INFLUENCE OF EVEN NUCLEON NUMBERS AND CLOSED SHELLS ON MASS AND CHARGE DISTRIBUTION IN LOW ENERGY FISSION

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Extensive experimental and evaluated yield data are now available for the fragments in low energy nuclear fission. Using these data we re-examined the influence of even nuclear numbers and closed shells on the mass and charge distribution in low energy fission. We used WAHL's Zp model and Ap model. We also examined the effects of Z=50, N=82 and possibly N=88 shells. A new method was developed based on two Gaussian curves for the even and odd products. The EOZ and EON values calculated are based on these different methods and are seen to be consistent with each other in spite of the somewhat different definitions of the even-odd effect. The even-odd effect decreases with an increasing fissility parameter. The EON values are substantially lower than the corresponding EOZ values, probably due to the effect of washing out the neutron pairing effect by prompt neutron emission. The magnitude of the even-odd effect varies with different mass regions. The EOZ and EON values decrease as they go from asymmetric to symmetric regions in mass distributions.

In many studies of nuclear fission, fine structure in mass and charge distribution of the products has been observed. This has been attributed to pairing and shell effects. Increased stability of products with even nucleon numbers and closed shells lead to the enhancement of their yields.

The first quantitative and systematic analysis of the even-odd proton and neutron pairing effects was reported by AMIEL and FELDSTEIN.¹ WAHL² proposed the Zp Model of charge distribution. The model is based on the assumption of a Gaussian yield distribution modulated by even-odd factors. A different approach was proposed by TRACY et al.³ In their method, called the "method of third differences", no knowledge of distribution parameters is necessary. There are also several model independent calculations. CLERC et al.⁴ introduced the concept of global even-odd effects in fission.

Closed shells affect the fission process in two ways. First it is widely believed that mass asymmetry is caused by the spherical shells, of Z = 50 and N = 82 and the deformed shell N = 88. Second, the yields of closed shell nuclides are enhanced leading to fine structure in the mass distribution.⁵ NAKAHARA et al.⁶ used two Gaussian functions, one centered at N = 82 and the other at N = 88 to describe experimental mass distributions. The enhancement of nuclide yields is thus due to both closed shells as well as nucleon pairing.

IZAK-BIRAN and AMIEL⁷ estimated the magnitude of shell effects in the fast neutron induced fission of 232 Th. In another study by NAEUMANN et al.⁸ no pronounced effects of the doubly magic 132 Sn on charge dispersion was found. Neutron shell effects were studied in detail by TOKAY and TALAT-ERBEN⁹ and TOKAY. Their calculations were based on the A_p model. The variances of the left and right sides of the Gaussian yield curves were found to be significantly different. This discontinuity was interpreted as resulting from the spherical shell at N=82 and the deformed shell at N=88. Recently GÖNNENWEIN¹¹ surveyed various approaches to assess odd-even effects in fission yields.

Extensive experimental and evaluated yield data are now conveniently available on tapes and discs. We wantd to re-examine the fine structure effects in low energy fission and extend the studies beyond thermal neutron fission of 233 U, 235 U and 239 Pu. Starting with WAHL's Z_p and A_p models, 12 methods were developed to estimate the magnitude of even-odd proton and neutron pairing as well as shell effects. Contributions of both pairing and shell structure were investigated. Even-odd factors obtained from different models are compared and their variations as a function of the fissility parameter, Z^2/A , is examined.

Calculations based on the Zp model

Method of calculation: In the Z_{p^i} model, the nuclear charge distribution within a mass chain is represented by a Gaussian function.^{12,13} The maximum point is the most probable charge. Z_p . The smooth curve is distorted by the even number of neutrons and/or protons. The modulated Gaussian function of fractional independent yields is given as follows;

$$FI(Z) = [NF][EOF] \int_{Z-0.5}^{Z+0.5} P(Z) dZ$$
 (1)

where FI(Z) – the fraction independent yield of element Z,

NF - normalization factor,

P(Z) – probability function defined as

$$P(Z) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi c}} \exp\left[-\frac{(Z - Z_p)^2}{c}\right]$$
 (2)

where c is the width parameter, related to charge dispersion σ through Sheppards correction $c = 2(\sigma^2 + (1/12))$.

EOF is the even-odd factor defined as *EOZ·EON*, *EOZ/EON*, *EON/EOZ* and 1/(*EOZ·EON*) for even-even, even-odd, odd-even and odd-odd products, respectively. ^{2,12,13,14} Here *EOZ* and *EON* are even-odd enhancement factors for proton and neutron, respectively.

The original least-squares program used by WAHL¹⁵ was adapted to the HB-6/80 at MAINZ by MEIXLER.¹⁶ This version was adapted to our IBM 3090 computer system and used in our calculations.

Results and discussion: The experimental yield data compiled by WAHL¹² and by CHUNG¹⁷ were used in the calculations. The three parameters, Z_p , σ , and EOF were calculated for those mass chains with sufficient yield data in the thermal neutron induced fission of ²³³U, ²³⁵U, ²³⁹Pu and the spontaneous fission of ²⁵²Cf. The results are summarized in Table 1.

The values of the Gaussian width parameter, σ , for different mass chains, fluctuate around the value of 0.6 ± 0.2 . It is however clear that it is not possible to define all masss chains with one single σ value. The decrease in σ for A = 138 mass chain may be attributed to the N = 88.

The third charge distribution parameter, the even-odd factor, EOF, varies systematically between even and odd A mass chains. The EOF factors are generally higher for even A_1 chains compared to neighboring odd ones. The EOF factors are seen to depend on the nature of the fissioning nuclide. For spontaneous fission of ^{252}Cf no significant EOF factors were observed. Average charge dispersion parameters (global parameters) can be obtained for each fissioning nuclide when all available yield data are used in the Gaussian fits. 12,17,18,19 The average parameters determined using all available yield data for several fissioning nuclides are listed in Table 2. The charge polarization function, ΔZ , which is defined as $Z_p - Z_{UCD}$, where Z_{UCD} is the charge calculated assuming unchanged charge density of compound nuclei. ΔZ of individual mass chains can be calculated using ΔZ (A = 140) as given by WAHL. 12 It is interesting that ^{252}Cf with the highest fissility parameter has the lowest polarization. The intrinsic excitation energy increases with increasing fissility parameter. This seems to prevent further polarization. Increasing excitation energy of a nucleus thus decreases its polarization.

A systematic increase is observed in the Gaussian width parameters σ with increasing mass number of the fissioning nucleus. As stated before, the mass change, $\delta A/\delta Z$ increases with increasing A, resulting in a lower charge density, $\delta Z/\delta A$. This leads to an increase in isobaric products and to a broadening of the charge distribution curve.

The even-odd factors were calculated for different mass regions in ²³⁵U fission, where enough yield data were available. The highest values of *EOF*'s were observed in the very asymmetric regions. The even-odd effect seems to disappear in the symmetric region. From binding energy considerations the highest energy is released in the

Table 1

•		Z	Z_p)	σ			EC	EOF	
₹	23 U	235 U	239pu	252Cf	23 U	235_{U}	239 _{Pu}	252Cf	233 _U	235 _U	239Pu	252Cf
88	35.801				0.581				1.286			
89	36.071				0.434				1.000			
90	36.328				969.0				1.281			
91	36.864	36.500				0.553				1.196		
92	37.334				999.0				1.310			
93	37.731	37.326			0.592	0.562			1.174	1.118		
94	38.153	37.759			0.594	0.508			1.309	1.272		
95	38.483	38.088	38.404		0.560	0.496	0.561		1.103	1.098	1.076	
96	38.894	38.518	38.770		0.544	0.544	0.550		1.360	1.262	1.195	
76	38.291	38.871	39.181		0.610	0.555	0.611		1.161	1.168	1.034	
86	39.737	39.376	39.525		0.664	0.531	0.629		1.335	1.435	1.062	
66	40.097	39.722	39.922		0.628	0.577	0.585		1.263	1.080	0.999	
100	40.062	40.043	40.297		0.596	0.380	0.566		1.729	1.163	1.395	
101			40.567				0.479				0.911	
102			41.088				0.630				1.152	
103			41.541				0.548				1.128	
104			41.872				0.577				1.314	
105			42.200				0.536				1.071	
106				42.346				0.576				1.020
130	50.754				0.617				1.504			
131	51.250				0.595				1.282			
132	51.664		51.397		0.564		0.734		1.351		1.103	
133	52.033		51.975		0.631		0.599		1.313		1.125	
134		52.103				0.521				1.532		
135	53.057	52.549	52.909		0.584	0.536	9.676		1.049	1.137	1.018	
136				53.000				909.0				0.944
137	53.855	53.335	53.719		0.568	0.534	0.562		1.174	1.347	0.999	
138	54.068	53.788	53.941	53.584	0.466	0.426	0.519	0.589	1.204	1.301	1.085	_
139	54.562	54.125	54.422	54.264	0.688	0.457	0.614	0.612	1.219	1.179	1.075	_
140	55.042	54.598		55.601	0.562	0.620		0.691	1.290	1.541		0.996
141		55.127	55.360	55.045		899.0	0.575	0.596		1.147	1.297	0
142		55.410				0.546				1.322		
143		55.782				0.511				1.198		

	Table 2	
Z_p model global fit	parameters for variou	s fissioning nuclides

Fissioning nuclides*	Yield data from Ref.	Z^2/A	EOZ	EON	σ	ΔZ(140)
232 _{Th}	19	34.76	1.222	1.187	0.557	0.529
235 _U						
(all A)	12	35.86	1.305	1.052	0.493	0.451
235 _U						
108-126	12	35.86	0.949	0.806	0.699	0.897
235 _U						
A > 145	12	35.86	1.348	1.040	0.525	0.933
235 _U						
A < 82	12	35.86	1.340	1.273	0.549	0.997
^{233}U	12	36.17	1.201	0.998	0.480	0.489
241 Pu	19	36.51	0.997	1.021	0.538	0.436
239 Pu	12	36.82	1.081	1.025	0.571	0.502
²⁵² Cf	12	38.11	1.044	0.926	0.613	0.393

^{*}All the fissions are with thermal neutrons except ²³²Th (fast neutrons) and ²⁵²Cf (spontaneous fission).

symmetric region and the lowest in the very asymmetric region. Thus the even-odd effect is expected to decrease as the energy available for pair breaking (released energy) increases.

When the experimental yields, of Rudstam et al. ¹⁸ for 238 U fission were used in the calculations, no satisfactory fit to the Z_p -model was possible. A selected set of data using only fractional independent yields, which were appreciably greater than zero, gave results similar to those obtained by using WAHL's yield data. ¹²

Calculations based on the Ap model

Method of calculation: In the A_p model, the distribution of the independent yields of all isotopes at constant Z, is described by a Gaussian function. ¹² A' values, the mass of primary fragments, must be used. It is not possible to know the exact number of neutrons emitted by each individual fission product.

However, average number of neutrons emitted per fragment, $\overline{\nu}$, can be calculated by using TERREL's method. ²⁰ A' values were then determined from the relation

 $A' = A + \overline{\nu}$. The modified Gaussian function in this treatment is given as follows;

$$Y(A) = [NF][EOF][Y(Z)] \int_{A-0.5}^{A+0.5} P(A) dA$$
 (3)

where P(A) is the probability function given by

$$P(A) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2 \pi \sigma^2}} \exp \left[-\frac{(A - A_p)^2}{2\sigma^2} \right]$$
 (4)

Y(A) is the independent isotopic yield of isotope A, A_p is the most probable mass of an isotopic mass dispersion curve, NF is the normalization factor and Y(Z) is the total independent isotopic yield.

Table 3 Results of A_p model calculations based on experimental yields for the thermal neutron fission of 233 U, 235 U, 239 Pu

7		A_p			σ			EON	
Z	233 _U	235 _U	239 _{Pu}	²³³ U	235 _U	²³⁹ Pu	233 _U	235 _U	239 _{Pu}
31		80.436			1.679			1.350	·
32		81.869			1.285			1.152	
33	83.459	84.222		1.401	1.417		1.062	1.080	
34	85.519	86.635		1.324	1.474		1.046	1.155	
35	87.966	88.813	87.269	1.338	1.314	2.228	1.033	1.065	0.988
36	91.034	91.034	90.824	1.363	1.363	1.293	1.063	1.063	1.233
37	92.631	93.607	93.276	1.369	1.412	1.463	1.032	1.036	0.989
38	95.183	96.096	95.513	1.552	1.599	1.473	1.022	1.026	1.017
39	97.523	98.748	98.070	1.510	1.592	1.472	1.089	1.049	1.083
40	100.370	101.150	100.720	1.641	1.501	1.528	1.043	1.134	1.144
41	102.440	102.990	102.990	1.470	1.311	1.464	1.181	1.228	1.115
42			105.830			1.180			1.045
43			107.290			1.136			1.284
44			132.100			1.807			1.642
50		130.670			1.481			1.068	
51	132.230	132.630	133.340	1.875	1.486	1.812	1.290	1.172	1.015
52	134.590	135.670		1.530	1.491		0.766	1.002	
53	136.460	137.330	136.946	1.540	1.491	1.656	0.994	1.162	0.992
54	138.020	139.320	139.480	1.714	1.557	1.382	1.130	1.111	0.995
55		142.220			1.427			0.877	
56		143.820			1.996			1.157	

Since the proton number is constant, only the even-odd neutron effect can be determined in this treatment. EOF is equal to EON for even neutrons and to 1/EON for odd neutrons. The least-squares program was modified for A_n calculations.

Results and discussion: In the A_p model, the isotopic mass dispersion curve has three parameters; A_p , σ , and EON. Since it was not possible to assign even or odd neutron numbers to products from the noninteger A' values, the A values were used for the assignments.

There are substantially more, as many as 10 times, yield data for isotopic products of a given element, than the isobaric products of the Z_p model. This is because isotopic chains are longer than isobaric chains. The results of A_p model calculations for ²³³U, ²³⁵U and ²³⁹Pu fission are summarized in Table 3. The width σ , of the isotopic mass dispersion curves fluctuates around 1.50 for the three fissioning nuclides as compared to 0.65 in the Z_p model.

In the Z=31 isotopic chain, a high EON value of 1.35 was observed. This chain includes products with the N=50 shell, which may contribute to the EON factor. Similarly, the Z=51 isotopic chain may have contributions from the N=82 neutron shell.

Generally the magnitudes of EON are found to be consistent with those from the \mathbb{Z}_p model.

Calculation of the shell effect

Calculation method: Both isotopic and isotonic independent yield distributions in low energy fission show Gaussian behavior. Experimental yields fluctuate around the Gaussian curve due to both even-odd nucleons and closed shells. It is, however, difficult to separate the two contributions. In order to neutralize the pairing effect, only products with even protons or neutrons were considered. Since low yields are generally associated with large errors, yields which were less than half the most probable yield were discarded. A nonlinear regression program was written to evaluate the Gaussian parameters and the magnitude of the shell effect.

The independent yield of even N isotones is defined by the function;

$$IY(N) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi \sigma^2}} \exp\left[-\frac{(N - N_p)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right]$$
 (5)

Here, N_p is the most probable N for the isotonic dispersion curve. The distribution curve obtained for the product in ²³⁵U fission is shown in Fig. 1. It is clearly seen that the yields of spherical and deformed shell nuclides with N=82 and N=88,

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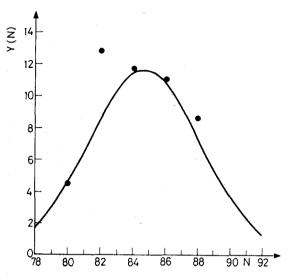


Fig. 1. Isotonic Gaussian yield curve obtained using experimental even N yields in ²³⁵U fission. ● experimental value, — fitted curve

Table 4 Isotopic yield ratios of fission products around the Z = 50 shell

Fissioning nuclide	Y(48)/Y(47)	Y(50)/Y(49)	Y(52)/Y(51)
232 _{Th}	0.940	29.599	2.260
233 _U	1.850	20.221	2.456
235 _U	1.900	10.893	2.614
²³⁹ Pu	0.551	8.550	2.174
²⁴¹ Pu	1.069	6.082	1.908
²⁴³ Cm	0.285	8.036	1.732
²⁴⁵ Cm	0.320	12.375	1.461
²⁵² Cf	0.381	7.966	1.716

respectively, are enhanced. Using the deviations from the Gaussian curve, a quantitative estimate of the shell effect may be made.

For N = 50 and Z = 50 species the independent yields were too low to allow such a treatment.

Results and discussion: An important shell effect in fission is the asymmetric distribution of mass. The asymmetry is attributed to Z = 50, N = 82, and possibly N = 88 shells.

The isotopic yield ratios of fission products near Z = 50 for several fissioning nuclides are given in Table 4. It is seen that the yield ratio Y(50)/Y(49) is strikingly

higher than the neighboring pairs in all fissions. Besides the fast changing mass distribution in that region, this may be taken as an indication of yield enhancement by the Z = 50 shell.

As stated earlier by using even N products only, a quantitative estimate of the shell effect is possible. The results of such a calculation for several fissioning nuclides are

Table 5

Magnitude of the shell effect on the isotonic yield distributions of several fissioning systems

Fissioning nuclide	Shell effect, $\%$ $(N = 82)$	Shell effect, $\%$ ($N = 88$)
233 _U	20.5	17.6
235 _U	48.6	16.7
²³⁹ Pu ²⁴¹ Pu	33.7	17.8
²⁴¹ Pu	50.3	-4.6
²⁴³ Cm ²⁵² Cf	5.8	24.6
252 Cf	12.7	8.4

given in Table 5. The shell effects are given as percentage enhancements relative to normal Gaussian yields. The N=82 spherical shell effect appears to be more pronounced than that of the N=88 deformed shell.

Calculations based on the two Gaussian method

Calculation method: In the isotonic and isotopic yield distributions, the even and odd products may be assumed to follow two different Gaussian curves. In this method two different parameter sets are calculated for the even and the odd products separately, using the following relations;

$$Y_e(Z) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi \sigma_e^2}} \exp\left[-\frac{(Z - Z_p)^2}{2\sigma_e^2}\right]$$
 (6)

$$Y_o(Z) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma_o^2}} \exp\left[-\frac{(Z - Z_p)^2}{2\sigma_o^2}\right]$$
 (7)

The most probable charge, Z_p , of the two curves are assumed to be equal. The even curve is assumed to be enhanced by a factor of EOZ and the odd curve suppressed by a

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factor of 1/EOZ relative to the normal Gaussian curve. The yield ratio at the most probable charge Z_p can be shown to be;

$$\frac{Y_e(Z_p)}{Y_o(Z_p)} = \frac{Y(Z_p)^*EOZ}{Y(Z_p)^*\frac{1}{EOZ}}$$
(8)

where $Y(Z_p)$ is the normal yield at Z_p . Since $Z - Z_p = 0$ at $Z = Z_p$, from Eq.s (6)–(8);

$$[EOZ]^{2} = \frac{\frac{1}{\sigma_{e}\sqrt{2\pi}}e^{o}}{\frac{1}{\sigma_{o}\sqrt{2\pi}}e^{o}}$$
(9)

$$EOZ = \sqrt{\frac{\sigma_o}{\sigma_o}}$$
 (10)

where

 σ_e – width of the Gaussian curve of the even Z products,

 σ_{o} — width of the Gaussian curve of the odd Z products.

A similar expression is obtained for EON in the isotonic yield distribution.

Results and discussion: The even and odd isotopic yield distribution curves in 235 U fission are shown in Fig. 2. The σ values of the even and odd yield curves in 233 U, 235 U, 239 Pu and 252 Cf fission are given in Table 6. The corresponding EOZ and EON values calculated according to Eq. (10) are also given. The results are in good agreement with those from other methods.

Table 6
Even and odd sigma values of isotopic and isotonic yield curves and the corresponding EOZ and EON values for ²³⁸U, ²³⁵U, ²³⁹Pu and ²⁵²Cf fission

on- Light Z		5			Light	V		Heavy	Z		Heavy	N
$\sigma_{\!e}$	$\sigma_{\!_{o}}$	EOZ	$\sigma_{\!e}$	$\sigma_{\!_{o}}$	EON	$\sigma_{\!e}$	$\sigma_{\!_{\scriptscriptstyle{o}}}$	EOZ	$\sigma_{\!e}$	σ_{o}	EON	
2.1	3.0	1.20	3.4	3.8	1.06	2.1	3.1	1.21	3.2	3.7	1.08	
2.1	3.0	1.20	3.3	3.7	1.06	2.1	2.9	1.18	3.3	3.7	1.06	
2.2	2.6	1.09	3.5	3.8	1.04	2.2	2.6	1.09	3.2	3.5	1.03	
2.6	2.6	1.00	3.6	3.7	1.01	2.6	2.6	1.00	3.8	3.7	0.99	
	2.1 2.1 2.2	$ \begin{array}{ccc} \sigma_e & \sigma_o \\ \hline 2.1 & 3.0 \\ 2.1 & 3.0 \\ 2.2 & 2.6 \end{array} $	$ \begin{array}{c cccc} \sigma_e & \sigma_o & EOZ \\ \hline 2.1 & 3.0 & 1.20 \\ 2.1 & 3.0 & 1.20 \\ 2.2 & 2.6 & 1.09 \\ \hline \end{array} $	$ \begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$								

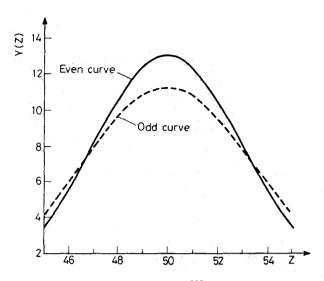


Fig. 2. Even and odd isotopic yield distribution curves in ²³⁵U fission used in the two Gaussian method

Model independent calculations

There is a direct method as discussed by ERTEN and ARAS²¹ to determine the magnitude of the even-odd effect in fission. Here *EOZ* is defined as

$$EOZ = \frac{2\sum_{\text{all}}^{Z} Y_{e}(Z)}{2\sum_{\text{all}}^{Z} Y_{e}(Z) + 2\sum_{\text{all}}^{Z} Y_{o}(Z)}$$
(11)

where EOZ - even-odd proton enhancement factor,

 $Y_{c}(Z)$ - isotopic independent yield of even Z products,

 $Y_{\alpha}(Z)$ - isotopic independent yield of odd Z products.

A similar expression was used for evaluating the even-odd neutron enhancement factor *EON*. Experimental as well as compiled and evaluated yield data were used. ^{12,17,19} The results are given in Table 7. The results are consistent with previous calculations.

Table 7
Model independent results using WAHL's data

	233 _U	²³⁵ U	239 _{Pu}	²⁵² Cf
$\Sigma_{o}Y(Z)$	59.240	73.915	69.985	28.051
$\Sigma_{e}Y(Z)$	89.374	117.280	86.044	48.998
$\Sigma_{o}Y(N)$	73.142	90.441	75.450	26.535
$\Sigma_{e}Y(N)$	75.472	100.759	80.580	50.514
EOZ	1.203	1.227	1.103	_
EON	1.016	1.054	1.038	$\Sigma_{o}Y(Z)$
Number of nuclide	es			
Even Z	73	82	70	33
Odd Z	. 75	106	73	17
Even N	. 69	88	66	32
Odd N	79	100	77	18
Even-Even	34	38	33	27
Even-Odd	39	44	37	6
Odd-Even	35	50	33	5
Odd-Odd	40	56	40	12
Specific yields				
Even Z	1.224	1.430	1.229	_
Odd Z	0.780	0.697	0.959	_
Even N	1.074	1.145	1.221	_
Odd N	0.926	0.904	0.980	_
Even-Even	1.272	1.603	1.239	_
Even-Odd	1.183	1.282	1.227	***
Odd-Even	0.921	0.797	1.283	_
Odd-Odd	0.675	0.608	0.757	_

Conclusion

Table 8 summarizes EON and EOZ values determined by different methods considered in this work. The results are seen to be consistent with each other despite the somewhat different definitions of the even-odd effect.

The even-odd effect decreases with increasing fissility parameter. This in turn is related to the increase in intrinsic excitation energy.⁵

The EON values are lower than the corresponding EOZ values probably due to prompt neutron emission.

Table 8
Summary of EOZ and EON results obtained by various methods in this work

			EOZ			EON				
Fissioning nuclides	Z^2/A	Z_p model	Model inde- pendent	Two Gaussian model	Z_p model	Model inde- pendent	Two Gaussian model			
232 _{Th}	34.76	1.22	1.21		1.19	1.01	_			
235 _U	35.86	1.30	1.24	1.21	1.05	1.07	1.07			
233 _U	36.17	1.20	1.23	1.20	1.00	1.07	1.06			
²⁴¹ Pu	36.51	1.00	1.14	_	1.02	1.05	_			
²³⁹ Pu	36.82	1.08	1.14	1.09	1.03	1.05	1.04			
²⁴⁵ Cm	37.46	1.07	1.03	_	0.96	1.03	_			
²⁴³ Cm	37.77	_	1.03	_	_	1.03	-			
²⁵² Cf	38.11	1.04	1.00	1.00	0.93	1.01	1.00			

The magnitude of the even-odd effect varies for different mass regions. The *EOZ* and *EON* values decrease on going from the asymmetric to the symmetric region of the mass distribution.

This paper is dedicated to Ridvan K. TOKAY, late Professor of Chemistry, recognized authority in nuclear and physical chemistry. We all miss his insights, creativity and wit.

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