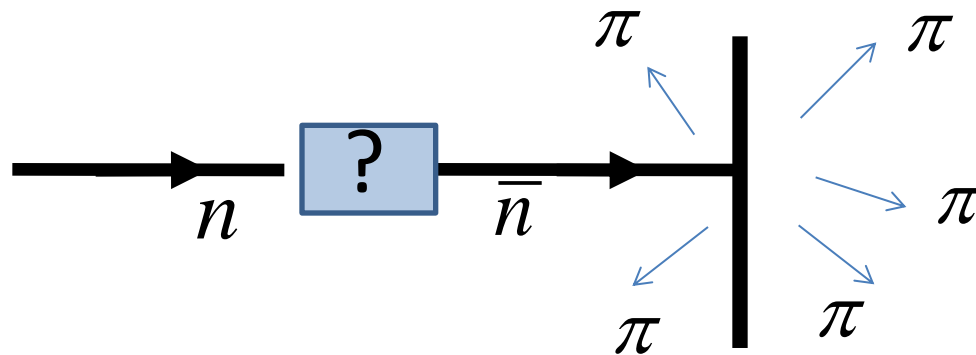


# Hunting the missing baryon number violation at the ESS



D. Milstead  
Stockholm University

# Outline

- Why look for neutron oscillations ?
- How to look for neutron oscillations
- $N_{\text{nbar}}$  and HIBEAM at the ESS

# Baryon and lepton number violation

- $BN, LN$  "accidental" SM symmetries at perturbative level
  - $BNV, LNV$  in SM non-perturbatively (eg instantons)
  - $B-L$  is conserved, not  $B, L$  separately.
- $BNV, LNV$  needed for baryogenesis and leptogenesis
- $BNV, LNV$  generic features of SM extensions (eg SUSY)
- Need to explore the possible selection rules:

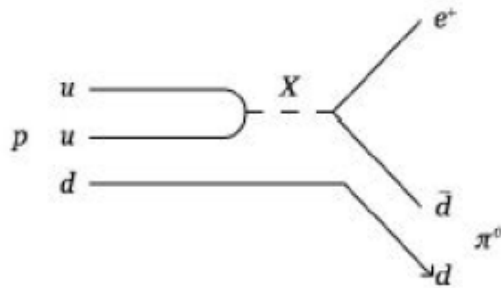
$$\Delta B \neq 0, \Delta L = 0, \Delta[B - L] \neq 0$$

$$\Delta B = 0, \Delta L \neq 0, \Delta[B - L] \neq 0$$

$$\Delta L \neq 0, \Delta B \neq 0, \Delta[B - L] = 0$$

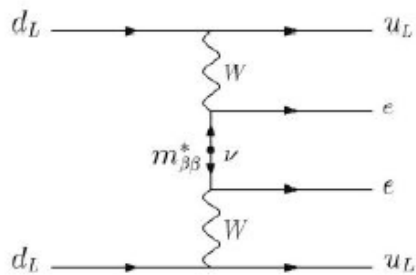
.....

# Complementary $BNV, LNV$ observables



$$p \rightarrow e^+ + \pi^0$$

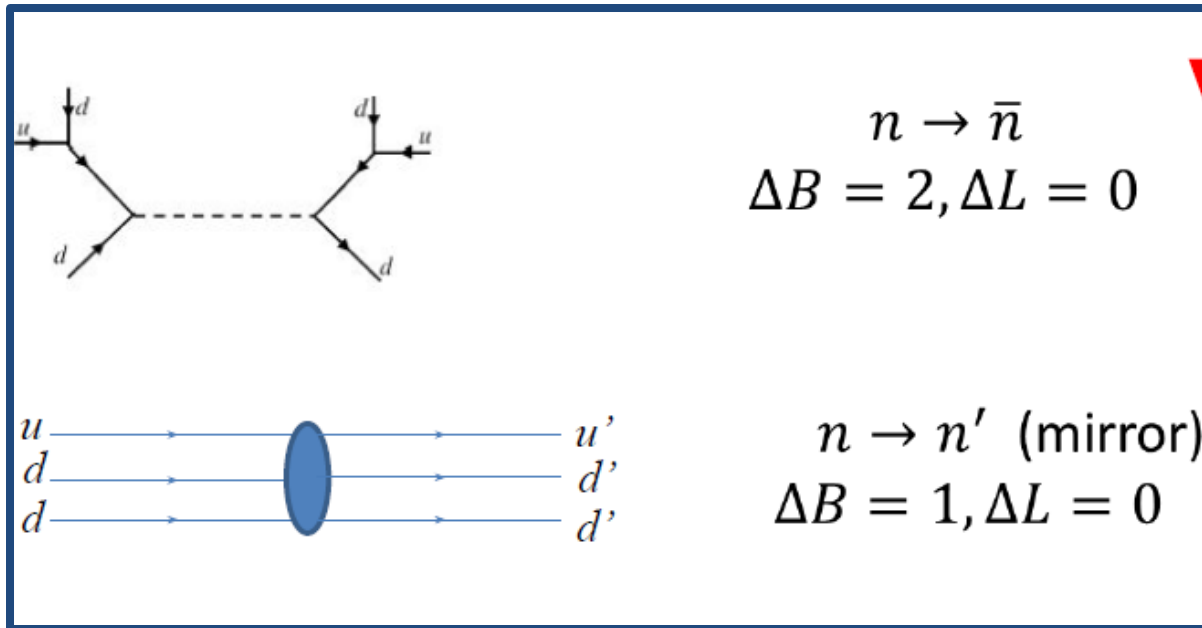
$$\Delta B \neq 0, \Delta L \neq 0$$



$$0\nu 2\beta$$

$$\Delta B = 0, \Delta L \neq 0$$

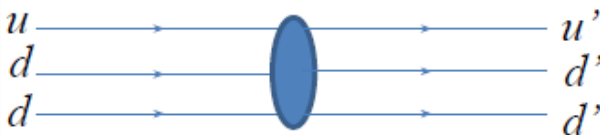
Symbiosis



$$n \rightarrow \bar{n}$$

$$\Delta B = 2, \Delta L = 0$$

Neutron  
oscillation



$$n \rightarrow n' \text{ (mirror)}$$

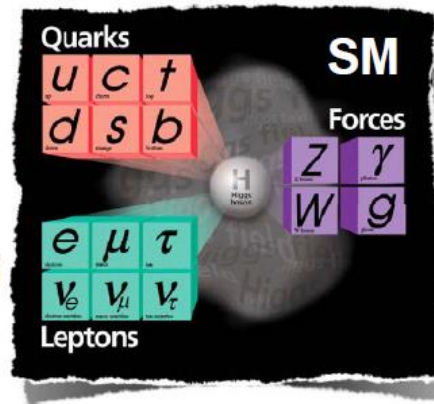
$$\Delta B = 1, \Delta L = 0$$

# Mirror neutrons

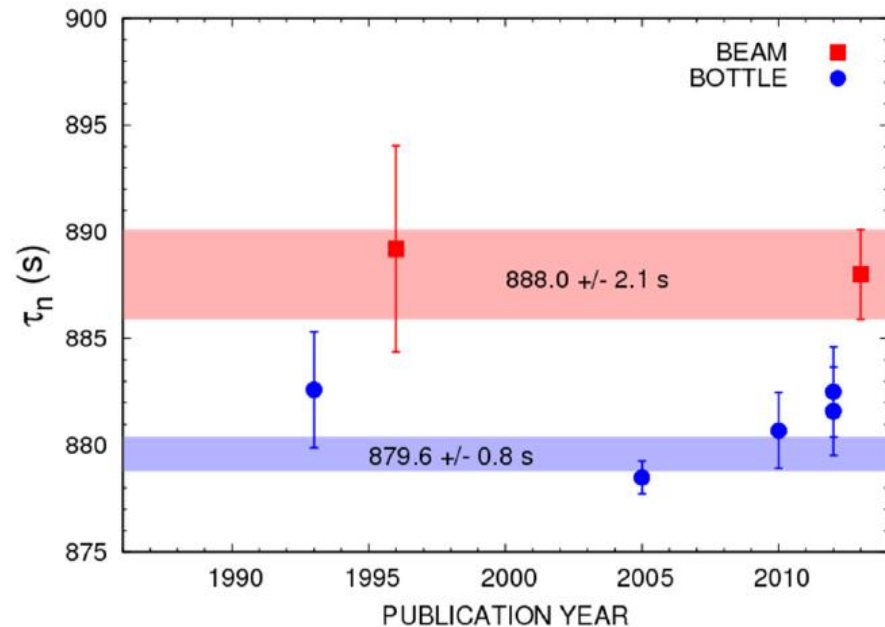
"Hidden/mirror" sector  
Restores parity symmetry.

Possible mixing for  $Q = 0$  particles, eg,  $n \rightarrow n'$

Mirror matter : dark matter candidates ( $m < 10$  GeV)



Can explain  $5\sigma$  neutron lifetime discrepancy seen in bottle and beam experiments.



# Neutron-antineutron oscillations

- $R$ -parity violating supersymmetry, minimal flavour violation SUSY
- Unification models:  $M \sim 10^{15}$  GeV
- Left-right symmetric models ( $n\bar{n}$  and  $0\nu 2\beta$ )
- Extra dimensions models
- Post-sphaleron baryogenesis
- etc, etc: [arXiv:1410.1100 ]

High precision  $n \rightarrow \bar{n}$  search

$\Rightarrow$  Scan over wide range of phase space for generic  $BNV$

+

$\Rightarrow$  model constraints.

# Operator analysis

Six quark operators  $\mathcal{O}_i$  :

$$\begin{aligned}
 (u_R d_R d_R)^2 &\equiv \epsilon_{abc} u_{R\dot{\alpha}}^a d_R^{\dot{\alpha}b} d_{R\dot{\gamma}}^c \epsilon_{def} u_{R\dot{\beta}}^d d_R^{\dot{\beta}e} d_R^{\dot{\gamma}f} \\
 (u_R d_R d_L)^2 &\equiv \epsilon_{abc} u_{R\dot{\alpha}}^a d_R^{\dot{\alpha}b} d_L^{\dot{\gamma}c} \epsilon_{def} u_{R\dot{\beta}}^d d_R^{\dot{\beta}e} d_{L\dot{\gamma}}^f \\
 (u_L d_L d_R)^2 &\equiv \epsilon_{abc} u_L^{\alpha a} d_{L\alpha}^b d_{R\dot{\gamma}}^c \epsilon_{def} u_L^{\beta d} d_{L\beta}^e d_R^{\dot{\gamma}f} \\
 (u_R d_R s_R)^2 &\equiv \epsilon_{abc} u_{R\dot{\alpha}}^a d_R^{\dot{\alpha}b} s_{R\dot{\gamma}}^c \epsilon_{def} u_{R\dot{\beta}}^d d_R^{\dot{\beta}e} s_R^{\dot{\gamma}f} .
 \end{aligned}$$

$n \rightarrow \bar{n}, NN \rightarrow \pi\pi$   
 $NN \rightarrow KK$

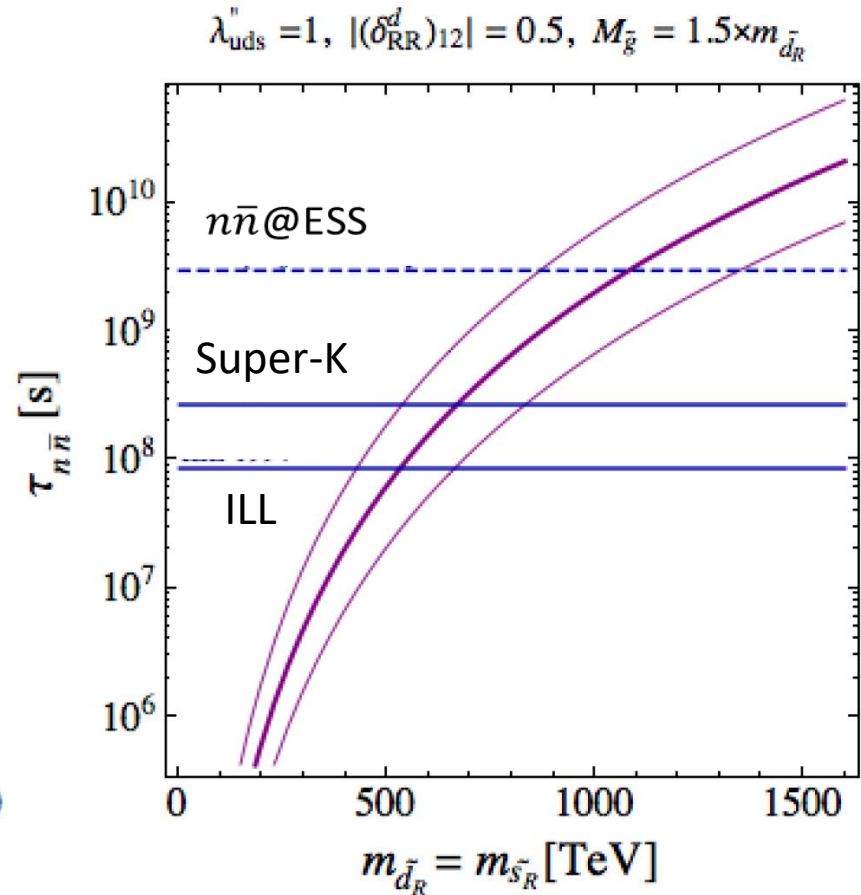
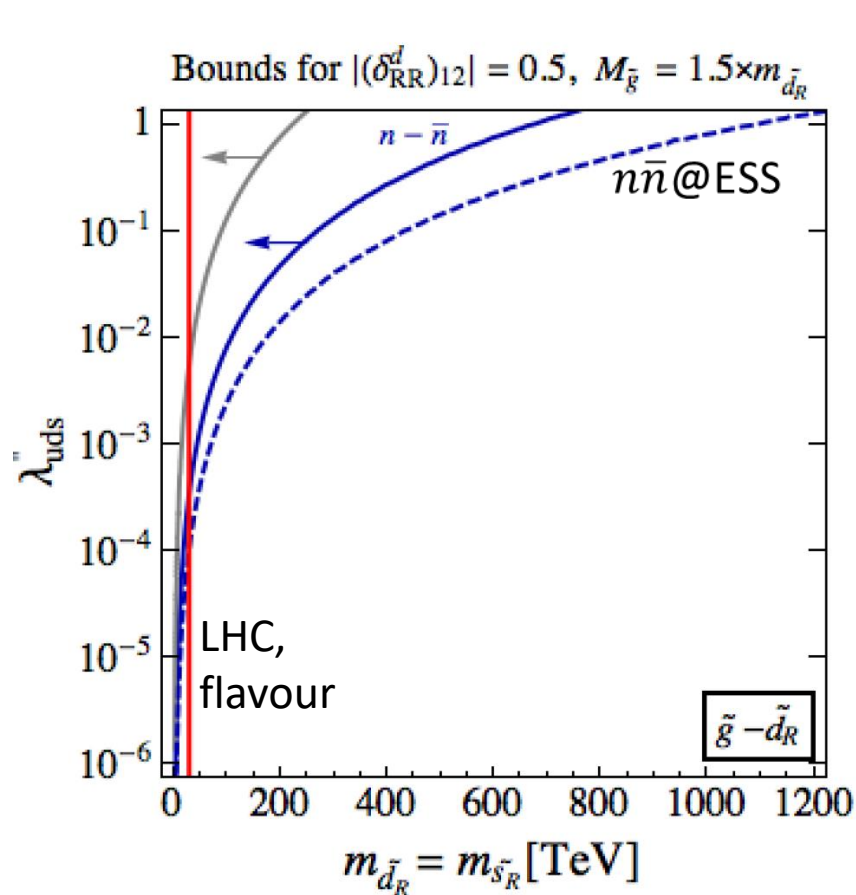
Eg  $n \rightarrow \bar{n}$  :  $\langle \bar{n} | \mathcal{H}_{eff} | n \rangle = \frac{1}{M_X^5} \sum_i \kappa_i \langle \bar{n} | \mathcal{O}_i | n \rangle$

Short distance (RPV SUSY):  $\kappa_i$

Long distance Hadronic ME:  $\langle \bar{n} | \mathcal{O}_i | n \rangle \sim \Lambda_{QCD}^6$

Oscillation time  $\tau = \frac{1}{\langle \bar{n} | \mathcal{H}_{eff} | n \rangle} \sim \frac{M_X^5}{\kappa \Lambda_{QCD}^6}$

# Beyond the TeV scale



Constraints vanish for  $\gg \text{TeV}$  masses

$n\bar{n}@ESS$ : extends mass range by up to  $\sim 400 \text{ TeV}$  cf Super-K

: pushes into the PeV scale

: Reach beyond the LHC



# An experimentalist's view (1)

Hypothesis: baryon number is weakly violated. How do we look for it ?

Need processes in which only  $BNV$  takes place.

Single nucleon decay searches, eg,  $p \rightarrow \pi^0 + e^+$  ?

$\Rightarrow |\Delta B| = 1$  ,  $|\Delta L| = 1$  !

Decays without leptons, eg,  $p \rightarrow \pi + \pi$ , impossible due to angular momentum conservation.

$|\Delta B| \neq 0$  ,  $\Delta L = 0$  observables restricted by Nature.

$n \rightarrow \bar{n}, n'$  and dinucleon decay searches sensitive to  $BNV$ -only.

Free  $n \rightarrow \bar{n}, n'$  searches  $\Rightarrow$  cleanest experimental and theoretical approach.

# An experimentalist's view (2)

Decay mode Partial mean life ( $\times 10^{30}$  yrs)

| Decay mode                        | Partial mean life ( $\times 10^{30}$ yrs) |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| $N \rightarrow e^+ \pi$           | $> 2000$ (n), $> 8200$ (p)                |
| $N \rightarrow \mu^+ \pi$         | $> 1000$ (n), $> 6600$ (p)                |
| $N \rightarrow \nu \pi$           | $> 1100$ (n), $> 390$ (p)                 |
| $p \rightarrow e^+ \eta$          | $> 4200$                                  |
| $p \rightarrow \mu^+ \eta$        | $> 1300$                                  |
| $n \rightarrow \nu \eta$          | $> 158$                                   |
| $N \rightarrow e^+ \rho$          | $> 217$ (n), $> 710$ (p)                  |
| $N \rightarrow \mu^+ \rho$        | $> 228$ (n), $> 160$ (p)                  |
| $N \rightarrow \nu \rho$          | $> 19$ (n), $> 162$ (p)                   |
| $p \rightarrow e^+ \omega$        | $> 320$                                   |
| $p \rightarrow \mu^+ \omega$      | $> 780$                                   |
| $n \rightarrow \nu \omega$        | $> 108$                                   |
| $N \rightarrow e^+ K$             | $> 17$ (n), $> 1000$ (p)                  |
| $N \rightarrow \mu^+ K$           | $> 26$ (n), $> 1600$ (p)                  |
| $N \rightarrow \nu K$             | $> 86$ (n), $> 5900$ (p)                  |
| $n \rightarrow \nu K_S^0$         | $> 260$                                   |
| $p \rightarrow e^+ K^*(892)^0$    | $> 84$                                    |
| $N \rightarrow \nu K^*(892)$      | $> 78$ (n), $> 51$ (p)                    |
| $p \rightarrow e^+ \pi^+ \pi^-$   | $> 82$                                    |
| $p \rightarrow e^+ \pi^0 \pi^0$   | $> 147$                                   |
| $n \rightarrow e^+ \pi^- \pi^0$   | $> 52$                                    |
| $p \rightarrow \mu^+ \pi^+ \pi^-$ | $> 133$                                   |
| $p \rightarrow \mu^+ \pi^0 \pi^0$ | $> 101$                                   |
| $n \rightarrow \mu^+ \pi^- \pi^0$ | $> 74$                                    |
| $n \rightarrow e^+ K^0 \pi^-$     | $> 18$                                    |
| $n \rightarrow e^- \pi^+$         | $> 65$                                    |
| $n \rightarrow \mu^- \pi^+$       | $> 49$                                    |
| $n \rightarrow e^- \rho^+$        | $> 62$                                    |
| $n \rightarrow \mu^- \rho^+$      | $> 7$                                     |
| $n \rightarrow e^- K^+$           | $> 32$                                    |
| $n \rightarrow \mu^- K^+$         | $> 57$                                    |
| $p \rightarrow e^- \pi^+ \pi^+$   | $> 30$                                    |
| $n \rightarrow e^- \pi^+ \pi^0$   | $> 29$                                    |
| $p \rightarrow \mu^- \pi^+ \pi^+$ | $> 17$                                    |
| $n \rightarrow \mu^- \pi^+ \pi^0$ | $> 34$                                    |
| $p \rightarrow e^- \pi^+ K^+$     | $> 75$                                    |
| $p \rightarrow \mu^- \pi^+ K^+$   | $> 245$                                   |

(RPP)

|  |                |
|--|----------------|
| $p \rightarrow e^+ \gamma$             | $> 670$        |
| $p \rightarrow \mu^+ \gamma$           | $> 478$        |
| $n \rightarrow \nu \gamma$             | $> 28$         |
| $p \rightarrow e^+ \gamma \gamma$      | $> 100$        |
| $n \rightarrow \nu \gamma \gamma$      | $> 219$        |
| $p \rightarrow e^+ e^+ e^-$            | $> 793$        |
| $p \rightarrow e^+ \mu^+ \mu^-$        | $> 359$        |
| $p \rightarrow e^+ \nu \nu$            | $> 170$        |
| $n \rightarrow e^+ e^- \nu$            | $> 257$        |
| $n \rightarrow \mu^+ e^- \nu$          | $> 83$         |
| $n \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^- \nu$        | $> 79$         |
| $p \rightarrow \mu^+ e^+ e^-$          | $> 529$        |
| $p \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^+ \mu^-$      | $> 675$        |
| $p \rightarrow \mu^+ \nu \nu$          | $> 220$        |
| $p \rightarrow e^- \mu^+ \mu^+$        | $> 6$          |
| $n \rightarrow 3\nu$                   | $> 0.0005$     |
| $N \rightarrow e^+$ anything           | $> 0.6$ (n, p) |
| $N \rightarrow \mu^+$ anything         | $> 12$ (n, p)  |
| $N \rightarrow e^+ \pi^0$ anything     | $> 0.6$ (n, p) |
| $pp \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^+$           | $> 0.7$        |
| $pn \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^0$           | $> 2$          |
| $nn \rightarrow \pi^+ \pi^-$           | $> 0.7$        |
| $nn \rightarrow \pi^0 \pi^0$           | $> 3.4$        |
| $pp \rightarrow K^+ K^+$               | $> 170$        |
| $pp \rightarrow e^- e^-$               | $> 5.8$        |
| $pp \rightarrow e^+ \mu^+$             | $> 3.6$        |
| $pp \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^+$           | $> 1.7$        |
| $pn \rightarrow e^+ \bar{\nu}$         | $> 2.8$        |
| $pn \rightarrow \mu^+ \bar{\nu}$       | $> 1.6$        |
| $pn \rightarrow \tau^+ \bar{\nu}_\tau$ | $> 1.0$        |
| $nn \rightarrow \nu_e \bar{\nu}_e$     | $> 1.4$        |
| $nn \rightarrow \nu_\mu \bar{\nu}_\mu$ | $> 1.4$        |

$$\Delta B \neq 0, \Delta L \neq 0$$

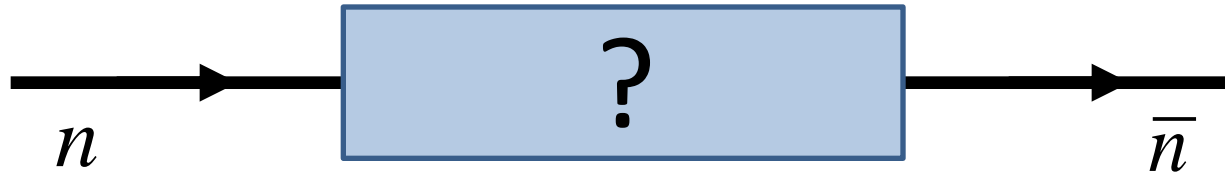
$$\Delta B \neq 0, \Delta L = 0$$

Few searches for  $\Delta B \neq 0, \Delta L = 0$

# Outline

- Why neutron oscillations ? ✓
- How to look for neutron oscillations
- $N_{\text{bar}}$  and HIBEAM at the ESS

# $n \rightarrow \bar{n}$ mixing formalism



$$i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \begin{pmatrix} n \\ \bar{n} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} E_n & \delta m \\ \delta m & E_{\bar{n}} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} n \\ \bar{n} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\delta m = \langle \bar{n} | H_{eff} | n \rangle < 10^{-29} \text{ MeV} = n\bar{n} \text{ mixing physics}$$

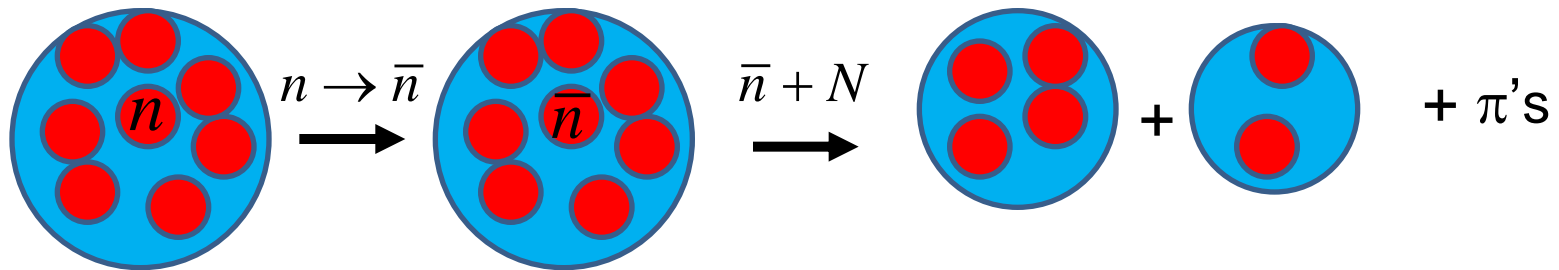
$$P_{n \rightarrow \bar{n}} = \left( \frac{\delta m}{\Delta E} \right)^2 \sin^2 (\Delta E \times t) \quad ; \quad \Delta E = E_n - E_{\bar{n}}$$

Two interesting cases:

- Free neutron oscillation:  $\Delta E \times t \ll 1 \Rightarrow P \sim (\delta m \times t)^2$
- Bound neutron oscillation:  $\Delta E \times t \gg 1$

# Searching with bound neutrons

## Nuclear disintegration after neutron oscillation



$$P_{n \rightarrow \bar{n}} = \left( \frac{\delta m}{\Delta E} \right)^2 \sin^2 (\Delta E \times t) ,$$

$$\Delta E \sim 100 \text{ MeV} .$$

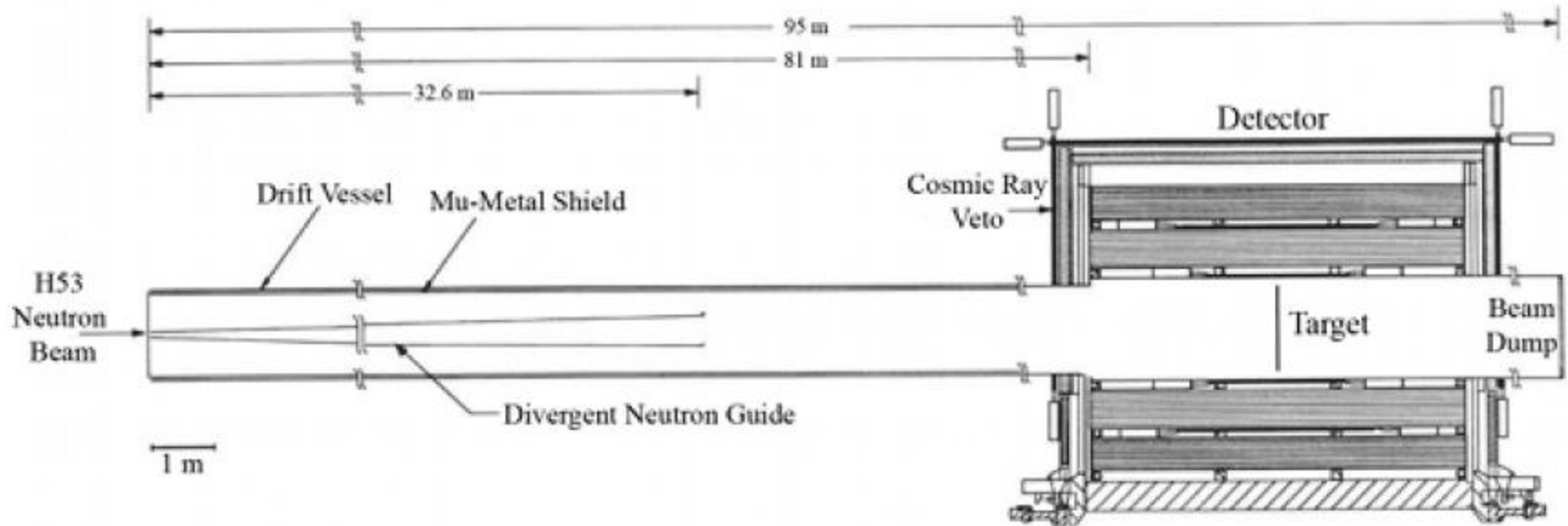
$$\Rightarrow \text{Suppression: } \left( \frac{\delta m}{\Delta E} \right)^2 < 10^{-60}$$

Best current limits (SuperKamiokande)  $\Rightarrow \tau_{free} > 2.5 \times 10^8 \text{ s}$

Irreducible bg's prevent large improvements.

Model-dependent (nuclear interactions).

# Free neutron search at ILL



Institute Laue-Langevin (Early 1990's).

Cold neutron beam from 58MW reactor.

~ 130 $\mu$ m thick carbon target

Signal of at least two tracks with  $E > 850$  MeV

0 candidate events, 0 background.

$$\Rightarrow \tau_{n \rightarrow \bar{n}} > 0.86 \times 10^8 \text{ s.}$$

# Outline

- Why neutron oscillations ? ✓
- How to look for neutron oscillations ✓
- $N_{\text{nbar}}$  and HIBEAM at the ESS



# The European Spallation Source

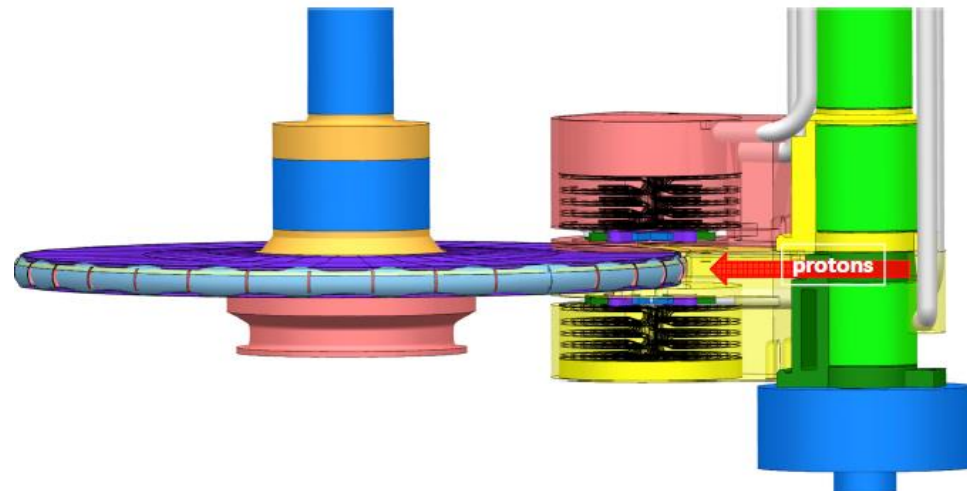
High intensity spallation  
neutron source

Multidisciplinary research centre  
with 17 European nations  
participating.

Lund, Sweden.  
Start operations in 2023/2024.

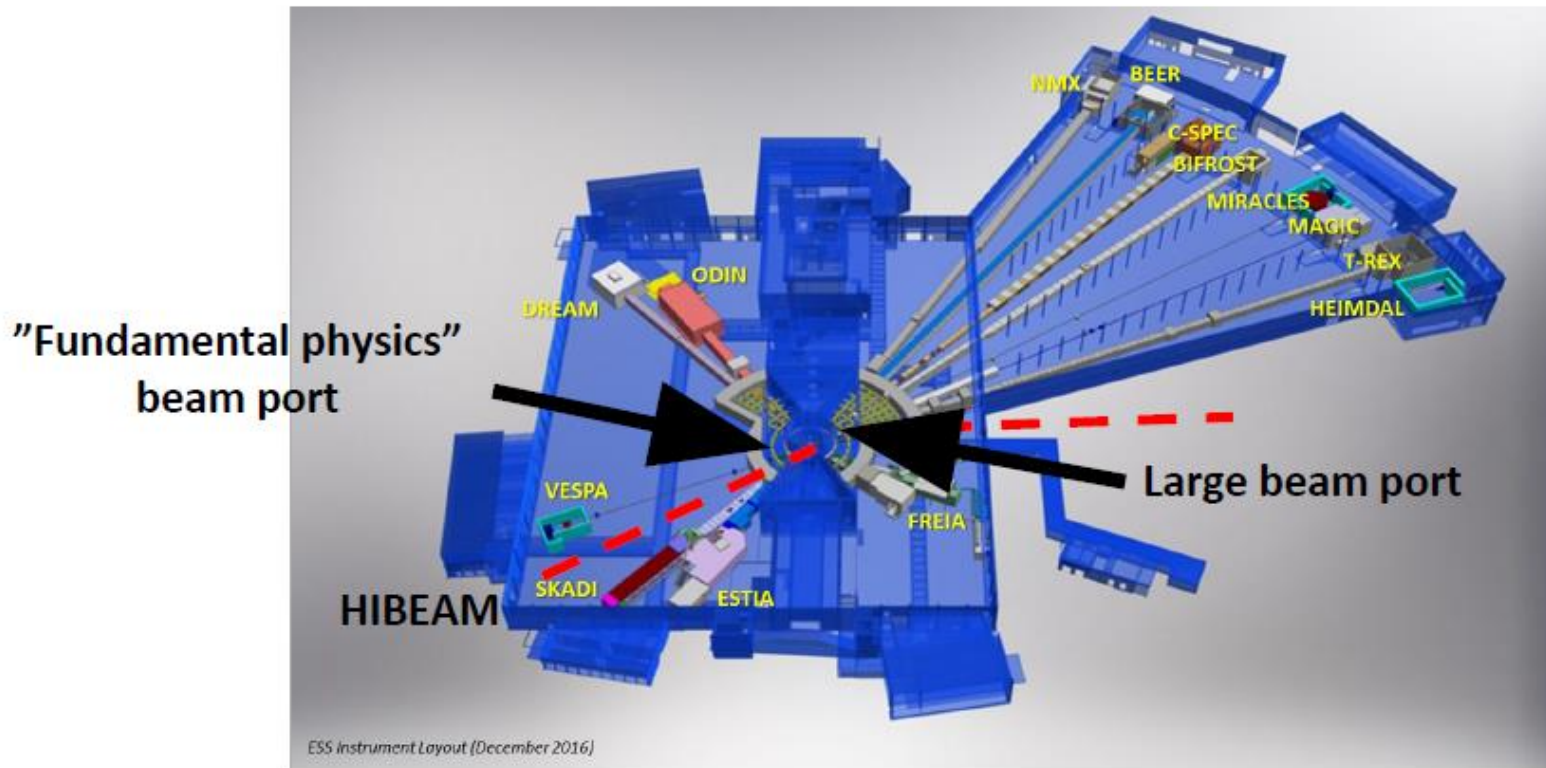
2 GeV protons (3ms long pulse,  
14 Hz) hit rotating tungsten  
target.

Cold neutrons after interaction  
with moderators.





# HIBEAM

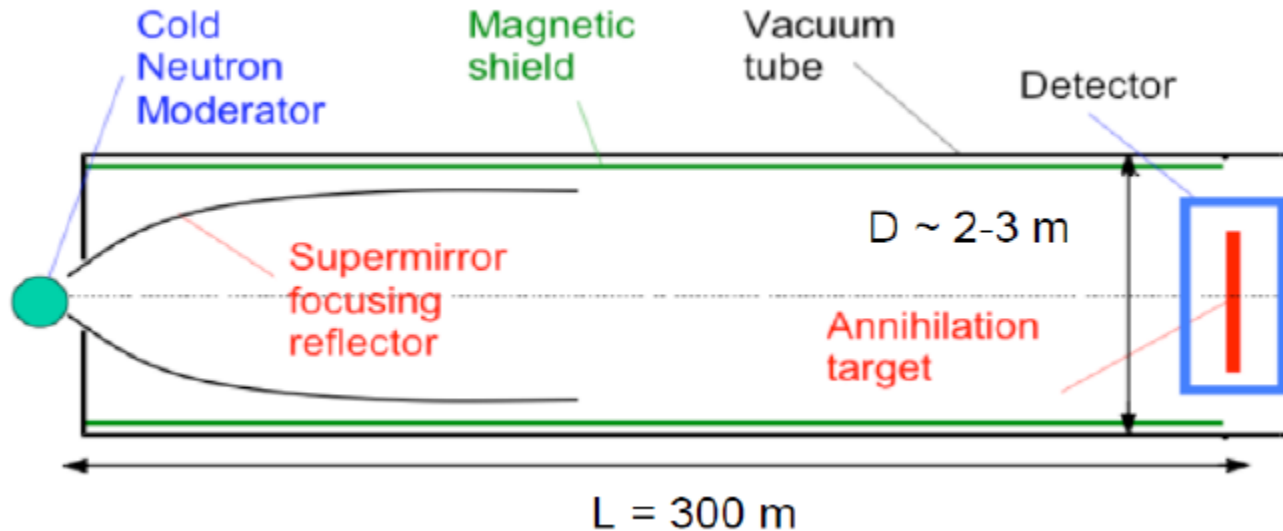


~ 22 instruments/experiments with capability for more.

Plan for staged experiment:

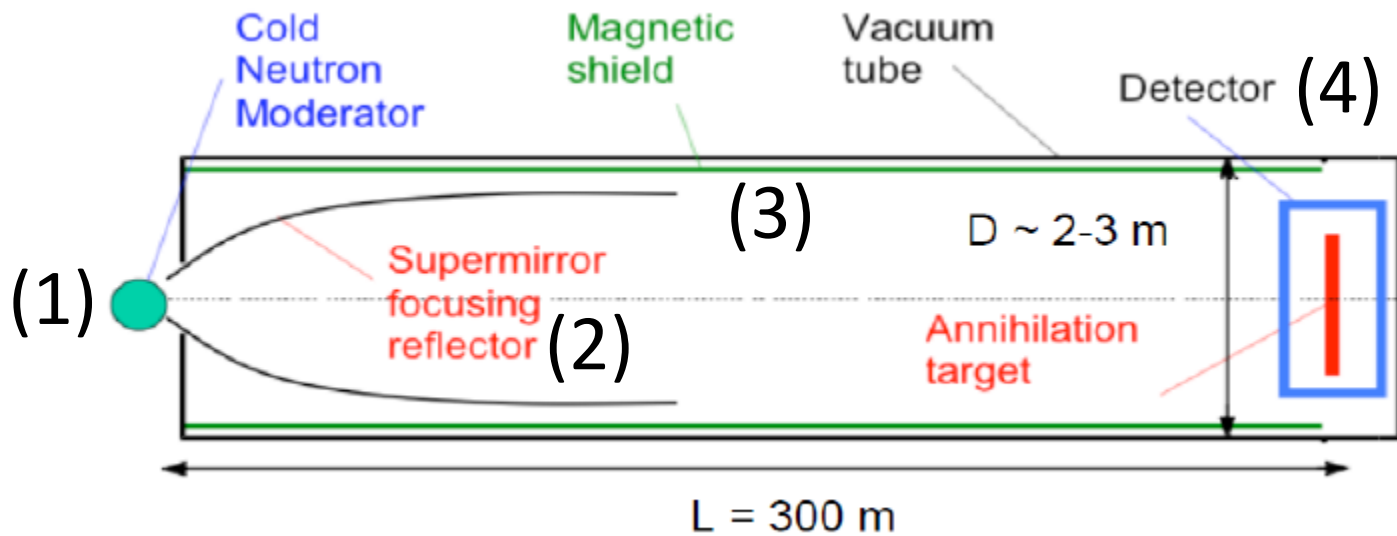
- (1) HIBEAM (high intensity baryon extraction and measurement) at Fundamental Physics Beam Port
- (2) NNbar at the Large Beam Port.

# Overview of the Experiment

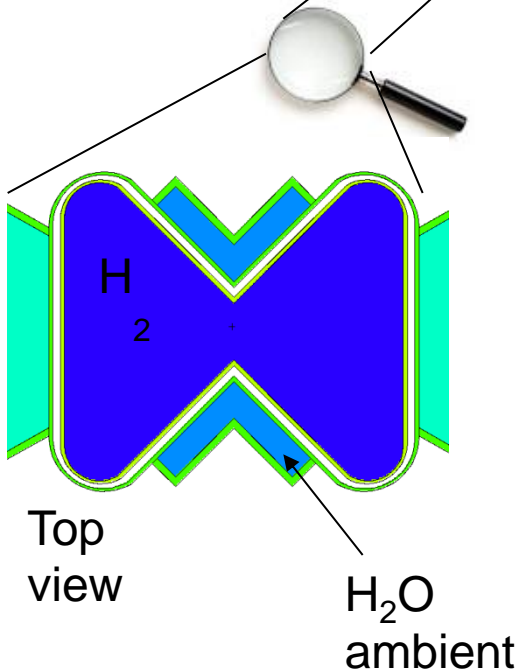
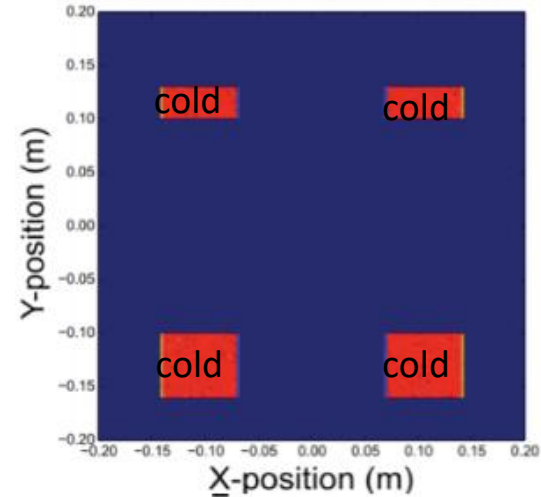
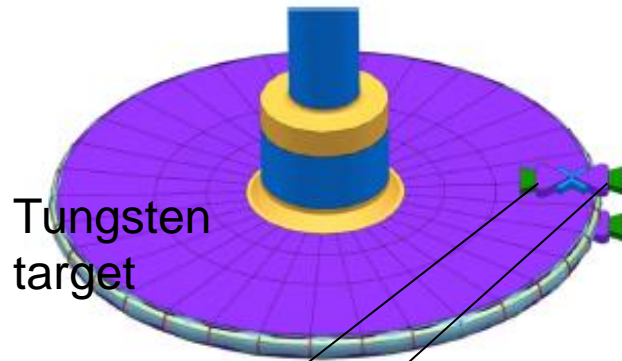


$$\text{Sensitivity} = (\text{free neutron flux at target}) \times P(n \rightarrow \bar{n}) \propto N_n t^2$$

- Cold neutrons ( $E < 5$  meV,  $v < 1000$  ms $^{-1}$ )
- Low neutron emission temperature (50-60 K)
- Supermirror transmission and transit time
- Large beam port option, large solid angle to cold moderator.



# Neutronics (1)

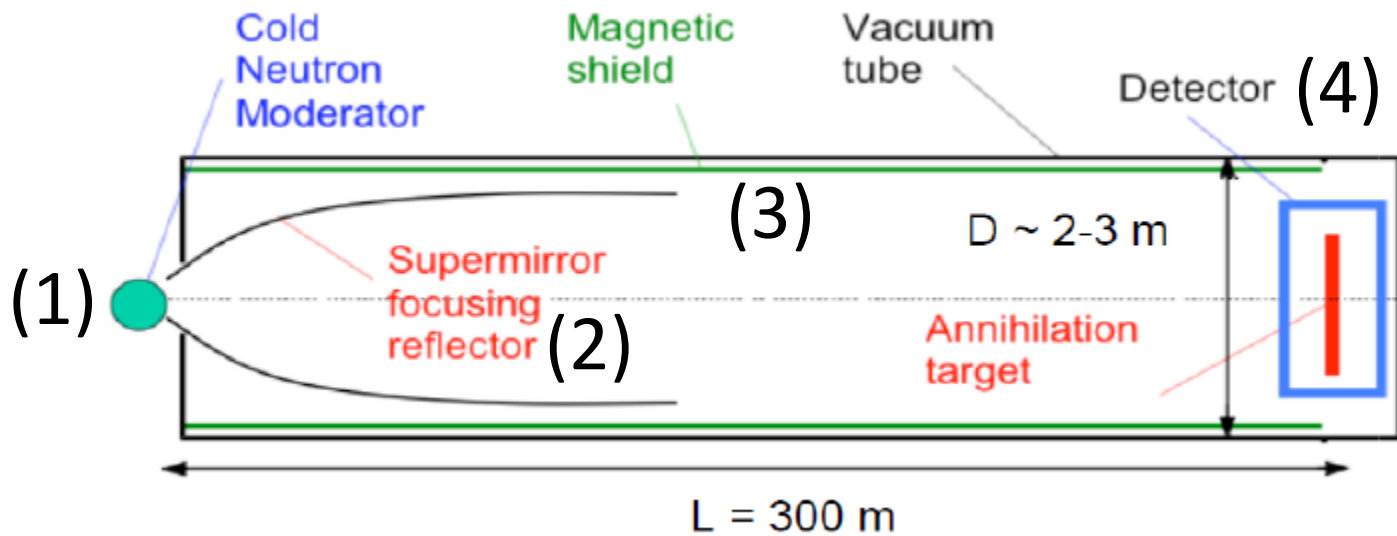


ESS moderators will be of “butterfly” design

- Increase cold yield
- Convenient beam extraction

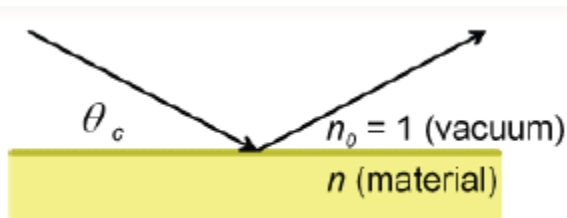
Additional challenge for nbar which could benefit from extracting neutrons from all four visible cold surfaces

- Conventional point-to-point focusing of a cold neutron beam using ellipsoidal mirrors inefficient.
- Ongoing studies on neutron optics



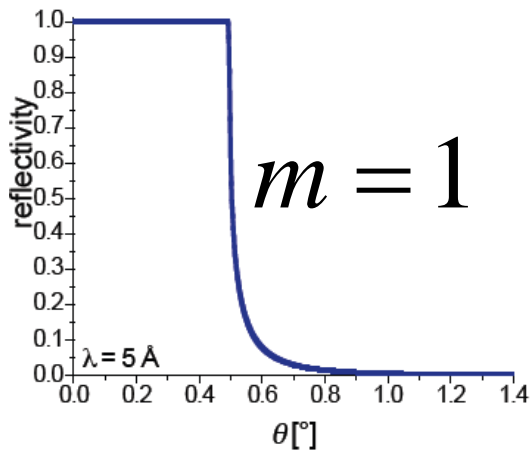
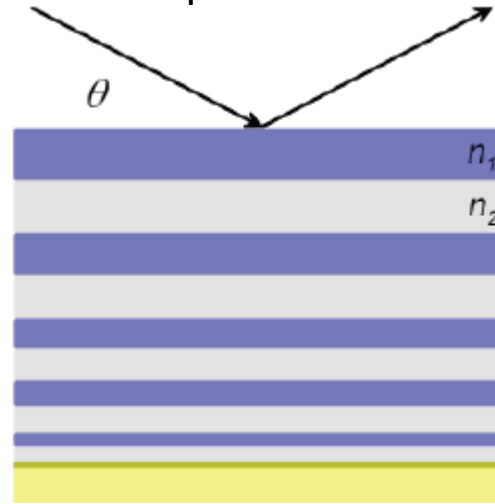
# Neutron supermirror

Smooth surface

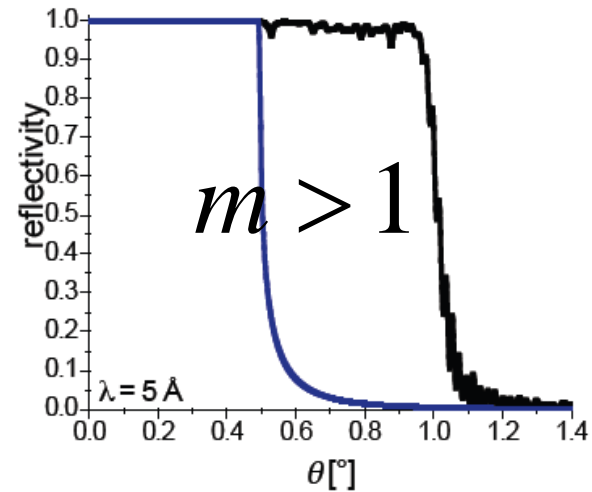


$\theta_c$  = Critical angle for total internal reflection

Supermirror

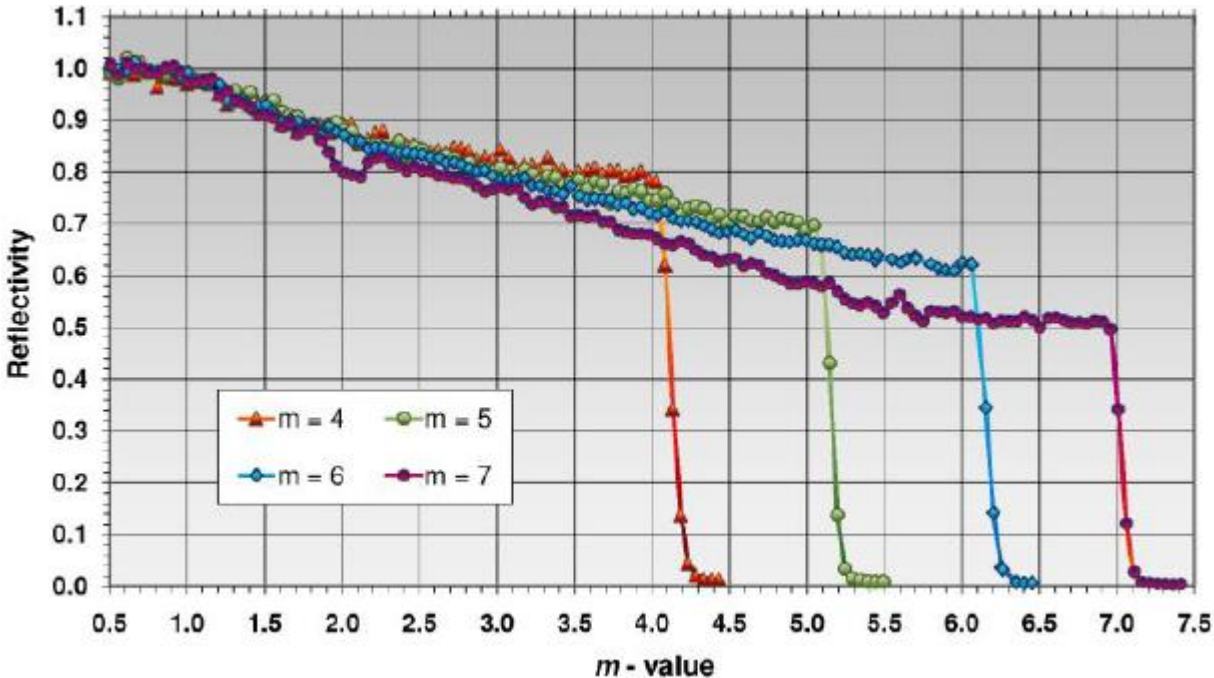


$\theta_c \rightarrow m\theta_C^{Ni}$



Need efficient focusing and minimal interactions  
(each interaction "resets the  $n$ -clock")

# Commercial supermirrors



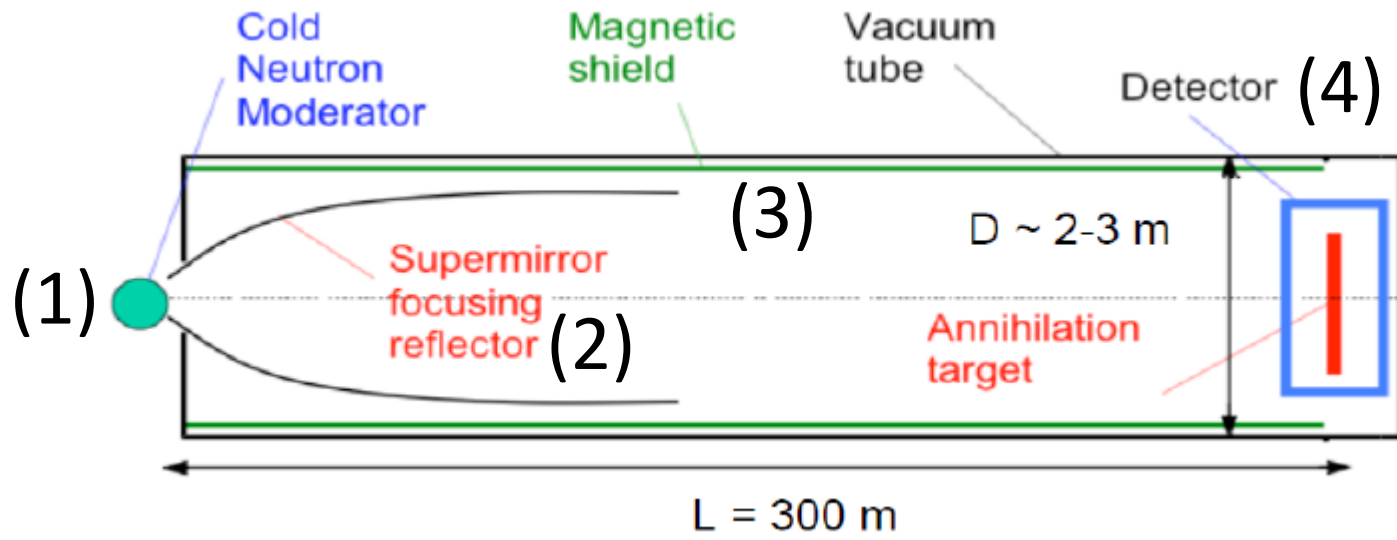
Commercial supermirrors with  $m \sim 7$

Acceptance for straight guide  $\propto m^2$

ILL experiment used  $m \sim 1$  neutron optics.

Increase from use of focusing reflector and optimised mirror arrays.

Crucial contribution to increase of sensitivity wrt ILL.





# The need for magnetic shielding

$$\frac{n(\mu \downarrow) \quad \bar{n}(\mu \uparrow)}{B \sim 0} \quad \begin{array}{c} n(\mu \downarrow) \\ \updownarrow \\ 2\vec{\mu} \cdot \vec{B} \\ \updownarrow \\ \bar{n}(\mu \uparrow) \end{array} \quad \uparrow E$$

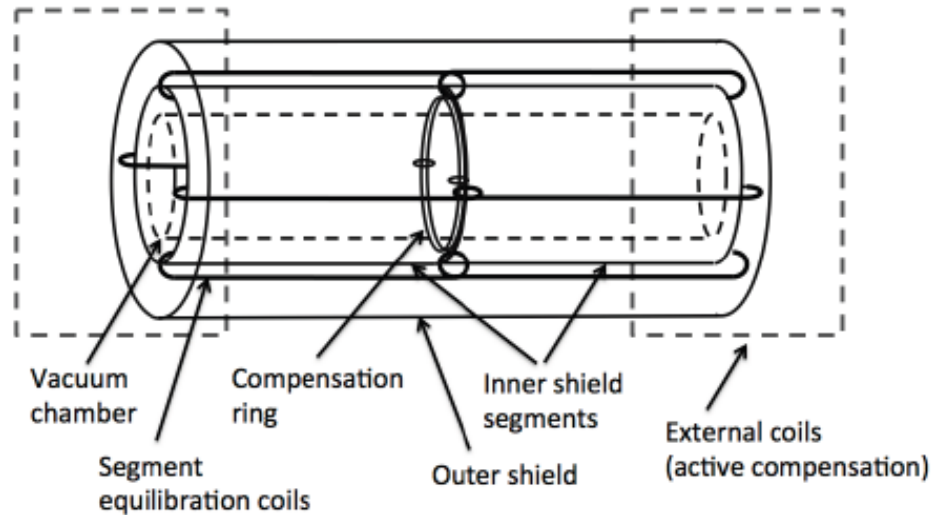
Degeneracy of  $n, \bar{n}$  broken in B-field due to dipole interactions:  $\Delta E = 2\vec{\mu} \cdot \vec{B}$

Flight time  $\leq 1\text{s}$

For quasi-free condition  $\Delta E \times t \ll 1$

$\Rightarrow B \leq 5\text{nT}$  and vacuum  $\leq 10^{-5}$  Pa.

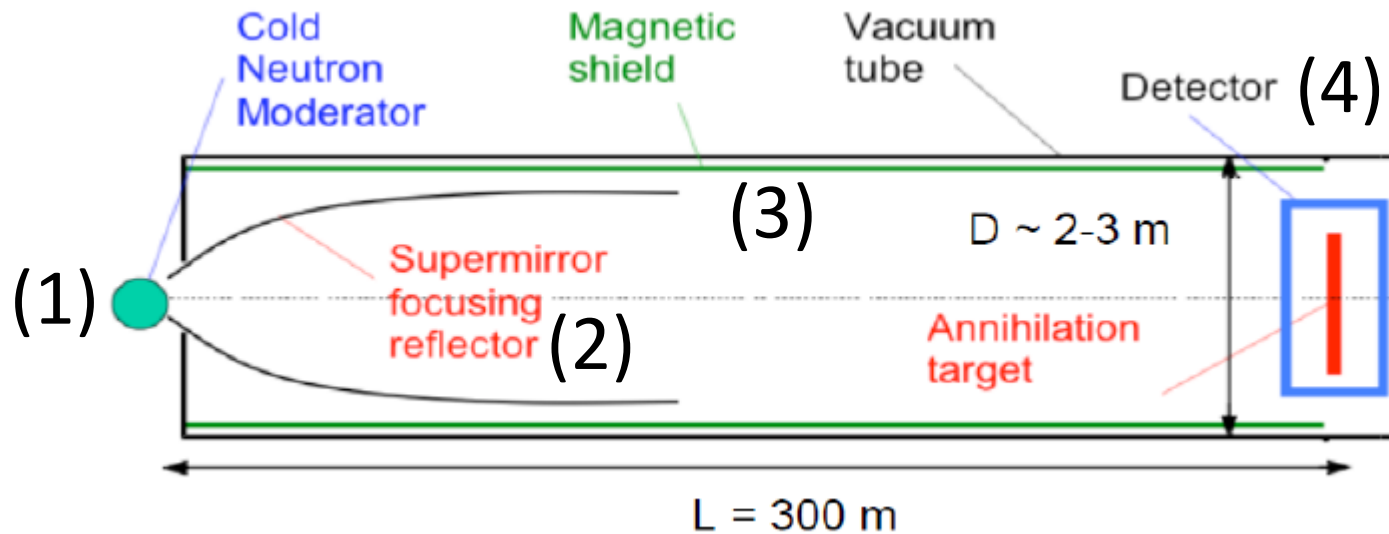
# Shielding



## Magnetic shielding for flight volume

- $B < 5\text{nT}$ ,  $P \sim 10^{-5}\text{mbar}$
- Aluminium vacuum chamber
- Passive magnetic shield from magnetizable alloy
- External coils for active compensation
- Background studied by turning on/off  $\vec{B}$ -field.

# Overview of the Experiment

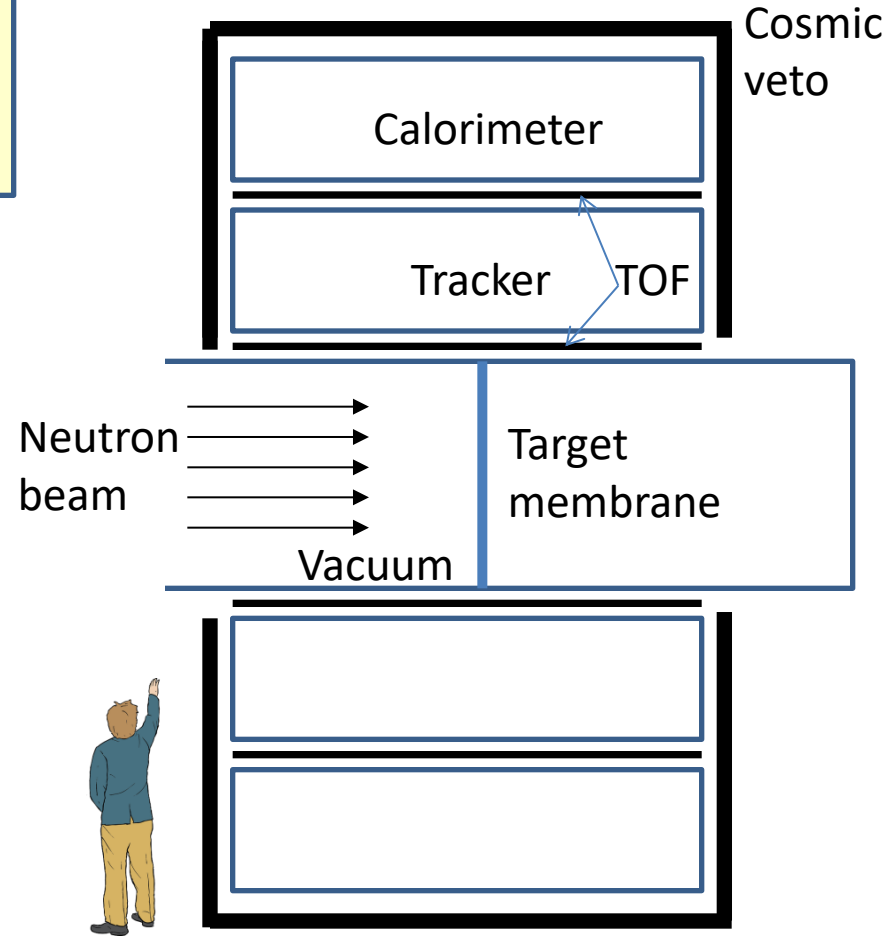


# Detector

Expect  $\bar{n} + N \rightarrow \sim 5\pi$  at  $\sqrt{s} \sim 2$  GeV.

Detector design for high efficiency ( $\varepsilon > 0.5$ ) and low bg ( $\sim 0$ ).

- Annihilation target - carbon sheet
- Tracker - vertex reconstruction
- Time-of-flight system
  - scintillators around tracker.
- Calorimeter
  - lead + scintillating and clear fibre.
- Cosmic veto
- Trigger - Track and cluster algorithms



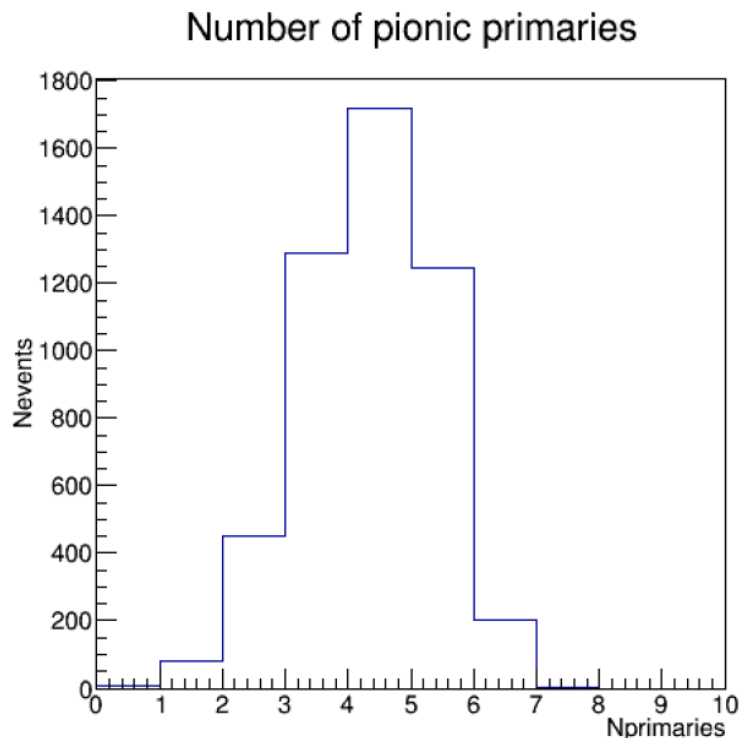
# GENIE: NNBar Final State Primaries

## Preliminary

Final state list prepared by R. W. Pattie

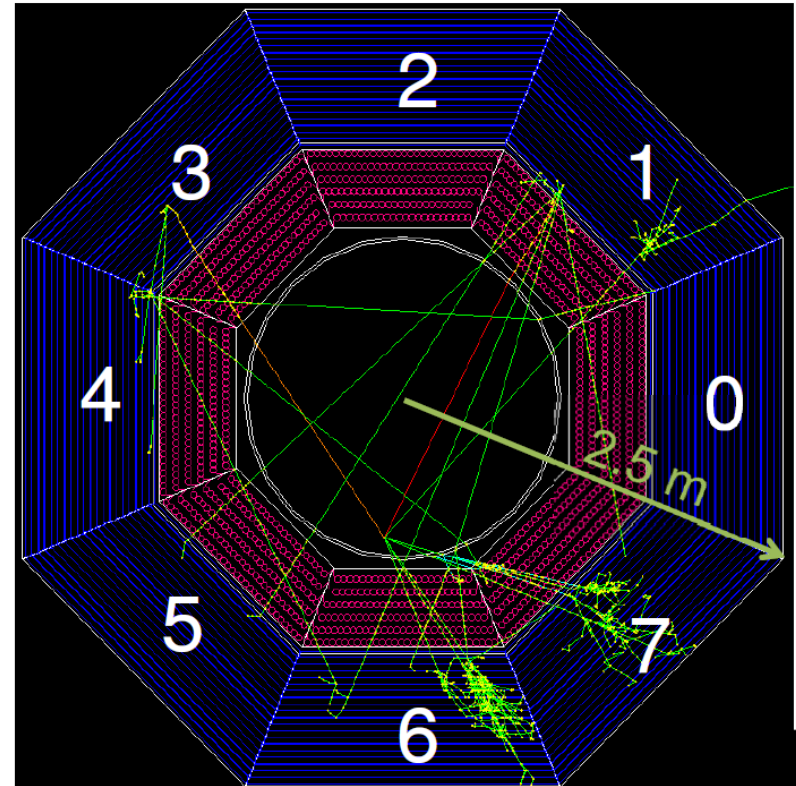
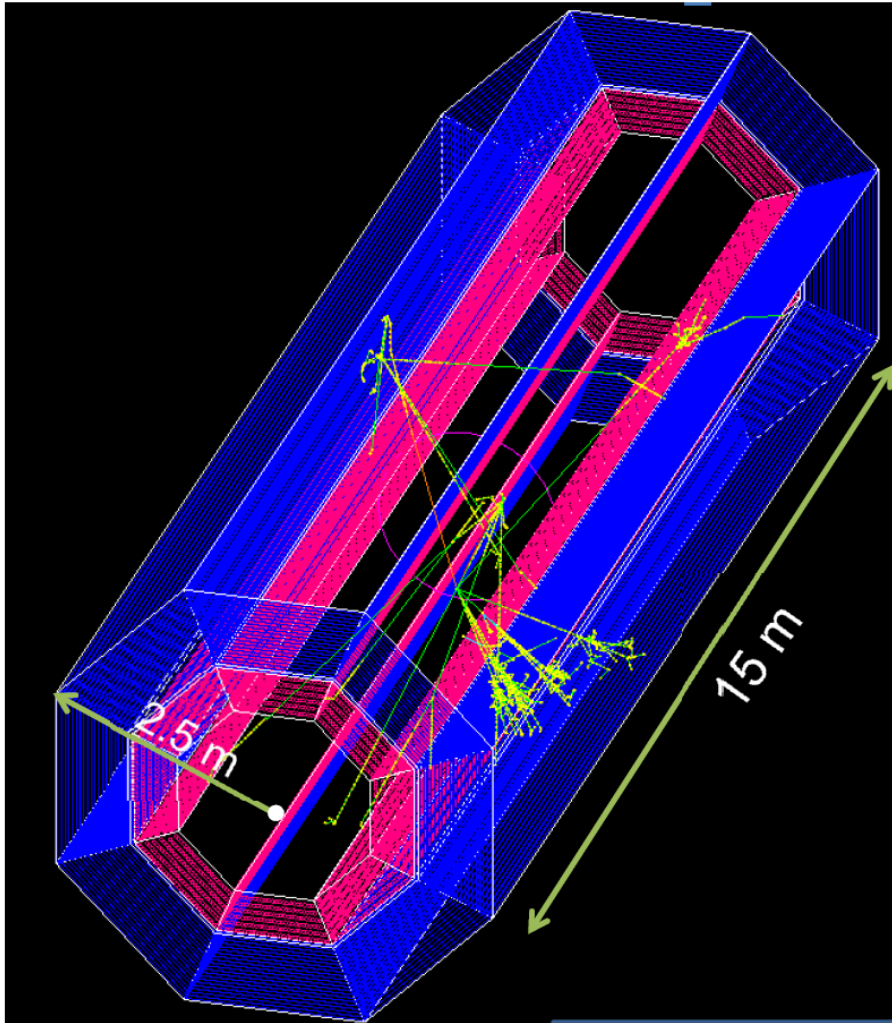
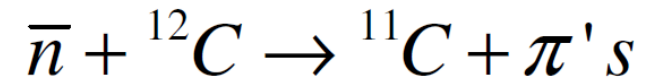
GENIE-2.0.0: intranuclear propagation based on INTRANUKE

[C.Andreopoulos et al., The GENIE Neutrino Monte Carlo Generator, Nucl.Instrum.Meth.A614:87-104,2010.](#)



| Final State Pionic Mode | Nevents | % Total |
|-------------------------|---------|---------|
| $\pi^+\pi^-2\pi^0$      | 530     | 10.60%  |
| $2\pi^+\pi^-\pi^0$      | 486     | 9.72%   |
| $\pi^+\pi^-\pi^0$       | 417     | 8.34%   |
| $2\pi^+\pi^-2\pi^0$     | 409     | 8.18%   |
| $\pi^+\pi^-3\pi^0$      | 329     | 6.58%   |
| $2\pi^+2\pi^-\pi^0$     | 315     | 6.30%   |
| $\pi^+2\pi^0$           | 290     | 5.80%   |
| $\pi^+3\pi^0$           | 219     | 4.38%   |
| $\pi^+\pi^-\omega$      | 145     | 2.90%   |
| $\pi^+\pi^0$            | 137     | 2.74%   |
| $\pi^+2\pi^-\pi^0$      | 132     | 2.64%   |
| $2\pi^+2\pi^-$          | 124     | 2.48%   |

# Annihilation event



6/13/129

6/13/14

A. R. Young, D. G. Phillips II, R. W. Pattie Jr.

# Capability of the experiment

Gain in  $P_{n\bar{n}}$   $\sim 10^3$  compared with ILL.

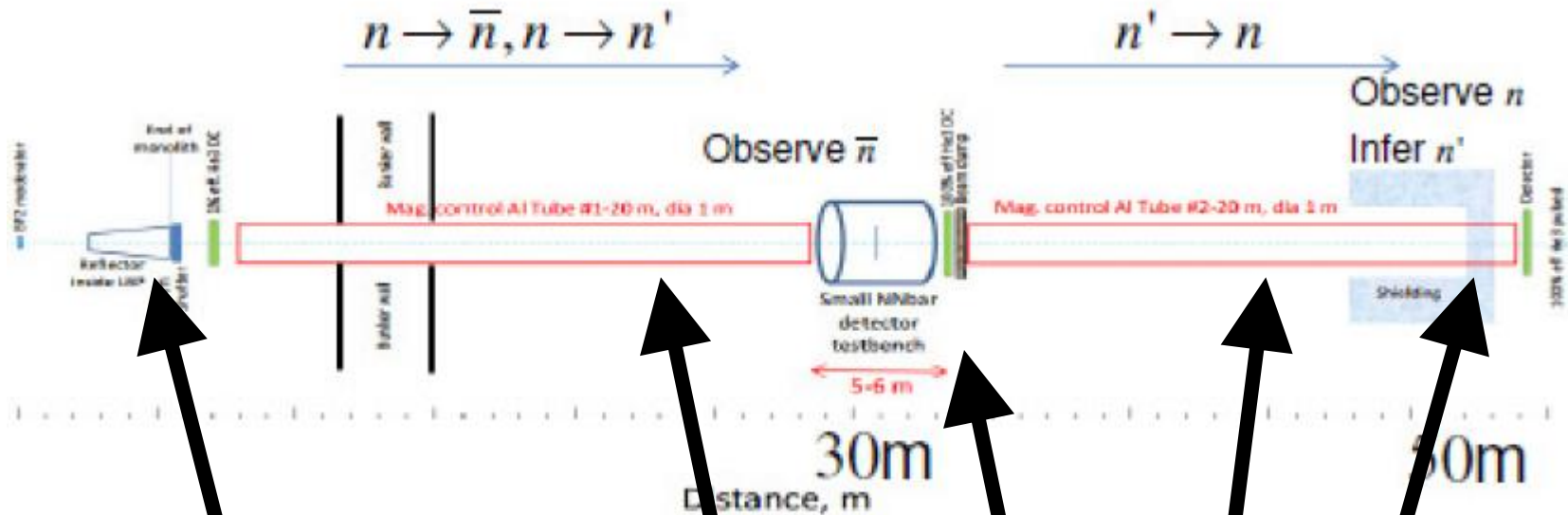
| Factor                                  | Gain wrt ILL |
|---|--------------|
| Brightness                              | $\geq 1$     |
| Moderator temperature                   | $\geq 1$     |
| Moderator area                          | 2            |
| Angular acceptance/neutron transmission | 40           |
| Length                                  | 5            |
| Run time                                | 3            |
| <b>Total</b>                            | $\geq 1000$  |

Increase in sensitivity for  $P_{n\bar{n}} \sim 10^3$  compared to previous experiment (ILL)

Stability of matter ( $\tau_{life}$ ) sensitivity  $\sim 10^{35}$  yrs

Discovery or new stringent limit on models of new physics and stability of matter.

# HIBEAM



1. Neutron focusing
2. Passage through shielded tube
3. If  $n \rightarrow \bar{n} \rightarrow$  annihilation of  $\bar{n}$  in C target
4. If  $n \rightarrow n' \rightarrow$  passage through absorber
5.  $n' \rightarrow n \rightarrow$  measure  $n$  in neutron counter



# The proposed program

## Stage 1

HIBEAM - high intensity baryon extraction and measurement

Early to late 2020s

- Match or improve sensitivity to  $P(n \rightarrow \bar{n})$  wrt previous search at ILL
- Search for mirror neutrons (regeneration)
- R&D for full experiment (*NNBAR*)

## Stage 2

*NNBAR* experiment

Late 2020's + 5 years

- Improve sensitivity to  $P(n \rightarrow \bar{n})$  by  $\sim 10^3$
- Further mirror neutron searches

# HIBEAM/nnbar and ESS

## HIBEAM/nnbar

Six workshops (CERN, Lund, Gothenburg, Copenhagen)  
Expression of Interest 2015.

26 institutes, 8 countries.

Co-spokespersons : G. Broojimans, D. Milstead

Lead scientist: Y. Kamyskov

Sweden: SU,UU,LU,Chalmers

## ESS

No fundamental physics instrument from first call

Wish from ESS management for fundamental physics –  
new call 2018

Plan to submit a joint proposal with ANNI collaboration  
in 2018.

Successful application → 10-14 Meuros.



**Neutron-Anti-Neutron Oscillations at ESS**  
Lund, Feb 18-19, 2015

Neutron-antineutron oscillations have proven to be extremely sensitive probes of fundamental physics. Their realization is limited by the first order of the GUT symmetry breaking. The realization of the first order of the GUT symmetry breaking is limited by the first order of the GUT symmetry breaking. The realization of the first order of the GUT symmetry breaking is limited by the first order of the GUT symmetry breaking.

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**Registration fee:**  
18 May 2015  
[www.ess.eu/ess2015](http://www.ess.eu/ess2015)

**Logos:** ESS, ANNI, and other collaborating institutions.

# Particle Physics Strategy

## European:

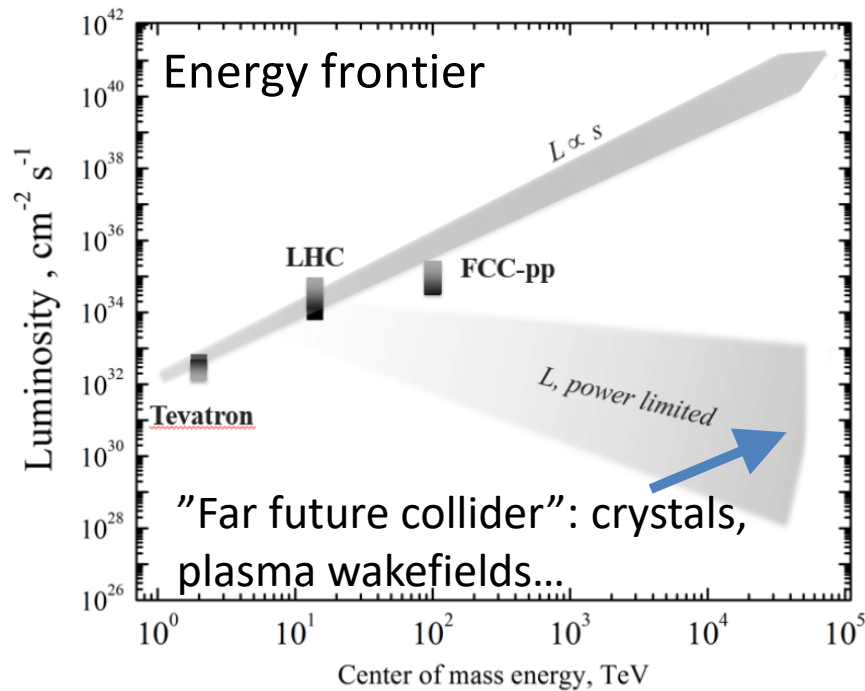
h) Experiments studying quark flavour physics, investigating dipole moments, searching for charged-lepton flavour violation and performing other precision measurements at lower energies, such as those with neutrons, muons and antiprotons, may give access to higher energy scales than direct particle production or put fundamental symmetries to the test. They can be based in national laboratories, with a moderate cost and smaller collaborations. *Experiments in Europe with unique reach should be supported, as well as participation in experiments in other regions of the world.*

## US P5 report:

- With a mix of large, medium, and small projects, important physics results will be produced continuously throughout the twenty-year P5 timeframe. In our budget exercises, we maintained a small projects portfolio to preserve budgetary space for a set of projects whose costs individually are not large enough to come under direct P5 review but which are of great importance to the field. This is in addition to the aforementioned small neutrino experiments portfolio, which is intended to be integrated into a coherent overall neutrino program.

Consensus in the field is to pursue experiments with unique capabilities and physics reach.

# We live in interesting times



Future discoveries or walking a few km in a desert ?



For the first time in 50 years, going to higher collision energies no longer offers a clear path to discoveries or fundamental insights.

Need a complementary set of collider + non-collider experiments with unique physics potentials and reach of energy scale.

# Summary

- Observation of baryon number violation would be of fundamental significance.
- Nature makes BNV-only observables hard to find and measure
  - Last  $n \rightarrow \bar{n}$  search in 1990's.
- Unique opportunity for high sensitivity searches for  $n \rightarrow \bar{n}$ ,  $n \rightarrow n'$  at ESS
- HIBEAM is first stage of project to improve sensitivity to  $P(n \rightarrow \bar{n})$  by  $\sim 10^3$ .
- Collaboration preparing a proposal for ESS in 2018
- *Follows the European Particle Strategy of supporting a set of experiments with complementary and unique physics reach.*

# EW instantons in the Standard Model

Bosonic sector of EW theory

Infinite no. of field configurations (vacua)

Vacua distinguished by fermion energy levels.

Instantons:

Tunnelling between vacua minima  $\equiv$

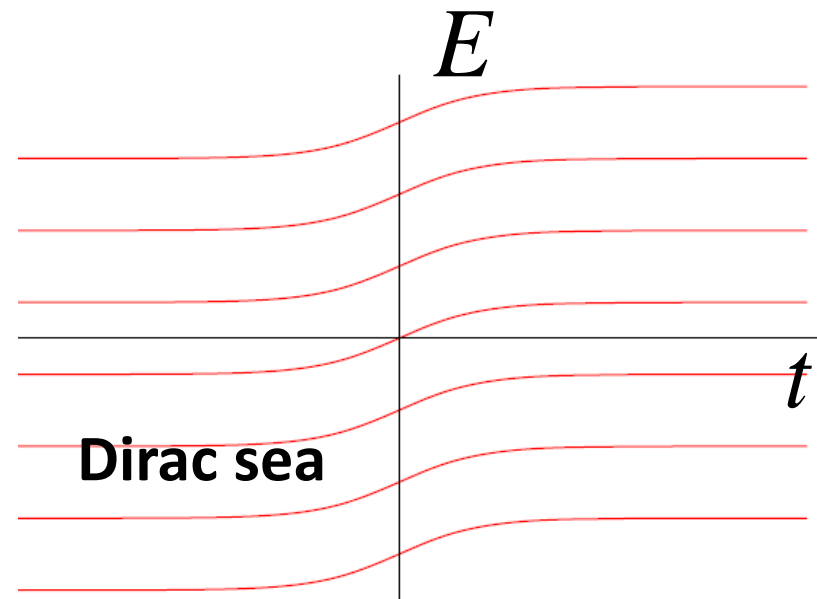
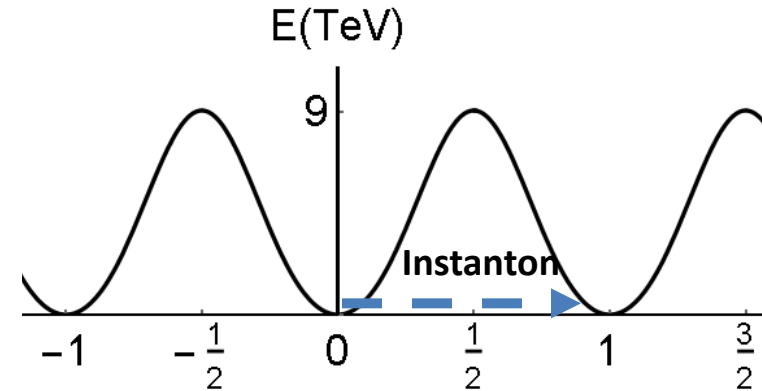
Fluctuation of background  $W$  field.

Energy level raises above (or falls below)  
the surface of the Dirac sea.

$\Rightarrow$  No. leptons and quarks changes

$\Rightarrow \Delta L = \Delta B \neq 0, \Delta(B-L)=0, \Delta(B+L) \neq 0$

Exponentially suppressed:  $\exp\left(-\frac{2\pi}{g_W}\right)$



# Maybe shielding isn't needed

PHYSICAL REVIEW D **91**, 096010 (2015)

## Phenomenology of $n-\bar{n}$ oscillations revisited

S. Gardner<sup>\*</sup> and E. Jafari

*Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky 40506-0055, USA*  
(Received 14 August 2014; revised manuscript received 15 February 2015; published 22 May 2015)

We revisit the phenomenology of  $n-\bar{n}$  oscillations in the presence of external magnetic fields, highlighting the role of spin. We show, contrary to long-held belief, that the  $n-\bar{n}$  transition rate need not be suppressed, opening new opportunities for its empirical study.

DOI: [10.1103/PhysRevD.91.096010](https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevD.91.096010)

PACS numbers: 11.30.Fs, 11.30.Er, 13.40.Em, 14.20.Dh

Interesting discussion in the literature.