

# OBSERVATION OF FISSION ISOMERS AMONG FRAGMENTS OF SPONTANEOUS AND INDUCED FISSION OF HEAVY NUCLEI

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- I. Introduction. What is known about the shape-isomers?
- II. Delayed break-up of fission fragments in the solid-state foils as a detector of the shape-isomers
- III. Collinear cluster tri-partition and shape-isomers
- IV Conclusions



International support





# Our congratulations

and special thanks to the organizers:  
for tracking progress of this study  
from ISINN to ISINN

ISINN-10 - first neutron-gated data with FOBOS

ISINN-13 – proposal for the exp @ IBR-2

ISINN-14 – status of the exp in the cave 6b

ISINN-15 – preliminary results

ISINN-16 – detailed report

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

ISINN-18 – COMETA progress report (posters)

ISINN-19 – first & interesting COMETA data

ISINN-20 – first CCT physics & Ion Guide proposal

ISINN-21 – first indications of shape isomers in FF

ISINN-22 – new results on shape isomers in wide range

ISINN-23 – first “flash”-data

ISINN-25 – understanding the results and feeding theoretical discussion

ISINN-26

ISINN-27

ISINN-28

ISINN-29

True quaternary fission  
Shape isomer study progress  
Physics models  
VEGA first steps

miniFOBOS  
@IBR-2

COMETA  
 $^{252}\text{Cf}$

SIS strong  
indication

Photo-  
fission  
studies





# An inspiration for the study of Collinear Cluster Tripartition

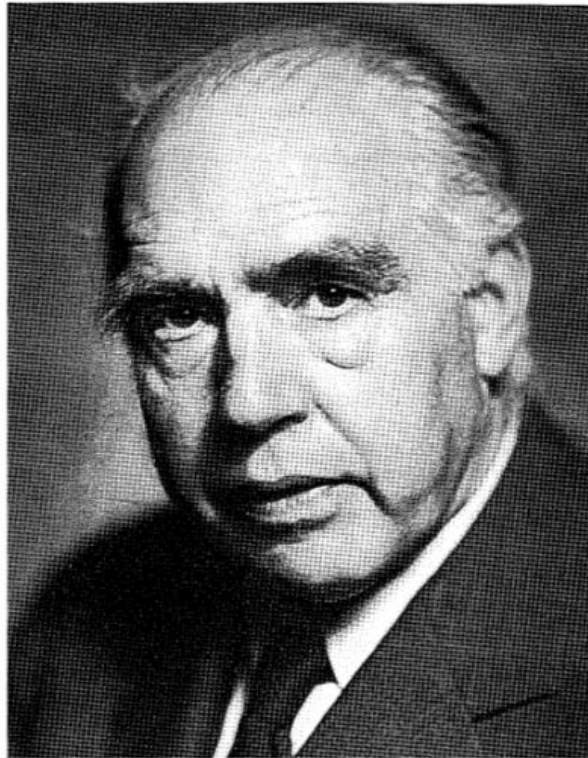


Fig. 3. Niels Bohr

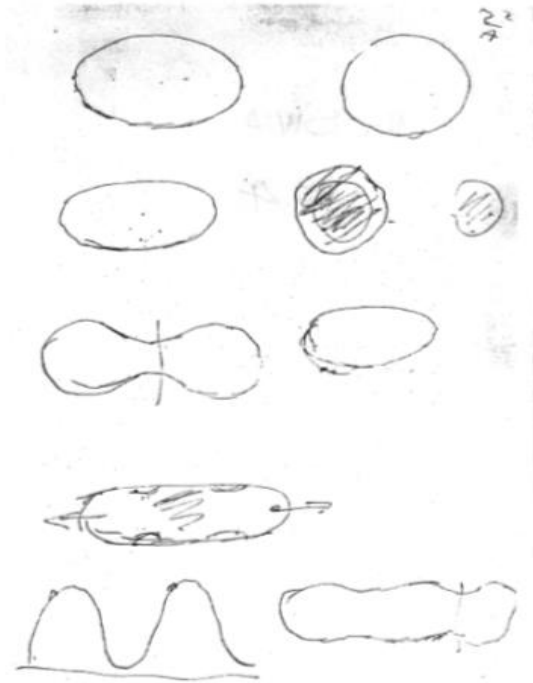
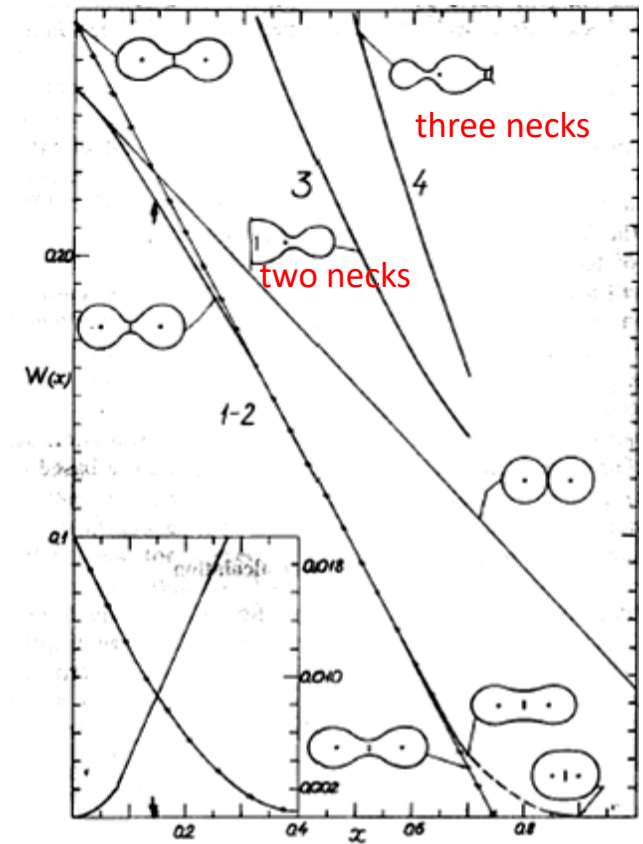


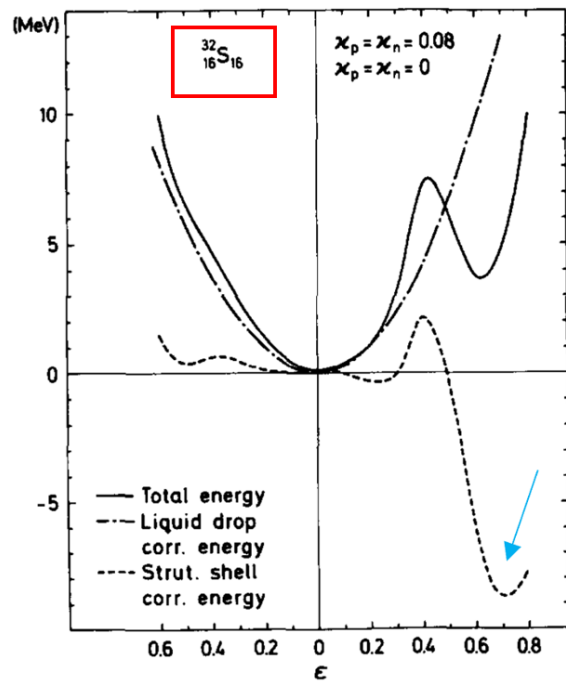
Fig. 4. Bohr's notes, 7<sup>th</sup> October 1950, his 65<sup>th</sup> birthday.

...what if the strong electric repulsion would stretch out the post-saddle shape into a sufficiently long cylinder that **would actually prefer to divide into three rather than two pieces**? This would not be unexpected, because for Uranium **the energy released in a division into three equal fragments is actually greater than into two.**

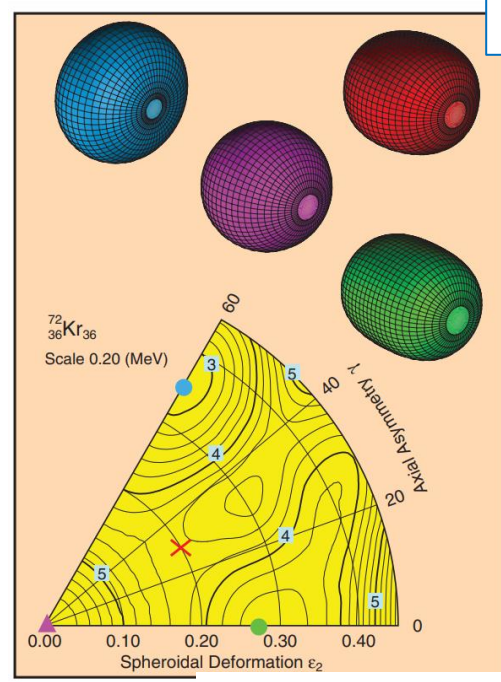
## SYMMETRICAL SHAPES OF EQUILIBRIUM FOR A LIQUID DROP MODEL

V.M. STRUTINSKY, N.Ya. LYASHCHENKO and N.A. POPOV

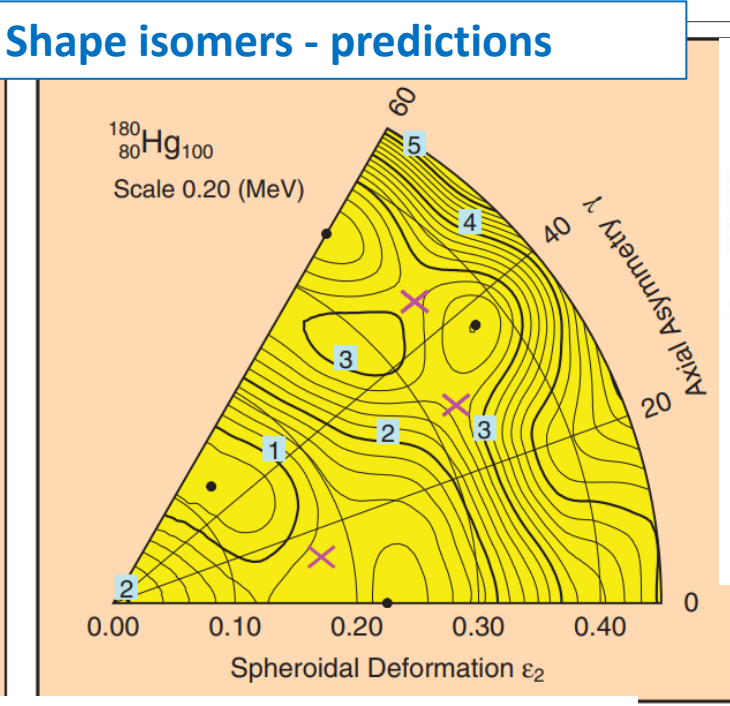




Volume 41B, number 2 PHYSICS LETTERS



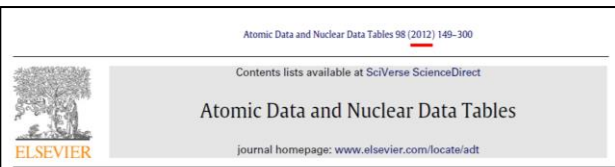
18 September 1972 PRL 103, 212501 (2009)



week ending 20 NOVEMBER 2009 PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

Global Calculation of Nuclear Shape Isomers

Peter Möller,<sup>1,\*</sup> Arnold J. Sierk,<sup>1</sup> Ragnar Bengtsson,<sup>2</sup> Hiroyuki Sagawa,<sup>3</sup> and Takatoshi Ichikawa<sup>4,†</sup>

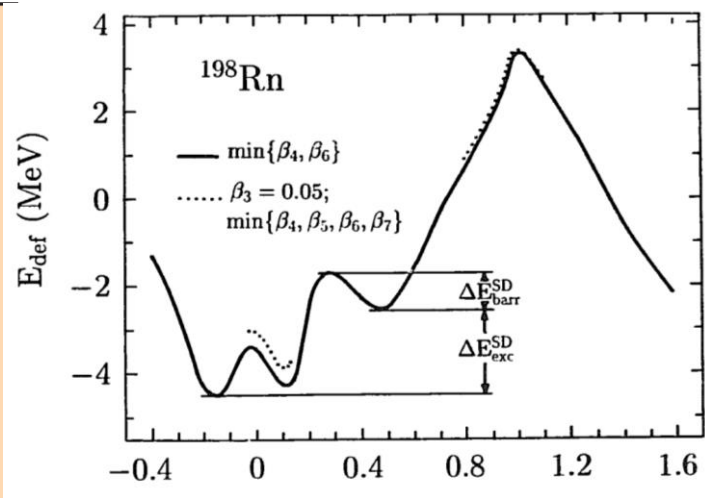


Nuclear shape isomers

P. Möller<sup>a,\*</sup>, A.J. Sierk<sup>1</sup>, R. Bengtsson<sup>b</sup>, H. Sagawa<sup>c</sup>, T. Ichikawa<sup>d</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Theoretical Division, Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, NM 87545, United States  
<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  
<sup>d</sup>Yukawa Institute for Theoretical Physics, Kyoto University, Kyoto 606-8502, Japan

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.



Nuclear Physics A529 (1991) 289-314 North-Holland

STRUCTURE OF SUPERDEFORMED STATES IN Au-Ra NUCLEI

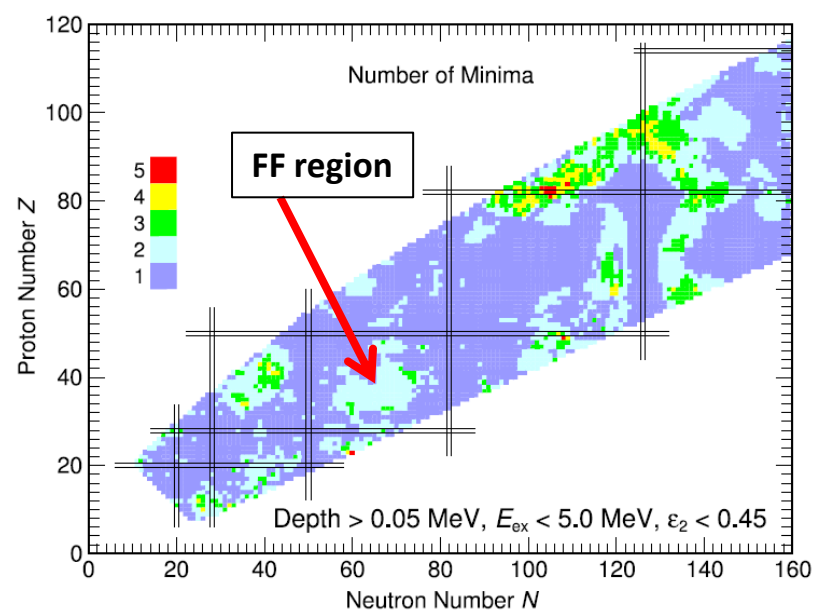
W. SATULA<sup>a,b</sup>, S. CÍWIOK<sup>c</sup>, W. NAZAREWICZ<sup>b,c</sup>, R. WYSS<sup>a,d</sup> and A. JOHNSON<sup>a</sup>

SHELL STRUCTURE FOR DEFORMED NUCLEAR SHAPES

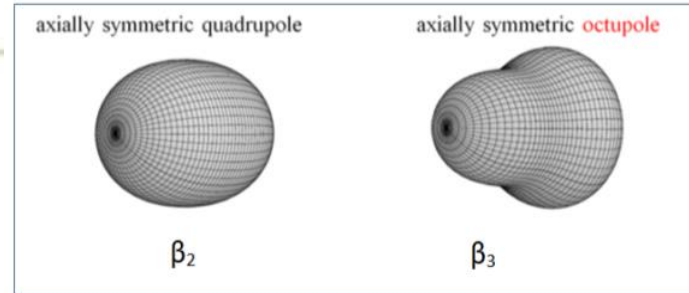
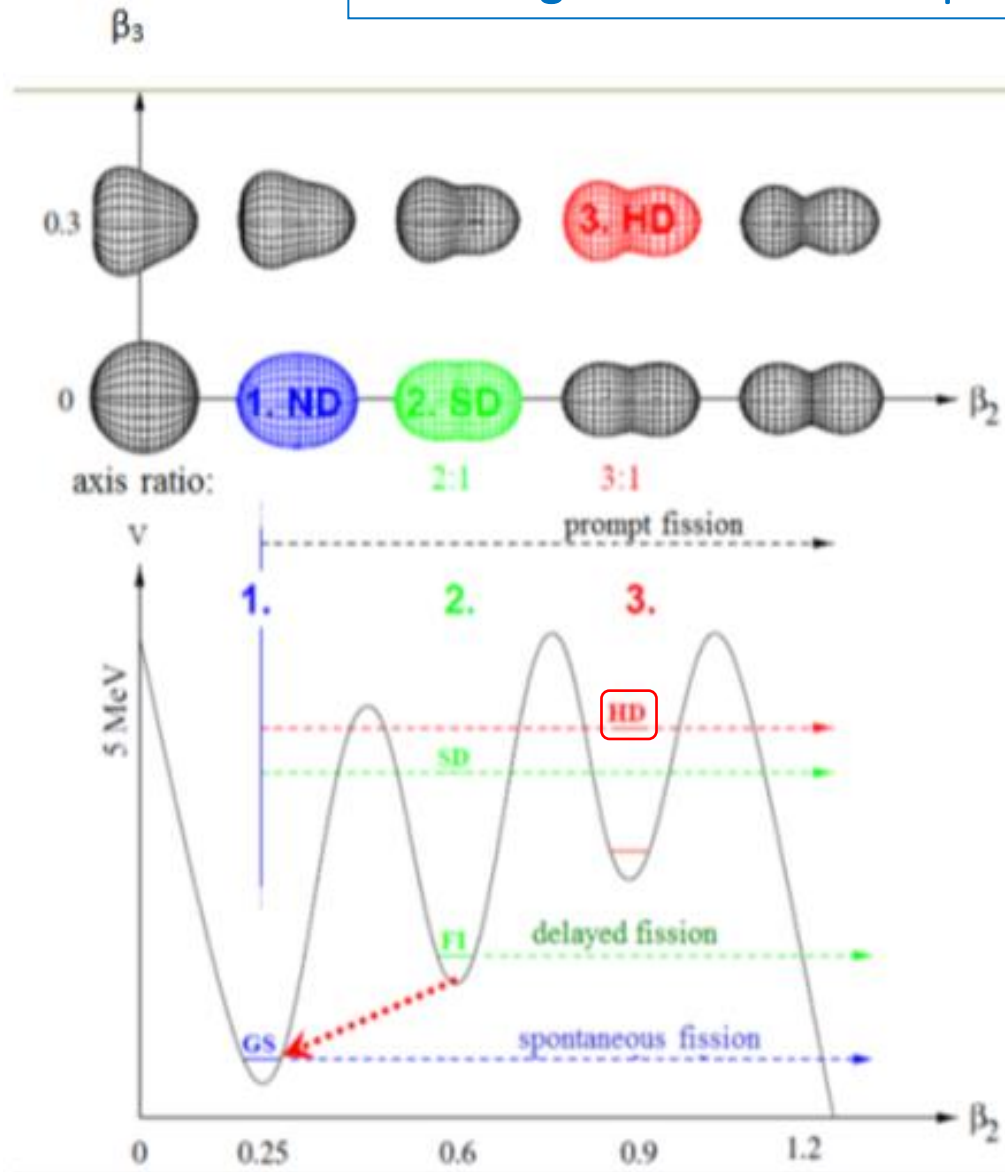
R. K. SHELINE<sup>\*</sup>, I. RAGNARSSON and S.G. NILSSON  
Department of Mathematical Physics, Lund Institute of Technology, Lund, Sweden

When one of these additional minima is sufficiently deep, then the nucleus may exist in a state corresponding to the energy and shape of this minimum; this state is a shape isomer. The lifetime of the shape isomer will depend on the overlap between the nuclear wavefunctions of the shape isomer and the ground state, the excitation energy of the shape isomer, and the height of the saddle separating the shape isomer and the ground state.

Thus, the existence of numerous shape isomer states even in the same isotope are predicted in the wide range of nuclei from very light one as  $^{32}\text{S}$  up to super-heavy.

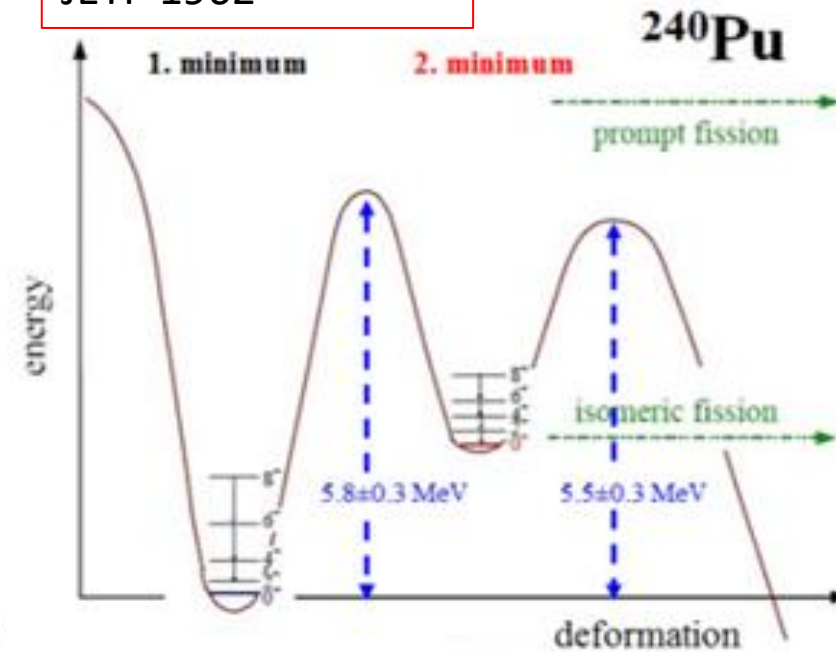


# Next stage in studies of shape isomers : fission isomers

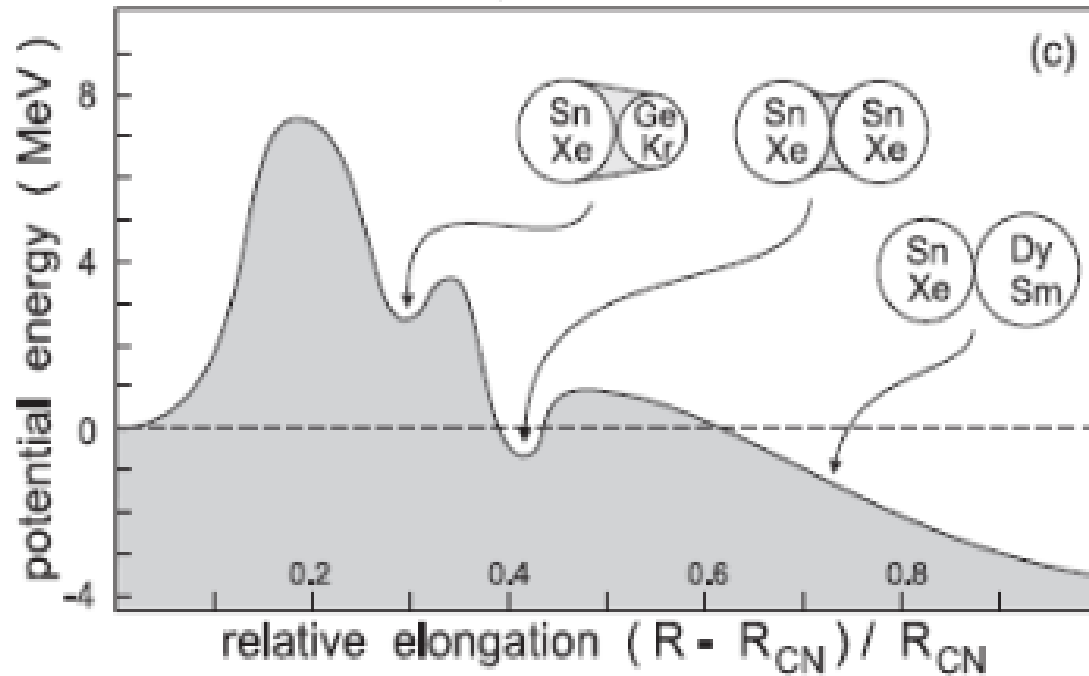


Fission isomers  
S.M. Polikanov  
JETP 1962

Discovered in  
FLNR (JINR)



## Shape Isomeric States in Super-Heavy Nuclei



“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.”

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

**Are there fission isomers in the mass range of fission fragments?**



# Our experimental approach: measurement of each fragment mass independently

## Peculiarities of E and TOF in PIN-diodes

$$E = E_{det} + R(M, E), \quad (1)$$

$$R(M, E) = \frac{\lambda \cdot E}{1 + \varphi \cdot \frac{E}{M^2}} + \alpha \cdot ME + \beta \cdot E, \quad (2)$$

**PHD:**

$$E = \frac{M \cdot V^2}{1.9297} \quad (3)$$

$$\longrightarrow G(\{\lambda, \varphi, \alpha, \beta\}, M, V) = 0$$

Combining equation (1), (2) and (3), we obtain:

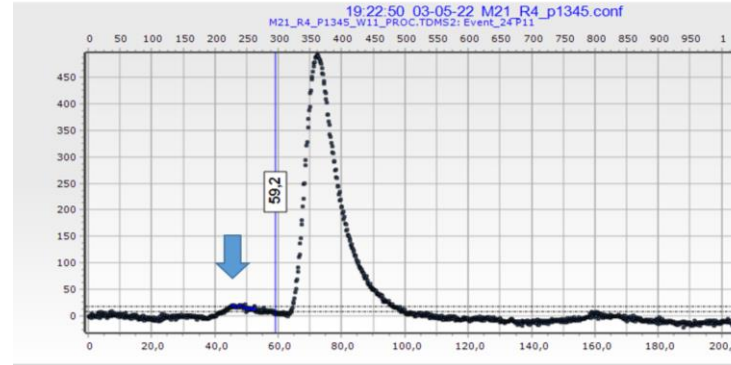
$$G = \frac{MV^2}{k} - \left[ E_{det} + \frac{\lambda \cdot \frac{MV^2}{k}}{1 + \varphi \cdot \frac{V^2}{Mk}} + \alpha \cdot \frac{M^2 V^2}{k} + \beta \cdot \frac{MV^2}{k} \right] = 0,$$

where  $k = 1.9297$ .

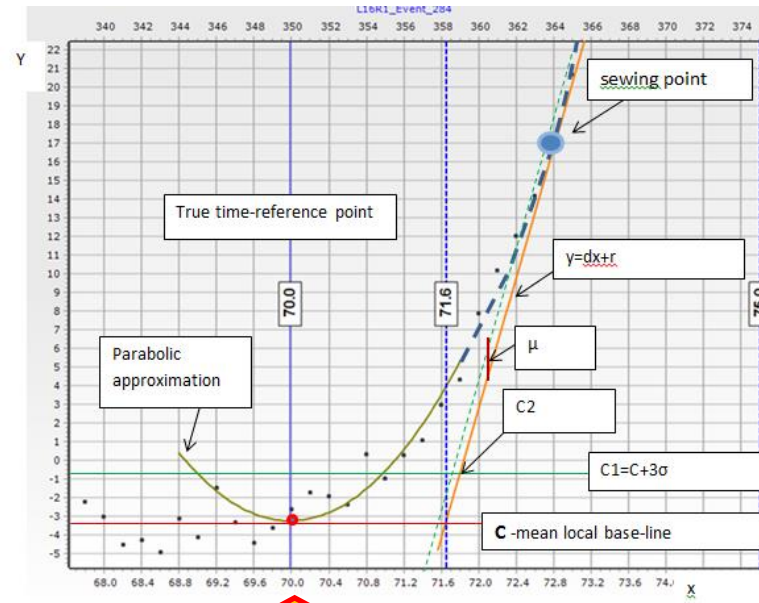
$$\min F = [(\langle ML_T \rangle - \langle ML \rangle)^2 + (\langle MH_T \rangle - \langle MH \rangle)^2] + \mu \sum_{M_{TE}} \frac{(Y(M_{TE}) - Y_T(M_{TE}))^2}{Y(M_{TE})}$$

**PD:**

$$\Delta t_p = \gamma \frac{M^{1/6} E^{1/2}}{F} \quad (\text{used conventionally})$$



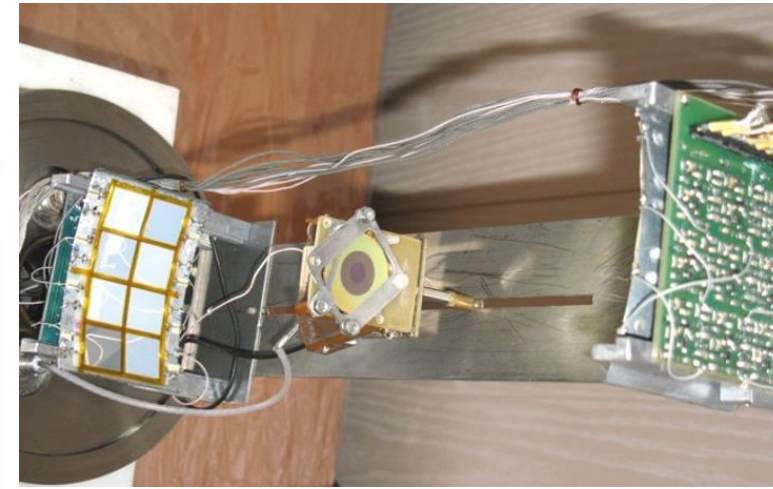
Inspection of the base-line fluctuations as a parameter for the events selection



**Our know-how: true time reference point**

Digital image of the pulse 0.2ns/ch

## COMETA (CORrelation Mosaic E-T Array)

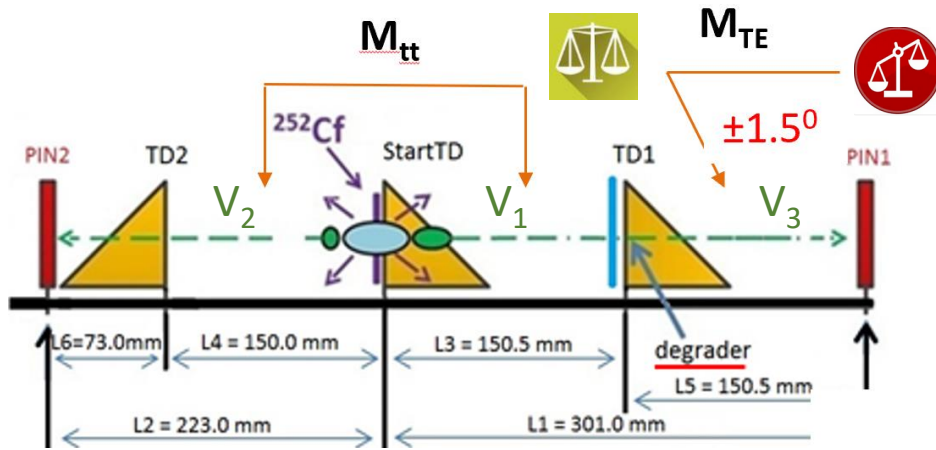


- Mosaics of PIN and MCP
- Event by event processing of correlated masses
- Mass of each fragment from V&E
- Using of thick materials
- Pile-up and base line controlled



CAEN DT5742

# Strong indication of the shape-isomer state in FF



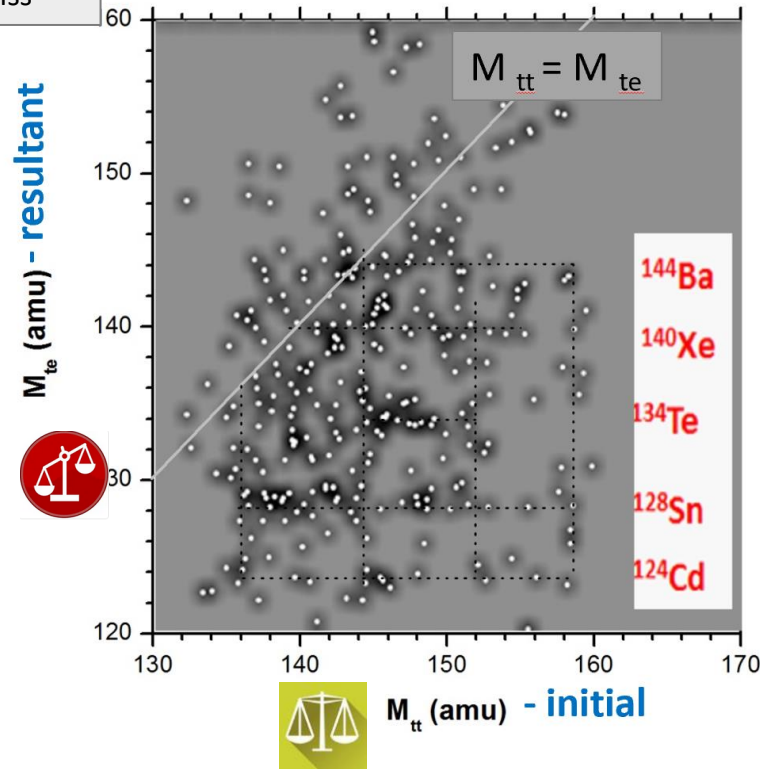
$\tau_{\text{life}} > 15\text{ ns}$

Kinematical selection of the cold events -  $Y_{\text{iso}} \sim 10^{-3}/\text{bin fiss}$

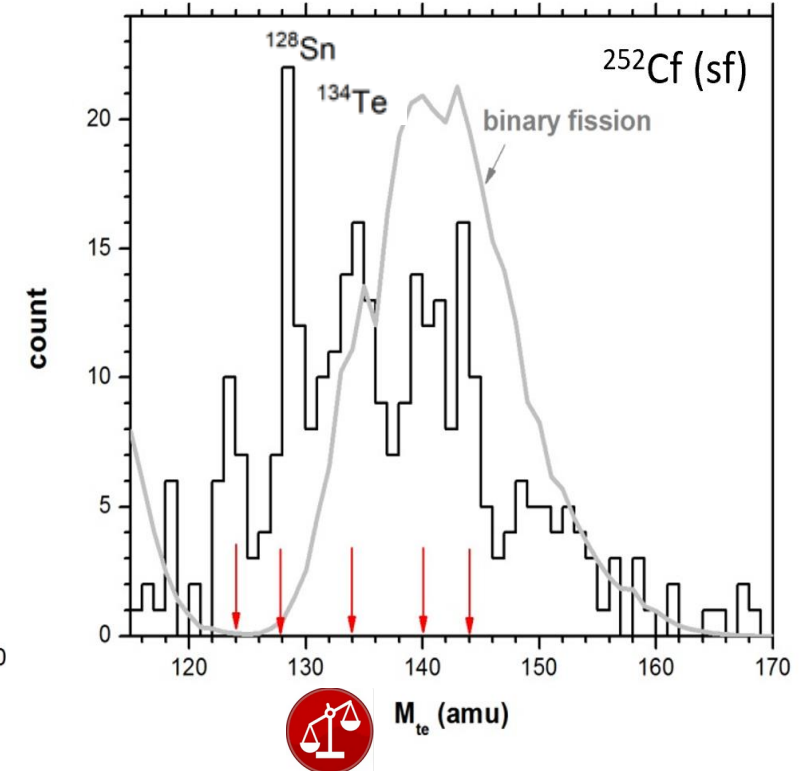
Double scaling of each fragment event by event

$M_{tt} = Mc / (1 + V_1/V_2)$   
 "initial" FF mass right after fission

$M_{TE} = 2E / (V_3^2)$   
 "resultant" FF mass in detector

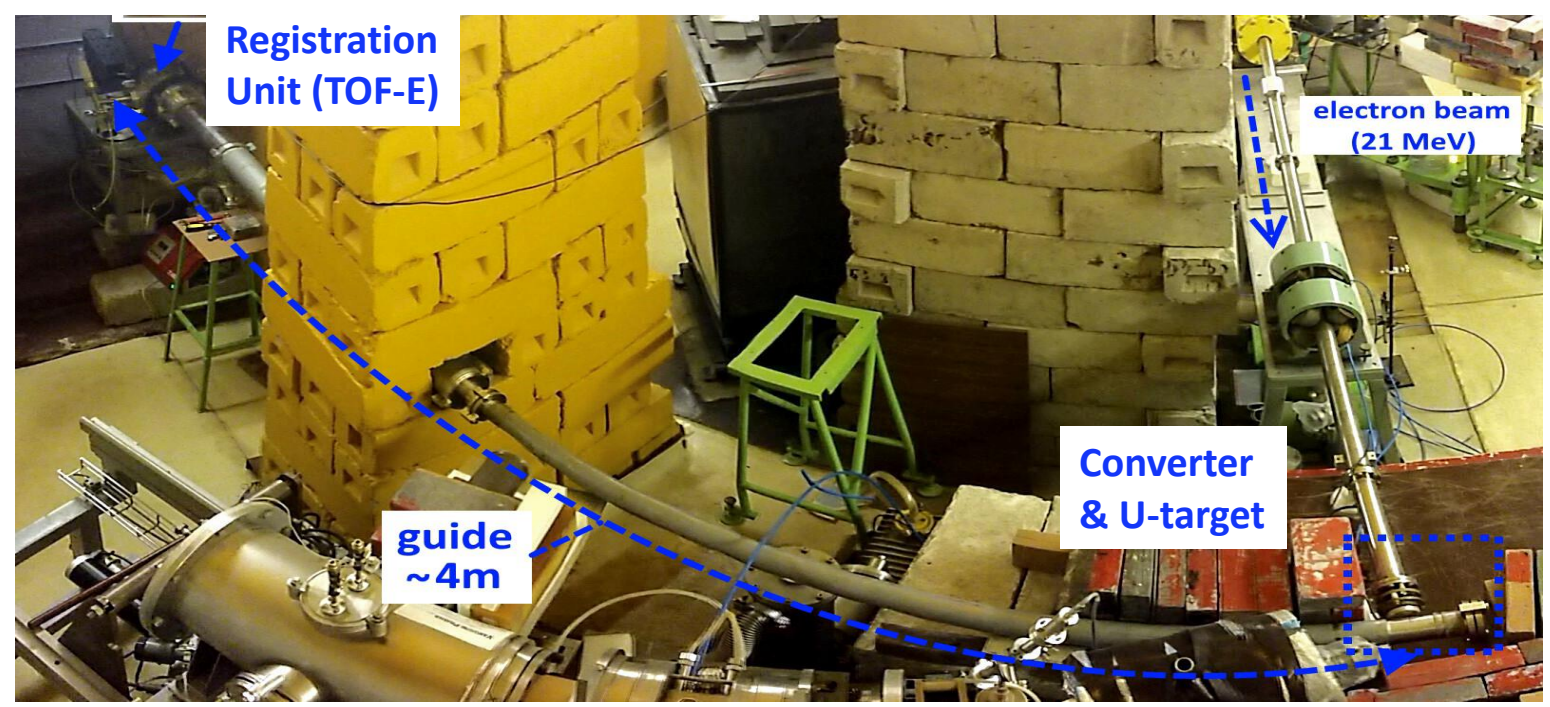
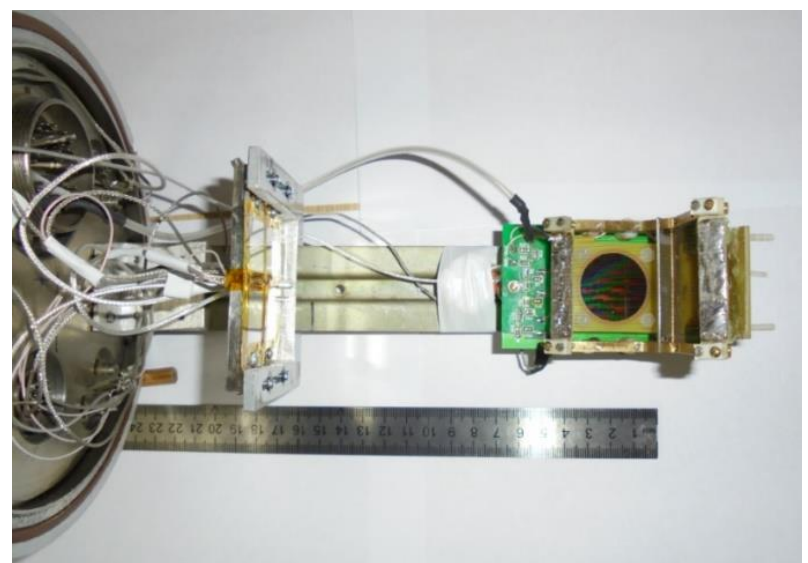
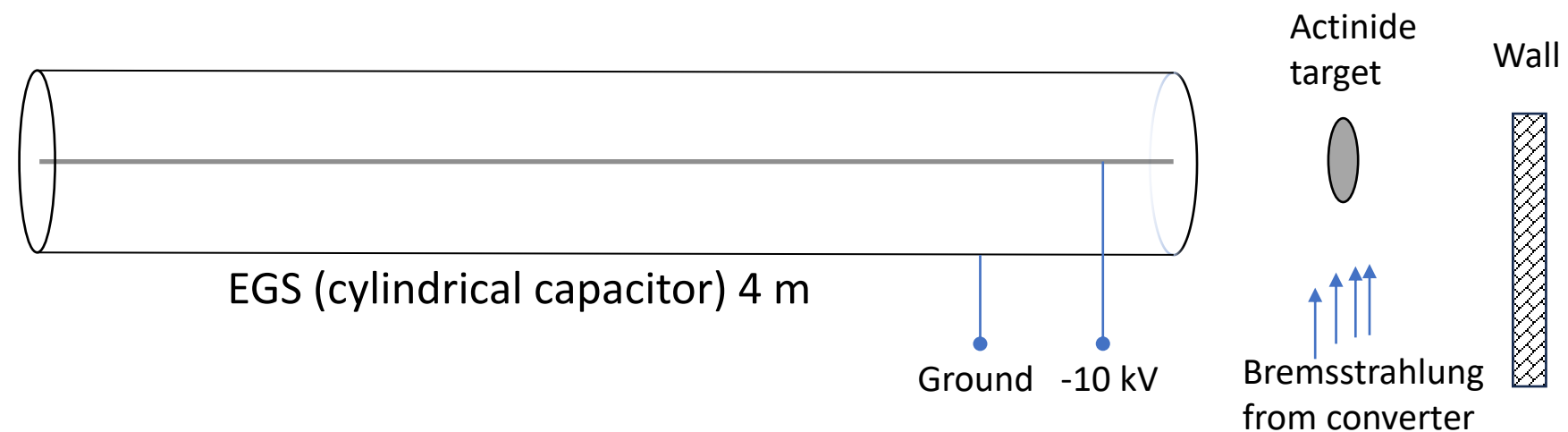
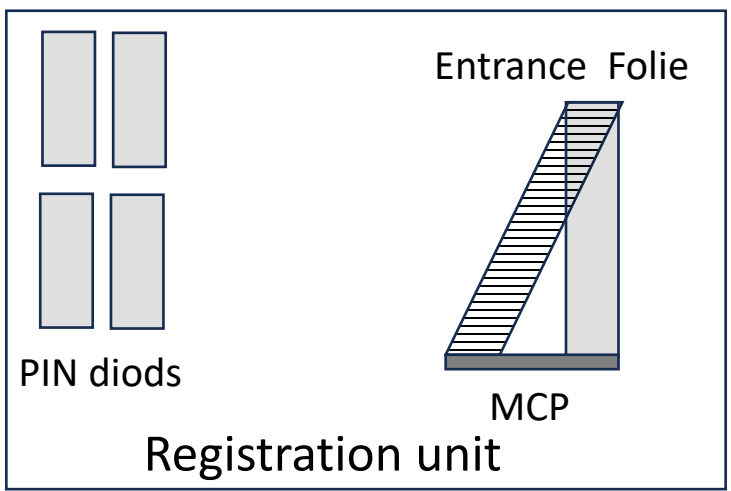


A "double-core system" revealed with a magic constituent

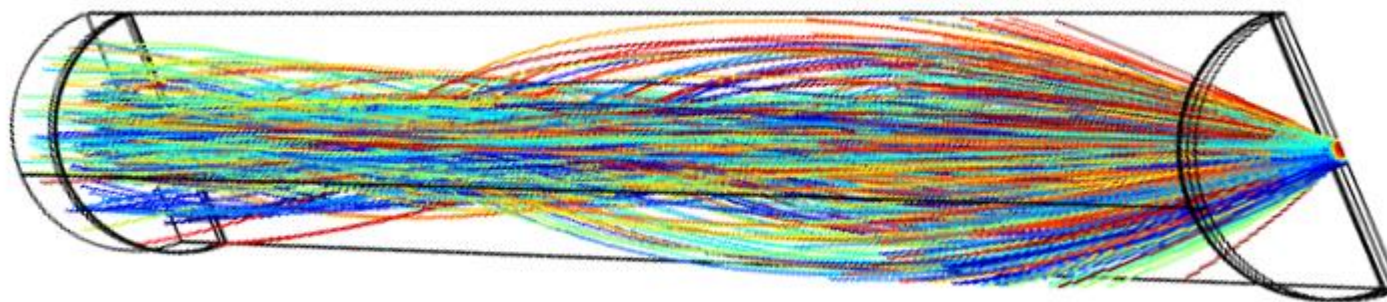
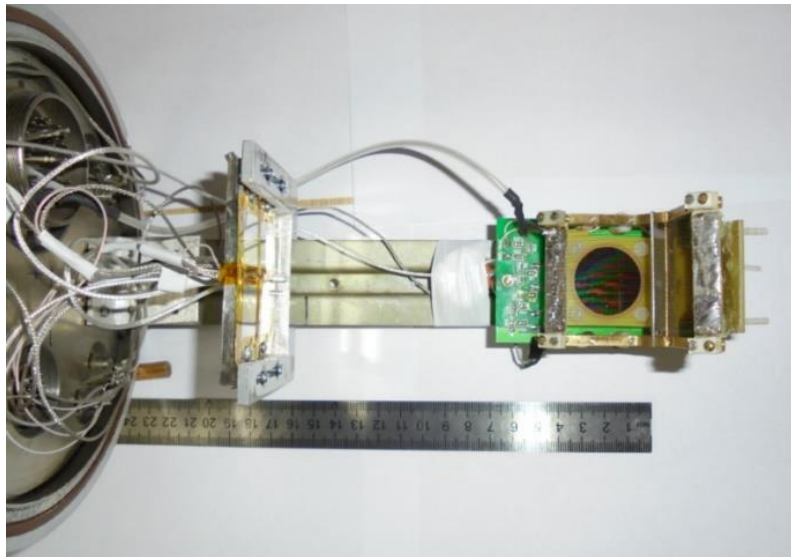
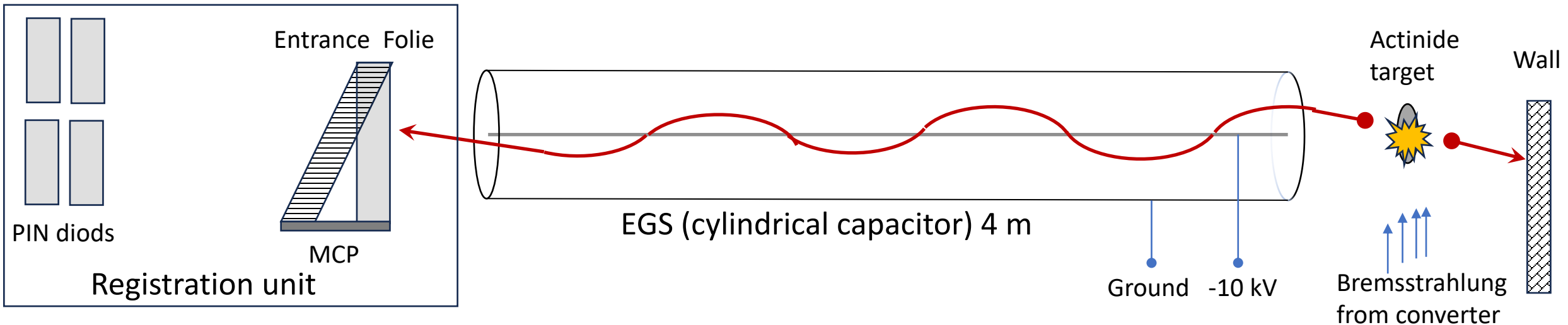




# VEGA (V-E Guide based Array) at the electron beam of the MT-25 microtron in FLNR



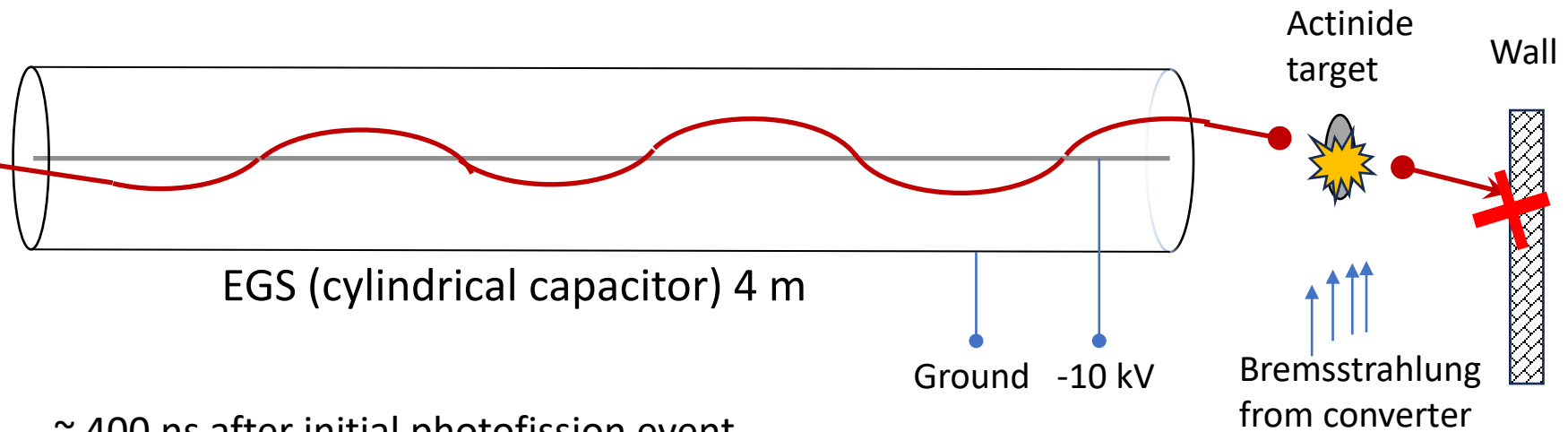
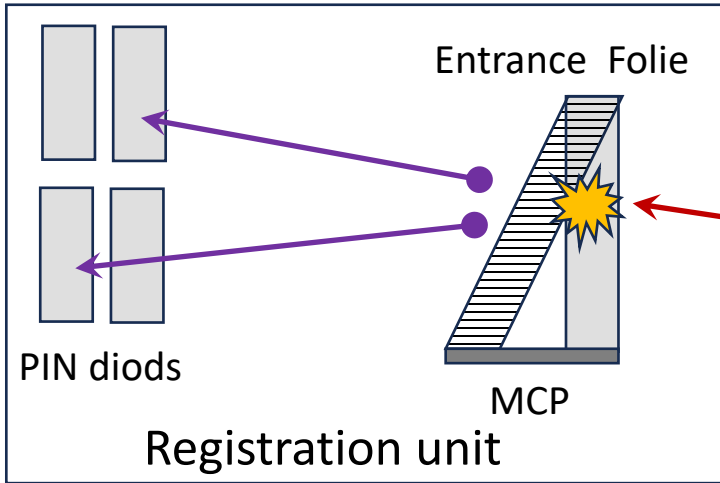
# VEGA (V-E Guide based Array) at the electron beam of the MT-25 microtron in FLNR



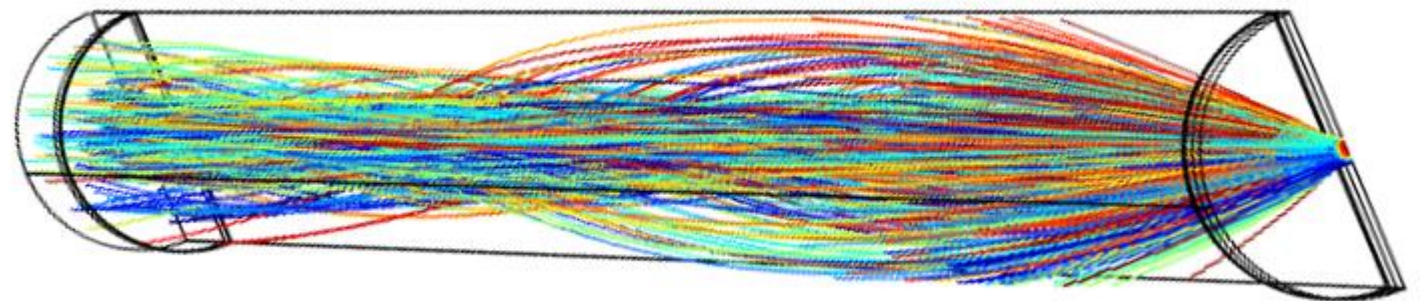
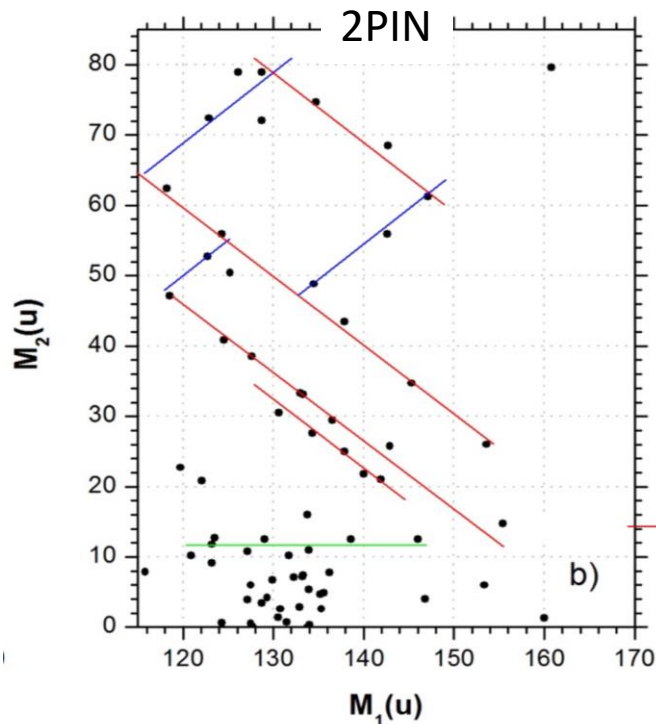
Modelling of the trajectories for fission fragments  
Capturing angle is  $\sim 1^\circ$



# VEGA (V-E Guide based Array) at the electron beam of the MT-25 microtron in FLNR



~ 400 ns after initial photofission event



Modelling of the trajectories for fission fragments  
Capturing angle is  $\sim 1^\circ$

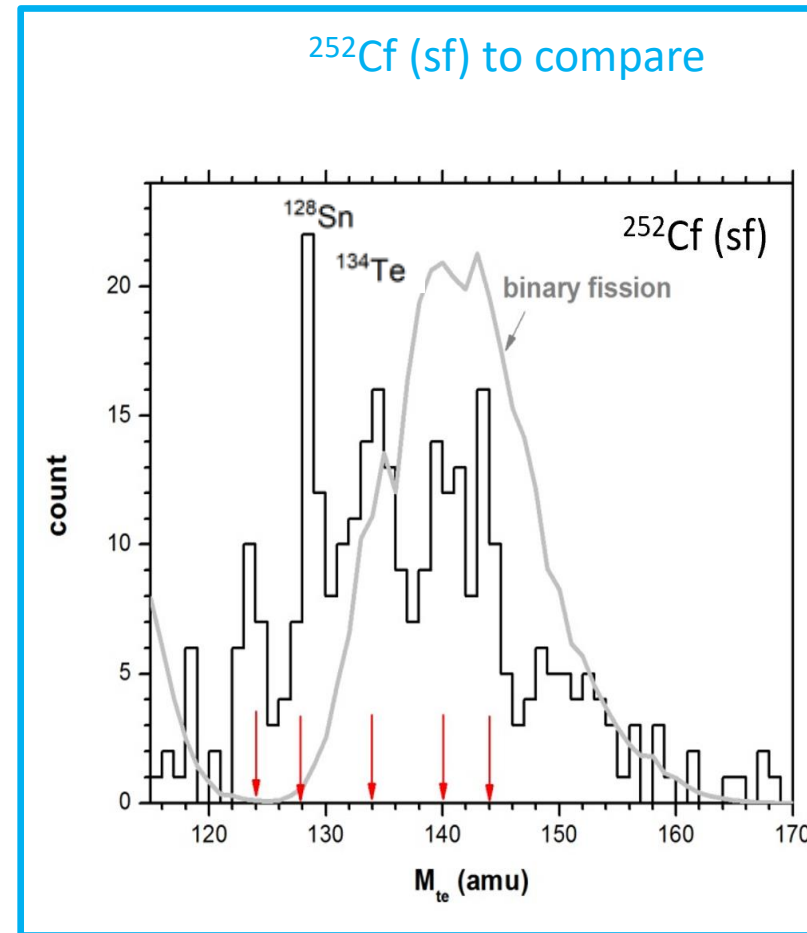
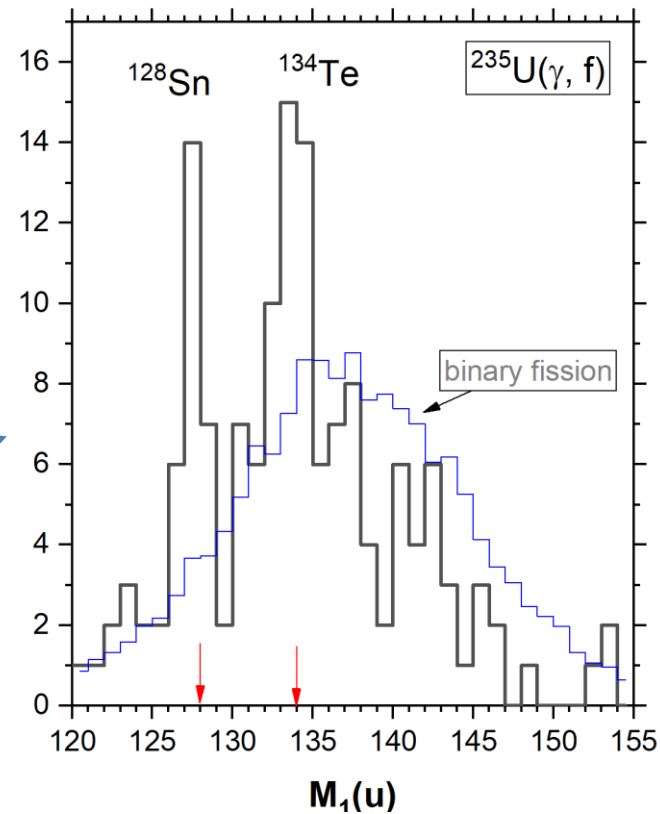
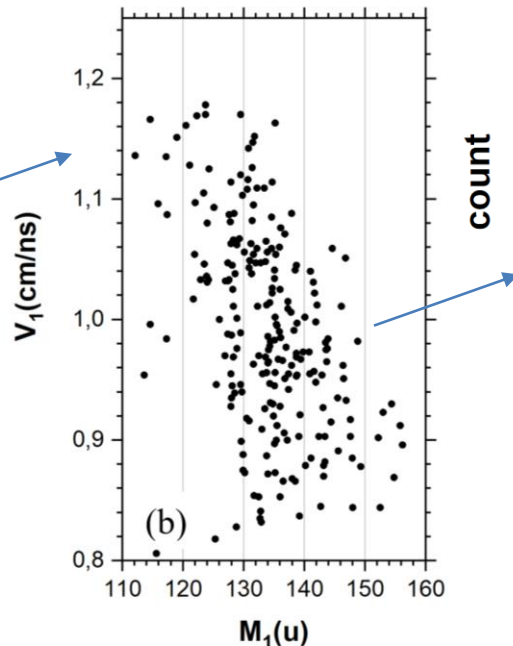
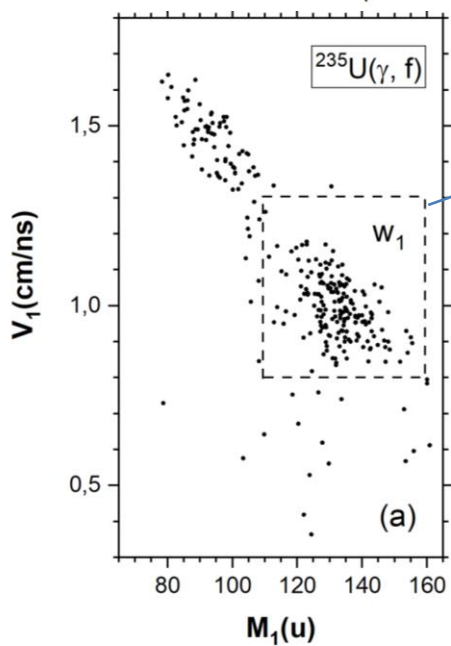
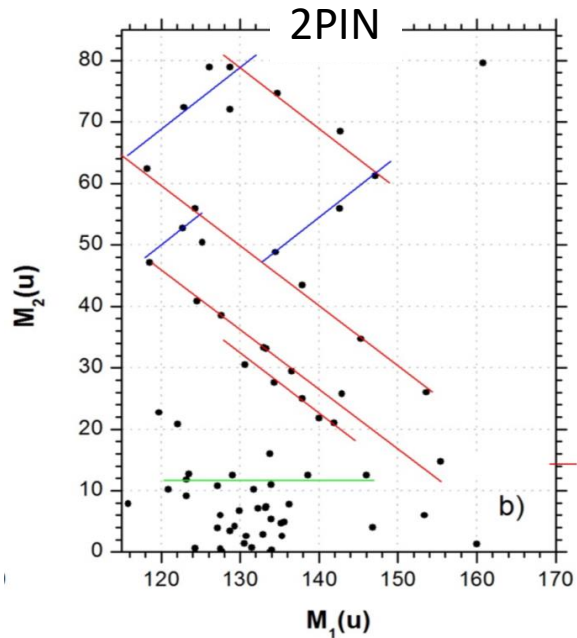


# Tin and Tellurium “fingers” in the fragment mass spectra of $^{235}\text{U}(\gamma, f)$

Similar result of the break-up of heavy FFs of two different mother systems in two different foils were observed: magic nuclei of  $^{128}\text{Sn}$  and  $^{134}\text{Te}$  demonstrate themselves as the cores of the deformed heavy fission fragments being in the shape isomer states.

Decay after 400 cm drift in EGS

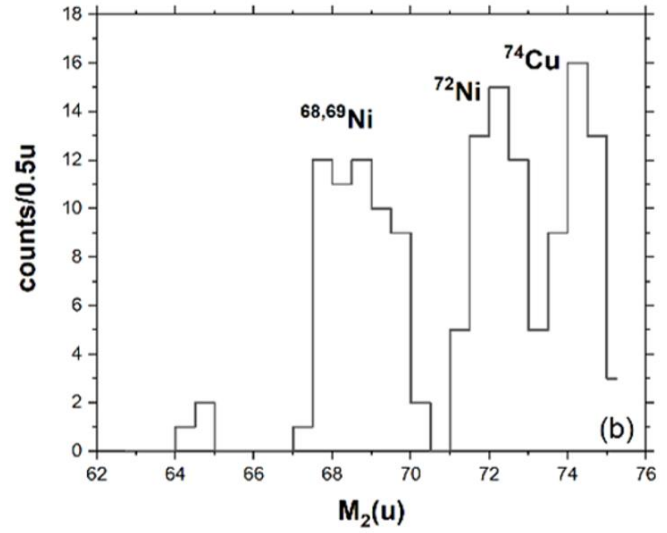
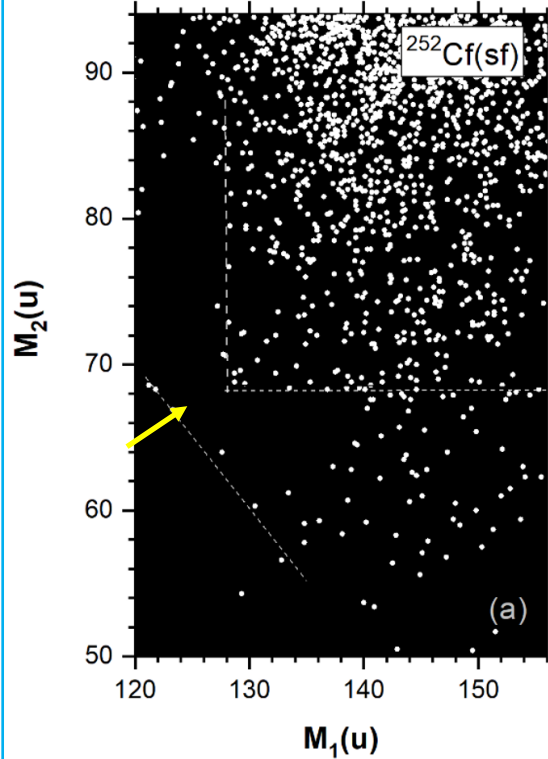
$\tau_{\text{life}} > 400\text{ns}$



Long lived history: CCT → fission isomers. The same physics.

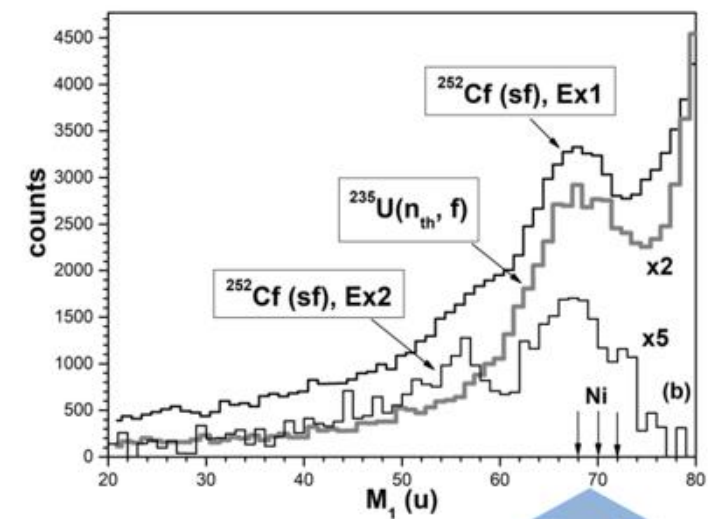
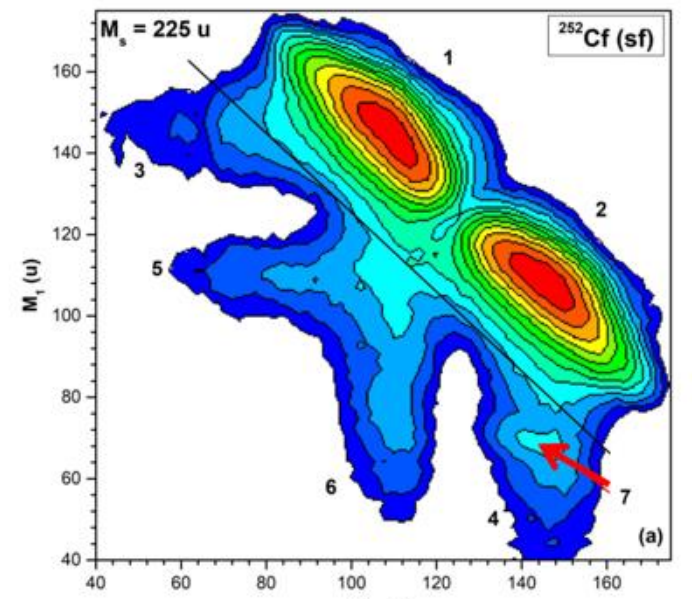
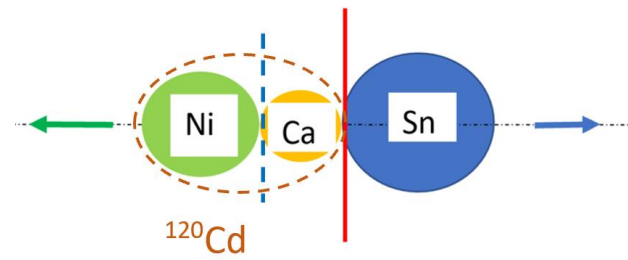
FOBOS

COMETA



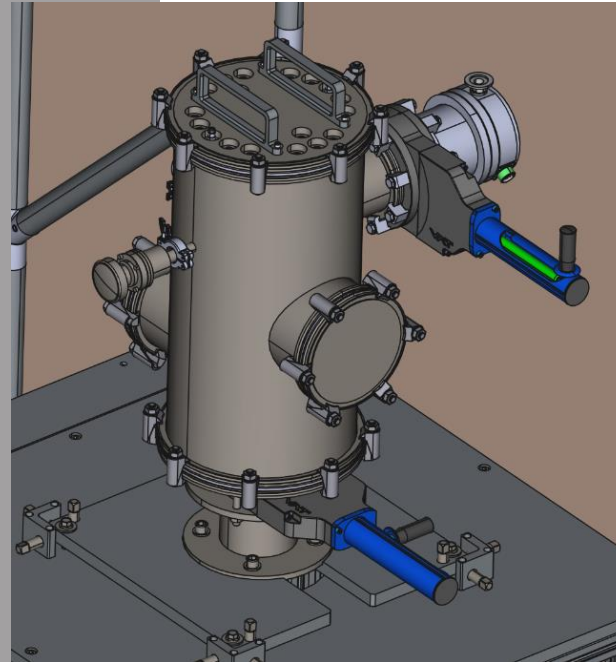
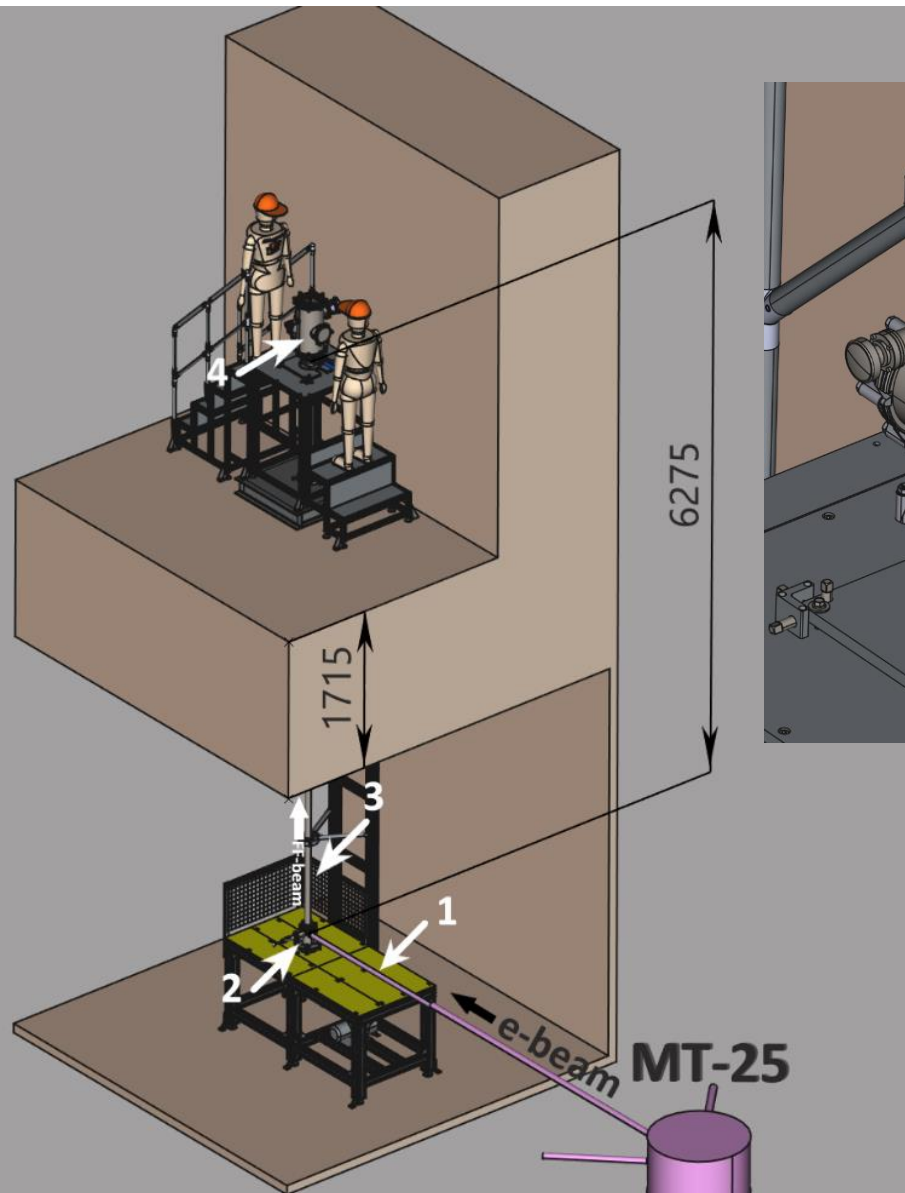
“rhombic meander”  
 $M_1 + M_2 = \text{const}$   
 $M_1 - M_2 = \text{const}$

Ni & Sn FFs were really detected in the opposite arms due to the break-up of the light FF in the backing



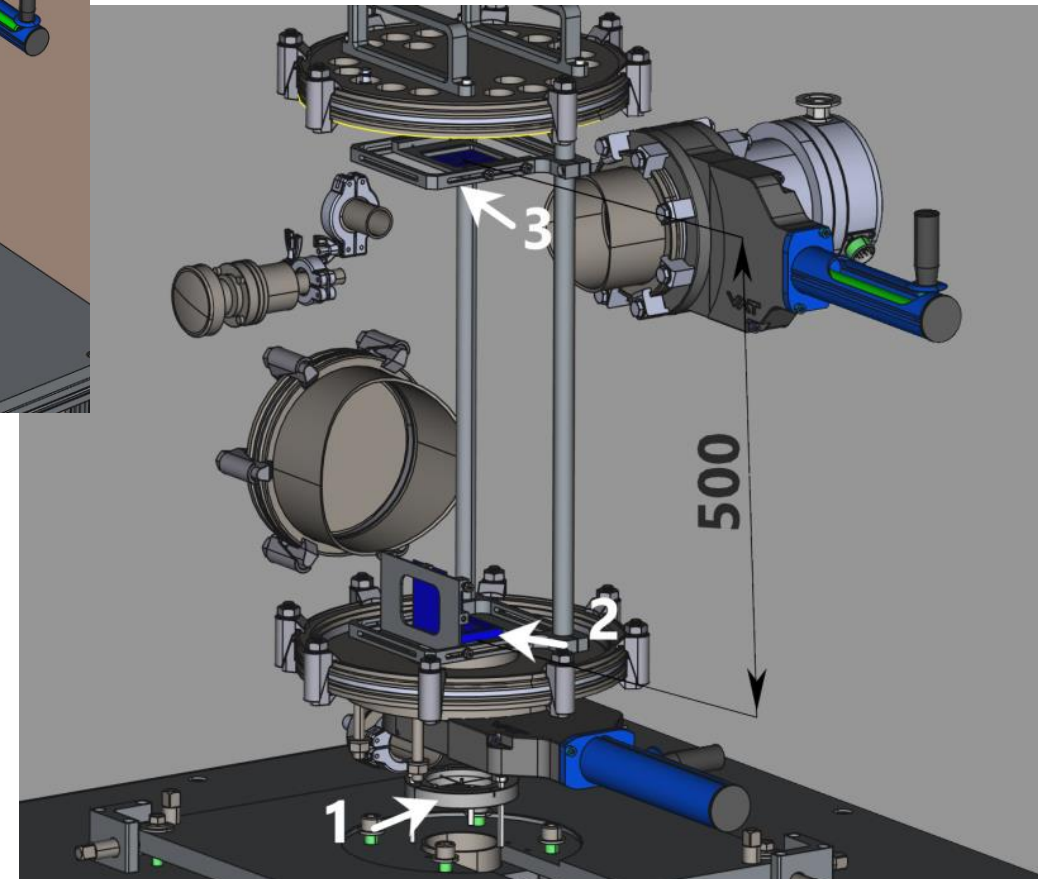
“Ni-bump”

# VEGA-m project drawings. Planning low background measurements.



## Tentative Plan:

- Delivery of constructions August 2024
- Assembling September
- In beam test November
- First Experiment Spring 2025

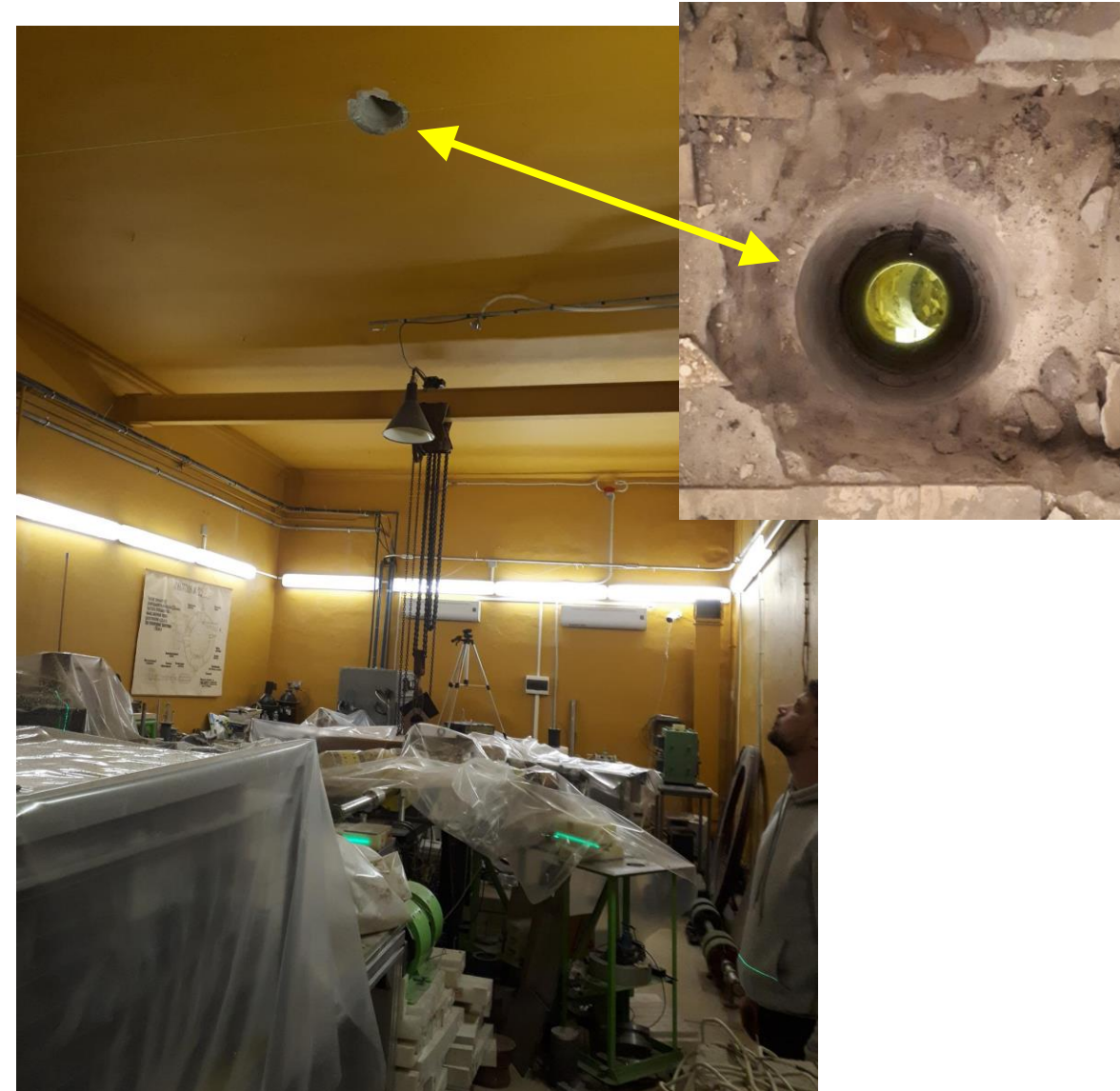




## Converter and target in local shielding



## A way to the “low-background” lab



# Conclusions & way forward @2025

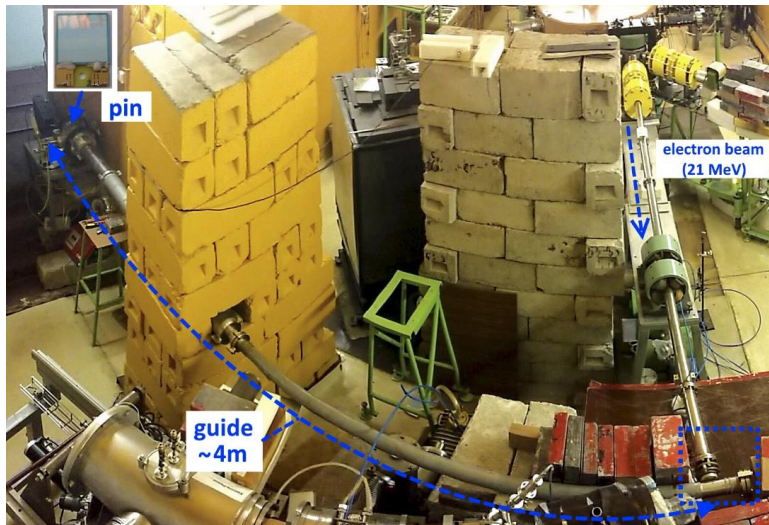
1. In the framework of the different experimental approaches, the induced fission (break-up) of a certain part of fission fragments through the shape-isomer states was discovered.
2. The life time of at least some of such states exceeds 400 ns.
3. The shape-isomer state in fission fragment manifests itself via delayed break-up of the fragment in a solid-state foil.

Our publications

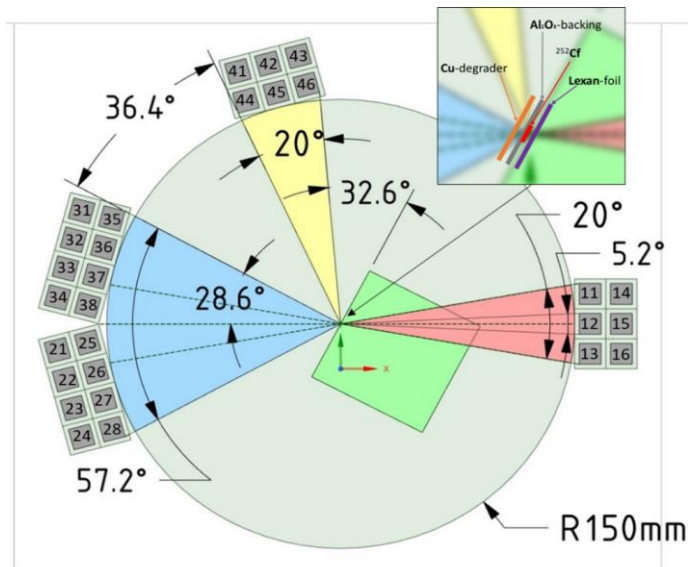


<http://fobos.jinr.ru/>

Photo-fission @ MT-25  
 $^{239}\text{Pu}$  target expected



Study of angular correlations  
at COMETA-F with  $^{252}\text{Cf}$



COMETA-R experiment at IBR-2  
with a new thin chamber

