Systematic Studies using the UCN\(\tau\) Magneto-Gravitational Trap

SUSAN SEESTROM, Los Alamos National Laboratory, UCN\(\tau\) COLLABORATION — The UCN\(\tau\) Experiment measures the neutron lifetime using Ultracold Neutrons (UCN) stored in a magneto-gravitational trap. The trap employs various techniques to remove neutrons whose energies are too high to be trapped. It has recently been instrumented with a novel in situ detector that can be lowered into the trap to measure the neutron population as a function of height within the trap. This has allowed us to perform a series of systematic studies aimed at understanding and quantifying potential systematic effects associated with quasi-bound neutrons and phase space evolution. We have obtained multiple sets of data each having a statistical uncertainty of about 3 sec. We will discuss the results of our studies of cleaning and phase space evolution as well as results from studies of backgrounds and normalization of the initial neutron loading.

Susan Seestrom  
Los Alamos National Laboratory