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Joint ICTP-IAEA Workshop on Nuclear Structure Decay Data: Theory and Evaluation

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Experimental Nuclear Physics

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Experimental Nuclear Physics: Part I

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a passion for discovery



• How to make nuclei

How to observe their decay



History: 100 years and counting

- 1896-1898 The beginning:- Becquerel and Curie make first discovery of radioactivity
- 1910-1938 Discovery Era:- Nuclear size, Neutron, Isotopes, Masses, Binding Energy
- 1939-1945 Fission Era:- Fission....and activity leading to bombs & nuclear power
- **1946-1970** Light Ion Era:- Near Stability, Shell and Collective Models.
- 1971-2001 Heavy Ion Era:- Far from Stability, Shapes, Hot, High Spin, Very Heavy.
- 2002-20?? RIB Era:- Neutron Rich "Terra Incognita"



The Scope of Nuclear Structure Physics

The Four Frontiers

- 1. Proton Rich Nuclei
- 2. Neutron Rich Nuclei
- 3. Heaviest Nuclei
- 4. Evolution of structure within these boundaries



Terra incognita — huge gene pool of new nuclei

We can customize our system – fabricate "designer" nuclei to *isolate and amplify* specific physics or interactions







The Theoretical Landscape

Experiment and Theory are NOT separate sciences!!!!!



Sizes and forces (very basic)

How big is a nucleus ??



Sizes and forces (very basic)



From electron scattering we know nuclear density is independent of A

Choosing the right probe



Energy of probe related to size of probee and production device

What's as big as a nucleus??

Another nucleus !!





Schematic view of nuclear reactions







Heavy-ion Fusion Evaporation Reactions

The appeal of near barrier heavy ions

The heavy ion era (1970 ~ ????) opened up the proton-rich nuclei landscape for exploration, from stability to beyond the proton drip line.

It also opened the cornucopia of High Spin Phenomena

And the path to very heavy nuclei.

Taming Heavy ion fusion and turning it into a spectroscopy tool took two decades.



 $^{40}Ca + ^{96}Ru \rightarrow ^{136}Gd^*$



A nice tool for planning experiments ...



- Designed for fragmentation reactions
- Lots of good basic calculators

http://lise.nscl.msu.edu/lise.html









Calculating the reaction yield

of reactions/sec = $N_{beam}N_{target}\sigma$

Typical beam current ~ 1-100 enA

N_{beam} = 10x10⁻⁹ / 1.6x10⁻¹⁹ 10¹⁰ particles/sec

 $N_{target} = [N_A/A]^{*}$ thickness

Typical target thickness ~ 0.1 – 10 mg/cm²

 $N_{target} = [6x10^{23}/100]*1x10^{-3}$ $fx10^{18}$ particles/cm²

Looks like we are winning ...



Calculating the reaction yield

of reactions/sec = $N_{beam}N_{target}\sigma$ $N_{beam} = 10x10^{-9}/1.6x10^{-19}$ 10¹⁰ particles/sec $N_{target} = [6x10^{23}/100]*1x10^{-3}$ 6x10¹⁸ particles/cm²

Cross section: remember the size of a nucleus



Probability of "hitting" the nucleus ~ πR^2 1 barn (b) = 10⁻²⁴ cm²

Typical fusion cross sections are in the mb's # of reactions/sec = $10^{10} \times 6 \times 10^{18} \times 100 \times 10^{-27}$ # of reactions/sec = 6000



Decay of the Compound Nucleus

Heavy beam:

- Need high energy
- Brings in high
 angular momentum

Light beam:

- Can use lower E
- Brings in less angular momentum



Angular momentum



Gamma-Ray Emission



$$E_{\gamma} = E_i - E_f$$
$$\left|I_i - I_f\right| \le L \le I_i + I_f$$
$$\Delta \pi (EL) = (-1)^L$$
$$\Delta \pi (ML) = (-1)^{L+1}$$

Possible decay modes:

- β decay
- p,n emission
- α emission
- Internal conversion
- Fission
- γ-ray emission

Gamma-ray emission is usually the dominant decay mode

- Energy
- Spin, Parity
- Magnetic, quadrupole moment
- Lifetime

...







Gamma rays tell you something about shape



Partial Level Scheme of ¹⁵²Dy

... as an example of the richness of γ -ray spectroscopic information







Radiation Detectors

- Almost all work on the same general idea
- When an energetic charged particle passes through matter it will rapidly slow down and lose its energy by interacting with the atoms of the material (detector or body)

•Mainly with the atomic electrons

- It will 'kick' these electrons off of the atoms leaving a trail of ionized atoms behind it (like a vapor trail of a jet plane)
- Radiation detectors use a high voltage and some electronics to measure these vapor trails. They measure a (small) electric current).
- The larger the energy the deposited, the larger the signal measured



Gamma-ray interactions with matter



Photo effect – photoelectron is ejected carrying the total γ-ray energy



Compton Scattering – Elastic scattering of γ ray off an electron. A fraction of the γ ray energy is transferred to the electron



Pair production – In the Coulomb _field of the nucleus, a positronelectron pair can be formed. The pair has γ-ray energy minus $2m_ec^2$

Gamma-ray interactions with matter





The "best" gamma-ray detector

0.0 0.2 0.4

HPGe detector



Clover detector





Compton Suppression



Compton Suppressed Arrays

For the last ~ 15 - 20 years, large arrays of Compton-suppressed Ge detectors such as EuroBall, JUROBALL, GASP, EXOGAM, TIGRESS, INGA, Gammasphere and others have been the tools of choice for nuclear spectroscopy.



γ - γ coincidence: a must in constructing a level scheme





<u>Channel Selection for gamma-ray spectroscopy:</u> <u>Finding a needle in a haystack</u>

Detection of Light Charged Particles (a,p,n)

PLUS Efficient, flexible, powerful....inexpensive.

MINUS Countrate limited, Contaminant (Carbon etc, isotopic impurities) makes absolute identification of new nuclei difficult.

CROSS SECTION LOWER LIMIT ~100µb th

that is, $\sim 10^{-4}$

Detection of Residues in Vacuum Mass Separator

PLUS True M/q, even true M measurement. With suitable focal plane detector can be ULTRA sensitive. Suppresses contaminants.

MINUS Low Efficiency

CROSS SECTION LOWER LIMIT ~100nb

that is $\sim 10^{-7}$

Detection of Residues in Gas Filled Separator

Improves efficiency of vacuum separators, at cost of mass information and cleanliness. In some cases (heavy nuclei) focal plane counters clean up the data for good sensitivity.

Microball charged particle detector





95 CsI(TI) detectors Nearly 4π coverage



Microball charged particle detector





Works on basic principle of charged particle moving in magnetic or electric field



Very useful in heavy mass region (and superheavies) where fission dominates the cross section



Types of Separators

Gas-Filled Separators

- RITU Jyvaaskylaa
- BGS Berkeley
- GFRS Dubna
- GARIS RIKEN
- TASCA GSI



⁵⁸Ni +⁶⁰Ni @ 220 MeV M/ Δ M = 450

Horizontal Distance

Vacuum Separators

- FMA Argonne
- RMS Oak Ridge





Prompt y-rays correlated with M/Q and (X, Y) position of recoil in DSSD



The heart of the technique

Double sided Si strip detector (DSSD)



Strips : 40x40 = 1600 pixels

Records

- Implant, E and t
- Decay, E and t



γ -ray spectroscopy of the odd-odd N = Z + 2 deformed proton emitter ¹¹²Cs

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RDT Instrumentation at JYFL



In-beam spectroscopy with intense ion beams: Evidence for a rotational structure in ²⁴⁶Fm

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The future





Production of Rare Isotopes in Flight E > 50 MeV/nucleon

1. Accelerate heavy ion beam to high energy and pass through a thin target to achieve random removal of protons and neutrons in flight



Example : In-Flight Production at NSCL



FIONAL LABORA'

Particle identification

Separation with the fragment separator





Radioactive Ion Beam Facilities Worldwide



Lots of new, exciting data on the horizon !!

