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## **Workshop Towards Neutrino Technologies**

*13 - 17 July 2009*

**Recoilless resonant emission and detection of antineutrinos: some basic questions**

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# **Recoilless Resonant Emission and Detection of Antineutrinos: Some basic Questions**

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**TOWARDS NEUTRINO TECHNOLOGIES**

**Trieste, Italy**

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# Outline

## I) Bound-state $\beta$ -decay: resonant character

${}^3\text{H} - {}^3\text{He}$  system

## II) Mössbauer $\overline{\nu}_e$ : Basic questions

- 1) Phononless transition: Recoilfree fraction; lattice expansion and contraction
- 2) Linewidth: homogeneous and inhomogeneous broadening
- 3) Relativistic effects: Second-order Doppler shift
  - a) temperature
  - b) zero-point motion

## III) Answers to basic questions

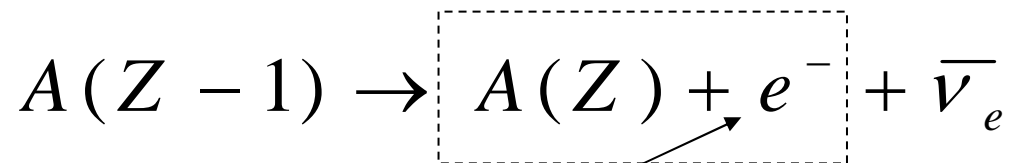
## IV) Interesting experiments

## V) Conclusions

# I) $\beta$ -decay

## I) Bound-state $\beta$ -decay

J. N. Bahcall, Phys. Rev. 124, 495 (1961)

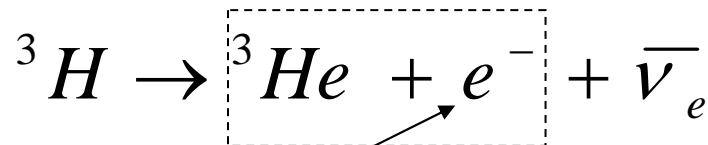


$\bar{\nu}_e$  – source  
mono-energetic

Bound-state atomic orbit.

Not a capture of  $e^-$  initially created in a continuum state (less probable).

Example:



Atomic orbit in  ${}^3He$

2-body process,  $\bar{\nu}_e$  has a fixed energy:

$$\boxed{E_{\bar{\nu}_e} = Q + B_z - E_R} \quad \text{where}$$

$Q = (M_{Z-1} - M_Z)c^2$  end-point energy

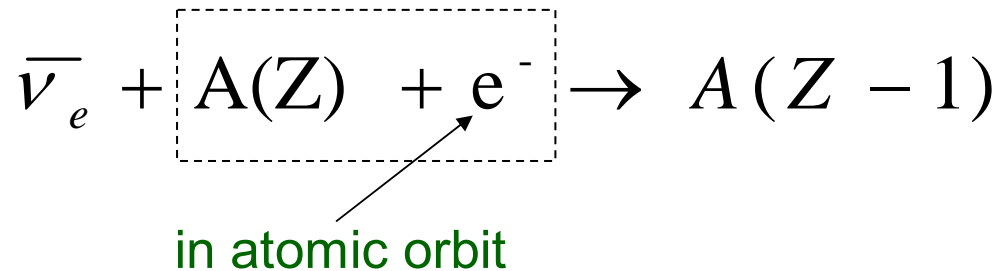
$B_z$  binding energy of electron

$E_R$  recoil energy

$\boxed{{}^3He + e^-}$  recoils

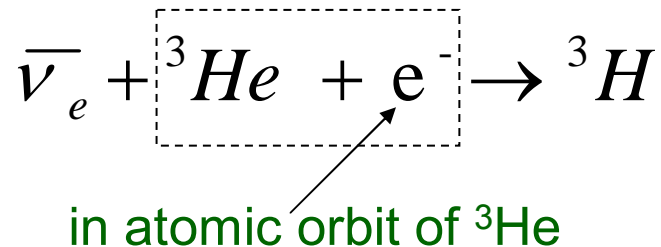
# I) $\beta$ -decay

Reverse process (absorption):



target for  $\bar{\nu}_e$

Example:



energy required for  $\bar{\nu}_e$  :

$$\boxed{E_{\bar{\nu}_e}' = Q + B_z + E_R'} \quad {}^3\text{H} \text{ recoils}$$

**Bound-state  $\beta$ -decay** has a **resonant character** which is (partially) destroyed by the **recoil in source and target**.

# Candidates for recoilless neutrino emission and absorption

TABLE I. Candidates for recoilless neutrino absorption.

Nuclide	$Q$ (keV)	$\tau$ (yr)	$f_R^a$ Recoilless fraction	$\alpha$ ( $10^{-4}$ )	$\gamma$ ( $10^{-16}$ ) Line broadening	$\sigma_{\text{eff}}$ ( $10^{-36} \text{ cm}^2$ )	$\sigma_{\text{eff}}/\tau^b$
$^3\text{H}$	18.6	12.3	0.40	200 <sup>c</sup>	8	0.1	1.0
$^{63}\text{Ni}$	68	92	0.07	1	1	$10^{-9}$	$10^{-9}$
$^{93}\text{Zr}$	60	$1.5 \times 10^6$	0.18	1	$7 \times 10^{-5}$	$10^{-12}$	$10^{-16}$
$^{107}\text{Pd}$	33	$6 \times 10^6$	0.62	1	$2 \times 10^{-5}$	$10^{-11}$	$10^{-16}$
$^{151}\text{Sm}$	76	90	0.11	1	1	$10^{-9}$	$2 \times 10^{-9}$
$^{171}\text{Tm}$	97	1.9	0.04	1	50	$5 \times 10^{-9}$	$3 \times 10^{-7}$
$^{187}\text{Re}$	2.6	$4 \times 10^{10}$	1.0	1000 <sup>d</sup>	$10^{-9}$	$2 \times 10^{-7}$	$10^{-15}$
$^{193}\text{Pt}$	61	50	0.29	1	2	$3 \times 10^{-8}$	$8 \times 10^{-8}$
$^{157}\text{Tb}$	58	150	0.29	0.4 <sup>d</sup>	0.7	$2 \times 10^{-9}$	$10^{-9}$
$^{163}\text{Ho}$	2.6	7000	1	73 <sup>d</sup>	0.01	$7 \times 10^{-3}$	$1 \times 10^{-4}$
$^{179}\text{Ta}$	115	1.7	$10^{-2}$	0.5 <sup>d</sup>	60	$10^{-10}$	$6 \times 10^{-9}$
$^{205}\text{Pb}$	60	$1.4 \times 10^7$	0.3	8 <sup>d</sup>	$10^{-5}$	$10^{-11}$	$10^{-16}$

<sup>a</sup> Recoilless fraction calculated for effective Debye temperatures assuming that the nuclei are imbedded in  $W$ , and that the simple approximations in the text are valid.

<sup>b</sup> Normalized to 1.0 for  $^3\text{H}$ .

<sup>c</sup> From Ref. 4.

<sup>d</sup> Estimated from atomic wave function calculations of the relevant shells.

W. P. Kells and J. P. Schiffer,  
Phys. Rev. C 28, 2162 (1983)

# ${}^3\text{H}$ - ${}^3\text{He}$ system

<i>Decay</i>	$E_{\bar{\nu}_e}^{res}$	$ft_{1/2}$	$B\beta / C\beta$
${}^3\text{H} \rightarrow {}^3\text{He}$	18.60 keV	1132 sec	$6.9 \times 10^{-3}$ (80% ground state, 20% excited states)

Resonance cross section (without Mössbauer effect):  $\sigma \approx 1 \times 10^{-42} \text{ cm}^2$

To observe bound-state  $\beta$ -decay: 100-MCi sources ( ${}^3\text{H}$ ) and kg-targets ( ${}^3\text{He}$ ) would be necessary

Thermal motion:

Doppler energy profile,  
width: 0.16 eV

Recoil energy:

$$E_R = \frac{(E_{\bar{\nu}_e}^{res})^2}{2Mc^2} \approx 0.06 \text{ eV}$$

## II) Basic Questions

### 1) Phononless transition:

a) Recoilfree fraction:

$$f = e^{-\left(\frac{E}{\hbar c}\right)^2 \cdot \langle x^2 \rangle} \longrightarrow f < 1$$

Conventional Mössbauer effect (with photons):

**Source and absorber (target) involve the same type of atoms, e.g., the isotope  $^{57}\text{Fe}$ .**

recoil energy:

$$E_R = \frac{(E_{\gamma}^{res})^2}{2Mc^2}$$

Debye model:

$$T \rightarrow 0: \quad f(T \rightarrow 0) = \exp\left\{-\frac{E^2}{2Mc^2} \cdot \frac{3}{2k_B\Theta}\right\}$$

recoil energy

$f$  depends on: transition energy  $E$   
mass  $M$  of the atom  
Debye temperature  $\Theta$

Example:  $^3\text{H} - ^3\text{He}$

typically:  $f(0) \approx 0.27$  for  $\Theta \approx 800\text{K}$

Emission and absorption:

$$f^{^3\text{H}} \cdot f^{^3\text{He}} \approx 0.07 \text{ for } T \rightarrow 0$$



## II) Basic Questions

$^3\text{H}$  as well as  $^3\text{He}$  in metallic lattices:

**Nb metal, tetrahedral interstitial sites**

b) Lattice expansion and contraction: in addition to recoil

Nuclear transformations occur when  $\bar{\nu}_e$  is emitted or captured.  $^3\text{He}$  and  $^3\text{H}$  use different amounts of lattice space. Will this cause lattice excitations (phonons)?

**Lattice-deformation energies of  $^3\text{H}$  and  $^3\text{He}$  in Nb metal:**

$$E_L(^3\text{H}) = 0.099 \text{ eV} ; E_L(^3\text{He}) = 0.551 \text{ eV}$$

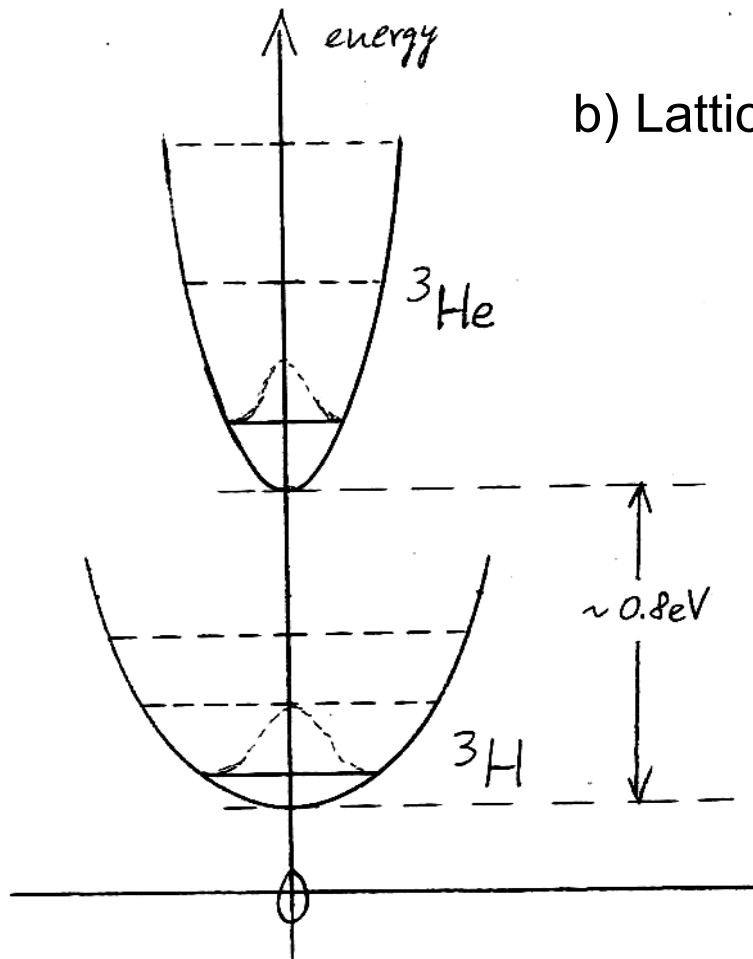
$$f^L(T \rightarrow 0) \leq \exp\left\{-\frac{E_L(^3\text{He}) - E_L(^3\text{H})}{k_B \Theta}\right\} \approx 1 \cdot 10^{-3}$$

$$f^L(0)^2 \approx 1 \cdot 10^{-6} \quad \text{and} \quad f(0)^2 \cdot f^L(0)^2 \approx 7 \cdot 10^{-8}$$

→ Theoretical calculations:

David Ceperley, University of Illinois

Mark G. Raizen, University of Texas at Austin



M. J. Puska et al., PRB10, 5382 (1984)

# II) Basic Questions

## 2) Linewidth

minimal width (natural width):  $\Delta E^{nat} = \Gamma = \hbar / \tau$        $\tau$ : lifetime

$^3\text{H}$ :  $\tau = 17.81 \text{ y} \longrightarrow \Delta E^{nat} = \Gamma = 1.17 \cdot 10^{-24} \text{ eV}$       (extremely narrow)

Two types of line broadening:

a) homogeneous broadening



due to fluctuations, e. g. of magnetic fields, **stochastic processes**

b) inhomogeneous broadening

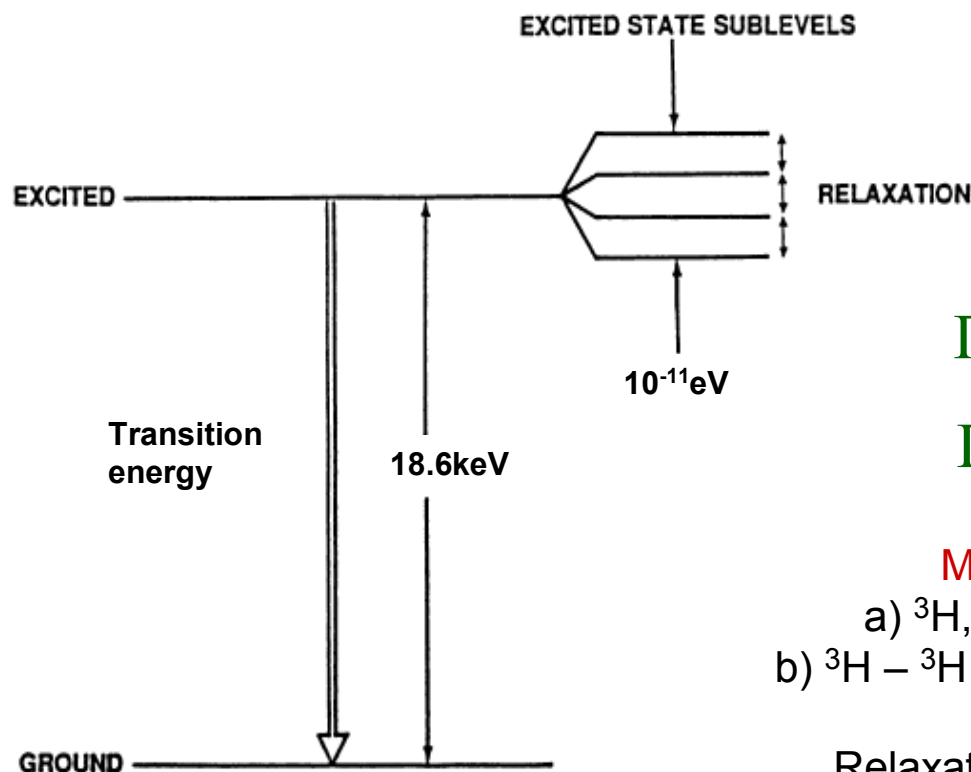


due to stationary effects, e.g. impurities, **lattice defects which cause variations of line shifts**

How big are these broadening effects?

## II) Basic Questions

a) **homogeneous broadening:** stochastic processes, **not** connected to lattice vibrations, present at all temperatures



Measurements:  $^3\text{H}$  (Pd),  $^3\text{H}$  (Ti-H), NbH

Typical relaxation times:  
 $T_2 \sim 2\text{ms}$ ,  $79\mu\text{s}$

$$\Gamma_{\text{exp}} \sim 5 \times 10^{-11} \text{eV} \sim 4 \times 10^{13} \Gamma$$

$$\Gamma_{\text{exp}} \sim \Gamma (^{67}\text{Zn})$$

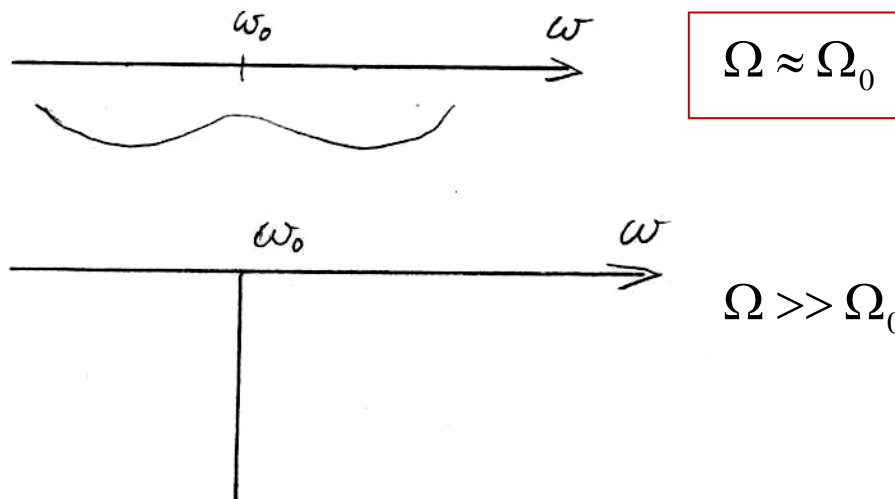
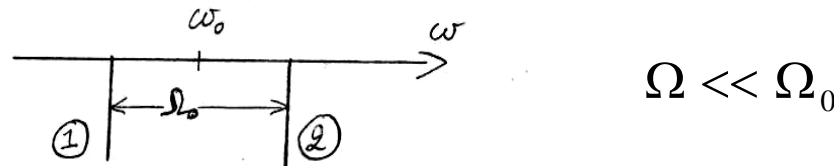
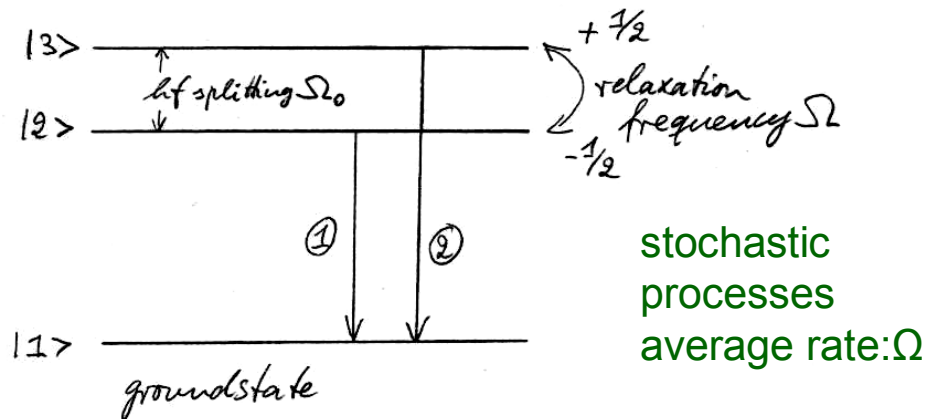
**Magnetic interactions:**

- a)  $^3\text{H}$ ,  $^3\text{He}$  with nuclei of metallic lattice
- b)  $^3\text{H} - ^3\text{H}$  magnetic dipolar spin-spin interaction

Relaxation between the sublevels affects the lineshape and the total linewidth.

The linewidth is determined by the relaxation rate.

# Homogeneous Broadening: Magnetic Relaxation



## Simplest magnetic relaxation model

Sudden, irregular transitions (relaxation) between hyperfine-split states

→ irregular (random) phase changes of transitions to ground state, no correlation to original phase  
→ it might take a long time to come back to the original frequency

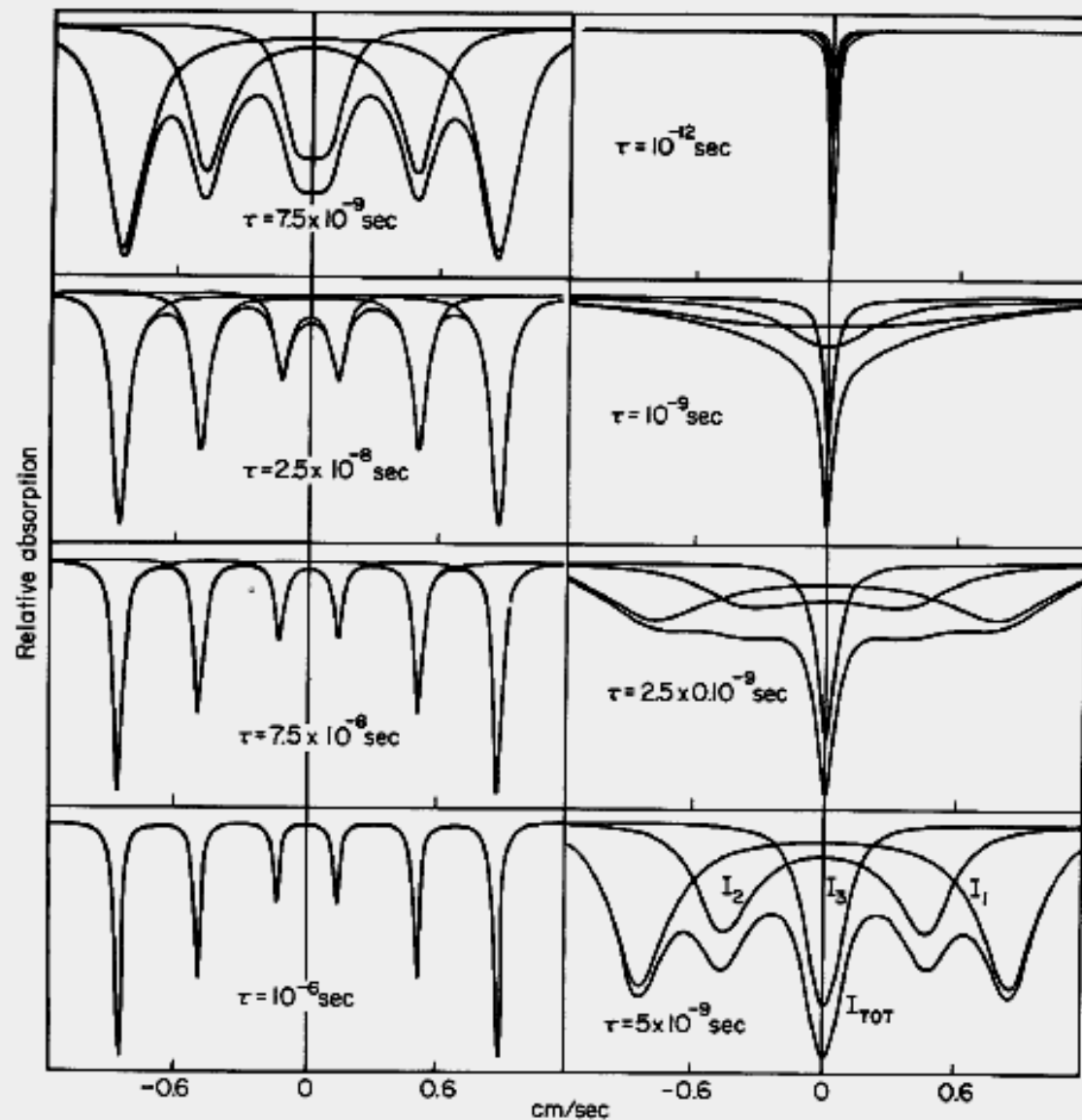
Two lines of (almost) natural width:  
With increasing  $\Omega$ , the lines broaden  
→ effective lifetime (time-uncertainty principle)

Intensity is distributed over a broad pattern, which extends over the total hf splitting  $\Omega_0$  as suggested by the time-energy uncertainty principle

**$^3\text{H}/^3\text{He}$  system in Nb metal:  $\Omega_0 \sim 10^5 \text{ s}^{-1}$  and  $\Omega \sim 8 \times 10^4 \text{ s}^{-1}$ .  $\rightarrow \Gamma_{\text{exp}} \sim 5 \times 10^{-11} \text{ eV} \sim 4 \times 10^{13} \Gamma$ .**

**Motional narrowing:** one line at the center of the hf splitting of practical natural width. Stochastic frequency changes: between lines 1 and 2. Averaging process over many short parts of the lifetime. **Not the case for  $^3\text{H}/^3\text{He}$ .**

## II) Basic Questions



Relaxation spectra for  $^{57}\text{Fe}$   
Superposition of 3 doublets

Average relaxation rate:  $\Omega = 2\pi / \tau$

H.H. Wickman and G.K. Wertheim in:  
*Chemical Applications of Mössbauer Spectroscopy*, V.I. Goldanskii and R. Herber, editors; pp. 548 (New York: Academic Press, 1968)

## II) Basic Questions

**b) inhomogeneous broadening:** Stationary effects: lattice defects, impurities

**Conventional Mössbauer spectroscopy:** Different binding strengths due to inhomogeneities affect the energy of the photons in the **same type** of nucleus in source and target.

→ Shift of photon energy by typically  $10^{-7} - 10^{-9}$  eV (hyperfine interaction)

In the best single crystals: inhomogeneities cause shifts of  $10^{-13}$  to  $10^{-12}$  eV.  
For  $\bar{V}_e$ : corresp. to  $10^{11} \Gamma$  or  $10^{12} \Gamma$  or even larger.

Binding energies of  $^3\text{H}$  and  $^3\text{He}$  in an inhomogeneous metallic lattice **directly** influence the  $\bar{V}_e$  energy.

Binding energies per atom: ~eV range (Coulomb interaction).

→ Variation of the  $\bar{V}_e$  energy much larger than neV, typically: meV range.

→ Variation of the  $\bar{V}_e$  energy by only  $10^{-6}$  eV →  $10^{18} \Gamma$ .

## II) Basic Questions

### 3) Relativistic effects

Second-order Doppler shift due to mean-square atomic velocity  $\langle V^2 \rangle$

Time-dilatation effect:  $\Delta t = \frac{\Delta t'}{\sqrt{1 - (V/c)^2}}$

stationary system  $\nearrow$   $\Delta t$        $\Delta t'$   $\nwarrow$  moving system

Frequencies:  $\omega = \omega' \sqrt{1 - (V/c)^2} \approx \omega' \left( 1 - \frac{V^2}{2c^2} \right)$

Second-order Doppler shift:  $\Delta\omega = \omega - \omega' = -\omega' \frac{V^2}{2c^2}$

Reduction of  
frequency (energy)

## II) Basic Questions

Within the Debye model:

$$\frac{\Delta E}{E} = \frac{9k_B}{16Mc^2} (\Theta_s - \Theta_t) + \frac{3k_B}{2Mc^2} \left[ T_s \cdot f\left(\frac{T_s}{\Theta_s}\right) - T_t \cdot f\left(\frac{T_t}{\Theta_t}\right) \right]$$

Zero-point energy

where

$$f\left(\frac{T}{\Theta}\right) = 3\left(\frac{T}{\Theta}\right)^3 \cdot \int_0^{\Theta/T} \frac{x^3}{\exp x - 1} dx$$

$$\text{If } |T_s - T_t| = 1 \text{ degree} \longrightarrow \Delta E = 1.9 \cdot 10^{-9} \text{ eV} \approx 1.6 \cdot 10^{15} \Gamma \approx 35 \cdot \Gamma_{\text{exp}}$$

Heat generation in the source: 1 kCi ~ 0.1 W; causes temperature gradient  $\Delta T$ .  
 Nb metal: supercond. below 9.2K;  $\rightarrow$  poor heat conductor  $\rightarrow$  stay above 9.2K.  
 J. Schiffer:  $1\Gamma \approx 0.05 \text{ nK}$ , throughout the sample.

$$\text{Low temperatures: } T_s \approx T_t \approx 0 \longrightarrow [\dots] \approx 0$$

However, zero-point energy remains!

$$\text{If } |\Theta_s - \Theta_t| = 1 \text{ degree (0.08 meV)} \longrightarrow \Delta E / E \approx 2 \cdot 10^{-14} \longrightarrow \Delta E \approx 3 \cdot 10^{14} \Gamma \approx 7 \cdot \Gamma_{\text{exp}}$$

Similar conclusion as reached from different binding energies.



# III) Answers to Basic Questions

## A) Principle difficulties

1) Probability for phononless emission and detection:  $\sim 7 \times 10^{-8}$ ; due to lattice expansion and contraction (not present with conventional Mössbauer effect) and due to recoil.

2) Homogeneous line broadening:  $\Gamma_{\text{exp}} > 4 \times 10^{13} \Gamma \approx 5 \times 10^{-11} \text{ eV}$ .

3) Inhomogeneous line broadening due to random distribution of  $^3\text{H}$  and  $^3\text{He}$  in metal lattice (entropy)  $\rightarrow$  **direct** influence of binding energies.

$\Gamma_{\text{exp}} \gg 10^{12} \Gamma$ , with much luck  $\Gamma_{\text{exp}} \approx 10^{18} \Gamma \approx 10^{-6} \text{ eV}$   
(200 times broader than the  $^{57}\text{Fe}$  Mössbauer resonance).

4) Relativistic effects (zero point energy) due to different binding energies:

$$\Gamma_{\text{exp}} > 3 \times 10^{14} \Gamma \approx 3 \times 10^{-10} \text{ eV}.$$

# III) Answers to Basic Questions

## B) Technological difficulties (to name only two)

1) Heat production in source of 1kCi is 0.1 W,  $\rightarrow$  temperature gradients  $\Delta T$ .  
For natural width  $\Gamma$ ,  $\Delta T \ll 10^{-11} \text{K}$  (relativistic effect).

2) Stability of apparatus for continuous measurement:  
e.g., mechanical and temperature variations must be negligible for time comparable to lifetime, i.e. for  $\sim 20$  years.

# $^3\text{H}$ - $^3\text{He}$ system

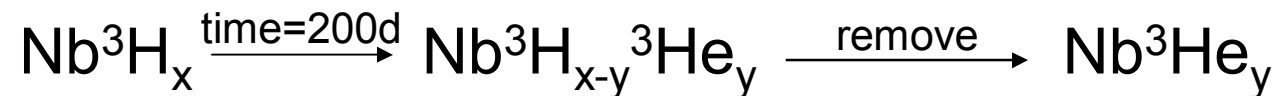
## A) Preparation of source and target

Source:

$^3\text{H}$  chemically loaded into metals to form hydrides (tritides), e.g., Nb: in tetrahedral interstitial sites (IS).

Target:

$^3\text{He}$  accumulates with time due to the **tritium trick**:



Remove  $^3\text{H}$  by isotopic exchange  $^3\text{H} \rightarrow \text{D}$

# $^3\text{H}$ - $^3\text{He}$ system

How much metal for source and target?

Source:

1 kCi of  $^3\text{H}$  ( $\sim 100\text{mg } ^3\text{H}$ ):  $\sim 3\text{g}$  of  $\text{Nb}^3\text{H}$   
for NMR studies: 0.5 kCi  $^3\text{H}$  in 2.4g  $\text{PdH}_{0.6}$

Target:

100mg of  $^3\text{He}$  implies  $\sim 100\text{g}$  of  $\text{Nb}^3\text{H}$  aged for 200 d

# $^3\text{H}$ - $^3\text{He}$ system

## B) Event rates for $^3\text{H}$ – $^3\text{He}$ recoilless resonant capture of antineutrinos

Base line	$^3\text{H}$	$^3\text{He}$	Antineutrino capture per day	$R\beta(\Delta t=65\text{d})$ per day
5 cm	1 kCi	100 mg	$\sim 40 \times 10^3$	$\sim 40$
10 m	1 MCi	1 g	$\sim 10^3$	$\sim 10$

1) only homogeneous broadening, assuming  
 $\rightarrow \Gamma_{\text{exp}} = 9 \times 10^{-12} \text{eV} \approx 8 \times 10^{12} \Gamma$   
 $\sigma_{\text{res}} \approx 3 \times 10^{-33} \text{cm}^2$

2) **no** lattice expansion and contraction

$R\beta(\Delta t)/\text{day}$ : Reverse  $\beta$ -activity rate after growth period  $\Delta t=65\text{d}=0.01\tau$

# IV) Interesting experiments

- 1) Do Mössbauer (anti)neutrinos oscillate?
- 2) Determination of mass hierarchy and oscillation parameters  
 $\Delta m^2_{32}$  and  $\Delta m^2_{12}$ : 0.6% and  $\sin^2 2\theta_{13}$ : 0.002
- 3) Search for sterile neutrinos
- 4) Gravitational redshift experiments (Earth).

# IV) Interesting experiments

## 1) Do Mössbauer neutrinos oscillate?

S.M. Bilenky et al., Phys. Part. Nucl. **38**, 117 (2007)

S.M. Bilenky, arXiv: 0708.0260

S.M. Bilenky et al., J. Phys. G **34**, 987 (2007)

E.Kh. Akhmedov et al., arXiv: 0802.2513; JHEP **05** (2008) 005

S.M. Bilenky et al., arXiv: 0803.0527 v2; J. Phys. G **35** (2008) 095003

E.Kh. Akhmedov et al., arXiv: 0803.1424 v2; J. Phys. G **36** (2009) 078001

S.M. Bilenky et al., arXiv: 0804.3409; J. Phys. G **36** (2009) 078002

S.M. Bilenky et al., arXiv: 0903.5234

J. Kopp, arXiv: 0904.4346

# IV) Interesting experiments

## 1) Do Mössbauer neutrinos oscillate? Different approaches to neutrino oscillations

A) Evolution of the neutrino state  $\Psi(t)$  in time:

Neutrino oscillations occur if  $\Psi(t)$  is a superposition of states of neutrinos with different energies

→ non-stationary phenomenon

→ No oscillations for Mössbauer neutrinos

B) Evolution of the neutrino wave function in space and time:

→ Oscillations are possible in both the non-stationary and also in the stationary case (Mössbauer neutrinos)



# IV) Interesting experiments

## 2) If Mössbauer neutrinos do oscillate:

### Ultra-short base lines for neutrino-oscillation experiments

For only two flavors:  $P(\nu_a \rightarrow \nu_b) = \sin^2 2\Theta \cdot \sin^2(\pi L / L_0)$

Amplitude:  $\sin^2 2\Theta$

Oscillatory term:  $\sin^2(\pi L / L_0)$

$$\text{Oscillation length: } L_0 = 4\pi\hbar c \frac{E}{|\Delta m^2|} \approx 2.480 \frac{E / \text{MeV}}{|\Delta m^2| / \text{eV}} \quad [\text{m}]$$

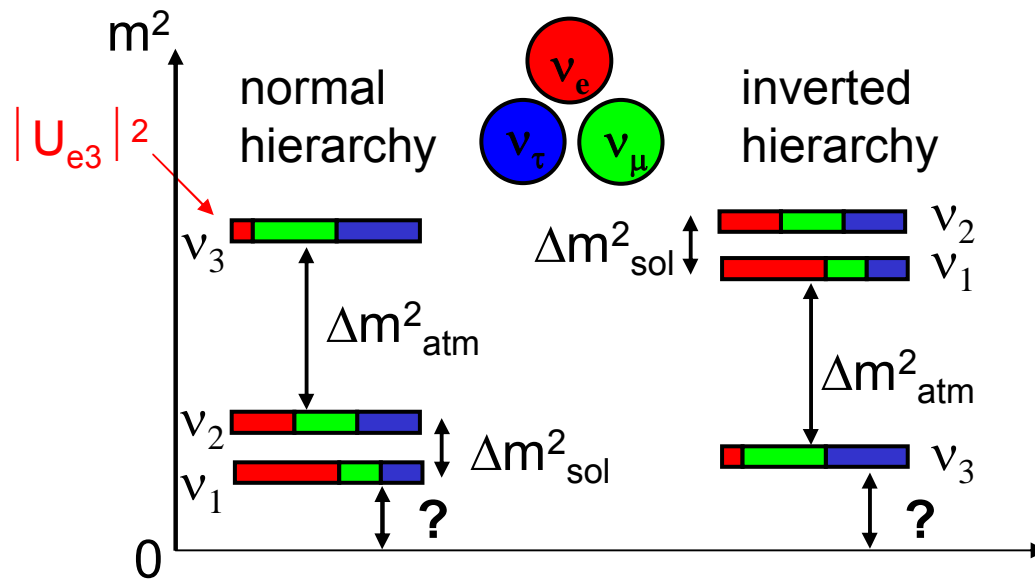
A) Determination of  $\Theta_{13}$ :  $E=18.6 \text{ keV}$  instead of  $3 \text{ MeV}$ .

$\Delta m_{23}^2$  observed with *atmospheric* neutrinos

Chooz experiment:  $\sin^2 2\Theta_{13} \leq 2 \cdot 10^{-1}$       Oscillation base line:  $L_0/2 \sim 9.3 \text{ m}$

—————> Base line  $L$  of  $9.3 \text{ m}$  instead of  $1500 \text{ m}$

## B) Mass hierarchy and oscillation parameters



H. Minakata et al.: hep-ph/0701151  
 S. Parke et al.: 0812.1879 (hep-ph)  
 Phase changes of atmosph. w.r. to solar oscill.

$|\Delta_{31}| > |\Delta_{32}|$  Phase advances

$|\Delta_{31}| < |\Delta_{32}|$  Phase retarded

H. Nunokawa et al., hep-ph/0503283

**To determine mass hierarchy:**

Measure  $\Delta m^2$  in reactor-neutrino and muon-neutrino (accelerator long-baseline) disappearance channels to better than a fraction of 1%

H. Minakata et al., hep-ph/0602046

For  $\sin^2 2\theta_{13} = 0.05$  and 10 different detector locations **one can reach uncertainties:**  
 in  $\Delta m^2_{31}$  and  $\Delta m^2_{12}$ : 0.6%,  
 in  $\sin^2 2\theta_{13}$ : 0.002

# IV) Interesting experiments

3) Search for conversion of  $\bar{\nu}_e \rightarrow \nu_{sterile}$

LSND experiment:  $\Delta m^2 \approx 1eV^2$  and  $\sin^2 2\theta \sim 0.1$  to 0.001

(largely excluded by MiniBooNE)

Possibility:  $\bar{\nu}_e \rightarrow \nu_{sterile}$

V. Kopeikin et al. : hep-ph/0310246

Test: Disappearance experiment with 18.6 keV antineutrinos

- Oscillation length  $L_0 \sim 5\text{cm!}$
- Ultra-short base line, difficult to reach otherwise

# IV) Interesting experiments

## 4) Gravitational redshift experiments (Earth)

Gravitational redshift:  $\frac{\delta E}{E} = \frac{gh}{c^2}$

Experimental linewidth:  $\Gamma_{\text{exp}} = \Delta = 5 \cdot 10^{-11} \text{ eV}$

$\Delta = \frac{\hbar \omega}{c^2} gh_{\Delta}$  where  $h_{\Delta}$  is height corresponding to 1 experimental linewidth

$\longrightarrow h_{\Delta} \approx 25 \text{ m}$

For  $\Gamma_{\text{exp}} \approx 10^{-6} \text{ eV} \longrightarrow$  unrealistic

Can **not** be used to determine the neutrino mass

Gravitational spectrometer

# V) Conclusions

A) Phononless resonant emission and detection of antineutrinos:

${}^3\text{H} - {}^3\text{He}$  system.

B) Experiment is very difficult, if not impossible.

**Not possible to reach natural width.**

1) Principle difficulties:

a) Probability for phononless emission and detection might be smaller than expected due to lattice expansion and contraction after the transformation of the nucleus:

**Additional reduction factor of  $1 \times 10^6$ .**

b) Homogeneous broadening (stochastic processes) and inhomogeneous broadening (variation of binding energies and of zero-point energies).

$$\longrightarrow \Gamma_{\text{exp}} \approx 10^{18} \Gamma \approx 10^{-6} \text{ eV}$$

# V) Conclusions

## 2) Many technological difficulties, for example:

- a) Temperature differences within the source and between source and target (temperature shift)
- b) Stability (mechanical and temperature) of apparatus for continuous measuring times of  $\sim 20$  years.

## C) Interesting experiments:

- a) Do Mössbauer neutrinos oscillate?
- b) Mass hierarchy and accurate determination of oscillation parameters
- c) Search for sterile neutrinos (LSND experiment, MiniBooNE?)
- d) Gravitational redshift experiments (Earth).

# Extra slides

# Papers

## Earlier papers:

W. M. Visscher, Phys. Rev. 116, 1581 (1959)

W. P. Kells and J. P. Schiffer, Phys. Rev. C 28, 2162  
(1983)

## More recent papers:

R. S. Raghavan, hep-ph/0601079 v3, 2006

W. Potzel, Phys. Scrip. T127, 85 (2006);

S. M. Bilenky, F. von Feilitzsch, and W. Potzel,  
J. Phys. G: Nucl. Part. Phys. **34**, 987 (2007);

E. Kh. Akhmedov, J. Kopp, and M. Lindner, 0802.2513 (hep-ph)



# I) $\beta$ -decay

## Resonance cross section

$$\sigma = 4.18 \cdot 10^{-41} g_0^2 \cdot \frac{\rho(E_{\bar{\nu}_e}^{res})}{ft_{1/2}} [cm^2]$$

L.A. Mikaélyan, et al.: Sov.  
J. Nucl. Phys. 6, 254 (1968)

$$g_0 = 4\pi \left( \frac{\hbar}{mc} \right)^3 |\Psi|^2 \approx 4 \left( \frac{Z}{137} \right)^3$$

for low Z, hydrogen-like  $\psi$

m: electron mass

$|\psi|^2$ : probability density of e in A(Z)

$\rho(E_{\bar{\nu}_e}^{res})$ : resonant spectral density, i.e., number of  $\bar{\nu}_e$  in an  
energy interval of 1MeV around  $E_{\bar{\nu}_e}^{res}$

$ft_{1/2}$  value: reduced half-life of decay

$ft_{1/2} \approx 1000$ : super-allowed transition

## II) Recoilless antineutrino emission and detection: Mössbauer neutrinos

### 1) Recoilfree fraction

Stop thermal motion!  
Make  $E_R$  negligibly small!

recoil energy:

$$E_R = \frac{(E_{\bar{\nu}_e}^{res})^2}{2Mc^2}$$

$^3\text{H}$  as well as  $^3\text{He}$  in metallic lattices:  
freeze their motion  $\rightarrow$  no Doppler broadening.

$M \rightarrow M_{\text{lattice}} \gg M$

Leave lattice unchanged, leave phonons unchanged.

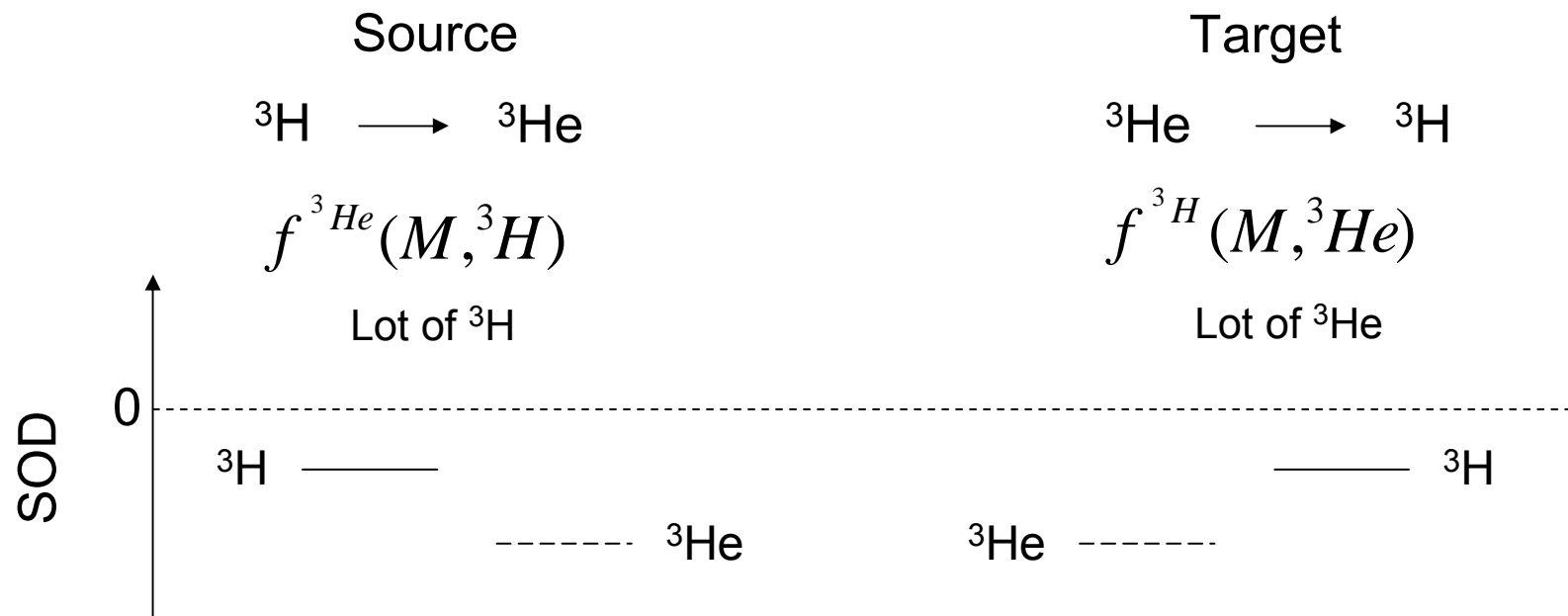
Energy of lattice with N particles:  $E_L = \sum_{s=1}^{3N} (n_s + 1/2) \hbar \omega_s$   $(n_s = 0, 1, 2, \dots)$   
 $\nwarrow$  zero-point energy  
 $3N$  normal modes

$$E_L = \int_0^{\omega_{\max}} \left( \overline{n(\omega)} + 1/2 \right) \omega \cdot Z(\omega) d\omega \quad \text{with} \quad \overline{n(\omega)} = 1 / (\exp(\hbar\omega / k_B T) - 1)$$

$Z(\omega) \cdot d\omega$ : number of oscillators with frequency  $\omega$  between  $\omega$  and  $\omega + d\omega$

## II) Recoilless antineutrino ...

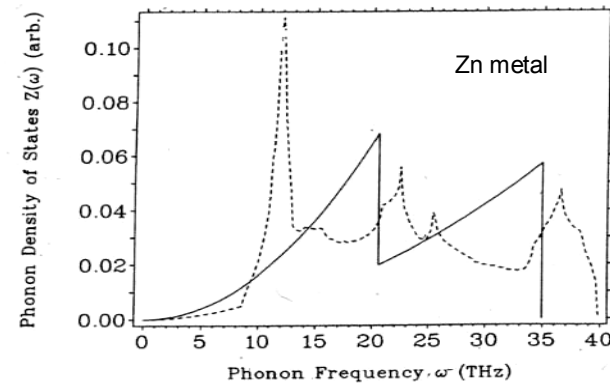
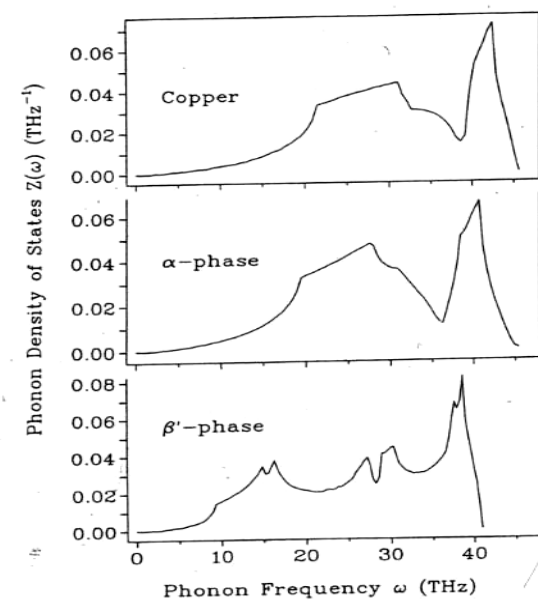
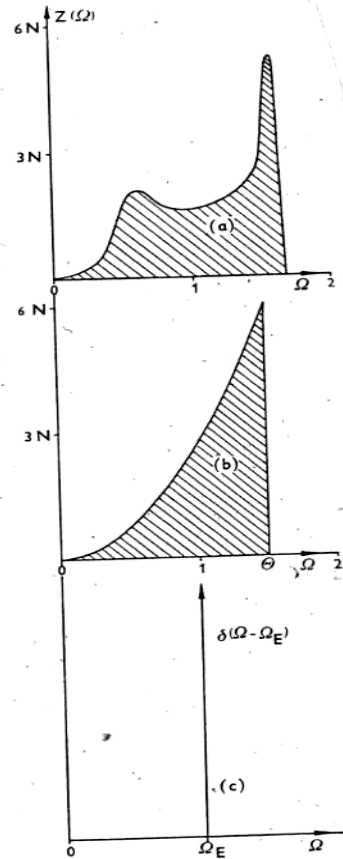
What does this mean for the effective values  $\Theta_s$  and  $\Theta_t$  ?



The differences of these SOD values in source and target have to be the same. In a practical experiment this means:

The Debye temperature for  ${}^3\text{H}$  has to be the same in source and target. The same holds for  ${}^3\text{He}$ . The Debye temperatures of  ${}^3\text{H}$  and  ${}^3\text{He}$  in the metal matrix do not have to be equal.

# Phonon density of states



## 2) Linewidth

$^{109\text{m}}\text{Ag}$ : gravitational spectrometer

$$\Gamma \approx 1.2 \cdot 10^{-17} \text{ eV} \quad \tau \approx 40 \text{ s}$$

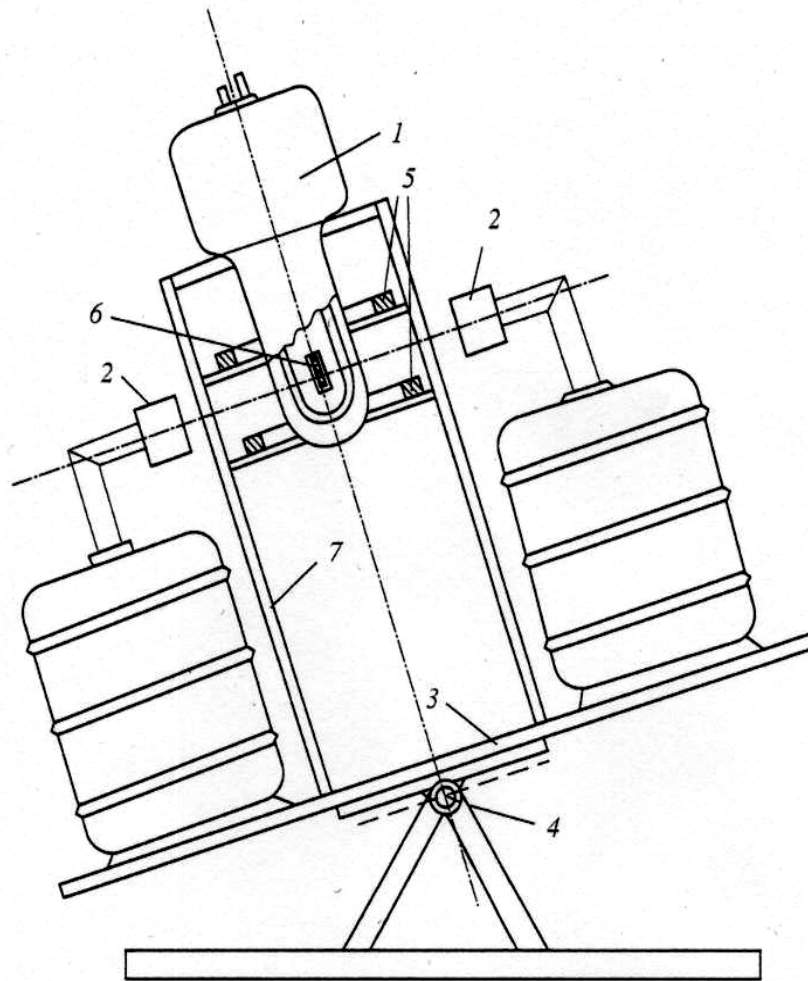
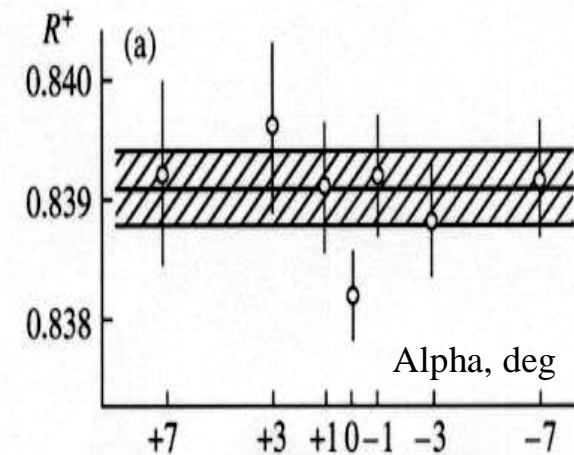


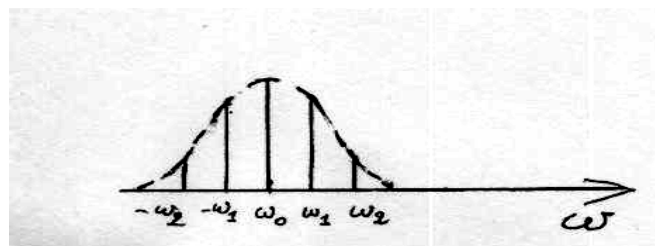
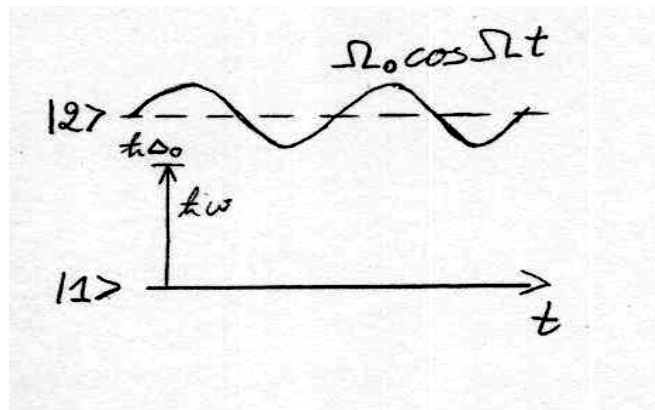
Fig. 1. Scheme of the gravitational gamma spectrometer: (1) cryostat, (2) germanium gamma detectors, (3) rotating platform, (4) support of cryostat and Helmholtz coils, (5) Helmholtz coils, (6) gamma sources, and (7) rotation axis of the platform.



V.G. Alpatov et al., Laser Physics 17 (2007) 1067

# Homogeneous Broadening: Frequency Modulation

M. Salkola and S. Stenholm, Phys. Rev. A **41**, 3838 (1990)



$$A \propto \sum_{k=-\infty}^{k=+\infty} J_k^2(\eta) \frac{1}{[(\Delta_0 / \Gamma) - k\xi]^2 + 1}$$

$\Omega_0$  : max. freq. deviation

$\Omega$  : relaxation frequency

$\eta = \frac{\Omega_0}{\Omega}$  : modulation index

sum of Lorentzians,  
located at  $\omega = \omega_0 \pm k\Omega$

$$\Delta_0 = \omega_0 - \omega$$

$\Gamma$  : linewidth

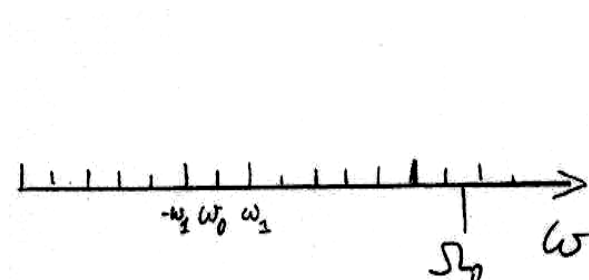
$$\xi = \frac{\Omega}{\Gamma}$$

$$\eta \approx 1 \Rightarrow \Omega \approx \Omega_0$$

$$\Gamma \ll \Omega$$

motional narrowing:  $\Omega \gg \Omega_0 \Rightarrow \eta \approx 0$

only center line at  $\omega_0$  survives



$$\Omega_0 \gg \Omega \Rightarrow \eta \gg 1$$

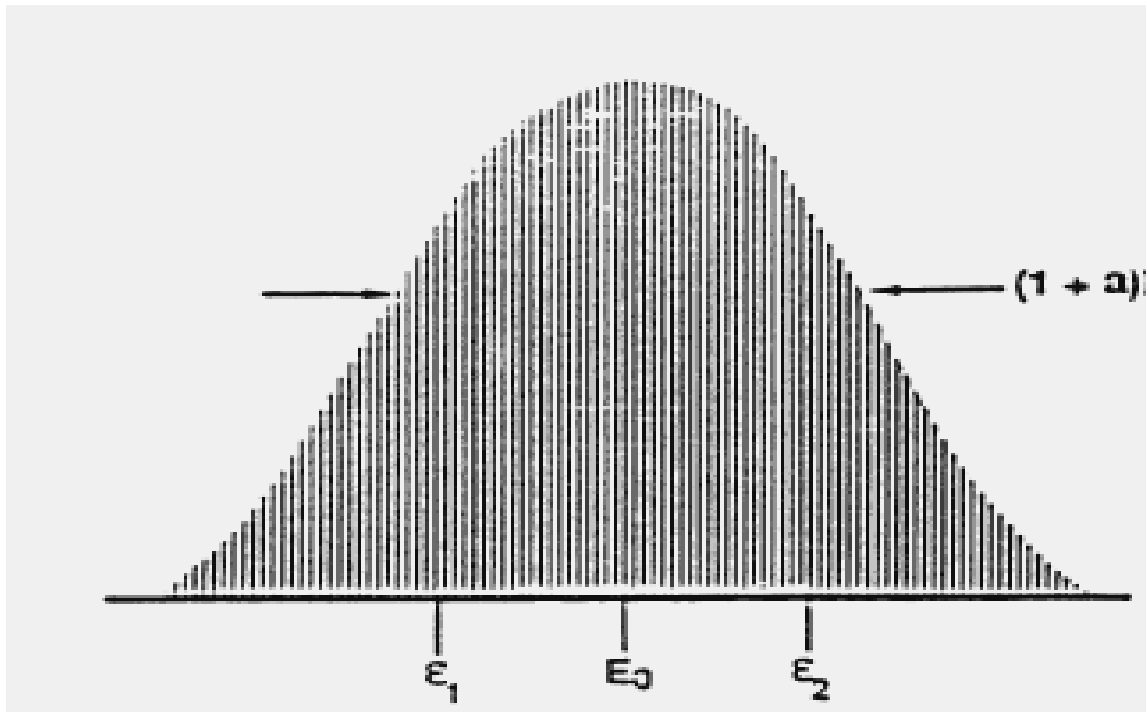
many sidebands → at  $\omega_0$   
very little intensity

motional narrowing: not possible

Typical for resonances in Ag and for the  $^3\text{H}/^3\text{He}$  system. For Ag:  $\Omega_0 \sim 10^5 \text{ s}^{-1}$  and  $\Omega \sim 10 \text{ s}^{-1}$

## II) Recoilless antineutrino ...

### b) inhomogeneous broadening

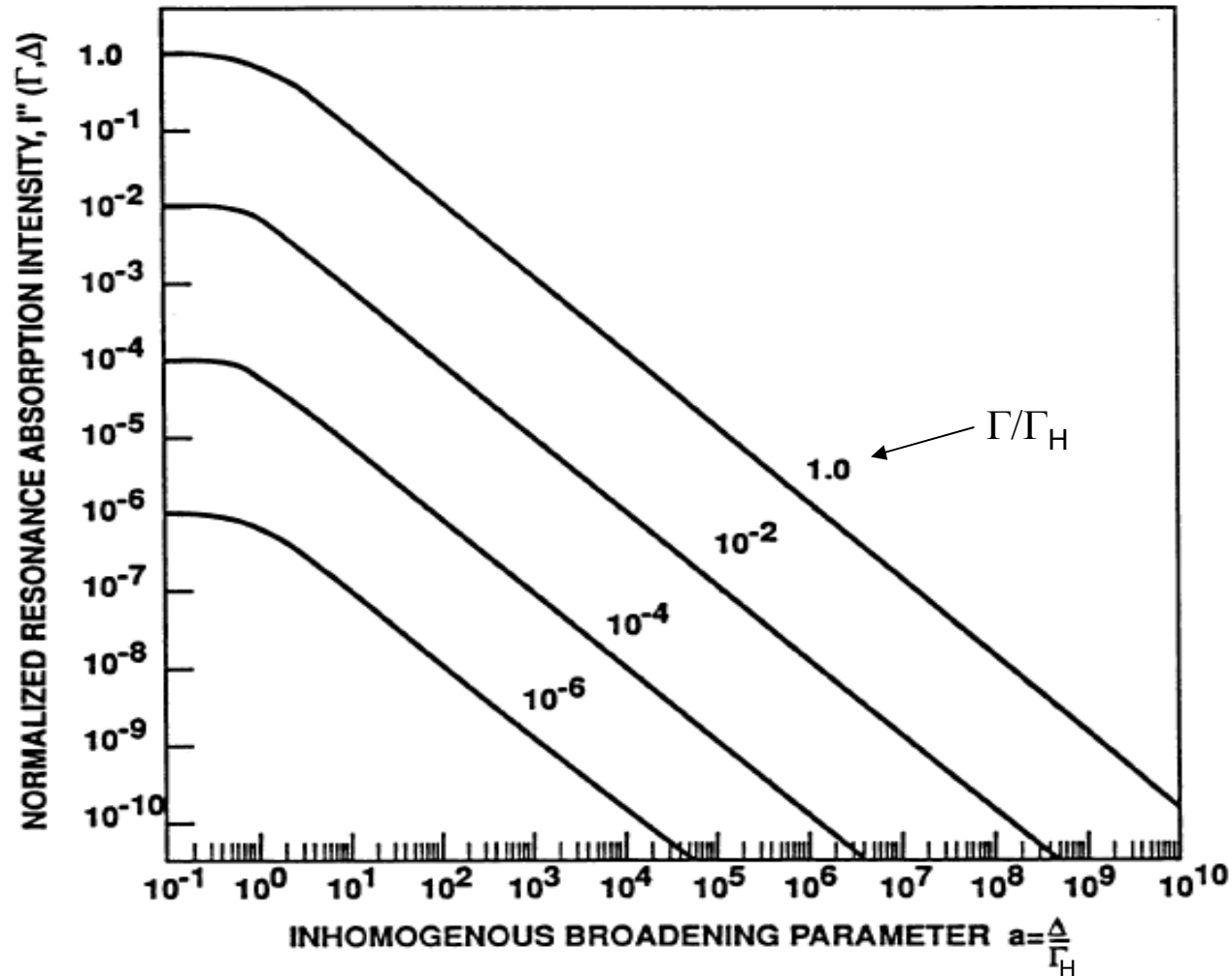


Many individual resonances displaced from the nonperturbed resonance energy  $E_0$

In the best single crystals:  $(1 + a)\Gamma \sim 10^{-13}$  eV corresp. to  $10^{11}\Gamma$  or larger

Both types of broadening reduce the resonant reaction intensity

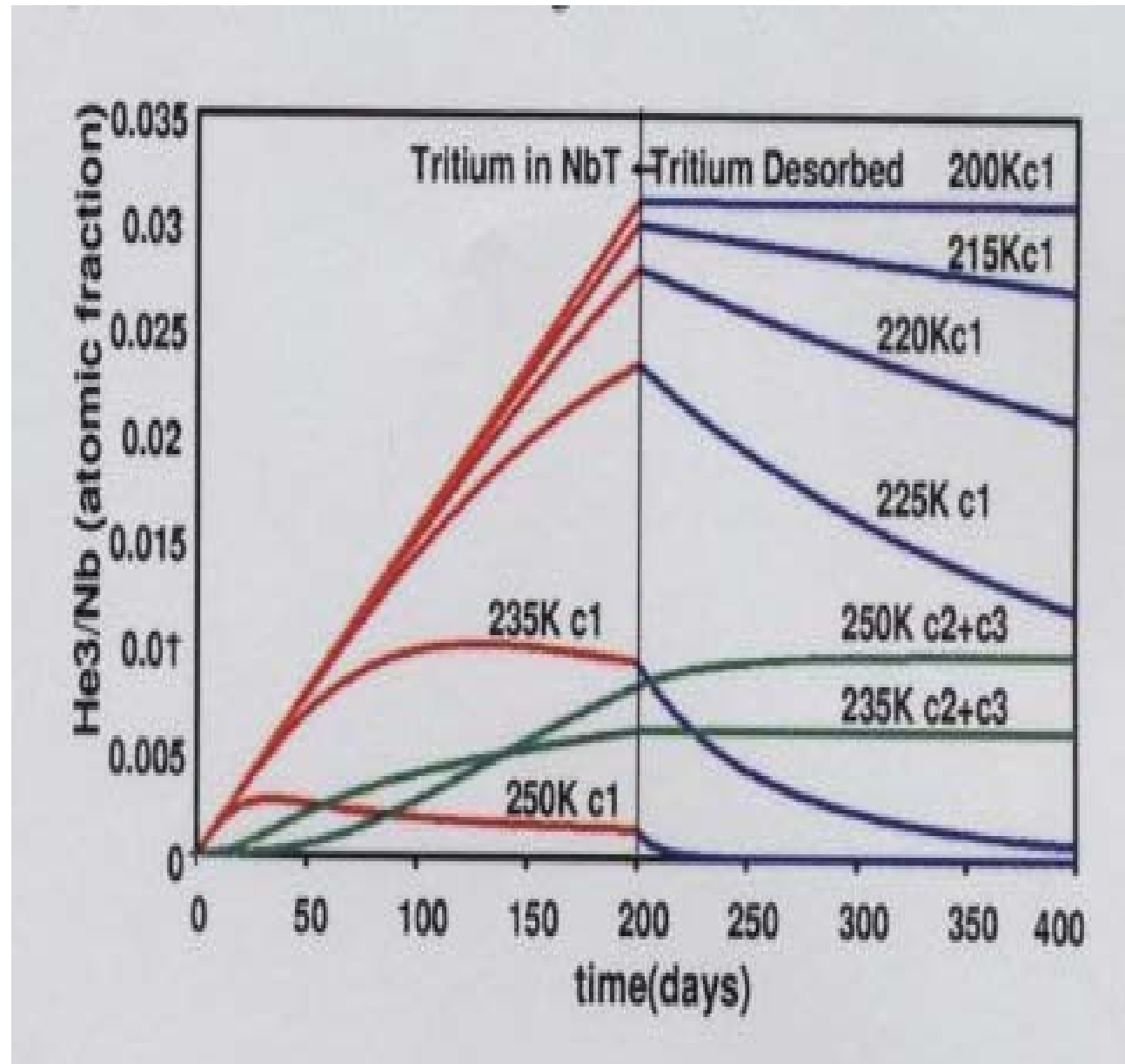
## II) Recoilless antineutrino ...



B. Balko, I. W. Kay, J. Nicoll, J. D. Silk, and G. Herling,  
Hyperfine Interactions **107**, 283 (1997).



## IV) Consequences ...



$^3\text{He}$  generated in Nb:  
c1: concentration in  
interstitial sites for  
different temperatures  
and times. The He in  
the T-free absorber be-  
low 200K is almost all  
interstitial.

R.S. Raghavan:  
hep-ph/0601079  
revised v3; calcu-  
lations: Sandia Natl.  
Lab., USA

# IV) Consequences ...

Table 1 He transport parameters in NbT at 200K

$M_1 T_1$	E1 eV	E2 eV	E3 eV	D/cm <sup>2</sup> s
M=Nb	0.9 <sup>a</sup>	0.13 <sup>b</sup>	0.43 <sup>b</sup>	1.1E-26 <sup>c</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Ref. 7; <sup>b</sup> Ref. 9; <sup>c</sup> Assumes tritium pre-exponential D<sub>0</sub> (ref. 6)

Table 2. Theoretical (Ref. 7) EST & ZPE for T and <sup>3</sup>He in Nb interstitial sites (IS)

Site	EST (eV)		ZPE (eV)	
	T	He	T	He
TIS	-0.133	-0.906	0.071	0.093
OIS	-0.113	-0.903	0.063	0.082

Table 3. Nearest neighbor (NN) Displacements(%) and measured<sup>6</sup> activation energies Eac(eV) in NbIS (Ref. 7)

	1 <sup>st</sup> NN Displacement			2 <sup>nd</sup> NN Displacement.		
	H	D	T	H	D	T
TIS	4.1	3.9	3.9	-0.37	-0.36	-0.35
OIS	7.7	7.5	7.4	0.2	0.19	0.19
Eac <sup>6</sup>	0.106	0.127	0.135			

6 TIS

3 OIS

EST: self-trapping energy

ZPE: zero-point energy

Little difference between Deuterium and Tritium

theoretical

experimental  
activation energies

# III) Interesting experiments

Question: What will be the state of the neutrino after some time (at some distance L)?

## A) Evolution in time

Schrödinger equation for evolution of any quantum system:

$$i \frac{\partial |\psi(t)\rangle}{\partial t} = H |\psi(t)\rangle \longrightarrow |\psi(t)\rangle = e^{-iHt} |\psi(0)\rangle$$

$$P(\nu_l \rightarrow \nu_{l'}) = \left| \sum_{k=1}^3 U_{l'k} e^{-i(E_k - E_l)t} U_{lk}^* \right|^2$$

No matter what the neutrino momenta are !

If  $E_k = E_l$ , there will be no neutrino oscillations:  $P(\nu_l \rightarrow \nu_{l'}) = \delta_{ll'}$   
The neutrino state is stationary

If  $E_k$  are different, neutrino state is non-stationary.  
→ time-energy uncertainty relation holds:

$$\Delta E \cdot \Delta t \geq 1$$

$\Delta t$  is the time interval during which the state of the system is significantly changed

If  $E_k \neq E_l$ , the uncertainty relation takes the form:  $(E_k - E_l) \cdot t \approx \frac{\Delta m_{lk}^2}{2E} t$

# III) Interesting experiments

## B) Evolution in time and space

Mixed neutrino state at space-time point  $x = (t, \vec{x})$ :

$$|\nu_l\rangle_x = \sum_{k=1}^3 e^{-ip_k x} U_{lk}^* |\nu_k\rangle \longrightarrow P(\nu_l \rightarrow \nu_{l'}) = \left| \sum_{k=1}^3 U_{l'k} e^{-i(p_k - p_1)x} U_{lk}^* \right|^2$$

with  $(p_k - p_1) = \frac{E_k^2 - E_1^2}{E_k + E_1} t - (p_k - p_1)L$  and  $E_i^2 = p_i^2 + m_i^2$

a)  $t \approx L \longrightarrow (p_k - p_1)x \approx \frac{\Delta m_{1k}^2}{2E} L$  oscillatory phase

b) neutrinos: different masses have the **same energy**

$\longrightarrow$  neutrino state is stationary

$\longrightarrow p_k \neq p_i : (p_k - p_i)x = \frac{\Delta m_{1k}^2}{2E} L$   $P(\nu_l \rightarrow \nu_{l'}) = \left| \sum_{k=1}^3 U_{l'k} e^{-i\Delta m_{1k}^2 \frac{L}{2E}} U_{lk}^* \right|^2$

# III) Interesting experiments

## Mössbauer neutrinos:

$$\text{Energy width: } \Gamma_{\text{exp}} = 8.6 \cdot 10^{-12} \text{ eV}$$

a)  $(E_3 - E_2) \approx \frac{\Delta m_{23}^2}{2E} \approx 6.5 \cdot 10^{-8} \text{ eV}$        $\Delta m_{23}^2$  observed with *atmospheric* neutrinos

- Mössbauer neutrinos take a long time to change significantly
- Time-energy uncertainty: Extremely long “oscillation” length

Determination of  $\Theta_{13}$ :  $E=18.6 \text{ keV}$  instead of  $3 \text{ MeV}$ .

Chooz experiment:  $\sin^2 2\Theta_{13} \leq 2 \cdot 10^{-1}$       Oscillation base line:  $L_0/2 \sim 9.3 \text{ m}$

b)  $\Delta m_{12}^2$  observed with *solar* neutrinos

$$(E_2 - E_1) \approx \frac{\Delta m_{12}^2}{2E} \approx 2.1 \cdot 10^{-9} \text{ eV}$$

Amplitude:  $\sin^2 2\Theta_{12} \approx 0.82$

Oscillation base line:  $L_0/2 \sim 300 \text{ m}$

$$\text{Oscillation length: } L_0 = 4\pi\hbar c \frac{E}{|\Delta m^2|} \approx 2.480 \frac{E / \text{MeV}}{|\Delta m^2| / \text{eV}} \quad [\text{m}]$$

# III) Interesting experiments

## 5) Real-time, $^3\text{H}$ -specific signal of $\bar{\nu}_e$ resonance

a) sudden change of the magnetic moment from  
-2.1nm ( $^3\text{He}$ ) $\rightarrow$ +2.79nm ( $^3\text{H}$ )

—————> transient ( $\sim 0.1\text{ms}$ ) magnetic field which couples to  
electron moment of  $^3\text{H}$  via hyperfine interaction

—————> Read-out by SQUID

b) new electrons appear in the Nb bands when  $^3\text{H}$  is formed.  
These electrons cause additional specific heat that grows  
linearly with  $^3\text{H}$  concentration.

—————> detectable by ultra-sensitive (micro)-calorimeters ?

# III) Answers to Basic Questions

## B) Technological difficulties (to name only two)

1) Heat production in source of 1kCi is 0.1 W,  $\rightarrow$  temperature gradients  $\Delta T$ .  
For natural width  $\Gamma$ ,  $\Delta T \ll 10^{-11} \text{K}$  (relativistic effect).

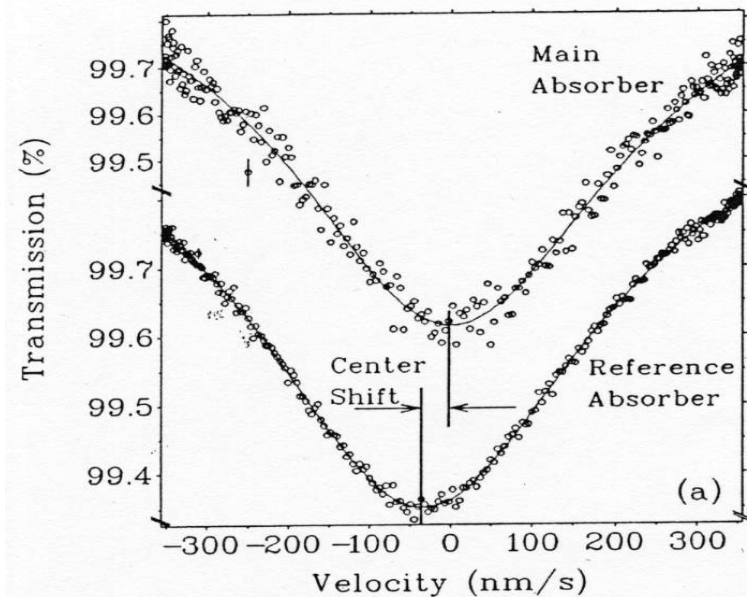
2) Stability of apparatus for continuous measurement:  
e.g., mechanical and temperature variations must be negligible for time comparable to lifetime, i.e. for  $\sim 20$  years.

## C) Age of the source

To use  $^3\text{H}$  sources produced at different times, i.e., the age itself of the  $^3\text{H}$  source does **not** influence the linewidth.

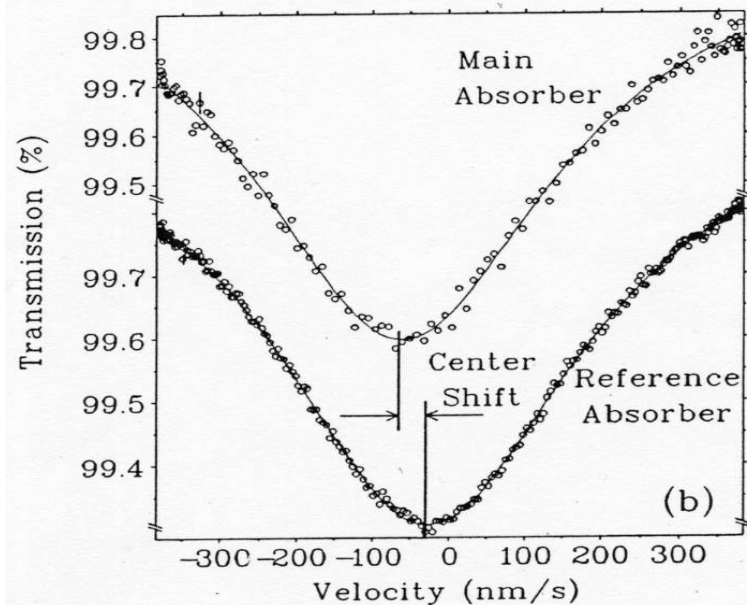
In an  $\overline{\nu}_e$  experiment, the clock is started together with the measurement when source and target are arranged in their **fixed** positions.

# Red(blue)shift $^{67}\text{ZnO}$ -Mössbauer exp.



gravitational redshift

difference in height: 1m  
in gravitational field of Earth



gravitational blueshift

accuracy:  $(\Delta E/E) \leq 1 \times 10^{-18}$

W. Potzel et al., Hyp. Interact.  
72, 197 (1992)



# Gravitational Redshift Experiment

