

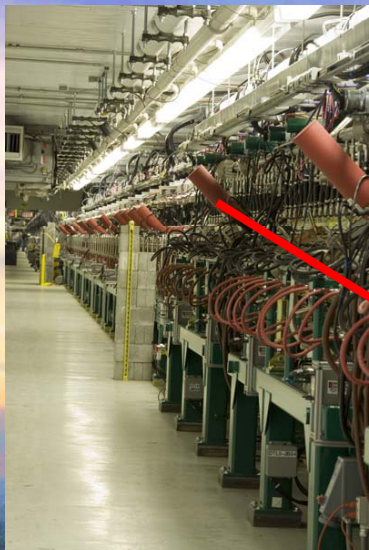
The planned Nab/abBA/PANDA spectrometer



Stefan Baeßler



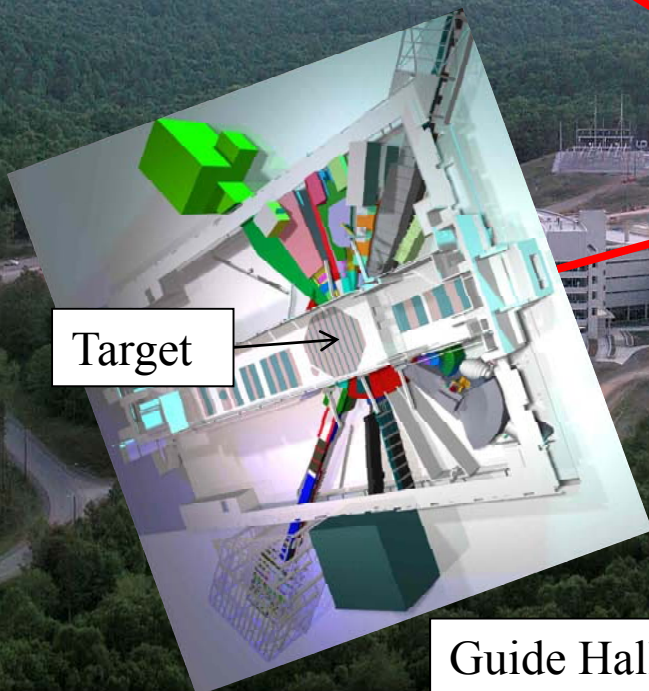
The Spallation Neutron Source SNS in Oak Ridge, TN



Linear H⁻ accelerator

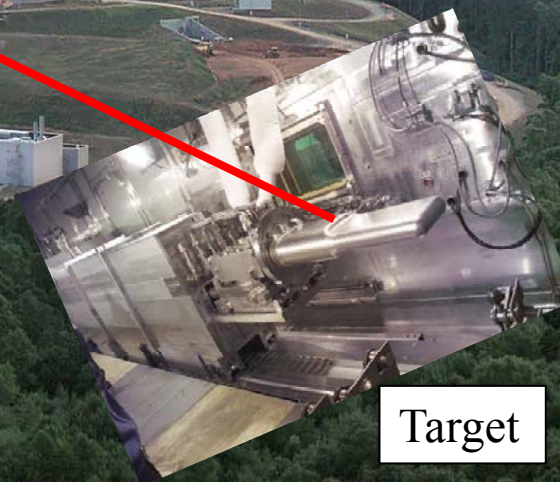


Accumulator ring (buncher)



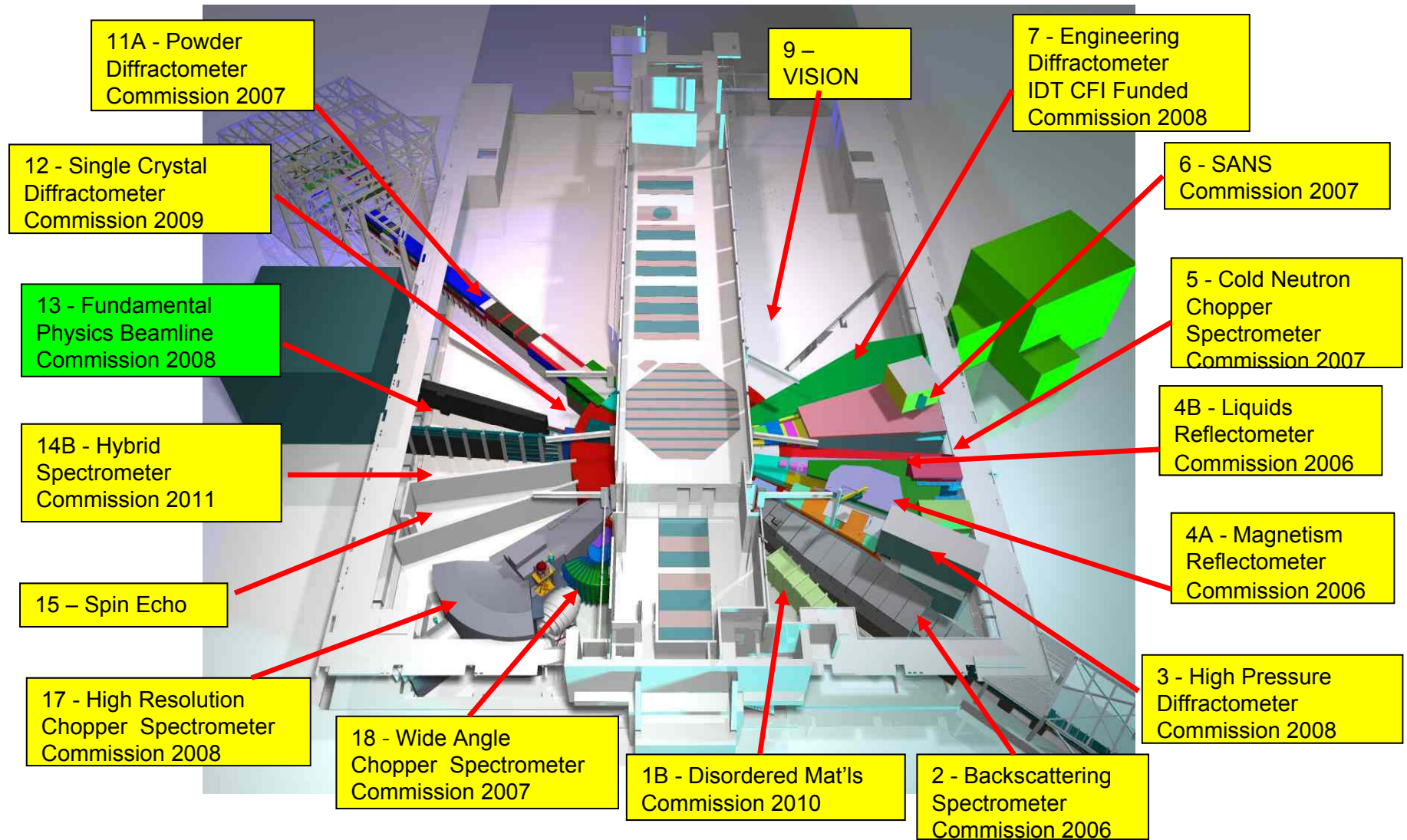
Target

Guide Hall

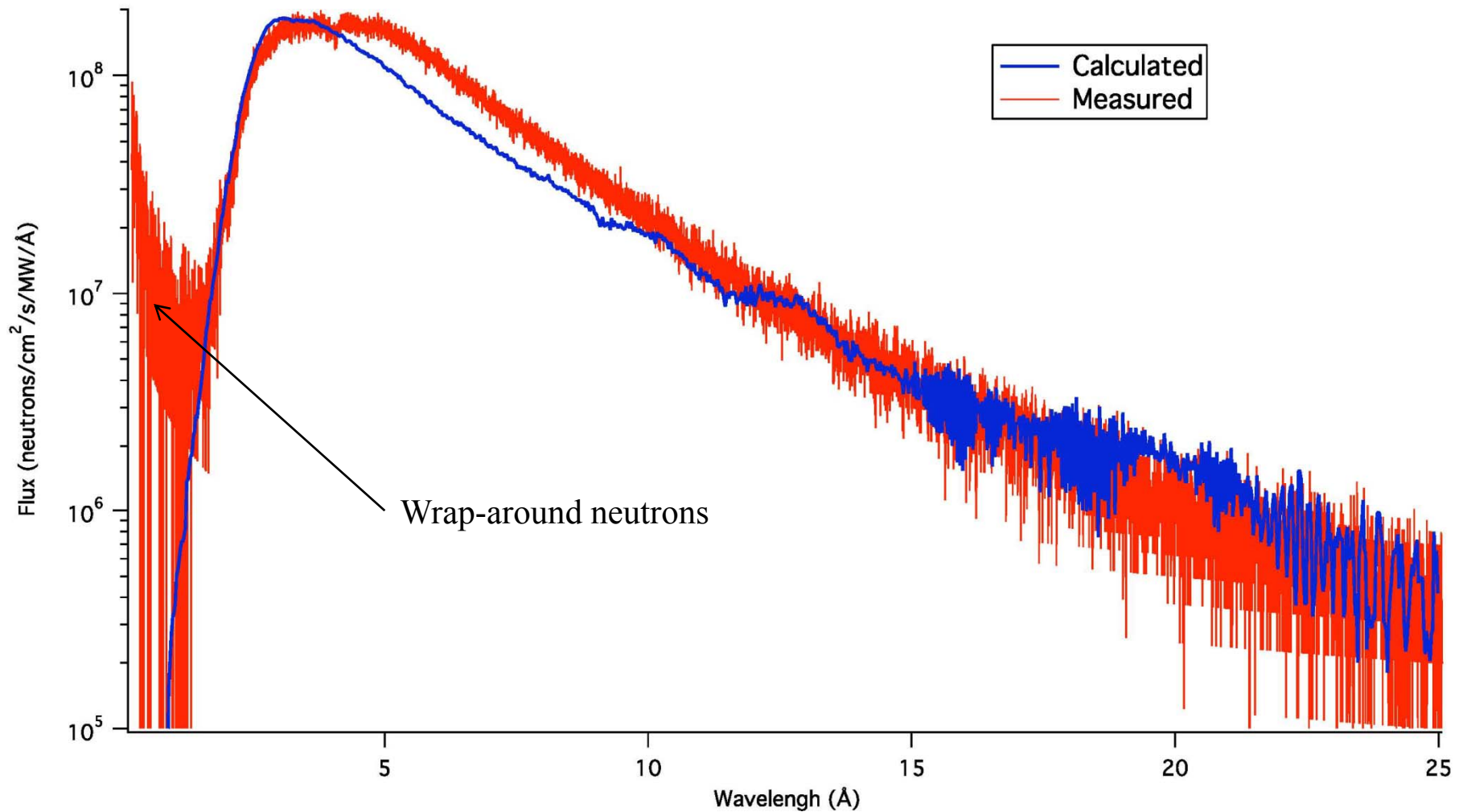


Target

Usage of neutrons @ SNS

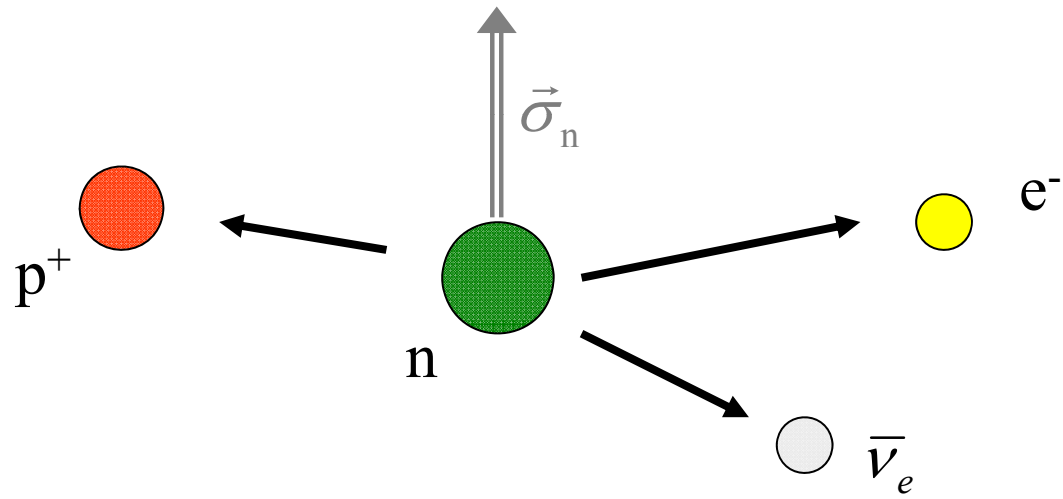


Performance of FNPB beamline



Measured (@1 MW) neutron capture flux at FNPB beam exit: $\Phi_c = 4 \times 10^9 \cdot \frac{1}{\text{cm}^2\text{s}} @ 1.4 \text{ MW}$

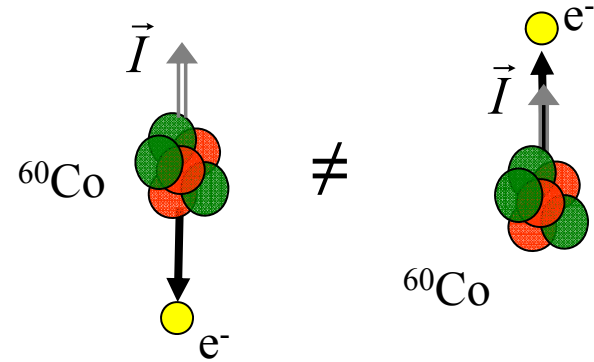
Neutron beta decay



Beta Decay in the Standard Model

Fermi's golden rule:

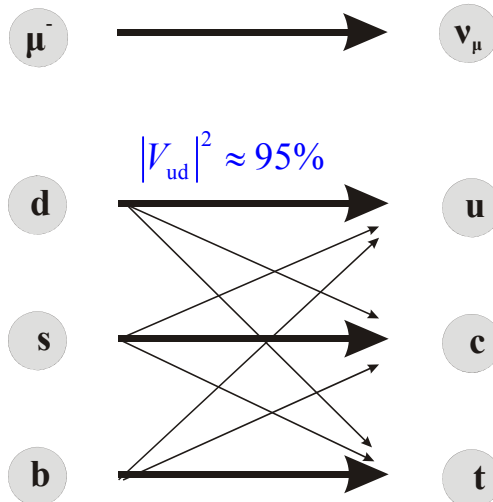
$$\text{decay probability } \Gamma_{i \rightarrow f} = \frac{2\pi}{\hbar} \left| \langle f | H_{\text{weak}} | i \rangle \right|^2 \rho$$



Parity Violation found by Wu et al, 1956

$$H_{\text{weak}} = \frac{G_F V_{ud}}{\sqrt{2}} \langle p | \mathbf{1} \cdot \gamma^\mu + \lambda \gamma^\mu \gamma^5 | n \rangle \langle e^- | \gamma_\mu - \gamma_\mu \gamma_5 | \nu_e \rangle + \text{h.c.}$$

1. Quark mixing



2. Nucleon structure effects

$$g_V = G_F \cdot V_{ud} \cdot \mathbf{1}$$

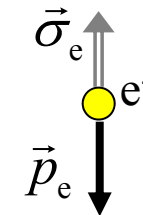
$$g_A = G_F \cdot V_{ud} \cdot \lambda$$

No nuclear structure effects
(for neutrons)

3. Helicity

... of elementary fermions: $-p/E$,

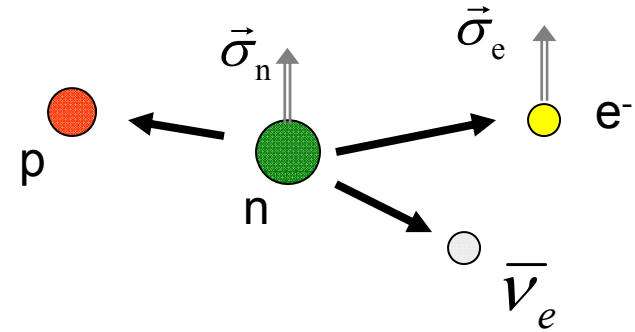
... of elementary anti-fermions: $+p/E$



Observables in Neutron Beta Decay

Jackson et al., PR 106, 517 (1957):

Observables in Neutron beta decay, as a function of generally possible coupling constants (assuming only Lorentz-Invariance)



$$dw \propto \rho(E_e) \cdot (1 + 3|\lambda|^2) \cdot \left\{ 1 + a \frac{\vec{p}_e \cdot \vec{p}_\nu}{E_e E_\nu} + b \frac{m_e}{E_e} + \vec{\sigma}_n \cdot \left(A \frac{\vec{p}_e}{E_e} + B \frac{\vec{p}_\nu}{E_\nu} + D \frac{\vec{p}_e \times \vec{p}_\nu}{E_e E_\nu} \right) \right\}$$

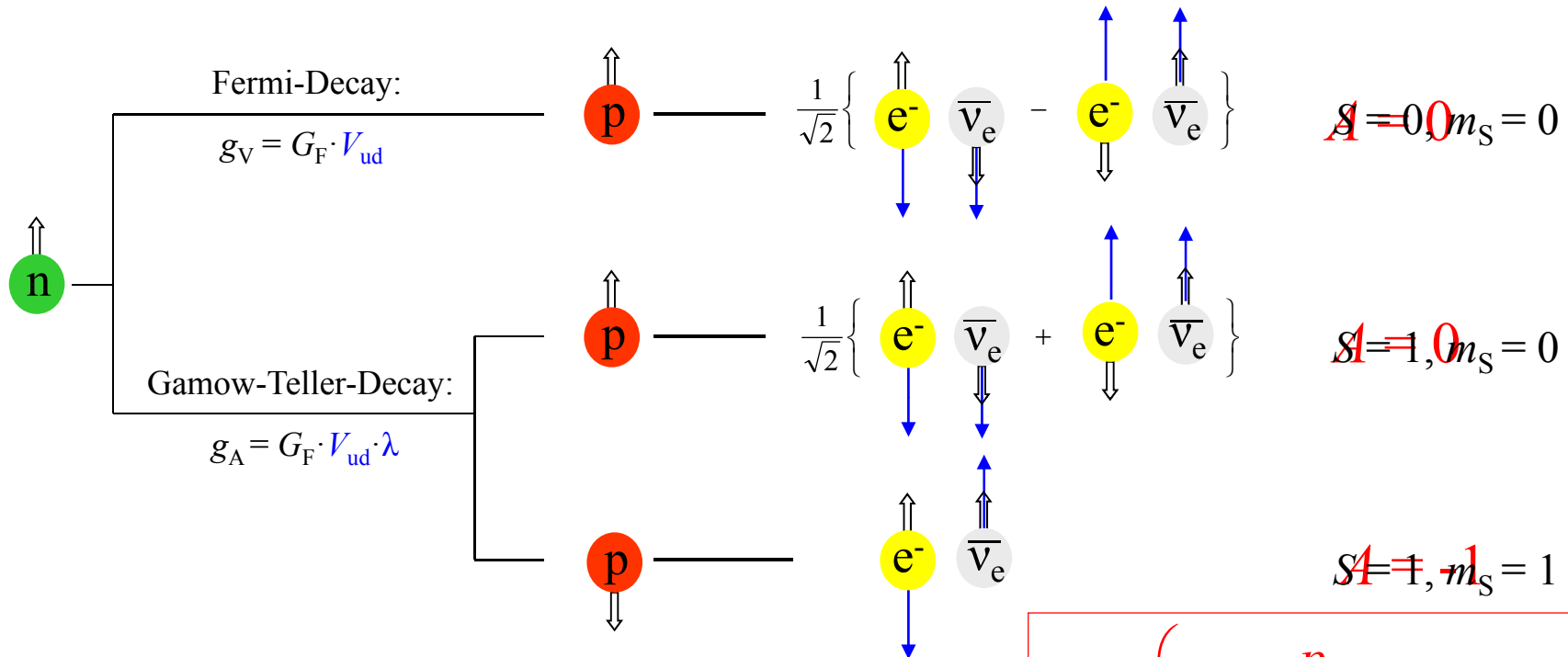
Fierz interference term $b = 0$

Beta-Asymmetry $A = -2 \frac{|\lambda|^2 + \text{Re } \lambda}{1 + 3|\lambda|^2}$

Neutrino-Electron-Correlation $a = \frac{1 - |\lambda|^2}{1 + 3|\lambda|^2}$

Neutron lifetime $\tau_n^{-1} = \frac{2\pi}{\hbar} G_F^2 V_{ud}^2 (1 + 3|\lambda|^2) \int \rho(E_e)$

The Standard Model Parameters V_{ud} and λ



(after D. Dubbers, Prog. Part. Nucl. Phys. 26, 173 (1991))

$$dw \propto \left(1 + A \frac{p_e}{E_e} \cos(p_e, \sigma_n) \right)$$

Two unknown parameters, g_A and g_V , need to be determined in 2 experiments

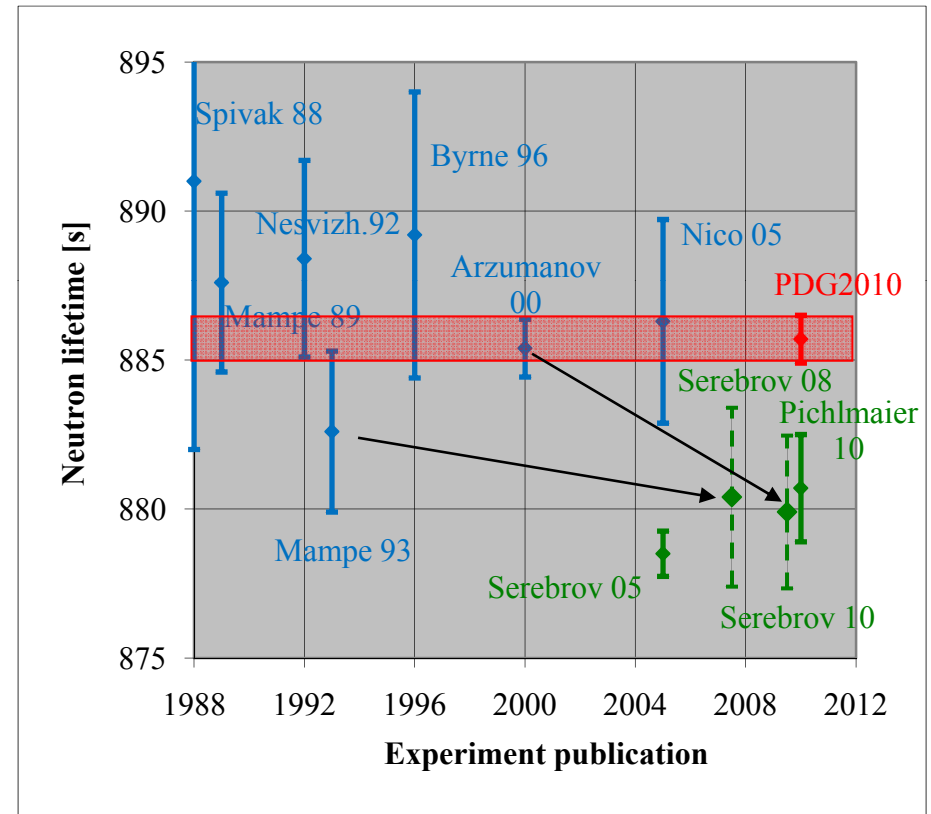
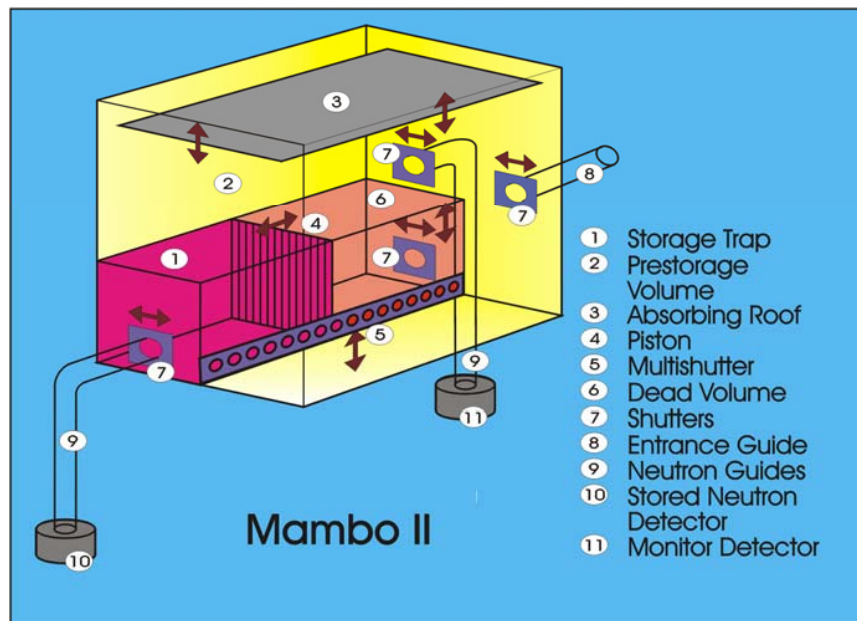
1. Neutron-Lifetime: $\tau_n^{-1} \propto (g_V^2 + 3g_A^2) \quad \tau_n \approx 885 \text{ s}$

2. Beta-Asymmetry: $A = -2 \frac{\lambda^2 + \lambda}{1 + 3\lambda^2} \approx -0.1 \quad \lambda = \frac{g_A}{g_V}$

Neutron Lifetime Measurements

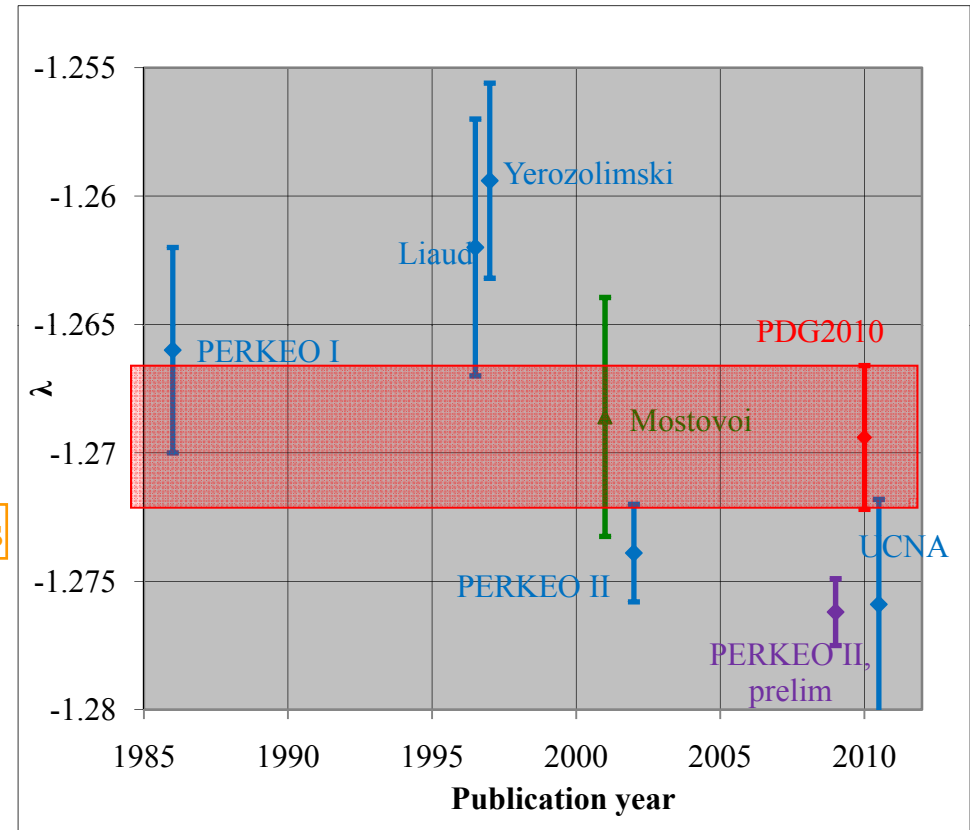
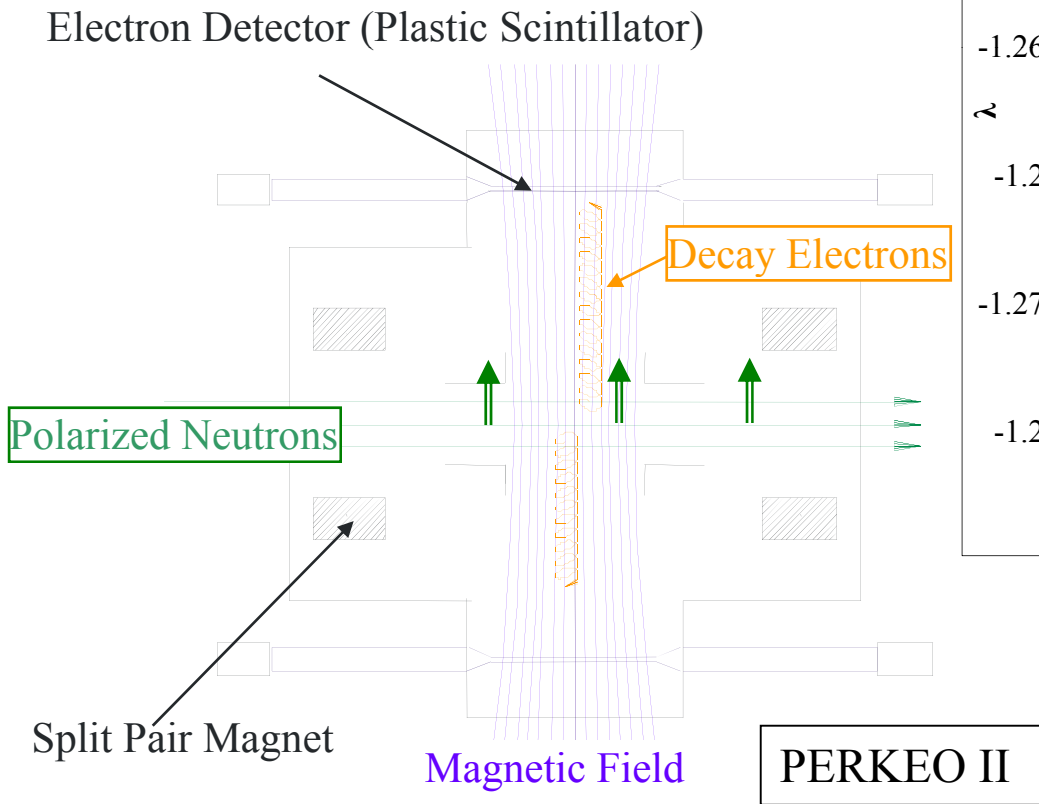
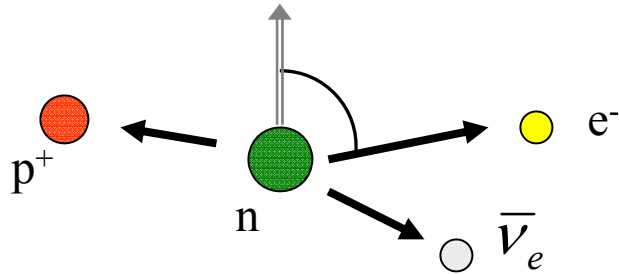
Decrease of Neutron Counts N with storage time t : $N(t) = N(0)\exp\{-t/\tau_{\text{eff}}\}$

$$1/\tau_{\text{eff}} = 1/\tau_{\beta} + 1/\tau_{\text{wall losses}}$$



Many new attempts, mostly with UCN in magnetic bottles: Ezhov et al. (ILL, PNPI Gatchina), Arzumanov et al. (Kurchatov Inst., ILL), Liu et al. (Indiana), Paul et al. (TUM), Huffman et al. (NIST, NCSU), Nico et al. (NIST), Zimmer et al., (ILL) are (at least) under construction.

The Beta Asymmetry

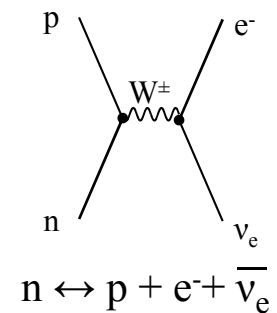
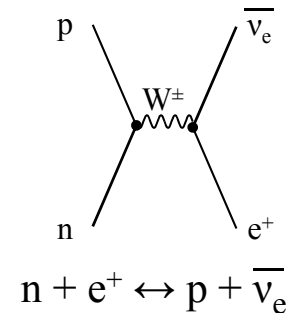
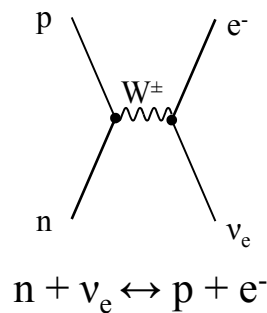


Ongoing funded experiments:
 UCNA (NCSU, LANL), PERKEO III
 (Heidelberg), PERC (Europe)

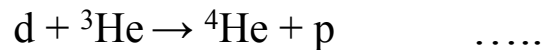
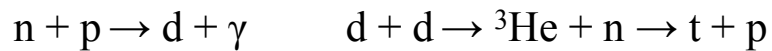
Use of coupling constants in Primordial Nucleosynthesis

Before Phase Transition:

Equilibrium

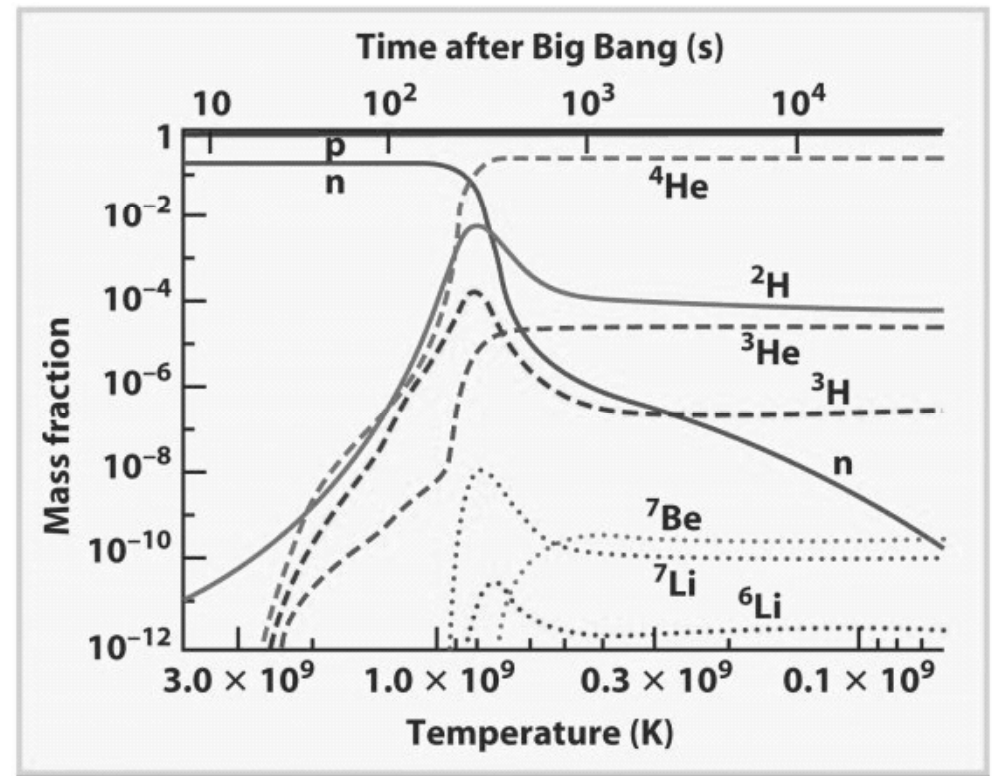


After Phase Transition (some minutes after Big Bang):

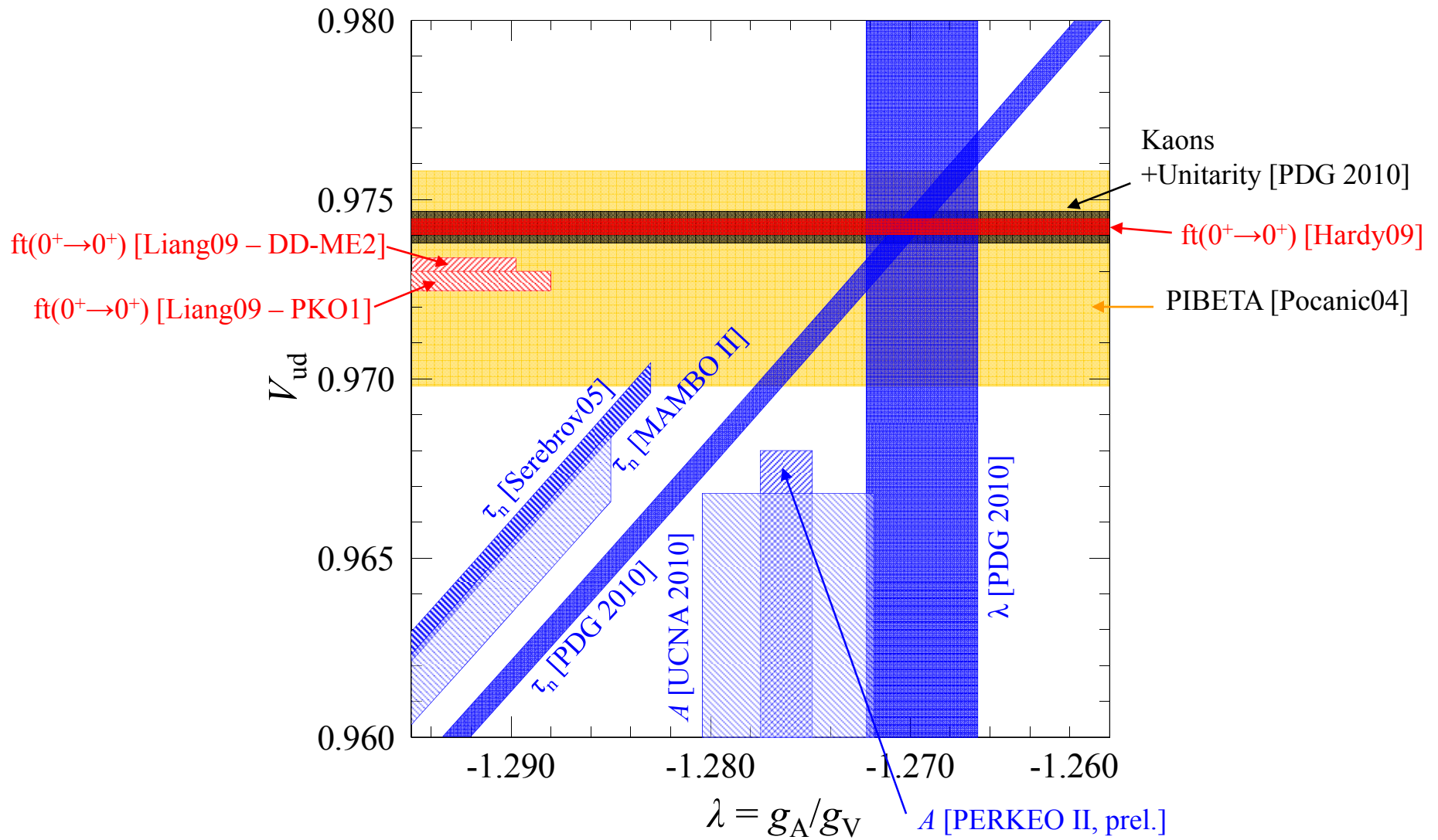


Then the Primordial Nucleosynthesis stops, as there are no stable nuclei with $A = 5, 8$, and as the free neutrons die out.

- ⇒ Stronger coupling constants in $n \leftrightarrow p$ reactions
- ⇒ Phase transition later
- ⇒ nucleon density lower after phase transition
- ⇒ less ${}^4\text{He}$, more d



Search for Standard Model Parameters



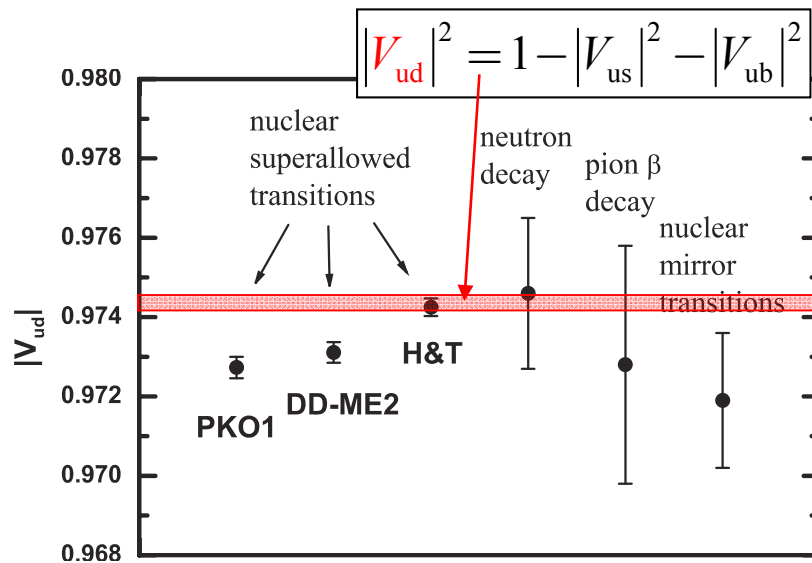
Unitarity and superallowed nuclear decays

V. Telegdi, 1977:

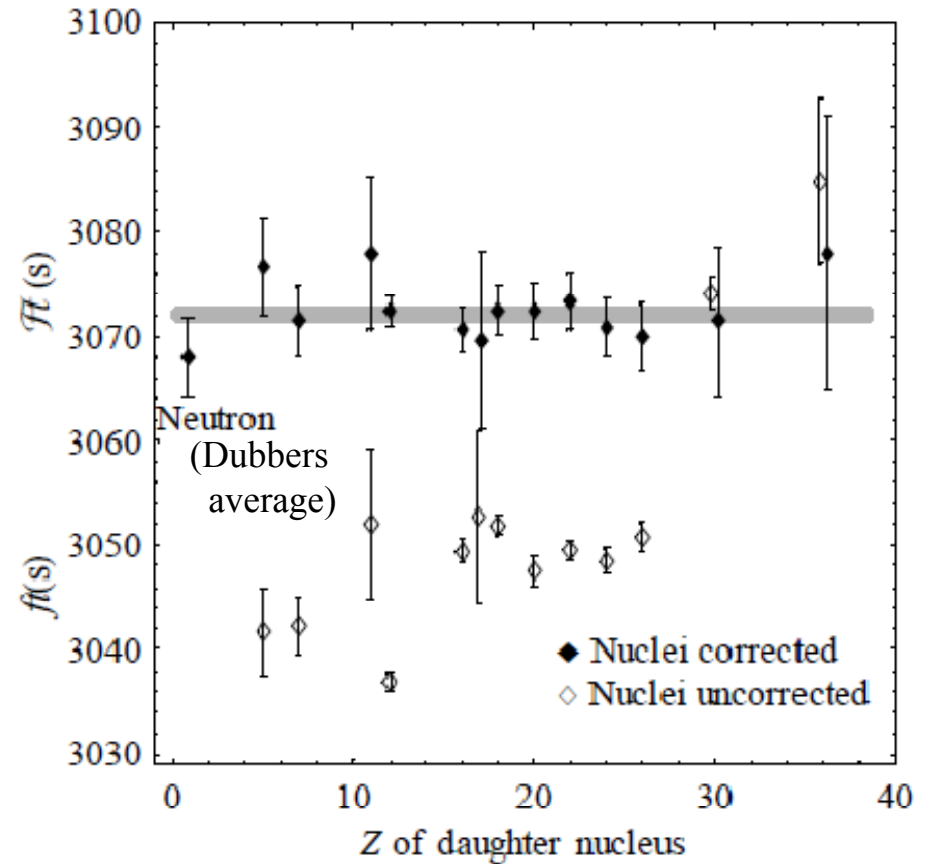
I would like to say that the theory of β -decay is the theory of the decay of the neutron. I have always thought that nuclear β -decay experiments were only done *faute de mieux*: ... If you do not know how to do the one experiment, you take the average of twenty.

$$\overline{Ft} \propto g_V^2 = G_F^2 |V_{ud}|^2$$

$$|V_{ud}|^2 \propto \frac{1}{2G_F^2 (1 + \Delta_R^V) \overline{Ft}}$$



Liang et al., PRC 79, 064316 (2009)



Dubbers, Schmidt, RMP (2011), in press

Possible Tests of the Standard Model

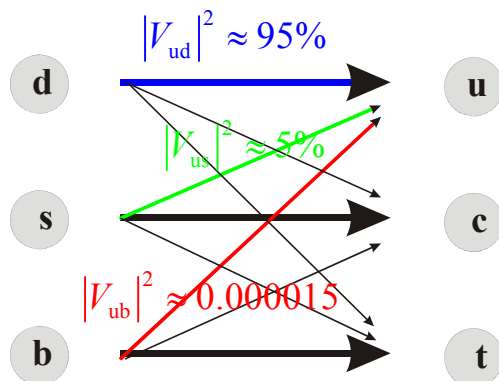
Multiple determinations (nuclear physics, other correlation coefficients) overconstrain problem, enable:

1. Search for Right-handed Currents (leptons are righthanded): W_R ?
2. Search for Scalar and Tensor interactions (neutrinos have opposite handedness to electrons – 4 new coupling constants possible):

Leptoquarks? Charged Higgs Bosons? Supersymmetry?

3. Test of the Unitarity of the Cabbibo-Kobayashi-Maskawa-Matrix:

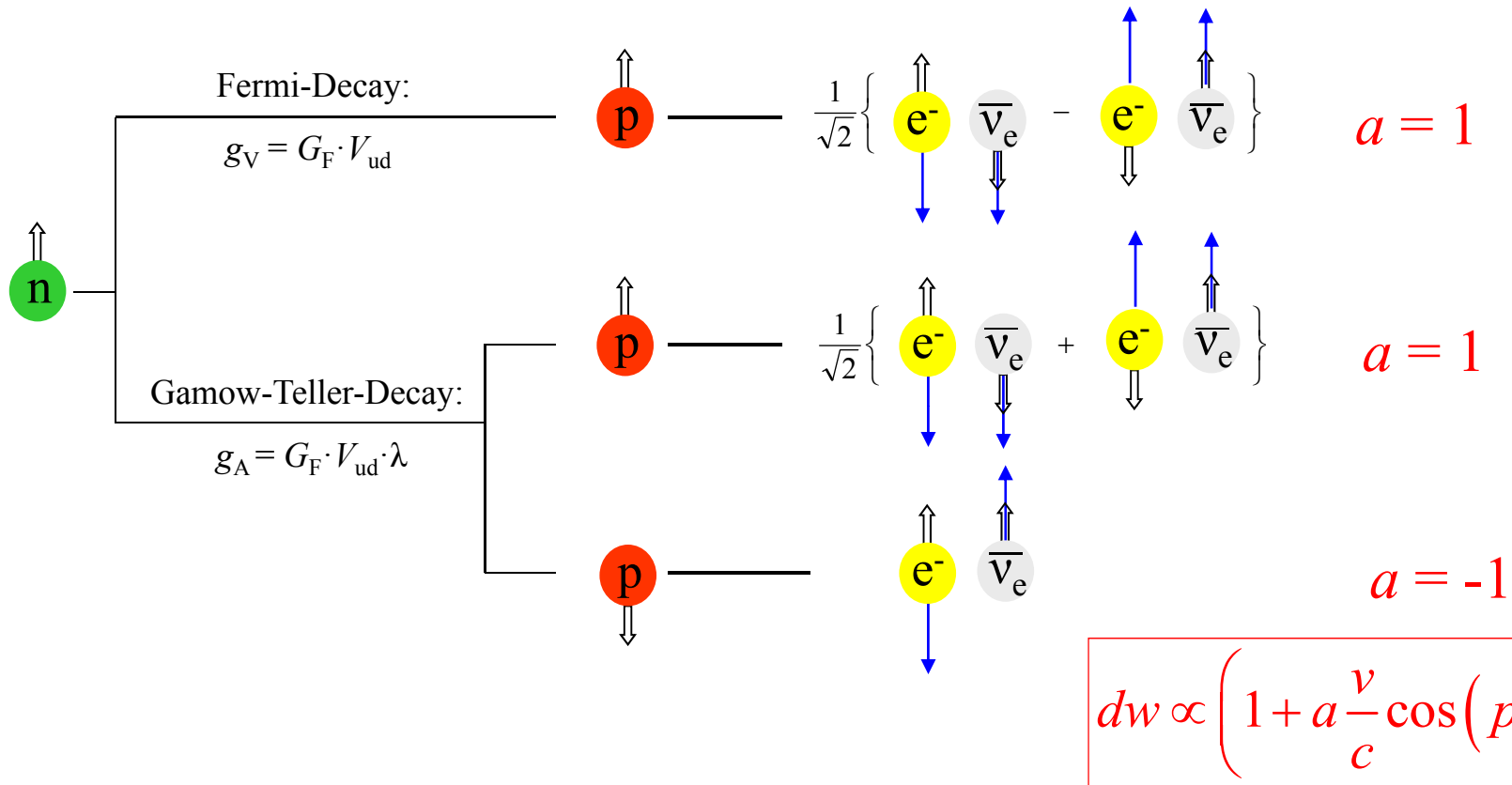
Extra Z bosons? Supersymmetry? 4th quark generation?



$$\begin{pmatrix} d' \\ s' \\ b' \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} V_{ud} & V_{us} & V_{ub} \\ V_{cd} & V_{cs} & V_{cb} \\ V_{td} & V_{td} & V_{tb} \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} d \\ s \\ b \end{pmatrix}$$

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

Determination of the Coupling Constants

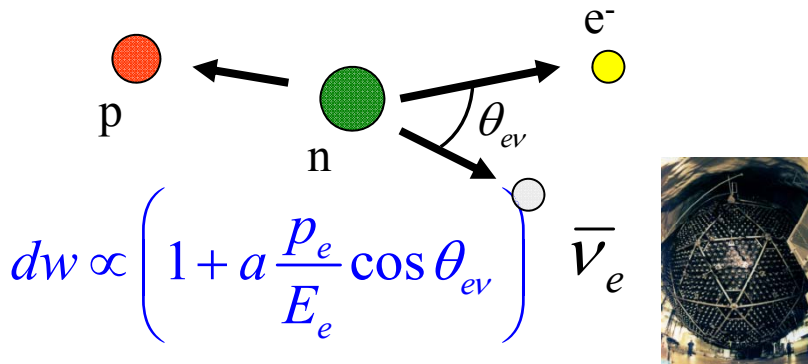


Two unknown parameters, g_A and g_V , need to be determined in 2 experiments

1. Neutron-Lifetime: $\tau_n^{-1} \propto (g_V^2 + 3g_A^2)$ $\tau_n \approx 885 \text{ s}$

2b. Neutrino-Electron-Correlation a : $a = \frac{1 - \lambda^2}{1 + 3\lambda^2} \sim -0.1$ $\lambda = \frac{g_A}{g_V}$

Idea of the $\cos \theta_{ev}$ spectrometer Nab @ SNS

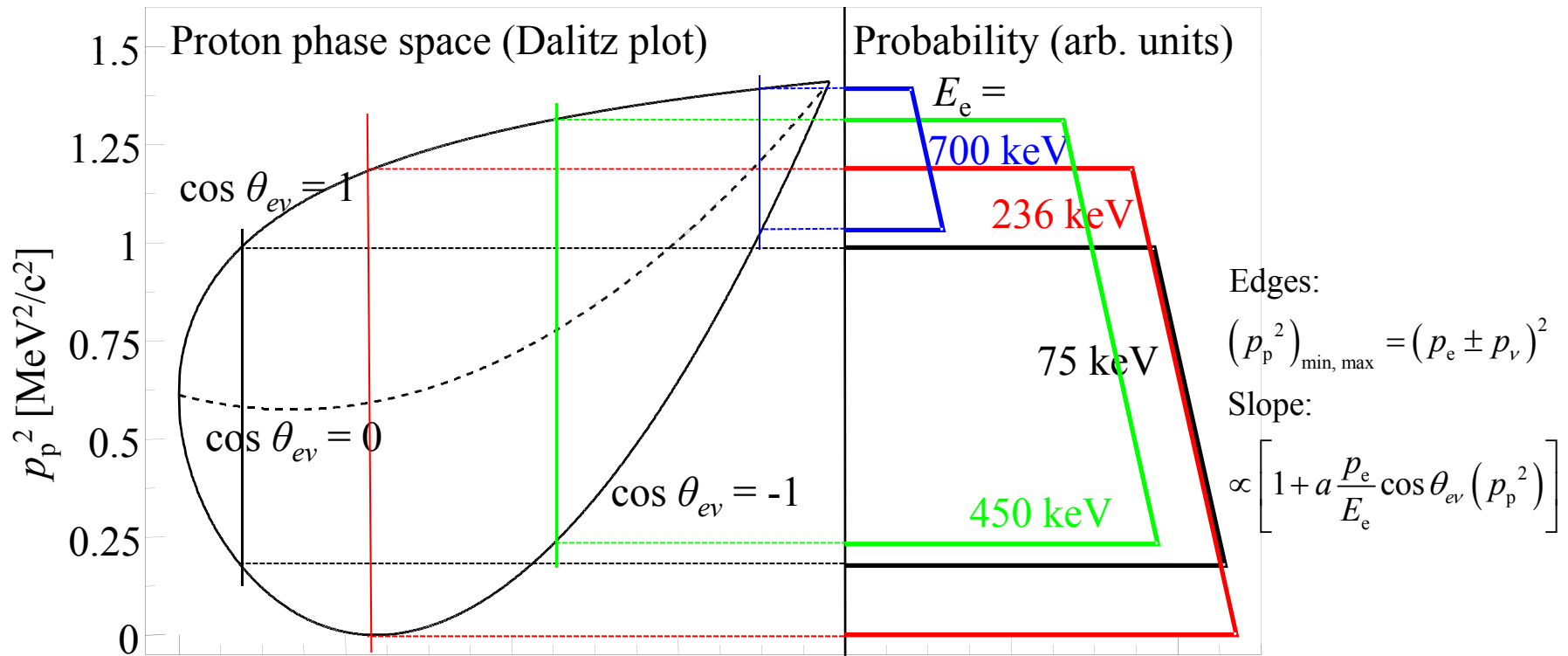


Kinematics:

- Energy Conservation: $E_\nu = E_{e,\max} - E_e$

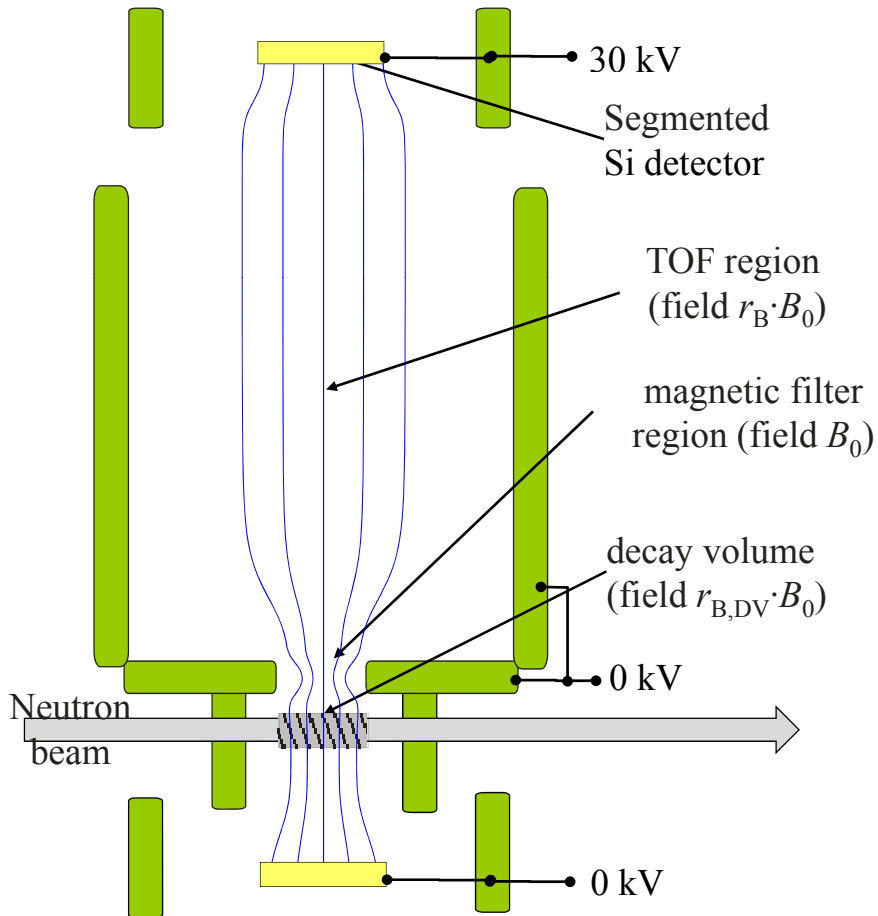
- Momentum Conservation

$$p_p^2 = p_e^2 + p_\nu^2 + 2p_e p_\nu \cos \theta_{ev}$$



Alternative approaches: *a*SPECT (Mainz, ILL), *a*CORN (Tulane, NIST)

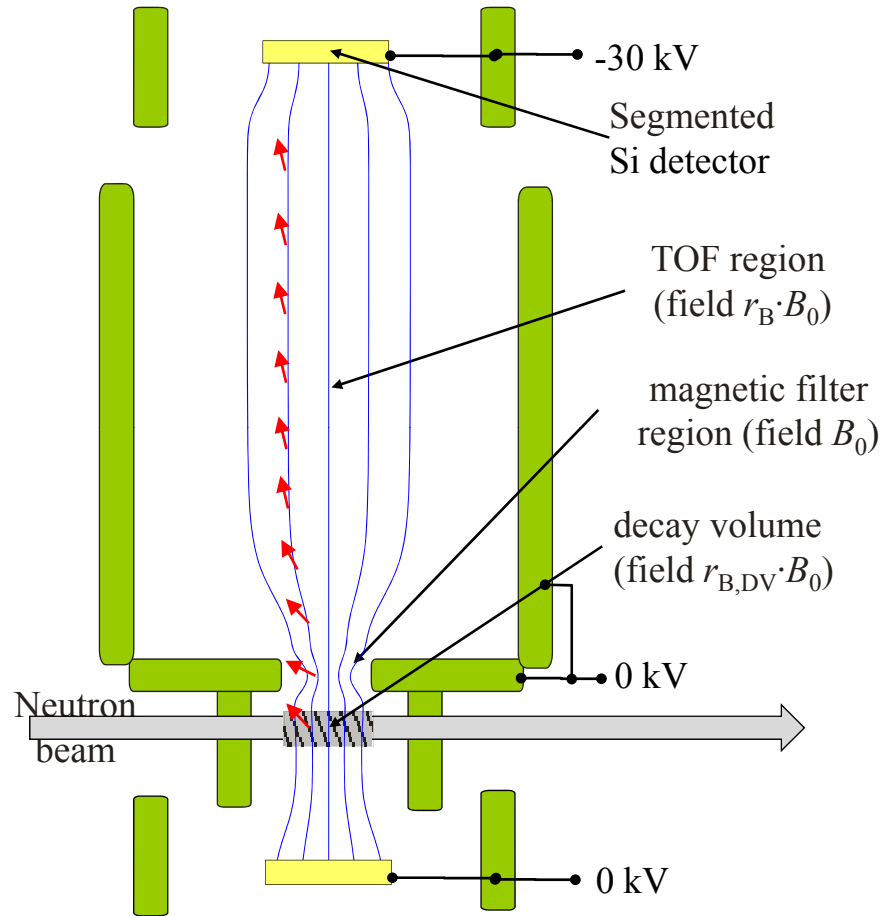
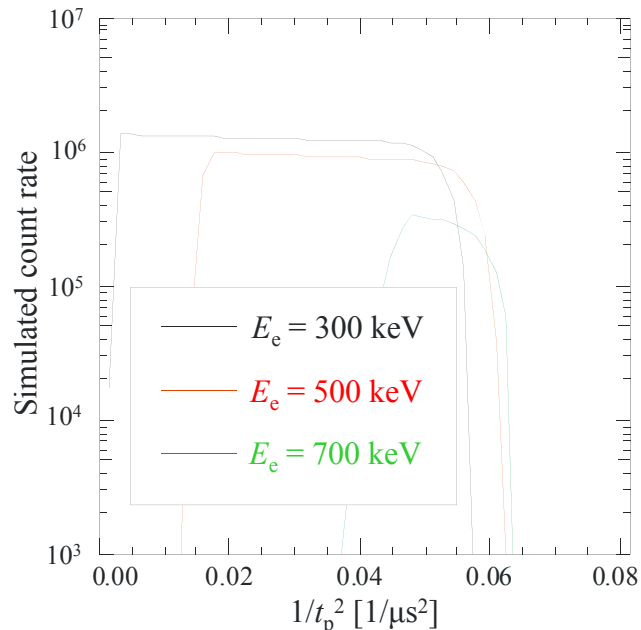
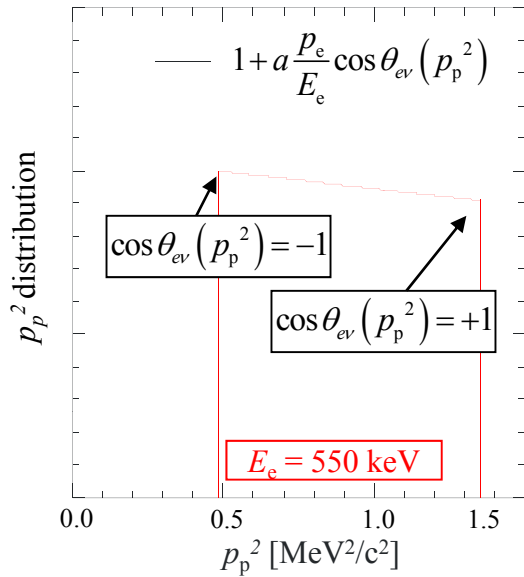
The asymmetric version of Nab @ SNS



Advantages of asymmetric configuration:

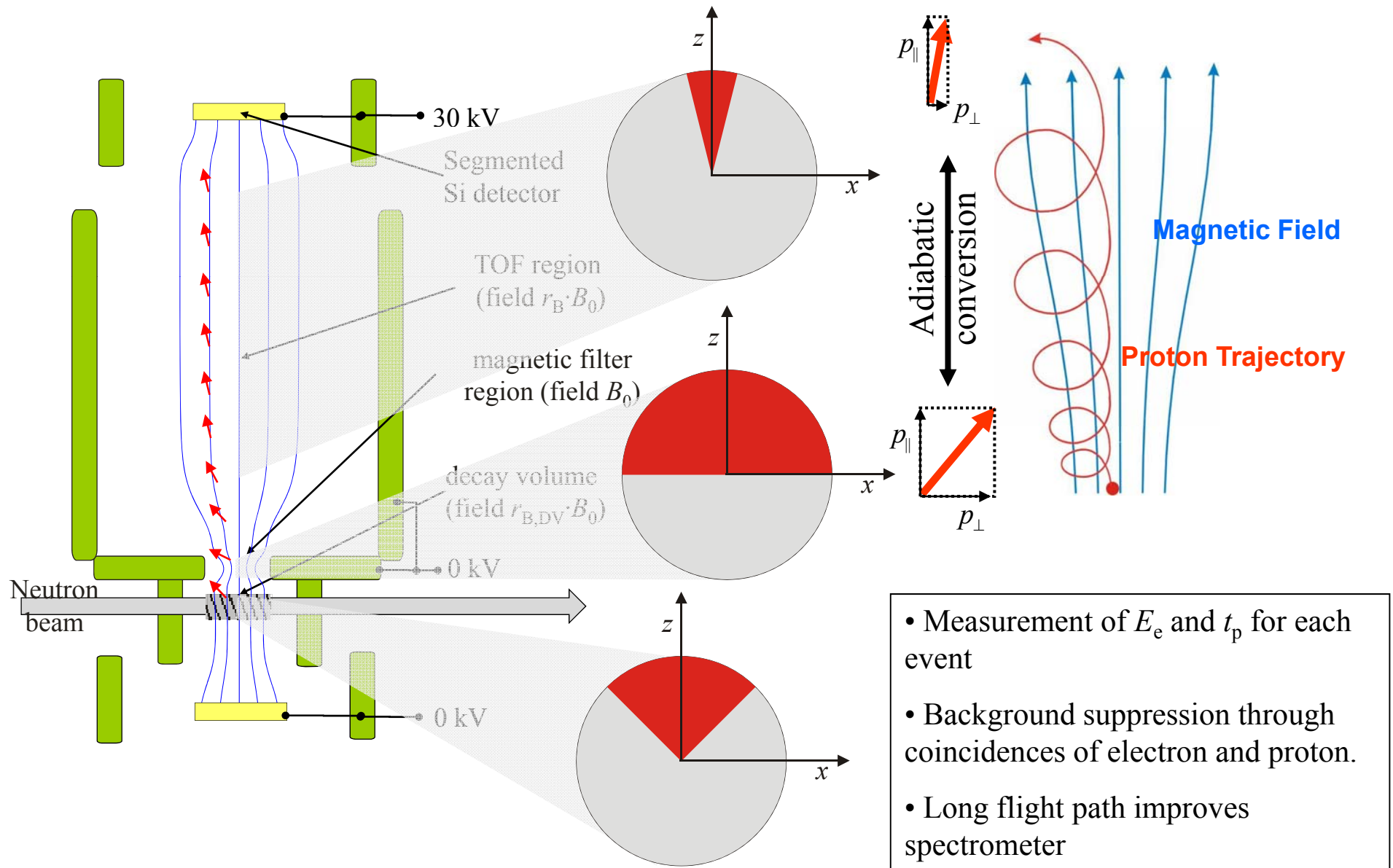
- Detection function: Improved flight path length
- Reduced sensitivity to electrostatic and magnetic potential inhomogeneities
- Avoid deep Penning trap
- Statistical uncertainty: Bigger decay volume vs. angular acceptance
- Polarized experiment (abBA, PANDA) still possible

The $\cos\theta_{ev}$ spectrometer Nab @ SNS



- Measurement of E_e and t_p for each event
- Background suppression through coincidences of electron and proton.
- Long flight path improves spectrometer

Determination of p_p through t_p : The magnetic field



- Measurement of E_e and t_p for each event
- Background suppression through coincidences of electron and proton.
- Long flight path improves spectrometer

Silicon detector for Nab / abBA / PANDA



Front side

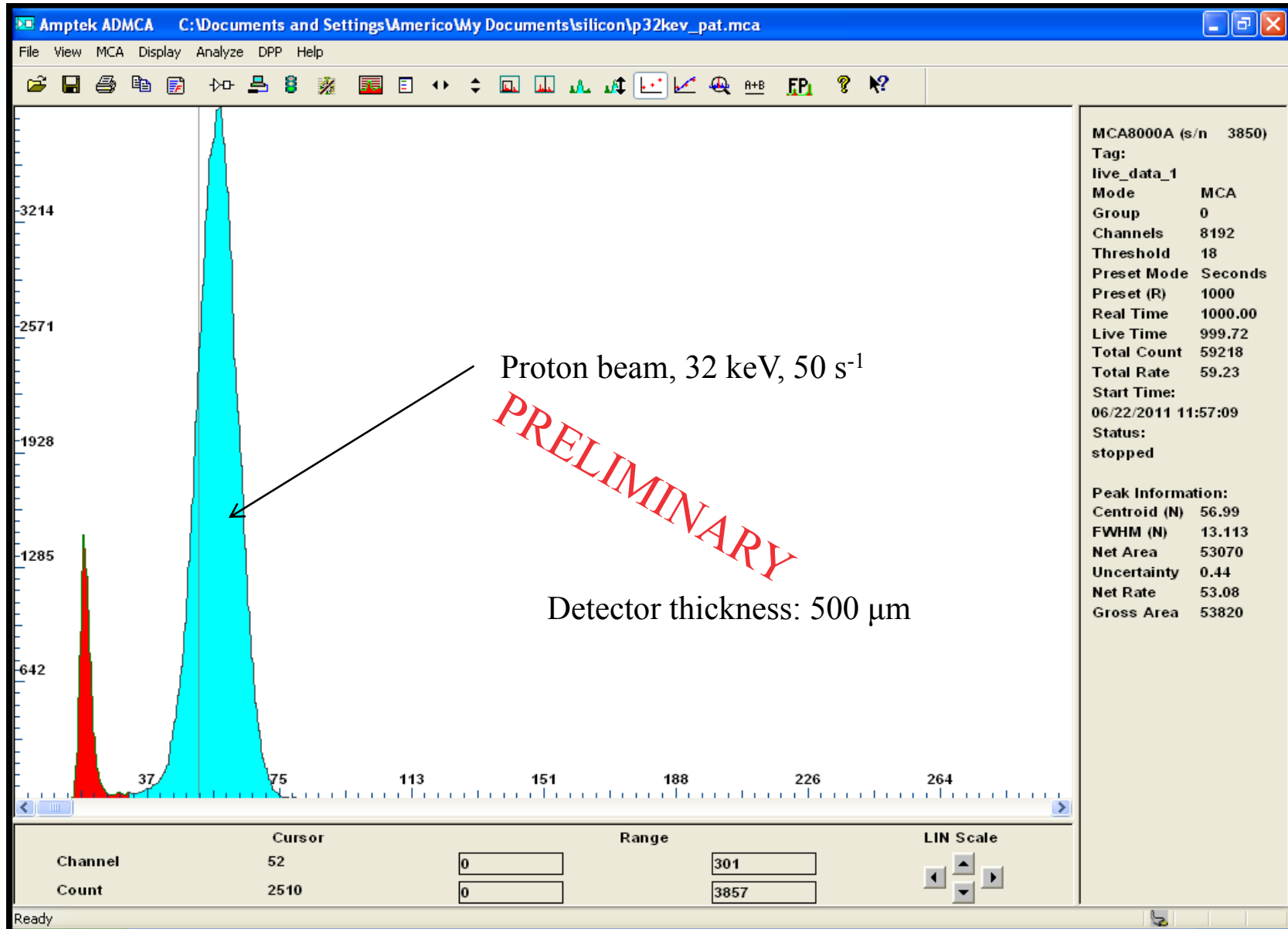


Back side

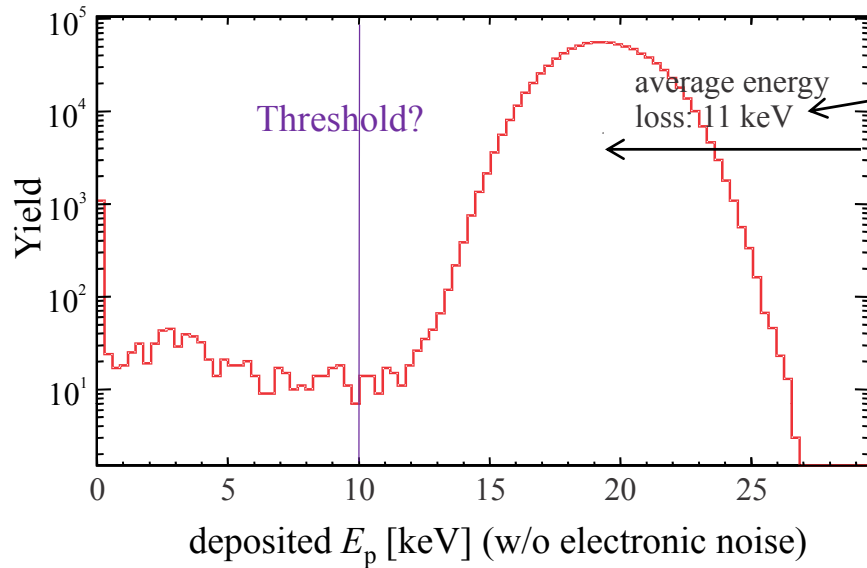
Segmented ion-implanted silicon detector with fast readout electronics:

- Thickness 2 mm (less for testing)
- Thin dead layer of < 100 nm silicon (measured!):
Energy loss for 30 keV protons: < 11 keV (measured!)
- 127 channels
Sufficiently small count rate/pixel,
Allows to find electron and correlated proton.

Detector properties: proton response



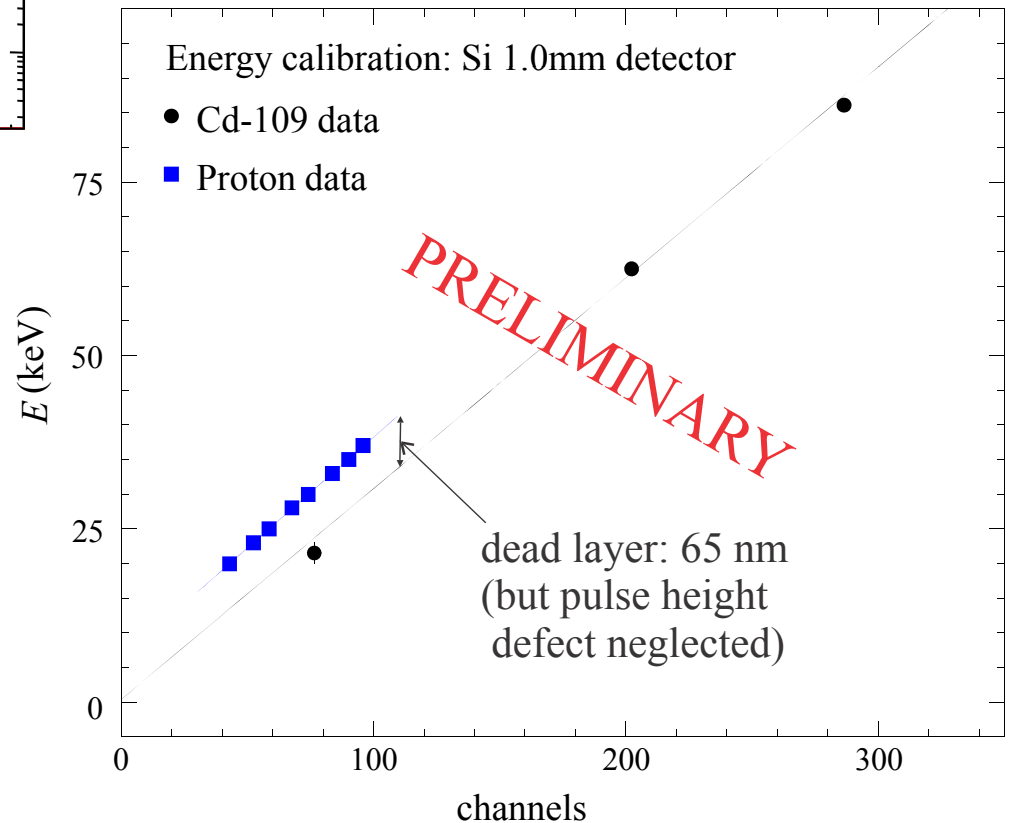
Detector properties: proton spectrum (II)



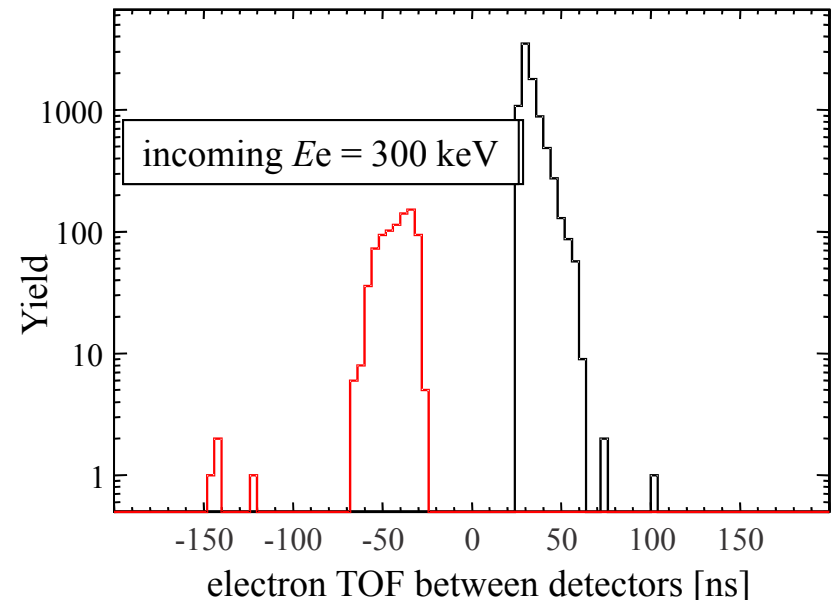
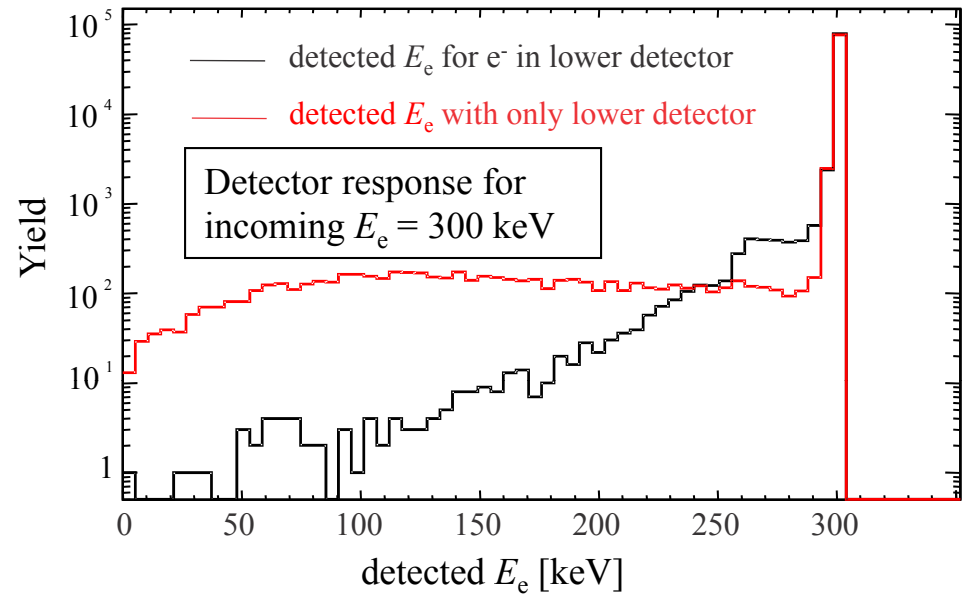
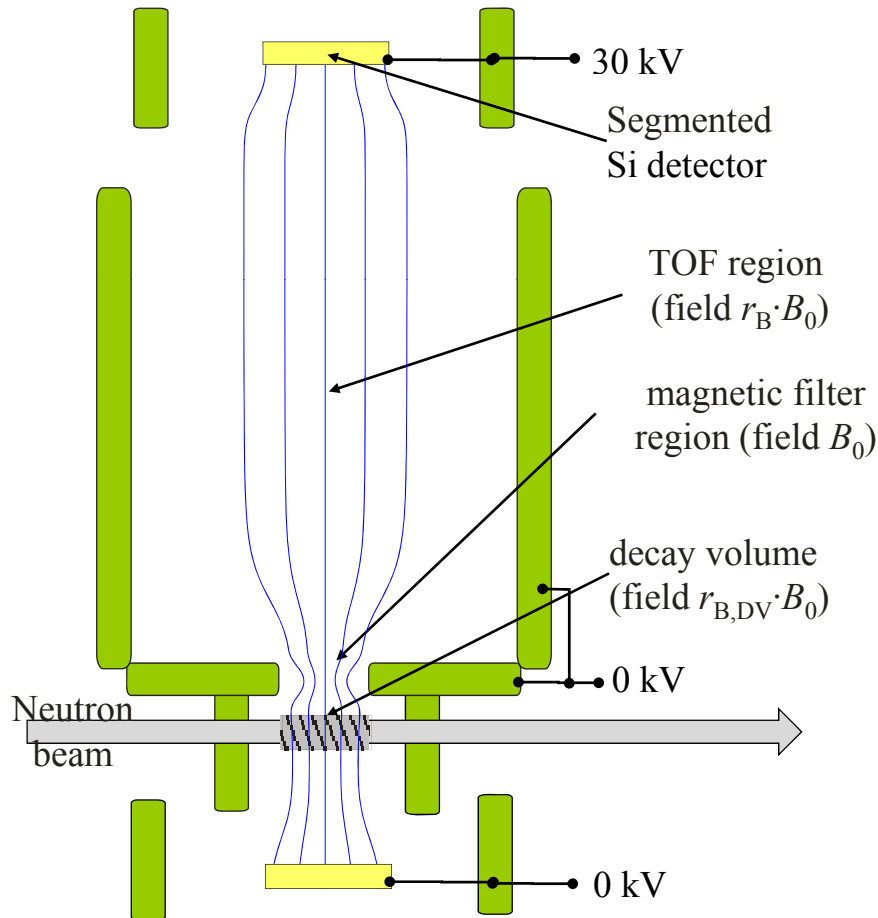
Worst case simulation
(dead layer: 100 nm Si)

Threshold	lost protons	efficiency slope
8 keV	0.19%	110(30) ppm/keV
10 keV	0.20%	131(31) ppm/keV
12 keV	0.21%	165(32) ppm/keV
14 keV	0.28%	304(76) ppm/keV

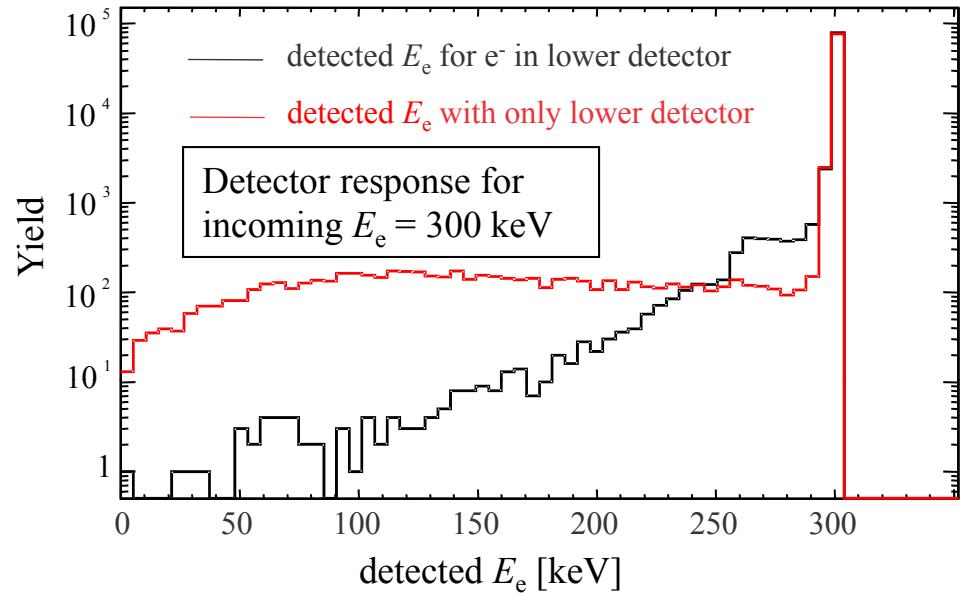
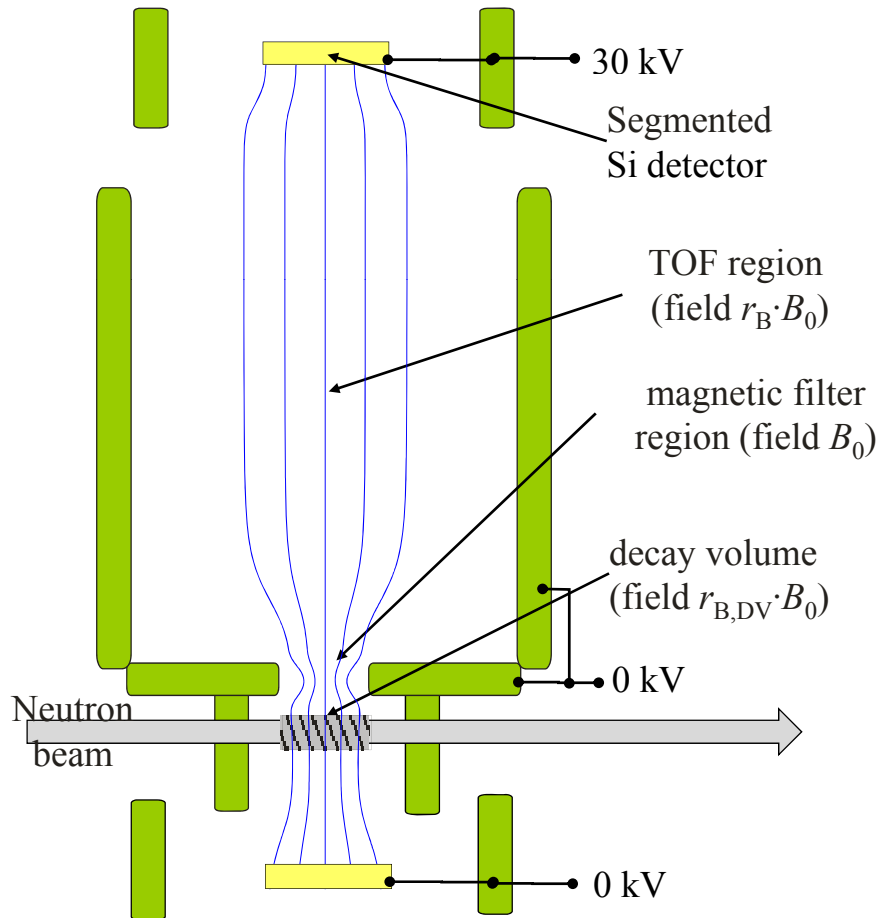
For uncertainty in a , we assume a threshold of 10 keV and direct measurement of efficiency slope to 50%.



Electron energy measurement with backscattering suppression

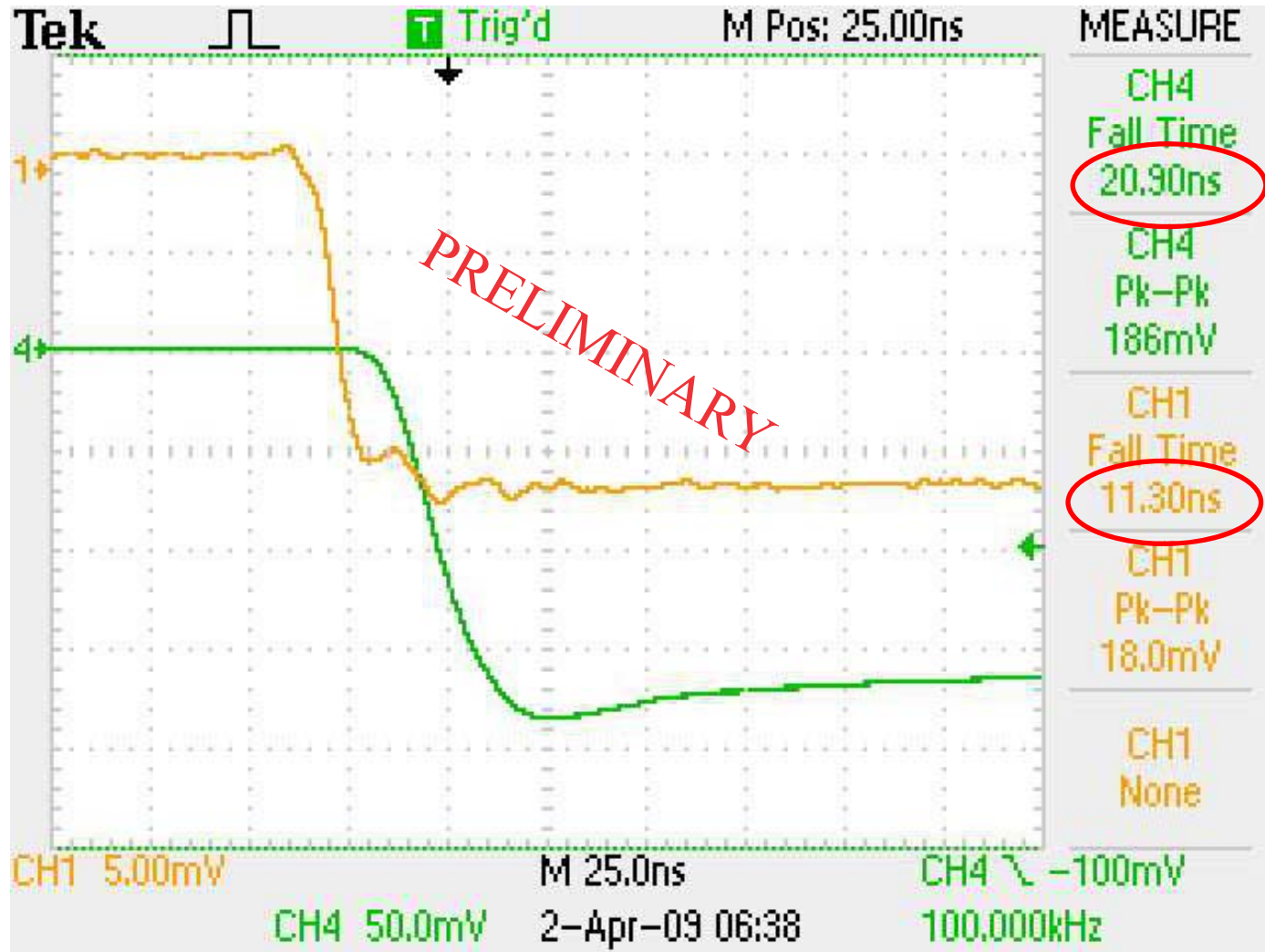


Electron energy measurement with backscattering suppression

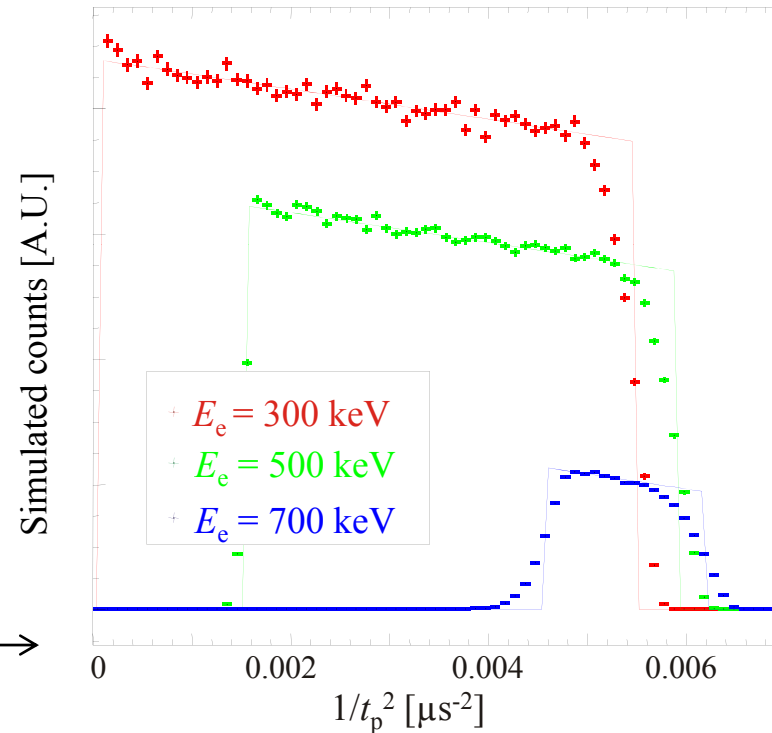
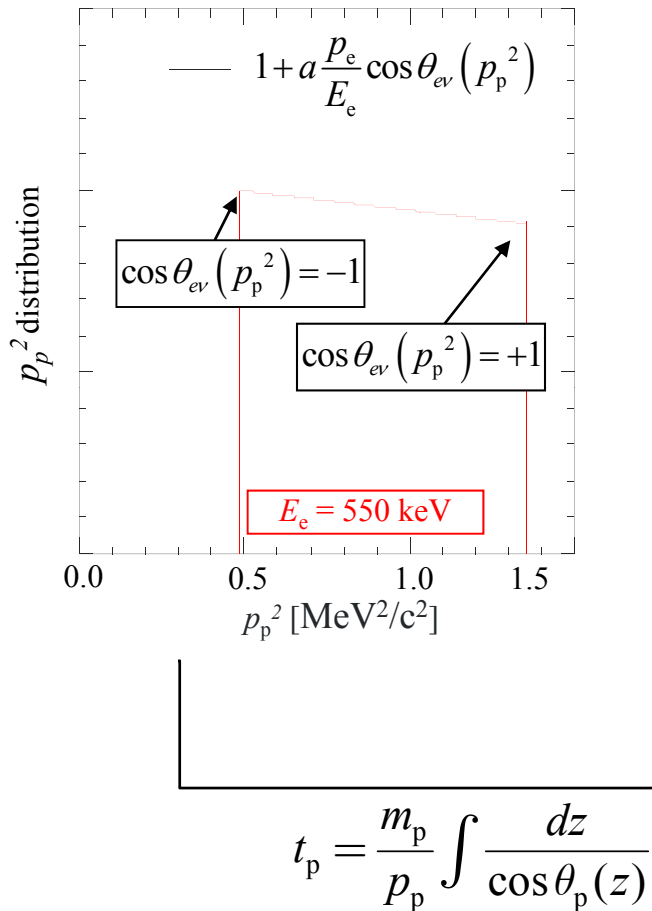


- Measurement of E_e (and t_p) for each event
- Backscattering suppression through adding energies of both detectors.
- Reconstructing of electron energy needs time resolution of < 20 ns

Detector properties: Speed



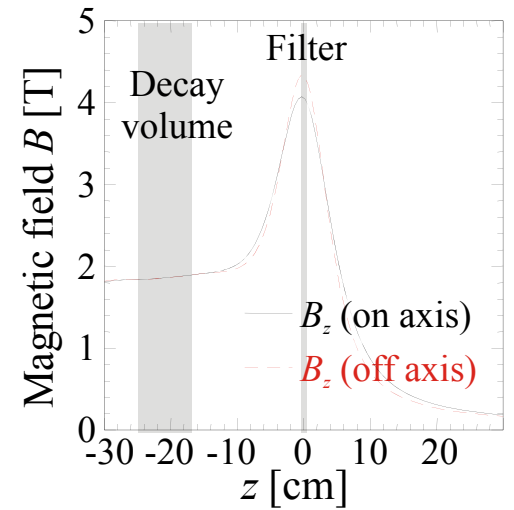
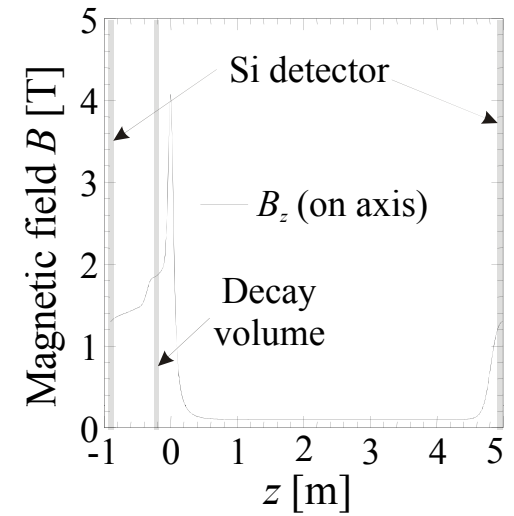
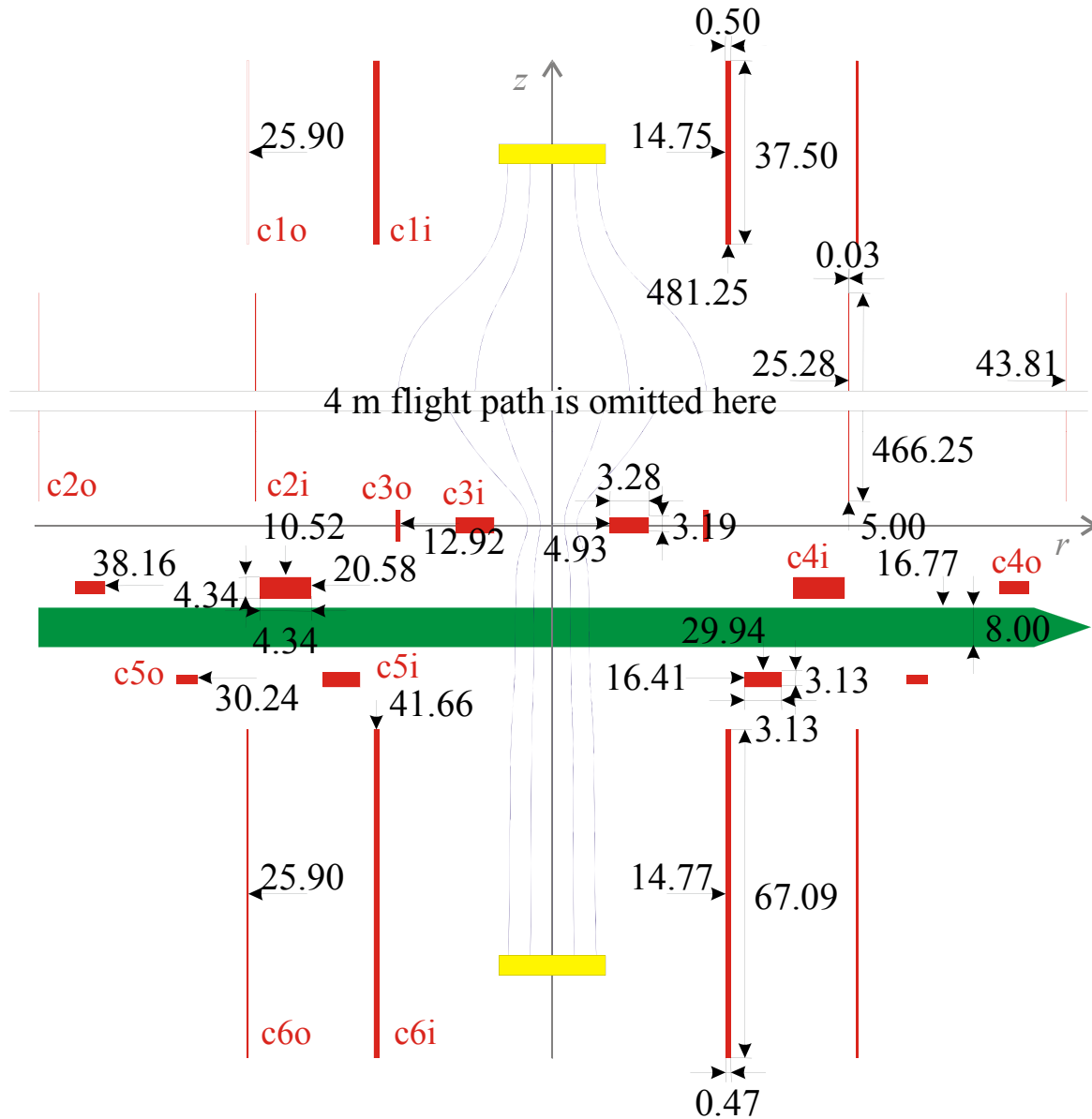
Extraction of a in Nab



Data analysis: Use **edge** to determine or verify the shape of the detection function.

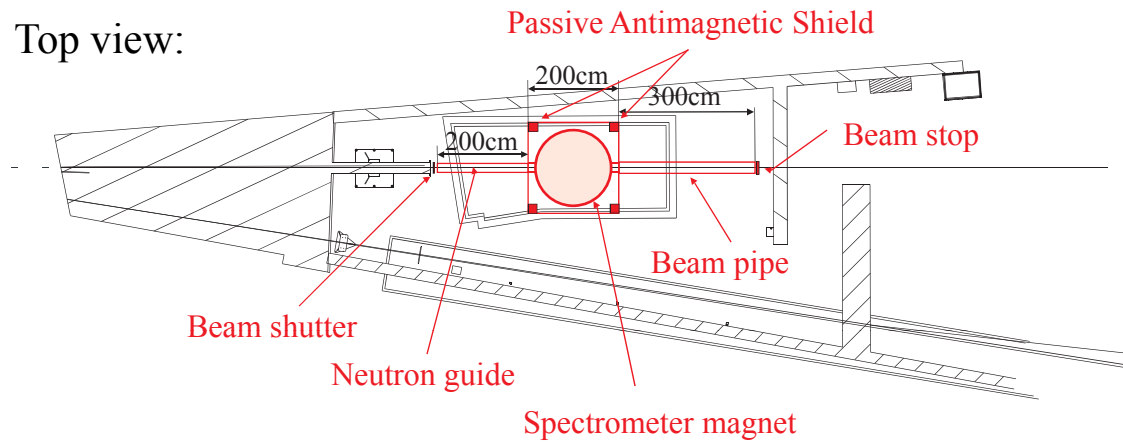
Then, use **central part** to determine slope and the correlation coefficient a .

Detailed spectrometer magnet design

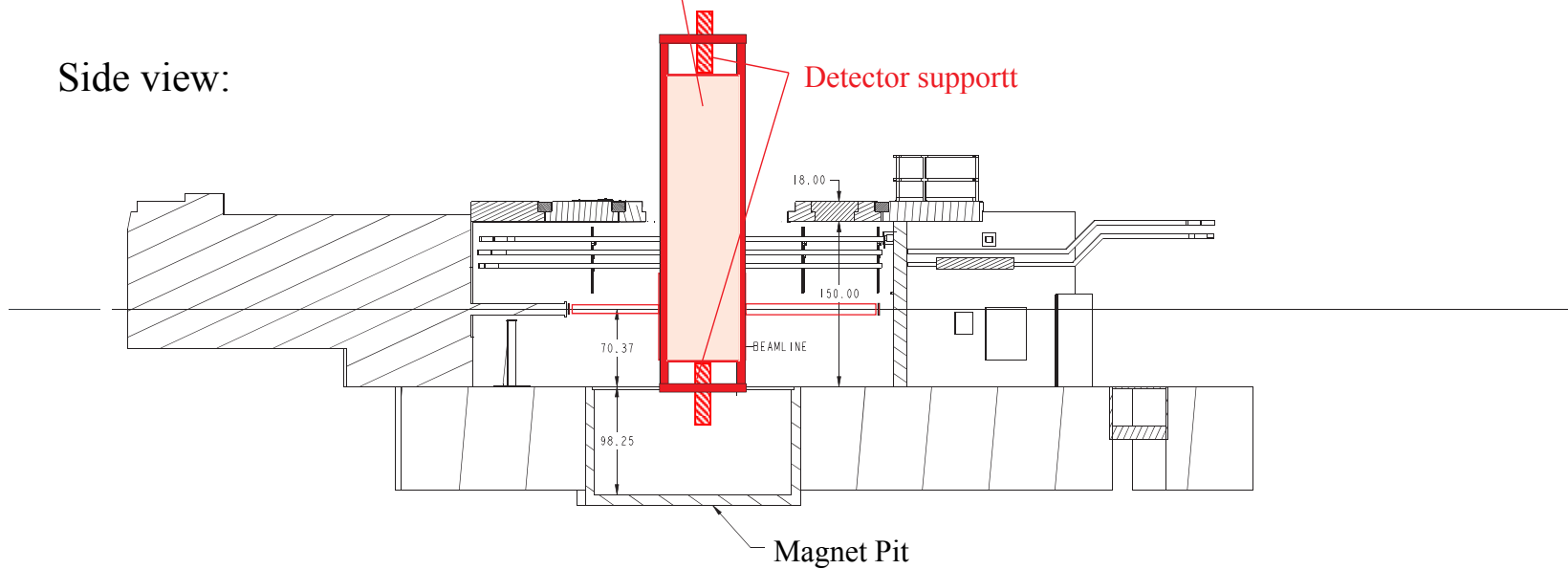


Nab setup, about to scale

Top view:

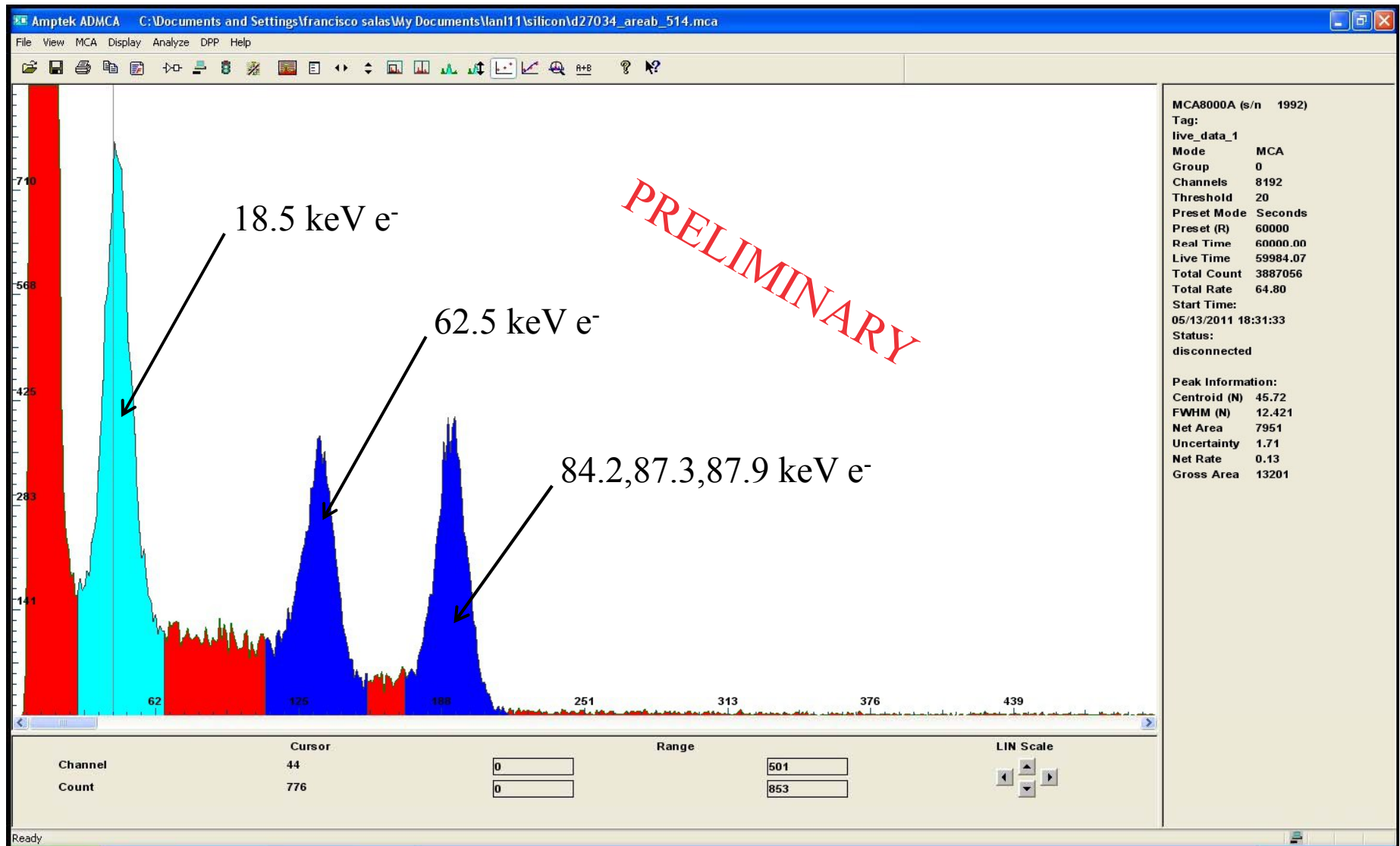


Side view:

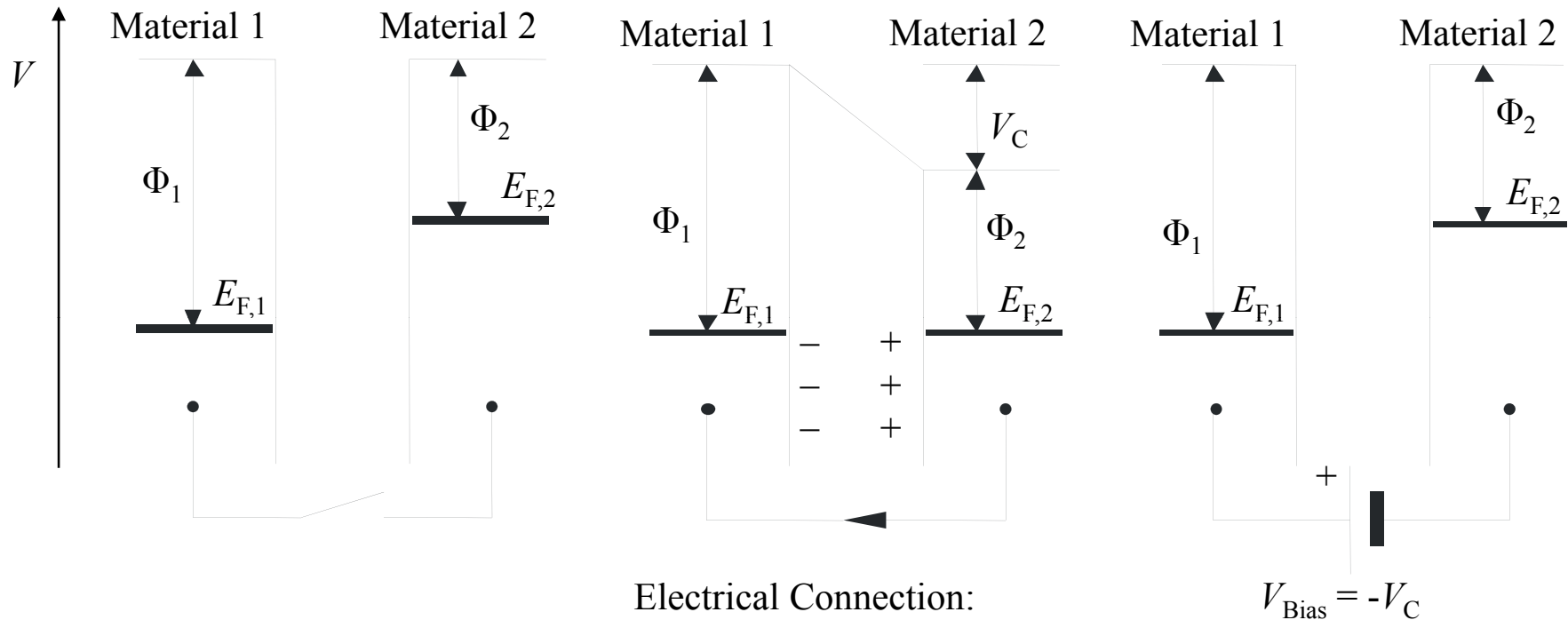


Prototype detector spectra

Source: Cd 109. Preamp: LANL homemade. Micron detector, thickness: 1.5 mm



Kelvin Probe: Tool to measure Work Functions



2 Materials with different work functions, isolated
 1st material: to be tested
 2nd material: tip with known work function

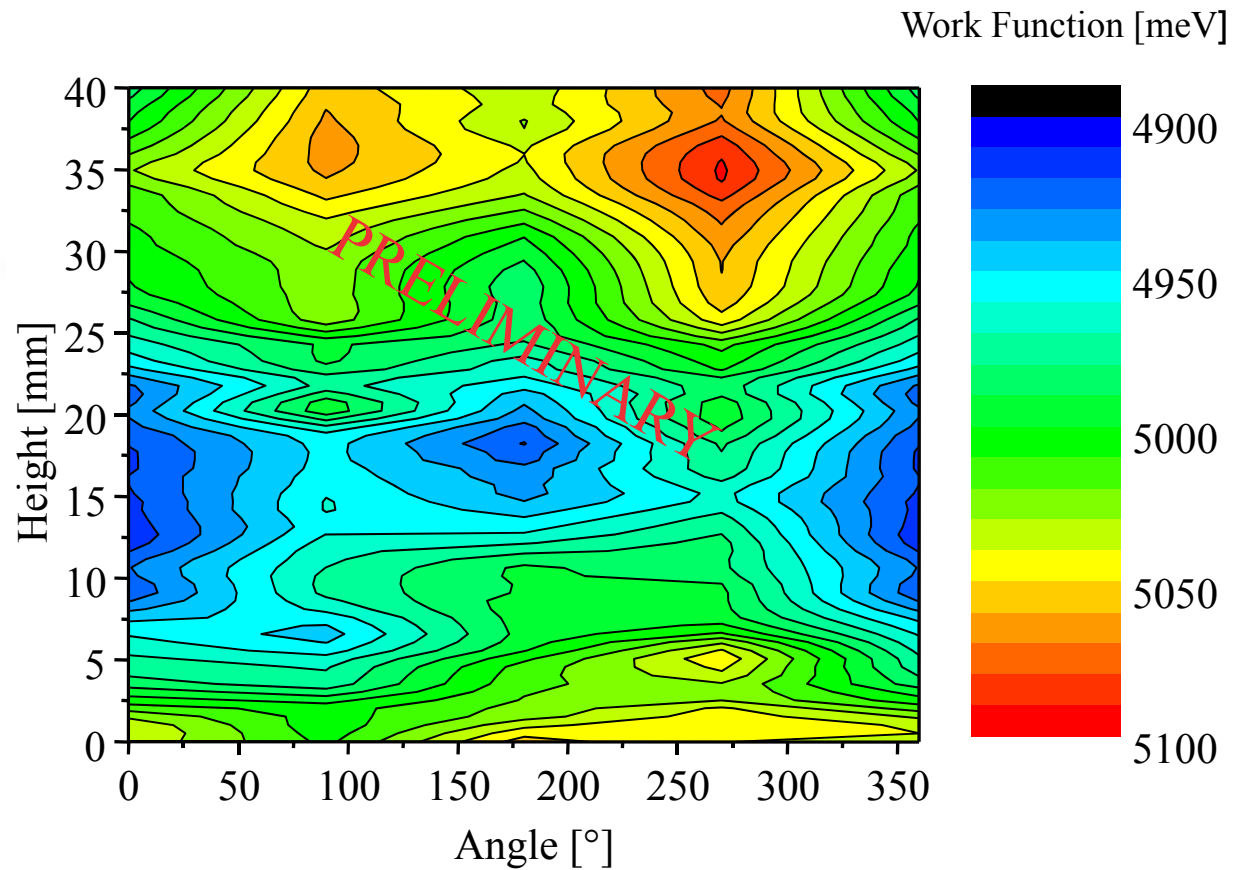
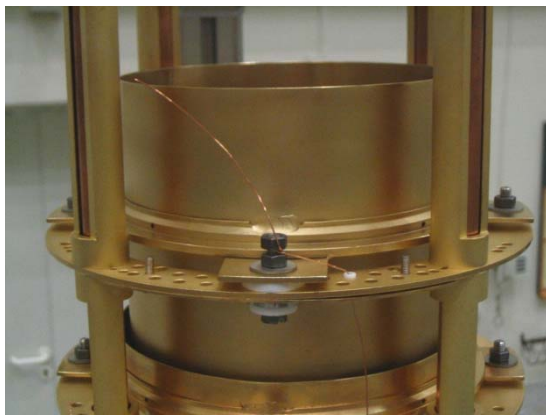
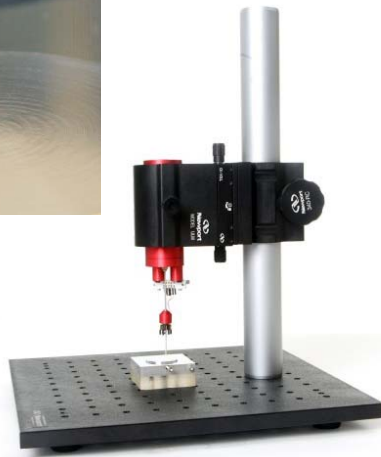
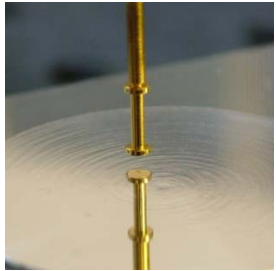
Electrical Connection:

- Charging, until Fermi levels are equal
- External electric field
- If Material 2 is moved: Capacitance changes, voltage is constant, therefore charge has to change (current)

Bias Voltage

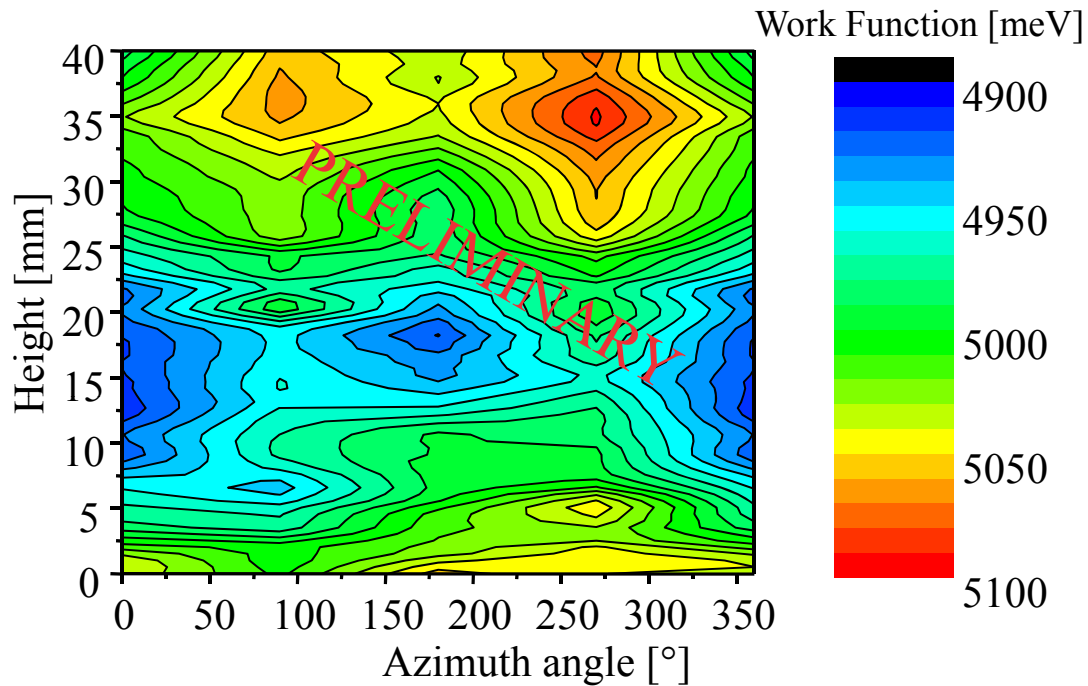
- Charge disappears, no external electric field
- No current if Material 2 is moved

Kelvin Probe: First results from early work on *a*SPECT

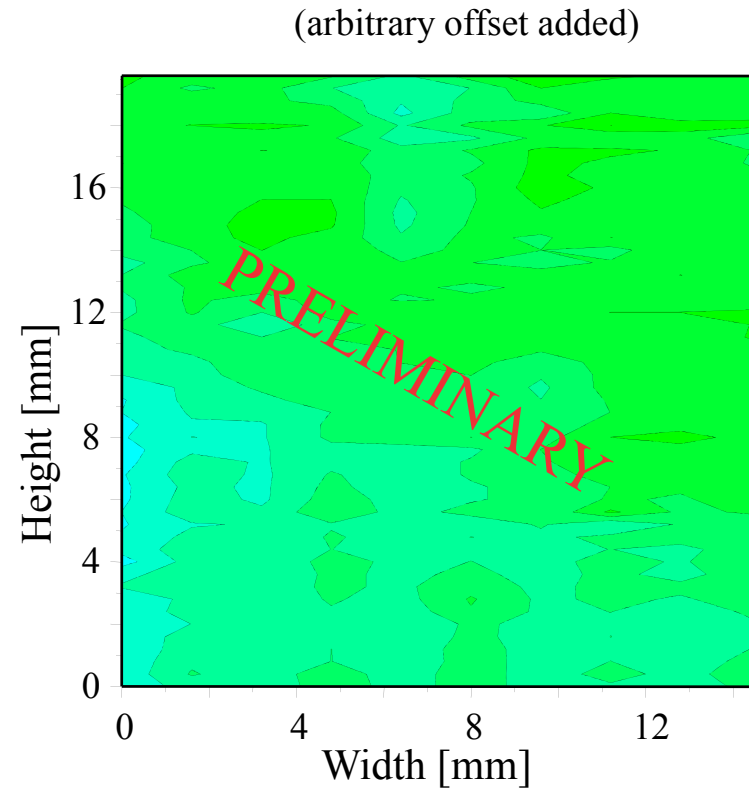


In collaboration with Prof. I. Baikie, KP Technologies

Now: Better coating



In collaboration with Prof. I. Baikie, KP Technologies



Thanks to:

Rachel Hodges (undergraduate research prize), Gertrud Konrad, Sean McGovern (Masters), Henry Bonner

Uncertainty budget

PLANNED statistical uncertainty budget:

lower E_c cutoff	none	100 keV	100 keV	300 keV
upper t_p cutoff	none	none	40 μ s	40 μ s
Δ_a	$2.4/\sqrt{N}$	$2.5/\sqrt{N}$	$2.5/\sqrt{N}$	$2.6/\sqrt{N}$
Δ_a (E_{cal} , l variable)	$2.5/\sqrt{N}$	$2.6/\sqrt{N}$	$2.7/\sqrt{N}$	$2.7/\sqrt{N}$
Δ_a (E_{cal} , l variable, inner 70% of data)	$4.1/\sqrt{N}$	$4.1/\sqrt{N}$	$4.1/\sqrt{N}$	$4.1/\sqrt{N}$

About 2×10^9 events can be detected in 6 weeks (Decay volume $V = 246 \text{ cm}^3$, decay density $n_d = 20 \text{ cm}^{-3}$, 12.7 % of decay protons go to upper detector, 80% duty factor)

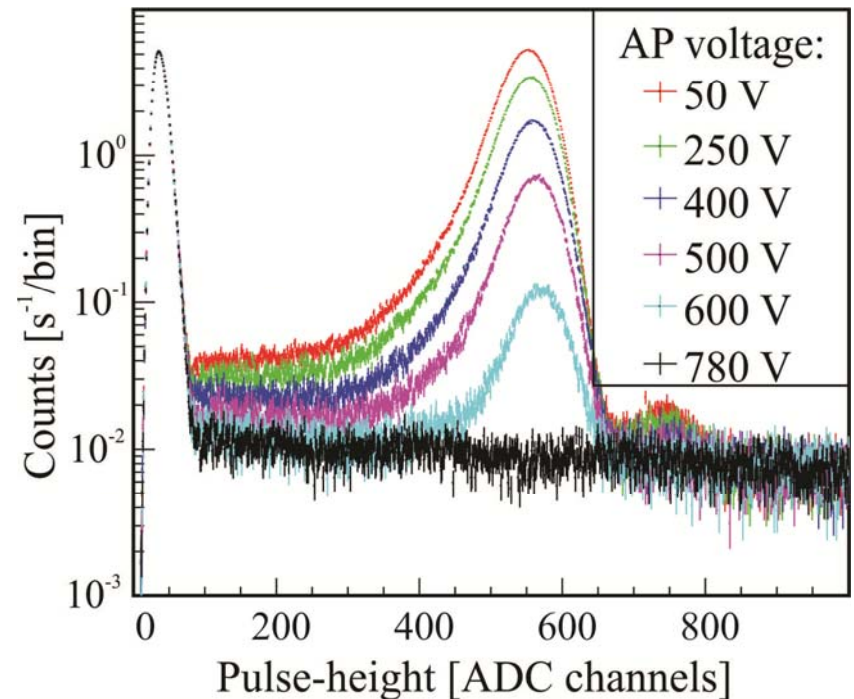
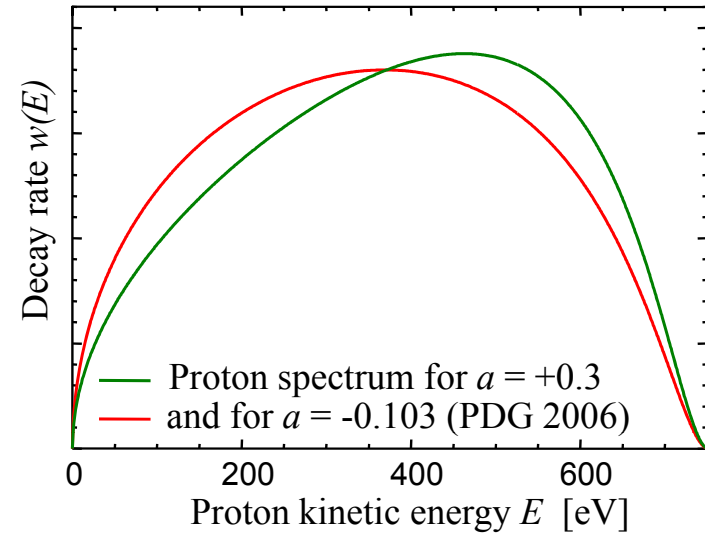
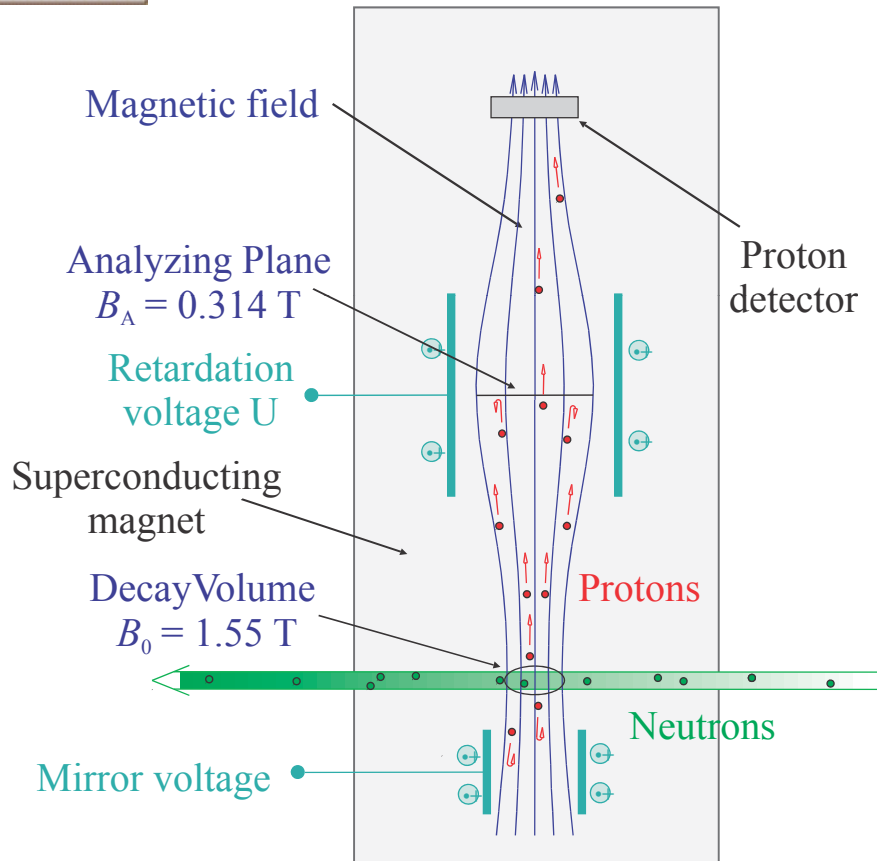
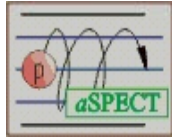
$\rightarrow (\Delta a/a)_{stat} < 1 \times 10^{-3}$ can be reached

Compare to $\Delta a/a = 5 \%$ of existing experimental results

PLANNED systematic uncertainty budget:

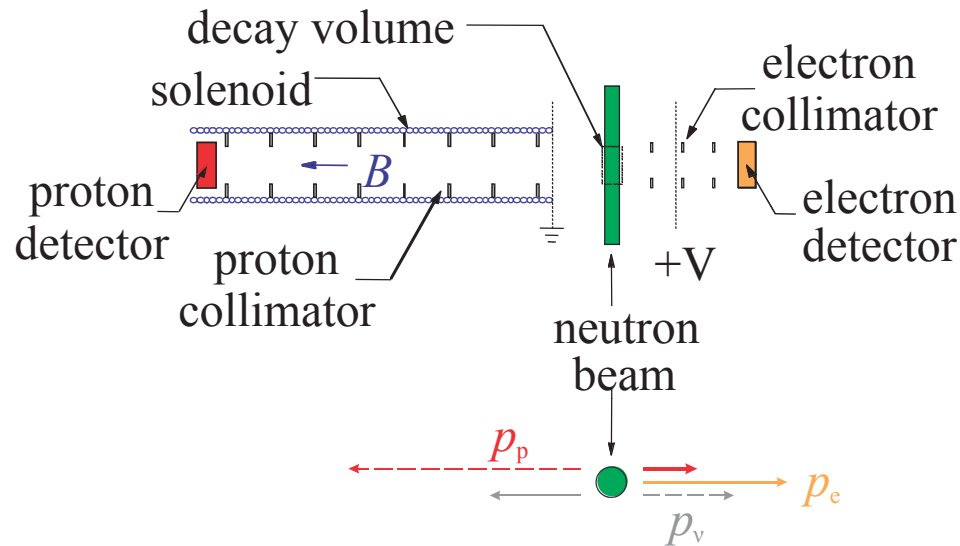
Experimental parameter	Systematic uncertainty $\Delta a/a$
Magnetic field	
... curvature at pinch	$5 \cdot 10^{-4}$
... ratio $r_B = B_{TOF}/B_0$	$2.5 \cdot 10^{-4}$
... ratio $r_{B,DV} = B_{DV}/B_0$	$3 \cdot 10^{-4}$
Length of the TOF region	(*)
Electrical potential inhomogeneity:	
... in decay volume / filter region	$5 \cdot 10^{-4}$
... in TOF region	$1 \cdot 10^{-4}$
Neutron Beam:	
... position	$4 \cdot 10^{-4}$
... profile (including edge effect)	$2.5 \cdot 10^{-4}$
... Doppler effect	small
Unwanted beam polarization	can be made small
Adiabaticity of proton motion	$1 \cdot 10^{-4}$
Detector effects:	
... Electron energy calibration	(*)
... Electron energy resolution	$5 \cdot 10^{-4}$
... Proton trigger efficiency	$2.5 \cdot 10^{-4}$
Residual gas	small
Background	small
Accidental coincidences	small
Sum	$1 \cdot 10^{-3}$

Other ongoing experiments: *a*SPECT



Leading uncertainty probably trapped particle background, $(\Delta a/a)_{\text{background}} = 0.61\%$

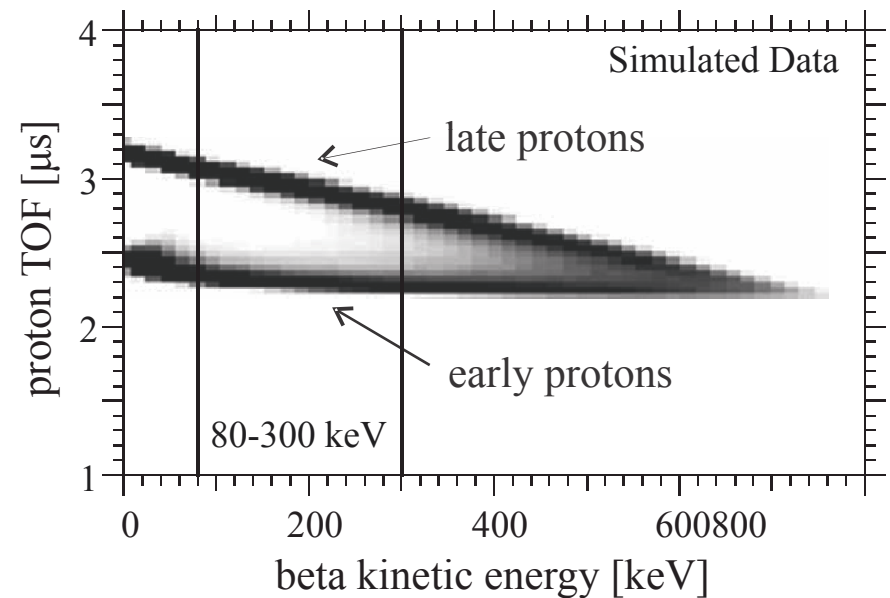
Other ongoing experiments: *a*CORN @ NIST



Expected total uncertainty of $\Delta a/a \sim 1\%$

(limited by systematics)

- only part of the available neutron decays used
- I find it hard to determine the acceptance precisely

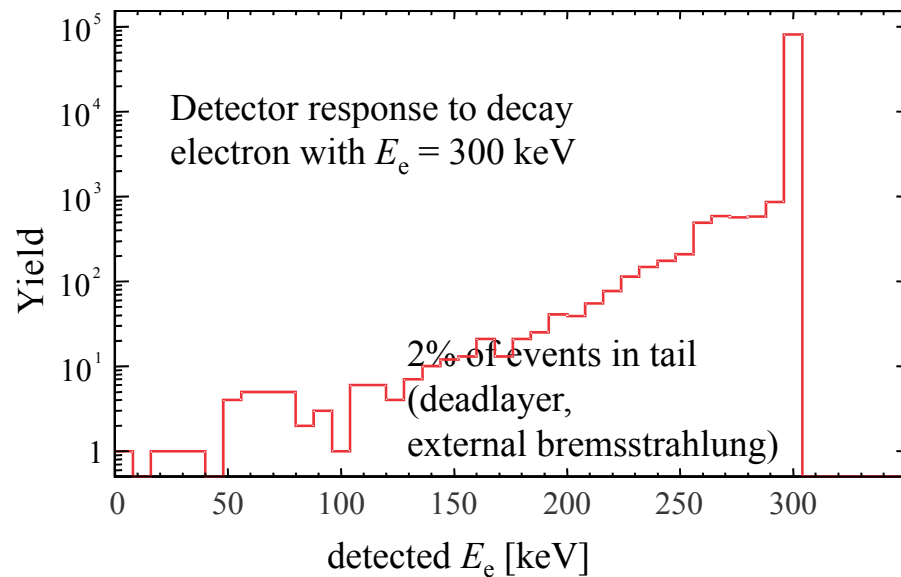


The determination of the Fierz Interference term

$$dw \propto \rho(E_e) \cdot (1 + 3|\lambda|^2) \cdot \left\{ 1 + b \frac{m_e}{E_e} \right\}$$

Systematic uncertainties:

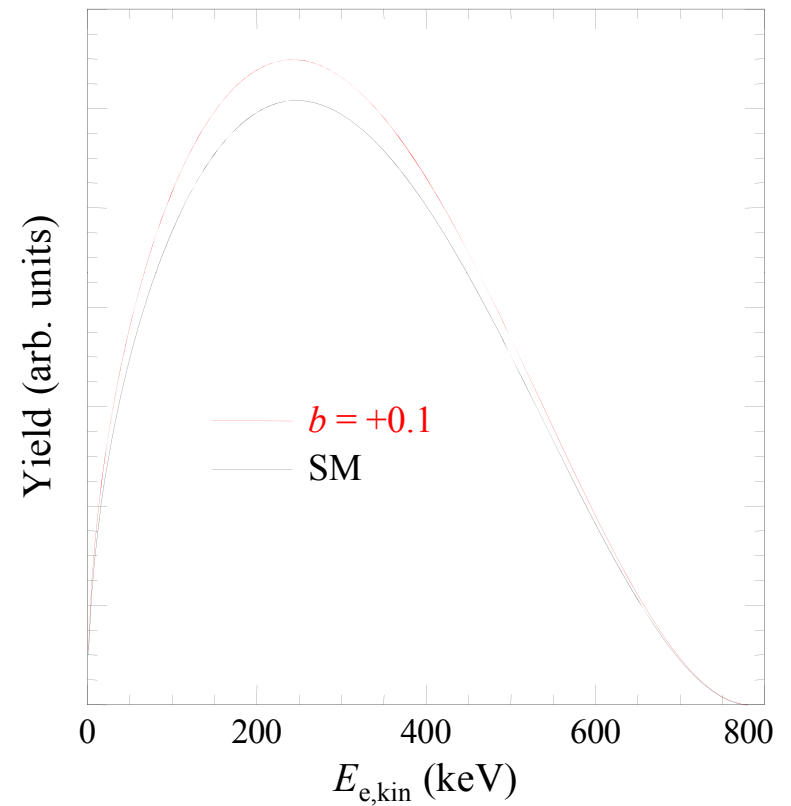
1. Electron energy determination



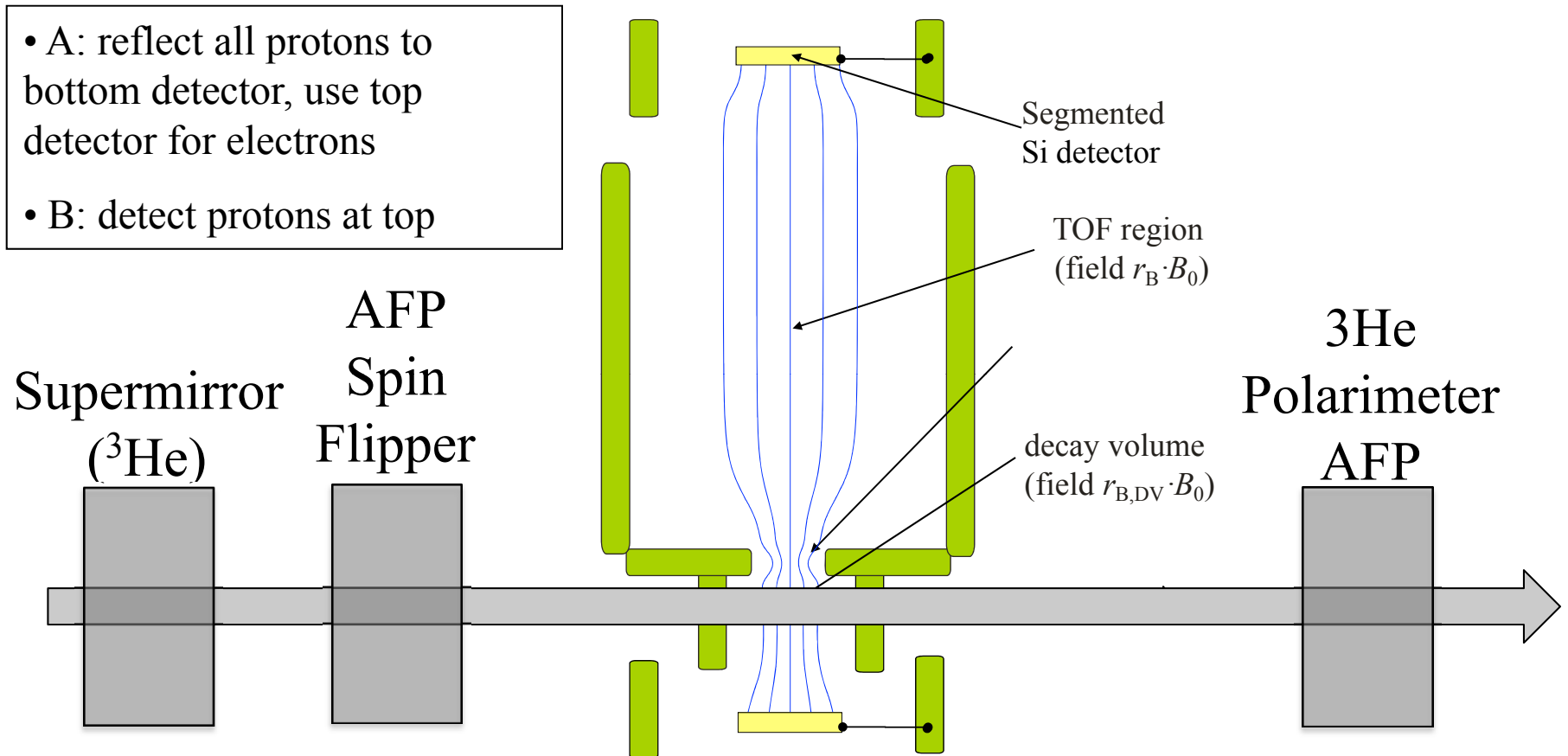
2. Background

$\Delta b \sim 3 \times 10^{-3}$ can be reached (systematics limited)

Electron spectrum:



A/B at SNS or NIST: abBA / Nab / PANDA



- Main uncertainties in PERKEO II: statistics, detector, polarization, background
- Superior detector energy resolution, good enough time resolution
- Keep coincidences to improve background
- Asymmetric detector: Filter improves on systematics; statistics @ SNS is an issue for A
- Polarization measurement seems manageable (XSM or He-3)

Uncertainty budget for A

PLANNED statistical uncertainty budget:

lower E_c cutoff	none	100 keV	200 keV	250 keV
Δ_A	$4.3/\sqrt{N}$	$4.8/\sqrt{N}$	$7/8/\sqrt{N}$	$11.9/\sqrt{N}$

N_d is the number of decays. Only 13% are detected, due to asymmetric configuration.

$N_d = 2 \times 10^9$ decay events (40 live days at SNS)
 $\rightarrow (\Delta A/A)_{\text{stat}} = 1 \times 10^{-3}$ can be reached

Possible improvements:

- He3?
- NIST NG-C?

PLANNED systematic uncertainty budget:

Experimental parameter	Systematic uncertainty $\Delta A/A$
Electrical potential inhomogeneity:	Relevant only for B/C
Neutron Beam:	
... position	irrelevant
... profile (including edge effect)	small
... Doppler effect	small
... Beam polarization	$< 10^{-3}$
Detector effects:	
... Electron energy calibration	$2 \cdot 10^{-4}$
... Electron energy resolution	small
Residual gas	small
Background	small
Sum	TBD

Our goal is a total uncertainty of $\Delta A/A = 10^{-3}$ or better (same for B/C, not discussed)

Competition:

- UCNA: Goal $\Delta A/A = 2 \cdot 10^{-3}$ (A. Young, NSAC), check of cold beam experiments
- UCNB: Goal $\Delta B/B = 10^{-3}$, but electric potential homogeneities have to be $\Delta U < 0.3$ mV
- PERC: Goal $\Delta A/A = 3 \cdot 10^{-4}$

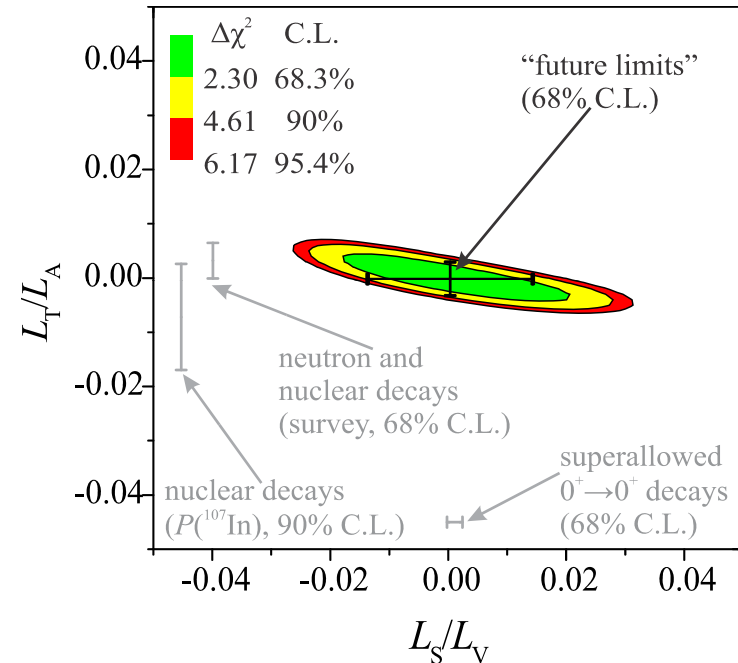
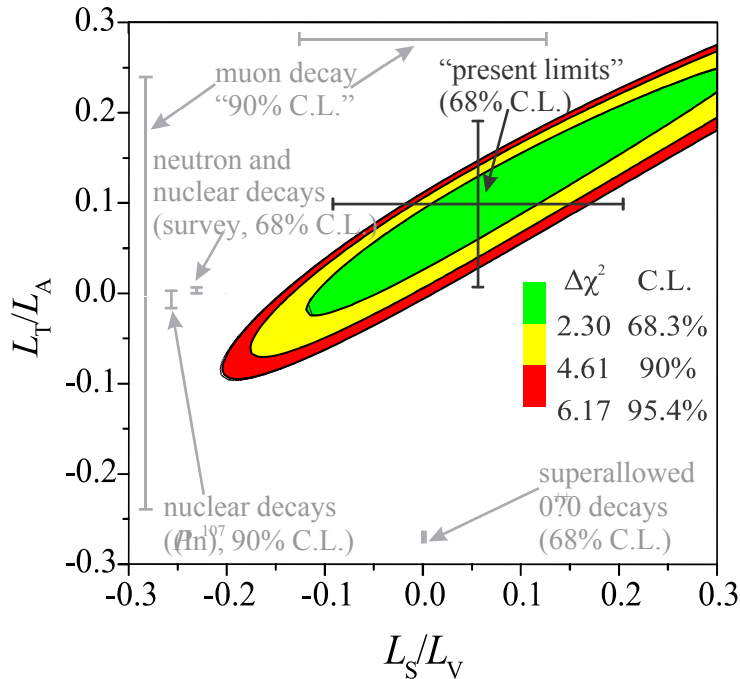
Time schedule

As presented at NSAC meeting,
 assuming **NO** major technical or funding delays

2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
design							
	Procurement, fabrication, optimization						
			installation and data taking				
						switc hover	
						data taking	
Nab						abBA / PANDA	

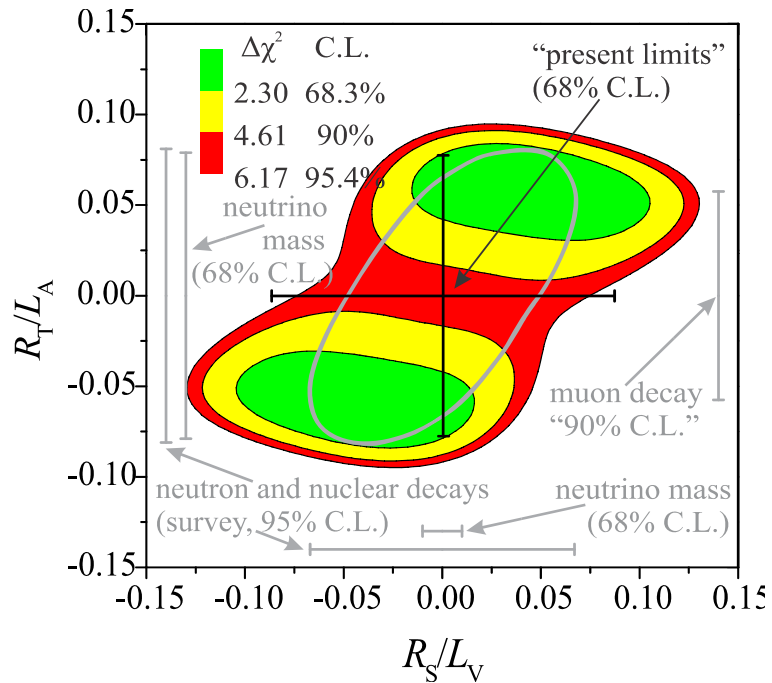
The experiment might move to NIST NG-C, probably for the polarized program.

Sensitivity to left-handed S-T couplings

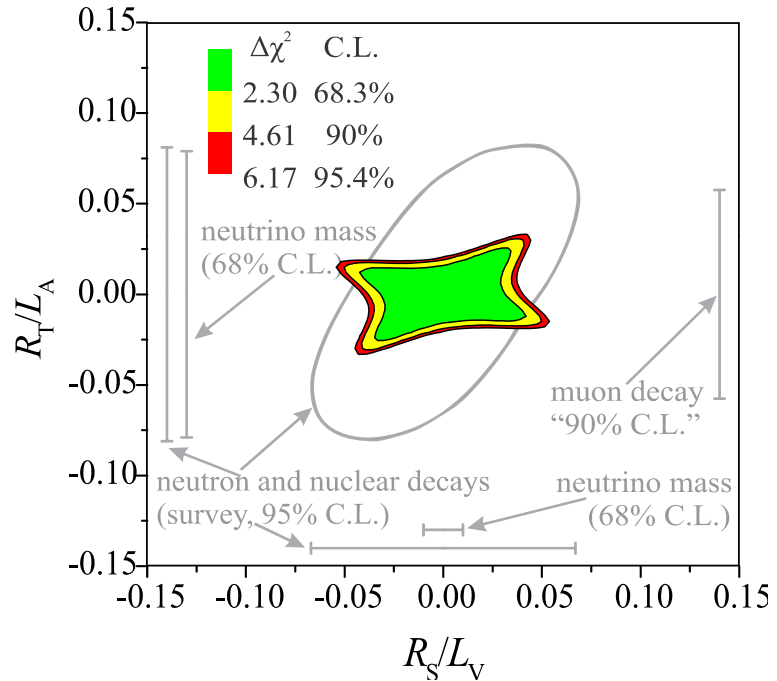


Model-dependent predictions: Supersymmetry, leptoquarks, ...

Sensitivity to right-handed S-T couplings



Present limits (n decay data)
SM is in the origin of this plot



Future limits,
assuming $a = -0.1059(1)$, $A = -0.1186(1)$,
 $B = 0.9807(30)$, $C = -0.23785(24)$, $\tau_n = 882.2(13)$ s

The Nab collaboration

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Tasks of UVa group: Spectrometer design, Superconducting magnet, Proton source

Summary

- Precise and reliable results from neutron physics are preferred to extract information about the Standard Model without nuclear structure uncertainties
- Main difference to European effort (PERKEO II/III, *a*SPECT, PERC): less count rate, e⁻-p coincidences
- Status of Nab spectrometer: Funding application at DOE to perform Nab at the FNPB beamline at the SNS. Second funding application to NSF (MRI)
- Experiment is received (preliminary) endorsement of NSAC last week (rank 4 out of 5 out of 15)

Thank you for your interest !!