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# **Introduction to Heat Pipes**

**Jentung Ku**

**NASA/ Goddard Space Flight Center**



# Outline

- **Introduction**
- **Heat Pipe Operating Principles**
  - **Pressure Drops**
  - **Operating Temperature**
- **Functional Types of Heat Pipes**
- **Heat Pipe Operating Characteristics**
- **Heat Pipe Design and Selection**
  - **Design Considerations (mostly for Vendors)**
  - **Selecting Heat Pipes as Part of Thermal Control System and Modeling of Heat Pipes (for Thermal Analysts)**
- **Some Practical Considerations**
- **Some Examples of Flight Applications**
- **Other Types of Heat Pipes**



## Heat Pipes - Hardware



- **Metal (aluminum) tube with grooves on the inner surface – cold extrusion**
- **Grooves are filled with the working fluid (water, ammonia, propylene, etc.)**
- **Flanges can be added on the outer surface for easy integration with instruments or radiators (The flange is an integral part of the extrusion)**
- **Various diameters, lengths, and groove sizes**

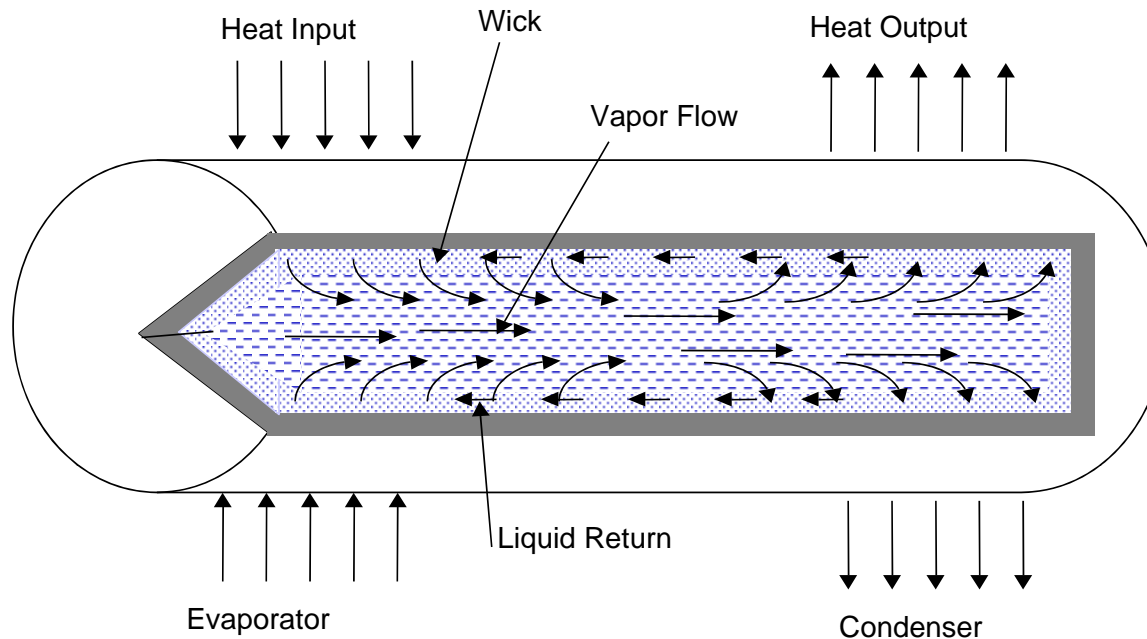


## Introduction – Why Heat Pipes?

- **Heat pipe is a capillary two-phase heat transfer device.**
  - **Transports heat from a heat source to a heat sink**
  - **Works as an isothermalizer**
- **Why two-phase thermal system?**
  - **Efficient heat transfer – boiling and condensation**
  - **Small temperature difference between the heat source and heat sink**
- **Why capillary two-phase system?**
  - **Passive – no external pumping power**
  - **Self regulating – no flow control devices**
  - **No moving parts – vibration free**



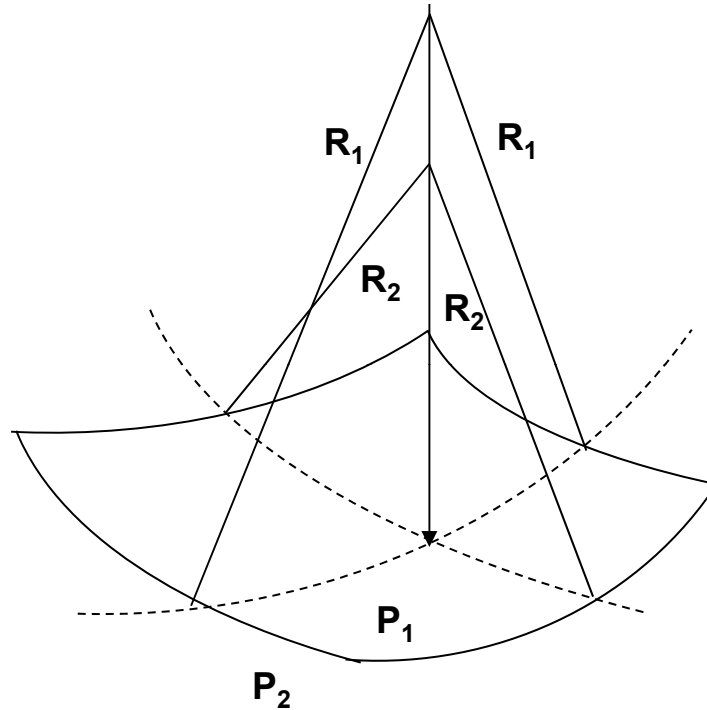
# Heat Pipes – Operating Principles



- **Typical use of heat pipe: one end (the evaporator) is attached to the heat source, and the opposite end (the condenser) to the heat sink. The middle section (the adiabatic section) is insulated.**
- **As liquid is vaporized at the evaporator, the vapor pressure builds up, forcing vapor to flow axially along the center core to the condenser .**
- **Vapor condenses at the condenser. Liquid is drawn back to the evaporator by the capillary force along the grooves.**
- **The pressure difference between the vapor and liquid phases is sustained by the surface tension force of the fluid.**
- **Passive – no external pumping power is required; the waste heat provides the driving force for the fluid flow.**



# Differential Pressure Across a Curved Surface



$$\Delta P = P_1 - P_2 = \sigma (1/R_1 + 1/R_2)$$

$\sigma$ : Surface tension;  $R_1$  and  $R_2$ : Radii of curvature

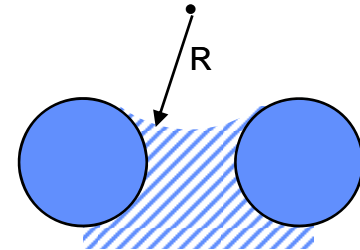


# Pressure Differential Across a Meniscus

- A meniscus will be formed at the liquid/vapor interface, and a capillary pressure is developed.

$$\Delta P_{\text{cap}} = 2\sigma \cos\theta/R$$

$\sigma$ : Surface tension;  $R$ : Radius of curvature;  $\theta$ : Contact Angle

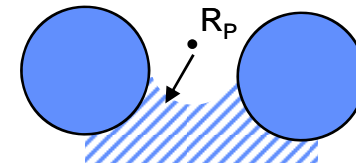


- The maximum capillary pressure

$$\Delta P_{\text{cap,max}} = 2\sigma \cos\theta/R_p$$

$$R \geq R_p$$

$R_p$ : Radius of the pore





# Pressure Balance in Heat Pipes

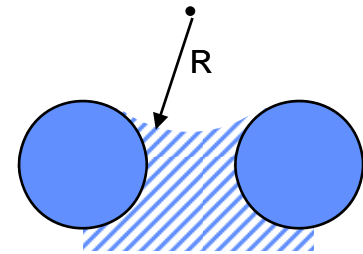
- The fluid flow will induce a frictional pressure drop. The total pressure drop over the length of the heat pipe is the sum of individual pressure drops.

$$\Delta P_{\text{tot}} = \Delta P_{\text{vap}} + \Delta P_{\text{liq}} + \Delta P_{\text{g}}$$

- The meniscus will curve naturally so that the capillary pressure is equal to the total pressure drop.

$$\Delta P_{\text{cap}} = \Delta P_{\text{tot}}$$

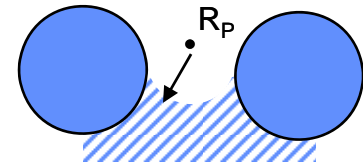
$$\Delta P_{\text{cap}} = 2\sigma \cos\theta/R \quad (R \geq R_p)$$



- The flow will stop when the capillary limit is exceeded.

$$\Delta P_{\text{cap,max}} = 2\sigma \cos\theta/R_p$$

$R_p$  : Radius of the pore



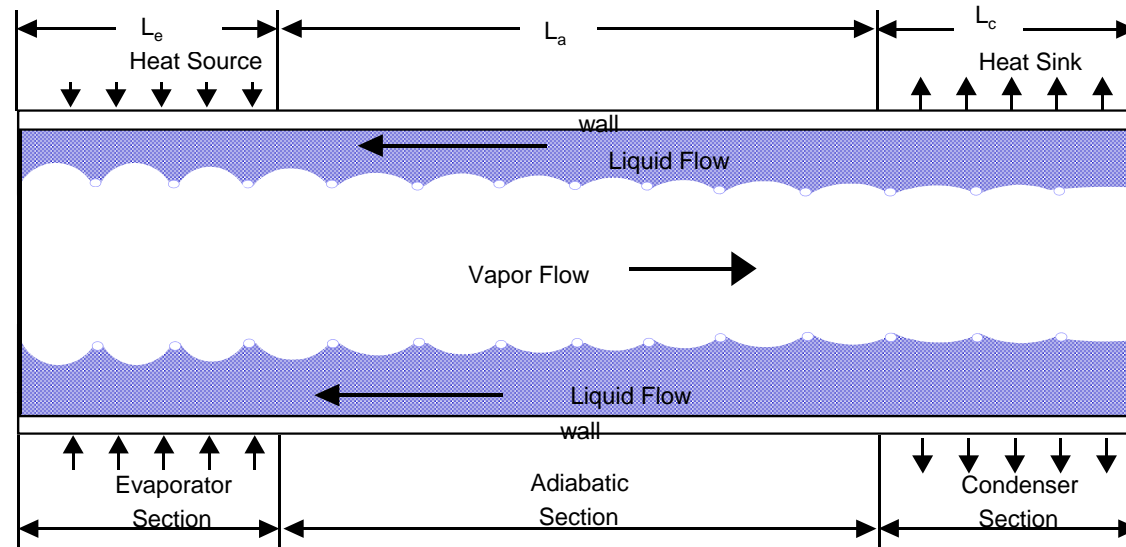
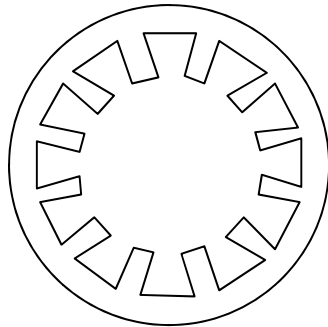
- For normal operation of heat pipes:

$$\Delta P_{\text{tot}} = \Delta P_{\text{cap}} \leq \Delta P_{\text{cap,max}}$$





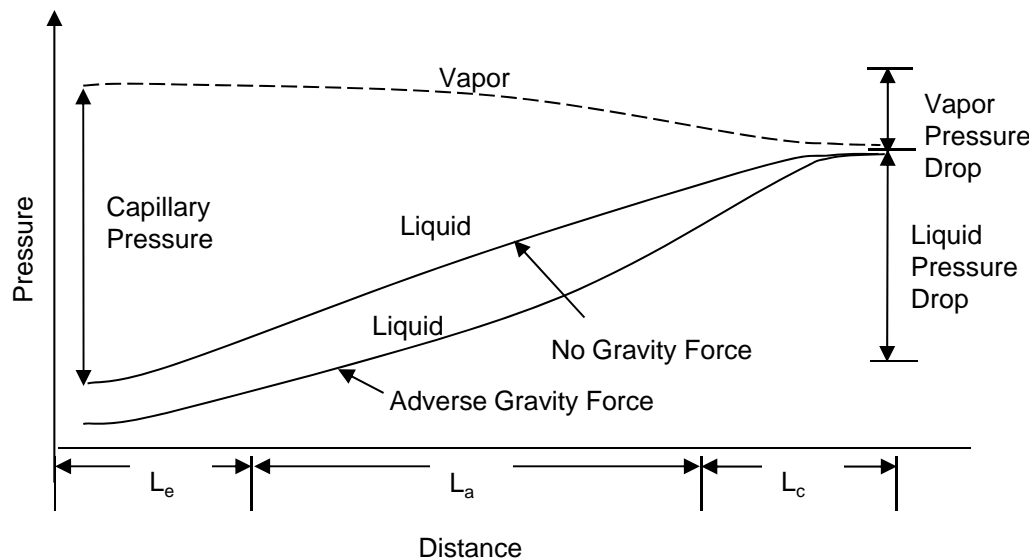
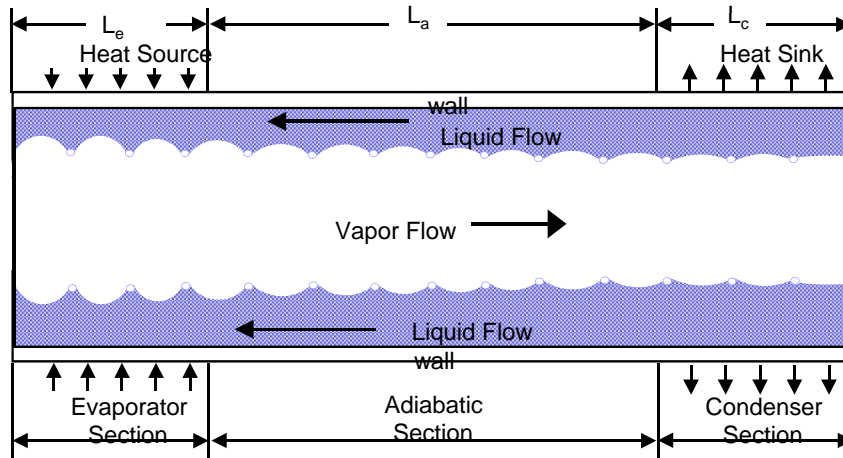
# Pressure Differential at Liquid Vapor Interface



- The vapor pressure decreases as it flows from the evaporator to the condenser.
- The liquid pressure decreases as it flows from the condenser to the evaporator.
- At any cross section of the heat pipe, a pressure differential exists between the vapor and liquid phases. This delta pressure is sustained by the surface tension force developed at the liquid/vapor interface at the tip of each groove.
- The lowest delta pressure occurs at the very end of the condenser (zero). The highest delta pressure occurs at the very end of the evaporator.



# Heat Pipes - Heat Transport Limit



b) Vapor and liquid pressure distributions

- For proper heat pipe operation, the total pressure drop must not exceed its capillary pressure head .

$$\Delta P_{\text{tot}} \leq \Delta P_{\text{cap,max}}$$

$$\Delta P_{\text{tot}} = \Delta P_{\text{vap}} + \Delta P_{\text{liq}} + \Delta P_{\text{g}}$$

$$\Delta P_{\text{cap,max}} = \sigma \cos\theta / R_p$$

- Heat Transport Limit

- $(QL)_{\text{max}} = Q_{\text{max}} L_{\text{eff}}$

- $L_{\text{eff}} = 0.5 L_e + L_a + 0.5 L_c$

- $(QL)_{\text{max}}$  measured in watt-inches or watt-meters

- Capillary pressure head:

$$\Delta P_{\text{cap}} \propto 1 / R_p$$

- Liquid pressure drop:

$$\Delta P_{\text{liq}} \propto 1 / R_p^2$$

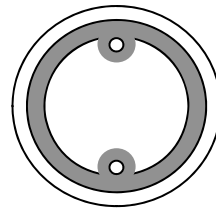
- An optimal pore radius exists for maximum heat transport.

- Limited pumping head against gravity

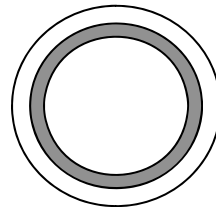


## Some Wicks Used in Heat Pipes

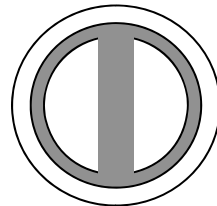
- Many HP hardware variations exist.
  - Size
  - Length
  - Shape
  - Wick material
  - Wick construction
  - Working fluid
- Axial Grooves
  - Versatility
  - Design simplicity
  - Reliability
  - High heat transport
  - High thermal conductance
  - Broadly used in aerospace applications



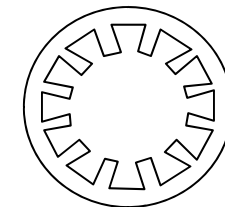
POWDER METAL WITH  
PEDESTAL ARTERY



CIRCUMFERENTIAL  
SCREEN WICK



SLAB WICK



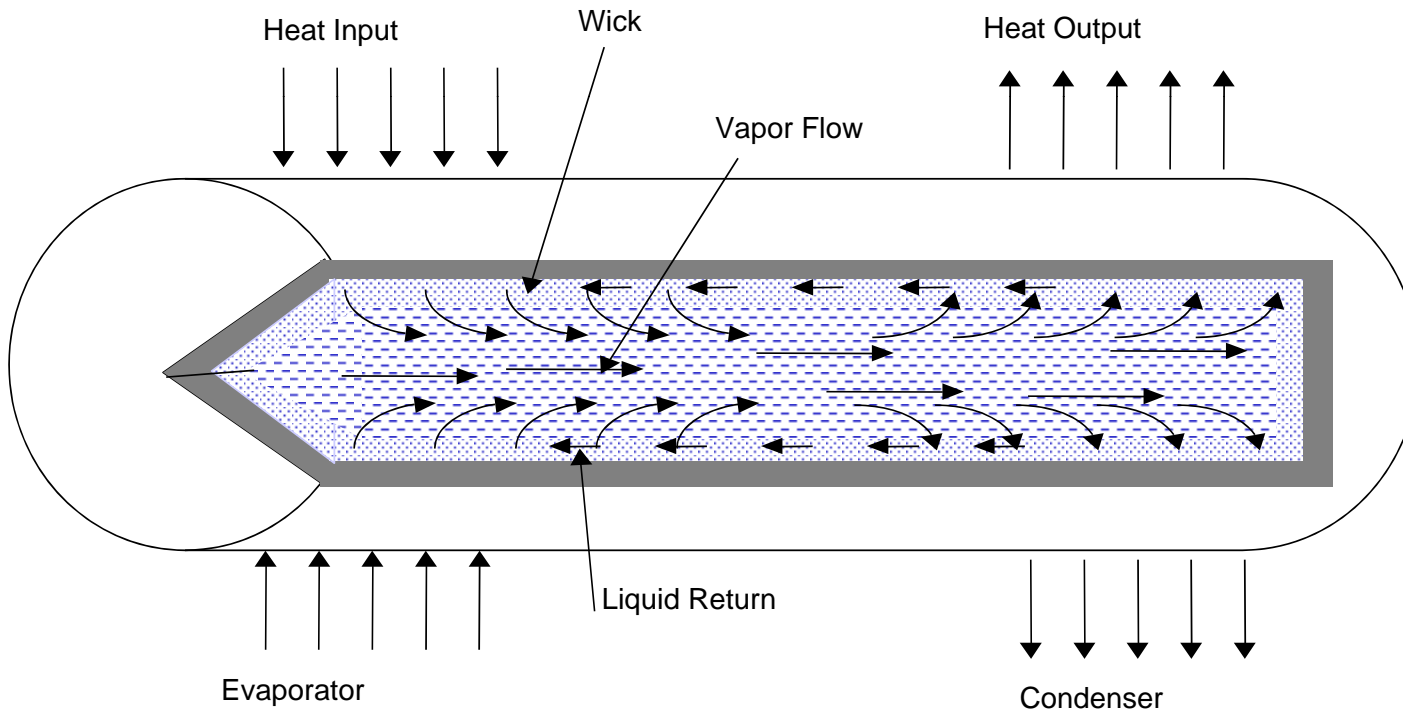
AXIAL GROOVES





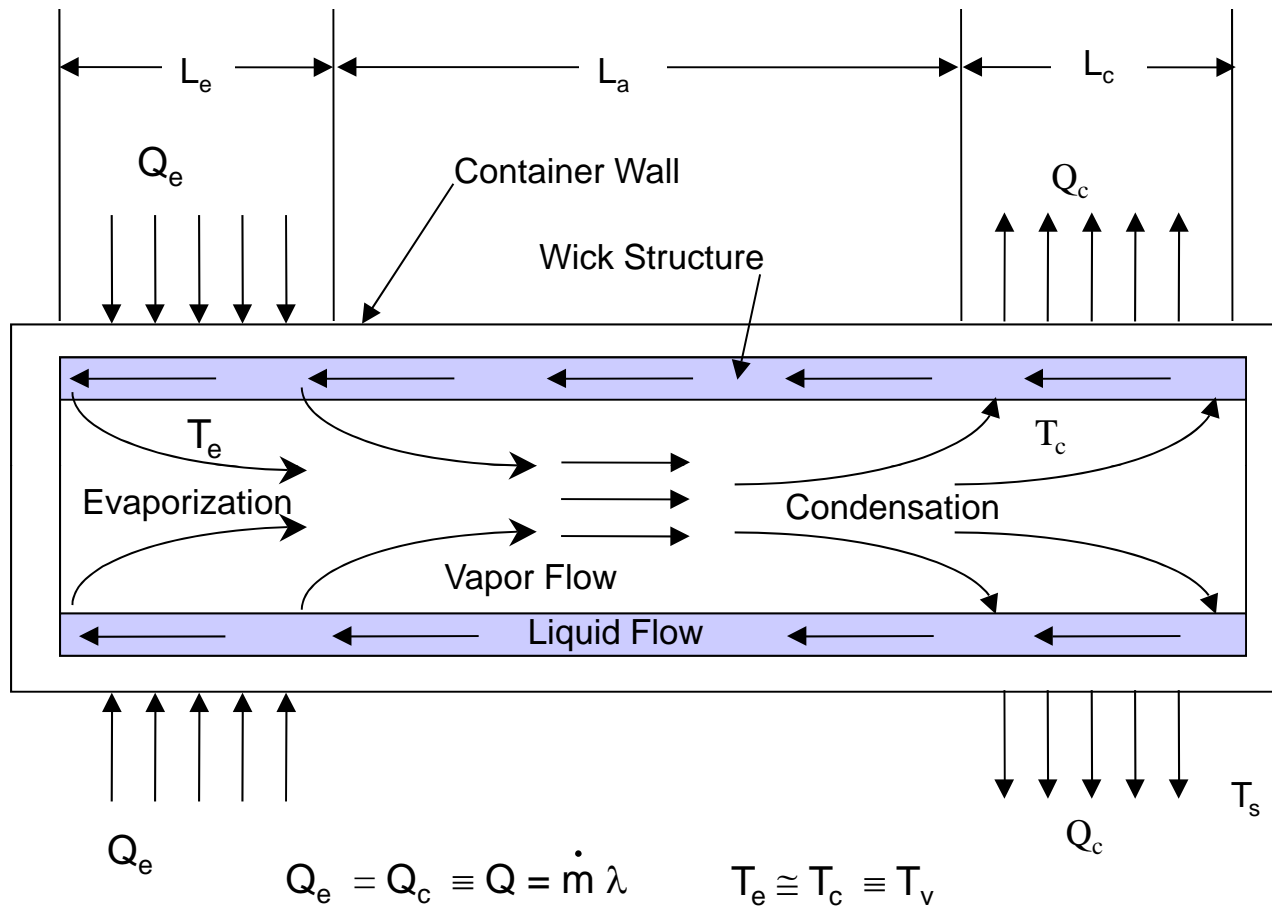
# Functional Types Of Heat Pipes

- **Three Basic Functional Types**
  - **Constant Conductance Heat Pipe (CCHP)**
  - **Variable Conductance Heat Pipe (VCHP)**
  - **Diode Heat Pipe**





# Energy Balance in Heat Pipe



$L_e$  = Evaporator length

$L_a$  = Adiabatic length

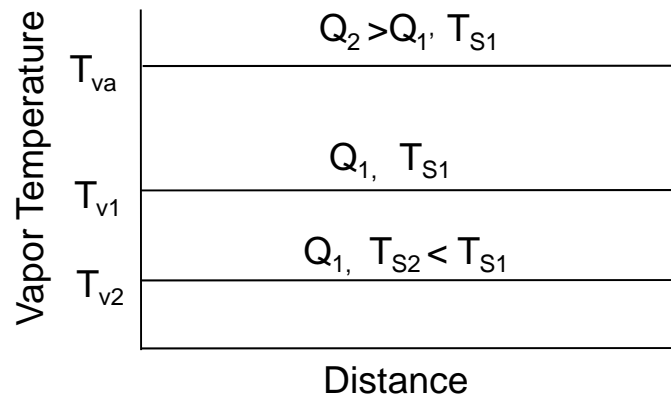
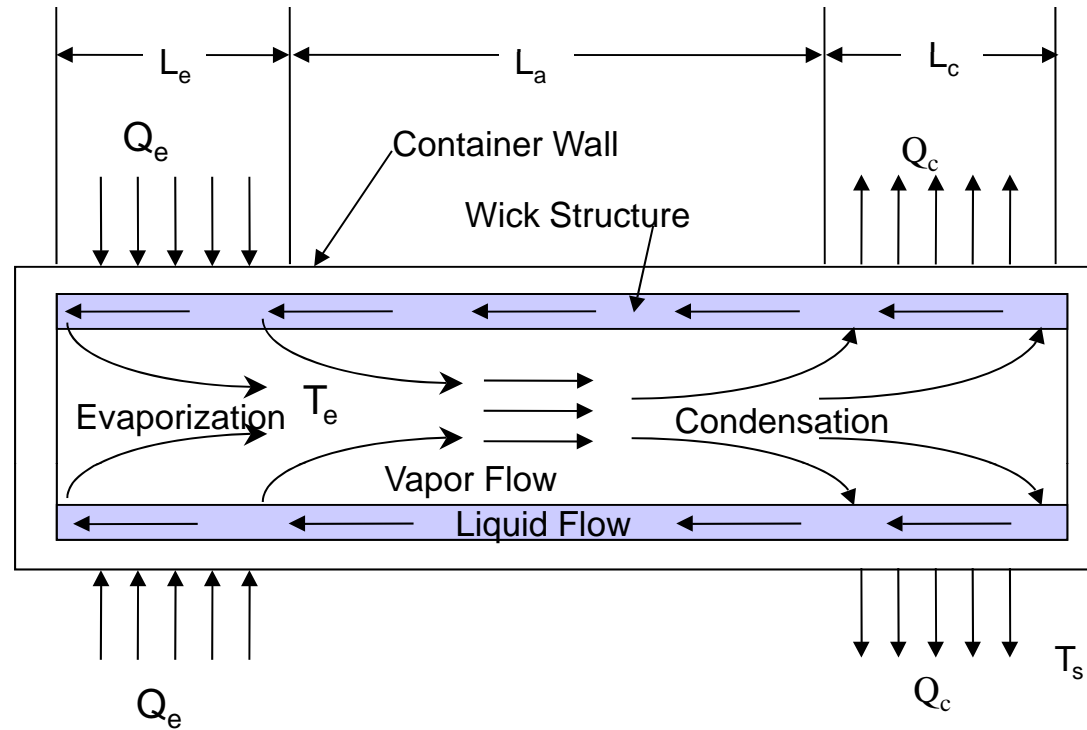
$L_c$  = Condenser length

$\dot{m}$  = Mass flow rate (liquid or vapor)

$\lambda$  = Latent heat of vaporization



# Thermal Characteristics of a CCHP



$$Q = h(\pi DL_c)(T_V - T_s)$$

$$L_c = \text{constant}$$

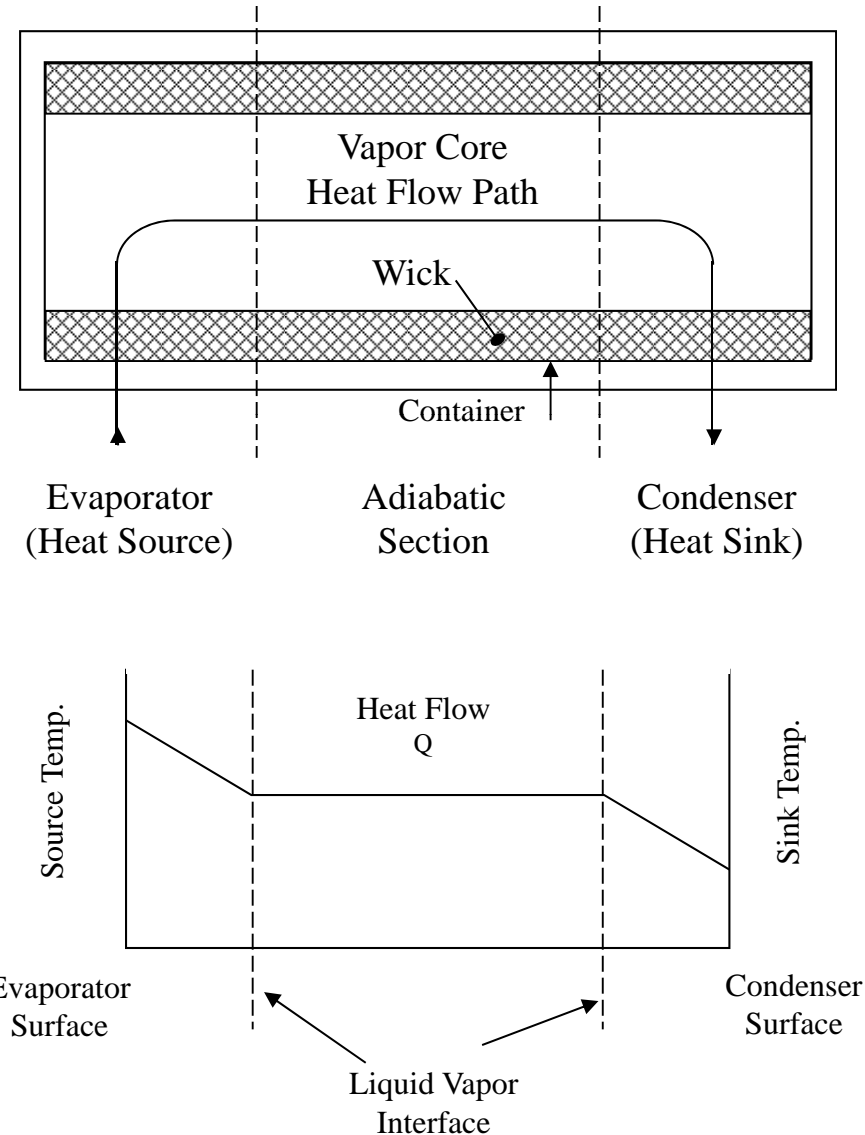
$$h(\pi DL_c) = \text{constant conductance}$$

$$T_V \text{ varies with } T_s \text{ and } Q$$



## Temperature Gradient in a CCHP

- The thermal conductance is very high for the fluid flow.
- The temperature difference from the heat source to the heat sink is dominated by the much smaller thermal conductance at the heat source/evaporator interface and the condenser/heat sink interface.









# Governing Equations for CCHP Operation (1)

- **First law of thermodynamics**

$$Q_e = Q_c \equiv Q$$

- **Second law of thermodynamics**

$$T_e > T_c$$

- **Capillary pressure capability**

$$\Delta P_{\text{cap,max}} = 2\sigma \cos\theta/R_p$$

- **Pressure balance**

$$\Delta P_{\text{cap,max}} \geq \Delta P_{\text{tot}} = \Delta P_{\text{vap}} + \Delta P_{\text{liq}} + \Delta P_{\text{g}}$$

- **Saturation states**

$$T_e = f(P_e) \text{ and } T_c = f(P_c)$$

$$\Delta T = T_e - T_c = f(Q, T_c)$$



## Governing Equations for CCHP Operation (2)

- **Heat transfer in condenser zone**

$$Q_c = Q = h_c(\pi DL_c)(T_c - T_s) \cong h_c(\pi DL_c)(T_v - T_s)$$

$$h_c(\pi DL_c) = \text{constant}$$

**Q and  $T_s$  are independent variables**

- **Heat transfer in evaporator zone**

$$Q_e = Q = h_e(\pi DL_e)(T_i - T_e) \cong h_e(\pi DL_e)(T_i - T_v)$$

$$h_e(\pi DL_e) = \text{constant}$$

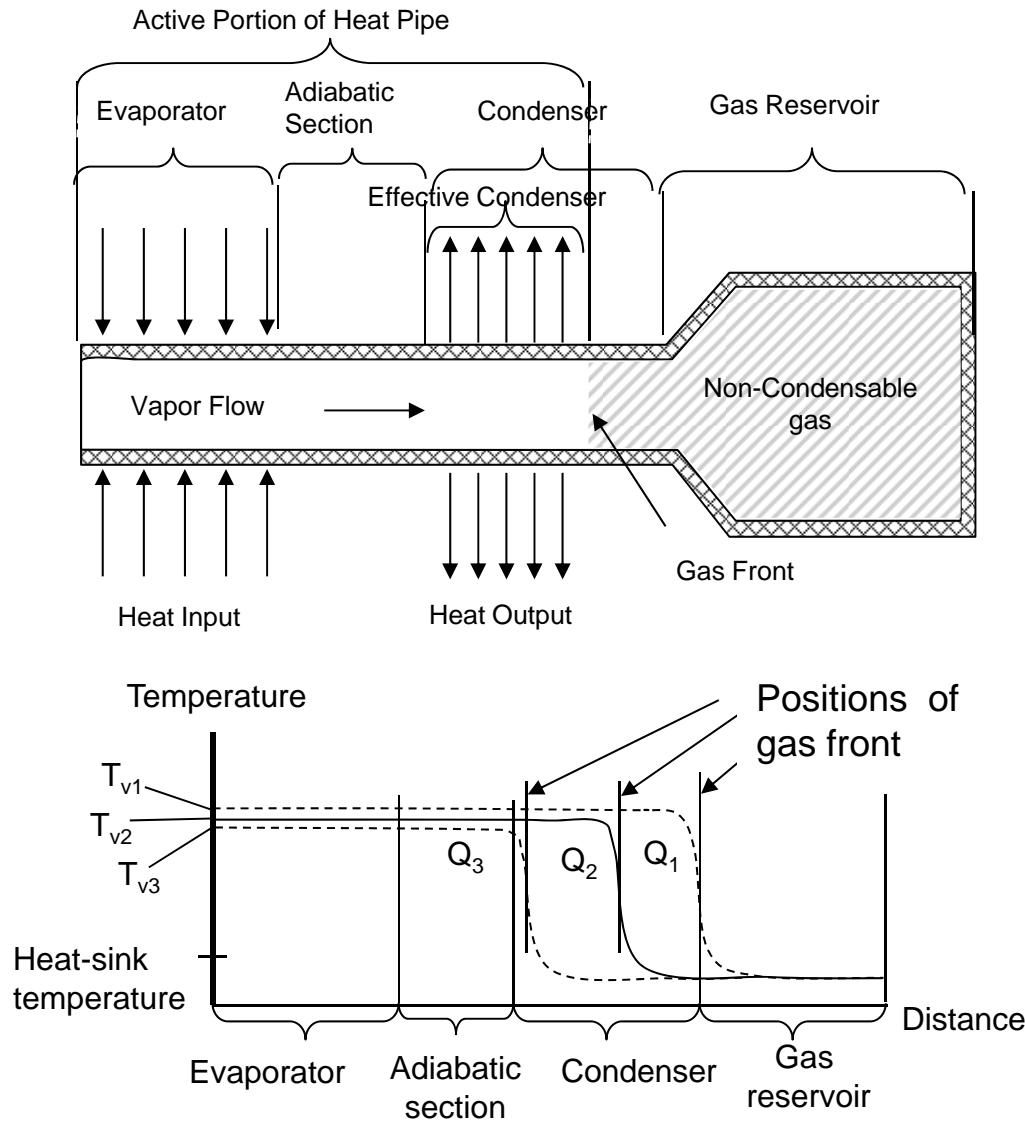
- **Relationship between temperature differential and pressure differential**

$$\Delta P_{\text{vap}} = P_e - P_c = f(Q, T_c)$$

$$\Delta T = T_e - T_c = f(\Delta P_{\text{vap}}) = f(Q, T_c)$$



# Thermal Characteristics of a VCHP



$$Q = h(\pi DL_c)(T_v - T_s)$$

$L_c$  varies with  $T_s$  and  $Q$

so as to keep  $T_v$  constant

$h(\pi DL_c) = \text{variable conductance}$

Reservoir size is a function of:

- Range of heat load
- Range of sink temperature
- Temperature control requirement



# VCHPs



Typical VCHP

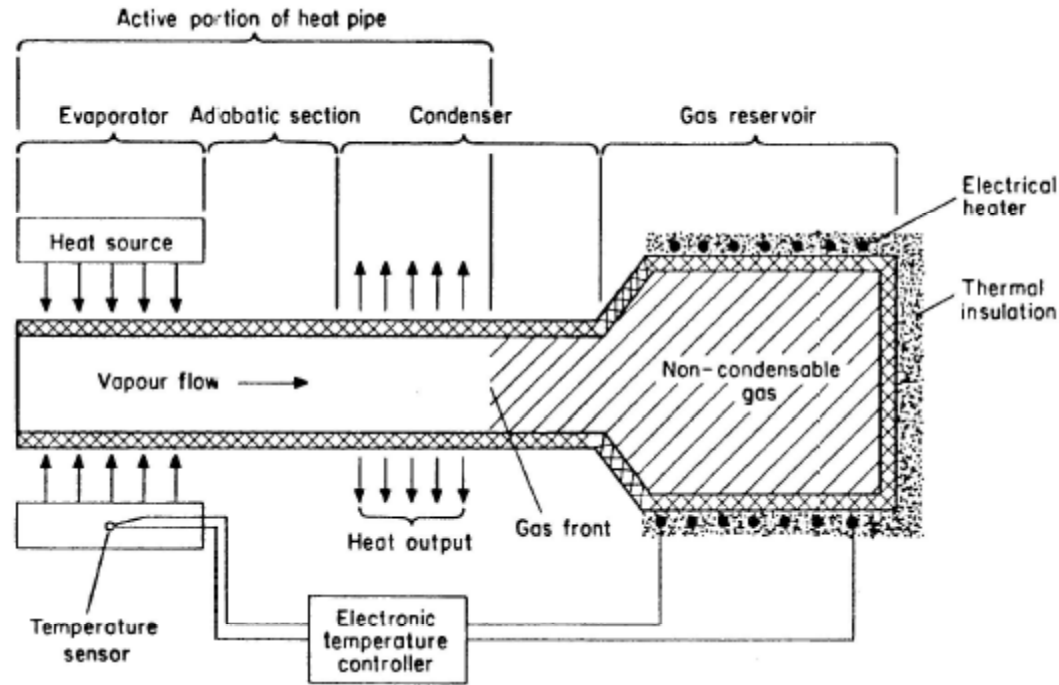


OCO-2 VCHPs

- **Types of VCHPs**
  - **Feedback-controlled VCHP**
  - **Passive VCHP**



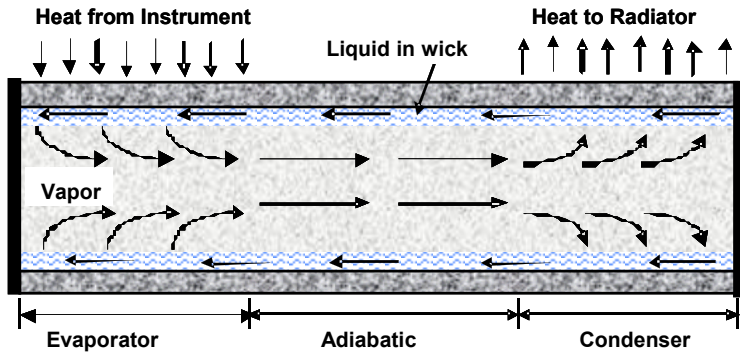
# Electrical Feedback-controlled VCHP



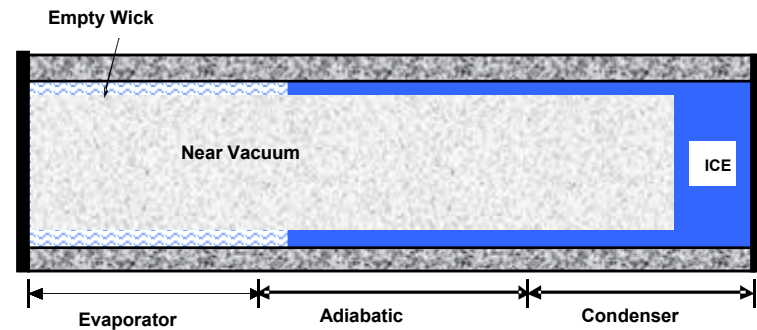
- Typically maintain evaporator temperature control of  $\pm 1-2$  °C over widely varying evaporator powers and heat sink temperatures
- Roughly 1-2 W electrical power required for the reservoir heaters



# Passive VCHP - Gas-Charged Heat Pipe (GCHP)

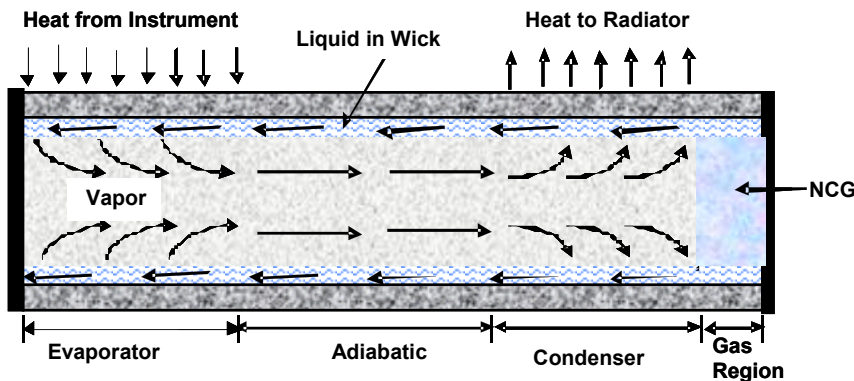


Normal Operation of a CCHP

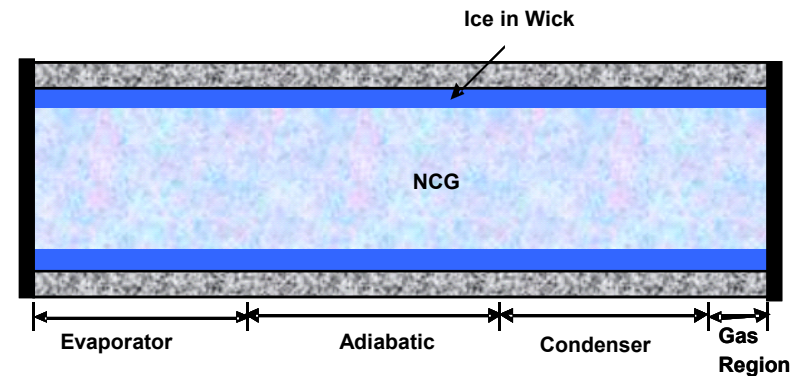


Formation of an Ice Plug in a CCHP

- **Issues: formation of ice plug in the condenser and difficulty of re-start**



Normal Operation of a GCHP



Formation of Ice in a GCHP

- **NCG in GCHP: allows the heat pipe to freeze in a controlled fashion; no ice plug – no risk of pipe burst; helps re-start of the heat pipe.**

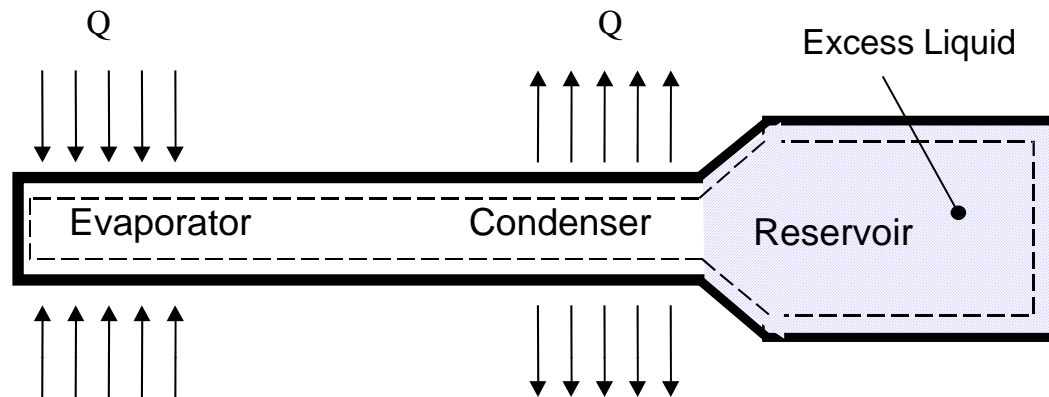


## Diode Heat Pipes

- **Diode heat pipes are designed to act like an electronic diode.**
- **Evaporator hotter than condenser**
  - **Heat flows from the evaporator to the condenser**
- **Condenser hotter than evaporator**
  - **No heat flows from the condenser to the evaporator**



## Diode Heat Pipe – Excessive Liquid at Condenser End

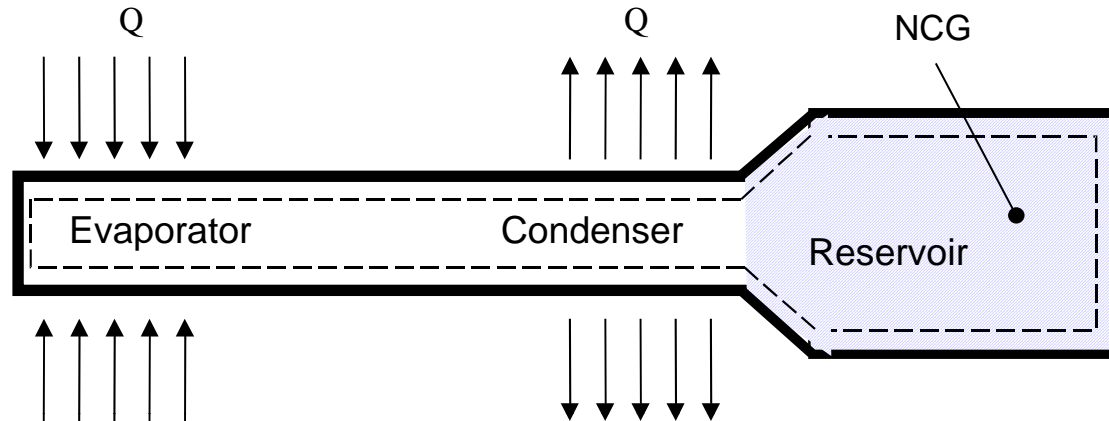


- **During normal operation, the diode heat pipe works as regular CCHP with excess liquid stored in the reservoir attached to the condenser.**
  - Excess liquid may block part of the condenser depending on the thermal load and reservoir sink temperature.
- **During reverse operation vapor flows in the opposite direction. Vapor condenses in the evaporator, eventually fills the entire evaporator section.**
  - No heat can be dissipated to the evaporator.





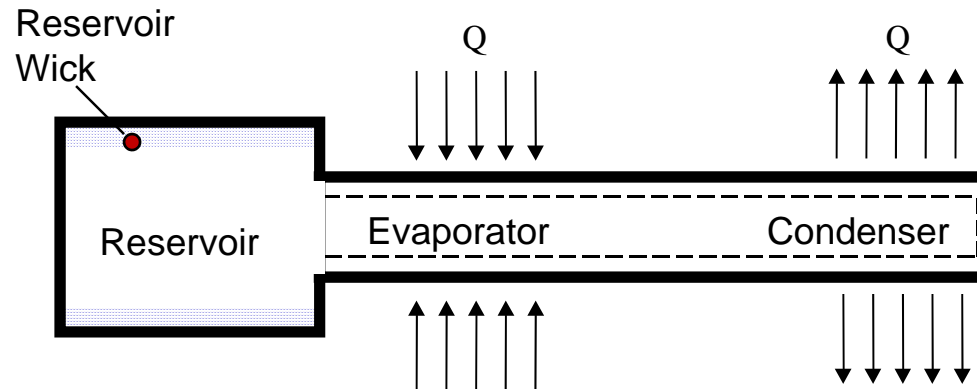
## Gas Diode Heat Pipes – NCG at Condenser End



- **During normal operation, the gas diode heat pipe works similarly to a VCHP.**
  - **Gas reservoir at the condenser end with NCG**
  - **NCG may block part of the condenser depending on the thermal load and reservoir sink temperature.**
- **During reverse operation vapor flows in the opposite direction**
  - **NCG moves to the opposite end of the heat pipe due to the change in pressure.**
  - **NCG blocks off what would be the condensing end, effectively shutting down the heat pipe.**



## Liquid Trap Diode Heat Pipes



- **Reservoir at evaporator end of heat pipe contains wick.**
  - Reservoir wick does not communicate with heat pipe wick.
- **During normal operation the pipe works as a CCHP.**
  - Liquid evaporates at hot end and condenses at cold end.
  - Liquid returns to hot end via heat pipe wick.
- **During reverse direction, liquid evaporates at the hot end and condenses in the reservoir and becomes trapped.**
  - Liquid cannot return to the hot end.
  - The pipe is shut down.
  - No heat dissipation to the regular evaporator.



## Major Functions of Heat Pipes

- **Heat transfer**
- **Isothermalization**
- **Temperature control**
- **Heat flux transformation**
- **Thermal diode and switches**



# Heat Pipe Operation

- **The heat pipe is an isothermalizer.**
  - **A single heat pipe can serve multiple heat sources and/or multiple heat sinks.**
  - **The vapor temperature is nearly isothermal.**
- **The heat pipe can be bent.**
  - **Small degradation in heat transport limit**
- **Although the heat pipe can transport hundreds of watts over many feet of distance, it has a very limited wicking capability, i.e. the total pressure drop it can sustain is small.**
  - **Example: no more than 0.5” adverse elevation using ammonia as the working fluid ( $< 100$  Pa) in one-G environment.**
  - **Ground testing of a heat pipe requires that the heat pipe be placed horizontally with  $< 0.2$ ” adverse elevation.**
- **When the heat pipe operates under a favorable elevation, liquid puddle may form at the evaporator end.**

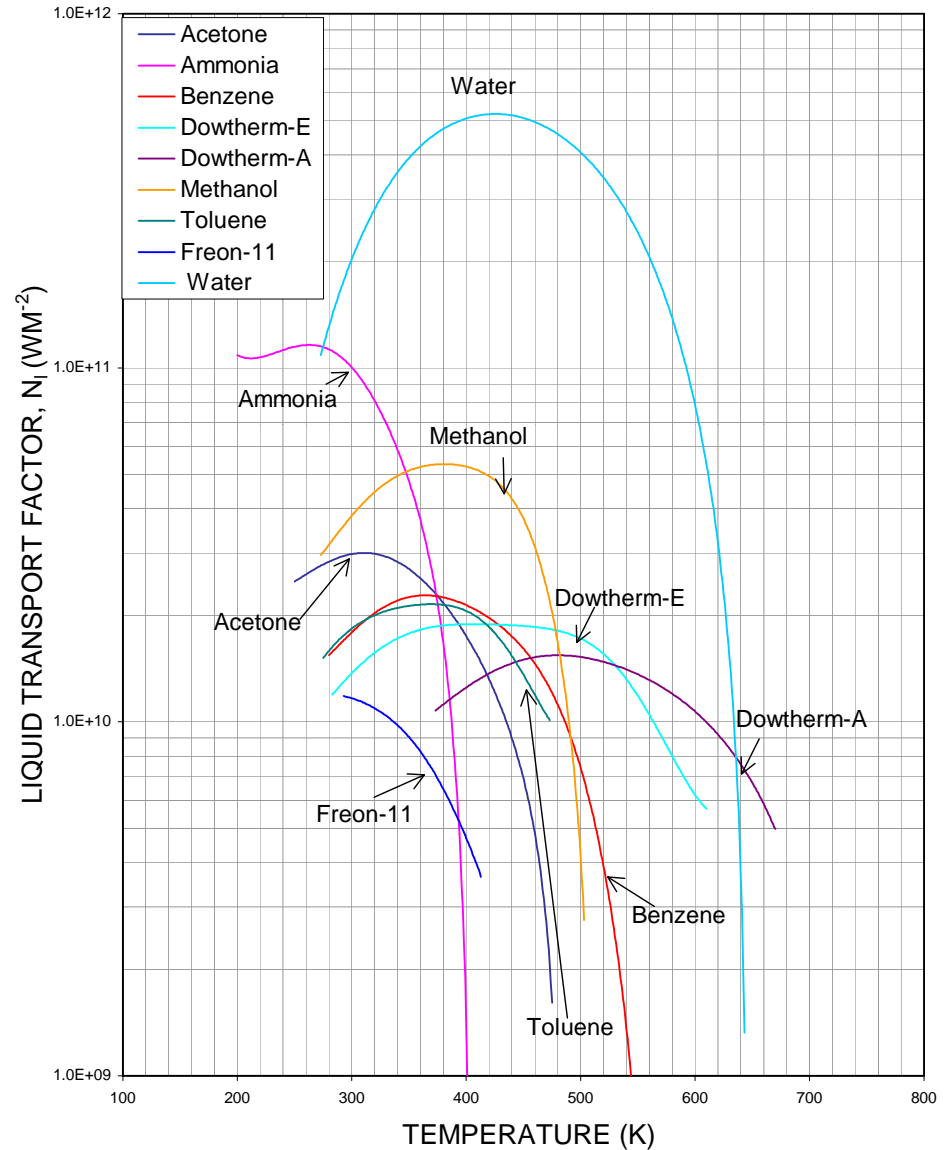


# Liquid Transport Factor vs Temperature

- A convenient figure of merit is the liquid transport factor,  $N_l$ ,

$$N_l = \lambda \sigma \rho / \mu_l$$

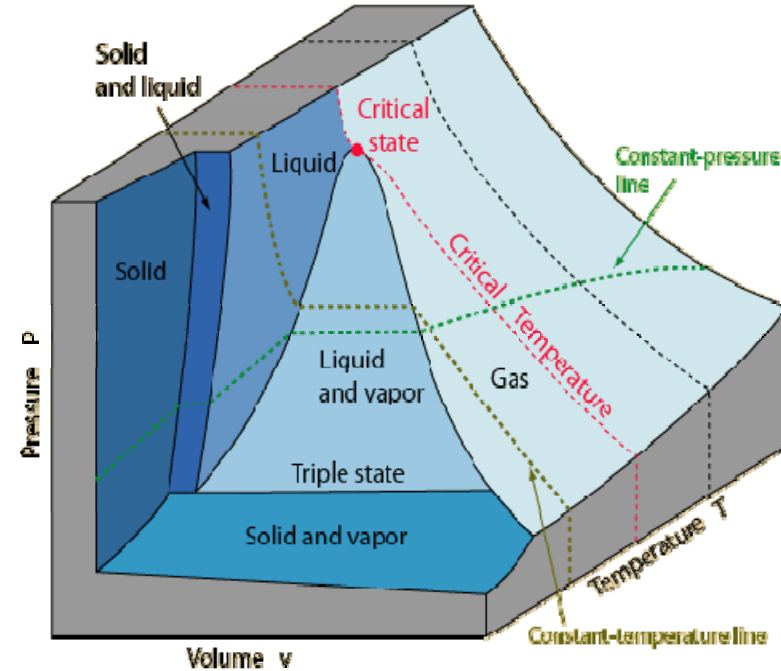
$N_l$  = Latent Heat \* Surface Tension \* Liquid Density / Liquid Viscosity





## Heat Pipe Operation Near the Critical State

- Never operate a heat pipe near the critical state of the working fluid.
  - Diminishing liquid transport factor

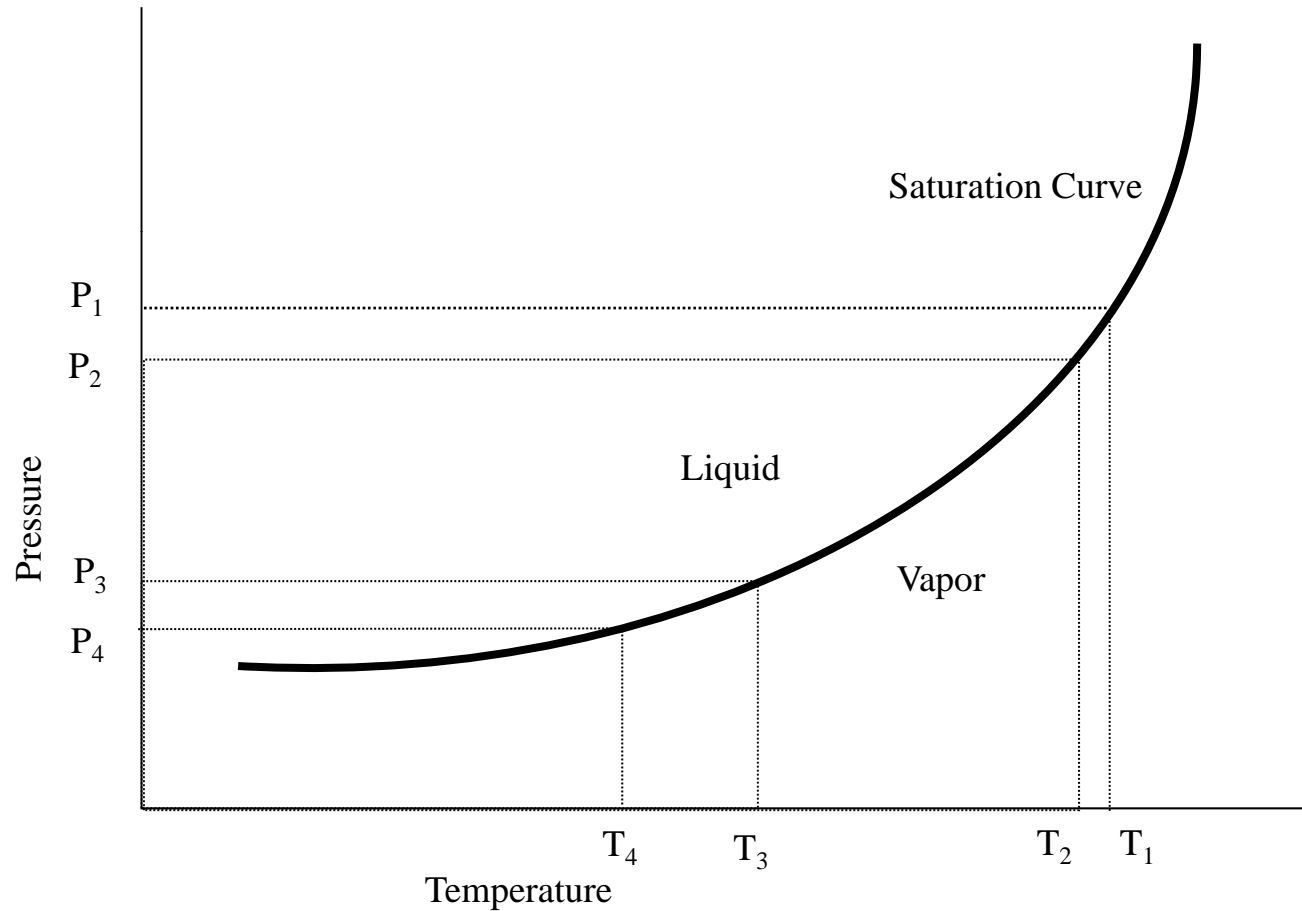


**A P-v-T surface for a substance which contracts on freezing**



# Heat Pipe Operation Near the Freeze Point

- Move the HP operation away from the freezing point of the working fluid.
  - Non-isothermal
  - Low vapor pressure





# Heat Pipe Operating Limits

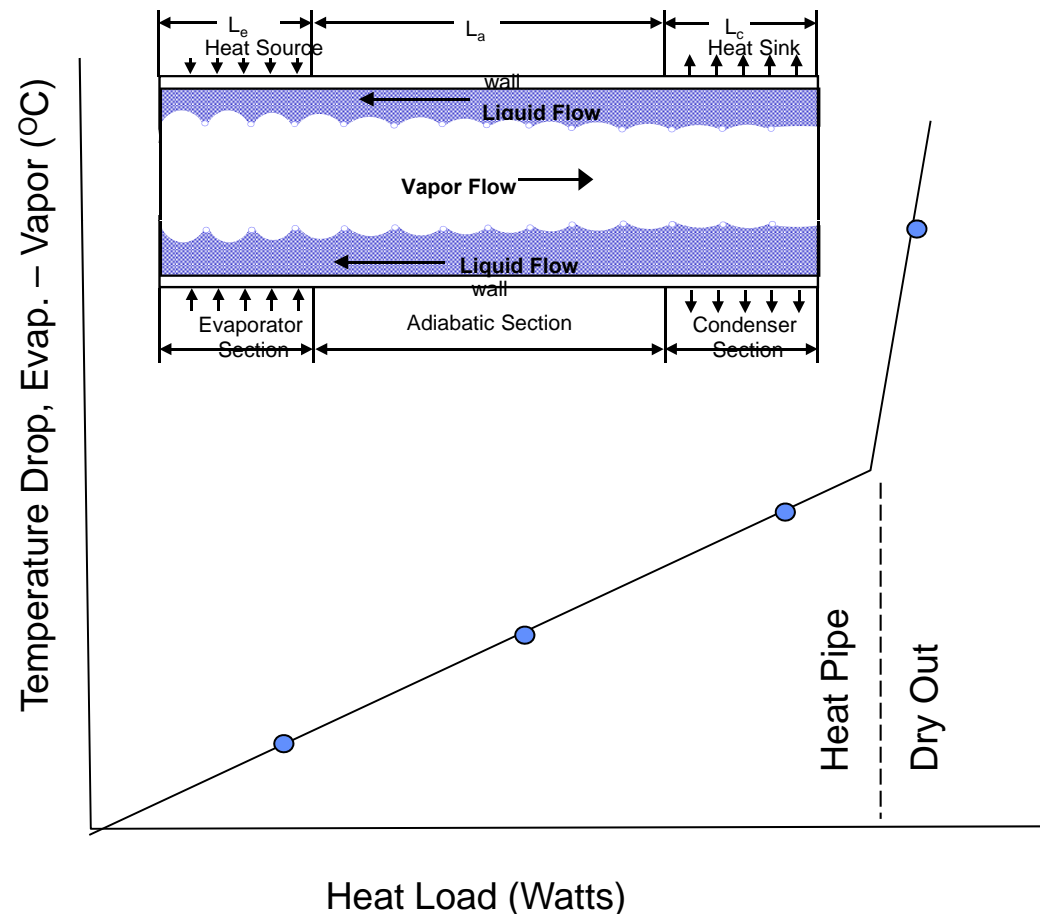
- **Capillary Limit**
  - Most common
- **Vapor Pressure Limit**
  - Operation near the frozen state
  - Rule of thumb:  $(\Delta P_v / P_v) < 0.1$
- **Entrainment Limit**
  - High vapor velocity
- **Boiling Limit**
  - High heat flux
- **Sonic Limit**
  - Liquid metal heat pipes





## Capillary Limit - Heat Pipe Dry-out Condition

- The temperature difference between the end of the evaporator and the adiabatic section is usually plotted.
- Recovery from dry-out condition can be achieved by reducing the heat load.





# Heat Pipe Design Procedure

- **Determine the operating temperature range.**
- **Select the working fluid**
  - **Liquid transport factor**
  - **Never operate near the freezing temperature or the critical temperature of the working fluid.**
- **Select the container material.**
  - **Material compatibility**
  - **Structural strength**
- **Select the wick.**
  - **Material**
  - **Shape**
- **From the thermal requirement, determine the type of heat pipe.**
  - **CCHP, VCHP, Diode HP**
- **From the heat transport requirement, determine the heat pipe diameter and length, and number of heat pipes.**
  - **Temperature drop across the heat pipe**
  - **Temperature gradient requirement**
  - **Some computer models available**



# Heat Pipe Design Considerations (1)

- **Heat pipe theory**
- **Physical, thermal, and mechanical constraints**
- **Material properties**
- **Application requirements**
- **Fabrication, processing, and testing limitations**
- **Reliability and safety**

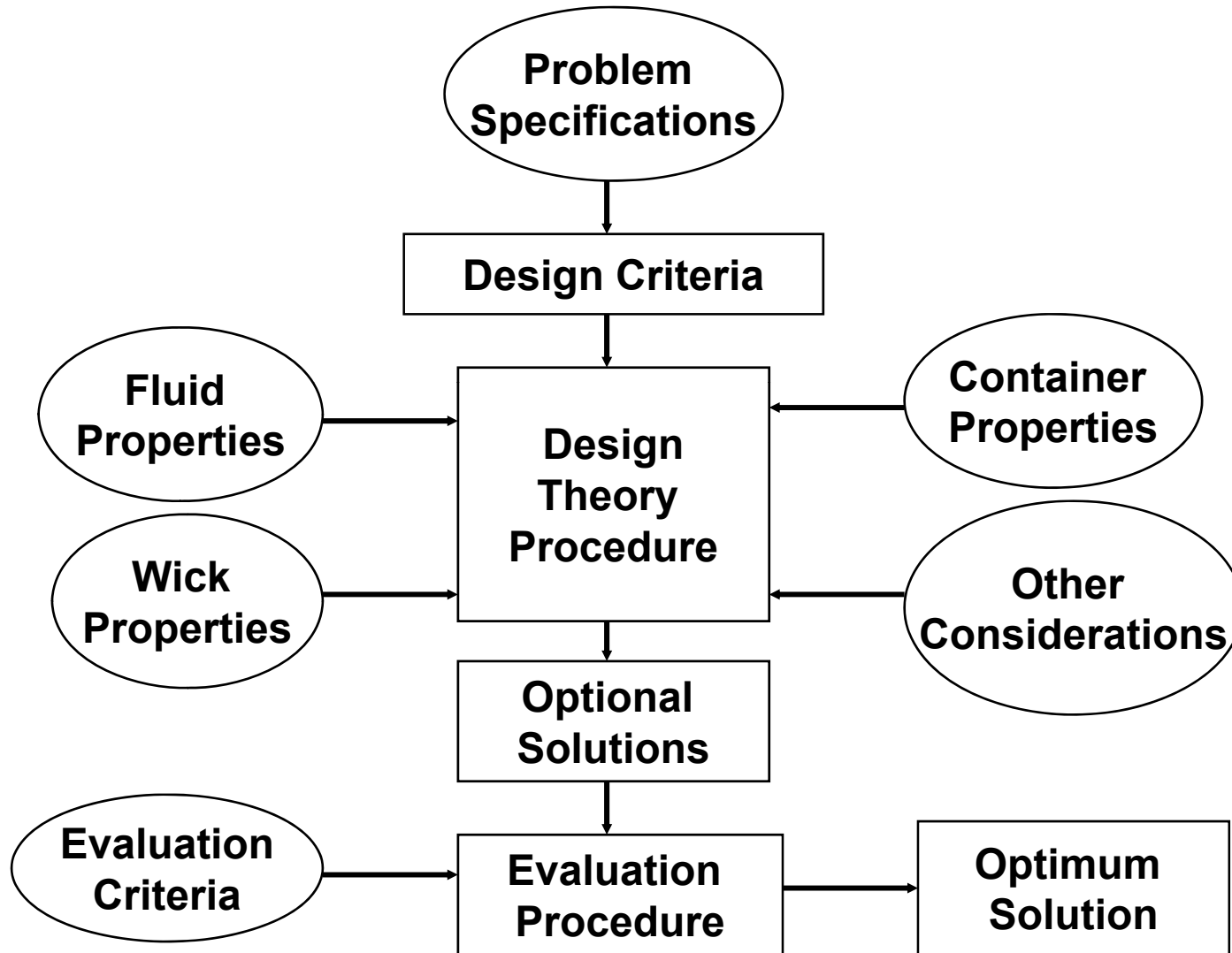


## Heat Pipe Design Considerations (2)

- **Once the performance requirements and specifications are defined, the design and evaluation process can be initiated.**
- **Three Basic Consideration**
  - **Working fluid**
  - **Wick design**
  - **Container (envelope)**
- **Several options may exist.**
- **The final design usually represents an iteration among various design factors.**



# Heat Pipe Design Procedure





## Problem Definition and Design Criteria (1)

<b>Requirement</b>	<b>Impact on Design</b>
<b>Operating temperature range</b>	<b>Choice of working fluid; Pressure retention</b>
<b>Thermal load</b>	<b>Heat pipe diameter; No. of heat pipes; Wick design; Choice of working fluid</b>
<b>Transport length</b>	<b>Wick design</b>
<b>Temperature uniformity and overall <math>\Delta T</math></b>	<b>Wick design; Conductive path length trade-off; Heat pipe geometry</b>
<b>Physical requirements</b>	<b>Size, Weight, Structural strength and geometry</b>
<b>Acceptance and qualification testing</b>	<b>“one-G” operation and “zero-G” correlation</b>



## Problem Definition and Design Criteria (2)

<b>Requirement</b>	<b>Impact on Design</b>
<b>Ground testing</b>	<b>Orientation</b>
<b>Dynamic environment</b>	<b>Operation under accelerating field; Structural integrity</b>
<b>Thermal environment</b>	<b>Pressure retention under non-operating temperatures</b>
<b>Mechanical interfacing</b>	<b>Mounting provisions; Provision for thermal interfacing</b>
<b>Man Rating</b>	<b>Pressure vessel code; Fluid toxicity</b>
<b>Transient behavior</b>	<b>Choice of working fluid; Wick design; Variable conductance type</b>
<b>Reliability</b>	<b>Leak tightness; Material compatibility; Processing control; Redundancy</b>



## Working Fluid

- **Variety of fluid possible - selection determined by applications: operating temperature, capacity, safety, etc.**
- **Must be able to exist as both vapor and liquid at the operating temperature.**
  - **Often best to select a fluid that has its normal boiling point near desired operating temperature.**
- **Use the liquid transport factor as the figure of merit.**
- **Purity of the working fluid is critical (99.999%).**
  - **Impurities reduce performance and may lead to undesirable NCG buildup.**
- **Must be compatible with other materials in the heat pipe.**
- **Operating pressure**
- **Wicking capability in body-force field**
- **Liquid thermal conductivity**
- **Vapor phase properties**





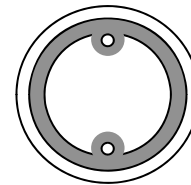
# Operating Temperature Ranges

- **Cryogenic**
  - 0.1K to 150K
  - Elemental or simple organic compounds
- **Low Temperature**
  - 150K to 750K
  - Polar molecules or halocarbons
- **High Temperature**
  - 750K to 3000K
  - Liquid metals

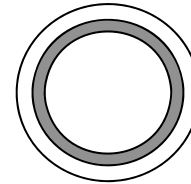


# Wick Material

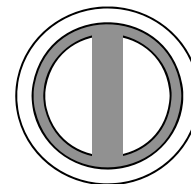
- Provides capillary pumping head.
- Provides porous media for liquid transport.
- Variety of design possibilities exist.
  - Axial groove (most common)
  - Screen
  - Sintered powder
  - Arteries
  - Composites
- Small uniform pore size is desirable.
  - Compromise with desire for high permeability



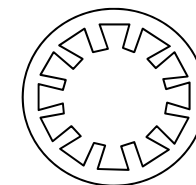
POWDER METAL WITH  
PEDESTAL ARTERY



CIRCUMFERENTIAL  
SCREEN WICK



SLAB WICK



AXIAL GROOVES



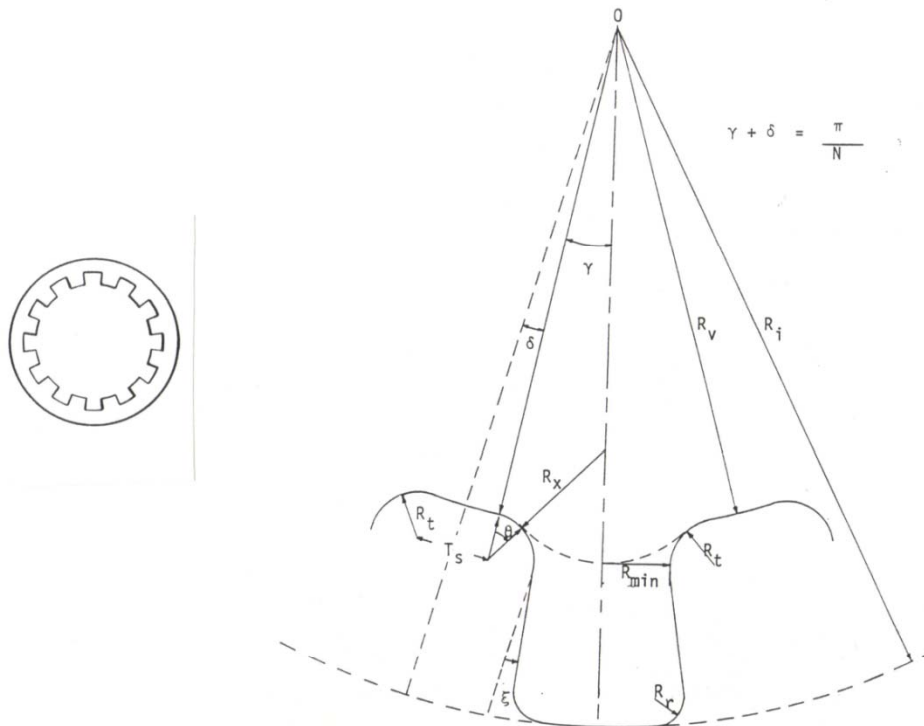
## Envelope Material

- **Typically a metal tube tightly sealed at both ends**
- **A variety of shapes, sizes, and configurations exist.**
- **Basic design considerations**
  - **Structure integrity and leak tight containment**
  - **Compatibility with working fluid and external environment**
  - **Internal size and geometry for liquid and vapor flow requirements**
  - **External interface with heat sources and sinks**
  - **Fabrication concerns**
  - **Heat transfer concerns**



# Fluid Inventory

- **Liquid charge must be sufficient to saturate the wick.**
  - Performance degrades with improper charge.
  - Undercharge: reduced heat transport capability
  - Overcharge: liquid puddle in the condenser
- **The optimal inventory will be determined based on operating conditions.**



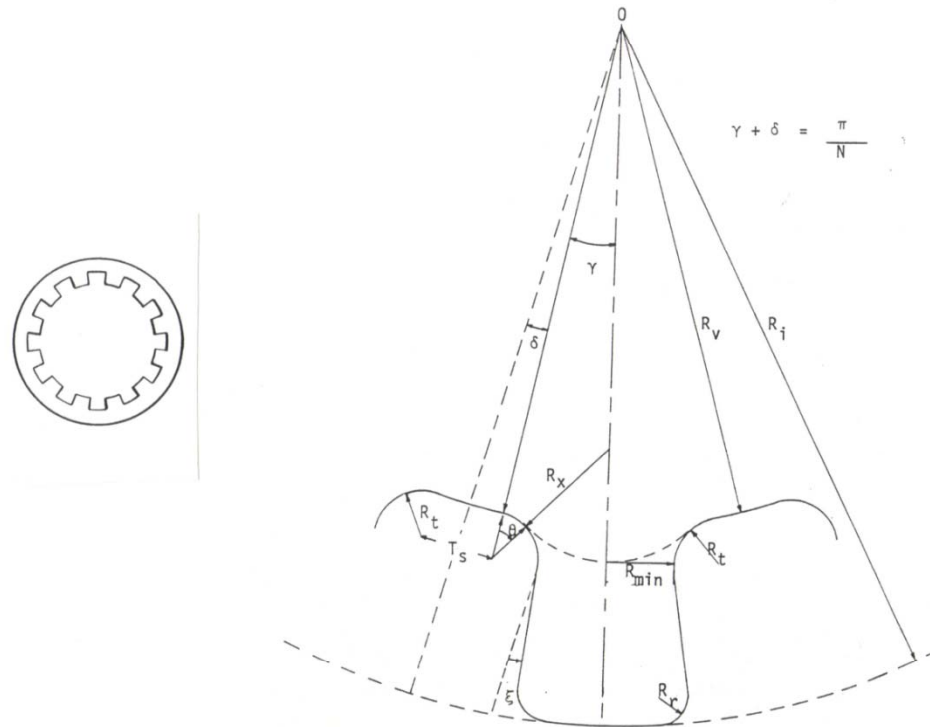


## Fabrication/Testing

- **Cleaning and material compatibility are critical. Must develop and follow tight cleaning procedures.**
- **Proper level of fluid charge is important.**
- **Component and system level tests**
  - **In-process**
  - **Proof pressure**
  - **Burst**
  - **Leak**
  - **Performance - vary tilt to develop performance map**
- **Rigid requirements for space applications**
  - **MIL-STD1522A (USAF)**
  - **NSTS-1700.7B (NASA)**



# Heat Pipe Design Tools



- Each vendor has its own analytical design tools.
- Groove Analysis Program (GAP) software – good for axially grooved heat pipes
  - NASA-owned
  - Available for purchase through COSMOS



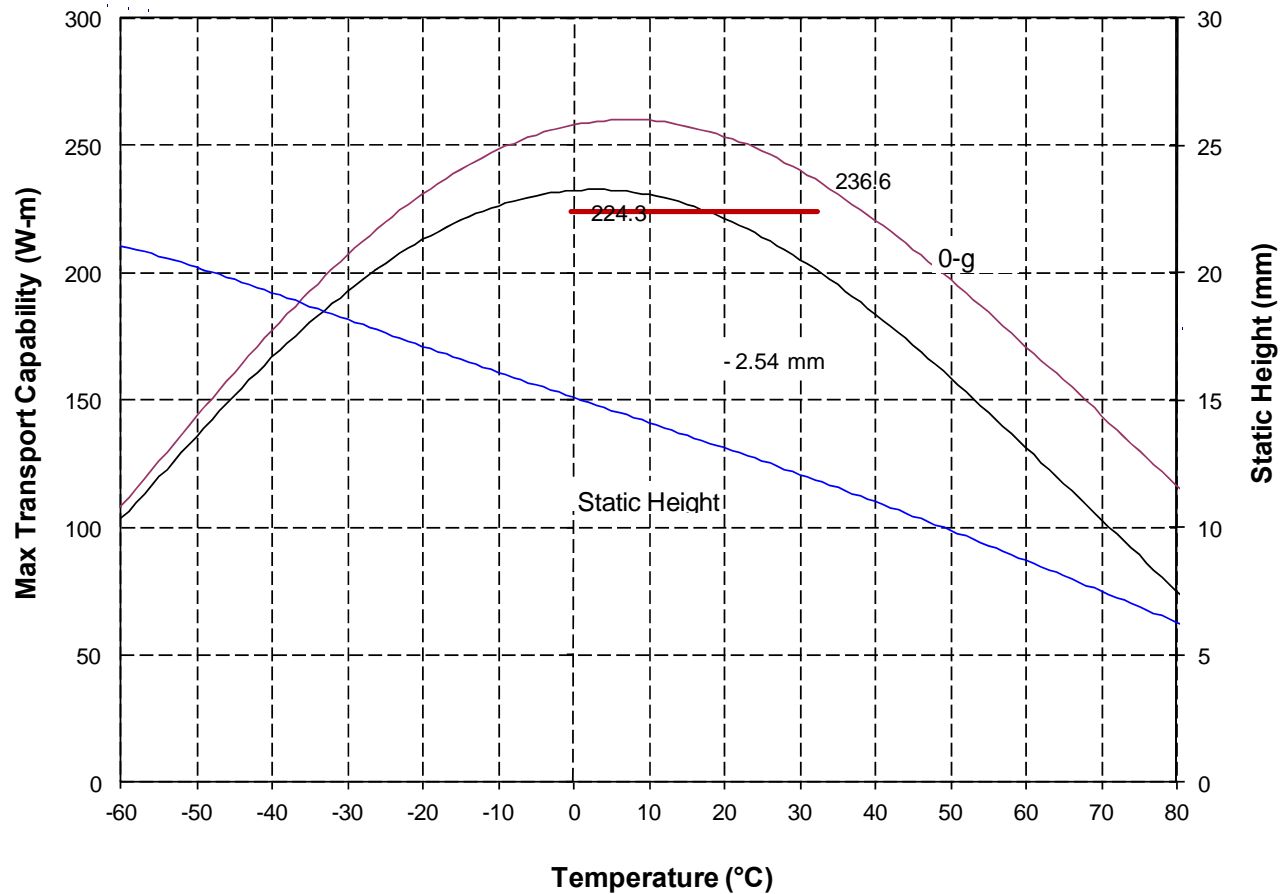
## Heat Pipe Selection – for Thermal Engineers (1)

- **First and foremost: determine the operating temperature range.**
- **Select the working fluid.**
- **Select the wick and container material.**
  - **Material compatibility**
- **Obtain performance curves for various heat pipes from vendors.**



# Heat Pipe Performance Curve for Given Heat Pipe Design and Working Fluid (Usually Provided by the Vendor)

TRANSPORT CAPABILITY VS. TEMPERATURE  
DIE 16692, Single Sided Heat Pipe, Ammonia Fluid







## Heat Pipe Selection – for Thermal Engineers (2)

- **From the thermal requirements, determine the type of heat pipe.**
  - CCHP, VCHP, Diode HP
- **From the heat transport requirement, determine the heat pipe diameter and length, and number of heat pipes.**
  - Overall temperature drop from heat source to heat sink
  - Temperature gradient requirement
  - Temperature uniformity requirement
  - Physical constraints – diameter and shape of heat pipes
  - Mass constraints
  - Design margins
  - Cost
- **Ground test requirement at the instrument and spacecraft level**



## Other Practical Considerations

- **3-dimensional heat pipes**
- **Dual-bore heat pipes**
- **Ground testing of heat pipes in reflux mode**



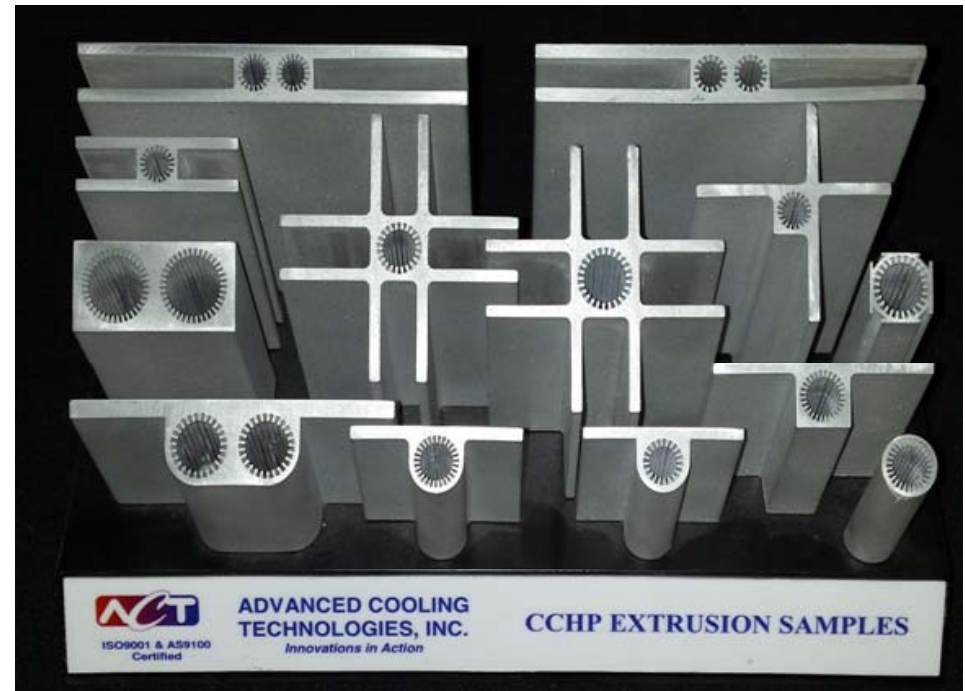
## 3-Dimensional Heat Pipes

- **3-D heat pipes cannot be tested in one-G for its performance verification.**
- **For design qualifications, an equivalent 2-D heat pipe can be made with same number of bends, same degree of bend for each bend, and same segment lengths, and test for its performance.**
- **For acceptance test, the 3-D pipes may be tested in segments.**
  - **Adequate for axially-grooved heat pipes which have uniform grooves.**
  - **Inadequate for slab wick heat pipes.**



# Dual Bore Heat Pipes

- **Some reasons to use dual bore heat pipes**
  - for redundancy
  - to reduce heat flux and temperature gradient between the heat source and the heat pipe
  - HP can serve as structural member
- For qualification test, each bore is charged and tested separately.
- For acceptance test, both pipes are tested together – cannot tell whether one of them fails.
- For charging, one bore is charged first, then the other.
- Performance such as the heat transport, heat flux, thermal conductance, liquid slug and NCG can only be done for both heat pipes on the “average” basis.
- Dual bore heat pipes are more difficult to bend.



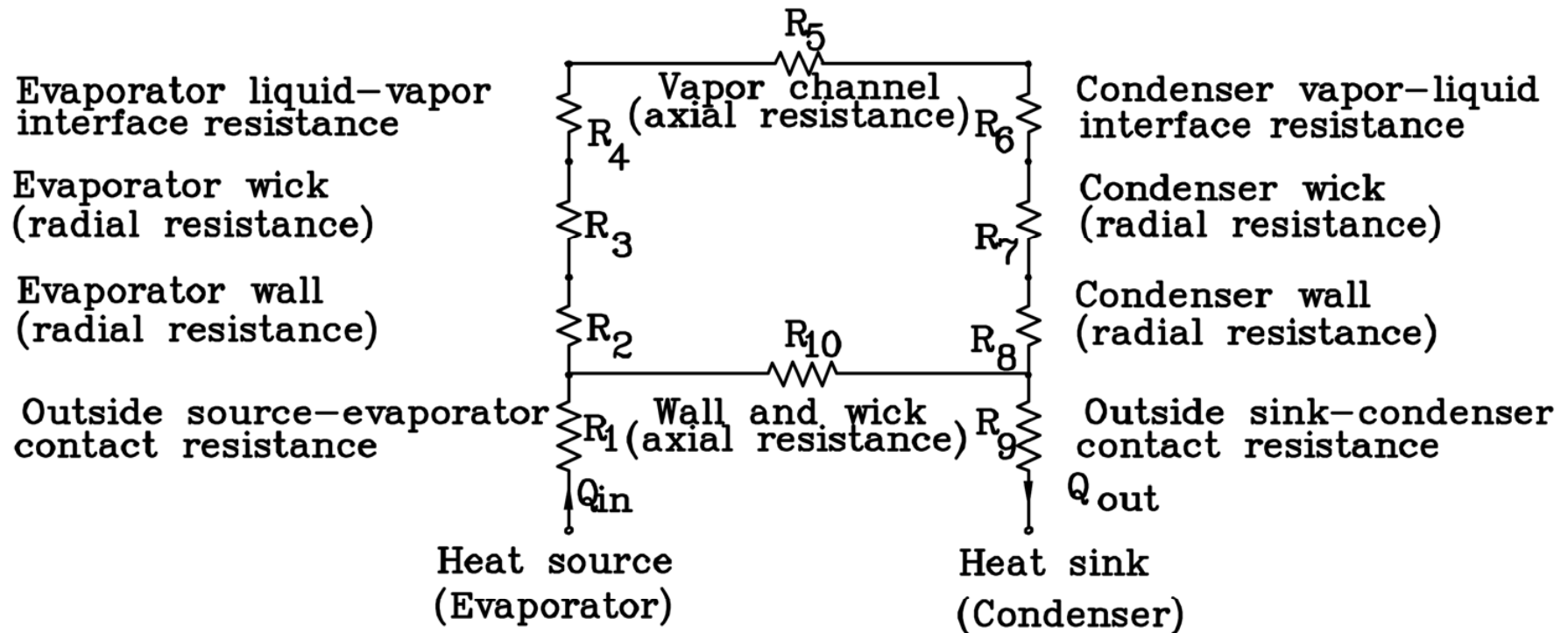


## Ground Testing of Heat Pipes in Reflux Mode

- **It may be necessary to test the heat pipe in a reflux mode during instrument and/or spacecraft level test.**
- **Liquid puddle will form at the evaporator which is below the condenser.**
- **Liquid may not boil to generate vapor unless a superheat is exceeded at the evaporator.**
- **To facilitate the ground testing, some concentrated heater can be attached to the evaporator to create a high heat flux, which initiates liquid boiling.**

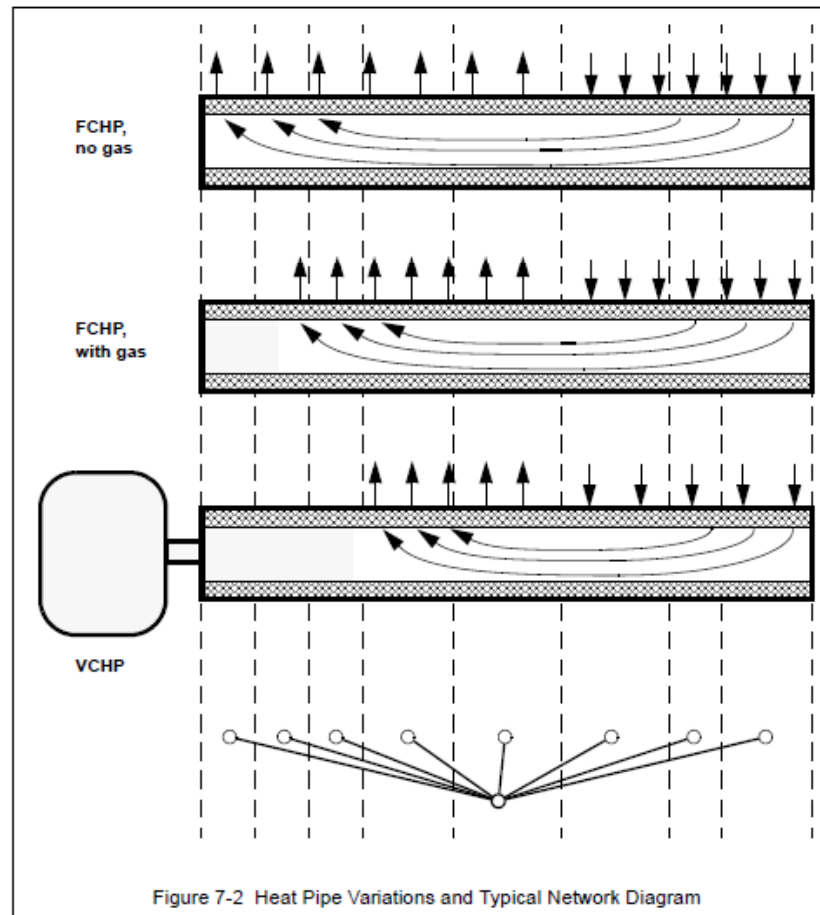


# Detailed Thermal Resistance Model of Heat Pipe





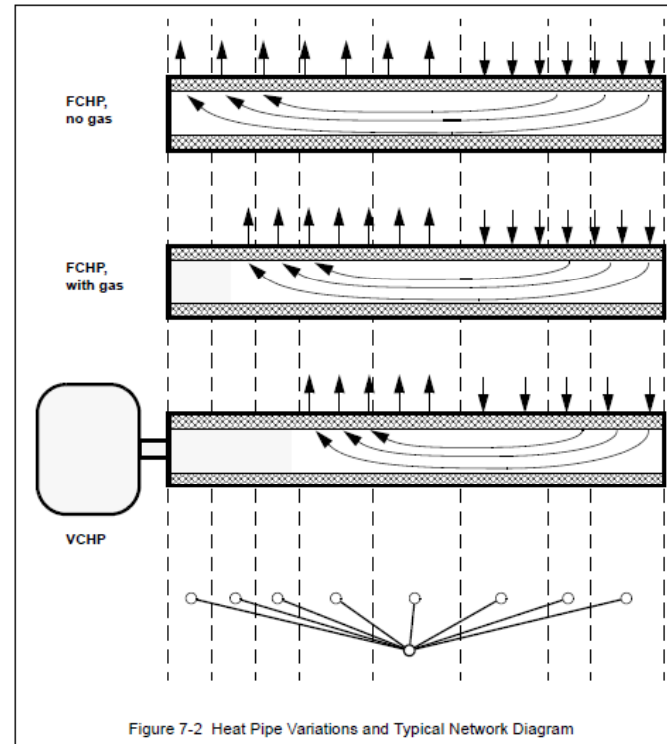
# Heat Pipe Modeling Using SINDA/FLUINT



- **NOT an HP design tool – e.g. groove dimensions, VCHP reservoir sizing.**
- **Appropriate for most TCS design and analysis**
- **Very important: read the manual for capabilities/limitations.**



# Heat Pipe Modeling Using SINDA/FLUINT

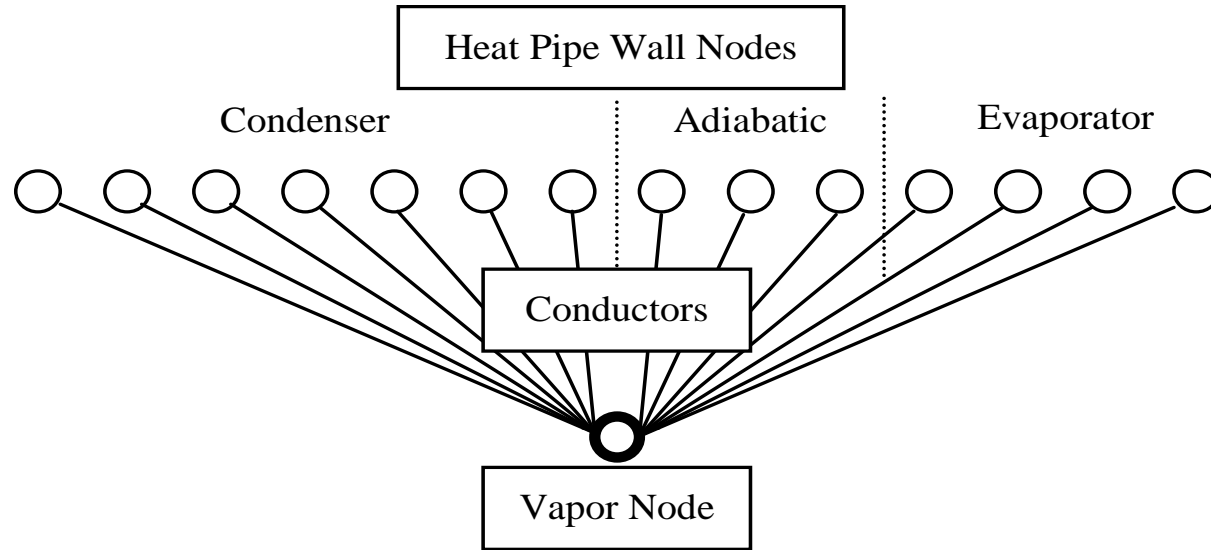


- Uses subroutines HEATPIPE and HEATPIPE2.
- Simulates CCHP, gas-charged CCHP, gas-charged VCHP.
- The vapor is assumed to be a uniform temperature (i.e. single node).
- **The vapor node must be an arithmetic node.**
- Make certain all units are consistent.
- Called from Variables 1 block





# VCHP Modeling – Node/Conductor Network



- **Modeling a VCHP in SINDA begins as a basic node-conductor network**
- **Conductors are initialized for each heat pipe wall node to the vapor node and can be adjusted depending on the gas front location**
- **To simulate NCG located in a particular node in the condenser the conductor for that wall node to the vapor node is set to zero or a percentage of the original value if partially blocked**



# Flight Heat Pipes

- **Ammonia HPs**
  - Most prevalent
  - Too many to list
- **Water HPs**
  - NRL WindSat (launched 2003)
- **Butane HPs**
  - MESSENGER- Diode HP (2004 - 2011)
- **Ethane HPs**
  - LDEF (1984-1990)
  - Swift XRT (launched 2004)
  - LDCM TIRS (launched 2013)
- **Oxygen HPs (flight experiment)**
  - CCHP on STS-62 (1994)
  - Flexible diode HP on CRYOHD experiment on STS-94 (1997)
- **Nitrogen HPs (flight experiment)**
  - CCHP on STS-62 (1994)
- **Methane HPs (flight experiment)**
  - Flexible diode HP on CRYOHD experiment on STS-94 (1997)

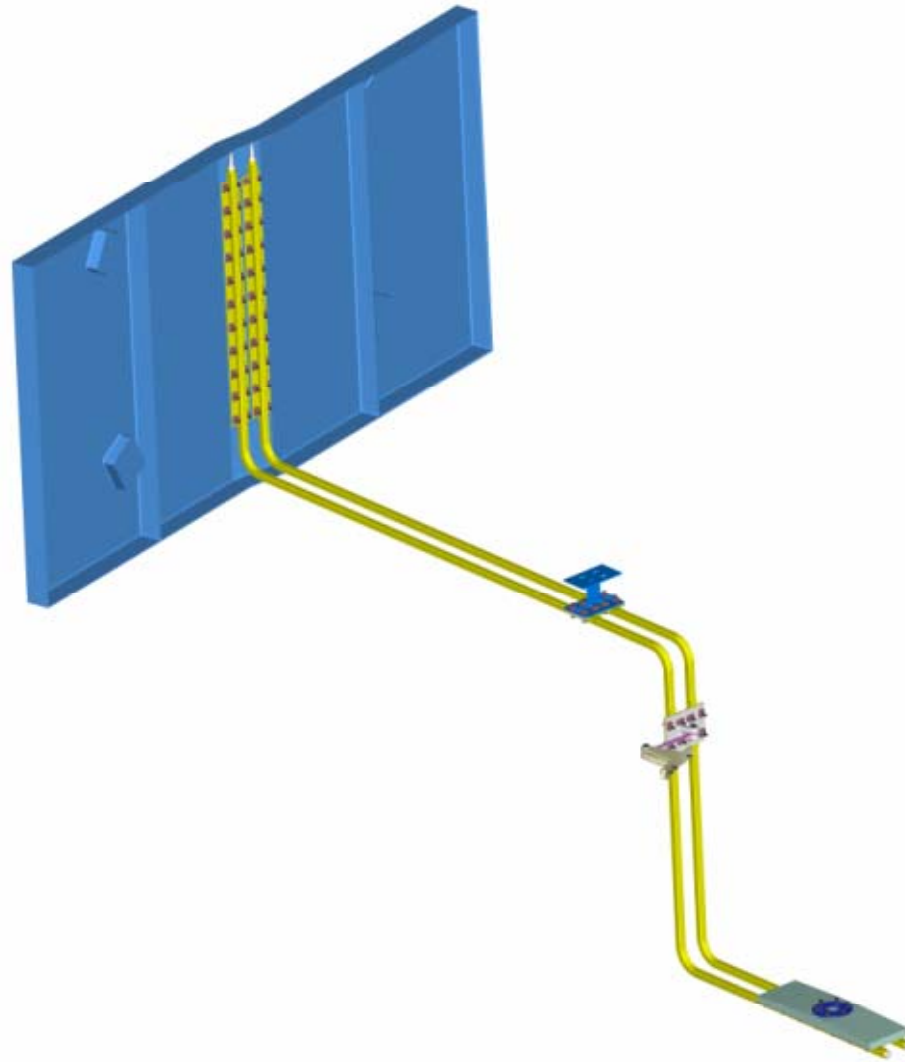


## Triple Point and Critical Temperature of Some fluids

<b>Fluid</b>	<b>Freezing Temperature (K)</b>	<b>Critical Temperature (K)</b>
<b>Ammonia</b>	<b>195.4</b>	<b>405.5</b>
<b>Butane</b>	<b>134.6</b>	<b>425.1</b>
<b>Ethane</b>	<b>89.9</b>	<b>305.3</b>
<b>Helium</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>5.2</b>
<b>Hydrogen</b>	<b>13.8</b>	<b>33.2</b>
<b>Methanol</b>	<b>175.6</b>	<b>512.6</b>
<b>Methane</b>	<b>90.7</b>	<b>190.8</b>
<b>Neon</b>	<b>24.6</b>	<b>44.4</b>
<b>Nitrogen</b>	<b>63.2</b>	<b>126.2</b>
<b>Oxygen</b>	<b>54.4</b>	<b>154.6</b>
<b>Pentane</b>	<b>143.5</b>	<b>469.8</b>
<b>Propylene</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>365.6</b>
<b>Water</b>	<b>273.1</b>	<b>647</b>

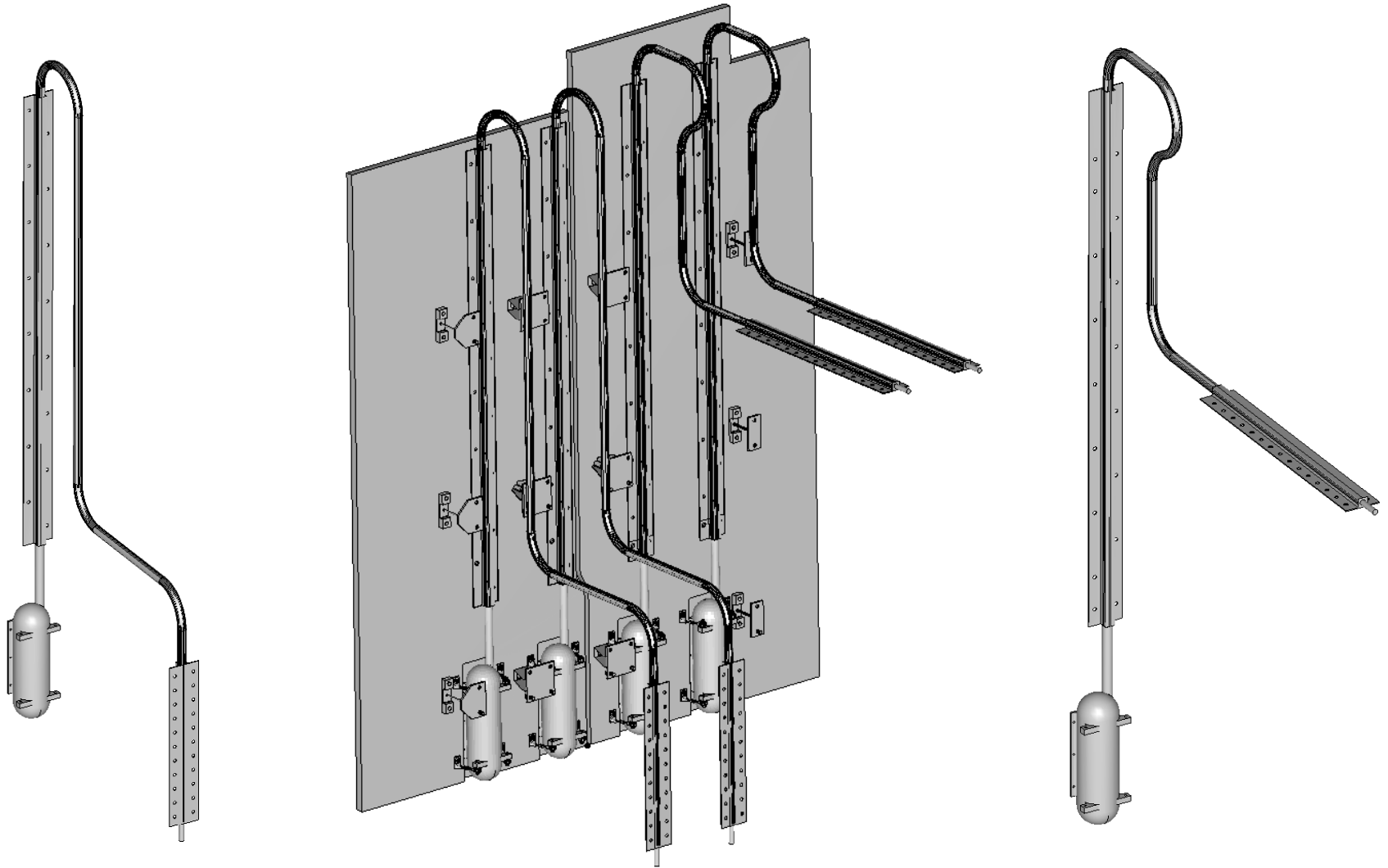


# Swift XRT Ethane Heat Pipes





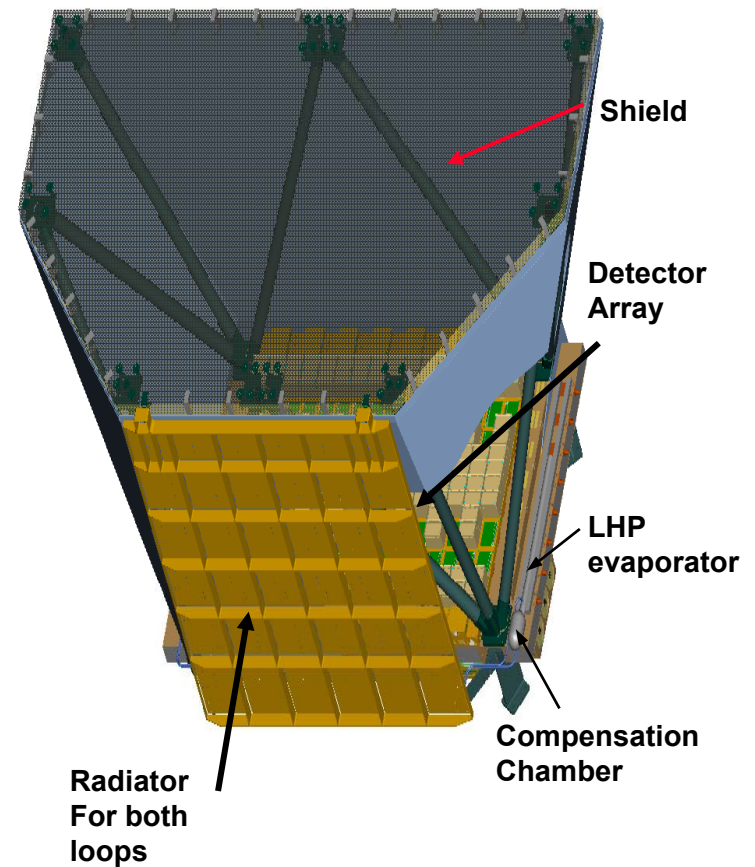
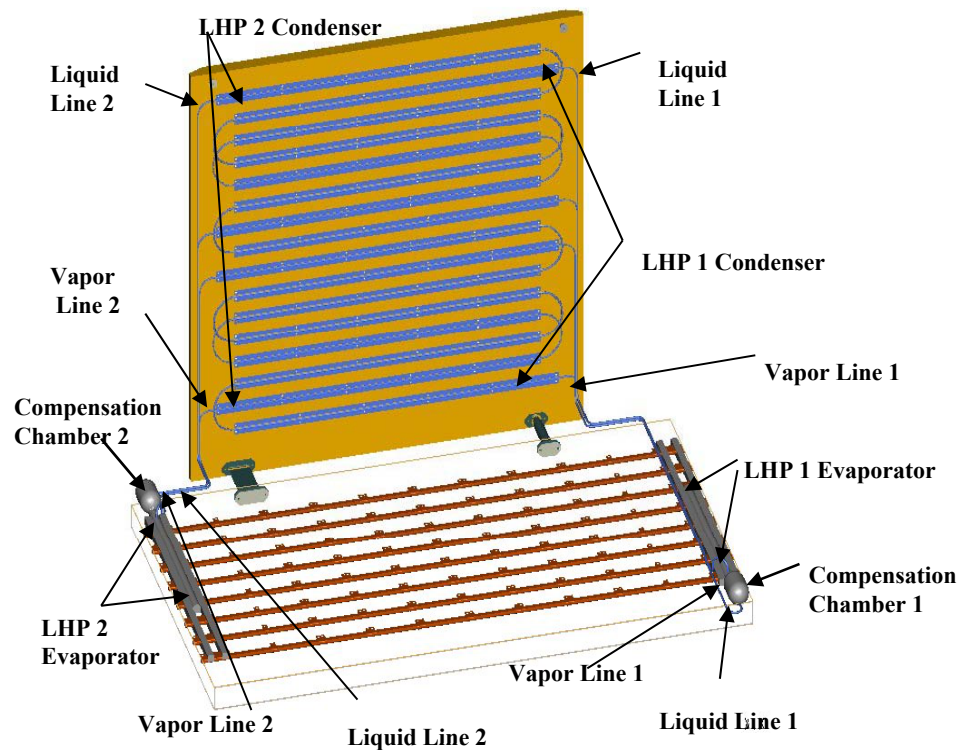
# Orbiting Carbon Observatory – 2 (OCO-2) VCHP





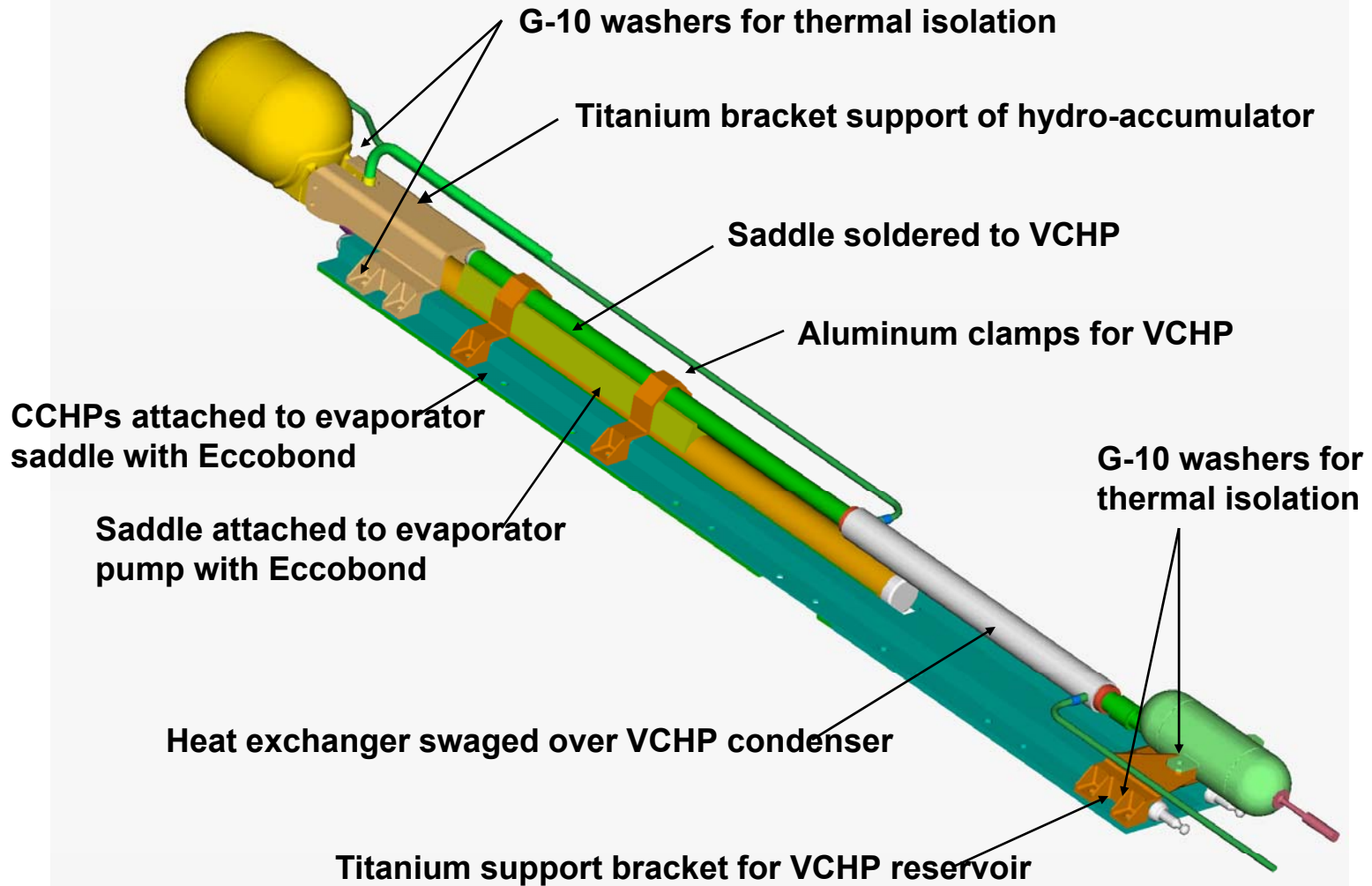
# CCHPs/VCHPs/LHPs on SWIFT ABT

- Burst Alert Telescope, a gamma ray detector array, is one of three instruments on Swift
- Launched: 20 November, 2004
- Detector array has 8 CCHPs for isothermalization and transfer of 253 W to dual, redundant, LHPs located on each side





# Swift BAT System – VCHP and LHP Evaporator





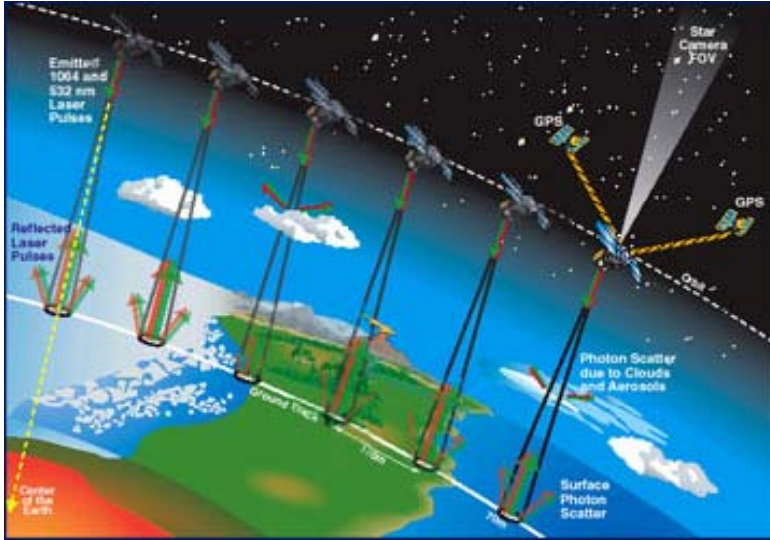
# Swift BAT VCHPs and LHPs



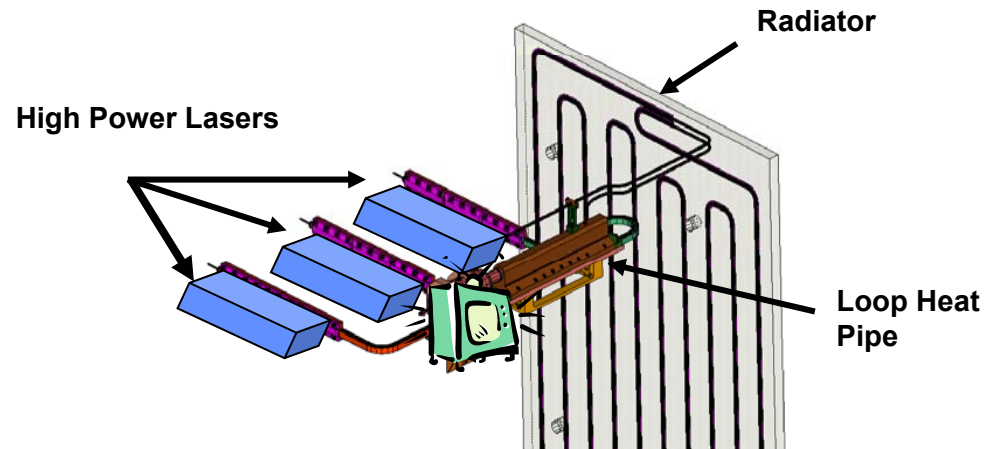
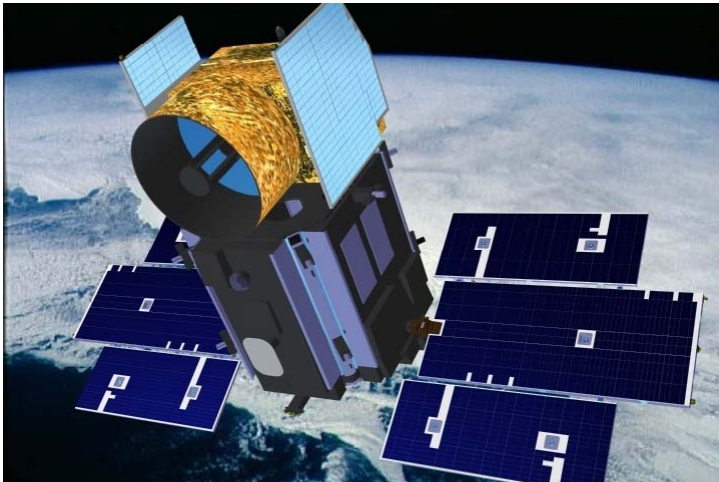




# HPs/LHPs on ICESat GLAS



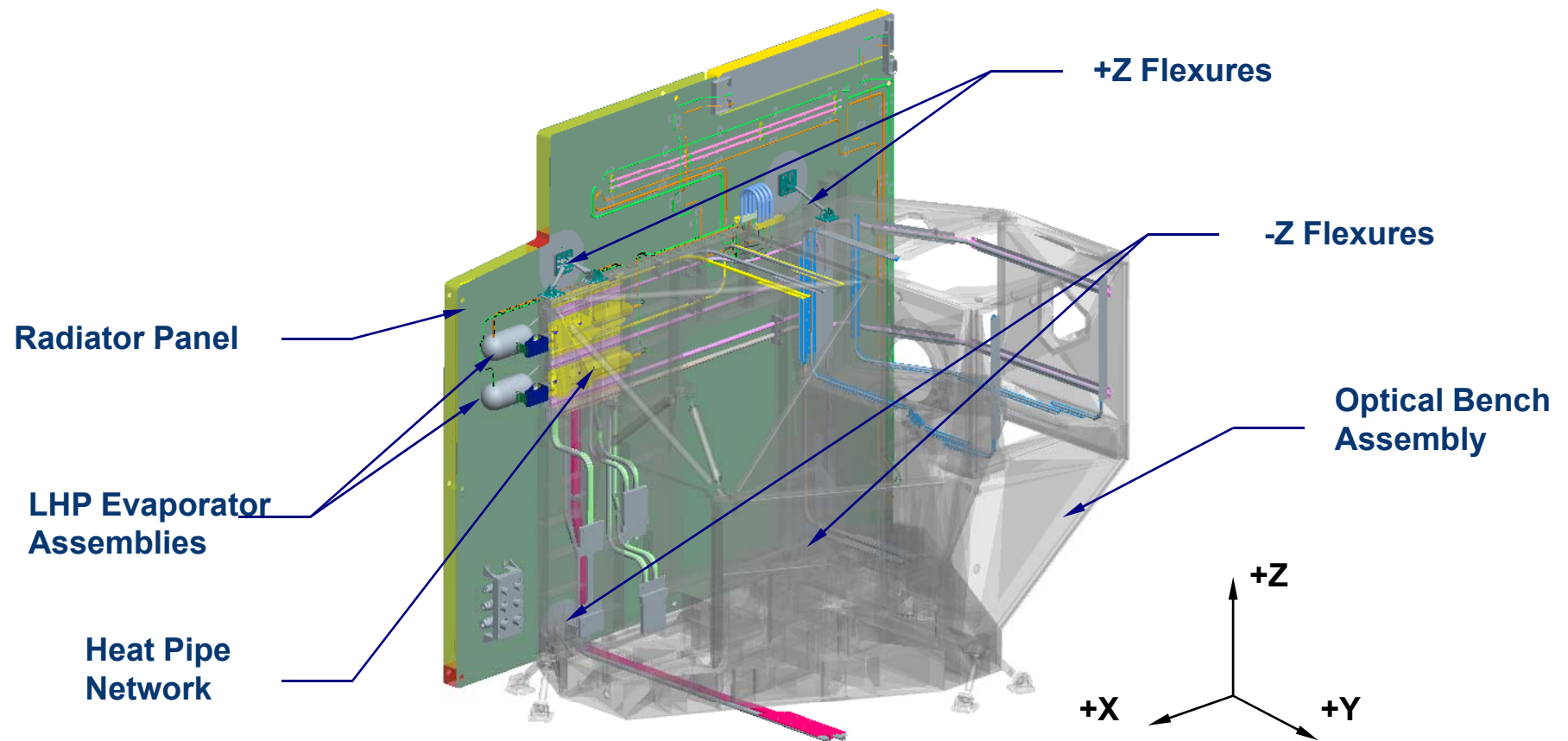
- GLAS has high powered lasers to measure polar ice thickness
- First known application of a two-phase loop to a laser
- 2 LHPs; Laser altimeter and power electronics
  - Propylene LHPs
- Launched January, 2003
- Both LHPs successfully turned on
- Very tight temperature control  $\sim 0.2$  °C





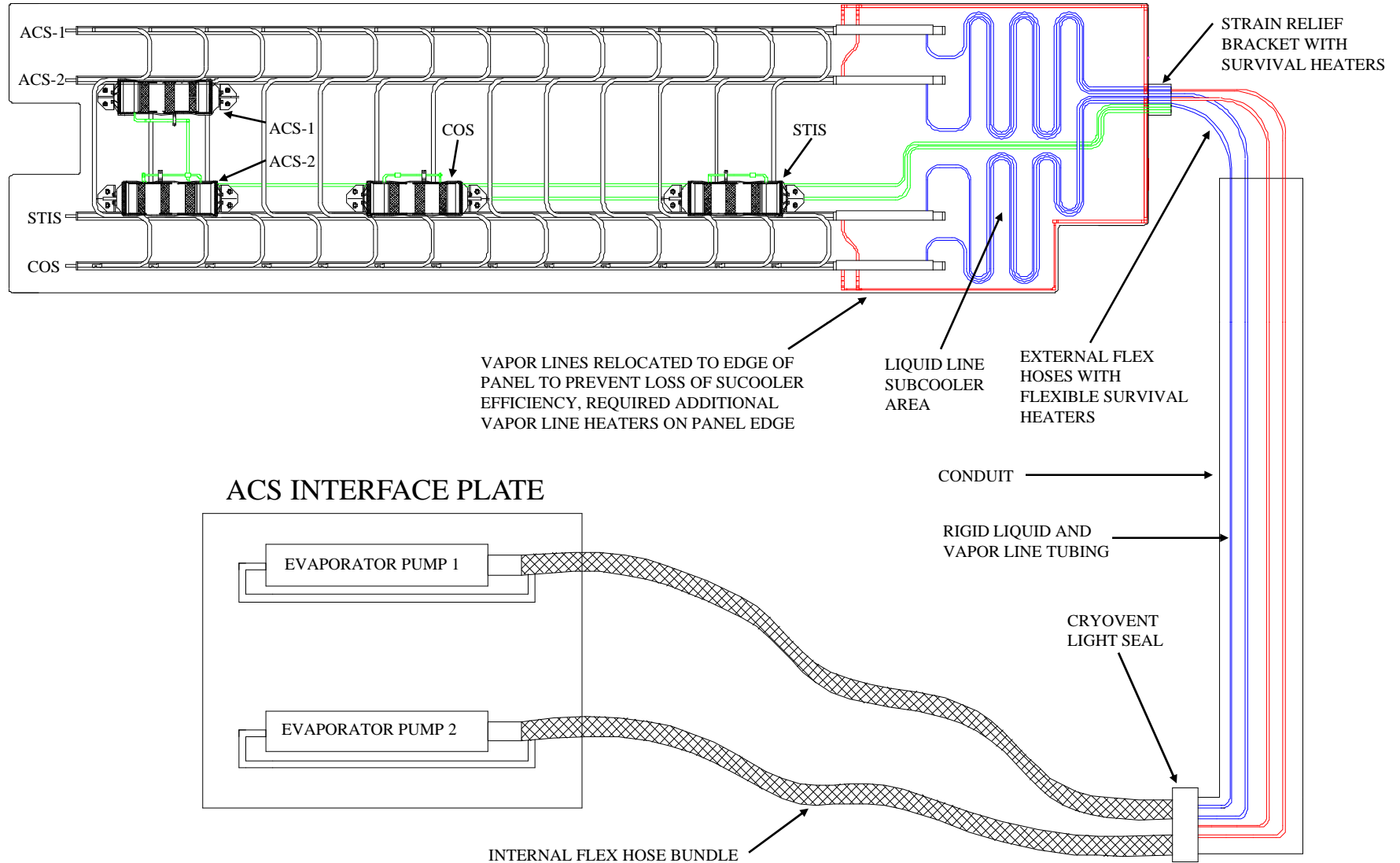
# GOES-R ABI HPs/LHPs Assembly

- Radiator LHP Assembly contains two parallel redundant LHPs, a shared radiator, heaters, thermostats, thermistors, and an electrical harness assembly.
- Evaporator Assemblies mount to Heat Pipe Network on Optical Bench





# HST ACS CPLs and ASCS Radiator Design





# HST CPL/HP Radiator Assembly

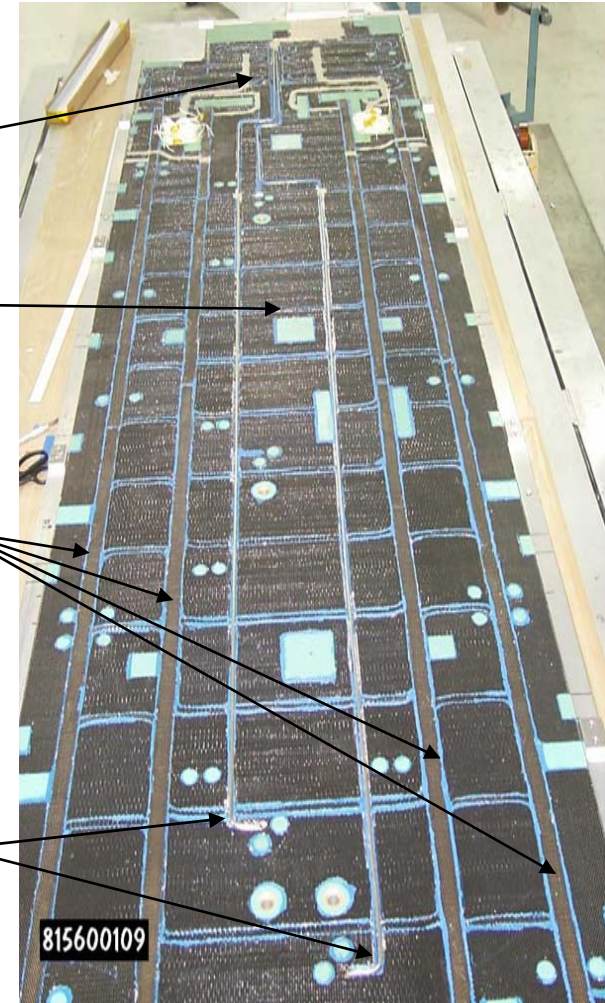


**Subcooler  
Section**

**Isothermalizer  
heat pipes**

**Heat Pipe Heat  
Exchangers**

**Reservoir Lines**



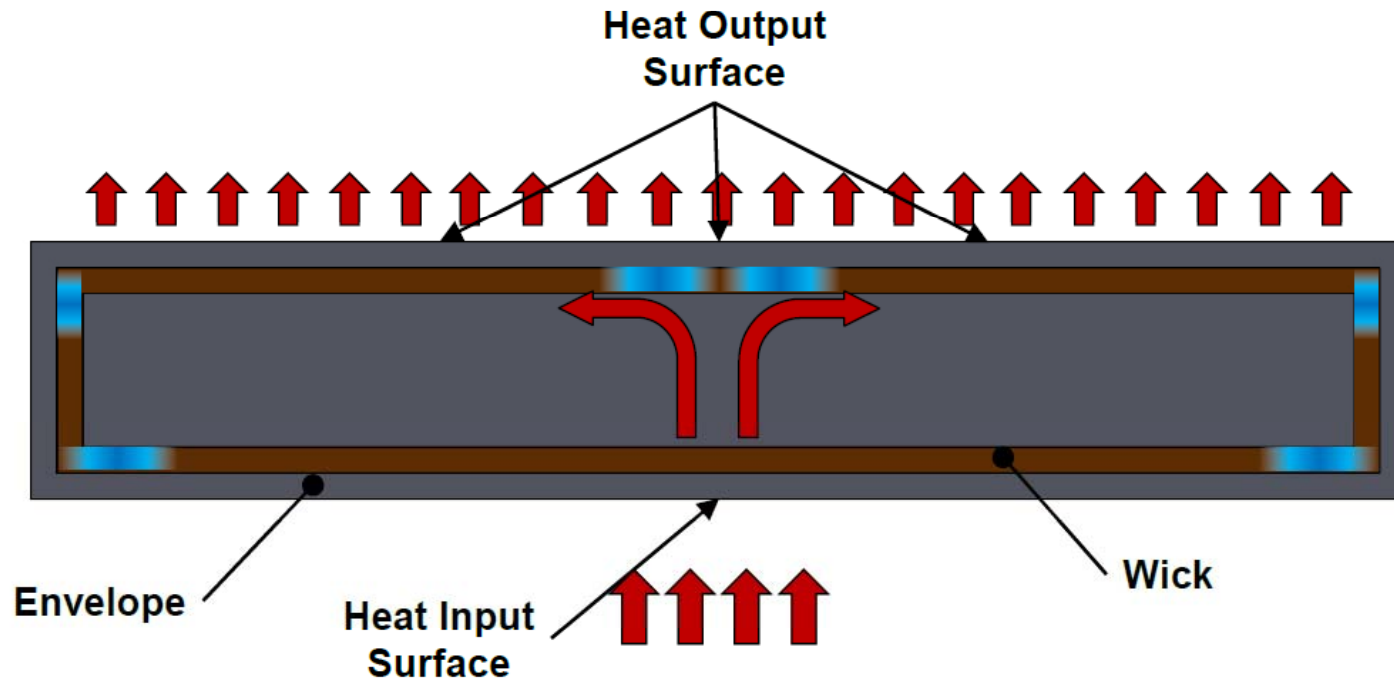


## Other Types of Heat Pipes

- **Vapor Chamber**
- **Pressure Controlled VCHP**
- **Two-Phase Closed Thermosyphon**
- **Rotating Heat Pipe**
- **Oscillating Heat Pipe**



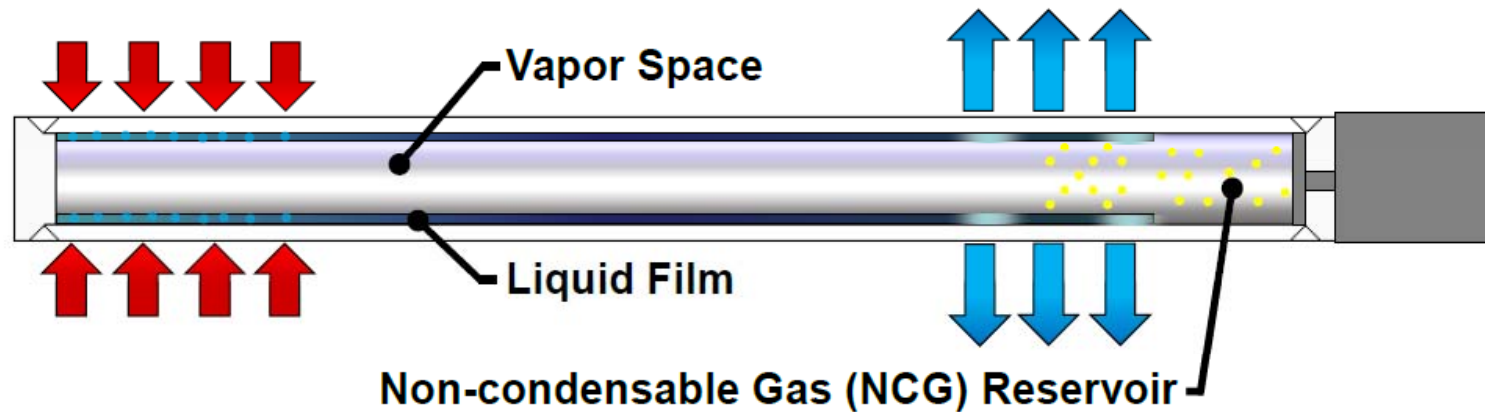
# Vapor Chamber



- Vapor chambers are planar heat pipes for heat spreading and/or isothermalizing



## Pressure Controlled VCHP

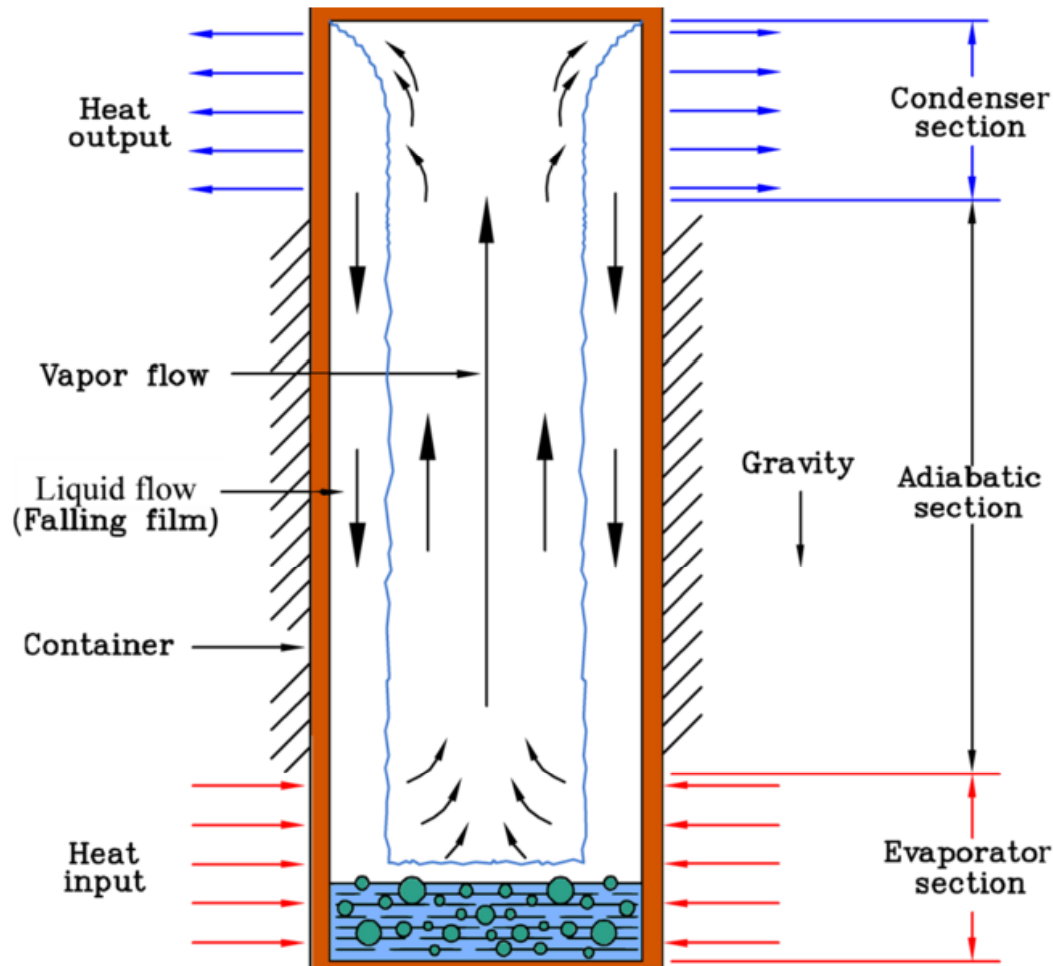


- Vary reservoir volume or amount of gas
  - Actuator drives bellows to modulate the reservoir volume
  - Pump/vacuum pump adds/removes gas
- Used for precise temperature control

\*\* Anderson, W.G, et al., "Pressure Controlled Heat Pipe Applications," 16<sup>th</sup> International Heat Pipe conference, Lyon, France, May 20-24, 2014



## Two-Phase Closed Thermosyphons

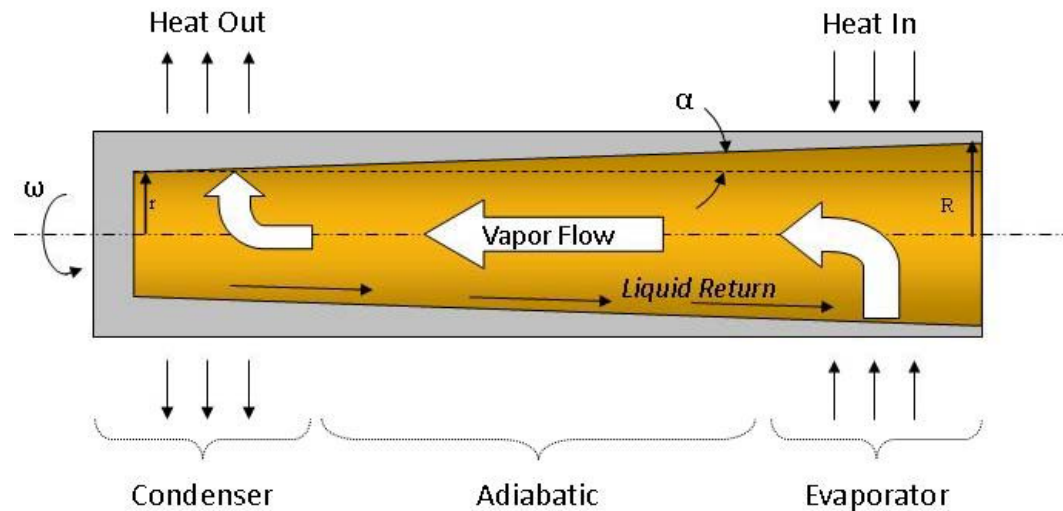


- A gravity-assisted wickless heat pipe
- The condenser section is located above the evaporator so that the condensate is returned by gravity.
- The entrainment limit is more profound.
- The operation is sensitive to the working fluid fill volume.





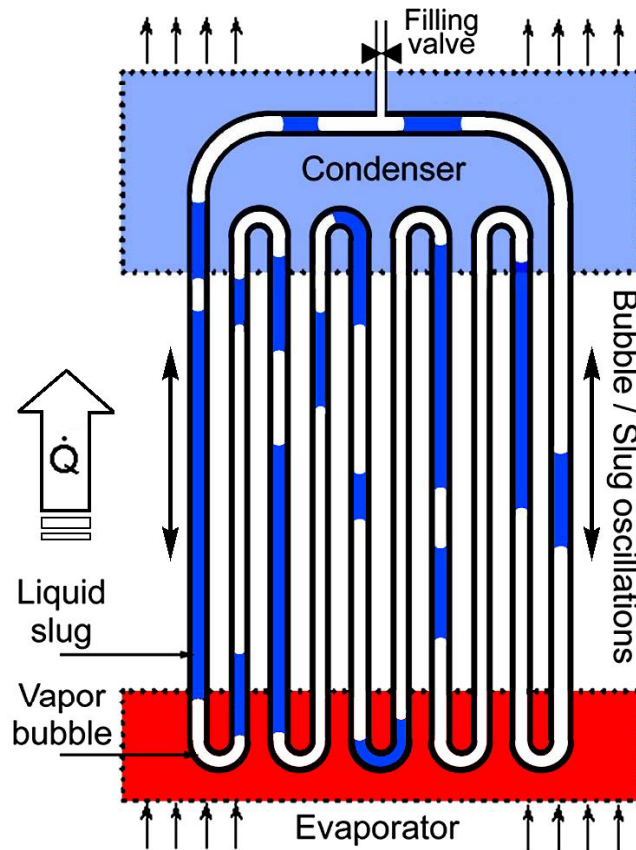
# Rotating Heat Pipe



- A rotating heat pipe uses centrifugal forces to move the condensate from the condenser to the evaporator
- The inside of the heat pipe is a conical frustum, with the evaporator inside diameter (I.D.) larger than the condenser I.D.
- A portion of the centrifugal force is directed along the heat pipe wall, due to the slight taper ( $R\omega^2\sin\alpha$ ).



# Oscillating Heat Pipes



- A capillary tube (with no wick structure) bent into many turns and partially filled with a working fluid
- When the temperature difference between evaporator and condenser exceeds a certain threshold, the gas bubbles and liquid plugs begin to oscillate spontaneously back and forth.



**Questions?**