

Guide-coating facility for the TUCAN EDM experiment

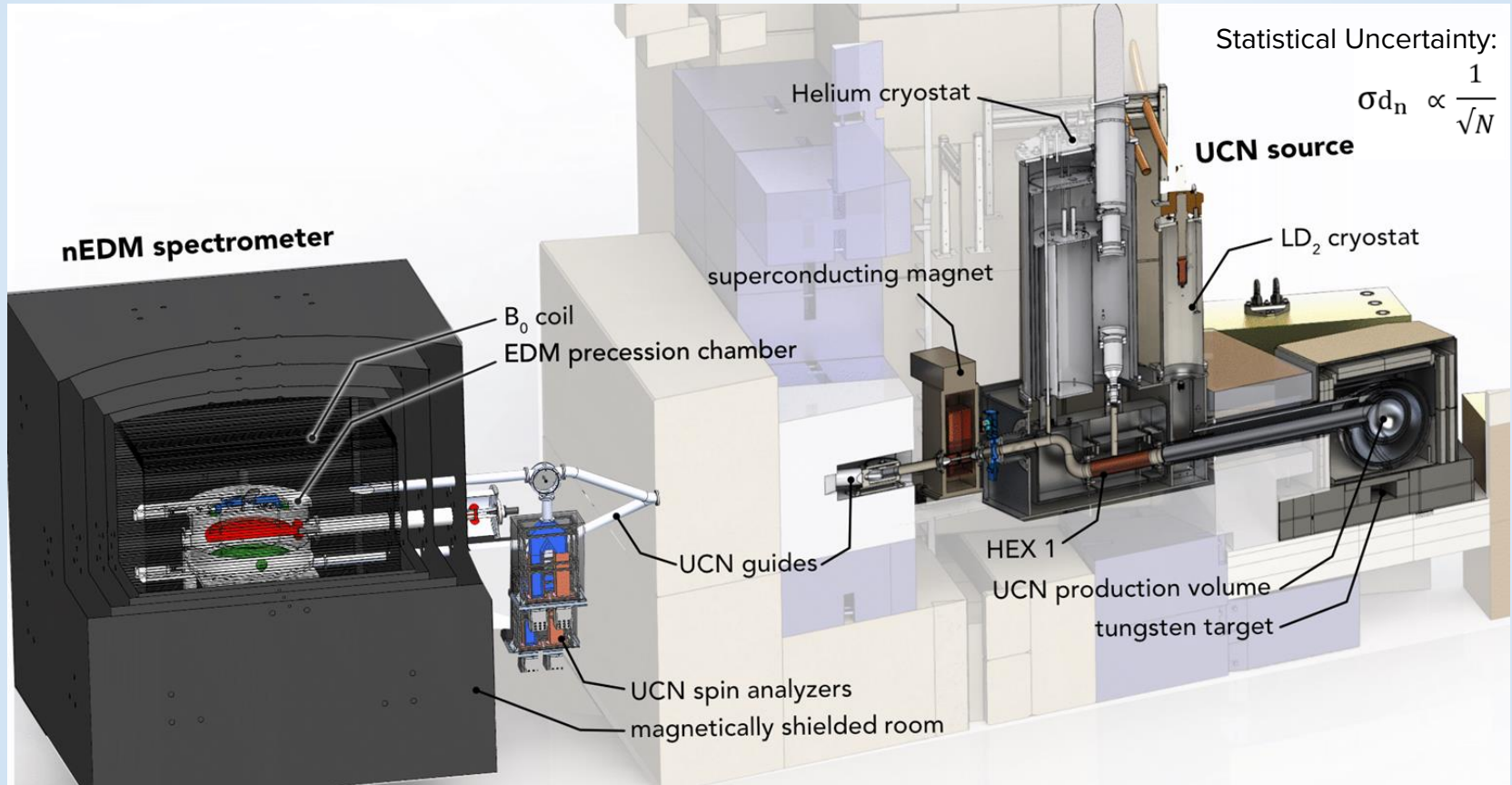
2024 Canadian Association of Physicists Congress

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TUCAN EDM experiment

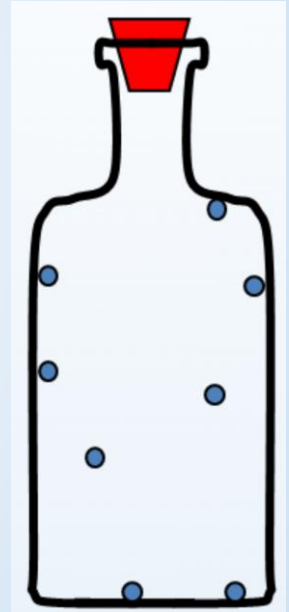


Ultracold Neutrons (UCN)

Neutrons that are moving so slowly that they bounce off surfaces and can be bottled.

Ultracold neutrons (UCNs) have very low energies, below 300 neV. At such low energies, they are affected by magnetic, gravitational, and material potentials—strong force, that can be achieved in a laboratory environment.

- $v < 8 \text{ m/s} = 30 \text{ km/h}$
- $T < 4 \text{ mK} (-273.15 \text{ }^\circ\text{C})$
- $\text{K.E.} < 300 \text{ neV}$



Graph of loss per bounce versus fermi potential

Fermi (Material) Potential

$$V = \frac{2\pi\hbar^2}{m} Nb$$

$$\text{UCN flux} \propto (V)^{3/2}$$

where,

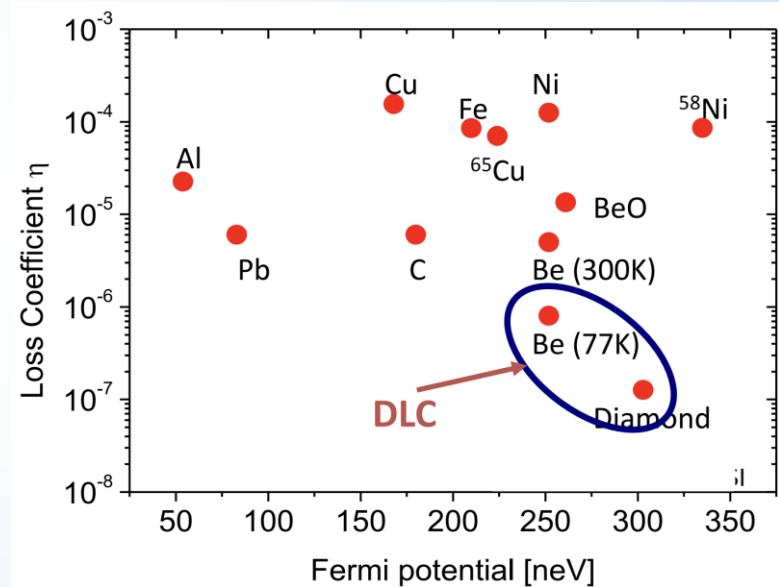
V- Fermi potential

m- mass of the neutron

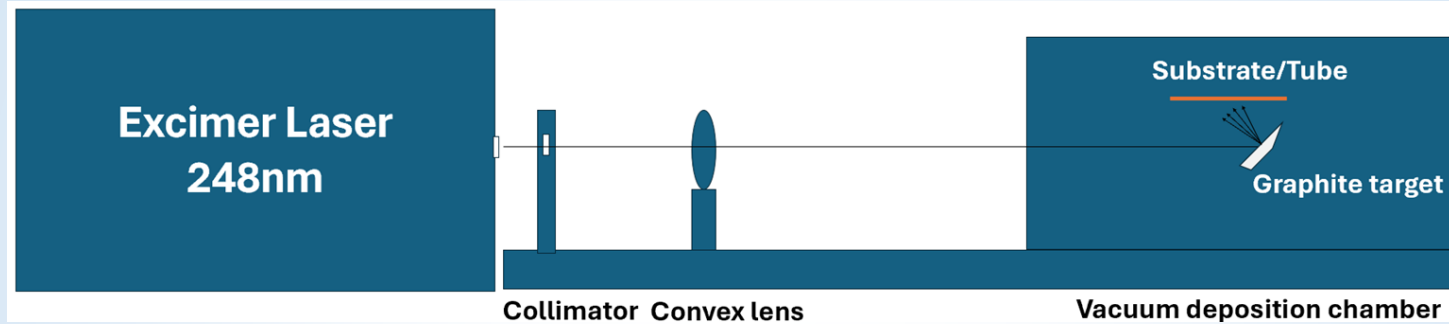
N- No. density of nuclei of material (no. of nuclei/unit vol.)

b- scattering length (strength of interaction between neutron & material nuclei)

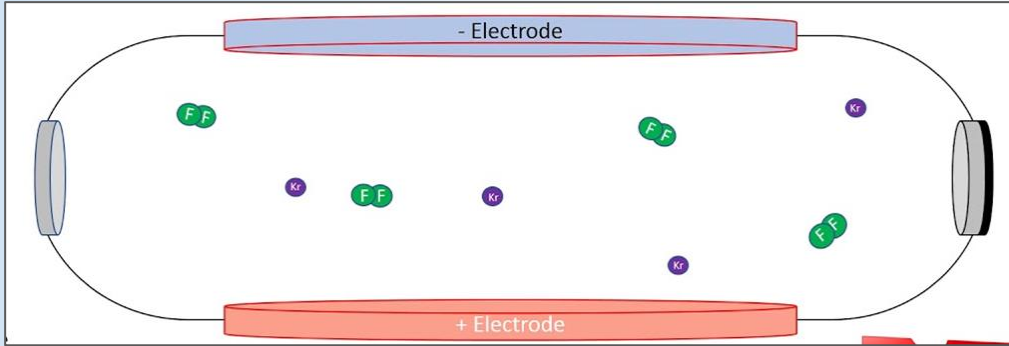
UCN flux- No. of UCNs/unit area/unit time



Pulsed Laser Deposition Facility at University of Winnipeg



Excimer laser 248nm



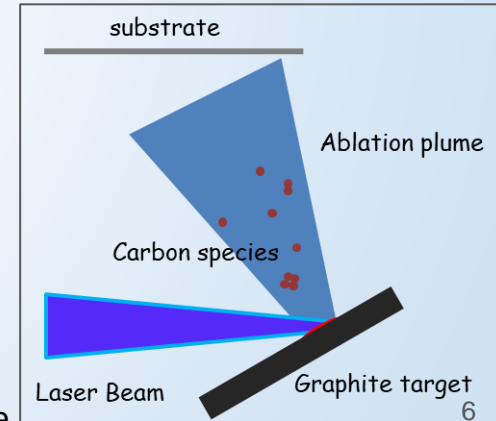
-HV discharge creates meta_stable KrF dimer.

-A KrF dimer relaxes, emitting a UV photon which stimulates the other dimers to emit a UV photon too.

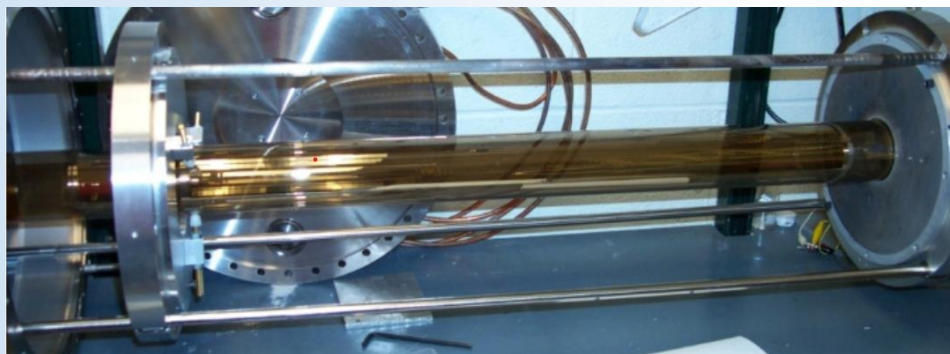
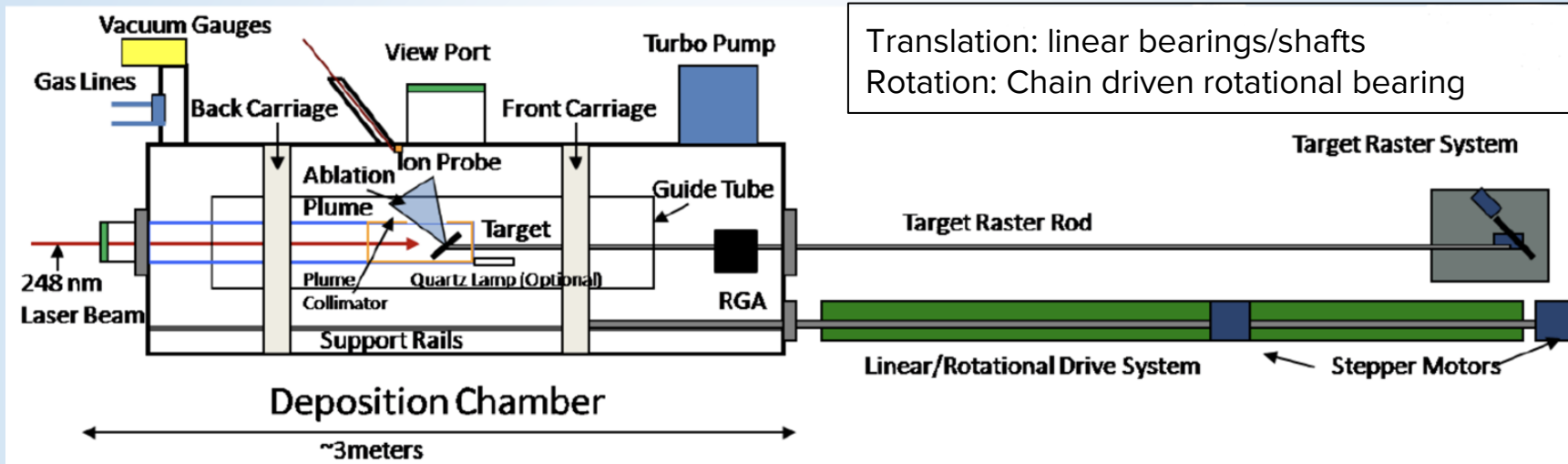
-Produces ~1J/pulse of 248 nm light.



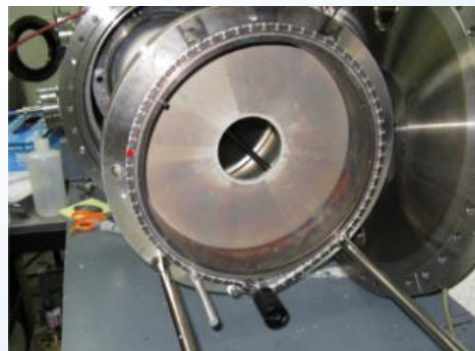
Real carbon plasma plume



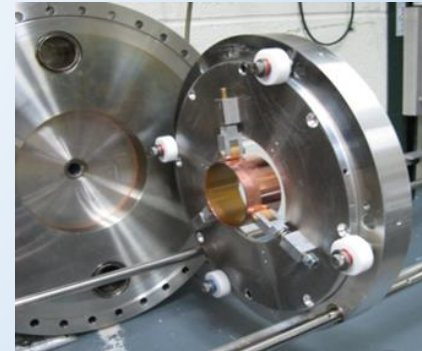
Tube coating chamber



Carriage system



Front carriage



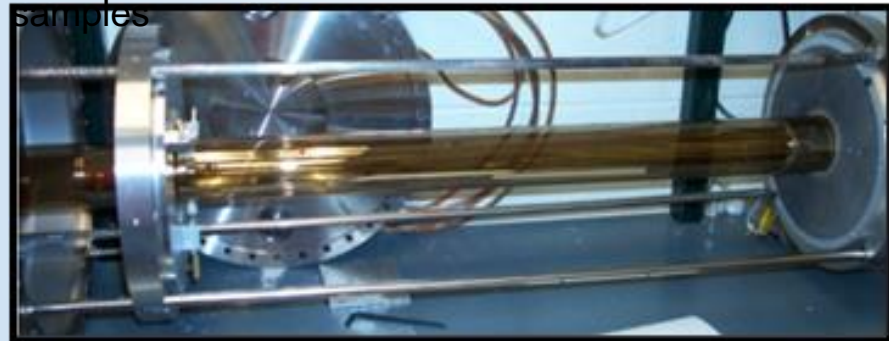
Back carriage

Some DLC coated samples

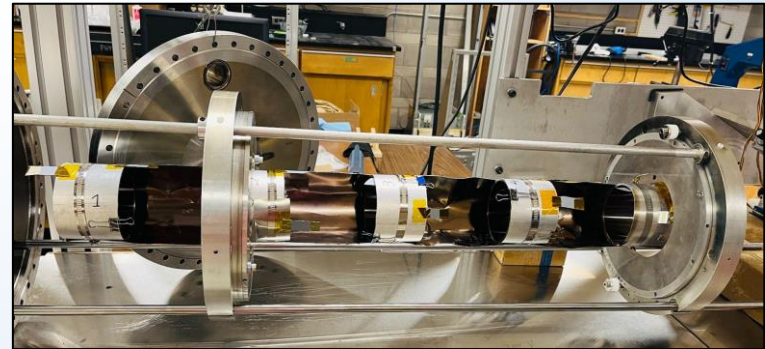


Aluminum (left) and Copper (right) DLC-coated samples

Various parts that can be coated:	
Tubes	~1"-9" inner diameters/ ~1m long
Rods	¼ and ½" outer diameters/ ~1m long
Plates	~5" discs to (30" dia. a year from now)

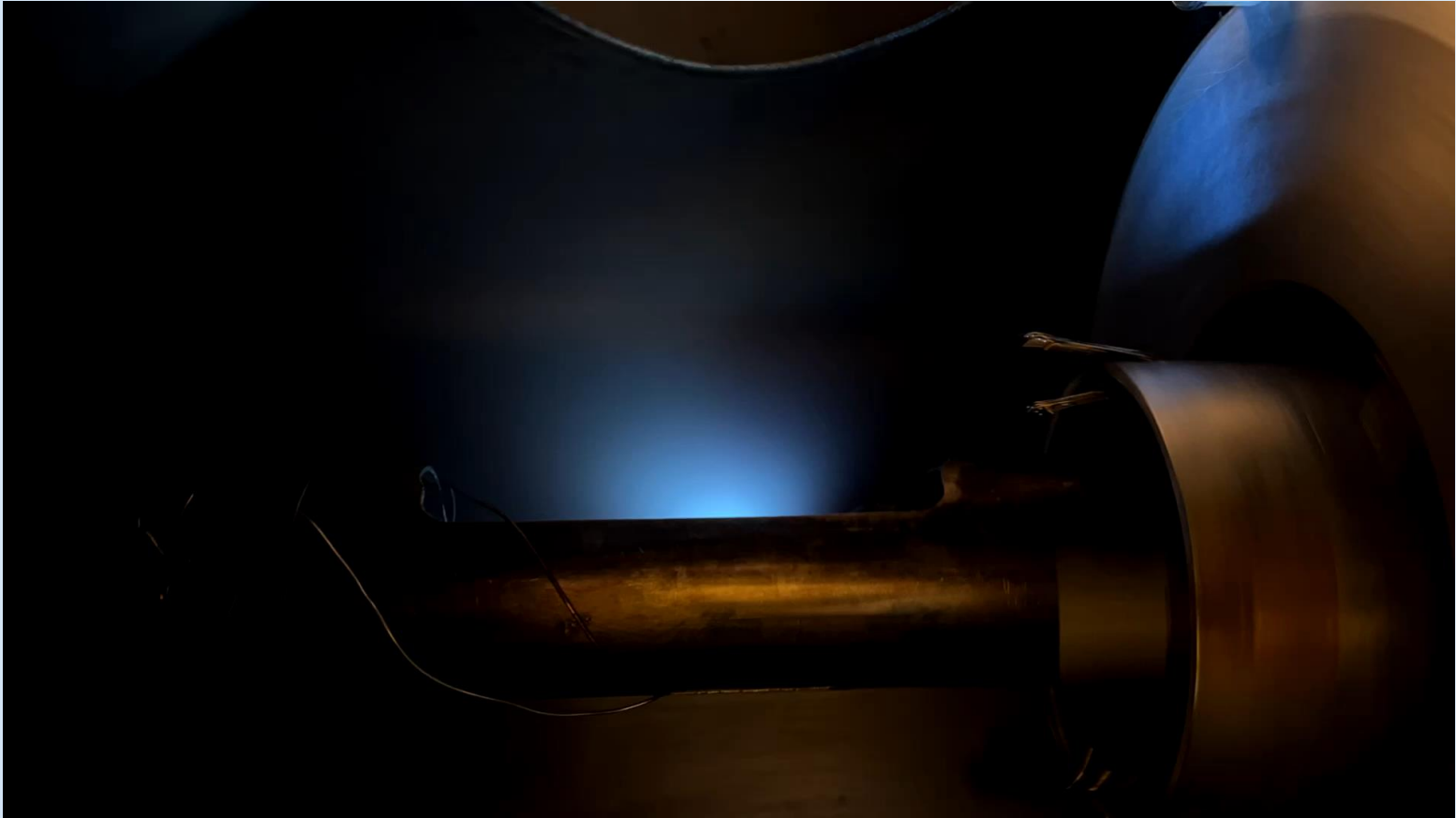


1 m long DLC coated quartz tube



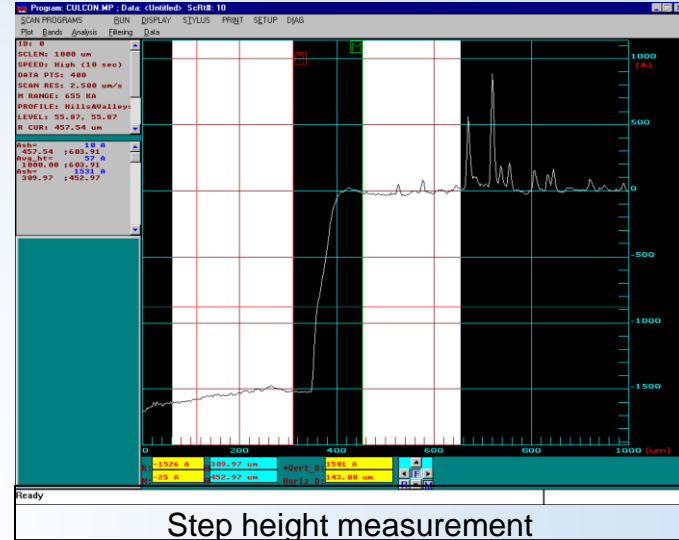
Train of DLC-coated Al tubes

Video of DLC coating- Al tube



Coating analysis

Film Property	Surface Science Technique
Thickness	Profilometry, Ellipsometry, Depth profiles
Density/Fermi Potential	SANS, XPS, XRR
Elemental composition	XPS, SEM-EDS
Surface roughness	AFM, 2D profilometry



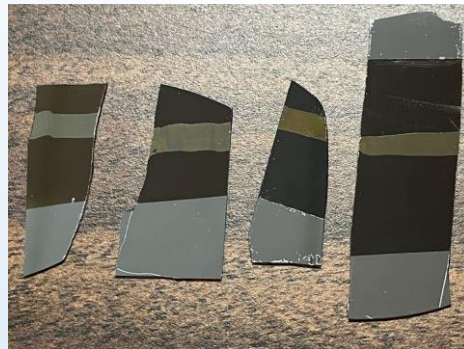
-We use a stylus profilometer to measure the thickness and surface roughness of the DLC coatings accurately.

-The TUCAN EDM experiment needs DLC films that are > 150 nm.

-Basheer Alghoi will be talking XPS analysis on tuesday in the poster session



Si witness strip along each tube



Status and Future

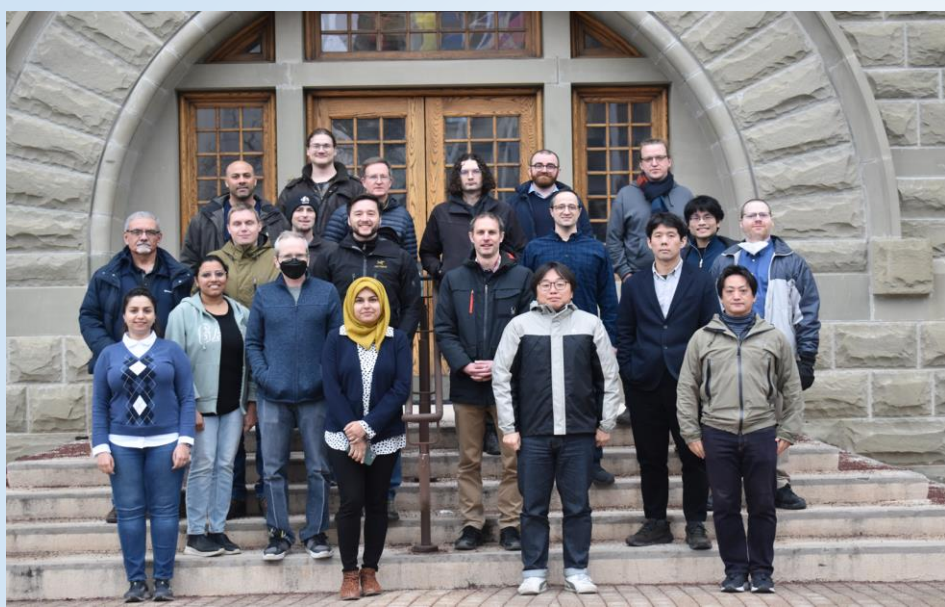
-2024 Summer —Optimize DLC on Aluminum:

Multilayer coating: Chromium (Cr) then DLC- for better adhesion, vary laser energy on target (spot size and laser energy), collimate parts of the ablation plume, etc.

-Fall 2024: produced several 1 m long DLC coated tubes.

-Winter/Spring 2024: Test with UCN at JPARC or TRIUMF.

-Goal to be in UCN Guide production for TRIUMF in 2025.



Collaboration meeting at
University of Winnipeg, Feb
2024



Thank you!

Guide Coating Facility is open for Collaboration
and providing coatings for your experiment-

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TUCAN
TRIUMF Ultracold
Advanced Neutron
Collaboration



KEK



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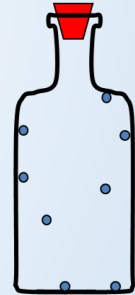
Ultracold Neutron Interactions

UCN \sim kinetic energy < 350 neV / wavelength > 50 nm / velocity < 8 m/s

- Gravity $V_g = mgh \approx 100$ neV per meter
- Weak interaction $n \Rightarrow p + e + \bar{\nu}_e, 782$ keV
 - beta decay
- Magnetic interaction $V_m = -\mu \cdot B = \pm 60$ neV per Telsa
 - Changing magnetic field $\rightarrow F_m = -\nabla V_m = \nabla[\mu \cdot B]$

Strong interaction responsible for UCN reflection

Can store/transport UCN on times comparable to their lifetime



The TUCAN EDM experiment needs DLC films that are > 150 nm.

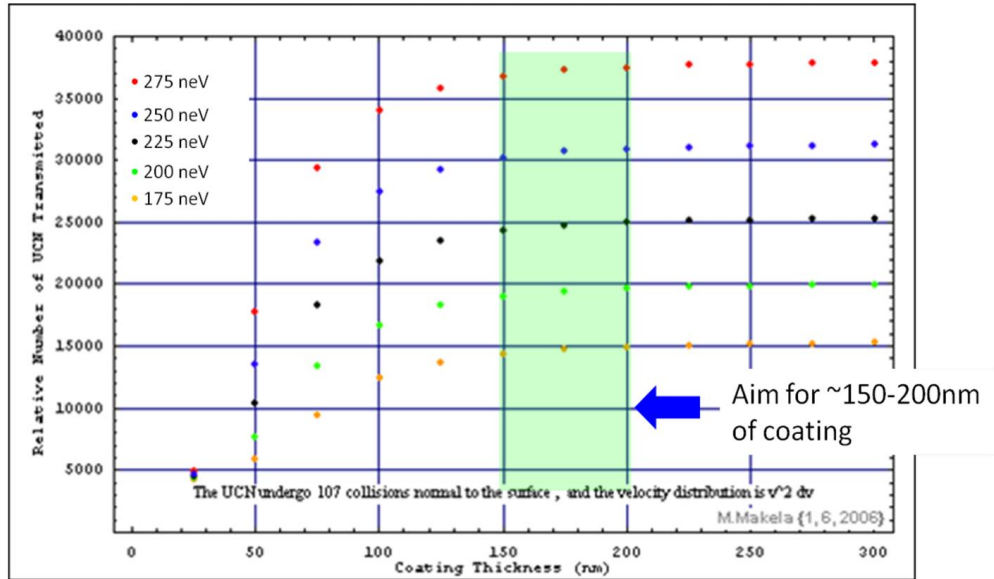


Figure 3.2: Transmitted UCN versus coating thickness for several different Fermi Potentials. The standard UCN distribution, $v^2 dv$ up to the critical velocity associated with each Fermi Potential, was employed. Figure modified with permission from Mark Makela [111].

From 1st yr quantum mechanics:
UCNs have very low kinetic energy, so they are very sensitive to potential barriers. DLC coating acts like a potential barrier.

DLC thickness greater than 150 nm ensures-
-Neutrons don't tunnel through the barrier (keeping more neutrons contained)

-The potential barrier is high enough to keep the neutrons trapped.