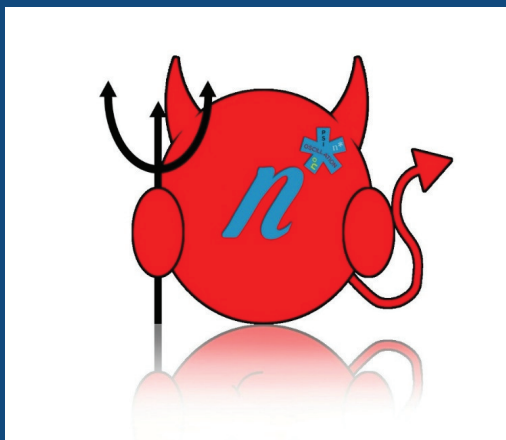


# Search for Mirror Neutron Oscillations



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MIT

For NStar Collaboration



# Overview



Bit of History

1

*with* Finite  $B'$

2

*with*  $B' = 0$

3

4

NStar

Summary

5



①

# Motivation



Strong CP  
Problem

①

## Motivation



Absence of  
CPV in  
Strong  
Sector

Strong CP  
Problem

①

## Motivation



**Traditional Answer:**  
New CP Violating Term –  $\theta$   
*to cancel CPV in strong sector*

Parity violation in  
weak sector?



# Strong CP Problem

$$L_\theta = \frac{\alpha_s \theta}{8\pi} G_{\mu\nu}^a \tilde{G}^{a\mu\nu}$$

$$d_n < 2.9 \times 10^{-26} \text{ e.cm (90\%C.L.)}$$

$$\theta < 10^{-10}$$

?

Solution in strong sector:

Promote the “Theta” term to a QCD field. This field undergoes symmetry breaking to give rise to QCD Axions.

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# Motivation



But Wait...



①

# Motivation



We can continue to live in the world where the QCD axion exists



But what if I told there need not be any global PV?

*Morpheus: "This is your last chance. After this, there is no turning back. You take the blue pill—the story ends... You take the red pill—you stay in Wonderland, and I show you how deep the rabbit hole goes. Remember: all I'm offering is the truth. Nothing more."*



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# Motivation



Enter Mirror Realm...

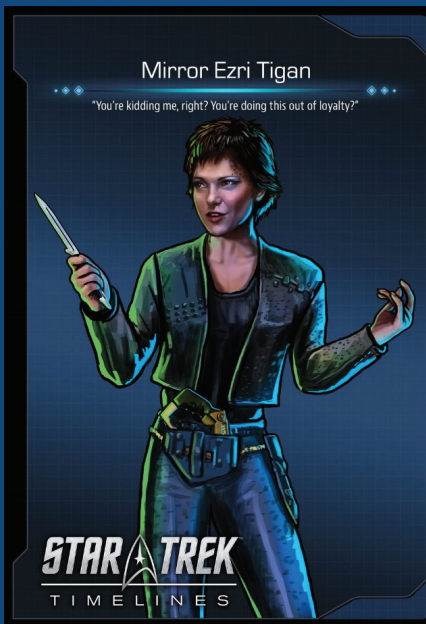




1

# Motivation

## No! No! Not This...



PS: But kudos if you did...

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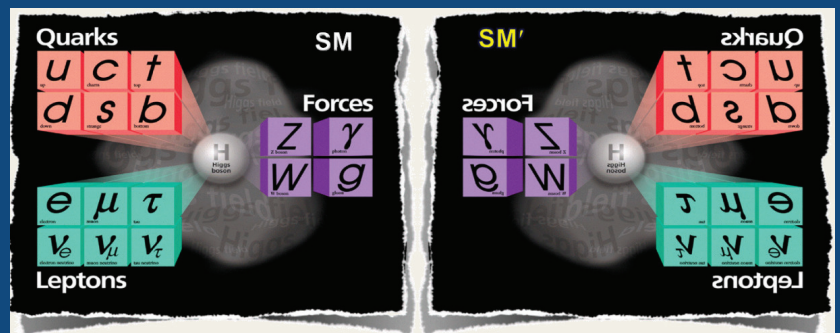
# Motivation

Non Traditional Answer:  
Introduce a mirror realm

No PV even in weak sector

Mirror  
Universe

$$\mathcal{L}_{total} = \mathcal{L} + \mathcal{L}' + \mathcal{L}_{Mixing}$$

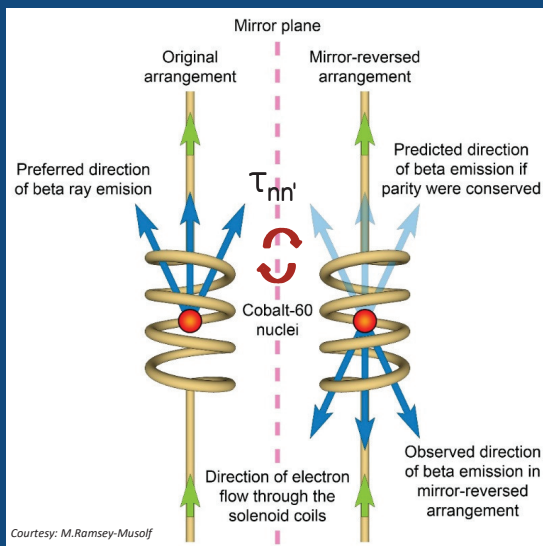


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# Motivation

"Non" Traditional Answer?:  
Introduce a mirror realm

No PV even in weak sector



$$\mathcal{L}_{total} = \mathcal{L} + \mathcal{L}' + \mathcal{L}_{Mixing}$$

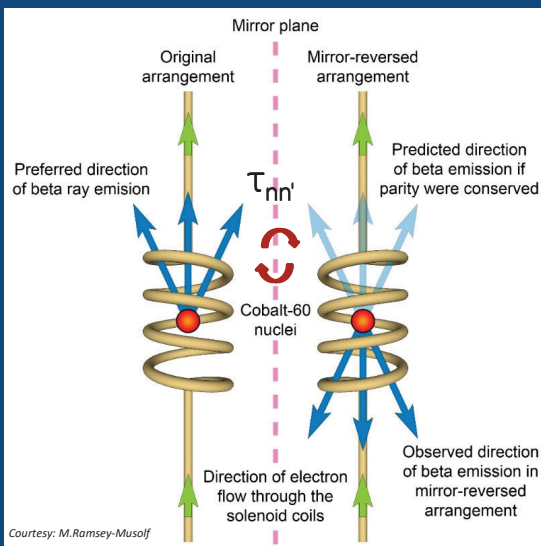
Don't talk to  
each other

①

# Motivation

"Non" Traditional Answer?:  
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$$\mathcal{L}_{total} = \mathcal{L} + \mathcal{L}' + \mathcal{L}_{Mixing}$$

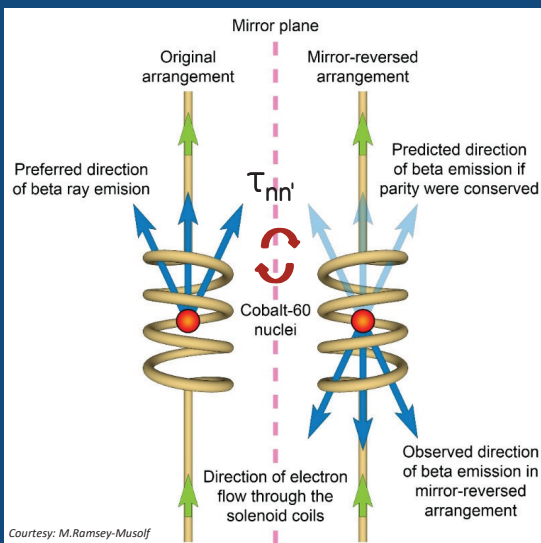
Except via the  
mixing term

①

# Motivation

"Non" Traditional Answer?:  
Introduce a mirror realm

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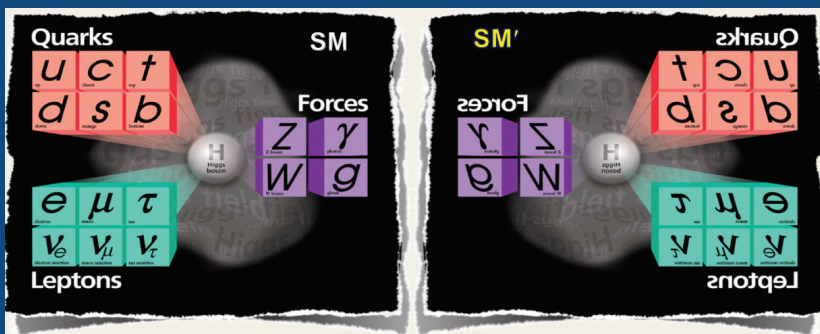
Except via the  
mixing term

The idea is actually not a new idea!  
Already noted in:

Lee & Yang's PRL 104, 254 (1956):

①

# Motivation



- B, L: Not conserved properties: Neutral baryon oscillation possible.
- Tune the mixing coupling and mirror matter could be DM.

These oscillations may be coupled to magnetic field: [Z. Berezhiani, Eur. Phys. J. C 64, 421-431 \(2009\).](#)

So which abundant long lived neutral particle could we test this on?

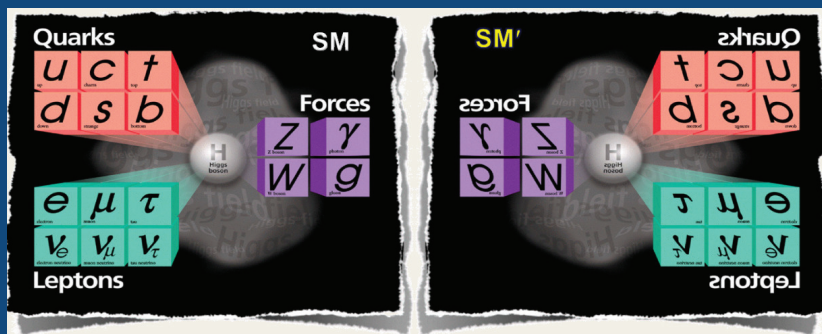
$n^0$  (880s),  $\nu$ ,  $\Delta^0$  (0.26ns),  $\Xi^0$  (0.29ns),  $\Lambda^0$  (1.4ps),  $\Omega^0$  (?)  $k^0$  (512 $\mu$ s),  $\rho^0$  (450ys),  $\pi^0$  (840fs) (not by spin coupling)

Neutrons are probably the best to start with for spin coupled searches + to probe B-L violation...

$$\mathcal{H} = \begin{bmatrix} \mu(\vec{\sigma} \cdot \vec{B}) & 1/\tau \\ 1/\tau & \mu(\vec{\sigma} \cdot \vec{B}') \end{bmatrix}$$

1

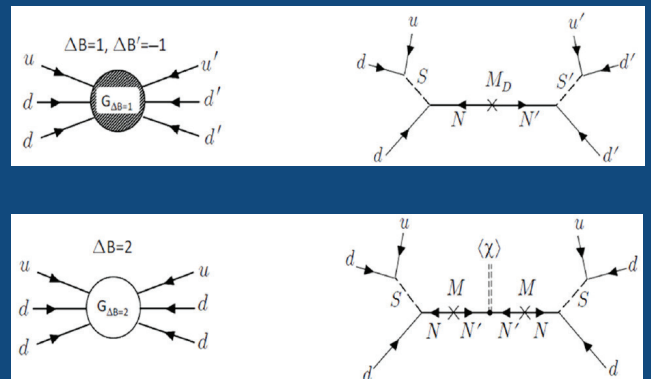
# Motivation



- $B'=0$ , possibly.
- $B' \sim 10 \mu\text{T}$  (fields in HD molecular clouds) near Earth may be well motivated: *Z. Berezhiani, A.D. Dolgov, Astropart. Phys. 21, 59 (2004).*
- UCN losses in Earth's magnetic field sets upper limit on  $B'$ ,  $B' < 300 \mu\text{T}$  (could be improved by a factor of 2 with strict analysis): *A. Serebrov et al., Phys. Lett. A 335, 327 (2005).*

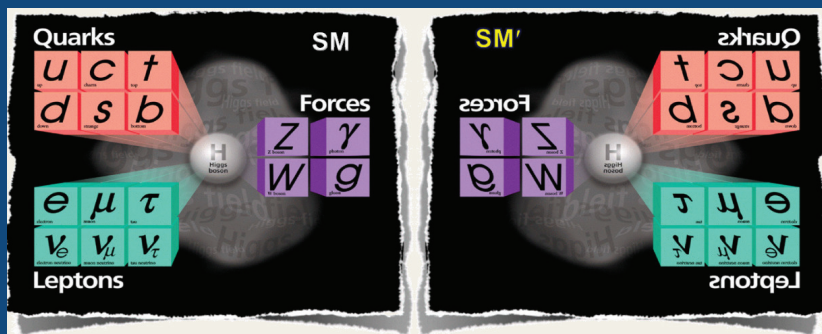
What does that mean for Neutron Sector?

- Fast oscillation between mirror neutrons and neutrons: *Z. Berezhiani and L. Bento, Phys. Rev. Lett. 96, 081801 (2006).*
- Time scales of {oscillation into mirror world ( $\sim 1\text{s}$ )  $\ll$  anti-neutron oscillation (which may be 2<sup>nd</sup> order)}: *A. Addazi, Z. Berezhiani & Y. Kamyshev, Eur. Phys. J. C (2017) 77: 301.*



①

# Motivation



What does that mean for Neutron Sector?

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$$\mathcal{H} = \begin{bmatrix} \mu(\vec{\sigma} \cdot \vec{B}) & 1/\tau \\ 1/\tau & \mu(\vec{\sigma} \cdot \vec{B}') \end{bmatrix}$$

$$P_{n \rightarrow n'}(t) = \frac{\sin^2\left(\frac{\mu B - \mu B'}{2}t\right)}{2\tau^2\left(\frac{\mu B - \mu B'}{2}\right)^2} [1 + \cos(\beta)] + \frac{\sin^2\left(\frac{\mu B + \mu B'}{2}t\right)}{2\tau^2\left(\frac{\mu B + \mu B'}{2}\right)^2} [1 - \cos(\beta)]$$

Where  $\beta$  is the angle between  $\mathbf{B}$  and  $\mathbf{B}'$



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# General Techniques



## UCN Storage Experiment:

Store UCNs, apply 0 and  $>0$  magnetic fields, check if some neutrons vanished (into mirror realm)?



## Regeneration Experiment

("Particle Through a Wall" kind of experiment):  
Shoot cold neutrons through a magnetic field onto a wall, check if neutrons can be detected on the other side of the wall under magnetic field?

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# Prior Experiments



$B' = 0$

$B' \neq 0$

## UCN Storage Experiments

- G. Ban et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. **99**, 161603 (2007):  $\tau_{nn'} > 103s$  (95 % C.L.),  $B' = 0$  [PSI-ILL]
- A. P. Serebrov et al. Phys. Lett. B **663**, 3, 181-185 (2008):  $\tau_{nn'} > 414s$  (90 % C.L.),  $B' = 0$  [PNPI-ILL]

- I. Altarev et al., Phys. Rev. D **80**, 032003 (2009):  $\tau_{nn'} > 12s$  (95 % C.L.),  $B' \neq 0$  [PSI-ILL]

## Regeneration Experiments

- U. Schmidt, Proceedings of 2007 BLNV Workshop:  $\tau_{nn'} > 2.7s$  (90 % C.L.),  $B' = 0$  [FRM-II]

- L. Broussard et. al. (planning phase), Proceedings of 2017 DPF Meeting:  $\tau_{nn'} > 15s$  (90 % C.L.),  $B' \neq 0$  [ORNL(HFIR)]



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- L. Broussard et. al. (planning phase), Proceedings of 2017 DPF Meeting:  $\tau_{nn'} > 15\text{s}$  (90 % C.L.),  $B'\neq 0$  [ORNL(HFIR)]



2

0 B'



**Looked for variations in decay time constant after UCN storage time- $t_s$ , with and without magnetic field.**

$$p_{nn^*}(t) = \frac{\sin^2\left[\frac{t}{\tau_{nn^*}} \sqrt{1 + (\omega\tau_{nn^*})^2}\right]}{(1 + (\omega\tau_{nn^*})^2)}$$

The experiments assumed a 0-mirror magnetic field.

$$oLL-t_f \sim \frac{4(v=.021m^3)}{(a=.54m^2)(V=3ms^{-1})} = .052 \text{ s}$$

At finite  $B_0$  magnetic fields ( $\omega_{\uparrow\downarrow}t_f > 1 \rightarrow B_0 > 420nT$ ):  $R_{\uparrow\downarrow} = \frac{1}{t_f} \frac{1}{2(\omega_{\uparrow\downarrow}\tau_{nn^*})^2}$

At 'zero'  $B_0$  magnetic fields ( $\omega_0t_f < 1 \rightarrow B_0 < 420nT$ ):  $R_0 = \frac{1}{t_f} \frac{\overline{t_f^2}}{\tau_{nn^*}^2}$

[Refer to A. Knecht's thesis for a full oscillation treatment P.113-124.](#)



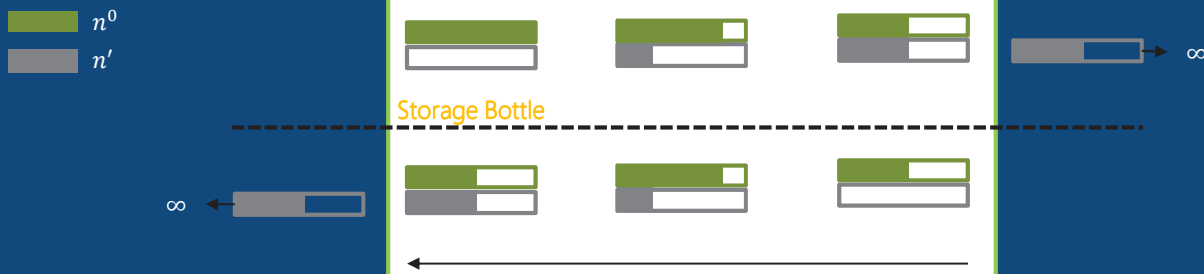
2

0 B'

The experiments assumed a 0-mirror magnetic field.

$$\text{oLL-}t_f \sim \frac{4(v=.021\text{m}^3)}{(a=.54\text{m}^2)(V=3\text{ms}^{-1})} = .052 \text{ s}$$

$t_f$  is the time scale of oscillation because:



1. We start with purely neutrons.
2. As the particle moves inside the chamber, it acquires some probability that it is  $n'$ .
3. But when the particle reaches the wall, the  $n'$  part of the wave-function cannot be trapped by the walls of the bottle so it escapes out. #1 starts again.

2

0 B'



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At 'zero'  $B_0$  magnetic fields ( $\omega_0 t_f < 1 \rightarrow B_0 < 420nT$ ):  $R_0 = \frac{1}{t_f} \frac{\overline{t_f^2}}{\tau_{nn*}^2}$

If neutron count  $N(t_s) = e^{-(\sum \lambda_i + R)t_s}$

where 'R' is the possible contribution from mirror neutron oscillations

$$N_{0/\uparrow\downarrow} = \frac{N_0(t_s)}{N_{\uparrow\downarrow}(t_s)} = e^{-(R_{\uparrow\downarrow} - R_0)t_s}$$



2

0 B'



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The experiments assumed a 0-mirror magnetic field.

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$$N_{0/\uparrow\downarrow} = \frac{N_0(t_s)}{N_{\uparrow\downarrow}(t_s)} = e^{-(R_{\uparrow\downarrow} - R_0)t_s}$$

In case of a null result for  $N_{0/\uparrow\downarrow} - 1$ :

$$N_{0/\uparrow\downarrow} > 1 - \frac{t_f^2}{\tau_{nn}^* t_s} \rightarrow \tau_{nn}^* > \sqrt{\frac{t_s t_f}{1 - N_{0/\uparrow\downarrow}}}$$

Notice:

$$\tau_{nn}^* \propto \sqrt[4]{N}$$

$$\tau_{nn}^* \propto \sqrt{t_s t_f}$$



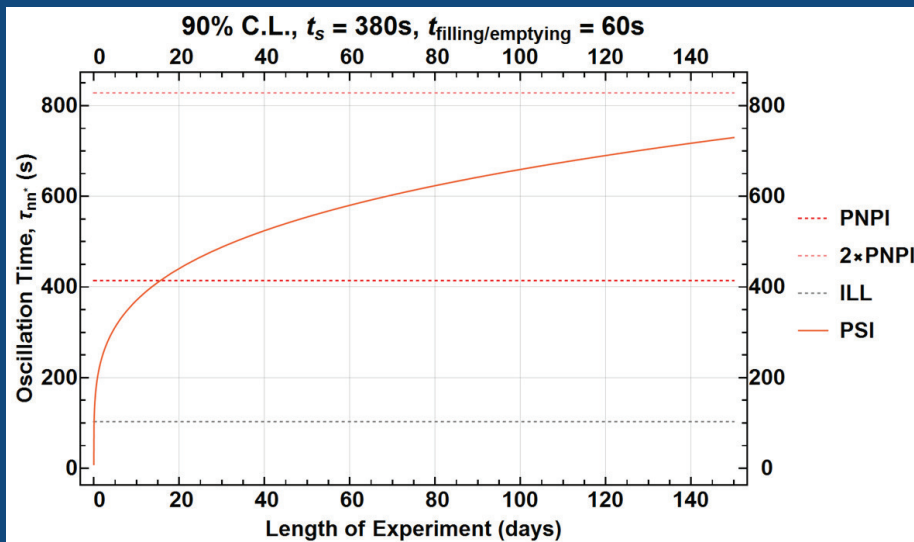
## 20 B': What can be accessed with oLL?

In current oLL (PSI-ILL) chamber:

$$_{ILL}\tau_{nn}^* > 109 \text{ s (90\% C.L.)}$$

$$_{PNPI}\tau_{nn}^* > 414 \text{ s (90\% C.L.)}$$

VALUE (s)	CL%	DOCUMENT ID	TECN	COMMENT
<b>&gt;414</b>	90	SEREBROV	08	CNTR UCN, B field on & off
• • • We do not use the following data for averages, fits, limits, etc. • • •				
> 12	95	<sup>29</sup> ALTAREV	09A	CNTR UCN, scan 0 ≤ B ≤ 12.5 μT
>103	95	BAN	07	CNTR UCN, B field on & off



$$4\text{V/A} \rightarrow t_f (\text{s})$$

oLL: \*This = .053 : .053

0	0	↑	↑	↓	↓	0	0	$B_0$
16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	#



3

Finite B'



**Looked for variations in decay time constant after UCN storage time- $t_s$ , with and without magnetic field by scanning  $B_0$ .**

$$\mathcal{H} = \begin{pmatrix} 2\omega\sigma & \varepsilon \\ \varepsilon & 2\omega'\sigma \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} (\langle 0,0,b \rangle - \langle a_x, 0, a_z \rangle)\sigma & \varepsilon \\ \varepsilon & (\langle 0,0,b \rangle + \langle a_x, 0, a_z \rangle)\sigma \end{pmatrix}$$

[Refer to EPJ C 64: 421-431 \(2009\) by Z. Bereziani for a full oscillation treatment.](#)



3

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$$p_B(t) = \sin^2(2\theta) [\cos^2(\phi - \phi') \sin^2(\Omega^- t) + \sin^2(\phi - \phi') \sin^2(\Omega^+ t)]$$

$$\text{where } \Omega^\pm = \omega \pm \omega', \tan(2\theta) = \frac{\varepsilon}{a_z} \text{ and } \tan(2\phi^{(\prime)}) = \frac{a_x}{b - (+) \sqrt{a_z^2 + \varepsilon^2}}$$

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At 'zero'  $B_0$  magnetic fields ( $\omega_0 t_f < 1 \rightarrow B_0 < 420 \text{ nT}$ ):  $p_0 = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\varepsilon^2}{\omega'^2}$

At finite  $B_0$  magnetic fields ( $\omega_{\uparrow\downarrow} t_f > 1 \rightarrow B_0 > 420 \text{ nT}$ ):  $p_B(t) = p_0 \frac{1 + \eta^2 + 2\eta \cos(\beta)}{(1 - \eta^2)^2}$

where  $\eta = \omega'/\omega = B'/B_0$  and  $\beta$  is the angle between  $B'$  and  $B_0$

[Refer to EPJ C 64: 421-431 \(2009\) by Z. Bereziani for a full oscillation treatment.](#)



3

## Finite $B'$ : Previous Experiments



$B'=0$

$B'\neq 0$

### UCN Storage Experiments

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- L. Broussard et al. Phys. Rev. D **80**, 032003 (2009):  $\tau_{nn'} > 12s$  (95 % C.L.),  $B'\neq 0$  [PSI-ILL]

Since  $\tau_{nn'}$  is excluded up to 414s, why do we want to do more of this?

### Search Experiments

- U. Schmidt, P. ... for 2007 BLNV Workshop:  $\tau_{nn'} > 15s$  (90 % C.L.),  $B'=0$  [FRM-II]
- L. Broussard et. al. (planning phase), Proceedings of 2017 DPF Meeting:  $\tau_{nn'} > 15s$  (90 % C.L.),  $B'\neq 0$  [ORNL(HFIR)]
- Z. Berezhiani, EPJ C **64**: 421-431 (2009): Reanalysis of PRL 99 161603; PRD 80, 032003; and PLB 663, 3, 181-195: shows that there are signals of oscillations ( $B \neq 0$ ) in these data sets!
- It makes sense to extend the sensitivity of  $\tau_{nn'}$  to neutron half life (890s). If  $\tau_{nn'}$  is less than neutron half-life, then these dedicated mirror neutron search experiments would be vital to test such theories.



## Finite B': Reanalysis of old experiments



**Looked for variations in decay time constant after UCN storage time- $t_s$ , with and without magnetic field by scanning  $B_0$ .**

At 'zero'  $B_0$  magnetic fields ( $\omega_0 t_f < 1 \rightarrow B_0 < 420 \text{ nT}$ ):  $p_0 = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\varepsilon^2}{\omega'^2}$

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where  $\eta = \omega'/\omega = B'/B_0$  and  $\beta$  is the angle between  $B'$  and  $B_0$

$t_s$	73 s	73 s <sup>†</sup>	123 s	198 s
$N_{B\uparrow}(t_s)$	$44197 \pm 53$	$44443 \pm 53$	$28671 \pm 30$	$17047 \pm 31$
$N_{B\downarrow}(t_s)$	$44128 \pm 53$	$44316 \pm 46$	$28596 \pm 30$	$16974 \pm 31$
$N_0(t_s)$	$44317 \pm 40$	$44363 \pm 53$	$28635 \pm 21$	$17015 \pm 22$
$E(t_s) \times 10^3$	$3.50 \pm 1.24$	$-0.37 \pm 1.43$	$0.05 \pm 1.04$	$0.27 \pm 1.83$
$A(t_s) \times 10^3$	$0.78 \pm 0.85$	$1.43 \pm 0.79$	$1.31 \pm 0.74$	$2.15 \pm 1.28$

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# 3

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$A(t_s) \times 10^3$	0.78 $\pm$ 0.85	1.43 $\pm$ 0.79	1.31 $\pm$ 0.74	2.15 $\pm$ 1.28

$$A(t_s) = \frac{N_B(t_s) - N_{-B}(t_s)}{N_B(t_s) + N_{-B}(t_s)} = \frac{e^{-n_s p_B} - e^{-n_s p_{-B}}}{e^{-n_s p_B} + e^{-n_s p_{-B}}} \approx -n_s D_B \cos(\beta)$$

$$E(t_s) = 1 - \frac{N_0(t_s)}{N_B(t_s)} = \frac{2e^{-n_s p_0}}{e^{-n_s p_B} + e^{-n_s p_{-B}}} \approx -n_s \Delta_B$$

where  $n_s = t_s/t_f$ ;  $p_B - p_{-B} = 2D_B \cos(\beta)$  and  $2\Delta_B = (p_B + p_{-B}) - 2p_0$

[Refer to EPL \*\*C\*\* 64: 421-431 \(2009\) by Z. Berezhiani for a full oscillation treatment.](#)



### 3 Finite B': Reanalysis of old experiments



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$$p_B - p_{-B} = 2D_B \cos(\beta) \text{ and } 2\Delta_B = (p_B + p_{-B}) - 2p_0$$

PNPI

oILL (Knecht)

$$D_{B=20\mu T} \cos(\beta) = (9.5 \pm 3.0) \times 10^{-7}$$

$$\Delta_{B=20\mu T} = (3.5 \pm 2.5) \times 10^{-7}$$

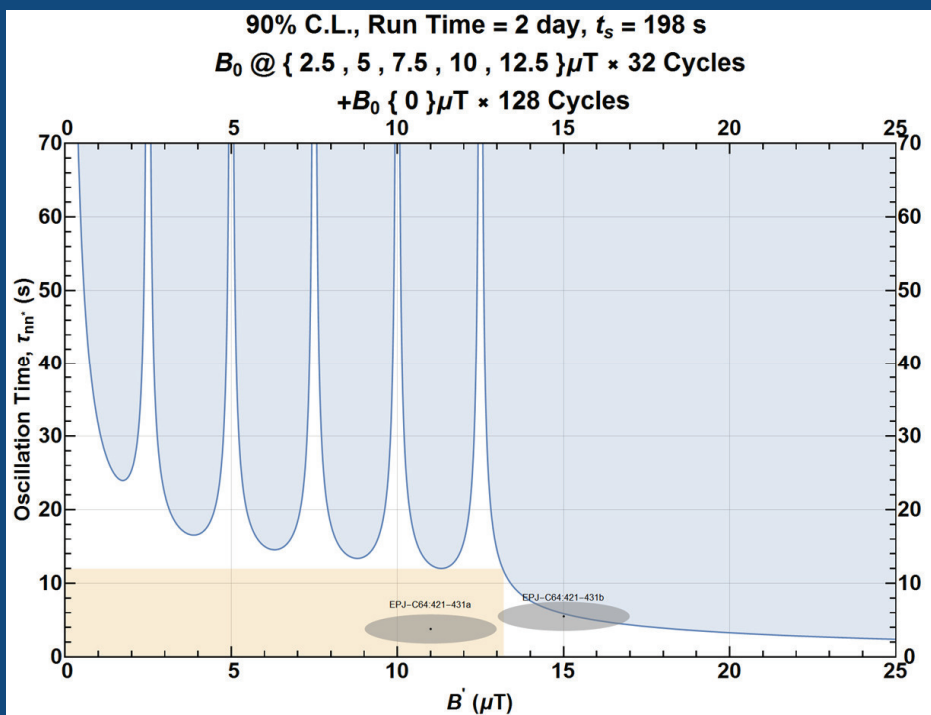
$$D_{B=6\mu T} \cos(\beta) = (6.2 \pm 2.0) \times 10^{-7}$$

$$\Delta_{B=6\mu T} = (2.9 \pm 4.4) \times 10^{-7}$$



3

## Finite B': Current Status



$$t_s^* = \{50, 100, 175\} s$$

$$t_s = \{73, 123, 198\} s$$

$$B_0 = \{0, 2.5, 5, 7.5, 10, 12.5\} \mu T$$

0	0	↑	↑	↓	↓	0	0	$B_0$
16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	#

VALUE (s)	CL%	DOCUMENT ID	TECN	COMMENT
>414	90	SEREBROV	08	CNTR UCN, B field on & off
• • • We do not use the following data for averages, fits, limits, etc. • • •				
> 12	95	<sup>29</sup> ALTAREV	09A	CNTR UCN, scan $0 \leq B \leq 12.5 \mu T$
>103	95	BAN	07	CNTR UCN, B field on & off

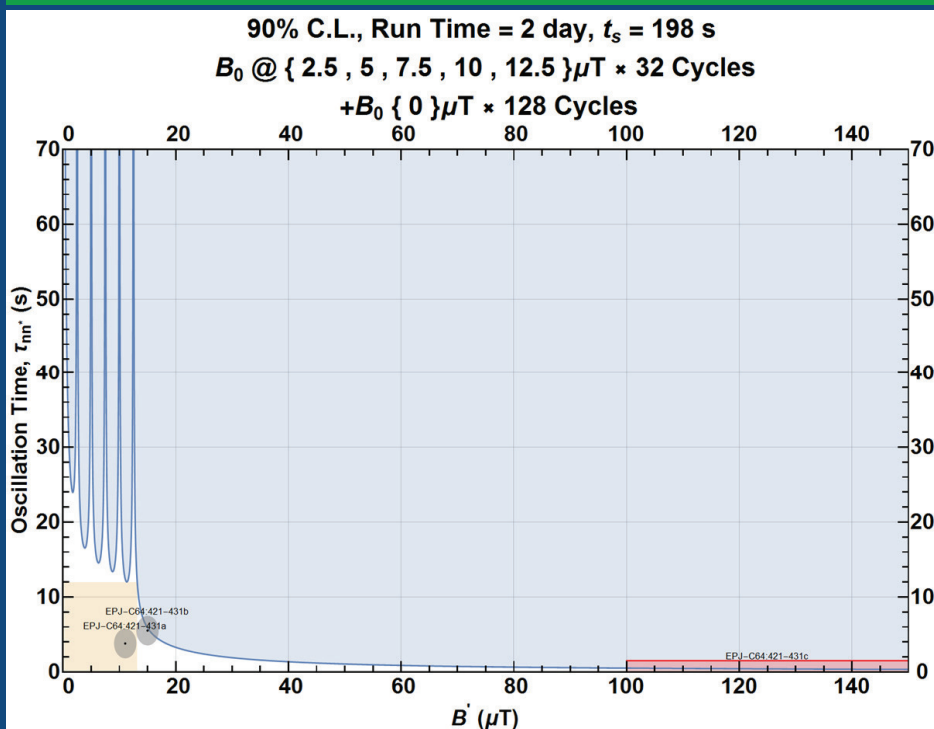
$$B_{ILL} \tau_{nn}^* > 12.8 s \text{ (90\% C.L.)}$$





3

## Finite B': Current Status



$$t_s^* = \{50, 100, 175\} s$$

$$t_s = \{73, 123, 198\} s$$

$$B_0 = \{0, 2.5, 5, 7.5, 10, 12.5\} \mu T$$

0	0	↑	↑	↓	↓	0	0	$B_0$
16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	#

VALUE (s)	CL%	DOCUMENT ID	TECN	COMMENT
>414	90	SEREBROV	08	CNTR UCN, B field on & off
• • • We do not use the following data for averages, fits, limits, etc. • • •				
> 12	95	29 ALTAREV	09A	CNTR UCN, scan $0 \leq B \leq 12.5 \mu T$
>103	95	BAN	07	CNTR UCN, B field on & off

$$B_{ILL} \tau_{nn}^* > 12.8 s \text{ (90\% C.L.)}$$



3

## What next?



### How can the limits be improved?



Better sources, larger storage volume:  
Increase number of stored neutrons



Better storage vessels (coating):  
Increase  $t_s$



Larger storage vessel, shape (spherical):  
Increase  $t_f$

**More importantly: How can we check the apparent signal of mirror neutron oscillation?**

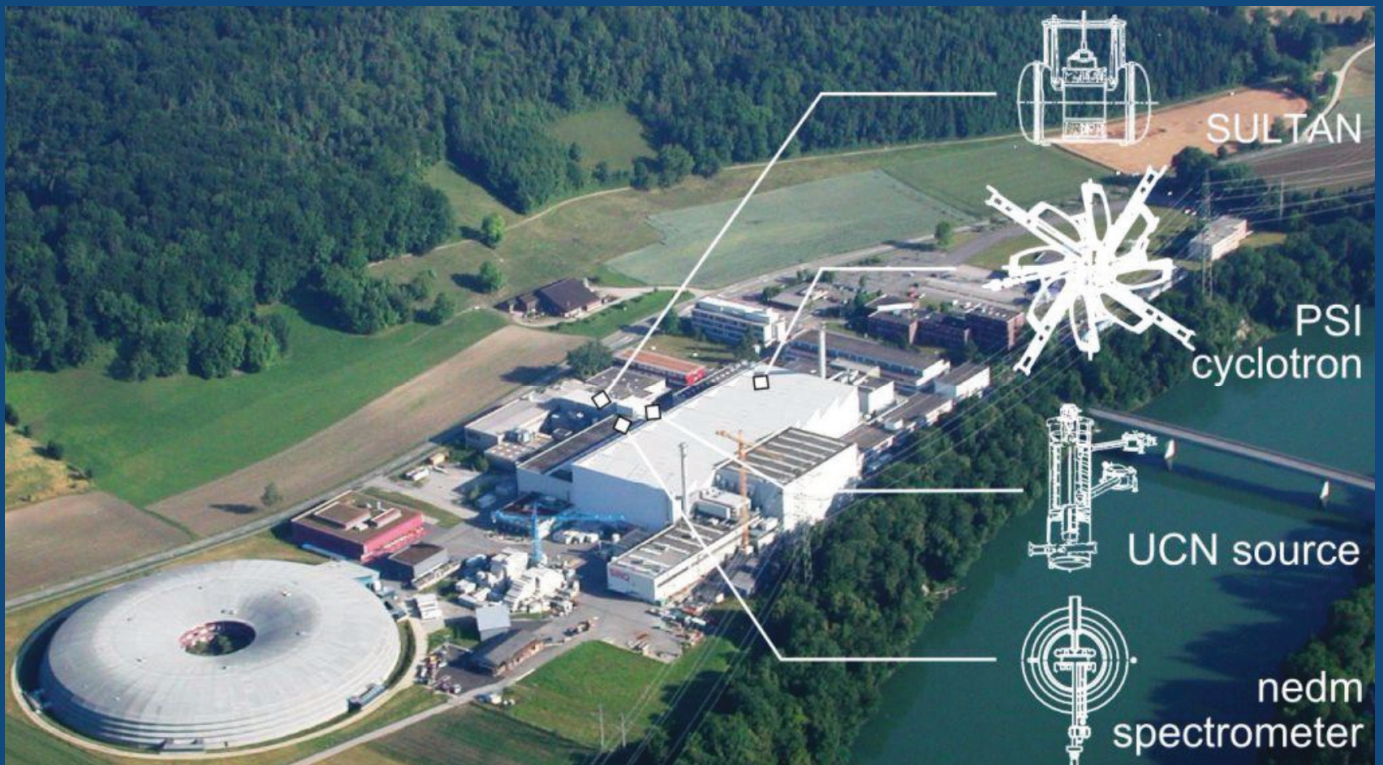
$$\tau_{nn^*} \propto \sqrt[4]{N}$$

$$\tau_{nn^*} \propto \sqrt{t_s t_f}$$



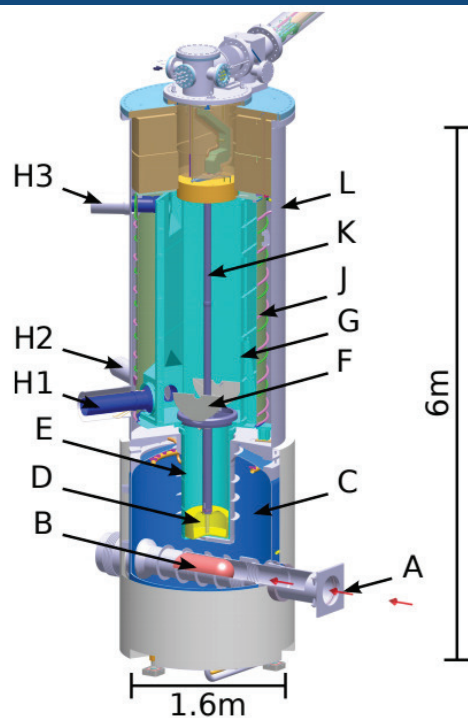
4

## NStar-1a: PSI UCN Source



4

## NStar-1a: PSI UCN Source



**Figure 2.2:** Rendering of the central part of the UCN source from construction CAD files. A: Incoming proton beam; B: Spallation target; C: Heavy water tank; D: Solid deuterium moderator vessel; E: Vertical UCN guide; F: Central storage vessel flaps; G: Central storage vessel; H1-H3: Guides towards beamports "South", "West-1" and "West-2"; J: Thermal shield; K: Deuterium and helium supply lines; L: Vacuum vessel.

The UCN Spallation target receives 8s/300s of 590MeV  $p^+$  beam.

H1: South Port, connected to the SC-magnet and PSI nEDM apparatus.

H2: West-1 port, usually closed. Connected to a detector. Opened for 2 kicks/day.

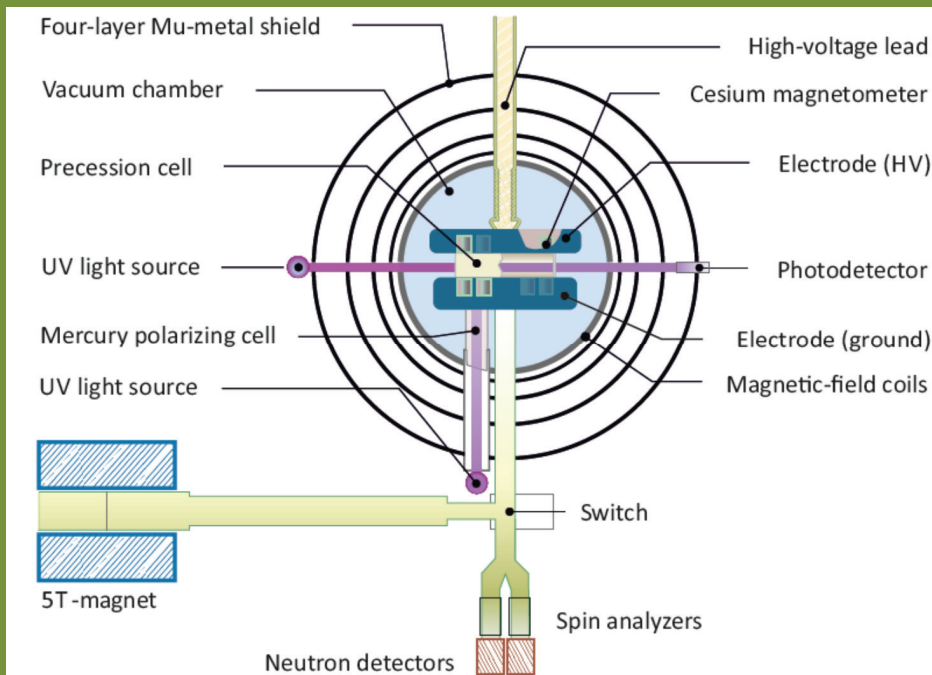
H3: West-2 port also connected to a detector and always counting.



# 4 NStar-1a: Use PSI nEDM Apparatus



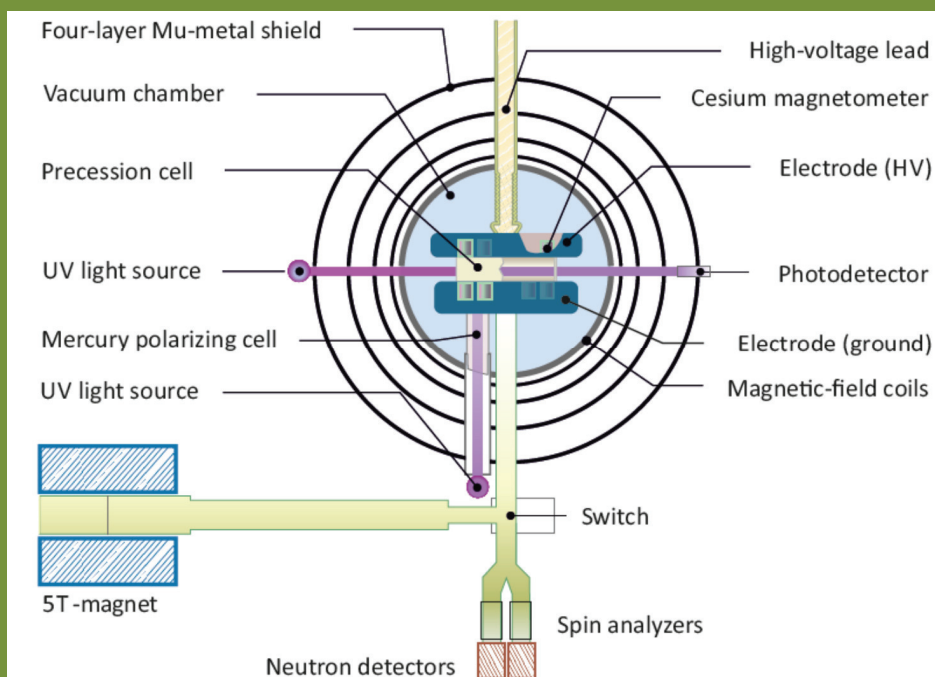
## Static Field Compensation



1. S-C Magnet  
Polarizes Neutrons
2. SF1  
Spin Flipper
3. Switch  
Guides neutrons
4. Shutter  
UCN tight flap
5. SF2  
Spin Flipper
6. Analyzer Foils  
Spin Analyser
7. NANOSC  
UCN Detector

## ④ NStar-1a: Use Un-Polarized UCNs

### Static Field Compensation



1. ~~S-C Magnet~~  
Polarizes Neutrons
2. ~~SF1~~  
Spin-Flipper
3. Switch  
Guides neutrons
4. Shutter  
UCN tight flap
5. ~~SF2~~  
Spin-Flipper
6. ~~Analyzer Foils~~  
Spin Analyser
7. NANOSC  
UCN Detector

4

NStar-1a: To start with...



How can the limits be improved?



With higher statistics, mostly coming from a longer run



Dedicated run to scan the predicted parameter space

**More importantly: How can we check the apparent signal of mirror neutron oscillation?**



4

# NStar-1a: Sample Cycle

We only take 8s/300s (max.) of the p+ beam, our runs are divided into cycles.

µTimer

Status: running 1st µTimer: 90s remaining: Step = UCN fill: 9s remaining

UCN Source: ☐ Ignore ☐ Request ☐ µTimer done ☐ Run ☐ Neutrons   Nb Steps: 7

Acq length: 0 Cycle duration [s]: 109.0 Linewidth: +Inf

Step	UCN fill	Close UCN shutter	Storage	Empty guide	Open UCN Shutter	Emptying	Pump
Duration [s]	28.000	2.000	2.000	10.000	2.000	64.000	1.000
UCN VAT OPEN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
UCN Shutter CLOSE		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Hg Valve OPEN							
n RF gate							
Hg RF gate							
RF neutron							
RF Hg							
UCN Spin Counting					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Proton inactive							
UCN Storage (BdF)				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Spin flipper SF2							
Read ADC Hg			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
UCN Monitor (Flux)							
UCN Filling	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						

USSA Spin Flippers: 1-ON; 2-OFF (Wave Gen) States (1 - ON; 2 - OFF) and (1 - OFF; 2 - ON) are switched every 0 cycles (0 - no change).

SF1 Spin Flipper: OFF States ON and OFF are switched every 0 cycles (0 - no change).

Switch Control

2nd settings: ON 3rd settings: ON

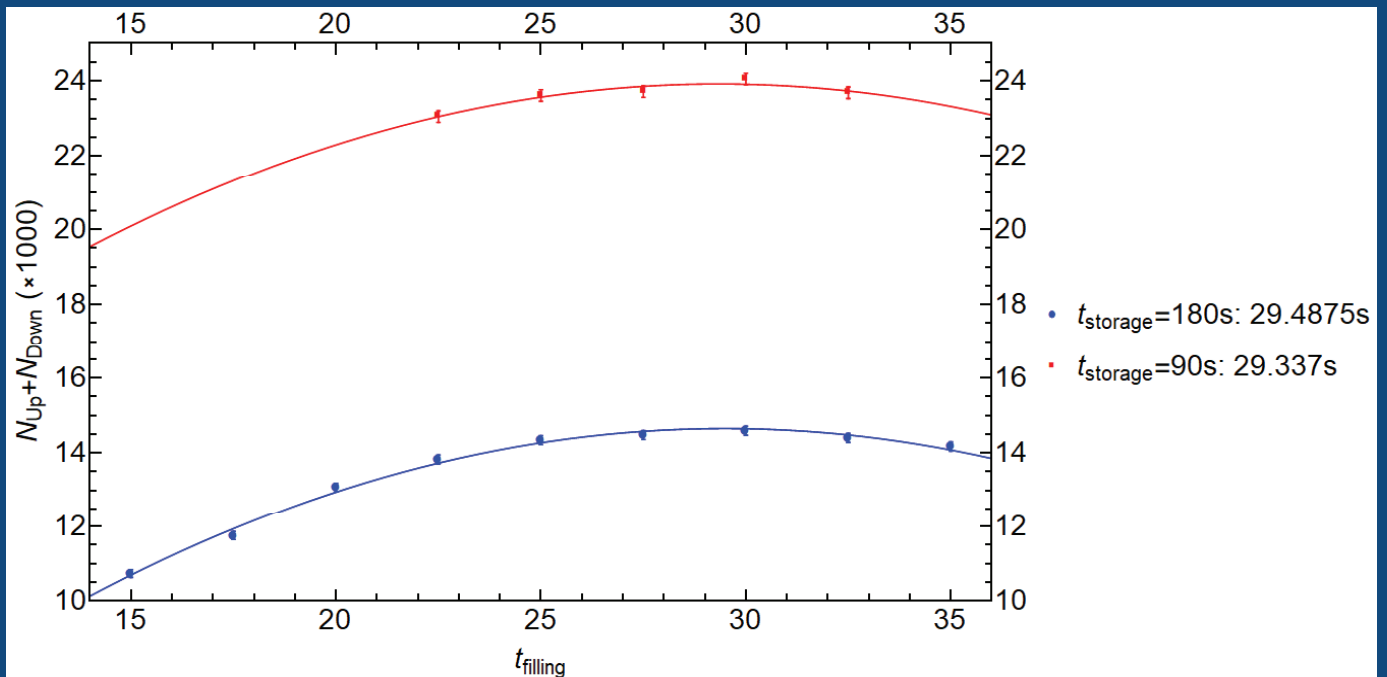
Control	will start	after beginning of	Control
Fill	0.0	s after beginning of	UCN Sol
Monitor	0.0	s after beginning of	Storage
Empty	0.0	s after beginning of	Empty gl
Pump	0.0	s after beginning of	Pump
Test	0.0	s after beginning of	Undef



4

# Optimizing $t_{\text{filling}}$

For neutrons stored for  $t_s^* = 180\text{s}$ , optimal  $t_{\text{filling}} = 29.5\text{s}$  and this stays around 29.5s even after changing  $t_s$  significantly.

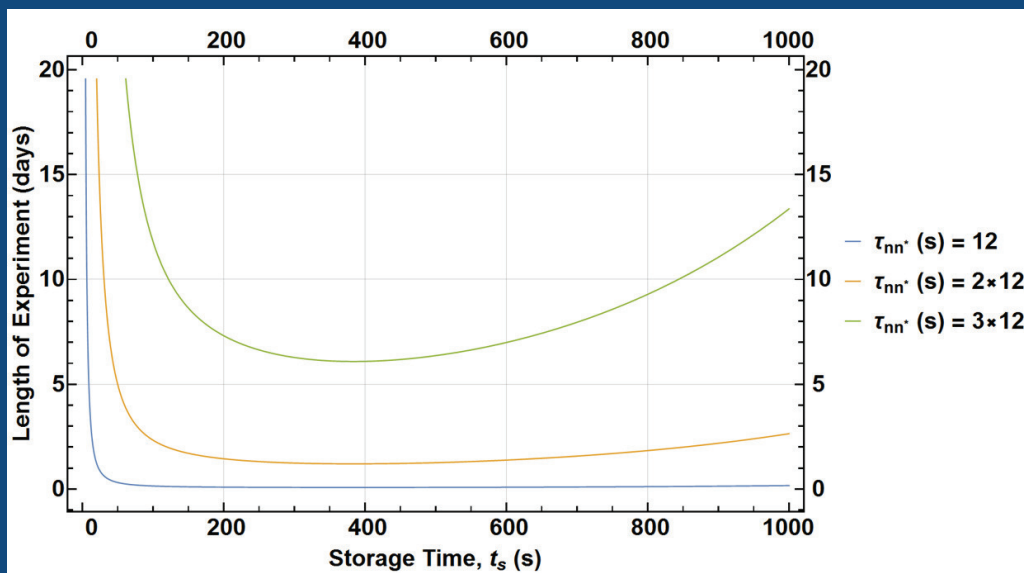


4

## Optimizing $t_s^*$

But with storage time, the number of neutrons decreases exponentially.

We don't just optimize  $\sqrt{t_s \sqrt{N}}$ , because with increase in storage time, the time to complete a cycle increases linearly.



Remember:

$$\tau_{nn^*} \propto \sqrt[4]{N}$$

$$\tau_{nn^*} \propto \sqrt{t_s t_f}$$

Optimizing:

$$\tau_{nn^*} (t_t \propto t_s) \propto \sqrt{t_s \sqrt{N}}$$

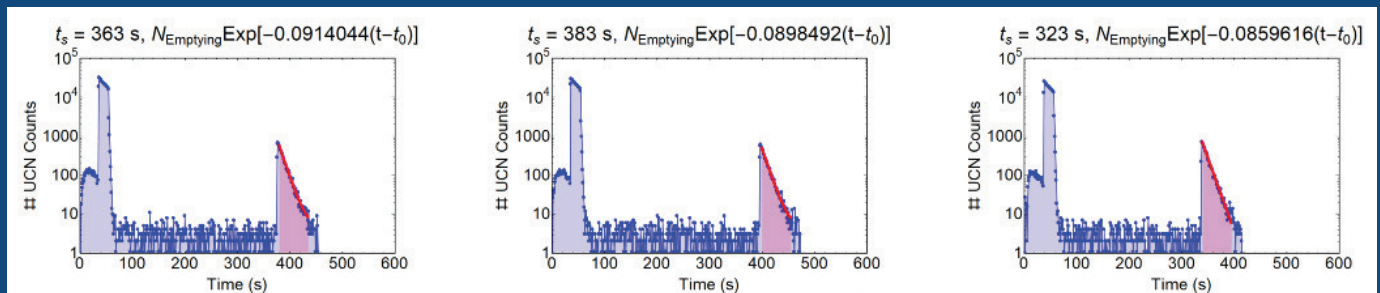
Choose:

$$t_s^* = 380s$$

4

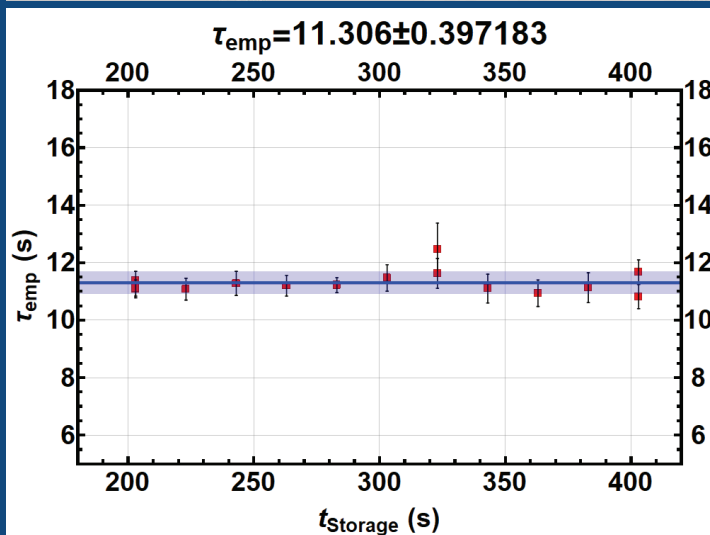
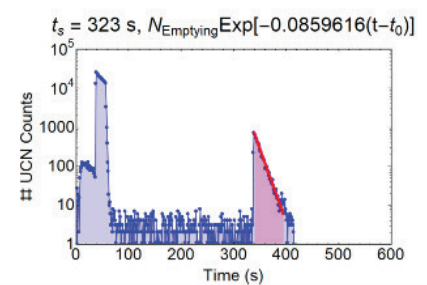
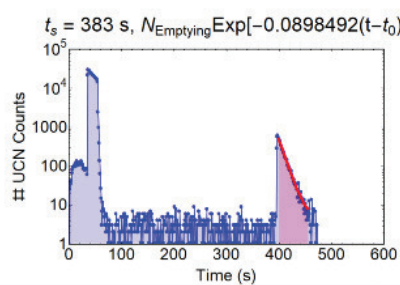
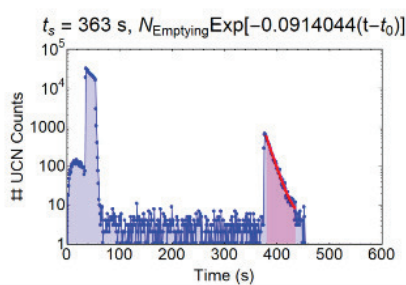
# Optimizing $t_{\text{emptying}}$

We'd want  $t_{\text{emptying}}$  to be the longest time possible to amply measure all the neutrons remaining.



$t_{\text{emptying}} = 75 \text{ s}$ . They can be accommodated with  $t_s = \{180, 380\} \text{ s}$ , into cycles  $t_c = \{300, 500\} \text{ s}$  long.

# 4 Effective Storage time: $t_s + 2\tau_f$



$$t_s^* = \{50, 100, 175\} \text{ s}$$

$$t_s = \{72.6, 122.6, 197.6\} \text{ s}$$

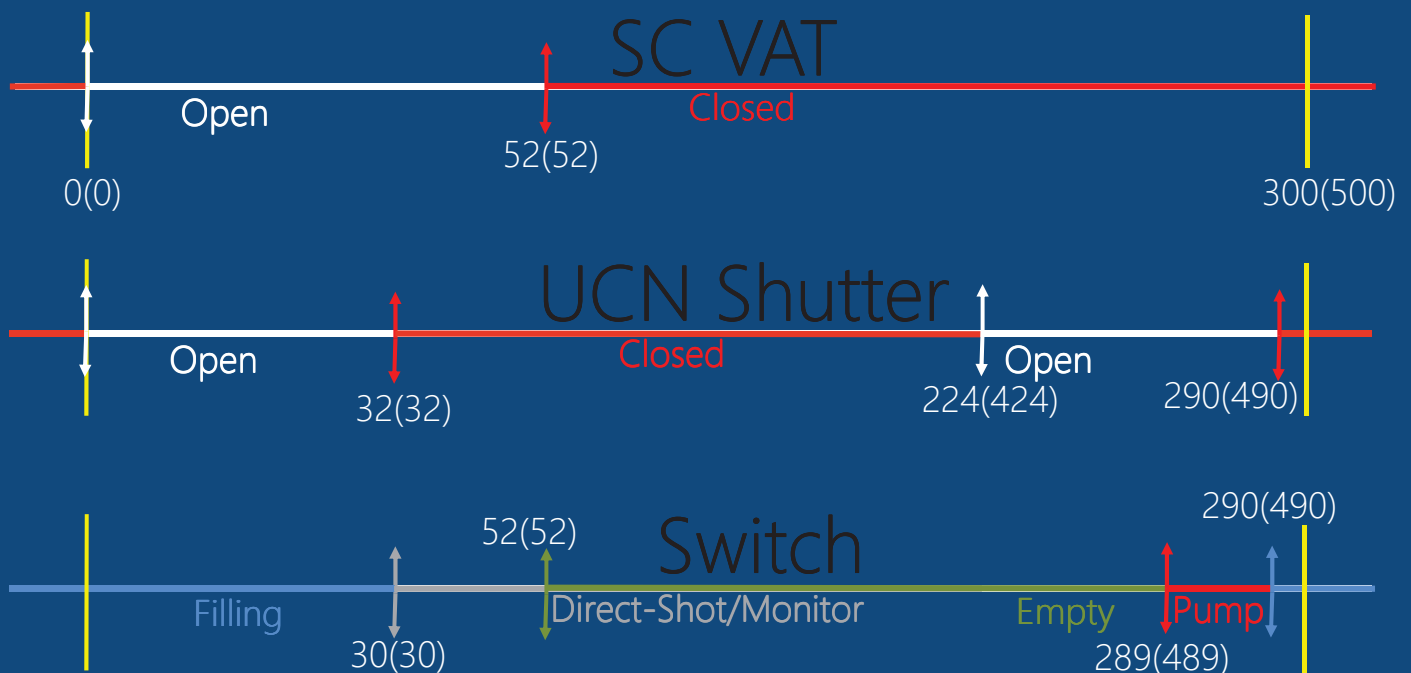
- Notice we made the distinction between  $t_s^*$  and  $t_s$ .
- UCNs can also oscillate during filling (11.3s) and emptying (11.3s), we add 22.6s to the scheduled storage time.
- $t_s = t_s^* + 2\tau_f = t_s^* + 22.6(4)$
- $\tau_f$  is independent of the storage time.

4

# Nstar-1a: Final Cycle Plan



$t_s=180s$  to replicate old experiment,  $t_s=380s$  for maximum sensitivity



4

## NStar-1a: Data Collected



Run Plan: We took data Aug-Oct 2017.

Cluster	Pattern	$t_s^* (t_f) /s$	$B_0/\mu T$	# Cycles
1	0↑0↓0↓0↑0↓0↑0↑0↓0	180 (300)	10	1243
2	0↑0↓0↓0↑0↓0↑0↑0↓0	380 (500)	10	1136
3	0↑0↓0↓0↑0↓0↑0↑0↓0	180 (300)	20	864
4	0↑0↓0↓0↑0↓0↑0↑0↓0	380 (500)	20	775

- There was a break in between 10 and 20 $\mu T$  cycles as a part of risk management
- The data was collected such that 'a' and 'b' signal could be confirmed (or rejected) with just 10 $\mu T$  data and 'c' could be tested on addition of 20 $\mu T$  data.
- This results in approximately x2 @ 10 $\mu T$ .

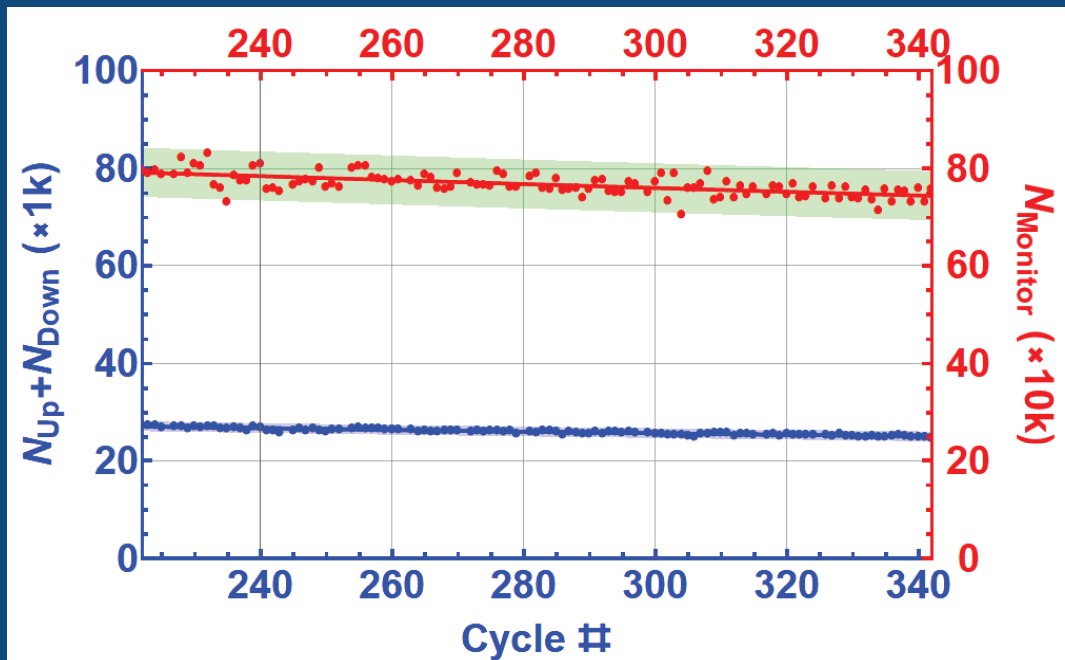
- In addition to the main cluster of NStar runs, there were data taken for also  $t_s$  scans, mainly to extract  $t_f(t_s)$



4

# UCN Counting

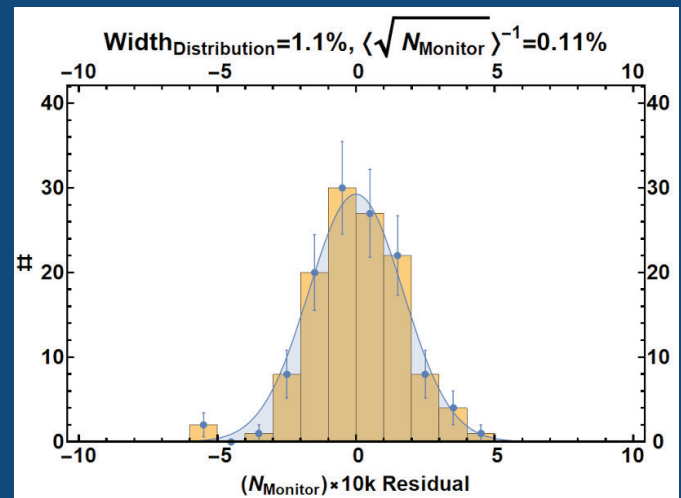
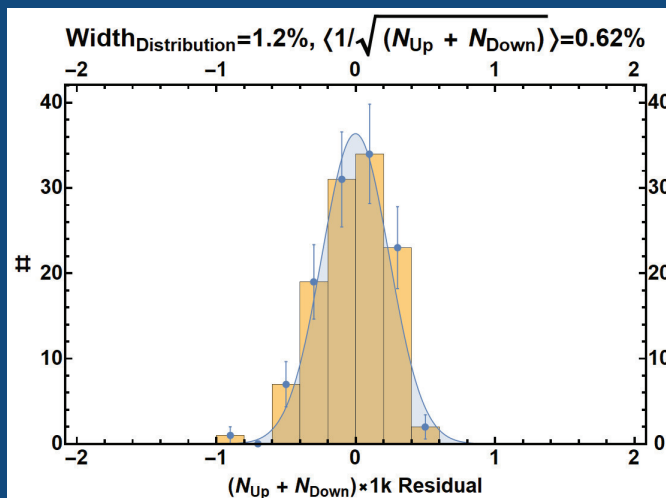
Raw Counts



4

# Raw UCN Counts

How are raw counts distributed?



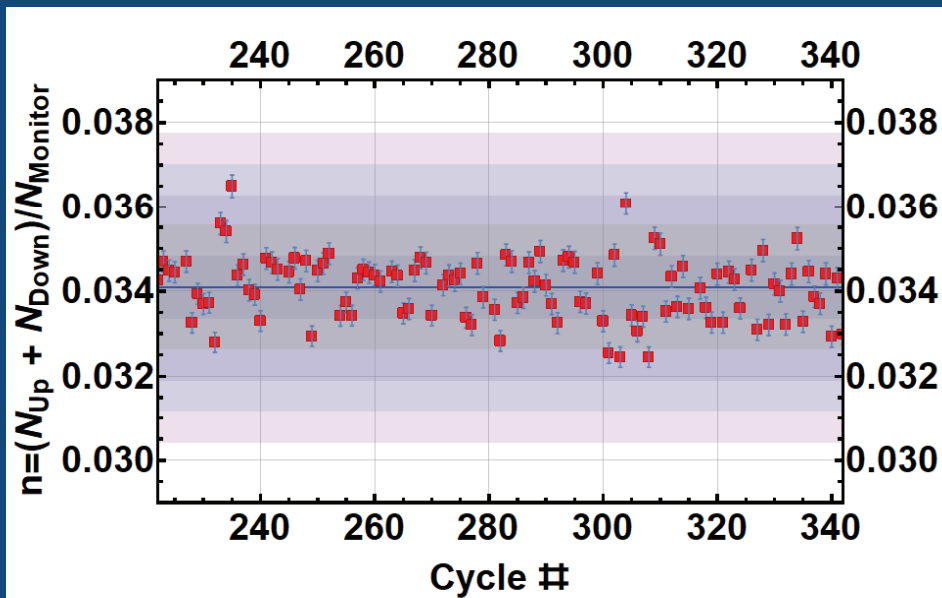
- The UCN source doesn't always provide the same number of neutrons.
- The number of neutrons provided by the source varies as a function of charge on target and motion of all the flaps.



4

## Normalized UCN Counts

Since we are extracting storage lifetimes by counting the number of neutrons remaining after time  $-t_s$ , we have to have an independent means to normalize initial UCN counts.

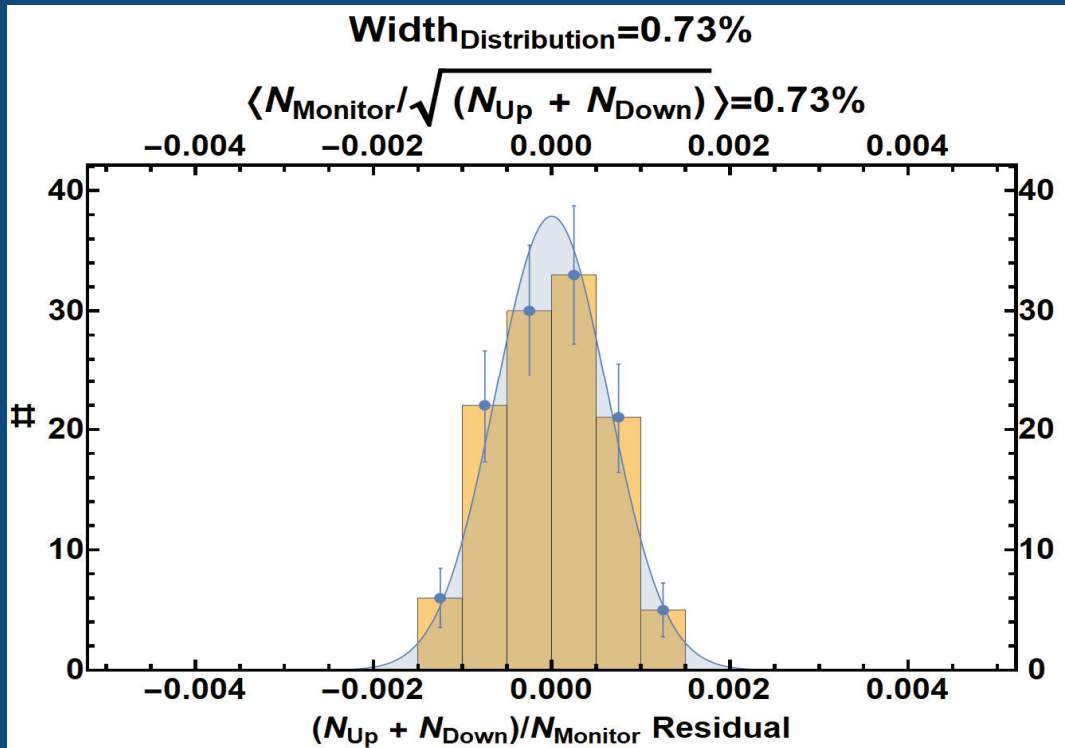


- West-2 has about ~15% scatter.
- West-1 doesn't count regularly.
- Monitor [counts  $\sim 10^6$ ] normalization has a maximum scatter of <1%, as expected from statistics.

4

## Normalized UCN Counts

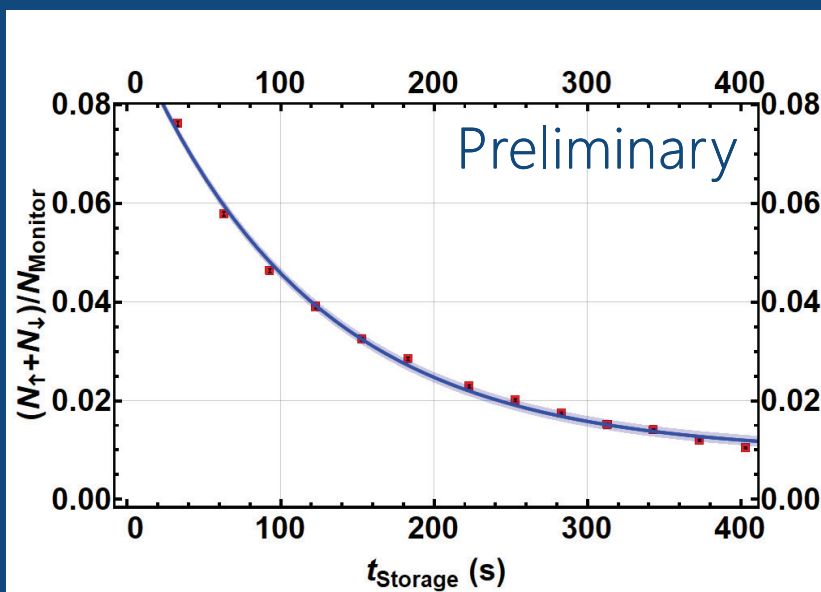
How are normalized counts distributed?



4

## Estimating $t_f$

$t_f$  may change with  $t_s$  due to softening of the UCN energy spectra

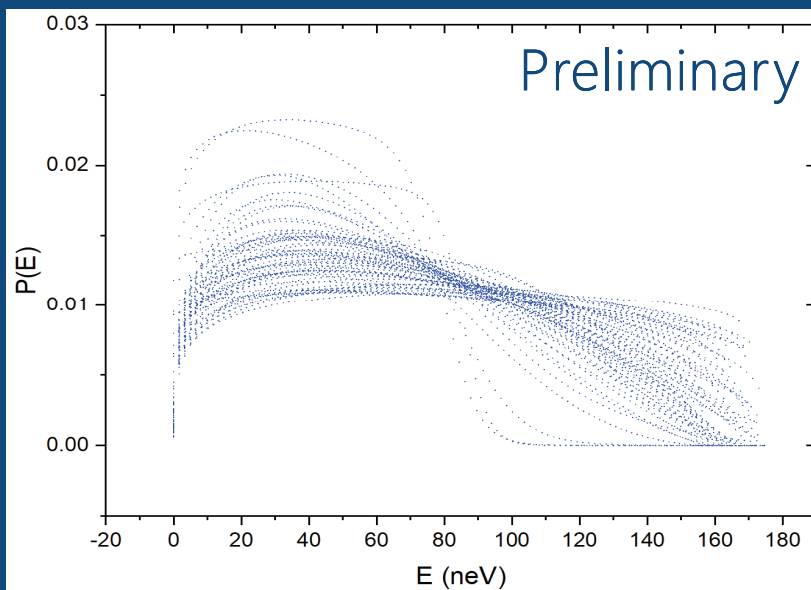


- $N(t_s) \rightarrow t_f(t_s)$
- $N(t_s)$  depends not only on neutron decay half life but mainly on loss (per bounce) parameter  $\eta(E)$  which is energy dependent.
- $N(t_s)$  gives us the energy distribution of the neutrons.

4

## Estimating $t_f$

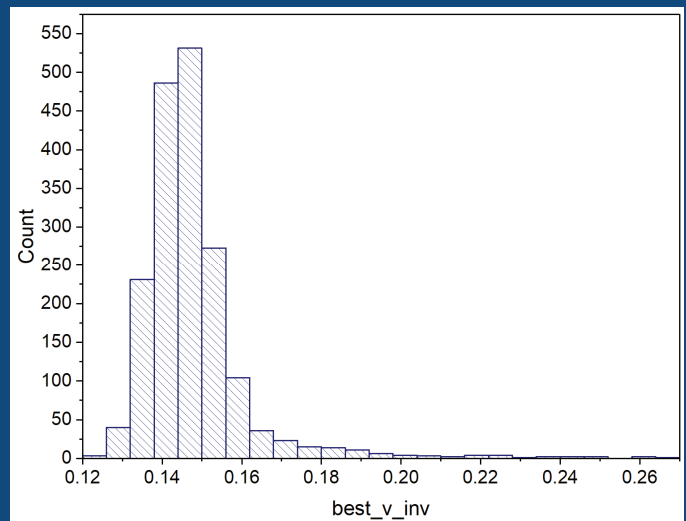
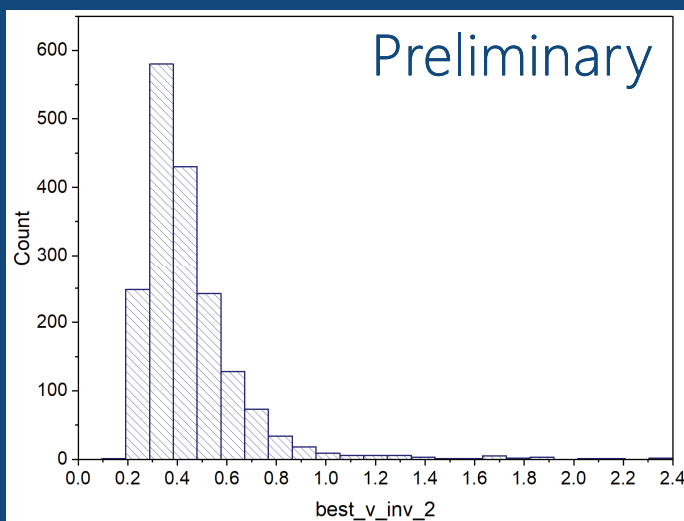
$t_f$  may change with  $t_s$  due to softening of the UCN energy spectra



- $N(t_s) \rightarrow t_f(t_s)$
- $N(t_s)$  depends not only on neutron decay half life but mainly on loss (per bounce) parameter  $\eta(E)$  which is energy dependent.
- $N(t_s)$  gives us the energy distribution of the neutrons.

4

# Estimating $t_f$



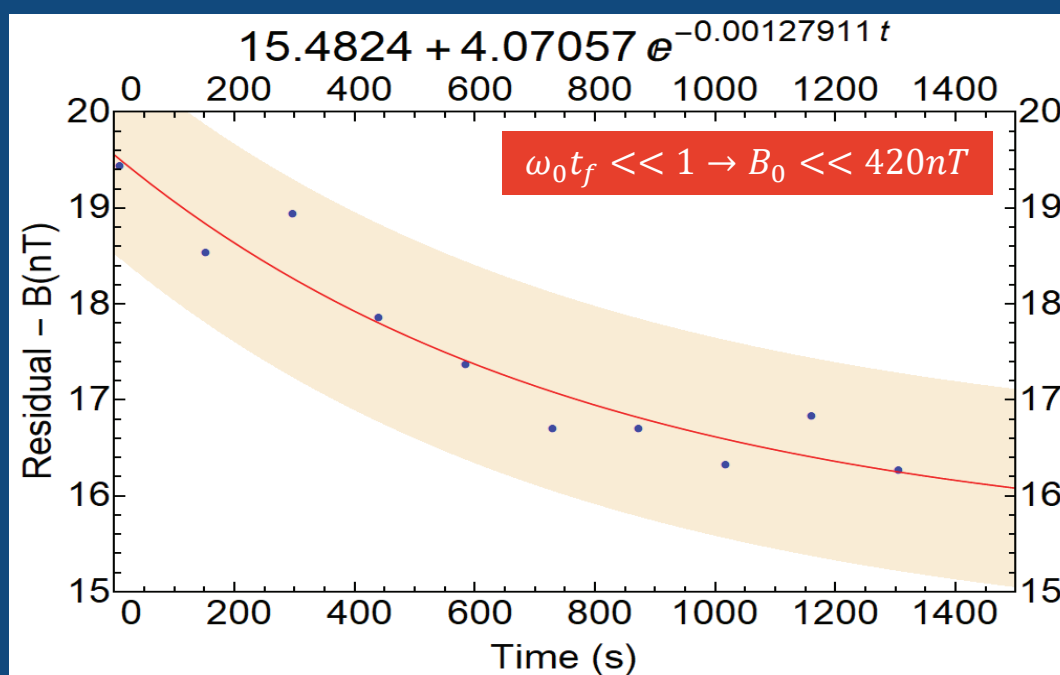
$$t_f(t_s=202.6s)$$

$$t_f \sim \frac{4(v = .021m^3)}{(a = .54m^2)} \frac{1}{\langle \frac{1}{v} \rangle}$$

Attribute (Units)	$\langle 1/v \rangle$ ( $m^{-1}s$ )	$\langle 1/v^2 \rangle$ ( $m^{-2}s^2$ )	$t_f$ (s)	$t_f^2$ ( $s^2$ )
Value	0.145	0.315	0.023	0.008

## ④ What is the Magnetic Field Inside?

Once we ramp to  $\pm 20\mu\text{T}$  (max) and down to  $0\mu\text{T}$ , do we any residual field?  
This residual field must be  $< 420\text{nT}$ . Using Hg co-magnetometer...:



We are interested in the average  $\langle B(I_0) \rangle$  during storage.

# ④ NStar: What was accessed with oLL?

Cluster	Pattern	$t_s^* (t_f) /s$	$B_0/\mu T$	# Cycles
1	0↑0↓0↓0↑0↓0↑0↑0↓0	180 (300)	10	1243
2	0↑0↓0↓0↑0↓0↑0↑0↓0	380 (500)	10	1136
3	0↑0↓0↓0↑0↓0↑0↑0↓0	180 (300)	20	864
4	0↑0↓0↓0↑0↓0↑0↑0↓0	380 (500)	20	775

We find no finite asymmetries

$$\frac{n_0}{n_{\uparrow\downarrow}} = 1 - \frac{t_f t_s}{\tau_{nn'}^2}$$

$$B' = 0$$



$$\tau_{nn^*} > 426 \text{ s (90\% C.L.)}$$

$$\frac{n_{\uparrow} - n_{\downarrow}}{n_{\uparrow} + n_{\downarrow}} = -\frac{t_s}{t_f} \frac{\eta^3 \cos\beta}{\omega^2 \tau_{nn'}^2 (1 - \eta^2)^2}$$

$$B' \neq 0$$



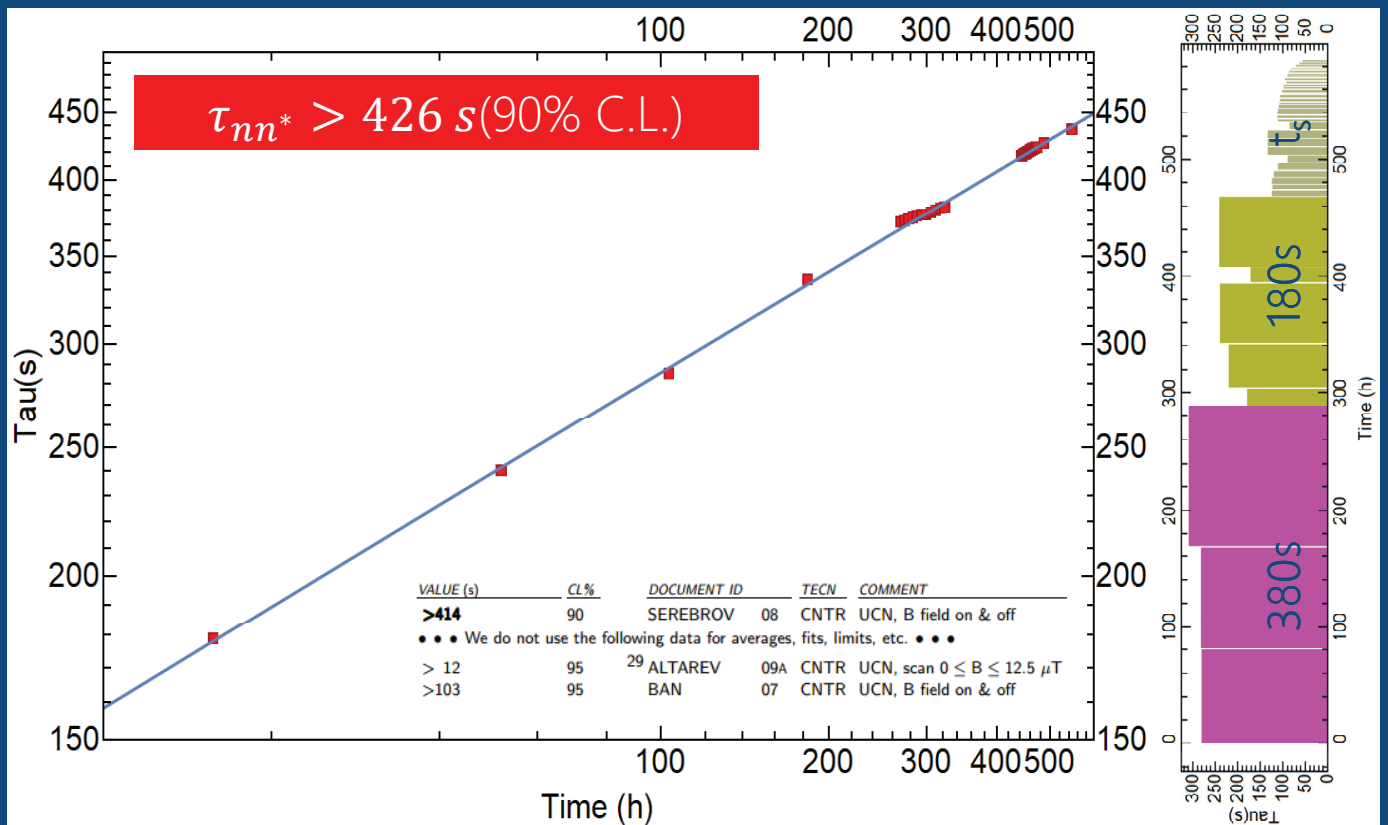
$$\tau_{nn^*} > 36 \text{ s (90\% C.L., } B_0 = [0, 20] \mu T)$$

$$\eta = B'/B$$

Very Preliminary...

4

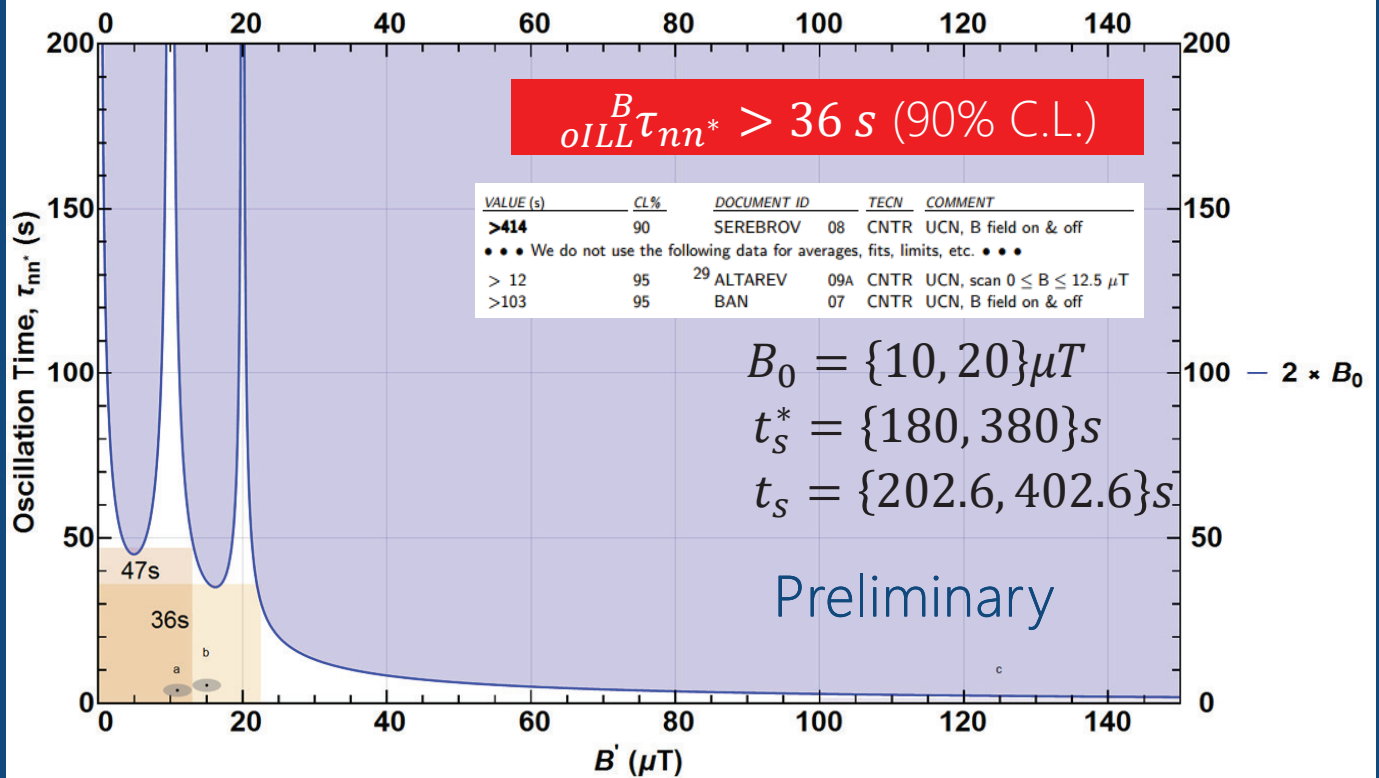
NStar 0 B': What was accessed with oILL?





4

NStar Finite B': What was accessed with oILL?



5

## Summary



Resolved (?) the crisis

$$\frac{n_0}{n_{\uparrow\downarrow}} = 1 - \frac{t_f t_s}{\tau_{nn'}^2}$$

$B' = 0$   
→

$$\tau_{nn^*} > 426 \text{ s (90\% C.L.)}$$

$$\frac{n_{\uparrow} - n_{\downarrow}}{n_{\uparrow} + n_{\downarrow}} = -\frac{t_s}{t_f} \frac{\eta^3 \cos\beta}{\omega^2 \tau_{nn'}^2 (1 - \eta^2)^2}$$

$B' \neq 0$   
→

$$\tau_{nn^*} > 36 \text{ s (90\% C.L., } B_0 = [0, 20] \mu\text{T)}$$

VALUE (s)	CL%	DOCUMENT ID	TECN	COMMENT
<b>&gt;414</b>	90	SEREBROV	08	CNTR UCN, B field on & off
• • • We do not use the following data for averages, fits, limits, etc. • • •				
> 12	95	<sup>29</sup> ALTAREV	09A	CNTR UCN, scan $0 \leq B \leq 12.5 \mu\text{T}$
>103	95	BAN	07	CNTR UCN, B field on & off

Where do we go from here?

- Obviously finish a rigorous analysis (the numbers are bound to change).
- Nstar-1b: Dedicated Mirror Neutron Search (to look for modulating signal) with a sensitivity of  $\tau_{nn^*} > 1000\text{s}$ .

