

SNS COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

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DEPARTMENT OF AEROSPACE ENGINEERING

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Course	:	19AST301 - Space Propulsion			

UNIT IV - CRYOGENIC EQUIPMENT

Cryogenic evaluation refers to the process of assessing materials, components, or systems at extremely low temperatures, typically below -150°C (-238°F). This evaluation is crucial in various fields, including aerospace, materials science, and cryogenics, as many materials behave differently under such conditions.

Key Aspects of Cryogenic Evaluation:

1. Material Properties:

- **Mechanical Properties**: Evaluating tensile strength, ductility, toughness, and fatigue resistance at cryogenic temperatures.
- **Thermal Properties**: Assessing thermal conductivity, heat capacity, and thermal expansion.

2. **Applications**:

- Aerospace: Testing materials for rocket components, such as fuel tanks and engines, where they may encounter cryogenic propellants like liquid oxygen or liquid hydrogen.
- **Superconductors**: Evaluating materials used in superconducting applications, which often operate at cryogenic temperatures.
- **Storage and Transport**: Assessing the performance of containers and pipelines designed for transporting cryogenic liquids.

3. **Testing Methods**:

- Mechanical Testing: Includes tensile tests, impact tests, and fatigue tests at cryogenic temperatures.
- **Thermal Cycling**: Subjecting materials to temperature fluctuations to assess their behavior under thermal stress.
- Non-destructive Testing (NDT): Techniques like ultrasonic testing or X-ray inspection to evaluate the integrity of materials without causing damage.

4. **Standards and Protocols**:

• Various standards exist (e.g., ASTM, ISO) that guide the cryogenic evaluation of materials, ensuring consistency and reliability in results.

5. Challenges:

- **Brittleness**: Some materials become brittle at cryogenic temperatures, leading to potential failure.
- Measurement Issues: Instruments and sensors may have limitations at low temperatures, affecting accuracy.

Cryogenic evaluation is essential for ensuring the safety and performance of materials and systems used in low-temperature environments