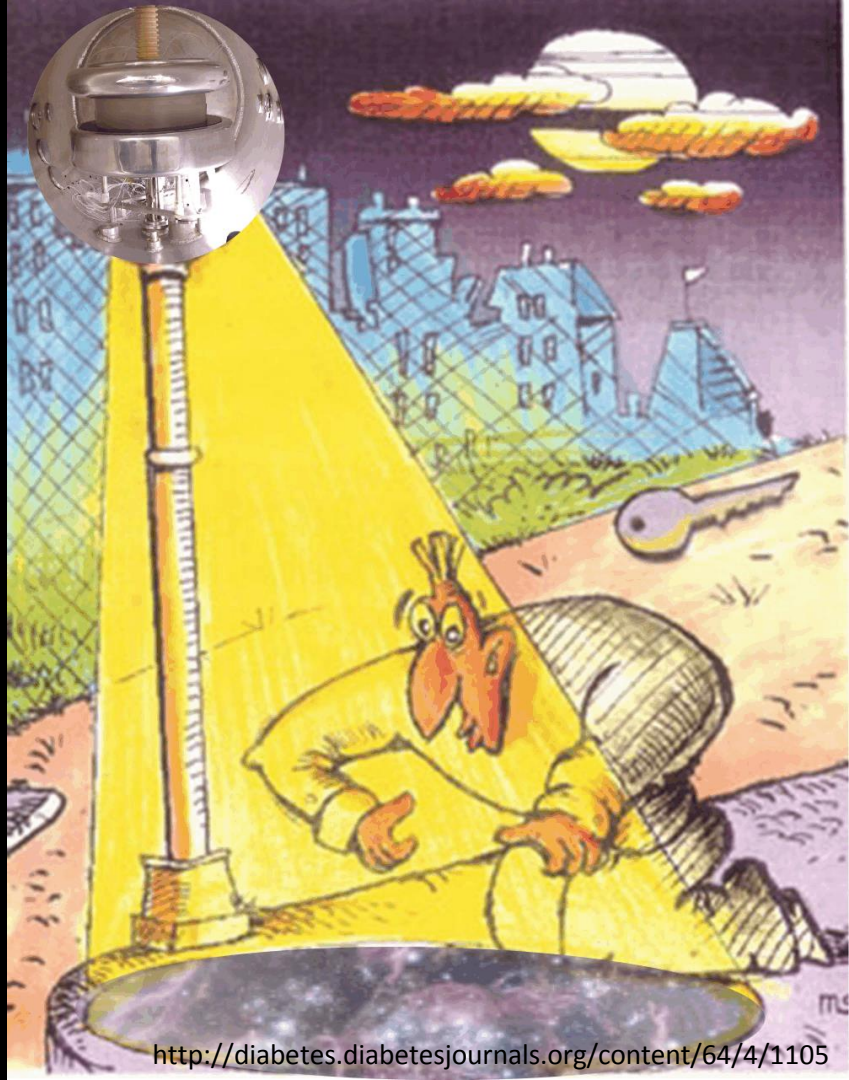
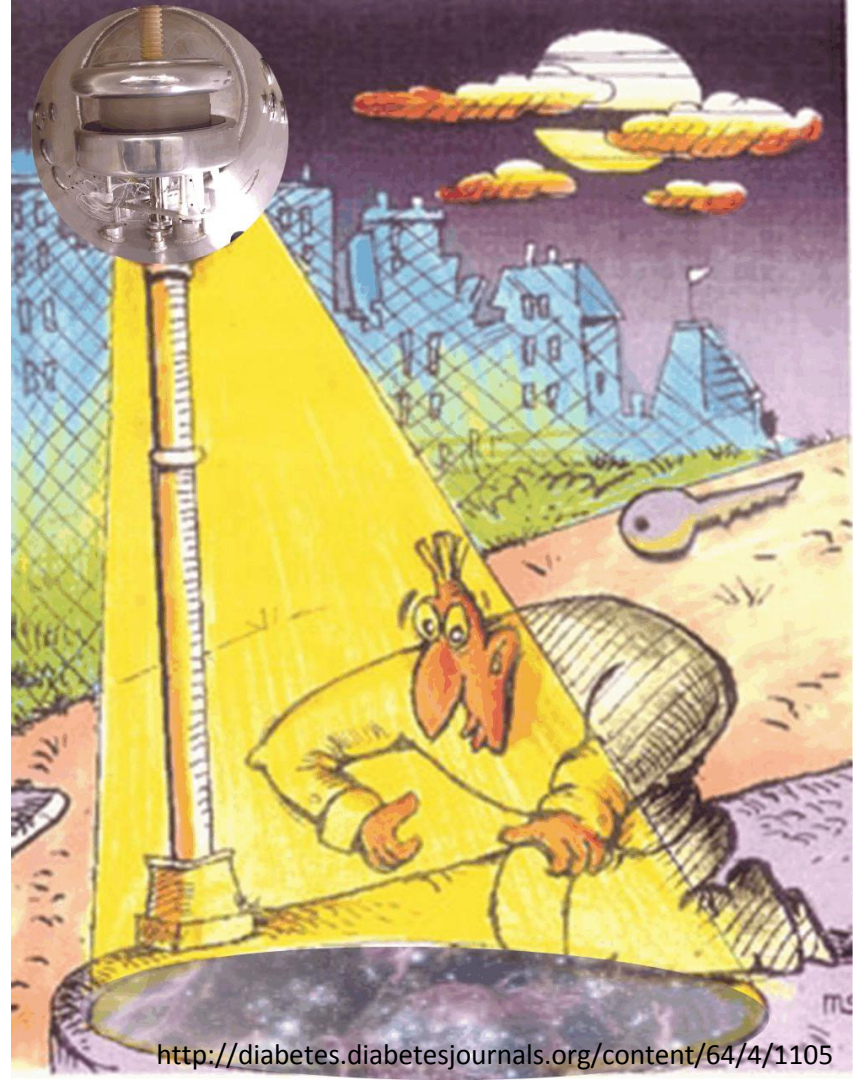


XIIth International Workshop on the Interconnection between Particle Physics and Cosmology

# Searching for dark matter using ultracold neutrons



- Measuring frequencies with neutrons (UCN)
- The neutron electric dipole moment and the Axion
- Results from dark matter searches with UCN
- Summary and conclusion



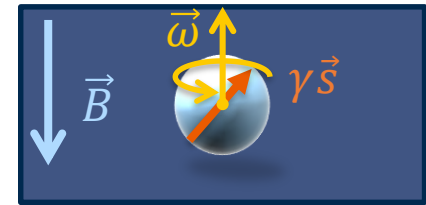
# Spin precession and magnetic moment



a neutron (fermion)  
with spin 1/2



suddenly, turn on  
magnetic field  $B$



spin starts to precess  
about  $B$  with  
frequency  $\vec{\omega}$

Larmor precession:  $\vec{\omega} = -\gamma \vec{B}$

Magnetic moment:  $\vec{\mu} = \gamma \vec{s}$

# Modified Larmor Frequency in the case of EDM

$$V_{\text{mag}} = -\gamma_n \vec{s} \cdot \vec{B} \quad \begin{array}{c} \uparrow \downarrow \\ \text{---} \\ \text{---} \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \uparrow \\ \text{---} \\ \downarrow \end{array} \quad \Delta E_B = \hbar \omega_L = 2\mu_n B \quad \text{with: } \mu_n = \frac{1}{2} \hbar \gamma_n$$

$$V_{\text{mod}} = -d_n \vec{s} \cdot \vec{E} \quad \begin{array}{c} \uparrow \downarrow \\ \text{---} \\ \text{---} \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \uparrow \\ \text{---} \\ \downarrow \end{array} \quad \Delta E_{\text{mod}} = \hbar \omega_{\text{mod}} = 2d_n E$$

For parallel electric and magnetic fields the precession frequencies add up and for anti-parallel fields the frequencies have to be subtracted. The precession frequency difference of the two cases can be measured:

$$\hbar \omega_{\uparrow\uparrow} = \hbar(\omega_L + \omega_{edm}) = 2(\mu_n B + d_n E)$$

$$\hbar \omega_{\uparrow\downarrow} = \hbar(\omega_L - \omega_{edm}) = 2(\mu_n B - d_n E)$$

---

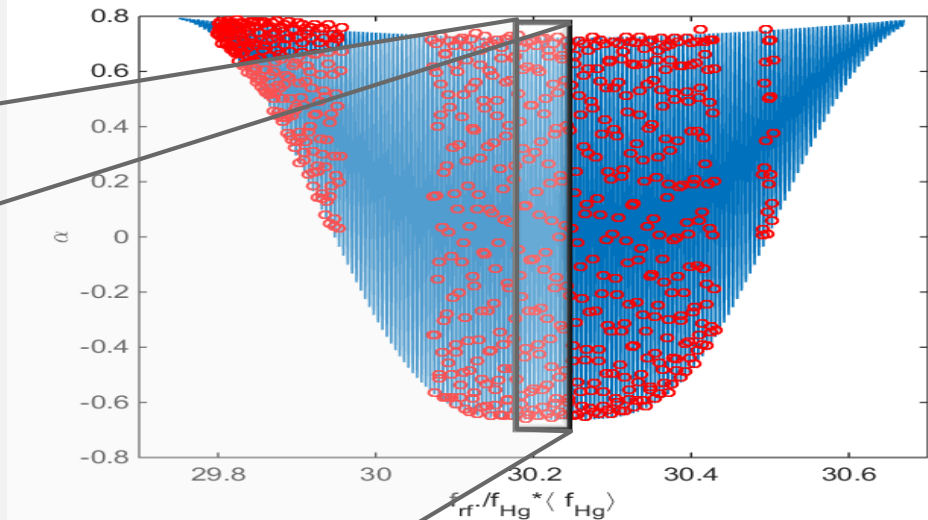
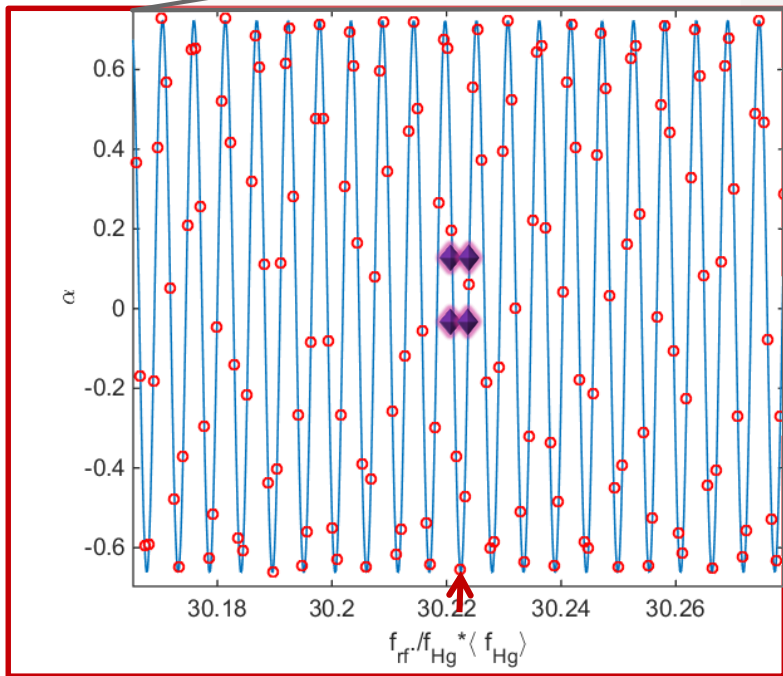

$$\hbar(\omega_{\uparrow\uparrow} - \omega_{\uparrow\downarrow}) = 4 d_n E$$

# The Ramsey technique

Spin "down" neutron...



$B_{0\uparrow}$



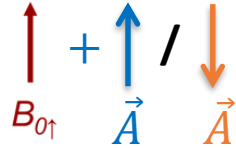
Sensitivity:

$$\sigma(\omega_n) = \frac{1}{\alpha T \sqrt{N}}$$

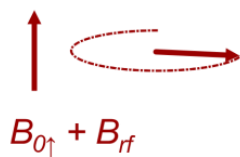
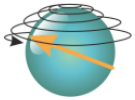
- $\alpha$  Visibility of resonance
- $T$  Time of free precession
- $N$  Number of neutrons

# Searching for an additional coupling to the spin

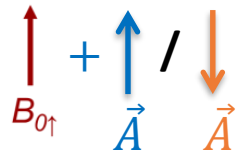
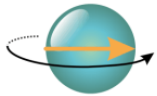
Spin "down" neutron...



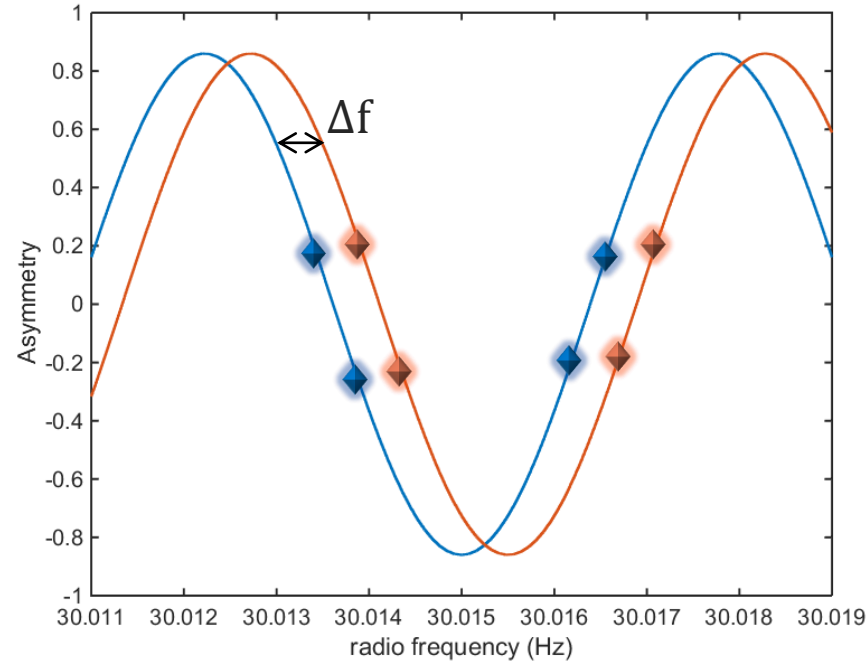
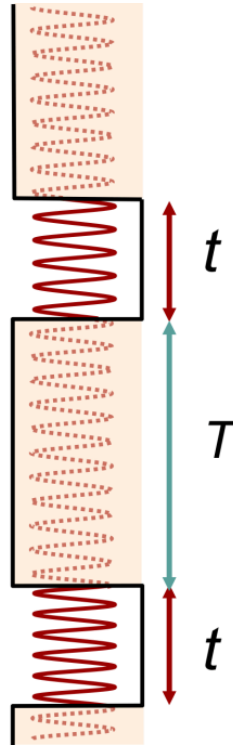
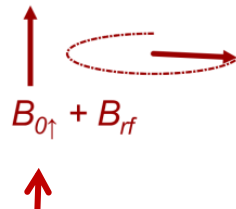
Apply  $\pi/2$  spin flip pulse...



Free precession at  $\omega_L$

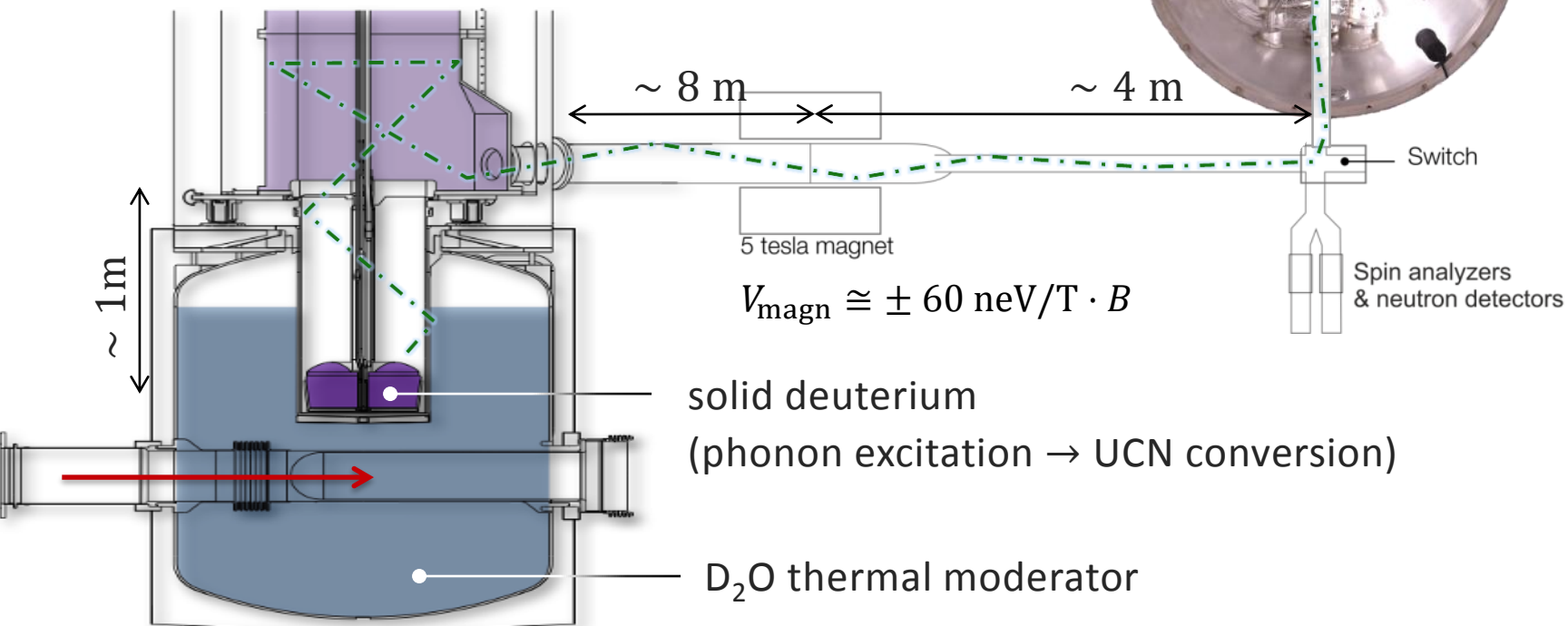
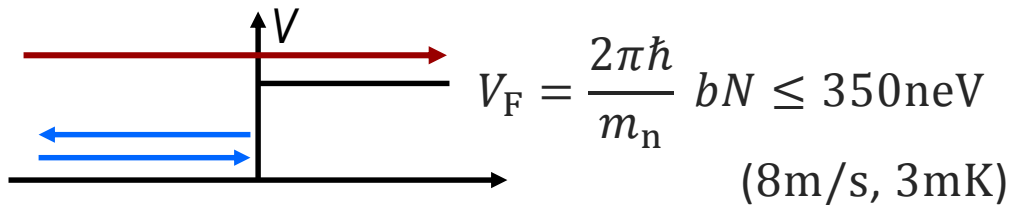


Second  $\pi/2$  spin flip pulse.



for  $d_n$  and  $\vec{A} = \vec{E}$   $\sigma(d_n) = \frac{\hbar}{2\alpha TE\sqrt{N}}$

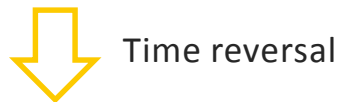
# Ultracold neutrons





# CP violation & edm

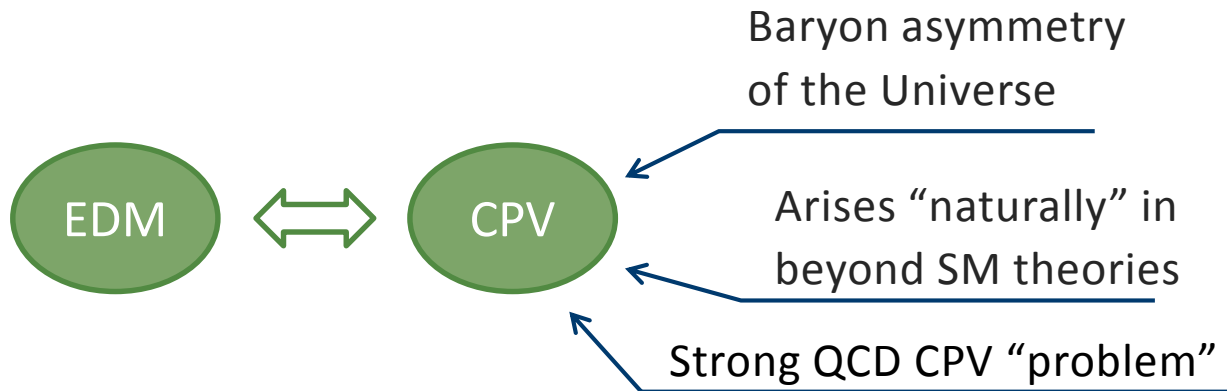
$$H = -(\mu \vec{s} \cdot \vec{B} + d \vec{s} \cdot \vec{E})$$



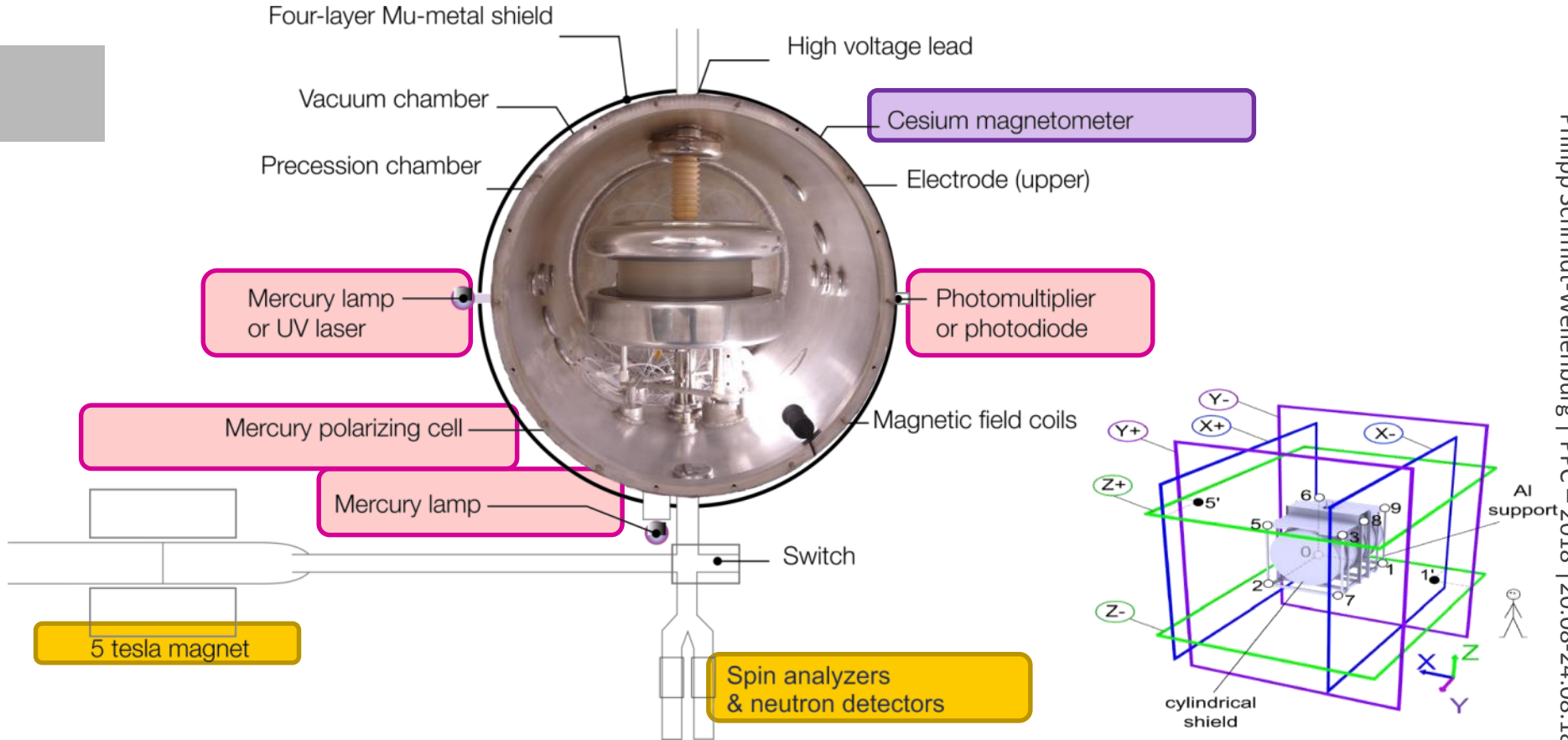
$$H = -(\mu(-)\vec{s} \cdot (-)\vec{B} + d(-)\vec{s} \cdot \vec{E})$$

$$= -(\mu\vec{s} \cdot \vec{B} - d\vec{s} \cdot \vec{E})$$

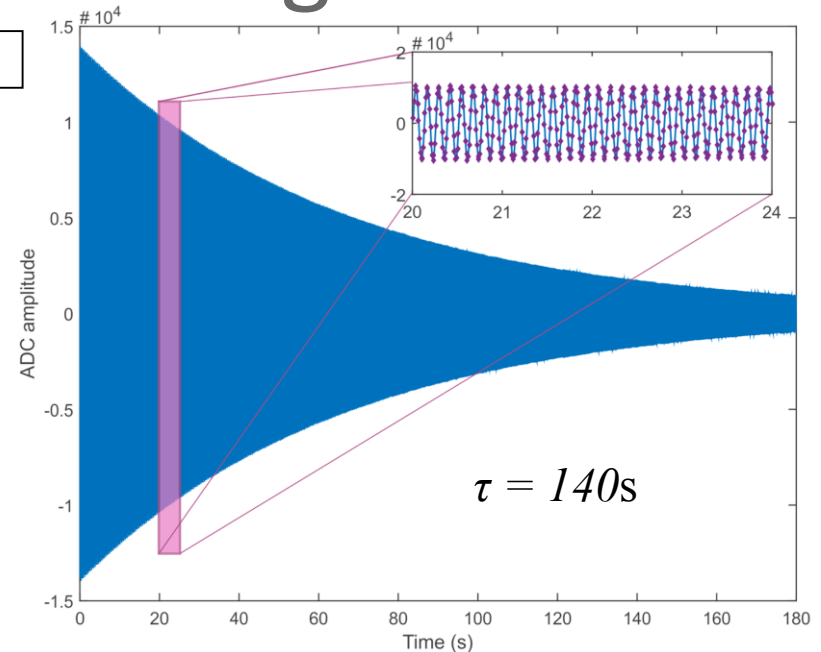
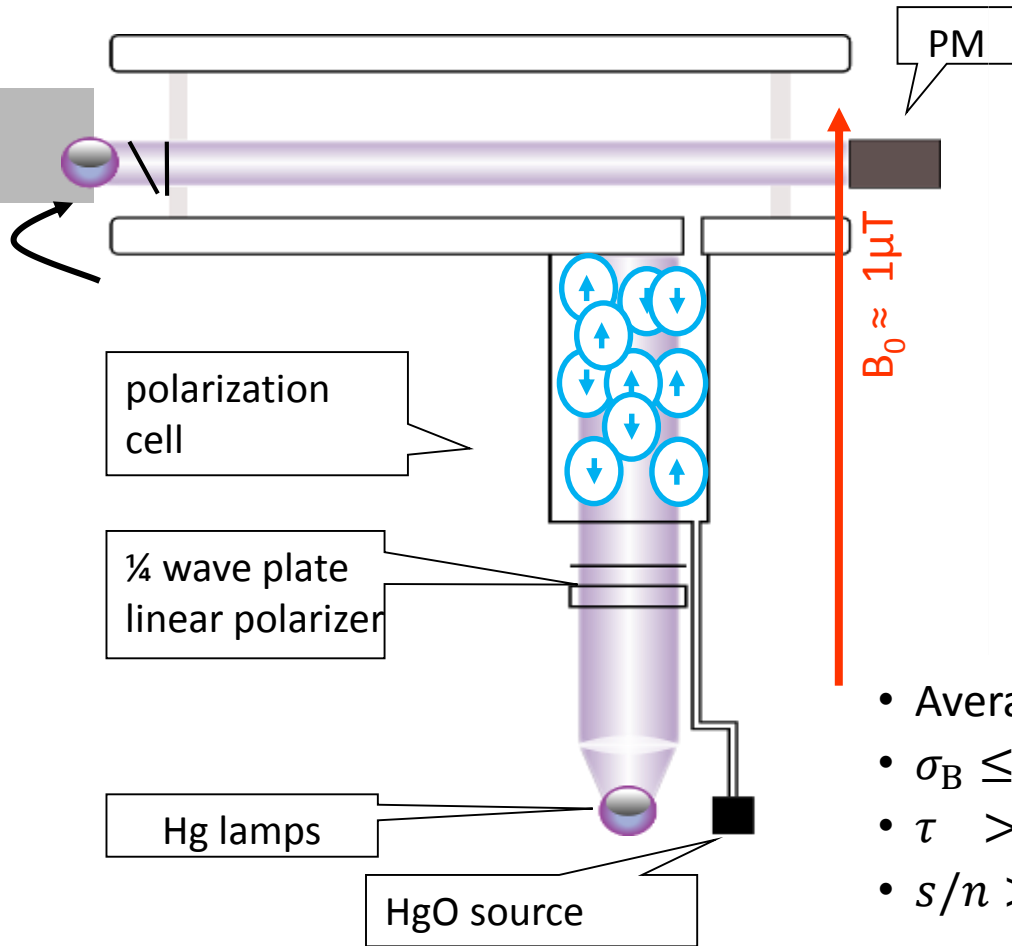
A non-zero particle EDM violates  $P, T$  and, assuming  $CPT$  conservation, also **CP**.



# The nEDM spectrometer

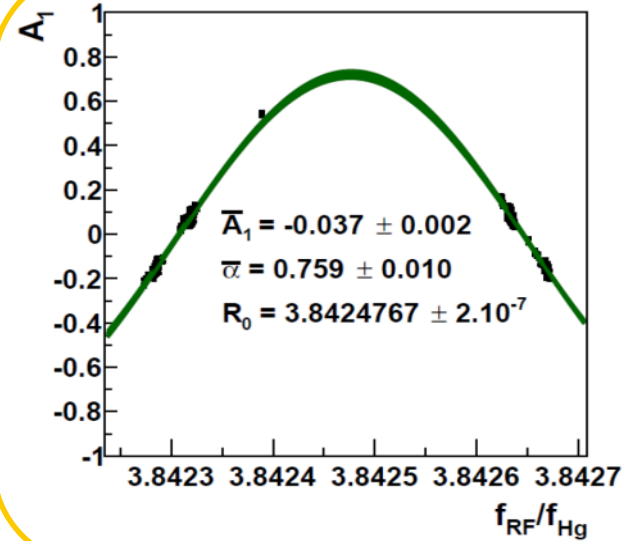
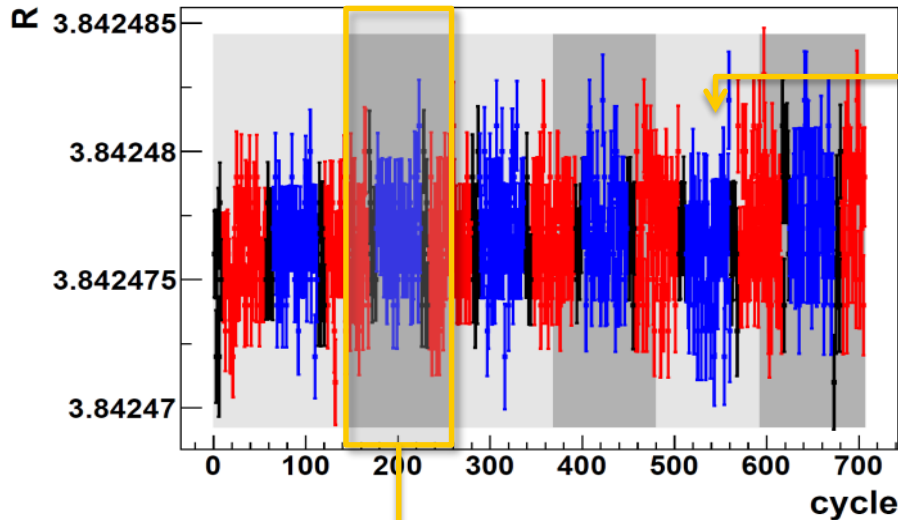


# Mercury co-magnetometer



- Average magnetic field (volume and cycle)
- $\sigma_B \leq 100 \text{ fT}$  (CR-limit)
- $\tau > 100 \text{ s}$  wo HV (with  $\sim 90 \text{ s}$ )
- $s/n > 1000$

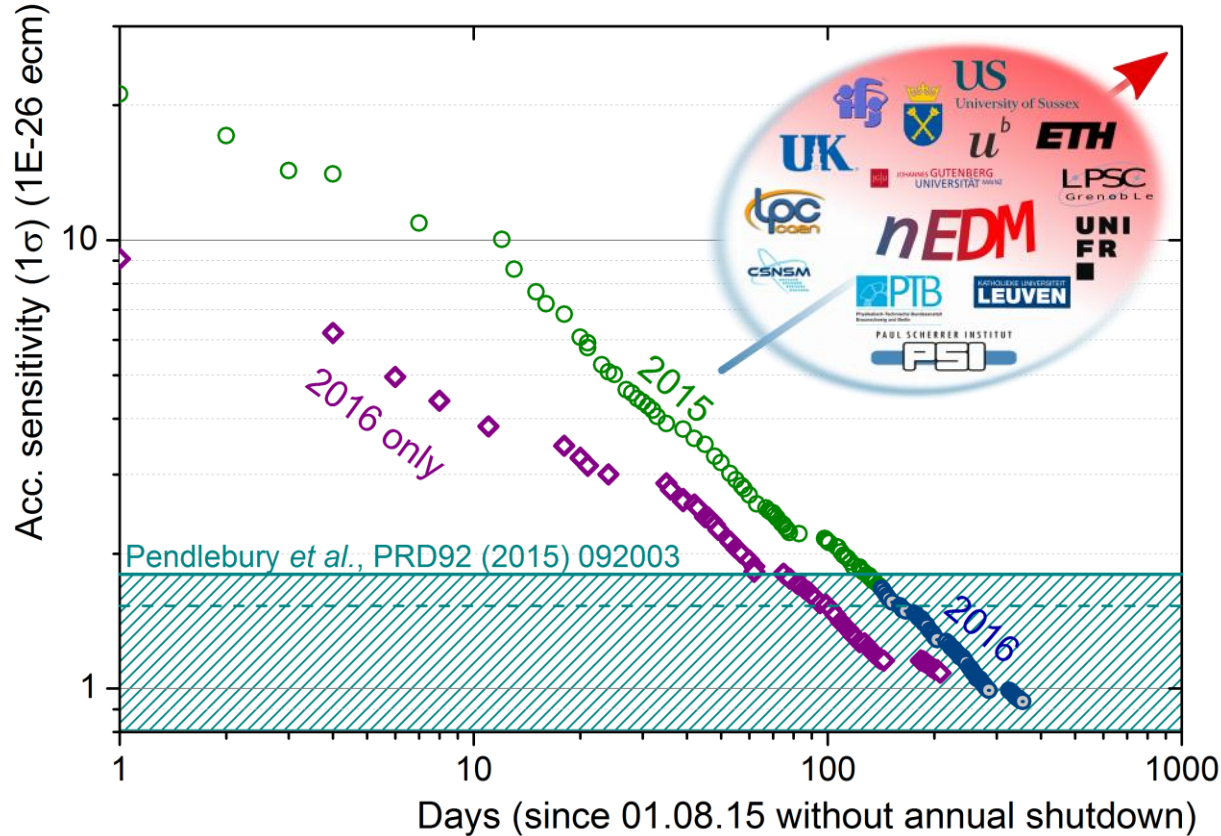
Fit central Ramsey fringe for each state



$$d_n = \frac{h(f_n^+ - f_n^-)}{2E}$$

$$R = \frac{f_n^i}{f_{Hg}^i}$$

# Status of the nEDM search at PSI



624'364'314 neutrons

$$\sigma = 0.94 \times 10^{-26} \text{ ecm}$$

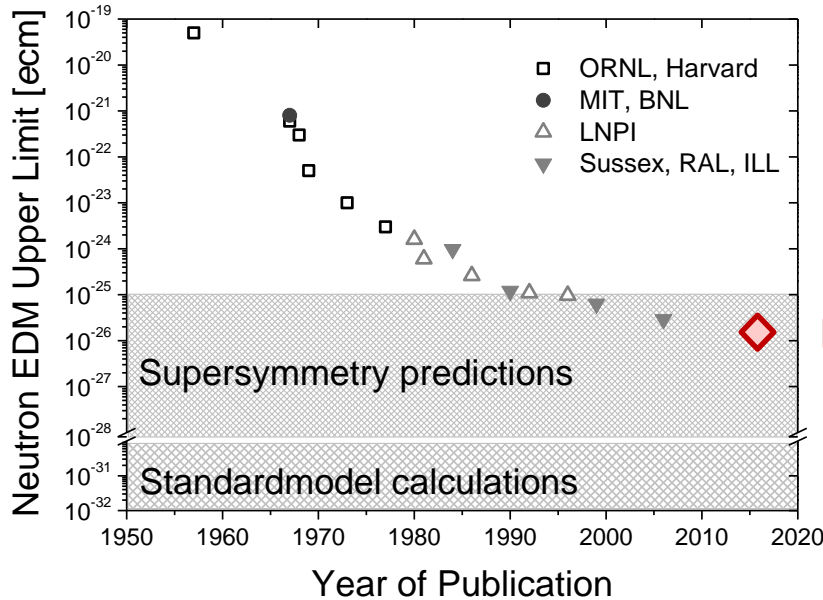
**Analysis ongoing:**

Blinded data

Two groups

Result planned for 2018

# A brief history of nEDM searches



*“n-EDM has killed more theories than any other single experiment”*

PSI sensitivity 2015/16



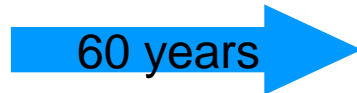
J.M. Pendlebury  
1936-2015

First

*Smith, Purcell, Ramsey*

$$d_n < 5 \times 10^{-20} \text{ e cm}$$

PR 108 (1957) 120



Last

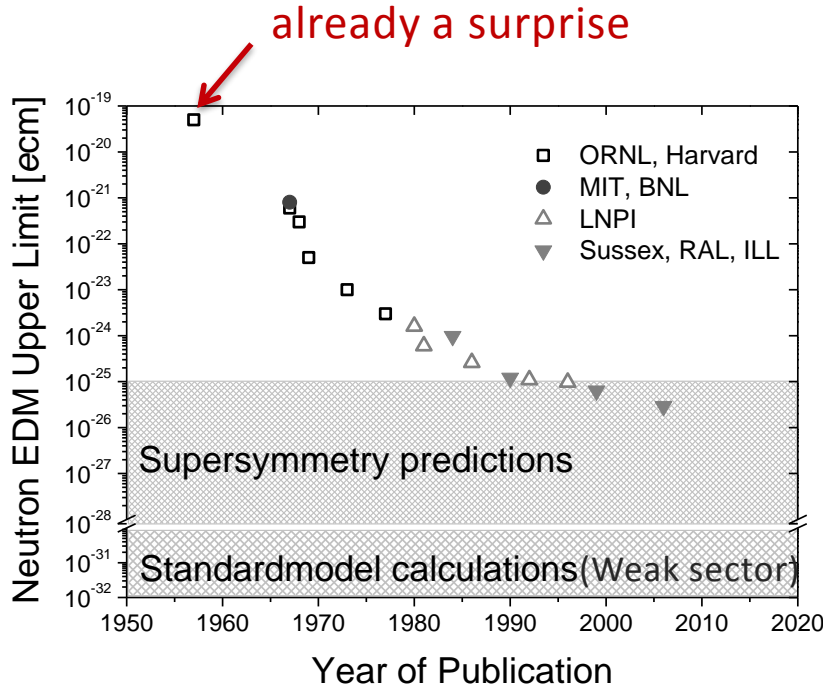
*RAL-Sussex-ILL*

$$d_n < 3 \times 10^{-26} \text{ e cm (90% C.L.)}$$

*C.Baker et al. PRL(2006) 131801*

*J.M. Pendlebury et al., PRD 92 (2015) 092003*

# The strong CP -problem



$$L_{\text{total}} = L_{\text{SM}} + \theta \frac{g_s^2}{32\pi^2} G_b^{\mu\nu} \tilde{G}_{b\mu\nu}$$

$$\rightarrow d_n = \frac{e g_A \bar{\theta} M^*}{(4\pi F_\pi)^2} \log \frac{m_n}{m_\pi} + \dots$$

$$\rightarrow \frac{d_n}{\theta} = -3.8(2)(9) \times 10^{-16} \text{ ecm}^{**}$$

but

$$d_n^{\text{ex}} < 3 \times 10^{-26} \text{ ecm}^*$$



$$\theta < 1 \times 10^{-10} \text{ ecm}$$

# Axion solution to the strong CP-problem

## *CP* Conservation in the Presence of Pseudoparticles\*

R. D. Peccei and Helen R. Quinn†

*Institute of Theoretical Physics, Department of Physics, Stanford University, Stanford, California 94305*

(Received 31 March 1977)

We give an explanation of the *CP* conservation of strong interactions which includes the effects of pseudoparticles. We find it is a natural result for any theory where at least one flavor of fermion acquires its mass through a Yukawa coupling to a scalar field which has nonvanishing vacuum expectation value.

Add an additional global  $U(1)$  chiral symmetry<sup>\*,\*\*</sup> to the Standard Model:

$$L_{\text{total}} = L_{\text{SM}} + \frac{\theta g_s^2}{32\pi^2} G_b^{\mu\nu} \tilde{G}_{b\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2} \partial_\mu a \partial^\mu a + L_{\text{int}} \left[ \frac{\partial^\mu a}{f_a}, \psi \right] + \xi \frac{a}{f_a} \frac{g_s^2}{32\pi^2} G_b^{\mu\nu} \tilde{G}_{b\mu\nu}$$

Axion dynamics    Axion interactions    chiral anomaly



# Axion solution to the strong CP-problem

The chiral term also represents an effective potential for the axion field with a minimum at  $\langle a \rangle = -\theta f_a / \xi$

Hence the CPV term of the QCD is effectively canceled out at the minimum of the Axion potential.

$$L_{\text{total}} = L_{\text{SM}} + \cancel{\frac{\theta g_s^2}{32\pi^2} G_b^{\mu\nu} \tilde{G}_{b\mu\nu}} - \frac{1}{2} \partial_\mu a \partial^\mu a + L_{\text{int}} \left[ \frac{\partial^\mu a}{f_a}, \psi \right] + \cancel{\xi \frac{a}{f_a} \frac{g_s^2}{32\pi^2} G_b^{\mu\nu} \tilde{G}_{b\mu\nu}}$$

Axion dynamics    Axion interaction    chiral anomaly

# Searching for an oscillating EDM or Axion wind

- Axions are a proposed solution to strong CP problem (Peccei-Quinn theory)
- It has been proposed that dark matter is really made of ultralight axionlike particles (ALPs) ( $m_a \sim 10^{-22}$  eV)
- This would form a coherent classical field throughout the universe
- NB: ALP is generalisation of axion, does not necessarily solve strong CP, but has similar properties

Graham Rajendran  
PRD88, 035023 (2013)

Philipp Schmidt-Wellenburg | PPC – 2018 | 20.08-24.08.18

gluonic

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{int}} = \frac{C_G}{f_a} \frac{g^2}{32\pi^2} a G_{\mu\nu}^a \tilde{G}^{a\mu\nu} - \sum_{f=n,p,e} \frac{C_f}{2f_a} \partial_\mu a \bar{f} \gamma^\mu \gamma^5 f$$

Produces oscillating EDM through same diagrams as  $\theta_{\text{QCD}}$

fermionic

Produces oscillations in precession frequency "Axion Wind"

Nick Ayres

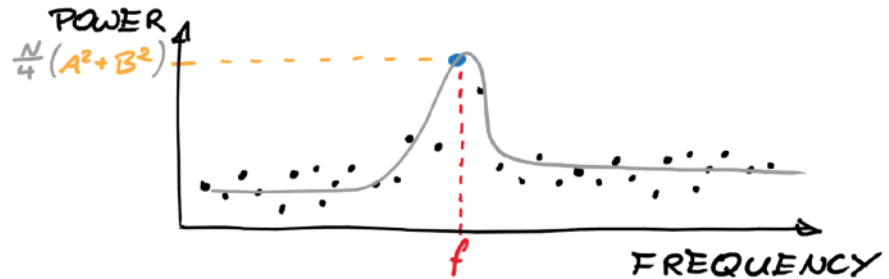
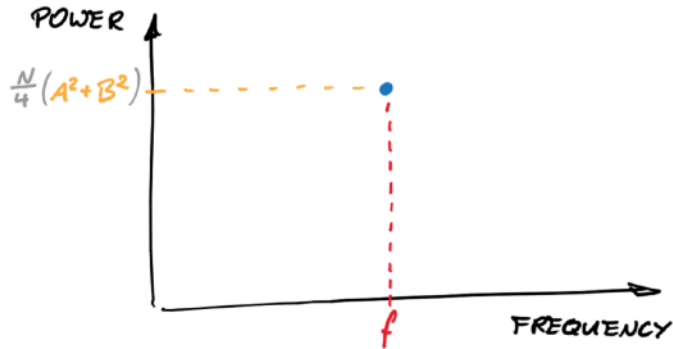
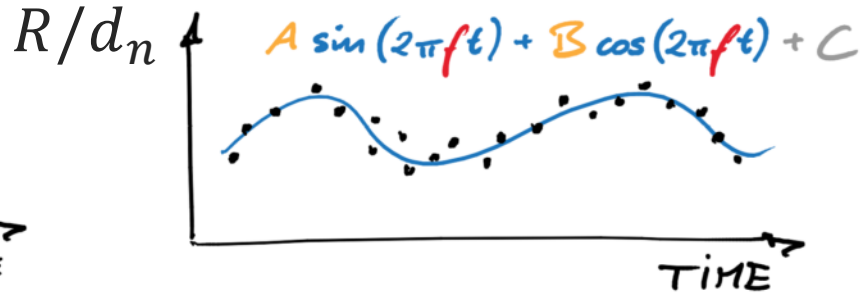
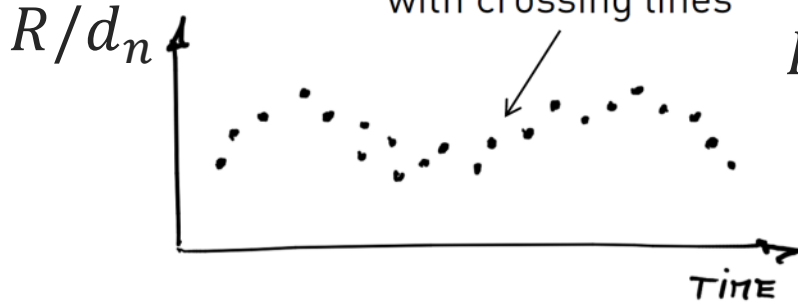


Michal Rawlik



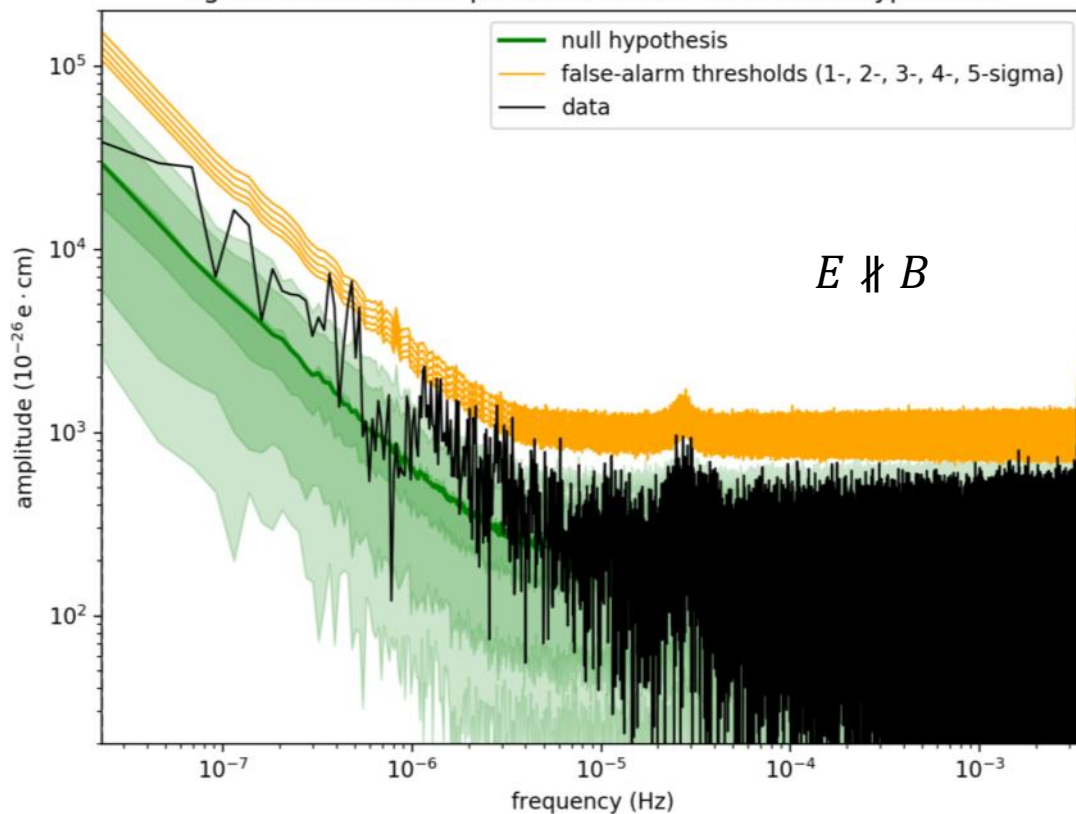
# Least square spectral analysis

$d_n$  from each run corrected  
with crossing lines

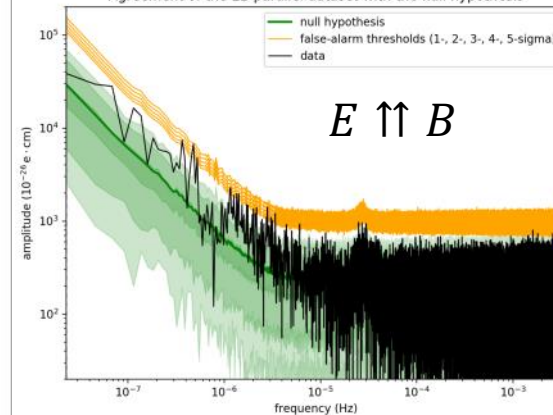


# Three periodograms

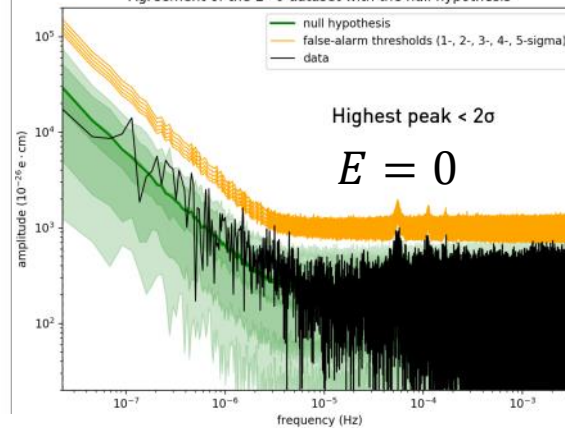
Agreement of the EB parallel dataset with the null hypothesis



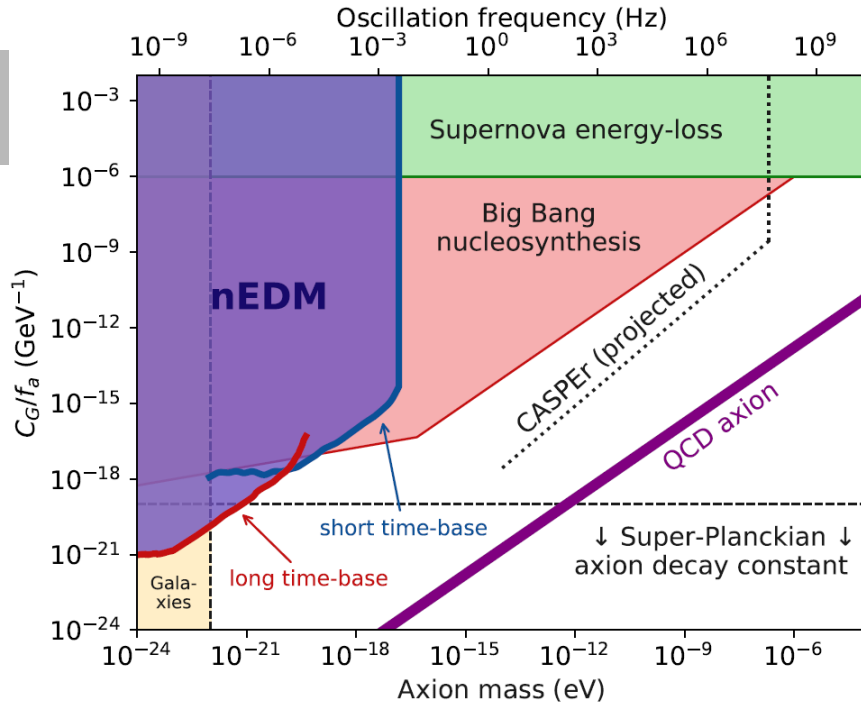
Agreement of the EB parallel dataset with the null hypothesis



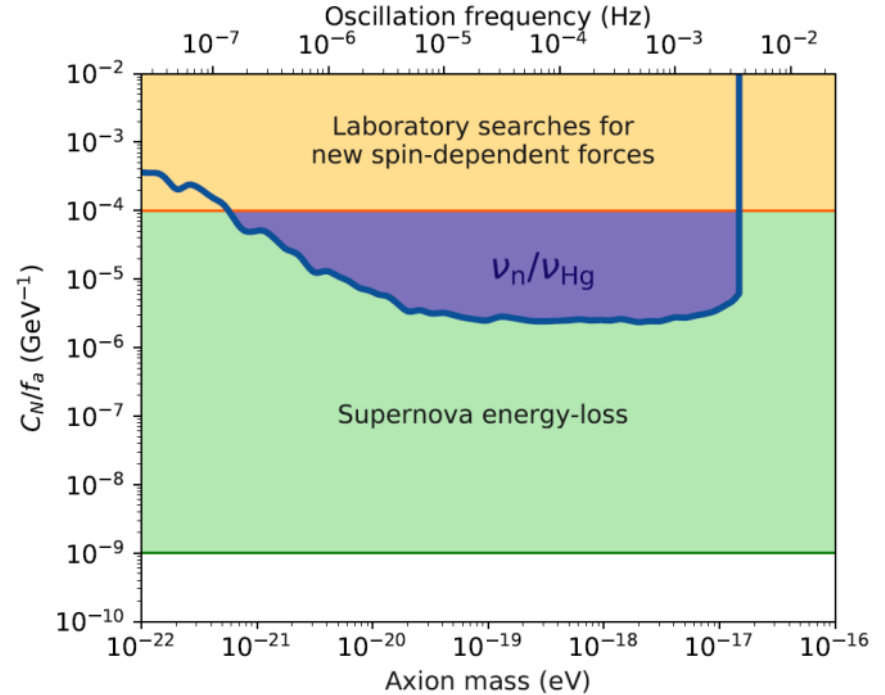
Agreement of the E=0 dataset with the null hypothesis



# Exclusion limits



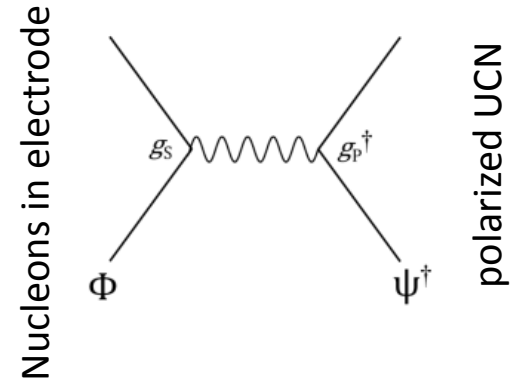
First experimental limits  
on gluonic coupling



40 times better limit  
on fermionic coupling

## MACROSCOPIC FORCES\*

Very light, weakly coupled bosons are occasionally suggested in the literature, for example, axions,<sup>1</sup> familons,<sup>2</sup> majorons,<sup>3</sup> arions,<sup>4</sup> and spin-1 antigravitons.<sup>5</sup> Such particles must couple very weakly to ordinary matter to have eluded detection thus far. A boson with small enough mass (say,  $10^{-5}$  eV) would have a macroscopic Compton wavelength (say, 2 cm) and would mediate a force on laboratory scales. Even if very weakly coupled at the single-particle level, a macroscopic body with  $10^{23}$  constituents could produce a measurable, coherent light-boson field.



$$V(\vec{r}) = g_s g_p \frac{\hbar^2}{8\pi m} (\vec{s} \cdot \vec{r}) \left( \frac{1}{r\lambda} + \frac{1}{r^2} \right) e^{-\frac{r}{\lambda}}$$

# ALPS: Spin dependent forces

$$V(\vec{r}) = g_s g_p \frac{\hbar^2}{8\pi m} (\vec{s} \cdot \vec{r}) \left( \frac{1}{r\lambda} + \frac{1}{r^2} \right) e^{-\frac{r}{\lambda}}$$

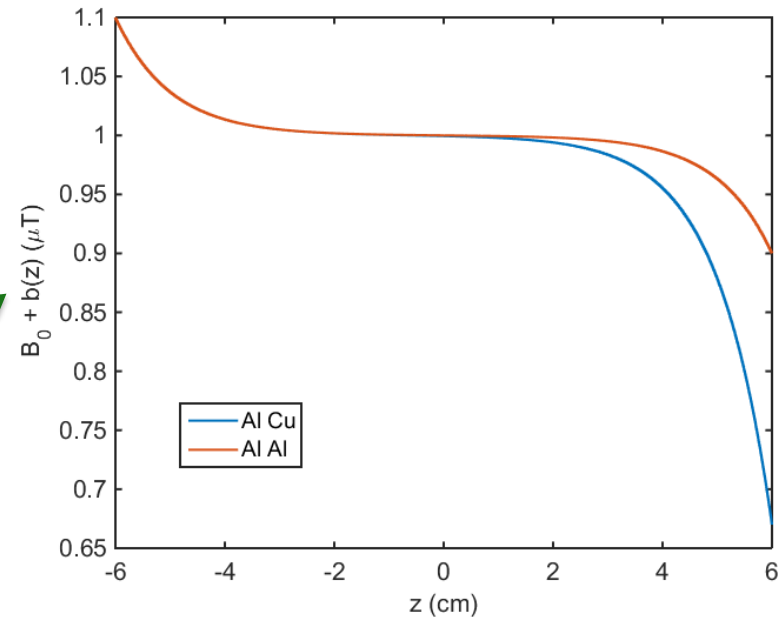
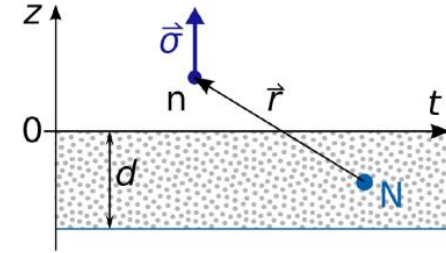


integrate over bulk

$$b(z) = g_s g_p \frac{\hbar \lambda N}{2\gamma m} (1 - e^{-d/\lambda}) e^{-z/\lambda}$$

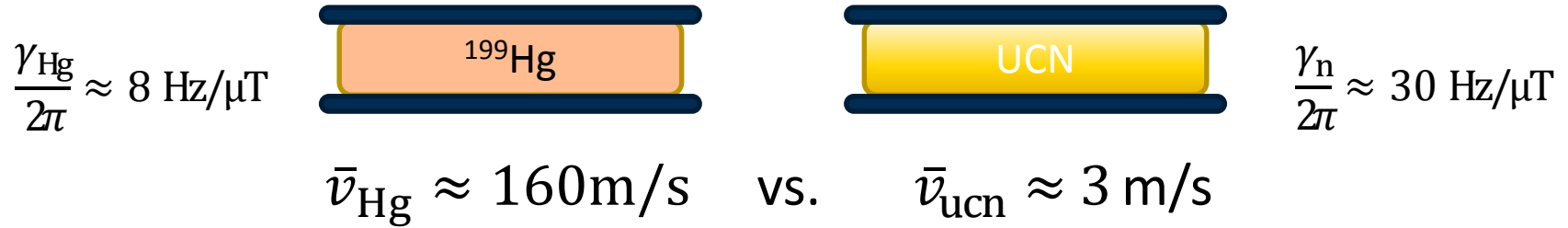
for two electrodes (top and bottom)

$$b(z) = b_{\text{bot}} e^{-\frac{z+H/2}{\lambda}} - b_{\text{top}} e^{-\frac{z-H/2}{\lambda}}$$



# Frequency ratio $R = f_n / f_{\text{Hg}}$

- Center-of-mass offset
- Non-adiabaticity

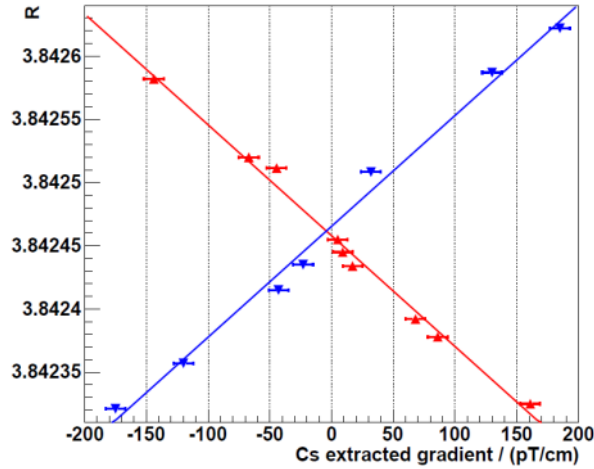


$$R = \frac{\langle f_{\text{UCN}} \rangle}{\langle f_{\text{Hg}} \rangle} = \frac{\gamma_n}{\gamma_{\text{Hg}}} \left( 1 \mp \frac{\partial B}{\partial z} \frac{\Delta h}{|B_0|} \mp \frac{\langle B^2_{\perp} \rangle}{|B_0|^2} \mp \delta_{\text{Earth}} + \delta_{\text{Hg-lightshift}} + \frac{\bar{b}}{B_0} \right)$$

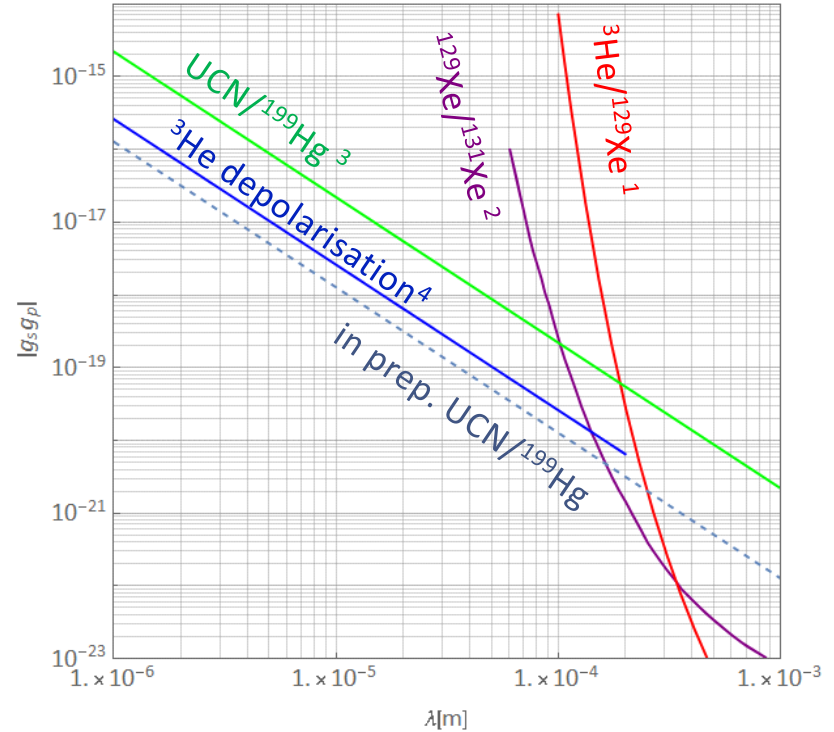




# Limit on CP violating light scalar boson



Effect	$B_0^\uparrow$	$B_0^\downarrow$
Statistics	$\pm 0.5 \cdot 10^{-6}$	$\pm 0.5 \cdot 10^{-6}$
Gravitational shift	$(-8.9 \pm 2.3) \cdot 10^{-6}$	$(-1.8 \pm 2.7) \cdot 10^{-6}$
Transverse shift	$(3.7 \pm 0.8) \cdot 10^{-6}$	$(3.0 \pm 1.2) \cdot 10^{-6}$
Light shift	$(1.3 \pm 0.7) \cdot 10^{-6}$	$(0.8 \pm 0.6) \cdot 10^{-6}$
Earth rotation shift	$-5.3 \cdot 10^{-6}$	$+5.3 \cdot 10^{-6}$
$R$	3.8424583(26)	3.8424562(30)



$$g_s g_p \lambda^2 \propto \bar{b} = B_0 \frac{(R^\uparrow - R^\downarrow)}{(R^\uparrow + R^\downarrow)} = 0.28(0.53) \text{pT}$$

<sup>1</sup>Bulatowicz *et al.*, PRL111(2013)102001

<sup>2</sup>Tullney *et al.*, PRL111(2013)100801

<sup>3</sup>Afach *et al.*, PLB745(2015)58

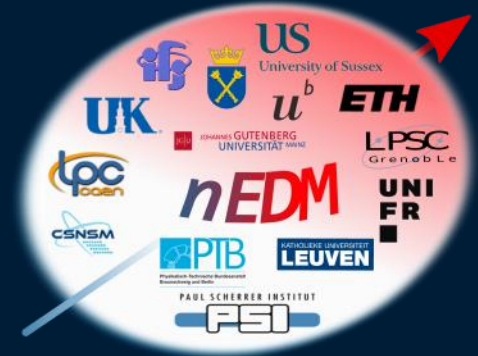
<sup>4</sup>Guigue *et al.*, PRD92(2015)114001

In recent years the nEDM spectrometer at the Paul Scherrer Institute delivered data for:

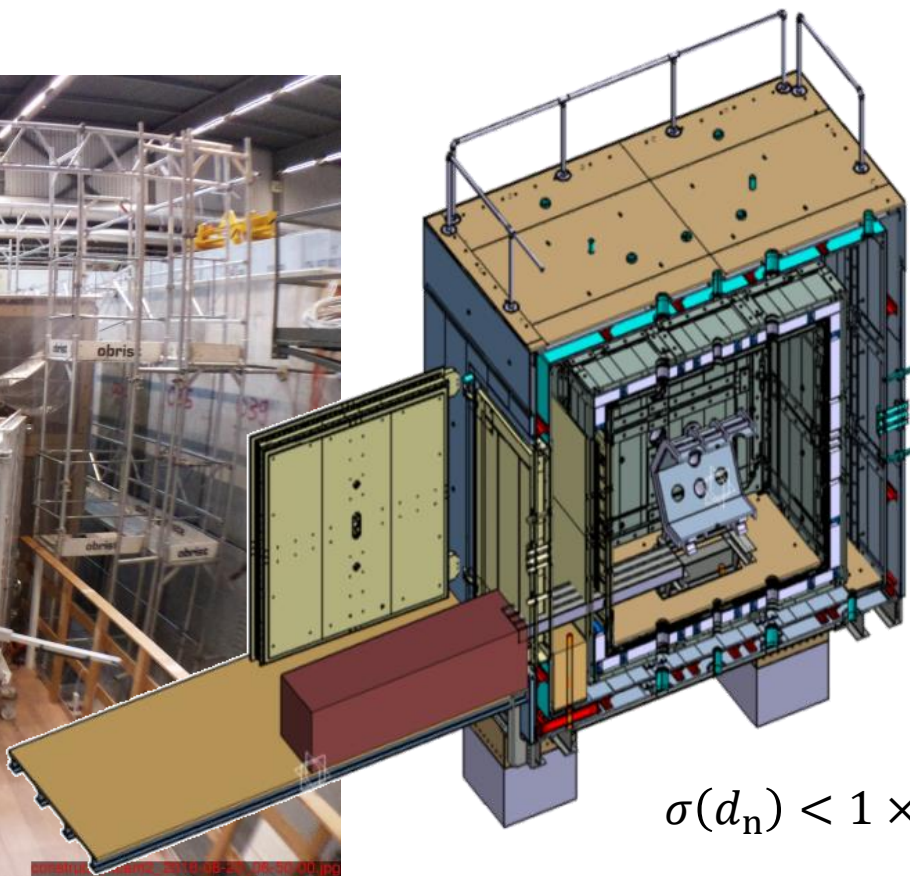
- The first laboratory limit on gluonic coupling of a coherent oscillating axion background field
- The best limit on a fermionic coupling (axion-wind) with a coherent oscillating axion background field
- An update for a spin dependent coupling to bulk nucleons (analysis in progress)
- An improved limit of the neutron EDM (analysis in progress)

# The collaboration

- 15 Institutions
- 7 Countries
- 48 Members
- 14 PhD students



# A new lamp: with 6-layer mu-metal

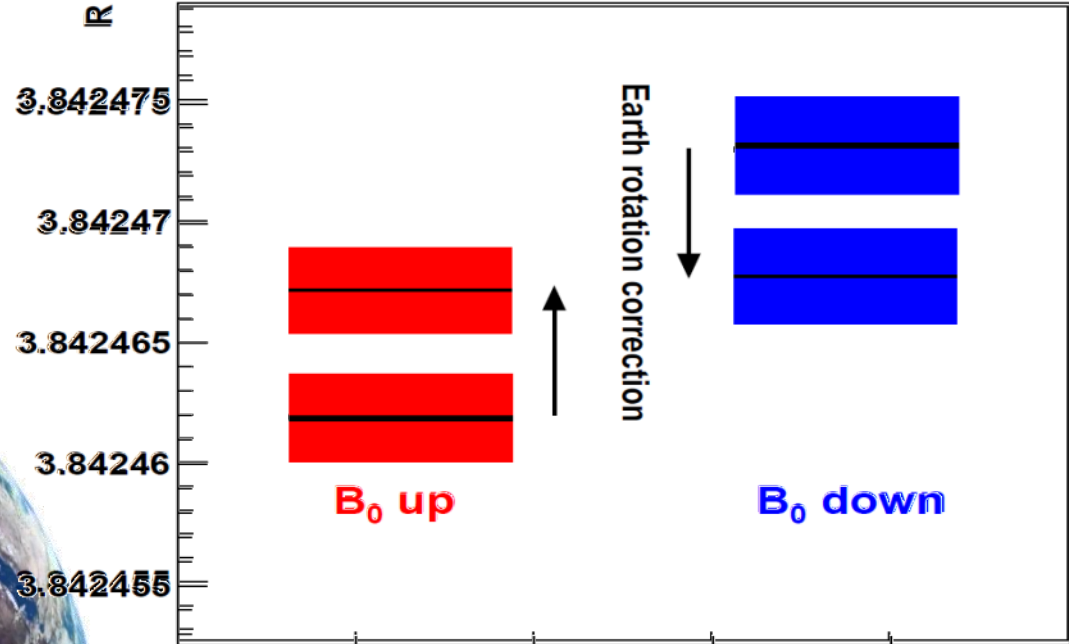
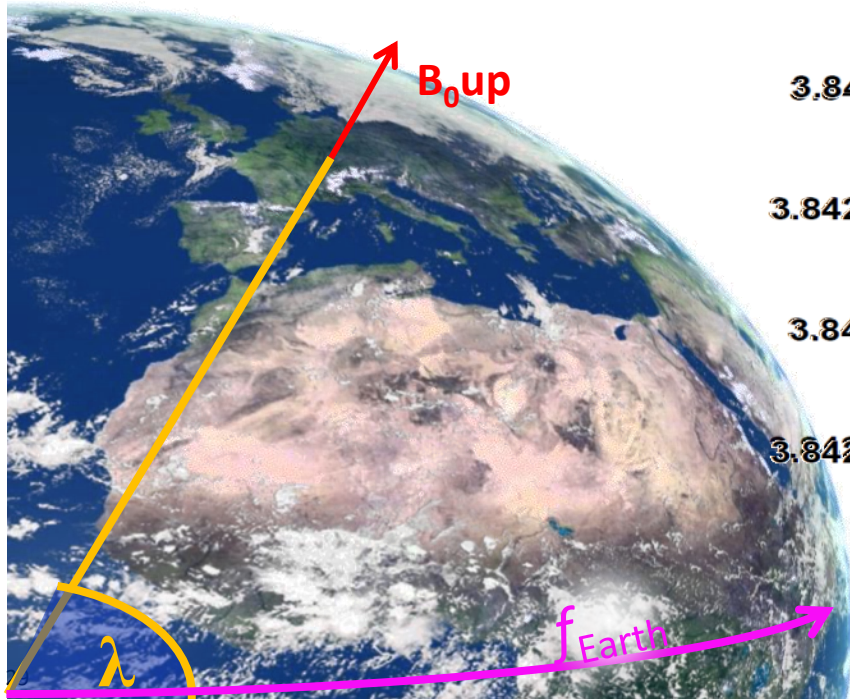


$$\sigma(d_n) < 1 \times 10^{-27}$$

## Earth rotation correction

$$\delta_{\text{Earth}} = \mp \frac{\gamma_n}{\gamma_{\text{Hg}}} \left( \frac{f_{\text{Earth}}}{f_n} + \frac{f_{\text{Earth}}}{f_{\text{Hg}}} \right) \sin(\lambda) \quad \text{R}$$

$$= \mp 5.3 \times 10^{-6}$$

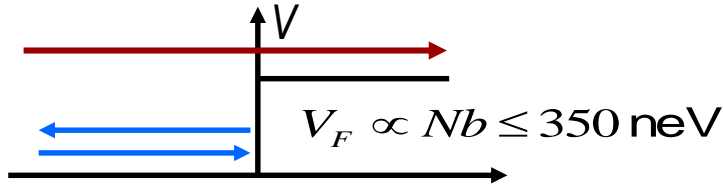


# Ultracold neutrons (UCN)

$$\sigma(d_n) \propto \frac{1}{T\sqrt{N}}$$



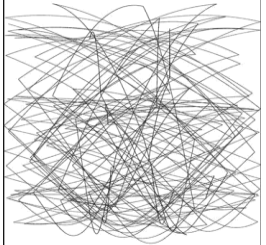
Storable neutrons  
(UCN)



Storage properties are  
material dependent

Strong  
 $V_F$

Gravity  
102 neV/m



Magnetic  
~60 neV/T

$$350 \text{ neV} \leftrightarrow 8 \text{ m/s} \leftrightarrow 500 \text{ \AA} \leftrightarrow 3 \text{ mK}$$