

Authors' Preface

"Curiouser and curiouser" said Alice in amazement at the White Rabbit's words and then hastily poured him another cup of tea so that he should not stop this remarkable tale. Wiping his whiskers and paws very carefully the rabbit repeated grandly,

"Yes, quite an exciting discovery, in my opinion one whose impact still has to be fully explored. And the machines they used, you cannot imagine how complicated they were.."

"Yes, yes", stamped Alice a little impatiently, "but what did they discover?"

"Why, the muonium atom of course".

"The what?"

Breathing heavily the White Rabbit rose to his full height.

"The muonium atom."

"What is that? It sounds a very curious thing to get excited about."

"Ah - how can I describe it - a species older than homo-sapiens, a transient atom birthed by an electron alighting on a short-lived positive muon, formed with unique negative handedness, first in the new periodic table of atoms, never still in its watery trap, and so quick to react with everything,"

"Gobbledygook!" interrupted Alice.

The White Rabbit stood up, gave her a quelling look and returned to the laboratory bench. As he worked, he muttered, "What did she want me to say? That it is the A_M parameter in the MuSR fitting equation $N_t = N_0 [I + A_D \cos(\omega t + c) + A_M \cos(\omega' t + c')] + B$."

Alice, overhearing him as she cleared away the cups and saucers, admitted to herself, "Well, that is much clearer and a lot more descriptive ..."

