



PICO-40L thermal model

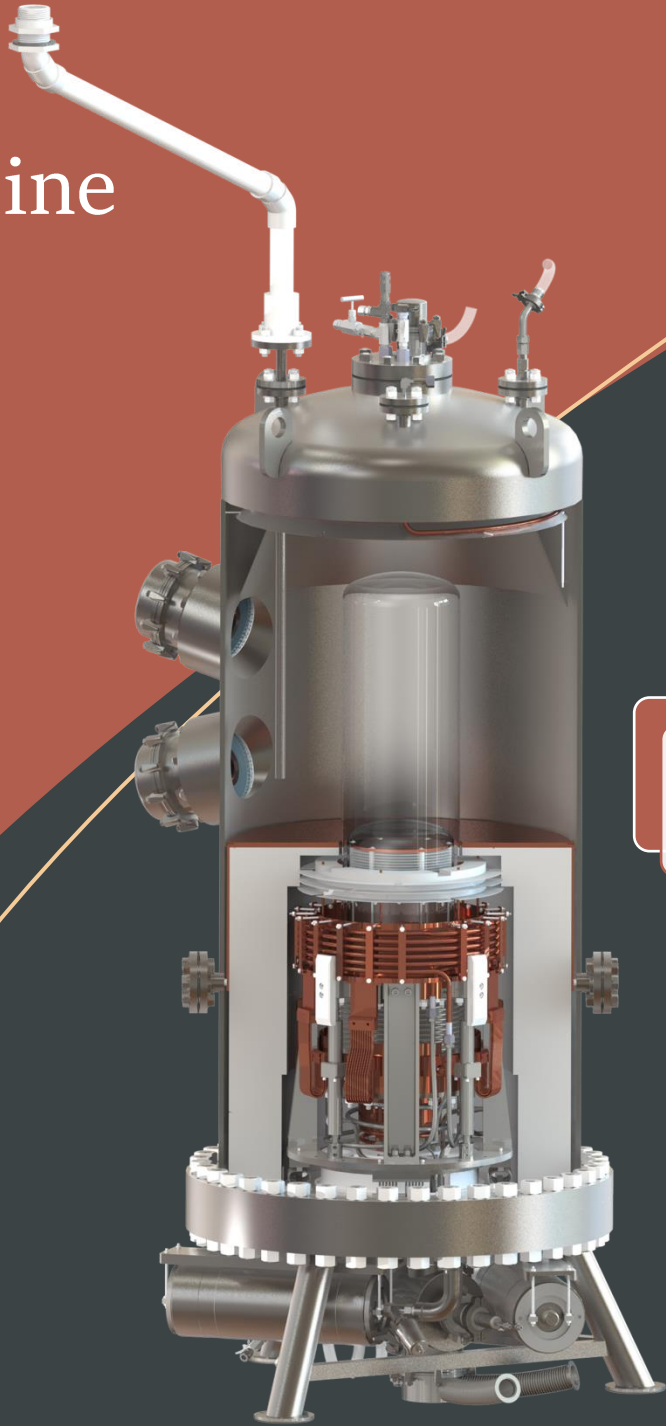
2026 CAP Congress

June 23rd



Hantz Nozard

Outline



Intro

Motivation

Thermal
model

Threshold

Conclusion

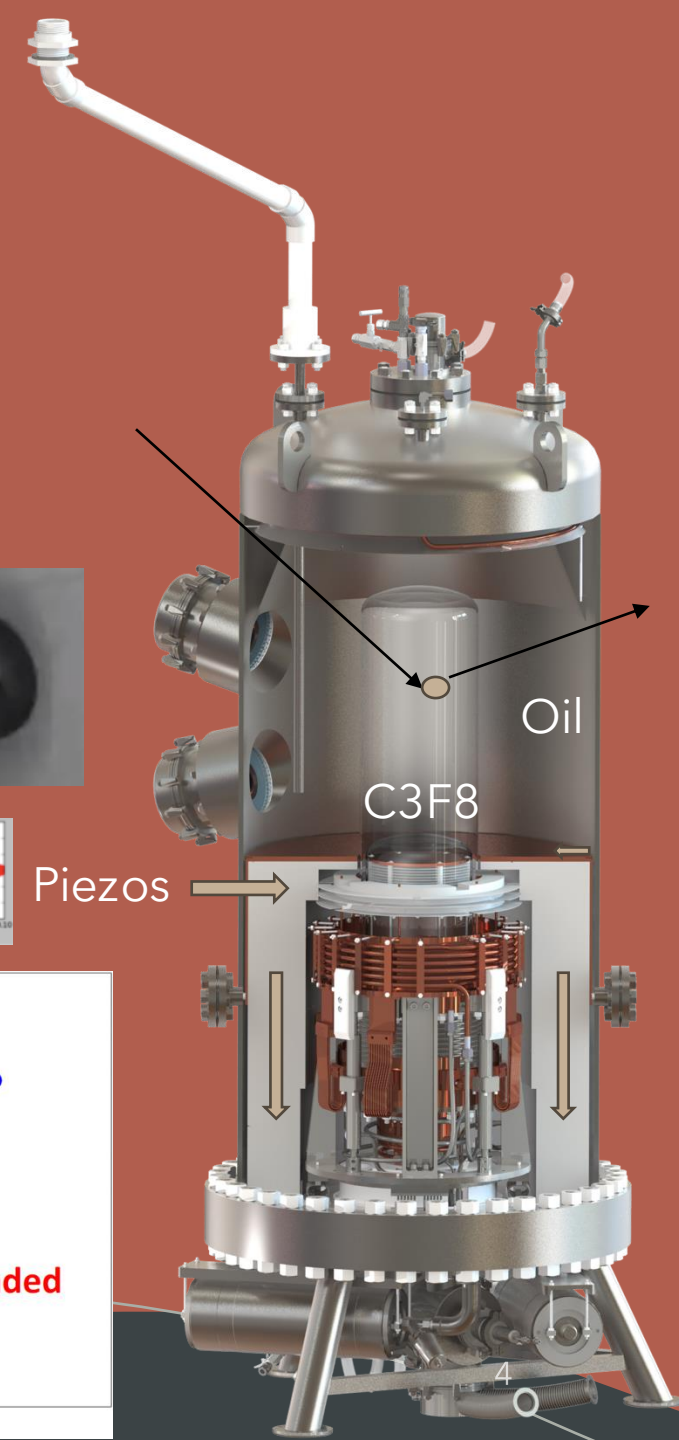
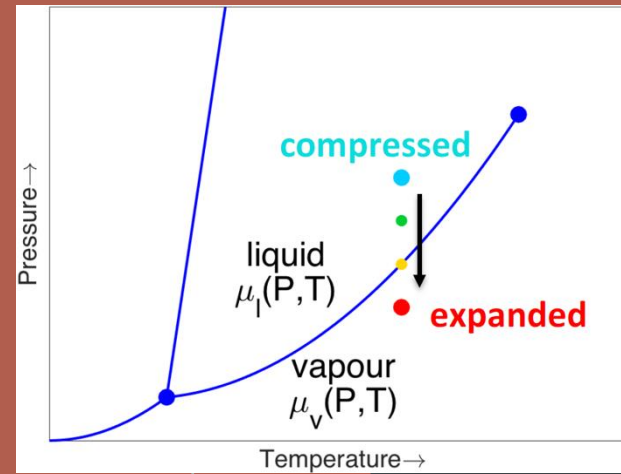
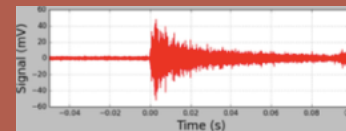
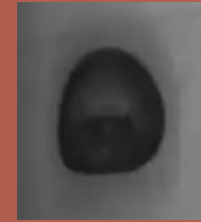
PICO-40L Experiment

- Bubble chamber detector
 - C3F8 as the active fluid \rightarrow Metastable (superheated, $\downarrow P$)
 - Interaction: particle-nucleus \rightarrow nuclear recoil \rightarrow bubble(s)
 - Seitz model : localized energy deposit \rightarrow threshold
- Collaboration: technological achievement
 - Background rejection : insensitive to electron & gamma
 - less localized than nuclear recoils \rightarrow protobubble collapses immediately
 - Acoustic discrimination: Piezo \rightarrow distinct sign.; α vs neutron



PICO-40L Experiment

- Camera
 - Primary trigger
 - Bubble position reconstruction
- Fast pressure transducer : dytran
 - Secondary trigger
 - Bubble multiplicity
 - Event type: bulk vs wall

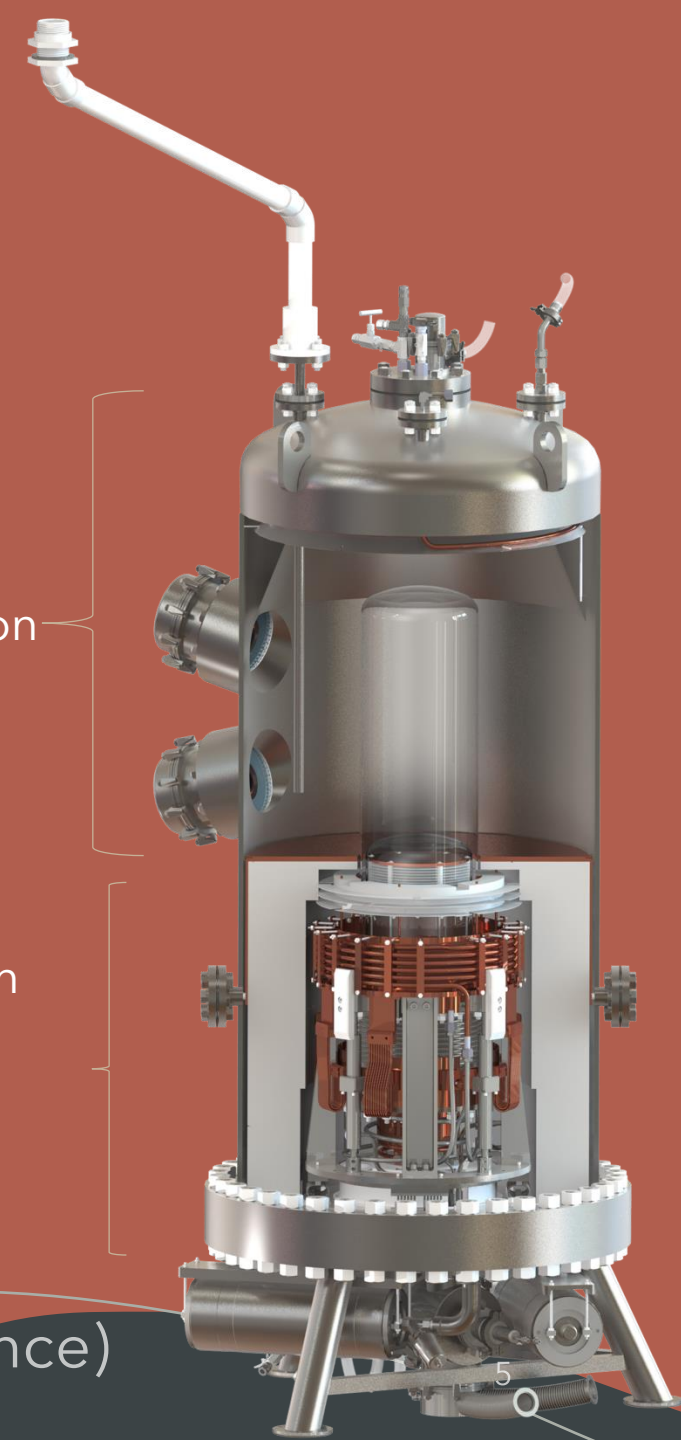


Thermal concept

- Warm region: water bath → regulate T
- Transition region: imperfect
 - HDPE sheets & Heater plates
 - Thermal simulation & RTD to understand
- Cold region: Cooling coil
- Need for a cold and warm region: why?
 - C_3F_8 in contact with the bellows
 - Nucleation sites: Bellows (presence) vs Glass (~ absence)

Warm region
~ 13 °C

Cold region
~ -25 °C

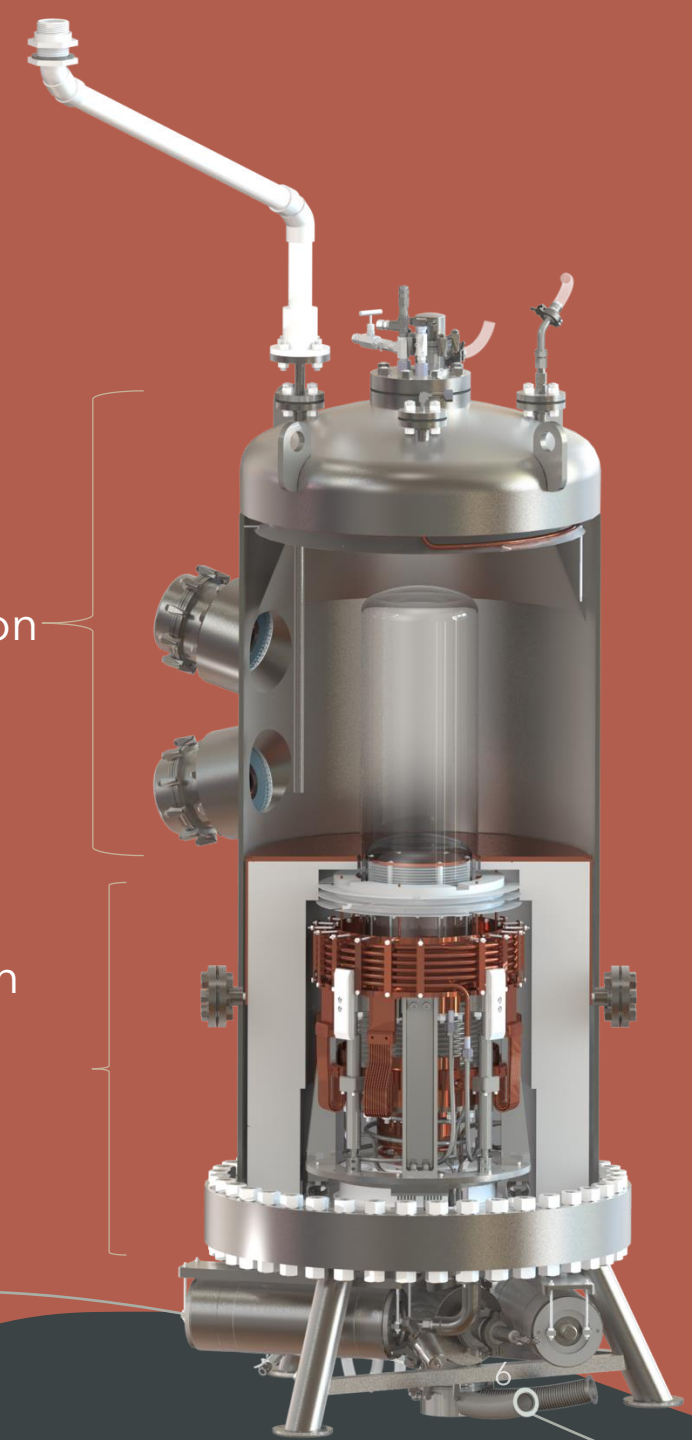


Thermal concept

- Question that needed to be answered
 - P & T° : profile along the Z-axis
 - Threshold \rightarrow Q(P,T)
 - No RTDs in the active fluid
- COMSOL simulation vs RTD data
 - Which model best describes reality

Warm region
~ 13 °C

Cold region
~ -25 °C



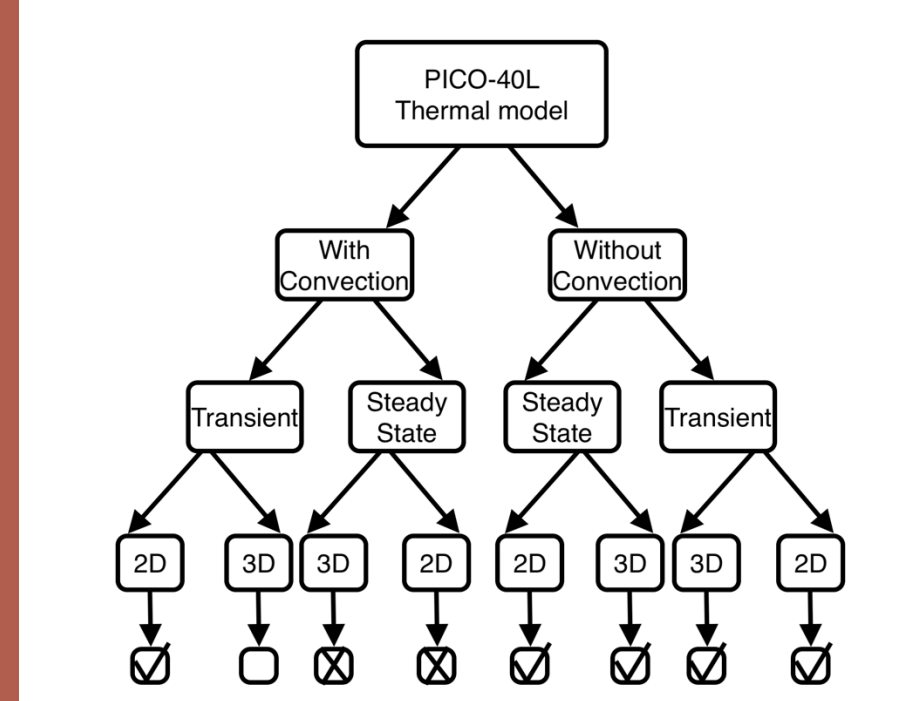
Thermal model : diagram

- Convection

- More realistic regarding the time needed to reach a steady state
- Boussinesq approximation : velocity field of the fluid

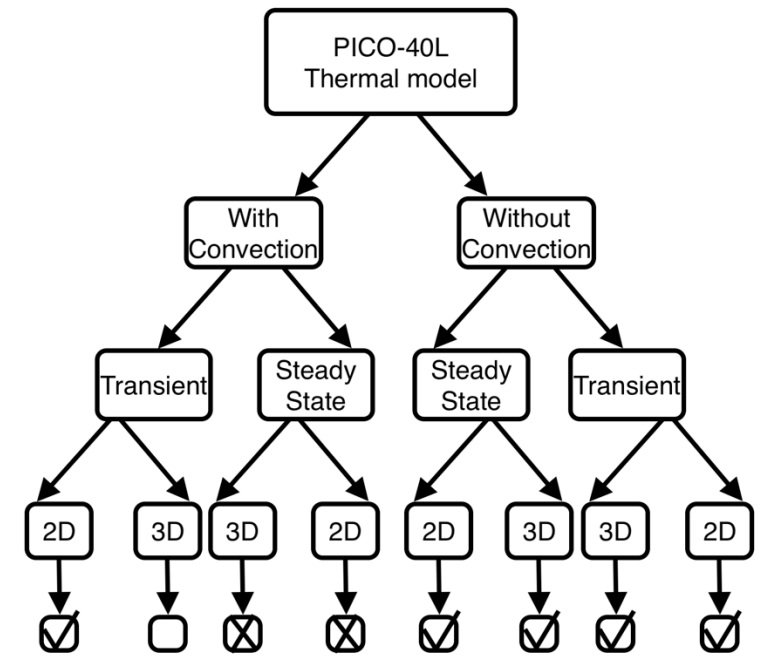
- No convection

- When the system stabilizes, it is possible that the convective flow can be neglected.
- Maximum time to reach equilibrium

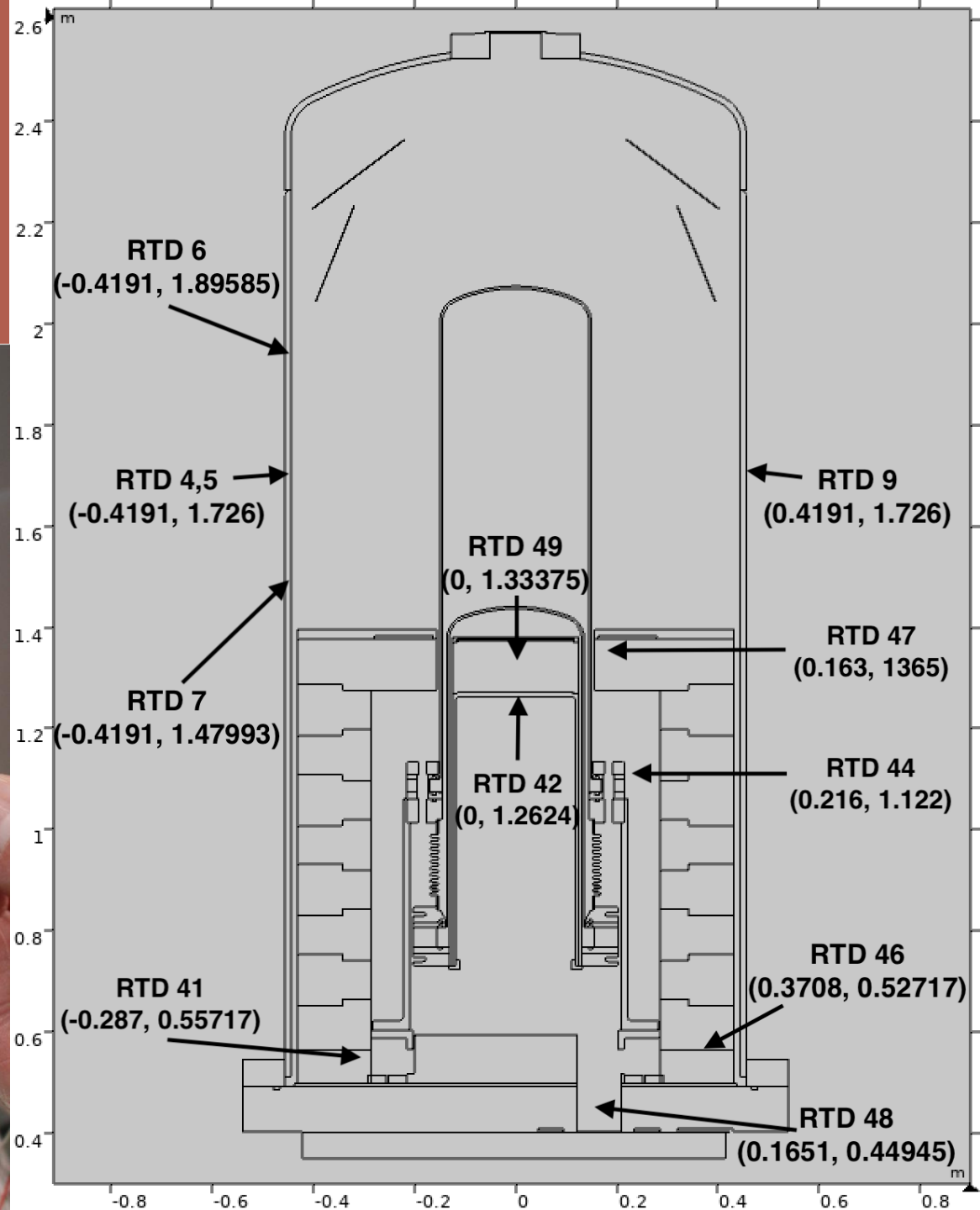
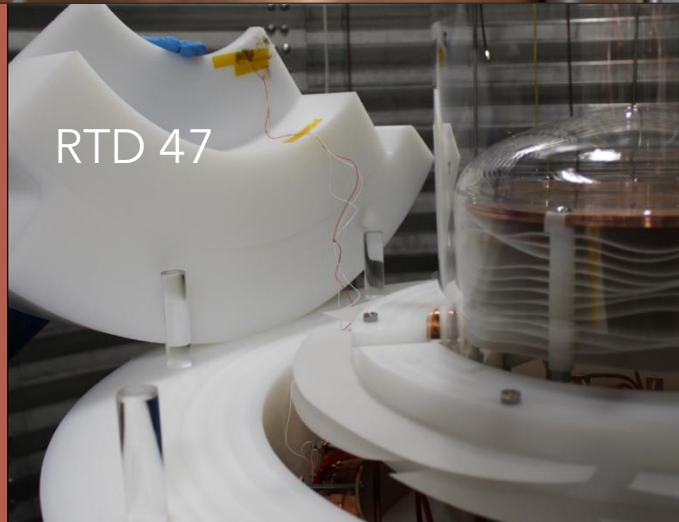
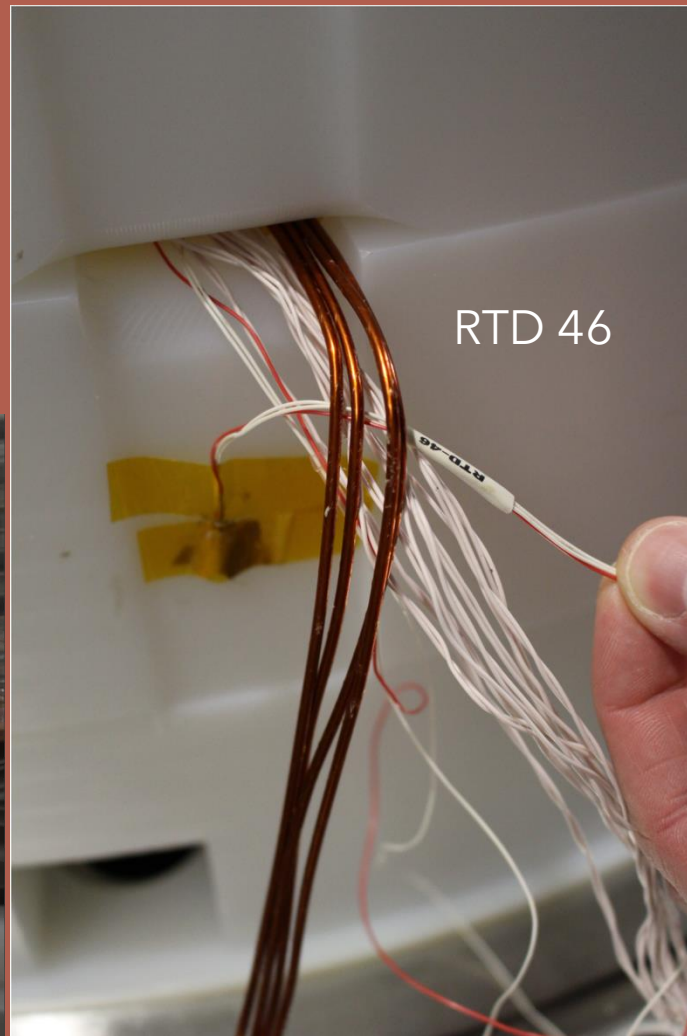


Thermal model : diagram

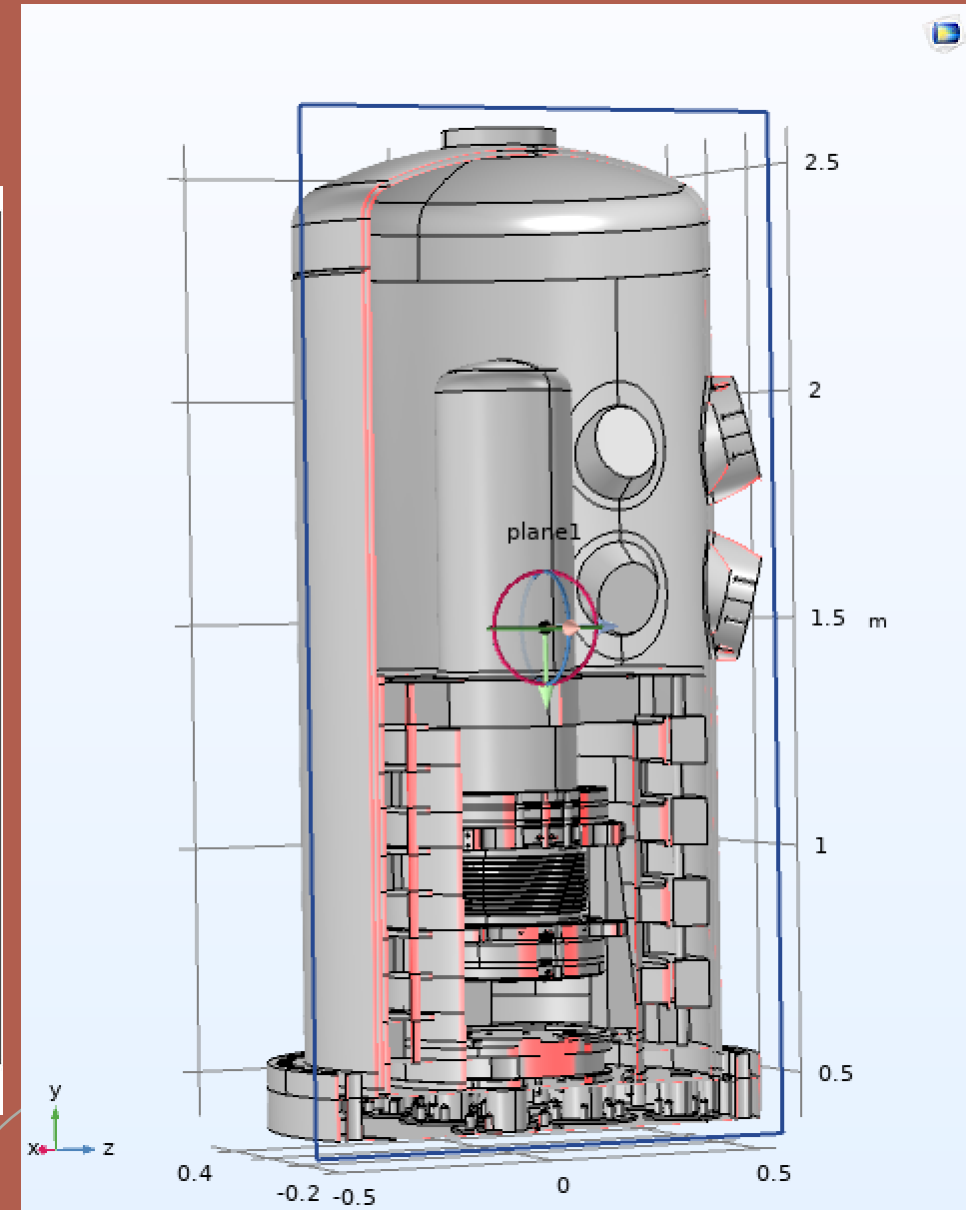
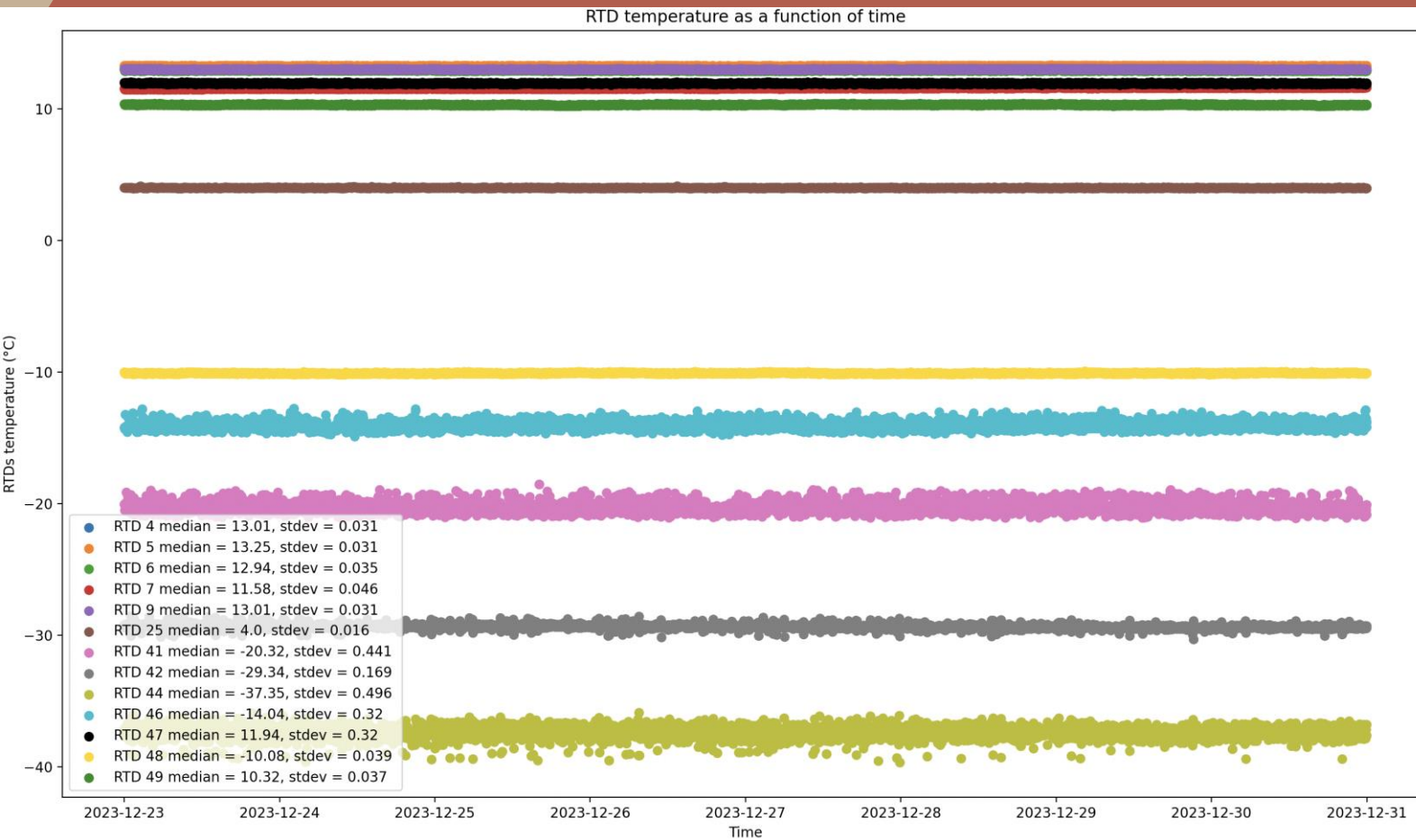
- Transient
 - T over time: COMSOL vs RTD
 - Compression and expansion cycle
- Steady state
 - When the system reaches stability
- 2D
 - Reduce computation time but constitutes a simplification
- 3D
 - Limits possible errors due to the use of symmetry (2D)



RTDs : positions

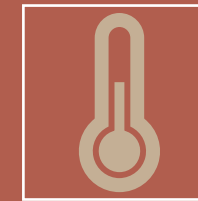
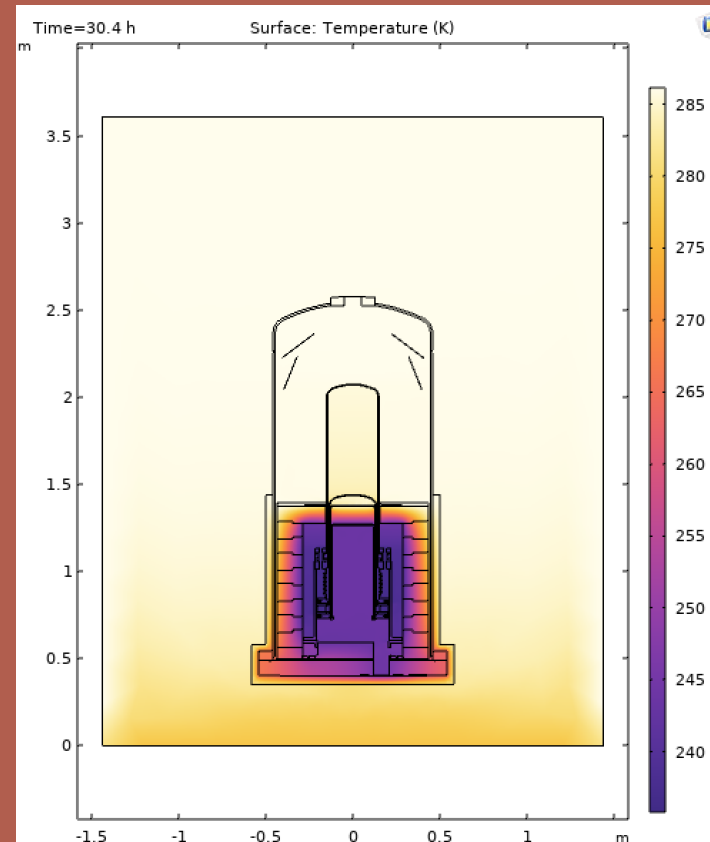
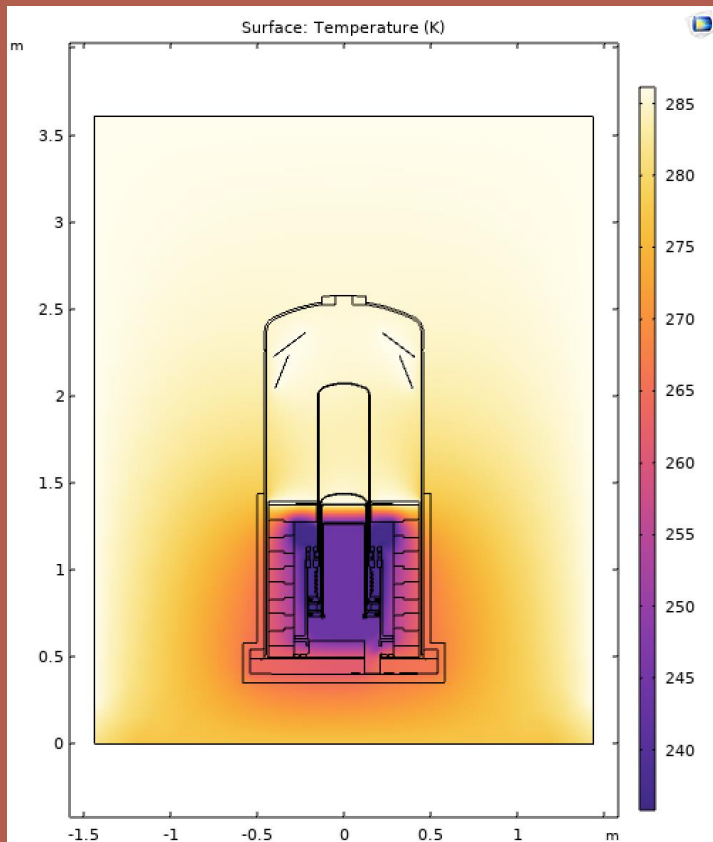


RTDs: steady-state data

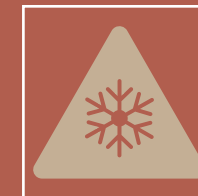


RTD vs COMSOL data

- SS No convection vs Convection trans



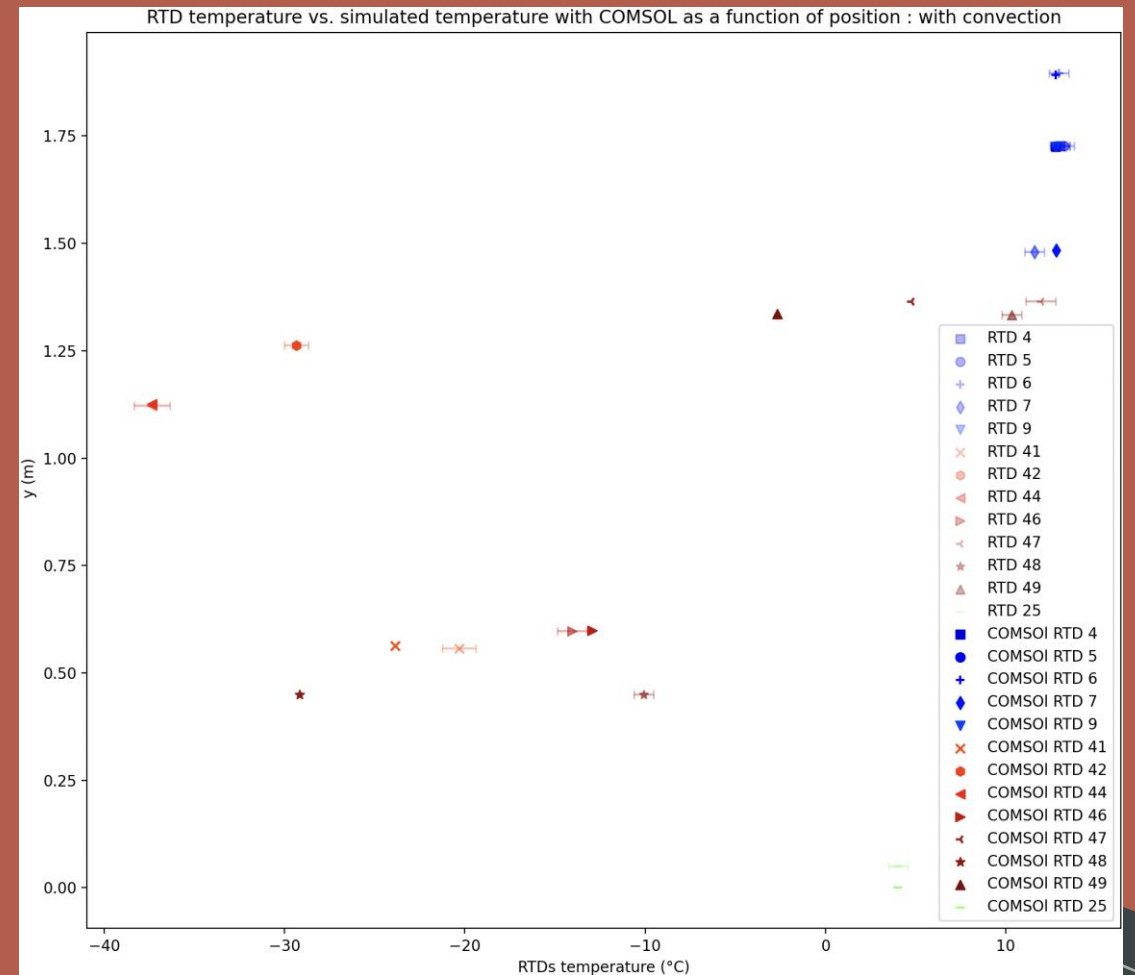
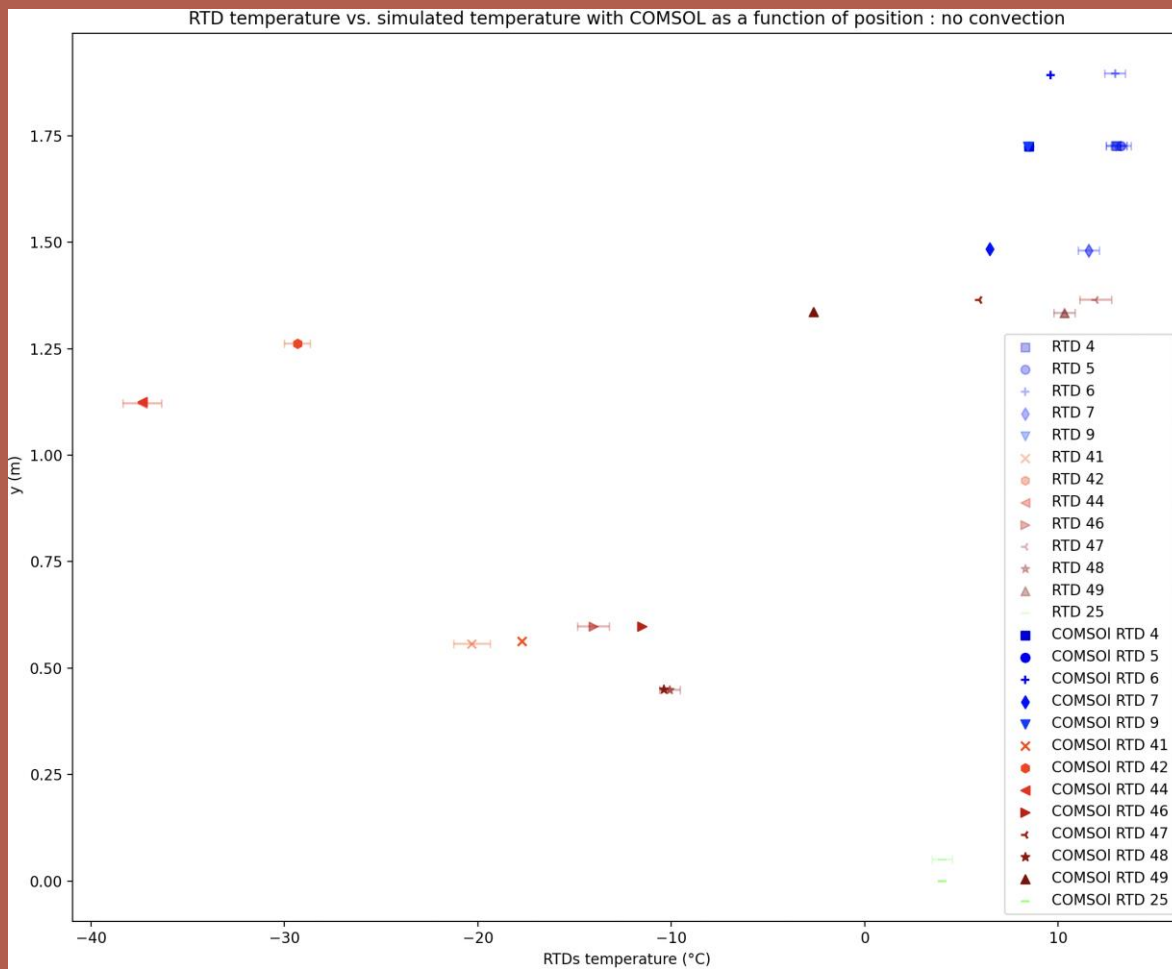
Slight temperature difference near the wall and the bottom of the PV.



*** Heat transfer occurs from the oil to the glass wall since the oil is warmer.

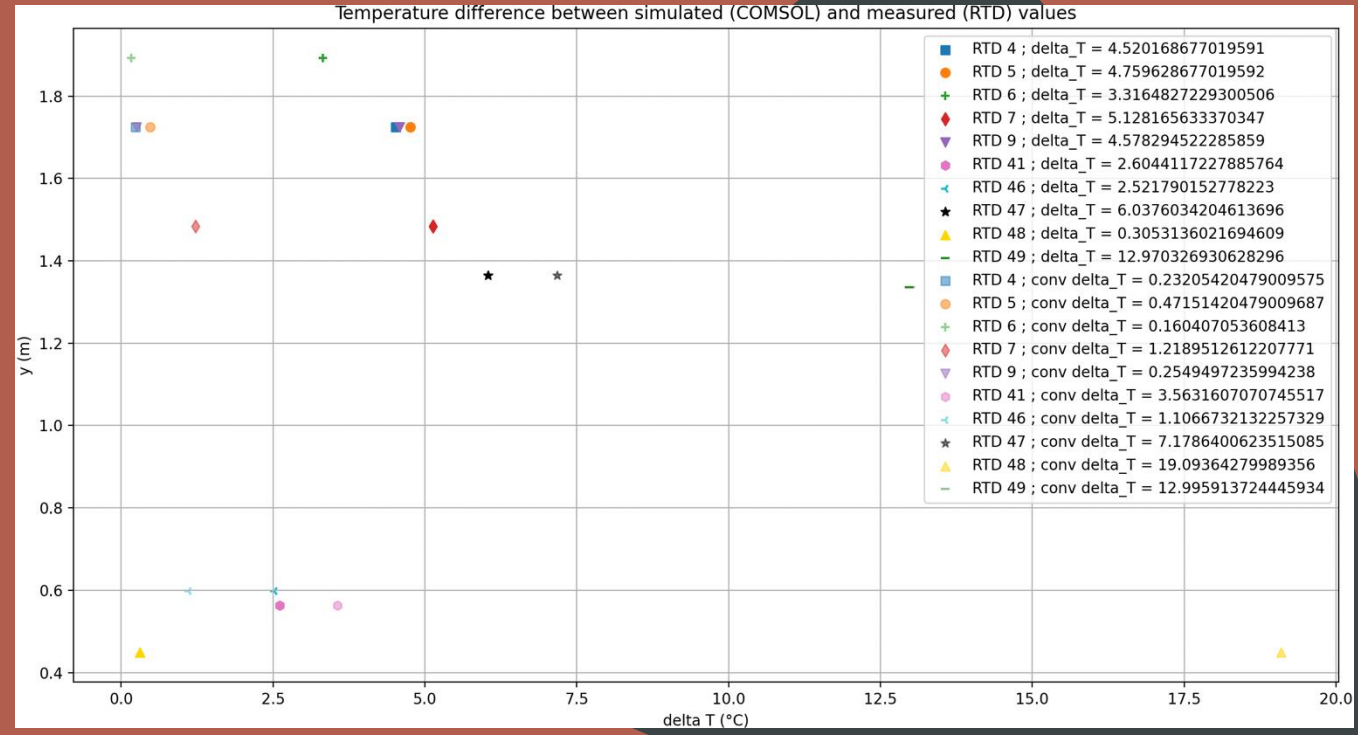
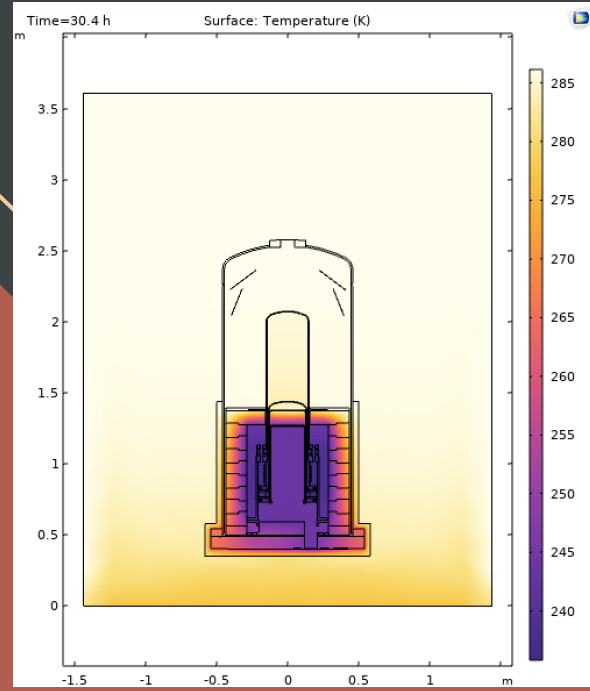
The bottom of the PV is colder when convection is taken into account.

RTD vs COMSOL data



Temperature difference between models

- The model that takes convection into account best describes reality.
- Significant change in T with a slight spatial shift : RTD47, RTD49

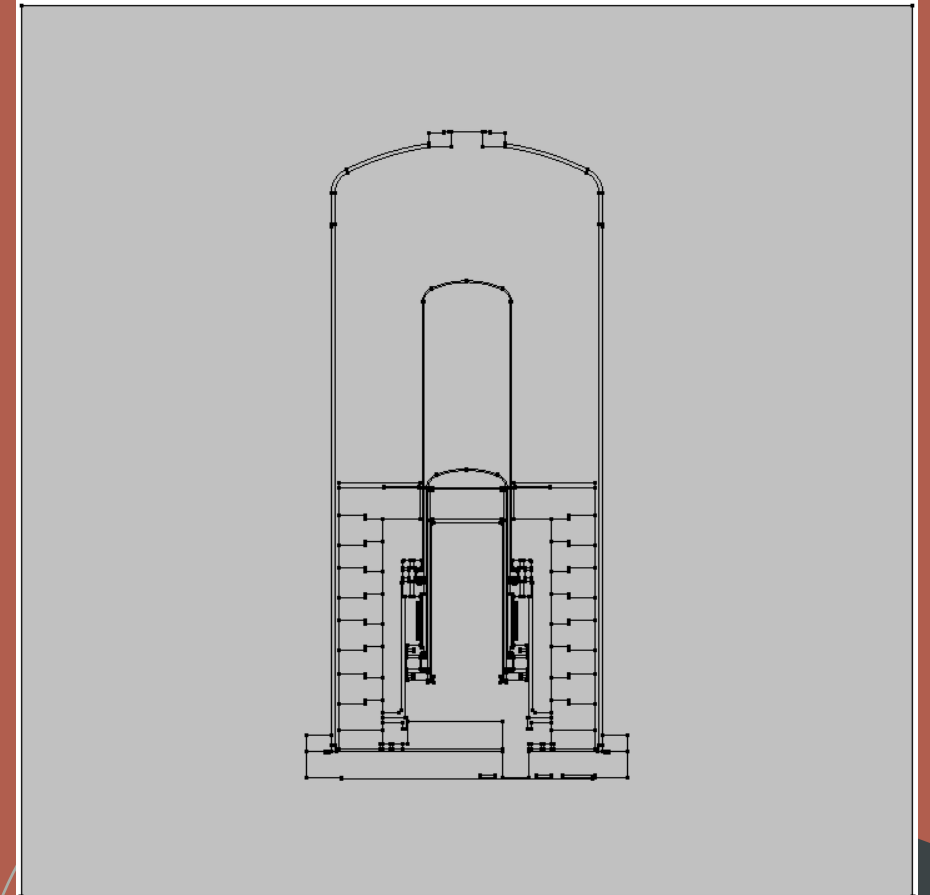
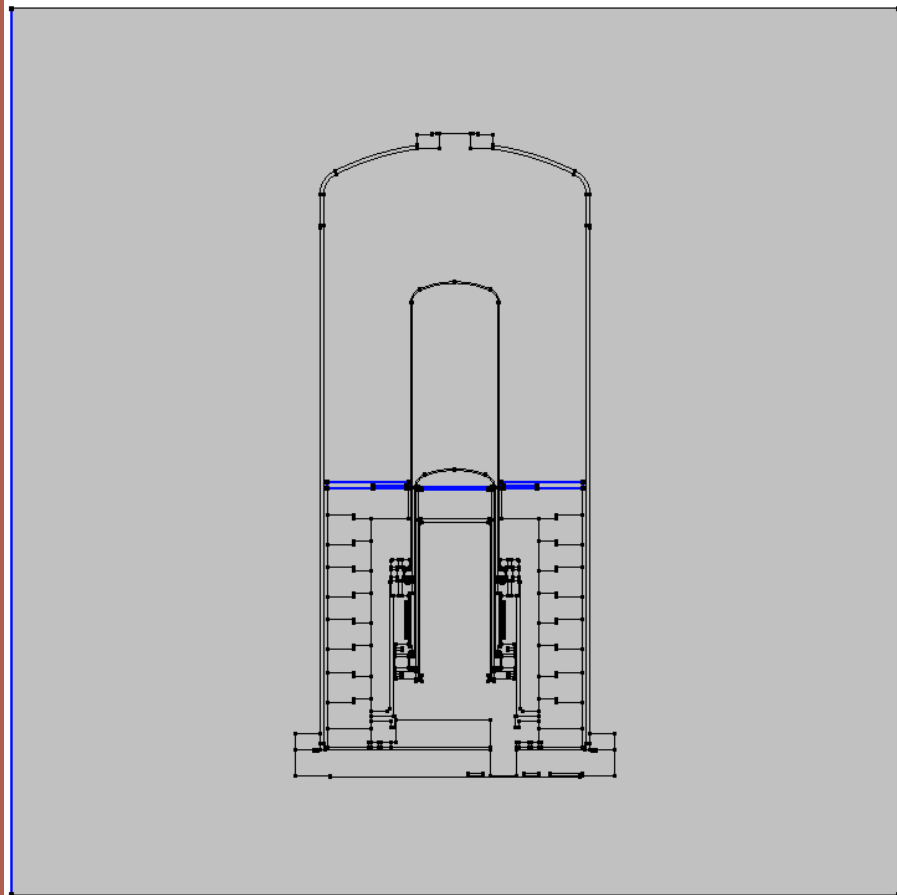


Initial & Boundaries condition

Water Tank Wall & Heater plate
286.15 K.; 13 °C

$T_i = 293.15 \text{ K}$

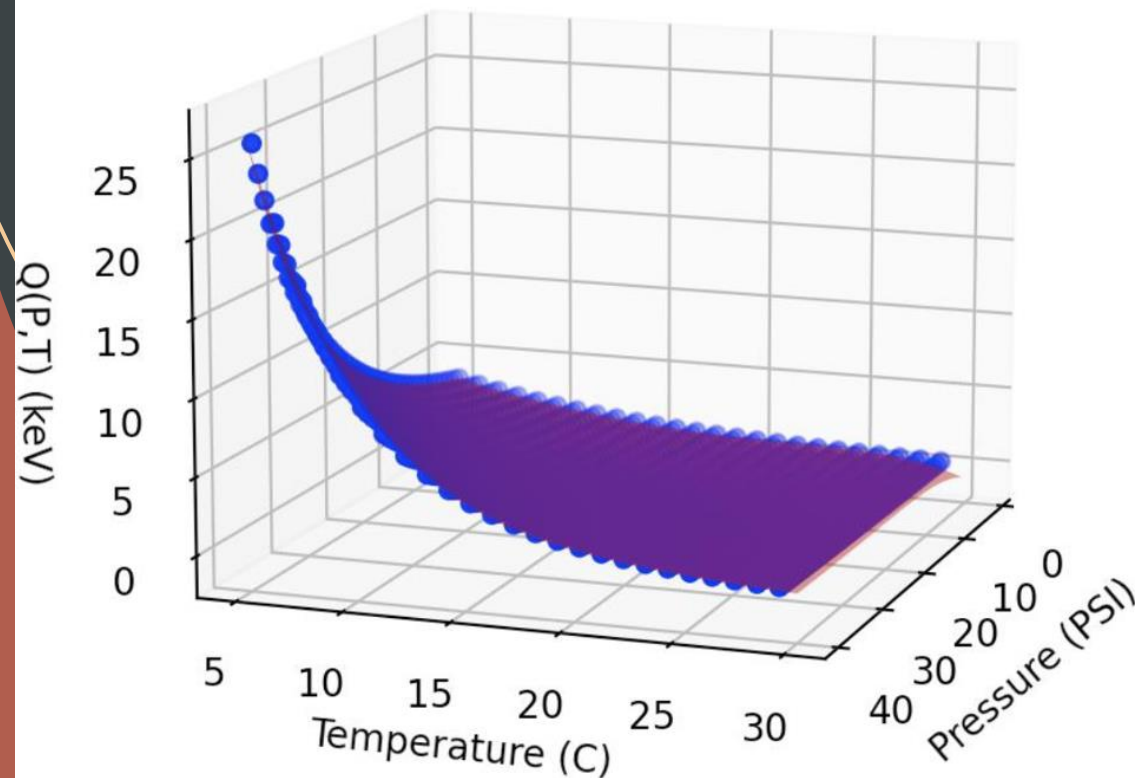
Water Tank Floor
277.15 K.; 4 °C



Seitz Threshold : C_3F_8

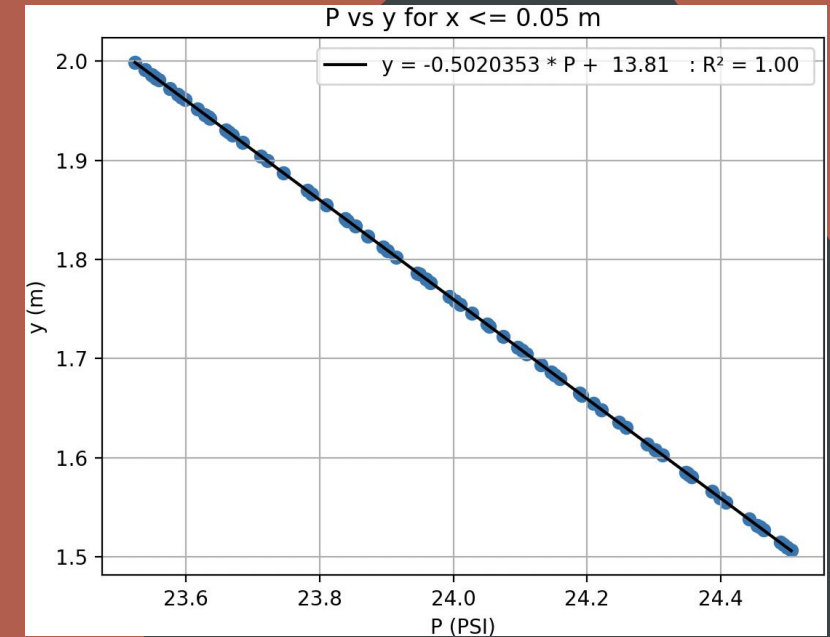
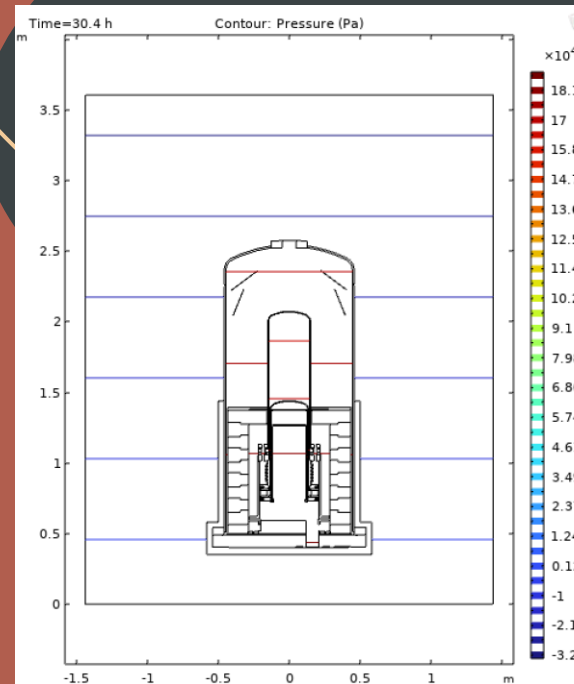
$$Q(P,T) = 5.7447 + 0.2538*P - 0.7725*T + 0.0086*p^2 + 0.0695*T^2 - 0.0468*p*T - 0.0018*p^2*T + 0.0047*p*T^2 + 0.0002*p^3 - 0.0046*T^3 + 0.0002*p^2*T^2 - 0.0002*p*T^3 - 4.1545e-05*p^3*T + 3.9234e-06*p^4 + 0.0002*T^4 + 4.7669e-06*x*y**4 - 4.5610e-07*p^4*T - 4.0602e-06*p^2*T^3 + 1.8094e-06*p^3*T^2 + 6.3598e-08*p^5 - 2.4525e-06*p^5$$

Surface of the function $Q(P,T)$



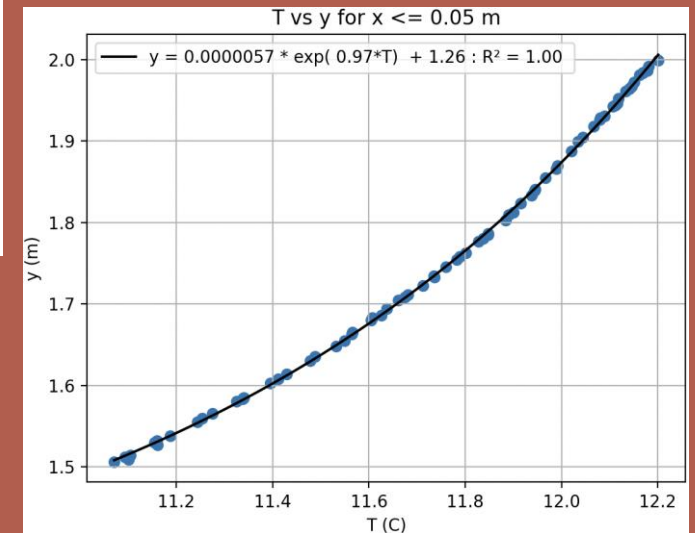
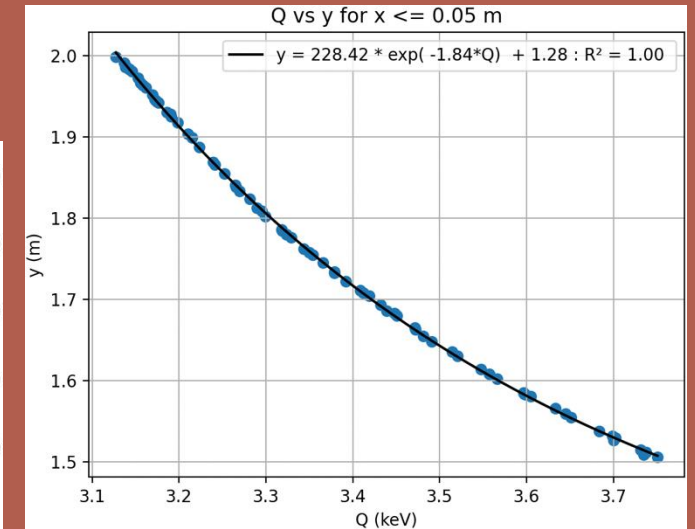
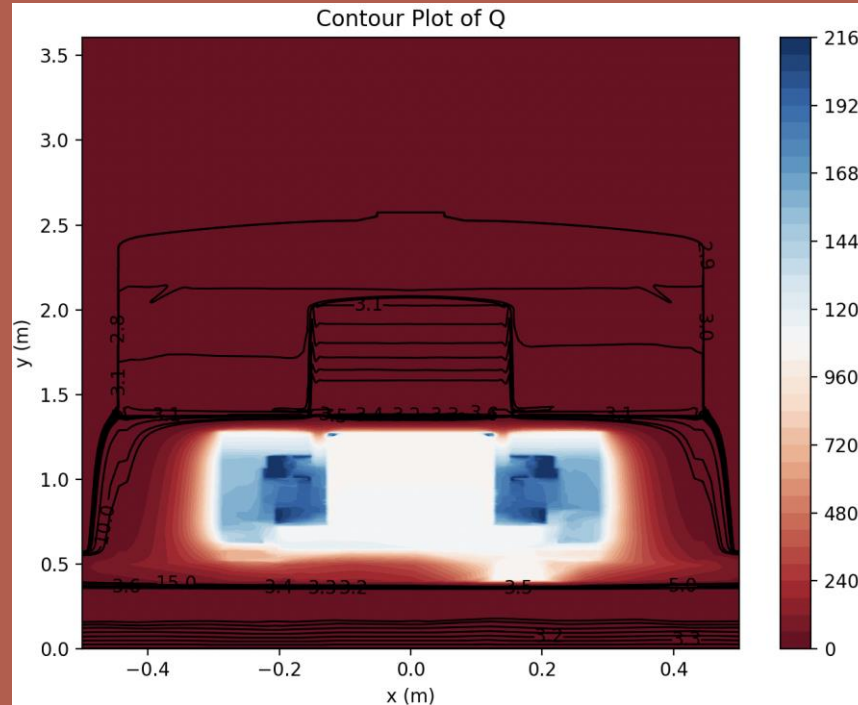
Pressure

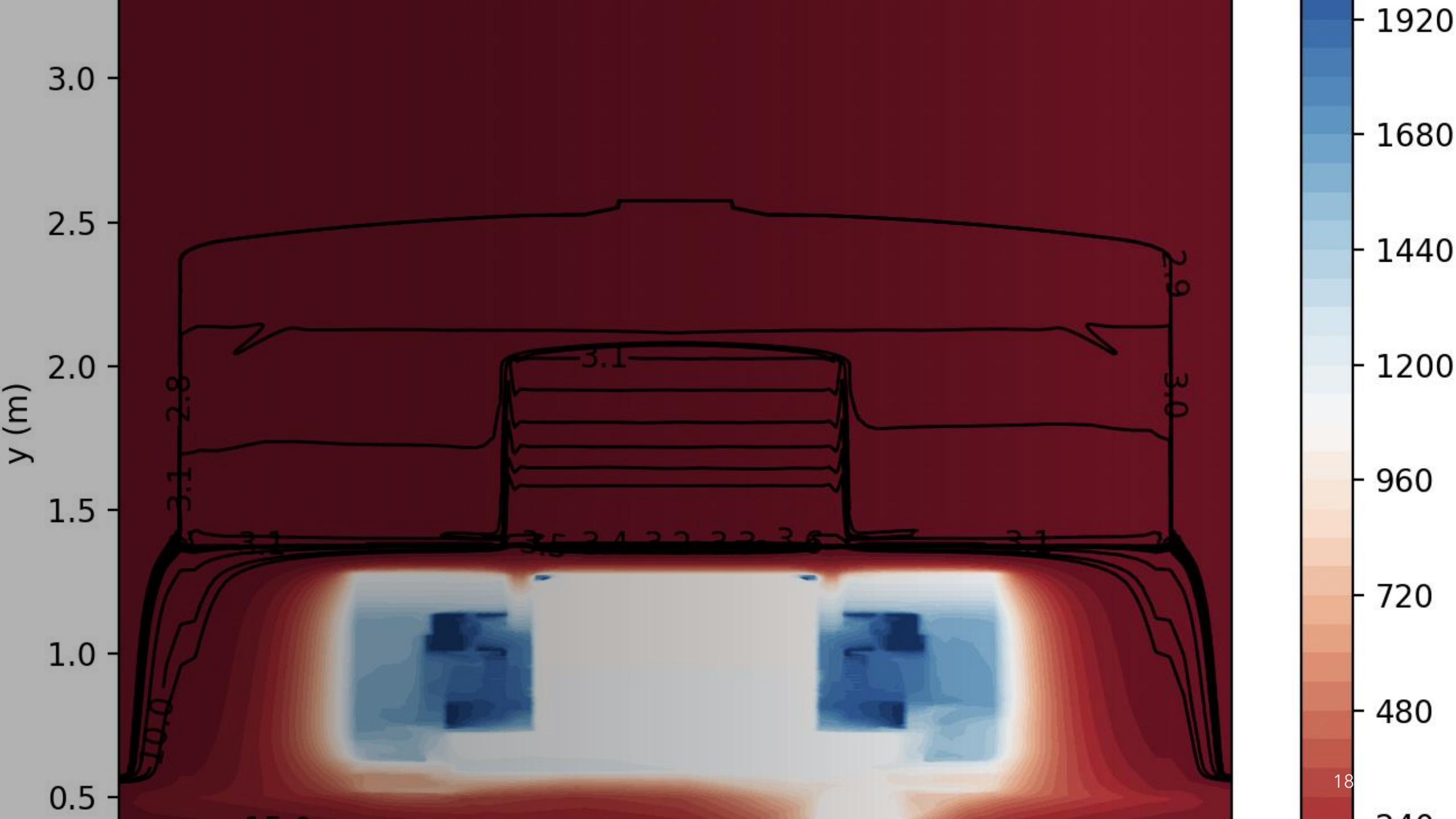
- Water Bath
- Pressure Vessel
- Fused Quartz



Threshold

- The correction on T and Q(P,T), in C_3F_8 , is defined by the equations





Conclusion

Done

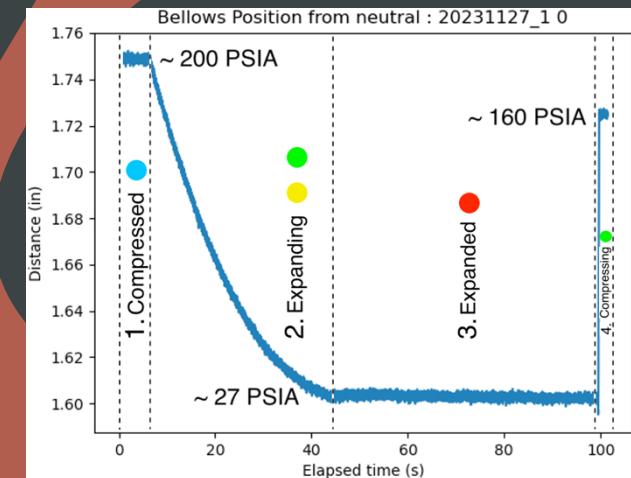
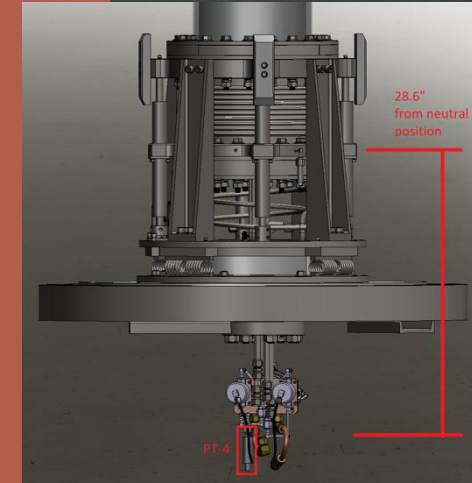
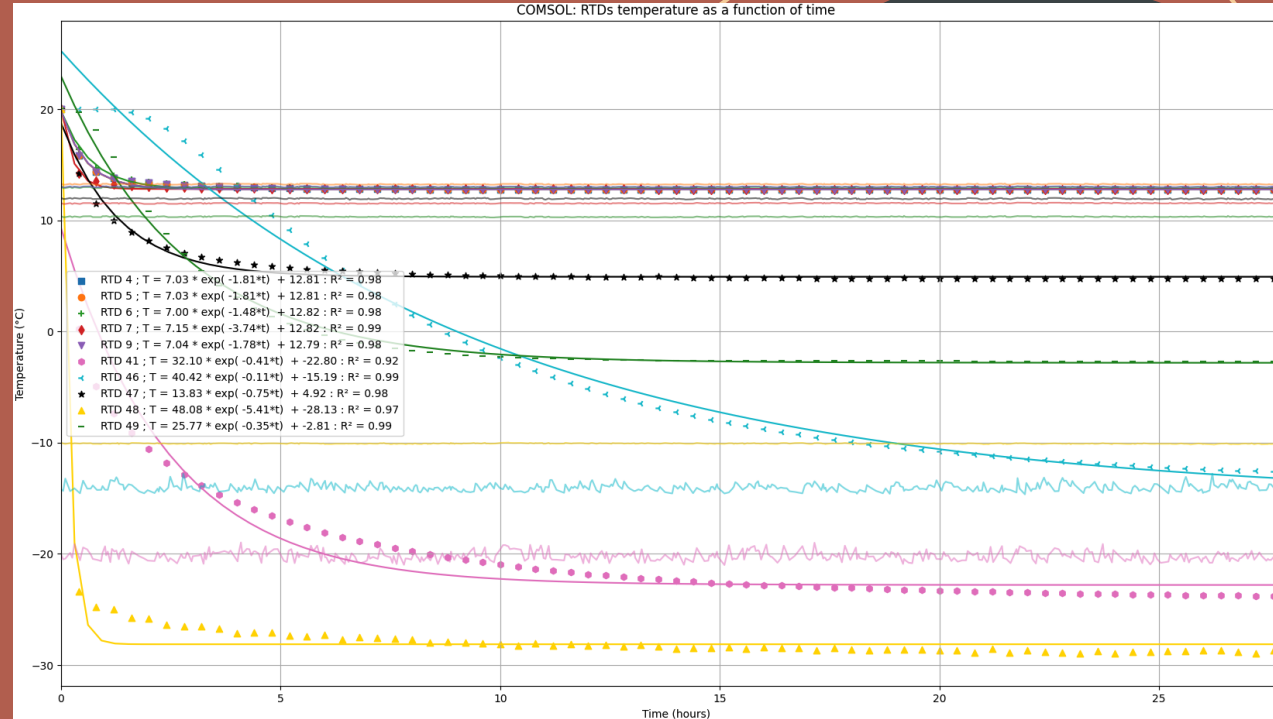
- Models considered: with and without convection ; Steady state and transient
- Strong correlation between simulated and real RTDs

Need to be done

- Final check : values implemented → pressure, temperature

Annex

- Bellows
- Bellows & cycle
- T vs t



Annex : Seitz model

- Conditions for nucleation ($Q_s > = W_{min}$)

- $W_{min} = 4 \pi / 3 * \sigma * r_c^2$
- $E_r > Q_s$
- Energy must be deposited within $r_c \sim 25$ nm at 30 psia and 13 C

$$r_c \approx \frac{2\sigma}{P_v - P_l} \frac{\rho_l}{\rho_l - \rho_v}$$

- Q_s

- Contain three principal terms
- W_c : combat the pressure of the liquid to allow the protobubble to expand
- W_v : to evaporate the liquid and transform it into gas
- W_s : Energy to form the surface of the critical sphere
- W_{irr} : irreversible processes such as acoustic wave emission (about 2%)

$$\begin{aligned} E_c &= W_c + W_v + W_s + W_{irr} \\ &= \frac{4\pi}{3} r_c^3 (P_l - P_b) + \frac{4\pi}{3} r_c^3 \rho_b (h_b(T) - h_l(T)) + 4\pi r_c^2 (\sigma - T \frac{\partial \sigma}{\partial T}) + W_{irr} \end{aligned}$$

Annex : heat transfer → advection-diffusion equation

$$\begin{array}{cccc}
 \text{Conduction} & & \text{Advection} & \text{Generation} & \text{Transient} \\
 \cdot \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial T(r,z,t)}{\partial r} + \frac{\partial^2 T(r,z,t)}{\partial r^2} + \frac{\partial^2 T(r,z,t)}{\partial z^2} - \frac{\rho C_p v_r}{k} \frac{\partial T(r,z,t)}{\partial r} - \frac{\rho C_p v_z}{k} \frac{\partial T(r,z,t)}{\partial z} + \frac{\dot{g}}{k} = \frac{\rho C_p}{k} \frac{\partial T(r,z,t)}{\partial t}
 \end{array}$$

- where v_r and v_z are given by the Boussinesq approximation of the Navier-Stokes equations;
 - Where, C_p is the Heat capacity
 - ρ the density
 - k the thermal conductivity
 - \dot{g} heat generation term
 - v_r and v_z are the velocity components
 - T the temperature
- The velocity \vec{u} (v_r, v_z) is given by the Navier-Stokes (N-S) equation or the approxi. choosen
- Ignored terms
 - Friction $\mu\phi$, ~ dilatation $\beta T \frac{\partial p(r,z,t)}{\partial t}$ and compressibility fluid $\beta T v \cdot \nabla p$, radiation term



PICO




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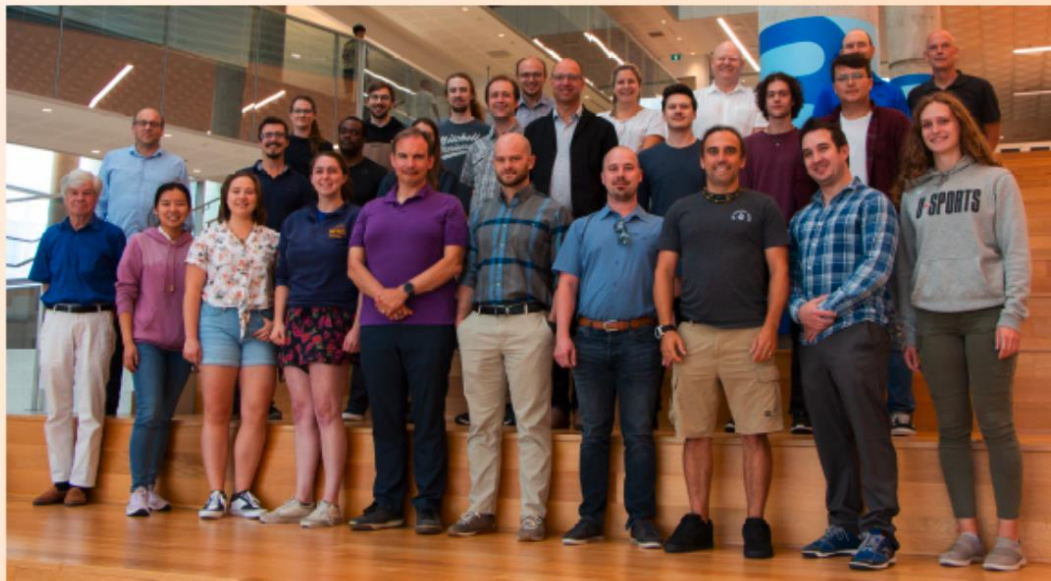
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