The MiniBooNE Proton Target

- Requirements
- Design
- -Assembly
- -Performance
- -Calibration

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The MiniBooNE Neutrino Beam



MiniBoone Magnetic Horn

66

170,000 A pulsed current at 5Hz with a 150 µs pulse width





MiniBooNE Target Requirements

Maximize pion yield
Long lifetime (~10²² p.o.t.)
5x10¹² p.o.t. @ 5 Hz and 8 GeV/c
Separately removable from horn
Fit inside 3 cm horn inner conductor
Low residual activity

Design

3/8 inch diameter segmented Be target material

1.5mm beam spot sigma
1.75 interaction length target material
Longitudinal air-flow for cooling

Target Assembly



Beryllium Parts









Assembled Target



Delivery to Fermilab Feb. 2002



Target Cooling



Beam heating: 610 W Operating temperature ~100 C Air temperature rise ~25 C (depends on flow...)

Target Cooling Measurement

- Inserted heating element (0W-750W) into Al target extrusion (~20cm in length)
- Measured temperature of inlet and outlet gas, and surface temperature of extrusion
- Air pumped by 1200W fan motor and cooled by water-air heat exchanger

Measured Temperatures



Summary of Cooling Tests

Achieved flow rates of > 20 liters/second

131 °C target temperature rise @ 600 W

55 °C gas temperature rise @ 600 W

Safety Issues and Operation

- Radio-isotope containment
- Beryllium containment
- Failure scenarios
- Monitoring and Beam Permit System

Radio-isotope containment

Cooling air is contained in a sealed system outside of horn box

- HEPA filter is installed on cooling air exhaust line, monitored for activity.
- While the cooling air contains short-lived isotopes, the major long lived isotope, Be7, will be trapped by filter.

Beryllium Containment

HEPA filter also serves to contain any Be particulates that come from target slugs.

Any residual beryllium inside horn box stays there until horn cools down

Target Failure Scenarios

- Target is removable ⇒ target goes into target box and we replace the target leaving horn intact
- Target isn't removable & horn is not operational ⇒ target goes into horn box with horn
- Target isn't removable & horn is operational ⇒ target goes into horn box with horn (???)

Monitoring and Operation

We monitor gas supply and return for flow rates, pressures, and temperatures
Gas temperature rise and flow rate related to heat being removed by gas. This is monitored for anomalous changes.

Flow switches generate input to beam permit

Air Cooling System



Operation

First beam delivered September 1, 2002
Typical rates ~4-4.5x10¹²p.o.t. @ ~3 Hz
> 35 million horn pulses
> 10²⁰ protons on target
Still going...



Target Calibration

Target Calibration

PS-214 (HARP) Experiment at CERN
 2-24 GeV/c proton beams
 4π spectrometer to measure pion/kaon production cross sections
 In August 2002 we recorded >20 million triggers on 5%, 50%, 100% λ replica Be targets

Analysis of the data is in progress



MiniBooNE replica targets:

Not to seals



0.5% target





Target has performed well so far

Design seems to be successful

Spare target is being assembled for eventual horn failure

The End





Mechanical Vibrations

There was concern about the possibility of mechanical coupling of the target to horn system leading to vibrations in the target which could cause it to damage the inner conductor of horn.



















Target Manifold Block



Mechanical Vibrations

We were able to insert the target into the horn and view the downstream end of target with small telescope while the horn was being pulsed.

The result was... lights... Action?

Conclusions

Cooling system is sufficient for our purposes

 Mechanical vibrations from horn/pulsed power system are small

