Basic Bringup: Cryorefrigerator

# Introduction

This document is an ongoing document detailing the current status of the quick test cryorefrigerator. The intent of this document is to note current problems and attempted solutions as well as providing a history for the project.

# Goals

The goal of this project is to make a cold chamber that can quickly and cost effectively reach a few temperatures. The use for this system would be quick tests of samples prior to placing them in the main cryostats that take ages to reach temperature.

# Progress

A broad strokes design was settled on for the cold chamber. A decommissioned refrigerator tube will make the outside body of the new fridge. Then by simply having a new top plate machined we will have a sealed system.

The top plate will require a hole pattern such that the PT415 by Cryomech can bolt directly to the top plate. In addition to that a series of KF50 and potentially KF25 flanges should be machined into the plate.

Going forward the most time sensitive step is to submit the job to STS. For this reason we will mock up the top plate in a CAD software and hopefully submit the job before fleshing out the details of the assembly and experiments that are intended to be run.

For CAD see the CAD folder.

Cryomech has been emailed requesting a CAD file for the PT415. Cryomech has obliged in giving the cad files under the condition that we don’t plan on taking the PT415 out of the country (a matter of national security as far as I can tell…)

# Stress analysis

Inventor professional has a built in FEM solver for stress. Using this tool it is straightforward to get a rough idea of the deflection which the plate will see under vacuum. A pressure of 15psi was applied to the surface of the plate with the vacuum jacket marked as an immovable object. The result of the calculations is shown in the image below. The takeaway is that for a ¾” austenitic stainless steel plate a maximal deflection of 0.002” is expected.

This is of course just a simulated estimation. Some limitations include gravity not being factored in, using a generic austenitic steel grade for the simulation instead of specifying 316L stainless steel (for example). Also, the weight and the added rigidity of having the flanges populated with equipment was ignored for this test.



A further test with gravity found no difference. Also initial investigations into the natural harmonics of the steel plate show that modifying the orientation of the holes does not have a significant effect on the dominant vibrational mode. You can see that the spherical harmonics for a disk are predominant (as expected) with additional modes due to the corners vibrating.

Talk with Jan checklist

* Bolt pattern for the legs, I’ve allotted four posts each 2”x2”
  + 1.25” legs use some adapter 2”x2” 4 bolt legs
    - I’ve added some mounting holes, instead of 1/4-20 I used the size down (16-28?), you get more threads in at a shallower tap, plus you want a minimum depth to width ratio
  + ¼-20 is what we’re going with b/c you only need a few threads.
* O-ring groove for the PT415
  + Size of O-ring
    - 1/8” o-ring
    - Liquid helium plant may have a land pattern
      * Changed the o-ring
  + Second O-ring
    - Added a second groove, still needs to be properly dimentioned
  + Choice of bolts?
    - 5/16-18 looking bolt
  + Email cyromech for recommended land pattern.

The vacuum jacket bolt pattern has been measured properly. Test holes drilled in acrylic with the desired spacing. Test hole was fit on every pair of bolts. The center to center dimention which works is 530.5mm. Using a 24” Vernier the bolt to bolt spacing measured by screwing in a pair of M8 bolts in opposite holes and measuring the greatest distance between the heads of each bolt. The distances measured for two sets of holes was 21.381” and 21.385”. The bolt head a nominally 1/2” diameter head. To within small error the center to center spacing is then 21.381-0.5”. Which makes the measured spacing 530.377mm and 530.479mm. A test hole was made with the dimention 530mm and this did not fit nicely (might have been within the clearance hole tolerance). Using 530.5mm had the test piece fit nicely in every bolt pair.

* + Picture of test thing
* A plate of steel might be uneven by up to 40 thou, this means for o-ring surfaces the plate will have to be locally flattened. This is ok right?
  + Talk to MDC for potentially a flattened plate
    - RFQ from MDC vacuum was filed
  + Talk to local machine shops for grinding the existing plate flat
* Need more accurate measurement of bolt pattern for vacuum jacket