

ABSTRACT

Numerical Design of a Thin-Film Thermoelectric Cooler using Two-Dimensional Materials for Microsatellite Thermal Control

C. –H. Cheng¹, S. -Y. Lin², T. -S. Ko³, Y. -S. Chang⁴, S. Wu⁵

¹National Cheng Kung University, Taiwan
²National Cheng Kung University, Taiwan
³National Changhua University of Education, Taiwan
⁴National Formosa University, Taiwan
⁵Lunghwa University of Science and Technology, Taiwan

The rising use of microsatellites in space exploration has made heat dissipation from high-density electronic devices a critical issue. Traditional thermal control systems using heat pipe networks face challenges like increased thermal resistance, temperature gradients, and spatial constraints [1]. Thermoelectric devices (TEDs) offer a promising alternative with solid-state operation, silent performance, durability, and dual cooling-heating functions adjustable by current direction. This study utilizes numerical simulations to examine thin-film TEDs' temperature distribution across various geometric designs, providing insights for optimizing thermoelectric components in microsatellites. Additionally, it explores the potential of two-dimensional (2D) materials, MoS2 and SnSe, used in thermoelectric applications due to their high carrier transport efficiency and reduced thermal conductivity with stable temperature gradient [2]. Existing studies have shown that the 2D materials exhibit high Seebeck coefficients and low thermal conductivity, benefiting micro-scale cooling and energy harvesting [3]. Combining optimized TED structures with high-performance 2D materials, this study aims to develop an efficient thin-film TED to ensure stable operation in microsatellites while minimizing the amount of materials used. Simulation results will guide designers in achieving significant temperature gradients and improving thermal efficiency.

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