Neutron–Antineutron Oscillations: Theory Overview

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Outline

- Motivations for baryon number violation by 2 units
- $n \bar{n}$ oscillations phenomenology
- Explicit models:
 - $SU(2)_L \times SU(2)_R \times SU(4)_C$ symmetry
 - SUSY with R-parity violation
 - ▶ Effective Field Theory framework
- Relating baryogenesis with $n \bar{n}$ oscillations
- Neutron-sterile neutron oscillations
- Testing fundamental symmetries with $n \bar{n}$
- Conclusions

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Baryon Number Violation by 2 Units

- Baryon number is not believed to be a fundamental symmetry
- If $\Delta B = -1$, proton would decay \Rightarrow Scale 10¹⁵ GeV
- If $\Delta B = -2$, *n* can oscillate into \bar{n} . Scale $\sim 10^5$ GeV
- Interesting theories predict $\Delta B = -2$, notably quark-lepton unified theories based on $SU(2)_L \times SU(2)_R \times SU(4)_C$ Mohapatra-Marshak (1980)
- Supersymmetry with R parity violation via *udd* operators can lead to measurable $n \bar{n}$ oscillations
- B violation with ΔB = −2 can generate baryon asymmetry of the universe at low energy scale n − n̄ ↔ B asymmetry
- Observation of $n \bar{n}$ oscillations severely constrain fundamental symmetry violation: Lorentz symmetry, equivalence principle,...

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Brief History of $n - \bar{n}$ theory

- Initially proposed by Kuzmin (1970): Motivated by suggestion of baryogenesis
- Glashow (1979) noted $n \bar{n}$ oscillation in SU(5) with a Higgs in 15-plet
- Marshak-Mohapatra (1980) developed theoretical ideas to testable level in left-right symmetric context
- Nuclear matrix element calculation undertaken: Shrock-Rao (1982)
- Connections of $n \bar{n}$ with post-sphaleron baryogenesis observed: Mohapatra, Nasri, Babu (2006)
- n n' oscillation ideas developed: Bento-Berezhiani (2006)
- Tests of fundamental symmetries: Mohapatra, Babu (2015); Berezhiani-Kamyshkov (2016)
- Lattice calculations of n − n̄ matrix element fully developed: Rinaldi et. al. (2018)
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$n - \bar{n}$ oscillation Phenomenology

- *n* and \bar{n} have opposite magnetic moments: $\mu_n = -1.9 \mu_N$
- Oscillation in vacuum is inhibited by $\vec{\mu}.\vec{B}$ interactions with earth's magnetic field
- Time evolution of $n \bar{n}$ system governed by:

$$\mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{B}} = \begin{pmatrix} m_n - \vec{\mu}_n \cdot \vec{B} - i\lambda/2 & \delta m \\ \delta m & m_n + \vec{\mu}_n \cdot \vec{B} - i\lambda/2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Here $1/\lambda = \tau_n = 880$ sec., m_n is neutron mass.

$$\mathcal{L} = m_n \,\overline{n} \,n + \frac{\delta m}{2} n^T C \,n$$

 δm violates B by 2 units. ($\delta m = 0$ in standard model)

• Discovery of $n - \bar{n}$ oscillations would prove violation of baryon number

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 $n - \bar{n}$ oscillation Phenomenology (cont.)

• $n \rightarrow \bar{n}$ transition probability:

$$egin{aligned} \mathcal{P}(n
ightarrow ar{n}) &= \sin^2(2 heta)\sin^2(\Delta Et/2)e^{-\lambda t}\ \Delta E &\simeq 2|ec{\mu_n}.ec{B}|, \quad an(2 heta) &= -rac{\delta m}{ec{\mu_n}.ec{B}} \end{aligned}$$

• Quasifree condition holds:

 $|\vec{\mu_n}.\vec{B}|t << 1$

 $P(n \rightarrow \bar{n}) \simeq [(\delta m)t]^2 = [t/\tau_{n-\bar{n}}]^2$

• Number of \bar{n} created after time t is

$$N_{ar{n}} = P(n
ightarrow ar{n}) N_n \simeq \phi T_{
m run} [t/ au_{n-ar{n}}]^2$$

• Best limit on free neutron oscillation: $\tau_{n-\bar{n}} > 8.6 \times 10^7$ sec. Baldo-ceolin et. al., ILL (1994)

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$n - \bar{n}$ oscillation Phenomenology (cont.)

 n - n
 transition can occur in nuclei. However, energy difference is of order 30 MeV, suppressing oscillation by a large factor:

$$au_{Nuc}=R au_{nar{n}}^2,\quad R\simeq5 imes10^{22}\,{
m sec}^{-1}$$

Chetyrkin et. al (1981); Dover, Gal, Richards (1995); Kopeliovich et. al. (2012),...

- Best limit from SuperK: $\tau_{n\bar{n}} > 3.5 \times 10^8$ sec.
- $\Rightarrow \delta m < 10^{-23} \text{ eV}$
- For free neutron oscillations degaussing of earth's magnetic field to level nano-Tesla required for improved determination

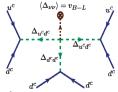
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Models of $n - \bar{n}$ oscillations

• Effective $\Delta B = 2$ operator that mediates neutron oscillation is:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\mathrm{eff}} = rac{(udd)^2}{\Lambda^5}$$

- \bullet High dimension implies oscillations probe scale of $\Lambda \sim 10^6~\text{GeV}$
- This operator naturally arises in quark-lepton unified theories based on $SU(2)_L \times SU(2)_R \times SU(4)_C$ as partners of seesaw mechanism for neutrinos.
- Δ fields are color sextet scalars, which do not mediate proton decay. $\mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}} = (\lambda f^3 v_{BL}) / M^6 u^c (\Delta_{\nu\nu}) = v_{B-L} u^c$



From quarks to nucleons

- The quark level Lagrangian needs to be converted to nucleon level δm
- MIT bag model calculations showed $\delta m \simeq \Lambda_{QCD}^6 / \Lambda^5$ with $\Lambda_{QCD} \simeq 200$ MeV Shrock-Rao (1982)
- Recent lattice calculations show enhancement of oscillation probability by an order of magnitude Rinaldi et. al. (2018)
- For $n \bar{n}$ transition in nuclei, nuclear physics calculations have been improving Friedman, Gal (2008)

Effective $n - \bar{n}$ operators

• There are 12 quark level operators:

$$\mathcal{L}_{ ext{eff}} \supset \sum_{i=1}^{6} c_i \mathcal{O}_i + ar{c}_i ar{\mathcal{O}}_i + ext{h.c.}$$

• These operators have the form (Wagman-Buchoff basis):

$$\mathcal{O}_1 = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_{ijk} \epsilon_{i'j'k'} (\bar{u}_i^c P_R d_j) (\bar{u}_{i'}^c P_R d_{j'}) (\bar{d}_k^c P_R d_{k'}),$$

$$\mathcal{O}_2 = \epsilon_{ijk} \epsilon_{i'j'k'} (\bar{u}_i^c P_L d_j) (\bar{u}_{i'}^c P_R d_{j'}) (\bar{d}_k^c P_R d_{k'}),$$

$$\mathcal{O}_3 = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_{ijk} \epsilon_{i'j'k'} (\bar{u}_i^c P_L d_j) (\bar{u}_{i'}^c P_L d_{j'}) (\bar{d}_k^c P_R d_{k'}),$$

$$\mathcal{O}_4 = \epsilon_{ijk} \epsilon_{i'j'k'} (\bar{u}_i^c P_R u_{i'}) (\bar{d}_j^c P_L d_{j'}) (\bar{d}_k^c P_L d_{k'}),$$

$$\mathcal{O}_5 = (\epsilon_{ijk}\epsilon_{i'j'k'} + \epsilon_{i'jk}\epsilon_{ij'k'})(\bar{u}_i^c P_R d_{i'})(\bar{u}_j^c P_L d_{j'})(\bar{d}_k^c P_L d_{k'}),$$

$$\mathcal{O}_6 = \epsilon_{ijk} \epsilon_{i'j'k'} (\bar{u}_i^c P_L u_{i'}) (\bar{d}_j^c P_L d_{j'}) (\bar{d}_k^c P_R d_{k'})$$

 $+ (\epsilon_{ijk}\epsilon_{i'j'k'} + \epsilon_{i'jk}\epsilon_{ij'k'})(\bar{u}_i^c P_L d_{i'})(\bar{u}_j^c P_L d_{j'})(\bar{d}_k^c P_R d_{k'})$

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Baryon Asymmetry from $n - \bar{n}$ oscillations

• Observed baryon asymmetry:

$$Y_{\Delta B}=rac{n_B-n_{\overline{B}}}{s}=(8.75\pm0.23) imes10^{-11}$$

• Sakharov conditions must be met to dynamically generate $Y_{\Delta B}$

- Baryon number (B) violation
- C and CP violation
- Departure from thermal equilibrium
- All ingredients are present in Grand Unified Theories. However, in simple GUTs such as SU(5), B L is unbroken
- Electroweak sphalerons, which are in thermal equilibrium from $T = (10^2 10^{12})$ GeV, wash out any B L preserving asymmetry generated at any T > 100 GeV

Kuzmin, Rubakov, Shaposhnikov (1985)

Baryon Asymmetry from $n - \bar{n}$ oscillations

- Sphaleron: Non-perturbative configuration of the electroweak theory
- Leads to effective interactions of left-handed fermions:

$$O_{B+L} = \prod_i (q_i q_i q_i L_i)$$

- Obeys $\Delta B = \Delta L = 3$
- Sphaleron can convert lepton asymmetry to baryon asymmetry – Leptogenesis mechanism (Fukugita, Yanagida (1986))
- Post-sphaleron baryogenesis: Baryon number is generated below 100 GeV, after sphalerons go out of equilibrium (Babu, Nasri, Mohapatra (2006))

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Sphaleron

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Post-Sphaleron Baryogenesis

- A scalar (S) or a pseudoscalar (η) decays to baryons, violating B
- $\Delta B = 1$ is strongly constrained by proton decay and cannot lead to successful post-sphaleron baryogenesis
- $\Delta B = 2$ decay of S/η can generate baryon asymmetry below T = 100 GeV: $S/\eta \rightarrow 6 q$; $S/\eta \rightarrow 6 \overline{q}$
- Decay violates CP, and occurs out of equilibrium
- Naturally realized in quark-lepton unified models, with S/η identified as the Higgs boson of B-L breaking
- $\Delta B = 2 \Rightarrow$ connection with $n \overline{n}$ oscillation
- Quantitative relationship exists in quark-lepton unified models based on SU(2)_L × SU(2)_R × SU(4)_C

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Quark-Lepton Symmetric Models

- Quark-lepton symmetric models based on the gauge group $SU(2)_L \times SU(2)_R \times SU(4)_C$ have the necessary ingredients for PSB Pati-Salam (1973)
- There is no $\Delta B = 1$ processes since B L is broken by 2 units. Thus there is no rapid proton decay. Symmetry may be realized in the 100 TeV range
- There is baryon number violation mediated by scalars, which are the partners of Higgs that lead to seesaw mechanism Mohapatra, Marshak (1980)
- Scalar fields S/η arise naturally as Higgs bosons of B-L breaking
- Yukawa coupling that affect PSB and n − n̄ oscillations are the same as the ones that generate neutrino masses
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Quark-Lepton Symmetric Models

- Models based on $SU(2)_L \times SU(2)_R \times SU(4)_C$ (Pati-Salam)
- Fermions, including u_R , belong to $(2,1,4)\oplus(1,2,4)$
- Symmetry breaking and neutrino mass generation needs Higgs field Δ(1,3,10). Under SU(2)_L × U(1)_Y × SU(3)_C:

- $\Delta_{uu}, \Delta_{ud}, \Delta_{dd}$ are diquarks, $\Delta_{ue}, \Delta_{u\nu}, \Delta_{de}, \Delta_{d\nu}$ are leptoquarks, and $\Delta_{\nu\nu}$ is a singlet that breaks the symmetry
- Diquarks generate *B* violation, leptoquarks help with CP violation, and singlet $\Delta_{\nu\nu}$ provides the field S/η for PSB

Quark-Lepton Symmetric Models (cont.)

• Interactions of color sextet diquarks and B violating couplings:

$$\mathcal{L}_{I} = \frac{f_{ij}}{2} \Delta_{dd} d_{i} d_{j} + \frac{h_{ij}}{2} \Delta_{uu} u_{i} u_{j} + \frac{g_{ij}}{2\sqrt{2}} \Delta_{ud} (u_{i} d_{j} + u_{j} d_{i}) + \frac{\lambda}{2} \Delta_{\nu\nu} \Delta_{dd} \Delta_{ud} \Delta_{ud} + \lambda' \Delta_{\nu\nu} \Delta_{uu} \Delta_{dd} \Delta_{dd} + \text{h.c.}$$

• $f_{ij} = g_{ij} = h_{ij}$ and $\lambda = \lambda'$ from gauge symmetry.

- We also introduce a scalar $\chi(1, 2, 4)$ which couples to $\Delta(1, 3, \overline{10})$ via $(\mu \chi \chi \Delta \supset \chi_{\nu} \chi_{\nu} \Delta_{\nu\nu} + ...)$
- Among the phases of $\Delta_{\nu\nu}$ and χ_{ν} , one combination is eaten by B L gauge boson. The other, is a pseudoscalar η :

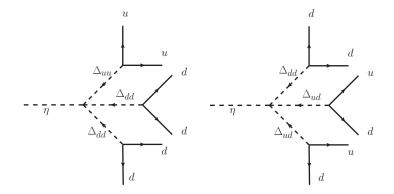
$$\Delta_{\nu\nu} = \frac{(\rho_1 + v_R)}{\sqrt{2}} e^{i\eta_1/v_R}, \chi_{\nu} = \frac{(\rho_2 + v_B)}{\sqrt{2}} e^{i\eta_2/v_B}, \eta = \frac{2\eta_2 v_R - \eta_1 v_B}{\sqrt{4v_R^2 + v_B^2}}$$

• Advantage of using $\eta \to 6 q$ is that η has a flat potential due to a shift symmetry

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Baryon violating decay of η

 $\eta \rightarrow 6q$ and $\eta \rightarrow 6\overline{q}$ decays violate *B*:



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Baryon violating decay of η (cont.)

B-violating decay rate of η:

$$\Gamma_\eta \equiv \Gamma(\eta o 6q) + \Gamma(\eta o 6ar q) = rac{P}{\pi^9 \cdot 2^{25} \cdot 45} rac{12}{4} |\lambda|^2 \mathrm{Tr}(f^\dagger f) [\mathrm{Tr}(\hat{g}^\dagger \hat{g})]^2 \left(rac{M_\eta^{13}}{M_{\Delta_{ud}}^8 M_{\Delta_{dd}}^4}
ight)$$

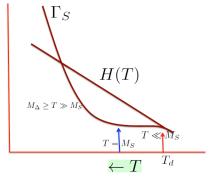
• Here *P* is a phase space factor:

$$P = \begin{cases} 1.13 \times 10^{-4} & (M_{\Delta_{ud}}/M_S, M_{\Delta_{dd}}/M_S \gg 1) \\ 1.29 \times 10^{-4} & (M_{\Delta_{ud}}/M_S = M_{\Delta_{dd}}/M_S = 2) \end{cases}$$

- T_d is obtained by setting this rate to Hubble rate. For $T_d = (100 \text{ MeV} 100 \text{ GeV})$, $f \sim g \sim h \sim 1$, $M_{\Delta_{ud}} \sim M_{\eta}$ needed
- η has a competing B = 0 four-body decay mode, which is necessary to generate CP asymmetry: $\eta \rightarrow (uu)\Delta_{u\nu}\Delta_{u\nu}$
- The six-body and four-body decays should have comparable widths, or else *B* asymmetry will be too small

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Thermal history of scalar decay

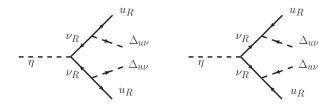


At $T = T_d$, scalar starts decaying: 200 MeV $< T_d < 100$ GeV

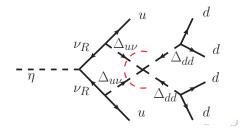
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Baryon conserving decay of η





This generates absorptive part and CP violation in $\eta \rightarrow 6q$:



Baryon Asymmetry

•
$$\eta \rightarrow uu\Delta_{u\nu}\Delta_{u\nu}$$
 has a width:
 $\Gamma_{\eta} \equiv \Gamma(\eta \rightarrow uu\Delta_{u\nu}\Delta_{u\nu}) + \Gamma(\eta \rightarrow \overline{uu}\Delta - u\nu^*\Delta_{u\nu}^*) = \frac{P}{1024\pi^5} [\text{Tr}(\hat{f}^{\dagger}\hat{f})]^3 \left(\frac{M_{\eta}^5}{M_{\nu_R}^4}\right)$
• Here P is a phase space factor, $P \simeq 2 \times 10^{-3}$

- For $\lambda = 1$, $\Gamma_6 \simeq (7 \times 10^{-9}) \times \Gamma_4 \times \frac{M_{\nu_R}^2}{M_{\Delta_{dd}}^4}$
- Baryon asymmetry:

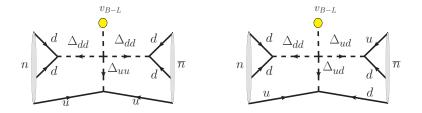
$$\epsilon_B \simeq rac{|f|^2 \mathrm{Im}(\lambda \tilde{\lambda})}{8\pi (|\lambda|^2 + \Gamma_4/\Gamma_6)} \left(rac{M_{\Delta_{dd}}^2}{M_{
u_R}^2}
ight)$$

- With $M_{\nu_R} \sim 100 \times M_{\Delta_{dd}}$, $\Gamma_4 \sim \Gamma_6$. This choice maximizes ϵ_B : $\epsilon_B \sim (8 \times 10^{-5}) \times \frac{|f|^2}{8\pi} \text{Im}(\frac{\tilde{\lambda}}{\lambda})$
- For $f \sim \lambda \sim 1$, reasonable baryon asymmetry is generated with a dilution $d \sim 10^{-3}$

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Connection with $n - \overline{n}$ oscillation

As η is associated with B - L symmetry breaking, replacing η by the vacuum expectation value, $n - \overline{n}$ oscillation results:



 $M_{\eta} \sim 3 TeV, M_{\Delta_{ud}} \sim 4 TeV, M_{\Delta_{dd}} \sim 50 TeV, M_{\Delta u\nu} \sim 1 TeV, v_{B-L} \sim 300 TeV$ is a consistent choice

Flavor dependence of baryon asymmetry can be fixed via neutrino mass generation

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Prediction for $n - \overline{n}$ oscillation

In a specific quark-lepton symmetric model Dev, Fortes, Mohapatra, Babu (2013)

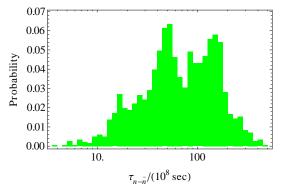


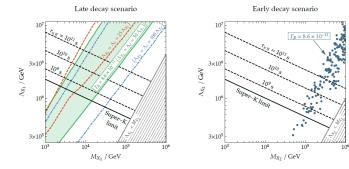
Figure: The likelihood probability for a particular value of $\tau_{n-\bar{n}}$ as given by the model parameters.

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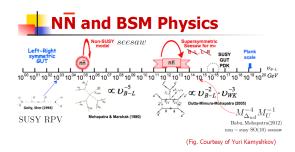
EFT for $n - \bar{n}$ oscillations and baryogenesis

- Recently Grojean, Shakya, Wells, Zhang (2018) have proposed a minimal EFT for baryogenesis
- They assume two couplings: *uddX*₁ and *uddX*₂ where *X_i* are singlet Majorana fermions
- This is sufficient to induce baryon asymmetry.



Other models of $n - \bar{n}$ oscillations

- Supersymmetry with R-parity violation Goity, Sher (1995); Mohapatra, Babu (2001); Csaki, Grossman, Heidenreinch (2012),...
- GUT with TeV-scale colored scalars Mohapatra, Babu (2012); Aswathi, Parida, Sahu (2014),...
- Flavor geography with TeV scale *B* violation Nussinov, Shrock (2002); Winslow, Ng (2010); Dvali, Gabadadze
- TeV scale B violating theories (Arnold, Fornal, Perez, Wise, Gu, Sarkar,...)



n - n' oscillation

- There may exist a shadow universe with replica of all particles, including a mirror neutron n' Bento, Berezhiani (2006)
- The n and n' are nearly mass degenerate, n n' oscillations can occur. This is a ΔB = -1 process
- Neutron can disappear, and may reappear at a distance
- Experimental limits on such oscillations are weak: τ_{n-n;} > 448 sec. Serebrov et. al. (2009)
- Uncertainty with mirror magnetic field Berezhiani et. al. (2018)
- Improved measurements are ongoing L. Broussard et. al. (2019); Abel et. al (2019)

See Leah Broussard's talk today

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Shortcut to $n - \bar{n}$ oscillations via n'

- Recently Berezhiani has suggested a shortcut to n n
 oscillations via intermediate n' states.
- n n' as well as $n \bar{n'}$ transitions are crucial for this setup

$$P(n-\bar{n})(t) = P(n-n')(t)P(n-\bar{n'})(t) \simeq \left(\frac{t}{0.1 \, \mathrm{sec.}}\right)^4 \times 10^{-8}$$

• This is a much higher probability for conventional oscillations:

$$P(n-ar{n}) \simeq (t/0.1 \ {
m sec})^2 imes 10^{-18}$$

• $(n, \bar{n}, n', \bar{n'})$ Hamiltonian:

$$H = \begin{pmatrix} U_n + \Omega \sigma & 0 & \epsilon & \kappa \\ 0 & U_{\bar{n}} - \Omega \sigma & \kappa & \epsilon \\ \epsilon & \kappa & U_{n'} + \Omega' \sigma & 0 \\ \kappa & \epsilon & 0 & U_{\bar{n}'} - \Omega' \sigma \end{pmatrix}$$

Fundamental symmetries and $n - \bar{n}$ oscillations

- Observation of free neutron oscillations can provide stringent tests of Lorentz invariance, equivalence principle violation, long-range baryonic forces, etc.
- Existence of such violations would suppress $n \bar{n}$ oscillations of free neutrons
- Transition in matter would be masked by nuclear potential difference
- Examples of derivable limits:
 - ▶ Lorentz violating mass term: 10⁻²³ GeV
 - Equivalence principle: $\alpha_n \alpha_{\bar{n}} < 10^{-18}$ Mohapatra, Babu (2018)
 - Long range baryonic force: α_B < 10⁻⁵⁷ Addazi, Berezhiani, Kamyshkov (2016); Mohapatra, Babu (2016)

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Illustration: Lorentz Violation

• Lorentz invariance violation parametrized as:

 $\mathcal{L}_{LIV} = a_{\mu}\overline{n}\gamma^{\mu}n - ic_{\mu\nu}\overline{n}\gamma^{\mu}\partial^{\nu}n + h.c.$

• When $\langle a^0 \rangle \neq 0$ and $\langle c_{00} \rangle \neq 0$ Lorentz violating couplings are induced:

$$\mathcal{L}_{LIV} = \delta_{LV}^{(1)} n^{\dagger} n - i \delta_{LV}^{(2)} n^{\dagger} \partial^{0} n + h.c.$$

- $\delta_{LV}^{(1)}$ inhibits free neutron oscillations, and could be bounded by $\delta_{LV}^{(1)}<10^{-23}~{\rm GeV}$
- $n \bar{n}$ mixing Hamiltonian, after spin decomposition becomes (Gardner)

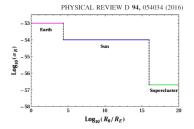
$$M_{4\times 4} \ = \ \begin{pmatrix} m + \delta_{LV}^{(1)} + m \delta_{LV}^{(2)} & \delta_{B=2} & 0 & 0 \\ \delta_{B=2} & m - \delta_{LV}^{(1)} + m \delta_{LV}^{(2)} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & m + \delta_{LV}^{(1)} + m \delta_{LV}^{(2)} & -\delta_{B=2} \\ 0 & 0 & -\delta_{B=2} & m - \delta_{LV}^{(1)} + m \delta_{LV}^{(2)} \end{pmatrix}.$$

Constraining long-range baryonic forces

 α_B : strength of Yukawa potential; R₀ = Radius of Earth R: Range of new force

$$\frac{\delta m}{M_n} = \frac{2\alpha_B N_B^{\rm Earth}}{m_N R_0} = 1.2 \times 10^{29} \alpha_B$$

Adazzi, Berezhiani, Kamyshkov (2016); Mohapatra, Babu(2016)



Conclusions

- Neutron-antineutron oscillations have very high potential to probe fundamental physics to a high scale
- It can also test fundamental symmetry principles at unprecedented levels
- Good reasons to suspect that these $\Delta B = 2$ interactions may be the source of baryon asymmetry of the universe