

Abstract Submitted  
for the APR21 Meeting of  
The American Physical Society

**Status Update for the UCN $\tau$  Neutron Lifetime Experiment<sup>1</sup>**

FRANCISCO GONZALEZ, Indiana Univ - Bloomington, UCNTAU COLLABORATION — The UCN $\tau$  experiment at Los Alamos National Laboratory measures the neutron lifetime by holding ultracold neutrons (UCN) in a magneto-gravitational trap for variable holding times. Precision neutron beta decay measurements provide an important insight into the Standard Model. A combination of measurements of decay correlation coefficients and the neutron lifetime generates an independent, competitive, determination of the CKM matrix element  $V_{ud}$ . UCN $\tau$  utilizes a permanent magnet array to prevent neutron-wall interactions and thus minimizes non-decay neutron loss mechanisms. During 2017 and 2018, the UCN $\tau$  collaboration gathered enough data to produce a measurement of  $\tau_n$  with an expected statistical uncertainty below 0.3s, and an expected systematic uncertainty below +0.2s. We will present the present status of the experiment and analysis, as well as improvements made to achieve UCN $\tau$ 's goal of a total uncertainty below 0.25s.

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Date submitted: 08 Jan 2021

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