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Neutron Data Evaluation of ²³²Th

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Abstract

Consistent evaluation of ²³²Th measured data base is performed. Hauser-Feshbach-Moldauer theory, coupled channel model and double-humped fission barrier model are employed. Total, differential scattering, fission, capture and (n,xn) data are consistently reproduced as a major constraint for inelastic scattering cross section estimate. The direct excitation of ground state and higher band levels is calculated within rigid rotator and soft (deformable) rotator model, respectively. Structures evident in measured neutron emission spectra are correlated with excitation of levels of $K^{\pi} = 0^{-}$ and $K^{\pi} = 0^{+}$, 2^{+} banbs. Prompt fission neutron spectra data are described. Average resonance parameters are provided, which reproduce evaluated cross sections in the range of 10-150 kev.

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1 Introduction

Nuclear data of ²³²Th are very important for the novel fission, fusion and acceleratordriven system calculations. Optimization of these nuclear energy systems much depends on ²³²Th neutron cross sections in unresolved resonance and fast neutron energy ranges. Capture as well as inelastic scattering data for ²³²Th are rather discrepant. We will investigate the possibility of consistent reproducing cross section data in a statistical model of compound nucleus reactions and coupled channel optical model.

The total inelastic scattering cross section measured data below ~ 1.5 MeV incident neutron energy [1, 2] predict different cross section trends for higher energies. There is also a systematic discrepancy of excitation functions of discrete levels data obtained by time-of-flight method [3] and by $(n,n'\gamma)$ measurements [4]. The neutron inelastic scattering cross sections of available evaluated data files JENDL-3.2 [5], ENDF/B-VI [6], BROND-2 [7], JEF-2.2 [8] are discrepant up to $\sim 15\%$ above ~ 1 MeV. In ENDF/B-VI [6] and JEF-2.2 [8] evaluations excitation cross sections are provided only for the clusters of discrete levels above ~ 700 keV, this might influence on the secondary neutron spectra. As distinct from the previous evaluations we proceed within full-scale Hauser-Feshbach theory and coupled channel optical model. Consistent description of total, elastic, fission and capture cross section data would provide an independent estimate of inelastic scattering cross section from threshold up to 20 MeV incident neutron energy. The important item for the total inelastic scattering cross section in a few MeV incident neutron energy range is the compound scattering to the ²³²Th continuum levels and direct excitation of rotational and vibrational bands levels. For the former component the level density modelling above the pairing gap of eveneven nuclide ²³²Th is important. The competition of ²³²Th(n, $\gamma n'$) reaction to the "true" capture reaction $(n, \gamma \gamma)$ also turns out to be dependent on the target nucleus ²³²Th level density at excitations just above the pairing gap. Collective bands structure of 232 Th is similar to that of 238 U, while the actual positions of vibrational octupole $K^{\pi} = 0^{-}, \beta$ -vibrational $K^{\pi} = 0^{+}, \gamma$ -vibrational $K^{\pi} =$ 0^+ and anomalous rotational $K^{\pi} = 2^+$ band-heads are much different, i.e. β -band $K^{\pi} = 0^+$ and $K^{\pi} = 2^+$ bands are ~200-300 keV lower, while γ -band $K^{\pi} = 0^+$ is ~ 150 keV higher. The consistent analysis of collective levels structure along with differential cross sections helps to assign the nature of $K^{\pi} = 0^+$ vibrational bands. The incoherent sum of compound and direct excitation for ground state $K^{\pi} = 0^+$, vibrational octupole $K^{\pi} = 0^-$, β -vibrational $K^{\pi} = 0^+$, γ -vibrational $K^{\pi} = 0^{+}$ and anomalous rotational $K^{\pi} = 2^{+}$ band levels helps to derive coupling parameters fitting angular distributions of inelastic neutrons [3, 4, 9].

Measured neutron emission spectra are inclusive both of elastic, inelastic and

prompt fission neutron spectra (PFNS), detailed description of PFNS data for first- and multiple-chance fission is investigated. We will demonstrate that present description of inelastic scattering data reproduces neutron emission spectra [10, 12]. We demonstrate here that one needs the sophistication of direct scattering, level density modelling and PFNS representation to describe consistently the available measured data base for ²³²Th.

2 Resolved resonance energy range

Region of resolved resonances in JENDL-3.2 [5], ENDF/B-VI [6], BROND-2 [7], JEF-2.2 [8] extends up to ~4 keV. Here we will briefly review the status of resolved resonance parameters and provide average resonance parameters for cross section parameterization of total, capture, elastic and inelastic scattering cross sections in unresolved resonance energy range.

In ENDF/B-VI data file ²³²Th resonance parameters were evaluated by Olsen [13] as weighted average of available data. Two bound resonances of Newman et al. [14] were adopted. Capture resonance integral for infinite dilution from 5 to 4000 eV $I\gamma = 85.544$ barn. Average capture width of 24.4 meV was assumed. Resonance parameters were tuned to achieve smooth connection to the thermal region at 5 meV, missed p-resonances and 1/v trend of capture cross section were taken into account.

We performed an extensive resonance parameter [13] analysis based on maximum likelihood estimate both of mean level spacing $\langle D_{l=0} \rangle$ and neutron strength function S_o [15]. Cumulative sum of s-resonances up to 4 keV is shown on Fig. 1. The solid line histogram corresponds to s-resonances set obtained by Olsen [13]. The dotted line histogram corresponds to BNL-325 [16] set of resonances. Stair-case plots almost coincide below ~800 eV, at higher energies they are rather different, the former being much steeper. Proper account of missing of levels based on analysis of level spacing distribution and neutron width distribution gives estimate of average s-wave neutron resonance spacing as 17.380±0.600 eV. It would predict no missing of s-resonances up to ~2.5 keV. Maximum likelihood estimate for BNL-325 [16] set of resonances predicts $\langle D_{l=0} \rangle = 16.566$ eV and missing of ~10 s-wave neutron resonances up to 4 keV.

Cumulative sum of reduced neutron widths of s-resonances Γ_n^o is described with strength function estimate of $S_o = 0.94 \times 10^{-4}$ (see Fig. 2). The resolution function parameters as well as $\langle \Gamma_n^o \rangle$ and $\langle D_{l=0} \rangle$ are obtained by maximum likelihood method when comparing experimental distributions of reduced neutron width and resonance spacing with Porter-Thomas and Wigner distributions, modified for the resonance missing. The latter distributions will be called expected distributions. Figures 3 and 4 demonstrate comparison of predicted level spacing $D_{l=0}$ and reduced neutron width Γ_n^o distributions with resonance parameter set. Deciles on Fig. 3 show ten equal probability intervals $(P(x \leq x_{0.1}) = \int p(x)dx = 0.1)$ for level spacing distribution $D_{l=0}$. Expected distribution which takes into account missing of weak resonances and unresolved doublets is not much different from Wigner distribution, that means that up to 4 keV we have rather pure *s*-resonance sample. This conclusion is supported by reduced neutron width distribution. Octiles on Fig. 4 show ten equal probability $(P(x \leq x_{0.1} = \int p(x)dx = 0.1)$ intervals for Γ_n^o distribution. Figure 5 shows a comparison of cumulative Porter-Thomas distribution of reduced neutron widths. It seems that *s*-resonance parameters up to 4 keV are compatible with Wigner and Porter-Thomas distributions and there is almost no missing of levels.

3 Unresolved resonance region

In the unresolved resonance energy region of JENDL-3.2 [5], ENDF/B-VI [6], BROND-2 [7] and JEF-2.2 [8] provided average resonance parameters for s-, p- and d-waves reproduce average cross section data rather differently.

In ENDF/B-VI data file average capture width is assumed to be $\langle \Gamma_{\gamma} \rangle = 21.3$ meV for *s*-and *d*-waves and 25.2 meV for *p*-waves, neutron *s*-wave strength function $S_o = 0.826 \times 10^{-4}$, while for *p*-wave $S_1 = 1.6 \times 10^{-4}$. Capture cross section in the energy range of 4 keV - 25 keV was evaluated by de Saussure and Macklin [17], at higher energies it was joined smoothly with the evaluation by Poenitz [18]. Capture width for *p*-wave $\langle \Gamma_{\gamma l=1} \rangle$ was increased up to 25.2 meV, while $\langle \Gamma_{\gamma l=0} \rangle$ and $\langle \Gamma_{\gamma l=2} \rangle$ were kept constant. Reduced *p*-wave neutron width $\langle \Gamma_n^1 \rangle$ was varied to fit capture cross section, it has rather sophisticated shape: it decreases up to $E_n \sim 30$ keV and then sharply increases, while S_0 , S_2 , D_0 , D_1 and D_2 were kept constant. Potential scattering radius was assumed to be 9.72 Fm.

In JENDL-3.2 [5] unresolved resonance region of ²³²Th is supposed to be from 3.5 keV up to 50 keV. In that case average resonance parameters $\langle \Gamma_{\gamma} \rangle = 21.2 \text{ meV}$ and $\langle D_{l=0} \rangle = 18.64 \text{ eV}$ were adopted. At 10 keV neutron strength functions $S_0 =$ 0.93×10^{-4} , $S_1 = 1.96 \times 10^{-4}$ were obtained. Total cross section was normalized to the total cross section at $E_n \sim 24$ keV measured by Kobayashi et al.[19] by increase of potential scattering radius which was assumed to be R = 10.01 Fm. Evaluated total cross section follows the trend predicted by recent measurements by Grigoriev et al. [20]. Reduced s- and p-wave neutron widths $\langle \Gamma_n^0 \rangle$ and $\langle \Gamma_n^1 \rangle$ were varied to fit capture and total cross sections, they follow generally decreasing trend up to ~ 20 keV, then increase and abruptly decrease above 40 keV, while d-wave strength function S_2 was kept constant.

In BROND [7] ²³²Th data file resonance parameters (both resolved and unresolved) are represented as a mixture of two isotopes with identical masses and concentrations. The first one resembles data for s- and d- waves, while the second one for p-wave, for energy ranges 4.65 - 200 keV and 2.25-200 keV respectively. Another peculiarity is large difference of potential scattering radii for s- and p- waves: $R_{l=0}=9.65$ Fm, $R_{l=1}=7.0$ Fm, respectively. Average resonance parameters of previous evaluations produce capture cross sections which are not much different, but total cross section seems to be rather different, especially that of JEF-2.2 [8] (by ~ 3 b). The latter peculiarity is due to low scattering radius value R = 8.9874 Fm.

3.1 Average resonance parameters

The assumed lower energy of present unresolved resonance energy region is 4 keV, the end-point of resolved resonance region, the upper energy is 150 keV. We suppose s-, p- and d-wave neutron-nucleus interactions to be effective. Average resonance parameters $S_o = (.94 \pm 0.7) \times 10^{-4}$, $\langle D_{l=0} \rangle = 17.38$ eV, $\Gamma_{\gamma} = 21.3$ meV would be applied for cross section calculation from 4 keV up to 150 keV.

3.1.1 Neutron resonance spacing

Neutron resonance spacing $\langle D_J \rangle$ was calculated with the phenomenological model, which takes into account the shell, pairing and collective effects. The main parameter of the model \tilde{a} was normalized to the observed neutron resonance spacing $\langle D_{l=0} \rangle = 17.38$ eV.

3.1.2 Neutron width

Average neutron width is calculated as follows

$$\langle \Gamma_n^{lJ} \rangle = S_l \langle D_J \rangle E_n^{1/2} P_l \nu_n^{lJ}, \tag{1}$$

where P_l is the transmission factor for the l-th partial wave, which was calculated within black nucleus model, ν_n^{lJ} is the number of degrees of freedom of Porter-Thomas distribution (see Table 1). The *p*-wave neutron strength function $S_1 = 2.15 \times 10^{-4} \text{ (eV)}^{-1/2}$ at 10 keV was calculated with the optical model, using the deformed optical potential, described below. This value was obtained fitting total and capture cross sections.

3.1.3 Radiative capture width

Energy and angular momentum dependence of radiative capture width are calculated within a two-cascade γ -emission model with allowance for the $(n,\gamma n')$ reaction competition to the $(n,\gamma\gamma)$ reaction. The $(n,\gamma\gamma)$ reaction is supposed to be a radiative capture reaction. The radiative capture width was normalized to the value of $\langle \Gamma_{\gamma} \rangle$.

3.1.4 Neutron inelastic width

Average neutron inelastic width is calculated as follows

$$\langle \Gamma_{n'}^{lJ} \rangle = S_l \langle D_J \rangle (E_n - E_1)^{1/2} P_l (E_n - E') \nu_{n'}^{lJ},$$
 (2)

where $\nu_{n'}^{lJ}$ is number of degrees of freedom of Porter-Thomas distribution (see Table 1). For actual compound nucleus states, formed by s-, p- and d-wave neutrons one obtains

$$\langle \Gamma_{n'}^{0,1/2} \rangle = S_2 \langle D_{1/2} \rangle (E_n - E_1)^{1/2} P_2(E - E_1) \cdot 2,$$

$$\langle \Gamma_{n'}^{1,1/2} \rangle = S_1 \langle D_{1/2} \rangle (E_n - E_1)^{1/2} P_1(E_n - E_1),$$

$$\langle \Gamma_{n'}^{1,3/2} \rangle = S_1 \langle D_{3/2} \rangle (E_n - E_1)^{1/2} P_1(E_n - E_1) \cdot 2$$

$$\langle \Gamma_{n'}^{2,3/2} \rangle = S_0 \langle D_{3/2} \rangle (E_n - E_1)^{1/2} + S_2 \langle D_{3/2} \rangle (E_n - E_1)^{1/2} P_2(E_n - E_1) \cdot 2$$

$$\langle \Gamma_{n'}^{2,5/2} \rangle = S_0 \langle D_{5/2} \rangle (E_n - E_1)^{1/2} + S_2 \langle D_{5/2} \rangle (E_n - E_1)^{1/2} P_2(E_n - E_1) \cdot 2$$

$$\langle \Gamma_{n'}^{2,5/2} \rangle = S_0 \langle D_{5/2} \rangle (E_n - E_1)^{1/2} + S_2 \langle D_{5/2} \rangle (E_n - E_1)^{1/2} P_2(E_n - E_1) \cdot 2$$

$$\langle \Gamma_{n'}^{2,5/2} \rangle = S_0 \langle D_{5/2} \rangle (E_n - E_1)^{1/2} + S_2 \langle D_{5/2} \rangle (E_n - E_1)^{1/2} P_2(E_n - E_1) \cdot 2$$

3.1.5 Fission width

Fission widths are calculated within a double-humped fission barrier model. Energy and angular momentum dependence of fission width is defined by the transition state spectra at inner and outer barrier humps. We constructed transition spectra by supposing the axiality and mass symmetry at inner saddle and mass asymmetry at outer saddle. Number of degrees of freedom ν_f^{lJ} of Porter-Thomas distribution is defined in Table 1.

Table 1Number of degrees of freedom

l, J	$ u_n^{lJ} $	$\nu_{n'}^{lJ}$	$ u_f^{lJ} $
0,1/2	1	2	3
1,1/2	1	1	3
1,3/2	1	2	4
2,3/2	1	1	4
2,5/2	1	1	4

3.2 Average cross sections in the region 10-150 keV

3.2.1 Total cross section

Total cross section data base is rather controversial below $E_n \sim 40$ keV. Measurements of transmissions were made by Grigoriev et. al. [21] from 2 eV up

to 100 keV, they argue that resonance structure is important for total cross section estimate up to $E_n \sim 100$ keV. This data are claimed to take into account a self-shielding correctly and appear to be systematically higher than previous measurements by Grigoriev et. al. [20]. Both these measurements are compatible nevertheless with total cross section data by Poenitz et. al. [22] above $E_n \sim$ 40 keV and Vertebnij et. al. [23, 24]. Data by Hibdon et. al. [25] appear to be systematically lower than data by Grigoriev et. al. [20, 21]. Optical model calculations could reproduce the data trend predicted by data by Vertebnij et. al. [23, 24], Poenitz et. al. [22] as well as cross section values by Grigoriev et. al. [21] below $E_n \sim 4$ keV. Fitting the data by Grigoriev et. al. [21]. in the 4-40 keV energy range would correspond to rather high value of s-wave neutron strength S_0 . Present estimate of total cross section is compatible with $S_0 = 0.94 \times 10^{-4}$ and $S_1 = 2.15 \times 10^{-4}$, predicted by optical model. Total cross section, calculated with optical model up to 150 keV, could be reproduced assuming a decreasing trend of S_o strength function values above ~ 50 keV and S_1 and S_2 strength function values linear decrease above $\sim 100 \text{ keV}$ (see Fig. 6), adopting potential radii from optical model calculations. In JENDL-3.2 potential scattering radius is R =10.01 Fm, while we assume R = 9.429 fm, that is why our estimate of total cross section is discrepant with that of JENDL-3.2.

3.2.2 Capture cross section

There are a number of measurement of ²³²Th neutron capture cross section covering unresolved resonance energy range. All available differential data sets are shown in Fig. 7. Most of them are discrepant well outside claimed statistical errors. Below is given brief description of neutron capture measurements.

Forman et. al. [26] have measured capture cross section at $E_n = 2-30$ keV. ²³²Th sample was placed at a flight path of 250 m from neutron source (underground nuclear explosion). The capture gamma rays have been measured by Moxon-Rae detector. The incident neutron flux was measured using ⁶Li(n,t) monitor reaction. No information is given about experimental errors, that decreases weight of these data, which predict rather flat cross section shape above ~10 keV.

Macklin et. al. [27] have measured capture cross section at $E_n = 3-700$ keV. The investigated sample was placed at 40.123 meter flight path from neutron source. The liquid scintillation detector with pulse-height discrimination was applied for prompt gamma-ray detection. The incident neutron flux was measured using ⁶Li(n,t) monitor reaction (no information is given about ⁶Li(n,t) reaction cross section). These data were renormalised by Macklin and Winters [28] to remove an error in transforming measured neutron capture yields to neutron capture cross sections.

Poenitz and Smith [29] have measured capture cross section at $E_n = 58.4$ -850 keV. They have used large liquid scintillator tank as a prompt gamma-ray detector. The ¹⁹⁷Au(n, γ) monitor reaction cross section of ENDF/B-IV was used for incident neutron flux determination. We renormalized these data to¹⁹⁷Au(n, γ) cross section of ENDF/B-VI [6].

Moxon [30] have measured capture cross section at $E_n = 5.5$ -148 keV. Timeof-flight method, path length of 32.5 meters, was applied. Capture gamma rays have been registered by Moxon-Rae detector. The (¹⁰B(n, α)) monitor reaction was used for incident neutron flux determination (cross section values are not given). No uncertainties are given with original data, however contributions from statistical effects, self-shielding, multiple scattering and normalization lead to the error of at least 14%, i.e. 10% statistical and 10% systematic contributions. The ²³²Th(n, γ) cross section values are discrepant with most experimental data, predicting systematically lower cross for $E_n = 5.5$ - 70 keV.

Kobayashi et. al. [31] have measured capture cross section at $E_n = 1-408$ keV. ²³²Th(n, γ) cross section was measured relative to the ¹⁰B(n, $\gamma\alpha$) cross section. They have used a pair of C₆D₆ liquid scintilators as capture gamma-ray detector. The investigated sample was located at 12 m flight path. Authors have used monitor reaction ¹⁰B(n, α) cross section values of ENDF/B-V, we renormalized these data to ENDF/B-VI values [6]. (Kobayashi et. al. [31] also have measured capture cross section at 3 energy points using filtered neutron beams, we will dicuss this point below).

Grigoriev et. al. [32] have measured capture cross section at 0.0215-21.5 keV. The experiment was carried out with the γ -ray multisection liquid detector and battery of boron counters as neutron detector on the 120 m flight path of the pulsed reactor IBR-30. The group neutron cross sections are obtained with accuracy of 2-7%.

Most of the following measurements have been performed using Van de Graaf accelerators and T(p,n) and ${}^{7}Li(p,n)$ reactions as a neutron source. All these measurements suffer of one and the same disadvantage, i.e. low-energy background due to multiple neutron scattering on target sample, sample environment, air and experimental room. The quality of reported results strongly depends on the accuracy of the determination of relevant corrections.

Lindner et. al. [33] have measured capture cross section at the energy range $E_n = 121$ - 2730 keV. The authors have used NaI gamma-ray detector and β -proportional counter to measure ²³²Th sample activity, fission detector assembly included a gold coated silicon surface-barrier detector (²³⁵U(n,f) monitor reaction) to determine incident neutron flux. We renormalized these data to ENDF/B-VI [6] data for ²³⁵U(n,f) reaction cross section.

Linenberger et. al. [34] have measured capture cross section at the energy range of $E_n = 3$ - 390 keV. The authors have used 235 U(n,f) reaction for incident neutron flux determination. We renormalized these data according ENDF/B-VI [6] evaluated values. Cross section values are discrepant with most experimental data.

Miskel et. al. [35] have measured capture cross section at the energy range

 $E_n = 32$ -990 keV. They have used ²³⁵U(n,f) reaction for incident neutron flux determination, but cross section values are not available. Cross section values are discrepant with most experimental data.

Stupegia et. al. [36] have measured capture cross section at the energy range $E_n = 191 - 1170$ keV. Usual experimental technique was used, i.e. ⁷Li(p,n) neutron source, ²³⁵U(n,f) for neutron flux determination and β -counter to detect ²³³Th γ -decay events. No information about experimental uncertainties and ²³⁵U(n,f) cross section is provided, but ²³²Th(n, γ) cross section values are discrepant with most experimental data.

Poenitz and Smith [29] have measured capture cross section at the energy range $E_n = 244$ - 2480 keV. The authors have used Ge(Li) coaxial gamma-ray detector to measure ²³²Th sample activity and ²³⁵U(n,f) for neutron flux determination. We renormalized these data to ENDF/B-VI evaluation [6] of ²³⁵U(n,f) reaction cross section.

Hanna et. al.[37] have measured capture cross section at the energy range $E_n = 16.5$ -1230 keV. The authors have used photo-neutron source and NaI gamma-ray detector. No error analysis is provided, only statistical errors are given. Cross section values are discrepant with most experimental data.

Perkin et. al. [38] have measured capture cross section at $E_n = 14.5$ MeV. The authors have used T(d,n) reaction as a neutron source (440-keV deuterons bombarding tritium "layer" on Zr target) and end-window Geiger counter, calibrated with a 4π - β counter, to measure ²³²Th sample activity and ²⁷Al(n, α) for neutron flux determination.

Jain et. al. [39] and Anand et. al. [40] have measured capture cross section at the energy ranges $E_n = 350 - 680$ keV and $E_n = 425$ and 950 keV, respectively. These experiments were performed using similar technique: lithium metal target as a neutron source, Ge(Li) high resolution γ -detector, ¹⁹⁷Au sample for incident neutron flux determination. We renormalized these data to ¹⁹⁷Au(n, γ) cross section of ENDF/B-VI [6].

Stavisskij and Tolstikov [41] have measured capture cross section at the energy range $E_n = 313$ - 964 keV. The authors have used T(p,n) reaction as a neutron source and ¹²⁷I(n, γ) reaction cross section for neutron flux determination. Data have been updated recently [42].

Tolstikov et. al. [43] have measured capture cross section at the energy range $E_n = 11.5 - 102$ keV. The authors have used ⁷Li(p,n) reaction as a neutron source and ¹⁰B(n, α) for neutron flux determination, the activity of irradiated sample has been measured by β -counter. Data have been updated recently [42].

Davletshin et. al. [44] have measured capture cross section at the energy range $E_n = 370 - 2435$ keV. This measurement was performed using convenient technique: low-weight solid tritium target as a neutron source, Ge(Li) high resolution γ -detector, ¹⁹⁷Au(n, γ) and ²³⁵U(n,f) reactions for incident neutron flux determination. Corrections were made for neutrons scattered on material surrounding target. The authors give cross section values for ¹⁹⁷Au(n, γ) and ²³⁵U(n,f) monitor

reactions, we used averaged values.

Wisshak et. al. [45] have measured capture cross section at $E_n = 5 - 225$ keV. ²³²Th(n, γ) cross section was measured relative to the ¹⁹⁷Au(n, γ) cross section. Neutron energy was determined by time of flight method. Capture events were registered with 4π barium fluoride detector. High efficiency of capture events registration maintains an overall accuracy of $\prec 2\%$ for the energy range between 50 and 200 keV.

Capture cross section was measured by Karamanis et. al. [46] in the energy region $E_n = 60$ - 2000 keV. The characteristic γ -lines of the product nuclei ²³³Pa were measured with a Ge detector. Cross section was measured relative to ¹⁹⁷Au(n, γ) cross section up to 1 MeV and to ²³⁵U(n,f) cross section at higher energies. The authors have used ⁷Li(p,n) and T(p,n) reactions as a neutron source. Cross section is close to JENDL-3.2 evaluation below 800 keV and above 1.4 MeV. Low cross section values are predicted from 800 keV up to 1.4 MeV. Numerical data are inaccessible.

There are some measurements of this ²³²Th capture cross section near $E_n = 24$ keV (Sb-Be source and filtered beams are used) and integral measurements. Capture cross section near $E_n = 24$ keV has resonance structure, and "measured" values strongly depend on incident neutron spectrum [47, 48, 49, 51]. Filtered beams from reactor ([50]) give large spread of results without any possibility to renormalize these values. The situation with integral (reactor spectra ([52, 53, 54]) and 14 MeV assemblies [55]) experiments is absolutely the same: available information about neutron spectra for different measurements is incomplete.

Data by Miskel et. al. [35] and Hanna et. al. [37] predict rather high cross section level in the energy range between 30 and 600 keV. Data by Stupegia et. al. [36] also predict high capture cross section in the energy range between 200 and 1200 keV. Other capture data predict much lower cross section, though a number of discrepancies is observed.

Though measured data are discrepant well beyond claimed errors, a consistent data set could be selected and fitted within statistical model. Below ~ 15 keV measured data by Wisshak et. al. [45] predict an upward trend, while data by Kobayashi et. al.[31] predict a downward trend. Renormalized by [28] data by Macklin [27] are compatible with data by Kobayashi et. al.[31] and Wisshak et. al. [45] in $\sim 10-150$ keV energy range. Above ~ 50 keV data by Poenitz and Smith [29] are compatible with data by Wisshak et. al. [45], Macklin [27] and Kobayashi et. al.[31].

The comparison of statistical theory calculation with measured data is shown on Fig. 7. The important peculiarities of the calculated capture cross section is the Wigner cusp above first excited level threshold of ~49.369 keV. The contributions of s-, p-, d-wave neutrons to capture cross section are shown, the main contribution above $E_n \geq 10$ keV comes from p-wave neutrons, while that of d-wave neutrons is only ~30% lower than that of s-wave neutrons at ~150 keV. The decrease of S_1 strength function above 100 keV, from 2.15×10^{-4} to 1.9×10^{-4} is essential for capture cross section description. Fit to average capture cross section data resulted in *s*-wave radiative strength function $S_{\gamma 0} = 12.255 \times 10^{-4} (\Gamma_{\gamma} = 21.3 \text{ meV} \text{ and } \langle D_{l=0} \rangle = 17.38 \text{ eV}$). Detailed analysis of capture cross section description up to $E_n \sim 5$ MeV will be given below.

3.2.3 Inelastic scattering cross section

Inelastic scattering cross section sharply increases above 49.369-keV level excitation threshold and reaches ~ 0.75 b at 150 keV. Direct scattering contribution to the 49.369-keV level excitation seems to be important above ~ 100 keV, it amounts to $\sim 15\%$ at 150 keV. Conventional ENDF/B processing codes (i.e. RE-CENT [56], NJOY [57]) exemplify Hauser-Feshach-Moldauer formalism and do not take into account direct scattering component of inelastic scattering. Total and capture data could be described within conventional Hauser-Feshach-Moldauer formalism, while it fails in case of inelastic scattering cross section above $E_n \sim 100$ keV. The deficiency of Hauser-Feshbach-Moldauer formalism for inelastic scattering cross section calculation could be diminished by increasing inelastic neutron widths $\langle \Gamma_{n'}^{lJ} \rangle$ for the channels, giving major contributions to inelastic scattering. Figure 8 shows partial contributions to the inelastic scattering coming from (l, J)-channels. Major contribution comes from p-wave channels (l = 1, J = 1/2) and (l = 1, J = 3/2), the lowest comes from s-wave channel (l = 0, J = 1/2), since only d-wave neutrons contribute to $\langle \Gamma_{n'}^{0,1/2} \rangle$ inelastic neutron width in exit channel. The intermediate level contribution comes from (l = 2, J = 3/2) and (l = 2, J = 5/2) entrance channels, when both s-wave and d-wave neutrons contribute to exit channel. That is correlated with partial contributions to capture cross section, when these (l = 2, J = 3/2) and (l=2, J=5/2) channels make the lowest contribution to the capture cross section. The direct contribution missing could be compensated by linear increase of S_1 strength function in the exit inelastic channels to $3.0 \times 10^{-4} \text{ (eV)}^{-1/2}$ at 150 keV. To keep capture cross section unaffected we should increase relevant capture widths in the same linear manner up to $\sim 15\%$ at 150 keV.

3.2.4 Comparison of present and previous evaluated data

Figures 6, 7, 8 and 9 demonstrate $\sigma_{nt}, \sigma_{n\gamma}, \sigma_{nn'}$ and σ_{nn} for present and previous evaluations, while Figs. 10-14 compare reduced neutron widths $\langle \Gamma_n^{0lJ} \rangle$. A number of discrepancies are noticed in case of total (see Fig. 6) and elastic scattering (see Fig. 9) cross sections. JEF-2.2 [8] evaluated total and elastic scattering cross sections are ~2 b lower than present and others estimates in unresolved resonance region. That is due to low value of potential scattering radius adopted in JEF-2.2 [8]. Capture cross sections in JENDL-3.2 [5], ENDF/B-VI [6] are JEF-2.2 [8] are represented with rather different radiation and neutron strength functions (see Table 2). The discrepancies in $S_{\gamma l}$ are compensated by different neutron strength functions S_l . Differences are pronounced either in *s*-wave, *p*-wave and *d*-wave reduced neutron widths (see Figs. 10-14). Inelastic scattering cross section of ENDF/B-VI [6] is rather low up to 200 keV, while previous as well as present evaluations are compatible with measured data by Fujita et. al. [108] (see Fig. 8).

The advantage of present evaluation is that it provides average energy dependent parameters which reproduce evaluated cross sections, using conventional ENDF/B processing codes [56, 57] up to 150 keV. The price paid for that is slight increase of inelastic and capture widths for p-wave channels. Without that increase competitive inelastic width would correspond to inelastic scattering cross section, which is lower than inelastic cross section of smooth cross section file above 150 keV. That would be pronounced as a step in total cross section at 150 keV, since according to ENDF/B conventions, total cross section is calculated as a sum of elastic, capture, fission and inelastic scattering cross section, the latter is taken from tabulated cross section data file. The other cross sections are calculated using average energy dependent parameters. Present estimate of $D_{l=0}$ is consistent with adopted set of s-wave resonances, while estimates of S_l and $S_{\gamma 0}$ values are consistent with total and capture data trends. Non-smooth energy dependence of ENDF/B-VI [6] p-wave average resonance parameters and JENDL-3.2 [5] s- and p- wave average resonance parameters seems to be unnecessary to reproduce total and capture cross sections up to $E_n = 150$ keV.

	$D_{l=0}, eV$	$\Gamma_{\gamma}, \text{meV}$	$S_0 \times 10^{-4}$
JENDL-3.2	18.64	21.2	.93
ENDF/B-VI	17.35	25.5	.86
Present	17.385	21.3	.94

Table 2Average resonance parameters for 232 Th

4 Optical Potential

A coupled channel model is employed for analysis of differential scattering and total cross section data. Another important application of coupled channel model is calculation of direct inelastic scattering contribution of discrete levels, five levels were assumed coupled. The direct excitation of ground state rotational band levels $0^+-2^+-4^+-6^+-8^+$ is estimated within rigid rotator model. To calculate the direct excitation cross sections for β -vibration $K^{\pi} = 0^+$, γ -vibration $K^{\pi} = 0^+$, anomalous rotational γ -band $K^{\pi} = 2^+$, as well as octupole $K^{\pi} = 0^-$ band levels a soft rotator model [58] was used.

Optical potential parameters by Haouat et. al. [59] are frequently used for $n+^{232}$ Th interaction data analysis, coupling scheme being $0^+-2^+-4^+$. We tried optical potential parameter search with $0^+-2^+-4^+-6^+-8^+$ coupling scheme, using potential parameter values obtained for 238 U as starting ones. Optical potential parameters were defined by fitting total cross section data, angular distributions and s-wave strength function $S_o = 0.94 \times 10^{-4}$. The following potential parameters were obtained:

$$W_{D} = \begin{cases} V_{R} = 45.722 - 0.334E_{n}, MeV, r_{R} = 1.2668 \ fm, a_{R} = 0.6468 \ fm \\ 3.145 + 0.455E_{n}, MeV, E_{n} \leq 8MeV, r_{D} = 1.25 \ fm, a_{D} = 0.5246 \ fm \\ 7.695 \ MeV, 10 < E_{n} < 20 \ MeV \\ V_{SO} = 6.2 \ MeV, r_{SO} = 1.120 \ fm, a_{SO} = 0.47 \ fm, \\ \beta_{2} = 0.188, \beta_{4} = 0.071 \end{cases}$$

4.1 Total cross section

Total cross section data [22, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77] fit with present optical potential is shown on Figs. 15, 16, 17. Present total cross section is not much different from JENDL-3.2 [5] evaluation, which basically accepted optical potential parameters by Haouat et. al. [59], except the energy range of $E_n = 1 - 4$ MeV. Though the discrepancies are within the scatter of the measured data points, our estimate of total cross section closely follows in that energy range data trend by Poenitz et. al.[22, 65]. At incident neutron energies $E_n \leq 4$ MeV JEF-2.2 [8] evaluation predicts rather low total cross section, which is incompatible with total data base (see Fig. 16). This energy region is very important for the consistent estimation of first 2⁺ level excitation cross section. At incident neutron energies above 10 MeV both ENDF/B-VI [6] and JEF-2.2 [8] evaluations predict low total cross section values (see Fig. 17).

Figure 18 shows the comparison of reaction cross sections, calculated with different coupled channels optical potentials. It will be shown below that the decreasing trend of the reaction cross section above ~10 MeV is very important for consistent measured data description. Elastic cross section data [74, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85] shape is fairly reproduced (see Figs. 19,20). Present and JENDL-3.2 [5] calculated elastic scattering cross sections are compatible up to $E_n=20$ MeV with measured data by Haouat et. al. [59], Cox et. al. [78] and Iwasaki et. al. [74], while those of ENDF/B-VI [6] and JEF-2.2 [8] predict rather different trend.

4.2 Angular distributions

Elastic scattering angular distribution fit at 1.5 MeV is shown on Fig. 21. Figs. 22 and 23 demonstrate the angular distribution of inelastic scattered neutrons which excite 2^+ and 4^+ levels of ground state band. Overall data trends are reproduced quite well, though the fit is much better in case of 4^+ level. At incident neutron energy of 2.4 MeV summed cross sections of elastic and inelastic scattering to 2^+ and 4^+ levels by Iwasaki et. al. [74] are shown on Fig. 24. Figures 25, 26, 27 show the same as figures 21, 22, 23 for the incident neutron energy of 2.5 MeV. At $E_n = 2.6$ MeV summed cross sections of elastic and inelastic scattering to 2^+ , 4^+ and 6^+ levels by Miura et. al. [12] also are reproduced (see Fig. 28). At E_n =3.4 MeV summed cross sections of elastic and inelastic scattering to 2^+ and 4^+ levels by Haouat et. al. [59] are reproduced (see Fig. 29). Partial contributions to the latter cross section are shown on Figs. 30, 31, 32, here the fit is poorer in case of 4^+ level. At $E_n = 3.6$ MeV summed cross sections of elastic and inelastic scattering to 2^+ , 4^+ and 6^+ levels by Miura et. al. [12] are reproduced (see Fig. 33) much better than in case of both JENDL-3.2 [5] and ENDF/B-VI [6].

Elastic scattering angular distributions at 4.5, 5.0, 5.5, 5.9, 6.5, 7.14, 7.5, 7.75, 8.03, 8.4, 9.06, 9.5, 10 and 14.1 MeV are compared with measured data [86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91] on Figs. 34 - 47. Fits with our potential appear to be somewhat better at 4.5, 5.0, 5.5, 5.9, 6.5, 7.14 MeV incident neutron energy and equally good at 8.03, 8.4, 8.56 MeV. At higher energies of 9.06, 9.5, 10, 14.1 MeV scattering data to large angles (above $\sim 90^{\circ}$) are described rather poorly with any optical potential.

5 Statistical Model

Hauser-Feshbach-Moldauer statistical theory is employed for partial cross section calculations below emissive fission threshold. Fissioning and residual nuclei level densities as well as fission barrier parameters are key ingredients, involved in neutron-induced actinide cross section calculations. First, level density parameters are defined, using neutron resonance spacing $\langle D_{obs} \rangle$ estimates for ²³²Th, ²³¹Th, ²³⁰Th, ²²⁹Th and ²²⁸Th target nuclides, which are formed in neutron emission cascade reactions. Constant temperature level density parameters T_o , E_o , U_c are defined by fitting cumulative number of low-lying levels of ²³³Th, ²³²Th, ²³¹Th, ²³⁰Th, ²²⁹Th and ²²⁸Th [15]. At incident neutron energies, when continuum levels are excited, width fluctuation correction is treated within Tepel et. al. [92] approach. Cross sections, calculated with statistical theory by Tepel et. al. [92] are matched to those calculated with Hauser-Feshbach-Moldauer statistical theory at the incident neutron energy equal to the energy of last discrete level. Then fission cross section of ²³²Th target nuclide is calculated up to emissive fission threshold to extract fission barrier parameters, at higher incident neutron energies Hauser-Feshbach code STAPRE [93] is employed. Fission barrier parameters of ²³²Th, ²³¹Th and ²³⁰Th are defined by fitting observed fission cross section of 232 Th(n,f) above emissive fission threshold

In case of fast neutron ($E_n \leq 6$ MeV) interaction with ²³²Th target nucleus, the main competing channels against neutron inelastic scattering are fission and

radiative neutron capture. Below there is an outline of the statistical model [94, 95] employed.

5.1 Cross Section Formula

Neutron-induced reaction cross section is defined as

$$\sigma_{nx}(E_n) = \frac{\pi \, \hat{\lambda}^2}{2(2I+1)} \sum_{ljJ\pi} (2J+1) T_{lj}^{J\pi}(E_n) P_x^{J\pi}(E_n) S_{nx}^{ljJ\pi},\tag{4}$$

the compound nucleus decay probability $P_x^{J\pi}$ $(x = n, f, \gamma)$ is

$$P_x^{J\pi}(E_n) = \frac{T_x^{J\pi}(U)}{T_f^{J\pi}(U) + T_n^{J\pi}(U) + T_{\gamma}^{J\pi}(U)},$$
(5)

where $U = B_n + E_n$ is the excitation energy of the compound nucleus, B_n is the neutron binding energy, E_n is the incident neutron energy, $T_{lj}^{J\pi}$ are the entrance neutron transmission coefficients for the channel $(ljJ\pi)$, I is the target nucleus spin. Decay probability $P_x^{J\pi}(E)$ of the compound nucleus with excitation energy U for given spin J and parity π , depends on $T_f^{J\pi}$, $T_n^{J\pi}(U)$ and $T_{\gamma}^{J\pi}(U)$, transmission coefficients of the fission, neutron scattering and radiative decay channels, $S_{nx}^{ljJ\pi}$ denotes partial widths Porter-Thomas fluctuation factor. Below incident neutron energy equal to cut-off energy of discrete level spectra the neutron cross sections are calculated within Hauser-Feshbach approach with correction for width fluctuation by Moldauer [96]. For width fluctuation correction calculation only Porter-Thomas fluctuations are taken into account. Effective number of degrees of freedom for fission channel is defined at the higher fission barrier saddle as $\nu_f^{J\pi} = T_f^{J\pi}/T_{fmx}^{J\pi}$, where $T_{fmax}^{J\pi}$ is the maximum value of the fission transmission coefficient $T_f^{J\pi}$. At higher incident neutron energies the Tepel et. al. [92] approach is employed, it describes cross section behavior in case of large number of open channels correctly.

5.2 Level Density

Level density is the main ingredient of statistical model calculations. Level density of fissioning, residual and compound nuclei define transmission coefficients of fission, neutron scattering and radiative decay channels. We will briefly discuss here level densities of even-even nuclide ²³²Th and even-odd nuclide ²³³Th.

The level densities were calculated with a phenomenological model by Ignatyuk et. al. [97], which takes into account the shell, pairing and collective effects in a consistent way

$$\rho(U, J, \pi) = K_{rot}(U, J) K_{vib}(U) \rho_{qp}(U, J, \pi), \tag{6}$$

where quasiparticle level density

$$\rho_{qp}(U, J, \pi) = \frac{(2J+1)\omega_{qp}(U)}{4\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma_{\perp}^2\sigma_{\parallel}} \exp\left(-\frac{J(J+1)}{2\sigma_{\perp}^2}\right),\tag{7}$$

 $\omega_{qp}(U, J, \pi)$ is state density, $K_{rot}(U, J)$ and $K_{vib}(U)$ are factors of rotational and vibrational enhancement of the level density. The collective contribution of the level density of deformed nuclei is defined by the nuclear deformation order of symmetry. The actinide nuclei at equilibrium deformation are axially symmetric. The order of symmetry of nuclear shape at inner and outer saddles were adopted from calculations within shell correction method (SCM) by Howard & Möller [98]. For deformed axially symmetric nucleus

$$K_{rot}(U) = \sigma_{\perp}^2 = F_{\perp}t, \qquad (8)$$

where σ_{\perp}^2 is the spin cutoff parameter, F_{\perp} is the nuclear momentum of inertia (perpendicular to the symmetry axis), which equals the rigid-body value at high excitation energies, where the pairing correlations are destroyed, experimental value at zero temperature and is interpolated in between, using the pairing model.

For triaxially asymmetric nuclides the rotational enhancement factor is

$$K_{rot}(U) = 2\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma_{\perp}^2\sigma .$$
(9)

Here, $\sigma^2 = F_{\parallel} t$ is the spin distribution parameter, t is thermodynamic temperature, $F_{\parallel} = 6/\pi^2 < m^2 > (1 - 2/3\varepsilon)$, where $< m^2 >$ is the average value of the squared projection of the angular momentum of the single-particle states, and ε is quadrupole deformation parameter. The closed-form expressions for thermodynamic temperature and other relevant equations which one needs to calculate $\rho(U, J, \pi)$ are provided by Ignatyuk et. al. model [97].

To calculate the residual nucleus level density at the low excitation energy, i.e. just above the last discrete level excitation energy where $N^{exp}(U) \sim N^{theor}(U)$, we employ a Gilbert-Cameron-type approach. The constant temperature approximation of

$$\rho(U) = dN(U)/dU = T^{-1} \exp((U - U_o)/T)$$
(10)

is extrapolated up to the matching point U_c to a phenomenological model by Ignatyuk et. al.[97] with the condition

$$U_c = U_o - T ln(T\rho(U_c)). \tag{11}$$

In this approach $U_o \simeq -n\Delta_o$, where Δ_o is the pairing correlation function, $\Delta_o = 12/\sqrt{A}$, A is the mass number, n = 0 for even-even, 1 for odd and 2 for oddodd nuclei, i.e., U_o has the meaning of the odd-even energy shift. The value of nuclear temperature parameter T is obtained by the matching conditions at the excitation energy U_c . In present approach the modelling of total level density

$$\rho(U) = K_{rot}(U)K_{vib}(U)\frac{\omega_{qp}(U)}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} = T^{-1}\exp((U - U_o)/T)$$
(12)

in Gilbert-Cameron-type approach looks like a simple renormalization of quasiparticle state density $\omega_{qp}(U)$ at excitation energies $U < U_c$. We will illustrate cumulative number of levels description with constant temperature approximation for ²³³Th and ²³²Th nuclides. The cumulative number of observed levels for even-even ²³²Th and even-odd ²³⁹Th are compared with constant temperature approximation on Figs. 48 and 49. In case of ²³²Th missing of levels above pairing gap (~1.2 MeV) is markedly pronounced. In case of ²³³Th nuclide missing seems to be pronounced above excitations of 0.5 MeV.

Few-quasiparticle effects which are due to pairing correlations are essential for state density calculation at low intrinsic excitation energies either for equilibrium or saddle deformations. The step-like structure in ²³⁹Pu(n,2n) reaction cross section was shown to be a consequence of threshold excitation of two-quasiparticle configurations in residual even-even nuclide ²³⁸Pu [99]. The same effect is pronounced in ²³²Th(n, γ) data description through (n, γ n') reaction competition. We argue that they are important also for reasonable fitting of inelastic scattering cross section data for even-even target nuclide ²³²Th at low energies, typically below ~2 MeV incident neutron energy. In case of even-odd fissioning nuclide ²³³Th few-quasiparticle effects are also important for description of irregularities above fission threshold.

The partial *n*-quasiparticle state densities, which sum-up to intrinsic state density of quasiparticle excitations could be modelled using the Bose-gas model prescriptions [99, 100]. The intrinsic state density of quasiparticle excitations $\omega_{qp}(U)$ could be represented as a sum of *n*-quasiparticle state densities $\omega_{nqp}(U)$:

$$\omega_{qp}(U) = \sum_{n} \omega_{nqp}(U) = \sum_{n} \frac{g^n (U - U_n)^{n-1}}{((n/2)!)^2 (n-1)!},$$
(13)

where $g = 6a_{cr}/\pi^2$ is a single-particle state density at the Fermi surface, n is the number of quasiparticles. The important model parameters are threshold values U_n for excitation of n-quasiparticle configurations n = 2, 4... for even-even nuclei and n = 1, 3... for odd-A nuclei. [100].

Nuclear level density $\rho(U)$ of even-even nuclei above the pairing gap up to the four-quasiparticle excitation threshold was extracted by fitting total inelastic, capture and fission cross section data of ²³²Th. The total level density for even nuclide ²³²Th at equilibrium deformation, as compared with the Gilbert-Camerontype approximation of $\rho(U)$ is shown on Fig. 50. The arrows on the horizontal axis of Fig. 50 indicate the excitation thresholds of even *n*-quasiparticle configurations. Below the excitation threshold U_2 , i.e. within pairing gap the constant temperature model fits cumulative number of ²³²Th levels [102]. In case of odd-even and even-odd nuclei the partial contributions of n-quasiparticle states $\omega_{nqp}(U)$ to the total intrinsic state density $\omega_{qp}(U)$ produces distinct "jump" only below three-quasiparticle excitation threshold U_3 (see Fig. 51). The arrows on the horizontal axis of Fig. 51 indicate the excitation thresholds of odd n-quasiparticle configurations. Nuclear level density $\rho(U)$ up to the threequasiparticle excitation threshold U_3 is virtually independent on the excitation energy, since the intrinsic state density ($\omega_1 \sim g$) is constant. The numerical values of nuclear level density $\rho(U)$ parameters are defined by fitting ²³²Th fission cross section data.

Main parameters of the level density model for equilibrium, inner and outer saddle deformations are as follows: shell correction δW , pairing correlation functions Δ and Δ_f , at equilibrium deformations $\Delta = 12/\sqrt{A}$, quadrupole deformation ε and momentum of inertia at zero temperature F_o/\hbar^2 are given in Table 3. For ground state deformations the shell corrections were calculated as $\delta W = M^{exp} - M^{MS}$, where M^{MS} denotes liquid drop mass (LDM), calculated with Myers-Swiatecki parameters [103], and M^{exp} is the experimental nuclear mass. Shell correction values at inner and outer saddle deformations $\delta W_f^{A(B)}$ are adopted following the comprehensive review by Bjornholm and Lynn [104].

Table 3

Parameter	inner saddle	outer saddle	neutron channel
δW , MeV	1.5	0.6	LDM
\triangle , MeV	$\triangle_o + \delta^*$	$\triangle_o + \delta^*$	\triangle_o
ε	0.6	0.8	0.24
$F_0/\hbar^2, {\rm MeV^{-1}}$	100	200	73

Level density parameters of fissioning nucleus and residual nucleus

*) $\delta = \Delta_f - \Delta$ value is defined by fitting fission cross section in the plateau region.

6 Inelastic Scattering

Main competing channels against inelastic scattering are elastic scattering, capture and fission. The former is of overwhelming importance below ~ 2 MeV incident neutron energy. At higher energies fission channel competition is decisive.

6.1 Neutron Channel

The lumped transmission coefficient of the neutron scattering channel is given by

$$T_n^{J\pi}(U) = \sum_{l'j'q} T_{l'j'}^{J\pi}(E_n - E_{q'}) + \sum_{l'j'I'} \int_0^{U-U_c} T_{l'j'}^{J\pi}(E_n')\rho(U - E_n', I', \pi)dE_n', \quad (14)$$

where $\rho(U-E'_n, I', \pi)$ is the level density of the residual nucleus. Levels of residual nuclide ²³²Th are provided in Table 4. The entrance channel neutron transmission coefficients $T_{lj}^{J\pi}$ are calculated within a rigid rotator coupled channel approach. For the compound nucleus formation cross section calculation the cross sections of the direct excitation of ground state band levels were subtracted from the reaction cross section. The compound and direct inelastic scattering components are added incoherently.

The exit neutron transmission coefficients $T_{l'j'}^{J\pi}(E'_n)$ were calculated using the re-normalized deformed optical potential of entrance channel without coupling, which roughly describes a neutron absorption cross section. Below $E_n \sim 5$ MeV due to high fission threshold the main contribution to inelastic scattering on ²³²Th comes from the compound processes. For ground state band levels the direct and compound components become comparable above ~ 2 MeV.

6.2 Ground State Rotational Band

The first excited level cross section is the most extensively studied, nonetheless the data points scatter a lot [2, 59, 24, 74, 105, 82] (see Fig. 52). Calculated inelastic cross section shape is controlled by competition with elastic neutron scattering. The compound component tends to be zero above $E_n \sim 2.5$ MeV. Using optical potential, which describes total cross section data, we could describe measured data base within Hauser-Feshbach-Moldauer [96] approach somewhat better than it was done in JENDL-3.2 [5] evaluation above ~ 2 MeV, while ENDF/B-VI [6] evaluation in the vicinity of the threshold seems to be too low, the same is true in case of JEF-2.2 [8] evaluation above ~ 1 MeV. The latter peculiarity is due to direct contribution missing.

The calculated cross section of 4^+ -level excitation is different from the previous evaluations ENDF/B-VI [6] and JEF-2.2 [8] below ~2 MeV incident neutron energy (see Fig. 53). The difference of present and JENDL-3.2 [5] evaluations seems to be due to systematically lower direct contribution in present calculation, which is supported by measured data by Goswani et. al.[105].

On figures 54 and 55 angular distribution of inelastic scattered neutrons which excite 6^+ level of ground state band are compared with data by Kegel et. al. [9] at 2.4 and 2.8 MeV, respectively. Overall data trends are reproduced quite well, but it seems that angular -integrated cross sections were obtained based on inelastic cross section at 125° angle. This may explain why present 6^+ - level

excitation cross section is about twice higher than data by Kegel et. al. [9] (see Fig. 56). We employ coupling schema of $0^+-2^+-4^+-6^+-8^+$, direct contribution of 6^+ -level excitation is predominant above ~3 MeV. Direct contribution should be virtually zero, when using coupling basis of $0^+-2^+-4^+$. We may conclude, that 6^+ level excitation cross section evaluations of JENDL-3.2 and ENDF/B-VI are not pure calculations, they were just normalized to reproduce the trend predicted by measured data by Kegel et. al. [9].

Levels of ²³² Th							
E, MeV	J^{π}	K^{π}	E, MeV	J^{π}	K^{π}		
0.0000;	0^{+}	0^{+}	1.0231	6^{+}	2^{+}		
0.049369;	2^{+}	0^{+}	1.0429	7^{-}	0-		
0.16212;	4^{+}	0^{+}	1.0499	6^{+}	0^{+}		
0.3332;	6^{+}	0^{+}	1.0536	2^{+}			
0.5569	10^{+}	0+	1.0729	2^{+}			
0.71425;	1-	0-	1.0775	1-			
0.7303;	0^{+}	0+	1.0787	0^{+}	0^{+}		
0.7741;	2^{+}	0^{+}	1.0944	3^{+}			
0.7744;	3-	0-	1.1057	3-			
0.7853;	2^{+}	2^+	1.1218;	2^{+}	0^{+}		
0.827	10^{+}		1.1371	12^{+}			
0.8296	3^{+}	2^+	1.1433	4-			
0.8730	4^{+}	2^+	1.1460;	7^{+}	0^+		
0.8836	5^{-}	0-	1.1483	4+	0^{+}		
0.8901	4^{+}	0^{+}	1.1825	3-			
0.9604	5^{+}	2^{+}	1.2089	5^{-}			

Table 4

6.3 Soft rotator model

There are two major experiments which explore inelastic scattering for levels between 0.7 MeV and 1.4 MeV up to $E_n \sim 2$ MeV. Time-of-flight technique was used to measure angular distributions of inelastic scattered neutrons by Ciarcia et. al. [3], these (n,n') data are complemented with (n,n' γ) measurements by Dave et. al. [4]. However, in a number of cases TOF- measurements are discrepant with cross sections inferred from (n,n' γ) measurements. At incident neutron energies above ~ 1.5 MeV cross sections obtained from (n,n' γ) in a $\sim 70\%$ of investigated cases are larger than (n,n') data. That might be due to possible feeding of the level of interest from higher lying levels. Gamma-ray spectroscopy is especially useful near level excitation threshold, where TOF technique has lower resolution. However, for these lower incident neutron energies the reliability of (n,n' γ) data depends on detailed knowledge of E0-transition contribution and internal conversion coefficients, frequently that is not the case and then $(n,n'\gamma)$ -data are systematically lower than TOF-data. Angle-integrated inelastic scattering cross sections were obtained measuring differential neutron scattering at 125^o angle. For a number of incident neutron energies we could compare angular distributions of inelastic scattered neutron by Ciarcia et. al. [3] with calculated values.

Direct excitation of vibrational levels could be described within a soft rotator model [58]. Here the direct inelastic scattering component is due to excitation of octupole and quadrupole band levels. Direct excitation cross sections for γ vibration $K^{\pi} = 0^+$, β -vibration $K^{\pi} = 0^+$, anomalous rotational $K^{\pi} = 2^+$ bands as well as first octupole $K^{\pi} = 0^-$ band levels are calculated for deformed nonaxial, soft to quadrupole β - and γ -vibrations rotator. Excitation energies of members of even-parity collective bands $K^{\pi} = 0^+$, 0^+ , 2^+ and first octupole band $K^{\pi} = 0^-$, are reproduced up to ~2 MeV [58].

Levels of $K^{\pi} = 0^{-}$ band (0.71425 MeV) are most sensitive to the octupole deformation parameter β_3 , which slightly influence also the positions of other band levels. Another parameter which defines positions of levels of $K^{\pi} = 0^{-}$ band is the softness parameter to the octupole vibrations μ_{ξ} , this peculiarity prohibits unanimous definition of β_3 -parameter by fitting $K^{\pi} = 0^{-}$ band levels' positions. When this coupling strength parameter β_3 is changed to fit angular distribution data, levels could be kept unaffected with this softness parameter μ_{ξ} . This procedure was followed in case of ²³⁸U inelastic scattering data analysis [106]. Data for a group of octupole band levels by Plompen et. al. [107] up to ~3 MeV helped to define uniquely β_3 -parameter and softness parameter to the octupole vibrations μ_{ξ} . We adopted these parameter values for ²³²Th, they allowed to reproduce the octupole band levels of ²³²Th as well.

Levels of second $K^{\pi} = 0^+$ band (0.73035 MeV) are classified as quadrupole longitudinal β -vibrations, while levels of third $K^{\pi} = 0^+$ band (1.0787 MeV) - as quadrupole transversal γ -vibrations. Both are defined by softness parameters to respective vibrations μ_{β} and μ_{γ} . Anomalous rotational γ -band $K^{\pi} = 2^+$ levels are defined by non-axiality parameter γ_o . This band lies much lower (~300 keV) than respective band in case of ²³⁸U, at the other hand this band lowering is accompanied by moving $K^{\pi} = 0^+$ band (1.0787 MeV) - that of quadrupole transversal γ -vibrations, to higher excitations (by ~250 keV), than in case of ²³⁸U nuclide. Moreover, quadrupole longitudinal β -vibration band also is lowered as compared with relevant band of 238 U nuclide by ~ 250 keV. That means that within soft rotator model ²³²Th nuclide is much softer with respect to quadrupole longitudinal β -vibrations, which is pronounced in higher μ_{β} parameter values. As regards quadrupole transversal γ -vibrations, static non-axiality parameter γ_o for ²³²Th is higher than in case of 238 U. It was fitted to the position of anomalous γ -band $K^{\pi} = 2^+$, which is appreciably lower than in case of ²³⁸U. This masks possible difference of softness to transversal γ -vibrations of ²³²Th and ²³⁸U, i.e. μ_{γ} parameter values differ only slightly (see Table 5).

Actually the calculations of direct inelastic scattering cross sections were made

adding each of 17 levels of $K^{\pi} = 0^+$, 2^+ , 0^- band levels (see Table 6), one by one, to the $0^+-2^+-4^+-6^+-8^+$ coupling basis, instead of the last 8^+ -member of ground state rotational band, since the coupling with ground state band levels is the strongest for any band level. This procedure only slightly changes total and reaction cross sections, the same response is to the increase of coupling basis, i.e. from 3 to 5 levels within a rigid rotator model.

Deformation parameter values for soft rotator model								
Nuclide	β_2	β_4	$\hbar\omega_o, \text{MeV}$	μ_{eta}	μ_{γ}	γ_o	β_3	μ_{ξ}
²³² Th	0.188	0.071	0.725	0.279	0.279	0.187	0.052	0.626
^{238}U	0.195	0.078	0.989	0.216	0.29	0.146	0.052	0.626

 Table 5

 Deformation parameter values for soft rotator model

Differential scattering data for negative and positive parity level excitations were employed to fix reliable values of equilibrium deformation parameters.

6.3.1 Octupole, β -, γ -vibration and γ - bands

Differential scattering data for incident neutron energies 1.2 and 1.5 MeV by Ciarcia et. al.[3] predict slight forward/backward peaking of inelastic scattered neutrons, which excite band-head level of $K^{\pi}=0^{-}$ band (see Figs. 57, 58). Calculated curve almost reproduces the angular distribution at 1.5 MeV. It seems that assumption of angular isotropy in obtaining angle-integrated inelastic scattering cross section might lead to rather small error. Evaluated curves of ENDF/B-VI [6], JEF-2 [8] and JENDL-3.2 [5] are rather discrepant with measured data on 0.71425 MeV ($J^{\pi}=1^{-}$) of $K^{\pi}=0^{-}$ band level (see Fig.59). Calculated curve is compatible with data by Ciarcia et. al.[3] up to $E_n \sim 1.6$ MeV, however our predicted direct scattering contribution is much lower than in case of previous evaluations.

Differential scattering data for incident neutron energies 1.2 and 1.5 MeV by Ciarcia et. al.[3] again predict forward/backward peaking of inelastic scattered neutrons, exciting band-head level of $K^{\pi} = 0^+$ band (see Figs. 60, 61), it is also pronounced in calculated curves, which reproduce data shape, except forward angles. Angle-integrated data by Ciarcia et. al.[3] and by Dave et. al. [4] are severely discrepant, however our calculated curve is compatible with (n,n') data by Ciarcia et. al.[3] and once again supports assumption made by Ciarcia et. al.[3] that (n,n' γ) data might be lowered due to undetected E0(0⁺ \rightarrow 0⁺) transition.

Differential scattering data for $E_n = 2$ MeV by Ciarcia et. al.[3] for neutrons, exciting band-head levels of octupole $K^{\pi} = 0^-$ and β -vibration $K^{\pi} = 0^+$ bands are shown on Fig. 63. At higher incident neutron energies of 2.4 and 2.8 MeV these calculated differential cross section shows strong back-ward peaking (see Figs. 64, 65). For the angles in the range of 30° -150° calculated curve resembles measured data by Kegel et. al. [9] structure rather closely, though it seems to be systematically higher. Summed inelastic scattering cross section, shown on Fig. 66, follows the trend predicted by data by Ciarcia et. al.[3] up to $E_n \sim 2$ MeV and by Kegel et. al. [9] at higher energies. It seems that the direct contribution component for the 0.71425 MeV $(J^{\pi}=1^{-})$ of $K^{\pi}=0^{-}$ band level should be ~ 2 times lower than that predicted in JENDL-3.2 [5] evaluation.

Inelastic scattering cross section for the level second levels of β -vibration band 0.7741 MeV ($J^{\pi}=2^{+}$) and octupole band 0.71425 MeV ($J^{\pi}=3^{-}$) are compared with JENDL-3.2 evaluation on Figs. 67 and 68. Differential scattering data by Ciarcia et. al.[3] for this unresolved doublet for incident neutron energies 1.2 and 1.5 MeV predict rather smooth distribution of inelastic scattered neutrons (see Figs. 69, 70). Summed cross section for these levels is compared with measured data on Fig. 71. Though (n,n') and (n,n' γ) cross sections are compatible for the incident neutron energies around ~1.5 MeV, above ~1.5 MeV calculated cross section is much lower than (n,n γ) data predict. This closely resembles the situation shown on Fig. 66 for the band-heads of octupole $K^{\pi}=0^{-}$ and β -vibration $K^{\pi}=0^{+}$ bands.

The next level is the band-head of anomalous rotational band $K^{\pi} = 2^+$ lying at 0.7853 MeV. Differential scattering data for incident neutron energy of 1.2 MeV by Ciarcia et. al.[3] predict rather smooth distribution of inelastic scattered neutrons, for higher energy of 1.5 MeV peaking at 90° is reproduced only qualitatively (see Figs. 72, 73). Direct scattering contribution predicted for 0.7853 MeV ($J^{\pi} = 2^+$) is compatible with (n,n') data trend, (n,n' γ) data by Dave et. al. [4] predict much higher cross section. JENDL-3.2 [5] evaluation largely overestimates the direct contribution and follows the trend predicted by (n,n' γ) data by Dave et. al. [4] (see Fig. 74).

For the next member of this $K^{\pi} = 2^+$ band, lying at 0.8296 MeV $(J^{\pi} = 3^+)$, differential scattering data for incident neutron energy of 1.2 and 1.5 MeV by Ciarcia et. al.[3] predict rather smooth distribution of inelastic scattered neutrons (see Figs. 75, 76), for still higher energy of 2 MeV measured data seem to be too high, strong forward peaking also could not be reproduced (see Fig. 77). This may explain the discrepancy of calculated and (n,n') measured cross section data above ~1.5 MeV (see Fig. 78).

Differential scattering cross section for the composite levels of octupole, β -vibration and γ -bands and $J^{\pi} = 10^+$ level of ground state rotational band in the 0.774-0.830 MeV excitation energy range have been measured by Kegel et. al. [9] for $E_n = 2.4$ and 2.8 MeV (see Figs. 79, 80). Calculated differential scattering cross section is compatible with measured data for $E_n = 2.4$ MeV and overestimates the data at $E_n = 2.8$ MeV. Inelastic cross section is shown on Fig. 81, present calculation is compatible with measured data by Ciarcia et. al.[3] and Kegel et. al. [9] up to $E_n \sim 2.7$ MeV, at higher energies the latter data predict too steep decrease of the cross section. It seems that direct contribution in JENDL-3.2 evaluation is again largely overestimated. The same is true for the third member of anomalous rotational band $K^{\pi} = 2^+$ lying at 0.873 MeV ($J^{\pi} =$ 4^+) (see Fig. 82).

Figure 83 shows the description of data for unresolved doublet of two levels, 0.8836 $(J^{\pi}=5^{-})$, third member of octupole $K^{\pi}=0^{-}$ band, and 0.8901 $(J^{\pi}=4^{+})$ - third member of β -vibration $K^{\pi}=0^{+}$ band. For incident neutron energies below 1.5 MeV calculated curve somewhat underestimates (n,n') data, but is still higher than $(n,n'\gamma)$ data. At higher incident neutron energies $(n,n'\gamma)$ data are higher than calculated cross section, this favors the assumption that there some unobserved gamma-ray transitions in $(n,n'\gamma)$ experiment by Dave et. al. [4].

Differential scattering cross section for the composite of three levels in the 0.883~0.890 MeV excitation energy range have been measured by Kegel et. al. [9] for 2.4 and 2.8 MeV (see Figs. 84, 85). Data scatter a lot, so we could reconcile calculated curve with measured data only for $E_n = 2.4$ MeV. Inelastic cross section for this group of levels is shown on Fig. 86. It seem that direct contribution in JENDL-3.2 evaluation is again largely overestimated. Our calculated curve follows (n,n') data by Ciarcia et. al.[3] below ~1.5 MeV and tendency, predicted by Kegel et. al. [9] data above $E_n \sim 2$ MeV, though the latter data seem to be too low because of misinterpreted angular distribution for $E_n \gtrsim 2.4$ MeV. The same kind of calculated curve discrepancy with measured (n,n' γ) data above ~1.7 MeV is evident.

Differential scattering data for fourth member of anomalous rotational band $K^{\pi} = 2^+$ lying at 0.9604 MeV ($J^{\pi} = 5^+$) at incident neutron energies of 2.0, 2.4 and 2.8 MeV by Ciarcia et. al.[3] predict rather high cross section with forward peaking, which could not be reproduced with present version of soft rotator model (see Figs. 87, 88, 89). Cross section data scatter a lot, direct contribution in this case is rather low and calculated curve is discrepant with $(n,n'\gamma)$ data above ~1.7 MeV in the same way as before (see Fig. 90). It is compatible with measured data by Kegel et. al. [9] only above ~2.6 MeV.

Cross section for the 1.0536 MeV level was measured both by Ciarcia et. al.[3] and Dave et. al. [4], they are drastically different, the former data being much higher. Spin-parity assignment for this level is rather controversial: Chan et. al. [101] assume this level being the band-head of $K^{\pi} = 2^{-}$ octupole state, ENSDF [102] assigns only spin value J=2. Calculated cross section is not much sensitive to the parity of this level (see Fig. 91) and remains compatible with (n,n') data. We adopted $J^{\pi} = 2^{+}$ here, since there are a number of inconsistencies in assigning spin-parity to this level in [101].

Differential scattering data for the levels lying at excitations between 0.7 and 1.05 MeV, i.e. β -vibration $K^{\pi} = 0^+$, anomalous rotational $K^{\pi} = 2^+$ bands as well as first octupole $K^{\pi} = 0^-$ band levels, were measured by Baba et. al. [12] (see Fig. 92), our calculation is rather compatible with these data, as distinct of previous measurements [11] for the levels lying at excitations between 0.7 and 0.9 MeV (see Fig. 93).

Level lying at 1.0729 MeV $(J^{\pi}=2^+)$ is not attributed to any band within the present model. Calculated cross section is discrepant with the data by Dave et.

al. [4] in the same way as for most other levels. Direct contribution in JENDL-3.2 evaluation is rather high, while it is missing in present approach (see Fig. 94).

Cross section for the excitation of the band-head of γ -vibration band $K^{\pi} = 0^+$ was measured only with $(n,n'\gamma)$ method. Calculated curve is discrepant with the data above ~1.5 MeV being systematically lower. Calculated direct contribution is almost three times lower than that of JENDL-3.2 [5] evaluation (see Fig. 95). Data for the triplet 1.0729 MeV $(J^{\pi} = 2^+)$, 1.0775 MeV $(J^{\pi} = 1^-)$ and 1.0787 MeV $(J^{\pi} = 0^+)$ obtained by (n,n') and $(n,n'\gamma)$ methods are compared on Fig. 96. Calculated curve is compatible with (n,n') data above ~1.8 MeV. Direct scattering is included only for 1.0787 MeV $(J^{\pi} = 0^+)$ level, band-head of γ -vibration band $K^{\pi} = 0^+$, that of JENDL-3.2 [5] is much higher.

The next pair of levels 1.0944 MeV $(J^{\pi}=3^+)$ and 1.1057 MeV $(J^{\pi}=3^-)$ was resolved in measurement by Dave et. al. [4], the former level cross section is much discrepant with calculated cross section as if there are unobserved decay branches in the $(n,n'\gamma)$ measurements. The spin-parity assignment for this level is controversial, Chan et. al. [101] assume that this is $J^{\pi}=2^-$ level of octupole $K^{\pi}=1^-$ band. For this spin-parity values calculated cross section changes shape only a bit (see Fig. 97). Cross section data for the excitation of 1.1057 MeV $(J^{\pi}=3^-)$ level are discrepant with a calculated cross section being higher up to $E_n \sim 1.5$ MeV and lower at higher energy. This doublet was unresolved in (n,n') measurement, comparison of measured (n,n'), $(n,n'\gamma)$ and calculated cross sections is presented on Fig. 99. Measured data are rather discrepant below $E_n \sim 1.5$ MeV, being consistent in the energy range $1.5 \sim 2$ MeV. Calculate curve nicely describes (n,n') measurement data [3], while JENDL-3.2 evaluation follows $(n,n'\gamma)$ measurements.

The second member of γ -vibration band $K^{\pi} = 0^+$ lies at 1.1218 MeV ($J^{\pi} = 2^+$). Calculated excitation cross section is compatible with measured (n,n') and (n,n' γ) data, which are almost consistent (see Fig. 100). The cross section for the excitation of the third member of γ -vibration band $K^{\pi} = 0^+$,1.1483 MeV ($J^{\pi} = 4^+$), is measured combined with excitation cross section of 1.1433 MeV ($J^{\pi} = 4^-$) level. Calculated curve nicely follows the (n,n') data trend up to $E_n \sim 2$ MeV, which are markedly higher than (n,n' γ) data below ~ 1.5 MeV (see Fig. 101). The discrepancy between (n,n') and (n,n' γ) data might be attributed to E0 transition from 1.1483 MeV ($J^{\pi} = 4^+$) level to the $J^{\pi} = 4^+$ level of ground state band.

Calculated cross section of 1.1825 MeV $(J^{\pi}=3^{-})$ level is compatible both with (n,n') and (n,n' γ) data, except to anomalous data points around $E_n \sim 1.4$ MeV. Evaluation of ENDF/B-VI follows the strange shape, predicted by these two data points (see Fig. 102).

In most cases calculated cross sections for excitation of discrete levels and group of levels of γ -vibration $K^{\pi} = 0^+$, β -vibration $K^{\pi} = 0^+$, anomalous rotational $K^{\pi} = 2^+$ bands as well as first octupole $K^{\pi} = 0^-$ band levels are in nice agreement with (n,n') method measured data up to ~3 MeV. Measured data derived by (n,n' γ) method were supposed in most cases overestimate inelastic scattering cross section above $E_n \sim 1.5$ MeV and underestimate it at lower energies, or in the whole energy range, in a number of cases. This conclusion, made by Ciarcia et. al.[3], was never supported by the detailed statistical nuclear reaction model calculations. Present investigation, taking into account direct excitation of γ -vibration $K^{\pi} = 0^+$, β -vibration $K^{\pi} = 0^+$ and anomalous rotational $K^{\pi} = 2^+$ bands levels, seems to be the first trial.

			$1.1483; 4^+$	
		$1.1460; 7^+$		
			$1.1218; 2^+$	
			$1.0787; 0^+$	
		$1.0499; 6^+$		
	$1.0429; 7^{-}$			
				$1.0231; 6^+$
				$0.9604; 5^+$
		$0.8901; 4^+$		
	$0.8836; 5^{-}$			
				$0.8730; 4^+$
				$0.8296; 3^+$
				$0.7853; 2^+$
	$0.7744; 3^{-}$			
		$0.7741; 2^+$		
		$0.7303; 0^+$		
	$0.71425; 1^{-}$			
$0.3332; 6^+$				
$0.16212; 4^+$				
$0.049369; 2^+$				
$0.0000; 0^+$		$n_{\beta}=1$	$n_{\gamma}=1$	
$K^{\pi} = 0^+$	$K^{\pi} = 1^{-}$	$K^{\pi} = 0^+$	$K^{\pi} = 0^+$	$K^{\pi} = 2^+$

Table 6 Coupling scheme for 232 Th

6.4 Total inelastic cross section

Calculated total inelastic cross section is compared with measured data [82, 2, 108, 1] on Fig. 103. The data measured by Glazkov et. al. [2] and Smith et. al. [82] are inconsistent above $E_n \sim 1$ MeV. Data measured by Smith et. al. [1] should be complemented with the inelastic scattering cross sections for ground state band levels, since they were subtracted from measured scattered neutron spectra along with elastic scattering component. The calculated curve describes the measured

data [1, 2, 108] within errors. The contribution of direct excitation of ground state band levels, γ -vibration $K^{\pi} = 0^+$, β -vibration $K^{\pi} = 0^+$, anomalous rotational $K^{\pi} = 2^+$ bands as well as first octupole $K^{\pi} = 0^-$ band levels is shown to be ~15% of total inelastic cross section below ~6 MeV. The step-like dependence of total inelastic scattering cross section above ~1 MeV incident neutron energy seems to be compatible with measured data base. The calculated curve is consistent with JENDL-3.2 [5] evaluation up to ~2 MeV incident neutron energy. Figure 104 shows the comparison of continuum scattering contribution to total inelastic cross section of JENDL-3.2, ENDF/B-VI [6] and present evaluation, the curves are rather different in energy dependence, especially up to $E_n \sim 6$ MeV.

Above emissive fission threshold evaluations of inelastic scattering cross section differ by $\sim 30\%$, present estimate being intermediate. The discrepancy with JENDL-3.2 evaluation might be attributed to overestimated contribution of preequilibrium neutron emission, the opposite is true with respect to ENDF/B-VI [6] and JEF-2 [8] evaluation.(see Fig. 105). In our calculations pre-equilibrium neutron emission contribution is defined by description of secondary neutron spectra and consistent description of 232 Th(n,f) and 232 Th(n,2n)reaction cross sections.

7 Capture cross section

Calculated ²³²Th capture cross section is dependent on radiative strength function value, i. e. on level densities of ²³³Th and ²³²Th nuclides as well as inelastic neutron scattering competition. We will check the consistency of measured data base with calculated capture cross section up to $E_n \sim 5$ MeV.

Measured data are discrepant well beyond claimed errors, a consistent data set could be selected and fitted within statistical model. Below ~ 15 keV measured data by Wisshak et. al. [45] predict an upward trend, while data by Kobayashi et. al. [31] predict a downward trend. Renormalized by [28] data by Macklin [27] are compatible with data by Kobayashi et. al. |31| and Wisshak et. al. |45| in $\sim 10-150$ keV energy range. Above ~ 50 keV data by Poenitz and Smith [29] are compatible with data by Wisshak et. al. [45], Macklin [27] and Kobayashi et. al. Above $E_n \sim 150$ keV data by Kobayashi et. al.[31] demonstrate an upward trend, which is at variance with data trend by Lindner et. al. [33]. It was concluded that renormalized by [28] data by Macklin [27] for $E_n \sim 3-700$ keV are compatible with data by Kobayashi et. al.[31] in \sim 3-400 keV energy range. Data by Wisshak et. al. |45| in ~ 5 - 225 keV energy range are compatible with both data sets, except for incident neutron energies below ~ 15 keV, where the latter data predict sharply increasing trend of capture cross section. Above $\sim 50 \text{ keV}$ data by Poenitz and Smith [29] are compatible with data by Wisshak et. al. [45], Macklin [27] and Kobayashi et. al. [31]. Data by Davletshin et. al. [44] predict rather low capture cross section above $E_n \sim 400$ keV.

7.1 Radiative capture channel

The dipole radiative strength function for 233 Th γ -decay was calculated using Lorenz' parameterization of actinide absorption cross section data at low energies (<7 MeV). The higher multipolarity transitions are neglected. The radiative transmission coefficient

$$T_{\gamma}^{J\pi}(U) = \frac{2\pi C_{\gamma}}{3(\pi hc)^2} \int \varepsilon_{\gamma}^2 \sigma_{\gamma}(\varepsilon_{\gamma}) \sum_{I=|J-1|}^{I=J+1} \rho(U-\varepsilon_{\gamma},I,\pi) d\varepsilon_{\gamma},$$
(15)

was calculated using Lorenz' parameterization of photoabsorption cross section $\sigma_{\gamma}(\varepsilon_{\gamma})$

$$\sigma_{\gamma}(\varepsilon_{\gamma}) = \sum_{i=1}^{2} \sigma_{\gamma i} \frac{\varepsilon_{\gamma}^{2} \Gamma_{Gi}^{2}}{(\varepsilon_{\gamma}^{2} - E_{Gi}^{2})^{2} + \varepsilon_{\gamma}^{2} \Gamma_{Gi}^{2}}.$$
 (16)

The respective parameters being fitted to actinide photoabsorption data at low energies [109]: $\sigma_{\gamma 1} = 250 \ mb$, $\sigma_{\gamma 2} = 300 \ mb$, $E_{G1} = 10.5 \ MeV$, $E_{G2} = 14 \ MeV$, $\Gamma_{G1} = 2.5 \ MeV$, $\Gamma_{G2} = 4.5 \ MeV$, C_{γ} is the normalizing coefficient.

At incident neutron energies higher than ~1 MeV, the competition of neutron emission at the second cascade, i.e. after first γ -quanta emission should be included. Then "true" capture reaction cross section $(n,\gamma\gamma)$ is defined using transmission coefficient $T_{\gamma\gamma}^{J\pi}(U)$ defined in a two-cascade approximation as

$$T_{\gamma\gamma}^{J\pi} = \frac{2\pi C_{\gamma 1}}{3(\pi hc)^2} \int \varepsilon_{\gamma}^2 \sigma_{\gamma}(\varepsilon_{\gamma}) \sum_{I=|J-1|}^{I=J+1} \rho(U-\varepsilon_{\gamma},I,\pi) \frac{T_{\gamma}^{I\pi}}{T_f^{I\pi} + T_{n'}^{I\pi} + T_{\gamma}^{I\pi}} d\varepsilon_{\gamma} , \quad (17)$$

The last term of the integrand describes the competition of fission, neutron emission and γ -emission at excitation energy $(U - \varepsilon_{\gamma})$ after emission of first γ quanta, $C_{\gamma 1}$ is the normalizing coefficient. That means transmission coefficients $T_{\gamma}^{I\pi}$, $T_{n'}^{I\pi}$ and $T_{f}^{I\pi}$ are defined at excitation energy $(U - \varepsilon_{\gamma})$. The neutron emission after emission of first γ -quanta strongly depends on the ²³²Th residual nuclide level density at excitations just above paring gap [110].

The contribution of $(n,\gamma n')$ -reaction to inelastic scattering cross section is defined by $T_{\gamma n'}^{J\pi}$ value. The energy dependence of $(n,\gamma n')$ reaction transmission coefficient $T_{\gamma n'}^{J\pi}$ was calculated with the expression

$$T_{\gamma n'}^{J\pi} = \frac{2\pi C_{\gamma 1}}{3(\pi hc)^2} \int \varepsilon_{\gamma}^2 \sigma_{\gamma}(\varepsilon_{\gamma}) \sum_{I=|J-1|}^{I=J+1} \rho(U-\varepsilon_{\gamma},I,\pi) \frac{T_{n'}^{I\pi}}{T_f^{I\pi} + T_{n'}^{I\pi} + T_{\gamma}^{I\pi}} d\varepsilon_{\gamma} , \quad (18)$$

At incident neutron energies above fission threshold competition of fission is important [111]. The contribution of $(n,\gamma f)$ -reaction to fission cross section is defined by $T^{J\pi}_{\gamma f}$ value. The energy dependence of $(n, \gamma f)$ reaction transmission coefficient $T^{J\pi}_{\gamma f}$ was calculated with the expression

$$T_{\gamma f}^{J\pi} = \frac{2\pi C_{\gamma 1}}{3(\pi hc)^2} \int \varepsilon_{\gamma}^2 \sigma_{\gamma}(\varepsilon_{\gamma}) \sum_{I=|J-1|}^{I=J+1} \rho(U-\varepsilon_{\gamma},I,\pi) \frac{T_f^{I\pi}}{T_f^{I\pi} + T_{n'}^{I\pi} + T_{\gamma}^{I\pi}} d\varepsilon_{\gamma} , \quad (19)$$

7.2 Data analysis

Measured data are discrepant well beyond claimed errors, a consistent data set could be selected and fitted within statistical model. Below ~15 keV measured data by Wisshak et. al. [45] predict an upward trend, while data by Kobayashi et. al.[31] predict a downward trend. Renormalized by [28] data by Macklin [27] are compatible with data by Kobayashi et. al.[31] and Wisshak et. al. [45] in ~10-150 keV energy range. Above ~50 keV data by Poenitz and Smith [29] are compatible with data by Wisshak et. al. [45], Macklin [27] and Kobayashi et. al. Above $E_n \sim 150$ keV data by Kobayashi et. al.[31] as well as renormalized data Macklin [27] demonstrate an upward trend, which is at variance with data trend by Lindner et. al. [33]. Above ~50 keV data by Poenitz and Smith [29] are compatible with data by Wisshak et. al. [45], Macklin [27] and Kobayashi et. al.[31]. Data by Davletshin et. al. [44] predict rather low capture cross section in the energy range of $E_n \sim 400 - 1400$ keV, which is systematically discrepant with data by Lindner et. al. [33] and Poenitz and Smith [29].

Data by Anand et. al. [40] are compatible with data by Pönitz and Smith [29] and data by Lindner et. al. [33] in the energy range of 400-900 keV, while data by Jane et. al. [39] predict rather low capture cross section above 350 keV. Data by Hanna et. al. [37] predict the lowest cross section above ~ 1 MeV.

For incident neutron energy up to $E_n \sim 150$ keV capture cross section is defined solely by radiation strength function value adopted from resonance energy region. For higher incident neutron energies calculated cross section is rather sensitive to the level density of ²³³Th at low excitation energies. Figure 106 demonstrates the sensitivity of calculated cross section to the level density of ²³³Th below threequasiparticle excitation threshold. The lowest estimate of ²³³Th level density produces the highest level cross section due to normalization of calculated radiative strength function to the observed value $S_{\gamma 0} = 12.255 \times 10^{-4}$. Adopted capture data description is shown on Fig. 107. The important peculiarities of the calculated capture cross section is the cusp above first excited level threshold of ~ 49 keV up to ~ 800 keV, another one is the cross section drop from ~ 800 keV up to ~ 1.2 MeV (see Fig. 106). The latter drop is evident in data by Lindner et. al. [33], it might be correlated with strong increase of inelastic scattering competition due to increase of residual nuclide 232 Th number of levels (see Fig. 48). Present calculation is compatible with evaluation of JENDL-3.2 up to $E_n \sim 250$ keV. At higher energies evaluation of JENDL-3.2 follows the data trend by Davletshin et.

al. [44]. Evaluation of ENDF/B-VI is systematically higher than present evaluation in the energy range of 100 - 1000 keV. The $(n, \gamma n')$ reaction competition to the "true" capture $(n, \gamma \gamma)$ reaction competition is rather strong above ~1 MeV incident neutron energy. Figure 108 shows the cross section of $(n, \gamma n')$ reaction and the cross section of $(n, \gamma x)$ reaction, which is the sum of $\sigma_{(n,\gamma\gamma)}$ and $\sigma_{(n,\gamma n')}$ cross sections. The competition of $(n, \gamma f)$ reaction to the "true" capture $(n, \gamma \gamma)$ reaction is inessential for ²³²Th $(n, \gamma\gamma)$ reaction due to low fission probability of ²³³Th nuclide.

8 Fission Cross Section

Fission data fit is used as a major constraint for inelastic scattering, capture, (n,2n) and (n,3n) cross sections estimation. Consistent description of measured data might justify a validity of level density description and fission barrier parameterization. There are a number of vibrational resonances in neutron-induced fission cross section of ²³²Th target nuclide below $E_n \sim 2.5$ MeV. These resonances are interpreted as transmission resonances for the splitted outer fission barrier hump, then the fission barrier is triple humped. We will describe fission cross section for incident neutron energies $E_n \gtrsim 2.5$ MeV in a double humped fission barrier model, treating intermediate and outer fission barriers as a single barrier. For lower incident neutron energies we will describe the overall trend of measured data and the normalize calculated cross section to the measured data.

8.1 Fission Channel

Neutron-induced fission of ²³²Th could be treated in a double humped fission barrier model as a two-step process, i.e. a successive crossing over the inner hump A and over the outer hump B. Hence, the transmission coefficient of the fission channel $T_f^{J_{\pi}}(U)$ can be represented as

$$T_f^{J\pi}(U) = \frac{T_{fA}^{J\pi}(U)T_{fB}^{J\pi}(U)}{(T_{fA}^{J\pi}(U) + T_{fB}^{J\pi}(U))}.$$
(20)

The transmission coefficient $T_{fi}^{J\pi}(U)$ is defined by the level density $\rho_{fi}(\varepsilon, J, \pi)$ of the fissioning nucleus at the inner and outer humps (i = A,B, respectively):

$$T_{fi}^{J\pi}(U) = \sum_{K=-J}^{J} T_{fi}^{JK\pi}(U) + \int_{0}^{U} \frac{\rho_{fi}(\epsilon, J, \pi) d\epsilon}{(1 + \exp(2\pi (E_{fi} + \epsilon - U)/h\omega_{i}))},$$
(21)

where the first term denotes the contribution of low-lying collective states and the second term that from the continuum levels at the saddle deformations, ϵ is the intrinsic excitation energy of fissioning nucleus. The first term contribution due to

discrete transition states depends upon saddle symmetry. The total level density $\rho_{fi}(\epsilon, J, \pi)$ of the fissioning nucleus is determined by the order of symmetry of nuclear saddle deformation.

Inner and outer fission barrier heights and curvatures as well as level densities at both saddles are the model parameters. Fission barrier height values and saddle order of symmetry are strongly interdependent. The order of symmetry of nuclear shape at saddles were adopted from shell correction method (SCM) calculation by Howard and Möller [98]. According to shell correction method (SCM) calculations by Howard and Möller [98] the inner barrier was assumed mass and axially symmetric, outer barrier is assumed axially symmetric and mass-asymmetric.

8.1.1 Fission transmission coefficient, level density and transition state spectrum

Fission cross section data of ²³²Th exhibits threshold shape, modulated by vibrational resonance. To fit the data shape above $E_n \sim 3$ MeV the different behavior of level densities of even-odd and even-even nuclei at low excitation energies should be taken into account. Adopted level density description allows to describe qualitatively subthreshold cross section shape (see Fig. 109). Incident neutron energy $E_3 = U_3 + E_{fA(B)} - B$ correspondent to excitation of three-quasiparticle states is ~ 3.4 MeV. The one-quasiparticle neutron states of even-odd fissioning nuclide, lying below the three-quasiparticle states excitation threshold define the shape of fission cross section below incident neutron energy of $E_n \leq E_{fA(B)} + U_3 - B_n$. At higher excitation energies three-quasiparticle states are excited. Two-quasiparticle states in even residual nuclide ²³²Th could be excited at incident neutron energies $E_n > U_2$. At lower energies fission cross section shape is controlled by one-quasiparticle state density. The transition state spectra were constructed using values of F_0/\hbar^2 at the inner and outer saddles shown in Table 7.

inner	saddle	outer	saddle
K^{π}	$E_{K^{\pi}}, \mathrm{MeV}$	K^{π}	$E_{K^{\pi}}, \mathrm{MeV}$
$1/2^+$	0.0	$1/2^{+}$	0.0
$5/2^+$	0.08	$1/2^{-}$	0.0
$1/2^{-}$	0.05	$3/2^+$	0.08
$3/2^{-}$	0.0	$3/2^{-}$	0.08
		$5/2^{+}$	0.0
		$5/2^{-}$	0.0

Table 7Transition spectra band-heads Z-even, N-odd nuclei
Each one-quasiparticle state in odd fissioning nucleus is assumed to have a rotational band built on it with a rotational constant, dependent upon the respective saddle deformation. We construct the discrete transition spectra up to ~ 100 keV, using one-quasiparticle states by Bolsterli et. al. [113, 114]. The discrete transition spectra, as well as continuous level contribution to the fission transmission coefficient are dependent upon the order of symmetry for fissioning nucleus at inner and outer saddles. The negative parity bands $K^{\pi} = 1/2^{-}, 3/2^{-}, 5/2^{-} \dots$ at outer saddle are assumed to be doubly degenerate due to mass asymmetry. With transition state spectra thus defined the fission barrier parameters are obtained.

8.2 Fission Data Analysis

Measured data for ²³²Th fission cross section [115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126] below 3 MeV are rather consistent. At higher incident neutron energies there are some systematic differences in first plateau region. We will reproduce the date trend by Fursov et. al. [125] (see Fig. 110). One-quasiparticle neutron states of even-odd ²³³Th fissioning nuclide, lying below three-quasiparticle states excitation threshold define the shape of ²³²Th fission cross section below incident neutron energy of \sim 3.4 MeV. At higher energies three-quasiparticle states are excited.

9 Cross sections above emissive fission threshold

At higher incident neutron energies when fission reaction of ²³²Th, ²³¹Th, ²³⁰Th or ²²⁹Th compound nuclides is possible after emission of 1, 2, 3 or 4 neutrons, the observed fission cross section is a superposition of non-emissive or first chance fission of ²³³Th and *x*th-chance fission contributions. These contributions are weighted with a probability of *x* neutrons emission before fission. For fixed statistical model parameters of residual nuclei ²³²Th, ²³¹Th, ²³⁰Th or ²²⁹Th, fissioning in (n,nf), (n,2nf), (n,3nf)or (n,4nf) reactions, the behavior of the first-chance fission cross section σ_{f1} should make it possible to reproduce the measured fission cross section σ_f of ²³²Th. A consistent description of measured data on the (n,f) and (n,2n) reaction cross sections for the ²³²Th target nuclide up to 20 MeV enables one to consider the estimates of σ_{f1} and fission probability P_{f1} of the initial compound nuclei ²³³Th as fairly realistic.

9.1 Fission cross section

Fission cross section of 232 Th, shown on the Fig. 111 demonstrates a step-like structure, relevant to contribution of (n,xnf) reactions to total fission cross sec-

tions for x = 1, 2, 3. First-chance fission cross section slowly increases with energy. Contribution of first-chance fission appears to be sensitive to level density of residual nuclide ²³²Th. The behavior of the first-chance fission cross section σ_{f1} is obviously related to the energy dependence of the first-chance fission probability of the A + 1 nucleus P_{f1} :

$$\sigma_{f1} = \sigma_r (1 - q(E_n)) P_{f1}.$$
(22)

Once the contribution of first neutron pre-equilibrium emission $q(E_n)$ is fixed, the first-chance fission probability P_{f1} of the ²³³Th compound nuclide depends only on the level density parameters of fissioning and residual nuclei. Actually, it depends on the ratio of shell correction values δW_{fB} and δW_n . We shall consider the adopted $\delta W_{fA(B)}$ estimates (see Table 3) to be effective, provided that δW_n are obtained with the liquid drop model. The trend of the first-chance fission cross section σ_{f1} shown in Fig. 111 could be treated as a manifestation of the shell effects in first-chance fission probability. Sharp increase of observed fission cross section above (n,nf) fission reaction threshold and rather steep decrease up to (n,2nf) fission threshold is due to fission probability of ²³²Th. Contributions of partial x-chance fission reactions to the observed fission cross sections is shown on Fig. 112. Up to (n,2nf) fission reaction threshold contribution of ²³²Th(n,nf)reaction is higher than in case of $^{238}U(n,f)$ reaction. It would be directly pronounced in (n,nf) pre-fission spectra contribution to the prompt fission neutron spectra (see below). Contribution of second-chance fission of ²³²Th compound nuclide is sensitive to the level density of fissioning nuclide 232 Th. Estimate of 232 Th $\langle D_{obs} \rangle = 0.45$ eV, obtained by systematics of average resonance parameters [15] is consistent with pre-equilibrium contribution into first neutron spectrum and subsequent sharing of $\sigma_r = \sigma_{n,f1} + \sigma_{n,nx}$ reaction cross section into firstchance fission and neutron emission cross sections. Cross section of 231 Th(n,f) reaction is shown on Fig. 113, it corresponds to (n,nf) fission contribution to observed fission cross section 232 Th(n,f) (see Fig. 111). Contributions of (n,2nf) and (n,3nf) reactions correspond to consistent description of $^{232}Th(n,2n)$ cross sections. So it can be stated that we have got effective estimate of σ_{t1} which corresponds to consistent fit of 232 Th(n,f) and 232 Th(n,2n) reaction cross section data.

9.2 232 Th(n,2n) cross section

There are a number of measurements of 232 Th(n,2n) reaction cross section. We carried out an exhaustive examination of measured data, including error analysis and data renormalization, using updated values of appropriate standard and reference data. In most of them the authors used activation technique to measure ²³¹Th activity. In most cases the activity of the irradiated thorium sample was determined by the weighted average of the values calculated from the intensity

of the same gamma peaks using Ge(Li) detector.

9.2.1 Measured data

The energy dependence of 232 Th(n,2n) reaction cross section in a wide energy range has been measured in 3 experiments (in all of them D-d reaction has been used as a neutron source).

Tewes et. al. [127] (8.4 - 15.1 MeV, 13 points), they used recoil proton counter telescope to measure incident neutron flux (the monitor reaction was H(n,n), no information given about cross section values used).

Butler and Santry [128] (6.51 - 20.4 MeV, 18 points), they used ${}^{32}S(n,p)$ reaction for incident neutron flux determination. We renormalized original ${}^{232}Th(n,2n)$ cross section values using up-to-date evaluation of monitor reaction ${}^{32}S(n,p)$ cross section [6].

Raics et. al. [130] (6.745 - 14.84 MeV, 16 points), authors used 56 Fe(n,p), 27 Al(n, α) and 238 U(n,f) monitor reactions for incident neutron flux determination. The neutron flux has been determined as weighted average value from these reactions, updated cross section values were used, no additional renormalization is required.

The energy dependence of 232 Th(n,2n) reaction cross section near 14 MeV has been measured in the next 3 experiments (in all of them the T-d reaction has been used as a neutron source):

Prestwood and Bayhurst [131] (12.13 - 14.93 MeV, 12 points), 238 U(n,f) reaction has been used for incident neutron flux determination. We can not renormalize these data because reference on monitor cross section is incorrect.

Karius [133] (12.99 - 18.13 MeV, 9 points), neutron flux was measured with a proton recoil stilbene detector (the monitor reaction was ${}^{1}H(n,n)$).

Filatenkov et. al. [138] (13.48 - 14.83 MeV, 9 points). Most recent experiment, very thin sample - metallic thorium was used, weight 13 mg, purity 100%. The monitor reactions ${}^{27}\text{Al}(n,\alpha)$ and ${}^{93}\text{Nb}(n,2n)$ were used for neutron flux determination.

The cross section near 14 MeV point has been measured in the next 4 experiments (in all works T-d reaction has been used as a neutron source).

Perkin and Coleman [134] (14.1 MeV), 2.25×2.25 inch sodium iodide crystal has been used as a γ -detector, so the prescribed uncertainty in detector efficiency (~3%) seems too optimistic. The authors used ²⁷Al(n, α) monitor reaction for neutron flux determination. No information about monitor reaction cross section values is available.

Phillips [135] (15.0 MeV), associated α -particle counting technique was applied for neutron flux determination. Massive sample - two grams of thorium dioxide and krypton filled proportional counter for γ -detection were used.

Chatani and Kimura [136] (14.5 MeV), average neutron energy was determined by the cross section ratio of 90 Zr(n,2n) and 93 Nb(n,2n), using two Zr and two Nb foils, placed at a distance of 1.5 cm from Ti-T target. The reaction cross section ratio for this position was 1.57, then corresponding average neutron energy of 14.5 ± 0.2 MeV was obtained. The time dependence of the neutron flux was monitored using a moderator type neutron dose rate meter located at a distance of ~2 m from Ti-T target. For neutron flux determination ${}^{27}\text{Al}(n,\alpha)$ monitor reaction was used (reaction cross section values taken from [6]).

Zysin et. al. [137] (14.7 MeV), low-voltage linear accelerator and (T-d) reaction as a neutron source and mixture of the thorium oxide-dioxide (0.2 g) as a sample, were used. They used 3 monitors - 238 U(n,f) cross section and cumulative yields of 99 Mo and 140 Ba fragments in 238 U(n,f) reaction for neutron flux determination and 4- π β -detector for sample activity measurement. We renormalized original 232 Th(n,2n) cross section value using up-to-date evaluation [6] of 238 U(n,f) cross section.

Cochran and Henkel [129] (7.03 and 15.97 MeV), only cross section values are given, no other information about this work is available.

Batchelor et. al. [139] (7 MeV). Time-of-flight technique was used for secondary neutron spectrometry. They used massive thorium sample (cylinder 5 cm long, 2.50 cm diameter with a 1.0 cm diameter axial hole). Neutron flux has been determined against ¹H(n,p) elastic scattering. The ²³²Th(n,2n) cross section value was extracted from model calculations (they varied optical potential parameters to describe the observed neutron spectra). There was a number of corrections (multiple scattering, angular integration, detector threshold etc.), therefore the estimated accuracy (270±13 mb) looks too optimistic.

9.2.2 232 Th(n,2n) data analysis

All existing experimental data are shown on Figs.114, 115. Several older data [127, 128, 137, 134, 131] disagree with more recent measurements.

In JENDL-3.2 (n,2n) reaction cross section was calculated using evaporation model by Segev [141], it follows the trend predicted by Tewes et. al. [?] data and predicts rather low cross section above ~13 MeV. The reason is missing of pre-equilibrium contribution in first neutron spectra. ENDF/B-VI and JEF-2.2 evaluations follow data trend by Butler et. al. [128] and are consistent with other renormalized data around 14 MeV. Evaluated cross section of JEF-2.2 predicts too high level of hard energy tail of 232 Th(n,2n) cross section. Below ~13 MeV previous evaluations are much lower than recent data by Raics et. al. [130], which might be considered consistent with data by Butler et. al. [128], since there is much scatter in the latter data set.

Estimates (n,3n) reaction cross sections for 232 Th are presented on Fig. 116. Cross section of (n,3n) reaction is less sensitive to pre-equilibrium neutron emission contribution. Calculated curve, shown on the Fig. 116 is just the result of fitting fission reaction cross sections. Evaluated (n,3n) reaction cross section of JENDL-3.2 is ~20% higher than present calculation. It seems that reflects the differences of (n,2n) reaction cross sections, the same is true in case of (n,3n) reaction cross section of JEF-2.2, which is much lower.

10 Neutron emission spectra

Measured neutron emission spectra provide a complementary information on inelastic scattering cross section for discrete and continuum levels of target nucleus. Emission spectra inclusive of both fission and scattered neutrons were measured by Baba et. al. [10] at 1.2, 2.03, 4.25 and 14.05 MeV, Miura et. al.[12] at 2.6, 3.55 and 11.8 MeV, at a number of angles: 30°, 45°, 60°, 120°. To compare the calculated emission spectra, prompt fission neutron spectrum should be added to that of inelastic scattered neutrons. First we will describe the approach used for prompt fission spectra.

10.1 Prompt fission neutron spectra

Prompt Fission Neutron Spectra (PFNS) for ²³²Th have been calculated with the model that was previously applied for ²³⁸U PFNS data analysis. Here is enclosed a brief survey of measured PFNS data.

10.1.1 Experimental data

For the first chance fission incident neutron energy range the available PFNS were measured at $E_n = 1.49$ MeV [142] (Fig.117), $E_n = 2$ MeV [10](Fig. 118), $E_n = 2.9$ MeV [143] (Fig.119) and $E_n = 4.1$ MeV [144], at higher incident energy the PFNS were measured at $E_n = 7$ MeV [145] (Fig.120), $E_n = 14.6$ MeV [143, 146] (Fig.121) and $E_n = 17.7$ MeV [146] (Fig.122). Time-of-flight method with monoenergy neutron source was used. The neutron detector efficiency was measured relative to standard neutron source (²⁵²Cf(sf)) [142, 10, 145, 146] or was calculated with Monte Carlo method [10], [144].

In [142, 10, 144] metal ²³²Th sample has been used. Energy range of fission neutrons $E \gtrsim E_n$ was investigated in these experiments. In [143, 145, 146] fast ionization chambers loaded with ²³²Th layers were applied for selection of fission events and for timing of neutron spectrometer. In [143, 146] the some amount of ²⁵²Cf was incorporated into one of the fissile layers. This latter data would be susceptible only to small systematic error due to loss of fragments in the fission chamber.

10.1.2 Model for PFNS evaluation

In the energy range of first chance fission the PFNS are calculated as sum of two Watt distributions [147]:

$$S_i(E, E_n) = 0.5 \cdot \sum_{j=1,2} W_i(E_n, E_n, T_{ij}(E_n), \alpha)$$
(23)

where

$$T_{ij} = k_{ij} \cdot \sqrt{E^*} = k_{ij} \cdot \sqrt{E_r - TKE + B_n + E_n} \tag{24}$$

is the temperature parameters for nucleus "i" and light and heavy fragments (j=1,2) for nucleus "i", E_n is the incident neutron energy, α is the ratio of the total kinetic energy (TKE) at the moment of the neutron emission to the TKE value at full acceleration. Free parameter α was fitted to the PFNS experimental data. The ratio of "temperatures" for light and heavy fragment r=1.248 is the second semi-empirical fitting parameter, it slightly varies from one target nucleus to another.

Above emissive fission threshold the PFNS are described by the equation:

$$S(E, E_n) = \nu^{-1}(E_n)(\nu_o(E_n) \cdot \beta_o(E_n) \cdot S_o(E, E_n) + (25))$$

$$\nu_1(E_n) \cdot \beta_1(E_n) \cdot S_1(E, E_n) + \beta_1(E_n) \cdot P_{11}(E, E_n) + (25))$$

$$\nu_2(E_n) \cdot \beta_2(E_n) \cdot S_2(E, E_n) + (25)$$

$$\beta_2(E_n) \cdot \beta_2(E_n) + (25)$$

$$\beta_2(E_n) \cdot P_{11}(E_n) + (25)$$

$$\beta_2(E_n) + (25)$$

$$\beta_2(E_n) + \beta_2(E_n) + \beta_1(E_n) + (25)$$

$$\beta_2(E_n) + \beta_2(E_n) + \beta_1(E_n) + (25)$$

$$\sum_{i=0}^{n} [\nu_i(E_n) + i) \cdot \beta_i(E_n)], \qquad (26)$$

where subscript i = 0, 1, 2... denotes *i*-th chance fission reaction of the A + 1, A, A - 1... nucleus after emission of *i* pre-fission neutrons, $\beta_i(E_n)$ is the *i*-th chance fission contribution to the observed fission cross section, $\nu_i(E_n)$ is the number of the prompt fission neutron for these nuclei, $S_i(E, E_n)$ is PFNS spectrum without pre-fission neutrons, $P_{ik}(E, E_n)$ is the spectrum of *k*-th pre-fission neutron for *i*-th chance fission. To calculate total PFNS, $\nu_i(E_n)$, $\beta_i(E_n)$ and T_{ij} values should be known.

The contributions of *i*-th chance fission reactions $\beta_i(E_n)$ to the observed fission cross sections, pre-fission neutron spectra $P_{ik}(E, E_n)$ and average neutron energy $\langle E_{ik} \rangle$ were calculated as described in [148]. The pre-equilibrium pre-fission neutron emission was also taken into account.

The excitation energy U_i of the nucleus $A_i = A + 1 - i$ after emission of *i*-neutrons was calculated as:

$$U_i = E_{ri} + B_n + E_n - \sum_j (B_j + \langle E_{ij} \rangle), \qquad (27)$$

where B_j is the neutron binding energy. This allows to estimate the excitation energy of fission fragments as $E^* = E_r + U - TKE$ and calculate the $T_{ij}(E_n)$ energy for each nucleus in the chain.

The systematic [149] for first chance fission reactions was used to estimate $\nu_i(E_n)$. In [149] the $\nu_i(E_n)$ values were evaluated for spontaneous and neutroninduced fission for a number of actinide nuclei within the experimental errors. We assumed that excitation energy U_i is brought into A_i nucleus with the reaction: $n + A_i - 1 \rightarrow fission$. Incident neutron energy in this hypothetical reaction equals to $U_i - B_{i-1}$. In this way the $\nu_i(E_n)$ functions for all isotopes in the chain A + 1, A, A - 1 were evaluated. In case of the ²³²Th compound nucleus $\nu_i(E_n)$ was fitted to experimental data on ²³²Th(n,f) reaction.

At the incident neutron energies $E_n \gtrsim 10$ MeV there is a discrepancy between new experimental data [143, 146] and present model calculation. To reconcile calculated and measured PFNS data we assume [106] that CMS energy per one nucleon E_{v0} should be reduced according to the equation:

$$E_v = \alpha \cdot \alpha_1 \cdot E_{v0},\tag{28}$$

 $\alpha_1=1$ for $E_n<10$ MeV and $\alpha_1=0.7$ for $E_n>12$ MeV and linearly interpolated for $10 < E_n < 12$ MeV. This correction was made either for non-emissive and emissive fission reactions.

10.1.3 Spectrum of pre-fission neutrons

To calculate neutron energy distributions of (n,xnf) and $(n,xn\gamma)$, x = 1, 2, 3reactions we use a simple Weisscopf-Ewing evaporation model taking into account fission and gamma-emission competition to neutron emission. The preequilibrium emission of first neutron is fixed by the description of high energy tail of ²³²Th(n,2n) reaction cross section (see Fig. 114) and ²³²Th(n,f) reaction cross section (Fig.111). This feature is parameterized within a conventional exciton model similar to that used in STAPRE [93] code, we get the main parameter of the exciton model, that is the matrix element $M^2 = 10/A^3$. Partial contributions of emissive and non-emissive fission reactions, shown on Fig. 113, were fitted. First neutron spectra for the ²³²Th(n,nf) reaction is the sum of evaporated and pre-equilibrium emitted neutron contributions. Second and third neutron spectra for ²³²Th(n,xnf) fission reactions are assumed to be evaporative. Pre-fission neutron spectrum, especially hard energy tail of ²³²Th(n,nf) reaction, is sensitive to the description of fission probability of ²³²Th compound nuclide near fission threshold (see below).

10.1.4 Comparison with experimental PFNS data

Calculated spectrum reproduce the experimental data by Boykov et. al. [143] for $E_n = 2.9$ MeV incident neutron energy in the energy range of the secondary

neutrons from 0.2 MeV up to 10 MeV. Measured data [142] show strong increase at low energy that can not be reproduced with present model. At PFNS energy range higher than ~ 3 MeV measured data contradict to present and previous evaluations of JENDL 3.2 [5] and ENDFB/-VI [6]. It seems that this results is overloaded by systematic errors. The data by Baba et. al.[10, 144] on PFNS were investigated in the limited energy range $E > E_n$. However, one may conclude that present model is compatible with these data also.

In the domain of emissive fission one can see the same tendency as in 238 U(n,f) reaction [106]. The low energy component due to pre-fission neutrons strongly influences on the PFNS shape. The calculated spectra are compatible with measured data [143, 145, 146] (Figs. 120, 121, 122). For ²³²Th neutron-induced fission the contribution of pre-fission neutrons from (n,nf) reaction to the observed PFNS in fission neutron energy range $E_{th} \sim E_n - B_f$ is much more pronounced than in case of $^{238}U(n,f)$ reaction (see Figs.123, 124, 125), where PFNS for 232 Th(n,f) and 238 U(n,f) reactions are compared). Actually the energy dependence of PFNS for fission neutron energies $E_n \lesssim E_{th}$ resembles the shape of fission probability of ²³²Th or ²³⁸U nuclide, respectively. Figure 126 shows the comparison of data on fission probability of 232 Th, measured in 230 Th(t,pf) reaction [150] with calculated fission probability of 232 Th for the reaction 231 Th(n,f). The latter fission probability fits measured fission cross section of 232 Th(n,f) above emissive fission (n,nf) reaction threshold (see Fig. 111). The decreasing trend of 232 Th(n,f) above $E_n \gtrsim 7.5$ MeV (see Fig. 111) is correlated with rapid increase of 232 Th(n,2n) reaction cross section. The contribution of 232 Th(n,nf) reaction cross section to the observed fission cross section 232 Th(n,f) is shown on Fig. 112. For $E_n \lesssim 10$ MeV contribution of (n,nf) reaction to the observed fission cross section in case of ²³²Th target is higher than in case of ²³⁸U target. The difference of fission probability measured in transfer (t,pf) reactions from that inferred from neutron-induced reactions for incident neutron energies $E_n \leq 1$ MeV is well-known [151]. The straightforward comparison of fission probabilities on Fig. 126 ignores that difference. It is due to different compound spin populations in transfer and neutron-induced reactions. However in both cases sharp decrease of ²³²Th nuclide fission probability above fission threshold up to ~ 10 MeV excitations is observed. For incident neutron energy of 14.6 MeV it produces much stronger pick around ~ 8 MeV energy of the secondary neutrons than in case of 238 U(n,f) reaction. One do not needs such strong energy dependence of ²³⁸U fission probability to fit observed 238 U(n,f) reaction cross section. Consequently, fission probability for 238 U is of more flat shape above fission threshold (see Fig. 127).

10.2 Prompt fission neutron number ν

Prompt fission neutron number ν was calculated with the same model as PFNS, taking into account pre–fission neutron emission. A brief survey of measured data on ν is provided below.

10.2.1 ν measured data

Glendenin et. al. [152] have measured ν -values for $E_n=2$ - 14.7 MeV. They used ⁷Li(p,n) and D(d,n) reactions for neutron generation below $E_n = 5$ MeV and above $E_n = 5$ MeV, respectively. The ν -values were calculated from fission fragments yields using conservation of mass rule. The ²³⁸U(n,f) monitor reaction has been used to provide approximate fission rate. The fission yields were transformed to the absolute scale by normalization of measured mass distribution to 200-percent total yield. The thermal induced neutron fission of ²³⁵U was used to check γ -intensities of decay data. No data about fission cross sections and fission fragment yields are available.

Howe [153] has measured ν -values for $E_n=1.084$ - 48.9 MeV. Linac was used for neutron production, time-of-flight technique was applied to determine the incident neutron energy. Prompt fission neutrons were detected by a liquid scintillator located near the fission chambers with layers of ²³²Th and ²³⁵U, which was used as a standard. We renomalized the results of this work using modern values of ν for ²³⁵U [6].

Conde and Holmberg [154] have measured ν -values for $E_n=1.42$ - 14.9 MeV. They used Van de Graaff neutron source and large liquid scintillator for detection of fission neutrons. The ²³²Th ν -values were measured against to ²⁵²Cf(sf) one ($\nu=3.775$). We renomalized their data using modern value of $\nu=3.7661$ [6]. The error given is statistical only.

Batchelor et. al. [155] have measured ν -values for $E_n=3$ - 7 MeV. The tritium and deuterium gas targets and pulsed proton accelerator were used as a neutron source. The prompt fission neutrons were detected by the well-shielded organic scintillator with pulse shape discrimination, the TOF technique was applied to reduce neutron background. The (n,p) elastic scattering cross section was used for incident neutron flux determination.

Mather et. al. [156] have measured ν -values for $E_n=1.39$ - 4.02 MeV. The authors used Van de Graaff neutron source and a large liquid scintillation counter loaded with gadolinium to detect fission neutrons. The ²³²Th ν -values were measured relative to ²⁵²Cf(sf) ($\nu=3.782\pm0.024$).

Frehaut et. al. [157] have measured ν -values for $E_n=2.37$ - 14.74 MeV. The authors used the T(p,n) and D(d,n) reactions in gas target and tandem Van-de-Graaff accelerator as a neutron source. The time of flight techniques has been used in order to discriminate against fissions induced by secondary neutrons. The ²³²Th ν -values were measured against to ²⁵²Cf(sf) one ($\nu=3.732$), a deposit of ²⁵²Cf was present in the fission chamber.

Caruana et. al. [158] have measured ν -values for $E_n=1.35$ - 16.0 MeV. They used Van de Graaff accelerator neutron source (T(p,n) and T(d,n) reactions) and a large liquid scintillator tank for detection of fission neutrons. The ²³²Th ν -values were measured against to ²⁵²Cf(sf) one ($\nu=3.745$).

Prokhorova and Smirenkin [159] have measured ν -values for $E_n=1.48$ - 3.27

MeV. The authors used a Van de Graaff accelerator neutron source (T(p,n) reaction) and assembly of 36 ${}^{10}\text{BF}_3$ counters for prompt fission neutrons detection. They measured the ratio $\nu({}^{232}\text{Th})/\nu({}^{235}\text{U})$.

Malinovskij et. al. [160] have measured ν -values for E_n =1.35 - 6.35 MeV. The authors used the T(p,n) and D(d,n) reactions on solid targets and Van de Graaff accelerator as a neutron source, the ionization chamber was used as a fission events detector. The energy uncertainty was ~30-40 keV for $E_n \leq 3.7$ MeV and ~80 keV for E_n =5-6 MeV. The ²³²Th ν -values were measured against ²⁵²Cf(sf) (ν =3.733).

Kuzminov [161] has measured ν -values for $E_n=2.3$, 3.75 and 15.7 MeV. The author used the T(p,n) and T(d,n) reactions on solid targets and Van de Graaff accelerator as a neutron source and the assembly placed in paraffin moderator BF₃ filled proportional counters as a fission neutrons detector. He measured the ratio $\nu(^{232}\text{Th})/\nu(^{235}\text{U})$. We renomalized this data using modern values of $\nu(^{235}\text{U})$ ([6]).

Smith [162] has measured ν -values for $E_n=1.4$ MeV. The ⁷Li(p,n) reaction was used as a neutron source. They measured ²³²Th ν -value relative to ²³⁸U ($\nu=2.63$).

Bondarenko et. al. [163] has measured ν -values for $E_n=4$ MeV. The authors used D(d,n) reaction in solid target mounted on Van de Graaff accelerator as a neutron source and the assembly placed in paraffin moderator BF₃ filled proportional counters as a fission neutrons detector. They measured the ratio $\nu(^{232}\text{Th})/\nu(^{235}\text{U})$.

In the following measurements the deuteron-tritium reaction in tritium-titanium target was used for the production of ~ 14 MeV neutrons.

Leroy [164] has measured ν -values for $E_n=14.2$ MeV. BF₃ counters surrounding the fission chamber were used to detect prompt fission neutrons in coincidence with fission fragments. ²³²Th ν -value was measured relative to ²³⁸U ($\nu=4.55\pm0.15$ at 1.42 MeV). Feu [165] has measured ν -values for $E_n=14.7$ MeV. The information given is not enough for result renormalization. Johnstone [166] has measured ν -values for $E_n=14.1$ MeV. Coincidences between fission events in parallel plate fission chamber and neutron detected by BF₃ proportional counter were registered. The ²³⁵U(n,f) reaction was used to calibrate detector. No information is given about monitor reaction cross section values.

All measured data are shown in Fig.128. We renomalized when necessary original data using modern ν values for ²³⁵U and ²³⁸U [6]. One can see that several old data sets [152, 159, 161] and all "one energy point" measurements [162], [163], [164], [165] and [166] are discrepant with other measurements. Other data are consistent with of recent measurements by Howe[153], Frehaut et. al.[157] and Malinovskij [160].

10.2.2 ν -value analysis

To calculate the ν -value energy dependence for ²³²Th up to 20 MeV we should know ν -values for ²³¹Th, ²³⁰Th and ²²⁹Th target nuclides, which contribute to the observed ν -value via emissive fission processes. We describe the energy dependence of ν -value for the first-chance fission of ²³²Th(n,f) reaction [153] using two energy intervals - from thermal energy point to $E_n = 3.8$ MeV and from $E_n = 3.8$ to $E_n = 6$ MeV. The slope of linear curve in first energy interval was chosen to describe experimental data in MeV-energy region together with thermal point ν value (2.175) for ²³²Th(n,f). Then we fixed ν -value (2.327) at 3.8 MeV and define the slope for second energy interval ($E_n = 3.8-6$ MeV). This is shown as a solid line in Fig. 128. We applied the same approach in case of ^{229,230,231}Th isotopes also, but dependencies were shifted according to thermal values ν_{th} . Thermal point ν -values for ^{229,230,231,232}Th target nuclides is shown in Table 8.

At incident neutron energies number of prompt fission neutron $\nu(E_n)$ was calculated as

$$\nu(E_n) = \beta_o \nu_o(E_n) + \beta_1 (1 + \nu_1 (E_n - B_{nA} - \overline{E}_1)) + \beta_2 (2 + \nu_2 (E_n - B_{nA} - B_{nA-1} - \overline{E}_1 - \overline{E}_2)).$$

Here, $\nu_i(E_n)$ is a prompt fission neutron number for *i*th fissioning nucleus, B_{nA} -neutron binding energy for the A nucleus, \overline{E}_i -average energy of *i*th neutron. Fig. 129 shows the partial contributions to the observed prompt fission number up to $E_n = 20$ MeV. Bump in ν -value above (n,nf) reaction threshold is once again due to pre-fission neutrons emitted in ²³²Th(n,nf) reaction.

10	lated mist chance <i>p</i> -values for 1								
	Target	$ u(ext{th}) $	$\nu(3.8 \text{ MeV})$	$\nu(6 \text{ MeV})$					
	$^{229}\mathrm{Th}$	1.919	2.071	2.447					
	²³⁰ Th	2.080	2.232	2.608					
	231 Th	1.981	2.133	2.509					
	232 Th	2.175	2.327	2.703					

Table 8 The evaluated first chance ν -values for 229,230,231,232 Th isotopes.

10.3 Neutron emission spectra analysis

There are a number of discrepancies in neutron emission spectra of evaluated data files JENDL-3.2 and ENDF/B-VI with measured data, which might be attributed to the inconsistencies of partial inelastic cross sections for observed discrete levels [12]. Model calculations were performed to interpret neutron emission spectra from ²³²Th, measured by Baba et. al. [10] for incident neutron energies E_n = 1.2, 2.03, 4.25, 6.1 and 14.05 MeV, by Baba et. al.[168] for $E_n = 18$ MeV and by Miura et. al. [12] for $E_n = 2.6$, 3.55 and 11.8 MeV. For incident neutron energies below emissive fission threshold we attribute these inconsistencies mainly to estimates of inelastic cross sections of first octupole band ($K^{\pi} = 0^{-}$) levels and levels of β - and γ -vibration and anomalous rotational γ -bands ($K^{\pi} = 0^{+}, 2^{+}$).

The direct excitation of ground state rotational band levels 0^+ , 2^+ , 4^+ and 6^+ was estimated within rigid rotator model. To calculate the direct excitation cross sections for $\beta -$, $\gamma -$ vibration and anomalous rotational γ -band ($K^{\pi} = 0^+$, 2^+) as well as octupole ($K^{\pi}=0^-$) band levels a soft rotator model was employed. Due to high fission threshold in case of ²³²Th+n interaction the main contribution to inelastic scattering at low incident neutron energies comes from the compound processes. With increase of incident energy the influence of discrete level excitation diminishes, while the role of continuum level excitation grows.

Figures 130-145 show the description of measured emission spectra for incident neutron energies below or slightly higher than emissive fission threshold and the comparison of present calculations with JENDL-3.2 evaluation [5]. Structures evident in measured emission spectra for incident neutron energies of ~ 1.2 - 6.1 MeV could be correlated with excitation of discrete levels of various collective bands. The elastic and inelastic scattering to 2^+ , 4^+ and 6^+ levels of ground state rotational band contribution were added to the inelastic scattered and prompt fission neutrons. They were broadened using model resolution function of Gaussian type with a constant resolution width. PNFS labels prompt neutron fission spectra. For the lowest incident neutron energy $E_n = 1.2$ MeV measured by Baba et. al. [10] emission spectra for the angles 60° and 120° are described almost equally good (see Figs. 130, 131). Arrows on figures show emitted neutron energy, corresponding to excitation of β -, γ - vibration and anomalous rotational γ -bands as well as octupole band levels. One more bump due to excitation of levels of γ - vibration band was predicted. For incident neutron energy $E_n = 2.03 \text{ MeV}$ present calculation reproduces angle-integrated data by Baba et. al. [10] (see Fig. 132). It is evident that excitation cross sections for β -, anomalous rotational γ - and octupole bands in JENDL-3.2 evaluation [5] is too high, while for the cross sections γ -vibration band levels - too low. For higher incident neutron energy $E_n = 2.6$ MeV neutron emission spectra by Miura et. al. [12] for 120° are reproduced better than for 60° (see Figs. 133, 134, 135). Overestimation of discrete level excitation cross sections in JENDL-3.2 evaluation [5] is again evident (see Fig. 133). For incident neutron energy $E_n = 3.55$ MeV structures evident at lower energies disappeared, however present calculation reproduces bump in angle-integrated data Miura et. al. [12] (see Fig. 136) in the vicinity of broad elastic peak, while estimate of JENDL-3.2 seems to be distorted by overestimated excitation cross sections for $\beta - \gamma - \gamma$ vibration and anomalous rotational γ -bands as well as octupole band levels. Emission spectra by Miura et. al. [12] for 60° and 120° are reproduced better than for 30° (see Figs. 137, 138, 139). This might be due to lowering contribution of elastic scattering at higher angles. For incident neutron energy $E_n = 4.25$ MeV present calculation reproduces angle-integrated

data by Baba et. al. [10] (see Figs. 140) better than JENDL-3.2 evaluation for secondary neutron energies corresponding to excitation on levels above 0.7 MeV. Emission spectra by Baba et. al. [10] for 120° are reproduced somewhat better than for 45° (see Figs. 141, 142), bump in the vicinity of elastic peak is still present. For incident neutron energy $E_n = 6.1$ MeV present calculation and JENDL-3.2 evaluation fail to reproduce angle-integrated data by Baba et. al. [10] (see Figs. 143). However, for forward scattering ($\theta = 45^{\circ}$) emission spectra data are underestimated in the energy range of 2.5 - 5 MeV(see Figs. 144), while back-ward scattering ($\theta = 120^{\circ}$) emission spectra data [10] are reproduced quite well (see Fig. 145). Summarizing, it is evident that neutron emission spectra data by Baba et. al. [10] and Miura et. al. [12] for backward angles are fitted. With increase of incident energy the influence of discrete level excitation diminishes, while the role of continuum level excitation grows.

To calculate neutron energy distributions of $(n,xn\gamma)$ and (n,xnf), x = 1, 2, 3 reactions we use a simple Weisscopf-Ewing evaporation model taking into account fission and gamma-emission competition to neutron emission. The preequilibrium emission of first neutron is included. The hard component of neutron scattering spectra and high energy tail of 232 Th(n,2n) reaction cross section are interpreted as being due to the pre-equilibrium evaporation of neutrons. This feature is parameterized within a conventional exciton model, used in STAPRE [93] code. Pre-equilibrium contribution of first neutron spectrum was fixed by consistent description of (n,f) and (n,2n) reaction cross sections up to 20 MeV, we get the main parameter of the exciton model, that is the matrix element $M^2 = 10/A^3$. The charge conservation and transition rates renormalization were also employed. With all that in mind and in the STAPRE code [93] a preequilibrium emission fraction q(E) leading to depletion of compound nucleus states population is obtained. It equals ~ 0.035 at $E_n \sim 4$ MeV and increases up to ~0.46 at $E_n \sim 20$ MeV. First neutron spectra for the (n,nx) reaction is the sum of evaporation and pre-equilibrium neutron contributions. Second and third neutron spectra are assumed to be evaporative.

On Figs. 146-154 data on neutron emission spectra at still higher incident neutron energies $E_n = 11.8$ by Miura et. al. [12], $E_n = 14.05$ by Baba et. al. [10] and $E_n = 18$ MeV by Baba et. al. [168] are compared with present evaluation. "Bump" in case of 6.1-MeV spectra and flattening of secondary neutron spectrum of 11.8-, 14.05- and 18-MeV in the vicinity of elastic peak are supposed to be due to direct scattering on collective band levels. Figures 146 and 147 compare neutron emission spectra $E_n = 11.8$ MeV for $\theta = 60^{\circ}$ and $\theta = 120^{\circ}$, unfortunately the data description for backward emission is even worse, than for forward emission. Figures 148, 149 and 150 compare angle-integrated and measured for $\theta = 45^{\circ}$ and $\theta = 120^{\circ}$ neutron emission spectra for $E_n = 14.05$ MeV, in this case the data description for backward emission is somewhat better, than for forward emission. The same conclusion could be made for neutron emission spectra for $E_n = 18$ MeV measured at $\theta = 30^{\circ}$, $\theta = 60^{\circ}$ and $\theta = 120^{\circ}$ (see Figs. 151 - 154), though angle-integrated data also are reproduced quite well, while in JENDL-3.2 [5] neutron emission spectrum is overestimated in the energy range 5 - 10 MeV (see Fig. 151).

We have calculated 1st, 2nd and 3d neutron spectra for the $(n,n'\gamma)$, (n,2n) and (n,3n) reactions. To compare with JENDL-3.2 [5] and ENDF/B-VI [6] evaluations, calculated spectra were summed up and tabular spectra for the $(n,n'\gamma)$, (n,2n) and (n,3n) reactions were obtained. Figures 155-161 compare neutron spectra of $(n,n'\gamma)$ reaction of JENDL-3.2 [5] and ENDF/B-VI [6] with present calculation. Average energies of first neutron spectra for JENDL-3.2 [5] and ENDF/B-VI [6] are compatible (see Table 9). Figures 162-167 show spectra of (n,2n) reaction for 8 - 20 MeV incident neutron energy, average energies of (n,2n) reaction neutron spectra of present and JENDL-3.2 [5] evaluation are compatible, while those of ENDF/B-VI [6] seem to be too low, especially at higher energies. Average energies of (n,3n) reaction neutron spectra of present and JENDL-3.2 [5] evaluation again are compatible, while those of ENDF/B-VI [6] are shifted to higher energies.

1st neutron average energy, MeV									
E_n, MeV	(n,n')					(n,2n)	(n,n'f)	(n,3n)	(n,2n'f)
	Pres.	B-VI	J-3.2	BROND	JEF-2	Pres.	Pres.	Pres.	Present
3.0	0.65	0.68	0.73	0.76	0.80				
8.0	2.67	1.99	2.12	1.07	1.07	0.77	1.18		
14.0	9.26	9.24	8.52	1.08	1.08	3.01	2.61	0.92	0.49
20.0	15.3	15.2	14.5	1.08	1.08	9.78	2.88	2.58	2.18

Table 9Average energies of secondary neutron spectra

average neutron energy of (n,2n), MeV				average neutron energy of (n,3n), MeV		
E_n, MeV	Present	J-3.2	B-VI	Present	J-3.2	B-VI
8.0	0.56	0.54	0.51			
14.0	2.03	2.1	1.71	0.68	0.69	0.85
20.0	5.36	4.76	2.35	1.57	1.57	2.81

For incident neutron energy higher than emissive fission threshold, emissive neutron spectrum is deconvoluted, components of 1st, 2nd and 3d neutron spectra are provided, where applicable. Figures 172 and 173 show spectra of 1st neutron of the reaction (n,nx) and its partial contributions for $(n,n'\gamma)$, (n,2n), (n,nf)(n,2nf), (n,3n) etc. reactions at incident neutron energy of 20 and 14 MeV. Partial neutron spectra are normalized to the contributions of appropriate cross sections to the (n,nx) reaction cross sections. Above ~5.5 MeV energy of first emitted neutron, neutron spectrum is of pre-equilibrium nature only. Spectrum of $(n,n'\gamma)$ reaction actually is just hard energy tail of 'pre-equilibrium' component of first neutron spectrum. Spectrum of the first neutron of (n,2n) reaction is much softer, although 'pre-equilibrium' component still comprise major part of it. First neutron spectrum of (n,3n) reaction is actually of evaporative nature. First neutron spectrum of (n,nf) reaction has rather long pre-equilibrium high-energy tail. First neutron spectrum of (n,2nf) reaction, as those of (n,3n) and (n,4n)reactions, is of evaporative nature. Figures 174 and 175 show components of second neutron spectrum, they are evaporative, as those of third neutron spectra (see Fig. 176).

11 Conclusions

The statistical Hauser-Feshbach-Moldauer model calculation of neutron-induced reaction cross sections for ²³²Th target nucleus shows the fair description of available data base on ²³²Th+n total, elastic, fission, capture, inelastic scattering, (n,2n), prompt fission neutron spectra and neutron emission spectra. The same methods were applied previously for ²³⁸U data analysis. Average resonance parameters were obtained which reproduce total, capture and inelastic cross sections from 4 keV up to 150 keV. Rigid rotator coupled channel model with present potential parameters gives fair description of differential inelastic scattering data for the ground state band levels. Collective bands structure of ²³²Th is reproduced within soft deformable rotator model, which fairly describes differential inelastic scattering data for the β -, γ -vibration and anomalous rotation γ -band levels. It is shown that (n,n') inelastic data are compatible with statistical theory and soft rotator estimates of direct inelastic excitation of discrete levels. Doubledifferential neutron emission cross sections are shown to be consistent with present estimate of inelastic neutron scattering to the discrete and continuum levels. Radiative strength function allows to describe capture cross section data in 4 keV - 5 MeV energy region. Consistent estimates of fission cross section data and prompt fission neutron spectra above emissive fission threshold give direct evidence of pre-fission (n,nf) reaction neutron influence on observed PFNS.

We assume that for incident neutron energy range of 4 keV - 20 MeV the reliability of present evaluated data file might be comparable with that of 238 U data file [106].

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13 Figure captions

- Fig. 1 Cumulative sum of levels of 232 Th.
- Fig. 2 Cumulative sum of reduced neutron width of ²³²Th.
- Fig. 3 Level spacing distribution of ²³²Th.
- Fig. 4 Reduced neutron width distribution of ²³²Th.
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- Fig. 10 Average reduced neutron width of 232 Th, l = 0, J = 1/2.
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- Fig. 21 Differential elastic scattering cross section at 1.5 MeV.
- Fig. 22 Differential scattering cross section to 2^+ level at 1.5 MeV.
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- Fig. 24 Differential scattering cross section at 2.4 MeV.
- Fig. 25 Differential elastic scattering cross section at 2.5 MeV.
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- Fig. 34 Differential scattering cross section at 4.5 MeV.
- Fig. 35 Differential scattering cross section at 5.0 MeV.
- Fig. 36 Differential scattering cross section at 5.5 MeV.
- Fig. 37 Differential scattering cross section at 5.9 MeV.
- Fig. 38 Differential scattering cross section at 6.5 MeV.

Fig. 39 Differential scattering cross section at 7.14 MeV.

Fig. 40 Differential scattering cross section at 7.5 MeV.

Fig. 41 Differential scattering cross section at 7.75 MeV.

Fig. 42 Differential scattering cross section at 8.03 MeV.

Fig. 43 Differential scattering cross section at 8.4 MeV.

Fig. 44 Differential scattering cross section at 9.06 MeV.

Fig. 45 Differential scattering cross section at 9.5 MeV.

Fig. 46 Differential scattering cross section at 10 MeV.

Fig. 47 Differential scattering cross section at 14.1 MeV.

Fig. 48 Cumulative number of levels of ²³²Th.

Fig. 49 Cumulative number of levels of ²³³Th.

Fig. 50 Level density of ²³²Th.

Fig. 51 Level density of 233 Th.

Fig. 52 Cross section of 232 Th: 0.049369 MeV, 2⁺ level excitation.

Fig. 53 Cross section of 232 Th: 0.16212 MeV, 4⁺ level excitation.

Fig. 54 Inelastic differential scattering cross section to 0.3332 MeV 6^+ level at 2.4 MeV.

Fig. 55 Inelastic differential scattering cross section to 0.3332 MeV 6^+ level at 2.8 MeV.

Fig. 56 Cross section of 232 Th: 0.3332 MeV, 6⁺ level excitation.

Fig. 57 Inelastic differential scattering cross section to 0.71425 MeV, 1^- level at 1.2 MeV.

Fig. 58 Inelastic differential scattering cross section to 0.71425 MeV, 1^- level at 1.5 MeV.

Fig. 59 Cross section of 0.71425 MeV, 1^- level.

Fig. 60 Inelastic differential scattering cross section to $0.73035 \ 0^+$ level at 1.2 MeV.

Fig. 61 Inelastic differential scattering cross section to 0.73035 0^+ level at 1.5 MeV.

Fig. 62 Cross section of 232 Th: 0.73035 MeV, 0⁺ level excitation.

Fig. 63 Inelastic differential scattering cross section to 0.71425 MeV, 1^- and 0.73035 0^+ levels at 2.0 MeV.

Fig. 64 Inelastic differential scattering cross section to 0.71425 MeV, 1^- and 0.73035 0^+ levels at 2.4 MeV.

Fig. 65 Inelastic differential scattering cross section to 0.71425 MeV, 1^- and 0.73035 0^+ levels at 2.8 MeV.

Fig. 66 Cross section to 0.71425 MeV, 1^- and 0.73035 0^+ levels.

Fig. 67 Cross section of 232 Th: 0.7741 MeV, 2⁺ level excitation.

Fig. 68 Cross section of 232 Th: 0.7744 MeV, 3⁻ level excitation.

Fig. 69 Inelastic differential scattering cross section to 0.7741 MeV, 2^+ and 0.7744 3^- levels at 1.2 MeV.

Fig. 70 Inelastic differential scattering cross section to 0.7741 MeV, 2^+ and 0.7744 3^- levels at 1.5 MeV.

Fig. 71 Cross section of $^{232}\mathrm{Th:}$ 0.741 MeV, 2^+ and 0.7744 MeV, 3^- levels excitation.

Fig. 72 Inelastic differential scattering cross section to 0.7853 MeV, 2^+ level at 1.2 MeV.

Fig. 73 Inelastic differential scattering cross section to 0.7853 MeV, 2^+ level at 1.5 MeV.

Fig. 74 Cross section of 232 Th: 0.7853 MeV, 2⁺ level excitation.

Fig. 75 Inelastic differential scattering cross section to 0.8296 MeV, 3^+ level at 1.2 MeV.

Fig. 76 Inelastic differential scattering cross section to 0.8296 MeV, 3^+ level at 1.5 MeV.

Fig. 77 Inelastic differential scattering cross section to 0.8296 MeV, 3^+ level at 2.0 MeV.

Fig. 78 Cross section of 232 Th: 0.8296 MeV, 3^+ level excitation.

Fig. 79 Inelastic differential scattering cross section to 0.774 -0.830 MeV levels at 2.4 MeV.

Fig. 80 Inelastic differential scattering cross section to 0.774 -0.830 MeV levels at 2.8 MeV.

Fig. 81 Cross section of 0.774 -0.830 MeV levels excitation.

Fig. 82 Cross section of 232 Th: 0.873 MeV, 4⁺.

Fig. 83 Cross section of $^{232}\mathrm{Th}:$ 0.8836 MeV, $5^-\mathrm{and}$ 0.8901 MeV, 4^+ levels excitation.

Fig. 84 Inelastic differential scattering cross section to 0.873 -0.890 MeV levels at 2.4 MeV.

Fig. 85 Inelastic differential scattering cross section to 0.873 -0.890 MeV levels at 2.8 MeV.

Fig. 86 Cross section of 0.873 -0.890 MeV levels excitation.

Fig. 87 Inelastic differential scattering cross section to 0.9604 MeV, 5^+ level at 2.0 MeV.

Fig. 88 Inelastic differential scattering cross section to 0.9604 MeV, 5^+ level at 2.4 MeV.

Fig. 89 Inelastic differential scattering cross section to 0.9604 MeV, 5^+ level at 2.8 MeV.

Fig. 90 Cross section of 232 Th: 0.9604 MeV, 5⁺ level excitation.

Fig. 91 Cross section of 232 Th: 1.0536 MeV, 2^+ level excitation.

Fig. 92 Inelastic differential scattering cross section to 0.7 - $1.05~{\rm MeV}$ levels at 3.55 MeV.

Fig. 93 Inelastic differential scattering cross section to 0.7 - $0.9~{\rm MeV}$ levels at 2.4 MeV.

Fig. 94 Cross section of 232 Th: 1.0729 MeV, 2⁺ level excitation.

Fig. 95 Cross section of 232 Th: 1.0787 MeV 0⁺ level excitation.

Fig. 96 Cross section of 232 Th: 1.0729 MeV, 2^+ + 1.0775 MeV, 1^- and 1.0787 MeV 0^+ levels excitation.

Fig. 97 Cross section of 232 Th: 1.0944 MeV, 3⁺ level excitation.

Fig. 98 Cross section of 232 Th: 1.1057 MeV, 3^- level excitation.

Fig. 99 Cross section of $^{232}\mathrm{Th:}$ 1.0944 MeV, 3^+ and 1.1057 MeV, 3^- level excitation.

Fig. 100 Cross section of 232 Th: 1.1218 MeV, 2⁺ level excitation.

Fig. 101 Cross section of $^{232}\mathrm{Th}:$ 1.1433 MeV, 4^- and 1.1483 MeV 4^+ levels excitation.

Fig. 102 Cross section of 232 Th: 1.1825 MeV, 3^- level excitation.

Fig. 103 Total inelastic scattering cross section of ²³²Th.

Fig. 104 Continuum inelastic scattering cross section of ²³²Th.

Fig. 105 Total inelastic scattering cross section of ²³²Th.

Fig. 106 Capture cross section of ²³²Th.

Fig. 107 Capture cross section of ²³²Th.

Fig. 108 Capture cross section of ²³²Th.

Fig. 109 Fission cross section of 232 Th.

Fig. 110 Fission cross section of ²³²Th.

Fig. 111 Fission cross section of ²³²Th.

Fig. 112 Fission cross section of ²³¹Th.

Fig. 113 Emissive fission contribution to the observed fission cross section of $^{232}\mathrm{Th}.$

Fig. 114 (n,2n) cross section of 232 Th.

Fig. 115 (n,2n) cross section of 232 Th.

Fig. 116 (n,3n) cross section of ²³²Th.

Fig. 117 PFNS for ²³²Th at incident neutron energy 1.4 MeV. Data are plotted as a ratio to Maxwellian.

Fig. 118 PFNS for 232 Th at incident neutron energy 2.0MeV.

Fig. 119 PFNS for 232 Th at incident neutron energy 2.9 MeV.

Fig. 120 PFNS for ²³²Th at incident neutron energy 7 MeV.

Fig. 121 PFNS for ²³²Th at incident neutron energy 14.7 MeV.

Fig. 122 PFNS for ²³²Th at incident neutron energy 17.7 MeV.

Fig. 123 PFNS for ²³²Th and ²³⁸U at incident neutron energy 7 MeV.

Fig. 124 PFNS for ²³²Th and ²³⁸U at incident neutron energy 14.7 MeV.

Fig. 125 PFNS for ²³²Th and ²³⁸U at incident neutron energy 17.7 MeV.

Fig. 126 Fission probability of ²³²Th.

Fig. 127 Fission probability of ²³⁸U.

Fig. 128 Prompt fission neutron number of ²³²Th.

Fig. 129 Prompt fission neutron number of 232 Th.

Fig. 130 Neutron emission spectrum of 232 Th for incident neutron energy 1.2 MeV.

Fig. 131 Neutron emission spectrum of $^{232}\mathrm{Th}$ for incident neutron energy 1.2 MeV.

Fig. 132 Neutron emission spectrum of $^{232}\mathrm{Th}$ for incident neutron energy 2.03 MeV.

Fig. 133 Neutron emission spectrum of ²³²Th for incident neutron energy 2.6 MeV. Fig. 134 Neutron emission spectrum of ²³²Th for incident neutron energy 2.6 MeV. Fig. 135 Neutron emission spectrum of ²³²Th for incident neutron energy 2.6 MeV. Fig. 136 Neutron emission spectrum of 232 Th for incident neutron energy 3.55 MeV. Fig. 137 Neutron emission spectrum of ²³²Th for incident neutron energy 3.55 MeV. Fig. 138 Neutron emission spectrum of $^{232}\mathrm{Th}$ for incident neutron energy 3.55 MeV. Fig. 139 Neutron emission spectrum of 232 Th for incident neutron energy 3.55 MeV. Fig. 140 Neutron emission spectrum of 232 Th for incident neutron energy 4.25 MeV. Fig. 141 Neutron emission spectrum of 232 Th for incident neutron energy 4.25 MeV. Fig. 142 Neutron emission spectrum of $^{232}\mathrm{Th}$ for incident neutron energy 4.25 MeV. Fig. 143 Neutron emission spectrum of ²³²Th for incident neutron energy 6.1 MeV. Fig. 144 Neutron emission spectrum of $^{232}\mathrm{Th}$ for incident neutron energy 6.1 MeV. Fig. 145 Neutron emission spectrum of ²³²Th for incident neutron energy 6.1 MeV. Fig. 146 Neutron emission spectrum of ²³²Th for incident neutron energy 11.8 MeV. Fig. 147 Neutron emission spectrum of ²³²Th for incident neutron energy 11.8 MeV. Fig. 148 Neutron emission spectrum of ²³²Th for incident neutron energy 14.05 MeV. Fig. 149 Neutron emission spectrum of ²³²Th for incident neutron energy 14.05 MeV. Fig. 150 Neutron emission spectrum of ²³²Th for incident neutron energy 14.05 MeV. Fig. 151 Neutron emission spectrum of ²³²Th for incident neutron energy 18 MeV. Fig. 152 Neutron emission spectrum of $^{232}\mathrm{Th}$ for incident neutron energy 18 MeV. Fig. 153 Neutron emission spectrum of 232 Th for incident neutron energy 18 MeV. Fig. 154 Neutron emission spectrum of ²³²Th for incident neutron energy 18

MeV.

Fig. 155 Comparison of $(n,n'\gamma)$ reaction neutron spectra of ²³²Th for incident neutron energy 2MeV.

Fig. 156 Comparison of $(n,n'\gamma)$ reaction neutron spectra of ²³²Th for incident neutron energy 4 MeV.

Fig. 157 Comparison of $(n,n'\gamma)$ reaction neutron spectra of ²³²Th for incident neutron energy 6 MeV.

Fig. 158 Comparison of $(n,n'\gamma)$ reaction neutron spectra of ²³²Th for incident neutron energy 8 MeV.

Fig. 159 Comparison of $(n,n'\gamma)$ reaction neutron spectra of ²³²Th for incident neutron energy 12 MeV.

Fig. 160 Comparison of $(n,n'\gamma)$ reaction neutron spectra of ²³²Th for incident neutron energy 14 MeV.

Fig. 161 Comparison of $(n,n'\gamma)$ reaction neutron spectra of ²³²Th for incident neutron energy 20 MeV.

Fig. 162 Comparison of (n,2n) reaction neutron spectra of $^{232}\mathrm{Th}$ for incident neutron energy 8 MeV.

Fig. 163 Comparison of (n,2n) reaction neutron spectra of 232 Th for incident neutron energy 10 MeV.

Fig. 164 Comparison of (n,2n) reaction neutron spectra of 232 Th for incident neutron energy 12 MeV.

Fig. 165 Comparison of (n,2n) reaction neutron spectra of 232 Th for incident neutron energy 14 MeV.

Fig. 166 Comparison of (n,2n) reaction neutron spectra of 232 Th for incident neutron energy 16 MeV.

Fig. 167 Comparison of (n,2n) reaction neutron spectra of 232 Th for incident neutron energy 20 MeV.

Fig. 168 Comparison of (n,3n) reaction neutron spectra of 232 Th for incident neutron energy 12 MeV.

Fig. 169 Comparison of (n,3n) reaction neutron spectra of 232 Th for incident neutron energy 14 MeV.

Fig. 170 Comparison of (n,3n) reaction neutron spectra of 232 Th for incident neutron energy 16 MeV.

Fig. 171 Comparison of (n,3n) reaction neutron spectra of ²³²Th for incident neutron energy 20 MeV.

Fig. 172 Components of first neutron spectrum of 232 Th for incident neutron energy 20 MeV.

Fig. 173 Components of first neutron spectrum of $^{232}\mathrm{Th}$ for incident neutron energy 14 MeV.

Fig. 174 Components of second neutron spectrum of 232 Th for incident neutron energy 20 MeV.

Fig. 175 Components of second neutron spectrum of 232 Th for incident neutron energy 14 MeV.

Fig. 176 Components of third neutron spectrum of $^{232}\mathrm{Th}$ for incident neutron energy 20 MeV.





FIG. 2



FIG. 3

²³²Th REDUCED NEUTRON WIDTH DISTRIBUTION



FIG. 4



FIG. 5




NEUTRON ENERGY, keV

FIG. 6

CROSS SECTION, BARN















FIG. 13



NEUTRON WIDTH, eV

²³²Th TOTAL CROSS SECTION



²³²Th TOTAL CROSS SECTION



²³²Th TOTAL CROSS SECTION



FIG. 17





5

NEUTRON ENERGY, MeV




























































²³²Th



²³³Th

FIG. 49





²³³Th

²³²Th: 0.049369 MeV, 2⁺ LEVEL EXCITATION



NEUTRON ENERGY, MeV

 232 Th: 0.16212 MeV, 4⁺ LEVEL EXCITATION















FIG. 59







$^{\rm 232} Th: 0.73035 \ \text{MeV}, 0^+ \ \text{LEVEL}$ EXCITATION






































232 Th: 0.8296 MeV, (3⁺) LEVEL EXCITATION





















232 Th E_n=2.4 MeV (Ex=0.9604 MeV,5⁺)



















²³²Th: (1.0729 MeV, 2⁺ + 1.0775 MeV, 1⁻ + 1.0787 MeV, 0⁺) LEVELS EXCITATION







²³²Th: 1.1057 MeV, 3⁻ LEVEL EXCITATION





 232 Th: 1.1218 MeV, (2⁺) LEVEL EXCITATION



²³²Th: (1.1433 MeV, (4⁻)+ 1.1483 MeV,(4⁺)) LEVELS EXCITATION

















NEUTRON ENERGY, keV

FIG. 107

CROSS SECTION, BARN





NEUTRON ENERGY, keV

FIG. 108

CROSS SECTION, BARN

²³²Th FISSION CROSS SECTION











²³²Th(n,f) CHANCE FISSION CONTRIBUTIONS






FIG. 115



FIG. 116









 232 Th PFNS, E_n~14.6 MeV



FIG. 121









FIG. 124









²³²Th, NEUTRON MULTIPLICIY



²³²Th(n,f) NEUTRON MULTIPLICITY





FIG. 130

²³²Th: E_n=1.2 MeV (120-deg.)





















²³²Th: E_n=3.55 MeV (120-deg.) 1 NEUTRON SPECTRUM, B/MeV/SR 0⁺β +~ 0.1 0.01 Ī 2⁺art \mathbb{L} 0.001 MIURA ET AL., 2001 Ь **PFNS** PRESENT 0.0001 6 0 2 3 4 5 1 NEUTRON ENERGY, MeV





²³²Th: E_n=4.25 MeV (120-deg.)





FIG. 143





FIG. 144





²³²Th: E_n=11.8 MeV (60-deg.)







²³²Th: E_n=14.05 MeV (45-deg.)



FIG. 149




²³²Th: E_n=18 MeV (30-deg.)





FIG. 153









FIG. 157



FIG. 158











FIG. 163



FIG. 164







FIG. 167



FIG. 168





FIG. 170



FIG. 171











FIG. 176

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