Vacuum Science and Technology for Accelerator Vacuum Systems

Yulin Li and Xianghong Liu
Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
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Vacuum Components
Construction and quality control
Vacuum construction and quality control

- Appropriate design review and approval procedure is the first step in vacuum component quality control. For high performance accelerator vacuum chambers, at least the following aspects must be reviewed by internal/external experts.
  - Compatible material and joint techniques
  - Sufficient vacuum pumping for handling calculated gas-loads and instrumentation
  - Acceptable beam apertures for all operational conditions
  - Expected beam induced heating power (SR, etc.) and adequate cooling
  - Higher-order-mode power loss and beam impedance evaluation
  - Installation procedures - fit in allowed spaces, easiness in installation, required tooling and fixtures, support and survey, etc.
Detailed specifications of components are essential for UHV system construction.

Most vacuum chambers and components are complete or partially constructed by commercial companies and shops.

For simple chambers, standard industrial UHV-specifications and practices may be adapted with reviews.

For complex (in construction or/and in operational conditions) chambers, detail specification must established to ensure the deliverables are in compliance with the designed performances, including machining fluid, cleaning method(s), joint techniques (welding, brazing, etc.), leak check rate, shipping and packing, etc.

Acceptance tests may also needed, including dimensional inspections, joint inspections, vacuum tests (leak check, bakeout, achievable vacuum level and residual gas analysis, etc.)
Some Important Notes on Joint Designs

- Non-demountable vacuum joints (welded, brazed, etc.) is commonly the weak spots in a vacuum system.

- All components must be UHV cleaned before any welding.

- For UHV systems, inside welds are usually preferred, to minimized potential trapped gas and contaminants. However, outside welds may be used in many situations, such as:
  - long seam joint w/ narrow gaps
  - welded joints that are very difficult to fix/patch (every welded joint may leak!)
  - inside welds that may results in large beads (aluminum welds, for example).
  - Inside welds and outside welds should NEVER 'meet'

- For long term reliability, water-to-vacuum joints are forbidden.

- Avoid high heating power deposition on the welded joints. The joints may be either shadowed by tapered recess, or by SR mask.

- Proper design of weld preps are essential in minimizing welding induced distortion. Making welded joints as symmetrical as possible is another way to avoid distortion.
This storage ring has 48 bending chambers. There are over 2700 weld seams for these TPS bending chambers. This involves a heavy work load if these 2700 weld seams are completed by hand.
Six-Torch Automatic Welding System

Advantages for automatic welding:

1. Longer welding distance—Fully coverage welding seam with 6 torches
2. High Throughput
3. Precisely control shrinkage deformation with real-time thermal and deformation monitors
4. Control welding current or torch moving speed with computer
Welding Set Configuration

- The position between the torch and the filler in the auto-welding system is evaluated carefully, similarly to a human welding position.
- All motional axes are driven with servo motors.

Torch can be adjusted precisely in x-, y- and z-direction

Feeder angle is adjustable
Movies for Auto-Welding Process

- 6 TIG torches ignited at the same time
- 6 welding torches for two non-parallel side seams.
- One-step welding process

Fast playing mode: X10
Welding Seam Views
Mechanical Considerations
Support and Alignment
Vacuum System Structural Support Stands

- Structural stands must provide deadweight support for the accelerator and beam line.

- Stands must provide support during seismic events.

- Stands must provide adequate freedom of movement during thermal cycles (operational and bake-out).

- Stands must constrain the accelerator and beamline to maintain positional requirements.

- There are two categories of supports:
  - Kinematic Supports - support system that provide some of six degrees of freedom (x, y, z, roll, pitch, and yaw).
  - Fully constrained Supports - support system that locks the vacuum system to control its position.
Six Degrees of Freedom
Y-direction Stand for PEP II Wiggler Chamber

This stand provides support and adjustment capability in the y-direction and roll.
Supports provide X, Z translational freedom
Supports provide Z translational freedom
Fully Constraint Support – NSLS II BPMs

4 Invar Rods

4 mm Buttons

BPM Button Assembly
With 10 mm x 76 mm Chamber opening

1.2 m high Carbon Fiber Composite Stand
Fully Constraint Support - CESR Ceramic Pipe
Six-Strut Support Systems

- A support system that uses six orthogonal struts to provide a “kinematic” support (just enough support with no additional constraints).
- Struts have spherical ball joint end connections.
- Each strut is extremely strong and rigid.
- Together the six struts can usually provide a support system with a natural frequency greater than 20 Hz, to eliminates nearly all floor transmitted vibration.
- An excellent reference for this style of support system is: "Rigid, Adjustable Support of Aligned Elements via Six Struts", W. Thur et al, Fifth Int. Workshop on Accelerator Alignment, 1997
Example of Kinematic Supports (six-strut)
At NSLS II, ~150 girders were assembled and aligned.

- Multipole magnet alignment requirements
  - Vertical $\pm 30$ microns
  - Transverse: $\pm 30$ microns
  - Longitudinal: $\pm 500$ microns
  - Roll: $\pm 0.5$ mrad
  - Pitch: $\pm 1.0$ mrad
  - Yaw: $\pm 1.0$ mrad
Last minute improvises ...
Most modern accelerators have very tight tolerance on components’ alignment, including vacuum components, and equipped with laser-based survey instrument to measure and to achieve the required accuracy in alignment.

With modern laser trackers and network of reference monuments, positions of any component can be located better than 0.1 mm in a accelerator complex.

It is essential to build in survey features (such as monuments, fiducials) on critical vacuum chambers that contain critical accelerator components. Typical areas of accelerator vacuum systems that require accurate positioning.

- RF cavities
- Beam position monitors (BPMs) and other beam instrumentations
- Synchrotron radiation absorbers and masks
- SR producing insertion devices (undulators, wigglers, etc.)
Fiducials on a Wiggler Chamber (near BPM)

Bushing for Tooling Ball

BUSHING .25 ID

16.000

.500

3.00

17.00
Build-in fiducials were pre-surveyed, referencing to ODR 'target'.

The established fiducials are used to locate hidden ODR target during installation.
Leak Checking
Why Leak Checking?

- For a clean vacuum system, leak(s) may limits the achievable ultimate pressure.

- Even for relatively small leak, certain types of molecules in the gas may affect accelerator performances (such as Ar, O₂, H₂O, etc.) For example, Ar atoms have much higher beam-gas scattering cross-section, as comparing to hydrogen; O₂ and H₂O may ‘poison’ surfaces of electron gun cathodes (both photo-emitting or thermionic emitting).

- Leak may have impact on long term performance of the vacuum systems, especially for getter-pump dominated systems.

- Leak (even small) may be a sign or defects on a vacuum joint that may develop into operational issue.
Outgassing Vs. Leaking

- Pressure goes up with time in a closed off, pumping-free chamber.
- The rising of the pressure may due to outgassing from the inner walls, or due leak(s).
- For outgassing, pressure will only rise to a level of saturated vapor pressure of evolved molecules.
- For a leaky system, pressure rises linearly with time.

1. Leak
2. Outgassing
3. Leak + outgassing
Types of Leaks

- Leaks in detachable connections: flanged joints
- Leaks in permanent joints: welded seams, brazed seams, bonded zones
- Leaks due to porosity: particularly following mechanical deformation (bending!), or thermal processing of cast components
- Thermal leaks (reversible): opening up only at elevated temperature or/and under loading
- Virtual leaks
Leak Rate and Size

- No vacuum system is absolutely leak free, and it does not have to be!
  In practice, an “acceptable” level of leak is specified by the system requirement.

- To quantify a leak, a leak rate is defined as a specific gas throughput rate through a leak into a vacuum system. In US, unit of torr·liter/sec (STP) is often used.

- A leak rate of $Q_L = 1\, \text{torr} \cdot \text{l/s}$ is present when in an enclosed, evacuated system with a volume of 1-liter, the pressure within rises by 1 torr per second, at standard temperature and outer pressure (STP, usually $25^\circ\text{C}$ and atmosphere pressure).

**Correlation between leak rate and hole size**

<table>
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<th>Hole Size (mm)</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>$10^{-1}$</th>
<th>$10^{-2}$</th>
<th>$10^{-3}$</th>
<th>$10^{-4}$</th>
<th>$10^{-5}$</th>
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<td>$10^{-2}$</td>
<td>$10^{-4}$</td>
<td>$10^{-6}$</td>
<td>$10^{-8}$</td>
<td>$10^{-10}$</td>
<td>$10^{-12}$ (Detection Limit)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fundamentals of Vacuum Leak Detection

• Leak Detection should be performed in accordance with some ASTM Standard.
  
  
  
  
  

• Leak Detection should be performed in a series of logical steps.
Leak Detection Methods

1. Vacuum method – Outside-in
   - Acoustic
   - Mass Spectrum Leak detector
   - Residual gas analyzers
   - Rate-of-rise
   - Vacuum gauges sensitivity variation (helium vs. air/N₂)

2. Positive pressure method – Inside-out
   - ‘Bubbling’
   - Foam spray
   - ‘Sniffing’ with a leak detector
   - Pressure drops
Helium is the most common gas used as a “tracer”

When compared to other gases, helium has certain advantages as a tracer:
- Low molecular weight
- High intrinsic velocity
- Small molecular size
- Chemically inert
- Non-flammable
- Readily available
- Inexpensive
- Low partial pressure in the atmosphere

Some disadvantages are:
- Is not well pumped by ion or chemsorption pumps
- Is not well pumped by cryogenic pumps

Other gases may be used as tracer:
- HD (m/e=3) may be used for environment with very high helium background
Leak Detection – Localized or Integral

a: Integral leak detection; vacuum inside specimen

b: Local leak detection; vacuum inside specimen

c: Integral leak detection (test gas enrichment inside the enclosure); pressurized test gas inside specimen

d: Local leak detection; pressurized test gas inside the specimen
Helium Mass Spectrometer Leak Detector

- It is a Helium-specific partial pressure analyzer
- It detects Helium applied as a tracer or probe gas
- It consists of:
  - a mass spectrometer tube
  - its own vacuum system capable of \(<10^{-5}\) Torr in the spectrometer tube
  - a sensitive and stable amplifier
  - valves, and auxiliary pumps for interfacing to vacuum system
  - a display for monitoring leak rate
  - normal-flow vs. contra-flow configurations
180° sector magnet mass spectrometer is most common in commercial helium leak detectors, due to compactness and robustness.

Depending on vacuum pressure in test port, the mass spectrometer may connect to test specimen directly (direct-flow), or indirectly (contra-Flow)
Mass spectrometer is exposed to all gases pumped through the Leak Detector.
Mass spectrometer is exposed only to gases that backstream through the high vacuum pump.
Leak Detector Calibrations

- Majority of commercial leak detectors have build-in calibrations
- Calibrated helium leaks are also available in ranges of $10^{-3}$ to $10^{-10}$ torr⋅l/s.
Leak Check – A key step in QC

- Leak check is the most critical measure of vacuum system quality assurance and control.

- For complex system, every vacuum components must be leak checked prior to installation, particularly for those components difficult to access in the field.

- For vacuum chambers that involve multiple vacuum brazes and welding, intermediate leak checking may be necessary. In most those cases, leak check fixtures should be designed and prepared.

- Components and chambers with small volume may use helium leak detector, while large vacuum chambers and systems will need a turbo pump equipped with RGA and calibrated helium leak.
Major Leak Testing Problems

- Background (outgassing)
- Large Volumes, slow pumping speed for Helium
- Helium permeation and back-stream
- Leak “plugging”
- Detector maintenance
- Operator training
Recognize potential leak with a RGA

Vacuum system with a small air-to-vacuum leak!
Leak Detection, Tips & Tricks

- Always test the connecting lines first!
- Isolate O-rings to prevent permeative “masking” of real leaks
- Slow down tracer (helium) flow rate, with solvent “bubbling calibration”
- When introducing helium, start at top and work down (Tracer probe)
- Know the air flow. Start from down-stream and work up-stream.
- Avoid “plugging” potential leak(s)
Techniques for Detecting Small Leaks

- Flow all pumped gases through the HMSLD., or the RGA, if possible, turning off all other system pumps
- Use low-flow tracer probe technique
- Keep Helium away from permeable materials (elastomers)
- Make use of “bagging” and “taping” techniques
Techniques for Locating Massive Leaks

When the system does not pump down:

- Inspect the obvious - loose gasket, open valve, etc.
- Acoustic method - listen to the hissing, use a stethoscope
- Positive pressure and use “bubbling” or sniffing methods, if permissible
- Use additional backing pump
Locating a leak near multiple joints

- It is sometime a difficult task trying to locate a leak at a location with multiple adjacent joints.

- Some of the tips are:
  1. Use very small helium flow
  2. Tapping/bagging
  3. N$_2$ counter-flow/purging
  4. Plugging potential leaks by solvent
  5. Positive pressure test
Specifying Leak Rate and Detection Procedures

• Specification can include:
  1. Maximum allowable leak size
  2. Total maximum leakage rate (infers bagging)
  3. Component pressure during leak detection
  4. Type and sensitivity of the leak detector (e.g. MSLD with a sensitivity of $2 \times 10^{-10}$ atm-cc of He/s
  5. Use of certified standard leak immediately before and after testing
  6. Witness leak checking at fabrication site

• ASTM standards E432, E479, E493, E498, E499, and F97
• If application is critical, witness the testing, or do it yourself
• Avoid phrases like; leak tight, vacuum tight, good to $10^{-8}$ Torr, good for ultrahigh vacuum, etc.
Vacuum Chamber Bakeout
Bakeout – Pre-Installation

1. Bakeout of high-vacuum and ultra-high vacuum components and chambers prior to installation is a key step in vacuum QC.

→ Bakeout ensures that a vacuum component or a chamber is suitable for the vacuum requirement (in cleanness)
→ Controlled thermal cycling(s) in the bakeout may also expose leak(s) that may have been ‘plugged’ in the production leak checking

2. Bakeout must be done with well established procedure.

→ Bakeout must be done by well trained technician
→ All parts of a system should be heated evenly, to avoid thermal distortion. If possible, bakeout all components and chambers in an convection oven.
→ Bakeout temperature should set according to the materials. Stainless steels may be baked to as high as 450°C, aluminum normally to only 150°C (but never exceeding 180°C).
→ Temperature ramp-up and cooling-down rates must be slow enough to avoid permanent distortion, or gasket creeping. This is extremely important for a system with very un-even thermal mass distribution.
→ Vacuum pressure during bakeout should be recorded and documented. If possible, a RGA should be used. The duration of a bakeout is often determined by the pressure and RGA data trend.
Bakeout – in situ

1. In situ bake of installed systems: necessity?

→ *in situ* bakeouts are generally necessary for systems static UHV/XHV conditions are required, and/or systems containing surface-sensitive component(s), particularly sensitive to $\text{H}_2\text{O}$, Examples include electron sources, proton/ion accelerator beam pipes, etc.

→ NEG coated beampipes have to be activated by in situ heating.

→ For systems dominated by dynamic gas load(s), such as SR-induced desorption, *in situ* bakeout may not be effective.

2. In situ bakeouts require careful planning and execution.

→ Ideally, in situ bakeout requirement should be considered during the system design stage, to ensure compatibilities with other sub-systems, such as magnets.

→ Similar bakeout procedures apply, with only much more cares, as the consequences are very several for any errors and/or bakeout equipment malfunctions.

→ For beampipes with good access, commercial heating tapes works well. However, many systems designed in heating elements onto the beam chambers for 'speedy' bakeout setup, such as CERN's LHC warm beampipes with NEG coatings, NSLS II's dipole chamber.

→ In some cases with extreme space limitation, hot-water 'bakeouts' are also an option to reduce base pressure (mainly water partial pressure).
Build-in Cal-Rod heaters can be very simple and effective for in-situ bakeouts.
CERN LHC Low Profile Heaters

Thermal-Sprayed Heaters

Polyimide foil heater without top layer

Wrapped Thin Tape Heaters
Bakeout of the ALICE Beryllium Beam Pipe
Pumping-Down and Venting

1. Vacuum system pumping down

- Majority of accelerator UHV systems need to be roughed down from atmospheric pressure to a level low enough to start ion pumps (or other types of capture pumps).
- Usually, oil-free (dry) TMP pumping systems are suitable for the roughing down.
- However, for systems sensitive to particulates (such as high-gradient superconducting cavities, photo-cathode electron guns, etc.), pumping rate must be carefully to avoid moving particulates to the critical surfaces.

2. Vacuum system venting.

- Good venting method is a key in preservation a baked or conditioned vacuum system, awarded with fast vacuum recovery upon re-pumping down.
- Being able to avoid in situ bakeout after vacuum interventions offers obvious benefit and flexibility in operations.
- The most common venting gas is DRY nitrogen. The typical sources of dry nitrogen are UHP cylinders and boil-off from LN$_2$ reservoir.
- Special chemical filters are often used to further reduce H$_2$O and HC contents in dry N$_2$ to below ppb level.
- At CERN LHC, filtered Ne gas is also used to vent and to purge activated NEG coated beampipes (*Proceedings of IPAC2011, San Sebastián, Spain, p.1557*)
- For particulate sensitive systems, venting rate must be carefully controlled to avoid moving particulates in the system.
DESY’s studies indicated particle movement with $\Delta P$ down to 1 mbar!

They developed a system using mass flow controllers for both pumping down and venting.

The pumping/venting maybe controlled manually or automated electronically.

The typical initial pumping/venting flow rates are 3 liter/min ($N_2$).

At Cornell, a similar system is in use for 500 kV DC photo-cathode electron guns.

Both our CESR vacuum and ERL vacuum systems have been using a chemical filters (widely used in Semi-Industry) for venting. All fittings are converted to self-sealed quick connects to keep the manifold clean, and to minimize saturation of the filters.

Significantly improvements in vacuum recover are observed after using the filtration systems.

**CESR's Venting Filter Manifold**

**NANOCHEM® OMX™ - Efficiency for Removal of H₂O Impurity**

| L-60 purifier, 2 slpm, N₂ matrix, 16 ppb moisture challenge (APIMS Data) |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>time [minutes]</th>
<th>moisture concentration [ppb]</th>
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<td>300</td>
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~ 0.1 ppb!
CESR Electron Gun Pumping Downs

Two Gun Cathode Replacements

![Graph showing pressure over pumping time with two curves: one for vented with filtered N₂ and the other for vented w/o filter. The graph highlights the start of the bakeout setup.](image)
Vacuum Instrumentation, Control and System Protection
Sectoring an Accelerator Vacuum System

- Vacuum systems for large accelerators (circular or linear) are sectored by gate valves, to provide flexibility in accelerator upgrades, maintenance and repairs.

- The lengths of sections are often determined complexity of components in a section. For simple particle beam transport beamlines, sections as long as over 20-m. However, operational critical and/complex sub-systems are gate valved, such as RF cavities, SR-producing insertion devices, etc.

- For high intensity, short bunched beams, the gate valves must be RF-shielded. These gate valves are usually all-metal styles, though UHV RF-shielded GVs with Viton O-ring gate seals are also used (such as in CESR).

- The sectoring GVs are interlocked by ready-chains that including vacuum signals, as a part of accelerator machine protection system.
Vacuum Instrumentations

- Ion gauges (hot-cathode or/and cold-cathode) are evenly distributed throughout the accelerator vacuum systems as the main total pressure gauges in accelerator operations.

- The ion gauge controllers communicate to the accelerator control system for data logging, vacuum system status monitoring.

- As the vacuum pumping system, ion pumps are installed around accelerator vacuum system, usually more dense than the ion gauges. Thus the ion pump currents can also used as vacuum pressure monitors.

- It is strongly recommended to have one RGA installed in each sector. The RGAs are important tools in vacuum system trouble-shooting, and vacuum system performance diagnostics.

- A high pressure gauge, such as a Convectron-Pirani gauge, must be installed in each vacuum sector, to be included in the vacuum system interlock. In major vacuum incident involving air rush-in, ion gauges and ion pumps may show “UHV-condition”!
Gate valves are interlocked by (at least) vacuum status of the vacuum sectors on both sides of the gate valves, via a so-called ready-chain.

Gate valve ready chains should be implemented at low-level controls, that is, should not rely on a computer/software.

At CESR, gate valve a Rough Vacuum, and two ion pumps in parallel. Hard-wired.
For light source beamlines, proper vacuum instrumentation and interlocks must be in place to provide flexibility to X-ray users, while protecting accelerator vacuum system and operations.

During X-ray operations, any beamline may be isolated by a pair of beam stops and down-stream gate valves.

A fast gate valve and sufficient delay-line and differential pumping prevent potential contaminations of accelerator UHV system from X-ray users' samples.
Vacuum System Thermal Protection

- For high beam current storage rings, vacuum chamber walls are subject to very high SR power area density. Adequate water cooling are normally build in to handle the SR power, to keep temperature rise and associated thermal stress below a safe level.

- Thermocouples are usually attached to the vacuum chambers to ensure that there are normal cooling water flows, and to warn any mis-steering of the electron beam.

- The temperature monitoring also helps identify any abnormal heating, such as unexpected HOML (broken RF fingers, excitation of trapped modes, etc.).

- In CESR, close to 800 TCs are attached to the vacuum chambers. Warning limits are implemented for all the TCs, and a 'watch-dog' program will warn operators of any higher-than-limit temperatures.

- At CESR, we also installed micro-switches on all water valves, and the CESR Control System checks that all valves are opened after maintenances to the system.
Examples of TC locations in CESR

TCs between cooling, most common locations. Many clogged lines, dead-looped plumbing were “discovered” by the TCs.

Multiple TCs to detector beamline mis-alignment, mis-steering, etc.

CEHSS Crotch

Electron beam

X-ray beam
Examples of TC locations in CESR Cont.

TCs at locations where higher-order mode loss (HOML) may occur
Examples of TC locations in CESR Cont.

CesrTA Wiggler Photon Stopper Chamber (intercepting 40 kW SR power)
Important to understand heating patterns

- In early stage of Cornell ERL prototype injector high current operations, we noticed the ('minor') uneven beam dump heating, but did not take it seriously.

- We learned our lesson. As a results of incorrect dump beam setup, electron beam was not rastering in circular pattern, but in a vertical linear pattern.

Electron beam melted through aluminum body
Ion Pump Feedthrough Protection

HV feedthroughs of ion pumps are most vulnerable, needing protection.

HV feedthroughs of ion pumps near cryogenic systems (such as SRF cavities here) need special care, to prevent condensation. Dry N₂ purging are used in CESR.
# CESR Vacuum Performance – Snapshot

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<th>nTorr</th>
<th></th>
<th>C2E1</th>
<th>0.1</th>
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**200 mA**

**No beam**
CESR Vacuum Operation Status -- Shutdown Summary and dP/dI Plots

- Vacuum Conditioning after 2015/2016 Winter CESR Shutdown
- Vacuum Conditioning after Summer 2015 CESR Shutdown
- Vacuum Conditioning after Summer 2014 CESR Shutdown
- Vacuum Conditioning after Winter 2014 CESR Shutdown
- Vacuum Conditioning after 2013 Summer CESR Shutdown
- Vacuum Conditioning after 2012/13 Winter CESR Shutdown
- Vacuum Conditioning after Summer 2012 CESR Shutdown
- Vacuum Conditioning after Winter 2011-12 CESR Shutdown
- Vacuum Conditioning after Summer 2011 CESR/CesrTA-shutdown.
- Vacuum Conditioning after January 2011 CESR/CesrTA-shutdown.
- Vacuum Conditioning after Spring 2010 CTA-shutdown.
- Vacuum Conditioning after June 2009 CTA-shutdown.
- Vacuum Conditioning after Summer 2008 CTA-shutdown.
- B12W sector Conditioning after installation of RFA dipole chamber at B12W and re-
- L3 Vacuum Conditioning after installation of RFAs in May 2007
- Vacuum Conditioning after June 2006 Shutdown
- Vacuum Conditioning after January 2006 Shutdown
- Vacuum Conditioning after June 2005 Shutdown
- Vacuum Conditioning after the Summer '04 FLM Shutdown (09/02-11/15/04)
- Conditioning after the Spring '04 Shutdown (06/24-11/15/04)
- Conditioning after the Spring '03 Shutdown (07/10-12/31/03)
- Conditioning from the Summer '02 Shutdown (09/12-11/30/02)
- Phase III (SCIR) Operations (10/10/01-2/28/02), after the Summer '01 Shutdown
- SC IR West HBs SRF Regions
- Phase 2/3 Operations (4/1/00-2/28/01)
- Phase II Operations (11/95-12/98)