

# Dynamics of True Ternary Fission:

## Collinear Cluster Tripartition (CCT)

A new kind of radioactive cluster decay

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In collaboration with:

Y. V. Pyatkov, D. Kamanin, A. Nazirov, et al. (FLNR, JINR, Dubna)  
and M. Balasubramanian et al. (Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, India)

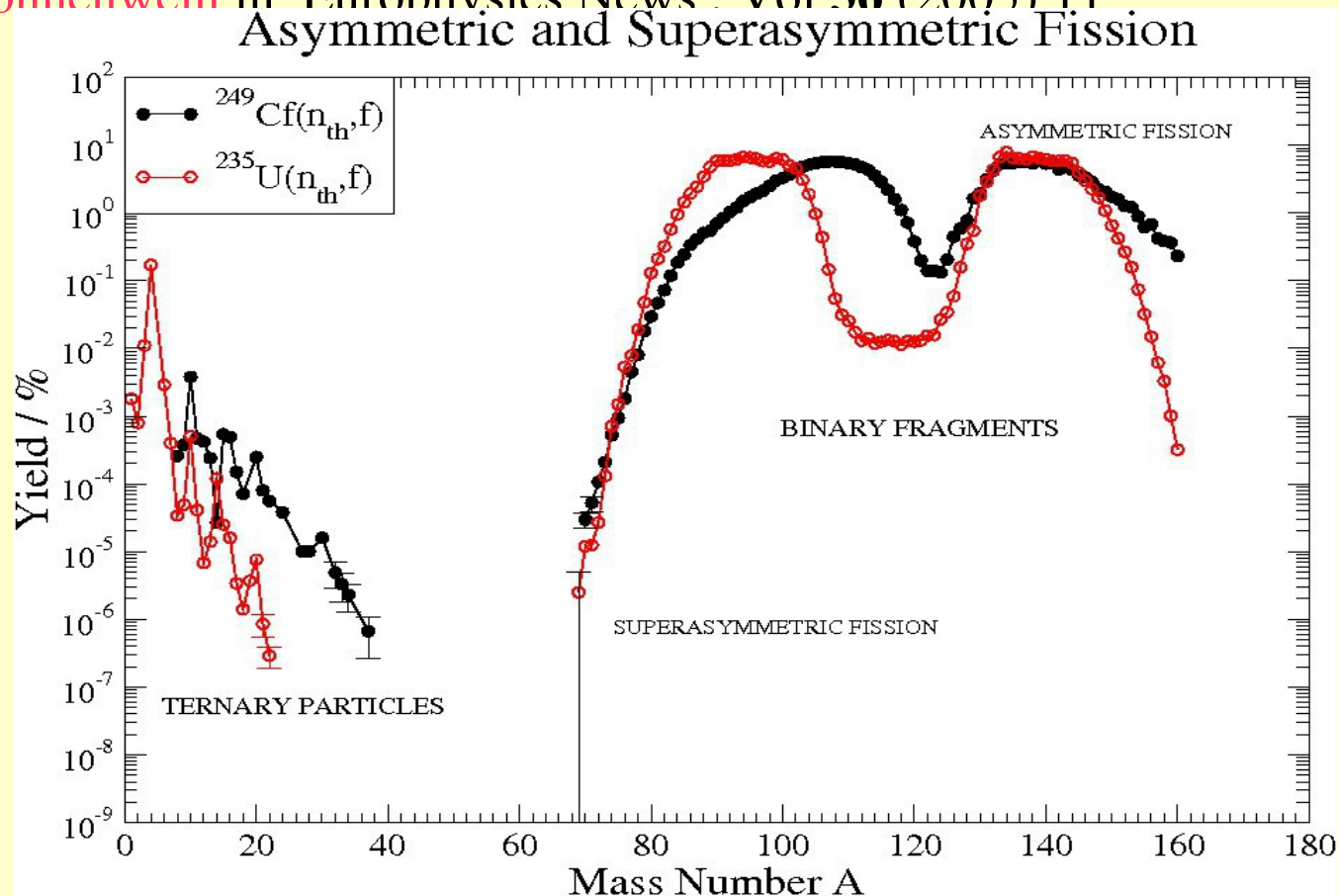
Y.V. Pyatkov, D. Kamanin , W von Oertzen et al. , Eur. Phys. J. A **45** (2010) 29  
K. Manimaran and M. Balasubramanian, Phys.Rev. C **83** (2011) 034609

# Some Milestones in the Physics of Fission

- 1938 - Binary fission of ( $^{235}\text{U}+n$ ), *Hahn/Strassman*
- 1939 - Liquid Drop model for binary fission *Frisch/Meitner, J. Wheeler, N. Bohr,...*
- 1948 - Shell-Model, mean field of all nucleons (*Maria G.Mayer, H. Jensen*).
- 1965 – deformed Shell Model (*Nilsson-model*), Rotational bands (*A. Bohr-B. Mottelson,...*).
- 1970-80 fission isomers, *Strutinsky*, super, hyper deformation, *Ragnarson, Nielsson, Sheline*, Phys.Rep. **45** (1978)
- 1988 – Fission modes of *U. Brosa* et al., Phys. Reports Vol **197** (1990) 167
- $^{252}\text{Cf}$ , U. Brosa: “ has it all “! : **Super short**( Clusters, SuperDef), **standard** (SuperDef), and **superlong** (hyperdef, 3<sup>rd</sup> minimum) **decay modes**
- 1960– 2004 Fission modes with ligh-particle emission in perpendicular direction, summary 2004 : named “**Ternary Fission**” : *G. Gönnerwein*, Nucl. Phys. A **734** (2004) 213
- 1970 - 2011, True ternary fission, *Swiatecki 1960. Diehl+Greiner, (1974)NPA, 3 heavy fragments, Poenaru, Pashkevitch, Balasubramanian, Zagrebaev+Greiner (2012)...*
- **Experiment: Collinear Cluster Tripartition (CCT)**, *Y. V. Pyatkov, D. Kamanin, et al*,

- 1960– 2004 Fission modes with ligh-particle emission in perpendicular direction.  
Summary 2004 : “*Ternary Fission*” : **F. Gönnenwein**, Nucl. Phys. A **734** (2004) 213,

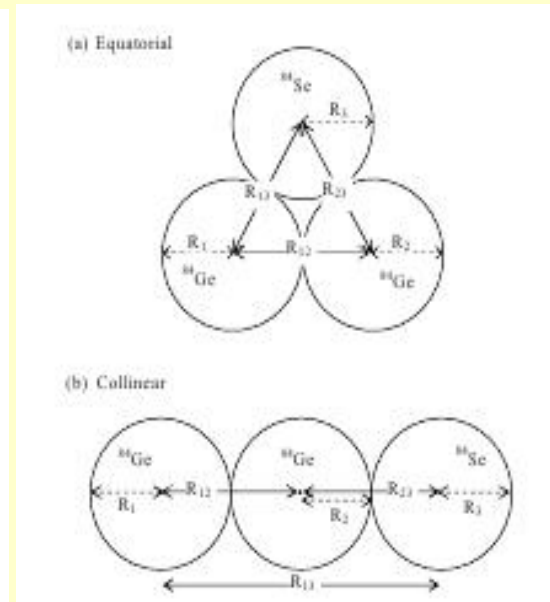
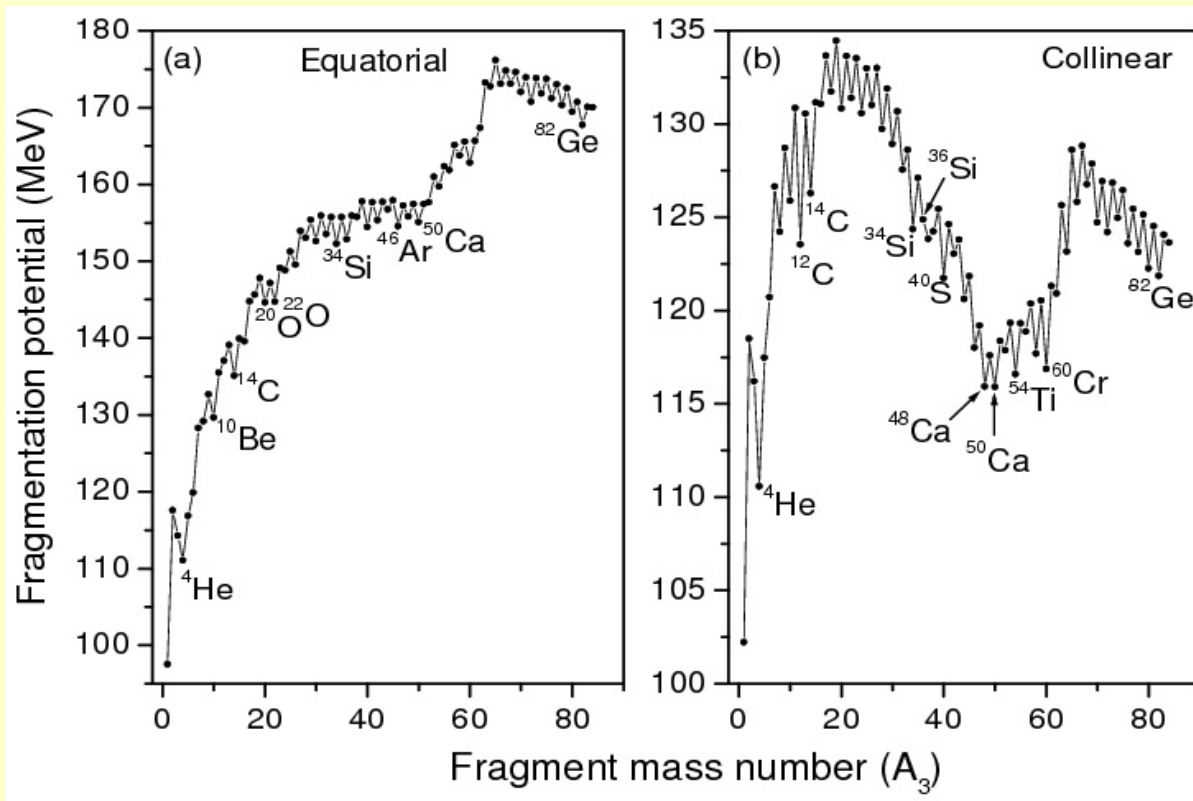
**F. Gönnenwein** in Europhysics News, Vol **36** (2005) 11



# Comparison of Potentials for *Oblate* (Equat.) and *Prolate*

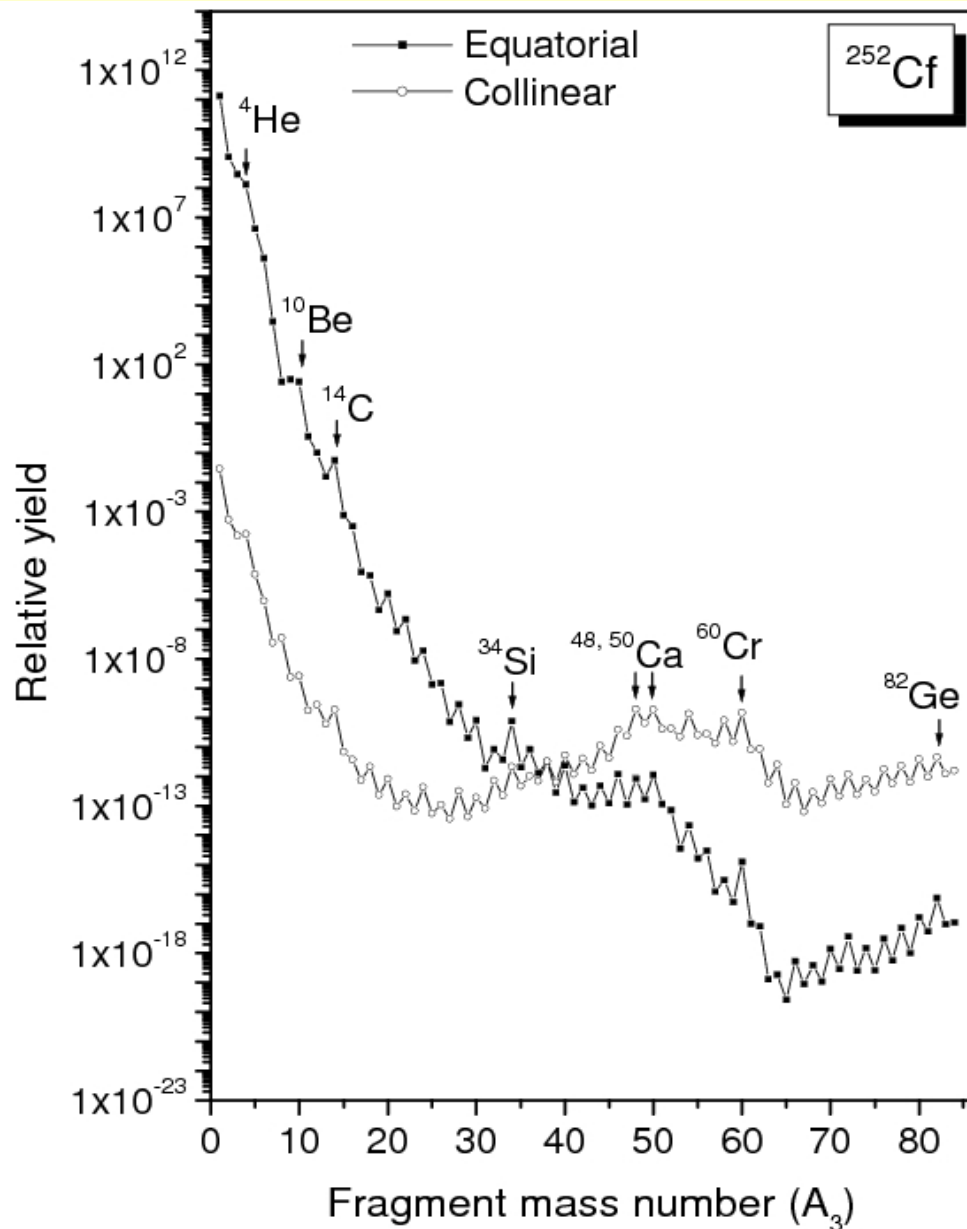
## Hyperdef- and Super-deformed (Collinear) Fission configurations

as function of mass  $A_3$ , in the center (ternary mass)



K. Manimaran and M. Balasubramanian, Phys.Rev. C **83** (2011) 034609

# true ternary fission



- Other Heavy and **super-heavy nuclei**, Zagrebaev, Karpov, Greiner: *Phys.Rev. C* 81(2010)
- Kinetic energies of fragments.
- Experiments with 3 clusters in coincidence: **INVERSE KINEMATICS**. Fission in flight (FRS – GSI, FAIR)
- Higher mass resolution
- Definition of fission modes (**BROSA**): **Hyper-deformation!**
- **At high spins**, fission from super —and hyper-deformation will occur as CCT

H. Diehl and W. Greiner,

Nucl.Phys. **A229** (1974), 29

In the liquid drop model:

*collinear cluster decay favoured*

*True Ternary Fission is favoured in  
collinear- geometry, due to Coulomb  
interaction and  
formation of clusters!  
CCT of Pyatkov et al.  
Collinear Cluster Tripartition.*

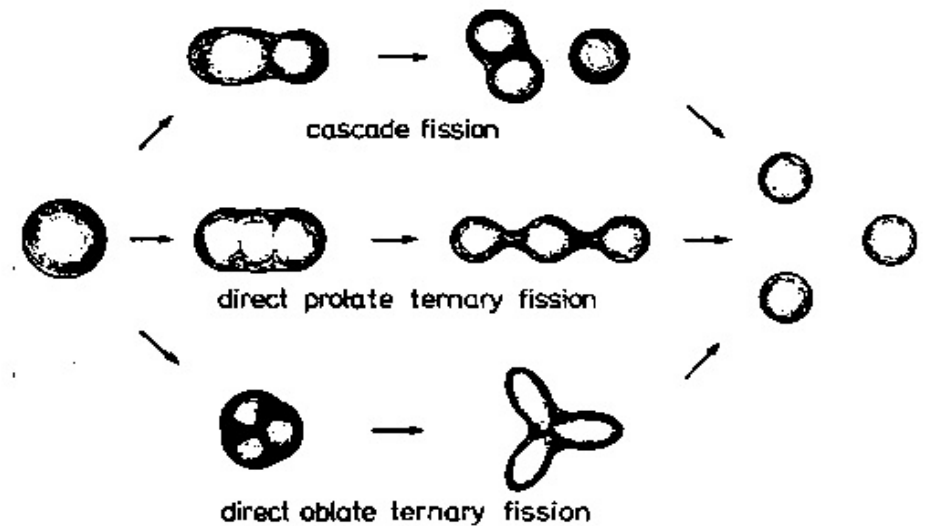


Fig. 1. Possible modes of ternary fission.

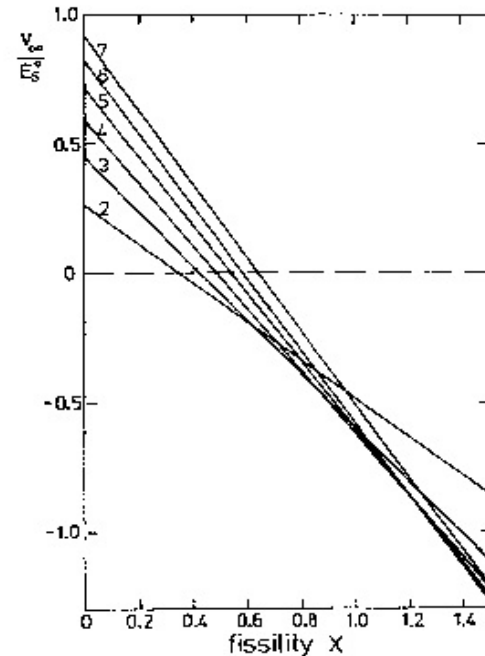


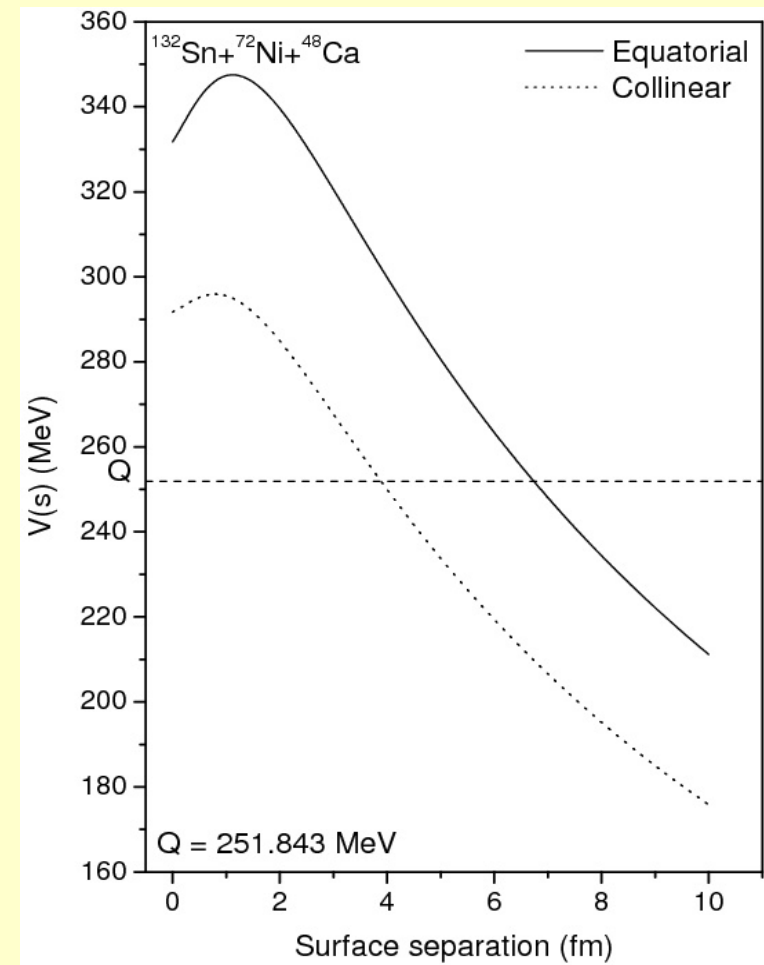
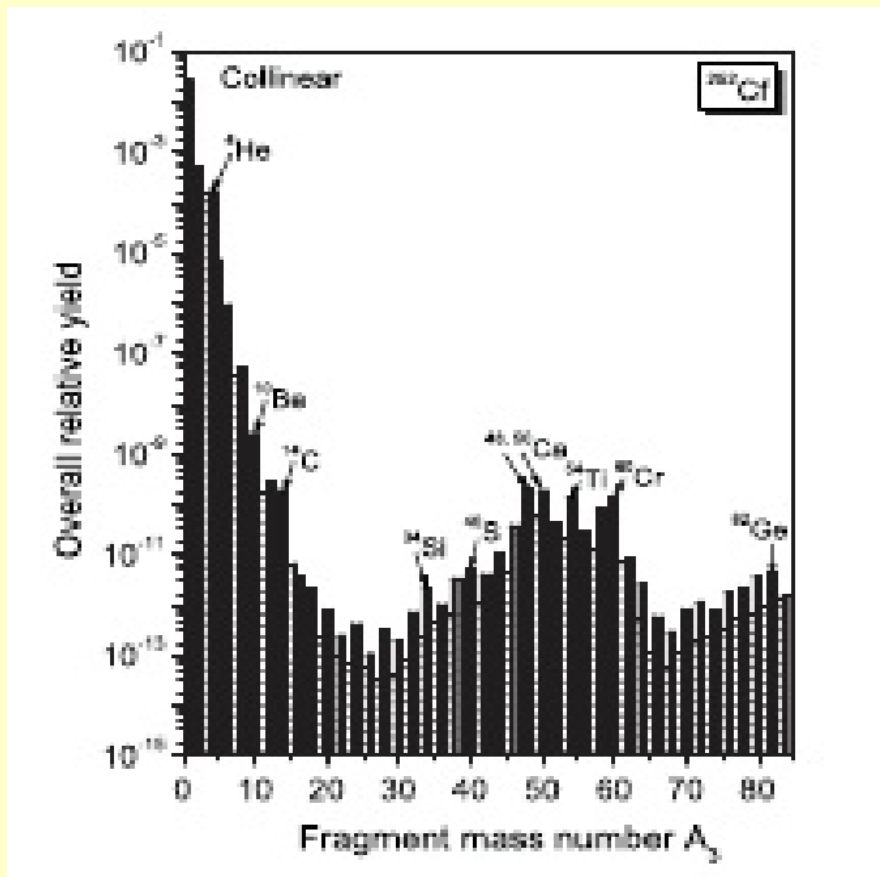
Fig. 2. The energy release according to fission into  $n$  equal fragments is given as a function of the fissility parameter in units of  $E_2^0$ .

# Why CCT has not been observed previously??

## Relative yields of *prolate/oblate* (equat.)

Potentials barriers for **oblate and prolate shapes**, are compared

They are **lower!! for collinear configurations** by (20-30 MeV!) (1)



(1) K. Manimaran and M. Balasubramanian, Phys.Rev. C **83** (2011) 034609



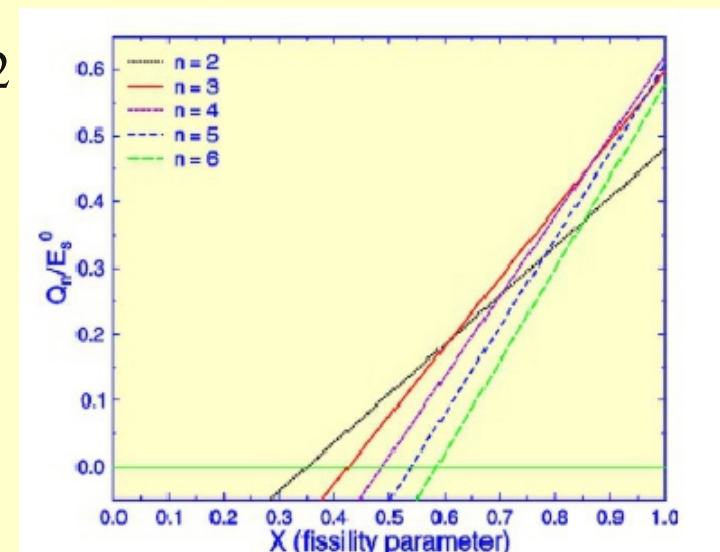
# True Ternary Fission in the Physics of Fission

- With three comparable Masses : **larger** Q-values than binary by (20-30MeV)
- Exp.: **Phys. Letters B 191(1987)339**, Mutterer et al., “oblate” **e.g. triangle** configuration,  **$A_1=20, A_2=132, A_3=95$  : Tri-Partition limit  $< 8 \times 10^{**}(-8)$ !!**
- Predictions : Collinear **fff**: Swiatecki (1958) ( $x > 0.61$ ). Strutinski (1963), H. Diehl and W. Greiner, Nucl.Phys. **A**(1974),  
V.I. Zagrebaev, A.V. Karpov, W. Greiner Phys.Rev. C **81 (2010) 004608**.
- **3 heavy fragments**, **Y. V. Pyatkov**, D. Kamanin, et al, Jad. Fizika Vol. 66 (2003) 1679,  
**Y.V. Pyatkov**, D. Kamanin , W von Oertzen et al. Eur. Phys. J. A **45 (2010) 29**

Swiatecki, for  $X > 0.6$ ,  $n > 3$  more favourable than  $n=2$

Poenaru (2005): “Complex Fission Phenomena”:

Differences: (E<sub>coulomb</sub>-E<sub>surfaces</sub>) For ( $n=i/n=2$ )



True Ternary Fission: collinear-geometry !!



## Experiment (Ex1) binary coincidences at 180°

*How to measure collinear decay!!??*

**Missing mass approach,**

$^{252}\text{Cf}(\text{sf},\text{fff})$  (2xTOF+2 FOBOS – modules, at 180 °, Parallelplate-detectors, Bragg ionisation chambers)



From the left: Dimitri Kamanin, Yuri Pyatkov, ....

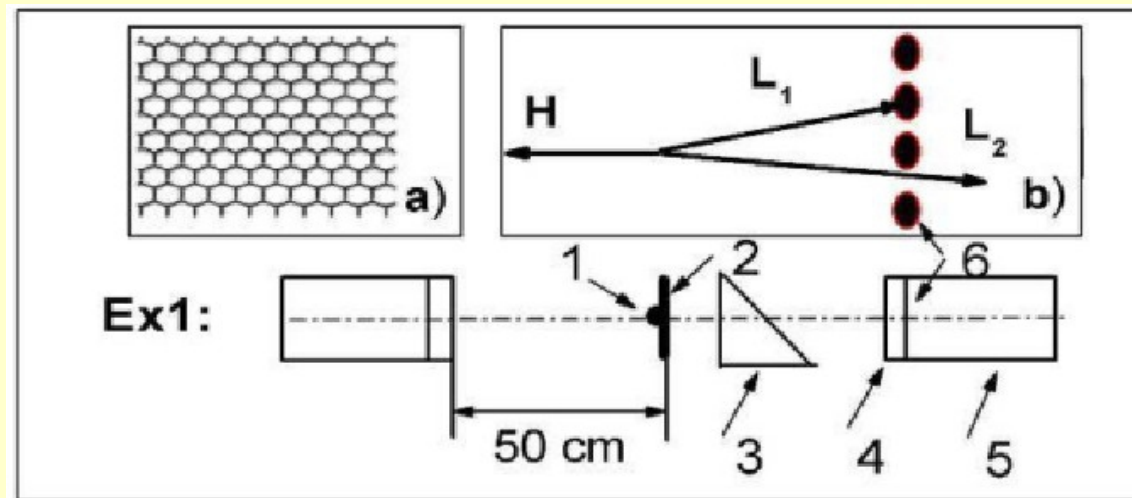
# Experiment (**Ex1**) binary coincidences at 180°

## *How to measure collinear decay!!??*

### Missing mass approach,

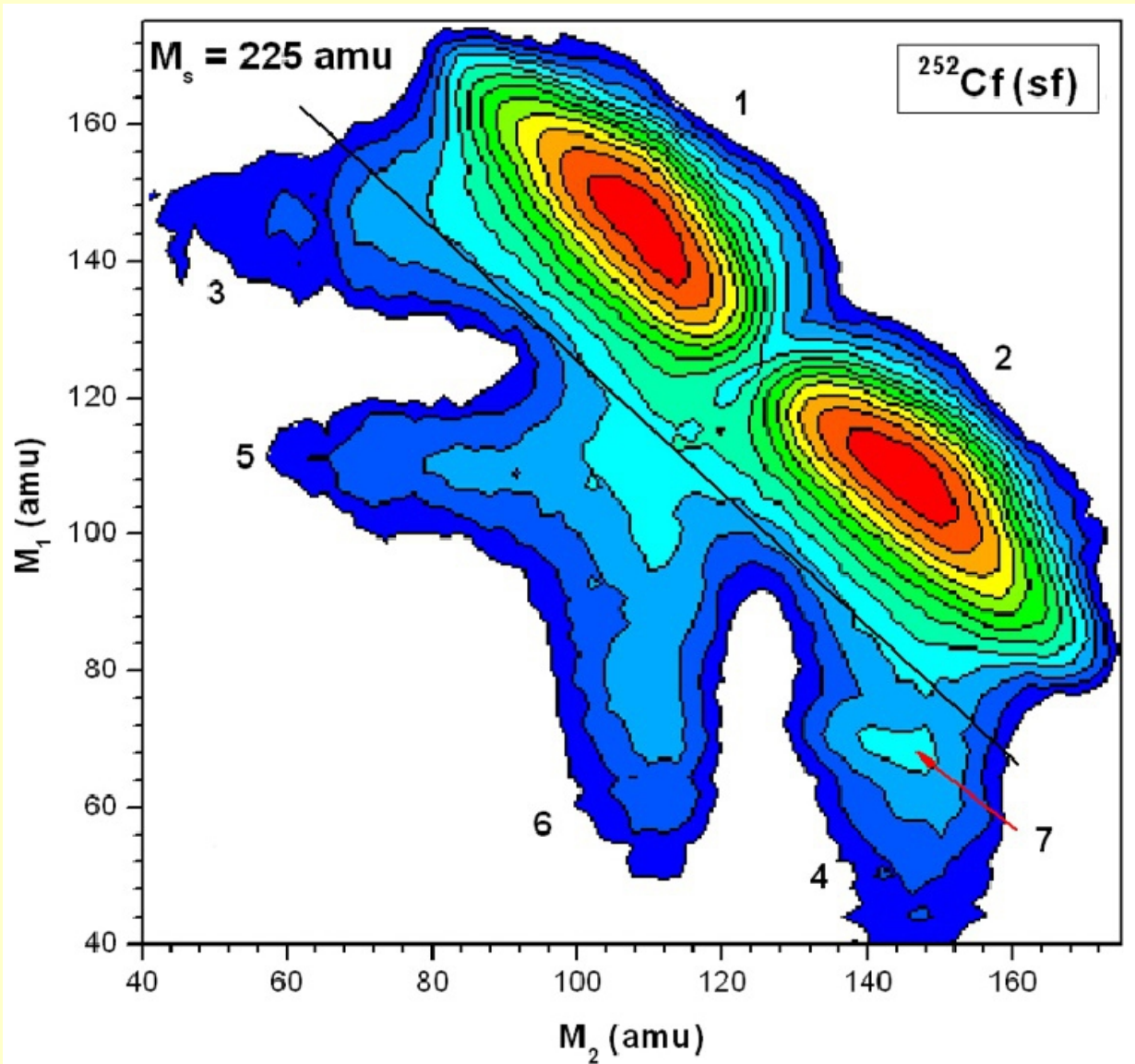
angle straggling in backing “2”, and **blocking** of one of 2 fragments L1, L2 in arm1

$^{252}\text{Cf}(\text{sf},\text{fff})$  (2xTOF+2 FOBOS - Detectors)



- 1 – source, 2 – backing of source. 3-**TOF**, pointing to arm 1 only  
3 – **TOF**-start, material in the path towards FOBOS(4,5) in arm1  
4 – **PPAC**, Position and TOF-stop, 5 - Bragg-Ionisation chambers,  
6 – support-grid, a), b) - front and side view of support-grid in gas-counters.

# Experiment (**Ex1**) binary coincidences at 180°,



$^{252}\text{Cf}(\text{sf}, \text{fff})$

Difference between **arm1**  
and **arm2**

Correlations of two masses  
 $M_1, M_2$ .

Line for  $M_s = 225 < 252$

$M_s$ -sum of two masses

$M_1 + M_2 = M_s$

(7)  $M_s = 64 + 140 = 204$

7 - Missing mass:  $^{48-52}\text{Ca}$



# Search for supersymmetry in $pp$ collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 7$ TeV in final states with missing transverse momentum and $b$ -jets $\star$

ATLAS Collaboration  $\star$

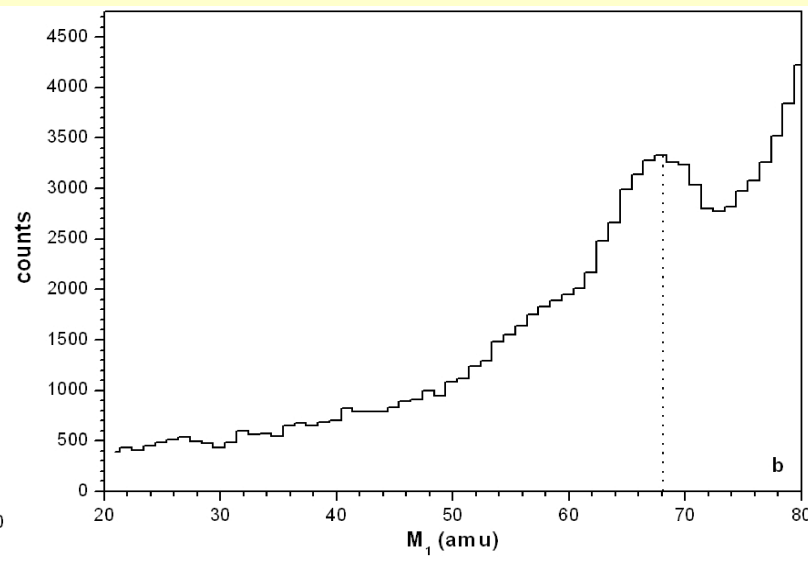
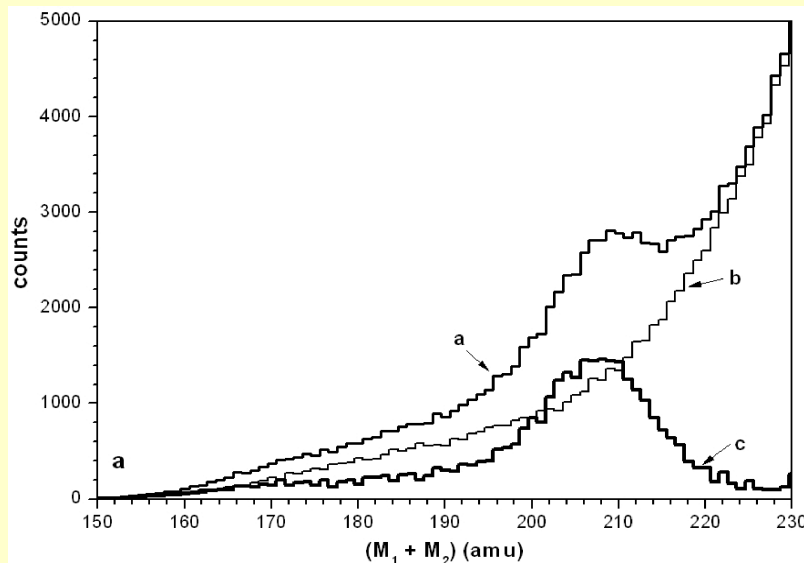
Experiment (Ex1) binary coincidences at  $180^\circ$ , Projections on  $(M1+M2)$ , and on  $M1$

Missing mass  $\leftrightarrow$  complete kinematics: 3 Masses:  $M1 + M3 + M2$

$2xE, -- 2xmasses, ---2$  vectors(angle, velocities)

Subtraction: of yield in arm2 (a) from yield in arm1 (b),  $^{252}\text{Cf}(sf,fff)$

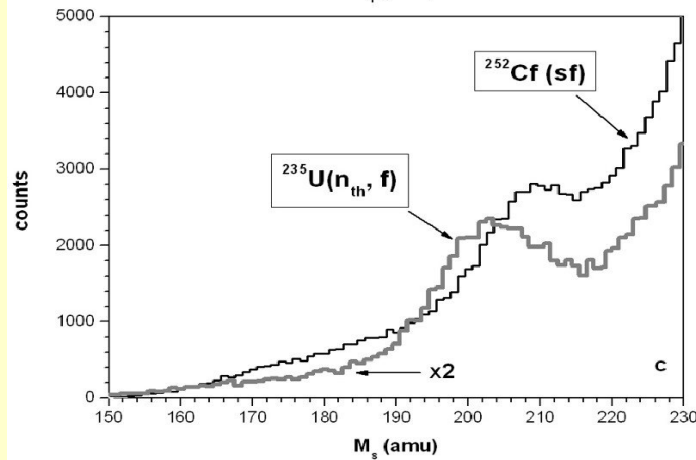
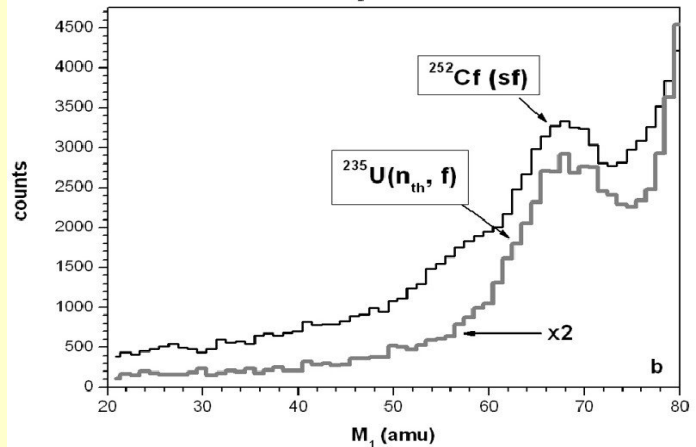
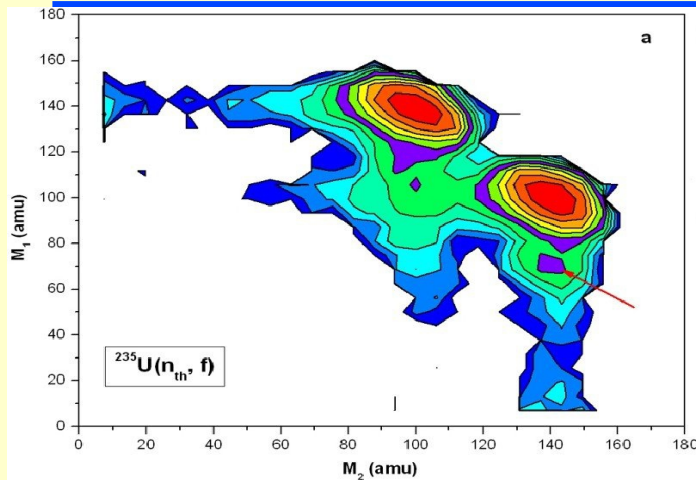
Projections: 1) on  $M1+M2$ , 2) on  $M1$ ,  $M3=(\text{missing mass})$





# Experiment 2 (**Ex2**) binary coincidences at $180^\circ$ ,

## Test of the new phenomenon with an *independent* experiment,



## Different Nucleus, different detectors!!

$^{235}\text{U}(n, fff)$  with *minifobos*

Correlations of two masses,  
 $M_1$ --  $M_2$ ,

$M_1 + M_2 \Rightarrow$  Missing mass

Comparison with previous  
 $^{252}\text{Cf}(sf, fff)$

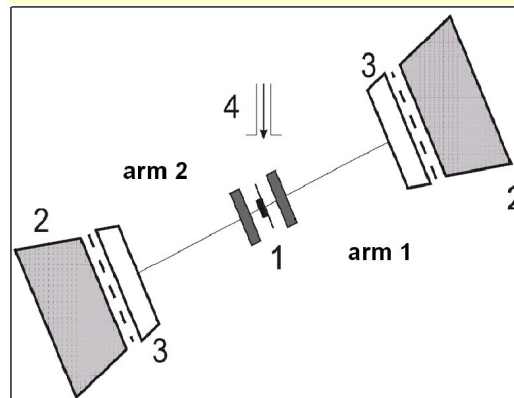
1- Target, and TOF

with backing  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ , towards arm 1!

3 – parallel plate counters (x,y and timing)

4 – neutron beam

2 – ionisation Bragg-chambers, E



# Some questions?, e.g. of referees, and answers!

## *Spontaneous fission* [1]

1)  $^{252}\text{Cf}(\text{fff}/\text{ff}) = 4.0 \times 10^{-3}$ , Yield is much too high?! **Hauser-Feshbach** approach for statistical decay!

1) **Answer:** because of the larger phase space. **Phase space:** a) Q-values, b) Kinetic energies, c) number of channels: range of isotope-combinations (30) in the fff-bump, d) Excited (n= 3-6) states of the fragments, e) Spins, *Ter Akopian et al.* (Phys. Rev. C55(1997) spins up to 6(8)+ !! and their multiplicity  $(2J+1)!!!$ , *Vijayaraghavan et al.*, EPJA 48 (2012), 27

## 2) **Why only Sn+Ca+Ni?**

2a) **Answer:** Potential energy surface shows deeper valley for Sn+Ca+Ni!

Compared to Sn+Ni+Ca by 10MeV, *A. Nazirov et al., K.R. Vijayaraghavan et al.*

3) **Collinearity?** Potential as function of **angle** between Sn-Ca-axis and Ni

3a) **Answer:** Potentials Calculated by *A. Nazirov et al., K.R. Vijayaraghavan et al.*,  
*Yields (Potentials) as function of Mass A3, Balasupramanian et al.*

## *Neutron induced fission* [1]

4)  $^{235}\text{U}(n, \text{fff})$  (2xTOF+2x mini-FOBOS) (Reactor, JINR, Dubna) [1]

4a) **Similar questions**, Differences explained by the Potential energy surfaces, calculated by A. Nazirov, and Balasupramanian

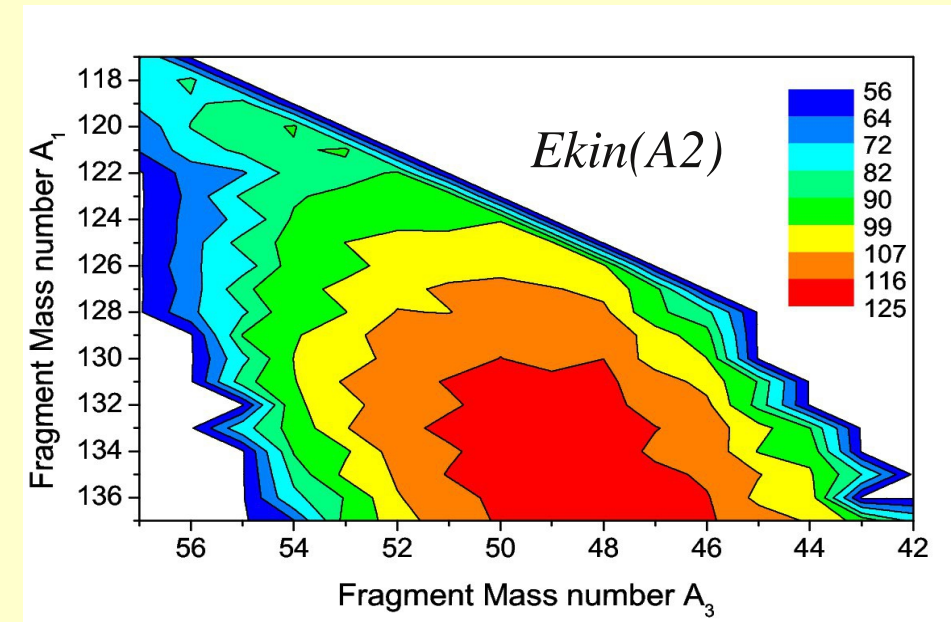
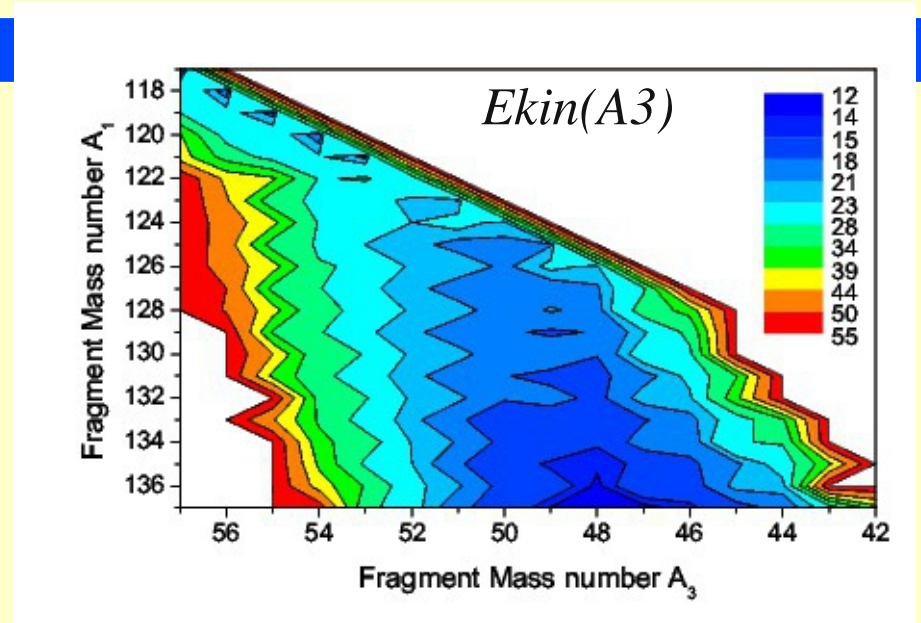
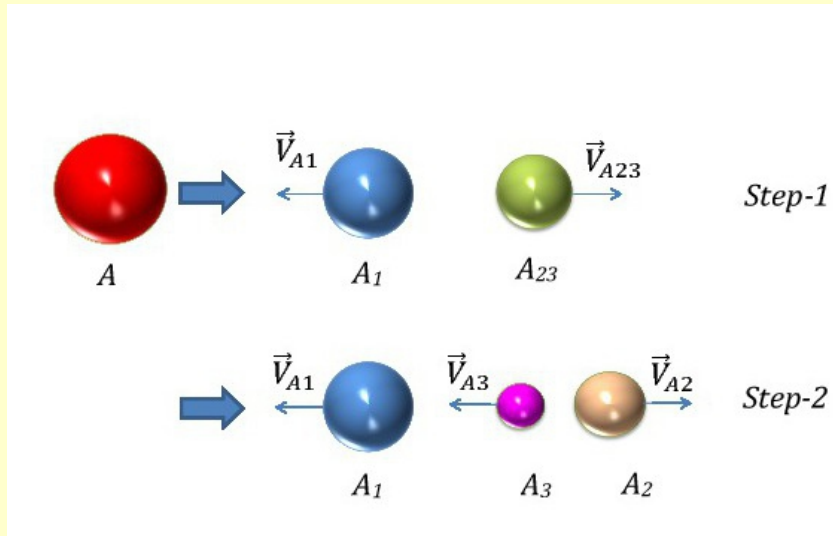
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[1] Y. V. Pyatkov, D. Kamanin, W von Oertzen et al., Eur. Phys. J. A **45** (2010) 29

[2] Y.V. Pyatkov et al., EPJ. A **48** (2012) 94

# Kinematics of CCT, Sequential fission process [1], Phase space!!!

Kinetic energies  $E_3(A_1, A_3)$   $A_3(A_1)$   
and  $E_2(A_1, A_3)$



[1] K.R. Vijayaraghavan ,  
W. von Oertzen and  
M. Balasubramanian,  
EPJ A **48** (2012), 27



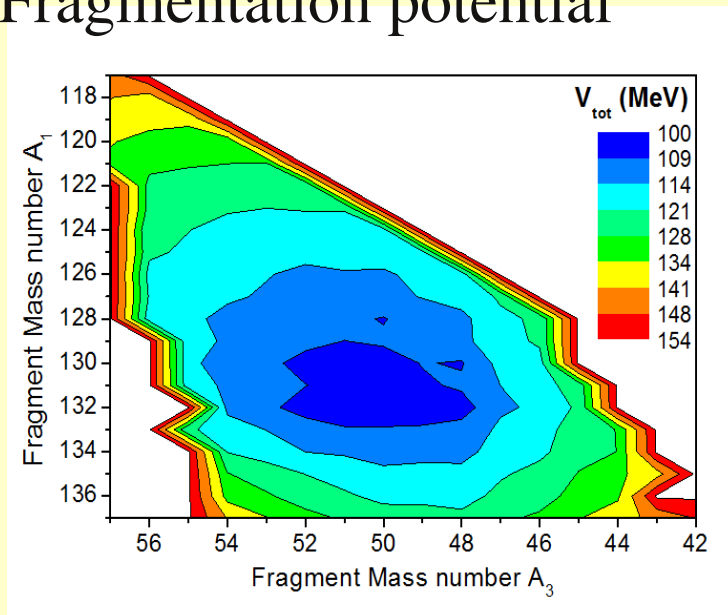
# Phase space of CCT for $^{252}\text{Cf}(\text{sf})$

- a) 30 mass-mass combinations of isotopes of Ca, Ni and Sn in the shallow region of the potential for ternary fragmentation, N - excited states of fragments (5, more!?) , Pins up to 6+ ( TerAkopian
- b) for these: Q-values are higher, by 25- 30 MeV, and *momenta are higher*, compared to normal binary fission. (2J+1) factor for the excited states: =  $\langle 9 \rangle$

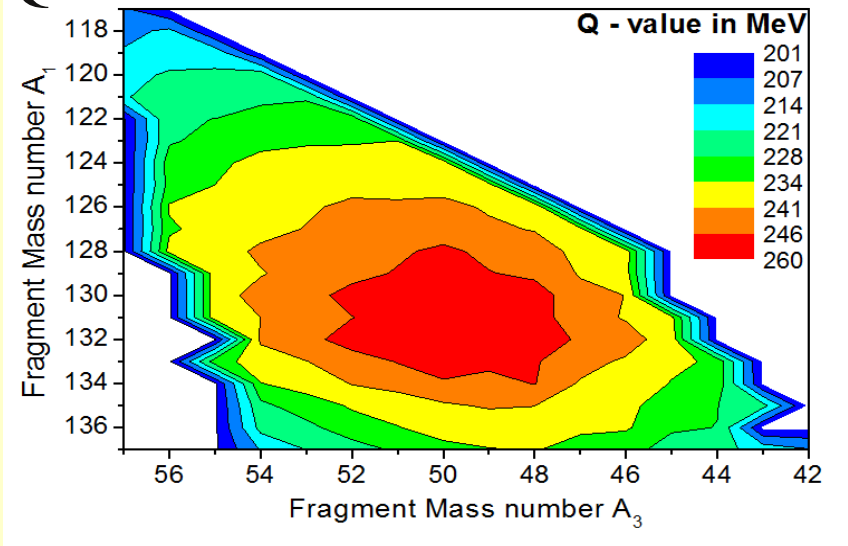
Total Phase space: ~5000-10000 larger, when compared to a Light - single isotope-particle (“ternary fission”), perpendicular to ff-axis!

The CCT mode produces a BUMP !! as in binary fission.

## Fragmentation potential

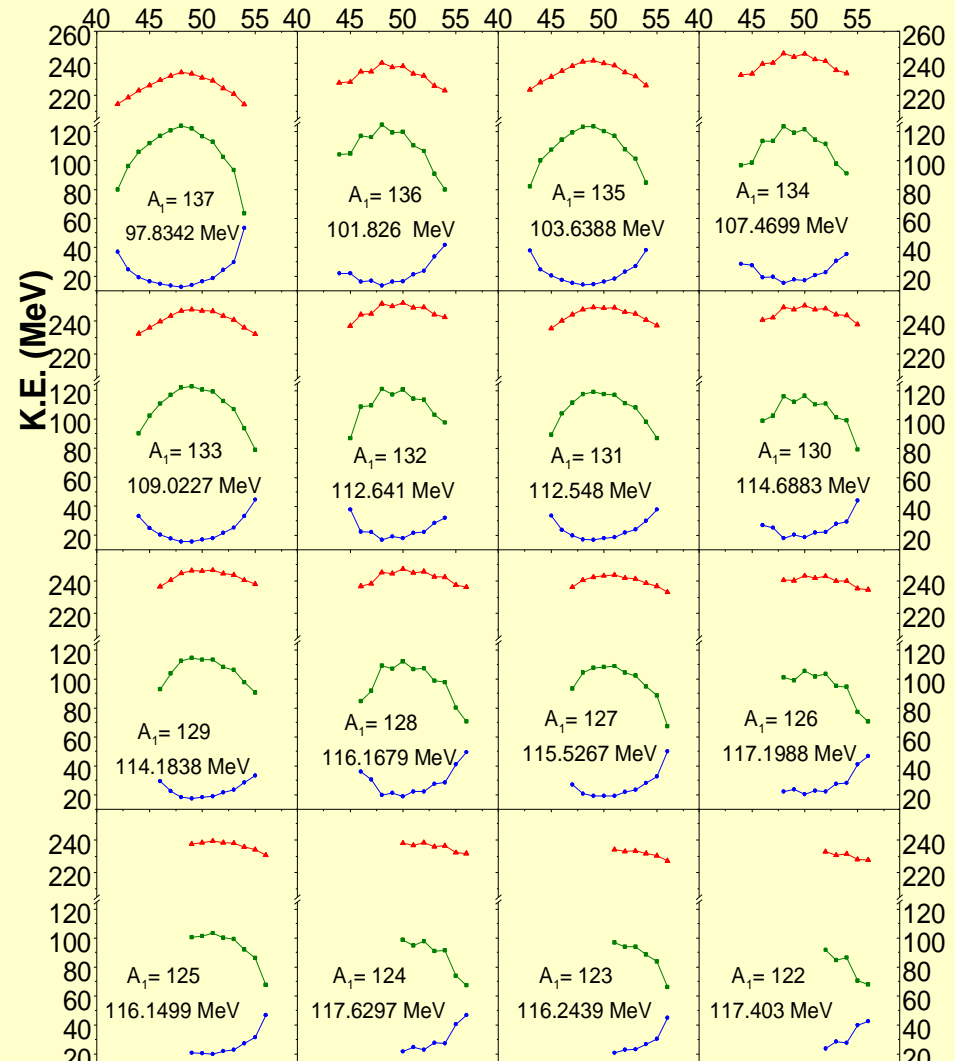
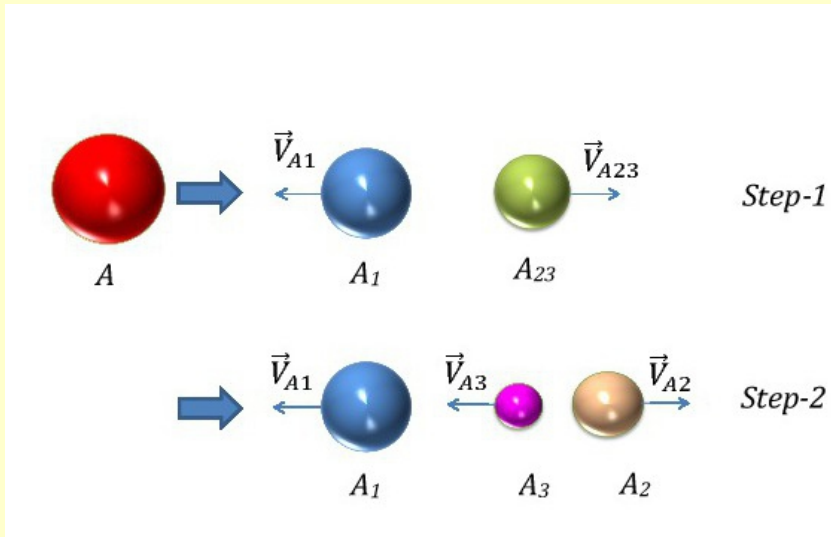
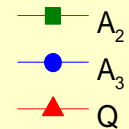
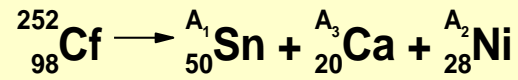


## Q-values



# Kinematics of CCT

Sequential fission process [1]  
Kinetic energies of A<sub>2</sub>, A<sub>3</sub>

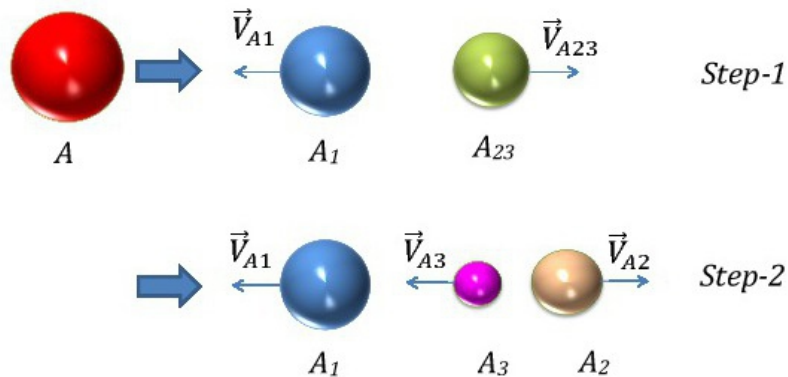


[1] K.R. Vijayaraghavan,  
W. von Oertzen and  
M. Balasubramanian, EPJ A **48**  
(2012), 27

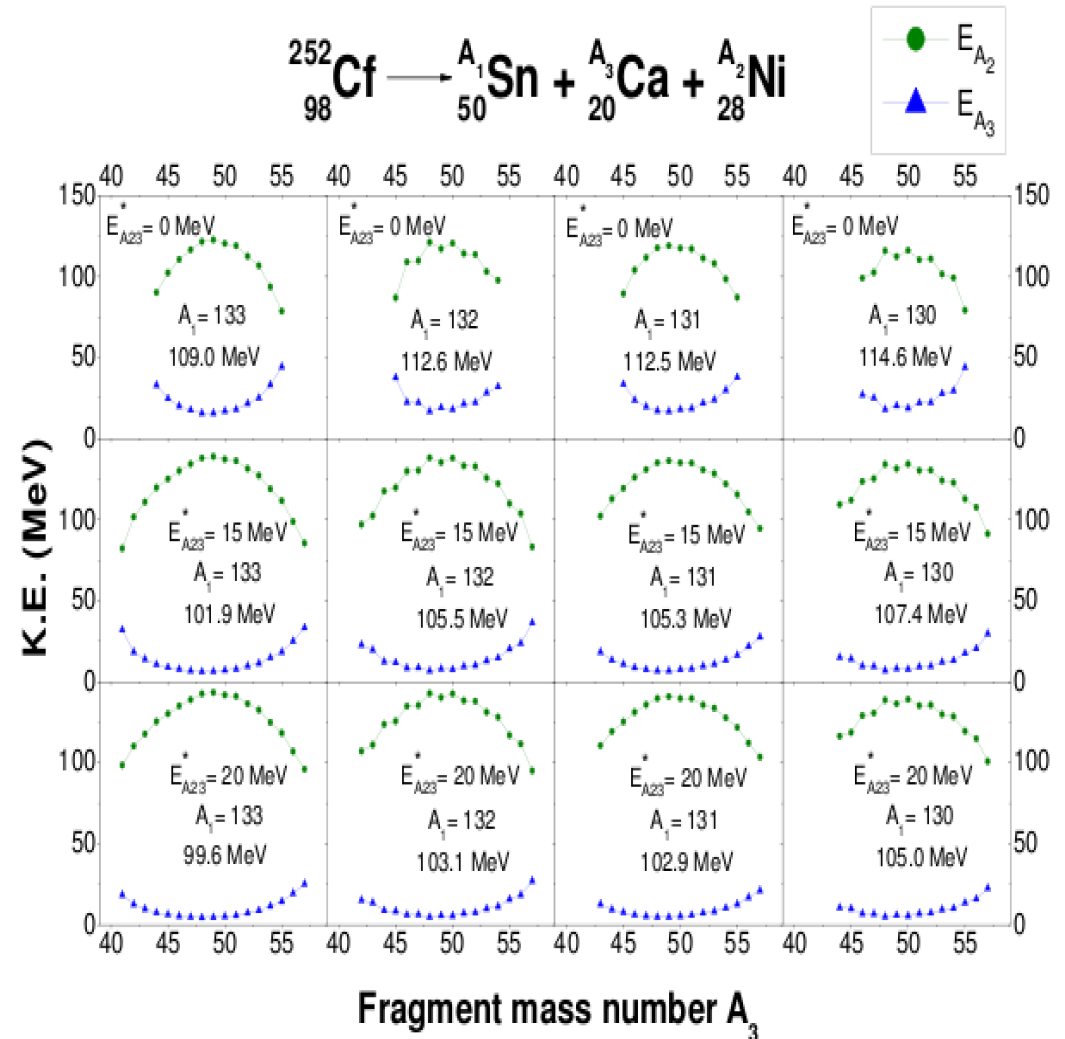
# Kinematics of CCT, Sequential fission process [1]

$E_{kin}(A_3, A_2)$  for different Excitation energies of  $A_{23}$

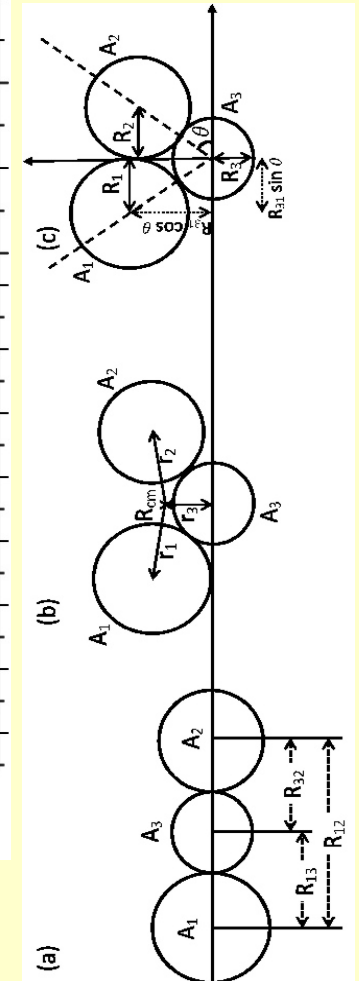
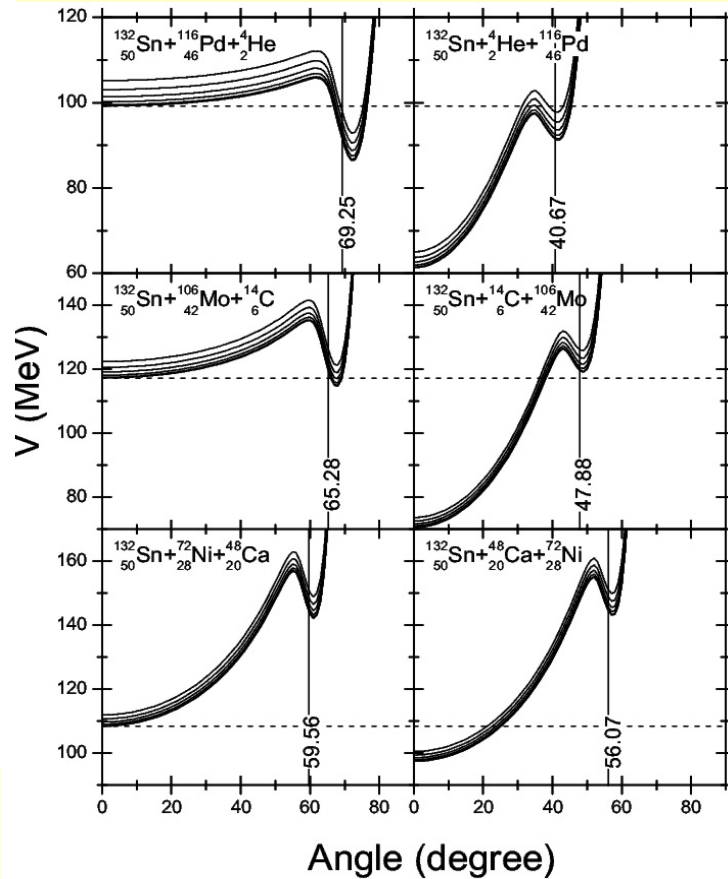
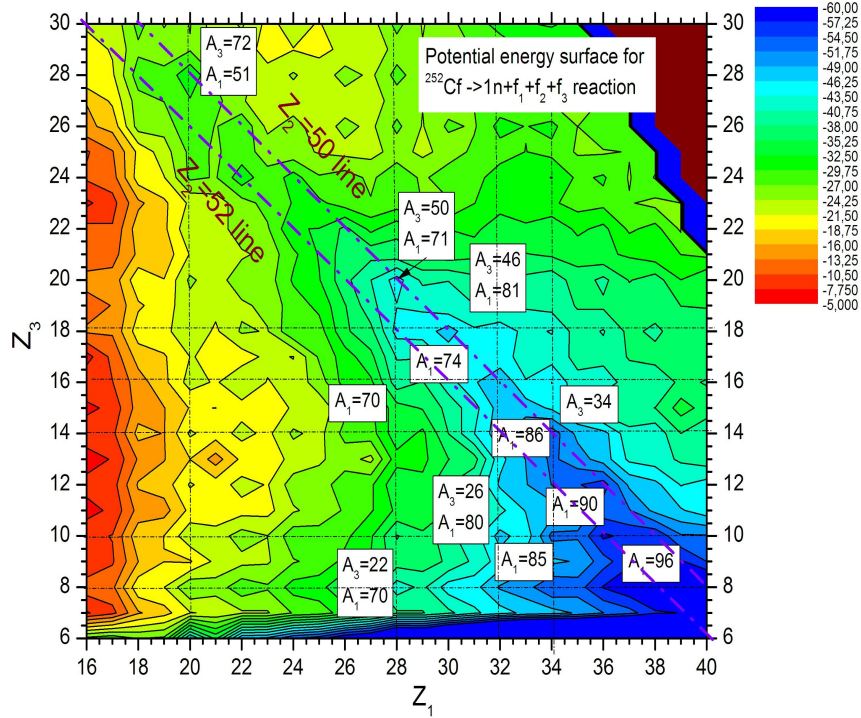
Kinetic energies of  $A_2, A_3$



[1] K.R. Vijayaraghavan ,  
W. von Oertzen and  
M. Balasubramanian,  
EPJ A **48** (2012) 27



# Why? (Sn + Ca + Ni) and why not (Sn + Ni + Ca)



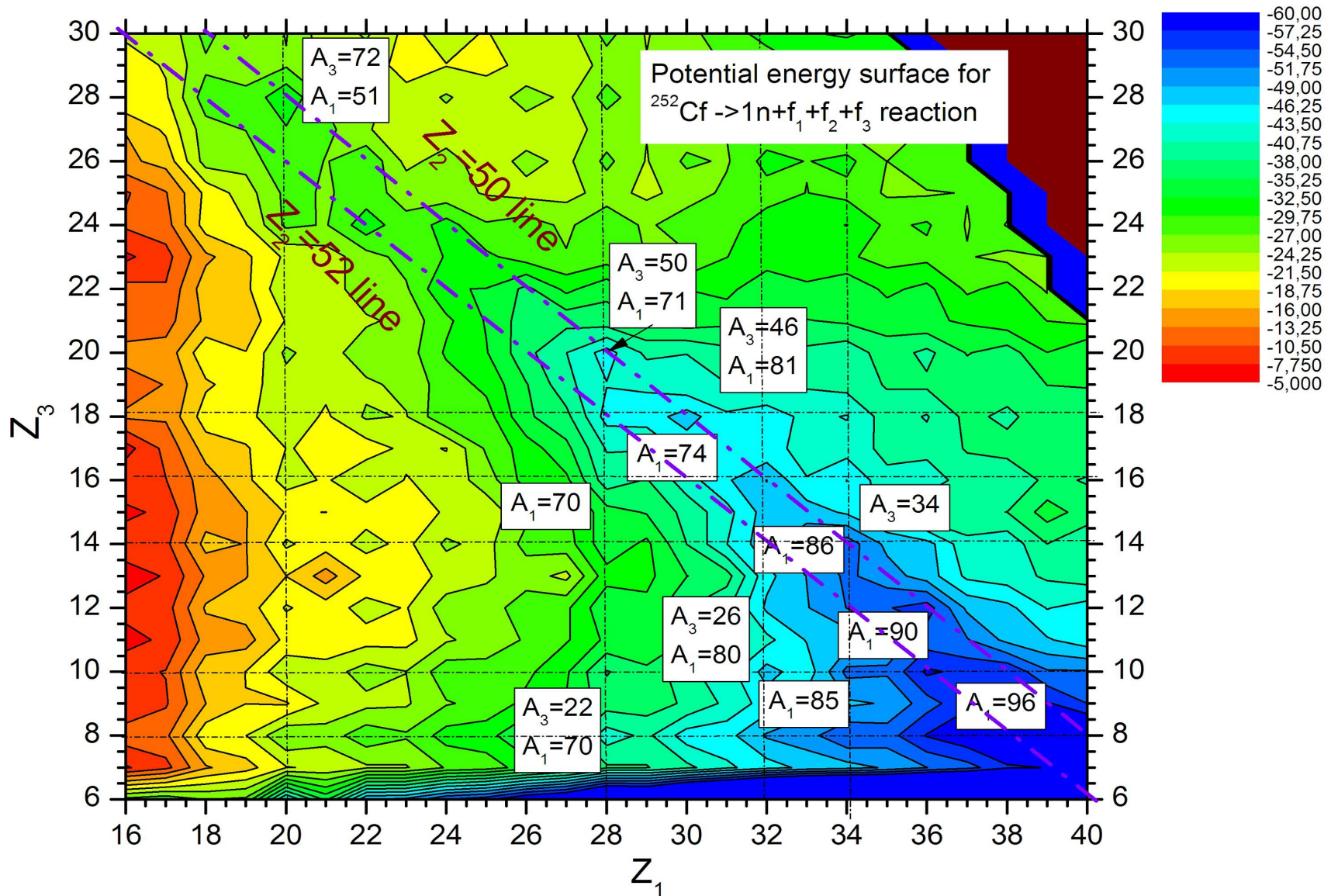
missing  $Z = 18, 20$  (Ca)  
or missing  $Z = 28$  (Ni),

Deeper valleys (angle=0) with Ca in the middle

Calculations by Nazirov (JINR) PES, and Balasupramanian (Coimbatore, India)



# (Sn + Ca + Ni) and (Sn + Ni + Ca)



# Collinearity ? Comparison of Potentials for Oblate(Equat.) and Prolate geometry

Hyperdef- and Super-deformed (Collinear) Fission configurations  
as function of mass A3, in the center (ter. Mass), Cross-over at A3 = 35

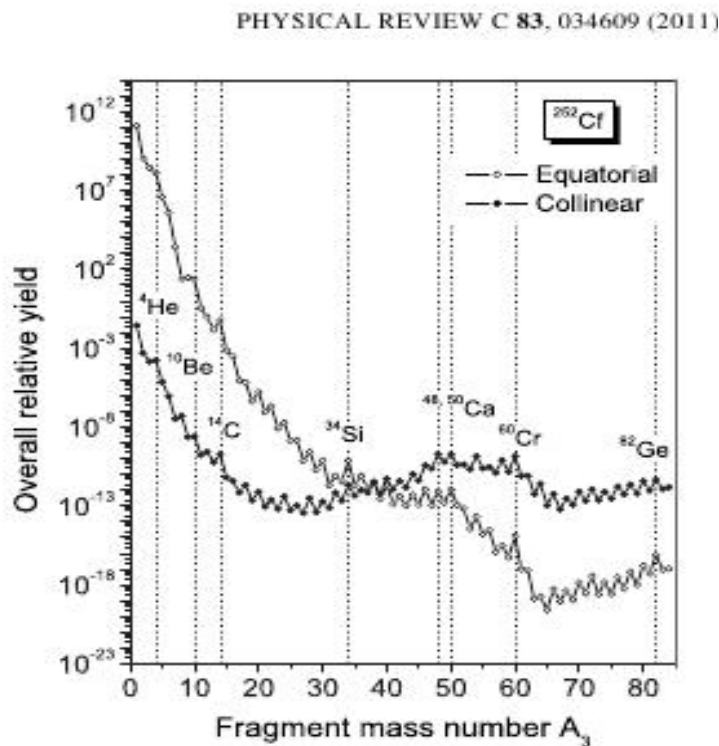
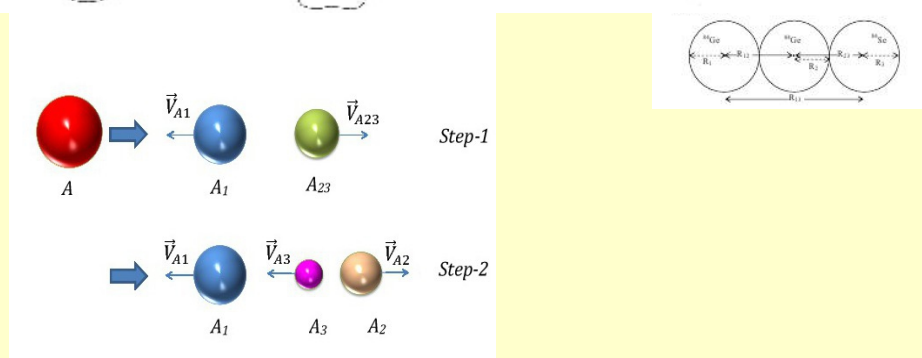
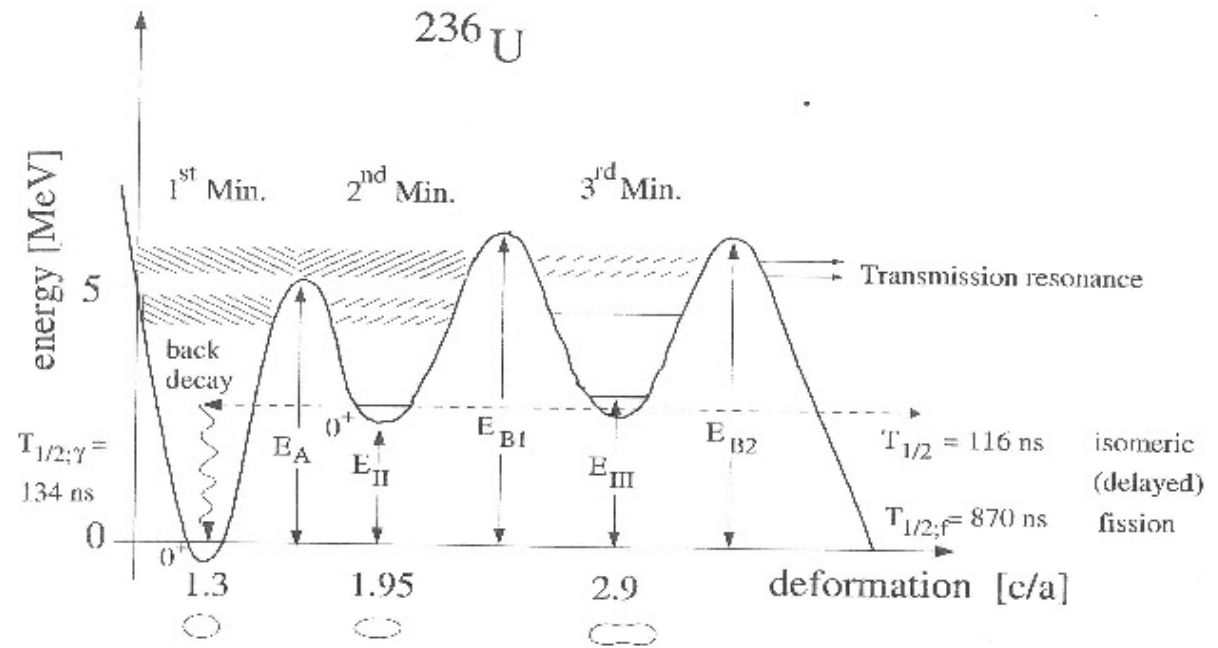


FIG. 11. A comparison between the overall relative yield calculated for equatorial and collinear emission of fragments in ternary fission of  $^{252}\text{Cf}$  plotted as a function of third fragment mass number  $A_3$ .



K. Manimaran and M. Balasubramanian, Phys.Rev. C **83** (2011) 034609

Multi-Hump Barrier: A. Krasnoharkay et al. Phys. Rev. Letters **80** (1998) 2073

## Conclusion:

Collinear Cluster decay has been observed in **four** different experiments

1)  $^{252}\text{Cf}(\text{sf}, \text{fff})$  (2xTOF+2x FOBOS) JINR

Spontaneous fission [1]

2)  $^{235}\text{U}(n, \text{fff})$  (2xTOF+2x mini-FOBOS)

Neutron induced fission (Reactor, JINR, Dubna) [1]

Spontaneous fission + neutron coincidences [2]:

3)  $^{252}\text{Cf}(\text{fff}, \underline{n})$  (2xTOF+2x5 mini-FOBOS), FLNR

4)  $^{252}\text{Cf}(\text{fff}, \underline{n})$  (2xTOF+2xSi-E\_Mosaic), FLNR

[1] Y. V. Pyatkov, D. Kamanin , W von Oertzen et al. ,  
Eur. Phys. J. A **45** (2010) 29

[2] Y.V. Pyatkov et al. , EPJ. A **48** (2012) 94



# Future Experiments

1) Multiple fission decays of heavier nuclei-D. N. Poenaru, R.A. Gherghescu and W. Greiner **Nucl.Phys. A 747(2005) 182** Inverse kinematics, FRS, fragment separators

2) Compound nuclei with  $Z = > 100$

V. I. Zagrebaev, A.V. Karpov and W. Greiner , “true ternary fission”

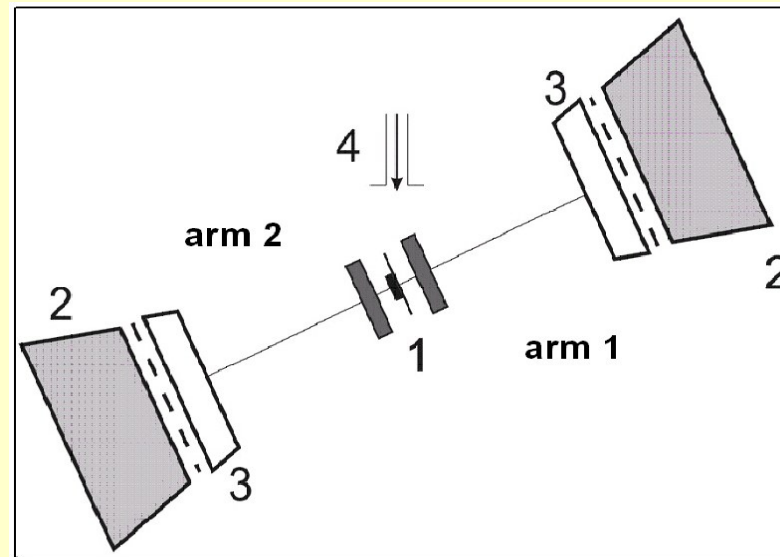
**Phys.Rev. C 81(2010) 044608**

3) Dedicated experimental set-ups (4 pi- Si-Ball)

# Experiment 2 (Ex2) binary coincidences at 180°

## Missing mass approach

$^{235}\text{U}(n, fff)$ , (2xTOF+2xFOBOS) (n, ff, fff) JINR Reactor

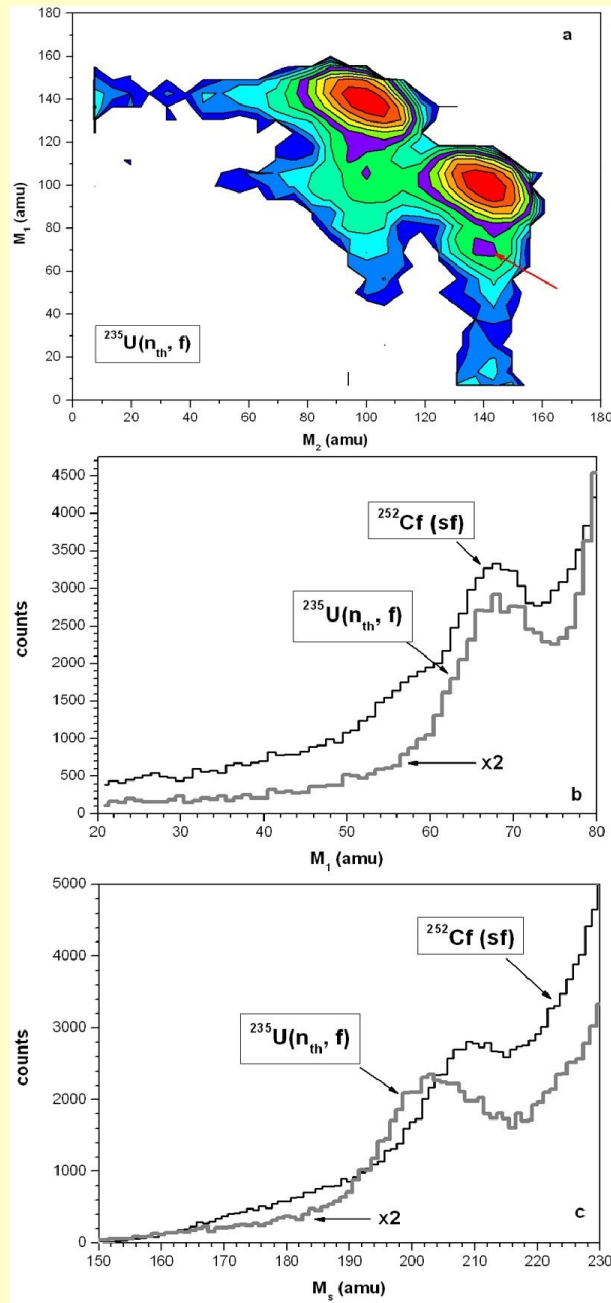


1 – target + TOF-start, 2 – Bragg-Ionisation chambers

3 – PPAC's, 4 – neutron beam from reactor

**1-- backing of source pointing to arm 1,  
differences in counting rates (arm1-arm2)**

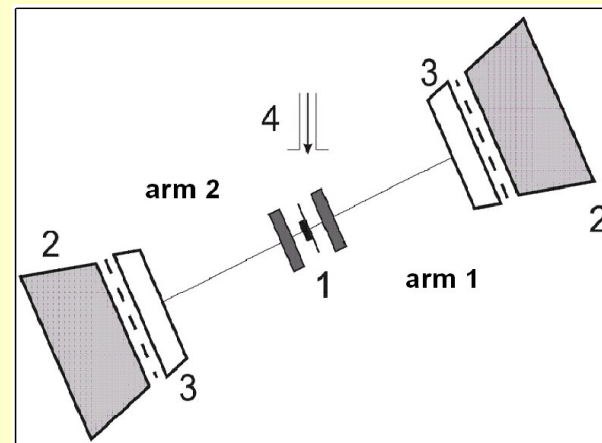
# Experiment 2 (**Ex2**) binary coincidences at 180°



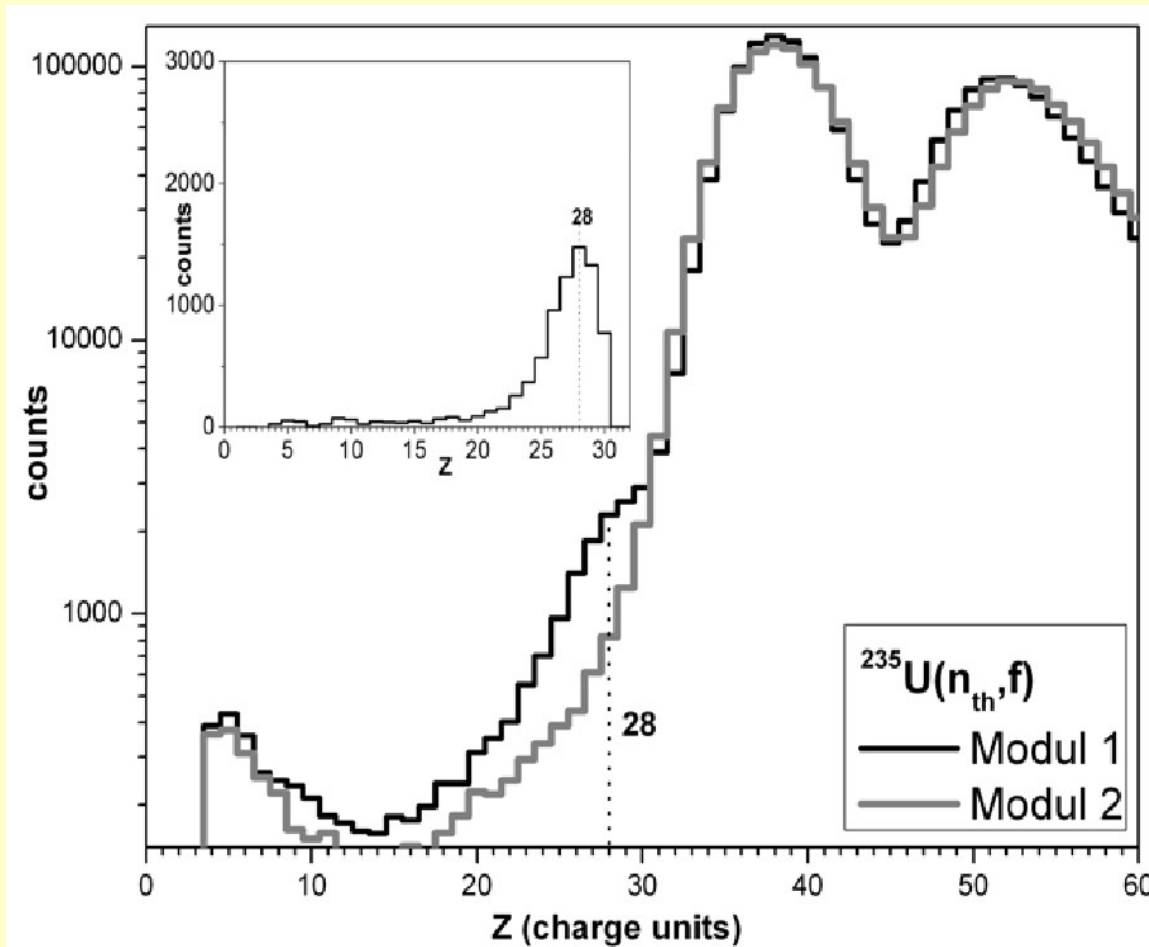
$^{235}\text{U}(n, fff)$

Correlations of two masses,  
 $M_1 - M_2$ ,  
 $M_1 + M_2 = M_s$

Comparison with  
 $^{252}\text{Cf}(sf, fff)$ ,



# Experiment 2 (**Ex2**) binary coincidences at 180°,



$^{235}\text{U}(n, fff)$

Energy - loss information  
from

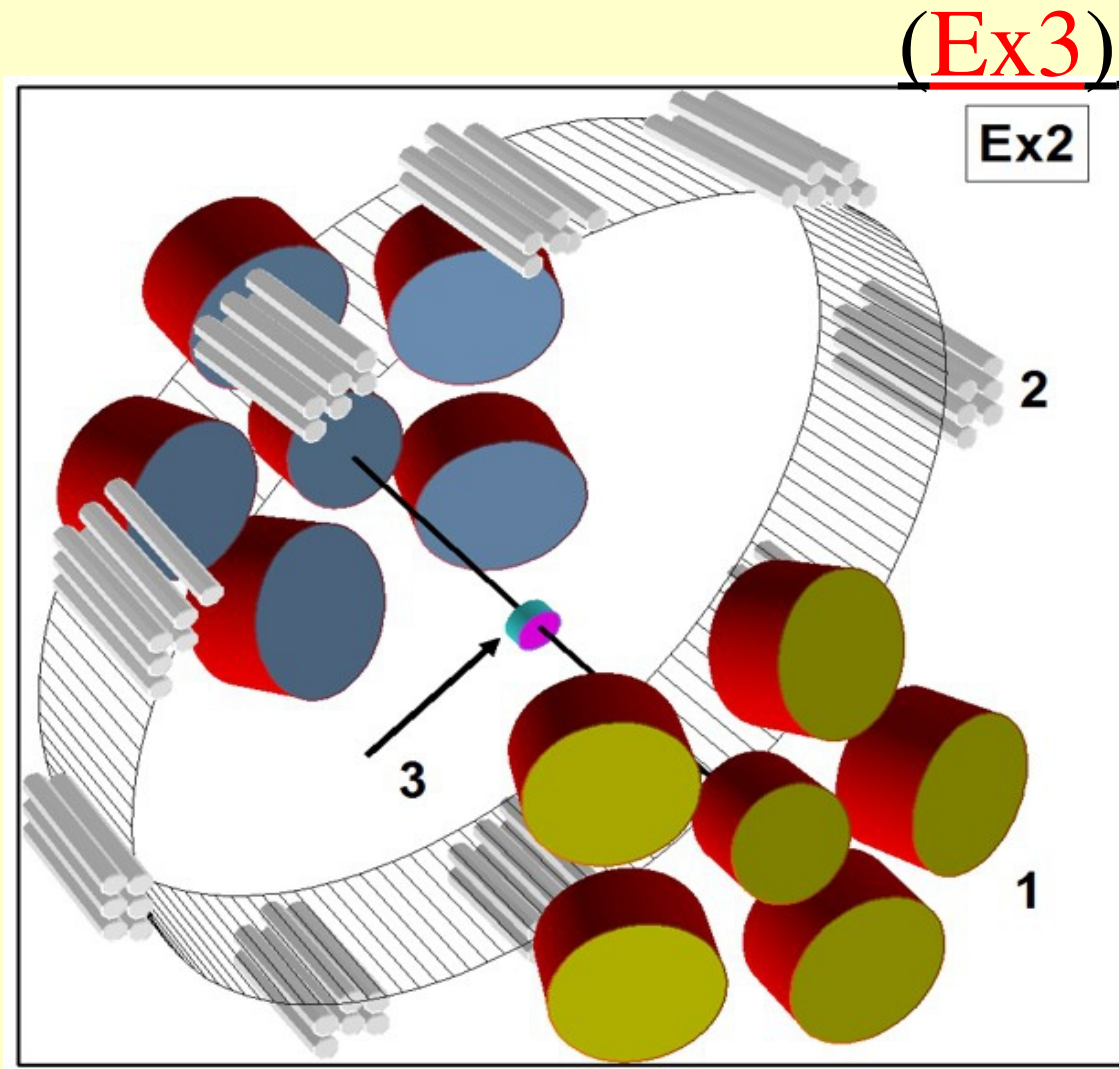
Drift time in two Fobos-  
ionisation chambers

(Bragg-detectors, give the  
charge for the “Ni”-bump:

missing  $Z = 20$  (Ca)

Experiment (Ex3),  $^{252}\text{Cf}(\text{sf}, \text{fff}, \text{n})$  neutrons in coincidence, ff at  $180^\circ$

2x6 Mini-Fobos + Neutron detectors Ring



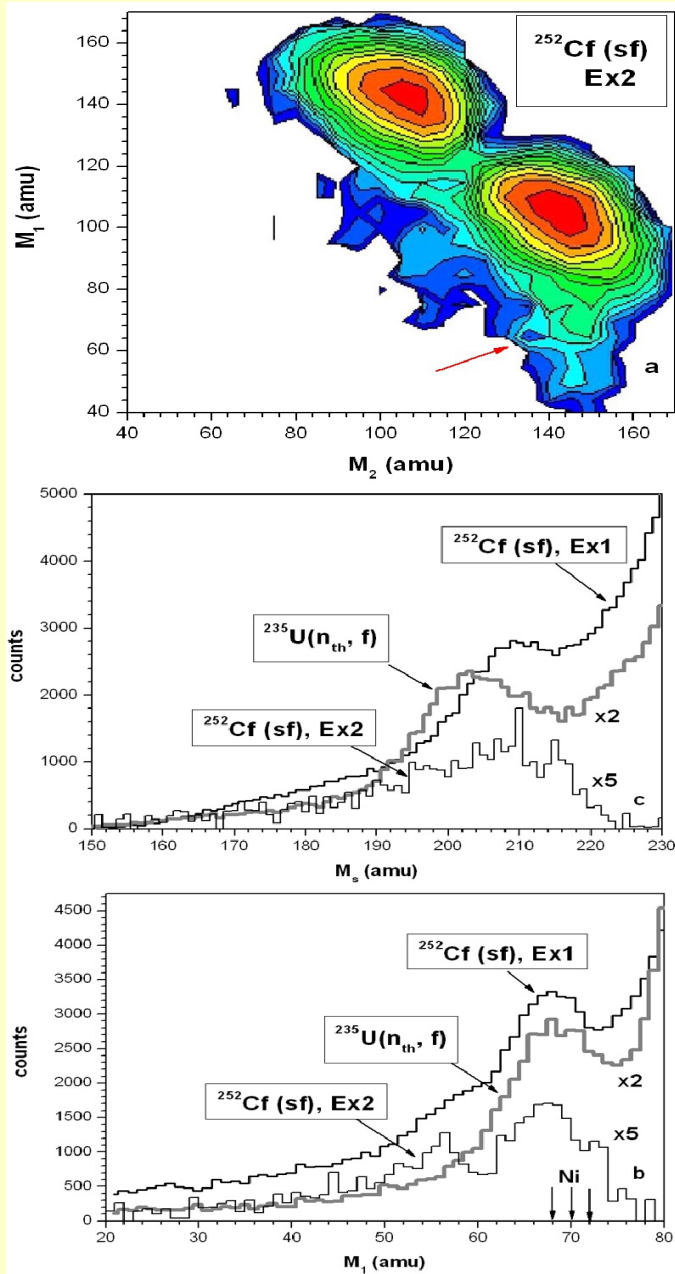
1 – smaller Fobos detectors

2 – Ring of Neutron-detector chambers

3 – Source (+Start TOF)

$^{252}\text{Cf}(\text{sf}, \text{fff}, \text{n})$

# Experiment (**Ex3**) binary coincidences at 180°

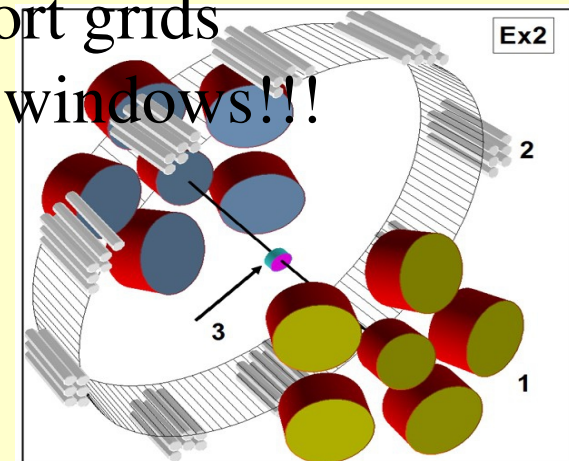


in coincidence with neutrons



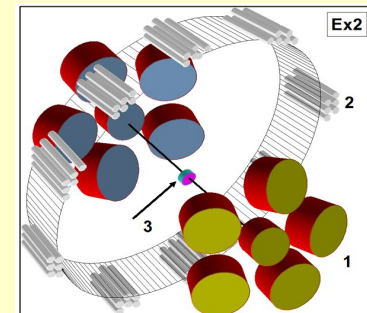
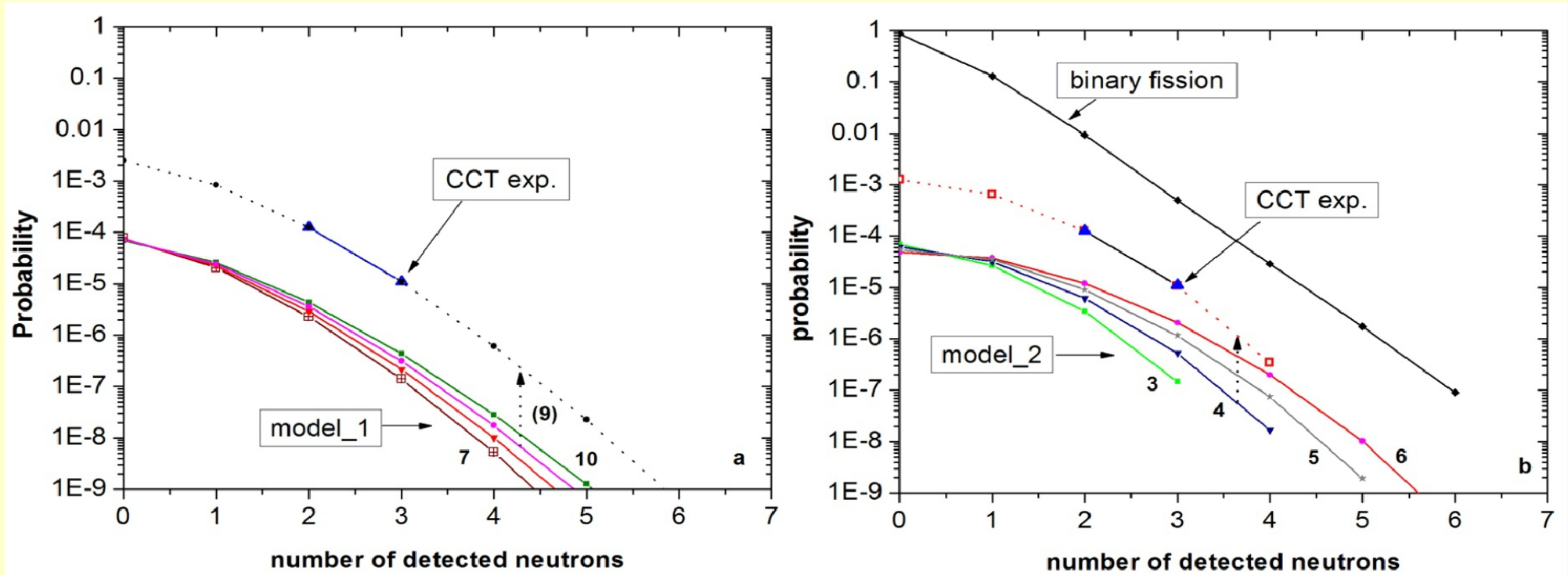
No background (tails), due to n-coincidences

**MINI-Fobos**,  
smaller support grids  
for entrance windows!!!



# Experiment (Ex3) in coincidence with Neutrons

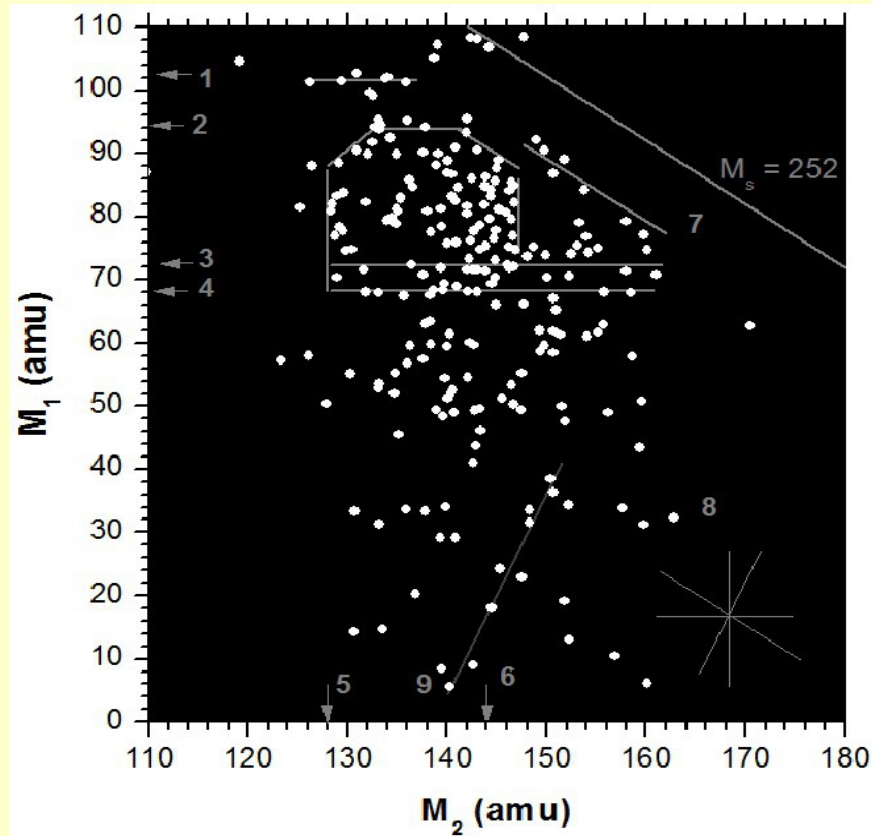
## Neutron multiplicities





# Experiment (Ex4) binary coincidences at 180°

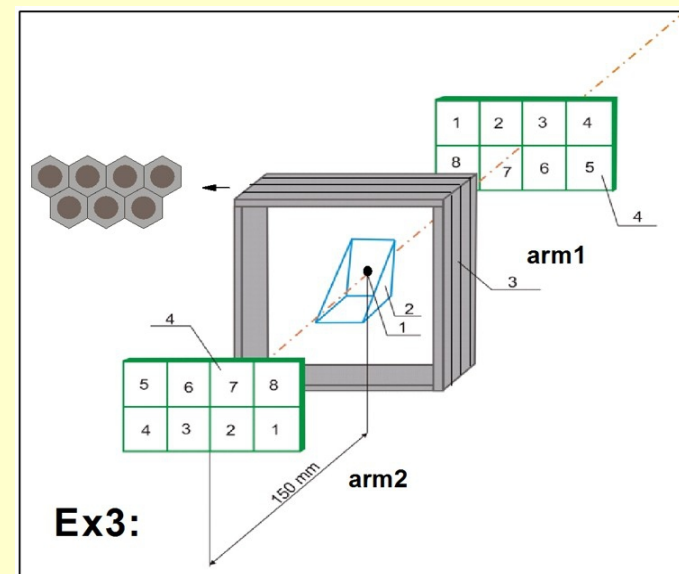
## in coincidence with Neutrons



M1-M2 correlations, with  
Multiplicity  $M_n = 2$

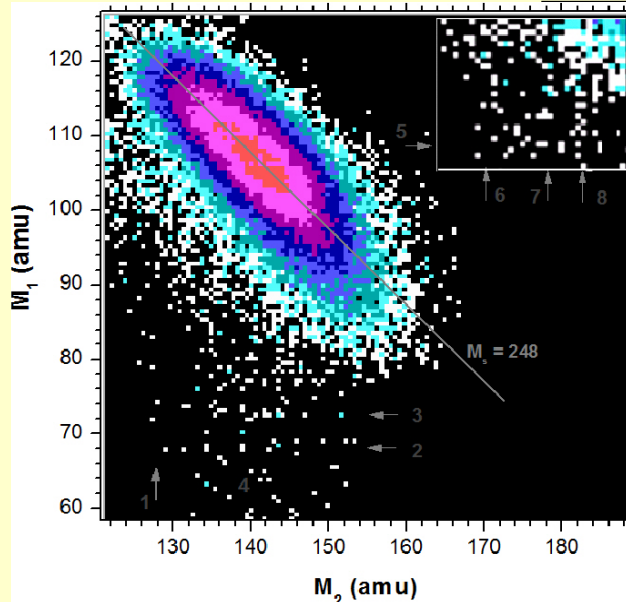
$^{252}\text{Cf}(\text{sf}, \text{fff}, \text{n})$

Mosaic of pin diodes,  
with separating grids



# Experiment (**Ex4**) binary coincidences at 180°,

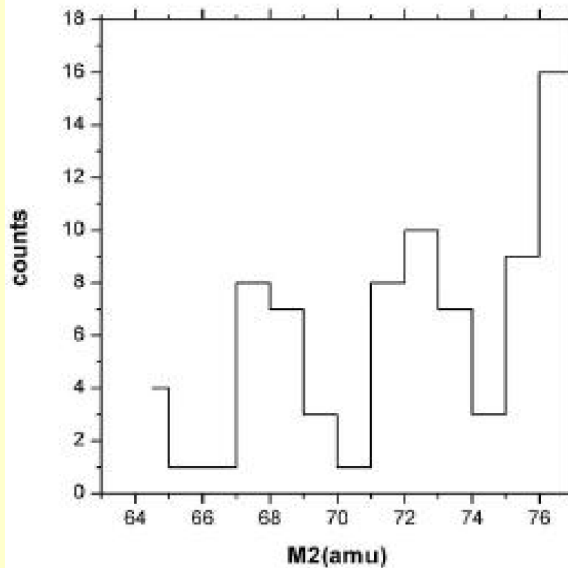
## in coincidence with Neutrons



*Inclusive data,*  
No condition on  
neutron Multiplicity  
 $Mn = 1 - 3$ ; horizontal  
and diagonal lines.

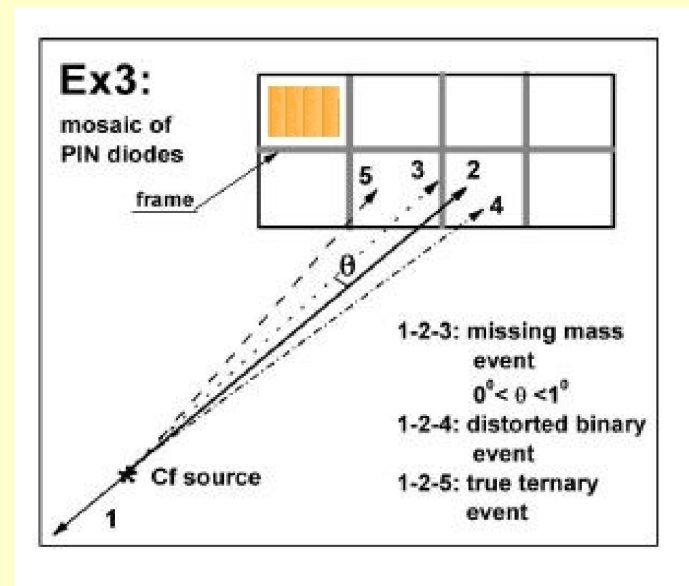


Mosaic of pin diodes,  
with separating grids

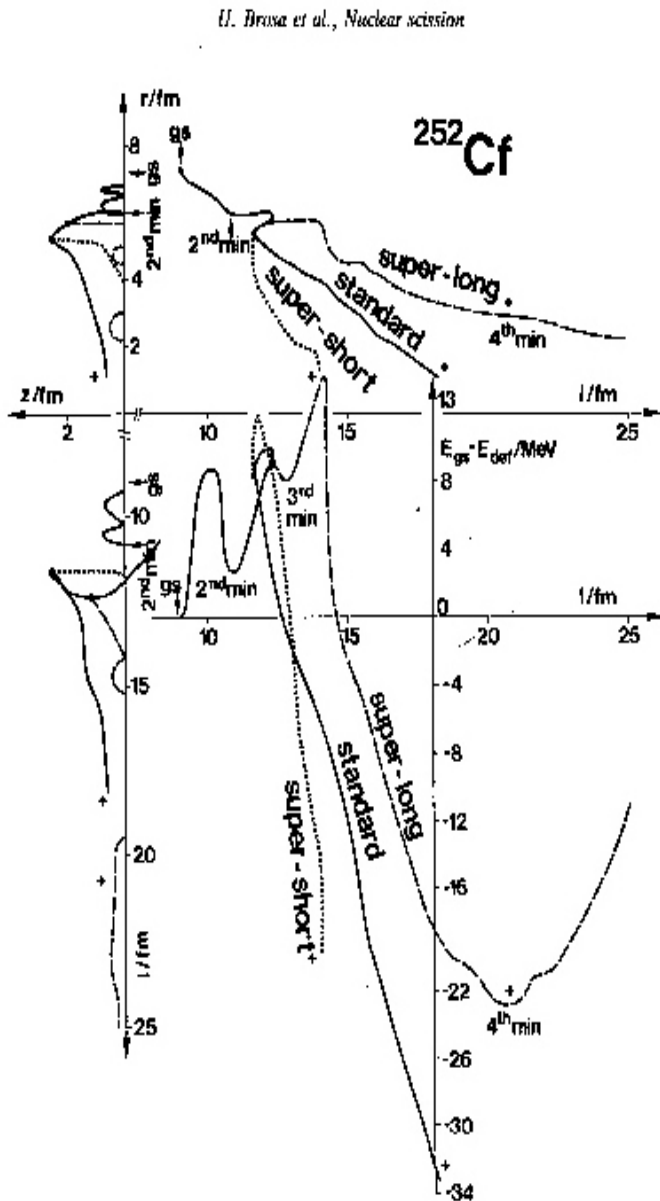


No background close to  
binary bump.

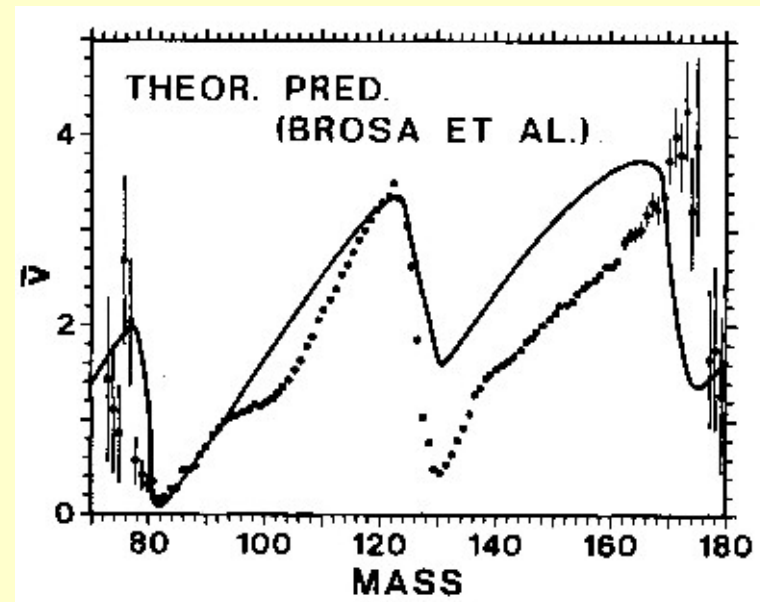
Projections: of “Ni”-lines  
with  $M2 = 68, 72$ ,  
PES of Nazirov show,  
That other charges are  
involved:,  $Z = 26, 28, 30$



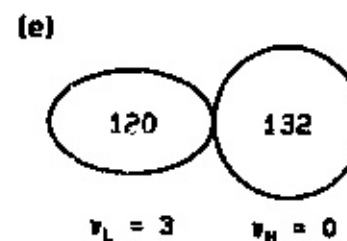
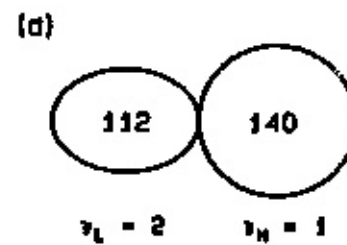
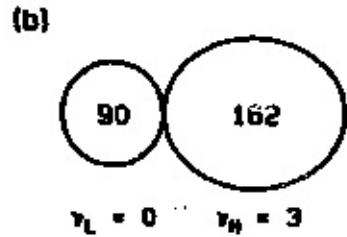
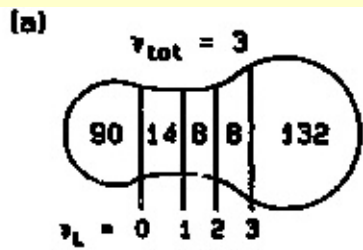
# Different fission paths as function of *prolate* deformation



$^{252}\text{Cf}(\text{sf}, \text{ff})$ , Fission-modes of Brosa et al.  
SuperLong (Hyperdef), fff?  
Standard (Superdef)  
Compact(supershort, all Clusters,  
 realized in, fff.  
Neutron multiplicities:



# Neutron multiplicities as function of *prolate* deformation



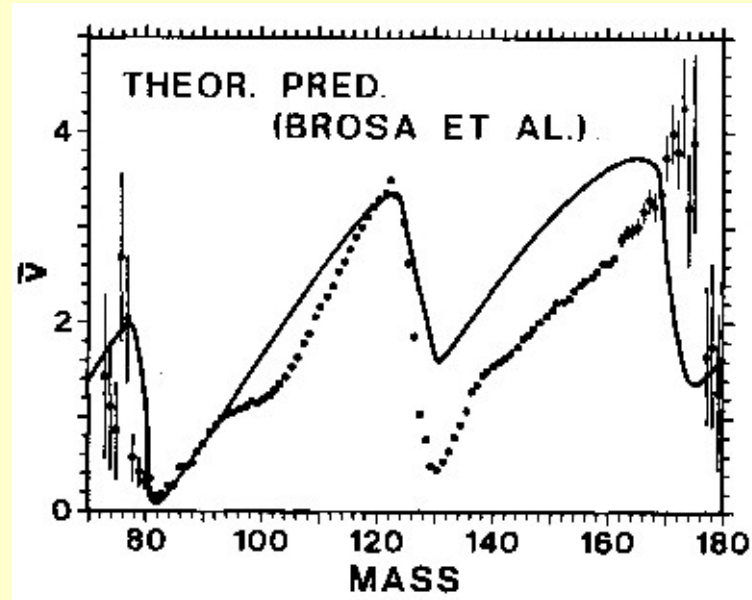
$^{252}\text{Cf}(\text{sf}, \text{ff})$  Fission-modes of Brosa et al.

SuperLong (Hyperdef), **fff** different CCT?

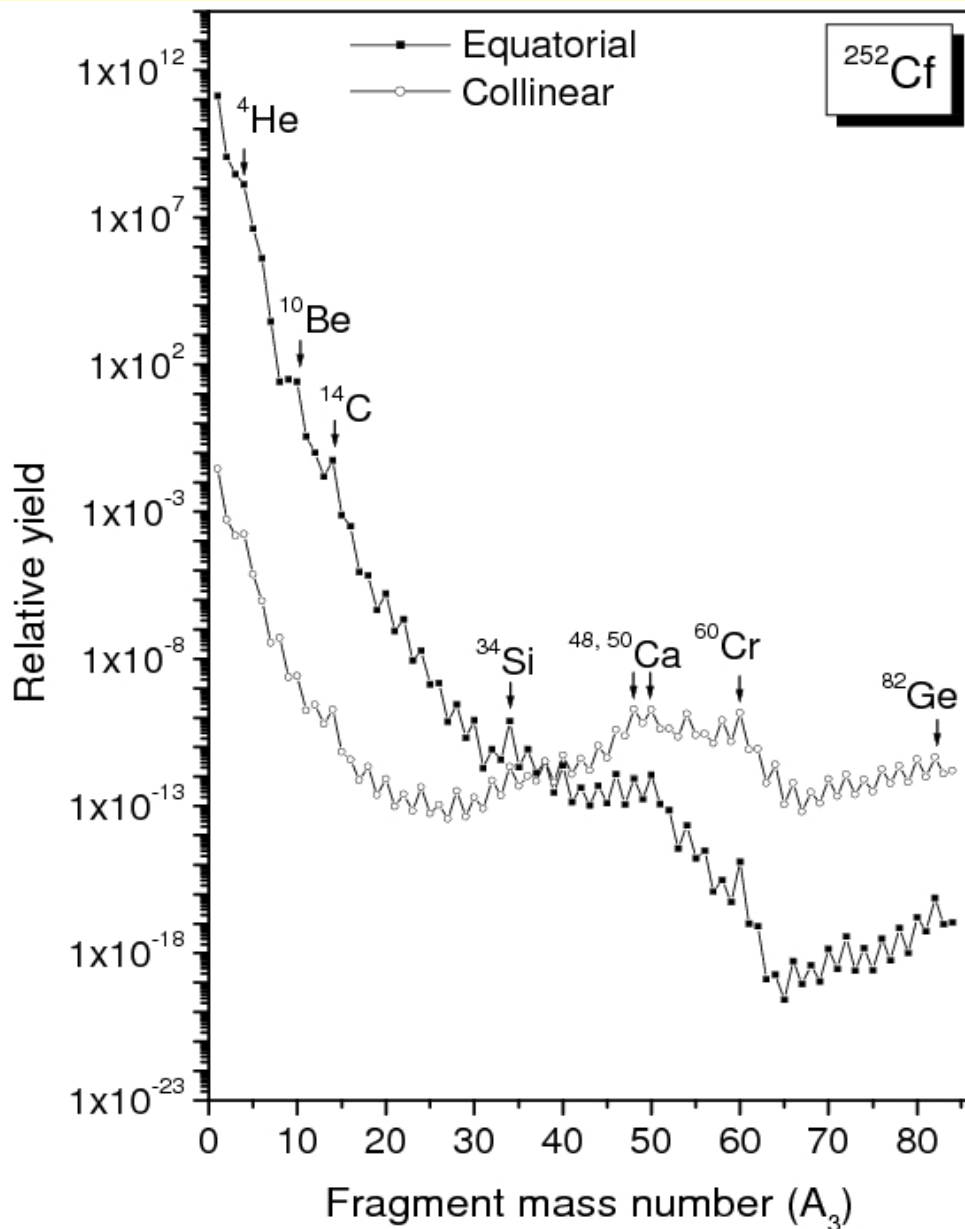
Standard (Superdef)

SuperShort (all Clusters, also realized in CCT)

Neutron multiplicities have a minimum for clusters, e.g.  $^{132}\text{Sn}$



# Perspectives of true ternary fission



- Other Heavy and **super-heavy nuclei**, Zagrebaev, Karpov, Greiner: *Phys.Rev. C* 81(2010)
- Kinetic energies of fragments.
- Experiments with 3 clusters in coincidence: **INVERSE KINEMATICS**. Fission in flight (FRS – GSI, FAIR)
- Higher mass resolution
- Definition of fission modes (**BROSA**): **Hyper-deformation!**
- At high spins, fission from super —and hyper-deformation will occur as CCT





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NUCLEAR  
PHYSICS A

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### Relativistic radioactive beams: A new access to nuclear-fission studies <sup>☆</sup>

K.-H. Schmidt <sup>a</sup>, S. Steinhäuser <sup>b</sup>, C. Böckstiegel <sup>b</sup>, A. Grewe <sup>b</sup>, A. Heinz <sup>b</sup>,  
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#### Abstract

The secondary-beam facility of GSI Darmstadt was used to study the fission properties of 70 short-lived radioactive nuclei. Most of them have not been accessible so far in conventional fission experiments. Relativistic secondary projectiles were produced by fragmentation of a 1 A GeV <sup>238</sup>U primary beam and identified in nuclear charge and mass number. Using these reaction products as secondary beams, the giant resonances, mostly the giant dipole resonance, were excited by electromagnetic interactions in a secondary lead target, and fission from excitation energies around 11 MeV was induced. The fission fragments were identified in nuclear charge, and their velocity vectors were determined. Elemental yields and total kinetic energies have been obtained for a number of neutron-deficient actinides and preactinides. The characteristics of multimodal fission of nuclei around <sup>237</sup>Th were systematically investigated. The proton even-odd effect was determined for all systems. © 2000 Elsevier Science B.V. All rights reserved.

PACS: 24.30.Cz; 24.75.+i; 25.20.-x; 25.60.-i; 25.70.Mn; 25.85.-w; 25.85.Jg; 27.80.+w; 27.90.-b; 29.30.Aj; 29.40.-n; 29.40.Me

Keywords: Nuclear reaction; Radioactive beams; Nuclear fission; Measured fission-fragment elemental yields for <sup>205,206</sup>At, <sup>204-209</sup>Rn, <sup>206-217,217,218</sup>Fr, <sup>209-219</sup>Ra, <sup>212-226</sup>Ac, <sup>217-229</sup>Th, <sup>224-232</sup>Pa, <sup>230-234</sup>U and total kinetic energies for <sup>210-215,217-219</sup>Ra, <sup>215-235</sup>Ac, <sup>221-229</sup>Th, <sup>226-234</sup>Pa, <sup>232-234</sup>U; Transition from symmetric to asymmetric fission; Deduced even-odd effect

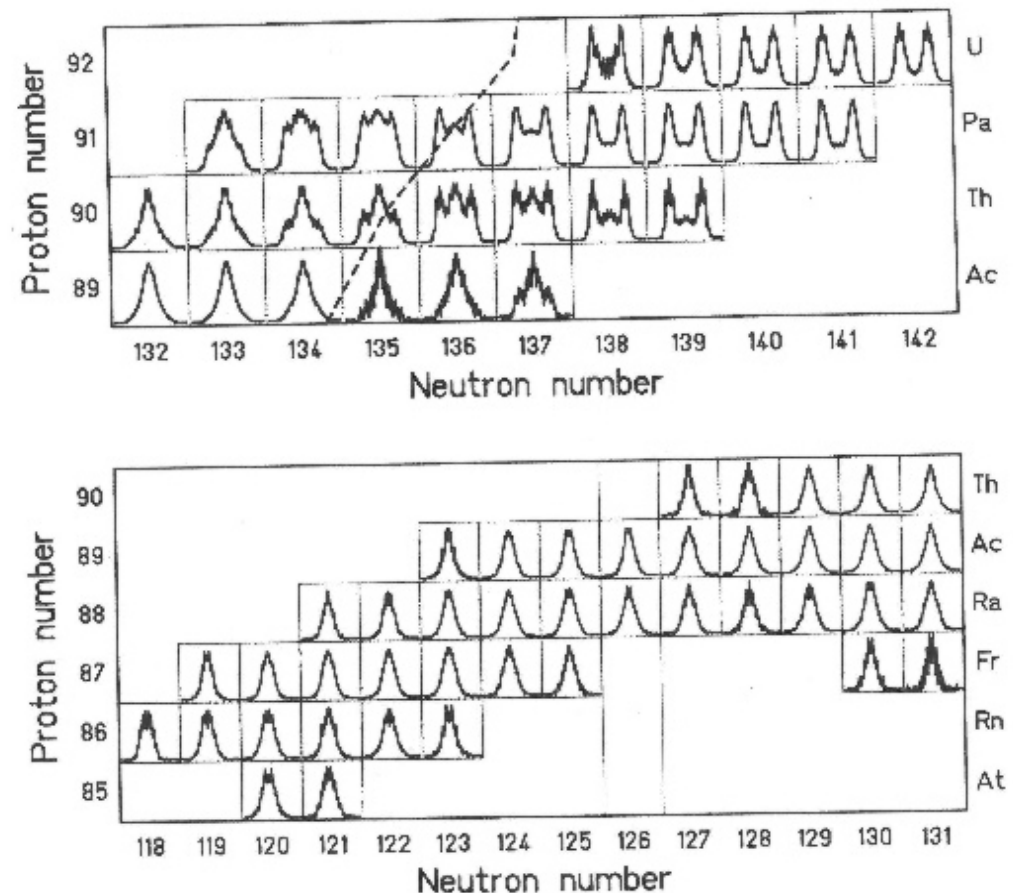


Fig. 20. Measured fission-fragment nuclear-charge distributions in the range  $Z = 24$  to  $Z = 65$  from <sup>221</sup>Ac to <sup>234</sup>U (upper part) and from <sup>215</sup>At to <sup>221</sup>Th (lower part) in electromagnetic-induced fission are shown on a chart of the nuclides. The dashed line in the upper part indicates the transition from symmetric to asymmetric fission as predicted by Möller [103] who calculated the stability of the saddle-point configuration against mass-asymmetric deformations. Nuclei on the right-hand side of this line were expected to predominantly show asymmetric fission, while nuclei on the left hand side were expected to show symmetric fission with higher probability.

Fragmentation of 1 GeV, <sup>238</sup>U

<sup>232-234</sup>U(ff), and many other nuclei

Multimodal Fission-modes

# Future: studies with inverse kinematics, FRS-mode



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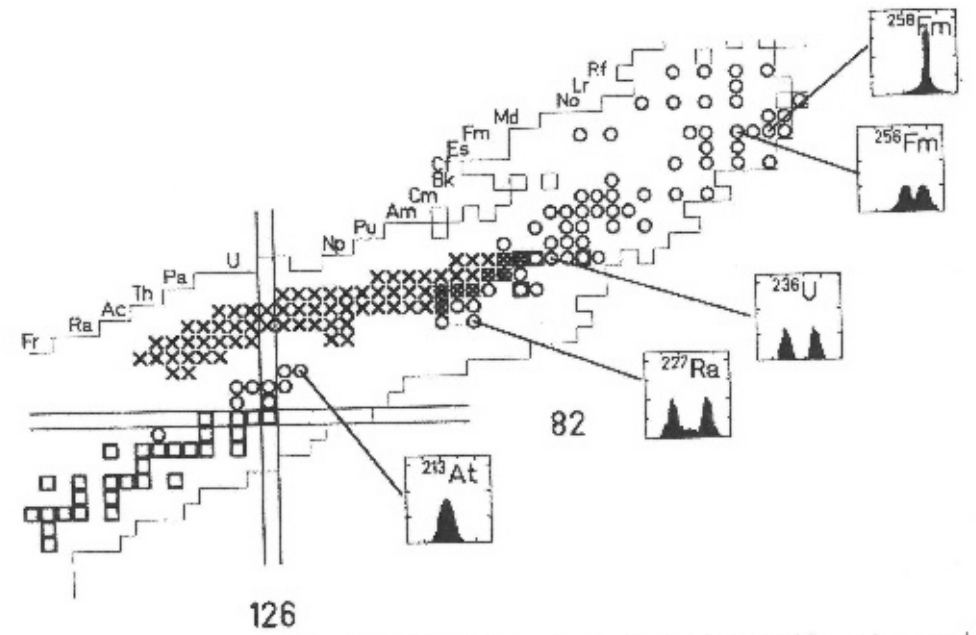


Fig. 1. Isotopes investigated in low-energy fission. Circles: Mass distributions measured in previous experiments for excitation energies less than 10 MeV above the fission barrier. Crosses: Systems investigated in the present experiment. Additionally, examples of previously measured fission-fragment mass distributions are shown (data from Refs. [20,30,38,52]). For orientation, the primordial isotopes are indicated by squares.

Fragmentation of 1 GeV, <sup>238</sup>U  
<sup>232-234</sup>U(ff), and many other nuclei  
Multimodal Fission-modes