nEDM@SNS Engineering Introduction

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Outline

- Introduction to the Neutron Electric Dipole Experiment at SNS (nEDM@SNS)
- System overview and subsystem modules
- Engineering challenges specific to each subsystem
- Conclusions

Introduction to nEDM@SNS

- Matter and antimatter created in equal amounts at the Big Bang
 - Should have resulted in complete annihilation :-o
 - Why didn't it?
- An electric dipole moment (EDM) is a measure of the separation of positive and negative charges (roundness) within a system
- A non-zero neutron EDM would mean that the neutron is not round
- This "out-of-roundness" would be an example of Charge-Parity(CP) violation, which is a possible explanation for matter/antimatter asymmetry

Introduction - continued

- nEDM@SNS will utilize a technique proposed by Golub and Lamoreaux* :
 - Polarized neutrons and polarized ³He atoms are trapped in a bath of superfluid ⁴He at a temperature of ~500 mK
 - When a magnetic field is applied, both the neutron and ³He magnetic dipoles precess in the plane perpendicular to that field
 - The nEDM signal is the change in the neutron precession frequency when changing the electric and magnetic fields from parallel to anti-parallel and vice versa, assuming no change in the ³He precession frequency

USING THIS METHOD, WE EXPECT TO IMPROVE UPON THE CURRENT WORLD CLASS MEASUREMENT BY ~2 ORDERS OF MAGNITUDE

REFERENCE: R. Golub and Steve K. Lamoreaux, "Neutron Electric-Dipole Moment, Ultracold Neutrons and Polarized ³He", Physics Reports 237, No. 1 (1994) 1-62 North-Holland.



Animation courtesy of Vince Cianciolo, ORNL

Introduction - continued

- Today we will focus on the engineering aspects of nEDM@SNS
- This talk describes the present snapshot of work in progress with contributions by many



Introduction - continued

- We have a technique and a strong team of physicists
- And a lot of work to figure out how to do it...
- They like to joke that the rest is "just engineering" ;-)
- But... more often than not, if there is a convenient existing engineering solution for some aspect of the experiment, we can't use it!
 - Why? The requirements (magnetism, thermal and electrical conductivity, superconductivity, etc.) for actualizing this technique are very unique and preclude many standard practices

Overall nEDM@SNS system

- The facility comprises:
 - nEDM apparatus focus of this talk
 - New building
 - External magnetic field compensation
 - Non-magnetic foundation
 - Support services
 - Liquid helium plant
 - Liquid nitrogen
 - Magnetic shielding
 - Neutron guide



Subsystems in the nEDM design

- The major internal subsystems were disentangled, minimizing and simplifying their interfaces
 - Central Detector Systems (CDS) module
 - Magnet module
 - ³He Services module
- These modules may be assembled, tested, and debugged at their home institutions prior to final integration
- This independent testing will minimize the total number of full system cool-downs (and reduce frustration), shortening time to physics data



System modules







³He SERVICES MODULE

CDS MODULE

Sampling of requirements by location

- Region 1:
 - Non-magnetic
 - Non-metallic (wires and thin films acceptable with evaluation
 - Non-superconducting (specific material allowed with evaluation)
- Region 2:
 - Non-magnetic (stainless steel is generally too magnetic)
- Region 3:
 - Limited magnetism acceptable with evaluation





Key CDS engineering challenges Regions 1 and 2

- Materials selection in Region 1
- <u>V1 valve development</u>
- HV delivery and multiplication
 - Previously planned a high voltage capacitor, but the scale to achieve the necessary gain became uncomfortably large
 - Currently studying voltage multiplication based on Cavallo's multiplier, which delivers charge in multiple steps to the HV electrode

CDS materials selection *Regions 1 and 2*

- Most materials in the central volume must be non-magnetic, nonmetallic, non-superconducting, low activation, cryo-appropriate
- Metals are out for general construction
 - Vessel glass fiber reinforced plastic
 - The measurement cells are acrylic for light transport purposes
 - We want thermal deformation to match wherever reasonable
 - Acrylic copper implantation to make acrylic electrodes
 - PEEK (some PEEK contains impurities from production which activate badly!)
 - Other materials:
 - Torlon
 - Kapton
- Above the superconducting shield, non-magnetic, nonsuperconducting metals are allowed
 - Aluminum (depending on temperature)
 - Titanium (depending on temperature)
 - Copper and its alloys
 - NiCoCr_x



V1 VALVE ASSEMBLY

CELL

³He/⁴He FEED LINE

V1 valve development

Region 1

- Geometry sufficient to transport ³He
- ³He depolarization time: $\tau_{D} > 20000$ s
 - PEEK, acrylic, and deuterated acrylic construction Kapton coating possible if necessary
- Minimize valve impact on neutron storage
 - Most recent neutron storage time measurements at LANL have included realistic V1 geometry showing minimal valve impact
- Electrostatic
 - Maintain field consistent with the field uniformity spec when closed
 - No "hot spots" when open
 - Takeyasu Ito at Los Alamos National Laboratory is currently performing electrostatic modeling
- Minimize impact on light collection







Key Magnet module engineering challenges Regions 1 and 2

- System cooling
- Magnet volume design
- <u>Magnet coil package structure</u>
- Developing and maintaining necessary superconducting shield geometry

Cooling the magnet package *Regions 1 and 2*

- The coil structures are largely glassfiber reinforced plastic
- This material is a poor thermal conductor and maintains some specific heat even as the temperature drops
- Can be effectively cooled using exchange gas in the presence of cold surfaces



Cooling the magnet package - continued

- Full Scale Cooling Model (COMSOL)
 - 9.5 days to cool at 6 l/h (assuming we get ~ ½ of enthalpy to 80K)



7 Time (d) 8 9

10

11

6

13

14

12

0

1 2 3 4 5



Magnet coil engineering



BO structure overview

- Dressing coil assembly is mechanically similar
- Spaceframe construction
 - Appropriate stiffness
 - Precision achievable with care
- Why not make these structures from large tubes?
 - Packaging constraints restrict available coil diameter choices
 - Requires custom diameter, thick • starting tube – high tooling cost
 - Lots of large machine time = lots of \$\$

SKIN/METGLAS SUPPORT INSERTION

GUIDE



Non-magnetic, non-metallic vessels Region 1

DETAIL B

- Inner wall of the Magnet Volume and the whole Central Volume must be non-conductive to avoid eddy-current heating
- The collaboration has prior experience with glass-fiber reinforced plastic (GFRP)
- Currently developing test vessels to test materials and geometries

³He Services module details



Key ³He Services engineering challenges Regions 2 and 3

- Umbilical connection access
- Upper cryostat component access
- <u>Tee valve development</u>
- Thermal control
- Materials / fabrication
 - ³He must be delivered to the measurement cells while maintaining polarization – Torlon piping

Accessing the ³He Services umbilical connection *Region 2*

- There is a single internal cryogenic connection between the ³He Services module and the CDS, but it is complex
 - Torlon piping/flanges
 - Kapton gasket
 - Heat load control critical
- Some components of the ³He Services system are within the shield house near the joint
- Evaluating paneled radiation shield concept and windowed vacuum jacket to maximize accessibility



Tee valve development Regions 2 and 3

- Torlon Body
 - Machined cylinders
 - No mechanical problems (e.g. stress failures)
- Flange Seals
 - V-groove/Kapton gasket seals
 - Silicon-bronze bolts
 - No blind tapped holes
 - Different materials
 - Torlon-to-Torlon
 - Copper-to-Torlon
 - Stainless Steel-to-Torlon
 - No leaks into internal vacuum volume





Conclusions

- The nEDM apparatus is a complex system intended to improve on the current world-class measurement of the neutron electric dipole moment by two orders of magnitude
- The project presents plenty of engineering challenges, but persistence, teamwork, and a dose of creativity can bring them to ground

Questions?

