

Fundamentals and Applications of Heavy Ion Collisions

Experiments with accelerated heavy ion beams of energy less than 10 MeV per nucleon require an understanding of the basic concepts of reaction dynamics as well as of experimental technique and methods of preparing samples for irradiation, accurate measurement of sample thickness, sample irradiation, selection and calibration of detectors etc. In depth discussion of models like, promptly emitted particles model (PEPs), breakup fusion model (BUF), hot spot model, Harp Miller and Berne (HMB) and geometry dependent hybrid model etc., offer a comprehensive and up-to-date discussion to the theory and applications of heavy ion collisions at lower energies.

Experimental details of sample preparation, irradiation by HI beams, post irradiation analysis, measurement of recoil range distribution (RRD) and angular distribution of heavy residues in off-beam experiments and of spin distribution in the in-beam experiments are all covered in detail in this monograph. The application of heavy ion interactions including the study of highly rotating neutron deficient nuclei, production of super heavy nuclei and production of specific isotopes of medical applications etc. is presented for the benefit of readers.

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Below 10 MeV/ Nucleon Energies

R. Prasad
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Contents

<i>Figures</i>	<i>ix</i>
<i>Tables</i>	<i>xix</i>
<i>Preface</i>	<i>xxi</i>
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	<i>xxiii</i>
 1. Introduction	
1.1 Background	1
1.1.1 Artificial radioactivity	4
1.1.2 Neutron era	4
1.2 Classification of Ions and Research with Accelerated Light Ions	6
1.3 Accelerated Heavy Ions	9
1.4 Special Features of Heavy Ions	12
1.5 Motivation for this Book	33
 2. Theoretical Tools, Reaction Mechanism and Computer Codes	
2.1 Complete Fusion of Heavy Ions	36
2.1.1 Hauser–Feshbach formalism for spinless particles	38
2.1.2 Level width and level separation	42
2.1.3 Evaporation spectra	46
2.1.4 Width fluctuation correction	48
2.1.5 Effective transmission coefficients	49
2.1.6 De-excitation sequence of the compound nucleus	52

vi *Contents*

2.2	The Pre-equilibrium Emission in Statistical Nuclear Reactions	54
2.2.1	The exciton model	57
2.2.2	The Harp–Miller–Berne (HMB) model	65
2.2.3	The hybrid model	66
2.2.4	The intra-nuclear cascade model	67
2.2.5	The totally quantum mechanical model of pre-equilibrium emission	68
2.3	The Incomplete Fusion of Heavy Ions	70
2.3.1	The hot spot model	71
2.3.2	The promptly-emitted particles (PEPs) model	71
2.3.3	The sum rule model	75
2.3.4	Breakup fusion model (BUF)	80
2.4	Computer Codes	81
2.4.1	Computer code PACE 4	82
2.4.2	Computer code CASCADE	83
2.4.3	Computer codes GNASH and McGNASH	84
2.4.4	Computer code ALICE 91 and ALICE IPPE	85
2.4.5	The computer code EMPIRE	87

3. Experimental Details and Formulations

3.1	Introduction	88
3.2	Formulations for Measuring Cross-section	89
3.3	Experimental Details	92
3.3.1	Off-beam experiments	92
3.3.2	Pelletron accelerator at the IUAC, New Delhi	94
3.3.3	Experimental details for the measurement of excitation functions	96
3.4	Target Preparation	100
3.5	Sample Irradiation by HI Beam	104
3.6	Post-irradiation Analysis	107
3.6.1	Calibration of HPGe detector and efficiency measurement	107
3.6.2	Identification of reaction residues	110
3.7	Measurement of Recoil Range Distribution (RRD) of Heavy Residues	113
3.7.1	Target and catcher foil preparation for RRD measurements	115
3.8	Measurement of Angular Distribution of Residues	120
3.9	In-beam Experiments	122
3.9.1	Target preparation	122
3.9.2	Experimental setup used	123
3.9.3	The gamma detector array (GDA) setup	124
3.9.4	Charged particle detector array (CPDA) setup	126
3.9.5	Irradiations for spin distribution measurement	128

4. Measurements

4.1	Measurement of Excitation Functions and their Analysis	131
4.1.1	Reactions initiated by ^{12}C beam	139
4.1.2	Reactions initiated by ^{13}C beam	163
4.1.3	Reactions initiated by ^{14}N beam	169
4.1.4	Reactions initiated by ^{16}O beam	175
4.1.5	Reactions initiated by ^{18}O beam	192
4.1.6	Reactions initiated by ^{19}F beam	195
4.2	Measurement of Recoil Range Distributions (RRD) and their Analysis	203
4.2.1	Recoil range distribution for the system $^{12}\text{C}+^{159}\text{Tb}$	204
4.2.2	Recoil range distribution for the system $^{16}\text{O}+^{159}\text{Tb}$	213
4.2.3	Recoil range distribution for the system $^{16}\text{O}+^{169}\text{Tm}$	216
4.2.4	Recoil range distribution for the system $^{16}\text{O}+^{181}\text{Ta}$	220
4.3	Measurement of Angular Distribution of Heavy Residues and their Analysis	225
4.3.1	Angular distribution of residues emitted from the system $^{16}\text{O}+^{169}\text{Tm}$	225
4.3.2	Angular distributions of the residues emitted from $^{16}\text{O}+^{27}\text{Al}$ system	227
4.4	Measurement of Spin Distribution and Feeding Intensity Profiles	229
4.4.1	Measurement of spin distribution and feeding intensity for the system $^{16}\text{O}+^{169}\text{Tm}$	230
4.4.2	Measured spin distribution and feeding intensity profile for the $^{12}\text{C}+^{169}\text{Tm}$ system	235
4.5	Measurement of Pre-equilibrium Component in Heavy Ion Reactions at < 10 MeV/n Energy	241
4.5.1	Measurement of pre-equilibrium component in the $^{16}\text{O}+^{169}\text{Tm}$ system	242
4.5.2	Measurement of pre-equilibrium components in $^{16}\text{O}+^{159}\text{Tb}$, $^{16}\text{O}+^{169}\text{Tm}$ and $^{16}\text{O}+^{181}\text{Ta}$ systems	245

5. Results and Conclusions

5.1	Incomplete Fusion below 10 MeV/A Energy and its Dependence on Entrance Channel Parameters	249
5.1.1	Dependence of ICF on projectile structure and incident energy	252
5.1.2	Dependence of ICF on mass asymmetry	254
5.1.3	Dependence of ICF on α Q value of the projectile	255
5.1.4	Dependence of ICF on the Coulomb factor ($Z_p Z_T$)	257
5.1.5	Angular momentum (ℓ) distribution and mean input angular momentum for complete and incomplete fusion reactions	258
5.2	Pre-equilibrium Emission in Heavy Ion Reactions at Energies < 10 MeV/A	260
5.3	Applications of Heavy Ion Reactions at Energy < 10 MeV/A	263
5.3.1	Study of high spin states populated via incomplete fusion	263
5.3.2	Incomplete fusion and synthesis of super heavy elements	265
5.3.3	Incomplete fusion and production of isotopes of special interest	267

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R. Prasad , B. P. Singh
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

viii	<i>Contents</i>	
	<i>Appendix</i>	269
	<i>References</i>	273
	<i>Index</i>	291

Figures

1.1	Side view of the experimental setup used by Rutherford for alpha scattering	2
1.2	Nuclear Charge Distribution and surface thickness t for some nuclei	3
1.3	Frederic and Irene Curie's experimental setup to discover the nature of 'Rutherford particles' – neutrons	5
1.4	Two input and three decay channels in Ghoshal's experiment	7
1.5	Experimental excitation functions for the three decay channels	8
1.6	Layout of IUAC heavy ion accelerator	10
1.7	Layout of BARC–TIFR heavy ion accelerator	11
1.8	A view of the external beam line of the cyclotron in VECC	12
1.9	Gamma spectrum of the superdeformed band of ^{152}Dy	14
1.10	Coulomb scattering of the incident ion	15
1.11	Trajectories of the incident ion for three different values of impact parameter	16
1.12	Typical Fresnel diffraction pattern	17
1.13	Trajectories of elastically scattered and Deep Inelastic Collision event	19
1.14	(a) Qualitative division of angular momentum space into regions where different interactions dominate	20
1.14	(b) Domains of Compound Nuclear (CN), Fusion Like (FL) events, Deep Inelastic Collisions (DIC), Quasi Elastic Scattering (QE), Elastic Scattering (EL) and Coulomb Excitation (CE), each marked by its maximum angular momentum	20
1.15	Pictorial representation of Heavy Ion Interactions	21
1.16	Time evolution of a Deep Inelastic event	22
1.17	Time evolution of Fusion event	23
1.18	Heavy ion potential as a function of separation r and angular momentum l	25
1.19	Yrast line and regions of accessible and inaccessable nuclear states	26

x *Figures*

1.20	Limiting value of Angular Momentum for beta stable nuclei against fission	27
1.21	(a) Effect of diffuseness on potential energy pocket; (b) Effect of the form of Coulomb Potential on potential energy pocket	27
1.22	Potential energy surface for ^{220}U as a function of two shape parameters, r and σ . Whereas r directly describe the distances between the centers of mass of the two interacting nuclei, σ is a measure for the deformation of the two. The ground state of ^{220}U is normalized to zero energy; the numbers at the contours give the energies relative to it in MeV. The contact point of two spherical touching ^{110}Pd nuclei lies at $r \approx 1.6$, $\sigma \approx 0.74$	29
1.23	Contact point and saddle point for $^{110}\text{Pd} + ^{110}\text{Pd} = ^{220}\text{U}$ system in the r - σ plane	30
2.1	Energy levels, level width and level spacing for compound nucleus	43
2.2	Compound nucleus decays by emitting ejectile b and residual nucleus B	45
2.3	Energy spectra of ejectile evaporated from the compound nucleus	47
2.4	Potential energy of the nucleus as a function of deformation	50
2.5	Single humped fission barrier	51
2.6	De-excitation sequence of the compound nucleus formed by the fusion of two heavy ions	53
2.7	Typical ejectile energy spectra at a fixed angle	55
2.8a	Angular distribution of ejectiles corresponding to CN emission	55
2.8b	Angular distribution of ejectiles corresponding to PCN emission	56
2.9	Angular distribution of ejectiles corresponding to direct processes	56
2.10	Initial configuration of the complex system when the projectile is a nucleon	57
2.11	Two body interactions drive the initial state to state of higher exciton numbers	58
2.12	Three different configurations for $n = 3$ ($2p + 1h$) state	58
2.13	Transitions that feed and deplete the state with exciton no. n	61
2.14	Pictorial representation of HMB model	65
2.15	Pictorial representation of intra nuclear cascade model	68
2.16	Schematic representation of MSD and MSC processes in the FKK model	69
2.17	Geometry for the emission of PEPs, b is the impact parameter, Z is the beam axis, position of the window W is given by $c_1/c_2 = d_1/d_2$, where c_1 and c_2 are the half density radii of the two nuclei. $d_1 + d_2$ is the distance between the centers of the two nuclei. The distance travelled by the PEP in nucleus Y is d . R_1 and R_2 are the sharp surface radii of the nuclei X and Y	72
2.18	Typical PEP and evaporation spectra for emitted neutrons (a) at backward CM-angle (b) at forward CM-angle for a heavy target and light projectile. At backward angles, the PEP contribution is totally masked by the evaporation spectrum	75
2.19	The projectile and target nuclei with the distances C_1 and C_2 where the charges density falls to half of the central value	77
2.20	In the overlap region nuclear density saturates and n -nucleons from X transfer to Y while m -nucleons from Y go to X	79
3.1	A typical stack arrangement for the measurement of excitation functions	93

3.2	A schematic diagram of the Pelletron accelerator at the IUAC	94
3.3	Inside view of the tank of the Pelletron accelerator	95
3.4	The rolling machine used for the preparation of thin samples at the target laboratory of the IUAC	101
3.5	The high vacuum chamber used for making samples with the evaporation technique	101
3.6	Block diagram of the alpha spectrometer used for target thickness measurements	102
3.7	5.486 MeV alpha peak of a ^{241}Am source (without absorber)	103
3.8	Shift in the position of the 5.486 MeV alpha peak of the ^{241}Am source after absorption in the sample	103
3.9	(a) The general purpose scattering chamber (GPSC); (b) typical arrangement of an in-vacuum transfer facility (ITF), used for quick transfer of irradiated samples without disturbing the vacuum inside the scattering chamber	104
3.10	The target ladder with a blank holder, target–aluminium catcher assembly and a quartz crystal for tuning the beam. In the inset, an artistic view of the stack is shown	106
3.11	Gamma-ray spectrum of a ^{152}Eu source recorded using the HPGe gamma-ray spectrometer. The gamma peak energies are indicated in keV	108
3.12	A typical geometry dependent efficiency curve as a function of γ -ray energy at a source–detector separation of 1 cm. The solid line represents the best polynomial fit for the data points	109
3.13	Gamma-ray spectrum of residues populated in the reaction $^{12}\text{C}+^{175}\text{Lu}$ at ≈ 78 MeV beam energy	110
3.14	Gamma-ray spectrum of residues populated in the reaction $^{13}\text{C}+^{169}\text{Tm}$ at ≈ 83 MeV beam energy	111
3.15	Gamma-ray spectrum of residues populated in the reaction $^{12}\text{C}+^{159}\text{Tb}$ at ≈ 87 MeV beam energy	111
3.16	Gamma-ray spectrum of residues populated in the reaction $^{13}\text{C}+^{159}\text{Tb}$ at ≈ 88 MeV beam energy	112
3.17	Decay curve of ^{178}Re residue populated via $4n$ channel in the interaction ($^{13}\text{C}+^{169}\text{Tm}$) at ≈ 83 MeV beam energy	112
3.18	Observed decay curve of ^{168}Lu residues populated via $4n$ channel in the $^{13}\text{C}+^{159}\text{Tb}$ reaction	113
3.19	Schematic representation of the absorber stack used for trapping recoiling residues used in the measurement of forward recoil range distributions	115
3.20	Typical gamma-ray spectrum at one of the aluminium catcher foil in the interaction of the $^{12}\text{C}+^{159}\text{Tb}$ system at 87 MeV beam energy	117
3.21	Schematic representation of the experimental setup used for the measurement of angular distribution of heavy residues	120
3.22	Typical gamma-ray spectra of Al-catcher rings covering angular ranges $0\text{--}13^\circ$, $13\text{--}21^\circ$ and $21\text{--}30^\circ$	121
3.23	Gamma-ray spectra of Al-catcher rings covering angular ranges $30\text{--}39^\circ$, $39\text{--}45^\circ$, $45\text{--}60^\circ$ and $60\text{--}64^\circ$	121

xii Figures

- 3.24 Gamma-ray spectra of Al-catcher ring covering the angle range 0–13°. Inset shows 360.7 keV and 365.6 keV gamma rays corresponding to the residue ^{181}Re produced in the interaction of $^{16}\text{O}+^{169}\text{Tm}$ at 81 MeV beam energy 122
- 3.25 Schematic representation of the GDA–CPDA setup at the IUAC, New Delhi 124
- 3.26 Side view of the gamma detector array at the IUAC, New Delhi, India 125
- 3.27 The symmetric anti-Compton shield (ACS) as used in the GDA setup 125
- 3.28 The schematic representation of the charged particle detector array inside a small scattering chamber 126
- 3.29 Schematic diagram of the operation of a Phoswich detector for discrimination between protons and alpha particles 127
- 4.1 Experimentally measured and theoretically calculated excitation functions using code CASCADE: Effect of variation of level density free parameter (K) on calculated excitation functions with $F_\theta = 0.65$ and $D_{\text{AF}} = 8$ 141
- 4.2 Experimentally measured and theoretically calculated excitation functions using code CASCADE: Effect of variation of parameter F_θ on calculated excitation functions with $K = 14$ and $D_{\text{AF}} = 8$ 142
- 4.3 Experimentally measured and theoretically calculated excitation functions using code CASCADE: Effect of variation of parameter D_{AF} on calculated excitation functions with $K = 14$ and $F_\theta = 0.55$ 143
- 4.4 Experimentally measured and theoretically calculated excitation functions using code ALICE-91: Effect of variation of level density parameter (K) on calculated excitation functions with initial exciton number $n_0 = 12$ and mean free path multiplier $\text{COST} = 2$ 144
- 4.5 The experimentally measured and theoretically calculated excitation functions using code ALICE-91: Effect of variation of parameter n_0 on calculated excitation function with $K = 18$ and mean free path multiplier $\text{COST} = 2$ 145
- 4.6 The experimentally measured and theoretically calculated excitation function using code ALICE-91: Effect of variation of parameter COST on calculated excitation function with $K = 18$ and initial exciton number $n_0 = 12$ 145
- 4.7 Experimentally measured and theoretically calculated excitation functions for reactions $^{165}\text{Ho}(^{12}\text{C}, \alpha 2n)^{171}\text{Lu}$, and $^{165}\text{Ho}(^{12}\text{C}, \alpha 4n)^{169}\text{Lu}$; the enhancement in the measured cross-sections as compared to the theoretical calculations is attributed to incomplete fusion process. The dashed lines represent theoretical calculations 148
- 4.8 (a) Experimental EFs of $^{168}\text{Lu}^{\text{g+m}}(3n)$, $^{167}\text{Lu}(4n)$, $^{165}\text{Lu}(6n)$ and $^{167}\text{Yb}(p3n)$ residues populated in the $^{12}\text{C}+^{159}\text{Tb}$ system. The solid lines through the data points are drawn to guide the eyes. (b) Sum of the experimentally measured EFs of all (xn + pxn) channels ($\Sigma\sigma_{\text{CF}}$) are compared with that predicted by PACE4 for different values of the level density parameter ($a = A/K \text{ MeV}^{-1}$), where the effect of variation of the free parameter K from 8 to 12 is also shown 151
- 4.9 Experimentally measured EFs of evaporation residues $^{165}\text{Tm}(\alpha 2n)$, $^{163}\text{Tm}(\alpha 4n)$, $^{161}\text{Ho}(2\alpha 2n)$, and $^{160}\text{Ho}^{\text{g+m}}(2\alpha 3n)$ are compared with the PACE4 predictions. Solid black curves represent PACE4 predictions performed for $a = A/8 \text{ MeV}^{-1}$. In 4.9(a), the dash dotted and dotted lines through the data points are drawn to explain the trend of the excitation function 152
- 4.10 Comparison of experimentally measured and theoretically predicted EFs of all α -emitting channels; physically justified level density parameter $a = A/8 \text{ MeV}^{-1}$ is

- used in PACE4 calculations. The value of $(\Sigma \sigma_{\text{exp}} \alpha \text{xn} + 2\alpha \text{xn})$ is significantly higher than that predicted by PACE4, which may be attributed to the contribution of ICF. Lines through the data points are drawn to guide the eyes 153
- 4.11 Experimentally measured and theoretically calculated excitation functions for the reactions $^{169}\text{Tm}(^{12}\text{C}, 4\text{n})^{177}\text{Re}$ and $^{169}\text{Tm}(^{12}\text{C}, 5\text{n})^{176}\text{Re}$ 155
- 4.12 Experimentally measured and theoretically calculated excitation functions for $^{169}\text{Tm}(^{12}\text{C}, \alpha 3\text{n})^{174}\text{Ta}$, $^{169}\text{Tm}(^{12}\text{C}, \alpha 4\text{n})^{173}\text{Ta}$, $^{169}\text{Tm}(^{12}\text{C}, 2\alpha 2\text{n})^{172}\text{Lu}$, $^{169}\text{Tm}(^{12}\text{C}, 2\alpha 3\text{n})^{171}\text{Lu}$ reactions 155
- 4.13 (a) Total fusion cross-section ($\sigma_{\text{TF}} = \Sigma \sigma_{\text{CF}} + \Sigma \sigma_{\text{ICF}}$) along with the sum of all CF channels ($\Sigma \sigma_{\text{CF}}$) and ICF channels ($\Sigma \sigma_{\text{ICF}}$) as a function of projectile energy and (b) the zoom of $\Sigma \sigma_{\text{CF}}$ and σ_{TF} comparison on a linear scale for easy visualization of increasing ICF strength with projectile energy. Solid curves represent best fit to the data points 156
- 4.14 Experimental EFs for xn ($x = 4$ and 5) and p4n-channels populated in the $^{12}\text{C}+^{175}\text{Lu}$ system 157
- 4.15 Sum of experimentally measured EFs of all xn and pxn-channels ($\Sigma \sigma_{\text{xn+pxn}}^{\text{exp}}$) along with the values predicted by the PACE4 code at $K = 10$ 158
- 4.16 Experimentally measured EFs of the $\alpha 2\text{n}$, $\alpha 4\text{n}$ and $2\alpha 3\text{n}$ channels populated in $^{12}\text{C}+^{175}\text{Lu}$ system; the PACE4 predictions at $K = 10$ are shown by solid curves 159
- 4.17 Comparison of the $(\Sigma \sigma_{\alpha \text{xn}+2\alpha \text{xn}}^{\text{exp}})$ in the $^{12}\text{C}+^{175}\text{Lu}$ system with corresponding PACE4 prediction at $K = 10$ 161
- 4.18 Deduced values of σ_{ICF} plotted as a function of projectile energy 162
- 4.19 A histogram of deduced $\%F_{\text{ICF}}$ values as a function of normalized laboratory energy 162
- 4.20 Ratio of the individual channel cross-section σ_{xn} to the total channel cross-section $\Sigma \sigma_{\text{xn}}$ as a function of laboratory energy for 4n channel along with PACE4 predictions (for $K = 8$ to 12); (b) measured EFs for all xn ($x = 3, 5$ and 6) channels along with PACE4 calculations 164
- 4.21 Experimentally measured and theoretically calculated excitation functions for ^{177}W residue populated via p4n channel 165
- 4.22 An example of the residue ^{177}W being populated via two different routes 165
- 4.23 Experimentally measured EF for the residues ^{177}W (p4n channel) compared with PACE4 predictions: (a) cumulative cross-section; (b) independent cross-section. (c) Experimentally measured and theoretically predicted EFs of all xn and pxn channels. The solid lines are the PACE4 predictions with $K = 10$. In Figure 4.23(d), $V_b (= 54.6 \text{ MeV})$ is the Coulomb barrier in laboratory frame 166
- 4.24 (a)–(d) Experimentally measured EFs for the residues ^{175}Ta , ^{174}Ta , ^{173}Ta , ^{172}Lu and ^{171}Lu compared with the PACE4 predictions respectively. Solid curves represent theoretical calculations. In panel (d), the dotted lines through the data points are drawn to show the trend of the excitation functions 167
- 4.25 (a) Sums of all experimentally measured cross-sections for α and 2α emitting channels are compared with corresponding PACE4 predictions. The values $\Sigma \sigma_{\text{exp}}^{\alpha's}$ are significantly higher than that predicted by PACE4. (b) Deduced σ_{ICF} is plotted as a function of beam energy. The dashed line through the data points in Figure 4.25(b) is drawn just to guide the eyes 168

xiv Figures

- 4.26 Excitation functions for reactions $^{128}\text{Te}(^{14}\text{N}, 4\text{n})^{138\text{m}}\text{Pr}$, $^{128}\text{Te}(^{14}\text{N}, 5\text{n})^{137}\text{Pr}$ and $^{128}\text{Te}(^{14}\text{N}, \text{p}4\text{n})^{137\text{g}}\text{Ce}$. The symbols with dark circles represent the experimental data. Various curves correspond to the theoretical predictions of the ALICE-91 code 170
- 4.27 Excitation functions for the reactions $^{128}\text{Te}(^{14}\text{N}, 4\text{n})^{138\text{m}}\text{Pr}$, $^{128}\text{Te}(^{14}\text{N}, \alpha 5\text{n})^{133}\text{La}$, $^{128}\text{Te}(^{14}\text{N}, \alpha 6\text{n})^{132\text{g}}\text{La}$, $^{128}\text{Te}(^{14}\text{N}, \alpha 2\text{pn})^{135\text{m}}\text{Cs}$, $^{128}\text{Te}(^{14}\text{N}, 2\alpha 2\text{pn})^{131}\text{I}$ and $^{128}\text{Te}(^{14}\text{N}, 3\alpha)^{130\text{g}}\text{I}$. The filled circles represent the experimental data. The solid and dotted lines correspond to the theoretical predictions of the ALICE-91 code 173
- 4.28 Excitation functions for the reactions $^{128}\text{Te}(^{14}\text{N}, 4\text{n})^{138\text{m}}\text{Pr}$, $^{128}\text{Te}(^{14}\text{N}, 5\text{n})^{137}\text{Pr}$, $^{128}\text{Te}(^{14}\text{N}, \text{p}4\text{n})^{137\text{g}}\text{Ce}$, $^{128}\text{Te}(^{14}\text{N}, \alpha 5\text{n})^{133}\text{La}$, $^{128}\text{Te}(^{14}\text{N}, \alpha 6\text{n})^{132\text{g}}\text{La}$ and $^{128}\text{Te}(^{14}\text{N}, \alpha 2\text{pn})^{135\text{m}}\text{Cs}$. The filled dark circles represent the experimental data. Various curves correspond to the theoretical predictions of the PACE code 174
- 4.29 Experimentally measured and theoretically calculated excitation functions for the $^{27}\text{Al}(^{16}\text{O}, 2\alpha\text{n})$ reaction. Literature values are also shown in the figure 177
- 4.30 Experimentally measured excitation functions for the reactions (a) $^{27}\text{Al}(^{16}\text{O}, 3\alpha 3\text{p})^{28}\text{Mg}$, (b) $^{27}\text{Al}(^{16}\text{O}, 3\alpha 3\text{pn})^{27}\text{Mg}$, (c) $^{27}\text{Al}(^{16}\text{O}, 4\alpha 2\text{pn})^{24}\text{Na}$ and (d) $^{27}\text{Al}(^{16}\text{O}, 4\alpha 3\text{p})^{24}\text{Ne}$ 178
- 4.31 Experimentally measured and theoretically calculated EFs using code PACE2. The effect of variation of parameter K is also shown in these figures. In Figure 4.31(d), the open circles represent the cumulative yield for the production of the residue ^{171}Hf , while the solid circles represent its independent yield 180
- 4.32 Experimentally measured and theoretically calculated EFs using code PACE. The effect of variation of parameter K is also shown in these figures. In Figure 4.32(a), the open circles represent the cumulative yield for the production of the residue ^{170}Hf , while the solid circles represent its independent yield 181
- 4.33 Experimentally measured and theoretically calculated EFs using codes ALICE-91, CASCADE and PACE2. In Figure 4.33(c), the open circles represent the cumulative yield for the production of the residue ^{182}Os , while dark circles represent its independent yield 183
- 4.34 Experimentally measured and theoretically calculated EFs for alpha-emitting channels. Theoretical calculations have been done using codes ALICE-91, CASCADE and PACE2. In Figure 4.34(c) and (d), calculated EFs are not shown 184
- 4.35 Measured EFs for (a) xn ($x = 3, 4$ and 5) channels and (b) pxn ($x = 3, 4$ and 5) channels. In panels (a) and (b), the lines joining the experimental data points are just to guide the eyes. Panel (c) shows the sum of cross-sections for the xn and pxn channels. The effect of the variation of the choice of the level density parameter $K = 8, 9$ and 10 (dotted, dashed and solid lines, respectively) on calculated $\Sigma\sigma_{\text{CF}}$ is also shown 187
- 4.36 (a) Measured EFs for αxn ($x = 1, 2$ and 3) channels, (b) sum of the αxn channels, measured as well as calculated using PACE4 for $K = 8, 9, 10$ (dotted, dashed and solid lines, respectively), and (c) sum of σ_{ICF} (all αxn) channels. In panels (a), (b) and (c), the spline-like lines joining the experimental data points are just to guide the eyes. The inset shows cross-sections for the sum of both CF and ICF channels and for CF channels separately. The increasing difference between the two curves in the inset, with energy indicates the dominance of ICF processes with energy 190
- 4.37 Experimental EFs of ^{174}Ta (3n), ^{173}Ta (4n), ^{172}Ta (5n) and ^{171}Ta (6n) have been compared with that predicted by PACE4 for different values of level density parameter ($a = A/K \text{ MeV}^{-1}$, where K is varied from 8 to 12) 193

4.38	Experimental EFs of ^{171}Lu ($\alpha 2n$), ^{168}Lu ($\alpha 5n$), ^{167}Lu ($\alpha 6n$) and ^{167}Yb ($\alpha p 5n$) residues have been compared with that predicted by PACE4 for different values of level density parameter ($a = A/K \text{ MeV}$), where K is varied from 8 to 12	194
4.39	(a) Incomplete fusion cross-section along with total and complete fusion cross-section. (b) Comparison of F_{ICF} for $^{18,16}\text{O}$ projectiles on the same target	195
4.40	Experimentally measured excitation functions for all xn/pxn channels populated in the $^{19}\text{F} + ^{159}\text{Tb}$ system. The solid lines through the experimental data represent the PACE4 calculations	197
4.41	(a) Sum of experimentally measured excitation functions of all α -emitting channels compared with the predictions of the statistical model code PACE4. The line through the data points is drawn to guide the eyes. (b) Comparison of σ_{TF} , σ_{CF} and σ_{ICF} cross-sections for the $^{19}\text{F} + ^{159}\text{Tb}$ system with the incident laboratory energy	197
4.42	(a) Experimentally measured EFs of ^{185}Pt , ^{184}Pt , ^{183}Pt and ^{183}Ir residues populated via 3n, 4n, 5n and p4n in the $^{19}\text{F} + ^{169}\text{Tm}$ system. The solid lines are the PACE4 calculations done for the level density parameter $a = A/10 \text{ MeV}^{-1}$. The x error bars on the energy axis indicate the uncertainty in energy due to energy loss of the incident beam in the sample thickness	198
4.43	An example showing the two different routes for the population of the residues ^{184}Ir	200
4.44	Experimentally measured EF of $^{184}\text{Ir}(p3n)$ channel compared with PACE4 calculations. (a) Cumulative cross-section; (b) independent cross-section. The solid line is the PACE4 calculations at $K = 10$	201
4.45	Experimentally measured EFs of $^{183,182,181,179}\text{Os}$ (αxn , where $x = 1, 2, 3$ and 5) residues populated in the $^{19}\text{F} + ^{169}\text{Tm}$ system and compared with those calculated by the PACE4 model. Solid lines are the PACE4 calculations done for the level density parameter $a = A/10 \text{ MeV}^{-1}$	202
4.46	Experimentally measured EFs of $^{177,175,174}\text{W}$ ($2\alpha xn$, where $x = 3, 5$ and 6) and $^{176,175}\text{Ta}$ ($2\alpha pxn$, where $x = 3$ and 4) residues populated in the $^{19}\text{F} + ^{169}\text{Tm}$ system. The solid line is the PACE4 calculations for the level density parameter $a = A/10 \text{ MeV}^{-1}$	203
4.47	Measured recoil range distributions (RRDs) for ^{167}Lu residues populated via the 4n channel respectively (a) at 74.48 MeV, (b) at 80.46 MeV and (c) at 86.54 MeV beam energies	206
4.48	Typical RRDs for ^{165}Tm populated via the $\alpha 4n$ channel at $\approx 74, 80$ and 87 MeV beam energies. Two distinct peaks in the RRD distributions corresponding to two momentum transfer components may be seen in the figure	208
4.49	Measured FRRDs for ^{161}Ho residues populated via the $2\alpha 2n$ channel at $\approx 74, 80$ and 87 MeV beam energies, having three different momentum transfer components	209
4.50	Experimentally measured recoil range distributions for various radioactive residues produced in the interaction of ^{16}O beam with ^{159}Tb target at $\approx 90 \text{ MeV}$	214
4.51	The experimental recoil range distributions fitted with Gaussian peaks to disentangle the relative contributions of CF and ICF processes	215
4.52	Experimentally measured recoil range distributions for various radioactive residues produced in the interaction of ^{16}O beam with ^{169}Tm target at $\approx 87 \text{ MeV}$	218

xvi *Figures*

- 4.53 Measured recoil range distributions fitted with Gaussian peaks to determine the relative contributions of complete and incomplete fusion 219
- 4.54 (a) Experimentally measured recoil range distributions for $^{192}\text{Hg}(p4n)$ at projectile energies of $\approx 81, 90$ and 96 MeV 220
- 4.54 (b) Experimentally measured recoil range distributions for $^{191}\text{Au}^g(\alpha 2n)$ at projectile energies $\approx 81, 90$ and 96 MeV 221
- 4.54 (c) Experimentally measured recoil range distributions for $^{186}\text{Ir}^g(2\alpha 3n)$ at projectile energies $\approx 81, 90$ and 96 MeV 221
- 4.55 Experimentally measured angular distributions of the various reaction residues populated via CF and/or ICF mechanisms in the $^{16}\text{O}+^{169}\text{Tm}$ system at an energy of ≈ 81 MeV. Solid lines are drawn to guide the eyes. Different reaction products have been labeled by their corresponding emission channels 226
- 4.56 Typical arrangement of the target–catcher assembly used for the angular distribution measurements covering the annular range from $(0-13^\circ)$ to $(60-64^\circ)$ 227
- 4.57 Typical γ -spectra of Al-catcher rings covering the angular zones from $(0-13^\circ)$ to $(45-60^\circ)$ 228
- 4.58 Measured angular distribution of residues in the reaction $^{27}\text{Al}(^{16}\text{O}, 2\alpha n)^{34}\text{Cl}$ 229
- 4.59 Experimentally measured spin distributions for different residues populated via xn (CF product) and $\alpha xn/2\alpha xn$ (both the CF and/or the ICF products) in the $^{16}\text{O}+^{169}\text{Tm}$ system at ≈ 5.6 MeV/nucleon energy. The nomenclature used in the plots indicates the expected reaction dynamics involved – ICF- α and ICF- 2α means that the involved reaction dynamics is ICF respectively with one α and 2α multiplicity; CF- α indicates complete fusion (CF) with one α multiplicity identified from the backward α -gated spectra. The nomenclature also shows that the exit channels are composed of the specific residual nucleus, α particle(s) ($M_\alpha = 1-2$), neutron(s) and/or proton(s). F and B represent the reaction products identified respectively from forward and backward α -gated spectra. The lines and curves through data points are the result of the best fit procedure 232
- 4.60 Ratio of experimentally measured and theoretically estimated relative production yields of residues populated only via CF in the $^{16}\text{O}+^{169}\text{Tm}$ system at ≈ 5.6 MeV/nucleon energy 234
- 4.61 Deduced feeding intensities of gamma cascades of different ERs expected to be produced via xn, αxn and/or $2\alpha xn$ channels in the $^{16}\text{O}+^{169}\text{Tm}$ system at ≈ 5.6 MeV/nucleon. The lines and curves through data points are drawn only to guide the eye 234
- 4.62 Fusion–evaporation (CF) α -energy profile for forward (F) zone $(10-60^\circ)$ at projectile energy $E = 5.6A$ MeV in the $^{12}\text{C}+^{169}\text{Tm}$ system predicated by PACE4. Different angular slices from 10° to 60° are also shown in the figure 236
- 4.63 Experimentally measured spin distributions for (a) CF-5n channel (identified from singles spectra) and (b) CF-p4n channel (identified from backward proton-gated spectra) are plotted along with the spin distributions of the same channels from Singh et al.³⁷ Reaction products are labeled by self-explanatory notations and emission cascades. The nomenclature shows that the exit channels are composed by the one given residual nucleus, neutron(s), and/or proton(s). Lines through the data points are the result of the best-fit 237

- 4.64 Experimentally measured spin distributions for (a) CF- α 4n channel and (b) ICF- α 4n channel along with the spin distributions of the same channels from Singh et al.³⁷ B and F represent the reaction products identified from backward (B) α -gated spectra and from forward (F) α -gated spectra, respectively. Lines and curves are the result of the best-fit procedure 238
- 4.65 Experimentally measured spin distributions for (a) CF- α 3n channel, and (b) ICF- α 3n channel along with the spin distributions of the same channels from Singh et al.³⁷ 238
- 4.66 Experimentally measured spin distribution for ICF-2 α 2n channel identified from the forward α -gated spectra. ICF-2 α 2n means the involved reaction dynamics is ICF with a multiplicity of $\alpha = 2$ 239
- 4.67 Deduced feeding intensities of γ cascades of different reaction products expected to be populated via (a) CF-5n, CF-p4n and (b) CF- α 3n (identified from backward α -gated spectra) and CF- α 3n (identified from forward α -gated spectra) channels. Lines and curves are drawn only to guide the eyes 240
- 4.68 Deduced feeding intensities of γ cascades of different reaction products expected to be populated via (a) CF- α 4n (identified from backward α -gated spectra), ICF- α 4n (identified from backward α -gated spectra) and (b) ICF-2 α 2n (identified from forward α -gated spectra) channels. Lines and curves are drawn only to guide the eyes 241
- 4.69 Schematic diagram of an experimental setup for the measurement of PEQ components in the system $^{16}\text{O}+^{169}\text{Tm}$ 243
- 4.70 Experimentally measured (a) normalised yield profiles and (b) yield ratios for levels with different spins (J_{obs}) in ^{181}Os residue populated via p3n channel. Data points are joined with straight lines only to guide the eye. The horizontal dotted line at ratio =1.2 in Figure 4.70(b) indicates the maximum limit of forward–backward asymmetry expected from linear momentum effects 244
- 4.71 Experimentally measured yield ratios for different residues populated via 2p, 2pn, 2p2n, 3p, 3pn, 3p3n, 4pn and 4p2n channels 245
- 4.72 Experimentally measured recoil range distribution (RRDs) curves for different reactions. The reaction and the energy of the incident ^{16}O ion are listed in each panel 246
- 4.73 Measured excitation functions (EFs) for reactions specified in each panel 248
- 5.1 The incomplete fusion fraction deduced from the analysis of excitation functions, forward recoil range distribution (FRRDs) and angular distributions (ADs) data, as a function of normalised beam energy. The line drawn through the data points is just to guide the eyes 251
- 5.2 Comparison of experimental incomplete fusion strength functions for different projectiles on the same target. The normalised energy is plotted on the x -axis, to wash out the Coulomb effect 252
- 5.3 Comparison of F_{ICF} values for the two systems ($^{12}\text{C}+^{159}\text{Tb}$) and ($^{13}\text{C}+^{159}\text{Tb}$) 253
- 5.4 Comparison of F_{ICF} values for various systems as a function of the mass asymmetry parameter of interacting partners at a constant normalised energy. The lines are drawn to get the linear fit to the data separately for each projectile 255
- 5.5 A comparison of incomplete fusion fraction F_{ICF} in terms of the α Q value of the projectile at a constant E_{norm} value for different projectiles on the same target, ^{159}Tb 256

xviii *Figures*

5.6	Incomplete fusion strength function F_{ICF} (%) for different projectiles on targets, ^{181}Ta and ^{169}Tm , as a function of the α Q value of the projectile at a fixed value of the normalised energy (E_{Norm})	256
5.7	The ICF strength function F_{ICF} of various systems as a function of $Z_p Z_T$. The dashed line is drawn to guide the eye, indicating a linear fitting	257
5.8	The fusion ℓ distribution calculated using the code CCFULL to get the population of ℓ bins at different values of energies	258
5.9	Experimentally obtained mean values for angular momentum as a function of the complete and incomplete fusion modes for the system $^{16}\text{O} + ^{169}\text{Tm}$ at 5.6 MeV/A	259
5.10	(a) Energy dependence of the percent pre-equilibrium emission for reaction $^{181}\text{Ta}(^{16}\text{O}, 2n)$ (b) Percent pre-equilibrium component for the emission of (pn), (2n) and (3n) from the system $^{159}\text{Tb} + ^{16}\text{O}$ at 90 MeV	262
5.11	Experimentally measured spin distributions for the reaction $^{169}\text{Tm}(^{16}\text{O}, 2n)^{183}\text{Ir}$	262
5.12	Schematic diagram of the event sequence for the production of SHE nucleus via complete fusion	266

Tables

3.1	List of reactions and relevant parameters for the study of excitation functions	96
3.2	A list of energies and intensities of some of the prominent γ -rays from standard radioactive ^{152}Eu source	107
3.3	List of catcher foil thicknesses used in RRD experiments for the system $^{16}\text{O}+^{181}\text{Ta}$ at different incident energies	116
3.4	List of reactions and other relevant parameters used for the recoil range distributions studies	118
3.5	Important parameters of a charged particle detector array	127
3.6	List of reactions studied for spin distribution measurements at different energies	129
4.1	List of systems for which excitation functions have been measured; the energy range and the Coulomb barrier energy of the systems are also listed	132
4.2	Decay data of residues identified in the reactions	133
4.3	Experimentally measured production cross-sections for residues populated via CF and/or ICF processes in various systems	139
4.4	Measured values of cross-sections for various residues populated via different reaction channels in the system $^{12}\text{C}+^{165}\text{Ho}$	147
4.5	Experimental values of reaction cross-sections for various residues populated in the system $^{12}\text{C}+^{159}\text{Tb}$ at different energies	149
4.6	Measured values of cross-sections for residues populated at different energies in the system $^{12}\text{C}+^{169}\text{Tm}$	154
4.7	Measured cross-section values at different energies for the various residues identified in the system $^{12}\text{C}+^{175}\text{Lu}$	156
4.8	Experimentally measured production cross-sections at different energies for the residues populated via CF/ICF processes in system $^{13}\text{C}+^{169}\text{Tm}$	163

xx *Tables*

4.9	Experimentally measured cross-sections at different energies for the reaction residues identified in the system $^{14}\text{N}+^{128}\text{Te}$	169
4.10	Measured values of cross-sections at different energies for residues populated via different channels and identified in system $^{16}\text{O}+^{27}\text{Al}$	175
4.11	Measured cross-sections at different energies for residues identified in the system $^{16}\text{O}+^{159}\text{Tb}$	179
4.12	Measured cross-sections at different energies for the residues identified in the system $^{16}\text{O}+^{169}\text{Tm}$	182
4.13	Experimentally measured cross-sections at different energies for the population of different identified residues in the system $^{16}\text{O}+^{103}\text{Rh}$	185
4.14	Experimentally measured cross-sections for the reaction residues populated in the system $^{16}\text{O}+^{181}\text{Ta}$	186
4.15	Measured cross-sections at different energies for the residues identified in the system $^{18}\text{O}+^{159}\text{Tb}$	192
4.16	Cross-sections at different energies for the residues identified in the system $^{19}\text{F}+^{159}\text{Tb}$	195
4.17	Measured cross-sections at different energies for the residues identified in the system $^{19}\text{F}+^{169}\text{Tm}$	199
4.18	List of systems for which the recoil range distributions have been measured along with the values of incident energies at which measurements have been done and the Coulomb barrier for the system	204
4.19	Experimentally measured most probable ranges $R_{p(\text{exp})}$ deduced from RRD data, and theoretically calculated mean ranges $R_{p(\text{the})}$ in aluminium in units of $\mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^2$ for CF and ICF components using the range energy relation along with the reaction products produced in the interaction of ^{12}C with ^{159}Tb at ≈ 74 MeV.	207
4.20	Comparison of normalised FWHM for various RRD distributions	209
4.21	Experimentally measured recoil range integrated cross-section $\sigma_{\text{exp}}^{\text{RRD}}$ (mb) deduced from RRD curves, and theoretically calculated cross-section $\sigma_{\text{theo}}^{\text{PACE}}$ at $\approx 74, 80$ and 87 MeV	212
4.22	A list giving thicknesses of catcher foils used in RRD measurements	216
4.23	Experimentally measured recoil ranges $R_{p(\text{exp})}$ deduced from RRD data, and the theoretically calculated most probable mean ranges $R_{p(\text{the})}$ for CF components at $\approx 81, 90$ and 96 MeV, obtained using the range energy relation for the residues produced in the interaction of ^{16}O with ^{181}Ta	222
4.24	Experimental ranges $R_{p(\text{exp})}$, deduced from RRD data and theoretically calculated ranges $R_{p(\text{the})}$, for various incomplete fusion components at $\approx 81, 90$ and 96 MeV incident energy	223
4.25	List of systems for which angular distributions of fusion residues have been measured. The energy of the incident ion and the Coulomb barrier for the system are also listed	225
4.26	List of systems for which spin distributions have been measured along with the energy of the incident ion and the Coulomb barrier for each system	230
4.27	Relative strengths of PE and CN components deduced from the analysis of RRD data for different reactions at different incident energies	247

Preface

The study of incomplete fusion (ICF) reactions in heavy ion (HI) interactions at energies below 10 MeV per nucleon is a topic of resurgent interest. At such low energies, near and/or just above the fusion barrier, the complete fusion (CF) of the interacting ions is expected to be the most dominant process; however, experiments carried out during the last decade or so have indicated that a significant part of the interaction proceeds through ICF process. Some theories have been proposed to explain the process of incomplete fusion but none of them could successfully reproduce the experimental data at energies $< 10 \text{ MeV/A}$. In order to understand the dynamics of such low energy ICF processes and to develop a viable theoretical frame work, our group carried out extensive and complementary experiments on the topic during the last decade or so. The monograph presents the details of these experiments and the analysis of the data.

The presentation has five chapters; Chapter-1 gives a historical background of the subject and discusses the motivation for the work. Chapter-2, entitled 'Theoretical Tools, Reaction Mechanism and Computer Codes' is intended to develop a sound theoretical background of the subject. Important features of computer codes available in the market for theoretical simulation are discussed in this chapter. All experimental details, including the methodology, experimental setups, formulations used for data reduction etc., are given in Chapter-3. The Chapter-4, entitled 'Measurements' contains the details of the measurements of Excitation Functions (EFs), Recoil Range Distributions (RRDs), Angular Distributions (ADs), Spin Distributions (SDs) and Feeding Intensity Profiles (FIPs) of reaction residues. Each measurement is discussed in detail and the recorded experimental data is presented both in tabular form as well as in graphical form. Chapter-5, is 'Results and Conclusions' which provides a detailed discussion of the results obtained from the critical analysis and evaluation of the data obtained in the present set of experiments. Conclusions regarding the dependence of ICF component on various entrance channel parameters, presented in this chapter may be of considerable value in developing a theoretical frame work for HI reactions at energies below 10 MeV per nucleon. The experiments detailed in this document were carried out by our research group at the Physics Department, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, India,

xxii *Preface*

in collaboration with members of the Nuclear Physics Group of the Inter University Accelerator Centre (IUAC), New Delhi, India. The Appendix provides a list of some of the important research publications on the subject published by our research group.

During our interaction with fresh graduates desirous of having a career in accelerator based physics in general and experimental nuclear physics in particular, it was realized that they need a document that may spell out most details for carrying out experiments using accelerated beams. These details, such as, designing an experiment, preparation of samples for irradiation, their thickness measurement, choice of detectors, calibration of detectors, data acquisition and analysis etc., are generally available only in research publications and that too in brief. The present document is written with the view to provide young entrants a detailed description for carrying out experiments with accelerated beams. Details of four different types of experiments mentioned above are provided in this document. As such, the monograph is expected to serve as a handbook, a ready reference for beginners in the field. It is hoped that the monograph will be of interest both to new entrants as well as to experienced researchers in the field of low energy heavy ion interactions.

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All experiments reported in this document were carried out at the IUAC, New Delhi, India using the accelerated heavy ion beams provided by the 15 UD Pelletron accelerator of the centre. We wish to put on record our heartfelt thanks to Professor Amit Roy, ex-Director and Dr Dinakar Kanjilal, the present Director of IUAC, New Delhi, for their kind cooperation and for extending all facilities required during these experiments. We thank the Pelletron crew, who provided the beams of desired ions of required energy and fluence.

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xxiv *Acknowledgements*

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