

The neutron beta decay correlation program at SNS

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The FnPB neutron decay program at SNS

- ▶ **Nab**: a precise measurement of
 - *a*, the electron-neutrino correlation in neutron decay, and
 - *b*, the Fierz interference term (so far not measured in *n* decay).
- ▶ **Polarized program** (abBA/PANDA): precise measurements of
 - *A*, the electron asymmetry in neutron decay,
 - *B*, the neutrino asymmetry in neutron decay,
 - *C*, the proton asymmetry in neutron decay; also

Goal uncertainties: $\delta a/a, \delta A/A, \delta B/B \leq 10^{-3}$, and
 $\delta b \leq 3 \times 10^{-3}$.

Neutron Decay Parameters (SM)

$$\frac{dw}{dE_e d\Omega_e d\Omega_\nu} \simeq k_e E_e (E_0 - E_e)^2$$

$$\times \left[1 + a \frac{\vec{k}_e \cdot \vec{k}_\nu}{E_e E_\nu} + b \frac{m}{E_e} + \langle \vec{\sigma}_n \rangle \cdot \left(A \frac{\vec{k}_e}{E_e} + B \frac{\vec{k}_\nu}{E_\nu} \right) + \dots \right]$$

where:

$$a = \frac{1 - |\lambda|^2}{1 + 3|\lambda|^2} \quad A = -2 \frac{|\lambda|^2 + \text{Re}(\lambda)}{1 + 3|\lambda|^2}$$

$$B = 2 \frac{|\lambda|^2 - \text{Re}(\lambda)}{1 + 3|\lambda|^2} \quad \lambda = \frac{G_A}{G_V} \text{ (with } \tau_n \Rightarrow \text{CKM } V_{ud})$$

also:

$$C = \kappa(A + B) \quad \text{where} \quad \kappa \simeq 0.275.$$

Goals of the Nab experiment

- ▶ Measure the electron-neutrino parameter **a** in neutron decay

with accuracy of

$$\frac{\Delta a}{a} \simeq 10^{-3}$$

	-0.1054 ± 0.0055	Byrne et al '02
current results:	-0.1017 ± 0.0051	Stratowa et al '78
	-0.091 ± 0.039	Grigorev et al '68

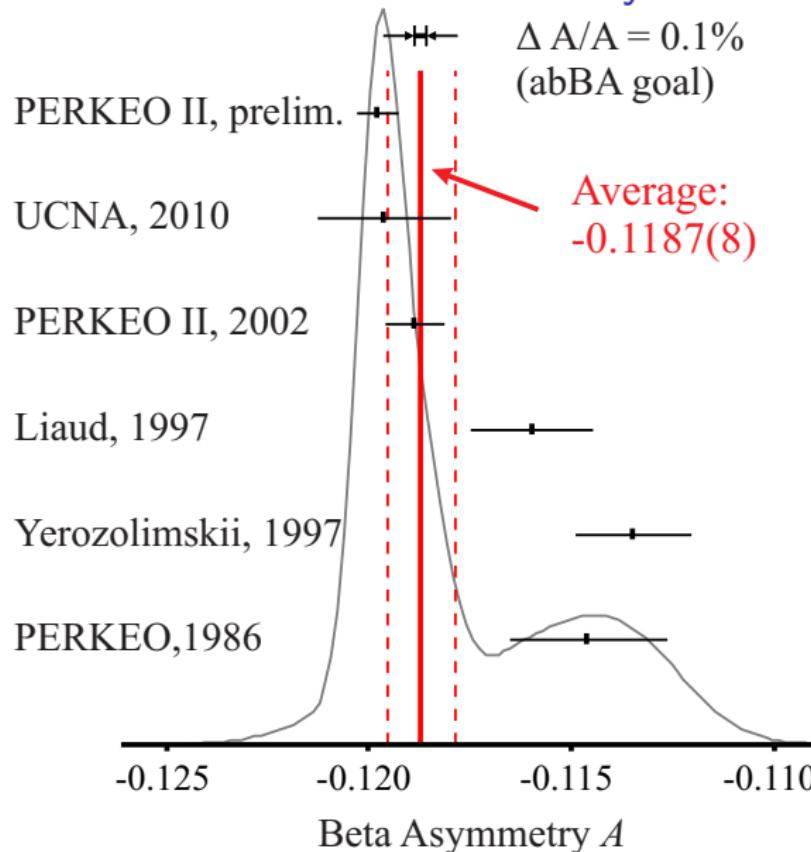
- ▶ Measure the Fierz interference term **b** in neutron decay

with accuracy of

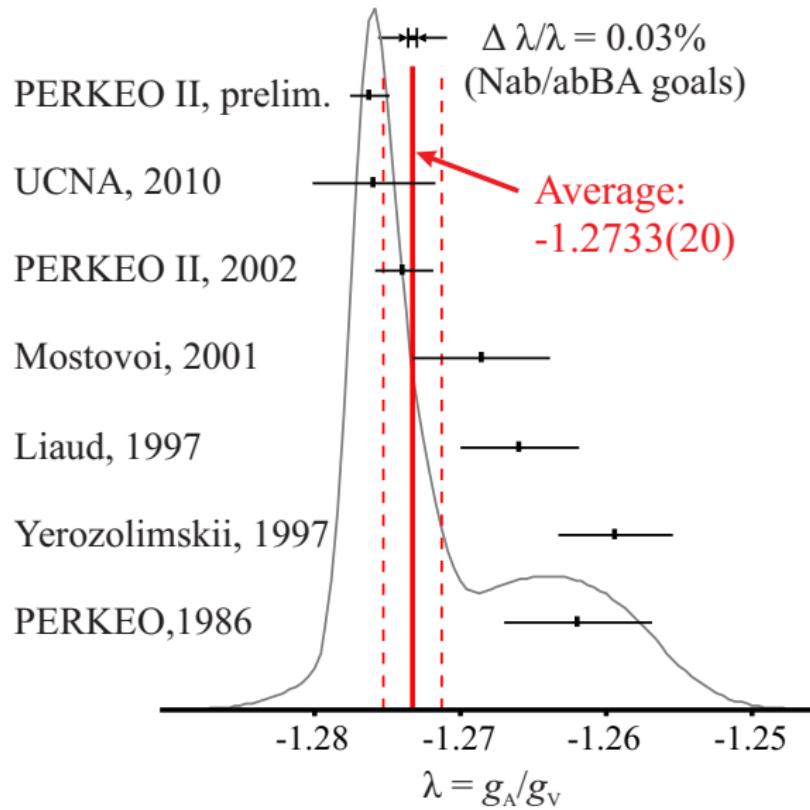
$$\Delta b \simeq 3 \times 10^{-3}$$

current results: **none (in n decay)**

Status of A and λ in n decay



Status of A and λ in n decay (cont'd)



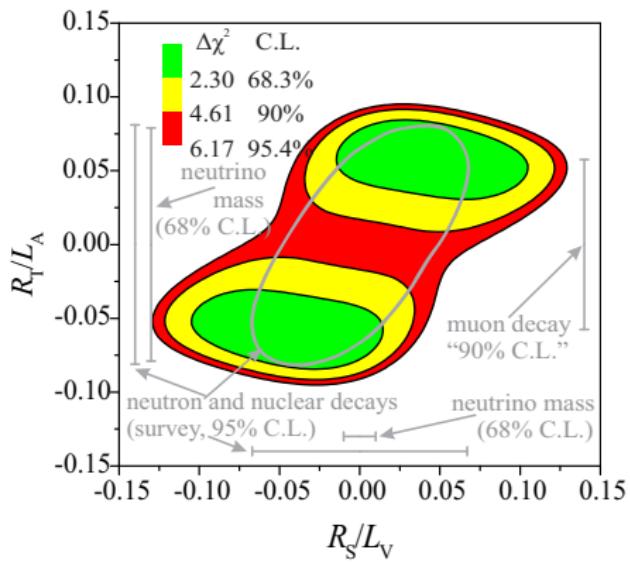
Goals for Δa , ΔA :
 $\Rightarrow \Delta \lambda \simeq 3.5 \times 10^{-4}$
 i.e., an order of magn.
 improvement.

$$\frac{\Delta \lambda}{\lambda} \simeq 0.27 \frac{\Delta a}{a} \simeq 0.24 \frac{\Delta A}{A}$$

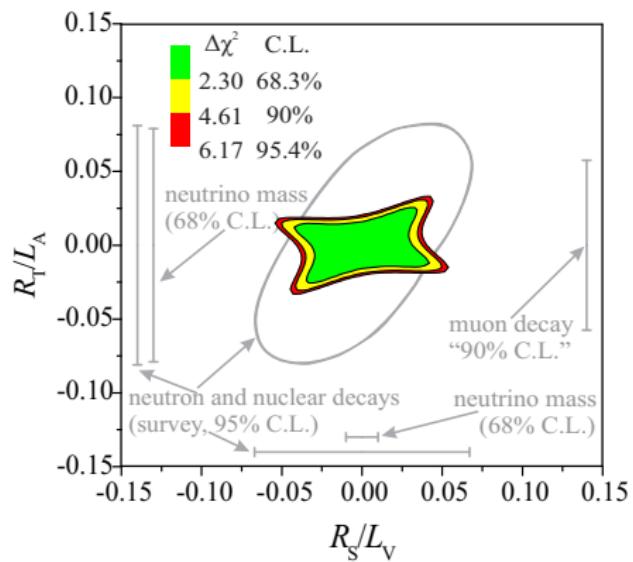
n-decay correlation parameters beyond V_{ud}

- ▶ Beta decay parameters constrain L-R symmetric, SUSY extensions to the SM. [Reviews: Herczeg, Prog. Part. Nucl. Phys. **46**, 413 (2001), N. Severijns, M. Beck, O. Naviliat-Čunčić, Rev. Mod. Phys. **78**, 991 (2006), Ramsey-Musolf, Su, Phys. Rep. **456**, 1 (2008)]
- ▶ Fierz int. term, never measured for the n , along with B , offers a sensitive test of non- $(V - A)$ terms in the weak Lagrangian (S, T). [S. Profumo, M. J. Ramsey-Musolf, S. Tulin, PRD **75**, 075017 (2007)]
- ▶ Measurement of the electron-energy dependence of a and A can separately confirm CVC and absence of SCC. [Gardner, Zhang, PRL **86**, 5666 (2001), Gardner, hep-ph/0312124]
- ▶ A connection exists between non-SM (e.g., S, T) terms in $d \rightarrow ue\bar{\nu}$ and limits on ν masses. [Ito + Prézaeu, PRL **94** (2005)]

Updated limits for RH S and T currents n decay



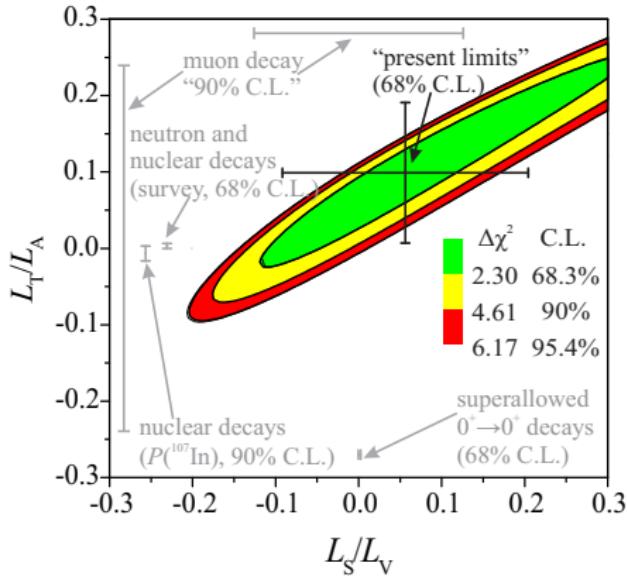
Present limits (n decay data)
(SM values at origin of plot.)



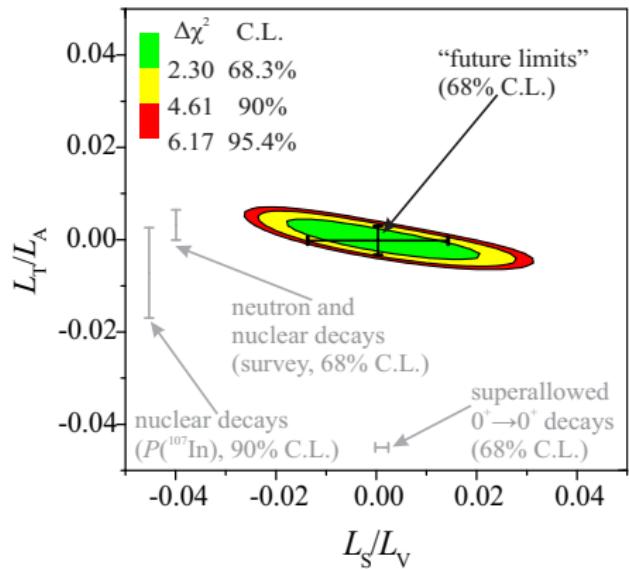
Projected limits based on $a = -0.1030(1)$,
 $b \equiv 0$, and no improvement in A .

[G. Konrad, W. Heil, S. Baeßler, D. Počanić, F. Glück, arXiv 1007.3027.]

Limits for LH S and T currents n decay



Present limits (n decay data)
(SM values at origin of plot.)



Projected limits assuming $a = -0.1030(1)$;
 $b = 0 \pm 0.003$: no new A, B measurements.

[G. Konrad, W. Heil, S. Baeßler, D. Počanić, F. Glück, arXiv 1007.3027.]

Correlation parameters with recoil correction

[Gardner, Zhang, PRL **86**, 5666 (2001), Gardner, hep-ph/0312124]

Most general form of hardonic weak current consistent with (V-A):

$$\langle \mathbf{p}(\mathbf{p}_p) | J^\mu | \mathbf{n}(\mathbf{p}_n, \mathbf{P}) \rangle =$$

$$\bar{u}_p(p_p) \left(\mathbf{f}_1(q^2) \gamma^\mu - i \frac{\mathbf{f}_2(q^2)}{M_n} q^\mu + \frac{\mathbf{f}_3(q^2)}{M_n} q^\mu + \mathbf{g}_1(q^2) \gamma^\mu \gamma_5 \right. \\ \left. - i \frac{\mathbf{g}_2(q^2)}{M_n} \sigma^{\mu\nu} \gamma_5 q_\nu + \frac{\mathbf{g}_3(q^2)}{M_n} \gamma_5 q^\mu \right) u_n(p_n, P)$$

$$\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B} \Rightarrow \lambda = \frac{\mathbf{g}_1}{\mathbf{f}_1} \quad \text{while} \quad \tau_n \propto (\mathbf{f}_1)^2 + 3(\mathbf{g}_1)^2$$

However, \mathbf{f}_2 (weak magnetism) and SCC's ($\mathbf{g}_2, \mathbf{g}_3$), remain unresolved in beta decays (best tested in $A=12$ system). With recoil corrections, Gardner and Zhang find:

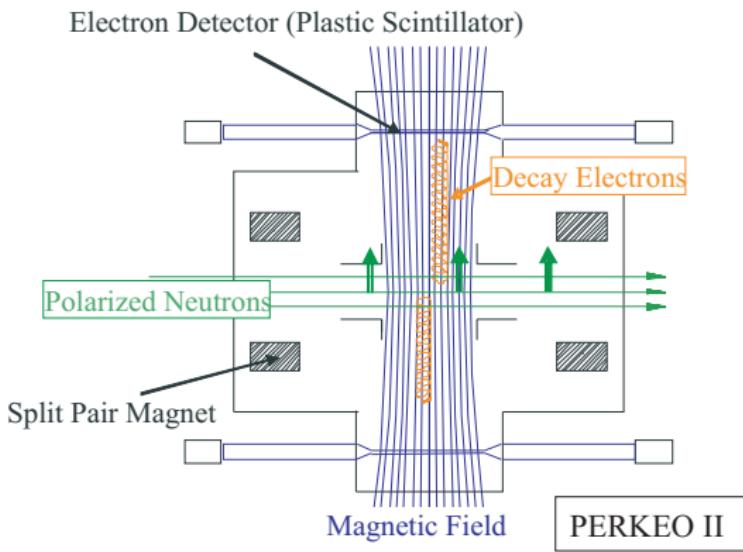
$$\mathbf{a}(E_e) = \text{func}(\mathbf{f}_2) \quad \text{while} \quad \mathbf{A}(E_e) = \text{func}(\mathbf{f}_2, \mathbf{g}_2)$$

Current experiments aiming to measure a

1. **Nab**: goal is to measure $\Delta a/a \sim 10^{-3}$
 - ▶ Discussed in this presentation.
2. **aCORN**: goal is to measure $\Delta a/a \sim 0.5 - 2\%$
 - ▶ Funded, under way at NIST,
 - ▶ Uses only part of neutron decays.
3. **aSPECT**: aims to measure $\Delta a/a \sim 10^{-3}$
 - ▶ Funded and running; recently overcame trapping problems,
 - ▶ Stat. sensitivity not as good as Nab due to integration; presently $\sim 2\%/\text{day}$ —will likely improve on publ. results, not $< 1\%$ this yr,
 - ▶ Determination of detection function relies on theoretical model of spectrometer; if assumptions fulfilled, input param's easy to measure.
 - ▶ **Singles measurement!**
 - ▶ will become part of the **PERC** program with improvements.

Current state of the art in A: PERKEO II

- obtained $\mathbf{A} = -0.1189(7)$ in 2002; $-0.1198(5)$ current prelim.
- data acquisition finished,
- data analysis of last (3rd) run completed; result not yet published,
- symmetric setup on cold \mathbf{n} beam, similar to original abBA design,



- singles e detection
- benchmark design for all comparisons,
- major uncertainties:
 - statistics,
 - neutron beam polarization,
 - background,
 - electron detection.

1. **abBA:** aim $\delta\mathbf{A}/\mathbf{A} \simeq 1 \times 10^{-3}$; (discussed in this talk)

- ▶ uses magnetic filter,
- ▶ expected improvements: background (coincidences), electron detection (Si detector), sensitivity to field inhomogeneities,
- ▶ measurements of **C** (**B**) planned

2. **PERKEO III:** aim $\delta\mathbf{A}/\mathbf{A} \simeq 2 \times 10^{-3}$ in **A**

- ▶ data analysis of second run ongoing, aim to measure **A** and **f₂**
- ▶ expected improvements: pulsed wide beam (statistics, background)

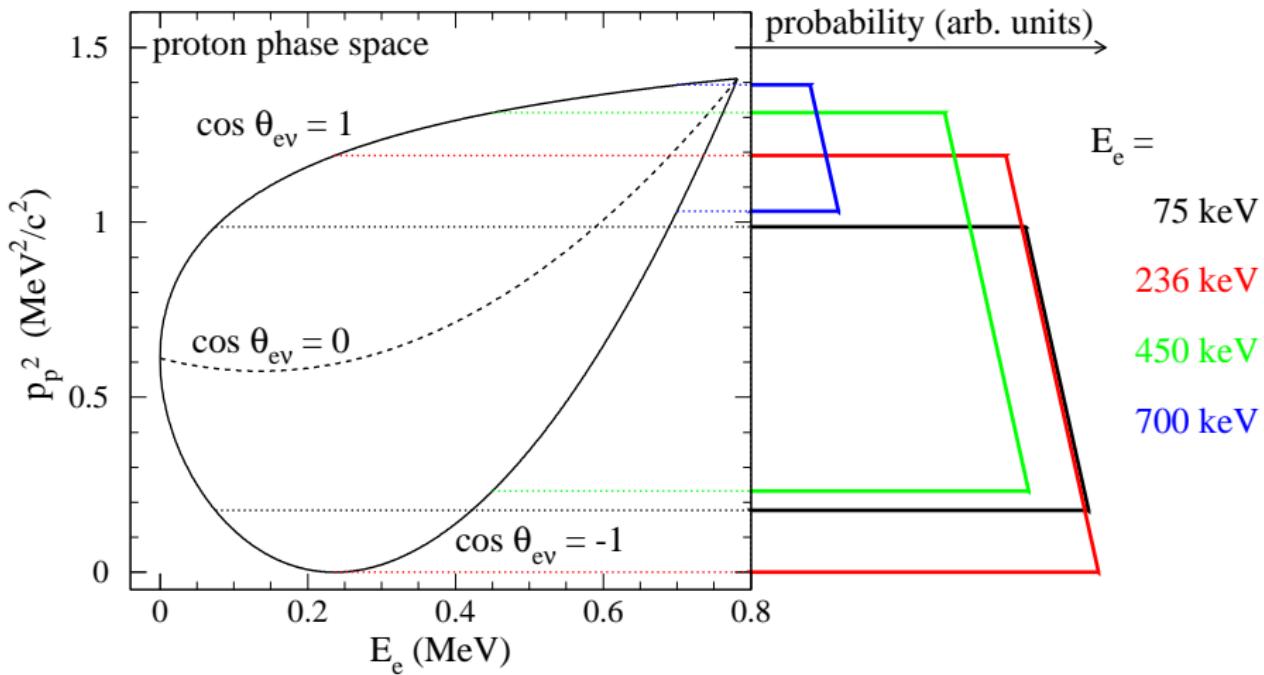
3. **UCNA:** aim $\delta\mathbf{A}/\mathbf{A} \simeq 2 \times 10^{-3}$ (discussed at this meeting)

- ▶ achieved -0.11966^{+152}_{-166} in 2010,
- ▶ uses (so far, dedicated) UCN source,
- ▶ major uncertainties: statistics, **P_n** (so far: > **99.5%**, viz. **99.7(1)%** in PERKEO II), **E** loss in foil, muon veto bkgd,
- ▶ further measurements of **B**, **b** planned,

4. **PERC:** aim $\delta\mathbf{A}/\mathbf{A} \simeq 3 \times 10^{-4}$; (funded, being designed)

- ▶ uses magnetic filter behind a pulsed beam in a neutron guide,
- ▶ main expected improvements: counting statistics, background (**singles det'n**, but w/pulsed beam), sensitivity to field inhomogeneities;
- ▶ future measurements of **a**, **C**, et al., in planning.

Nab Measurement principles: Proton phase space



NB: For a given E_e , $\cos \theta_{ev}$ is a function of p_p^2 only.

Slope = a

Measurement principles: Detection function (I)

Proton time of flight in B field:

$$t_p = \frac{f(\cos \theta_{p,0})}{p_p} \quad \text{where} \quad \cos \theta_{p,0} = \left. \frac{\vec{p}_{p0} \cdot \vec{B}}{p_{p0} B} \right|_{\text{decay pt.}} .$$

For an adiabatically expanding field prior to acceleration,

$$f(\cos \theta_{p,0}) = \int_{z_0}^l \frac{m_p dz}{\cos \theta_p(z)} = \int_{z_0}^l \frac{m_p dz}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{B(z)}{B_0} \sin^2 \theta_{p,0}}} .$$

To this we add effects of magnetic reflections and, later, of electric field acceleration.

Measurement principles: Detection function (II)

The proton momentum distribution within the phase space bounds is given by

$$P_p(p_p^2) = 1 + a\beta_e \cos \theta_{e\nu}, \quad [\text{recall: } \cos \theta_{e\nu} = f(p_p^2)]$$

while

$$P_t\left(\frac{1}{t_p^2}\right) = \int P_p(p_p^2) \Phi\left(\frac{1}{t_p^2}, p_p^2\right) dp_p^2.$$

Detection function Φ relates the proton momentum and time-of-flight distributions! To extract a reliably:

- ▶ Φ must be as narrow as possible,
- ▶ Φ must be understood very precisely.

Two methods ("A" and "B") pursued to specify Φ .

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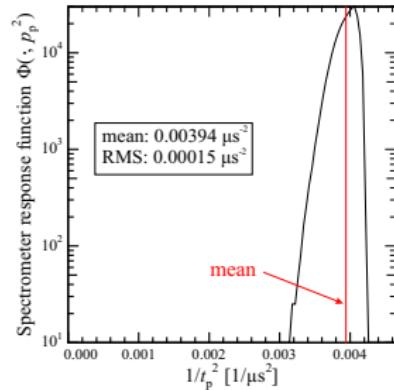
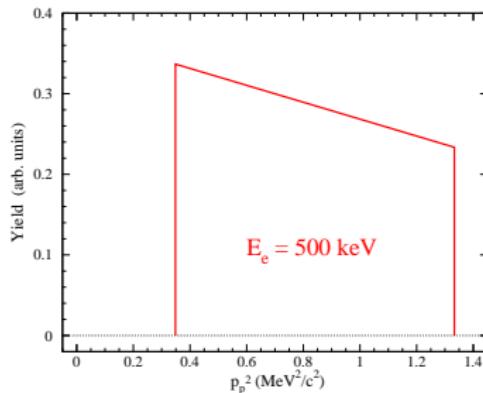
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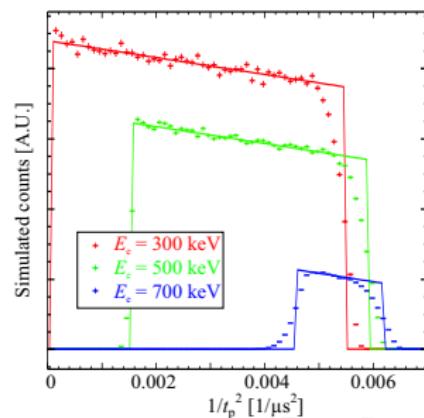
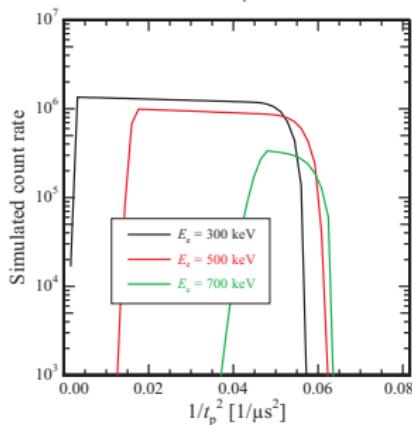
Measurement principles: Detection function (III)

kinematic input



$$E_p = 500 \text{ eV}$$

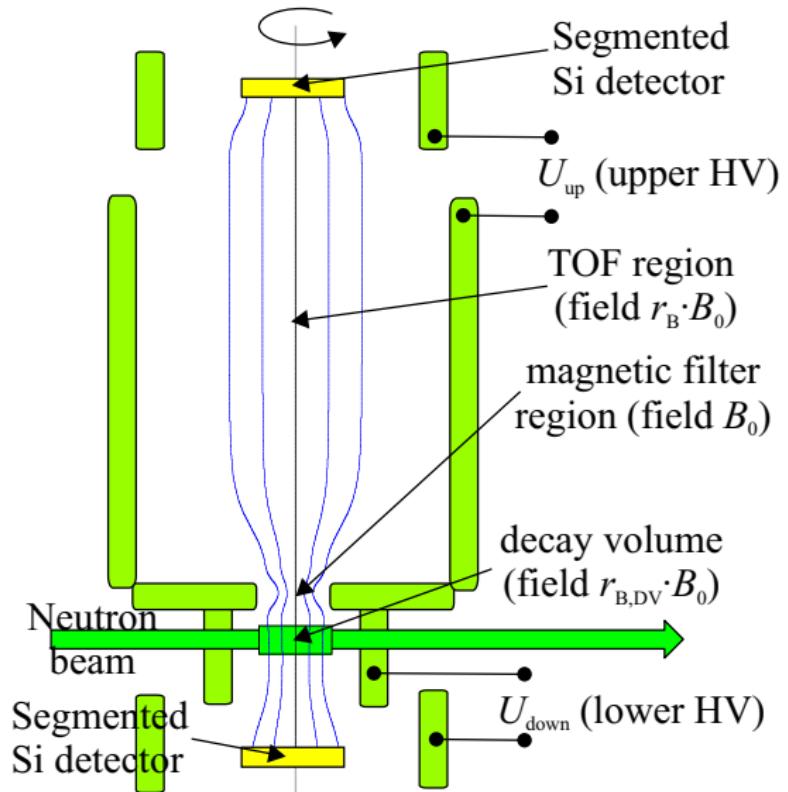
analyt. calcul'n



MC
GEANT
simul'n

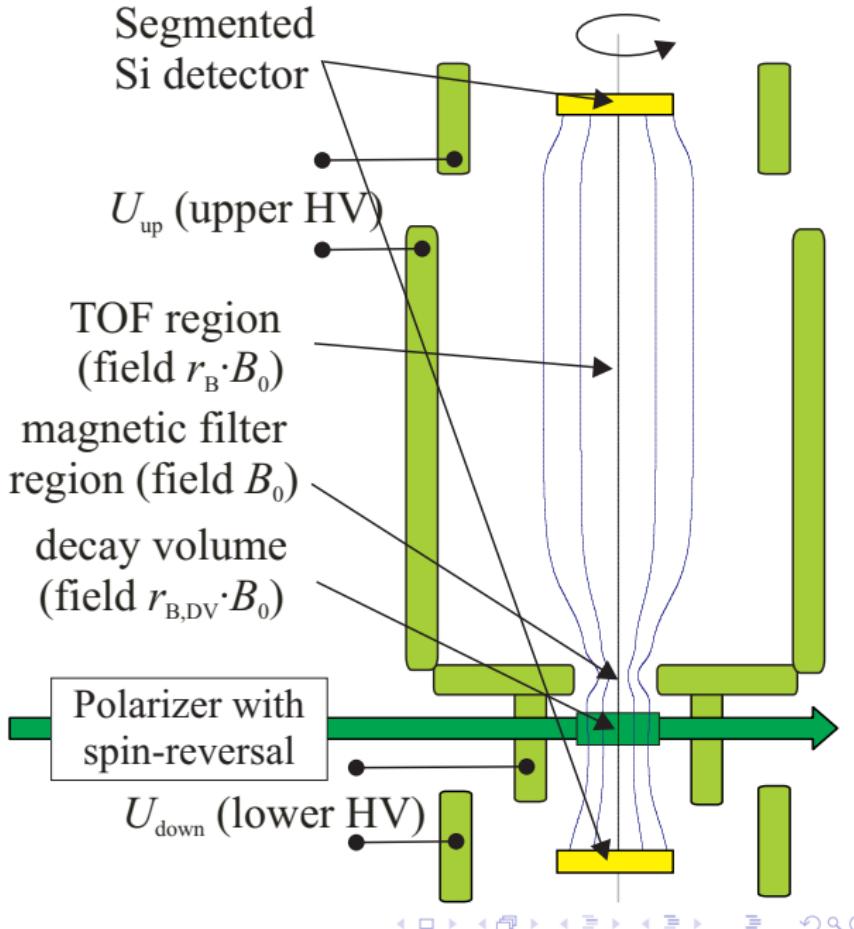
Nab principle of operation

- ▶ Collect and detect both **electron** and **proton** from neutron beta decay (magnetic field, detectors at both ends)
- ▶ Measure **electron energy** and **proton TOF** and reconstruct decay kinematics (Magnetic field shape, silicon detectors at both ends).

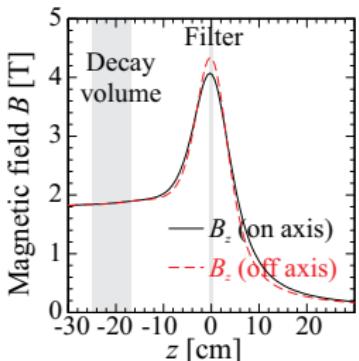
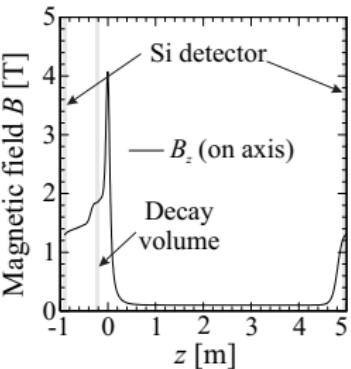
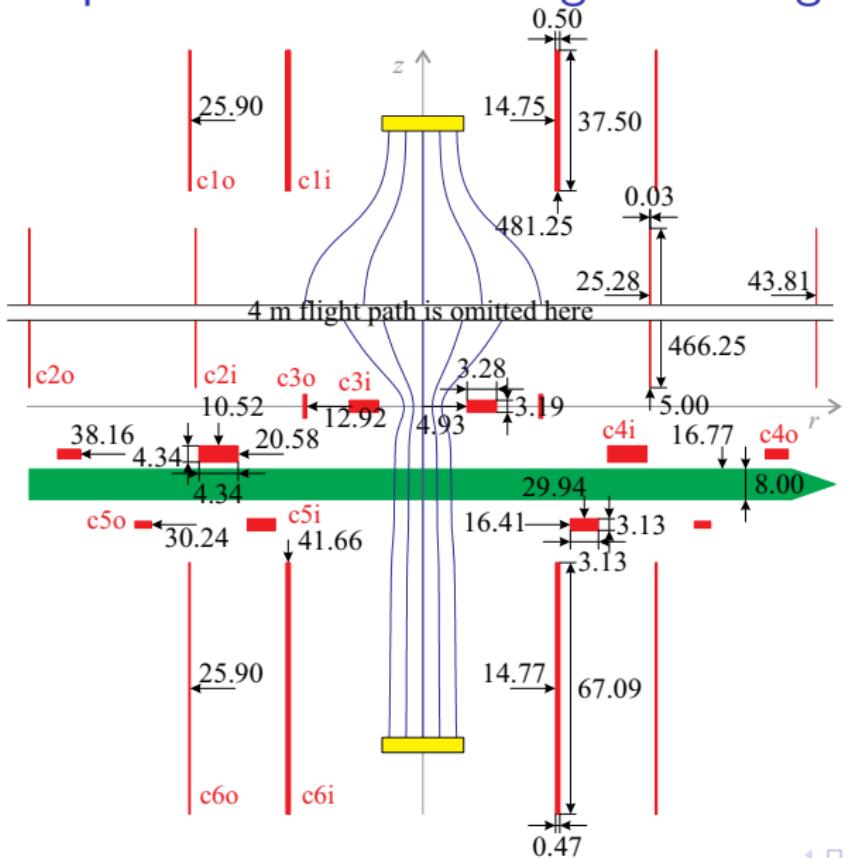


abBA/PANDA configuration:

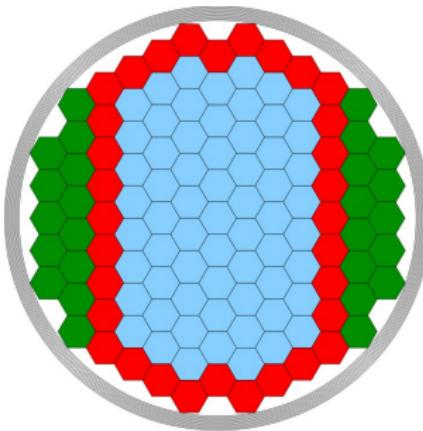
- ▶ A: detect electrons in upper, protons in lower detector;
 - ▶ B/C: detect protons in upper, electrons in lower detector;



The spectrometer: coil design and magnetic field profile



Si detector prototypes (15 cm diameter)

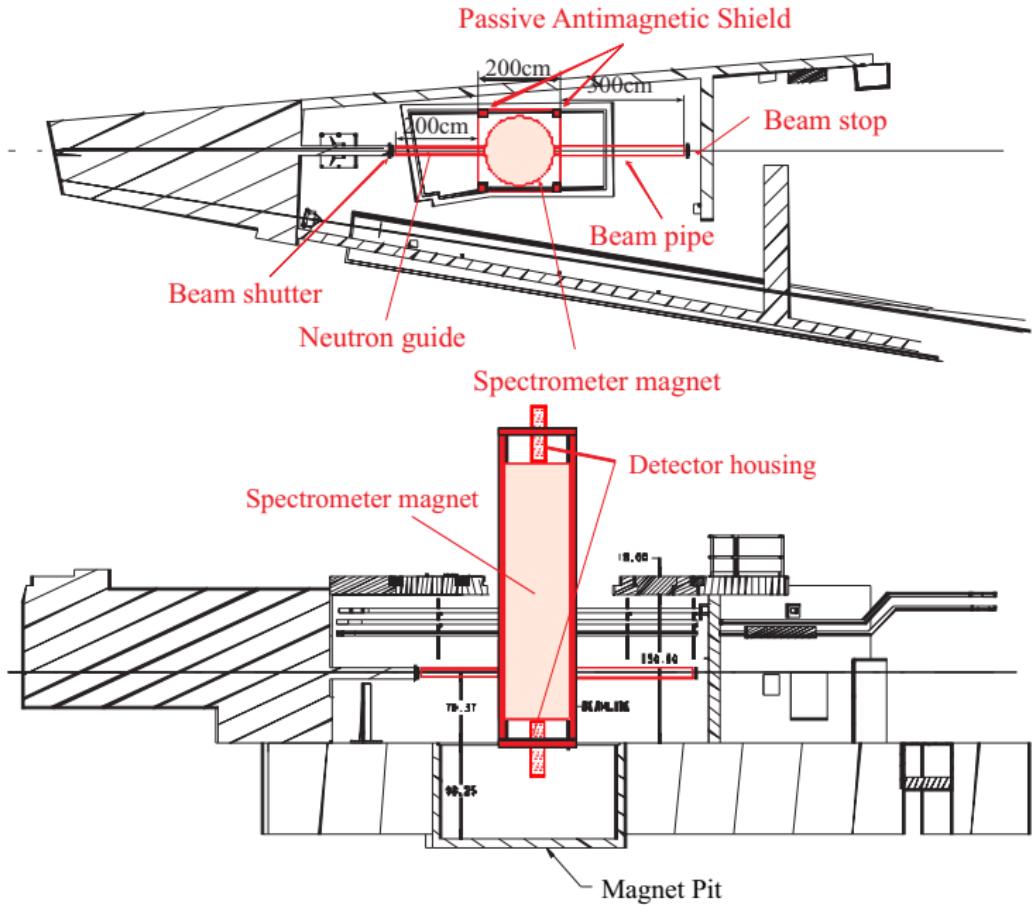


LANL group has full-size prototypes from Micron Corp.

Full thickness $t = 2 \text{ mm}$; dead layer thickness $t_d \leq 100 \text{ nm}$.

Detailed testing currently under way at LANL.

Spectrometer installation in FnPB:



Statistical uncertainties for **a** and **b**

Statistical uncertainties for **a**

$E_{e,\min}$	0	100 keV	100 keV	300 keV
$t_{p,\max}$	–	–	100 μs	40 μs
σ_a	$2.4/\sqrt{N}$	$2.5/\sqrt{N}$	$2.5/\sqrt{N}$	$2.5/\sqrt{N}$
σ_a^{\dagger}	$2.5/\sqrt{N}$	$2.6/\sqrt{N}$	$2.6/\sqrt{N}$	$2.7/\sqrt{N}$
σ_a^{\ddagger}	$4.1/\sqrt{N}$	$4.1/\sqrt{N}$	$4.1/\sqrt{N}$	$4.1/\sqrt{N}$

\dagger with E_{calib} and L_{TOF} variable; \ddagger using inner 70% of p_p^2 data.

Statistical uncertainties for **b**

$E_{e,\min}$	0	100 keV	200 keV	300 keV
σ_b	$7.5/\sqrt{N}$	$10.1/\sqrt{N}$	$15.6/\sqrt{N}$	$26.3/\sqrt{N}$
$\sigma_b^{\dagger\dagger}$	$7.7/\sqrt{N}$	$10.3/\sqrt{N}$	$16.3/\sqrt{N}$	$27.7/\sqrt{N}$

$\dagger\dagger$ with E_{calib} variable.

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$\dagger\dagger$ with E_{calib} variable.

Nab event rates, statistics and running times

Nab expects data rates of about 300 evts./s.

In a typical ~ 10 -day run of 7×10^5 s of net beam time we would achieve

$$\frac{\sigma_a}{a} \simeq 2 \times 10^{-3} \quad \text{and} \quad \sigma_b \simeq 6 \times 10^{-4}$$

We plan to collect samples of $1 - 2 \times 10^9$ events in several 6–8-week runs.

Overall accuracy will **not be statistics-limited**.

Analysis methods to be used:

- A. parametrize edges and width of $\Phi(p_p, 1/t_p)$ by fitting; use central part of Φ ($\sim 70\%$) to extract a in a multiparameter fit, and
- B. specify all possible parameters of Φ by direct measurement; \Rightarrow treat a , $\mu = \overline{1/t_p^2}(p_p)$, and N_{decays} as free parameters in a two-step fitting procedure,

as well as a hybrid of the two.

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Nab systematic uncertainties

Experimental parameter	$(\Delta a/a)_{\text{SYST}}$
Magnetic field:	
curvature at pinch	5×10^{-4}
ratio $r_B = B_{\text{TOF}}/B_0$	2.5×10^{-4}
ratio $r_{B,\text{DV}} = B_{\text{DV}}/B_0$	3×10^{-4}
L_{TOF} , length of TOF region	(*)
U inhomogeneity:	
in decay / filter region	5×10^{-4}
in TOF region	1×10^{-4}
Neutron Beam:	
position	4×10^{-4}
width	2.5×10^{-4}
Doppler effect	small
unwanted beam polarization	small
Adiabaticity of proton motion	1×10^{-4}
Detector effects:	
E_e calibration	(*)
E_e resolution	5×10^{-4}
Proton trigger efficiency	2.5×10^{-4}
Accidental coincidences	small
Residual gas	small
Background	small
Sum	1×10^{-3}

abBA/PANDA rates and statistical uncertainties

Additions to Nab apparatus: $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{(supermirror) polarizers,} \\ \text{polarization analyzers,} \end{array} \right.$
 yield these rates:

$$\text{decays in DV: } n_d = \frac{dN_d}{dt} \simeq 250 \text{ s}^{-1}, \quad \text{and}$$

$$\text{e's in UD: } n_{eU} = \frac{dN_{eU}}{dt} \simeq 30 \text{ s}^{-1}.$$

(He-3 polarizers may give higher rates.)

E_e lower cutoff (keV)	none	100	200	250
σ_A (symm., 2 det's)	$2.7/\sqrt{N_d}$	$2.9/\sqrt{N_d}$	$4.8/\sqrt{N_d}$	$7.4/\sqrt{N_d}$
σ_A (asymm., 1 det.)	$4.3/\sqrt{N_d}$	$4.8/\sqrt{N_d}$	$7.8/\sqrt{N_d}$	$11.9/\sqrt{N_d}$

To reach $\Delta A/A = 1 \times 10^{-3}$ we need $N_d = 1.7 \times 10^9$ or **75 live days**.

abBA/PANDA systematic uncertainties

Experimental parameter	$(\Delta A/A)_{\text{SYST}}$
Neutron Beam:	position
	profile & edge effect
	Doppler effect
	polarization
U inhomogeneity:	not relevant
	small
Detector effects:	2×10^{-4}
	Trigger efficiency
Accidental coincidences	small
Residual gas	small
Background	small
Sum	under study

Optimal schedule, **excluding** major technical, administrative or funding delays:

	Milestone	Completion
0.b	Detector prototype detects protons	Sep. 2011
0.	Magnet design ready for bidding	Sep. 2011
1.a	Order for magnet placed (design & option to build)	Dec. 2011
1.b	Acceptance of engineering drawings	Dec. 2012
1.c	Delivery of magnet	Sep. 2013
1.	Spectrometer magnet accepted	Dec. 2013
2.a	Passive Antimagnetic screen: magnetic design finished	Sep. 2012
2.	Passive Antimagnetic screen built	Dec. 2013
3.a	Detector test chamber available	Mar. 2012
.....
3.g	Electrode system ready	Mar. 2014
3.	Main detectors work in spectrometer	Jun. 2014
4.a	Shielding calculation for Nab accepted	Jun. 2013
.....
4.d	Shielding and utilities ready	Jun. 2014
4.	Spectrometer ready for data taking	Sep. 2014
5.a	Magnetometer calibrated	Sep. 2012
5.b	Magnetic field mapping system constructed	Dec. 2013
5.	Magnetic field of spectrometer mapped	Mar. 2014
6.	Data acquisition	Sep. 2015
7.	Data analysis	Sep. 2016

Potential shifts in schedule result in a linear translation.

Schedule overview

2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
dsgn							
	procurement						
		Nab setup/daq					
					†		
						pol. pgm. setup/daq	

† Changeover to polarized program.

Last two items (polarized program) may take place at the new NGC beamline at NIST (scientific approval granted).

Tasks and responsibilities

	Subproject	Responsible Instit.	Person(s)
1	Spectrometer magnet	UVa	Baeßler/Počanić
2	Passive antimagnetic screen	ASU	R. Alarcon
3	Beamline	UT	G.L. Greene
4	Shielding and utilities	ORNL	S.I. Penttilä
<hr/>			
5	Detectors	LANL	W.S. Wilburn
		UVa	D. Počanić
		U Manitoba	M.T. Gericke
		U Winnipeg	J. Martin
<hr/>			
6	DAQ	UKy	C. Crawford
7	Electrode System	ORNL	J.D. Bowman
8	Vacuum system	UVa	S. Baeßler
9	<i>B</i> field measurement	UVa	D. Počanić
10	Beamline modification	ORNL	S.I. Penttilä
11	Polarization & polarimetry	UMich	T. Chupp

Asymptotic manpower commitments

UVa	ASU	LANL				
Faculty:	Faculty:	Sr. Scient:				
D. Počanić	50%	R. Alarcon	35%	S. Wilburn	100% [†]	
S. Baeßler	40%	Grad. St:	TBD	100%	Postdoc:	
Res. Sc./P'doc:				N. Fomin/TBD	100% [†]	
E. Frlež	50%	UKy		UTenn		
A. Salas-B./TBD	67%	Faculty:	C. Crawford	50%	Faculty:	
Grad. St:		Grad. St:	TBD	100%	Postdoc:	
TBD	100%			S. Kucuker/TBD	10%	
TBD	100%	UNH		Grad. St:		
TBD	100%	Faculty:	J. Calarco	50%	TBD	100%
UMich		Grad. St:	TBD	100%	UNAM	
Faculty:				Faculty:		
T. Chupp	30%			L. Barron-Palos	20%	
Grad. St:		ORNL		Grad. St:		
TBD	100%	Sr. Scient:	S. Penttilä	70%	TBD	100%
NCSU			D. Bowman	70%	[†] Shared with UCNx.	
Grad. St:						
TBD	50% [†]					

In addition: Karlsruhe, Sussex, Manitoba/Winnipeg, ...

Asymptotic manpower commitments in FTE

(Teaching load taken into account for university faculty)

UVa		ASU		LANL	
Faculty:		Faculty:		Sr. Scient:	
D. Počanić	.33	R. Alarcon	.22	S. Wilburn	.05 [†]
S. Baeßler	.40	Grad. St:		Postdoc:	
Res. Sc./P'doc:		TBD	1.0	N. Fomin/TBD	1.0 [†]
E. Frlež	.50	UKy		UTenn	
A. Salas-B./TBD	.67	Faculty:		Faculty:	
Grad. St:		C. Crawford	.33	Geoff Greene	.25
TBD	1.0	Grad. St:		Postdoc:	
TBD	1.0	TBD	1.0	S. Kucuker/TBD	.10
TBD	1.0	UNH		Grad. St:	
UMich		Faculty:		TBD	1.0
Faculty:		J. Calarco	.33	UNAM	
T. Chupp	.20	Grad. St:		Faculty:	
Grad. St:		TBD	1.0	L. Barron-Palos	.15
TBD	1.0	ORNL		Grad. St:	
NCSU		Sr. Scient:		TBD	1.0
Grad. St:		S. Penttilä	.70		
TBD	.50 [†]	D. Bowman	.70		

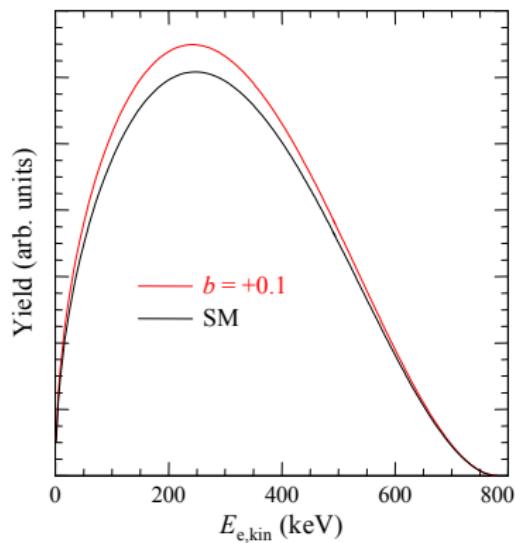
[†] Shared with UCNx.

Additional slides

The determination of the Fierz Interference term

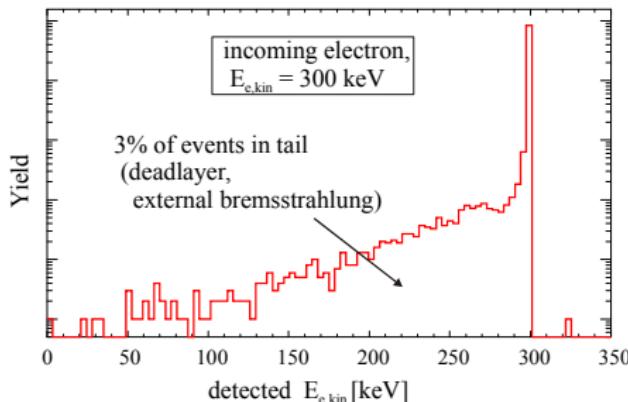
$$dw \propto \rho(E_e) \cdot \left(1 + 3|\lambda|^2\right) \cdot \left\{1 + b \frac{m_e}{E_e}\right\}$$

Electron spectrum:



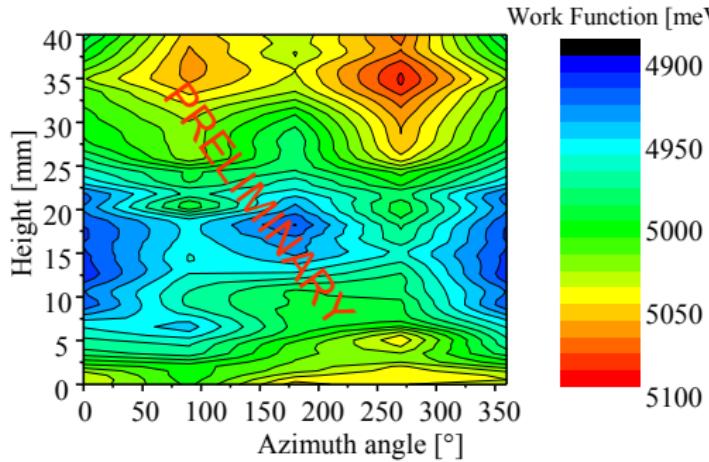
Systematic uncertainties:

1. Electron energy determination

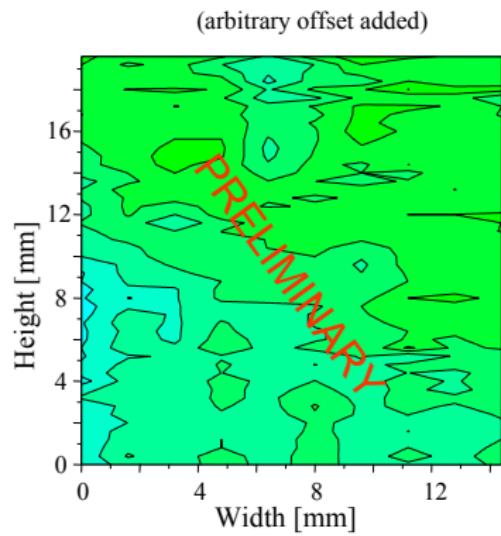
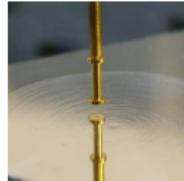


2. Background

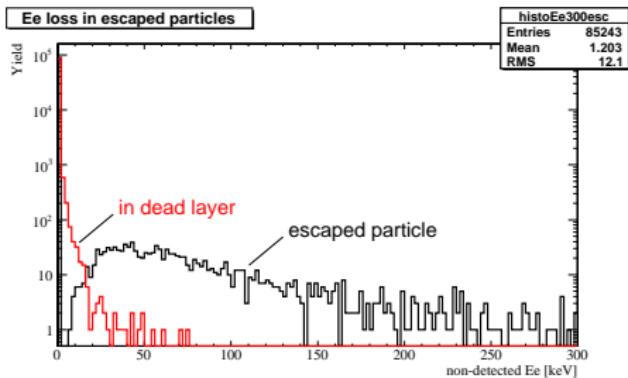
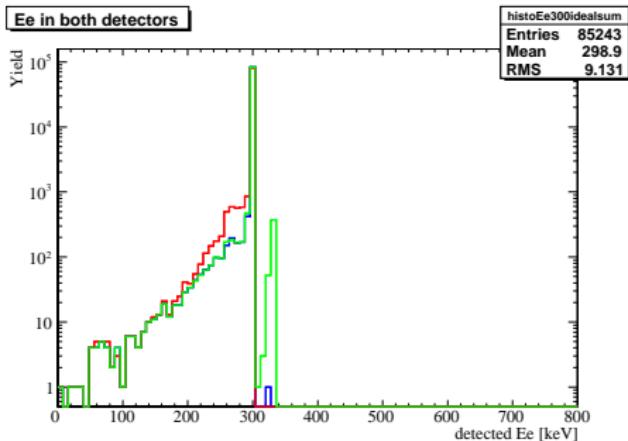
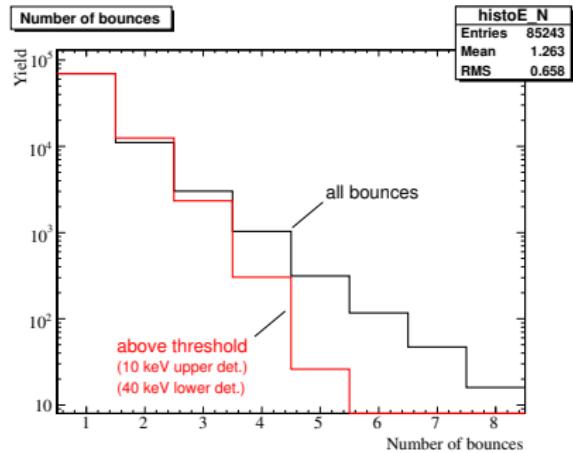
$\Delta b = 3 \times 10^{-3}$ can be reached (systematically limited)



In collaboration with Prof. I. Baikie, KP Technologies

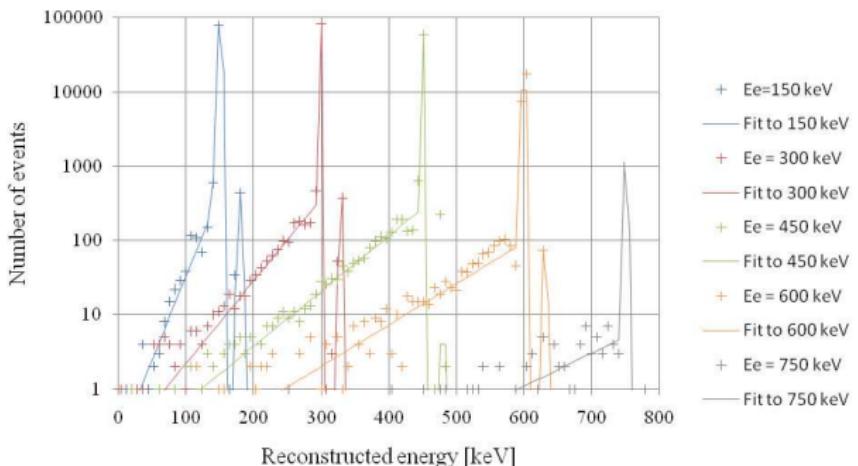


Electron energy response

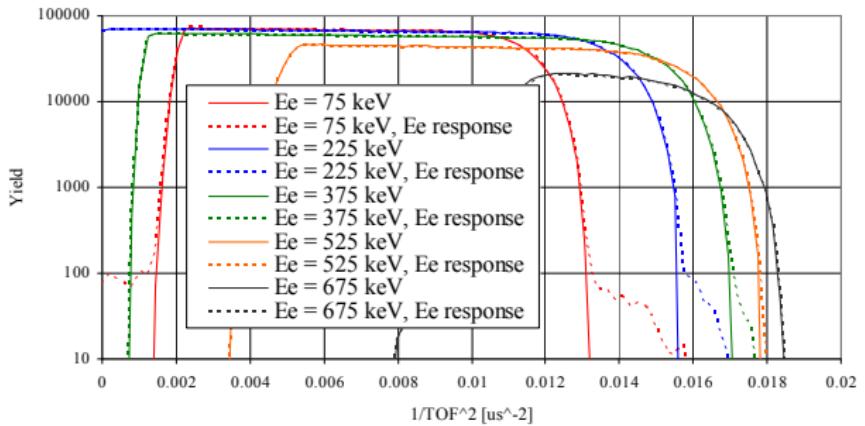


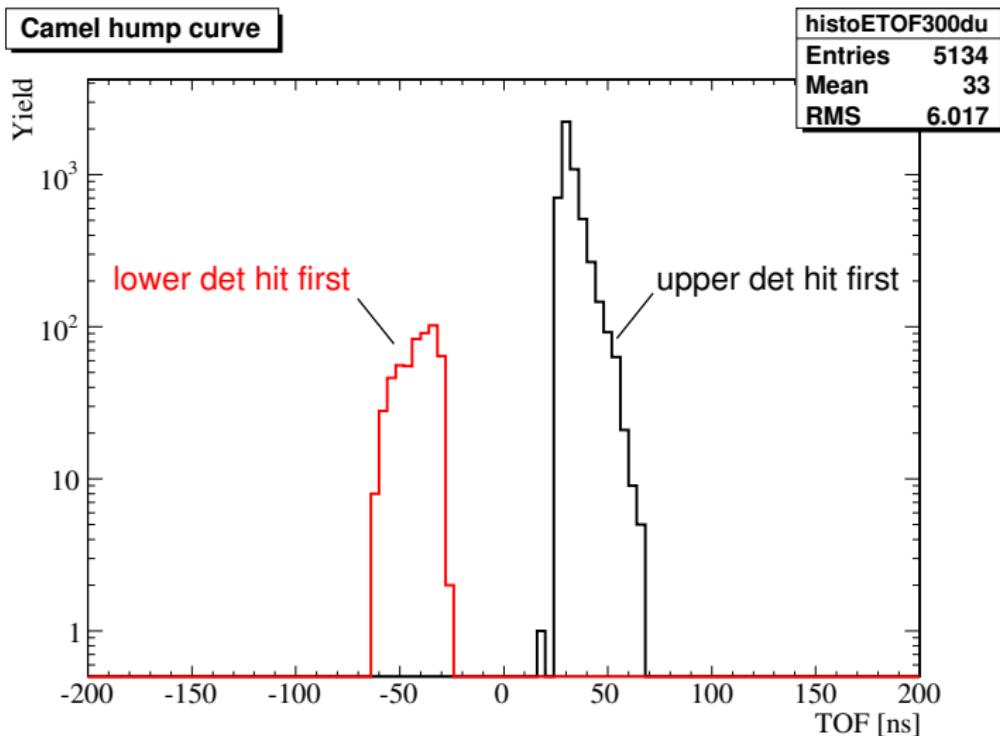
Detector response:

Electron energy



Proton TOF

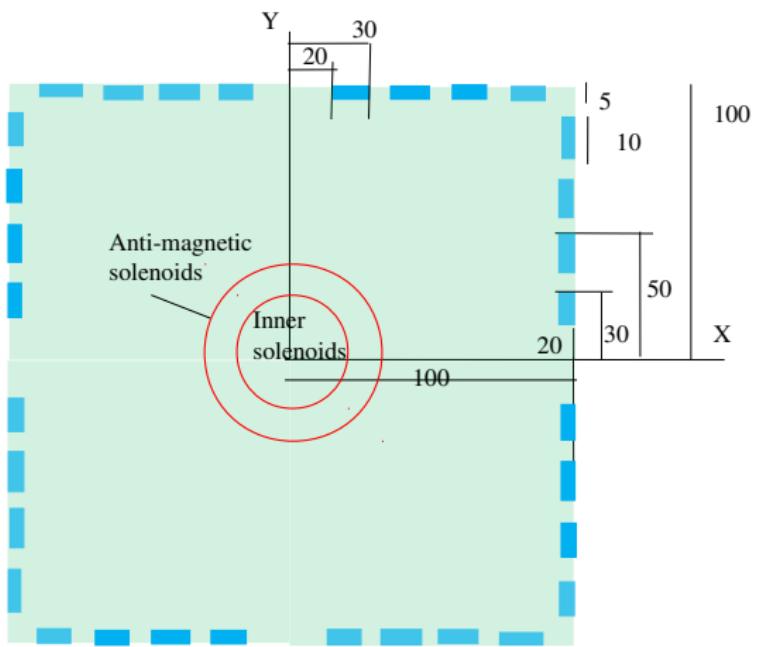




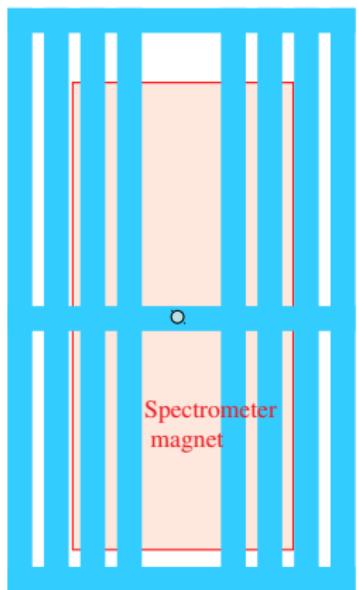
$\text{TOF} = \text{time of upper det. hit} - \text{time of lower det. hit}$

Nab anti-magnetic shield (AMS)

Top view:

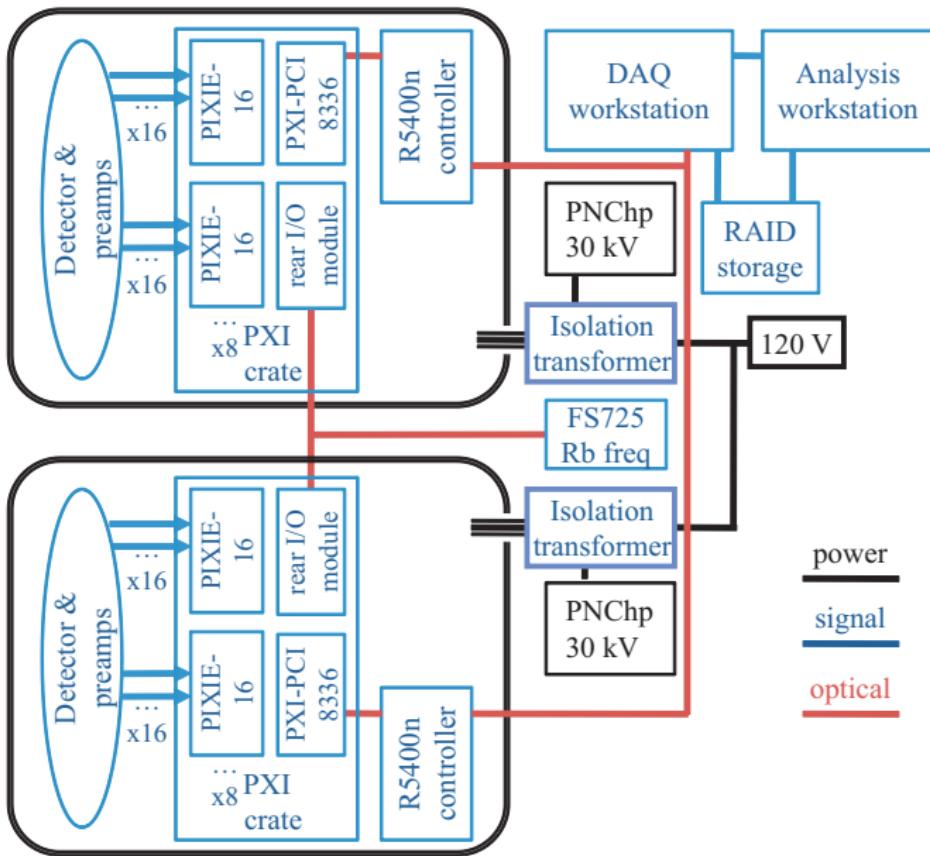


Side view:



Staging area for Nab would save FnPB beam time during AMS testing.

Nab:
DAQ



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Search for Standard Model Parameters

