3.5} \right]$$

• Or, for air in terms of temperature,
$$\frac{\rho_0}{\rho} = \left(\frac{T_0}{T} \right)^{2.5} \left[\frac{P_0}{P} = \left(\frac{T_0}{T} \right)^{3.5} \right] \operatorname{also} \left[\frac{c_0}{c} = \left(\frac{T_0}{T} \right)^{1/2} \right]$$



Supersonic rocket nozzle







- The shock is moving into quiescent air (region 1)
- In this frame of reference we define $Ma_1 = V_s/c_1$
- The shock wave travels into region 1 at supersonic speed ($Ma_1 > 1$)
- The air behind the shock (region 2) follows at a slower speed

The "dime analogy" (model the moving shock as rows of dimes that pile up when pushed by a rod or "piston" as sketched; three sequential times):



Comments:

 V_2

 V_s

 $V_1 = 0$

- The vertical red line is analogous to a shock wave: $V_1 = 0$, $V_s > V_2$, $\rho_2 > \rho_1$ (there is sudden increase in density, and the "wave front" of dimes moves faster than the piston).
- The dimes in region 1 don't "know" anything is happening until the shock hits them.
- Similarly in a shock wave in air, the air in region 1 does not "know" anything is happening until the shock wave hits it.