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The Mu2e Experiment at Fermilab

Jason Bono Rice University February 12, 2016





The Mu2e experiment will search for the neutrinoless conversion of a muon into an electron within the vicinity of a nucleus, $\mu N \rightarrow eN$.





The Mu2e Experiment at a Glance

- Recall that the muon and electron are elementary particles known as a leptons
- Aside from leptons, there are also quarks
- The quarks and leptons seem to come in three generations
- The muon can be thought of as a heavy twin to the electron, and the tau heavier still. This is commonly referred to as "generation"



The Mu2e Experiment at a Glance



An empirically founded law called Lepton Flavor Conservation says that the total number of leptons in a generation (flavor) can not change.

So, we assign quantum numbers such as "electron number," "muon number," and "tau number" to keep track.

E.g electrons and electron-neutrinos carry $N_e = 1$, anti-muons and anti-muon-neutrinos carry $N_{\mu} = -1$ and so on...

Disclaimer: The exact language regarding flavor conservation is cumbersome for historical reasons. I've chosen simpler words...



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The law of Lepton Flavor Conservation is at the heart of the Mu2e experiment







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 $\mu N \rightarrow eN$ would break it

In the law books, this is known as charged lepton flavor violation Something that has never been observed!



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What About Ordinary Muon Decay?



A free muon will typically undergo what is known as the "Michel Decay" ~2.2 μ s after creation







What About Ordinary Muon Decay?



A free muon will typically undergo what is known as the "Michel Decay" ~2.2 μ s after creation



This decay conserves electron number (Ne=0) and muon number (N μ = 1)



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The Mu2e Experiment at a Glance



But mu2e wants to see if this can happen:



M



- The $\mu N \rightarrow e N$ conversion violates charged lepton flavor conservation (CLFV)
- CLFV is not just empirically forbidden, it's **forbidden** in the **Standard Model** of particle physics. More on this later...
- Although, there is no fundamental reason (i.e. corresponding symmetry) for this law
- However, despite nearly **eight decades of searching** since the discovery of the muon, no one has ever observed a flavor violating reaction for charged leptons









The goal of Mu2e is to **discover CLFV** and **New Physics** by expanding the current best sensitivity limit by a **factor of 10,000**



The Mu2e Experiment at a Glance



- Mu2e will achieve its goal by producing a **quintillion muonic atoms** and looking for the signature of their conversion, a mono-energetic signal of electrons with the rest energy of a muon (around 105 MeV)
- One quintillion = 10^{18}
- That's about the number of grains of sand on all the world's beaches...









A signal would be **unambiguous evidence of physics beyond the Standard Model**, something that has also been elusive thus far!







The Mu2e Experiment at a Glance



"Beyond the Standard Model physics" includes **new** fundamental interactions, charges or quantum numbers, degrees of freedom (e.g. extra dimensions) and symmetries!









- Most extensions to the standard model include new mechanisms for CLFV processes that yield **measurable** rates
 - » In fact, the non-observation of CLFV has already imposed strong restrictions on possible new physics phenomena
- Many of the leading extensions to the standard model predict rates for $\mu N \rightarrow eN$ conversion to be within Mu2e's discovery sensitivity but out of reach of all previous experiments!







So, Mu2e will have **unprecedented sensitivity** to a multitude of **New Physics** phenomena with mass scales up to **10,000 TeV**, which is far beyond the mass scales that are accessible at the LHC or future colliders





If the experimentalist's goal is to prove as many theorists wrong as possible, Mu2e is positioned to be successful, regardless of the outcome!





Outline of Topics



- 1. The Standard Model (SM) of particle physics
 - What is it?
 - What are its shortcomings?
 - Looking beyond the SM for "New Physics"
- 2. Charged Lepton Flavor Violation (CLFV)
 - Why search for CLFV?
 - Why $\mu N \rightarrow eN$?
 - Mu2e's place in the history of CLFV searches
- 3. A closer look at Mu2e
 - What exactly are we measuring?
 - What are the backgrounds?
 - Mu2e experimental design





The Standard Model of Particle Physics

- The SM incorporates our current transformed to the second s
- Within the SM framework, all matter is ultimately composed of quarks and leptons, which together form a family of 12 spin-1/2 fermions
- Each particle is endowed with intrinsic properties such as mass, electric charge, color charge, spin, baryon number, lepton number and flavor which determine their dynamical behavior







The Standard Model of Particle Physics

Mu2e

- The dynamics of quarks and leptons arises from a few fundamental interactions (forces) which are mediated by spin-1 gauge bosons:
 - gluons (strong force)
 - photon (electromagnetic force)
 - W/Z bosons (weak force)
- Bosons & fermions acquire a mass via the Higgs mechanism
- The gluon & photon remain massless
- We don't understand neutrino mass generation!





The Standard Model of Particle Physics









Problems With the Standard Model



- To the extent we have been able to probe thus far, the SM describes the basic structure of matter and forces with remarkable precision
- However, the SM leaves some **big questions** unanswered
 - There are "aesthetic" problems within the SM itself
 - There are cosmological observations that the SM should, but can't explain









The SM fails to explain:

- Gravity
- The prevalence of matter over anti-matter
- Dark matter
- The acceleration of cosmic expansion (dark energy)











Aesthetic problems with the SM relate to questions including:

- Why are there so many fundamental particles?
- Why do they have different masses?
- Why three generations?
- Why so many fundamental constants?
- etc...

These types of problems don't prove that a theory is incorrect, but nevertheless suggest that a piece of the story is missing.

There is something deeper going on...



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Looking Beyond The Standard Model



Despite the aforementioned discomforts with the SM and decades of searching, we have never seen an unambiguous signal of physics beyond (it's very successful).

Experimentally speaking, how are we looking to move beyond the SM? The same way we put it together!

- 1. Direct searches at colliders
 - Compelling, but these can only probe mass scales up to a few TeV
 - The Higgs was the last "sure bet", the energy scale of the next discovery is unknown
- 2. Indirect searches that probe quantum effects
 - These use low energy, intense sources with ultra-sensitive detectors and have the advantage of probing mass scales far greater than those accessible at colliders
- 3. Astrophysical searches
 - These use sources of astrophysical origin to study elementary particles

These efforts are complementary and we need all three!



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The Muon





Ever since the 1937 discovery of the muon by Anderson and Neddermeyer, physicists have been trying to understand its deeper relation to the electron. Rabi summed it nicely...





The muon: who ordered that !?

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1:23 AM - 20 Jun 1937 · Embed this Tweet

Image Credit: Roni Harnik





Flavor Violation



- As it turns out, flavor violation happens among the quarks
 - » They change type (mix) via the W boson



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Flavor Violation



- As it turns out, flavor violation happens among the quarks
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Flavor Violation



- As it turns out, flavor violation happens among the quarks
 - » They change type (mix) via the W boson
- Neutrinos can change into their charged partners (and vice versa)
- And the neutrinos also mix!





Rabi's question is as relevant as ever! What is happening with the **charged** leptons? Charged leptons?





A clarification

Neutrinos are massless in the SM and Strictly speaking, Lepton Flavor Violation is forbidden

However...





CLFV in the Standard Model





The observation of neutrino oscillations implies they have mass, which the SM can include with minimal extension

But it also implies...







CLFV Must Occur!







CLFV in the Standard Model





- The bad news: We will never observe this
- The good news: We will never observe this!
 - Any signal is unambiguous evidence of physics beyond the SM!
 - » Provided experimental backgrounds are accounted for



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Searches for CLFV



- Searches for CLFV are motivated by Rabi's question and by the prospects of discovering (or excluding) new physics phenomena
- Because muons are relatively easy to produce and have a long lifetime (as opposed to the τ), rare muon processes offer the best combination of New Physics reach and experimental sensitivity





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 $\mu^{\pm} \to e^{\pm} \gamma$ MEG @ PSI

$$\mu^-A(Z,N)
ightarrow {
m e}^-A(Z,N)$$

Mu2e @ Fermilab,
COMET @ JPARC

 $\mu^{\pm} \rightarrow e^{\pm}e^{+}e^{-}$

Mu3e @ PSI































While the next generation of CLFV experiments all have reach, $\mu N \rightarrow eN$ has the largest breadth...







To illustrate this, one can express a CLFV process in a model independent way by writing a generic flavor-violating effective operator with two terms, where their relative strengths are parameterized by a dimensionless factor (κ)







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Why $\mu N \rightarrow eN$?



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Generic parametrization of CLFV process



New Physics models predict various values of $\boldsymbol{\kappa}$



Why $\mu N \rightarrow eN$?









What are some specific examples of New Physics models to which mu2e has sensitivity?







 $\mu N \rightarrow eN$ is induced in a wide array of New Physics models



With a predicted branching ratio of around 10⁻¹⁵ i.e. within the sensitivity of mu2e!





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Mu2e will measure the ratio of $\mu \rightarrow e$ conversions to the number of muon captures by Al nuclei:

$$R_{\mu e} = \frac{\Gamma(\mu^{-} + (A,Z) \to e^{-} + (A,Z))}{\Gamma(\mu^{-} + (A,Z) \to \nu_{\mu} + (A,Z-1))}$$





What We Will Measure: Numerator



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For Al, the conversion signature is a mono-energetic signal @ 104.96 MeV







Why is the conversion electron mono-energetic?











Why is the conversion electron mono-energetic?

Think of the conversion as two-body decay







Why is the conversion electron mono-energetic?

Think of the conversion as two-body decay



The atom and the electron gain net zero momentum, so the (much) lighter electron gets (nearly) all of the released energy!

 $E_e = m_{\mu}c^2 - E_b - E_{recoil} = 104.96 \text{ MeV}$





What We Will Measure: Denominator



Mu2e will measure the ratio of $\mu \rightarrow e$ conversions to the number of muon captures by Al nuclei:

$$R_{\mu e} = \frac{\Gamma(\mu^- + (A, Z) \rightarrow e^- + (A, Z))}{\Gamma(\mu^- + (A, Z) \rightarrow \nu_{\mu} + (A, Z - 1))}$$

Once trapped, 61% of the muons will descend to the muonic ground state and be subsequently captured by the nucleus





Mu2e Sensitivity



- Mu2e is sensitive to $R_{\mu e} > 6 \times 10^{-17} @ 90\%$ CL
- Previous experiments rule out $R_{\mu e} > 7 \times 10^{-13} @ 90\%$ CL
- New physics at the weak scale generically implies conversion rates of $R_{\mu e} \,\,^\sim \, 10^{-15}$





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If $R_{\mu e} = 10^{-15}$ will see ~ 50 events If $R_{\mu e} = 3 \times 10^{-17}$ will see 1 event





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If $R_{\mu e} = 10^{-15}$ If $R_{\mu e} = 3 \times 10^{-17}$ will see ~ 50 eventswill see 1 event

Sounds great... in the absences of backgrounds!







Some backgrounds are "obvious," while a few others have been brought to light from past experiments

e.g. cosmic rays in 1988 TRIUMF conversion experiment





What other backgrounds are present?



We will not discuss these in detail...

- Intrinsic processes that scale with beam intensity e.g. decay-in-orbit
 - » Minimize multiple scattering, maximize momentum resolution
- Prompt processes e.g. radiative pion capture
 - » Delayed search window
- Delayed processes from slowly moving particles e.g. as antiprotons
 - » Absorbers, collimators and strict magnetic field requirements
- Processes initiated by cosmic rays
 - » Cosmic ray veto system
- Reconstruction errors

The ability to eliminate background is what give mu2e its unprecedented physics reach



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The other 39% of stopped muons will "decay in orbit" before the nuclear capture occurs.

This three body decay is similar to the "Michel Decay." The energy spectrum of the daughter electron will be referred to as the decay-in-orbit spectrum







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Interaction with the nucleus changes the electron energy spectrum



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The Michel spectrum for a free muon has a cutoff at 53 MeV However, a bound muon can interact with the nucleus smearing the spectrum out to 104.96 MeV This accounts for ~55% of the total background







Electron momentum resolution is a big driver of the experiment design

Need precise measurements and to minimize multiple scattering!



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- The muon beam is naturally contaminated with pions since the muons themselves come from pion decay.
- Some pions are stopped on the Al target (or other material in the detector) and ~2% of these produce a photon or $e-\bar{e}$ pair
- Sometimes the produced electron can be at the conversion energy

$$\pi$$
-N \rightarrow eēN*

• But, the pion lifetime is around 26 ns, while the muon lifetime in Al is 864 ns







Use a pulsed muon beam with a long interval between bunches and delay the search window!







Table 3.4 A summary of the estimated background yields using the selection criteria of Section 3.5.3. The total run time and corresponding number of protons on target are provided in Table 3.1. An extinction of 10⁻¹⁰, a cosmic ray inefficiency of 10⁻⁴, and particle-identification with a muonrejection of 200 is used. 'Intrinsic' backgrounds are those that scale with the number of stopped muons, 'Late Arriving' backgrounds are those with a strong dependemce on the extinction, and 'Miscellaneous' backgrounds are those that don't fall into the previous two categories.

Category	Background process	Estimated yield
		(events)
Intrinsic	Muon decay-in-orbit (DIO)	0.20 ± 0.09
	Muon capture (RMC)	0.000+0.004
Late Arriving	Pion capture (RPC)	0.023 ± 0.006
	Muon decay-in-flight (µ-DIF)	< 0.003
	Pion decay-in-flight (π -DIF)	$0.001 \pm < 0.001$
	Beam electrons	0.003 ± 0.001
Miscellaneous	Antiproton induced	0.047 ± 0.024
	Cosmic ray induced	0.096 ± 0.020
	Total	0.37 ± 0.10
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Mu2e Design at a Glance

Mu2e consists of 3 solenoid systems

- The solenoids use a graded magnetic field to suppress background and increase yield
- The earth's field, for comparison, is 0.0006 T





Mu2e Design at a Glance: Production Solenoid





- Every second 7 x 10¹² protons at 8 GeV enter into the Production Solenoid which is held at high vacuum (10⁻⁵ Torr)
- The protons interact with a tungsten target (about the size of a pencil) to produce negative pions that decay into negative muons
- The magnetic field in the production solenoid spirals the pions & muons into the transport solenoid. Pions moving away from the Transport Solenoid are "reflected" magnetically by the graded field



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Mu2e Design at a Glance: Transport Solenoid





- The Transport Solenoid transmits low energy, negatively charged muons to the detector solenoid and greatly reduces the background particles
- The charge and momentum are selected through the S-shape design, collimators, and a set of field requirements (e.g. a negative axial gradient in the straight sections)
- Every second 2.6 x 10¹² negative muons are transmitted to the Detector Solenoid




Mu2e Design at a Glance: Detector Solenoid





- Upstream in the Detector Solenoid sits the aluminum stopping target
- The stopping target is the ultimate destination for the muon beam





Mu2e Design: Stopping Target





- The Muon Stopping Target consists of a series of thin aluminum discs supported by fine tungsten wire
- Every second 1.3 x 10¹² muons are stopped
- Once stopped they fall to their ground state orbitals and are captured or decay... this is where the muon to electron conversion may occur!

After 3 years of running 10¹⁸ muons will be stopped!





Mu2e Design at a Glance: Detector Solenoid





- **Downstream** in the detector solenoid are the **Physics Detectors** to which the conversion electrons emanating from the target are guided
- The Physics Detectors are designed to be "blind" to most of the lower momentum decay electrons
- The graded field reflects backward going electrons returning them toward the Physics Detectors





Mu2e Design at a Glance: Tracker

- The Mu2e Tracker is a low mass array of ~20,000 straw drift tubes aligned along the transverse axis of the Detector Solenoid and held in vacuum
- Its job is to measure the trajectory of electrons in order to determine their momenta
- No one has ever built such a low mass detector that operates in vacuum









Mu2e Design at a Glance: Tracker



How does it work?

- A charged particle passes through the straws (filled with Argon/CO2), leaving a trail of ions and electrons in its wake
- The straw is at ground, and a sense wire at the center is at \sim 1450V
- The electrons then drift toward the sense wire and induce a current that is extracted with electronics









Why straw tubes?

- Low mass
- Can reliably operate in vacuum











Tracker: Basic Performance Requirements



- Minimize energy loss and multiple scattering
 - » Low mass straw tube design
- Momentum resolution σ < 0.2% @ 105
 MeV/c
- Precision alignment
- Blind to low momentum (decay-in-orbit) background
 - » Hole in center of tracker
 - Recall that **p** = q(**B**.**r**)
- Operate in vacuum (10⁻⁴ torr)



electrons

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Mu2e Design at a Glance: Calorimeter



• The Mu2e Calorimeter's job is particle identification, to confirm that we really are looking at electrons, and to cross check the measurements taken by the Tracker.









Calorimeter: Basic Performance Requirements

RICE

- Distinguish muons from electrons
- Operate in 1T field and in vacuum
- Under 500 ps timing resolution and ~5% energy resolution @100 MeV
- Position resolution of ~1cm
- Almost full acceptance for conversion electron signal









Calorimeter: Basic Design



- Two annuli with inner radius 35.1 cm and outer radius 66 cm
- Disks separated by 70 cm (1/2 wavelength)
- ~800 pure Cesium Iodide crystals per disk
- Two 9x9 mm² avalanche photodiodes per crystal









Mu2e Design: Cosmic Ray Veto (CRV)



- Cosmic Ray Veto System's job is to **suppress** the **spurious** detection of conversion-like particles initiated by **cosmic-ray** muons that appear to originate in the stopping target
- Without the CRV Such background events would occur at the rate of about **one event per day**
- The CRV will cover half of the transport solenoid, and the entire detector solenoid







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Cosmic Ray Veto: Basic Design

- Four layers of extruded polystyrene scintillator counters.
- Total of ~5000 counters of width ~5 cm
- Each counter has two embedded wavelength shifting fibers
- Read out with SiPMs, ~20,000 in total













Active R&D Program









Ground Breaking: April 2015









The Collaboration











Data collection is set to start in 2021 Three years worth of data will be collected





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The Future: Next Generation Experiment



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The Future: Next Generation Experiment



If a signal is seen, we will study the underlying New Physics using different target materials Cirigliano, et al, PRD 80, 013002 (2009) Mu₂e signal ? Pb AI Ti R_{µe} (norm to Al.) Yes Vector (Z) Precision measurement if necessary Vector $V^{(\gamma)}$ <u>Dipole</u> Scalar Measure $R_{\mu e}$ for

0

20

40

Ζ

different target material



60

80



The Future: Next Generation Experiment





A next generation Mu2e experiment is well motivated in all scenarios

We will study the underlying New Physics if a signal is seen

or Improve the experimental sensitivity

Either way, we will need to Upgrade the accelerator to get more protons!

To read about the upgraded Mu2e experiment, see arXiv:1307.1168





Summary



- Mu2e will search for the neutrinoless conversion of a muon into an electron within the vicinity of a nucleus, $\mu N \rightarrow eN$
- Mu2e will have unprecedented sensitivity to a plethora of New Physics phenomena with mass scales up to 10,000 TeV, which is far beyond the mass scales that are accessible at the LHC or future colliders
- The goal of Mu2e is to discover charged lepton flavor violation, thereby providing unambiguous evidence of physics beyond the Standard Model
- If no signal is found, mu2e will increase the current sensitivity limit on $R_{\mu e}$ by a factor of 10,000 and exclude a vast collection of New Physics models
- Under any outcome, a next-generation Mu2e experiment is well motivated
- Construction is underway with data collection scheduled for 2021



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High Energy Physics is at a crossroads

- We know that the Standard Model is incomplete
- There are many ideas about what a more complete model might look like
- But we don't know which is the right one...





Concluding Remarks

Super Symmetry

Not Yet Th

Of



Fermilab's Mu2e experiment is designed to discover which direction is the right one

Extra Dimensions





Questions?

http://mu2e.fnal.gov/





Current and Proposed Searches for CLFV















Tracker: Basic Performance Requirements



- Minimize energy loss and multiple scattering
 - Low mass straw tube design
- Momentum resolution σ < 180 KeV/c @ 105 MeV/c
- Precision alignment
 - 75 μm wire position accuracy relative to detector coordinates
- Blind to low momentum (decay-in-orbit) background
 - Hole in center of tracker
- Operate in vacuum (10⁻⁴ torr)
 - Combined outgassing (after 6 days) and leak rate less than 7 ccm
- Reliable
 - Operate for 1 year without access
 - Negligible risk of catastrophic failure
 - 10 year lifetime



Low momentum background electrons





Tracker: Basic Design

- 5 mm diameter mylar straws
 - Filled with Ar/CO2 80:20
 - 15 μm wall thickness
 - Al: 500 Å inside and out. Au: 200 Å inside
- 25 μ m gold plated tungsten wire
 - Operate at ~1450 V
- 96 straws per panel, 6 panels per plane
 - 30 degree rotations for stereo output
 - Tracking region: 380 < r < 700 mm
- 2 planes per station, 18 stations total









Calorimeter: Basic Performance Requirements

- Provide particle identification for distinguishing muons from electrons
- Seed for track recognition algorithm to improve track-finding efficiency
- Provide a tracker independent trigger to reduce data rates
- Operate in 1T field and in vacuum (10⁻⁴ Torr)
- Radiation hard up to 100 krad, 10¹² n/cm²
- Under 500 ps timing res and ~5% energy res @100 MeV
- Position resolution of ~1cm
- Almost full acceptance for conversion electron signal











Cosmic Ray Veto: Basic Performance Requirements

Fundamental

- Reduce the conversion-like cosmic background to less than 0.10 events over the course of the entire run at a 90% confidence level
- Provide a cosmic-ray trigger primitive to the data acquisition system (DAQ)
- Produce less than 10% dead time
- Use less than 20% of the DAQ bandwidth

Derived

- Exhibit excellent efficiency for identifying cosmic-ray muons: inefficiency must be less than 1x10⁻⁴
- 5 ns timing resolution
- Large area: must cover the entire detector
- Gaps must be small and few
- Ability to handle high rates









Flavor Violation in Supersymmetric Models



- ★ Vanishingly small effects
- ★★ Moderate, but visible effects

★★★ Large effects

Altmannshofer, Buras, *et al*, **Nucl.Phys.B830:17-94, 2010**

	AC	RVV2	AKM	δLL	FBMSSM	LHT	RS
$D^0 - ar{D}^0$	***	*	*	*	*	***	?
ϵ_K	*	***	***	*	*	**	***
$S_{\psi\phi}$	***	***	***	*	*	***	***
$S_{\phi K_S}$	***	**	*	***	***	*	?
$A_{\rm CP}\left(B o X_s \gamma\right)$	*	*	*	***	***	*	?
$A_{7,8}(B\rightarrow K^*\mu^+\mu^-)$	*	*	*	***	***	**	?
$A_9(B ightarrow K^* \mu^+ \mu^-)$	*	*	*	*	*	*	?
$B\to K^{(*)}\nu\bar\nu$	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
$B_s ightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-$	***	***	***	***	***	*	*
$K^+ \to \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$	*	*	*	*	*	***	***
$K_L o \pi^0 u ar{ u}$	*	*	*	*	*	***	***
$\mu \to e \gamma$	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
$\tau \to \mu \gamma$	***	***	*	***	***	***	***
$\mu + N \rightarrow e + N$	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
d_n	***	***	***	**	***	*	***
d_e	***	***	**	*	***	*	***
$(g-2)_{\mu}$	***	***	**	***	***	*	?





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- 96 straws per panel, 6 panels per plane
- 2 planes per station, 18 stations total









Mu2e Support



"The existence of new particles that are too heavy to be produced directly at high-energy colliders can be inferred by looking for quantum influences in lower energy phenomena... Some **notable** examples are a **revolutionary** increase in sensitivity for the transition of a muon to an electron in the presence of a nucleus **Mu2e** (Fermilab)..."

- 2014, Report of the Particle Physics Project Prioritization Panel (P5)





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"The science of Mu2e is Critical to the DOE OHEP mission and is Ready to Construct." - 2013, P5 (Highest endorsement)

"Mu2e should be pursued in all budget scenarios considered by the panel"

- 2008, P5 (Strong support)



