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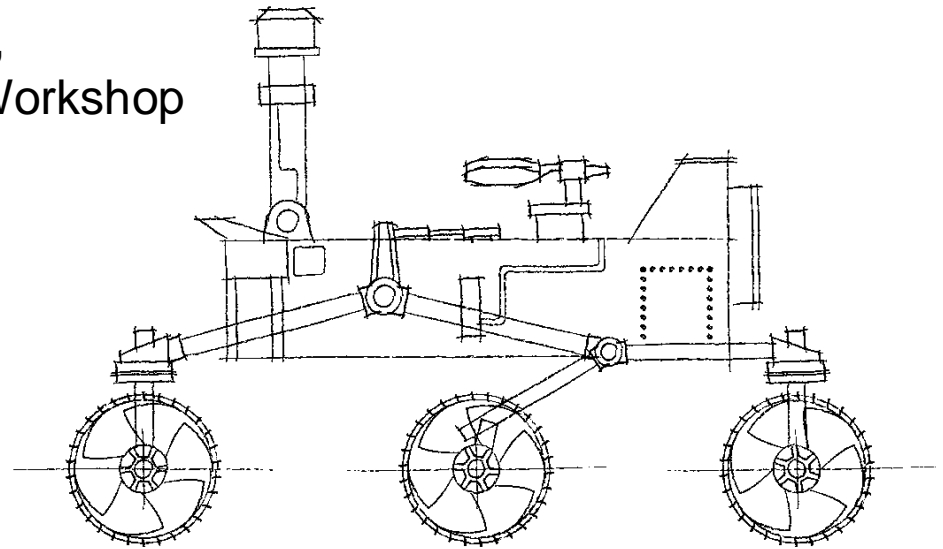
# Mars 2020 Return Sample Cleanliness Molecular Transport Model

Ira Katz, Brian K. Blakkolb, Kristina A. Kipp, Mark S. Anderson, John R. Anderson, and Lauren M. White

2017 NASA Contamination, Coatings,  
Materials, and Planetary Protection Workshop

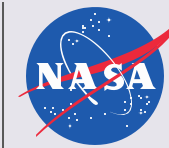
NASA GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER  
Greenbelt, Maryland

July 18, 2017



**Mars 2020 Project**

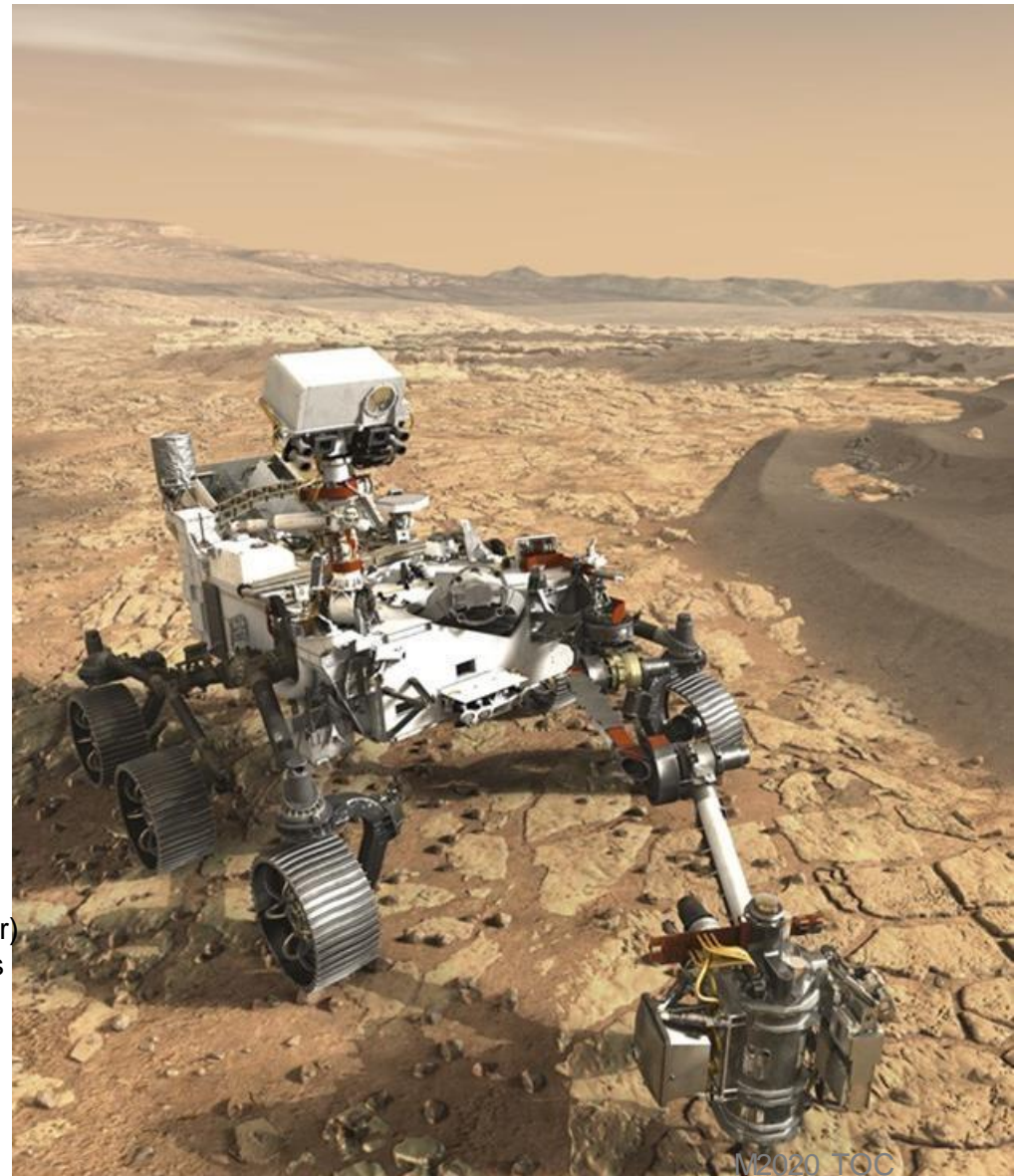
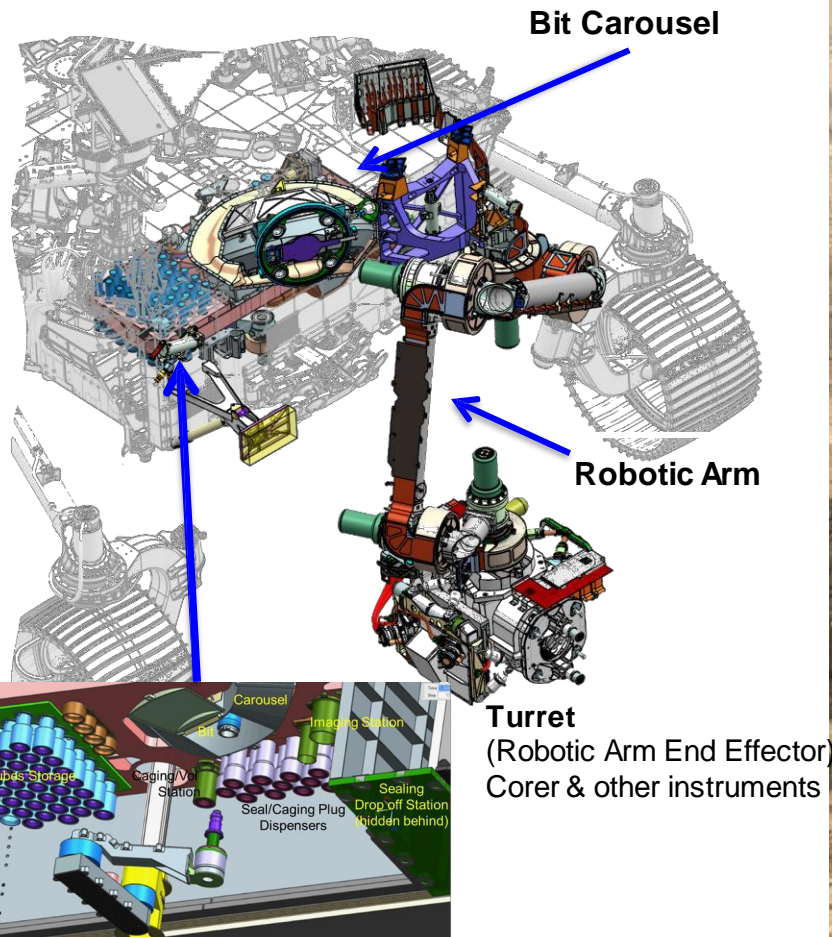
# Mars 2020 Mission has an Objective to Assemble Returnable Cached Samples for potential future Return to Earth



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## Sample tubes are stored in the Adaptive Caching Assembly (ACA)



M2020 TOC  
Model 2

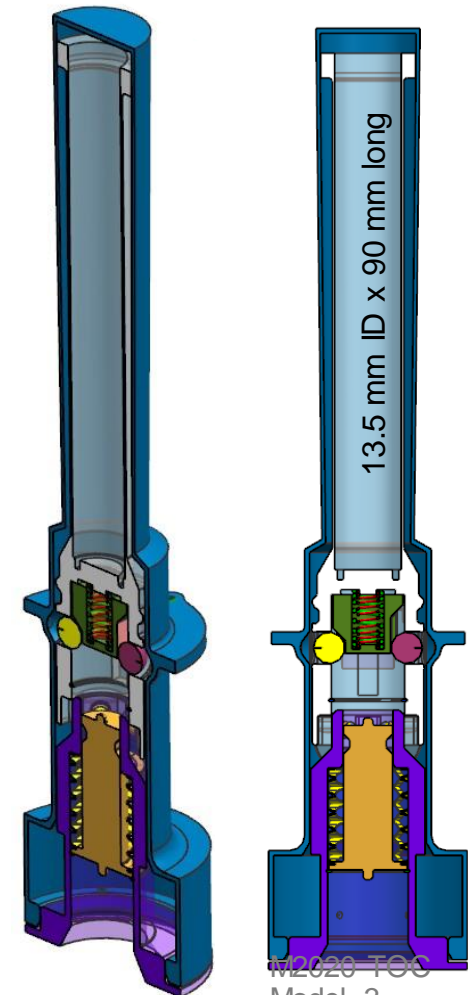
# Returnable Sample Cleanliness Requirement



- Mars 2020 Level 1 Requirement: For returned samples less than 10 ppb total organic compounds (TOC) and less than 1 ppb of any of a set of special organic compound known as “tier one” compounds
  - PPB estimates are made assuming a 15 g sample. For a 15 g sample, 10 PPB corresponds to a Requirement = 150 ng per Sample Tube
- Sample Tube interior and the Cap
  - Tube and cap sample contacting surface area  $\sim 50 \text{ cm}^2$ . TOC surface density must be  $< 3 \text{ ng/cm}^2$
  - TOC Requirement  $\ll$  Molecular Monolayer
- Implementation Approach is Comprehensive
  - Extensive outgas testing, hardware bakeouts (with low  $\text{ng/cm}^2/\text{hr}$  TQCM exit criteria), use of witness coupons, both chemical and thermal cleaning treatments, chemically inert coatings, sealed container storage, molecular absorber, T-0 purge, a Fluid Mechanical Particle Barrier (FMPB) protecting the sample return tubes and a hermetic seal on tubes with collected samples.
- Modeling Approach
  - Identify and model TOC sources (Materials in the ACA are the largest source of TOC)
  - For each M2020 Mission phase, model TOC transport from sources to sample contacting surfaces (tube interior and cap below the seal)
  - Combine into an end-to-end model to evaluate TOC and sensitivity to assumptions

## Sample Tube inside “Fluid Mechanical Particle Barrier”

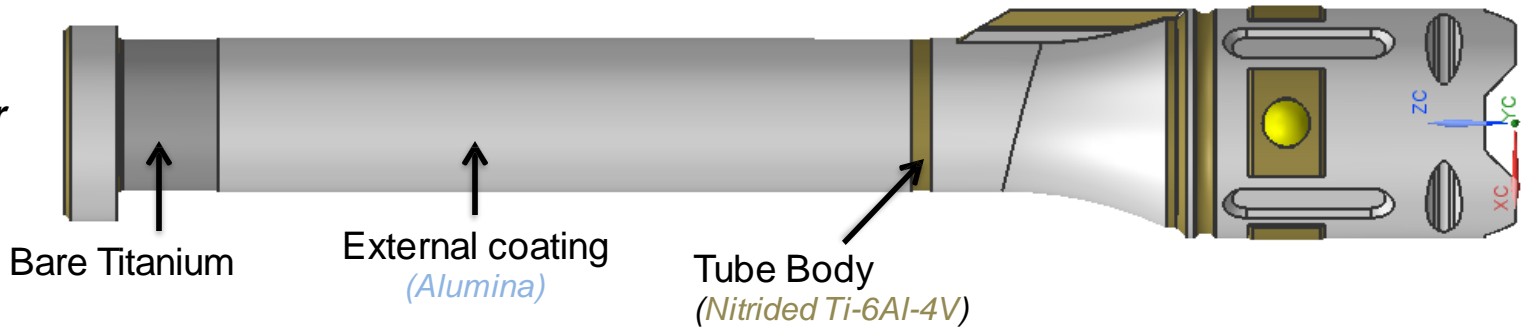
### FMPB



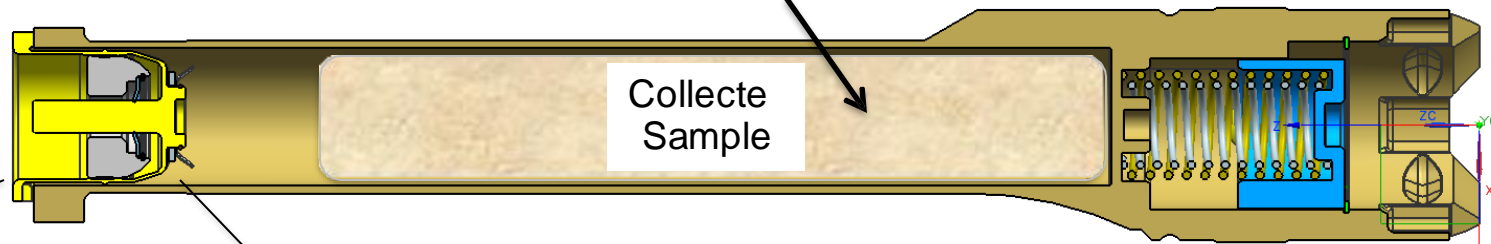
# Sample Tubes, Seals, Coring Bits



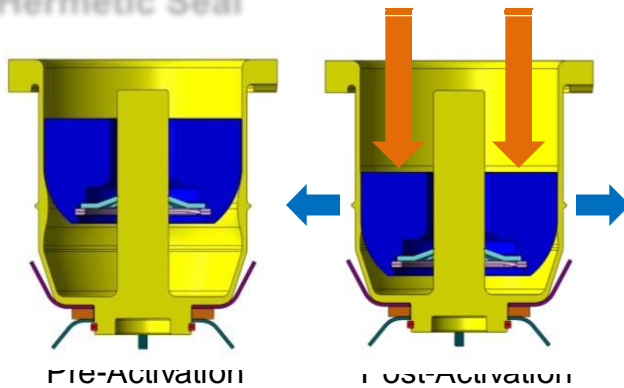
**Tube Exterior**  
(unsealed)



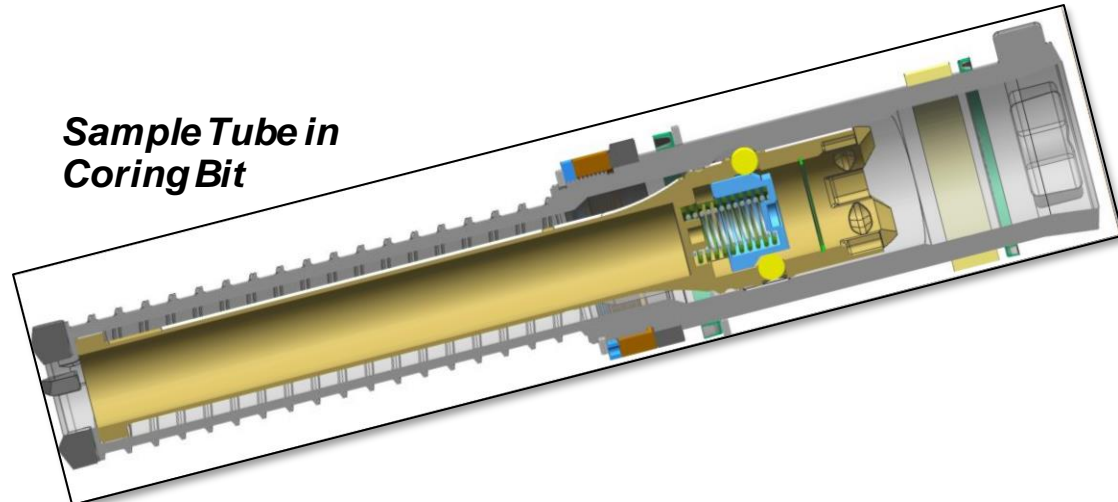
**Tube Interior**  
(sealed)



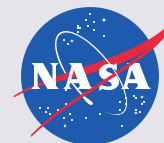
**Hermetic Seal**



**Sample Tube in Coring Bit**



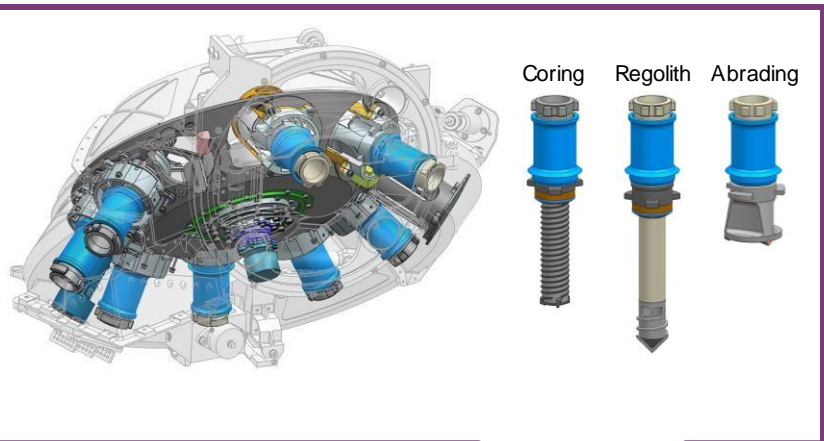
# Adaptive Caching Assembly (ACA) Hardware Details



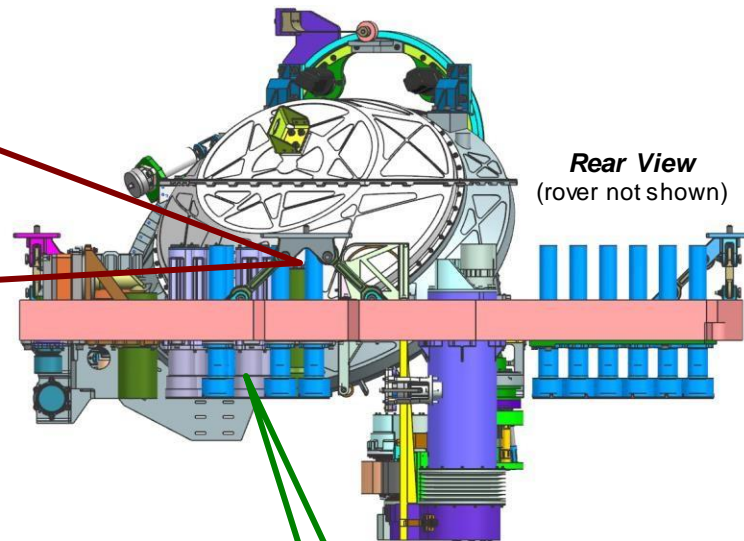
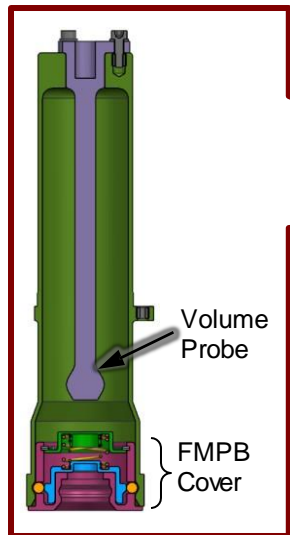
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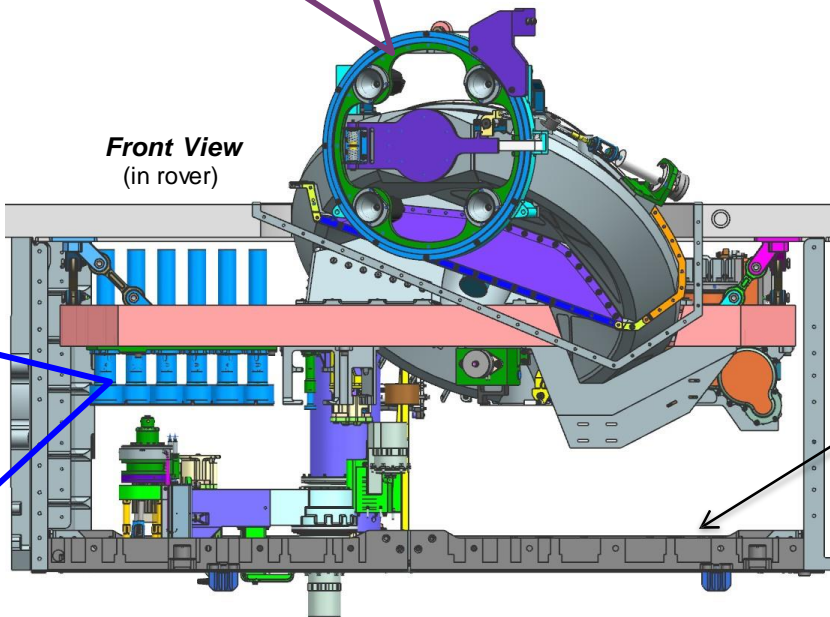
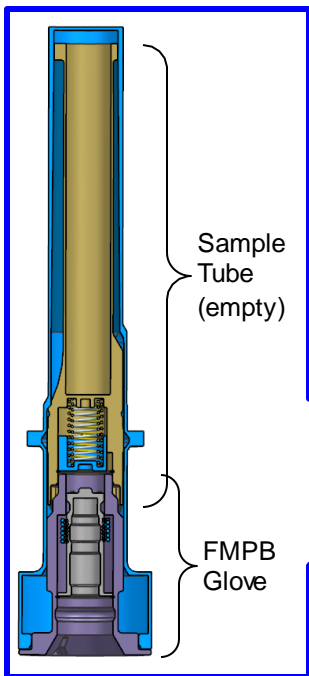
**Bit Carousel + Bits**



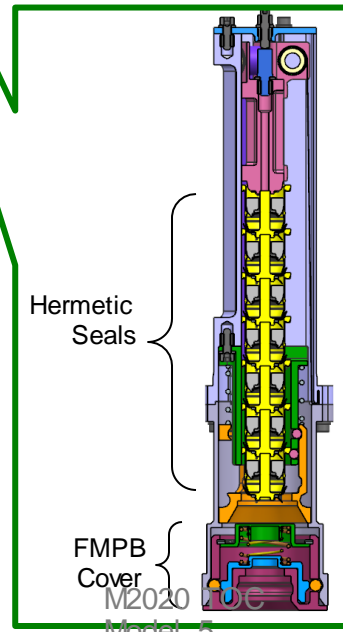
**Volume Station**



**Sample Tube Storage**



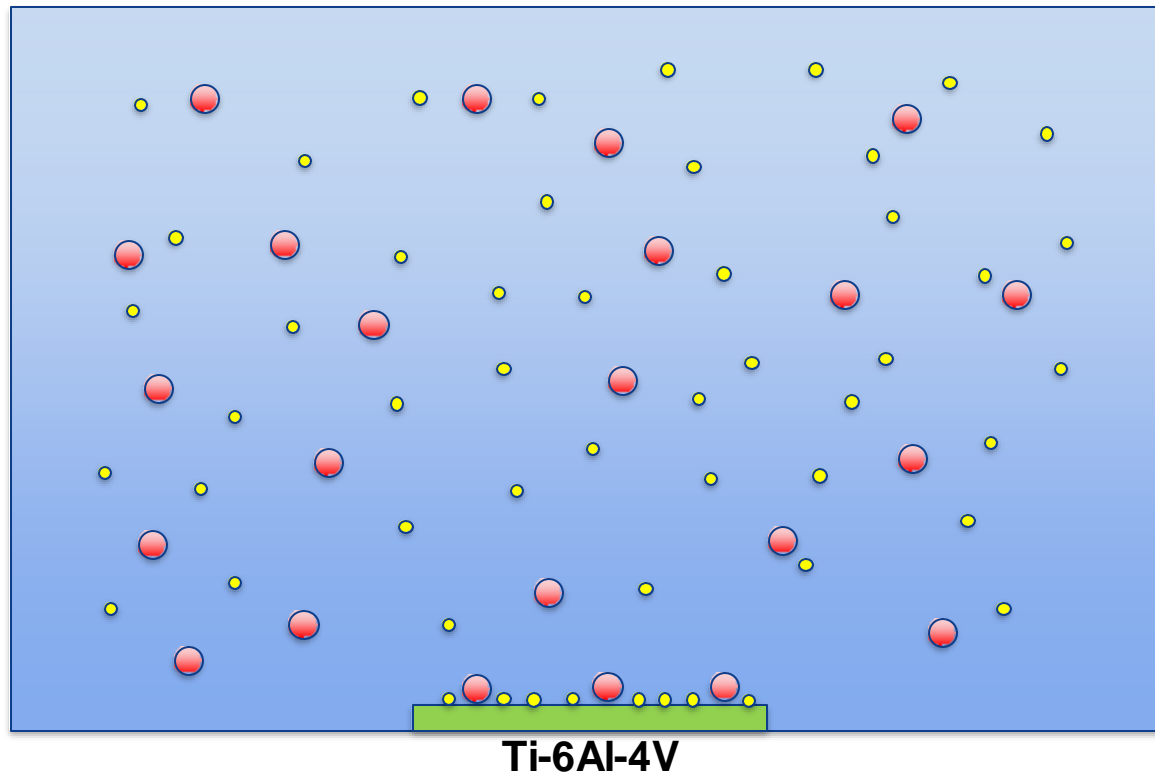
**Ejectable Belly Panel**  
(Includes Tenax molecular getter panels)



# TOC Requirement Not Met Without Mitigation



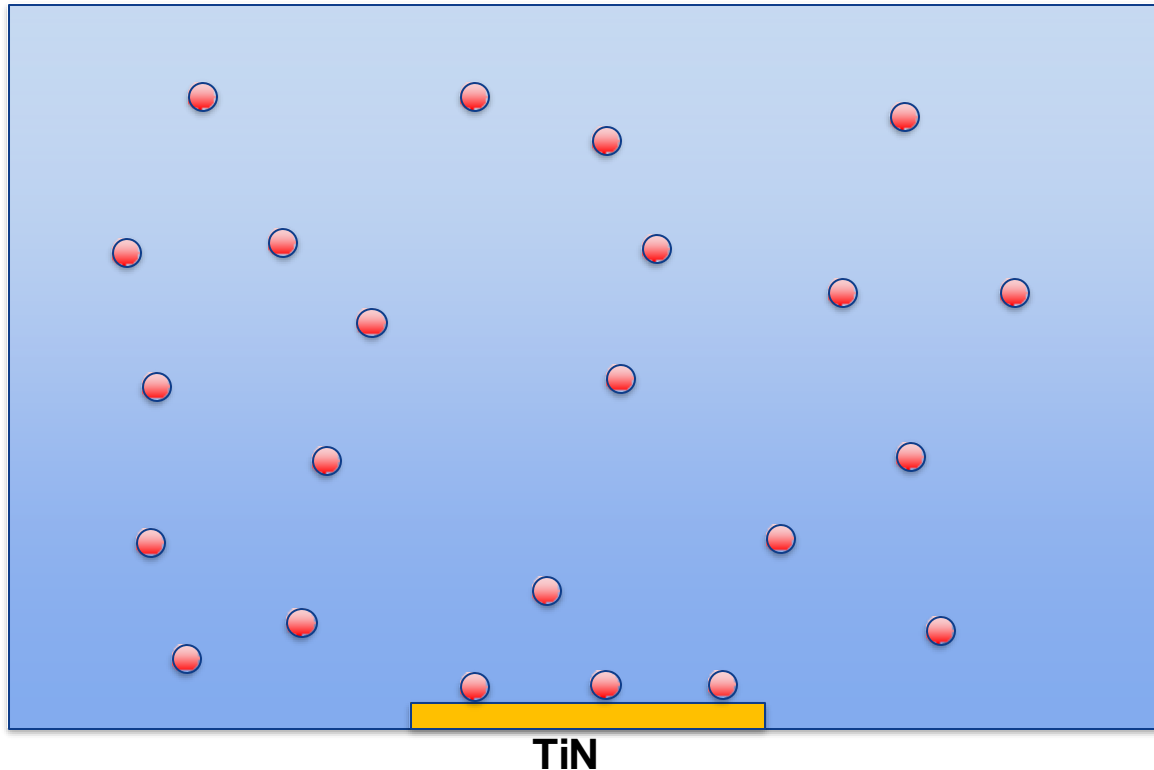
- Large number of organic molecules in the environment
- Light molecules with hydroxyl and other polar groups can chemisorb on oxide surfaces (e.g. Ti, or Al)
- Adventitious Carbon (AC) accumulation asymptotes in about a week to  $\sim 100 \text{ ng/cm}^2$  on a Ti-6Al-4V surface exposed in a clean room
- A Sample Tube would launch with  $\sim 50 \times 100 = 5000 \text{ ng TOC} > 30X$  the requirement



# Mitigation #1: Stop Light Organic Molecules from Sticking using Titanium Nitride (TiN) Surface Treatment



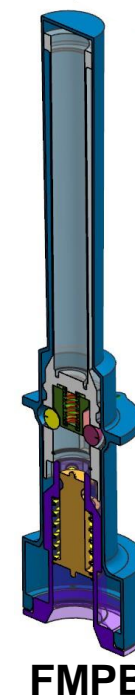
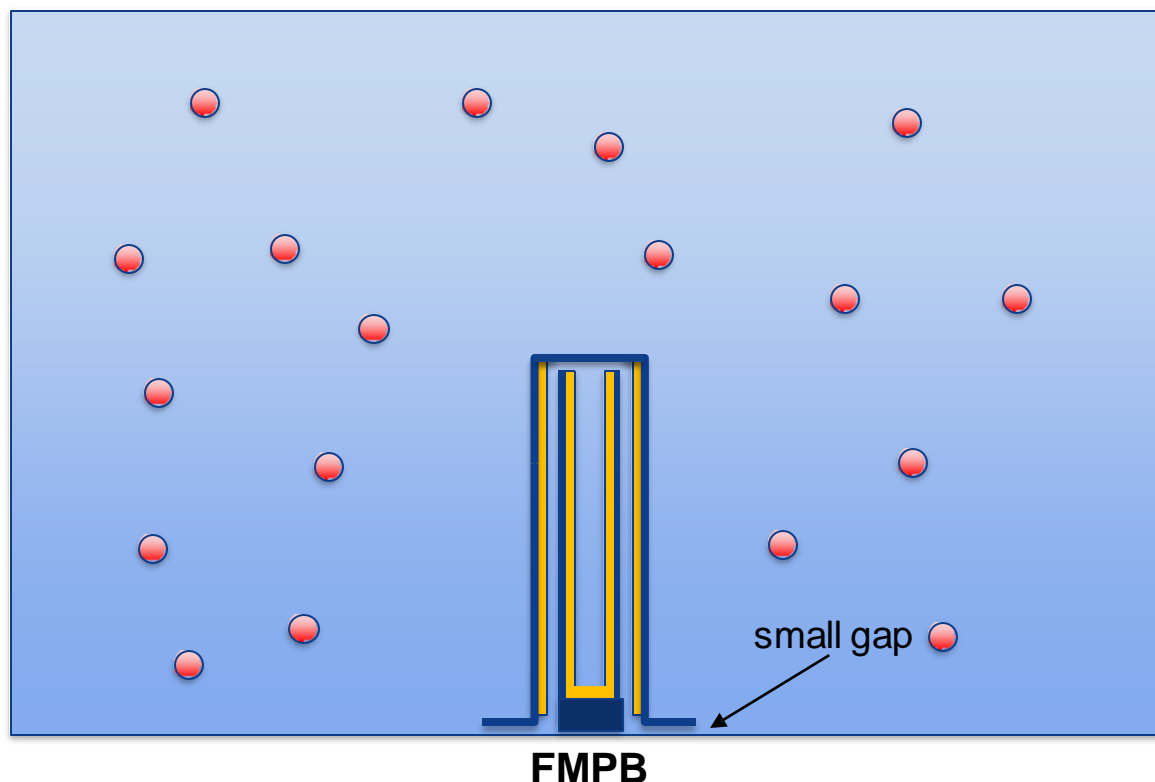
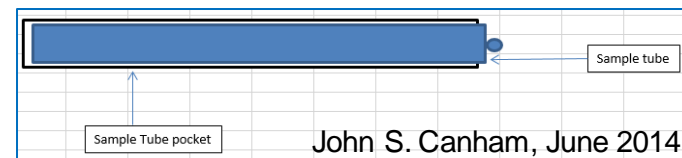
- TiN suggested by Prof. Francisco Zaera, UC Riverside
- Vapor pressure decreases exponentially with Molecular Weight  $\rightarrow$  low concentration of large organic molecules (MW > 200 amu)
- Molecules can only physisorb on surfaces that are chemically inert (e.g. Au or TiN)
  - Residence time for low MW molecules is very short
- AC accumulation asymptotes in about a week to  $\sim 20$  ng/cm<sup>2</sup> on a TiN surface
- A Sample Tube would launch with  $\sim 50 \times 20 = 1000$  ng TOC > 6X the requirement



# Mitigation #2: Reduce AC Accumulation Rate with a Small Opening and a Torturous Path



- Accumulation rate proportional to molecular flux reaching the interior surface of the sample tube
- Fluid Mechanical Particle Barrier (FMPB) reduces opening to  $<1\%$  of the tube interior surface area
  - inspired by John Canham, “Contamination rate tube in pocket.xls”, June 2014
- FMPB sleeve provides another  $\sim 100 \text{ cm}^2$  to act as a “getter”



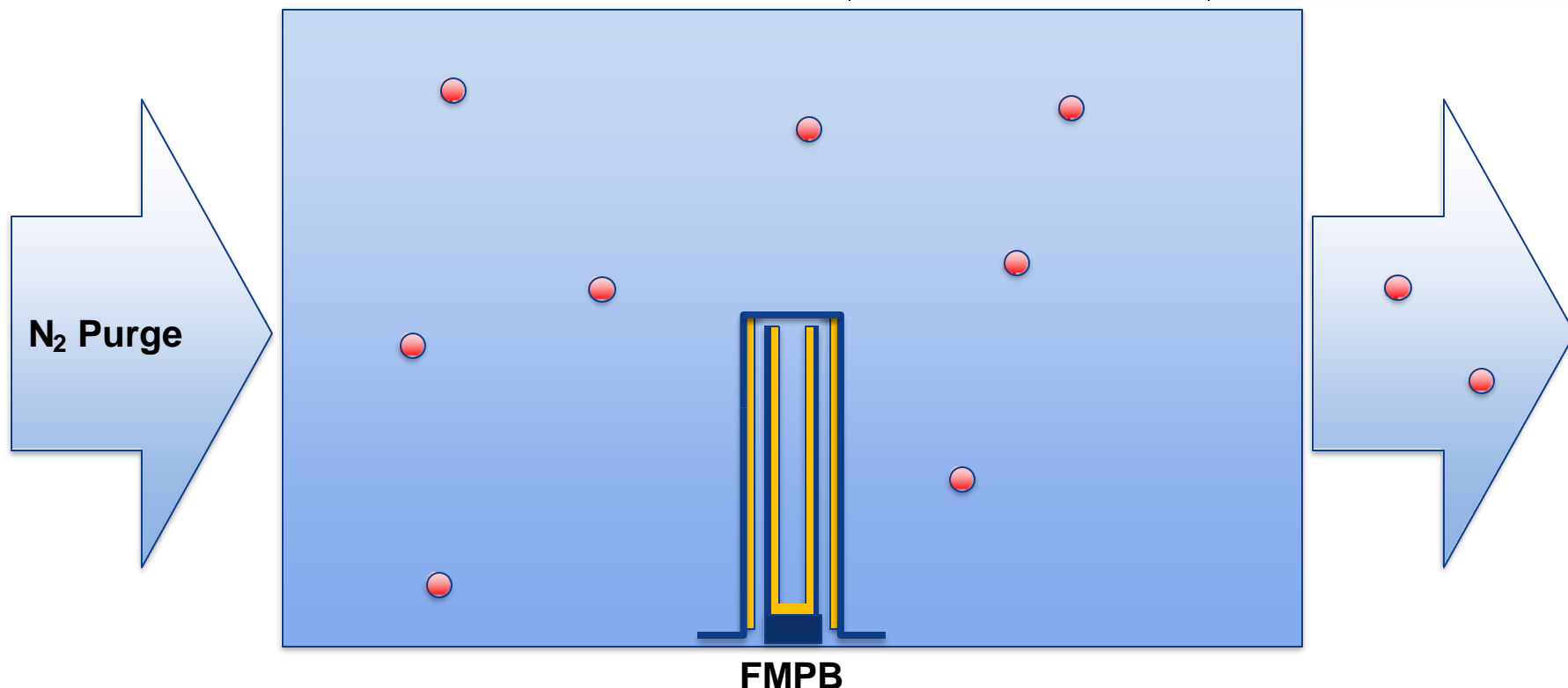


# Mitigations #3 & #4: Minimize TOC Density with Low Outgassing Materials and Big TOC Sinks



- Accumulation rate proportional to molecular density near the gap at the bottom of the FMPB
- Sources: Low outgassing materials in the ACA
- Sinks: Purge in ATLO, Molecular Absorber during Cruise & Commissioning, Mars wind during Surface Operations

Mission Phase	TOC Sink
ATLO	N <sub>2</sub> Purge
Cruise	Molecular Absorber
Commissioning	Molecular Absorber
Surface Operations	Advection & Diffusion

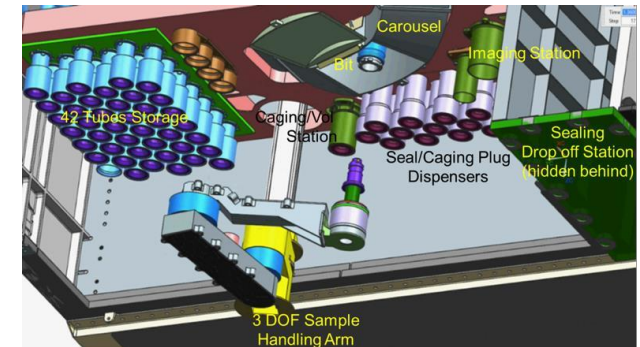


- Contamination
  - Sources
  - Transport
  - Sinks

## Basic Model: Flux Balance

- Density of TOC molecules in the ACA near the FMPB flange is determined by a balance of the flux of outgassed molecules and those leaving the ACA or hitting the Molecular Absorber.
- The flux into the FMPB is a tiny fraction of the total ACA outgassing

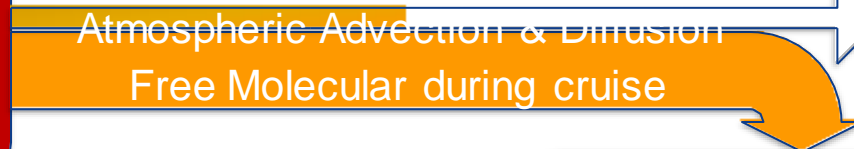
## ACA (Adaptive Caching Assembly)



**Sources**

ACA outgassing  
Airborne in ATLO

### **Transport**



**FMPB**  
into the gap  
and up to the  
top of the  
sample tube

$$m \square_{TOC} = \rho_{TOC}$$

$$V \square$$

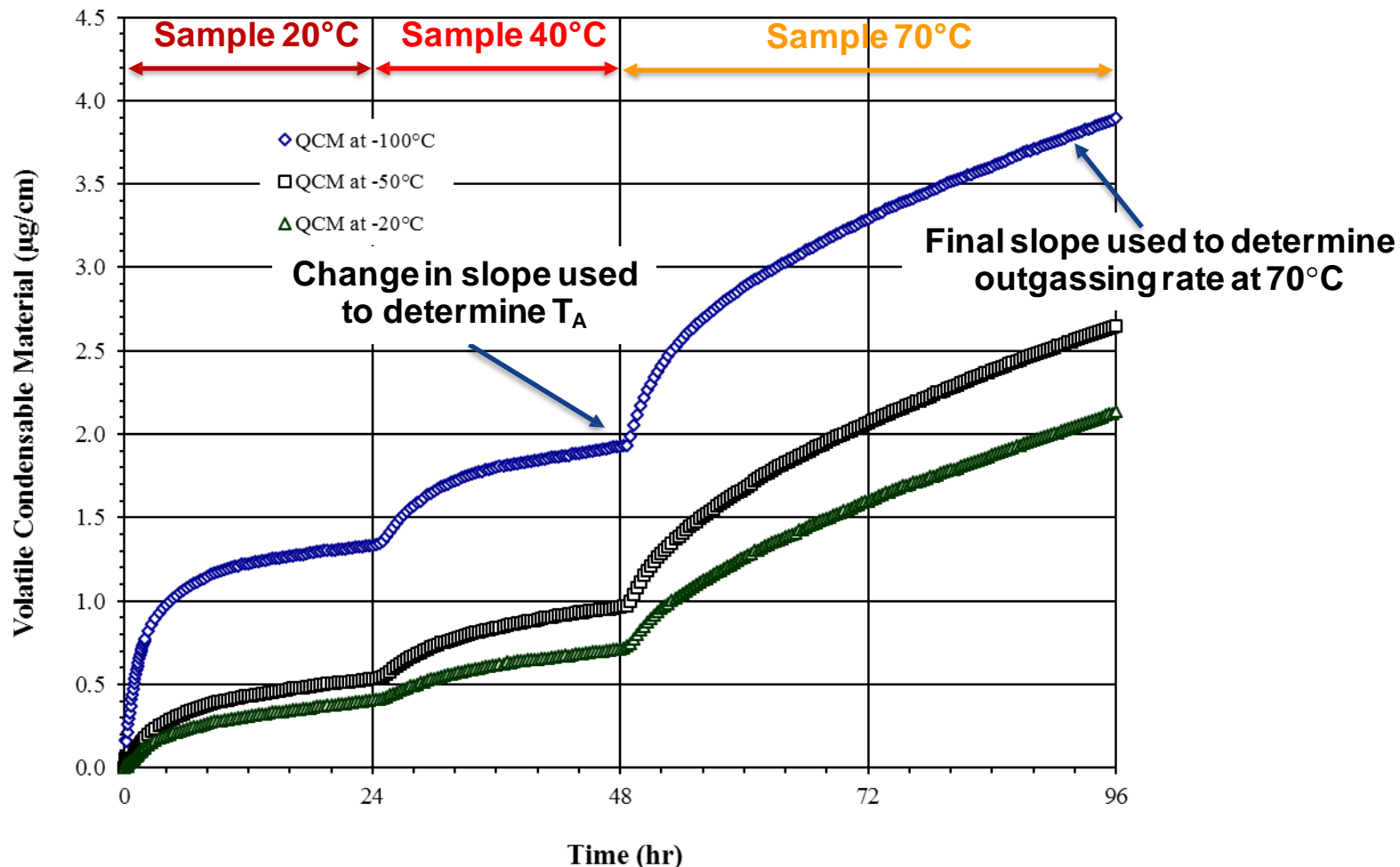
**Sinks**

Purge in ATLO  
Molecular Absorber during cruise  
Mars wind – surface Ops

[Sources](#)

## Sample Data

External MAHLI Harness Cable at 20°C, 40°C, and 70°C.





**Sources**

- Rates derived from the -100°C QCM
  - Accumulation on QCM is much greater than a mono-layer
  - Only data that I have seen has binding energy of the second layer about 2/3 of the first (360 K vs 523 K)
  - Molecules that can form a monolayer on a 20°C (293 K) surface, can form multiple layers on a -70°C (203 K) surface
  - Suggests using outgassing rates derived from the -100°C QCM
- Outgassing inputs to end-to-end model example

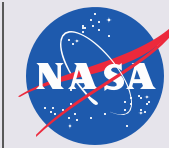
Materials	QCM→ unit	T -100°C		T -50°C		T -20°C	
		Γ (70°C) (ng/unit/hr)	T <sub>A</sub> (K)	Γ (70°C) (ng/unit/hr)	T <sub>A</sub> (K)	Γ (70°C) (ng/unit/hr)	T <sub>A</sub> (K)
Flex Cable	cm <sup>2</sup>	5.4	12767	2.40	11554	1.8	13616
Round Wire Cable	cm <sup>2</sup>	6.2	9246	5.7	8340	5.8	9838
Connectors	unit	257	9493	191	9770	113	8682
Motors	unit	14025	13697	14035	13417	13683	13890

- Outgassing Source Term in the end-to-end model

$$m_{TOC} = \sum_{sources} A_i \Gamma_i(T)$$

$$\Gamma(T) = \Gamma(T_0) \frac{\exp\left(-\frac{T_A}{T}\right)}{\exp\left(-\frac{T_A}{T_0}\right)}$$

# ACA Temperatures: Surface of Mars

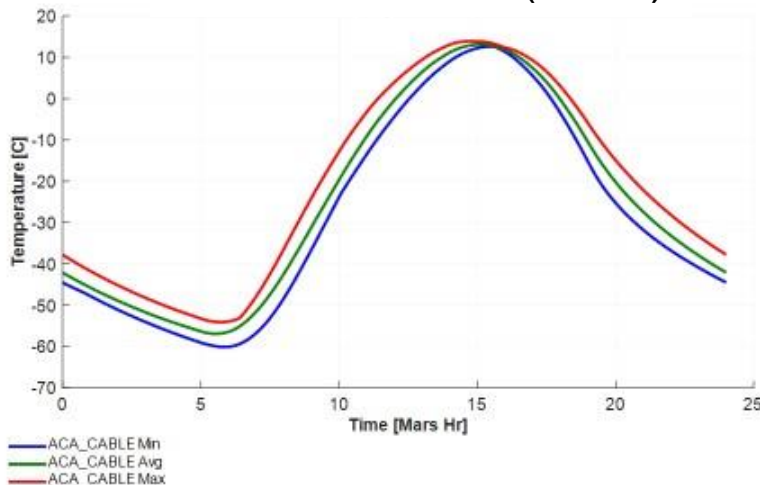


[Sources](#)

- Matt Redmond & Eddie Farias, “H\_Section\_CCMD and Sealing Station - 2016-09-06.pptx”
- Cables produce a large fraction of ACA outgassing
- Spreadsheet model adds +10°C for margin

Case	WCH/BPoff	WCC/BPoff
T_max(°C)	25	-55
T_min(°C)	-50	-90

### Worst Case Hot (WCH)



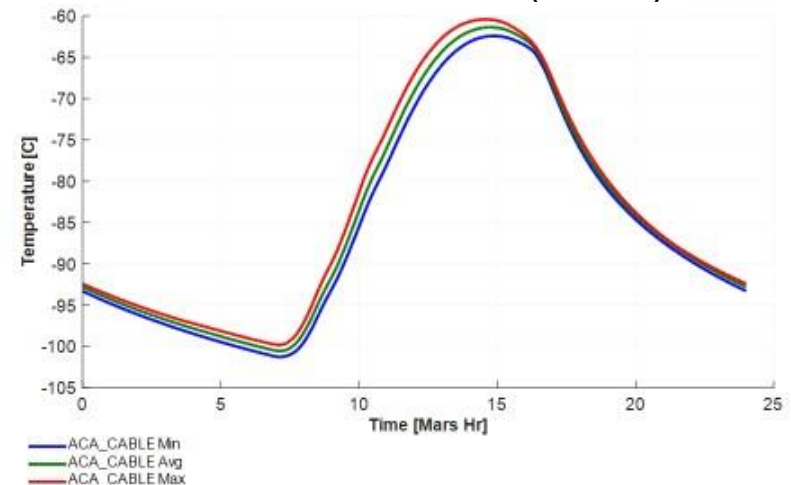
C:\Rover Model\2016-08-19 - ACA PDR Model\WCH LS259 26S\LS257 26S.csr

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### Worst Case Cold (WCC)



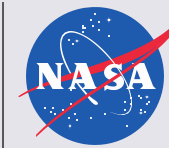
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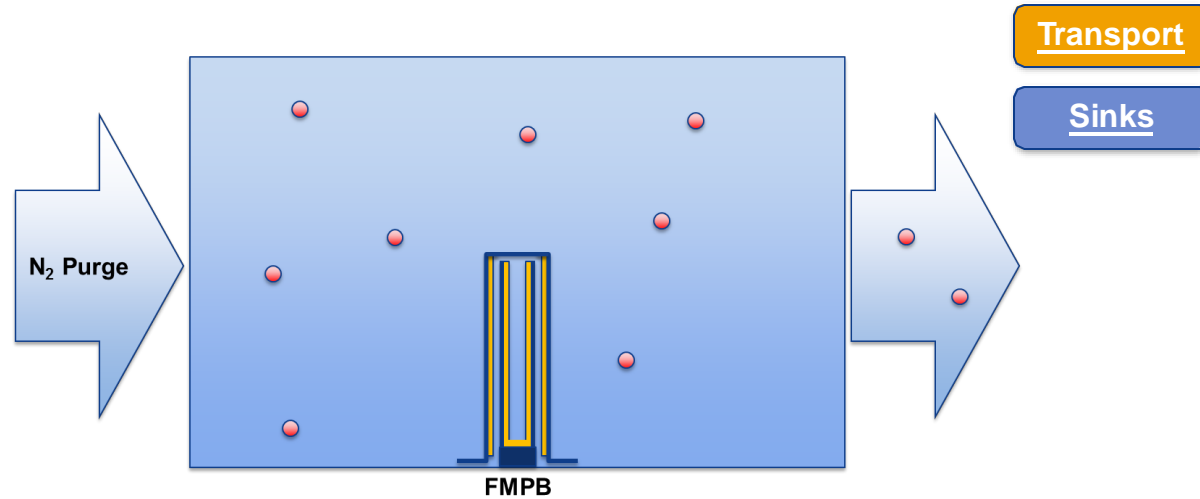
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# Transport & Sinks by Mission Phase



Density of TOC molecules in the ACA is determined by balancing the flux of outgassed molecules with those leaving the ACA

$$\rho_{TOC} = \frac{m}{V}$$



Mission Phase	TOC Transport	TOC Sink
ATLO	Advection/Diffusion	N <sub>2</sub> Purge
Cruise	Free Molecular	Molecular Absorber
Commissioning	Diffusion	Molecular Absorber
Surface Ops	Advection/Diffusion	Mars Atmosphere

$$V = V_{pu}$$

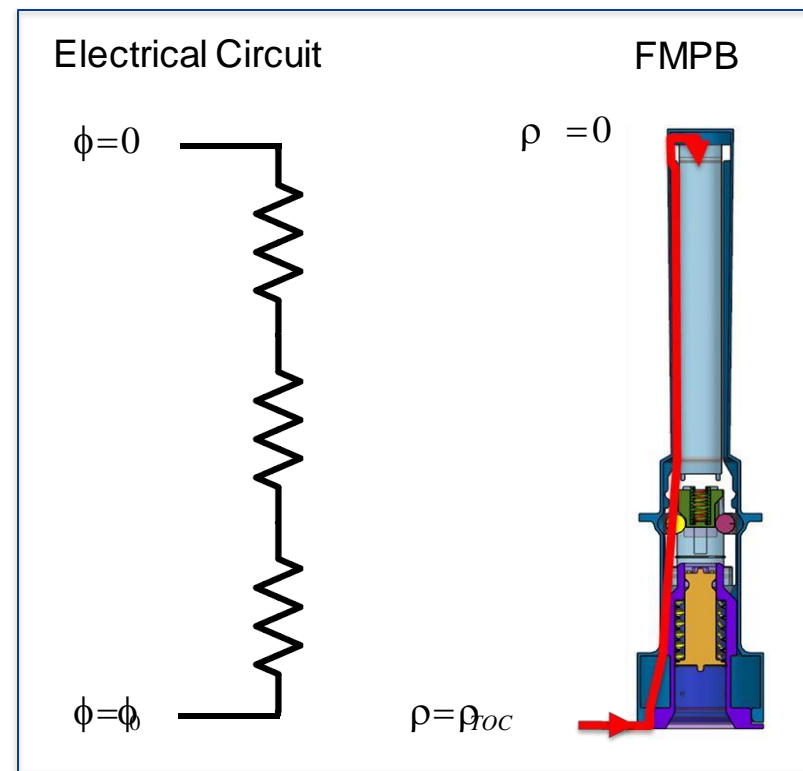
$$V = \frac{r_{ge}}{4} A_{MA}$$

$$V = u_{dif} A_{MA}, \quad u_{dif} \approx \frac{D_{Mars}}{m}, \quad \approx 0.2$$

$$V = u_{wind}^{effective} A_{bellypan}, \quad u_{wind}^{effective} \approx 0.02 u_{wind}$$

- Ohm's Law is a diffusion equation
- Torturous path modeled as a series of flow resistances

	Ohm's Law	Mass Diffusion
basic equation	$j = \sigma \nabla \phi$	$j = D \nabla \rho$
	$\nabla \phi = \eta j$	$\nabla \rho = \frac{1}{D} j$
	$\Delta \phi = R I$	$\Delta \rho = R J$
series resistance	$\phi = I \sum R$	$\Delta \rho = J \sum R$
circuit current	$I = \frac{\phi}{\sum R}$	$J = \frac{\rho}{\sum R}$



# Diffusion Rate into the Sample Tube



- Mass diffusion equation

$$j = D \nabla \rho \quad \text{where } j \text{ is the mass flow density}$$

- Mass flow through a single gap

(assuming nothing sticks to the walls)

$$J = 2\pi r h D \frac{\Delta \rho}{L} \quad \text{where } r \text{ is the tube radius, } h \text{ the gap height, and } L \text{ the gap length}$$

- Flow resistance,  $\eta$ , through a gap is

$$\Delta \rho = \eta J$$

$$\eta \equiv \frac{L}{2\pi r h} \frac{1}{D}$$

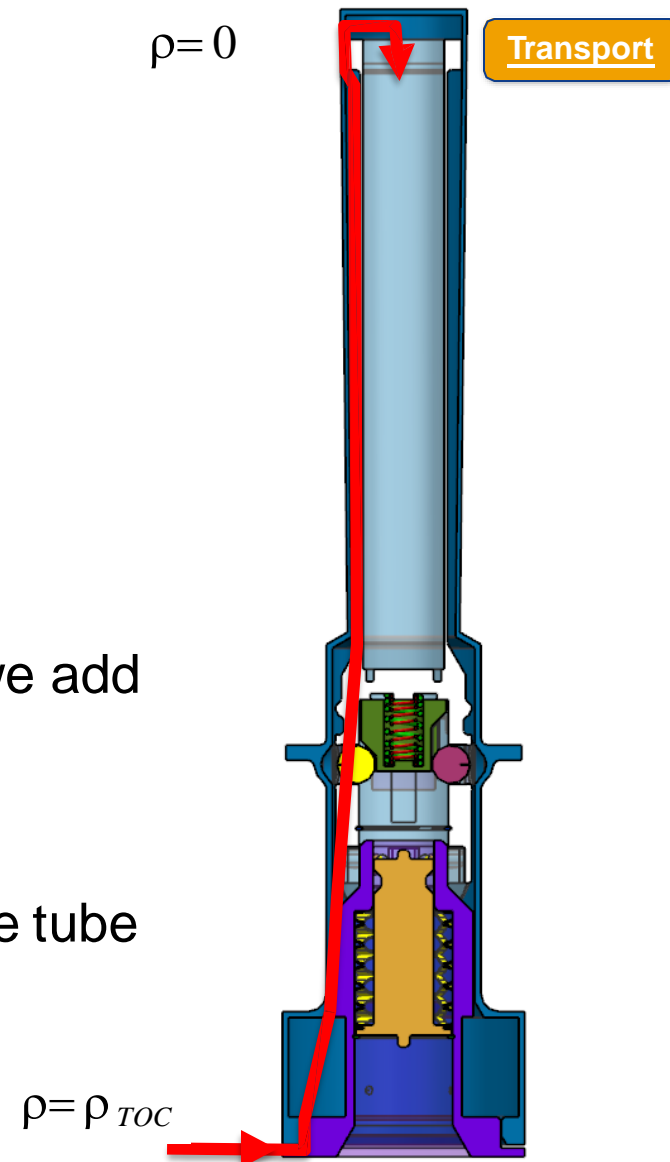
- Since the FMPB has multiple gaps in series, we add the flow resistances

$$\eta_{FMPB} \equiv \frac{1}{D} \sum_i \frac{L_i}{2\pi r_i h_i} \equiv \frac{1}{D} R_{FMPB}$$

$$R_{FMPB} \equiv \sum_i \frac{L_i}{2\pi r_i h_i}$$

- The mass flow rate to the interior of the sample tube

$$J_{FMPB} \equiv \frac{\rho_{TOC}}{\eta_{FMPB}} = \frac{D}{R_{FMPB}} \rho_{TOC}$$



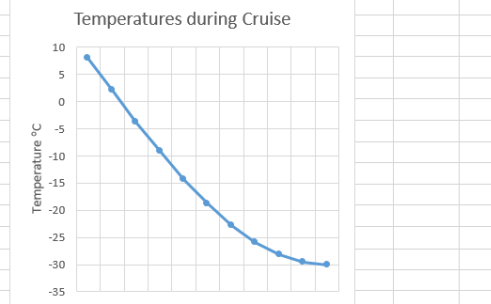
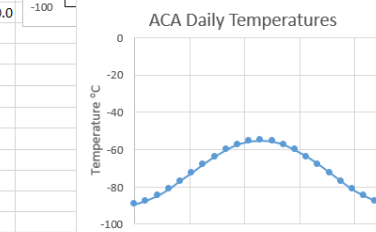
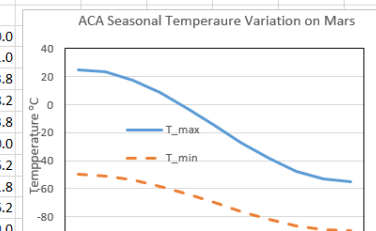


# Data and Analysis Combined in the M2020 TOC End to End Spreadsheet



- Values and formulas in the spreadsheet are described in this presentation
- Light blue cells are Inputs, e.g.
- Buttons perform calculations, e.g.

Mission TOC Past FMPB Inside Tube			Case ->						Surface Sol		Surface Operations			Average		
Phase	FMPB	FMPB_2	WCH/BPon	WCH/BPoff	CBE/BPon	WCC/BPoff	ATLO	Mission	WCH	WCC	Daily (ng/s)	T_max	T_min			
Cleaning	4	0.5	-10	25	-20	-55	20	1.50	25	-55	7.53E+03	25.0	-50.0			
ATLO	7	13	-50	-50	-60	-90	20	668	-50	-90	6.12E+03	23.0	-51.0			
Cruise	1	1	1.83E+02	7.53E+03	4.94E+01	2.40E-01	2.15E+04	7.04E+05			3.34E+03	17.4	-53.8			
Commission	2	4									1.27E+03	8.5	-58.2			
Surface Ops	8	15									3.58E+02	-2.6	-63.8			
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>34</b>									8.03E+01	-15.0	-70.0			
Open Tube WCH	2.58										1.59E+01	-27.4	-76.2			
Volume Probe	5										3.26E+00	-38.5	-81.8			
Mission Duration Inputs			Materials						T_ACA			T_ACA				
Phase	Duration		unit	Data (ng/unT(data)	T_E	units/ACA	T_ACA	Flux(ng/unit/hr)	Flux (ng/hr)	source	3.26E+00	-38.5	-81.8			
ATLO	90	days	cm2	5.4	70	12767	-90.0	3.94E-14	1.45E-10	data	8.39E-01	-47.4	-86.2			
Cruise	217	days	cm2	6.2	70	9246	-90.0	3.63E-10	1.23E-06	data	3.33E-01	-53.0	-89.0			
Commission	30	sols	unit	257	70	9493	-90.0	7.95E-09	1.59E-07	data	2.40E-01	-55.0	-90.0			
Surface Ops	1000	sols	unit	14025	70	13697	-90.0	9.63E-12	6.74E-11	data						
<b>Total</b>	<b>1363</b>	days	cm2	10	70	9000	-90.0	1.09E-09	4.97E-07	estimated						
			cm2	1.00	50	8000	-90.0	5.90E-09	3.14E-05	estimated						
							-90.0	0.00E+00	0.00E+00							
Mission Parameter Inputs			ACA Temperature						T_Cruise			T_Cruise°C				
u_wind	0.10	m/s	VProbeArea	5	cm2	T_Cruise	5208	hr			8.0					
purge	1.0	liter/s	VProbeConta	20	ng/cm2	Outgassing (ng)	1.90E+05	ng			2.1					
Initial_Clean	0.1	ng/cm2	VProbeTrans	5%		T_CruiseMax	8	°C			-3.7					
A_MA	0.10	m2	A_Flange	4.52E-05	m2	Total per FMPB	0.96	ng			-9.3					
A_BP	0.36	m2	hrs_per_sol	24.617	hrs	Total per FMPB_2	1.44	ng			-14.3					
Diff_Mars	6.00E-04	m2/s	s_per_sol	8.86E+04							-18.9					
Diff_Earth	5.00E-06	m2/s	s_per_day	8.64E+04							-22.7					
Diff_Dist	0.2	m	ng_to_kg	1.00E+12							-25.9					
purge	0.17	lb/min	Tube Interior 40 cm2			Tube_ID 13.5 mm					-28.1					
Past FMPB			R_FMPB	1.40E+03	1/m	R_FMPB_X	9.12E+02				-29.5					
Diffusion	26		J_FMPB	5.07E-06		J_FMPB_X	5.41E-06				-30.0					
Cruise	1		FMPB rate	1.69E-10	ng/hr											
Past FMPB Total	27		Total Cruise per FMPB	8.79E-07	ng	Total Cruise per FMPB_X	1.03E+00	ng								
Sample Tube FMPB Dimensions			Resistance (1/m)													
Gap	r	h	L	L/(r*h^2)												
Flange	18	0.4	4	1.4	88											
A	16	0.1	2.5	15.6	249											
B	15	8	16.4	0.0	22											
C	23	0.25	20	13.9	554											
Long	15	2.5	100	1.1	424											
Top	15	0.4	2.5	1.0	66											





- Molecular Transport Model Approach
  - Identify and model TOC sources (Materials in the ACA are the largest source of TOC)
  - For each M2020 Mission phase, model TOC transport from sources to sample contacting surfaces (tube interior and cap below the seal)
  - Combine into an end-to-end model to evaluate TOC and sensitivity to assumptions
- Model is Data Driven
  - Measured outgassing rates for Sample Handling System materials
  - Temperature models validated with MSL flight data
  - Diffusion coefficients from the open literature
  - Mars wind speeds based on Viking observations
  - Laboratory tests of Tenax molecular absorber
- Model results show 10 ppb TOC requirement is achievable



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# Backup

# TiN Chosen for Sample Tube Surfaces Because it Accumulates Low Levels of AC



- TiN suggested by Prof. Zaera
- TiN collects much less TOC than other surfaces
- A small percentage of organic molecules in the air stick to TiN
- Asymptotic accumulation much lower on good TiN surfaces
- TiN will oxidize at high temperatures
  - Tests show TiN layer significantly degraded after heating to 500°C in air
  - Peer reviewed literature (from Zaera) and shows TiN oxidizes at 500 °C but should be stable at 350°C

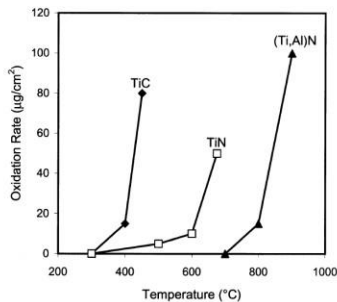


Fig. 12. Oxidation rate of hard coatings in step stress tests [51].

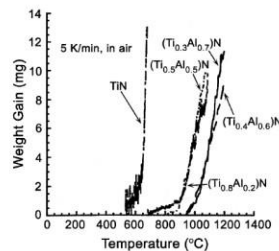
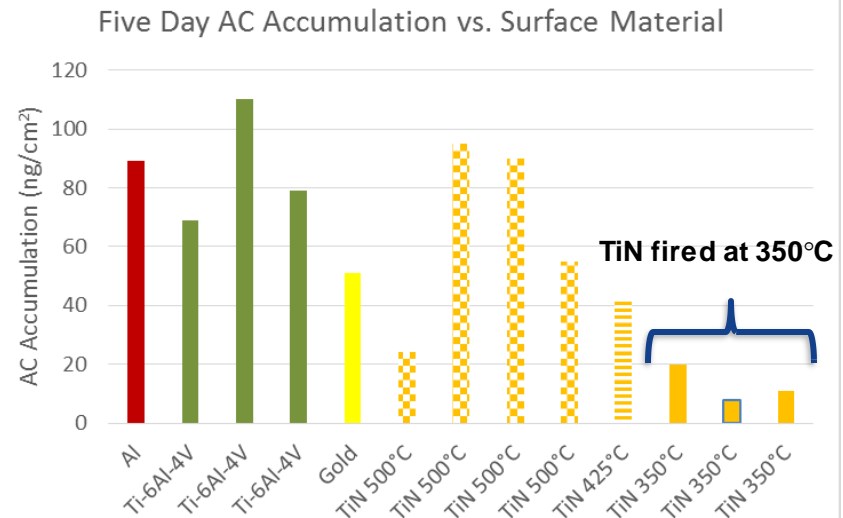


Fig. 13. Oxidation curves as a function of the Al concentration in the (Ti<sub>1-x</sub>Al<sub>x</sub>)N films [29].

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