A Measurement of the Muon Magnetic Moment Using Cosmic Rays

By

Daniel Atkinson Kroening

Submitted to the Department of Physics in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

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Abstract

The muon magnetic moment was measured via the decay of polarized cosmic-ray muons in a constant magnetic field with a three-scintillator detector system. Cosmic-ray muons stop in the central detector, precess in the magnetic field, and then decay by emitting positrons along the muon spin axis. A quantum-mechanical calculation allows the g-factor to be extracted from a measurement of the number of positrons emitted into one direction as a function of decay time. The results are $\tau = 2.28 \pm 0.07$ µs (mean decay time) and $g = 2.74 \pm 0.20$. Some possible explanations for the large value of g are discussed.

Thesis Supervisor: Dr. Mark Yuly Title: Associate Professor of Physics

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Introduction

History

In 1935 the Japanese physicist Hideki Yukawa predicted [1] the existence of the meson, a particle of intermediate mass that carries the strong force. The muon, discovered by Anderson and Nedermeyer [2] in 1937 with a mass of 105 MeV/ c^2 , was originally considered to be this same particle. It was later demonstrated, however, that the muon was unaffected by the strong force [3[,4\]](#page-4-2), necessitating further research. In 1947, Lattes et al. identified the pion [4], with a mass of about 140 MeV/ c^2 ; this particle did interact via the strong force, and has since been shown to be its long-range carrier. These findings supported Yukawa's meson prediction, and in 1949 he was awarded the Nobel Prize for his work. The term 'meson' has since been redefined as a particle consisting of two quarks rather than a particle of intermediate mass; and though the muon can no longer be characterized as a meson, a relationship to the pion does still exist. Pion decay will result in a muon and a muon neutrino 99.99% of the time [5], in the reaction:

 $\pi^{\pm} \rightarrow \mu^{\pm} + \nu$.

Pion production (via high energy collisions of nucleons), and subsequent decay is the usual means for obtaining muons for experimental work.

The muon is a lepton—a fundamental particle with spin $\frac{1}{2}$ that does not interact via the strong force but does interact via electromagnetic forces. Since it is a particle with spin, the muon has an intrinsic magnetic moment. The muon's magnetic moment is proportional to the gyromagnetic ratio (called g, the g-factor or the landé factor) and is usually written in terms of it. Because the g-factor of the muon is near 2.0, the muon magnetic moment is usually reported in terms of

$$
a_{\mu} \equiv \frac{g-2}{2}.
$$

The muon magnetic moment was first measured in 1957 by R.L. Garwin [6]. This experiment measured the magnetic moment to 3 decimal places $(2.00 \pm .010)$. Subsequent measurements at CERN [7] in 1977 (2.0023318460 \pm .0000000168)and at Brookhaven National Labs [8] from 1997-2002 (2.0023318404 \pm .0000000030) have established precision out to eleven places.

Test of Current Theories

The magnetic moment of the muon has been historically of great interest, in part because it is a sensitive test of quantum electrodynamics (QED). QED is a quantum field theory that is used to describe the interactions of leptons in an electromagnetic field. Because the muon is a lepton, and therefore interacts via electromagnetic forces, it will interact with a magnetic field. This interaction occurs in the form of precession, as the spin axis of the muon will rotate around the direction of the magnetic field lines. By measuring the rate of precession of the muon spin axis in the magnetic field a value for a_{μ} may be found, and a comparison with the value predicted using QED can be made.

The Standard Model, which is currently considered to be the best model for describing particles and their interactions, includes 12 fundamental spin ½ particles—six quarks and six leptons (of which μ is one), and their anti-particles (μ^+ included). It describes particle interactions with four forces (strong, weak, electromagnetic and gravitational), all of which have mediating particles. Because a prediction using QED is based on the assumptions of the Standard Model, a difference between experimental and theoretically predicted values for the muon magnetic moment could potentially indicate either a problem with the Standard Model or with QED. Current results for the experimental and predicted values of a_{μ} are:

$$
a_{\mu} (exp) = 11659202(14)(6) \times 10^{-10} [8].
$$

$$
a_{\mu} \text{(theory)} = 11659159.7(6.7) \times 10^{-10} \text{ [9]}.
$$

While these two values are 2.6 standard deviations apart, there are many who believe it is due to a miscalculation in the theoretical value [10], rather than a fundamental error in the Standard Model itself [\[9\]](#page-5-2). A recent publication by M. Hayakawa and T. Kinoshita [11] found a sign error in the Standard Model prediction which, when corrected, brings the values of a_{μ} within 1.6 standard deviations of the experimental value.

Current Experiment

Our current experiment utilizes a tabletop apparatus similar to the one described by Amsler [12], to measure a_{μ} of cosmic ray muons. Cosmic ray muons are created in the upper atmosphere by the decay of mesons (primarily pions) produced in high-energy collisions of nucleons in the upper atmosphere. A falling pion may emit a muon either forward or backward in its own frame. In the lab frame a muon emitted backward will have a spin parallel to its own direction of flight, and a muon emitted forward will have spin antiparallel. Since by energy conservation a muon of a given energy may be produced by forward emission from a pion of one energy (E_1) or backward emission from a pion of a greater energy (E_2) , the net polarization of muons with this energy will be zero only if there are an equal number of pions with energies E_1 and E_2 . Because pion production is not uniform over all energies, the result is a non-zero polarization of the cosmic ray muon, as shown in [Figure 1—](#page-7-1)a measurement of the polarization of μ^+ from the paper by Amsler [\[12\]](#page-6-1).

Because they have a magnetic moment, muons in a magnetic field with a component perpendicular to their spin axis will begin to precess. Since the incident muons have a net polarization, the average muon spin direction will be pointed preferentially in a given direction for any given time. Muons decay primarily with the emission of a positron or electron and two neutrinos as shown [\[5\]](#page-4-3):

$$
\mu^+ \to e^+ + \nu_e + \overline{\nu}_\mu, \text{ or }
$$

$$
\mu^- \to e^- + \nu_\mu + \overline{\nu}_e.
$$

Because the positron or electron is emitted antiparallel to the parent muon's spin direction, detection of the decay direction will indicate the muon's spin direction at the time of decay. By recording the muon decay time while in the field, it was possible to keep track of their spin as a funciton of time, and to consequently measure their magnetic moment.

Momentum (GeV/c)

Figure 1: Plot of the polarization of positive cosmic ray muons with varying momenta. From the paper by C. Amsler [\[12\]](#page-6-1).

Cosmic Ray Muons as a Test of Relativity

A similar experimental apparatus [13] has been used at an undergraduate level as a demonstration of special relativity, and has been used to explore relativistic effects such as time dilation and length contraction. Cosmic ray muons have a nearly constant energy when moving in the atmosphere, making their velocity virtually constant throughout their descent. By triggering only on a small range of velocities, then, issues of acceleration and general relativity are avoided. According to special relativity, lifetime measurements in the lab frame and the muon rest frame will be significantly different. By measuring the difference in flux of muons at various altitudes (e.g. sea level, and on a mountain), the percentage of muons at the higher altitude that decay before reaching the lower altitude

can be found. Utilizing the well-known mean lifetime of the muon $(2.19 \,\mu s)$, one may calculate the time lapse that the muon observed in traversing the distance between the two altitudes. A comparison of this time to that observed in the lab frame makes demonstration of the effects of special relativity possible.

Setup and Experimental Procedure

An experiment was conducted to measure the magnetic moment of the muon. The lifetimes of muons were recorded as their spins precessed in a 42 ± 2 G magnetic field created by a hand-wound solenoid. Inside the solenoid were three large, rectangular plastic scintillator detectors, which output a flash of light upon incidence of a charged particle. Light emissions were converted to electrical pulses by a photomultiplier tube (PMT) attached to a scintillator. A fourth detector was placed above the solenoid to veto events from parts of the detectors in a region of non-uniform field.

A simplified diagram of the experimental setup is shown in [Figure 2](#page-10-0) (a more detailed diagram may be found in App. A). The purpose of the apparatus was to measure the time difference between the stopping of a muon in the central detector and its subsequent decay. If scintillator 1 and 2 both detected an event, but not scintillator 3, a muon must have stopped in the center detector, so the the timer was started. Subsequently, if scintillators 2 and 3 triggered, but not scintillator 1, a decay positron must have emitted downward., and the timer was stopped. The time difference between these coincidences was measured by a Time to Amplitude Converter (TAC)—a device that measures the time between two input signals, then outputs an analog pulse with pulse height proportional to the time difference. This time difference was the decay time of the muon. The output of the TAC was sent to a Multi-Channel Analyzer (MCA), a device that sorts the input pulses by pulse height into different 'bins', or channels, for the purpose of making a histogram. The TAC and MCA were calibrated by sending pulses at known time intervals to the TAC from a gate generator; the bin numbers to which each time interval corresponded was then recorded.

Since μ ⁻ behave similarly to electrons, these particles are commonly 'trapped' by elements within the apparatus and left to fill the inner shell of an atom, forming 'muonium'[14]. The large overlap of the muon and nucleus wavefunction results in an increased probability of muon decay, and hence a much shorter mean-lifetime for the captured μ , on the order of 100 ns [\[14\]](#page-9-1), as opposed to 2.19 μ s for a free muon. By excluding lifetimes shorter than this, it was assured that the only decay particles that were recorded were positrons from the reaction:

$$
\mu^+ \to e^+ + \nu_e + \overline{\nu}_\mu \, .
$$

Because the muon's spin generally had a component perpendicular to the magnetic field, the spin to precessed at a rate proportional to the field strength. Since only coincidences between the second and third detector were used to stop the TAC, the lifetimes of muons whose spins were pointing up at the time of decay were recorded, but not those whose spins were pointing down, since positrons are emitted antiparallel to the spin. If the TAC did not receive a stop signal within 20 μs, it reset. Since the muon's spin precessed at a constant rate, more events were recorded for certain lifetimes—events corresponding to muon decay into a positron that hit scintillator 3. This caused the decay curve for the muon to have an added sinusoidal component, making measurement of the magnetic moment possible.

Figure 2: A simplified drawing of the experimental setup. A positive muon deposited energy in scintillator 1 and stopped in scintillator 2. The muon's spin precessed about the axis of the magnetic field B until it decayed into a positron and two neutrinos. A positron detected by the lower scintillator indicated that the muon's spin was pointing upwards at the time of decay.

Theory

Classically the spin axis of the muon precesses around in the magnetic field. When examined using quantum mechanics however, it is found that it is the expectation value of the spin direction that is precessing. Of course, for a spin-½ particle, only two spin states are allowed, so each muon individually has only two allowed directions for the magnetic moment.

The expectation value ofr the spin of the muon may be determined following an argument similar tot eh one presented by Townsend [15]. The Hamiltonian, or energy operator, may be written in terms of the magnetic moment operator such that

$$
\hat{H} = -\hat{\mu} \cdot \vec{B},
$$
\nwhere, $\hat{\mu} = \frac{gq\hat{S}}{2mc}$. (1)

In the expressions \hat{S} is the intrinsic spin operator, m is the mass of the muon, q is its charge, g is the landé factor of the muon, and the magnetic field is \overline{B} \overline{a} . If **B** \overline{a} is constant and along the z-axis ($\vec{B} = B_z \hat{k}$ \overline{a}), then the dot product of the spin operator and magnetic field leaves only the z-component of the spin operator.

$$
\hat{H} = \frac{-gq\hat{\mathbf{S}}\cdot\vec{\mathbf{B}}}{2mc} = \frac{-gq\hat{S}_zB_z}{2mc}.
$$
\n(2)

Hence,

$$
\hat{H} = \omega \hat{S}_z, \tag{3}
$$

where 2mc $-$ gqB $\omega = \frac{g \omega_p}{2}$ is the precession frequency, which will be discussed later. Since the Hamiltonian is proportional to the intrinsic spin operator in the z-direction, the two operators will have the same eigenstates. The eigenvalues for \hat{S}_z are \pm \hbar /2, so

$$
\hat{H} \pm z \rangle = \omega \hat{S}_z \pm z \rangle = \pm \omega (\hbar / 2) \pm z \rangle \tag{4}
$$

where $\pm \hbar \omega/2$ are the energy eigenvalues for the $|+\mathbf{z}\rangle$ and $|\mathbf{-z}\rangle$ eigenstates.

Assume that the muon that enters the center scintillator is in the $|+{\bf x}\rangle$ state. At t=0, then,

$$
|\psi(0)\rangle = |+\mathbf{x}\rangle = \left(\frac{|+\mathbf{z}\rangle}{\sqrt{2}} + \frac{|-\mathbf{z}\rangle}{\sqrt{2}}\right).
$$
 (5)

This state will evolve according to the time-evolution operator, $\hat{U}(t) = e^{-i\hat{H}t/\hbar}$, so that the particle, at time t, will be in the state

$$
\left|\psi(t)\right\rangle = e^{-i\hat{H}t/\hbar} \left(\frac{\left|+\mathbf{z}\right\rangle}{\sqrt{2}} + \frac{\left|-\mathbf{z}\right\rangle}{\sqrt{2}}\right).
$$
 (6)

Since $\hat{H} | \pm z \rangle = \pm (\hbar \omega/2) \pm z \rangle$, it can be shown that

$$
\left|\psi(t)\right\rangle = \left(\frac{e^{i\omega t/2} \left| + \mathbf{z} \right\rangle}{\sqrt{2}} + \frac{e^{-i\omega t/2} \left| - \mathbf{z} \right\rangle}{\sqrt{2}}\right).
$$
\n(7)

The probability of finding the muon in the $|+z\rangle$ and $|-z\rangle$ states are therefore,

H ±**z** > =
$$
\omega S_x \pm z
$$
 = ± $\omega(\hbar/2) \pm z$ > (4)
\nare the energy eigenvalues for the $|+z\rangle$ and $|-z\rangle$ eigenstates.
\ne muon that enters the center scintillator is in the $|+x\rangle$ state. At t=0, then,
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\n $\pm \pm (\hbar \omega/2) \pm z \rangle$, it can be shown that
\n $|\psi(t)\rangle = \left(\frac{e^{i\omega t/2}|+z\rangle}{\sqrt{2}} + \frac{e^{-i\omega t/2}|-z\rangle}{\sqrt{2}}\right)$ (7)
\nof finding the muon in the $|+z\rangle$ and $|-z\rangle$ states are therefore,
\n $|\langle +z|\psi(t)\rangle|^2 = \left|\frac{e^{-i\omega t/2}}{\sqrt{2}}\right|^2 = 1/2$ (8)
\n $|\langle -z|\psi(t)\rangle|^2 = \left|\frac{e^{-i\omega t/2}}{\sqrt{2}}\right|^2 = 1/2$. (9)

and

$$
\left|\left\langle -\mathbf{z}\right|\psi(t)\right|^2 = \left|\frac{e^{-i\omega t/2}}{\sqrt{2}}\right|^2 = 1/2.
$$
 (9)

Thus the probability that the energy is $\hbar \omega/2$ is $\frac{1}{2}$ and $-\hbar \omega/2$ is also $\frac{1}{2}$; these are constant in time. We may also find the probability that the muon will be in the $|+{\bf x}>$ or \vert -**x** > states.

$$
\langle + \mathbf{x} | \psi(t) \rangle = \left(\frac{\langle + \mathbf{z} |}{\sqrt{2}} + \frac{\langle -\mathbf{z} |}{\sqrt{2}} \right) \left(\frac{e^{i\omega t/2} | + \mathbf{z} \rangle}{\sqrt{2}} + \frac{e^{-i\omega t/2} | - \mathbf{z} \rangle}{\sqrt{2}} \right) \tag{10}
$$

This reduces to

$$
\langle +\mathbf{x} | \psi(t) \rangle = \left(\frac{e^{i\omega t/2}}{2} + \frac{e^{-i\omega t/2}}{2} \right) = \cos\left(\frac{\omega t}{2} \right),\tag{11}
$$

The probability of finding the muon in the |+**x >** state is therefore

$$
\left| \left\langle + \mathbf{x} \right| \psi(t) \right|^2 = \cos^2 \left(\frac{\omega t}{2} \right). \tag{12}
$$

The probability of finding the particle in the $\vert -\mathbf{x} \rangle$ state can be arrived at similarly:

$$
|-\mathbf{x}\rangle = \left(\frac{|+\mathbf{z}\rangle}{\sqrt{2}} - \frac{|-\mathbf{z}\rangle}{\sqrt{2}}\right),\tag{13}
$$

therefore

$$
\langle -\mathbf{x} | \psi(t) \rangle = \left(\frac{\langle +\mathbf{z} |}{\sqrt{2}} - \frac{\langle -\mathbf{z} |}{\sqrt{2}} \right) \left(\frac{e^{i\omega t/2} | +\mathbf{z} \rangle}{\sqrt{2}} + \frac{e^{-i\omega t/2} | -\mathbf{z} \rangle}{\sqrt{2}} \right)
$$
(14)

$$
\langle -\mathbf{x} | \psi(t) \rangle = \left(\frac{e^{i\omega t/2}}{2} - \frac{e^{-i\omega t/2}}{2} \right) = \sin\left(\frac{\omega t}{2} \right) \tag{15}
$$

$$
\left| \langle -\mathbf{x} \, | \, \psi(t) \rangle \right|^2 = \sin^2\!\left(\frac{\omega t}{2} \right). \tag{16}
$$

Note that these probabilities are time dependent, unlike the probabilities of the particle being in |±**z**>. The expectation value of the x-component of the spin is the sum of the two eigenvalues, multiplied by their respective probabilities:

$$
\langle \hat{S}_x \rangle = \left(\frac{\hbar}{2}\right) \cos^2 \left(\frac{\omega t}{2}\right) + \left(\frac{-\hbar}{2}\right) \sin^2 \left(\frac{\omega t}{2}\right) = \frac{\hbar}{2} \cos(\omega t).
$$
 (17)

The average value of \hat{S}_y can be found similarly. We know that

$$
|+\mathbf{y}\rangle = \left(\frac{|+\mathbf{z}\rangle}{\sqrt{2}} + \frac{i|-\mathbf{z}\rangle}{\sqrt{2}}\right),\tag{18}
$$

and the complex conjugate is:

$$
\langle + \mathbf{y} | = \left(\frac{\langle + \mathbf{z} |}{\sqrt{2}} - \frac{i | - \mathbf{z} \rangle}{\sqrt{2}} \right). \tag{19}
$$

Therefore

$$
\langle +\mathbf{y} | \psi(t) \rangle = \left(\frac{\langle +\mathbf{z} |}{\sqrt{2}} - \frac{i \langle -\mathbf{z} |}{\sqrt{2}} \right) \left(\frac{e^{i\omega t/2} | +\mathbf{z} \rangle}{\sqrt{2}} + \frac{e^{-i\omega t/2} | -\mathbf{z} \rangle}{\sqrt{2}} \right) \tag{20}
$$

$$
\langle +\mathbf{y} | \psi(t) \rangle = \left(\frac{e^{-i\omega t/2}}{2} - \frac{i e^{i\omega t/2}}{2} \right). \tag{21}
$$

The probability of finding the muon in the $|+\mathbf{y}\rangle$ state may be found:

$$
|\langle + \mathbf{y} | \psi(t) \rangle|^2 = \langle + \mathbf{y} | \psi(t) \rangle^* \langle + \mathbf{y} | \psi(t) \rangle = \left(\frac{e^{i\omega t/2}}{2} + \frac{i e^{-i\omega t/2}}{2} \right) \left(\frac{e^{-i\omega t/2}}{2} - \frac{i e^{i\omega t/2}}{2} \right)
$$
 (22)

Therefore

$$
\left|\left\langle +\mathbf{y}\right|\psi(t)\right|^2 = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{i\left(e^{i\omega t} - e^{-i\omega t}\right)}{4} = \frac{1 + \sin(\omega t)}{2}.
$$
 (23)

The probability of the $|-\mathbf{y}\rangle$ state can be arrived at similarly:

$$
|-\mathbf{y}\rangle = \left(\frac{|+\mathbf{z}\rangle}{\sqrt{2}} - \frac{i|-\mathbf{z}\rangle}{\sqrt{2}}\right),\tag{24}
$$

and the complex conjugate is:

$$
\langle -\mathbf{y} \vert = \left(\frac{\langle +\mathbf{z} \vert}{\sqrt{2}} + \frac{i \vert - \mathbf{z} \rangle}{\sqrt{2}} \right). \tag{25}
$$

Therefore,

$$
\langle -\mathbf{y} | \psi(t) \rangle = \left(\frac{\langle +\mathbf{z} |}{\sqrt{2}} + \frac{i \langle -\mathbf{z} |}{\sqrt{2}} \right) \left(\frac{e^{i\omega t/2} | + \mathbf{z} \rangle}{\sqrt{2}} + \frac{e^{-i\omega t/2} | - \mathbf{z} \rangle}{\sqrt{2}} \right) \tag{26}
$$

$$
\langle -\mathbf{y} | \psi(\mathbf{t}) \rangle = \left(\frac{e^{-i\omega t/2}}{2} + \frac{i e^{i\omega t/2}}{2} \right). \tag{27}
$$

The probability of finding the muon in the
$$
|-y>
$$
 state may be found:
\n
$$
\left| \langle -\mathbf{y} | \psi(\mathbf{t}) \rangle \right|^2 = \langle -\mathbf{y} | \psi(\mathbf{t}) \rangle^* \langle -\mathbf{y} | \psi(\mathbf{t}) \rangle = \left(\frac{e^{i\omega t/2}}{2} - \frac{i e^{-i\omega t/2}}{2} \right) \left(\frac{e^{-i\omega t/2}}{2} + \frac{i e^{i\omega t/2}}{2} \right) (28)
$$

Therefore

$$
\left|\langle +\mathbf{y} \,|\, \psi(t) \right\rangle^2 = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{i\left(e^{i\omega t} - e^{-i\omega t}\right)}{4} = \frac{1 - \sin(\omega t)}{2}.
$$

The expectation value of the y-component of the spin is the sum of the two eigenvalues multiplied by their respective expectation values:

$$
\left\langle \hat{S}_y \right\rangle = \left(\frac{\hbar}{2} \right) \left(\frac{1 - \sin(\omega t)}{2} \right) + \left(\frac{-\hbar}{2} \right) \left(\frac{1 - \sin(\omega t)}{2} \right). \tag{30}
$$

$$
\langle \hat{S}_y \rangle = \frac{\hbar}{2} \sin(\omega t). \tag{31}
$$

Therefore, the magnitude of the component of spin in the x-y plane is

$$
\sqrt{\langle \hat{S}_x \rangle^2 + \langle \hat{S}_y \rangle^2} = \frac{\hbar}{2} \sqrt{\cos^2(\omega t) + \sin^2(\omega t)} = \frac{\hbar}{2}.
$$
\n(32)\n
$$
\langle \hat{S}_y \rangle
$$
\n
$$
\frac{\hbar/2}{2} \sin(\omega t)
$$

cos(ωt)

2 \hbar

 $\mathbf{\hat{S}}_\mathrm{x}^\top$

The spin expectation values may be physically interpreted as in Fig. 3, where \hat{S}_x is the x-component of the expectation value of the spin, while $\langle \hat{S}_y \rangle$ is the y component. These components vary with time based on angle ωt, where ω may therefore be interpreted as the angular frequency of precession. Thus, the expectation value of the spin vector precesses just as the classical angular momentum would.

Our apparatus is capable of detecting μ^+ that stop in the center detector and the subsequent decay positron if ejected downward. Because the decay positron will preferentially eject anti-parallel to the spin of the parent muon, the data collected will be asymmetrical, favoring decays where the spin of the muon was upward. This asymmetry, which fluctuates with time, will cause the sinusoidal behavior of Eq. (31) to be superimposed on the normal decay curve. In the absence of a magnetic field, the decay rate is given by,

$$
R(t) = R_0 e^{\frac{-t}{\tau}} + B,
$$
\n(33)

where τ , the mean lifetime, has been measured to be about 2.19 μs [\[5\]](#page-4-3). R(t) is the decay rate at time t, R_0 is the rate at t = 0, and B accounts for background due to accidental coincidences. Such accidental coincidences will occur at random times, and may be accounted for in the curve fit with a constant. Including the sinusoidal variations due to precession into the decay rate equation gives:

$$
R(t) = R_0 e^{\frac{-t}{\tau}} (1 + Asin(\omega t + \delta)) + B.
$$
 (34)

In this equation δ is a phase shift to account for the initial spin state of the muon. A accounts for the polarization of incident muons. In the case of 100% polarization, A would be one, causing the sin term to fluctuate from negative one to positive one. Consequently, at certain times, R(t) would equal B, indicating that no decay particles were ejected downward.

Results

Equations (33) and (34) were fit to the data in order to determine the μ^+ magnetic moment. Data were collected with the magnetic field from September 20, 2001 through December 6, 2001 (78 days); 67,593 events were recorded. Data were also collected without the field from December 7, 2001 through February 5, 2002 (60 days); 67,329 events were recorded. These data can be found in Appendix B.

Muon decay times under 10 μs were recorded in 486 bins in the MCA, but these were re-binned at a ratio of 10:1 for final data analysis in order to reduce the statistical uncertainty of each point while maintaining a sufficient amount of data points for a curve fit. The first ten bins were not used in the fit; as they represented the first 190 ns, corresponding to the period over which most of the μ would decay.

Eq. (34) from the theory section was fit to the data, and statistical uncertainty values were obtained using the function minimization program, Minuit [16].The C++ based program, ROOT [17], was used for plotting. The value χ^2 was used to describe the closeness of the fit, and is defined as:

$$
\chi^{2} = \sum_{i}^{m} \frac{\left(f(a_{i}, t_{i}) - y_{i}\right)^{2}}{\left(\sigma_{i}\right)^{2}}.
$$
\n(35)

m is the number of data points being fit, n is the number of parameters in the equation being fit to the data, t is the independent time variable, and y is the value of a data point. σ is the statistical uncertainty of y, and is \sqrt{y} in this case. The value of χ^2 per degree of freedom is used to compare the quality of fits, being minimized for a best fit; it is defined as χ^2 divided by the number of data points minus the number of parameters.

Minuit used the χ^2 per degree of freedom to calculate the uncertainty in all of the parameters. Around the minimum value of χ^2 per degree of freedom will be a range of values which are less than or equal to one plus this minimum value. The uncertainty of any parameter is defined as one half the width of the domain that maps to this range. The precession frequency uncertainty was found using this method. The precession frequency, ω, had different values for any given decay time range the data was analyzed over. [Table](#page-19-0)

[1](#page-19-0) shows data taken with the field on. Corresponding figure numbers with their best-fit curve lines are indicated, as well as χ^2 per degree of freedom for that fit.

Table 1: Angular frequency values and uncertainties over varying time ranges used in the fit.

Bin	Time Range	ω (μ s ⁻¹)	$\delta \omega (\mu s^{-1})$	χ^2 per degree of	Figure #
Range	(μs)			freedom	
$110-410$	2.13-7.94	4.87	$\pm .25$.8148	Figure 4
60-410	1.16-7.94	5.13	$\pm .14$.8699	Figure 6
10-410	19-7.94	5.25	$\pm .12$.031	Figure 8

The fluctuation in the magnetic field was measured $\pm 5\%$, and this value was used as the uncertainty. The uncertainty in the other parameters [\[Table 2\]](#page-19-1) was much smaller and was therefore neglected.

Table 2: Various parameters and their uncertainties.

With these values g was found by using:

$$
g = \frac{2m\omega}{qB}.
$$
 (36)

Uncertainty in g was obtained using propagation of errors, which yeilds the results, seen in [Table 3.](#page-19-2)

Table 3: Experimental values of g and mean lifetime with uncertainties over varying ranges of muon lifetimes.

It is interesting to note that none of our measured g values fall within error bars of previous experimental or theoretical values, though the range with the best χ^2 per degree of freedom (bins 110-410; 2.13 -7.94 μ s) is the closest. The central range (bins 60-410; 1.16-7.94 μs) has the closest value to the previously measured mean lifetime for a muon, $2.19703 \pm .00004$ μs [\[5\]](#page-4-3).

This analysis does not include any systematic effects. There are some possible reasons for the disagreement in g-value that may give insight into the problem. For one, the magnetic field was irregular. Because the muons in areas of the solenoid with a weaker field will precess slower than in areas with stronger field, they cause the overall precession rate to be a blurred average of the precession rate in individual field regions. During earlier lifetimes, muons in all fields will have similar polarization. As time progresses, though, the individual precession frequencies will cause the polarizations to diverge, increasing the blurring. While the uncertainty in the magnetic field has been taken into account, the effect of multiple precession frequencies on the final curve, especially at large lifetimes, is unaccounted for.

All measurements of the magnetic field were made without the presence of the scintillators, and it is therefore possible that there was more uncertainty in the field than was acccounted for. Measurements of the field with the scintillators present were not possible, however, as a hall-probe could not be inserted into the detector.

Another possibile source of systematic uncertainty is the calibration of the Time to Amplitude Converter may have drifted over the six-month period of data acquisition. Calibration data from September 7, 2001 and February 15, 2002 indicate that the total drift was one bin, or 19 ns, between these dates. This difference is not significant enough to account for the disagreement in the g value. Also, the measured mean lifetime of the muon would have been affected as much as g had there been a significant drift; this was not the case.

Another possibility is that the effects of negatively charged muons are more significant than expected. While the first 10 channels were not used in order to avoid the possibility of extra counts that would be due to μ decays, it is possible that this was not enough. While a check of [Table 1](#page-19-0) shows that an analysis of bins after 110 gives a far better fit than from before bin 110 (\sim 2.13 μs), it is interesting to note that the value of τ is

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the farthest from previously measured values. This indicates that μ ⁻ decay was not completely responsible for the large value of g, if at all.

Time (μs)

Figure 4: Best-fit of Eq. (34) to data from 2.1 μs to 7.9 μs (bins 110-410). Data were taken while the magnetic field was on. Note that zero is suppressed.

Time (μs)

Figure 5: Best-fit of Eq. (33) to data from 2.1 μs to 7.9 μs (bins 110-410). Data were taken while the magnetic field was off. Note that zero is suppressed.

Time (μs)

Figure 6: Best-fit of Eq. (34) to data from 1.2 μs to 7.9 μs (bins 60-410). Data were taken while the magnetic field was on. Note that zero is suppressed.

Figure 7: Best-fit of Eq. (33) to data from 1.2 μs to 7.9 μs (bins 60-410). Data were taken while the magnetic field was off. Note that zero is suppressed.

Time (μs)

Figure 8: Best-fit of Eq. (34) to data from .2 μs to 7.9 μs (bins 10-410). Data were taken while the magnetic field was on.

Time (μs)

Figure 9: Best-fit of Eq. (33) to data from .2 μs to 7.9 μs (bins 10-410). Data were taken while the magnetic field was off.

Conclusion

Using cosmic ray muons, the muon magnetic moment was measured inside a hand wound solenoid, which produced a magnetic field of 42.1 ± 1.7 G. Three plastic scintillator detectors in the field were used to measure the decay times of precessing muons. A quantum-mechanical calculation allowed the g-factor to be extracted from these data. The results are $\tau = 2.28 \pm 0.07$ µs (mean decay time) and $g = 2.74 \pm 0.20$.

The results of this experiment indicate that muons were stopping and decaying in our setup, and that precession was occurring in the magnetic field. The sinusoidal variation of the decay curve indicates this. However, while our results for the mean lifetime of the muon are near previous measurements, there is disagreement between our value of g, which was 2.74 ± 0.20 and the world average experimental value of $2.0023318404 \pm .0000000030$ [\[8\]](#page-5-1). Our largest source of uncertainty, the magnetic field produced by our solenoid, does not seem to account for all of this disargreement.

It is possible that μ ⁻ decay may account for this disagreement. Because the theoretical model used to extract g only assumed that a μ^+ would stop in the magnetic field and begin to precess, the effects of μ decay are not included. A μ may react with atoms within the apparatus and have a greatly shortened lifetime as a result (19 ns versus 2.19 μs). This would affect the measurements made of the muon lifetime and magnetic moment.

In order to improve the experiment for the future, a more accurate mapping of a more constant magnetic field should be made. Given the solenoid used for this experiment, it would have been helpful for uncertainty analysis to know how the magnetic field behaved inside of the scintillators, as opposed to the measured value in air. The behavior of μ^- in the detector would also be an interesting study to apply to future experiments. While these corrections were not possible with the information and technology presently available, their effects on future results would be interesting.

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Appendix A

Apparatus Diagrams

The detection apparatus consisted of three Bicron A contract the control of a solenoid. A fourth
plastic scintillators inside of a solenoid. A fourth
scintillator was placed outside of the field to veto
events from nonuniform field regions. Figure 10: Scale Drawing of Apparatus.
The detection apparatus consisted of three Bicron scintillator was placed outside of the field to veto plastic scintillators inside of a solenoid. A fourth Figure 10: Scale Drawing of Apparatus. events from nonuniform field regions.

if a signal (due to an exiting positron) was sent from Scintillators 2 if a signal (due to an exiting positron) was sent from Scintillators 2 and 3 but not Scintillator 1. If no STOP pulse was recorded the TAC would reset in 20 μ s. The time between the START and STOP pulse was converted b The Time to Amplitude Converter received a START pulse if a The Time to Amplitude Converter received a START pulse if a and 3 but not Scintillator 1. If no STOP pulse was recorded the Multi-Channel Analyzer (MCA) then recorded the pulse from Multi-Channel Analyzer (MCA) then recorded the pulse from the TAC and binned the data appropriately. TAC would reset in 20 µs. The time between the START and Scintillator 3 or the veto. A STOP pulse was sent to the TAC Scintillator 3 or the veto. A STOP pulse was sent to the TAC STOP pulse was converted by the TAC into an analog pulse with amplitude proportional to this time difference. The with amplitude proportional to this time difference. The muon was detected by Scintillators 1 and 2, but not by muon was detected by Scintillators 1 and 2, but not by the TAC and binned the data appropriately. Figure 11: Electronics Diagram. Figure 11: Electronics Diagram.

Appendix B

Data Taken With Magnetic Field Off

Data Taken With Magnetic Field On

Appendix C

Root Code Used for Plotting and Fitting the Decay Curves

gROOT.Reset ("a");

```
#include <iostream.h>
#include <fstream.h>
#include "TMinuit.h"
  Float_t chan[550], time[550], counts[550],error[550];
        Float_t fitcounts1[550],fitcounts2[550],fittime[550];
        Float_t errorx[550]=0.;
        Int_t lowchan=100;
        Int_t hichan=400;
        Int t \text{bin=10};
 Int t nchan = (hichan-lowchan)/bin; \frac{1}{2} // number of channels in spectrum
        Float t calib1=0.0193548;
        Float_t calib2=0.;
//===========================================================================
=void
fcn (Int_t & npar, Double_t *gin, Double_t & f, Double_t *par, Int_t iflag)
{
 Int_t i;
  // calculate chisquare
 Double_t chisq = 0.;
 Double_t delta = 0.;
        for (i = 0; i < nchan; i++) {
                 if (error[i] != 0.) then
                          {
                          delta = (counts[i]-func(time[i],par))/error[i];chisq += delta*delta;
                          }
   }
f = \text{chisq};}
//===========================================================================
==
Double t
func (float ttime, Double_t * par)
{
```

```
Double_t x = par[0]*exp(par[1] * (par[2]-ttime))*(1.+par[3]*cos(par[4]*ttime+par[5])) +par[6];
  return x;
}
//===========================================================================
=int
fit_to_decay ()
{
 Int t i, k;
 Float t temp, sum;
  // Read in the file
  TString *data_file = new TString("/home/public/muon_data/background2_15_02a.txt");
 cout<<data_file->Data()<<endl;
  ifstream istream (data_file->Data(), ios::in);
 k=0:
 for (i=0; i<=hichan; i=i+bin) {
    sum = 0;
                                  for(j=0;j<bin;j++){
                                          istream>>temp;
                                           sum = sum + temp;}
                                  if (i>=lowchan)
                                  {
         counts[k]=sum;
        \text{chan}[k]=i+\text{bin}/2.;
                                          time[k]=calib1*chan[k]+calib2;
        error[k] = sqrt(counts[k]);cout<<" nchan"<<nchan<<" i"<<i<<' k"<<k<<" time"<<time[k]<<" chan"<<chan[k]<<"
"<<counts[k]<<endl;
                                           k++;
                                           }
     }
  // Make the graph
  TCanvas *c1= new TCanvas ("c1","zzz",200,10,800,400);
  TGraph *gr1 = new TGraphErrors(nchan,time,counts,errorx,error);
  gr1->SetMarkerStyle(21);
  gr1->SetMarkerSize(0.5);
```
 $gr1-Draw("AP");$

 // Initialize TMinuit with a maximum of 4 params TMinuit $*g$ Minuit = new TMinuit (8);

gMinuit->SetFCN (fcn);

Double_t arglist[10]; Int t ierflg = 0;

/* SET ERRordef <up>

Sets the value of UP (default value= 1.), defining parameter errors. Minuit defines parameter errors as the change in parameter value required to change the function value by UP. Normally, for chisquared fits UP=1, and for negative log likelihood, UP=0.5. */ $arglist[0] = 1$.; gMinuit->mnexcm ("SET ERR", arglist, 1, ierflg);

```
 // Set starting values and step sizes for parameters
Double_t vstart[7] = \{ 2500., 0.5, 0., 0.04, 5., 0.1, 1000. \};
Double_t step[7] = { 0.01, 0.01, 0.01, 0.01, 0.01, 0.01, 0.01 };
 gMinuit->mnparm (0, "Norm", vstart[0], step[0], 400., 20000., ierflg);
 gMinuit->mnparm (1, "Decay", vstart[1], step[1], 0., 1., ierflg);
 gMinuit->mnparm (2, "Shift", vstart[2], step[2], -1.,1., ierflg);
 gMinuit->mnparm (3, "Ncos", vstart[3], step[3], -10.,10., ierflg);
 gMinuit->mnparm (4, "Omega", vstart[4], step[4], 0.,100., ierflg);
 gMinuit->mnparm (5, "Phase", vstart[5], step[5], -100.,100., ierflg);
 gMinuit->mnparm (6, "Bkgd", vstart[6], step[6], 0., 5000., ierflg);
```

```
 // Now ready for minimization step
arglist[0] = 500.;
arglist[1] = 1.;
Double_t p1 = 1;
Double_t p2 = 2;
Double_t p3 = 3;
Double_t p4 = 4;
       Double_t p5 = 5;
Double t p6 = 6;
Double_t p7 = 7;
```
 gMinuit->mnexcm ("RELEASE", &p1, 1, ierflg); gMinuit->mnexcm ("RELEASE", &p2, 1, ierflg); gMinuit->mnexcm ("FIX", &p3, 1, ierflg); gMinuit->mnexcm ("FIX", &p4, 1, ierflg); gMinuit->mnexcm ("FIX", &p5, 1, ierflg); gMinuit->mnexcm ("FIX", &p6, 1, ierflg); gMinuit->mnexcm ("FIX", &p7, 1, ierflg); gMinuit->mnexcm ("MIGRAD", arglist, 2, ierflg);

 gMinuit->mnexcm ("FIX", &p1, 1, ierflg); gMinuit->mnexcm ("FIX", &p2, 1, ierflg); gMinuit->mnexcm ("RELEASE", &p3, 1, ierflg); gMinuit->mnexcm ("FIX", &p4, 1, ierflg); gMinuit->mnexcm ("FIX", &p5, 1, ierflg); gMinuit->mnexcm ("FIX", &p6, 1, ierflg); gMinuit->mnexcm ("RELEASE", &p7, 1, ierflg); gMinuit->mnexcm ("MIGRAD", arglist, 2, ierflg); gMinuit ->mnexcm ("RELEASE", &p1, 1, ierflg); gMinuit ->mnexcm ("RELEASE", &p2, 1, ierflg); gMinuit ->mnexcm ("RELEASE", &p3, 1, ierflg); gMinuit ->mnexcm ("FIX", &p4, 1, ierflg); gMinuit ->mnexcm ("FIX", &p5, 1, ierflg); gMinuit ->mnexcm ("FIX", &p6, 1, ierflg); gMinuit ->mnexcm ("RELEASE", &p7, 1, ierflg); gMinuit ->mnexcm ("MIGRAD", arglist, 2, ierflg); gMinuit ->mnexcm ("FIX", &p1, 1, ierflg); gMinuit ->mnexcm ("FIX", &p2, 1, ierflg); gMinuit ->mnexcm ("FIX", &p3, 1, ierflg); gMinuit ->mnexcm ("FIX", &p4, 1, ierflg); gMinuit ->mnexcm ("RELEASE", &p5, 1, ierflg); gMinuit ->mnexcm ("RELEASE", &p6, 1, ierflg); gMinuit ->mnexcm ("FIX", &p7, 1, ierflg); gMinuit ->mnexcm ("MIGRAD", arglist, 2, ierflg); gMinuit ->mnexcm ("FIX", &p1, 1, ierflg); gMinuit ->mnexcm ("FIX", &p2, 1, ierflg); gMinuit ->mnexcm ("FIX", &p3, 1, ierflg); gMinuit ->mnexcm ("RELEASE", &p4, 1, ierflg); gMinuit ->mnexcm ("FIX", &p5, 1, ierflg);

 gMinuit ->mnexcm ("FIX", &p6, 1, ierflg); gMinuit ->mnexcm ("FIX", &p7, 1, ierflg);

gMinuit ->mnexcm ("MIGRAD", arglist, 2, ierflg);

```
 gMinuit
->mnexcm ("RELEASE", &p1, 1, ierflg);
 gMinuit
->mnexcm ("RELEASE", &p2, 1, ierflg);
 gMinuit
->mnexcm ("RELEASE", &p3, 1, ierflg);
 gMinuit
->mnexcm ("RELEASE", &p4, 1, ierflg);
 gMinuit
->mnexcm ("RELEASE", &p5, 1, ierflg);
 gMinuit
->mnexcm ("RELEASE", &p6, 1, ierflg);
 gMinuit
->mnexcm ("RELEASE", &p7, 1, ierflg);
 gMinuit
->mnexcm ("MIGRAD", arglist, 2, ierflg);
```
// Print results Double_t amin,edm,errdef; Int_t nvpar,nparx,icstat; gMinuit ->mnstat(amin,edm,errdef,nvpar,nparx,icstat); gMinuit ->mnprin(3,amin);

//Plot Results

```
Double_t ppar[7], epar[7];
         cout<<endl<<endl<<"Final Parameters:"<<endl;
for (Int t i = 0; i < 7; i++)
 {
   gMinuit.GetParameter (i, ppar[i], epar[i]);
  \text{cout} \ll i \ll 2" "\ll \text{ppar}[i] \ll 2" " \ll \text{epar}[i] \ll \text{end}";
 }
```

```
for (i=lowchan; i<hichan; i++){
                fittime[k]=calib1*i+calib2;
                fitcounts1[k] = func (fittime[k], ppar);
                k++;
                }
       k=0;
       ppar[3]=0.;
       for (i=lowchan; i<hichan; i++)
                {
                fittime[k]=calib1*i+calib2;
                fitcounts2[k] = func (fittime[k], ppar);
                k++;
                }
       TGraph *gr2 = new TGraph(hichan-lowchan,fittime,fitcounts1);
 gr2->SetMarkerStyle(21);
 gr2->SetMarkerSize(0.);
 gr2->Draw("L");
       //TGraph *gr3 = new TGraph(hichan-lowchan,fittime,fitcounts2);
 //gr3->SetMarkerStyle(21);
 //gr3->SetMarkerSize(0.);
```
//gr3->Draw("L");

return(1);

}