

ULTRACOLD NEUTRON SOURCE AT NRC KI-PNPI FOR THE STUDY OF FUNDAMENTAL INTERACTIONS

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ULTRACOLD NEUTRONS



APPLICATIONS

The most precise experiments on the search for the neutron electric dipole moment (nEDM) and the measurement of the free neutron lifetime were performed by using ultracold neutrons.



UCN SOURCES STATUS BY 2022



UCN PRODUCTION



UCN PRODUCTION AT THE PIK REACTOR



UCN SOURCE TECHNOLOGICAL COMPLEX



FULLSCALE UCNS MODEL





HEAT LOAD TESTS



- The possibility of maintaining helium in the superfluid state under thermal loads up to 60 W was experimentally checked.
- The possibility of installing a UCN source on the fission reactor was experimentally substantiated





Neutron thermalization facility «UCN source»

- About 2000 drawings
- 15 tons of aluminum
- 3 tons of steel
- 3300 meters of pipelines
- 460 equipment units (e.g. valves)
- About 40 suppliers
- 1000 m3 of helium
- 100 m3 of deuterium



Helium and Deuterium buffer tanks



UCN neutron guide coating by Ni



UCNS vacuum vessel



Pre-moderator vessel



Isotopicaly pure helium tanks

DAQ







SMALL SCALE EXPERIMENTS



HELIUM LIQUIFICATION BY USING HEX



HELIUM LIQUIFICATION BY USING HEX



The liquefaction rate was **1.64 l/h**. In this case, the surface area of the vessel was 645 cm². **The real UCN source vessel with its volume of 35 liters is expected to be filled within 7 hours.**

ISOTOPICALY PURE HELIUM





MAKING OF ISOTOPICALLY PURE HELIUM



MAKING OF ISOTOPICALLY PURE HELIUM



• Helium inflow rate into SOURCE - 0.0182 cm/s - 0.003215 l/s - 0.5037 g/s

• Helium outflow rate from HEX - 0.006466 cm/s - 0.003427 l/s - 0.4725 g/s

With a filter diameter of 8 mm, the critical flow of superfluid helium through the filter was 1 g/cm²s.

THERMAL CONDUCTIVITY MEASURMENT





Kapitza conductivity

$$q = Q/F = h_K \cdot (T_{solid} - T_{liquid})$$

<u>Phonon radiation theory:</u> $h_{K} = \frac{4\pi^{5}k_{B}^{2}}{5\Theta_{B}^{2}h} \left(\frac{3n}{4\pi}\right)^{2/3} T^{3}$

Khalatnikov theory:

$$h_K = \frac{2\pi^2 \rho_L c_L k_B^4}{15\hbar^3 \rho_S v_t^3} F \mathbf{T^3}$$

 K_G – correction factor K_G = 225 for phonon radiation theory K_G = 1 for Khalatnikov theory



$$Q/F = K_G \cdot 20 \frac{\mathrm{Br}}{\mathrm{M}^2 \mathrm{K}^4} \cdot T^3 \cdot (T_{solid} - T_{liquid})$$

 $egin{aligned} h_{K(cma, b)} &= 0,77 \cdot h_{K(Cu)} \ h_{K(Ni)} &= 0,61 \cdot h_{K(Cu)} \end{aligned}$

At $T_{\kappa} = 1,2$ K and $K_G = 30$ $T_{He4} = 1,08$ K $P_{VPS} = 31,6$ PaAt $T_{\kappa} = 1,2$ K and $K_G = 45$ $T_{He4} = 1,10$ K $P_{VPS} = 34,0$ Pa

THERMAL CONDUCTIVITY MEASURMENT



SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH PROGRAM WITH UCN AT THE PIK REACTOR



UCN NEUTRON GUIDE SYSTEM



THANK YOU FOR ATTENTION



UCN SOURCE AT PIK REACTOR

In 2019, the PIK Research Reactor Facility project was launched. «Neutron thermalization facility «UCN source» is one of the main part of it.



development of design documentation 2019 Preliminary design «Ultracold neutron source» 2020 Technical Design Specification manufacturing of the «Ultracold neutron source» 2020

Contract manufacturing of the «Ultracold neutron source» 2020-2022

UCN SOURCE ROADMAP

Design (2014-2020)

- Technological scheme development
- Definition of the main components and equipment
- Arrangement of the UCNS at PIK reactor
- Water/electricity/air supply

Manufacturing (2020-2022)

- Making of design documentation
- Materials/equipment purchasing
- Manufacturing
 - By ourselves
 - By the contractors

Experimental part (All the time...)

- Production of isotopically pure helium
- Liquefaction of helium through the heat exchanger wall
- Determining the amount of heat that can be removed from the UCN source chamber
- Full scale tests