

Fission ExperimentS and Theoretical Advances

Santa Fe, New Mexico, 8-12 September 2014

Lectures on Fission Dynamics within the Macroscopic-Microscopic Approach

Jørgen Randrup LBNL, Berkeley, California







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Basic features of nuclei: saturation



Basic features of nuclei: memory loss

Nature 137 (1936) 351 quoting Niels Bohr: ``.. the energy of the incident neutron will be rapidly divided among all the nuclear particles ..''



Niels Bohr, Nature 137 (1936) 344:

"... neutron capture .. will result in .. the formation of a compound system of remarkable stability. The possible later breaking up of this system .. must in fact be considered as separate competing processes which have no immediate connexion with the first stage .."

Niels Bohr, Nature 143 (1939) 330:

"... any nuclear reaction initiated by collisions or radiation involves as an intermediate stage the formation of a compound nucleus in which the excitation energy is distributed among the various degrees of freedom in a way resembling thermal agitation .." The internal relaxation is much faster than the evolution of the shape

 $\tau_{micro} << \tau_{macro}$



-> Evaporation

-> Fission

Basic features of nuclear fission: shape dynamics

N. Bohr & J.A. Wheeler, Phys Rev 56 (1939) 426:



FIG. 3. The potential energy associated with any arbitrary deformation of the nuclear form may be plotted as a function of the parameters which specify the deformation, thus giving a contour surface which is represented schematically in the left-hand portion of the figure. The pass or saddle point corresponds to the critical deformation of unstable equilibrium. To the extent to which we may use classical terms, the course of the fission process may be symbolized by a ball lying in the hollow at the origin of coordinates (spherical form) which receives an impulse (neutron capture) which sets it to executing a complicated Lissajous figure of oscillation about equilibrium. If its energy is sufficient, it will in the course of time happen to move in the proper direction to pass over the saddle point (after which fission will occur), unless it loses its energy (radiation or neutron re-emission). At the right is a cross section taken through the fission barrier, illustrating the calculation in the text of the probability per unit time of fission occurring.

Nuclear shape dynamics

	1) Parametrized family of nuclear shapes: $q = \{q_i\}$	N
	2) Potential energy of deformation: $U(q) = U(q_1, q_2,)$	1
	3) Inertial mass tensor: $M(q) = \{M_{ij}(q)\}$	N x N
	4) Dissipation tensor: $\gamma(q) = \{\gamma_{ij}(q)\}$	N x N

Langevin equation of motion: $d\mathbf{p}/dt = \mathbf{F}^{cons} + \mathbf{F}^{diss}$

Examples (incomplete list) [all macroscopic]: *Kramers*, Physica 7 (1940) 284, ... *Fröbrich & Gontchar*, Phys Rep 292 (1998) 131 *Chadhuri & Pal*, Phys Rev C63 (2001) 064603 *Karpov, Nadtouchy, Vanin, Adeev*, Phys Rev C63 (2001) 054610 *Nadtouchy, Adeev, Karpov*, Phys Rev C65 (2002) 064615 *Nadtouchy, Kelic, Schmidt*, Phys Rev C75 (2007) 064614



Nuclear shape families

Axially symmetric nuclear shapes

Expansion of $R(\theta)$ on Legendre polynomials



Very convenient for small deformations, but unsuitable for large deformations!



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Nuclear potential energy: masses

The nuclear energy exhibits a smooth average plus small deviations reflecting specific nuclear structure



Nuclear potential energy: decomposition

The nuclear energy exhibits a smooth average plus small deviations reflecting specific nuclear structure



Nuclear potential energy: Macroscopic energy

Finite-Range Liquid-Drop Model

At. Data Nucl. Data Tables 59 (1995) 183

 $E_{\text{macro}}(Z, N, \text{shape}) =$ $M_{\rm H}Z + M_{\rm n}N$ mass excesses of Z hydrogen atoms and N neutrons $-a_{\rm v}(1-\kappa_{\rm v}I^2)A$ volume energy $+a_{\rm s}(1-\kappa_{\rm s}I^2)B_1({\rm shape})A^{2/3}$ surface energy $+a_0 A^0$ A^0 energy $+c_1 Z^2 / A^{1/3} B_3$ (shape) Coulomb energy $-c_4 Z^{4/3} / A^{1/3}$ Coulomb exchange correction $+f(k_{\rm F}r_{\rm p})Z^2/A$ proton form-factor correction to Coulomb energy $-c_{\rm a}(N-Z)$ charge-asymmetry energy $+W\left(|I| + \left\{ \begin{array}{cc} 1/A, & Z = N \text{ odd} \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{array} \right\} \right) \times B_{W}(\text{shape}) \text{ Wigner energy}$ $+ \left\{ \begin{array}{ccc} \overline{\Delta}_{p} + \overline{\Delta}_{n} - \delta_{np}, & Z \text{ and } N \text{ odd} \\ \overline{\Delta}_{p}, & Z \text{ odd, } N \text{ even} \\ \overline{\Delta}_{n}, & Z \text{ even, } N \text{ odd} \\ 0, & Z \text{ and } N \text{ even} \end{array} \right\} \text{ average pairing energy}$ $-a_{\rm el}Z^{2.39}$ energy of Z bound electrons $B_1(\text{shape}) = \frac{1}{8\pi^2 R_o^2 a^4} \int_V d^3 \mathbf{r} \int_V d^3 \mathbf{r}' \left(2 - \frac{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|}{a}\right) \frac{\mathrm{e}^{-|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|/a}}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|/a}$ $\approx 1 + (2/45) e^4$ $B_{3}(\text{shape}) = \frac{15}{32\pi^{2}R_{0}^{5}} \int_{V} d^{3}\boldsymbol{r} \int_{V} d^{3}\boldsymbol{r}' \frac{1}{|\boldsymbol{r}-\boldsymbol{r}'|} \left[1 - \left(1 + \frac{1}{2} \frac{|\boldsymbol{r}-\boldsymbol{r}'|}{a_{\text{den}}} \right) e^{-|\boldsymbol{r}-\boldsymbol{r}'|/a_{\text{den}}} \right] \approx \mathbf{1} - (\mathbf{1}/\mathbf{45}) e^{4}$

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Nuclear potential energy: single-particle levels



For a specified shape, generate the effective single-particle potentials for neutrons and protons by convolution

$$\left[-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m}\Delta + V^{\mathrm{n,p}}(\boldsymbol{r})\right]\psi^{\mathrm{n,p}}_{\nu}(\boldsymbol{r}) = \epsilon^{\mathrm{n,p}}_{\nu}\,\psi^{\mathrm{n,p}}_{\nu}(\boldsymbol{r})$$

Solve the Schrödinger equation for neutrons and protons to get the single-particle energies $\{\varepsilon_v\}$



Shape

Equipotentials



Nuclear potential energy: shell correction

Given the neutron or proton levels $\{\mathcal{E}_{_{\mathcal{V}}}\}$

$$\delta E = \Sigma_{v} \varepsilon_{v} \delta n_{v}$$

The actual density of states is discrete: $g_0(\varepsilon) = \Sigma_v g_v \delta(\varepsilon - \varepsilon_v)$

Single-particle levels in the effective field

A smooth density of states $\widetilde{g}(\varepsilon)$ obtained by convolution: $\widetilde{g} = \xi_{\gamma} * g_0$



Nuclear potential energy: pairing correction

BCS: particles are replaced by quasi-particles

Quasi-particle energy:
$$E_{\nu} = \left[(\epsilon_{\nu} - \lambda)^{2} + \Delta^{2} \right]^{1/2}$$
Fermi level λ
Pairing gap Δ

$$\begin{bmatrix} N \text{ or } Z \doteq 2(\nu_{1} - 1) + 2\sum_{\nu=\nu_{1}}^{\nu_{2}} v_{\nu}^{2} \\ \frac{2}{G} \doteq \sum_{\nu} \frac{1}{E_{\nu}} (g_{n}=2) \\ v_{1} \\ n_{\nu} = 0, 1, 2 \\ n_{\nu} = 2v_{\nu}^{2} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$E_{\text{pair}} = \sum_{\nu} [2v_{\nu}^{2} - n_{\nu}] \epsilon_{\nu} - \frac{\Delta^{2}}{G} - \frac{1}{2}G \sum_{\nu=\nu_{1}}^{\nu_{2}} [2v_{\nu}^{4} - n_{\nu}] + E_{\nu} \theta_{\text{odd}}^{N,Z}$$

$$v_{\nu}^{2} = \frac{1}{2} [1 - (\epsilon_{\nu} - \lambda)/E_{\nu}]$$

$$\delta E_{\text{pair}} = E_{\text{pair}}[g_{0}] - E_{\text{pair}}[\tilde{g}]$$

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 g_0 :

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Nuclear potential energy of deformation



Nuclear potential energy of deformation



Nuclear potential energy: ground-state masses

$$M(Z,N) = E_{\text{macro}}(Z,N,(g.s.)) + E_{s+p}(Z,N,(g.s.))$$

$$= E_{\text{macro}}(Z, N, \bigcirc) + E_{\text{micro}}(Z, N, \bigcirc)$$



Nuclear potential energy surfaces

P. Möller, Nucl Phys A 192 (1972) 529:

 $E_{\text{macro}}(Z,A,\text{shape}) = a_{s}(1 - \kappa_{s}^{2})A^{2/3} B_{1}(\varepsilon_{2},\varepsilon_{3},\varepsilon_{4},\varepsilon_{5}) + c_{1}Z^{2}/A^{1/3} B_{3}(\varepsilon_{2},\varepsilon_{3},\varepsilon_{4},\varepsilon_{5}) + \dots$ $E_{s+p}(Z,A,\text{shape}): \text{ Modified-oscillator single-particle potential } V(\varepsilon_{2},\varepsilon_{3},\varepsilon_{4},\varepsilon_{5})$ 4D calculation ($\varepsilon_{2},\varepsilon_{3},\varepsilon_{4},\varepsilon_{5}$) \rightarrow 2D landscape ($\varepsilon_{2} \& \varepsilon_{4}, \varepsilon_{3} \& \varepsilon_{5}$)

²³⁶U: top view



²³⁶U: side view





P. Möller, Nucl Phys 192 (1972) 529 FIESTA: 8 September 2014

Asymmetry ($arepsilon_3$ & $arepsilon_5$)

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Nuclear potential energy: 5D shape lattice



Nuclear potential energy: fission barrier landscape

5D potential-energy surfaces reduced to two dimensions



Fission dynamics: Temperature

The statistical excitation *E** depends on the shape:



Inertial mass tensor for nuclear shape motion

Kinetic energy associated $K(\dot{\boldsymbol{q}}, \boldsymbol{q}) = \frac{1}{2} \dot{\boldsymbol{q}} \cdot \boldsymbol{M}(\boldsymbol{q}) \cdot \dot{\boldsymbol{q}} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{ij} \dot{q}_i M_{ij}(\boldsymbol{q}) \dot{q}_j$ with shape changes:

$$K[
ho(oldsymbol{r}),oldsymbol{v}(oldsymbol{r})] \;=\; rac{1}{2}m\int
ho(oldsymbol{r})\,oldsymbol{v}(oldsymbol{r})^2d^3oldsymbol{r}$$



The nuclear fluid is incompressible => density is constant: $\rho(\mathbf{r}) = \rho_0$

Assume irrotational flow $\Rightarrow v(r)$ depends only on shape change



Werner-Wheeler approximation: the mass within a slice remains in that slice as the shape changes.

Macroscopic fluid:





Dissipation for nuclear shape motion: one-body

Individual nucleons move in common one-body mean field (while occasionally experiencing Pauli-suppressed collisions)



$$h[f](\boldsymbol{r},\boldsymbol{p}) = \frac{p^2}{2m^*} + U[\rho](\boldsymbol{r})$$

Single-particle Hamiltonian

Nucleons in mean field

One-body dissipation: Density $\rho(\mathbf{r})$ changes => mean field changes => nucleons adjust quickly

The interaction between the individual nucleon and the residual system is concentrated in the *surface* region: *Fermi gas in a deforming container*

One-body dissipation in a mononucleus: Wall formula for the dissipation rate

Slowly deforming nucleus:



Dissipation rate:
$$\dot{Q}^{\text{wall}}(\boldsymbol{q}, \dot{\boldsymbol{q}}) = m\rho_0 \bar{v} \oint V^2 d^2 \sigma = \sum_{ij} \dot{q}_i \gamma_{ij}^{\text{wall}}(\boldsymbol{q}) \dot{q}_j$$
,

Dissipation tensor:
$$\gamma_{ij}^{\text{wall}}(\boldsymbol{q}) = 2\pi m \rho_0 \bar{v} \int_{z_{\min}}^{z_{\max}} (\rho \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial q_i}) (\rho \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial q_j}) \left[\rho^2 + (\rho \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial z})^2 \right]^{-\frac{1}{2}} dz$$

$$\rho(z)$$
:

J. Blocki, Y. Boneh, J. R. Nix, J. Randrup, M. Robel, A. J. Sierk, and W. J. Swiatecki, Ann Phys **113** (1978) 330: *One-Body Dissipation and the Super-Viscidity of Nuclei*

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Fission dynamics with 1-body & 2-body dissipation

One-body wall formula:
$$\dot{Q} = \rho \bar{v} \oint V^2 d\sigma$$

Strong & E* indep



J. Blocki, Y. Boneh, J. R. Nix, J. Randrup, M. Robel, A. J. Sierk, and W. J. Swiatecki, Ann Phys **113** (1978) 330: *One-Body Dissipation and the Super-Viscidity of Nuclei*

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Fission fragment kinetic energy



FIG. 6. Comparison of calculated and experimental most probable fission-fragment kinetic energies as a function of $Z^{2}/A^{1/3}$. The kinetic energies calculated for nonviscous flow are given by the dot-dashed curve. The dashed curve shows the results for infinite two-body viscosity, and the solid curve shows the results for the one-body dissipation considered here. The experimental data are for cases in which the most probable mass division is into two equal fragments; the open symbols represent values for equal mass divisions only and the solid symbols represent values averaged over all mass divisions. The original sources for the experimental data are given in [18].

Jølden Blocki, Y. Boneh, J. R. Nix, J. Randrup, M. Robel, A. J. Sierk, and W. J. Swiatecki, Ann Phys **113** (1978) 330: *One-Body Dissipation and the Super-Viscidity of Nuclei*

One-body dissipation in the dinucleus: Nucleon exchange in damped reactions





J. Randrup, Nucl Phys A307 (1978) 319; A327 (1979) 490

W.U. Schröder & J.R. Huizenga, Ann Rev Nucl Sci 27, 465 (1977)

One-body dissipation in fission: Wall-plus-window formula

A.J. Sierk & J.R. Nix, Phys Rev C 21 (1980) 982

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Nuclear shape dynamics



Langevin equation of motion: $d\mathbf{p}/dt = \mathbf{F}^{cons} + \mathbf{F}^{diss}$



\bigcirc

Fission dynamics: Formal framework

 $\mathbf{\infty}$



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Langevin dynamics: Equilibration





- *E* < *B*: Quasi-equilibrium is established, slow leakage over the barrier
- *E* < *B*: Equilibrium is established

Strongly damped nuclear shape dynamics: Brownian motion



Strongly damped nuclear shape dynamics: Metropolis walk



Metropolis walk ...



... on the potential-energy surface:



Start at ground-state (or isomeric) minimum

Metropolis et al. (1953):

The very first Metropolis results:



The Metropolis method looks remarkably promising let's benchmark it against 70 measured charge yields ...

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Comparison with data from K.H. Schmidt et al., NPA 665 (2000) 221

Comparison with data from K.H. Schmidt et al., NPA 665 (2000) 221

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Comparison with data from K.H. Schmidt et al., NPA 665 (2000) 221

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Nuclear shape dynamics: Metropolis?

The Metropolis walk method, used with the tabulated 5D 3QS potential-energy surfaces, provides a powerful tool for calculating fission-fragment mass distributions

Special advantages: predictive power, ease of computation

> 5,000 nuclei: {*U*_{IJKLM}}

ributions ase of computation ≈ minutes/10k events

But: How reliable is it?

It is based on the assumption that the mass yields are not sensitive to the details of the dissipation

This can be checked:

Solve the Smoluchowski equation with a <u>range</u> of dissipation tensors: How much are the fragment mass yields affected?

Dependence of $P(Z_f)$ on the dissipation tensor

$$\dot{oldsymbol{\chi}} = oldsymbol{\mu}(oldsymbol{\chi}) \cdot [oldsymbol{F}^{ ext{pot}}(oldsymbol{\chi}) + oldsymbol{F}^{ ext{ran}}(oldsymbol{\chi})]$$

Go from wall dissipation to isotropic dissipation:

$$\tilde{\gamma}(f): \tilde{\gamma}_n(f) \equiv \frac{\gamma_n + f}{1 + f} \implies \tilde{\mu}(f) = \tilde{\gamma}(f)^{-1} \qquad f = 0.2, 1.0, \infty$$

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Nuclear shape dynamics: Strongly damped?

How good is the strongly damped idealization?

Probably not good near scission

Cannot provide kinetic energies

The remarkable success of the recent mass-yield calculations (which were based on the strongly damped limit) gives us *hope* that the full Langevin treatment could provide a quantitative means for calculating *both* fragment yields *and* energies

Fission dynamics: Full Langevin simulations

Preliminary results by Arnie Sierk (talk Friday AM)

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Fission dynamics within the macroscopic-microscopic approach

Fission dynamics concerns primarily the *dissipative shape evolution*; the *Langevin equation* provides the appropriate formal framework (from a single compound nucleus to an *ensemble* of final configurations) Nuclear *potential energy* surfaces can be fairly reliably calculated with the macroscopic-microscopic method (masses, barriers, ...); need: energy-dependent surfaces Talk by Peter Möller Strongly damped shape dynamics is akin to Brownian motion; the *Metropolis walk* method offers a useful starting point There is supportive evidence for the dominance of *one-body dissipation*, and the wall+window formula (with reduced strength) seems to work well, but it is still purely *macroscopic* (no shell or pairing effects included yet!) Inertial masses are poorly understood, so macroscopic inertias are being used in the simulations (but they may be *less crucial?*) Full *Langevin simulations* are highly desirable; Talk by Arnie Sierk

they have recently become feasible (but are still slow)

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