

# New results in studies of the shape isomer states in fission fragments

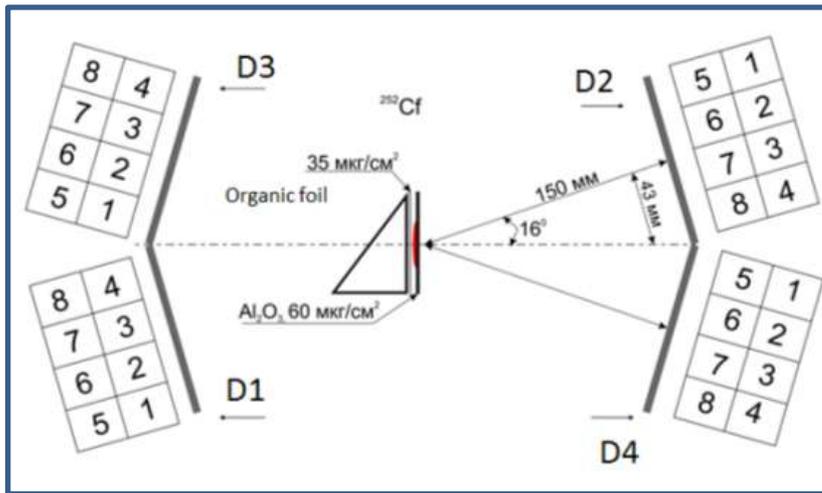
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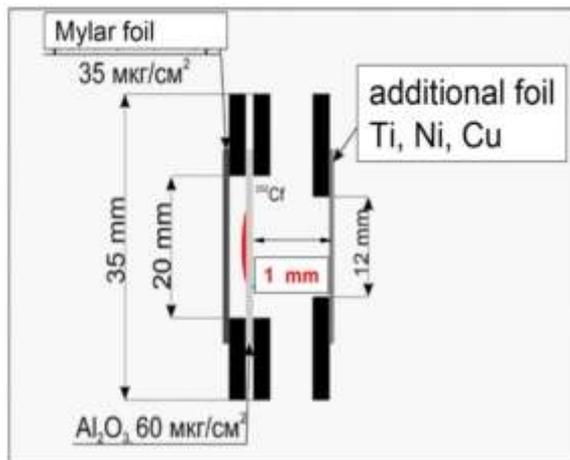
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# Just to remind: our previous experimental results

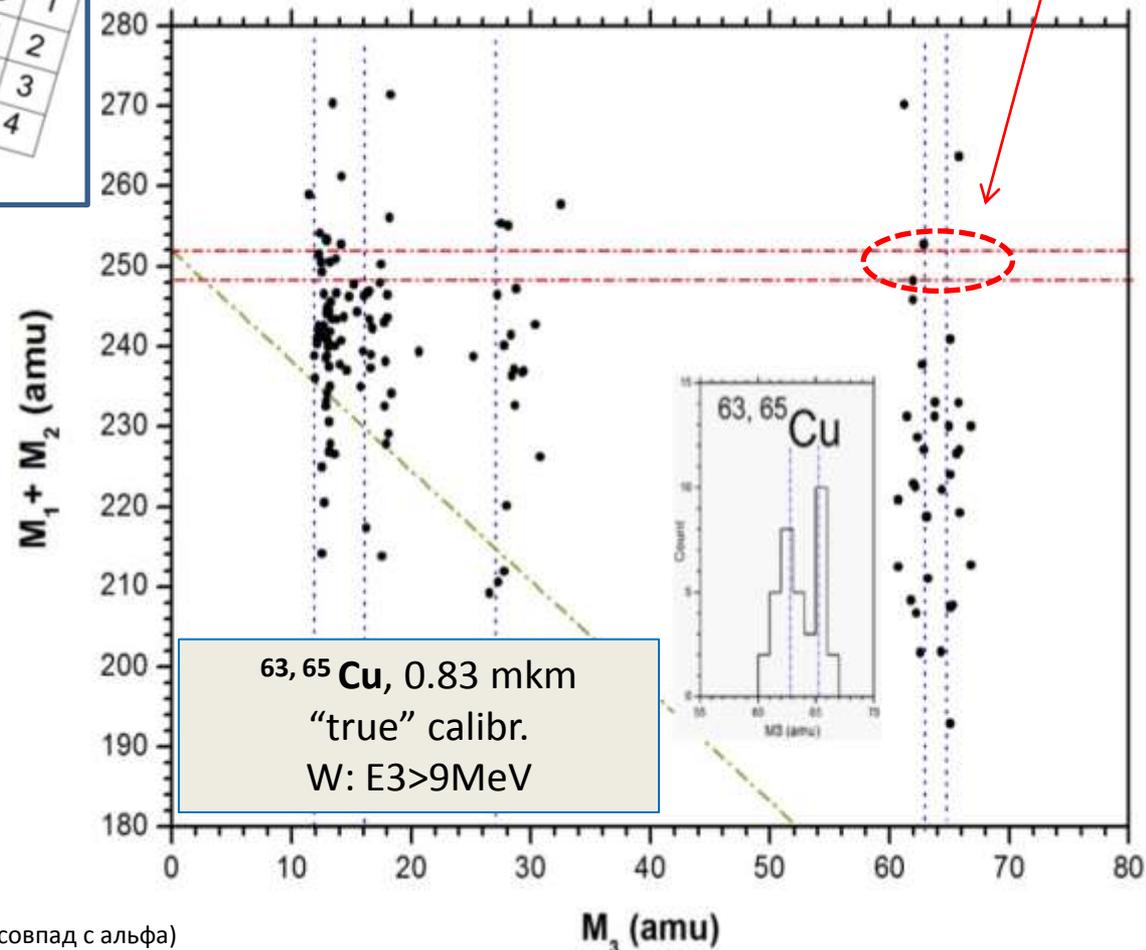


In each ternary event:  
 $M_1 > M_2 > M_3$

region of elastic  
 FF scattering



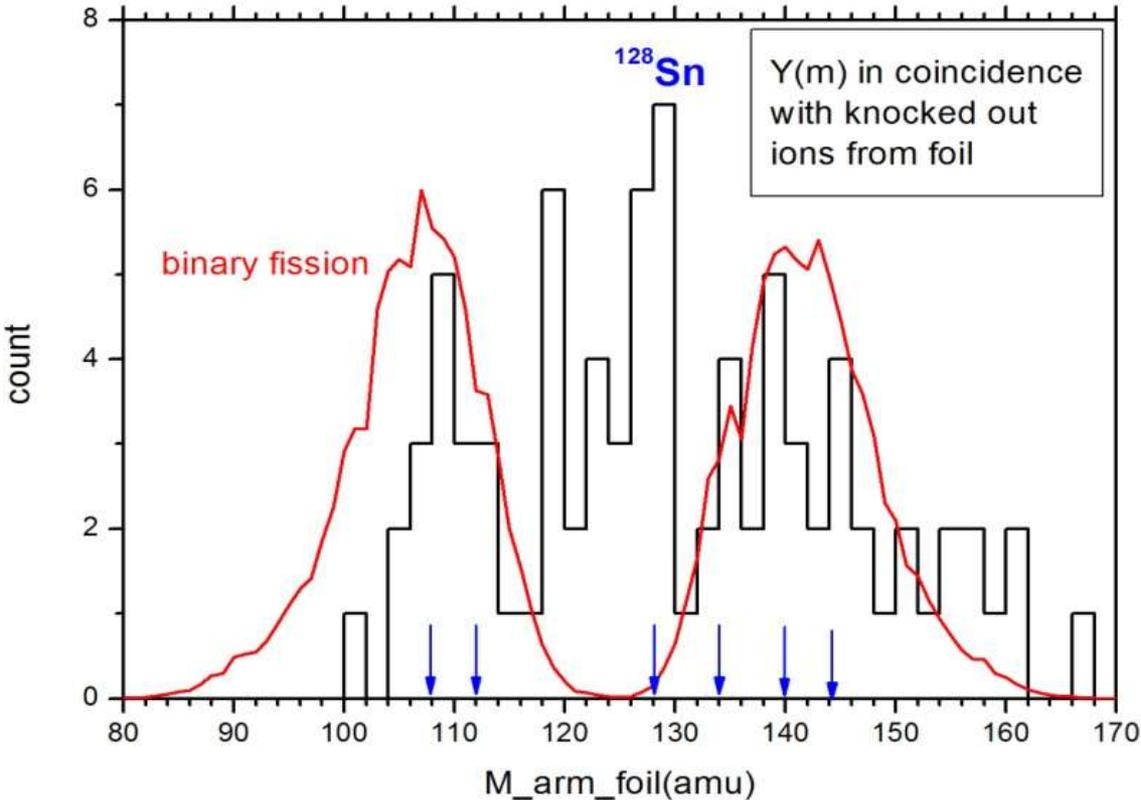
Layout of the source  
 module



$^{63,65}\text{Cu}$ , 0.83 mkm  
 "true" calibr.  
 W:  $E_3 > 9\text{MeV}$

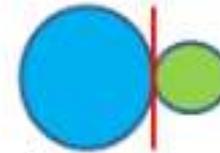
# Mass spectrum of the fragments detected in coincidence with the knocked out ions of Ti, Ni, Cu

Really:



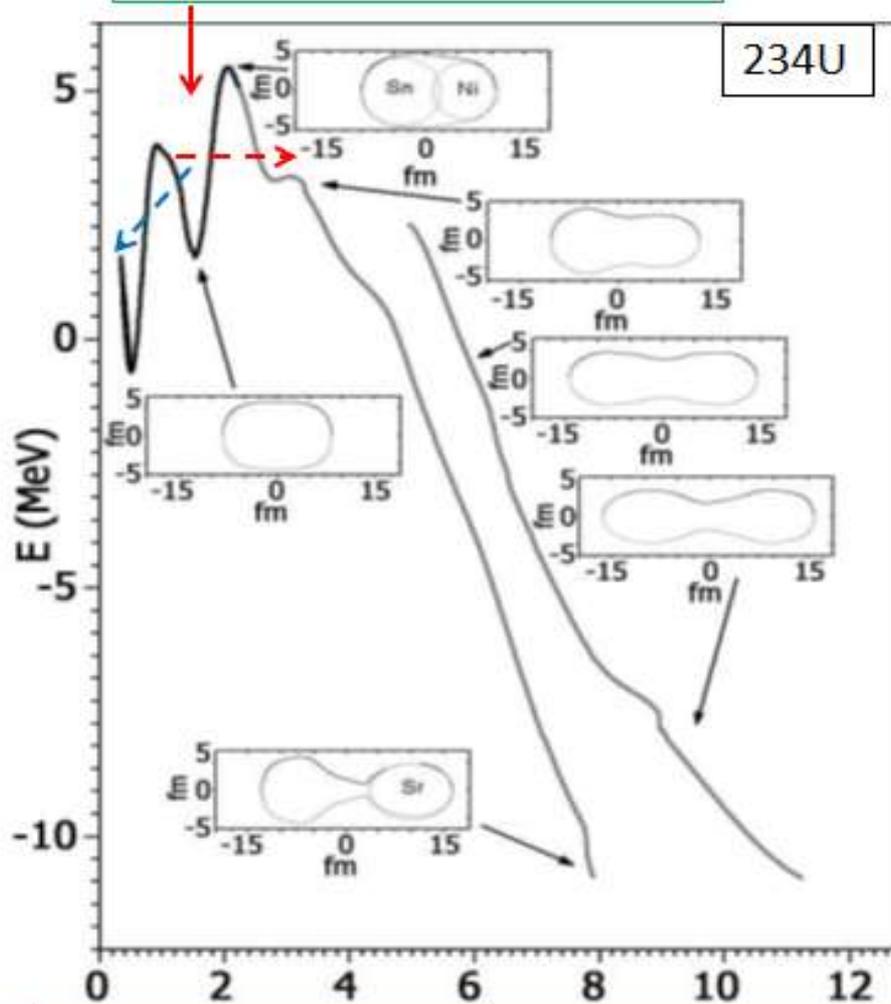
Hypothesis:

we suppose each FF, at least just after scission, looks like a di-nuclear system "magic cluster + light ion"



Due to the brake-up in the foil both constituents become free. Thus one of them should be magic nucleus.

Shape isomer state (SIS)  
in the second potential well.  
de-excitation is possible via  
gamma channel



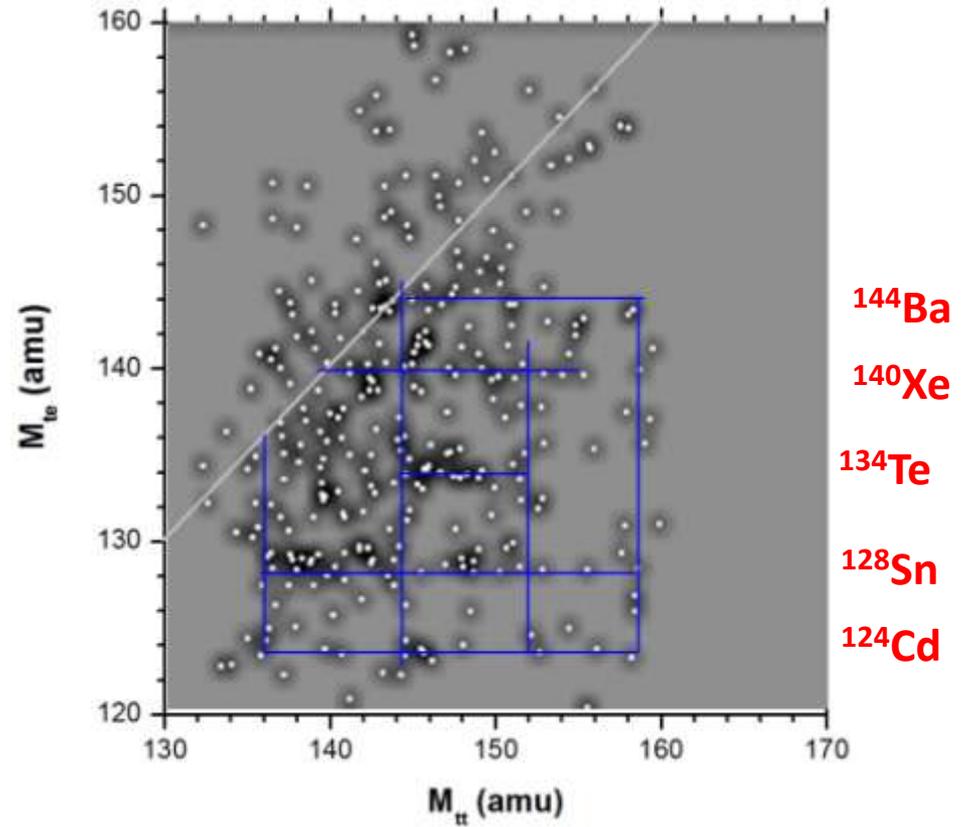
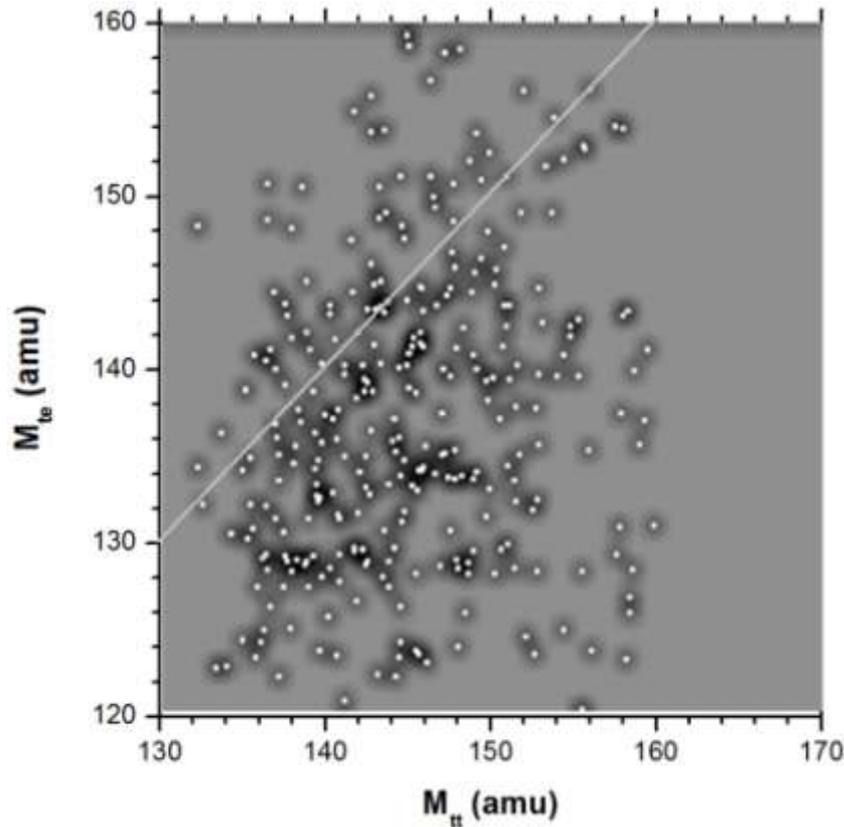
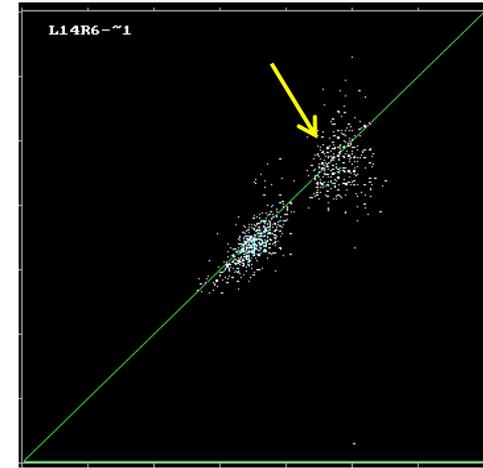
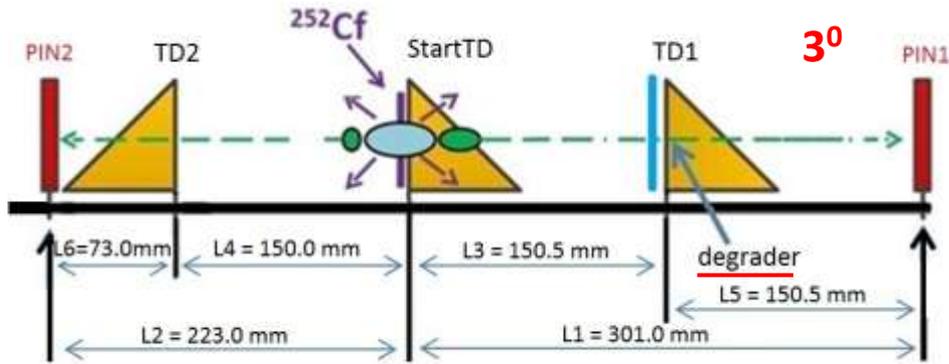
234U

As in the fission isomers we also expect some life-time of the isomer state in FF relative to transition to the ground state.

We have estimated experimentally the low limit for this life-time. It exceeds 1 ns.

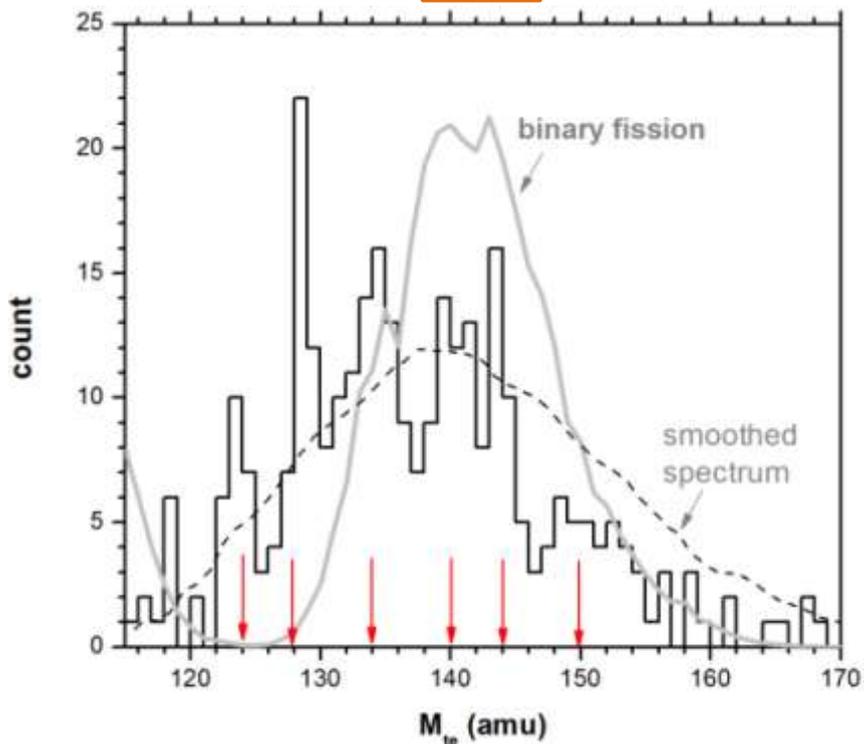
The bottoms of the fission valleys as a function of parameter  $Q$  (proportional to the quadrupole moment) for  $^{234}\text{U}$ .

# LIS setup : Mtt & Mte & degrader



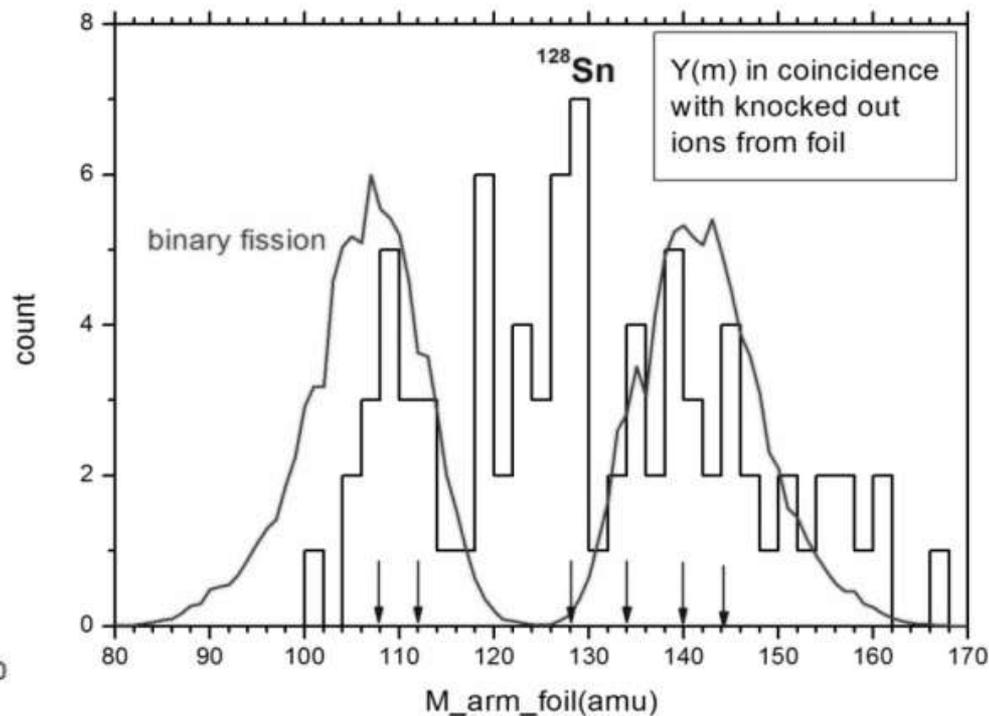
# Mass spectra of the FFs crossed the foil

LIS



$^{124}\text{Cd}$   $^{128}\text{Sn}$   $^{134}\text{Te}$   $^{140}\text{Xe}$   $^{144}\text{Ba}$   $^{150}\text{Ce}$

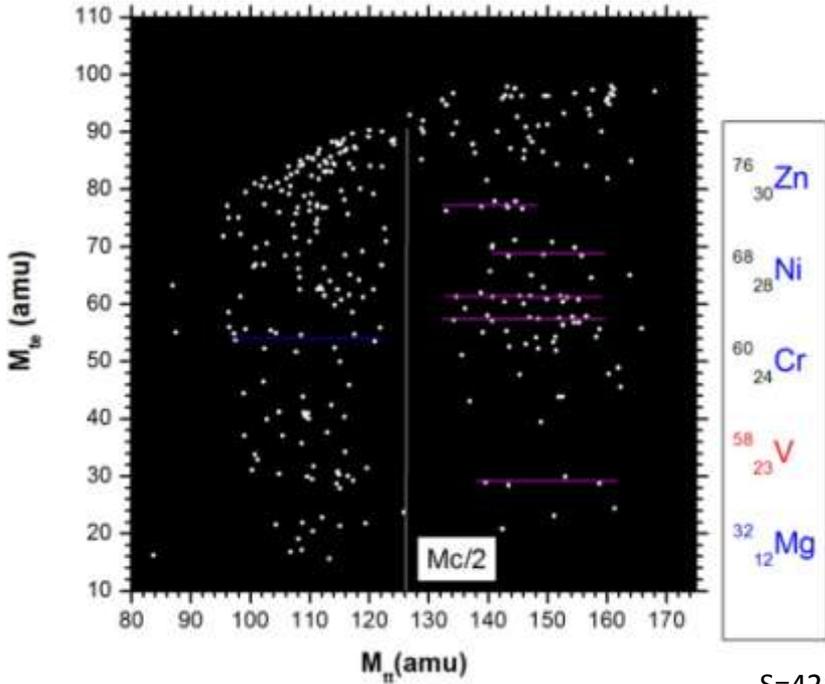
COMETA



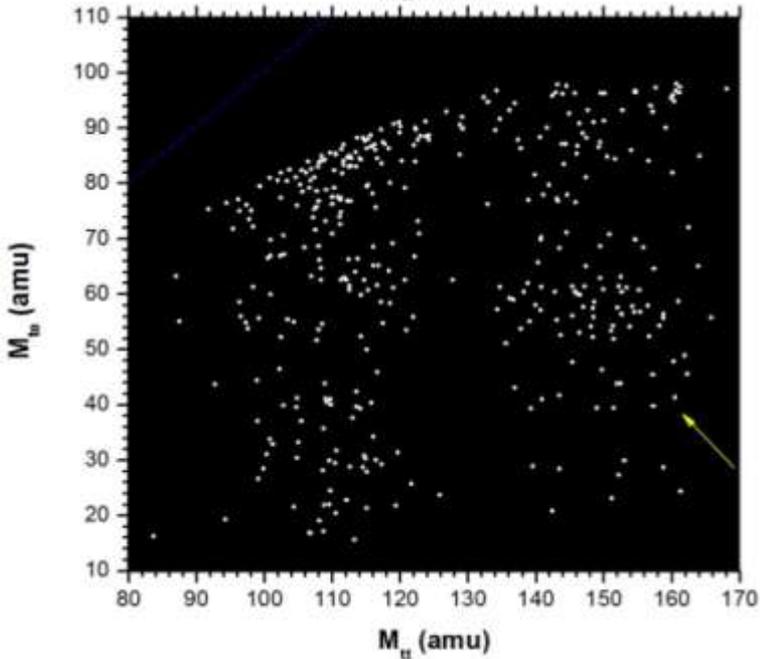
Magic "residuals" only form the mass-spectrum after FF passing through the foil

Comparison:  $Y(M)_{lit} : \chi^2/n \sim 30$   
 $Y(128): 3\sigma=16, S_{above\_smooth}=18$

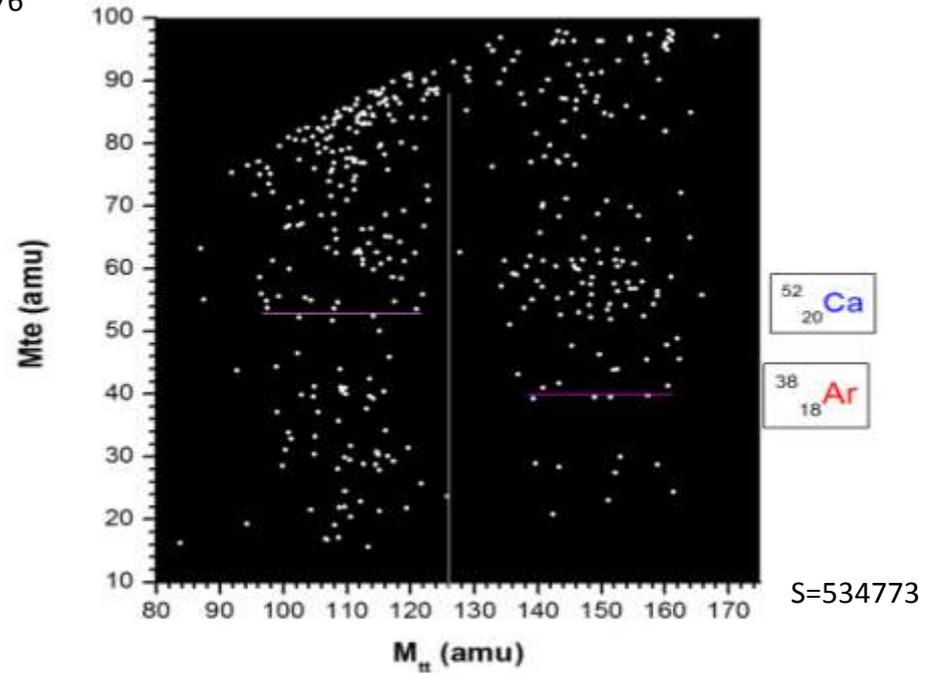
# Evidence of a more complicated cluster configurations in heavy fragment



Mass distributions below the loci of binary fission

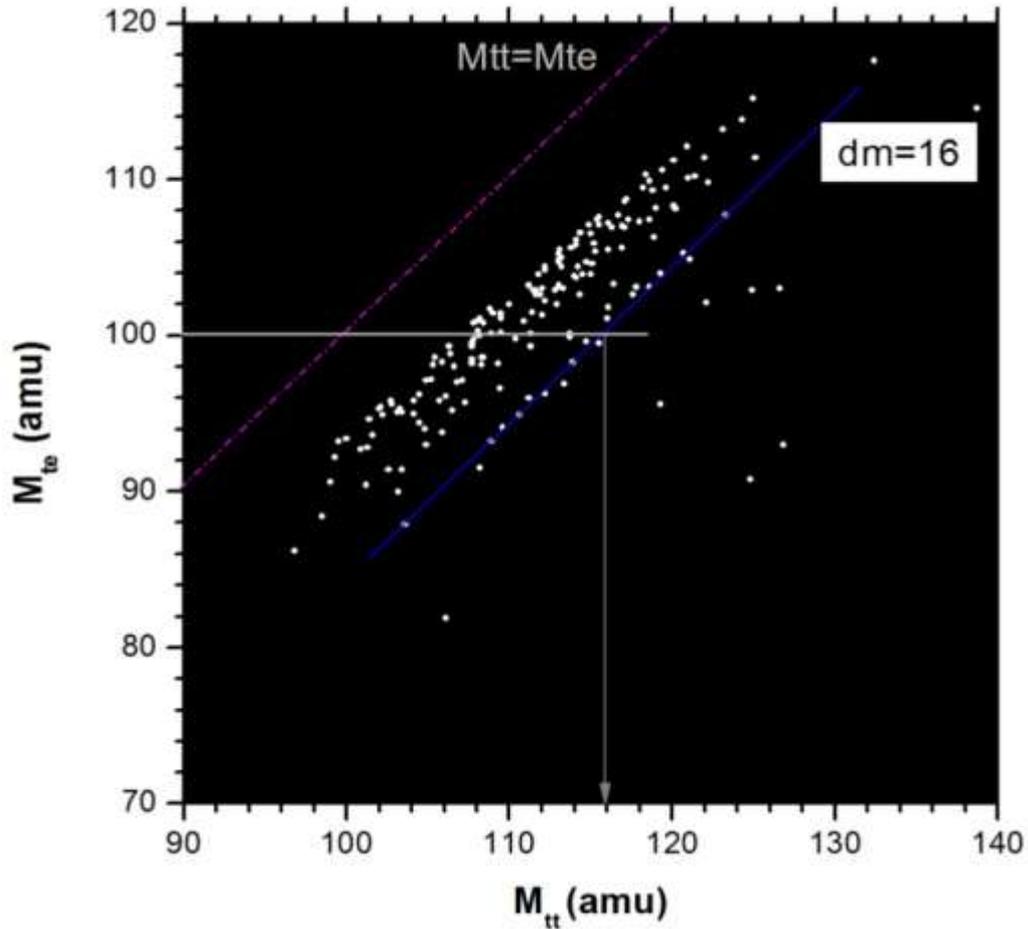


S=428976



S=534773

Evidence of a more complicated cluster configurations in the light fragment

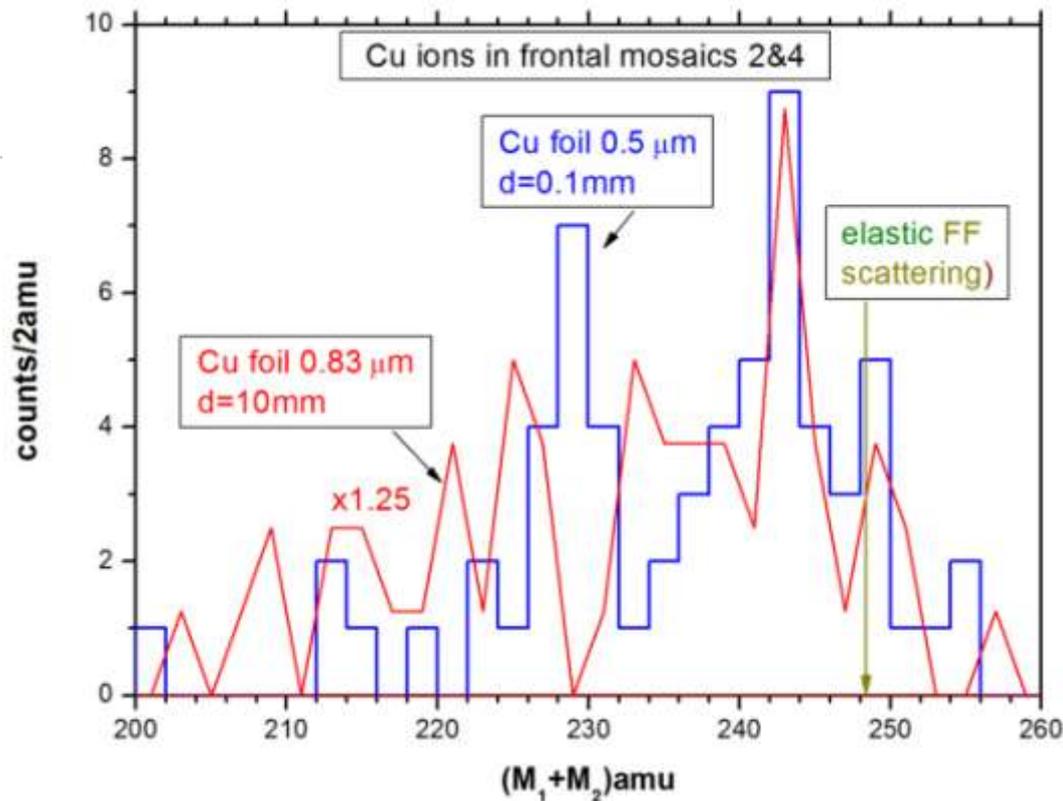
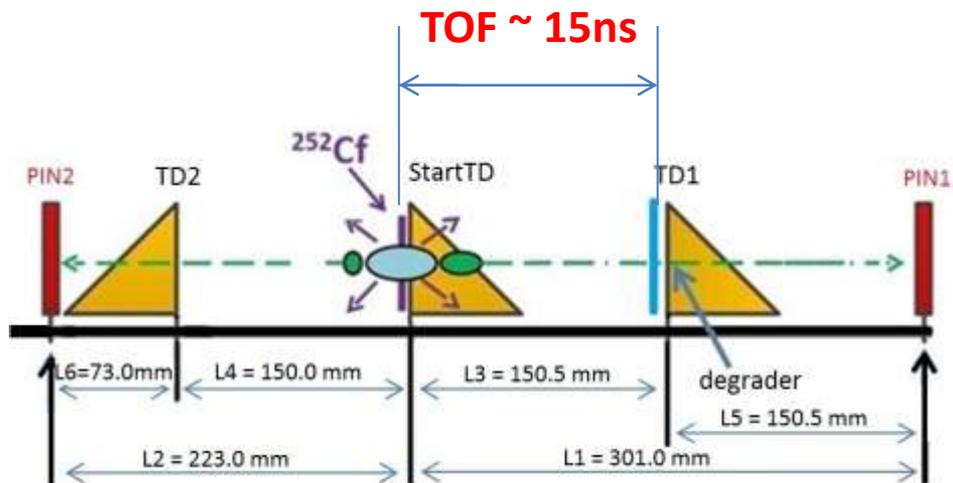
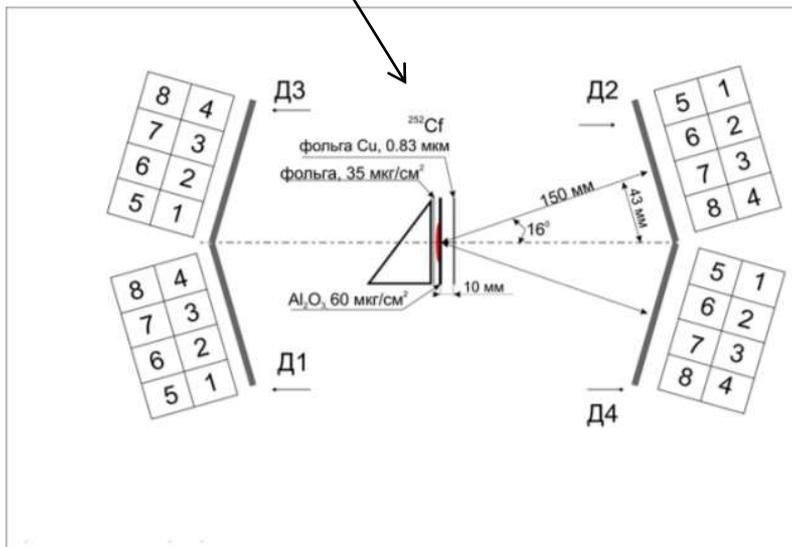


Preformed presumably  $^{16}\text{O}$  manifests itself due to inelastic scattering of the FF in the foil

**Estimation of the life time  
of the isomer states in FF**

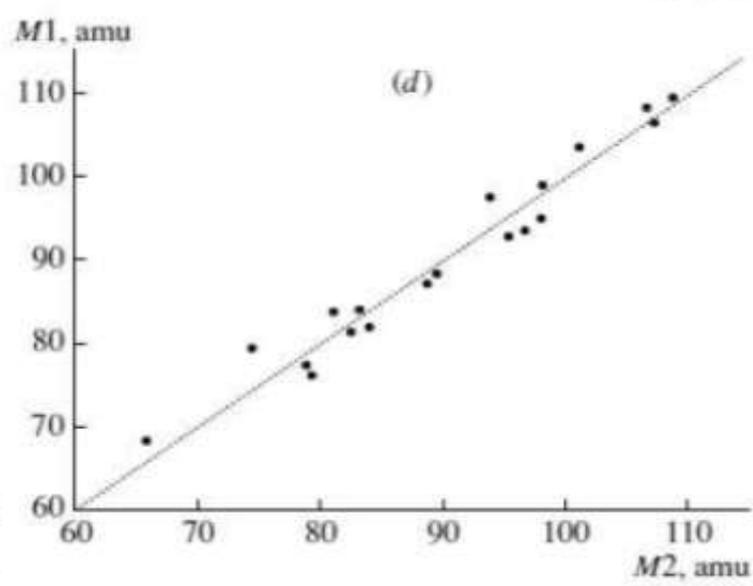
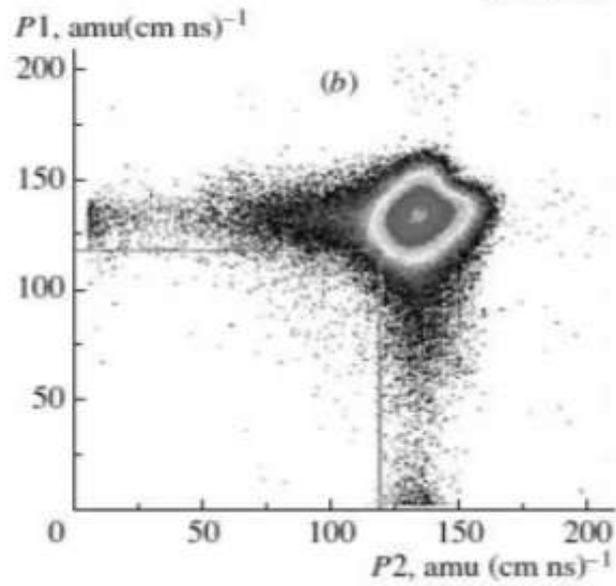
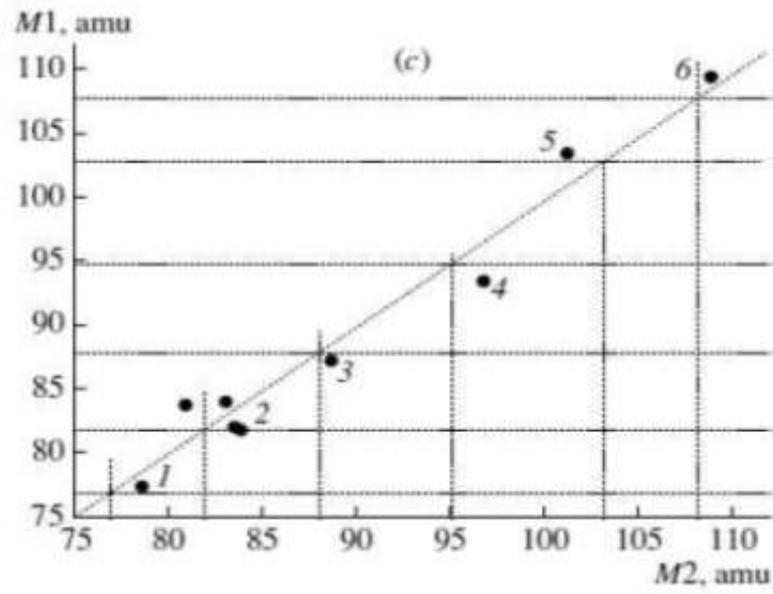
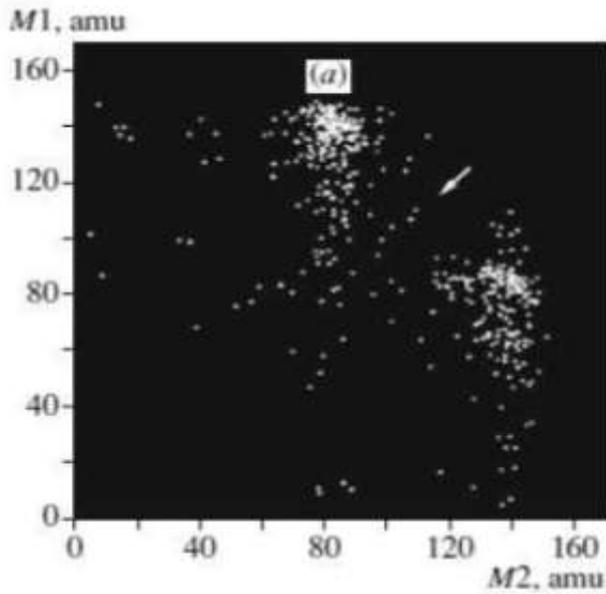
10mm between the Cu foil and the Cf source, **TOF~1ns**

## Estimation of the life time

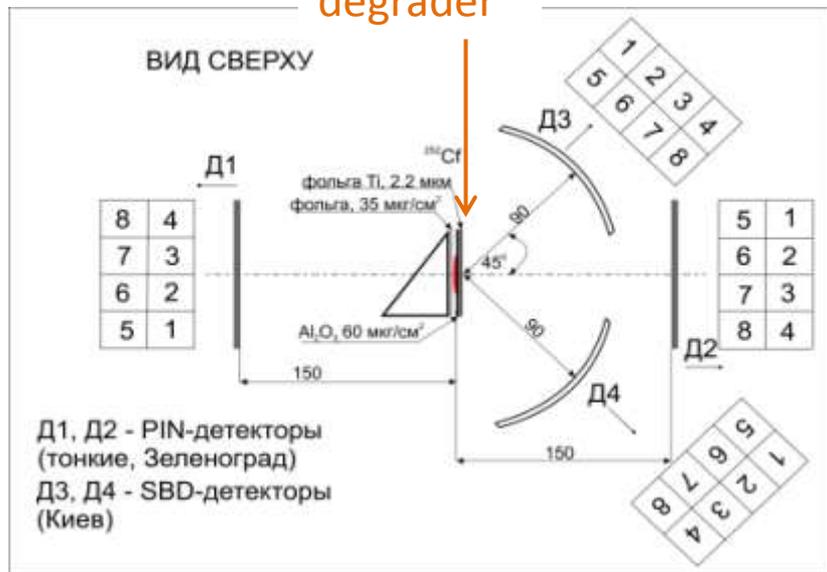


Cluster configurations based on a pair of  
identic magic clusters

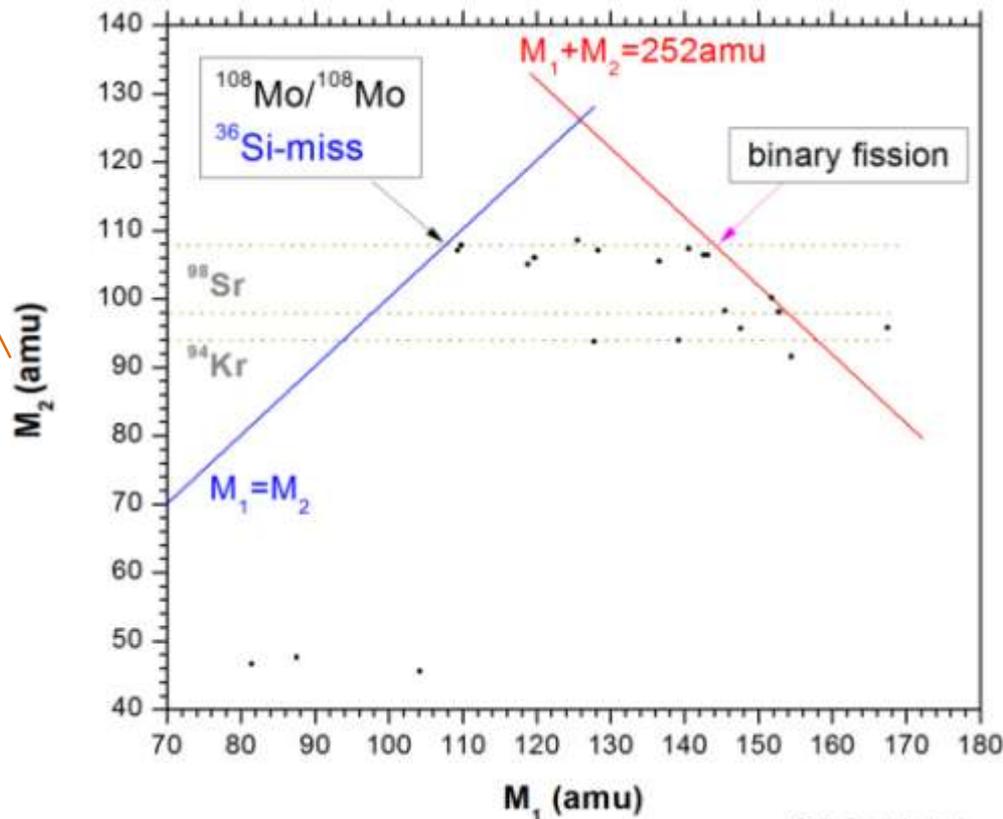
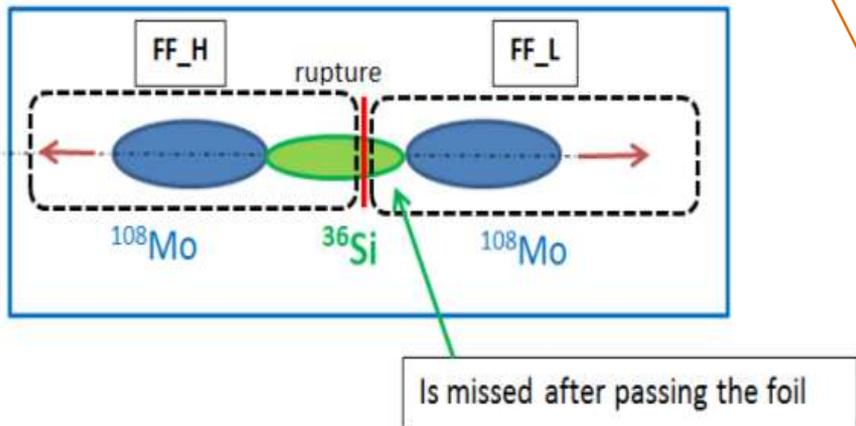
# Observation of the “symmetric” CCT mode in $^{235}\text{U}(n_{\text{th}}, f)$ (IBR-2, mini-FOBOS)



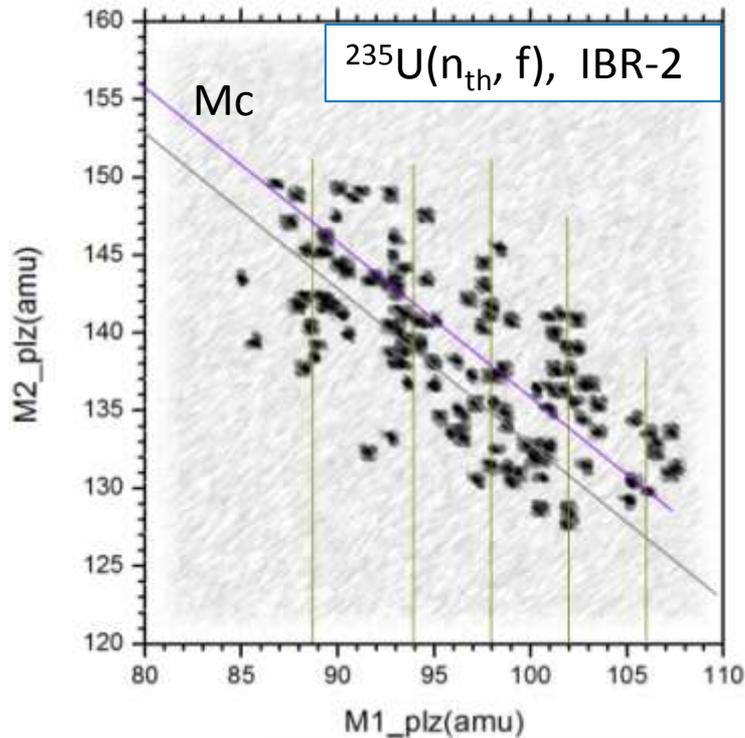
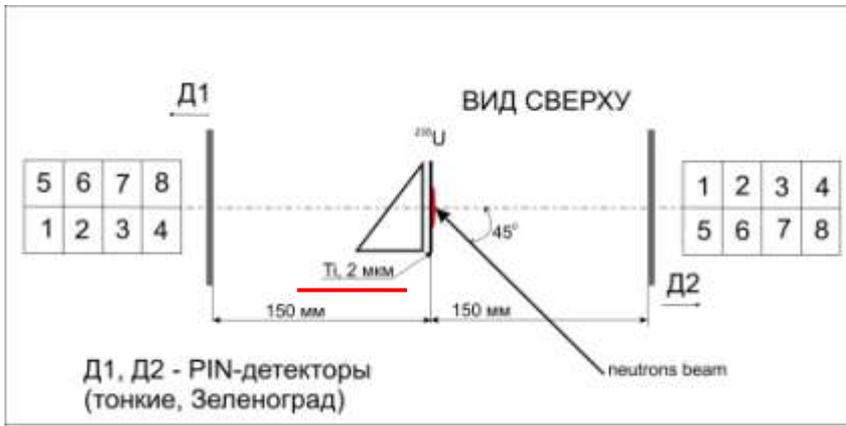
degrader



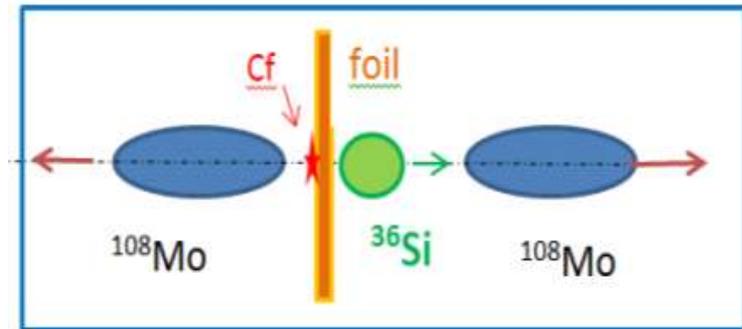
Cluster configurations based on a pair of identical magic clusters



## Cluster configurations based on a pair of identical magic clusters



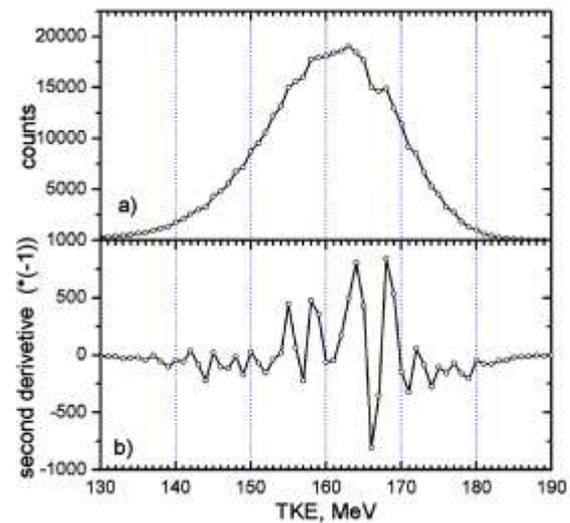
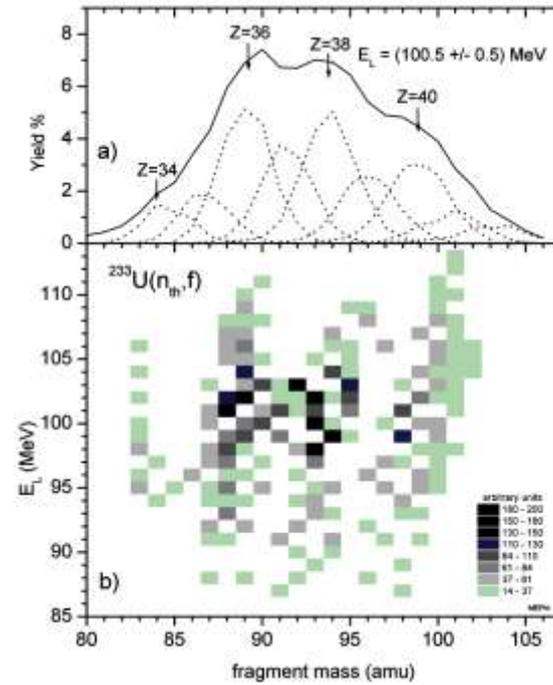
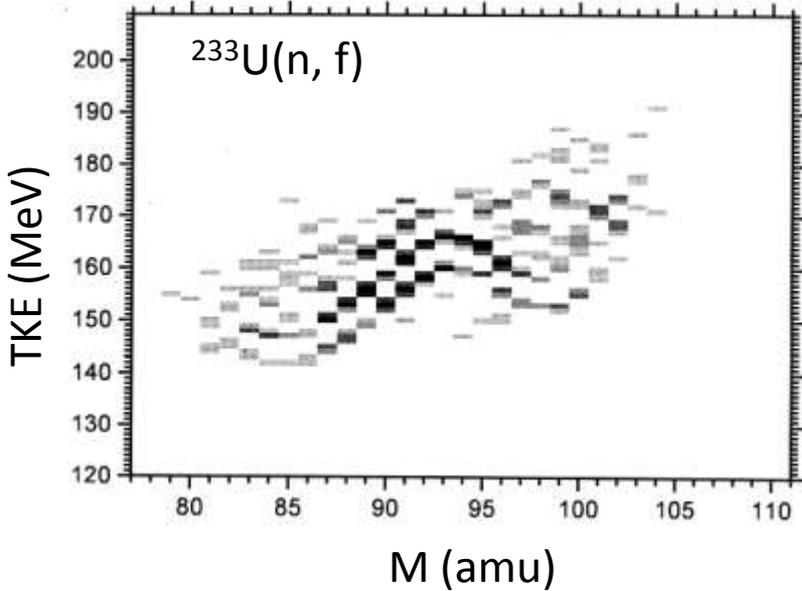
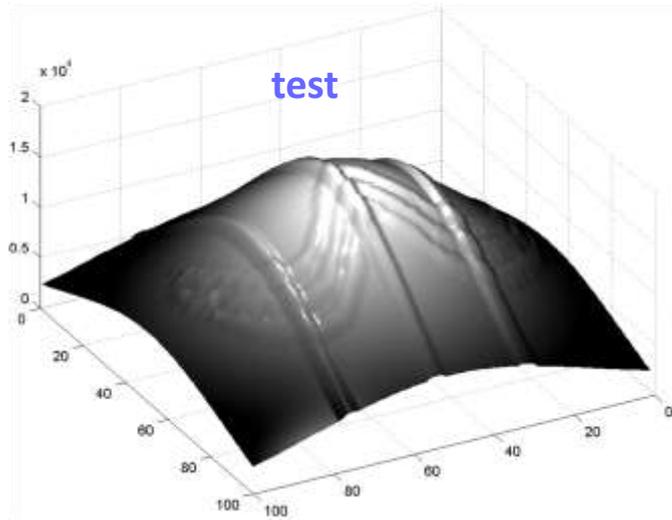
$^{88}\text{Se}$ ,  $^{94}\text{Kr}$ ,  $^{98}\text{Sr}$ ,  $^{106}\text{Nb}$



Energies are summed up → unrealistic big MH

Now cross-talk with our results linked with the topic under discussion but obtained by an absolutely different way.

# Revealing of the fine structures (FS) in the M-TKE distributions

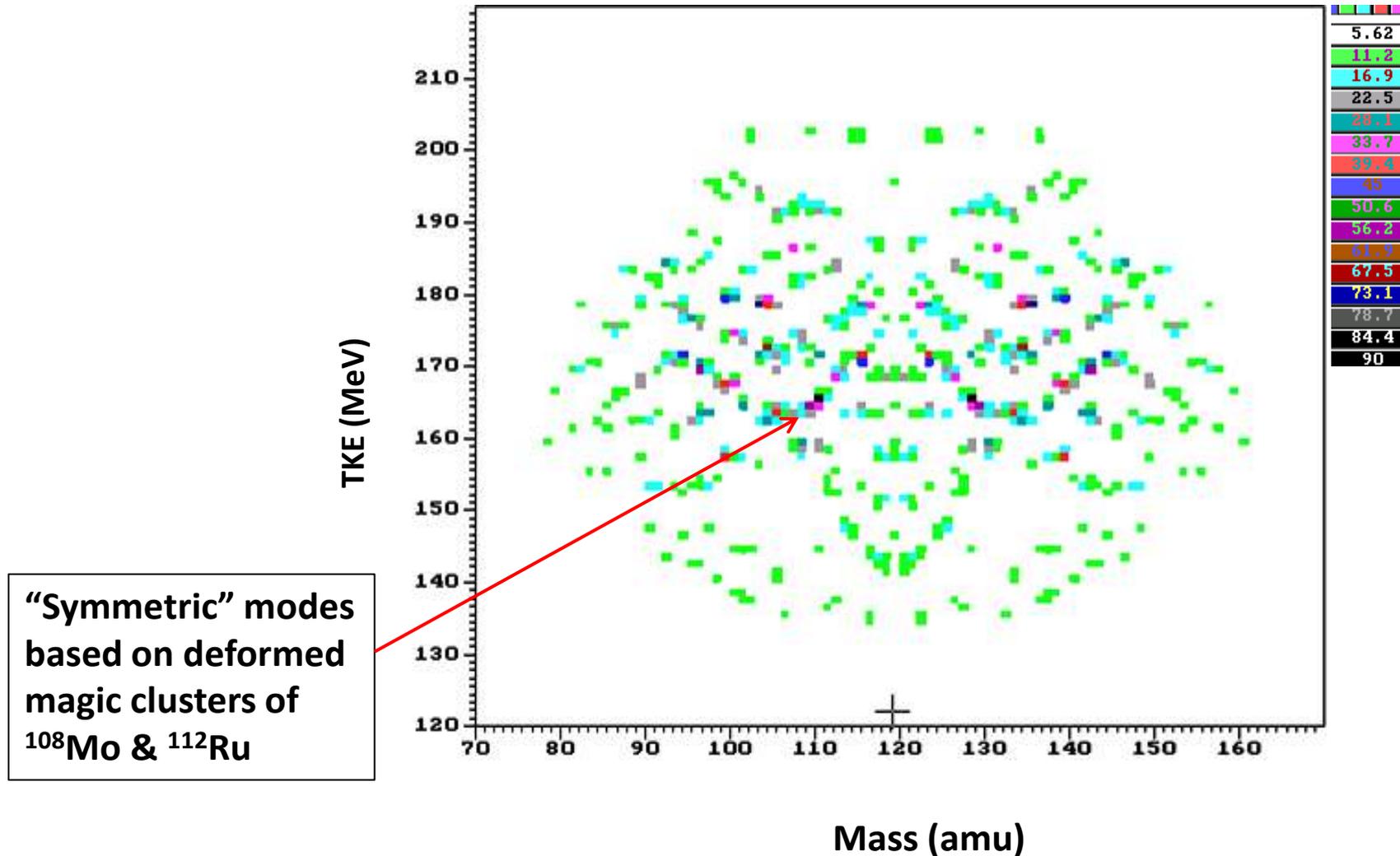


**We assume that a trajectory in the deformation space as a continuous sequence of nuclear states in the fission valley is mapped to continuous trajectories (smooth curves) in the plane of experimentally observed variables.**

**Thus, the fine structure under discussion is a unique image of separate fission trajectories passed by a system.**

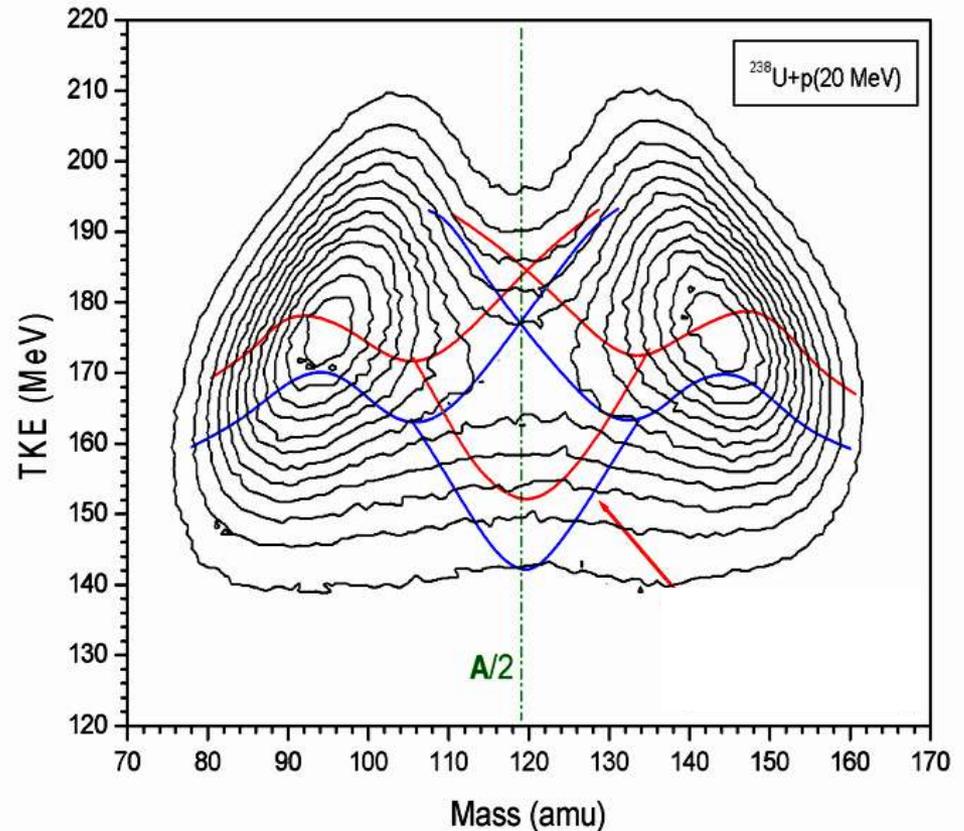
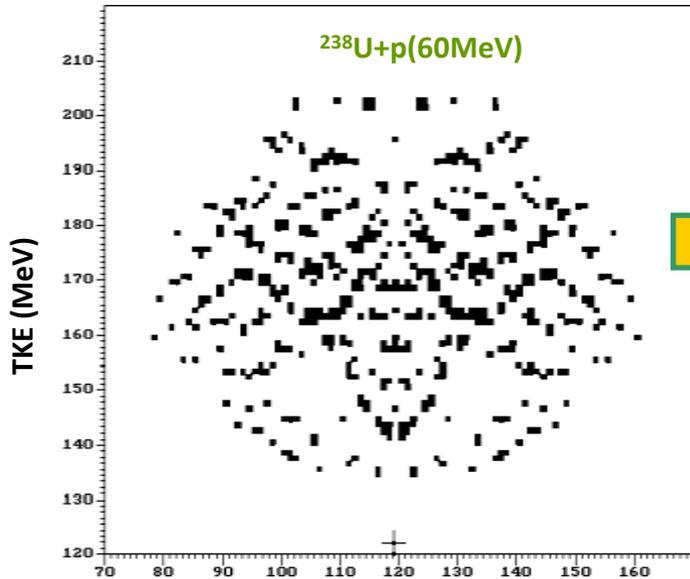
Yu. V. Pyatkov et al., Pattern Recognition and Image Analysis, v. 21, №16 (2011) 82

# $^{238}\text{U}+p$ (60MeV), TOF-TOF, HENDES setup



- Fine structure revealed by the “symmetry” filter; a – using  $M=120$  amu as an axis of symmetry;
- b – the same for the  $M=121$  amu. The most pronounced structures are marked to guide the eye.

## Origin of the symmetric fission mode



Studying of rare multi-body decays flashes up fundamental properties of the main process of “conventional” binary fission.

The shape of the distinct path gives an idea concerning the origin of so called "symmetric fission mode"

## Conclusions

1. In the frame of the new methodic approach some basic results concerning the shape isomer states in the FF were confirmed.
2. New cluster effects linked with “symmetric” CCT mode are revealed.
3. The low limit of the FF isomer states life time was re-estimated to be more than 15ns.



# Rutherford scattering - L\_FF/Ti

2 solutions are possible: the same scattering angle at two different impact parameters

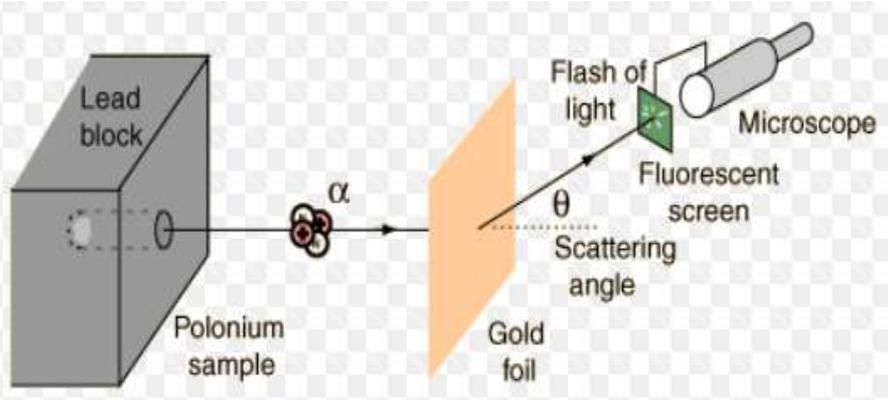
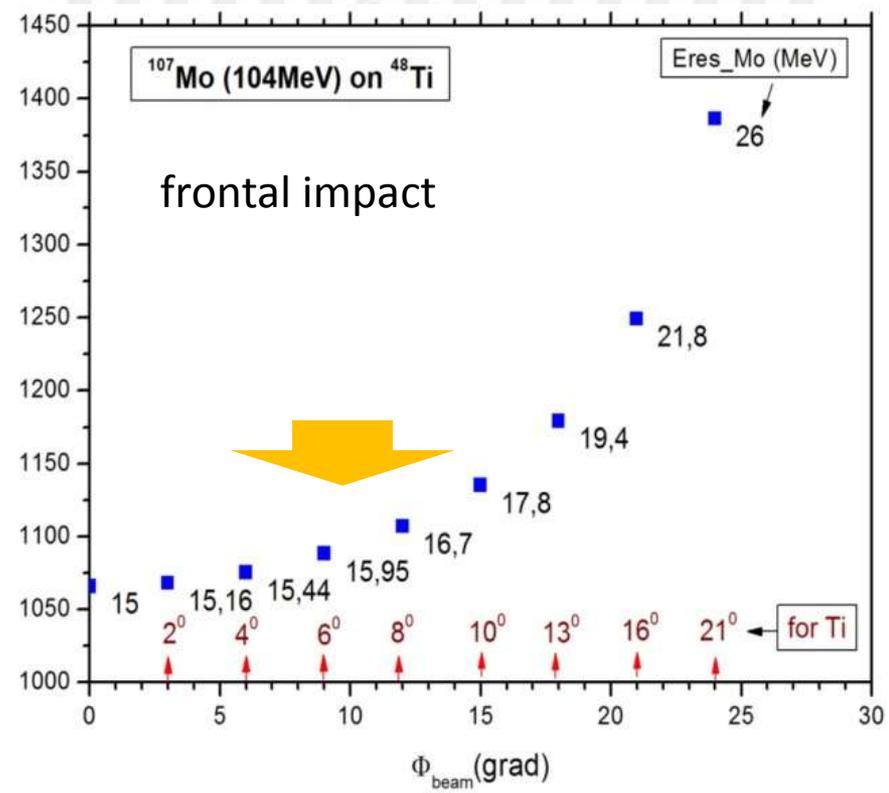
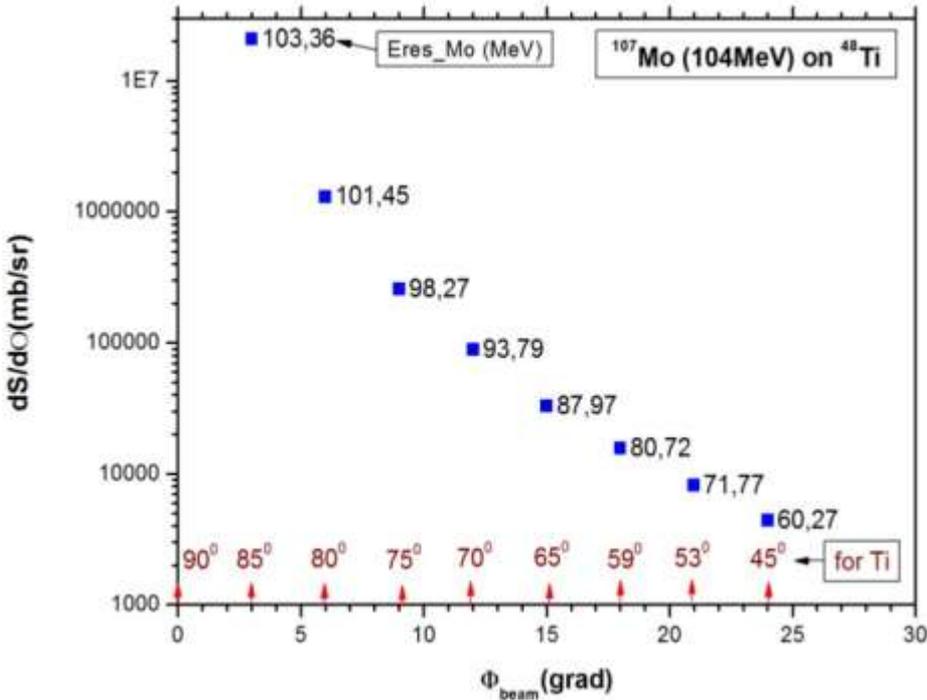
$$\sigma(\theta) = \left(\frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\right)^2 \frac{Z^2 e^4}{M^2 v^4} \times \frac{1}{\sin^4(\theta/2)}$$

$Ze$  = the positive charge of the target atom,

$M$  = the mass of the  $\alpha$  particle,

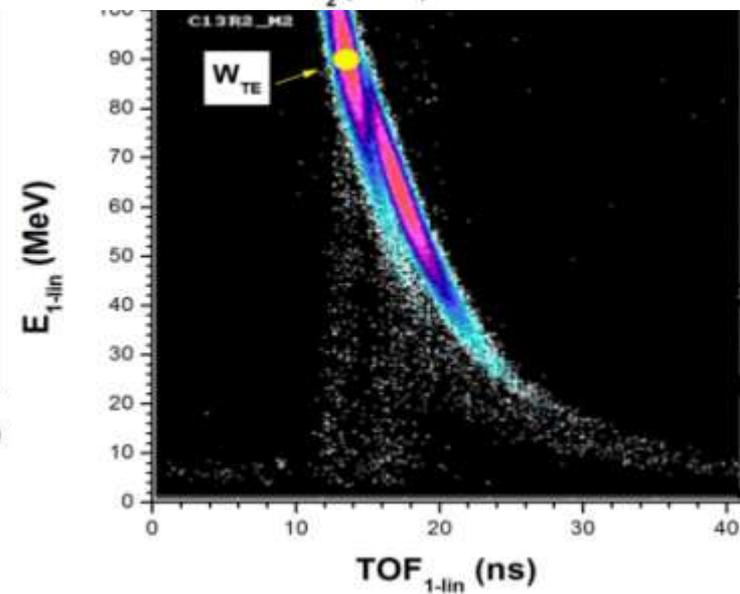
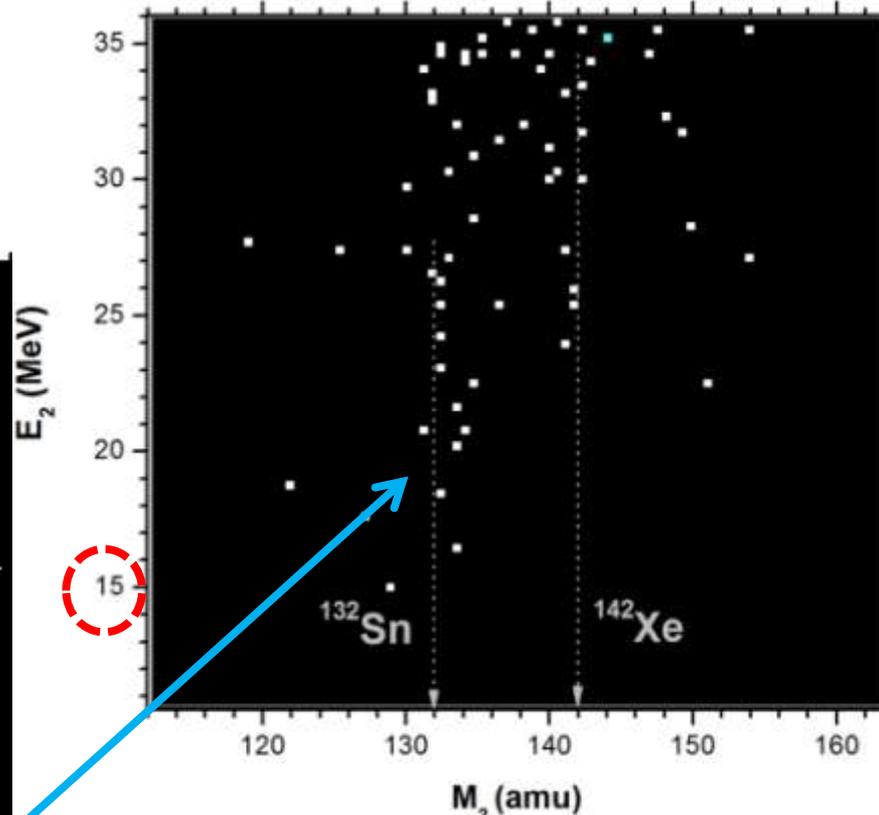
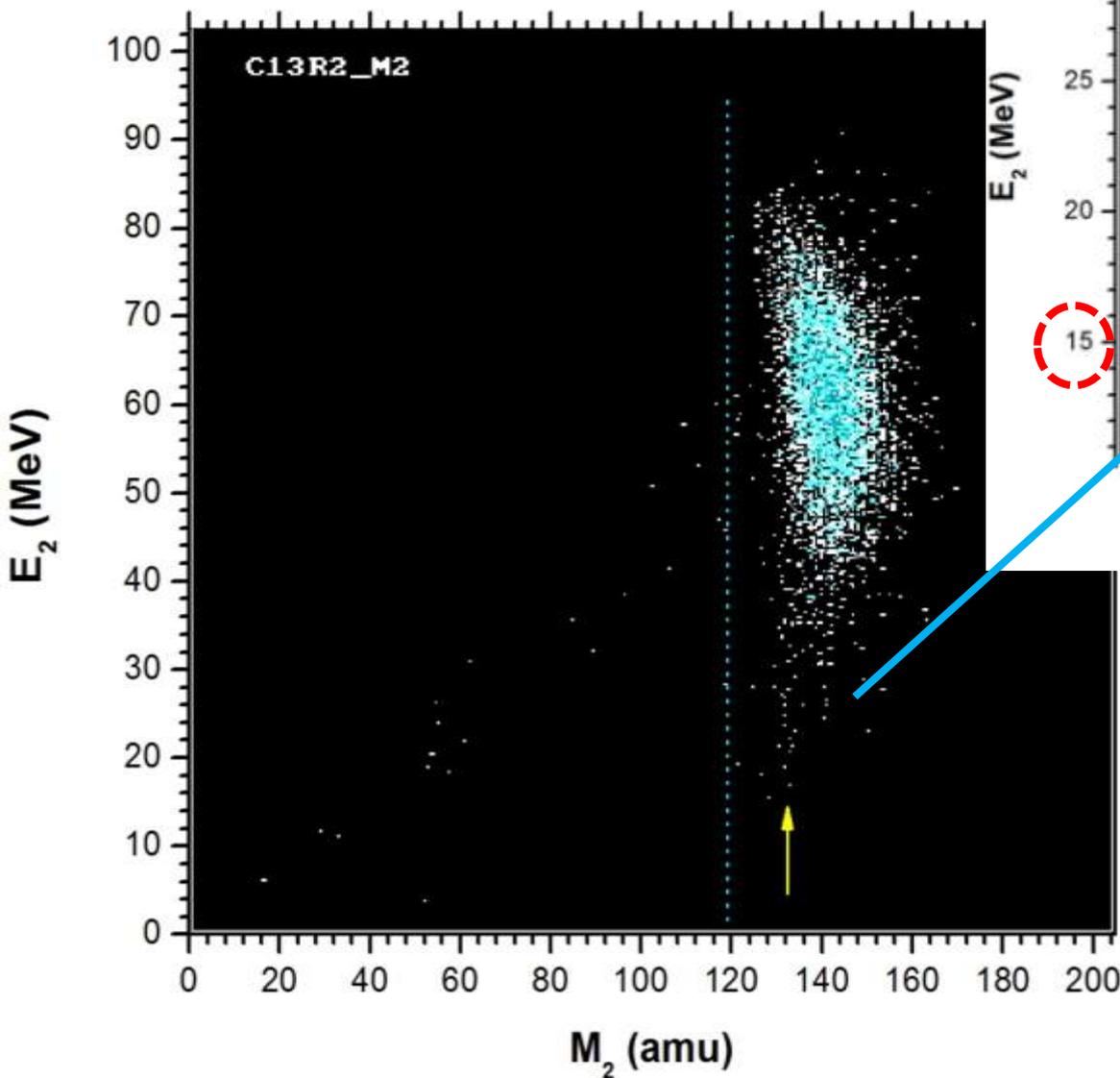
$v$  = incident speed of the  $\alpha$  particle,

$\theta$  = scattering angle,



Original Rutherford experiment

# Low energy heavy FFs – good mass reconstruction



## Conclusions presented at the previous ISINN21 meeting in 2013.

### Presumably:

1. Inelastic impact, at least the frontal one, makes free the constituents of the di-nuclear system (fission fragment) formed in the binary fission .
2. Bearing in mind the distance between the Cf source and the generating foil (~1mm) the lower limit of the life-time of this di-nuclear system (shape isomer) is about 0.1ns.
3. Relative probability of elastic Rutherford scattering of fission fragments i.e. taking place without missing mass is much less than those in the inelastic channel. In other words, **the bulk of the fragments from the conventional binary fission are born as shape-isomers .**

## Principal question to be answered :

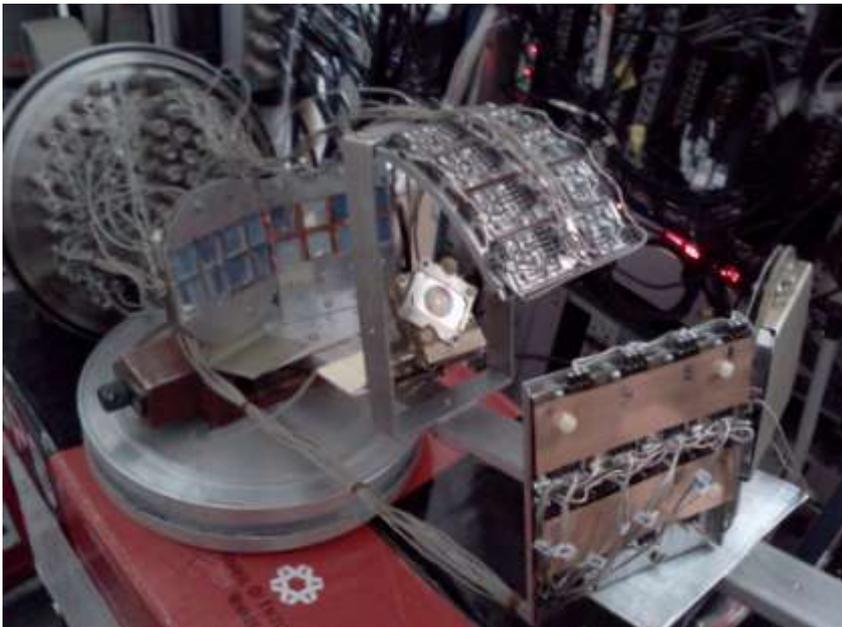
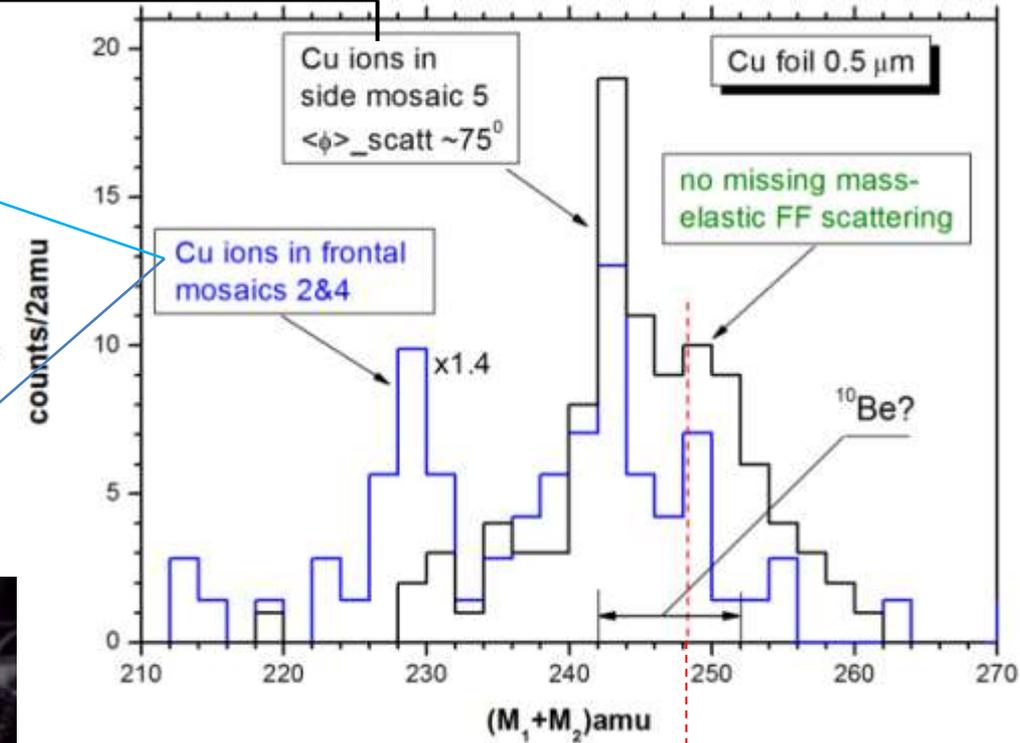
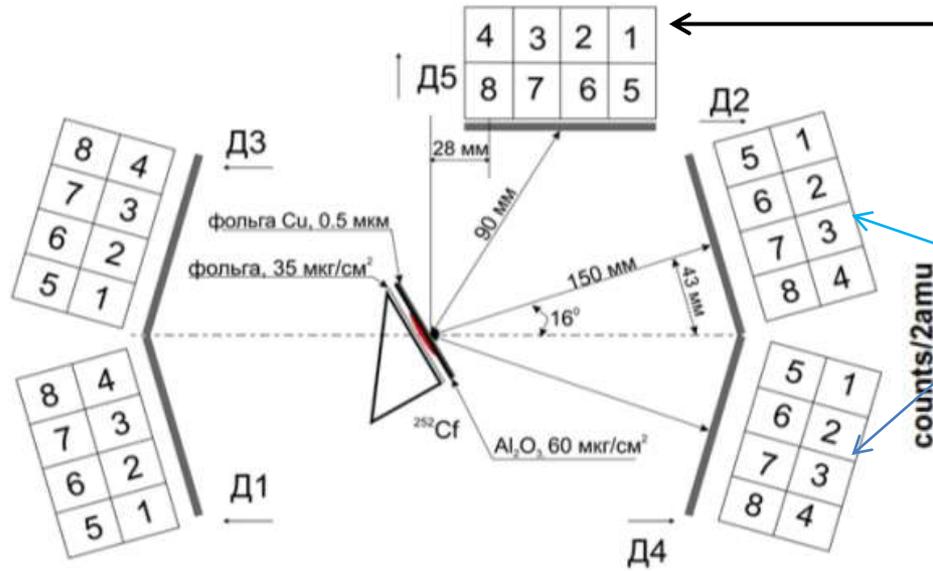
Are there contradictions of the experimental results obtained and model proposed with well known features of the fission process?

1. We suppose that the bulk of the fragments of conventional binary fission look like di-nuclear systems (are in shape isomeric states) just after scission.

Does it mean that the total yield of the effect is sufficient to change the macroscopical fission constants?

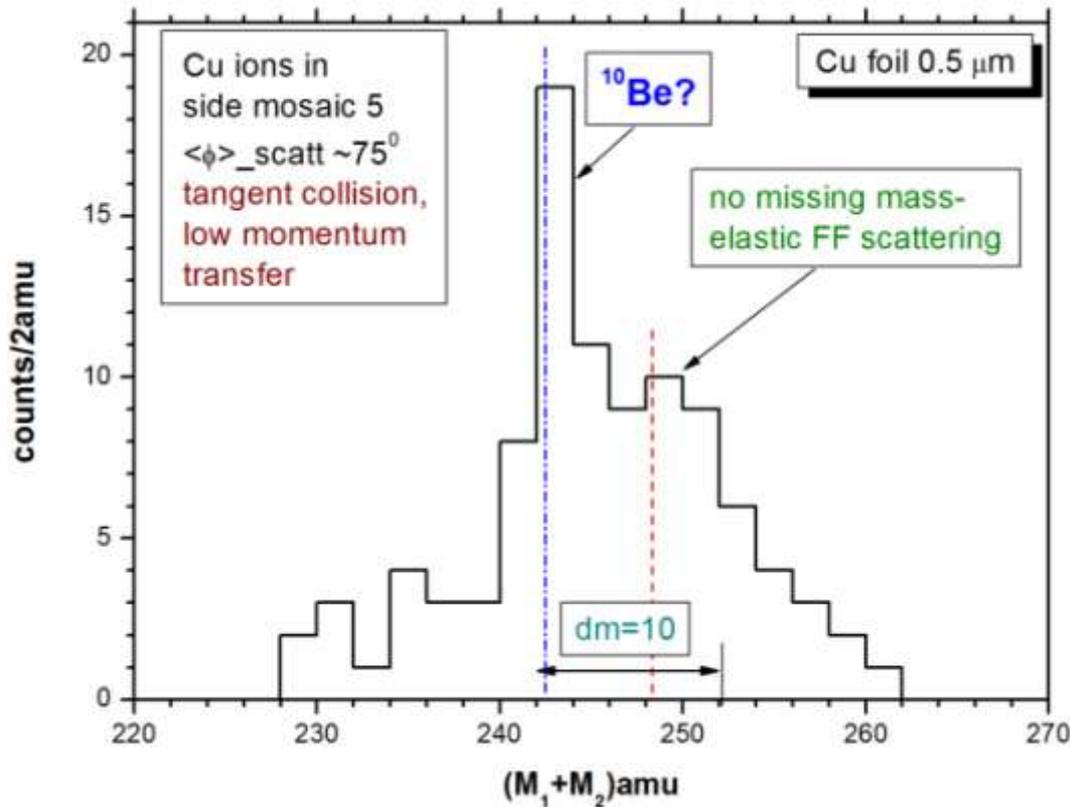
Our answer: **No!** The brake-up of di-nuclear system (FF) appears to occur in almost frontal inelastic collisions which takes place with relatively low probability.

# Angular dependence of the brake-up yield



At the large angles of scattering of the knocked-out ions from the foil conventional elastic Rutherford scattering takes place.

# Manifestation of $^{10}\text{Be}$ based di-nuclear system



J. Phys. G: Nucl. Part. Phys. **26** (2000) L97–L102  
**Nuclear quasi-molecular states in ternary fission**

D N Poenaru†‡§, B Dobrescu†, W Greiner‡, J H Hamilton§ and A V Ramayya§



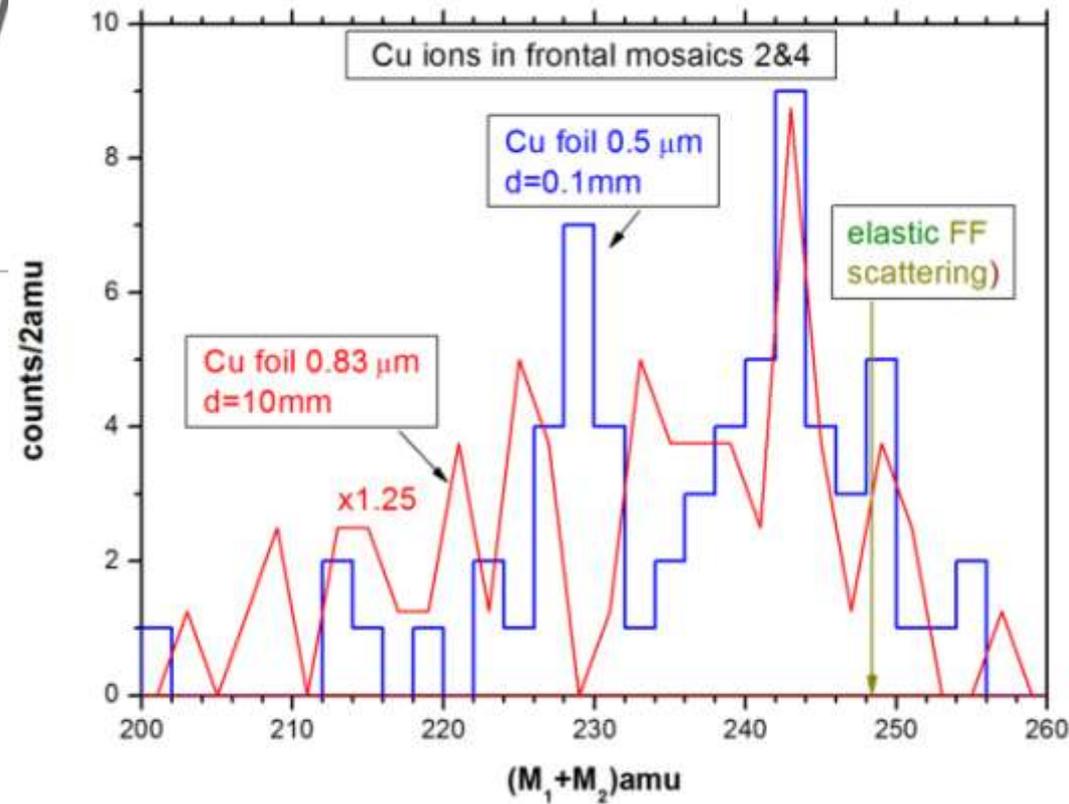
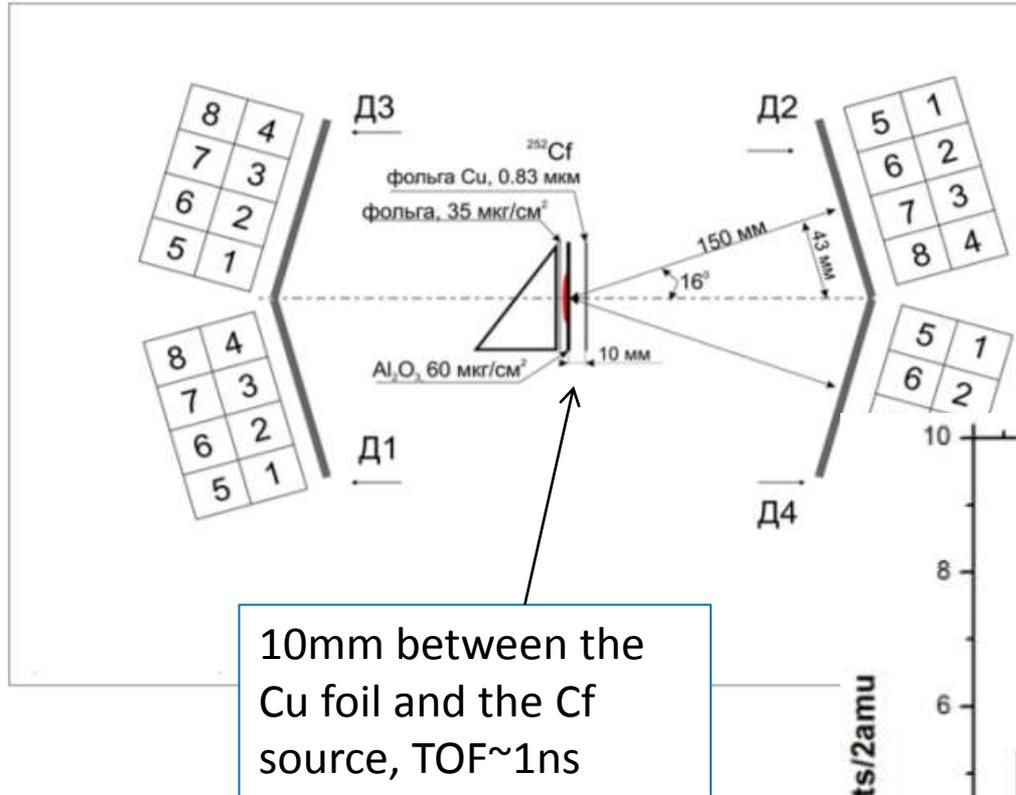
**Table 1.** Calculated half lives of some quasi-molecular states  $^{252}\text{Cf}$ .

Particle	Fragments		$Q_{\text{exp}}$ (MeV)	$K$	$\log T$ (s)
$^{10}\text{Be}$	$^{132}\text{Sn}$	$^{110}\text{Ru}$	220.183	19.96	-11.87
	$^{138}\text{Te}$	$^{104}\text{Mo}$	209.682	25.23	-9.59
	$^{138}\text{Xe}$	$^{104}\text{Zr}$	209.882	26.04	-9.23
	$^{146}\text{Ba}$	$^{96}\text{Sr}$	201.486	22.98	-10.56

There is no such peak in  $M_1+M_2$  spectrum FF from conventional binary fission.  
 Likely loosely coupled (see Poenary predictions)  
 $^{10}\text{Be}$  based di-nuclear system experiences a breakdown even in tangent collisions.

**ps** life times are predicted,  
**low barrier** against the decay

# Estimation of the life time



Are there contradictions with known features of the fission process?

2. According to our experiments fission fragments in the shape isomeric states show life time at least more than 1ns. What about the neutrons emitted from the fission fragments orders of magnitude faster?

## Observation of new microsecond isomers among fission products from in-flight fission of 345 MeV/nucleon $^{238}\text{U}$

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(Received 10 August 2012; revised manuscript received 17 October 2012; published 27 November 2012)

## Abstract

A search for isomeric  $\gamma$  decays among fission fragments from 345 MeV/nucleon  $^{238}\text{U}$  has been performed at the RIKEN Nishina Center RI Beam Factory. Fission fragments were selected and identified using the superconducting in-flight separator BigRIPS and were implanted in an aluminum stopper. Delayed  $\gamma$  rays were detected using three clover-type high-purity germanium detectors located at the focal plane within a time window of 20  $\mu\text{s}$  following the implantation. We identified a total of 54 microsecond isomers with half-lives of  $\sim 0.1\text{--}10\ \mu\text{s}$ , including the discovery of 18 new isomers in very neutron-rich nuclei:  $^{59}\text{Ti}^m$ ,  $^{90}\text{As}^m$ ,  $^{92}\text{Se}^m$ ,  $^{93}\text{Se}^m$ ,  $^{94}\text{Br}^m$ ,  $^{95}\text{Br}^m$ ,  $^{96}\text{Br}^m$ ,  $^{97}\text{Rb}^m$ ,  $^{108}\text{Nb}^m$ ,  $^{109}\text{Mo}^m$ ,  $^{117}\text{Ru}^m$ ,  $^{119}\text{Ru}^m$ ,  $^{120}\text{Rh}^m$ ,  $^{122}\text{Rh}^m$ ,  $^{121}\text{Pd}^m$ ,  $^{124}\text{Pd}^m$ ,  $^{124}\text{Ag}^m$ , and  $^{126}\text{Ag}^m$ , and

The fast isotopic separation and identification of reaction products, which take place in several hundred nanoseconds, allow event-by-event detection of isomeric  $\gamma$  rays at the focal plane of the separator with small decay losses in flight. The  $\gamma$  decays are observed under low-background conditions after ion implantation. ...

In-flight fission of a uranium beam have been used as production reactions to populate isomers. In-flight fission is known to be an excellent mechanism for producing neutron-rich exotic nuclei...



# Atomic Data and Nuclear Data Tables

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/adt](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/adt)

## Nuclear shape isomers

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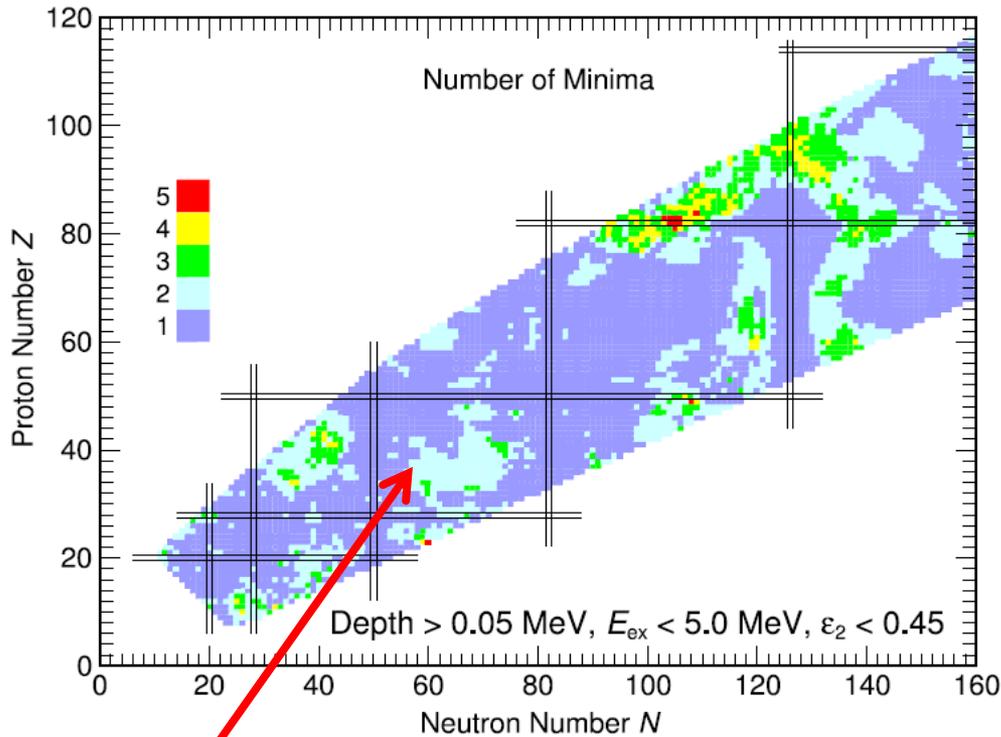
<sup>b</sup> *Department of Mathematical Physics, Lund Institute of Technology, P.O. Box 118, SE-22100 Lund, Sweden*

<sup>c</sup> *Center for Mathematical Sciences, University of Aizu, Aizu-Wakamatsu, Fukushima 965-80, Japan*

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We calculate potential-energy surfaces as functions of spheroidal ( $\epsilon_2$ ), hexadecapole ( $\epsilon_4$ ), and axial asymmetry ( $\gamma$ ) shape coordinates for 7206 nuclei from  $A = 31$  to  $A = 290$ . We tabulate the deformations and energies of all minima deeper than 0.2 MeV and of the saddles between all pairs of minima. The tabulation is terminated at  $N = 160$ .... We also present potential-energy contour plots versus  $\epsilon_2$  and  $\gamma$  for 1224 even–even nuclei in the region studied. We can identify nuclei for which a necessary condition for shape isomers occurs, namely multiple minima in the calculated potential-energy surface.

## Some results



**FF region**

Apparently, we and RIKEN group deal with **the same shape isomers** and they observe the de-excitation of isomeric states by detecting of delayed  $\gamma$ -quanta. We fill the presence of di-nuclear system (shape isomer) via brake-up.

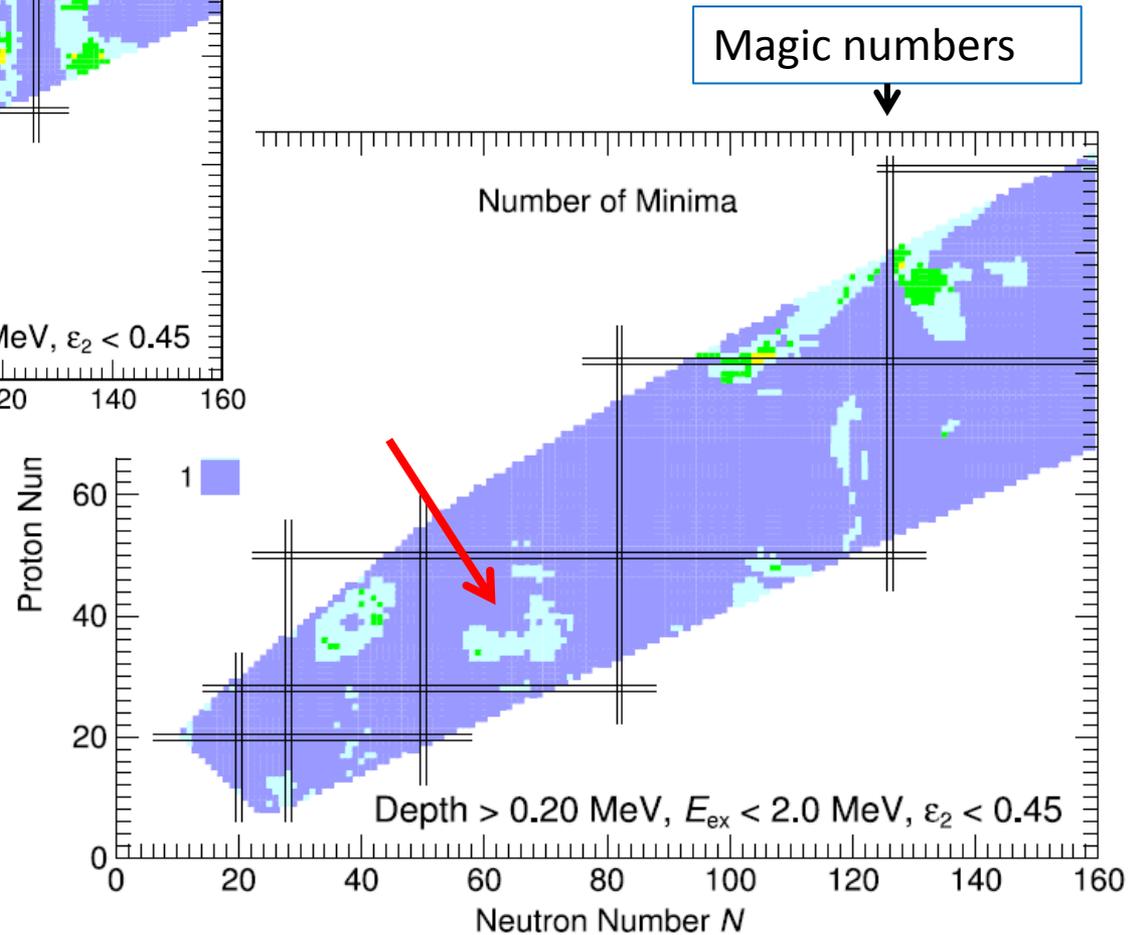


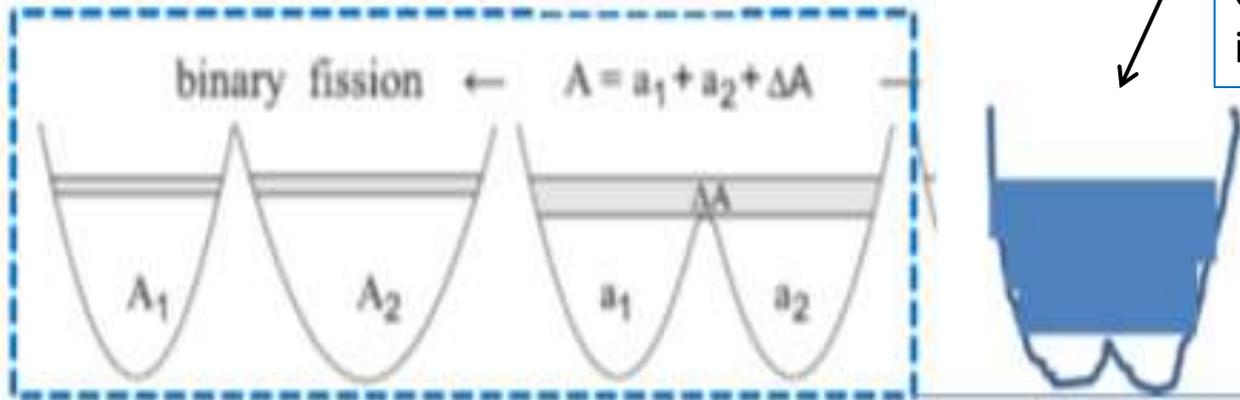
FIG. 5 (color). Number of minima found with deformation  $\epsilon_2 < 0.45$ . Only the ground-state and isomer minima that are deeper than 0.2 MeV and with energies relative to the ground state of less than 2.0 MeV are counted.

# TCSM in description of fission & fusion

## True ternary fission of superheavy nuclei

V. I. Zagrebaev,<sup>1</sup> A. V. Karpov,<sup>1</sup> and Walter Greiner<sup>2</sup>

→ fusion

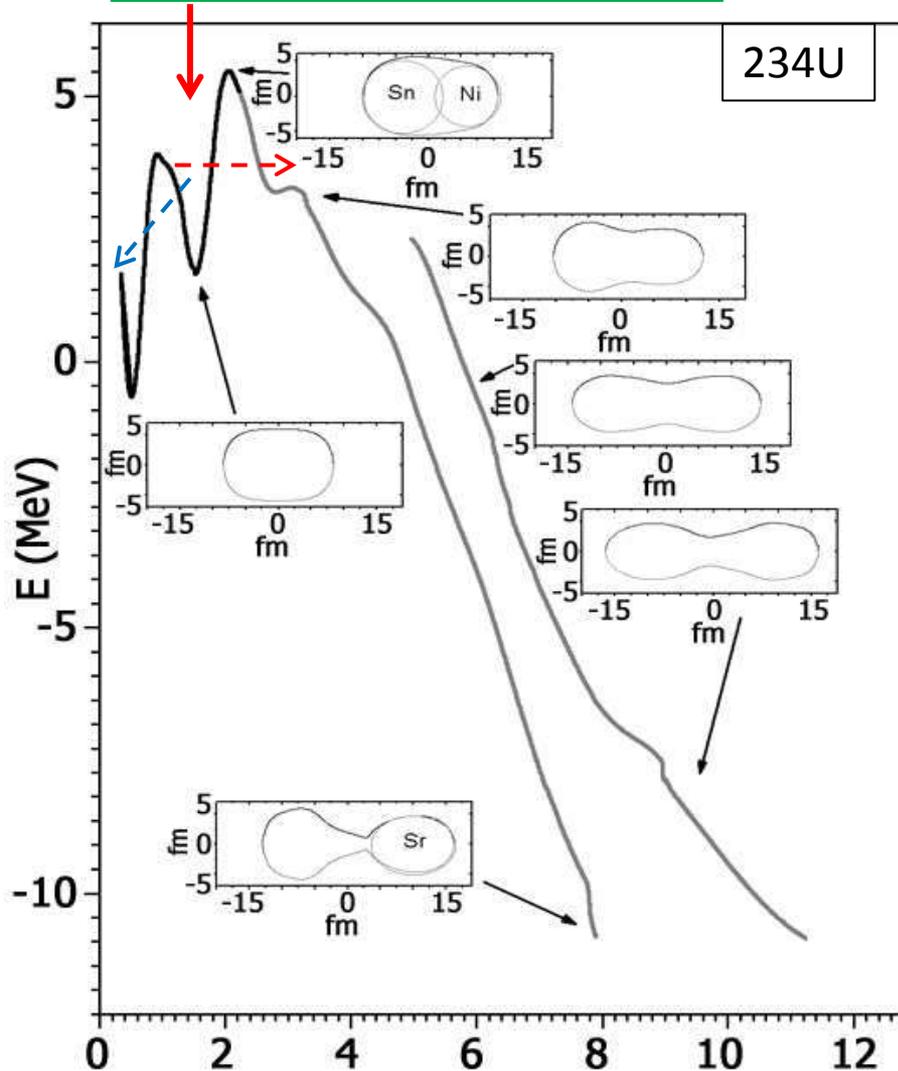


Our case of almost complete fusion of two nuclei constituting initial di-nuclear system

I'd like to stress once more:  
 basing on our data we suppose **each FF** to be a **di-nuclear system** at least just after scission

Within the *two-center shell model* (TCSM) for a given nuclear configuration, we may determine the two deformed cores  $a_1$  and  $a_2$  surrounded with a certain number of shared nucleons:  $A = a_1 + a_2 + \Delta A$ . During binary fission, these valence nucleons gradually spread between the two cores with the formation of two final fragments,  $A_1$  and  $A_2$ .

Shape isomer state (SIS)  
in the second potential well.  
de-excitation is possible via  
gamma channel



The bottoms of the fission valleys as a function of parameter  $Q$  (proportional to the quadrupole moment) for  $^{234}\text{U}$ .

## Treating of our case

Some kind of memory  
about initial configuration:  
2 distinct nuclei



Almost complete fusion.

Actually it is a low excited  
state of the resultant  $a_1+a_2$   
nucleus.

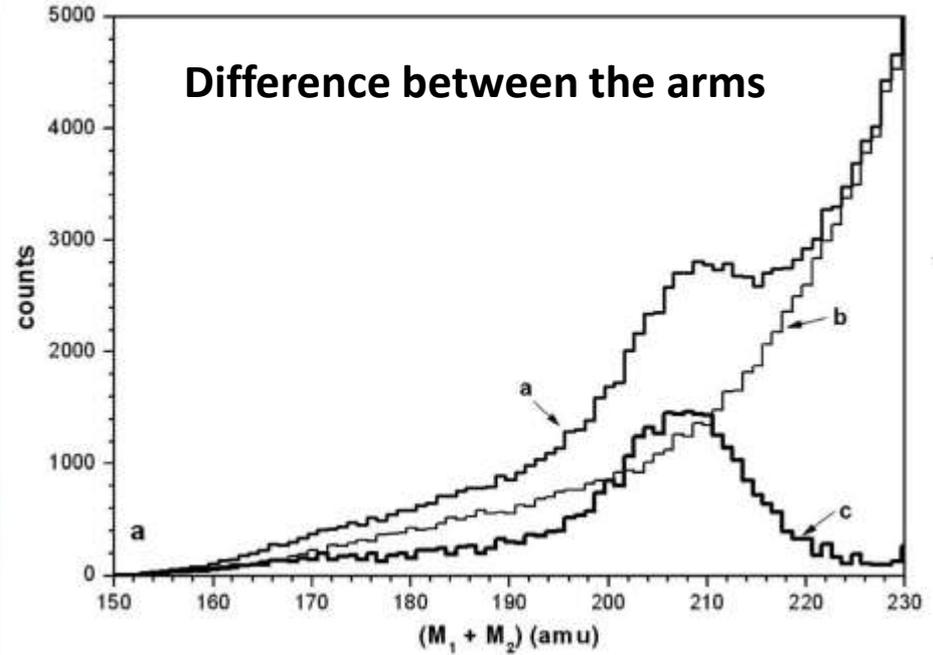
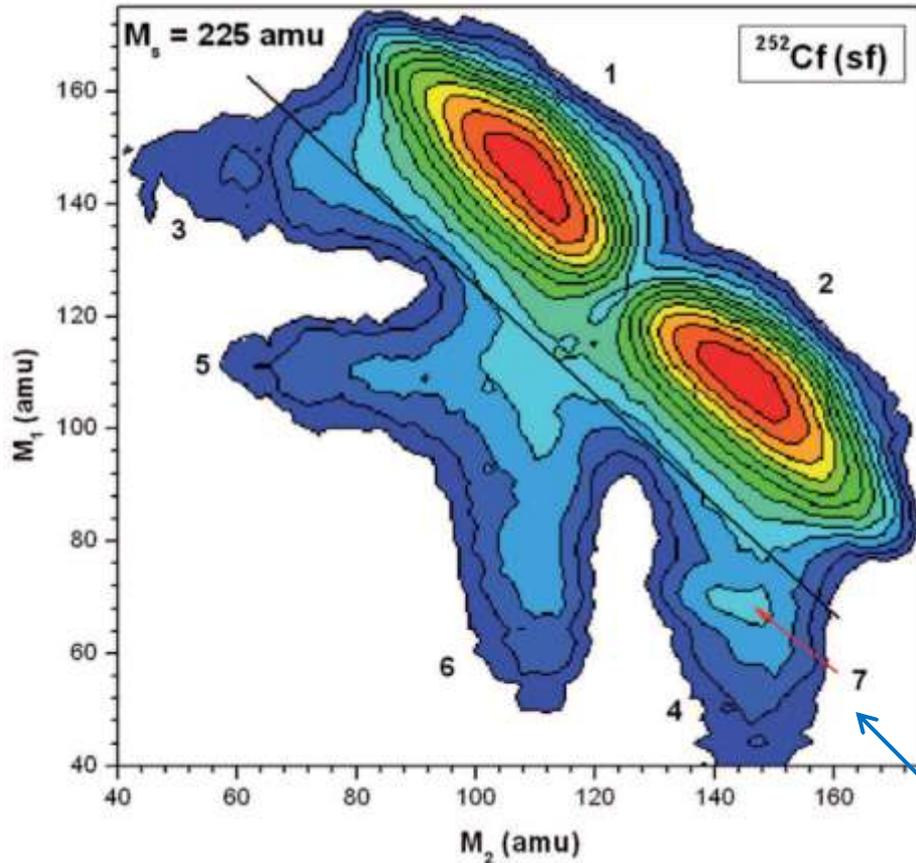
**The main part of the initial  
 $E^*$  is *already exhausted by  
emitted neutrons.***

The fusion process is  
stopped at the final stage  
**reaching gamma-isomeric  
state.** The residual  $E^*$  will  
be carry away by gammas  
through time to be  
characteristic for this  
channel of de-excitation.  
( some  $\mu\text{s}$  presumably)

The last intriguing question to be discussed:

Whether all structures assigned to the CCT actually are resulted from the brake-up process discussed above?

## Initial manifestation of the CCT

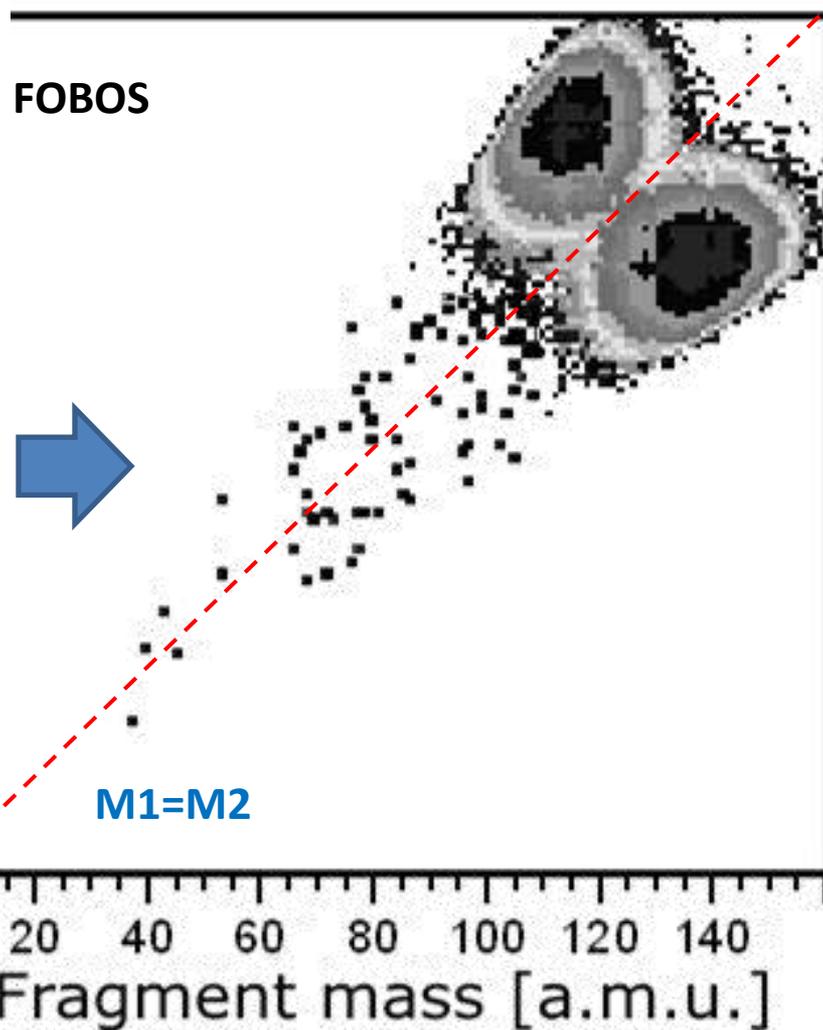
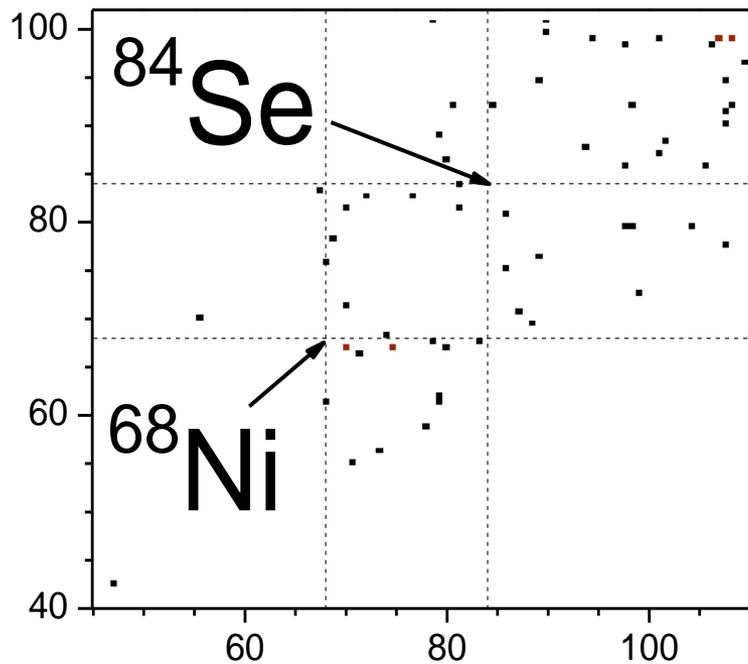
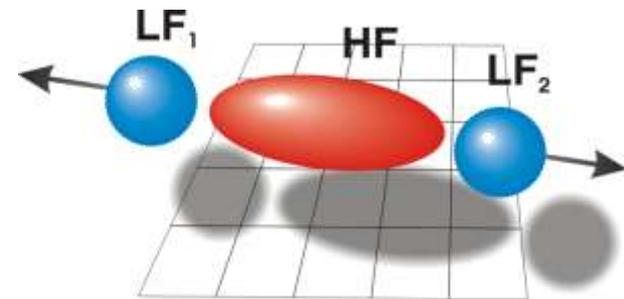


Effect is seen  
in the arm from  
the side of scattering  
foil only.  
Thus, it is due to  
scattering in any cense

Yu. Pyatkov et al., Eur. Phys. J. A  
45, 29–37 (2010)

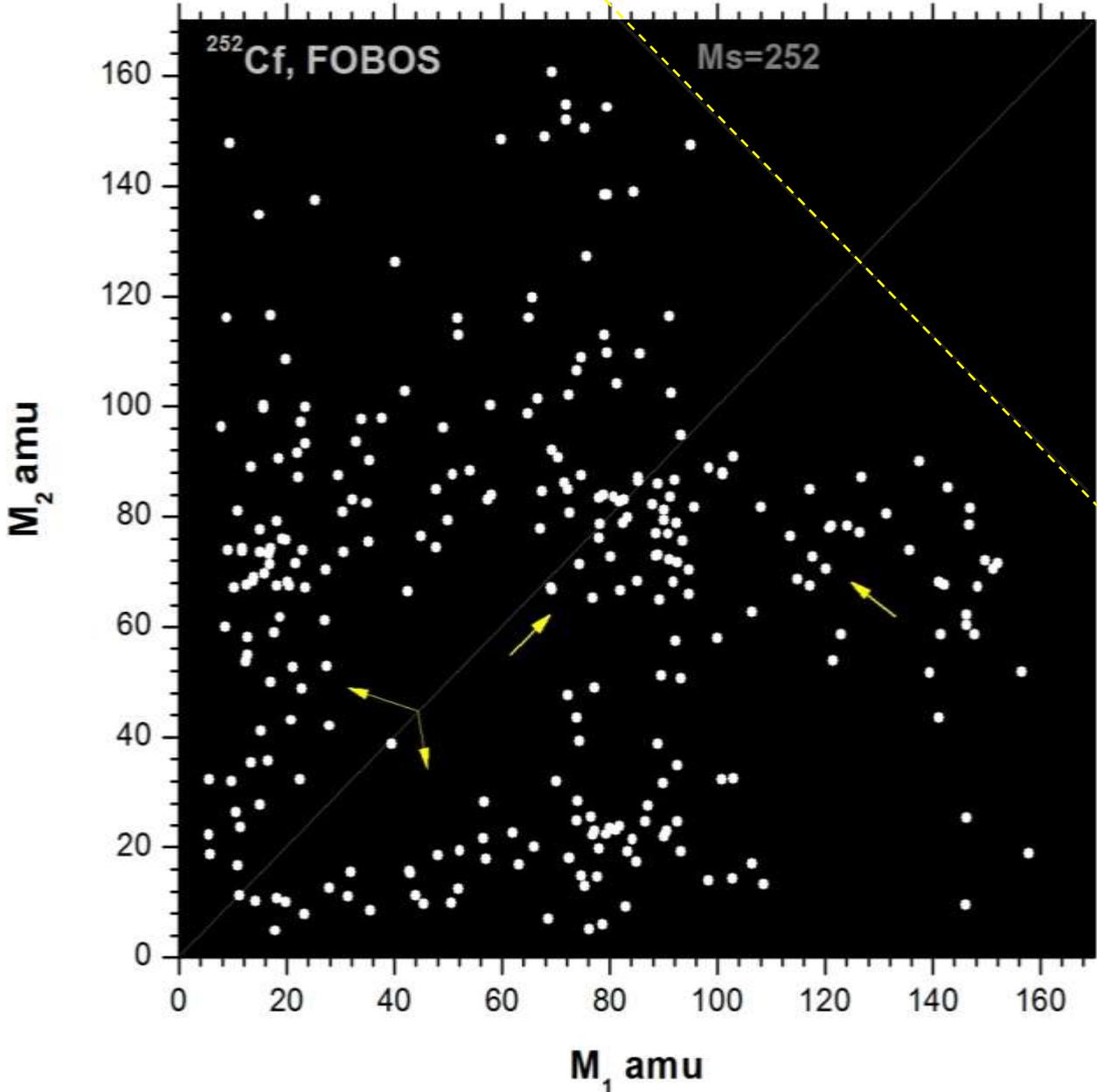
## Structures symmetric to the arms

Individual modes / structures  
with equal velocity/momentum window



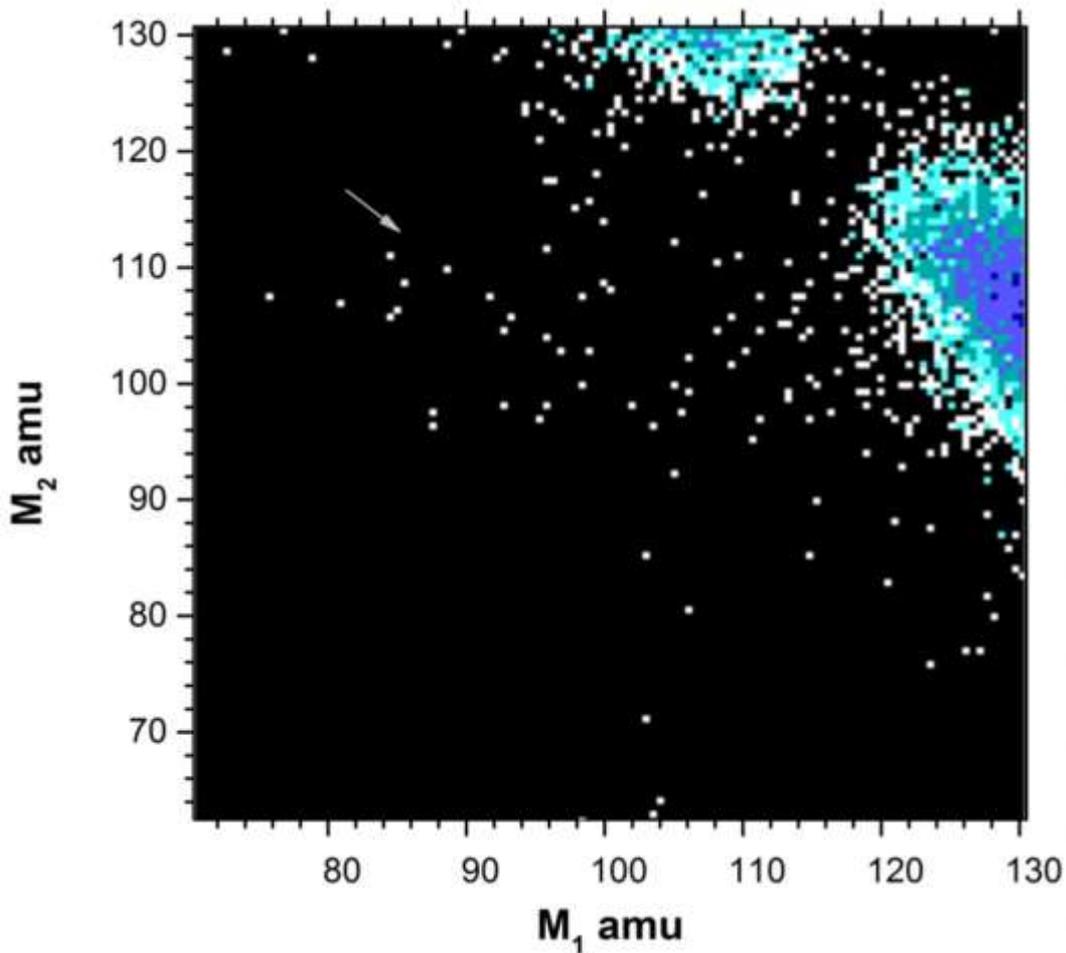
**Vice versa:**  
structures symmetric  
to the arms are independent  
from the scattering

# Structures symmetric to the arms



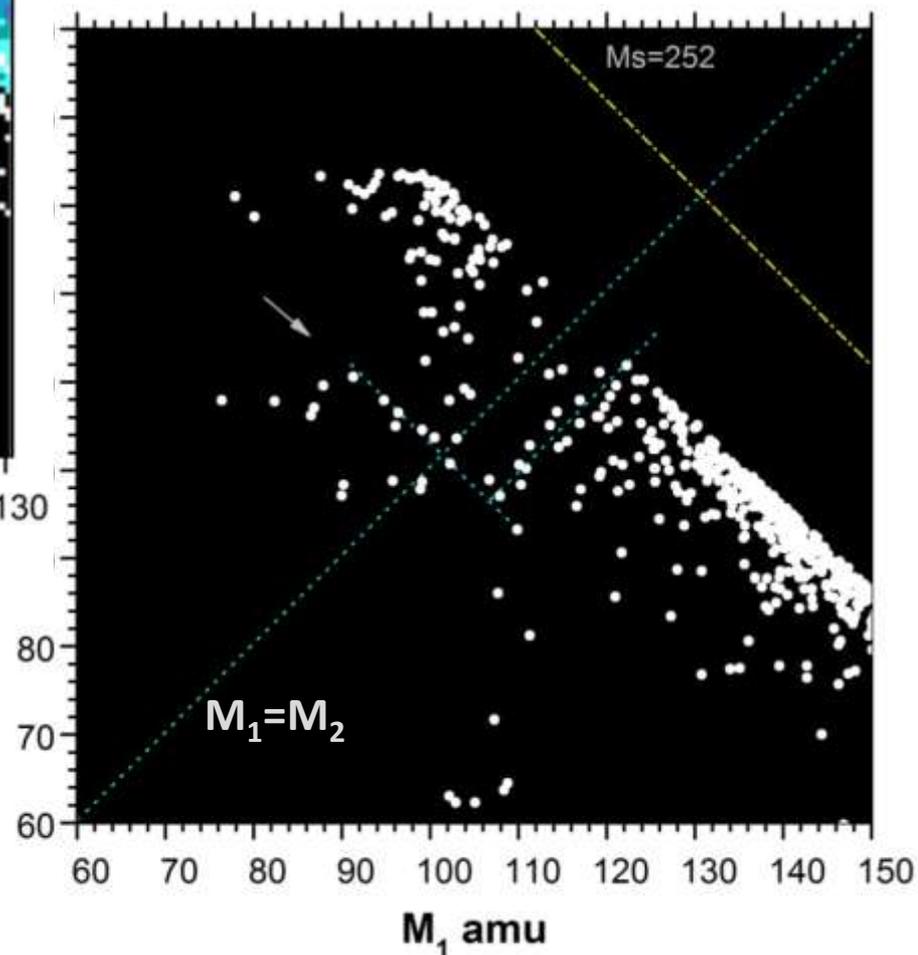
**FOBOS**  
**n=1**  
**&**  
**momentum**  
**box**

## Structures symmetric to the arms



COMETA, Cu foil,  $n=1$

Missing mass  $\sim 50$ amu



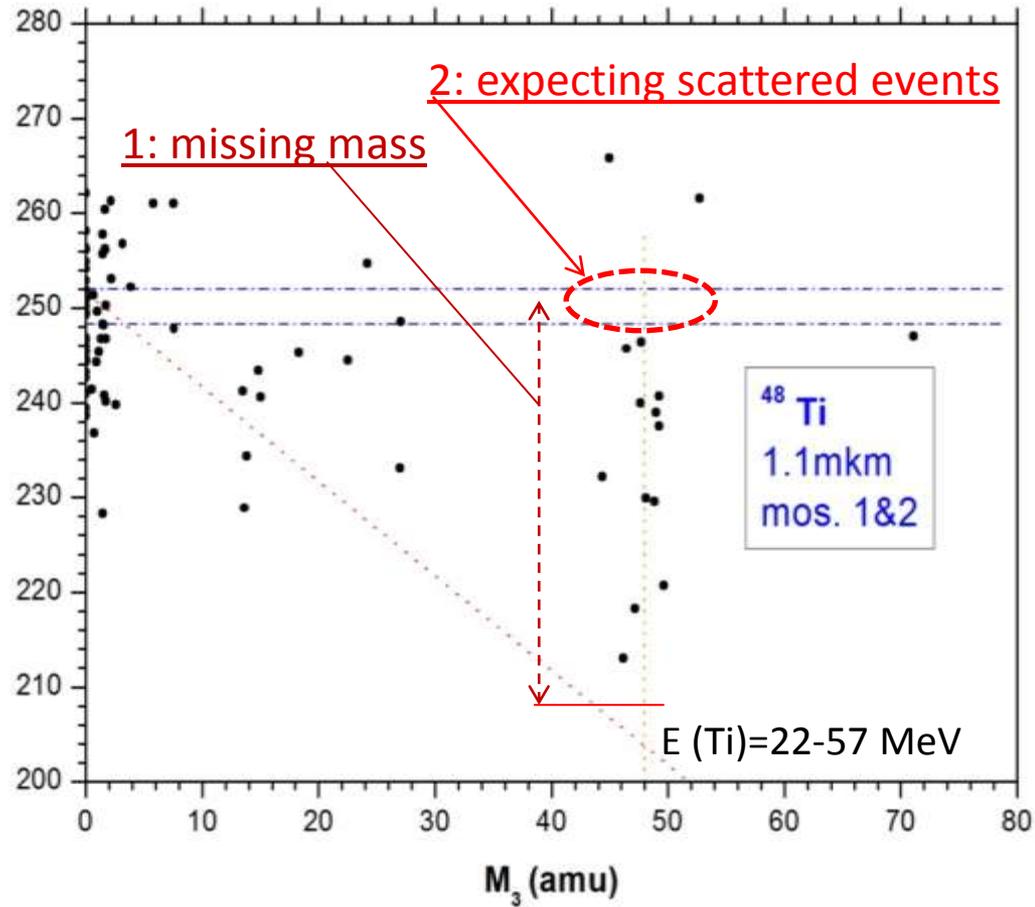
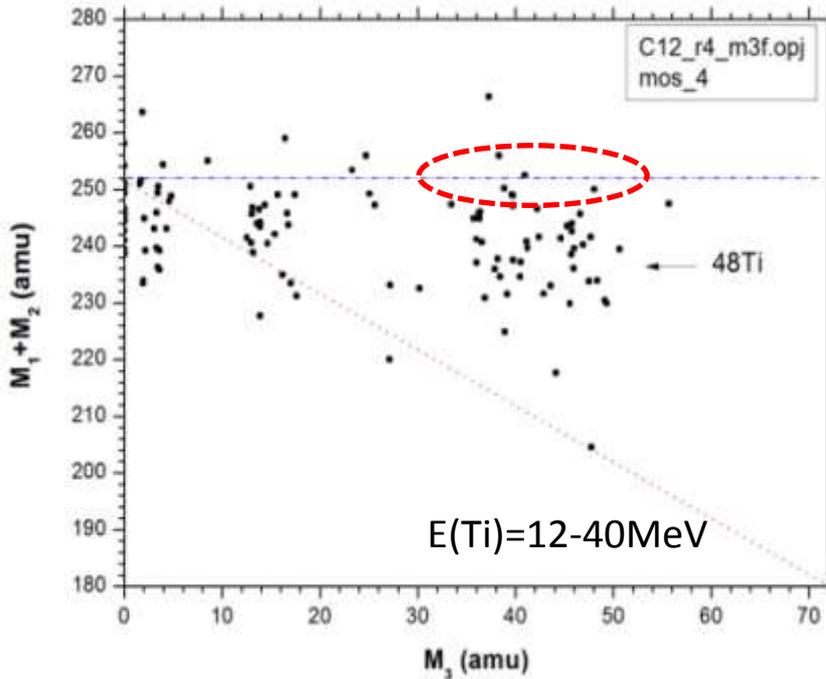
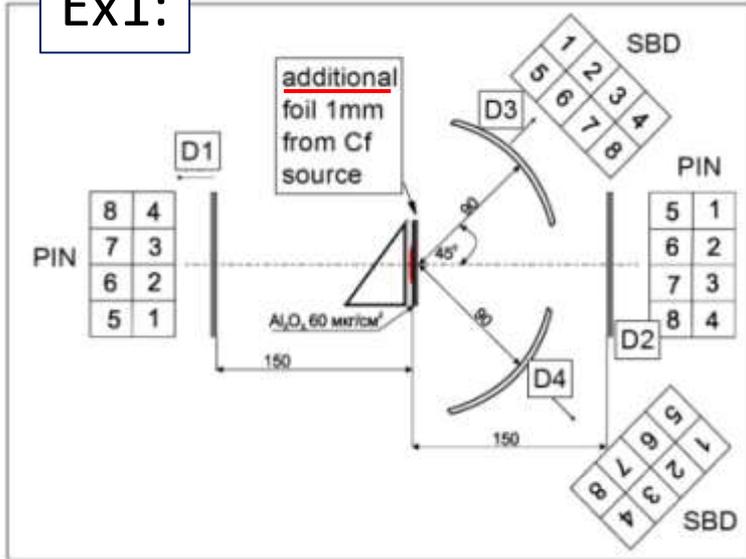
## Conclusions

1. Now we have not find any contradictions between all our experimental data obtained and known features of conventional fission process.
2. Studying of rare multi-body decays flashes up fundamental properties of the main process of “conventional” binary fission.



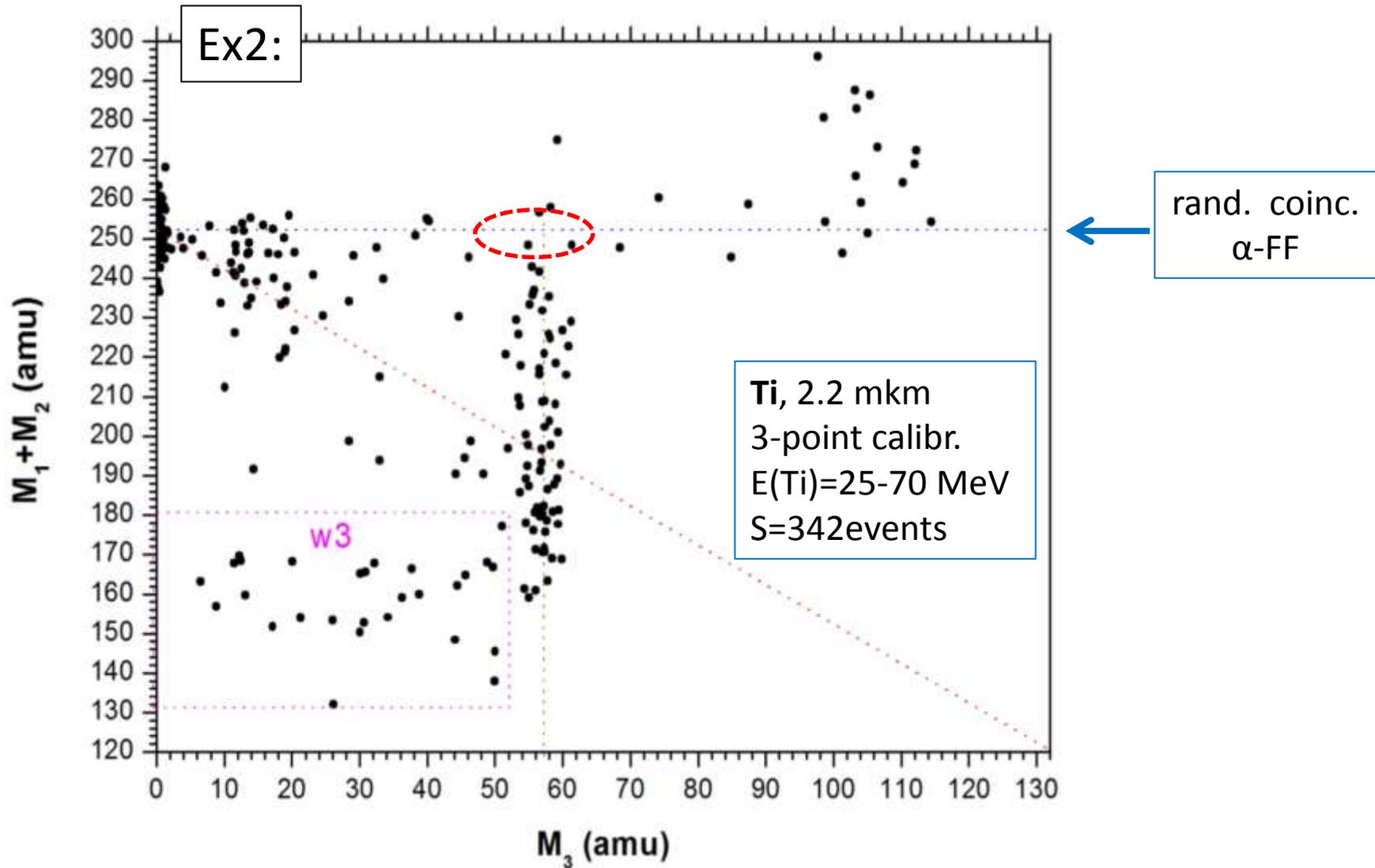
# Experimental results\_1

Ex1:

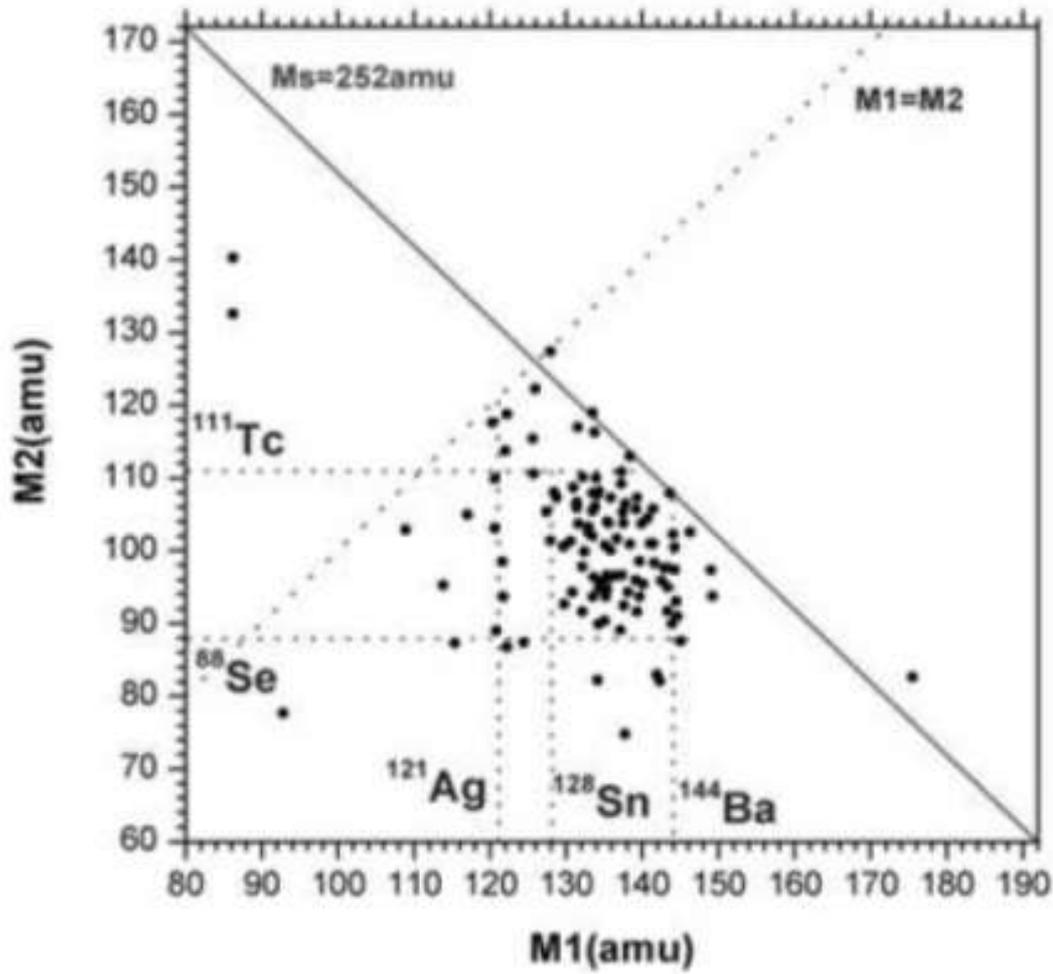


In each ternary event:  
 $M_1 > M_2 > M_3$

## Experimental results\_2

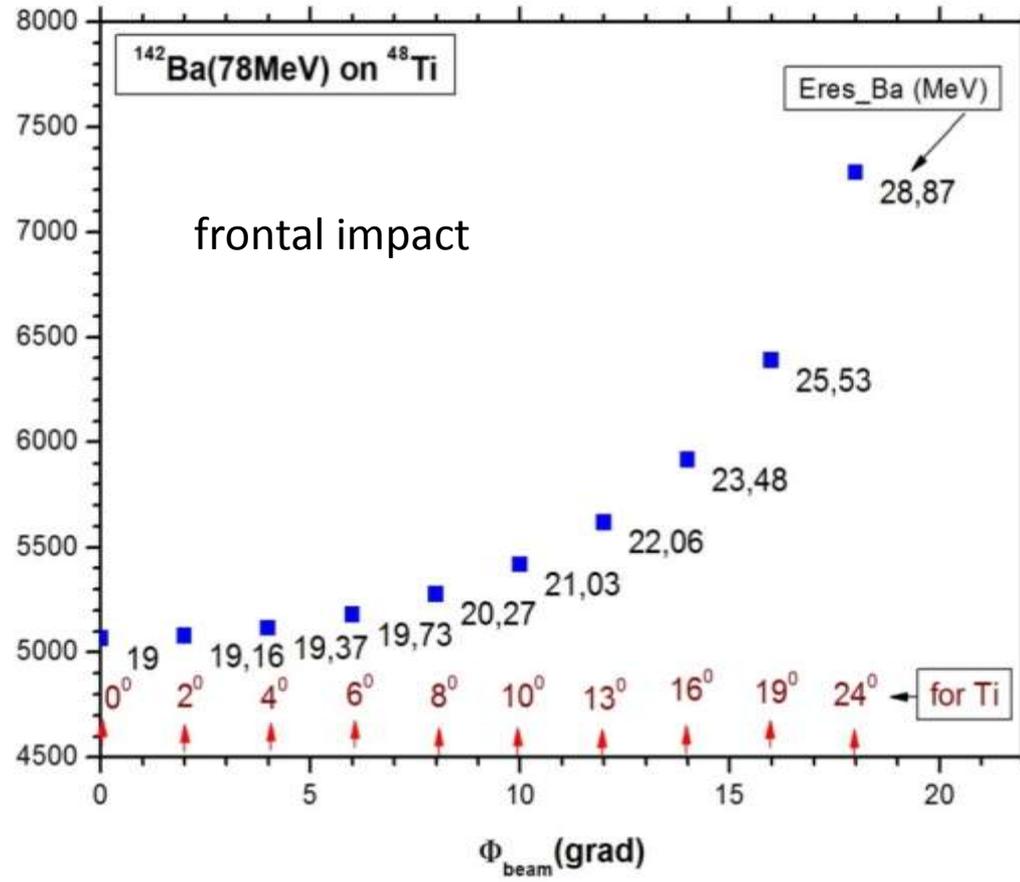
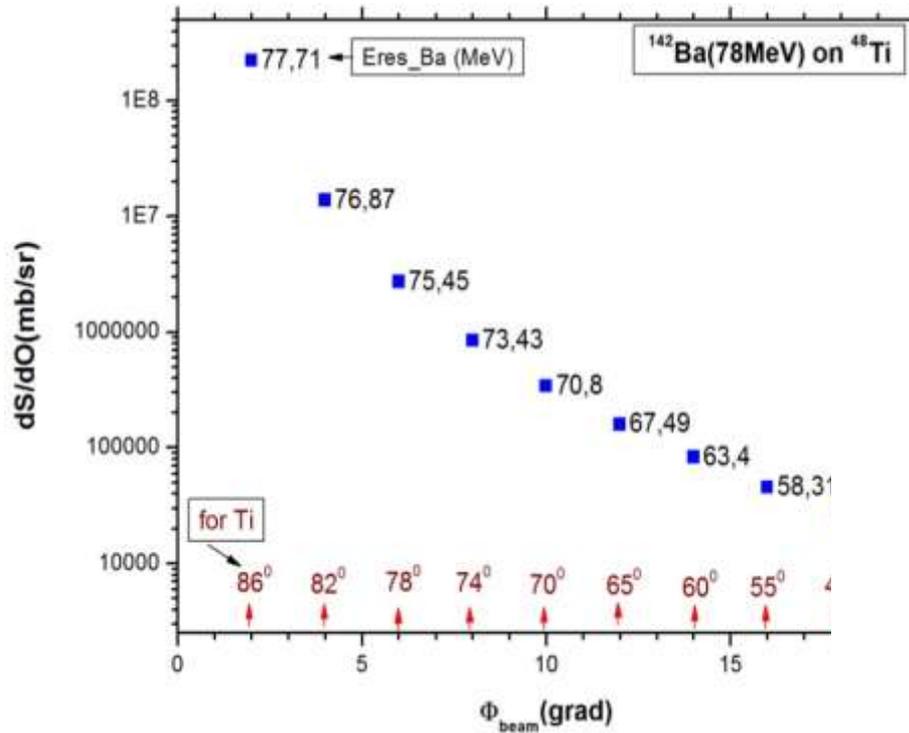


Previous experiments at the COMETA setup - only thin  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  backing was in game



Similar structure of the  $M_1$ - $M_2$  plot for ternary events

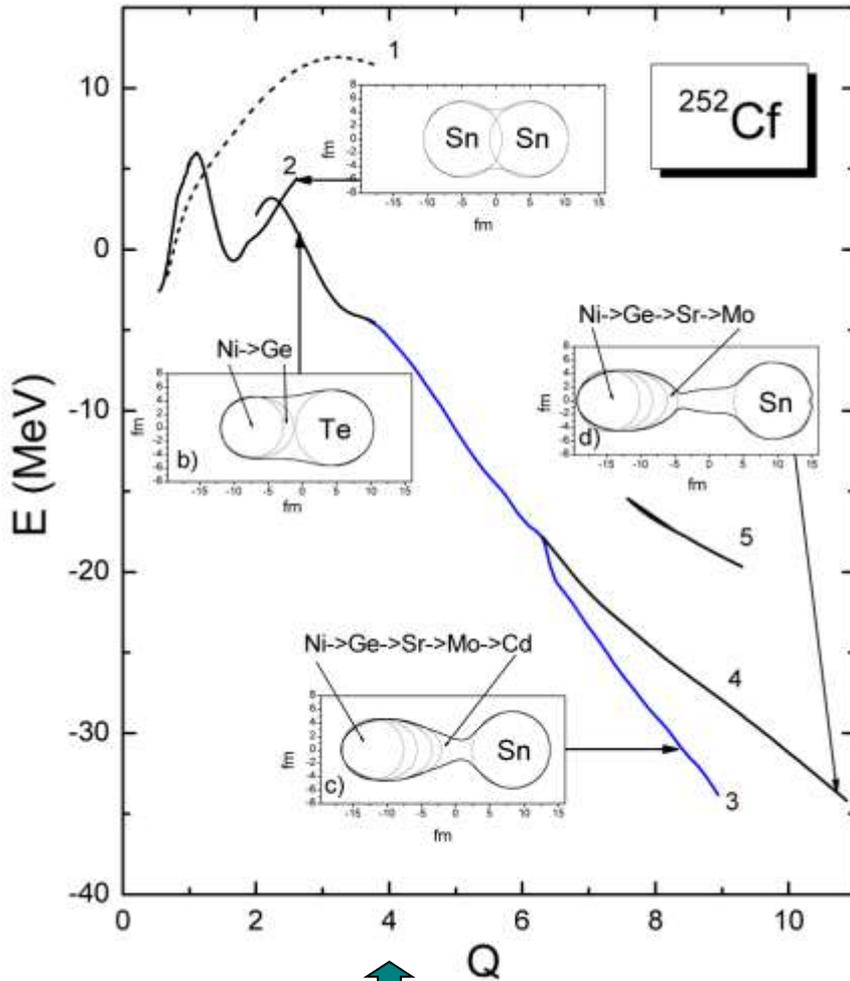
# Rutherford scattering – H\_FF/Ti



Both the experimental geometry and energies of the knocked-out ions give evidence that we deal with this branch of the scattering process



# FF as a di-nuclear system – possible scenario of forming



## Double- magic- cluster structure of the fissioning system:

V.V. Vladimirov, JETP (USSR) 5 (1957) 673

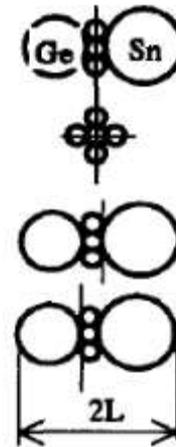
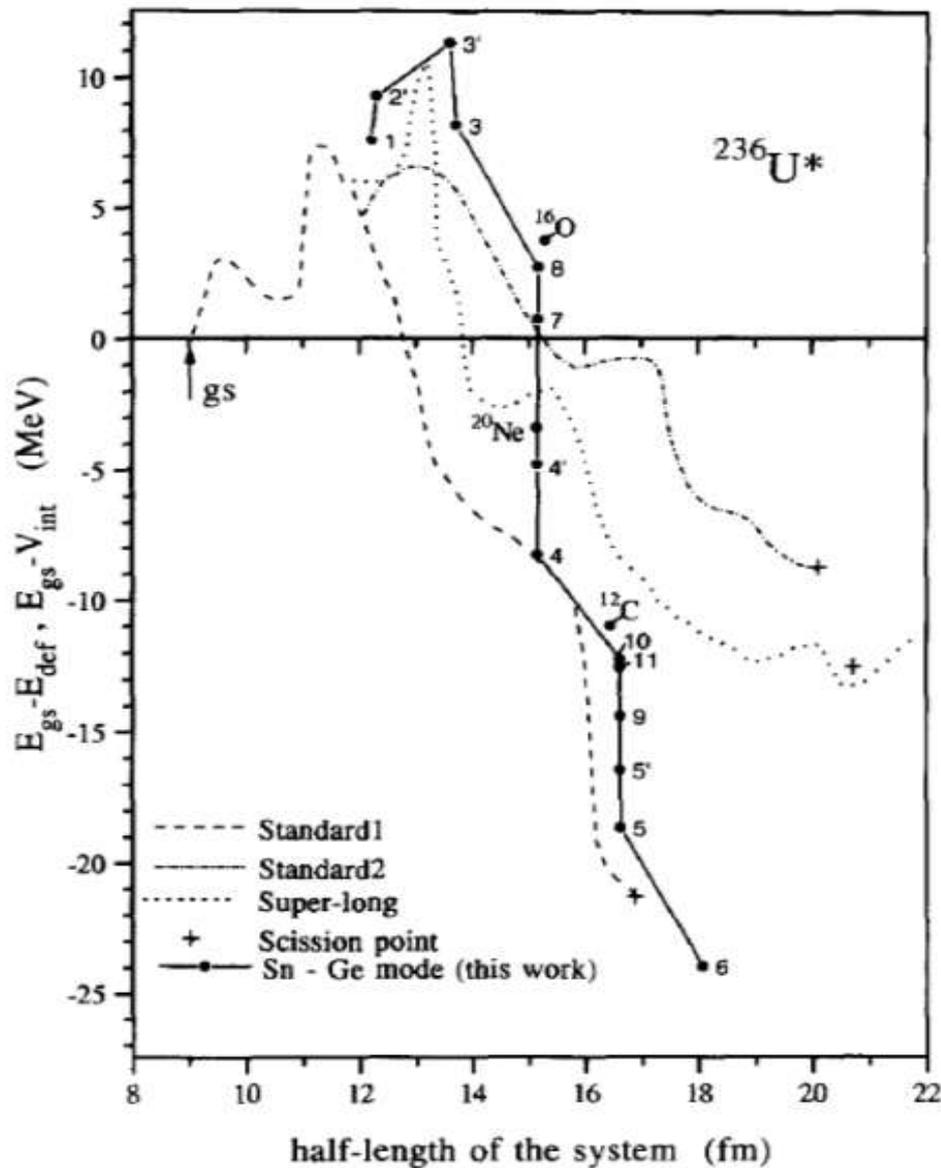
S.L. Whetstone, Phys. Rev. 114 (1959) 581

• • •

I. Tsekanovich,  
 H.-O. Denschlag, M. Davi,  
 Z. Büyükmumcu,  
 F. Gönnerwein, S. Oberstedt,  
 H.R. Faust  
 Nucl. Phys. A 688 (2001) 633

Yu.V. Pyatkov, V.V. Pashkevich, Yu.E. Penionzhkevich et al.,  
 Nucl. Phys. A 624 (1997) 140

# FF as a di-nuclear system – possible scenario of forming



Initial configuration  
Of the fission mode  
Based on Sn & Ge clusters

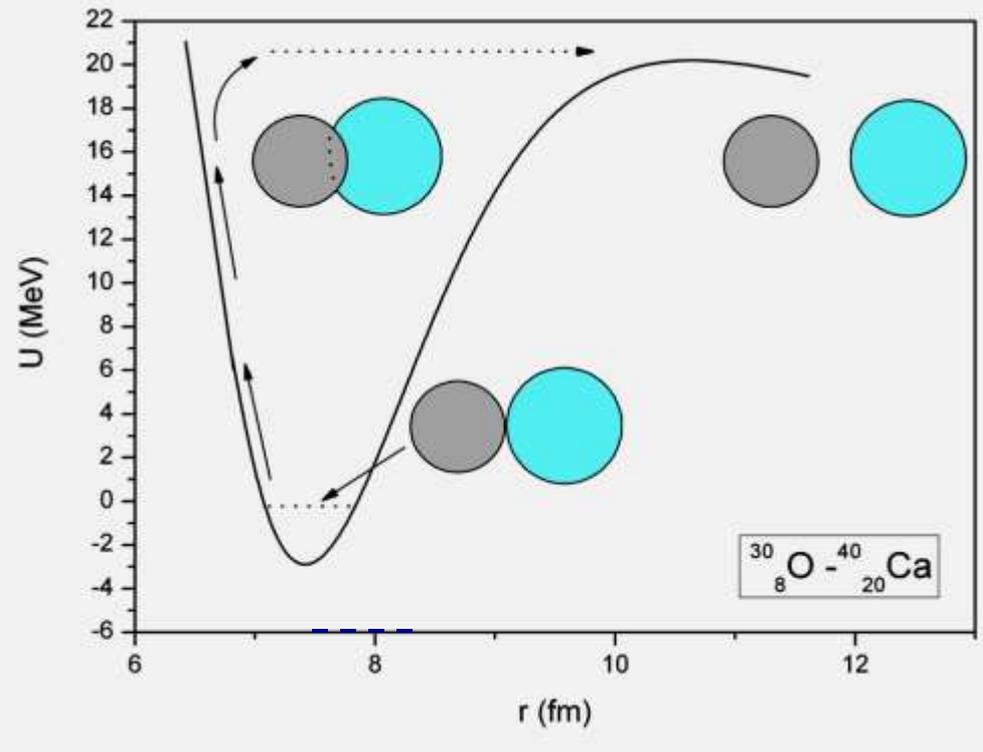
Two magic clusters namely, light & heavy give rise to fission mode while the neck is also clusterised consisting of LCP

Yu.V. Pyatkov, G.G. Adamian,

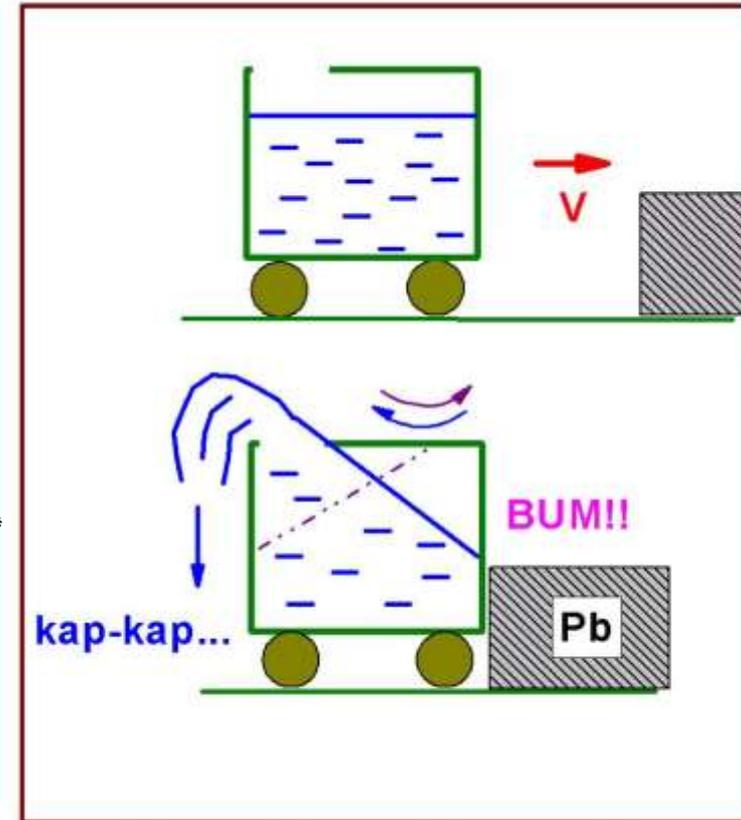
N.V. Antonenko et al.,

Nucl. Phys. A 611 (1996) 355

# A possible way of decaying of di-nuclear system



Different inertia of the partners in the frontal impact could be the reason of their scission.



naive illustration of an inertial effect likely to be decisive for decaying of a nuclear molecule

S. Ćwiok et al.,  
 Phys. Lett. B 322 (1994) 304

SIS in  
 heavy  
 nuclei

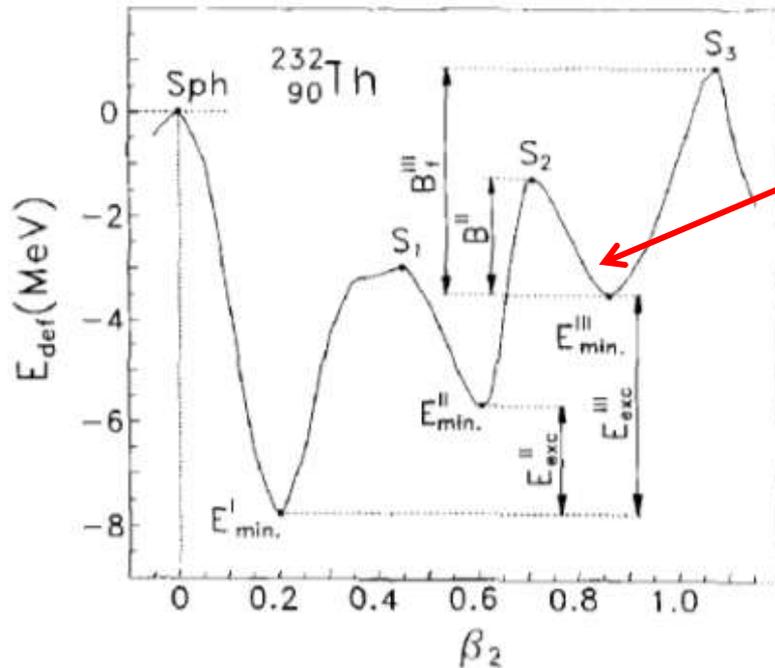
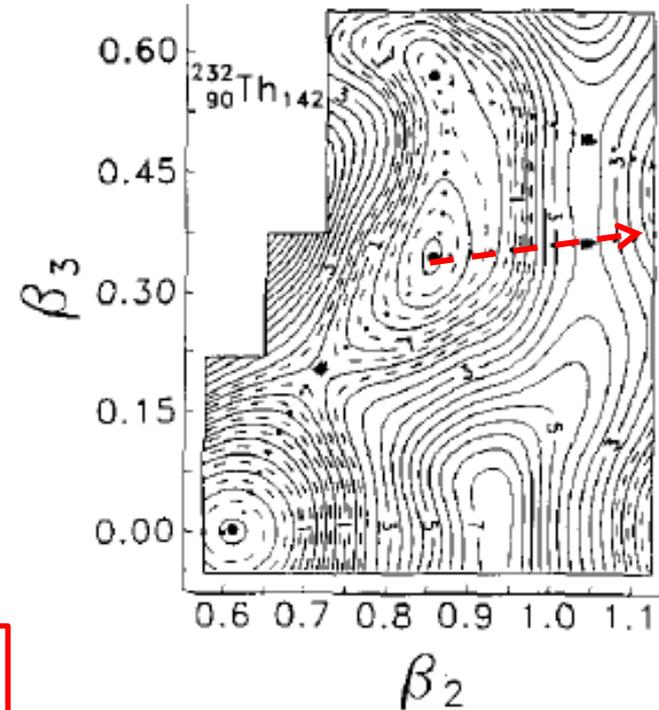
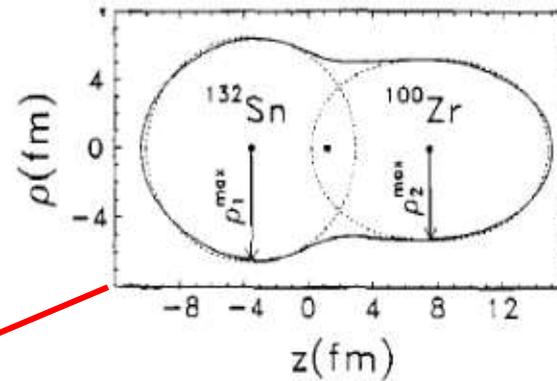


Fig. 1. Potential energy curve for  $^{232}\text{Th}$  as a function of quadrupole deformation  $\beta_2$  along the shorter static fission path of fig. 2.

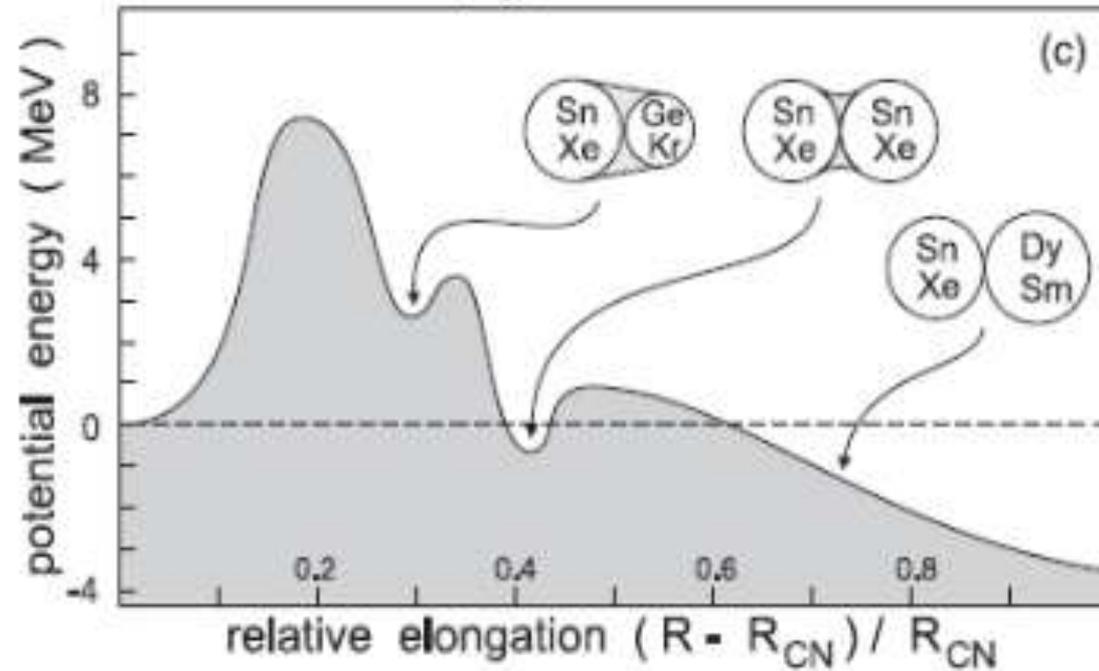
density distribution at the third minimum looks like a di-nucleus consisting of a nearly-spherical heavier fragment (around doubly-magic  $^{132}\text{Sn}$ ) and a well-deformed lighter fragment (from the neutron-rich  $A \sim 100$  region).



Fiss.  
 path

Fig. 2. The Woods-Saxon-Strutinsky total potential energy (relative to the spherical macroscopic energy) for  $^{220}\text{Rn}$ ,  $^{222}\text{Ra}$ ,  $^{232}\text{Th}$ , and  $^{234}\text{U}$ , as a function of  $\beta_2$  and  $\beta_3$ . At each  $(\beta_2, \beta_3)$  point the energy was minimized with respect to  $\beta_4-\beta_7$ . The distance between the solid contour lines is 0.5

**SIS in super-heavy nuclei**



Three-humped barrier calculated along the fission path of  $^{296}_{116}\text{Lv}$  (Livermorium).

V. ZAGREBAEV, W. GREINER

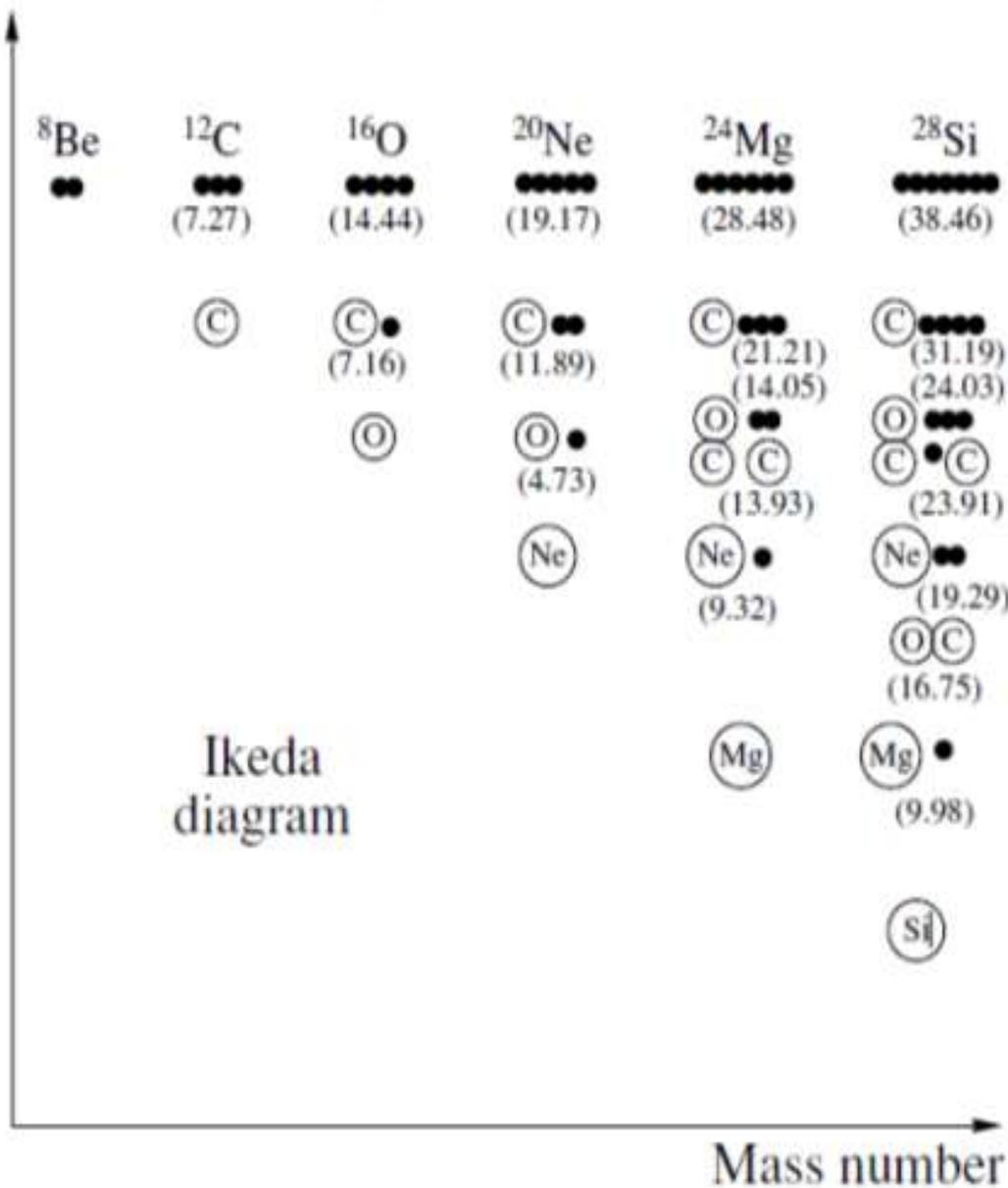
Proc. Int. Symp. on Atomic Cluster Collisions (ISACC07), GSI Darmstadt, 2007, (Imperial College Press, London, 2008), Eds. J.-P. Connerade and A. V. Solov'yov, p. 23

“These intermediate minima correspond to the shape isomer states.

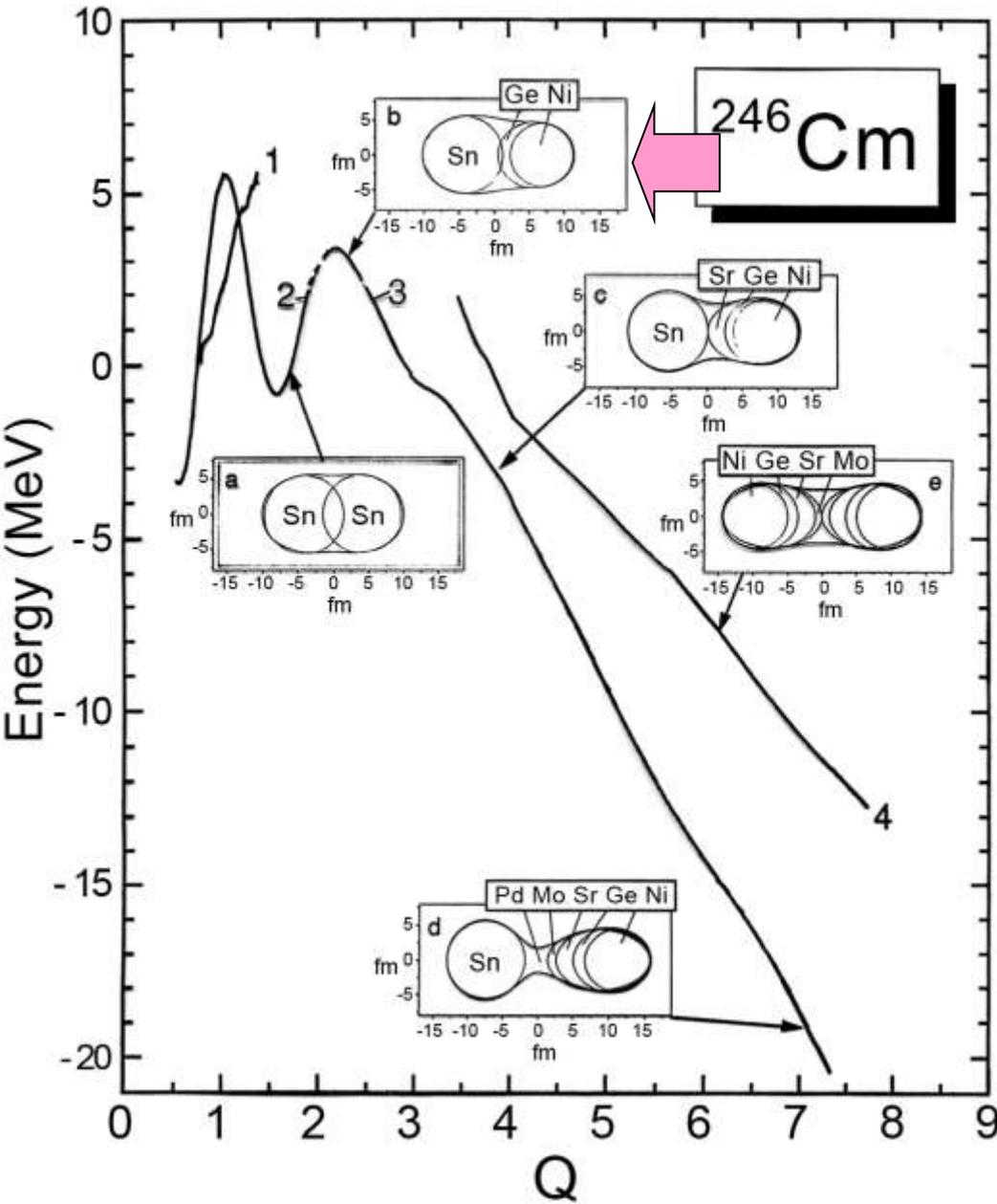
From analysis of the driving potential we may definitely conclude that these isomeric states are nothing else but the two-cluster configurations with magic or semi-magic cores surrounded with a certain amount of shared nucleons.”



Excitation energy



# Calculated Fission Valleys ( $^{246}\text{Cm}$ )



Valley of the mass-asymmetrical shapes

Valley of the mass-symmetrical shapes

V. V. Pashkevich et al.

## Known calculations

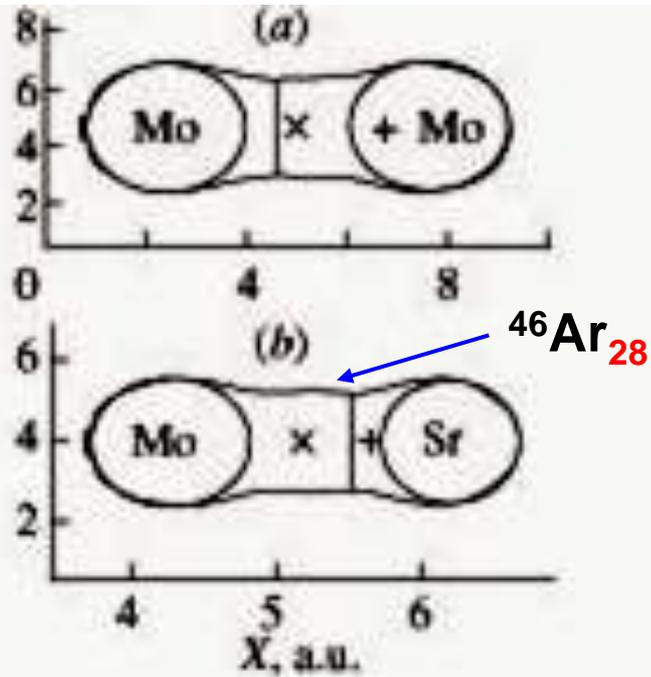
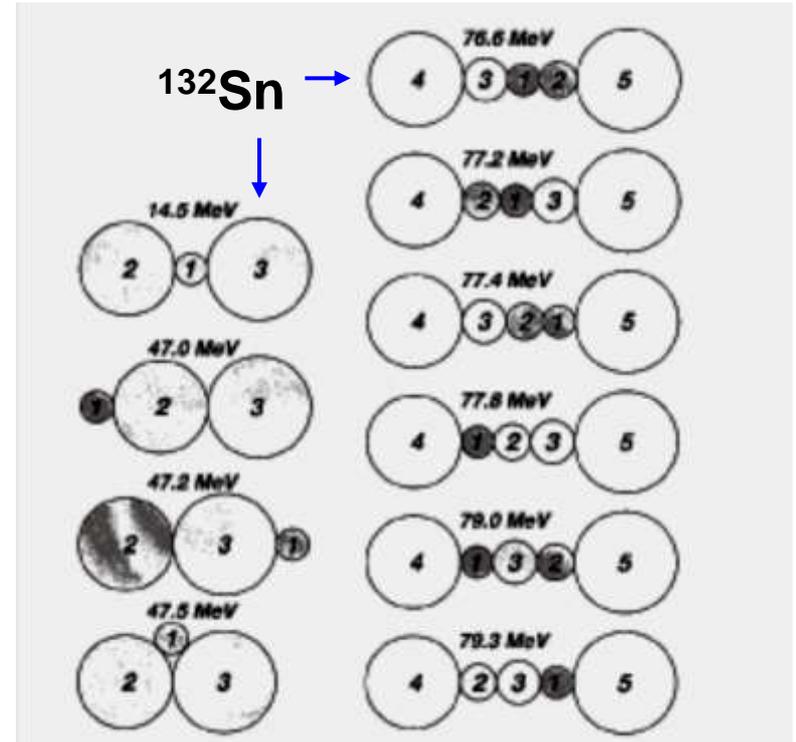


Fig. 7. The shape of the nucleus at the bottom of the "symmetric" valley ( $Q_2 = 7.52$  a.u.,  $\eta = 0.074$ ) (a); the same system at the point  $Q_2 = 7.52$  a.u.,  $\eta = -0.208$  (b).

Yu.V. Pyatkov, V.V. Pashkevich, A.V. Unzhakova et al., *Physics of Atomic Nuclei* 66 (2003) 1631



Aligned and compact configurations for  $\alpha$ -accompanied and  $\alpha+^6\text{He}+^{10}\text{Be}$  accompanied cold fission of  $^{252}\text{Cf}$   
 D.N. Poenaru et al., *Phys. Rev. C* 59 (1999) 3457