# Muon Beam Research in Condensed Matter Science:

# achievements and prospects



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# **The European Spallation Source**

The scientific and technical case for ESS has now been made...



ESS is emerging as *the* "European Source of Science" .....not just as a world leading source of neutrons but also of exotic nuclei, neutrinos, pions and muons.....



#### **Applications of muon beams**

#### **Chemistry**

Molecular dynamics Oxides Muonium

#### **Materials**

**Biology** 

**Polymers Semiconductors** Hydrogen in metals

Proteins

#### **Physics**

Magnetism Superconductivity Surfaces **Fundamental** physics



# Some µSR highlights

 First observation of magnetic order in the high T<sub>c</sub> cuprate superconductors

- Detailed characterisation of the vortex state in conventional and exotic superconductors
  - First direct observation of the predicted evolution of Kohlrausch relaxation in spin glasses above T<sub>a</sub>
    - Observation of ultra small moment ordering in heavy fermion and organic compounds
      - New insights in to the trapping and detrapping of hydrogen in semiconductors
        - 1S-2S transitions in muonium and challenges to the Standard Model



# μSR - a universal acronym

.....which stands for <u>Mu</u>on <u>Spin</u> <u>Rotation</u>, <u>Relaxation</u> <u>Resonance</u>

*rotation* describes the dephasing of muon spins by local magnetic fields with an applied field transverse to the muon spin direction

*relaxation* describes the time-dependent loss of polarisation of the muon spins by internal fields either in zero applied field or in a field applied parallel to the initial muon spin direction

**resonance** is associated with RF induced transitions (*cf NMR*)



### **Muon production from pions**

Charge state	$\pi^+$	$\pi^{-}$
Mean lifetime (s)	26x10 <sup>-9</sup>	26x10 <sup>-9</sup>
Spin	0	0
Mass (MeV)	139.57	139.57
Decay mode	$\pi^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ + \nu_{\mu}$	$\pi \rightarrow \mu + \overline{\nu}_{\mu}$



100% polarised "*surface*" positive muons (~4MeV) are generally used for condensed matter studies





## **Pion production**

Single pion production

$$p + p \rightarrow p + n + \pi^{+}$$
$$\rightarrow p + p + \pi^{0}$$
$$p + n \rightarrow p + n + \pi^{0}$$
$$\rightarrow p + p + \pi^{-}$$
$$\rightarrow n + n + \pi^{+}$$

# eg, proton bombardment of a graphite target



See Eaton and Kilcoyne in "Muon Science" eds Lee, Kilcoyne and Cywinski, 1998





#### **Pulsed muon production at ISIS**



RAL's 800MeV, 200mA proton accelerator-based pulsed neutron and muon facility (UK)



# **Pion production**



See Eaton and Kilcoyne in "Muon Science" eds Lee, Kilcoyne and Cywinski, 1998



10.000

#### **Europe's muon facilities**



PSI, (Villigen, Switzerland) - a continuous muon source RIKEN PROJECT EC MUON FACILITY CARBLES SANDALS.

ISIS, (RAL, UK) - a pulsed muon source



#### **Properties of the muon**

Mass: Charge: Gyromagnetic ratio: Lifetime: Decay asymmetry: 0.1126 x  $M_p$ + (-) 1.355342x10<sup>8</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>T<sup>-1</sup> 2.19714µs W( $\theta$ ) = 1+a<sub>0</sub>cos $\theta$ 





### Implanting the muon in a sample



Implantation is rapid and occurs without loss of muon polarisation



#### **Muon precession and decay**





#### **Muon spectrometers**

#### MuSR and Emu, ISIS (*EU sponsored muon facility*)



#### **Muon Spin Rotation and Relaxation**



#### Some science.....muon spin rotation

The time evolution of the muon polarisation in a transverse field B is  $P_x(t) = a_o G_x(t) \cos(\omega_L t)$ where  $\omega_L = \gamma B$ 

G<sub>x</sub>(t) is simply the Fourier transform of the field distribution averaged over all muon sites.

Muon spin rotation has provided remarkable insights into the nature of the superconducting flux line lattice







#### Some science....muon spin relaxation

G<sub>z</sub>(t) depends upon the distribution and dynamics of internal fields at the muon site - usually in the absence of applied fields
- eg for dynamic Gaussian fields of rms width σ and a fluctuation rate v:



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## **Muon spin relaxation - time scales**

A time window sufficiently wide for studies of fast itinerant electron spin fluctuations through to slow distributed spin relaxation in spin glasses

...or of fast muon hopping through to slow diffusional processes....



.....and  $\mu$ SR is sufficiently sensitive for ultra-small magnetic moments (~10<sup>-3</sup> $\mu_B$ ) to be detected



#### Spin dynamics in itinerant magnets



#### Magnetic order in organic magnets



Blundell et al Europhysics Letters 31 (1995) 573



Spontaneous muon precession in a coherent internal field at mK temperatures





#### **Modelling Hydrogen in Semiconductors**









Muon hopping rates measured over three decades in frequency in Ge, GaAs, GaN and Sibased semconductors

Cox, Davis et al, PRL 2001



#### The future ? - "cold" muons

Muons are cryogenically moderated and energy selected to tune localisation depth within the sample:

E(keV)	R(nm)	⊿R(nm)
0.010	0.5	0.3
0.100	2.1	1.3
1.0	13.1	5.4
10.0	75.0	18.0
30.0	244.0	36.0

See Morenzoni in "Muon Science" eds Lee, Kilcoyne and Cywinski, 1998



#### **Cold muons at PSI**



#### ....but the efficiency is still very low ( $\sim 10^{-5}$ )



#### Flux distribution at surface of YBa<sub>2</sub>Cu<sub>3</sub>O<sub>7</sub>





## **The European Spallation Source**

The future source for European neutron *and muon* users ?

High power (12kW) target for pulsed muon production serving two surface muon channels (several instruments) with only 1.6% beam loss to short pulse target  $\sim$ *ISIS x 100* 



#### Muons at ESS

#### **ESS** offers:

- High intensity, small beams for high countrate (kinetic?) studies
- Ultra-small beam size for tomographic studies
- High intensity for development of analogue counting methods
- Sufficient intensities for development of rapid scanning RF techniques
- Routine application of cold muon techniques......

The newly constituted European Chapter of the International Society for Muon Spectroscopy has placed the development of a world leading muon facility at the ESS high on its agenda .....





#### Conclusions

μ**SR** is making an increasingly significant contribution to condensed matter science research

Emerging techniques, such as cold muon spectroscopy are extending the already broad range of applications.....

...and ESS will extend the possibilities still further

The European muon community therefore strongly supports the speedy construction of ESS

There is already strong competition to host the ESS from *Lund (Scandinavia), Julich* and *Halle-Leipzig (Germany)* and *Yorkshire (UK)....* 





bringing the European Spallation Source to Yorkshire



a world class science facility for a world class region

Yorkshire Forward and the White Rose University Consortium www.yorkshire-ess.org.uk

