



Long Term Performance Retention Test Using High Power COTS NiCd and NiMH Cells

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by

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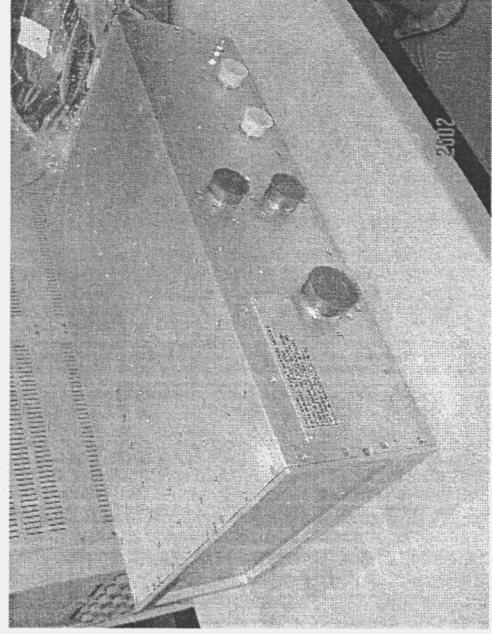
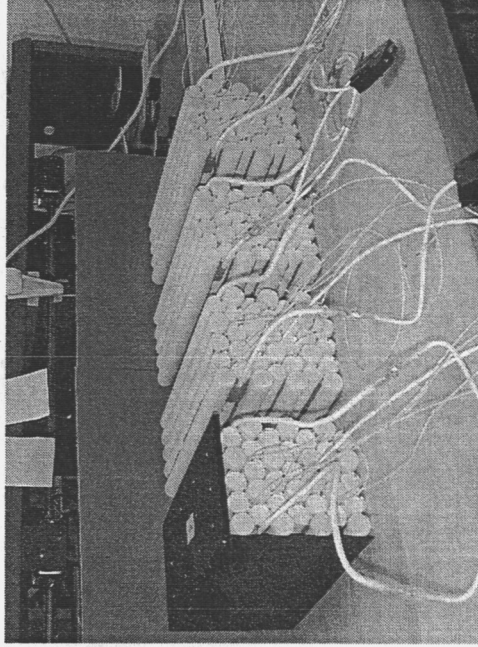


Presentation Objectives

- **Introduction to Space-Flight High Power Applications**
- **Problem Description for Current Designs**
- **Test Plan for NiCd and NiMH**
- **Results and Analysis**
- **Conclusion**

Introduction

- Space Flight electromechanical actuators will require short duration high power batteries
- X-38 Crew Return Vehicle electromechanical actuators
 - Qualified the first 270V, 5 Ah (8.4Ah Actual) NiCd battery module for single use application
 - Requires 41.5W/Cell @ 1.0V
 - NiCd and NiMH ~40-50Wh/kg for commercial SubC cells have demonstrated capability
 - Cell charging maintenance development is needed to meet the 3 year on-orbit CRV mission
- Orbital Space Plane will also need to maintain battery performance readiness > 6 months requiring similar maintenance regime development





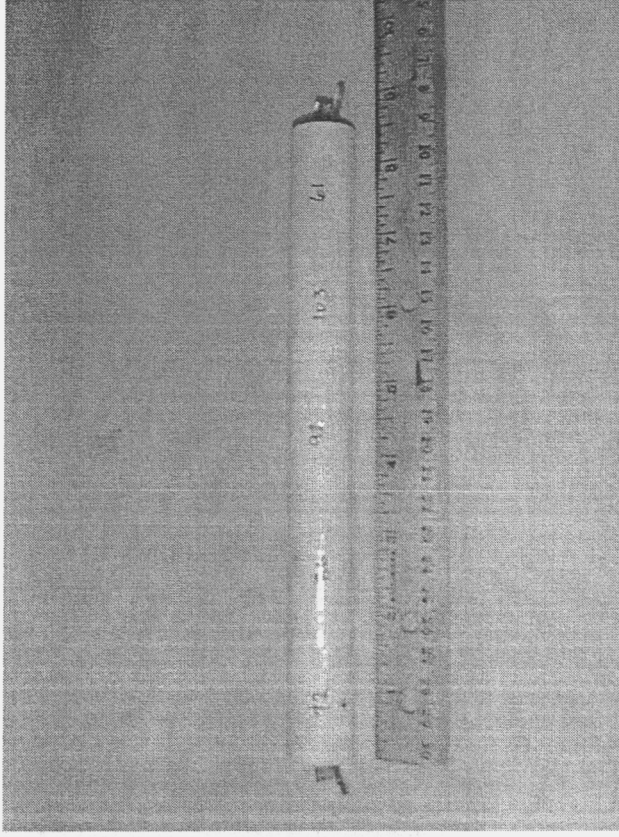
Problem Description for Current Designs

- NiCd designs demonstrate unfavorable power degradation after long periods of inactivity
 - Up to 35% and 45% reversible and irreversible capacity losses were experienced after 4 and 7 months of charged storage (monthly maintenance charge)
 - Up to 70 and 85 mV/cell of voltage depression (impedance growth) after 4 and 7 months (monthly maintenance charge)
- Although some of the decay is recoverable with cycling, this adds a heavy interface requirement thereby reducing battery readiness
- Charging development options are limited by contactor life (100,000 cycles) for X-38 270V Battery.

Test Plan Objective



- Identify regimes that provide acceptable power at 1.0V
- A 5-cell SubC stick test vehicle
 - Sanyo NiCd (CP-2400SCR)
 - Sanyo NiMH (HR-SC2600)



	Mass (g)	Electrode		Current Collector	Vent Mechanism	Separator	Capacity		ANSI R _e
		Type (+/-)					Ah @ 2.4A	Re @ 80ms pulse	
Sanyo HR-SC 2600 NiMH	61	Sinter (+), Pasted (-)	Disk (+), Disk (-)		Spring	Nylon	2.35	5.3	7.9
Sanyo CP-2400SCR NiCd	58	Sinter (+), Sinter (-)	Disk (+), Disk (-)		Spring	Nylon	2.2	4.8	7.5

Continuous Charge Maintenance Test Plan

Regime Type	Continuous				Pulse after	
	Charge Method	Maintenance	Duration	Rest	Discharge	1.2Ah Rest
Daily	@ 2.4A; Peak V-10 mV/cell(-5mV/cell for MH)	0.24A, 1sec on, 10 sec off	Daily	1 hr	@ 3.5A to 1.0V	24A @ 0.1 sec / 2.4A @ 2 min
Continuous Maintenance Groups (4)						
Weekly	@ 2.4A; Voltage Cutoff, -10 mV/cell (-5mV/cell for MH) less than peak	0.24A, 11 sec period, 1sec on, 10 sec off	Week	1 hr	@ 3.5A to 1.0V	24A @ 0.1 sec / 2.4A @ 2 min
Monthly			Month			
3 Month*			3 Months			
6 Month*			6 Months			

* Note: Includes monthly check-out (0.5A for 3min, 10A, 0.1sec, recharge @ 2.4A to -dV)

- Discharge interval ladder with C/110 Charge
- Daily cycle (Two 3-cell sticks)
- Weekly, monthly, quarterly, semi-yearly cycle (4 groups; one 5-cell stick each)

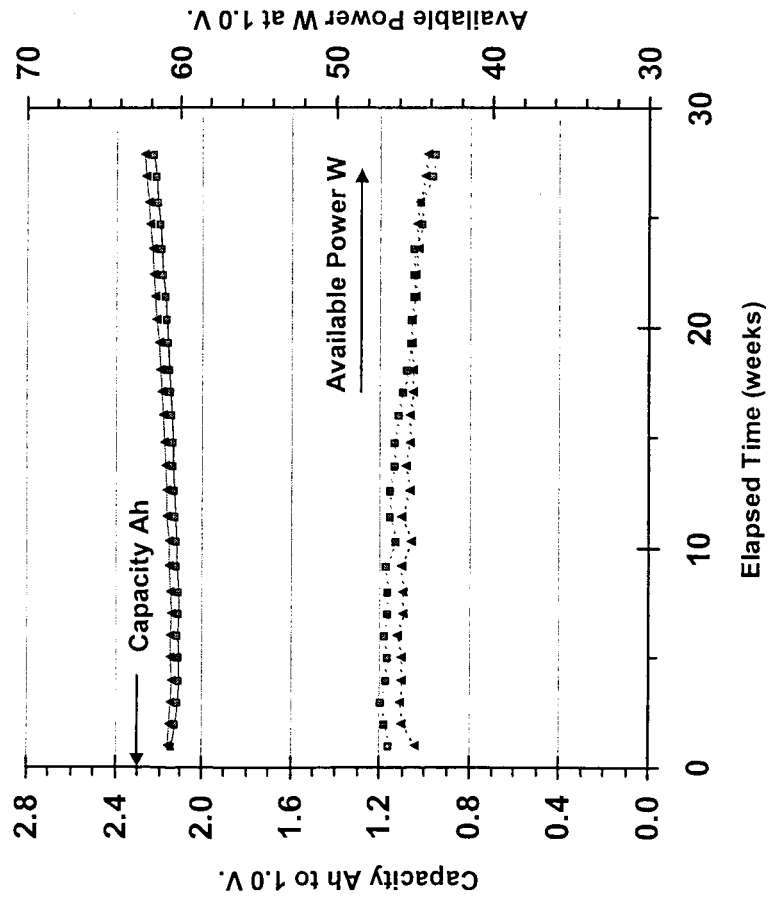
Periodic Charge Maintenance Test Plan

Regime Type	Charge Method	Rest	Topping Frequency	Discharge	Pulse after
Periodic Charge Maintenance Groups (4)					
No Topping	@ 2.4A; Voltage Cutoff, -10 mV/cell (-5mV/cell for MH) less than peak	1 month	None	@ 3.5A to 1.0V	24A @ 0.1 sec / 2.4A @ 2 min
Weekly Topping			0.24A @ 1.5 hour/week		
Mid-month Topping			0.24A @ 2 hours/mid-month		
Constant Voltage	CC/CV @ 2.4A to 1.44V, 1.44V to 0.24A		None		3 hrs

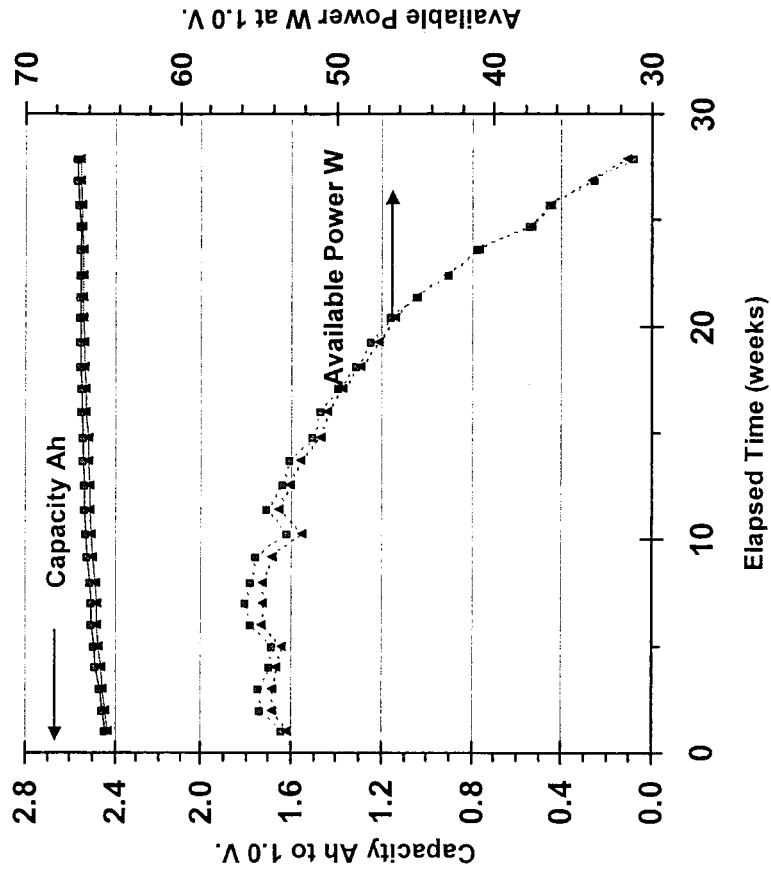
- Intermittent maintenance interval ladder
- None, weekly, mid-monthly maintenance groups (3 groups; one 5-cell stick each)
- No maintenance with constant voltage charge @ 1.44V (1 group; one 5-cell stick)

Control for Continuous Charge Maintenance Daily Charge, Capacity and On-Demand Power at 1.0V

Sanyo HR-SC 2400 NiCd Control



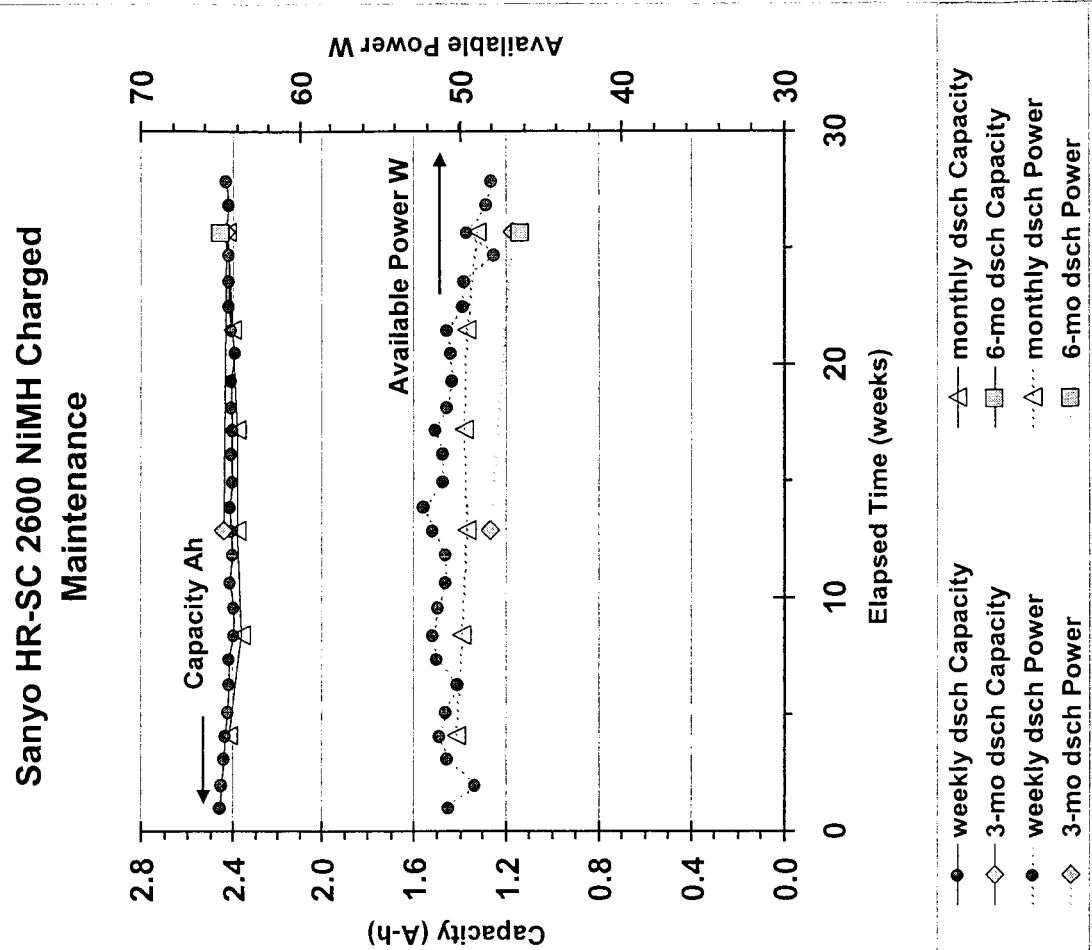
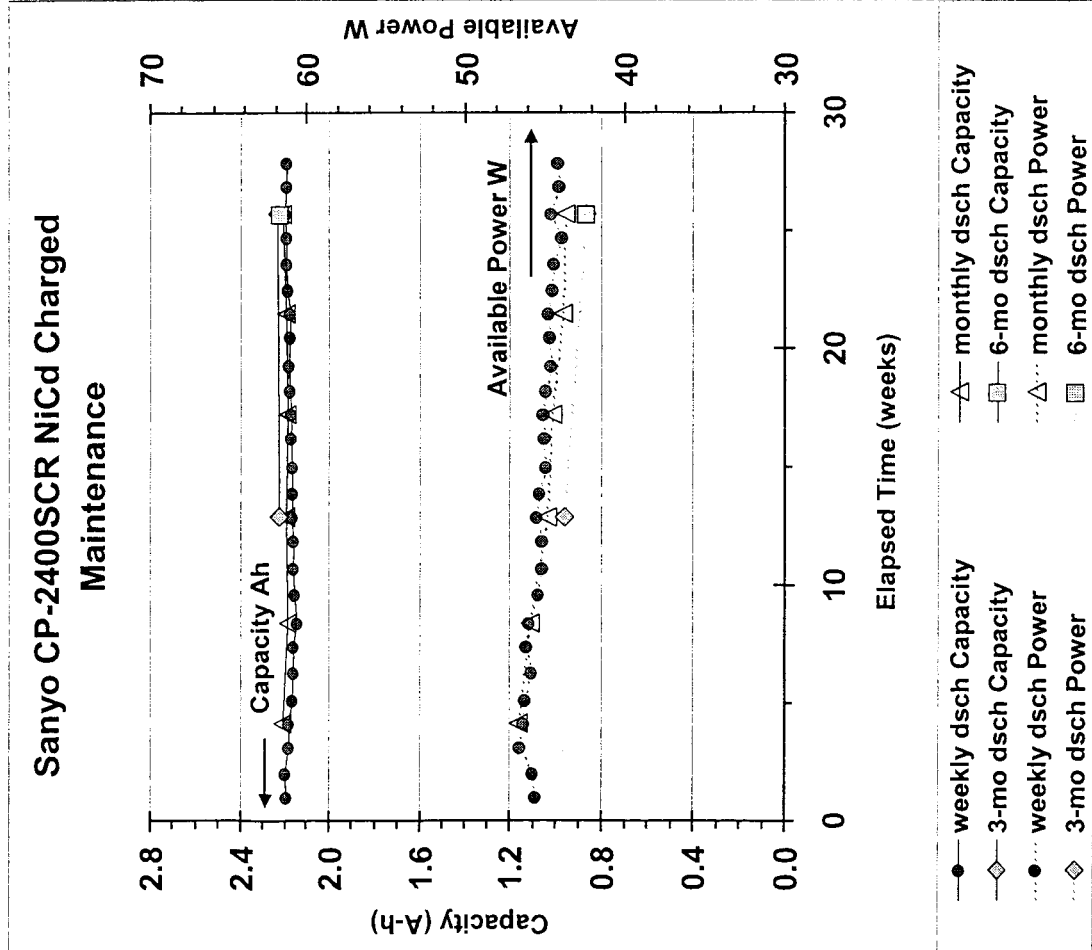
Sanyo HR-SC 2600 NiMH Control



Results of Control

- For capacity to 1.0V after 6 months of daily cycling NiMH is favored over NiCd
- For available pulse power at 1.0V after 6 months of daily cycling NiCd is favored over NiMH
- Rapid power fade with daily cycles for NiMH is attributed to increase of internal resistance

Continuous Charge Maintenance Capacity and On-Demand Power at 1.0V

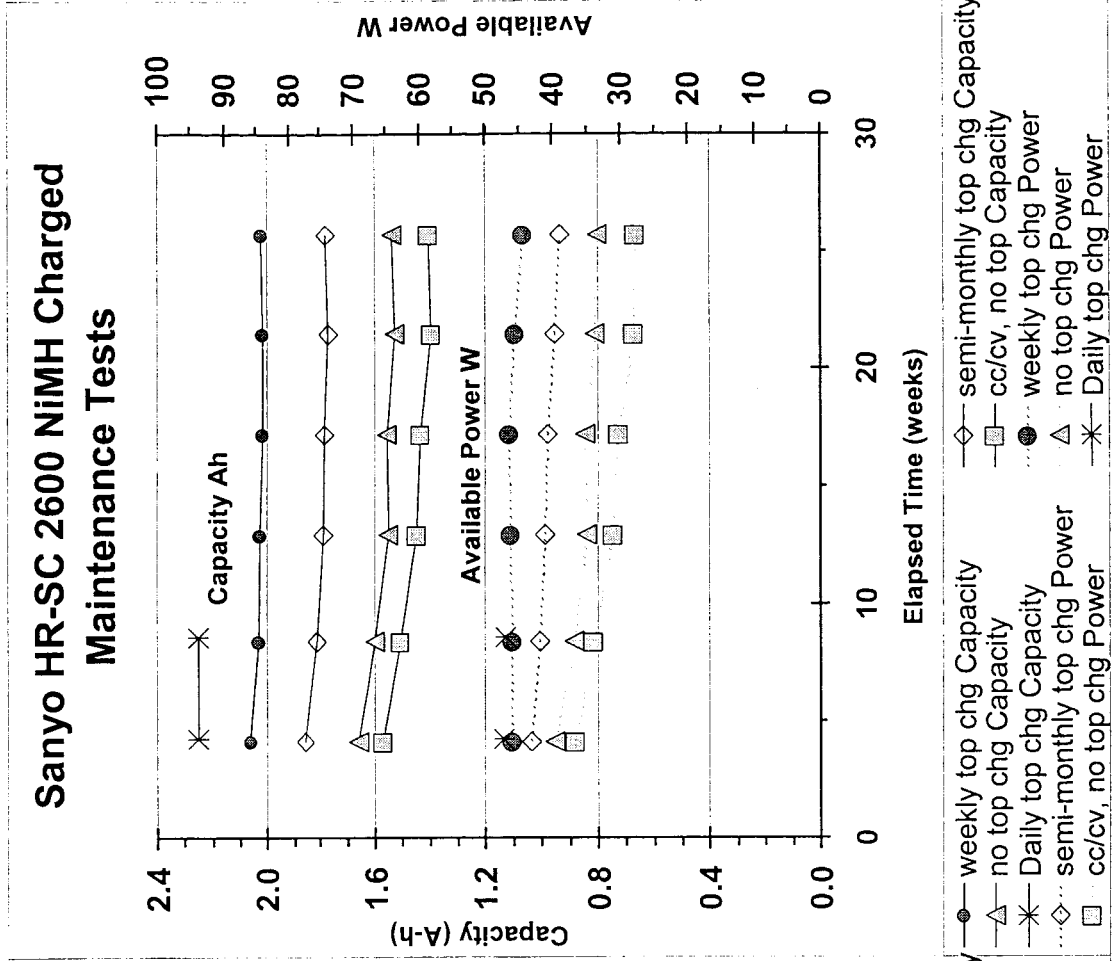
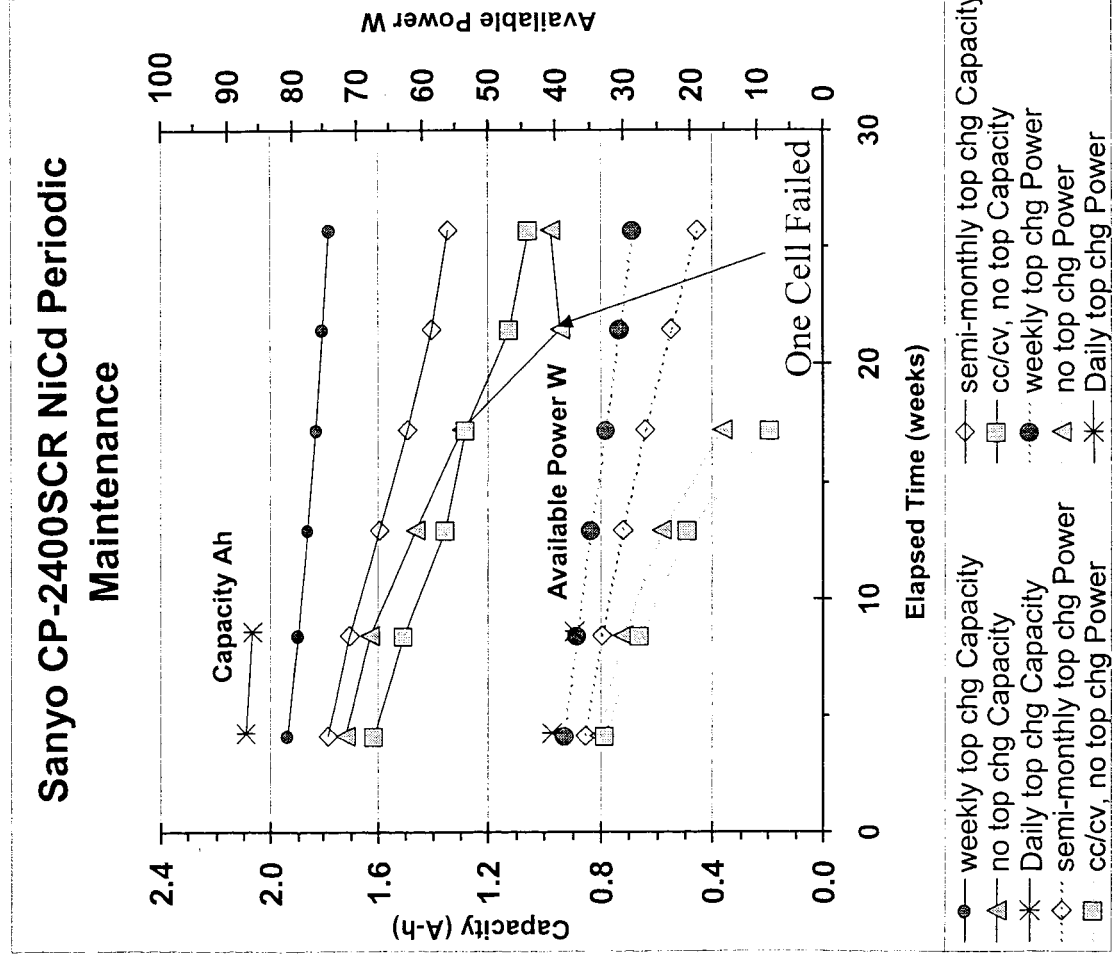


- weekly dsch Capacity
- ◇ 3-mo dsch Capacity
- weekly dsch Power
- ◇ 3-mo dsch Power
- △ monthly dsch Capacity
- 6-mo dsch Capacity
- △ monthly dsch Power
- 6-mo dsch Power

Results of Continuous Charge Maintenance

- For capacity to 1.0V after 6 months for all continuous maintenance groups NiMH is favored over NiCd
- Capacity and power trends after 6 months appear stable for both chemistries
- For available pulse power at 1.0V after 6 months of continuous maintenance NiMH is slightly favored over NiCd

Periodic Charge Maintenance Capacity and On-Demand Power at 1.0V

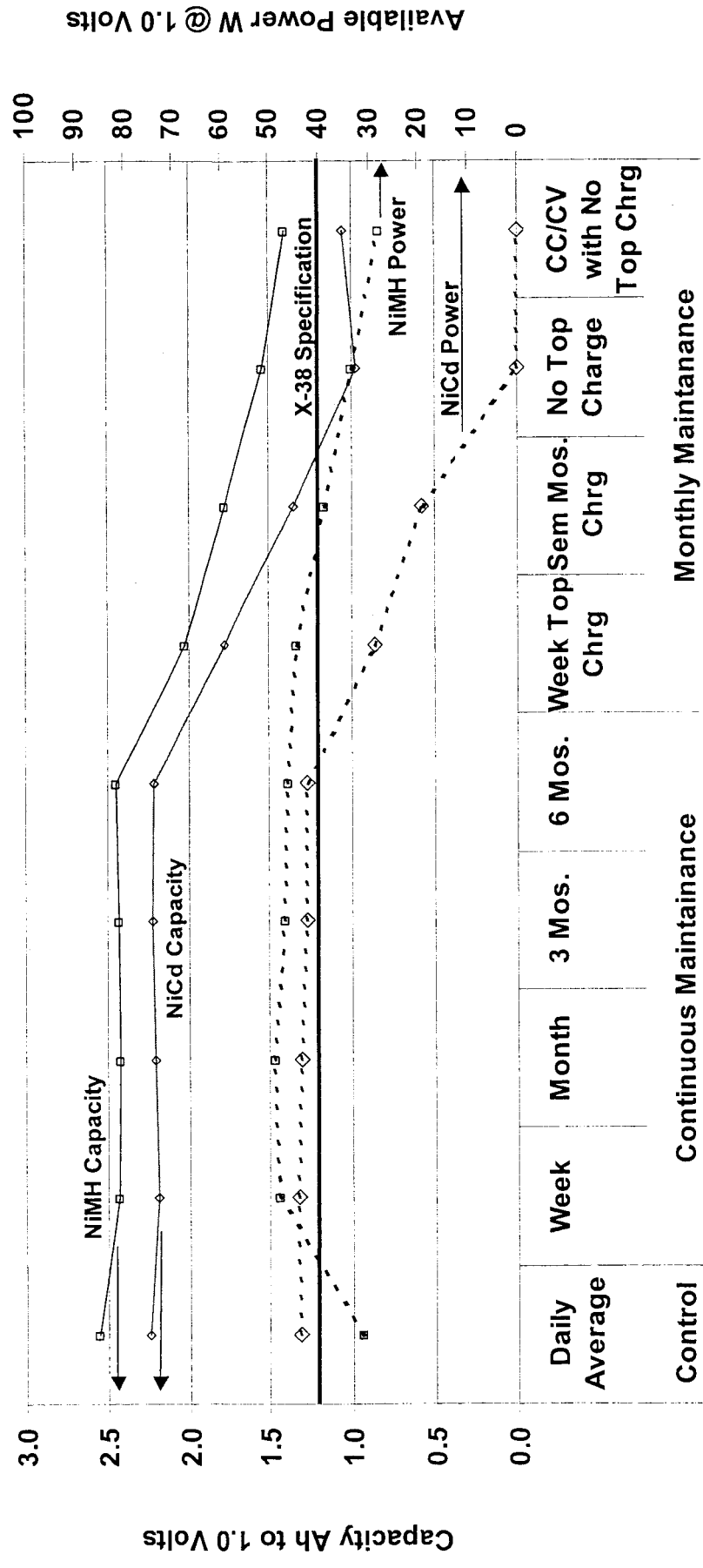


One Cell Failed

Results of Periodic Charge Maintenance

- For capacity to 1.0V and available power at 1.0V after 6 months, NiMH is strongly favored over NiCd
 - Capacity and power trends in all groups are decreasing for NiCd and stabilizing for NiMH
 - Power fade in periodic charge maintenance groups is predominantly attributed to decrease of capacity and voltage
- NiCd groups with no maintenance including the constant voltage charge failed to deliver 1.2 Ah after 4 months

Available Power and Capacity vs Regime @ 6 months, Power at 1.0V/Cell



Conclusions

- Continuous Charge Maintenance @ C/10 after 6 months
 - For daily discharge intervals only NiCd delivered greater than 41.5W
 - For weekly monthly, quarterly and semiannual discharge intervals both NiMH and NiCd delivered greater than 41.5W
 - Continuous duty cycle regimes impractical due to contactor design and ISS power budget
- Periodic Charge Maintenance after 6 months
 - Only the weekly topping for NiMH performed greater than 41.5W
 - All NiCd periodic groups failed to deliver needed power
 - No-topping group experienced one high impedance short in a NiCd 5-cell stick, raising concerns over charge regime stability

Acknowledgements

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