National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Power Architecture for Hibernation and Dawn Mode Operations

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Richard Oeftering, William Bennett, Marcelo Gonzalez, Nicholas Uguccini

NASA Glenn Research Center

Cleveland, Ohio 44135

Power Architecture for Hibernation and Dawn Mode Operations

Power Hibernation is an approach to dramatically extend capabilities and duration of Low-Cost Robotic Lunar missions by exploiting the common 18650 Li-Ion Battery Cell's ability to tolerate and recover from extreme cold of the lunar night.

- Surveyor Experience
- Lunar Thermal Environment and Mission Constraints.
- Li-Ion Low Temperature Survival
- Power Hibernation Architecture Assumptions
- Hibernation and Dawn Operations
- Cryo-Temperature Electronics Technology
- Power Hibernation Architecture Development

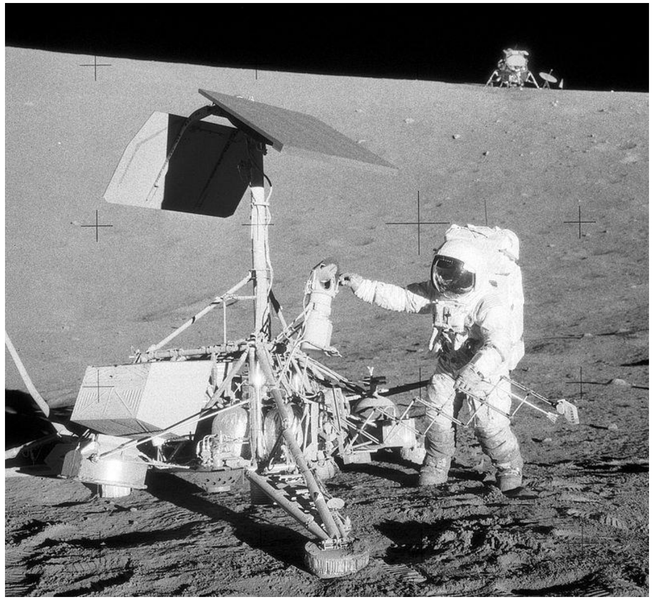
Surveyor Experience: Surviving the Lunar Night

Common Misconception: "Spacecraft batteries cannot take extreme lunar night temperatures and will die". ***This is Not True***

- *New evidence shows that common lithium-ion cells can survive*
- *Successful Hibernation depends a power system's ability to safely restore itself at lunar dawn*

Surveyor Missions Experience (1966-1968)

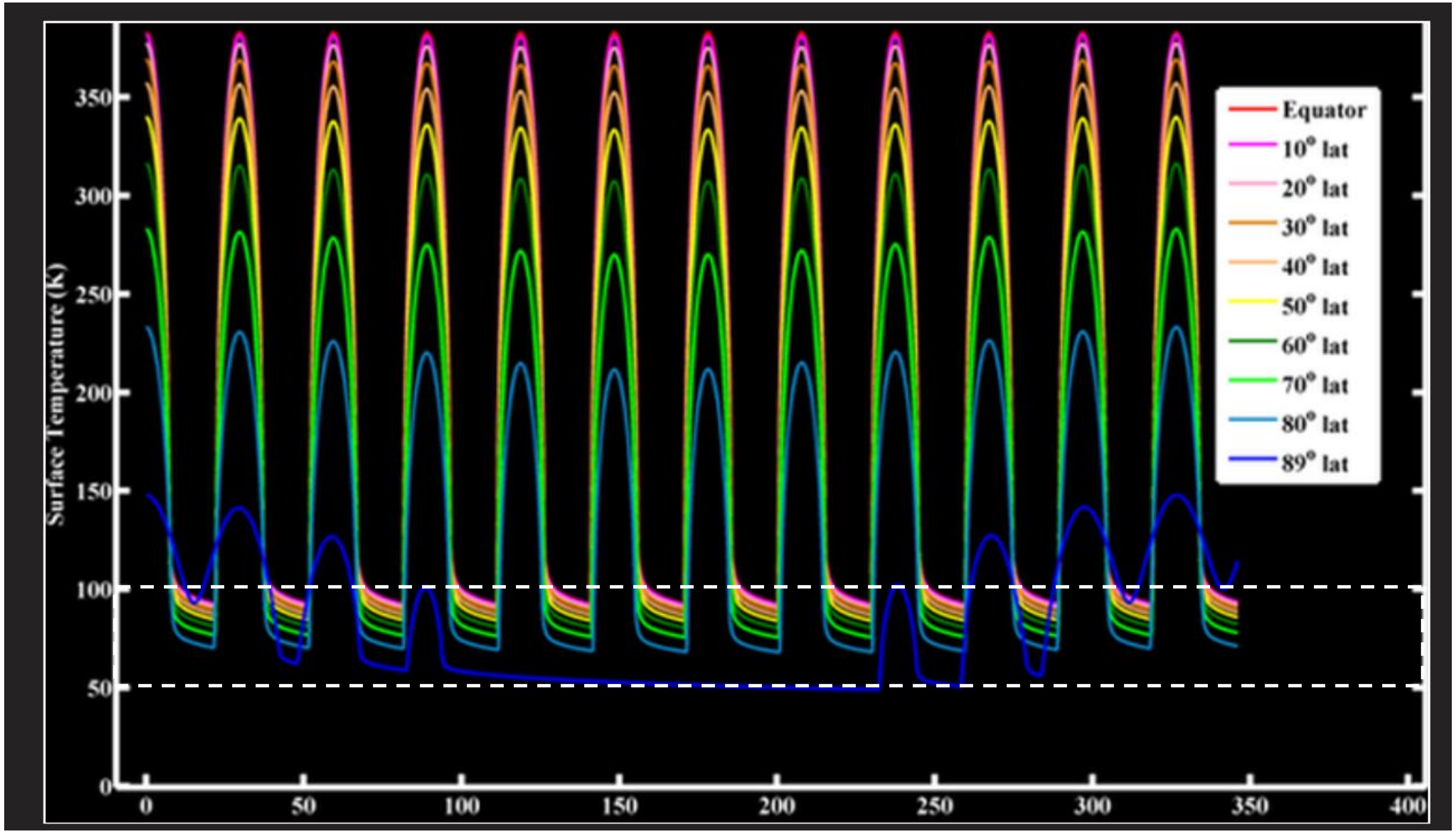
- Surveyor was not designed for Night Survival
- RTG technology still under development
- Multiple Surveyors did indeed survive the night
  - Surveyor 1 operated fully/partially for 6 lunar cycles
  - Each mission responded differently



NASA Photo

LRO DIVINER: Lunar Day/Night Temperature Range by Latitude

Thermal model calculations of monthly and annual lunar surface temperature variations at various latitudes.



Lunar Night Temperatures are extremely cold everywhere

Permissions per Dr. N Petro/NASA GSFC and Dr. D Paige/UCLA

Environment and Mission Constraints

Extreme Thermal and Illumination Environment

- Day temperatures span from below 100K to near 400K based on Latitude
- Night temperatures fall within a 50-100K range regardless of latitude
- Non-Polar latitudes night durations ~354 hours
- Polar Regions have very low sun angle, varying sun/shade cadence and durations
  - Site elevation combined with near/far topographical features casting shadows
  - Seasonal Variations (sun drops below horizon in lunar winter)

Low-Cost Mission Constraints - Commercial Lunar Payload Services (CLPS)

- CLPS landers are low cost, short development cycle
- For Non-Polar Missions
  - CLPS landers are not likely to operate much beyond a single lunar daylight period
  - Hibernation is the most viable option for survival

Li-Ion Low Temperature Survival Corroborating Evidence

Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) published work on Hibernation

- 2018 ISRO investigated 18650 Li-Ion cell passive lunar night survivability.
  - Evaluated 3 manufactures of 18650 Li-ion cells.
  - Subjected them to 14 day lunar night at -160°C (in vacuum)
  - Cells recovered charge capacity with no apparent damage or degradation
- ISRO published a power architecture concept for Hibernation
- Its not clear if hibernation capability was on-board Chandrayaan-2 lander
  - *(It is clear that they were thinking about it.)*
- Growing interest in "Flash-Freezing" of Li-Ion batteries for transportation safety

18650 Li Ion Cell Investigation at NASA Glenn

Initial Tests Performed at <u>1 Atmosphere</u>

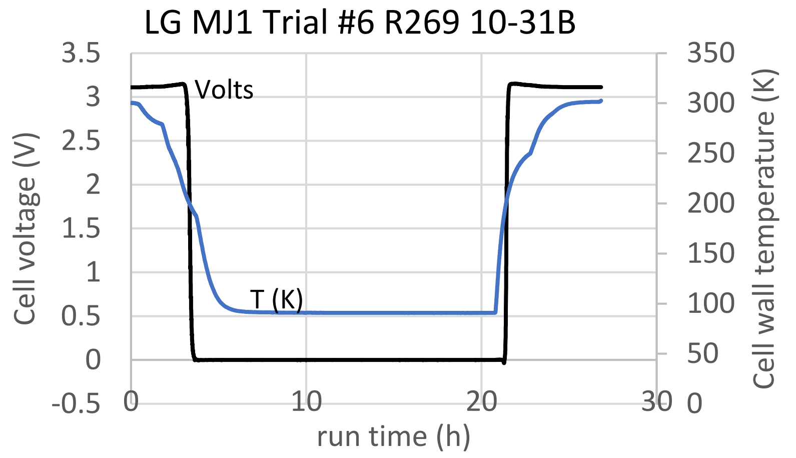
- LN_2 Vapor chilled to 80K (-193°C)
  (3 of 5 Survived)

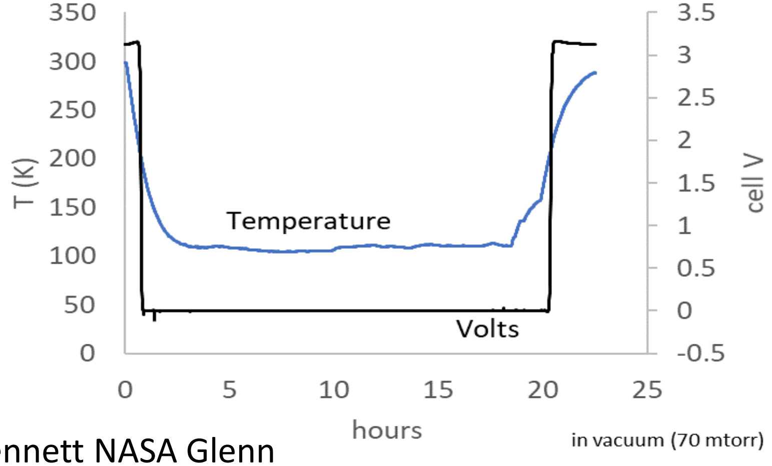
Refined Tests Performed <u>in Vacuum</u>

- 70 millitorr
- Cryocooler chilled to 100K (-173°C)
- All units Survived

Li-Ion 18650 cells

- Voltage drops to 0 volts near 200K (-70°C)
- Voltage recovers above 200K
- No apparent degradation
- <u>NASA GRC Confirms Lunar Night Survivability</u>





Figures Curtesy of W. Bennett NASA Glenn

Power Hibernation Architecture Assumptions

Lowest Temperatures occur just before Lunar Dawn

- Non-polar latitudes we assume night is ~354 hours.
- Polar Regions subject to multiple short (Dusk-Dawn) cycles
  - Low Sun Elevation, Terrain Obscuration and Seasonal Variations
  - Polar day-time high temperatures are still below 200K

Assume that Li-Ion Batteries will survive the Lunar Night

- Batteries Passively Survive the cold without loss of capability
- Batteries must be isolated from main bus prior to Dawn
- Requires "Active Cold Capable Controls" to manage the Battery Recovery
  - Pre-Heating and Pre-Charging are required
  - Battery resumes operation when temperatures and voltages return to normal

Power Hibernation Architecture Assumptions

Solar Arrays expected to Survive and Generate Power at Lunar Dawn.

- Photovoltaic Arrays are tolerant of cryogenic temperatures.
- PV Arrays at cold temps will cause high open-circuit voltages.
    - Array Over-Voltage protection required.
    - Requires Cold Capable Controls to manage array power

Assume Avionics Passively Survives

- Avionics will need to be qualified to passively survive lunar night temperatures
- Not required to operate below normal temps
- Requires external *Cold Capable Controls* to manage temperature recovery

Power Hibernation Architecture Assumptions

Main Bus Control (MBC) is Active at Cryo-temps:

- Main (Power) Bus Control incorporates "Dawn Mode" functions
- MBC Dawn Mode
  - Must be capable of activating and operating at low temps
  - MBC must operate when flight computers are unavailable
  - Manages PV Arrays and Main Bus Voltage
  - Manages Battery State (through Battery Management System)
  - Enables/Disables System Loads via Power Inhibits. (Avionics and Payloads)

Hibernation and Dawn Operations

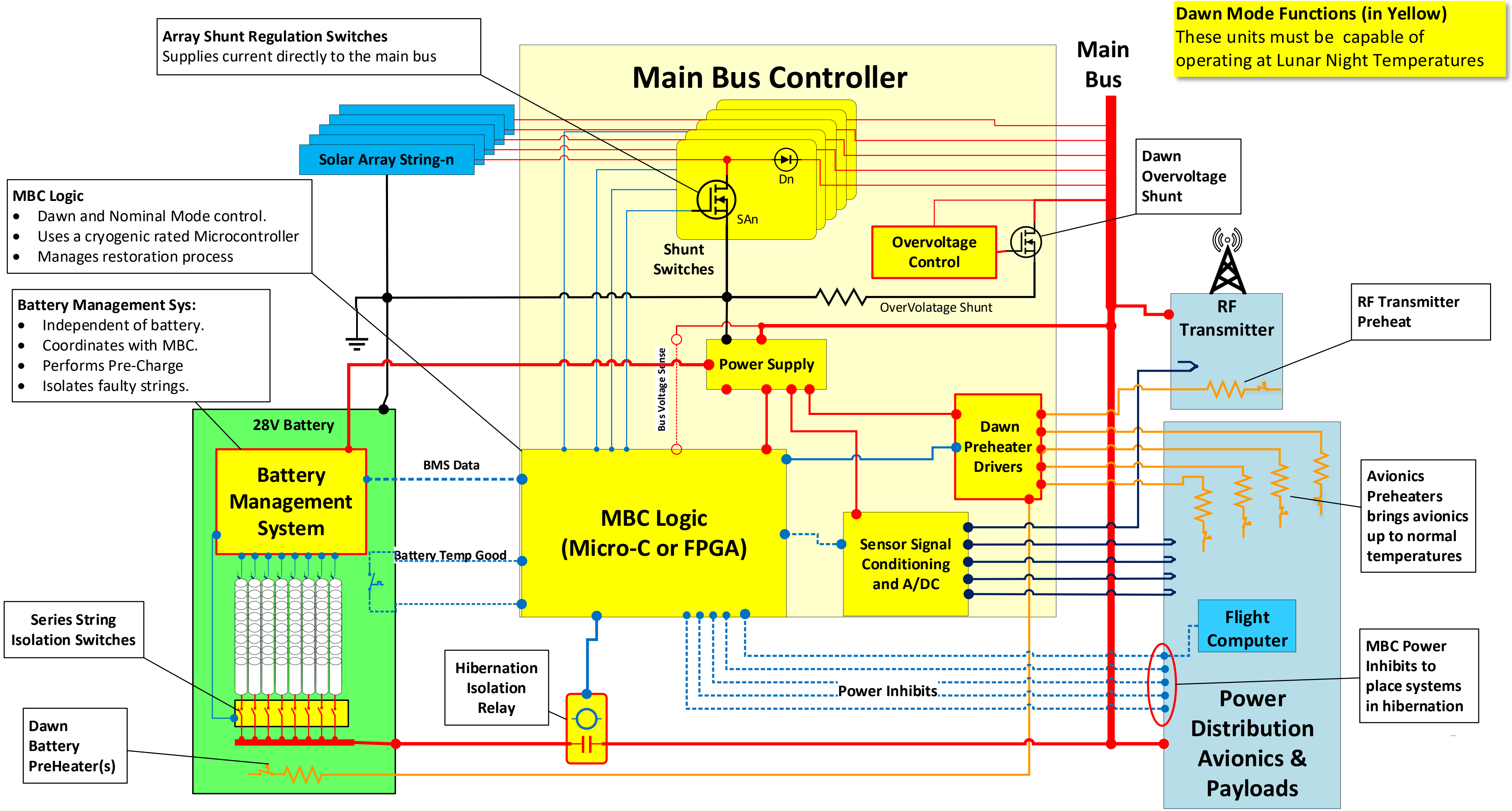
Lunar Dusk:

Point Arrays toward Dawn, Shut-Down Loads, Isolate Battery, Wait for Dawn

Lunar Dawn: (first illumination, coldest temperature)

- Solar Array output triggers a ***"Dawn Mode"*** within the **Main Bus Controller** (MBC)
- MBC is composed of electronics designed to *operate in extreme cold temperature*
- MBC in Dawn Mode operates on Solar Array power alone (*Battery still Isolated*)
- MBC manages thermal conditioning (Pre-Heaters) for battery and avionics
- Battery Management System (powered by MBC, also operates in extreme cold)
  - Monitor battery temperatures and voltages during Dawn Pre-heat
  - At normal temperature BMS pre-charges battery to match main bus voltage
  - If a string fault is detected the BMS isolates the faulted string
- MBC Closes Isolation Relay: Reconnects Battery to Main Bus- ***Dawn Mode Complete!***
  - MBC clears "Power Inhibits" allowing system to boots-up as normal

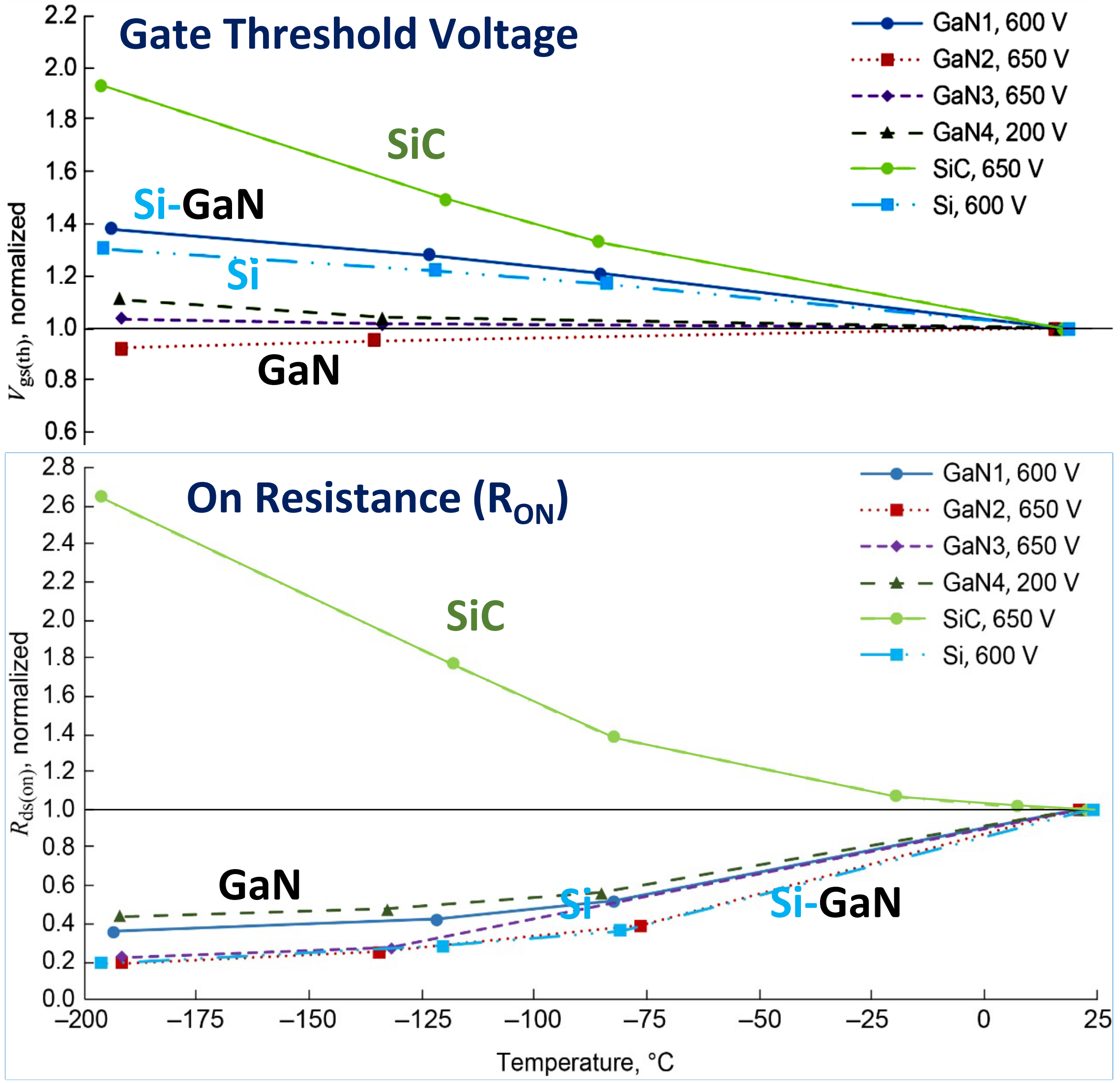
Power Hibernation Architecture



Cryo-Temp Electronics Technology

Gallium-Nitride (GaN): (LN_2 testing)

- GaN suited for low temp operations
- Tests indicate good low temp performance
  - GaN innately more efficient than Silicon
  - Gate Threshold Voltage: Stable to -196C
  - ON Resistance: Improves at low temps
- GaN used in Space Power and RF Comm
- More Radiation Tolerant than Si or SiC
- **Si-GaN Switch (**GaN with Silicon front end)
  - Overcomes Gate Over-Voltage sensitivity
  - Simplifies device driver design



Figures Courtesy of Marcelo Gonzalez NASA Glenn

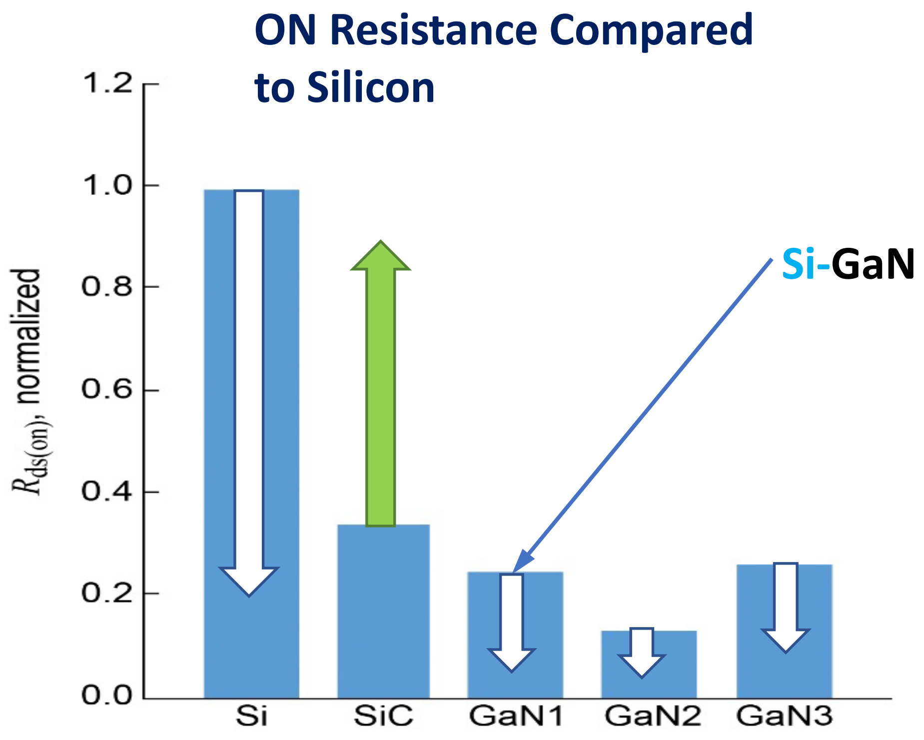
Cryo-Temp Electronics Technology

Silicon-Carbide: Poor low temp performance

- **SiC** Performance degrades in extreme cold
- SiC is subject to “Carrier Freeze-Out”
  - Threshold Voltage climbs
  - On-Resistance $R_{ds(ON)}$ climbs

Silicon Devices:

- Silicon still dominates non-power applications
  - Wide availability and low cost
  - Huge *Body of Knowledge*
  - Will require temperature compensation
- Very Large Scale Integrated Circuits (VLSIC)
  - Micro-Controllers or FPGAs
  - SiC and GaN not available in VLSIC



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Power Hibernation Architecture Development

Hibernation Battery Development

- Fully characterize electrochemistry through the hibernation thermal cycle.
- Thermal Management (uniformity temperature, uniform cell output)
- Battery Management System (cell monitoring, isolating faulty strings, pre-charge control)

Cryo Temperature Electronic Device Studies

- Gallium-Nitride, Silicon-GaN power switching evaluation
- Cryo-Temperature device evaluations (Controllers and Instrumentation)

Main Bus Controller: Dawn Mode Electronics

- PV Array Management Approach (Sequential Switching or Shunt)
- Approach to Stabilizing the main bus while battery is disconnected
- Pre-heater Power Regulation

Power Hibernation Architecture Summary

Hibernation Enables Low Cost Missions Achieve Multi-Lunar Cycles

- 18650 Li-Ion cells demonstrated a night survival capability
- "Passive Hibernation" minimizes changes to existing hardware
- Reduced dependency on scarce radioisotope heat and power sources
- Robotics and Vehicles operate independent pre-established infrastructure
- Restoration requires an Active Main Bus with *"Dawn Mode"*
  - Capable of operating in extreme cold
  - Capable of operating on array output alone
- Hibernation improves survival and recovery options in contingency situations
- **Ultimately:** *Hibernation technologies will lead to more robust robotic systems that are actually designed for the Lunar Environment.*

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Contact:

Richard C. Oeftering
Power Architecture and Analysis Branch,
Glenn Research Center,
Cleveland, Ohio 44135
richard.c.oeftering@nasa.gov