Phase transition dynamics in hot nuclei and N/Z influence

INDRA Coll.



¹²⁴Xe + ¹¹²Sn, ¹³⁶Xe + ¹²⁴Sn at 32,45 AMeV Quasifusion events from central collisions



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Liquid-gas phase transition in hot nuclei: the situation before the present study

Predicted specific signals of phase transition which are a direct consequence of the local convexity of entropy expected for finite systems have been observed.

 \Rightarrow Negative heat capacity with a microcanonical sampling and related

⇒Backbending for pressure-constrained caloric curves

⇒Bimodal distribution of an order parameter (charge of the heaviest fragment) with a canonical sampling



Liquid-Gas phase transition in nuclei, BB and J.D. Frankland, Prog. Part. Nucl. Phys. 105 (2019) 82



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Liquid-gas phase transition in hot nuclei: the situation before the present study

The answer to a key point was still pending – what is the nature of the dynamics of the transition, i.e. the fragment formation

Two mechanisms proposed which both reproduced fragment size dist.

- ⇒Fragmentation process generated by spinodal instabilities amplified at low density (Stochastic Mean Field approaches)
- =>Many-body correlations which are sufficient to produce fragments at early times (molecular dynamics models: AMD etc...)
- ¹¹²Sn + ¹¹²Sn b=0.5 fm 50 AMeV Density profiles at several times

M. Colonna, A. Ono and J. Rizzo PRC 82 (2010) 054613

What about spinodal instabilities?

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spinodale zone mechanically unstable

negative compressibility

 $\delta P/\delta \rho < 0$ $\rho_c \approx 0.3 - 0.4 \rho_0$

unstable medium density fluctuations exponentially amplified => Fragment formation

This unstable region is reached with central heavy ion collisions at Fermi energies

compression expansion phase
=> trajectory

E. Bonnet et al., PRC 89 (2014) 034608





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spinodal instabilities density fluctuations are exponentially amplified

BLOB: fluct. introduced in full phase space from induced NN collisions

Infinite nuclear matter: most unstable modes correspond to wavelengths lying around $\Lambda = 2\pi/k \approx 8-10$ fm primitive fragments with nearly equal size around Ne ($A \approx \rho \Lambda^3$)

and associated characteristic times around $1/\Gamma_k \approx 30-50$ fm/c

Variational approach to study small fluct. -> multipole expansion of the velocity potential

finite systems (A=200) - quasifusion nuclei : breaking of the translational symmetry due to surface =>growth rates of the most unstable modes are nearly the same for different multipolarities L up to a maximum multipolarity L_{max} =>partitions with nearly equal-sized primitive fragments depending on L (multiplicity)



matter dispersion relation P. Napolitani, M. Colonna PRC 97 2017 054609



Fig. 3. Growth rates of the most unstable modes for a source with A = 200 nucleons with a Fermi shape profile as a function of the multipolarity L at central densities $\rho_0 = 0.060$ fm⁻³ (dashed line) and $\rho_0 = 0.075$ fm⁻³ (solid line). The insert shows the fluid dynamical dispersion relation for infinite matter as a function of the wave number k.

B. Jacquot et al., PLB 383 (1996) 247



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Spinodal region/instabilities with N/Z variation

Self consistent quantum approaches (TDHF+RPA modes) =>more asymmetric systems are less unstable

Sn isotopes: shorter inst. growth times disappear when N/Z changes from 1.4 to 1.64

Inst. regions with L=3



instability growth time dashed lines 100 fm/c dotted lines 50 fm/c M. Colonna et al., PRL 88 (2002) 122701



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Spinodal instabilities - a fossil signature is expected for finite nuclei

For infinite nuclear matter, the most unstable modes present in the spinodale region favor partitions of nearly equal-sized fragments (Z = 8-10) But this simple picture is blurred by several effects

-the beating of different modes

-the coalescence of nascent fragments

For multifragmenting nuclei even more

- surface effects -breaking of the translational symmetry (equal-sized fragments for different multipolarities/ multiplicities)
- the decay of excited fragments (minor effect)
- hot nuclei produced by collisions have to stay long enough in the spinodal region (≈ 3 characteristic time: 100–150 fm/c for N/Z 1–1.4 and 200–300fm/c for larger N/Z)

=>Stochastic mean field simulations of collisions predict less than 1% of extra events with nearly equal-sized fragments (G. Tabacaru et al., EPJA 18 (2003) 103) which means A FOSSIL SIGNATURE OF SPINODAL INST.

Experimentally we indeed observe a Z distribution without any bumps revealing nearly equal-sized fragments.

how to search for a possible very weak « fossil » signature? And if yes can we observe a reduction of the signal with the increase of N/Z as theoretically predicted ?

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Spinodal instabilities - quasifusion events ^{124,136}Xe + ^{112,124}Sn 32,45 AMeV - experimental signature

Very high statistics experiment (6-8 10⁷ events with $M \ge 4$) Quasi complete events $\ge 80\% Z_{syst}$ Central collisions - quasifusion -shape event sorting (kinetic energy flow tensor for Z>4) -32 AMeV 40mb (250mb) - 45 AMeV 25mb (180mb) (det.efficiency + selec.) $\langle Z \rangle = \frac{1}{14} \Sigma$

Intra-event charge correlations

very high sensitivity method down to levels of 0.002-0.003% events





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Intra-event charge correlations - uncorrelated yield Exact multinomial formula (P. Désesquelles PRC 65 (2002) 034604)

 ⇒ independent emission model with total charge conservation constraint mandatory to not distort CF values for weak signals
 Partition constrained conditional probabilities P_{cc}(N) N : partition
 ^{intr}P_z(z) : intrinsic probability of charge z

$$P_{cc}(N) = \alpha (\Sigma n_z)! \Pi^{intr} P_z(z)^{nz} \delta_{ztot} \Sigma zn_z$$

 n_z : number of fragments with charge z

a : normalisation factor $\Sigma P_{cc}(N) = 1$

^{intr}P_z(z) evaluated by inversion of the equ. by means of a recursive procedure of minimisation which stops when 10⁻¹² between 2 steps is reached



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Intra-event charge correlations – quasifusion nuclei partitions with nearly equal-sized frag. depending on M observed => we can built CFs for all events whatever their multiplicity by replacing <Z> by M × <Z> uncorrelated yields constructed and weighted in proportion to events of each M ¹²⁴Xe + ¹¹²Sn 32 AMeV – M= 3-6 => CF signals ≈ 1.6 – 1.3



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significant peaks for 2 < \sigma_z < 1
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broadening comes from deexcitation of primary fragments with around 3 AMeV excitation energy which generates an extra σ_z value of around one Z unit



BB et al. (INDRA Coll.), PLB 782 (2018) 291



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Summary – figures with M x <Z> – bin 6 and σ_z – bin 2 CF values 1.5 to 1.08 – conf. level CFs 2.08 to 7.29 σ



Phase transition dynamics in hot nuclei and N/Z influence Conclusions

To search for a possible very weak « fossil » signature? With a confidence level of 6-70 one can say that phase transition dynamics of hot nuclei is produced by spinodal instabilities (32 AMeV).

The signature is a fossil signature and concerns only 0.068 – 0.064% of events at most

The finite size effects concerning the extra production of partitions with nearly equal-sized frag. and corresponding to different multipolarities are carefully observed on the four systems studied

Can we observe a reduction of the signal with the increase of N/Z?

Inc. Energy (AMeV)	32	45
M × <z></z>	60-72	54-66
N/Z = 1.27	0.068(0.004)% - <mark>336 evts</mark>	0.025(0.003)% - 77 evts
total number of events	494445	307161
N/Z= 1.50	0.064(0.004)% - <mark>217 evts</mark>	0.0065(0.0017)% - <mark>15 evts</mark>
total number of events	335709	229835

At 45 AMeV a large reduction with the increase of N/Z is observed consistent qualitatively with the increase of the instability growth time and the reduction of the reaction time



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sensitivity of the intrinsic probability method

Monte Carlo simulation - events >= 80% of Zsystem=104 - fragments Z>4 charged reaction products produced according to P(Z) prop.to exp(-0.1Z)

300000 events => CF values in the range 0.95-1.05 for low σ_z (<2)





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fossil signature with confidence level of 2-3 σ (previous experiments) (QF ¹²⁹Xe+^{nat}Sn 32-50 AMeV) spurious peaks at low σ_7 are present (low statistics)

Variation of the incident energy from 32 to 50 AMeV and quantitative comparison with predictions of BOB (open point).





B.B. et al. PRL 86 (2001) 3252



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Intra-event charge correlation - uncorrelated yield Exact multinomial formula (P. Désesquelles PRC 65 (2002) 034604)

=> independent emission model with total charge conservation constraint Partition constrained conditional probabilities $P_{cc}(N)$ N : partition $^{intr}P_{z}(z)$: intrinsic probability of charge z

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^{intr}P_z(z) evaluated by inversion of the equ. by means of a recursive procedure of minimisation which stops when 10⁻¹² between 2 steps is reached $^{124}Xe + ^{112}Sn 32 AMeV M=4$





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Intra-event charge correlations $^{124}Xe + ^{112}Sn 32 AMeV - M = 3-6$



Spinodal instabilities: introduction of isospin

A unique spinodal region in asymmetric nuclear matter Only one type of instability (no chemical inst.) Order parameter dominated by the isoscalar density => liquid-gas type transition



FIG. 4. This is the projection of the iso-eigenvalues on the density plane for Slya (left) and D1P (right). The arrows indicate the direction of instability. The mechanical instability is also indicated (dotted line).

contours of equal imaginary sound velocity i0.09c to i0.03c J. Margueron et al., PRC 67 (2003) 041602(R)



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Finite syst. and first order phase transition convexity of entropy

