

History of μ SR

Keeping the Promise of Particle Physics

A science fiction adventure story

by

Jess H. Brewer



PHYSICS & ASTRONOMY

Early History of μ SR:

Fantasy $\rightarrow$ Fiction $\rightarrow$ 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**: “. . . and so can you!”

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**"

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Problem:

What's the mean field inside a ferromagnet, **B** or **H** ?

Solution:

Deflection of cosmic ray "mesons" (*muons*)

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.

First application of muons to condensed matter physics.

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Nuclear Induction

F. BLOCH
Stanford University, California
(Received July 19, 1946)

The magnetic moments of nuclei in normal matter will result in a nuclear paramagnetic polarization upon establishment of equilibrium in a constant magnetic field. It is shown that a radiofrequency field at right angles to the constant field causes a forced precession of the total polarization around the constant field with decreasing latitude as the Larmor frequency approaches adiabatically the frequency of the r-f field. Thus there results a component of the nuclear polarization at right angles to both the constant and the r-f field and it is shown that under normal laboratory conditions this component can induce observable voltages. In Section 3 we discuss this nuclear induction, considering the effect of external fields only, while in Section 4 those modifications are described which originate from internal fields and finite relaxation times.

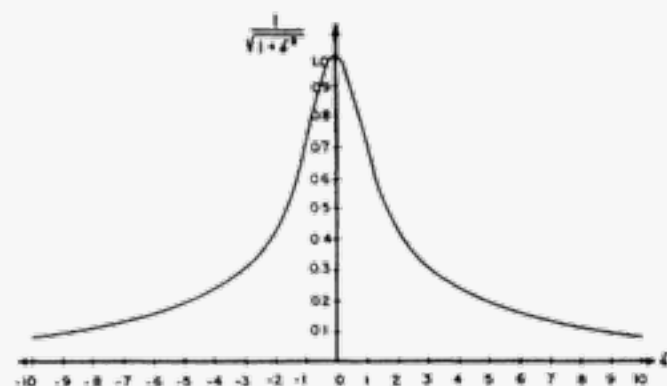


FIG. 1. Schematic representation of the voltage amplitude in the case of rapid passage. The abscissa δ is the deviation of the actual field from the resonance field in units of the half-amplitude of the oscillating field. The ordinate is proportional to the amplitude of the induced voltage and the y-component of the nuclear polarization.

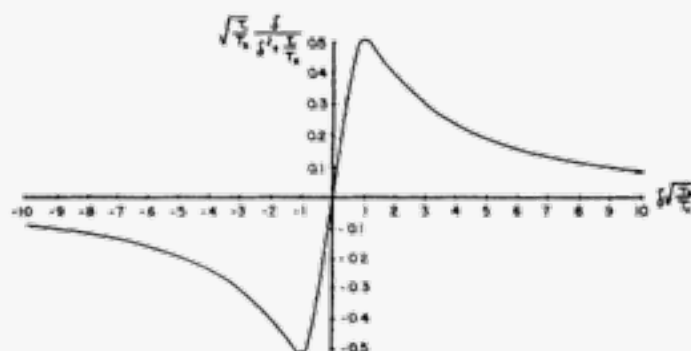


FIG. 2. Schematic representation of the voltage amplitude in the case of slow passage. T_1 and T_2 are the longitudinal and transversal relaxation times, respectively, and the scale is chosen such as to make the plot independent of their values. The significance of abscissa and ordinate is otherwise the same as in Fig. 1.

The Nuclear Induction Experiment

F. BLOCH, W. W. HANSEN, AND M. PACKARD
Stanford University, California
(Received July 19, 1946)

The phenomenon of nuclear induction has been studied experimentally. The apparatus used is described, both as to principle and detail. Experiments have been carried out in which the signals from protons contained in a variety of substances were observed. The results show the role played by the relaxation time, which was found to vary between about 10^{-4} second and many seconds.

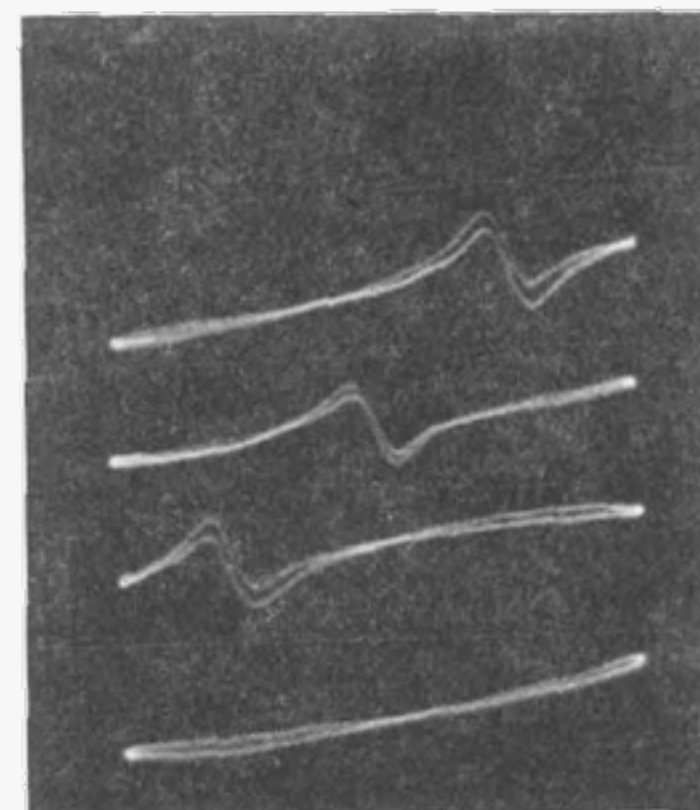


FIG. 12. Photographic record of the proton signal in a concentrated solution of $\text{Fe}(\text{NO}_3)_3$ in water. The four traces from top to bottom are in the text referred to as *a*, *b*, *c*, *d*.

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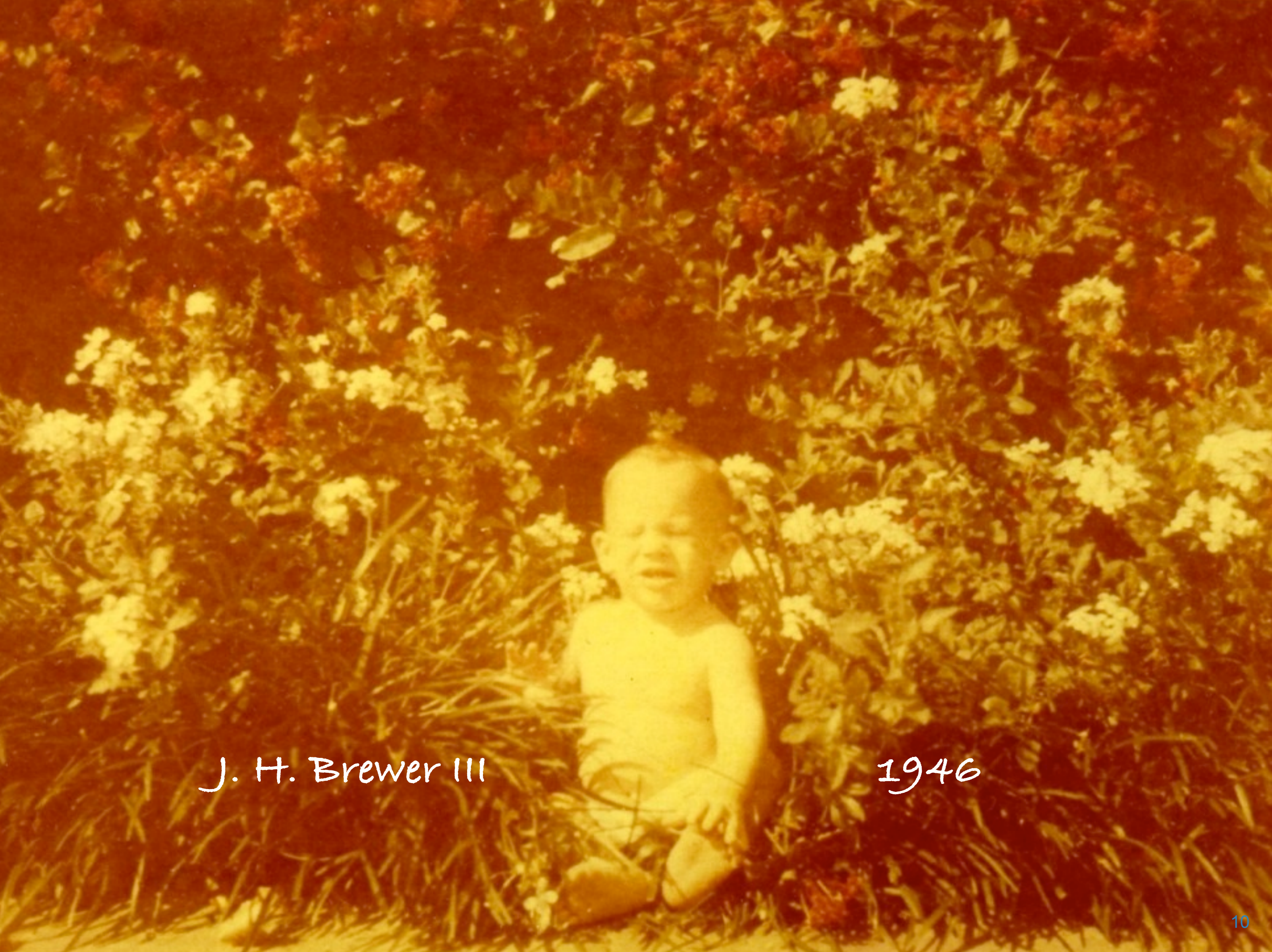
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J. H. Brewer III

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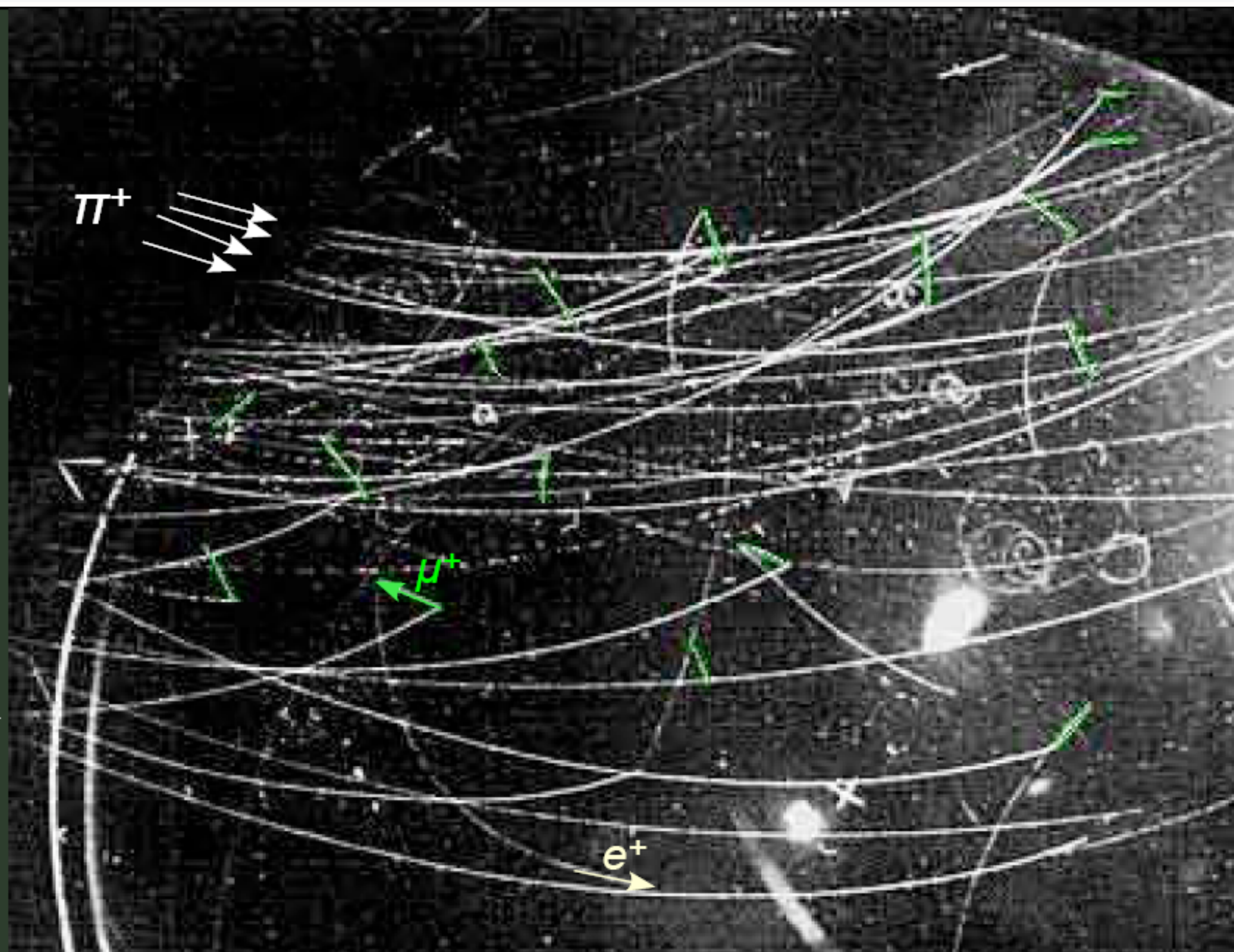
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“Two-Meson Hypothesis”

- First proposed in Japan in 1942-43 by *Tanikawa*, *Sakata* and *Inoue* (unbeknownst to Allied physicists, some of whom still give precedence to *Marshak*).
- Confirmed in 1947 by *Powell et al.*, using photographic emulsions exposed to cosmic rays at high altitude.
- Produced artificially in 1947 by *Richardson et al.* at the Berkeley 184 in. Synchrocyclotron.
- Studied in bubble chambers at Nevis cyclotron. . .

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see?



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***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 μ SR 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. HOPPE, AND R. P. HUDSON,
National Bureau of Standards, Washington, D. C.

(Received January 15, 1957)

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prototype μ SR technique.

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)

1957

Nuclear Emulsion Evidence for Parity Nonconservation in the Decay Chain

$$\pi^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ \rightarrow e^+ \nu_e$$

JEROME I. FRIEDMAN AND V. L. TELEGDI

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

(Received January 17, 1957)

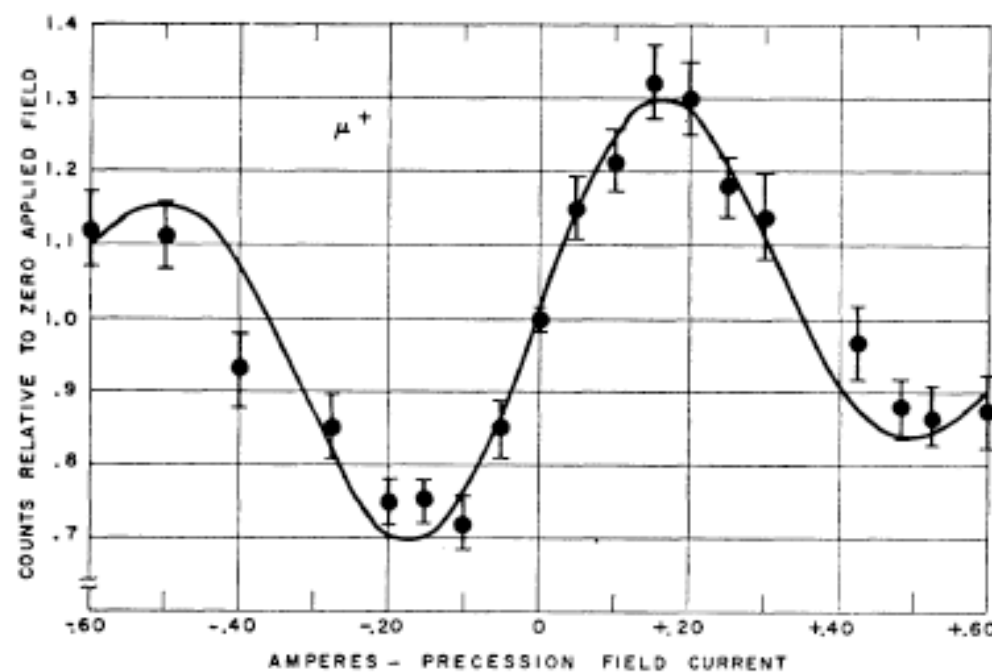


FIG. 2. Variation of gated 3-4 counting rate with magnetizing current. The solid curve is computed from an assumed electron angular distribution $1 - \frac{1}{3} \cos\theta$, with counter and gate-width resolution folded in.

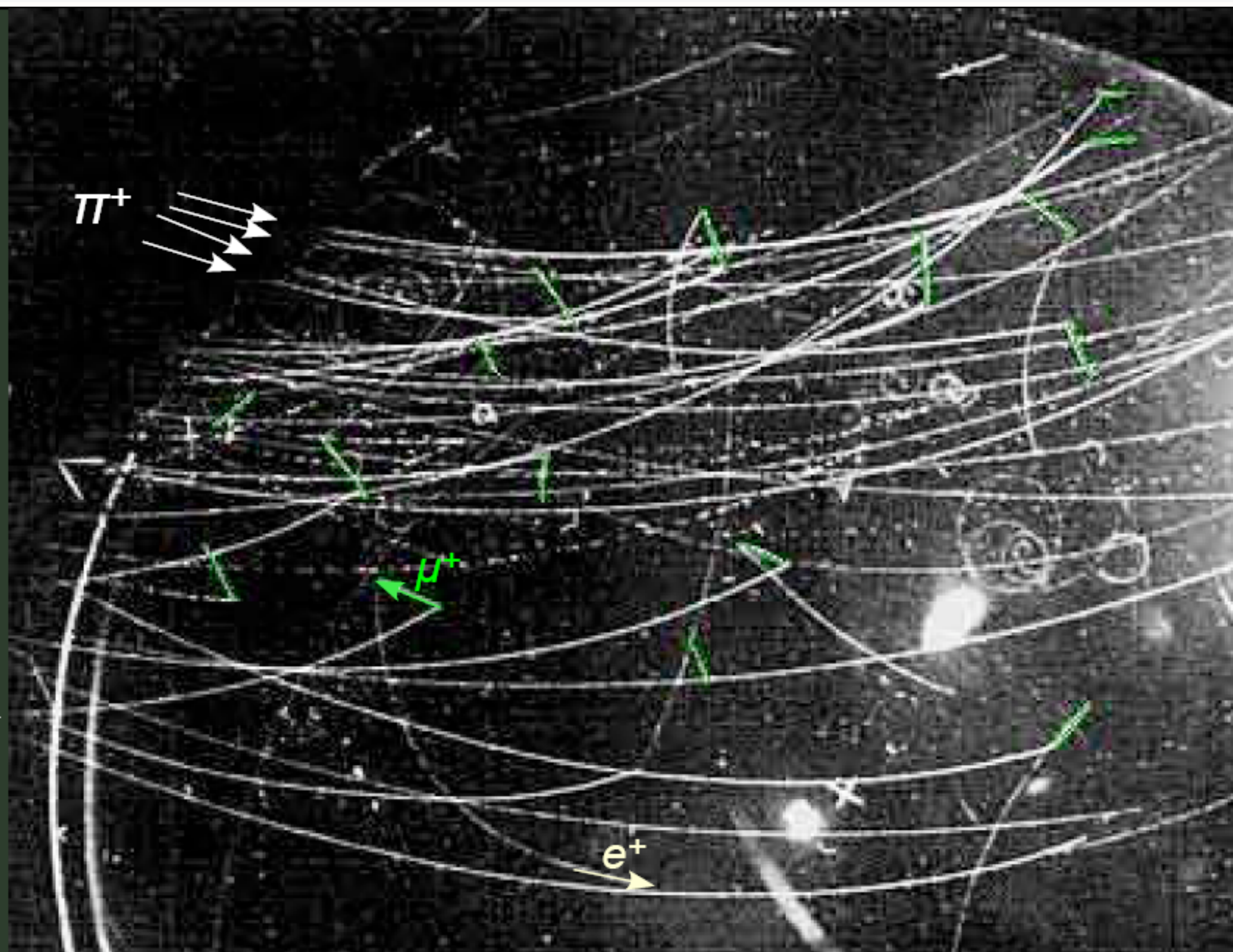
It seems possible that polarized positive and negative muons will become a powerful tool for exploring magnetic fields in nuclei (even in Pb, 2% of the μ^- decay into electrons⁹), atoms, and interatomic regions.

(The Promise)

So . . .

How does it work?

What
do
you
see?



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.

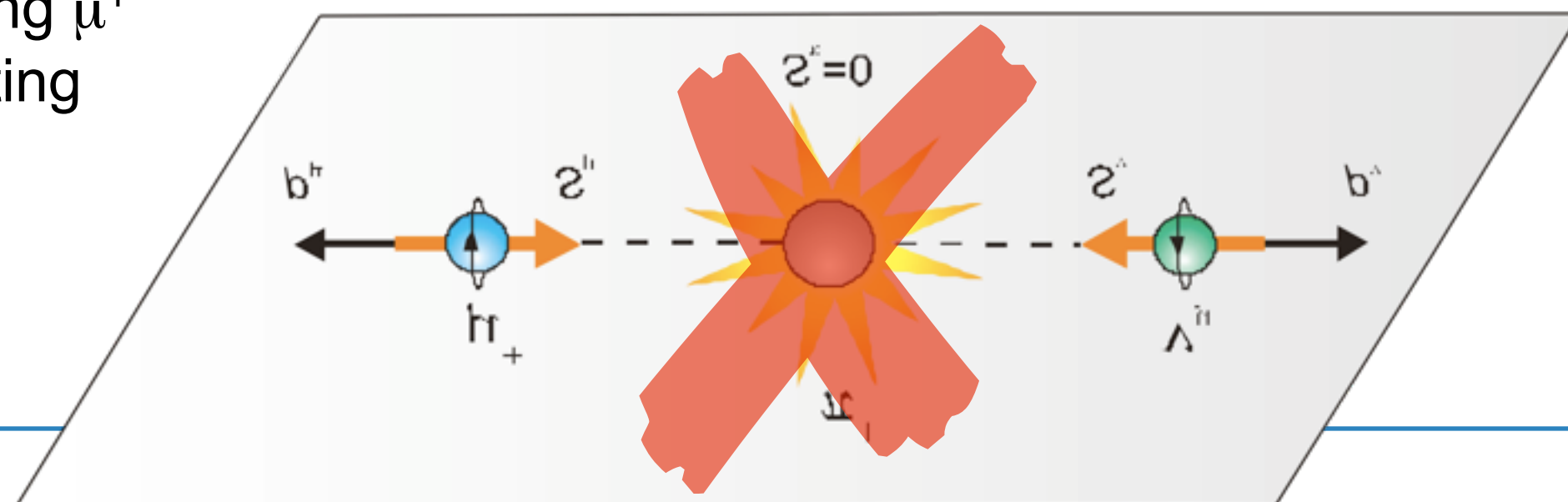
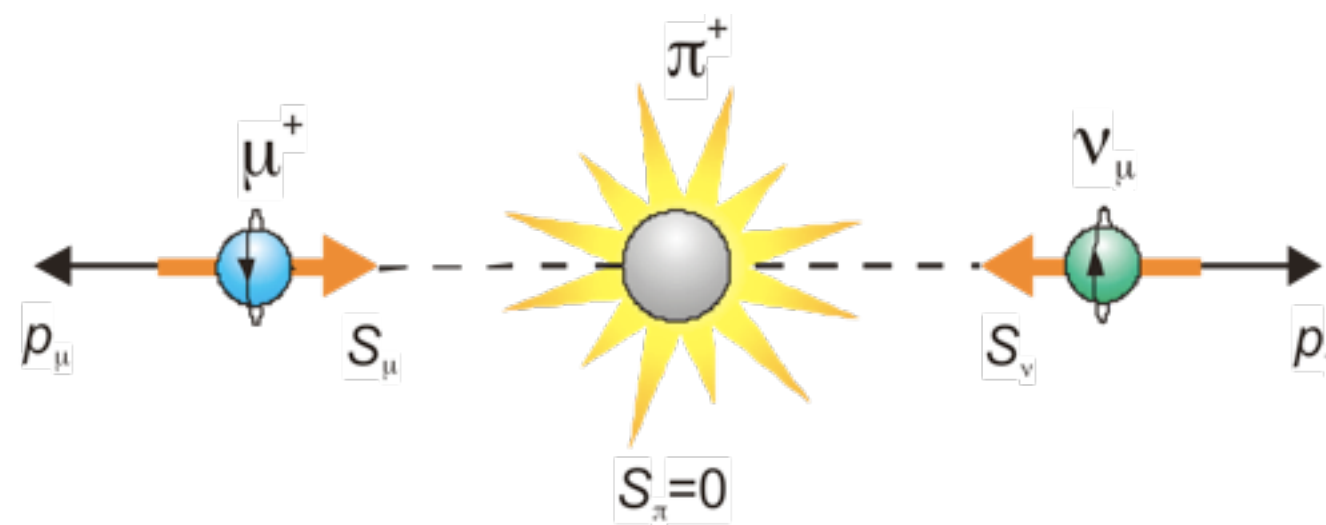
Conservation of Linear Momentum: The μ^+ is emitted with momentum equal and opposite to that of the ν_μ .

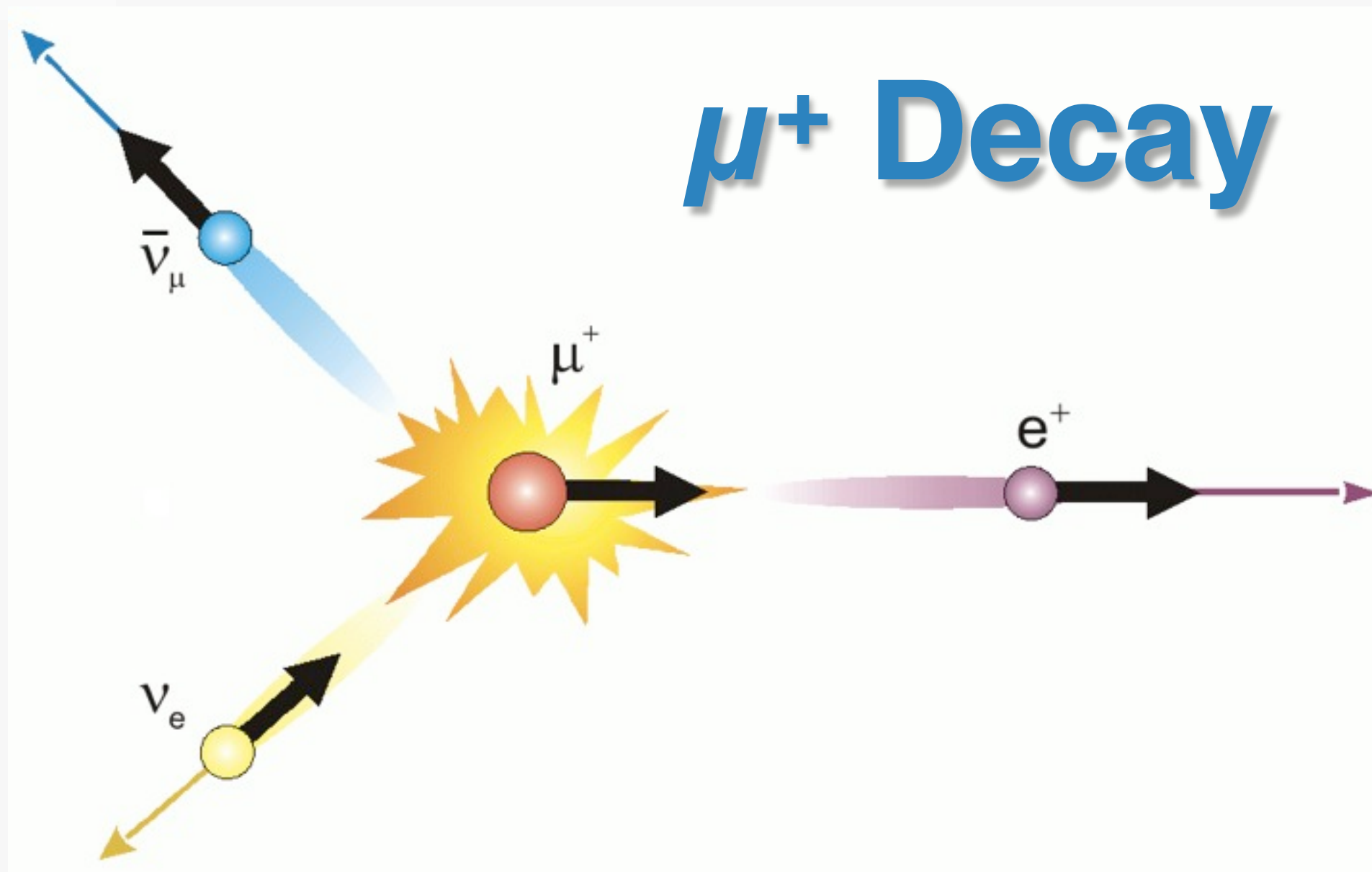
Conservation of Angular Momentum: μ^+ & ν_μ have equal & opposite spin.

Weak Interaction:

Only “left-handed” ν_μ are created.

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

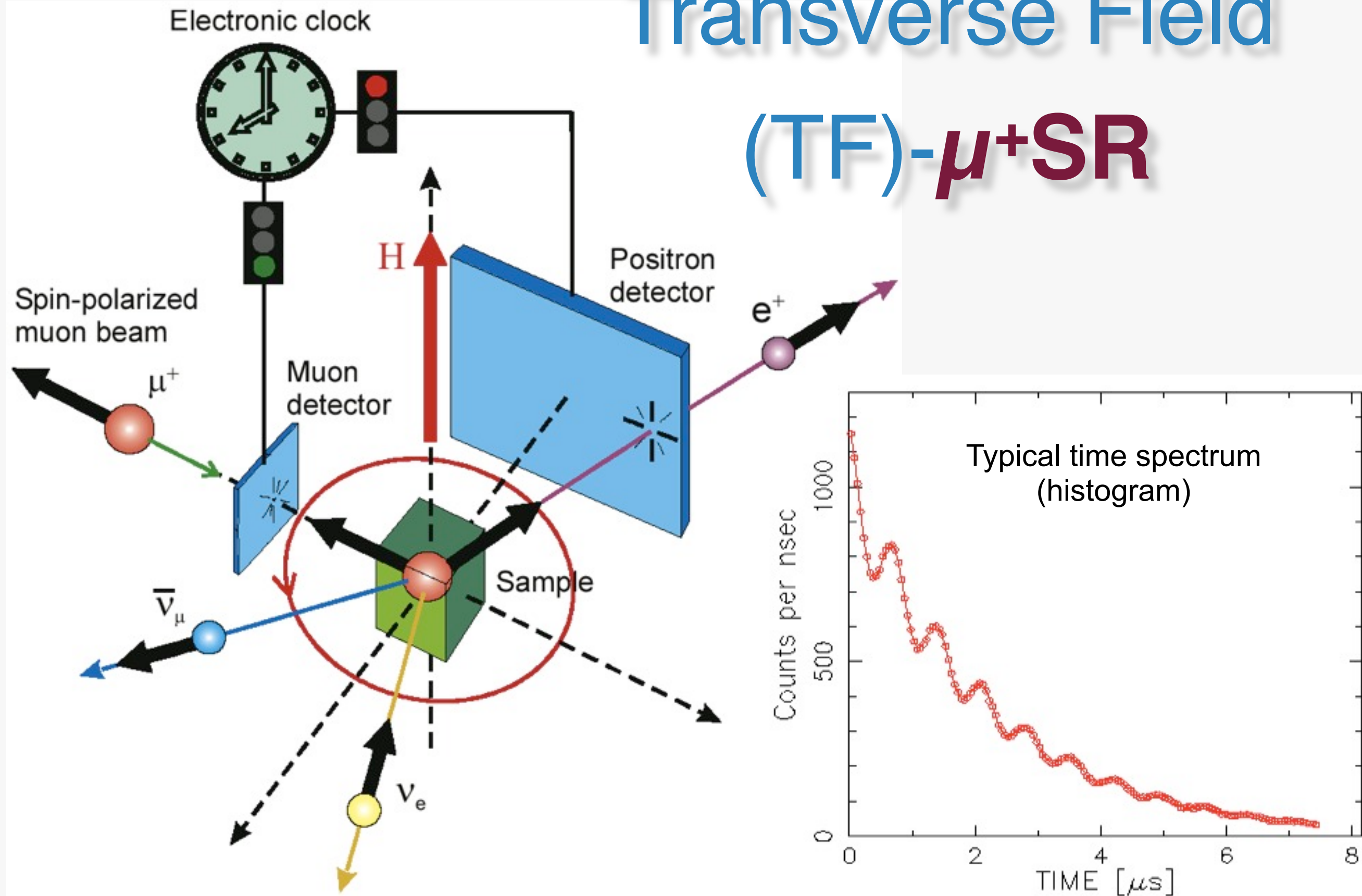




Neutrinos have *negative helicity*, antineutrinos positive. An ultrarelativistic positron behaves like an antineutrino. Thus the positron tends to be emitted along the μ^+ spin when ν_e and $\bar{\nu}_\mu$ go off together (highest energy e^+).

Transverse Field

(TF)- μ^+ SR



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All lead to *refined μSR techniques*.

Applications: **Muonium Chemistry**, Semiconductors, Magnetism

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

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QED & Muons

	QUANTITY MEASURED	THEORETICAL QUANTITY	± “CORRECTIONS” (New Topics)
“ $g-2$ ”	$(\omega_s - \omega_c) \equiv$	$a_\mu (eB/m_\mu c)$ $\uparrow$ $(g_\mu - 2)/2$ (“pure QED”)	$\pm$ (muon electric dipole moment) (time dilation validity) (validity of CPT for $\mu^+ - \mu^-$ diff.)
“ μ_μ ”	$\omega_\mu/\omega_p \equiv \mu_\mu/\mu_p \equiv$	$g_\mu m_p / g_p m_\mu$	$\pm$ (μ^+ vs. p Knight shifts) (μ^+ vs. p Chemical shifts) ($\mu^+ \rightarrow \text{Mu} \rightarrow \text{mol. Chemistry}$)
“ ν_{Mu} ”	$\nu_{\text{Mu}} \equiv$	$(16\alpha^2 c R_\infty / 3) (\mu_\mu / \mu_B) [1 + (m_e / m_\mu)]^{-3} \cdot [1 + \text{QED}(\alpha, m_e / m_\mu)]$	$\pm$ (collisional shifts) (Mu formation in gases) (Mu chemistry in gases)

Treating B , e , c , m_p , g_p , m_e , μ_B , α and R_∞ as “known” [not really legitimate], we have 3 measured quantities, functions of 2 parameters (m_μ and g_μ) so we can “**TEST QED**”.

New Science comes from understanding systematic errors in the precise measurement of a “fundamental” quantity.

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FUTURES

Giving up meat

Run faster and remember everything.

My death was not nearly as traumatic as I had expected.

By the time my DNA had used up its quota of replications, I had got used to 'seeing' with both my old eyes and my new ones — being inside my skull and outside looking at it. So it wasn't so strange as you might think to watch myself die. In particular, it wasn't as scary as everyone imagines: after all, I already knew I would 'go on' in this new form, and at 137 I had already grown accustomed to the loss of most of those bodily functions you youngsters consider so essential.

Yes, I know your opinion on that. We agreed not to turn this interview into a shouting match, remember?

Never mind.

I remember the beginning very well. As you know, I had a climbing accident in which my spinal cord was severed at the fourth lumbar vertebra. This was just after Dr Anfrager had developed the hypoallergenic neural nanocontacts that make stable nerve-wire junctions possible. They bound the major nerves to wire bundles on both sides of the break. After that it was just a matter of hooking the wires up to a neural network and training it to make the right connections.

My memories from before the repair are pretty fuzzy, sort of like



stories I was told repeatedly by a good friend. I guess that's just what they are, in effect. I don't really have the sense of having 'been there' until the neural network was fully integrated and had built a model of how I think. What? Oh. Yes, I guess it's sort of confusing for you when I talk about the NN as an external agency, a technology that keeps me alive. From your point of view, I suppose 'it' is me. But I'm no machine. I'm the patterns that are stored in it — the ghost in the machine, as it were.

Really, that's why I agreed to this interview. People don't understand. Everyone's afraid a PC will steal their soul, or something. Back when I was the first, no one really cared — I was a novelty, a marvel of technology. But now that kids are getting PCs, there's a lot of hostility out there, and I don't want them — the kids — to be subjected to that.

Anyway, at first I was a poster child: 'Miracle cure for spinal cord injuries!' But when I took up sprinting, they didn't know quite what to make of me. The 'artificial spinal cord' actually worked better than the original. And when I first broke the world 100-metre record, it was disallowed, as you probably remember.

No? Well, it was a big deal for a while, but that was just the beginning of public reaction to 'unfair performance enhancing prostheses' — and I suppose they were right, it really isn't fair to put microseconds up against milliseconds.

Things got more interesting when the new NNs and propagating connections came out. The higher up the spinal cord the NN could explore, the more intricate a model it could build of my nervous system — and inevitably it started working on a model of my cerebral cortex. That was when they first started calling it a PC.

After that — well, you know the recent history.

Best thing about being in a machine? Cute.

The best thing isn't the mediated ESP — although it's great to talk to people without having to make sounds with my vocal chords and all. The best part is being able to remember stuff! I mean, I can remember the Library of Congress just like what I did yesterday. Well, not quite, I guess: I have all the data, but I have to make a model of them before they actually belong to me like regular memories. But my uplinks make that a lot easier than learning ever was. My NN processes information the same way my old brain did; that's the whole idea! But when I need to digest massive quantities of information, I can load a program into any QC and do it fast. When I was meat, I could only grasp really simple ideas, sort of the grand overview of things. And I still have that, from the NN. But now I can also see the details, and make a model of the world that is far more elaborate and complex than I could ever see before.

I'll give you an example. I always thought the purpose of physics was to find simple, intuitive ways of understanding the complex, messy world. But I was bitterly disappointed by the most successful physical theory of all: after almost two centuries, we truly understood electrodynamics — and it wasn't simple! It was really complicated, and hard! What a letdown that was.

I use the past tense because now I get it. I really do. I don't have any trouble remembering the details of Maxwell's equations or propagators and vertices in Feynman diagrams, because I use a QC for that and leave the 'intuition' to my NN. It's allowed me to clean up a lot of the slop in physics. I guess that's why you wanted to interview me, right? 'Axiomatic physics developed by a machine mind!' I can see the headline now. Well, have it your way — as long as you also publish this conversation verbatim, like you promised.

Jess H. Brewer

Jess H. Brewer is at the University of British Columbia. He started a physics PhD for credibility as a SF author, but was seduced by muons at Berkeley. He helped develop μ SR at TRIUMF.

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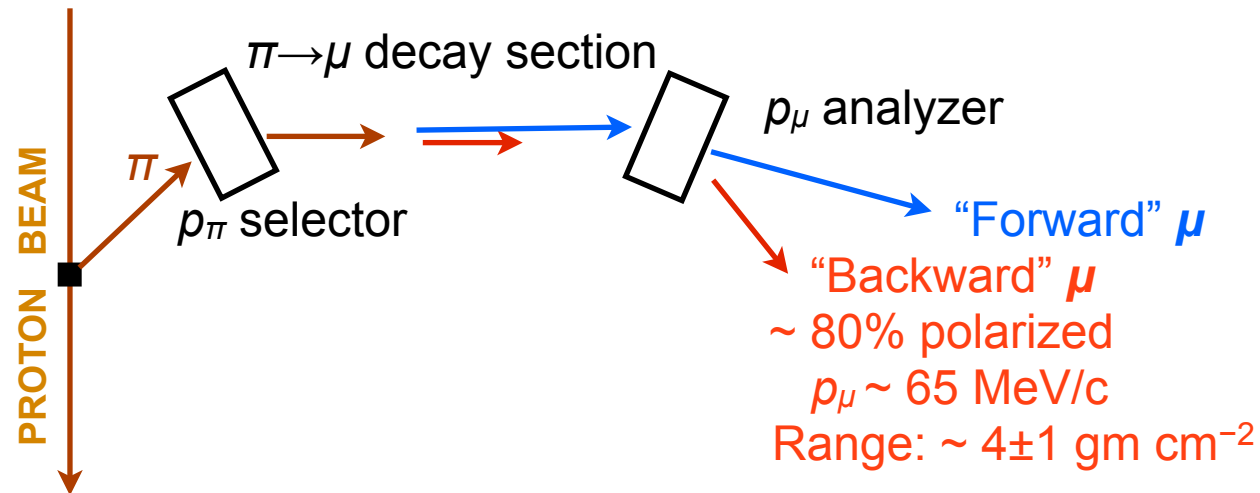
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Muon Beams

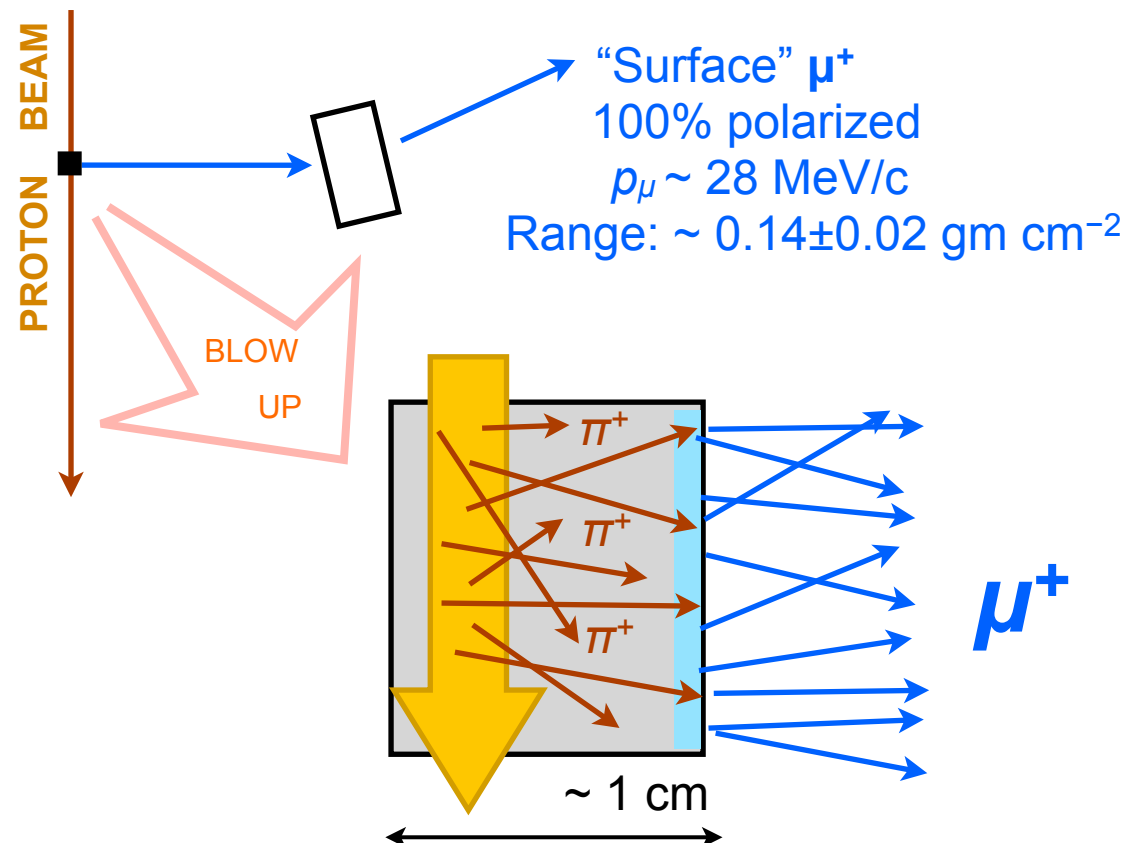


Quality Factors

DECAY MUON CHANNEL (μ^+ or μ^-)



“Arizona” or SURFACE μ^+ CHANNEL



PERFORMANCE of MUON BEAMS for μ SR

REQUIREMENTS:

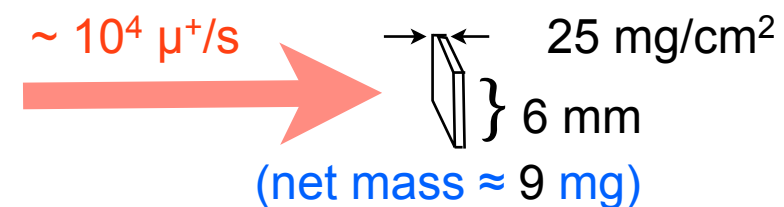
- HIGH POLARIZATION
 - HIGH FLUX ($> 2 \times 10^4 \text{ s}^{-1}$ on target)
 - SMALL SPOT SIZE ($< 1 \text{ cm}^2$)
 - SHORT STOPPING RANGE $\Rightarrow$ low momentum
 - LOW CONTAMINATION of π , e etc.
- LUMINOSITY**

$\therefore$ “QUALITY FACTOR”

$$Q = \frac{(\text{POLARIZATION})^2 \times \text{FLUX}}{(1 + \text{CONTAM.}) \times \text{RANGE} \times (\text{SPOT SIZE})} \text{ s}^{-1} \text{ gm}^{-1}$$

HISTORY of IMPROVEMENTS:

- Before Meson Factories: $Q \sim 10^2$ (1970)
- Decay channels at Meson Factories: $Q \sim 10^5$ (1975)
- Surface μ^+ beams at Meson Factories: $Q \sim 10^6$ (1980)
- “3rd generation” surface muon beams: $Q \sim 10^7$ (1990)



Low Energy (moderated) Muons at PSI: $Q \sim 10^9$ (2005)

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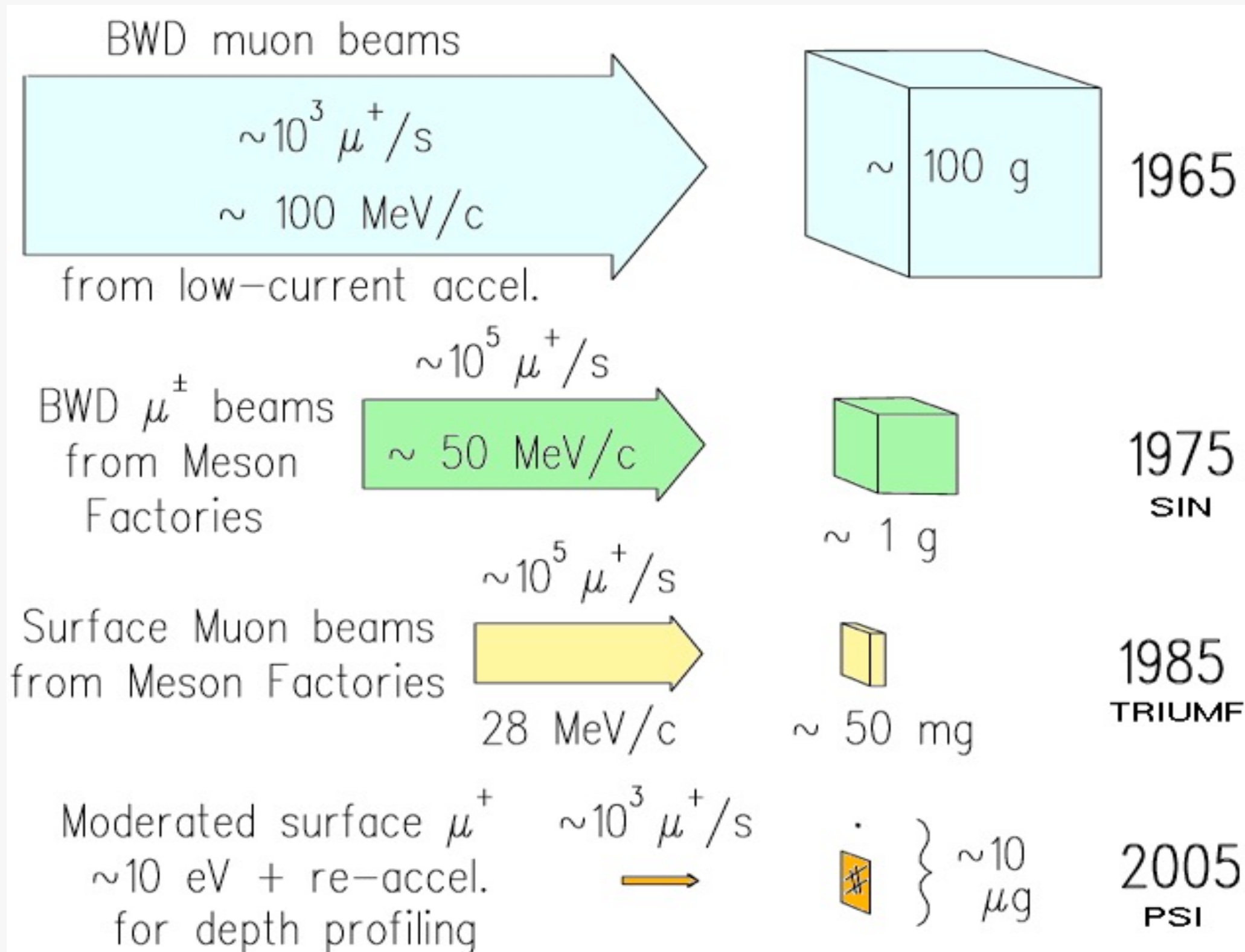
Switzerland: **SIN** (now **PSI**)

Canada: **TRIUMF**

UK: **RAL/ISIS**

Japan: **KEK/BOOM** (→ **J-PARC**)

μ^+ Stopping Luminosity



Performance of Muon Beams for μ SR

REQUIREMENTS:

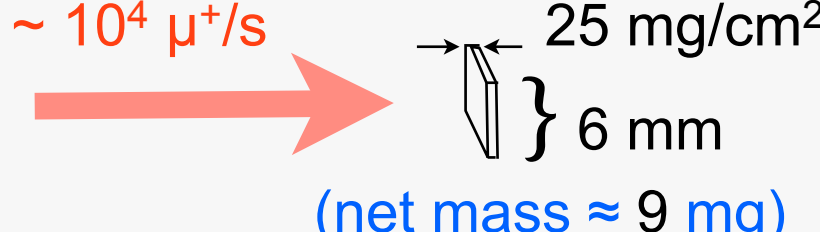
- HIGH POLARIZATION
- HIGH FLUX ($> 2 \times 10^4 \text{ s}^{-1}$ on target)
- SMALL SPOT SIZE ($< 1 \text{ cm}^2$)
- SHORT STOPPING RANGE
 $\Rightarrow$ low momentum
- LOW CONTAMINATION of π , e etc.

$\therefore$ “QUALITY FACTOR”

$$Q = \frac{(\text{POLARIZATION})^2 \times \text{FLUX}}{(1 + \text{CONTAM.}) \times \text{RANGE} \times (\text{SPOT SIZE})}$$

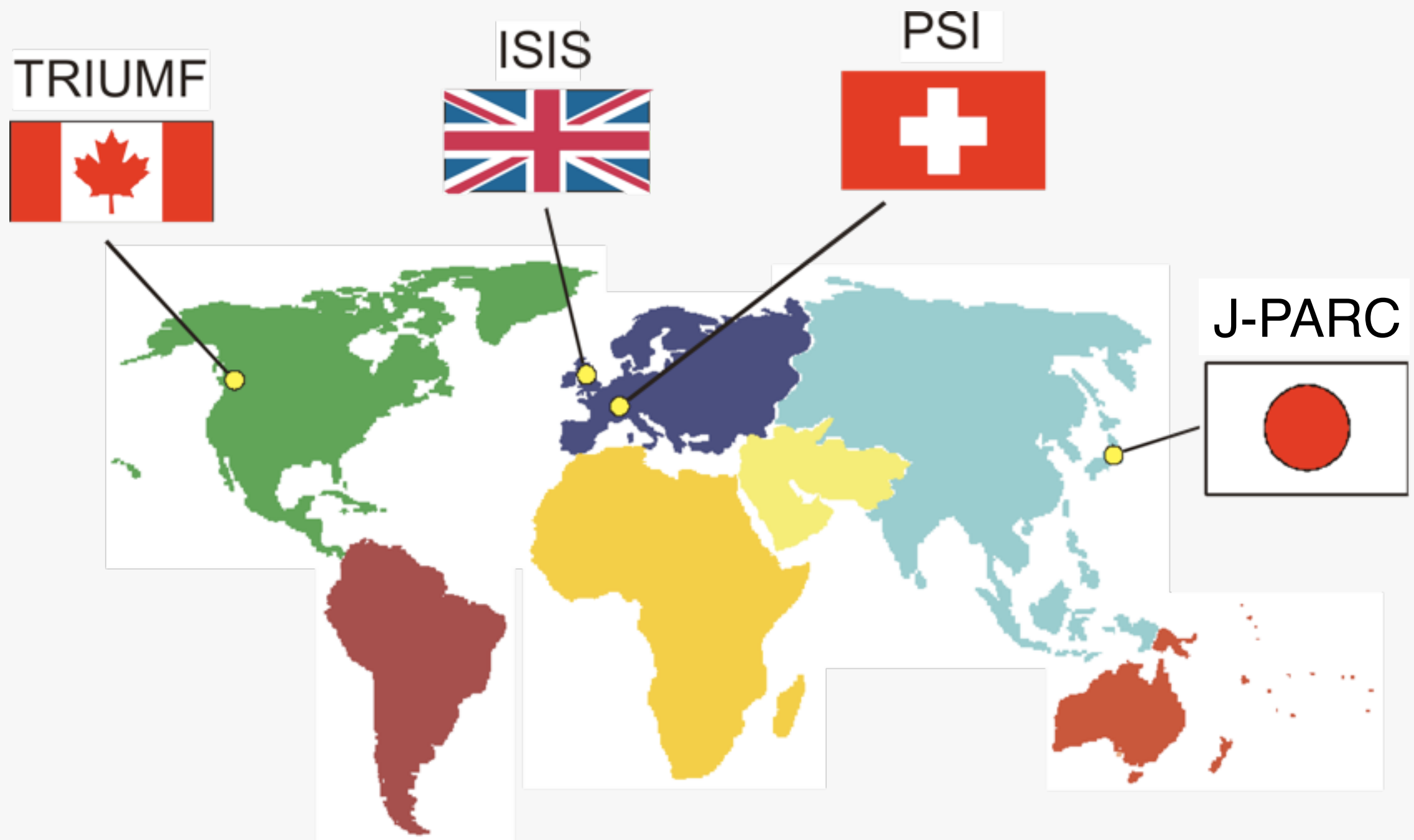
HISTORY of IMPROVEMENTS:

Before Meson Factories: $Q \sim 10^2$ (1970)
 Decay channels at Meson Factories: $Q \sim 10^5$ (1975)
 Surface μ^+ beams at Meson Factories: $Q \sim 10^6$ (1980)
 “3rd generation” surface muon beams: $Q \sim 10^7$ (1990)

$\sim 10^4 \mu^+/\text{s}$ 

Low Energy (moderated) Muons at PSI: $Q \sim 10^9$ (2005)

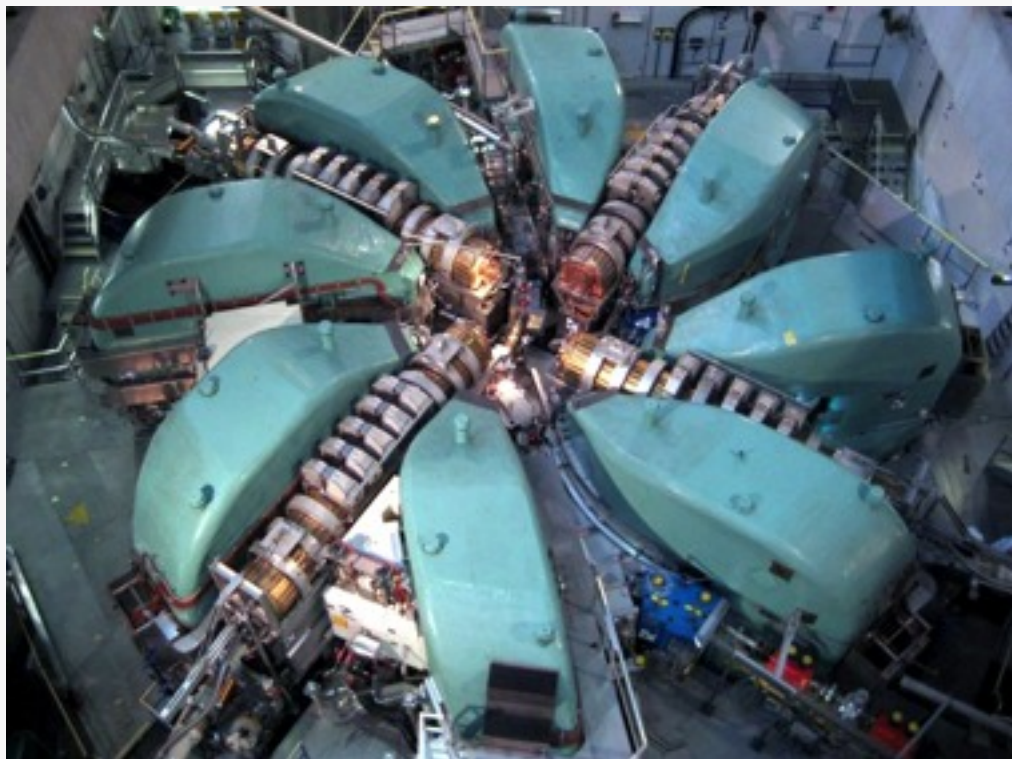
Where in the World is μ SR today?





PSI Ring Cyclotron

J-PARC synchrotron

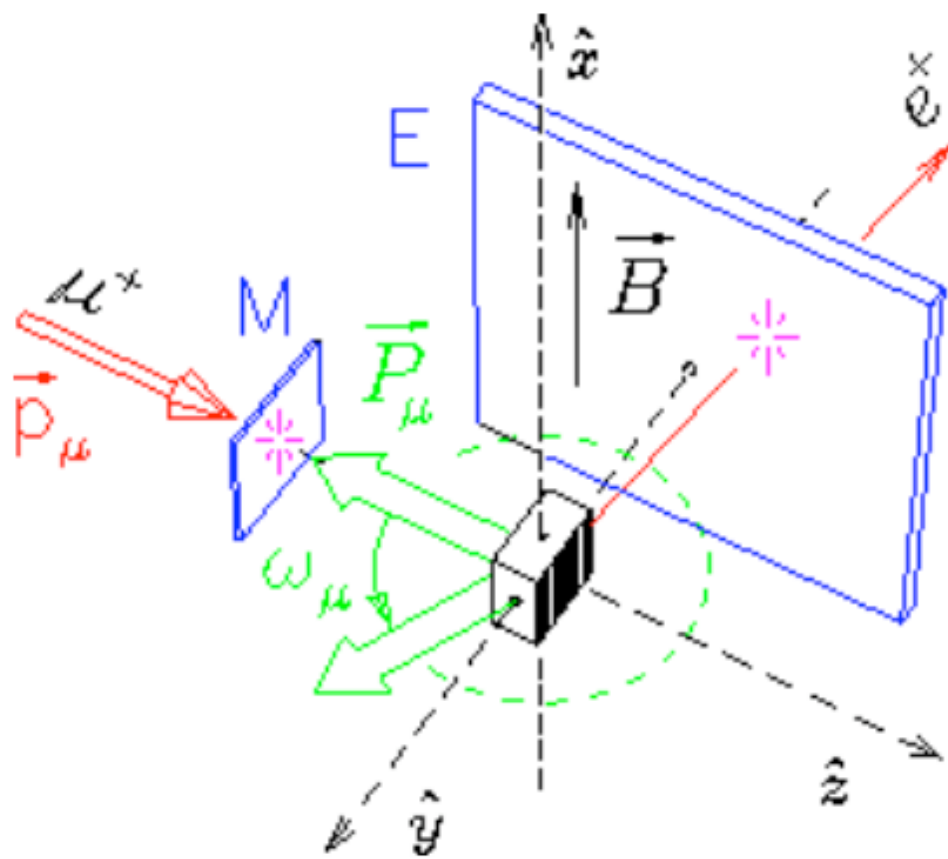




Back to μSR . . .

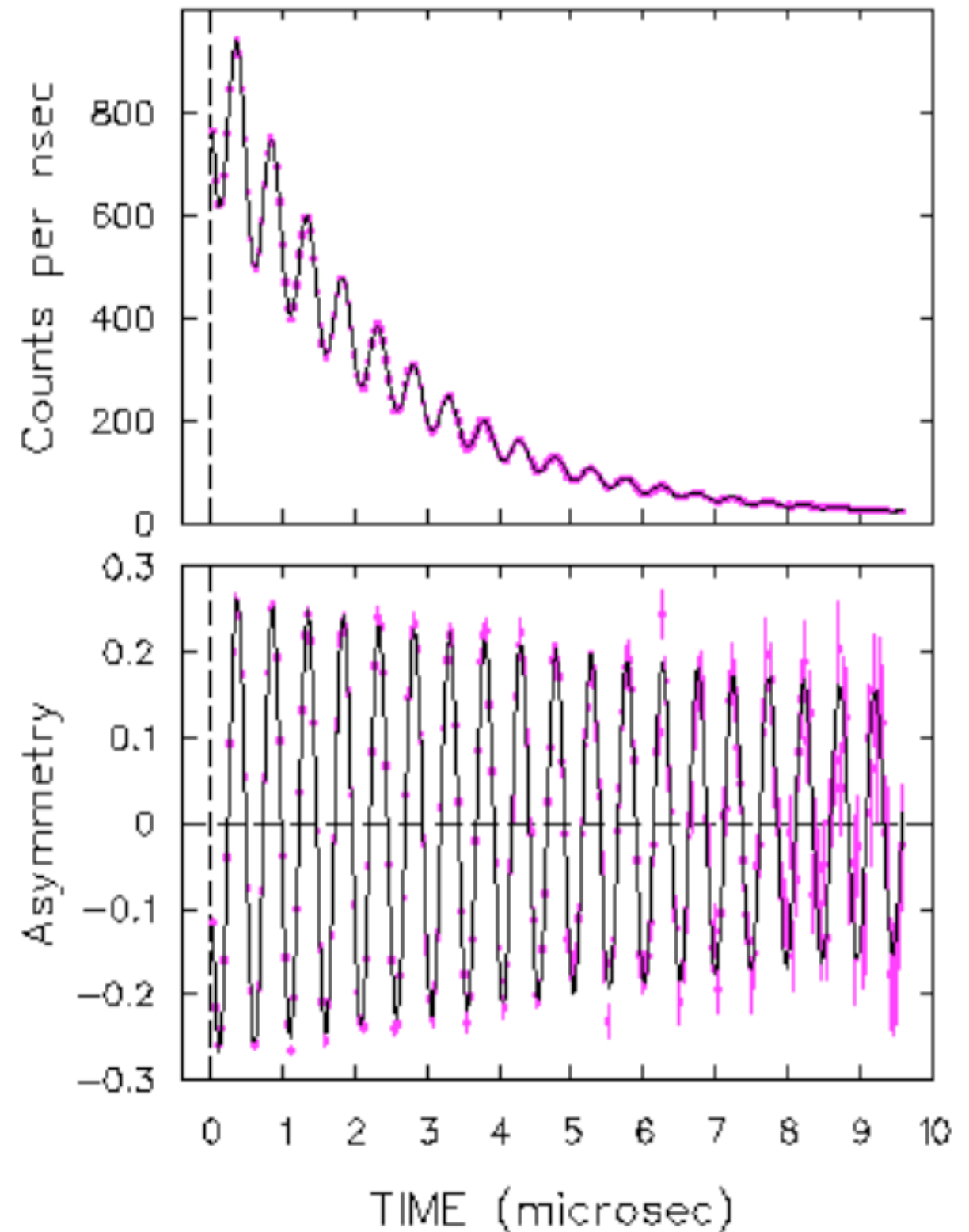
wTF- μ^+ SR:

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



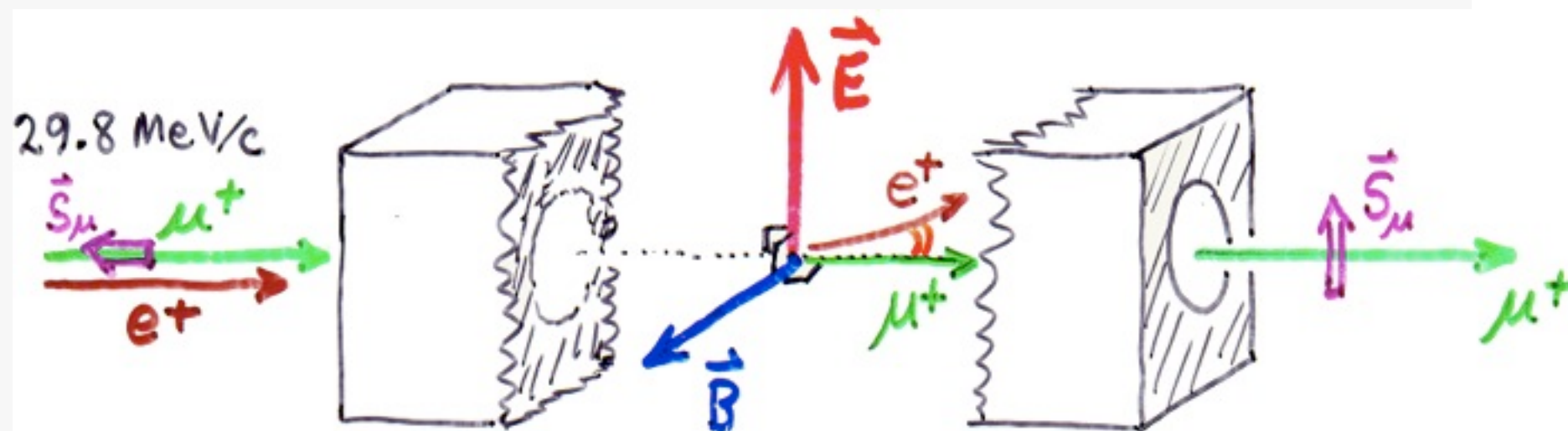
$$A(t) = [N(t) - N_0 B] e^{+t/\tau_\mu} - 1$$

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

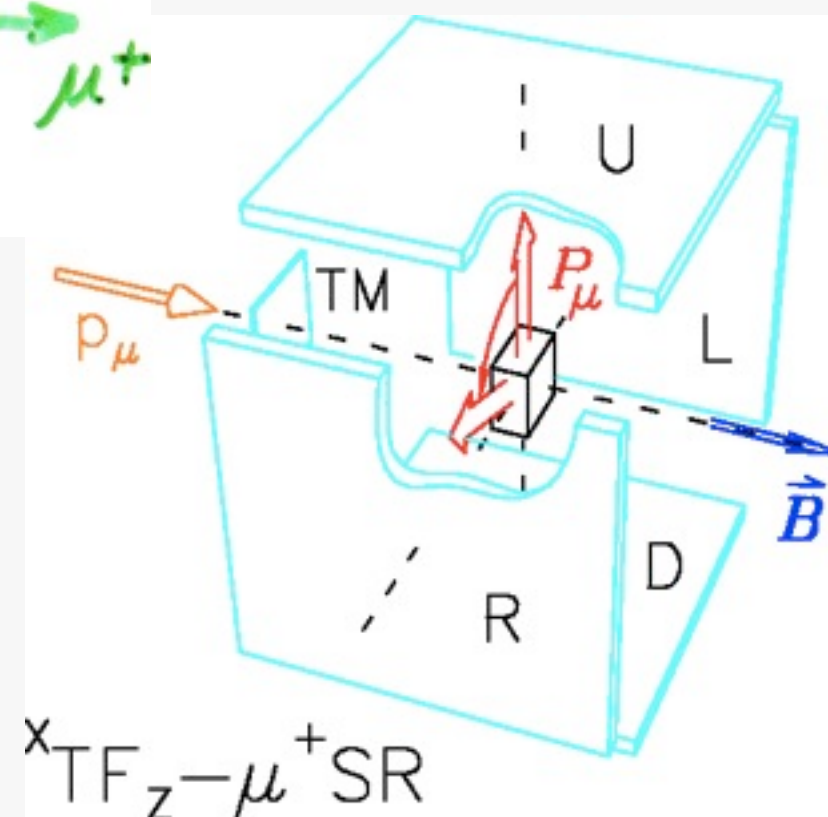
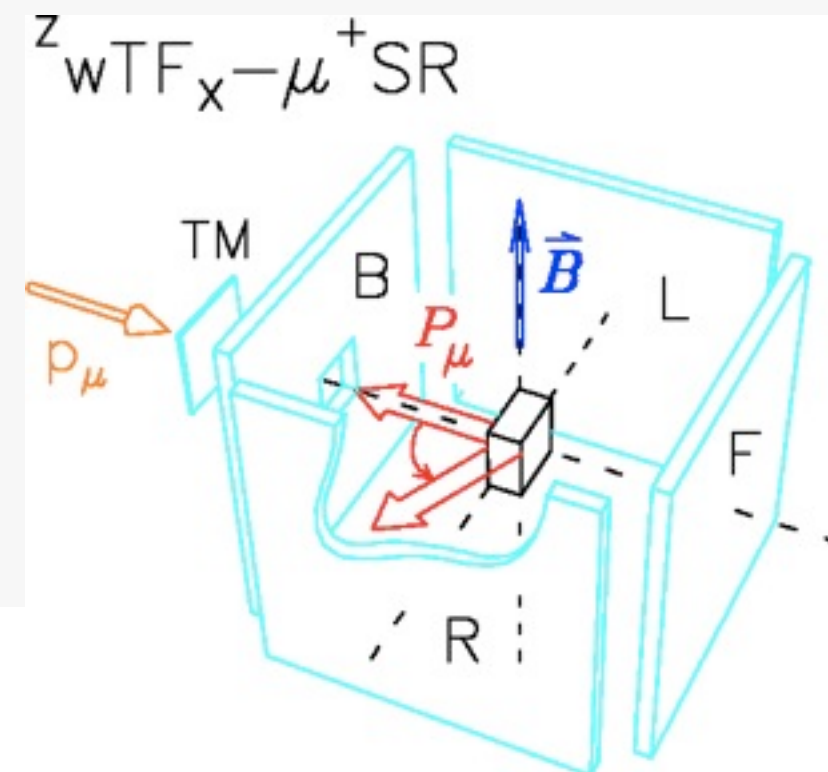


$\mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{B}$ velocity selector

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



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



High Field μ SR



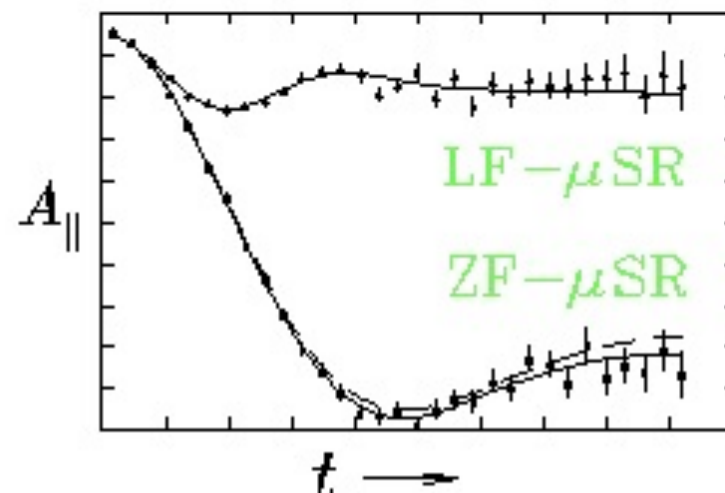
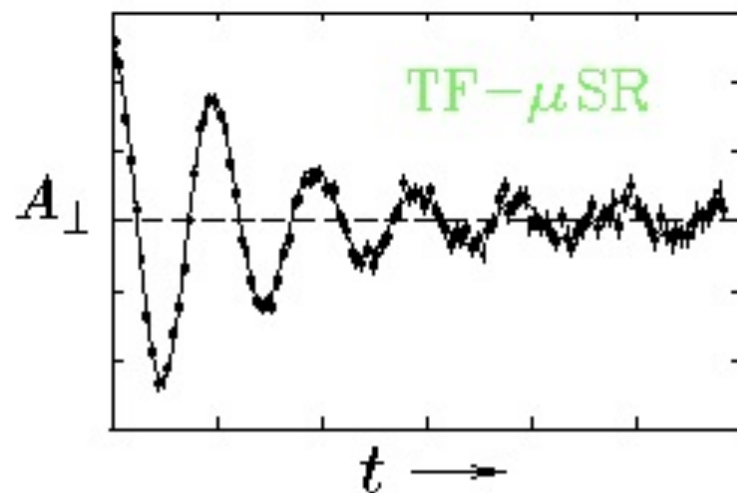
TRIUMF: Fields of up to 8 T are now available, requiring a “business end” of the spectrometer only 3 cm in diameter (so that 30-50 MeV decay positron orbits don’t “curl up” and miss the detectors) and a time resolution of ~ 150 ps. Muonium precession frequencies of over 2 GHz have been studied.

PSI: 9.5 T spectrometer commissioned in 2011.

ISIS: 5 T spectrometer (LF only).

Brewer's List of μ SR Acronyms

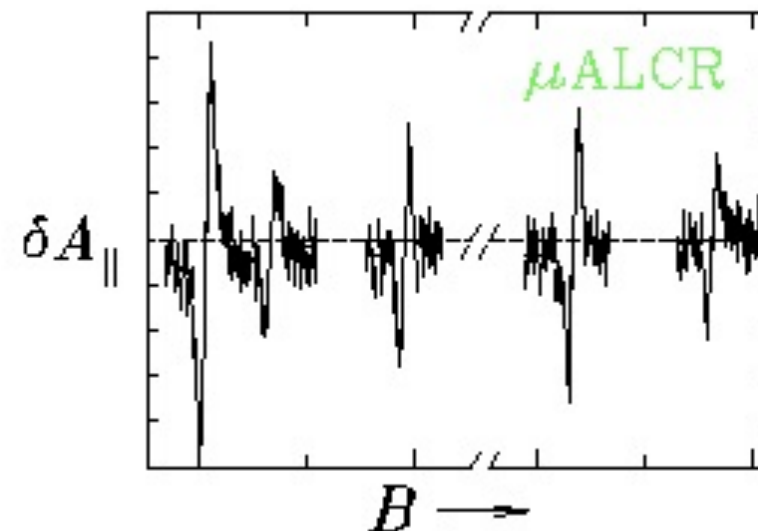
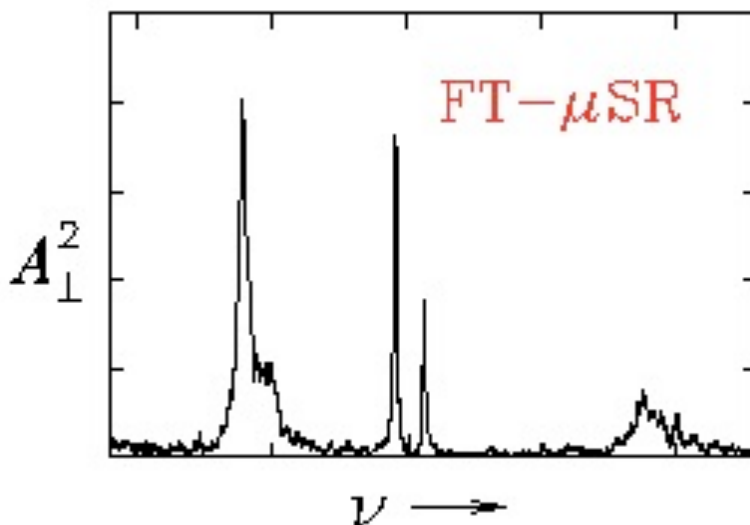
Transverse
Field



Longitudinal
Field

Zero Field

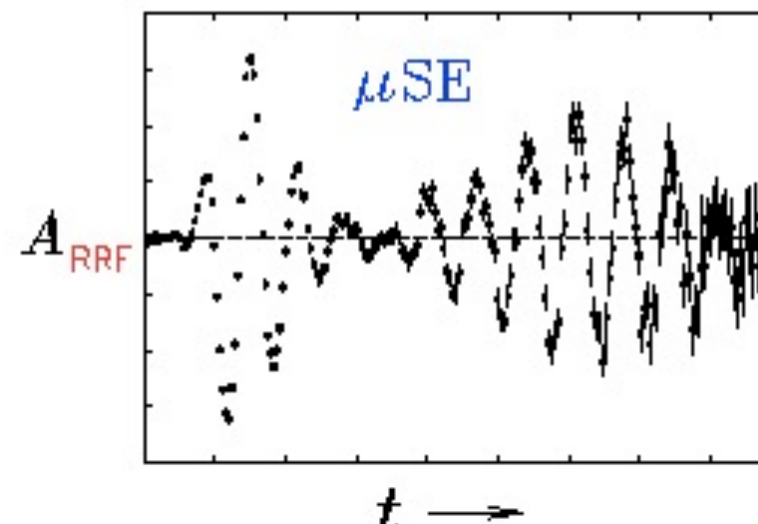
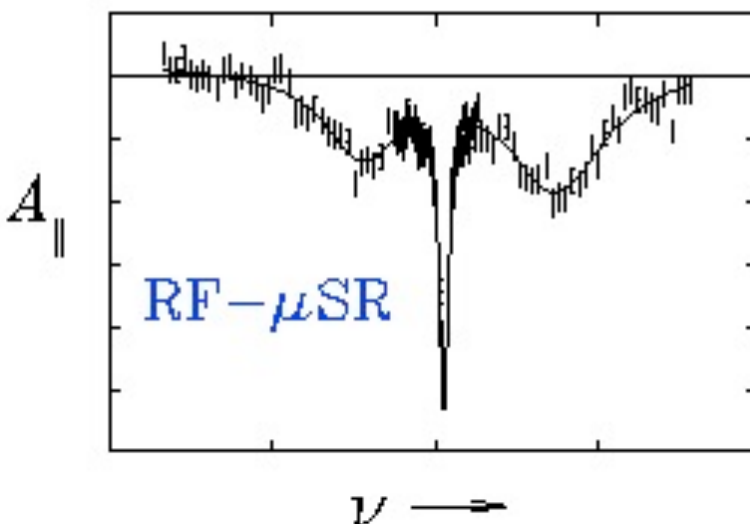
Fourier
Transform
 μ SR



Avoided
Level

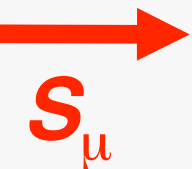
Crossing
Resonance

Muon
Spin
Resonance



Muon
Spin
Echo

Motion of Muon Spins in Static Local Fields

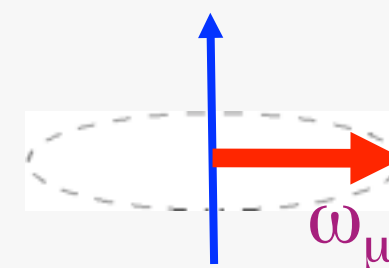
 = Expectation value of a muon's spin direction

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

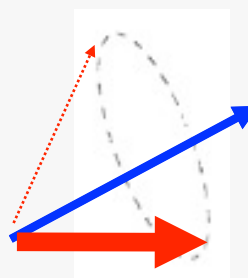
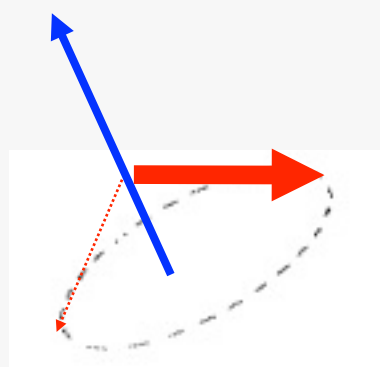
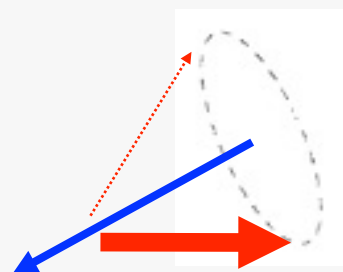
$$\omega_\mu = 2\pi \gamma_\mu |B|$$

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

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



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



2/3 of S_μ precesses at ω_μ

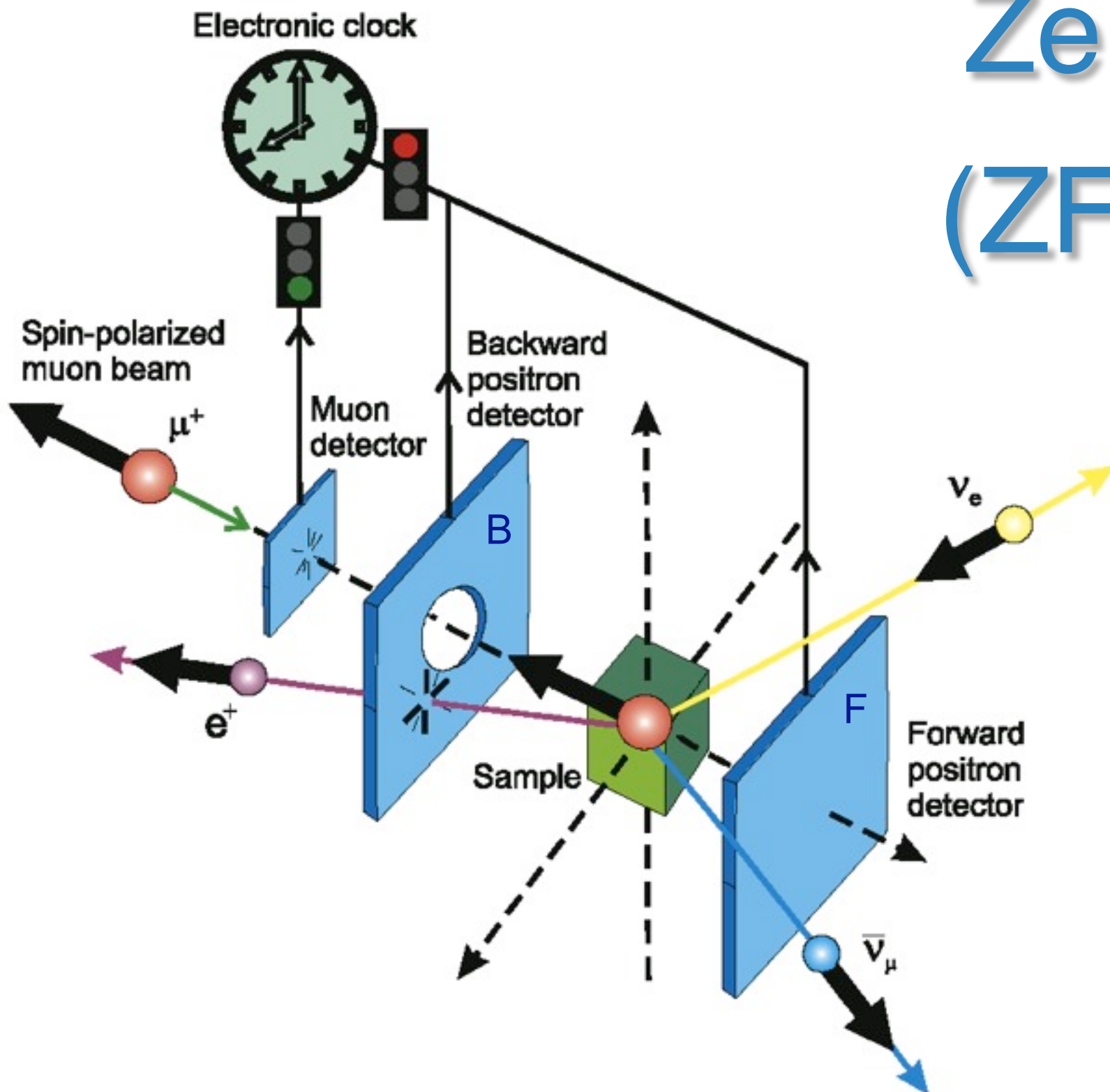
1/3 of S_μ stays constant

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

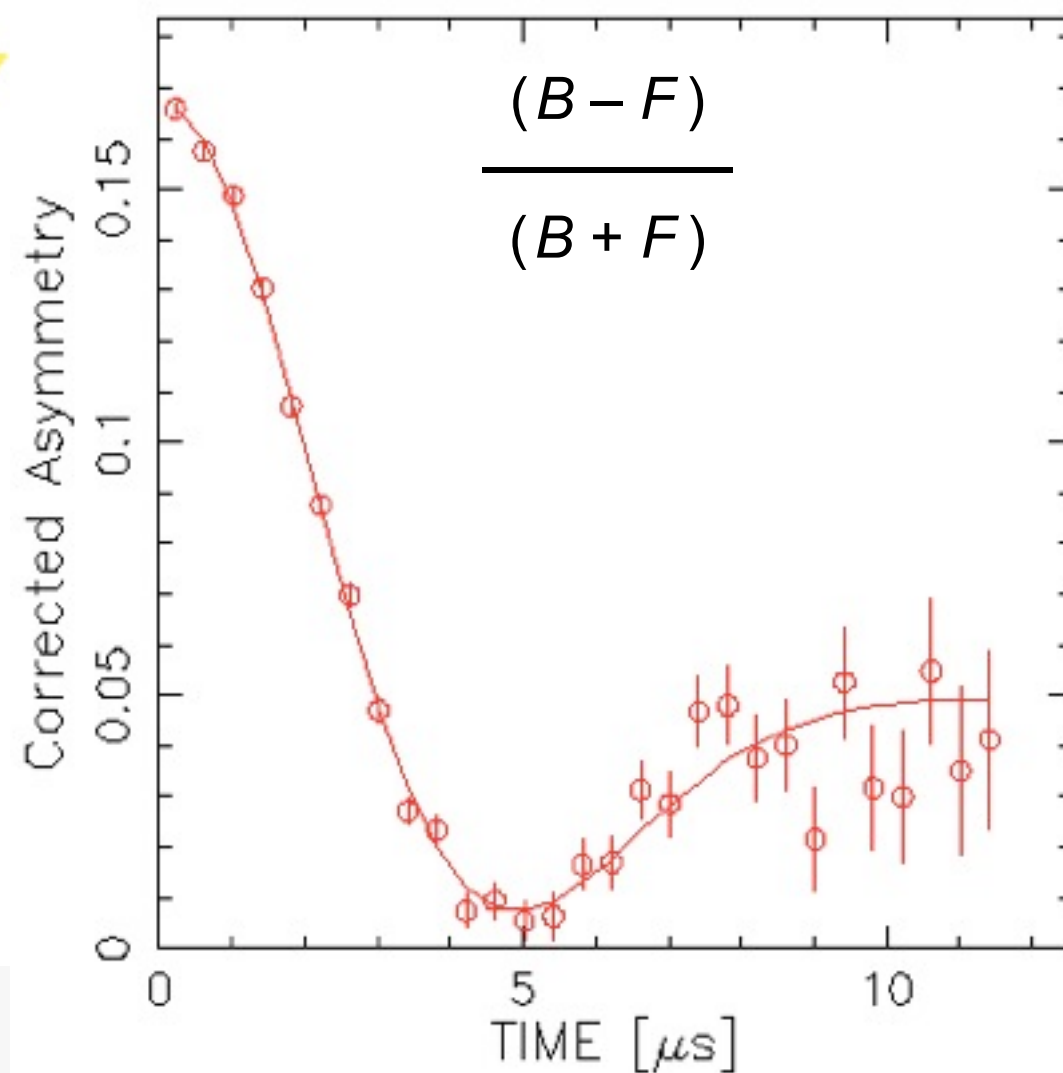
All  do not return to the same orientation at the same time

(dephasing) $\Rightarrow S_\mu$ "relaxes" as $G_{zz}(t)$ [Kubo & Toyabe, 1960's]

Zero Field (ZF)- μ^+ SR

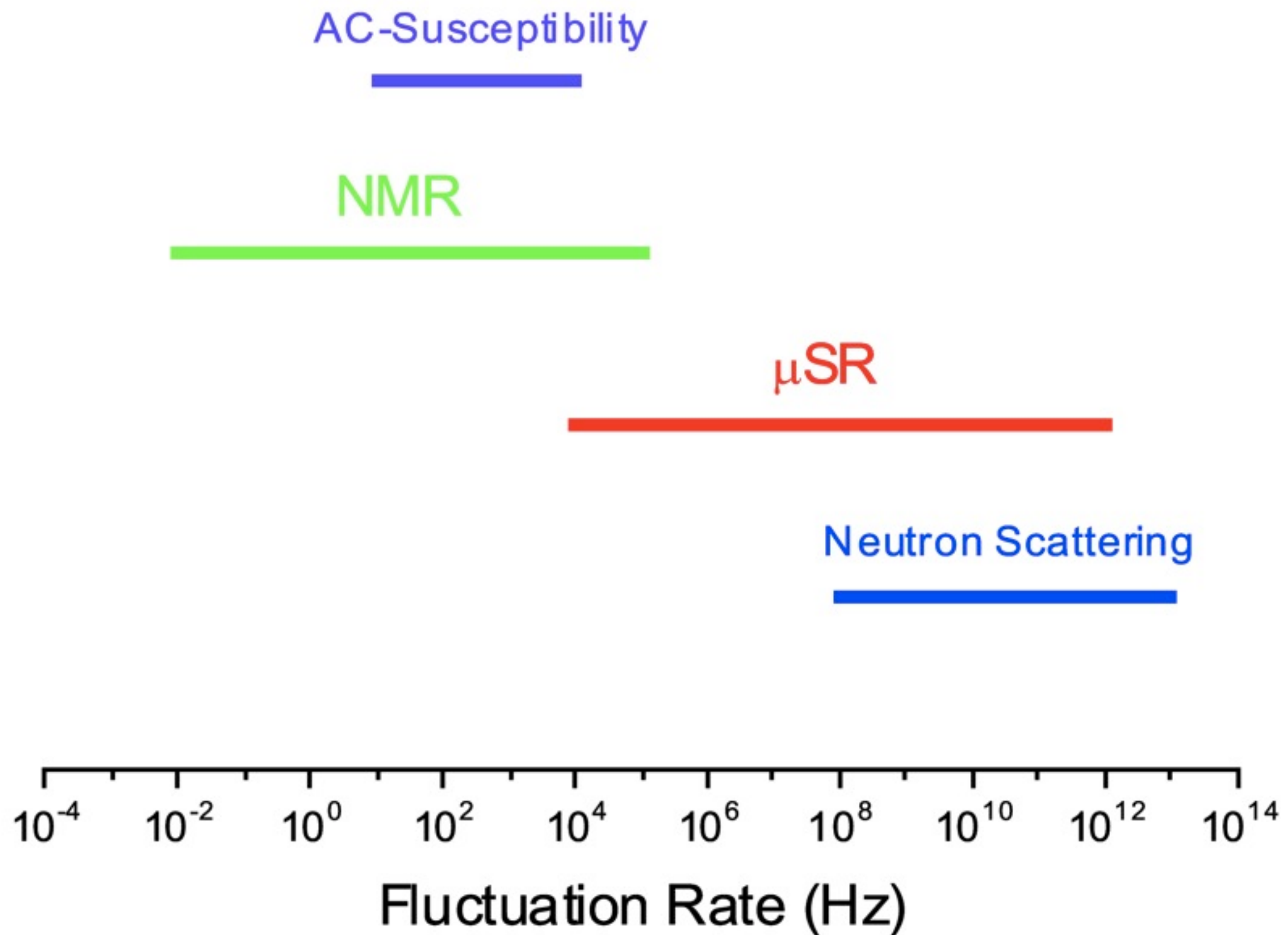


Typical asymmetry spectrum



Hayano, Uemura ... Yamazaki & Kubo - *TRIUMF* 1978
PRB **20**, 850 (1979).

Time Scales



“Themes” in μSR

Muonium as light Hydrogen

$$(Mu = \mu^+ e^-)$$

$$(H = p^+ e^-)$$

- **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, $\mu^+ SR \rightarrow$ 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:

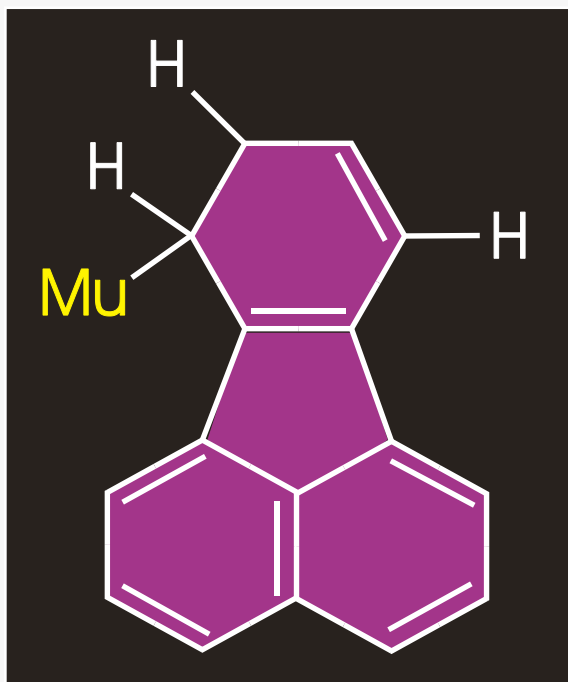
Chemistry

Semiconductors

Magnetism

Superconductors

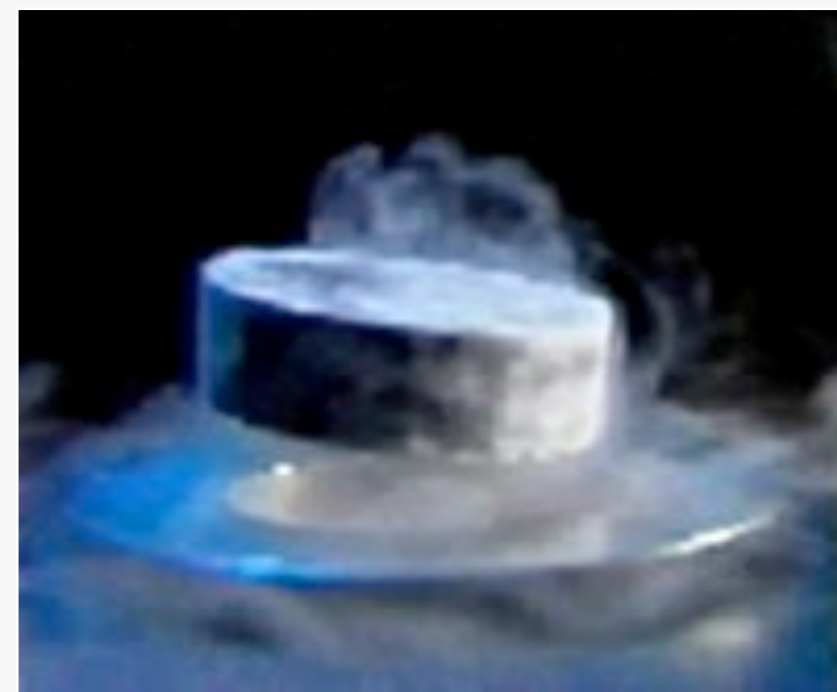
Fundamental Physics



Recent Applications of μSR

- > Molecular Structure & Conformational Motion of Organic Free Radicals
- > 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
- > Electron Spin Exchange Phenomena in Gases & Condensed Media.

- > Molecular Magnets & Clusters
- > Hydrogen in Semiconductors
- > **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**



History of μ SR

- pre-1956: **Fantasy**
- 1956-7: **Revolution!**
 π - μ -e decay and μ SR
- 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**
 μ SR Methods developed
“Themes” in μ SR
- 2000s: **TRIUMF CMMS:**
Chemistry & Semiconductors
Magnetism & Superconductors
Fundamental Physics
- **FUTURE: Applied Science**
(No more magic? Don't count on it!)

C'est fini!

