Accelerator-based nuclear physics research at IUAC

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Plan of the talk

- About IUAC
- Accelerators at IUAC
- Nuclear physics facilities
- A few selected results
- Collaborative works

Major particle accelerator laboratories in India



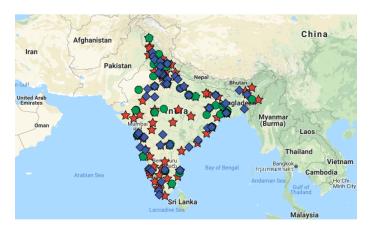
IUAC: The first inter-university centre



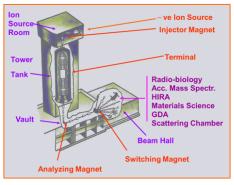
- Established by the UGC in October, 1984
- Earlier known as the **Nuclear Science Centre** (NSC)
- Became a national user facility on July 8, 1991
- Primary mandate is to cater to the <u>Indian universities</u>

User footprints

 Provide front-ranking accelerator-based research facilities within the university system



Accelerator: 15UD Pelletron

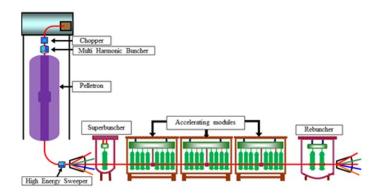




- All ion species (except inert elements)
- DC or pulsed (with TWD) operation
- ullet Excellent terminal stability, $\Delta E \simeq 200 \ \text{keV}$

Nucl. Instrum. Methods A 268, 334 (1988)

Accelerator: Superconducting linac



- Consists of niobium quarter wave resonators
- Operating frequency 97 MHz
- Operating accelerating field 4 MV/m

Phys. Rev. ST Accel. Beams 12, 040101 (2009)

Small accelerators



1.7 MV RBS facility



500 kV XCAMS facility



ECR-based positive ion facility

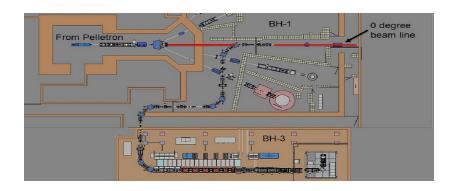


MC-SNICS-based negative ion facility



Table-top accelerator

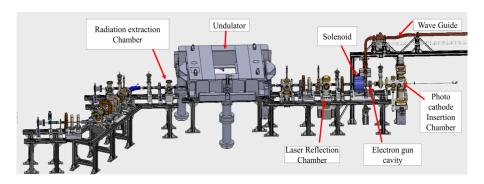
High current injector



- Substantial increase in beam current due to higher charge states
- Many new beam species to boost nuclear physics research

http://www.iuac.res.in/en/accelerators

Delhi Light Source



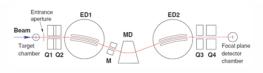
 A compact accelerator-based light source to produce THz radiation based on the principle of Free Electron Laser is currently being commissioned.

Nucl. Instrum. Methods B 402, 358 (2017) Proc. IPAC'21 (Campinas, Brazil, 24–28 May 2021) 1633 (2021)

Research programmes at IUAC

- Nuclear physics
- Materials science
- Atomic and molecular physics
- Accelerator mass spectrometry and geochronology
- Radiation biology
- Nuclear instrumentation
- Computational physics
- . . .

Heavy Ion Reaction Analyzer (HIRA)





Heavy Ion Reaction Analyzer (HIRA)

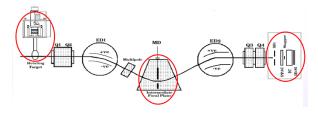
- A combination of EDs and MD allows energy/velocity dispersion matching
- m/q dispersion at the focal plane
- Triple focus at the focal plane

$$(x,\theta)=(y,\phi)=(x,\delta_E)=0$$

- Suitable for complete fusion measurements
- Capable of QEL (transfer) measurements
- Had been used for secondary beam (⁷Be) production
 - A. K. Sinha et al., Nucl. Instrum. Methods A 339, 543 (1994) J. J. Das it et al., Nucl. Instrum. Methods B 241, 953 (2005)
 - S. Nath, Nucl. Instrum. Methods A 576, 403 (2007)



Radioactive ion beam facility



- Production reaction: p(⁷Li, ⁷Be)n
- In-flight separation of ⁷Be by HIRA (with new optics and add-ons)
- Primary beam from 15UD Pelletron of IUAC
- Energy of ⁷Be: 15-22 MeV (limited by HIRA deflectors)
- ullet Intensity $\sim 10^4$ pps; purity > 99%; Beam spot \sim 4 mm diameter
- Angular divergence: ±30 mrad
- Energy spread: ±500 keV

Nucl. Instrum. Methods B 241, 953 (2005)



RIB: Recent optimization for lower energies

Optimization of low-energy ⁷Be beam production in inverse kinematics using a recoil mass spectrometer

S. Nath¹,* J. Gehlot¹, Rishabh Kumar¹, Gonika¹, Chandra Kumar¹, Alankar Singh¹, Phurba Sherpa², N. Saneesh¹, T. Varughese¹, V. V. V. Satyanarayana¹, Rasna Baruah³, Bhargab Boruah³, Monuj Gogoi³, Amritpal Singh⁴, Ritankar Mitra⁵, Niloy Ghosh⁵, and S. Verma²

¹Nuclear Physics Group, Inter-University Accelerator Centre, New Delhi 110067, India

²Dept. of Physics & Astrophysics, University of Delhi, Delhi 110006, India

³Department of Physics, Cotton University, Panbazar, Guwahati 781001, India

⁴Dept. of Physical Sciences, I. K. Gujral Punjab Technical University, Kapurthala 144603, India and

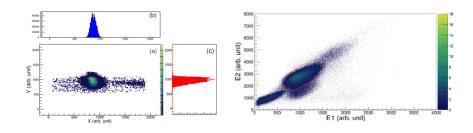
⁵Department of Physical Sciences, Bose Institute, Bidhannagar, Kolkata 700091, India

- Principal branch: $E_{lab} = 15$, 19 and 23 MeV
- Principal branch: Intensities in the range of 3 6 kHz
- Satellite branch: $E_{\mathsf{lab}} = 5$, 10 and 15.5 MeV
- Satellite branch: Intensities in the range of 1 3 kHz

DAE Symp. 2025 (accepted for oral presentation)



RIB: Beam spot size and purity

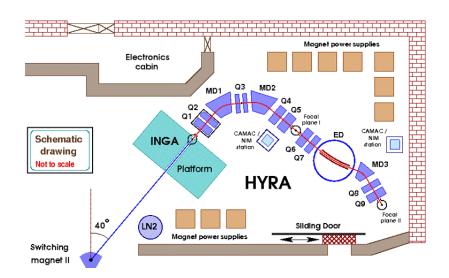


- DC beam of ⁷Li (3 8 pnA) from the 15UD Pelletron
- E_{lab} (⁷Li) range of 14 28 MeV
- ullet 20 μm thick polypropylene foil (as the proton target)
- ullet Size \simeq 4 mm (FWHM) in x, \simeq 6 mm (FWHM) in y
- Purity between 96 99%

DAE Symp. 2025 (accepted for oral presentation)



HYbrid Recoil mass Analyzer (HYRA)



HYRA: Gas-filled mode



- Magnetic field region filled with dilute helium
- Excellent beam rejection
- Higher efficiency due to charge state and velocity focusing
- Fusion dynamics studies in A > 200 nuclei

Pramana - J. Phys. 75, 317 (2010)

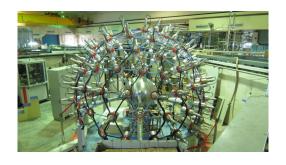
General purpose scattering chamber





- Installed at the 45° beam line in Beam Hall I
- Rotating arms for mounting detectors
- Equipped with a pair of multi-wire proportional counters
- In-vacuum target transfer system

National Array of Neutron Detectors (NAND)



- Started as a national collaboration between institutes and universities
- \bullet Array of 100 liquid scintillators of 5" \times 5", commissioned in 2016
- Flight path of 1.75 m for TOF set up; thin-walled spherical chamber
- Provision to use light charged particle and fission detectors

Talk by **N. Saneesh**

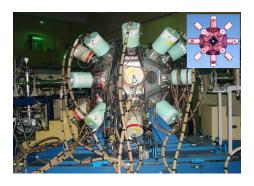


Gamma Detector Array (GDA)



- A modest array of 12 Compton-suppressed HPGe detectors
- Precursor to the Indian National Gamma Array (INGA)

Indian National Gamma Array (INGA)

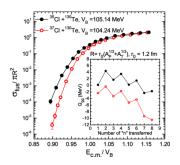


- An array of Compton-supressed Clover detectors
- Maximum 24 Clovers can be accommodated in the array
- ullet Total photopeak efficiency of INGA $\sim 5\%$
- ullet Optimized for γ - γ - γ and higher fold data
- Can be coupled with auxiliary detectors and add-ons

Results

A few selected results

Role of PQNT channels in fusion: Open questions

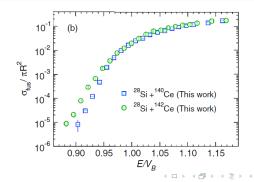


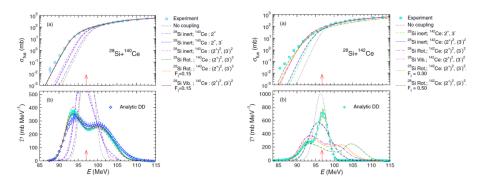
Phys. Rev. C 102, 024615 (2020)

- Do PQNT channels always lead to fusion enhancement?
- Does enhancement depend on magnitude of transfer Q-values?
- Do PQNT channels beyond 4*n* transfer play a role?
- What is the role of deformation in intermediate partition?
- What is the relative importance of deformation and PQNT?
- How does PQNT effect play out in presence of shell closure?

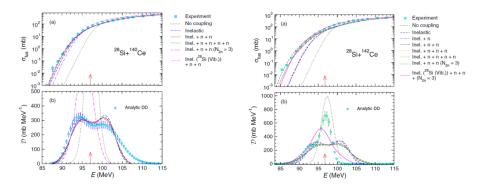
TABLE I. The ground-state (g.s.) to g.s. Q-values for neutron pickup channels for 28 Si + 140,142 Ce.

	Q value (MeV)								
Systems	+1n	+2n	+3n	+4n	+5n	+6n			
$^{28}\text{Si} + ^{140}\text{Ce}$	-0.72	+2.43	-0.70	+1.01	-4.43	-4.78			
$^{28}\text{Si} + ^{142}\text{Ce}$	+1.30	+6.483	+3.871	+5.623	+0.40	+0.439			





Comparison of data with microscopic coupled-channels calculations.



Comparison of data with empirical coupled-channels calculations.

PHYSICAL REVIEW C 111, 034621 (2025)

Probing the influence of weak channels on fusion dynamics in ²⁸Si + ^{140,142}Ce

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Chandra Kumar O. Gonika O. J. Gehlot. Phurba Sherpa O. A. Parihari O. K. Kundalia O. Ashna B. Amar Das O. Rajesh K. Sahoo O. Rayese Ahmad Yatoo O. M. Md. Moin Shaikh, Sunil Kalkal, N. Madhavan, Jand S. Nath O. Rajesh K. Sahoo O. Rajesh K. Sa
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- A much stronger influence of neutron transfer channels is inferred in ²⁸Si+¹⁴²Ce compared to ²⁸Si+¹⁴⁰Ce.
- Mismatch between experimental results and theoretical predictions in case of ²⁸Si+¹⁴²Ce points to the limitations of existing coupled-channels approaches to interpret the influence of neutron transfer channels on fusion dynamics comprehensively.

Deep sub-barrier fusion hindrance

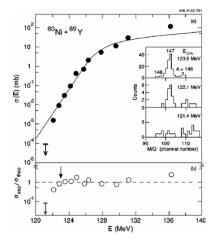
Deep Sub-barrier Fusion hindrance

Theoretical approaches:

- Sudden model
- Adiabatic model
- Quantum decoherence
- Pauli principle
- o ..

The debate continues.

C. L. Jiang et al., Eur. Phys. J. A **57**, 235 (2021) B. B. Back et al., Rev. Mod. Phys. **86**, 317 (2014)



C. L. Jiang et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. **89**, 052701 (2002)

Experimental challenges

Online

Direct detection of ERs by recoil separators
Direct and elegant method
Focal plane detector at background-free region
Demands higher recoil energies for efficient detection

Offline

Off-beam characteristic γ -ray counting

A. Shrivastava et al., Phys. Lett. B **755**, 332 (2016).

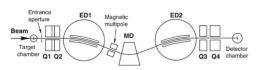
 IOP Publishing
 Journal of Physics G: Nuclear and Particle Physics

 J. Phys. G: Nucl. Part. Phys. 45 (2018) 095103 (11pp)
 https://doi.org/10.1088/1361-6471/aad5c7

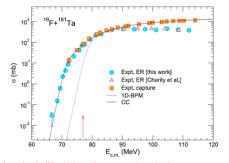
Investigation of fusion hindrance in a soft asymmetric system deep below the barrier

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Md Moin Shaikh<sup>1,8</sup>, S Nath<sup>1</sup>, J Gehlot<sup>1</sup>,
Tathagata Banerjee<sup>1,9</sup>, Ish Mukul<sup>1,10</sup>, R Dubey<sup>1,11</sup>,
A Shamlath<sup>2</sup>, P V Laveen<sup>2</sup>, M Sharee<sup>2</sup>, A Jhingan<sup>1</sup>,
N Madhavan<sup>1</sup>, Tapan Rajbongshi<sup>3,12</sup>, P Jisha<sup>4</sup>,
G Naga Jyothi<sup>5</sup>, A Tejaswi<sup>5</sup>, Rudra N Sahoo<sup>6</sup> and Anjali Rani<sup>7</sup>
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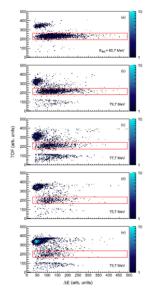
Fusion measurement in F+Ta system



A. K. Sinha et al., Nucl. Instrum. Methods A **339**, 543 (1994)



Md. Moin Shaikh et al., J. Phys. G: Nucl. Part. Phys. 45, 095103 (2018)



Fusion measurement in F+Ta system

Systematics for asymmetric systems

System	$Z_p Z_t$	ζ	$V_{\rm B}$ (MeV)	E _s (MeV)	E_{\min} (MeV)	Q _{CN} (MeV)	Q_n (MeV)	Q_{2n} (MeV)	Q_p (MeV)	Q_{2p} (MeV)	Q _{2H} (MeV)	Q ₃ _H (MeV)	Q _{3He} (MeV)	Q4He (MeV)
¹⁹ F+ ¹⁸¹ Ta	657	2724	77.9	69.4	66.7	-23.67	-0.98	0.48	6.90	1.32	6.27	10.53	5.59	11.99
$^{16}O+^{208}Pb$	656	2529	77.0	66.1	68.7	-46.48	-3.22	-1.92	-7.40	-10.86	-5.11	-1.18	-5.95	5.25
$^{16}O + ^{204}Pb$	656	2527	77.3	66.0	68.7	-44.52	-4.25	-3.12	-6.04	-7.82	-4.74	-1.18	-3.94	6.70
$^{12}C + ^{198}Pt$	468	1574	56.0	48.2	47.0	-13.95	-2.61	-0.28	-6.99	-9.63	-3.33	1.69	-3.25	7.27
11B+197Au	395	1275	47.4	41.9	37.9	5.00	-4.70	-6.47	10.17	3.87	7.20	9.27	7.20	11.96
$^{7}\text{Li} + ^{198}\text{Pt}$	234	608	28.5	25.6	19.3	8.82	-5.52	-7.31	8.33	0.86	3.09	4.09	2.46	8.77
$^{6}\text{Li} + ^{198}\text{Pt}$	234	565	28.9	24.3	19.6	8.53	-0.30	-4.12	-3.32	-10.46	8.68	4.53	1.28	4.57

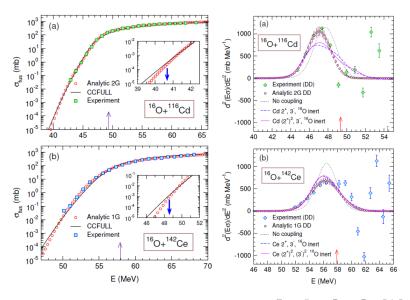
α -particle break-up threshold

⁶Li: 1.474 MeV
⁷Li: 2.468 MeV
¹⁹F: 4.013 MeV
No hindrance observed

¹¹B: 8.665 MeV
¹²C: 7.366 MeV
¹⁶O: 7.162 MeV
Hindrance observed

Systems showing no hindrance: more particle transfer channels with +ve Q-values

Fusion measurement in O+Cd,Ce systems



Fusion measurement in O+Cd,Ce systems

TABLE V. Comparison between experimentally determined threshold energy (E_s) and logarithmic slope at the threshold energy (L_s) with their empirical counterparts $E_s^{\rm emp}$ and $L_s^{\rm emp}$, which are functions of the ζ -parameter, for asymmetric and symmetric systems with similar values of ζ .

System	7	$E_{ m s}$	$E_{\rm s}^{ m emp}$	$E_{\mathrm{s}}^{4\sigma}$	$L_{\mathbf{s}}$	$L_{ m s}^{ m emp}$
-	5	(MeV)	(MeV)	(MeV)	(MeV^{-1})	(MeV^{-1})
$^{16}\mathrm{O} + ^{116}\mathrm{Cd}$	1440	41.34	40.85	40.29	2.68	2.73
$^{32}S + ^{48}Ca$	1402	32.55	40.03		3.74	2.74
$^{36}S + ^{48}Ca$					3.23	2.73
$^{16}O + ^{142}Ce$	1760	48.89	47.41	48.67	2.55	2.66
²⁸ Si+ ⁶⁴ Ni	1730	45.60	46.97		2.78	2.66
$^{40}\mathrm{Ca} + ^{40}\mathrm{Ca}$	1789	49.03	48.16		2.58	2.65

- Fusion hindrance is inferred by extrapolation in both the systems.
- ullet The Gaussian analytic recipe for ${\cal D}$ can be used for determining the threshold energy for fusion hindrance.
- Fusion hindrance is a generic feature of all systems, independent of entrance channel mass asymmetry.

R. Biswas et al. (under review)



Stabilizing effect of Z = 82 shell closure

PHYSICAL REVIEW C 99, 061601(R) (2019)

Rapid Communications

Search for stabilizing effects of the Z = 82 shell closure against fission

J. Gehlot, ¹ S. Nath, ^{1,*} Tathagata Banerjee, ^{1,†} Ish Mukul, ^{1,‡} R. Dubey, ^{1,§} A. Shamlath, ² P. V. Laveen, ² M. Shareef, ² Md. Moin Shaikh, ^{1,‡} A. Jhingan, ¹ N. Madhavan, ¹ Tapan Rajbongshi, ^{3,‡} P. Jisha, ⁴ and Santanu Pal^{1,‡}

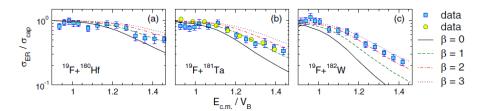
¹Nuclear Physics Group, Inter-University Accelerator Centre, Aruna Asaf Ali Marg, Post Box 10502, New Delhi 110067, India
²Department of Physics, School of Mathematical and Physical Sciences, Central University of Kenda, Kasaragod 671314, India
³Department of Physics, Gauhati University, Giwahati 781014, India

⁴Department of Physics, University of Calicut, Calicut 673635, India

TABLE I. Details of the nuclear reactions studied in this Rapid Communication, β_2 , V_B , Q_{CN} , χ_{CN} , and η_{BG} are the quadrupole deformation, the Coulomb barrier, Q value of the reaction, CN fissility, and the Businaro-Gallone critical mass asymmetry, respectively. Z_pZ_t and $\eta = \frac{|k_p-k_t|}{(k_p+k_t)}$ are entrance channel charge product and mass asymmetry, respectively. Here $Z_p(Z_t)$ and $A_p(A_t)$ respectively denote atomic number and mass number of projectile (target).

System	β_2 (target)	$V_{\rm B}$ (MeV)	Z_pZ_t	η	CN	Q_{CN} (MeV)	XCN	$\eta_{ m BG}$
$^{19}_{9}F_{10} + ^{180}_{72}Hf_{108}$	0.274	76.8	648	0.809	199Tl ₁₁₈	-23.210	0.691	0.831
${}^{19}_{9}F_{10} + {}^{181}_{73}Ta_{108}$	0.269	77.9	657	0.810	$^{200}_{82}Pb_{118}$	-23.678	0.701	0.838
${}^{19}_{9}\mathrm{F}_{10} + {}^{182}_{74}\mathrm{W}_{108}$	0.259	79.0	666	0.811	$^{201}_{83}\mathrm{Bi}_{118}$	-28.314	0.712	0.844

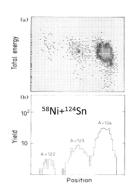
Stabilizing effect of Z = 82 shell closure



- ullet No abrupt enhancement of ER cross sections observed with Z=82
- Enhanced stabilizing effects of Z=82 shell against fission not found experimentally.
- This is in contrast with the role of shell closure in the SHE region.

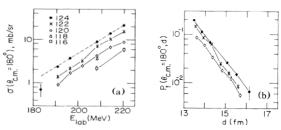
Detection of target-like events in a recoil separator

- Experiment was performed in RMS at Daresbury Laboratory Nuclear Structure Facility.
- Aim was to study sub-barrier transfer reactions on ⁵⁸Ni + ^ASn using an RMS.



The differential cross-sections and absolute cross-sections are calculated with the *assumption* that yields of

Elastic + Inelastic + Transfer = Rutherford

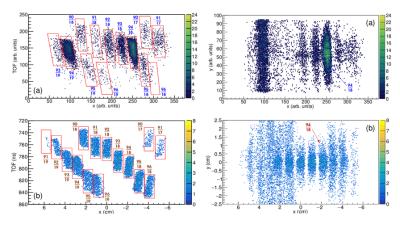


Differential cross-section for 1n pickup channel

- R. R. Betts et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 59, 978 (1987) C. N. Pass et al., Nucl. Phys. A 499, 173 (1989)
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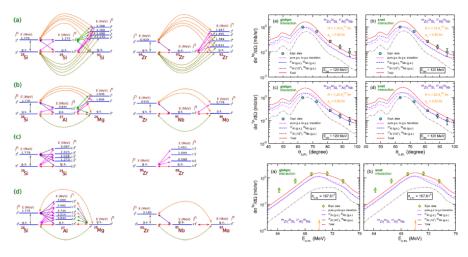
Measurement of MNT channels in HIRA

 \bullet Focal plane spectra for $^{28}\text{Si}+^{94}\text{Zr};~E_{\text{lab}}=94$ MeV, HIRA $@6^o$



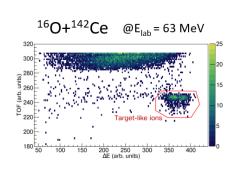
S. Kalkal et al., Phys. Rev. C 83, 054607 (2011) Rohan Biswas et al., Eur. Phys. J A 56, 1 (2020) Rohan Biswas et al., Eur. Phys. J A 57, 9 (2021)

CRC results for Si+Zr system

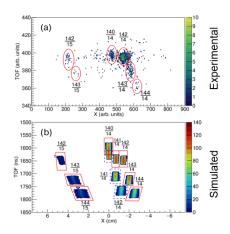


Chandra Kumar et al., Eur. Phys. J. A 59, 277 (2023)

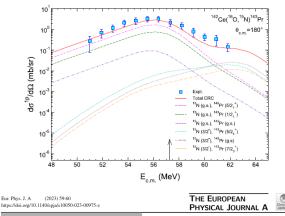
Proton stripping in O+Ce system



$$\left(\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}\right)_{180^{\circ}}^{\text{1p(2p)}} = \frac{Y_{143(144)}}{Y_{\text{norm}}^{\text{Ruth}}} \frac{\Omega_{\text{norm}}}{\Omega_{\text{HIRA}}^{\text{eff}}} \frac{1}{\epsilon_{\text{HIRA}}} \left(\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}\right)_{\theta_{\text{norm}}}^{\text{Ruth}}$$



CRC results for O+Ce system



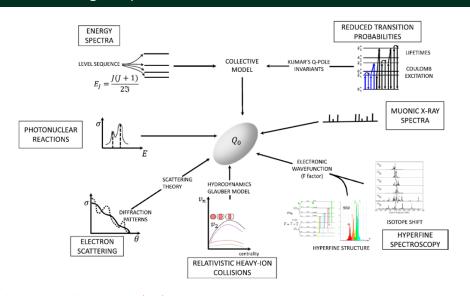
Regular Article - Experimental Physics

Determination of 1p- and 2p-stripping excitation functions for $^{16}O+^{142}Ce$ using a recoil mass spectrometer

Rohan Biswas^{1,8}, S. Nath^{1,a}, J. Gehlot¹, Gonika¹, Chandra Kumar¹, A. Parihari², N. Madhavan¹, A. Vinayak³, Amritraj Mahato⁴, Shoaib Noor⁵, Phurba Sherpa², Kazuyuki Sekizawa^{6,7,5}

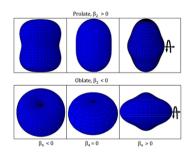


Determining shapes of nuclei



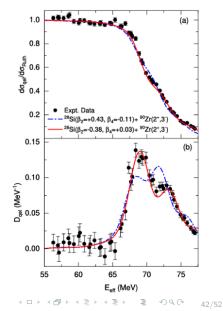
David Verney, Eur. Phys. J. A 61, 82 (2025)

Deformation extracted from QEL scattering



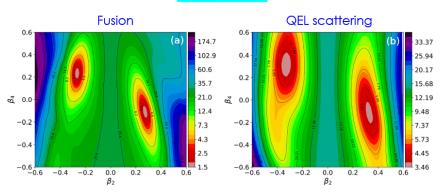
- √ ²⁸Si is determined to be an oblate-shaped
- \checkmark $\beta_2 = -0.38 \pm 0.01$ and $\beta_4 = +0.03 \pm 0.01$
- ✓ Good agreement with results from electromagnetic probes and SHF theory
- ✓ Potential route to investigate the g.s. structure of exotic nuclei using RIBs

Y. K. Gupta et al., Phys. Lett. B 845, 138120 (2023)



χ^2 -distribution for β_2 and β_4 of ²⁸Si

²⁸Si+¹⁴⁴Sm

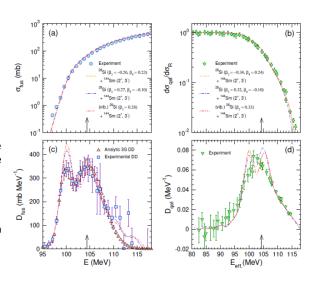


- $\checkmark \chi^2$ -minimization performed with respect to the barrier distribution
- ✓ Both data sets reveal two minima (prolate and oblate)

Coupled-channels results for Si+Sm system

²⁸Si+¹⁴⁴Sm

- ✓ CC calculations reproduce both fusion and quasielastic data quite well
- Barrier distributions are more sensitive to subtle changes in couplings
- ✓ Fusion appears to be a superior avenue to extract g.s. deformation parameters



Summary of the results for ²⁸Si

	Collectivity of ²⁸ Si	β_2	β_4	$\frac{\chi^2(\beta_2,\beta_4)}{\chi^2(\beta_2)}$
Fusion	Oblate Prolate Vibrational	$\begin{array}{c} -0.26^{+0.03}_{-0.03} \\ 0.27^{+0.03}_{-0.04} \\ 0.28^{+0.06}_{-0.06} \end{array}$	$+0.23^{+0.09}_{-0.10} \\ -0.11^{+0.11}_{-0.11}$	1.5162 1.5052 1.9091
Quasi- elastic	Oblate Prolate Vibrational	$\begin{array}{c} -0.34^{+0.08}_{-0.07} \\ 0.32^{+0.07}_{-0.07} \\ 0.33^{+0.06}_{-0.07} \end{array}$	$^{+0.24^{+0.21}_{-0.35}}_{-0.10^{+0.27}_{-0.25}}$	3.6070 3.5779 3.6864





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Letter

On extraction of ground state deformation parameters from quasielastic and fusion excitation functions

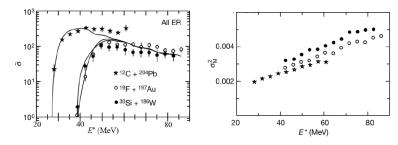


Chandra Kumar, S. Nath O.*

Nuclear Physics Group, Inter-University Accelerator Centre, Aruna Asaf Ali Marg, New Delhi 110067, India



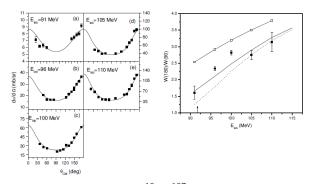
Fusion inhibition in less fissile system



- ullet Reactions induced by lighter projectiles ($A_p \leq 20$) assumed to exclusively lead to CN formation
- ullet An asymmetric system ($^{19} ext{F}+^{197} ext{Au}$) revealed presence of quasifission
- Different outcomes linked to initial mass asymmetry

A. C. Berriman et al., Nature (London) 413, 144 (2001)

No clear signature of quasifission in F+Au system



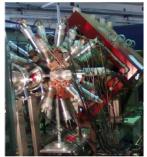
- ullet Fission fragment angular distribution in $^{19}{\rm F}+^{197}{\rm Au}$ could be explained within the statistical saddle point model (SSPM)
- No clear signature of quasifission was found

R. Tripathi et al., Phys. Rev. C 71, 044616 (2005)



A collaborative experiment

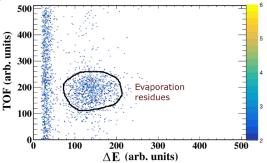






Details of experiment

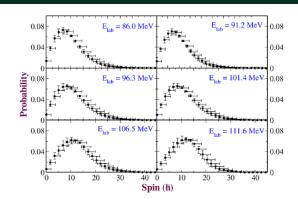
- HYbrid Recoil mass Analyzer (in gas-filled mode)
- TIFR 4π spin spectrometer (29 NaI detectors)
- Beam: ¹⁹F (pulsed)
- Target: 197 Au (250 $\mu g/cm^2$)
- E_{lab}: 86 − 112 MeV



R. Tripathi et al., Phys. Rev. C 71, 044616 (2005)



Measured angular momentum distribution



Generalized relation between $\langle M_{\gamma} \rangle$ and $\langle \ell_{\rm CN} \rangle$:

$$\langle \ell_{\rm CN} \rangle = \Delta I_{\rm ns} \left(\langle M_{\gamma} \rangle - M_{\gamma s} \right) + \sum_i \Delta I_i M_i + I_0$$

• Langevin dynamical calculations are in progress.

Gonika et al., Proc. DAE Symp. Nucl. Phys. 68, 357 (2024)



Overlapping interests with FLNR, JINR

Physics with recoil separators

- Fusion-fission dynamics by measurement of ER cross sections
- Multi-nucleon transfer by detection of target-like events
- Determination of fusion barrier from quasi-elastic measurements

Acknowledgements

Thanks for your attention