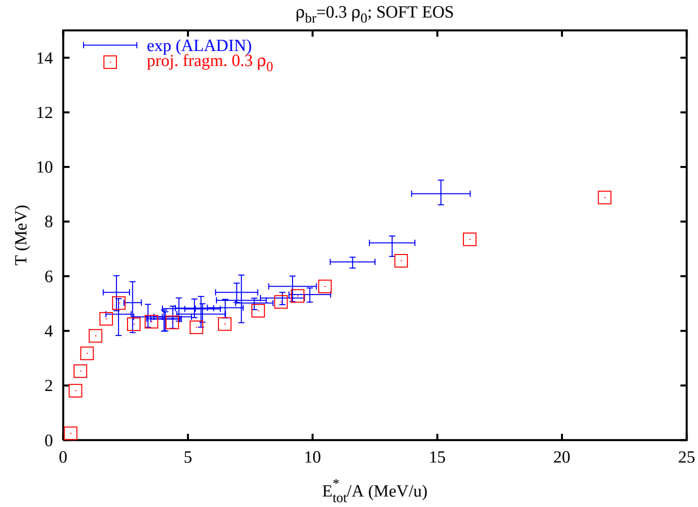

Figure 2: The caloric curve as deduced by the ALADIN collaboration [6] (crosses) compared with the pre-cluster condition. The total excitation energy includes flow energy which is significant in the isentropic dynamics for $E^*/A > 15$ MeV. The discrepancy at large excitation energies may therefore indicate that dissipation is not negligible during the expansion process.

derivative of the pressure with respect to the density along an adiabat becomes negative. Since the system is closed we consider the adiabatic process to be the relevant one. In Fig. 1 the region of instability is shadowed and bounded by the spinodal. To enter the spinodal region and stay there for more than 30 fm/c one needs initial temperatures of about 8 MeV and 11 MeV for the soft and hard EOS, respectively.

Because of the occurrence of turning points in the expansion, the multifragmentation process of the projectile residue has a unique feature: the subsequent decay into fragments is expected to be rather free from collective flow. This is different from the fragmentation of compressed compound systems which are formed in central collisions. As our calculations show already for a small initial compression (1.5 ϱ_0) no turning points occur for realistic initial excitation energies. Thus the fragmentation process becomes qualitatively different and looks more like an explosion [24].

In Fig. 2 we compare our results for the temperature and the total excitation energy in the remnant with experimental data from the ALADIN experiment. Our points are determined at the turning points if the corresponding