**Long-term Cryogenic Propellant Storage for the TOPS Mission**

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**Motivation**
- Liquid Hydrogen (LH2) and Liquid Oxygen (LO2) provide the highest specific impulse of any practical chemical propulsion system. 
- NASA is working on several passive, active, and fluid conditioning strategies for long duration in-space storage of cryogenic propellants.
- Subcooling liquid hydrogen prior to launch will triple the in-space vent-free hold time without adding any significant launched mass.
- TRL Increase in Launchpad Cryogen Subcooling Heat Exchanger Hardware.

**Thermodynamics**
- Isobaric Subcooling (N=0): Removing energy by reducing temperature while keeping pressure constant – the proposed approach.
- Isothermal Subcooling (N=1): Pressurizing while keeping temperature constant – performed prior to most launches to prevent cavitation.
- Condensation (N=2): Removing energy following the liquid–vapor saturation line – enables smaller tanks (K=3) or more propellant in same tank (proposed for Shuttle).

**TOPS Design Study Results**
- TOPS that is propelled by LH2+LO2 saves 43% in launched mass over TOPS that is propelled by MMH+NTO
- TOPS (with the 25% dry mass contingency) can be launched on an Atlas V 551 with a 8% launch mass margin.
- This mission does not close on any Atlas V vehicle if a standard hypergolic propulsion option is used.
- A LH2+LO2 cryogenic propelled TOPS mission could fit comfortably as a New Frontiers mission.
- Confirmed the basic viability and value of the LH2+LO2 cryo propulsion system.
- Provided a much better understanding of how to incorporate this kind of LH2+LO2 cryo propulsion into an actual mission.
- Generated a number of promising approaches for how the cryo propulsion could be further improved in terms of Isp, mass, envelope, thermal control, and required electrical power.
- Efforts are underway to further reduce the TOPS expected dry mass to fit in even smaller launch vehicles without science reduction.

**TOPS Configurations**

**Subcooling Heat Exchanger Development**

**Experiment Results**

**Future Work**

**Subcooling Systems**

**TOPS Launch Vehicle Mass**

- LH2+LO2 propulsion system for planetary science missions will significantly enable or enhance many planetary science missions.
- Opens up new opportunities to explore outer planets and their moons by orbiting, landing and/or sample return, potentially without the necessity of proper planetary alignments for gravity assists.
- Increased science in the near term as well as providing a cost-effective, safe and clean technique for exploration of our solar system.

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