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1 Prompt Energy Distribution of $^{235}\text{U}(\text{n},\text{f})\gamma$ at
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9 **Abstract**

10 The distributions of prompt γ rays from the spontaneous fission of ^{252}Cf
 11 and neutron-induced fission of ^{235}U were measured up to ~ 4 MeV using a liq-
 12 uid scintillator array. The unfolding of measured fission γ rays are presented
 13 using the Single Value Decomposition and iterative Bayesian methods. General
 14 agreement was found with comparisons made with previous measurements. The
 15 energy dependence of the prompt γ -ray distributions for the spontaneous fission
 16 of ^{252}Cf and the neutron-induced fission of ^{235}U from bombarding energies of
 17 1-2, 5-10, and 10-20 MeV were found to be almost identical in the γ -ray energy
 18 region 1 to 4 MeV.

19 *Keywords:* Uranium-235, Neutron-induced fission, Liquid scintillator, Gas
 20 counter, Prompt γ -ray spectra

21 **1. Introduction**

22 Investigations into the observables in fission are needed to improve our under-
 23 standing of the fission process and the products released. Accurate data in the
 24 energy of the emitted particles from fission, such as neutrons and γ rays, their
 25 angular distributions, and production cross sections are needed for radiation
 26 transport calculations for a wide range of applied programs. Such information
 27 is important in analyzing nuclear energy designs and safeguards scenarios. For
 28 example, the energies of the neutrons, γ rays and fragments produced from the
 29 fission process will essentially be deposited within the surrounding materials in
 30 the form of heat. Although the majority of available energy created from the
 31 fission event will be in the form of kinetic energy of the recoiling fission frag-
 32 ments, approximately 10% of the total energy in a core of the reactor is released
 33 in form of prompt, delayed and radiative capture γ rays [1]. In fast breeder
 34 reactors, heating due to γ rays accounts for $\sim 13\%$ of the total energy and may
 35 be the dominate contributor of the heating in the sub-assemblies and shielding
 36 [2]. Knowledge of the shapes of the energy distributions is necessary to design

37 proper shielding and cooling systems, and characteristics of photon heating,
38 mainly due to the prompt γ rays, are needed to reduce the uncertainties of γ
39 heating from 15% [3] to the requested one of less than 7.5% [4].

40 Experimental data are also necessary to test the accuracy of the predic-
41 tions from nuclear reaction codes such as TALYS [5] and EMPIRE [6]. The
42 neutron-induced fission cross sections and fission yields for the actinides have
43 been studied since the 1950's, see for example Ref. [7]. While significant work
44 has been done to measure the neutron-induced fission cross section of ^{235}U and
45 the prompt neutron multiplicity ($\bar{\nu}_p$), large uncertainties in the prompt neutron
46 spectrum still exist at thermal incident energies [8]. In the case of fission of ^{235}U
47 induced by neutrons above thermal, experimental data on the prompt neutron
48 distributions also exist for neutron incident energies from 0.4 to 200 MeV [9],
49 below approximately 8.0 MeV [10, 11] and at 14.7 MeV [12]. Theoretical mod-
50 els predict that there should be little dependence of the measured shapes of the
51 neutron distributions versus the incident neutron energy [13]. However, compar-
52 isons with the experimental data at thermal and 0.5 MeV show variations as
53 large as 15%. For the prompt γ -ray distributions, there is even less experimen-
54 tal information available. In fact, there is only a handful of data available for
55 any actinide showing the γ -ray distribution. Verbinski *et al.* [14] measured the
56 shape of the γ -ray spectrum at thermal bombarding energy and Drake measured
57 the distributions using 1-, 2- [15], and 5- to 8-MeV [16] neutrons.

58 The neutron source at the Los Alamos Neutron Science Center (LANSCE)
59 provides a pulsed neutron distribution with neutron energies ranging from hun-
60 dreds of keV to several hundreds of MeV at the Weapons Neutron Research
61 facility (WNR) by spallation of a 800-MeV proton beam on a thick tungsten
62 target. The resulting continuum neutron distribution enables us to measure
63 simultaneously the prompt neutron and γ -ray spectra as a function of inci-
64 dent energies in a single experiment. The feasibility of exacting information
65 about the neutron and γ -ray distributions by using the same detector opens up
66 the opportunity to study γ -neutron correlations while simultaneously reducing
67 the amount of scattering material that can distort the low energy part of the
68 neutron spectrum. The prompt γ -ray and neutron distributions from neutron-
69 induced fission of ^{235}U were obtained simultaneously at LANSCE and analyzed
70 separately. The measured prompt γ -ray spectra along with the unfolded ones
71 deduced using iterative Bayesian and Single Value Decomposition techniques
72 are presented and compared with available data.

73 2. Experiment

74 The present work was fielded at the WNR facility using the FIGARO neutron
75 detector array [17] to measure the distributions of the prompt neutrons and γ
76 rays emitted from fission. The array held seventeen Eljen EJ301 organic liquid
77 scintillators each with active volumes of 613.6 cm³ (12.5 cm in diameter, 5.0 cm
78 in depth). The detectors were positioned approximately 1 meter away from the
79 center of the target position yielding an angular coverage from 42° to 125° in

80 the lab frame. Of the 17 scintillators, only six detectors with the best pulse-
81 height distributions were chosen for the analysis. The particles detected by
82 the liquid scintillators were identified using the double time-of-flight (*TOF*)
83 technique, which measures the time difference between the source pulse and the
84 fission event as well as between the fission event and the neutron detectors. The
85 source pulse time was determined by an electrical pick-off of the proton beam
86 from the accelerator.

87 Fission events were detected by Parallel Plate Avalanche Counter (*PPAC*),
88 which was fabricated at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory with a
89 design that minimized the amount of structural material that can scatter neu-
90 trons [18]. A counter contained 10 foils of ^{235}U with a total mass of approxi-
91 mately 113 mg. Uranium-235 enriched to 99.91% was deposited on both sides
92 of a 4 cm in diameter 3- μm thick titanium backing foil [19]. Two 1.4- μm thick
93 double-sided aluminized mylar foils glued to G-10 rings sandwiched the target
94 and were grounded to serve as the cathode for the avalanche counter. The
95 anodes positioned 3 mm away from the cathode consisted of the same type of
96 aluminized mylar foils. The signals from the anodes on either side of the tar-
97 get were coupled together thus reducing the number of required feedthroughs.
98 Platinum foils of 5- μm thickness were placed on either side of the stack holding
99 the anodes and cathodes to stop the fission fragments and α 's from interfering
100 with the neighboring anodes-cathode stacks. A similar design was used for the
101 second *PPAC*. In this case, the *PPAC* contained a single foil with a deposit of
102 ^{252}Cf . This foil had a specific activity of approximately 2 μCi and was placed
103 at the center position in the fission detector.

104 The *PPAC*'s were used to detect the fission fragments and were biased to
105 $\sim +400$ V was operated using ~ 4 torr of isobutane. No information about the
106 directions and masses of the fragments was obtainable with these counters. The
107 fast timing of these particular counters resulted in an approximately 1-ns time
108 resolution for the photon-induced fission peak in the time-of-flight spectrum
109 obtained from the time difference of the counter relative to beam pick-off of
110 the proton LINAC. The fission pulse height versus time of flight measured by a
111 single liquid scintillator is shown in Fig. 1. The prompt γ rays concentrated at
112 around 3 ns in the time-of-flight spectrum are clearly resolved from the prompt
113 neutrons that occur more than 20 ns later.

114 The fission gamma rays can also be differentiated from fission neutrons by
115 gating on the fast and slow components of the scintillation pulse. The fraction
116 of the light in the tail of the pulse (i.e. the slow component), which typically
117 depends on the rate of energy loss, compared to the fast component is a function
118 of the particle type. In the current work, the gate for the fast component was set
119 to measure the first ~ 25 ns of the pulse and the gate for slow component was set
120 to measure ~ 150 ns of the tail. Shown in Fig. 2 is the pulse height distribution
121 from the neutron-induced fission of ^{235}U for the slow vs. the fast components of
122 the scintillation light measured by a single liquid scintillator. The particles with
123 the largest energy lost per unit length (dE/dX), i.e. the recoiling protons from
124 n-p scattering, are concentrated predominately along the diagonal of the figure
125 while the events due to the γ -ray interactions are in the upper left part of the

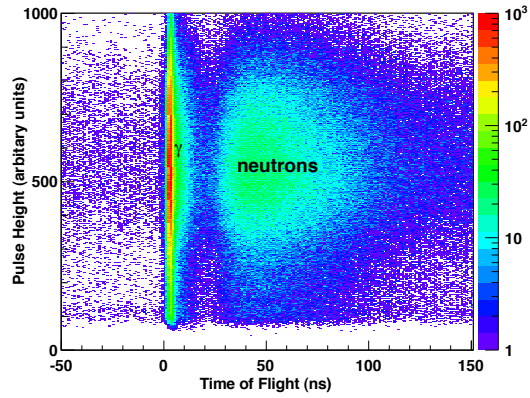


Figure 1: The intensity distribution of the fission fragment pulse height vs. the time-of-flight of the emitted particles from the PPAC to the neutron array.

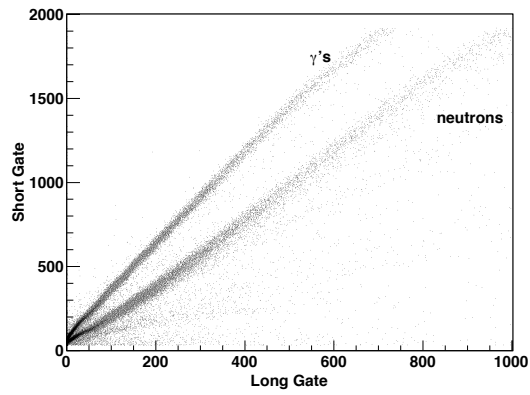


Figure 2: The fast vs. slow components of the scintillation pulse. The events due to the γ rays and neutrons interactions with the detector are the upper and lower curves, respectively.

126 figure. Near the lower limits of the fast and slow components, corresponding
127 to γ -ray and neutron energies below around 120 keV and 1 MeV, respectively,
128 the separation between particles is no longer distinguishable. Thus, both the
129 *TOF* and the pulse-shaped discrimination (*PSD*) techniques were exploited to
130 completely distinguish between the different types of particles. The spectra of
131 the prompt neutrons and γ rays were analyzed separately and the analysis of the
132 neutron distributions will be presented elsewhere. This manuscript will focus
133 on the results from the γ -ray analysis.

134 3. Discussion

135 The distributions measured by any detector are always distorted by the
136 detector response. Thus, one can mathematically represent a measured distri-
137 bution \mathbf{b} by a matrix equation $\mathbf{b}=\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}$, where \mathbf{A} is a two dimensional (2D) $m\times n$
138 sized smearing matrix whose elements are determined by the detector response
139 and \mathbf{x} is the incident distribution on the detector. In order to recover the dis-
140 tributions and energies of the incident particle, one must be able to solve the
141 above equation for \mathbf{x} . In general if the incident distributions are distorted only
142 by a single physical variable, one can solve for the true events through bin-to-
143 bin correlations if the measured values are close to real ones, i.e the migration
144 of events to the neighboring bins is negligible. If the measured values are not
145 close to the real ones and the smearing matrix is nonsingular, one can try to
146 invert the response matrix to recover the “true” distribution. In many cases,
147 this method fails to handle large statistical fluctuations in the data and can
148 give unstable results. Instead, in the current work, we choose to deduce the
149 incident γ -ray distributions using the Single Value Decomposition (SVD) and
150 the iterative Bayesian methods. In the SVD unfolding technique, the smearing
151 matrix is factorized into a product of three 2D matrices, a $m\times m$ orthogonal
152 times a nonnegative $m\times n$ diagonal times a $n\times n$ orthogonal one, in order to
153 create a system of linear equations [20]. The eigenvalues and eigenvectors of the
154 system can then be solved to determine the “true” distribution. In the iterative
155 Bayesian technique, a statistical approach is used to deduce the “true” distribu-
156 tion, (see, for example, [21]). In this method, the number of events observed is
157 written in terms of the summation of the product of the number of events from
158 each effect (i.e. the incident γ rays) that caused the event times the probability
159 from the smearing matrix that the observed event happens given that effect has
160 occurred. The probabilities are weighted based on prior knowledge or assumed
161 to be initially uniform if no previous information is known. The weighting
162 factors are calculated iteratively using the values from the previous iteration
163 until a “small” chi-squared is reached. A more comprehensive summary on the
164 unfolding methods can be found in Ref. [22].

165 3.1. Detector Response

166 In order to build the Monte Carlo simulation of the smearing or detector
167 response matrix, one needs to know the possible interaction mechanisms for

168 photons in matter. The photoelectric effect is known to be the dominant photon
 169 interaction mechanism at relatively low energies. The cross section for the
 170 photoelectric effect process is approximately proportional to $Z^{4.5}$, where Z is
 171 the atomic number of the absorbing material [23]. This process is suppressed in
 172 liquid scintillators due to the low atomic numbers of the scintillation material,
 173 which is comprised of mostly carbon and hydrogen. Thus, a continuum due
 174 to the Compton scattering of the photons becomes the most likely process to
 175 be measured by the detector and makes identifying the incident photon energy
 176 more difficult. In order to reconstruct the “true” photon energies incident on
 177 a liquid scintillator, one must be able to reconstruct the physical interactions
 178 by accurately characterizing the detector response and understanding the light
 179 output collected by the photocathodes.

180 Extensive studies on the light output functions for charged particles in liquid
 181 scintillators such as the NE213 have been done (see, for example, [24]). For
 182 electrons with a kinetic energy above 50 keV, the light output is approximately
 183 proportional to the electron energy [25]. The inefficiency of collecting all the
 184 light from the ionization energy of the liquid (L) results in the deterioration
 185 in the detector resolution. Thus, the full width at half maximum (ΔL) of the
 186 integrated detector signal may be described by the resolution function:

$$\frac{\Delta L}{L} = \sqrt{\alpha^2 + \frac{\beta^2}{L} + \frac{\gamma^2}{L^2}}. \quad (1)$$

187 The resolution parameters α , β and γ , which arise from contributions due to the
 188 locus dependent light transmission from the detector to the photocathode, the
 189 statistical effects of the light production, attenuation, photon/electron conver-
 190 sion, amplification, and noise, respectively, are detector-dependent and must be
 191 determined experimentally.

192 The influence of the detector size, geometry and their contributions to the
 193 detector response were measured using a PuBe mixed neutron and γ -ray source
 194 and four standard calibration sources: ^{22}Na , ^{88}Y , ^{60}Co and ^{137}Cs . A large
 195 volume NaI(Tl) detector located approximately 30 cm away from the center of
 196 the source was used in coincidence with the liquid scintillators to measure the
 197 detector response spectra due to the ^{22}Na , ^{88}Y and ^{60}Co sources. These coin-
 198 cidence measurements provided cleaner spectra by reducing the random room
 199 background measured by the scintillators. A geometric model of the detector
 200 array including the PPAC and its environment was built into a GEANT4 [26]
 201 simulation to calculate the response of the liquid scintillators as a function of
 202 incident γ -ray energy. The measured pulse heights were aligned with the sim-
 203 ulated spectra from GEANT4 to convert channel number into photon energy.
 204 The energy calibrations were found to be linearly dependent on the pulse height
 205 with fluctuations between the fit and the data as large as 3% at 2 MeV.

206 The high-energy side of the peaks due to multiple Compton scattering of
 207 the photons from four calibration sources, and the background lines at 1461
 208 and 2615 keV was fitted with Gaussians to determine ΔL and the resolution
 209 parameters α , β and γ , see Fig 3. The resolution function with α , β and γ equal
 210 to 0.067, 0.21 and 0.11 respectively, has been observed to follow Eq. 1 and has a

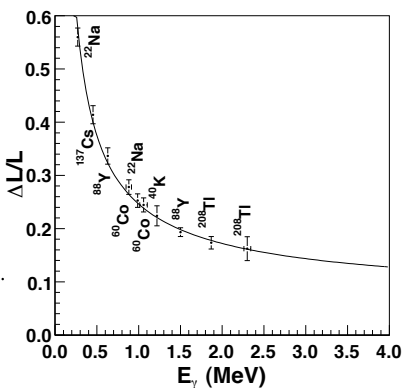


Figure 3: The relative detector resolution of the liquid scintillators vs. the centroid of a Gaussian. The solid curve is a fit to the data using Eq. 1.

211 similar β -to- α ratio of 3.5 as published in Ref. [25] for a larger 25.4 cm diameter
 212 detector. The response function near the upper limit of the pulse height spec-
 213 trum was approximated using a Gaussian fall off whose width was established
 214 from the Compton scattering spectrum of the 4.4 MeV transition from the PuBe
 215 source. The values of the parameters from the fit were then implemented in the
 216 resolution function used in GEANT4 to build a response function of the γ -ray
 217 detector for incident photon energies up to 6 MeV. Response functions from
 218 random sampling of the γ -ray transitions in ^{22}Na and ^{88}Y using by their known
 219 intensities were generated by GEANT4 to determine the detector efficiency.
 220 Comparisons with measured background subtracted were done to validate the
 221 efficiency curve and were determined to have good agreement as seen in Fig. 4.

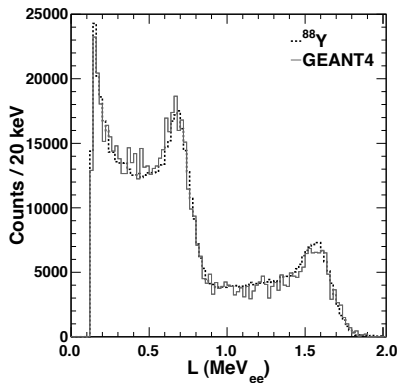


Figure 4: Validation of the detector efficiency from GEANT4 for the ^{88}Y transitions compared with the background subtracted measured spectrum (dashed histogram). The GEANT4 response curve was generated for a ^{88}Y source using γ -ray intensities from ENSDF [27].

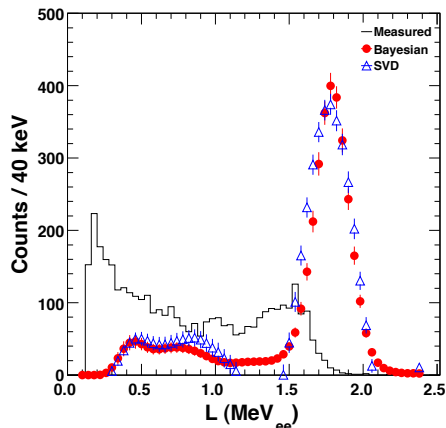


Figure 5: The measured spectrum of a ^{88}Y source in coincidence with the 898 keV transition measured by a NaI(Tl) detector. The filled circles denote the distribution deduced using the iterative Bayesian method, and the open triangles are the calculation using SVD.

222 3.2. Unfolding Calibration Sources

223 The unfolding matrix obtained using GEANT4 simulations was tested against
 224 the measured response functions of the calibration sources by using the SVD
 225 and iterative Bayesian algorithm in the RooUnfold package [28]. Shown in Fig. 5
 226 is the measured distribution from a $10\ \mu\text{Ci}$ ^{88}Y due to the Compton scattering
 227 in the liquid scintillator detectors. The spectrum was obtained by using a
 228 coincidence gate around the 898 keV transition measured by the large volume
 229 NaI(Tl) detector. The filled circles and open triangles are the solutions for the
 230 incident γ -ray distribution determined using the Bayesian and SVD methods,
 231 respectively. Each technique shows a transition centered around 1800 keV cor-
 232 responding to the 1836 keV transition in ^{88}Y , but the SVD method results in
 233 a slightly broader distribution with a ΔL of 337 keV compared to 306 keV
 234 from the Bayesian method. The uncertainties of the unfolding routines are deter-
 235 mined using the diagonal of the covariance matrix but do not incorporate
 236 the $\sim 0.3\%$ statistical uncertainties from the response matrix, see section 5.1 in
 237 Ref. [28] for more details. Despite background subtracting for the Compton
 238 events that result from higher incident γ -ray energies, the second bump due to
 239 events in coincidence with the Compton scattering of the 1836 keV transition
 240 in the NaI(Tl) within the 898 keV gate is still present.

241 3.3. Californium-252

242 To investigate whether it is possible to unfold the detector response of the
 243 liquid scintillators from a continuous energy distribution, the unfolding routines
 244 were tested using a measured spectrum from the spontaneous fission of ^{252}Cf ,
 245 and the resulting unfolded distributions with the spectra obtained using other

246 detector systems. Currently, there are only two known publications which con-
 247 tain the true incident γ -ray distribution up to 8 MeV and another two data sets
 248 up to 6 MeV. The first data set was taken using a single NaI(Tl) detector by
 249 Verbinski *et al* [14]. Structures at the low energy part of the γ ray distribution
 250 were observed before peaking at around 1 MeV. The distribution then drops
 251 nearly five orders of magnitude over the next 6.5 MeV. This general trend is
 252 consistent with the results from another experiment [29] using the 4π array of
 253 BaF₂ known as DANCE except at above 4 MeV, where a steeper drop in the
 254 γ -ray intensities has been observed.

255 Shown in Fig. 6(a) is the prompt γ -ray pulse height distribution for the spon-
 256 taneous fission of ²⁵²Cf measured in the current work. For the SVD technique,
 257 the number of degrees of freedom used in the unfolding matrix needed to be
 258 limited to approximately the number of bins in the observed spectrum. Thus,
 259 the response matrix was limited to incident γ -ray energies up to 5 MeV, see
 260 Fig. 7. The relative efficiency of the detector array is also projected on to the
 261 right side of the figure at $E_{response} = 4.94$ MeV. A larger response matrix with
 262 incident γ -ray energies up to 6 MeV was used for the iterative Bayesian tech-
 263 nique. Both the Bayesian and SVD methods predict exponential decays with
 264 similar slopes above 1 MeV, but disagree below 1 MeV. The Bayesian method
 265 indicates that there is a broad peak in the distribution around 300 keV, while
 266 the SVD technique suggests a much broader and smoother curve.

267 Shown in Fig. 6(c) is the incident γ -ray distribution from the iterative
 268 Bayesian method compared to Ref.[14] and Ref. [29], the unfilled stars and cir-
 269 cles, respectively. In Fig. 6(b) is a comparison of the unfolded γ -ray distribution
 270 from Ref. [30] measured by a NE213 organic scintillator using a Least-squares
 271 method. The distributions in Fig. 6(b-c) were normalized from ~ 1.0 -3.5 MeV
 272 by their total pulse height relative to the current work. If the distributions were
 273 unfolded correctly, one would expect to see similar distributions neglecting the
 274 fine features due to the different detector resolutions. The spectra measured
 275 by liquid scintillator detectors are consistent with each other below 3 MeV.
 276 The authors of Ref. [30] suggest that the oscillation above 4 MeV may be do to
 277 an artifact from their unfolding procedure. The distribution deduced from the
 278 current work using the Bayesian method has the similar trend to what was ob-
 279 served using the DANCE array, which had a 150 keV threshold. The different
 280 thresholds of the detector systems used to measure the distributions and the
 281 energy cutoff at higher energies in the current work caused the deviations at
 282 around 250 keV and 4.0 MeV, respectively. With the current setup, the mea-
 283 surement of the shape in the region above 4.5 MeV, where the slopes observed
 284 by Refs. [14] and [29] deviate, can not be deduced.

285 3.4. Uranium-235

286 There exist several published measurements of the total and/or average
 287 prompt γ -ray energies from the fission of the ²³⁵U at incident neutron ener-
 288 gies up to 15 MeV, see Refs. [31, 32], but there are only two published results to
 289 the best of our knowledge which give the γ -ray distributions emitted from fis-
 290 sion. Both of these publications were neutron-induced fission taken at thermal

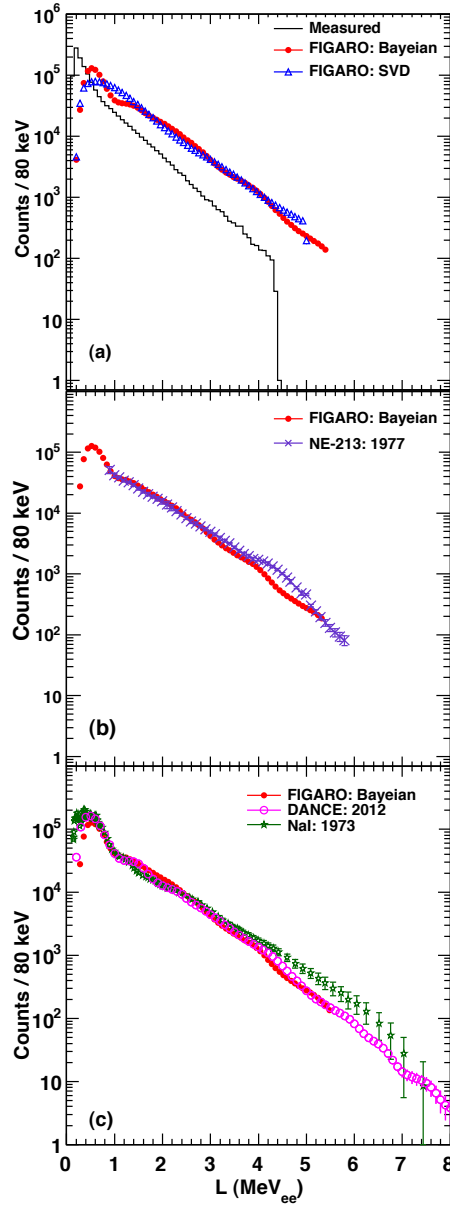


Figure 6: (a) The measured and unfolded pulse height spectra for the spontaneous fission of ^{252}Cf . The symbols retain their meaning from Fig. 5. (b) Comparisons of the Bayesian unfolded spectrum with the spectrum from Ref. [30], (c) Ref. [14], and the Bayesian unfolding spectrum from Ref. [29]

291 energies by Verbinski *et al.* [14] and by Peelle and Maienschein [33]. In addition,
 292 there also exist two Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory internal reports by

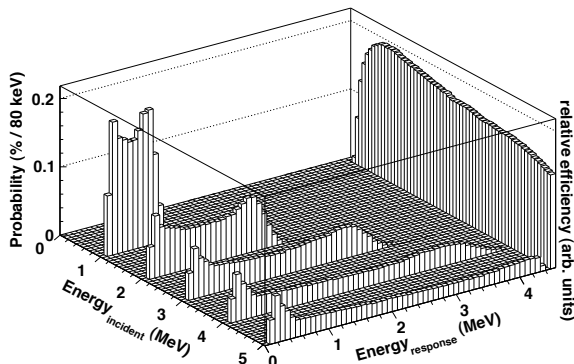


Figure 7: The detector response matrix simulated by GEANT4 for incident γ rays at 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 MeV for the Chi-Nu array. The efficiency curve is projected on to the right side of the figure.

293 Drake measuring the distributions at incident energies of 1, 2, and 5 to 8 MeV
 294 in 500 keV steps [15, 16]. Using a single NaI(Tl) detector and a surface-barrier
 295 fission detector, Verbinski *et al.* deduced that on average 6.51(30) MeV in total
 296 photon energy ($\langle E_{\gamma}^{total} \rangle$) is released per fission, where the average photon en-
 297 ergy is approximately 0.97(5) MeV. The distribution from the thermal-induced
 298 fission determined by Verbinski *et al.* was observed to have a similar pattern to
 299 that seen in the spontaneous fission of ^{252}Cf for γ rays in energy range between
 300 0.14 to ~ 4 MeV. Peelle and Maienschein observed a similar unfolded distribu-
 301 tion except at around 1.7 to 3.0 MeV where they observed slightly larger γ -ray
 302 intensities. From their distributions, they obtained an average photon energy
 303 of 7.18(26) MeV from thermal-induced fission which is greater than the total
 304 energy equal to 6.43(30) MeV obtained by Pleasonton *et al.* [34]. The latter is
 305 consistent with Verbinski *et al.*. Using a large gadolinium-loaded liquid scintilla-
 306 tor, Frehaut *et al.* [32] measured the total photon energy from fission a function
 307 of the incident neutron energies from 1 to 15 MeV. The $\langle E_{\gamma}^{total} \rangle$ was found
 308 to have a small but nearly linear increasing dependence on the incident neutron
 309 energy, see Ref. [35].

310 The prompt γ -ray distributions from ^{235}U were measured at neutron inci-
 311 dent energies from 1.0 to 20.0 MeV in the current work to study the effect of
 312 the bombarding energy on the shape of the distributions. By validating the un-
 313 folding techniques used in the current work against the γ -ray distributions from
 314 calibration sources and the spontaneous fission of ^{252}Cf , we were convinced that
 315 we can use the same methods to deduce the γ -ray distributions from fission of
 316 other nuclei. The γ -ray events from the neutron-induced fission of ^{235}U within
 317 ± 6 ns of the time difference between the liquid scintillator and the PPAC were
 318 examined at three different incident neutron energy ranges: 1-2, 5-10, and 10-20
 319 MeV. The incident energy ranges were chosen based on regions where single or

320 multi-chance fission are known to occur.

321 Figs 8(a)-(c) are comparisons of the pulse height distribution for the prompt
322 γ rays as a function of the γ -ray energy for neutron incident energies of 1-2,
323 5-10 and 10-20 MeV, respectively. All events detected by the six chosen liquid
324 scintillator detectors were summed for statistical purposes; thus any anisotropy
325 due to the angular distributions was neglected. The distributions were unfolded
326 using a response matrix generated from GEANT4 for incident γ -ray energies up
327 to 5 MeV. The incident spectra deduced from the two unfolding techniques, the
328 iterative Bayesian and SVD are essentially identical above 1.8 MeV. The uncer-
329 tainties from the unfolding routines are again calculated using the covariance
330 matrix and increase from $\sim 3\%$ at 500 keV to $\sim 10\%$ at 4 MeV. Comparisons
331 with the distributions from Refs. [14, 15] at thermal and 1 MeV incident ener-
332 gies and Ref. [16] at bombarding 5 MeV are also included in panels (a) and (b),
333 respectively. A general agreement from all the experiments can be seen from
334 γ -ray energies between 1 to 4 MeV and the disagreement below 800 keV is due
335 to the threshold at 130 keV in the current experiment. Shown in panel (d) is the
336 spectra for the three energy ranges obtained using the iterative Bayesian method
337 normalized to the spectrum in (b). The three γ -ray distributions in panels (a)
338 through (c) obtained using the iterative Bayesian and SVD methods have essen-
339 tially the same shape within uncertainties. This suggests that the temperature
340 of the fission fragments after neutron evaporation may be independent of the
341 incident bombarding neutron energy.

342 In the comparison of the prompt γ -ray distributions from the spontaneous
343 fission of ^{252}Cf and the thermal-neutron-induced fission of ^{235}U , Verbinski *et al.*
344 found a systematic softening of the γ -ray spectra with increasing mass number
345 of the fissioning isotope. A comparison of the distributions from the current
346 work for the prompt γ rays from fission of ^{235}U and ^{252}Cf is given in Fig. 9.
347 The distribution from the spontaneous fission of ^{252}Cf has been normalized to
348 the distribution from the neutron-induced fission ^{235}U from ~ 1 -4 MeV for the
349 purpose of comparison. The variations in the end points of the distributions
350 arise from the differences in the measured statistics at around 4 MeV.

351 Except for the fine details in the californium distribution, both distributions
352 have the same monotonically decreasing trend with approximately the same
353 slope in the energy region from 1 to 4 MeV. Future measurements with im-
354 proved statistics will be carried out using ^{235}U and ^{239}Pu targets to measure
355 the distributions past 4 MeV to determine if the softening at the higher γ -ray
356 energies observed by Verbinski *et al.* is a global feature for neutron-induced
357 fission.

358 4. Summary

359 Two experiments measuring the prompt γ -ray distributions from the spon-
360 taneous fission of ^{252}Cf and neutron-induced fission of ^{235}U were carried out
361 at LANSCE using the FIGARO neutron array. Unfolding was performed for
362 the fission γ -ray distributions measured with liquid scintillators by the SVD
363 and iterative Bayesian techniques that were validated using calibration sources

364 and comparing with previous measurement on the spontaneous fission of ^{252}Cf .
365 The iterative Bayesian method is able to reproduce the finer details observed
366 in other measurements while the SVD approach yields a broader distribution
367 and smoothes any fine details. The same monotonically decreasing slope was
368 observed for the γ -ray energies from 1.0 to 4.0 MeV for ^{252}Cf and the ^{235}U re-
369 gardless of neutron incident energy. Future measurements are planned to extend
370 the distributions past 4 MeV with markedly improved statistics thus allowing
371 the structure of the distribution to be investigated. The success of using the
372 modern unfolding techniques to unfold the γ -ray distributions from fission with
373 a liquid scintillator array will pave the way for future studies on γ -neutron cor-
374 relations needed to improve the predictive capabilities for neutron and γ ray
375 emissions in fission models.
376

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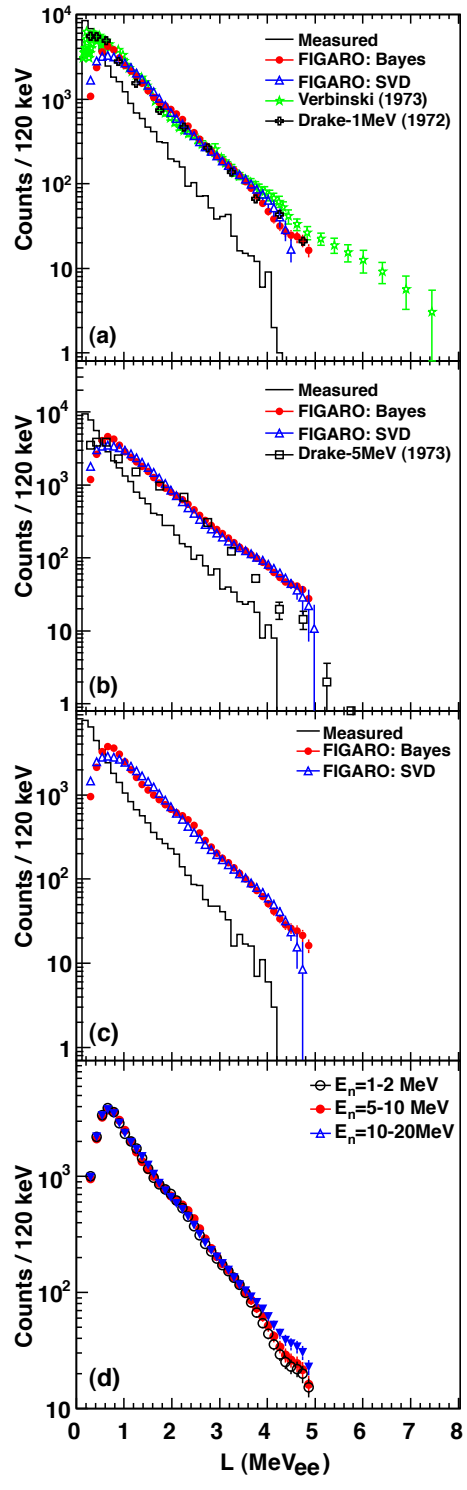


Figure 8: The measured and unfolded pulse height spectra by liquid scintillators for the neutron-induced fission of ^{235}U at projectile energies of (a) 1 to 2, (b) 5 to 10 and (c) 10 to 20 MeV. The distributions from Refs. [14, 15] and Ref. [16] are also plotted in panels (a) and (b), respectively, for comparison. (d) The normalized pulse height spectra unfolded using the iterative Bayesian method.

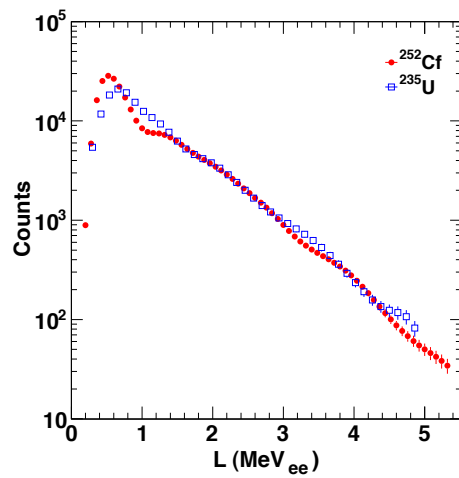


Figure 9: Comparison of the unfolded pulse heights spectra using the iterative Bayesian method for the neutron-induced fission of ²³⁵U at projectile energies of 1.0 to 2.0 MeV, and the spontaneous fission of ²⁵²Cf.