



High RR Lecture Heidelberg

How Neutron EDM-Experiments Really Work II

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Outline of the nEDM lecture





From cold to ultracold neutrons

Sensitivity of EDM experiments
$$\propto \frac{1}{T\sqrt{N}}$$

Systematic effect $\propto v \times E$

Store very slow neutrons for long times

- What neutrons can be stored?
 -How?
- How can I make them?
- What else changes?





Storable neutrons – <u>U</u>ltra<u>C</u>old <u>N</u>eutons (UCN)





The optical potential describing the strong interaction

• The Schrödinger equation of a neutron moving in the optical potential U(r)

$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m}\Delta\psi(\mathbf{r}) + \frac{2\pi\hbar^2}{m}nb(\mathbf{r})\psi(\mathbf{r}) = E\psi(\mathbf{r})$$

The neutron optical potential

$$U(r) = \frac{2\pi\hbar^2}{m}bN(r)$$

• Neutron optical refractive index

$$n_{\rm r} = \sqrt{1 - U/E} = \sqrt{1 - \frac{4\pi bN}{k^2}}$$



Ultracold neutrons – storable neutrons

The defining property of UCN is that they can be confined in material (and magnetic) traps. Hence, the maximal velocity depends on the material of the trap for total reflection at all angles of incidence: $U_{F,c} > E_{kin} = \frac{1}{2}mv^2 = \frac{h^2}{2m\lambda^2}$

Material	$\rho \ [10^{28} \ { m m}^{-3}]$	$b_{\rm c} \; [{\rm fm}]$	$\rho b_{\rm c} \ [10^{-6} \ {\rm \AA}^{-2}]$	$1 - n \ [10^{-6}]$	$V_{\rm F,c}$ [neV]	ϑ_{c} [°]
$\begin{array}{c} \mathrm{Be} \\ \mathrm{Al} \\ \mathrm{Si} \\ \mathrm{Ni} \\ ^{58}\mathrm{Ni} \\ \mathrm{Ti} \\ \mathrm{Pb} \\ \mathrm{H}_2\mathrm{O} \\ \mathrm{D}_2\mathrm{O} \end{array}$	$12.3 \\ 6.03 \\ 5.19 \\ 9.14 \\ 9.14 \\ 5.66 \\ 3.30 \\ 3.35 \\ $	$7.74 \\ 3.5 \\ 4.15 \\ 10.3 \\ 14.4 \\ -3.4 \\ 9.4 \\ -1.68 \\ 19.14$	$9.5 \\ 2.1 \\ 2.2 \\ 9.4 \\ 13.2 \\ -1.9 \\ 3.1 \\ -0.6 \\ 6.4$	$1.52 \\ 0.34 \\ 0.34 \\ 1.50 \\ 2.09 \\ -0.31 \\ 0.49 \\ -0.090 \\ 1.02$	$247 \\ 54.9 \\ 55.9 \\ 244 \\ 335 \\ -50 \\ 80 \\ -14.6 \\ 167$	0.099 0.047 0.047 0.0992 0.117 - 0.057 - 0.082

Table 3.2: Number densities ρ , bound coherent scattering lengths b_c and Fermi potentials $V_{\rm F,c}$ of some selected materials, taken from [Kle83]. Here, the refractive index n and the critical angle ϑ_c are tabulated for neutrons with a wavelength of 1 Å.





UCN loss mechanisms

- Losses due to **non-ideal traps** (gaps and slits).
- Inelastic scattering on walls to energies beyond trap potential 'UCN up-scattering'.
- Absorption on trap walls and/or rest gas e.g. (n, γ) -reaction.
- In magnetic traps due to **spin-flip processes** and depolarization.



Losses due to absorption on trap walls are described in the Schrödinger Equation by a complex wall potential *U*.

$$i\hbar\partial_t \psi = \left(-\frac{\hbar^2 \Delta}{2m} + U\right)\psi$$
Loss probability per
wall collision
$$|R|^2 = 1 - 2\frac{W}{V} \left(\frac{E_\perp}{V - E_\perp}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \equiv 1 - \mu(E, \theta)$$



Averaged loss probably per bounce

In a real trap many collisions under all possible incident angles will occur. So

must be average over all incident angles. Rewriting [1] in terms of total energy and incident angle:

$$\mu(E,\theta) = 2\eta \left(\frac{E\cos^2\theta}{V - E\cos^2\theta}\right)$$

averaging this over all incident angles:

$$|R|^{2} = 1 - 2 \frac{W}{V} \left(\frac{E_{\perp}}{V - E_{\perp}} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \equiv 1 - \mu(E, \theta) [|]$$





UCN properties of selected materials

Element	₽g/cc	$\frac{N_{\rm form/cc}}{\times 10^{22}}$	$ \sum_{\substack{\text{form} \\ \times 10}} a_{\text{coh}}^{\text{bound}} \\ \text{cm} $	$V_{\rm nev}$	σ_{tot} barns	$f = W/V$ $\times 10^{-5}$
Ni ⁵⁸	8.8	9.0	14.4	335	44	8.6
BeO	3.0	7.25	13.6	261	6.6	1.25
Ni	8.8	9.0	10.6	252	48	125
Be	1.83	12.3	7.75	252	1.4ª	0.5ª
Cu ⁶⁵	8.5	8.93	11.0	244	0.22 ^b 28	0.08 ^b 7.0
Fe	7.9	8.5	9.7	210	30	8.5
С	2.0	10.0	6.6	180	1.4	0.6
Cu	8.5	8.93	7.6	168	43.5	15.5
PTFE (Teflon)	2.2	2.65	17.6	123	_	
Pb	11.3	3.29	9.6	83	2.0	0.6
Al	2.7	6.02	3.45	. 54	2.8	2.25
$Perspex (CH_2H_3O)_n$	1.18	1.65	7.88	33.9		
v	6 11	71'	0.280	~ ~		

-0.382

-0.84

-1.68

-3.34

-7.2

-8.7

-14.7

-48

50

58

Table 2.1 UCN properties of selected materials.

7.1 '

3.34

5.6

3.9

6.11

0.92

1.0

4.54

^a 300 K.

Polyethylene

 $(CH_2)_n$ H₂O

Ti

^b 100 K.

 $\rho_{g/cc}$ -material density; $N_{form/cc}$ -molecular density; $\Sigma_{form}a_{coh}^{bound}$ -bound coherent scattering length summed over molecular formula; Vnev-effective ucn potential, neV; σ_{tot} —total cross-section at neutron wavelength $\lambda = 18$ Å (1 barn = 10^{-24} cm); f--ucn loss factor, eqn (2.66).



UCN in the Maxwellian distribution

$$N(v)dv = N_0 \left(\frac{m_{\rm n}}{2\pi k_{\rm B}T}\right)^{3/2} e^{-\frac{m_{\rm n}v^2}{2k_{\rm B}T}}dv$$



Peak velocity:

$$\widetilde{v} = \sqrt{\frac{2k_{\rm B}T}{m_{\rm n}}}$$

Mean velocity:

$$\overline{v} = \frac{1}{\rho_{\rm n}} \int_0^\infty v F(v) \,\mathrm{d}v = \sqrt{\frac{8k_{\rm B}T}{\pi m_{\rm n}}}$$



How many UCN are in a Maxwellian spectrum?

• UCN density in the Maxwellian spectrum:

- $\rho_{UCN} \propto N_0 \left(\frac{V_{F,c}}{k_B T}\right)^{3/2}$
- $V_{
 m F}:$ Fermi potential of the storage material
- *T*: Temperature of the Maxwellian neutron spectrum (approx. moderator temperature) N_0 : total thermal neutron flux [n cm⁻² s⁻¹]

• For
$$T = 300$$
 K, V = 250 neV (typical Ni, Be) : $\rho_{\rm UCN} \approx 10^{-13} \phi_0 \, {\rm cm}^{-3}$

- ILL (Grenoble): $\phi_0 = 10^{15} \text{ n cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$

 $\rho_{\rm UCN,ILL} \approx 100 \ {\rm cm}^{-3}$

- At the cold source one gains a factor of approx. 20 (temperature).
- However, the extraction of UCN from reactors involves some *considerable loss* so that the available *densities will always be much less*.



Why not a moderator at 0.5 K?



- The lower the neutron energy the larger the wavelength
- At low temperatures wavelength too large for elastic scattering on one nucleus
 → only coherent scattering of many nuclei
 - \rightarrow classical moderation stops once the wavelength of neutrons is too large



UCN production

Vertical VCN extraction from a reactor with a *UQN turbine*. FRM (Steyerl 1969) ILL – PF2 since the 1970's (10-50 UCN cm⁻³)

New sources are employing inelastic 'down-scattering' of cold neutrons to the UCN energy regime using *superfluid helium* or *solid deuterium* as converter media (superthermal UCN sources):



Hope for an increase of UCN density by a factor more than 100 !

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UCN densities of about 10-50 cm⁻³

690 concavely curved nickel blades on wheel with ø = 1.8 m 250 rpm -> v~30 m/s



I3 m long bent guide
R = I3m, separates VCN
from faster neutrons and γ's
5 m vertical guide dipping in cold source

cold source LD₂

SOURCES FROIDES

VCN from 17 m long verticall neutron guide



UCN turbine – PF2 at ILL (Grenoble)





Principle of the neutron turbine. Neutrons with $v_1 = 50$ m/s provided by a vertical guide are decelerated by total reflection from moving Ni-coated curved blades. In this process the beam cross-section and divergence increase (Liouville). Here: v_1 = original velocity, v_2 = final velocity, v_T = blade velocity and v_r relative velocity.



UCN turbine – PF2 at ILL (Grenoble)



Superthermal UCN production





F. Atchison et al., PRL99(2007)262502



R. Golub & J.M. Pendlebury, PLA62(1977)338 C.A. Baker et al., PLA308(2003)67 PSW, J. Bossy *et al.*,PRC92(2015)024002

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Superthermal UCN production



F. Atchison et al., PRL99(2007)262502



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UCN source using Superfluid Helium

- Employs the excitation of phonons by neutrons with a wavelength of 0.89 nm in superfluid helium at temperatures below 1 Kelvin (converter medium).
- Phonon dispersion relation of superfluid helium (obtained from neutron scattering):



- Energy and momentum conservation during "down-scattering".
- In the cold converter the scarcity of low-energy excitations on speaking terms with the trapped UCN suppresses scattering back to higher energies ("up-scattering") due to the Boltzmann factor.

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Superfluid Helium UCN Source at ILL



- 5 litres UCN storage volume
- 7 litres of superfluid helium at about 0.7 K
- UCN density 55 cm⁻³ in source



5 litres UCN storage volume made from **BeO-ceramics**

Superfluid Helium UCN Source at ILL



Piegsa et al., PRC90 (2014) 01550

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Solid Deuterium UCN source at PSI



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Solid Deuterium UCN source at PSI



UCN storage volume (2000 litres)

UCN valve

solid D2 (converter medium at about 6K) D₂O-moderator

> pulsed proton beam 590 MeV, 2.4 mA



Analyzing UCN spins

Magnetized Fe foil:

Typically used in UCN experiments by magnetizing with permanent magnets, which produce a H = 90 mT magnetic field at the center. As a result, the iron layer is magnetized close to saturation, i.e. close to $B = \mu_r \mu_0 H = 2 \text{ T}$.







How can we detect both spin states?

Foil only permits transmission of one spin state







Adiabatic fast passage flipper

Adiabatic-Spinflipper ('Adiabatic Fast Passage'):

A polarized neutron beam passes through a static magnetic field B_G along the z-axis, which has a certain gradient along the flight path. Additionally, a linearly polarized rf-field B_1 is irradiated with a frequency $\boldsymbol{\omega}$ close to the Larmor frequency $\boldsymbol{\omega}_0 = -\boldsymbol{\gamma}_n B_0$. The change of B_G is slow enough such that the spin can follow the effective magnetic field B_e , during the passage of the flipper adiabatically.





Rf field constant in frequency and magnitude. $B_{\rm G}$ is swept from high to low fields, through resonance with $\omega_{\rm rf} = \gamma_{\rm n} B_{\rm G}(x)$.





Adiabatic fast passage flipper



Adiabatic fast passage flipper

An adiabatic fast passage spin flipper relies on the condition, that the effective field changes only adiabatically and hence the spin always follows the field.

$$10 < \kappa = \frac{\omega_L(x)}{\omega_{\theta}(x)} = \frac{\gamma_n B_{\text{eff}}}{d\theta/dx \cdot v_x^{\text{max}}}$$





The nEDM spectrometer



Ultracold neutrons (UCN)

For highest sensitivity: Optimize

$$\sigma(t) = \frac{\hbar}{2\alpha T E \sqrt{\dot{N}t}}$$

CN beamline (e.g. ILL - PF1b)

$$\dot{N} \approx 2 \times 10^9 \text{ s}^{-1} @ 440 \text{ m/s}$$

 $\alpha \approx 0.99; \quad E \approx 100 \text{kV/cm}$
 $T = l/v = \frac{2 \text{ m}}{440 \text{ m/s}} = 4.5 \text{ms}$
 $\sigma(1s) = 2 \times 10^{-23} e \text{cm}$

UCN are neutrons which can be stored in material bottles

UCN (EDM at TRIUMF/PSI) $\dot{N} \approx 333 \text{ s}^{-1}$ $\alpha \approx 0.9; \quad E = 15 \text{kV/cm}$ T = 200 s $\sigma(1 \text{s}) = 1 \times 10^{-23} \text{ ecm}$

$$\sigma(d_{\rm n}) = \frac{\hbar}{2\alpha T E \sqrt{NM}}$$

$$\sigma(d_{\rm n}) = \frac{\hbar}{ET\alpha_0 e^{-T/T_2} \sqrt{2N_0 \left(e^{-T/\tau_s} + e^{-T/\tau_f}\right)}}$$

 $\sigma(d_{\rm n}) = \frac{\hbar}{2\alpha T E \sqrt{N}}$



- Highest initial UCN number
- Best possible storage time
- Maximum voltage
- Highest initial polarization α_0 longest possible T_2

 N_0 $au_{s,f}$ E



The nEDM spectrometer



Ultracold neutrons: good for $T\sqrt{N}$



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Filling UCN

• Optimize product $\alpha \sqrt{N}$





Storage life



and **DLC** electrodes x 10⁴ SF2a off, SF2b on Fit N(t) = N_f e^{-t/T}r + N_e e^{-t/T}s • Two exp fit: N_f: 14515+- 481 2.5 T₄: 92s+- 5s t_s∼90s t_f∼340s N.: 12785+- 586 Tू: 340s+- 9s γ^2/v : 91/13 Nup + Ndov • Max number of 1.5 UCN measured after 180s storage: 0.5 20 800 0` 200 400 600 800 Storage time (s)

• Chamber made of **dPS** insulator ring

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Simultaneous spin detection

$$\sigma_{d_n} = \frac{\hbar}{2E\alpha T\sqrt{N}}$$



- o Spin dependent detection
 - Adiabatic spinflipper
 - Iron coated foil
- o ⁶Li-doped scintillator GS20



S. Afach et al., EPJA (2015)51: 143

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- Initial polarization α_0 measured with USSA 0.86
- Best polarization after 180s free precession
 0.80, average 0.75



$$T_2^* = t \cdot \ln(\alpha(t) / \alpha_0) = 2488s$$

 σ_{d_n}

ħ

 $2E\alpha T\sqrt{N}$







Depolarization $\sigma_{d_n} = \frac{\hbar}{2E\alpha T\sqrt{N}}$





Increasing sensitivity





Sensitivity versus field drifts

• Sensitivity for many cycles ideal case: $\hbar = \frac{\pi}{2\alpha TE\sqrt{NM}}$

 Only if magnetic field is stable enough.
 (Good fit with orange, bad fit with purple)







Sensitivity versus Stability

• Sensitivity for many cycles ideal case:

$$\sigma_{\rm stat}(B) = \frac{1}{\gamma_{\rm n} \alpha T \sqrt{NM}}$$

• Requires:



$$\checkmark$$

Choose *M* such that:

Allan deviation:

$$\sigma_{\rm stat}(M) \ge \sigma_{AD}(M)$$







Many cycles sensitivity ideally:

$$\sigma_{\rm stat}(B) = \frac{1}{\gamma_{\rm n} \alpha T \sqrt{NM}}$$

• Require:

 $\sigma_{\text{stat}} \geq \overline{\Delta B}$



Sensitivity versus Stability

Allan deviation:

$$\sigma_{AD}(M) = \sqrt{\frac{\left\langle \left(f_i(M) - f_{i-1}(M)\right)^2\right\rangle}{2}}$$



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Stability and changing E-fields



Options with field changes:

- Change E-field with adequate period (e.g. 10 cycles) (loose time due to E ramps)
- Use a stack of two neutron precession chambers
- Use a comagnetometer



The measurement technique

 $\mu_{
m B}$

Measure the difference of precession frequencies in parallel/antiparallel fields:



$$\hbar \Delta \omega = 2d_{\rm n} \left(E_{\uparrow\uparrow} + E_{\uparrow\downarrow} \right) + 2\mu_{\rm n} \left(B_{\uparrow\uparrow} - B_{\uparrow\downarrow} \right)$$

Statistical accuracy of a magnetometer correcting for a change in B should be better than the neutron sensitivity per cycle:

$$\delta f_{\rm n} = \frac{1}{2\pi\alpha T\sqrt{N}} \approx 11\mu{\rm Hz} \quad \xrightarrow{B_0 = 1\mu{\rm T}} \quad \delta B \le 100{\rm fT}$$

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Magnetic fields





B-Field stability



Afach et al., J. Appl. Phys. 116, 084510 (2014)

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Mercury comagnetometer





Real data example (stability)











Stability of the effective vertical gradient







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• Shift the central value by adding an unknown offset EDM of -1.5 to 1.5E-25 ecm to the data

$$\begin{split} \delta N_{\uparrow,\downarrow;i} &= \mp \bar{N} \frac{\pi \alpha}{\Delta \nu} \frac{d \cdot E}{h} \sin \phi_i \\ \text{with} \qquad \phi_i &= \frac{(\nu_i - \nu_0)}{\Delta \nu} \pi \end{split}$$

- Keep un-blinded data in a safe place (encrypted)
- Two blinding levels

 Primary blinding same for both analysis groups
 Secondary blinding layer different for both groups



