



Canadian Association
of Physicists

Association canadienne
des physiciens et physiciennes

Contribution ID: 3336

Type: **Poster not-in-competition (Undergraduate Student) / Affiche non-compétitive (Étudiant(e) du 1er cycle)**

(POS-21) Development of an In-Gas Laser Ablation source

Tuesday, 7 June 2022 17:32 (2 minutes)

nEXO is a next generation detector to search for neutrinoless double-beta decay in Xe-136. This hypothetical decay violates lepton-number conservation, requiring the neutrino to be its own antiparticle and would imply the existence of physics beyond the Standard Model. As a potential upgrade to further improve nEXO's sensitivity, the Ba-tagging technique is being developed to eliminate nearly all background events. The Ba-tagging scheme being pursued by Canadian institutions involves an extraction of Ba-136 ions from candidate Xe-136 double-beta decay events within the detector in a gas phase, and an identification of Ba ions using laser and mass spectroscopy. To study and optimize the Ba-tagging extraction and identification process, a well-characterized in-gas ion source is needed. To this end, our group at McGill is developing an in-gas laser ablation source. Currently, ion production and transport efficiency in noble gas as a function of gas pressure is being studied. The setup, analysis, and future plans of the in-gas laser ablation source will be presented.

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Session Classification: DNP Poster Session & Student Poster Competition (4) | Session d'affiches DPN et concours d'affiches étudiantes (4)

Track Classification: Technical Sessions / Sessions techniques: Nuclear Physics / Physique nucléaire (DNP-DPN)