

# Fission Studies at GANIL : Exploiting the inverse-kinematics surrogate and the direct neutron-induced thechniques

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XXII Colloque GANIL

28th September 2021



### The Fission Problem



#### • <u>Theory:</u>

- Interplay between intrinsic and collective degrees of freedom
- **Dynamical evolution** from one system to two individual objects
- Extreme **deformations**

- **Observation**:
  - Low-energy heavy nucleus products
  - **Stochastic process** with large number of nuclei
  - **Particle evaporation and γ-decay** in competition
- No full microsocopic description of the fission process
- No experimental access to the intermediate steps of the fission process



### **Fission at GANIL**





# Inverse-Kinematics Fission at GANIL Using the VAMOS++ Spectrometer





- Heavy ion beam impinging into a light target
- **Forward fission-fragments emission** with high kinematic boost
- Direct identification of **fission-fragments nuclear charge**



• The inverse-kinematics technique is associated to **Surrogate Reactions** 



- Surrogate reactions gives access to exotic fissioning systems impossible to produce through n-induced reactions
  - ${}^{238}U({}^{12}C,{}^{11}B){}^{239}Np$
  - <sup>238</sup>U(<sup>12</sup>C, <sup>6</sup>He)<sup>244</sup>Cm



- <sup>238</sup>U beam at ~6 MeV/u (Coulomb energies)
- C/Be targets
- Transfer/Fussion induced fission





### Fission at VAMOS: n-rich actinides region

- <sup>238</sup>U beam at ~6 MeV/u (Coulomb energies) •
- C/Be targets •
- Transfer/Fussion induced fission •

• SPIDER :

Selection of the **incoming channel (A,Z,E**,)

- Access to actinides above Uranium
- Control of the fissioning system **excitation** energy





- <sup>238</sup>U beam at ~6 MeV/u (Coulomb energies)
- C/Be targets
- Transfer/Fussion induced fission

- VAMOS :
  - Complete **fission-fragment isotopic identification**
  - Access to the **center of mass kinematics**







 Fragments production of exotic systems at different E<sub>v</sub>



M. Caamano et al. Phys. Rev. C. 92, 024605 (2015) D. Ramos et al. Phys. Rev. C. 97, 054612 (2018)

• First direct measurement of <sup>239</sup>U isotopic fission yields.



 Neutron excess: The role of proton- and neutron- octupole deformed shells [G. Scamps Nature 564, 382 (2018)] are reflected

D. Ramos et al. Phys. Rev. Lett. 123, 092503 (2019) D. Ramos et al. Phys. Rev. C. 101, 034609 (2020)





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- ${}^{124}$ Xe (4.3 MeV/u) +  ${}^{54}$ Fe  $\rightarrow {}^{178}$ Hg (E<sub>x</sub>=34 MeV)
- 2 arms at 64° (folding angle)
- Complete-Kinematics Measurement



- VAMOS :
  - Fission-fragment **Z** identification up to **Z=38.**
  - Complete fission-fragment mass identification
  - Velocity vector determination
  - 2-ARM :
  - Complementary fission-fragment velocity vector measurement
  - Momentum conservation: Pre-neutron evaporation fission-fragment masses



Confirmed presence of asymetric fission in <sup>178</sup>Hg



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- Complete-Kinematics Measurement



C. Schmitt et al. Phys.Rev.Lett. 126,132502 (2021)

- Fission Fragments **Neutron Excess**:
  - **Opposite behaviour** with respect to actinides
  - Common driving instrinsic effects from proton in Z[40,46]
- Fission Fragments **Neutron Multiplicites**:
  - **No effect of additional excitation energy** in the light fragment.
  - Neutron multiplicity governed by the deformation of the proton subsystem.





#### • <u>Improving the Incoming Channel:</u> <u>From SPIDER to PISTA</u>



- High particle-identification capabilities
- Higher energy resolution (2.5 MeV  $\rightarrow$  **0.7 MeV**)
- Larger angular coverage



• <u>Simultaneous Gamma Measurements:</u> <u>PARIS Detector at Target</u>



• Important information in order to reconstruct the entry point of the fission fragment decay (E<sub>x</sub>, J)





#### Study of the evolution of structural effects in fission

- Access to the vicinity of the transition region between symmetric to asymmetric fission
  - Rapid evolution of structural driving effects
  - New fission mode in Thorium chain (A.Chatillon et al. Phy.Rev.Lett. 124,202502 (2020))

#### Access to a barely explored region

- No isotopic or elemental fission Yields
- No excitation energy measurement around fission barrier



K.H. Schmidt et al. Nucl. Data Sheets 131, 107 (2016)



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#### Data for the Th/U cycle

- Energy generation through fast neutron reactions
- Nuclear waste incineration



U. Abbondanno et al. CERN/INTC 2001-025



# Neutron-Induced Fission at NFS Using the FALSTAFF Spectrometer



### **Neutrons For Science Facility**



- 3 m concrete collimator at 0 deg. with conical inner shape: 1.7 cm radius beam
- Several setups placed at the same time

neutrons





everal setups placed at the same time



## Fission with FALSTAFF at NFS





E (MeV)

- N-induced fission of thin actinides targets:
  - Fission fragments production vs excitation energy
- Fission-fragment spectrometer:
  - 2 position-sensitive SeD( position and ToF)
  - Axial ionization chamber (Energy profile)
  - Setup designed to be the less disruptive possible

Exploring the FALSTAFF-Z identification capabilities



 Profile of the FF energy loss as a function of the IC depth



Exploring the FALSTAFF-Z identification capabilities





### FALSTAFF : 2-arms Setup



- Pre- and post-neutron evaporation FF masses
  - Neutron evaporation distribution
    - Information of the sharing of E<sub>x</sub> between FF
  - Impact of multichance fission

- Fission Fragment Kinetic Energy
  - Information of the scission configuration



### FALSTAFF : 2-arms Setup





The fission process is a wide laboratory for fundamental nuclear studies as well as a useful tool for applications. Nevertheless, the fission process is still far from being fully understood.

GANIL offers a great opportunity to study the fission process from two very different approaches:

- The use of Inverse-Kinematics Surrogate-induced fission combined with the magnetic spectrometer VAMOS++ gives access to full fission-fragments identification of exotic fissioning systems
- The startup of the Neutrons For Science facility will give access to the Direct-Kinematics Neutron-induced fission studies of long-life radioactive actinides. Coupled with the FALSTAFF spectrometer, it offers an unique opportunity to explore the evolution of the scission configuration at fission-barrier energies and above

The fission program at GANIL has been proved to provide the largest number of fission observable correlations. The new NFS facility will contribute to enrich this program with long-term prospectives.



#### Collaboration

#### FISSION@VAMOS

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# NEWS

27/09/21 FALSTAFF has arrived to GANIL/NFS



Le spectromètre FALSTAFF bénéficiera du flux de neutrons intense disponible au NFS pour étudier le processus de fission dans les actinides. Les fragments de fission seront entièrement identifiés dans la configuration qui est composée de deux détecteurs d'électrons secondaires sensibles à la position pour les mesures ToF et d'une chambre d'ionisation axiale qui mesure l'énergie résiduelle. De plus, la configuration axiale de la chambre d'ionisation permettra d'estimer la charge nucléaire des fragments légers.



The FALSTAFF spectrometer will benefit from the intense neutron flux available at NFS to study de fission process in actinides. Fission fragments will be fully identified in the setup that is compound of two Position-Sensitive Secondary-Electron Detectors for ToF measurements and an Axial Ionization Chamber that measures the residual energy. In addition, the axial configuration of the ionization chamber will allow the estimation of the nuclear charge of light fragments.

