

# Testing Photomultiplier Tubes for nEXO's Outer Detector

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0vββ signature is peak at nucleus Q value



2νββ spectrum measured in  $136$ Xe with EXO-200!





# **nEXO Experiment**

- 5-tonne single-phase liquid Xenon Time Projection Chamber (TPC)
- Enriched to 90% in isotope <sup>136</sup>Xe
- OD used for passive and active shielding
- Target half-life sensitivity of  $1.35 \cdot 10^{28}$  years



Source: <https://nexo.llnl.gov/nexo-overview>

#### **Introduction to 0vββ and nEXO**

# **nEXO Outer Detector (OD)**

Passive and active shielding

<https://arxiv.org/pdf/1509.03724>

- $\overline{\phantom{a}}$  Q value for 0νββ<sup>136</sup>Xe → <sup>136</sup>Ba is **2458 keV** [1]
- Muons passing through TPC can create neutrons that can create energy signatures around Q value :(
- OD is veto for TPC by detecting Cherenkov radiation :)







<sup>[1]</sup> Search for double-beta decay of 136Xe to excited states of 136Ba with the KamLAND-Zen experiment



# **The PMT Testing Setup**

- Located at Laurentian University
- PMT attached to barrel lid
- Barrel lid in dark enclosure
- This will help learn for future setups





# **The PMT Testing Setup**

- Barrel needs a way to change and keep

stable temperature

- OD will be held at 12°C
- PolyScience AP15R-40-A11B refrigerated

circulator



#### **Initial Design Ideas**



# **Design Ideas**

- Coil Inside Barrel
- Coil Outside Barrel
- Each setup has some pros/cons
- I updated CAD models in Fusion 360



**Calculations**



# **Calculations — Simple**

Time to cool barrel from 25 °C to 10 °C,  $P = 956 W$  (Cooling Capacity at 17.5 °C)

Time with no heat leaking in barrel : Time with Insulation with an R-Value of 2:

$$
Q = mc\Delta T \qquad t = \frac{Q}{P}
$$

 $t = 4.07$  Hours  $t = 4.14$  Hours

$$
\frac{dQ}{dt} = U \cdot A \cdot \Delta T = \frac{1}{R} \cdot A \cdot \Delta T
$$

**Calculations**



# **Calculations — Coil in Barrel**

$$
\frac{d}{dt}Q = U \cdot A \cdot \Delta T \qquad \qquad A = 0.0127 \cdot \pi \cdot L
$$

- 1. **dQ/dt < 956 W** Area of coil is bottleneck cooling
- 2. **dQ/dt = 956 W** Coil exchanges heat at the same rate as the



3. **dQ/dt > 956 W** – Making coil longer has no cooling benefits

Will Cool in 4.14 Hours if more than 4m of tubing is used





### **Calculations — Coil Outside of Barrel**



$$
A = L \cdot 0.002
$$

- Too Long to cool
- Don't want to use more than

15m of coil



# **Bill of Materials**

- Still concerns with setup
- Coil in barrel could interfere with detection
- Setup has additional Issues…







# **Quick Connect Concerns**



Cooler max Pressure: **4.35 Psi**

Cooler max Flow Rate: **20.1 lpm**

$$
q = N_1 C_v \sqrt{\frac{\Delta p}{G}}
$$





#### **Improved Design**



# **Improved Design**

- TRACIT-1100 heat transfer compound
- Heat transfer coefficient: 114-227 W/m<sup>2\*</sup>K
- Relatively inexpensive solution
- Avoids quick connect flow and spillage issues
- Avoids coil interfering with detection issues







#### **Calculations**



# **Calculations**

- Used thermal resistance
- Putty buffer is amount of putty on either side of tubing
- Cooling time reasonable making this

option feasible



$$
R_{tot} = \sum \frac{1}{U \cdot A} \qquad \qquad \frac{dQ}{dt} = \frac{\Delta T}{R_{tot}}
$$

#### Hours to Cool the Barrel from 25°C to 10°C with Respect to Putty Buffer and Coil Length with Insulation with an R Value of 2



#### **Final Bill of Materials**



# **Final Bill of Materials**

- Avoids issues with previous set up by putting coil outside of barrel
- BOM was ordered





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#### **Future Setup**



# **Design**

- Same as successful barrel design
- Heat transfer putty will be used, and coil is outside pressure vessel
- I made CAD model for PV from scratch in Fusion

360



#### **Future Setup**





$$
R = \frac{d}{k \cdot A} = \frac{1}{U \cdot A}
$$







# **Bill of Materials**

- Very affordable BOM
- Can reuse parts from barrel setup







# **How the Code Works**

- The oscilloscope captures chunks of PMT data
- FFT is applied to convert the data to the frequency domain for filtering
- Inverse FFT brings it back to time domain
- Peak detection marks the start and end of peaks based on set amplitude thresholds
- I made a script that lets me analyze what is happening visually





# **Issue Found through Testing**

- Code is marking peaks that are too small as signals
- Easy fix!
- Can adjust thresholds for peak detection to >-0.0005 V (peaks are negative)
- Can verify if it works with visualization code I made





### **Improvement Results**

- Quick fix, but important issue to discover
- Would have had incorrect dark rate



#### **Conclusion**



### **Conclusion**

- Designed multiple potential cooling systems
- Made CAD models for the various setups
- Did calculations to identify the best approach
- Made bills of materials for multiple designs and ordered parts for the final design
- Did the above for the future testing setup (Pressure Vessel)
- Made improvements to how data is managed for data analysis
- Stress tested FFT and peak isolation scripts and made improvements

#### **Conclusion**



# **Acknowledgements**

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nEX





# **Backups**



# **Double Beta Decay – 2vββ**

- 2vββ decay is rare
- Candidate isotopes: even-even nuclei where single β decay is forbidden
- Observed in 14 isotopes





### **Isotopes that can Undergo 2vββ**





### **Linear Interpolation for Cooling Capacity**

- Most Calculations Look at cooling time from 25 °C to 10 °C
- Middle is 17.5 °C
- Cooling Capacity at 20 °C is 1000 W and at 0 °C is 650 W

Average Cooling Capacity is: **956 W**





### **Calculations - Simple**

Time to cool from 25 °C to 10 °C

$$
55 \text{GAL} \cdot \frac{3.78 \text{L}}{\text{GAL}} + 15 \text{L} = 208 \text{L} + 15 \text{L} = 223 \text{L}
$$

$$
Q = mc\Delta T = 223 \,\text{kg} \cdot 4184 \, \frac{\text{J}}{\text{kg}^{\circ}\text{C}} \cdot 15^{\circ}\text{C} = 14 \cdot 10^6 \,\text{J}
$$

Coolers Max Cooling Capacity is **956 W**

$$
t = \frac{Q}{P} = \frac{14 \cdot 10^6 \text{ J}}{956 \frac{\text{J}}{\text{s}}} \cdot \frac{1 \text{ h}}{3600 \text{ s}} \approx 4.07 \text{ hours}
$$

Simple Calculation Perfect Insulation: Simple Calculation with R-Value 2 Insulation:

$$
\frac{dQ}{dt} = U \cdot A \cdot \Delta T = \frac{1}{R} \cdot A \cdot \Delta T
$$

$$
\frac{dQ}{dt} = \frac{1}{2 \text{ m}^2 \text{K}} \cdot 2.27 \text{ m}^2 \cdot 15 \text{ K} = 17.0 \text{ W}
$$

$$
956 \text{ W} - 17 \text{ W} = 939 \text{ W}
$$

$$
t = \frac{Q}{P} = \frac{14 \cdot 10^6 \text{ J}}{939 \frac{1}{s}} \cdot \frac{1 \text{ h}}{3600 \text{ s}} \approx 4.14 \text{ hours}
$$



# **Calculations — Coil in Barrel**

$$
\frac{d}{dt}Q=U\cdot A\cdot \Delta T
$$

Cooling Capacity depends only on A. This gives 3 cases for dQ/dt that only depend on A:

- 1. dQ/dt < 956 W Area of coil is bottleneck cooling
- 2.  $dQ/dt = 956 W Coil$  exchanges heat at the same rate as the cooler
- 3. dQ/dt > 956 W Making coil longer has no cooling benefits

 $A = 0.0127 \cdot \pi \cdot L$ 

 $\frac{d}{dt}Q = U \cdot 0.0127 \cdot \pi \cdot L \cdot \Delta T$  $L = \frac{\frac{d}{dt}Q}{U \cdot 0.0127 \cdot \pi \cdot \Delta T}$  $L = \frac{956 \text{ W}}{400 \frac{\text{W}}{\text{m}^2 \text{K}} \cdot 0.0127 \text{ m} \cdot \pi \cdot 15 \text{ K}}$  $\pm 4m$ 

> Increasing coil length past 4m has no benefits



### **Calculations — Coil Outside of Barrel**

$$
A = L \cdot 0.002
$$
  

$$
\frac{d}{dt}Q = 400 \frac{W}{m^2 K} \cdot (0.002 \cdot L) m^2 \cdot 15 K
$$
  

$$
t = \frac{14 \cdot 10^6}{3600 \left(\frac{dQ}{dt} - 17 W\right)}
$$
  

$$
t = \frac{14 \cdot 10^6}{3600 \cdot (400 \cdot 0.002 \cdot L \cdot 15 - 17)}
$$





# **Quick Connect Concerns**





$$
q = N_1 C_v \sqrt{\frac{\Delta p}{G}}
$$

$$
q_{QTM2}=3.7854\cdot0.8\sqrt{\frac{4.35}{1}}=6.32\,\mathrm{lpm}
$$

$$
q_{QTM4}=3.7854\cdot1.6\sqrt{\frac{4.35}{1}}=12.63\,\mathrm{lpm}
$$





#### **Calculations Outside Barrel Final**

$$
R_{tot} = \sum \frac{1}{U \cdot A}
$$

$$
\frac{dQ}{dt} = \frac{\Delta T}{R_{tot}}
$$





.<br>AB SNa

### **Calculations PV**

$$
Q = mc\Delta T = 84.28 \,\text{kg} \cdot 4181 \,\frac{\text{J}}{\text{kg}^{\circ}\text{C}} \cdot 15^{\circ}\text{C}
$$

$$
Q=53\cdot 10^5\,\mathrm{J}
$$

$$
t = \frac{53 \cdot 10^5}{939 \cdot 3600} = 1.57 \text{ hours}
$$



$$
R_{\text{tot}} = \frac{d_{\text{w}}}{k_{\text{w}} \cdot A_{\text{w}}} + \frac{1}{U_{\text{cp}} \cdot A_{\text{cp}}} + \frac{1}{U_{\text{ps}} \cdot A_{\text{ps}}} + \frac{1}{U_{\text{sw}} \cdot A_{\text{sw}}}
$$

$$
t = \frac{53 \cdot 10^5}{3600 \left( \left( \frac{15}{\frac{0.025}{45 \cdot L \cdot 2B} + \frac{1}{114 \cdot 0.0127 \cdot \pi \cdot L} + \frac{1}{114 \cdot 2B \cdot L} + \frac{1}{400 \cdot 2B \cdot L}} \right) - 17} \right)
$$



Time to Heat Barrel that is 10°C colder than Surroundings

### **Time for Exterior to Heat Barrel by 1 °C wrt R-Value**

$$
Q = mc\Delta T = 223.175 \text{ kg} \cdot 4181 \frac{\text{J}}{\text{kg}^{\circ}\text{C}} \cdot 1^{\circ}\text{C}
$$
  
\n
$$
Q = 93.3 \cdot 10^{4} \text{ J}
$$
  
\n
$$
t = \frac{Q}{\frac{d}{dt}Q} = \frac{93.3 \cdot 10^{4}}{86400 \cdot 2.27 \cdot 10} R = \frac{93.3}{196} R
$$
  
\n
$$
\frac{V}{\text{S}^{4}} = \frac{V}{\frac{d}{dt}Q} = \frac{93.3 \cdot 10^{4}}{86400 \cdot 2.27 \cdot 10} R = \frac{93.3}{196} R
$$
  
\n
$$
\frac{V}{\text{S}^{4}} = \frac{V}{\frac{d}{dt}Q}
$$
  
\n $$ 



# **Data Management Improvements**





Having to hard code file and folder names every time you change something.



# **Data Management Improvements**





Only having to put things in the right folder when you change something.



# **Data File Example**

