




NASA Flight Opportunities  
**Cryogenic Fluid Management for Future In-Space Transfer Systems**  
Issam Mudawar, Ph.D., Purdue University

**Community of Practice Webinar Series – June 5, 2024**  
Session will start at 10 a.m. PT – Please mute your microphone and turn off your camera

[www.nasa.gov](http://www.nasa.gov)

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**Welcome to the Community of Practice Webinar Series!**

***First, a bit of housekeeping...***

- Please mute your microphone and turn off your camera
- Today's session will be recorded
- Recordings for this and all future sessions will be posted on the Flight Opportunities website
- Please engage!
  - Use the chat throughout the session to ask questions

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### Future webinars

- Webinars are held 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month at 10 a.m. PT
- Topics will be announced in the Flight Opportunities newsletter and website
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- Let us know session topics you would like to see covered

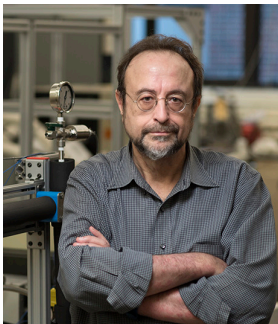
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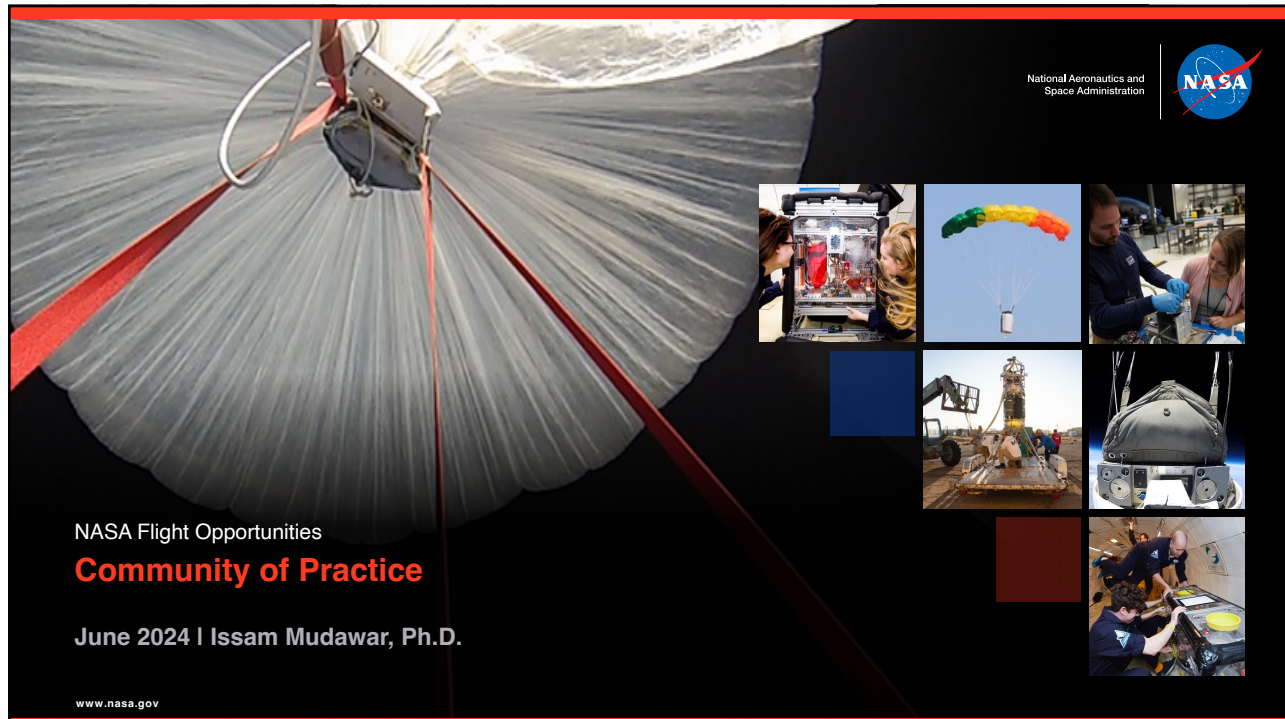
## Today's Speaker



**Issam Mudawar, Ph.D.**  
*Purdue University*

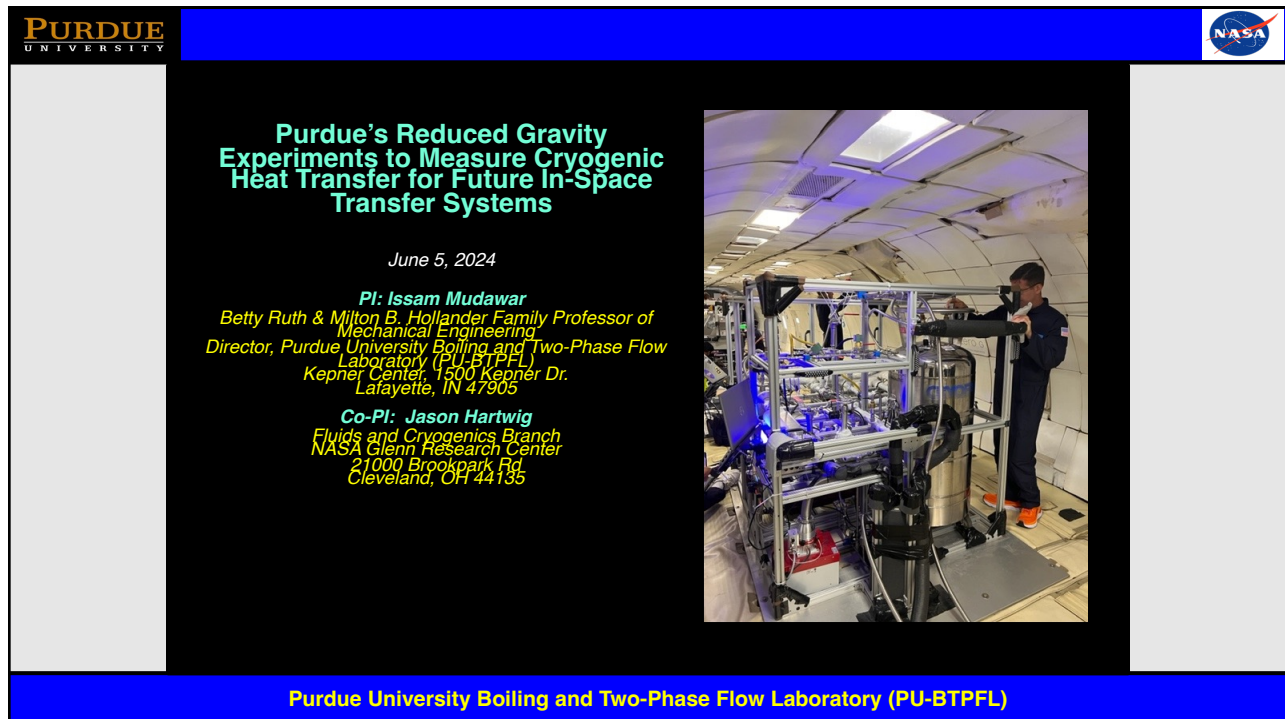
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June 2024 | Issam Mudawar, Ph.D.  
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**PURDUE UNIVERSITY** 

**Purdue's Reduced Gravity Experiments to Measure Cryogenic Heat Transfer for Future In-Space Transfer Systems**

June 5, 2024


**PI: Issam Mudawar**  
Betty Ruth & Milton B. Hollander Family Professor of Mechanical Engineering  
Director, Purdue University Boiling and Two-Phase Flow Laboratory (PU-BTPFL)  
Kepner Center, 1500 Kepner Dr.  
Lafayette, IN 47905

**Co-PI: Jason Hartwig**  
Fluids and Cryogenics Branch  
NASA Glenn Research Center  
21000 Brookpark Rd  
Cleveland, OH 44135




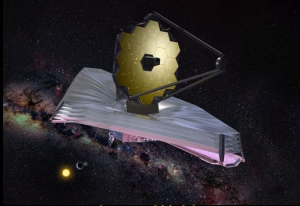
**Purdue University Boiling and Two-Phase Flow Laboratory (PU-BTPFL)**

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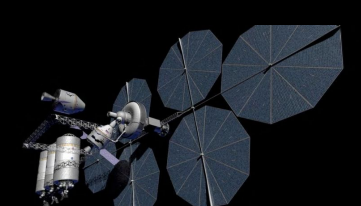


## Space Applications of Cryogenics






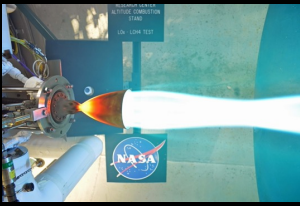
James Webb  
Space Telescope  
(LHe)



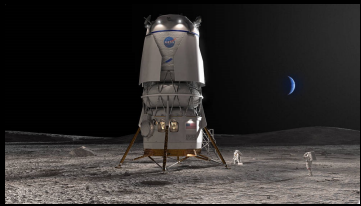
Orbital Refueling



Nuclear Thermal  
Propulsion Systems  
(LH<sub>2</sub>)



Propulsion and Cryogenics  
Advanced Development  
(PCAD) Project  
(LOX/LCH<sub>4</sub>)



Lunar ascent/descent  
stages

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## National Academies Decadal Survey for 2023-2032



**“Thriving in Space, Ensuring the Future of Biological and Physical Sciences Research”**  
 ... serves as agenda for research in the following decade, using the space environment to address pressing life and physical sciences in pursuit of new fundamental knowledge and practical solutions important to space exploration.

- Based on over 250 topical input papers from science and engineering communities
- Assembled by the 50+ report co-authors
- Included presentations from both government and industry
- Addressed:
  - (i) Current state of knowledge
  - (ii) Key science themes and questions
  - (iii) Science to enable space exploration
  - (iv) Science enabled by space environment
  - (v) Research campaigns
  - (vi) Infrastructure, access, and community

**Mudawar:**

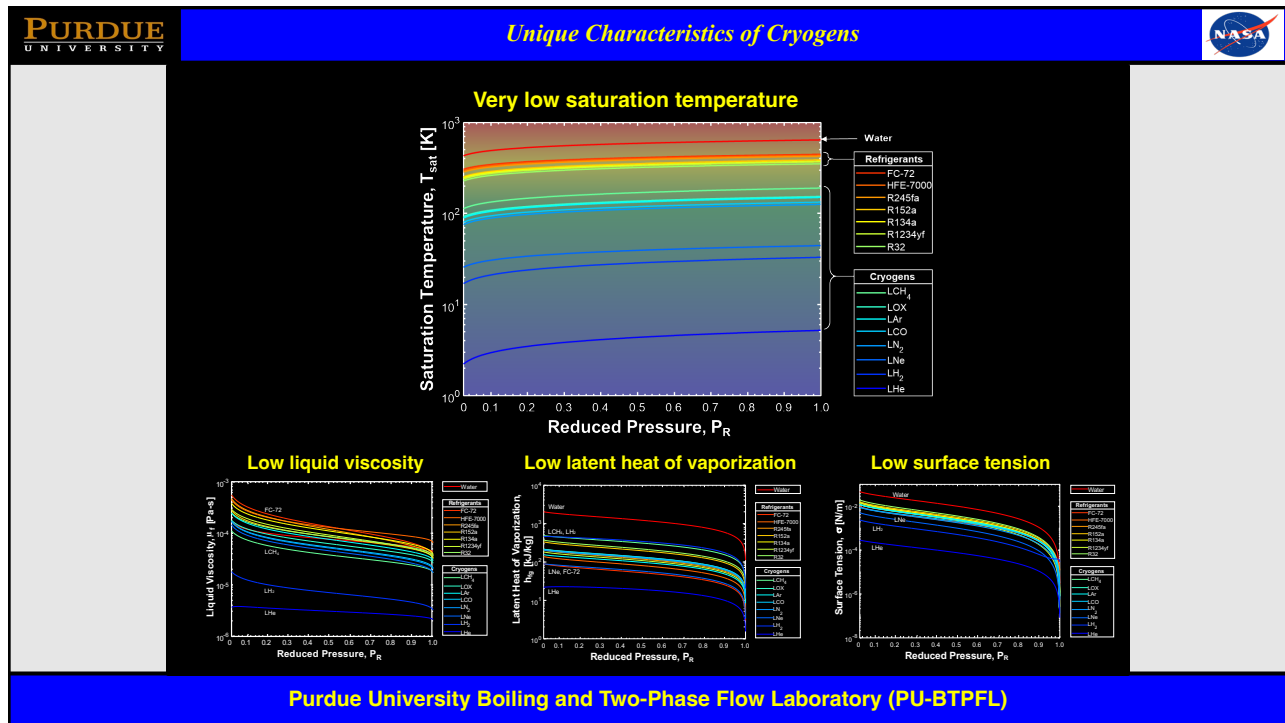
- p. 28: Fluid Physics Background
- p. 80: Success of Flow Boiling and Condensation Experiment (FBCOE) on the ISS as response to recommendations from 2011 Decadal Report
- p. 81: Recommendations for Fluid Physics and Thermal Management of cryogenic Fluids
- p. 154: Effects of space environment on transport and materials synthesis, including critical heat flux (CHF)



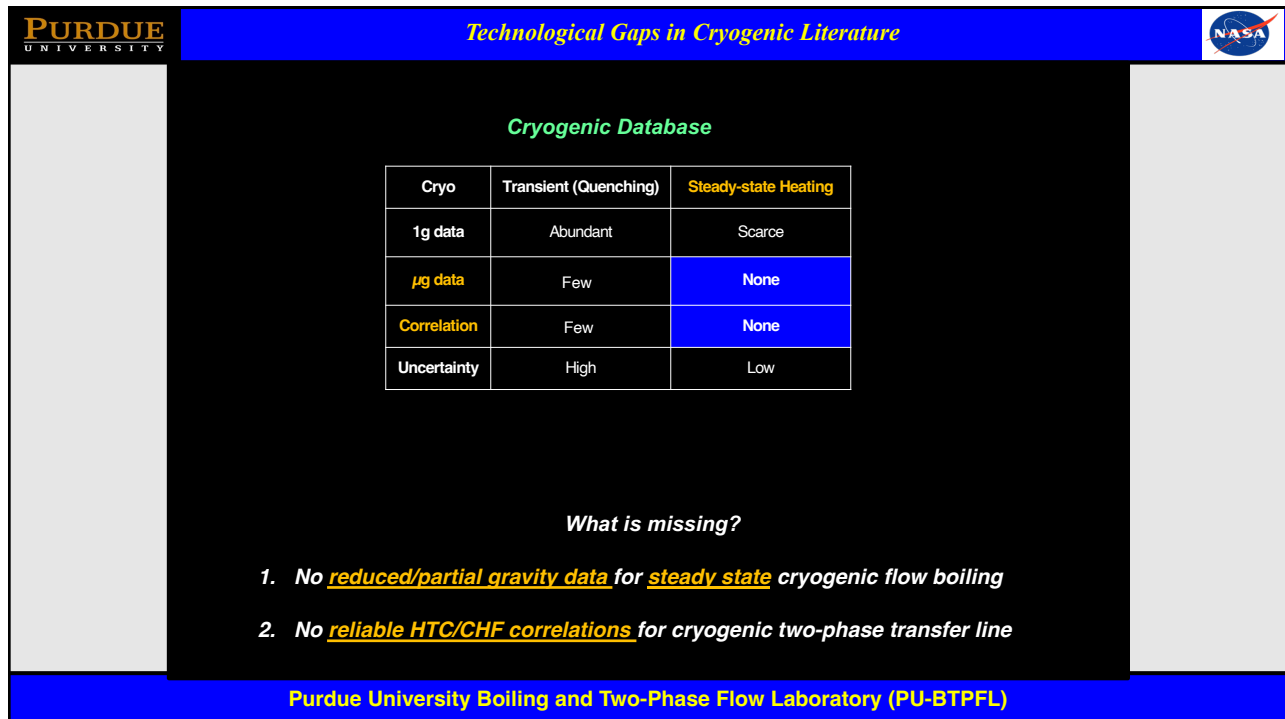
Consensus Study Report

Purdue University Boiling and Two-Phase Flow Laboratory (PU-BTPFL)


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### Microgravity Experiments







Drop Tower




Sounding Rocket



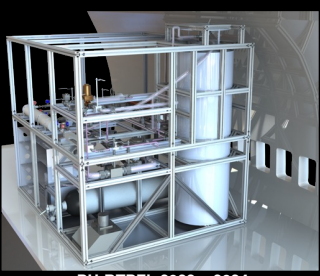
Parabolic Flight



BTPFL 2002  
Parabolic Flight  
Experiments



BTPFL 2019  
Parabolic Flight  
Experiments



PU-BTPFL 2022 – 2024  
Cryogenic Flow Boiling  
Parabolic Flight Test Rig

#### Technological Demands


- Absence of reliable cryogenic flow boiling data for microgravity and Lunar and Martian gravities using steady-state heating method
- High accuracy predictive methods required for propellant transfer and associated heating rates

#### Project Goals


- Utilize previously constructed cryogenic flight rig and perform parabolic flight experiments
- Obtain microgravity Critical Heat Flux data and video records of interfacial behavior
- Obtain Lunar and Martian gravities Critical Heat Flux data and video records of interfacial behavior
- Use data to assess predictive performance of CHF correlations

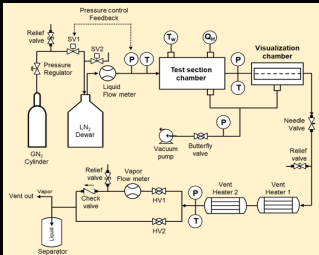
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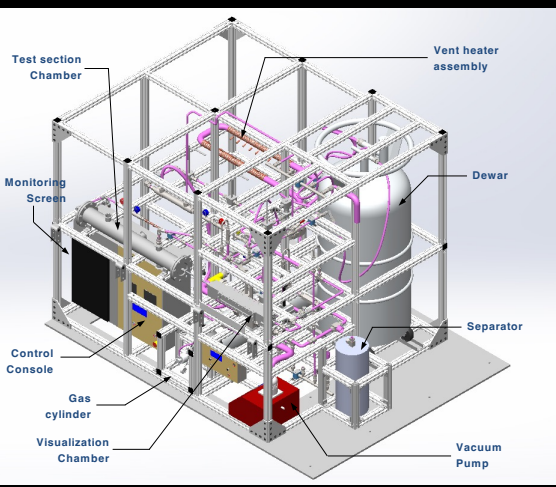
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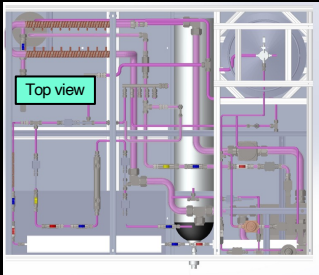


### Experimental Rig Design

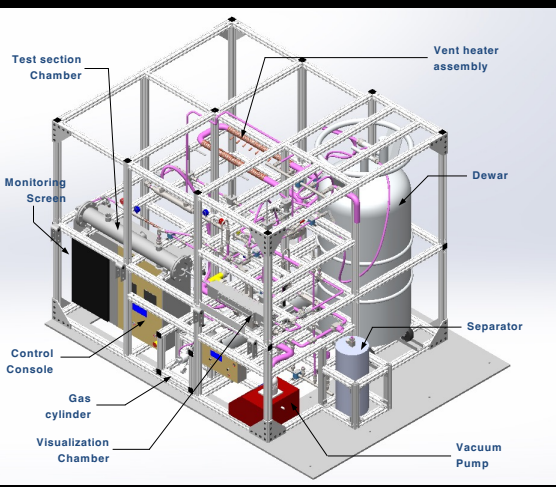









Top view




Labels in 3D model: Test section Chamber, Vent heater assembly, Dewar, Separator, Vacuum Pump, Visualization Chamber, Gas cylinder, Control Console, Monitoring Screen.

**Purdue University Boiling and Two-Phase Flow Laboratory (PU-BTPFL)**

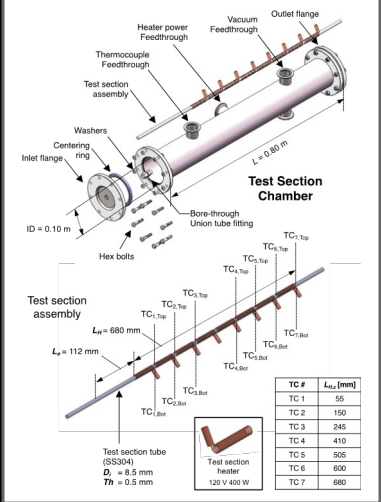
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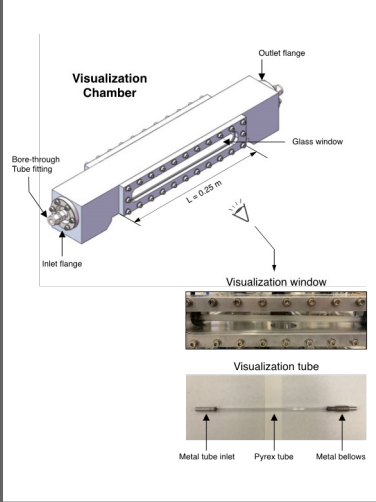
### Experimental Rig Design



#### Test Section




#### Visualization Section






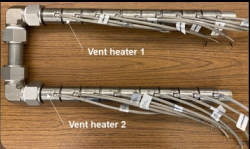


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### Experimental Rig Construction










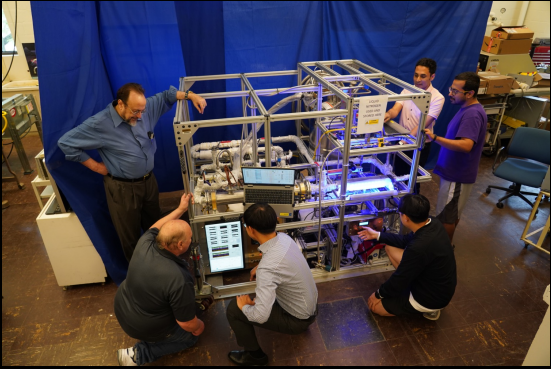
**Purdue University Boiling and Two-Phase Flow Laboratory (PU-BTPFL)**

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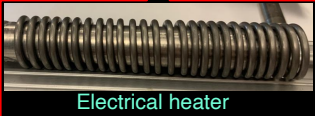
### Experimental Rig Design






**Design Requirements**

- Utilize liquid nitrogen as a working fluid
- Utilize high pressure gas for pressurization
- Utilize vacuum chambers to minimize heat gain
- Accommodate LN<sub>2</sub> flow boiling in a tube
- Record high-speed flow visualizations
- Control and record heater power
- Control and maintain system pressure
- Enable recording thermal parameters ( $T_r$ ,  $T_w$ ,  $P$ )
- Optimize for parabolic flight experiments
  - ✓ Structure integrity
  - ✓ Restricted volume & weight
  - ✓ Aircraft power / vent interfaces




Electrical heater




Flow visualization section


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### March 2024 Flight Campaign






Rig Arrival in Fort Lauderdale, FL



Rig system check after landing

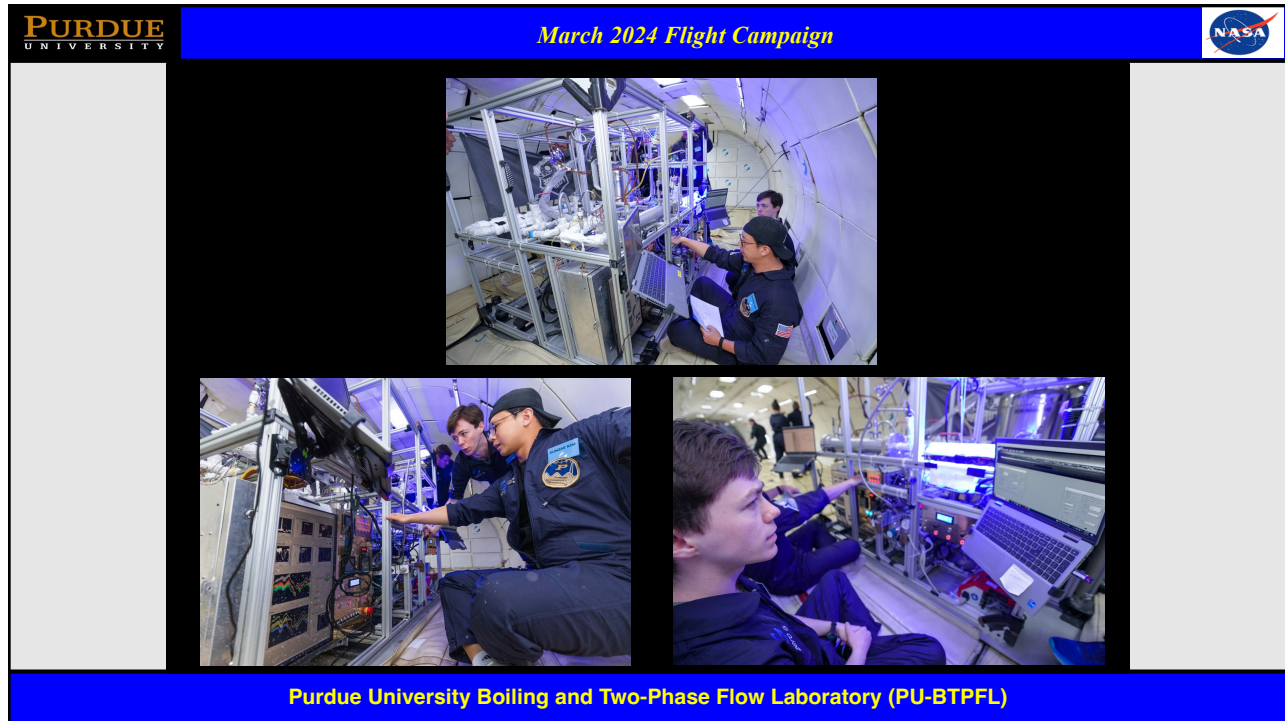


Rig Installed on G-Force One

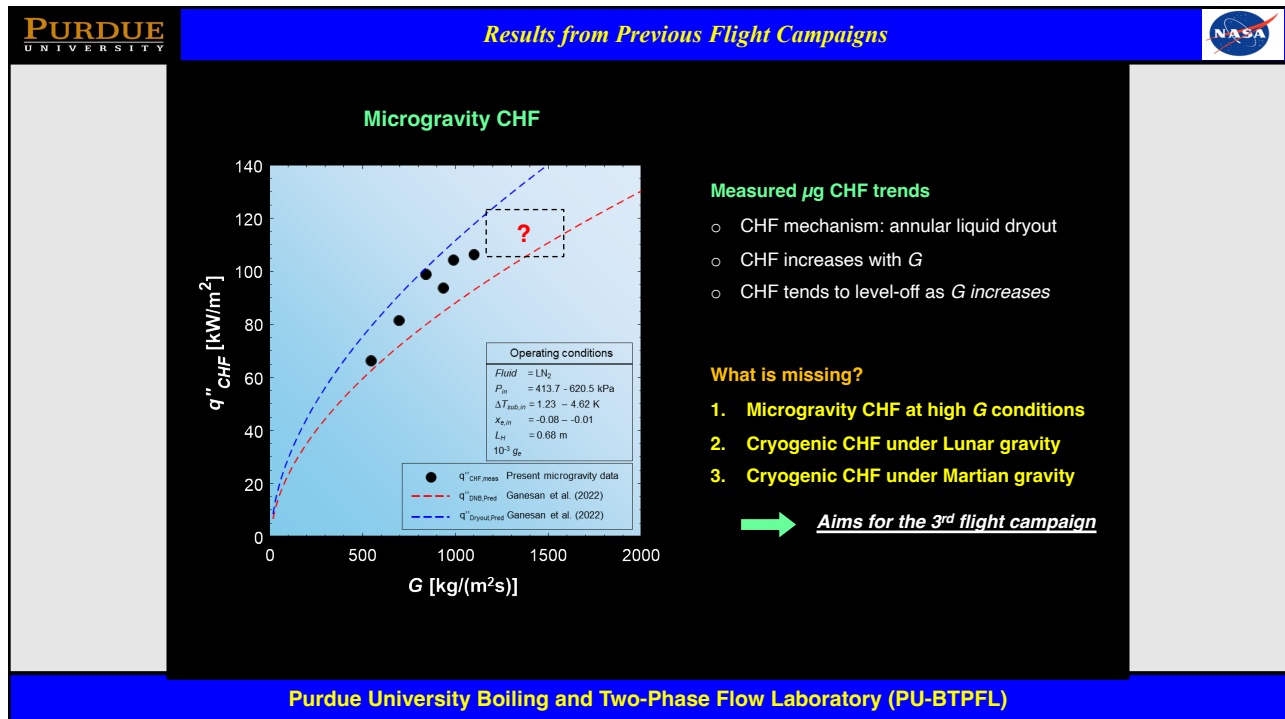
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### March 2024 Flight Experiments




#### Flight Test Matrix

TEST MATRIX	Flight day 1 (15 - 15)				Flight day 2 (10 - 10 - 10)			Flight day 3				Flight day 4				
	(March Flight)	Case1	Case2	Case3	Case4	Case5	Case6	Case7	Case8	Case9	Case10	Case11	Case12	Case13	Case14	Case15
# of parabola	[-]	8	4	7	3	6	7	5	4	5	3	4	5	4	3	3
P	[psi]	80	77	80	84	70	70	70	100	100	106	106	80	80	80	90
gravity	[-]	Martian	Martian	Lunar	Lunar	Martian	Lunar	$\mu g$	$\mu g$	$\mu g$	$\mu g$	$\mu g$	$\mu g$	$\mu g$	$\mu g$	$\mu g$
LFR	[gpm]	0.7	1.0	0.7	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.8	1.6	1.4	0.6	0.8	1.7	1.5	1.0	0.8
G	[kg/m <sup>2</sup> s]	600	792	587	879	660	653	660	1338	1110	485	650	1411	1209	806	650
$\Delta T_{sc}$	[K]	3	2.6	3.5	4.3	2.7	3.2	2	3.7	4.2	4.1	4.1	3.6	3.6	3.6	4.0
CHF	[-]	O	O	$\Delta$	$\Delta$	O	O	X	O	O	O	X	O	X	X	X


- Very successful, nearly flawless campaign
- Outstanding team, including both doctoral candidates and undergraduate student teams
- Achieved good data acquisition despite unexpected situations
- Ten full boiling curves acquired for ten different mass velocities
- Six LN<sub>2</sub> Martian/Lunar CHF data points acquired
- Four LN<sub>2</sub> Microgravity CHF data points acquired
- Total of 714 (51x14) steady-state microgravity/Lunar/Martian HTC data points acquired
- Acquired flow visualization for Microgravity and both Lunar and Martian gravities

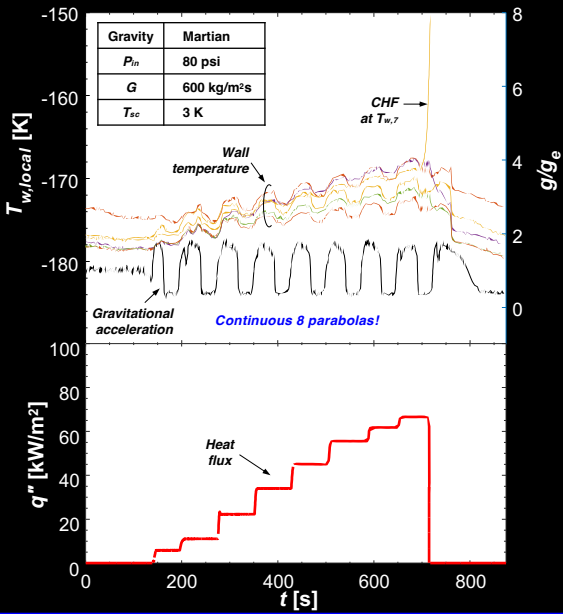
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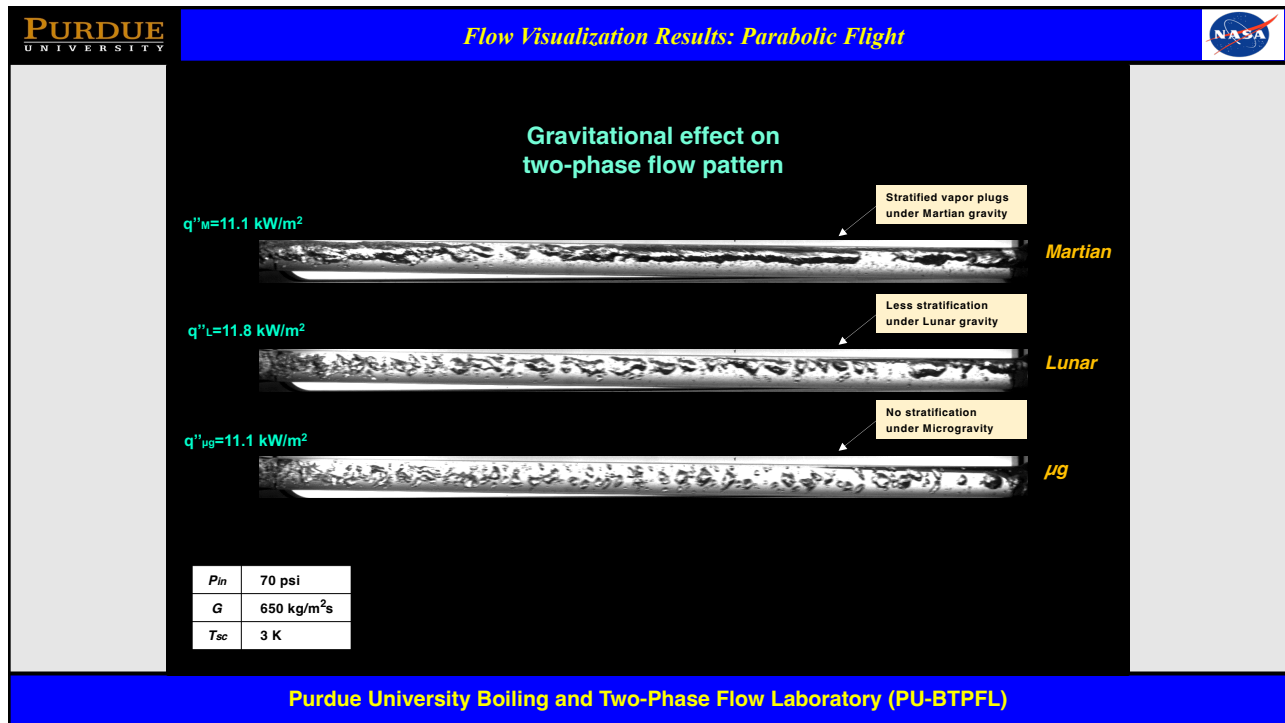
### Transient Dynamics Results



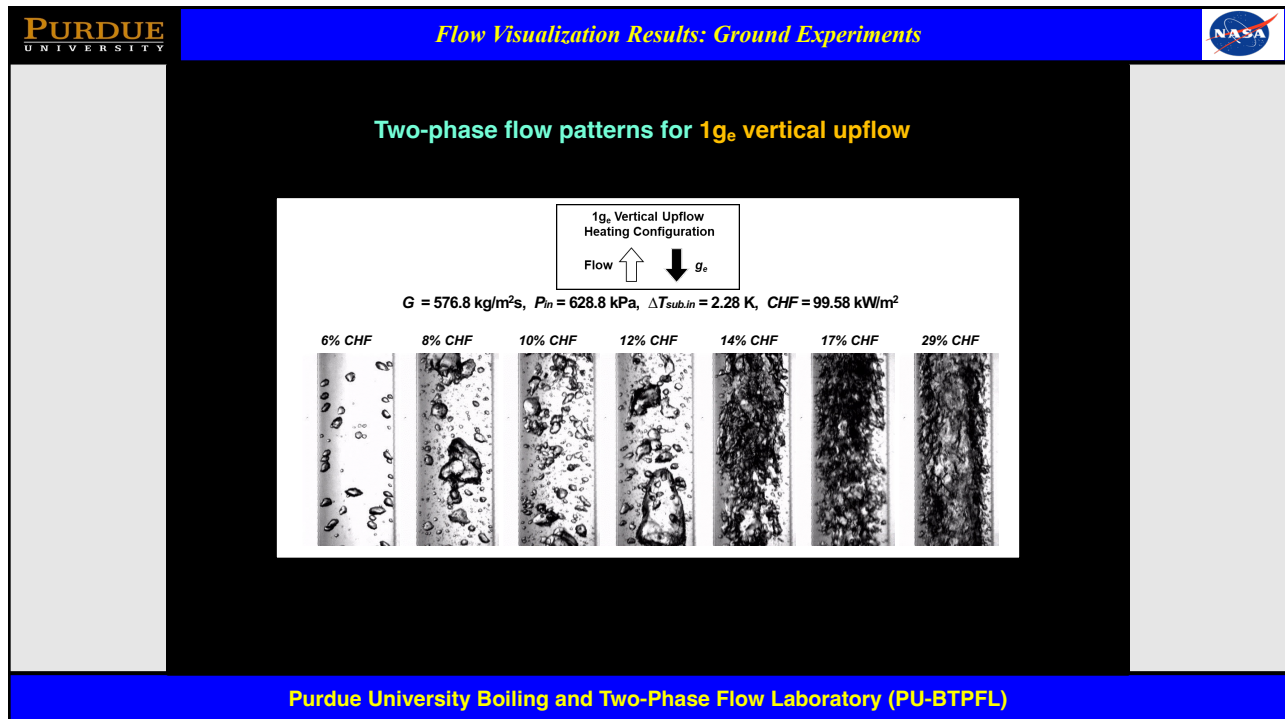


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**Flow Visualization Results: Ground Experiments**


### Two-phase flow patterns for 1g<sub>e</sub> vertical downflow

1g<sub>e</sub> Vertical Downflow Heating Configuration  
 Flow ↓ g<sub>e</sub> ↓

G = 511.1 kg/m<sup>2</sup>s, P<sub>m</sub> = 458.5 kPa, ΔT<sub>sub,in</sub> = 0.95 K, CHF = 87.75 kW/m<sup>2</sup>

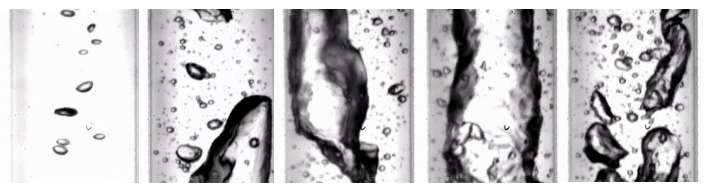
6% CHF

7% CHF

8% CHF



10% CHF

16% CHF



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**Flow Visualization Results: Ground Experiments**


### Two-phase flow patterns for 1g<sub>e</sub> horizontal flow

1g<sub>e</sub> Horizontal flow Heating Configuration  
 Flow → g<sub>e</sub> ↓

G = 544.9 kg/m<sup>2</sup>s, P<sub>m</sub> = 356.6 kPa, ΔT<sub>sub,in</sub> = 1.89 K, CHF = 91.67 kW/m<sup>2</sup>

3% CHF

5% CHF

7% CHF

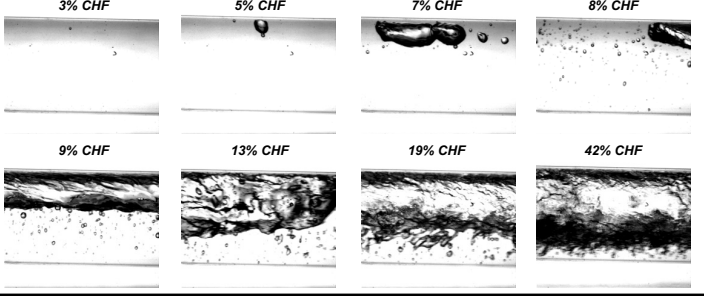
8% CHF

9% CHF

13% CHF

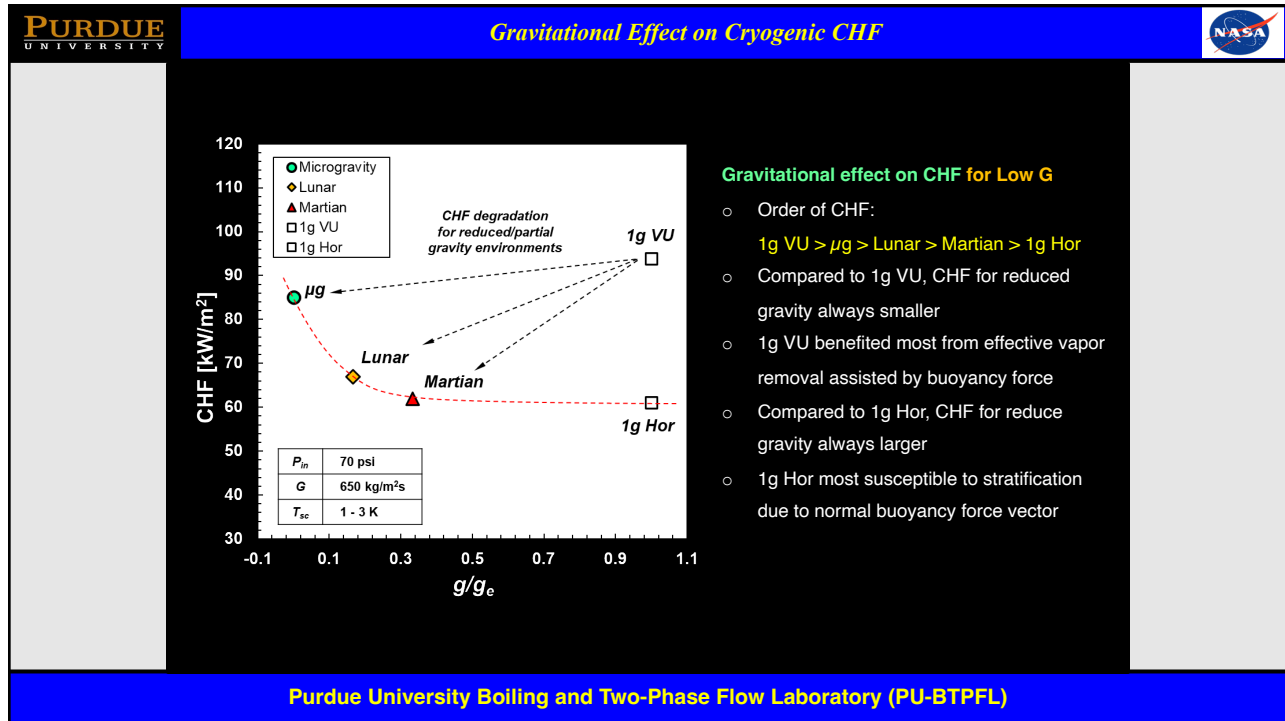
19% CHF

42% CHF

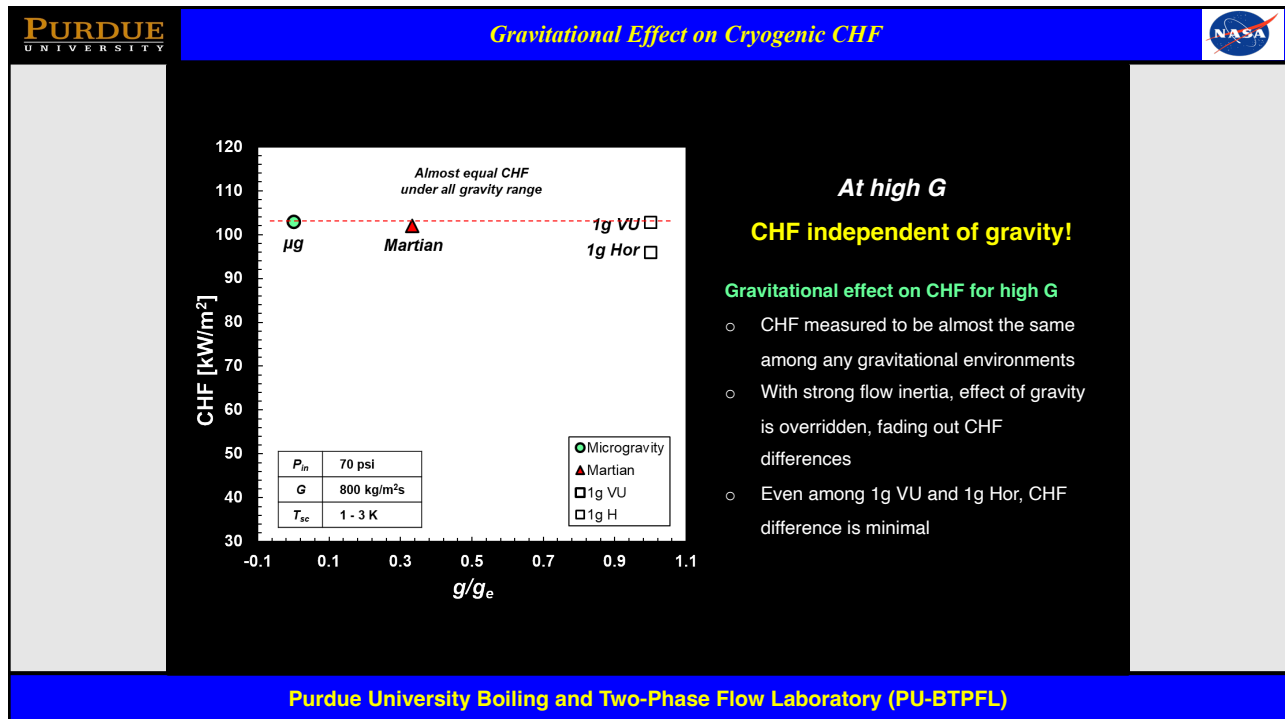


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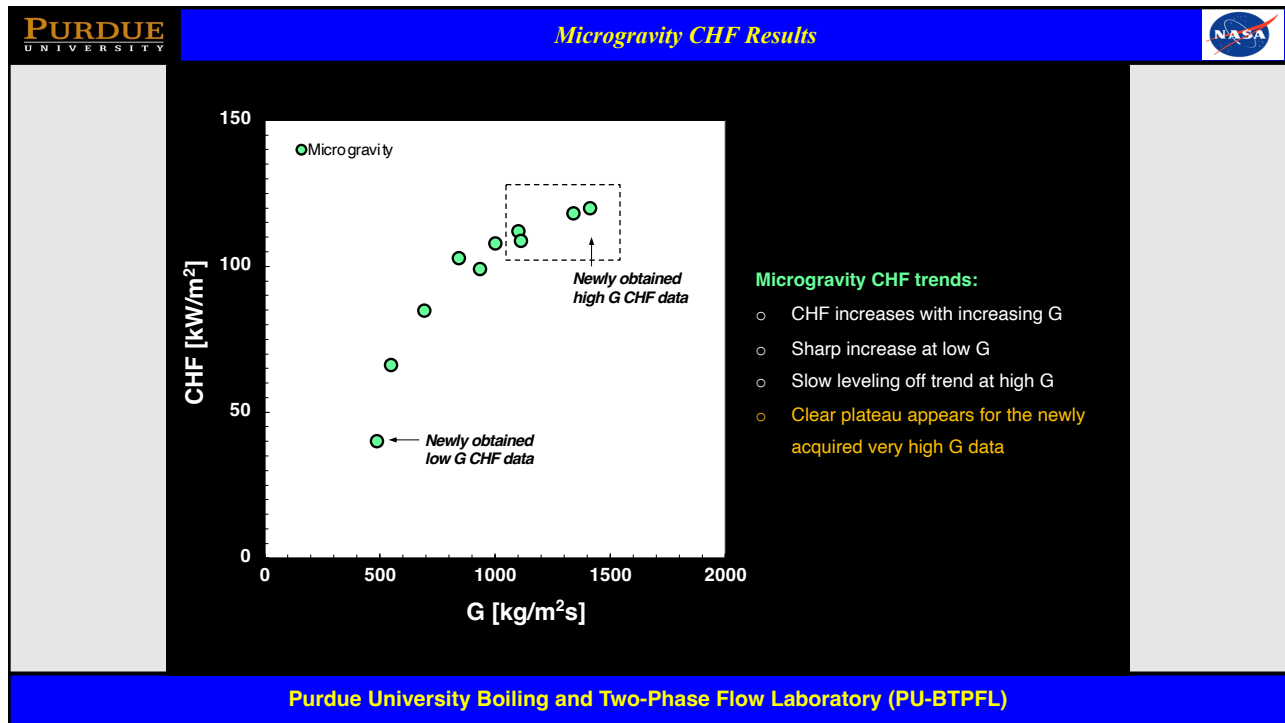
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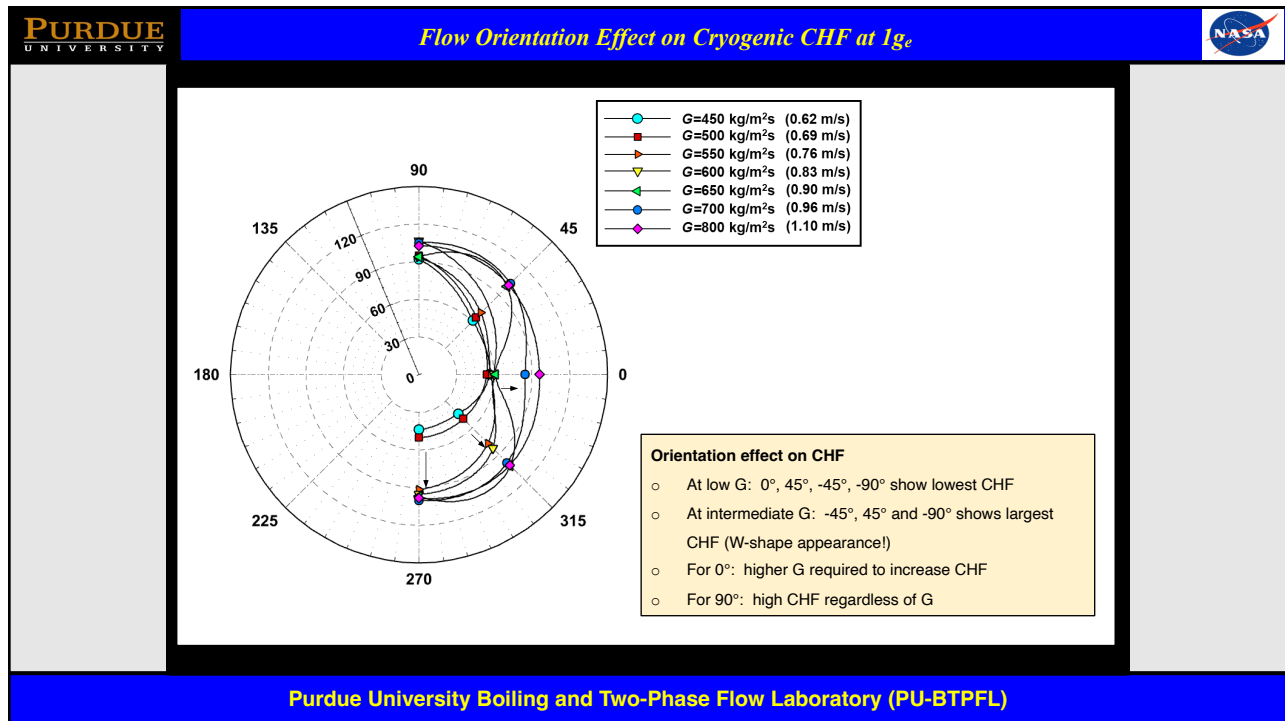
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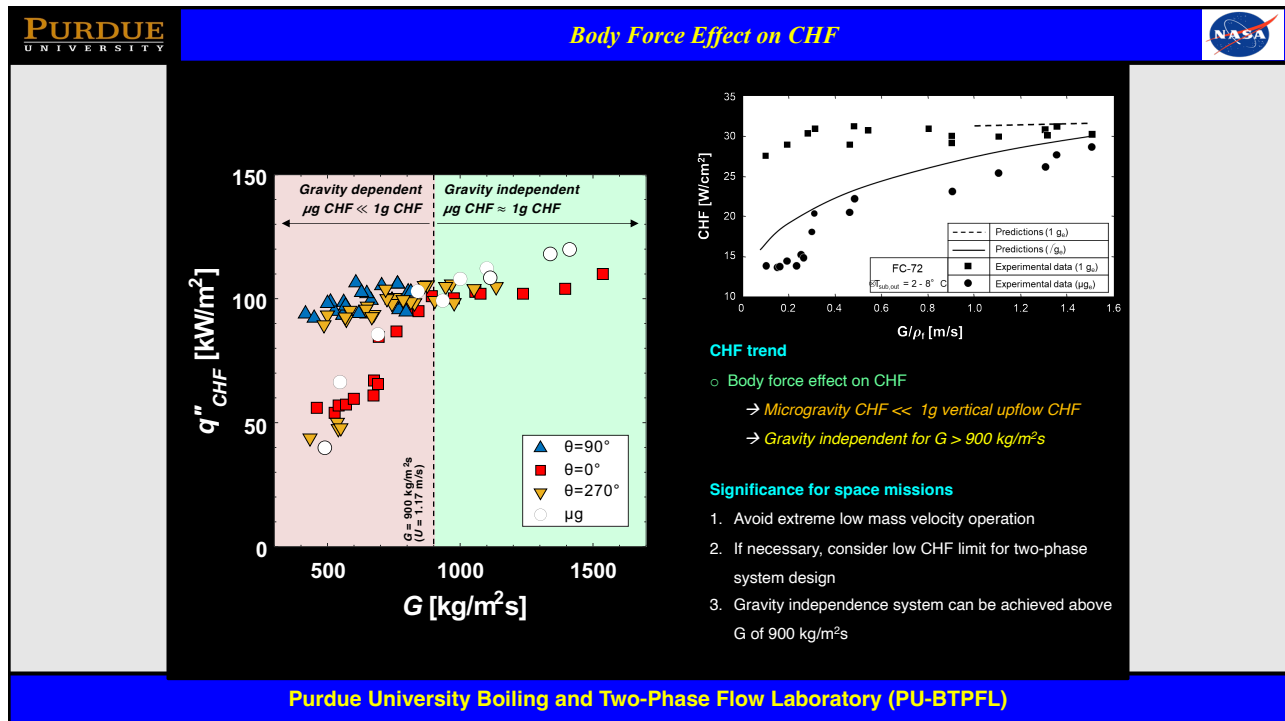
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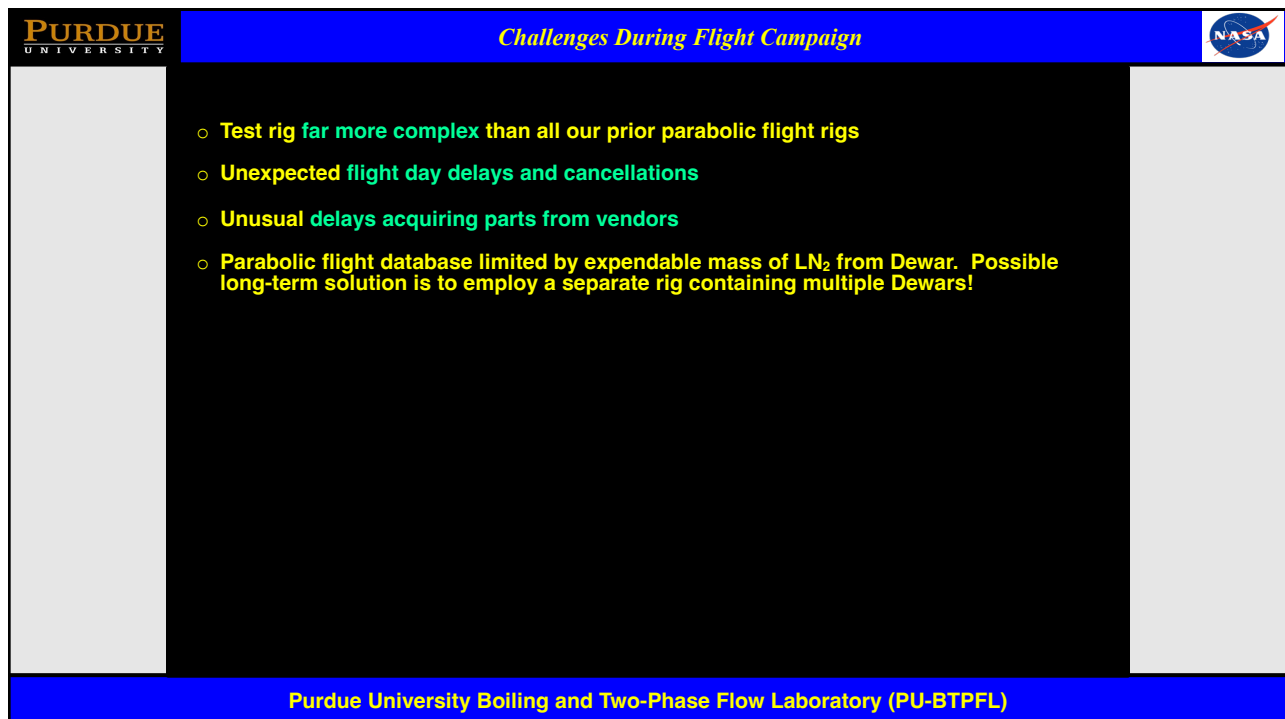
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*Undergraduate Student Involvement*

**10 Seniors** completed design projects as part of Mechanical Engineering Capstone Senior Design course ME463, including:

- Assisting with CAD design of heat transfer and flow visualization modules
- CAD Design of test rig
- Detailed structural design of test rig
- CAD design of rotation platform for terrestrial experiments at different flow orientations
- Construction of rotation platform
- Assistance with pre-flight tests

**5 Juniors and Sophomores** completed undergraduate research projects, including:

- Assisting with CAD design of heat transfer and flow visualization modules
- Construction of heat transfer and flow visualization modules
- Modifying CAD design for improved integration of heat transfer and flow visualization modules

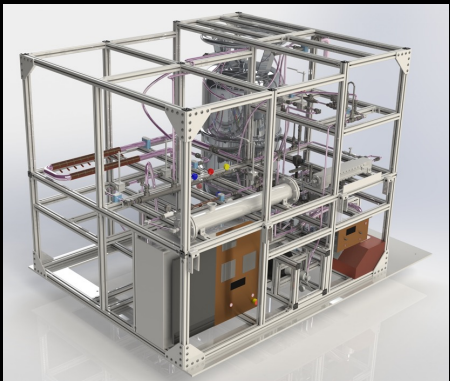
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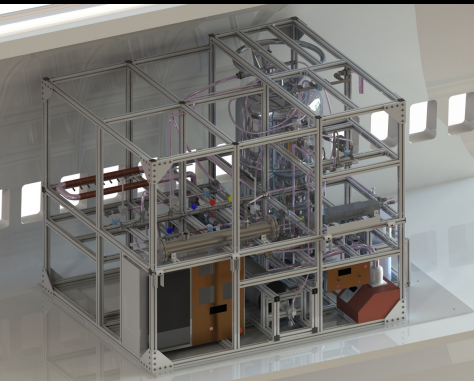
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### CAD of Test Rig

Ground View



In Flight View



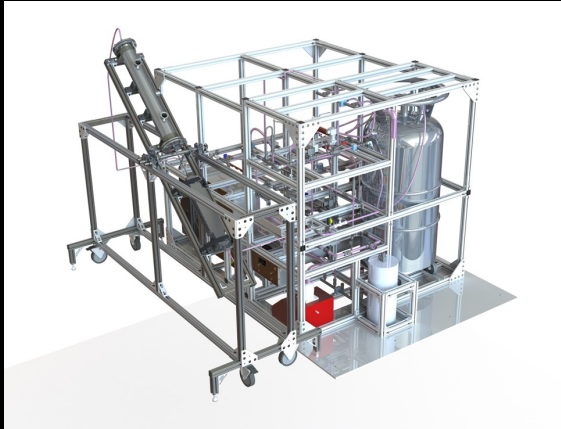
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CAD of Test Rig with Rotating Platform

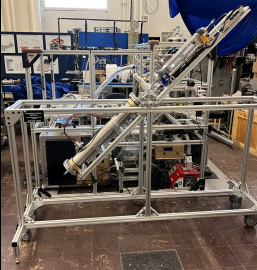


Rotating platform is being used to conduct terrestrial experiments at different flow orientations

Assembled Rotating Platform



Assembled Test Rig with Rotating Platform



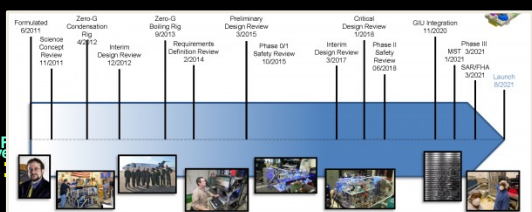
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PURDUE UNIVERSITY
Other NASA Grants


“Flow Boiling and Condensation Experiment (FBCE),” 2012-2024, Mudawar, PI

- FBCE is NASA’s largest and most complex flow boiling and flow condensation facility constructed to date for microgravity tests on the ISS
- Initiated in 2011
- Applications include Rankine Power Cycle, thermal control system (TCS) for space vehicles, vapor compression system for Lunar and Martian habitats
- Aims to develop empirical, theoretical, and CFD models for microgravity flow boiling and flow condensation
- Transported to the ISS in 2021
- First phase (boiling portion) of experiments successfully completed in July 2022



NASA STTR Phase II (Purdue Research Park): Heat Transfer Correlations for Complete Cryogenic Pool Boiling Curve,” 2022-2024, Michael Meyer, PI

- Phase I completed in 2022
- Phase II involves obtaining data in 1g and developing new correlations for all regimes and transition points of the boiling curve
- Will take advantage of the spray cooling flight rig to obtain reduced gravity pool boiling data during possible STTR II-E study





Heat Transfer Correlations for Complete Cryogenic Pool Boiling Curve” 2022-2024, Michael Meyer, PI

Reduced gravity on space


Purdue University Boiling and Two-Phase Flow Laboratory (PU-BTPFL)

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**PURDUE UNIVERSITY** *Main Modules of FBCE and Insertion into the Fluid Integrated Rack* 




Fluid System Module - Lower




Fluid System Module - Upper




Bulk Heater Module




Remote Data Acquisition Module 1



Remote Data Acquisition Module 2



**Flow Boiling Module (FBM)**



**Fluid Integrated Rack (FIR) Housing All components of FBCE**

**Purdue University Boiling and Two-Phase Flow Laboratory (PU-BTPFL)**

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**PURDUE UNIVERSITY** *Launch of FBCE with FBM to the ISS* 



**FBCE loading of into Northrop Grumman NG-16 Cygnus Spacecraft**



**Launch onboard Antares Rocket**




**August 2022 dock with the ISS**




**Astronaut Mark Vande Hei assembling FBCE modules into the Fluid Integrated Rack (FIR)**

**Purdue University Boiling and Two-Phase Flow Laboratory (PU-BTPFL)**

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### Theoretical Interfacial Lift-off CHF Model



**Use separated flow model to determine axial variations of:**

- $U_{g1}, U_{g2}$  Near-wall vapor layer velocities
- $U_f$  Liquid layer velocity
- $\delta_b, \delta_2$  Near-wall vapor layer thicknesses

**Critical interfacial wavelength**

$$k_c = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda_c} = \frac{\rho_f \rho_g^* (U_g - U_f)^2}{2\sigma(\rho_f^* + \rho_g^*)} + \sqrt{\left[ \frac{\rho_f \rho_g^* (U_g - U_f)^2}{2\sigma(\rho_f^* + \rho_g^*)} \right]^2 + \frac{(\rho_f - \rho_g) g_x}{\sigma}}$$

where  $\rho_f^* = \rho_f \coth(2\pi H_f / \lambda_c)$      $\rho_g^* = \rho_g \coth(2\pi H_g / \lambda_c)$

**Earth Gravity:**  $g_{n,1} = g_x \cos\theta$  and  $g_{n,2} = g_x \cos(\theta + \pi) = -g_x \cos\theta$

**Microgravity:**  $g_{n,1} = g_{n,2} = \mu g_x \equiv 0 \rightarrow \lambda_c = \frac{2\pi\sigma(\rho_f^* + \rho_g^*)}{\rho_f \rho_g^* (U_g - U_f)^2}$

**Mean pressure difference across wetting front**

$$\overline{p_f - p_g} = \frac{4\pi\sigma\delta}{b\lambda_c^2} \sin(b\pi)$$

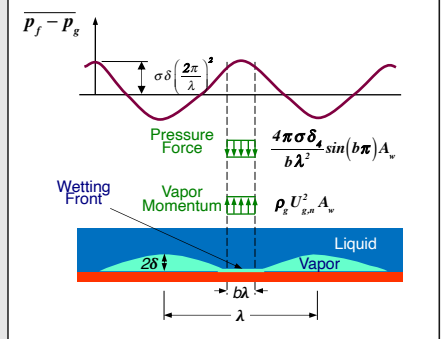
where  $b = 0.20$  is ratio of wetting front length to wavelength

**Interfacial lift-off criterion**

$$\overline{p_f - p_g} = \rho_g \left[ \frac{q_w''}{\rho_g h_{fg}} \right]^2$$

**Surface energy balance**

$$q_m'' = b q_w''$$




**Critical heat flux**


$$q_m'' = \rho_g \left( c_{p,f} \Delta T_{sub,in} + h_{fg} \right) \left[ \frac{4\pi\sigma b \sin(b\pi)}{\rho_g} \right]^{1/2} \frac{\delta^{1/2}}{\lambda_c} z'$$

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### New CHF Correlation

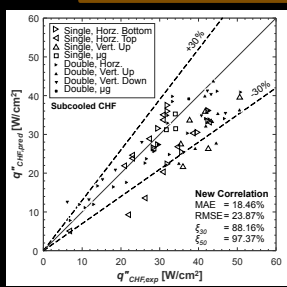


**New CHF Correlation Developed using Large Consolidated FBCE Flow Boiling Database**

$$Bo_{CHF} = 0.353 We_{D_c}^{-0.314} \left( \frac{L_h}{D_c} \right)^{-0.226} \left( \frac{\rho_f}{\rho_g} \right)^{-0.481} \left( 1 - \left( \frac{\rho_f}{\rho_g} \right)^{-0.094} x_{e,in} \right) \left( 1 + 0.034 \frac{1}{Fr_{\theta,D_c}} \right) \left( 1 + 0.008 \frac{Bd_{\theta,D_c}}{We_{D_c}^{0.543}} \right)$$

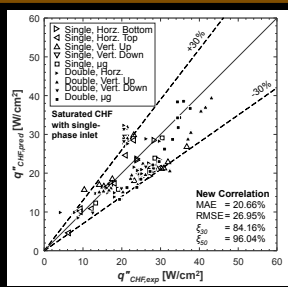
$$Bo_{CHF} = \frac{q_{CHF}''}{G h_{fg}} \quad We_{D_c} = \frac{G^2 D_c}{\rho_f \sigma} \quad Fr_{\theta,D_c} = \frac{G^2}{(\rho_f^* g \sin\theta D_c)} \quad Bd_{\theta,D_c} = \frac{g \cos\theta (\rho_f - \rho_g) D_c^2}{\sigma} \quad D_c = \frac{4A_c}{P_h}$$

$\theta$ : orientation angle of channel



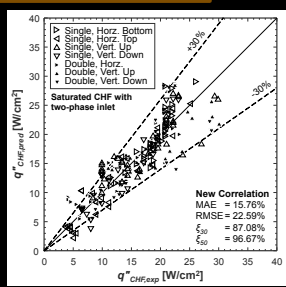
**Subcooled CHF**

New Correlation  
MAE = 18.48%  
RMSE = 23.87%  
 $\xi_{50} = 88.16\%$   
 $\xi_{90} = 97.37\%$



**Saturated CHF with single-phase inlet**

New Correlation  
MAE = 20.86%  
RMSE = 26.95%  
 $\xi_{50} = 84.16\%$   
 $\xi_{90} = 96.04\%$




**Saturated CHF with two-phase inlet**

New Correlation  
MAE = 15.76%  
RMSE = 22.65%  
 $\xi_{50} = 87.08\%$   
 $\xi_{90} = 96.67\%$


- Applicable to all 3 types of CHF: Subcooled CHF, Saturated CHF with 1-phase inlet, Saturated CHF with 2-phase inlet
- Considers the effects of gravity on CHF, and is applicable to all flow orientations in both Earth gravity and microgravity
- Predicts the entire consolidated FBCE database with a mean absolute error of 17.44%

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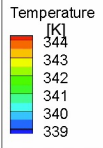
38



### CFD Validation of FBM Wall Temperature Measurements and Interfacial flow Structure


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**Temperature [K]**




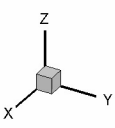
344  
343  
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339

**Gravity**



**FC-72 Flow**



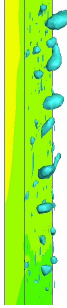


**Models used:**

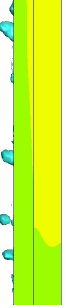
- Volume of Fluid (VOF)
- Coupled Level Set VOF (CLSVOF)

**Employ User-defined functions for:**

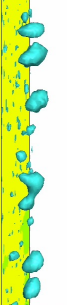
- Shear-lift Force
- Bubble Collision Dispersion Force



**Upstream**



**Middle**




**Downstream**

**Adapted in ANSYS FLUENT**


Video frame rate is 5 fps  
 Individual images in sequence separated by 1 ms

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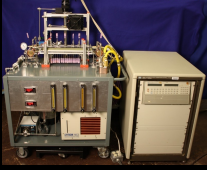
### New Kepner Center for Space Experiments




**Will house over 10 ground test rigs, 3 parabolic flight payloads, and several boiling and two-phase flow instructional facilities**



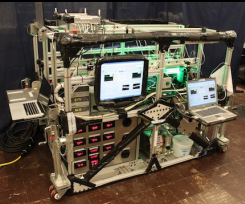
**High-Capacity Condensation Facility**




**Mini/micro-channel Condensation Facility**




**Falling-Film Heating/Evaporation Facility**



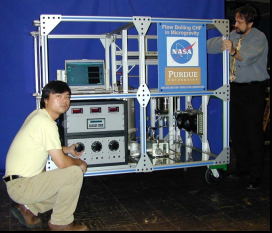
**Parabolic Flight Condensation Facility**



**One-G Flow Boiling Facility**




**Hybrid Thermal Control System (H-TCS)**




**Parabolic Flight Flow Boiling Facility**

**Purdue University Boiling and Two-Phase Flow Laboratory (PU-BTPFL)**

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**Journal Publications**



**Findings from FBCE project, both flow boiling and flow condensation, and both terrestrial and microgravity, have been published by Purdue in over 80 journal articles, majority in *International Journal of Heat & Mass Transfer***


**Publications based on tube flight experiments**

1. S. Kim, J. Lee, I. Mudawar, J. Hartwig, Computational investigation of vertical upflow boiling of liquid nitrogen and effects of bubble collision dispersion force, *Int J Heat Mass Transf* 203 (2023) 123780.
2. S. Kim, N. Damle, I. Mudawar, J. Hartwig, Cryogenic flow boiling in microgravity: effects of reduced gravity on two-phase fluid physics and heat transfer, *Int J Heat Mass Transf* 218 (2024) 124751.
3. S. Kim, D. Foster, N. Damle, I. Mudawar, J. Hartwig, Experimental investigation of flow orientation effects on cryogenic flow boiling, *Int J Heat Mass Transf* 220 (2024) 124940.
4. S. Kim, S. Darges, J. Hartwig, I. Mudawar, Assessment and development of saturated and subcooled heat transfer coefficient correlations for cryogenic flow boiling in tubes, *Int. J. Heat and Mass Transf* 224 (2024) 125297
5. S. Kim, N. Damle, J. Hartwig, I. Mudawar, Experimental heat transfer results and flow visualization of horizontal near-saturated liquid nitrogen flow boiling in uniformly heated circular tube under earth gravity, *Appl Therm Eng* 246 (2024) 122934.
6. S. Kim, J. Hartwig, I. Mudawar, Computational fluid dynamics simulation of cryogenic vertical upflow boiling under terrestrial gravity, *Appl Therm Eng*, in review.
7. S. Kim, N. Damle, D. Foster, J. Hartwig, I. Mudawar, Gravitational Effects on critical heat flux of cryogenic flow boiling, in preparation.


Mudawar and Hartwig would be happy to share within NASA the cryogenic data acquired during the parabolic flight experiments

**Purdue University Boiling and Two-Phase Flow Laboratory (PU-BTPFL)**

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**Mudawar Team's World Rankings**



**Clarivate ISI (formerly Thomson Reuters):**

- Highly Cited Researcher since 2015

**Google Scholar (5/4/2024):**

- 33,900 citations, h-index: 106
- World rankings: Flow Boiling #1, Spray Cooling #1, Microchannels #1, Microgravity Boiling #1, Electronics Cooling #3

**ScholarGPS (5/4/2024):**

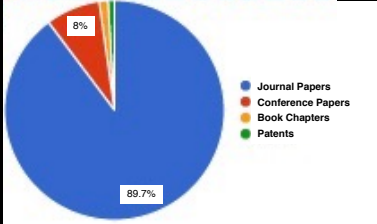
- Highly Ranked Scholar
- Lifetime:**
  - 32,820 citations, h-index: 107
  - World Rankings: Heat sink #1, Boiling #3, Heat Transfer #5, Electronic Packaging #6
- Five Year:**
  - World Rankings: Boiling: #1, Condensation: #5

**Exaly (5/4/2024):**

- Most cited author in *International Journal of Heat and Mass Transfer*

**AD Science Index (5/7/2024):**

- Most cited author in Purdue's School of Mechanical Engineering



Category	Percentage
Journal Papers	89.7%
Conference Papers	8%
Book Chapters	
Patents	

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PURDUE  
UNIVERSITY
Purdue's just announced Space Engineering Certificate

- Provides Purdue undergraduate students with an opportunity to acquire documented educational experiences in space engineering
- 16-credit certificate guides students through their choice of topics within the vast collections of topics that make up space exploration, space power, space commerce, space communications, space life support and habitation, and space policy
- Provides opportunities for undergraduate students to actively participate in research projects alongside graduate students
- Benefits the Nation by better preparing Purdue undergrads for careers in space engineering

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PURDUE  
UNIVERSITY
Ultra-Fast Charging of Electric Vehicles (EVs)

- Present most advanced EV charging technologies require in excess of 20 minutes for a full charge compared to 5 minutes for gas charging
- Slow EV charging has greatly discouraged customer adoption of EVs and negatively impacted the EV market
- Slow EV charging is outcome of relatively low current (500 Amps max) that can be supplied through charging cable, capped by heating in the cable's conductor
- Achieving 5-minute EV charging will require advanced cooling methods to boost current delivery to about 1400 Amps

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### Ultra-Fast Charging of Electric Vehicles (EVs)

**Subcooled boiling:** liquid coolant supplied at a temperature well below boiling point, allowing very high frequency formation and departure of very small vapor bubbles. This enables very efficient removal of heat while minimizing pumping power.

**EV Chargers Available Worldwide**

- Using thermal management lessons learned from FBCE, Purdue developed a new patented cable cooling technology that enables delivery of upwards of 2400 Amps through the charging cable
- By exceeding the 1400 Amps required for 5-minute EV charging, Purdue's new technology enables even faster charging of EVs than gas charging

**Purdue University Boiling and Two-Phase Flow Laboratory (PU-BTPFL)**

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### Purdue's Research Thrusts Benefiting from NASA Support

**Fusion Reactor Blankets**

International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER)

Heat flux in cooling channels can exceed 10<sup>7</sup> W/cm<sup>2</sup>

**Thermal Management of Power Electronics in Hybrid Vehicles**

**Heat Exchanger for High-Pressure Hydride Hydrogen Storage**

**Liquid-Cooled Turbine Blades**

Cooling Channel

**Military Avionics**

**Fuel-Air Heat Exchanger for High-Mach Turbine Engines**


**Military Laser, Microwave, and Advanced Radar Systems**

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**PURDUE UNIVERSITY**

*Value of Flight Opportunities Program to Cryogenic Research & Applications*



1. Absent ability to perform cryogenic fluid experiments onboard the ISS, parabolic flight experiments represent an essential means for study of transport behavior of cryogenes in pursuit of data acquisition, and development of empirical correlations, theoretical models, and computational models for use in design of NASA's space systems
2. Parabolic flight experiments remain the most cost-effective means for investigating transport behavior of cryogenes
3. Same parabolic flight rigs enables complementary investigation of transport behavior of cryogenes in ground experiments for assessment of gravity effects
4. With additional hardware modifications, same parabolic flight rig can be used to investigate other transport mechanisms of cryogenes, including pool boiling and spray cooling

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**Thank you!**

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NASA FLIGHT OPPORTUNITIES

National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration



## Thank you!

Flight Opportunities website:

<http://nasa.gov/flightopportunities>

Contact us:

[NASA-FlightOpportunities@mail.nasa.gov](mailto:NASA-FlightOpportunities@mail.nasa.gov)



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[www.nasa.gov](http://www.nasa.gov)