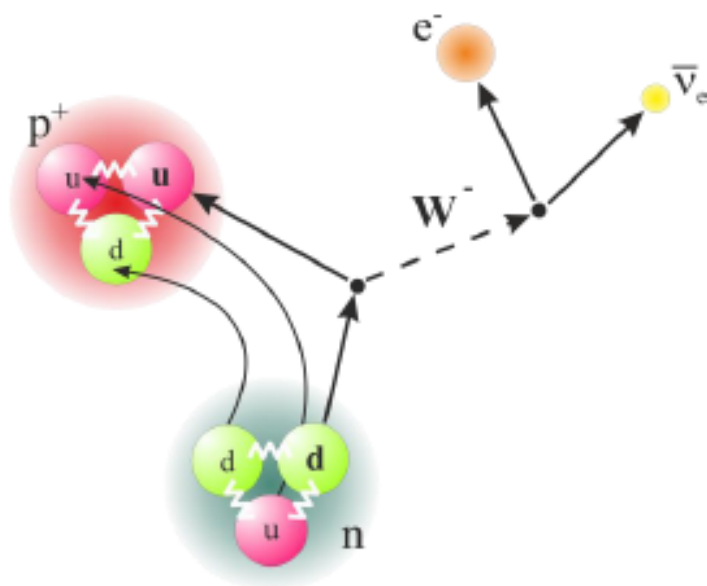


Neutron lifetime experiments - status and future

Outline

- Impact of neutron lifetime experiments
- Overview on „beam“ and „bottle“ type experiments
- τ SPECT experiment at Mainz

Neutron Beta-Decay



Low energy

$$E_{p,max} = 752 \text{ eV} \quad E_{e,max} = 782 \text{ keV}$$

Long lifetime

$$\tau = 880.3(1.1) \text{ s}$$

$$\tau^{-1} = G_F^2 |V_{ud}|^2 (1 + 3\lambda^2) \frac{f^R m_e^5 c^4}{2\pi^3 \hbar^7}$$

Only small, precisely known radiative corrections

Two free parameters within SM (G_F from muon decay)

Ratio of coupling constants

Axial-vector g_A und vector g_V

$$\lambda = \frac{g_A}{g_V}$$

Quark mixing

Cabibbo-Kobayashi-Maskawa matrix element

$$V_{ud}$$

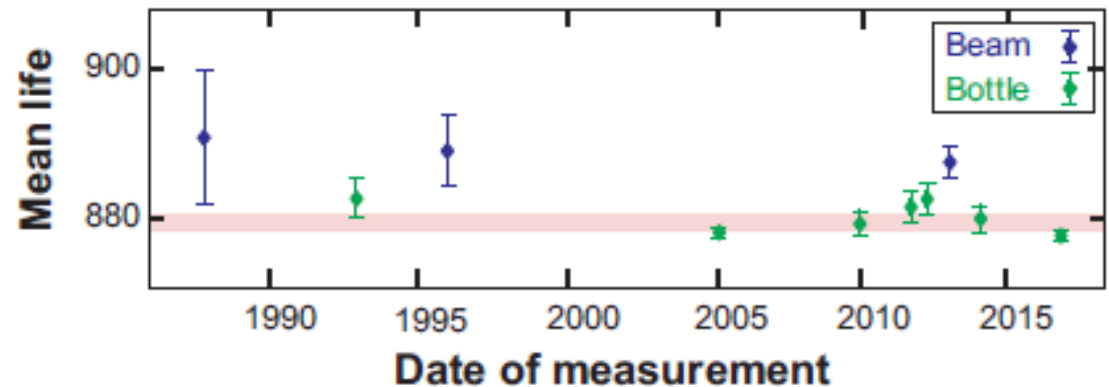
V_{ud} via neutron decay data 2017

Mean life:

$$\tau = 879.4 \pm 0.9 \text{ s}$$

$$\chi^2/N = 4.2$$

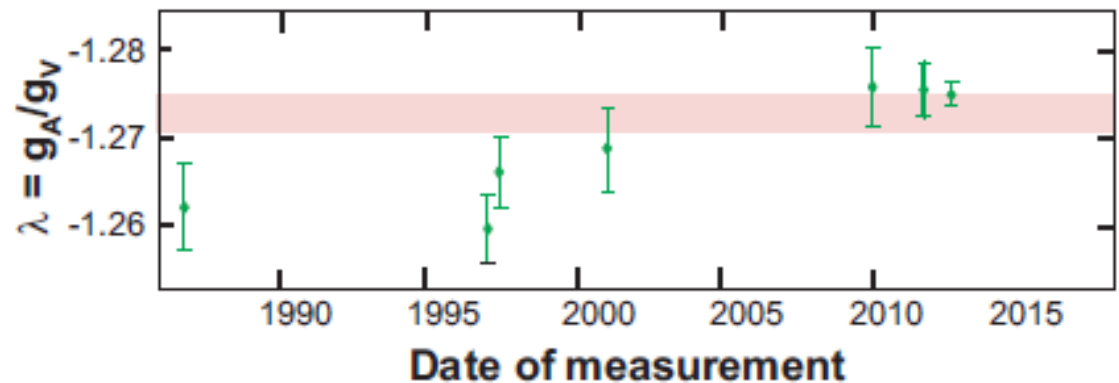
Beam: $888.1 \pm 2.0 \text{ s}$
Bottle: $878.9 \pm 0.6 \text{ s}$



β asymmetry:

$$\lambda = -1.2725 \pm 0.0020$$

$$\chi^2/N = 4.1$$



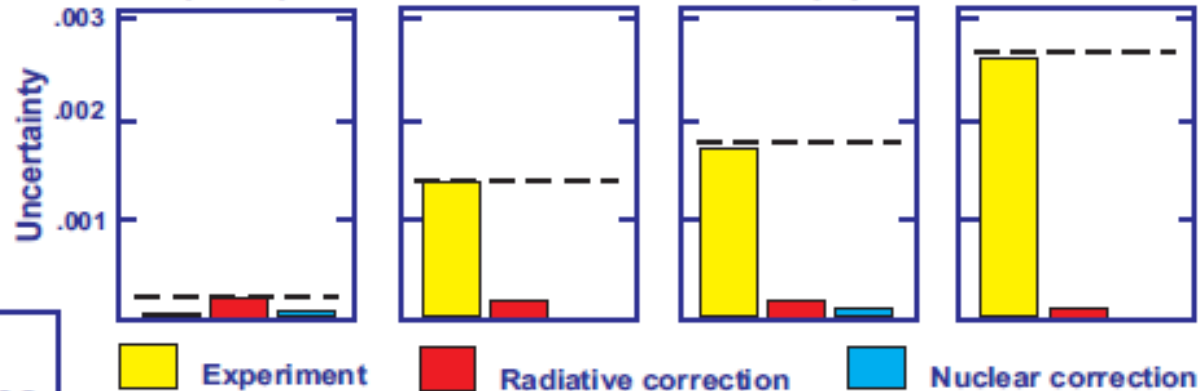
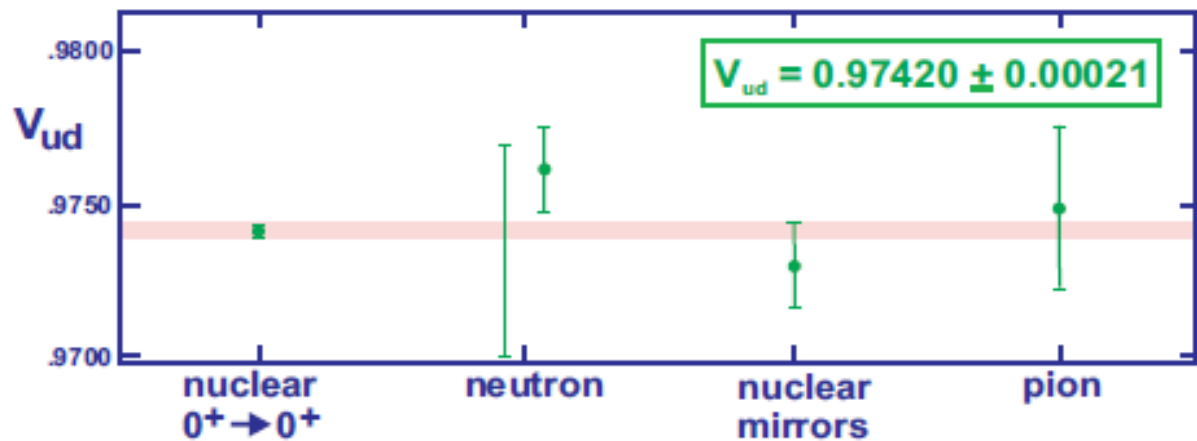
$$V_{ud} = 0.9762 \pm 0.0014$$

Beam-bottle span
 $0.9700 \leq V_{ud} \leq 0.9770$

$$|V_{ud}|^2 = \frac{(4908.7 \pm 1.9) \text{ s}}{\tau (1 + 3\lambda^2)}$$

Marciano, Sirlin PRL 96 (2006)

CURRENT STATUS OF V_{ud} AND CKM UNITARITY



nuclear $0^+ \rightarrow 0^+$
 $V_{ud} = 0.9742 \pm 0.0002$

$$V_{ud}^2 + V_{us}^2 + V_{ub}^2 = 0.99962 \pm 0.00049$$

V_{ud}^2 nuclear decays
 V_{ud}^2 muon decay
 0.94906 ± 0.00041

V_{us}^2 PDG
 V_{us}^2 kaon decays
 0.05054 ± 0.00027

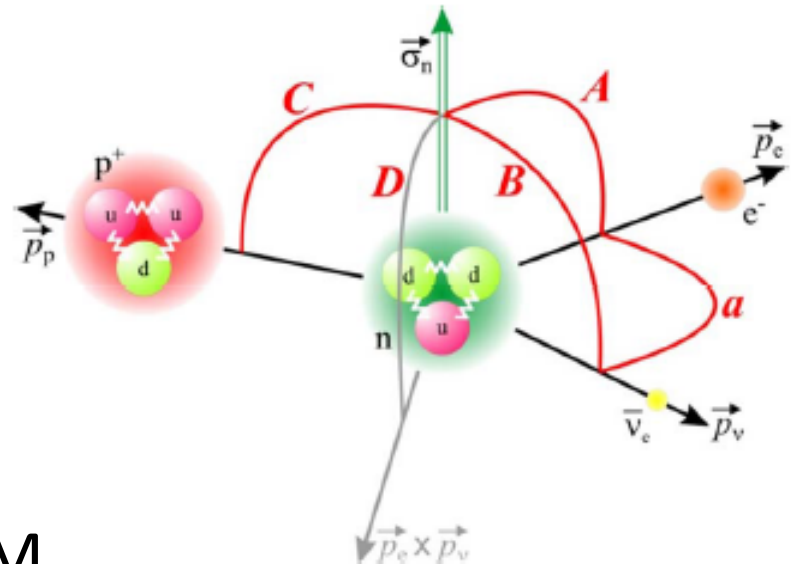
V_{ub}^2 B decays
 0.00002

The Neutron Alphabet

$$\frac{d^3\Gamma}{dE_e d\Omega_e d\Omega_\nu} = \frac{1}{2(2\pi)^5} \overbrace{G_F^2 |V_{ud}|^2 (1+3|\lambda|^2)}^{\propto \tau_n^{-1}} p_e E_e (E_0 - E_e)^2 \times \left[1 + a \frac{\vec{p}_e \cdot \vec{p}_\nu}{E_e E_\nu} + b \frac{m_e}{E_e} + \frac{\langle \vec{\sigma}_n \rangle}{\sigma_n} \cdot \left(A \frac{\vec{p}_e}{E_e} + B \frac{\vec{p}_\nu}{E_\nu} + D \frac{\vec{p}_e \times \vec{p}_\nu}{E_e E_\nu} \right) \right]$$

J.D. Jackson et al., PR 106, 517 (1957)

- 3 unknown parameters
 $G_F, V_{ud}, \lambda = g_A/g_V$
- 20 or more observables
 $\tau_n, a, b, A, B, C, D, \dots$
- yet unmeasured
 b



Symmetry tests beyond SM

Is the electroweak interaction purely V-A ?

- scalar (S) and tensor (T) admixtures
- right handed (V+A) currents

Standard Model: $L_V=1; L_A=\lambda$; $L_S=L_T=R_V=R_A=R_S=R_T=0$

Neutron lifetime: $\tau_n^{-1} \propto (|L_V|^2 + 3|L_A|^2) + (|L_S|^2 + 3|L_T|^2 + |R_V|^2 + 3|R_A|^2 + |R_S|^2 + 3|R_T|^2)$

SM: $\propto (1+3|\lambda|^2)$

$\bar{\nu}_e - e$ Correlation: $a = \frac{|L_V|^2 - |L_A|^2 - |L_S|^2 + |L_T|^2 + |R_V|^2 - |R_A|^2 - |R_S|^2 + |R_T|^2}{|L_V|^2 + 3|L_A|^2 + |L_S|^2 + 3|L_T|^2 + |R_V|^2 + 3|R_A|^2 + |R_S|^2 + 3|R_T|^2}$

SM: $a = \frac{1-|\lambda|^2}{1+3|\lambda|^2}$

Beta Asymmetry: $A = \frac{2 \cdot \Re(-|L_A|^2 - L_V L_A^* + |L_T|^2 + L_S L_T^* + |R_A|^2 + R_V R_A^* - |R_T|^2 - R_S R_T^*)}{|L_V|^2 + 3|L_A|^2 + |L_S|^2 + 3|L_T|^2 + |R_V|^2 + 3|R_A|^2 + |R_S|^2 + 3|R_T|^2}$

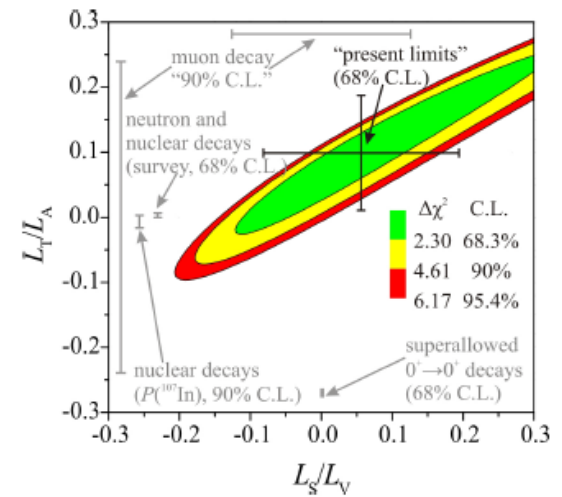
SM: $A = -2 \frac{|\lambda|^2 + |\lambda|}{1+3|\lambda|^2}$

Present limits from neutron decay (only a, A, and B)

Typical current relative precision: $O(10^{-2} - 10^{-3})$

Goal of next generation: $O(10^{-3} - 10^{-4})$

for some observables



The Parameters of Big Bang Nucleosynthesis

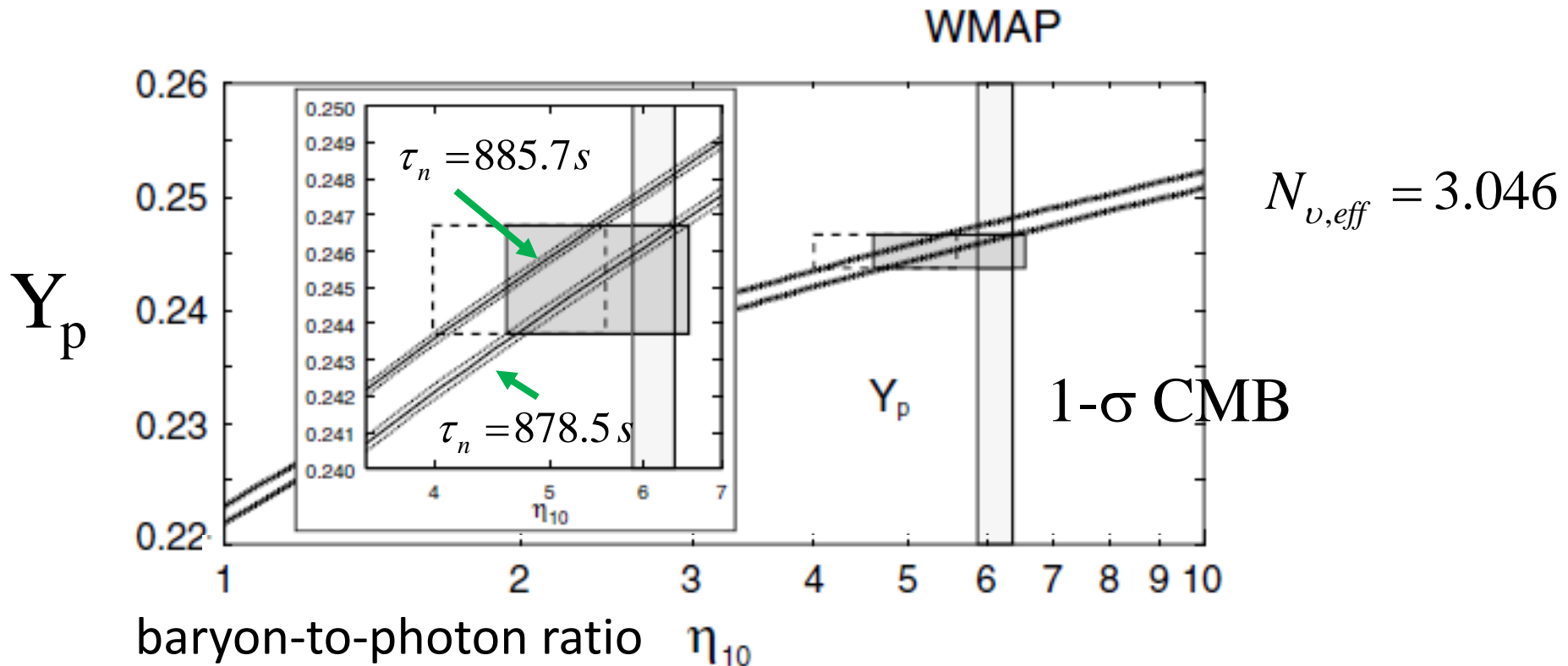
$$Y_p = 0.228 + 0.023 \log \eta_{10} + 0.012 N_\nu + 0.018 (\tau_n - 10.28)$$

Cosmic Helium Abundance

Cosmic Baryon Density

Number of Neutrino Flavors

Neutron Lifetime in Minutes



Cosmological constraints on neutron lifetime

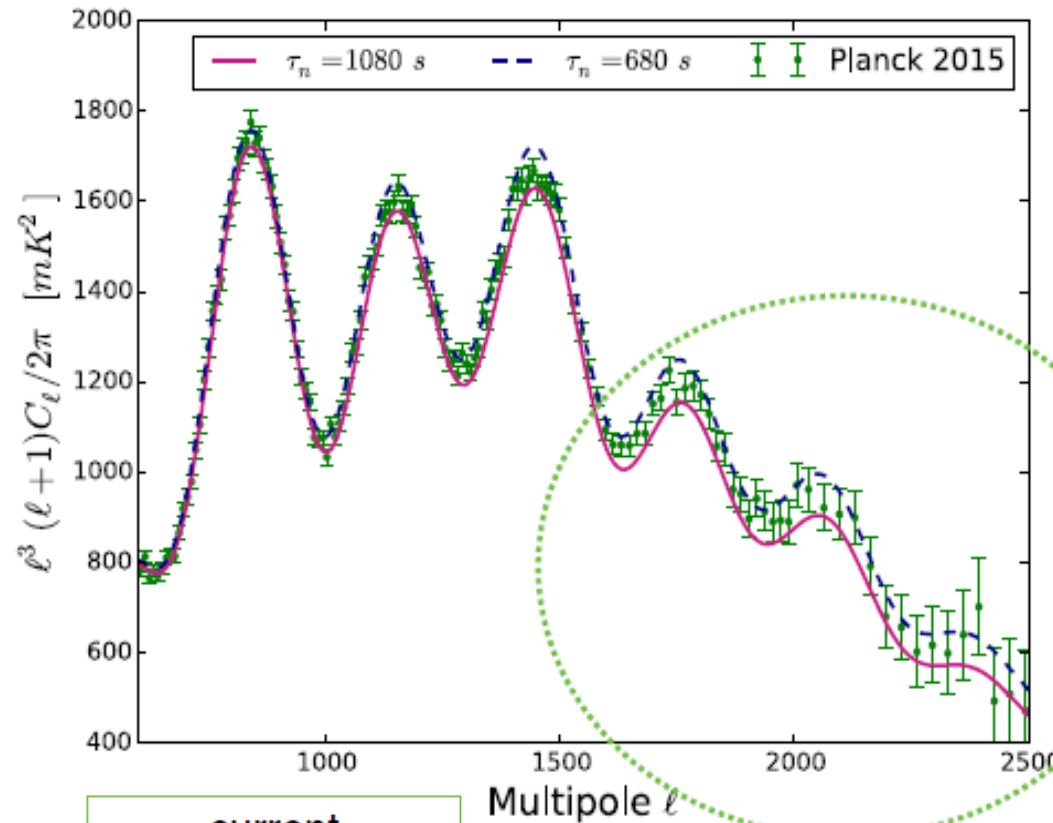
Big Bang nucleosynthesis

Helium recombination affects free electrons fraction

Damping tail of CMB spectrum related to the thickness of the last scattering of photon with electron

from: Laura Salvati,
International UCN Workshop @ Mainz 2016

Journal of Cosmology
and Astroparticle Physics, 2016 (2016)



current
cosmological and
astrophysical data

$$\sigma_{\tau_n} \simeq 15 \text{ s}$$

future
cosmological and
astrophysical data

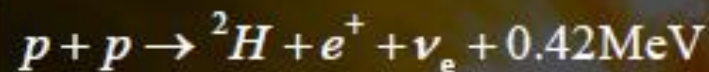
$$\sigma_{\tau_n} \sim \text{s}$$

Important Processes with the same Feynman Diagram as Neutron Decay

Energy generation within the Sun

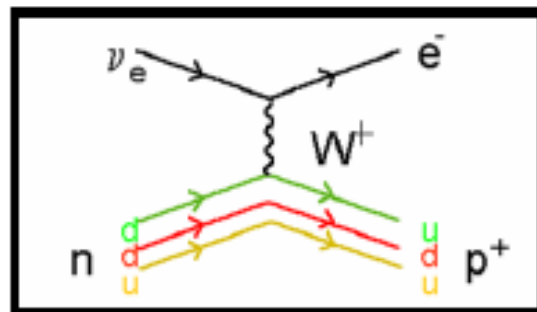


Rate for initial reaction in the pp chain



$$S_{11}(E) = 6\pi^2 m_p \alpha \ln 2 \frac{\Lambda^2(E)}{\gamma^3} \left(\frac{g_A}{g_V} \right)^2 \frac{f_{pp}^R(E)}{f_{0^+ \rightarrow 0^+}}$$

Important Processes with the same Feynman Diagram as Neutron Decay



Primordial element formation $n + e^+ \longleftrightarrow p + \nu_e$

$p + e^- \longleftrightarrow n + \nu_e$

$n \longrightarrow p + e^- + \bar{\nu}_e$

Solar cycle

$p + p \longrightarrow {}^2\text{H} + e^+ + \nu_e$

$p + p + e^- \longrightarrow {}^2\text{H} + \nu_e$ etc.

Neutron star formation

$p + e^- \longrightarrow n + \nu_e$

Pion decay

$\pi^- \longrightarrow \pi^0 + e^- + \bar{\nu}_e$

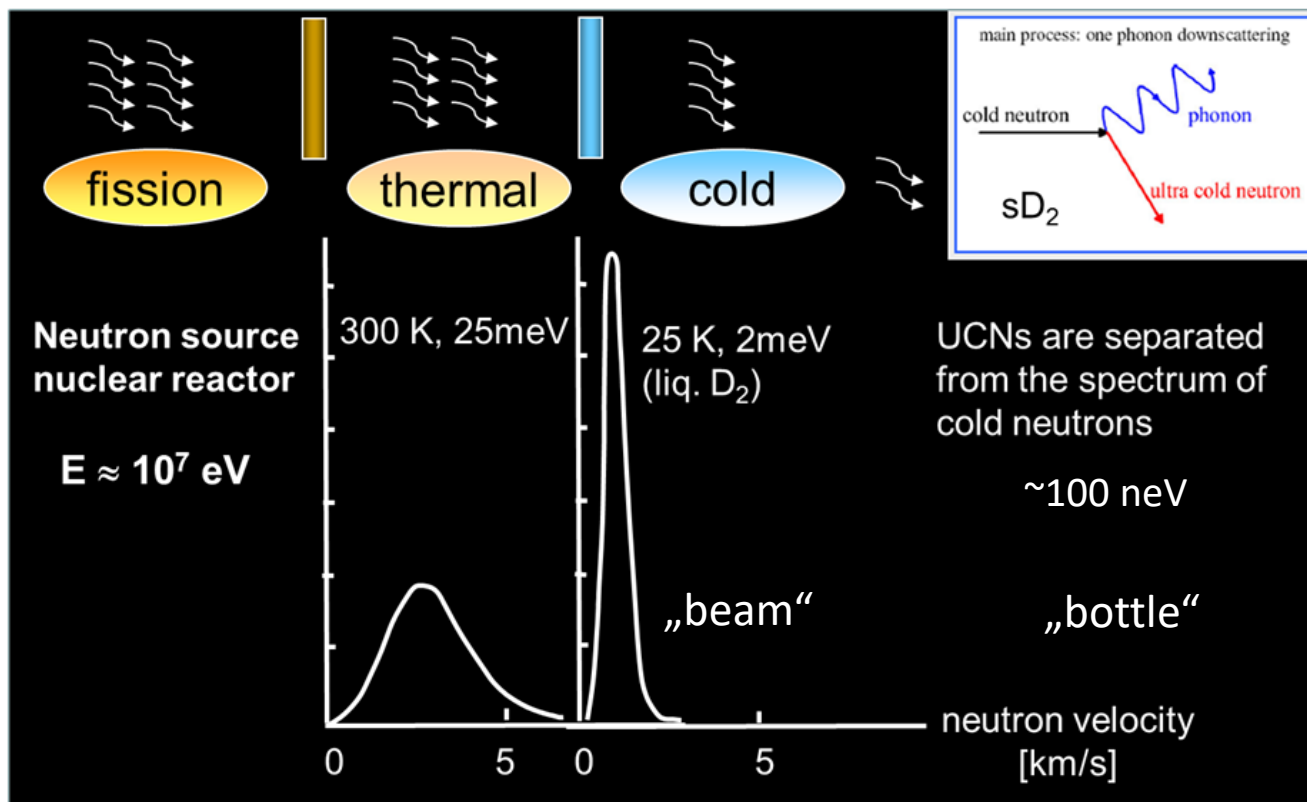
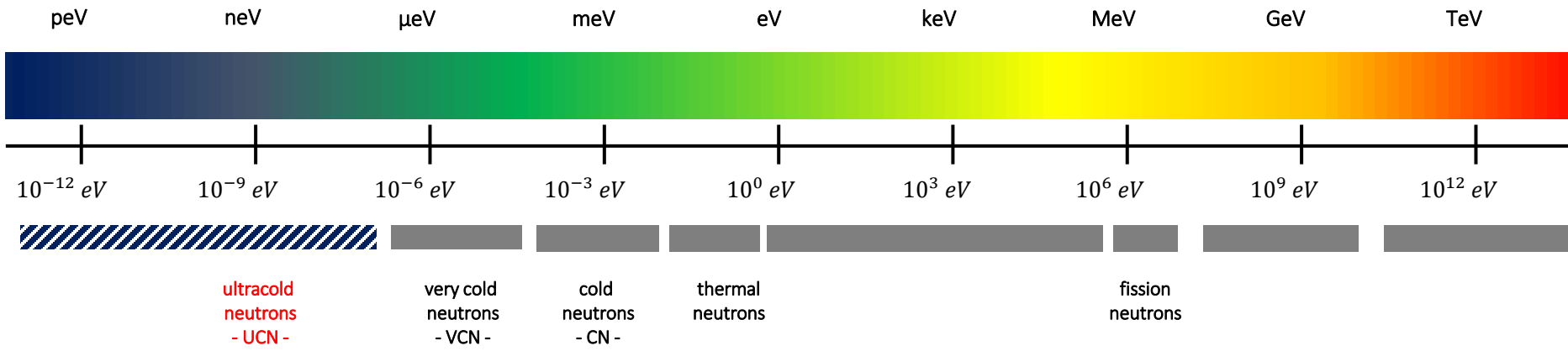
Neutrino detectors

$\nu_e' + p \longrightarrow e^+ + n$

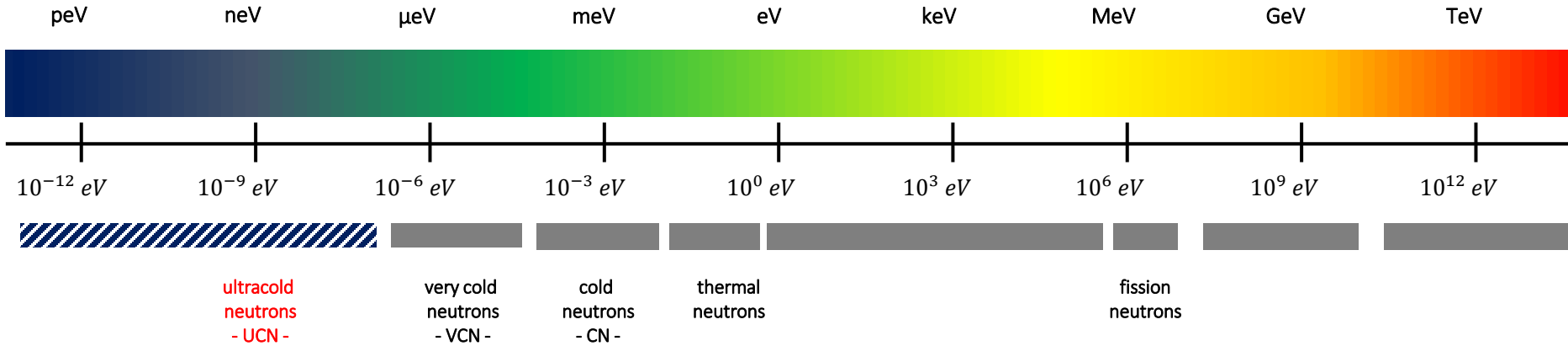
Neutrino forward scattering

$\nu_e + n \longrightarrow e^- + p$ etc.

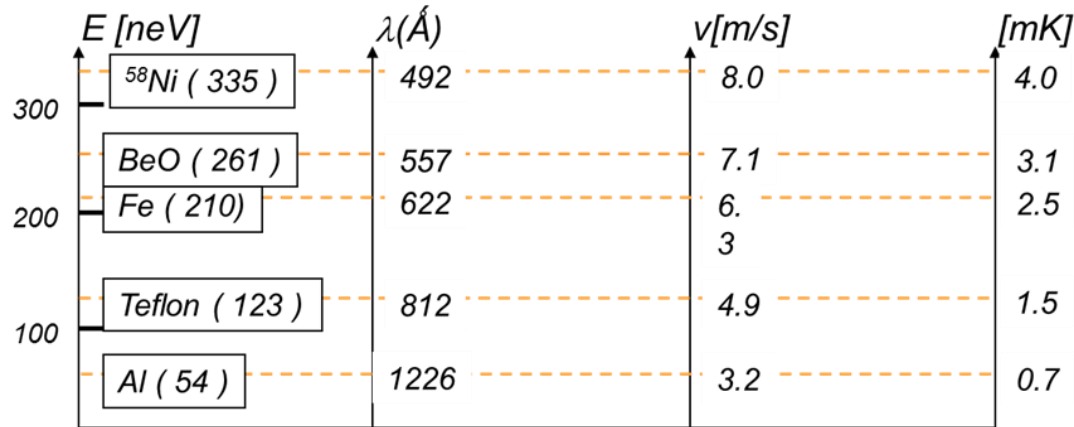
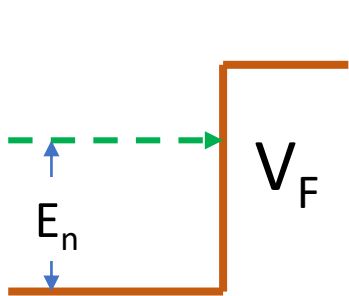
Neutron Energy Spectrum



Neutron Energy Spectrum



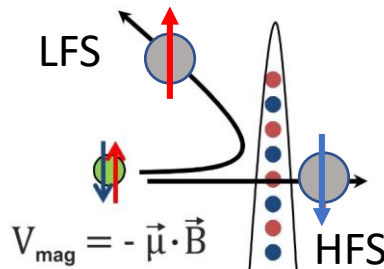
UCN: storable neutrons



magnetic energy:

$$E_{\text{mag}} = -\vec{\mu}_n \cdot \vec{B}$$

$$\approx 60 \text{ neV} @ B = 1 \text{ Tesla}$$

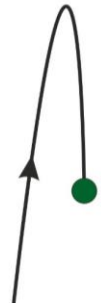


gravitational energy:

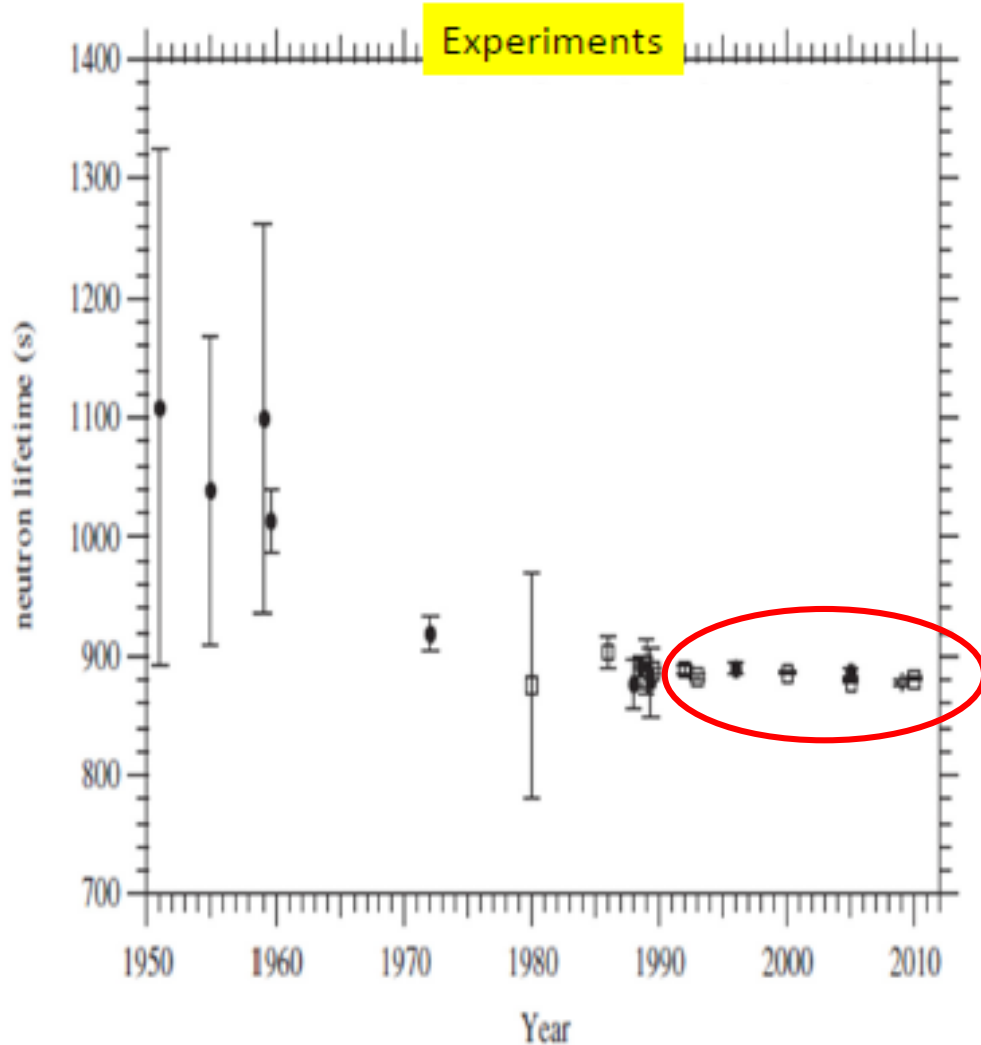
$$E_{\text{pot}} = m_n \cdot g \cdot h$$

$$\approx 100 \text{ neV} @ h = 1 \text{ m}$$

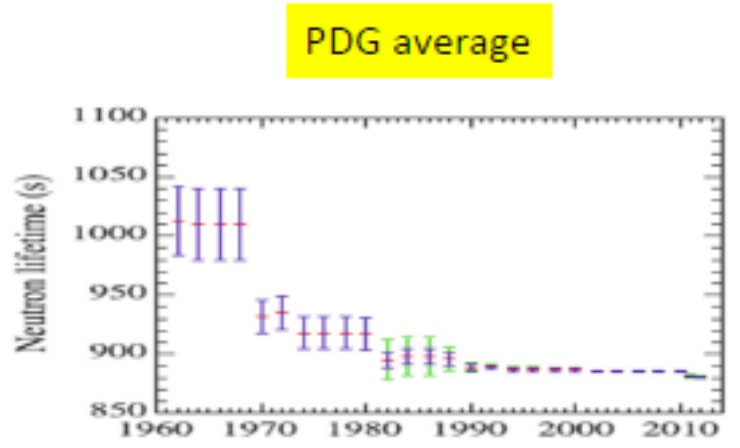
Gravitation



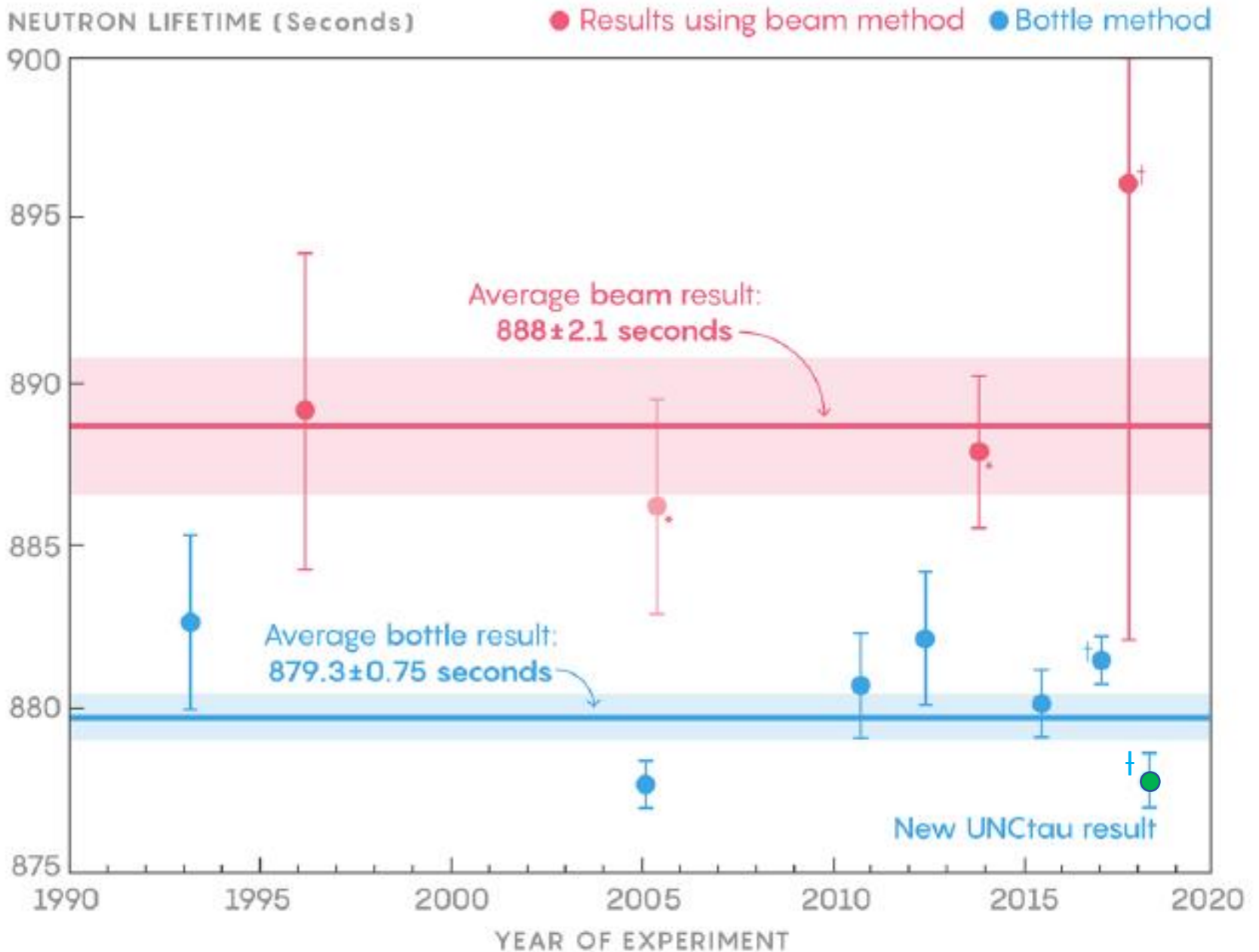
The History of Neutron Lifetime: PDG compilation



Solid circle: beam
Open square: bottle



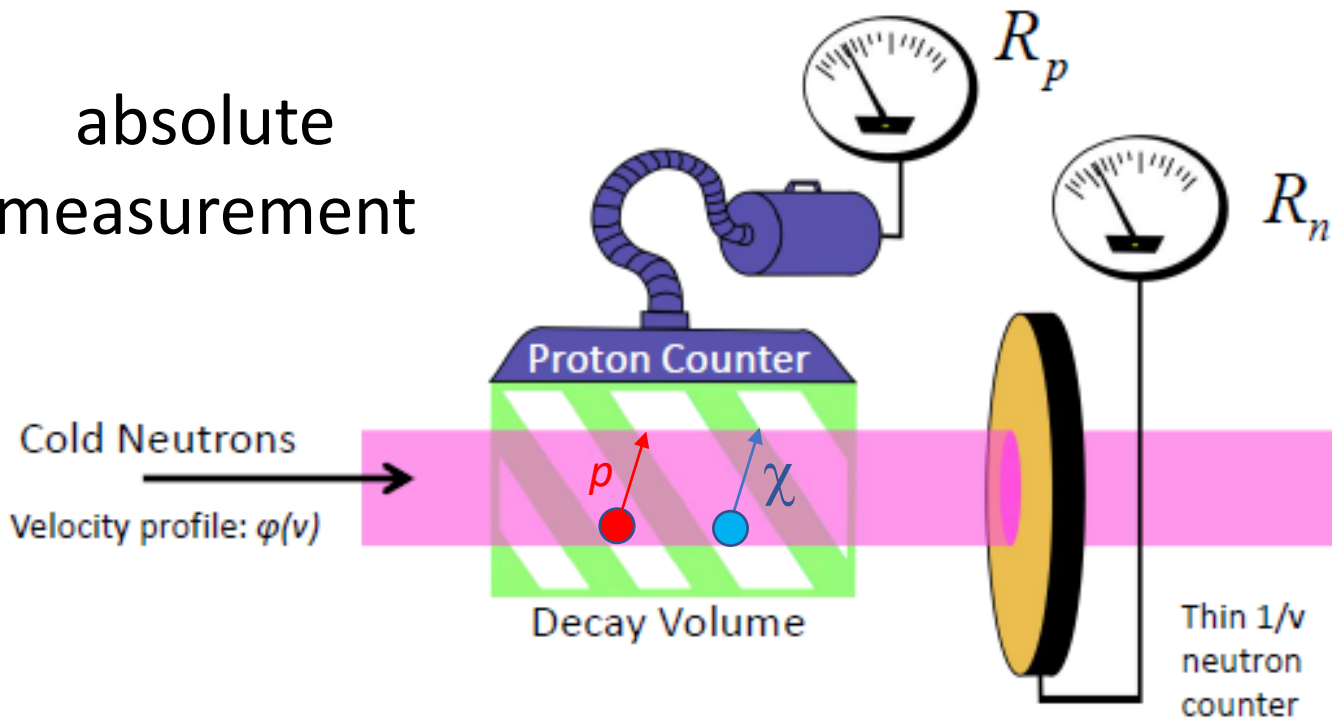
PDG 2004-2010:	885.7 ± 0.8 s
PDG 2011:	881.0 ± 1.5 s
PDG 2013:	880.0 ± 0.9 s
PDG 2014:	880.3 ± 1.1 s



Source: pre-2017, PDG; Serebrov 2017, [arXiv:1712.05663](https://arxiv.org/abs/1712.05663); Pattie, 2018, [arXiv:1707.01817](https://arxiv.org/abs/1707.01817)

How to Measure τ_n in a Beam

absolute measurement



exotic decay channels
(DM particles: χ, ϕ)

B. Fornal et al.

arXiv:1801.01124v2, 2018

$$n \rightarrow \chi + \phi$$

$$n \rightarrow \chi + \gamma$$

$$R_p = \varepsilon_p \cdot \frac{dN}{dt} = \varepsilon_p \cdot \frac{(A_{beam} \cdot L)}{\tau_n} \cdot \rho_n$$

$$R_n = \varepsilon_{th} \cdot A_{beam} \cdot v_{th} \cdot \rho_n$$

$$\frac{1}{\tau_n} = \frac{1}{\tau_n^{(p)}} + \frac{1}{\tau_n^{DM}} + \dots$$

$$\rightarrow \tau_n < \tau_n^{(p)}$$

Z. Tang, et al.,

arXiv:1802.01595

$n \rightarrow \chi + \text{photon}$ ruled out

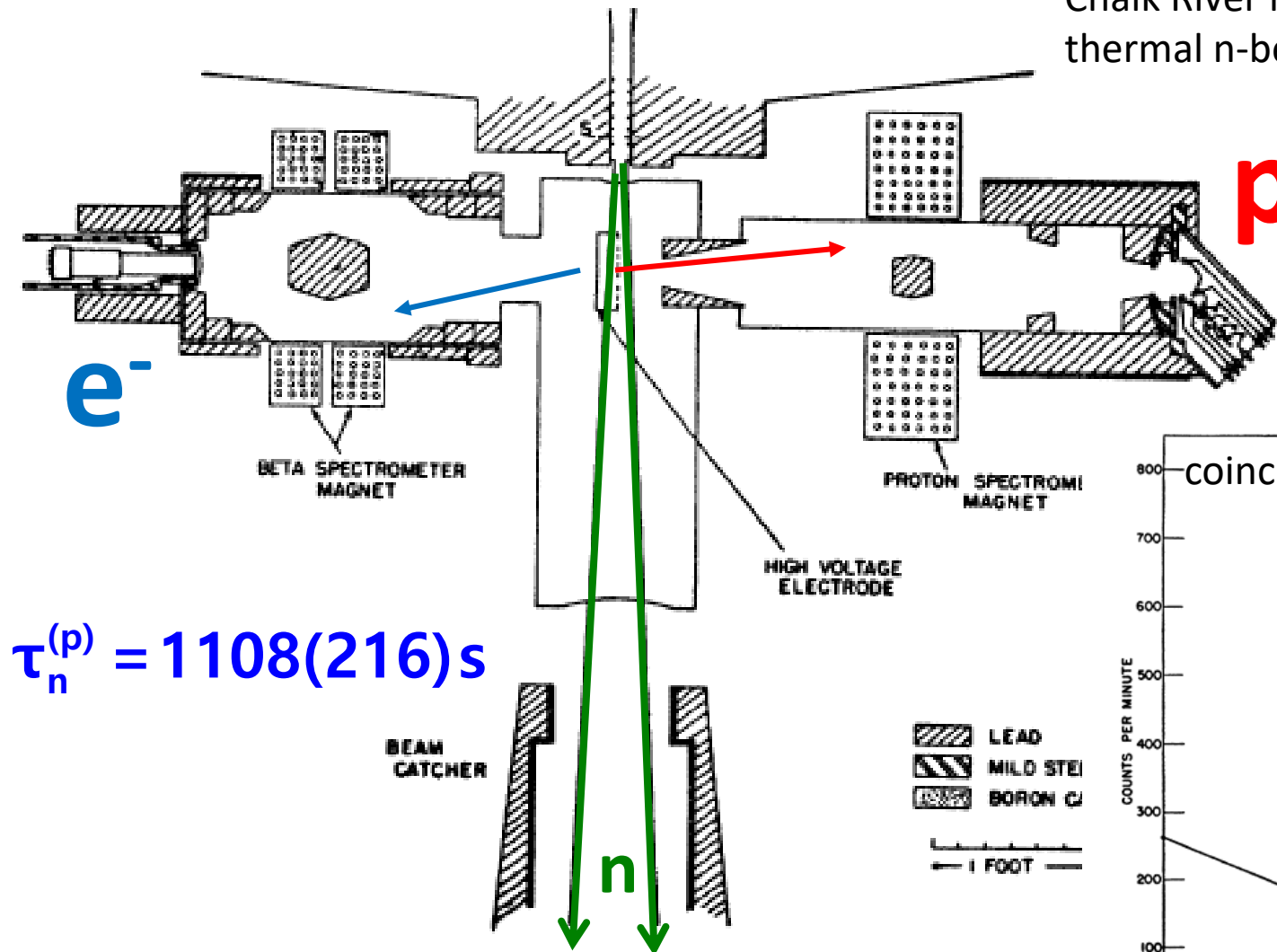
FM absorbs neutrons as $1/v$
So it's calibrated at thermal velocity

$$\tau_n^{(p)} = \frac{R_n \varepsilon_p L}{R_p \varepsilon_{th} v_{th}}$$

Note: $n \rightarrow H + \bar{\nu}_e$ (BR: $\sim 4 \times 10^{-6}$) exists

1st precise lifetime experiment: Robson et al., 1951

Chalk River reactor
thermal n-beam: 2×10^9 n/cm²/s



$$\tau_n^{(p)} = 1108(216) \text{ s}$$

FIG. 1. Plan view of the apparatus mounted on the main shield of the pile.

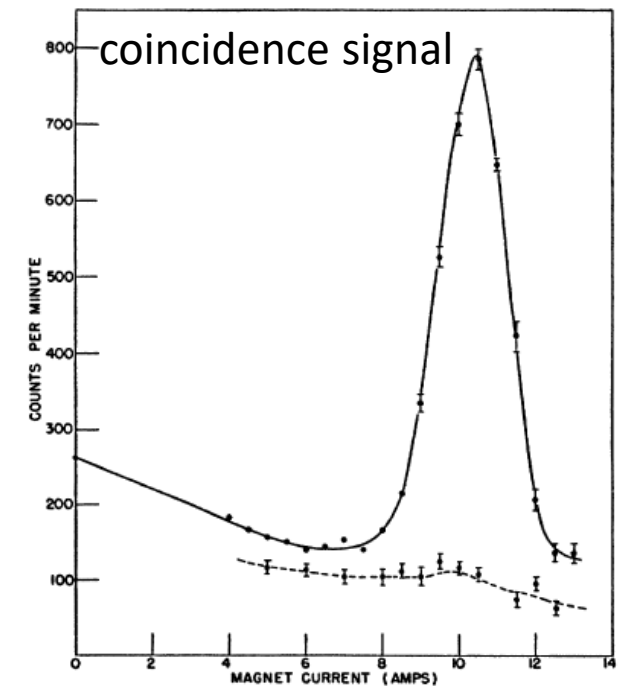
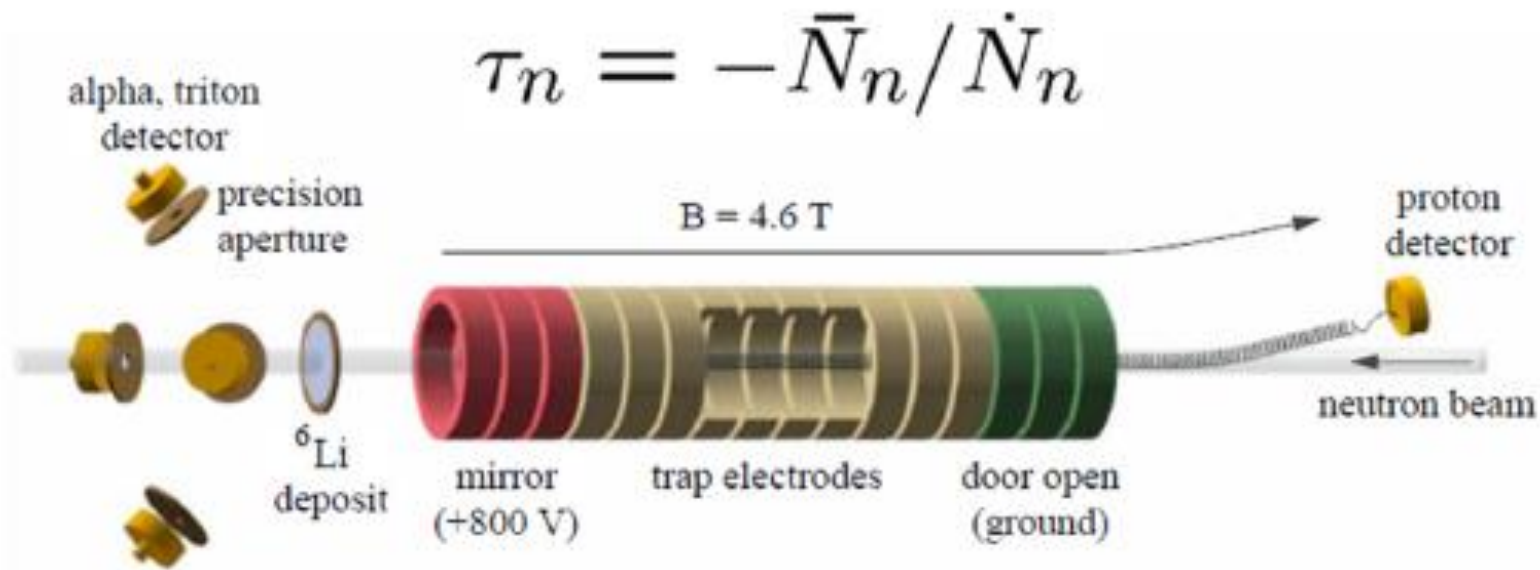


FIG. 4. Counting rate of the electron multiplier plotted against current through the proton spectrometer magnet.

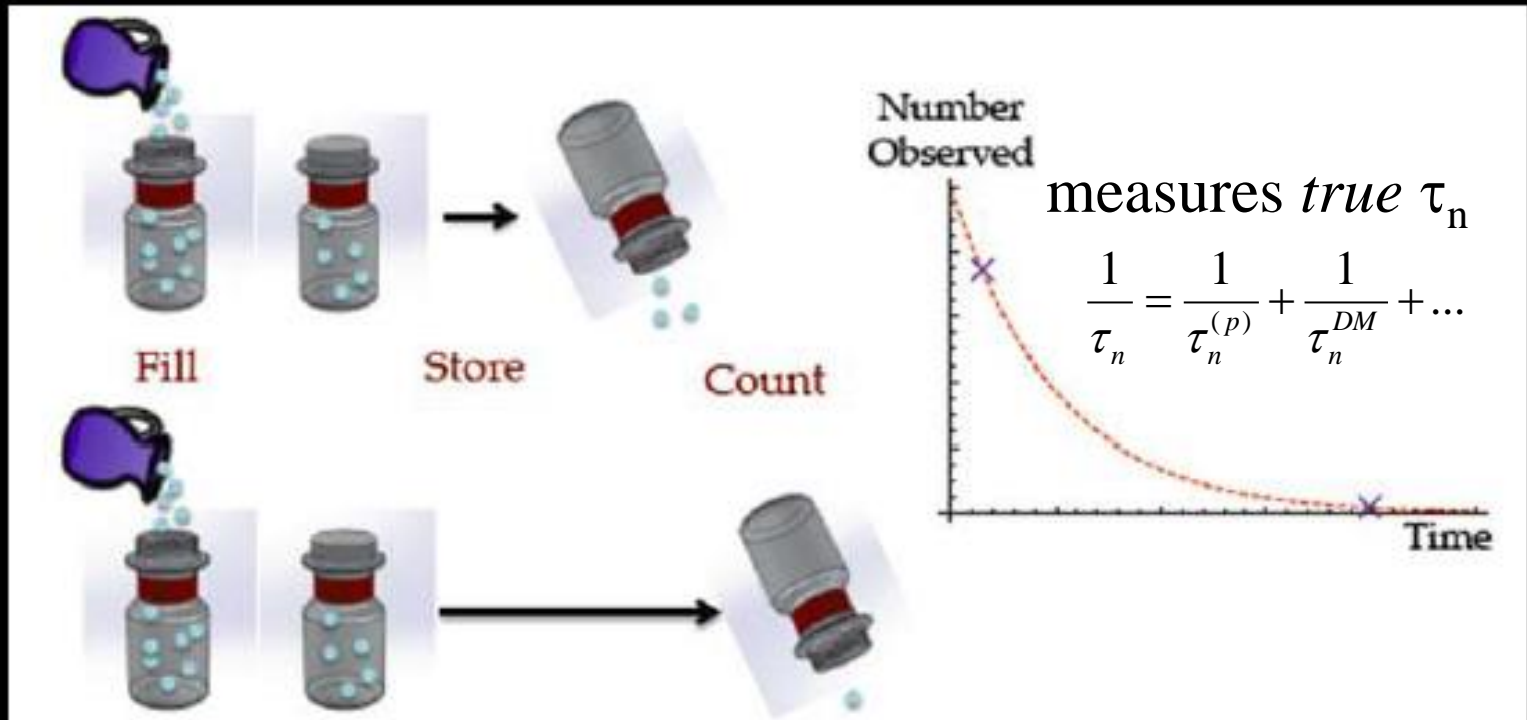
The NIST Beam Lifetime Experiment (BL1, BL2)



Yue et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 111, 222501 (2013)

- A quasi-penning trap electrostatically traps decay protons, which are guided to detector via a B field, when the door electrodes are lowered to the ground potential.
- Neutron monitor measures incident neutron rate by counting $n + {}^6\text{Li} \rightarrow \alpha + t$.

The Bottle Method: *fill-store-count*



Measures the Storage Time

relative measurement

$$\frac{1}{\tau_{mea}} = \frac{1}{\tau_{\beta}} + \frac{1}{\tau_{ab}} + \frac{1}{\tau_{up}} + \frac{1}{\tau_{sf}} + \frac{1}{\tau_{heat}} + \frac{1}{\tau_{qb}} + \dots$$

*The first neutron lifetime experiment with UCN
(V.I. Morozov's group at SM-2 reactor Dimitrovgrad, Russia)*

Yu. Yu. Kosvintsev, Yu. A. Kushnir, V. I. Morozov, and G. I. Terekhov

Pis'ma Zh. Eksp. Teor. Fiz. **31**, No. 4, 257-261 (20 February 1980)

$$\tau_p = 875 \pm 95 \text{ сек.}$$

Pis'ma Zh. Eksp. Teor. Fiz. **44**, No. 10, 444-446 (25 November 1986)

$$\tau_\beta = 903 \pm 13 \text{ s}$$

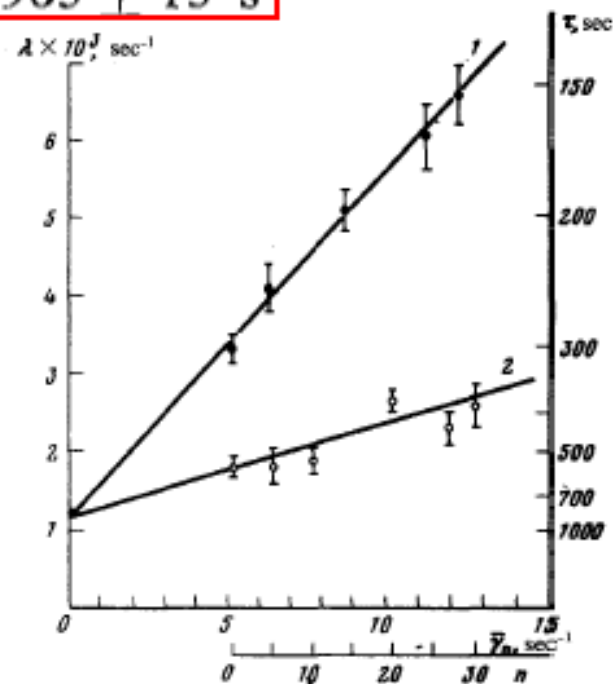
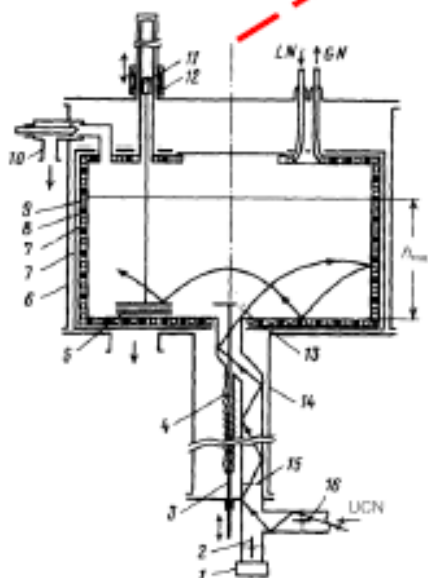
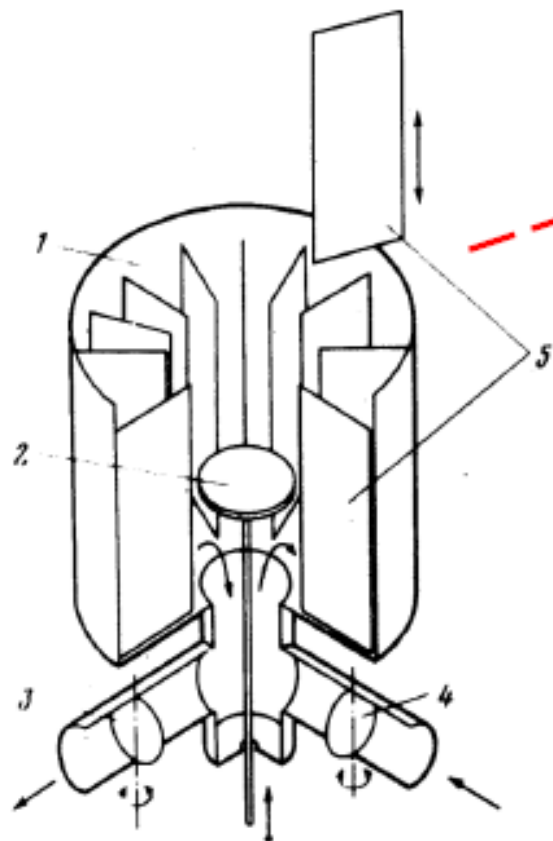
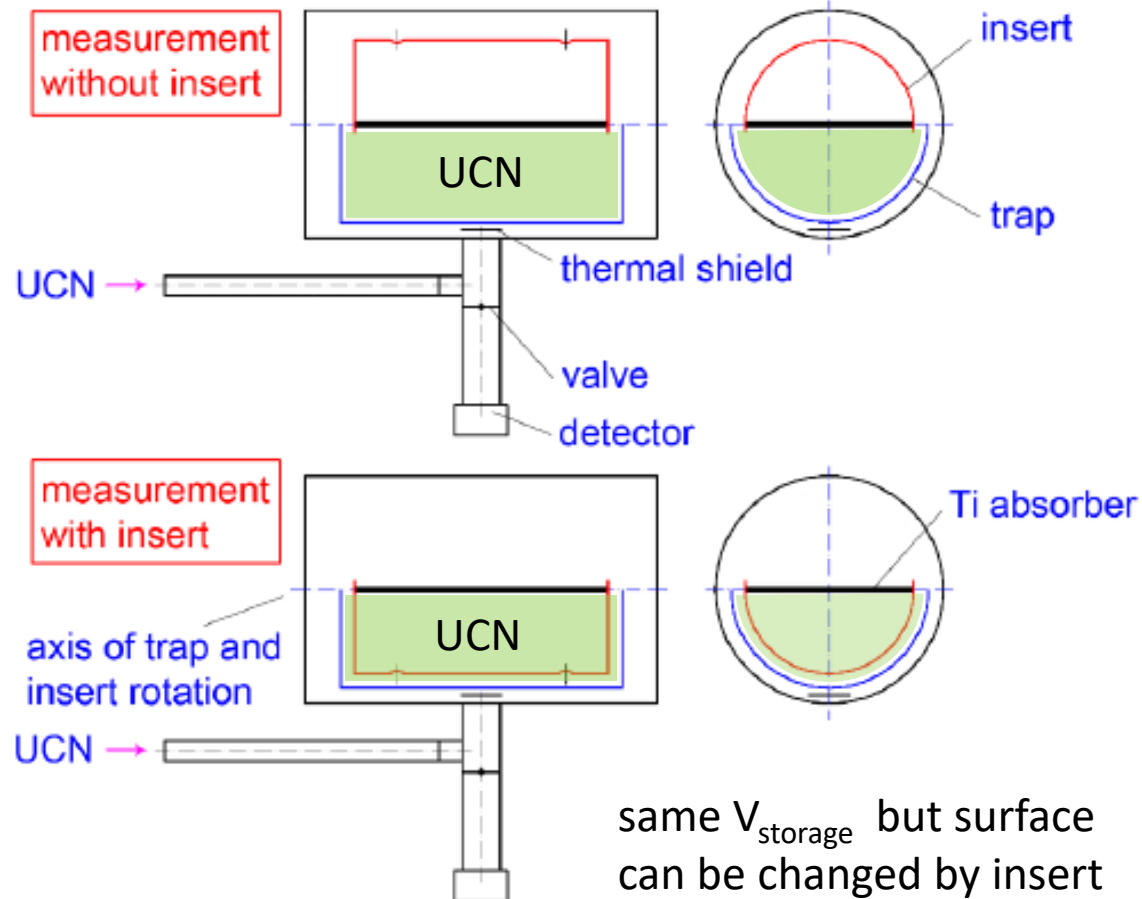
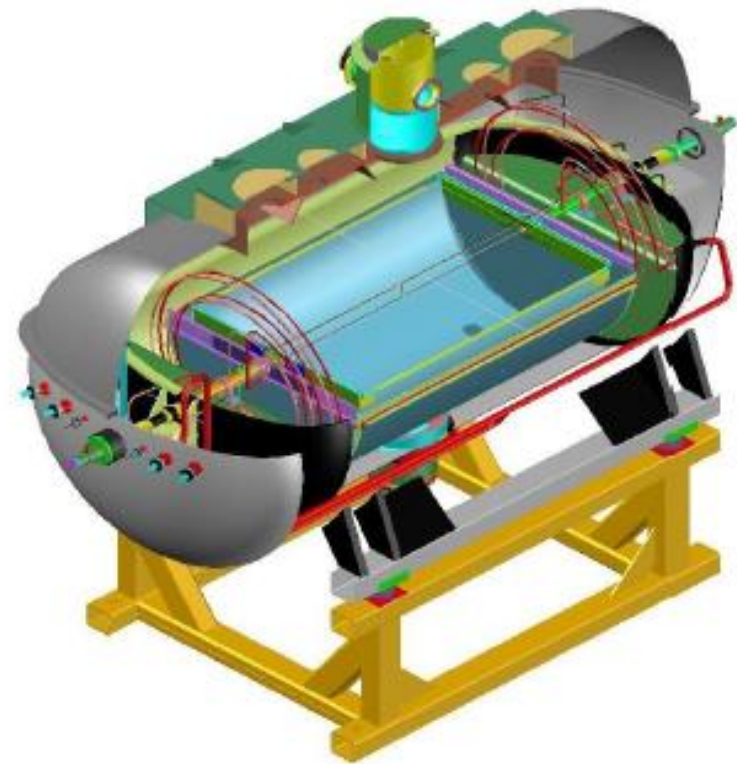


FIG. 1. Storage container for UCN: 1, cylindrical container; 2, disk shutter; 3, output shutter.

FIG. 3. Experimental dependences of λ_{exp} on \bar{n} : 1, first series of measurements; 2, second series of measurements.

The Big Gravitational Trap with Fomblin grease coating

PNPI - ILL collaboration



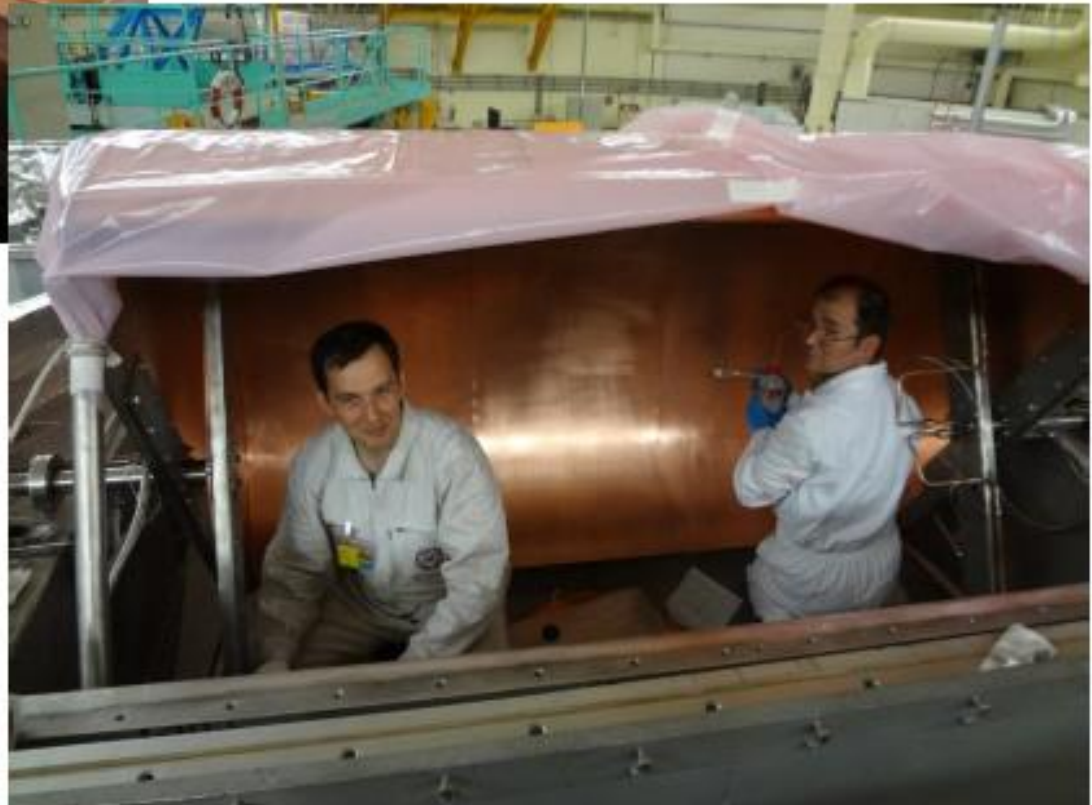
Installation of Big Gravitrap on ILL reactor (August 2014)



Cleaning of Cu Trap and



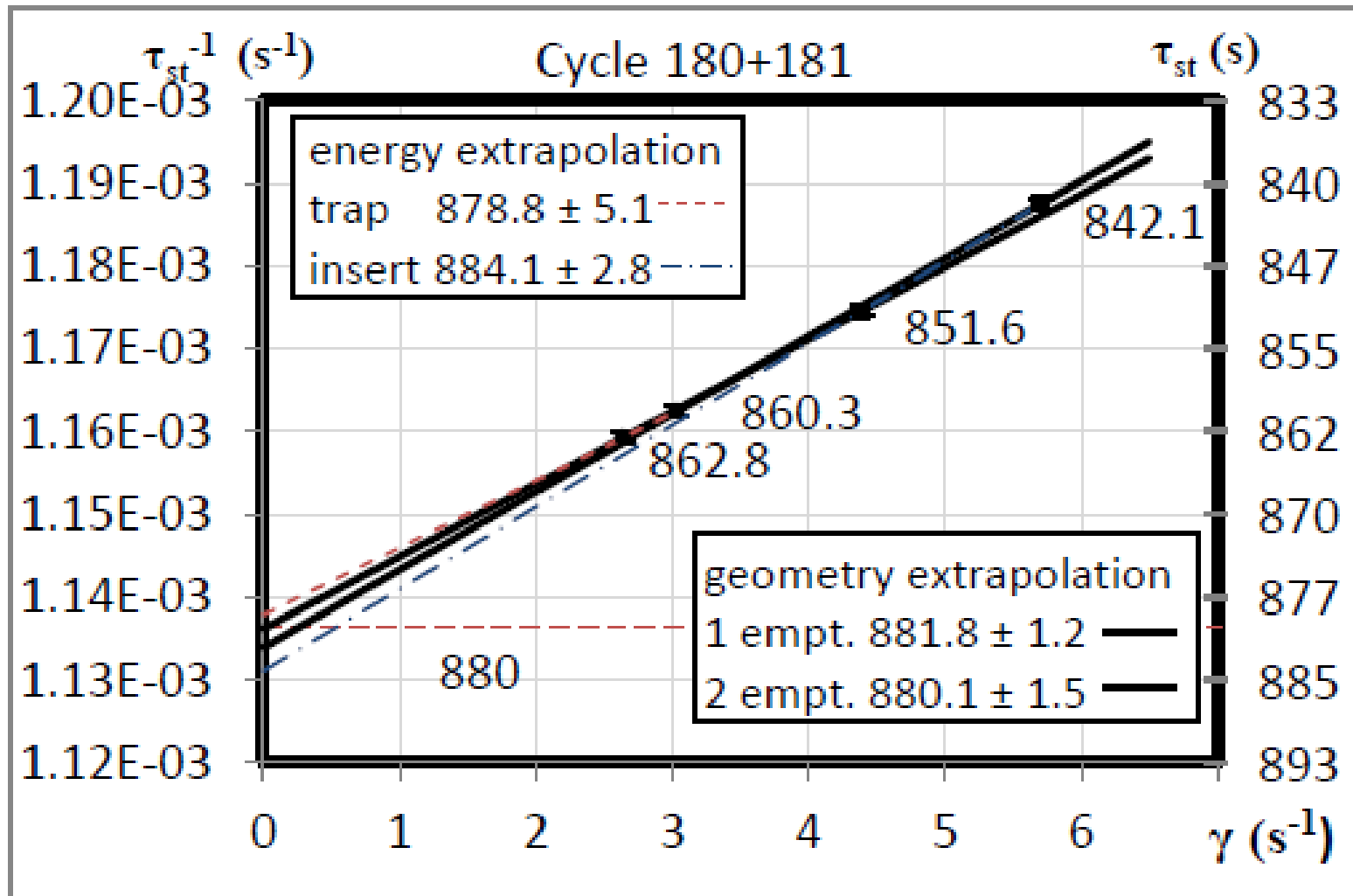
coating by Fomblin grease
(fluorinated lubricant)



Cu Trap coated by Fomblin grease



(Serebrov et al., arXiv:1712.05663, 2017) $\tau_n = (881.5 \pm 0.7_{\text{stat}} \pm 0.6_{\text{syst}}) \text{ s}$



Loss rate due to Fomblin grease : $\sim 1/40000 \text{ s}^{-1}$

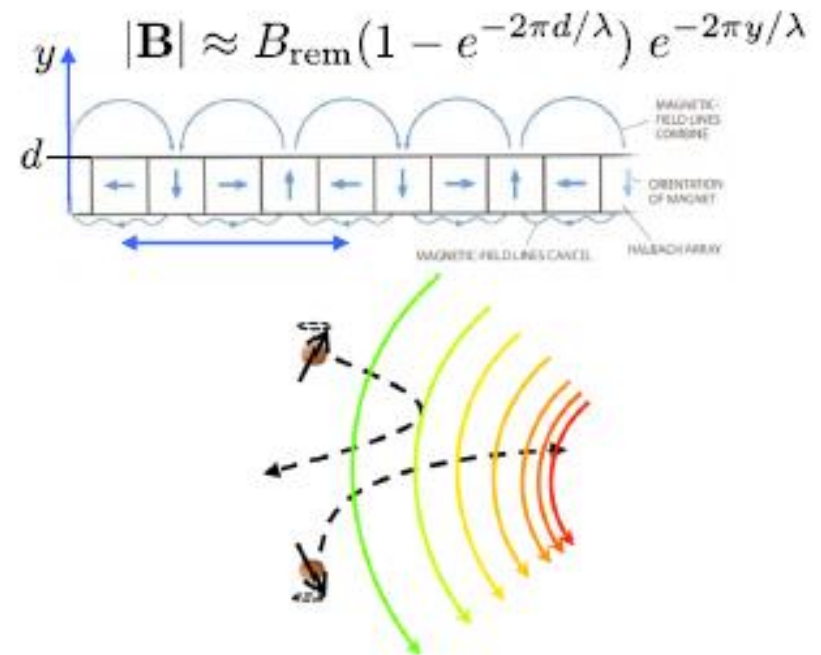
UCN τ Magneto-gravitational trap

Operated at LANL



~5500 permanent magnets

advantage of magnetic storage:
control of „magnetic wall“ losses



Material: C.-Y. Liu
EXA2017

Probability of depolarization

- Precession of magnetic moment

$$\frac{d\vec{\mu}}{dt} = \gamma_n \vec{\mu} \times \vec{B}$$

$$\gamma_n = 1.83 \cdot 10^8 \text{ s}^{-1} \text{ T}^{-1}$$

- Adiabatic condition

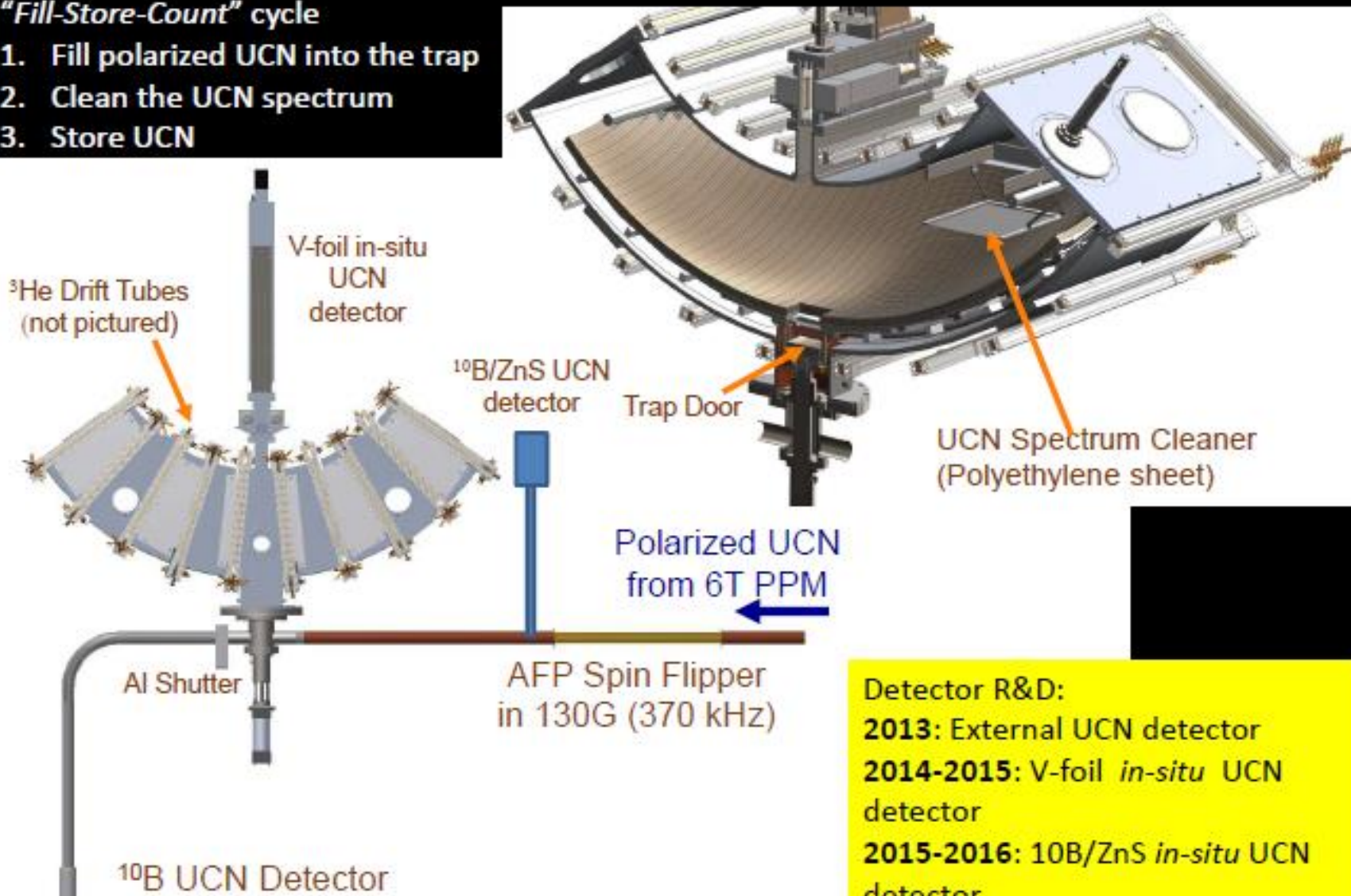
$$\gamma_n B \gg (dB/dt) / B = v \cdot \nabla |B| / B$$

- (v -- is the velocity of neutron)
- For case of strong field
- ($B = 1\text{T}$), $\nabla B = 1\text{T/mm}$ and velocity $v = 3.4 \text{ m/s}$ one can receive next relation for adiabatic condition:
- $1.83 \cdot 10^8 \gg 3.4 \cdot 10^3$.

Operation of the UCN τ Experiment

"Fill-Store-Count" cycle

1. Fill polarized UCN into the trap
2. Clean the UCN spectrum
3. Store UCN



Detector R&D:

2013: External UCN detector

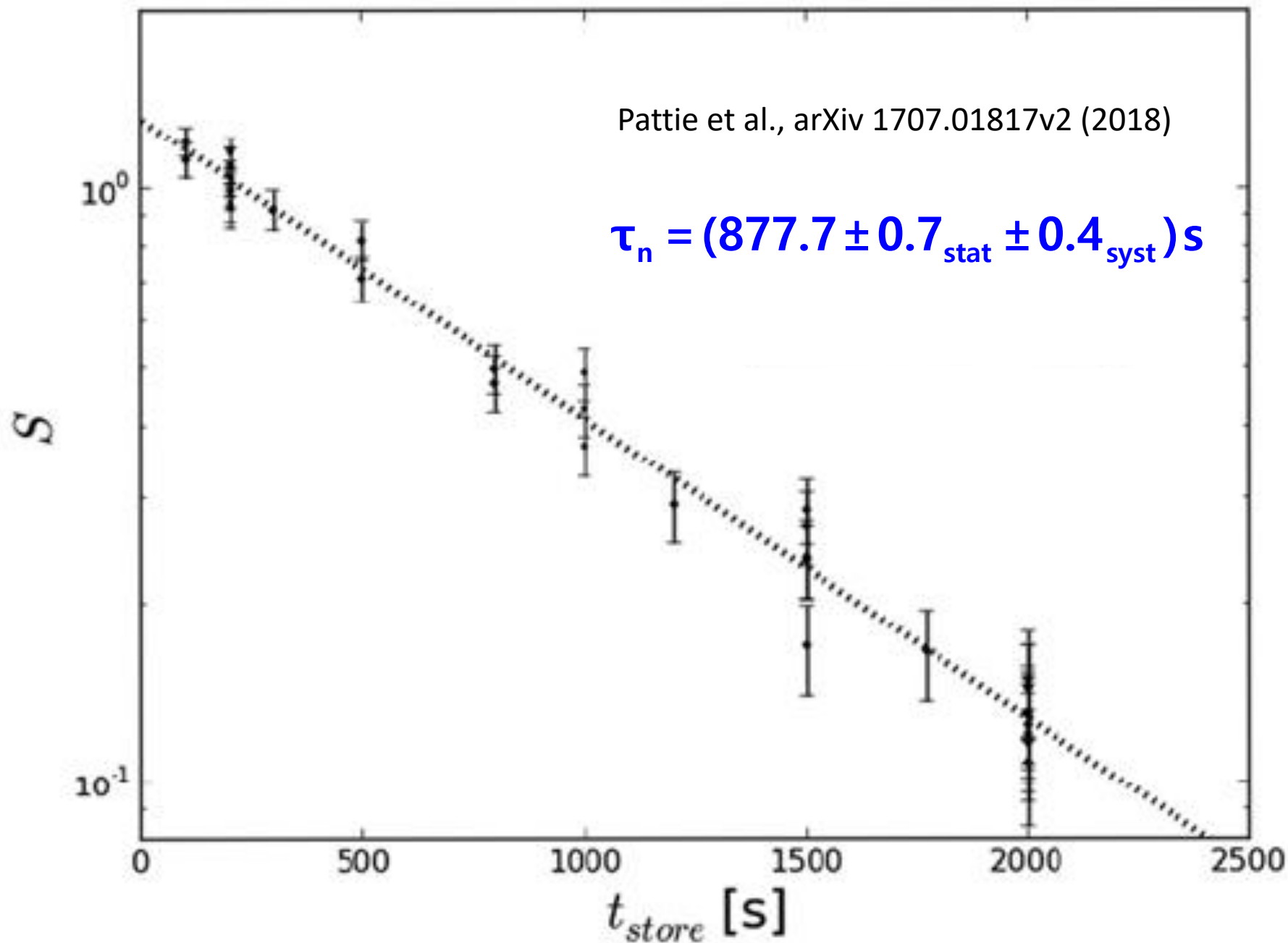
2014-2015: V-foil *in-situ* UCN detector

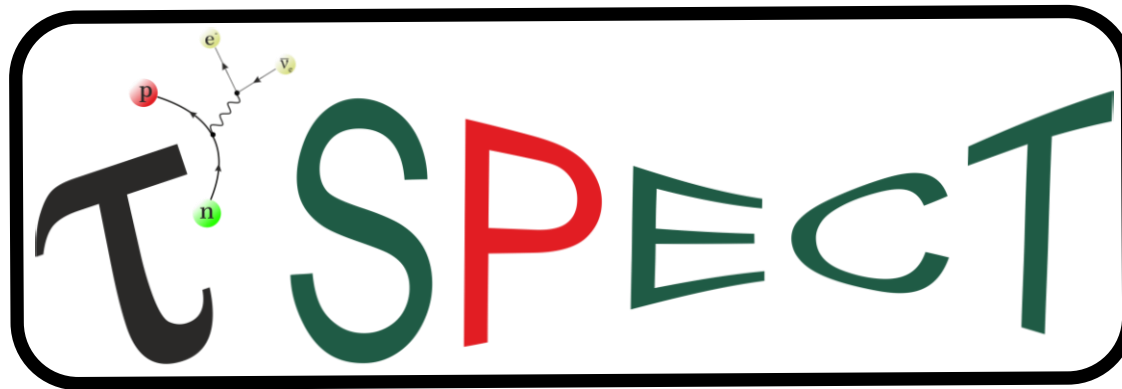
2015-2016: $^{10}\text{B}/\text{ZnS}$ *in-situ* UCN detector

UCN τ apparatus installed at the LANSCE UCN facility: Feb. 2013



Pattie et al., arXiv 1707.01817v2 (2018)





the neutron lifetime experiment at TRIGA Mainz

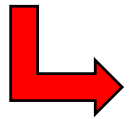
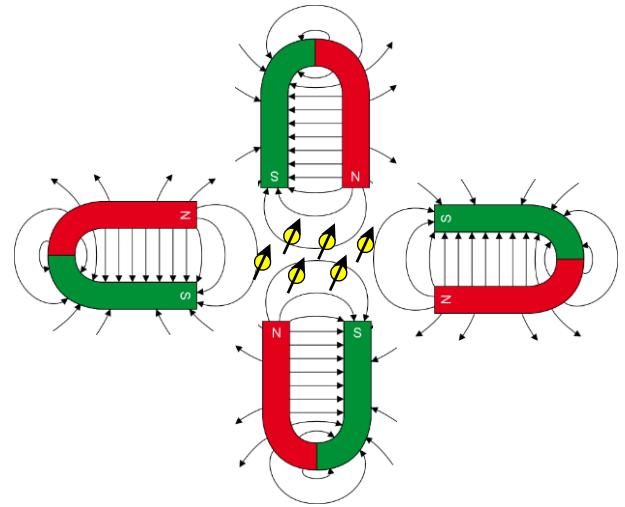
aim: $\Delta\tau_n \lesssim 0.3 \text{ s}$

S.Dewey et al., NIST [7]	In beam experiment	< 1s
K. Mishima et al., J-PARC NIM A 799, 187 (2015)	In beam experiment	1s
A. Steyerl et al., URI (ILL) [9]	Material bottle	~ 1 s
V. Morozov et al., KI (ILL)	Material bottle (Teflon+LTF)	~ 1s
A. Serebrov et al., PNPI (ILL)	LTF coated large gravitational tap	~ 0.2 s
P. Huffman NSCN (NIST/SNS) NIM A 611, 171 (2009)	Magnetic bottle, SC, sfHe, decay	< 2.4 s
S. Paul TUM (FRM-II) NIM A 611, 176 (2009)	Magnetic bottle, SC, decay PENELOPE	~ 0.1 s
Y. Masuda, KEK (RCNP,J-Parc)	Magnetic bottle, SC, decay	~0.1 s
O. Zimmer, ILL NIM A 611, 181 (2009)	Magnetic bottle, permanent H.O.PE	~ 0.3s
V. Ezhov, PNPI (ILL) [17]	Magnetic bottle, permanent	0.2-0.3 s
D. Bowman, LANL, UCnt Phys. Rev. C 89, 052501(R) (2014)	Magnetic bottle, permanent	~ 0.1 s

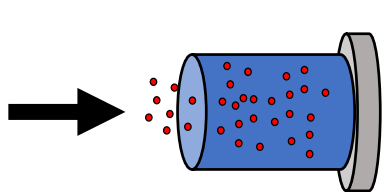
Concept of τ SPECT

➤ 3D magnetic storage of UCN

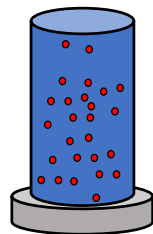
➤ Measurement of τ_n via



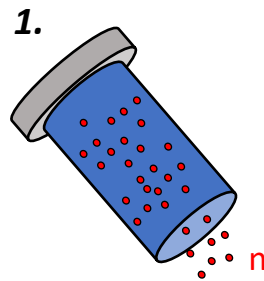
1. *Detection of the „survivors“*
2. *in-situ detection of the decay protons*



filling

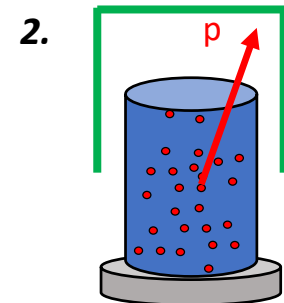


storage



$$\frac{dn}{dt} \propto \frac{1}{\tau_n}$$

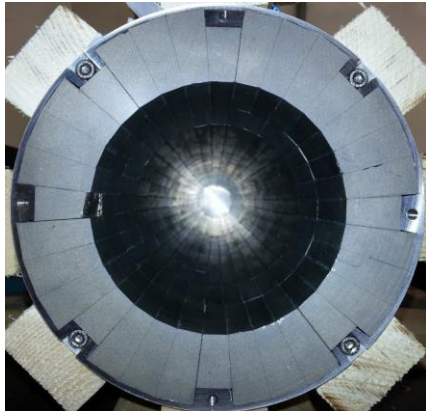
counting



$$\frac{dp}{dt} \propto \frac{1}{\tau_n}$$

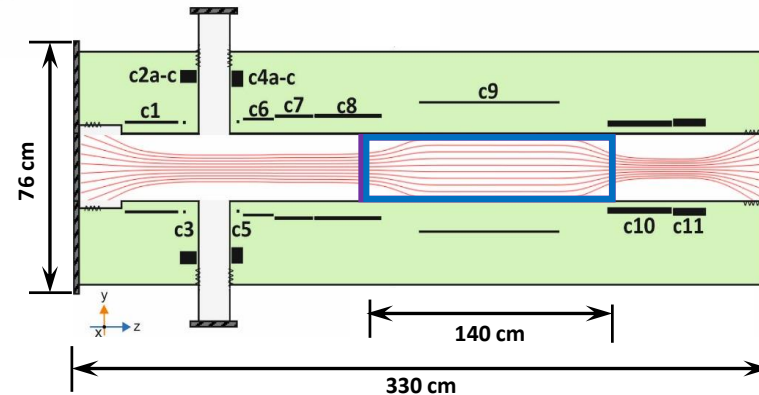
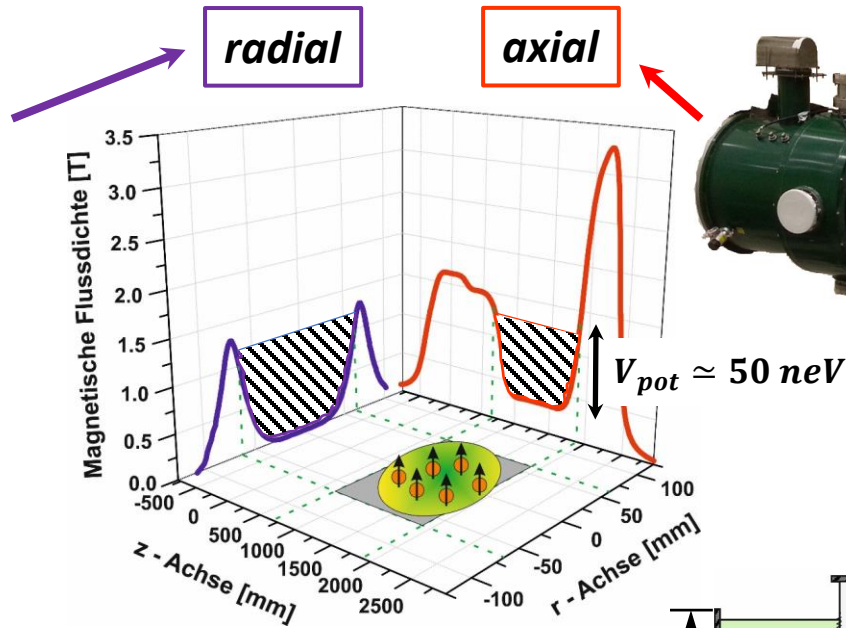
3D- magnetic storage

Octupole magnet
Halbach-configuration



permanent magnets $\text{Sm}_2\text{Co}_{17}$

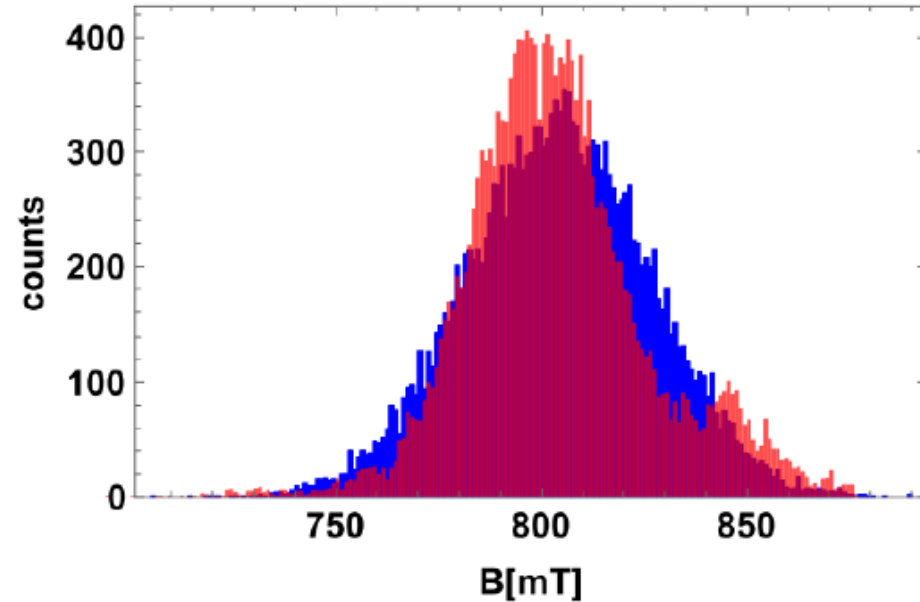
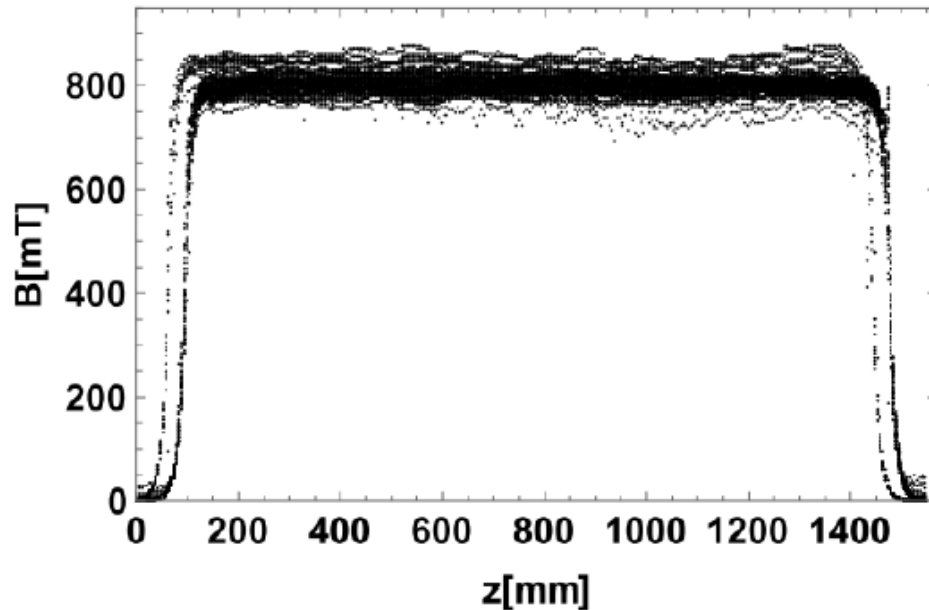
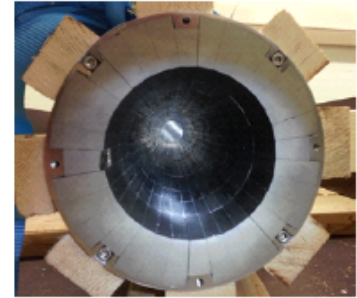
aSPECT superconducting
magnet



The magnetic octupole

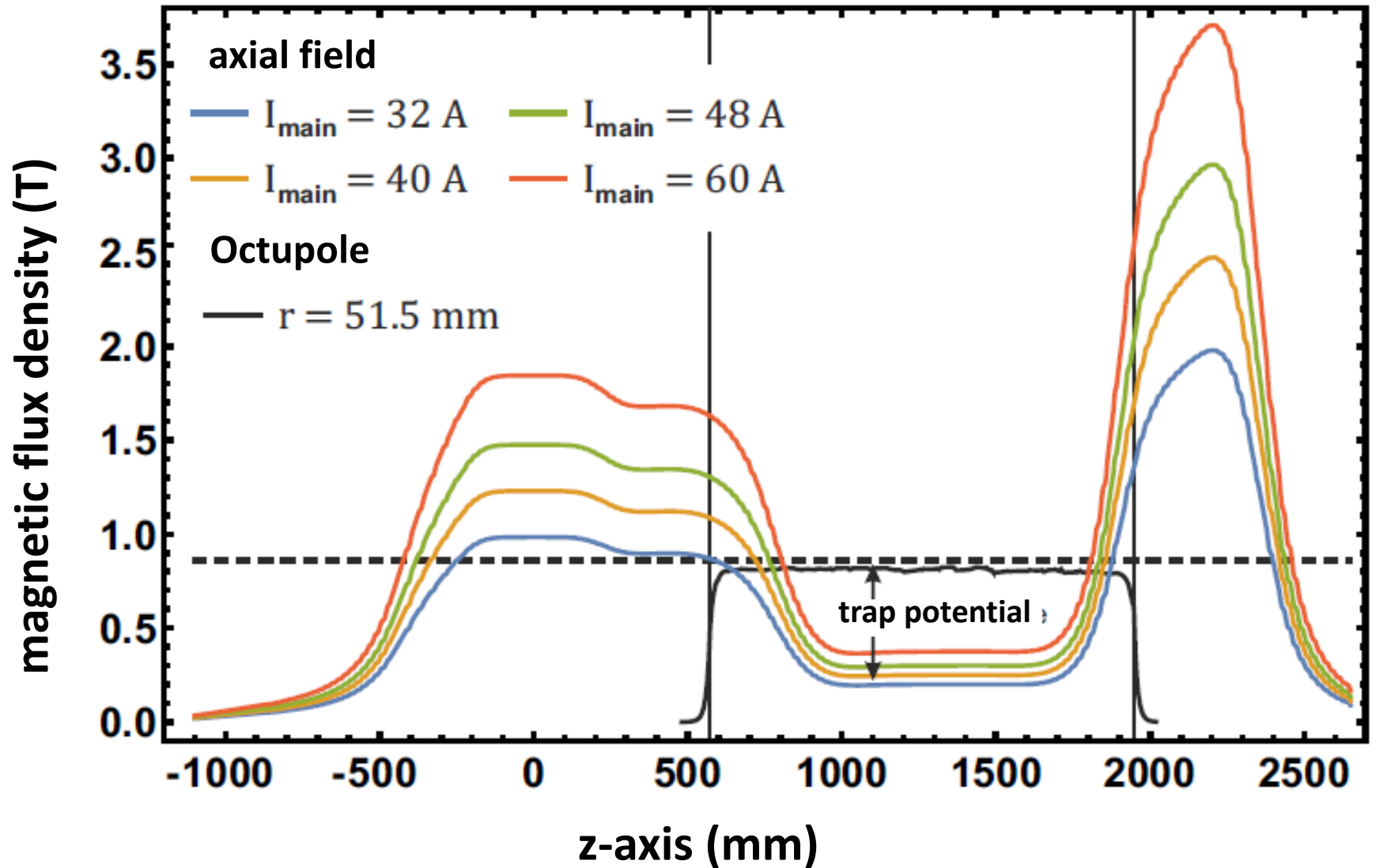
Characterization of the Halbach-type magnetic octupole

Scan of the total B-field,
2.5 mm from the magnet surface



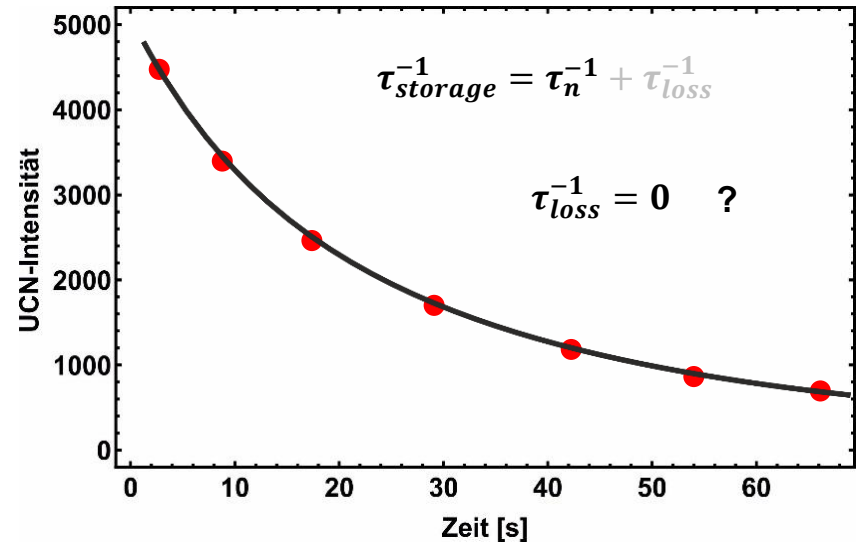
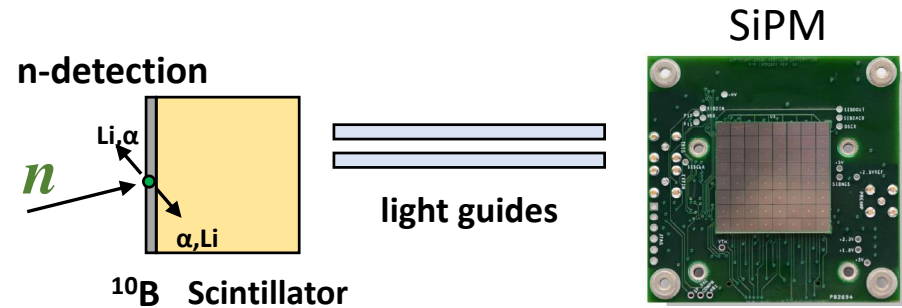
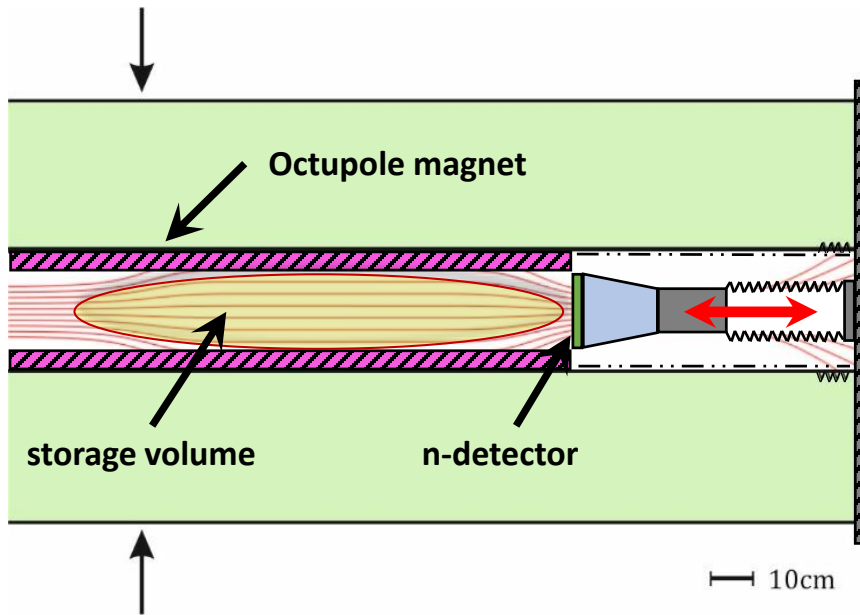
⇒ No significant holes in the magnetic wall!

Investigation of systematic effects



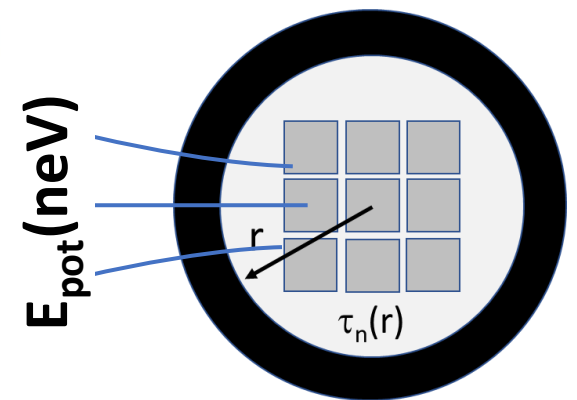
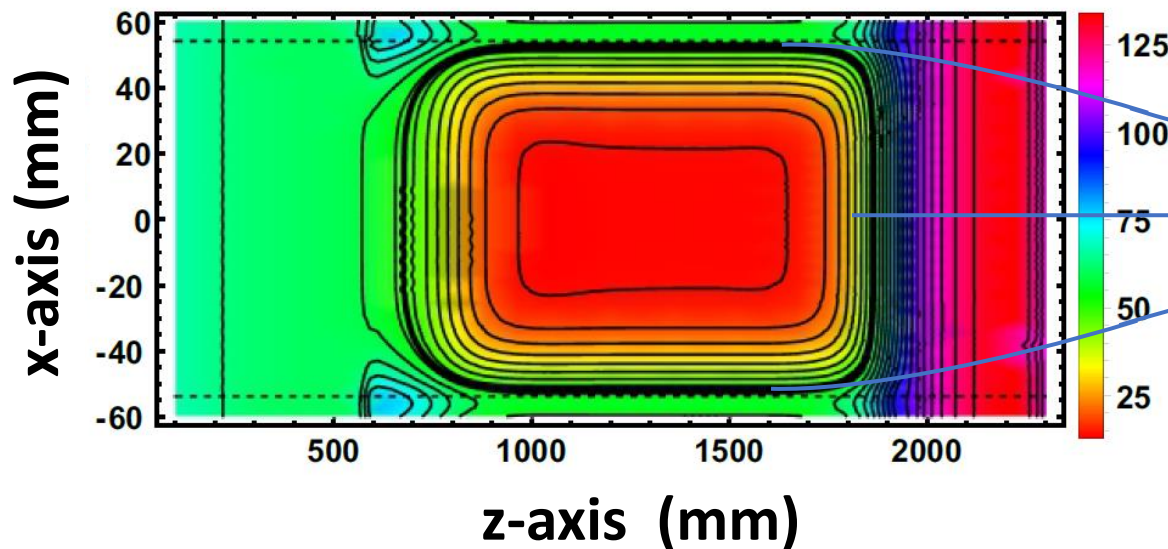
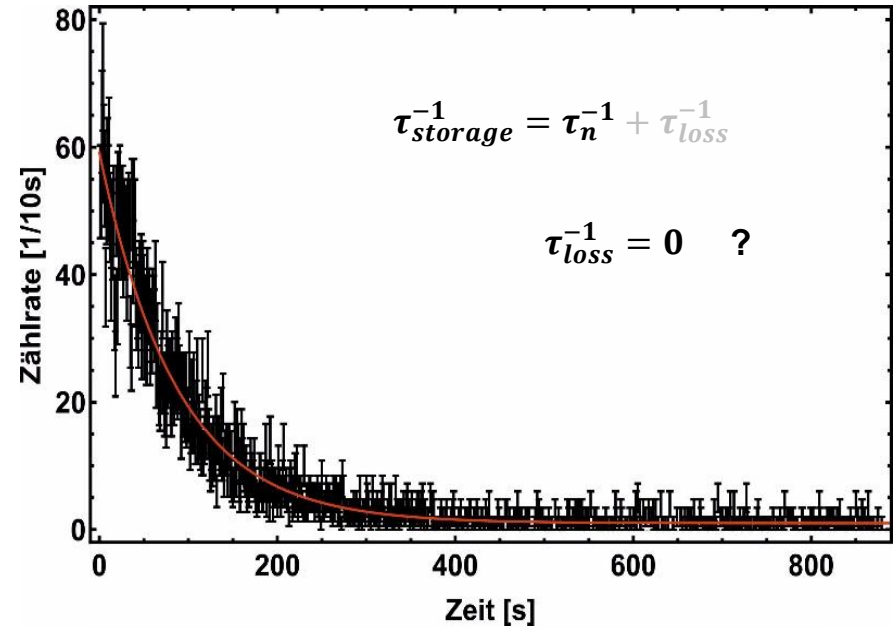
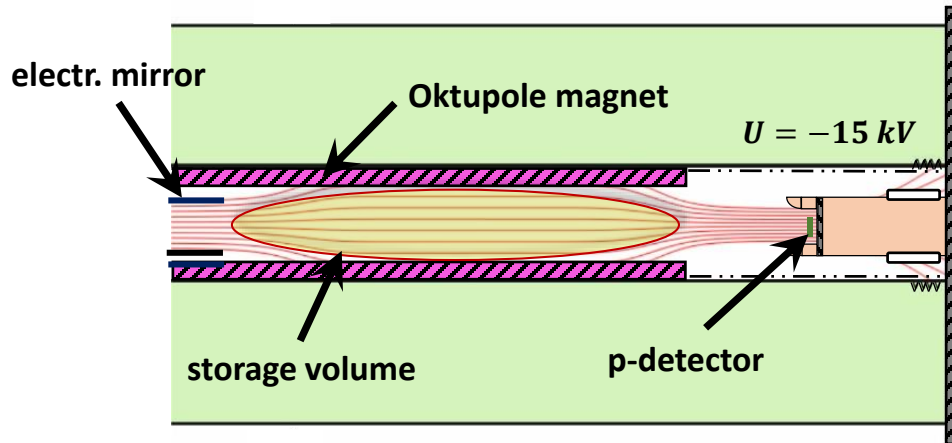
Detection

1. „counting the survivors“ (neutrons)

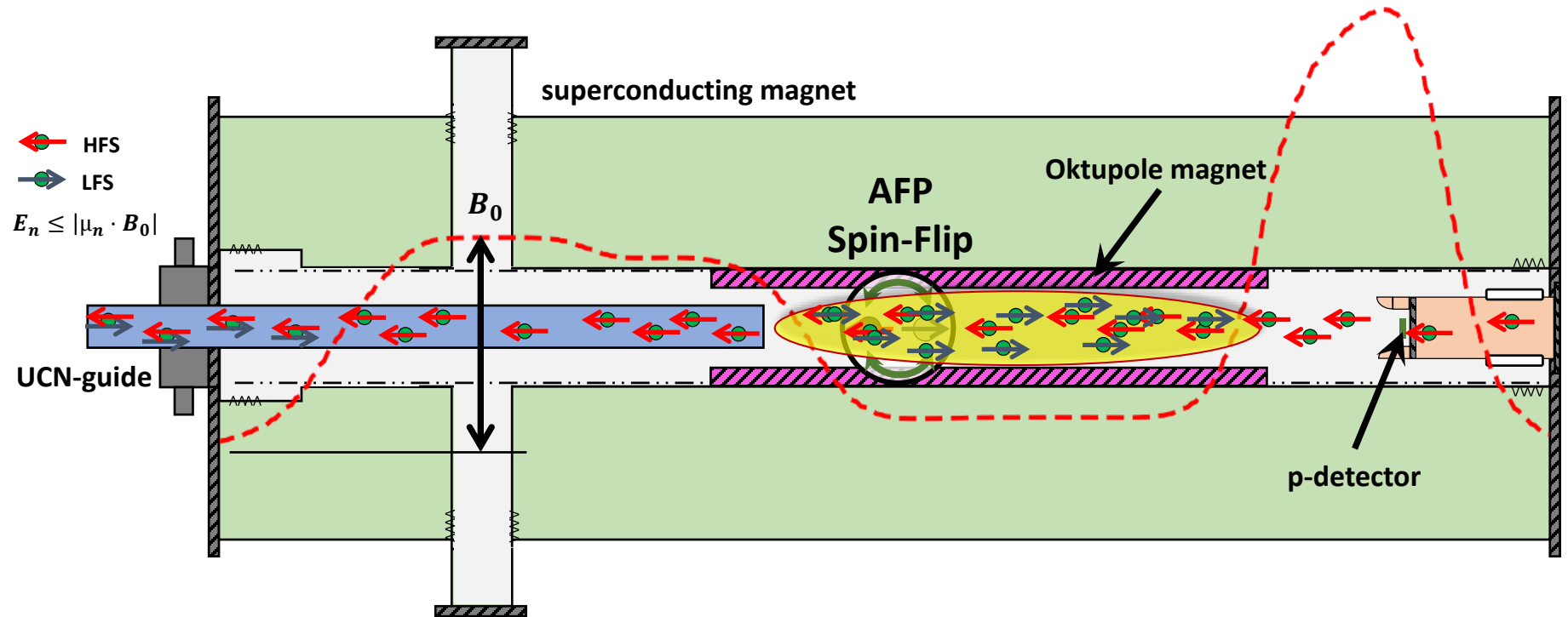


Detection

2. „counting the protons“



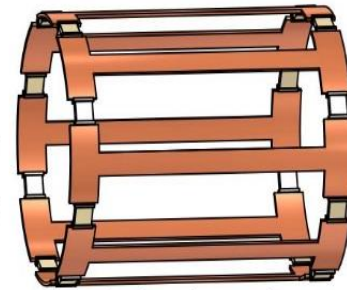
Filling the magnetic storage trap



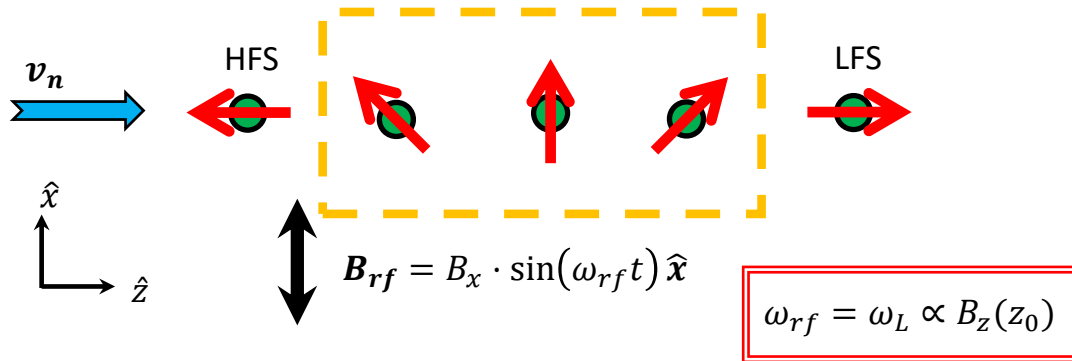
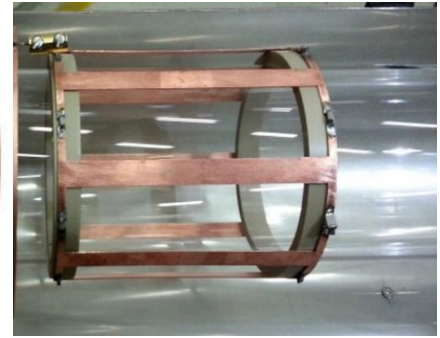
Adiabatic Fast Passage (AFP)

$$B_0 = B_z(z)\hat{z} \quad \text{mit} \quad \frac{\partial B_z(z)}{\partial z} \simeq 1 \text{ G/cm}$$

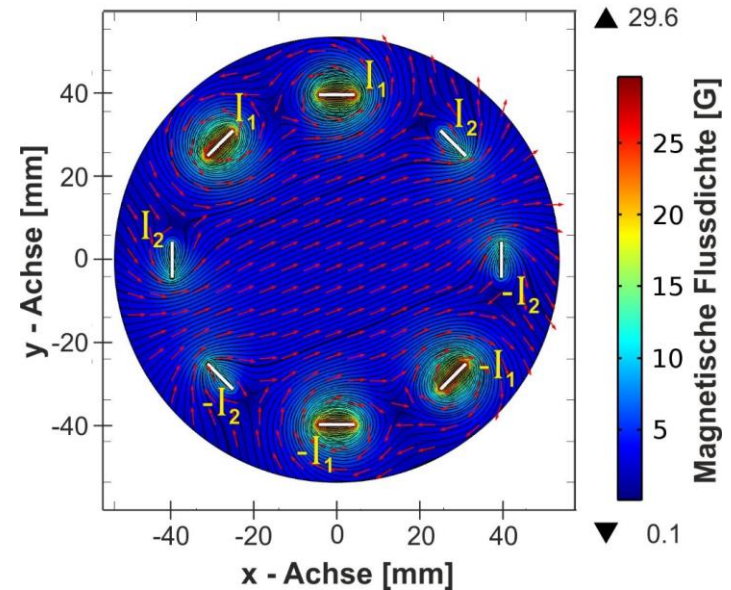
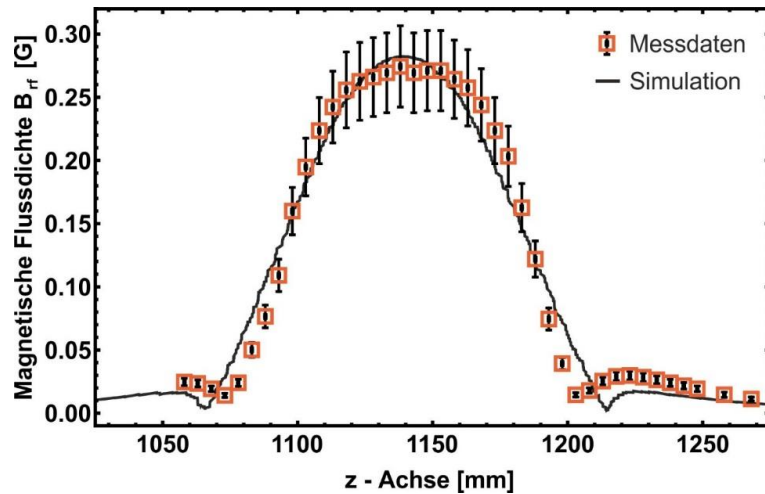
high-pass



Leiter (rungs)

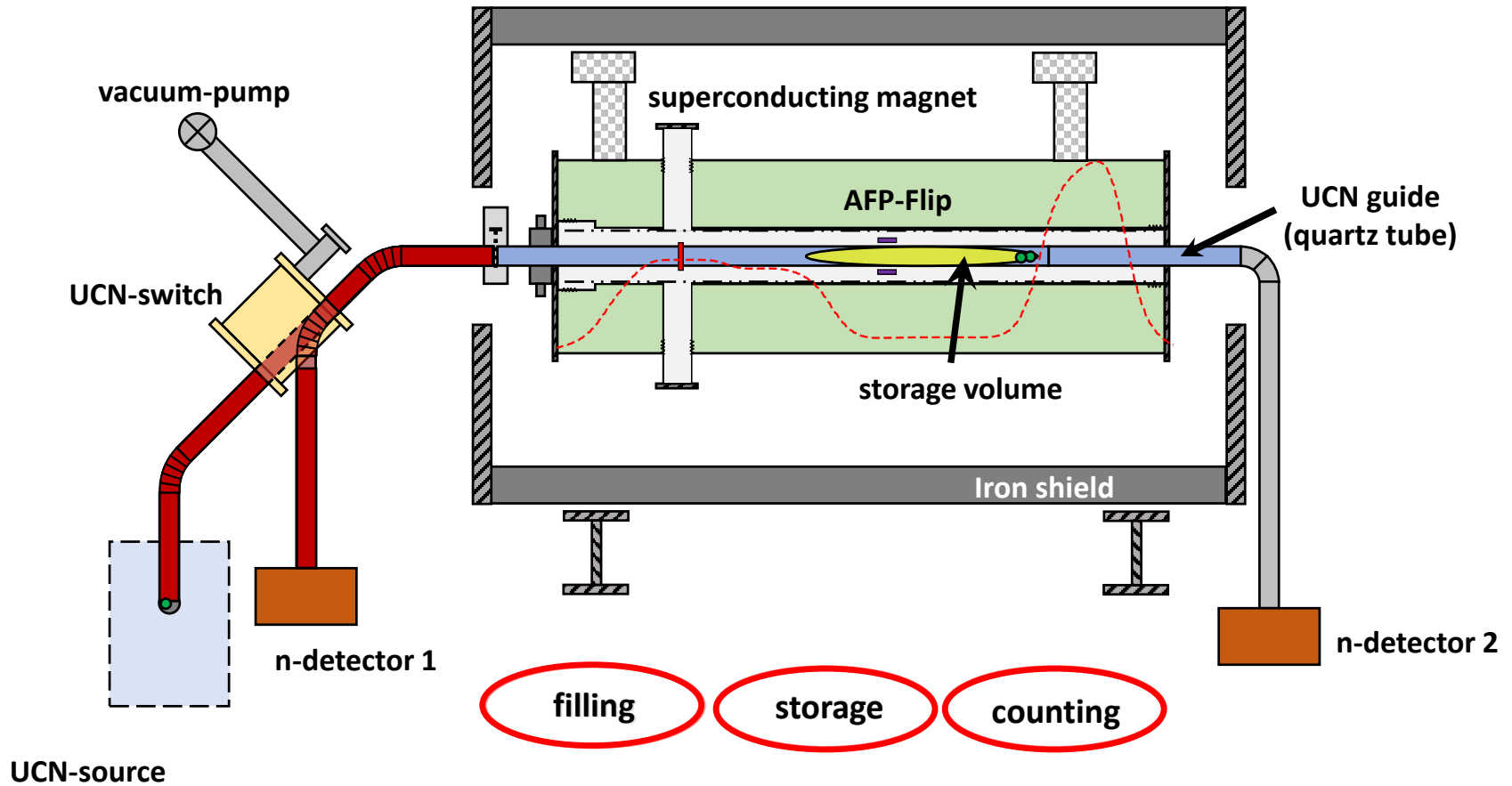


$$\epsilon > 1 - \frac{(\nabla_z B_0)^2 v_n^2}{(\nabla_z B_0^2)^2 v_n^2 + \gamma^2 B_1^4}$$

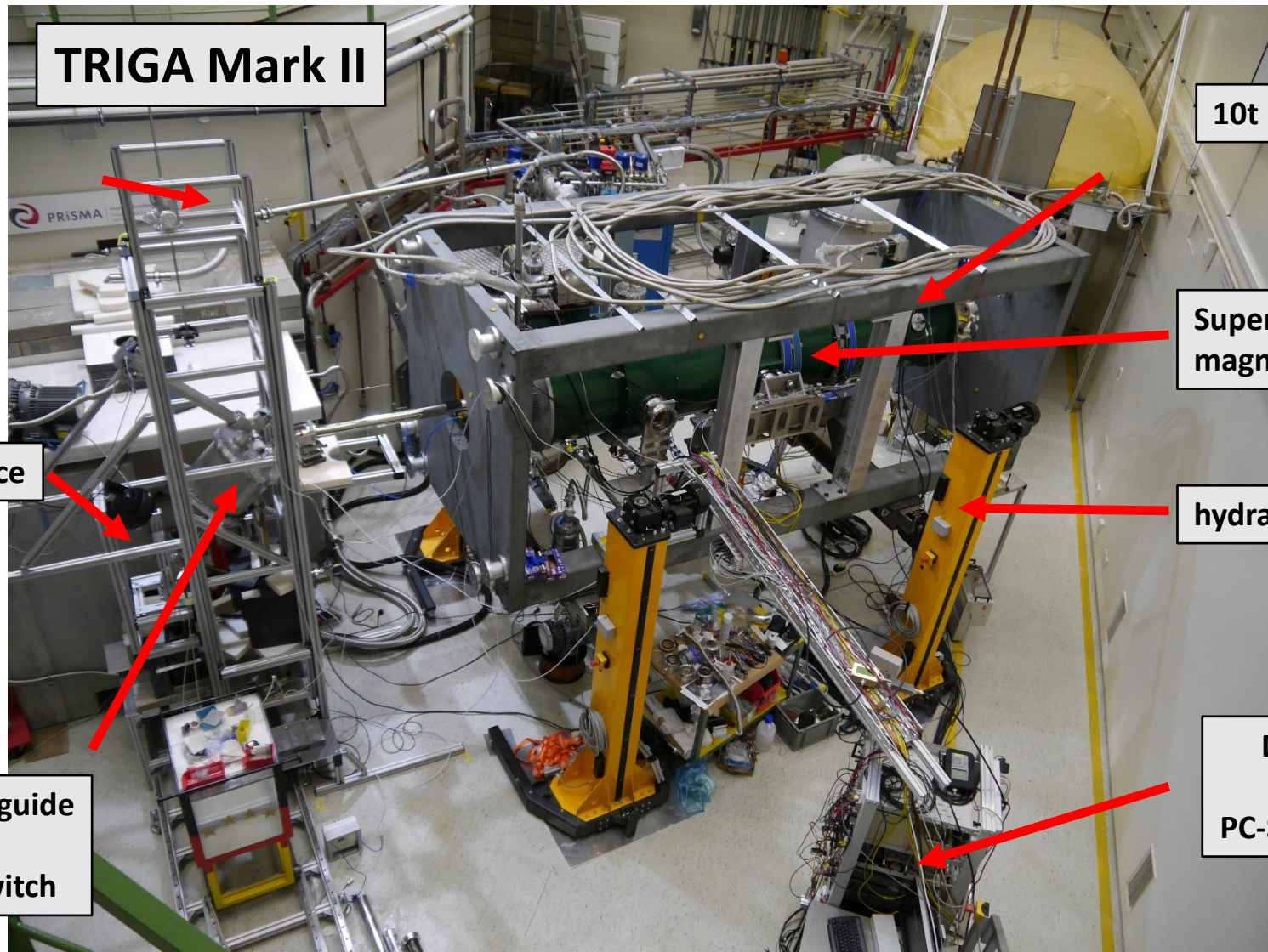


Phase I of τ SPECT: Proof of Principle (2016)

PhD thesis: Jan Karch



τ SPECT



TRIGA Mark II

10t iron shield

Superconducting magnet

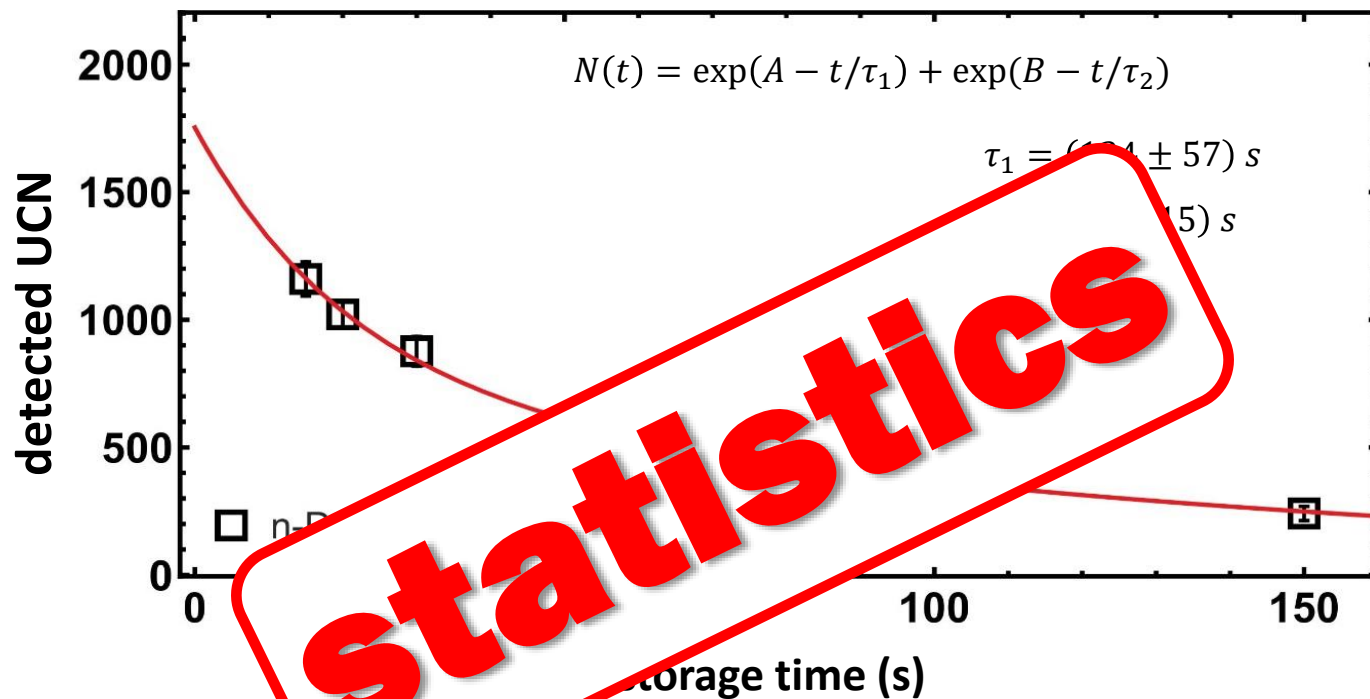
hydraulic ramp

DAQ & PC-System

UCN-source

neutron guide & UCN-switch

Phase I of : Proof of Principle (2016)



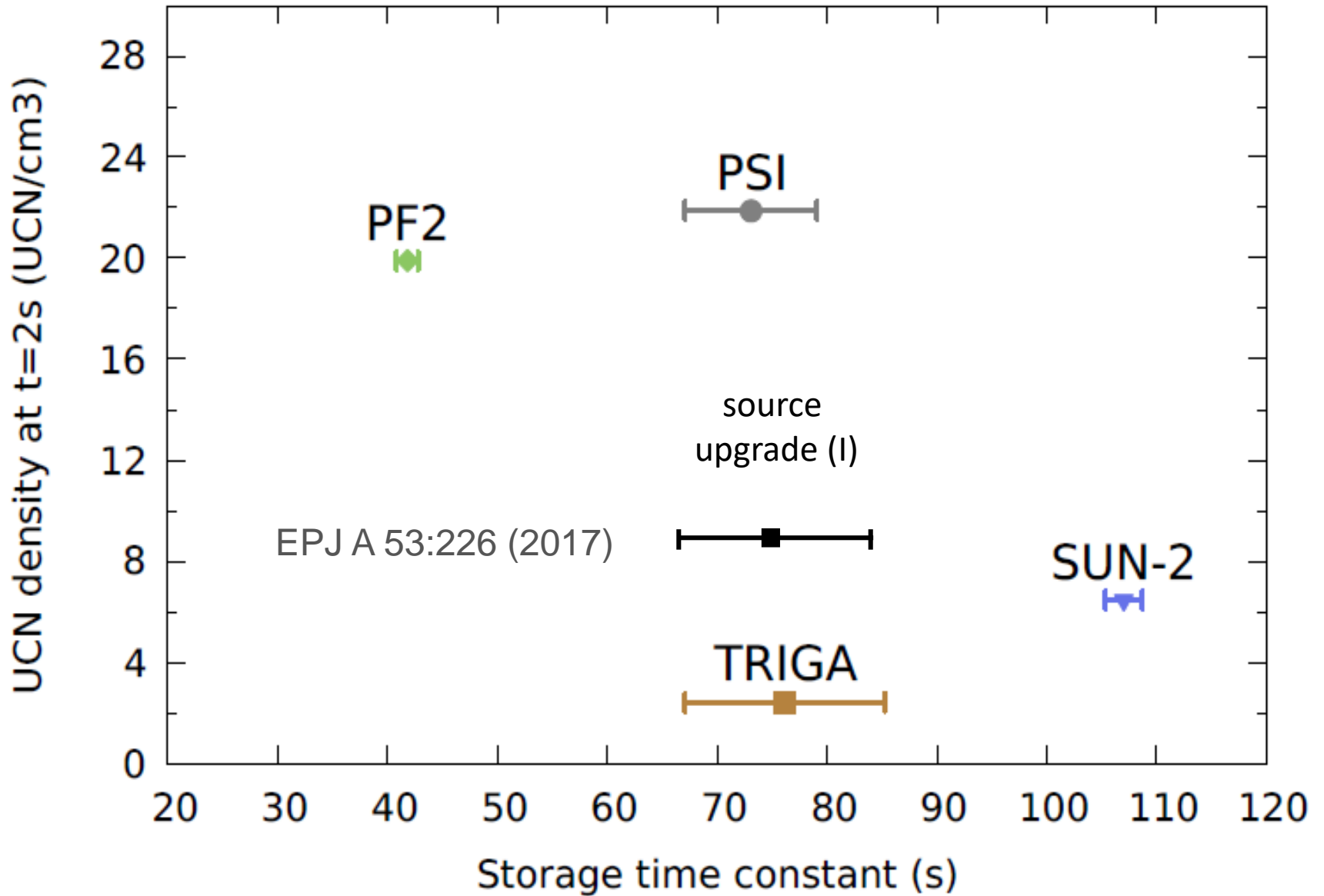
extraction efficiency ~ 18%



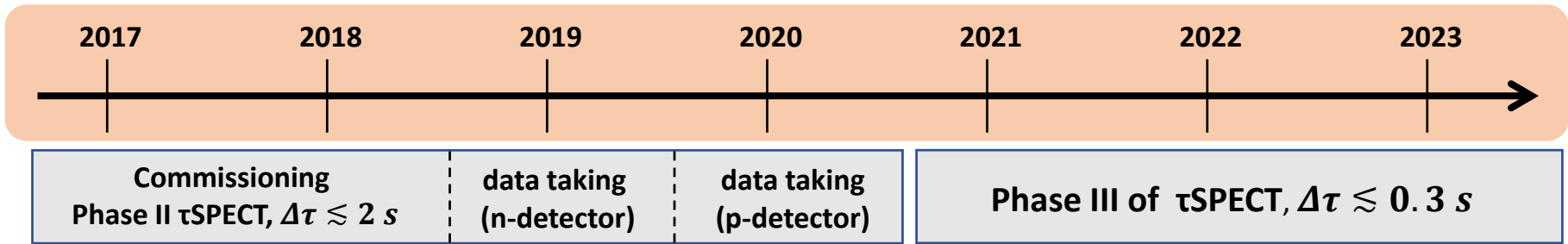
11 000 stored UCN

UCN densities (comparison) in standard storage bottle of 32 liter

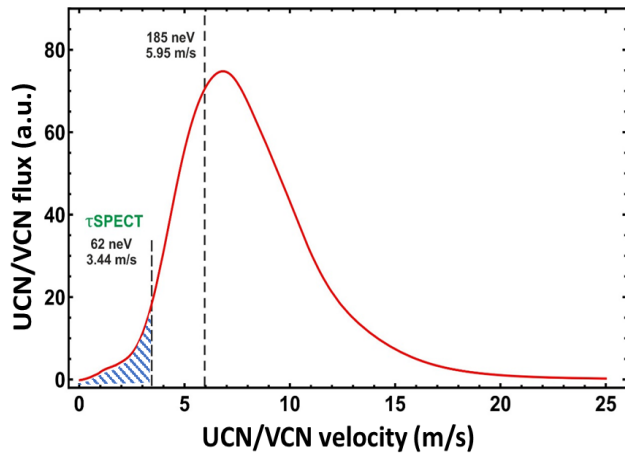
G. Bison et al., Phys. Rev. C 95 (2017) 045503



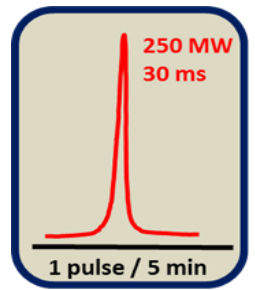
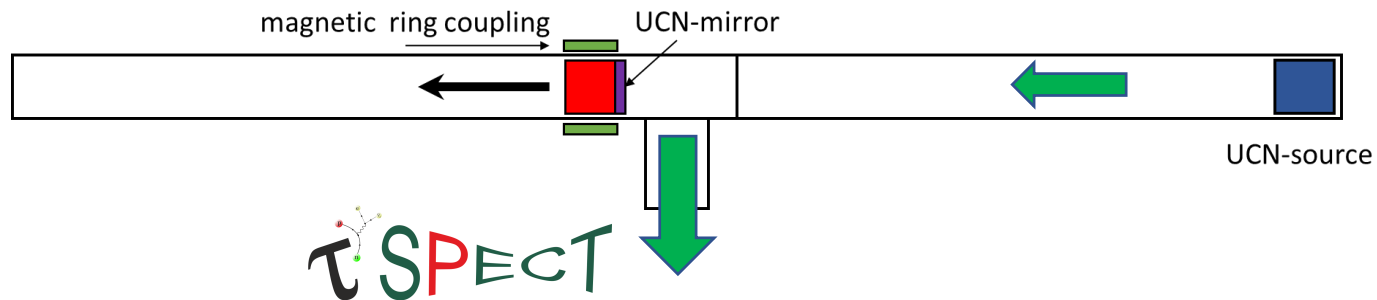
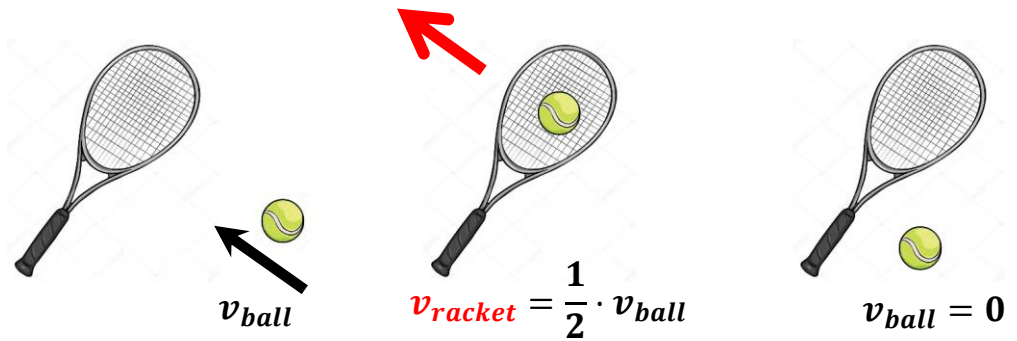
➤ Road map



Phasespace transformer at pulsed UCN source



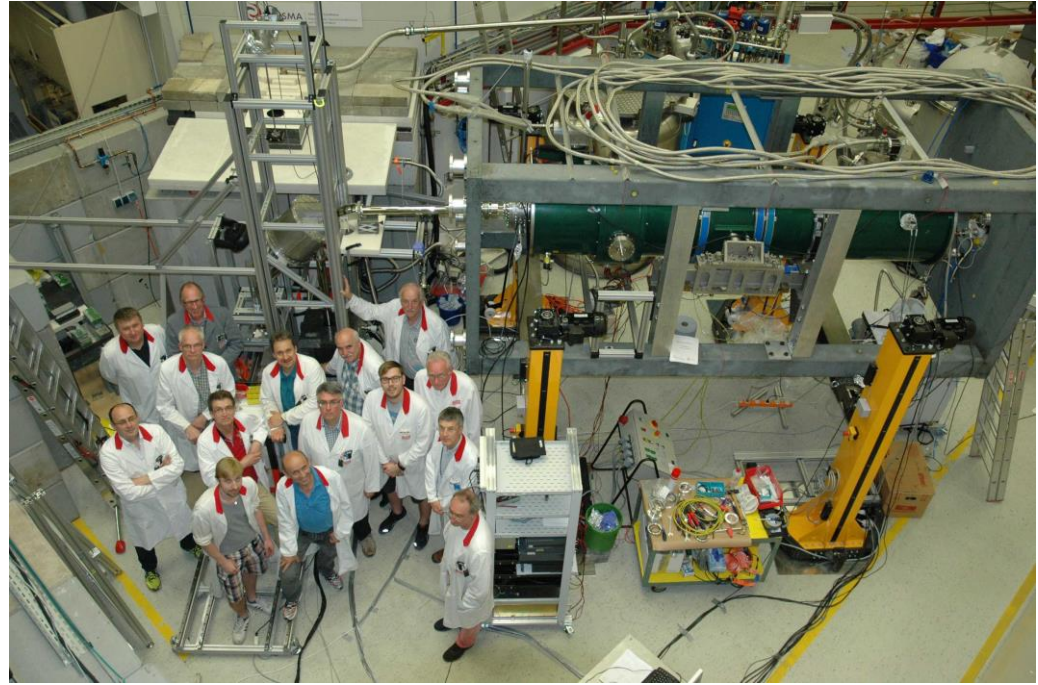
➔ **movable neutron reflector**



τ SPECT

τ SPECT
SPECT

Thanks for your attention!

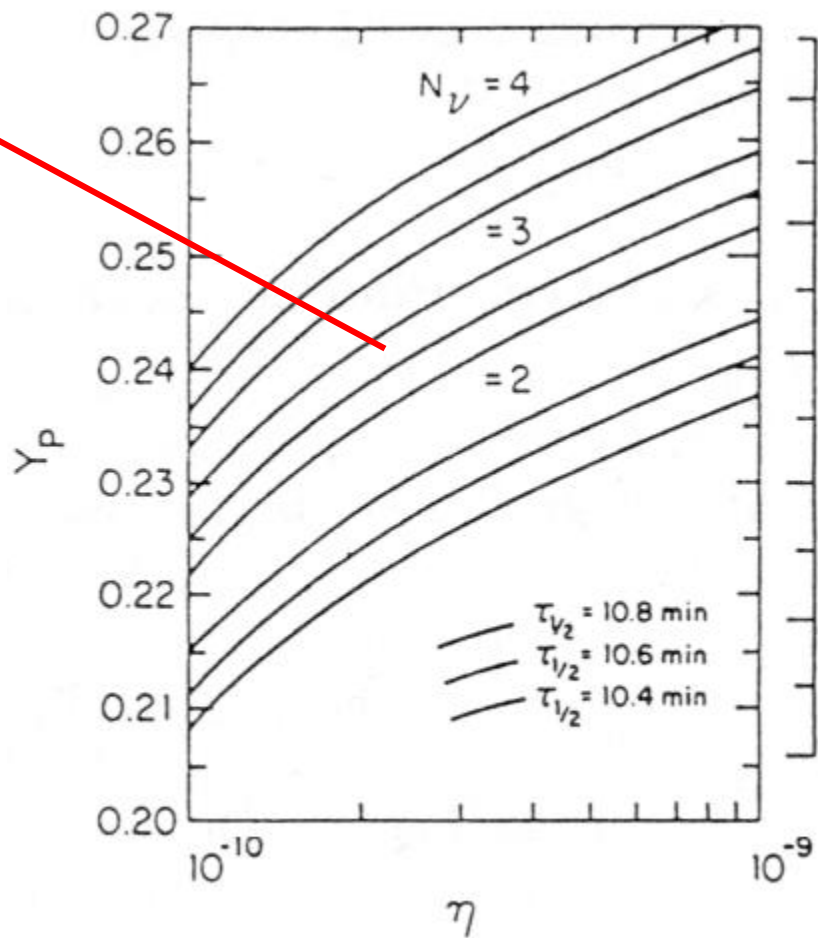
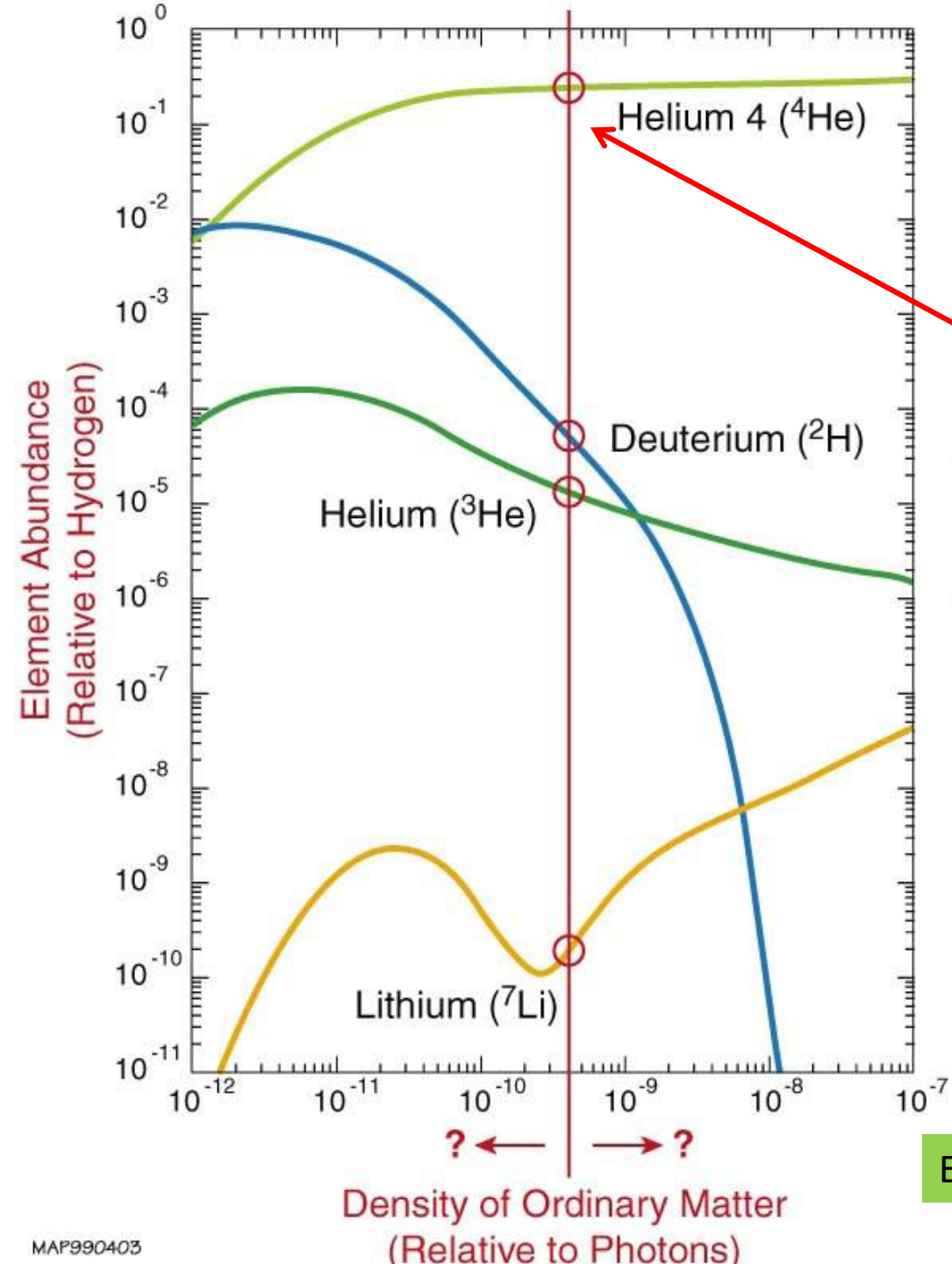


Carl Zeiss Stiftung



JOHANNES GUTENBERG
UNIVERSITÄT MAINZ





Empfindlichkeit auf Neutron-Lebensdauer

Unitary of CKM matrix:

$$|V_{ud}|^2 + |V_{us}|^2 + |V_{ub}|^2 = 1$$

super-allowed $0^+ \rightarrow 0^+$

nucl. β -decays: $|V_{ud}|^2 = 0.94916(58)$

K- decays: $|V_{us}|^2 = 0.05076(41)$

semileptonic B-decays: $|V_{ub}|^2 = 1.5 \times 10^{-5}$

$$|V_{ud}|^2 + |V_{us}|^2 + |V_{ub}|^2 = 0.9999(8)$$

Neutron decay: $|V_{ud}|^2 = \frac{4908.7(1.9)}{\tau_n \cdot (1 + 3 \cdot \lambda^2)}$

PDG 2016: $\lambda = -1.2723(23)$

$$|V_{ud}|^2 + |V_{us}|^2 + |V_{ub}|^2 = \begin{cases} 0.9932(17) & @ \tau_n = 885.7 \\ 1.0010(17) & @ \tau_n = 878.5 \end{cases}$$

The Parameters of Big Bang Nucleosynthesis

$$Y_p = 0.228 + 0.023 \log \eta_{10} + 0.012 N_\nu + 0.018 (\tau_n - 10.28)$$

Cosmic Helium
Abundance

Cosmic Baryon
Density

Number of
Neutrino Flavors

Neutron Lifetime
in Minutes

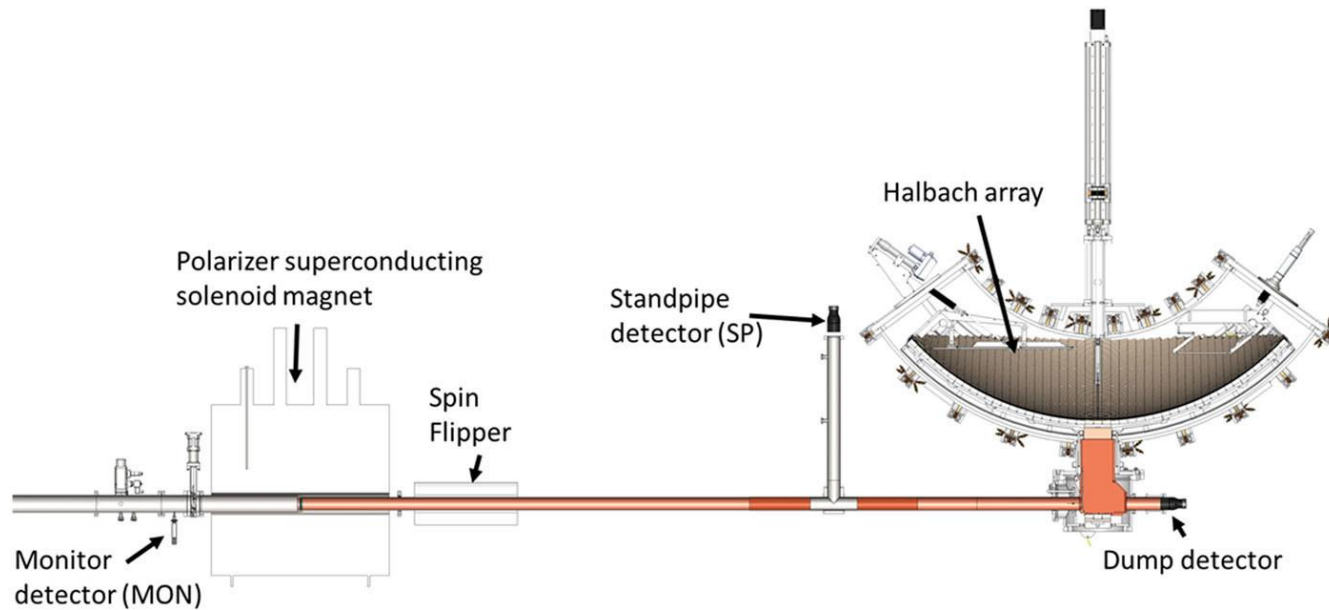
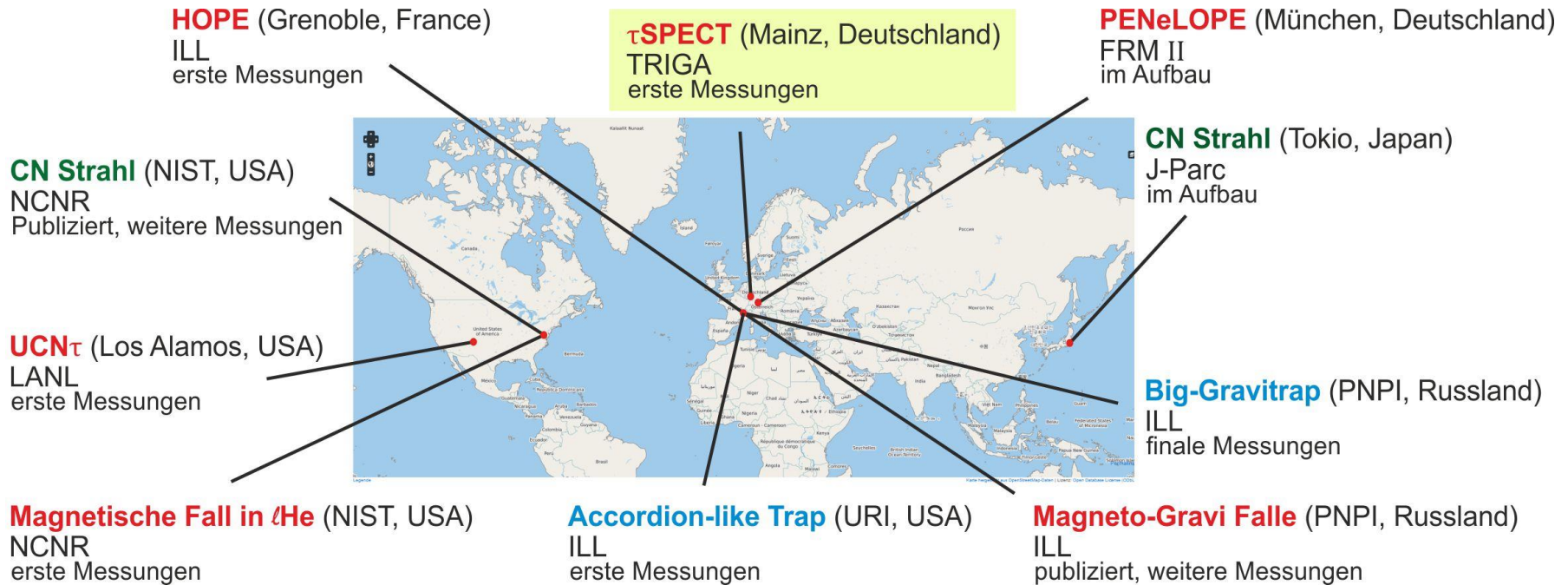
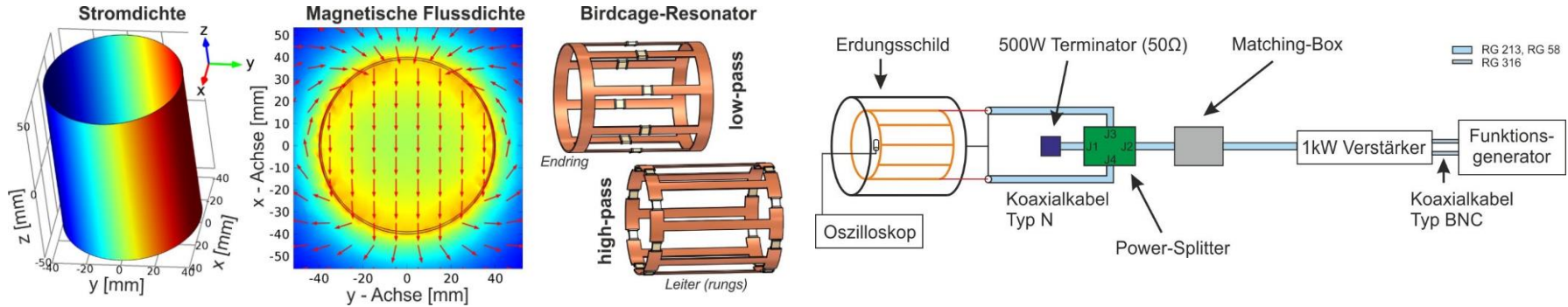


FIG. 2. Schematic layout of the UCN beam line showing the monitor detector locations relative to the trap.

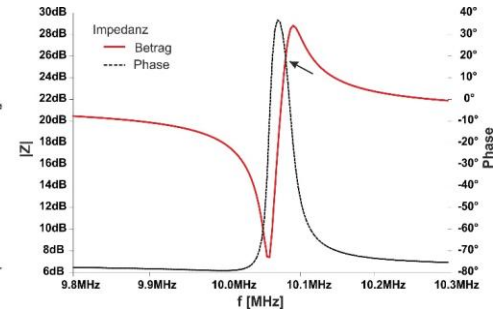
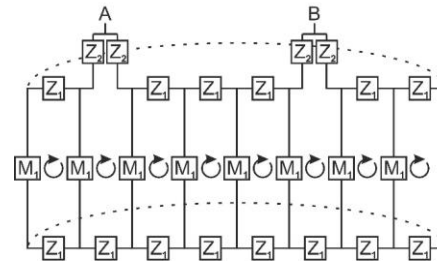
Aktueller Stand der Forschung



Der Birdcage-Resonator zur AFP



$$\epsilon > 1 - \frac{(\nabla_z \mathbf{B}_0)^2 v_n^2}{(\nabla_z \mathbf{B}_0)^2 v_n^2 + \gamma^2 B_1^4}$$



- Reduziere $\nabla_z \mathbf{B}_0$ (longitudinales Feld) und $\nabla_r \mathbf{B}_r$ (Multipol-Feld)
- Erhöhe Leistung \mathbf{B}_1 des Birdcage-Resonators

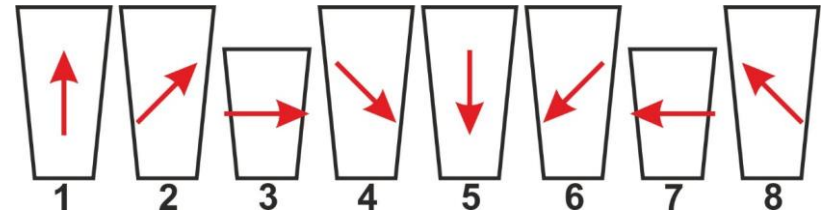
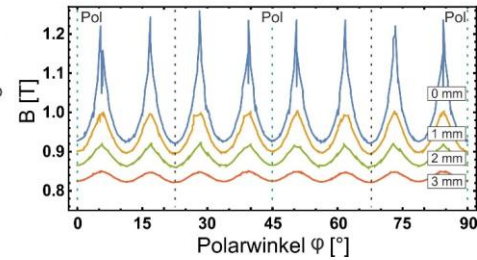
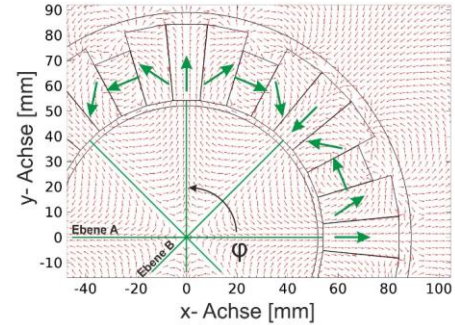
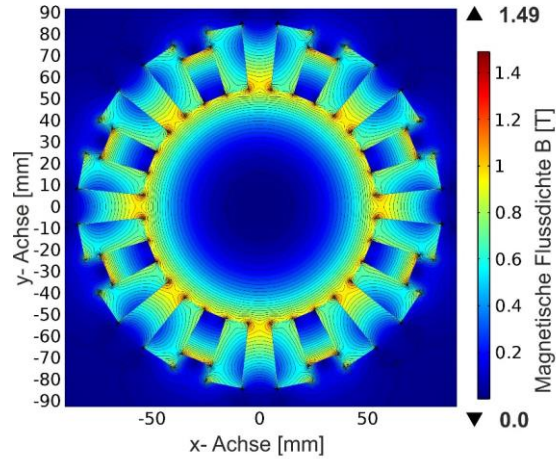
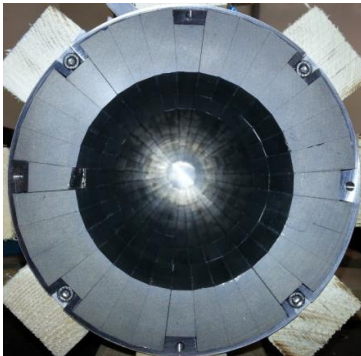
Der Multipol (Halbach-Design)

$$B(r) = B_r \left(\frac{r}{r_i} \right)^{N-1} \frac{N}{N-1} \left[1 - \frac{r_i}{r_a} \right]^{N-1}$$

r_i : Innenradius des Multipols

r_a : Außenradius des Multipols

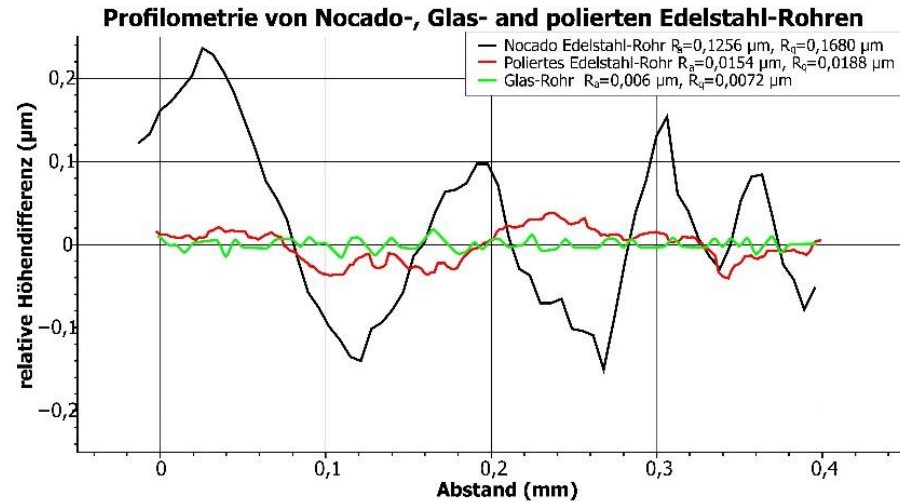
B_r : effektive Remanenz der Magnetsegmente



Upgrade of UCN-source

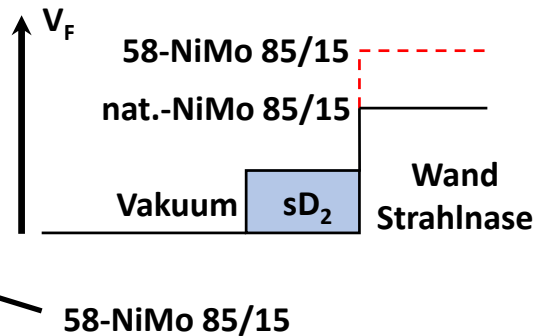
1. Verbesserung der Neutronenleiterqualität

- Reduzierte **Rauheit** der Leiteroberfläche → Erhöhte spekulare Reflexion der UCN an der Leiteroberfläche
- Optimierter Biegeradius der 45°-Bögen ($\rho \approx 30 \text{ cm}$)

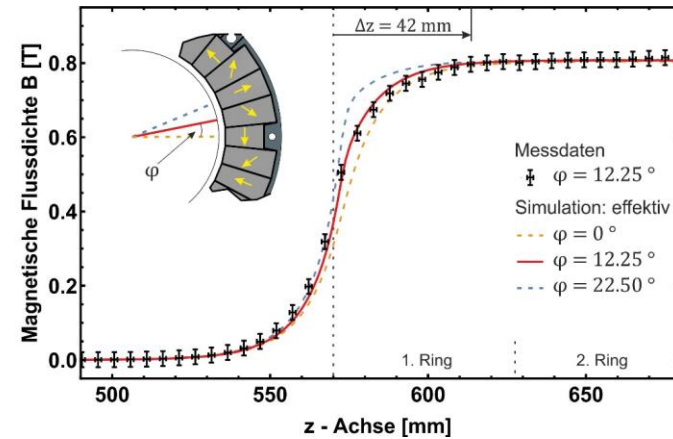
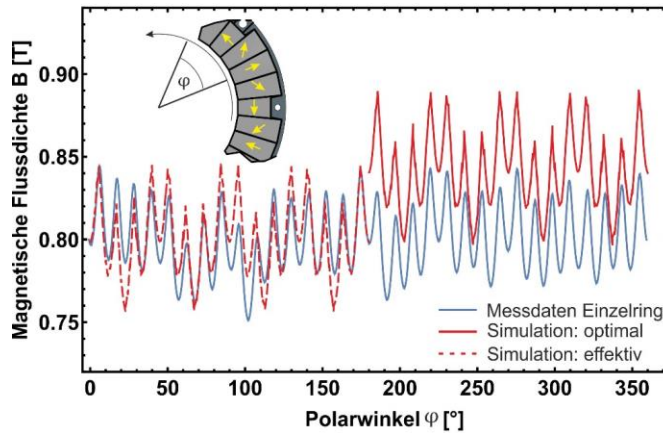
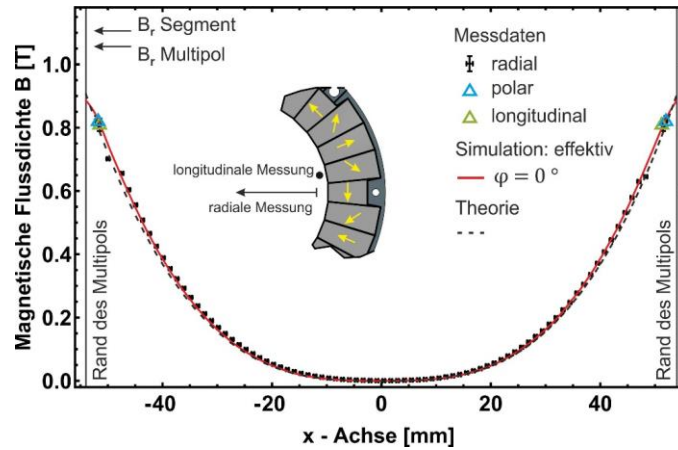


2. Verbesserte Phasenraumakzeptanz

- Wand-Potential V_F der Strahlröhre mit angereichertem 58-Nickel (NiMo 85/15) beschichtet



Der Multipol: Vergleich von Simulation und Messdaten



Asymmetric Trap induces "Phase-Space Mixing"

Low symmetry, together with **field ripples**, enhances state-mixing between (quasi)-periodic orbits through chaotic motion.

→ **quick cleaning** (~ 10s of seconds) of the 'quasi-bound' UCN.

Adjacent Magnetization

$\pi/2$ out of phase

$R_1=1m$

PMs in a given row share same **M** alignment



RowB

RowA

$R_2=0.5m$

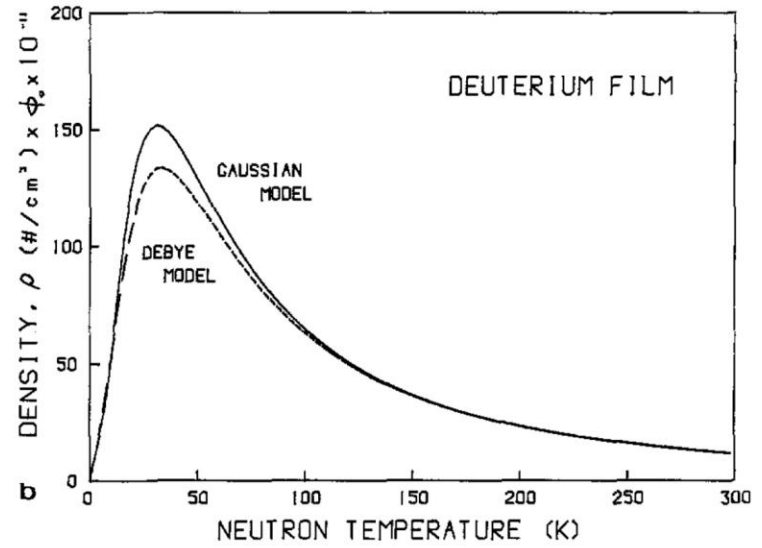
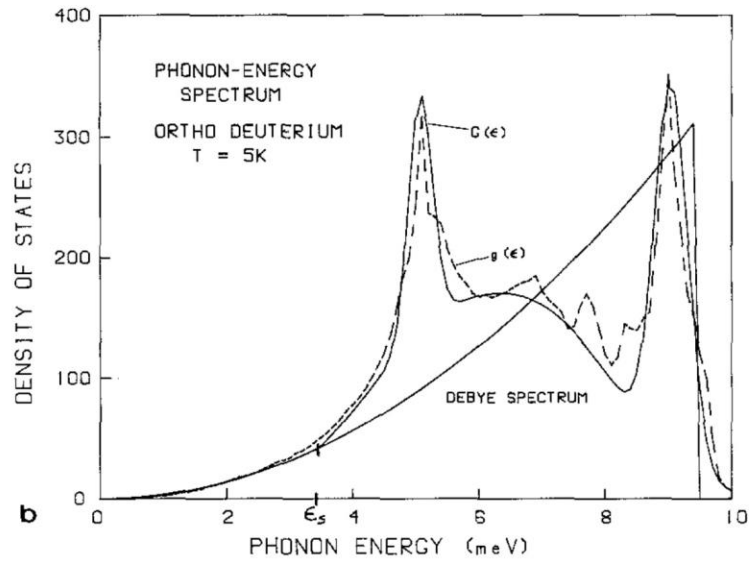
• Rows: 141

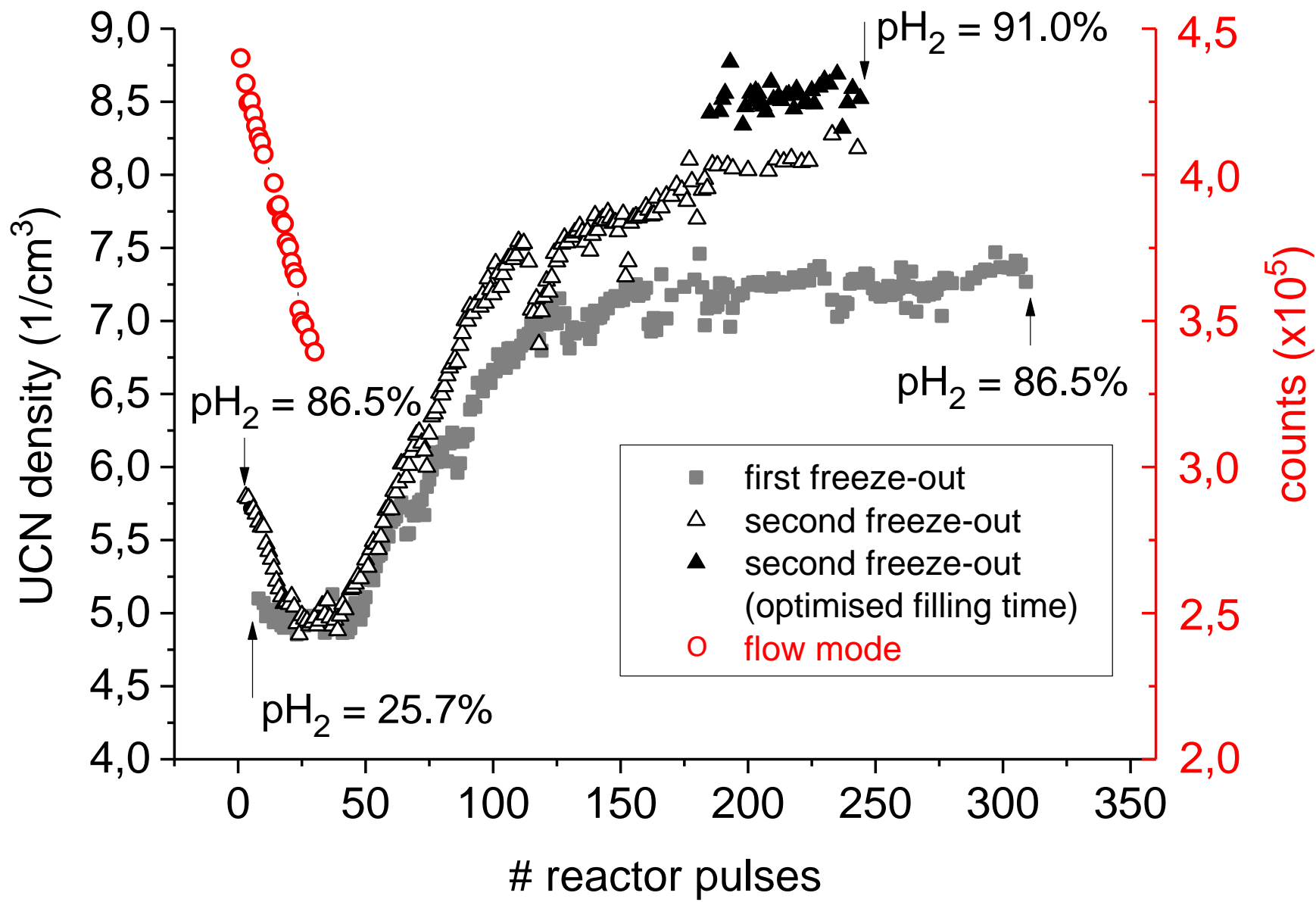
• PMs: 5310

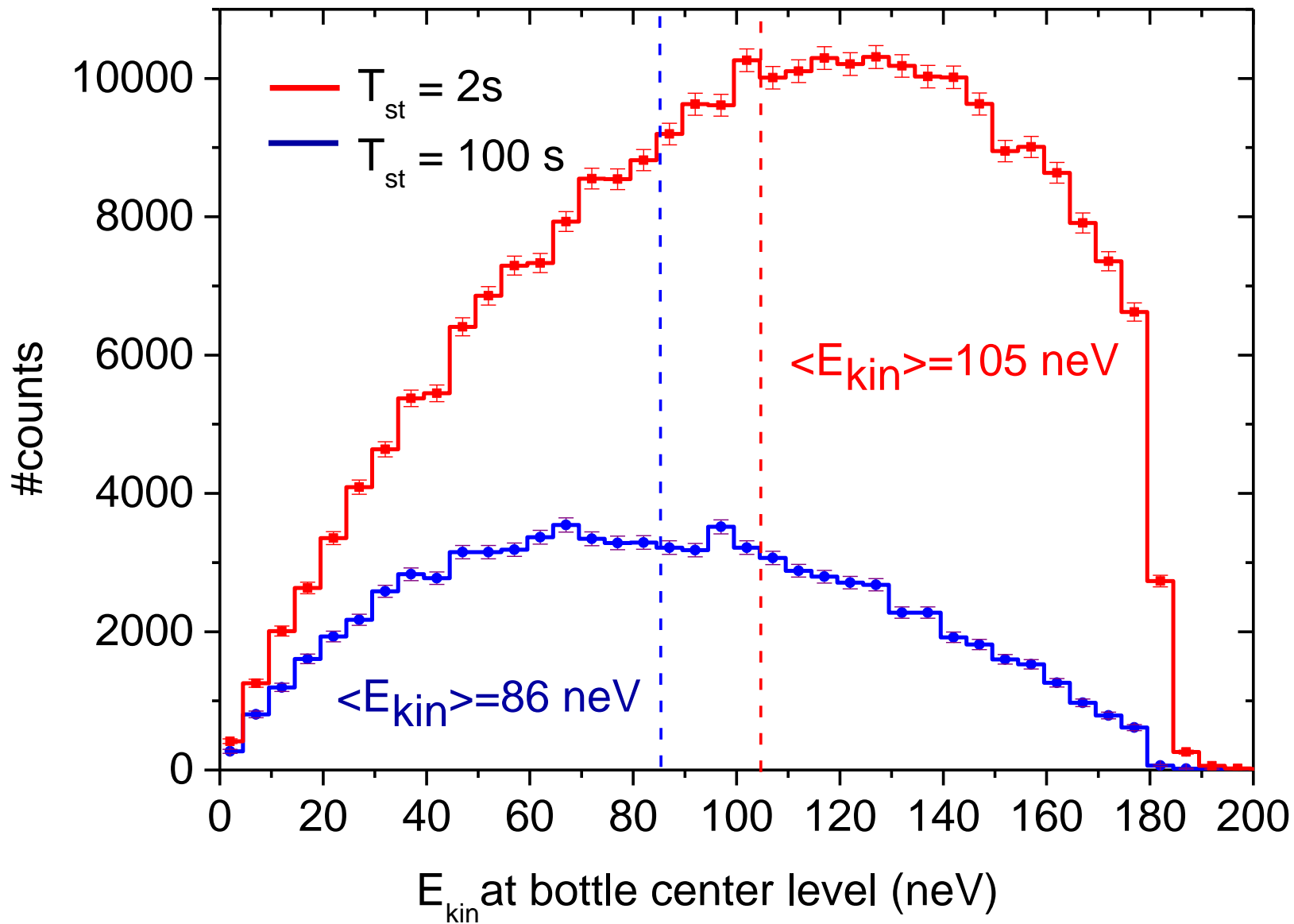
Higher Curvature

Two torus patches of different curvatures join along middle row

UCN-Produktion in sD_2







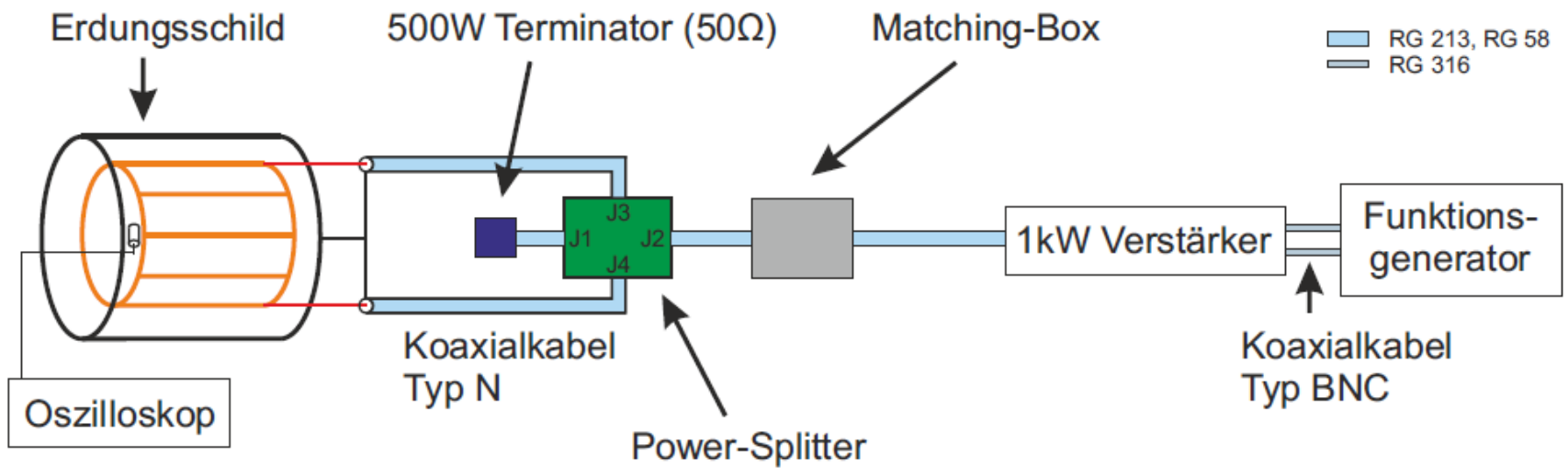


Abbildung 4.26: Skizze vom elektrischen Anschlussplan des Spin-Flippers.