

FISSION 2026

7th Workshop
on Nuclear
Fission and
Spectroscopy
of Neutron-
Rich Nuclei

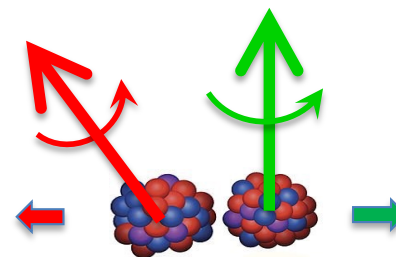
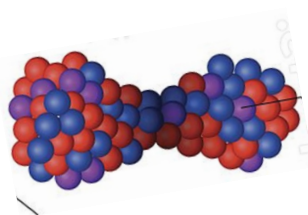
9-13 March 2026
Chamrousse, France

Effect of nucleon exchange on fission fragment angular momenta

Jørgen Randrup

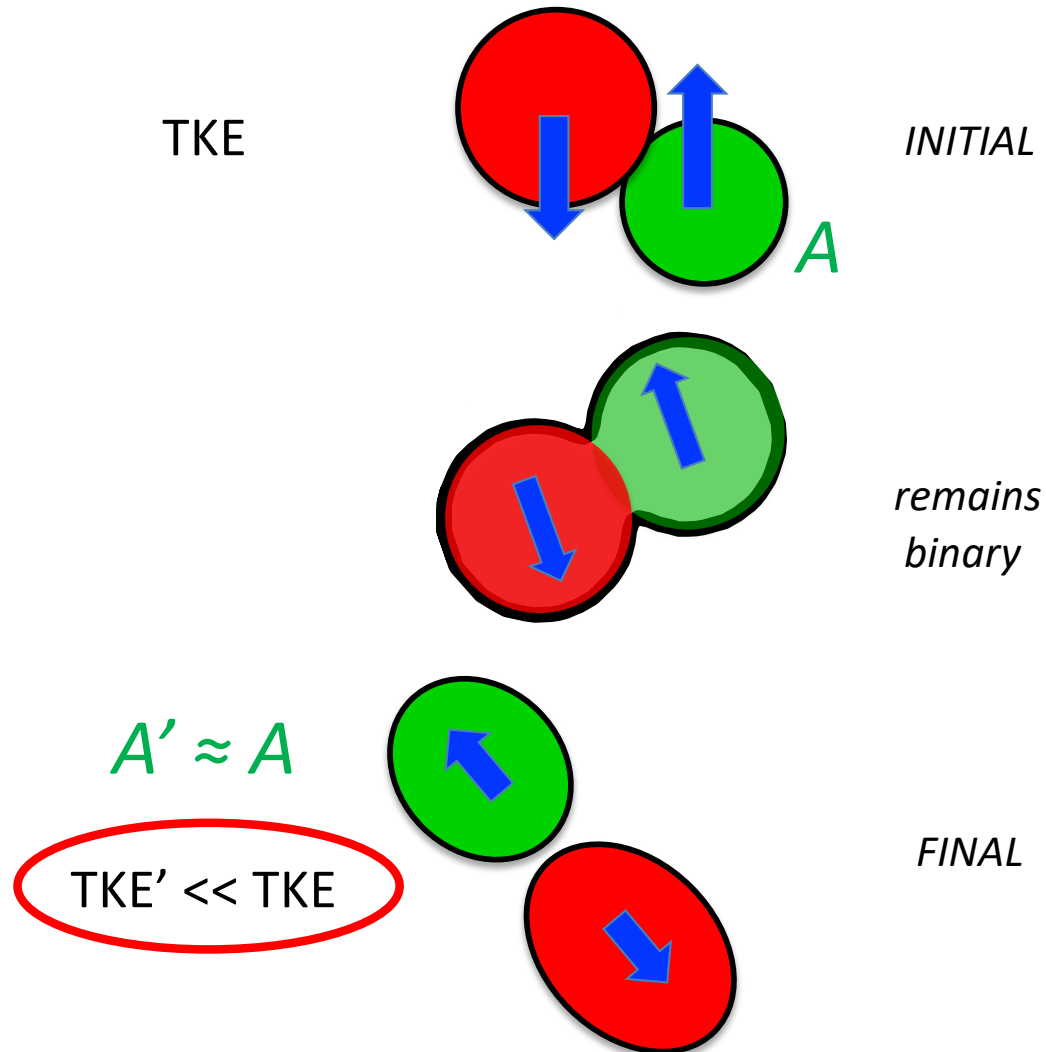
Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, University of California
in collaboration with

Pavel Nadtochy, Christelle Schmitt, and Katarzyna Mazurek



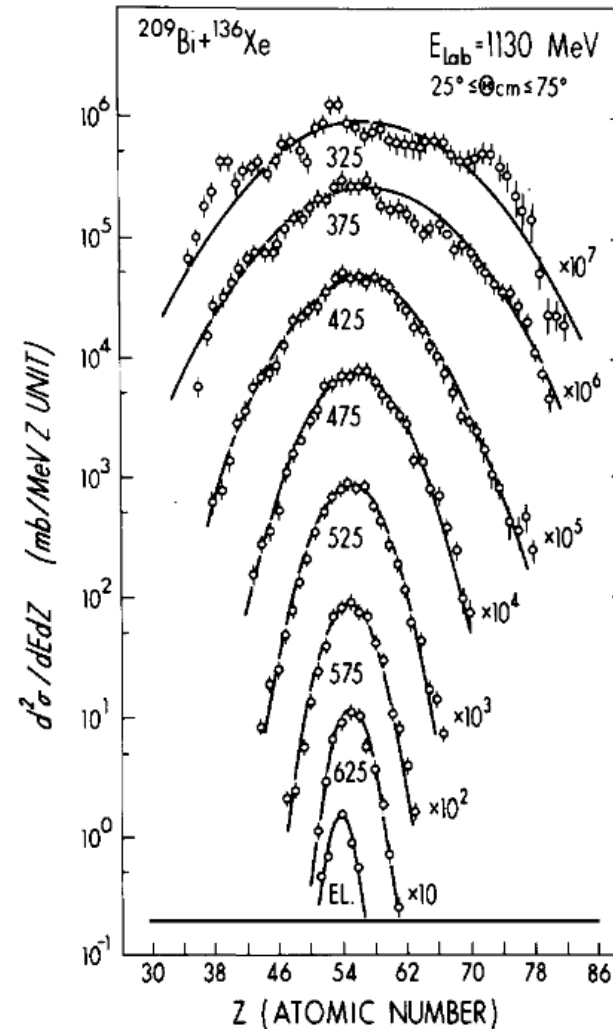
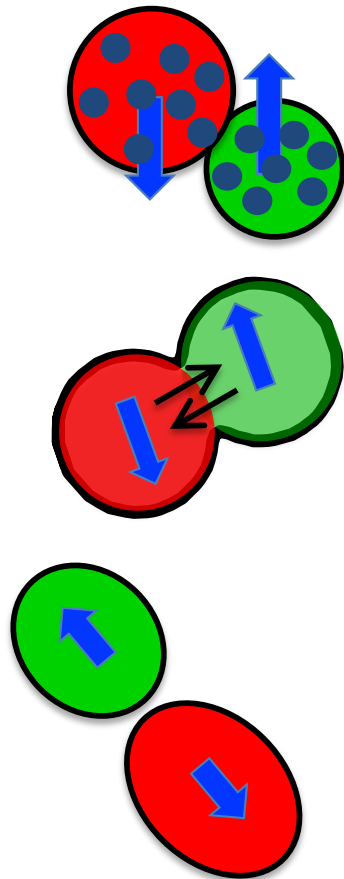
J. Randrup, P. Nadtochy, C. Schmitt, and K. Mazurek, Phys. Rev. C **113**, in press (2026)

Strongly Damped Nuclear Reactions



*Multiple nucleon exchange
was found to be a dominant mechanism
in damped nuclear reactions*

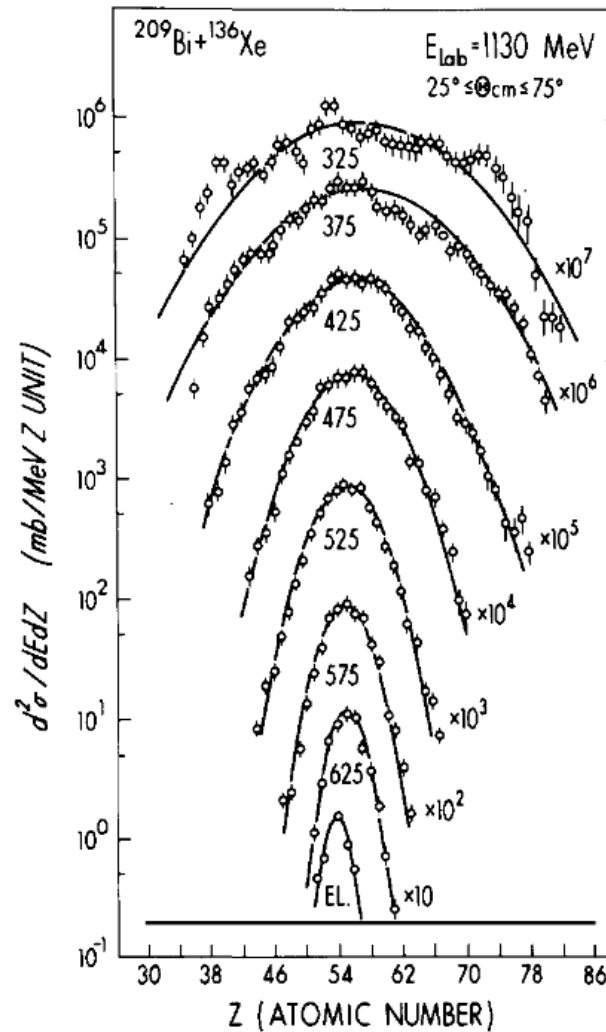
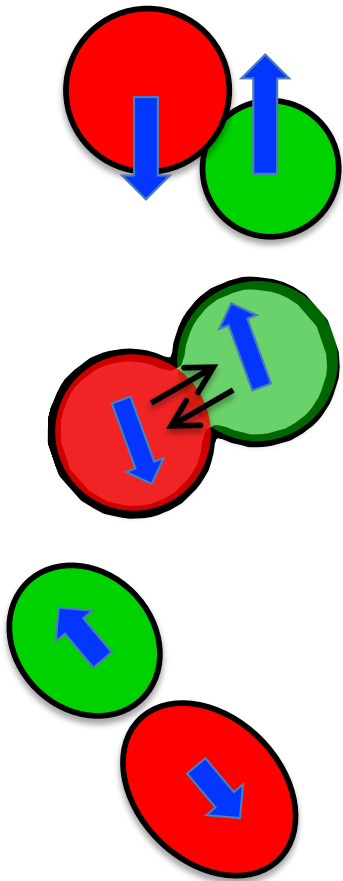
W.U. Schröder and J.R. Huizenga,
Damped Nuclear Reactions,
Treatise on Heavy-Ion Science II, p. 113,
(1984) Plenum Press, Ed: D.A. Bromley



W.U. Schröder *et al.*, PRL **36**, 514 (1975)

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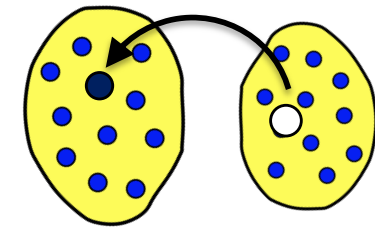


W.U. Schröder *et al.*, PRL **36**, 514 (1975)

The participating nucleons
are near the Fermi surface

=> The dissipation is **strong!**

W.U. Schröder *et al.*, PRL **44**, 308 (1980)



window
formula

Multiple nucleon transfers
produce a dissipative force
affecting the linear and angular
momenta of the binary partners:

$$Z_H, N_H, P_H, S_H, T_H, Z_L, N_L, P_L, S_L, T_L$$

Nucleon Exchange Transport Theory

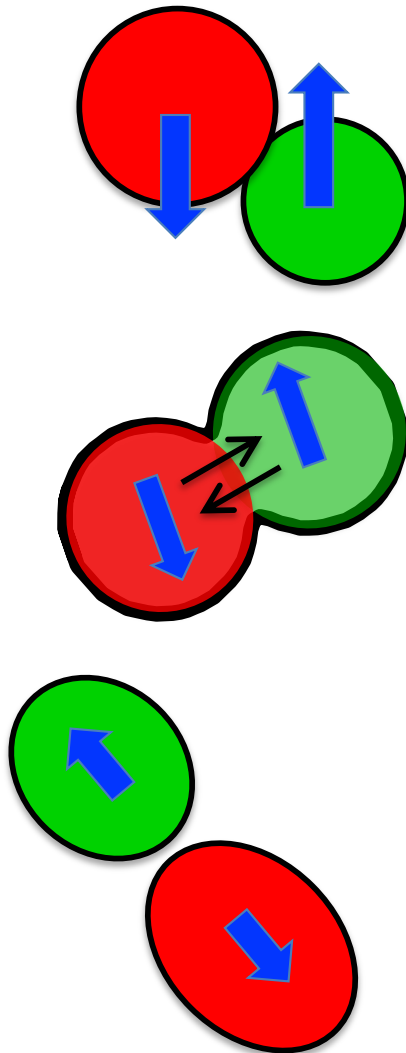
J. Randrup, Nucl. Phys. A **327**, 490 (1979)

J. Randrup, Nucl. Phys. A **383**, 468 (1983)

T. Døssing & J. Randrup, NPA **433**, 215 (1985)

Damped reaction

(binary throughout)



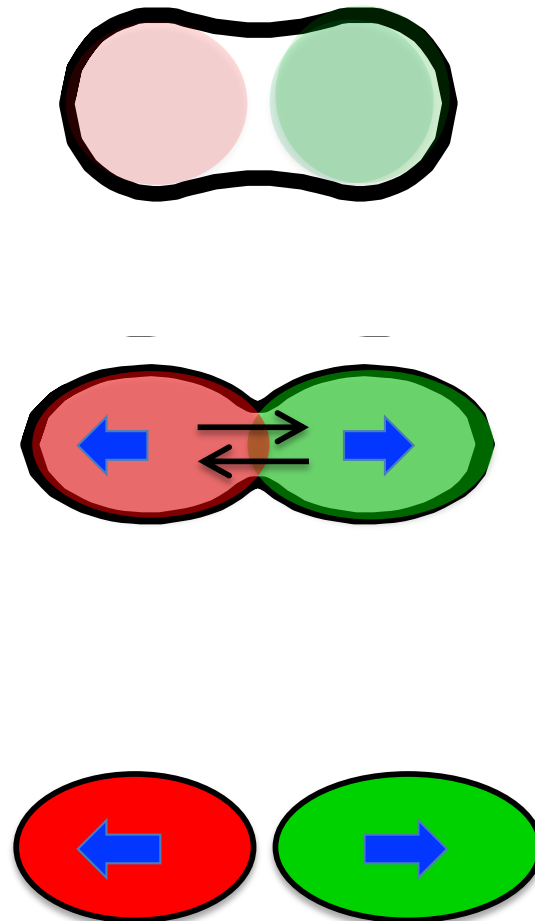
INITIAL

nucleon
exchange

FINAL

Saddle to scission

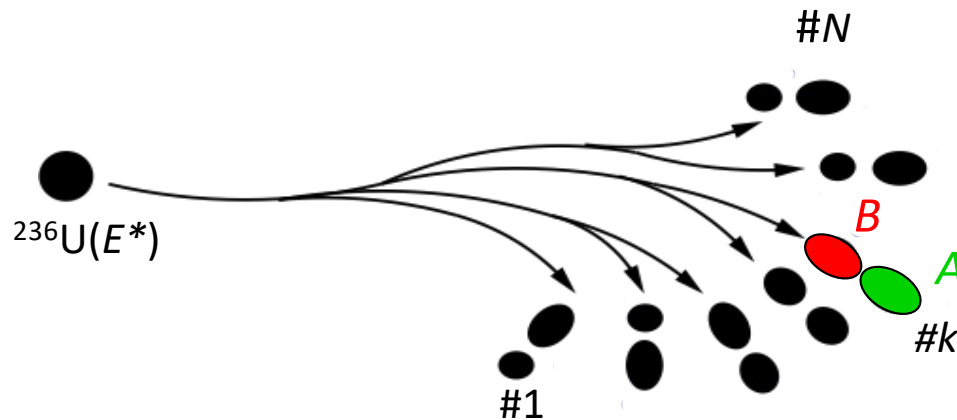
(becomes binary)



Calculational strategy

We consider a variety of cases, such as $^{236}\text{U}(E^*=46 \text{ MeV})$

For each case, $N = 10^4$ different shape evolutions, $k = 1, \dots, N$, are generated by *Langevin simulation*



For each trajectory, k , the evolution of the correlated fragment spin distribution, $P^{(k)}(\mathbf{S}_A, \mathbf{S}_B; t)$, is calculated with the *Nucleon Exchange transport theory*

Generate fission events by Langevin simulation

G.D. Adeev, A.V. Karpov, P.N. Nadtochii, and D.V. Vanin,
Physics of Particles and Nuclei **36**, 378 (2005)

8 cases:
 $N = 10^4$

- ^{236}U at $E^* = 46$ & 70 MeV with $k_s = 1$ & 0.25
- ^{202}Po at $E^* = 46$ MeV with $k_s = 1$ & 0.25
- ^{182}Hg at $E^* = 46$ MeV with $k_s = 1$ & 0.25

One-body dissipation: $\dot{Q}_{\text{wall}} = k_s \times \underbrace{m\rho\bar{v} \oint \dot{n}^2 d^2\sigma}_{\text{Standard wall formula}}$

$k_s = 1$: *Standard value*

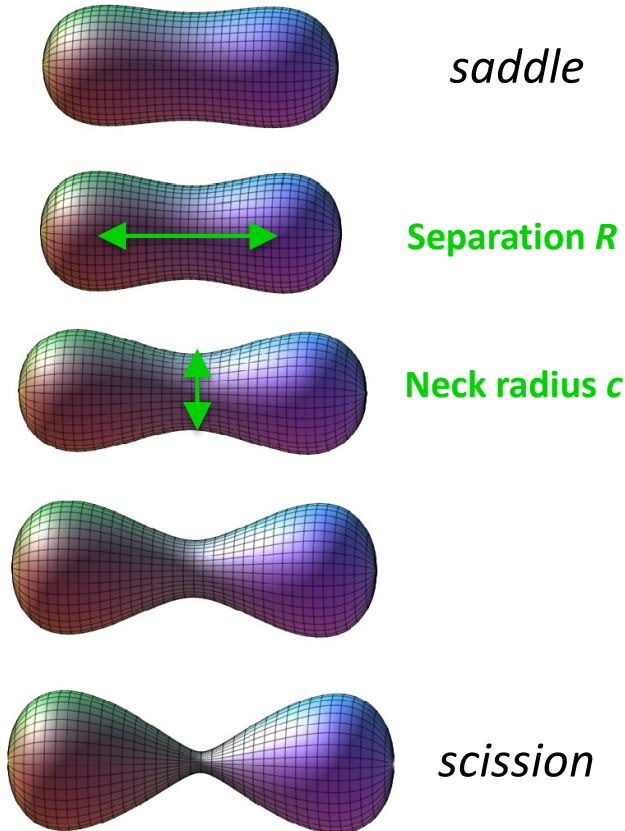
$k_s = 0.25$: *Fitted value*

Standard wall formula

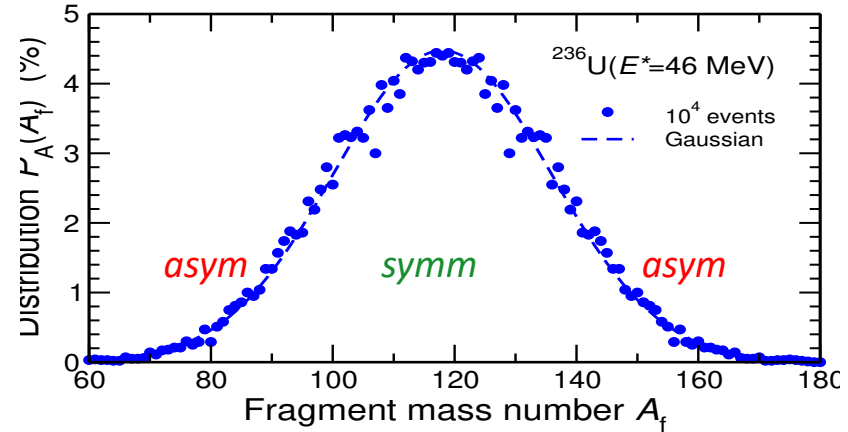
J. Blocki, Y. Boneh, J.R. Nix, J. Randrup, M. Robel,
A.J. Sierk, W.J. Swiatecki, Ann. Phys. **113**, 330 (1978)

Dynamical evolution: $R(t)$ & $c(t)$ & $\alpha(t)$ - as well as $T(t)$

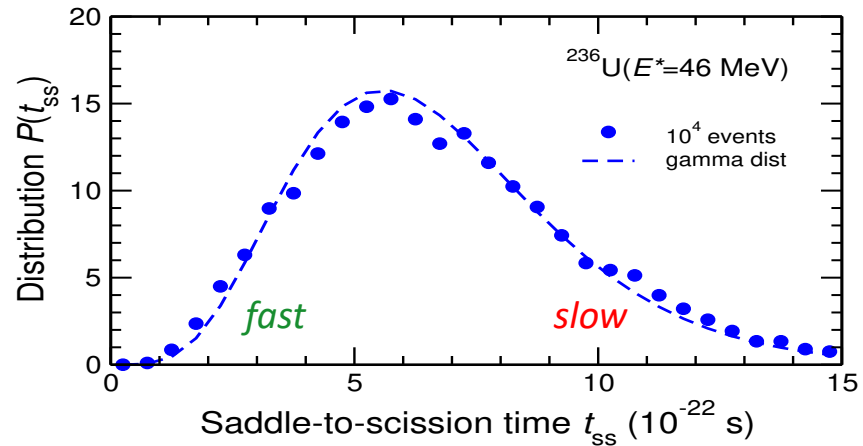
One shape evolution



Fragment mass distribution



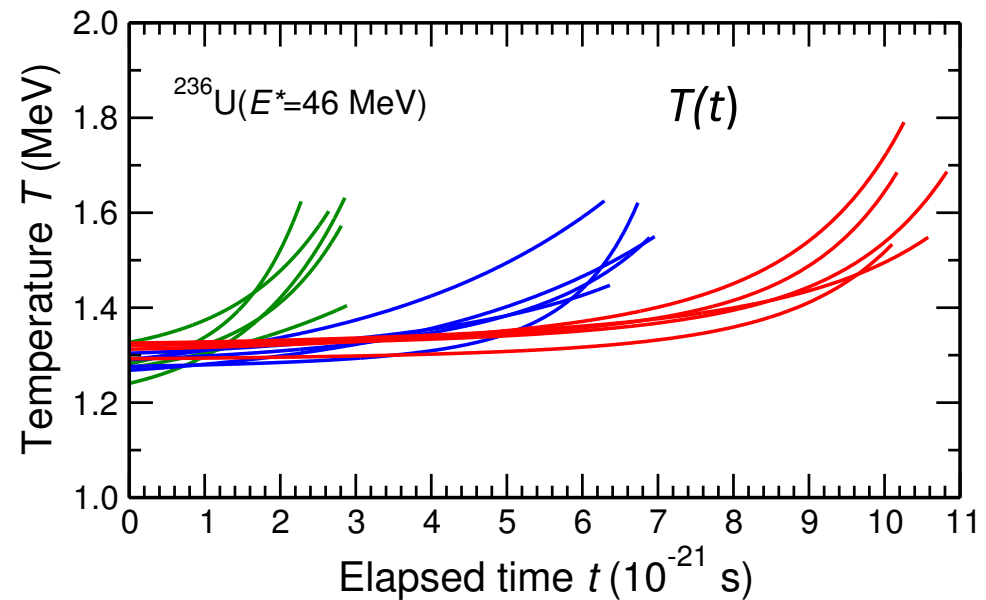
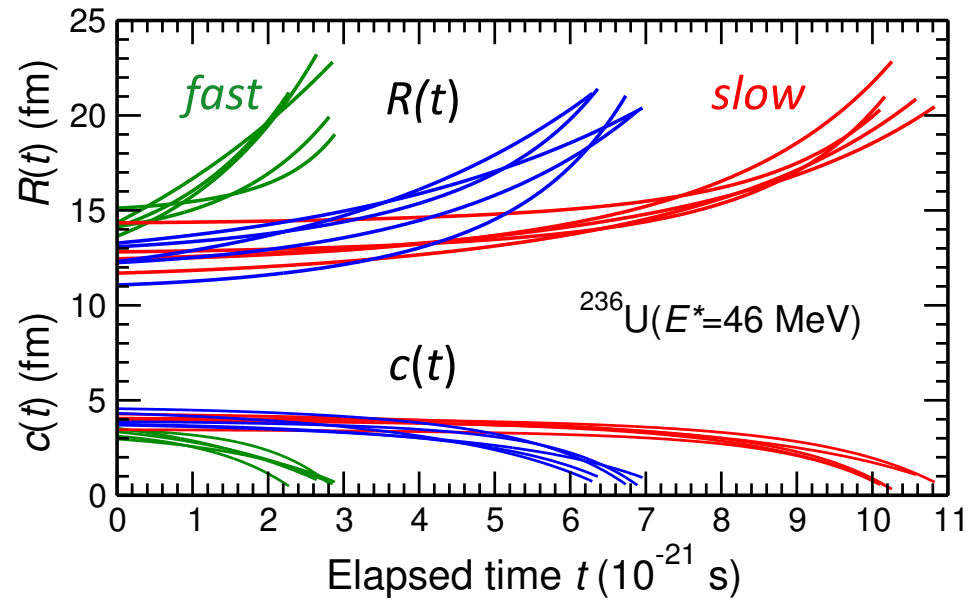
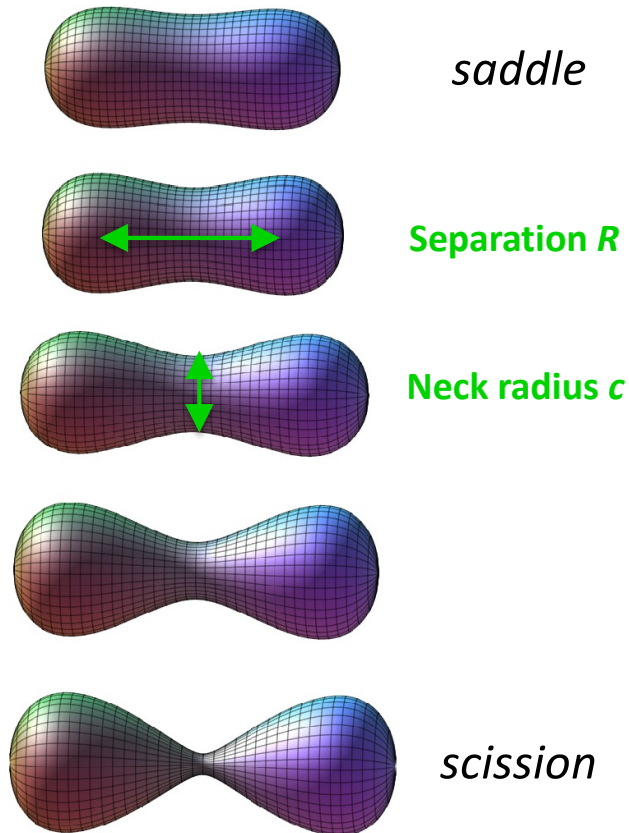
Saddle-to-scission time t_{ss}



$$\gamma(t; p, t_0) \equiv \frac{1}{t_0} \frac{1}{\Gamma(p)} \left(\frac{t}{t_0} \right)^{p-1} e^{-t/t_0}$$

gamma distribution

Dynamical evolution: $R(t)$ & $c(t)$ & $\alpha(t)$ - as well as $T(t)$



For each shape evolution, we wish to calculate the evolution of the distribution of the correlated fragment spins, $P(\mathbf{S}_A, \mathbf{S}_B)$

Rotational energy:

$$E_{\text{rot}} = \overbrace{\frac{J_{\perp}^2}{2\mathcal{I}_{\perp}} + \frac{J_{\parallel}^2}{2\mathcal{I}_{\parallel}}}^{\text{overall rotation}} + \overbrace{\frac{s_{\text{wrig}}^2}{2\mathcal{I}_{\text{wrig}}} + \frac{s_{\text{bend}}^2}{2\mathcal{I}_{\text{bend}}} + \frac{s_{\text{twst}}^2}{2\mathcal{I}_{\text{twst}}}}^{\text{internal rotations}}$$

Normal spins: s_{wrig} , s_{bend} , s_{twst}

For each shape evolution, we wish to calculate the evolution of the distribution of the correlated fragment spins, $P(\mathbf{s}_A, \mathbf{s}_B)$

Fokker-Planck equation for $P(\mathbf{s}_A, \mathbf{s}_B; t)$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} P = - \sum_i \frac{\partial}{\partial s_i} V_i P + \sum_{ij} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial s_i \partial s_j} D_{ij} P$$

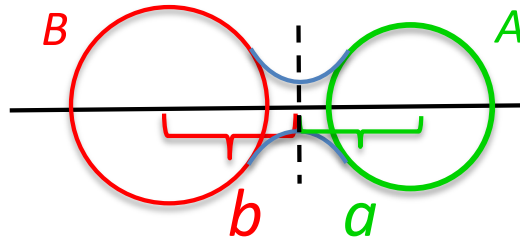
Drift coefficient $V_i(\boldsymbol{\chi}) = \sum_j M_{ij}(\boldsymbol{\chi}) f_j$ determines the *mean* evolution of $s_i(t)$: $\frac{d\bar{s}_i}{dt} = V_i(\bar{\boldsymbol{\chi}})$

Mobility coefficients

Diffusion coefficient $D_{ij}(\boldsymbol{\chi}) = M_{ij}(\boldsymbol{\chi}) T$ generates *correlated spin fluctuations* $\sigma_{ij}(t)$:

$$\sigma_{ij} \equiv \langle (s_i - \bar{s}_i)(s_j - \bar{s}_j) \rangle : \frac{d}{dt} \sigma_{ij} = 2D_{ij}(\bar{\boldsymbol{\chi}}) - \sum_k [\nu_{ik} \sigma_{kj} + \nu_{jk} \sigma_{ki}]$$

Mobility coefficients $M_{ij}(\chi)$



$$c_{\text{ave}}^2 = \frac{1}{2}c^2$$

$$a + b = R$$

Twisting

$$(s_A^{\parallel}, s_B^{\parallel}) : \quad \mathbf{M}_{AB}^{\parallel} = \frac{1}{4}m\rho\bar{v} \pi c^2 \begin{pmatrix} c_{\text{ave}}^2 & -c_{\text{ave}}^2 \\ -c_{\text{ave}}^2 & c_{\text{ave}}^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Wriggling
Bending

$$(s_{\text{wrig}}, s_{\text{bend}}) : \quad \mathbf{M}_{\pm} = \frac{1}{4}m\rho\bar{v} \pi c^2 \begin{pmatrix} R^2 & R\delta \\ R\delta & \delta^2 + c_{\text{ave}}^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\delta = \frac{a\mathcal{I}_B - b\mathcal{I}_A}{\mathcal{I}_A + \mathcal{I}_B}$$

Individual
spins

$$(s_A^{\perp}, s_B^{\perp}) : \quad \mathbf{M}_{AB}^{\perp} = \frac{1}{4}m\rho\bar{v} \pi c^2 \begin{pmatrix} a^2 + c_{\text{ave}}^2 & ab - c_{\text{ave}}^2 \\ ab - c_{\text{ave}}^2 & b^2 + c_{\text{ave}}^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

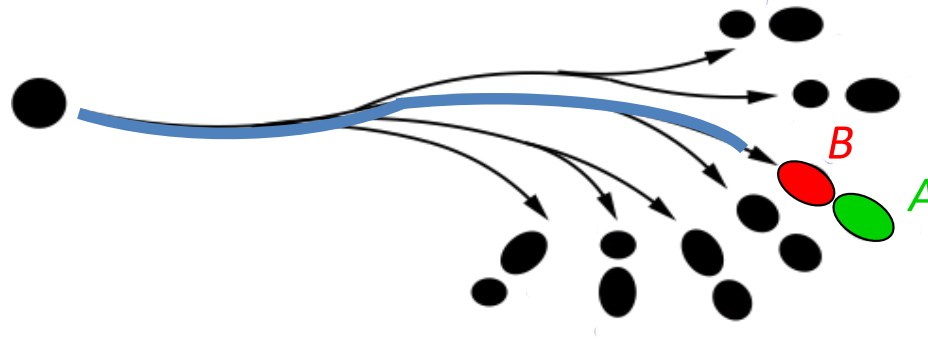
$$s_A = \frac{\mathcal{I}_A^{\perp}}{\mathcal{I}_A^{\perp} + \mathcal{I}_B^{\perp}} s_{\text{wrig}} + s_{\text{bend}}$$

$$s_B = \frac{\mathcal{I}_B^{\perp}}{\mathcal{I}_A^{\perp} + \mathcal{I}_B^{\perp}} s_{\text{wrig}} - s_{\text{bend}}$$

J. Randrup, Nucl. Phys. A **327** (1979) 490; **383** (1983) 468

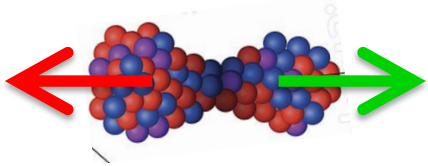
T. Døssing and J. Randrup, Nucl. Phys. A **433** (1985) 215

Results for a single shape evolution



Results for a single shape evolution:

Spin components along the fission axis



Twisting

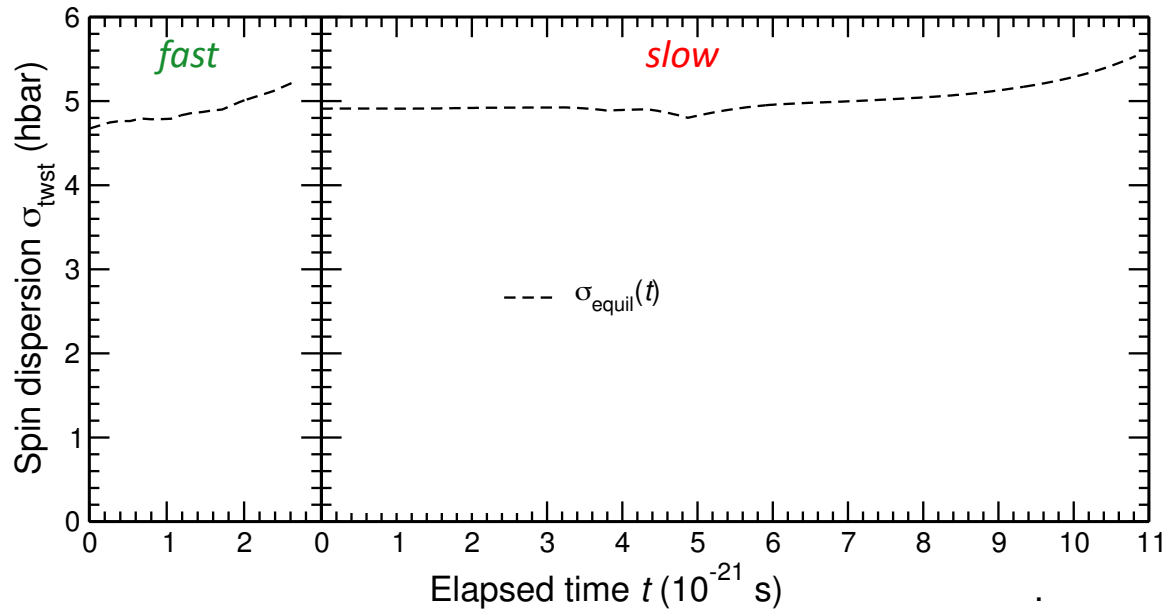
Moment of inertia:
$$\mathcal{I}_{\text{twst}} = \frac{\mathcal{I}_A^{\parallel} \mathcal{I}_B^{\parallel}}{\mathcal{I}_A^{\parallel} + \mathcal{I}_B^{\parallel}}$$

Equilibrium variance:
$$\tilde{\sigma}_{\text{twst}}^2 = \mathcal{I}_{\text{twst}} T$$

Individual fragments:

$$S_A = S_{\text{twst}}$$

$$S_B = -S_{\text{twst}}$$



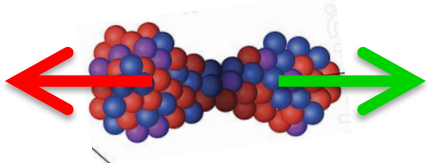
$$\sigma_A = \sigma_B = \sigma_{\text{twst}}$$

$$\sigma_{AB} = -\sigma_{\text{twst}}^2$$

$$M_{\text{twst}} = \frac{1}{4} m \rho \bar{v} \pi c^2 c_{\text{ave}}^2 \quad \mathbf{M}_{AB}^{\parallel} = \frac{1}{4} m \rho \bar{v} \pi c^2 \begin{pmatrix} c_{\text{ave}}^2 & -c_{\text{ave}}^2 \\ -c_{\text{ave}}^2 & c_{\text{ave}}^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

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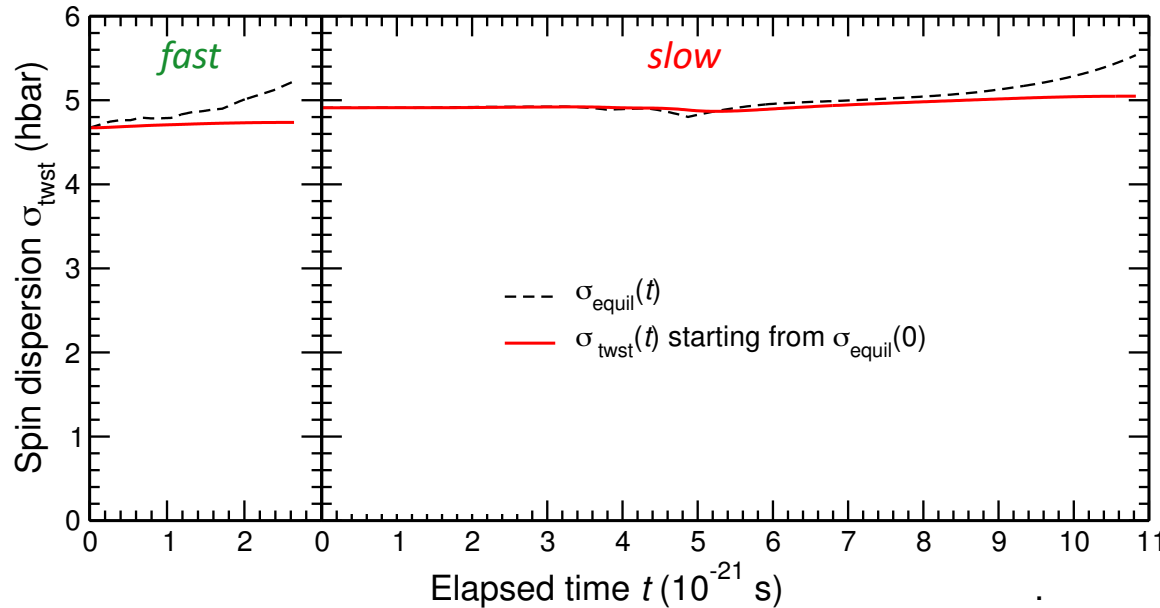
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$$\sigma_A = \sigma_B = \sigma_{\text{twst}}$$

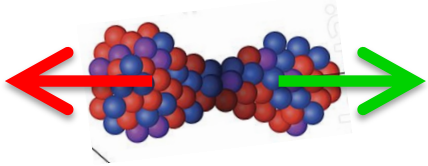
$$\sigma_{AB} = -\sigma_{\text{twst}}^2$$

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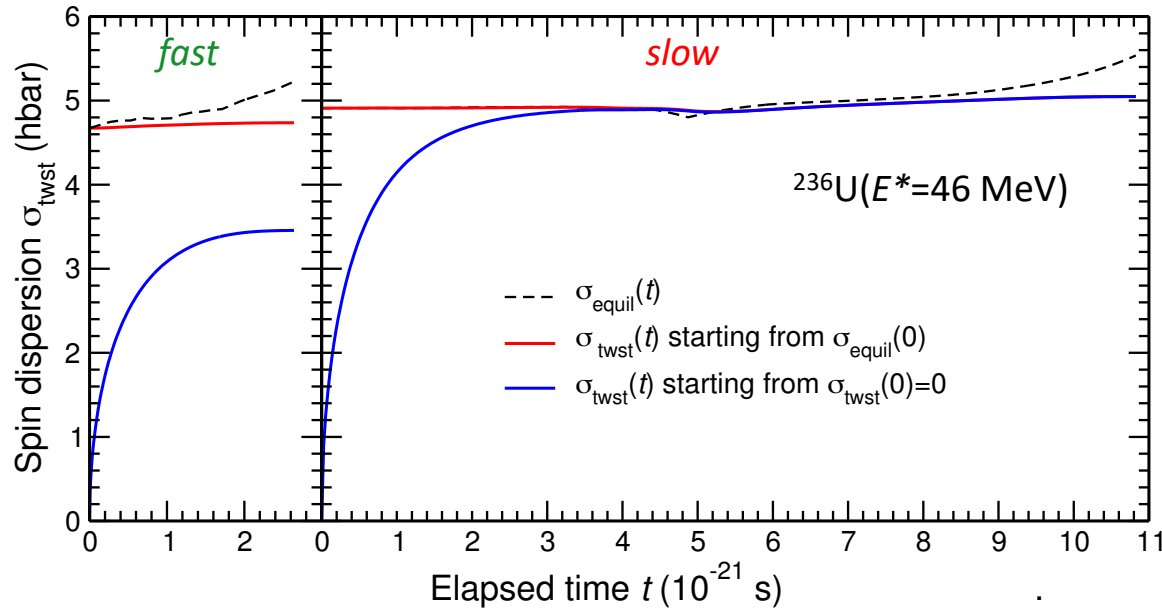
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Equilibrium variance: $\tilde{\sigma}_{\text{twst}}^2 = \mathcal{I}_{\text{twst}} T$

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$$S_B = -S_{\text{twst}}$$



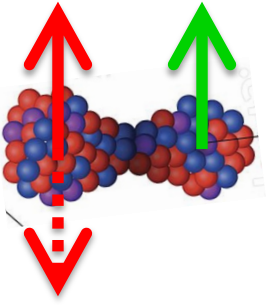
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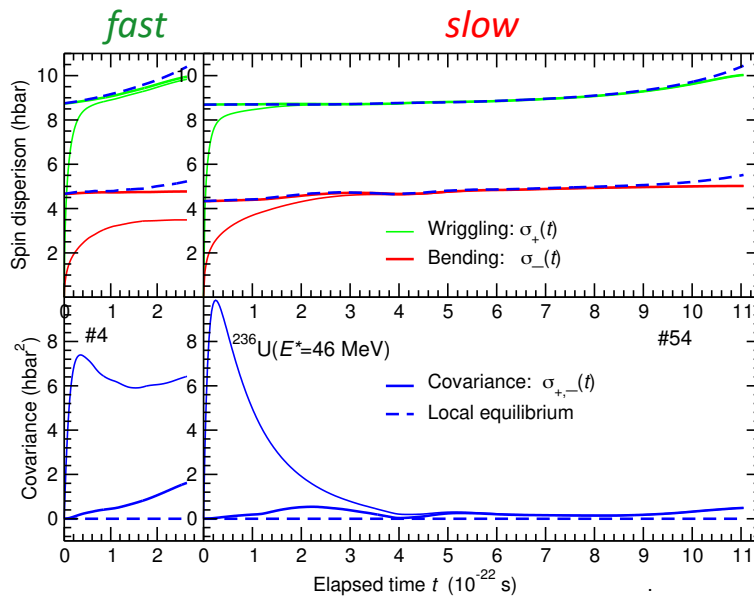
Spin components perpendicular to the fission axis



Wriggling & bending

$$\mathcal{I}_{\text{wrig}} = \frac{(\mathcal{I}_A^\perp + \mathcal{I}_B^\perp) \mathcal{I}_R}{\mathcal{I}_A^\perp + \mathcal{I}_B^\perp + \mathcal{I}_R} \quad \tilde{\sigma}_{\text{wrig}}^2 = \mathcal{I}_{\text{wrig}} T$$

$$\mathcal{I}_{\text{bend}} = \frac{\mathcal{I}_A^\perp \mathcal{I}_B^\perp}{\mathcal{I}_A^\perp + \mathcal{I}_B^\perp} \quad \tilde{\sigma}_{\text{bend}}^2 = \mathcal{I}_{\text{bend}} T$$

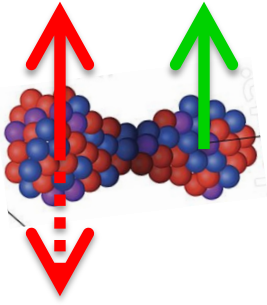


$$\mathbf{M}_{\pm} = \frac{1}{4} m \rho \bar{v} \pi c^2 \begin{pmatrix} R^2 & R\delta \\ R\delta & \delta^2 + c_{\text{ave}}^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\delta = (a\mathcal{I}_B - b\mathcal{I}_A) / (\mathcal{I}_A + \mathcal{I}_B) \text{ small}$$

Results for a single shape evolution:

Spin components perpendicular to the fission axis



Wriggling & bending

$$\mathcal{I}_{\text{wrig}} = \frac{(\mathcal{I}_A^\perp + \mathcal{I}_B^\perp) \mathcal{I}_R}{\mathcal{I}_A^\perp + \mathcal{I}_B^\perp + \mathcal{I}_R}$$

$$\tilde{\sigma}_{\text{wrig}}^2 = \mathcal{I}_{\text{wrig}} T$$

$$\tilde{\sigma}_{\text{wrig, bend}} = 0$$

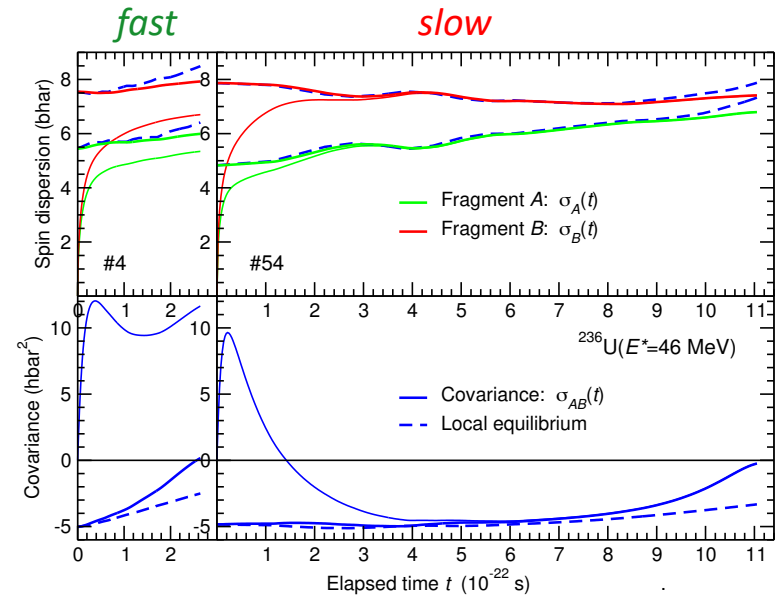
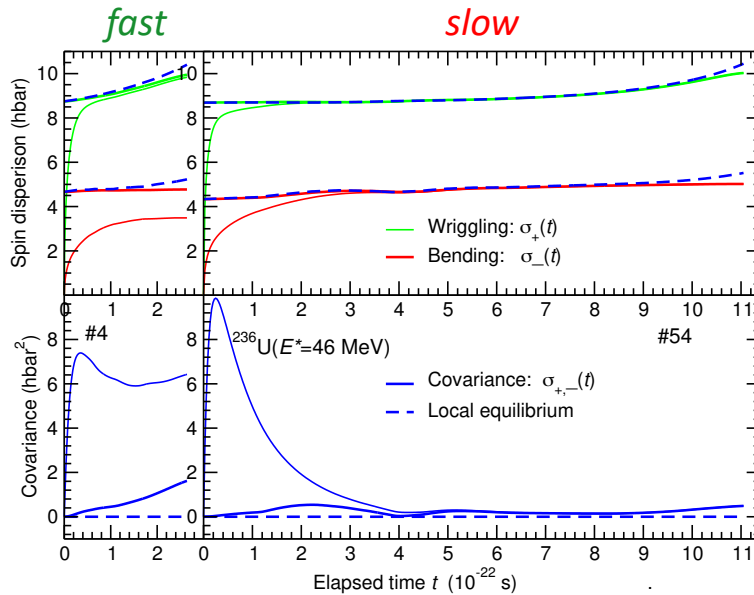
$$\mathcal{I}_{\text{bend}} = \frac{\mathcal{I}_A^\perp \mathcal{I}_B^\perp}{\mathcal{I}_A^\perp + \mathcal{I}_B^\perp}$$

$$\tilde{\sigma}_{\text{bend}}^2 = \mathcal{I}_{\text{bend}} T$$

Individual fragments:

$$\mathbf{s}_A = \frac{\mathcal{I}_A^\perp}{\mathcal{I}_A^\perp + \mathcal{I}_B^\perp} \mathbf{s}_{\text{wrig}} + \mathbf{s}_{\text{bend}}$$

$$\mathbf{s}_B = \frac{\mathcal{I}_B^\perp}{\mathcal{I}_A^\perp + \mathcal{I}_B^\perp} \mathbf{s}_{\text{wrig}} - \mathbf{s}_{\text{bend}}$$

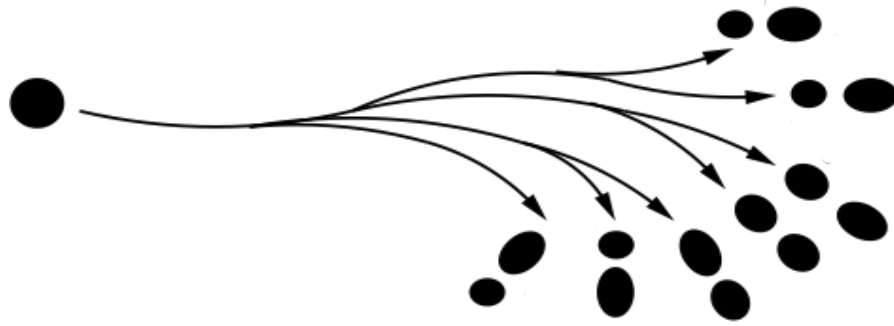


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$$\delta = (a\mathcal{I}_B - b\mathcal{I}_A) / (\mathcal{I}_A + \mathcal{I}_B) \text{ small}$$

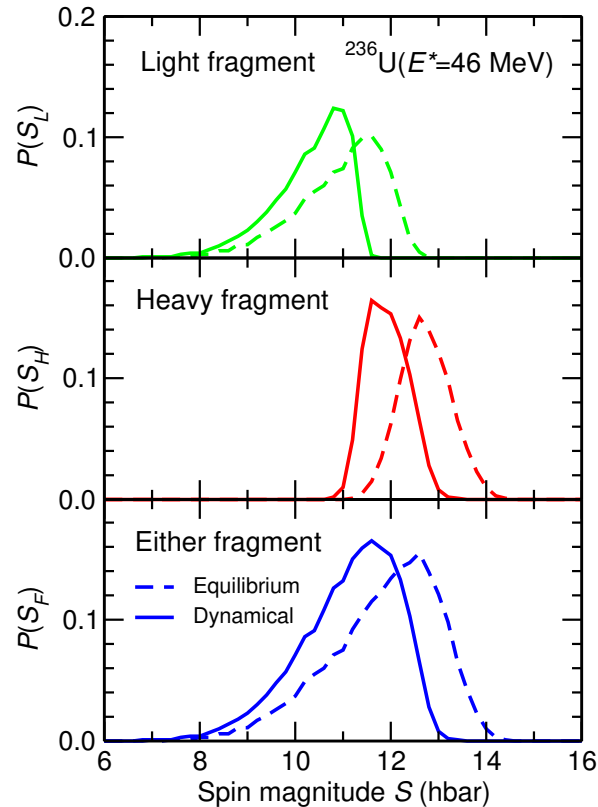
$$\mathbf{M}_{AB}^\perp = \frac{1}{4} m \rho \bar{v} \pi c^2 \begin{pmatrix} a^2 + c_{\text{ave}}^2 & ab - c_{\text{ave}}^2 \\ ab - c_{\text{ave}}^2 & b^2 + c_{\text{ave}}^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Results for an ensemble of evolutions



Results for an ensemble of evolutions:

Fragment spin magnitude

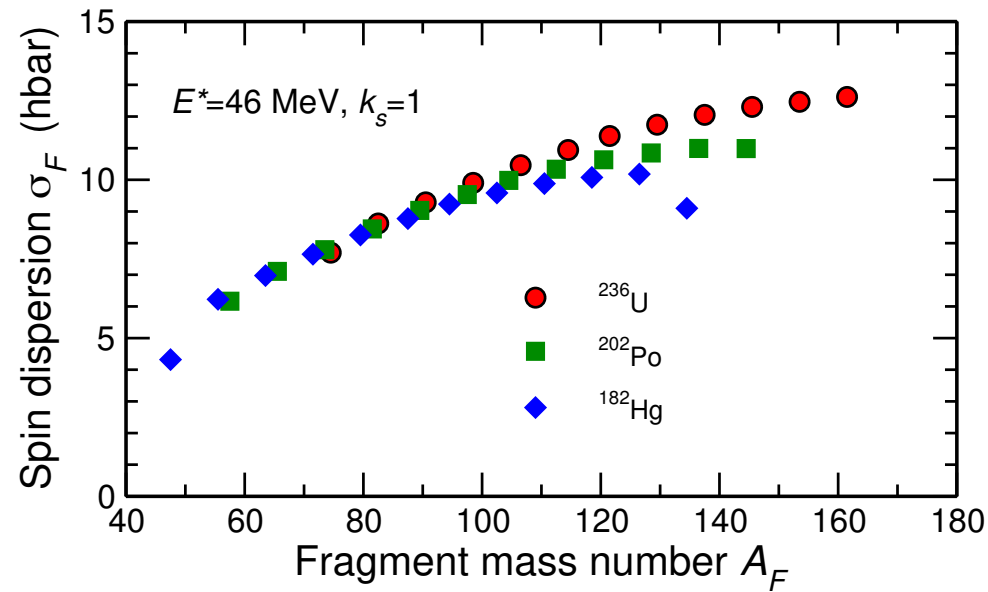


The fragment spins *relax quickly* to the local equilibrium values throughout most of the evolution from saddle towards scission

But near scission the spin equilibrium magnitudes grow rapidly (due to the increasing temperature), while the mobility coefficients decrease (because the neck closes), so the dynamical spin evolution effectively *freezes out* before scission, leading to smaller magnitudes

Results for an ensemble of evolutions:

Mass dependence of spin magnitude

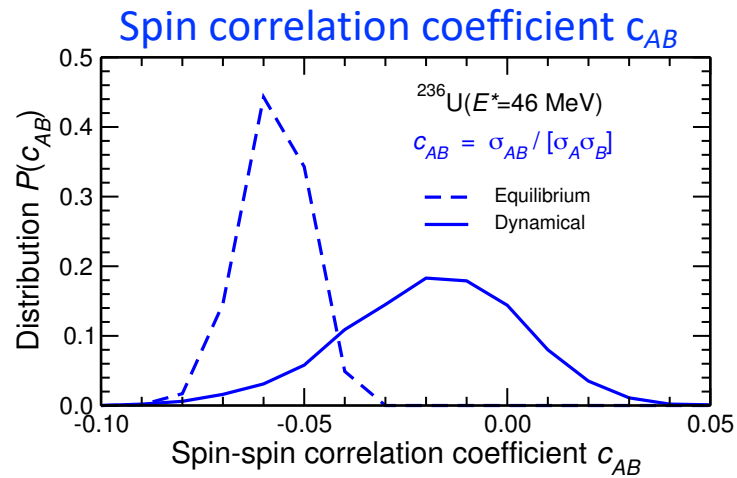
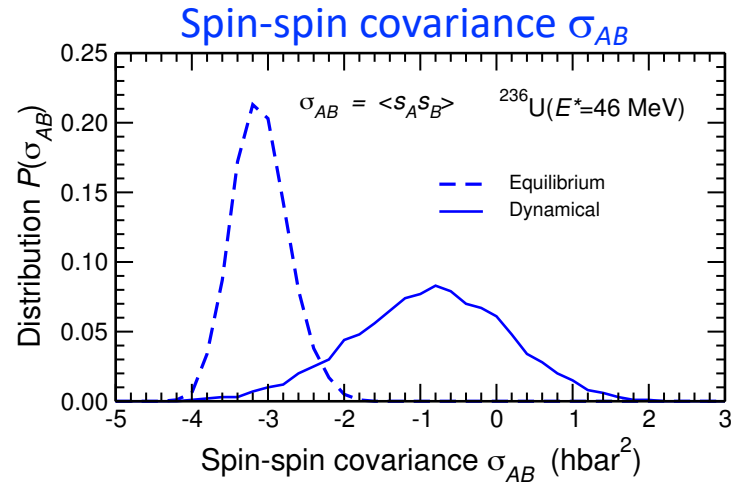


Gating on fragment mass may be informative

Can be measured!

Results for an ensemble of evolutions:

Fragment spin correlation



The spin-spin correlation is quite **small** in equilibrium
and it is even smaller when generated dynamically
=> The fragment spins are practically **uncorrelated** ←

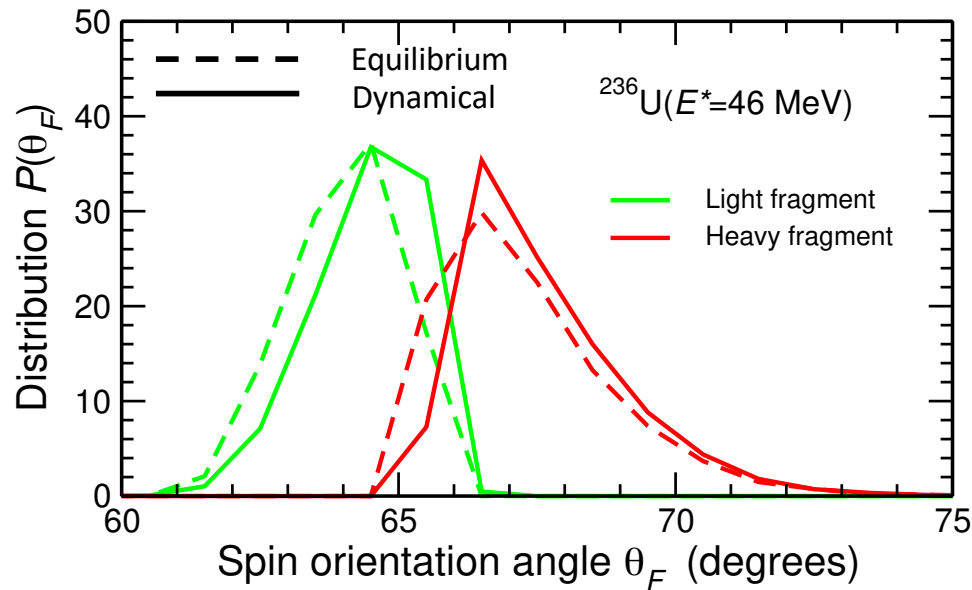
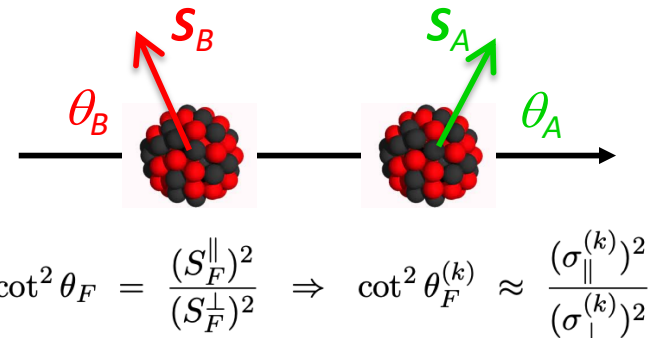
J. Wilson *et al.*,
Nature **590** (2021)

Results for an ensemble of evolutions:

Fragment spin orientation

J.B. Whelmy *et al.*,
Phys. Rev. C **5**, 2041 (1972):

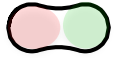
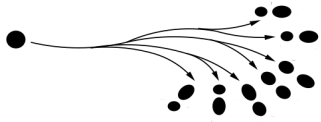
The fragment spins are
approximately perpendicular
to the fission direction



~~Should be measured~~ ->
[Henrik Haug]

While the spin orientation angle θ_F is large,
it is significantly smaller than 90° ,
both in equilibrium and dynamically

Effect of nucleon exchange on fission fragment angular momenta



Generate ensembles of shape evolutions by **Langevin** simulation 10^4

Obtain the correlated fragment spin evolution $P^{(k)}(\mathbf{S}_A, \mathbf{S}_B; t)$
 In each from the **Nucleon Exchange** transport model: $\mathbf{M}_{AB}(t)$

Wrigling **fast**
 Bending **slow**
 Twisting **Slower**

The fragment spins **relax** to the local equilibrium values throughout most of the evolution from saddle towards scission

But near scission the spin equilibrium magnitudes grow rapidly (due to the increasing temperature), while the mobility coefficients decrease (because the neck closes), so the dynamical spin evolution effectively **freezes out** before scission, resulting in smaller magnitudes

Gating on fragment **mass** may be informative

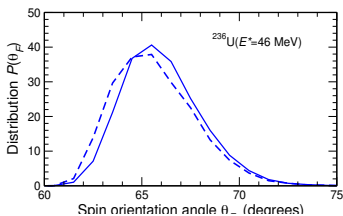
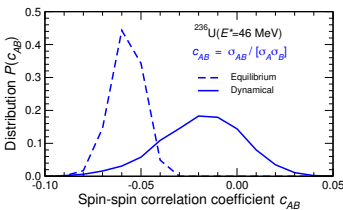
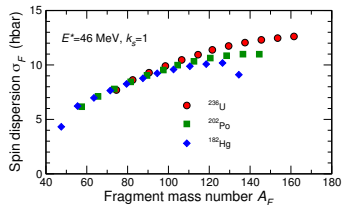
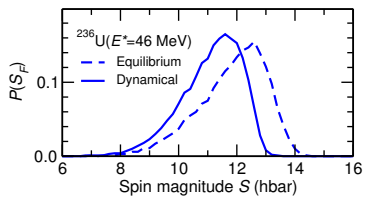
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J. Wilson et al.,
 Nature **590** (2021)

The spin orientation angle θ_F is about 70° , both in equilibrium and dynamically

Can be measured!

[Henrik Haug]



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Effect of nucleon exchange on fission fragment angular momenta

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in collaboration with

Pavel Nadtochy, Christelle Schmitt, and Katarzyna Mazurek



Thank You!