CRYOCOOLERS 8

A publication of the International Cryocooler Conference

CRYOCOOLERS 8

Edited by

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Preface

The last few years have witnessed a substantial maturing of long life Stirling-cycle cryocoolers built upon the heritage of the flexure-bearing cryocoolers from Oxford University, and have seen the emergence of mature pulse tube cryocoolers competing head-to-head with the Stirling cryocoolers. Hydrogen sorption cryocoolers, Gifford-McMahon cryocoolers with rare earth regenerators, and helium Joule-Thomson cryocoolers have also made tremendous progress in opening up applications in the 4 K to 10 K temperature range. Tactical Stirling cryocoolers, now commonplace in the defense industry, are finding application in a number of cost-constrained commercial applications and space missions, and are achieving ever longer lives as they move to linear-drive, clearance-seal compressors.

Building on this expanding availability of commercially viable cryocoolers, numerous new applications are being enabled; many of these involve infrared imaging systems, and high-temperature superconductors in the medical and communications fields. The vibration sensitivity of many of the infrared and medical imaging applications has led to the recognition that cryocooler-generated vibration and EMI is a critical performance parameter for these applications. In response, advanced closed-loop active vibration control systems have been developed and are being delivered to their first users. Application experiments, designed to explore, troubleshoot and resolve product integration issues, are occurring on an ever widening front, particularly in the fields of infrared imaging and spectroscopy, gamma-ray spectroscopy, and high-temperature superconductor applications. An important lesson is that integrating cryogenic systems requires care and thoughtfulness in a broad range of engineering and scientific disciplines.

This book draws upon the work of many of the international experts in the field of cryocoolers, and is based on their contributions at the 8th International Cryocooler Conference, held in Vail, Colorado, in June 1994. The program of this conference consisted of 107 papers. Of these, 93 are published here in *Cryocoolers 8*. Although this is the eighth meeting of the conference, which has met every two years since 1980, this is the first time the authors' works have been made available to the public in hardcover book form. As such, this book is the first volume of what we hope will be a series of professional texts for users and developers of cryocoolers. Previous proceedings of the International Cryocooler Conference have been published over the years as informal reports by the particular government organization sponsoring the conference -- typically a different organization for each conference. A listing of previous conference proceedings is presented in the Proceedings Index, at the rear of this book. Most of the previous proceedings were printed in limited quantity and are out of print at this time.

Because this book is designed to be an archival reference for users of cryocoolers as much as for developers of cryocoolers, extra effort has been made to provide a thorough Subject Index that covers the referenced cryocoolers by type and manufacturer's name, as well as by the scientific or engineering subject matter. Extensive referencing of test and measurement data is included in the Subject Index under a wide variety of performance topics. Examples include refrigeration performance data, complete cryocooler characterization test data, vibration and EMI

measurements, and qualification and life test experience. Application and integration experience is also highlighted by specific index entries. To aide those attempting to locate a particular contributor's work, a separate Author Index is also provided, listing all authors and co-authors. Contributing organizations are listed in the Subject Index to assist in finding the work of a known institution, laboratory, or cryocooler manufacturer.

The content of the book is organized into 14 chapters by cryocooler type, starting with Stirling cryocoolers, pulse tube cryocoolers, and their associated drive electronics. Next, Brayton, Joule-Thomson and sorption cryocoolers are covered in a progression of lowering temperatures. Low-temperature regenerators for Gifford-McMahon cryocoolers and magnetic refrigerators in the 4 to 10 K range are covered next. The last three chapters deal with cryocooler integration technologies and experience to date in a number of representative applications. These applications are divided by temperature into those in the 2-20 K range, and those in the 50-100 K range. The articles in these last three chapters contain a wealth of information for the potential user of cryocoolers, as well as for the developer.

It is hoped that this book will serve as a valuable source of reference to all those faced with the challenges of taking advantage of the enabling physics of cryogenics temperatures. The expanding availability of low-cost, reliable cryocoolers has the potential of making major advances in a number of fields.

Ronald G. Ross, Jr.

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Contents

Space Stirling Cryocooler Developments	1
Development for Space Use of BAe's Improved Single-Stage Stirling Cycle Cooler for Applications in the Range 50-80 K	1
<i>B.G. Jones, British Aerospace Space Systems, Bristol, ENGLAND</i>	
Space Cryogenic Refrigerator System (SCRS) Thermal Performance Test Results	13
<i>I.E. Spradley and W.G. Foster, Lockheed, Palo Alto, CA</i>	
Test Results for the Single-Stage Ball Flight Prototype Cooler	23
<i>W.J. Horsley, E.F. Hicks, W.C. Kiehl, D.W. Simmons, D.J. Taylor, E.E. Wells and J.A. Wells, Ball Aerospace, Boulder, CO</i>	
Long-Life Cryocooler Development Program for ASTER	35
<i>M. Kawada and H. Fujisada, Electrotechnical Laboratory, Ibaraki, JAPAN</i>	
Development of a Stirling Cryocooler Using Hydrodynamic Gas Bearings	47
<i>L. Duband, A. Ravex and P. Rolland, CEA, Grenoble, FRANCE</i>	
Design, Performance, and Testing of the Lockheed-Developed Mechanical Cryocooler	55
<i>T.C. Nast, P.J. Champagne, D. Isaac, G.M. Pryor, R.L. von Savoye and L.G. Naes, Lockheed MSC, Palo Alto, CA</i>	
Improved Standard Spacecraft Cryocooler Life Test for Space-Based Infrared Surveillance	69
<i>J.M. Wakugawa, H. Haque and K.D. Price, Hughes Aircraft Company, El Segundo, CA</i>	
Development of Stirling Cryocooler for Use In Space	77
<i>T. Fukuda, T. Tsuchiya, M. Ishii and T. Takakusagi, Hitachi, Ltd., Ibaraki, JAPAN; M. Furukawa, National Space Devel. Agency of Japan, Ibaraki, JAPAN</i>	
NASA/GSFC 80 K Long-Life, Low Vibration Mechanical Cryocooler Performance Test Program Results	85
<i>L.G. Naes, G.M. Pryor, I.A. Spradley, D. Isaac and R.L. von Savoye, Lockheed MSC, Palo Alto, CA; L.M. Sparr NASA GSFC, Greenbelt, MD</i>	

20-50K Two-Stage Stirling Cryocoolers

93

- Multi-Stage Cryocooler for Space Applications** 93
H. Carrington, W.J. Gully, M. Hubbard and C. Varner, Ball Aerospace, Boulder, CO; P. Arter, NCAR, Boulder, CO
- 30 K Diaphragm Stirling Cryocooler Demonstration** 103
W.D. Stacy and W.R. Baschnagel, Creare, Hanover, NH; D. Lussier, Fairchild Space, Greenbelt, MD

Low-Cost Tactical Stirling Cryocoolers

113

- Hughes Long-Life Linear Stirlings: A Status Report** 113
G.R. Pruitt, Hughes Electron Dynamics Div., Torrance, CA
- Linear Drive Stirling Cryocoolers: Qualification and Life Testing Results** 121
R.M. Rawlings, C.E. Granger, III and G.W. Hinrichs, Texas Instruments, Inc., Dallas, TX
- Dual Opposed Piston Stirling Cryocoolers for IR Systems** 129
R. Narayan, Magnavox Electro-Optics, Mahwah, NJ
- Space Qualification Program of a Signaal USFA Tactical Cooler for the Mars 1996 Space Mission** 137
A. Chardin, Inst. D'Astrophysique Spatiale, Orsay, FRANCE; D. Féger, Cryotechnologies, Blagnac, FRANCE; and D. Verbeek, Signaal USFA, Eindhoven, The Netherlands
- Performance Characterization of the Sunpower Cryocooler** 149
G.T. Smedley and R.G. Ross, Jr., JPL, Pasadena, CA; D.M. Berchowitz, Sunpower, Inc., Athens, OH
- Adaptation of Tactical Cryocoolers for Short Duration Space-Flight Missions** 163
L. Sparr, M. Sartor and R. Boyle, NASA/GSFC, Greenbelt, MD; S. Banks and E. James, McDonnell Douglas Corp., Seabrook, MD

Stirling Cryocooler Performance Comparisons

173

- JPL Cryocooler Development and Test Program Overview** 173
R.G. Ross, Jr., JPL, Pasadena, CA
- Thermal Performance of Stirling-Cycle Cryocoolers: A Comparison of JPL-Tested Coolers** 185
G.T. Smedley, G.R. Mon, D.L. Johnson and R.G. Ross, Jr., JPL, Pasadena, CA
- Vibration Characteristics of Stirling-Cycle Cryocoolers for Space Application** 197
G.R. Mon, G.T. Smedley, D.L. Johnson and R.G. Ross, Jr., JPL, Pasadena, CA
- Cryocooler Electromagnetic Compatibility** 209
D.L. Johnson, G.T. Smedley, G.R. Mon, R.G. Ross, Jr. and P. Narvaez, JPL, Pasadena, CA
- NASA/GSFC Cryocooler Test Program Results for FY93/94** 221
L. Sparr, M. Sartor, R. Boyle, S. Castles and T. Cygnarowicz, NASA/GSFC, Greenbelt, MD; S. Banks and E. James, McDonnell Douglas Corp., Seabrook, MD; and V. Arillo and R. Cory, Hughes-STX, Greenbelt, MD

BAe 80 K Cryocooler Life Test for Space-Based Infrared Surveillance	233
<i>J.M. Wakugawa and H. Haque, Hughes Aircraft Co., El Segundo, CA, and R.A. Orsini, TRW, Redondo Beach, CA</i>	

Stirling Cryocooler Components and Theory 241

A Method for Intrinsic Temperature Regulation of Miniature Stirling Coolers	241
<i>M. Bareiss, A. Fiedler, H. Laschutza and G. Schellenberger, AEG Aktiengesellschaft, Heilbronn, GERMANY</i>	
Regenerator Optimization for Stirling Cycle Refrigeration, II	247
<i>S.A. Colgate, LANL, Los Alamos, NM</i>	
Friction Factors of Stacks of Perforated Regenerator Plates	259
<i>S. Yoshida, K.V. Ravikumar and T.H.K. Frederking, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA</i>	
Experimental Analysis of Heat Transfer Characteristics and Pressure Drop through Screen Regenerative Heat Exchangers	269
<i>J.L. Wiese, USAF Phillips Lab, Kirtland AFB, NM; and W.J. Bowman, Air Force Inst. of Tech., Wright-Patterson AFB, OH</i>	
Sage: Object-Oriented Software for Cryocooler Design	281
<i>D. Gedeon, Gedeon Assoc., Athens, OH</i>	
Design Optimization of Linear-Arm Flexure Bearings	293
<i>E. Marquardt and R. Radebaugh, NIST, Boulder, CO</i>	
Spiral Flexure Bearing	305
<i>T.E. Wong, R.B. Pan, H.D. Marten, C. Sve, L. Galvan and T.S. Wall, The Aerospace Corp., El Segundo, CA</i>	

Pulse Tube Cryocooler Developments 313

Demonstration of a High Performance 35 K Pulse Tube Cryocooler	313
<i>W.W. Burt and C.K. Chan, TRW, Redondo Beach, CA</i>	
Experimental Investigation of a Linear, Orifice Pulse Tube Expander	321
<i>S.C. Soloski and F.N. Mastrup, Hughes Aircraft Co., El Segundo, CA</i>	
Miniature Long-Life Space-Qualified Pulse Tube and Stirling Cryocoolers	329
<i>E. Twab, C.K. Chan, J. Raab, R. Orsini, C. Jaco and M. Petach, TRW, Redondo Beach, CA</i>	
Two-Stage Pulse Tube Refrigerator for 20 K Operation	337
<i>Y. Ohtani, M. Takahashi, T. Kuriyama and H. Nakagome, Toshiba R&D, Kanagawa, JAPAN; J. Gao, H. Tanida and Y. Matsubara, Nihon University, Chiba, JAPAN; and M. Narita, H. Murakami and H. Okuda, Inst. of Space and Astron. Science, Kanagawa, JAPAN</i>	
Multi-Stage Pulse Tube Refrigerator for Temperatures below 4 K	345
<i>Y. Matsubara and J.L. Gao, Atomic Energy Research Institute, Nihon University, Funabashi, JAPAN</i>	

Cooling Performance of a Prototype Miniature Pulse Tube Refrigerator with a Flexure Spring Compressor	353
<i>T. Haruyama and H. Inoue, KEK, Ibaraki, JAPAN</i>	
Pulse Tube Cryocooler Components and Theory	359
Steady Secondary Momentum and Enthalpy Streaming in the Pulse Tube Refrigerator	359
<i>J.M. Lee and P. Kittel, NASA Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, CA; K.D. Timmerhaus, Univ. of Colorado, Boulder, CO; R. Radebaugh, NIST, Boulder, CO</i>	
A Model for Analyzing Ideal Double Inlet Pulse Tube Refrigerators	371
<i>A. Hofmann, Kernforschungszentrum Karlsruhe, GERMANY; S. Wild, Universitat Karlsruhe, GERMANY</i>	
Effect of Pressure Wave Form on Pulse Tube Refrigerator Performance	383
<i>F. Gebeler, G. Thummes and C. Heiden, Justus-Liebig-Univ., Giessen, GERMANY</i>	
Compact Four-Valve Pulse Tube Refrigerator in Coaxial Configuration	395
<i>J. Blaurock, R. Hackenberger, P. Seidel and M. Thurk, Friedrich Schiller University, Jena, GERMANY</i>	
Pressure and Temperature Oscillations of Working Gas in a Pulse Tube Refrigerator	403
<i>M. Shiraishi, Mechanical Engineering Lab, MITI, Ibaraki, JAPAN; K. Seo and M. Murakami, Univ. of Tsukuba, Ibaraki, JAPAN</i>	
Analytical Model and Experimental Results of a Miniature Pulse Tube Refrigerator	411
<i>M. David and J-C. Maréchal, Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris, FRANCE</i>	
Cryocooler Vibration Control and Drive Electronics	417
MOPITT Stirling Cycle Cooler and Cooler Drive Electronics Evaluation	417
<i>E.L. Cook, COM DEV Atlantic, Moncton, CANADA; J.R. Drummond and G.S. Mand, Univ. of Toronto, Toronto, CANADA; R. Colley, Canadian Space Agency, Ottawa, CANADA; and B. Clappier and T. McGinnis, Lockheed, Palo Alto, CA</i>	
Development and Test of Low Vibration Cryocooler Electronics	425
<i>G.D. Salapski, Z.F. Backovsky and T.H. Weight, Rockwell International, Anaheim, CA</i>	
Active Multi-Axis Vibration Cancellation for Split-Stirling Cryocoolers	437
<i>S.A. Collins and J.D. Paduano, MIT, Cambridge, MA; and A.H. von Flotow, Hood Technology Corp., Hood River, OR</i>	
Flight Hardware Implementation of a Feed-Forward Vibration Control System for Space Flight Cryocoolers	449
<i>R. Boyle, L. Sparr and T. Gruner, NASA/GSFC, Greenbelt, MD; E. James and S. Banks, McDonnell Douglas, Seabrook, MD; J. Wilmot and V. Arillo, Hughes-STX, Greenbelt, MD; and T. Gibboney, Fairchild Space Corp., Greenbelt, MD</i>	

STRV Cryocooler Tip Motion Suppression	455
<i>R.J. Glaser, R.G. Ross, Jr. and D.L. Johnson, JPL, Pasadena, CA</i>	
Reduction of the Vibration Generated by Stirling Cryocoolers Used for Cooling a High-Tc SQUID Magnetometer	465
<i>J.F.C. Verberne, P.C. Bruins, P.J. van den Bosch and H.J.M. ter Brake, Univ. of Twente, The Netherlands</i>	
Implementation and Test of the Control Algorithms for a Diaphragm Stirling 30 K Cryocooler	475
<i>C. Konkel, T. Gibboney and K. Ha, Fairchild Space, Greenbelt, MD; and R. Boyle, NASA/GSFC, Greenbelt, MD</i>	
NASA IN-STEP Cryo System Experiment Flight Electronics for Spacecraft Cryocooler Control and Characterization	487
<i>P.M. Mayner and B.F. Wolf, Hughes Aircraft Co., El Segundo, CA</i>	
 Brayton and J-T Cryocooler Developments	 499
Single-Stage Reverse Brayton Cryocooler: Performance of the Engineering Model	499
<i>W.L. Swift, Creare, Hanover, NH</i>	
Miniaturization of Components for Low Capacity Reverse Brayton Cryocoolers	507
<i>J.A. McCormick, W.L. Swift and H. Sixsmith, Creare, Hanover, NH</i>	
Development Status of a 2.5 K - 4 K Closed-Cycle Cooler Suitable for Space Use	517
<i>A.H. Orłowska, T.W. Bradshaw and J. Hieatt, Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, ENGLAND</i>	
Qualification of a 4 K Mechanical Cooler for Space Applications	525
<i>B.G. Jones and D.W. Ramsay, British Aerospace Space Systems, Bristol, ENGLAND</i>	
80 K Closed-Cycle Throttle Refrigerator	537
<i>R.C. Longworth, M.J. Boiarski and L.A. Klusmier, APD Cryogenics Inc., Allentown, PA</i>	
Joule-Thomson Cryocooler Development at Ball Aerospace	543
<i>R. Levenduski and R. Scarlotti, Ball Aerospace, Boulder, CO</i>	
Phase Equilibria in Cryogenic Mixtures: Part II	559
<i>L.B. Robinson, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA</i>	
 Sorption Cryocooler Developments	 569
Development of an Advanced Sorption Compressor and Its Application in a 125 K Cryocooler	569
<i>J.A. Alvarez, R.J. Krylo, R.D. Snapp, C. Weston, P. Sywulka and G.C. Abell, Aerojet Electronics Plant, Azusa, CA</i>	
Dynamic Simulation of a Periodic 10 K Sorption Cryocooler	581
<i>P. Bhandari, J. Rodriguez, S. Bard and L. Wade, JPL, Pasadena, CA</i>	
Fabrication and Testing of the Metal Hydride Sorbent Bed Assembly for a Periodic 10 K Sorption Cryocooler	601
<i>R.C. Bowman, Jr., D.R. Gilkinson, R.D. Snapp, G.C. Abell, B.D. Freeman and E.L. Ryba, Aerojet Electronics Plant, Azusa, CA; and L.A. Wade, JPL, Pasadena, CA</i>	

Ground Testing of a 10 K Sorption Cryocooler Flight Experiment (BETSCE)	609
<i>S. Bard, J. Wu, P. Karlmann, P. Cowgill, C. Mirate and J. Rodriguez, JPL, Pasadena, CA</i>	
Component Reliability Testing of Long-Life Sorption Cryocoolers	623
<i>S. Bard, J. Wu, P. Karlmann, C. Mirate and L. Wade, JPL, Pasadena, CA</i>	
Magnetic Refrigerators and Low-Temperature Regenerators	637
Development of a Magnetic Refrigerator Operating between 2 K and 10 K	637
<i>A. Kashani, Atlas Scientific, Sunnyvale, CA; B P.M. Helvensteijn, Sterling Federal Systems, Palo Alto, CA; F.J. McCormack and A.L. Spivak, Trans-Bay Electronics, Richmond, CA; and P. Kittel, NASA ARC, Moffett Field, CA</i>	
Investigation of a Magnetically Augmented Cryogenic Refrigerator	647
<i>J.L. Smith, Jr. and G.F. Nellis, MIT, Cambridge, MA</i>	
Design of Active Magnetic Regenerative Stage Interfacing to a G-M Cryocooler	657
<i>C.B. Zimm, A.G. Jastrab and J W. Johnson, Astronautics Tech. Center, Madison, WI</i>	
Experimental Results of an Efficient Active Magnetic Regenerator Refrigerator	665
<i>A.A. Wang, J.W. Johnson, R.W. Niemi, A A. Sternberg and C.B. Zimm, Astronautics Tech. Center, Madison, WI</i>	
Excellent Character of Multi-Layer Type Magnetic Regenerator near 4.2 K	677
<i>T. Hashimoto, T. Tsukagoshi, H. Nitta and M. Yabuki, Tokyo Institute of Technology, Tokyo, JAPAN; T. Kuriyama and H. Nakagome, Toshiba R&D Center, Kanagawa, JAPAN</i>	
New Ternary Magnetic Lanthanide Regenerator Materials for the Low-Temperature Stage of a Gifford-McMahon (G-M) Cryocooler	685
<i>K A. Gschneidner, V.K. Pecharsky and M. Gailloux, Ames Lab, Iowa State University, Ames, IA</i>	
Generic Cryocooler Integration Technologies	695
Cryogenic Systems Integration Model (CSIM)	695
<i>M. Donabedian, D.S. Glauster and M.D. Bernstein, The Aerospace Corp., El Segundo, CA</i>	
Cryocooler Coldfinger Heat Interceptor	709
<i>D.L. Johnson and R.G. Ross, Jr., JPL, Pasadena, CA</i>	
Cryogenic Capillary Pumped Loops: A Novel Cryocooler Integration Technology	719
<i>B. Cullimore, Cullimore and Ring Tech., Littleton, CO; E. Krolczek, OAO Corp., Greenbelt, MD; and J. Ku, NASA/GSFC, Greenbelt, MD</i>	
A Thermal Switch for Use at Liquid Helium Temperature in Space-Borne Cryogenic Systems	731
<i>L. Duband, CEA, Grenoble, FRANCE</i>	

Emerging Technologies for Cryocooler Interfaces	743
<i>J.H. Rosenfeld, Thermacore, Inc., Lancaster, PA; D.A. Wolf, Dynatherm Corp., Hunt Valley, MD; and M.T. Buchko, NASA GSFC, Greenbelt, MD</i>	
Modeling Thermal Contact Resistance	755
<i>P. Kittel, NASA Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, CA</i>	
Perpendicular Loading as a Solution to the Problem of Building an All Purpose Cryogenic Interface	765
<i>J. Hess, Cryostar Assoc., Tucson, AZ</i>	
 Cryocooler Applications Experience in the 2-20K Range	 777
The Test Results of On-Board Refrigeration System with Low-Temperature Buffer Tank	777
<i>T. Heral and K. Nagashima, Railway Tech. Research Inst., Tokyo, JAPAN</i>	
A 4 K G-M Refrigerator for Direct Cooling of a 6 T NbTi Superconducting Magnet System	785
<i>T. Kuriyama, Y. Ohtani, M. Takahashi and H. Nakagome, Toshiba R&D Center, Kanagawa, JAPAN</i>	
Improved Seal for a 4 K Gifford-McMahon Cryocooler	795
<i>R L. Plambeck, Univ. of California, Berkeley, CA</i>	
Shock and Vibration Test of a Two Stage Gifford-McMahon Cryocooler for Use in a U.S. Navy Magnetic Minesweeping System	803
<i>E. Roth, Vector Research Co., Rockville, MD; G. Green and J. Chafe, NSWC, Annapolis, MD</i>	
Finite Element Shock Analysis of a Cryogenic Refrigerator	815
<i>E.A. Schroeder and G. Green, NSWC Div., Bethesda, MD; G. Green, NSWC, Annapolis, MD</i>	
Variable Temperature Thermal Conductivity and Conductance Measurements Using a Gifford-McMahon Cryocooler	823
<i>J.D. Walters, T H. Fikse and T L. Cooper, Annapolis Detachment, CDNSWC, Annapolis, MD</i>	
Application of Boreas Cryocoolers	835
<i>A G. Liepert and J.A. Crunkleton, Boreas, Inc., Burlington, MA</i>	
Active Refrigeration for Space Astrophysics Missions	845
<i>L A. Wade, JPL, Pasadena, CA</i>	
 Cryocooler Applications Experience in the 50-100K Range	 855
Design and Verification of Stirling Cooler Interfaces Suitable for Long-Lifetime, Space-Borne Sensor Systems	855
<i>R.F. Arentz, F.A. Eriksen, R A. Hopkins, S.J. Nieczkoski, D.A. Payne and J F. Siebert, Ball Aerospace, Boulder, CO</i>	
Lessons Learned during the Integration Phase of the NASA IN-STEP Cryo System Experiment	869
<i>R.S. Sugimura, JPL, Pasadena, CA; S.C. Russo and D.C. Gilman, Hughes Aircraft Co., El Segundo, CA</i>	

Ricor K506B Cryocooler Performance during the Clementine Mission and Ground Testing: A Status Report	883
<i>R.E. Priest, J.A. Robinson, T.L. Clark, D.R. Hadley and N.R. Sewall, LLNL, Livermore, CA</i>	
High-Temperature Superconducting Space Experiment II (HTSSE II) Overview and Preliminary Cryocooler Integration Experience	893
<i>T. Kawecki, Naval Research Lab, Washington, DC</i>	
The Application of Cryocoolers for Cooling a High-Tc SQUID Magnetometer	901
<i>P.J. van den Bosch, W.A.M. Aarnink, H.A. de Boer, H.J. Holland, H.J.M. ter Brake and H. Rogalla, Univ. of Twente, The Netherlands</i>	
Cryocoolers and High-Temperature Superconductors: Advancing toward Commercial Applications	913
<i>M. Nisenoff, NRL, Washington, DC</i>	
NASA Advanced Refrigerator/Freezer Technology Development Project Overview	919
<i>J.E. Cairelli, NASA LeRC, Cleveland, OH</i>	
The Development and Verification of a Cryogenic Phase Change Thermal Storage Unit for Spacecraft Applications	927
<i>D.S. Glaister, K.D. Bell and M. Bello, The Aerospace Corp., El Segundo, CA; and M. Stoyanof, USAF Phillips Lab, Albuquerque, NM</i>	
ICE (Integrated Cooler Experiment) for COOLSAT	941
<i>B.G. Williams and J.C. Batty, Utah State Univ., Logan, UT</i>	
Commercial Low Cost Cryogenic Packaging for Linear Micro-Coolers	949
<i>T.H. Clynnne, J.R. McCoy and M. Kimak, Infrared Components Corp., Utica, NY</i>	
Indexes	953
Proceedings Index	953
Author Index	955
Subject Index	957