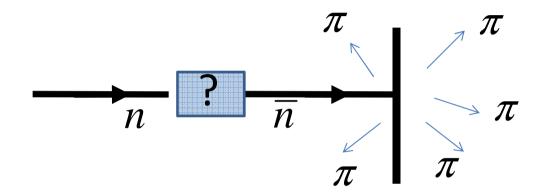
### A search for free $n \to \overline{n}$ oscillations at the ESS



D. Milstead Stockholm University

# Why baryon number violation?

### Why baryon number violation?

- Baryon number is not a "sacred" quantum number
  - Approximate conservation of BN in SM
    - "Accidental" global symmetry at perturbative level
      - Depends on specific matter content of the SM
    - BNV in SM by non-perturbative processes
      - -Sphalerons
      - -B-L conserved in SM, not B,L separately.
  - Generic BNV in BSM theories, eg, SUSY.
  - BNV a Sakharov condition for baryogenesis

Why  $n \to \overline{n}$ ?

$$n \rightarrow \overline{n}$$

- Theory
  - Baryogenesis via BNV (Sakharov conditions)
  - SM extensions from TeV mass scales scale-upwards
  - Complementarity with open questions in neutrino physics
- Experiment
  - One of the few means of looking for pure BNV
  - Stringent limit on stability of matter

#### Neutron oscillations – models

• Back-of-envelope dimensional reasoning:

6 q operator for 
$$\Delta B = 2$$
,  $\Delta L = 0 \Rightarrow \delta m_{n \to \bar{n}} = \frac{c\Lambda_{QCD}^6}{M^5} \Rightarrow M \sim 1000 \text{ TeV}$ 

- *R*-parity violating supersymmetry
- GUT's, M~10<sup>15</sup> GeV
- Extra dimensions models
- Post-sphaleron baryogenesis
- etc, etc: [arXiv:1410.1100]

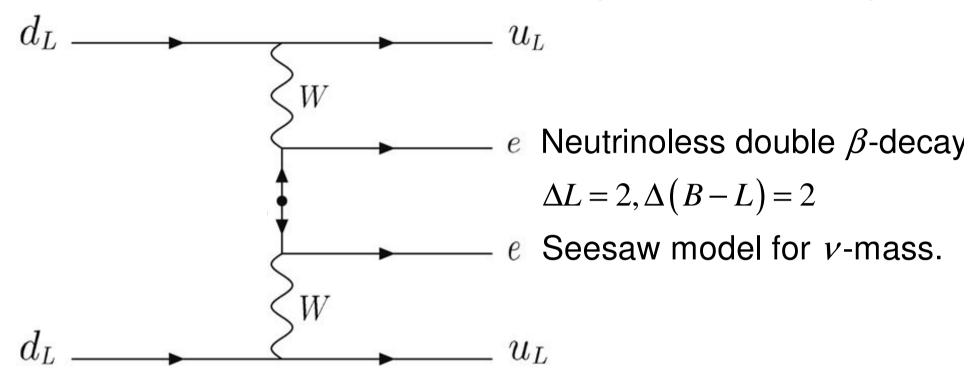
### High precision $n \to \overline{n}$ search

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

4

⇒ model constaints.

### Neutron-neutrino complementarity



Connection to  $n \to \overline{n}$ :  $\Delta B = 2$ ,  $\Delta (B - L) = 2$ 

Large class of seesaw models predict observable  $n \to \overline{n}$ . More generally, both approaches test B - L symmetry.

### Neutron oscillations – an experimentalist's view

Hypothesis: *BN* is weakly violated.

How do we look for BNV?

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

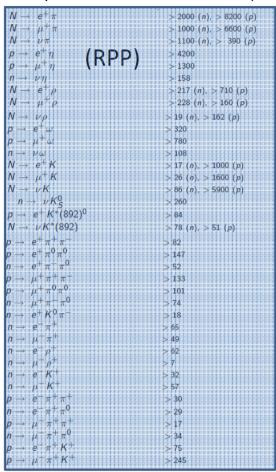
 $\Rightarrow$  L-violation, another (likely weakly) violated quantity.

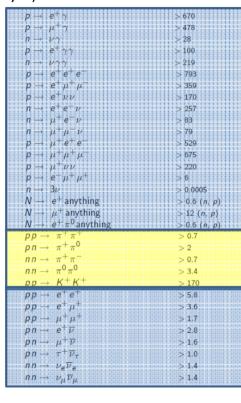
Decays without leptons, eg,  $p \rightarrow \pi + \pi$ , impossible due to angular momentum conservation.

 $n \to \overline{n}$  and dinucleon decay searches sensitive to BNV-only processes. Free  $n \to \overline{n}$  searches  $\Rightarrow$  cleanest experimental and theoretical approach.

### Previous searches for BNV and nnbar@ESS

Decay mode Partial mean life (x 10<sup>30</sup> yrs)





Few searches for  $\Delta B \neq 0, \Delta L = 0$ Limits on  $\tau_{life}$  from all searches  $\sim 10^{30} - 10^{34} \, \mathrm{yrs}$ 

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

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

New experiment:  $\Delta B \neq 0, \Delta L = 0$ 

 $\tau_{\it life}$  sensitivity ~  $10^{35}\,{\rm yrs}$ 

Discovery or new stringent limit on stability of matter.

# $n \to \overline{n}$ mixing formalism



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

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

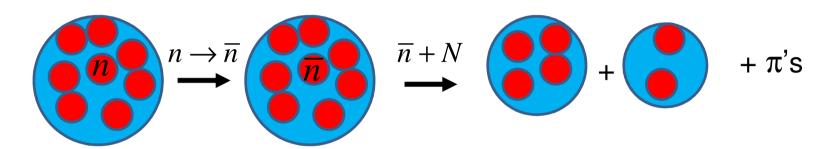
$$P_{n\to \overline{n}} = \left(\frac{\delta m}{\Delta E}\right)^2 \sin^2\left(\Delta E \times t\right) \; ; \; \Delta E = E_n - E_{\overline{n}}$$

### 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



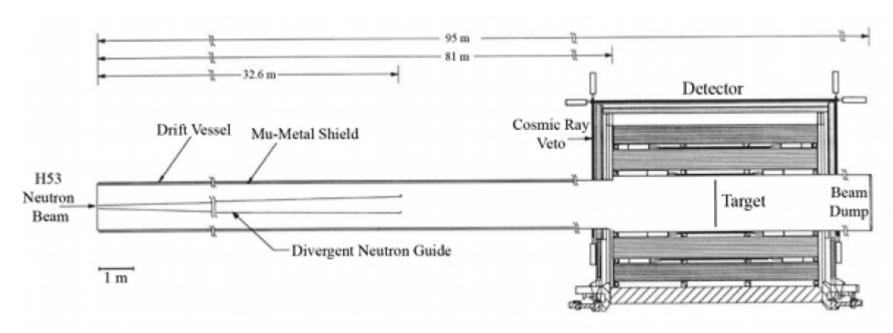
$$P_{n\to \overline{n}} = \left(\frac{\delta m}{\Delta E}\right)^2 \sin^2\left(\Delta E \times t\right) ,$$

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

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

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

 $\sim 130 \mu m$  thick carbon target

Signal of at least two tracks with E > 850 MeV

0 candidate events, 0 background.  $\Rightarrow \tau_{n \to \overline{n}} > 0.86 \times 10^8 \text{ s.}$ 

# The European Spallation Source

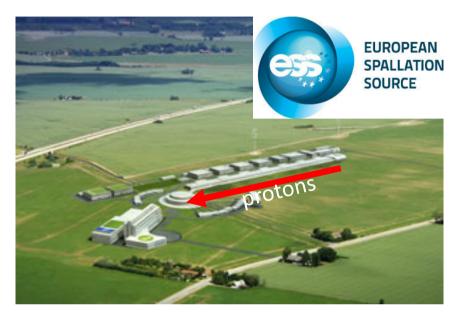
High intensity spallation neutron source

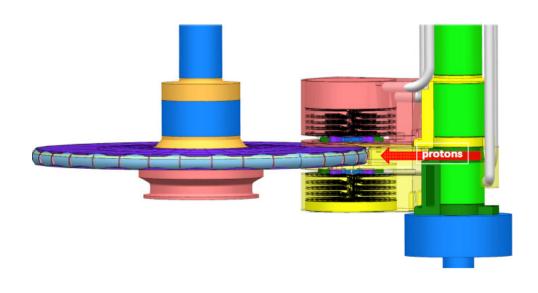
Multidisplinary research centre with 17 European nations participating.

Lund, Sweden. Start operations in 2019.

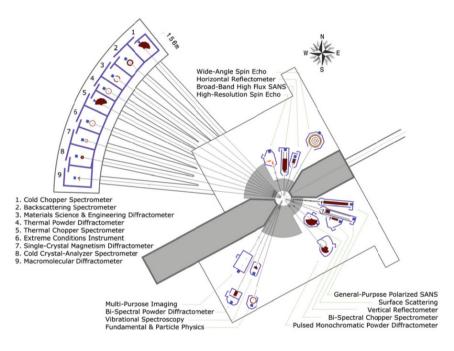
2 GeV protons (3ms long pulse, 14 Hz) hit rotating tungsten target.

Cold neutrons after interaction with moderators.



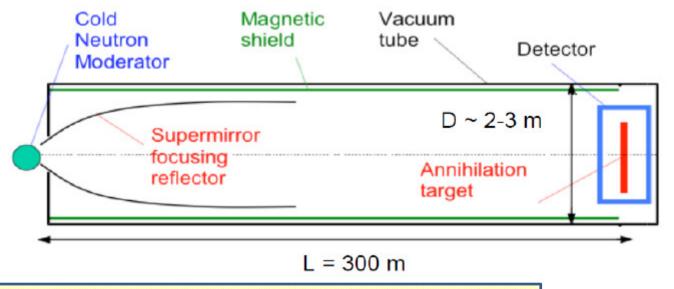


# The European Spallation Source



~ 22 instruments/experiments with capability for more.

### Overview of the Experiment

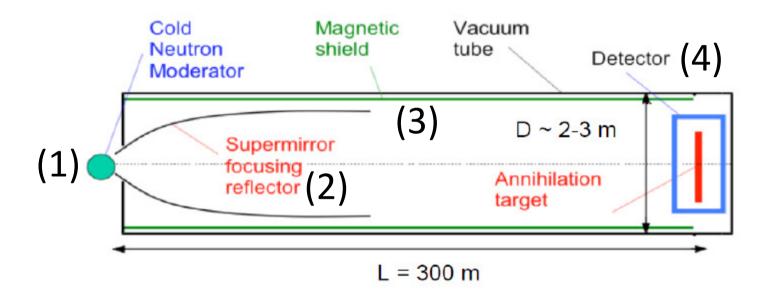


Sensitivity = (free neutron flux at target)  $\times P(n \to \overline{n}) \propto N_n t^2$ 

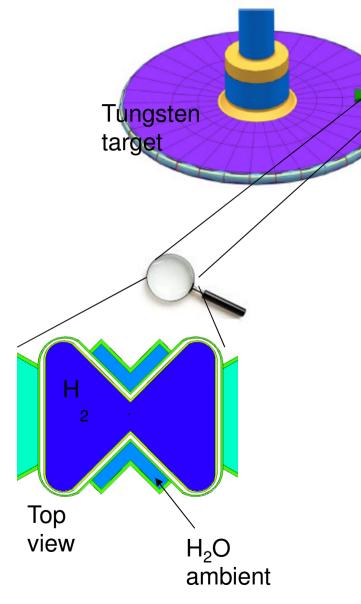
- Cold neutrons (E<5 meV, v<1000ms<sup>-1</sup>)
- Low neutron emission temperature (50-60 K)
- Supermirror transmission and transit time
- Large beam port option, large solid angle to cold moderator.

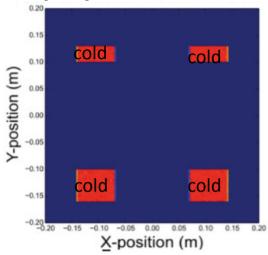
Increase in sensitivity for  $P_{n\bar{n}} \sim 10^3$  compared to previous experiment (ILL)

Neutron guiding, larger opening angle, higher flux, particle ID technologies, running time.



# Neutronics (1)



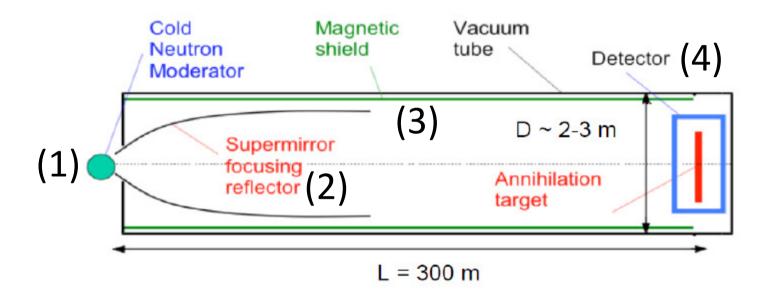


ESS moderators will be of "butterfly" design

- . Increase cold yield
- Convenient beam extraction

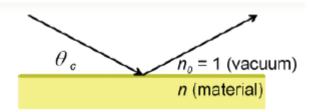
Additional challenge for nnbar which could benefit from extracting neutrons from all four visible cold surfaces

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

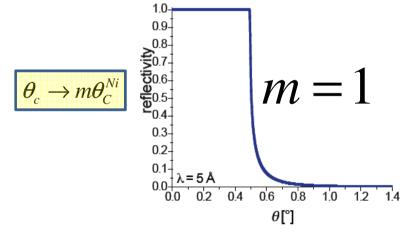


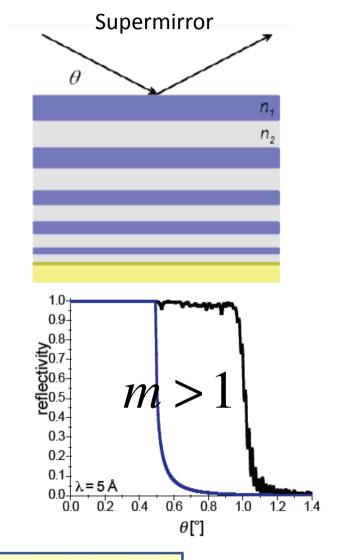
### Neutron supermirror





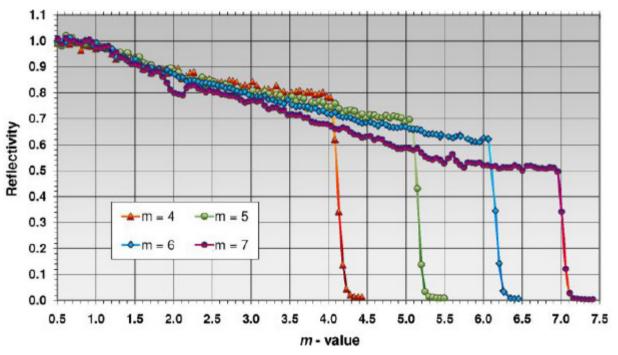
 $\theta_c$ =Critical angle for total internal reflection

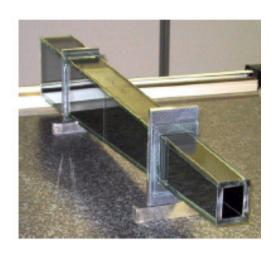




Need efficient focusing and minimal interactions (each interaction "resets the n-clock")

### Commercial supermirrors



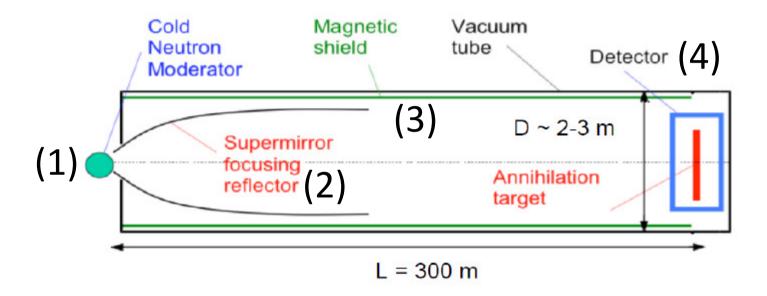


Commercial supermirrors with  $m \sim 7$ 

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.



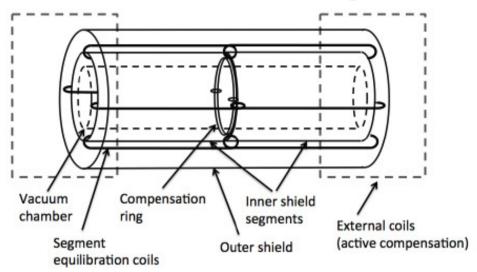
# The need for magnetic shielding

$$\frac{n(\mu \downarrow) \quad \overline{n}(\mu \uparrow)}{B \sim 0} \qquad \frac{n(\mu \downarrow)}{2\overline{\mu} \bullet \overline{B}} \qquad \boxed{E}$$

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

Flight time  $\leq 1s$ For quasi-free condition  $\Delta E \times t \ll 1$  $\Rightarrow B \leq 5$ nT and vacuum  $\leq 10^{-5}$  Pa.

# Shielding



### Magnetic shielding for flight volume

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

## Maybe shielding isn't needed

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

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

S. Gardner\* and E. Jafari

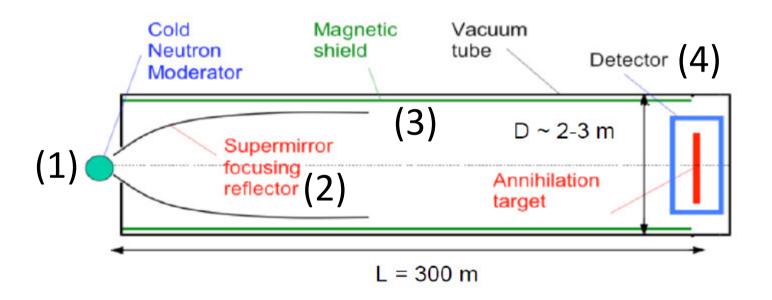
Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky 40506-0055, USA (Received 14 August 2014; revised manuscript received 15 February 2015; published 22 May 2015)

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

Interesting discussion in the literature.

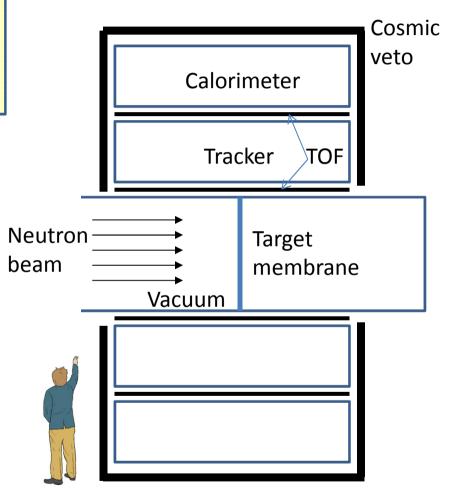
### Overview of the Experiment



# (4) Detector

Expect  $n + \overline{n} \rightarrow \sim 5\pi$  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 plastic scintillator pads
- Trigger Track and cluster algorithms



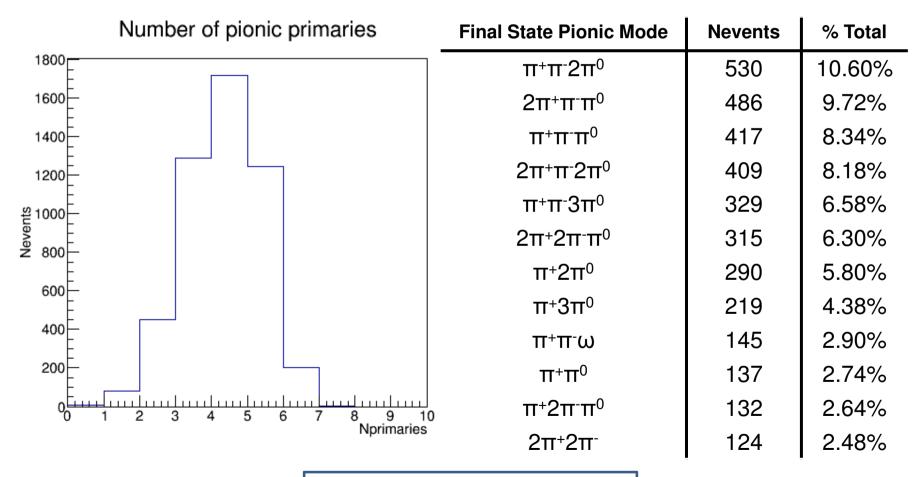
### **GENIE: NNBar Final State Primaries**

# **Preliminary**

Final state list prepared by R. W. Pattie

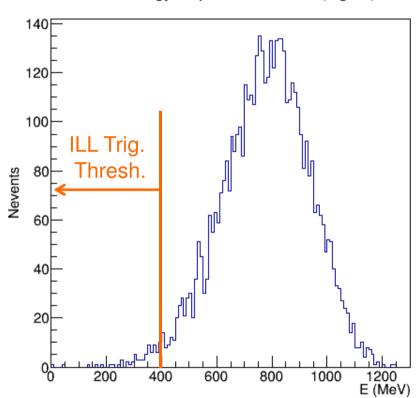
GENIE-2.0.0: intranculear propagation based on INTRANUKE

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

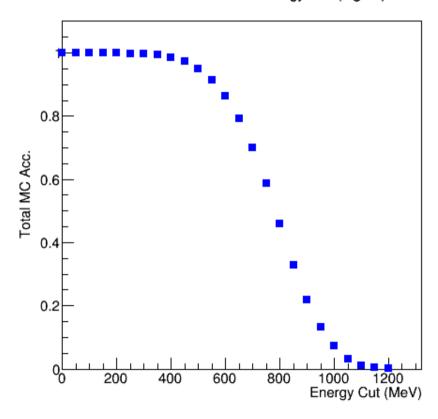


### **Energy Threshold Acceptance (Signal)**

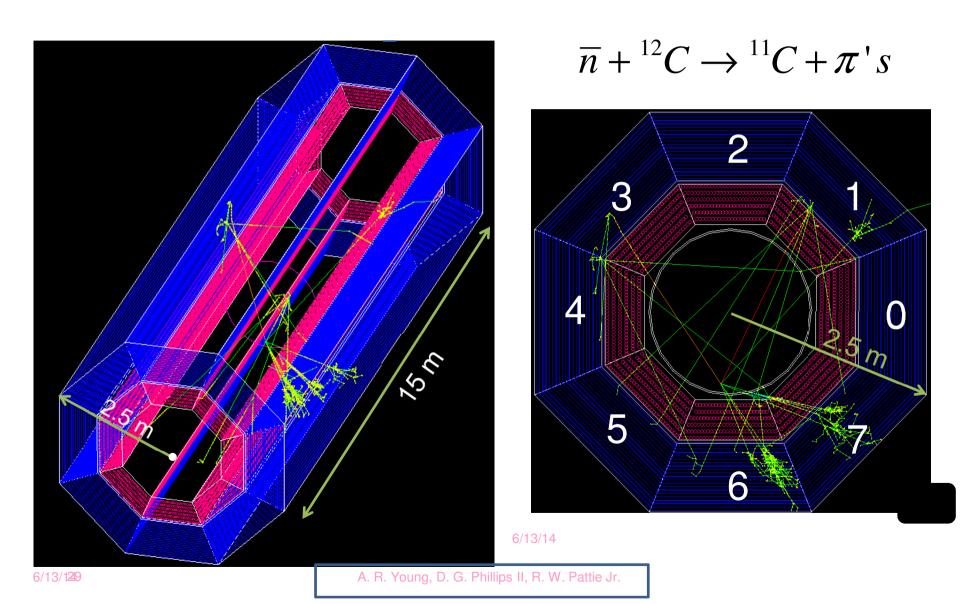




#### MC Acc. vs. Active Cal. Energy Cut (signal)



### **Event Reconstruction**



### nnbar@ESS in Sweden

- Lund, SU, UU, Chalmers
- Tracking, Calo, Read-out, Geant, BG, interest
- Theory collaboration on LHC-nnbar complementarity (RPV-SUSY)

### Collaboration and approximate timescales

Several workshops (CERN, Lund, Gothenburg)
Collaboration formed – interim spokesperson G. Broojimans
Expression of Interest submitted to ESS.

Signatories from 26 institutes, 8 countries.

#### More collaborators are welcome!

ESS 2019 Commissioning, Construction, Intensity ramp, commissioning, early data-taking early experiments 2023 Initial user program Physics runs 2026 Routine operations End run, complete analysis



### 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.

### Summary

- The search for neutron-antineutron oscillations addresses open questions in modern physics.
- An experiment at the ESS offers a new opportunity to extend sensitivity to neutron oscillation probability by several orders of magnitude and set a new limit on the stability of matter.
- Collaboration formed and EOI submitted
- Provisional schedule made.

| Brightness            |  | ≥ 1    |
|-----------------------|--|--------|
| Moderator Temperature | <tof> driven by colder<br/>neutrons, ~quadratic (t²)</tof> | ≥ 1    |
| Moderator Area        | Needs large aperture                                       | 2      |
| Angular Acceptance    | 2D, so quadratic sensitivity                               | 40     |
| Length                | Scale with t2, so L2                                       | 5      |
| Run Time              | ILL run was 1 year   | 3      |
| Total                 |  | ≥ 1000 |

x 1000 in probability, reach  $\tau \sim 2-3 \times 10^9 \text{ s}$  (simulations with various moderator options underway)

# Potential gains

| Factor                                  | Gain wrt ILL |
|---|--------------|
| Brightness                              | ≥1           |
| Moderator temperature                   | ≥1           |
| Moderator area                          | 2            |
| Angular acceptance/neutron transmission | 40           |
| Length                                  | 5            |
| Run time                                | 3            |
| Total                                   | ≥1000        |

### Baryon number violation searches

Decay mode Partial mean life (x 10<sup>30</sup> yrs)

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

 $\tau \text{ limits } \sim 10^{30} - 10^{34} \text{ yrs}$ 

au limit from new experiment  $\sim 10^{35}\,\mathrm{yrs}$ 

| Beedy mode Tare  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| $N \rightarrow e^{+}\pi$   | > 2000 (n), > 8200 (p) |
| $N \rightarrow \mu^+ \pi$  | > 1000 (n), > 6600 (p) |
| $N  ightarrow  u \pi$  | > 1100 (n), > 390 (p)  |
| $p \rightarrow e^+ \eta$ (RPP)   | > 4200                 |
| $p \rightarrow \mu^+ \eta$   | > 1300                 |
| $\eta  ightarrow  u \eta$  | > 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)    |
| $ ho  ightarrow e^+ \omega$  | > 320                  |
| $ ho  ightarrow \mu^+ \omega$  | > 780                  |
| $n  ightarrow  u \omega$   | > 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                  |
| $p \to e^+ K^*(892)^0$   | > 84                   |
| $N \rightarrow \nu K^*(892)$   | > 78 (n), > 51 (p)     |
| $p \rightarrow e^{+}\pi^{+}\pi^{-}$  | > 82                   |
|  | > 147                  |
| $\begin{array}{ccc} \rho \to & e^+ \pi^0 \pi^0 \\ n \to & e^+ \pi^- \pi^0 \end{array}$ | > 52                   |
| $ ho  ightarrow  \mu^+ \pi^+ \pi^-$  | > 133                  |
| $p \rightarrow \mu^+ \pi^0 \pi^0$  | > 101                  |
| $n  ightarrow \mu^+ \pi^- \pi^0$   | > 74                   |
| $n  ightarrow e^+ K^0 \pi^-$   | > 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                  |

| $p \mapsto e^+ \gamma$                        | > 670        |
|---|--------------|
| $ ho  ightarrow \mu^+ \gamma$                 | > 478        |
| $n  ightarrow  u \gamma$                      | > 28         |
| $ ho  ightarrow e^+ \gamma \gamma$            | > 100        |
| $n  ightarrow  u \gamma \gamma$               | > 219        |
| $p \rightarrow e^+e^+e^-$                     | > 793        |
| $p \rightarrow e^+ \mu^+ \mu^-$               | > 359        |
| $ ho  ightarrow e^+  u  u$                    | > 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     |
| $N  ightarrow e^+$ anything                   | > 0.6 (n, p) |
| $N  ightarrow \mu^+$ anything                 | > 12 (n, p)  |
| $N  ightarrow e^+ \pi^0$ anvthing             | > 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        |
| $pp  ightarrow e^+ e^+$                       | > 5.8        |
| $p p  ightarrow e^+ \mu^+$                    | > 3.6        |
| $pp \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^+$                   | > 1.7        |
| $pn  ightarrow e^+ \overline{ u}$             | > 2.8        |
| $pn \rightarrow \mu^+ \overline{\nu}$         | > 1.6        |
| $pn \rightarrow \tau^+ \overline{\nu}_{\tau}$ | > 1.0        |
| $nn  ightarrow  u_e \overline{ u}_e$          | > 1.4        |
| $nn  ightarrow  u_{\mu} \overline{ u}_{\mu}$  | > 1.4        |

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

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

### BNV searches

| RPP BARYON   | N NUMBER  |
|--|---|
| $\Gamma(Z \rightarrow pe)/\Gamma_{\text{total}}$                   | $<1.8 \times 10^{-6}$ , CL = 95%                                  |
| $\Gamma(Z \rightarrow p\mu)/\Gamma_{\text{total}}$                 | $<1.8 \times 10^{-6}$ , CL = 95%                                  |
| $\Gamma(\tau^- \to \overline{p}\gamma)/\Gamma_{\text{total}}$      | $<3.5 \times 10^{-6}$ , CL = 90%                                  |
| $\Gamma(\tau^- \to \overline{p}\pi^0)/\Gamma_{\text{total}}$       | $<1.5 \times 10^{-5}$ , CL = 90%                                  |
| $\Gamma(\tau^- \to \overline{p}2\pi^0)/\Gamma_{\text{total}}$      | $<3.3 \times 10^{-5}$ , CL = 90%                                  |
| $\Gamma(\tau^- \to \overline{p}\eta)/\Gamma_{total}$               | $< 8.9 \times 10^{-6}$ , CL = 90%                                 |
| $\Gamma(\tau^- \to \overline{p}\pi^0\eta)/\Gamma_{\text{total}}$   | $<2.7 \times 10^{-5}$ , CL = 90%                                  |
| $\Gamma(\tau^- \to \Lambda \pi^-)/\Gamma_{\text{total}}$           | $< 7.2 \times 10^{-8}$ , CL = 90%                                 |
| $\Gamma(\tau^- \to \overline{\Lambda}\pi^-)/\Gamma_{\text{total}}$ | $<1.4 \times 10^{-7}$ , CL = 90%                                  |
| $\Gamma(D^0 \to pe^-)/\Gamma_{\text{total}}$                       | [s] $<1.0 \times 10^{-5}$ , CL = 90%                              |
| $\Gamma(D^0 \to \overline{p}e^+)/\Gamma_{\text{total}}$            | [t] $<1.1 \times 10^{-5}$ , CL = 90%                              |
| $\Gamma(B^+ \to \Lambda^0 \mu^+)/\Gamma_{\text{total}}$            | $<6 \times 10^{-8}$ , CL = 90%                                    |
| $\Gamma(B^+ \to \Lambda^0 e^+)/\Gamma_{\text{total}}$              | $<3.2 \times 10^{-8}$ , CL = 90%                                  |
| $\Gamma(B^+ \to \overline{\Lambda}^0 \mu^+)/\Gamma_{\text{total}}$ | $<6 \times 10^{-8}$ , CL = 90%                                    |
| $\Gamma(B^+ \to \overline{\Lambda}{}^0 e^+)/\Gamma_{\text{total}}$ | $<8 \times 10^{-8}$ , CL = 90%                                    |
| $\Gamma(B^0 \to \Lambda_c^+ \mu^-)/\Gamma_{\text{total}}$          | $<1.8 \times 10^{-6}$ , CL = 90%                                  |
| $\Gamma(B^0 	o \Lambda_c^+ e^-)/\Gamma_{	ext{total}}$              | $<5 \times 10^{-6}$ , CL = 90%                                    |
| p mean life  | [u] $> 2.1 \times 10^{29}$ years, CL = 90%                        |
| see the Baryon Summary Table.                                      | ollow. For limits on many other nucleon decay channels,           |
| $	au(N 	o e^+ \pi)$  | $> 2000 (n)$ , $> 8200 (p) \times 10^{30}$ years, CL<br>= 90%     |
| $\tau(N \to \mu^+ \pi)$  | $> 1000 (n)$ , $> 6600 (p) \times 10^{30}$ years, CL<br>= 90%     |
| $	au(	extsf{N} ightarrow 	extsf{e}^+K)$                            | $> 17 \ (n), > 1000 \ (p) \times 10^{30} \ { m years, CL} = 90\%$ |
| $\tau(N \to \mu^+ K)$  | $> 26 (n), > 1600 (p) \times 10^{30}$ years, CL =                 |
| limit on $n\overline{n}$ oscillations (free $n$ )                  | $>0.86 \times 10^8$ s, CL = 90%                                   |
| limit on $n\overline{n}$ oscillations (bound $n$ )                 | [v] $>1.3 \times 10^8$ s. CL = 90%                                |

L and B violated

B violated

Poor experimental coverage of "pure" B violation tests