4^{th} Joint meeting of the APS and PSJ, Oct 2014

Measurement of the dμd quartet-to-doublet fusion ratio (λ_q : λ_d) and the μd hyperfine rate λ_{qd} using the fusion neutrons from μ^- stops in D_2 gas.

- Nandita Raha, University of Kentucky for the **MuSun Collaboration**

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Experimental Goal and Motivation

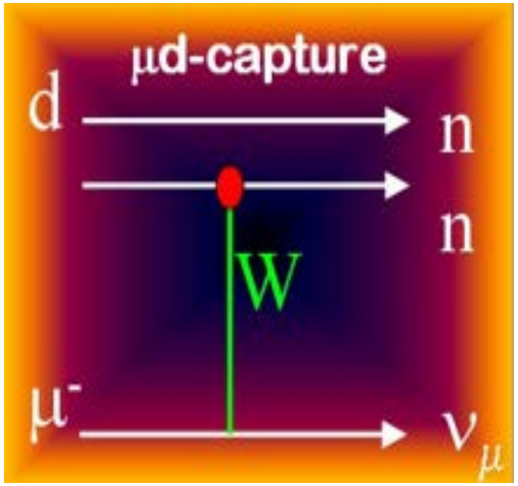
Measure muon capture rate in D_2 to a precision better than 1.5%

$\mu^- + d \rightarrow n + n + \nu_\mu$

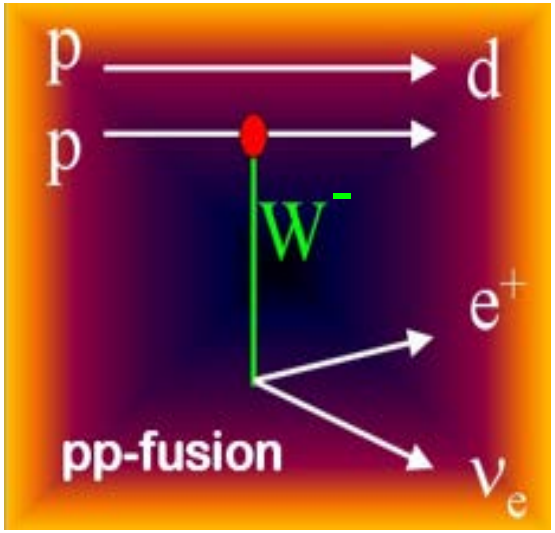
Rate Λ_d from μd ($\uparrow\downarrow$) atom

μd → $\uparrow\uparrow$ Quartet

μd → $\uparrow\downarrow$ Doublet



My Goal: To find relative populations of hyperfine states finally used for measuring Λ_d .



Help understand weak nuclear reactions:

Solar pp fusion: $p + p \rightarrow d + e^+ + \nu_e$

Neutrino interaction: $\nu + d \rightarrow p + p + e^-$

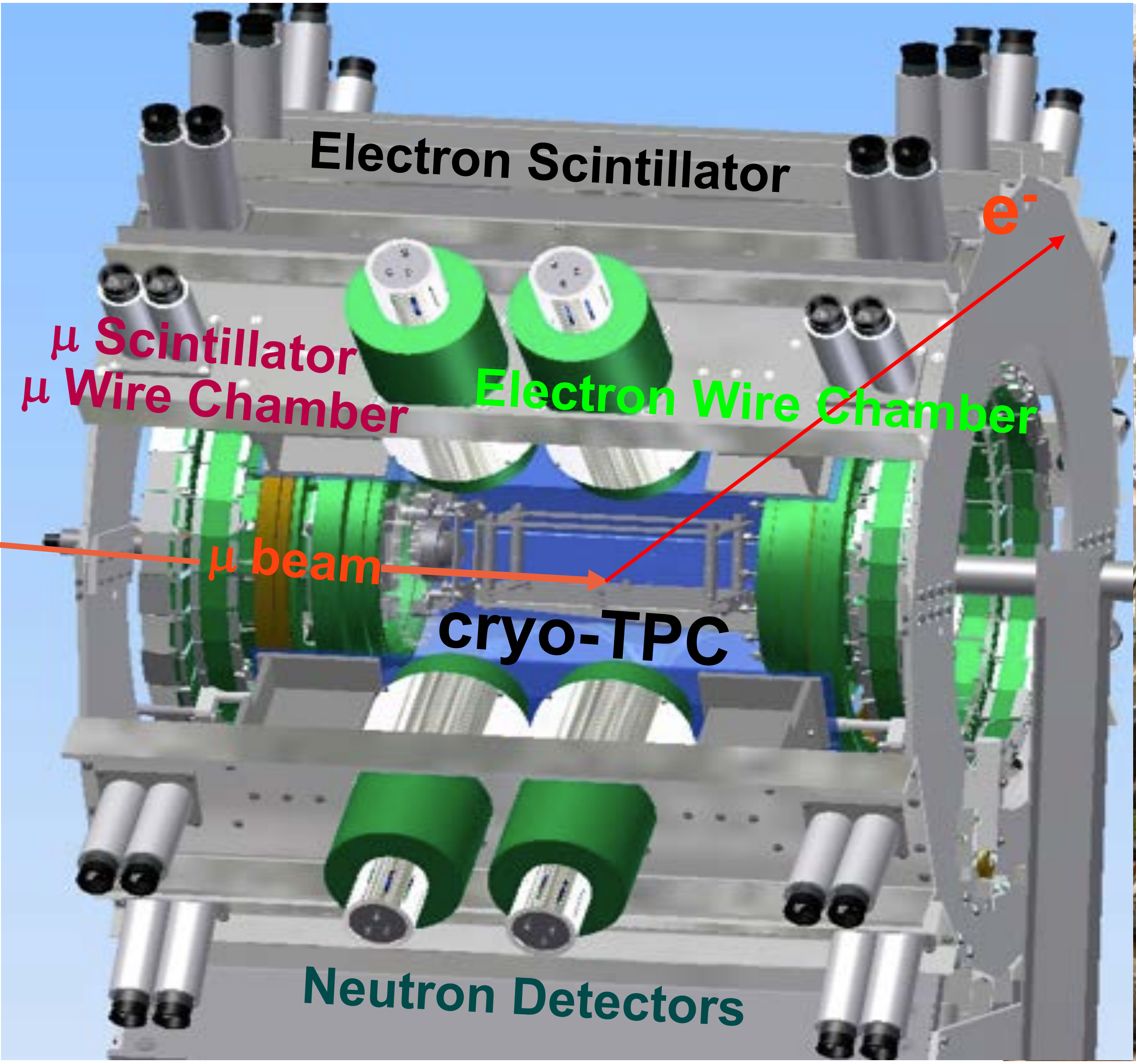
Double beta decay ...

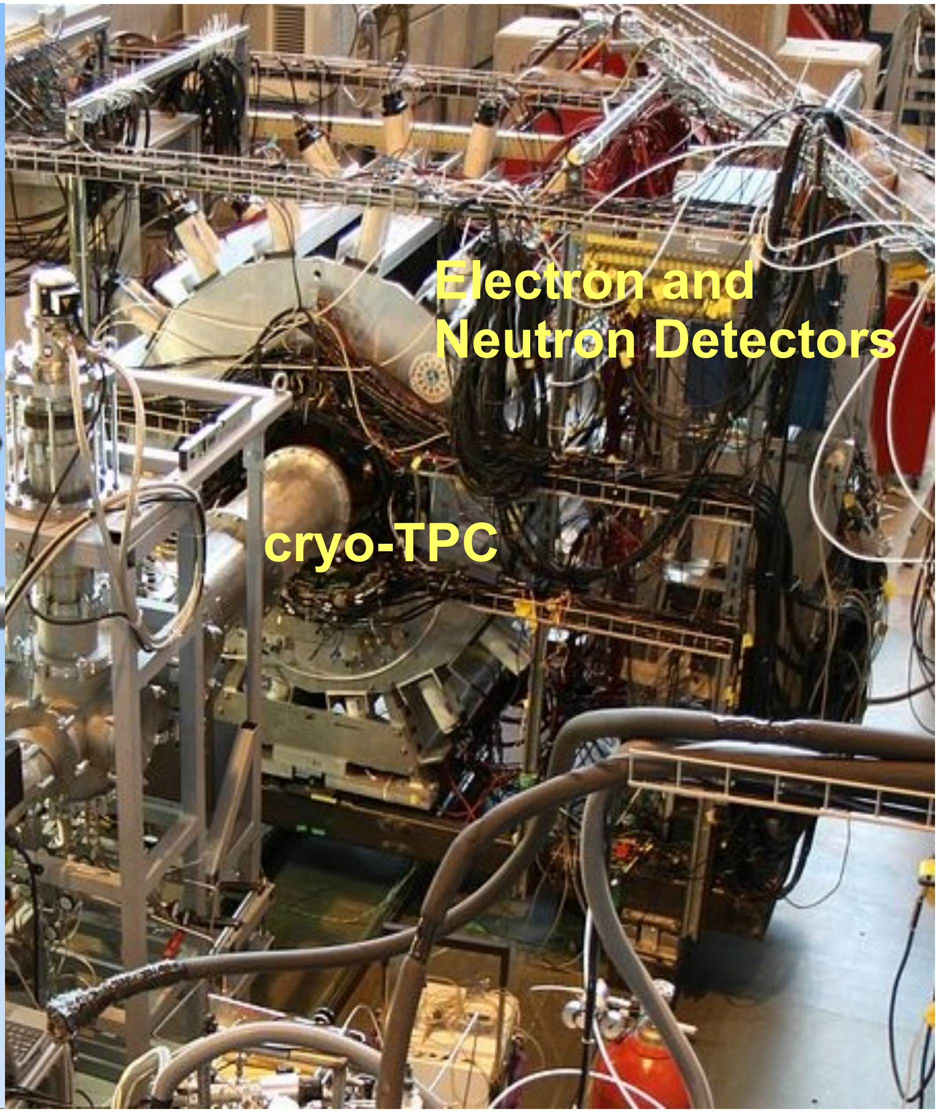
These reactions involve a poorly known two-nucleon weak axial current. The muon capture rate Λ_d determines a single LEC that parametrizes this two-nucleon weak axial current.

Experiment Overview

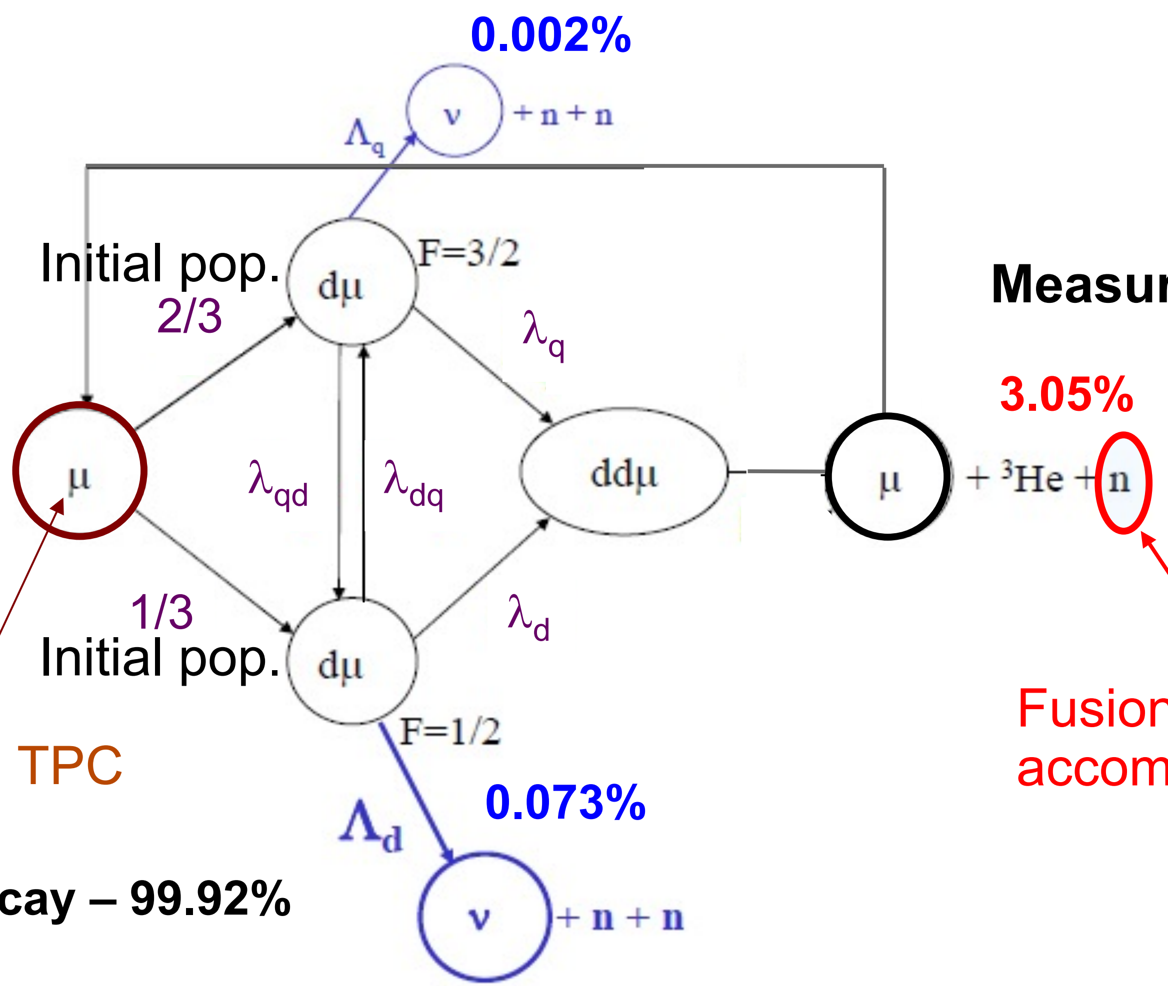
Experimental Setup:

Muons (Z - axis) enter Al vessel (~ 3 mm)– TPC (10 x 10 x 8.2 cm).
X - horizontal and Y - vertical. Target deuterium.





Muon Chemistry



Measure λ_{qd} and $\lambda_q : \lambda_d$

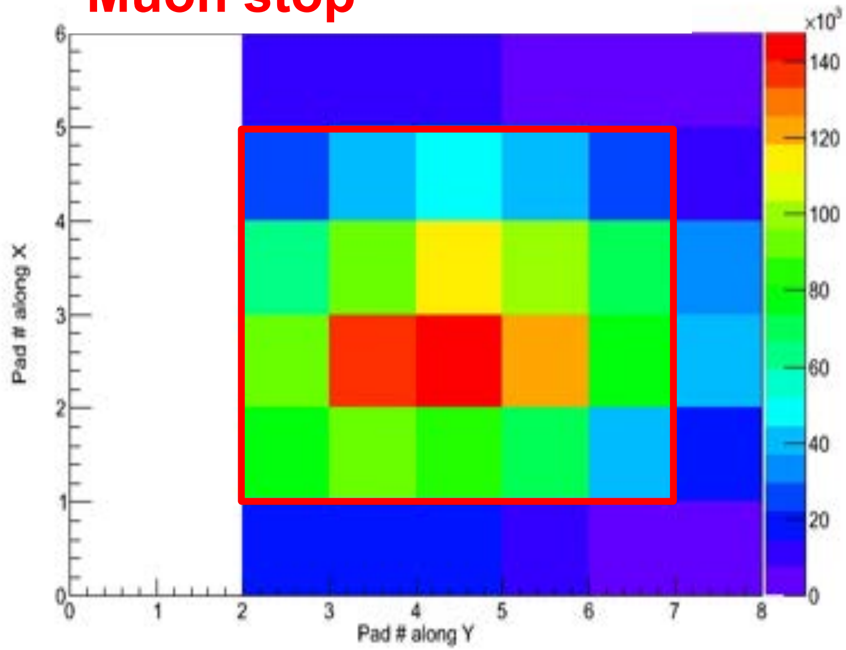
μ stopped in TPC

Fusion neutrons (2.45 MeV) accompanied by e$^-$

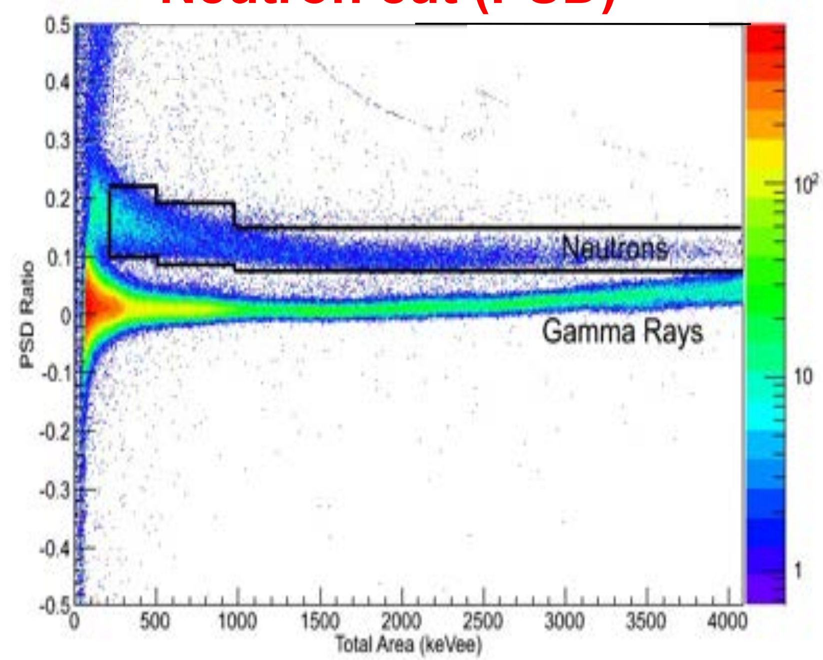
Muon decay – 99.92%

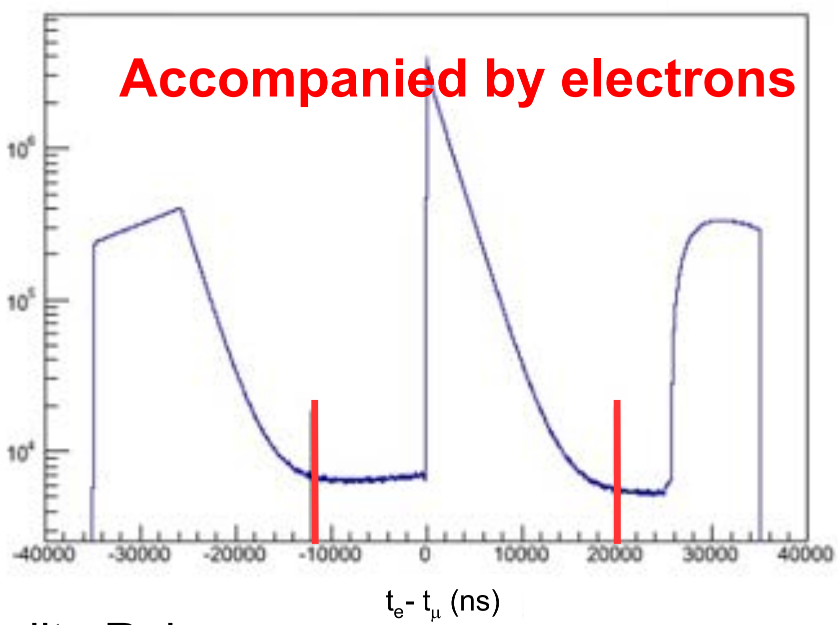
Fusion Neutron definition

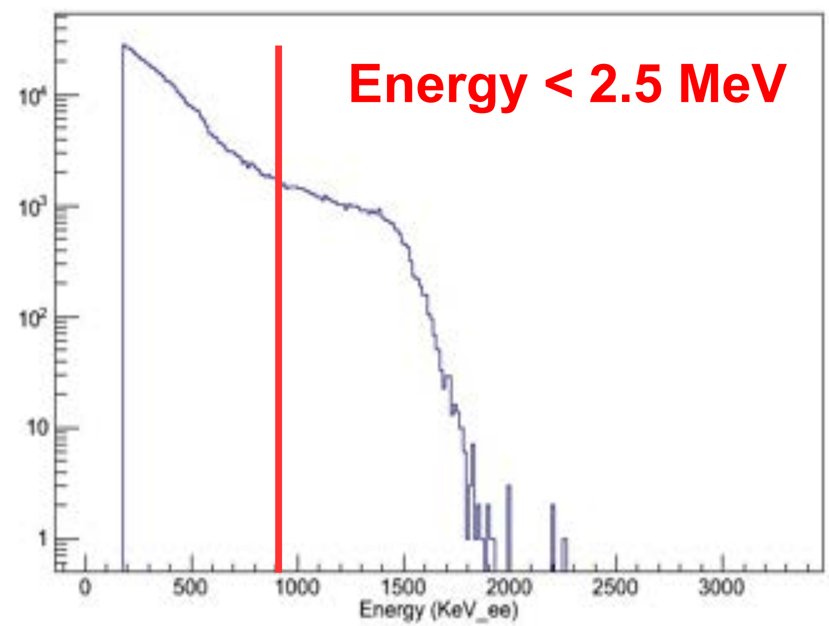
Muon stop



Neutron cut (PSD)

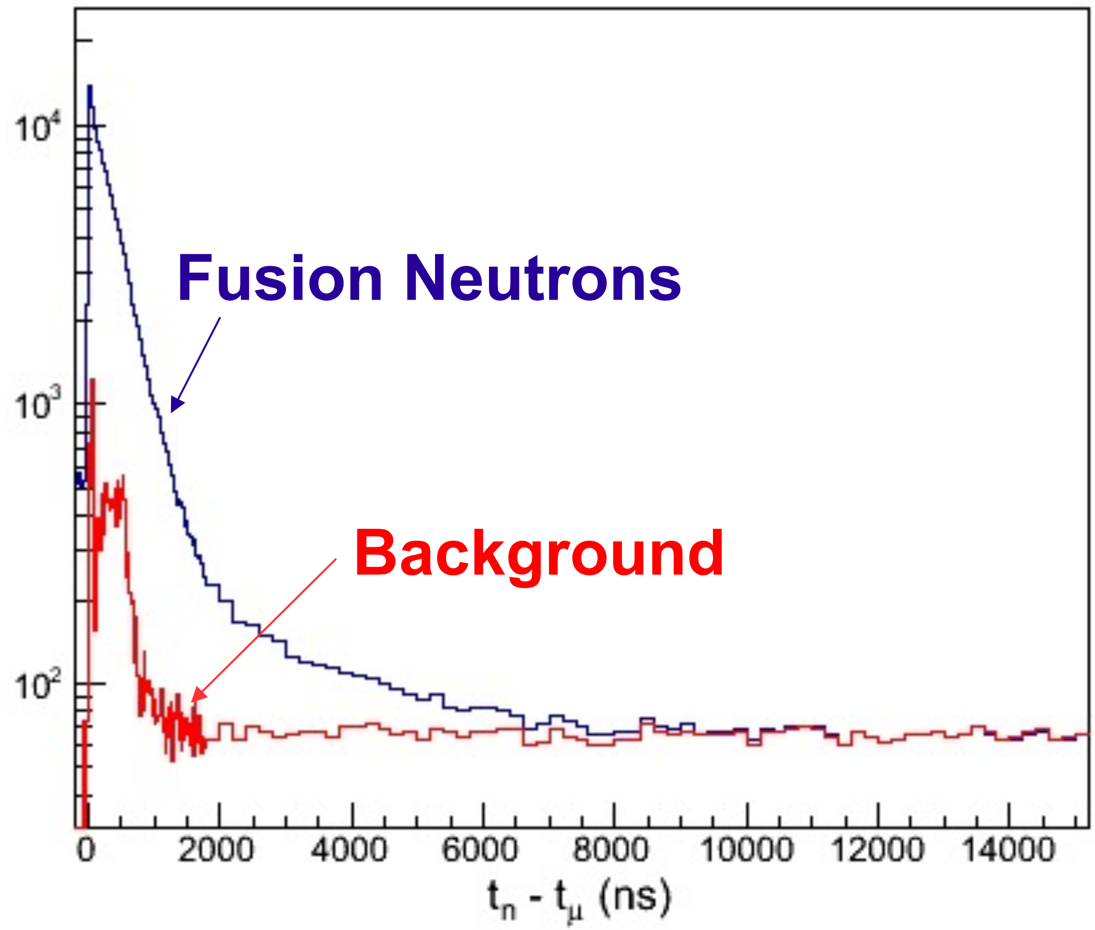






Fusion Neutron Time Distribution

Time distribution: Time of neutron relative to the muon entrance time.
All **fusion neutron** cuts applied gives time distribution in blue
Contains accidental **background** from accelerator and beamline neutrons.
Subtracted background histogram and fitted it.



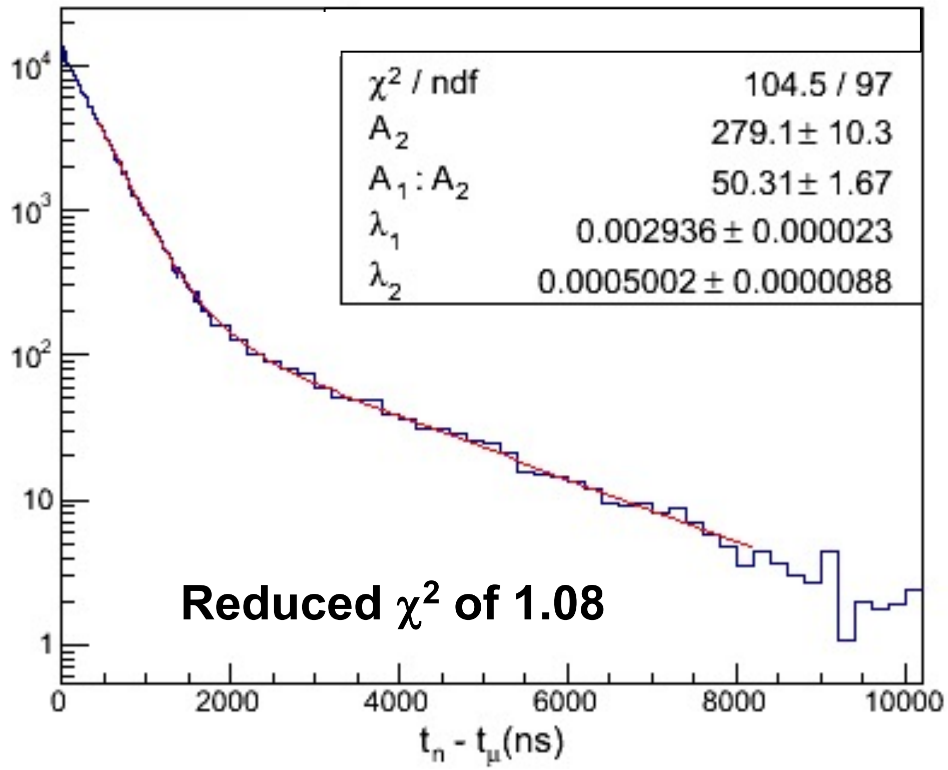
Lifetime Fit of Fusion time distribution

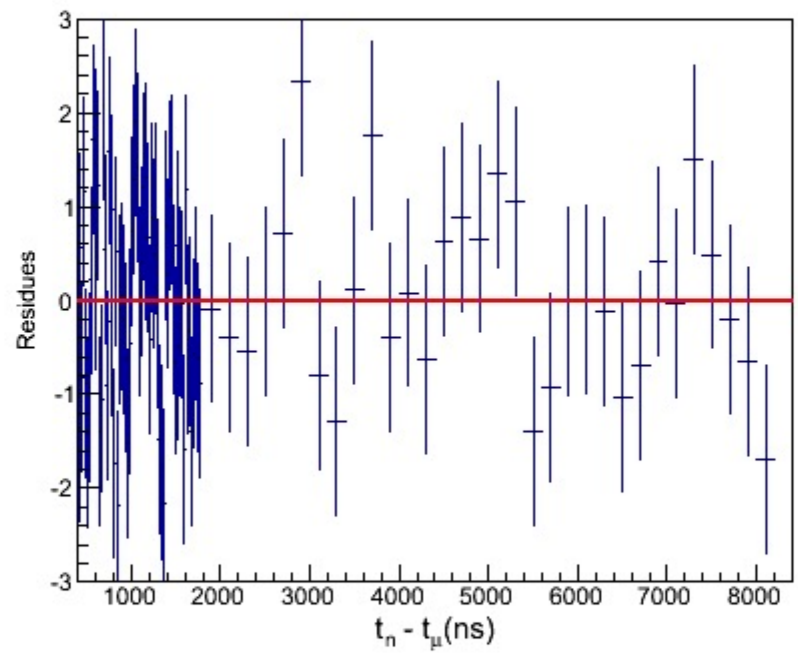
Lifetime fit: A two lifetime (λ_1 and λ_2) fit function from the general solution of muon chemistry gives the fusion time distribution as,

$$n(t) = A_1\, e^{-\lambda_1 t} + A_2\, e^{-\lambda_2 t}$$

Fitted the background subtracted histogram with above fit function on a flat background = 0. Fit parameters A_1:A_2, prompt lifetime rate λ_1 and and slow rate λ_2 , A_2 – Initial population.

$$\text{Residue} = \frac{y(t) - y_i}{\sigma}$$





Results from Analytical Solutions

Differential equations of the population of states derived from the muon chemistry were solved to find kinematic parameters λ_{qd} and $\lambda_q : \lambda_d$ from the fit results.

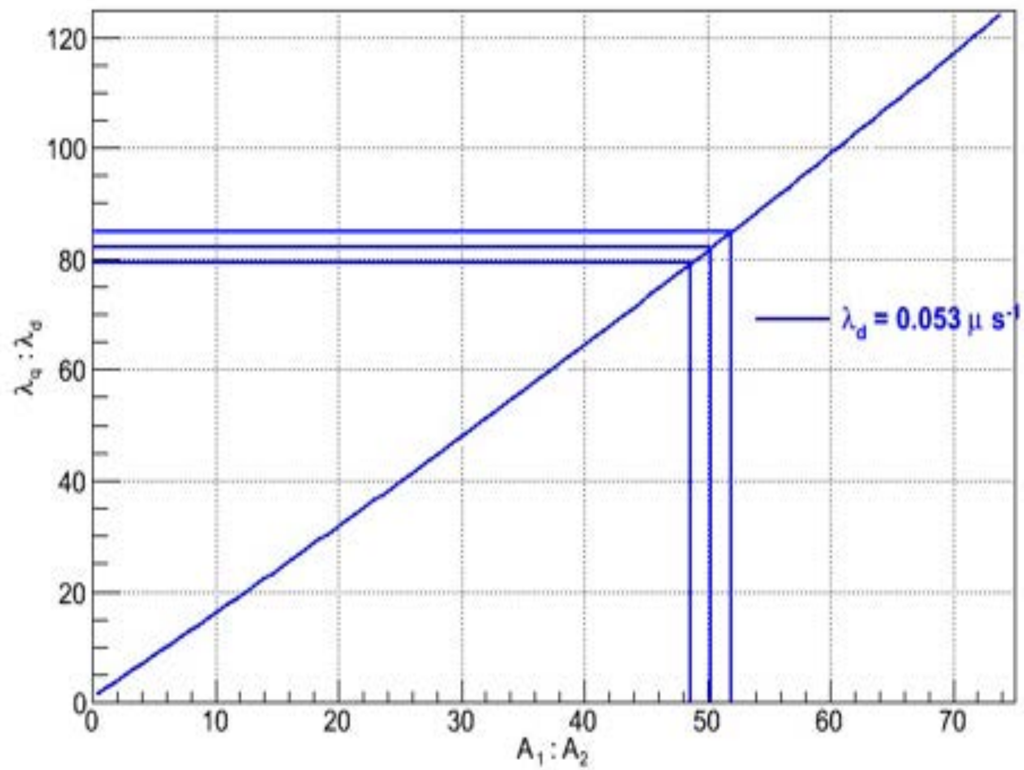
$$\lambda_1 \sim \phi\,(\lambda_{qd} - \lambda_\mu) \qquad \lambda_2 \sim \phi\ \lambda_\mu$$

$$\lambda_{qd} \sim (\lambda_2 - \lambda_1) / \phi$$

Thus the difference in $\lambda_2 - \lambda_1$ gave λ_{qd} = 39.67 (0.4)

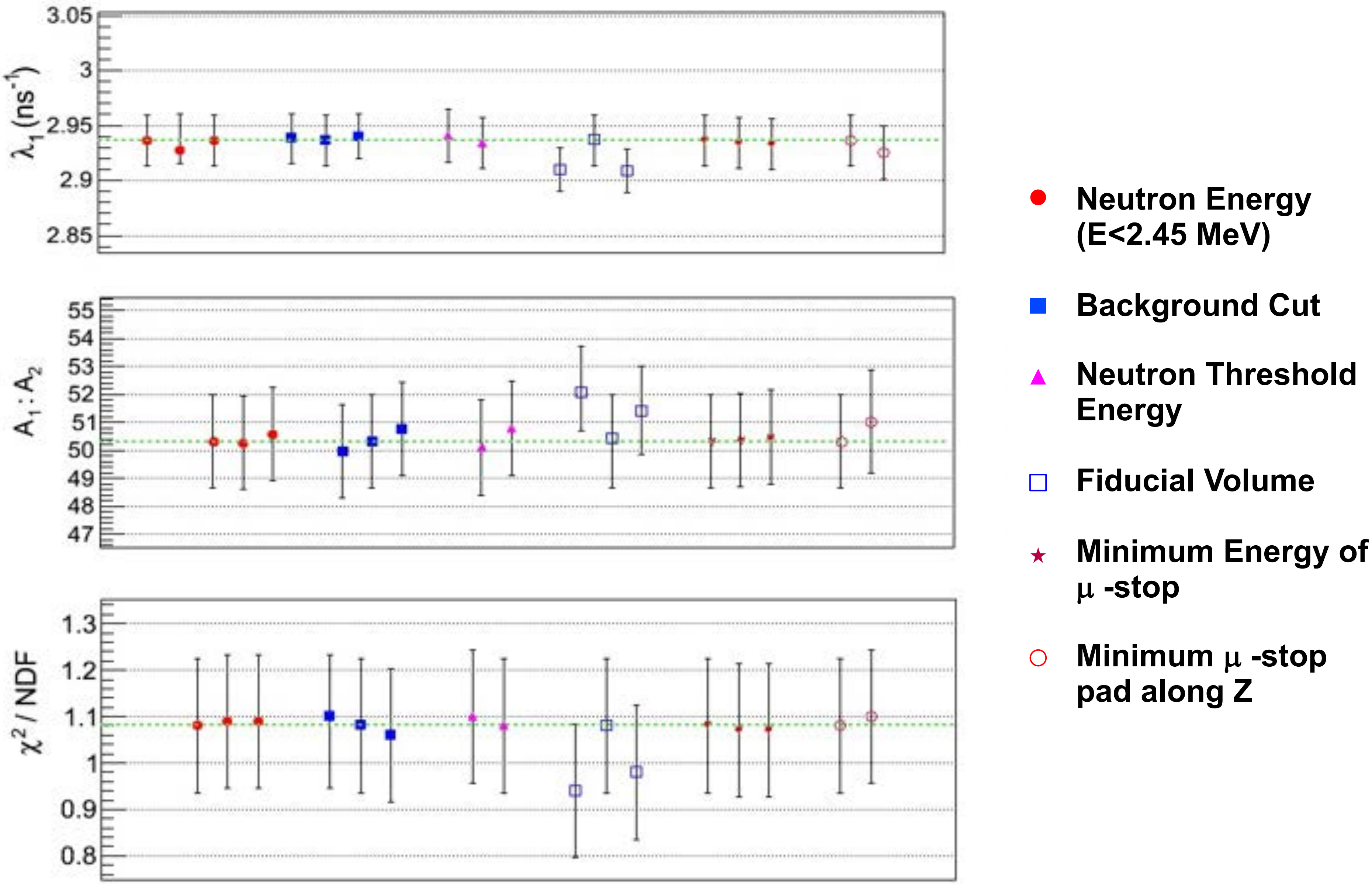
Amplitude ratio $A_1 : A_2 = f\,(\lambda_q : \lambda_d)$

A plot of amplitude ratio versus $\lambda_q : \lambda_d$ gave $\lambda_q : \lambda_d$ = 82.05 (2.89)



Systematic Errors

Shows stable fit results. The horizontal green line shows original values (before changing the cuts)



Preliminary Results

The transition rate of muonic deuterium from quartet to double state at a temperature 34 K and density 6.12% LH_2

$\lambda_{qd} = 39.67 \pm 0.402_{stat} \pm 0.032_{sys}\ \mu s^{-1}$

The dμd formation rate from quartet state to double state

$\lambda_q / \lambda_d = 82.05 \pm 2.89_{stat} \pm 2.78_{sys}$

Experiment	Year	λ_{qd} (μs^{-1})	$\lambda_q : \lambda_d$	Density	Temp (K)
SIN [1]	1983	$37.0^{+1.3}_{-1.7}$	79.5(8.0)	4.8 %	34.7
PSI [2]	1987	36.89 (0.8)	80.17(7.8)	4.83 %	40
Dubna [3]	1991	37.84 (21)	65.51(0.59)	4.9 %	53
PSI (PNPI) [4]	2011	37.1 (3)	80.98(1.59)	5.14 %	32.2
This work	2014	39.67 (0.4)	82.05(4.01)	6.12 %	34

1. First observation of muonic hyperfine effects in pure deuterium - P. Kammel et al. Phys.Rev. A28 2611-2622 (1983)
2. Muon Catalysed dd fusion b/w 25 to 150 K: Experiment - J. Zmeskal et. al. Phy. Rev. Vol. 42, # 3. 1987
3. D. V. Balin et al., Muon Catalyzed Fusion 5/6, 163(1990/1991).
4. High precision study of Muon Catalyzed Fusion in D2 and HD gas - D. V. Balin et al.

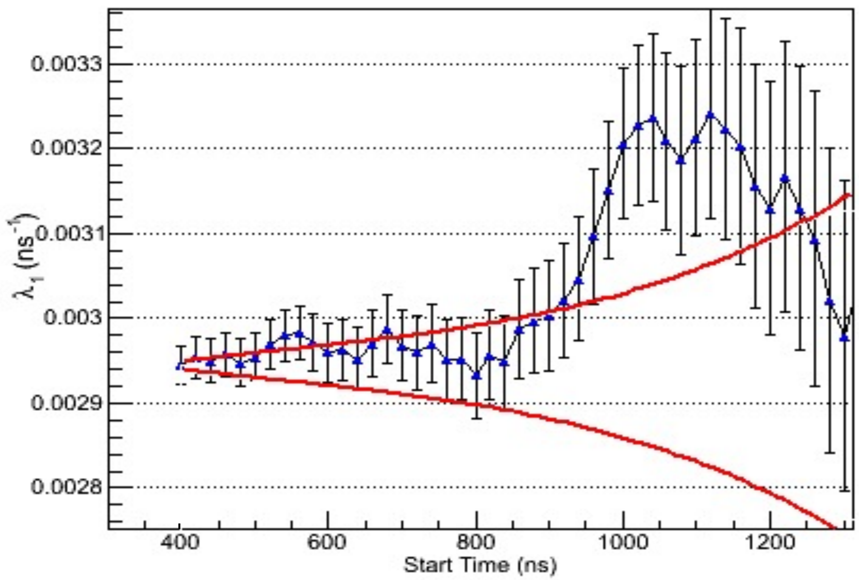
Conclusion

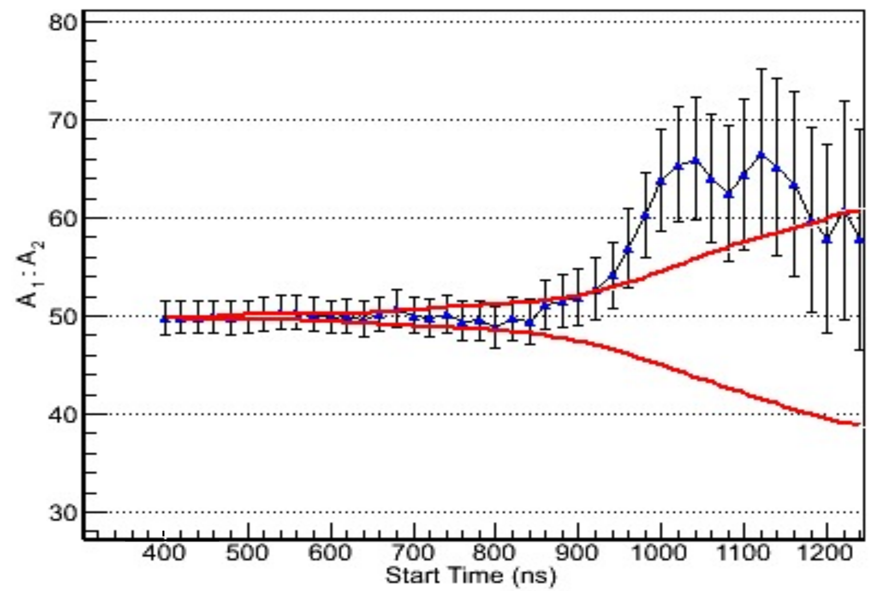
We obtain quite stable results which would help us find the relative populations of μd in quartet and doublet states under our experimental conditions. The relative population of the doublet state from this analysis will be further used by MuSun to ultimately find Λ_d

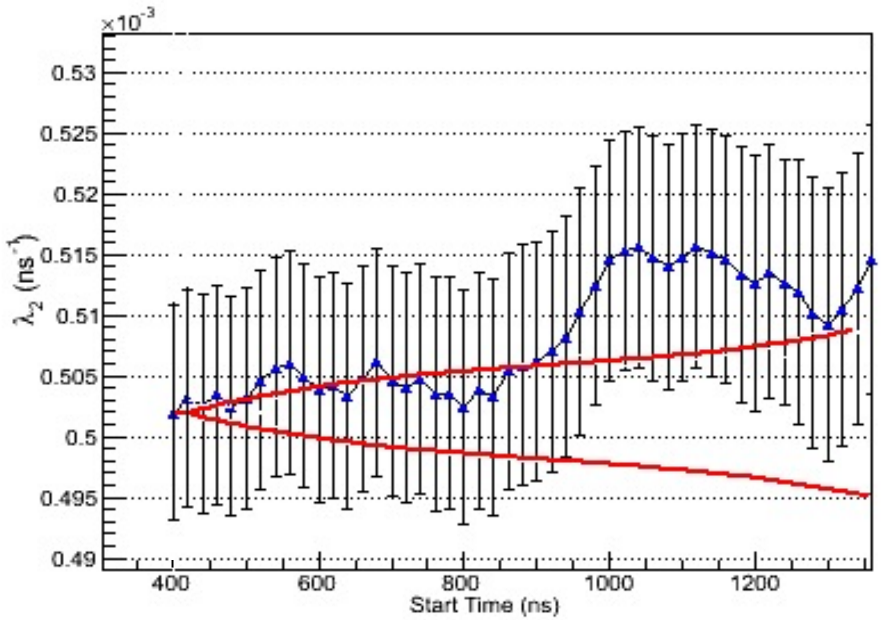
Thank You!

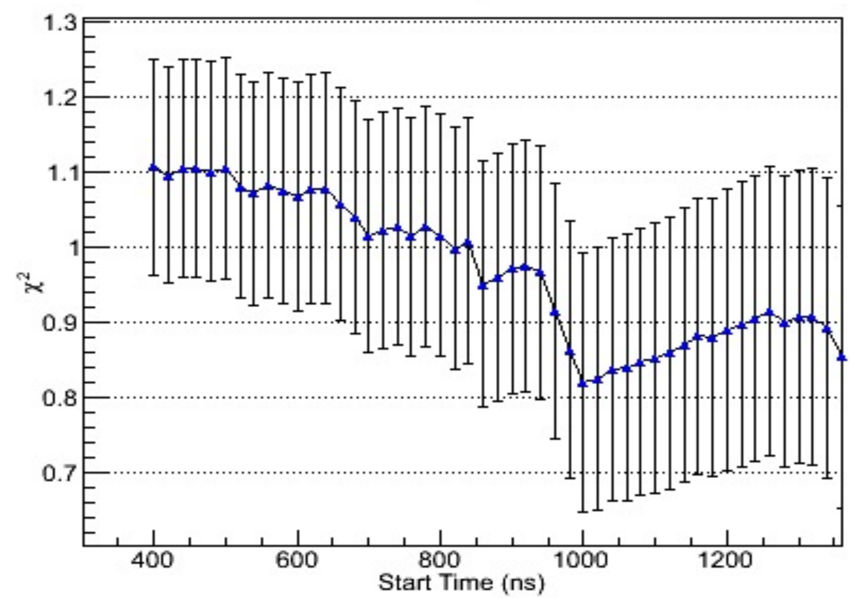
Back up Slides

Start Time Scan for Fit Range

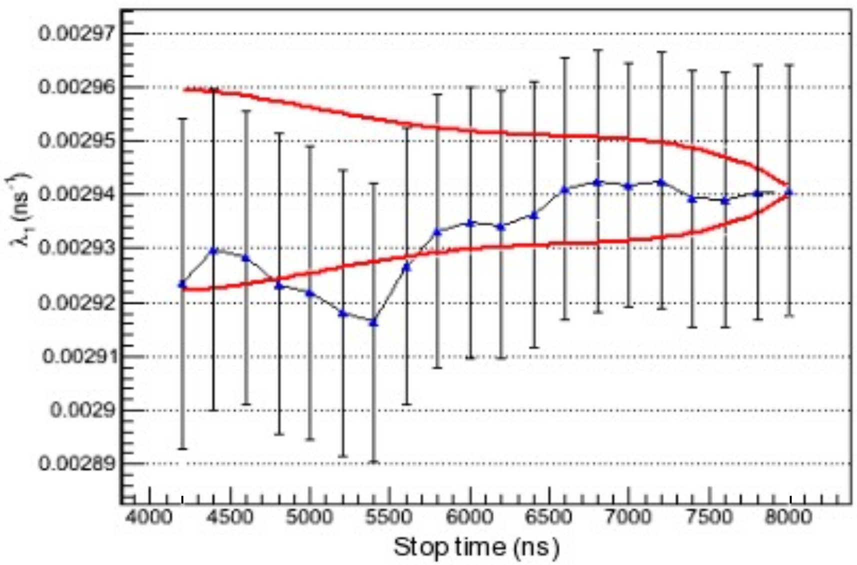


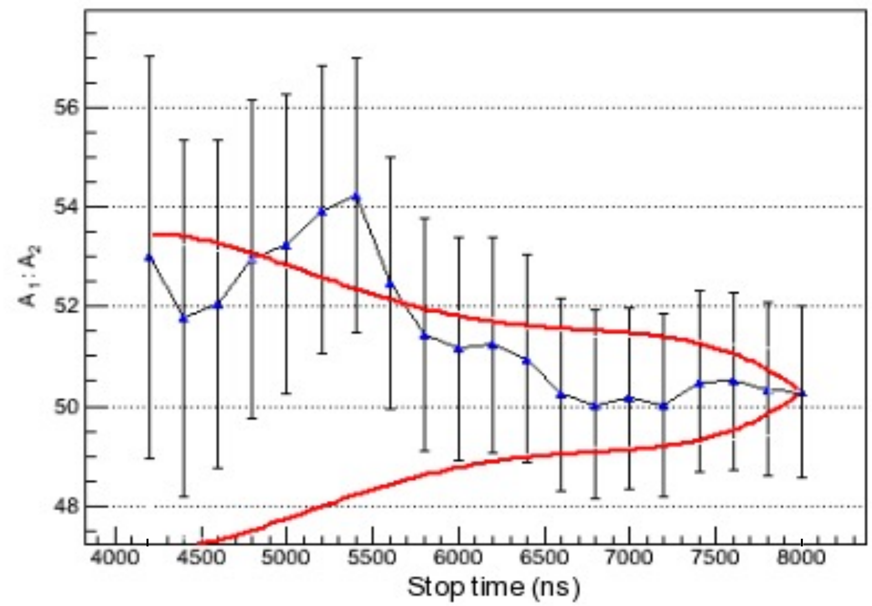


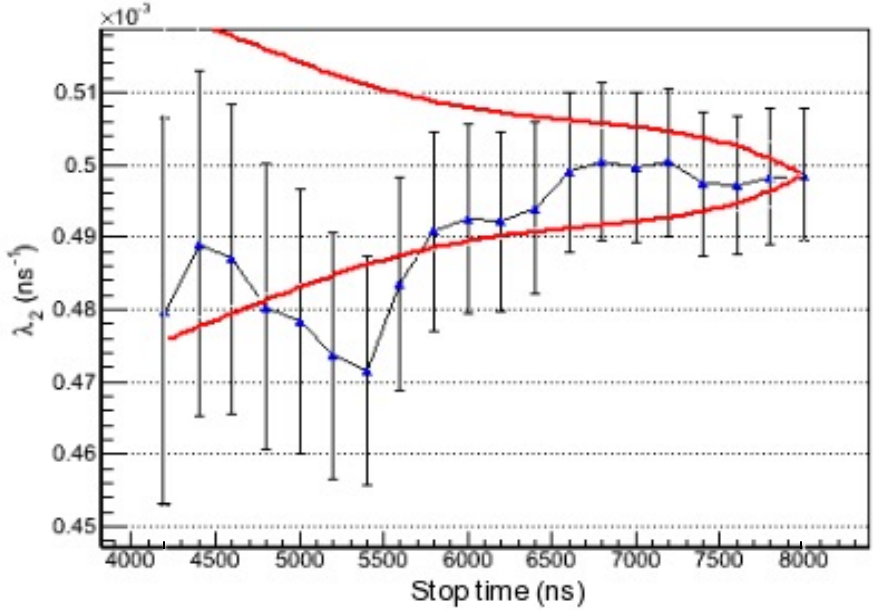


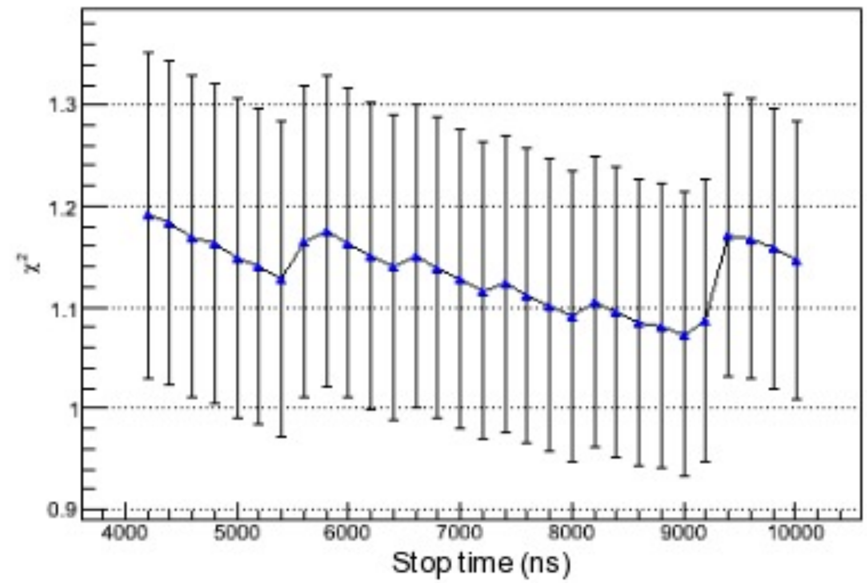


Stop Time Scan for Fit Range









Systematic Errors - Sources

In a previous analysis I completed a set of systematic error analysis – to near completion for this method. The fit results were extremely stable, and sources of these errors were found to be due to:

✧An imperfect pile up protection – accidental external muons in coincidence with the muon in consideration

✧Fiducial volume and other backgrounds in the muon stop definition

✧Misidentified muon stops like a fusion causing confusion

✧Misidentified electrons due to imperfect pile up protection and accidental electrons

✧Electrons not emanating from the fiducial volume of the TPC to eSC, but rather in opposite direction

✧Background spectrum being sensitive to electron Bremsstrahlung, afterpulses in neutron detectors, misidentified gamma rays etc.

Meticulous cuts were made to minimize these effects and all cuts corresponding to these effects were varied to investigate the effects