

27-th International Seminar  
on Interaction of Neutrons with Nuclei  
JINR, Dubna, June 10-14, 2018

## TRUE QUATERNARY FISSION CHANNEL IN $^{235}\text{U}(\text{n}_{\text{th}}, \text{f})$ REACTION

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### International support



Special thanks to the organizers:

Tracking CCT progress  
from ISINN to ISINN

ISINN #

10 - first neutron-gated data with FOBOS

.....

13 – proposal for the exp @ IBR-2

14 – status of the exp in the cave 6b

15 – preliminary results

16 – detailed report

17 – triple correlations from  $^{232}\text{Th}+\text{d}$

18 – COMETA progress report (posters)

19 – first & interesting COMETA data

20 – first CCT physics & Ion Guide proposal

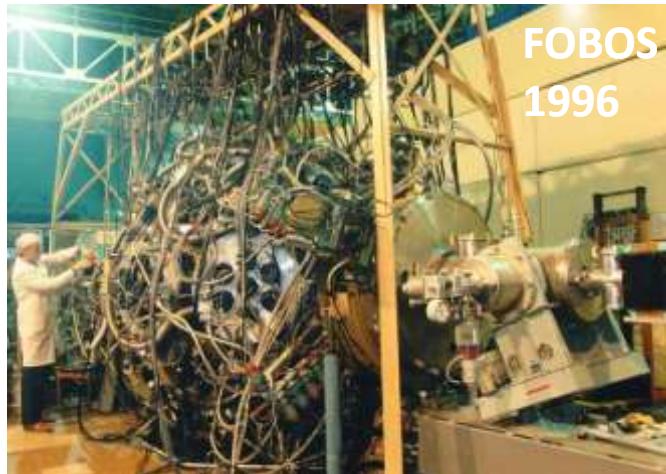
21 – first indications of shape isomers in FF

22 – new results on shape isomers in wide range

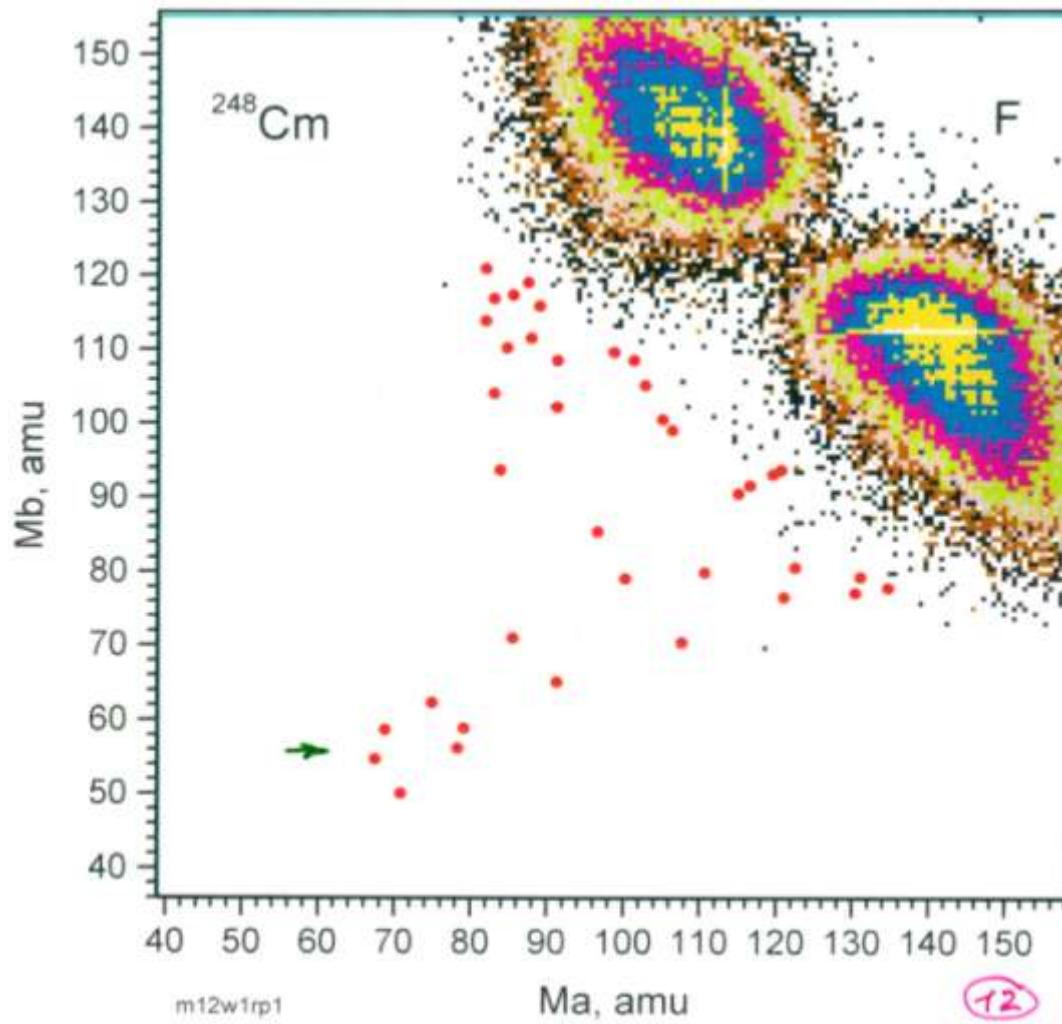
23 – first “flash”-data

25 – understanding the results and feeding theoretical discussion

26 – behind the Great Chinese Wall



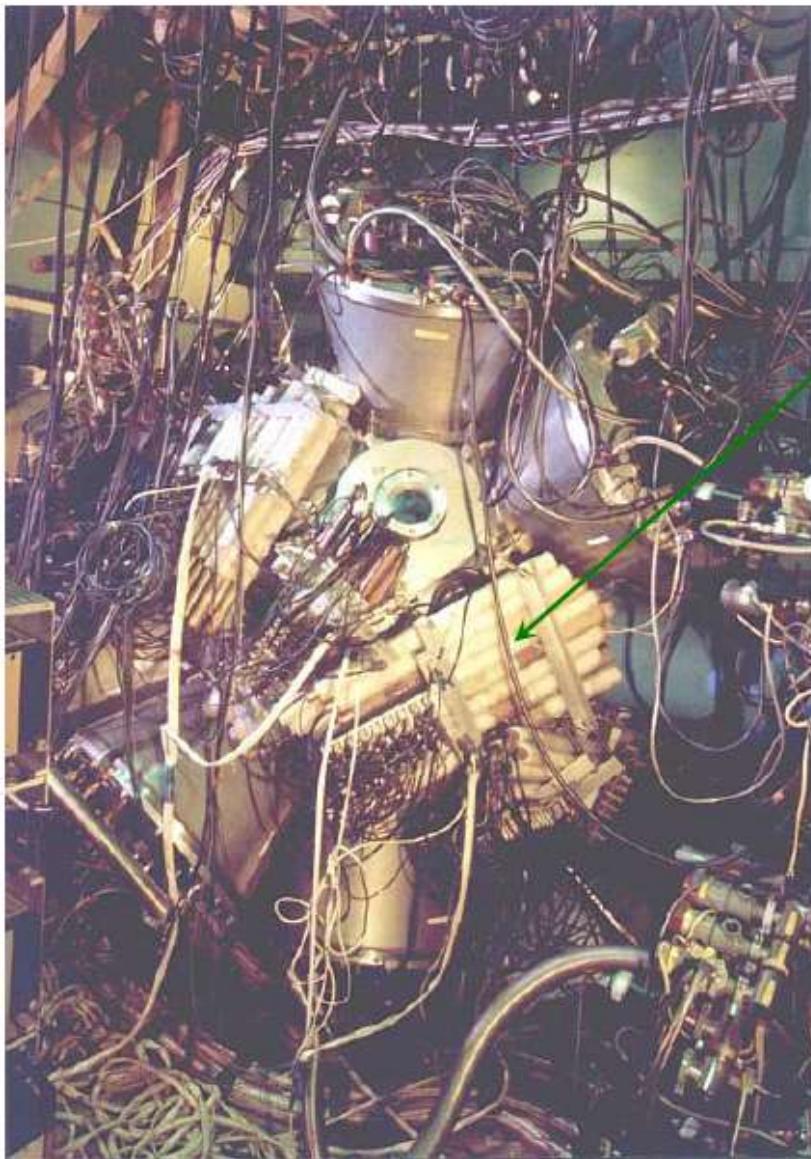
The question at our starting point:  $^{246}\text{Cm} \rightarrow 3^{82}\text{Ge}$  ?



Experiment was performed in the year of ISINN-4

## Modification of experimental setup

missing mass approach,  $Z$ -sensitive variables &  
experimental neutron multiplicity  $v_{\text{exp}}$  for selection of the CCT events



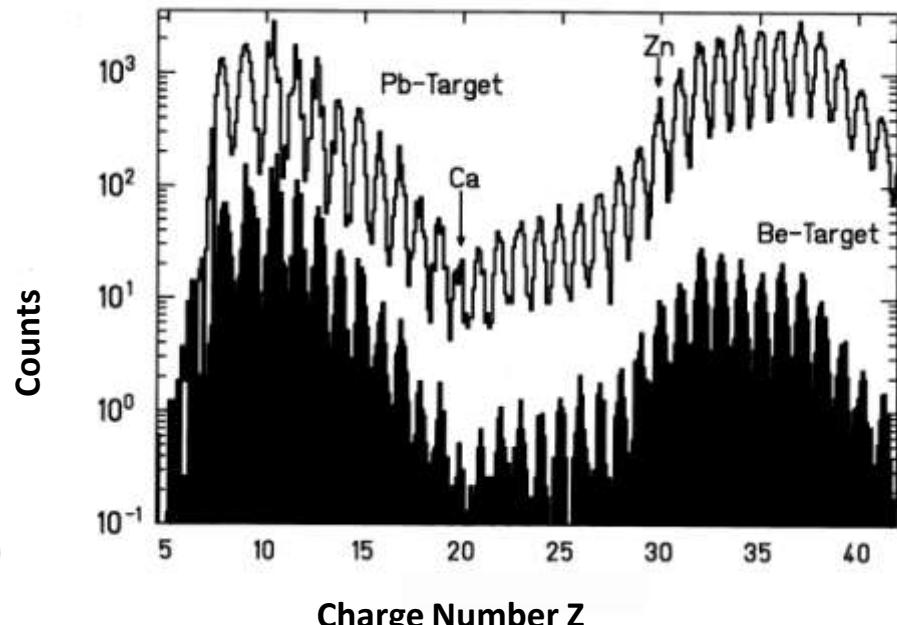
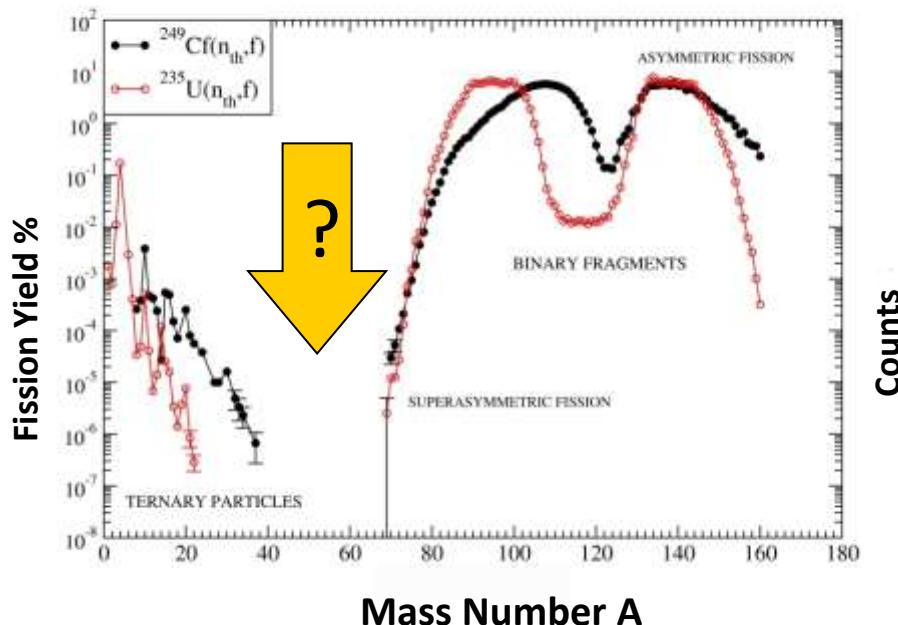
**Double arm spectrometer**  
*6+6 modules*

**Neutron belt of FOBOS**  
*140  $^3\text{He}$  (7 bar) counters*  
*In PE-moderator*

**Start PAC**  
*with internal  $^{252}\text{Cf}$  source*



# Filling the Gap between Ternary and Superasymmetric Fission



ILL Data Grenoble

Thermal neutron induced fission

Lohengrin Separator

F. Gönnenwein, Nucl. Phys. A 734 (2004) 213

GSI Data Darmstadt

750 AMeV  $^{238}\text{U}$  beam, FRS separator

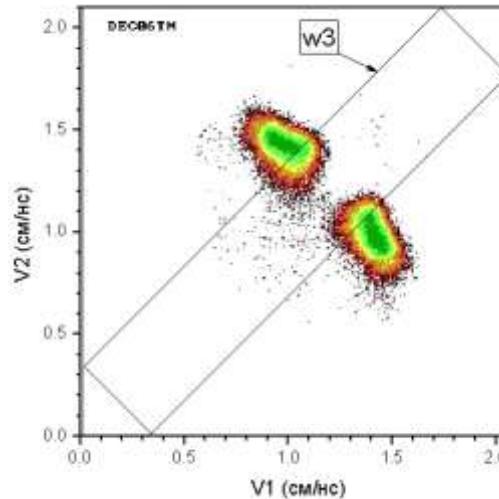
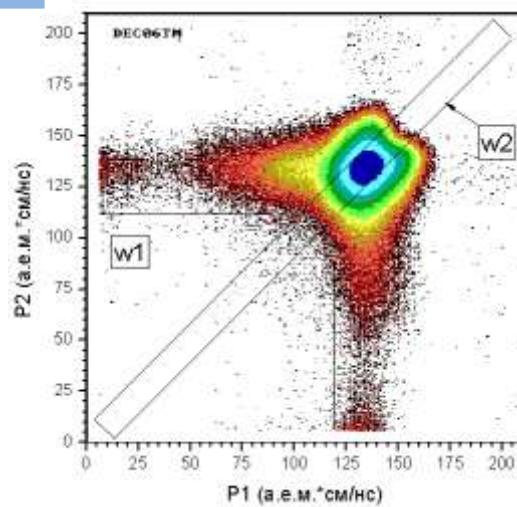
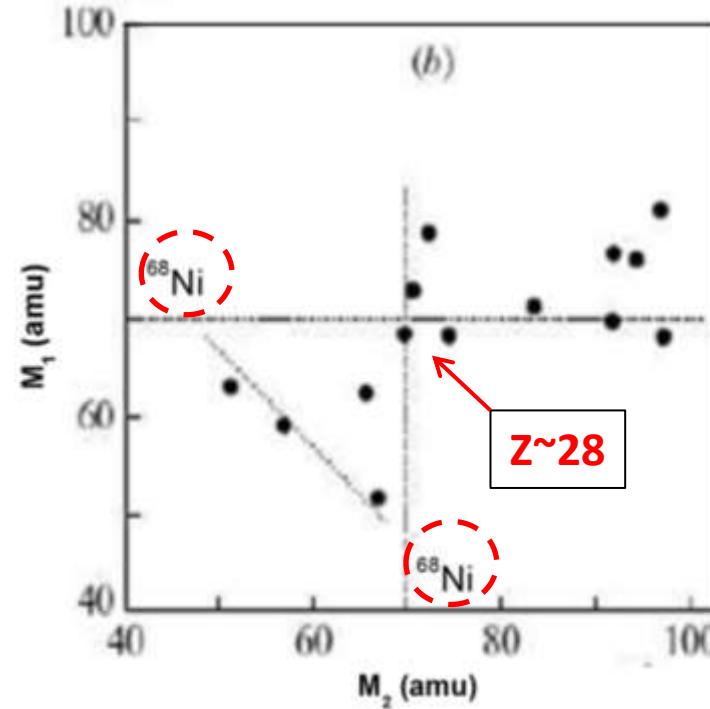
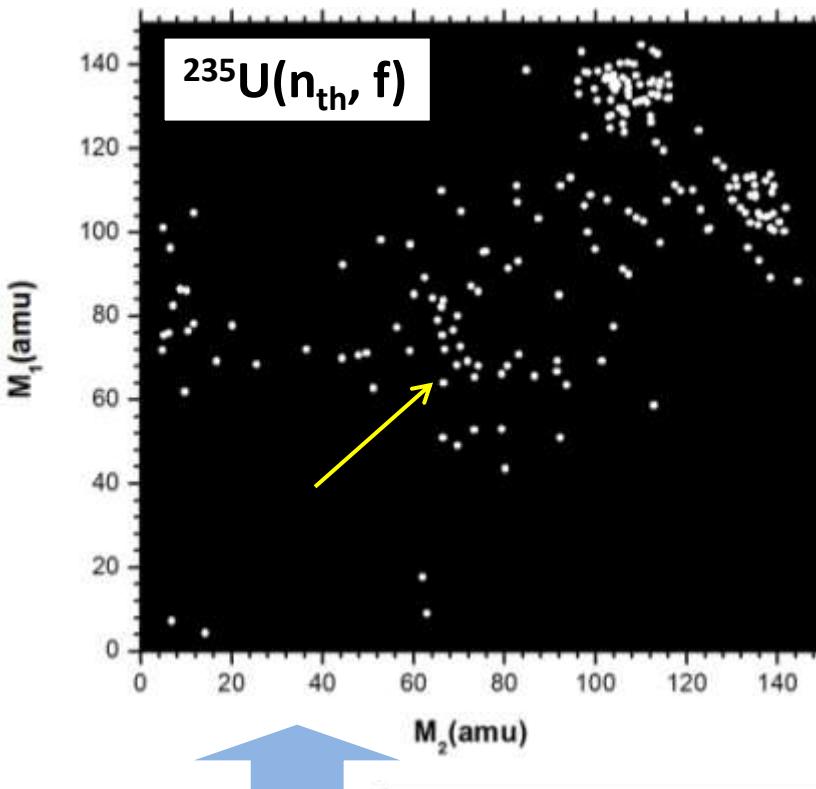
Be-Target: nuclear excitation ( $\approx 27$  MeV)

Pb-Target: electromagnetic excitation ( $\approx 11$  MeV)

C. Engelmann, thesis, 1998 (supervisor F. Goennenwein)

# Symmetric Kinematics and charge symmetry in U data

Ex2

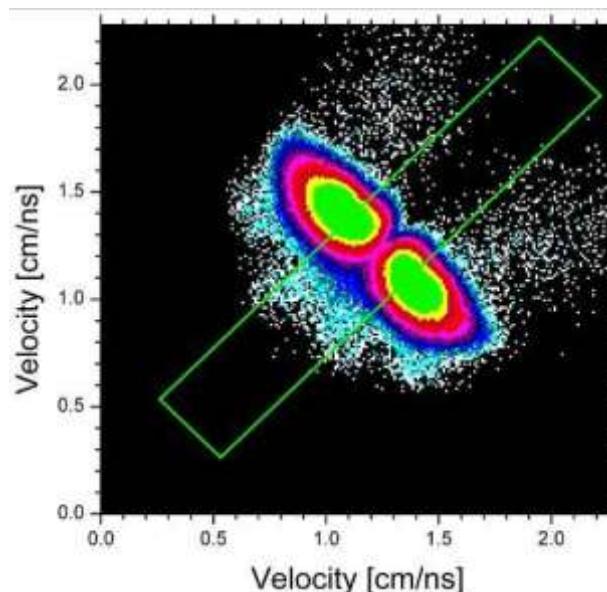
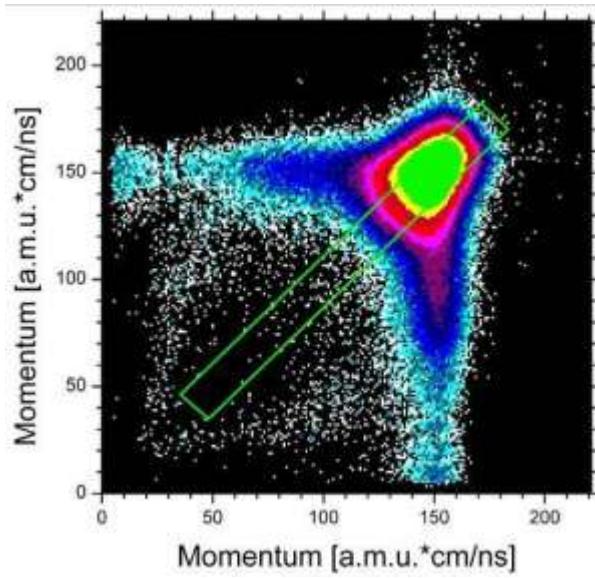
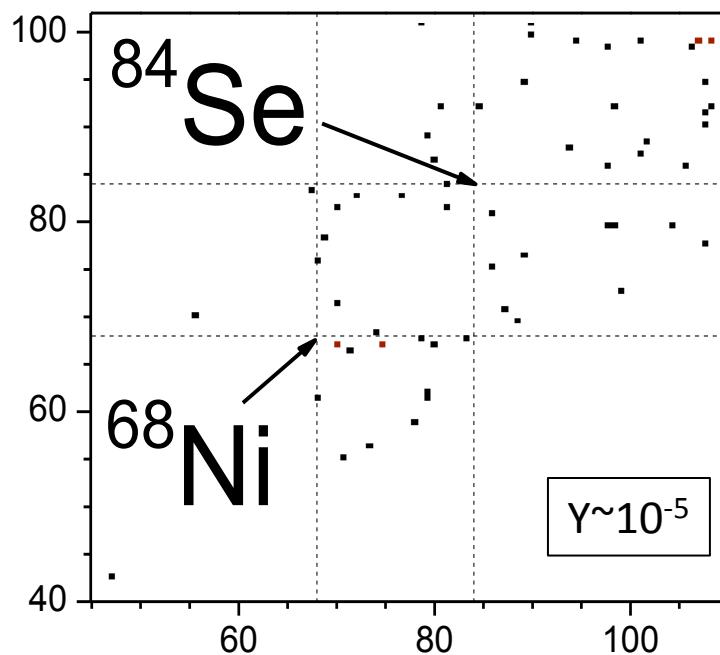
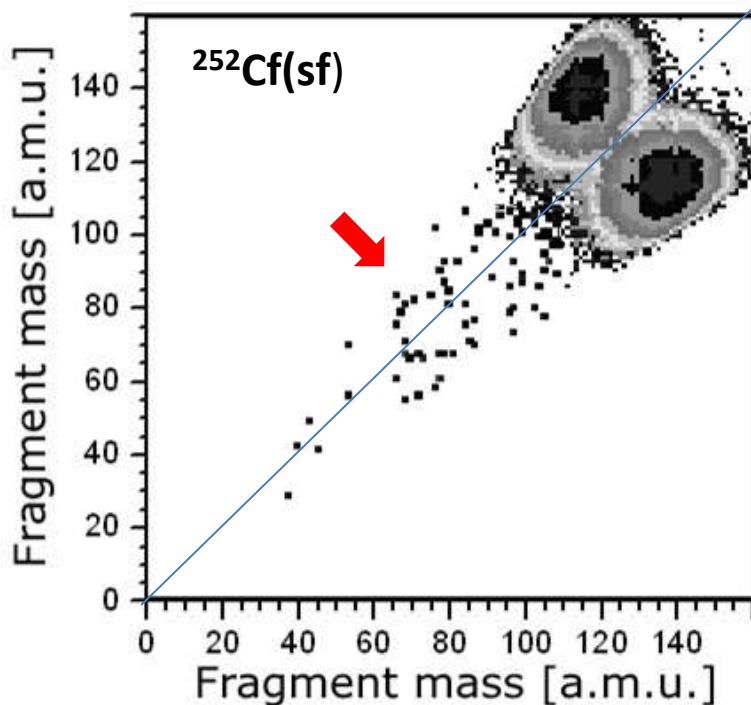


$P_1 \sim P_2$   
 $V_1 \sim V_2$   
 $Z_1 \sim Z_2$

**selection windows**  
 $P_1 \sim P_2$  &  $V_1 \sim V_2$

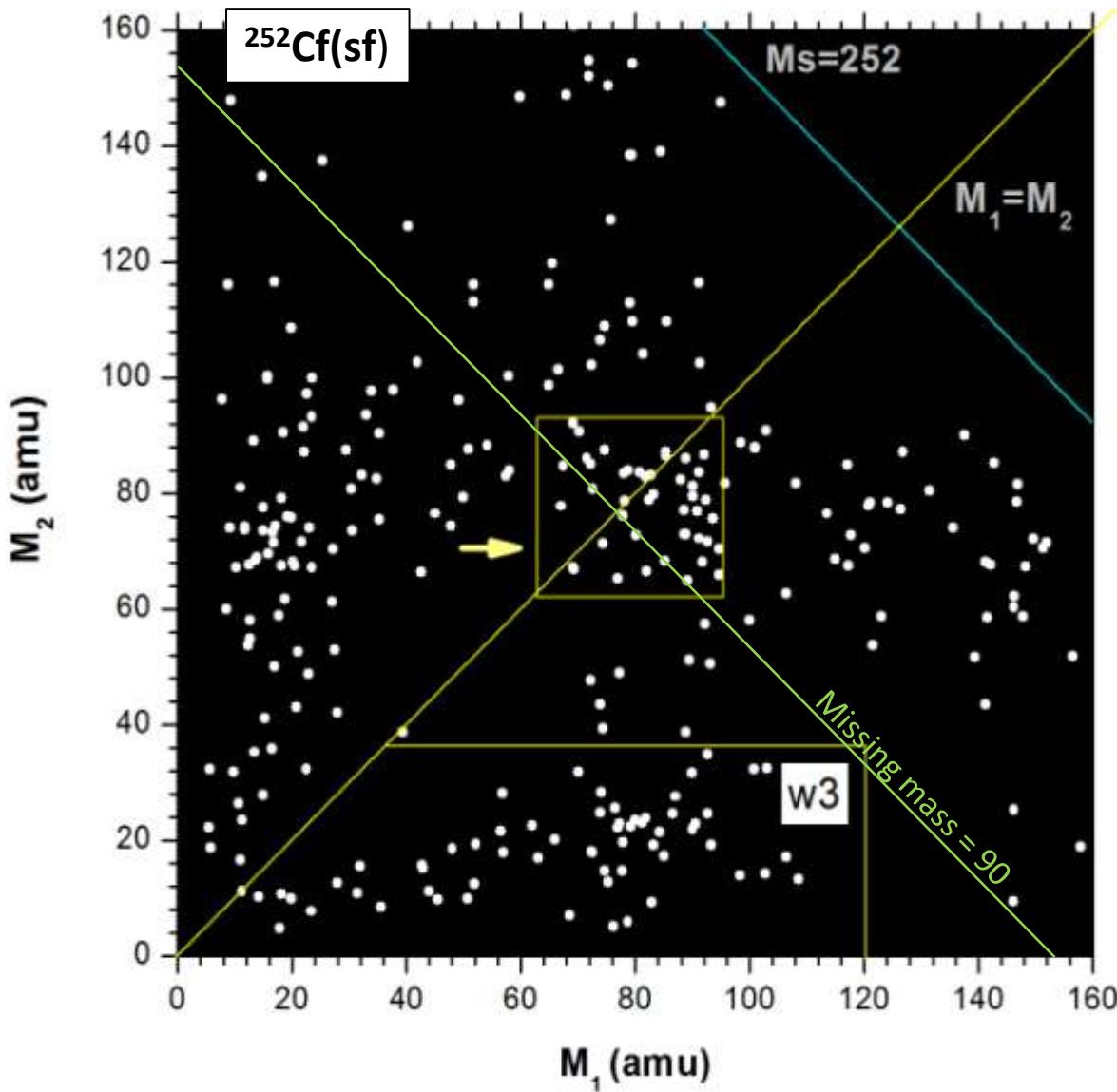
# Symmetric Kinematics in Cf data – “Ni square”

Ex1



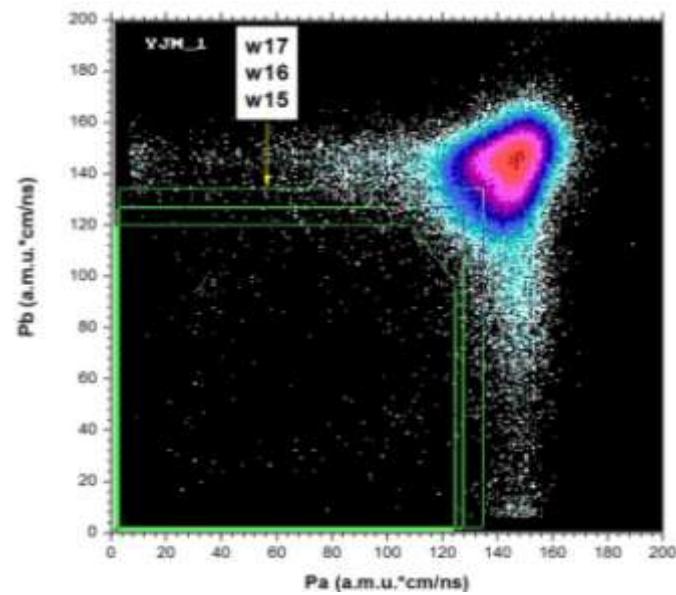
selection windows  
 $P_1 \sim P_2$  &  $V_1 \sim V_2$

# Neutron gated data with large missing mass: populated “Ni-square”



**w15 & n=1**  
more than 1  
neutrons were  
detected

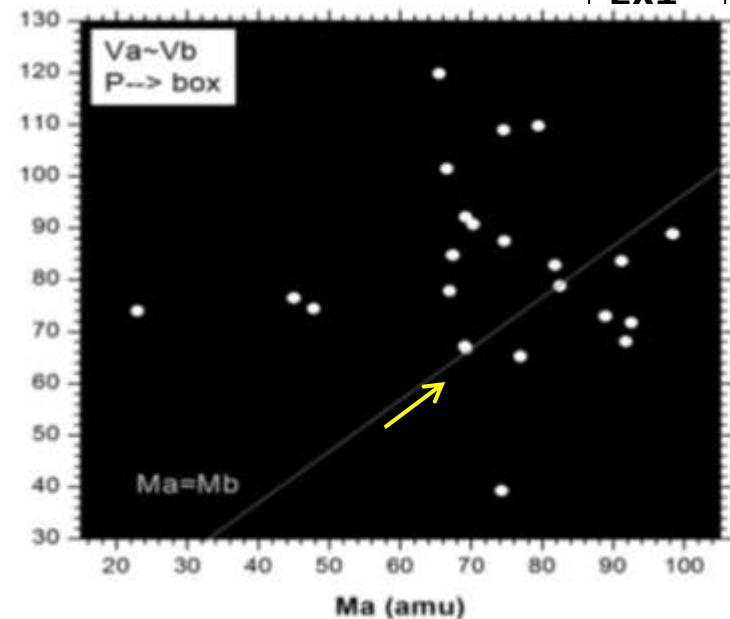
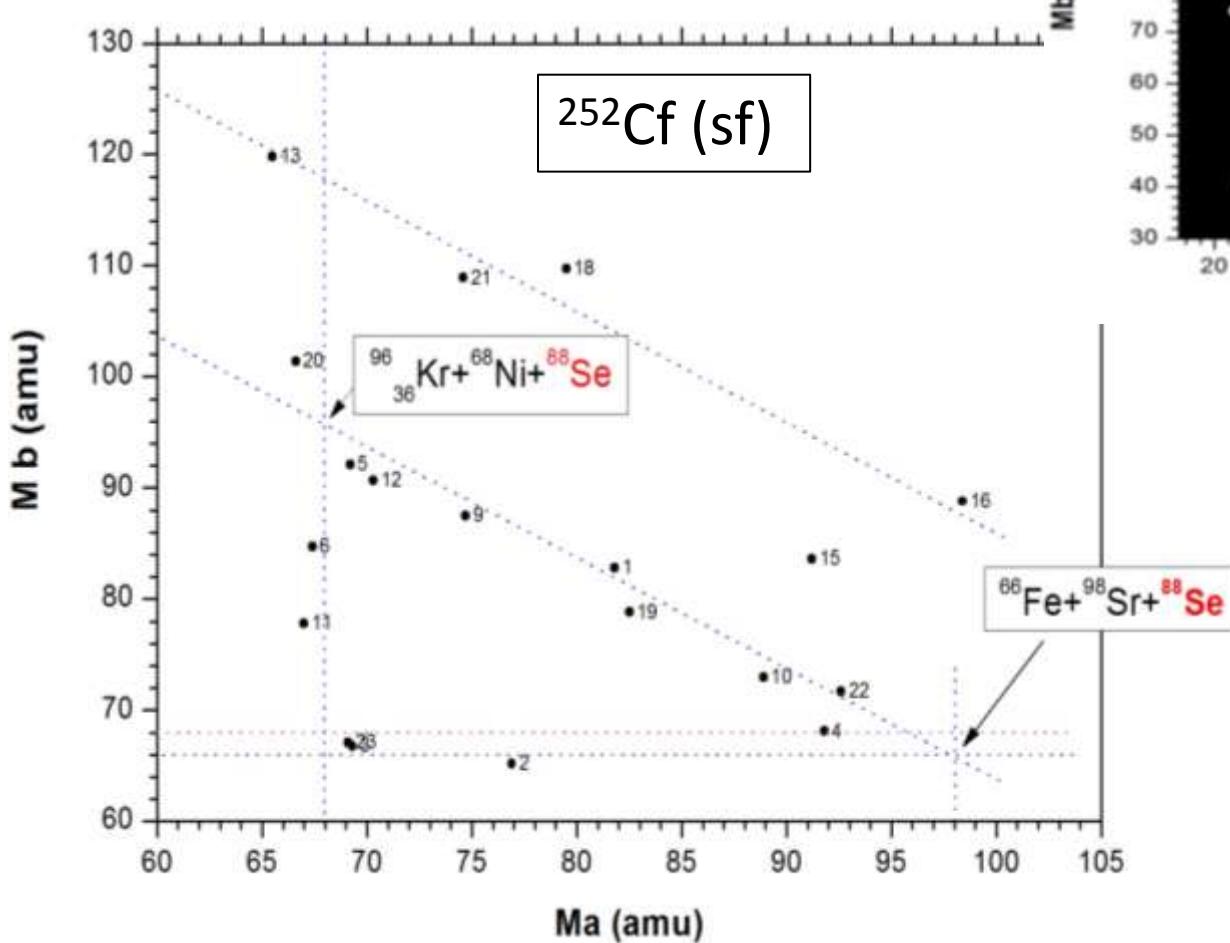
Scattering-free gate



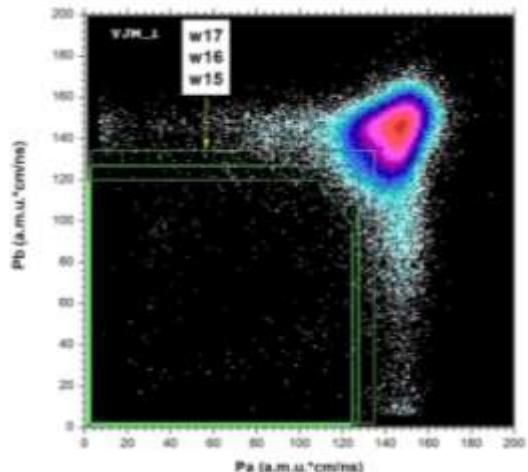
# Mystery of missing selenium

Ex1

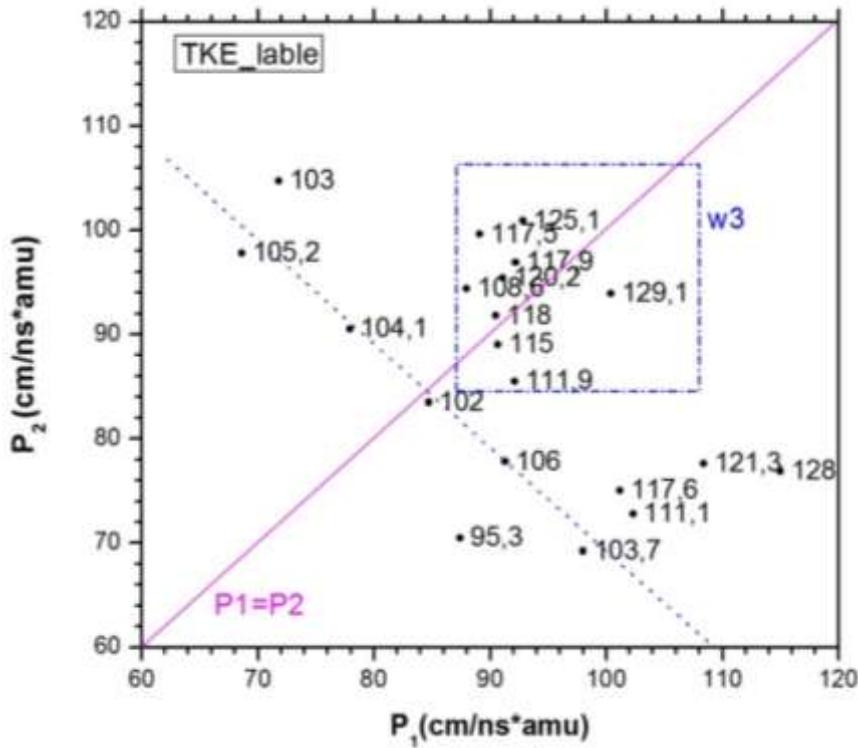
Event-by-event analysis of the kinematics does not provide valid ternary configuration .  
More complicated picture should be assumed – quaternary process



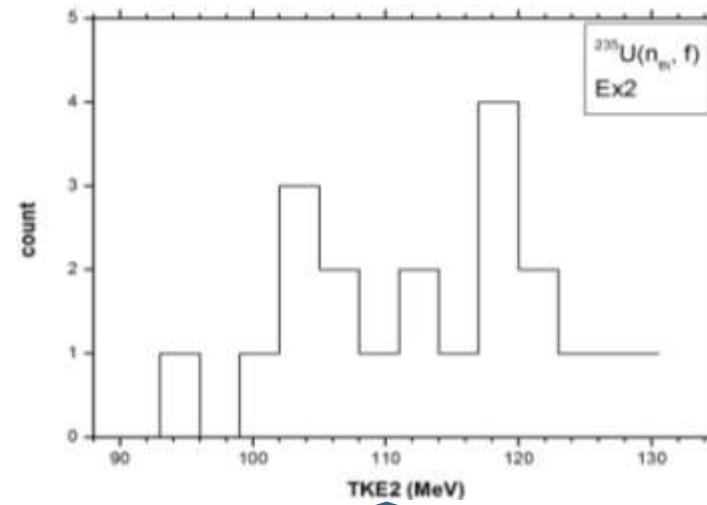
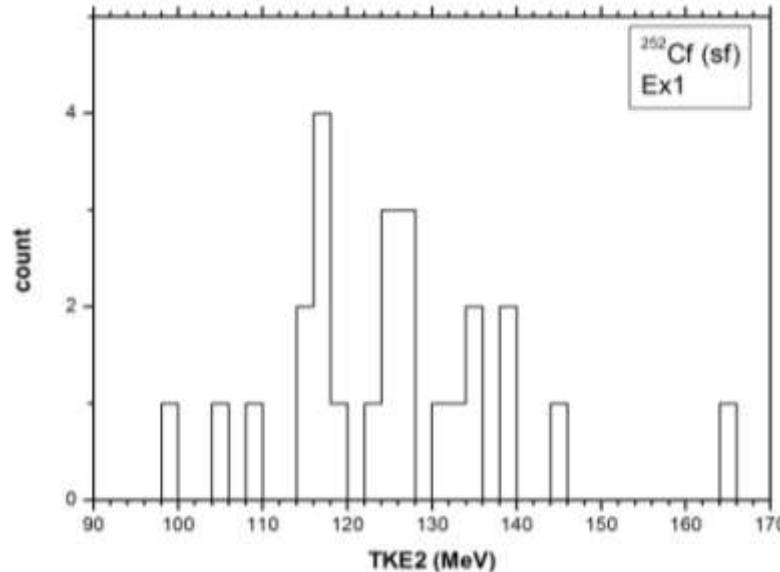
Scattering-free gate



# Total kinetic energy of two observed fragments

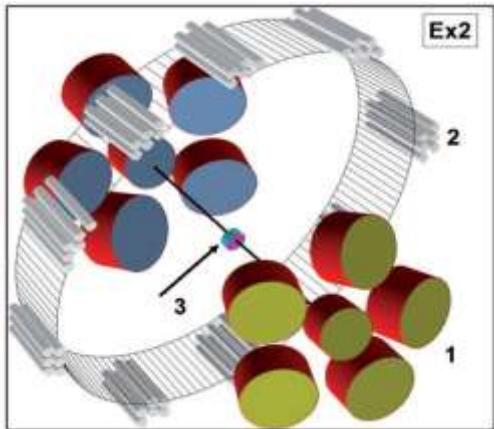


Collinear equal momenta

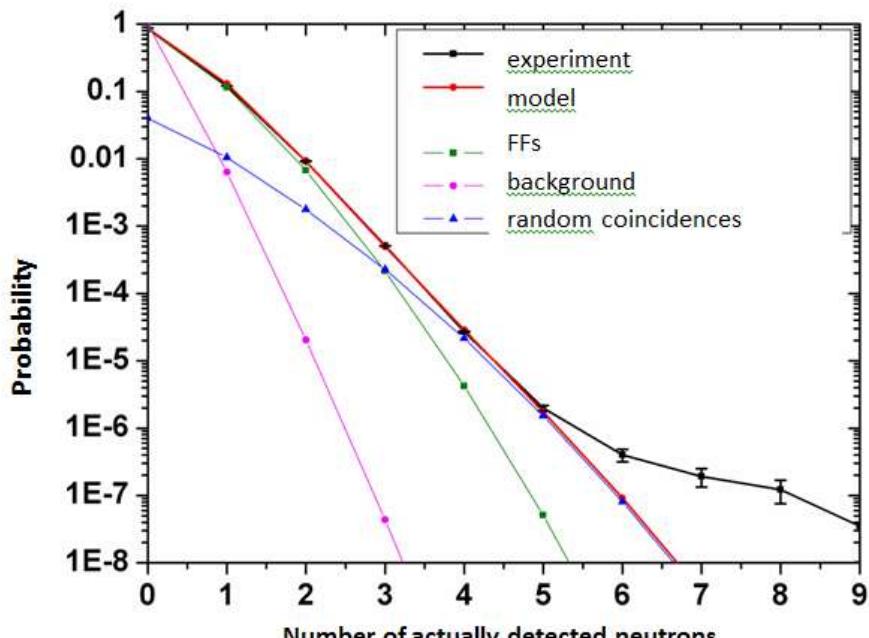


Extremely low TKE !

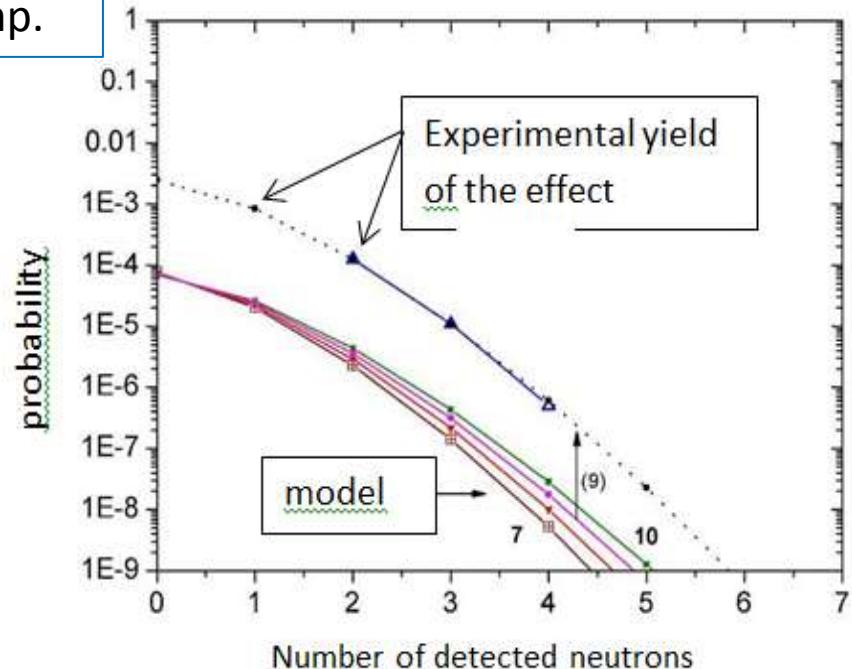
# Estimation of the real neutron multiplicity



~ 16% of the hemisphere;  
registration efficiency for neutrons:  
~4% in binary fission  
~12% isotropic comp.

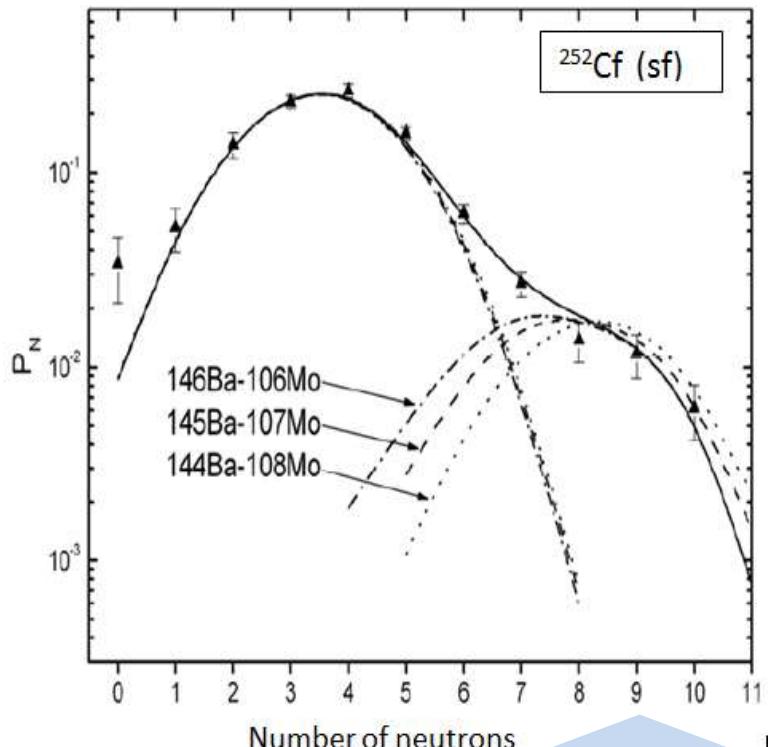


Adequate math. model of the mosaic neutron detector used ("neutron belt")

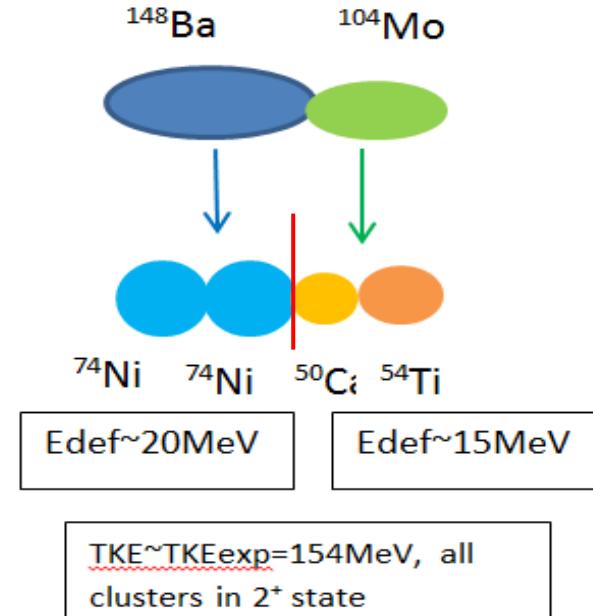


$Y_n = 1 \sim 1.3 \times 10^{-4} / \text{bin fission}$   
 $Y_n = 2 \sim 1.3 \times 10^{-5} / \text{bin fission}$   
 Due to the slope it could be:  
 - isotropic  $n^2$   
 - acc. FFs  $n^7$

# Is mass-symmetric quaternary pre-configuration not a fantasy? Treatment of two modes in Ba/Mo partitions



Mode\_2 : TKE~154MeV,  
7-10 neutrons

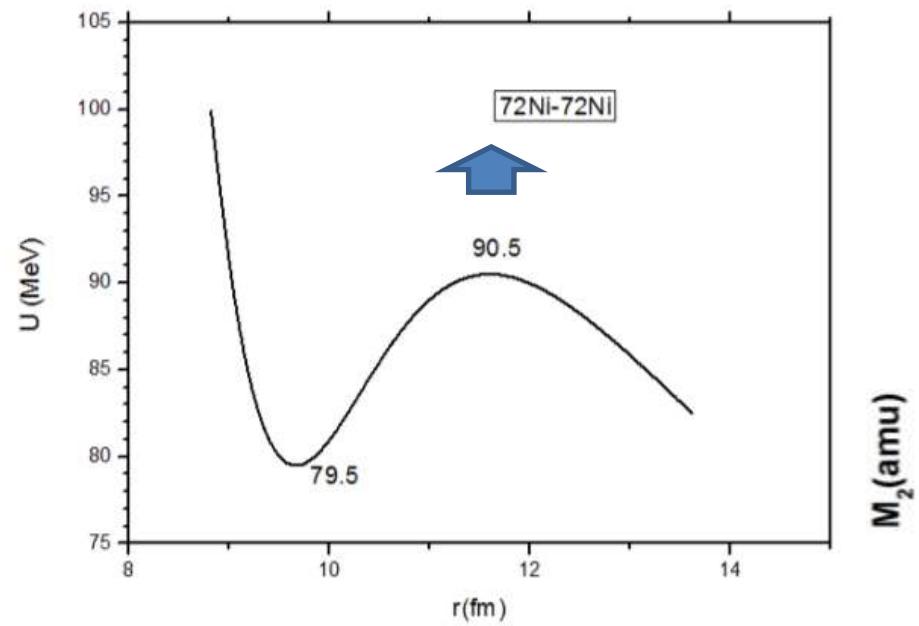


T.M. Shneidman, G. G.  
Adamian, N.V. Antonenko et  
al., Phys. Rev. C 65 064302

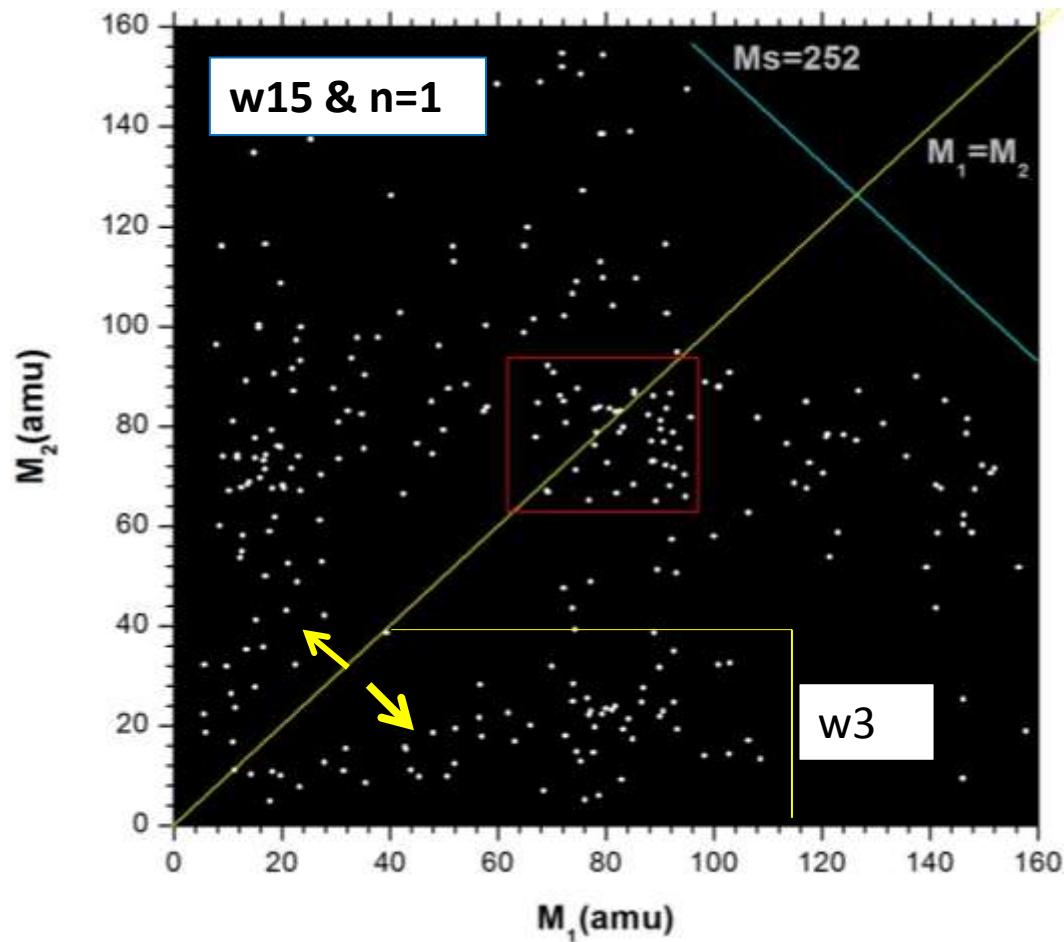
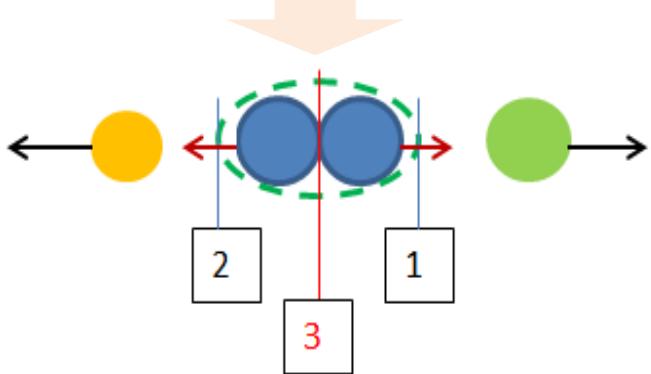
Wu, S. C., Donangelo, R., Rasmussen, J. O., Daniel, A. V., Hwang, J. K., Ramayya, A. V., Hamilton, J. H. New determination of the Ba-Mo yield matrix for  $^{252}\text{Cf}$  // Physical Review C - 2000. - Vol. 62, No. 8. - P. 041601-4.

4-body clustering but binary fission

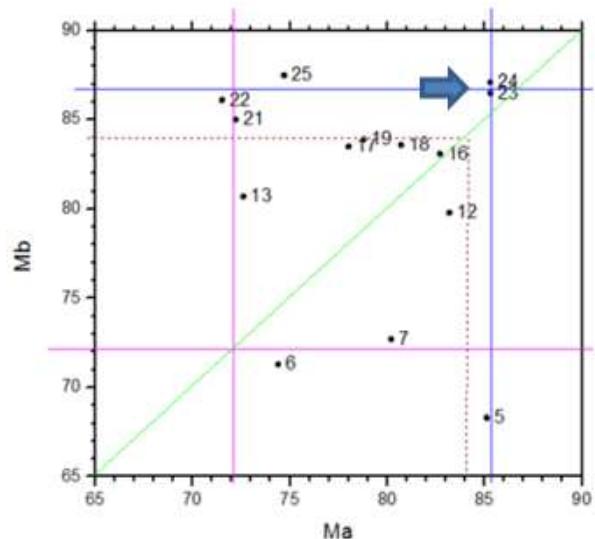
# Testing the hypothesis of Ni-Ni core



Ni/Ni partition:  $TKE_{exp} \sim E_b \rightarrow$   
fission of  $^{144}\text{Ba}$  to be at rest?!

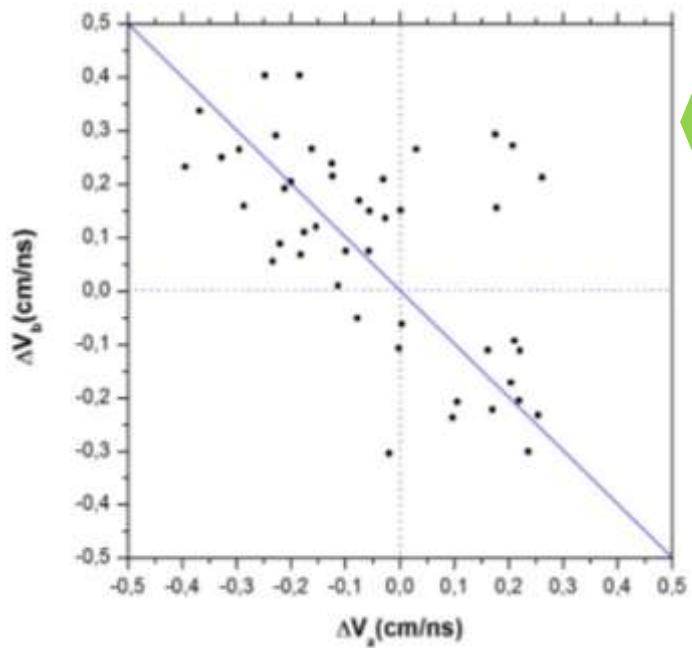
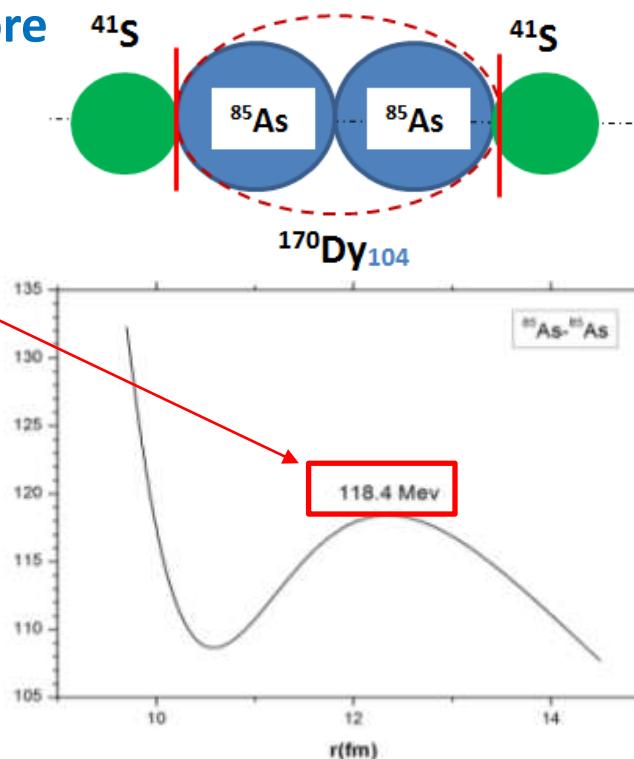


# Scission scenario in fully symmetric point: $^{85}\text{As}-^{85}\text{As}$ core

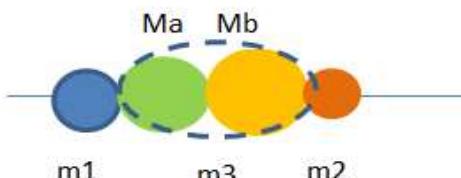


$^{85}\text{As}/^{85}\text{As}$  (170Dy)  
 TKE<sub>2exp</sub>=118MeV  
 $V_a$ \_exp=1.3cm/ns  
 $V_b$ \_exp=1.068cm/ns

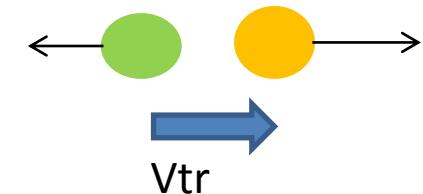
Fission of Dy in rest →  
 $V_0(\text{As})=1.15\text{cm/ns};$   
 $dV_{\text{exp}}=V_a, b - V_0$   
 $=\pm 0.15\text{cm/ns} \rightarrow$   
 it is  $V_{\text{tr}}$  (Dy);  $E_{\text{tr}} \sim 2\text{MeV}$



**Results of the similar calculations for all 45 experimental points**  
 Bright correlation seen above shows that really at the moment of the scission of the central fragment m<sub>3</sub> it flew as a whole body .  
 Two decay partners (Ma, Mb) were at the Coulomb barrier at scission.

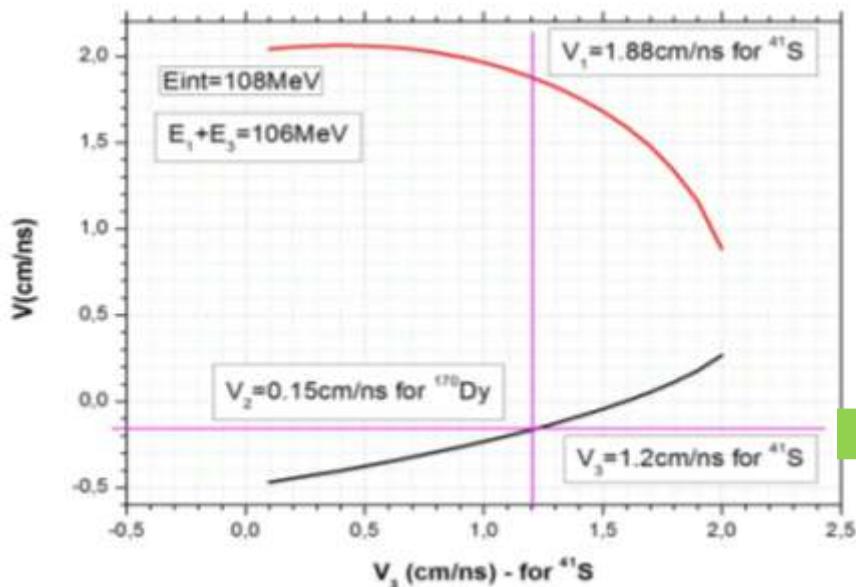


Prescission configuration



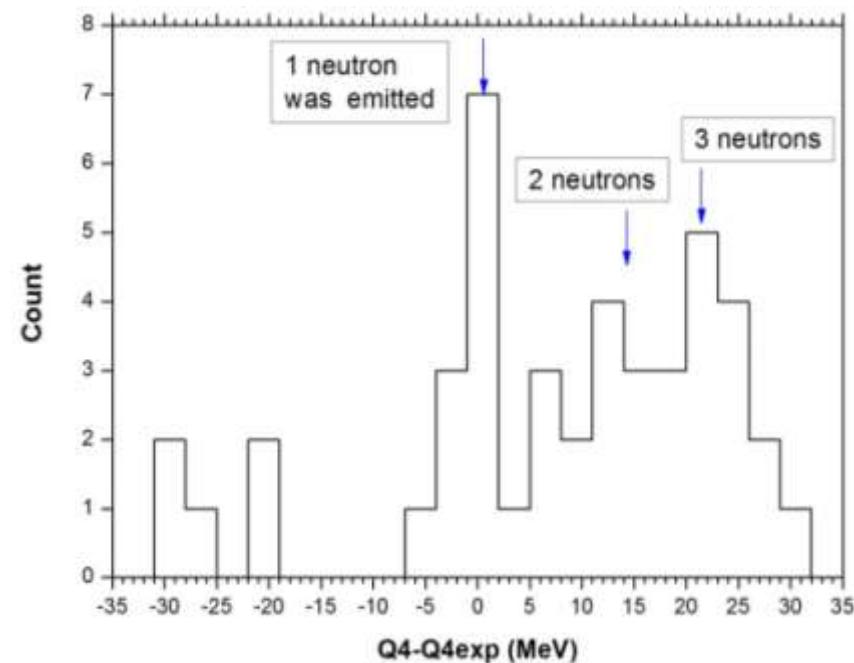
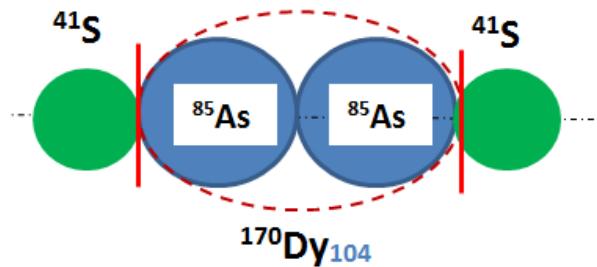
After fission of m<sub>3</sub>

## Scission scenario in fully symmetric point: $^{85}\text{As}-^{85}\text{As}$ core



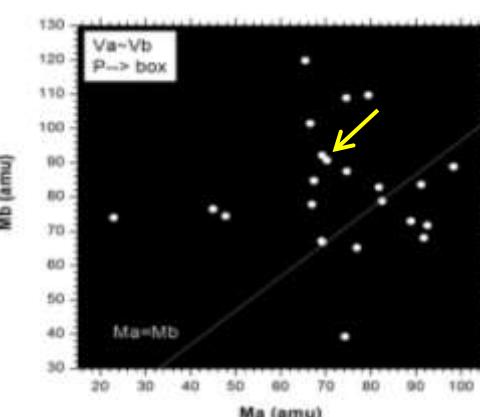
$\text{Q3}(\text{Cf} \rightarrow \text{S}/\text{Dy}/\text{S}) = 165 \text{ MeV}$   
 $\text{Q4}(\text{Cf} \rightarrow \text{S}/\text{As}/\text{As}/\text{S}) = 235 \text{ MeV}$   
 $\text{Q2}(\text{Dy} \rightarrow 2 \text{ }^{85}\text{As}) = +71 \text{ MeV}$   
**Expected:**  $E^*(\text{Dy}) = \text{TKE}_2 - \text{Q2} + \text{Bn} = 55 \text{ MeV}$   
 $E_{\text{int}} (\text{S}/\text{Dy}/\text{S}) = \text{Q3} - E^*(\text{Dy}) - E_{\text{tr}} = 108 \text{ MeV}$

$\text{Q4} - \text{Q4}_{\text{exp}}(\text{TKE}_2 \text{As\&2S}) = 235 - 232 = 3 \text{ MeV}$   
**good agreement**



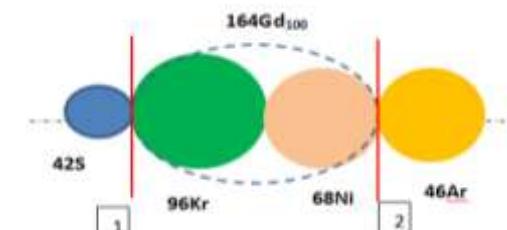
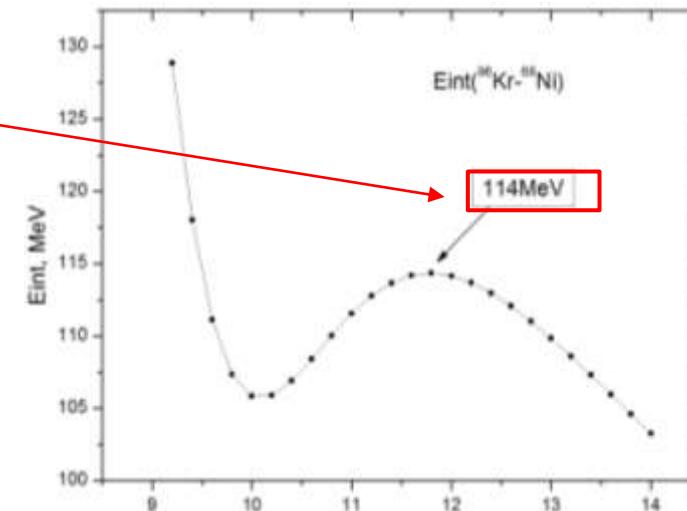
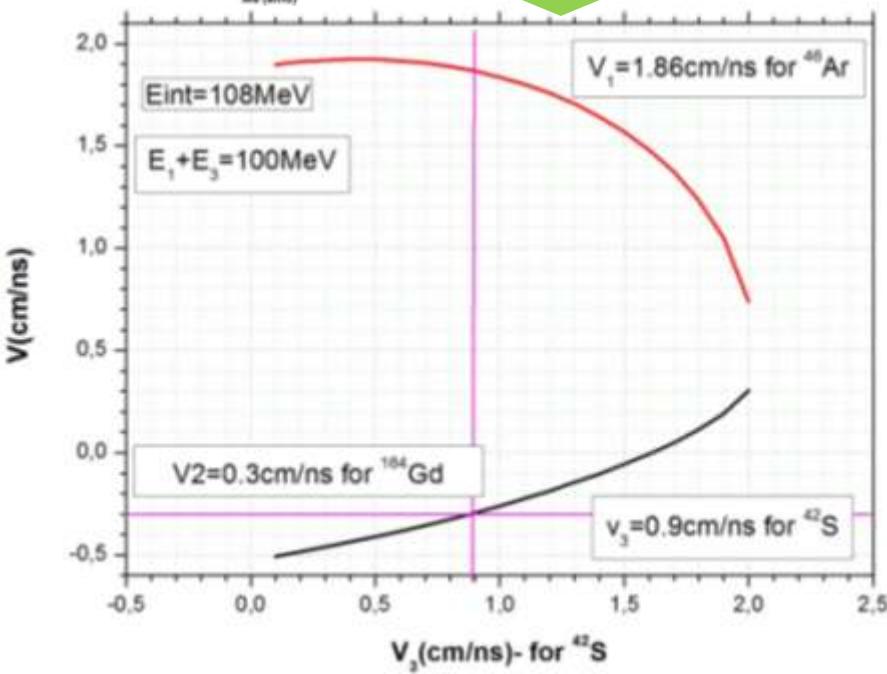
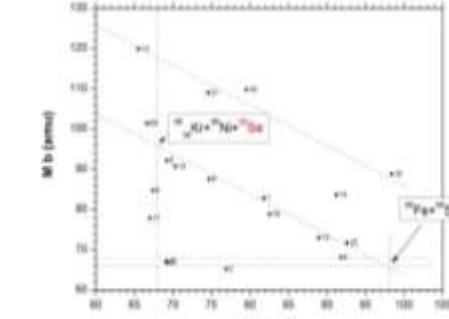
**good agreement**

# Scission scenario for $^{164}\text{Gd}$ core - “missing $^{88}\text{Se}$ ”



$^{96}\text{Kr}/^{68}\text{Ni} (^{164}\text{Gd}_{100})$   
 $\text{TKE2exp}=116\text{MeV}$  ←  
 $V(\text{Kr})_{\text{exp}}=1.247\text{cm/ns}$   
 $V(\text{Ni})_{\text{exp}}=1.101\text{cm/ns}$

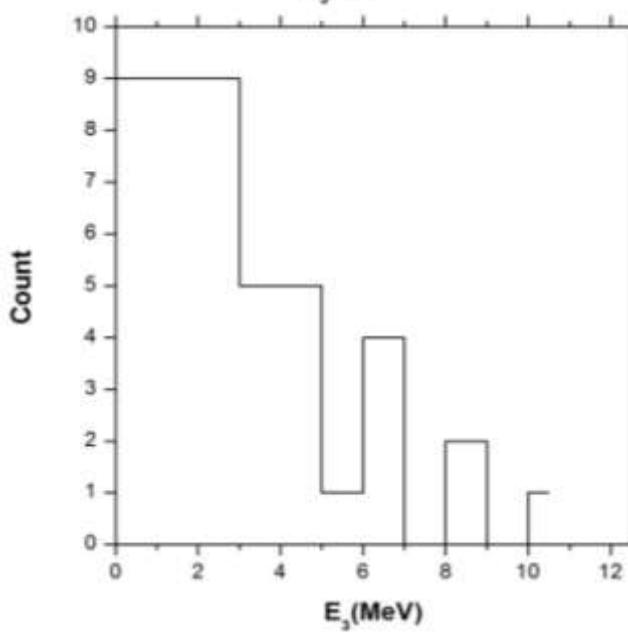
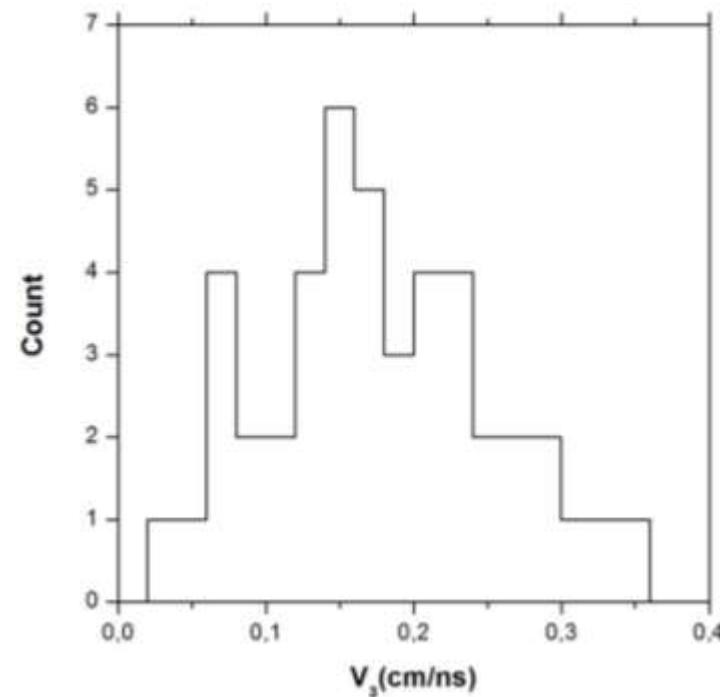
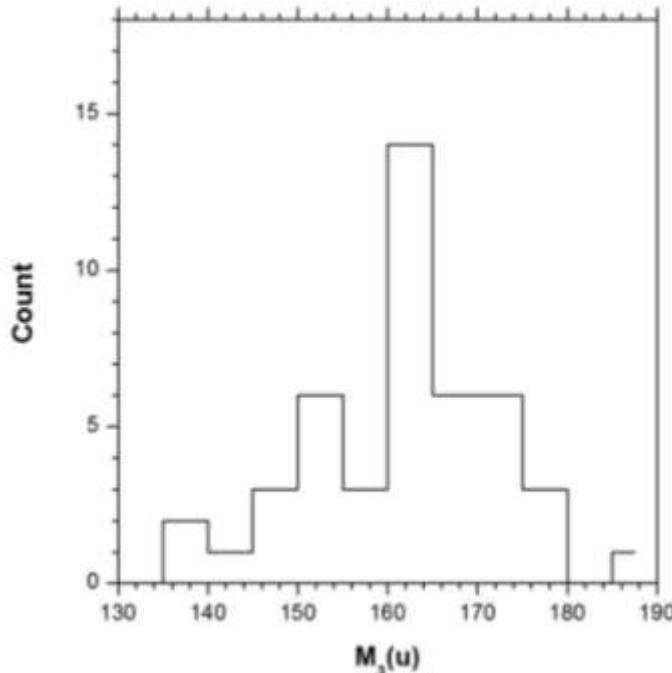
Fission of Gd in rest →  
 $V_0(\text{Kr})=0.987\text{cm/ns};$   
 $V_0(\text{Ni})=1.39\text{cm/ns}$   
 $dV_{\text{exp}}=V_a, b - V_0$   
 $\approx \pm 0.3\text{cm/ns} \rightarrow$   
it is  $V_{\text{tr}}$  (Gd);  $E_{\text{tr}} \sim 7\text{MeV}$



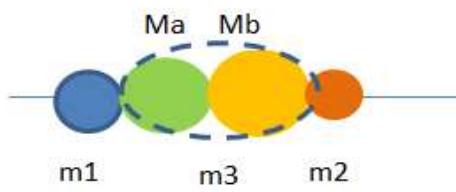
$Q_3(\text{Cf} \rightarrow \text{S/Gd/Ar}) = 181\text{MeV}$   
 $Q_4(\text{Cf} \rightarrow \text{S/Kr/Ni/Ar}) = 237\text{MeV}$   
 $Q_2(\text{Gd} \rightarrow \text{Kr/Ni}) = +56\text{MeV}$   
**Expected:**  $E^*(\text{Gd}) = \text{TKE2} - Q_2 + B_n = 66\text{MeV}$   
 $E_{\text{int}}(\text{S/Gd/Kr}) = Q_3 - E^*(\text{Gd}) - E_{\text{tr}} = 108\text{MeV}$

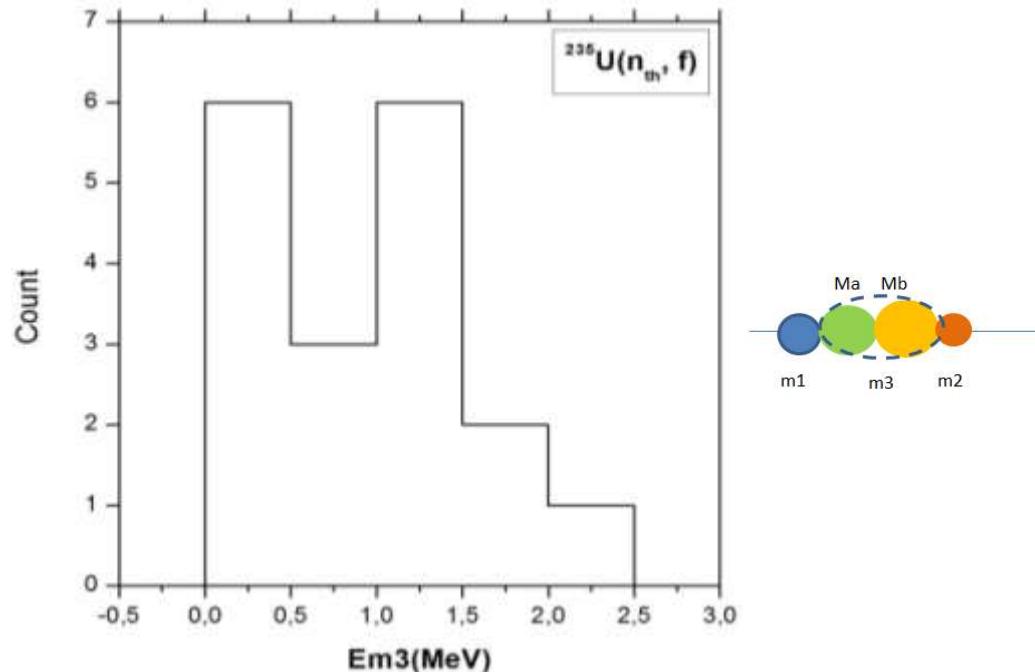
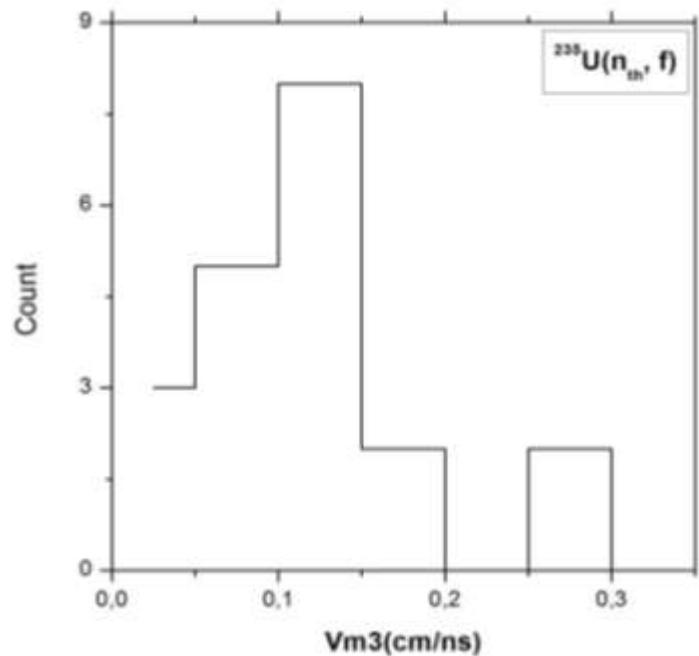
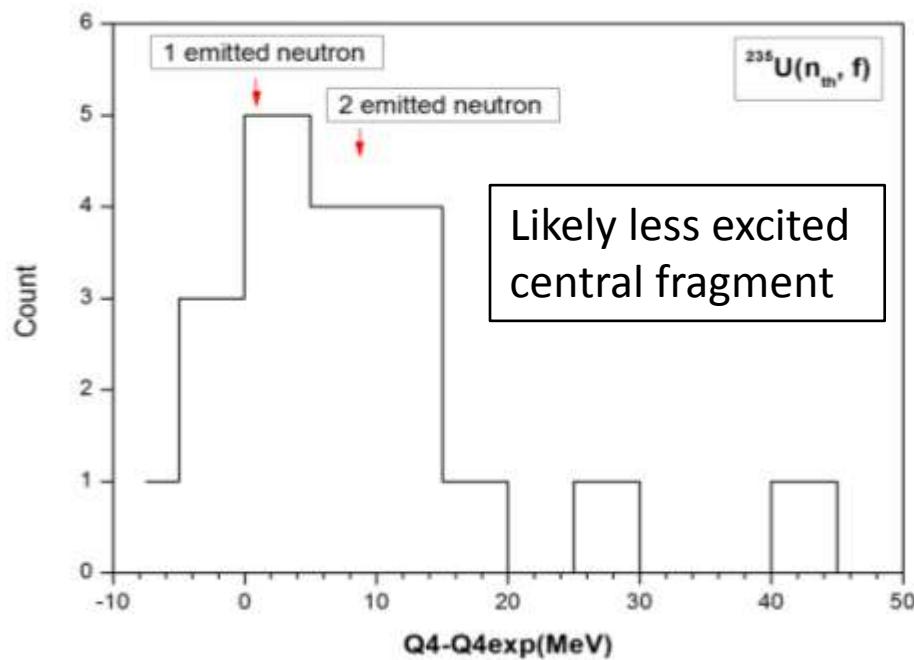
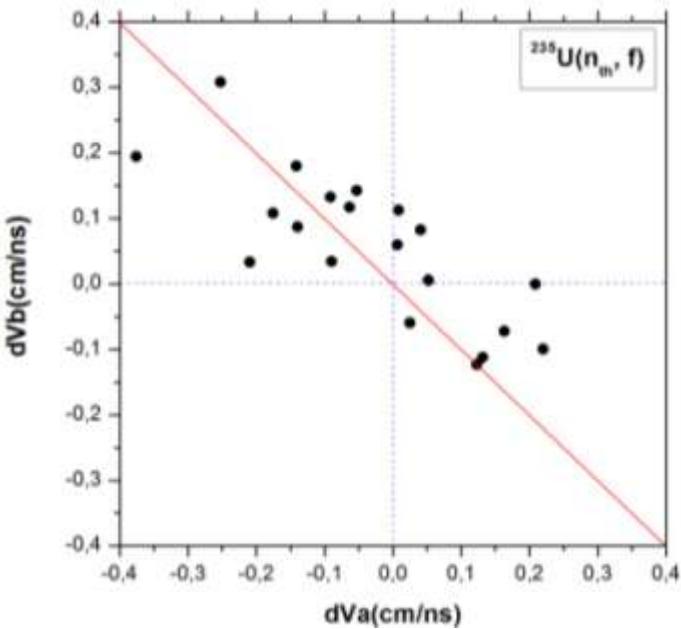
$Q_4 - Q_4 \text{exp}(\text{TKE}_2 \text{As} \& 2\text{S} + n) = 237 - 224 = 13\text{MeV}$   
→ all in all 2 neutrons could be emitted  
**good agreement**

## Results: important details

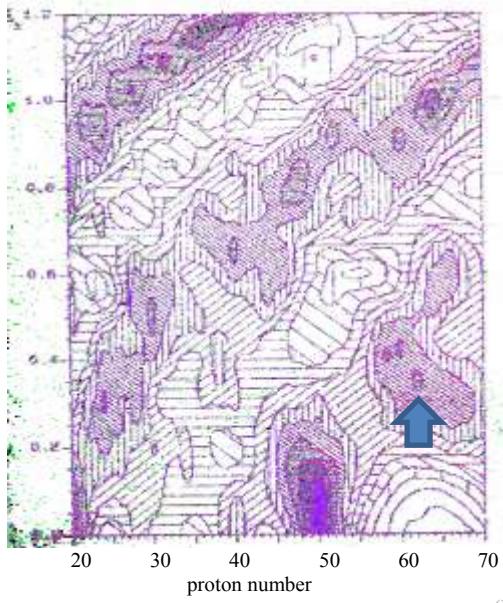
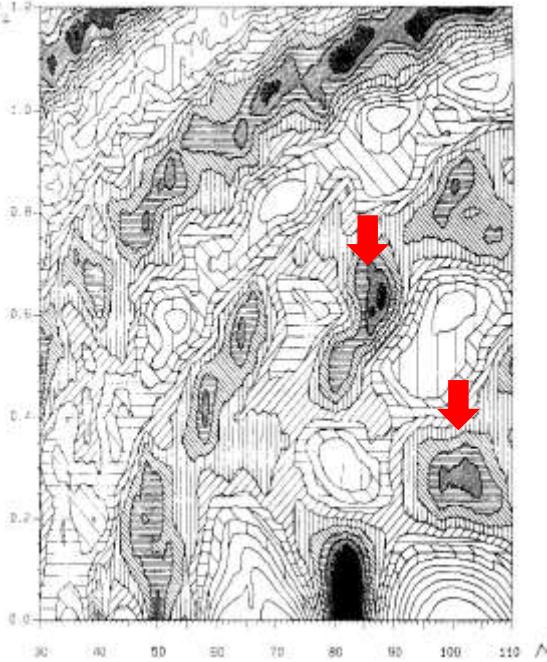


Really, the central fragment  $m_3$  undergoes fission ( $m_3 \rightarrow Ma + Mb$ ) being almost **at rest**

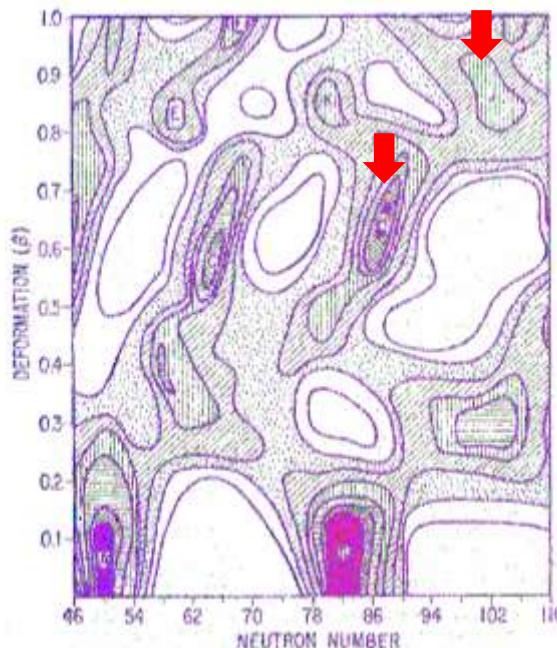
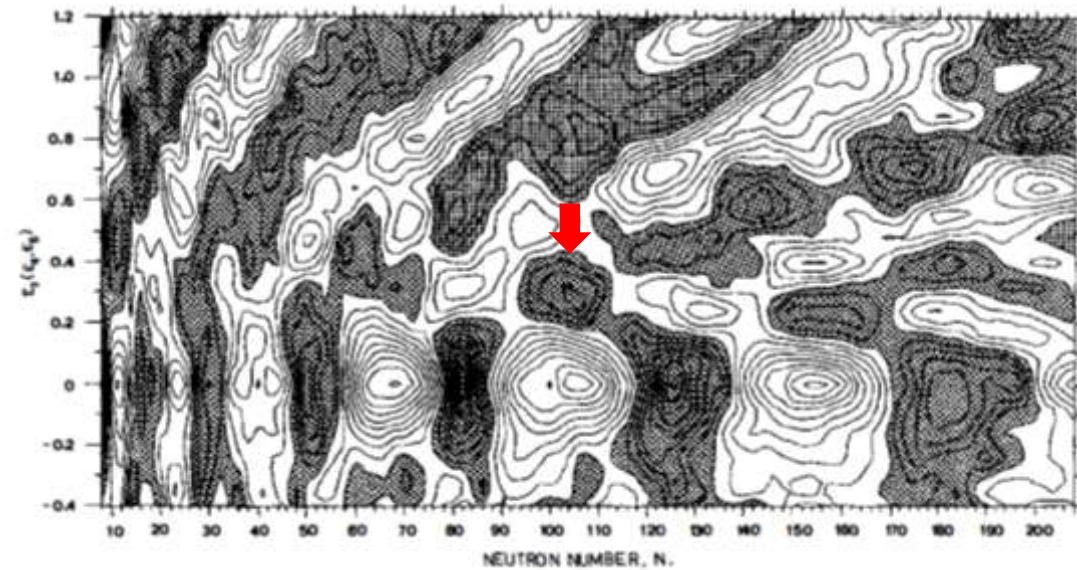




## Central core: deformed magic cluster



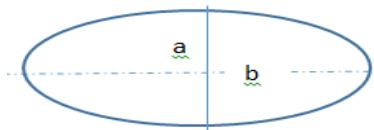
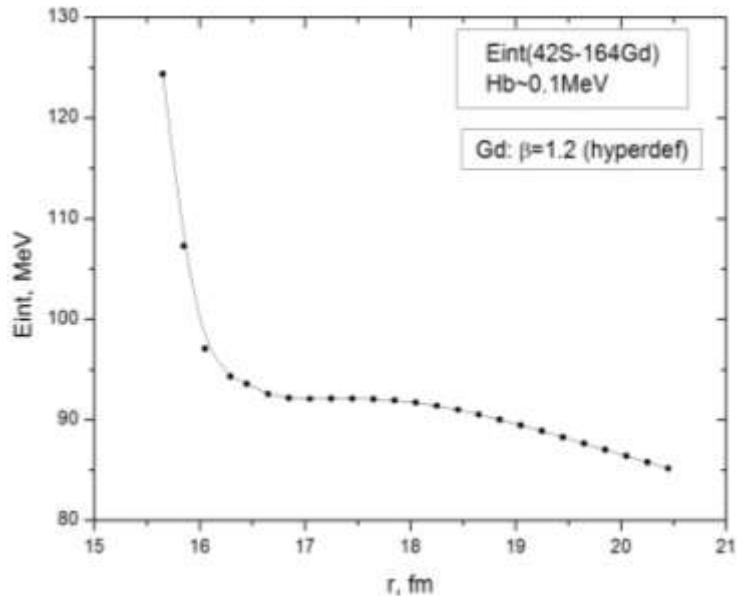
(H.Mä...  
 $\varepsilon_2=0.95\beta_2$



S. Aberg, H. Flocard, W. Nazarewicz,  
Annu. Rev. Nucl. Part. Sci.  
1990.40: 439

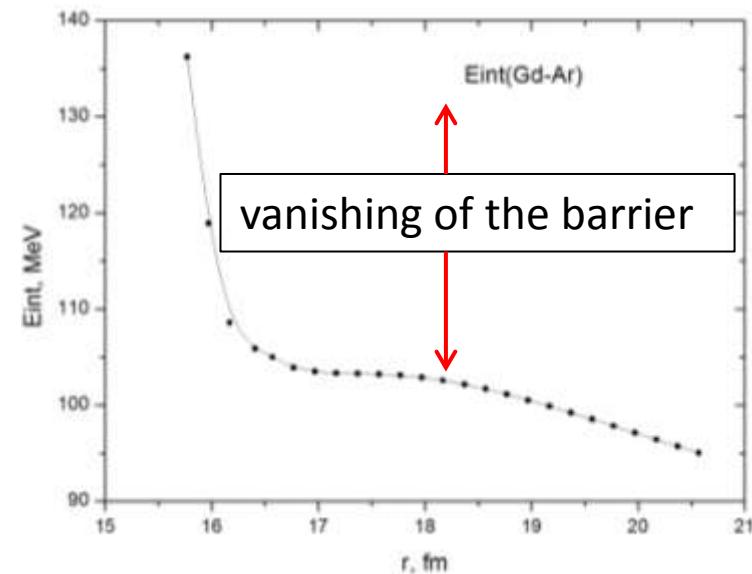
Strong shell minima  
at  $N \sim 88, 100, Z \sim 60$

# Almost simultaneous separation of side fragments



Parameters	Ground state of $^{164}\text{Gd}$	Hyper-deformed state of $^{164}\text{Gd}$
$\beta$	0,298	1,2
$a, \phi_M$	5.77	4,40
$b, \phi_M$	7.68	13,20

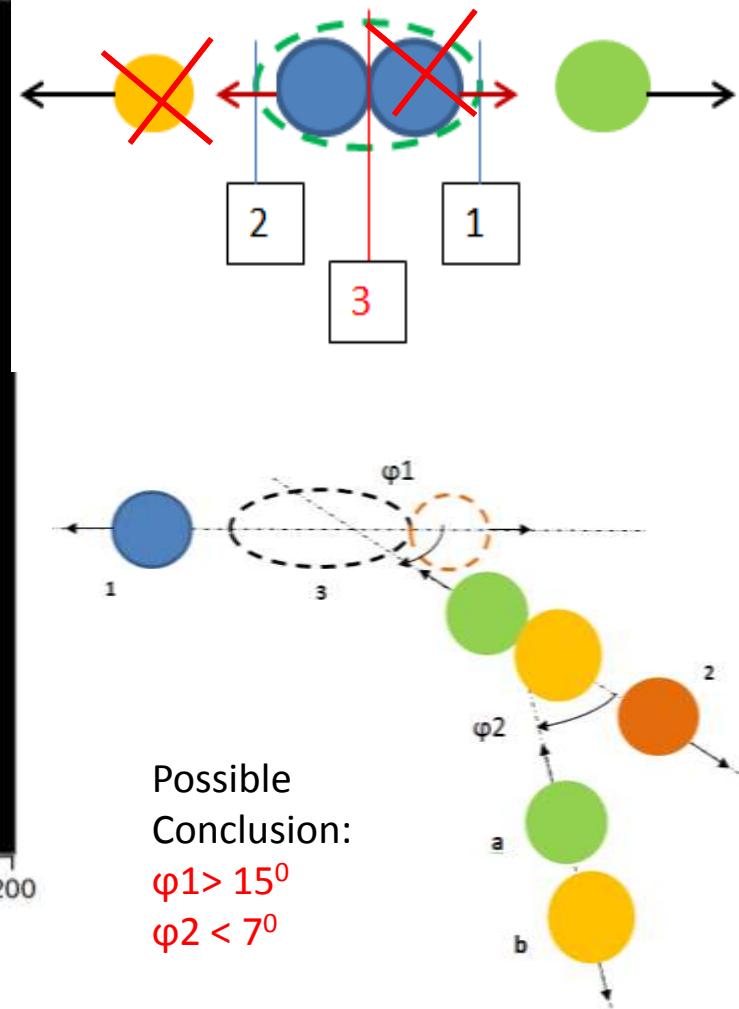
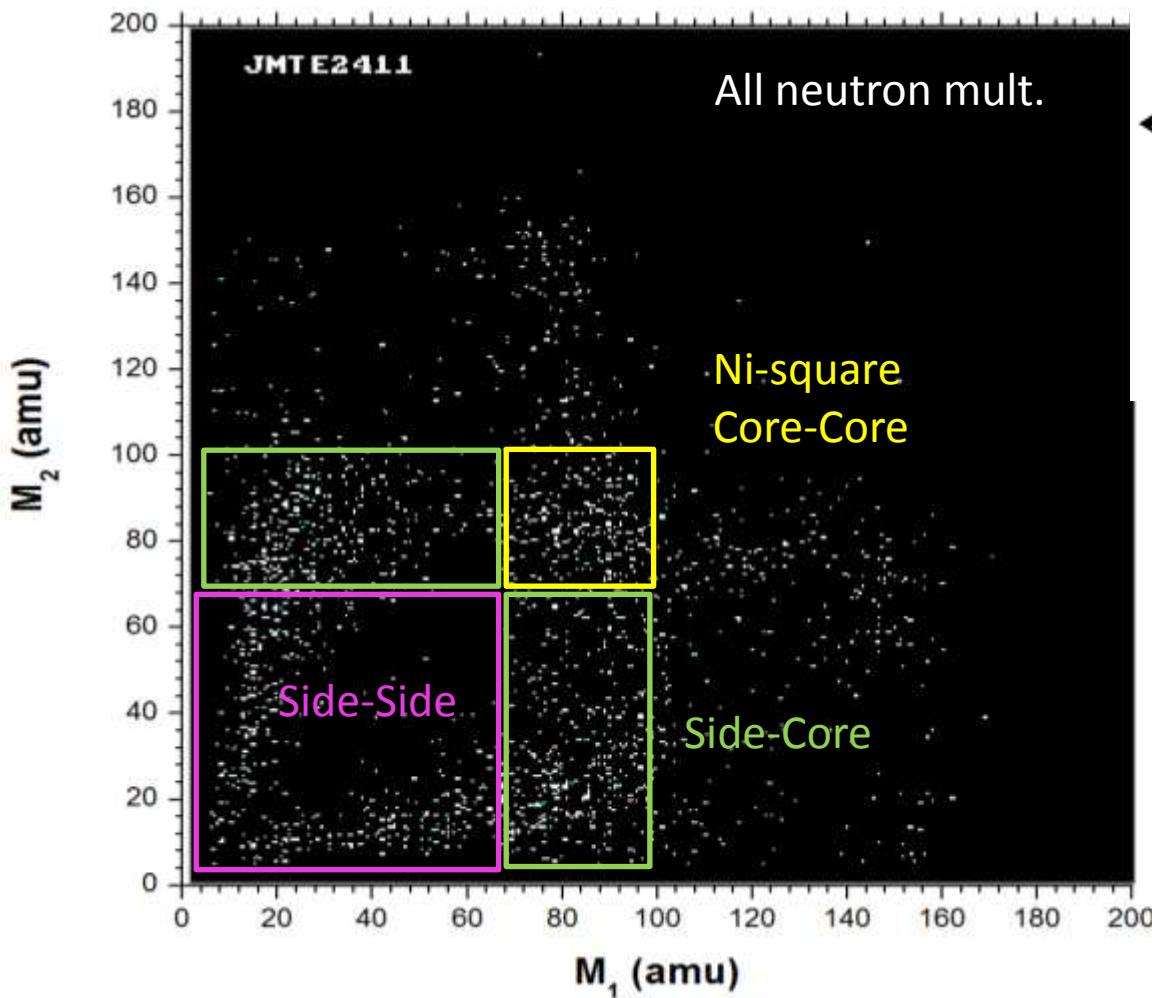
Eint ( $^{42}\text{S}/^{164}\text{Gd}_{\text{def}}/^{46}\text{Ar}$ ) = 211 MeV;  
 $Q_3 = 181.03$  MeV;  
 30 MeV deficit, fission is interdicted →  
 precession configuration should be more  
 elongated up to the moment  $E_{\text{int}} \leq Q_3$ ;



Two reasons for system elongation:

- interaction energy  $E_{\text{int}}$  must be  $\leq Q_3$
- vanishing of the barrier for the side fragments

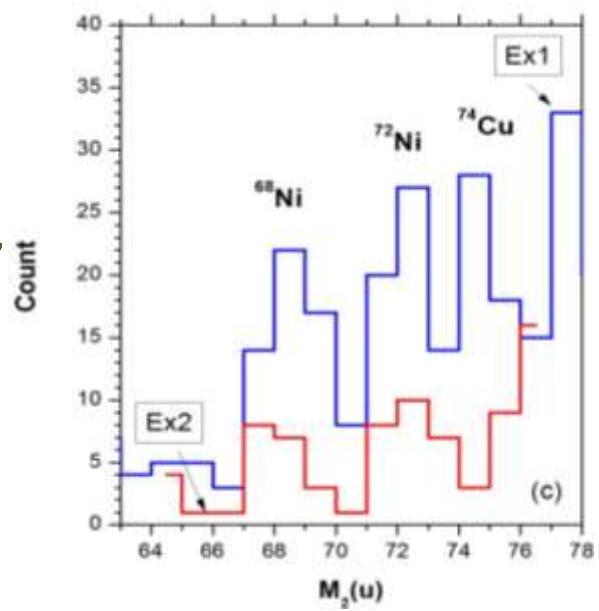
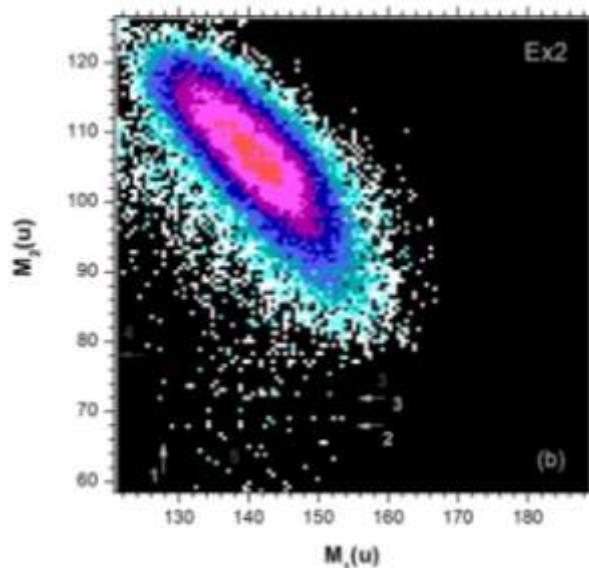
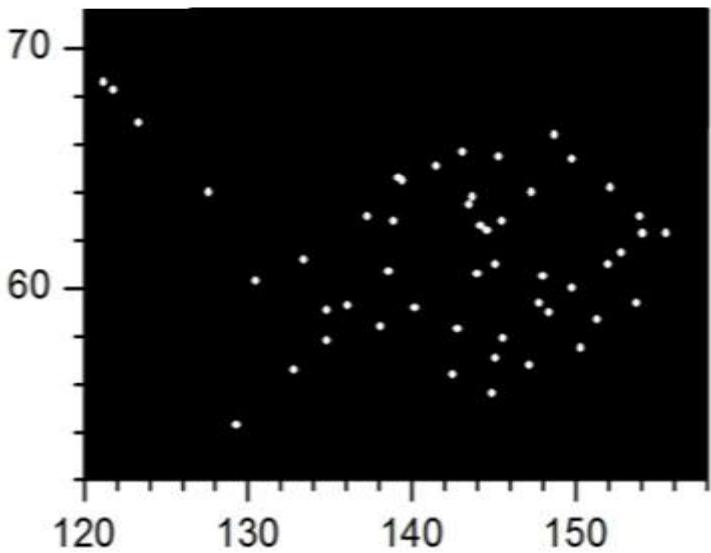
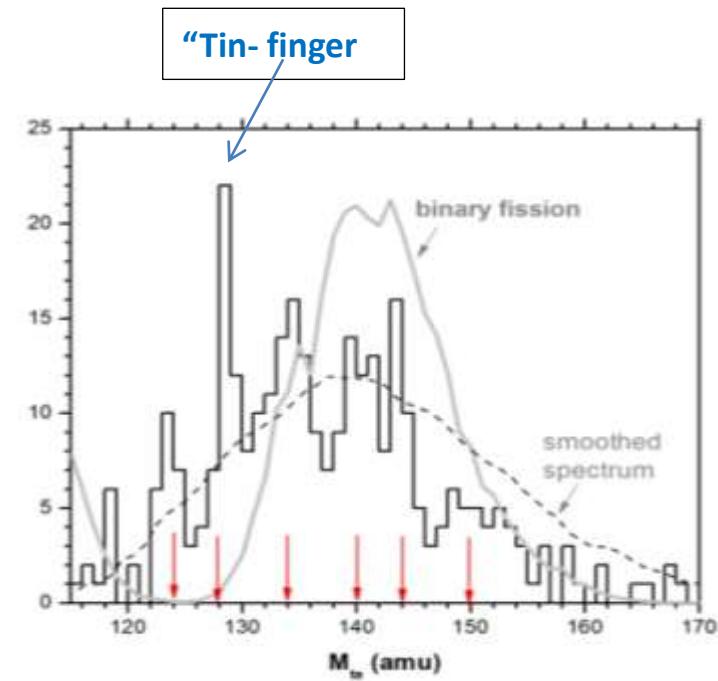
# Consistency test: hypothesis of side-core coincidences



## Conclusion

Strong indications of the **true quaternary decay** of heavy low excited nucleus  $^{252}\text{Cf}(\text{sf})$  and  $^{235}\text{U}(n_{\text{th}}, \text{f})$  are obtained for the first time.

# System behind the structures?



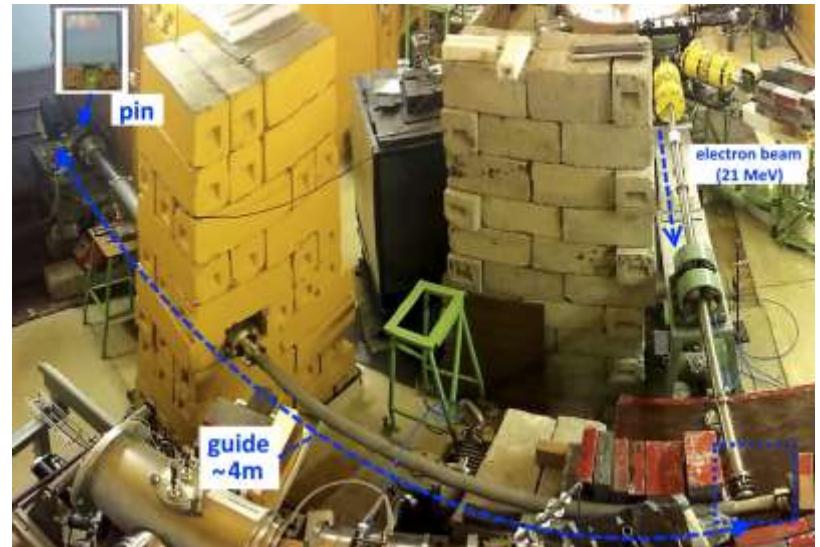
# Photo-fission experiment at MT-25 (VEGA)

Three families of our experimental setups

COMETA – family

LIS-family

VEGA- family



## Current experiment at IBR-2 (COMETA-R)

Continue to produce experimental data  
permanently

The sources :  $^{252}\text{Cf}$ ,  $\text{U}(\text{n}_{\text{th}}, \text{f})$ ,  $\text{U}(\gamma, \text{f})$

