Exploring Eutectic Alloys in Microgravity: Advancing Space-Based Manufacturing Through Controlled Freezing

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The main objective of this experiment is to address the question of how eutectic alloys (Aluminum-Silicon, Sn, Pb, and Ag-Based) behave under microgravity-induced freezing conditions. The experimental investigation of eutectic alloys' behavior under microgravity-induced freezing conditions is crucial because it addresses a fundamental knowledge gap in space-based manufacturing processes. In microgravity, the absence of buoyancy-driven convection and sedimentation allows for unique thermal and fluid flow conditions during solidification, resulting in distinct microstructures formations. These phenomena can lead to the development of novel material properties and may unlock the potential for producing advanced materials with enhanced strength, stability, and tailored properties in space environments. The results from this study will contribute to a deeper understanding of materials science and enable the design of improved space-based manufacturing processes. The potential to enhance the performance of eutectic alloys in microgravity environments could revolutionize space exploration technologies, such as hyper sonics, fusion reactors, and aerospace applications, making it a critical area of research for future space missions. By testing these alloys under simulated microgravity, I seek to uncover crucial insights into their behavior and potential applications for advanced space-based manufacturing processes. Ultimately, the purpose of the experiment is to evaluate the feasibility and effectiveness of using freezing-based solidification to enhance the properties of eutectic alloys, which can have significant implications for future space exploration technologies.

Awards Won: