

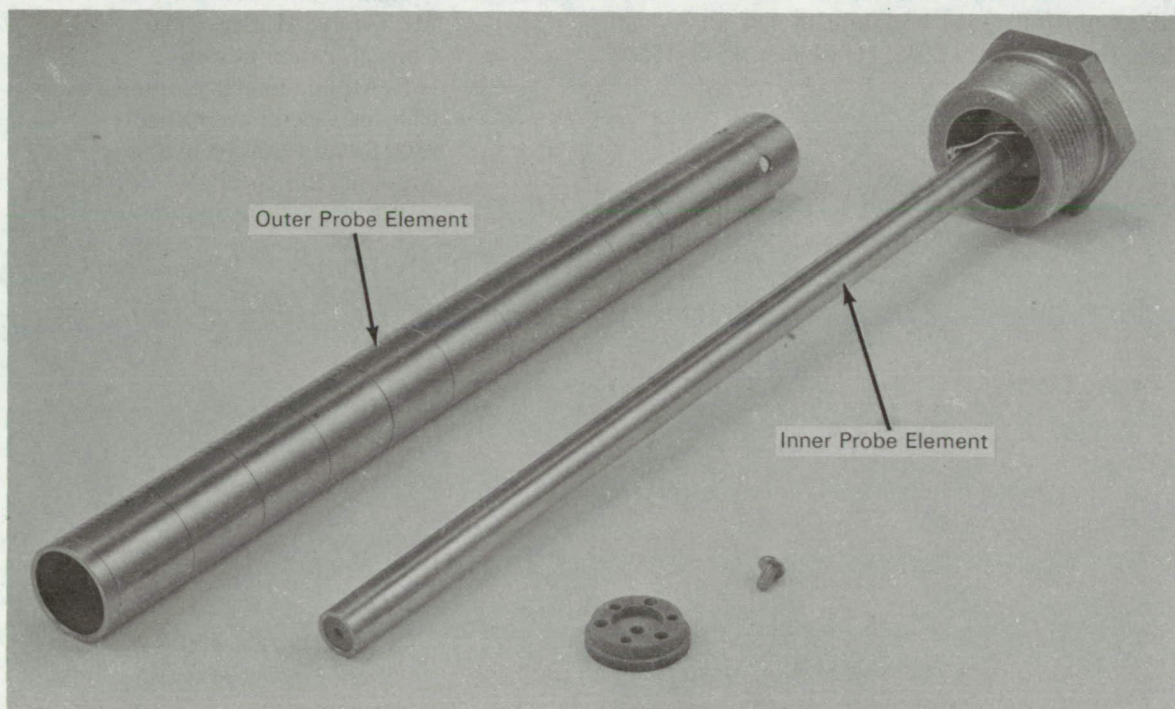


AEC-NASA TECH BRIEF



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Cryogenic Liquid Level Measuring Probe



The problem:

To design a probe to measure the static and dynamic levels of cryogenic liquids in a hydrogen bubble chamber. The sensitive volume, pressure, and density of the liquid are dependent on the liquid height. The probe must be able to perform at -246°C with a short response time.

The solution:

A universal liquid level measuring probe, with a unique frequency discriminator, which provides continuous readings on the levels of nitrogen, hydrogen, or helium to an accuracy of $\pm 1\%$. The probe has a

dynamic response time of less than $150 \mu\text{sec}$. allowing boiling conditions or other turbulence to be observed throughout all the transition stages.

How it's done:

The coaxial probe, immersed in the liquid, measures the difference in the dielectric constants between the liquid and gas phases of the media. The probe capacity is therefore a function of the height of the liquid within the probe elements. The probe and its associated cable constitute the capacity in the tuned circuit of an oscillator and a change in the liquid level is reflected as an oscillator frequency change.

(continued overleaf)

A unique feature of the probe is its frequency discriminator. A voltage controlled oscillator is phase-locked to the probe oscillator frequency. The error voltage required to tune the voltage controlled oscillator to the probe oscillator is then a function of the liquid level.

A percentage readout is used with the probe to provide a more efficient use of the instrument's dynamic range and to reduce operator error. In addition, the system may be used in a data logger to record liquid levels in a number of containers through a scanning operation.

Notes:

1. Results are available for a number of test measurements made with N₂ and He⁴.
2. Additional details may be found in *The Review of Scient. Instrms.*, vol. 37, no. 11, 1966, p. 1549-1554.

3. Inquiries concerning this innovation may be directed to:

Office of Industrial Cooperation
Argonne National Laboratory
9700 South Cass Avenue
Argonne, Illinois 60439
Reference: B68-10291

Source: J. A. Dinkel,
Particle Accelerator Division
and C. R. Wegner,
High Energy Physics
(ARG-10138)

Patent status:

Inquiries about obtaining rights for commercial use of this innovation may be made to:

Mr. George H. Lee, Chief
Chicago Patent Group
U.S. Atomic Energy Commission
Chicago Operations Office
9800 South Cass Avenue
Argonne, Illinois 60439