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Measured with 100-MeV Compton Back-Scattered Photons**

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CNPq - Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico

FISSILITY of Bi, Pb, Au, Pt, W, Ta, V, and Ti NUCLEI MEASURED WITH 100-MeV COMPTON BACK-SCATTERED PHOTONS

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Abstract

Photofission cross sections of  $^{209}\text{Bi}$ ,  $^{nat}\text{Pb}$ ,  $^{197}\text{Au}$ ,  $^{nat}\text{Pt}$ ,  $^{nat}\text{W}$ ,  $^{181}\text{Ta}$ ,  $^{51}\text{V}$ , and  $^{nat}\text{Ti}$  nuclei have been measured at an incident photon energy of 100 MeV using monochromatic photons produced by Compton backscattering at the ROKK-1M facility (BINP, Novosibirsk). Detection of fission fragments has been performed by means of Makrofol track-etch detectors in close contact with metallic foils of the target elements. The values of fissility at 100 MeV deduced for the targets under investigation are found to range between  $10^{-4}$  and  $10^{-2}$ . The present results show consistency with the fissility trends calculated for 69- and 600-MeV monoenergetic photons using a formalism based on the current two-step model for intermediate-energy photofission reactions.

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## 1. Introduction

The experimental investigation of nuclear fission induced in pre-actinide nuclei by intermediate-energy photons has revealed interesting features. Pre-actinide nuclei do not exhibit at low incident energies ( $k \lesssim 30$  MeV) the resonance pattern characteristic of the fission cross section of actinide nuclei. For nuclei of mass number  $A < 210$  the trends of the photofission cross section  $\sigma_f$ , and of the fissility  $f$  (ratio of fission cross section to total nuclear photoabsorption cross section), show conversely an increase of several orders of magnitude from fission threshold ( $\sim 20$ - $30$  MeV) up to about 200 MeV.

Most of the investigations on photofission of pre-actinides were carried out using bremsstrahlung radiation as a source of real photons [1-7]. In some instances photofission cross sections for pre-actinide and intermediate-mass nuclei were obtained by unfolding the electrofission yields with a virtual photon spectrum [8-11]. In recent years the development of new techniques allowed to use monochromatic photon beams and/or tagged photons [12-19] and to obtain more reliable photofission cross section data at energies  $k \lesssim 140$  MeV [20-27].

We have concentrated our interest on the study of photofission of pre-actinides and intermediate-mass nuclei in the quasi-deuteron region of photonuclear interaction ( $30 \lesssim k \lesssim 140$  MeV). Accordingly, we have planned a series of photofission experiments taking advantage of the monochromatic photon beams of the ROKK-1M facility (BINP, Novosibirsk, Russia) and of a detection technique which uses solid-state fission track detectors in contact with thick targets [28] for evaluation of low fission yields.

The current research represents an extension towards higher energies of that performed by some of us by using monochromatic photons of 69 MeV (LADON facility at the Frascati National Laboratories) [25-27]. Following the same approach, the present paper reports fissility data collected at a fixed energy for various target nuclei. Here, photofission has been induced in  $^{209}\text{Bi}$ ,  $\text{natPb}$ ,  $^{197}\text{Au}$ ,  $\text{natPt}$ ,  $\text{natW}$ ,  $^{181}\text{Ta}$ ,  $^{51}\text{V}$  and  $\text{natTi}$  by monochromatic photon beams of 100 MeV. The dependence of fissility upon parameter  $Z^2/A$  for pre-actinide and intermediate-mass nuclei is discussed on the basis of the present results and of the data obtained in other laboratories.

## 2. Experimental

The stacks containing the various target materials in close contact with makrofol fission-track detectors were exposed to the monochromatic photon beams produced at the ROKK-1M facility by Compton back-scattering of laser light against high-energy electrons (1.8 GeV) circulating in the VEPP-4M storage ring. The experimental set-up is shown in figure 1. The Compton scattering between a relativistic electron beam and laser light enhances the energy of the laser photons in the head-on collision. Doubled base harmonic of Q-switched Nd:Yag laser ( $\omega = 2.34 \text{ eV}$ ) are used. The laser beam focused on the interaction point is injected into the vacuum chamber of the VEPP-4M collider beside the bending magnet. The  $\gamma$ -flux get out of the vacuum chamber through the last mirror M2, passing thereafter the collimator C (a rectangular 4x4 mm hole in 100 mm lead shield) and the cleaning magnet CM placed at 18 m from the interaction point. Due to the correlation between energy and emission angle of  $\gamma$ -quanta, the collimator adsorbs the low-energetic part of the Compton spectrum and decreases the flux of the bremsstrahlung  $\gamma$ -quanta produced in the collider straight region. The  $\gamma$ -beam profile after collimation is measured by a space-sensitive detector consisting of a two-coordinate multiwire proportional chambers with 2 mm lead convertor. The energy spectrum is taken by a NaI(Tl) total photo-absorption calorimeter. The scintillation counter SC placed before the NaI(Tl) detector is used as a trigger for the charged particles of the  $\gamma$ -beam. Coincidences between the signals coming from calorimeter, scintillation counter, and laser pulses are used to define the contributions of Compton, bremsstrahlung and charged components in the flux. A detailed description of the ROKK-1M facility can be found in Ref. [29].

In figure 2 is reported a typical spectrum of the  $\gamma$ -beam, obtained by the following procedure. The NaI (Tl) calorimeter was calibrated in the whole range of  $\gamma$ -quanta energy by using the KEDR detector tagging system [30] that provides a resolution of the electron beam energy better than 0.1%. The response function of the NaI(Tl) calorimeter was measured. The resolution of the NaI(Tl) calorimeter was found to be  $(11 \div 16)\%$  in the range of the Compton spectrum energies. The corrected  $\gamma$ -beam spectrum obtained by the deconvolution of the detector response function (figure 2) shows a Compton-edge of  $k_{\text{max}} = 109 \text{ MeV}$ , a peak width (FWHM/ $k_{\text{max}}$ ) of about 18%, and an energy threshold of 14.6 MeV. The ratio of Compton to bremsstrahlung photons, in the whole spectrum, was better than 9.0 (first run)

and 6.0 (second run). The percentage of charged particles in the total dose was less than 7% (first run) and 12% (second run). The real doses collected by each target have been evaluated taking into account the photon flux attenuation through the stacks and are listed in table 1.

Table 1 gives a description of the target and detector materials used in the experiments. Data have been collected in two runs.

After irradiations, the detector foils were processed by the usual etching procedure [26] in order to obtain legible fission fragment tracks on the detector surface for track counting by optical microscopy (table 1). Since the total area to be scanned was very large ( $\sim 1440 \text{ cm}^2$ ), track identification on each detector was done by one observer (single scanning) and checked by a second one. Track loss during the optical analysis has been estimated from previous double scanning photofission experiments performed with the same methodology [25-27]. In this way, a counting efficiency of  $(79 \pm 7)\%$  was evaluated and thoroughly adopted in converting track counting into fission yields.

### 3. Data analysis and results

To obtain the physical quantities of interest and associated errors, the data have been treated by taking into account statistics and efficiency of track counting. We introduced also the appropriate corrections for both  $\gamma$ -beam attenuation through the stacks and self-absorption of fission fragments by the target materials (thin- and thick-target geometry). Accordingly, the nominal total photon doses have been corrected by using the law of exponential decrease of photon beam intensity in passing through the matter (see table 1). For the second correction it was necessary to determine the effective thickness,  $x$ , of each target, and the average total efficiency,  $\epsilon$ , of the detection method (etching efficiency multiplied by observation efficiency). The evaluation of the quantity  $x$  takes into account the average residual range of the full-energy median fission fragment in both target and detector materials. The value of  $\epsilon$  has been evaluated by considering: i) the thickness of the surface layer of the detector removed by etching; ii) the minimal etched fission track projection capable of being observed on the detector surface under given optics. All these quantities have been handled following the procedure described in details in Refs. [26] and [28], and the resulting values of  $x$  and  $\epsilon$  for the two runs are listed in table 2. Finally, for each target element, the total number of fission events has been obtained by summing over the number of detectors

employed in the two runs.

### 3.1. Photofission yield

For fission experiments performed by using target materials in close contact with fission-track detectors, the fission yields are expressed by the formula

$$Y = C \times \frac{\sum_{i=1}^2 N_{T_i}}{\sum_{i=1}^2 Q_i \cdot n_i \cdot \varepsilon_i x_i} \quad , \quad (1)$$

where  $C = M / (\rho N_0)$  is a constant for each target element,  $M$  is the atom-gram,  $\rho$  is the density and  $N_0$  is Avogadro's number. The other quantities appearing in (1) are defined and listed in tables 1 and 2. The last column in table 2 reports the values of the photofission yield for the various target nuclei. The main source of error is the statistical one (~ 20-30% for Bi, Pb, and Pt, ~ 44% for Au, W, Ta, and 50-60% for V and Ti targets). Systematic errors amount to ~ 22% for Bi and Au, 18% for Pb, and 13% for Pt, W, Ta, V, and Ti targets.

As can be seen from inspection of table 2, the present method allowed us to measure photofission yields as low as some units of  $\mu\text{b}$ . This was possible in view of both the photon doses provided by the ROKK-1M facility and the large number of fission track detectors employed in the experiments.

### 3.2. Absolute photofission cross section

The measured photofission yield,  $Y$ , is related to the absolute photofission cross section,  $\sigma_f$ , through the relationship

$$Y = \int_{k_i}^{k_f} \sigma_f(k) \left( \frac{dn}{dk} \right) dk \quad , \quad (2)$$

where  $k_i$  and  $k_f$  are the limiting energy values in the photon spectrum, and  $dn/dk = p(k)$  represents the fraction of photons in the energy interval  $dk$ , i.e.,

$p(k)$  is the energy distribution normalized to one photon in the range  $k_i$ - $k_f$ . In order to calculate the relative contributions to the total yield due to low- ( $k \ll k_{\max}$ ) and high-energy ( $k > k_{\max}$ ) photons in the spectrum, the integral (2) is rewritten as

$$Y = \int_{k_{th}}^{k_1} \sigma_f(k) p(k) dk + \int_{k_1}^{k_2} \sigma_f(k) p(k) dk + \int_{k_2}^{k_f} \sigma_f(k) p(k) dk , \quad (3)$$

with  $k_{th}$  standing for the photofission threshold. The effective photon energy interval  $k_1$ - $k_2$  contains the peak of the energy distribution and is defined in such a way that

$$\int_{k_{th}}^{k_1} \sigma_f(k) p(k) dk + \int_{k_2}^{k_f} \sigma_f(k) p(k) dk \ll \int_{k_1}^{k_2} \sigma_f(k) p(k) dk . \quad (4)$$

In order to define the values of  $k_1$  and  $k_2$  for Bi, Pb and Au targets, we have used in (4) the trends obtained from the measured values of  $\sigma_f$  [4,6,8-10,20,22,23,25]. In view of the fact that the experimental yields are affected by large errors, it is reasonable to admit that a 20-25% of fission events are due to low- and high-energy photons. In this way, it was found  $k_1=90$  MeV,  $k_2=115$  MeV, and the average photon energy in the measured energy spectrum results to be  $\bar{k} = 100$  MeV. Inspection of figure 3 shows the relative contributions to the total yield from the different photon energy regions mentioned (bottom scale) for Bi (a) and Pb and Au targets (b). Since the peak-shape of the spectrum is reasonably narrow in the range  $k_1$ - $k_2$ , it follows that  $\sigma_f(\bar{k}) = \alpha Y$ . The numerical factor  $\alpha$  turns out to be 1.37 for Bi, and 1.40 for Pb and Au. The average value of 1.39 has been used. For the other pre-actinide target nuclei one can assume the same value for the  $\alpha$ -factor, because their relative contributions to the total yield are expected not to differ significantly from those of Bi, Pb, and Au nuclei.

For nuclei of mass number  $A \lesssim 100$ , the photofission threshold,  $k_{th}$ , can be evaluated from the average total kinetic energy released in fission,  $\langle E_k^t \rangle$ , and from the Q-value for the nearly symmetric break-up of the fissioning nucleus. One obtains  $k_{th} = \langle E_k^t \rangle - Q$ , where  $Q$  is a negative quantity. The  $\langle E_k^t \rangle$ -values have been calculated from the systematics reported in [31], and the Q-values from the Table of Mass by Audi and Wapstra [32]. In this way, the photofission threshold for  $^{51}\text{V}$  and  $^{nat}\text{Tl}$  is found to be  $k_{th} \approx 50$  MeV. Since for these two target nuclei the trend of  $\sigma_f$  is unknown, the best we

can do is to assume  $\bar{k} = 100$  MeV valid also for these two targets, and write

$$\sigma_f(\bar{k}) = \frac{Y}{\int_{k_1}^{k_f} p(k) dk} \quad (5)$$

where  $\bar{k}$  is now defined in the range  $k_1 - k_f$ . By using this procedure one obtains  $k_1 = 80$  MeV and  $\sigma_f(\bar{k}) = 1.39 Y$ . Surprisingly, the numerical factor relating  $\sigma_f(\bar{k})$  to  $Y$  results to be the same as for the pre-actinide nuclei. In summary, for all the target elements studied in the present work, the absolute photofission cross sections at  $k = 100$  MeV could be obtained by multiplying the measured photofission yields by the factor 1.39. The resulting cross sections are reported in table 3 (4th column) together with data from other laboratories.

### 3.3. Nuclear Photofissility

Photofissility values at  $k = 100$  MeV have been deduced by calculating the ratio

$$f = \sigma_f / \sigma_a^t, \quad (6)$$

where the total nuclear photoabsorption cross section,  $\sigma_a^t$ , has been evaluated according to Levinger's modified quasi-deuteron model [33]

$$\sigma_a^t(k) = L \frac{NZ}{A} \sigma_d(k) e^{-D:k} \quad (7)$$

Here,  $\sigma_d(k)$  stands for the total photodisintegration cross section of the free deuteron, the value of which at  $k = 100$  MeV is  $73 \mu\text{b}$  [34].  $L$  is Levinger's constant calculated by  $L = 6.8 - 11.2 A^{-2/3} + 5.7 A^{-4/3}$  according to [35].  $D$  is the so-called "damping" parameter given by  $D = 0.72 A^{0.81}$  MeV [36]. Finally,  $NZ$  represents the number of neutron-proton pairs of the target nucleus. The dependence of  $\sigma_a^t$  on mass number, calculated by equation (7), is depicted in figure 3 (c) (top scale). The reported trend agrees rather well with



the available measured  $\sigma_a^t$ -values (points) from Refs.[12] and [37]. Therefore, use has been made of equation (7) to evaluate  $\sigma_a^t$ -values. The corresponding photofissilities for the nuclei considered in the present work have been thoroughly determined by equation (6). All these data are reported in table 3.

#### 4. Discussion

The photofissility data reported in table 3 show a general trend of increasing with  $Z^2/A$  from the region of rare earth elements up to the heavier pre-actinides. This feature is better evidenced in figure 4, and it is consistent with the predictions based on the fission-evaporation competition model by Nix and Sassi [38], as well as with the detailed cascade-evaporation model by Iljinov et al. [39]. In figure 4 we chose to report, along with the present results (filled circles), literature data obtained by quasi-monochromatic photons (open symbols). A representative result for  $^{nat}\text{Ti}$  (filled triangle) and interpolated fissility values for  $^{174}\text{Yb}$  and  $^{154}\text{Sm}$  obtained by virtual photons [8] are also shown in figure 4. These latter data represent the unique available information in the region of intermediate-mass nuclei. As expected it is found that, within the referred uncertainties, the set of data points obtained at  $k=100$  MeV lies between the fissility trends calculated for monoenergetic photons of 69 MeV [25,27] (full line) and of 600 MeV [39] (dotted line). Moreover, the data appear closer to the fissility trend calculated for 69 MeV than to that for 600 MeV. This feature is consistent with the predictions of the current model for intermediate-energy photofission reactions.

As far as the  $^{51}\text{V}$  and  $^{nat}\text{Ti}$  targets are concerned, it is worth noticing that, for nuclei lighter than silver, both a study of nuclear fissility throughout the periodic table [38] and Monte Carlo calculations of photon-induced reactions based on the cascade-evaporation model [39] have indicated a clear trend of fissility increasing with  $Z^2/A$  decreasing. Recently, in a study of  $^{27}\text{Al}$  fission by 69-MeV monochromatic photons [27], such calculations have been extended towards less massive nuclei (left portion of the full line in figure 4). Although no trend of calculated fissility is at present available for incident photons of 100 MeV, the experimental values here determined for  $^{51}\text{V}$  and  $^{nat}\text{Ti}$  ( $\sim 10^{-2}$ ) seem to confirm the predicted increasing of fissility for fissioning systems with  $Z^2/A \lesssim 20$ .

## 5. Conclusions

In the course of the present work, the fission of some pre-actinide nuclei ( $^{209}\text{Bi}$ ,  $\text{natPb}$ ,  $^{197}\text{Au}$ ,  $\text{natPt}$ ,  $\text{natW}$ , and  $^{181}\text{Ta}$ ) and of two less massive nuclei ( $^{51}\text{V}$  and  $\text{natTi}$ ) has been investigated by using monochromatic photon beams of 100 MeV produced from Compton backscattered laser light. Photofission yields have been measured taking advantage of a method which uses makrofol fission-track detectors in close contact with thick target materials. It is to be noted that this paper reports the first experimental determination of fission yields for  $\text{natW}$ ,  $^{51}\text{V}$ , and  $\text{natTi}$  targets in the quasi-deuteron region of photonuclear absorption. For the various target nuclei the absolute photofission cross sections,  $\sigma_f$ , have been determined taking into account the photon spectrum. Photofissility values were subsequently deduced for each target element from the ratio  $\sigma_f / \sigma'_a$  where  $\sigma'_a$  is the total nuclear photoabsorption cross section at 100 MeV, calculated in the framework of Levinger's modified quasi-deuteron model. The results were compared with available data obtained by incident photons of 100 MeV, and a satisfactory agreement has been found.

Overall, the whole set of fissility data obtained in the present work shows to be consistent with the trends calculated at 69- and 600-MeV on the basis of the fission-evaporation competition model for photofission reactions, as well as with data of other pre-actinide and intermediate-mass nuclei from other laboratories. In particular, the present data for  $^{51}\text{V}$  and  $\text{natTi}$  nuclei appear to follow the predicted increase of fissility with  $Z^2/A$  decreasing in the region of light complex nuclei.

Further experiments of fission induced in the same target nuclei by higher energy monochromatic photons are being carried out presently in our laboratory.

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### Figure Captions

Figure 1. Experimental setup of the ROKK-1M facility at the storage ring VEPP-4 (BINP, Novosibirsk, Russia): LS is the the laser source ; L1, L2 are focusing lenses ; M1, M2 are mirrors ; C is a 4mmx4mm collimator of 10 cm of lead ; CM is a cleaning magnet ; SC is a scintillation counter ; T+D are the stacks of targets and makrofol detectors ; PC is a proportional chamber with 2 mm lead converter ; NaI(Tl) is a total photoabsorption calorimeter of 10 cm x 10 cm x 40 cm for gamma-beam spectrometry and dose measurements.

Figure 2. Typical spectrum of back-scattered Compton  $\gamma$ -beam (normalized to one photon) taken with the NaI(Tl) calorimeter after collimation.

Figure 3. (a) Fission-yield strength,  $\sigma_f(k)$  ( $dn/dk$ ) , plotted against photon energy (bottom scale) for Bi targets .  $\sigma_f(k)$  is the average trend from data of Refs. [6, 8, 9, 20, 22, 25] for Bi ,  $dn/dk$  is the measured Compton spectrum shown in figure 2. The energy-values  $k_{th}$  ,  $k_1$ , and  $k_2$  define the various energy regions in equation (3). (b) The same for Pb and Au targets :  $\sigma_f(k)$  is the average trend from data of Réfs.[4 , 23] for Au, and the measured  $\sigma_f$ -curve of Ref.[10] for Pb.

(c) Total nuclear photoabsorption cross section,  $\sigma_a^t$  , plotted against mass number A (top scale) for incident photons of 100 MeV. The curve has been obtained from equation (7) as explained in the text ; points represent experimental results for Ca from Ref. [37], and Sn,Ce, Ta, Pb, and U from Ref.[12].

Figure 4. Nuclear fissility plotted against parameter  $Z^2/A$  of the target nucleus. Points represent experimental data for 100- MeV incident photons: ●,  $^{209}\text{Bi}$ ,  $\text{natPb}$ ,  $^{197}\text{Au}$ ,  $\text{natPt}$ ,  $\text{natW}$ ,  $^{181}\text{Ta}$ ,  $^{51}\text{V}$  and  $\text{natTi}$  of this work ; ○  $^{209}\text{Bi}$  of Ref.[22] ; □,  $^{209}\text{Bi}$  of Ref.[21] ; ■  $^{174}\text{Yb}$  and  $^{154}\text{Sm}$  of Ref.[8] ; ▲  $\text{natTi}$  of Ref.[5] ; △  $^{197}\text{Au}$  of Ref.[23]. For comparison, two results of calculated fissility are shown: solid line, 69-MeV monoenergetic photons from Refs. [25] and [27] ; dotted line, 600-MeV monoenergetic photons from Ref.[39].

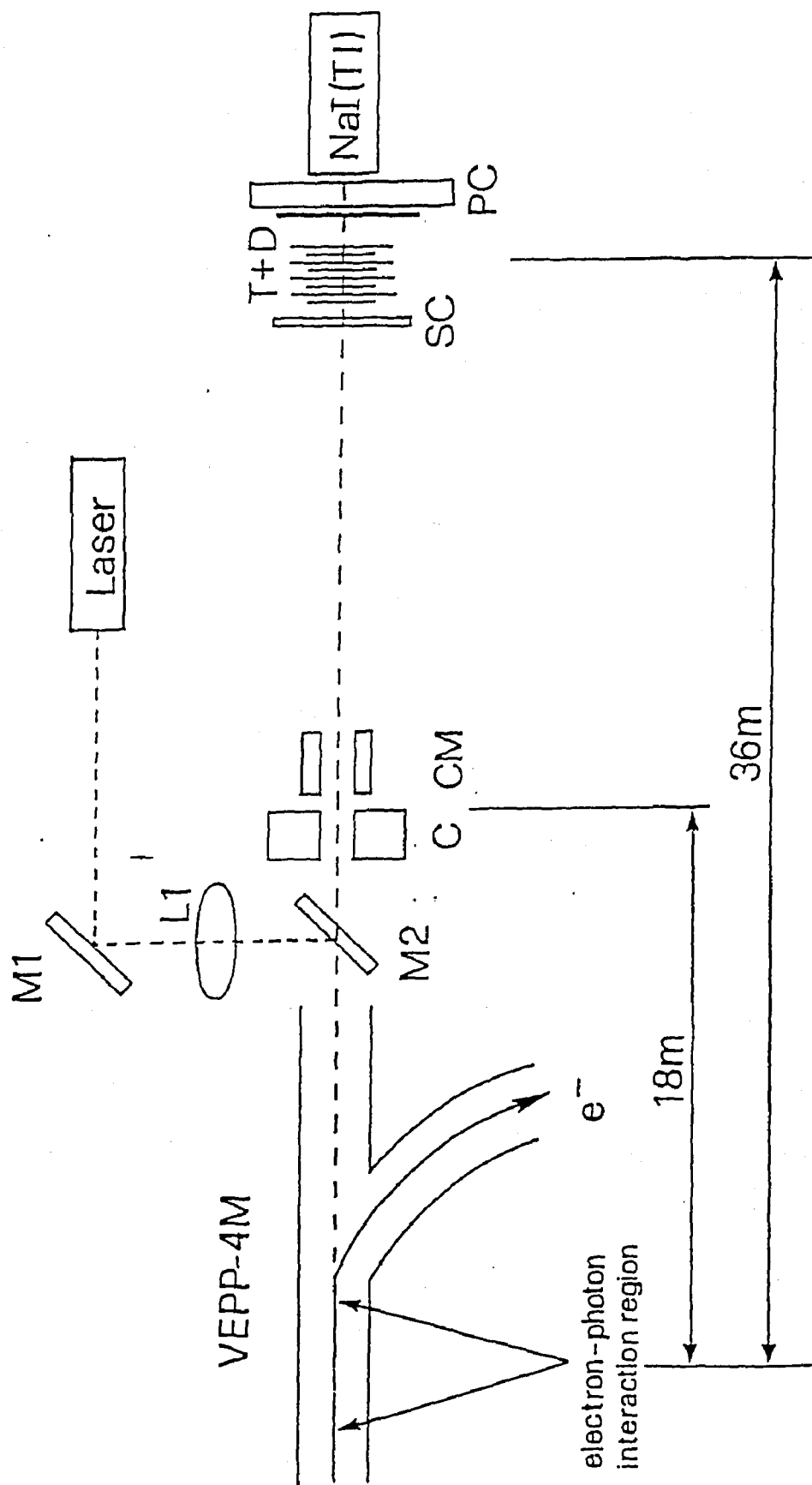


Fig. 1

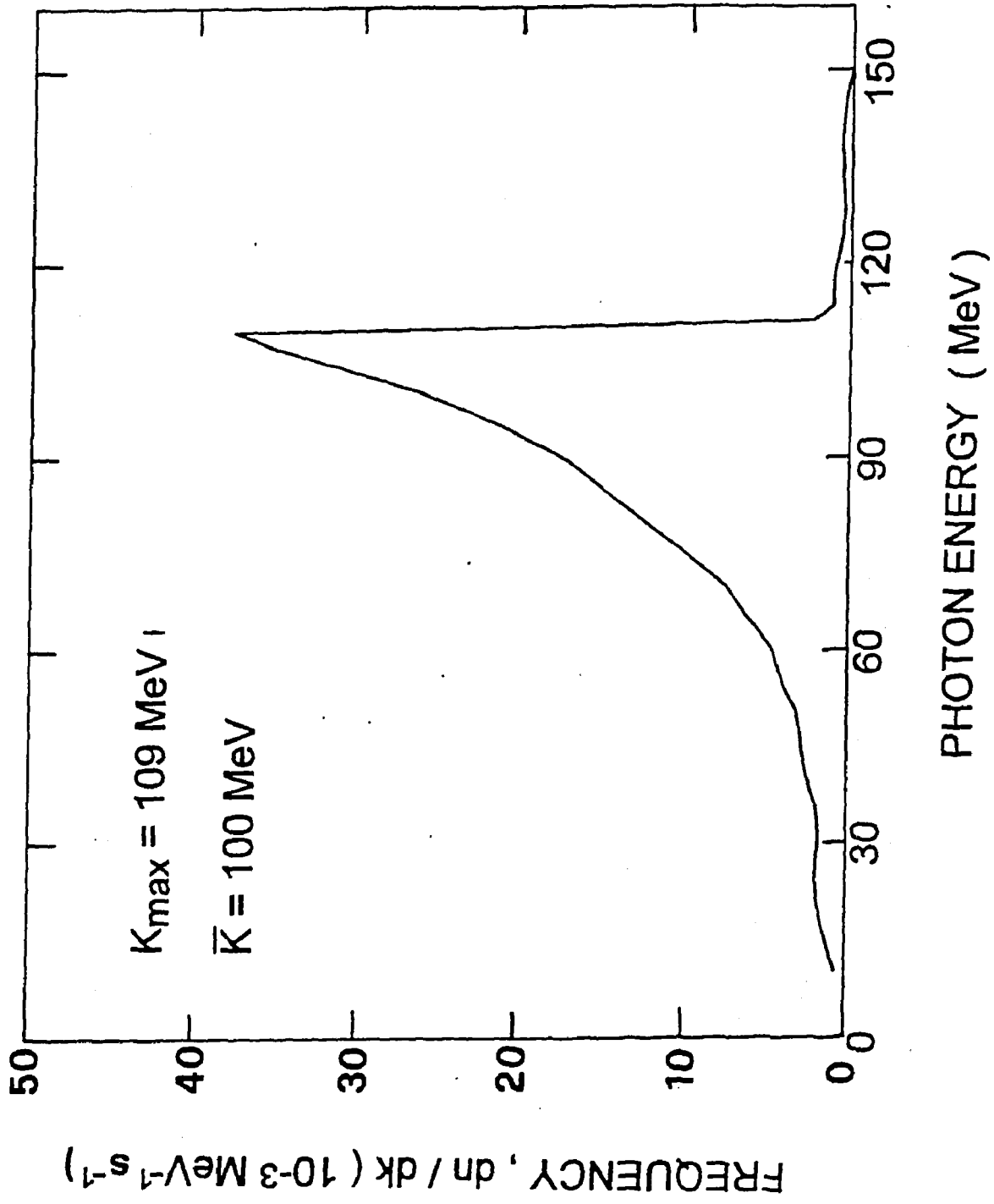


Fig. 2

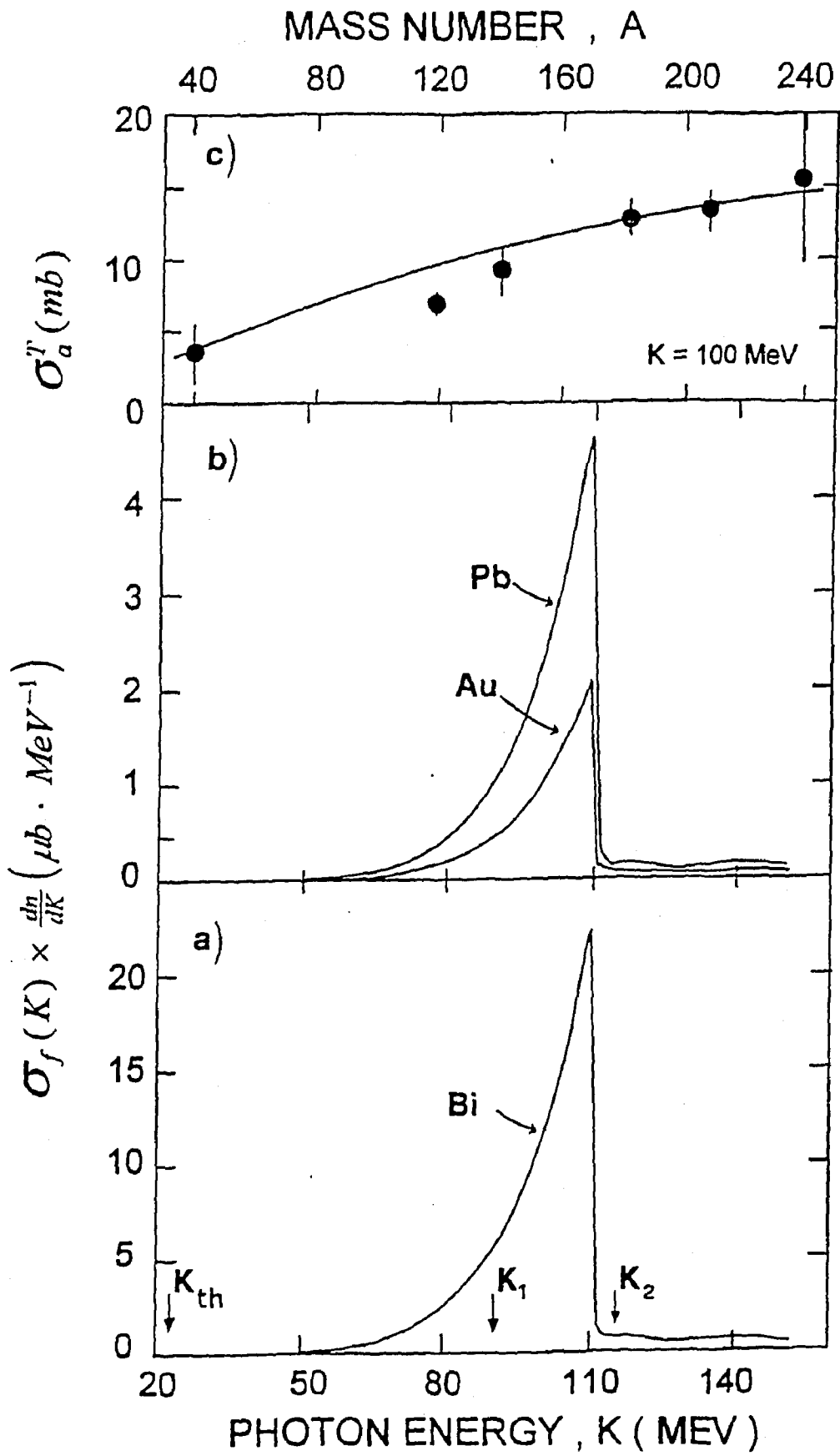


Fig. 3

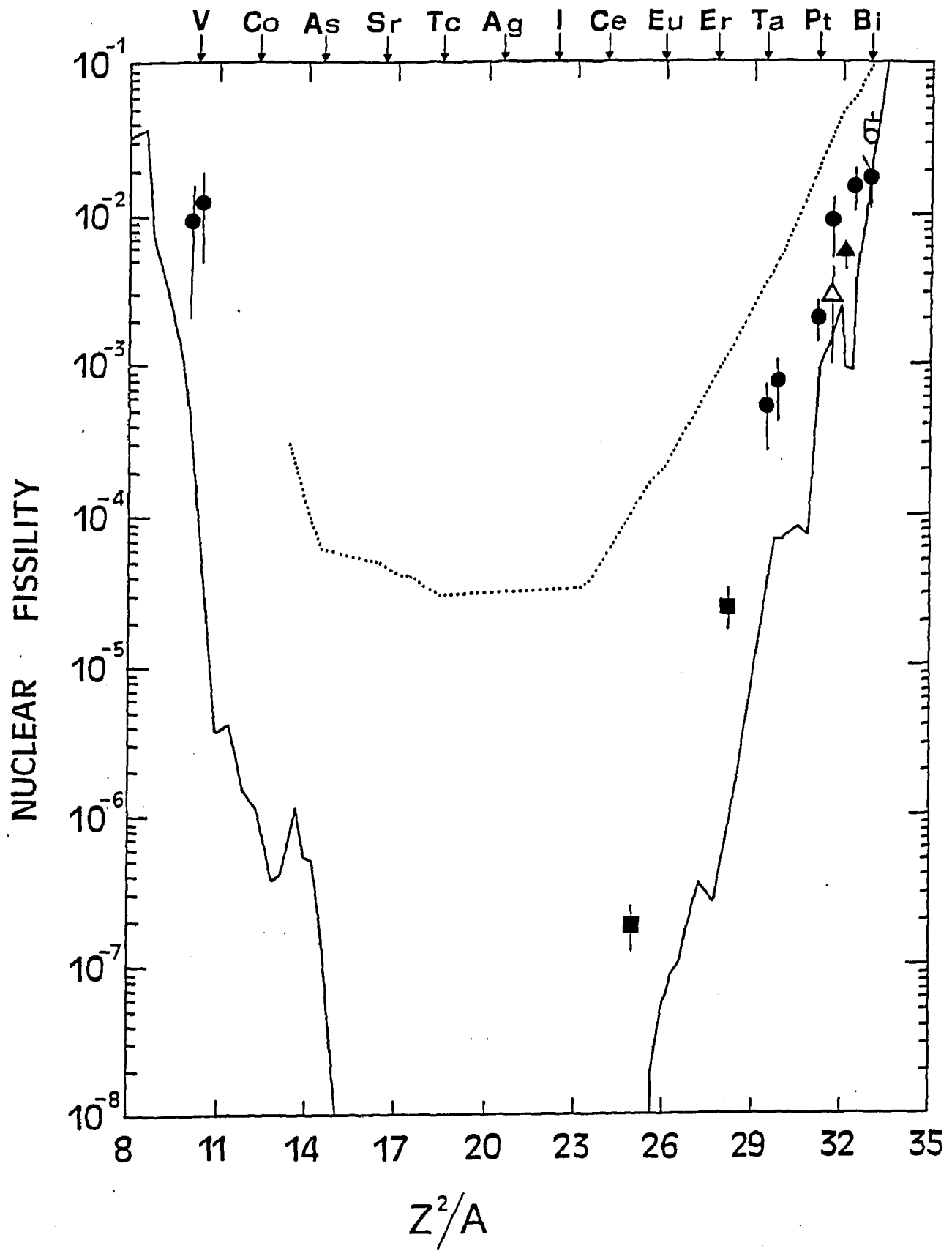


Fig. 4



Table 1 - Data regarding the target and detector materials, exposures, etching procedure, and detector analysis of the present photofission experiment.

| Target element | Target material <sup>a</sup>   | Irradiation conditions <sup>c</sup>             |   |   |   | Etching conditions                                    | Total detector area scanned <sup>f</sup> (cm <sup>2</sup> ) |
|----------------|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|                |  | First run                                       |   | Second run                                      |   |   |   |
|                |  | Nr. of detectors <sup>d</sup><br>n <sub>1</sub> | Nominal, total photon dose <sup>e</sup><br>Q <sub>1</sub> (10 <sup>8</sup> γ) | Nr. of detectors <sup>d</sup><br>n <sub>2</sub> | Nominal, total photon dose <sup>e</sup><br>Q <sub>2</sub> (10 <sup>8</sup> γ) |   |   |
| Pb             | 8 films of average thickness (5.2 ± 1.0) μm each <sup>b</sup>  | 8   | 3.4   | 8   | 23.0  | 6.25 -N NaOH, 60 °C<br>1-h etching, gentle stirring   | 144   |
| Pb             | 8 films of average thickness (3.1 ± 0.4) μm each <sup>b</sup>  | 8   | 3.4   | 8   | 23.1  | idem  | 144   |
| Au             | 8 films of average thickness (0.70 ± 0.12) μm each <sup>b</sup>  | 4   | 3.4   | 8   | 23.2  | idem  | 108   |
| Pt             | 20 metallic foils of 2.5 cm x 2.5 cm 26-μm thick each  | 20  | 3.4   | 38  | 23.3  | idem  | 238   |
| W              | 25 metallic foils of 2.5 cm x 2.5 cm 50-μm thick each  | 25  | 3.8   | 50  | 25.8  | idem  | 313   |
| Ta             | 24 metallic foils of 2.5 cm x 2.0 cm, 26-μm thick each, plus 6 metallic foils of 2.5 cm x 2.5 cm, 50-μm thick each | 30  | 4.8   | 60  | 32.2  | idem  | 375   |
| V              | 6 metallic foils of 3.0 cm x 2.5 cm 15-μm thick each   | 6   | 5.5   | 12  | 37.3  | 6.25 -N NaOH, 60 °C<br>1.5-h etching, gentle stirring | 75  |
| Ti             | 7 metallic foils of 3.0 cm x 3.0 cm, 24-μm thick each  | 7   | 5.5   | 14  | 37.5  | idem  | 88  |

a) All target materials of natural isotopic composition.

b) These are high-purity metal films prepared by vacuum evaporation on 3.5 cm x 3.5 cm thin foils of Mylar (1.72 mg/cm<sup>2</sup> thick) as supports.

c) In both runs, i) Compton-edge: 109 MeV; ii) effective photon mean energy: 100 MeV; iii) photon beam intensity: 10<sup>4</sup> - 10<sup>5</sup> γ/s; iv) beam spot size at the stacks: ~1 cm x 1 cm.

d) These are sheets of 100-μm thick polycarbonate fission-track detector Makrofol N (Auftrag 90002, 0.7 Kg) supplied by Bayer AG (Germany); detectors have been placed in intimate contact with target materials forming a stack.

e) Attenuation of the photon dose throughout the sample stack estimated by the law of exponential decrease of photon beam intensity.

f) Leitz Ortholux microscopes (objectives 25x or 45x, and ocular 12.5x or 10x).

Table 2 - Data regarding the determination of photofission yield<sup>(a)</sup>

| Target nucleus | C<br>( $10^{-11} \mu\text{m}^3$ ) | Effective thickness of the target material ( $\mu\text{m}$ ) |       | Detection efficiency (%) |              | Fission tracks recorded |           |                    | Photofission yield <sup>(c)</sup><br>Y (mb) |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|--|-------|--------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|-----------|--------------------|---|
|                |                                   | $x_1$  | $x_2$ | $\epsilon_1$             | $\epsilon_2$ | $N_{T_1}$               | $N_{T_2}$ | $\Sigma N_T^{(b)}$ |   |
| Bi             | 3.56                              | 4.0  | 3.8   | 85                       | 87           | 4                       | 22        | $33 \pm 7$         | $0.17 \pm 0.05$                             |
| Pb             | 3.03                              | 3.3  | 3.1   | 69                       | 72           | 3                       | 16        | $24 \pm 5$         | $0.15 \pm 0.04$                             |
| Au             | 1.69                              | 0.7  | 0.7   | 94                       | 93           | -                       | 6         | $7 \pm 3$          | $(9 \pm 4) \times 10^{-2}$                  |
| Pt             | 1.51                              | 3.0  | 3.0   | 53                       | 48           | -                       | 14        | $18 \pm 5$         | $(1.9 \pm 0.6) \times 10^{-2}$              |
| W              | 1.58                              | 3.0  | 3.1   | 51                       | 47           | -                       | 7         | $9 \pm 4$          | $(7 \pm 3) \times 10^{-3}$                  |
| Ta             | 1.80                              | 3.4  | 3.5   | 51                       | 47           | -                       | 7         | $9 \pm 4$          | $(4.7 \pm 2.2) \times 10^{-3}$              |
| V              | 1.38                              | 2.4  | 2.5   | 29                       | 18           | -                       | 5         | $6 \pm 3$          | $(4 \pm 2) \times 10^{-2}$                  |
| Ti             | 1.75                              | 2.9  | 3.1   | 26                       | 15           | -                       | 4         | $5 \pm 3$          | $(3 \pm 2) \times 10^{-2}$                  |

a) This is given by eq. (1); subscripts for the different quantities correspond to first and second runs.

b) Corrected for a counting efficiency of  $0.79 \pm 0.07$ ; statistical error indicated.

c) Statistical plus systematic errors included.

Table 3 - Photofission and nuclear photoabsorption cross section data and fissility at 100 MeV for pre-actinide and intermediate-mass nuclei.

| Target nucleus <sup>a</sup> | Z <sup>2</sup> /A | Total nuclear photoabsorption cross section $\sigma_1^T$ (mb) | Photofission cross section $\sigma_f$ (mb)    | Ref.      | Nuclear fissility $f = \sigma_f / \sigma_1^T$ |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|---|---|-----------|---|
| <sup>209</sup> Bi           | 32.96             | 13.7 ± 1.8  | 0.23 ± 0.04 <sup>b</sup>                      | [3]       | (1.7 ± 0.4) × 10 <sup>-2</sup>                |
|                             |                   |   | 0.15  | [2]       | (1.1 ± 0.1) × 10 <sup>-2</sup>                |
|                             |                   |   | 0.35 ± 0.02 <sup>b</sup>                      | [8]       | (2.5 ± 0.4) × 10 <sup>-2</sup>                |
|                             |                   |   | 0.48 ± 0.07                                   | [9]       | (3.5 ± 0.7) × 10 <sup>-2</sup>                |
|                             |                   |   | 0.44 ± 0.07                                   | [22]      | (3.2 ± 0.7) × 10 <sup>-2</sup>                |
|                             |                   |   | 0.49 ± 0.12                                   | [21]      | (3.6 ± 1.0) × 10 <sup>-2</sup>                |
|                             |                   |   | 0.17 ± 0.04                                   | [4]       | (1.2 ± 0.3) × 10 <sup>-2</sup>                |
|                             |                   |   | 0.21 ± 0.04 <sup>c</sup>                      | [5]       | (1.5 ± 0.3) × 10 <sup>-2</sup>                |
| 0.24 ± 0.07                 | This work         | (1.8 ± 0.6) × 10 <sup>-2</sup>                                |   |           |   |
| <sup>207.2</sup> Pb         | 32.45             | 13.6 ± 1.8  | 0.074 ± 0.014                                 | [4]       | (0.54 ± 0.12) × 10 <sup>-2</sup>              |
|                             |                   |   | 0.10 ± 0.05 <sup>c</sup>                      | [5]       | (0.73 ± 0.38) × 10 <sup>-2</sup>              |
|                             |                   |   | 0.21 ± 0.05                                   | This work | (1.5 ± 0.4) × 10 <sup>-2</sup>                |
| <sup>208</sup> Pb           | 32.33             | 13.6 ± 1.8  | (0.92 ± 0.14) × 10 <sup>-1</sup>              | [10]      | (6.8 ± 1.4) × 10 <sup>-3</sup>                |
|                             |                   |   | (0.95 ± 0.07) × 10 <sup>-1</sup> <sup>b</sup> | [8]       | (7.0 ± 1.1) × 10 <sup>-3</sup>                |
| <sup>204.4</sup> Tl         | 32.10             | 13.5 ± 1.8  | (7.5 ± 2.1) × 10 <sup>-2</sup> <sup>b</sup>   | [3]       | (5.5 ± 1.7) × 10 <sup>-3</sup>                |
|                             |                   |   | (7.6 ± 1.5) × 10 <sup>-2</sup> <sup>c</sup>   | [5]       | (5.6 ± 1.3) × 10 <sup>-3</sup>                |
| <sup>197</sup> Au           | 31.68             | 13.3 ± 1.7  | (3.7 ± 0.6) × 10 <sup>-2</sup>                | [4]       | (2.8 ± 0.6) × 10 <sup>-3</sup>                |
|                             |                   |   | (3.4 ± 2.3) × 10 <sup>-2</sup>                | [23]      | (2.6 ± 1.7) × 10 <sup>-3</sup>                |
|                             |                   |   | (1.3 ± 0.2) × 10 <sup>-1</sup>                | [11]      | (9.8 ± 2.0) × 10 <sup>-3</sup>                |
|                             |                   |   | (5 ± 1) × 10 <sup>-2</sup> <sup>c</sup>       | [5]       | (3.8 ± 0.9) × 10 <sup>-3</sup>                |
|                             |                   |   | (1.2 ± 0.5) × 10 <sup>-1</sup>                | This work | (9.0 ± 3.9) × 10 <sup>-3</sup>                |
| <sup>195.1</sup> Pt         | 31.18             | 13.2 ± 1.7  | (1.1 ± 0.3) × 10 <sup>-2</sup> <sup>c</sup>   | [5]       | (0.83 ± 0.25) × 10 <sup>-3</sup>              |
|                             |                   |   | (2.6 ± 0.8) × 10 <sup>-2</sup>                | This work | (2.0 ± 0.6) × 10 <sup>-3</sup>                |
| <sup>183.9</sup> W          | 29.78             | 12.7 ± 1.7  | (9.7 ± 4.2) × 10 <sup>-3</sup>                | This work | (7.6 ± 3.4) × 10 <sup>-4</sup>                |
| <sup>181</sup> Ta           | 29.44             | 12.6 ± 1.6  | (3.8 ± 0.9) × 10 <sup>-3</sup>                | [11]      | (3.0 ± 0.7) × 10 <sup>-4</sup>                |
|                             |                   |   | (6.5 ± 3.1) × 10 <sup>-3</sup>                | This work | (5.2 ± 2.5) × 10 <sup>-4</sup>                |
| <sup>174</sup> Yb           | 28.16             | 12.3 ± 1.6  | (3.0 ± 0.8) × 10 <sup>-1</sup> <sup>b</sup>   | [8]       | (2.4 ± 0.7) × 10 <sup>-5</sup>                |
| <sup>154</sup> Sm           | 24.96             | 11.3 ± 1.9  | (2.0 ± 0.5) × 10 <sup>-6</sup> <sup>b</sup>   | [8]       | (1.8 ± 0.5) × 10 <sup>-7</sup>                |
| <sup>51</sup> V             | 10.37             | 4.6 ± 1.4   | (5.6 ± 2.8) × 10 <sup>-2</sup>                | This work | (1.2 ± 0.7) × 10 <sup>-2</sup>                |
| <sup>47.9</sup> Ti          | 10.10             | 4.4 ± 1.3   | (4.2 ± 2.8) × 10 <sup>-2</sup>                | This work | (0.9 ± 0.7) × 10 <sup>-2</sup>                |

<sup>a</sup> Mean mass number of the naturally occurring isotopes.

<sup>b</sup> Interpolated value.

<sup>c</sup> Deduced value from the measured photofission yields.

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