

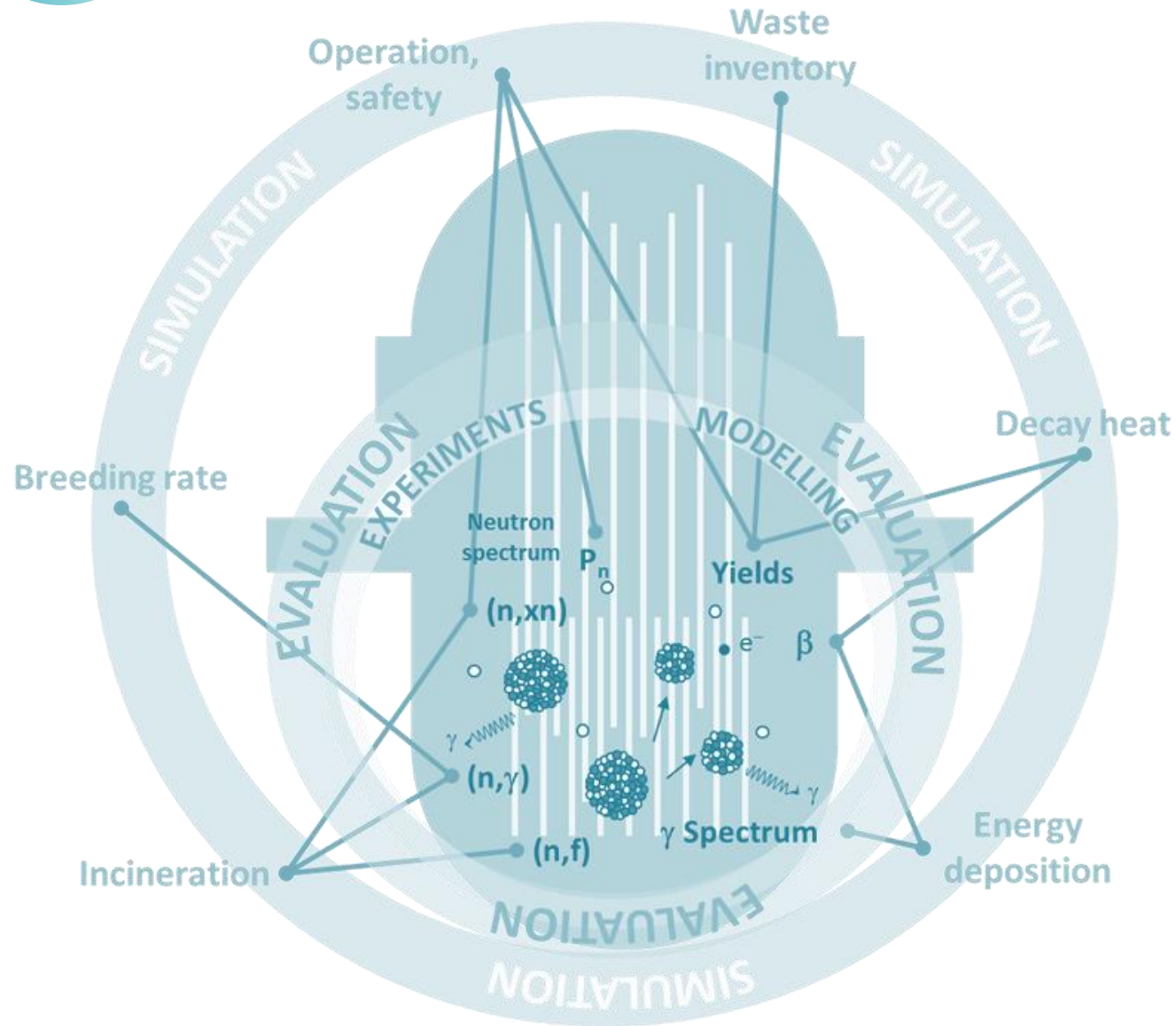


# NUCLEAR DATA FOR FISSION TECHNOLOGIES

Maëlle Kerveno



# NUCLEAR DATA FOR FISSION TECHNOLOGIES



**A broad subject!**

Which I'm going to tackle  
from my point of view as an experimentalist



# OUTLINE



## NUCLEAR DATA FOR FISSION TECHNOLOGIES

What are we talking about?



## DEFINITION OF NEEDS



## EXPERIMENTAL CHALLENGES (A FEW)



## BUILDING BRIDGES!

# OUTLINE



## NUCLEAR DATA FOR FISSION TECHNOLOGIES

What are we talking about?



DEFINITION OF NEEDS



EXPERIMENTAL CHALLENGES (A FEW)

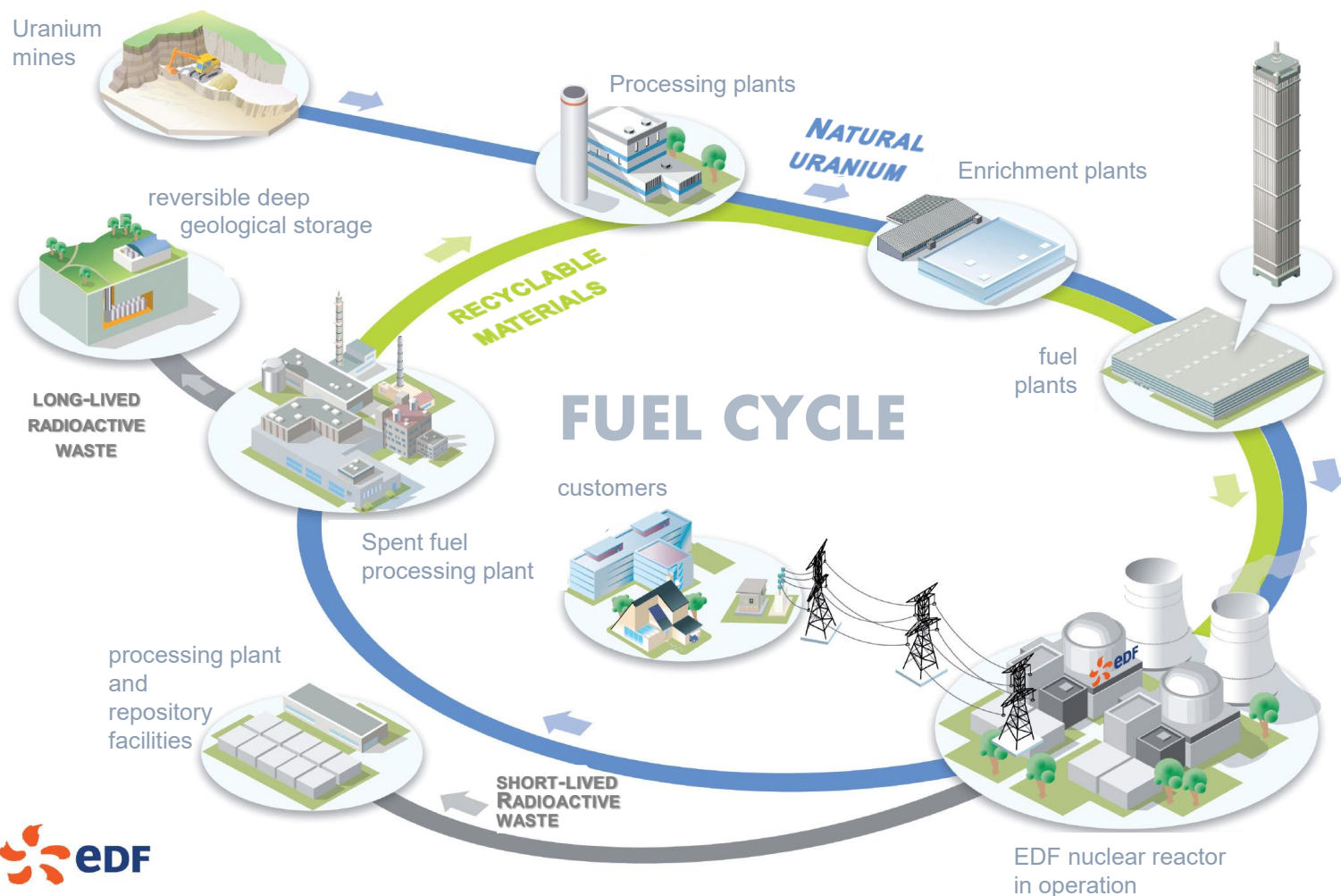


BUILDING BRIDGES!

# NUCLEAR DATA FOR FISSION TECHNOLOGIES



« fission technologies » cover





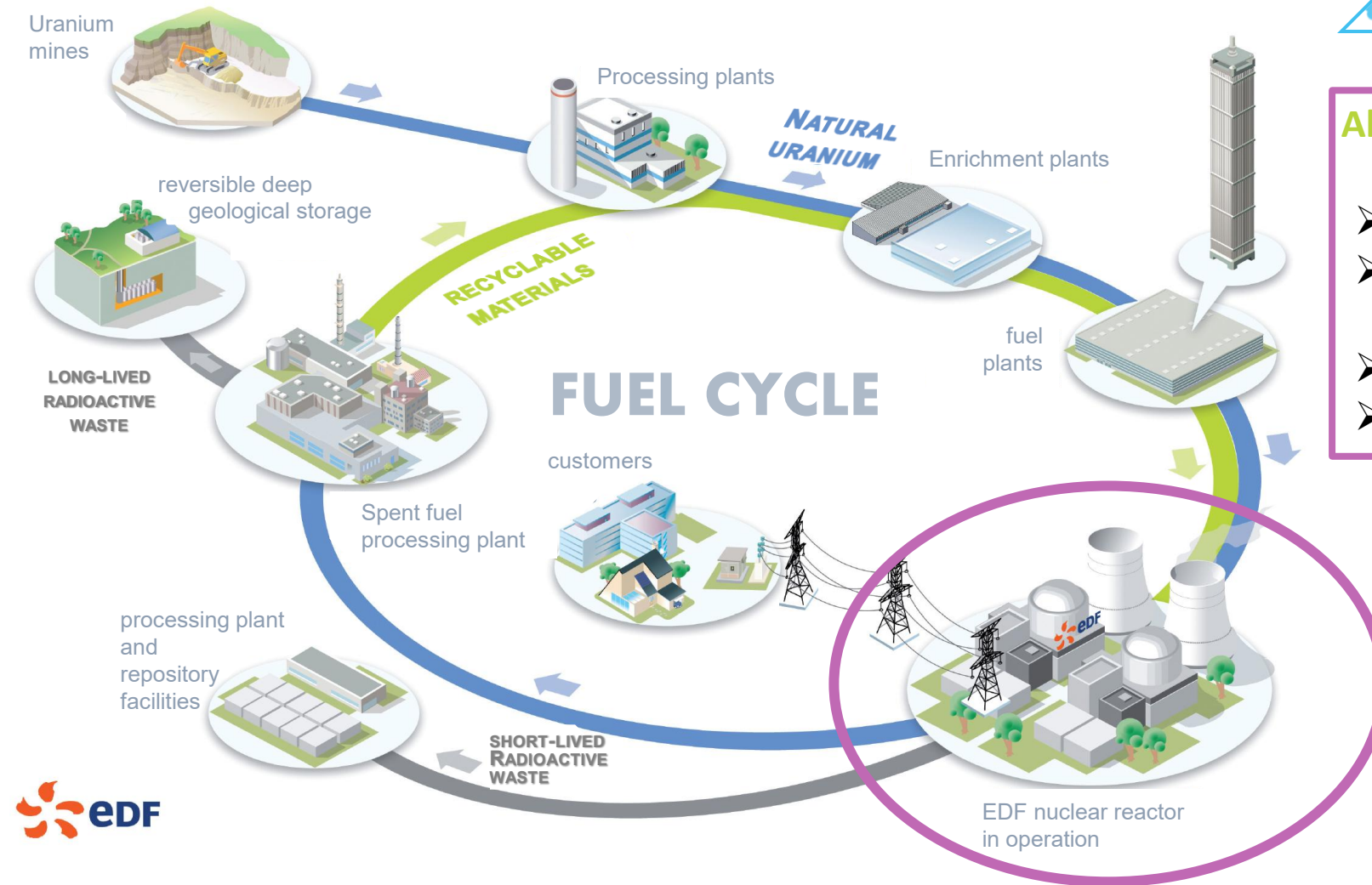
# NUCLEAR DATA FOR FISSION TECHNOLOGIES



« fission technologies » cover

All reactor types :

- GEN III – LWR, BWR, HWR
- GEN IV – based on lead and sodium coolants, molten salts, ADS and SMR, AMR
- Research
- Propulsion systems



# NUCLEAR DATA FOR FISSION TECHNOLOGIES



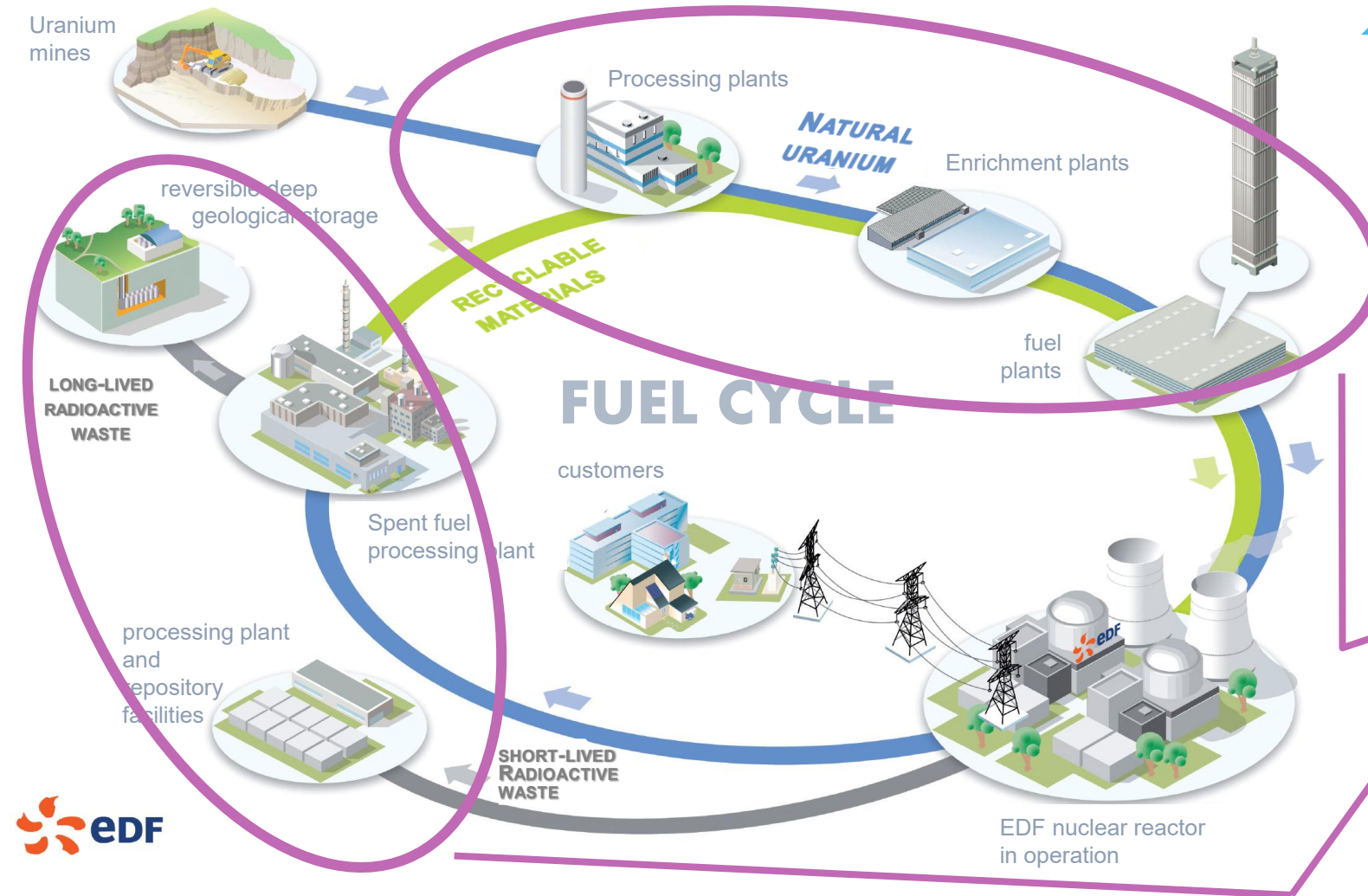
## « fission technologies » cover

### All reactor types :

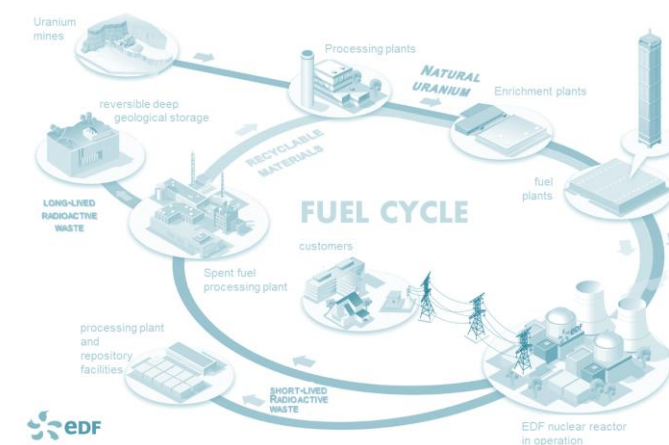
- GEN III – LWR
- GEN IV – based on lead and sodium coolants, molten salts, ADS and SMR, AMR
- Research
- Propulsion systems

### What ever reactor types :

- Fuel management  
[production, transport, storage, burnup, etc]
- Spent fuel management  
[transport, reprocessing, storage, disposal, etc]
- Radioprotection, safety, decommissioning etc



# NUCLEAR DATA FOR FISSION TECHNOLOGIES



## All the fuel cycle steps can/must be simulated

to answer to the safety authority requests & for economical issues  
to study/design new reactor concepts & fuel cycles

### Ex – reactors currently in operation :

for safety authorities, several quantities have to be calculated with uncertainty,  
for various conditions (starting, stopping, during cycle and in accidental conditions)

- $K_{eff}$  (neutron multiplication factor)
- Power distribution in the reactor core
- Counter-reaction effects (doppler, temperature, void, moderator)
- Control rod efficiency
- Power/Activity factor
- Consumable poison
- Isotopic inventory
- Cycle length
- $\gamma$  heating
- Reflector effect
- Radiotoxicity
- Residual power
- Radiation damages

### Ex – future reactors :

for the studies, design & licensing, these quantities have to be calculated too



# NUCLEAR DATA FOR FISSION TECHNOLOGIES



The calculation/assessment of these quantities depends on **2 main parameters** :  
the **neutron flux** and the **evolution of nuclides** which are described by **2 equations**

The story of a balance sheet : what is created, what disappears?

## Neutron population

is described by  
the **Boltzmann** equation

$$\left[ \frac{1}{v} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \hat{\Omega} \cdot \vec{\nabla} + \Sigma \right] \psi(\vec{r}, E, \hat{\Omega}, t) \\ = \int dE' \int d\hat{\Omega}' \Sigma_s(\vec{r}, E' \rightarrow E, \hat{\Omega}' \rightarrow \hat{\Omega}) \psi(\vec{r}, E', \hat{\Omega}', t) \\ + \sum_x \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_0^\infty dE' \chi_s(\vec{r}, E' \rightarrow E) \nu_x(E', E) \Sigma_{f,x}(E', \vec{r}) \phi(\vec{r}, E') \\ + S_{ext}(\vec{r}, E, \hat{\Omega}, t)$$

&

## Nuclide evolution

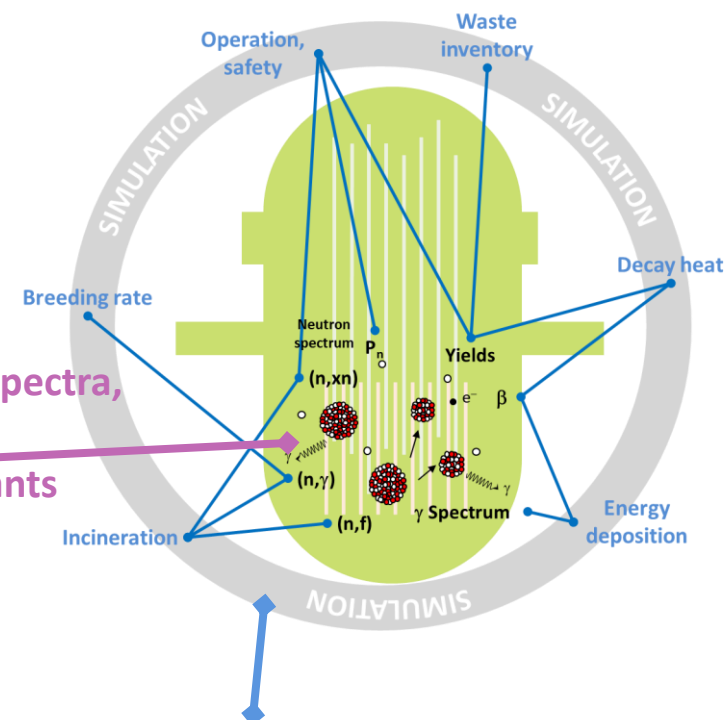
is described by  
the **Bateman** equations

$$\frac{dc}{dt} = ([\sigma]\psi + [\lambda])c(t); \\ c(t_0) = c_0$$



The **coefficient** are numbers called « **nuclear data** »  
related to nuclear physics process and constants.

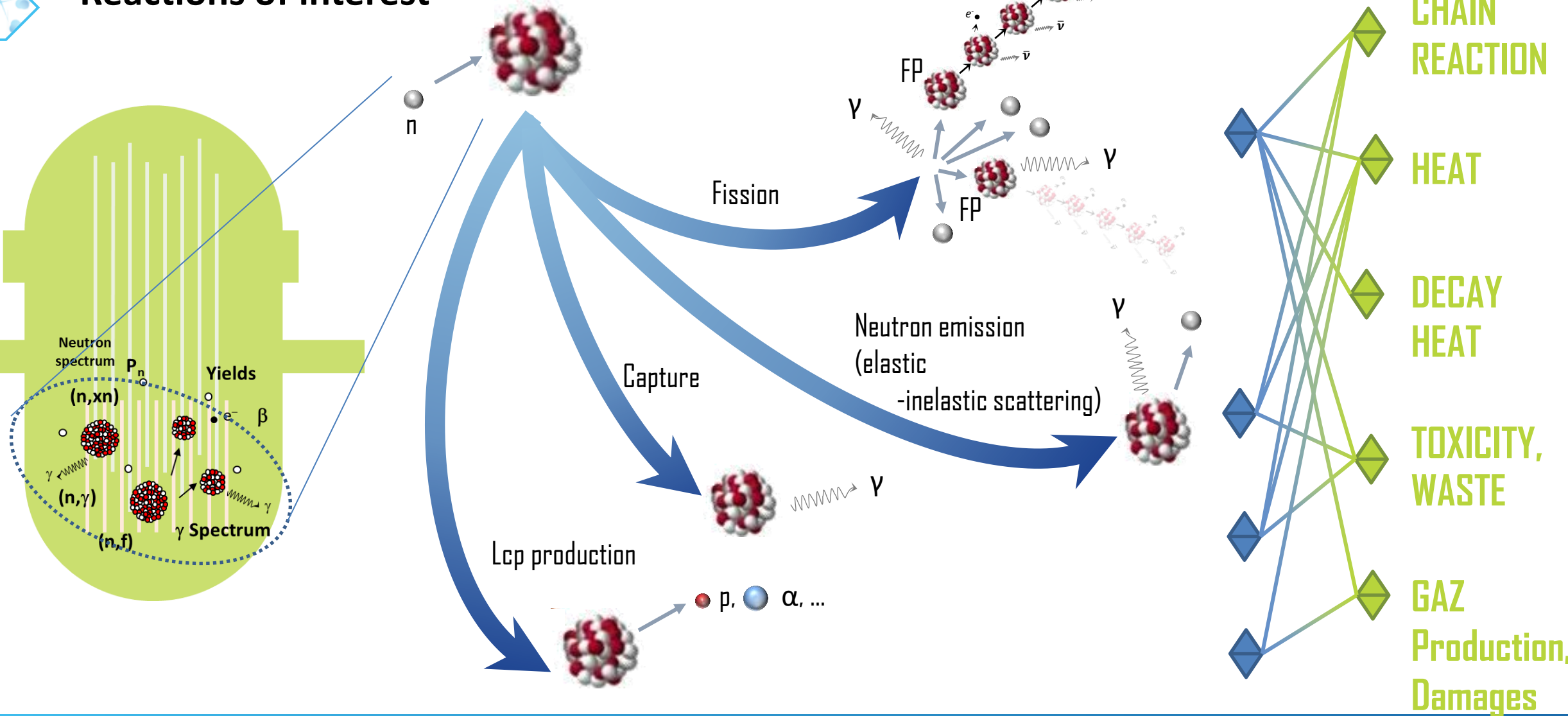
Reaction cross section,  
fission yields,  
neutron and  $\gamma$  multiplicity & spectra,  
decay data,  
total radioactive decay constants



$k_{eff}$ , power distribution, isotopic inventory,  
cycle length,  $\gamma$  heating, etc.

# NUCLEAR DATA FOR FISSION TECHNOLOGIES

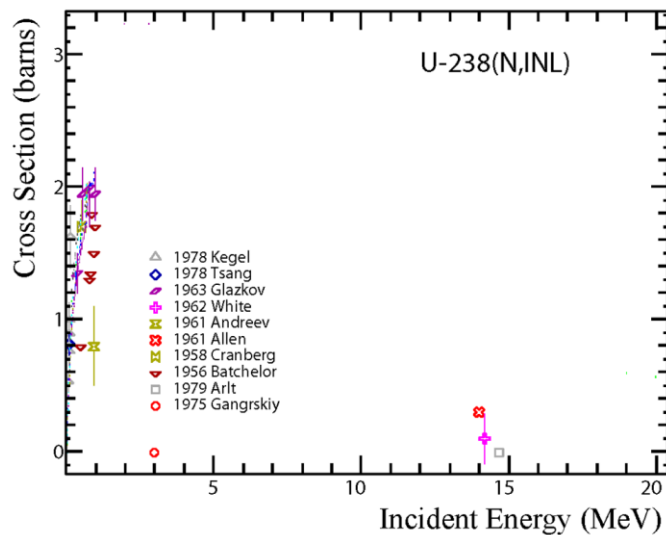
## Reactions of interest



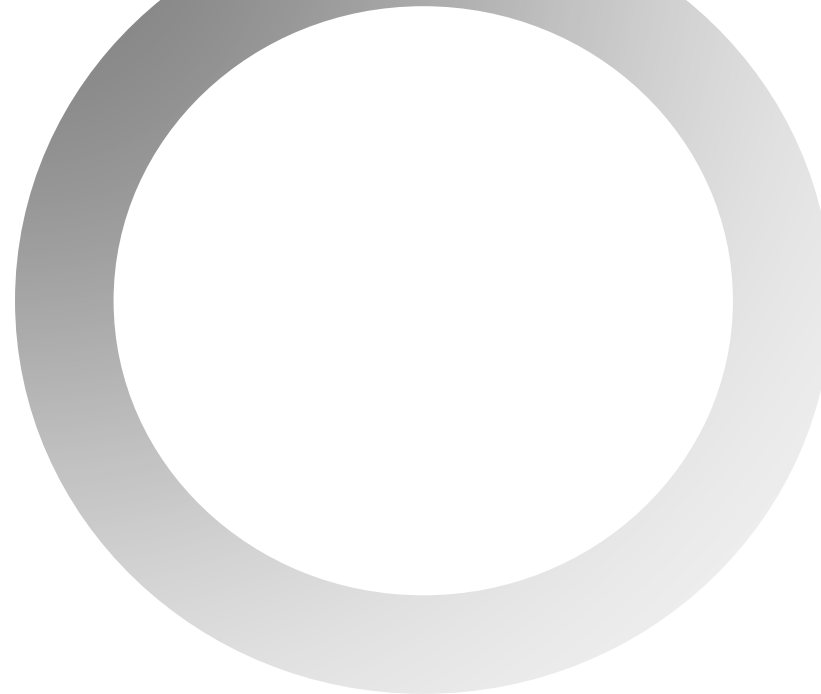
# NUCLEAR DATA FOR FISSION TECHNOLOGIES



A short reminder :  
evaluated nuclear data (“numbers”)



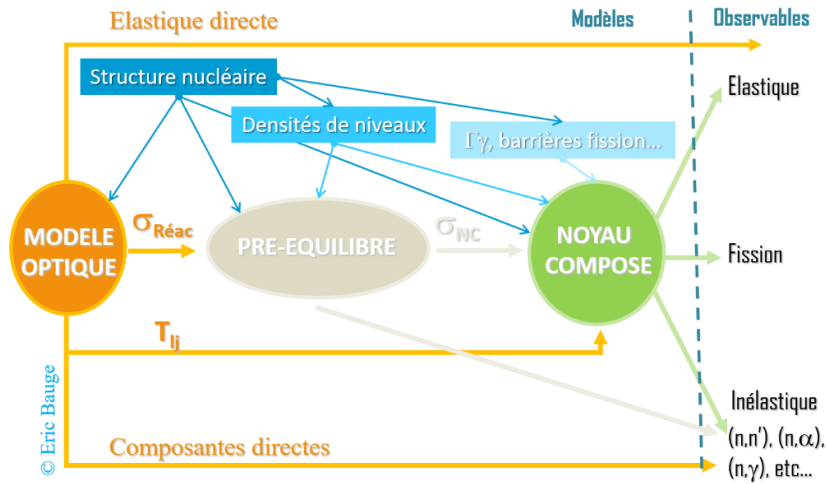
Experimental Data  
Differential



# NUCLEAR DATA FOR FISSION TECHNOLOGIES



A short reminder :  
evaluated nuclear data (“numbers”)



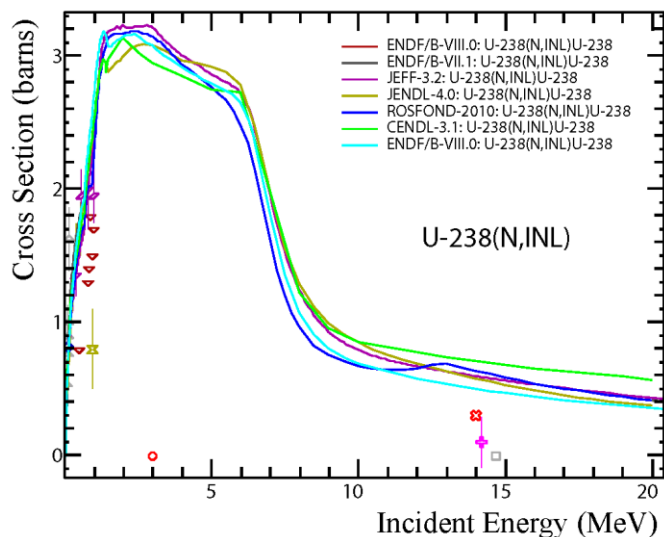
Experimental Data  
Differential

Theoretical Models

# NUCLEAR DATA FOR FISSION TECHNOLOGIES



A short reminder :  
evaluated nuclear data (“numbers”)



Evaluated data must be :  
**Robust** – defined with uncertainties & covariance matrices,  
repeatable, traceability

Experimental Data  
Differential & semi/integral

Theoretical Models

Evaluated Data

```
6.215100+4 1.496234+2 0 0 0 06210 3 16 350
-5.596445+6 -5.596445+6 0 0 1 1336210 3 16 351
133 2 6210 3 16 352
5.633849+6 0.000000+0 5.700000+6 1.580180-3 5.800000+6 6.073681-36210 3 16 353
5.900000+6 1.347960-2 6.000000+6 2.690410-2 6.100000+6 4.687551-26210 3 16 354
6.200000+6 7.598900-2 6.300000+6 1.119810-1 6.400000+6 1.518520-16210 3 16 355
6.500000+6 2.016680-1 6.600000+6 2.528690-1 6.700000+6 3.144490-16210 3 16 356
6.800000+6 3.780410-1 6.900000+6 4.433380-1 7.000000+6 5.136740-16210 3 16 357
7.100000+6 5.833950-1 7.200000+6 6.576591-1 7.300000+6 7.306390-16210 3 16 358
7.400000+6 8.035710-1 7.500000+6 8.746620-1 7.600000+6 9.434911-16210 3 16 359
7.700000+6 1.010920+0 7.800000+6 1.078550+0 7.900000+6 1.140340+06210 3 16 360
8.000000+6 1.202710+0 8.100000+6 1.257750+0 8.200000+6 1.313880+06210 3 16 361
8.300000+6 1.367080+0 8.400000+6 1.416210+0 8.500000+6 1.463580+06210 3 16 362
8.600000+6 1.506400+0 8.700000+6 1.546900+0 8.800000+6 1.586770+06210 3 16 363
8.900000+6 1.623670+0 9.000000+6 1.656720+0 9.100000+6 1.687830+06210 3 16 364
9.200000+6 1.717430+0 9.300000+6 1.745200+0 9.400000+6 1.771480+06210 3 16 365
9.500000+6 1.796050+0 9.600000+6 1.817200+0 9.700000+6 1.837290+06210 3 16 366
9.800000+6 1.858090+0 9.900000+6 1.876590+0 1.000000+7 1.893530+06210 3 16 367
```



# NUCLEAR DATA FOR FISSION TECHNOLOGIES



A short reminder :  
evaluated nuclear data (“numbers”)



BENCHMARKING



Jezebel  
 $^{239}\text{Pu}$  critical sphere



Evaluated data must be :

**Robust** – defined with uncertainties & covariance matrices,  
repeatable, traceability

**Validated** – experimentally, useable for applications

Experimental Data

Differential & semi/integral

Theoretical Models

Evaluated Data

Applications

# OUTLINE



## NUCLEAR DATA FOR FISSION TECHNOLOGIES

What are we talking about?



## DEFINITION OF NEEDS



## EXPERIMENTAL CHALLENGES (A FEW)



## BUILDING BRIDGES!

# DEFINITION OF NEEDS



## Sensitivity studies

### System modeling f

Input parameters  $P$

Parameter uncertainty  $\Delta p/p$   
( $=C_p$ )



For an operation domain,  
Design & safety quantity  $Q$ ,  
With target uncertainty  $C_Q$   
(margins)

Sensitivity coefficient :  
 $S = p / Q \times (\partial Q / \partial p)$

$$Q = f(p)$$

**Sensitivity analysis** (perturbation) :

**Output requirement**  $C_Q$  -> **quality requirement** on **nuclear data** input  $P$

**ND uncertainty + uncertainty propagation**

-> **assessment of ND improvement needs**

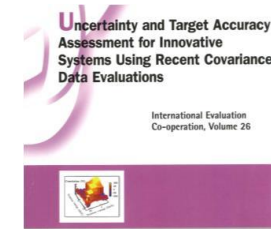


## Target accuracy requirements

□ First reference work made by SG 26 (2008)

For 8 nuclear systems

- ABTR, EFR, SFR (Na) } Fast reactors
- LFR, ADMAB (Pb) }
- GFR (gas)
- PWR } Thermal reactors
- VHTR }



M. Salvatores and R. Jacqmin.  
Nuclear Science-  
NEA/WPEC-26, Vol. 26, NEA No  
6410., 2008.

□ Updated in 2023 by SG 46 – TAR exercise  
with other reactor types

- MACRE, Moltex, Alfred, Astrid, ESFR, JSFR, Nuscale, MYRRHA

Oscar Cabellos and Mathieu Hursin.  
NEA/WPEC-26, Vol. 46, NEA No xxx., 2023.

# DEFINITION OF NEEDS



## List of requirements

### Cross section, nubar

SG26 & 46 : very tight target accuracy (%)  
requirements for several reactions & nuclides  
HPRL : fed partially by the above mentioned work

NEA Nuclear Data High Priority Request List

HPRL Main	High Priority Requests (HPR)	General Requests (GR)	Special Purpose Quantities (SPQ)		New Request	EG-HPRL (SG-C)
			Standard	Doasimetry		

Results of your search in the request list

Requests are shown from the following list(s):

High Priority (H)

Explanations of each column can be found in the table heads. To view the details of a request, please click on the **link** symbol after the request ID.  
To send a comment on a particular entry, please view the request, and click on the **letter** symbol there.

ID	View	Target	Reaction	Quantity	Energy range	Sec./Angle	Accuracy	Core Field	Date
2H		8-O-16	(n,a),(n,abs)	SG	2 MeV-20 MeV		See details	Y Fission	12-SEP-08
8H		1-H-2	(n,el)	DA/DE	0.1 MeV-1 MeV	0-180 Deg	5	Y Fission	16-APR-07
15H		95-M-241	(n,g),(n,tot)	SG	Thermal-Fast		See details	Fission	10-SEP-08
18H		92-U-238	(n,ini)	SG	0.5 keV-20 MeV		Emis spec.	Y Fission	11-SEP-08
19H		94-Pu-238	(n,f)	SG	9 keV-6 MeV		See details	Y Fission	11-SEP-08
22H		95-M-241	(n,f)	SG	180 keV-20 MeV		See details	Y Fission	11-SEP-08
23H		95-M-242m	(n,f)	SG	0.5 keV-6 MeV		See details	Y Fission	11-SEP-08
25H		96-Cm-244	(n,f)	SG	0.5 keV-6 MeV		See details	Y Fission	12-SEP-08
27H		96-Cm-245	(n,f)	SG	0.5 keV-6 MeV		See details	Y Fission	12-SEP-08
32H		94-Pu-239	(n,g)	SG	0.1 eV-1.35 MeV		See details	Y Fission	12-SEP-08
33H		94-Pu-241	(n,g)	SG	0.1 eV-1.35 MeV		See details	Y Fission	12-SEP-08
34H		26-FE-56	(n,ini)	SG	0.5 MeV-20 MeV		Emis spec.	Y Fission	12-SEP-08
35H		94-Pu-241	(n,f)	SG	0.5 eV-1.35 MeV		See details	Y Fission	12-SEP-08
37H		94-Pu-240	(n,f)	SG	0.5 keV-5 MeV		See details	Y Fission	15-SEP-08
38H		94-Pu-240	(n,f)	mdbar	200 keV-2 MeV		See details	Y Fission	15-SEP-08
39H		94-Pu-242	(n,f)	SG	200 keV-20 MeV		See details	Y Fission	15-SEP-08
42H		82-Pb-206	(n,ini)	SG	0.5 MeV-6 MeV		See details	Y Fission	15-SEP-08
42H		82-Pb-207	(n,ini)	SG	0.5 MeV-6 MeV		See details	Y Fission	15-SEP-08
45H		19-K-39	(n,p),(n,np)	SG	10 MeV-20 MeV		10	Y Fission	11-Jul-17
97H		24-Cr-50	(n,g)	SG	1 keV-100 keV		8-10	Y Fission	05-FEB-18
98H		24-Cr-53	(n,g)	SG	1 keV-100 keV		8-10	Y Fission	05-FEB-18
99H		94-Pu-239	(n,f)	mdbar	Thermal-5 eV		1	Y Fission	12-APR-18
102H		64-Gd-157	(n,g),(n,tot)	SG	Thermal-100 eV		4	Y Fission	09-MAY-18
103H		64-Gd-157	(n,g),(n,tot)	SG	Thermal-100 eV		4	Y Fission	09-MAY-18
114H		81-Bi-209	(n,g)BI-209g,m	BR	500 eV-300 keV		10	Y ADS,Fission	09-NOV-18
115H		94-Pu-239	(n,tot)	SG	Thermal-5 eV		1	Y Fission	08-APR-19
116H		3-Li-6	(d,x)He-7	SG	10 MeV-40 MeV		10	Y Fission	31-MAY-21
117H		3-Li-6	(d,x)He-3	SG,TTY	5 MeV-40 MeV		10	Y Fission	31-MAY-21
118H		68-Ge-107	(n,g)	SG,RP	0.81 eV-100 eV		2	Y Fission	30-AUG-21
119H		27-Al-35	(n,p)	SG	100 keV-5 MeV		5-8	Y Fission	17-APR-22

Number of requests found: 30 (out of a total of 112 requests).

<https://www.oecd-nea.org/dbdata/hprl/search.pl?vhp=on>



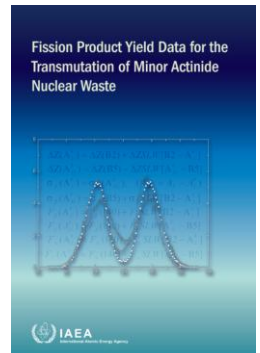
## Decay heat, $k_{\text{eff}}$ and reactivity vs burnup purposes

### Fission yields

Work done in successive IAEA CRP's

“Fission product yield data for the transmutation of minor actinide nuclear waste” (2008)

<https://www-nds.iaea.org/fycrpf/>



“Updating Fission Yield Data for Applications 2020-2025” [INDC\(NDS\)-0817;](https://doi.org/10.61092/iaea.qwbr-a6z9)

<https://doi.org/10.61092/iaea.qwbr-a6z9>

### decay data

Many IAEA CRP's works and documents



Essential tools & documentation to drive new measurements  
*Ex: 7 over the 11 (n,f) XS in HPRL have been measured at CERN n\_TOF*

# DEFINITION OF NEEDS



## Why do we still need new measurements? (summary)

- ❑ **New** experimental data  
where no or only rare data exists (e.g. GEN IV systems, SMR, AMR)
  - ❑ **More accurate** experimental data (e.g. evaluation puzzle, HPRL, SG26 & 46)
- } Directly driven by technological needs
- ❑ Experimental data for **nuclear model improvement**  
Need to provide a systematic to calibrate the model especially for nuclei for which measurement is difficult (short lifetime, radioactive FP, Actinides)





# OUTLINE



NUCLEAR DATA FOR FISSION TECHNOLOGIES  
What are we talking about?



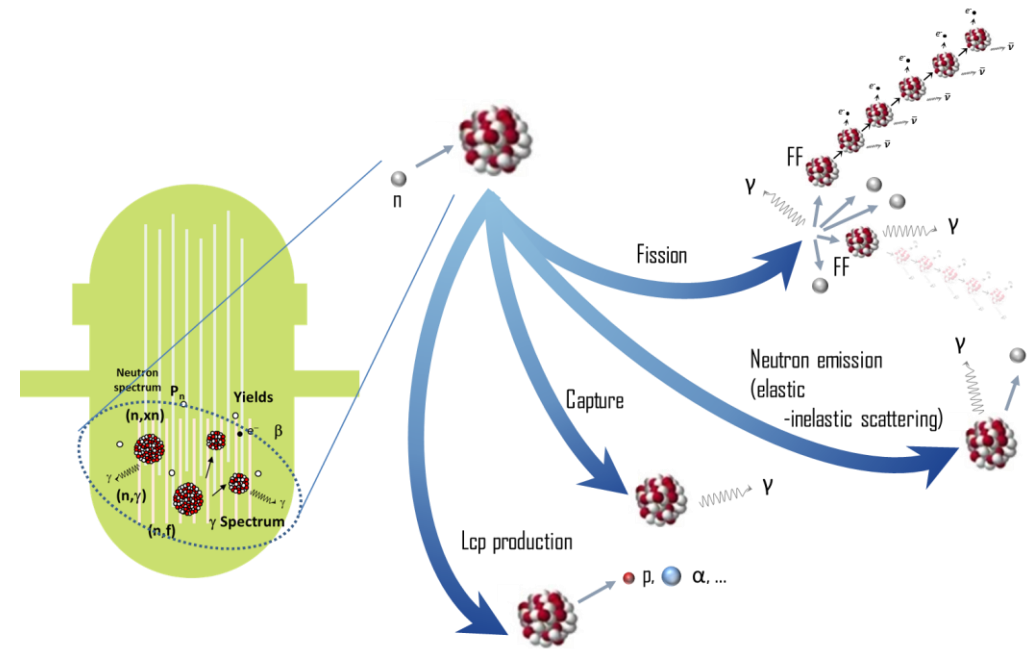
DEFINITION OF NEEDS



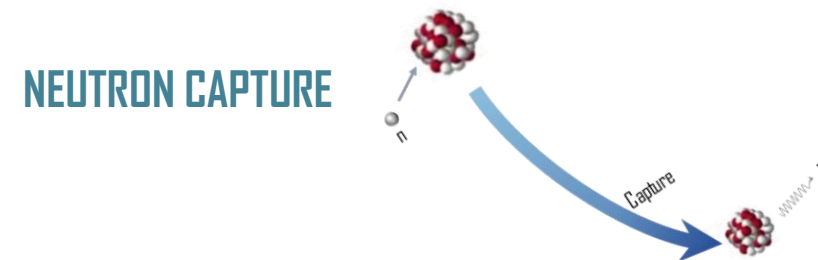
EXPERIMENTAL CHALLENGES (A FEW)



BUILDING BRIDGES!



# EXPERIMENTAL CHALLENGES (A FEW)



Impact on  $k_{\text{eff}}$ , production of long-lived actinides

Rather long list of requirements : See in ND2025

HPRL :  $^{239,241}\text{Pu}$  (2008);  $^{53,50}\text{Cr}$  (2008);  $^{155,157}\text{Gd}$  (2018);  $^{209}\text{Bi}$  (2018);  $^{167}\text{Er}$  (2021);  $^{233}\text{U}$  (2007);  $^{242}\text{Pu}$  (2007)

SG26 & 46 :  $^{235,238}\text{U}$ ;  $^{239,240,242}\text{Pu}$ ;  $^{241,242\text{m},243}\text{Am}$ ;  $^{244}\text{Cm}$

$^{239}\text{Pu}$

Important for next generation fast reactors (U/Pu cycle)  
or current reactors loaded with MOX fuel

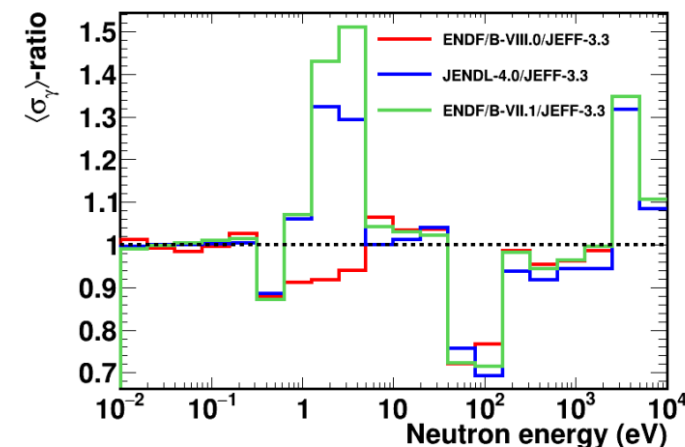
a few measurements (only 2 allowing resonances analysis, 1971, 2014)

Discrepancies between evaluations

Challenging measurement

- Discrimination of  $\gamma$ 's from fission
- Quality of the sample (reduce impurities)
- Robustness of detector ( $\alpha$  from  $^{239}\text{Pu}$ )
- Measurement on a broad energy range (th – 1 MeV)

Status of the  $^{239}\text{Pu}(n,\gamma)$  cross section



Ratio between the  $^{239}\text{Pu}(n,\gamma)$  cross sections of ENDF/B-VIII.0, JENDL-4.0 and ENDF/B-VII.1 and JEFF-3.3.

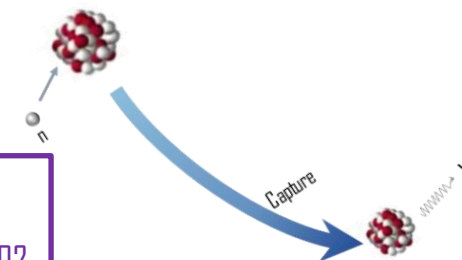
# EXPERIMENTAL CHALLENGES (A FEW)



## $^{239}\text{Pu}(n,\gamma)$ & $\alpha$ -ratio @ n\_TOF

CIEMAT, University of Lodz, JRC-Geel, and the n\_TOF collab

### NEUTRON CAPTURE



### See in ND2025

Adrian Sanchez Caballero *et al.* #102

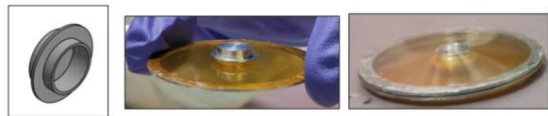
Aline Cahuzac #250  $^{241}\text{Pu}(n,\gamma)$



To meet the challenge :

**Fission tagging configuration up to 1 keV & Thick sample configuration**

- **NEW thick  $^{239}\text{Pu}$**  (100 mg) encapsulated sample (*Prepared by JRC-Geel*).



- **NEW fission chamber** (*University of Lodz*) with 10 x  $\sim 1\text{mg}$   $^{239}\text{Pu}$  targets (Mounted and tested with neutrons at JRC-Geel/GELINA).



- **NEW Li-doped neutron absorber**

(designed by CIEMAT and fabricated by CERN).

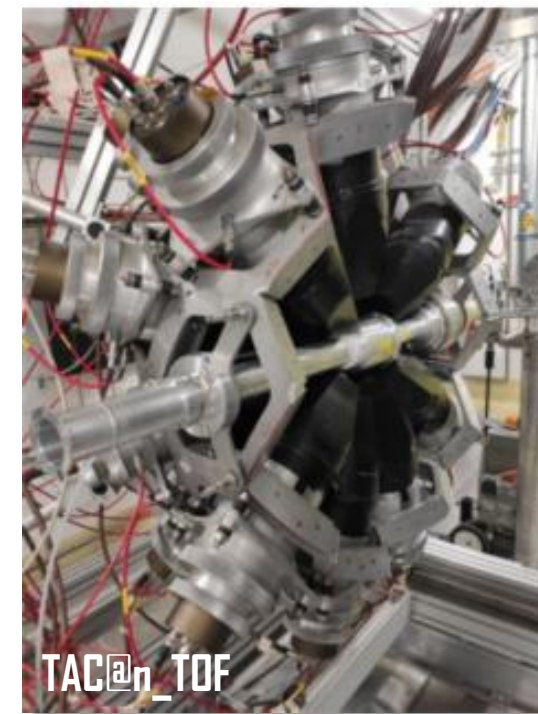
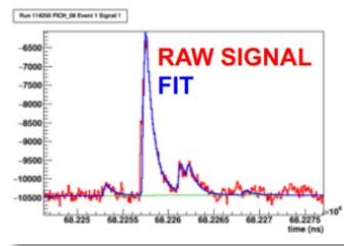
- **NEW pipes and structure material** for the FC inside the TAC

- **NEW pulse shape analysis** routine for both FC and TAC

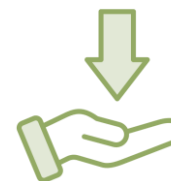
- **Expected uncertainties**

FTC :  $3\% < 100\text{ eV} < 4\text{-}6\% < 1\text{ keV}$  ;

TSC :  $100\text{ eV} < 3\text{-}4\% < 10\text{ keV}$ .



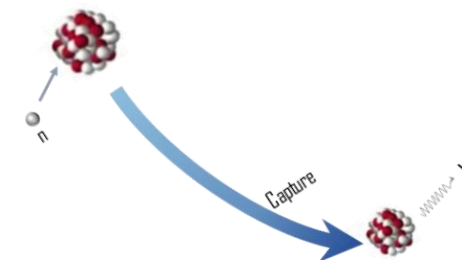
TAC@n\_TOF



**New  
& more accurate measurements**

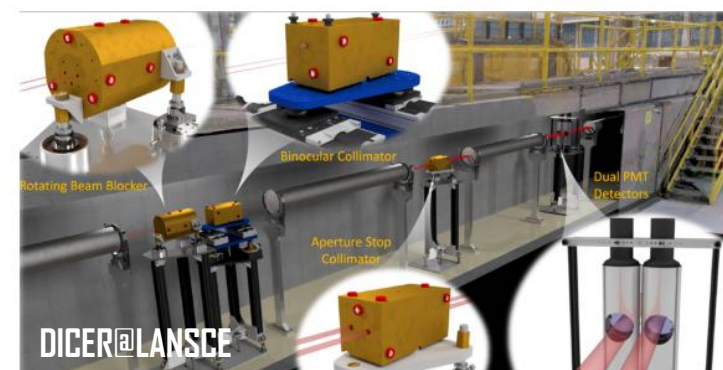
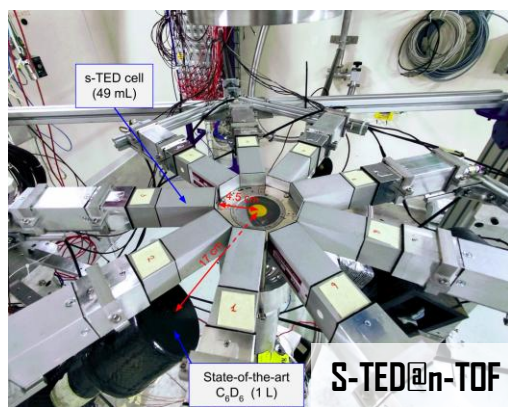
# EXPERIMENTAL CHALLENGES (A FEW)

## NEUTRON CAPTURE



- Many experimental programs dedicated to  $(n, \gamma)$  measurement with important detectors development

See the long list of **ND2025** presentations on  $(n, \gamma)$  experimental measurements



Transmission experiment

- Challenging measurement on short-lived nuclei
- Importance of encouraging exchanges with evaluators to better understand the needs then better constrain/design the exp. Project ; ex  $^{238}\text{U}(n, \gamma)$



See in ND2025

Emilio Mendoza Cembranos *et al.* #602

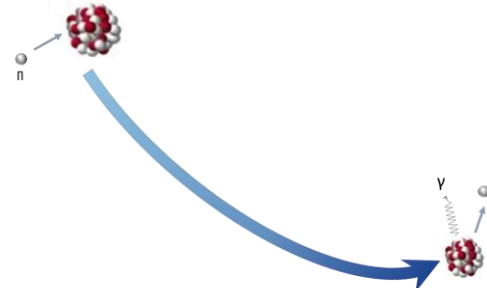






# EXPERIMENTAL CHALLENGES (A FEW)

## NEUTRON SCATTERING



## $^{238}\text{U}(n, n'\gamma)$ & $^{238}\text{U}$ integral meas. & theory

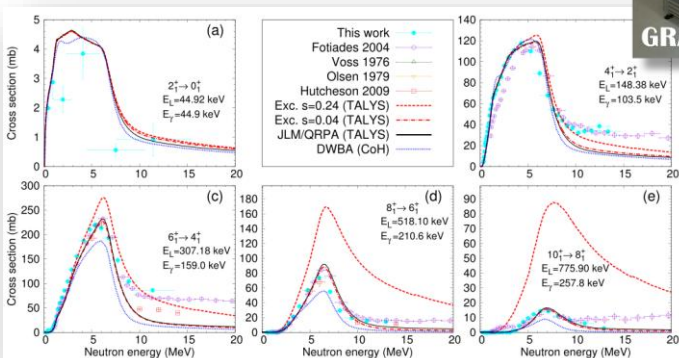
CNRS/IPHC, CEA/DES & DAM, IAEA, LANL

A whole efficient package :

Differential  
 $^{238}\text{U}(n, n'\gamma)$  XS  
measurement

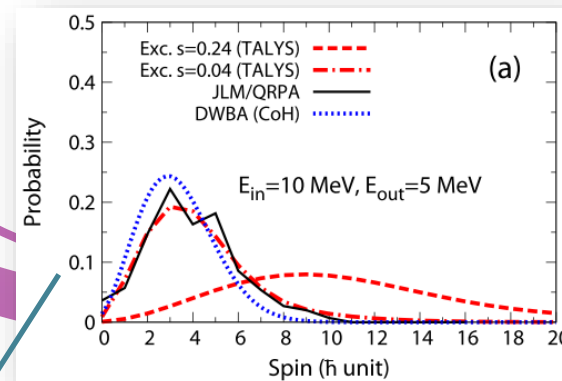


2 new integral  
experiments for  
 $^{238}\text{U}(n, n')$  XS  
validation:  
overestimation  
of the XS (~10%)



GRAPHeme+@JRC-Geel/GELINA, FP16-30m

Constraint on modeling :  
Calibration of the  
pre-equilibrium spin cutoff

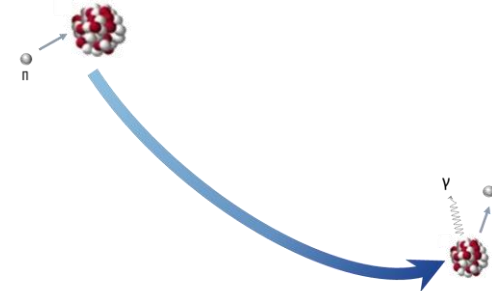


New spin cutoff  
used in the last  
JEFF upgrade

M. Kerveno, M. Dupuis et al., Phys. Rev. C **104**, 044605 (2021)

# EXPERIMENTAL CHALLENGES (A FEW)

## NEUTRON SCATTERING



### Inelastic scattering

#### ➤ Importance to use all the experimental techniques and facilities available

Prompt  $\gamma$ -ray spectroscopy, neutron detection, n- $\gamma$  coincidences, quasi-differential measurements...



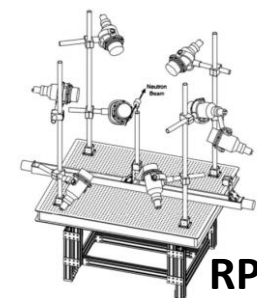
GAINS



ELISA

#### See in ND2025

GENESIS ; Thibault Laplace *et al.*, #518  
CoGNAC ; Keegan Kelly *et al.*, #117,118



RPI

#### See in ND2025

RPI ; Yaron Danon *et al.*, #79

#### See in ND2025

GRAPhEME ; Greg Henning *et al.* #41  
GAINS ; Andreea Oprea *et al.* #178,  
Marian Boromiza *et al.* #136,  
Jisk Knijpstra *et al.* #114,  
Alexandru Negret *et al.* #48,  
Adina Coman, *et al.* #95  
MAELS ; Maëlle Kerveno *et al.*, # 134  
@nELBE: Roland Beyer *et al.*, #346  
@TUNL : Anthony Ramirez *et al.*, #246  
n\_TOF ; matthew Birch *et al.*, #328

#### See in ND2025

ELISA ; Georgios Gkatis *et al.* #215  
Maria Diakaki *et al.* #524,



APRENDE



CoGNAC



GENESIS

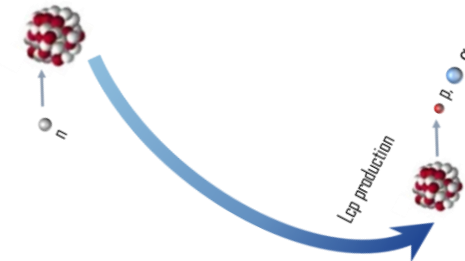
- ❑ Still important measurements to come on actinides (ex  $^{239}\text{Pu}$  with GRAPhEME)
- ❑ High resolution measurements on structural materials are mandatory to describe the region of high energy resonances (new initiative @ CERN/n\_TOF)
- ❑ Measurement campaigns for (n, xn) reactions have started at the new GANIL-NFS facility



APRENDE

# EXPERIMENTAL CHALLENGES (A FEW)

LCP PRODUCTION



Impact on reactivity in fast chloride molten salt reactor design

A few entries but new interest for MSFR reactor type: **See in ND2025**

**HPRL** :  $^{16}\text{O}(n,\alpha)$  (2008),  $^{39}\text{K}(n,p)$  (2017),  $^{35}\text{Cl}(n,p)$  0.1-5 MeV (2022)

**SG 46** :  $^{35}\text{Cl}(n,p)$  0.5 -10 MeV (2023)

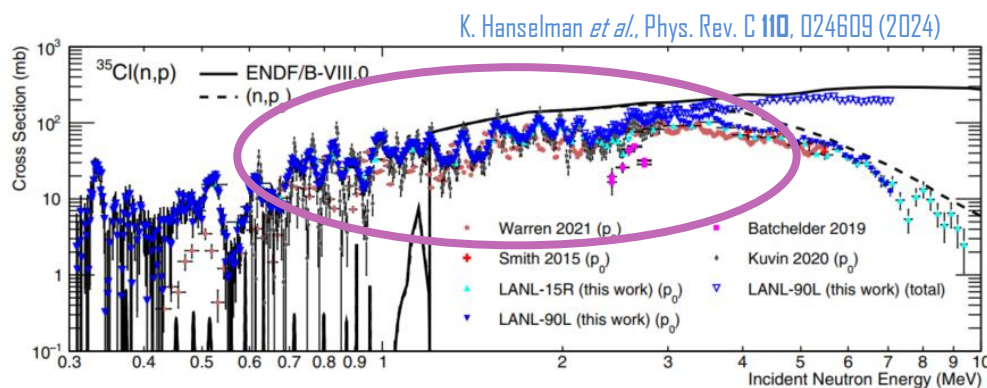


FIG. 4. Summary of newest data from WNR for  $^{35}\text{Cl}(n,p)$  compared to available literature [1,20,21,23].



**New  
& more accurate measurements  
& Nuclear model improvements**

**$^{35}\text{Cl}$**  A request from stakeholders

Needs of new and more accurate measurements above 100 keV

**Experimental and theoretical efforts**

- Several new measurements (LANL, CERN, NPL, ...) with different techniques at different facilities
- Solve the discontinuous jump between R-matrix and HF approaches

**See in ND2025**

Daniel Smith et al. #619

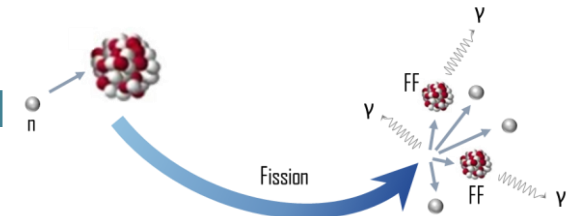
Antonio Martinez et al. #421,





# EXPERIMENTAL CHALLENGES (A FEW)

## NEUTRON INDUCED FISSION



Still many entries in HPRL:

**HPRL** :  $^{235}\text{U}$ ,  $^{237}\text{Np}$ ,  $^{238,239,240,241,242}\text{Pu}$ ,  $^{241,242\text{m}}\text{Am}$ ,  $^{244,245}\text{Cm}$  (2008)

**SG 46** :  $^{239,240}\text{Pu}$ ,  $^{238}\text{U}$  (2023)

A lot of (n,f) fission XS measurements exist but :

- ❑ “old” measurements lack the level of detail regarding uncertainty quantification (ex.  $^{239}\text{Pu}$ )
- ❑ To avoid “renormalization” issues, new measurement on wide neutron energy ranges are required
- ❑ “non-fissile” actinides (n,f) XS are still experimentally poorly known (ex.  $^{240,242}\text{Pu}$ ,  $^{243}\text{Am}$ )
- ❑ Investigations of (n,f) XS standard over a wide range of energy (extension to high energy > 100 MeV) HPRL SPQ-Standards

See in ND2025

Nikolaos Kyritsis *et al.* #422  
Ludovic Mathieu *et al.* #225

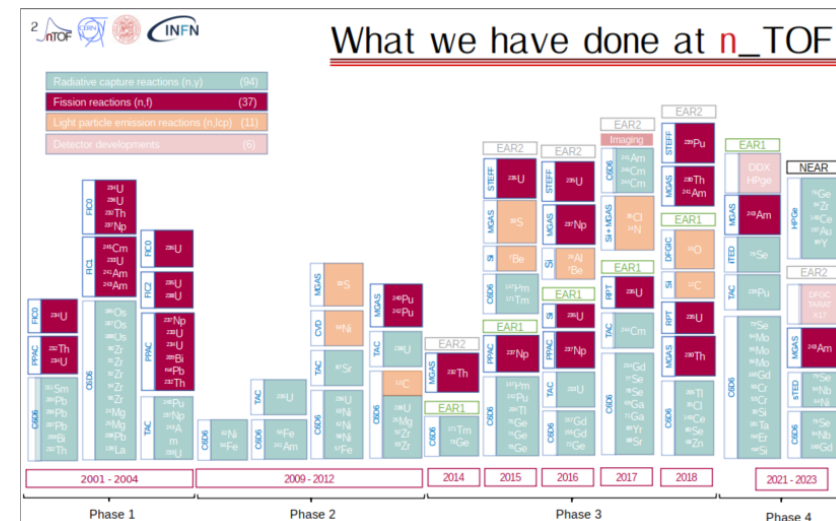
See in ND2025

Maria Anastasiou *et al.* #64  
Yonghao Chen *et al.* #264  
Veatriki Michalopoulou *et al.* #394

New

& more accurate measurements

A. Manna *et al.*, CNR\*24



See in ND2025

Lucas Snyder *et al.* #15

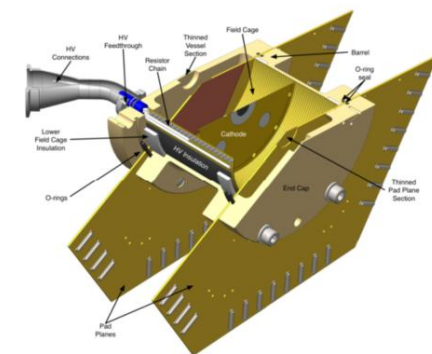


FIG. 3. A cutaway image of the fission TPC. The neutron beam passes through the thinned sections of the vessel and pad plane. The actinide target is mounted in the center of the cathode. Taken from Fig. 2 of Ref. [19].

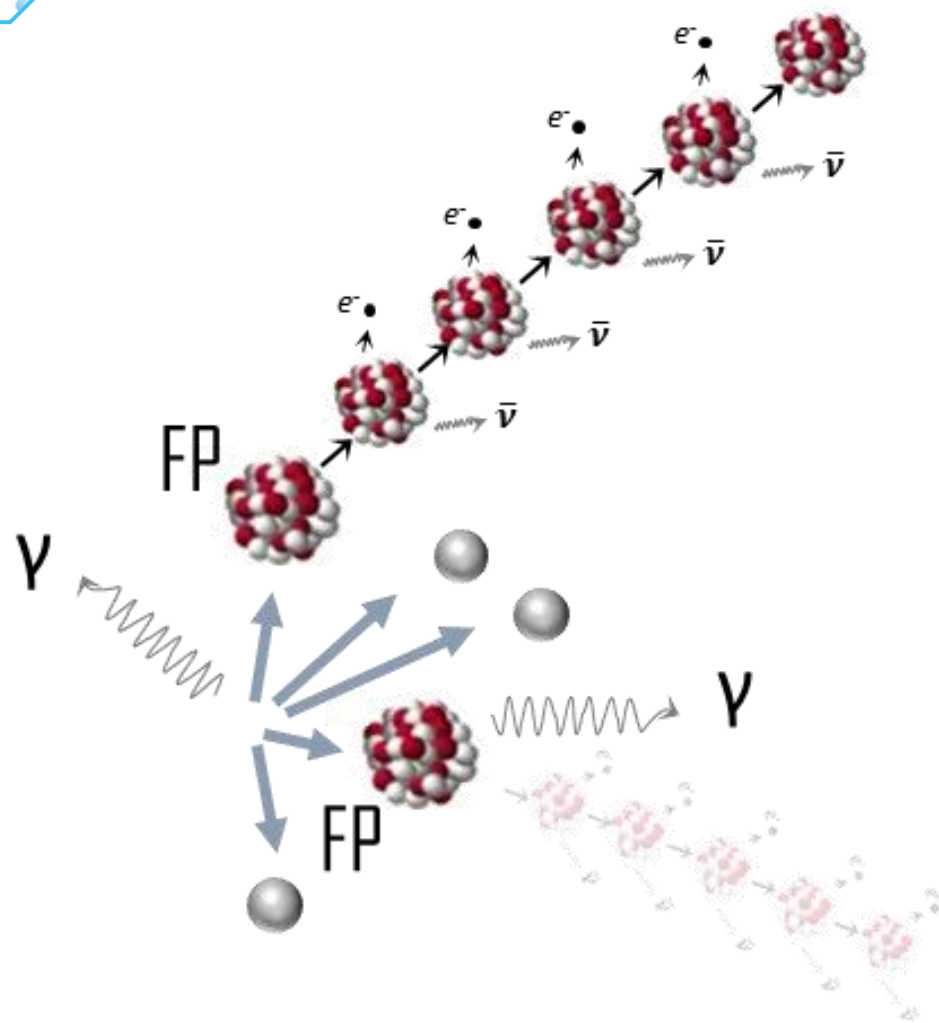
NIFFTE Fission TPC@WNR

L. Snyder, *et al.*, Nucl. Data Sheet **178** (2021) 1-40

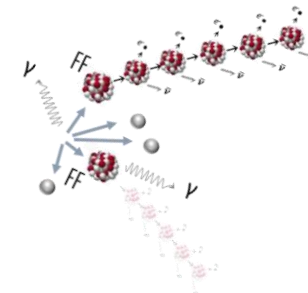
# EXPERIMENTAL CHALLENGES (A FEW)



Fission : a complex process



## POST-FISSION OBSERVABLES



$\beta^-$  emission

Delayed  $\gamma$

$\bar{\nu}$  emission

Delayed neutron

Decay data

Decay heat (reactor safety),

Reactor monitoring,  
non-proliferation tool

Chain reaction control



A. Algora

Fission Products

Prompt neutrons

Prompt  $\gamma$

Heat, toxicity

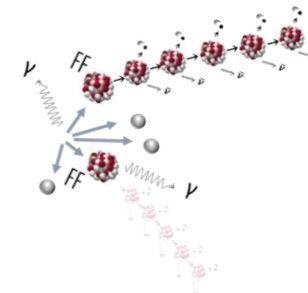
Chain reaction

Heat



# EXPERIMENTAL CHALLENGES (A FEW)

## POST-FISSION OBSERVABLES



## Fission Product Yields



### Impact :

#### ➤ $Y(A, Z)$ fission yields

- Inventory and radiotoxicity of spent fuel
- Isotopic composition → Residual power

#### ➤ $(Z, I)$ Kinetic energy dependence : excitation energy and spin distributions

- modeling prompt particle emission ( $n/\gamma$ ) for material damage/heating in the reactor



### A double challenge : accurate measurements & modeling

Novel interest in FY with emerging of fast reactor concepts and waste transmutation.

In the 2000s, data exist only for  $E_{th}$ , 500 keV and 14 MeV.



### Challenges :

- Need to extend the systematic to new FPY in the fast energy range and for minor actinides
- Multi-observables measurements -FF( $A, Z, E^*, J^\pi$ )- before and after neutron evaporation, emitted neutrons &  $\gamma$ 's
- Needs to produce accurate data with **covariance information** ( $E_{th}$  and above) for evaluation and codes validation
- For neutron induced fission experiments, keep the **accessibility of spectroscopic targets**

# EXPERIMENTAL CHALLENGES (A FEW)



## Fission Product Yields

Several initiatives to measure FPY with more and more complete experimental setups that give access to several quantities

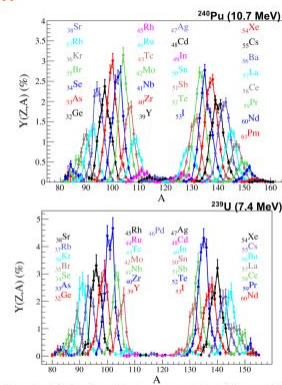


Ex : The VAMOS (magnetic spectrometer) experiment @GANIL using transfer/fusion induced reaction

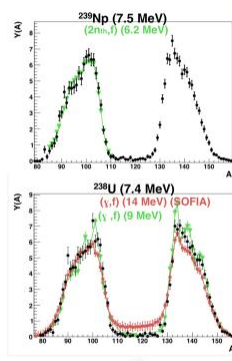


One-arm detection

- $\Delta A/A = 0.3\%$
- $\Delta Z/Z = 1.3\%$
- Isotopic yields
- Isotonic yields



Isotopic distribution of post-neutron evaporation fission yields



Full distribution of post-neutron evaporation mass yields (Scarce and incomplete data in literature)

GANIL

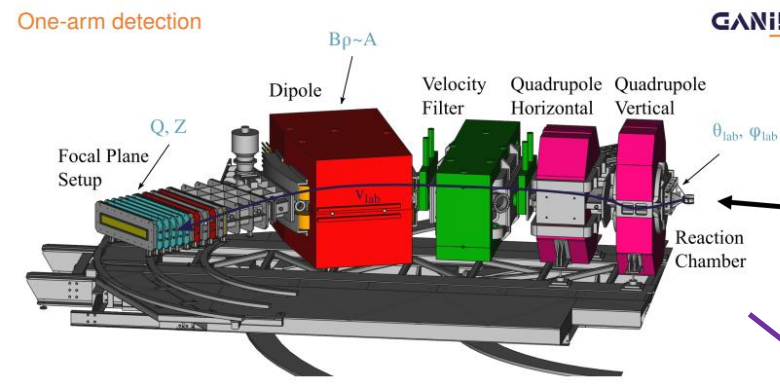
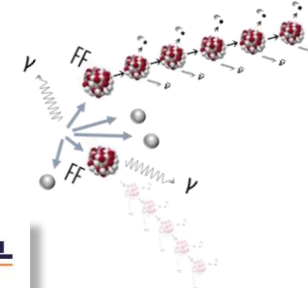
M. Camarero et al., Phys. Rev. C 88, 024605 (2013).  
D. Ramus et al., Phys. Rev. C 97, 034612 (2018).

26/11/24

FRANCHETEAU Alexis – NDW 24

6

## POST-FISSION OBSERVABLES



GANIL

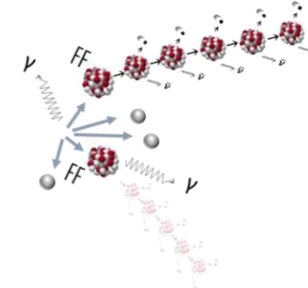
See in ND2025

Indu Jangid *et al.* #85  
Alexis Francheteau *et al.* #305  
Alex Cobo Zarzuelo *et al.* #281

- Access to a Large range of actinides
- Identification of the fissioning system:  
Access to **excitation energy  $\Delta E^* \sim 700$  keV** (FWHM)
- Measurement of **isotopic yield  $Y(A,Z)$**   
 $\Delta A/A = 0.3\%$   $\Delta Z/Z = 1.3\%$
- Two arms setup (FALSTAFF) : meas. of the 2<sup>nd</sup> fragment  
2v method -> **pre-neutron isotopic yield and TKE**
- Neutron detector  
**Neutron multiplicity & energy**

# EXPERIMENTAL CHALLENGES (A FEW)

## POST-FISSION OBSERVABLES

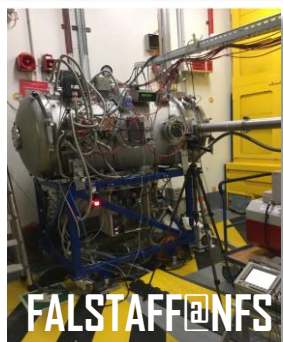
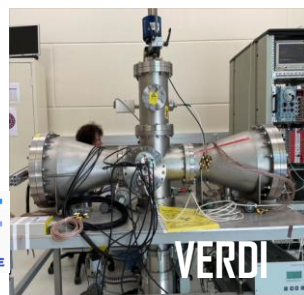
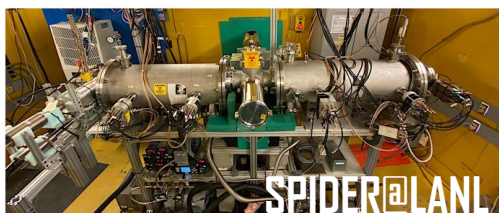


### Fission Product Yields : A session dedicated at ND2025!

Which shows the dynamics of the topic!

### 2E-2v measurements at neutron beams

Challenge of the mass resolution  
and isotopic identification!



### See in ND2025

Jean Eric Ducret *et al.* #116  
A. M. Gomez Londono *et al.* #91



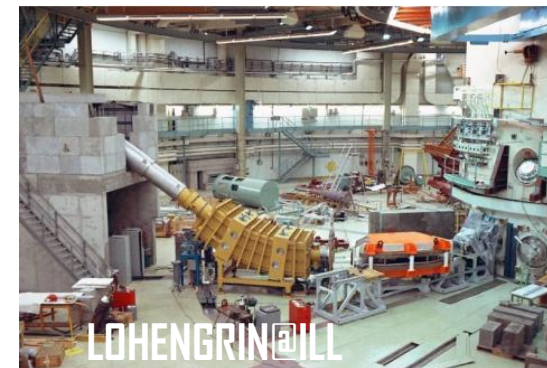
### Measurements of isomeric ratio

to better understand the angular momentum  
in fission fragment, constrain models and  
enhance the predictive power of simulation tools  
( $\gamma$ -heating in reactors)

LOHENGRIN@ILL, JYFLTRAP@IGISOL,  $\nu$ -ball@ALTO

### See in ND2025

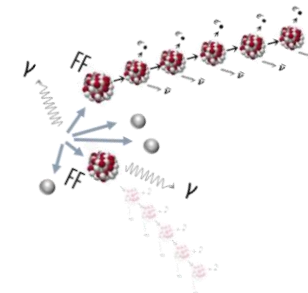
Stephan Pomp *et al.* #99  
Andreas Solders *et al.* #92  
Henrik Haug *et al.* #595  
Abdelhazize Chebboubi *et al.* #92



**New  
& more accurate measurements  
& Nuclear model improvements**

# EXPERIMENTAL CHALLENGES (A FEW)

## POST-FISSION OBSERVABLES



## Prompt Fission Neutron / Gamma Spectra & multiplicity



### Impact :

- **Core reactivity** (PFNS, nubar) ex:  $^{239}\text{Pu}$  solution thermal-critical assemblies with high neutron leakage,  $\Delta\bar{E} \sim 30 \text{ keV}$  (1 – 2%)  $\rightarrow \Delta k_{eff} \sim 1000 \text{ pcm}$  (1%) R. Capote *et al.*, Nucl. Data Sheets **131** (2016) 1–106
- **Vessel fluence** : reactor life time (PFNS)
- **Nuclear heating** (PFNS & PFGS) ex: Under-prediction of  $\gamma$ -heating by 10 - 28 % for  $^{235}\text{U}$  and  $^{239}\text{Pu}$



### Requirements :

- **IAEA CRP** in 2009 on PFNS to produce new PFNS evaluations with uncertainties for actinides.
- **HPRL** request in 2006 for  $^{235}\text{U}$  and  $^{239}\text{Pu}$  PFGS ; request for  $^{244}\text{Cm}$  and  $^{243}\text{Am}$  PFNS



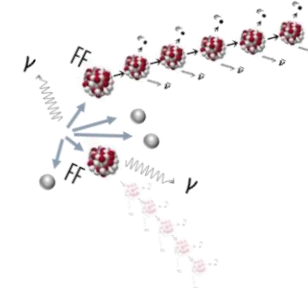
### Challenges :

- PFNS : solve discrepancies in measurements & improve measurements at low & high energies (  $E_n < 100 \text{ keV}$  ,  $E_n > 10 \text{ MeV}$  )
- PFGS :  $\gamma$ -discrimination between prompt-fission  $\gamma$  and neutron induced  $\gamma$ , wide-spread time distribution (from ps to  $\mu\text{s}$ )
- Neutrons and  $\gamma$  spectra are difficult to model



# EXPERIMENTAL CHALLENGES (A FEW)

## POST-FISSION OBSERVABLES



## Prompt Fission Neutron Spectra & multiplicity

Huge measurement program @WNR (CEA-NNSA collaboration) :

➤ 20 years of instrumental developments to increase the quality of PFNS measurements!



FIGARO



Chi-Nu

Comparison of Results from ... NUCLEAR DATA SHEETS K.J. Kelly, P. Marini *et al.*

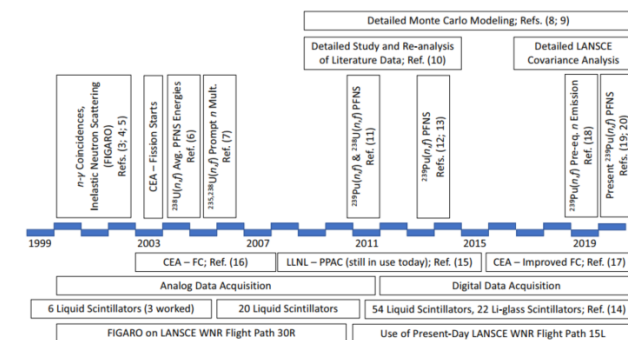


FIG. 1. Timeline of development and collaboration between the NNSA and CEA starting from analog electronics and limited particle detection capabilities to modern, state-of-the-art experimental environments, leading to the efforts to measure the  $^{239}\text{Pu}(n,f)$  PFNS compared in this work. See the text for a description.

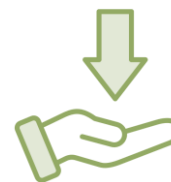
K.J. Kelly *et al.*, *Nucl. Data Sheets* **173** (2021) 42–53

See in ND2025

Matthew Devlin *et al.* #317



- ❑ Better neutron angular coverage, increase of the measured outgoing neutron energy range, more « transparent » FC, better statistics, ...
- ❑ Important experimental data for evaluation but also for discrimination between the different theoretical approaches.



**New  
& more accurate measurements  
& Nuclear model improvements**

# OUTLINE

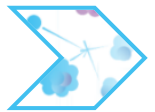


NUCLEAR DATA FOR FISSION TECHNOLOGIES

What are we talking about?



DEFINITION OF NEEDS



EXPERIMENTAL CHALLENGES (A FEW)



**BUILDING BRIDGES!**





# BUILDING BRIDGES !

A take away message for experimentalists



**Substantial experimental effort to provide new and high-quality nuclear data, over the last 30 years !**

The “easy” measurements have been already done, some challenges still remain.



# BUILDING BRIDGES !

A take away message for experimentalists



**Substantial experimental effort to provide new and high-quality nuclear data, over the last 30 years !**

The “easy” measurements have been already done, some challenges still remain.



## UNDERSTAND THE NEEDS

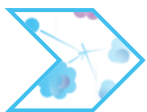
- take advantage of the IAEA's and NEA **extraordinary documentary database** (CRP, WPEC,...)
- **Exchanges with evaluators** before and after the experiment to enhance the chance to meet the experimental needs and improve the evaluation process (action in progress in EU-APRENDE project)

<https://indico.psi.ch/event/16894/>



# BUILDING BRIDGES !

A take away message for experimentalists



**Substantial experimental effort to provide new and high-quality nuclear data, over the last 30 years !**

The “easy” measurements have been already done, some challenges still remain.



**UNDERSTAND THE NEEDS**



**PROVIDE CONSOLIDATED DATA**

- Apply the **FAIR principle**
- **Detailed document on the uncertainty quantification, potential bias** to improve the evaluation process  
(some templates exist ! Ex: D. Neudecker, A.M. Lewis, J.R. Vanhoy, et al., EPJ N 9 (2023) 31-32,33,35)
- Provide experimental **correlations and covariances**

# BUILDING BRIDGES !

A take away message for experimentalists



**Substantial experimental effort to provide new and high-quality nuclear data, over the last 30 years !**

The “easy” measurements have been already done, some challenges still remain.



**UNDERSTAND THE NEEDS  
PROVIDE CONSOLIDATED DATA**



Evaluators Community  
& Users/Stakeholders

# BUILDING BRIDGES !

A take away message for experimentalists



**Substantial experimental effort to provide new and high-quality nuclear data, over the last 30 years !**

The “easy” measurements have been already done, some challenges still remain.



## NUCLEAR STRUCTURE DATA

- Many experimental techniques are based on **nuclear structure information**.

Lack of precise information.

Need for precise nuclear structure data for reactor studies,  
G.Henning et al. EPJ N 10, 6 (2024)



**UNDERSTAND THE NEEDS  
PROVIDE CONSOLIDATED DATA**



Evaluators Community  
& Users/Stakeholders

# BUILDING BRIDGES !

A take away message for experimentalists



**Substantial experimental effort to provide new and high-quality nuclear data, over the last 30 years !**

The “easy” measurements have been already done, some challenges still remain.



**NUCLEAR STRUCTURE DATA**



**INNOVATIVE EXPERIMENTS**

- Still challenge for nuclei with short half life (Xe-135, U-237, Np-239)

IAEA Technical Meeting on Neutron-induced Reactions on Short-lived Nuclei- 2025/08/25-29

- Take advantage of new development in fundamental nuclear physics research.  
Ex : NECTAR (Nuclear rEaCTions At storage Rings) project



**See in ND2025**

Camille Berthelot *et al.* #253



**UNDERSTAND THE NEEDS  
PROVIDE CONSOLIDATED DATA**



Evaluators Community  
& Users/Stakeholders



# BUILDING BRIDGES !

A take away message for experimentalists



**Substantial experimental effort to provide new and high-quality nuclear data, over the last 30 years !**

The “easy” measurements have been already done, some challenges still remain.



**NUCLEAR STRUCTURE DATA**



**INNOVATIVE EXPERIMENTS**



**USE OF IA/DEEP LEARNING**

- A real potential for complex data analysis or signal treatment

Ex : VAMOS++

M. Rejmund, A. Lemasson, Seven-dimensional trajectory reconstruction for VAMOS++, NIM A **1076**, (2025), 170445



**UNDERSTAND THE NEEDS**

**PROVIDE CONSOLIDATED DATA**



Evaluators Community  
& Users/Stakeholders

# BUILDING BRIDGES !

A take away message for experimentalists



**Substantial experimental effort to provide new and high-quality nuclear data, over the last 30 years !**

The “easy” measurements have been already done, some challenges still remain.



**NUCLEAR STRUCTURE DATA**  
**INNOVATIVE EXPERIMENTS**  
**USE OF IA/DEEP LEARNING**



Fondamental  
Nuclear Physics Community



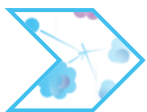
**UNDERSTAND THE NEEDS**  
**PROVIDE CONSOLIDATED DATA**



Evaluators Community  
& Users/Stakeholders

# BUILDING BRIDGES !

A take away message for experimentalists



**Substantial experimental effort to provide new and high-quality nuclear data, over the last 30 years !**

The “easy” measurements have been already done, some challenges still remain.



**NUCLEAR STRUCTURE DATA**  
**INNOVATIVE EXPERIMENTS**  
**USE OF IA/DEEP LEARNING**



Fondamental  
Nuclear Physics Community



**UNDERSTAND THE NEEDS**  
**PROVIDE CONSOLIDATED DATA**



Evaluators Community  
& Users/Stakeholders



**MAINTAIN :**  
**THE CAPABILITY TO PROVIDE HIGH QUALITY SAMPLES**  
**THE ACCESS TO FACILITIES**  
**ATTRACTIVITY TO THE NEXT PHYSICIST GENERATION**

# BUILDING BRIDGES !

A take away message for experimentalists



**Substantial experimental effort to provide new and high-quality nuclear data, over the last 30 years !**

The “easy” measurements have been already done, some challenges still remain.



**NUCLEAR STRUCTURE DATA**  
**INNOVATIVE EXPERIMENTS**  
**USE OF IA/DEEP LEARNING**



**UNDERSTAND THE NEEDS**  
**PROVIDE CONSOLIDATED DATA**



Fondamental  
Nuclear Physics Community

National and International Bodies

Evaluators Community  
& Users/Stakeholders



**MAINTAIN :**  
**THE CAPABILITY TO PROVIDE HIGH QUALITY SAMPLES**  
**THE ACCESS TO FACILITIES**  
**ATTRACTIVITY TO THE NEXT PHYSICIST GENERATION**

THANK YOU

Merci

David Bernard,  
Emmeric Dupont,  
Olivier Sérot,  
Arjan Plompen,  
Dimitri Rochman,  
Gilles Noguere,  
Stephan Oberstedt  
*et al.*



In memory of Sylvain David