Role of the fragment formation in relativistic ion collisions

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Qualitative picture of dynamical stage of the reaction leading to fragment production (e.g., UrQMD calculations)

Fragment formation is possible from both participants and spectator residues
Low/intermediate energies: hadron/lepton collisions with nuclei, the same mechanisms in peripheral relativistic ion collisions

Dynamical stage with particle emission and production of excited nuclear residues

Preequilibrium emission + equilibration

Compound-nucleus decay channels (sequential evaporation or fission) dominate at low excitation energy of thermal sources $E^* < 2-3$ MeV/nucl

N.Bohr (1936)
N.Bohr, J.Wheeler (1939)
V.Weisskopf (1937)

starting 1980-th:
At high excitation energy $E^* > 3-4$ MeV/nucl there is a simultaneous break-up into many fragments

Statistical approach

evaporation
fission
multifragmentation
Long tradition of fragment measurements in high energy reactions:

Fragment production in Au+Au collisions: ALADIN (GSI) + Multics/Miniball (MSU) experiments (G.J.Kunde et al., PRL 74, 38 (1995))

Difference of fragment yields obtained in spectator region (very broad distribution) and in central collisions (exponential fall of yields with mass/charge): Indication on different fragment production mechanisms.

Also there is a fragment flow in central collisions (high kinetic energies per nucleon respective to c.m. of decaying system).
Production mechanisms of nuclear cluster species including anti-matter, hyper-matter in relativistic HI and hadron collisions:

- Production of all kind of particles (anti- , strange, charmed ones) in individual binary hadron collisions. Effects of nuclear medium can be included.

- Secondary interactions and rescattering of new-born particles are taken into account. (Looks as partial 'thermalization'.)

- Coalescence of all-possible baryons into composite (exotic, anti- , hyper-) nuclear species.

- Capture of produced baryons by big excited nuclear residues.

Statistical decay of excited nuclear species into new nuclei

- Multifragmentation into small nuclei (high excitations),
- Evaporation and fission of large nuclei (low excitations),
- (Fermi-) Break-up of small nuclei into lightest ones.
A mechanism for production of novel fragments: Capture of produced baryons by other nucleons and by spectator residues (nuclear matter)

Phenomenological models:

Coalescence of baryons

momenta:
\[ | P_i - P_0 | \leq P_c \]

coordinates:
\[ | X_i - X_0 | \leq X_c \]

Capture in the spectator potential

Capture in nuclear potential and coalescence are connected mechanisms

Au(20AGeV)+Au: UrQMD&DCM: PRC84, 064904 (2011)
HI collisions at intermediate energies

DCM + Coalescence

momentum: $|\mathbf{P}_i - \mathbf{P}_0| \leq P_c$

V. Toneev, K. Gudima,

Deutrons:
$P_c = 90 \text{ MeV/c}$

$A=3$:
$P_c = 110 \text{ MeV/c}$
Production of light nuclei in central collisions:


DCM versus experiment: coalescence mechanism

Hybrid approach at LHC energies: UrQMD+hydrodynamics+coalescence

It is not possible to produce big nuclei!
Charmed nuclei production at FAIR energies: coalescence?
(try to find: no observation of such nuclei until now)

normal- and hyper-fragments; hyper-residues @ target/projectile rapidities
Because of secondary interactions the maximum of the fragments production is shifted from the midrapidity. Secondary products have relatively low kinetic energies, therefore, they can produce clusters and hypernuclei with higher probability.

for LHC @ 2.76 A TeV
Connection between **coalescence** and **statistical** models (Eur. Phys. J A17, 559 (2003)):

Coalescence mechanism:

\[
\frac{d^3\langle N_A \rangle}{d\bar{p}_n^3} \simeq \left( \frac{4\pi}{3} p_0^3 \right)^{A-1} \left( \frac{d^3\langle N_1 \rangle}{d^3\bar{p}_n} \right)^A
\]

Assume initial Maxwell-Boltzmann distribution, then

\[
\langle N_A \rangle \simeq \left( \frac{4\pi}{3} p_0^3 \right)^{A-1} \frac{\langle N_1 \rangle^A}{(2\pi m_n T)^{3/2}(A-1) A^{3/2}}.
\]

On the other hand, from thermal models one can obtain:

\[
\langle N_A \rangle = \langle N_1 \rangle^A \left( \frac{\lambda T}{V} \right)^{A-1} A^{3/2} \exp \left( -\frac{B_A}{T_A} \right)
\]

We get connection between coalescence parameter and fragment binding energy

\[
\frac{4\pi p_0^3 V}{3h^3} \simeq \left( A^3 \cdot \exp \left( -\frac{B_A}{T_A} \right) \right)^{1/(A-1)}
\]
FOPI data: fragment production in central HI collisions

Both coalescence and statistical descriptions are possible
e.g. EPJ A 17, 559 (2003)
Important features of the fragment formation by the baryon capture in nuclear potential and the coalescence:

Produced fragments are excited, since the capture in ground states has a low probability (suppressed by the phase space). From experiments: there are excited states.

Therefore, the secondary de-excitation is necessary.

Moreover, if we use the statistical approach to describe this de-excitation, a statistical model must be consistent with the initial dynamical description: For example, if we take isospin-depended nuclear potential the de-excitation model must include the isospin dependence in the calculation of the fragment decay (particle emission).

The connection of dynamical and statistical description is a big problem: Sometimes, we may assume that the produced fragments are cold. Simply we select the capture parameters (e.g., coalescence ones) in order to fit measured experimental data.

We must remember that in such a way we can describe only the kinematic characteristics of fragments (e.g., kinetic energies, rapidity distributions), and, roughly, the dependence of their yield vs. mass number. But not their chemical composition.
Excitation energies of the nuclear spectator residuals

**DCM**: PRC95, 014902 (2017)

**ALADIN analysis**: Au+Au at 1 A GeV data (GSI)

H. Xi et al., Z.Phys. A359(1997)397
Multifragmentation in intermediate and high energy nuclear reactions

Experimentally established:
1) few stages of reactions leading to multifragmentation,
2) short time $\sim 100\text{fm/c}$ for primary fragment production,
3) freeze-out density is around $0.1\rho_0$,
4) high degree of equilibration at the freeze-out,
5) primary fragments are hot.

At freeze-out: thermal and chemical equilibrium
Statistical Multifragmentation Model (SMM)


Ensemble of nucleons and fragments in thermal equilibrium characterized by
neutron number $N_0$
proton number $Z_0$, $N_0 + Z_0 = A_0$
excitation energy $E^* = E_0 - E_{CN}$
break-up volume $V = (1 + \kappa)V_0$

All break-up channels are enumerated by the sets of fragment multiplicities or partitions, $f = \{N_{AZ}\}$

Statistical distribution of probabilities: $W_f \sim \exp \{ S_f (A_0, Z_0, E^*, V) \}$
under conditions of baryon number ($A$), electric charge ($Z$) and energy ($E^*$) conservation, including compound nucleus.
Two-stage multifragmentation of 1 A GeV Kr, La, and Au

EOS collaboration: fragmentation of relativistic projectiles

FIG. 19. Caloric curves ($T_f$ vs $E^*_th/A$) for Kr, La, and Au. Points are experimental and curves are from SMM.

FIG. 24. Second stage fragment charge distribution as a function of $Z/Z_{proj}$. Results are shown for three reduced multiplicity intervals for both data and SMM.
Statistical (chemical) equilibrium is established at break-up of hot projectile residues! In the case of strangeness admixture we expect it too!

Very good description is obtained within Statistical Multifragmentation Model, including fragment charge yields, isotope yields, various fragment correlations.
ALADIN data
GSI
multifragmentation of relativistic projectiles

H.Xi et al., Z.Phys. A359(1997)397

comparison with SMM (statistical multifragmentation model)

Statistical equilibrium has been reached in these reactions

Au(600MeV/n)+C,Al,Cu
Dynamical+Statistical description of normal multifragmentation

ALADIN data
GSI
multifragmentation of relativistic projectiles


comparison with SMM (statistical multifragmentation model)

Statistical equilibrium has been reached in these reactions

Correlation characteristics are very important for verification of models!
Strangeness in neutron stars ($\rho > 3 - 4 \rho_0$)
Strange hadronic matter ($A \to \infty$)

3-dimensional nuclear chart
Peripheral collisions. All transport modes predict similar picture: Hyperons can be produced at all rapidities, in participant and spectator kinematic regions.

Wide rapidity distribution of produced $\Lambda$!

Calculation: DCM
PRC84(2011)064904
Au(11AGeV/c)+Au

S.Albergo et al.,
E896:
PRL88(2002)062301

Generalization of the statistical de-excitation model for nuclei with Lambda hyperons

In these reactions we expect analogy with multifragmentation in intermediate and high energy nuclear reactions + nuclear matter with strangeness

At freeze-out: thermal and chemical equilibrium

production of hypermatter

Λ hyperons captured

fragments (Z>2) liquid drops

hyperfragments

STARTING POINT OF DYNAMICAL MODELS

STARTING POINT OF STATISTICAL MODELS
Production of excited hyper-residues in peripheral collisions, decaying into hypernuclei (target/projectile rapidity region).

Masses of projectile residuals produced after dynamical stage (DCM)

different hyper-residuals with large cross-section can be formed (expected temperatures = 3-8 MeV)

6b : H=0

200mb: H>0

PRC84 (2011)
064904
4.3.3. Evaporation from hot fragments

The successive particle emission from hot primary fragments with \( A > 16 \) is assumed to be their basic de-excitation mechanism. Due to the high excitation energy of these fragments, the standard Weisskopf evaporation scheme [2] was modified to take into account the heavier ejectiles up to \(^{18}\text{O}\), besides light particles (nucleons, \( d, t, \alpha \)), in ground and particle-stable excited states [81]. This corresponds to the excitation energies \( \epsilon_j^{(i)} \) of the ejectiles not higher than 7–8 MeV. By analogy with standard model the width for the emission of a particle \( j \) from the compound nucleus \((A, Z)\) is given by:

\[
\Gamma_j = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \left( E_{AZ}^{*} - B_j - \epsilon_{j}^{(i)} \right) \frac{\mu_j g_j^{(i)}}{\pi^2 \hbar^3} \sigma_j(E) \frac{\rho_{A'Z'}(E_{AZ}^{*} - B_j - E)}{\rho_{AZ}(E_{AZ}^{*})} E \, dE
\]

(60)

Here the sum is taken over the ground and all particle-stable excited states \( \epsilon_{j}^{(i)}(i = 0, 1, \ldots, n) \) of the fragment \( j \), \( g_j^{(i)} = (2s_j^{(i)} + 1) \) is the spin degeneracy factor of the \( i \)th excited state, \( \mu_j \) and \( B_j \) are corresponding reduced mass and separation energy, \( E_{AZ}^{*} \) is the excitation energy of the initial nucleus (55), \( E \) is the kinetic energy of an emitted particle in the centre-of-mass frame. In Eq. (60) \( \rho_{AZ} \) and \( \rho_{A'Z'} \) are the level densities of the initial \((A, Z)\) and final \((A', Z')\) compound nuclei. They are calculated using the Fermi-gas formula (41). The cross section \( \sigma_j(E) \) of the inverse reaction \((A', Z') + j = (A, Z)\) was calculated using the optical model with nucleus–nucleus potential from Ref. [117]. The evaporational process was simulated by the Monte Carlo method using the algorithm described in Ref. [118]. The conservation of energy and momentum was strictly controlled in each emission step.

Evaporation from hypernuclei: nucleons, light particles, hyperons, light hypernuclei: New masses and assuming the level densities as in normal nuclei.
4.3.4. Nuclear fission

An important channel of de-excitation of heavy nuclei \((A > 200)\) is fission. This process competes with particle emission. Following the Bohr–Wheeler statistical approach we assume that the partial width for the compound nucleus fission is proportional to the level density at the saddle point \(\rho_{sp}(E)\) [1]:

\[
\Gamma_f = \frac{1}{2\pi \rho_{AZ}(E^*_{AZ})} \int_0^{E^*_{AZ} - B_f} \rho_{sp}(E^*_{AZ} - B_f - E) \, dE,
\]

where \(B_f\) is the height of the fission barrier which is determined by the Myers–Swiatecki prescription [120]. For approximation of \(\rho_{sp}\) we used the results of the extensive analysis of nuclear fissility and \(\Gamma_n/\Gamma_f\) branching ratios [121]. The influence of the shell structure on the level densities \(\rho_{sp}\) and \(\rho_{AZ}\) is disregarded since in the case of multifragmentation we are dealing with very high excitation energies \(E^* > 30–50\) MeV when shell effects are expected to be washed out [122].

Fission of hypernuclei: New fission barriers including hyperon interaction (in the liquid-drop approach). It leads to increasing the barriers for \(\sim 1\) MeV. The level densities at the saddle point are taken as in normal nuclei (first approximation).
Evaporation & Fission of hypernuclei
(depending on mass and excitation energy)


These processes recall normal fission and evaporation. However, producing exotic hyperfragments is possible (e.g. neutron rich ones) to investigate hyperon interactions in astrophysical conditions.
De-excitation of hot light hypernuclear systems


For light primary fragments (with $A \leq 16$) even a relatively small excitation energy may be comparable with their total binding energy. In this case we assume that the principal mechanism of de-excitation is the explosive decay of the excited nucleus into several smaller clusters (the secondary break-up). To describe this process we use the famous Fermi model [105]. It is analogous to the above-described statistical model, but all final-state fragments are assumed to be in their ground or low excited states. In this case the statistical weight of the channel containing $n$ particles with masses $m_i$ ($i = 1, \ldots, n$) in volume $V_f$ may be calculated in microcanonical approximation:

$$\Delta \Gamma_f^{mic} \propto \frac{S}{G} \left( \frac{V_f}{(2\pi\hbar)^3} \right)^{n-1} \left( \frac{\prod_{i=1}^n m_i}{m_0} \right)^{3/2} \frac{(2\pi)^{(3/2)(n-1)}}{\Gamma\left(\frac{3}{2}(n-1)\right)} \left( E_{\text{kin}} - U_f^C \right)^{(3/2)n-5/2},$$  (58)

where $m_0 = \sum_{i=1}^n m_i$ is the mass of the decaying nucleus, $S = \prod_{i=1}^n (2s_i + 1)$ is the spin degeneracy factor ($s_i$ is the $i$th particle spin), $G = \prod_{j=1}^k n_j!$ is the particle identity factor ($n_j$ is the number of particles of kind $j$). $E_{\text{kin}}$ is the total kinetic energy of particles at infinity which is related to the prefragment excitation energy $E_{AZ}^*$ as

$$E_{\text{kin}} = E_{AZ}^* + m_0c^2 - \sum_{i=1}^n m_ic^2.$$  (59)

$U_f^C$ is the Coulomb interaction energy between cold secondary fragments given by Eq. (49), $U_f^C$ and $V_f$ are attributed now to the secondary break-up configuration.

Generalization of the Fermi-break-up model: new decay channels with hypernuclei were included; masses and spins of hypernuclei and their excited states were taken from available experimental data and theoretical calculations.
Statistical approach for fragmentation of hyper-matter

\[ Y_{AZH} = g_{AZH} V_j \frac{A^{3/2}}{\lambda_T^3} \exp \left[ -\frac{1}{T} (F_{AZH} - \mu_{AZH}) \right] \]
\[ \mu_{AZH} = A\mu + Z\nu + H\zeta \]

mean yield of fragments with mass number \( A \), charge \( Z \), and \( \Lambda \)-hyperon number \( H \)

\[ F_{AZH}(T, V) = F_A^B + F_A^S + F_{AZH}^{\text{sym}} + F_{AZ}^C + F_{AH}^{\text{hyp}} \]

liquid-drop description of fragments:
bulk, surface, symmetry, Coulomb (as in Wigner-Seitz approximation), and hyper energy contributions

\[ F_A^B(T) = \left( -w_0 - \frac{T^2}{\varepsilon_0} \right) A, \]

parameters \( \approx \) Bethe-Weizsäcker formula:
\( w_0 = 16 \text{ MeV}, \beta_0 = 18 \text{ MeV}, T_c = 18 \text{ MeV} \)

\[ F_A^S(T) = \beta_0 \left( \frac{T_0^2 - T^2}{T_0^2 + T^2} \right)^{5/4} A^{2/3}, \]

\[ F_{AZH}^{\text{sym}} = \gamma \frac{(A - H - 2Z)^2}{A - H}, \]

\( \gamma = 25 \text{ MeV} \quad \varepsilon_0 \approx 16 \text{ MeV} \)

\[ \sum_{AZH} AY_{AZH} = A_0, \sum_{AZH} ZY_{AZH} = Z_0, \sum_{AZH} HY_{AZH} = H_0. \]
chemical potentials are from mass, charge and \( \Lambda \)-hyperon number conservations

\[ F_{AH}^{\text{hyp}} = E_{sam}^{\text{hyp}} = H \cdot (-10.68 + 48.7/(A^{2/3})). \]

(motivated: single \( \Lambda \) in potential well)

\[ F_{AH}^{\text{hyp}} = (H/A) \cdot (-10.68A + 21.27A^{2/3}). \]

-- liquid-drop description of hyper-matter

Production of light hypernuclei in relativistic ion collisions

One can use exotic neutron-rich and neutron-poor projectiles, which are not possible to use as targets in traditional hyper-nuclear experiments, because of their short lifetime. Comparing yields of hypernuclei from various sources we can get info about their binding energies and properties of hyper-matter.

Abundant hyper-isotope production in multifragmentation (SMM)

Important features of these reactions: wide fragment/isotope distributions

Statistical regularities of fragment production can be employed to learn about fragments!

Yields of fragments:

\[ Y_{AZ,H} = g_{AZ,H} \cdot V_f \frac{A^{3/2}}{\lambda_T^3} \exp \left[ -\frac{1}{T} (F_{AZ,H} - \mu_{AZH}) \right], \]

\[ \mu_{AZH} = A\mu + Z\nu + H\xi. \]
Statistical reaction models can be used not only for the production prediction:

Experimental yields of isotopes can be used for extracting properties of exotic cluster, e.g., the hyperon binding energies

Double ratio method:

\[ \Delta E_{bh} \quad \text{vs} \quad \Delta A \]

difference of hyperon energies in hyper-nuclei

[arXiv:1711.01159]

\[
\Delta E_{bh} = T \cdot \left[ \ln\left( \frac{g_{A_1 Z_1, H} / g_{A_1 - 1, Z_1, H - 1}}{g_{A_2 Z_2, H} / g_{A_2 - 1, Z_2, H - 1}} \cdot \left( \frac{A_1^{3/2}}{(A_1 - 1)^{3/2}} \right) \right) - \ln\left( \frac{Y_{A_1 Z_1, H} / Y_{A_1 - 1 Z_1, H - 1}}{Y_{A_2 Z_2, H} / Y_{A_2 - 1 Z_2, H - 1}} \right) \right]
\]
Conclusions

Collisions of relativistic ions are promising reactions to search for nuclear exotic clusters, including hypernuclei. These processes are theoretically confirmed with various models.

Mechanisms of formation of hypernuclei in reactions: Strange baryons ($\Lambda$, $\Sigma$, $\Xi$, …) produced in particle collisions can be transported to the spectator residues and captured in nuclear matter. Another mechanism is the coalescence of baryons leading mostly to light clusters will be effective at all rapidities. The produced clusters are presumably excited and after their decay novel hypernuclei of all sizes (and isospin), including exotic weakly-bound states, multi-strange nuclei can be produced.

Advantages over other reactions: there is no limit on sizes and isotope content of produced exotic nuclei; probability of their formation may be high; a large strangeness can be deposited in nuclei. Properties of hypernuclei (hyperon binding) can be addressed in novel way! Correlations (unbound states) and lifetimes can be naturally studied. EOS of hypermatter at subnuclear density and hyperon interactions in exotic nuclear matter can be investigated.
Main channels for production of strangeness in individual hadron-nucleon collisions: $\Sigma$--$\Sigma K$, $\Sigma\pi$--$Y K$, ... (like $p+n$--$n+\Lambda+K^+$, and secondary meson interactions, like $\pi+p$--$\Lambda+K^+$). Rescattering of hyperons is important for their capture by spectators. Capture of $\Lambda$ takes place in the nuclear potential well (approximately $2/3$ of the nucleon potential).
$\Lambda$-hyperon lifetime in very heavy hypernuclei produced in the $p+U$ interaction

The recoil shadow method for the detection of fission fragments has been used to investigate delayed fission of very heavy $\Lambda$ hypernuclei produced in the $p$-$U$ interaction at the projectile energy of 1.5 GeV. From the measured distribution of delayed fission events in the shadow region and the calculated momenta of hypernuclei leaving the target the lifetime of the $\Lambda$ hyperon in very heavy hypernuclei was determined to be $\tau = 2.40 \pm 0.60$ ps. The comparison of the number of delayed fission events with that of the prompt events leads to an estimation of the cross section for the production of $\Lambda$ hypernuclei in $p+U$ collisions at 1.5 GeV of $\sigma_{H\nu} = 150^{+150}_{-80}$ $\mu$b. [S0556-2813(97)04506-8]

H. Ohm et al., PRC 55 (1997) 3062

FIG. 1. Schematic presentation of the experimental setup. The thickness of the target holder is enhanced in the drawing to show the details. The real distances are given.
For the first, they have also observed a large correlation of i.e., considerable production of a $\Lambda n$ bound states.
Nuclear reactions: production mechanisms for hypernuclei

Traditional way for production of hypernuclei: Conversion of Nucleons into Hyperons with the hyperon capture nuclei in its ground states by using hadron and electron beams (CERN, JLab, BNL, KEK, CEBAF, DAΦNE, JPARC, MAMI, ...)

Advantages: rather precise determination of masses (e.g., via the missing mass spectroscopy) : good for nuclear structure studies !

Disadvantages: very limited range of nuclei in A and Z can be investigated; the phase space of the reaction is narrow (since hypernuclei are produced in ground and slightly excited states), so production probability is low; it is difficult to produce multi-strange nuclei.

Novel reactions can be used to produce exotic strange nuclei and nuclei with many hyperons !
Coalescence of Baryons (CB) Model:

Development of the coalescence for formation of clusters of all sizes

1) Relative velocities between baryons and clusters are considered, if $|V_b - V_A| < V_c$ the particle $b$ is included in the $A$-cluster.
2) Step by step numerical approximation.

3) In addition, coordinates of baryons and clusters are considered, if $|X_b - X_A| < R_A^{(1/3)}$ the particle $b$ may be included in $A$-cluster.
4) Spectators’ nucleons are always included in the residues.

Combination of transport UrQMD and HSD models with CB:

Investigation of fragments/hyperfragments at all rapidities! (connection between central and peripheral zones)
Discovery of a Strange nucleus: Hypernucleus

M. Danysz and J. Pniewski, Philos. Mag. 44 (1953) 348

First-hypernucleus was observed in a stack of photographic emulsions exposed to cosmic rays at about 26 km above the ground.

Incoming high energy proton from cosmic ray

colliding with a nucleus of the emulsion, breaks it in several fragments forming a star. Multifragmentation!

All nuclear fragments stop in the emulsion after a short path

From the first star, 21 Tracks => 9α + 11H + 1 ΔX

The fragment ΔX disintegrates later, makes the bottom star. Time taken ~ 10^{-12} sec (typical for weak decay)

This particular nuclear fragment, and the others obtained afterwards in similar conditions, were called hyperfragments or hypernuclei.
Dominating: $p+n \rightarrow n+\Lambda+K^+$,  $\pi+p \rightarrow \Lambda+K^+$

DCM

Comparison with KAOS data
Multifragmentation of excited hyper-sources

$H_0$ is the number of hyperons in the system.

General picture depends weakly on strangeness content (in the case it is much lower than baryon charge).

However, there are essential differences in properties of produced fragments!


Fig. 3. Multifragmentation of an excited double-strange system with mass number 100 and charge 40, at temperature 4 MeV. Top panel – yield of fragments containing 0, 1, and 2 $\Lambda$ hyperons. Bottom panel – effect of different mass formulae with strangeness on production of double hyperfragments [13].