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

Celebration for Prof. Ricci's 90^{TH} Birthday

Laboratori Nazionali di Legnaro July 5th, 2017

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Outlook				

- History of nuclear reactions
 - A century of discoveries

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- History of nuclear reactions
 - A century of discoveries
- Physics cases of recent interest
 - EoS, asyEoS and isospin transport
 - Pre-equilibrium and clustering

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 - EoS, asyEoS and isospin transport
 - Pre-equilibrium and clustering
- Apparatuses
 - Garfield **@ LNL**
 - FAZIA @ LNS

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 - Dynamical: AMD, SMF, etc...
 - Statistical: GEMINI, etc...

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- Recent results
 - Jacobi, Csym and Delight experiments at LNL
 - ISOFAZIA and FAZIACOR experiments at LNS

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- Conclusions

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- 1919 Rutherford perform the **first nuclear reaction** (using a α source) at University of Manchester: • $\alpha + {}^{14}N \longrightarrow {}^{16}O + p$
- 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:

•
$$p + {^7Li} \longrightarrow \alpha + \alpha$$

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- 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

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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

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Dynamical fission

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Liquid-gas phase transition

Dynamical fission

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Liquid-gas phase transition

Isospin transport

Dynamical fission

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Liquid-gas phase transition

Isospin transport

asyEoS

Dynamical fission

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Clustering

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Dynamical fission

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Ideal homogeneous and infinite system made of protons and neutrons

- Excited nuclei produced in nuclear reactions
- Neutron stars

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Physics	cases			

Ideal homogeneous and infinite system made of protons and neutrons

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Applications

• Explore the phase diagram of nuclear systems



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Ideal homogeneous and infinite system made of protons and neutrons

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Applications

- Explore the phase diagram of nuclear systems
- Study the finite system phase transitions



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Ideal homogeneous and infinite system made of protons and neutrons

- Excited nuclei produced in nuclear reactions
- Neutron stars

Applications

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



Introduction	Physics cases	Apparatuses	Theoretical models	Results
Physics c	ases			

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

$$\frac{E}{A} = \frac{3}{5}\varepsilon_F + \frac{A}{2}\left(\frac{\rho}{\rho_0}\right) + \frac{B}{\sigma+1}\left(\frac{\rho}{\rho_0}\right)^{\sigma}$$
$$\mathcal{A} = -356 \text{ MeV} \qquad \mathcal{B} = 303 \text{ MeV} \qquad \sigma = 7/6$$

Saturation density

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

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asyEoS				

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

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

$E_{ m sym}$ behaviour is known only near ho_0

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asyEoS				



 $E_{
m sym}$ behaviour is known only near ho_0

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Isospin t	ransport			

Isospin diffusion

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



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Isospin t	ransport			

Isospin drift

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







Nuclear reactions

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

- Ultrarelativistic regime
 - 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**



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Pre-equilibrium emission



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

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



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Apparatuses

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Pre-equilibrium emission



• Fusion channel

•
$${}^{40}Ar + {}^{nat}Ag$$

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

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)

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Clustering				

• Pre-equilibrium emission could give information on cluster structure¹

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

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Clustering				

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



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



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Apparatuses for heavy-ion collisions



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Garfield @	LNL			



- Lateral view in section
- Cylindrical symmetry

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Garfield				



- 2 drift chambers (CF₄ gas at 50 mbar) segmented in 24 sectors
- 4 Csl(Tl) scintillator crystals per sector per chamber

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backward



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Ring Counter (RCo)



- Ionization chamber (CF₄ gas at 50 mbar) segm. in 8 sectors
- One Silicon 8-strip pad per sector
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FAZIA @	LNS			

The telescope stages

- 300 μm reverse-mounted Si detector;
- 500 μm reverse-mounted Si detector;
- I0 cm Csl(Tl) 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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The EAT	71A block			





2 telescopes are connected to a FEE card.

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The FAZIA block



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

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The FAZIA block



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

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The FAZL	A block			



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

- FAZIA implements **compact electronics** that permit to do on-line analysis just next the detectors
 - minimization of signal distortion
 - data reduction at the source

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- Possibility to perform precise **time measurements** thanks to block cross-syncronization
 - E vs ToF to identify particles **stopped** in the first Si-layer
 - possibility to measure with low-energy beams

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- Possibility to couple FAZIA with other apparatuses
 - CENTRUM module for hardware coupling
 - NARVAL acquisition compatibility

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- Possibility to couple FAZIA with other apparatuses
 - CENTRUM module for hardware coupling
 - NARVAL acquisition compatibility
- Despite its compact design, energy resolution and quality of isotopic identification (up to $Z\sim25$) of FAZIA block are excellent.

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Reaction	simulation			

Dynamical models

- They simulate the evolution in time of the system
 - inelastic binary collisions (DIC)
 - pre-equilibrium emission

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Reaction	simulation			

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- They simulate the evolution in time of the system
 - inelastic binary collisions (DIC)
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Statistical models

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

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Dynamica	l models			

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 $E_b \sim 20 \text{ MeV/u}$

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

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Statistical	models			

GEMINI++ code

 ${\rm GEMINI}++$ 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



Why ⁸⁸Mo?

- 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. Valdré *et al.*, Phys. Rev. C **93**, 034617 (2016)





proton energy spectra at 300 MeV

 α -particle energy spectra at 300 MeV







proton energy spectra at 450 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




• We measured the reaction ${\rm ^{48}Ti}+{\rm ^{40}Ca}$ at 300, 450 and 600 MeV to study the decay of nuclei of masses in the region $A\sim90$



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- GEMINI++ statistical model code well describes the decay in the evaporative channel at least in GARFIELD ($\theta > 30^{\circ}$)

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Results

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- GEMINI++ statistical model code well describes the decay in the evaporative channel at least in GARFIELD ($\theta > 30^{\circ}$)
- 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.

Results

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Results

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)



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



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

Conclusions on *Csym* experiment

• We **identified and selected** the main reaction channels in the systems $^{32}S+^{40,48}Ca$ and $^{32}S+^{48}Ti$ at 17.7 MeV/u

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- We found shape deformations of LCP energy spectra, clues of **pre-equilibrium emission** in central collisions

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- To improve our knowledge on pre-equilibrium emission, FAZIAPRE experiment is scheduled in the next months

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Conclusions on *Csym* experiment

- We **identified and selected** the main reaction channels in the systems $^{32}S + ^{40,48}Ca$ and $^{32}S + ^{48}Ti$ at 17.7 MeV/u
- We found shape deformations of LCP energy spectra, clues of **pre-equilibrium emission** in central collisions
- 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

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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)

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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

Preliminary results

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

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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 troduction Physics cases Apparatuses Theoretical models **Results**

Clustering and Hoyle State

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

Clustering and Hoyle State

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

The Hoyle state of ¹²C

- 7.65 MeV
- 3α cluster structure

Open debate on sequential or direct decay into 3α

 $\frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{2} C + \frac{1}{2} C \text{ at } 7.92 \text{ MeV/u @ LNL}$



Direct decay contribution estimated around $1.1\,\%$

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





Hoyle state selection with almost zero background



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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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 %

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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Conclusions and open questions

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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Conclusions and open questions

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- Which parametrization of the symmetry energy term of EoS works better?

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Conclusions and open questions

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

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Thanks for your attention and...

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Thanks for your attention and...

happy birthday Prof. Ricci