



# UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

**Magnetic Fields and Ultracold Neutron Production:**

Studies Towards the Neutron Electric Dipole Moment Experiment at TRIUMF

by

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# Abstract

The existence of a non-zero neutron electric dipole moment (nEDM) confirms the theoretical models of Physics beyond the Standard Model which provide extra sources of CP violation. Based on Sakharov Criteria,  $CP$  violation is one of the main ingredients to create the baryon asymmetry in the universe. The current upper limit of the neutron EDM was found to be  $3.0 \times 10^{-26}$  e·cm, which is below the theoretical models predictions. As a result, there is a worldwide quest to find a finite nEDM.

The typical experimental method to measure the nEDM uses the ultracold neutrons (UCN) and employs the Ramsey method of separated oscillatory fields. In this method, the Larmor precession frequency of UCN is measured in the presence of aligned Electric and Magnetic fields orientations. Such precision measurements require high UCN statistics and very stable and homogeneous magnetic fields. The work presented in this thesis is focused on the magnetic field and UCN studies for the future nEDM measurement at TRIUMF.

The TUCAN's (TRIUMF UltraCold Advanced Neutron source) collaboration goal is to measure the nEDM to the sensitivity level of  $10^{-27}$ . For this measurement, the  $< 1$  pT magnetic stability requirement could be met by using magnetic shields with high magnetic permeability ( $\mu$ ) to reduce the external magnetic fields. However, external sources such as ambient temperature fluctuations could give rise to a change in the magnetic properties such as  $\mu$ . The result of the temperature dependence of  $\mu$  measurements and related simulations are presented here. These measurements set a limit on the temperature control level for the future nEDM measurement at TRIUMF.

The TUCAN collaboration's goal is to design a next-generation UCN source to in-

crease the UCN statistics and reach the required nEDM sensitivity. In 2016, the vertical UCN source that was previously developed at RCNP was shipped to TRIUMF. In early 2017, we significantly improved the control system for data acquisition. In November 2017, the first UCN experiments were conducted with the source. The status of the current UCN facility at TRIUMF and the result of the first UCN production tests are presented here.

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# Chapter 1

## Introduction

The work presented in this thesis is focused on the important factors for successfully measuring the neutron electric dipole moment (nEDM) at TRIUMF. Those two are having a very stable magnetic field environment, as well as high ultracold neutron (UCN) statistics. The TRIUMF Advanced Ultracold Neutron source (TUCAN) collaboration's goal is to measure the nEDM to the  $10^{-27}$  e·cm sensitivity level.

This chapter provides some information on the interest in the nEDM measurement from a physics perspective. Finding a nonzero nEDM would answer questions regarding the matter-antimatter or baryon asymmetry of the universe. The nEDM measurement method and a brief overview of the UCN and nEDM facilities worldwide are also presented here. Chapter 2 gives a description of the future nEDM measurement at TRIUMF and its experimental setup components. Chapter 3 is focused on the work towards the temperature dependence of magnetic permeability  $\mu$ , which helps to define the temperature stability requirements for the nEDM measurement. Chapter 4 presents the current UCN facility at TRIUMF, where the first UCN were produced with the vertical UCN source. Chapter 5 presents the result of those measurements with UCN. The final remarks and notes are available in Chapter 6.

## 1.1 History of Fundamental Symmetries

Studies of discrete symmetries have revealed the interactions of the elementary particles and helped develop the underlying theories. There are three discrete symmetries in physics: Charge conjugation ( $C$ ), Parity ( $P$ ) and Time-reversal ( $T$ ).  $C$ -symmetry simply describes physical laws under a particle-antiparticle transformation. Parity transformation, is simply the inversion of spatial coordinates, and Time-reversal transformation is changing the direction of time. Tests of  $C$ ,  $P$  and  $T$  symmetries established the structure of the Standard Model (SM) [1].

In 1956, fall of discrete symmetries started with the famous  $\theta - \tau$  paradox in the K-mesons decay. The paradox was that two particles previously known as  $\theta^+$  and  $\tau^+$ , which had the same mass and lifetime, decayed into products with different parities

$$\begin{aligned} \theta^+ &\rightarrow \pi^+ + \pi^0 \\ \tau^+ &\rightarrow \pi^+ + \pi^+ + \pi^- . \end{aligned} \tag{1.1}$$

At first, it was assumed that the initial states should also have different parities, but precise measurements revealed that this is not the case. Yang and Lee suggested that the paradox is originated from a  $P$  violation in the weak interactions [2]. Immediately after, an experimental search was suggested by Ramsey for Parity violation in the  $\beta$  decay of Co-60. Within a few months,  $P$  violation was demonstrated by three different experiments [3–5]. After the observation of  $P$  violation, Landau showed that electric dipole moments (EDMs) are forbidden by  $T$  symmetry [6], and then, it was suggested that  $T$  symmetry should also be checked experimentally [7].

One of the most fundamental symmetries in physics is  $CPT$  (Charge-Parity-Time) symmetry. The sequential operation of  $C$ ,  $P$  and  $T$  leave the system unchanged in quantum field theories. To date, there is no experimental evidence for  $CPT$  symmetry breaking. Because of the  $CPT$  invariance, breakdown of  $CP$  symmetry should be accompanied by violation of Time-reversal symmetry.

A finite EDM provides a good probe for the new sources of  $CP$  violation beyond the

Standard Model. EDMs caused by  $CP$  violation in the Standard Model are negligible. But most extensions of the Standard Model (such as supersymmetry) naturally produce EDMs that are comparable to or larger than the present experimental limits.

The search for EDMs can be traced back to 1950, when Purcell and Ramsey tested the possibility of finding EDMs for particles and nuclei [8]. Smith, Purcell and Ramsey started an experiment to search for neutron EDM  $d_n$ , and they achieved the upper limit of  $d_n < 5 \times 10^{-20} \text{ e} \cdot \text{cm}$  [9]. Over the years, the upper limit on the neutron EDM has been improved by many orders of magnitude. Measurement of particle EDMs provide some of the tightest constraints on the extensions to the Standard Model to probe  $CP$  violation. The most recent upper limit on the neutron EDM is found to be  $|d_n| < 3.0 \times 10^{-26} \text{ e} \cdot \text{cm}$  [10, 11].

## 1.2 Baryon Asymmetry of the Universe

The neutron EDM provides a highly sensitive diagnostic for  $CP$  violation, which is an important element for the observed baryon asymmetry in the universe. The dominance of matter over antimatter in the universe can be characterized by [12]

$$\eta = \frac{n_b - \bar{n}_b}{n_\gamma} \simeq 6 \times 10^{-10} \quad (1.2)$$

where  $n_b$  is the number of baryons,  $\bar{n}_b$  is the number of anti-baryons, and  $n_\gamma$  is the number of photons in the cosmic microwave background.

It is possible to assume that, maybe, the universe is baryon symmetric in a very large scale, and it is split into regions that are made of only baryons or anti-baryons. If that was the case, an excess of gamma rays in between these separated regions was expected to be observed due to annihilation. But, even in the least dense regions of the space, there are hydrogen gas clouds [12].

### Sakharov Criteria

There are three key ingredients needed in a theory to create baryon asymmetry known as Sakharov criteria [13]:

- Baryon number violation
- $C$  and  $CP$  violation
- Departure from the thermal equilibrium.

The first condition is obvious because it simply means, in a reaction, if the net baryon number is zero, there would be no baryon asymmetry. In the reactions that violate baryon number, if there is no  $C$  and  $CP$  violations, the net baryon number would be zero, and this is because, the reactions that create excessive baryons will be counter-balanced by the reactions that create excessive anti-baryons [14]. The third condition is essential for a net nonzero baryon asymmetry over time, since the equilibrium average of  $B$  vanishes. Sakharov suggested that baryogenesis took place immediately after the big bang, at a temperature not far below the Planck scale of  $10^{19}$  GeV, when the universe was expanding so rapidly that many processes were out of thermal equilibrium [15].

## 1.3 CP violation Beyond the Standard Model

A testable scenario to create the baryon asymmetry in the universe is the Electroweak Baryogenesis (EWBG) [16]. The initial condition for this process is a hot radiation-dominated early universe with zero net baryon number. This scenario requires a first-order electroweak phase transition in order to form bubbles of broken electroweak phase that nucleate within the surrounding plasma. The baryon asymmetry is generated near the walls of these expanding bubbles.

EWBG satisfies all Sakharov criteria using processes that are naively permitted in the Standard Model. However, there are two problems with this model: the first-order phase transition is not strong enough, and it does not provide enough  $CP$  violation to create the

baryon asymmetry currently observed in the universe. As a result, beyond the Standard Model physics is necessary, such as Minimal Supersymmetric Standard Model (MSSM).

The  $CP$  symmetry may be violated in QCD. The QCD Lagrangian consists of two terms

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{cp} - \theta \frac{n_f g^2}{32\pi^2} F_{\mu\nu} \tilde{F}^{\mu\nu}, \quad (1.3)$$

where the first term is  $CP$  conserving and the second is  $CP$  violating with an angular parameter  $\theta$ . Here  $F_{\mu\nu} = \partial_\mu A_\nu + \partial_\nu A_\mu + i[A_\mu, A_\nu]$ , and  $\tilde{F}^{\mu\nu} = 1/2\epsilon^{\mu\nu\alpha\beta}F_{\alpha\beta}$  are the gluon field strength tensor and dual field strength tensor respectively. The first term describes the gluons, quarks, and their interaction, and the second term describes the interaction of the gluons with vacuum. The existing strong bound on the nEDM ( $3 \times 10^{-26}$  e·cm) requires the angle  $\theta$  to be very small ( $\theta < 10^{-9}$ ). Since  $\theta$  is a free parameter, all the values between 0 and  $2\pi$  are equally likely. This is referred to as the “Strong  $CP$  problem”.

A solution to the strong  $CP$  problem was proposed by Peccei and Quinn [17]. They proposed a new symmetry to explain the  $CP$  conservation of strong interactions, which in turn predicts a new particle named the axion. To date the axion has never been discovered although there is still a strong link between axion and nEDM experiments.

## 1.4 Neutron Electric Dipole Moment and Symmetry Breaking

A permanent nEDM is an intrinsic property of a neutron. This fundamental property is a measure for the separation of positive and negative charges internal to the neutron. However, no nEDM has been measured so far.

The interaction of the EDM of a spin-1/2 particle with the electromagnetic field strength  $F_{\mu\nu}$  in the relativistic invariant form can be written as

$$H_d = \frac{d_n}{2} \bar{\psi} \gamma_5 \sigma_{\mu\nu} \psi F^{\mu\nu}. \quad (1.4)$$

Similarly, the interaction of a magnetic moment with the electromagnetic field strength

$F_{\mu\nu}$  is

$$H_\mu = \frac{\mu_n}{2} \bar{\psi} i \sigma_{\mu\nu} \psi F^{\mu\nu} . \quad (1.5)$$

Assuming  $\mathbf{d}_n = d_n \frac{\mathbf{J}}{J}$ , and  $\boldsymbol{\mu}_n = \mu_n \frac{\mathbf{J}}{J}$ , the interaction of a non-relativistic neutron with the electromagnetic field can be described by the following Hamiltonian

$$H = -\boldsymbol{\mu}_n \cdot \mathbf{B} - \mathbf{d}_n \cdot \mathbf{E} , \quad (1.6)$$

where  $\boldsymbol{\mu}_n$  is the magnetic moment of the neutron interacting with the magnetic field  $\mathbf{B}$ , and  $\mathbf{d}_n$  is the electric dipole moment of the neutron interacting with the electric field  $\mathbf{E}$ .

The properties of the Hamiltonian under discrete symmetries is summarized in Table 1.1. Based on this, the first term is  $CP$ -even and  $T$ -even, and the second term is  $CP$ -odd and  $T$ -odd. Because of  $CPT$  invariance, a nonzero EDM may exist if both Parity and Time-reversal symmetries are broken.

	C	P	T
<b>B</b>	-	+	-
<b>E</b>	-	-	+
<b><math>\mu</math></b>	-	+	-
<b>d</b>	-	+	-

Table 1.1: Symmetry properties of different components of the EDM Hamiltonian

The nEDM measurement technique and a brief survey of nEDM measurements conducted worldwide are presented in this chapter. Ultracold neutrons are the main tool in the measurement of nEDM and their properties are discussed below.

## 1.5 Ultracold Neutrons

The measurement of the nEDM requires high neutron statistics. Table 1.2 shows the various energy regimes of neutrons and their corresponding velocities, temperatures and de Broglie wavelengths which are related via

$$E = \frac{1}{2}mv^2 = \frac{3}{2}k_B T = \frac{h^2}{2m\lambda^2} , \quad (1.7)$$

Name	Energy $E$	Velocity $v$	Temperature $T$	Wavelength $\lambda$
Fast	10 MeV	$4.4 \times 10^7$ m/s	7.7 GK	9.0 pm
Thermal	0.0254 eV	$2.2 \times 10^3$ m/s	290 K	0.2 nm
Cold	1 meV	500 m/s	8 K	3 nm
Ultracold	300 neV	8 m/s	3 mK	50 nm

Table 1.2: Commonly used names for neutrons in different energy ranges and their corresponding velocity, temperature and wavelength

where  $m$  is the mass of the neutron,  $v$  is the neutron velocity,  $k_B$  is the Boltzmann constant,  $T$  is the equivalent temperature,  $h$  is the Planck's constant, and  $\lambda$  is the de Broglie wavelength.

Ultracold neutrons are neutrons with kinetic energies  $\lesssim 300$  neV, corresponding to velocities  $\lesssim 8$  m/s, or temperatures  $\lesssim 3$  mK. UCN move so slowly that they can populate traps made of matter, magnetic, and gravitational fields, and can be stored and manipulated for several hundreds of seconds in such traps. Because of their properties, UCN are a valuable tool for precise measurements in fundamental physics.

High precision studies of UCN and their interactions provide important data for particle physics and cosmology. In addition, they enable sensitive searches for new physics. Examples of the experiments using UCN, which aim to discover new physics, are searches for a permanent EDM of the neutron [10, 18–21], precision measurements of the neutron lifetime [22–27], and  $\beta$ -decay correlation parameters [28–30], as well as quests for dark matter candidates [31, 32], axion-like particles [33–35], Lorentz invariance violations [36], and the measurements of the quantum states of UCN in the gravitational field of the Earth [37].

The neutron is an electrically neutral hadron, and it participates in all four fundamental interactions. As described below, UCN have interesting kinetic energies in relation to these potential energies of those interactions.

### The Gravitational Interaction

A neutron has a mass of  $m_n \approx 940$  MeV/c<sup>2</sup>, and therefore, it has a potential in the Earth's gravitational field as

$$V_g = mgh . \quad (1.8)$$

Here  $h$  is the vertical displacement, and  $g = 9.8 \text{ m/s}^2$  is the acceleration due to the Earth's gravitational field. In experiments using thermal or cold neutrons, the effects of gravity can usually be negligible due to the short survival times of the neutrons. However, with the UCN experiments, since they are confined for up to several hundreds of seconds, gravity has a significant influence.

Here

$$mg = 102 \text{ neV/m} , \quad (1.9)$$

which is comparable to the UCN kinetic energy. This means, a UCN of energy 200 neV can rise by at most 2 m.

## The Weak Interaction

The weak interaction governs the radioactive  $\beta$ -decay of the neutrons. A UCN decays into a proton, an electron, and an electron antineutrino via

$$n \longrightarrow p + e^- + \bar{\nu}_e . \quad (1.10)$$

The value of the neutron lifetime sets the maximum time constant with which UCN can be stored. The current value of the neutron lifetime is  $880.2 \pm 1.0 \text{ s}$  [38] which is comparable to trapping times for UCN. This sets ultimate upper bound on experiment time scale.

## The Electromagnetic Interaction

Neutron is an electrically neutral, spin-1/2 particle that possesses a magnetic dipole moment due to its internal structure, through which it interacts with a magnetic field  $\mathbf{B}$  as

$$V_m = -\boldsymbol{\mu}_n \cdot \mathbf{B} , \quad (1.11)$$

as discussed earlier, where

$$|\boldsymbol{\mu}_n| = 60 \text{ neV/T} . \quad (1.12)$$

In an inhomogeneous magnetic field, UCN experience a force described by

$$\mathbf{F}_m = -\nabla V_m = \pm |\boldsymbol{\mu}_n| \nabla \mathbf{B}. \quad (1.13)$$

In the nEDM measurements, the interaction of UCN with the magnetic field is used to polarize UCN, and to measure its polarization at the end of the measurement cycle (see Section 1.9). In Eqn. 1.13, the sign  $\pm$  corresponds to the relative orientation between the magnetic moment and the magnetic field. UCN of anti-parallel spin to the magnetic field (magnetic moment parallel) are called “high field seekers”, have negative  $V_m$ , accelerate towards strong magnetic fields, and are attracted to it. UCN with parallel spin (and thus magnetic moment anti-parallel) to the magnetic field, are called “low field seekers”, have positive  $V_m$ , and are repelled by the magnetic field.

Eqn. 1.13 is true only if UCN move adiabatically through the magnetic field. This condition will be fulfilled when the Larmor precession frequency of UCN is smaller than the changes in the magnetic field in the rest frame of the UCN. However, since the UCN have low speeds, this condition is easily fulfilled. If the UCN spin adiabatically traces the magnetic field, it will be fully polarized, which can be achieved by passing the UCN through a strong  $\sim 6$  T magnetic field.

## The Strong Interaction

Neutrons and protons are bound in the nucleus by the strong interaction. However, this interaction has a short range, and it only affects the neighbouring nuclei. The Woods-Saxon potential approximately describes the nucleons interaction inside the atomic nucleus

$$V(r) = -\frac{V_0}{1 + \exp\left(\frac{r-R}{b}\right)}, \quad (1.14)$$

where  $V_0$  represents the potential well depth,  $b$  represents the surface thickness of the nucleus, and  $R = r_0 A^{1/3}$  where  $r_0 = 1.25$  fm and  $A$  is the mass number. For neutrons and protons the depth is  $V_0 \approx 40$  MeV. Fermi realized that it is possible to introduce an equivalent potential which can be used to calculate the small changes in the wavefunction

outside the range of the interaction by perturbation theory.

The scattering of a neutron from a nucleus can be described as a superposition of an incoming plane wave and a scattered spherical wave:

$$\psi(z, \theta) = e^{ikz} + f(\theta) \frac{e^{ikz}}{z} , \quad (1.15)$$

where  $f(\theta)$  is the angle dependent scattering amplitude and is determined by the boundary condition at  $r = R$ . Since the wavelength of the UCN is much larger than the range of the strong interaction  $R$ , there is no angular momentum transfer, and the process is dominated by the s-wave ( $l = 0$ ) scattering. In this case, the scattering amplitude  $f$  does not depend on the incident angle

$$f(\theta) = \text{const.} = -a . \quad (1.16)$$

Since the differential cross section becomes  $\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = |f(\theta)|^2 = a^2$ , where  $a$  is the scattering length, a quantity that could be experimentally measured.

The interaction of an incident neutron with a nucleus can therefore alternatively be described by a single  $\delta$ -function

$$V(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{2\pi\hbar^2}{m_N} a \delta^{(3)}(\mathbf{r}) , \quad (1.17)$$

where  $m_N$  is the mass of neutron, and  $a$  is the scattering length. Therefore, the interaction of an incident neutron with a liquid or a solid can be described by sum of equivalent  $\delta$  functions

$$V(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{2\pi\hbar^2}{m_N} \sum_i a_i \delta(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_i) , \quad (1.18)$$

where  $r_i$  is the position of the  $i$ th nucleus,  $a_i$  is the scattering length with the  $i$ th nucleus, and the sum is over all the nuclei. This is the Fermi pseudopotential. Because of UCN's

large wavelength, this equation can be written as

$$V(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{2\pi\hbar^2}{m_N} \sum_i N_i a_i \Theta(\mathbf{r}) , \quad (1.19)$$

where  $N_i$  is the number density in the material  $i$ , and  $\Theta(r)$  is the step function inside the domain of the material. Here the sum is over the domains of nuclei with the same scattering length  $a_i$ . In neutron physics, this potential is typically called neutron optical potential, since if the energy of the neutron is less than the optical potential  $E < V$ , the neutron will be fully reflected from the material surface under any angle of incidence. This sets a limit on the UCN velocity.

UCN can be lost when reflected from the material walls. This can be due to the upscattering in which UCN absorb energy, or absorption in which UCN get captured by a nucleus in the reflecting material. To include the losses in the potential, the optical potential is usually written as

$$U(r) = V(r) - iW(r) , \quad (1.20)$$

where  $W(r) = \Sigma N_i \sigma_l^i v$  with  $N_i$  being the density,  $\sigma_l^i$  being the loss cross-section (absorption plus inelastic scattering) of nuclei  $i$ , and  $v$  being the velocity. If we solve the Schrödinger equation with this potential, we get an additional decay of probability density as

$$\rho = \rho_0 e^{-2Wt/\hbar} , \quad (1.21)$$

where  $1/\tau_{abs} = 2W/\hbar$ . The ratio  $f = \frac{W}{V} = \frac{\sigma_l k}{4\pi a}$  is the UCN loss coefficient, where as earlier,  $\sigma_l$  is the total loss cross-section for neutrons with wavenumber  $k$ , and  $a$  is the scattering length [39].

For almost all materials  $V \gg W$ . The total energy of UCN are  $E < V$  for many materials and therefore, they are reflected from material surfaces at all angles of incidence. For  $V > E$ , the mean probability of neutron loss on reflection from an abrupt potential

step ( $V \gg W$ ), averaged over all angles of incidence, is given by [40]

$$\mu(E) = 2f \left[ \frac{V}{E} \arcsin \left( \sqrt{\frac{V}{E}} \right) - \sqrt{\frac{(V-E)}{E}} \right], \quad (1.22)$$

where  $f$  is the UCN loss coefficient as described above.

The strong interaction plays a crucial role in the nEDM measurements. Choosing certain materials enables us to store and guide UCN to the measurement cell. The highest known value for the optical potential is  $V_F = 335$  neV, and is measured for  $^{58}\text{Ni}$ .

## 1.6 Superthermal UCN sources

In thermal UCN sources, neutrons are extracted from a distribution almost in thermal equilibrium with a moderation system. The UCN turbine source at the Institute Laue-Langevin (ILL) extracted very cold neutrons vertically from a cold source (liquid deuterium), and slowed them down using the mechanical action of a turbine [41, 42]. Here cold neutrons with velocities of  $\sim 40$  m/s are decelerated by reflection from a set of curved turbine blades moving with a velocity  $\sim 20$  m/s in the same direction as the neutrons. A UCN density of  $\sim 40$  UCN/cm<sup>3</sup> was achieved with this method [39, 43]. The current UCN density of this source is 110 UCN/cm<sup>3</sup> for neutrons with velocities  $< 7$  m/s [41].

In 1975 it was shown that, it is possible to achieve higher steady state UCN densities corresponding to temperatures much lower than the temperature of the moderator [44]. These are called the “superthermal converters”. Here thermal or cold neutrons are inelastically scattered and transfer their kinetic energy to an excitation of the converter medium (e.g., to a phonon). Superthermal sources have the ability to provide much higher UCN densities than conventional sources such as the ILL turbine source. The best candidates for the superthermal converters to date are liquid  $^4\text{He}$  and solid deuterium.

### 1.6.1 Basic Idea of Superthermal UCN Sources

The mechanism of a superthermal UCN source is the following. An incident neutron can lose almost its entire energy in a single scattering event by creating excitations (e.g., phonons) in a converter medium [39, 44]. Because of the loss in the kinetic energy, this process is called downscattering. The reverse process is called upscattering, where a UCN absorbs kinetic energy from the medium.

Consider a simple model for the medium as a two-level system with an energy gap  $E_0^*$ . A neutron can excite a quasi-particle from the lower state to the higher state by transferring the energy  $E_0^*$ . A quasi-particle from the higher state can fall down to the lower state by transfer of the energy  $E_0^*$  to a neutron. The principle of detailed balance links the cross-section for upscattering  $\sigma(E_{\text{UCN}} \rightarrow E_{\text{UCN}} + E_0^*)$  and downscattering  $\sigma(E_{\text{UCN}} + E_0^* \rightarrow E_{\text{UCN}})$  [39]

$$\sigma(E_{\text{UCN}} \rightarrow E_{\text{UCN}} + E_0^*) = \frac{(E_{\text{UCN}} + E_0^*)}{E_{\text{UCN}}} e^{-\frac{E_0^*}{k_B T}} \sigma(E_{\text{UCN}} + E_0^* \rightarrow E_{\text{UCN}}) \quad (1.23)$$

where  $T$  is the temperature of the medium,  $E_{\text{UCN}}$  is the energy of the UCN, and  $k_B$  is the Boltzmann constant.

In general,  $\sigma(E_{\text{UCN}} + E_0^* \rightarrow E_{\text{UCN}})$  is practically independent of  $T$ , so that for  $E_0^* \gg k_B T \gg E_{\text{UCN}}$ , the upscattering cross-section for UCN can be made arbitrarily small by decreasing the temperature. If the converter is now placed in a neutron flux at a temperature  $T_n \geq E_0^*$ , there will be a significant number of downscattering events, and a negligible number of upscattering events.

If the converter is contained in a vessel whose walls are good UCN reflectors with potential  $V \gg V_m$ , where  $V_m$  is the UCN potential of the converter, and the walls are transparent to the neutrons of energy  $E_0^*$ , then UCN will build up in the moderator to a density until the rate of loss is equal to the rate of UCN production.

The steady-state UCN density in the source is given by

$$\rho_{UCN} = P_{UCN}\tau, \quad (1.24)$$

where  $P_{UCN}$  (UCN/cm<sup>3</sup>·s) is the UCN production rate, and  $\tau$  (s) is the UCN mean lifetime in the system. The mean lifetime  $\tau$  of the UCN in the vessel is restricted by a variety of possible loss mechanisms

$$\frac{1}{\tau} = \frac{1}{\tau_a} + \frac{1}{\tau_W} + \frac{1}{\tau_{up}} + \frac{1}{\tau_\beta}, \quad (1.25)$$

where  $1/\tau_a$  is the UCN absorption rate in the medium,  $1/\tau_W$  is the rate of the UCN loss on the walls,  $1/\tau_{up}$  is the neutron loss due to the upscattering in the medium, and  $1/\tau_\beta$  is the  $\beta$ -decay losses.

Pure deuterium and liquid  $^4\text{He}$  are good candidates for superthermal conductors, possessing a balance of high production rate, and small neutron absorption cross-section, and upscattering rate.

### 1.6.2 UCN Production by Superfluid $^4\text{He}$

#### Superfluid $^4\text{He}$ Definition

$^4\text{He}$  is an isotope of helium with two protons and two neutrons. It has an integer spin of zero, which makes it a boson. As a result, it follows the Bose-Einstein statistics. It has two liquid states known as He-I and He-II. The He-I phase is the normal fluid phase. The He-II phase can be described by the so-called “two-fluid model”, which consists of normal liquid helium and superfluid helium. Fig. 1.1 shows the phase transition diagram of  $^4\text{He}$ . The two phases are separated out by the  $\lambda$ -line. The phase transition happens at 2.172 K. Below 1 K, the liquid is mostly the superfluid component of the two-fluid model.

In this thesis, I use the term “superfluid helium” generally to refer to He-II cooled significantly below the lambda point, which is nearly synonymous with that component of the two-fluid model.

Because of its zero viscosity, superfluid helium has the ability to flow through very

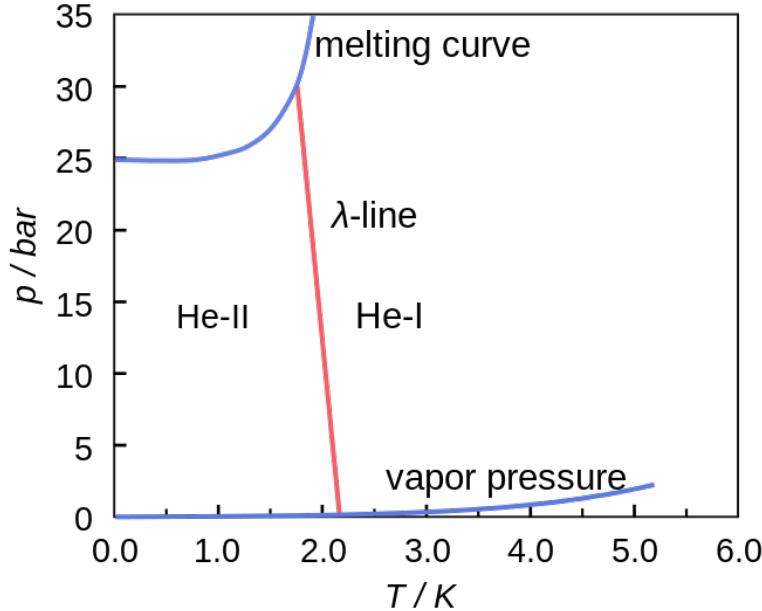


Figure 1.1: The phase diagram of  ${}^4\text{He}$ . Here the normal fluid phase or He-I and the superfluid phase or He-II are shown.

small capillaries or narrow channels without experiencing any friction at all. The climbing of He-II along the surface is called “film flow”.

### Superfluid Helium Converter

Superfluid  ${}^4\text{He}$  is an attractive candidate as a UCN source, and was studied in Ref. [45]. The dominant production mechanism in the superfluid helium is the excitation of a single phonon at the crossing of the free neutron and phonon dispersion curves, with a momentum  $q \sim 0.7/\text{\AA}$  [46], and energy 1 meV corresponding to a neutron wavelength 8.9 Å. The availability of 8.9 Å cold neutrons is crucial and their flux must be maximized. In superfluid helium, the upscattering losses become smaller than  $\beta$ -decay losses below  $T \sim 0.7$  K. It has zero neutron absorption cross-section, resulting in  $\tau_a \rightarrow \infty$ , which makes it a good candidate as a UCN source.

There are two types of UCN sources based on superfluid helium: sources where experiment and source are combined in one apparatus, and the measurement is performed inside the superfluid helium, and extracted-UCN sources where the source is an apparatus on its own, and delivers neutrons to experiments at room temperature connected to

it by UCN guides.

### UCN Production Rate with Single Phonon scattering in Superfluid helium

UCN can be produced in superfluid helium when the energy of the incident neutrons is equal to that of the one phonon excitation in the converter medium [45, 47, 48]. The incident neutrons then scatter down to UCN in the converter medium while creating a phonon. Fig. 1.2 shows the dispersion relation of the superfluid helium and a free neutron.

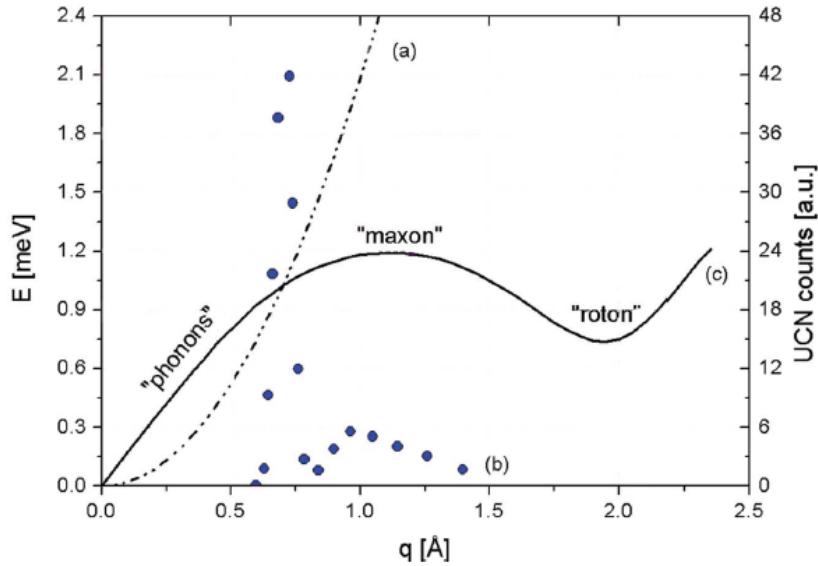


Figure 1.2: [49] Dispersion relation of superfluid helium (c) and of the free neutron (a). Neutrons with  $E \simeq 1$  meV and wavenumber  $q \simeq 0.7/\text{\AA}$  can excite a single phonon with the same energy and momentum and be downscattered to UCN energy range. The UCN production rate (b)(circles) shows the dominance of this single phonon process with respect to multiphonon processes at higher momentum  $q$ .

A neutron at rest can absorb energy  $\hbar\omega$  and momentum  $\hbar q$  with

$$\omega = \frac{\hbar q^2}{2m} , \quad (1.26)$$

where  $m$  is the mass of the neutron. A neutron with this energy and momentum can come to rest after transferring its energy and momentum to the superfluid  ${}^4\text{He}$ . For single phonon interactions, which are usually dominant, the superfluid helium can only exchange quantities of energy and momentum that are related by the dispersion curve

$$\omega = \omega(q) \simeq cq , \quad (1.27)$$

where  $\omega$  is the energy of the phonon,  $q$  is the phonon's momentum, and  $c$  is the speed of sound in the moderator. Here an approximation is used to simplify the discussion. The neutrons can only come to rest by emission of a single phonon, if they have the resonant energy  $E_0^*$  given by the intersection of Eqns. (1.26) and (1.27)

$$\omega(q) = cq = \frac{\hbar q^2}{2m} , \quad (1.28)$$

and so

$$q^* = \frac{2mc}{\hbar} . \quad (1.29)$$

The differential cross-section for neutron scattering is given by the dynamic scattering function  $S(q, \omega)$ , which is the Fourier transform of the Van Hove correlation function  $G(r, t)$  in space and time of the superfluid helium [50]:

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\omega} = b^2 \frac{k_2}{k_1} S(q, \omega) d\Omega , \quad (1.30)$$

where  $b$  is the bound neutron scattering length for  ${}^4\text{He}$ ,  $\hbar k_1$  is the momentum of the incident neutrons, and  $\hbar k_2 = \hbar k_{\text{UCN}}$  is the momentum of the UCN. The quantity  $S(q, \omega)$  has been measured in great detail [51–53]. Performing the change of variables,

$$d\Omega = 2\pi \sin \theta d\theta = 2\pi \frac{qdq}{k_1 k_2} \quad (1.31)$$

gives

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\omega} = 2\pi b^2 \frac{k_2}{k_1} S(q, \omega) \frac{qdq}{k_1 k_2} = 2\pi b^2 S(q, \omega) \frac{qdq}{k_1^2} . \quad (1.32)$$

This may effectively be integrated over the limits on  $q$  which are

$$k_1 - k_2 < q < k_1 + k_2 . \quad (1.33)$$

Since

$$k_2 = k_{\text{UCN}} \ll k_1 , \quad q \sim k_1 , \quad (1.34)$$

we may write  $dq = 2k_{\text{UCN}}$ . This results in the cross-section being related to  $S(q, \omega)$  evaluated on the incident neutron's dispersion curve:

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\omega} = 4\pi b^2 \frac{k_{\text{UCN}}}{k_1} S \left( k_1, \omega = \frac{\alpha k_1^2}{2} \right) , \quad (1.35)$$

where  $\alpha = \frac{\hbar}{m} = 4.14 \text{ meV}/\text{\AA}^2$ , and  $S(q, \omega)$  assumed to be constant over the narrow range  $dq$ . The approximation

$$\omega = \frac{\hbar(k_1^2 - k_2^2)}{2m} = \frac{\alpha}{2}(k_1^2 - k_2^2) \approx \frac{\alpha}{2}k_1^2 \quad (1.36)$$

has also been used.

The UCN production rate is given by

$$P(E_{\text{UCN}})dE_{\text{UCN}} = N_{\text{He}} \int \frac{d\Phi(E_1)}{dE} \cdot \frac{d\sigma}{d\omega}(E_1 \rightarrow E_{\text{UCN}}) dE_1 dE_{\text{UCN}} , \quad (1.37)$$

where  $\frac{d\Phi(E_1)}{dE}$  is the differential incident neutron flux,  $N_{\text{He}}$  is the atomic density in the liquid helium, and  $\frac{d\sigma}{d\omega}(E_1 \rightarrow E_{\text{UCN}})$  is the energy differential cross-section for the inelastic neutron scattering or the probability of the incident neutrons with energy  $E_1$  to scatter from the helium nucleus and become UCN. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^{E_c} P(E_{\text{UCN}})dE_{\text{UCN}} &= N_{\text{He}} 4\pi b^2 \alpha^2 \left[ \int \frac{d\Phi(k_1)}{dE} S \left( k_1, \omega = \frac{\alpha k_1^2}{2} \right) dk_1 \right] \int_0^{k_c} k_{\text{UCN}}^2 dk_{\text{UCN}} \\ &= N_{\text{He}} 4\pi b^2 \alpha^2 \left[ \int \frac{d\Phi(k_1)}{dE} S \left( k_1, \omega = \frac{\alpha k_1^2}{2} \right) dk_1 \right] \frac{k_c^3}{3} \text{ UCN/cm}^3\text{s}, \end{aligned} \quad (1.38)$$

where  $E_c$  and  $k_c$  are the critical UCN energy and wave vector of the walls of the storage chamber. This way of writing the UCN production rate is more general, and it is useful to calculate the single phonon and multiphonon contributions to the UCN production

rate. The one phonon production rate is found by evaluating Eqn. (1.38) over the one phonon peak ( $q^* = 0.7/\text{\AA}$ ). Thus

$$P_{\text{UCN}} = 9.44 \times 10^{-9} \frac{d\Phi(E_1^*)}{dE_1^*} \text{ UCN/cm}^3, \quad (1.39)$$

where  $E_1^*$  is the energy of the incident neutrons at the one phonon peak.

### Multiphonon Scattering Contribution in UCN Production in Superfluid helium

For polychromatic neutron sources, UCN can also be produced by multiphonon processes in superfluid  ${}^4\text{He}$  [47, 48]. Multiphonon production of UCN with various energy spectra of the neutron flux has been studied in Ref. [47]. Fig. 1.3 shows the energy spectra  $\frac{d\phi}{dE}$  for three sources as a function of momentum  $q$ , compared to the dynamic scattering function  $S(q, \omega = \hbar q^2/2m)$ . The  $S$  function is interpolation from neutron scattering data. The peak at  $q = 0.7/\text{\AA}$  in the dynamic scattering function corresponds to the one phonon excitation by superfluid helium. The values of  $S$  above  $1.2/\text{\AA}$  are extrapolated. The value of  $S$  above  $2/\text{\AA}$  are essentially zero. The UCN production from one phonon and multiphonon processes have been calculated for three input neutron spectra: SNS ballistic guide, PULSTAR MC flux and HMI polarized flux. The multiphonon contribution to the UCN production is calculated using Eqn. (1.38), and calculating  $\int \Phi(E_1)S(k_1, \omega = \frac{\alpha k_1^2}{2})dk_1$ . The result showed that, for sources where He-II is exposed to the total thermal flux or at a dedicated spallation source, the multiphonon contribution can amount to slightly more than a factor of 2 increase in the UCN production.

UCN production by multiphonon excitation in superfluid helium under pressure was studied in Ref. [48]. The dynamic scattering function  $S(q, \omega)$  of the superfluid helium strongly depends on pressure, leading to a pressure-dependent differential UCN production rate. The expression for the multiphonon part of  $S$  describing UCN production is derived from the inelastic neutron scattering data. Application of pressure to superfluid helium increases the velocity of sound, such that the dispersion curves of the  ${}^4\text{He}$  and of the free neutron cross at shorter neutron wavelength.

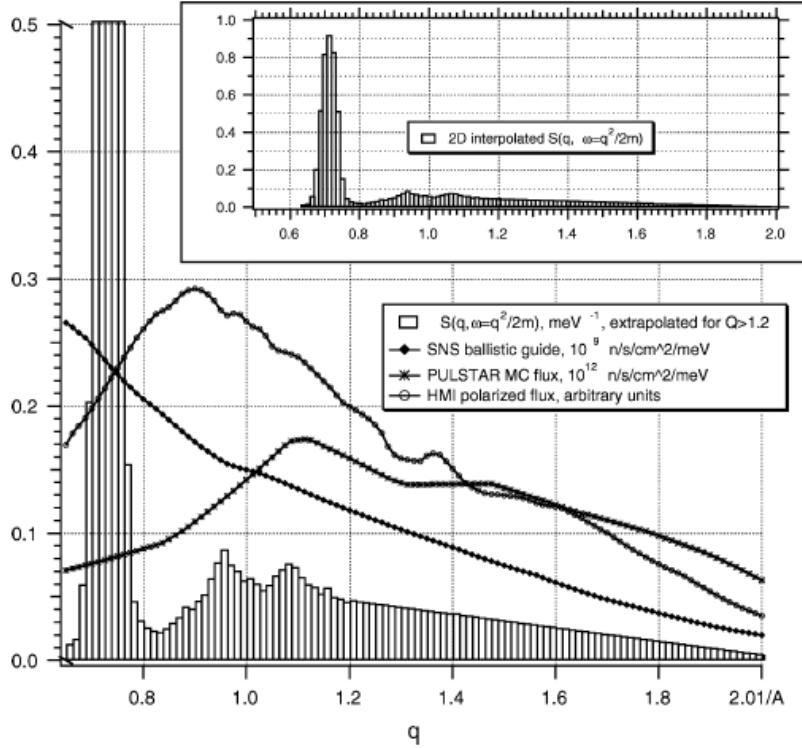


Figure 1.3: The energy spectrum of the incident cold neutron flux from three sources compared to the dynamic scattering function  $S(q, \omega = \frac{\alpha k_1^2}{2}) / \text{meV}$  as a function of  $q / \text{\AA}$ .

Since for neutron beams from a liquid deuterium cold source, the differential flux density  $\frac{d\Phi}{dE}$  in the range 8-9 Å normally increases for decreasing wavelength of the cold neutron flux, and also since pressure increases the density of He-II, it was expected to observe an increase in the single phonon UCN production rate, and different multiphonon contribution with pressure increase. It was observed that, both the single and the multiphonon scattering functions change with pressure. The single phonon excitation moves to a shorter wavelength (see Fig. 1.4) and the value for  $S$  decreases. It leads to a reduction in one-phonon UCN production. The multiphonon excitations increase with pressure, and the peak of the scattering function  $S$  moves to shorter incident-neutron wavelengths, see Fig. 1.4. However, the UCN production rate decreases with pressure increase. Only if the cold neutron flux at 8.3 Å exceeds by more than 2.5 times that at 8.9 Å, an increase in the UCN production rate may be expected. However, it has to be considered that the application of pressure requires a window for UCN extraction which causes severe UCN losses. Therefore, UCN production in superfluid helium under pressure was concluded

not to be attractive [48].

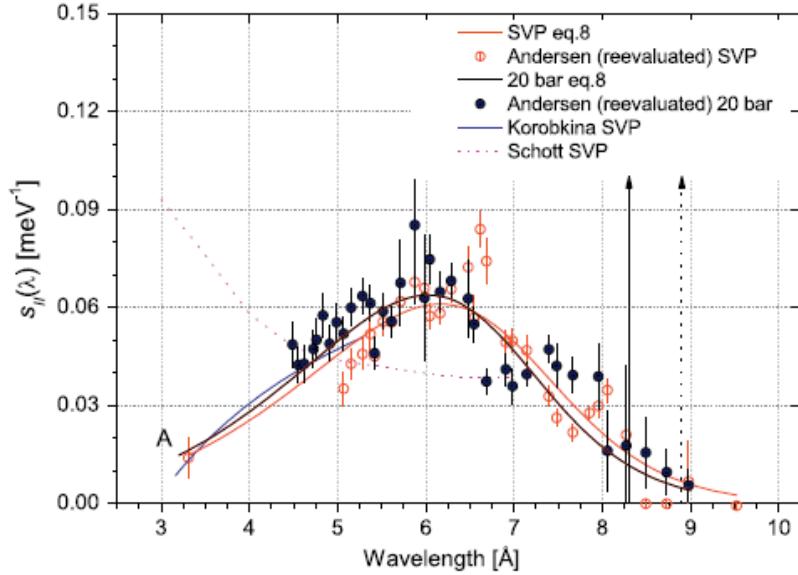


Figure 1.4: [48] Multiphonon scattering function at SVP (Saturated Vapour Pressure) and 20 bar. The extrapolation to short wavelength of Korobkina *et al.* [47] at SVP is linear in  $k$ , whereas the calculation of Schott *et al.* [54] is based on the static structure factor of the superfluid helium. The data point (*A*) is taken from Ref. [55]. The one-phonon peaks are indicated by vertical arrows: SVP (dotted line) and 20 bar (solid line).

### UCN upscattering and lifetime in superfluid helium

Superfluid  $^4\text{He}$  has a zero neutron absorption cross-section, and if the converter is kept at sufficiently low temperatures (typically  $\lesssim 1$  K), thermal upscattering of UCN is sufficiently suppressed. This allows the produced UCN to survive in the converter for times dominated by the wall losses of the vessel, typically  $>100$  s [56].

The upscattering of neutrons is caused by the interactions between a neutron at rest, and excitations in superfluid helium at different temperatures. These excitations can be categorized in three groups: one phonon absorption, two-phonon scattering, and roton-phonon scattering. The total upscattering rate can be written as

$$\frac{1}{\tau_{up}} = \frac{1}{\tau_{1-ph}} + \frac{1}{\tau_{2-ph}} + \frac{1}{\tau_{rot-ph}}, \quad (1.40)$$

where

$$\frac{1}{\tau_{1-ph}} = Ae^{-(12K)/T} \quad (1.41)$$

is the one phonon absorption contribution,

$$\frac{1}{\tau_{2-ph}} = BT^7 \quad (1.42)$$

is the two-phonon scattering contribution (one phonon absorbed and one phonon emitted), and

$$\frac{1}{\tau_{rot-ph}} = CT^{3/2}e^{-(8.6K)/T} \quad (1.43)$$

is the contribution from roton-phonon scattering with the absorption of one roton followed by a phonon emission.

The values of  $A$ ,  $B$  and  $C$  are extracted from data for temperature ranges of up to 2.4 K [56]. The comparison between the UCN production and upscattering rate to the theoretical temperature dependence of these processes showed that, the main contribution is from two-phonon scattering  $\frac{1}{\tau_{up}} = BT^7$  with  $B = 0.0076 \text{ /}(s K^7)$  at 1 K and  $B = 0.0088 \text{ /}(s K^7)$  at 0.6 K[56].

### 1.6.3 UCN production by Solid Deuterium

Solid deuterium ( $sD_2$ ) is a material with small capture cross-section, small incoherent scattering cross-section (to minimize upscattering), and has numerous phonon modes, which can inelastically scatter neutrons down to UCN energies. A converter based on  $sD_2$  should be operated at temperatures below 10 K in order to avoid subsequent upscattering of UCN by phonons within solid deuterium.

The different molecular species, ortho- $D_2$  and para- $D_2$ , have significantly different UCN-phonon annihilation cross-sections [57, 58]. The presence of even small concentrations of para- $D_2$  can dominate the upscattering rate which gives rise to reduced UCN lifetimes in the solid and orders of magnitude reduction in the achievable UCN density. Since the elimination of para- $D_2$  is necessary to achieve UCN lifetimes comparable to the nuclear absorption time in solid deuterium, using a para- $D_2$  to ortho- $D_2$  converter is

crucial.

Theoretically and experimentally, it has been shown that sD<sub>2</sub> at sufficiently low temperatures (around 5K) with high enough purity (less than 0.2% ordinary hydrogen) and with high ortho concentration ( $c_0 > 0.98$ ) can be used to produce a high density UCN [59].

### UCN upscattering and UCN lifetime in sD<sub>2</sub>

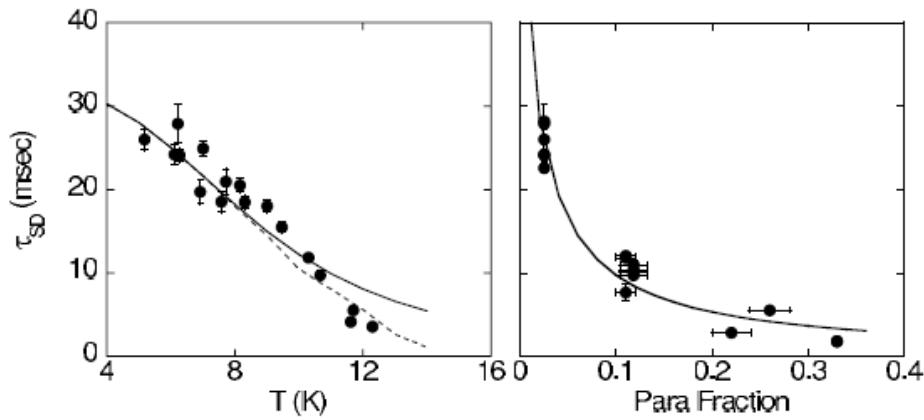


Figure 1.5: [58] Left- Data points are measured sD<sub>2</sub> lifetimes as a function of temperature, with the para-fraction fixed at 2.5%. Only the statistical errors are shown. Solid lines show the predicted temperature dependence. The dashed line is the predicted effect of departure from the solid lifetime model due to the upscattering from the D<sub>2</sub> gas in the guide. Right- sD<sub>2</sub> lifetimes as a function of para-fraction for all of the data taken below 6 K. The solid line is the model prediction of the para-fraction dependence at an average temperature of 5.6 K.

The lifetime of the UCN in sD<sub>2</sub> is limited by factors such as upscattering from phonons in the solid, upscattering from p-D<sub>2</sub> contamination, and absorption inside the vessel. Reducing the time UCN spend inside the sD<sub>2</sub> can reduce the average absorption rate. This led to the proposal of a thin-film source where a thin layer of solid D<sub>2</sub> coats the inside of a storage bottle that is embedded in a cold neutron flux [60]. The possibility of a smaller source volume combined with the higher operating temperature of the thin film source offers significant technical simplification. In Ref. [61] losses in frost layers on the surface of the deuterium crystal and the role of annealing have been quantified.

The UCN lifetime in the solid deuterium as a function of the temperature and para/ortho fractions has been measured [58]. The total loss rate can be written as

$$\frac{1}{\tau_{SD}} = \frac{1}{\tau_{phonon}} + \frac{1}{\tau_{para}} + \frac{1}{\tau_{Dabs}} + \frac{1}{\tau_{Habs}}, \quad (1.44)$$

where  $\frac{1}{\tau_{phonon}}$  is the upscattering rate from phonons in  $sD_2$ ,  $\frac{1}{\tau_{para}}$  is the upscattering rate from para deuterium molecules in the solid,  $\frac{1}{\tau_{Dabs}}$  is the upscattering rate from the absorption on deuterium and  $\frac{1}{\tau_{Habs}}$  is the upscattering rate from the absorption on the hydrogen impurities in the solid.

The results for UCN lifetimes  $\tau_{SD}$  in  $sD_2$  as a function of the  $sD_2$  temperature and para/ortho fractions are shown in Fig. 1.5. The difference between the solid and dashed line demonstrates the need to include the effect of deuterium vapour in the guide on the lifetime at higher temperatures. With this correction, the measured lifetimes agree well with theoretical predictions of the upscattering rate.

#### 1.6.4 Comparison between $sD_2$ and superfluid helium sources

The main differences between  $sD_2$  and superfluid helium sources are the UCN lifetime and the UCN production rate. While UCN can stay in superfluid helium until it  $\beta$ -decays, UCN in solid deuterium are captured by the deuteron in 150 ms after they are produced. Once a superfluid helium source is cooled down to temperatures below 0.75 K, the upscattering rate is suppressed to a level comparable to neutron  $\beta$ -decay. Solid deuterium has a production rate two orders of magnitude greater than superfluid helium, due to presence of more modes. Therefore, solid deuterium sources output higher UCN current compared to superfluid helium sources. However, the limiting production time in superfluid helium may be four orders of magnitude longer than  $sD_2$ . Thus, even with a smaller UCN production rate, superfluid  $^4He$  can in principle achieve a UCN density larger than that of solid deuterium. The superthermal enhancement in solid deuterium is limited by the large nuclear absorption loss, and thus further cooling below 5 K will not significantly enhance the UCN yield.

Anghel *et. al.*, [61] showed that in addition to the quality of the bulk  $sD_2$ , the quality of its surface is essential for UCN yield. They showed that the surface is deteriorating due to a build-up of  $D_2$  frost-layers under pulsed operation which leads to a subsequent

Isotope	$\sigma_a$ (barns)	$\sigma_s/\sigma_a$
<sup>2</sup> D	0.000519	$1.47 \times 10^4$
<sup>4</sup> He	0	$\infty$
<sup>15</sup> N	0.000024	$2.1 \times 10^5$
<sup>16</sup> O	0.00010	$2.2 \times 10^4$
<sup>208</sup> Pb	0.00049	$2.38 \times 10^4$

Table 1.3: Candidates for a superthermal source

loss in UCN yield.

### 1.6.5 Other UCN Sources

Superthermal UCN sources may be compared by

$$\sigma_s/\sigma_a, \quad (1.45)$$

where  $\sigma_s$  is the elastic scattering cross-section, and  $\sigma_a$  is the absorption cross-section [62–64]. At low energies ( $< 1$  eV)  $\sigma_a \sim 1/v$  where  $v$  is the speed of the neutrons. This means, the absorption cross-section is much larger at lower energies. Table 1.3 shows a list of possible superthermal UCN sources [64]. The values of  $\sigma_a$  are for thermal neutrons.

Solid  $\alpha$ –<sup>15</sup>N<sub>2</sub> is a potential alternative to deuterium [62]. Its absorption cross-section is only 5% of that of D<sub>2</sub>, and it has a negligible incoherent scattering cross-section. Additionally, rotation of the N<sub>2</sub> molecules in the lattice is inhibited due to the anisotropy of the N<sub>2</sub> inter-molecular potential. This leads to the dispersive modes for the rotational degrees of freedom (librons), which provide additional channels for neutron downscattering, and eliminates the rotational incoherent upscattering. Measurements [62] show that, the production cross-section peaks near 6 meV, and the optimal incident cold neutron temperature is 40 K. It was found that, the variation in the cross-section is no more than 18% in the range from 5 to 25 K (increasing slightly with increasing temperature). The measured cross-section was found to be somewhat lower than that of D<sub>2</sub> and O<sub>2</sub>. A nitrogen-based source may benefit from operating at lower temperatures, if the upscattering cross-section can be further reduced at lower temperatures ( $\sim 1$  K) [62].

$^{208}\text{Pb}$  and solid deuterium have similar nuclear absorption cross-sections. The natural solid form of  $^{208}\text{Pb}$  would avoid the difficulties of growing cryogenic solids such as deuterium and oxygen. However, its heavy mass prevents the neutron momentum transfer to the solid phonon field. The heavy mass reduces the phonon creation cross-section by  $1/M$ . As a result, one would expect its UCN yield to be two orders of magnitude less than solid deuterium.

As other options, the properties of the new candidate converter materials including solid heavy methane ( $\text{CD}_4$ ) and solid oxygen ( $\text{O}_2$ ) have been investigated in the temperature range 8 K to room temperature by measuring the production of UCN from a cold neutron beam and the cold neutron transmission through the converter materials [63]. The liquid  $\text{O}_2$ ,  $\text{D}_2$  and  $\text{CD}_4$  have similar neutron scattering cross-sections.

$^4\text{He}$  and  $\text{D}_2$  are still the best commonly pursued options, although there is a chance that other materials could lead to a breakthrough.

## 1.7 Current Status of UCN Sources Worldwide

New UCN sources using superthermal technology are under development at various laboratories across the world. Neutrons statistically produced by two methods: proton-induced spallation off a heavy nuclear target (e.g., tungsten), and fission where neutrons are produced by a nuclear reactor. Table 1.4 shows a list of present and future UCN sources worldwide.

Reactor sources place the moderators close to the reactor core (FRM II and Gatchina [65]), or use existing CN beam lines (ILL [66]). At FRM II, the  $s\text{D}_2$  will be placed around a solid hydrogen cold-moderator close to the fuel element. The Gatchina superfluid  $^4\text{He}$  source will be placed inside their thermal column, using immense pumping power to cool the converter to 1.1 K, making rapid extraction necessary due to increased UCN upscattering at this temperature.

The SuperSUN and SUN-2 experiments are the logical extensions of the early superthermal source geometry at ILL. A novel feature of the SuperSUN experiment at

Name	Source Type	Technology	Status
ILL	Turbine	Reactor, CN beam	Running
ILL SUN-2	LHe	Reactor, CN beam	Running
ILL SuperSUN	LHe	Reactor, CN beam	Future
RCNP/TRIUMF/KEK	LHe	Spallation	Running/Upgrading
PNPI Gatchina	LHe	Reactor	Future
LANL	sD <sub>2</sub>	Spallation	Running/Upgrading
PSI	sD <sub>2</sub>	Spallation	Running
Mainz	sD <sub>2</sub>	Reactor	Running
FRM II, Germany	sD <sub>2</sub>	Reactor	Future
NCSU PULSTAR	sD <sub>2</sub>	Reactor	Installing
SNS, Oakridge	LHe	Spallation	Future
J-PARC	Doppler Shifter	CN beam	Running

Table 1.4: Existing and future UCN sources worldwide. The existing or proposed sources at the following sites is listed: Institute Laue-Langevin (ILL) in France, Research Centre for Nuclear Physics (RCNP) in Japan, KEK and J-PARC in Japan, TRIUMF in Canada, Petersburg Nuclear Physics Institute (PNPI) in Russia, Los Alamos National Lab (LANL), PULSTAR and SNS in the US, Mainz and FRM II in Germany.

ILL [67] is a magnetic multipole reflector for a drastic enhancement of the UCN density with respect to an existing prototype superfluid helium UCN source installed in a cold neutron beam. A multipole magnet can lead to a large gain in the saturated density of low-field-seeking UCNs because the presence of the field reduces the number of neutrons hitting the material walls and reduces the energy and wall collision rate of those that do. In addition, it acts as a source-intrinsic UCN polarizer without need to polarize the incident beam, and hence avoiding associated losses.

The Los Alamos solid deuterium source [68] uses a proton beam of 900 MeV and a W target to produce neutrons. The neutrons get cooled down in a polyethylene cold moderator. The new design includes a flapper valve to isolate the neutrons from the sD<sub>2</sub> after the proton beam pulse.

The PSI UCN source [69] uses a 600 MeV proton beam to hit a Pb/Zr target for neutron production. They use a 30 L volume of sD<sub>2</sub> at 5 K as moderator and converter to produce UCN. This volume is surrounded by D<sub>2</sub>O thermal moderator. They also use a flapper valve for UCN extraction between the proton beam pulses to limit the losses. The UCN production has been running since 2012 with an on-going EDM experiment,

with a peak density of  $23 \text{ UCN}/\text{cm}^3$ .

The Mainz UCN source [70] is the only source that operates at a low power university reactor, and is the newest production source. The solid deuterium converter with a volume of  $V = 160 \text{ cm}^3$ , which is exposed to a thermal neutron fluence of  $4.5 \times 10^{13} \text{ n/cm}^2$ , delivers up to 240000 UCN ( $v \leq 6 \text{ m/s}$ ) per pulse outside the biological shield at the experimental area. UCN densities of  $\approx 10/\text{cm}^3$  are obtained in stainless-steel bottles of  $V \approx 10 \text{ L}$ . Their pulsed operation permits the production of high densities for storage experiments.

At the SNS UCN source, the  $8.9 \text{ \AA}$  cold neutrons are selected using a monochromator, and are transported with neutron guides to two cells made out of acrylic (ultraviolet transmitting) and separated by a high voltage electrode. The neutrons entering the cell are polarized. Within the cell, the cold neutrons become ultra-cold neutrons via  ${}^4\text{He}$  single-phonon process [71].

The UCN source at J-PARC is a Doppler-shifter type of pulsed UCN source [72]. Very cold neutrons (VCNs) with  $136 \text{ m/s}$  velocity in a neutron beam supplied by a pulsed neutron source are decelerated by reflection on a wide-band multi-layer mirror, yielding pulsed UCN. The mirror is fixed to the tip of a 2,000 rpm rotating arm moving with  $68 \text{ m/s}$  velocity in the same direction as the VCN. The repetition frequency of the pulsed UCN is  $8.33 \text{ Hz}$  and the time width of the pulse at production is  $4.4 \text{ ms}$ . In order to increase the UCN flux, a supermirror guide, wide-band monochromatic mirrors, focus guides, and a UCN extraction guide have been newly installed or improved. This source will be used to search for the nEDM.

The current UCN source at TRIUMF uses a W target to produce spallation neutrons from a 500 MeV proton beam on site. The cold neutrons are converted to UCN in superfluid helium. The future UCN source is projected to compete with the capabilities of the best planned future UCN sources. If TRIUMF's estimated UCN density of  $680 \text{ UCN cm}^{-3}$  is achieved, it will be a new world record.

Other sources and nEDM experiments aim at similar goals of hundreds to thousands of  $\text{UCN cm}^{-3}$  in the measurement volume. However, to date, superthermal sources have

not produced considerably more UCN than the ILL turbine source.

## 1.8 Measurement of nEDM

To measure the nEDM, an ensemble of polarized UCN are put in the presence of aligned electric and magnetic fields. The Hamiltonian of the interaction of the UCN with electric and magnetic fields is described in Eqn. (1.6). The Larmor precession frequency of UCN is then measured in two orientations of parallel and anti-parallel electric and magnetic fields. For the parallel **E** and **B** fields, the Larmor precession frequency of UCN is written as

$$h\nu_{\uparrow\uparrow} = 2\mu_n|\mathbf{B}^{\uparrow\uparrow}| + 2d_n|\mathbf{E}^{\uparrow\uparrow}| , \quad (1.46)$$

and for anti-parallel **E** and **B** fields it is

$$h\nu_{\uparrow\downarrow} = 2\mu_n|\mathbf{B}^{\uparrow\downarrow}| + 2d_n|\mathbf{E}^{\uparrow\downarrow}| . \quad (1.47)$$

Here  $\uparrow\uparrow$  indicates the parallel electric and magnetic fields and  $\uparrow\downarrow$  represent the anti-parallel orientation of those fields. A nonzero nEDM is then extracted from any frequency shift between these two measurements:

$$d_n = \frac{h(\nu_{\uparrow\uparrow} - \nu_{\uparrow\downarrow}) - 2\mu_n(|\mathbf{B}^{\uparrow\uparrow}| - |\mathbf{B}^{\uparrow\downarrow}|)}{2(|\mathbf{E}^{\uparrow\uparrow}| - |\mathbf{E}^{\uparrow\downarrow}|)} . \quad (1.48)$$

The main reason to employ this method is because it is impossible to completely eliminate the **B** field to extract the neutron EDM. These measurements are either performed in two adjacent volumes with  $|E^{\uparrow\uparrow}| = -|E^{\uparrow\downarrow}|$ , and  $|B^{\uparrow\uparrow}| - |B^{\uparrow\downarrow}| = 0$ , or measured in the same volume where the configuration of the fields change in time. In the first case, it is essential to make sure that the magnetic field inside both volumes are the same, and there is no field gradient, and in the second method it is essential to make sure that the magnetic field is stable in time.

## 1.9 Ramsey's Method of Separated Oscillating Fields

The Ramsey method of separated oscillating fields is the well-known measurement technique to extract the nEDM. Ramsey obtained an expression for the quantum mechanical transition probability of a system between two states, when the system is subjected to separated oscillating fields [73]. Fig. 1.6 [74] left shows a cycle of measurement. An ensemble of polarized UCN with the initial spin  $|\uparrow\rangle$  are exposed to a DC magnetic field  $B_0$ . A first RF pulse  $B_1 \cos(\omega_{rf}t)$ , perpendicular to the  $B_0$  field, tips the spin of the neutrons to the transverse plane. The neutrons precess freely with their Larmor precession frequency  $\omega_0$  for some time  $T$ , while accumulating a phase  $\phi = \gamma_n BT$ . Then again, the second coherent oscillating magnetic field pulse of  $B_1 \cos(\omega_{rf}t)$  is applied to the neutron ensemble. The essential idea is to compare the phase  $\phi$  with  $\omega_{rf}T$ , and if they are identical then  $B = \omega_{rf}/\gamma_n$ .

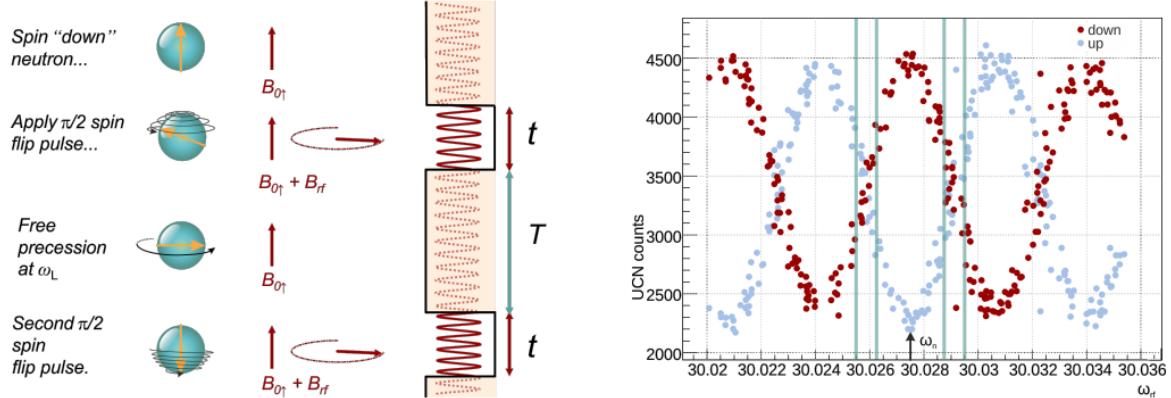


Figure 1.6: [75] Ramsey method of separated oscillating fields. Left shows the scheme of a measurement procedure and right shows the data points. The blue points are the UCN counts with the spin up and the red points are the UCN with spin down (data from the PSI-nEDM collaboration). The width at half height  $\Delta\nu$  of the central fringe is approximately  $1/2T$ , the four vertical lines indicate the working points (see text).

The probability to find the UCN with spin up is

$$\begin{aligned} P(T, \omega_{rf}) &= \langle \uparrow | U(T, \omega_{rf}) | \uparrow \rangle \\ &= 1 - \frac{4\omega_1^2}{\Omega^2} \sin^2 \frac{\Omega t_{\pi/2}}{2} \left[ \frac{\Delta}{\Omega} \sin \frac{\Omega t_{\pi/2}}{2} \sin \frac{T\Delta}{2} - \cos \frac{\Omega t_{\pi/2}}{2} \cos \frac{T\Delta}{2} \right]^2, \end{aligned} \quad (1.49)$$

where  $U(T, \omega_{rf})$  is the time evolutions operator,  $\omega_1 = -\gamma_n B_1$ ,  $\Delta = \omega_{rf} - \omega_0$ ,  $\omega_0 =$

$\gamma B_0$ , and  $\Omega = \sqrt{\Delta^2 + \omega_1^2}$ . When the spin-flipping pulses are optimized, we would have  $\gamma_n B_1 t_{\pi/2} = \pi/2$ . In this case, the central fringe range ( $\Delta \ll \omega_1$ ), and Eqn. 1.49 simplifies to

$$P(T, \omega_{rf}) = \frac{1}{2} (1 - \cos(T\Delta)) . \quad (1.50)$$

In a real measurement with  $N$  UCN inside a magnetic field region this becomes

$$N^\uparrow = \frac{N}{2} \left\{ 1 - \alpha(T) \cos \left[ (\omega_{rf} - \omega_0) \cdot \left( T + \frac{T + 4t_{\pi/2}}{\pi} \right) \right] \right\} , \quad (1.51)$$

where  $\alpha$  is the visibility of the central fringe with spin either up or down

$$\alpha^{\uparrow/\downarrow} = \frac{N_{max}^{\uparrow/\downarrow} - N_{min}^{\uparrow/\downarrow}}{N_{max}^{\uparrow/\downarrow} + N_{min}^{\uparrow/\downarrow}} . \quad (1.52)$$

The term  $4t_{\pi/2}/\pi$  is necessary since the pulse length  $t_{\pi/2}$  is finite. The graph in Fig. 1.6 shows the Ramsey interference pattern by scanning  $\omega_{rf}$ , while everything else is kept the same [75]. In the actual nEDM measurements, only 4 points with the highest sensitivity are measured. These points are referred to as the working points. For each configuration of the electric and magnetic fields (parallel or anti-parallel), Eqn. 1.51 is fitted to the data to extract the Larmor frequency  $\omega_0$ . Taking the differences of those Larmor frequencies then give access to the nEDM

$$d_n = \frac{\hbar(\omega_0^{\uparrow\uparrow} - \omega_0^{\uparrow\downarrow})}{2(E^{\uparrow\uparrow} - E^{\uparrow\downarrow})} = \frac{\hbar\Delta\omega}{4E} \quad (1.53)$$

with the assumption that, the magnetic field is constant (see Eqn. 1.48).

## 1.10 Statistical and Systematic Errors

### 1.10.1 Statistical Sensitivity

The statistical sensitivity of the nEDM measurement is

$$\sigma(d_n) = \frac{\hbar}{2\alpha TE\sqrt{N}} , \quad (1.54)$$

where visibility  $\alpha$  is a factor related to the neutrons polarization,  $N$  is the number of detected UCN,  $T$  is the free precession time, and  $E$  is the electric field. The visibility  $\alpha = e^{T/T_2}$  depends on the transverse spin relaxation time  $T_2$  respectively. The transverse spin relaxation time  $T_2$  arises from inhomogeneities in the magnetic field

$$\frac{1}{T_2} = \frac{1}{T'_2} + \frac{1}{T_1} , \quad (1.55)$$

where  $T_1$  is the longitudinal relaxation time, and  $T'_2$  is the transverse relaxation time only due to the field inhomogeneities.

### 1.10.2 Systematic Errors

The dominant systematic errors in the previous best experiment arose due to magnetic field instability (uncorrelated with the electric field  $E$ ), and magnetic field inhomogeneity which can give rise to a false EDM for particle traps [76]. The false EDM could be understood by considering transverse fields originating from the gradient of the uniform  $B_0$  field in the axial direction ( $\partial B_{0z}/\partial z$ ), and the motion of UCN in the electric field ( $\mathbf{B}_v = (\mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{v})/\mathbf{c}^2$ ), respectively. Radial fields like these rotate as the particle moves in the EDM cell. These fields rotate with the same frequency as particles move in the EDM cell, thereby inducing a Bloch-Siegert shift on the resonant frequency. The false EDM arises from a cross term between the radial component of the applied  $B_0$  field, and  $B_v$  in the Bloch-Siegert shift.

The false EDM could be corrected by the frequency ratio of the neutrons to the co-magnetometer atoms ( $^{199}\text{Hg}$ ) used to sense the gradient. The  $^{199}\text{Hg}$  false EDM is larger

than for the neutrons because of its larger (thermal) velocity. Graphing the measured neutron EDM as a function of this ratio then allows to correct to the zero gradient and hence discover the true neutron EDM. This is also supplemented by gradient determination using surrounding Cs magnetometers [77].

Pendlebury *et. al.*, [21] measured the nEDM by the Ramsey technique and using mercury as a comagnetometer to make cycle-by-cycle corrections. As they show, the measured nEDM has a downward (upward) slope as a function of the relative frequency shift of neutrons and Hg when the applied  $\mathbf{B}_0$  field is upward (downward),

$$d_{\text{meas}} = d_n \pm d_{\text{false}} . \quad (1.56)$$

One would assume that the crossing point  $d_x$  happens when there is no magnetic field gradient. However, various effects could potentially shift the crossing point.

Table 1.5 shows a summary of the nEDM systematic errors and their uncertainties for the Pendlebury *et. al.*, [21] nEDM measurement. The description of each effect is briefly listed below:

Effect	Shift	$\sigma$
$\nu_{\text{Hg}}$ light shift (included in $d_x$ )	(0.35)	0.08
$\chi_\nu^2 = 1.2$ adjustment	0	0.68
Quadrupole fields and Earth's rotation	0.33	0.14
Dipole field	-0.71	0.07
Hg door PMD	0.00	0.60
$\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{E}$ translational	0.000	0.001
$\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{E}$ rotational	0.00	0.05
Second-order $\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{E}$	0.000	0.000
Uncompensated $\mathbf{B}$ drift	0.00	0.34
Hg atom EDM	-0.002	0.006
Electric forces	0.00	0.04
Leakage currents	0.00	0.01
AC fields	0.000	0.001
Nonuniform Hg depolarization	0.000	0.001
Total shift of $d_x$	-0.38	0.99

Table 1.5: [21]Summary of systematic errors and their uncertainties, in units of  $10^{-26}$  e·cm. Correction for the mercury light shift is already incorporated run by run prior to the crossing-lines fit; other corrections are then applied to the crossing-point EDM value  $d_x$ .

- **$\nu_{\text{Hg}}$  light shift:** The presence of mercury reading light can shift the frequency of the mercury atoms.
- **$\chi^2 = 1.2$  adjustment:** Over the four years of data taking, the profile of the magnetic field could in principle change due to opening and closing the magnetic shields and their demagnetization. These random variations are taken into account by increasing the uncertainty of the global fit  $\chi^2_\nu$ .
- **Quadrupole fields and Earth's rotation:** In the presence of a field with gradient in the  $x$  and  $y$  direction only, the neutron spins follow the total field direction adiabatically while the nonadiabatic Hg atoms stay insensitive to such changes. This affect the neutron to Hg frequency ratio, which in turn causes a false nEDM. The rotation of the Earth shifts all of the frequency ratio measurements of neutron and Hg to lower values when the  $\mathbf{B}_0$  field is upwards, and to higher values by the same amount when the  $\mathbf{B}_0$  field is downwards.
- **Dipole field:** The field of a permanent magnetic dipole near the UCN storage results in a field gradient which can induce a false nEDM.
- **Hg door PMD:** This is the effect of the permanent magnetic dipole (PMD) near the Hg door which induces a false nEDM.
- **$\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{E}$  effects:** A false nEDM signal arises when UCN experiences a magnetic field gradient in the presence of the electric field as it moves in the cell.
- **Uncompensated  $\mathbf{B}$  drift:** In principle there could be some residual effects due to the fluctuations in the magnetic field, such as hysteresis in the mu-metal shield. This could eventually induce a false EDM.
- **Hg atom EDM:** Since the mercury is used to compensate for shifts in the magnetic field, any EDM-like component contributing to the mercury frequency will affect the measurement of the neutron EDM.
- **Electric forces:** An electrostatic force can slightly move the electrodes of the high voltage EDM cell which can cause a systematic uncertainty.

- **Leakage currents:** The leakage current that flows through or along the surface of the insulator between the high voltage electrodes with a component along the  $\mathbf{B}_0$  field would produce a frequency shift that gives rise to a false nEDM.
- **AC fields:** An oscillation in the high voltage can generate an oscillating displacement current in the nEDM cell which causes an oscillating  $\mathbf{B}$  field. This can make a change in the frequency shift and therefore the nEDM.
- **Non-uniform Hg depolarization:** If the average depolarization time of the Hg atoms are different for two orientations of the  $\mathbf{E}$  field, or if the Hg frequency has some dependencies to the depolarization time, a false EDM would be induced.

## 1.11 nEDM Status Worldwide

In 1950, the first upper limit on neutron EDM was discussed by Purcell and Ramsey to be  $3 \times 10^{-18}$  e·cm [8]. Since then many groups around the world attempted to measure the nEDM and increase its sensitivity (see Fig. 1.7).

The most recent nEDM measurement at ILL found that to be  $d_n < 3.0 \times 10^{-26}$  e·cm (90% CL) [10, 21]. The new  $^{199}\text{Hg}$  EDM measurement constrains the nEDM better than direct nEDM measurements,  $d_n < 1.6 \times 10^{-26}$  e·cm, although subject to uncertainty from Schiff screening [78].

There are several ongoing experiments seeking to measure the nEDM. Most groups are aiming initially for an improvement of the uncertainty on  $d_n$  to the  $10^{-27}$  e·cm level, ultimately improving to the  $10^{-28}$  e·cm level over time.

The PSI nEDM experiment uses an improved version of the former Sussex- RAL-ILL single-cell apparatus. Several innovations have been made at PSI, including a new  $\text{SD}_2$  spallation-driven UCN source. The experiment employs several Cs magnetometers outside the EDM cell, and a  $^{199}\text{Hg}$  comagnetometer. Active magnetic shielding and other environmental controls have been improved. A new detector that can simultaneously count both spin states of UCN has also been implemented. The final sensitivity expected is  $\simeq 10^{-26}$  e·cm [74]. Some of the chief improvements made at PSI recently have been

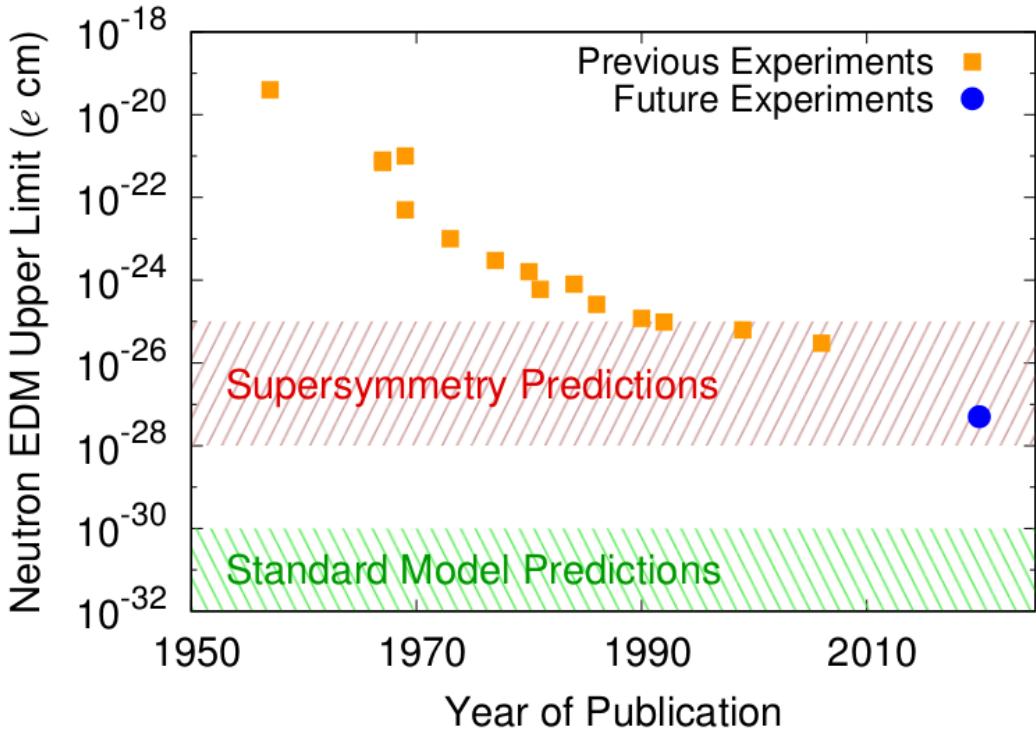


Figure 1.7: The timeline of the upper bound on the neutron EDM from previous and future experiments. The yellow squares are the previous bounds, and the blue dot is the sensitivity target of next generation experiments. In the standard model, the expected size of nEDM is more than 5 orders of magnitude below the current experimental bound, as shown by the green shaded area in the plot. In extensions of the standard models, however, the expected size of nEDM covers the regions of the current and future experimental bound, as shown by the red shaded area. [79]

in the area of nearby alkali atom (Cs) magnetometry, Hg comagnetometry, and neutron magnetometry. A recent achievement at PSI is the understanding of the Cs magnetometer signals in terms of magnetic field gradients internal to the magnetic shielding. This has led to a detailed understanding of the false EDM of the Hg comagnetometer [80]. Another recent achievement is in using the neutrons themselves to measure gradients [81]. PSI also aims to improve their magnetometry with  $^3\text{He}$  magnetometers inside the electrodes of the double EDM measurement cells for their future n2EDM effort. They have performed R&D using Cs magnetometers to sense the free-induction decay signal from  $^3\text{He}$ , which resulted in a new high-precision magnetometer possessing excellent long-term stability [82]. The precision goal for n2EDM is  $5 \times 10^{-28} \text{ e}\cdot\text{cm}$  [83, 84].

The nEDM collaboration at SNS plans to measure  $d_n \approx 2 \times 10^{-28} \text{ e}\cdot\text{cm}$ , two orders of magnitude improvement from the current limit [85]. They plan to use a unique ex-

perimental technique. A Cold Neutron (CN) beam from the SNS will impinge upon a volume of superfluid  $^4\text{He}$  creating UCN. The nEDM measurement will also be conducted in the superfluid. A small amount of polarized  $^3\text{He}$  introduced into the superfluid  $^4\text{He}$  will act as both a comagnetometer and spin analyzer for the UCN. The  $^3\text{He}$  neutron capture rate is strongly spin dependent, and will beat at the difference of the Larmor precession frequencies of the neutrons and  $^3\text{He}$ . A non-zero EDM would change the beat frequency with E-reversal. Scintillation light produced in the superfluid will be used to detect the capture products. The target precision is  $10^{-28}$  e·cm. The false EDM of the  $^3\text{He}$  comagnetometer may be reduced by collisions in the surrounding  $^4\text{He}$  [86]. The group aims to commission the experiment at SNS by 2020.

A new room-temperature nEDM experiment will be conducted using an upgraded LANL UCN source [87]. The aim of the project is to increase the UCN density by a factor of five to ten, which could then be used to carry out a  $\sim 10^{-27}$  e·cm determination of the nEDM. The experiment aims for completion of a  $10^{-27}$ -level result, to be completed in the years prior to the SNS nEDM experiment, which shares a number of collaborators. Two other room temperature nEDM experiments are being pursued at the FRM2 reactor in Munich [88] and at ILL [89]. Both experiments feature double measurement cells and Cs magnetometers internal to the innermost magnetic shield. The Munich effort features an impressive new effort in active and passive magnetic shielding [90–93], and uses  $^{199}\text{Hg}$  comagnetometry. The ILL/Gatchina experiment has produced results at ILL [89]. This could be improved in further runs at ILL in the EDM position, or in runs using the superfluid He UCN source at ILL, where a statistical sensitivity of  $3.5 \times 10^{-27}$  e·cm could be obtained [94]. The group will build a UCN source at the WWR-M reactor in Gatchina in order to increase the UCN flux.

## 1.12 Summary

Precision experiments involving the UCN provide an attractive avenue to investigate physics beyond the standard model. Measurement of the neutron EDM is an example of

such experiments. For such studies high densities of UCN are needed.

UCN are very slow neutrons with velocities  $< 8 \text{ m/s}$  that can be trapped in matter, magnetic and gravitational fields. Superthermal UCN sources could produce high densities of UCN. Such sources should have a very small neutron absorption cross-section and upscattering rate, while having a high UCN production rate. So far, the best candidates are superfluid helium and solid deuterium.

Both  $^4\text{He}$  and solid  $\text{D}_2$  UCN sources use quantum excitations in the converter medium to create the UCN; these are phonons in the case of superfluid  $s\text{D}_2$  and phonons and rotons in the case of  $^4\text{He}$ . Since  $^4\text{He}$  does not capture neutrons, and has a small upscattering probability for UCN, the superfluid  $^4\text{He}$  source can be operated at lower currents for longer times, allowing a large density of neutrons to accumulate. In the case of superfluid helium, the storage times of hundreds of seconds are achievable. The production rate in  $s\text{D}_2$  is higher than in superfluid  $^4\text{He}$ , however, the neutron storage lifetime is only tens of milliseconds.

The TRIUMF UCN project is the only spallation-driven superfluid- $^4\text{He}$  source proposed at this time in the world [95]. The spallation-driven UCN sources at PSI [69] and LANL [68] use the phonons in solid deuterium as an alternative method of UCN production. The TRIUMF's UCN source uses an optimum proton beam structure on the minute scale to produce the highest density of UCN in the world, while  $s\text{D}_2$  spallation sources benefit from pulsing the beam, then isolate any UCN produced as quickly as possible to achieve high UCN densities. The detail of the current UCN facility at TRIUMF is presented in Chapter 4 and the result of the first UCN production with the vertical UCN source is discussed in Chapter 5.

The neutron EDM is measured using the Ramsey method of separated oscillatory fields. In this technique, polarized UCN are trapped in a material bottle in the presence of aligned electric and magnetic fields. The Larmor precision frequency of UCN is measured when the  $E$  and  $B$  fields are parallel and once when they are anti-parallel. Any frequency shift in the Larmor frequency of UCN is then an indicative of a non-zero nEDM. The components of the future nEDM measurement at TRIUMF are described in Chapter 2.

# Chapter 2

## Future nEDM Measurement at TRIUMF

Finding a non-zero neutron electric dipole moment (nEDM) is directly linked to the extra sources of  $CP$  violation beyond the Standard Model. The next generation of nEDM experiments aim to measure  $d_n$  with proposed precision  $\delta d_n \lesssim 10^{-27} e\cdot\text{cm}$  [84, 93, 96–101]. The TUCAN (TRIUMF UltraCold Advanced Neutron source) collaboration proposes a world-leading experiment to measure the nEDM, improving the precision by a factor of thirty compared to the present world’s best experimental result. The current nEDM experiments suffer from low UCN statistics and a key goal is to build the strongest UCN source in the world. To achieve this goal, extensive studies of the current vertical UCN source have been conducted (See Chapters 4 and 5).

### 2.1 TRIUMF nEDM Components

In 2016, the vertical UCN source from RCNP in Japan was shipped to TRIUMF for the research towards the development of the new upgraded UCN source. The details of the current UCN facility at TRIUMF is presented in Chapter 4. The result of the first set of UCN experiments with the vertical UCN source is available in Chapter 5.

The future nEDM experiment at TRIUMF will use a room-temperature nEDM apparatus, connected to an upgraded cryogenic UCN source Fig 2.1. A proton beam at

480 MeV and  $40 \mu\text{A}$  impinges on a tungsten spallation target liberating neutrons. Over the target, a room-temperature neutron moderator/reflector system composed of Pb, graphite, and  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$  thermalizes the neutrons. Liquid deuterium ( $\text{LD}_2$ ) at 20 K creates a large flux of cold neutrons (CN) in a bottle containing superfluid  $^4\text{He}$  below 1 K. In the superfluid helium, the CN excite phonon and roton transitions, losing virtually all their kinetic energy to become UCN. Once a sufficient density of UCN is built up, the proton beam is turned off, and a cryogenic UCN valve opens. The UCN are transported out of the source by specular reflection on the surfaces of the UCN guides. A superconducting magnet (SCM) accelerates polarized UCN through barrier foils to a vacuum volume at room temperature. The UCN are then transported to the nEDM experiment by additional guides.

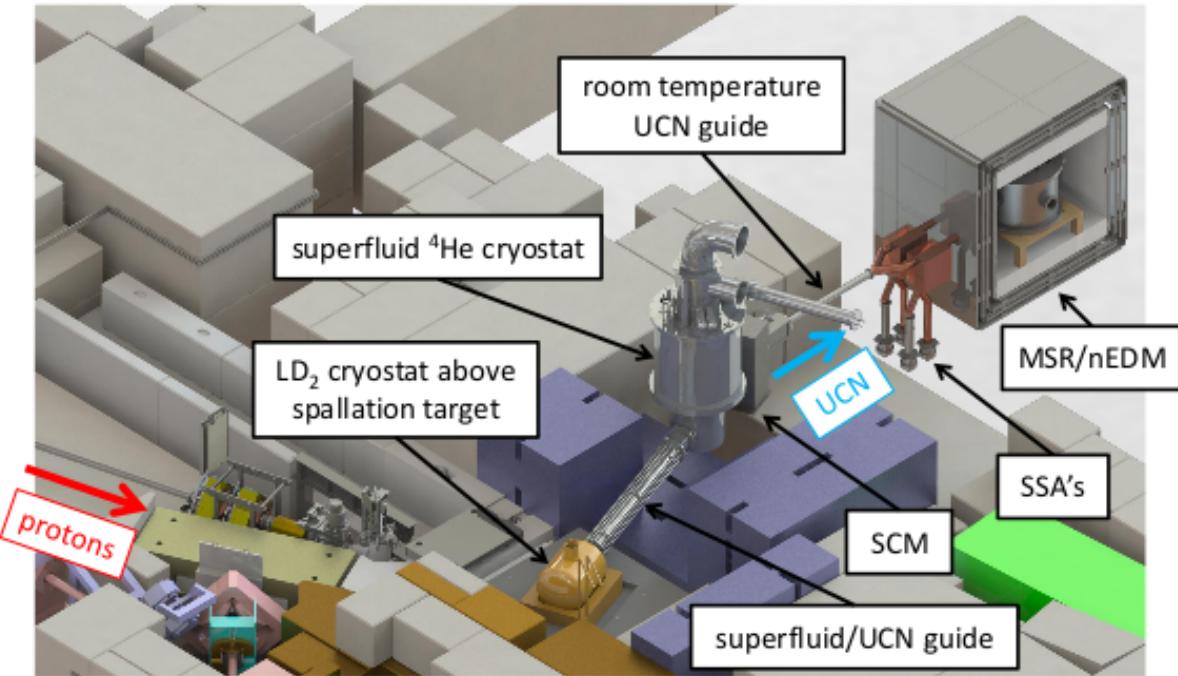


Figure 2.1: Conceptual design of the proposed UCN source and nEDM experiment. Protons strike a tungsten spallation target. Neutrons are moderated in the  $\text{LD}_2$  cryostat and become UCN in a superfluid  $^4\text{He}$  bottle, which is cooled by another cryostat located further downstream. UCN pass through guides and the superconducting magnet (SCM) to reach the nEDM experiment located within a magnetically shielded room (MSR). Simultaneous spin analyzers (SSA's) detect the UCN at the end of each nEDM experimental cycle.

A brief description of the main components of the future nEDM apparatus at TRIUMF is presented below.

### 2.1.1 New UCN Source

The future nEDM experiment at TRIUMF will use an upgraded UCN source, which has quite some differences with the vertical UCN source described in Chapter 4. A conceptual design of the next generation UCN source is shown in Fig. 2.2. The upgraded source is referred to as “the new horizontal source”, because the UCN exit in a near-horizontal direction. When UCN exit the He-II into vacuum, they gain a kinetic energy equivalent to the neutron optical potential of 18.5 neV. This corresponds to a height in Earth’s gravity field of 18.1 cm. Therefore near-horizontal extraction of UCN is a reasonable development for He-II sources.

The moderators and the He-II cryostat are surrounded by shielding blocks made of steel. Additionally, neutron absorbers made of borated polyethylene (PE) line the moderators and the UCN guide to reduce activation of the steel blocks by thermal neutrons. Including a 10 cm of steel shielding and 5 cm of borated polyethylene, significantly reduces the activation of the cryostat in cases with large shielding penetrations.

The heavy-water moderator at room temperature is a thermal pre-moderator for fast neutrons, reducing the required amount of cold moderator and the heat load on the cold moderator and UCN converter. Additionally, it is placed around the cold moderator to reflect thermal neutrons back into it. Additional graphite blocks serve as reflectors. The spallation target is covered with a layer of lead, which has a low neutron-absorption cross section and shields the cold moderator and converter from  $\gamma$  radiation.

The purpose of the cold moderator system is to produce the maximum number of 1 meV neutrons, with the minimum number of neutron captures in the material. Minimizing the neutron captures is important to prevent production of gamma rays which would heat the He-II in the UCN production volume, as well as to minimize neutron loss (for this reason, deuterated materials are preferable). Higher energy  $> 1$  meV neutrons can also be used, since multiphonon excitations in the superfluid can potentially produce UCN as discussed in Section 1.6.2 [47, 48]. The new UCN source uses an LD<sub>2</sub> cryostat to produce cold neutrons during the experiment, as opposed to the solid D<sub>2</sub>O in the vertical source. LD<sub>2</sub> increases the UCN production by a factor of 2-3, and reduces the heat load

and the uncertainty in the UCN source performance.

The UCN production and detection of the new source are estimated in details based on an Monte Carlo N-Particle (MCNP) model of the source, an analytical model of UCN production based on Ref. [47], and UCN transport simulations based on Ref. [102] including losses on walls and within the He-II and the vapour pressure above it. The simulations indicate that when driven by a  $40 \mu\text{A}$  proton beam, the source will produce  $2 \times 10^7$  UCN/s, with beam heating to the He-II  $< 10 \text{ W}$ , a design goal for our refrigerator. At the end of target irradiation,  $3.4 \times 10^8$  UCN would be in the source prior to opening the room-temperature valve (not shown in Fig. 2.2) to the nEDM experiment. The simulations also include transport into the nEDM experiment. A total of  $6.5 \times 10^6$  UCN would be loaded into the EDM measurement cells prior to initiating the Ramsey cycle. Using reasonable values for lifetimes and spin-coherence times of the UCN (storage lifetime of 120 s or higher, and  $T_1 = 1000 \text{ a}$  and  $T_2 = 500 \text{ s}$  [103]), this corresponds to a statistical determination of the nEDM of  $\sigma(d_n) = 3 \times 10^{-25} \text{ e}\cdot\text{cm}$  per cycle. With reasonable assumptions for the running time available per day, a statistical determination of  $\sigma(d_n) = 10^{-27} \text{ e}\cdot\text{cm}$  would be achieved in 400 days.

The new UCN source will have several key improvements. Foremost of these is improved heat exchanger design and improved cooling efficiency. Also to be improved are the internal neutron guides. We plan to use an Al-Be alloy bottle presenting a lower heat load to the He-II. Gamma and beta heating from the Al bottle walls is presently projected to dominate the heat load to the superfluid. Extraction of UCN from the source would be improved by the near-horizontal extraction.

### 2.1.2 UCN Handling and Transport

Efficient transport of polarized UCN is one of the major requirements for the nEDM measurement. This efficiency depends mainly on three parameters: UCN guide wall capacity, surface roughness of the UCN guides, and UCN polarization. These are described below.

The first parameter is the capacity of the guide walls to contain the UCN. UCN have a large wavelength compared to the lattice constants in solid matter (50 to 130 nm

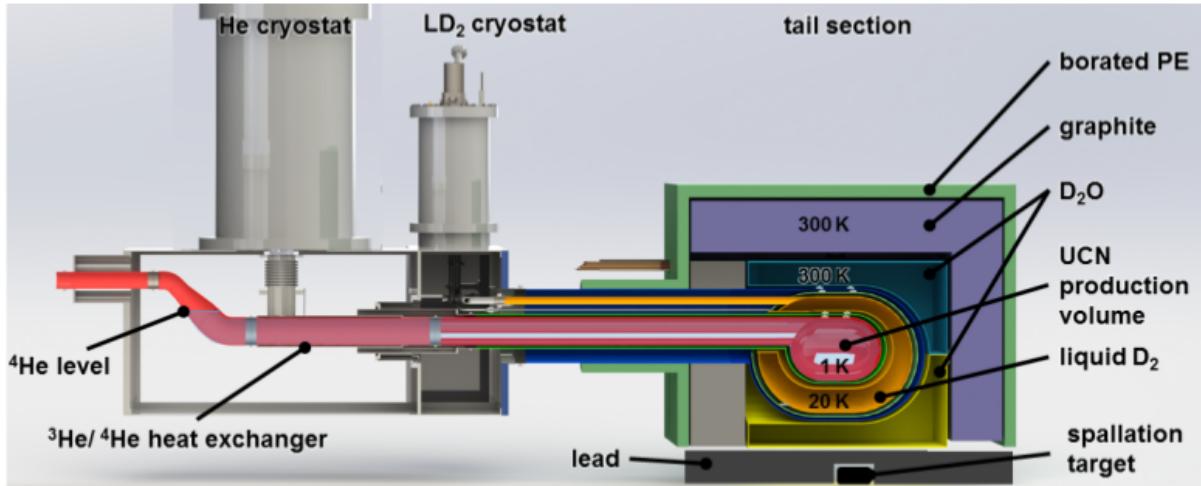


Figure 2.2: Conceptual design of the next generation UCN source planned for TRIUMF. Neutrons are liberated by proton-induced spallation in a target located beneath the He-II, and LD<sub>2</sub> and D<sub>2</sub>O moderators. Neutrons are reflected and moderated in surrounding materials, then enter superfluid <sup>4</sup>He (He-II), where they are downscattered. Cooling for the superfluid is provided by heat exchanger within the He-II cryostat. UCN created in the He-II are transported out through the heat exchanger passing through the He-II surface into vacuum in a vertical rise, and to the experiment which is conducted at room temperature.

compared to 0.3 nm). Therefore, during a scattering process, a UCN interacts with hundreds of nuclei. The mean nuclear potential experienced during the scattering (Fermi potential) depends on the material. In order to store UCN, the Fermi potential must be as high as possible.

The second parameter is the roughness of the surface. Transportation is more efficient if the roughness is low because, the probability of specular reflection is increased. Ideally, the roughness should be lower than the UCN wavelength of  $\sim 40$  nm but, in practice this is challenging to achieve.

The last parameter is related to the polarization. UCN can be depolarized during a collision due to different processes. When selecting materials for UCN components, the mean depolarization rate per bounce should be as small as possible. In practice this means, all nonmagnetic coatings for polarized UCN traps.

The main task of the UCN handling parts is to transport a large phase-space fraction of the UCN most efficiently to achieve the highest statistical sensitivity in the experiment as possible.

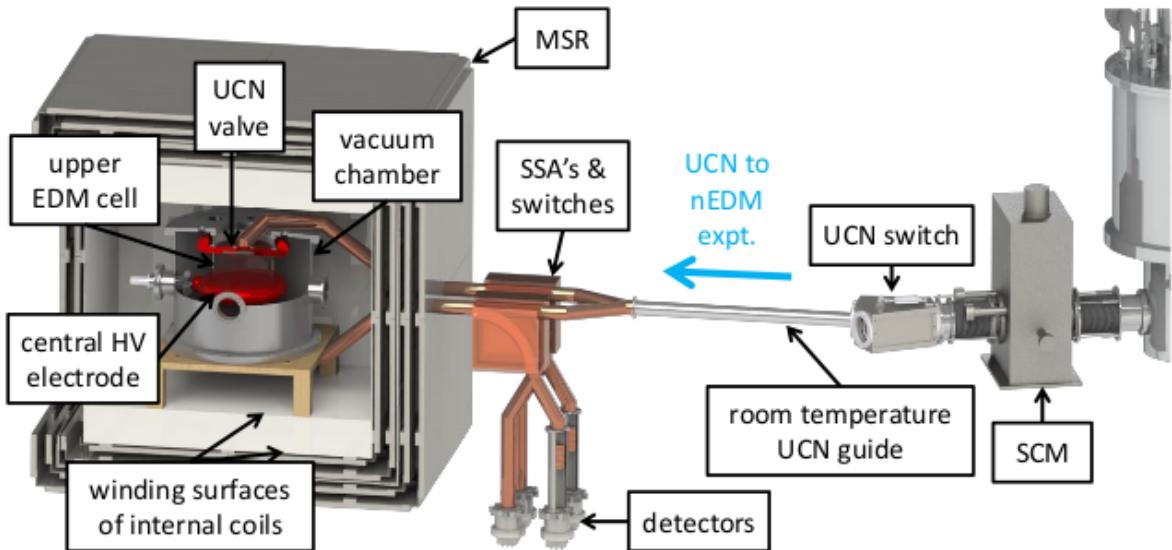


Figure 2.3: A 3D model of the UCN delivery and the future nEDM experiment at TRIUMF. UCN exit the source by passing through the SCM spin polarizer, and UCN switch and detector system, where they then enter the proposed nEDM experiment. UCN are loaded into the measurement cells within a MSR/coil system. At the end of the measurement cycle, UCN are counted by simultaneous spin analyzers (SSA's) including detectors. An ambient magnetic compensation system, and thermally controlled room, will surround the nEDM apparatus (not shown). For scale, the innermost layer of the MSR is a 1.8 m side-length cube.

The parts that come in contact with UCN on the way from the UCN source to the EDM experiment, and the UCN detectors, constitute the neutron handling hardware: UCN guides, valves, switches and simultaneous spin analyzer (SSA) system. Fig. 2.3 shows the neutron handling parts for the future nEDM experiment at TRIUMF. UCN exiting the source are polarized by a superconducting magnet (SCM), and then enter the nEDM experiment.

Suitable guides and valves have optimized geometries: wall materials with large Fermi potentials, low upscattering and absorption cross sections for neutrons, and low roughness and depolarization. The plan is to use Be for the UCN production volume, and NiMo coatings for most other surfaces, on glass and Cu substrates, where non-magnetic polarization preserving guides are required.

UCN spins will be measured by two separate simultaneous spin analyzer (SSA) systems (one for each cell). Its configuration allows simultaneous counting of both UCN spin states, and maximizes the visibility of the Ramsey fringes and counting efficiency. The

UCN switches load the UCN into the nEDM experiment, and divert UCN exiting the experiment into the detectors. A prototype detector, based on scintillating lithium glass, and capable of handling the highest rates of UCN expected with the TRIUMF source has been developed and tested in the highest rate UCN beam available at PSI [104] (See Chapter 4).

### 2.1.3 Magnetic Fields in the nEDM Experiment

To achieve the desired nEDM sensitivity of  $10^{-27}$  e·cm, an extremely stable and homogeneous  $B_0$  magnetic field is required. The magnetic stability upper limit for TUCAN's nEDM measurement is 1 pT (for hundreds of seconds) and the magnetic homogeneity upper limit is 1 nT/m. Because of the challenges to achieve this level of magnetic stability, a  $^{199}\text{Hg}$  co-magnetometer will be used to correct for the  $B_0$  field fluctuations. To achieve these specifications, both active and passive shielding will be utilized to nullify the uncontrolled and time-varying external fields. The desired internal magnetic field will be generated by using uniform and shim coils. Fig. 2.4 shows the schematic drawing of the magnetic components of the TUCAN nEDM experiment. Each magnetic component is explained below.

#### Active Shielding

The magnetic environment at the location of the planned nEDM experiment at TRIUMF is dominated by a static field due to the main cyclotron at TRIUMF which can be as large as 100-400  $\mu\text{T}$ , with 1 to 100 nT fluctuations due to the other external magnetic sources such as nearby beam line magnets or the displacement of large magnetic objects (e.g., the crane is the Meson Hall).

The TUCAN's plan is to reduce the static field to less than 50  $\mu\text{T}$  using dedicated compensation coils and constant-current supplies, with a readily achievable stability of  $10^{-3}$ , and to reduce the remaining static field and fluctuations by up to a factor of 100 through a separate set of compensation coils and current supplies, using fluxgate magnetometers for magnetic feedback. The fluxgate sensors will be placed in the region

### Active Compensation/Shielding

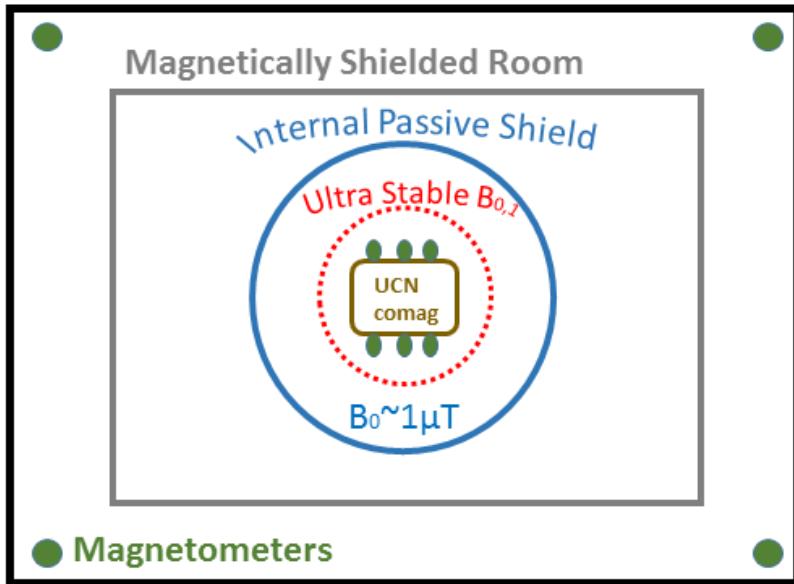


Figure 2.4: Schematic drawing for the TUCAN nEDM magnetics. From outside in: The active compensation system followed by several layers of magnetically shielded room and passive shields nullify the environmental magnetic field. The magnetometers inside the active shielding monitor the changes in the magnetic field internal to that region. The internal coil system ( $B_0$  and  $B_1$  coils) generate the magnetic fields for the Ramsey cycle. The UCN and the co-magnetometers are internal to the coils.

between the compensation coils and the passive shields as shown in Fig. 2.4. A prototype active compensation system has been built at the University of Winnipeg based on Refs. [105, 106]. The system employs a set of coils centred around a cylindrical passive magnetic shield system, using four 3-axis fluxgates for feedback (see Fig. 2.5). Overall, the active shielding system should be able to reduce the net background magnetic field to the level of tens of nT over the volume of the nEDM cell.

### Passive Shielding

Passive magnetic shielding system is generally composed of a multi-layer shield formed from thin shells of material with high magnetic permeability (e.g., mu-metal). The outer layers of the shield are normally cylindrical [84, 96] or form the walls of a magnetically shielded room [90, 92]. The innermost magnetic shield is normally a specially shaped shield, where the design of the coil in relation to the shield is carefully taken into account to achieve adequate homogeneity [10, 93, 98]. Fig. 2.6 shows a picture of a prototype

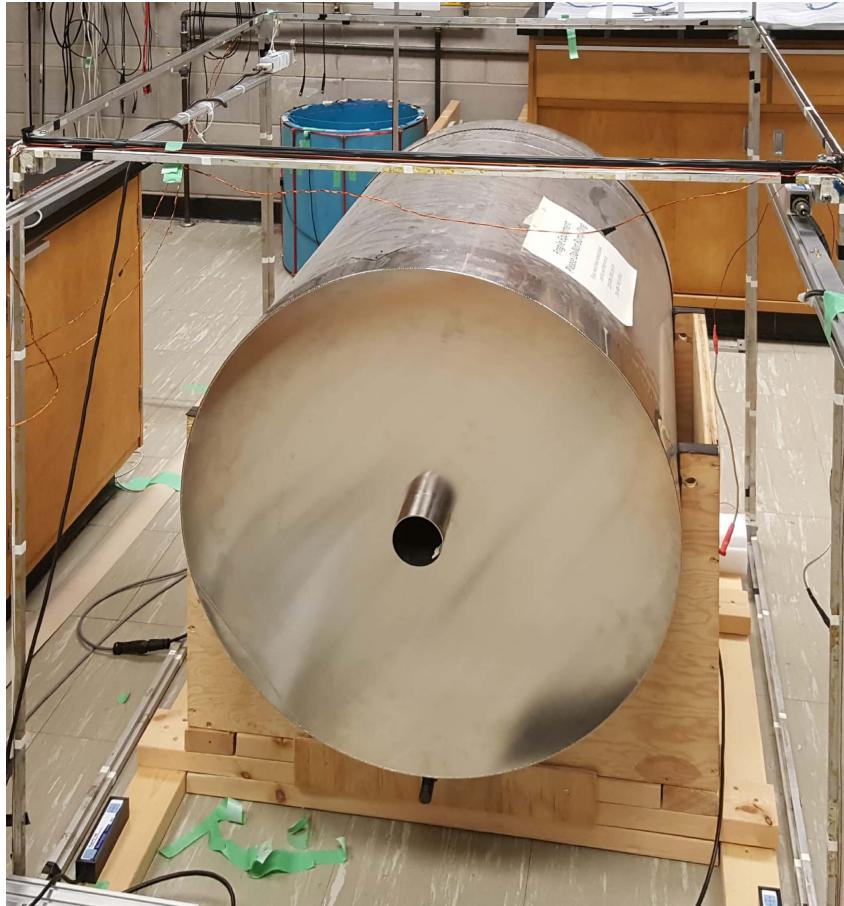


Figure 2.5: The prototype active compensation system at the University of Winnipeg.

passive shield at the University of Winnipeg, which is in support of the precision magnetic field research for the future nEDM experiment to be conducted at TRIUMF. The shield system is a four-layer mu-metal shield formed from nested right-circular cylindrical shells with endcaps. The inner radius of the innermost shield is 18.44 cm, equal to its half-length. The radii and half-lengths of the progressively larger outer shields increase geometrically by a factor of 1.27. Each cylinder has two endcaps which possess a 7.5 cm diameter central hole. A stove-pipe of length 5.5 cm is placed on each hole, was designed to minimize leakage of external fields into the progressively shielded inner volumes. The design is similar to another smaller prototype shield discussed in Ref. [107].

The TUCAN passive shielding system will reduce the magnetic field to the pT level.

A magnetically shielded room (MSR) with quasi-static shielding factor of  $\sim 100,000$  is sufficient to reduce the magnetic fluctuations to the  $\sim \text{pT}$  level. A four-layer MSR with an inner cubic space of side-length 1.8 m and outer side-length 2.8 m produces this

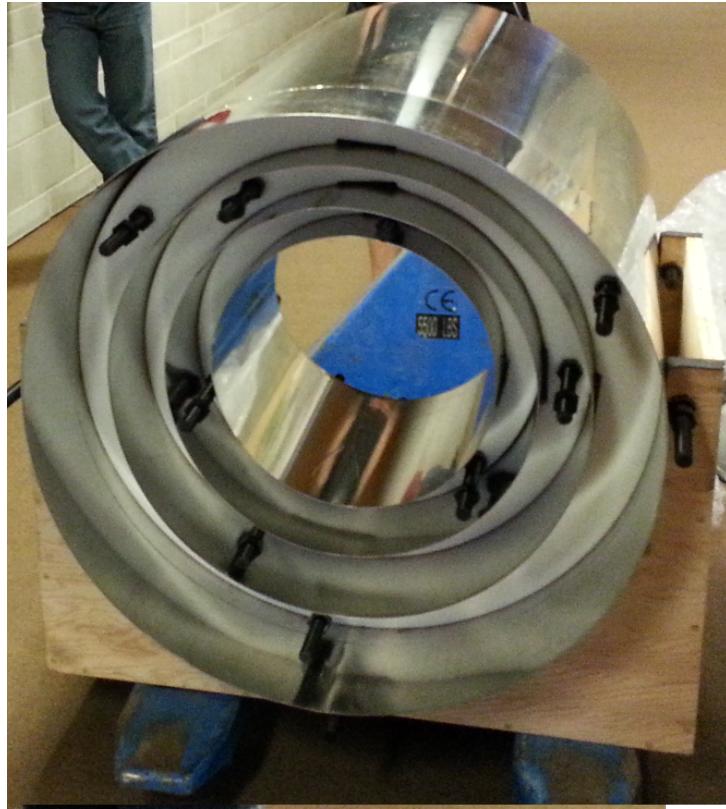


Figure 2.6: Three layers of the prototype passive magnetic shield at the University of Winnipeg. The 4th layer is not shown in this picture.

shielding factor, with mu-metal wall thicknesses 2 mm, 6 mm, 4 mm, 4 mm (inner to outer), equally spaced.

The innermost layer of the internal passive shields also may serve as a return yoke for the magnetic flux generated by the internal coils for the shield-coupled coil designs. A degaussing (idealization) system will be used to stabilize the shields. A combined DC shielding factor of the order of  $10^6$  is expected.

In the case of the shield-coupled coils, if the properties of the shields changes, the internally measured magnetic field will change. Changes in the temperature of the magnetic shields gives rise to a change in the magnetic permeability  $\mu$ , which then causes the internal magnetic field to change. This effect is studied in Chapter 3 with two methods. The result of those measurements showed that, to achieve the 1 pT stability goal over hundreds of seconds for the internal magnetic field for the nEDM measurement, the temperature of the innermost shield should be controlled to the  $< 0.004$  K level. This is very difficult to achieve. As a result, we decided to pursue the nEDM measurement using

the self-shielded coils. This resulted in three summer student projects and an Honours thesis [108].

In principle, by utilizing both active and passive shielding, the magnetic field from external sources will be reduced to the level of tens of fT over the volume of the nEDM cell. There are two prototype four-layer mu-metal passive shields at the University of Winnipeg. The shields are used to facilitate a variety of magnetic field R&D. In addition, there are three small witness cylinders which are made of the same material and annealed in the same oven as the large passive shields. The design principles behind the small shield, shielding factor measurements, and comparison to simulation are described in Ref. [107]. The witness cylinders are used to evaluate the temperature dependence of the shield material properties, which could be an important consideration for internal field stability (see Chapter 3).

### **Internal Coils**

For internal coils, self-shielded  $B_0$  coils and shim coils are considered surrounding the nEDM cells, since they provide immunity from the field perturbations induced by changes in the magnetic permeability of the passive shields arising from temperature fluctuations (see chapter 3). High-precision current supplies ( $\sim 1$  ppm) will be used to drive all internal coils, regardless of design. AC coils will apply  $\pi/2$  pulses for the UCN and comagnetometer species, to initiate free spin precession.

#### **2.1.4 EDM Cells and High Voltage System**

The nEDM measurement volume consists of two storage cells to enable simultaneous measurements with both up and down orientations of the electric field (see Fig. 2.7). The storage cells will be housed inside a non-magnetic vacuum chamber, providing insulating vacuum for the high voltage applied to the central electrode which separates the two cells. The cells are separated by a cylindrical wall of dielectric insulator. The insulator must have a large dielectric strength and low permittivity. An electric field of 12 kV/cm will be created between the electrodes with minimal leakage current ( $< 10$  pA). The optical

readout of the comagnetometer requires UV-transparent windows in the insulating side wall. The use of two cells with a central electrode allows first-order compensation of magnetic field drifts and a measurement of the magnetic field gradient.

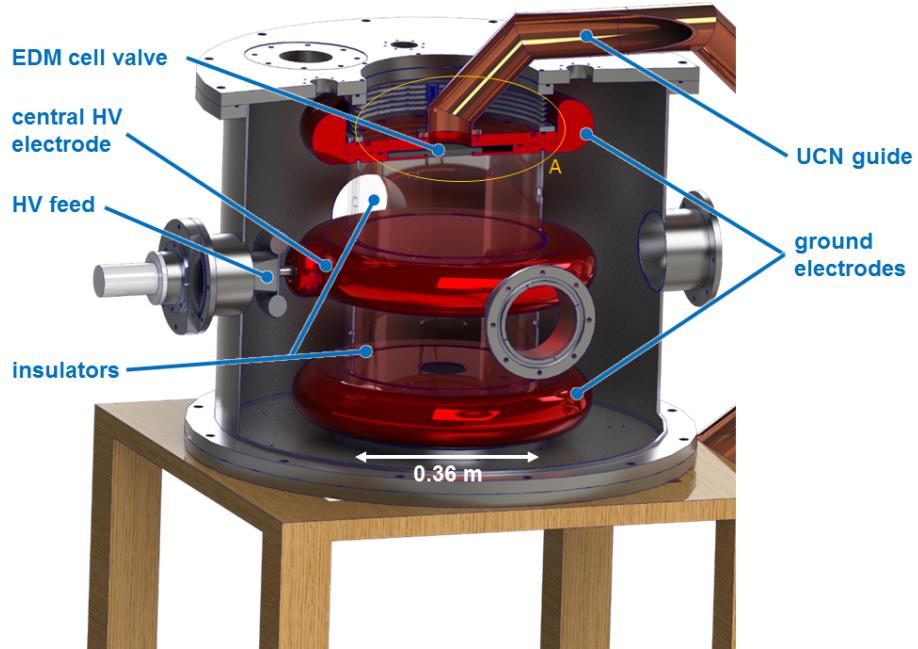


Figure 2.7: 3D drawing of the double EDM cell with vacuum chamber and UCN guides. All parts are labelled in the figure.

### 2.1.5 Comagnetometry

A problem in a typical nEDM experiment is that, if the magnetic field  $B_0$  drifts over the course of the measurement period, it degrades the statistical precision with which  $d_n$  can be determined. If the magnetic field over one measurement cycle is determined to  $\delta B_0 = 10 \text{ fT}$ , it implies an additional statistical error of  $\delta d_n \sim 10^{-26} \text{ e}\cdot\text{cm}$  (assuming an electric field of  $E = 10 \text{ kV/cm}$ , which is reasonable for a neutron EDM experiment). Over 100 days of averaging, this would make a  $\delta d_n \sim 10^{-27} \text{ e}\cdot\text{cm}$  measurement possible. Unfortunately, the magnetic field in the experiment is never stable to this level. For this reason, experiments use a comagnetometer and/or surrounding atomic magnetometers to measure and correct the magnetic field to this level [10, 106, 109]. Drifts of 1-10 pT in  $B_0$  may be corrected using the comagnetometer technique, setting a goal magnetic stability for the  $B_0$  field generation system in a typical nEDM experiment.

As described in Section 1.10.2, a false nEDM signal may arise due to a combination of a magnetic field gradient  $\partial B_z / \partial z$ , and motion in the electric field when species (neutrons and  $^{199}\text{Hg}$  atoms) are confined in the measurement cells. Comagnetometry offers the only way to correct for false EDMs caused by leakage currents. Each  $^{199}\text{Hg}$  atom is polarized using optical pumping techniques. Polarized atoms are introduced into the nEDM cell at the same time as UCN, and the spin-precession frequencies of them are measured simultaneously. The atoms are expected to have smaller EDMs than the neutrons, and so their precession frequencies may be used to normalize magnetic field drifts. The design of the  $^{199}\text{Hg}$  comagnetometer will be similar to that employed in the previous ILL experiment [10, 110].



# Chapter 3

## Temperature Dependence of Magnetic Permeability

This Chapter is based on the study of the sensitivity of fields generated within magnetically shielded volumes to changes in magnetic permeability presented in Ref. [111].

The previous best nEDM measurement [10, 21] showed that the dominant systematic uncertainty is related to the magnetic field homogeneity and instability. As a result, much of the research and development efforts for these experiments are focused on careful design and testing of various magnetic shield geometries with precision magnetometers [90, 106, 109, 112]. As an example, mechanical and temperature changes of the passive magnetic shielding [113, 114], and the degaussing procedure [92, 114, 115] (also known as demagnetization, equilibration, or idealization), affect the stability of the magnetic field within magnetically shielded rooms. Using a shield-coupled coil, since the  $B_0$  coil is magnetically coupled to the innermost magnetic shield, any change in the magnetic properties of the innermost shield results in a change in the internally measured magnetic field. This chapter focuses on this effect and characterize one possible source of instability: changes of the magnetic permeability  $\mu$  of the material with temperature when the magnetic shield is used as a return yoke for the internal coil system. This shield-coupled coil design was used in the previous best nEDM experiment.

The chapter proceeds in the following fashion:

- The dependence of the internal field on magnetic permeability of the innermost shielding layer for a typical nEDM experiment geometry is estimated using a combination of analytical and finite element analysis techniques. This sets a scale for the stability problem.
- New measurements of the temperature dependence of the magnetic permeability are presented. The measurements were done in two ways in order to study a variety of systematic effects that were encountered.
- Finally, the results of the calculations and measurements are combined to provide a range of temperature sensitivities that takes into account sample-to-sample and measurement-to-measurement variations.

### 3.1 Sensitivity of Internally Generated Field to Permeability of the Shield $B_0(\mu)$

In nEDM experiments conducted in the past, the presence of a coil inside the innermost passive shield turns the shield into a return yoke, and generally results in an increase in the magnitude of  $B_0$ . The ratio of this field inside the coil in the presence of the magnetic shield to that of the coil in free space is referred to as the reaction factor  $C$ , and can be calculated analytically for spherical and infinite cylindrical geometries [116, 117]. The key issue of interest for this work is the dependence of the reaction factor on the permeability  $\mu$  of the innermost shield. Although this dependence can be rather weak, the constraints on  $B_0$  stability are very stringent. As a result, even a small change in the magnetic properties of the innermost shield can result in an unacceptably large change in  $B_0$ .

To illustrate, consider here the model of a sine-theta surface current on a sphere of radius  $a$ , inside a spherical shell of inner radius  $R$ , thickness  $t$ , and linear permeability  $\mu$ . The uniform internal field generated by this ideal spherical coil is augmented by the reaction factor in the presence of the shield, but is otherwise left undistorted. The general

### 3.1. SENSITIVITY OF INTERNALLY GENERATED FIELD TO PERMEABILITY OF THE SHIELD

reaction factor for this model is given by Eqn. (38) in Ref. [116]. In the high- $\mu$  limit, with  $t \ll R$ , the reaction factor can be approximated as

$$C \simeq 1 + \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{a}{R} \right)^3 \left( 1 - \frac{3}{2} \frac{R}{t} \frac{\mu_0}{\mu} \right), \quad (3.1)$$

which highlights the dependence of  $B_0$  on the relative permeability  $\mu_r = \mu/\mu_0$  of the shield.

Fig. 3.1 (upper) shows a plot of  $B_0$  versus  $\mu_r$  for coil and shield dimensions similar to the ILL nEDM experiment [10, 118]:  $a = 0.53$  m,  $R = 0.57$  m, and  $t = 1.5$  mm. In addition to analytic calculations, the results of two axially symmetric simulations conducted using FEMM [119] are included to assess the effects of geometry and discretization of the surface current. The differences are small, suggesting that the ideal spherical model of Ref. [116] and the high- $\mu$  approximation of Eqn. (3.1) provide valuable insight for the design and analysis of shield-coupled coils.

In the first simulation, the same spherical geometry was used as for the analytic calculations. However, the surface current was discretized to 50 individual current loops, inscribed onto a sphere, and equally spaced vertically (i.e. a discrete sine-theta coil). A square wire profile of side length 1 mm was used. As shown in Fig. 3.1, this simulation gave excellent agreement with the analytic calculations. In the second simulation, a solenoid coil and cylindrical shield (length/radius = 2) were used with the same dimensions as above. Similarly, the coil was modelled as 50 evenly spaced current loops, with the distance from an end loop to the inner face of the shield endcap being half the inter-loop spacing. In the limit of tight-packing (i.e., a continuous surface current) and infinite  $\mu$ , the image currents in the end caps of the shield act as an infinite series of current loops, giving the ideal uniform field of an infinitely long solenoid [120, 121]. As shown in Fig. 3.1, the result is similar to the spherical case, with differences of order one part per thousand and a somewhat steeper slope of  $B_0(\mu_r)$ .

Fig. 3.1 (lower) shows the normalized slope  $\frac{\mu}{B_0} \frac{dB_0}{d\mu}$  of the curves from Fig. 3.1 (upper). In ancillary measurements of shielding factors (discussed briefly in Section 3.2.1), we found  $\mu_r = 20,000$  to offer a reasonable description of the quasistatic shielding factor of

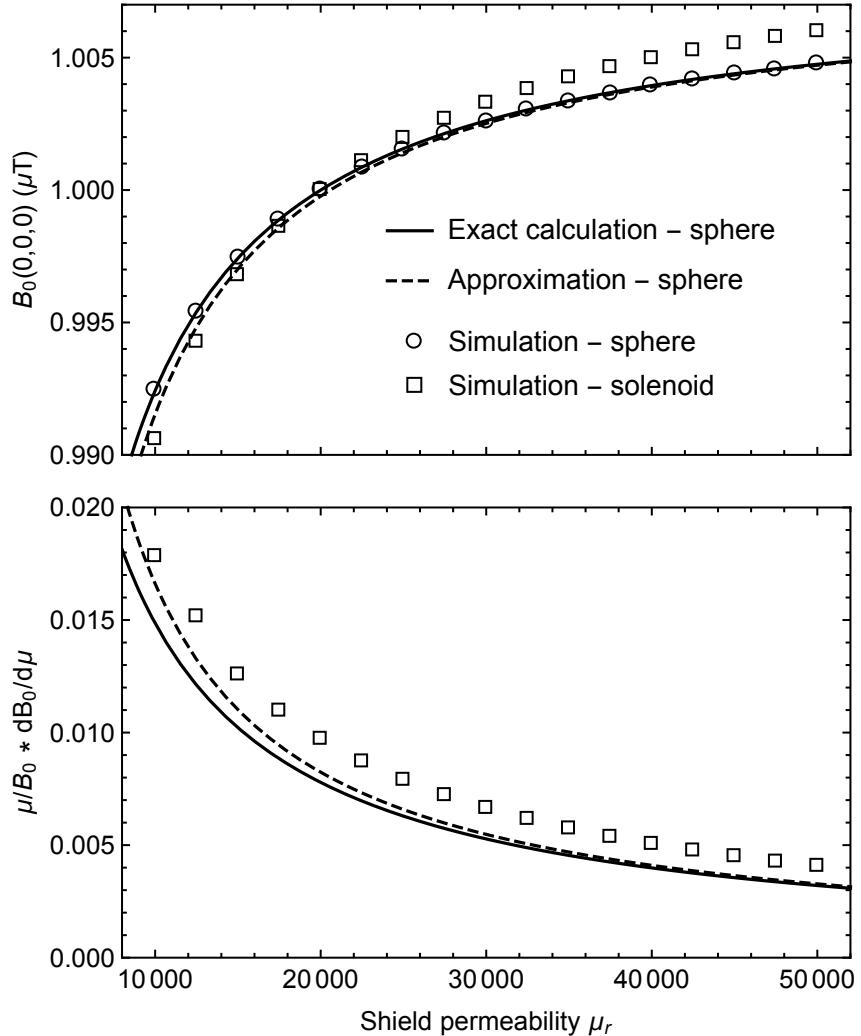


Figure 3.1: Upper: Magnetic field at the coil center as a function of magnetic permeability of the surrounding magnetic shield for a geometry similar to the ILL nEDM experiment as discussed in the text. Lower:  $\frac{\mu}{B_0} \frac{dB_0}{d\mu}$  vs. permeability. The solid curve is the exact calculation for the ideal spherical coil and shield from Ref. [116]; the dashed curve is the approximation of Eqn. 3.1. The circles and squares are the FEMM-based simulations for the spherical and solenoidal geometries with discrete currents. Since the spherical simulation was in agreement with the calculation, it is omitted from the lower graph. For the exact calculation and the two simulations, currents were chosen to give  $B_0 = 1 \mu\text{T}$  at  $\mu_r = 20,000$ .

our shield. Using this value as the magnetic permeability of our shield material, Fig. 3.1 (lower) shows that  $\frac{\mu}{B_0} \frac{dB_0}{d\mu}$  varies by about 20% (from 0.008 to 0.01) for the spherical vs. solenoidal geometries. We adopt the value  $\frac{\mu}{B_0} \frac{dB_0}{d\mu} = 0.01$  as an estimate of this slope in our discussions in Section 3.3, acknowledging that the value depends on the coil and shield design.

For a high- $\mu$  innermost shield, the magnetic field lines emanating from the coil all

return through the shield. This principle can be used to estimate the magnetic field  $B_m$  inside the shield material, and in our studies gave good agreement with FEA-based simulations. For the solenoidal geometry previously described and used for the calculations in Fig. 3.1,  $B_m$  is largest in the side walls of the solenoidal flux return, attaining a maximum value of  $170 \mu\text{T}$ . If we assume  $\mu_r=20,000$ , the  $H_m$  field is  $0.007 \text{ A/m}$ . Typically the shield is degaussed (idealized) with the internal coil energized. After degaussing,  $B_m$  must be approximately the same, since essentially all flux returns through the shield. However, the  $H_m$  field may become significantly smaller because after degaussing, it falls on the ideal magnetization curve in  $B_m - H_m$  space. (For a discussion of the ideal magnetization curve, refer to Ref. [122] and see Fig. 3.2.) In principle, the  $H_m$  field could be reduced by an order of magnitude or more, depending on the steepness of the ideal magnetization curve near the origin. Thus  $B_m = 170 \mu\text{T}$  and  $H_m < 0.007 \text{ A/m}$  set a scale for the relevant values for nEDM experiments. Furthermore, the field in the nEDM measurement volume, as well as in the magnetic shield, must be stable for periods of typically hundreds of seconds (corresponding to frequencies  $< 0.01 \text{ Hz}$ ). This sets the relevant timescale for magnetic properties most relevant to nEDM experiments.

## 3.2 Measurements of $\mu(T)$

### 3.2.1 Previous Measurements and their Relationship to nEDM Experiments

Previous measurements of the temperature dependence of the magnetic properties of high permeability alloys have been summarized in Refs. [122, 124, 125]. These measurements are normally conducted using a sample of the material to create a toroidal core, where a thin layer of the material is used in order to avoid eddy-current and skin-depth effects [125, 126]. A value of  $\mu$  is determined by dividing the amplitude of the sensed  $B_m$ -field by the amplitude of the driving AC  $H_m$ -field (similar to the method described in Section 3.2.3). Normally the frequency of the  $H_m$ -field is 50 or 60 Hz. The value of  $\mu$  is then quoted either at or near its maximum attainable value by adjusting the amplitude of  $H_m$ . Depending on

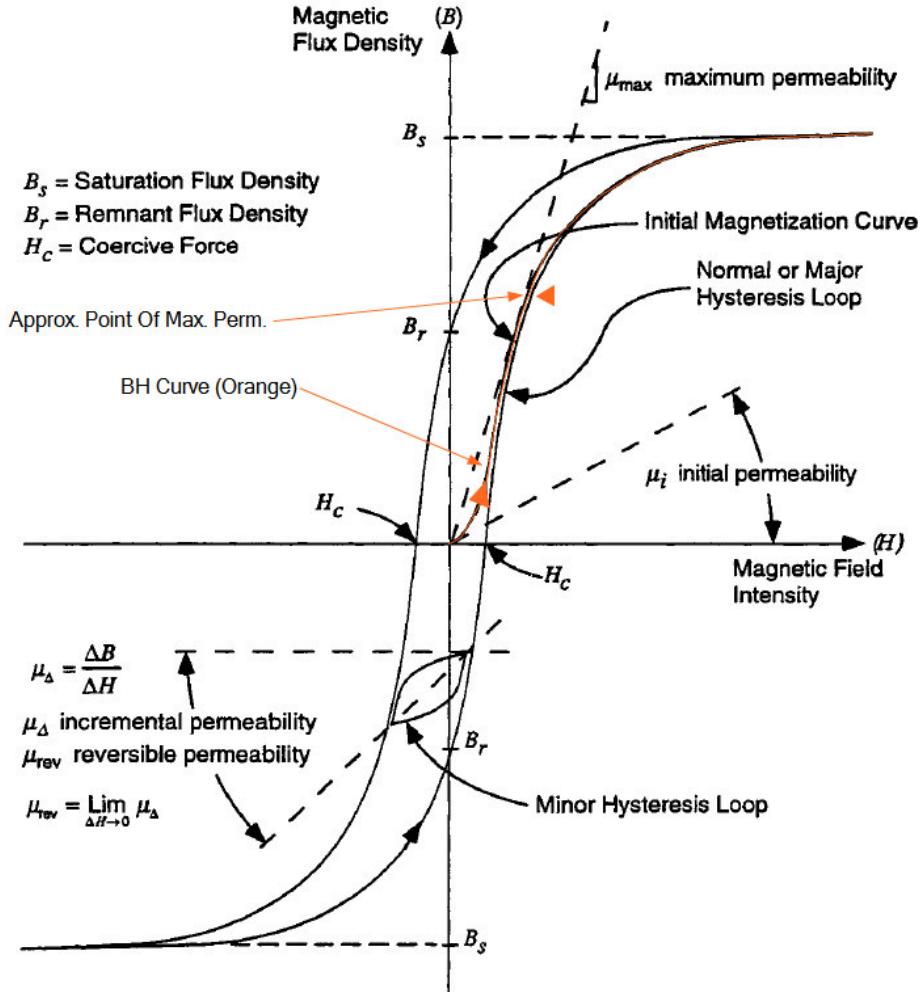


Figure 3.2: [123]The hysteresis or  $B - H$  curve. Some commonly used terminology is shown.  $H_c$  or coercivity is a measure of the ability of the material to withstand external magnetic fields and is at  $B = 0$ . Initial permeability or  $\mu_i$  is the slope of the initial magnetization curve. The initial magnetization or idealization curve is achievable after degaussing the high  $\mu$  material.

the details of the  $B_m - H_m$  curve for the material in question, this normally means that  $\mu$  is quoted for the amplitude of  $H_m$  being at or near the coercivity of the material [124, 126], resulting in large values up to  $\mu_r = 4 \times 10^5$ .

It is well known that  $\mu$  measured in this fashion for toroidal, thin metal wound cores depends on the annealing process used for the core. There is a particularly strong dependence on the take-out or tempering temperature after the high-temperature portion of the annealing process has been completed [124–126]. Such studies normally suggest a take-out temperature of 490–500°C. This ensures that the large  $\mu_r = 4 \times 10^5$  is furthermore maximal at room temperature. Slight variations around room temperature, and

assuming the take-out temperature is not controlled to better than a degree, imply a scale of possible temperature variation of  $\mu$  of approximately  $\left| \frac{1}{\mu} \frac{d\mu}{dT} \right| \simeq 0.3\text{-}1\%/\text{K}$  at room temperature [124, 126].

A challenge in applying these results to temperature stability of nEDM experiments is that, when used as DC magnetic shielding, the high-permeability alloys are usually operated for significantly different parameters ( $B_m$ ,  $H_m$ , and frequencies).

For example, when used in a shielding configuration, the effective permeability is often measured to be typically  $\mu_r = 20,000$  rather than  $4 \times 10^5$ . This arises in part because  $H_m$  is well below the DC coercivity. As noted in Section 3.1, a more appropriate  $H_m$  for the innermost magnetic shield of an nEDM experiment is  $< 0.007 \text{ A/m}$ , whereas the coercivity is  $H_c = 0.4 \text{ A/m}$  [126]. The frequency dependence of the measurements could also be an issue. Typically, nEDM experiments are concerned with slow drifts at  $< 0.01 \text{ Hz}$  timescales whereas the previously reported  $\mu(T)$  measurements are performed in an AC mode at 50-60 Hz.

The goal of the experiments discussed in this chapter was to develop techniques to characterize the material properties of our own magnetic shields post-annealing, in regimes more relevant to nEDM experiments.

The magnetic shielding factors of each of our prototype four cylindrical shells, and of various combinations of them, were measured and found to be consistent with  $\mu_r \sim 20,000$ . In our studies of the material properties of these magnetic shields, two different approaches to measure  $\mu(T)$  were pursued. Both approaches involved experiments done using witness cylinders made of the same material and annealed at the same time as the prototype magnetic shields. We therefore expect they have the same magnetic properties as the larger prototype shields, and they have the advantage of being smaller and easier to perform measurements with.

The two techniques employed to determine  $\mu(T)$  were the following:

1. measuring the low-frequency AC axial magnetic shielding factor of the witness cylinder as a function of temperature, and
2. measuring the temperature dependence of the slope of a minor  $B - H$  loop, using

the witness cylinder as a transformer core, similar to previous measurements of the temperature dependence of  $\mu$ , but for parameters closer to those encountered in nEDM experiments.

The details and results of each technique is presented below.

### 3.2.2 Axial Shielding Factor Measurements

In these measurements, a witness cylinder was used as a magnetic shield. The shield was subjected to a low-frequency AC magnetic field of  $\sim 1$  Hz. The amplitude of the shielded magnetic field  $B_s$  was measured at the center of the witness cylinder using a fluxgate magnetometer. Changes in  $B_s$  with temperature signify a dependence of the permeability  $\mu$  on temperature. The relative slope of  $\mu(T)$  can then be calculated using

$$\frac{1}{\mu} \frac{d\mu}{dT} = -\frac{\frac{1}{B_s} \frac{dB_s}{dT}}{\frac{\mu}{B_s} \frac{dB_s}{d\mu}}. \quad (3.2)$$

The numerator was taken from the measurements described above. The denominator was taken from finite-element simulations of the shielding factor for this geometry as a function of  $\mu$ .

This measurement technique was sufficiently robust to extract the temperature dependence of the shielding factor with some degree of certainty. Possible drifts and temperature dependence of the fluxgate magnetometer offset were mitigated by using an AC magnetic field. Any temperature coefficients in the rest of the instrumentation were controlled by performing the same measurements with a copper cylindrical shell with the similar size and shape as the mu-metal witness cylinders in place of the mu-metal witness cylinder.

This technique is quite different than the usual transformer core measurements conducted by other groups. As shall be described, it offers an advantage that considerably smaller  $B_m$  and  $H_m$  fields can be accessed. Measuring the temperature dependence of the shielding factor is also considerably easier than measuring the temperature dependence of the reaction factor, since the sensitivity to changes in  $\mu(T)$  is considerably larger in

magnitude for the shielding factor case where  $\frac{\mu}{B_s} \frac{dB_s}{d\mu} \sim -1$  compared to the reaction factor case where  $\frac{\mu}{B_0} \frac{dB_0}{d\mu} \sim 0.01$ .

### Experimental Apparatus for Axial Shielding Factor Measurements

The witness cylinder was placed within a homogeneous AC magnetic field. The field was created within the magnetically shielded volume of the prototype magnetic shielding system (described previously in Section 3.2.1) in order to provide a controlled magnetic environment. A short solenoid inside the shielding system was used to produce the magnetic field. The solenoid has 14 turns with 2.6 cm spacing between the wires. The solenoid was designed so that the field produced by the solenoid plus innermost shield approximates that of an infinite solenoid. The magnetic field generated by the solenoid was typically 1  $\mu\text{T}$  in amplitude. The solenoid current was varied sinusoidally at typically 1 Hz.

The witness cylinder was placed into this magnetic field generation system as shown schematically in Fig. 3.3. The cylinder was held in place by a wooden stand.

A Bartington fluxgate magnetometer Mag-03IEL70 [127] (low noise) measured the axial magnetic field at the center of the witness cylinder. The fluxgate was a “flying lead” model, meaning that each axis was available on the end of a short electrical lead, separable from the other axes. One flying lead was placed in the center of the witness cylinder, the axis of the fluxgate being aligned with that of the witness cylinder. The fluxgate was held in place rigidly by a plastic mounting fixture, which was itself rigidly mounted to the witness cylinder.

To increase the resolution of the measured signal from the fluxgate, a Bartington Signal Conditioning Unit (SCU) was used with a low-pass filter set to typically 10-100 Hz and a gain set to typically  $> 50$ . The signal from the SCU was demodulated by an SR830 lock-in amplifier [128] providing the in-phase and out-of-phase components of the signal. The sinusoidal output of the lock-in amplifier reference output itself was normally used to drive the solenoid generating the magnetic field. The time constant on the lock-in was typically set to 3 seconds with 12 dB/oct rolloff.

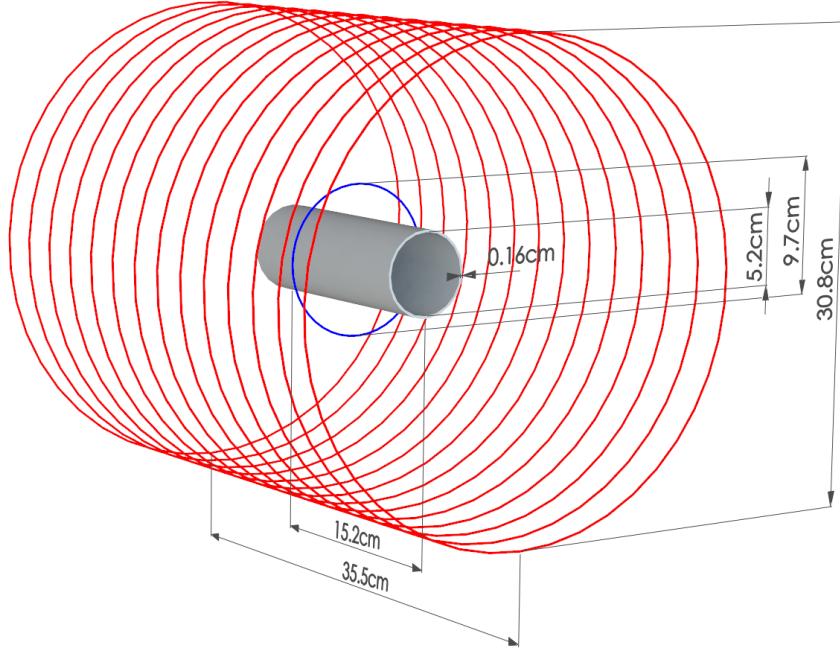


Figure 3.3: Axial shielding factor measurement setup. The witness cylinder with an inner diameter of 5.2 cm and a length of 15.2 cm is placed inside a solenoid (shown in red) with a diameter of 30.8 cm and a length of 35.5 cm, containing 14 turns. The thickness of the witness cylinder is  $1/16'' = 0.16$  cm. The loop coil (shown in blue) is mechanically coupled to the witness cylinder and has a diameter of 9.7 cm.

As shall be described in Section 3.2.2, a concern in the measurement was changes in the field measured by the fluxgate that could arise due to motion of the system components, or other temperature dependences. This could generate a false slope with temperature that might incorrectly be interpreted as a change in the magnetic properties of the witness cylinder.

To address possible motion of the witness cylinder with respect to the field generation system, another coil (the loop coil, also shown in Fig. 3.3) was wound on a plastic holder mounted rigidly to the witness cylinder. The coil was one loop of copper wire with a diameter of 9.7 cm. Plastic set screws in the holder fixed the loop coil to be coaxial with the witness cylinder.

Systematic differences in the results from the two coils (the solenoidal coil, and the loop coil) were used to search for motion artifacts. As well, some differences could arise due to the different magnetic field produced by each coil, and so such measurements could reveal a dependence on the profile of the applied magnetic field. This is described further

in Section 3.2.2.

The temperature of the witness cylinder was measured by attaching four thermocouples at different points along the outside of the cylinder. This allowed us to observe the temperature gradient along the witness cylinder. To reduce any potential magnetic contamination, T-type thermocouples were used, which have copper and constantan conductors. (K-type thermocouples are magnetic.)

Thermocouple readings were recorded by a National Instruments NI-9211 temperature input module. The magnetic field (signified by the lock-in amplifier readout) and the temperature were recorded at a rate of 0.2 Hz.

Temperature variations in the experiment were driven by ambient temperature changes in the room, although forced air and other techniques were also tested. These are described further in Section 3.2.2.

## Data and Interpretation

An example of the typical data acquired is shown in Fig. 3.4. For these data, the field applied by the solenoid coil was  $1 \mu\text{T}$  in amplitude, at a frequency of 1 Hz. Fig. 3.4(a) shows the temperature of the witness cylinder over a 70-hr measurement. The temperature changes of 1.4 K are caused by diurnal variations in the laboratory. The shielded magnetic field amplitude  $B_s$  within the witness cylinder is anti-correlated with the temperature trend as shown in Fig. 3.4(b). Here,  $B_s$  is the sum in quadrature of the amplitudes of the in-phase and out-of-phase components (most of the signal is in phase). The magnetic field is interpreted to depend on temperature, and the two quantities are graphed as a function of one another in Fig. 3.4(c). The slope in Fig. 3.4(c) has been calculated using a linear fit to the data. The relative slope at  $23^\circ\text{C}$  was found to be  $\frac{1}{B_s} \frac{dB_s}{dT} = -0.75\%/\text{K}$ .

Figs. 3.4(d), (e), and (f) show the same measurement with essentially the same settings, when the mu-metal witness cylinder is replaced by a copper cylinder. A similar relative vertical scale has been used in Figs. 3.4(e) and (f) as Figs. 3.4(b) and (c). This helps to emphasize the considerably smaller relative slope derived from panel (f) com-

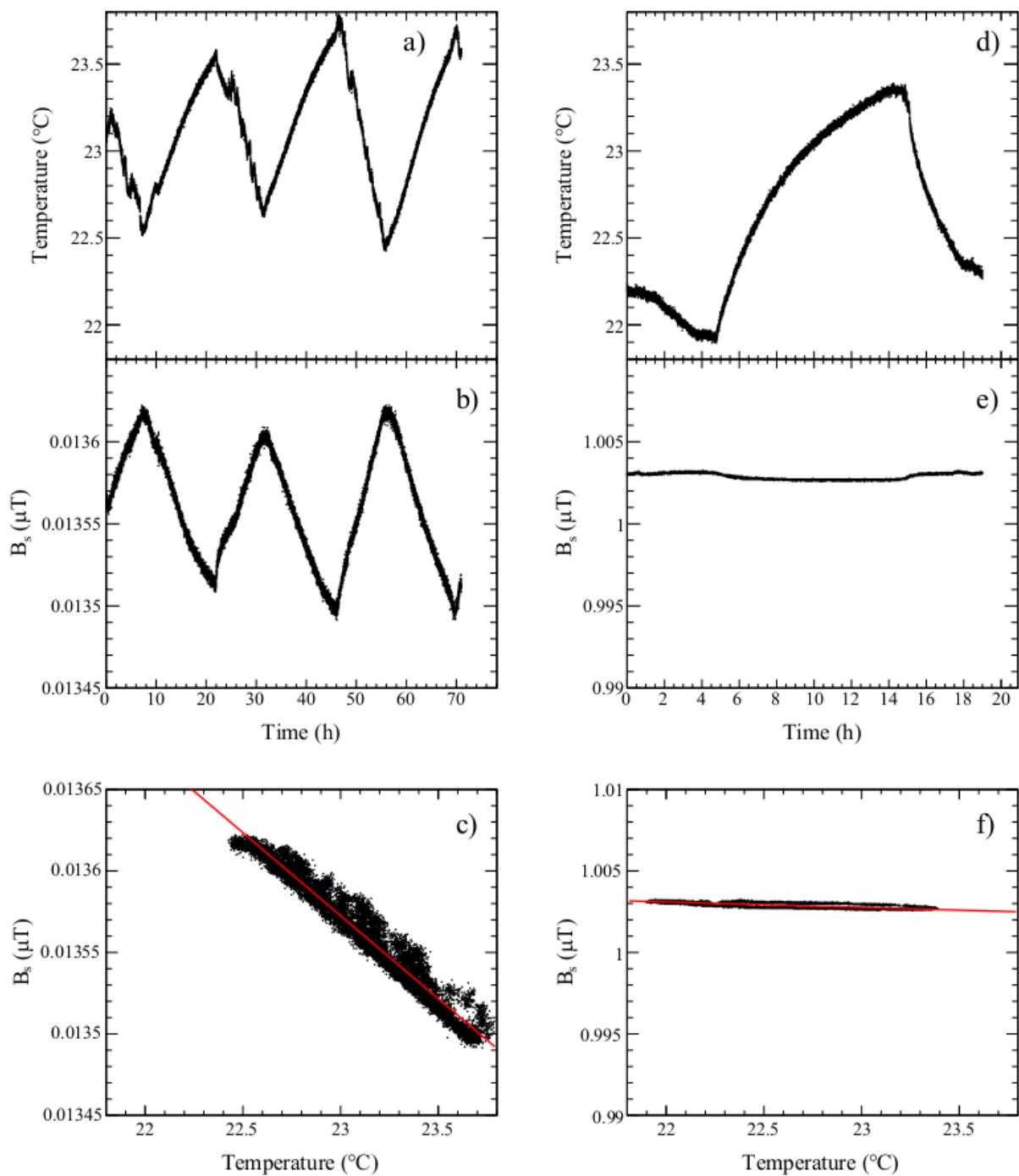


Figure 3.4: Ambient temperature and shielded magnetic field amplitude, measured over a 70 hour period. (a) temperature of the witness cylinder as a function of time. (b) magnetic field amplitude measured by fluxgate at center of witness cylinder vs. time. (c) magnetic field vs. temperature with linear fit to data giving  $\frac{1}{B_s} \frac{dB_s}{dT} = -0.75\%/\text{K}$  (evaluated at  $23^{\circ}\text{C}$ ). In panels (d), (e), and (f), the same quantities are shown for a 20-hour run with a copper cylinder in place of the witness cylinder with the linear fit giving  $\frac{1}{B_s} \frac{dB_s}{dT} = -0.03\%/\text{K}$ .

pared to panel (c). A variety of measurements of this sort were carried out multiple times for different parameters such as coil current. Running the coil at the same current tests for effects due to heating of the coil, whereas running the coil at a current which equalizes the fluxgate signal to its value when the mu-metal witness cylinder is present tests for possible effects related to the fluxgate. For all measurements the temperature dependence of the demodulated magnetic signal was  $< 0.1\%/\text{K}$ , giving confidence that unknown systematic effects contribute below this level.

Some deviations from the linear variation of  $B_s$  with  $T$  can be seen in the data, particularly in Figs. 3.4(a), (b), and (c). For example, when the temperature changes rapidly, the magnetic field takes some time to respond, resulting in a slope in  $B_s - T$  space that is temporarily different than when the temperature is slowly varying. This is typical of the data that we acquired, that the data would generally follow a straight line if the temperature followed a slow and smooth dependence with time, but the data would not be linear if the temperature varied rapidly or non-monotonically with time. We also tried other methods of temperature control, such as forced air, liquid flowing through tubing, and thermo-electric coolers. The diurnal cycle driven by the building's air conditioning system gave the most stable method of control and the most reproducible results for temperature slopes.

As mentioned earlier, data were acquired for both the solenoid coil and the loop coil. A summary of the data is provided in Table 3.1. Repeated measurements of temperature slopes using the loop coil fell in the range  $0.4\%/\text{K} < |\frac{1}{B_s} \frac{dB_s}{dT}| < 1.5\%/\text{K}$ . Similar measurements for the solenoidal coil yielded  $0.3\%/\text{K} < |\frac{1}{B_s} \frac{dB_s}{dT}| < 0.8\%/\text{K}$ .

In general, the slopes measured with the loop coil were larger than for the solenoidal coil. This is particularly evident for measurements 6-12, which were acquired daily over the course of a few weeks alternating between excitation coils but all used the same witness cylinder and otherwise without disturbing the measurement apparatus. A partial explanation of this difference is offered by the field profile generated by each coil, and its interaction with the witness cylinder. This is addressed further in Section 3.2.2.

The other difference between the loop coil and the solenoidal coil was that the loop

Trial #	$\frac{1}{B_s} \frac{dB_s}{dT}$ (%/K)	Coil type
1	-0.32	solenoid
2	-0.30	solenoid
3	-0.33	solenoid
4	-1.53	loop
5	-0.42	loop
6	-1.30	loop
7	-0.74	solenoid
8	-1.05	loop
9	-0.73	solenoid
10	-1.23	loop
11	-0.75	solenoid
12	-1.12	loop

Table 3.1: Summary of data acquired for the AC axial shielding factor measurements, in chronological order. Data with an applied field of  $\sim 1 - 6 \mu T$  and a measurement frequency of 1 Hz are included. Data which used daily fluctuations of the temperature from 21-24°C over a 10-80 hour period are included. Other data acquired for systematic studies are not included in the table.

coil was rigidly mounted to the witness cylinder, reducing the possibility of artifacts from relative motion. Given that this did not reduce the range of the measured temperature slopes we conclude that relative motion was well controlled in both cases.

Several other possible systematic effects were considered, all of which were found to give uncertainties on the measured slopes  $< 0.1\%/\text{K}$ . These included: thermal expansion of components including the witness cylinder itself, temperature variations of the magnetic shielding system within which the experiments were conducted, degaussing of the witness cylinder, and temperature slopes of various components e.g. the fluxgate magnetometer and the lock-in amplifier.

As mentioned earlier in reference to Fig. 3.4(d), (e), and (f), the stability of the system was also tested by replacing the mu-metal witness cylinder with a copper cylinder and in all cases temperature slopes  $< 0.1\%/\text{K}$  were measured, giving confidence that other unknown systematic effects contribute below this level.

Based on the systematic effects that we studied, we conclude that they do not explain the ranges of values measured for  $\frac{1}{B_s} \frac{dB_s}{dT}$ . We suspect that the range measured is either some yet uncharacterized systematic effect, or a complicated property of the material.

We use this range to set a limit on the slope of  $\mu(T)$

### Geometry correction and determination of $\mu(T)$

To relate the data on  $B_s(T)$  to  $\mu(T)$ , the shielding factor of the witness cylinder as a function of  $\mu$  must be known. Finite element simulations in FEMM and OPERA were performed to determine this factor. The simulations are also useful for determining the effective values of  $B_m$  and  $H_m$  in the material, which will be useful to compare to the case for typical nEDM experiments when the innermost shield is used as a flux return.

For closed objects, such as spherical shells [116, 117], the shielding factor approaches infinity as  $\mu \rightarrow \infty$ , and  $|\frac{\mu}{B_s} \frac{dB_s}{d\mu}| \rightarrow 1$ . Because the witness cylinders are open ended, the shielding factor asymptotically approaches a constant rather than infinity in the high- $\mu$  limit, and as a result  $|\frac{\mu}{B_s} \frac{dB_s}{d\mu}| < 1$  here. From the simulations the ratio  $\frac{\mu}{B_s} \frac{dB_s}{d\mu}$  was calculated. A linear model of the material was used where  $\mathbf{B}_m = \mu \mathbf{H}_m$  with  $\mu$  constant.

The simulations differed slightly in their results, dependent on whether OPERA or FEMM was used, and whether the solenoidal coil or loop coil were used. Based on the simulations, the result is  $|\frac{\mu}{B_s} \frac{dB_s}{d\mu}| = 0.42 - 0.50$  for the solenoidal coil, with the lower value being given by FEMM and the upper value being given by a 3D OPERA simulation, for identical geometries. This is somewhat lower than the value suggested by Ref. [129] with fits to simulations performed in OPERA, which we estimate to be 0.6. We adopt our value since it is difficult to determine precisely from Ref. [129]. For the loop coil, we determine  $|\frac{\mu}{B_s} \frac{dB_s}{d\mu}| = 0.56 - 0.65$ , the range being given again by a difference between FEMM and OPERA.

Combining the measurement and the simulations, the temperature dependence of the effective  $\mu$  (at  $\mu_r = 20,000$  which is consistent with our measurements) can be calculated by equation (3.2). The results of the simulations and measurements are presented in Table 3.2. Combining the loop coil and solenoidal coil results, we find  $0.6\%/\text{K} < \frac{1}{\mu} \frac{d\mu}{dT} < 2.7\%/\text{K}$  to represent the full range for the possible temperature slope of  $\mu$  that observed in these measurements.

As stated earlier, the simulations also provided a way to determine the typical  $B_m$

	$ \frac{\mu}{B_s} \frac{dB_s}{d\mu} $ (simulated)	$ \frac{1}{B_s} \frac{dB_s}{dT} $ (%/K) (measured)	$\frac{1}{\mu} \frac{d\mu}{dT}$ (%/K) (extracted)
Solenoidal Coil	0.42-0.50	0.3-0.8	0.6-1.9
Loop Coil	0.56-0.65	0.4-1.5	0.6-2.7

Table 3.2: Summary of OPERA and FEMM simulations and shielding factor measurements, resulting in extracted temperature slopes of  $\mu$ .

and  $H_m$  internal to the material of the witness cylinder. According to the simulations, the  $B_m$  amplitude was typically 100  $\mu\text{T}$  and the  $H_m$  amplitude was typically 0.004 A/m. These are comparable to the values normally encountered in nEDM experiments, recalling from Section 3.1 that  $H_m < 0.007$  A/m for the innermost magnetic shield of an nEDM experiment. A caveat is that these measurements were typically conducted using AC fields at 1 Hz, as opposed to the DC fields normally used in nEDM experiments.

### 3.2.3 Transformer Core Measurements

An alternative technique similar to the standard method of magnetic materials characterization via magnetic induction was also used to measure changes in  $\mu$ . In this measurement technique, the witness cylinder was used as the core of a transformer. Two coils (primary and secondary) were wound on the witness cylinder using multistranded 20-gauge copper wire. The windings were made as tight as possible, but not so tight as to potentially stress the material. The windings were not potted in place. Three witness cylinders were tested. Data were acquired using different numbers of turns on both the primary and secondary coils (from 6 to 48 on the primary, and from 7 to 24 on the secondary).

Fig. 3.5 shows a picture of one of the witness cylinders, wound as described. It also shows a schematic diagram of the measurement setup, which we now use to describe the measurement principle.

The primary coil generated an AC magnetic field as a function of time  $H(t)$ , while the secondary coil was used to measure the emf induced by the time-varying magnetic

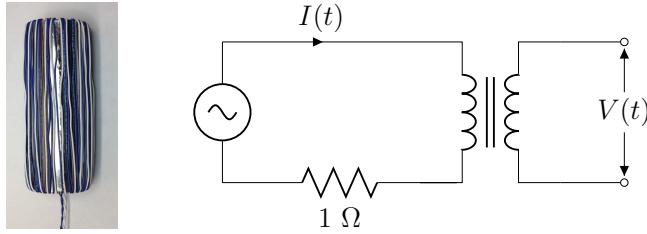


Figure 3.5: Photograph of a witness cylinder showing transformer windings (left) and schematic of the transformer measurement (right). The primary coil was driven by the sine-out of an SR830 lock-in amplifier, which was also used to demodulate induced voltage  $V(t)$  in the secondary coil. The driving current  $I(t)$  was sensed by measuring the voltage across a stable  $1 \Omega$  resistor.

flux proportional to  $dB(t)/dt$ . To a good approximation

$$H_m(t) = \frac{N_p I(t)}{2\pi R} \quad (3.3)$$

where  $N_p$  is the number of turns in the primary,  $I(t)$  is the current in the primary, and  $R$  is the radius of the witness cylinder, and

$$\frac{dB_m(t)}{dt} = \dot{B}_m(t) = \frac{V(t)}{b\ell} \quad (3.4)$$

where  $V(t)$  is the voltage generated in the secondary, and  $b$  and  $\ell$  are the thickness and length of the witness cylinder respectively. For a sinusoidal drive current  $I(t)$ , and under the assumption that  $B_m(t) = \mu H_m(t)$  with  $\mu$  being a constant, the voltage generated in the secondary  $V(t)$  should be sinusoidal and out of phase with the primary current.

The internal oscillator of an SR830 lock-in amplifier was used to generate  $I(t)$ . This was monitored by measuring the voltage across a  $1 \Omega$  resistor with small temperature coefficient in the primary loop. The lock-in amplifier was then used to demodulate  $V(t)$  into its in-phase  $V_X$  and out-of-phase  $V_Y$  components (or equivalently  $\dot{B}_m(t)$  being demodulated into  $\dot{B}_{m,X}$  and  $\dot{B}_{m,Y}$ , as in equation (3.4)). The experiment was done at 1 Hz with  $H_m(t)$  as small as possible, typically 0.1 A/m in amplitude, to measure the slope of the minor  $B_m - H_m$  loops near the origin of the  $B_m - H_m$  space.

The temperature of the core was measured continuously using the same thermocouple arrangement described previously. Measurements of  $V_Y$  as a function of temperature

would then signify a change in  $\mu$  with temperature. In general, we used ambient temperature variations for the measurements, similar to the procedure used for our axial shielding factor measurements.

The naive expectation is that the out-of-phase  $V_Y$  component should signify a non-zero  $\mu$ , and the in-phase  $V_X$  component should be zero. In practice, due to a combination of saturation, hysteresis, eddy-current losses, and skin-depth effects, the  $V_X$  component is nonzero. It was found experimentally that keeping the amplitude of  $H_m(t)$  small compared to the apparent coercivity ( $\sim 3$  A/m for the 0.16 cm thick material at 1 Hz frequencies) ensured that the  $V_Y$  component was larger than the  $V_X$  component. This is displayed graphically in Fig. 3.6, where the dependence of  $\dot{B}_{m,Y}$  and  $\dot{B}_{m,X}$  on the amplitude of the applied  $H_m(t)$  is displayed, for a driving frequency of 1 Hz. Clearly the value of  $\dot{B}_{m,X}$  can be considerable compared to  $\dot{B}_{m,Y}$ , for larger  $H_m$  amplitudes near the coercivity. At larger amplitudes, the material goes into saturation. Both  $\dot{B}_{m,Y}$  and  $\dot{B}_{m,X}$  eventually decrease as expected at amplitudes much greater than the coercivity.

To understand the behavior in Fig. 3.6, a theoretical model of the hysteresis based on the work of Jiles [130] was used. The anhysteretic magnetization of a material in the presence of magnetic field could be written as

$$M_{an}(H) = M_s \ell \left( \frac{H + \alpha M_{an}(H)}{a} \right) \quad (3.5)$$

where  $\ell$  is the Langevin function  $\ell = \coth(x) - 1/x$ ,  $M_s$  is the saturation magnetization,  $\alpha$  is a coupling coefficient,  $a = k_B T / \mu_0 < m >$  with  $k_B$  being the Boltzmann constant,  $T$  being the temperature,  $\mu_0$  the permeability of free space, and  $< m >$  is the effective domain size. The equation for hysteresis can then be derived from the energy-balance equation

$$\mu_0 \int M_{an} dH_e = \mu_0 \int M dH_e + \mu_0 k \delta (1 - c) \int \frac{dM_{irr}}{dH_e}, \quad (3.6)$$

which means, in an initially demagnetized material, hysteresis can appear as a change in total demagnetization, or be dissipated due to irreversible changes in magnetization  $M_{irr}$  (hysteresis loss). Here the first term of the right-hand side is the contribution to the

magnetostatic energy, and the second term on the right-hand side is the dissipation loss due to pinning. In this equation  $H_e = H + \alpha M$ , the coefficient  $k$  is the pinning parameter which determines the amount of energy dissipated, and  $\delta$  is a directional parameter which ensures that energy is always lost through dissipation. The coefficient  $c$  is a measure of the amount of reversible change in magnetization. The total magnetization consists of two parts including reversible and irreversible magnetization  $M = M_{\text{irr}} + M_{\text{rev}}$ .

Now including both classical (eddy current) losses and anomalous losses we get

$$\begin{aligned} & \left( \frac{\mu_0 d^2}{2\rho\beta} \frac{dH}{dt} \right) \left( \frac{dM}{dH} \right) + \left( \frac{GdW\mu_0 H_0}{\rho} \right)^2 \left( \frac{dH}{dt} \right)^2 \left( \frac{dM}{dH} \right)^{3/2} \\ & + \left[ k\delta - \alpha \left( M_{\text{an}}(H) - M(H) + k\delta c \frac{dM_{\text{an}}}{dH_e} \right) \right] \left( \frac{dM}{dH} \right) \\ & - \left( M_{\text{an}}(H) - M(H) + k\delta c \frac{dM_{\text{an}}}{dH_e} \right) = 0 , \end{aligned} \quad (3.7)$$

where  $\rho$  is the resistivity,  $d$  is the cross-sectional dimension in meters,  $\beta$  is a geometric factor,  $G$  is a dimensionless constant of value 0.1356,  $w$  is the width of the laminations,  $H_0$  is a parameter representing the fluctuating internal potential experienced by domain walls. This equation can be solved numerically.

We adjusted the parameters based on our measurements of  $B_m - H_m$  loops including the initial magnetization curve. These measurements were performed separately from our lock-in amplifier measurements, using an arbitrary function generator and a digital oscilloscope to acquire them. The measurements were done at frequencies from 0.01 to 10 Hz. It was found that the frequency dependence predicted by Ref. [130] gave relatively good agreement with the measured  $B_m - H_m$  loops once the five original (Jiles-Atherton [131, 132]) parameters were tuned.

For the parameters of the (static) Jiles-Atherton model, we used  $B_s = 0.45$  T,  $a = 3.75$  A/m,  $k = 2.4$  A/m,  $\alpha = 2 \times 10^{-6}$ ,  $c = 0.05$ , which were tuned to our  $B_m - H_m$  curve measurements. For classical losses, we used the parameters  $\rho = 5.7 \times 10^{-7}$  Ω·m,  $d = 1.6$  mm (the thickness of the material), and  $\beta = 6$  (geometry factor). These parameters were not tuned, but taken from data. For anomalous losses we used the parameters  $w = 0.005$  m and  $H_0 = 0.0075$  A/m, which we also did not tune, instead relying on the

tuning performed in Ref. [130].

These parameters were then used to model the measurement presented in Fig. 3.6, including the lock-in amplifier function. As shown in Fig. 3.6, trends in the measurements and simulations are fairly consistent. The sign of  $\dot{B}_{m,X}$  relative to  $\dot{B}_{m,Y}$  is also correctly predicted by the model (we have adjusted them both to be positive, for graphing purposes). We expect that with further tuning of the model, even better agreement could be achieved.

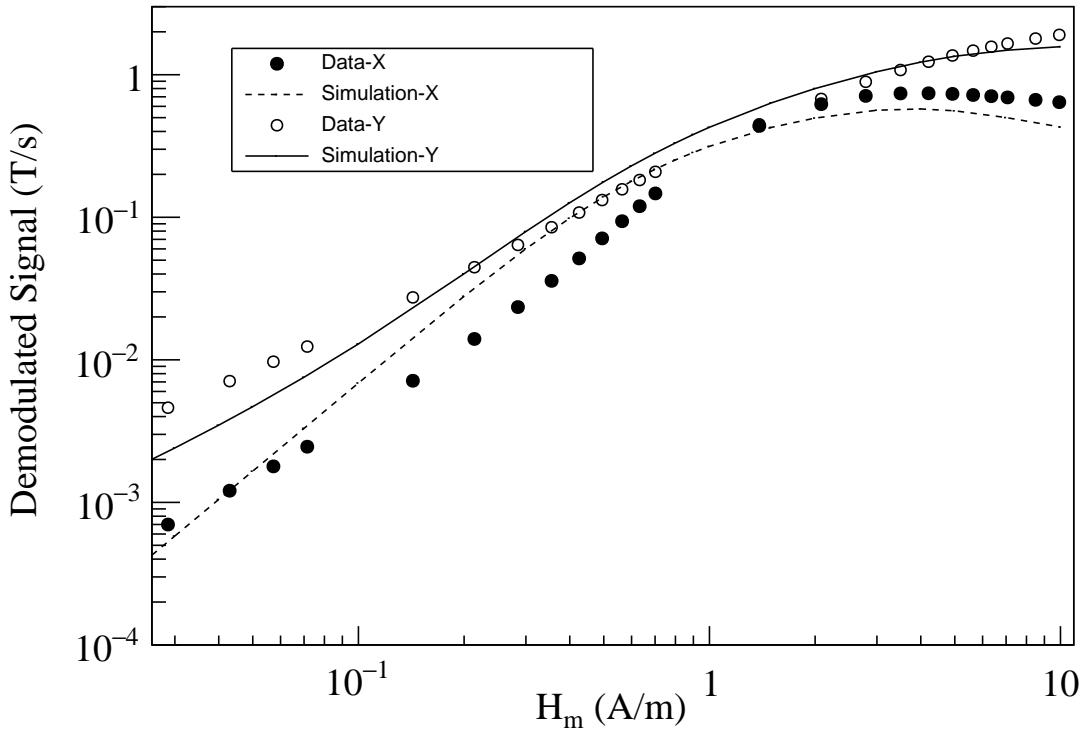


Figure 3.6:  $\dot{B}_{m,X}$  and  $\dot{B}_{m,Y}$  as a function of amplitude of the applied  $H_m$  field at 1 Hz. Points show the acquired data. Curves display the simulation based on the model described in the text.

The model of Ref. [130] makes no prediction of the temperature dependence of the parameters. Ideally, the temperature dependence of  $\dot{B}_{m,Y}$  and  $\dot{B}_{m,X}$  under various conditions could be used to map out the temperature dependence of the parameters. However, this is beyond the scope of the present work.

We make the simplifying assumption that temperature dependence of  $\dot{B}_{m,Y}$  may be approximately interpreted as the temperature dependence of a single parameter  $\mu$ , i.e.

that

$$\frac{1}{\dot{B}_{m,Y}} \frac{d\dot{B}_{m,Y}}{dT} = \frac{1}{\mu} \frac{d\mu}{dT}. \quad (3.8)$$

This is justified in part by our selection of measurement parameters (the amplitude of  $H_m = 0.1$  A/m and a measurement frequency of 1 Hz) which ensure that  $\dot{B}_{m,Y}$  dominates over  $\dot{B}_{m,X}$ .

We assign no additional systematic error for this simplification, and all our results are subject to this caveat. We comment further that in our measurements of the axial shielding factor (presented in Section 3.2.2), the same caveat exists. In that case the in-phase component dominates the demodulated fluxgate signal. In a sense, measuring  $\mu(T)$  itself is always an approximation, because it is actually the parameters of minor loops in a hysteresis curve which are measured. In reality, our results may be interpreted as a measure of the temperature-dependence of the slopes of minor loops driven by the stated  $H_m$ .

Measurements of  $\frac{1}{\dot{B}_{m,Y}} \frac{d\dot{B}_{m,Y}}{dT}$  as a function of  $T$  were made. In general, the data mimicked the behavior of the axial shielding factor measurements, giving a similar level of linearity with temperature as the data displayed in Fig. 3.4. Other similar behaviors to those measurements were also observed, for example: (a) when the temperature slope changed sign,  $\dot{B}_{m,Y}$  would temporarily give a different slope with temperature, (b) the measured value of  $\frac{1}{\dot{B}_{m,Y}} \frac{d\dot{B}_{m,Y}}{dT}$  depended on a variety of factors, most notably a dependence on which of the three witness cylinders was used for the measurement, and on differences between subsequent measurements using the same cylinder.

Table 3.3 summarizes our measurements of the relative slope  $\frac{1}{\dot{B}_{m,Y}} \frac{d\dot{B}_{m,Y}}{dT}$  for a variety of trials, witness cylinders, and numbers of windings. The data show a full range of  $0.03 - 2.15\%/\text{K}$  for  $\frac{1}{\mu} \frac{d\mu}{dT} = \frac{1}{\dot{B}_{m,Y}} \frac{d\dot{B}_{m,Y}}{dT}$ , again naively assuming the material to be linear as discussed above. The sign of the slope of  $\mu(T)$  was the same as the axial shielding factor technique.

A dominant source of variation between results in this method arose from properties inherent to each witness cylinder. One of the cylinders (referred to as  $\beta$  in Table 3.3) gave temperature slopes consistently larger  $\frac{1}{\mu} \frac{d\mu}{dT} \sim 0.88 - 2.15\%/\text{K}$  than the other two

Trial #	$\frac{1}{\dot{B}_{m,Y}} \frac{d\dot{B}_{m,Y}}{dT}$ (%/K)	core used
1	0.15	$\alpha$
2	0.03	$\alpha$
3	0.04	$\alpha$
4	0.06	$\alpha$
5	1.07	$\beta$
6	0.93	$\beta$
7	0.88	$\beta$
8	0.88	$\beta$
9	0.09	$\alpha$
10	1.23	$\beta$
11	2.15	$\beta$
12	1.85	$\beta$
13	1.20	$\beta$
14	0.77	$\gamma$

Table 3.3: Summary of data acquired for the transformer core measurements. Three different witness cylinders, arbitrarily labeled  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ , and  $\gamma$ , were used for the measurements. A 1 Hz excitation frequency was used with amplitudes for  $H_m$  ranging from 0.1 to 0.3 A/m. Fluctuations in the temperature ranged from 21-24°C and measurement times over a 10-80 hour period are included. Other data acquired for systematic studies are not included in the table.

$\frac{1}{\mu} \frac{d\mu}{dT} \sim 0.03 - 0.77\%/\text{K}$  (referred to as  $\alpha$  and  $\gamma$ , with some evidence that  $\gamma$  had a larger slope than  $\alpha$ ). We expect this indicates some difference in the annealing process or subsequent treatment of the cylinders, although to our knowledge the treatment was controlled the same as for all three cylinders. Since our goal is to provide input to future EDM experiments on the likely scale of the temperature dependence of  $\mu$  that they can expect, we phrase our result as a range covering all these results.

Detailed measurements of the effect of degaussing were conducted for this geometry. The ability to degauss led us ultimately to select a larger number of primary turns (48) so that we could fully saturate the core using only the lock-in amplifier reference output as a current source. A computer program was used to control the lock-in amplifier in order to implement degaussing. A sine wave with the measurement frequency (typically 1 Hz) was applied at the maximum lock-in output power. Over the course of several thousand oscillations, the amplitude was decreased linearly to the measurement amplitude ( $\sim 0.1$  A/m). After degaussing with parameters consistent with the recommendations

of Refs. [92, 114], the measured temperature slopes were consistent with our previous measurements where no degaussing was done.

Other systematic errors found to contribute at the  $< 0.1\%/\text{K}$  level were: motion of the primary and secondary windings, stability of the lock-in amplifier and its current source, and stability of background noise sources.

To summarize, the dominant systematic effects arose due to different similarly prepared cores giving different results, and due to variations in the measured slopes in multiple measurements on the same core. The second of these is essentially the same error encountered in our axial shielding factor measurements. We expect it has the same source; it is possibly a property of the material, or an additional unknown systematic uncertainty.

### 3.3 Relationship to nEDM experiments

Neutron EDM experiments are typically designed with the DC coil being magnetically coupled to the innermost magnetic shield. As discussed in Section 3.1, if the magnetic permeability of the shield changes, this results in a change in the field in the measurement region by an amount  $\frac{\mu}{B_0} \frac{dB_0}{d\mu} = 0.01$ .

The temperature dependence of  $\mu$  has been constrained by two different techniques using open-ended mu-metal witness cylinders annealed at the same time as our prototype magnetic shields. We summarize the overall result as  $0.0\%/\text{K} < \frac{1}{\mu} \frac{d\mu}{dT} < 2.7\%/\text{K}$ , where the range is driven in part by material properties of the different mu-metal cylinders, and in part by day-to-day fluctuations in the temperature slopes.

We note the following caveats in relating this measurement to nEDM experiments:

- Although the measurement techniques rely on considerably larger frequencies and different  $H_m$ -fields than those relevant to typical nEDM experiments, we think it reasonable to assume the temperature dependence of the effective permeability should be of similar scale. For frequency, both techniques typically used a 1 Hz AC field, whereas for nEDM experiments the field is DC and stable at the 0.01 Hz level.

Furthermore, in one measurement technique the amplitude of  $H_m$  was  $\sim 0.004$  A/m and in the other was  $\sim 0.1$  A/m. For nEDM experiments  $H_m < 0.007$  A/m and is DC.

- Both measurement techniques extract an effective  $\mu$  that describes the slope of minor loops in  $B_m - H_m$  space. A more correct treatment would include a more comprehensive accounting of hysteresis in the material, which is beyond the scope of this work.

Assuming our measurement of  $0.0\%/\text{K} < \frac{1}{\mu} \frac{d\mu}{dT} < 2.7\%/\text{K}$  and the generic EDM experiment sensitivity of  $\frac{\mu}{B_0} \frac{dB_0}{d\mu} = 0.01$  results in a temperature dependence of the magnetic field in a typical nEDM experiment of  $\frac{dB_0}{dT} = 0 - 270$  pT/K. To achieve a goal of  $\sim 1$  pT stability in the internal field for nEDM experiments, the temperature of the innermost magnetic shield in the nEDM experiment should then be controlled to the  $< 0.004$  K level if the worst-case dependence is to be taken into account. This represents a potentially challenging design constraint for future nEDM experiments.

As noted by others [133], the use of self-shielded coils to reduce the coupling of the  $B_0$  coil to the innermost magnetic shield is an attractive option for EDM experiments. The principle of this technique is to have a second coil structure between the inner coil and the shield, such that the net magnetic field generated by the two coils is uniform internally but greatly reduced externally. For a perfect self-shielded coil, the field at the position of the magnetic shield would be zero, resulting in perfect decoupling, which is to say a reaction factor that is identically unity. For ideal geometries, such as spherical coils [134–136] or infinitely long sine-phi coils [137–139], the functional form of the inner and outer current distributions are the same, albeit with appropriately scaled magnitudes and opposite sign. More sophisticated analytical and numerical methods have been used extensively in NMR and MRI to design self-shielded gradient [140, 141], shim [142, 143], and transmit coils [139, 144], and should be of value in the context of nEDM experiments, as well.

## 3.4 Conclusion

In the axial shielding factor measurement, we found  $0.6\%/\text{K} < \frac{1}{\mu} \frac{d\mu}{dT} < 2.7\%/\text{K}$ , with the measurement being conducted with a typical  $H_m$ -amplitude of 0.004 A/m and at a frequency of 1 Hz. In the transformer core case, we found  $0.0\%/\text{K} < \frac{1}{\mu} \frac{d\mu}{dT} < 2.2\%/\text{K}$ , with the measurement being conducted with a typical  $H_m$ -amplitude of 0.1 A/m and at a frequency of 1 Hz.

The primary caveat to these measurements is that both measurements (transformer core and axial shielding factor) do not truly measure  $\mu$ . Rather they measure observables related to the slope of minor hysteresis loops in  $B_m - H_m$  space. They would be more appropriately described by a hysteresis model like that of Jiles [130], but to extract the temperature dependence of all the parameters of the model is beyond the scope of this work. Instead we acknowledge this fact and relate the temperature dependence of the effective  $\mu$  measured by each experiment.

We think it is interesting and useful information that the two experiments measure the same scale and sign of the temperature dependence of their respective effective  $\mu$ 's. This is a principal contribution of this work.

In future work, we plan to measure  $B_0(T)$  directly for nEDM-like geometries using precision atomic magnetometers. We anticipated based on the present work that self-shielded coil geometries will achieve the best time and temperature stability. The R&D towards self-shielded coils so far is resulted in three summer student projects and an honours thesis [108].



# Chapter 4

## UCN Facility at TRIUMF

The vertical UCN cryostat at TRIUMF is the same UCN cryostat developed and tested at KEK-RCNP [145, 146]. This source is referred to as the vertical UCN source because the UCN exit the source vertically. In October 2016, the cryostat was shipped to TRIUMF, and in 2017 it was installed at a dedicated spallation neutron source for further UCN experiments. The main purpose of the initial experiments were for better understanding of the vertical UCN source which would guide the design of the next generation UCN source for higher statistics. The 520 MeV cyclotron at TRIUMF provides up to  $40 \mu\text{A}$  of proton beam that can be diverted onto a tungsten spallation target. The vertical UCN source is placed above the target and is surrounded by graphite blocks serving as neutron reflectors.

The vertical source was modified to fulfill the safety requirements at TRIUMF. The modifications included installing pressure relief valves on the cryostat and the UCN guides, and additional radiation shielding. The extra shielding requires longer UCN guides compared to RCNP. The current location of the vertical source is at the Meson Hall experimental area. A map of TRIUMF displaying the location of Meson Hall is shown in Fig. 4.1.

The unique feature of the UCN source at TRIUMF is the combination of spallation neutrons and superfluid helium for UCN production. The important elements of the UCN facility at TRIUMF are described below.

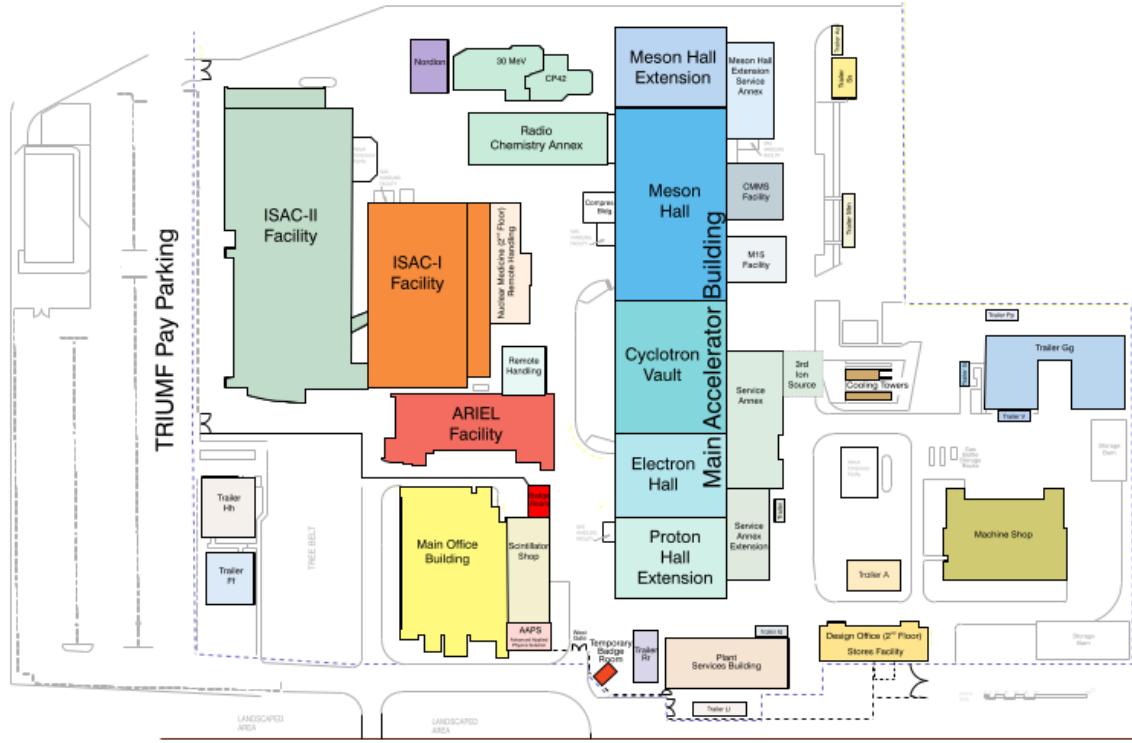


Figure 4.1: A map of TRIUMF. The UCN facility is located at the Meson Hall area shown in Blue.

## 4.1 Proton Beam-line for UCN Facility (BL1U)

TRIUMF produces negatively charged hydrogen ions  $H^-$  from an ion source. The ions are then accelerated in the 520 MeV cyclotron in an outward spiral trajectory. A thin graphite stripper foil removes the electrons from the hydrogen ion resulting in protons which pass through. The proton, because it is positively charged, is deflected in the outward direction due to the magnetic field, and is directed to a proton beam-line. Fig. 4.2 shows the beam line (BL) delivering protons exiting the cyclotron to the UCN facility.

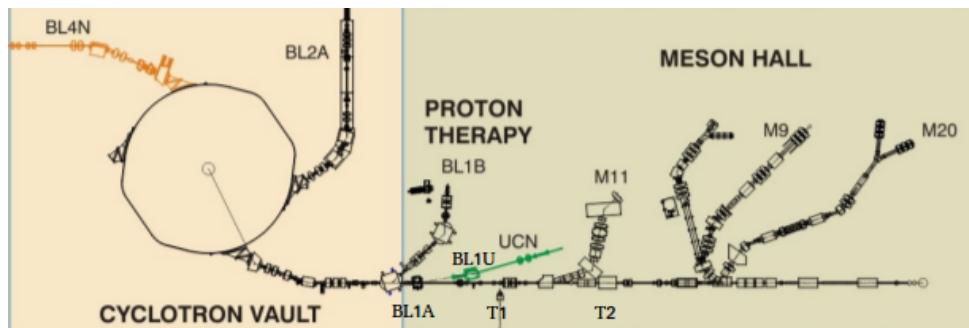


Figure 4.2: TRIUMF cyclotron and the three beam-lines.

The 120  $\mu\text{A}$  beam (BL1A) enters the Meson Hall, normally delivering protons at 480 MeV to two target systems: T1 and T2 for the  $\mu\text{SR}$  experimental channels. Beam-line 1B (BL1B) separates off BL1 at the edge of the cyclotron vault, and provides international users with the Proton Irradiation Facility (PIF), which mimics space radiation for testing computer chips. The new BL1U (shown in green in Fig. 4.2) provides beam to the UCN source. BL2A provides 480 MeV proton beams for the targets that produce exotic ion beams for a host of experiments in ISAC facilities.

The macrostructure of BL1A is in pulses with approximately 1 ms periods of beam followed by a 50-100  $\mu\text{s}$  periods of no beam. The structure is shown schematically in Fig. 4.3 [147]. A kicker magnet delivers 1/3 of the beam from BL1A onto the septum magnet and onward to BL1U and transport it to a conventional dipole (bender) magnet (see the bottom panel of Fig. 4.3 and Fig. 4.4).

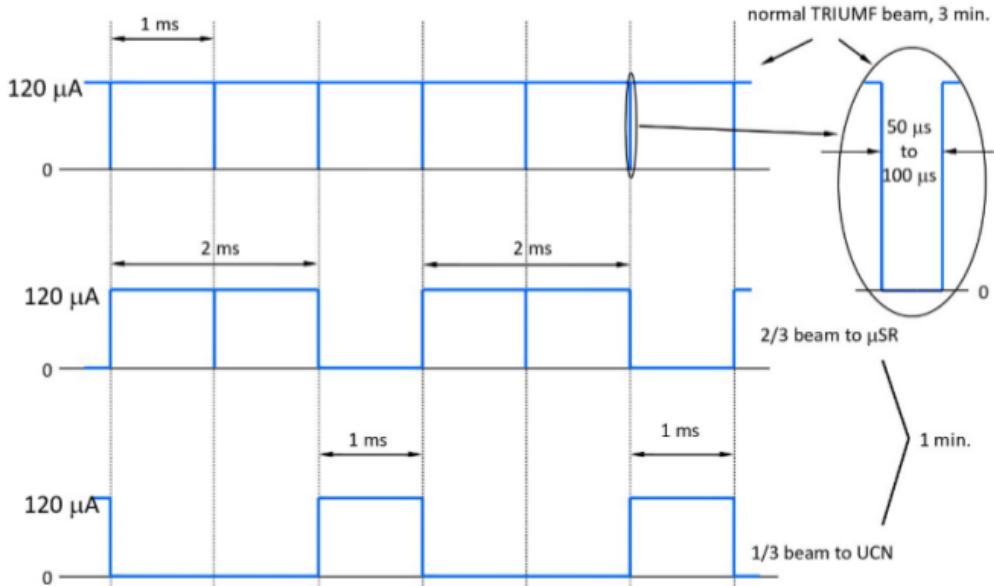


Figure 4.3: UCN beam structure. The top graph shows the 120  $\mu\text{A}$  BL1A in 1 ms period of beam followed by a 50-100  $\mu\text{s}$  of no beam. The middle graph shows the same beam-line when the kicker magnet is on. The bottom graph shows the 1/3 of the beam that goes to the UCN area.

The vertical UCN cryostat is above the tungsten target. The target is designed for a maximum of 40  $\mu\text{A}$  beam on target. As a result, only one third of the beam can go to the UCN experimental area, and the rest is shared with other users (see Fig. 4.3).

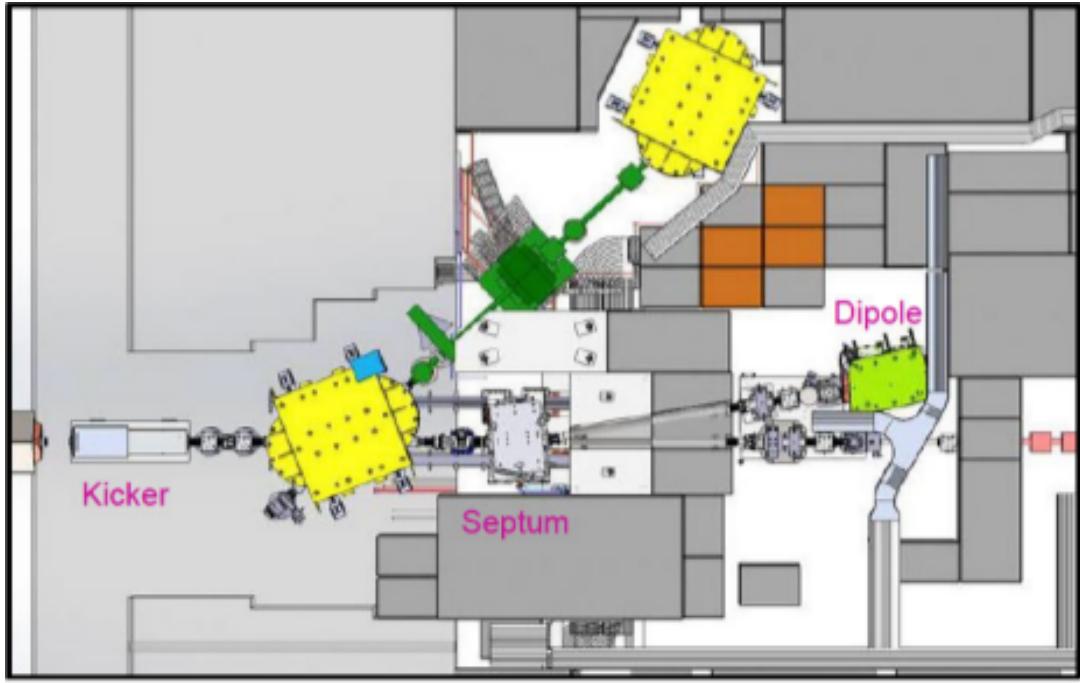


Figure 4.4: The kicker, septum and dipole (bender) magnets define the front two sections of BL1U.

After the bender magnet, the beam passes through a cored shielding block, and reaches the two quadrupole magnets, providing the final focus of the beam onto a 12 cm thick tungsten spallation target. The target is located inside a hermetically-sealed target crypt, which also envelops the beam-line exit window that defines the end of BL1U. Upstream of the beam-line window, there is a collimator to reduce the halo from the proton beam, as well as to help reduce the flux of neutrons and photons streaming back into the beam-line from the target region. The collimator also increases the impedance for the passage of gas arising from any target or window failure, to allow time for the cyclotron fast valves to close. This last part of the beam-line also contains a variety of beam position and current monitors. The spallation target and UCN source, located downstream of the beam line-exit window, are enclosed in a large shielding pyramid shown in Fig. 4.5.

## 4.2 Tungsten Spallation Target

The spallation target is located at the downstream end of BL1U. The UCN spallation target is composed of a series of rectangular blocks, adding up to one stopping length of

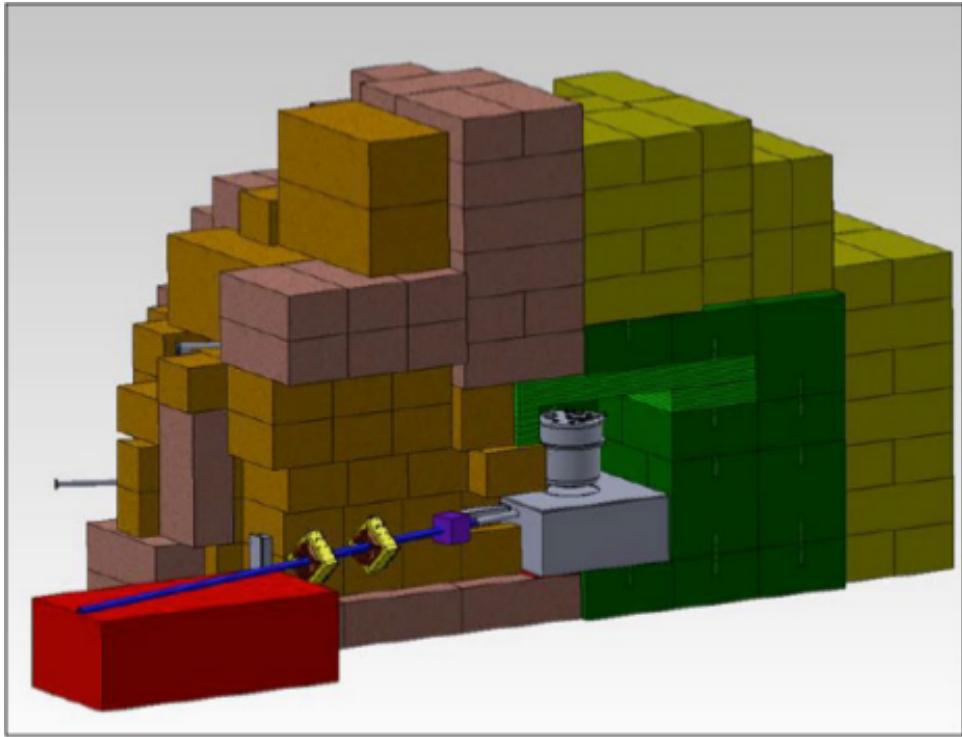


Figure 4.5: Two quadrupole magnets which focus the proton beam onto a 12 cm thick tungsten spallation target, located inside a hermetically-sealed target crypt. Also shown is the UCN shielding pyramid, which encases both the spallation target and the UCN source, and is designed to meet the dose rate requirements specified by the TRIUMF Safety Group.

tungsten (11 cm for 480 MeV protons). This geometry is very similar to (and motivated by) a neutron spallation target design used previously at KEK (KENS facility) [148]: five blocks of tungsten with tantalum plating constitute the target with 78 mm height and 57 mm width, three with 20 mm length in the beam direction, two with 30 mm length (see Fig. 4.6). The target has a support and cooling system, designed to allow for remote-handling and ease of servicing. The target-cooling and remote-handling systems are designed for an instantaneous proton current of 40  $\mu\text{A}$  (10  $\mu\text{A}$  time-averaged).

The target is water cooled. A water flow of approximately 0.8 L/s cools the target. Horizontal channels around the blocks create a uniform flow. To reduce the beam absorption in the water the last two blocks are thicker. Cooling water corrode tungsten. Therefore, a coating of tantalum with a thickness of < 0.1 mm prevents corrosion by the water-cooling system. The estimated lifetime of the target is longer than 10 years. An extraction system allows to exchange the target when necessary.



Figure 4.6: (a) Tungsten Target Blocks from the spallation target at KEK. The target blocks are plated with tantalum. (b) Present design of the tungsten spallation target at the TRIUMF UCN facility. The target blocks have a cross-section of  $5.7 \times 7.8 \text{ cm}^2$ , and thicknesses of 2.0, 2.0, 2.0, 3.0, and 3.0 cm, respectively.

### 4.3 Vertical UCN Source at TRIUMF

Neutrons are produced via proton-induced spallation off tungsten target. Spallation is a nuclear reaction where high energy particles interact with the atomic nucleus. This creates many high-energy neutrons and less gamma radiation than fission (per neutron). Since the temperature of the superfluid helium is crucial, the heat load into it should be kept as small as possible. Two effects dominate the heat load: (1) heating by prompt  $\gamma$  radiation and neutrons; and (2) residual heating by radioactive decays of materials activated by neutron capture. Any heat deposited in the converter vessel and the connected UCN guide will contribute to the heat load on the He-II, so they should be thin-walled and made out of a material with low density, low atomic number, and low neutron-absorption cross section. Additionally, the vessel and UCN guide should be leak-tight for superfluid helium, have a high optical potential for UCN, or allow coating with a suitable material. The cold- and thermal-moderator vessels have less direct impact on the heat load into the UCN converter, but secondary particles from  $(n, \gamma)$  reactions and radioactive decays can still contribute.

The target is surrounded by several blocks of lead and graphite. The fast neutrons are reflected and moderated down and enter the warm D<sub>2</sub>O moderator at room temperature (300 K) and become thermal neutrons with an energy of 0.025 eV, or a speed of 2.2 km/s. To slow the fast neutrons down via elastic scattering we need to choose a moderator with a mass close to the mass of the free neutron. H<sub>2</sub>O will not work since

hydrogen can absorb the neutron and become deuterium. Therefore  $D_2O$  is a great choice as a neutron moderator. Heavy water ice at 10 K is used as a cold moderator. After passing through the warm  $D_2O$ , thermal neutrons enter the the cold moderator and become cold neutrons. These neutrons have the speed of several hundred m/s. UCN are produced when the cold neutrons (CN) enter the isotopically pure superfluid helium at 0.84 to 0.92 K. The CN induce phonon transitions inside the superfluid helium in order to become UCN, as discussed in Section 1.6.

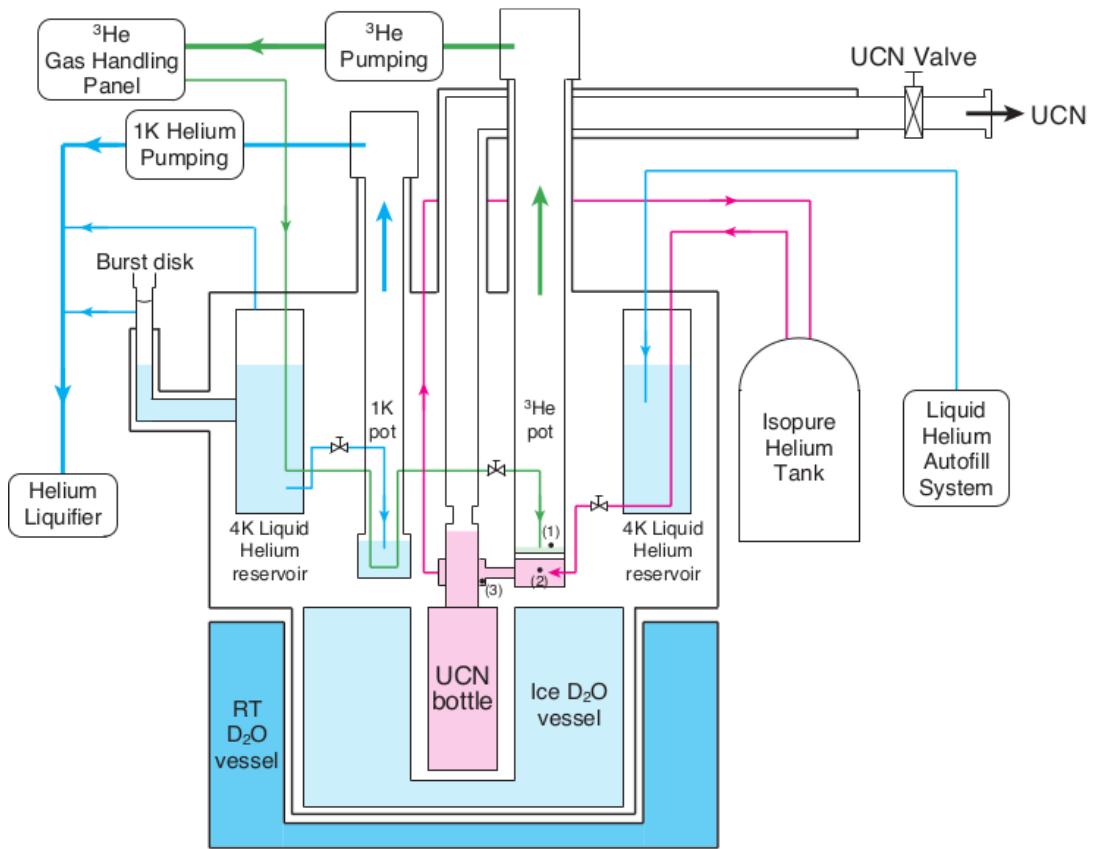


Figure 4.7: Schematic diagram of the vertical UCN source at TRIUMF. Spallation neutrons are moderated in warm  $D_2O$  vessel and become cold neutrons in Iced  $D_2O$ . The cold neutrons then enter the superfluid helium bottle where they become UCN by phonon excitations in the superfluid. The isotopically pure superfluid helium is cooled down to below 1 K via a  $^3He$  pot. The  $^3He$  pot is cooled down to 0.7 K via the 1 K pot and further pumping (see text for more details).

A schematic diagram of the vertical source is shown in Fig. 4.7 and a 3D drawing of the vertical source and the guide geometry is shown in Fig. 4.8. The UCN-production volume is filled with superfluid helium and is cooled by a Cu heat exchanger with the  $^3He$  pot. The combined height of the UCN-production volume and vertical UCN guide is 1.25 m,

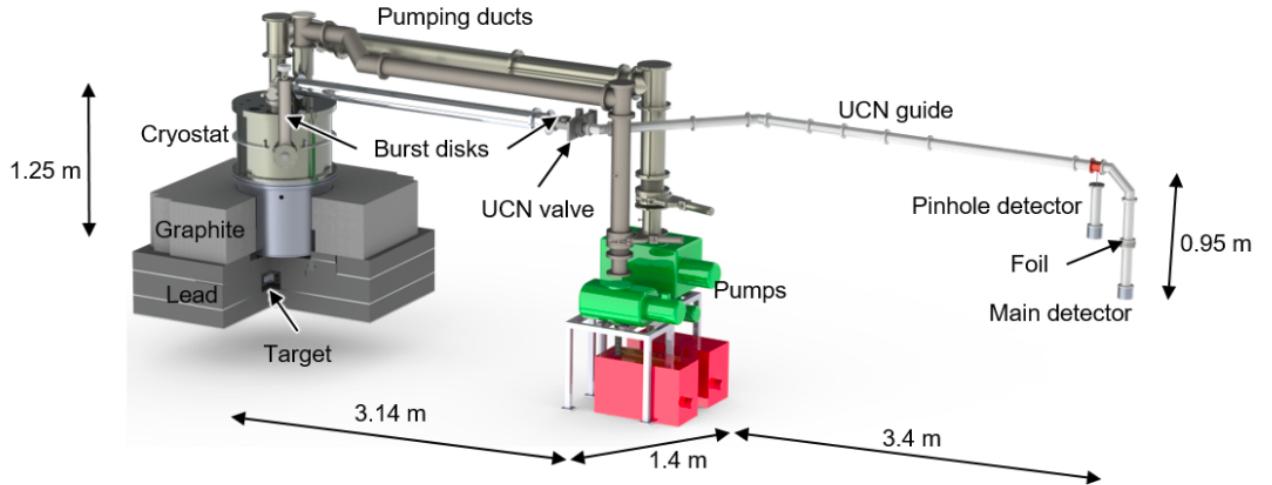


Figure 4.8: The UCN source and the guide geometry at TRIUMF

with the lower 0.62 m filled with superfluid helium. Right above the liquid surface, a short, narrow section of the vertical guide blocks superfluid film flow and radiant heat to reduce the heat load. Above the cryostat, the UCN guide turns horizontally in a vacuum jacket to transition from cryogenic to room temperature. It ends with a burst disk for emergency pressure relief and a gate valve (GV) with a protective ring improving UCN transmission in the open state (indicated as UCN valve on Fig. 4.7 and Fig. 4.8).

Downstream of the GV, the UCN guide follows the 45° kinks to avoid radiation leaking through a direct line of sight to the experimental area. Finally, it penetrates through 3 m of additional shielding and drops to accelerate the UCN by gravity to penetrate a 0.1 mm-thick aluminum foil and to enter the main detector with high efficiency. The foil separates the helium vapour-filled UCN guide from the detector vacuum to reduce contamination of the source. The main detector is a  ${}^6\text{Li}$  detector described in Section 4.5.1. A secondary  ${}^3\text{He}$  proportional counter with its own aluminum window is mounted to a 5 mm pinhole in the guide and serves as a monitor detector.

The neutron moderators, the helium circulation system, and the process of cryostat operations are explained below.

### 4.3.1 Neutron D<sub>2</sub>O Moderators

The warm D<sub>2</sub>O moderator to create thermal neutrons from spallation neutrons is at room temperature. The cold moderator for the production of cold neutrons is at much lower temperatures ( $\sim 10$  K).

#### D<sub>2</sub>O Solidification

The D<sub>2</sub>O ice vessel has a capacity of 100 L. About 14 L of liquid D<sub>2</sub>O is injected to the vessel initially. This is followed by adding 11 L of D<sub>2</sub>O to the vessel 8 times. After filling up the vessel, Gifford McMahon refrigerators solidify the heavy water and further cool it down to 20 K. The process of icing the heavy water takes about 6 days and cooling it down to 20 K takes another 7 days.

### 4.3.2 Helium Circulation and Superfluid Helium Condensation

Helium circulation and superfluid helium condensation normally starts once the temperature of D<sub>2</sub>O has reached 10 K. The stages leading to superfluid helium condensation are presented below. The full operation and design details are available in Ref. [149].

#### Liquid Helium Reservoir

The first step is to fill the 4 K liquid helium reservoir. The full capacity of the reservoir is 50 L. In the 2017 experimental run, the TUCAN collaboration developed a Labview program to automatically fill the reservoir from a nearby 500 L dewar. This dewar is referred to as the “stationary dewar”. In the program, it is possible to set the desired minimum and maximum levels of the helium in the 4 K reservoir, and set it to fill automatically. The helium autofill system is shown in Fig. 4.9. The helium level is measured by a level meter. The DAQ system and sensor positions are described in Section. 4.4 and the gas flow diagram is available in Fig. A.1 of Appendix A. In addition, two flow meters were used to observe the gas flow and evaporation of the superfluid in the 4 K reservoir (FM4 and FM5 in Fig. A.1 of Appendix A). The stationary dewar was filled from 350 L transfer dewars which were in turn filled from the Meson Hall liquifier.

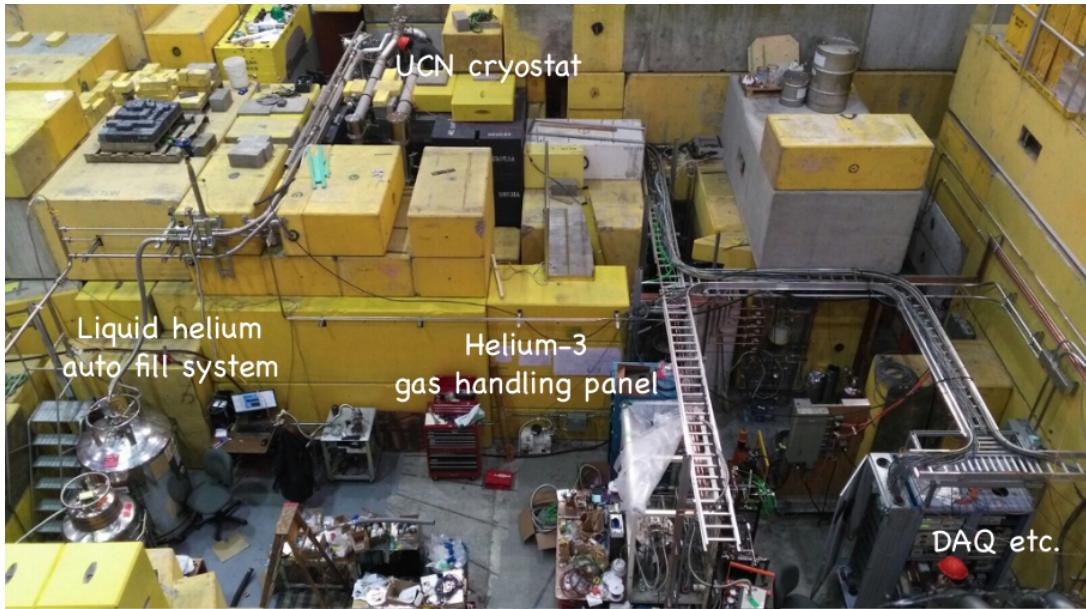


Figure 4.9: A photograph of the UCN experimental area during the mini shutdown in October 2017. Some experimental components are shown and are labelled. The yellow concrete blocks are blocking the radiation during the target irradiation times. The vertical UCN cryostat could be seen because of the removal of some radiation shielding.

Fig. 4.10 shows 5 filling cycles of the 4 K reservoir on April 22, 2017 during the first cooling test. Liquid helium transfer starts once the liquid level in the 4 K reservoir reaches 20%. Once the transfer starts, the liquid level starts to decrease with a sharper slope. This is because it takes some time to cool the transfer line from the stationary dewar to the reservoir. The warmer helium vapour causes a heat load to the 4 K reservoir. Any helium gas evaporated from the reservoir returns through a recovery line to the liquifier. Liquid helium transfer stops once the 4 K reservoir is 60% filled.

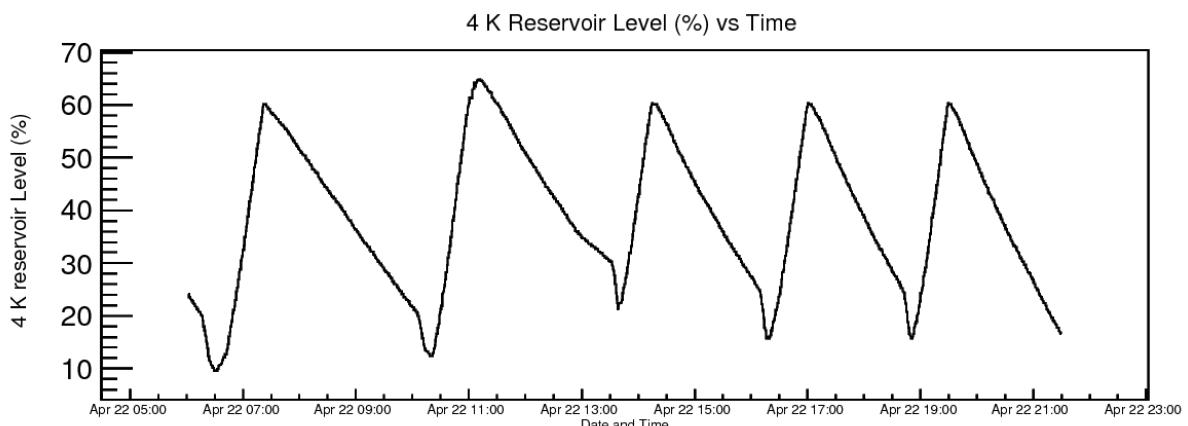


Figure 4.10: The 4 K reservoir filling during the cool down test in April 2017.

The efficiency of each transfer from the stationary dewar to the 4 K reservoir was about 40% to 60% on average.

### Liquid Helium Pot at 1 Kelvin

The 4.2 K liquid helium in the helium reservoir is transferred to a pot called “1 K pot”. The flow rate of the transferred liquid helium is controlled by a needle valve (JT valve) where the Joule-Thomson expansion happens and the liquid helium cools down. The Joule-Thomson expansion occurs when a gas or liquid passes through a valve which has different temperatures and pressures on both sides, while there is no heat exchange to the environment. The 1 K pot is always pumped by a pumping system. Pumping on the pot provides a pressure drop across the valve which then gives rise to expansion, and therefore, cooling of liquid helium down to about 1.4 K via Joule-Thomson (JT) expansion as discussed below. The pressure in the pot determines the saturated vapour pressure above the liquid, and hence, the temperature of the liquid. Calculations of refrigerator performance were studied recently in the context of the vertical UCN source [150] and in the future horizontal UCN source [151]. The level of helium in the 1 K pot is measured by a liquid level meter. The maximum level of the 1.4 K liquid helium is about 15 cm. At this level, the volume of the 1.4 K liquid helium is about 1.3 L.

### Liquid $^3\text{He}$ Pot

Once the 1 K pot is ready, the  $^3\text{He}$  gas circulates in a loop from room temperature to the  $^3\text{He}$  pot.  $^3\text{He}$  is a very valuable gas, so the entire  $^3\text{He}$  gas system is kept below atmospheric pressure. In case of a leak, the system will be contaminated, but we will not lose  $^3\text{He}$ .  $^3\text{He}$  pot works based on the Joule-Thomson effect as well. To start, the needle valve in the  $^3\text{He}$  reservoir is opened. A vacuum pump compresses the  $^3\text{He}$  gas. The  $^3\text{He}$  gas is then purified by a room temperature and a cold purifier, and is precooled by the 4 K reservoir, and then condensed in a Cu tube in the 1 K pot. The liquid  $^3\text{He}$  then undergoes Joule-Thomson (JT) expansion through NV into the  $^3\text{He}$  pot which is decompressed by vacuum pumps. The JT expansion is isenthalpic.

The  $^3\text{He}$  pot is connected to the isotopically pure  $^4\text{He}$  volume by a copper heat exchanger which conducts the heat in the isotopically pure  $^4\text{He}$  to the  $^3\text{He}$  pot.

### Isopure Helium

After filling the  $^3\text{He}$  pot with 0.7 K liquid  $^3\text{He}$ , the condensation of the isotopically pure (isopure) superfluid helium starts. The isopure helium has much less  $^3\text{He}$  than  $^4\text{He}$  (less than  $10^{-10}$ ). Even though the natural abundance of  $^3\text{He}$  is  $1.37 \times 10^{-6}$  in the atmosphere, this value is still large because of the large neutron absorption cross section of  $^3\text{He}$ . The existence of  $^3\text{He}$  causes the UCN storage lifetime to decrease (see Section 1.6.1).

The isopure helium is stored in the isopure helium tank shown in Fig. 4.7. Before entering the cryostat, the isopure helium goes through a purifier. The purifier is composed of low temperature charcoals cooled by  $\text{LN}_2$ . The isopure He is precooled in the 4 K reservoir and goes into the heat exchange pot attached to the bottom of the  $^3\text{He}$  cryostat. The bottom of the  $^3\text{He}$  cryostat and the top of the heat exchange pot is connected via the copper heat exchanger. The isopure He in the heat exchange pot is cooled by the 0.7 K liquid  $^3\text{He}$  via the copper heat exchanger and becomes He-II. The condensed He-II fills the He-II bottle with a volume of 8.5 L and is cooled to  $\sim 0.83$  K.

## 4.4 Data Acquisition System

The TUCAN UCN DAQ system accumulates data from different devices and integrates them into a MIDAS file.

For the 2017 data acquisition, almost all the sensors such as temperature sensors, flow meters, pressure gauges and etc. were connected to a Programmable Logic Controller (PLC). The PLC receives information from the connected sensors or input devices, processes the data, and triggers outputs based on pre-programmed parameters. Depending on the inputs and outputs, a PLC can monitor and record data, automatically start and stop processes, generate alarms based on the applied limits, and more.

A picture of the PLC is shown in Fig. 4.11. The PLC modules are placed in the top

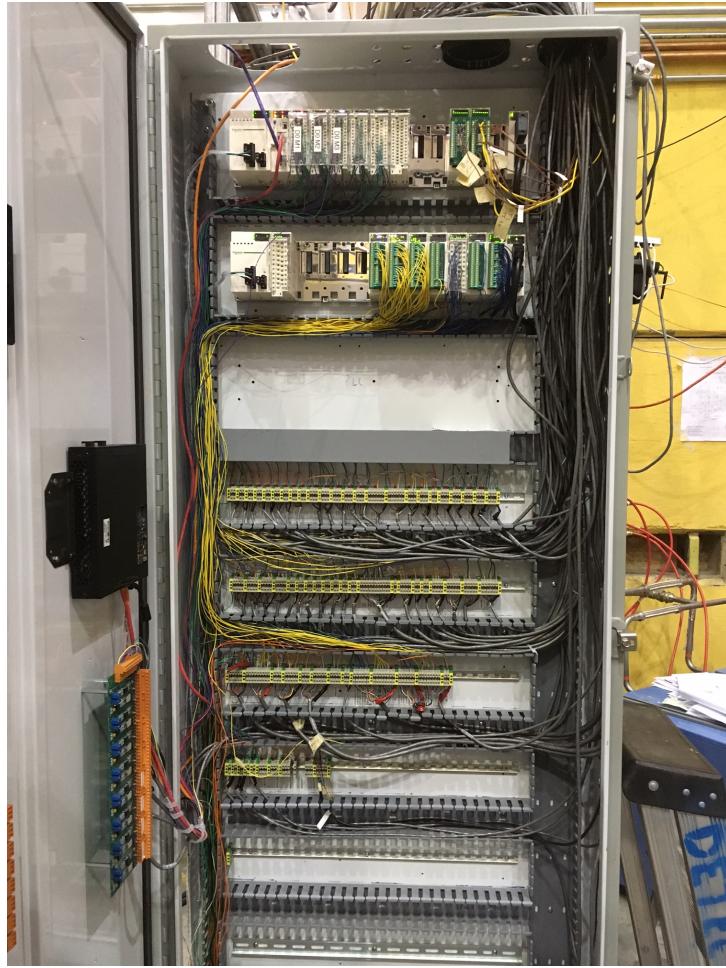


Figure 4.11: A photograph of the PLC in the meson hall. The grey terminal blocks are used to connect the signal from the devices to the computing modules. The first two top rows include the computing modules. Each sensor is connected to a specific terminal on a specific module. The bottom row is where the power supplies and the fuses are positioned.

two rows. The bottom row includes the power supplies and the fuses for the sensors. The middle section of the PLC box has the terminal blocks for all the sensors. The terminal blocks for each sensor are labelled. The number of terminal blocks for each sensor depends on its wiring diagram. The green terminal blocks are for the ground connection and the grey terminal blocks are for all other readings. The cables from the sensors enter the PLC via the two holes on the top of the PLC box. They are then routed on the right side of the panel and connected to the designated terminal blocks. The input connection from the sensors to the terminal blocks enter from the bottom row and the output connection to the PLC modules leave the terminal blocks from their top row. We draw the wiring diagram for each sensor using Altium software.

Fig. 4.12 shows the Altium drawing for the PG3H sensor in the  $^4\text{He}$  system which is named UCN:He4:PG3H. The first part indicates that it is a sensor for the UCN source, the middle part indicates which sub-system this system belongs to (e.g.,  $^3\text{He}$  or  $^4\text{He}$  or UCN guides UGD) and the last part is the name of the sensor which in this case is pressure gauge 3 high (PG3H). The left wires on the left side of the drawing show the connection to the modules. Here we used the red (RD), black (BK) and shield (SH) of a Belden 9462 cable. An orange wire (OR) then goes to the bottom of the PLC and connects to a fuse and a violet wire (VI) connects to the top row (D0) module one (M1) and terminals T7 and T9. The other values (UCN:HE4:PG3H and RADCPRESS) are related to the PLC programming. On the left side of the graph we see wires from the sensor itself to the terminal block. As the Fig. shows, the sensor is a Omega PXM219-1.6bar pressure gauge. To see the location of the sensor please look at Appendix A.



Figure 4.12: Altium drawing of the pressure gauge PG3H (UCN:HE4:PG3H)

The communication between the PLC and the screen is handled by EPICS. The EPICS screen defines the user interface for the controls. It provides readouts of variables, indications of device status, and various user input controls for turning devices on/off, resetting devices, etc. The screen shows the approximate physical layout of the apparatus being controlled, with each device and its controls placed in its actual location. The colours of the devices are used to indicate their current status [152]. Fig. 4.13 shows the thermal EPICS screen for the TUCAN vertical UCN source during the November 2017 experimental run. The gas flow screen (not shown, very similar to the thermal screen) is intended to contain all the information about pressures, flows, levels, and controls for pumps and valves.

MIDAS is a modern data acquisition system developed at PSI and TRIUMF written in C/C++ which runs on all operating systems. MIDAS logs data in two different ways:

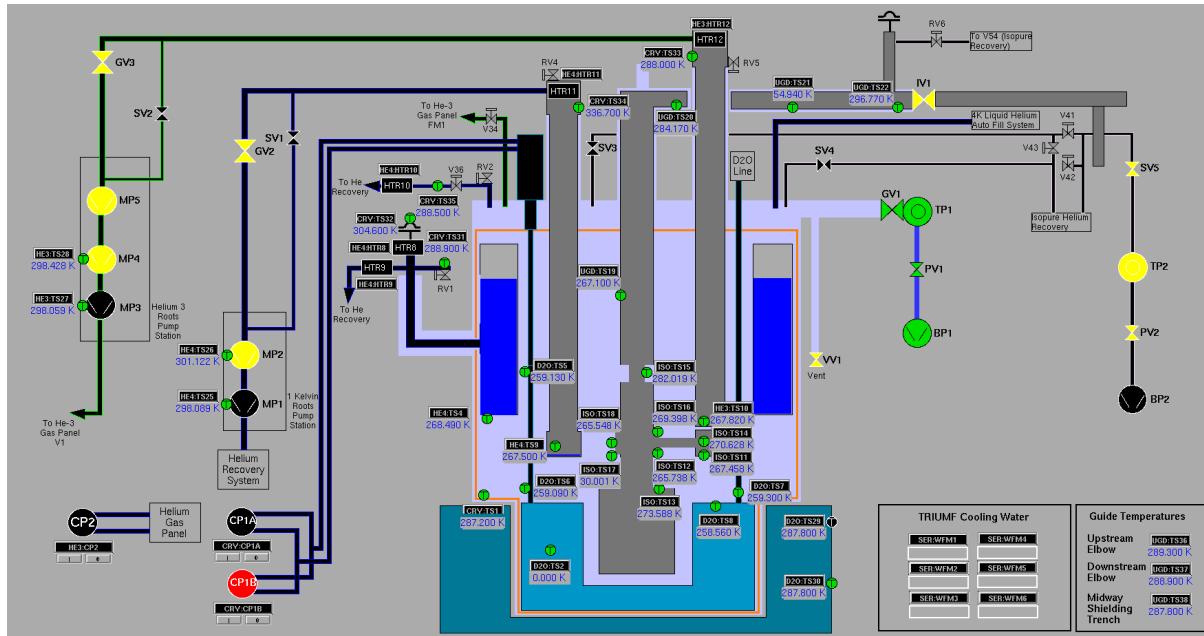


Figure 4.13: EPICS thermal screen. The approximate location of each temperature sensor is shown. The thermal screen is intended to contain all the information about temperatures, and controls for compressors and heaters.

History logging where some data is saved periodically (every 1-10 s) and can be plotted from history page and file logging where all data is saved to MIDAS file to be analyzed later. The TUCAN MIDAS DAQ has a web interface shown in Fig. 4.14. The green colour indicates that the equipment front-end is running. Each run can be started by pressing the button at the top section.

The main MIDAS front-ends that are being read out by the UCN DAQ:

- Source EPICS front-end (and beam line EPICS) front-end, which copies a subset of the EPICS Process Variables (PVs) to the MIDAS history system. The program that does this is called “feSourceEpics”. On the MIDAS status page the equipment “SourceEpics” is green and producing new events at a rate of  $\sim 0.1$  Hz. It is possible to add new history plot or add new variables to the existing history plot.
  - A Keithley picoammeter which is reading the current from a thermal neutron counter. The picoammeter is readout through a MIDAS-GPIB chain; the front-end to control it is called “scpico”.
  - The V1720 for reading out the UCN  ${}^6\text{Li}$  detector.

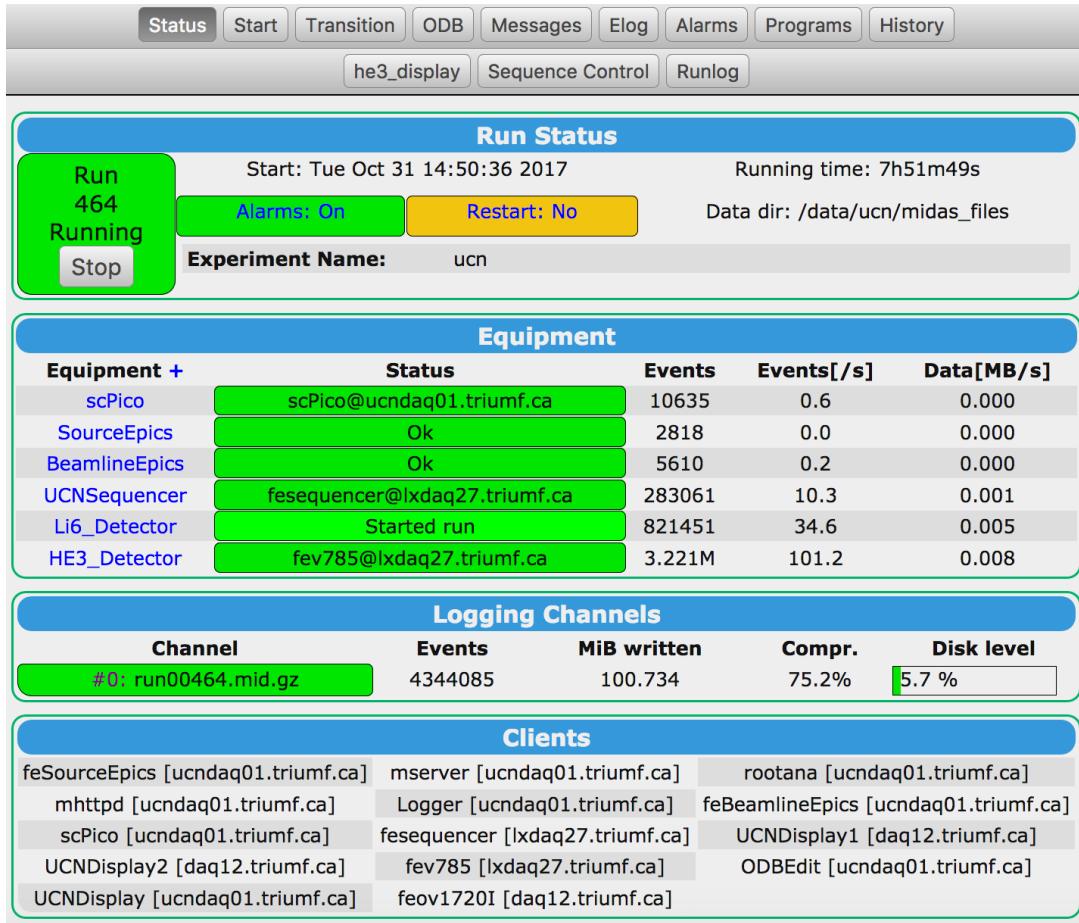


Figure 4.14: TUCAN MIDAS web interface

- A front-end program for controlling UCN sequence. It starts triggering after the end of target irradiation.
- V785 peak sensing ADC for reading out the UCN  $^3\text{He}$  detector. This front-end is for digitizing the signal from the  $^3\text{He}$  UCN detector. The program for reading out the digitizer is called “fev785”. These front-end program controls the readout from a CAEN V785 VME module. The trigger (gate) signal for the V785 is generated by a bunch of NIM electronics that process the signal from the  $^3\text{He}$  detector.

For the 2017 experimental run, each experiment had a unique MIDAS run number. The MIDAS files were then converted to ROOT files for data analysis. ROOT is a scientific software package developed by scientists at CERN [153]. It provides all the functionalities needed to deal with data processing, statistical analysis, visualization and storage. It is mainly written in C++, but integrated with other languages such as Python

and R. Each ROOT file represents a particular Midas run and has 8 trees. A tree in ROOT is like a table. Each row of the table is a branch in the tree. Fig. 4.15a shows the trees in a ROOT file. The XXX indicates the number of the MIDAS run. The UCN Hit trees include the data time-stamps, ChargeL, ChargeS, PSD (see Section 4.5), Baseline and etc. The run transition trees include the UCN valve open time, UCN valve close time, Cycle start time and etc. (see Chapter 5). The LND Detector tree has the thermal neutron detector readings and its time-stamps. The Source Epics tree has the readings for all the UCN source sensors integrated into the EPICS system, and the Beam Line Epics tree has all the readings related to the beam lines such as target temperatures and etc. The header tree includes the experiment number (e.g., TCN170XX which represents a TUCAN experiment in 2017 and XX represents the experiment number), the person who was on the shift, and the comments they entered on the MIDAS web interface screen during the shift.

We developed a ROOT program that extracts the UCN cycle information for each MIDAS run and creates a .root file. The output file has one tree as “cycle information” table. It consists of branches with the cycle average, maximum, and minimum values for the main sensors that contribute to the analysis. The analysis is based on the UCN cycles, and it is essential to know, for example, how the temperature of the superfluid helium changes for each cycle. Therefore, the average, maximum and minimum values of the superfluid helium temperature for each cycle for different temperature sensors are calculated and inserted in the cycle information tree. In addition, the UCN background, and the total UCN counts for each cycle are also added to the tree. More details about these variables, and the result of the analysis is presented in Chapter 5.

## 4.5 UCN Detectors

For the TUCAN experimental runs in 2017, a  ${}^6\text{Li}$  and a  ${}^3\text{He}$  detector were used. The main reason tow detectors were used was to check the consistency of the result, and the performance of each detector. A brief description of each detector is available below.

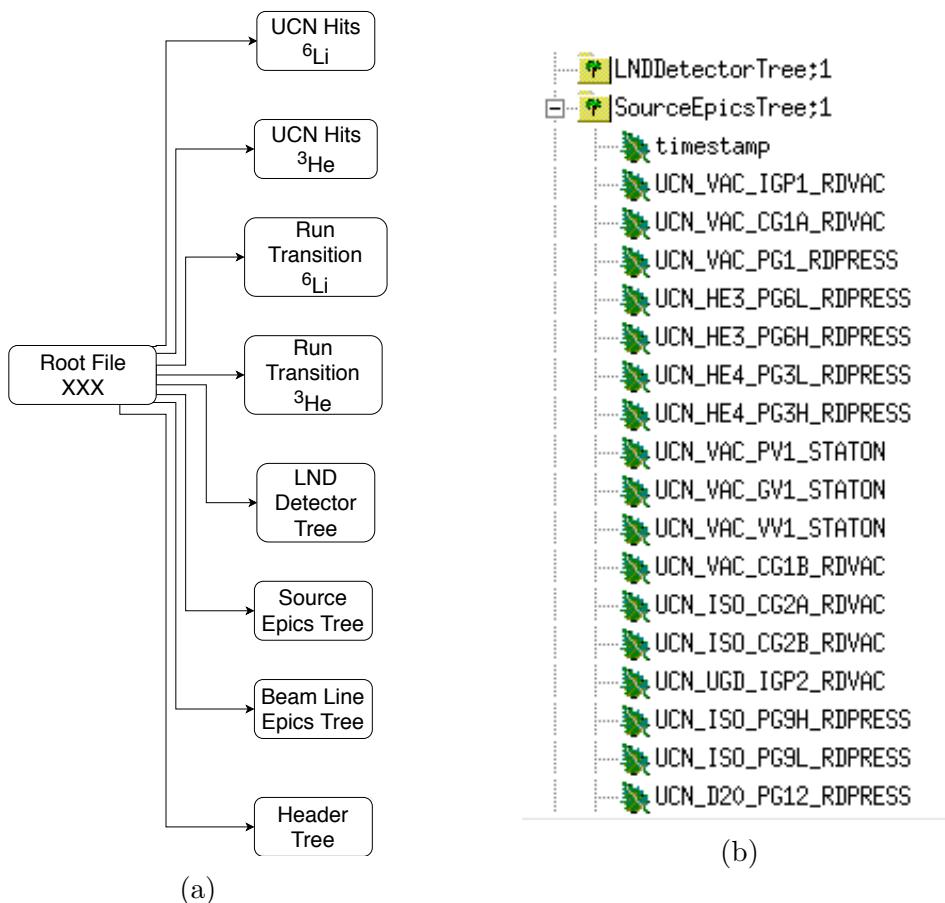


Figure 4.15: (a) A ROOT file and the trees that represent tables. (b) A snapshot of the Source Epics tree with some of the branches. Each branch is a row of the Source Epics table.

### 4.5.1 ${}^6\text{Li}$ Detector

The main detector used during the UCN measurements (see Chapter 5) is a  ${}^6\text{Li}$  glass based scintillator detector designed and built at the University of Winnipeg for the TUCAN nEDM experiment at TRIUMF [104, 154]. Since  ${}^6\text{Li}$  has a high neutron capture cross-section (order of  $10^5$  b) at UCN energies, the scintillator glass is doped with it. The charged particles in the reaction



are detected. The mean range of the  $\alpha$  is  $5.3 \mu\text{m}$ , and the mean range of the triton is  $34.7 \mu\text{m}$ . To reduce the effect of  $\alpha$  or triton escaping the glass, a layer of  $60 \mu\text{m}$  thick depleted  ${}^6\text{Li}$  glass (GS30), on top of a layer of  $120 \mu\text{m}$  thick doped  ${}^6\text{Li}$  (GS20) were optically bonded. This design allows the UCN to pass through the depleted layer before being captured in the  ${}^6\text{Li}$ -rich layer, thus the resultant particles deposit all their energy within the scintillating glass. Table 4.1 shows the content and density of those  ${}^6\text{Li}$  scintillators.

Scintillator	GS20 ( ${}^6\text{Li}$ Enriched)	GS30 ( ${}^6\text{Li}$ depleted)
Total Li content (%)	6.6	6.6
${}^6\text{Li}$ fraction (%)	95	0.01
${}^6\text{Li}$ density ( $\text{cm}^{-3}$ )	$1.716 \times 10^{22}$	$1.806 \times 10^{18}$

Table 4.1: Properties of the glass scintillators

Making the scintillating Li glass as thin as possible reduces the sensitivity to  $\gamma$ -ray-induced scintillation backgrounds, and thermal neutron captures. In order to handle high UCN rates of up to 1 MHz, the  ${}^6\text{Li}$  detector face is segmented into 9 tiles (see Fig. 4.16). The scintillation light of each tile is guided through ultra-violet transmitting acrylic light-guide to its corresponding photo-multiplier tube (PMT) outside the vacuum region of the detector.

The data acquisition for the detector is based on the CAEN V1720 digitizer which has a Pulse-Shape Discrimination (PSD) firmware. Every 4 ns the digitizer samples the waveform on a 2 V scale into an ADC value between 0 and 4096. Each channel of the

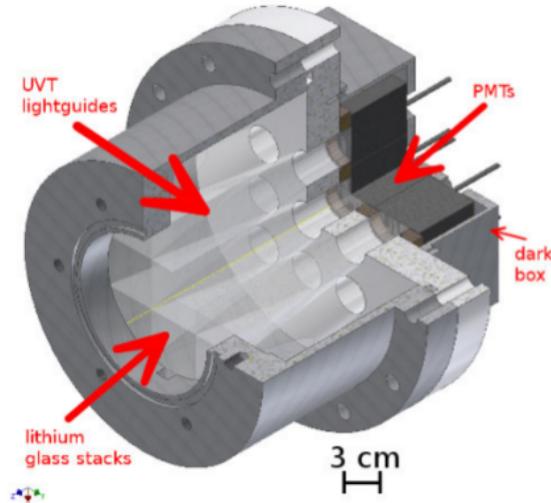


Figure 4.16: 3D drawing of the  ${}^6\text{Li}$  detector and its enclosure. The enclosure is made of Al, and the rim of the adapter flange which UCN can hit is coated with  $1 \mu\text{m}$  Ni by thermal evaporation.

digitizer sends a trigger, whenever the number of counts in the ADC goes below a certain baseline (pedestal) value. The PSD calculates the sum of the signal below the baseline for two time windows:  $t_s = 40 \text{ ns}$  (short gate) and  $t_L = 200 \text{ ns}$  (long gate). The short gate is chosen in a way to contain all of the charge for the  $\gamma$ -ray interactions in the light-guide. The ADC sum for during the long gate below the baseline is called  $Q_L$  (read charge long) and for during the short gate below the baseline is called  $Q_S$  (read charge short). Charge long has the total charge deposited for the neutron capture events. The PSD value is defined as

$$\text{PSD} = \frac{(Q_L - Q_S)}{Q_L}, \quad (4.2)$$

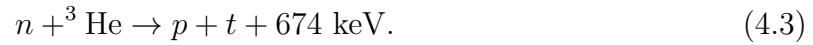
which is the amount of charge in the tail of an event.

The absolute efficiency of this detector is  $89.7^{+1.3}_{-1.9} \%$  with a background contamination of  $0.3 \pm 0.1 \%$  [104]. The detector is stable at the 0.06 % level or better, and that the variation in the efficiency between the detector tiles is less than 5 %.

### 4.5.2 ${}^3\text{He}$ Detector

The  ${}^3\text{He}$  detector used for the data acquisition is a Dunia-10 type which was used at RCNP. The  ${}^3\text{He}$  provides an effective neutron detector material for neutron detection by

absorbing neutrons via the following reaction



Before the start of the experiment, the  ${}^3\text{He}$  detector was tested with an AmBe source, and it showed consistent result with what was observed at RCNP. The detector was surrounded with paraffin blocks to moderate the neutrons (see Fig. 4.17).



Figure 4.17:  ${}^3\text{He}$  detector and paraffin blocks for neutron moderation.

More detail about the  ${}^3\text{He}$  detector could be found in Ref. [149].



# Chapter 5

## UCN Production, Transport, and Detection

In November of 2017, the first UCN at TRIUMF were produced using the prototype vertical UCN source described in Section 4.3. Here the spallation neutrons are converted to UCN through phonon excitation in the isotopically pure superfluid helium. Several experiments were performed with the UCN including UCN yield measurements, UCN storage lifetime measurements and steady-state UCN production. These experiments are essential for the better understanding of the vertical source, and to design the next generation high intensity UCN source. In this chapter those experiments are described and the result of the data analysis is presented.

This chapter proceeds as follows:

- general discussion of measurement cycle
- data analysis focusing on experimental measurements of UCN counts and storage lifetime in source
- data are compared to detailed Monte-Carlo description in Section 5.5 to extract physical parameters of source and UCN guides

## 5.1 UCN Cycle of Measurement

Fig. 5.1 is a simple schematic of UCN production and detection volumes which shows the UCN propagation between different volumes. Here volume  $V_1$  represents the production and storage volume before the valve, where  $N_1$  UCN are produced.  $V_2$  is the secondary volume, where  $N_2$  UCN enter after the valve is opened, and  $V_3$  is the detector volume where  $N_3$  UCN are detected.

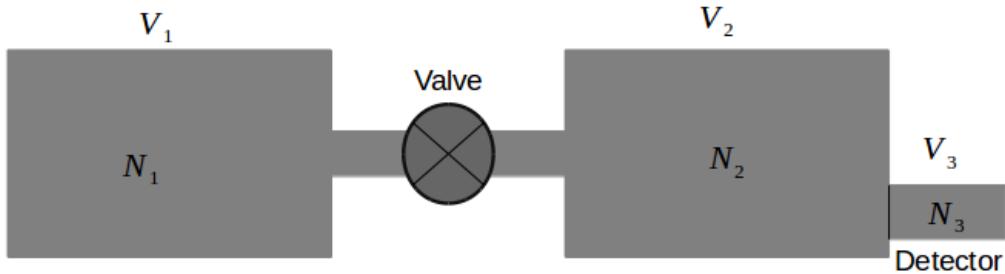


Figure 5.1: Schematic drawing of a simple UCN source.  $V_1$  is the production volume with  $N_1$  number of UCN,  $V_2$  is the secondary volume where  $N_2$  number of UCN exist, and  $V_3$  is the detector with  $N_3$  number of UCN.

At  $t = 0$ , when the beam is on and the valve is closed, the number of UCN in  $V_1$  builds up, while the total number of UCN in  $V_2$  and  $V_3$  is zero. This may be described with

$$\frac{dN_1}{dt} = P - \frac{N_1}{\tau_1}, \quad (5.1)$$

where  $P$  is the UCN production rate in the source, as described in Section 1.6.2, and  $\tau_1$  is the UCN storage lifetime in the source. The solution is exponential  $N_1 \rightarrow P\tau_1$  as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ . After the beam is turned off, the valve is opened, and UCN may travel to the volume  $V_2$  and eventually volume  $V_3$ . In our measurements, the valve is usually left open for 2 minutes. The UCN rates of change are described by the coupled, first-order, linear differential equations:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dN_1}{dt} &= -\frac{N_1}{\tau_{c,1}} - \frac{N_1}{\tau_1} + \frac{N_2}{\tau_{c,2}} \\ \frac{dN_2}{dt} &= \frac{N_1}{\tau_{c,1}} - \frac{N_2}{\tau_{c,2}} - \frac{N_2}{\tau_2} - \frac{N_2}{\tau_{c,3}} \\ \frac{dN_3}{dt} &= \frac{N_2}{\tau_{c,3}}.\end{aligned}\tag{5.2}$$

Here  $\tau_{c,1}$ ,  $\tau_{c,2}$ , and  $\tau_{c,3}$  are the lifetimes due to crossing the surface (described below) and  $\tau_2$  is the lifetime in  $V_2$ . In these equations,  $dN_1/dt$  shows the change in the UCN counts over time in  $V_1$ ,  $dN_2/dt$  shows the change in the UCN counts in  $V_2$ , and  $dN_3/dt$  shows the change in the UCN count in  $V_3$ , after the valve is opened. Each term in the right side of the equations is described below.

In the first equation, the total number of UCN in  $V_1$  depends on three factors: the UCN that get into  $V_2$  with the rate  $N_1/\tau_{c,1}$ , the UCN that is lost with the storage lifetime  $\tau_1$  with the rate  $N_1/\tau_1$ , and the UCN that bounce back from  $V_2$  to  $V_1$  with the rate  $N_2/\tau_{c,2}$ . Here  $1/\tau_{c,1}$  is the probability of UCN crossing from volume  $V_1$  to volume  $V_2$ , and  $1/\tau_{c,2}$  is the probability of UCN cross from volume  $V_2$  back to volume  $V_1$ .

In the second equation for  $V_2$ , some UCN cross from  $V_1$  to  $V_2$  with the rate  $N_1/\tau_{c,1}$ , some get lost with the rate  $N_2/\tau_2$ , some cross the gate valve and go back to  $V_1$  with the rate  $N_2/\tau_{c,2}$ , and some get to the detector with the rate  $N_2/\tau_{c,3}$ . Here  $1/\tau_{c,3}$  is the probability of UCN crossing from volume  $V_2$  to volume  $V_3$  and  $1/\tau_2$  is the loss probability of UCN in volume  $V_2$ .

In the third equation, the rate of the UCN detection  $dN_3/dt$  is the rate of UCN crossing from volume  $V_2$  to volume  $V_3$  as  $N_2/\tau_{c,3}$ . If they enter  $V_3$ , they will be detected, hence, they will not cross back. In principle, solving these equations could give an estimate of the number of UCN in each volume. The solutions are again exponential.

A 3D drawing of the experimental setup is shown in Fig. 4.8. In this case,  $V_1$  is the UCN source bottle and the horizontal section of the UCN guide before the UCN gate valve, and  $V_2$  and  $V_3$  are the volumes after the UCN valve and the detector volume respectively.

The process of UCN production described above is referred to as “batch mode”, since

the UCN are accumulated in the source before opening the UCN valve. In our standard UCN production measurements, the applied beam current is  $1 \mu\text{A}$ , and the target is irradiated for 60 s. One cycle of measurement is shown in Fig. 5.2. The UCN valve is typically left open for 2 minutes. The end of a UCN cycle is defined by the UCN valve close time. Once the UCN valve is closed, a new cycle of measurement starts. The UCN counts are then fitted by an exponential function.

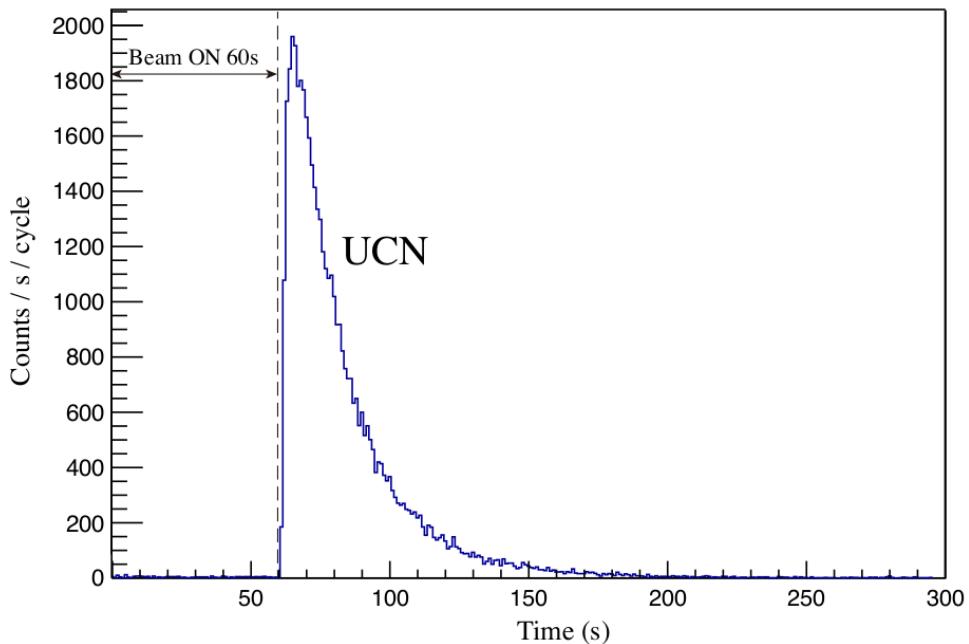


Figure 5.2: The figure shows the UCN rate at 60 s irradiation time, and  $1 \mu\text{A}$  beam current. In this case, the UCN gate valve is opened immediately after the end of target irradiation. At this time, the UCN rate reaches the peak of about 2000 UCN/s. The UCN rate decays down to the background level. The valve is left open for 120 s.

Another possible mode of operation is to leave the UCN valve open while irradiating the target. This is called the “steady-state mode” where we have a constant stream of UCN to the main detector (see Section 5.3.4).

The following sections are focused on the result of the UCN yield optimization, the UCN storage lifetime measurements, UCN production in the steady-state mode and the comparison of those measurements with simulations.

## 5.2 Data Quality Checks

During the 2017 experimental run, we performed about 35 experiments individually labelled by TCN#. For most of these experiments we used the  ${}^6\text{Li}$  detector described in Section 4.5.1. The data in this chapter was focused on UCN source characterization, all acquired with the  ${}^6\text{Li}$  detector. To check the reliability of this data we performed data quality checks based on the detector signals.

The PSD versus  $Q_L$  distribution from a run is shown in Fig. 5.3 for all nine PMTs combined. The UCN appear in the upper right portion of PSD- $Q_L$  space.

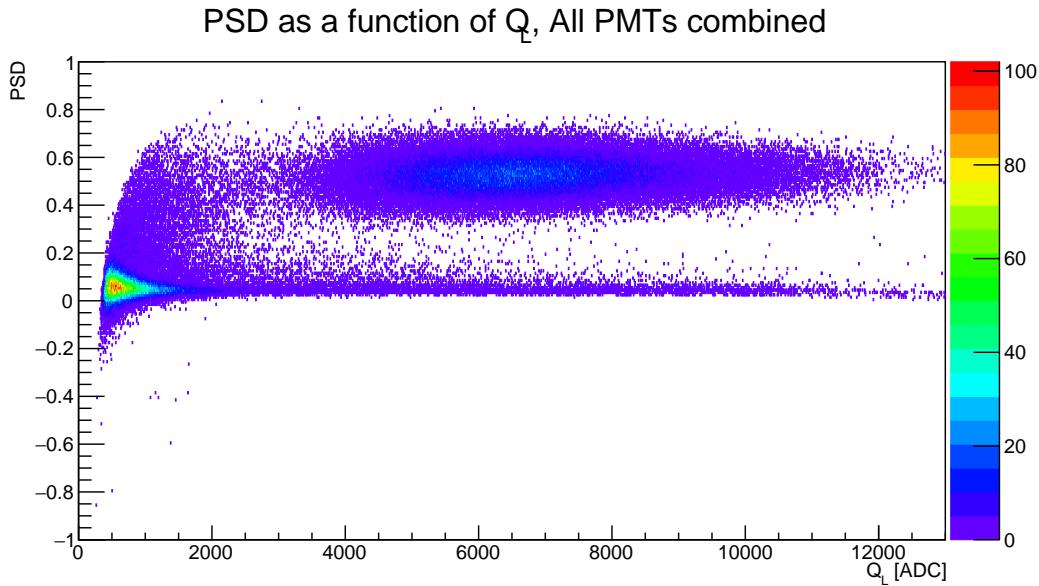


Figure 5.3: UCN event spectra for all of the PMTs for a standard  $1 \mu\text{A}$  proton beam current and 60 s target irradiation time

Here the UCN spectrum has an energy range of 3000 to 12000  $Q_L$  as expected, and a median PSD value of 0.5. The events at  $\text{PSD} \sim 0$  represent the  $\gamma$ -rays in the lightguides. To define UCN counts, a PSD cut at 0.3 and a  $Q_L$  cut at 2000 were applied. These cuts define the UCN boxed described below. Those cuts were confirmed with Monte-Carlo simulations to have an efficiency of 99% or higher. The total number of UCN events in each PMT for a run at  $1 \mu\text{A}$  beam current and 60 s irradiation time is shown in Fig. 5.4. Out of all 9 channels, the central channel counts the most UCN, while the corner channels receive the least as expected based on geometry.

The effect of detector systematics on the measured UCN counts can be categorized in

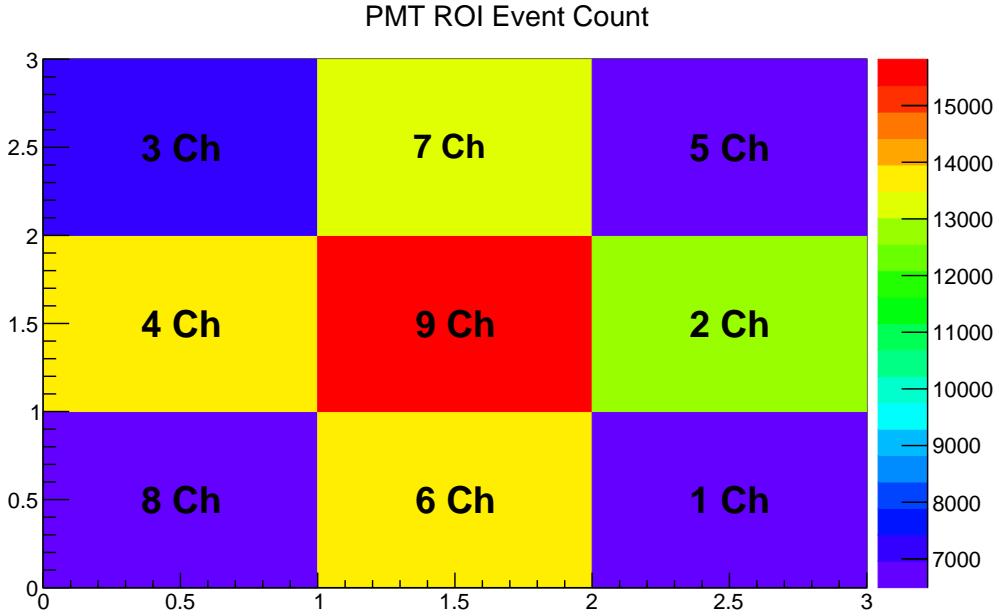


Figure 5.4: Number of UCN events for each channel. The total number of UCN events decrease as we move towards the corner channels.

three groups: deadtime, crosstalk and pileup. Deadtime is the minimum time difference between two subsequent UCN events in the same PMT, which gives rise to a loss of UCN counts. Crosstalk arises from multiple trigger events in neighboring PMTs originated from the same UCN event. This would falsely increase the total UCN counts. Pileup is the combination of multiple events into a single event. It includes UCN-UCN, UCN- $\gamma$ ,  $\gamma$ -UCN and  $\gamma$ - $\gamma$  pileups. The true number of UCN counts is estimated by

$$N_{\text{UCN}}^{\text{True}} = [N_{\text{UCN}}^{\text{raw}} \cdot (1 + \alpha_{pl} + \alpha_{ct})] \cdot A_{box} , \quad (5.3)$$

where  $\alpha_{pl}$  is the estimated pileup coefficient from data and independent calculations assuming Poisson statistics,  $\alpha_{ct}$  is the estimated time-coincidence analysis on data, and  $A_{box}$  is the UCN box efficiency estimated using Monte-Carlo simulations. Based on our Monte-Carlo simulations, the  $\gamma$ -UCN and UCN- $\gamma$  pileups are not a concern for UCN counting. In addition,  $\gamma$ - $\gamma$  pileup does not leak into the UCN box.

The result of such analyses showed the UCN box acceptance is at  $99.7 \pm 0.1\%$ . The UCN-UCN pileup at  $1 \mu\text{A}$  beam current and 60 s irradiation of the target was measured to be at 0.075 Hz or has an effect of less than 1%. The analysis indicated that cross-talk

has a negligible effect on the operating rates and deadtime affects the rates by less than 2%.

### 5.3 UCN Count Measurements

The total number of produced UCN in the vertical source,  $N$ , at a certain time  $t_i$ , when the UCN valve is closed is the integration of Eqn. 5.1

$$N = P\tau_1 \left[ 1 - \exp \left( \frac{-t_i}{\tau_1} \right) \right] , \quad (5.4)$$

where the UCN storage lifetime  $\tau_1$  is given by

$$\frac{1}{\tau_1} = \frac{f_1}{\tau_{\text{He}}} + \frac{1-f_1}{\tau_{\text{vapour}}} + \frac{1}{\tau_{\text{wall},1}} + \frac{1}{\tau_\beta} . \quad (5.5)$$

The storage lifetime consists of four terms: the loss rate in the superfluid helium  $f_1\tau_{\text{He}}^{-1}$ , the loss rate in the helium vapour  $(1-f_1)\tau_{\text{vapour}}^{-1}$ , the loss rate in the UCN guide walls  $\tau_{\text{wall},1}^{-1}$ , and the neutron  $\beta$  decay  $\tau_\beta^{-1}$ . The volume in which the UCN are produced includes the UCN bottle, as well as the horizontal guide section before the UCN valve (see Fig. 4.8). This volume is not fully filled with the superfluid helium. The quantity  $f_1$  is the probability of UCN being in the superfluid helium while the UCN valve is closed. After the valve is opened, the total UCN lifetime is

$$\frac{1}{\tau_2} = \frac{f_2}{\tau_{\text{He}}} + \frac{1-f_2}{\tau_{\text{vapour}}} + \frac{1}{\tau_{\text{wall},2}} + \frac{1}{\tau_d} + \frac{1}{\tau_\beta} , \quad (5.6)$$

where  $f_2$  is the probability of UCN being in the superfluid helium,  $\tau_{\text{wall},2}^{-1}$  is the UCN guide loss rate in the case where the valve is open and the target irradiation is stopped, and  $\tau_d^{-1}$  is the loss rate in the detector. Fig. 5.5 shows three measurement cycles at  $1 \mu\text{A}$  beam current, and 60 s irradiation time with zero second delay time between the end of the target irradiation and opening the UCN valve (here sometimes this is referred to as the cycle delay time or valve open delay time). The dashed lines indicate the start of the target irradiation for a cycle, the dotted lines show the end of the target irradiation,

which in this case is the same as the UCN valve open time. The solid lines shows the valve close time.

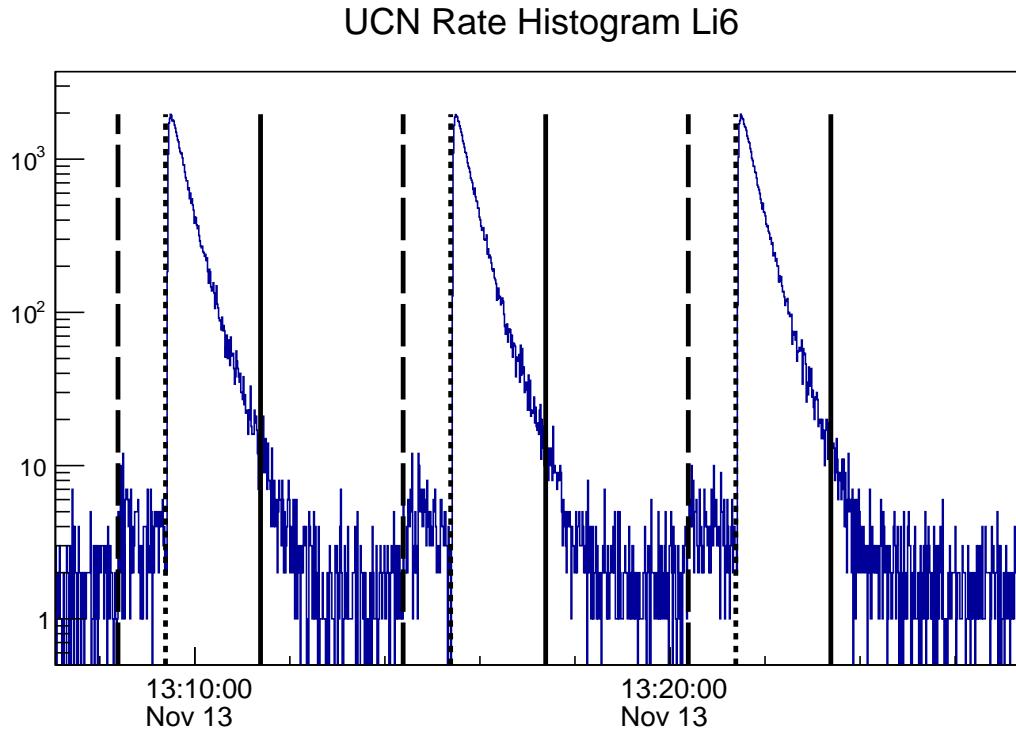


Figure 5.5: Three measurement cycles for 1  $\mu\text{A}$  beam current, 60 s irradiation time, and 0 s valve open delay time. The dashed lines show the start of the target irradiation, the dotted lines show the end of the irradiation and the valve open time for each cycle and the solid lines show the end of a cycle, which is the valve close time.

The total UCN counts are given by the sum of all the UCN events for the duration of the valve open time. However, this method of counting includes backgrounds. To subtract the background counts from the actual UCN counts, the UCN background rate is calculated before the start of the irradiation of that particular cycle. This rate is then multiplied by the valve open duration, which then gives an estimate of the total background UCN counts. The background rate is typically less than 5 UCN/s. The subtraction of the latter from the total UCN counts gives the actual number of UCN that are produced by the isopure helium converter and detected by the detector. At the observed UCN count rates, the statistical uncertainty is available by taking the square root of the number of measured events, as follows conveniently from Poisson statistics [155].

### 5.3.1 UCN Yield Versus Proton Beam Current

A unique feature of the TRIUMF facility compared to RCNP is the higher current compatibility (RCNP: 400 MeV at  $< 1 \mu\text{A}$ ). Fig. 5.6 shows the total UCN counts versus the applied proton beam current in  $\mu\text{A}$  at 60 s irradiation time. The background UCN is subtracted off from the detected UCN counts as explained earlier. The statistical uncertainty on the UCN counts is calculated as  $\sqrt{N}$ . At lower beam currents, the total UCN counts increase linearly with the proton beam current. The dashed line shows the extrapolation to higher beam currents in an ideal case. However, at higher beam currents, the total UCN counts decreases due to an increase in the heat load on the isopure superfluid helium, and therefore, its temperature. Theoretically, the upscattering rate in the superfluid helium is related to its temperature as  $T^7$  (see Section 1.6.2). This has been confirmed by performing PENTrack simulations and comparing the result to the acquired data (see Section 5.5).

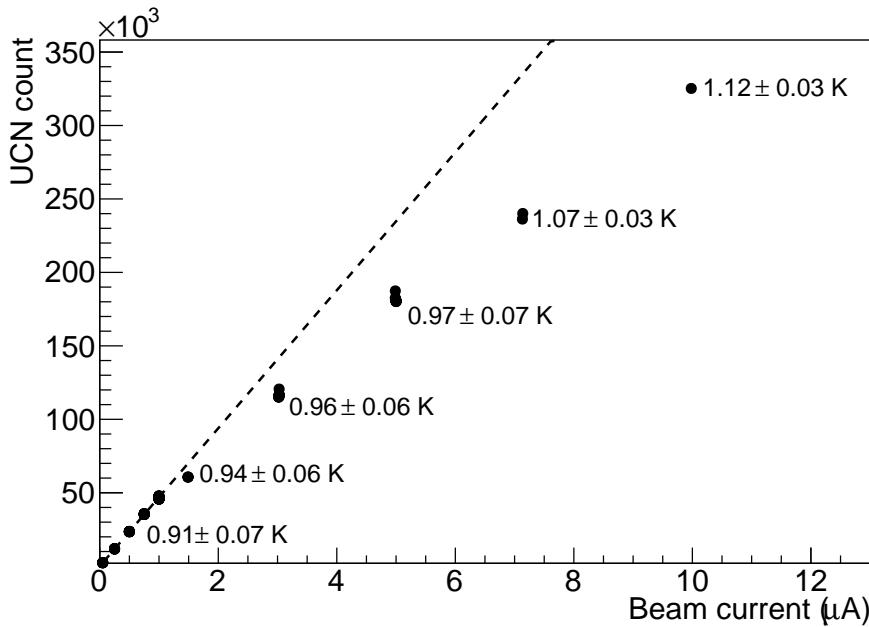


Figure 5.6: The total UCN counts versus the applied proton beam current for 60 s target irradiation times. The labels show the full range of the superfluid helium temperature for that measurement. The dashed line is the fit to the UCN counts at low beam currents. The total UCN counts can be described by Eqn. 5.4. Here the production rate grows linearly with current and  $\tau_1$  varies with time.

The labels in the graph show the full range of the isopure helium temperatures during

the measurement cycle. Four temperature sensors were used to measure the superfluid helium temperature with the following names in our EPICS system: TS11, TS12, TS14 and TS16. The location of these sensors are shown in Fig. 5.7. The temperature sensor TS11 is located at the UCN heat exchanger bottom, the temperature sensor TS14 is located at the UCN heat exchanger top, the temperature sensor TS12 is located at the UCN double tube bottom, and the temperature sensor TS16 is located at the UCN double tube top. At low temperatures around 0.8 K, these temperature sensors show a maximum of 0.1 K discrepancy with TS16 showing the highest value, and TS12 showing the lowest value.

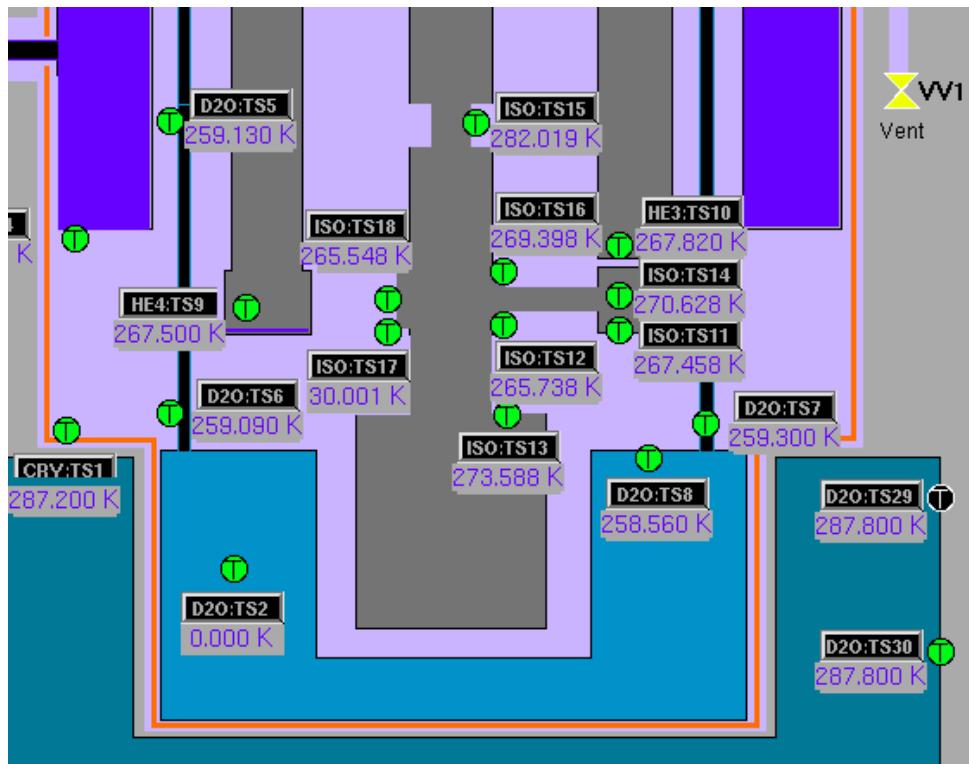


Figure 5.7: Zoomed in screen-shot of the EPICS temperature monitoring screen 4.13. TS11 is located at the UCN heat exchanger bottom, TS12 is located at the UCN double tube bottom, TS14 is located at the heat exchanger double tube top and TS16 is located at the UCN double tube top. For further information about the source schematic see Section 4.3

At lower beam currents, because of the low heat load on the superfluid helium, its temperature change is not significant, and it gives rise to a linear increase in the UCN counts versus at various applied proton beam current. However, at higher proton beam currents, the temperature of the superfluid increases due to a higher heat load, and it

gives rise to higher upscattering rate in the superfluid and lower UCN counts.

### 5.3.2 UCN Yield Versus Target Irradiation Times

The total UCN counts are optimized by irradiating the target with different proton beam currents for different irradiation times. The result is shown in Fig. 5.8. In this graph, the vertical axis shows the total number of UCN counts where the background UCN are subtracted, and the horizontal axis shows the target irradiation times in seconds. Each marker represents a proton beam current. The dashed line is an exponential fit (see Eqn. 5.4) to those data points. The proton beam current and the extracted time constant from the fit are shown in the Figure.

At higher beam currents, the saturation time constant decreases due to the higher heat load and faster temperature increase in the superfluid helium. At higher beam currents and longer irradiation times, the total measured UCN counts are below the exponential extrapolation due to the higher temperature and higher upscattering rate in the superfluid helium.

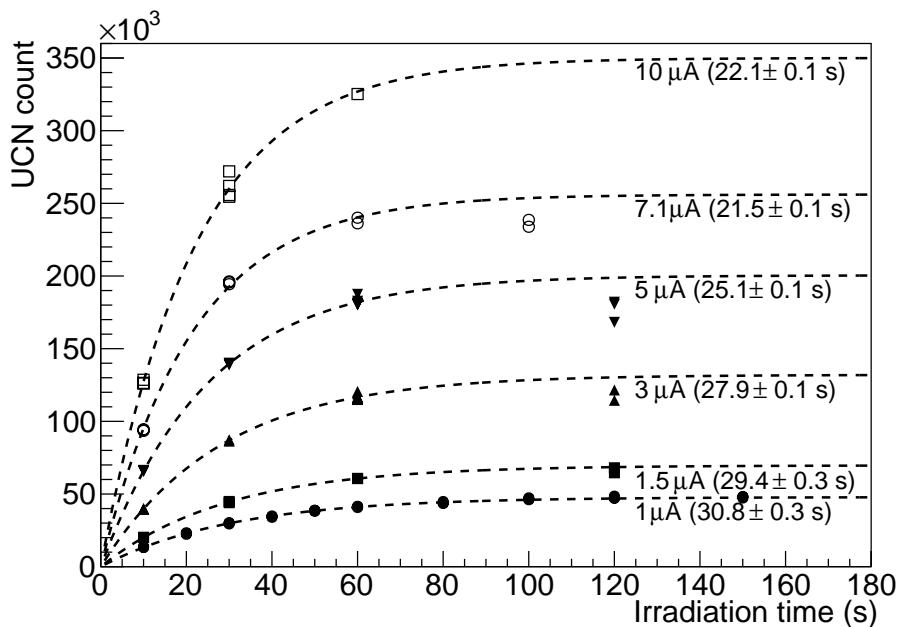


Figure 5.8: Number of UCN extracted from the source after irradiating the target for different times with different beam currents. The dashed lines extrapolate the data for irradiation times below 60 s using exponential saturation curves. The labels show the saturation time constant for each beam current.

### 5.3.3 UCN Yield Versus Isopure Helium Temperature

The UCN counts were also measured at different superfluid helium temperature (see Fig. 5.9). The vertical axis shows the number of UCN counts, and the horizontal axis shows the temperature of the superfluid helium for all four temperature sensors. The vertical error bars are  $\sqrt{N}$ , and the horizontal error bars are calculated as  $(T_{\max} - T_{\min})/2$  for each temperature sensor, where  $T_{\max}$  is the maximum value of the superfluid helium temperature reading by one temperature sensor, and  $T_{\min}$  is the minimum value read for the same sensor.

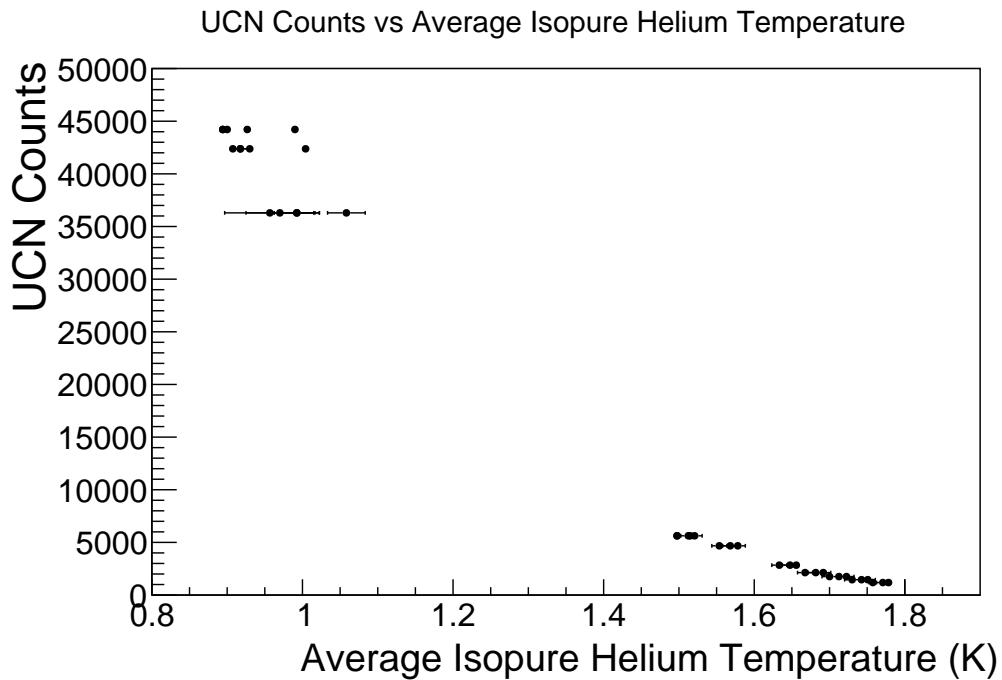


Figure 5.9: UCN yield versus the superfluid helium temperature. At a particular UCN counts, there are several values for the temperature of the superfluid helium. This is due to the discrepancy in the temperature sensor readings as described in the text.

As the temperature of the superfluid helium increases, the number of UCN counts in the detector decreases as expected. This is mainly due to the high UCN upscattering rate in the superfluid helium at higher temperatures which is further quantified in Section 5.5.2.

### 5.3.4 Steady-state UCN Production

The results shown so far are achieved in the batch mode of operation. In addition to such measurements, the UCN rate was also measured at different beam currents in the steady-state mode of operation. In these measurements, the UCN valve was left open, and the target was irradiated for about 10 min. A typical UCN rate graph for  $0.3 \mu\text{A}$  beam current and 10 min target irradiation time is shown in Fig. 5.10.

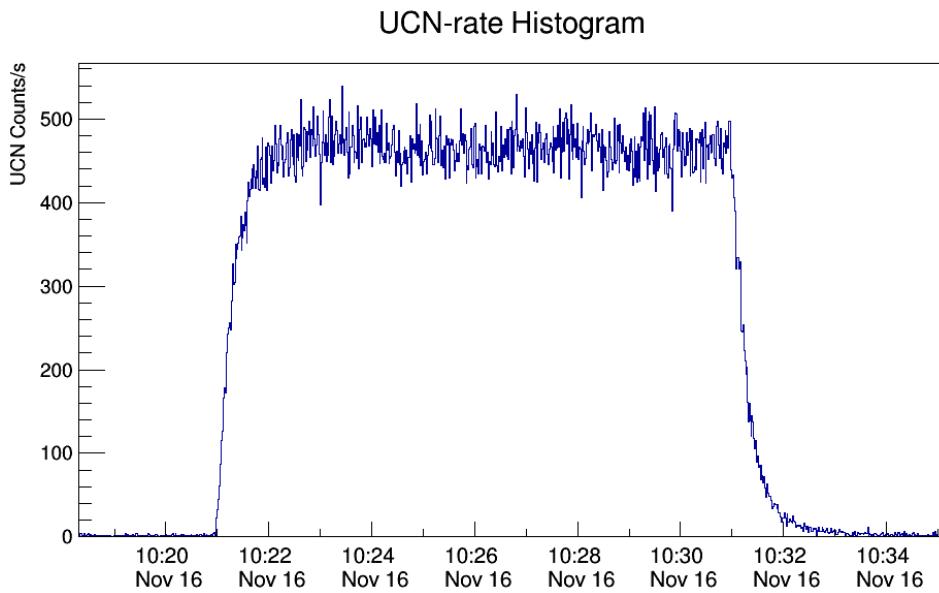


Figure 5.10: UCN rate at the steady-state production mode with  $0.3 \mu\text{A}$  proton beam current. The UCN rate reaches a constant value of 450 UCN counts/s.

At lower beam currents such as  $0.3 \mu\text{A}$ , the UCN rate remains constant throughout the whole target irradiation time as shown in Fig. 5.10. An example of a steady-state UCN production at  $3 \mu\text{A}$  is shown in Fig. 5.11. Since the proton beam current is high, the UCN rate does not remain constant. Here the maximum UCN rate is observed near the start of the target irradiation. As the target irradiation continues, the heat load on the cryostat increases the temperature, and the upscattering rate in the superfluid helium. As a result, the UCN rate decreases. The change in the temperature is shown in Fig. 5.12. Throughout the target irradiation time, the temperature of the superfluid helium increases. Once the irradiation stops, the temperature starts to decrease.

The steady-state UCN rate measurements were conducted at different proton beam currents, leading to different temperature changes for all temperature sensors. The result

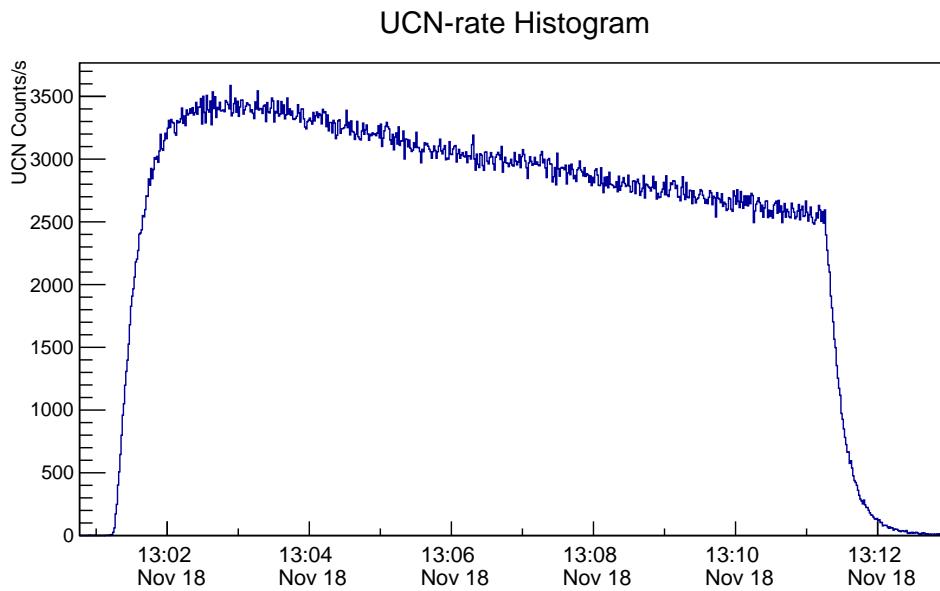


Figure 5.11: The UCN rate at  $3 \mu\text{A}$  beam current at 10 min irradiation time at the steady-state mode of operation. The UCN valve is left open throughout the measurement cycle. Quickly after the start of the target irradiation the UCN rate in the detector goes up. The target irradiation creates a heat load on the cryostat and the superfluid helium. This gives rise to a slow temperature increase in the source. As a result, the UCN rate goes down due to the higher upscattering rate.

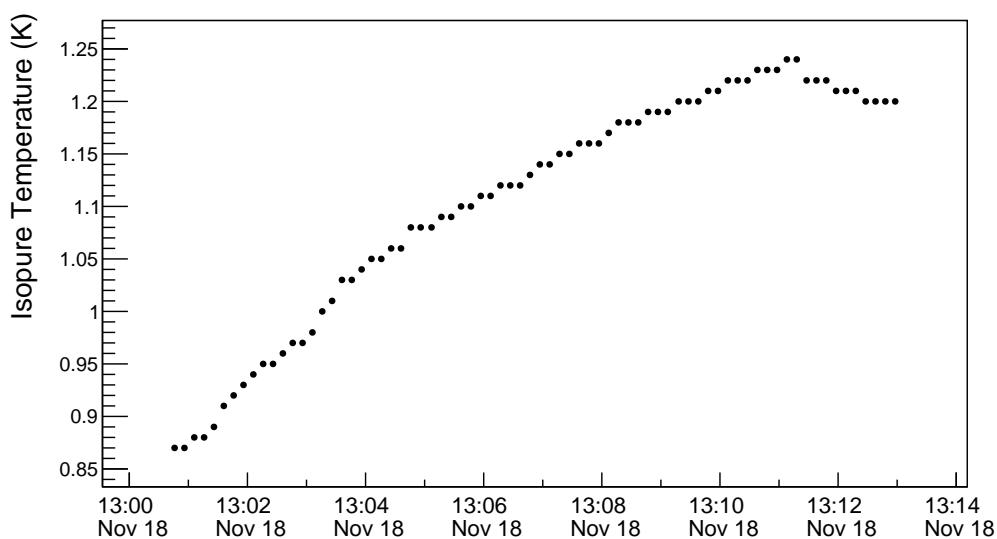


Figure 5.12: The temperature of the superfluid helium (TS12) for the steady state mode of operation at  $3 \mu\text{A}$  beam current and 10 min target irradiation. After the irradiation stops, the temperature starts to decrease.

of all those measurements and comparison to simulations are discussed in Section 5.5.

### 5.3.5 UCN Yield Over the Experiment Period

The total UCN counts for our standard measurements at  $1 \mu\text{A}$  beam current and 60 s irradiation time over the course of the experimental run is shown in Fig. 5.13. The graph shows an overall decrease of about  $\sim 40\%$  over the course of the eighteen days. The source volume is connected to a long UCN guide sealed with an O-ring. It is expected that the rest gas added contaminants to the source every time the UCN valve is opened. This caused a decrease in the UCN yield (and storage lifetime as shown later in Section 5.4.3) over the course of the measurement. In addition, the changes in the UCN guide geometry in the latter half of the run potentially affected this drop by adding contamination to the source and increasing the losses.

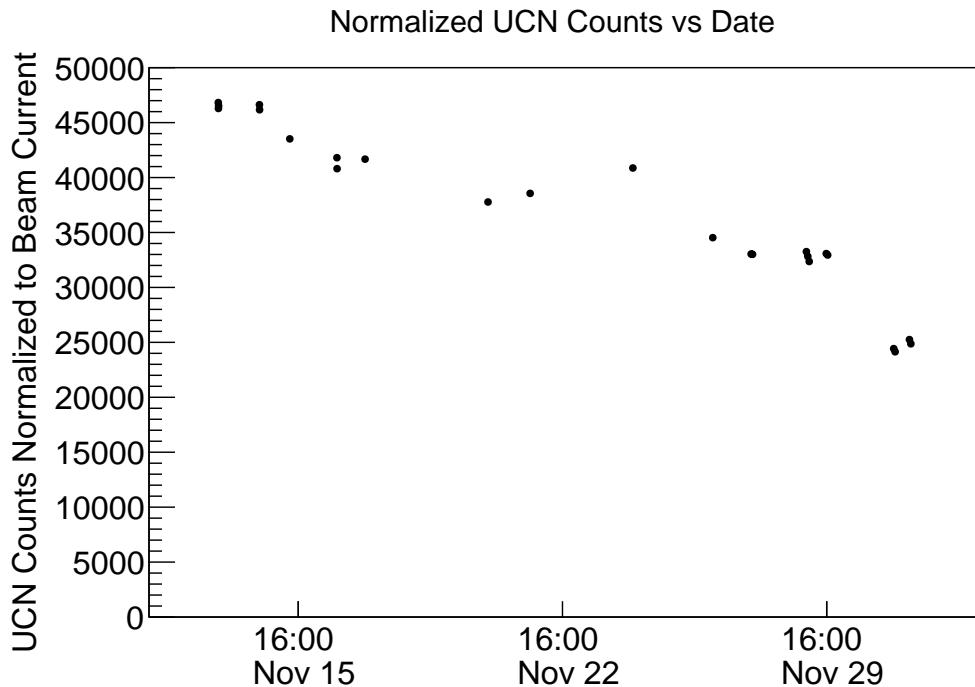


Figure 5.13: The total UCN counts extracted from the source for  $1 \mu\text{A}$  beam current and 60 s irradiation time at different days during the experimental run.

## 5.4 UCN Storage Lifetime

The total number of detected UCN strongly depends on the storage lifetime of the source  $\tau_1$  (see Eqn. 5.5) which indicates the performance of the UCN source. The storage lifetime of UCN is determined by measuring the detected UCN at different valve open delay times

right after the irradiation stops. The typical chosen values are 0 s, 5 s, 10 s, 20 s, 30 s, 60 s, 80 s, 120 s and 170 s. The target was irradiated for 60 s. The exponential decay constant in the fit to the total UCN counts without the background, for different valve open delay times, is the total storage lifetime in the source.

Fig. 5.14 shows several UCN cycles for the standard 1  $\mu\text{A}$  proton beam current and 60 s target irradiation time. The difference in the maximum detected UCN rate is due to different valve open delay times as labelled on the graph. Fig. 5.15 shows the total UCN

UCN Rate Histogram Li6

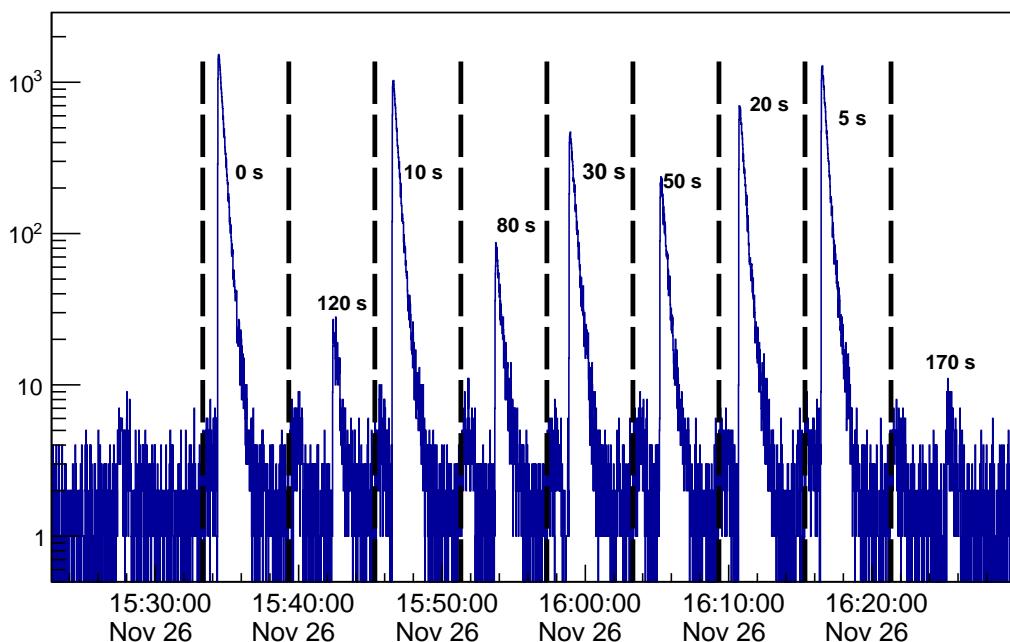


Figure 5.14: UCN cycles at different valve open delay times for 1  $\mu\text{A}$  beam current and 60 s target irradiation time. The vertical dashed line indicate the start of the target irradiation. The values in seconds represent the valve open delay times for each cycle.

counts (background subtracted) versus the valve open delay time for 1  $\mu\text{A}$  and 10  $\mu\text{A}$  proton beam current and 60 s target irradiation time. The total UCN counts at 0 s cycle delay time are higher for 10  $\mu\text{A}$ . The longer delay times give rise to lower UCN counts due to the loss mechanisms. The one exponential fit function

$$\text{UCN counts} = Ae^{-t/\tau_1}, \quad (5.7)$$

determines the storage lifetime  $\tau_1$ . At 170 s valve open delay time, the total UCN counts

are not consistent with what the fit function predicts due to low statistics. However, the result of the fit is not driven by this inconsistency as it has a negligible effect on the extracted storage lifetime because of low statistics.

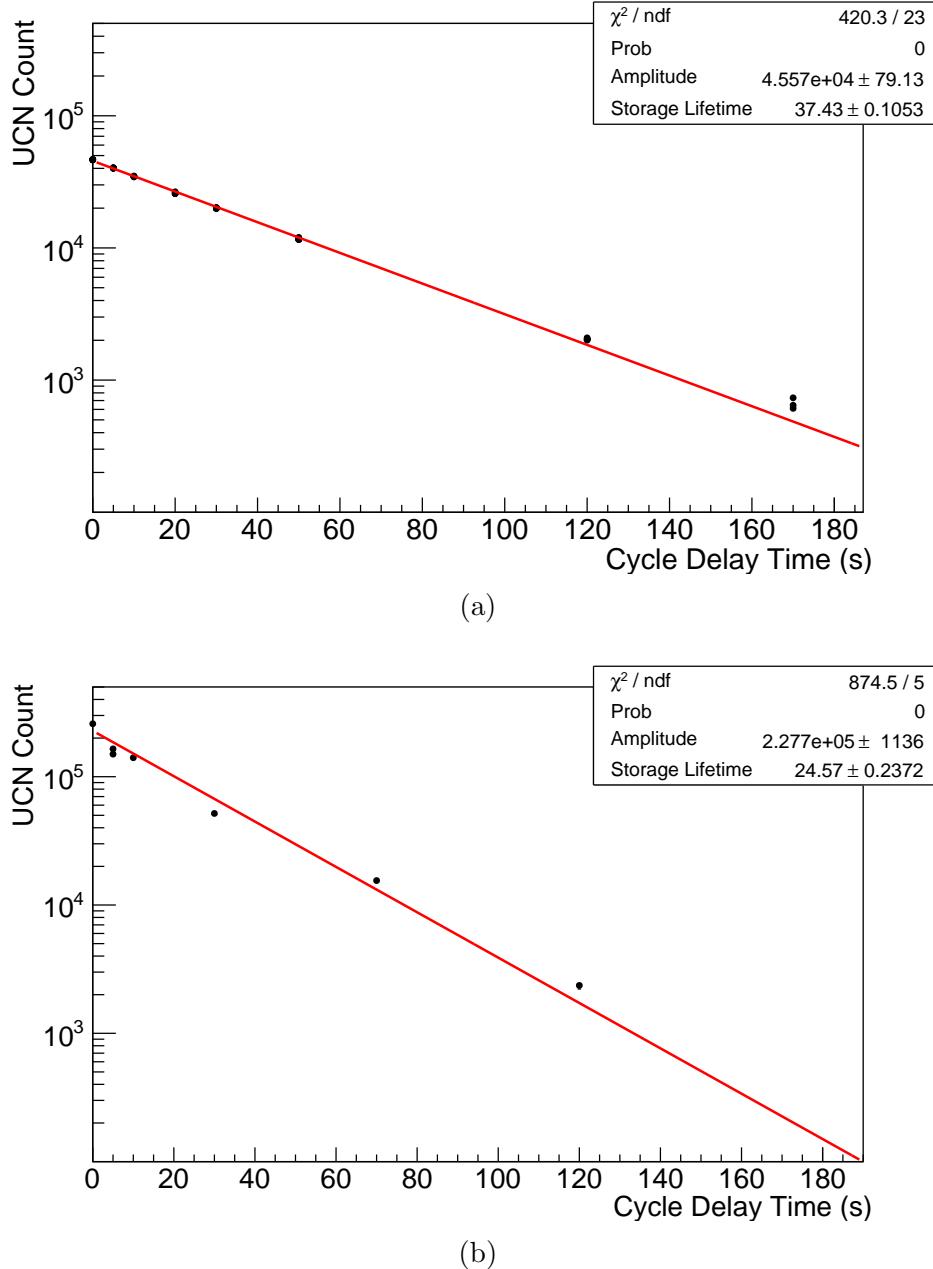


Figure 5.15: The total UCN counts at different valve open delay times for (a)  $1 \mu\text{A}$  beam current and 60 s irradiation time and (b)  $10 \mu\text{A}$  beam current and 30 s target irradiation time. The red line is the one exponential fit. The initial UCN counts for the  $10 \mu\text{A}$  target irradiation is higher. However, the storage lifetime is lower compared to  $1 \mu\text{A}$  beam current because of the heat load on the superfluid helium. In the case of  $10 \mu\text{A}$  beam current, the maximum cycle delay time is 120 s compared to the 170 s delay time in the case of  $1 \mu\text{A}$  beam current. This is due to excessive heat load on the cryostat and low statistics.

### 5.4.1 Storage Lifetime Versus Beam Current and Irradiation Time

The storage lifetime of UCN in the source is measured at different proton beam currents and different target irradiation times for a better understanding of the source. The result of those measurements is shown in Fig. 5.16. Here the vertical axis shows the storage lifetime in the source in seconds, and the horizontal axis shows the proton beam current in  $\mu\text{A}$ . Each marker represents a target irradiation time. At lower beam currents, the duration of the target irradiation does not make a significant difference in the storage lifetime. At higher proton beam currents, the longer the irradiation time takes, the lower the storage lifetime will be. In summary, irradiating the target at high proton beam currents and longer irradiation times create a higher heat load on the UCN source, which leads to higher upscattering rates, and as a result, lower UCN storage lifetime in the source.

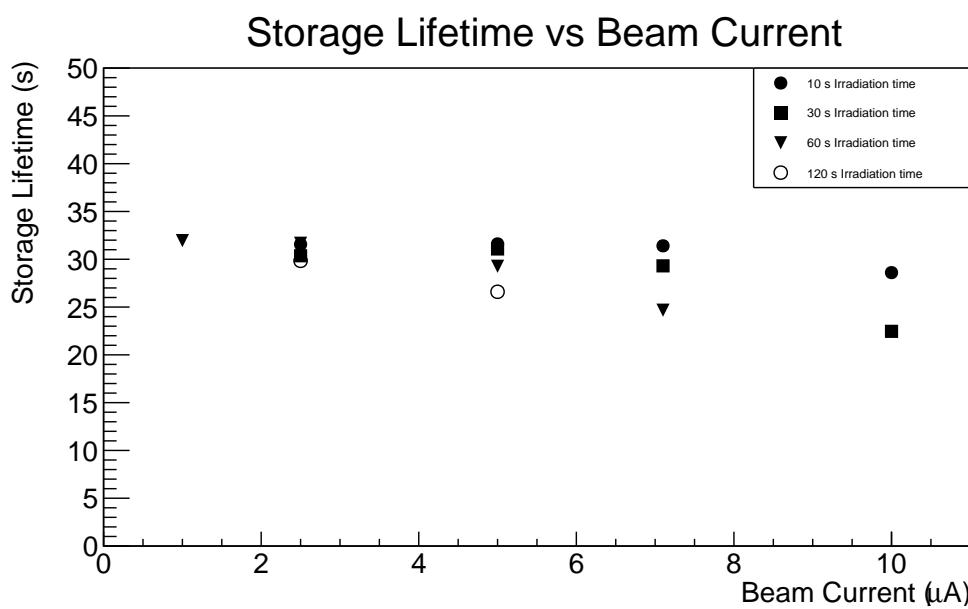


Figure 5.16: Storage lifetime in the source at different irradiation times and proton beam currents. Different markers refer to different target irradiation times. At longer irradiation times and higher beam currents, the storage lifetime decreases due to the increased heat load in the source, and an increase in the superfluid helium temperature.

### 5.4.2 Storage Lifetime Versus Isopure Helium Temperature

The storage lifetime of UCN was also measured at different temperatures of the superfluid helium. In this experiment, the temperature of the superfluid was increased by using heater wire wrapped around the UCN bottle. The heater powers were set to increase the temperatures by a certain amount. Once the temperatures stabilized, target irradiation was started.

The result of this measurement is shown in Fig. 5.17. The vertical axis is the storage lifetime of UCN in seconds, and the horizontal axis is the temperature of the superfluid helium. As mentioned earlier, the four temperature sensors that measure the temperature of the superfluid show some discrepancy. As a result, for a given measurement, there are four different values for the temperature of the superfluid. The vertical error bars come from the fit, and the horizontal error bars are set as  $(T_{\max} - T_{\min})/2$ , as discussed earlier. The data shows a downward trend. As the temperature of the superfluid helium increases, the storage lifetime in the source decreases. This is due to higher upscattering rate in the superfluid helium at higher temperatures.

### 5.4.3 Storage Lifetime Over Experimental Period

Standard storage lifetime measurements were performed on a daily basis over the course of the experimental run. This includes the irradiation of the target at  $1 \mu\text{A}$  proton beam current for 60 s. The result of those measurements are shown in Fig. 5.18. Over a two week period, the storage lifetime decreased from 37 s to 27 s. This is possibly due to progressive contamination in the UCN source after opening the UCN valve.

## 5.5 Main Results

For better understanding of the loss mechanisms of UCN, the experiments were also simulated in PENTrack [102]. PENTrack is a particle tracking simulation software which simulates the trajectories of UCN and their decay products (e.g., protons and electrons) and their spin precession in complex geometries in electric and magnetic fields by solving

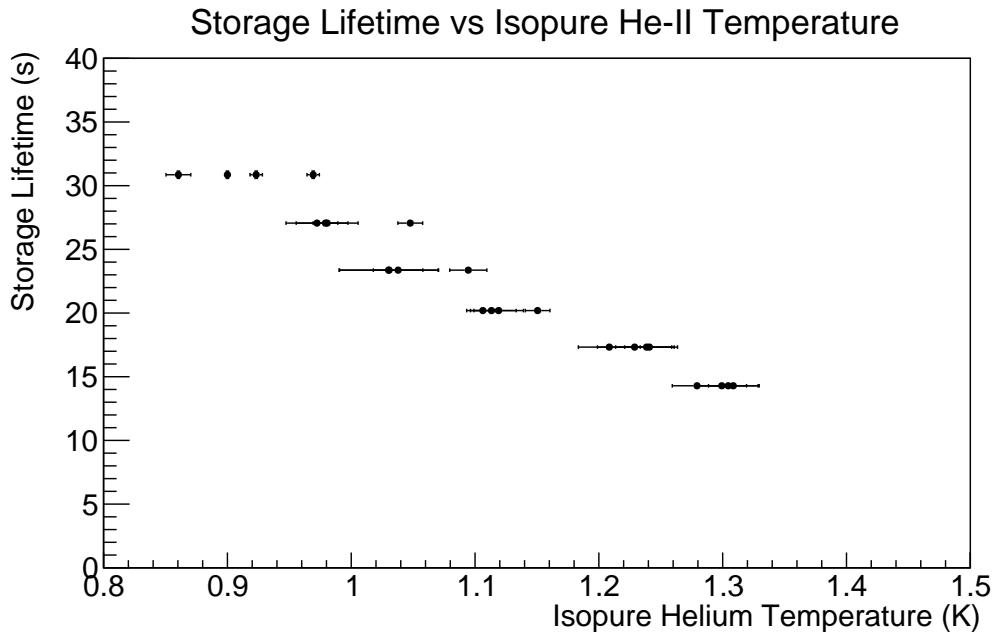


Figure 5.17: Storage lifetime of UCN at different isopure helium temperatures. In this experiment, the temperature of the superfluid helium was set using heater tapes around the UCN bottle. The vertical axis shows the storage lifetime in seconds and the horizontal axis shows the superfluid helium temperature in Kelvin. As the temperature increases, the storage lifetime decreases. This is due to higher upscattering rate in the superfluid helium at higher temperatures.

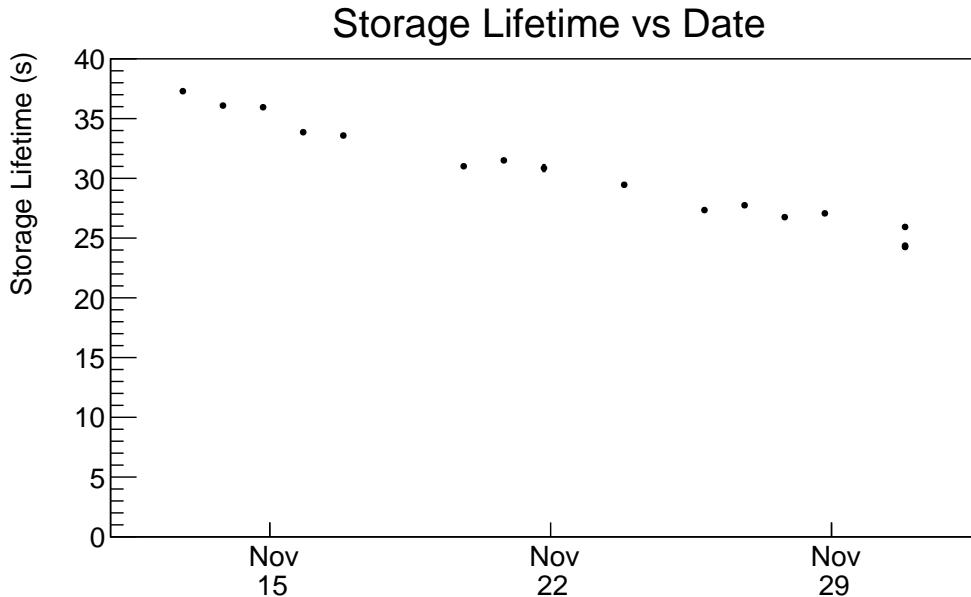


Figure 5.18: Storage lifetime in the source over the experimental run. A 2% daily decrease in the storage lifetime is observed possibly due to the contamination in the source after opening the UCN valve. The two different values of the storage lifetime at the end of the experimental run is due to different configuration.

the relativistic equations of motion.

To simulate the UCN storage and transport, an exact model of the UCN guides for

PENTrack was built by the TUCAN team. Here the result of those simulations and comparison to the measured data are presented.

### 5.5.1 UCN Guide Diffusivity

As discussed in Chapter 1, UCN interact with all four fundamental forces. To describe the interaction of UCN with matter, a complex optical potential is used to describe matters:

$$U = V - iW \quad (5.8)$$

where the real part,  $V$ , depends on the number densities and bound coherent scattering lengths of each nucleus species. The imaginary part,  $W$ , depends on the loss cross-section for a given velocity. Upon the incidence of a UCN on a surface, it can be reflected either specularly or diffusely. The specular reflection by definition is the reflection of light from a smooth surface at a reflection angle equal to the incident angle. The diffuse reflection is the reflection by rough surfaces that tend to reflect light in all directions.

PENTrack simulations were performed to extract the diffusivity of the UCN guides (see Fig. 4.8). Experimental geometries imported in PENTrack are the STL files made through CAD models. For these simulations, the exact model of the vertical UCN source was used including the burst disk, the actual shape of the UCN valve in the open and close state, pinhole detector, foil and the main  ${}^6\text{Li}$  detector (see Section 4.3 for more details).

In the PENTrack simulations, the interaction of UCN with material boundaries and bulk material is handled by determining the UCN track intersections with the STL mesh triangles and selecting the relevant model to describe the behaviour: specular reflection, diffuse reflection (Lambert model or Microroughness model), transmission via Snell's law, diffuse transmission (Lambert model or Microroughness model), absorption or upscattering at a material boundary, and absorption or upscattering in the bulk of the material. To track particles, PENTrack performs a 5th-order-Runge-Kutta integration of a general, relativistic equation of motion including gravitational acceleration, Lorentz forces due to magnetic and electric fields, and the force of a magnetic-gradient field on the particle's

magnetic moment. To simulate the precession of spins in magnetic fields, PENTrack can integrate the Bargmann-Michel-Telegdi (BMT) equation along a particle's trajectory.

The material list includes real and imaginary optical potentials, Lambert reflection probabilities, Microroughness parameters, and spin-flip probabilities. The imaginary optical potential of a material can vary with temperature and thus materials must be treated separately at different temperatures. PENTrack has no direct temperature parameter, so the imaginary optical potentials are calculated. Only the Lambert model was used for the simulations to study the transmission properties of UCN guides.

In PENTrack simulations, the optical potential of materials is used to model their interaction with UCN. The imaginary part of the optical potential ( $W$ ) determines the loss of UCN (see Section 1.5). Table 5.1 collects the material parameters used in our simulations. The absorption in the foil is set according to the measurements in [156]. The main detector is modelled with its two scintillator layers [104] and their corresponding optical potentials and absorption cross-section, as stated in [157]. In the simulations, it is assumed that the spectrum of produced UCN is proportional to  $\sqrt{E}$  and that the upscattering rate in the superfluid helium follows  $\tau_{\text{He}} = BT^7$ , with  $B$  between  $0.008 \text{ s}^{-1}$  and  $0.016 \text{ s}^{-1}$  as measured by [56]. The imaginary optical potentials of the UCN guides and the production volume were tuned (see Table 5.1) to give a storage lifetime in the source ( $\tau_1$ ) that matches the storage lifetime during the middle of the experimental run.

The helium vapour above the liquid is included in the simulations with an upscattering rate  $\tau_{\text{vapour}}^{-1} = \langle v \rangle n \sigma_{\text{He},n}$  depending on the average atomic velocity  $\langle v \rangle$  which is given by the vapour temperature, the vapour density  $n$  given by the saturated vapour pressure of the liquid and the vapour temperature, and the thermal-neutron-scattering cross-section of helium  $\sigma_{\text{He},n} = 0.76 \text{ b}$ . This is because, the temperature of the vapour right above the superfluid helium liquid is the same as the superfluid temperature itself and it increases to room temperature while moving along the guides. In this model, since the helium vapour above the liquid has much higher temperature than the superfluid helium liquid, the helium atoms have much higher velocities as compared to the UCN. As a result, it might seem that the UCN are stationary. Therefore, in the reference frame of the

Material	Optical Potential (neV)	Diffusivity
He-II	$18.8 - 0.5\hbar BT^7 i$	0.16
He vapour	$-0.5\hbar\tau_{\text{vapour}}^{-1} i$	0
Production volume (NiP)	$213 - 0.120i$	0.05
Guides (stainless steel)	$183 - 0.140i$	0.03
Foil (aluminium) [156]	$54.1 - 0.00281i$	0.20
GS30 scintillator [157]	$83.1 - 0.000123i$	0.16
GS20 scintillator [157]	$103 - 1.24i$	0.16

Table 5.1: Material parameters used in PENTrack simulation.

helium atoms, thermal neutrons are moving towards the helium atoms. It was assumed that the vapour has the same temperature gradient as measured by several temperature sensors on the outer guide wall. To include the temperature gradient in the simulation, the guide volume was split into 10 cm long sections and assigned each an averaged UCN upscattering rate in that section.

To match the simulated UCN transport with the measured data more accurately, both the simulation and the measured UCN rate in the detector after opening the valve at  $t = 0$  are fitted with the function

$$R(t) = R_0 \left[ 1 - \exp \left( -\frac{t - \Delta t}{\tau_{\text{rise}}} \right) \right] \exp \left( -\frac{t - \Delta t}{\tau_2} \right) + R_B \quad (5.9)$$

In this equation,  $\Delta t$  is the delay time between opening the valve and detecting the first UCN which is typically 2 to 3 s in the measurements. The parameter  $R_B$  is the background UCN rate in the experimental data and is zero in the simulations. The fit function, the rise time  $\tau_{\text{rise}}$ , and the fall time  $\tau_2$  are shown in Fig. 5.19 for a given UCN cycle.

In the simulations, the Lambert model is used to tune the probability of UCN being diffusely reflected on the guide walls to match the rise time and fall time of the UCN rate in the storage lifetime measurements (see Figs. 5.20 and Fig. 5.21). The delay time  $\Delta t$  is a constant in all scenarios. In the graphs, the data is shown by the boxes and the simulation results for different UCN guide diffusivity are shown by different markers. The boxes indicate the second and third quartile of the experimental data. The median lies between the second and third quartile. Median divides the data into two parts where the equal number of data points lie above and below it. The lowest 25% of data points

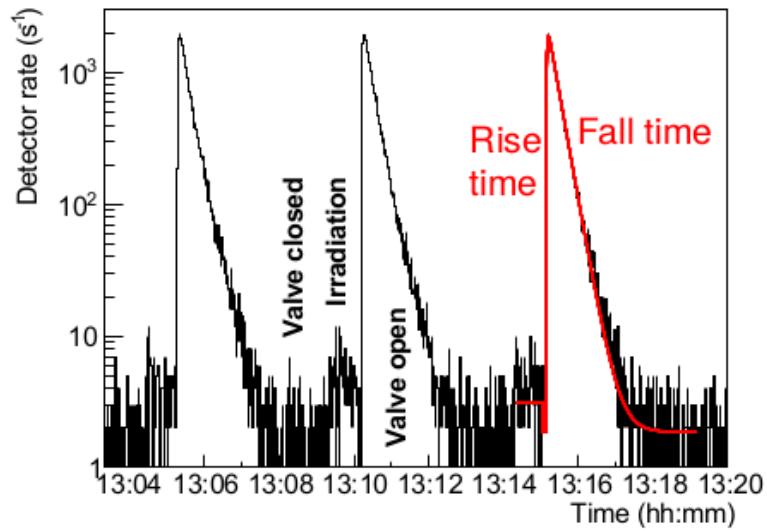


Figure 5.19: UCN rate with two exponential fit shown in red. The rise time and fall time are labelled.

are in the first quartile, the next 25% are in the second quartile, the next 25% are in the third quartile, and the highest 25% are in the fourth quartile. Each quartile contains a quarter of the data.

Diffuse reflection probabilities of 1% and 10% clearly result in too short and too long time constants. The experimental fall time can be matched with diffuse reflection probabilities of 3% and 5%. The rise time is best matched with 3%. This value is similar to values reported for a range of UCN guides [158–160].

### 5.5.2 UCN Yield and Storage Lifetime Simulations

To estimate the UCN production, an accurate model of target, moderator and UCN converter geometries was built for MCNP6.1, taking into account material impurities determined from assays and fill levels of liquid moderator vessels (see Fig. 5.22). The full source was then simulated: the proton beam hitting the target, secondary neutrons, protons, photons, and electrons, and neutron moderation in graphite and heavy water. In contrast to liquid heavy water, there is no detailed data on thermal neutron scattering in solid heavy water available. Instead, we relied on a free-gas model with an effective tem-

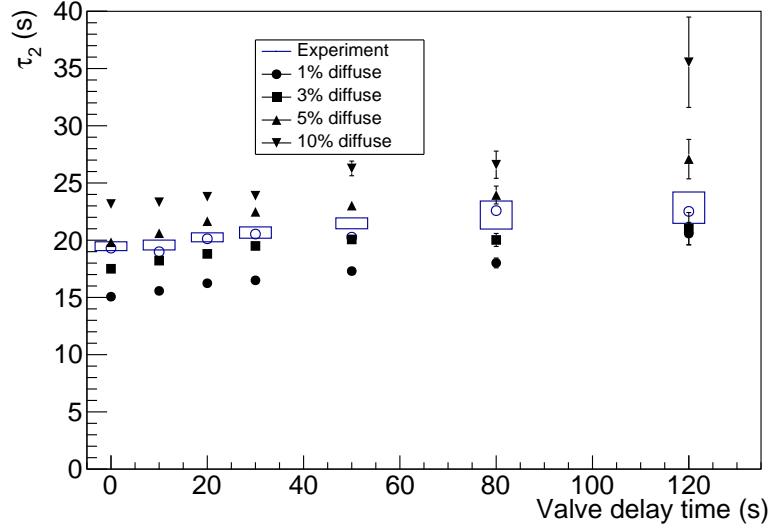


Figure 5.20: Comparison of fall time  $\tau_2$  in the experimental data and the simulations with different diffuse-reflection probabilities. The boxes indicate the second and third quartile of the experimental data (see text for the definition of quartiles). The empty circle indicates its average.

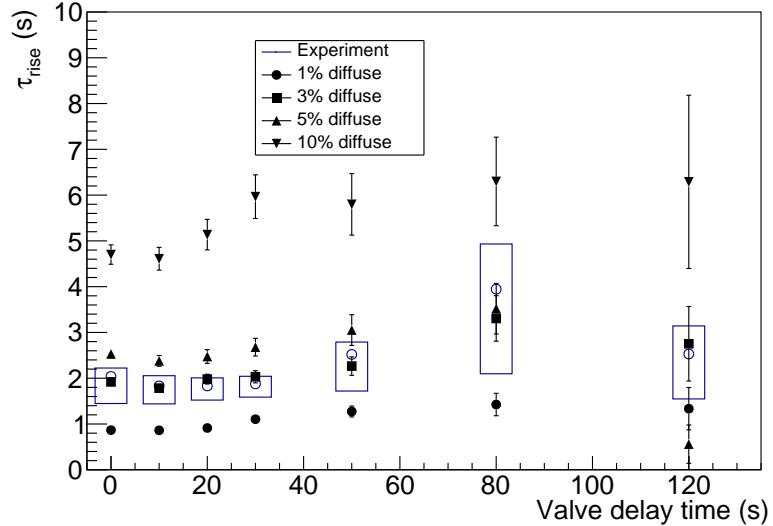


Figure 5.21: Comparison of rise time  $\tau_{\text{rise}}$  in experimental data and simulations with different diffuse-reflection probabilities. The boxes indicate the second and third quartile of the experimental data (see text for the definition of quartiles). The empty circles indicate the average.

perature of 80 K, as this seems to be the minimum effective neutron temperature achieved with solid heavy water moderators [161]. From the simulated cold neutron flux in the UCN production volume and UCN production cross sections from [47, 162], a production rate of  $(20600 \pm 200) \text{ s}^{-1}$  in an energy range up to 233.5 neV was determined ( $\sqrt{E_{\text{UCN}}}$ ).

This value for the production rate was then used in the storage lifetime simulations in PENTTrack.

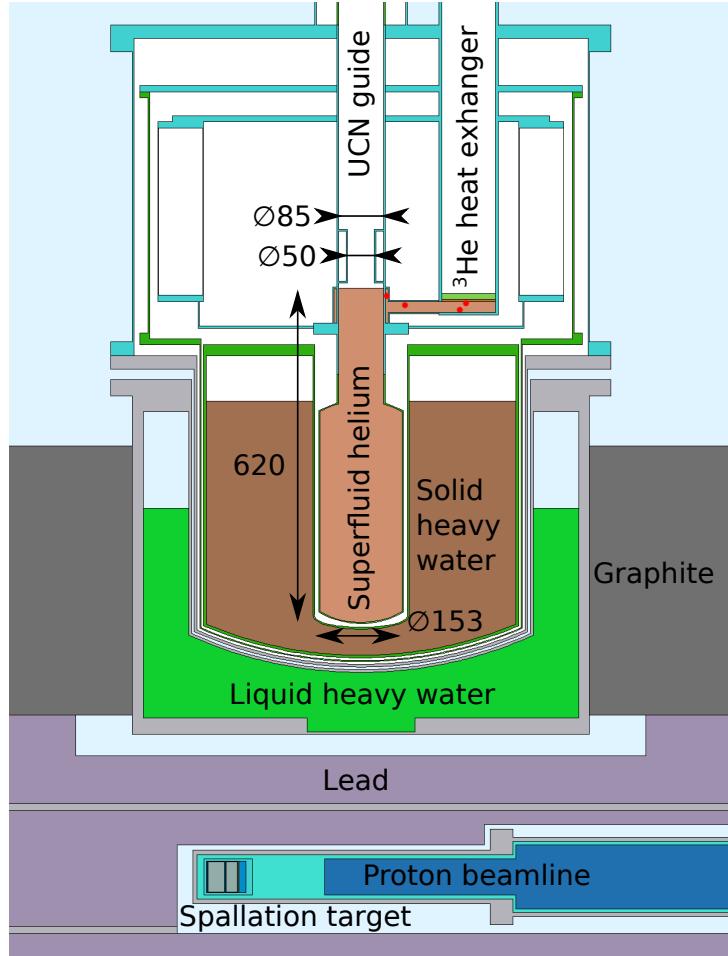


Figure 5.22: MCNP model of the source. Red dots indicate the temperature sensors used to determine the temperature of the superfluid.

Figs. 5.23 and 5.24 show the measured UCN counts and storage lifetime versus the superfluid helium temperature for all four temperature sensors as well as their simulations. To simulate the temperature of the superfluid helium, different values for the imaginary optical potential  $W$  were taken into account as it is the needed parameter for the PENTTrack simulations. The UCN upscattering in the superfluid helium is  $\tau_{\text{abs}}^{-1} = 2W/\hbar$  (see Section 1.5), and also  $\tau_{\text{abs}}^{-1} = BT^7$ . For two values of  $B$  ( $B = 0.016/\text{s}$  and  $B = 0.008/\text{s}$ , with  $T$  in K) at the desired temperature, the imaginary optical potential of superfluid helium can be calculated to use in the simulations.

In these graphs, the filled circles represent the measured data, and the empty squares and triangles represent the simulations. The empty squares are the simulations where

the helium vapour above the superfluid helium liquid is included, and empty triangles are the simulations without the helium vapour. The interpolations for the squares are shown in solid lines and the interpolations for the empty triangles are shown with dotted and dashed lines. The lines are only shown for readability and are interpolation of the simulated points.

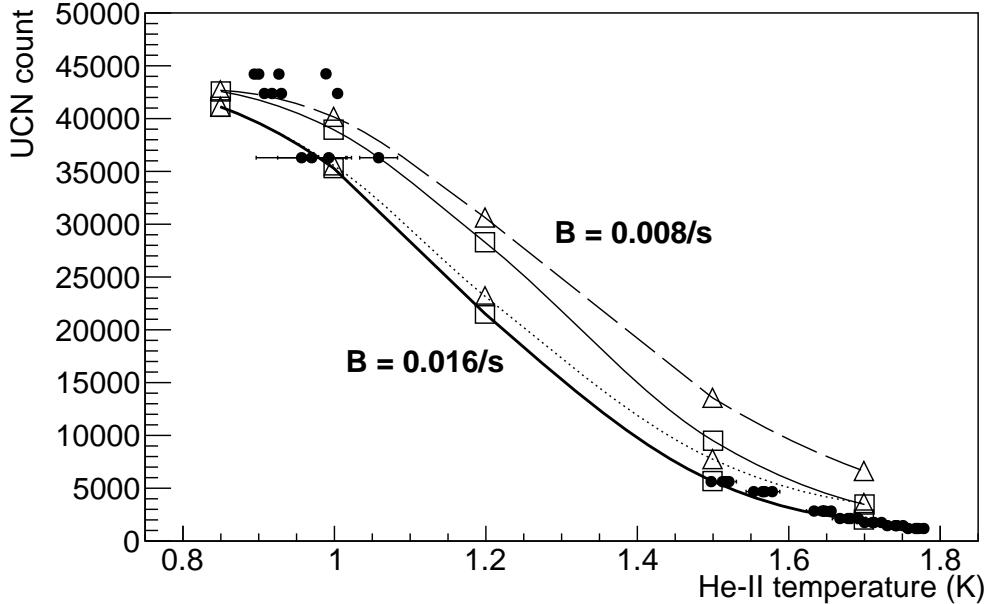


Figure 5.23: Number of UCN extracted from the source at different superfluid helium temperatures after irradiating the target with  $1 \mu\text{A}$  proton beam current for 60 s(filled circles). The empty squares represent the simulations where the helium gas above the superfluid helium liquid is taken into account and the empty triangles represent the simulations where the helium gas is not included. The lines are interpolations of simulated data to guide the eye. The simulations were performed with two values of  $B$ :  $B = 0.008/\text{s}$  (as shown with the top two lines) and  $B = 0.016/\text{s}$  (as shown with the bottom two lines). The measured data is best matched with the simulations where  $B = 0.016/\text{s}$  where the helium gas is also taken into account.

The simulations include two values for the upscattering parameter  $B$ :  $B = 0.016 \text{ s}^{-1}$ , which represent the lower thick solid line (empty squares which represents the model where the helium vapour above the superfluid helium liquid is included) and the dotted line (empty triangles where the helium vapour above the superfluid helium liquid is not included), and  $B = 0.008 \text{ s}^{-1}$  which represent the solid line (empty squares) and the dashed line (empty triangles). For the simulations with  $B = 0.016 \text{ s}^{-1}$ , when the helium vapour is also included (thick solid line), the measured data and simulations match very

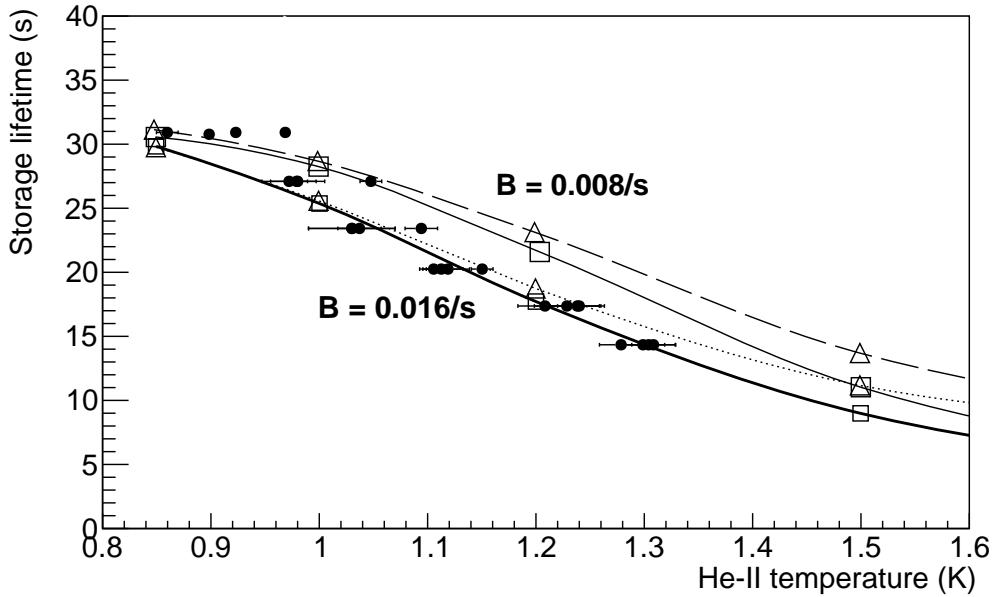


Figure 5.24: Storage lifetime of UCN in the source at different superfluid helium temperatures (filled circles). The empty squares represent the simulations where the helium gas above the superfluid helium liquid is taken into account and the empty triangles represent the simulations where the helium gas is not included. The lines are interpolations of simulated data to guide the eye. The simulations were performed with two values of  $B$ :  $B = 0.008/\text{s}$  (the top two lines and  $B = 0.016/\text{s}$ . The measured data is best matched with the simulations where  $B = 0.016/\text{s}$  where the helium gas is also taken into account. The lines are interpolations of simulated data to guide the eye.

well. Simulations without including the liquid vapour (empty triangles, dotted and dashed lines) show significant differences at higher liquid temperatures. In this model, the storage lifetime and the UCN yield at higher temperatures are overestimated. The reason for this is because of the high upscattering rate of UCN in the helium vapour.

The UCN rate in the steady-state mode of operation was measured at different proton beam currents. When the proton beam current is above  $1 \mu\text{A}$ , the temperature of the superfluid helium increases due to the excess heat load. This causes the UCN rate to slowly decrease. The overall result of those measurements and their simulations are shown in Fig. 5.25. The empty squares represent the simulations where the helium vapour above the superfluid helium liquid is included in the simulations, and the empty triangles represent the case where the helium vapour is excluded. The interpolation of the simulations are shown in lines. The simulations are performed for two values of parameter  $B$ :  $B = 0.016/\text{s}$  and  $B = 0.008/\text{s}$ . The simulated data with a liquid helium upscattering

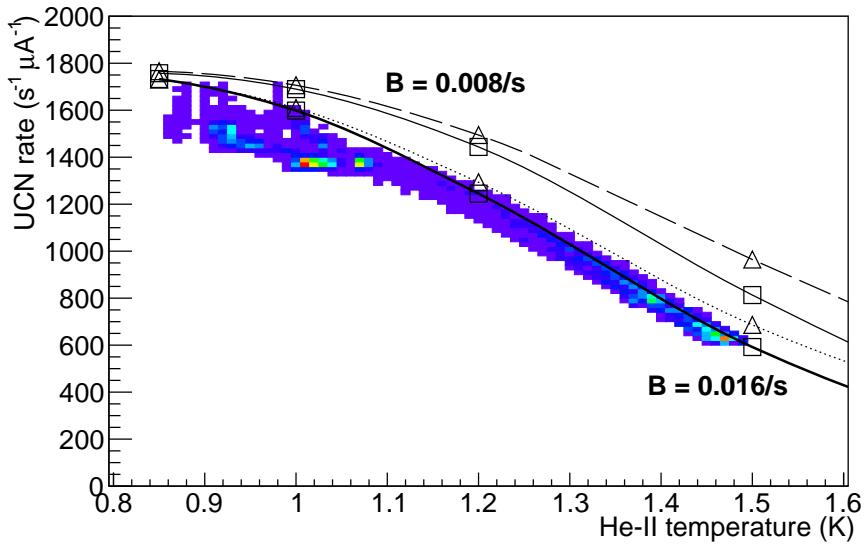


Figure 5.25: Histogram of measured UCN rates and temperatures from all four temperature sensors while the target is continuously irradiated with the UCN valve open. The empty squares represent the simulations where the helium gas above the superfluid helium liquid is taken into account and the empty triangles represent the simulations where the helium gas above the superfluid helium liquid is not included. The lines are interpolations of simulated data to guide the eye. The simulations are performed for two values of  $B$ :  $B = 0.016/s$  (shown by the two bottom lines), and  $B = 0.008/s$  (shown by the top two lines).

parameter of  $B = 0.016 s^{-1}$  (thick solid line) slightly overestimates the drop in the UCN rate with temperature. With  $B = 0.008 s^{-1}$  (solid line), it slightly overestimates the UCN rate, but better matches the drop with temperature.

Unfortunately, the discrepancies between the temperature sensors in the superfluid helium prevent a more accurate determination of the upscattering parameter.

## 5.6 Heater Test Versus Proton Beam Current

One of the UCN experiments was designed to match the heater power from the heaters wrapped around the UCN bottle with the proton beam current. This type of measurements helps to understand the input heat load on the cryostat from the beam.

The result of additional heater tests are discussed in Ref. [150]. Applying heat to the superfluid helium bottle gives rise to a temperature increase in the superfluid helium, as well as a flow rate increase in the  ${}^3\text{He}$  pot. The amount of this heat load is known simply

by knowing the applied voltage and current to the heater wire. However, the input heat load is not known in the case of the target irradiation. As a result, the steady-state UCN yield were measured at different proton beam currents as a way to calibrate the proton beam current with the input current on the heaters. The target irradiation at higher beam currents give rise to a temperature increase in the superfluid helium. In addition, the increase in the heat load increases the  $^3\text{He}$  flow rate in the  $^3\text{He}$  pot. The comparison of the temperature and flow rate increase between these experiments give an idea of the amount of applied heat load on the superfluid helium bottle for each given proton beam current.

Even though the result of the data analysis for this experiment was not conclusive, it gave an idea of the stability and the behaviour of the helium cryostat, and a better experimental plan for the future.

Some unexpected anomalies were observed during the measurements. For instance, when the 4 K reservoir was being filled, the flow rate in the  $^3\text{He}$  pot as well as the temperature in the superfluid helium was not stable nor reproducible. Another problem arose from the wait time between the measurements. Before conducting a new measurement, it is essential to wait long enough so that the superfluid helium temperature and  $^3\text{He}$  flow rate get down to a stable value. In some cases, the wait time between the measurements was not long enough, and therefore it was not possible to assign a change in the superfluid helium temperature or  $^3\text{He}$  flow rate. In addition, target irradiation should be long enough so that the temperature and the  $^3\text{He}$  flow rate reach a stable value.

Fig. 5.26 shows an inconclusive run. The top graph shows the UCN rate over time. This shows an increase in the UCN rate after starting the target irradiation. At the end of the irradiation, the UCN rate decays to the typical background rate. The middle graph shows the temperature of the superfluid helium from the temperature sensor TS12 over time. Here the irradiation of the target stopped before the superfluid helium could reach a stable saturation value. The bottom graph shows the flow rate in the  $^3\text{He}$  from sensor FM1 (see Fig. A.1 to see the position of the sensor). At the beginning of the run, the flow rate was still going down, and it did not reach a minimum stable value. Typically this

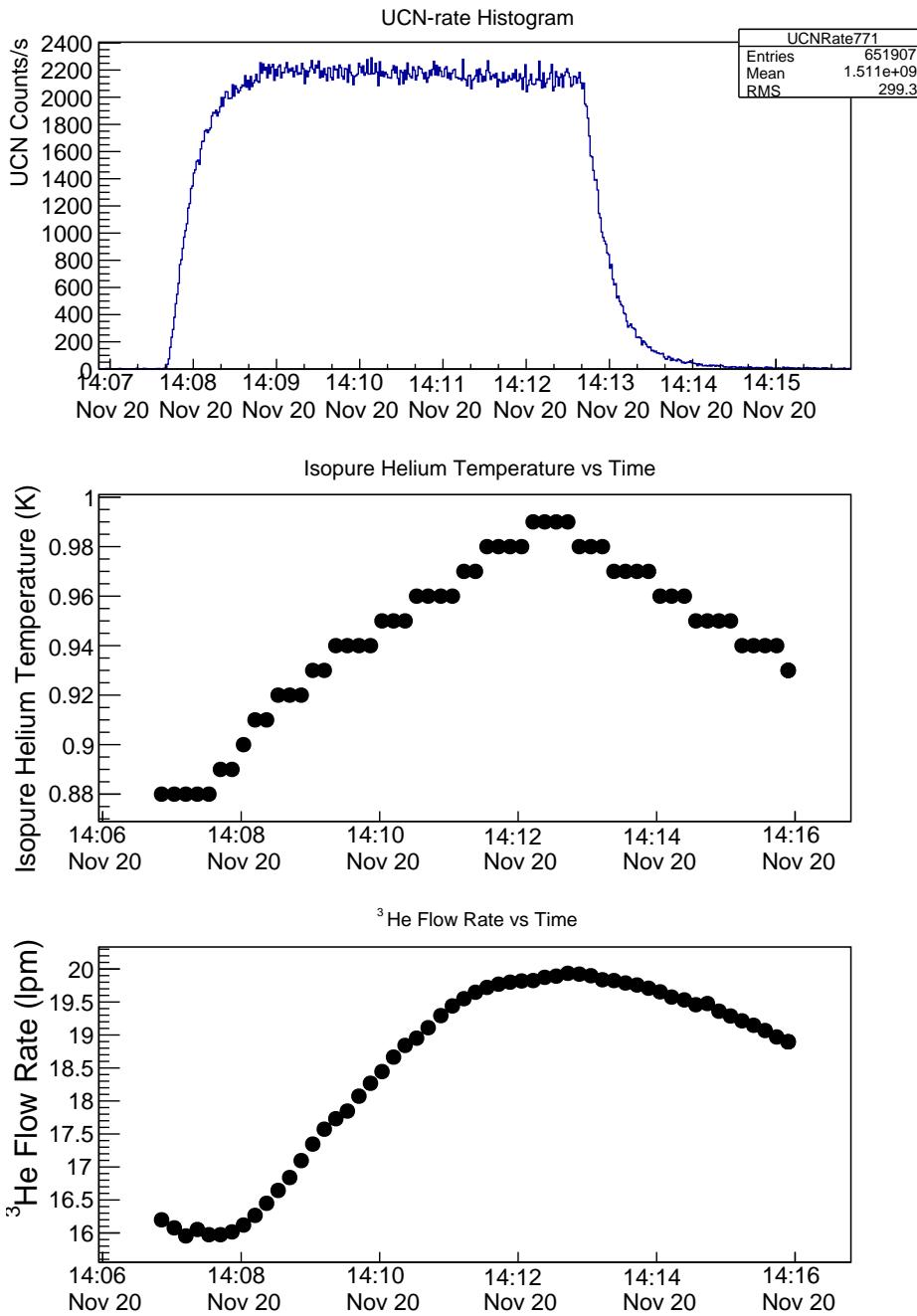


Figure 5.26: Steady-state UCN production data for  $1.5 \mu\text{A}$  proton beam current. The top graph shows the UCN rate over time, the middle graph shows the superfluid helium temperature (TS12) over time and the bottom graph shows the  $^3\text{He}$  flow rate versus time. Detail provided in text.

value was around 14 SLM. In addition, the flow rate did not reach a maximum saturation value due to short target irradiation time. Therefore, due to missing information, the observed change in the  $^3\text{He}$  flow rate is not a good measure of the input heat load on the cryostat and no result can be concluded.

## 5.7 Summary

We successfully operated a superfluid-helium source for UCN at a spallation source at TRIUMF. The result of the first UCN production with this source at TRIUMF were discussed in this chapter. The measurements include the UCN yield experiments, UCN storage lifetime experiments, and steady-state UCN production experiments as well as their simulations.

The maximum number of UCN achieved for the standard  $1 \mu\text{A}$  proton beam current at 60 s target irradiation time was 40,000, and the highest number of UCN counts was 325,000 at  $10 \mu\text{A}$  beam current and 60 s target irradiation time which was a new record for this source. The experimental period took about two weeks. In this time, the storage lifetime of UCN decreased from 37 s to 27 s with about 2% decrease per day due to the source contamination after opening the UCN valve. The UCN counts also showed a decrease of about 40% due to the source contamination as well as different experimental configuration at later dates. The steady-state UCN rate was showed to be around 1600 UCN/s/ $\mu\text{A}$ .

Although we were able to extract three times more UCN than ever before due to the increased beam current on the spallation target, we achieved only half of the previously best storage lifetime, mostly due to the contamination of the source while it was moved from RCNP to TRIUMF, the burst dik added to the UCN guide, and the new UCN valve not optimized for UCN storage.

The UCN production rate from MCNP simulations were found to be  $(20600 \pm 200) \text{ s}^{-1}$  in an energy range up to 233.5 neV with  $\sqrt{E_{\text{UCN}}}$  energy spectra. Simulations including the temperature-dependent up-scattering in superfluid helium and helium vapour confirm that the former follows  $\tau_{\text{He}}^{-1} = BT^7$ , matching the experimental UCN yield and storage lifetime best with  $B$  between 0.008/s and 0.016/s. Upscattering in helium vapour plays a significant role at liquid temperatures above 1 K.

Future operation of this source will focus on better management of contamination to increase the storage lifetime and on tests of new UCN guides, valves, polarizers, and storage volumes.

This research provides the prerequisites for future developments: a next-generation source with cooling power and UCN flux increased by two orders of magnitude, and an experiment to measure the nEDM with a sensitivity of  $10^{-27}$  e·cm. The good agreement of simulations and experiment makes us confident that we can predict the performance of this future source and experiment.



# Chapter 6

## Conclusion

The work presented in this thesis is part of the R&D studies towards the future nEDM experiment at TRIUMF. The existence of a non-zero nEDM would indicate a new source of  $CP$  violation beyond the standard model. Theories of new physics beyond the standard model predict such sources. Based on the Sakharov conditions, new sources of  $CP$  violation are essential to create the observed baryon asymmetry in the universe.

The focus of the research in this thesis was on the two aspects of the nEDM measurement:

- Magnetic field stability (focused on temperature related effects)
- UCN production and storage

and I first summarize these results.

### 6.1 Magnetic Field Requirements and Stability

To measure the nEDM, an ensemble of polarized UCN are placed in the presence of aligned electric and magnetic fields. The Larmor precession frequency of the UCN is measured once when the electric and magnetic fields are parallel, and once when they are anti-parallel. The frequency shift between these two geometries is proportional to the nEDM. In this process, the existence of a very stable and homogeneous magnetic environment is essential. The applied DC magnetic field should be held constant. To achieve the

magnetic requirements several layers of magnetic shielding are employed including active and passive shielding. Internal coils are placed inside the passive shielding to create the DC magnetic field. In the past, experiments used coils where the return yoke corresponded to the innermost magnetic shielding layer. These are referred to as “shield-coupled” coils. In this case, a change in the properties of the innermost passive shield, such as its magnetic permeability  $\mu$ , would affect the magnetic field measured internally. One of the factors that can cause such changes in  $\mu$  is the changes in the environmental temperature.

In Chapter 3 the result of the studies of the changes of  $\mu$  with temperature were presented and discussed. Two methods were pursued to study the correlation of the changes in the measured internal magnetic field with respect to the changes in temperature. For those measurements, we used small witness cylinders (15.2 cm in length and 5.2 cm in diameter) made of the same material and annealed at the same time as the prototype passive shields. As a result, we expected them to have the same magnetic properties of the larger passive shields while having the advantage of being easier to perform experiments with.

In method one, a witness cylinder was put inside a coil system that produced a low-frequency magnetic field. The axial shielding factor as a function of temperature was then measured. These measurements were repeated with two different coils to study the systematic effects. In the second technique, which is more common, the witness cylinder was used as a core of a transformer. A primary and a secondary coil were wound on the witness cylinder. Here the slopes of the minor  $B - H$  loops as a function of temperature were measured.

The measurements were conducted in AC fields with frequencies around 1 Hz as opposed to the DC fields in the actual nEDM experiments. To relate the shielding factor measurements to  $\mu(T)$ , finite element simulations were performed to find the shielding factor of the witness cylinders as a function of  $\mu$ . Combining the measurements and the simulations, it was found that  $0.6\%/\text{K} < \frac{1}{\mu} \frac{d\mu}{dT} < 2.7\%/\text{K}$  with an  $H_m$ -amplitude of 0.004 A/m at 1 Hz. In the second method, it was found that  $0.0\%/\text{K} < \frac{1}{\mu} \frac{d\mu}{dT} < 2.2\%/\text{K}$  with a typical  $H_m$ -amplitude of 0.1 A/m at 1 Hz. For a typical nEDM experiment,

$H_m < 0.007 \text{ A/m}$ .

Considering the overall range implied by the measurements of  $0.0\%/\text{K} < \frac{1}{\mu} \frac{d\mu}{dT} < 2.7\%/\text{K}$  and the generic EDM experiment sensitivity of  $\frac{\mu}{B_0} \frac{dB_0}{d\mu} = 0.01$ , the temperature dependence of the magnetic field in a typical nEDM experiment would be  $\frac{dB_0}{dT} = 0 - 270 \text{ pT/K}$ . This means, to safely achieve the magnetic stability goal of 1 pT for hundreds of seconds in the interal field (for the worst case temperature slope), the temperature of the innermost magnetic shield in the nEDM experiment should be controlled to  $< 0.004 \text{ K}$  level which puts a challenging constraint on the future nEDM experiment design. Achieving this level of temperature control is very difficult. As a result, TUCAN collaboration is now considering the self-shielded coil designs as the baseline for the future nEDM experiment.

## 6.2 Overview of UCN Studies at TRIUMF

The second half of this thesis was focused on the new UCN facility at TRIUMF. In 2016, the prototype vertical UCN source, previously built and tested in Japan, was shipped to TRIUMF. The unique feature of this facility is the production UCN by combining spallation neutrons with a superfluid helium converter.

In November 2017 the first UCN were produced with the prototype vertical source at TRIUMF. The experiments that were conducted include measurements of the UCN yield, UCN storage lifetime and UCN rate in the steady-state mode of operation. Those experiments and their simulations were presented in Chapter 5. Such experiments are essential for a better understanding of the UCN cryostat and for the design of the next generation UCN source.

Around 40,000 UCN were detected for the standard measurement of  $1 \mu\text{A}$  proton beam current while irradiating the target for 60 s. The maximum number of UCN produced was 325,000 at  $10 \mu\text{A}$  proton beam current. Over the three weeks of the experimental run period, the measured storage lifetime of UCN dropped from 37 s to 27 s. This is likely due to contamination of the source when the UCN valve was opened. The UCN

yield for the standard measurements at 1  $\mu\text{A}$  proton beam current and 60 s irradiation time also dropped correspondingly by about 40%. Other than the source contamination, different experimental configuration in the second half of the experimental period caused this drop.

We could successfully produce three times more UCN than ever before. However, our UCN storage lifetime was only half of the previously best storage lifetime. This is most likely due to a combination of the contamination in the source, the existence of the burst disk, and the non-optimized UCN valve for the UCN storage. The result of the simulations proved that the upscattering rate in the superfluid helium follows  $\tau_{\text{He}}^{-1} = BT^7$ . In addition, the UCN yield and the UCN storage lifetime simulations matched the experimental values best when the  $B$  values were between 0.008/s and 0.016/s. At higher temperatures above 1 K, the upscattering in the helium vapour plays a significant role.

## 6.3 Overall Conclusion and Future Work

The research presented in this thesis is part of the TUCAN's ongoing R&D towards the future nEDM measurement at TRIUMF. The experimental goal is to measure the nEDM with the sensitivity level of  $10^{-27}$  e·cm.

The best previous measurement of the nEDM showed that the dominant systematic uncertainty is due to the magnetic field instability. As a result, one source of systematic uncertainty, the temperature dependence of magnetic permeability  $\mu$ , was studied. The result of those measurements as well as the relevant simulations showed that, to fulfill our 1 pT internal magnetic field stability requirement, the temperature of the innermost magnetic shield for the nEDM experiment should be controlled to better than 4 mK level while employing the shield coupled coils to generate the DC field.

The current nEDM experiments suffer from low UCN statistics. The UCN experiments with our prototype UCN source provide the prerequisites for building our next-generation UCN source with cooling power and UCN flux increased by two orders of magnitude (see Section 2.1). The excellent match of the simulations and experiments

presented in Chapter 5 makes us confident that we can predict the performance of this future source and the counting statistics of the nEDM experiment very well.



# Appendices



# Appendix A

## Vertical Source Gas Flow Diagram

The gas flow diagram of the vertical UCN source is shown in Fig. A.1. The components of the vertical source are described in Chapter 4. The main components for the gas flow include:

- The natural helium loop, including:
  - Liquid helium reservoir
  - Liquid helium pot at 1 K
- Liquid  $^3\text{He}$  pot and the  $^3\text{He}$  loop
- Isopure helium loop.

## APPENDIX A. VERTICAL SOURCE GAS FLOW DIAGRAM

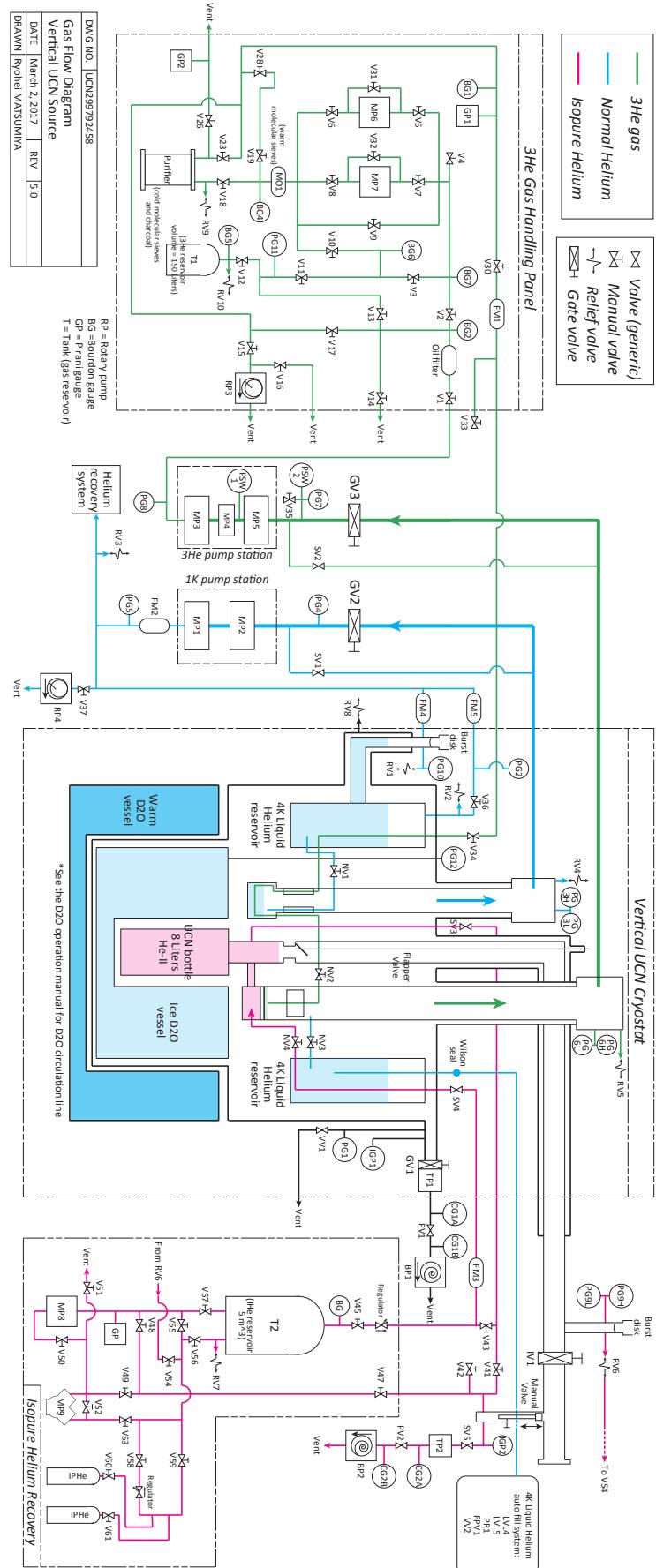


Figure A.1: Gas flow diagram for the vertical UCN source

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