

Cryogenic purification of helium-3 gas for polarization purposes by PAMP method

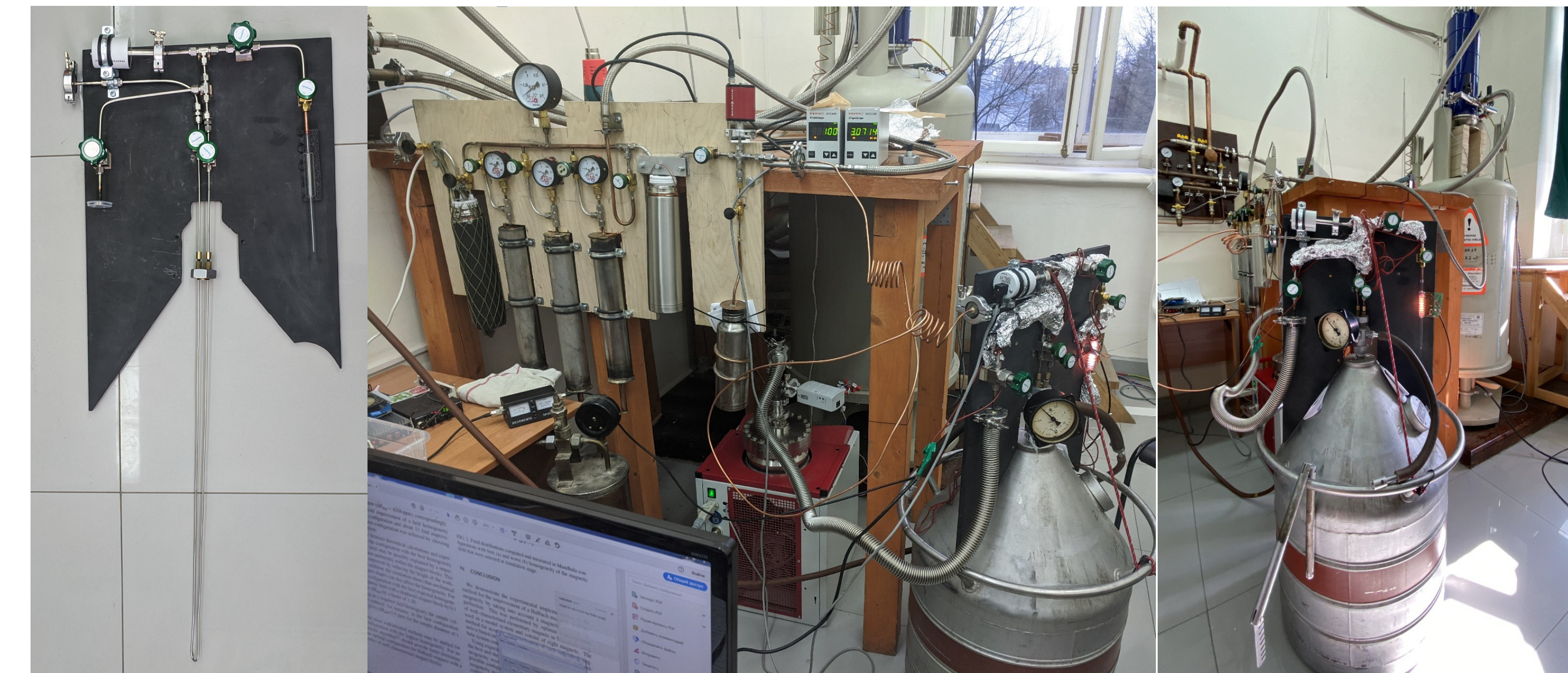
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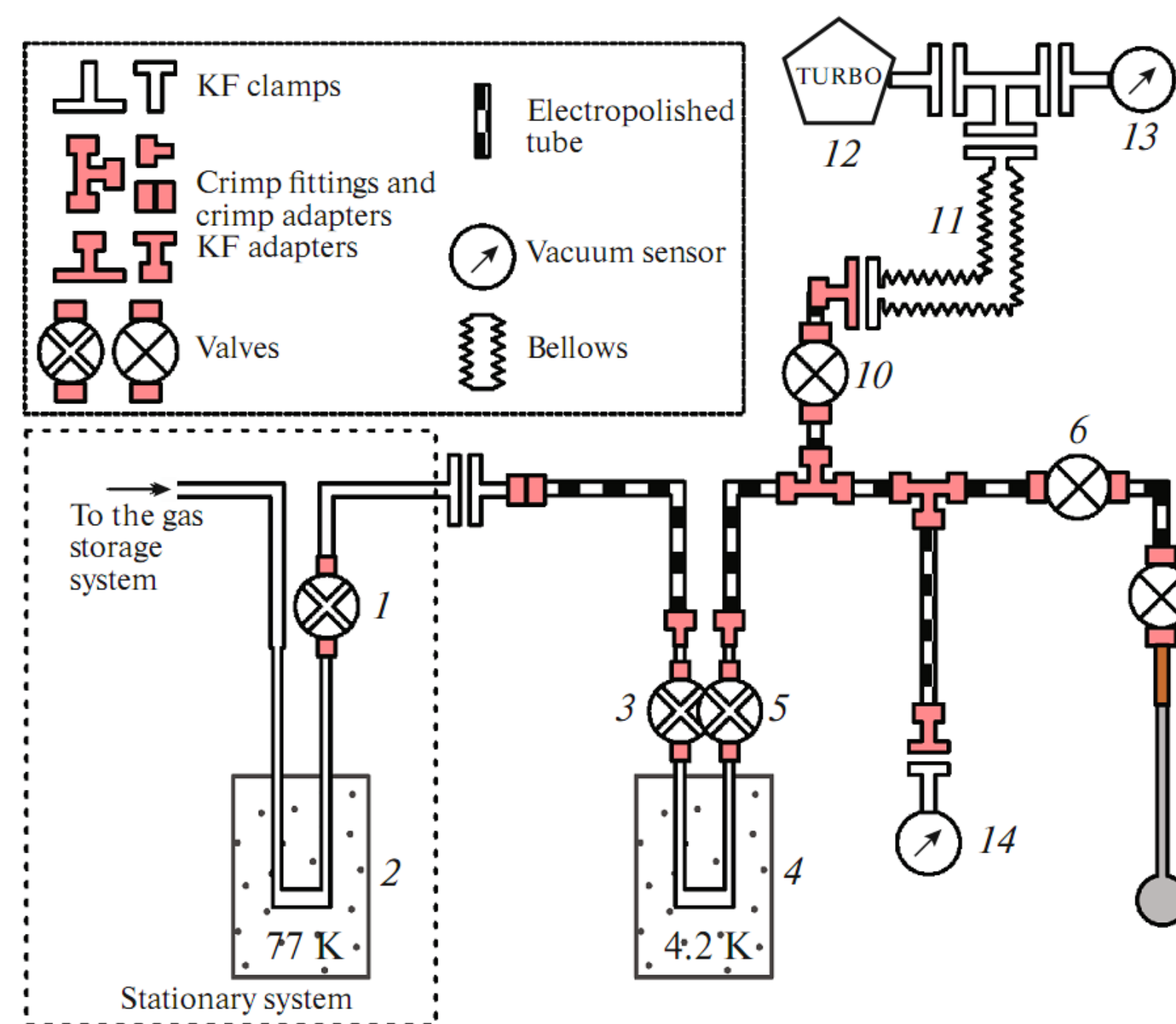
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The novel PAMP polarization technique of helium-3 (polarization of atoms in a magnetized plasma [1]) yields at least a few percent helium-3 polarization at room temperature without the use of the optical pumping, solely by use of a strong external magnetic field and of a rf gas discharge in high-purity helium gas. The polarization process involves the metastable atoms, and similarly to MEOP is expected to require a high gas purity. Usually, commercial getter gas purifiers are used for helium-3 cleaning. Here we present a cryogenic approach for helium purification.



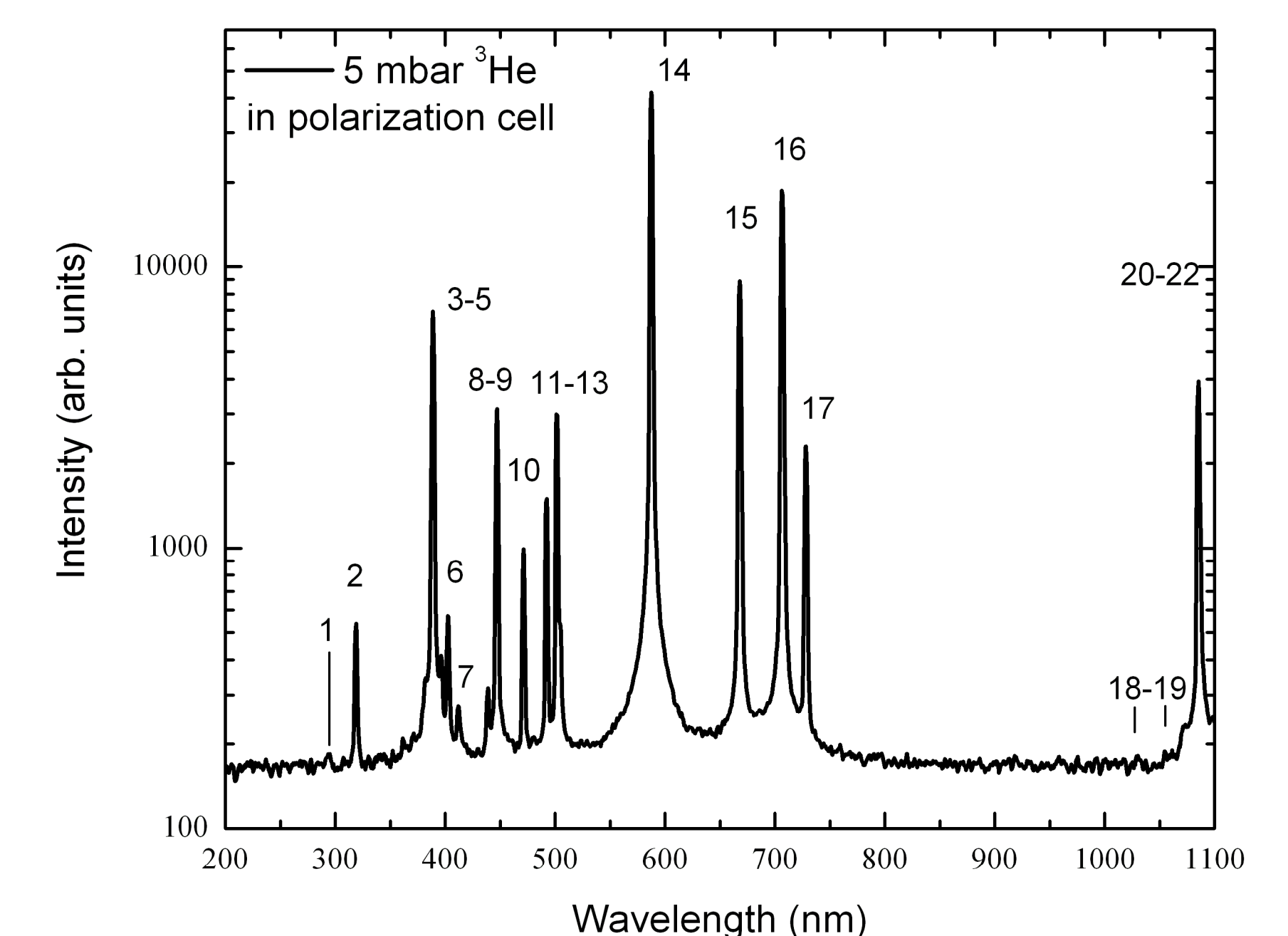
Purification setup [2]



- ✓ Adapted for storage helium dewars
- ✓ Helium is deposited in cryotube (4) for >12 hours
- ✓ Allows for the polarizing cell filling
- ✓ Allows for many cycles of the cell cleaning
- ✓ Low additional liquid helium consumption <0.5 L/week
- ✓ Allows to work with a low grade helium (>99.99%)
- ✓ Suitable for cryogenic labs

(1, 3, 5) Swagelok SS-2H valves, (2) nitrogen trap, (4) **U-shaped tube for purification at helium temperature**, (6, 7, 10) Swagelok SS-DSS4 valves, (8) glass-copper junction, (9) polarization cell, (11) bellows, (12) turbomolecular pump, (13, 14) vacuum sensors.

Optical emission spectrum of ^3He plasma



✓ Only helium lines are visible

NMR

$B_0=3.66$ T

Room temperature

Home-built pulsed NMR spectrometer [3]



Sealed cells

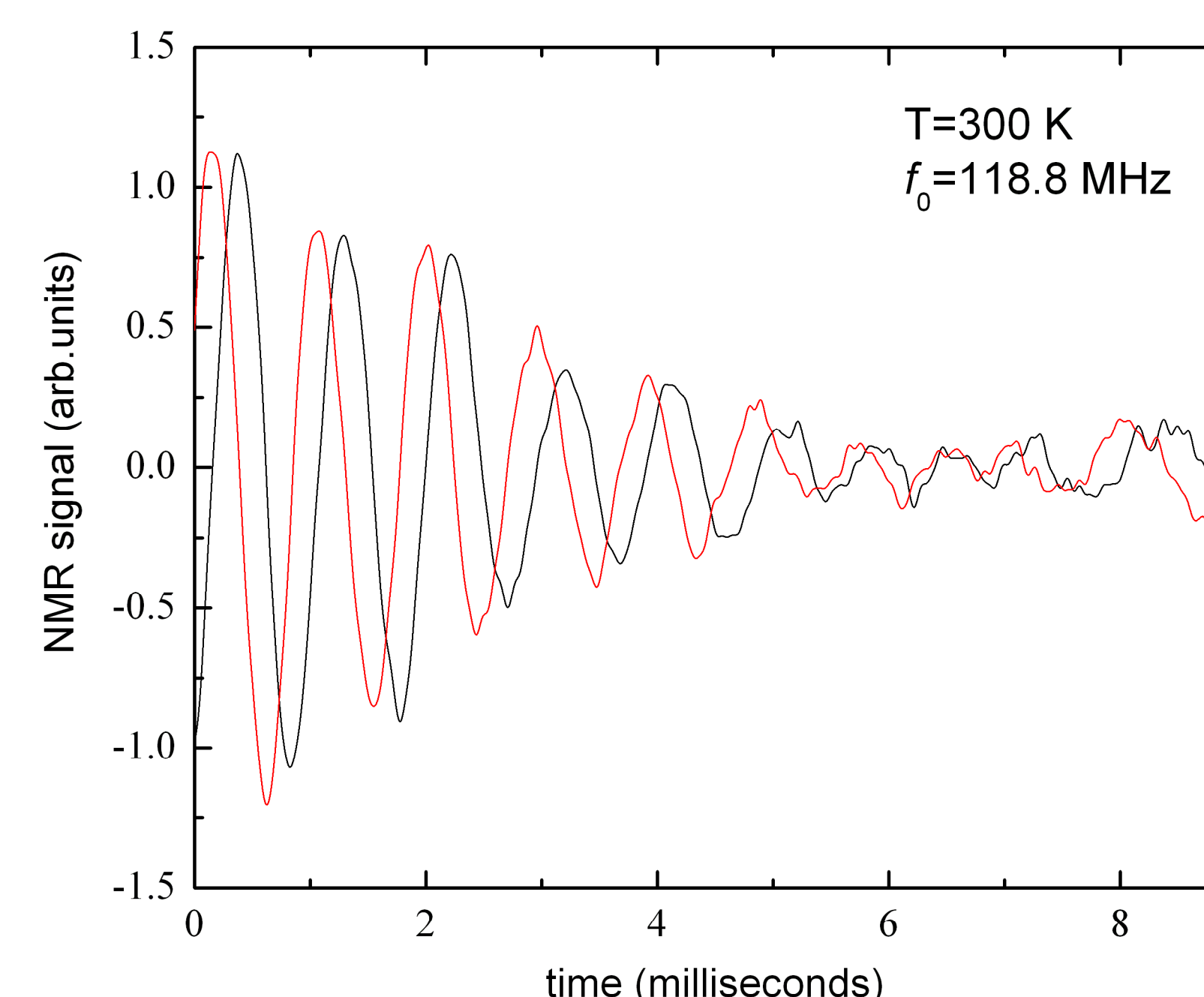


89 mm 'warm' bore
Homogeneity:
5 ppm/cm
or 0.5 ppm/cm with
shimming



Insert

^3He FID signal in 10 mbar cell



✓ 1% polarization
10 minutes rf discharge
at 27 MHz/12 W

Perspectives

- ✓ PAMP process studies
- ✓ Porous media studies using ^3He as a probe gas

References

- [1] Maul A. et al., Phys. Rev. A, 98, 063405 (2018). doi:10.1103/PhysRevA.98.063405
- [2] Makarchenko A. et al., Instrum. Exp. Tech., 64(6), 911 (2021). doi:10.1134/S0020441221050213
- [3] Kuzmin V.V. et al., Magn. Reson. Solids, 21, 19104 (2019) doi:10.26907/mrsej-19104

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