

μ SR:

Fantasy, Fiction, Physics

The Story of

Muon Spin Rotation/Relaxation/Resonance

according to

Jess H. Brewer

Fantasy, Fiction, Physics ?

- **Fantasy**: violates the “known laws of physics”
- **Science Fiction**: possible in principle, but impractical with existing technology. (**Clarke’s Law**: *“Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic.”*)
- **Routine Physics**: “We can do that”
- **Applied Science**: The magic goes away

Before 1956: *Fantasy*

● 1930s: **Mistaken Identity**

Yukawa's "nuclear glue" **mesons** \neq **cosmic rays**

1937 Rabi: Nuclear Magnetic Resonance

● 1940s: **"Who Ordered That?"**

1940 Phys. Rev. Analytical Subject Index: "**mesotron**"

1944 Rasetti: 1st application of muons to condensed matter physics

1946 Bloch: Nuclear Induction (modern **NMR** with **FID** etc.)

1946 Various: "two-meson" π - μ hypothesis Brewer: born

1947 Richardson: produced π & μ at Berkeley 184 in. Cyclotron

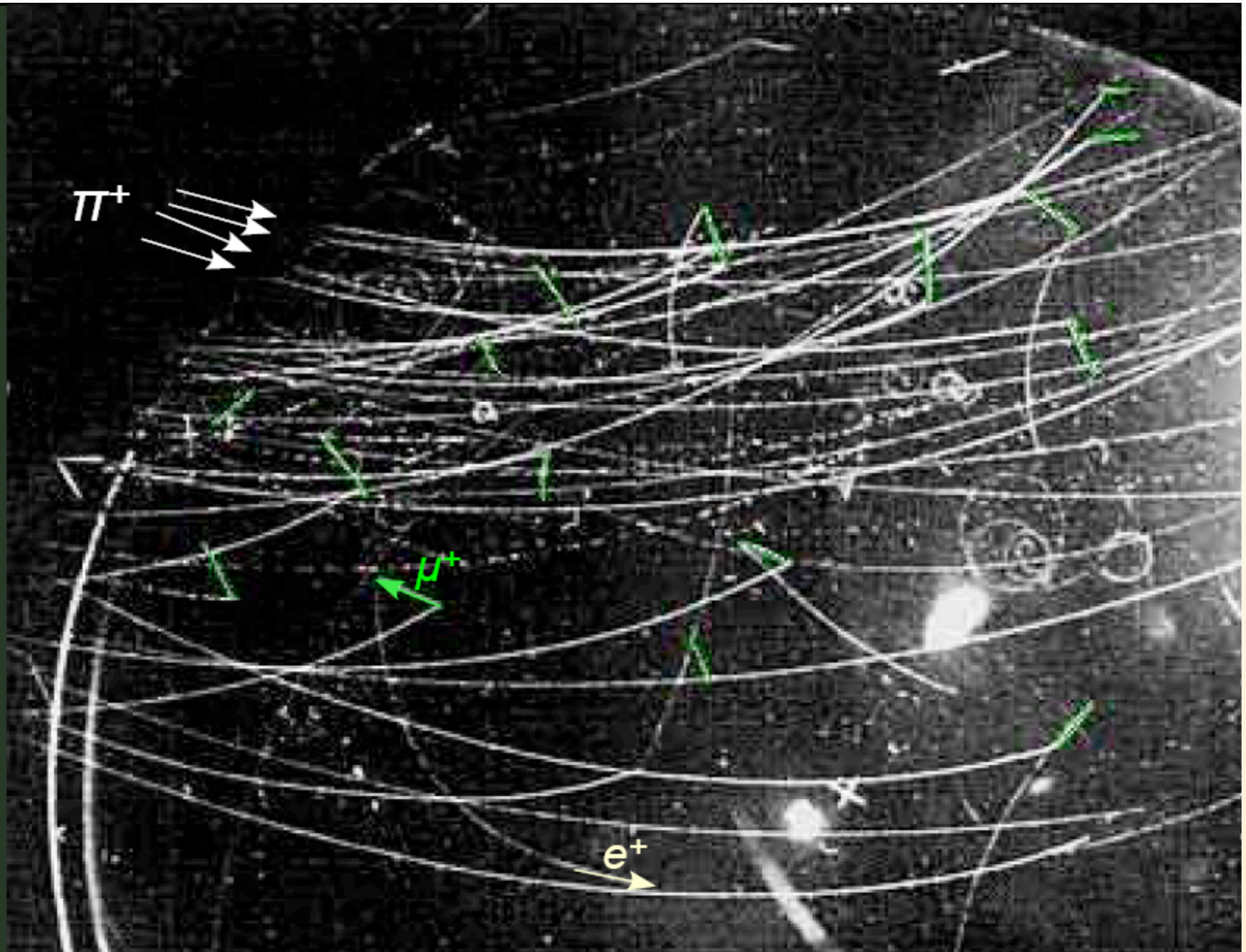
1949 Kuhn: "*The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*"

● 1950s: **"Particle Paradise"**

culminating in weird results with strange particles:

1956 Cronin, Fitch, . . . : " τ - θ puzzle" (neutral **kaons**) \rightarrow **Revolution!**

What
do
you
see?



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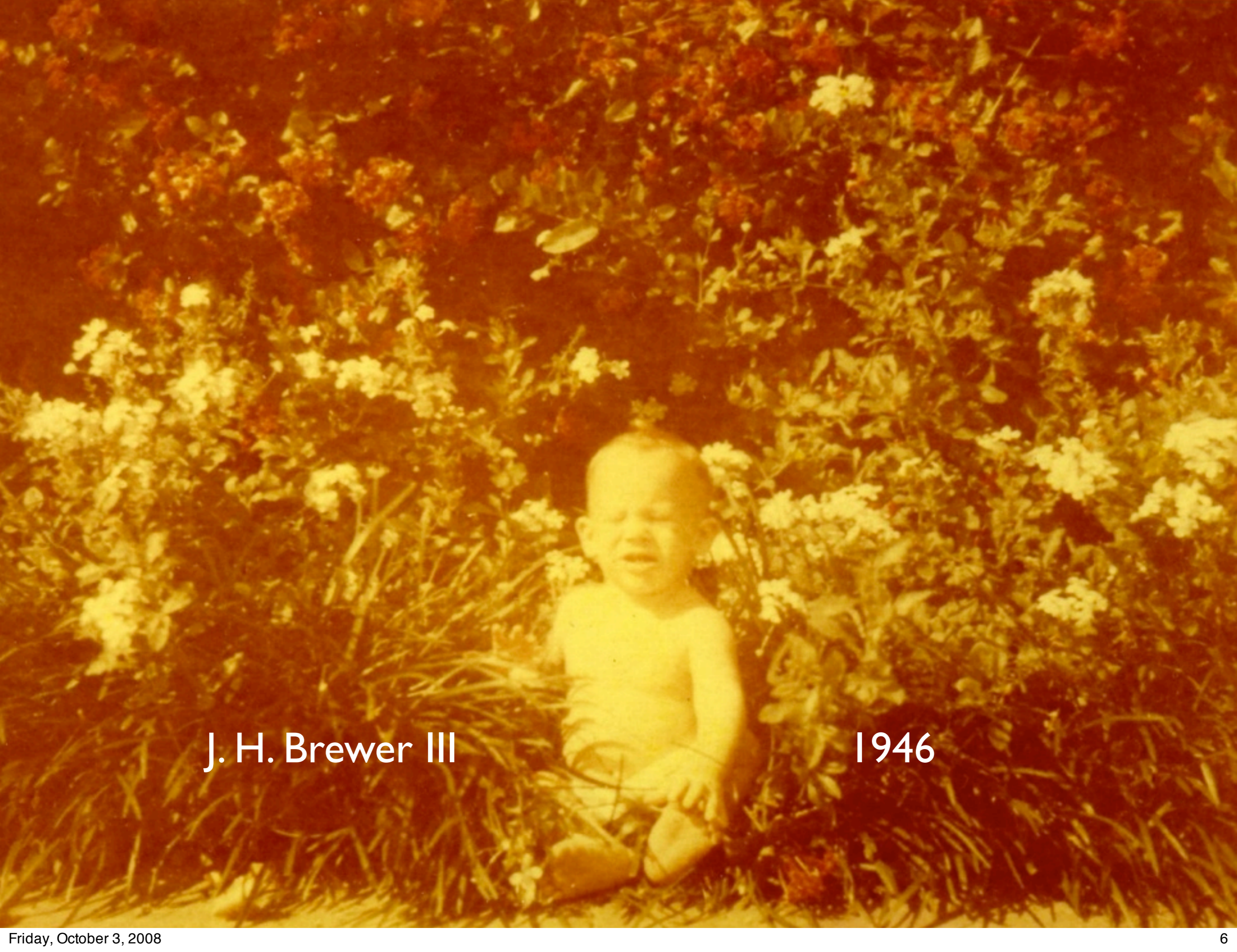
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J. H. Brewer III

1946

1956-7: *Revolution*

- 1950s: “**Particle Paradise**”
culminating in weird results with strange particles:
1956 Cronin, Fitch, . . . : “ $\tau - \theta$ puzzle” (neutral kaons)
- 1956: Lee & Yang postulate
 P -violation in weak interactions
- 1957: Wu confirms P -violation in β decay;
Friedman & Telegdi confirm P -violation in π - μ -e decay;
so do Garwin, Lederman & Weinrich, using a
prototype μSR technique.

Question of Parity Conservation in Weak Interactions*

T. D. LEE, *Columbia University, New York, New York*

AND

C. N. YANG,† *Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, New York*

(Received June 22, 1956)

The question of parity conservation in β decays and in hyperon and meson decays is examined. Possible experiments are suggested which might test parity conservation in these interactions.



Experimental Test of Parity Conservation in Beta Decay*

C. S. WU, *Columbia University, New York, New York*

AND

E. AMBLER, R. W. HAYWARD, D. D. HOPPES, AND R. P. HUDSON,
National Bureau of Standards, Washington, D. C.

(Received January 15, 1957)

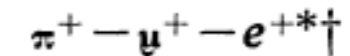
Observations of the Failure of Conservation of Parity and Charge Conjugation in Meson Decays: the Magnetic Moment of the Free Muon*

RICHARD L. GARWIN,† LEON M. LEDERMAN,
AND MARCEL WEINRICH

*Physics Department, Nevis Cyclotron Laboratories,
Columbia University, Irvington-on-Hudson,
New York, New York*

(Received January 15, 1957)

Nuclear Emulsion Evidence for Parity Nonconservation in the Decay Chain



JEROME I. FRIEDMAN AND V. L. TELEGDI

*Enrico Fermi Institute for Nuclear Studies, University of Chicago,
Chicago, Illinois*

(Received January 17, 1957)

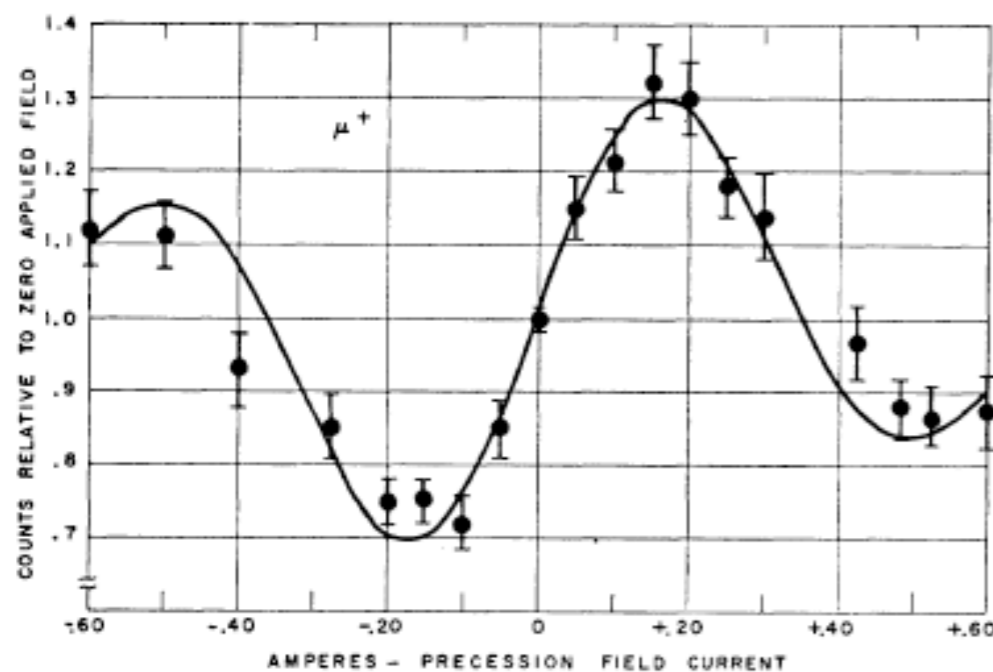


FIG. 2. Variation of gated 3-4 counting rate with magnetizing current. The solid curve is computed from an assumed electron angular distribution $1 - \frac{1}{3} \cos\theta$, with counter and gate-width resolution folded in.

It seems possible that polarized positive and negative muons will become a powerful tool for exploring magnetic fields in nuclei (even in Pb, 2% of the μ^- decay into electrons⁹), atoms, and interatomic regions.

So . . .

How does it work?

Pion Decay: $\pi^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ + \nu_\mu$

A pion **stops** in the “skin” of the primary production target. It has zero linear momentum and zero angular momentum.

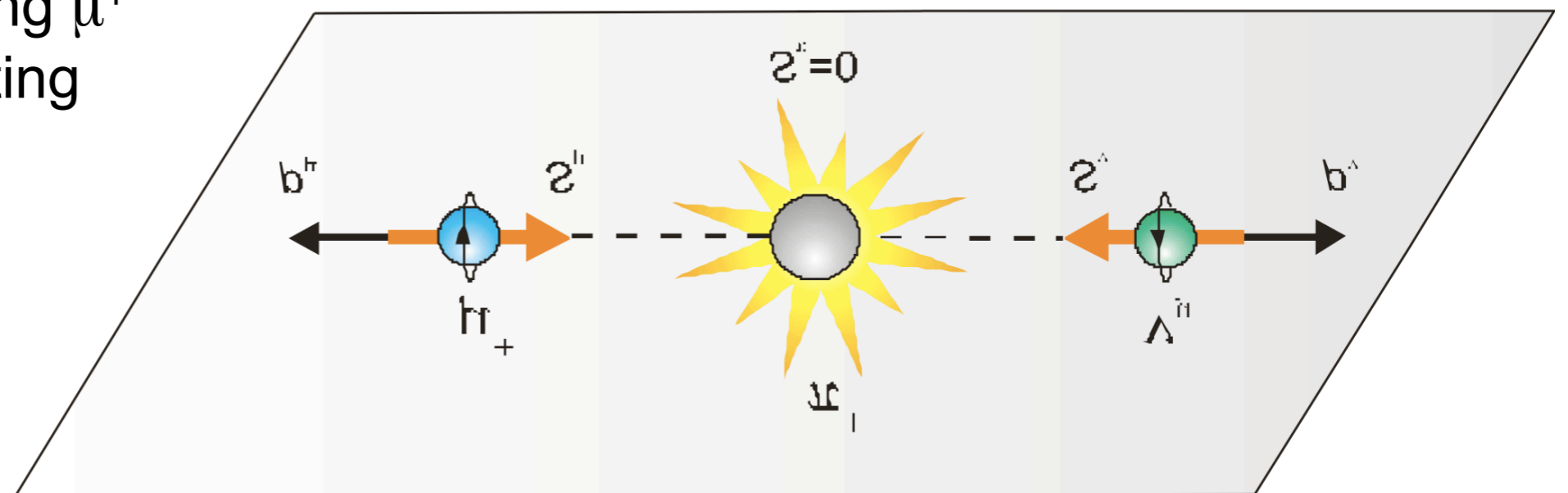
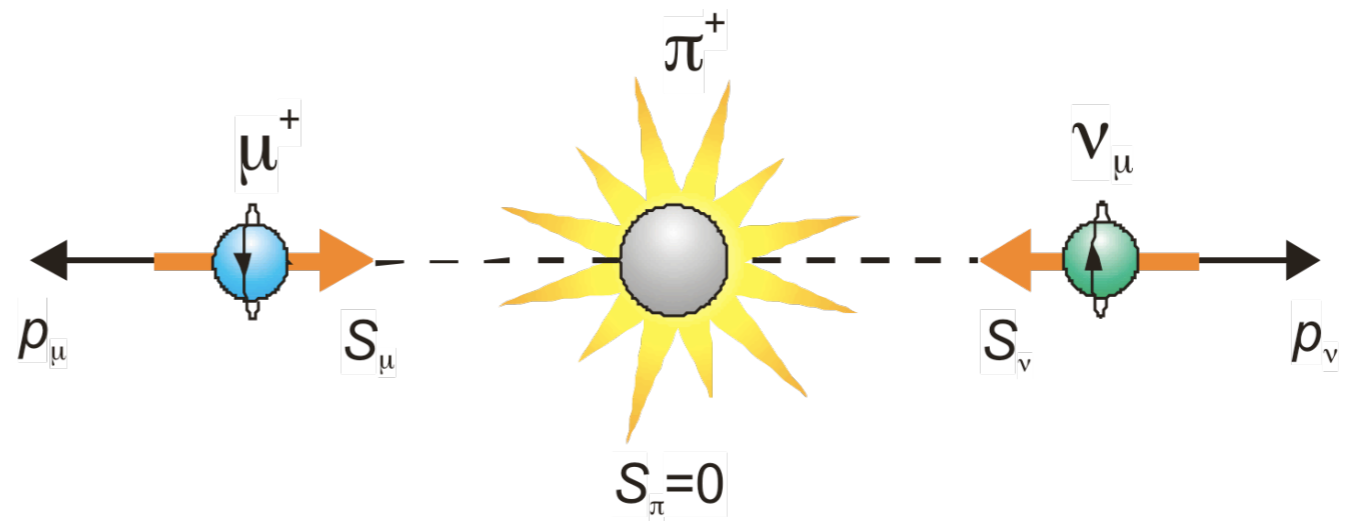
Conservation of Linear Momentum: The μ^+ is emitted with momentum equal and opposite to that of the ν_μ .

Conservation of Angular Momentum: μ^+ & ν_μ have equal & opposite spin.

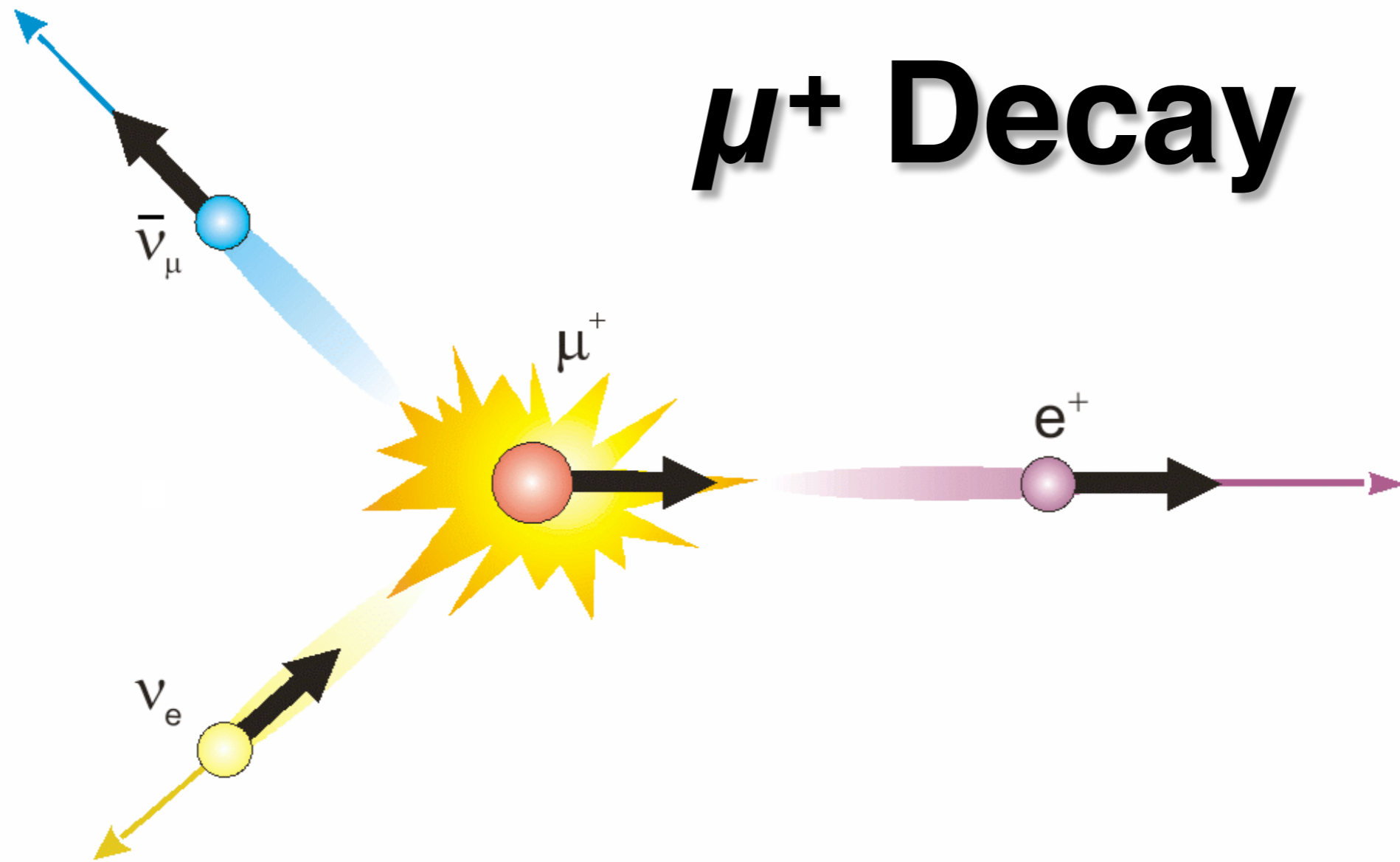
Weak Interaction:

Only “left-handed” ν_μ are created.

Thus the emerging μ^+ has its spin pointing antiparallel to its momentum direction.

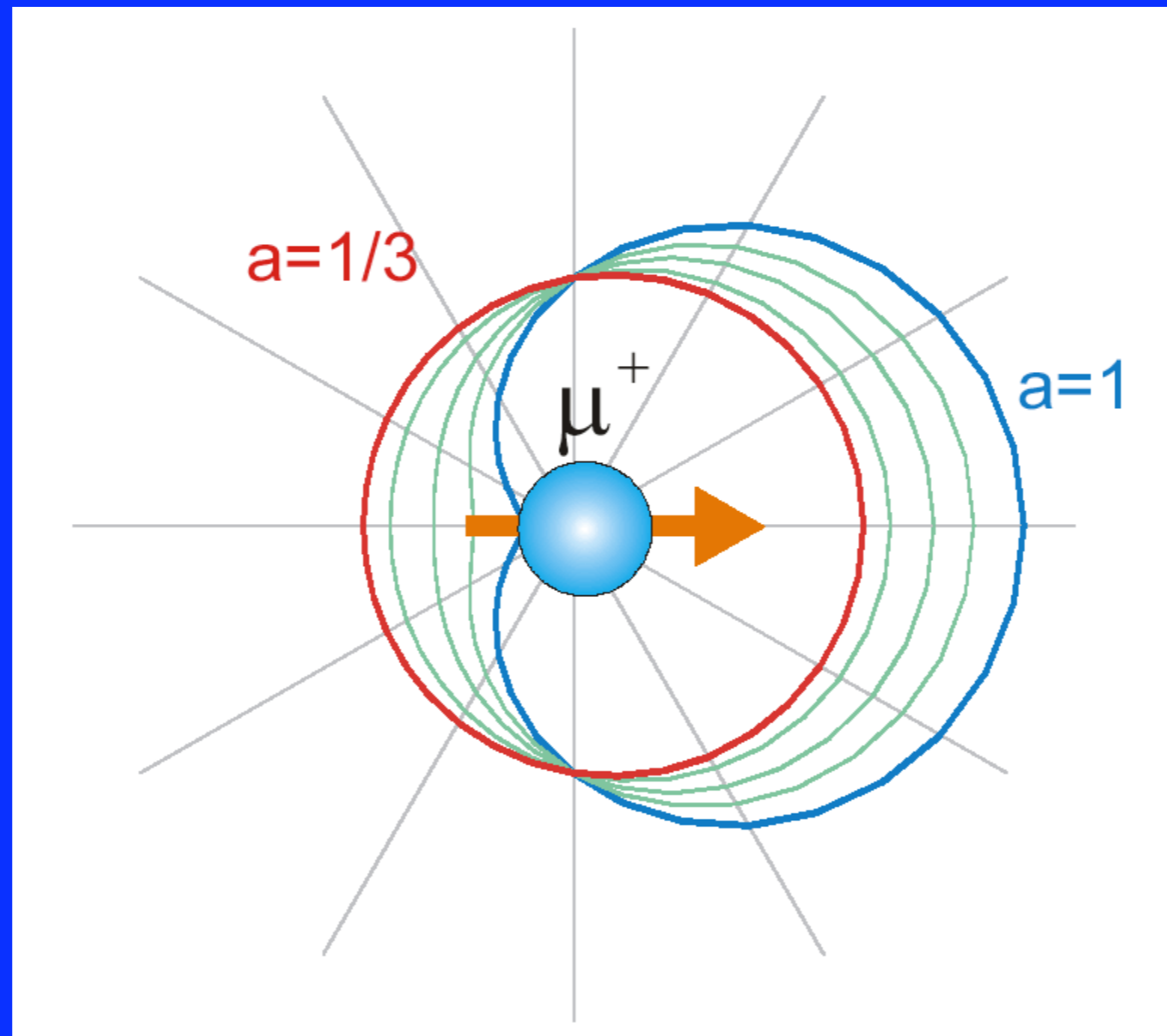


μ^+ Decay



Neutrinos have negative helicity, antineutrinos positive. An ultrarelativistic positron behaves like an antineutrino. Thus the positron tends to be emitted along the μ^+ spin when ν_e and $\bar{\nu}_\mu$ go off together (highest energy e^+).

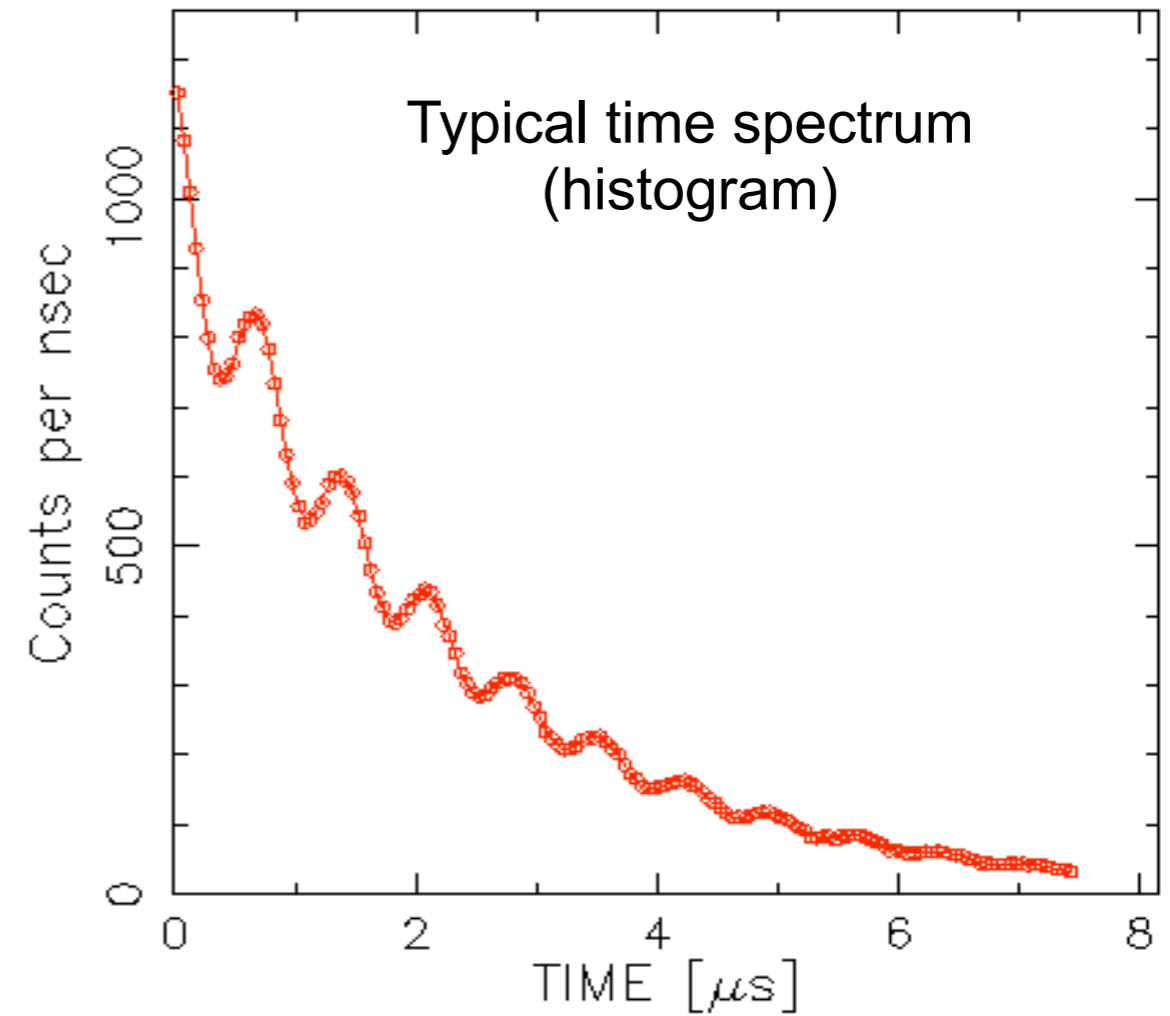
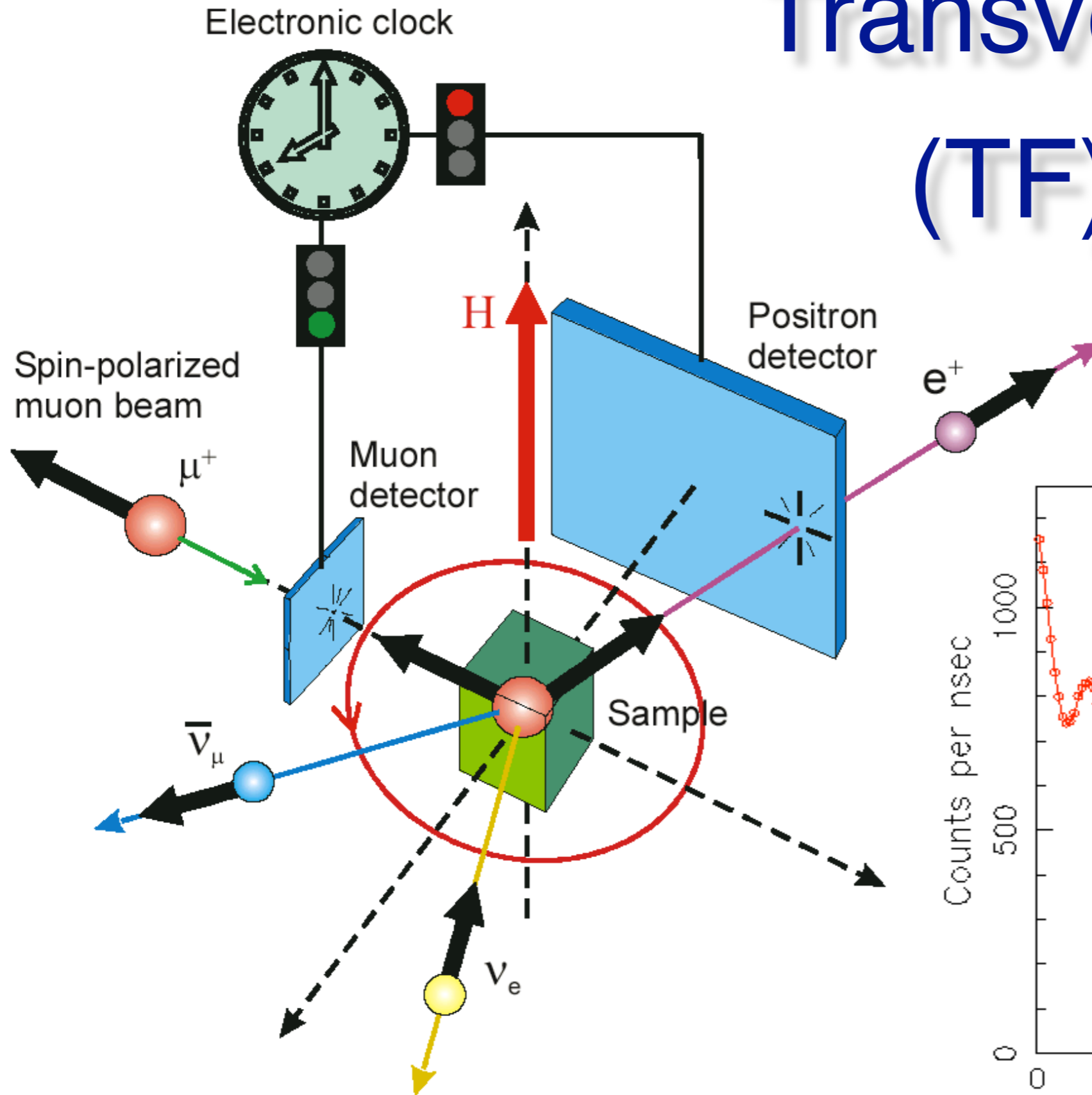
μ^+ Decay Asymmetry



Angular distribution of positrons from μ^+ decay. The decay asymmetry is $a = 1/3$ when all positron energies are detected with equal probability.

Transverse Field

(TF)- μ^+ SR



1958-1973: *Science Fiction*

- 1960s: **Fundamental Physics Fun!** – *Tours de Force*

Michel Parameters = Weak Interaction Laboratory

Heroic **QED** tests: $A_{HF}(\text{Mu})$, $\mu\mu$, $g\mu - 2$

All lead to *refined μSR techniques*.

Applications: Muonium Chemistry, Semiconductors, Magnetism

- 1967: **Brewer goes to Berkeley** – *to study Radicals*

Rationale: a *science fiction author* needs credibility; what better credential than a Ph.D. in Physics? (But μSR was too much fun!)

- 1972: **Bowen & Pifer** build first Arizona/**surface muon beam** to search for for $\mu^+e^- \rightarrow \mu^-e^+$ conversion

- mid-1970s: **Meson Factories** – *Intensity Enables!*

USA: **LAMPF** (now defunct)

Switzerland: **SIN** (now **PSI**)

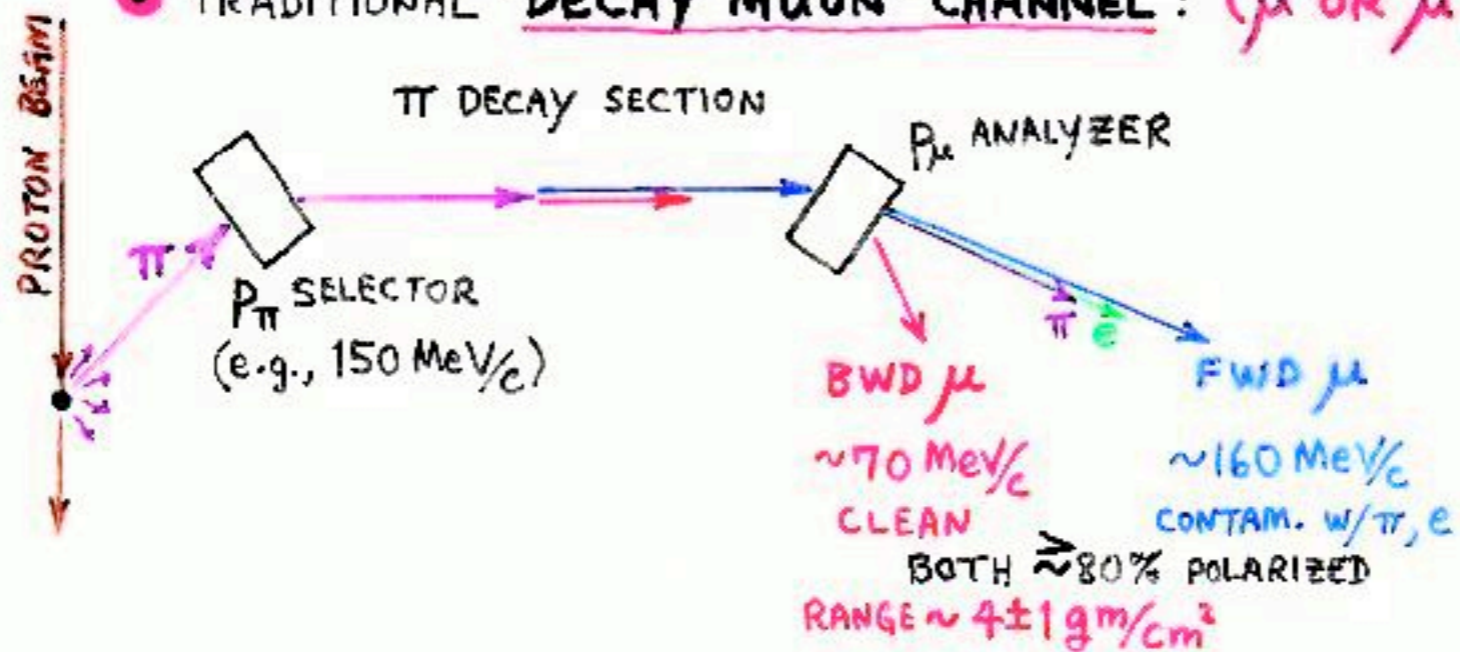
Canada: **TRIUMF**

UK: **RAL/ISIS**

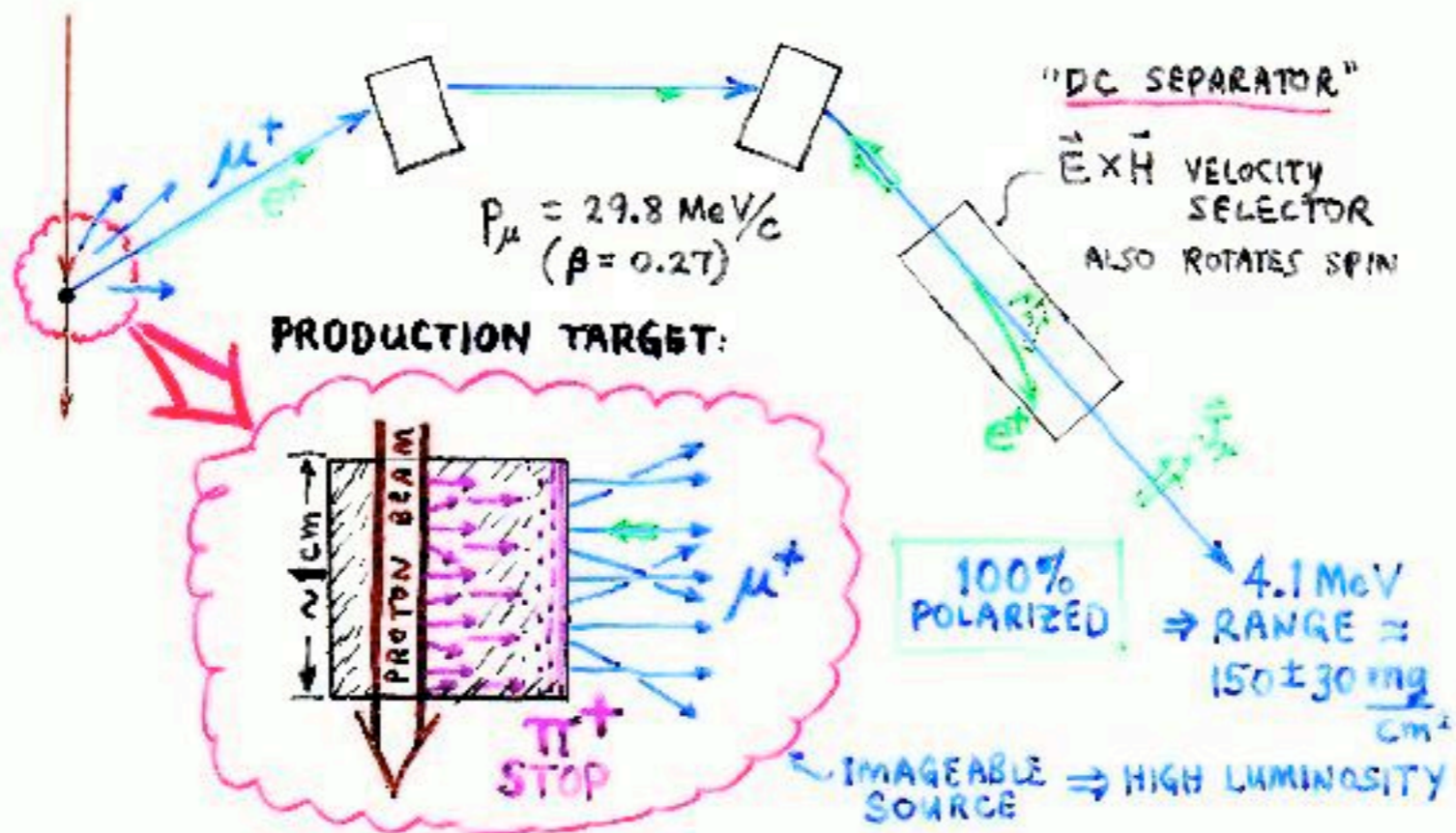
Japan: **KEK/BOOM** (→ **J-PARC**)

Beamlines for Polarized Muons

- TRADITIONAL "DECAY MUON" CHANNEL: (μ^+ OR μ^-)



- "ARIZONA" OR "SURFACE MUON" CHANNEL: (μ^+ ONLY)

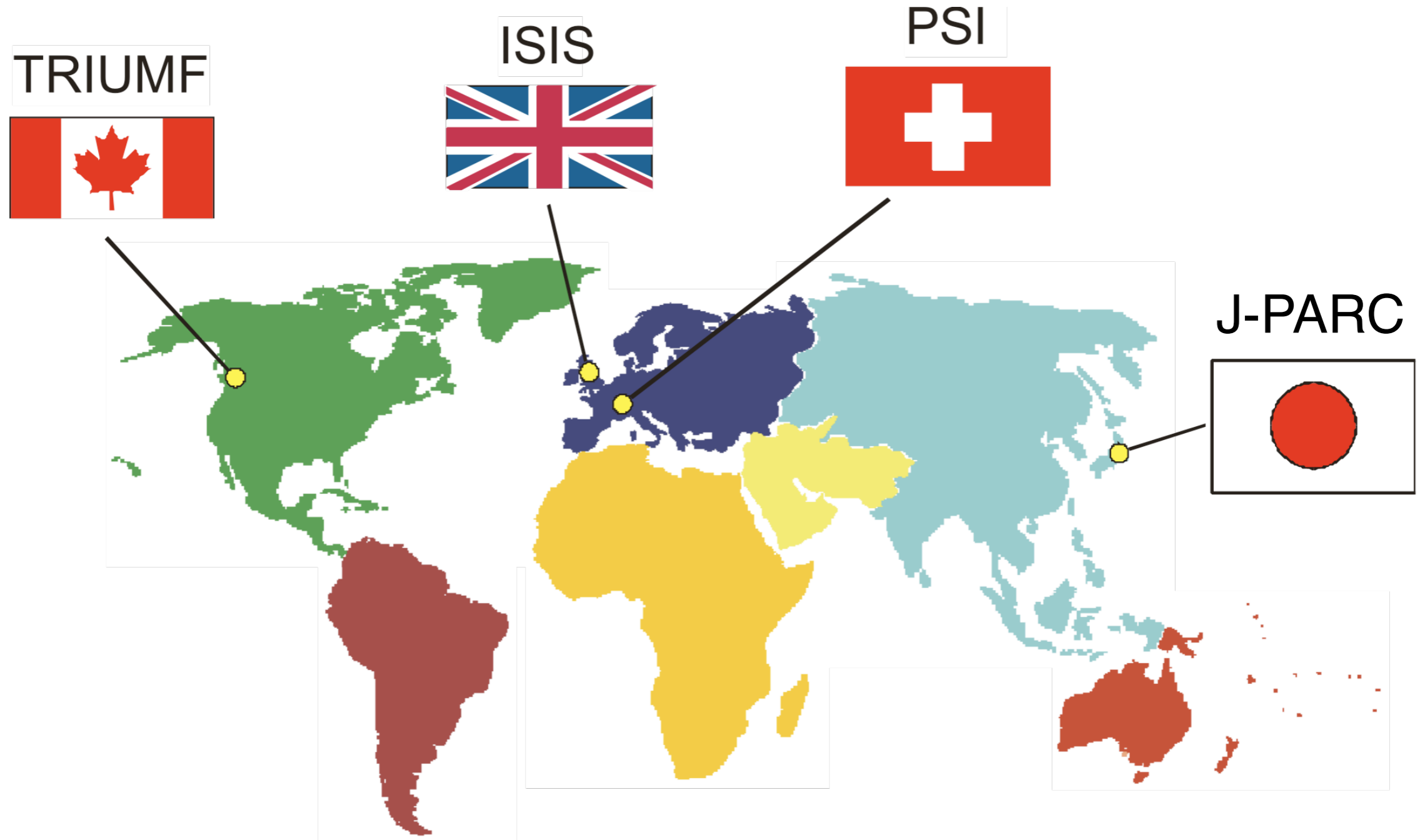


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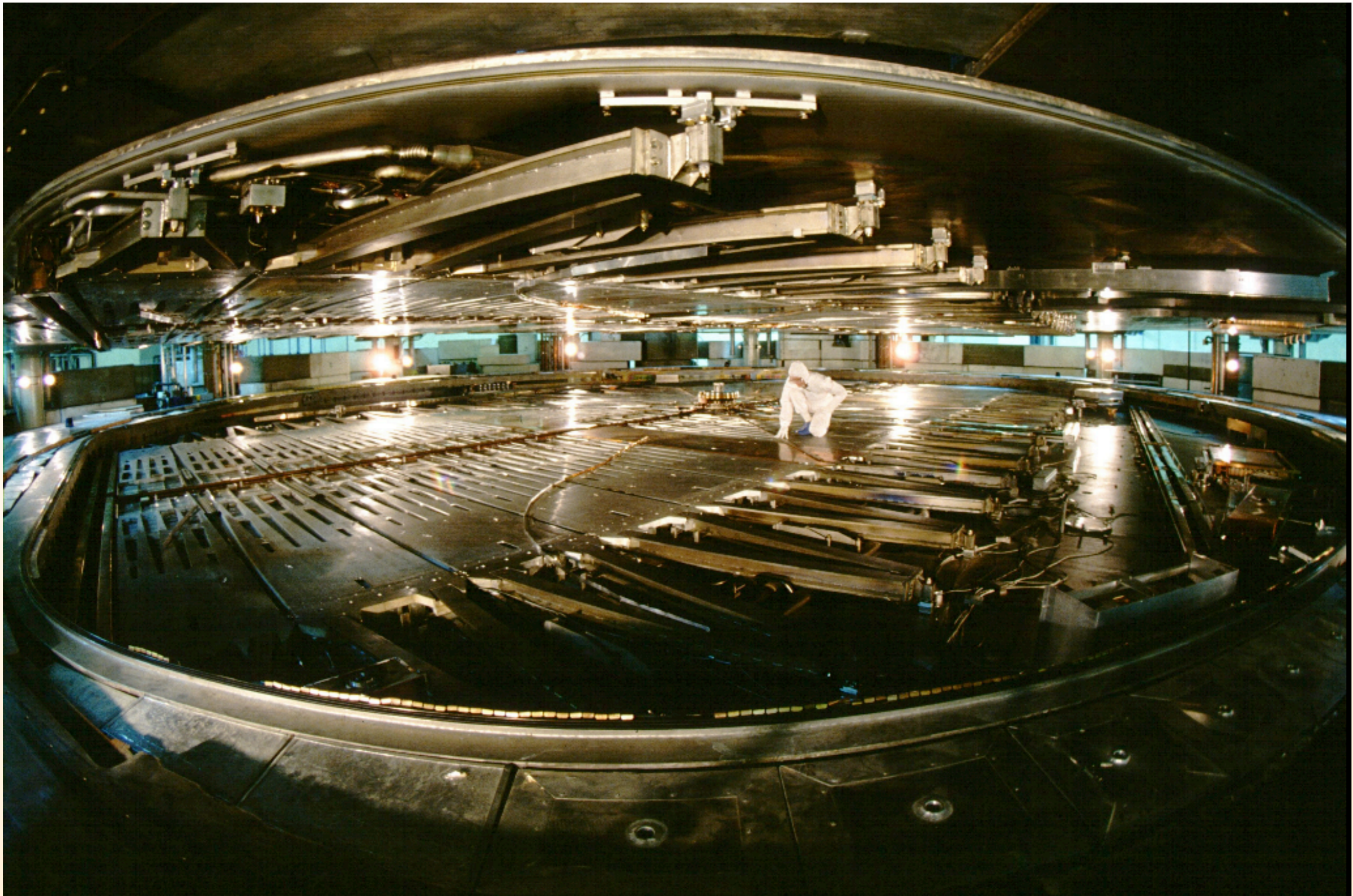
Where in the World is μ SR?



TRIUMF

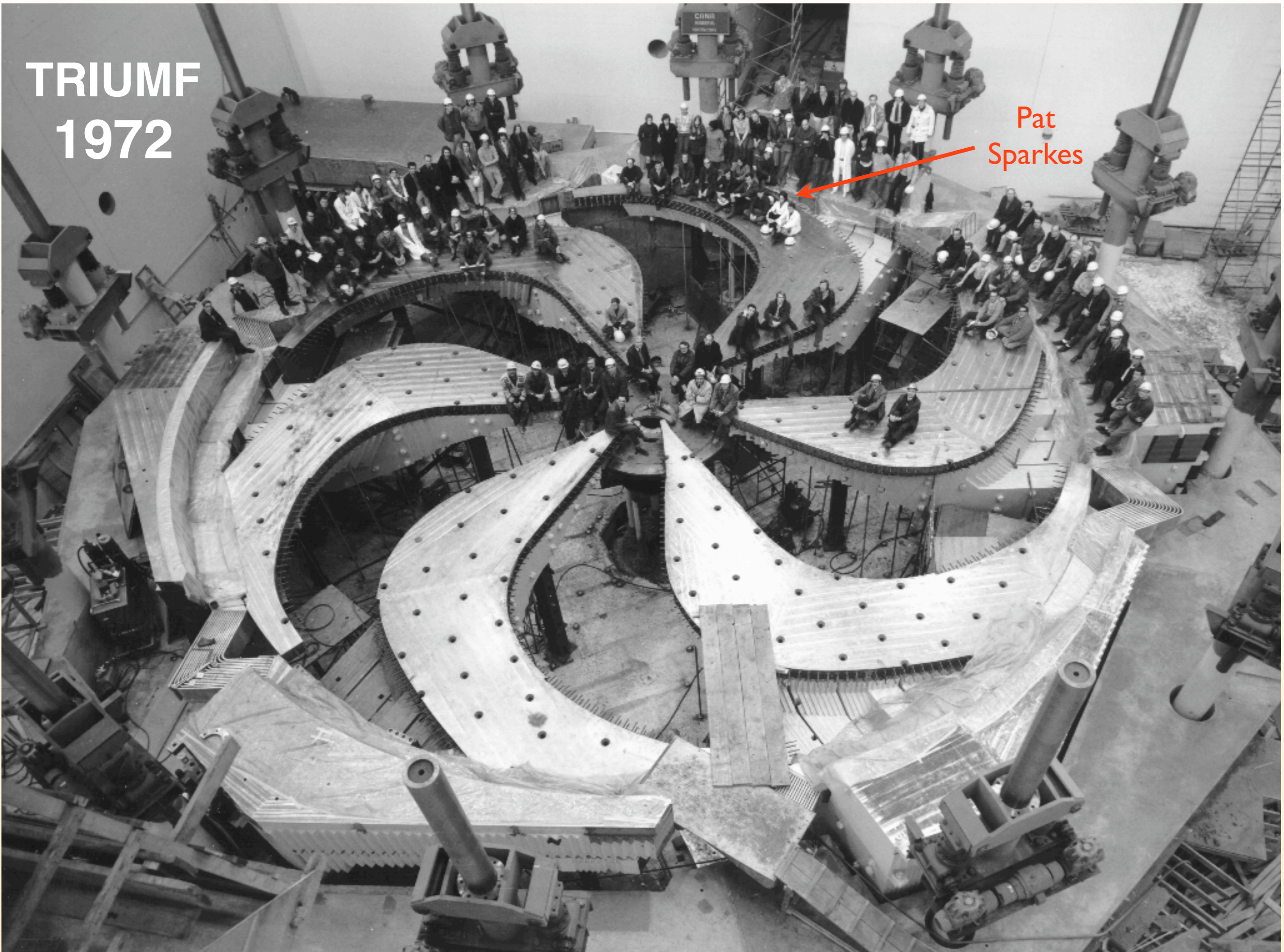


TRIUMF: World's Largest Cyclotron



TRIUMF
1972

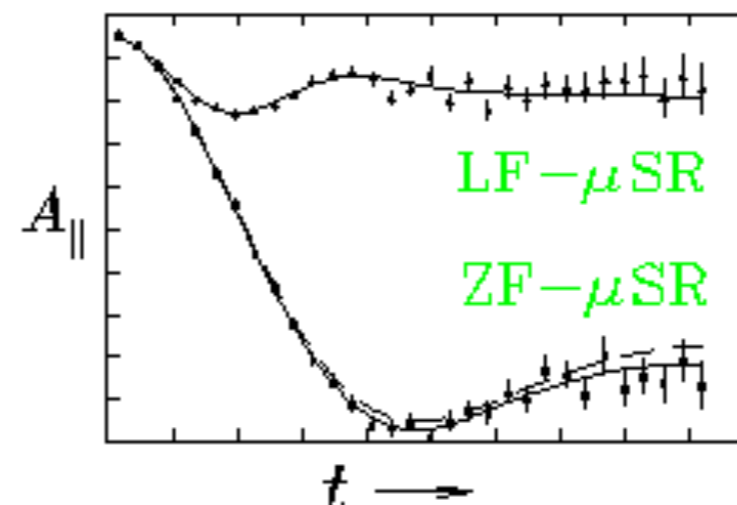
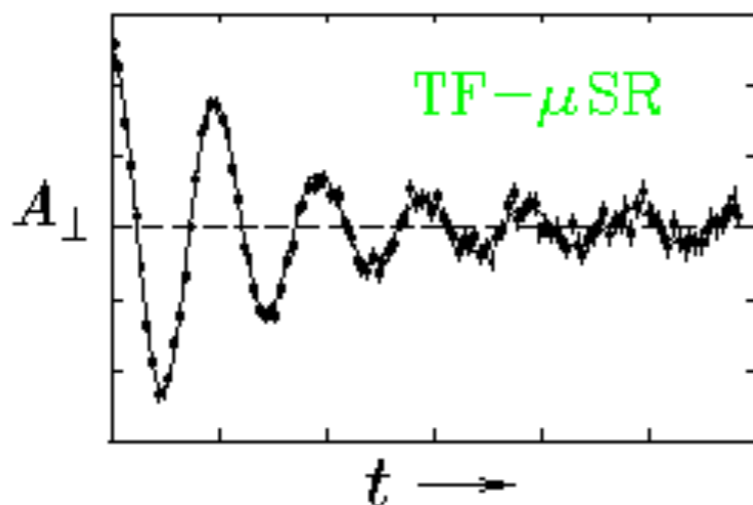
Pat
Sparkes



Back to μ SR . . .

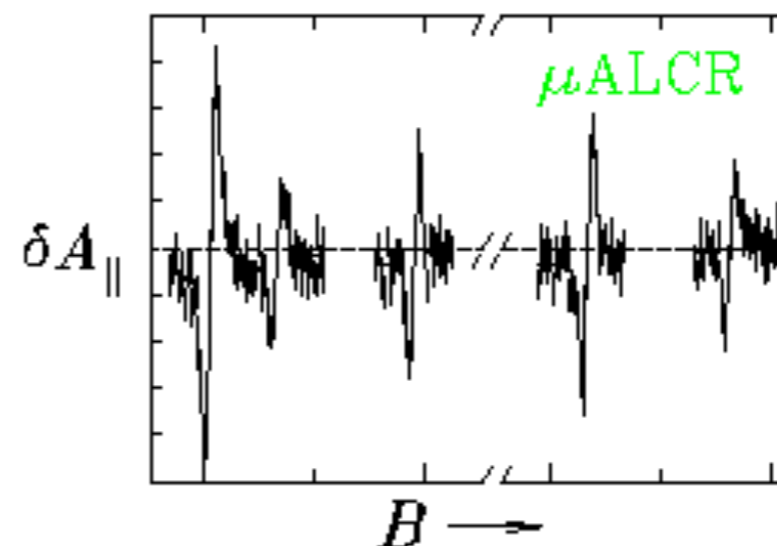
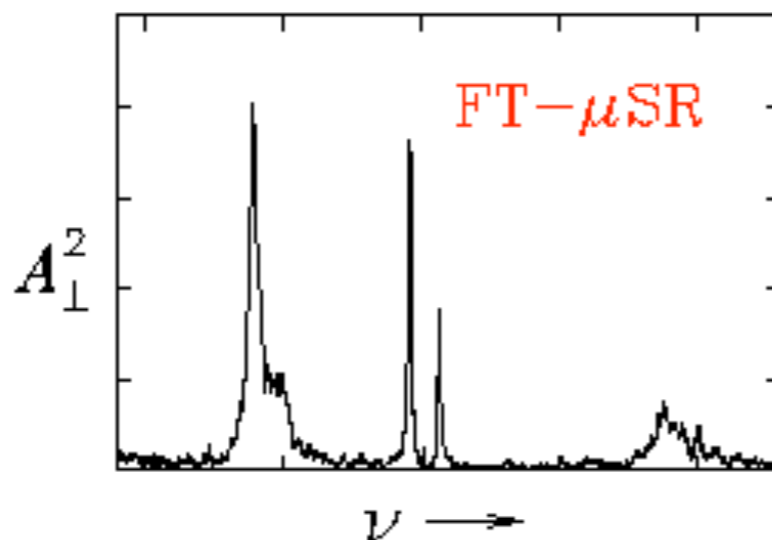
Brewer's List of μ SR Acronyms

Transverse
Field



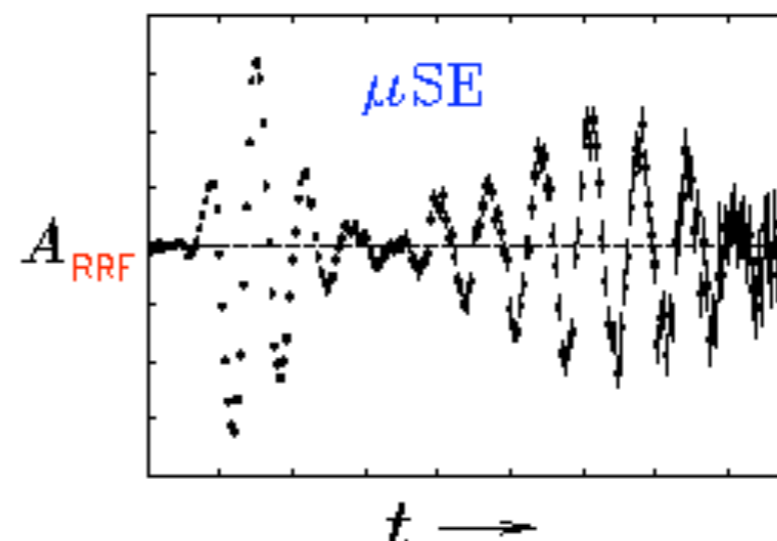
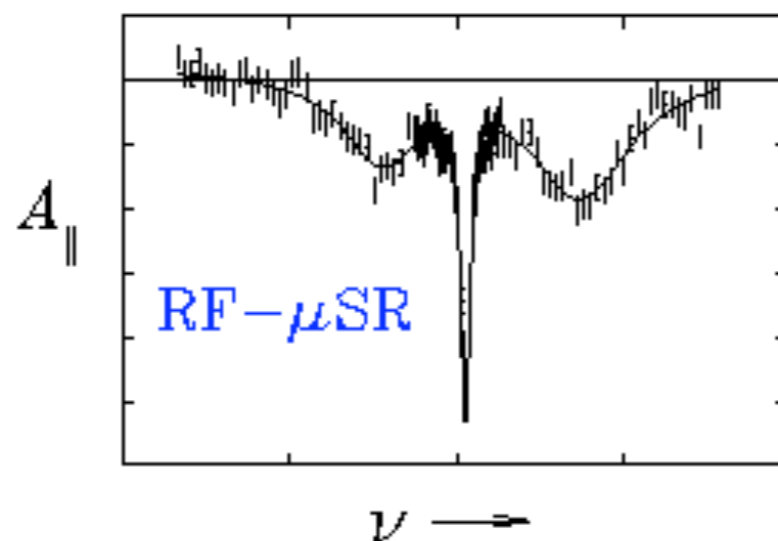
Longitudinal
Field
Zero Field

Fourier
Transform
 μ SR



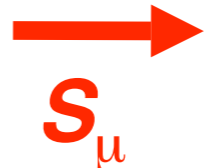
Avoided
Level
Crossing
Resonance

Muon
Spin
Resonance



Muon
Spin
Echo

Motion of Muon Spins in Static Local Fields

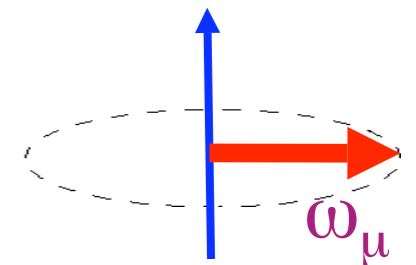
 = Expectation value of a muon's spin direction

(a) All muons "see" same field B :  for $B \parallel S_\mu$ nothing happens

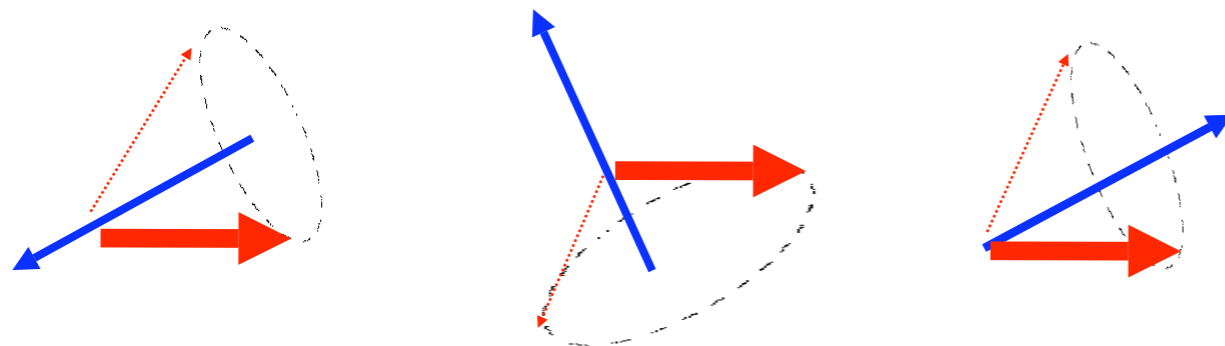
$$\omega_\mu = 2\pi \gamma_\mu |B|$$

for $B \perp S_\mu$ Larmor precession:

$$\gamma_\mu = 135.5 \text{ MHz/T}$$



(b) All muons "see" same $|B|$ but **random direction**:



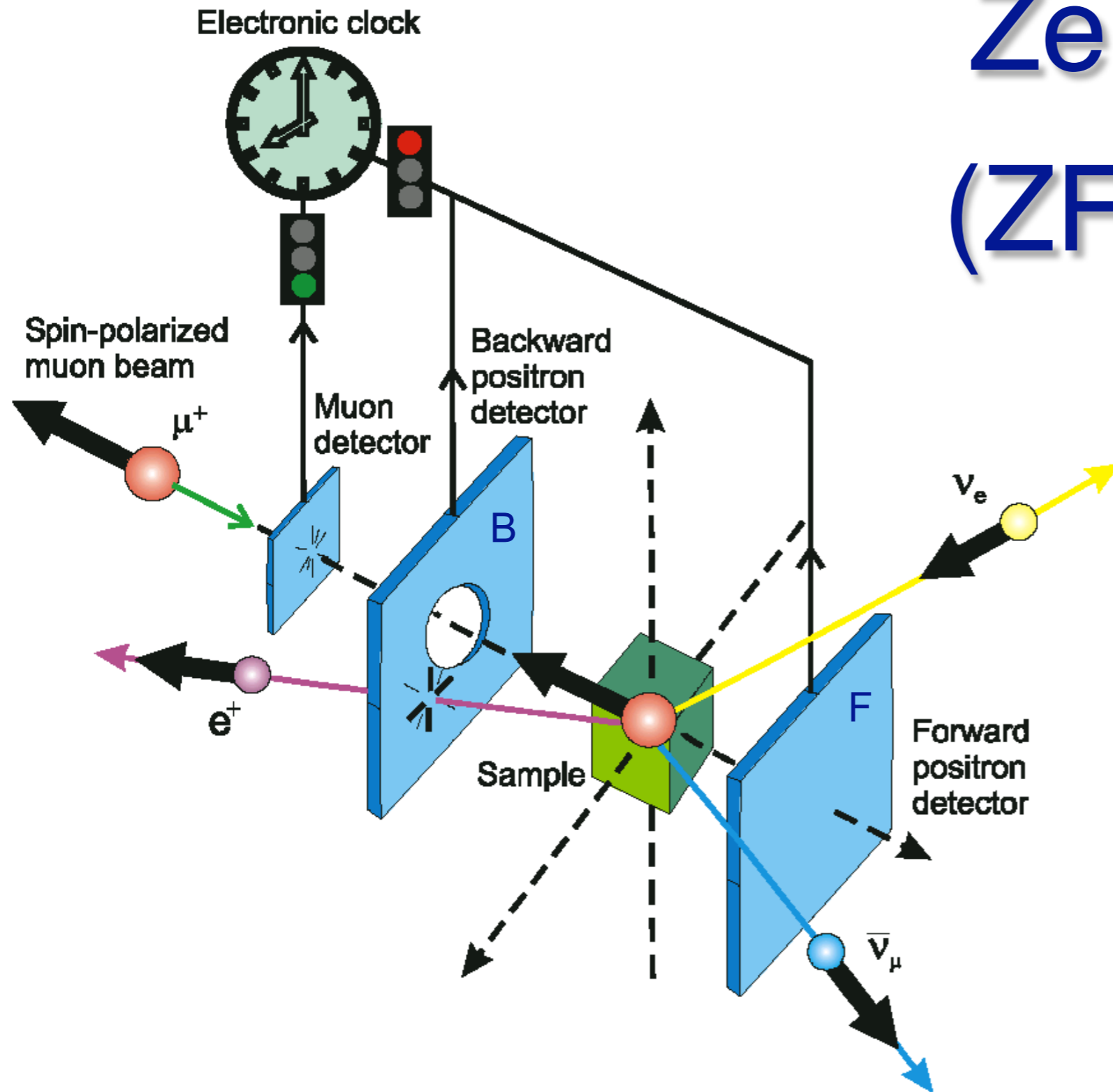
2/3 of S_μ precesses at ω_μ

1/3 of S_μ stays constant

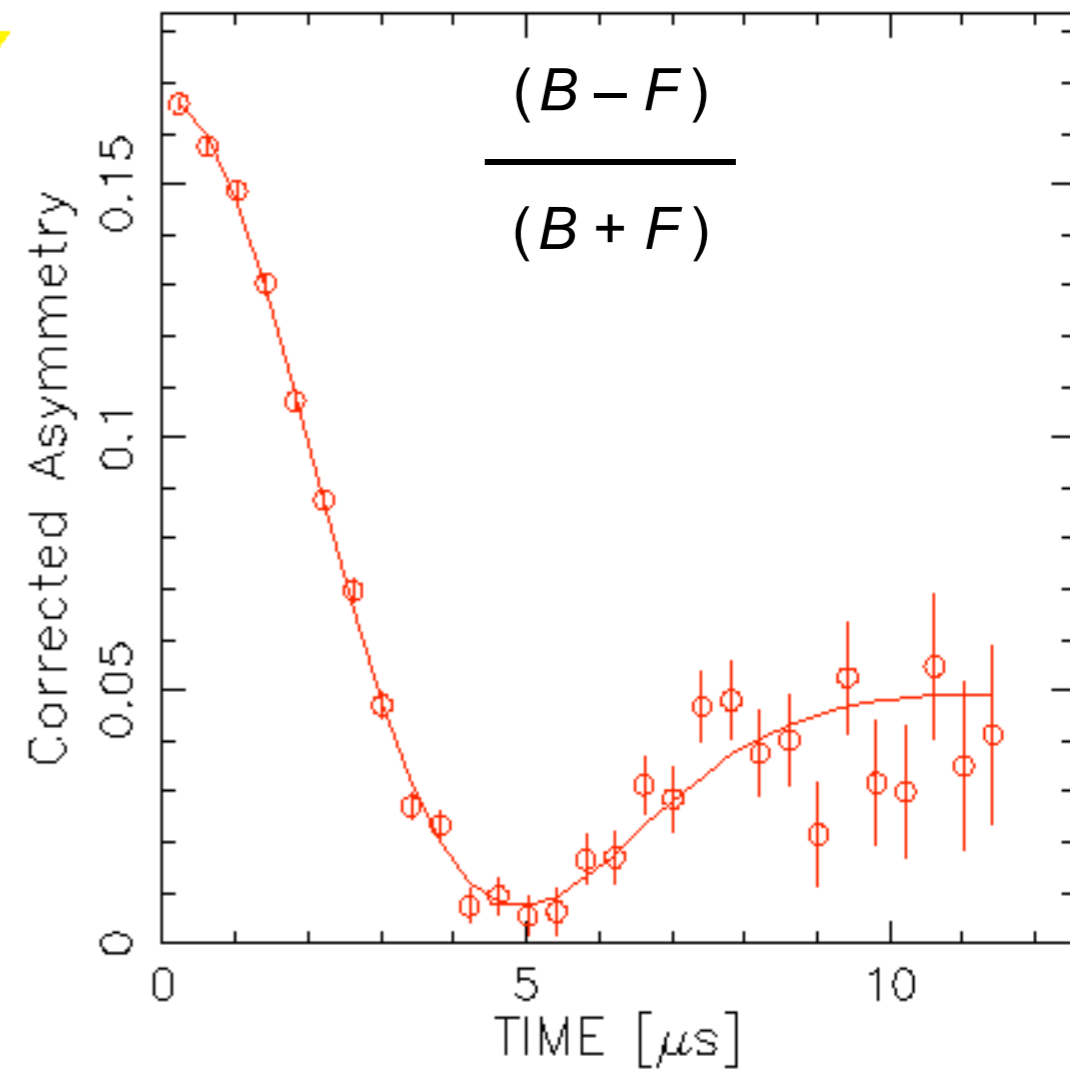
(c) Local field B **random** in **both magnitude and direction**:

All  do not return to the same orientation at the same time
(dephasing) $\Rightarrow S_\mu$ "relaxes" as $G_{zz}(t)$ [Kubo & Toyabe, 1960's]

Zero Field (ZF)- μ^+ SR

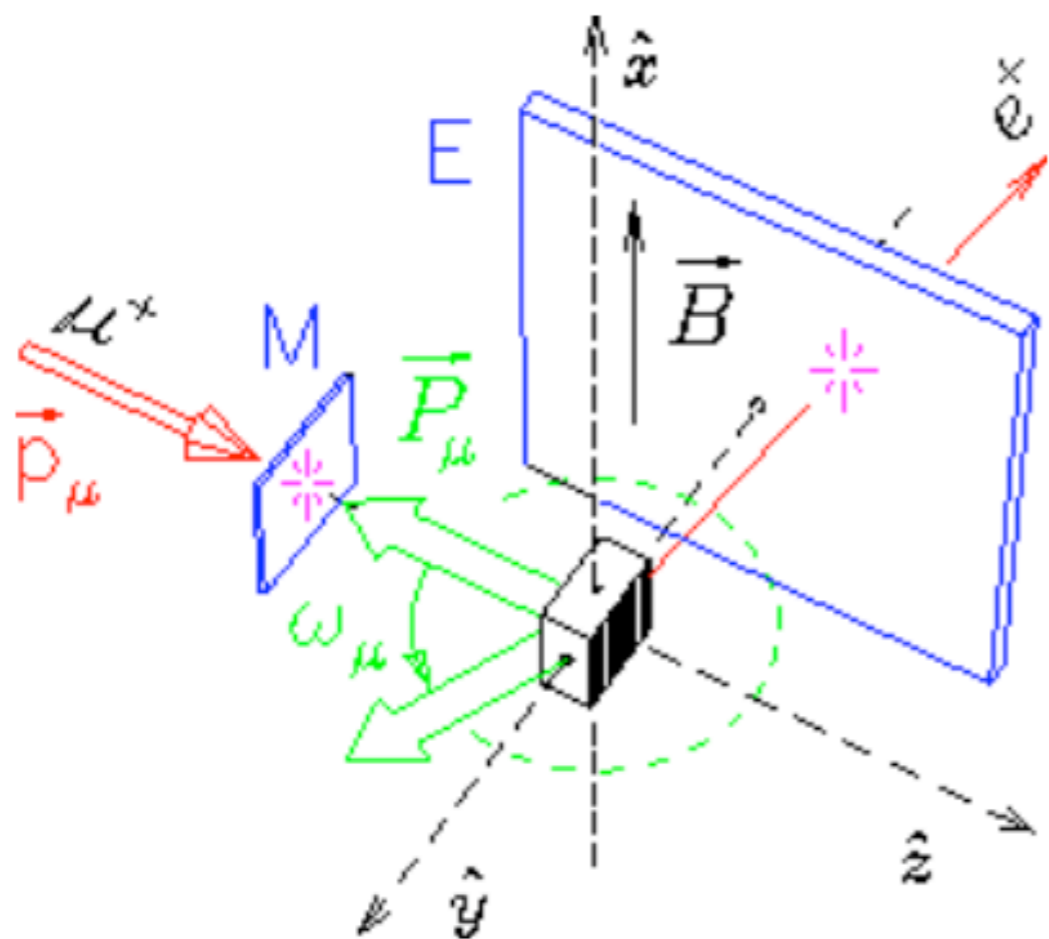


Typical asymmetry spectrum



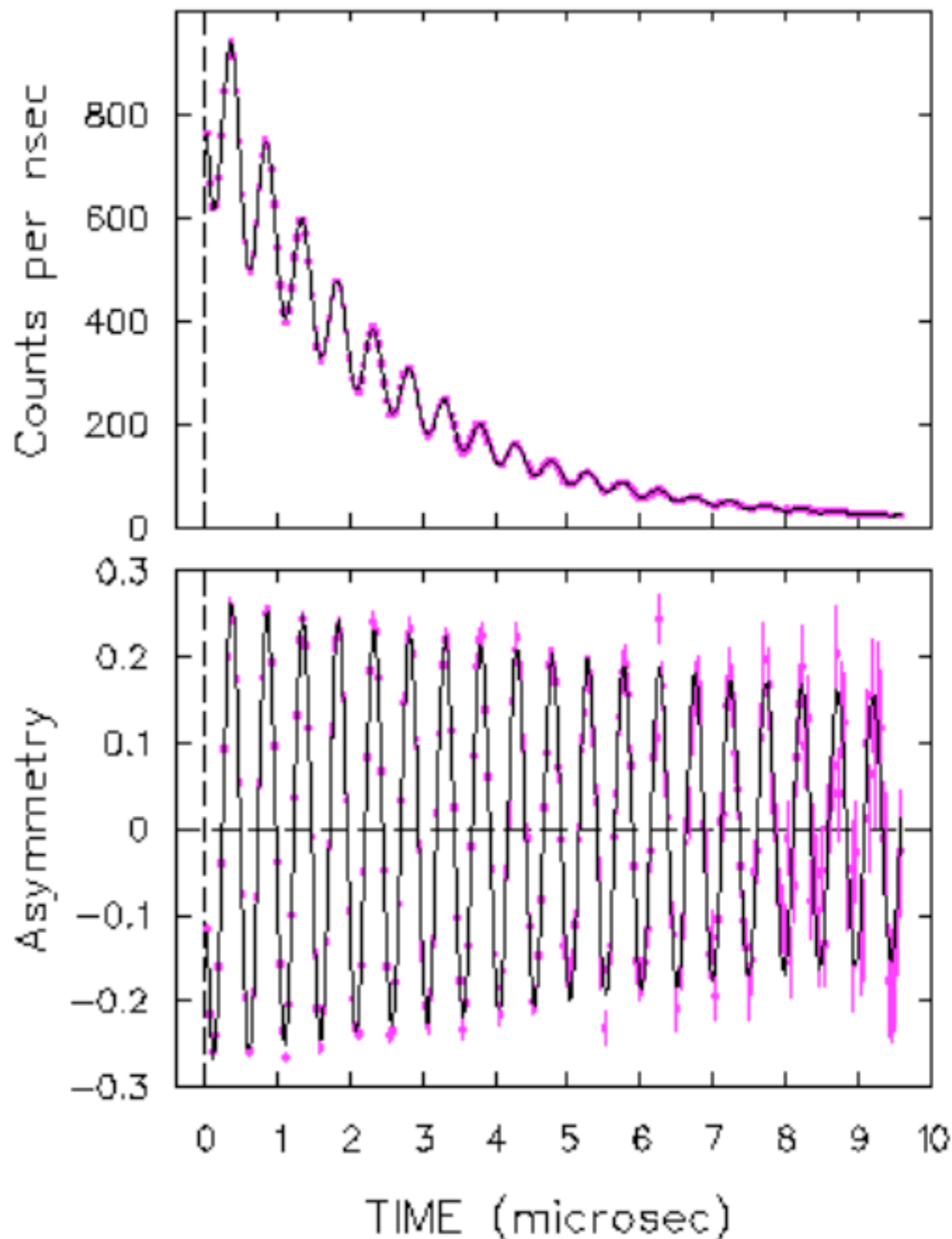
wTF- μ^+ SR:

$$N(t) = N_0 \left\{ B + e^{-t/\tau_\mu} [1 + A_0 G_{xx}(t) \cos(\omega_\mu t + \phi)] \right\}$$



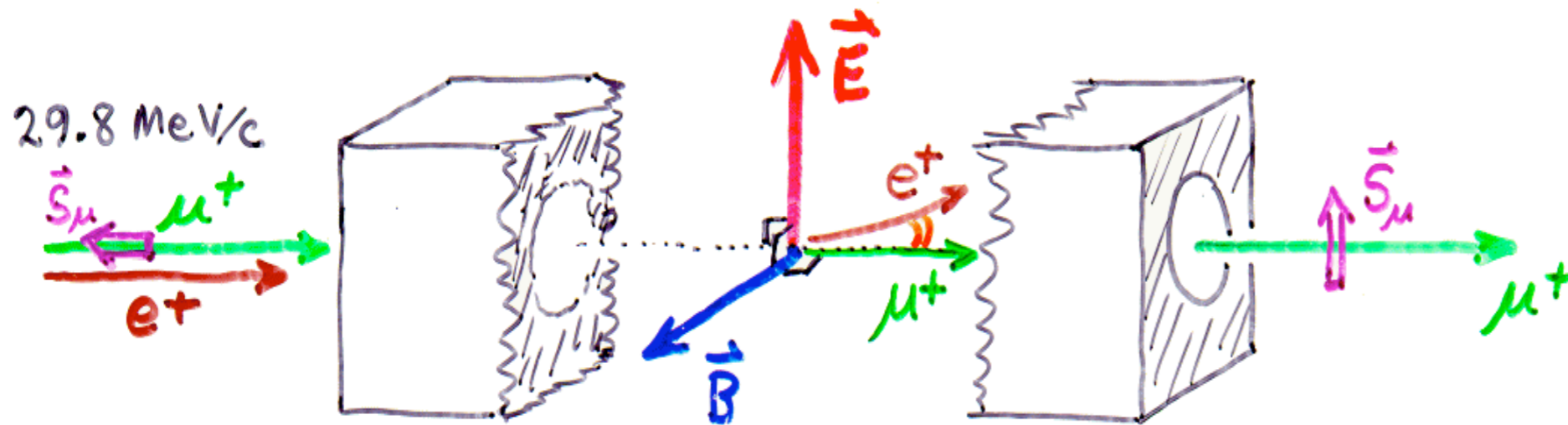
$$A(t) = [N(t) - N_0 B] e^{+t/\tau_\mu} - 1$$

$$= A_0 G_{xx}(t) \cos(\omega_\mu t + \phi)$$

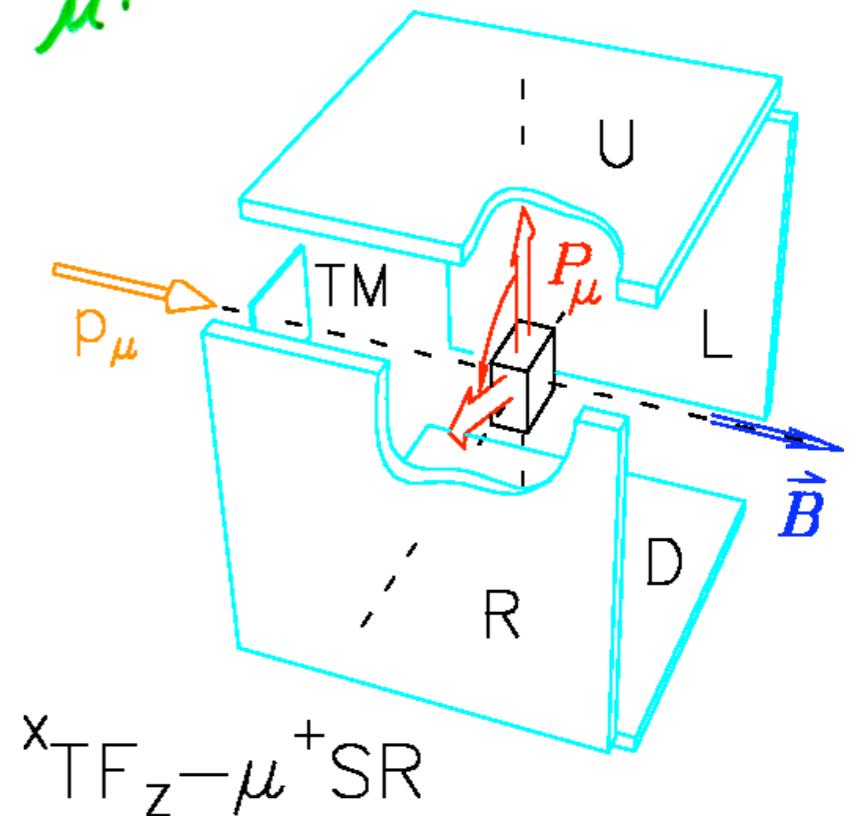
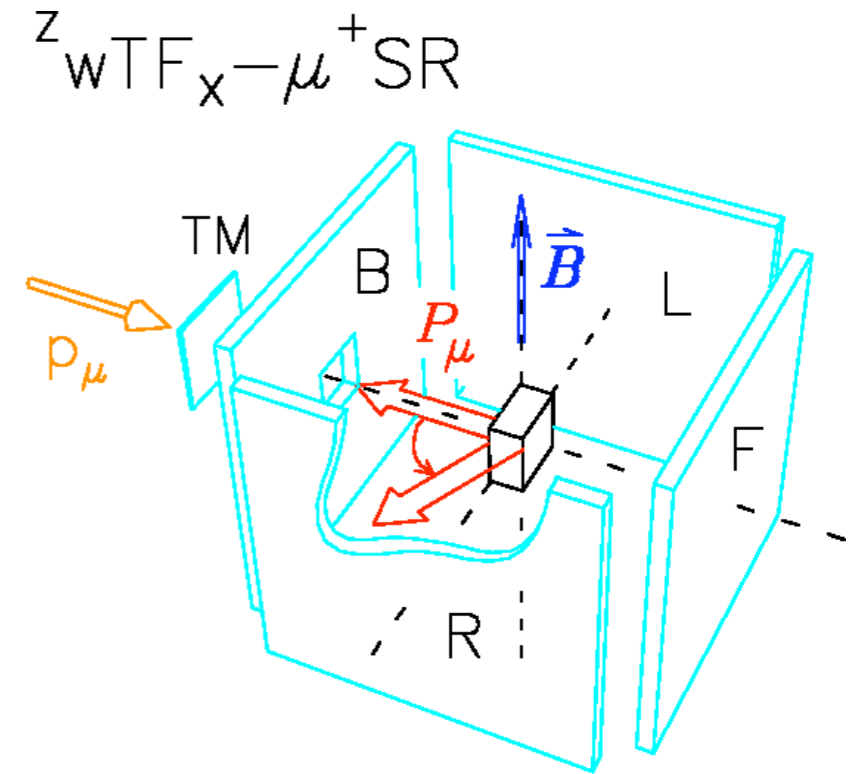


$E \times B$ velocity selector

("DC Separator" or Wien filter)
for **surface muons**:



- Removes beam **positrons**
- Allows TF- μ^+ SR in **high field** (otherwise B deflects beam)



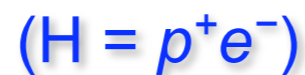
High Field μSR



Fields of up to 8 T are now available, requiring a “business end” of the spectrometer only 3 cm in diameter (so that 30-50 MeV decay positron orbits don’t “curl up” and miss the detectors) and a time resolution of ~ 150 ps. Muonium precession frequencies of over 2 GHz have been studied.

“Themes” in μSR

Muonium as light Hydrogen



- **Mu vs. H atom Chemistry:**
 - gases, liquids & solids
 - Best test of reaction rate theories.
 - Study “unobservable” H atom rxns.
 - Discover new radical species.
- **Mu vs. H in Semiconductors:**
 - Until recently, $\mu^+ SR$ → only data on metastable H states in semiconductors!
- **Quantum Diffusion:** μ^+ in metals (compare H^+); Mu in nonmetals (compare H).

The Muon as a Probe

- **Probing Magnetism:** unequalled sensitivity
 - Local fields: electronic structure; ordering
 - Dynamics: electronic, nuclear spins
- **Probing Superconductivity:** (esp. $HT_c SC$)
 - Coexistence of SC & Magnetism
 - Magnetic Penetration Depth λ
 - Coherence Length ξ

2000s:



The TRIUMF **C**entre for **M**olecular and **M**aterials **S**cience is an NSERC funded Facility at the TRIUMF National Laboratory, in Vancouver, Canada. It represents an expansion of the former TRIUMF μ SR User Facility, with a mandate to facilitate research in chemistry and solid state physics using μ SR and other accelerator-based techniques such as β -NMR.

Visit <http://musr.ca> for selected Research Highlights:

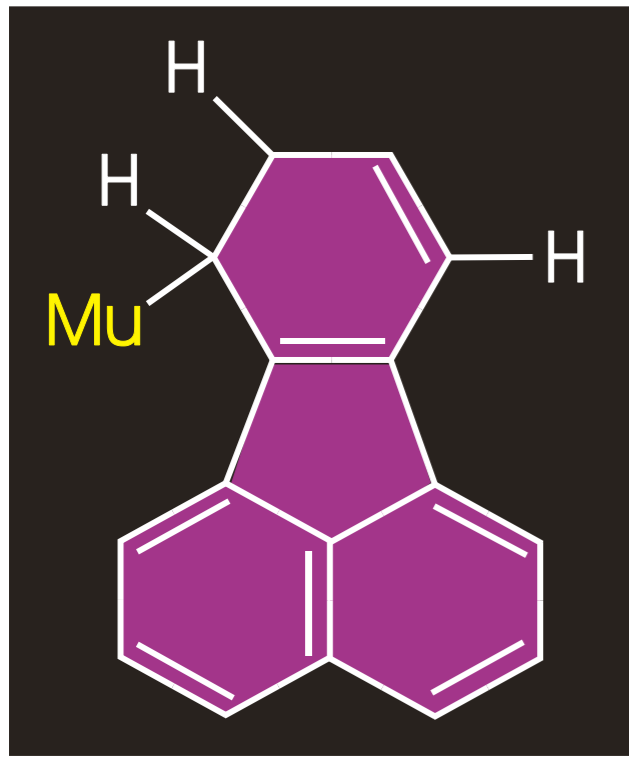
Chemistry

Semiconductors

Magnetism

Superconductors

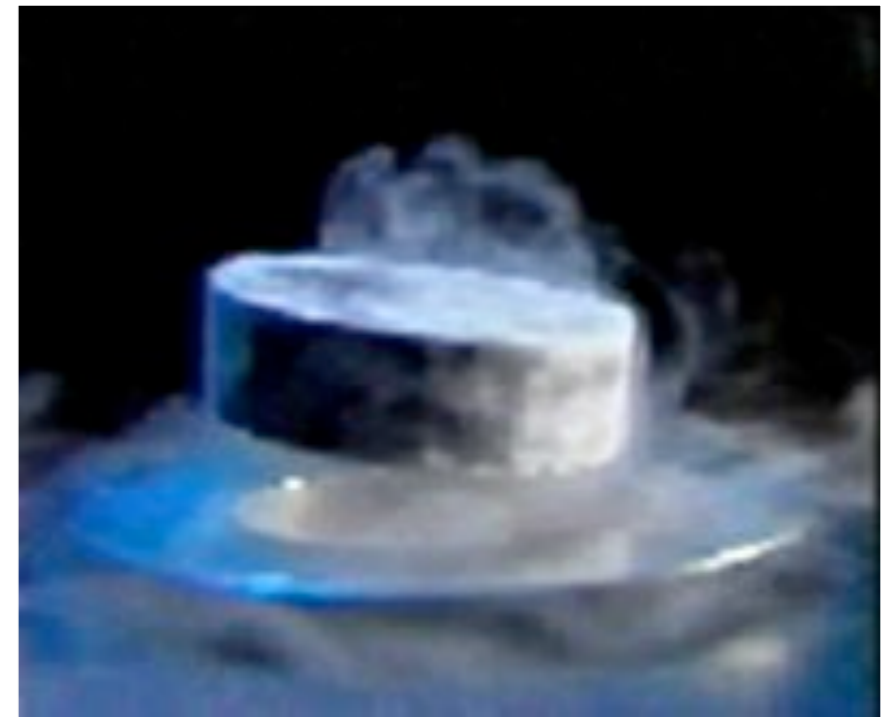
Fundamental Physics



Recent Applications of μSR

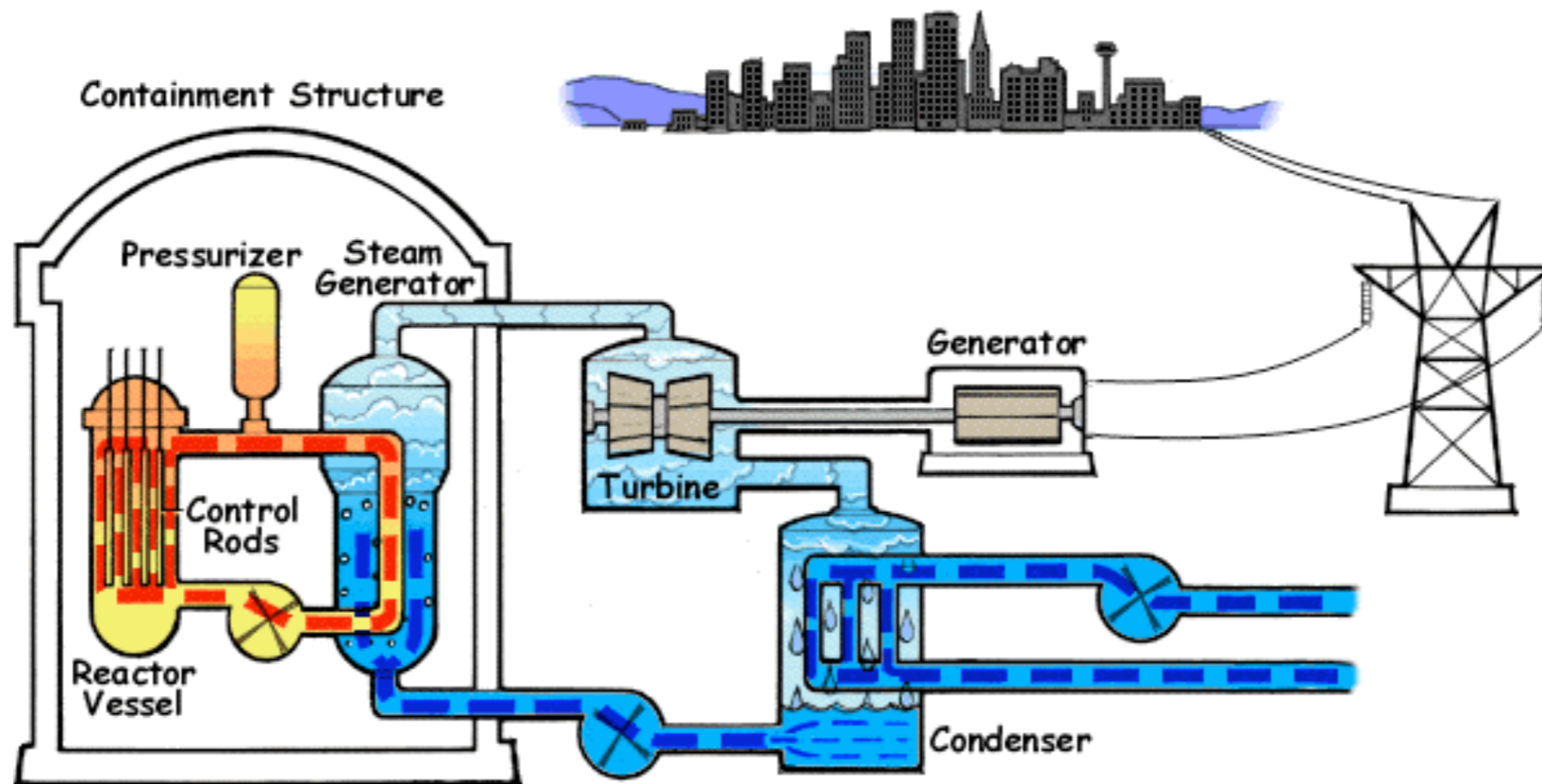
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- > Hydrogen Atom Kinetics
- > “Green Chemistry” in Supercritical CO_2
- > Catalysis
- > Mass Effects in Chemical Processes
- > Ionic Processes at Interfaces
- > **Reactions in Supercritical Water**
- > Radiation Chemistry & Track Effects in Condensed Media
- > Reaction Studies of Importance to Atmospheric Chemistry
- > Reaction Kinetics as Probes of Potential Energy Surfaces
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- > Molecular Magnets & Clusters
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- > **Magnetic Polarons**
- > Charged Particle Transport
- > Quantum Impurities
- > Metal-Insulator Transitions
- > Colossal Magnetoresistance
- > Spin Ice Systems
- > Thermoelectric Oxides
- > Photo-Induced Magnetism
- > Magnetic Vortices
- > Heavy Fermions
- > Frustrated Magnetic Systems
- > Quantum Diffusion
- > **Exotic Superconductors**



Pressurized Water Nuclear Reactors

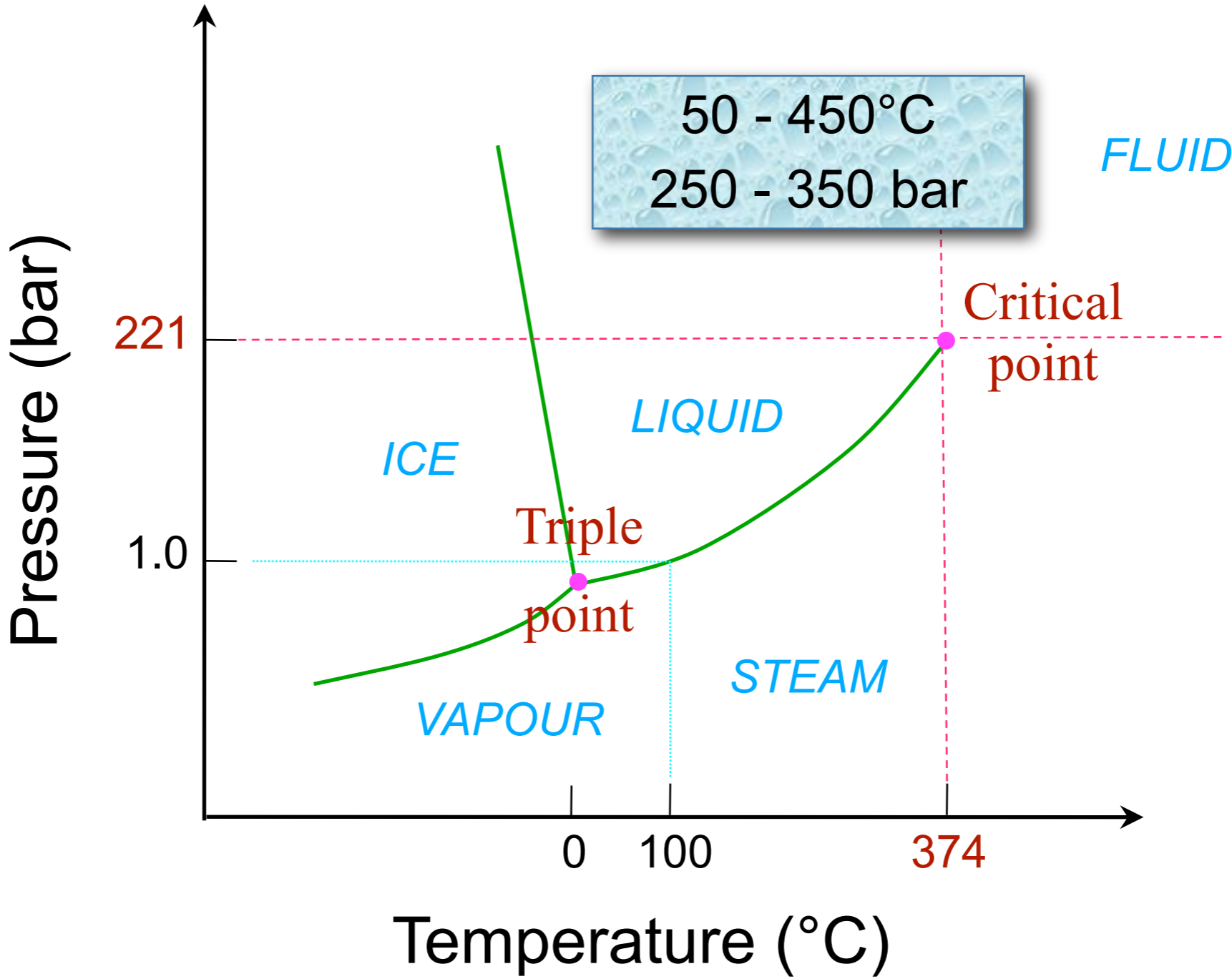
Corrosion in steam power generation systems is serious.



Typical water temperature in primary loop = 325°C

“Next generation” PWR designs use supercritical water at $T > 500^\circ\text{C}$.

The Phase Diagram of Water



Supercritical Water Oxidation

There are drastic changes in the physical properties of water close to and above the critical point ($T_c = 374^\circ\text{C}$, $P_c = 221\text{ bar}$).

This leads to unusual chemistry:

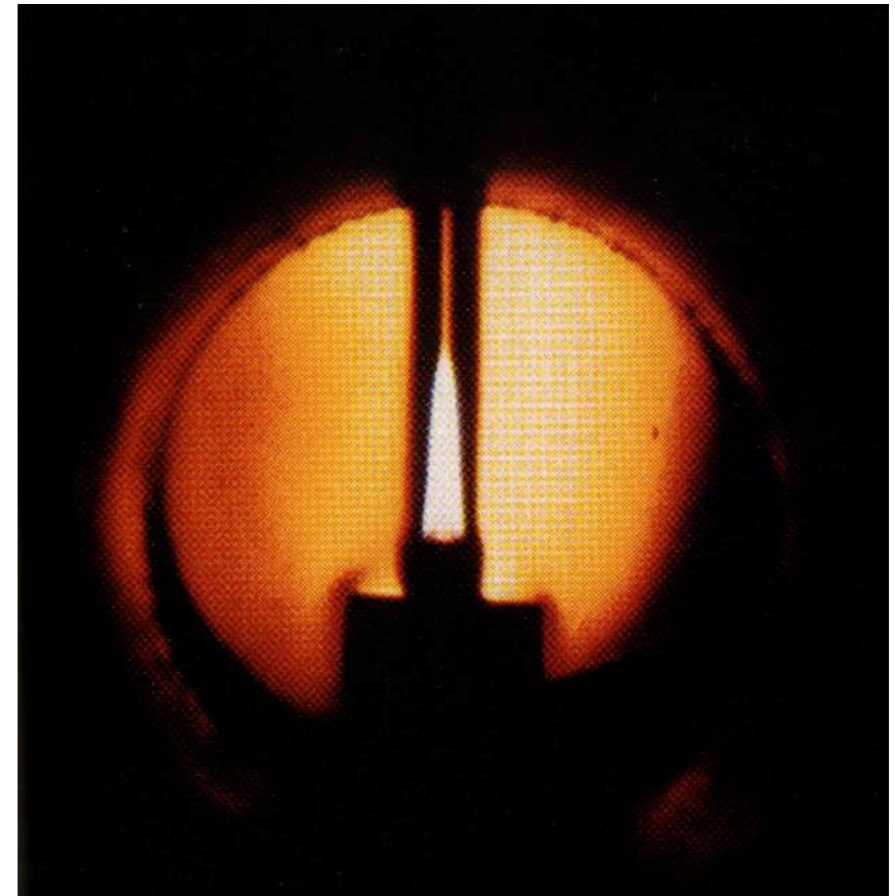
- organic compounds are miscible in SCW
- combustion of organic materials is possible

A Flame in Water!

30% methane in water

2000 bar, 450°C

W. Schilling and E.U. Franck, Ber.
Bunsenges. Phys. Chem. 92 (1988) 631.



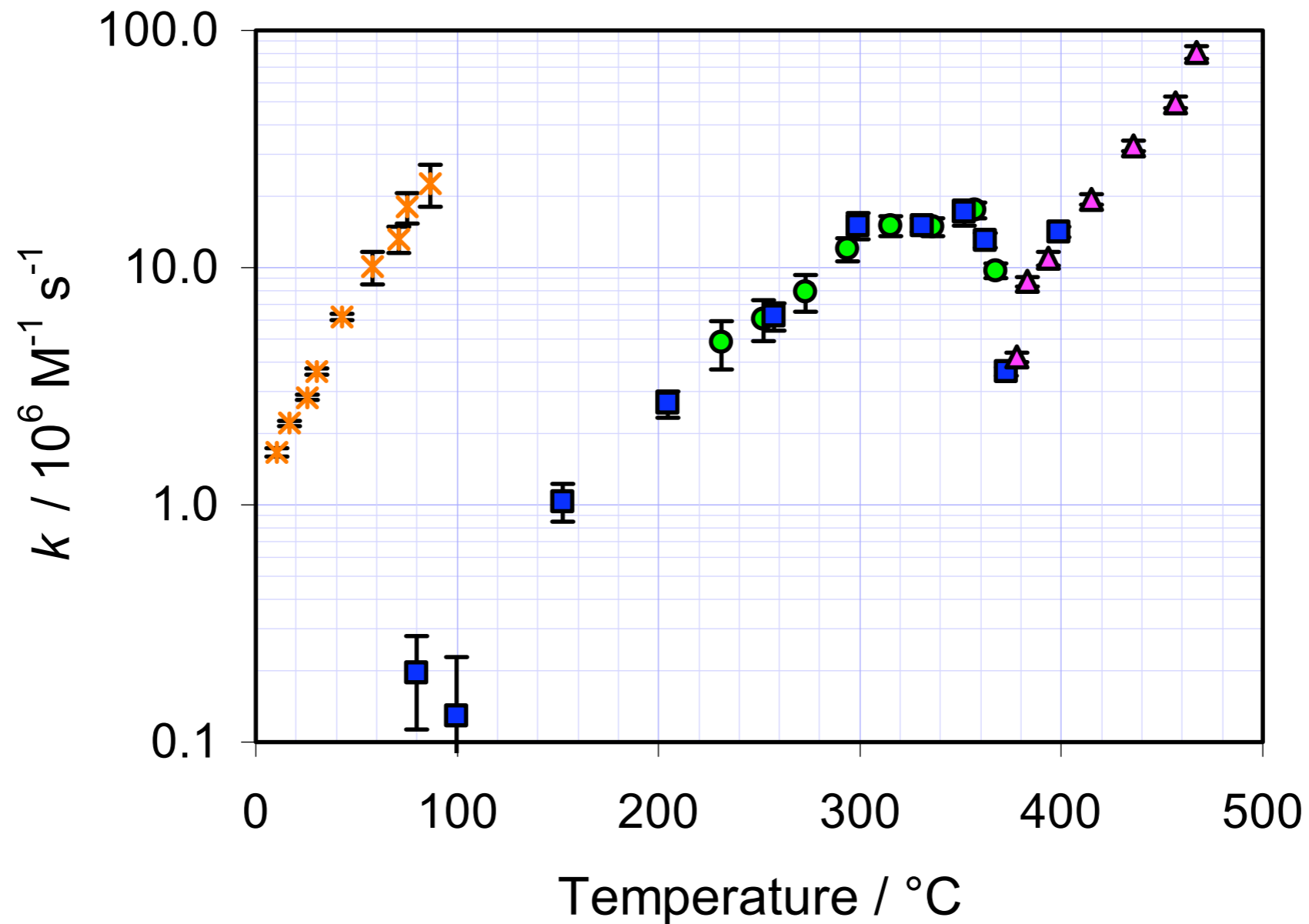
H abstraction from methanol by H (Mu)

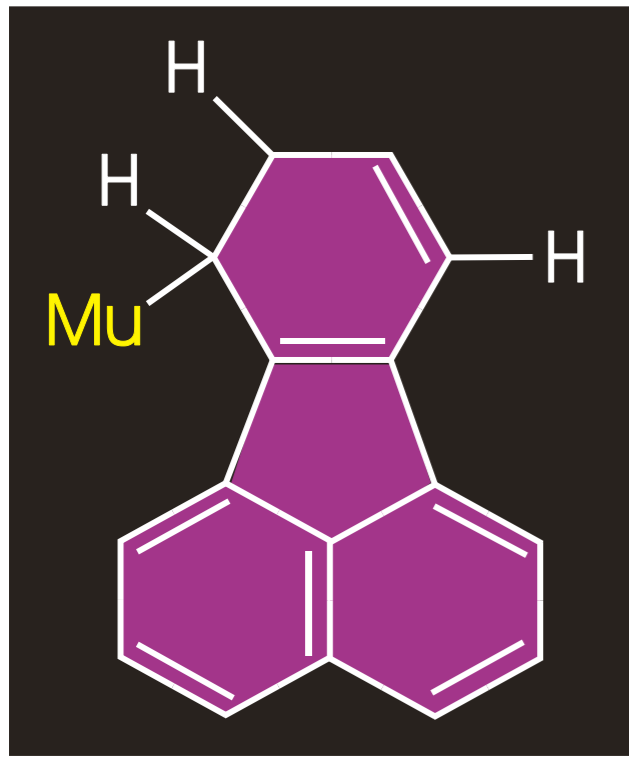
H + CH₃OH

Mezyk & Bartels, 1994

Mu + CH₃OH

Percival *et al.*, 2007

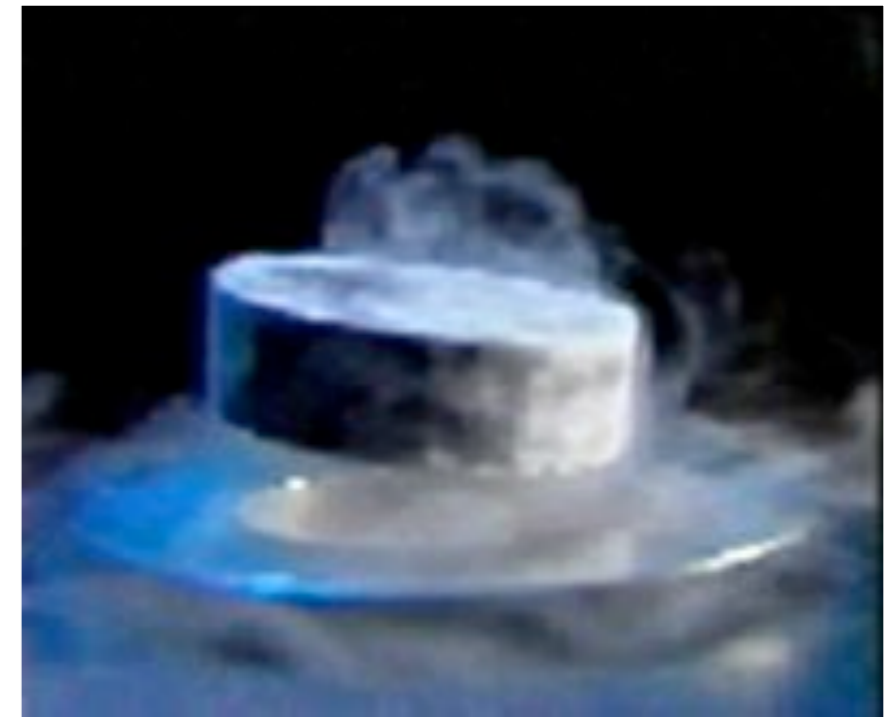




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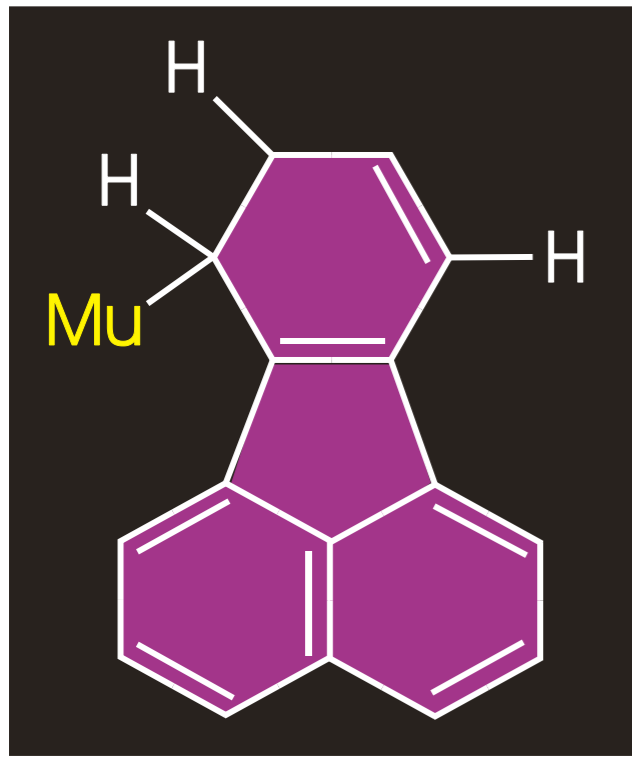
Unsolicited Advice

- **Find out what you can't stand *not* to do.** That's what a University education is **for**.
- **Have *fun* doing it **well!****
- **Take *risks* on **intuition**.** Security is an illusion, and not much fun anyway. Read "*Blink*".
- **Compete in **athletics**.** Be a good sport in mind and body.
- **Learn to *write*.** It is the **most essential skill** of a *scientist*. Take some creative writing courses. I'm not kidding!
- ***Don't follow the pack.*** Pick a research topic that no one else thinks is important (but make sure they're all wrong). Do the definitive work in the field and get out just before it becomes fashionable, or else you'll have to put up with a lot of bad behaviour from otherwise nice people.

Finis

Appendices

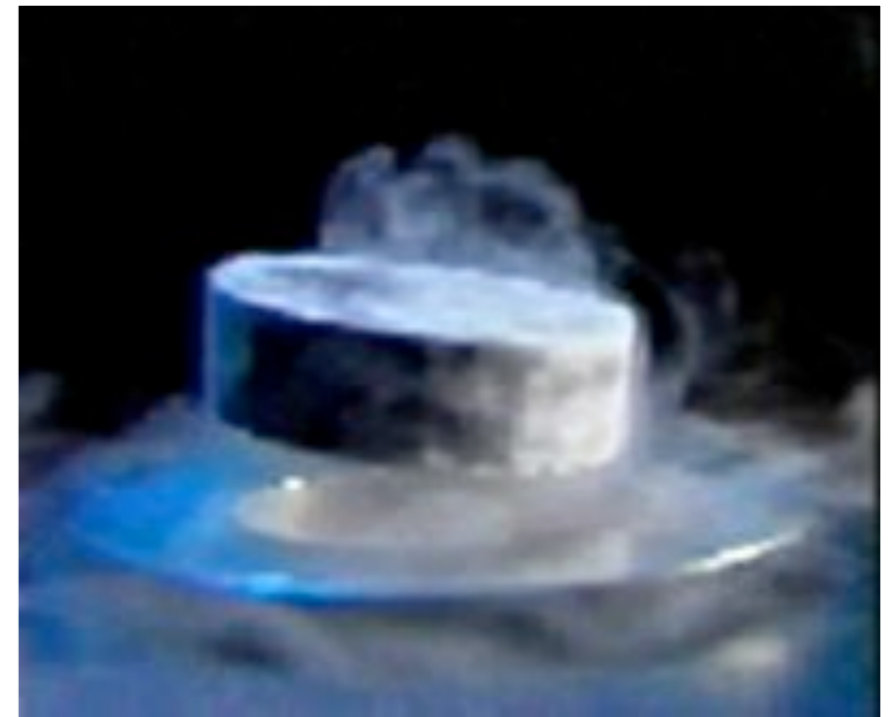




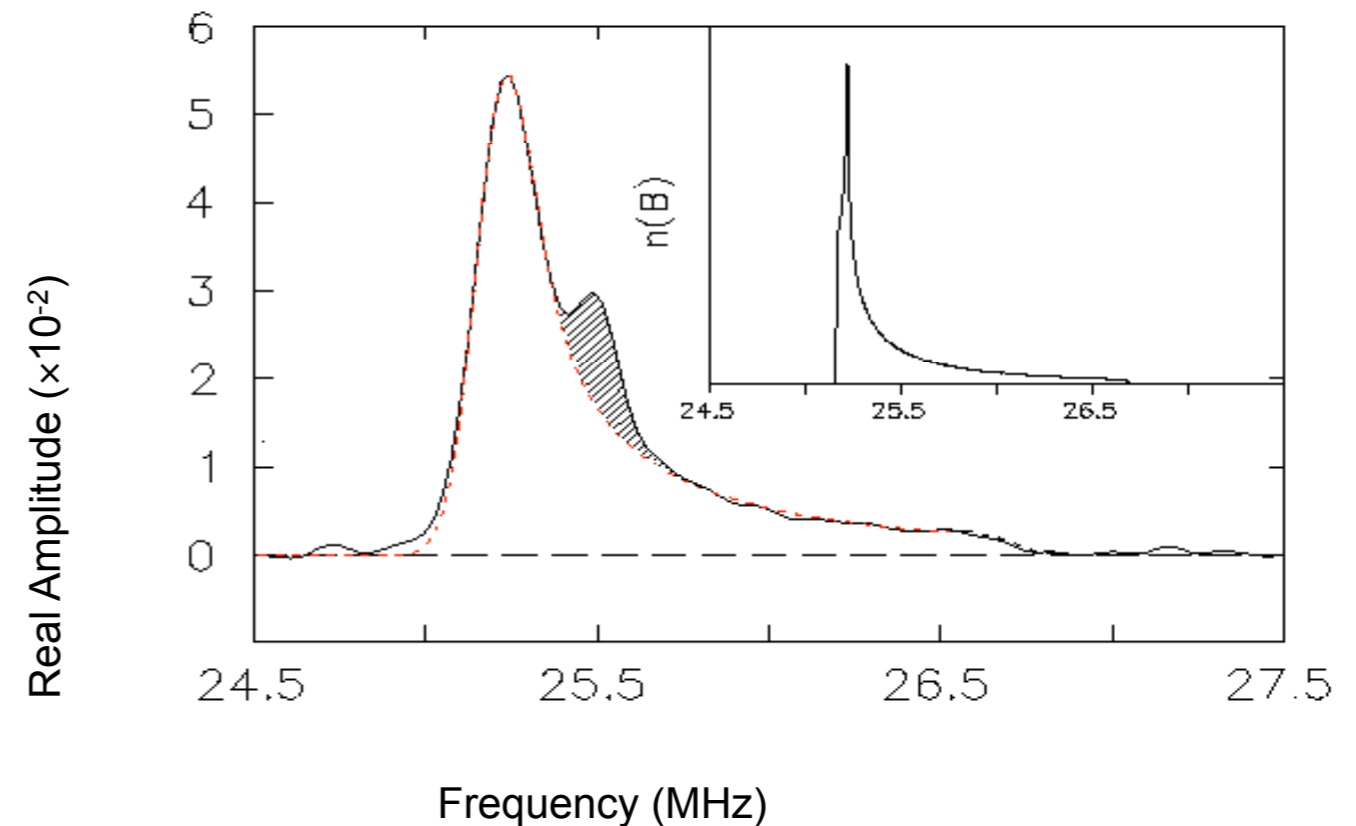
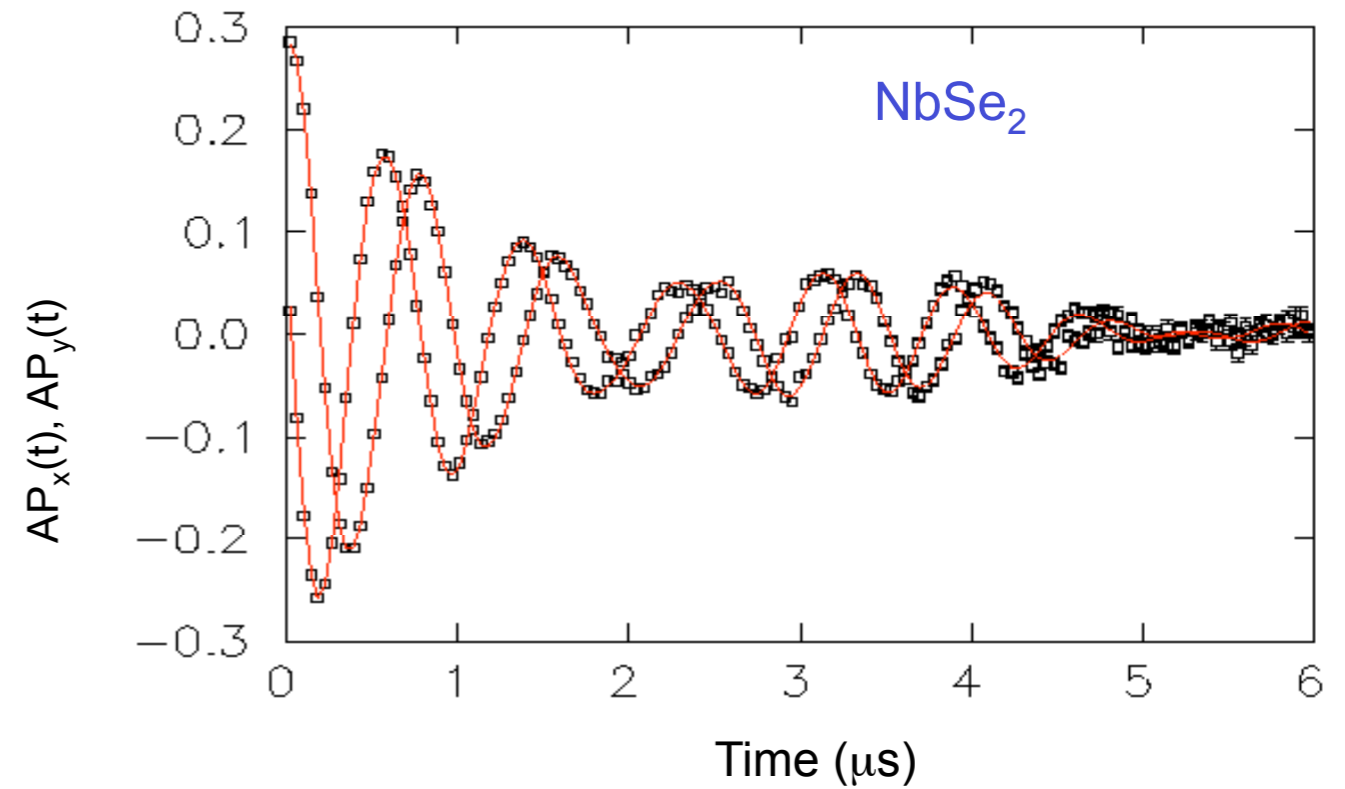
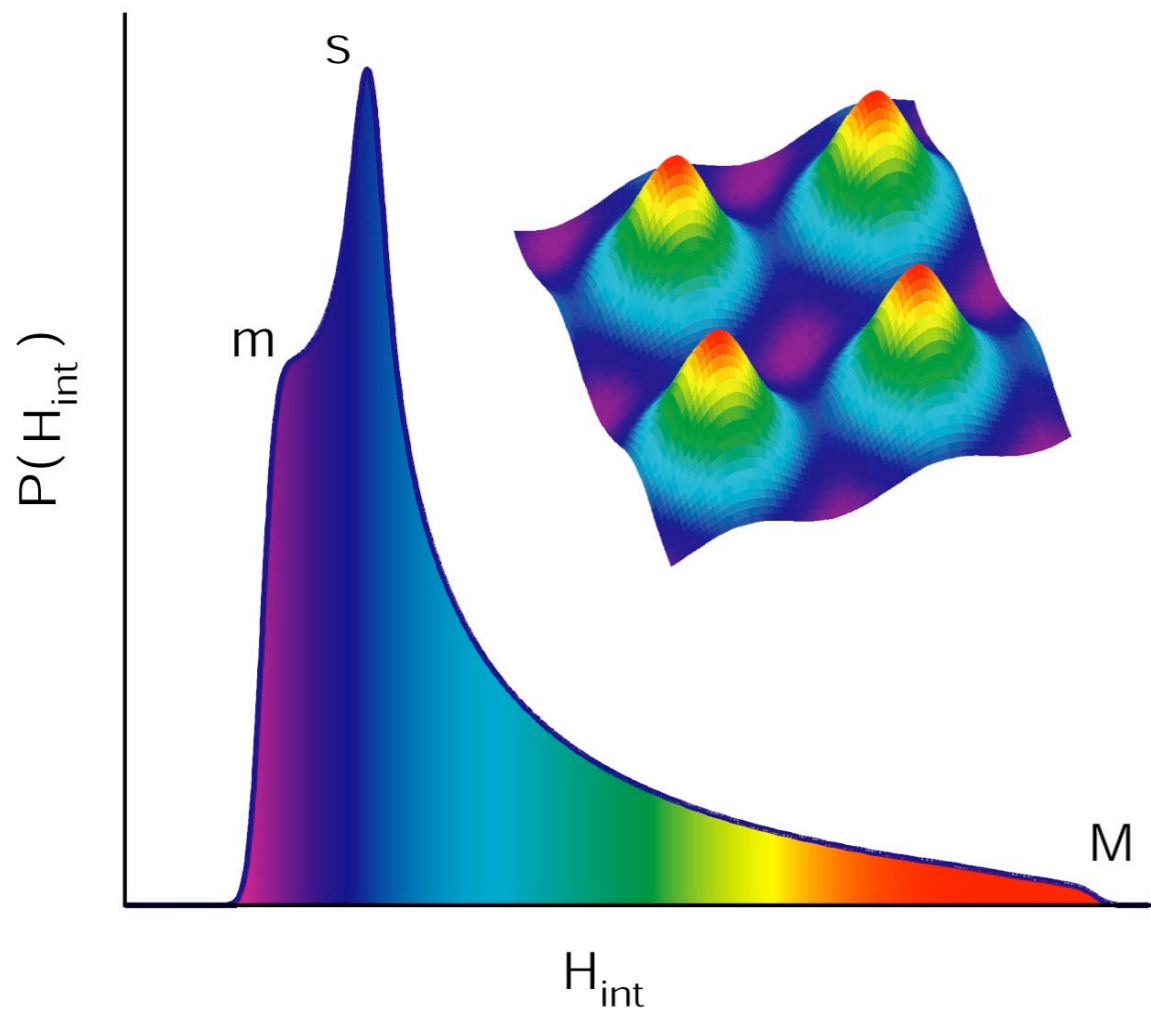
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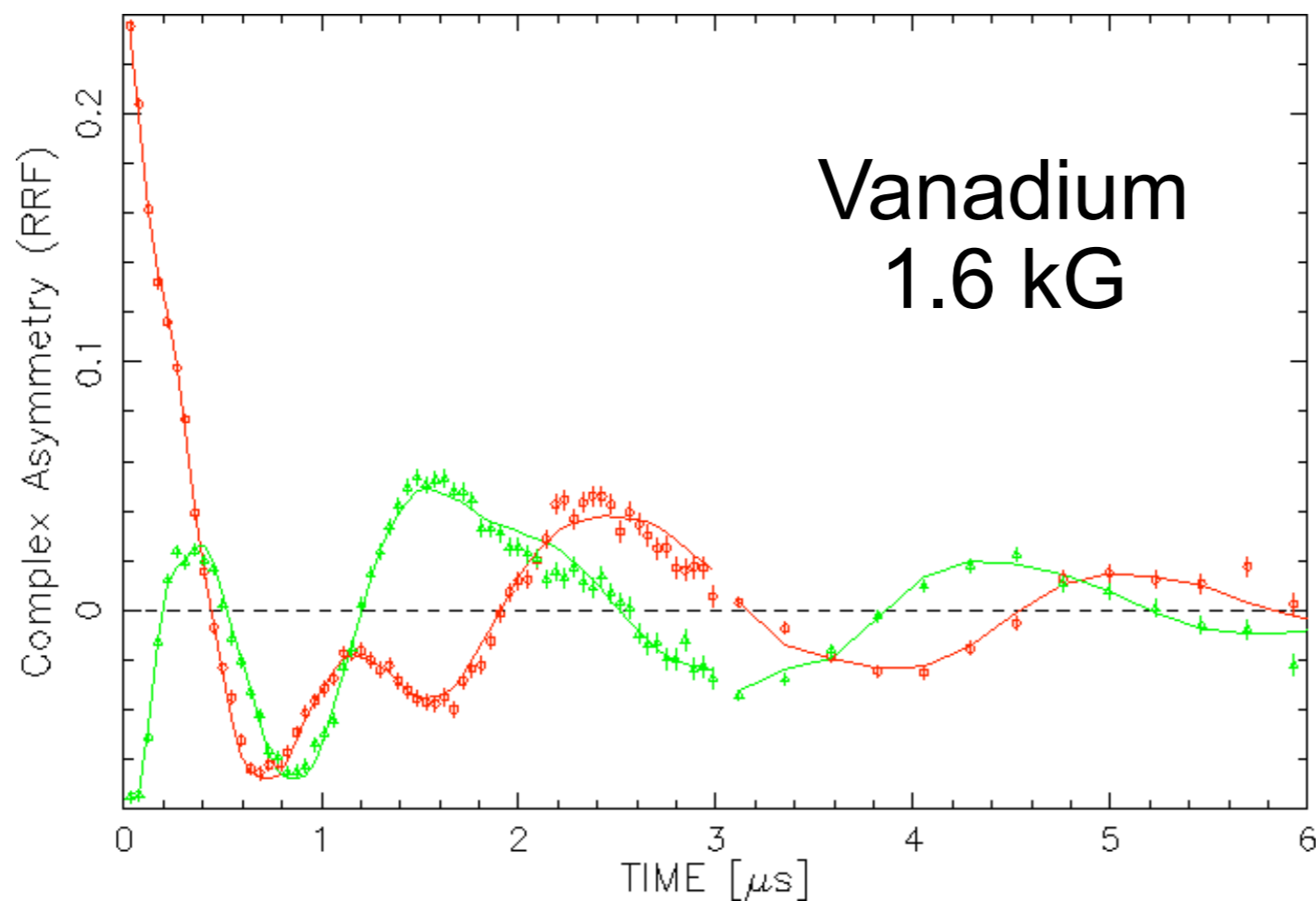
- > Molecular Magnets & Clusters
- > Hydrogen in Semiconductors
- > **Magnetic Polarons**
- > Charged Particle Transport
- > Quantum Impurities
- > Metal-Insulator Transitions
- > Colossal Magnetoresistance
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- > Heavy Fermions
- > Frustrated Magnetic Systems
- > Quantum Diffusion
- > **Exotic Superconductors**



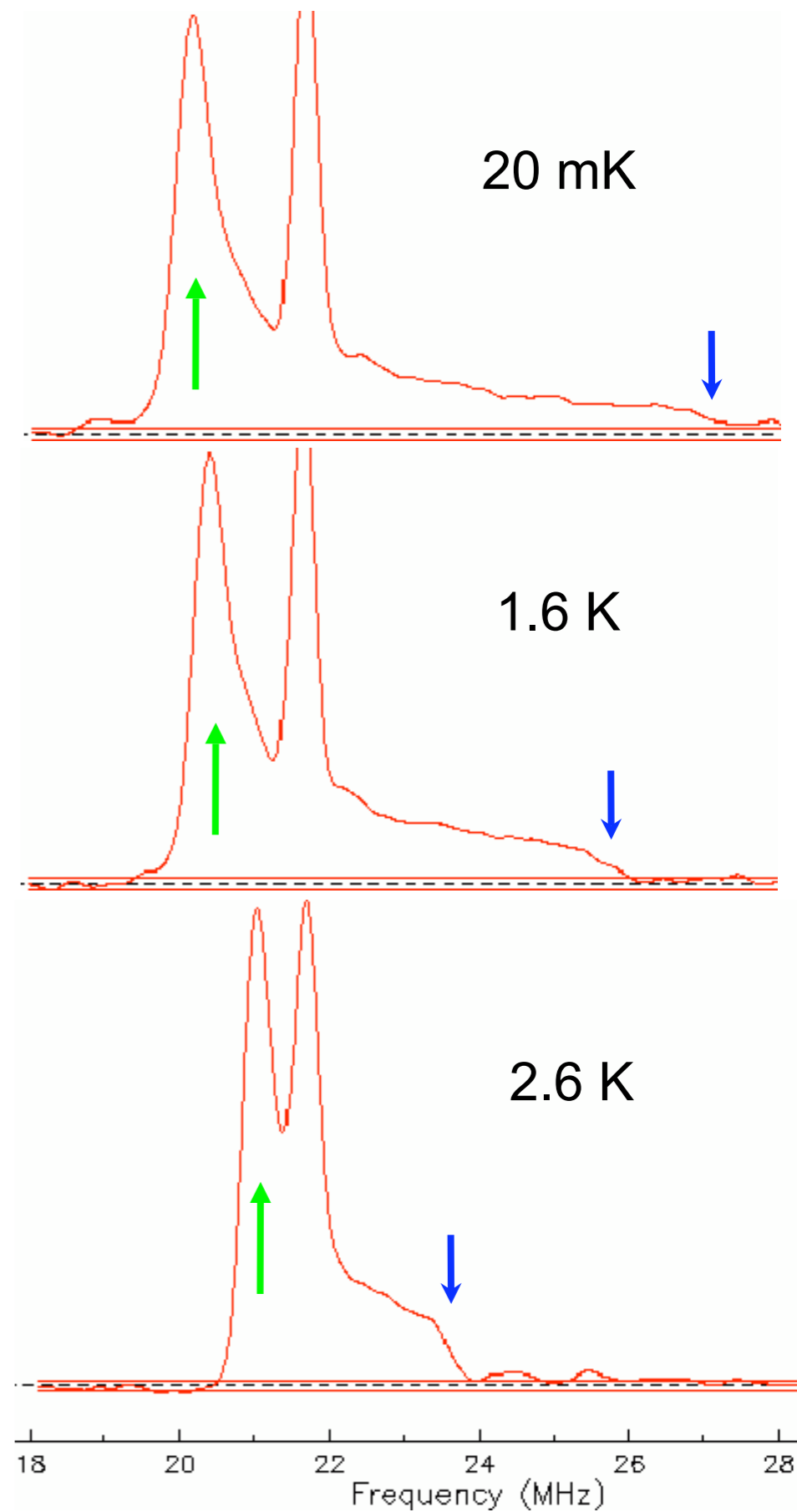
Magnetic Field Distribution of a Vortex Lattice



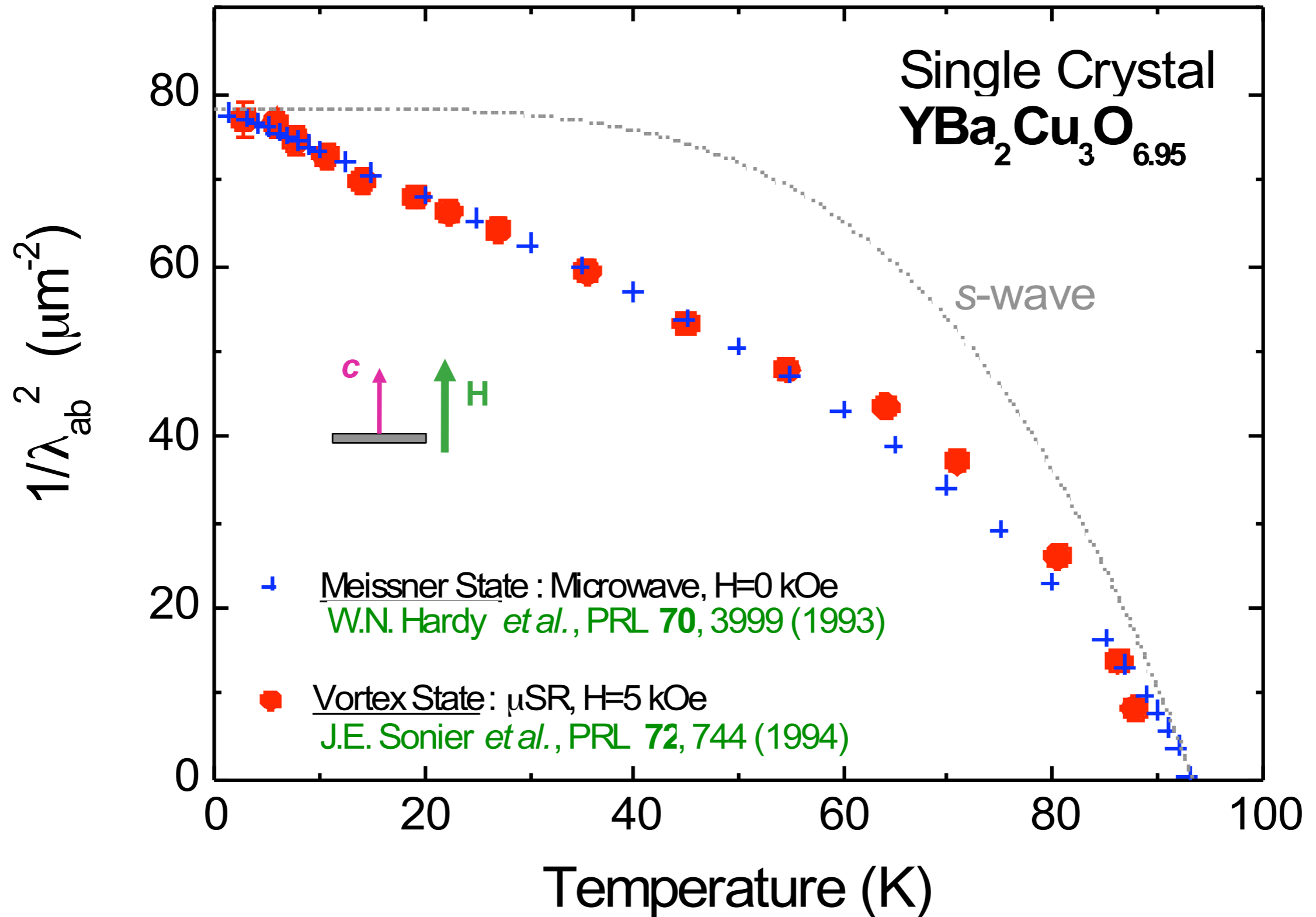
HTF- μ^+ SR FFT Lineshapes



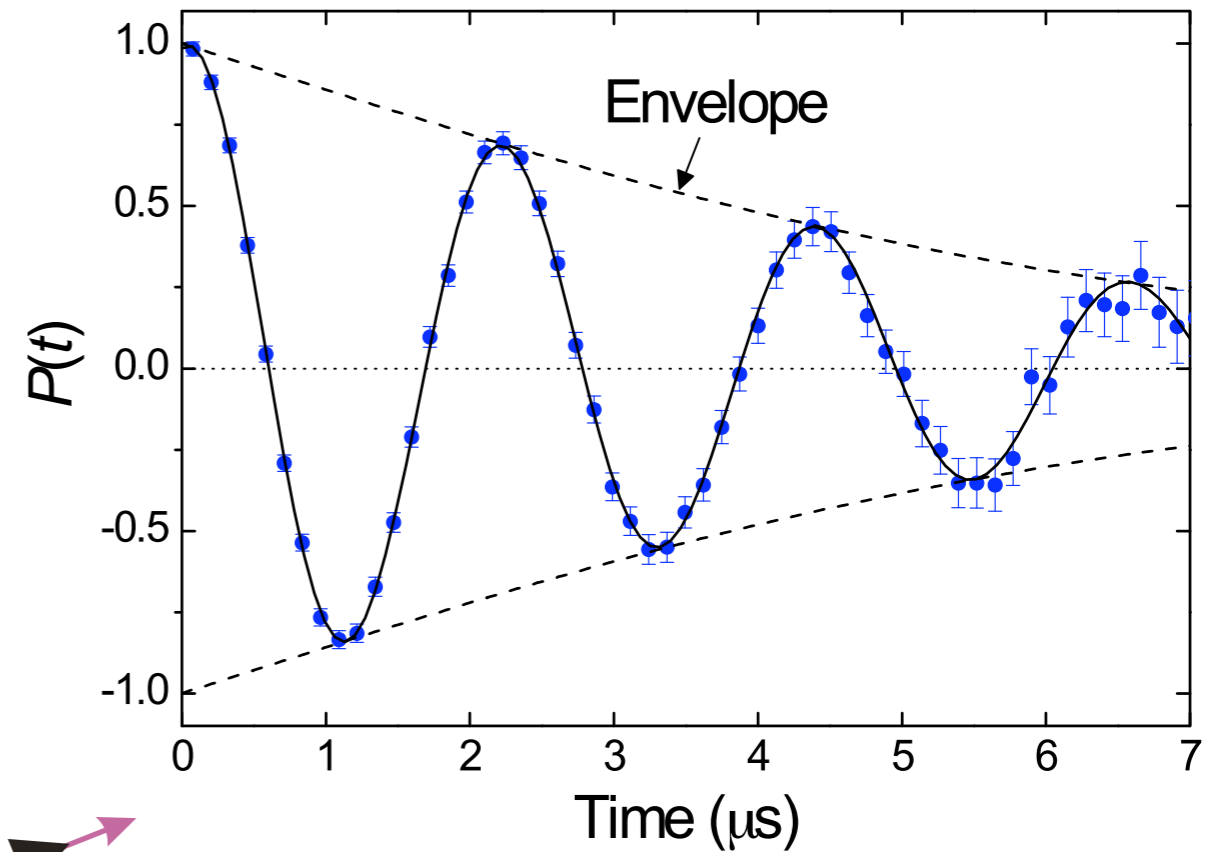
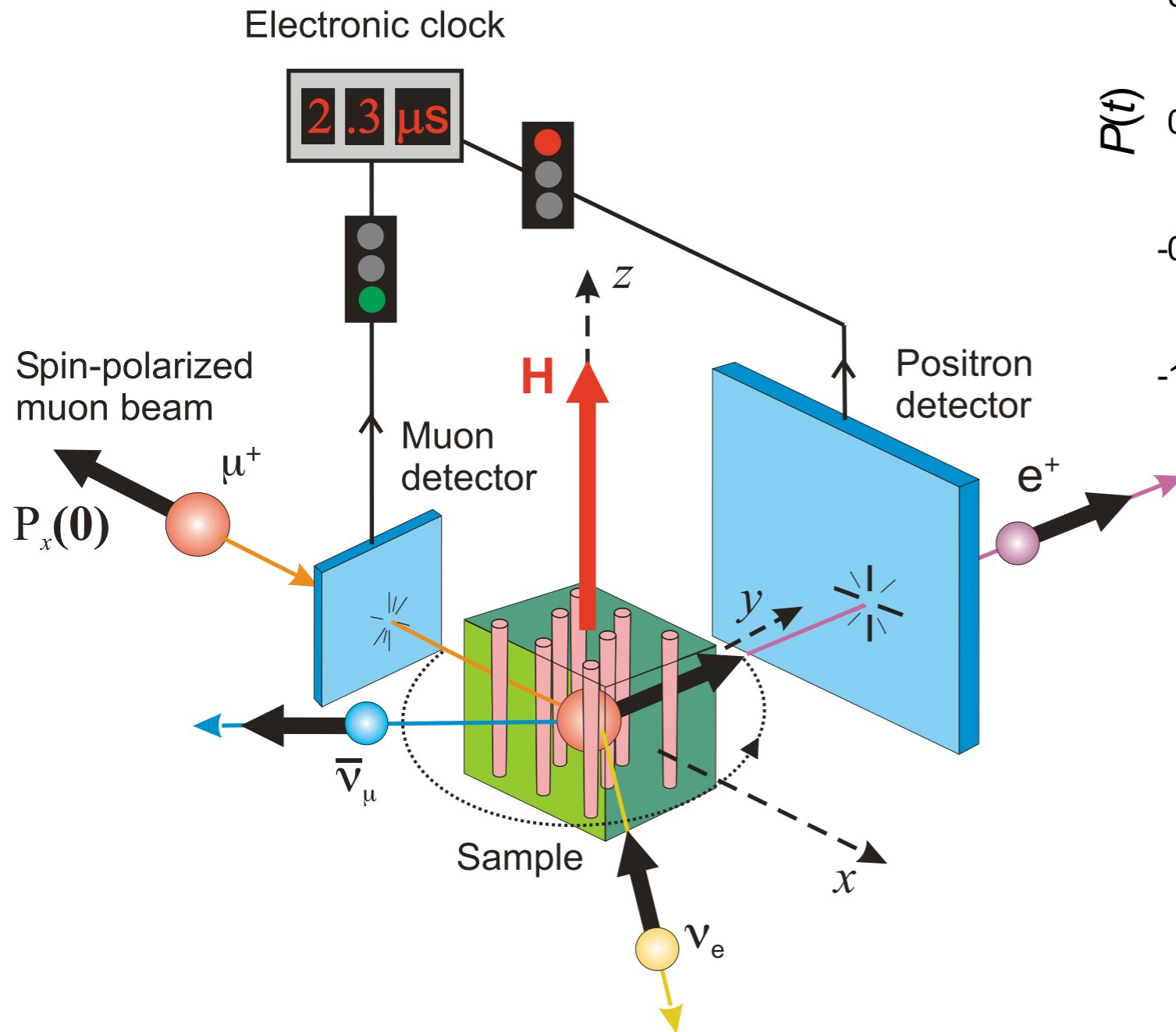
Fit in the time domain.



$1/\lambda_{ab}^2$ in the Meissner & Vortex States



Transverse Field μ SR



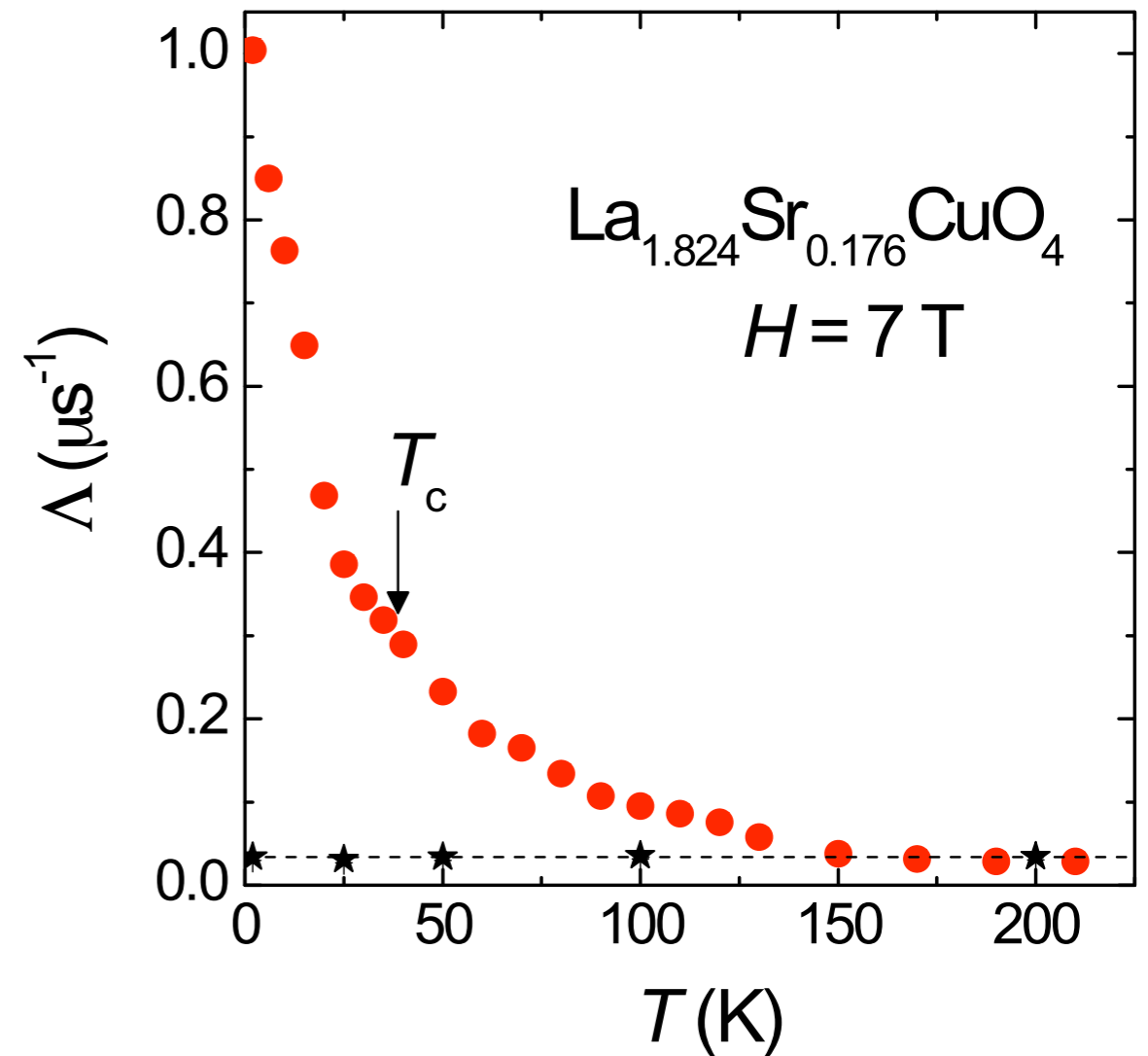
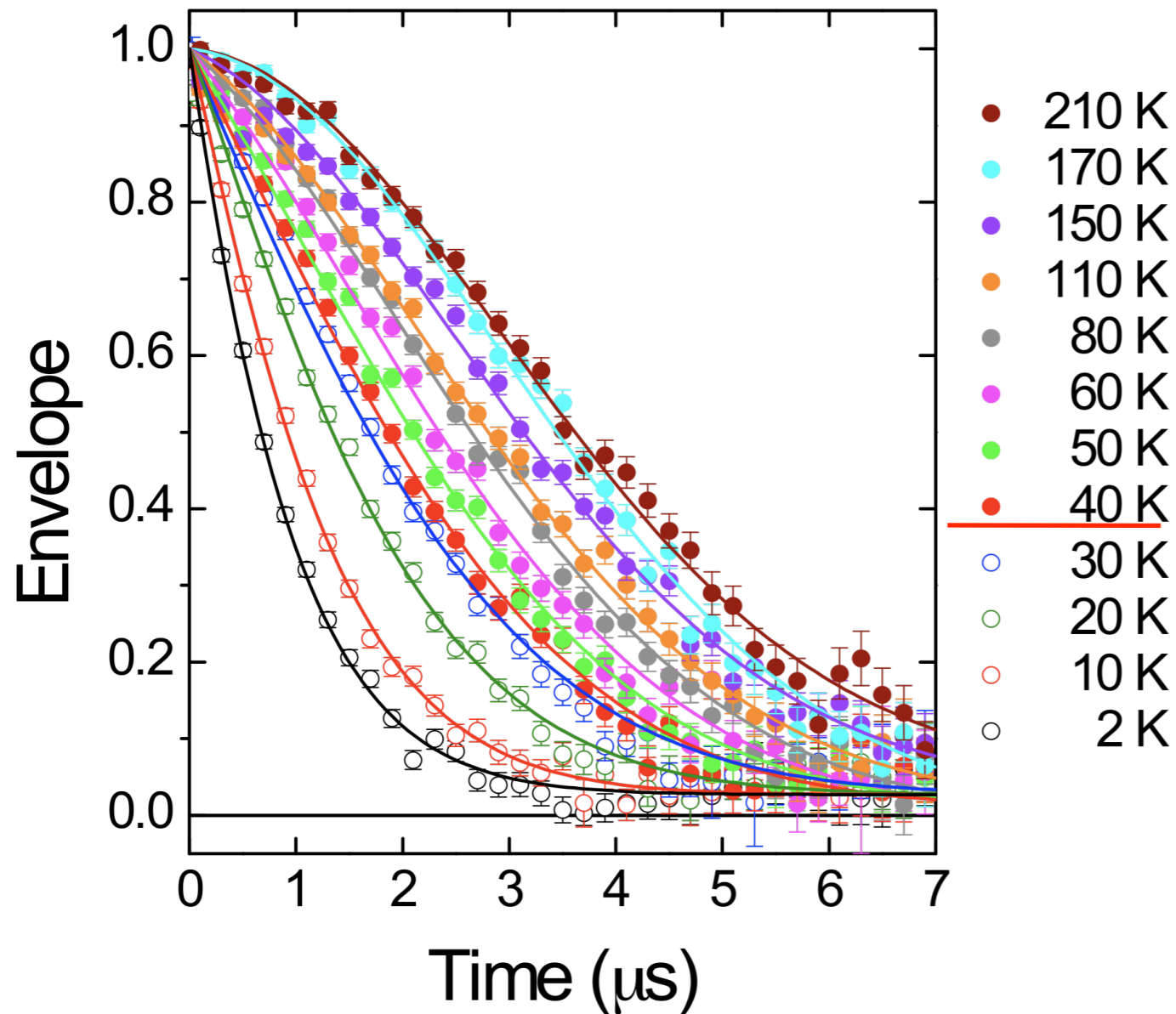
The time evolution of the muon spin polarization is described by:

$$P(t) = G(t) \cos(\gamma_\mu B_\mu + \varphi)$$

where $G(t)$ is a relaxation function describing the **envelope** of the TF- μ SR signal.

With high-field capability and dual spin rotators, TRIUMF is the premiere facility in the world for TF- μ SR!

Relaxation of TF- μ SR Signal in $\text{La}_{1.824}\text{Sr}_{0.176}\text{CuO}_4$ ($T_c = 37.1$ K) at $H = 7$ T

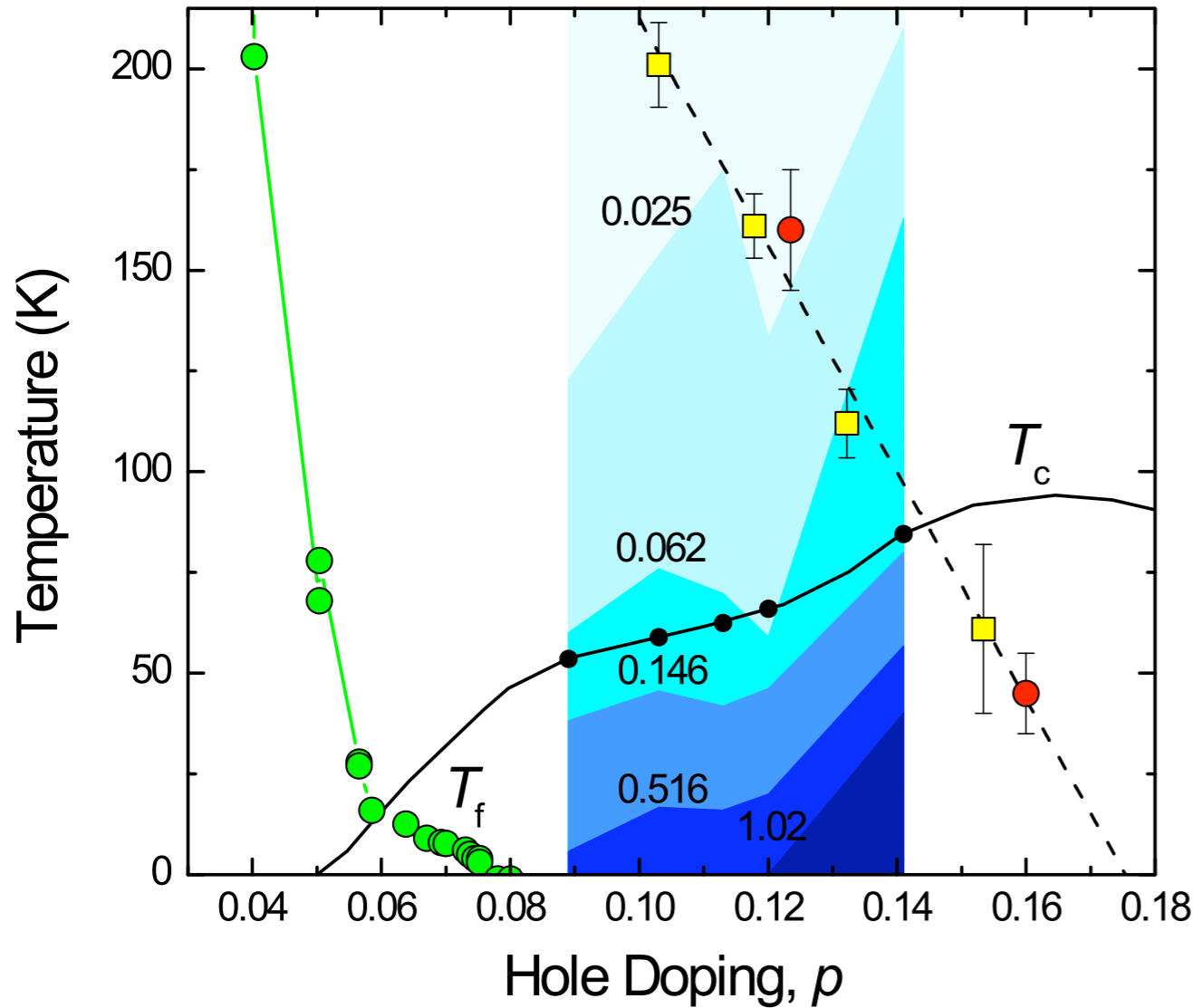


$$G(t) = \underbrace{\exp(-\Lambda t)}_{\text{spatial field inhomogeneity}} \underbrace{\exp(-\Delta^2 t^2)}_{\text{nuclear dipoles}}$$

- ♥ $\Lambda \neq 0$ at $T < T_c$ due to field inhomogeneity created by a vortex lattice.
- ♥ $\Lambda \neq 0$ at $T > T_c$. **Why?**

Inhomogeneous Magnetic Response of $\text{YBa}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{6+x}$ Above T_c

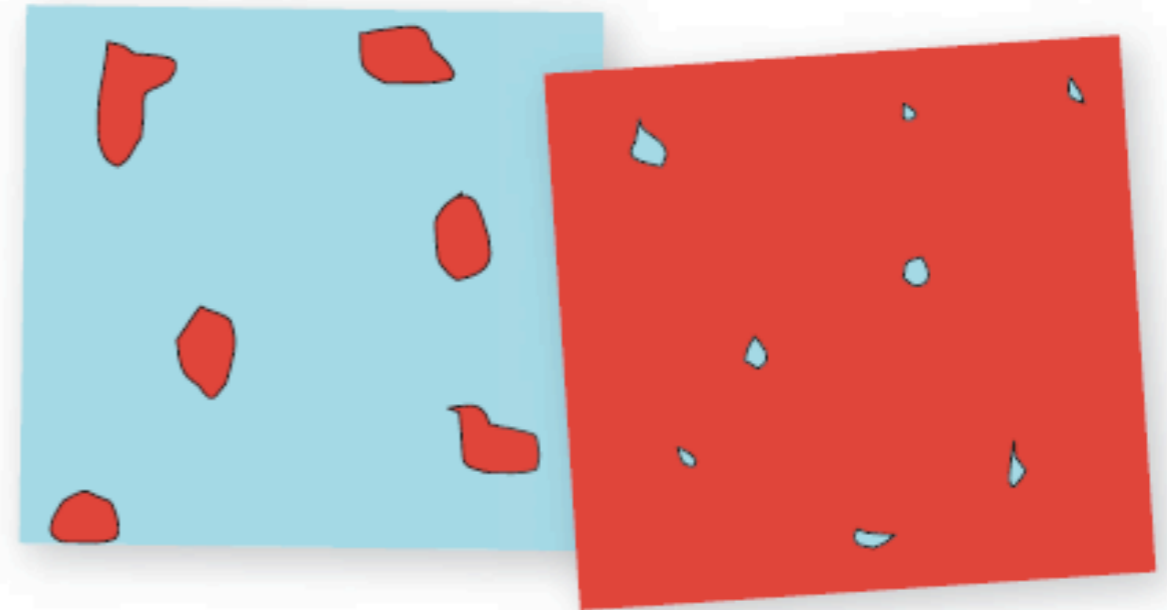
Physical Review Letters **101**, 117001 (2008)



● Kiefl *et al.* Physical Review Letters **63**, 2136 (1989)

● Sonier *et al.* Science **292**, 1692 (2001)

Magnetic phases previously discovered by μSR at TRIUMF



Magnetic Measurements Hint at Toaster Superconductivity

Twenty-two years after the discovery of high-temperature superconductors, theorists continue to disagree about how the complex materials conduct electricity without resistance at temperatures as high as 138 K. Meanwhile, experimenters are cranking out reams of intriguing data. At the meeting, Jeff Sonier of Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, Canada, reported evidence that superconductivity might persist in the materials to even higher temperatures—at least 200 K—albeit in tiny, disconnected patches.

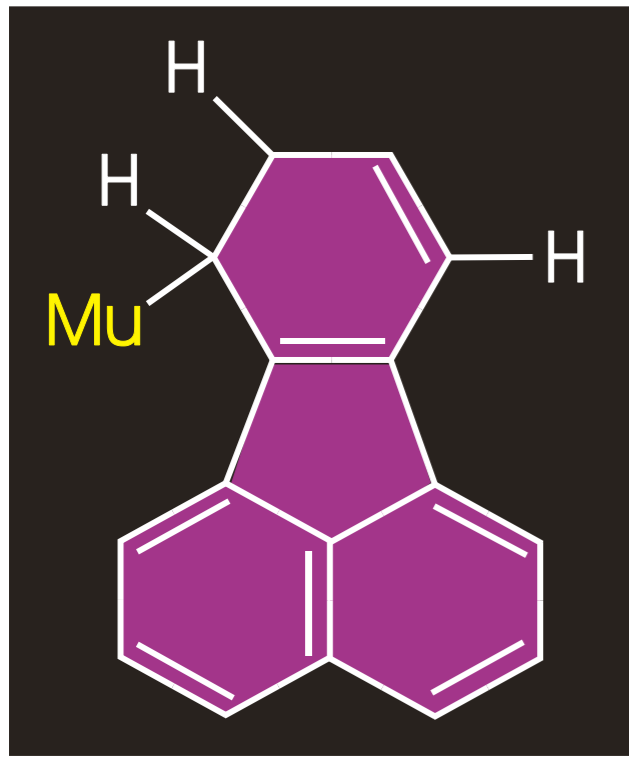
The result implies that current materials may not have reached the ultimate limits, says Eduardo Fradkin, a theorist at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. “In principle, it seems that if you knew how to do it, you could get an even higher temperature superconductor,” he says.

In superconductors, electrons pair and the

pairs “condense” into a single quantum wave to flow without resistance. In a conventional superconductor, all this happens simultaneously when the material is cooled below a single “critical temperature.” Numerous experiments hint that things are more complicated in high-temperature superconductors. In those materials, electrons appear to pair at temperatures above the superconducting transition. The pairs then condense at the critical temperature, or so some theorists argue.

Sonier and colleagues are suggesting an even more tantalizing alternative. Their data indicate that at very high temperatures, the pairs do condense but into disconnected nanometer-sized puddles of superconductivity. Presumably, the puddles proliferate as the temperature decreases, and the free flow of current sets in when they overlap.

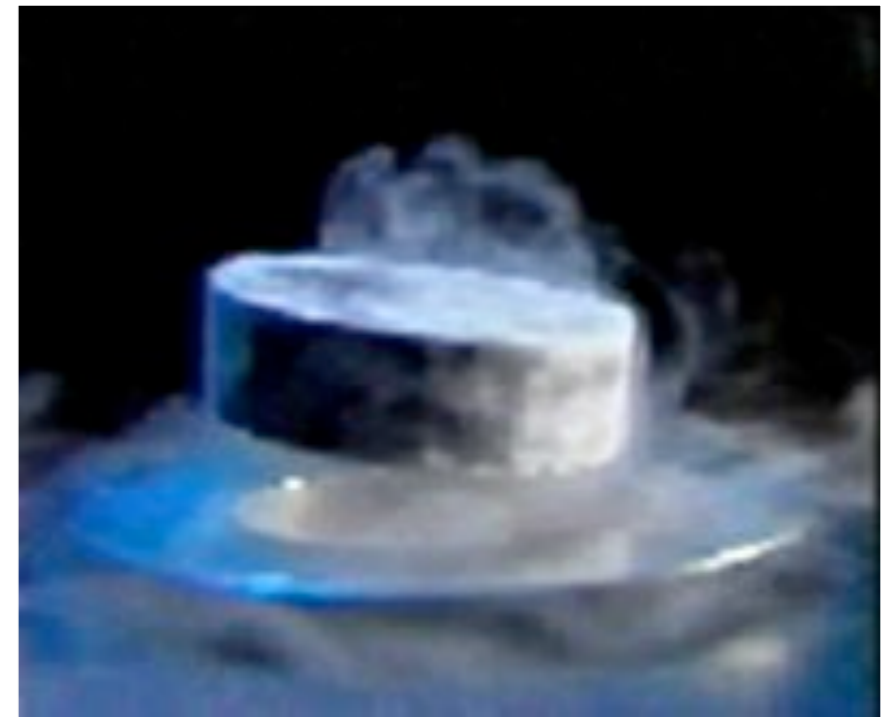
Evidence for such patchiness comes from



Recent Applications of μSR

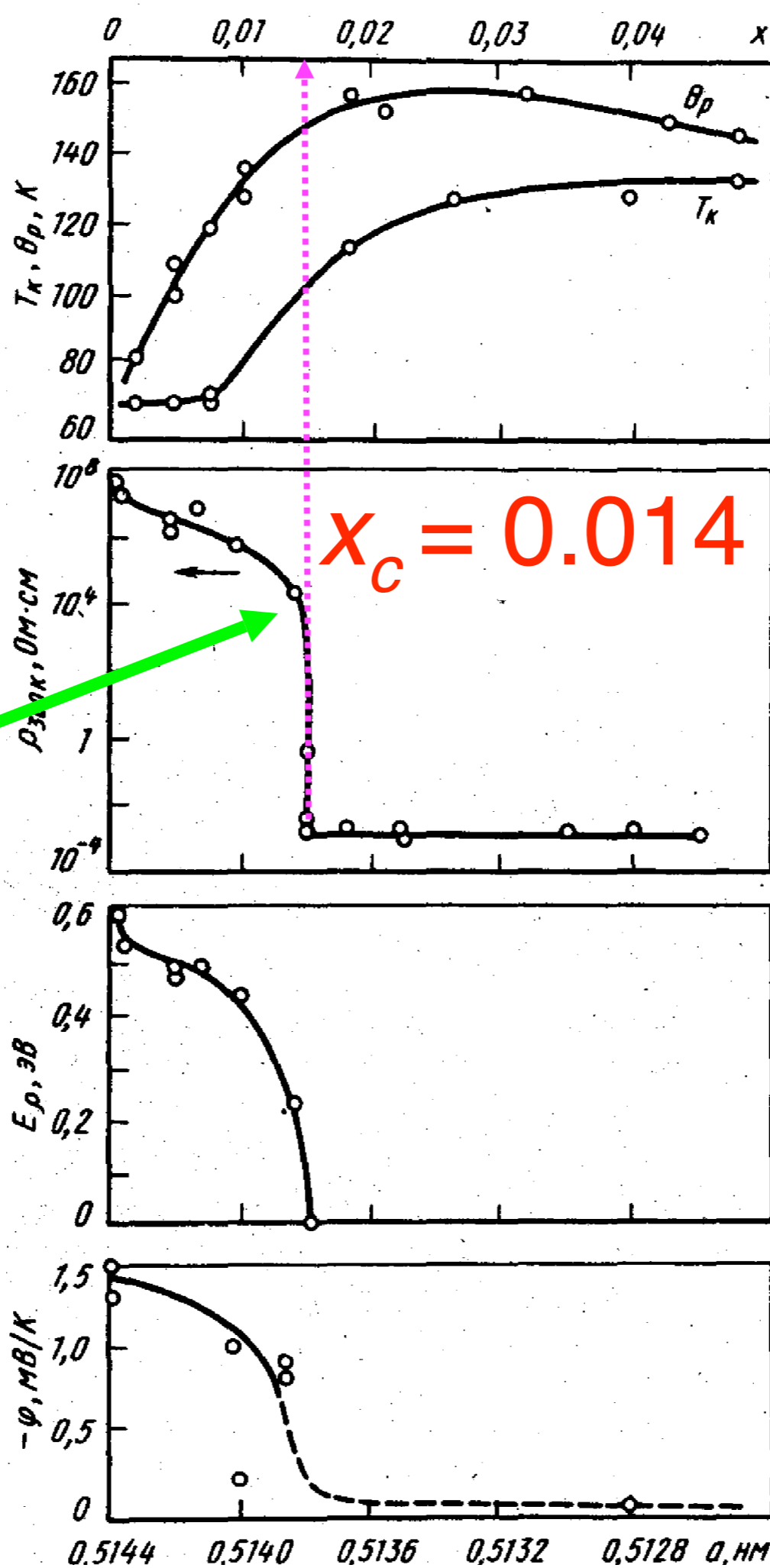
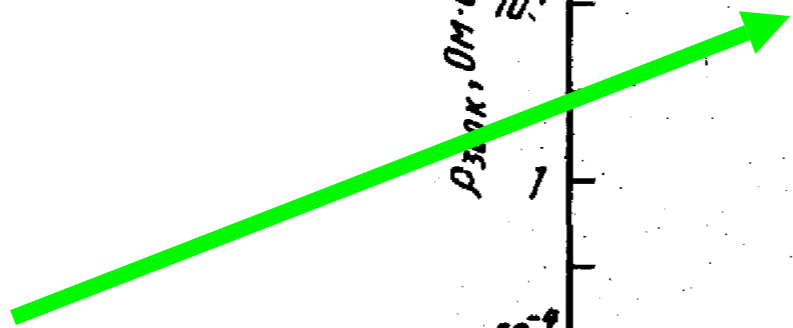
- > Molecular Structure & Conformational Motion of Organic Free Radicals
- > Hydrogen Atom Kinetics
- > “Green Chemistry” in Supercritical CO₂
- > Catalysis
- > Mass Effects in Chemical Processes
- > Ionic Processes at Interfaces
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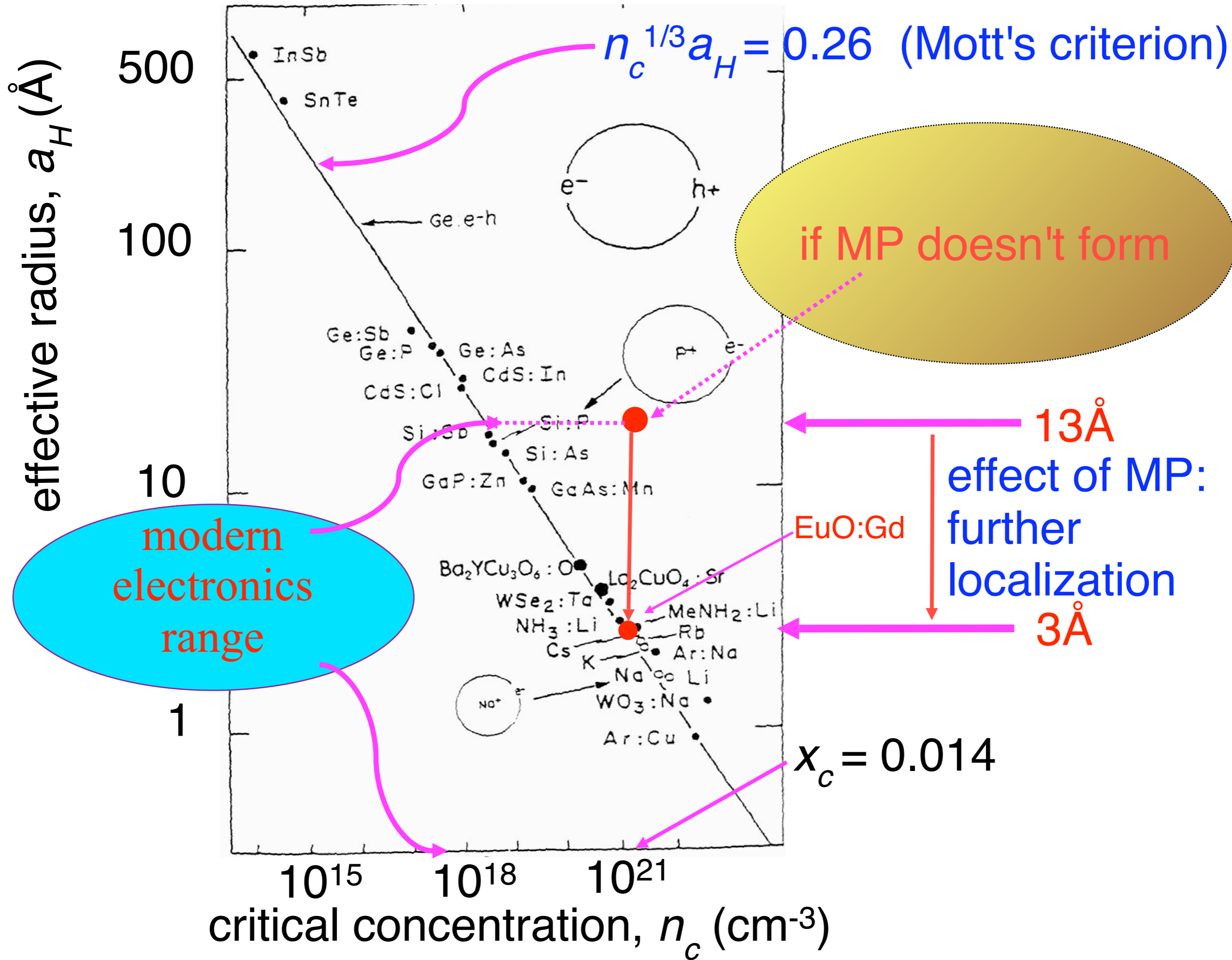


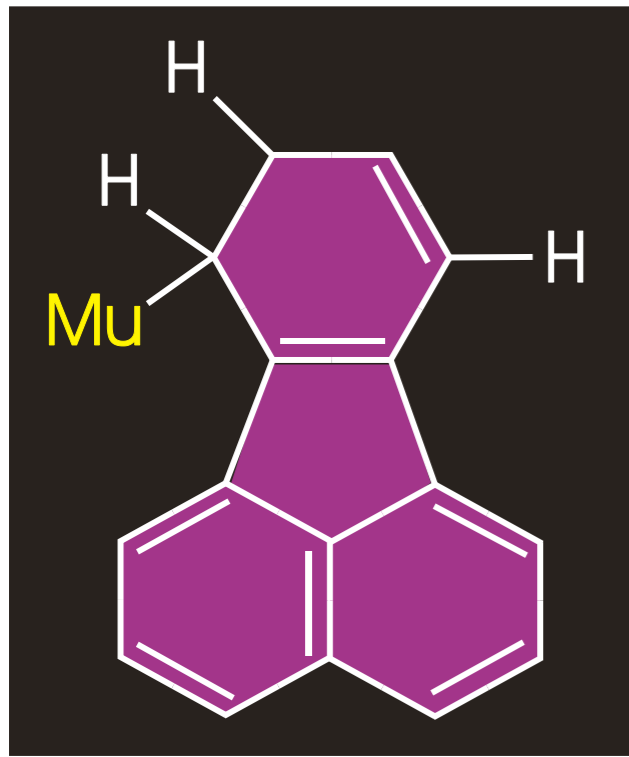


$T = 293 \text{ K}$



V.G. Bamburov
A.S. Boruhovich
A.A. Samohvalov

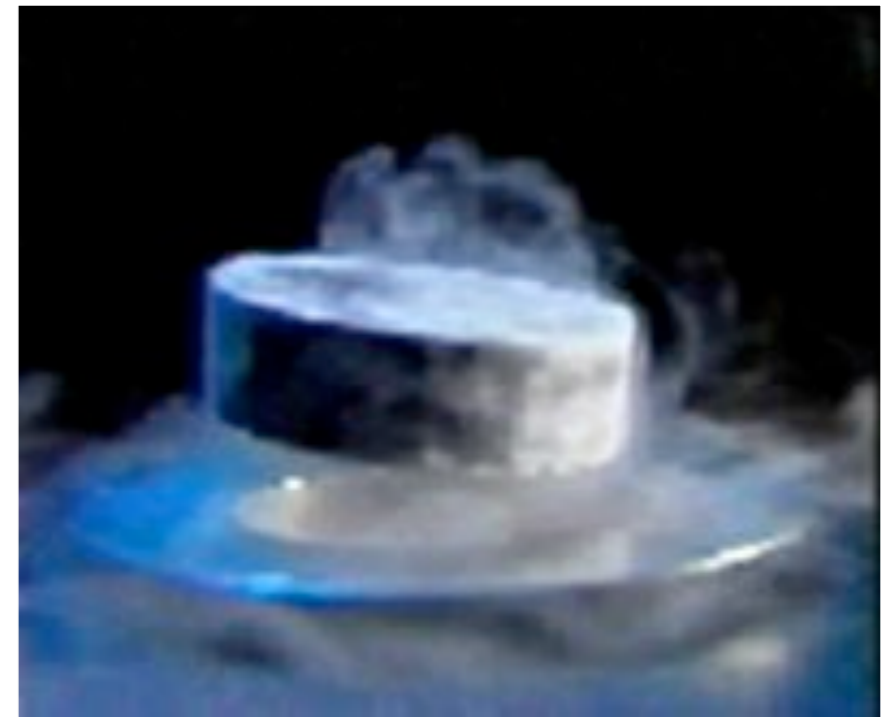




Recent Applications of μSR

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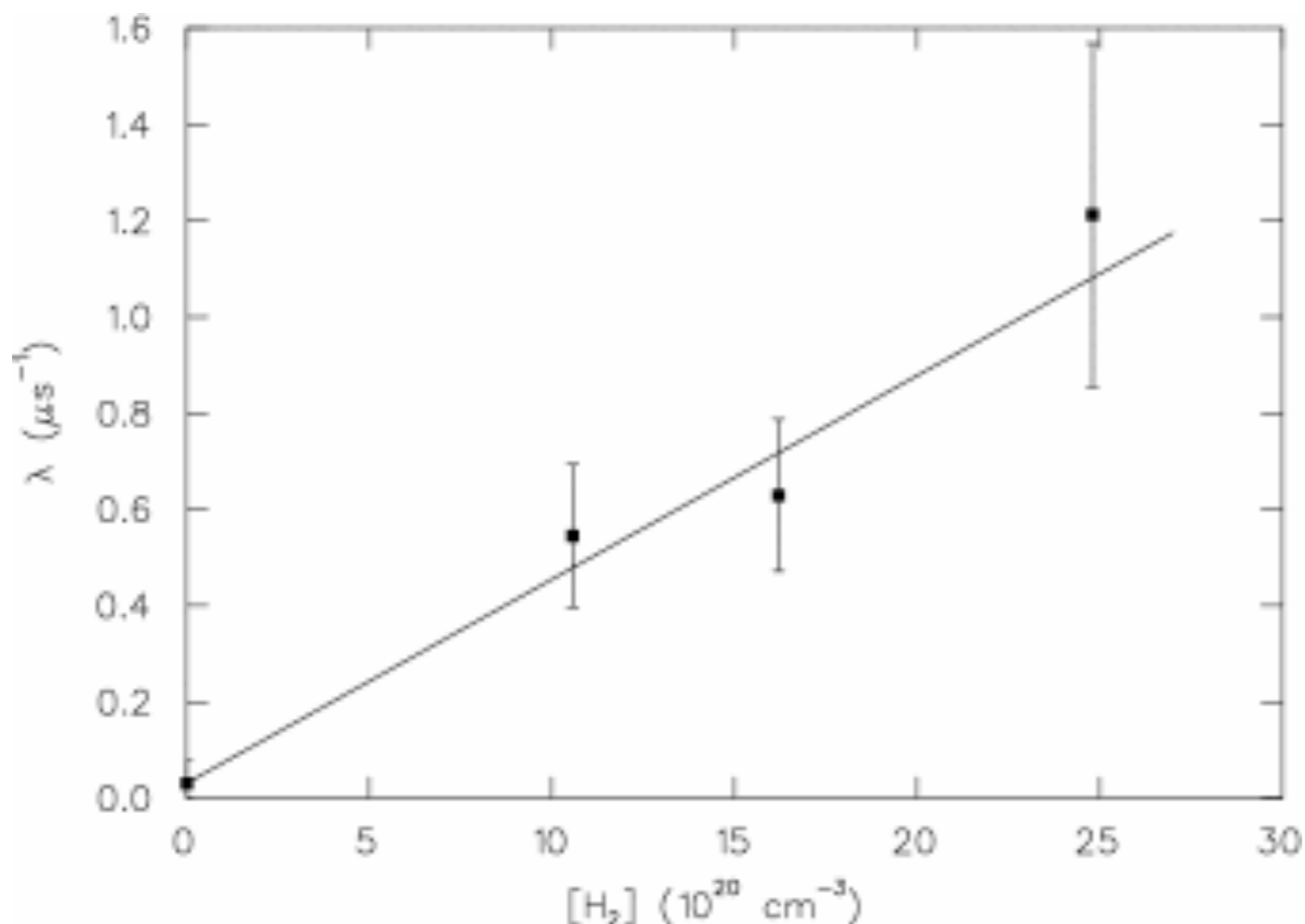
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Reaction Rate of the Neutral Muonic Helium Atom (${}^4\text{He}^{++}\mu^-e^-$) with Hydrogen

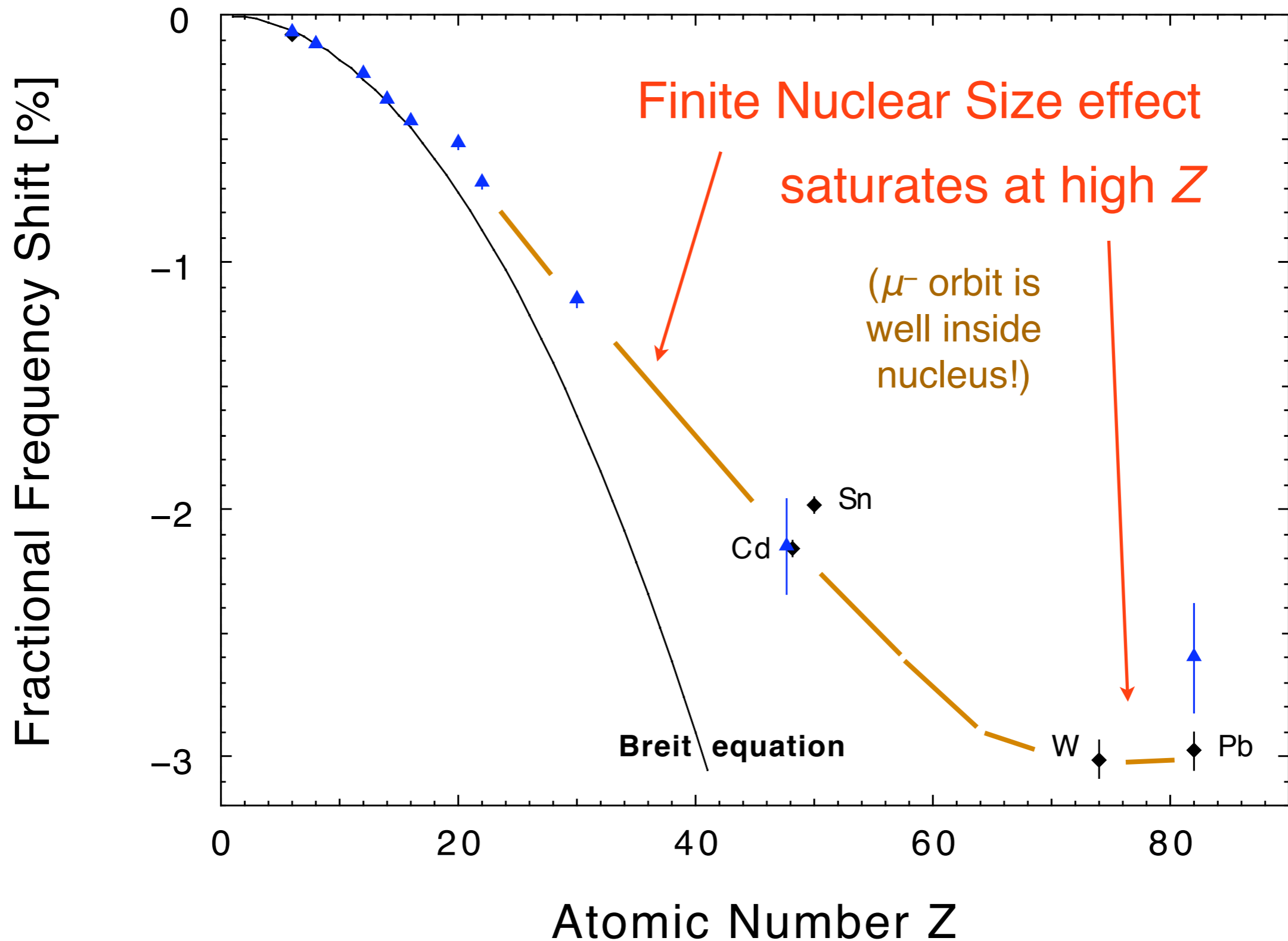
D.G. Fleming, D.J. Arseneau, O. Sukhorukov and J.H. Brewer

The chemical reaction rate of the neutral muonic helium atom ${}^4\text{He}^{++}\mu^-e^-$ (a *heavy* isotope of hydrogen with a mass 4.11 times that of protium) with H_2 gas has been measured for the first time at TRIUMF. Negative muons were stopped in high pressure helium gas with ammonia and hydrogen impurities added to provide (respectively) easily ionized electrons, to convert charged muonic helium to the neutral atomic species, and the chemical reaction partner of interest. Previous work at TRIUMF has concentrated upon the reactions of muonium (μ^+e^-) with hydrogen, providing crucial tests of rate chemistry theory through the largest isotopic range in history. This new measurement extends the isotopic range still further (from 0.11 to 4.11); yet all the species involved still qualify as legitimate isotopes of the simplest atom.



The reaction rate constant between H_2 and ${}^4\text{He}^{++}\mu^-e^-$ obtained at room temperature from these data is $k = (4.2 \pm 0.7) \times 10^{-16} \text{ cm}^3/\text{s}$, about 10^4 times faster than that estimated for $\text{Mu} + \text{H}_2$ at 300 K, $\sim 5.3 \times 10^{-20} \text{ cm}^3/\text{s}$. This huge difference is mainly due to the lower activation energy for the heavier atom, reflecting huge differences in zero point energy in the transition state. There should be little or no tunneling for the heavy muonic helium atom. Later experiments at different temperatures aim to measure the activation energy for this reaction.

Relativistic Shifts of Bound μ^- g -factor



History of μSR

- pre-1956: **Fantasy**
- 1956-7: **Revolution!**
 π - μ -e decay and μSR
- 1958-73: **Science Fiction**
Michel Parameters
QED tests with Muonium
“Problems” → Applications
- 1970s: **Meson Factories**
SIN/PSI, LAMPF, TRIUMF,
KEK/BOOM, RAL/ISIS
- '80s & '90s: **Routine Science**
 μSR Methods developed
“Themes” in μSR
- 2000s: **TRIUMF CMMS:**
Chemistry & Semiconductors
Magnetism & Superconductors
Fundamental Physics
- **FUTURE: Applied Science**
(No more magic? Don't count on it!)

Groups of People

- **Discoverers** of P -violation, who turned Fantasy to Fiction
- **Obsessors** who created μSR to test QED
- **Developers** who turn Fiction into Physics
- **Promoters** who support and encourage Developers & Users
- **Users** who apply the Developers' tools to continue the story
- **Students** who do all the hard work for the Users

Cast of Characters

in approximate order of appearance

Fantasy Era

Yukawa; Anderson; Rasetti

Science Fiction Era

Theory: Lee & Yang

Exp't: Wu; Friedman & Telegdi;
Garwin, Lederman & Weinrich

Frontier Era

USSR: Firsov; Nosov & Yakovleva
Ivanter & Smilga; *Gurevich*

QED: Hughes; Telegdi; Crowe

$\mu^+e^- \rightarrow \mu^-e^+$: Bowen & Pifer

Golden Era

SIN → **PSI:** Schenck, Kündig, Patterson,
Fischer, Kalvius, Kiefl

LAMPF: Hughes, Heffner, MacLaughlin

TRIUMF: Warren, Fleming, Brewer, Crowe,
Walker, Vogt, Uemura, Williams

KEK/BOOM: Kubo, Yamazaki, Nagamine

RAL/ISIS: Stoneham, Cox

Modern Era at TRIUMF

Percival, Kreitzman, Kiefl, Luke, Sonier,
MacFarlane, Uemura, Storchak, Sugiyama,
*hundreds of Users, dozens of PDFs and
Students, Visitors, . . .*

Before 1956: *Fantasy*

● 1930s: **Mistaken Identity**

Yukawa's "nuclear glue" **mesons** \neq **cosmic rays**

1937 Rabi: Nuclear Magnetic Resonance

● 1940s: **"Who Ordered That?"**

1940 Phys. Rev. Analytical Subject Index: "**mesotron**"

1944 Rasetti: 1st application of **muons** to **condensed matter physics**

1946 Bloch: Nuclear Induction (modern NMR with FID *etc.*)

1946 Various: "two-meson" π - μ hypothesis Brewer: born

1947 Richardson: produced π & μ at Berkeley 184 in. Cyclotron

1949 Kuhn: "*The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*"

● 1950s: **"Particle Paradise"**

culminating in weird results with strange particles:

1956 Cronin, Fitch, . . . : " τ - θ puzzle" (neutral **kaons**) \rightarrow **Revolution!**

THE PHYSICAL REVIEW

A journal of experimental and theoretical physics established by E. L. Nichols in 1893

SECOND SERIES, VOL. 66, Nos. 1 AND 2

JULY 1 AND 15, 1944

Deflection of Mesons in Magnetized Iron

F. RASETTI

Laval University, Quebec, Canada

(Received May 8, 1944)

The deflection of mesons in a magnetized ferromagnetic medium was investigated. A beam of mesons was made to pass through 9 cm of iron, and the resulting distribution of the beam was observed. Two arrangements were employed. In the first arrangement, the deflection due to the field caused a fraction of the mesons to hit a counter placed out of line with the others. An increase of sixty percent in the number of coincidences was recorded when the iron was magnetized. In the second arrangement, all the counters were arranged in line, and the deflection due to the field caused an eight percent decrease in the number of coincidences. These results are compared with theoretical predictions deduced from the known momentum spectrum of the mesons and from the geometry of the arrangement. The observed effects agree as well as can be expected with those calculated under the assumptions that the effective vector inside the ferromagnetic medium is the induction B , and that the number of low energy mesons is correctly given by the range-momentum relation.