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Open questions on heavy-ion reactions: from fusion to deep inelastic collisions

> CELEBRATION FOR PROF. RICCI'S $90TH$ BIRTHDAY

Laboratori Nazionali di Legnaro July 5th, 2017

- **History of nuclear reactions**
	- A century of discoveries

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- Physics cases of recent interest
	- EoS, asyEoS and isospin transport
	- Pre-equilibrium and clustering

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	- Fazia @ LNS

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	- Statistical: GEMINI, etc...

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- **Conclusions**

- 1919 Rutherford perform the **first nuclear reaction** (using a *α* source) at University of Manchester: $\alpha + {}^{14}{\rm N} \longrightarrow {}^{16}{\rm O} + {\rm p}$
- 1929 Van de Graaf builds his **first high voltage generator**
- 1932 Cockroft and Walton build their high voltage generator
- 1932 Cockroft and Walton at Cambridge University use their generator to accelerate protons and perform the first **fully artificial** nuclear reaction:

$$
\bullet \, p + {}^{7}\text{Li} \longrightarrow \alpha + \alpha
$$

- 1934 Lawrence designs the **first cyclotron**
- 1935 Weizsäcker writes the **semi-empirical mass formula**
- 1938 Hahn and Straßmann observe the **first nuclear fission**
- 1939 N. Bohr and Wheeler modelize the nuclear fission
- 1940 Weisskopf and Ewing modelize the decay of a **compound nucleus**
- 1952 Hauser and Feshbach refine the theory of the particle **evaporation** from a compound nucleus

1977 Bass **fusion** cross-section formula based on experimental systematics R. Bass, Phys. Rev. Lett. **39**, 265 (1977) 1984 Gupta **total** reaction cross-section formula S. K. Gupta et al., Z. Phys. A **317**, 75 (1984) 1985 Viola systematics for **fission** fragment relative kinetic energy V. E. Viola et al., Phys. Rev. C **31**, 1550 (1985)

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Prof. Ricci's research lines **FUFI-DEEP** and **FUFI-EVA** developed in this period

Dynamical fission

Liquid-gas phase transition

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Clustering

asyEoS

Dynamical fission

Ideal homogeneous and infinite system made of protons and neutrons

- Excited nuclei produced in nuclear reactions
- Neutron stars

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Applications

Explore the phase diagram of nuclear systems

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- Study the finite system phase transitions

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Applications

- Explore the phase diagram of nuclear systems
- Study the finite system phase transitions
- Understand supernovae and neutron stars

Nuclear matter Equation of State (EoS)

- Nucleus treated as Fermi-Dirac statistical ensemble
- Describes the evolution of a system made of interacting nuclei
	- Mean field potential

$$
\frac{E}{A} = \frac{3}{5}\varepsilon_F + \frac{A}{2}\left(\frac{\rho}{\rho_0}\right) + \frac{B}{\sigma + 1}\left(\frac{\rho}{\rho_0}\right)^{\sigma}
$$

$$
A = -356 \text{ MeV} \qquad B = 303 \text{ MeV} \qquad \sigma = 7/6
$$

Saturation density

 $\rho = \rho_0$ density of non-excited nuclear matter

Asymmetric nuclear matter Equation of State (EoS) (asyEoS)

Symmetry energy term depending on proton and neutron densities:

$$
\frac{E}{A}(\rho, I) = \frac{E}{A}(\rho) + \frac{E_{\text{sym}}}{A}(\rho)I^2
$$

Isospin parameter

$$
I = \frac{(\rho_n - \rho_p)}{\rho} = \frac{N - Z}{A}
$$

E_{sym} behaviour is known only near ρ_0

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Isospin diffusion

- Projectile and target isospins tend to **equilibrate** during interaction
- Isospin diffusion favoured by an **asy-soft** parametrization

Isospin drift

- Neutrons tend to migrate toward **low density** regions (neck)
- Isospin drift favoured by an **asy-stiff** parametrization

Heavy-ion collisions

Nuclear reactions

Most used method to reach the various regions of the phase diagram

- Ultrarelativistic regime
	- \bullet GASOUS STATE
- **•** Fermi energy region
	- Multifragmentation
	- **PHASE TRANSITION**
- Coulomb barrier region
	- Compound Nucleus formation
	- Binary reactions and DIC
	- LIQUID STATE

Reaction mechanisms

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Pre-equilibrium emission

When energy increases, compound nucleus formation and decay phases tend to **overlap**

Pre-equilibrium emission

From literature: pre-equilibrium emission from 10**–**15 MeV*/*u

L. Lassen et al., Phys. Rev. C **55**, 1900 (1997)

Pre-equilibrium emission

Fusion channel

$$
\bullet \ \ ^{40}\mathrm{Ar} + \mathrm{^{nat}Ag}
$$

$$
\bullet\ \ E_{\rm b}=27\ \text{MeV/u}
$$

Energy spectra may give indication of pre-equilibrium effects via **deformations** with respect to statistical trend

M. T. Magda et al., Phys. Rev. C **53**, R1473 (1996)

• Pre-equilibrium emission could give information on cluster structure¹

¹D. Fabris et al., Acta Physica Polonica B **46** (2015)

- Pre-equilibrium emission could give information on cluster structure¹
- \bullet Ikeda diagram²

¹D. Fabris et al., Acta Physica Polonica B **46** (2015) ²K. Ikeda et al., Prog. Theor. Phys. E**68**, 464 (1968)

- **•** Lateral view in section
- Cylindrical symmetry

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- 2 drift chambers (CF₄ gas at 50 mbar) segmented in 24 sectors
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0000000000000000

Ring Counter (RCo)

- \bullet lonization chamber (CF₄ gas at 50 mbar) segm. in 8 sectors
- One Silicon 8-strip pad per sector
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The telescope stages

- ¹ 300 µm reverse-mounted Si detector;
- 2 500 µm reverse-mounted Si detector;
- ³ 10 cm CsI(TI) cristal read by a photodiode.

To achieve the best possible energy resolution and *A* and *Z* identification Si detectors come from a nTD ingot cut at random angle to avoid channeling effects.

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2 telescopes are connected to a FEE card.

8 FEE cards are connected to a block card via a back plane.

The FAZIA block

Block is mounted on a copper base in which water flows to provide cooling

up to 36 block cards are connected to a regional board via a full duplex 3 Gb*/*s optical link

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	- Despite its compact design, energy resolution and quality of isotopic identification (up to *Z* ∼ 25) of FAZIA block are excellent.

Dynamical models

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Statistical models

- They simulate the decay of excited nuclei **at equilibrium**
	- **•** fission processes
	- evaporation of light particles

Molecular dynamics models

They consider the evolution via the equations of motion of **single nucleons**, modeled as gaussian packets under the effect of a mean field and two-body interactions

AMD works better for Fermi energy reactions

Transport models

They consider the evolution of **nuclear matter** via transport equations including a mean field and residual interactions

SMF adapted to work also at $E_b \sim 20$ MeV/u

A. Ono et al., Phys. Rev. C **59**, 853 (1999) M. Colonna et al., Nucl. Phys. A **642**, 449 (1998)

$GEMINI++code$

 $GEMINI++$ is one of the most acknowledged statistical codes in the field of heavy-ion collisions:

- **afterburner** to produce secondary particle distributions from primary fragments
	- secondary distributions has been compared with experimental data
- in the hypothesis of **full momentum transfer** to generate reference distributions for the estimate of non-statistical contributions

R. J. Charity, Phys. Rev. C **82**, 014610 (2010)

$\overline{\text{Why}}$ 88 $\overline{\text{Mo?}}$

- large fission barrier up to **high spins**
- mass region not well explored in literature
- **GDR study** performed in Krakow
- light charged particles emission in **fusion-evaporation** channel

M. Ciemała et al., Phys. Rev. C 91,054313 (2015) S. Valdr´e et al., Phys. Rev. C **93**, 034617 (2016)

α-particle energy spectra at 300 MeV

α-particle energy spectra at 450 MeV

proton energy spectra at 600 MeV

α-particle energy spectra at 600 MeV

proton angular distributions

α-particle angular distributions

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- We found an *α*-particle yield excess, in particular at forward angles and increasing with energy.
- It's difficult to improve the agreement by tuning the model parameters; indication of the onset of minor **pre-equilibrium emission** or contamination from other processes.

[Introduction](#page-1-0) [Physics cases](#page-18-0) [Apparatuses](#page-35-0) [Theoretical models](#page-63-0) [Results](#page-67-0) 000 000000000000000 Csym experiment at LNL

Aim of this work

Study of 32 S + $40,48$ Ca and 32 S + 48 Ti reactions at 17.7 MeV/u

- **Pre-equilibrium** emission in central collisions
- **Isospin transport** effects in binary collisions

Spectra scaled by the maximum value to highlight shape differences

M. T. Magda et al., Phys. Rev. C **53**, R1473 (1996)

S. Piantelli et al., submitted to Phys. Rev. C (2017)

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- To improve our knowledge on pre-equilibrium emission, **FAZIAPRE** experiment is scheduled in the next months
- We clearly highlighted **isospin diffusion** in DIC reactions by measuring $\langle N \rangle/Z$ of QP in function of the target isospin

ISOFAZIA experiment at LNS

Aim of this work

Study of 80 Kr + 40,48 Ca reactions at 35 MeV/u

- **Multifragmentation** in central collisions
- Quasi-projectile **dynamical fission**
- **Isospin transport** effects in semi-peripheral collisions

G. Pastore et al., Nuovo Cimento C **39**, 383 (2016)

ISOFAZIA experiment at LNS

Aim of this work

Study of 80 Kr + 40,48 Ca reactions at 35 MeV/u

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- **Isospin transport** effects in semi-peripheral collisions

Preliminary results

G. Pastore et al., Nuovo Cimento C **39**, 383 (2016)

ISOFAZIA experiment

Isospin drift effect is well evidenced

Comparing many observables with the **AMD dynamical model** predictions an **asy-stiff** parametrization of the symmetry energy term of the EoS is favoured

Clustering and Hoyle State

Some excited states of nuclei may present a "cluster" structure

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The Hoyle state of ¹²C

- 7*.*65 MeV
- 3*α* cluster structure

Open debate on **sequential** or **direct** decay into 3*α*

[Introduction](#page-1-0) [Physics cases](#page-18-0) [Apparatuses](#page-35-0) [Theoretical models](#page-63-0) [Results](#page-67-0) QP decay in ¹²C + ¹²C at 7*.*92 MeV*/*u @ LNL

Direct decay contribution estimated around 1*.*1 %

L. Morelli et al., J. Phys G **43**, 045110 (2016)

[Introduction](#page-1-0) [Physics cases](#page-18-0) [Apparatuses](#page-35-0) [Theoretical models](#page-63-0) [Results](#page-67-0) 000 d + ¹⁴N at 5*.*25 MeV*/*u @ LNS

Hoyle state selection with almost **zero background**

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Comparing **Dalitz plots** of experimental data and Monte Carlo simulations it's clear that the Hoyle state decay is **sequential**. Direct decay B.R. is evaluated **under** 0*.*04 %

D. Dell'Aquila et al., accepted in Phys. Rev. Lett., arXiv:1705.09196 (2017)

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Analysis of FAZIACOR experiment is going on to study also the Hoyle state formation and decay **in medium** at higher energies

D. Dell'Aquila et al., accepted in Phys. Rev. Lett., arXiv:1705.09196 (2017)

Conclusions and open questions

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After a century of activity and many important discoveries, the field of heavy-ion nuclear reactions is still full of questions:

What is the behaviour of pre-equilibrium depending on the studied reaction?

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Thanks for your attention and. . .

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happy birthday Prof. Ricci