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Non-Coplanar Nuclei in Heavy-Ion Reactions

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Abstract—In recent times, we noticed an interesting and important role of non-coplanar degree-of-freedom ($\Phi \neq 0^0$) in heavy ion reactions. Using the dynamical cluster-decay model (DCM) with Φ degree-of-freedom included, we have studied three compound systems ^{246}Bk*, ^{164}Yb* and ^{105}Ag*. Here, within the DCM with pocket formula for nuclear proximity potential, we look for the effects of including compact, non-coplanar configurations ($\Phi_c \neq 0^0$) on the non-compound nucleus (nCN) contribution in total fusion cross section σ_{fus}. For ^{246}Bk*, formed in ^{11}B+^{235}U and ^{14}N+^{232}Th reaction channels, the DCM with coplanar nuclei ($\Phi_c = 0^0$) shows an nCN contribution for ^{11}B+^{235}U channel, but none for ^{14}N+^{232}Th channel, which on including Φ gives both reaction channels as pure compound nucleus decays. In the case of ^{164}Yb*, formed in ^{64}Ni+^{100}Mo, the small nCN effects for Φ=0^0 are reduced to almost zero for $\Phi \neq 0^0$. Interestingly, however, ^{105}Ag* for $\Phi = 0^0$ shows a small nCN contribution, which gets strongly enhanced for $\Phi \neq 0^0$, such that the characteristic property of P_{CN} presents a change of behaviour, like that of a strongly fissioning superheavy element to a weakly fissioning nucleus; note that ^{105}Ag* is a weakly fissioning nucleus and P_{surv} behaves like one for a weakly fissioning nucleus for both $\Phi = 0^0$ and $\Phi \neq 0^0$. Apparently, Φ is presenting itself like a good degree-of-freedom in the DCM.

Keywords—Dynamical cluster-decay model, fusion cross sections, non-compound nucleus effects, non-coplanarity.

I. Introduction

We have analyzed in this work that non-coplanar degree-of-freedom (Φ) is an important variant in hot fusion reactions. Using the dynamical cluster-decay model (DCM) [1], for case of nuclear proximity pocket formula of Blocki et al. [2], we have studied three compound systems ^{246}Bk* [3], [4], ^{164}Yb* [5], [6], and ^{105}Ag* [7], [8], formed in various different reactions at many incident center-of-mass energies $E_{c.m.}$. In these three nuclear systems, 'compact' coplanar configurations (Φ_c=0^0) present best cases of large non-compound-nucleus (nCN) component in the measured fusion cross section σ_{fus}. In case of ^{246}Bk*, formed in ^{11}B+^{235}U and ^{14}N+^{232}Th entrance channels, for Φ=0^0, the quasi-fission (qf)-like nCN component is present in fission cross section of ^{11}B+^{235}U channel, but not in ^{14}N+^{232}Th channel. Here, the (qf-like) nCN component is defined as the measure of disagreement between the calculated and measured fission cross section, taken as a measure of σ_{fus}. However, with non-coplanar degree-of-freedom included ($\Phi \neq 0^0$), interestingly in ^{11}B+^{235}U$\rightarrow$^{246}Bk* reaction, the nCN contribution is reduced to zero at all incident $E_{c.m.}$, with ^{14}N+^{232}Th reaction channel keeping the same result (σ_{nCN}=0) for both cases (Φ=0^0 and $\Phi \neq 0^0$). On the other hand, in the other two reactions ^{64}Ni+^{100}Mo$\rightarrow$^{164}Yb* and ^{12}C+^{93}Nb$\rightarrow$^{105}Ag*, the effect of non-coplanarity ($\Phi \neq 0^0$) on σ_{nCN} is negligibly small (σ_{nCN} decreased to almost zero for $\Phi \neq 0^0$ case) in the first case, but gets strongly enhanced in the second case such that its (^{105}Ag*) characteristic properties change, rather leads to a consistent picture for $\Phi \neq 0^0$ from an inconsistent one for Φ=0^0.

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The defining of compound nucleus (CN) fusion probability P_{CN} and survival probability P_{surv} have proved a helping hand for explaining the importance of non-coplanarity degree-of-freedom [9], [10]. One of the important result of the variation of P_{CN} with CN excitation energy E^* is the classification of various nuclear systems in to (i) P_{CN}=1 (σ_{nCN}=0) for small E^* but decreases as E^* increases, and (ii) P_{CN} increases with increasing E^* at lower E^* and goes to unity at higher E^*. On the other hand, P_{surv} classified compound nuclear system in to these groups, namely, the weakly fissioning nuclei, radioactive nuclei, and the strongly fissioning superheavy nuclei, with magnitudes of P_{surv}, respectively, $\sim$1, $\sim$$10^{-6}$ and $\sim$$10^{-10}$. For example, ^{105}Ag* with co-planar degree-of-freedom ($\Phi = 0^0$), shows the behaviour of the variation of P_{CN} with E^* similar to superheavy systems ^{286}Cn* and ^{292}Fl*, having P_{CN} <<1 and increasing with E^*, whereas P_{surv} belongs to weakly fissioning group, decreasing with increasing E^*. For P_{CN}, this happens because ^{105}Ag* is found [7] to contain a large nCN component and the two superheavy systems are also known to decay dominantly via the qf process. However, on including the Φ degree-of-freedom, the nCN cross section for ^{105}Ag* gets strongly enhanced such that the behavior of P_{CN} as a function of E^* changes from increasing to decreasing and hence belongs to the group of weakly fissioning nuclei, like for P_{surv} as a function of E^*. Thus, as expected, ^{105}Ag* with non-coplanar degree-of-freedom included ($\Phi \neq 0^0$) is a weakly fissioning nucleus for both P_{CN} and P_{surv}. Similar interesting, though different, results are obtained for CN ^{164}Yb* and ^{246}Bk*, and further such studies with non-coplanarity included are called for. One such case [9] is the Pt-isotopes ($^{176-196}$Pt*) with $\Phi \neq 0^0$.

Section II gives the formulation of the dynamical cluster-decay model used here. Calculations are discussed in Section III, and our conclusion is presented in Section IV.

II. Dynamical Cluster-Decay Model (DCM)

The DCM is based on the well known Quantum mechanical fragmentation theory (QMFT) [1] which, in binary fragmentation process, uses collective coordinates of mass (and charge) asymmetries η (and η_Z) [$\eta = (A_1 - A_2)/(A_1 + A_2)$, $\eta_Z = (Z_1 - Z_2)/(Z_1 + Z_2)$], and relative separation R, with multipole deformations $\beta_{\lambda i}$ (λ=2,3,4; i=1,2), orientations θ_i and the azimuthal angle Φ between the principal planes of two nuclei. In terms of these coordinates, for ℓ partial waves,

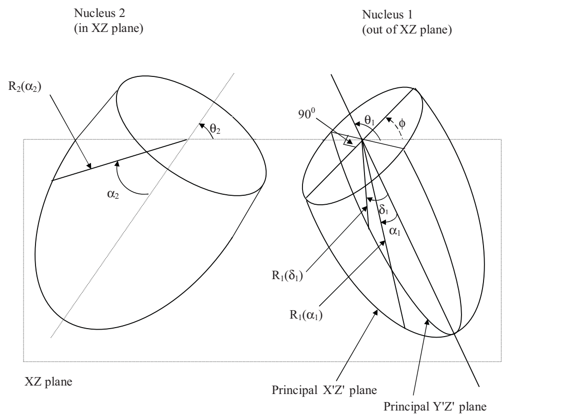

Fig. 1 Two unequal nuclei, oriented at angles θ_1 and θ_2, with their principal planes X'Z' and XZ making an azimuthal angle Φ. The angle Φ is shown by a dashed line, since it is meant to be an angle coming out of the plane XZ. Nucleus 2 is in XZ plane and for the out-of-plane nucleus 1, another principal plane Y'Z', perpendicular to X'Z', is also shown. The orientation angels θ_i are measured anti-clockwise from the collision Z axis, and the angles α_i (and δ_i) of radius vectors are measured in the clockwise direction from the nuclear symmetry axis

we define the CN-decay/ fragments-formation cross section for each pair of exit/ decay channel as

$$\sigma_{(A_1,A_2)} = \frac{\pi}{k^2}\sum_{\ell=0}^{\ell_{max}}(2\ell+1)P_0P; \quad k=\sqrt{\frac{2\mu E_{c.m.}}{\hbar^2}} \qquad (1)$$

where P_0 is fragment preformation probability, referring to η motion at fixed R-value and P, the barrier penetrability, to R motion for each η-value, both dependent on T and ℓ. The reduced mass $\mu = mA_1A_2/(A_1+A_2)$ with m as the nucleon mass. ℓ_{max} is the maximum angular momentum, defined for light-particles (LPs) evaporation residue cross section $\sigma_{ER} \to 0$. Then, it follows from (1) that

$$\sigma_{ER} = \sum_{A_2=1}^{4 \text{ or } 5}\sigma_{(A_1,A_2)} \quad \text{or} \quad = \sum_{x=1}^{4 \text{ or } 5}\sigma_{xn}, \qquad (2)$$

and

$$\sigma_{ff} = 2\sum_{A_2=5 \text{ or } 6}^{A/2}\sigma_{(A_1,A_2)}. \qquad (3)$$

The above equation is also applicable to the case where the ff process is measured only up to the, so-called, intermediate mass fragments (IMFs; $5\leq A_2 \leq 20$, $3\leq Z_2 \leq 10$) with sum taken up to the maximum measured value of A_2 and without the multiplying factor 2. The same equation (1) is also applicable to the nCN decay process, calculated here as the quasi-fission (qf)-like decay where P_0=1. In other words, for σ_{nCN} we use DCM(P_0=1) for each decay channel. In case the σ_{nCN} were not measured, it can be estimated empirically from the calculated and measured σ_{fus}, as

$$\sigma_{nCN} = \sigma_{fus}^{Expt.} - \sigma_{fus}^{Cal.}. \qquad (4)$$

where, $\sigma_{fus}^{Cal.} \equiv \sigma_{CN}^{Cal.}$. Thus, using (1) in (2) and (3), the DCM predicts not only the total fusion cross section σ_{fus}, the sum of the cross sections of constituents ER, ff and nCN, but also the individual cross sections σ_{ER}, σ_{ff} and σ_{nCN}. With the help of these cross sections, we can calculate the CN fusion probability P_{CN} and survival probability P_{surv}.

The CN formation probability P_{CN} is defined as

$$P_{CN} = \frac{\sigma_{CN}}{\sigma_{fusion}} = 1 - \frac{\sigma_{nCN}}{\sigma_{fusion}}, \qquad (5)$$

and the CN survival probability P_{surv}, the probability that the fused system will de-excite by emission of neutrons or LPs (equivalently, the ER), rather than fission, as

$$P_{surv} = \frac{\sigma_{ER}}{\sigma_{CN}}, \qquad (6)$$

where, $\sigma_{fus} = \sigma_{CN} + \sigma_{nCN}$ and $\sigma_{CN} = \sigma_{ER} + \sigma_{ff}$.

The important parameter of the DCM is the neck-length parameter ΔR, which is directly related to the "barrier lowering", and hence to fusion hindrance phenomenon in heavy-ion reactions. The choice of parameter ΔR, for a best fit to the data, allows us to relate in a simple way the $V(R_a,\ell)$ at $R = R_a$ [defining the first turning point in $V(R)$] to the top of the barrier $V_B(\ell)$ for each ℓ, by defining their difference $\Delta V_B(\ell)$, the effective "lowering of the barrier", as

$$\Delta V_B(\ell) = V(R_a,\ell) - V_B(\ell). \qquad (7)$$

Note, ΔV_B for each ℓ is defined as a negative quantity since the actually used barrier is effectively lowered. Thus, the fitting parameter ΔR controls the "barrier lowering" ΔV_B.

To calculate the cross sections for non-coplanar nuclei ($\Phi \neq 0^0$) (see fig. 1), we use the same formalism as for $\Phi = 0^0$ (see, [11]), but by replacing for the out-of-plane nucleus (i=1 or 2) the corresponding radius parameter $R_i(\alpha_i)$ with its projected radius parameter $R_i^P(\alpha_i)$ in both the Coulomb and proximity potentials [12]. For Coulomb potential, it enters via $R_i(\alpha_i)$ itself, and for the proximity potential via the definitions of both the mean curvature radius $\bar{R}$ and the shortest distance s_0, i.e., compact configurations with orientations θ_{ci} and Φ_c [13], [14]. For compact configurations, the interaction radius is smallest and the barrier is highest.

The $R_i^P(\alpha_i)$ is determined by defining, for the out-of-plane nucleus, two principal planes $X'Z'$ and $Y'Z'$, respectively, with radius parameters $R_i(\alpha_i)$ and $R_j(\delta_j)$, such that their projections into the plane (XZ) of the other nucleus are (see Fig. 1)

$$R_i^P(\alpha_i) = R_i(\alpha_i)\ \cos\Phi \qquad \text{i=1 or 2}, \qquad (8)$$

and

$$R_j^P(\delta_j) = R_j(\delta_j)\ \cos(\Phi-\delta_j) \qquad \text{j=i=1 or 2}. \qquad (9)$$

Then, maximizing $R_j(\delta_j)$ in angle δ_j, we get

$$\begin{aligned} R_i^P(\alpha_i) &= R_i^P(\alpha_i=0^0) + R_i^P(\alpha_i \neq 0^0) \\ &= R_j^P(\delta_j^{max}) + R_i(\alpha_i \neq 0^0)\ \cos\Phi, \end{aligned} \qquad (10)$$

with δ_j^{max} given by the condition (for fixed Φ),

$$\tan(\Phi-\delta_j) = -\frac{R_j'(\delta_j)}{R_j(\delta_j)}. \qquad (11)$$

Thus, the Φ-dependence of projected radius vector $R_i^P(\alpha_i)$ is also contained in maximized $R_j^P(\delta_j^{max})$. For further details,

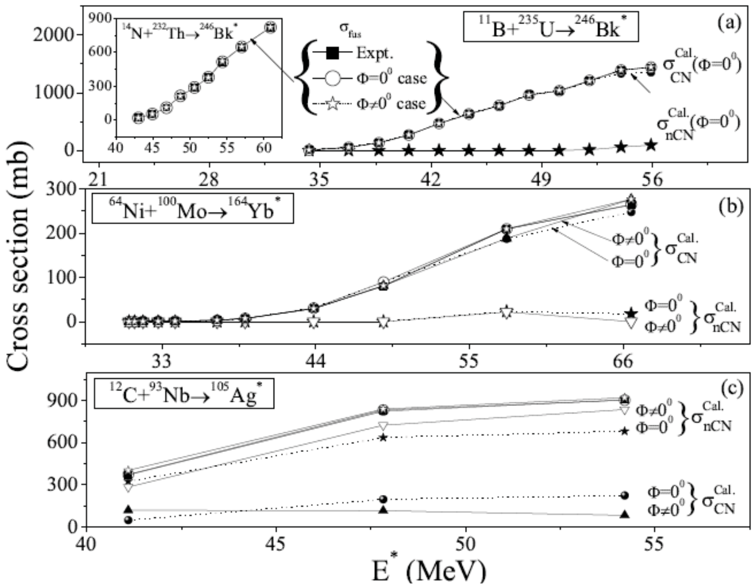

Fig. 2 Comparing the cross sections of three nuclear systems ^{246}Bk*, ^{164}Yb* and ^{105}Ag*, using DCM with Φ_c=0^0 and $\Phi_c \neq 0^0$, for showing the effect of non-coplanarity on non-compound nucleus (nCN) contribution σ_{nCN} in σ_{fus}

see [12]. Then, for nuclear proximity potential, denoting by V_P^{12} the potential for the nucleus 1 to be out-of-plane, and by V_P^{21} for the nucleus 2 to be out-of-plane, the effective nuclear proximity potential $V_P = \frac{1}{2}[V_P^{12} + V_P^{21}]$.

III. Calculations and Results

In this section, we compare our results of using the DCM for three nuclear systems ^{246}Bk*, ^{164}Yb* and ^{105}Ag*, to see the effect of non-coplanarity degree-of-freedom ($\Phi \neq 0^0$) on nCN contribution in σ_{fus}. The interesting result is that the effect of non-coplanarity is different in different reactions.

In Fig. 2(a), the CN ^{246}Bk*, formed in two incoming reaction channels ^{11}B+^{235}U and ^{14}N+^{232}Th at sub-, near- and above-barrier energies [15], [16], is highly fissile and decays totally via fission cross section, taken as the measure of fusion cross section σ_{fus}^{Expt} (=σ_{fiss}^{Expt}). No contribution due to the emission of LPs (A≤4), IMFs (5≤A≤20) or qf-like nCN processes are explicitly recorded in these experiments. However, in Fig. 2(a), calculations [3], [4] for coplanarity of nuclei (Φ=0^0) show that, in contrast to experiments [15], [16], a non-CN/ qf component is present in the fission cross section of ^{11}B+^{235}U channel, but not in ^{14}N+^{232}Th channel. We notice that for ^{11}B+^{235}U channel, ^{246}Bk* with $\Phi = 0^0$ has the nCN component at higher three energies, and at other energies it shows a good agreement with the experimental data (compare $\sigma_{CN}^{Cal.}$, $\Phi = 0^0$ with σ_{fus}^{Expt}). However, $\Phi \neq 0^0$ nullify completely this disagreement between experimental data and calculated results, and both the channels (main figure and inset) show σ_{fus} as pure CN cross section for $\Phi \neq 0^0$.

Fig. 2 (b) shows the case of ^{164}Yb*, where allowing non-coplanarity ($\Phi \neq 0^0$) fits the data nearly exactly, with a strongly reduced nCN contribution. For Φ=0^0 case, the nCN contribution is non-zero at the highest two energies, which for $\Phi \neq 0^0$ reduces to only one of them. Thus, for ^{164}Yb*,the nCN contribution is reduced almost to zero, and the reaction for $\Phi \neq 0^0$ could be taken as pure CN reaction. The deviations of $\sigma_{fus}^{Cal.}$ from σ_{fus}^{Expt}, with and without Φ, are simply due to large errors in data [17].

Fig. 2 (c) shows the interesting result of non-coplanarity on nCN contribution in the case of ^{105}Ag*. We notice that, for a best fit to data [18], in going from $\Phi = 0^0$ to $\Phi \neq 0^0$, instead of decreasing, the nCN contribution has increased considerably. An important effect of this result is that now the variations of both P_{CN} and P_{surv} support the fact that ^{105}Ag* belongs to the same group of weakly fissioning nuclei, i.e., both P_{CN} and P_{surv} decrease with increasing E^* for $\Phi \neq 0^0$.

Another important result follows from the neck-length parameter ΔR value, in going from $\Phi = 0^0$ to $\Phi \neq 0^0$. We found a similar trend of ΔR variation in ^{164}Yb* and ^{105}Ag*, but a reverse one in the case of ^{246}Bk*. For $^{164}Yb^*$ only fusion-evaporation residue (ER) cross section is measured at extreme sub-barrier energies, and in ^{105}Ag* we have the measured data for evaporation residues ER and the IMFs. In these two cases, we have found that ΔR is larger in case of $\Phi \neq 0^0$ as compared to $\Phi = 0^0$ case. Alternatively, in ^{246}Bk*, experimentally only fission data is available, and according to DCM its ΔR is small in the case of $\Phi \neq 0^0$ as compared to the case of $\Phi = 0^0$ [4].

IV. Conclusion

Concluding, non-coplanarity is an important, independent degree-of-freedom, which must be included in every study of heavy ion reaction.

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